Releasing a Linux based OS
An overview of Flatcar release cycle

FOSDEM 2024 – Brussels, Belgium
4th February 2024
Hello 🍋

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Flatcar

Containers

Automatic updates

Immutable
Inside the box

```bash
core@localhost ~ $ touch /usr/foo
bash: cannot touch '/usr/foo': Read-only file system
core@localhost ~ $ sudo !!
sudo touch /usr/foo
bash: cannot touch '/usr/foo': Read-only file system
core@localhost ~ $ apt
-bash: apt: command not found
core@localhost ~ $ emerge
-bash: emerge: command not found
core@localhost ~ $ yum
-bash: yum: command not found
core@localhost ~ $ dnf
-bash: dnf: command not found
core@localhost ~ $ pacman
-bash: pacman: command not found
```
Maintaining the system

https://github.com/flatcar/Flatcar/issues?q=is%3Aissue+is%3Aopen+label%3Aadvisory
Maintaining the system

New packages requests on GitHub
Office hours

Next is 13th of Feb.

Welcome

- Brief intro/check-in of the new participants joining the call. Please introduce yourself and share what brings you here today.

Agenda items

- News and happenings in and around Flatcar
  - tbd...

Release Planning

- https://github.com/flatcar/projects/7/views/8

Administrative tasks after meeting concluded

- Create a new Github discussion for the next Flatcar Office Hours: https://github.com/flatcar/Flatcar/discussions/new?category=flatcar-office-hours
- Close this discussion as "Resolved".
(Demystifying the Flatcar version number)

**Promotion level:**
- 0 – Alpha
- 1 – Beta
- 2 – Stable
- 3 – LTS

**Patch (or maintenance) level**

**3760.2.0**

Days since the first Core OS release
(Demystifying the Flatcar version number)

3760.2.0: New major stable
3602.1.6: New maintenance (or patch) beta
3850.0.0: ?
3033.3.18: ?
Release cycle

- 3227.0.0
- 3227.1.0
- 3227.2.0

- release
- alpha
- beta
- stable
- temps
Release process

- Monday
  - Start builds
- Tuesday
  - Check builds
  - Prepare release notes
- Wednesday
  - Go/No-Go meeting
  - Actual release
  - Announcements
- Thursday
  - Marketplaces release
Release process

Monday
- ✓ Start builds

Tuesday
- ❑ Check tests results
- ❑ Prepare release notes

Wednesday
- ❑ Go/No-Go meeting
- ❑ Actual release
- ❑ Announcements

Thursday
- ❑ Marketplaces release

- [Link to Jenkins job for Alpha 3850.0.0:](http://jenkins.infra.kinvolk.io:8080/job/container/job/sdk/1269/cldsv/)
- [Link to Jenkins job for Beta 3815.1.0:](http://jenkins.infra.kinvolk.io:8080/job/container/job/packages_all_arches/3291/cldsv/)
- [Link to Jenkins job for Stable 3760.2.0:](http://jenkins.infra.kinvolk.io:8080/job/container/job/packages_all_arches/3290/cldsv/)
Release process

Monday
- ✓ Start builds

Tuesday
- ✓ Check tests results
- ✓ Prepare release notes

Wednesday
- □ Go/No-Go meeting
- □ Actual release
- □ Announcements

Thursday
- □ Marketplaces release

Stable 3760.2.0

- AMD64-usr
  - Platforms succeeded: all except digital ocean with calico test (turns out it’s a flaky one)
  - Platforms failed: digital ocean with calico test (turns out it’s a flaky one)
  - Platforms not tested: none

- ARM64-usr
  - Platforms succeeded: all
  - Platforms failed: none
  - Platforms not tested: equinix metal (not enough resources)
Release process

Monday
✓ Start builds

Tuesday
✓ Check tests results
✓ Prepare release notes

Wednesday
✓ Go/No-Go meeting
✓ Actual release
✓ Announcements

Thursday
❑ Marketplaces release
## Release available

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stable</strong></td>
<td>3760.2.0</td>
<td>amd64</td>
<td>arm64</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Release Date: Jan 18, 2024</td>
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<td>The Stable channel is intended for use in production clusters.</td>
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<td>Versions of Flatcar Container Linux have been tested as they move through Alpha and Beta channels before being promoted to stable.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Beta</strong></td>
<td>3815.1.0</td>
<td>amd64</td>
<td>arm64</td>
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<td>Release Date: Jan 18, 2024</td>
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<td>The Beta channel is where Flatcar Container Linux stability is solidified. We encourage including some beta machines in production clusters in order to catch any issues that may arise with your setup.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alpha</strong></td>
<td>3850.0.0</td>
<td>amd64</td>
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<td>The Alpha channel frequently contains updates.</td>
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<td><strong>LTS</strong></td>
<td>3510.3.1</td>
<td>amd64</td>
<td>arm64</td>
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<td>Release Date: Jan 18, 2024</td>
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- **containerd**: 1.77
- **docker**: 20.10.24
- **ignition**: 2.15.0
- **kernel**: 6.1.73
- **systemd**: 252

Please welcome Flatcar releases of this month:

- Alpha 3850.0.0 (new major)
- Beta 3815.1.0 (new major)
- Stable 3760.2.0 (new major)

These releases include:
- Many package updates: Linux, GRUB, glibc
- CVE fixes & security patches: Linux, GRUB, glibc
- Release notes at the usual spot: [https://www.flatcar.org/releases](https://www.flatcar.org/releases)
Release process

Monday
- ✓ Start builds
- ✓ Check tests results
- ✓ Prepare release notes

Tuesday
- ✓ Go/No-Go meeting
- ✓ Actual release
- ✓ Announcements

Wednesday
- ✓ Marketplaces release

Thursday

Flatcar Container Linux (Stable)

By: Kinvolk
Latest Version: 3760.2.0

Flatcar Container Linux is a lightweight operating system optimized for running containers. Designed for use in modern distributed infrastructure, Flatcar is automatically updated with the

Show more

Linux/Unix
0 AWS reviews | 4 external reviews
Public process

Monday
- ✓ Start builds
- ✓ Check tests results
- ✓ Prepare release notes

Public GitHub issue

Tuesday
- ✓ Go/No-Go meeting
- ✓ Actual release
- ✓ Announcements

Public discussion (on Matrix)

Wednesday
- ✓ Actual release
- ✓ Announcements

Thursday
- ✓ Marketplaces release
- ✓ Public discussion (on Matrix)
- ✓ Public release notes (on HackMd)
Thanks!

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