

The Linux Phone App Ecosystem

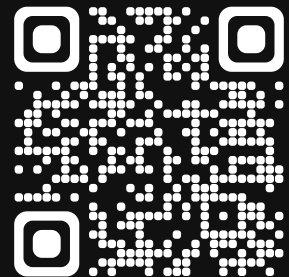
2026

Apps for Sailfish OS, Ubuntu Touch and
and GNOME or Plasma Mobile

and a Call to Action

slides available at

<https://media.linmob.net/fosdem2026>



AGENDA

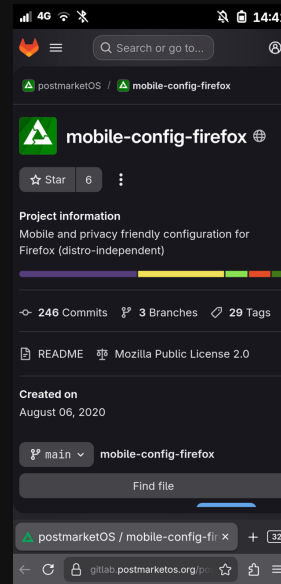
- About me
- Goals/What's not in Scope
- Apps on Sailfish OS
- Apps on Ubuntu Touch
- Plasma Mobile and Phosh/GNOME on Mobile
- Call to Action
- Q&A

LINMOB

weekly update

- 2026-01-04 [Weekly GNU-like Mobile Linux Update \(01/2026\): Happy New Year!](#)
- 2025-12-28 [Weekly GNU-like Mobile Linux Update \(52/2025\): postmarketOS v25.12 and Other Last Minute Goodies!](#)
- 2025-12-21 [Weekly GNU-like Mobile Linux Update \(51/2025\): The Other Half reloaded](#)
- 2025-12-14 [Weekly GNU-like Mobile Linux Update \(50/2025\): No December Lull](#)
- 2025-12-07 [Weekly GNU-like Mobile Linux Update \(49/2025\): Modal boats](#)

About me



... and part of
the "Linux on
Mobile" stand
in building
UD level 2
find me there
tomorrow!

Goals

- Changes of the past two years
- Highlight/encourage collaboration between operating systems
- ...#nospoilers

Not in Scope

but worth checking out, too



* CLI/TUI apps are not in scope

2024: Assumptions

1. Apps for open standards should be implementable
2. Apps for services with free API access too
3. Apps for services that have an API should be doable

Conclusion then:

Nope, people just scratch their itch :-)

This is still true, so ... no need for different assumptions.

Sailfish OS

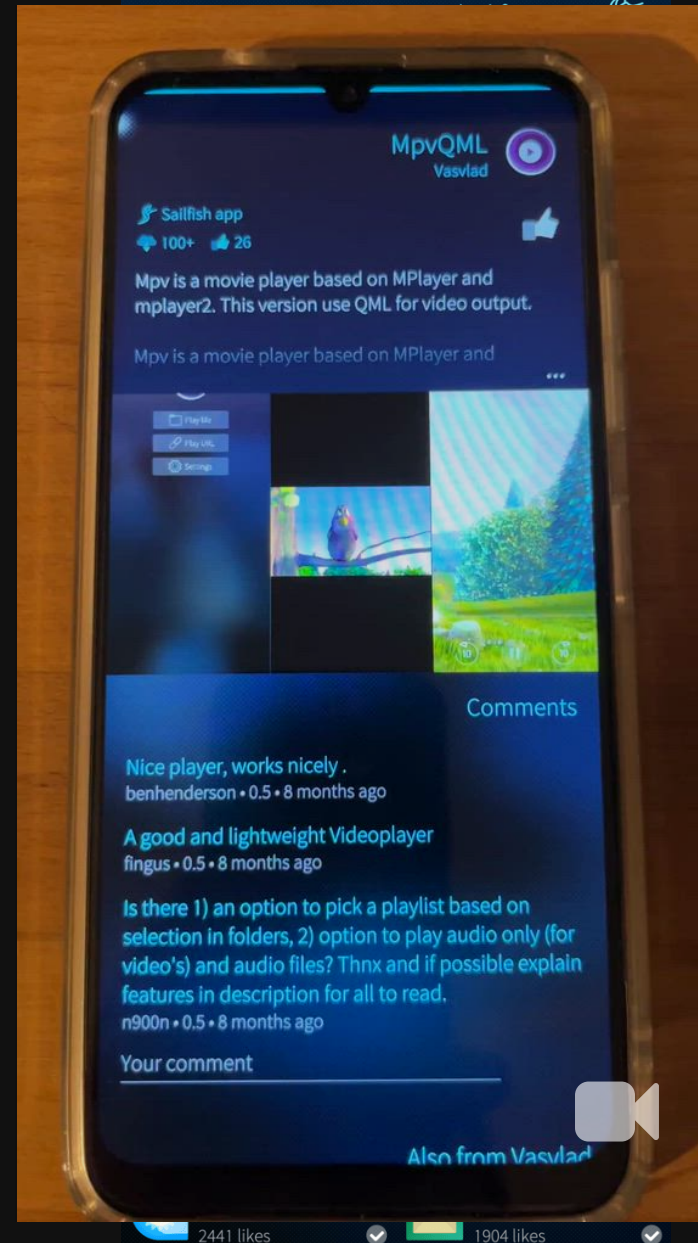
- risen from the ashes of Nokia and Meego
- 2013: Jolla Phone
- Wayland, btrfs, systemd - in 2013
- latest release: 5.0.0.72 (Tampella) / 2025-11-11
- 2024: Sailfish X - buy license, bring a Sony device
- now: Jolla C2 and Jolla Phone (2026) pre-orders
- Android App Support
- three sources for native Apps

// Open source with added closed-source components and extensions of third parties which can be of other licences as well

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sailfish_OS

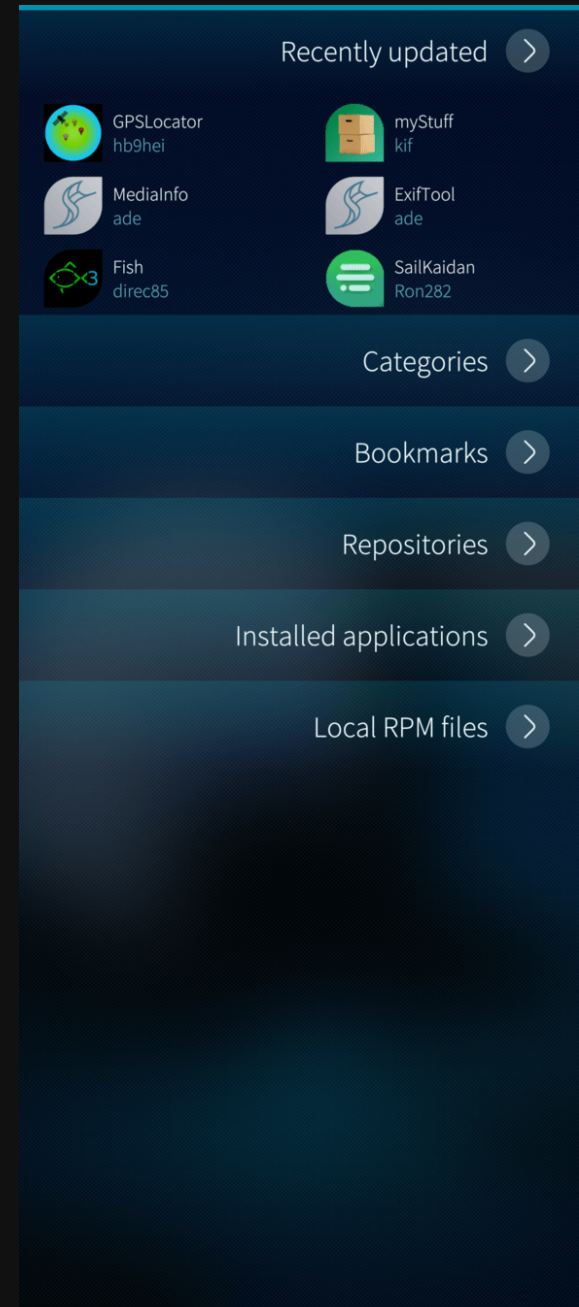
Jolla Store

- requires Jolla account
- no for pay apps
- no web interface, did not count



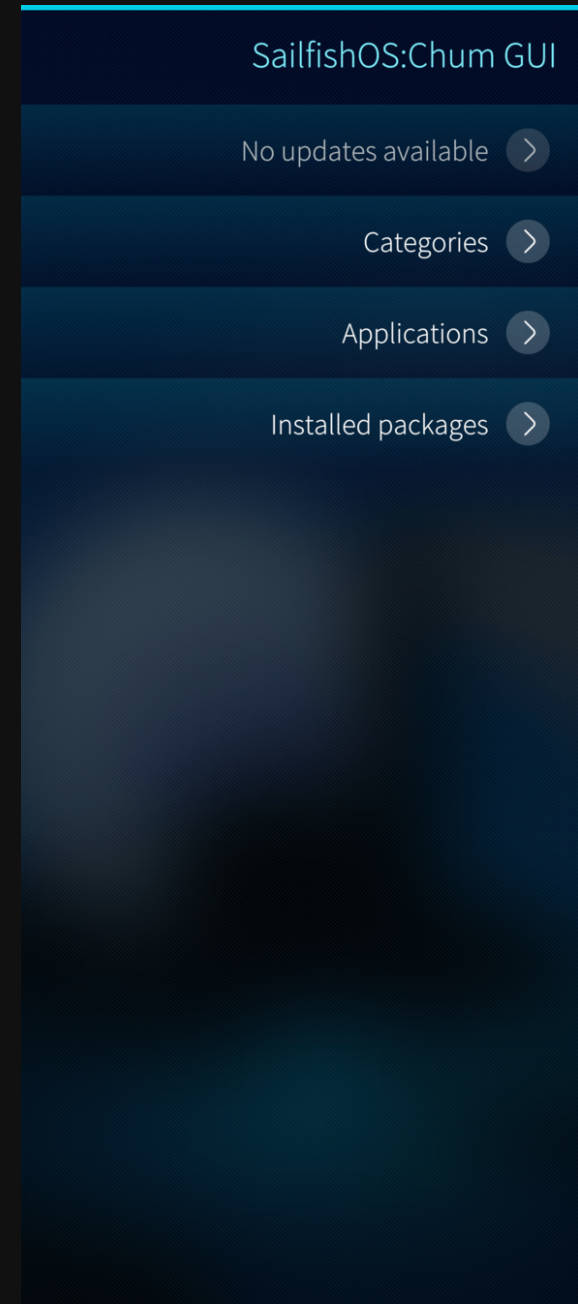
openrepos.net

- Storeman frontend
- no for pay apps
- also list apps for other projects
- 2116 (2024: ~1800) apps (and packages) listed for Sailfish OS



Chum

- the newest contender
- also has a [web frontend](#)
- no for pay apps
- 214 apps listed for Sailfish (2024: ~170)
- including [Kirigami](#) apps!



Sailfish Verdict

- With numerous new apps and continued efforts, the overall outlook is positive.
- The reliance on Qt 5.6 is unfortunate, as it will make collaboration across ecosystems harder with the "world" moving on to Qt 6.
- Also, the compositor currently prohibits running GTK-based app, which is unfortunate for browsers alone

Ubuntu Touch

- envisioned in 2011
- 2015: bq Aquaris E4.5
- Mir, Upstart, Unity 8
- dropped by Canonical and continued by UBports in April 2017.
- Unity 8 is now Lomiri, Mir supports Wayland too now and from 20.04 on systemd is used , also Waydroid helps with Android apps
- immutable, sandboxing!
- latest releases: 24.04 1.1/ 20.04 OTA 11

// *Mark Shuttleworth announced on 31 October 2011 that by Ubuntu 14.04, the goal was that Ubuntu would support smartphones, tablets, smart TVs and other smart screens (such as car head units and smartwatches)*

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ubuntu_Touch

downsides of sandboxing



Jozef Mlich

@jmlich@fosstodon.org

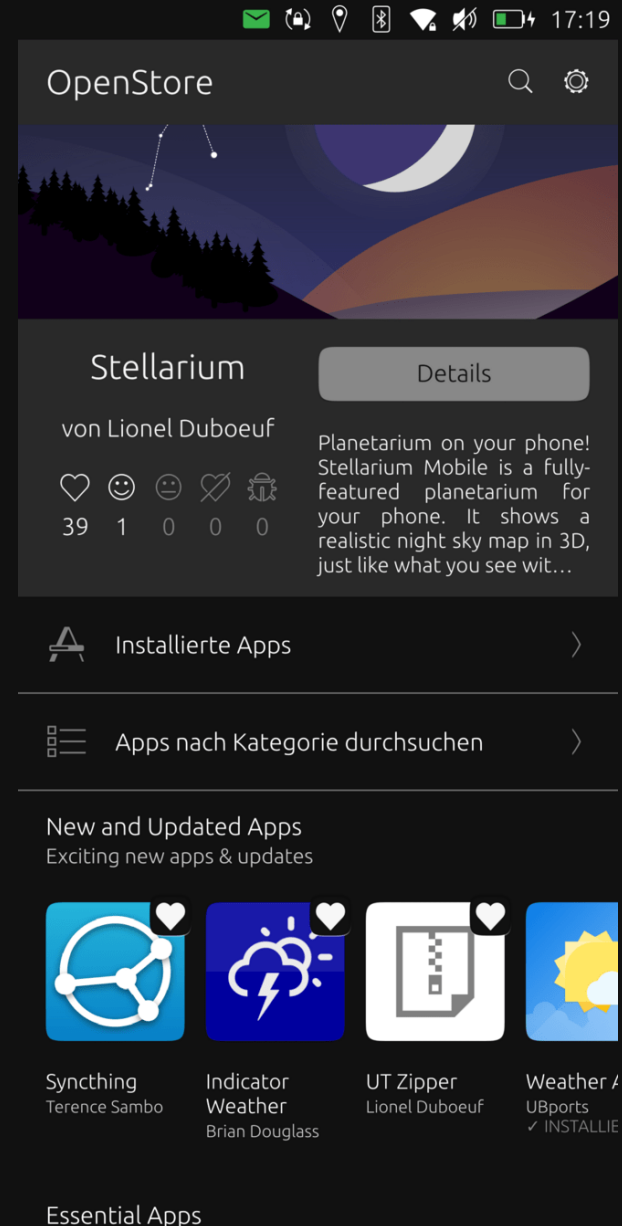
I was still wondering why navigation wasn't working for me (PineTime + Amazfish on #UBports). In the end, it turned out to be AppArmor in Pure Maps (there is now an unconfined version of the app in the store). Navigation must be enabled in the #Amazfish settings, and the resources (navigation images) must be uploaded to the #PineTime.



Open-Store (2024)

- <https://open-store.io/>
- 2024
 - App Count 16.04
 - Apps ~610
 - Web Apps ~210
 - App Count 20.04
 - Apps ~210
 - Web Apps ~22

Numbers: Late January 2024

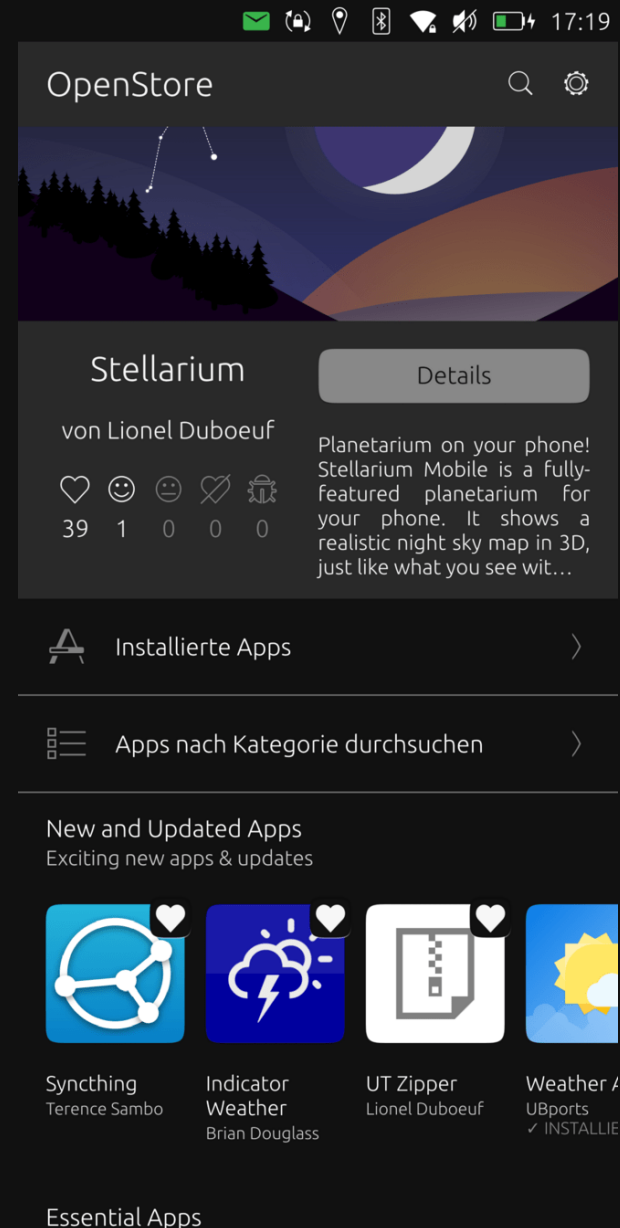


Open-Store (2026)

- <https://open-store.io/>
- App Count (unified)
 - Apps: 839
 - Web Apps: 192
 - Bookmarks: 352

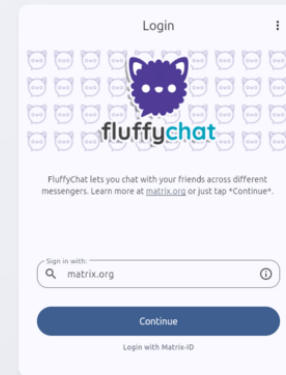
Numbers: January 24, 2026,

<https://next.open-store.io/stats/>



Other ways to install apps

- Inside a Ubuntu container - **Libertine**
- used to be mainly useful for tablets, but with 24.04 repos contain some mobile-friendly apps
- snaps:
 - **Snapz0r**: Install Snaps on Ubuntu Touch 20.04
 - native Snap support on 24.04
- both: bring your own env ;-)

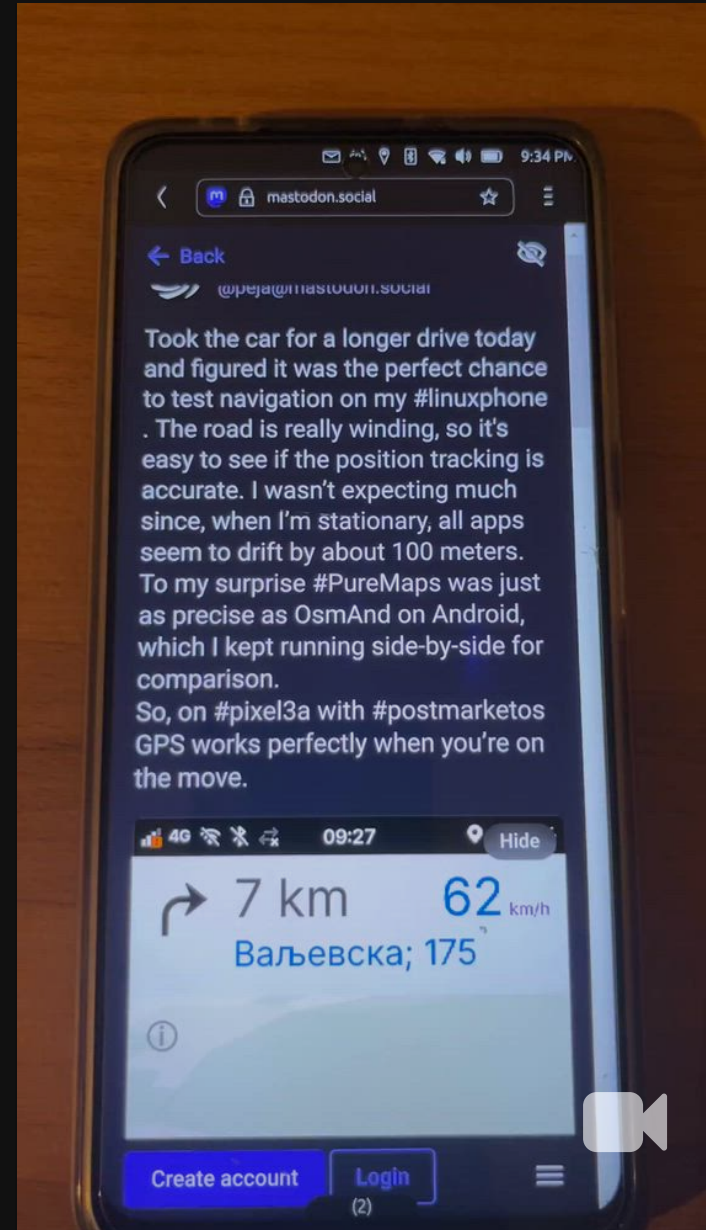


Tangent:

Lomiri on \$distro

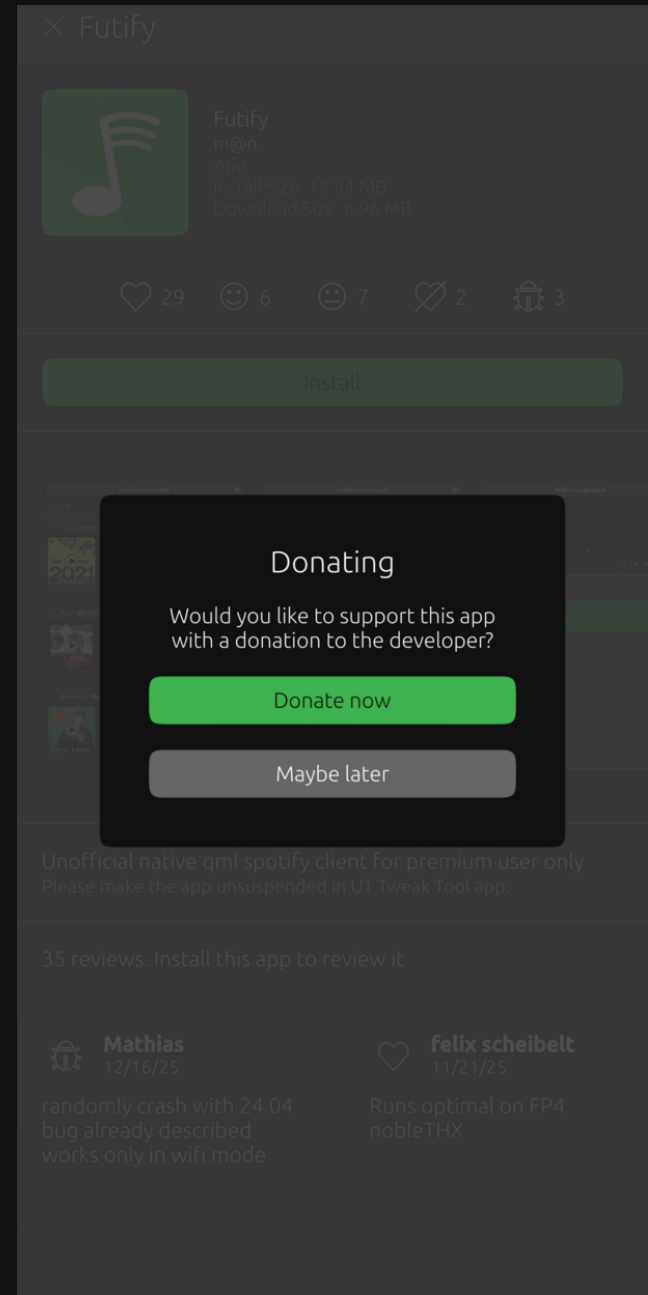
- Lomiri is available in
 - Debian
 - Alpine
 - NixOS
- this also includes core apps, but they may not work with your shell

Example: Morph Browser



Ubuntu Touch Verdict

- Ubuntu Touch has managed to make great strides forward, and is going to keep doing so (Qt6)
- I think other app install GUIs should add a donation nag, too



New contenders



Plasma Mobile



& GNOME on Mobile/



Phosh

- 2017/2020 ff. Librem 5 / PinePhone + ported devices
- lots of projects based on desktop distributions
- PureOS, postmarketOS, Mobian, Droidian, FuriOS, Pocketblue - to just name some distributions
- Main UIs: Plasma Mobile, Phosh, GNOME Shell Mobile
- No proper app store solution (ish) for a long time

MGLApps








Mobile GNU/Linux Apps

Mobile GNU/Linux Apps (short: MGLApps) is a list of (potential) applications for usage on mobile devices running GNU/Linux, having small(er) screens and touch input (e.g. smartphones, tablets, convertibles).

Project repository: <https://framagit.org/mglapps/mglapps.frama.io>

Adjust table

Search:

name	category	summary	mobile compatibility	repository	framework
 1010! Klooni	game	"libGDX game based on the original 1010!"		https://github.com/LonamiWebs/Klooni1010	libGDX
 Alligator	feed reader	"Alligator is a convergent RSS/Atom feed reader."	0	https://invent.kde.org/plasma-mobile/alligator	Kirigami
 Angelfish Webbrowser	browser	"experimental webbrowser"	0	https://invent.kde.org/jbbgameich/plasma-angelfish	
 Apple Flinger	game	"Funny single- and multiplayer game for Android - Use a slingshot to shoot with apples. Very challenging and addictive."		https://gitlab.com/ar-/apple-flinger	libGDX
 Authenticator	2FA code generator	"Two-factor authentication code generator for GNOME. Created with love using Python and GTK+."	0	https://gitlab.gnome.org/World/Authenticator	GTK, libhandy
 Banking	banking	"Banking application for small screens"		https://gitlab.com/tabos/banking	GTK
 Behaim Globus	geography			https://invent.kde.org/education/marble	

Welcome!

LinuxPhoneApps.org is an App Directory that lists apps for Linux Phones, that run Linux distributions like Droidian, FuriOS, postmarketOS or Mobian that do not have a proper (de)centralized app store yet.

Apps and Games

Docs

Theme and Code: [MIT](#). Content: [CC-BY-SA 4.0](#). State: [beta](#)

Find apps or games by ...

[Service](#) [Category](#) [Framework](#) [Mobile fit](#) [Distribution](#) [\[+\]](#)

or use **Advanced Search** to find [Apps and Games!](#)

and, since January 2025:



Flathub

Search apps



Publish

Forum

About

Log In



On the go

Apps for your Linux phones and tablets

More mobile apps



Samaya ✓

Timekeeper for your tasks



Multiplication Puzzle ✓

Solve a math mystery



PicPlanner ✓

Plan your next photo locations



Netsleuth ✓

Calculate IP subnets



Watchmate ✓

Manage your PineTime



Pentobi ✓

Computer opponent for Blokus

Flathub Mobile Collection

Mobile only apps

Mobile and tablet only apps typically should have:

```
<requires>
  <control>touch</control>
  <display_length compare="le">1279</display_length>
</requires>
```

Desktop and mobile apps

Apps that support and work on mobile, tablet and desktop typically should have:

```
<recommends>
  <control>keyboard</control>
  <control>pointing</control>
  <control>touch</control>
</recommends>
<requires>
  <display_length compare="ge">360</display_length>
</requires>
```

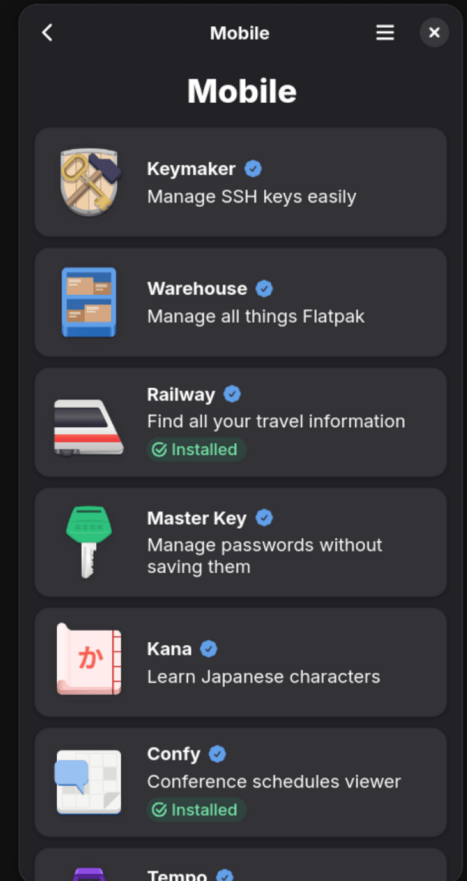
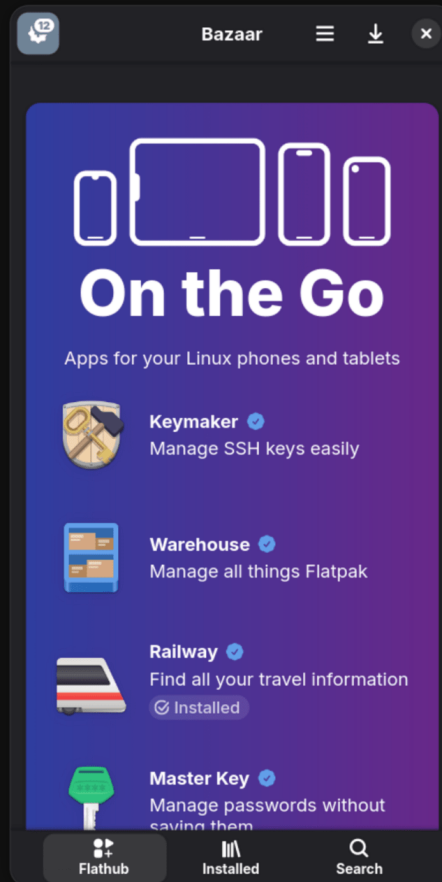
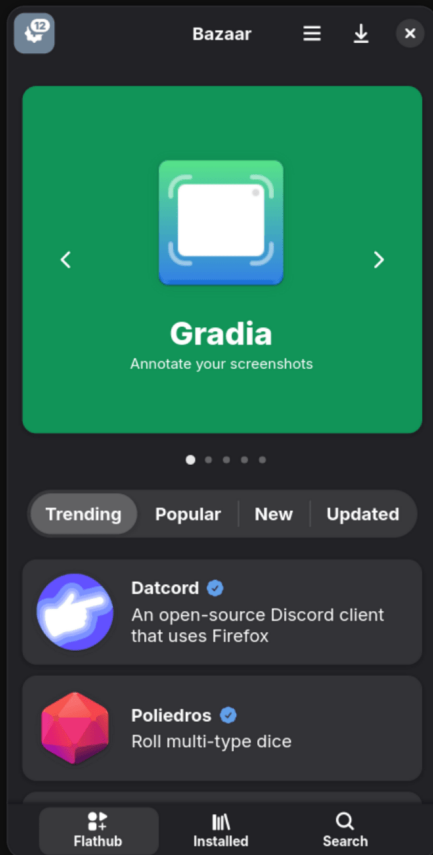
Mobile collection

An app is eligible to appear in the [Flathub store mobile collection](#) if it has the above tags with values that support mobile and tablets. It must also have an icon. The collection is sorted in descending order based on trending.

Tangent: AppStream Metadata

- specified by FreeDesktop.org
- may seem boring, but is super important for appealing app listings on desktop Linux
- can contain
 - form factor information (duh)
 - licensing, descriptions, release notes
 - ...
- [Blog post on Form factors](#)
- [AppStream Documentation](#)
- [Metainfo Creator](#)

Bazaar



<https://github.com/kolunmi/bazaar>

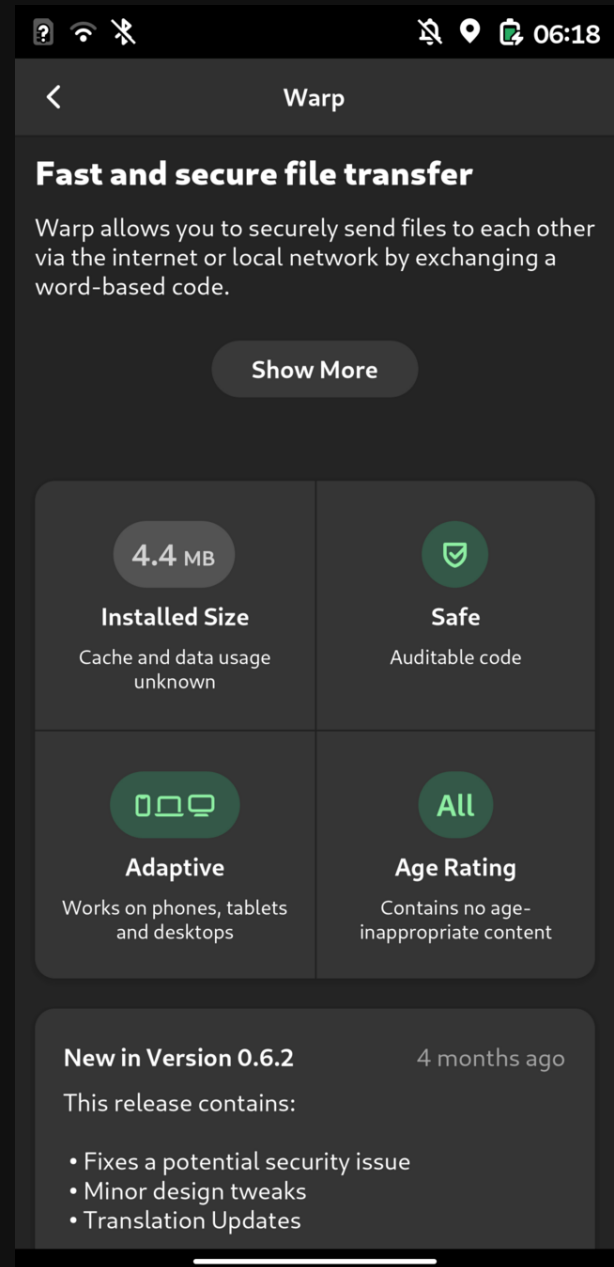
GNOME Software

UI: GTK4 / libadwaita

LPA.org lists

- 315 (2024: 156) [libadwaita apps](#)
- 53 (2024: 66) [libhandy apps](#)

that are rated as fully
compatible (2026.)



KDE Discover

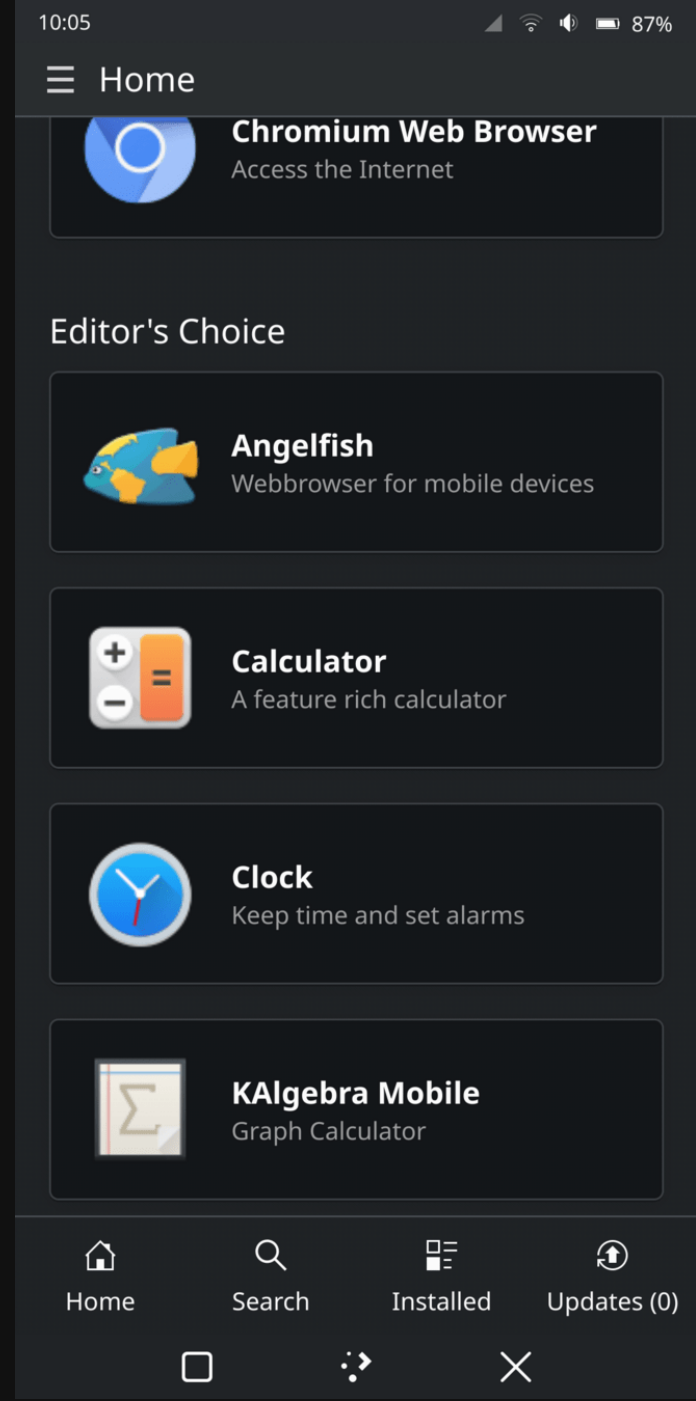
Does not do this (yet.)

But: It uses Kirigami and is adaptive!

LPA.org lists

119 (2024: 114) [Kirigami apps](#)

+ 35 additional QtQuick and
+ 7 additional QWidget apps.



There's more than libadwaita and kirigami, btw

Android Translation Layer (1)

Cairo (3)

Clutter (1)

CSS (1)

dotNET UI (1)

Electron (8)

fluid (7)

Flutter (22)

Gio (1)

Godot (4)

granite (5)

GTK3 (124)

GTK4 (346)

iced (5)

Kirigami (126)

Kivy (1)

libadwaita (333)

libcosmic (3)

libGDX (15)

libhandy (62)

LomiriComponents (2)

MauiKit (13)

ncurses (1)

QtQuick (91)

QtWidgets (16)

ReactXP (1)

SDL (6)

SDL2 (16)

Silica (3)

Tauri (3)

Tk (4)

urwid (1)

Wails (1)

Web technologies (1)

WxWidgets (2)

xapps (1)

<https://linuxphoneapps.org/frameworks/>

...and more than C and C++

C (107)

Clojure (1)

C++ (182)

Crystal (2)

Csharp (2)

CSS (1)

Dart (22)

Elm (1)

Fluent (1)

GAP (1)

GDScript (3)

Go (9)

HTML (2)

Java (4)

JavaScript (42)

Kotlin (4)

Lua (6)

meson (1)

Nim (1)

Objective-C (1)

Python (205)

QML (159)

Rust (110)

Shell (2)

Svelte (1)

Swift (1)

Tcl (4)

TypeScript (10)

Vala (72)

Vue (1)

XSLT (1)

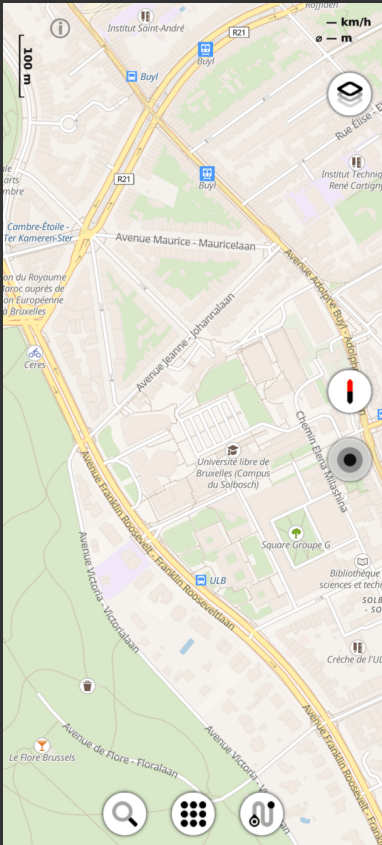
Zig (3)

<https://linuxphoneapps.org/programming-languages/>

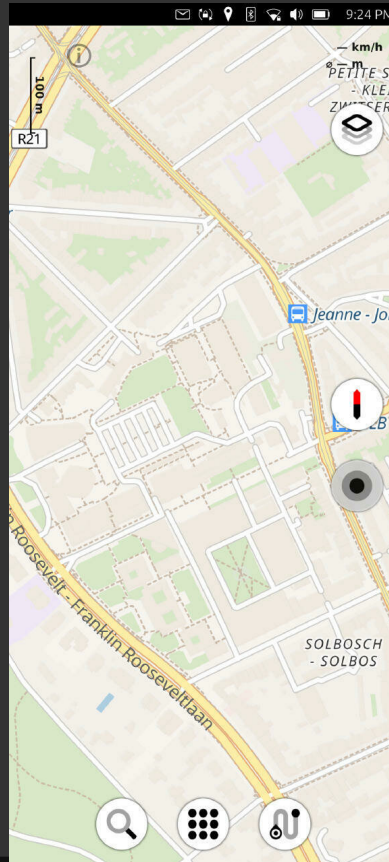
Also worth mentioning (I)

You can make apps that work "everywhere"

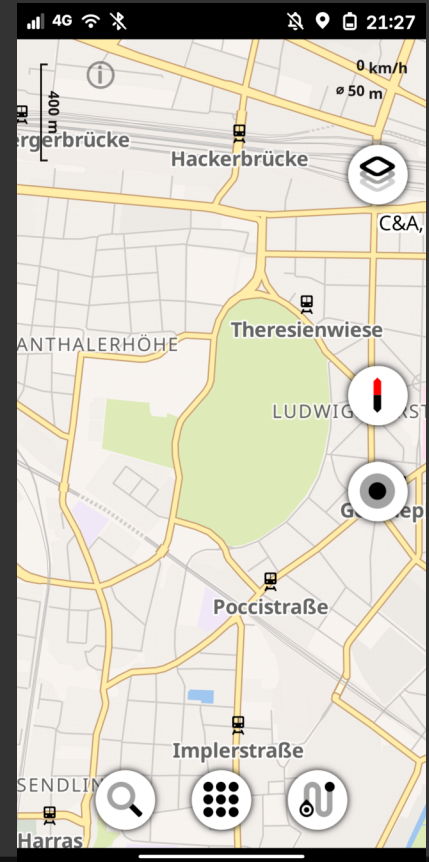
PureMaps on Sailfish



PureMaps on Ubuntu Touch



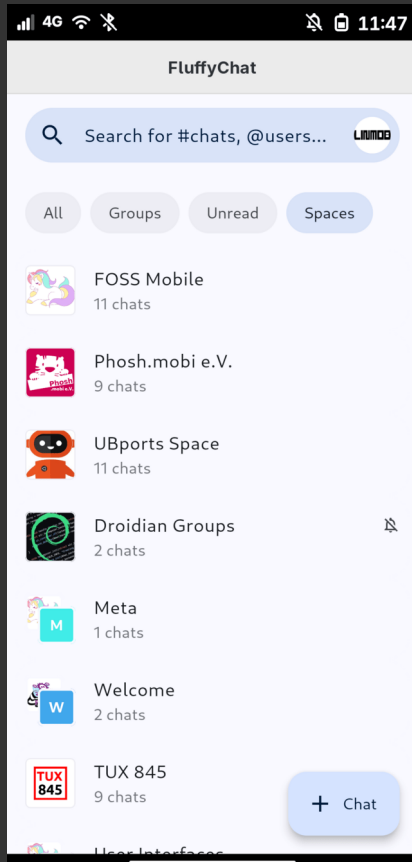
PureMaps on Phosh



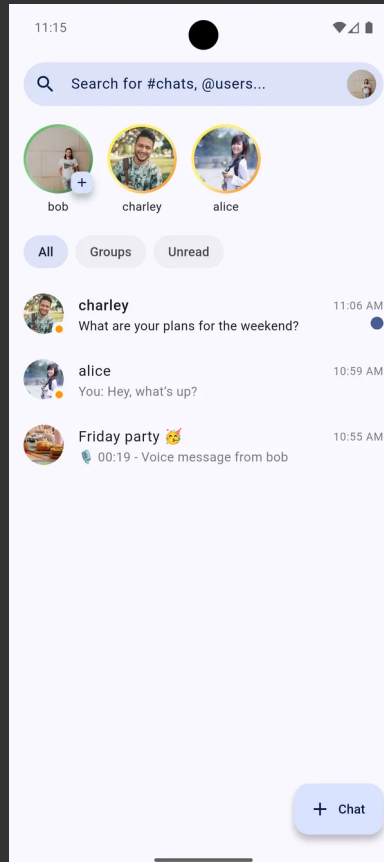
Also worth mentioning (II)

You can make apps that work "everywhere"

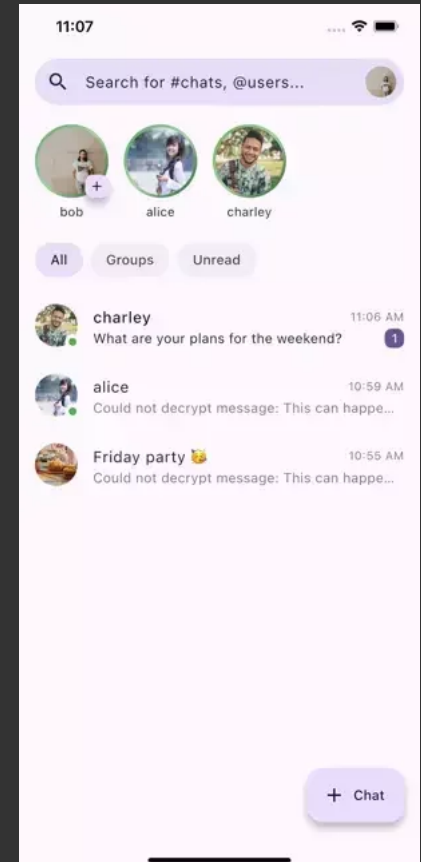
Fluffychat on Phosh



Fluffychat on Android



Fluffychat on iOS



Amazfish

DeltaTouch

... and there's more

AAT

Community favorites

Yes, I asked on Fedi, again.

Community favorites

A word cloud of community favorites on a black background. The words are arranged in a roughly circular pattern, with some larger and some smaller. The words are: Music (Ubuntu Touch), Tooter (Sailfish OS), Tuba, Shortwave, Kasts, GNOME Podcasts, Pipeline, Tokodon, tut, KDE Itinerary, Jogger, Tangram, Passes, GNOME Web, Fotema, Errands, alhena, Sly, lotas, GNOME Maps, DeltaChat, PureMaps, DeltaTouch, Fractal, Exhibit, Foliate, Mousai, and Dino.

Music (Ubuntu Touch)

Tooter (Sailfish OS)

Tuba

Shortwave

Kasts

GNOME Podcasts

Pipeline

Tokodon

tut

KDE Itinerary

Jogger

Tangram

Passes

GNOME Web

Fotema

Errands

alhena

Sly

lotas

GNOME Maps

DeltaChat

PureMaps

DeltaTouch

Fractal

Exhibit

Foliate

Mousai

Dino

Common Gaps

Common Gaps

hard to address - we need others cooperation to solve them

Government ID apps

We also need better security (hardware attestation and stuff) first

Banking apps*

We need better security (hardware attestation and stuff) first

* beyond [Saldo](#)

Apps for Bluetooth gadgets (including

medical devices)
Reverse engineering is possible, but feels QUITE risky!

Mainstream attention stealing apps

Instagram, WhatsApp, TikTok ...

... or is not having those a strength?

Common Gaps

easier to address - it just needs a lot of work

A good email client

for Plasma Mobile (Merkuro Mail when?) and GNOME (GTK4/libadwaita)

...

maybe better Navigation?

Apps for Bluetooth gadgets (low risk)

My Pebble watch would like to send notifications ;-)

Video Calling

On XMPP/Matrix/you name it

Call To Action

1.

2026

means that I will in all likelihood retire from LinuxPhoneApps.org, due to happy personal news



thus...

I plan to publish some
screencasts filling the gap in
documentation before I step
down



2.

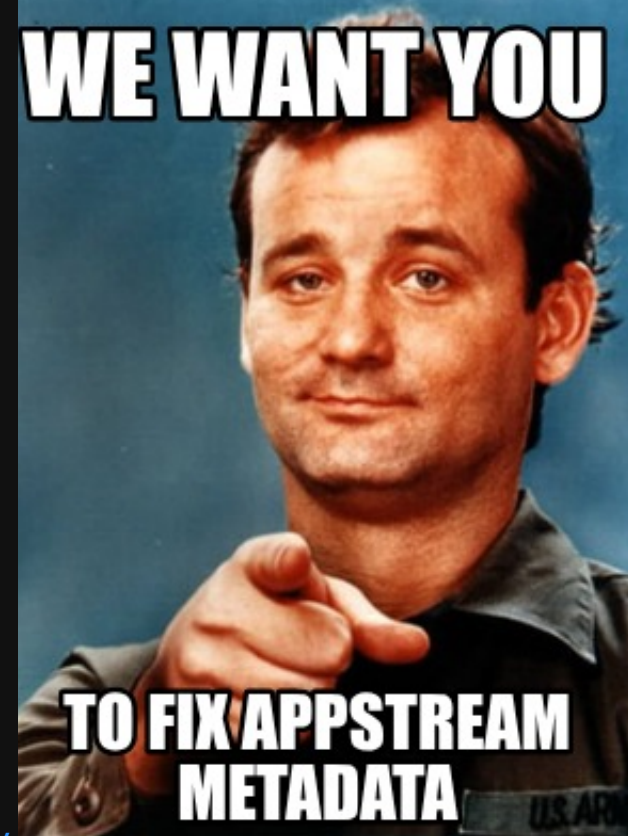
BAD METADATA

Apps that are too wide claim
to be mobile friendly

<https://framagit.org/linuxphoneapps/linuxphoneapps.frama.io/-/issues/94>

Apps that are mobile friendly
don't say so in metadata

<https://framagit.org/linuxphoneapps/linuxphoneapps.frama.io/-/issues/100>

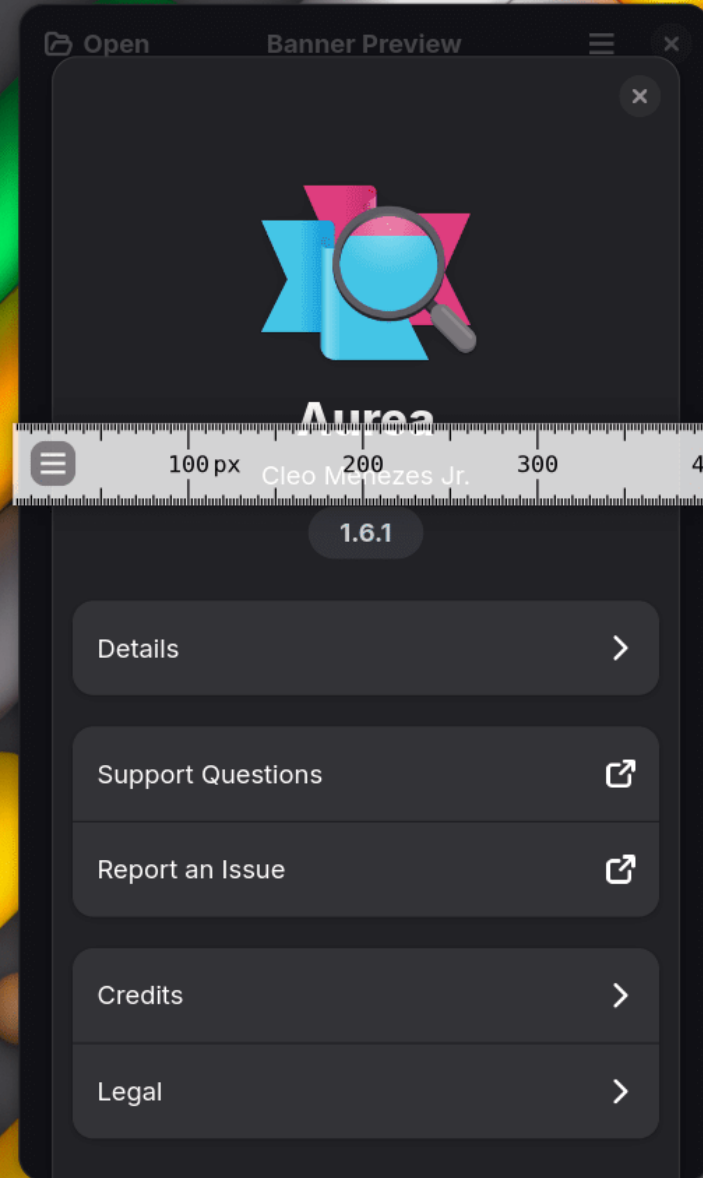


also...

use the Length app and
measure

before putting a wrong
length value :-)

[https://flathub.org/apps/
io.github.herve4m.Length](https://flathub.org/apps/io.github.herve4m.Length)



3... 4... 5...

always be nice, kind and supportive!

SO MUCH MORE

help build x86_64 apps for aarch64

help bumping flatpak runtimes

help out with Framework changes across multiple apps
(e.g., when things get deprecated/replaced in
libadwaita/Kirigami)

add Linux build targets to FOSS Flutter apps

make apps that are 4**px wide 360px narrow

Thank you!

- <https://linuxphoneapps.org/>
- fosdem-talk@linmob.net
- <https://linuxmobile.social/@linuxphoneapps>

and, if you want to contribute

- <https://framagit.org/linuxphoneapps/linuxphoneapps.frama.io/-/issues>
- <https://lists.sr.ht/~linuxphoneapps>
- https://linuxphoneapps.org/lpa_helper.html

Q&A

... find me at
the "Linux on
Mobile" stand
in building
UD level 2
tomorrow!

Thanks!

Check out

<https://linuxphoneapps.org/>

<https://linmob.net/>

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