Early Experiences With PinePhone

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Created *29/12/2019 - 9:07pm*
Submitted by Roy Schestowitz on Sunday 29th of December 2019 09:07:01 PM Filed under GNU [1] Linux [2] Gadgets [3]

- **Talking about Pine** [4]

  At GNU Health Con (now more than two weeks ago) I gave a talk on saturday afternoon about Pine. Thanks to TLLim for providing me we slides (we caught up at Linux App Summit) to start off the talk. I dove down a little more into the products that are available, saying ?this is not a sales talk? but ..

  At the end of the day there were lots of people seriously interested in Pine hardware. If I can?t even not sell devices, what am I to do?

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  Let's start off with mentioning that both these new phones are great steps forward for Linux. While they will probably not beat Android and iOS in popularity, they will at least give Linux power users a device that can be called a Linux phone instead of the usual "technically it's running Linux because that's only a kernel". These phones not only run the latest, mainline

Linux kernel, they also have the desktop stacks people are already familiar with.

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[PinePhone review](#) [6]

Holy shit! This is the phone I have always wanted. I have never been this excited about the mobile sector before. However: the software side is totally absent ? phone calls are very dubious, SMS is somewhat dubious, LTE requires some hacks, and everything will have to be written from the ground up.

I have a PinePhone developer edition model, which I paid for out of pocket1 and which took an excruciatingly long time to arrive. When it finally arrived, it came with no SIM or microSD card (expected), and the eMMC had some half-assed version of Android on it which just boot looped without POSTing to anything useful2. This didn?t bother me in the slightest ? like any other computer I?ve purchased, I planned on immediately flashing my own OS on it. My Linux distribution of choice for it is postmarketOS, which is basically the mobile OS I?d build if I wanted to build a mobile OS.

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