

# FFmpeg vs libav: A distribution maintainer point of view of split

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It's been a while since I wanted to write about this and since there recently has been a sort of hijack without any kind of discussion to let libav be the default implementation for Gentoo, this motivated me.

Exactly two years ago, a group consisting of the majority of FFmpeg developers took over its maintainership. While I didn't like the methods, I'm not an insider so my opinion stops here, especially since if you pay attention to who was involved: Luca was part of it. Luca has been a Gentoo developer since probably most of us even used Gentoo and I must admit I've never seen him heating any discussion, rather the contrary, and it's always been a pleasure to work with him. What happened next, after a lot of turmoil, is that the developers split in two groups: libav formed by the 'secessionists' and FFmpeg.

Good, so what do we chose now?

[rest here](#) [3]

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Also:

Now the question at hand: which should be the default? FFmpeg or Libav?

How to decide?

- Libav has a strict review policy every patch goes through a review and has to be polished enough before landing the tree.
- FFmpeg merges daily what had been done in Libav and has a more lax approach on what goes in the tree and how.

[The case of defaults \(Libav vs FFmpeg\)](#) [4]

[Gentoo Software](#)

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[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/109>

[2] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/38>

[3] <http://aballier.wordpress.com/2013/01/18/ffmpeg-vs-libav-a-distribution-maintainer-point-of-view-almost-two-years-after-the-split/>

[4] [http://blogs.gentoo.org/lu\\_zero/2013/01/18/the-case-of-defaults-libav-vs-ffmpeg/](http://blogs.gentoo.org/lu_zero/2013/01/18/the-case-of-defaults-libav-vs-ffmpeg/)