

GPL-3 Deltas Assessment

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| 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 | General conclusions Apertis the distribution is derived from Debian, from which it takes its phophy, tools, workflows and packages. This robust, friendly and mature dibution provides a solid base on which to build an offering to suite the need very demanding markets such as the automotive industry. One big difference between Apertis and Debian is that Apertis avoids cerlicenses ¹ , in order to allow its target market to avoid legal issues. Several licenare considered unsuitable in parts of Apertis, GPL-3 being the most import one. As a consequence of this, Apertis adopts a number of strategies to enspackages meant to be installed on target devices comply with these lice | 14 illos stri s or tair nses tant sure |

 $^{{}^{1}} https://www.apertis.org/policies/license-expectations/\\ {}^{2} https://www.apertis.org/concepts/distribution/coreutils-replacement/\\ {}^{3} https://www.apertis.org/concepts/distribution/tls-stack/$

- GPL-3-free replacements of GnuPG⁴
- Besides the topics covered by the above documents, Apertis implements different
- strategies to avoid such problems. In the cases where package license changed
- from GPL-2 to GPL-3, Apertis continues shipping the last license friendly ver-
- sion of the package, appending the suffix -gplv2 if it is needed to differentiate
- from the latest version. 41
- For releases older than v2023dev1:
 - findutils-gplv2
 - readline5

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- For releases older than v2023dev0, also:
 - cpio-gplv2
- diffutils-gplv2
 - grep-gplv2
- gzip-gplv2
 - sed-gplv2
 - tar-gplv2
- In other cases, where the license issues was not in the package itself, but in
- one of its dependencies, Apertis tries to avoid the problem by either using a different equivalent dependency or using the last suitably licensed version of it.
- In those cases where the functionality provided by the dependency is not really
- required, Apertis opts for removing or disabling such functionality and in that way dropping the dependency.

Impact

- As discussed in the introduction, depending on the situation the impact of a
- delta is different. Based on the type of delta we can enumerate the following
- scenarios:

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- Delta causes outdated package to be shipped
- Delta causes alternative package dependency to be used when compared to Debian
- Delta causes functionality to be disabled
- Additionally the following aspects should be taken into account:
 - Possibility of delta increment across time
 - Number of packages in the dependency change

⁴https://www.apertis.org/concepts/distribution/gnupg-replacement/

Delta causes outdated package to be shipped

- Since Apertis derives from Debian, generally it ships the same version, but as mentioned, in some cases it keeps shipping a specific version of a package for the target component, while keeping the latest in the development suite.
- In general the impact of this kind of delta is high, since Apertis carries an old version of a package without updates and security bugfixes. For this reason deltas under this category should be examined closely, specially taking into account the aspects previously mentioned.
- Below is a list of packages that are frozen at a specific version previous to the license change and the packages that depend on them in the target component.
- For releases older than v2023dev1:
 - findutils-gplv2 (version 4.2.31)
 - readline5 (version 5.2)
 - bluez

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- connman
 - lua5.2
 - lua5.3
 - mozjs78
 - python3.9
- libidn (version 0.6.14)
- Additionally for releases older than v2023dev0:
- cpio-gplv2 (version 2.8)
 - initramfs-tools-core
 - diffutils-gplv2 (version 2.8.1)
 - grep-gplv2 (version 2.5.1a)
 - gzip-gplv2 (version 1.3.12)
 - sed-gplv2 (version 4.1.2)
 - tar-gplv2 (version 1.17)
 - dpkg
- From the list above it clear that readline5 cpio-gplv2 and tar-gplv2 are the package with higher impact in the system as they are used by other packages.

Delta causes alternative package dependency to be used

When it is possible to find an alternative to a package without license issues which provides similar functionality and it is present in Debian, the approach used is to switch to it, causing a delta. However, since the functionality is kept, the impact of the delta is considered lower than previous cases.

5 Delta causes functionality to be disabled

Under some circumstances, Apertis chooses to disable functionality to avoid a license issue. This approach is only valid if the functionality is not important, which requires an evaluation. Once it has been decided that the functionality is not a strong requirement a delta is introduced to disable it and drop dependencies which use unfriendly licenses. This generally only introduces a minor delta with respect to the package in Debian and is easy to maintain and port forward with updates in Debian.

Package summary for release v2023dev0 onwards

The table below shows the packages which have a license related delta with respect to Debian Bullseye. They are split into the following categories based on the scenarios described above:

- DF0: Disable functionality
- DF1: Disable minor functionality
- OP: Outdated package

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- AP0: Use alternative outdated package
- AP1: Use alternative package

| Package | Category | Information |
|-----------------|----------|---|
| base-files | DF0 | Remove license information for GPL-3 LGPL-3 and MPL-1.1 |
| bind9 | DF0 | Disable libidn2 |
| bluez | AP1 | Use of libedit instead of readline |
| connman | AP1 | Use of libedit instead of readline |
| cpio | AP1 | Use of libarchive-cpio as replacement |
| curl | DF0 | Disable libidn2 librtmp |
| cyrus-sasl2 | DF0 | Disable saslfinger libdes and krb4 |
| diffutils | AP1 | Use of busybox-diffutils as replacement |
| flatpak | DF0 | Disable gpg |
| glib-networking | AP1 | Use opensal instead of gnutls |
| glibc | AP1 | Avoid bashisms |
| gpgme1.0 | AP0 | Use of gunpg, drop libassuan |
| grep | AP1 | Use of busybox-grep as replacement |
| gstreamer 1.0 | DF1 | Disable libdw |
| gtk+3.0 | DF1 | Disable cups |
| gvfs | DF0 | Disable trashlib |
| gzip | AP1 | Use of busybox-gzip as replacement |
| initramfs-tools | AP0 | Use of rust-coreutils |
| libblockdev | DF0 | Disable parted |
| libcanberra | DF0 | Disable tdb |
| libidn | OP | Outdated GPL-3 free version, pending evaluation about dual licensing and/or |
| liboauth | AP1 | Use curl openssl instead of curl gnutls |

| Package | Category | Information |
|----------------------|----------|--|
| hunspell | AP1 | Use of libedit instead of readline |
| mesa | DF0 | Disable libefl |
| mktemp | XXX | Empty package, implemented in coreutils |
| openjpeg2 | AP1 | Use curl openssl instead of curl gnutls |
| openldap | AP1 | Use curl openssl instead of curl gnutls |
| ostree | DF0 | Disable libgpgme |
| pam | DF0 | Replace pam-auth-update, disable NIS |
| pipewire | DF0, AP1 | Disable libsdl2, use libedit instead of readline |
| pulseaudio | DF0 | Disable libtdb |
| sed | AP1 | Use of busybox-sed as replacement |
| systemd | DF0 | Disable libdw, gnutls, libmicrohttpd |
| tar | AP1 | Use of libarchive-tar as replacement |
| totem-pl-parser | DF1 | Disable libquvi |
| tumbler | DF0 | Use curl openssl instead of curl gnutls |
| udisks2 | DF0 | Disable parted |
| util-linux | DF1 | Disable parse_date |
| v4l-utils | DF1 | Disable gettext |
| webkit2gtk | DF1 | Disable libenchant-2 |
| wpa | AP1 | Use internal line edit instead of readline |

Required Action

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We believe that the following actions are required to reduce the impact of these deltas. We have proposed different strategies depending on the impact of the delta, focusing on those which cause outdated packages to be shipped.

Other types of delta in general lead to reduced functionality which should be addressed only if it is required by a specific use case.

For the remaining cases, the impact is only related to drop functionality, which have little value for Apertis, in consequence we believe that the best approach is to keep the delta.

131 The strategies relies in find the best possible alternative, taking into account

- License: The replacement should meet Apertis license expectations⁵ in order to be consider as a valid one
- Debian support: The Debian support guarantees a community support on the package and a easy adoption in Apertis
- Compatibility: The replacement should provide the functionality required by Apertis on target images. Since the focus is on embedded devices, this is usually a small subset of the functionality provided by a fully featured tool, designed to be used by a user from a command line. For example,

⁵https://www.apertis.org/policies/license-expectations/

several alternative command line tools may use different arguments to provide functionality, for which existing users can be trivially altered or lack certain options, but in many cases these options will have little or no value when used in Apertis.

$_{\scriptscriptstyle{144}}$ Delta causes outdated package to be shipped in releases $_{\scriptscriptstyle{145}}$ older than v2023dev1

This type of delta is the most problematic and requires immediate action as these packages are currently not receiving security updates and thus present a security risk.

149 Package findutils-gplv2

Source: https://www.gnu.org/software/findutils/

Package findutils-gplv2 ships version 4.2.31 of GNU findutils a set of basic directory searching utilities. Alternatives to this package are:

- busybox find/xargs⁶: BusyBox combines tiny versions of many common UNIX utilities into a single small executable, find and xargs among them.
- License: GPLv2
 Debian: Present
 Apertis: Present
 - GNU compatibility: Low, only minimum set of feature
 - uutils-findutils⁷: A rust implementation of findutils
 - License: MIT LicenseDebian: Not presentApertis: Not present
 - GNU compatibility: High in mind, however it is in early stage of development

Conclusion

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The package uutils-findutils is being developed by the same community which develops uutil-coreutils, which has been chosen by Apertis as a replacement for coreutils as discussed in GPL-3-free replacements of coreutils.

- High GNU compatibility
- High community support
- High community impact
- Portability in mind
- Ongoing development
- Implemented in a modern memory safe language

⁶https://busybox.net/

⁷https://github.com/uutils/findutils

⁸https://www.apertis.org/concepts/distribution/coreutils-replacement/

Initial tests showed that additional functionality was required by some core packages (such as initramfs-tools), but recent changes have fixed these issues, making it a suitable replacement for findutils-gplv2 in target images despite remaining limitations (e.g. xargs functionality is still basic).

179 Package readline5

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Source: https://tiswww.case.edu/php/chet/readline/rltop.html

The readline5 package ships version 5.2 of GNU readline. It provides a set of functions for use by applications that allow users to edit command lines as they are typed in. This same functionality can be provided by:

- libedit⁹: This is an autotool- and libtoolized port of the NetBSD Editline library (libedit). This Berkeley-style licensed command line editor library provides generic line editing, history, and tokenization functions, similar to those found in GNU Readline.
 - License: BSD-3-Clause
 - Debian: Present
 - Apertis: Present (target)
- replxx¹⁰: A small, portable GNU readline replacement for Linux, Windows and MacOS which is capable of handling UTF-8 characters. Unlike GNU readline, which is GPL, this library uses a BSD license and can be used in any kind of program.
 - License: BSD-3-ClauseDebian: Not presentApertis: Not present

Conclusion

Since libedit is a mature package, based on NetBSD Editline library and is already present in Apertis, it is the primary candidate as a replacement. The approach in this case is to add support for it as alternative for readline in the packages which depend on it (bluez and connman).

Delta causes outdated package to be shipped in releases older than v2023dev0

This type of delta is the most problematic and requires immediate action as these packages are currently not receiving security updates and thus present a security risk. These issues were addressed in v2023dev0 with the stragy described below but they are still present in older releases.

⁹https://www.thrysoee.dk/editline/

 $^{^{10} \}rm https://github.com/AmokHuginnsson/replxx$

```
Package tar-gplv2

Source: https://ww
```

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Source: https://www.gnu.org/software/tar/

Package tar-gplv2 ships version 1.17 of GNU tar which provides the ability to create and manipulate tar archives. There are the following alternatives with the same functionality:

- libarchive ¹¹: Multi-format archive and compression library, which includes the libarchive library, the bsdtar and bsdcpio command-line programs, full test suite, and documentation.
- License: BSD-2-clause
 - Debian: Present
 - Apertis: Present (target)
 - GNU compatibility: Medium, basic set of features
 - busybox tar¹²: BusyBox combines tiny versions of many common UNIX utilities into a single small executable, tar among them.
- 223 License: GPLv2
 224 Debian: Present
 225 Apertis: Present
 - GNU compatibility: Low, only minimum set of features
 - tar-rs¹³: Rust library to manage TAR archives.
 - License: Apache
 - Debian: Not present
 - Apertis: Not present

Conclusion

The package libarchive is mature and already in Apertis. It provides bsdtar which gives a good basement to build a replacement for tar. The approach in this case is to test the use case of interest for target images, to install packages with dpkg.

Initial tests replacing tar with bsdtar or busybox tar and installing a package

```
$ sudo apt reinstall libc6
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:
libcolord2 libeg11-mesa libsys-cpuaffinity-perl libxdelta2 pbzip2 pixz xdelta xdelta3
Use 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove them.
upgraded, 0 newly installed, 1 reinstalled, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.
```

¹¹https://www.libarchive.org/

¹²https://busybox.net/

¹³https://github.com/alexcrichton/tar-rs

```
Need to get 2,831 kB of archives.
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    After this operation, 0 B of additional disk space will be used.
    Get:1 https://repositories.apertis.org/apertis v2022dev2/target amd64 libc6 amd64 2.31-
247
    9apertis2bv2022dev2b1 [2,831 kB]
    Fetched 2,831 kB in 3s (887 kB/s)
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    debconf: unable to initialize frontend: Dialog
    debconf: (No usable dialog-like program is installed, so the dialog based frontend cannot be used. at /usr/share
    debconf: falling back to frontend: Readline
    Preconfiguring packages ...
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    -x -f - --warning=no-timestamp
    -x -f -
255
    bsdtar: Option --warning=no-timestamp is not supported
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    Usage:
               bsdtar -tf <archive-filename>
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      Extract: bsdtar -xf <archive-filename>
259
      Create: bsdtar -cf <archive-filename> [filenames...]
260
      Help:
               bsdtar --help
261
    dpkg-deb: error: tar subprocess returned error exit status 1
262
           error
                      processing
                                    archive
                                               /var/cache/apt/archives/libc6_2.31-
    9apertis2bv2022dev2b1_amd64.deb (--unpack):
264
     dpkg-deb --control subprocess returned error exit status 2
    Errors were encountered while processing:
266
     /var/cache/apt/archives/libc6_2.31-9apertis2bv2022dev2b1_amd64.deb
    E: Sub-process /usr/bin/dpkg returned an error code (1)
    After omitting the argument the process finish without issues.
269
    As a result, with little effort the either bsdtar or busybox tar can be used as a
    valid replacement of tar.
271
    Package cpio-gplv2
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    Source: https://www.gnu.org/software/cpio/
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    Package cpio-gplv2 ships version 2.8 of GNU cpio which is used to copies files
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    into or out of a cpio or tar archive. The archive can be another file on the disk,
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    a magnetic tape, or a pipe. This same functionality can be provided by:
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       • libarchive 14: Multi-format archive and compression library, which includes
          the libarchive library, the badtar and badcpio command-line programs, full
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          test suite, and documentation.
279
            - License: BSD-2-clause
            - Debian: Present
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            - Aperts: Present
282
            - GNU compatibility: Medium, basic set of features
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```

¹⁴https://www.libarchive.org/

- busybox cpio¹⁵: BusyBox combines tiny versions of many common UNIX utilities into a single small executable, cpio among them.
- License: GPLv2 - Debian: Present
 - Apertis: Present
 - GNU compatibility: Low, only minimum set of feature
 - cpio-rs¹⁶: Rust library to manage CPIO archives.
 - License: MIT LicenseDebian: Not presentApertis: Not present

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The package libarchive is mature and already packaged in Apertis. This provides bsdcpio as a good base to build a replacement for cpio. In this case we need to test if it can successfully be used to build the initramfs used in Apertis.

Initial test, replacing cpio with bsdcpio and busybox cpio and running updateinitramfs, was successful with no errors.

300 Package diffutils-gplv2

301 Source: https://www.gnu.org/software/diffutils/

Package diffutils-gplv2 ships version 2.8.1 of GNU diffutils, a set of programs to find differences between files. Similar functionality can be obtained by:

- busybox diff¹⁷: BusyBox combines tiny versions of many common UNIX utilities into a single small executable, diff among them.
 - License: GPLv2
 - Debian: Present
 - Apertis: Present
 - GNU compatibility: Low, only minimum set of feature
- ccdiff¹⁸: Perl script to achieve same functionality than diff but improving the visual output with colors.
 - License: Artistic-2.0
 - Debian: Present
 - Apertis: Not present
 - GNU compatibility: High
 - Runtime dependencies:
 - * libalgorithm-diff-xs-perl (not in Apertis Artistic)

¹⁵https://busybox.net/

¹⁶https://github.com/jcreekmore/cpio-rs

¹⁷https://busybox.net/

¹⁸https://metacpan.org/pod/App::ccdiff

- * libalgorithm-diff-perl (development Artistic)
- * libscalar-list-utils-perl (development Artistic)
- colordiff¹⁹: The Perl script colordiff is a wrapper for diff and produces the same output but with pretty 'syntax'highlighting. Colour schemes can be customized.
- rust-diff²⁰: A rust library to compute text diffs.

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The most suitable replacement found is busybox diff, since it provides the basic functionality required on target images. Initial tests shows that ccdiff has same functionality, very similar arguments and similar output (adds colors) to diff. However, since it is a perl script it requires additional dependencies to be installed.

Additionally it was found that diff is used on package install by dpkg but the process runs smoothly with busybox diff and also with ccdiff. The features of cmp, diff3 and sdiff are not supported, however there is not much value in target images.

Package grep-gplv2

335 **Source**: https://www.gnu.org/software/grep/

Package grep-gplv2 ships version 2.5.1a of GNU grep, which searches one or more input files for lines containing a match to a specified pattern. By default, grep outputs the matching lines.

- busybox grep²¹: BusyBox combines tiny versions of many common UNIX utilities into a single small executable, grep among them.
 - License: GPLv2Debian: Present
 - Apertis: Present
 - GNU compatibility: Low, only minimum set of feature
- ugrep²²: A grep alternative aim to be faster and with additional features.
 - License: BSD-3-Clause License
 - Debian: Present
 - Apertis: Not present
 - GNU compatibility: High
 - Runtime dependencies:
 - * libbz2-1.0 (target)
 - * libc6 (target)

¹⁹https://www.colordiff.org/

²⁰https://docs.rs/diff/0.1.12/diff/

²¹https://busybox.net/

 $^{^{22} \}rm https://github.com/Genivia/ugrep$

```
* libgcc-s1 (target)
* liblz4-1 (target)
* liblzma5 (target)
* libpcre2-8-0 (target)
* libstdc++6 (target)
* libzstd1 (target)
* zlib1g (target)
```

The goal to provide the required features for target images can be accomplish by using busybox grep without adding additional packages, making it the best option. Initial tests booting an image and installing packages don't show any issues.

It is worth mentioning that in cases where higher compatibility with GNU is required, the ugrep package is already in Debian and all its dependencies are already in target, making it a viable alternative.

368 Package gzip-gplv2

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Source: https://www.gnu.org/software/gzip/

- busybox gzip²³: BusyBox combines tiny versions of many common UNIX utilities into a single small executable, gzip among them.
- License: GPLv2Debian: PresentApertis: Present
 - GNU compatibility: Low, only minimum set of feature
- flate2-rs²⁴: Rust library to manage ZIP archives.
- License: Apache
 Debian: Not present
 Apertis: Not present

380 Conclusion

In order to replace gzip the best alternative is to used busybox gzip, which even with the its limitations it is enough for the requirements in target images

Package sed-gplv2

Source: https://www.gnu.org/software/sed/

Package sed-gplv2 ships version 4.1.2 of GNU sed a non-interactive command-line text editor.

²³https://busybox.net/

²⁴https://github.com/rust-lang/flate2-rs

- busybox sed²⁵: BusyBox combines tiny versions of many common UNIX utilities into a single small executable, sed among them.
- License: GPLv2
 Debian: Present
 Apertis: Present
 - GNU compatibility: Medium, only minimum set of feature, but there are not much difference

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In order to provide a replacement for sed-gplv2 the use of busybox sed is recommended since no other package depends on and the basic functionality provided by busybox sed covers most common use cases.

$_{ ext{\tiny 398}}$ Initial tests

- 399 Besides of the partial tests done when analyzing each package, as part of the initial test the following actions have been done
 - Boot target image with tools replaced
 - Reinstall all the packages in target image

These rest were passed successfully which shows that the suggested approach is viable. Despite this promising results further testing should be conducted to assure a smooth transition.

General conclusions

- For most of the packages there is a valid replacement in Debian Bullseye which should require little effort. However there are two that will require a development effort
 - readline5
 - findutils-gplv2

²⁵https://busybox.net/