

Upstream and downstream, best friends forever?

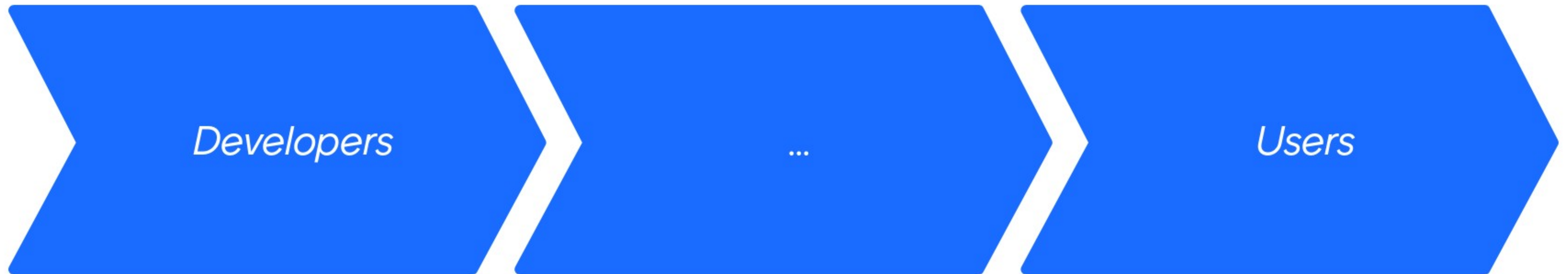
František Lachman, Product Owner of Packit Project

Which Linux distribution do you use?

45 responses



Streams?

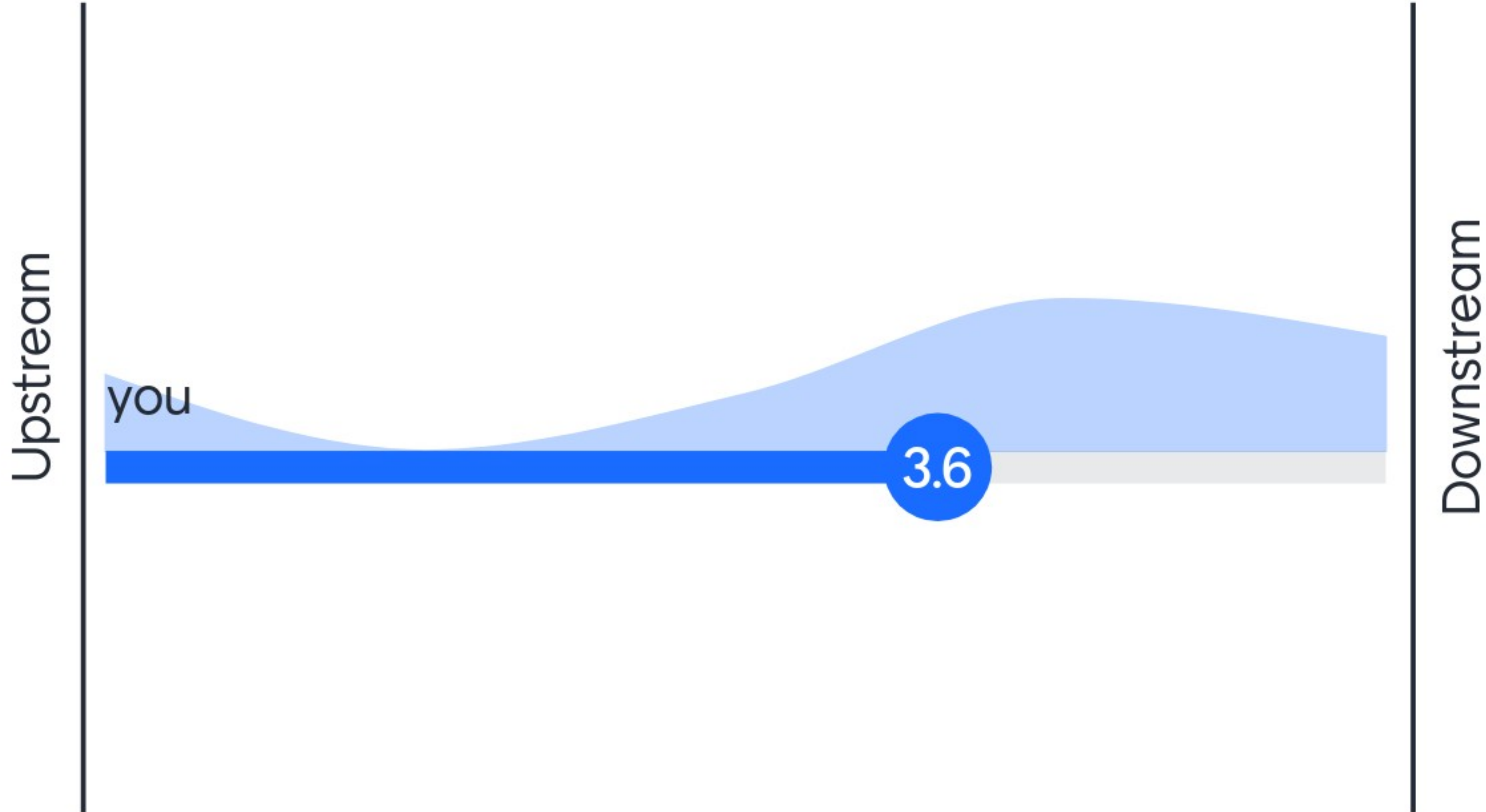


Streams?



- Upstream ~ git forge (e.g. GitHub/GitLab)
- Downstream ~ Linux distribution (e.g. Fedora)

Which one is closer to you?



Let's make upstream and downstream
closer together!

– František, 5 years ago

Hey, upstream developers, we have this
nice Fedora integration for your
projects!

– František, 4 years ago

No thanks,
I don't care about distributions...

– Some developer, 4 years ago

Why developers might care about downstream?

Availability

Software adoption

Phoronix articles

Without distributions they have no users

people depend on their code!
their code is not used except
by downstream!

So that their software
reaches the users

For their benefits!

User feedback and bug
reports

Why developers might care about downstream?

Get feedback on how the product is actually used

Reaching users

How can you build without a downstream

Distribution users themselves

Working together

ease reaching endusers

Money

they get bugfixes

Why developers might care about downstream?

Growing community

They have not packaged their project yet.

feedback

Bugs in downstream makes bad reputation for a project in upstream

Feedback

People don't use shitty tools

Revenue

If upstreams think distros are a pain they should try dealing with users instead ;)

Why developers might care about downstream?

anti-monopoly

Hacker news bragging rights

Don't duplicate work

They need something to package, right?

Community effort

not carry patches downstream

Ensure continuity of the project to package

Only rolling releases will care (and they are right) Regular releases delude themselves that staying still is a good idea

Why developers might care about downstream?

make enterprise Linux less
painful

Hey, maintainers, we have this nice
service for you!

– František, 4 years ago

I don't care about **upstream**. They just
produce new bugs I need to fix.

– Some maintainer, 4 years ago

Why maintainers might want to care about upstream?

Users want new releases

Collaboration

Anticipate breaking changes

Users complaining about missing upgrades

Ease of packaging

new features

Get fixes for some stuff which is broken

Bugfixes for everyone

Why maintainers might want to care about upstream?

do they want to write the code themselves? they can just pin the dep if they don't care!

If a bug is reported and nobody is around to read the report, is it actually a bug?

Don't duplicate work

Correct declaration of dependencies

Security fixes

Can you be a maintainer without an upstream?

Availability

Increase stability

Why maintainers might want to care about upstream?

Orient development to make their lives easier

To not have to maintain patches downstream

Keeping close to upstream is easier than maintaining it yourself

efficiency!

How can you not?

Don't *we* want to help them?

Tips & Tricks

When things go wrong, I don't want to
look into the logs I don't understand.

– Upstream developer

Please help

downstream must have a reliable mechanism for filing bugs!

If we have to suffer it, so do they

I shouldn't read twenty irrelevant logs to find the one relevant log

Use cool logging libraries, i guess

Make a snap of your application then #troll

downstream should care about presenting their output so it does not force upstream to learn their specific output!

i work in support that's my job :/

downstream can be a monopolist -- antitrust!

When things go wrong, I don't want to look into the logs I don't understand.

- Better logs (haha).
- logdetective.com
- Notifications.
- Clear expectations.

Just a single distribution? Why can't
you support all the distributions?

– Upstream developer

Please help

Copr

Differing packaging
formats

Who says we dont? We use
Flatpak

Use flatpak lol

some of the distributions are
monopolists and don't want to
make it easy!

Snap **TM**

a lot of works

Tarballs FTW

Please help

Build a standalone static binary

library dependencies are a mess. mhhh yummy
downstream patches

Just support the Lost popular ones

Use OBS, it supports all the distros

Docker

Flatpak is a distribution

Teach users about our superior distro

Provide generic install instructions, and let the distros figure it out

Please help

Containerise rm

Are u kidfing ? Il have
petabytes of free!

Just a single distribution? Why can't you support all the distributions?

- ... *all are not possible*
- Distro-specific terms.
- Easy and reliable testing.
- Easy onboarding.

I don't want to have more files in the
repository.

– Upstream developer

Please help

Don't be lazy

Then why did you use Java

package managers should
not also be build systems!

Just use somebody else's
lol

Use email, man

Then reuse an existing file

decouple downstream
config from upstream!

Try to get things standard

Please help

.config for git repos

Overlay downstream files
at build/test time

understandable my 100KB
HDD would fill up too

Everything in one file :)

I don't want to have more files in the repository.

- Just one file.
- Links for more content.
- Custom locations
- Global configuration.

I have my own automation and it works
//
well.

– *Maintainer*

Please help

Automation is a way to break things in a large scale

I also have my own automation and it works well

Yeah greatest one

Distro CI catches other classes of bugs

Use Ansible lmao

Works in my machine

Good for you

other automation should work with yours using standard protocols!

I have my own automation and it works well.

- Killer feature.
- Easy onboarding. Workshops.
- Maintenance.
- Work on the right things!

Your automation breaks the rules!

– *Maintainer*

Please help

whose rules?

Standardization go brrr

let's figure out some rules
we both agree on!

Standard of today are the
legacy of Tomorrow

I trust the bot more than
any human

Rules are meant to be
broken. Follow mine.

Talk. Be kind

monopolists do this a lot

Please help

Rules. Mamy break
innovation

Your automation breaks the rules!

- Be open for suggestions.
- Don't ignore the issues.
- Let the user decide.
- Have the same permissions as a regular user.

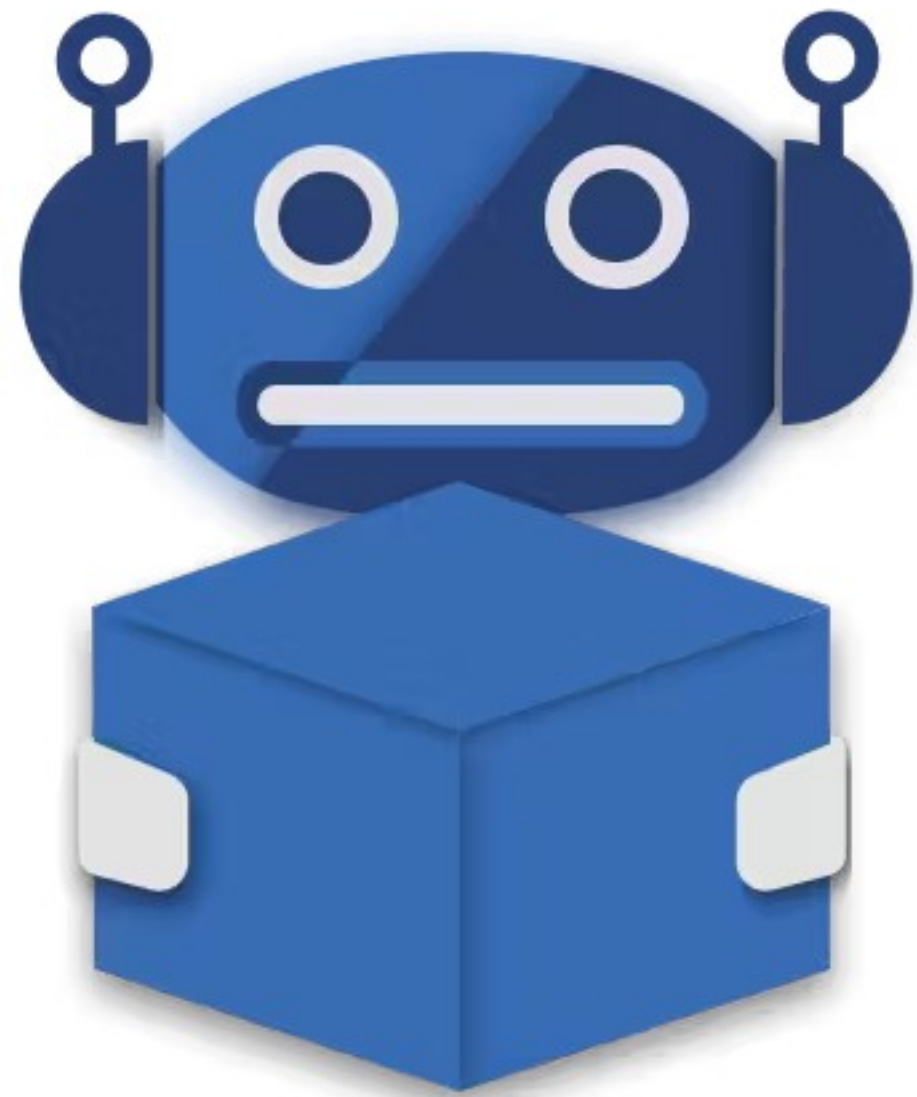
Your automation does it differently
then I am used to.

– Maintainer

Please help

Your automation does it differently than I am used to.

- A config option (<https://xkcd.com/1172/>).
- User-defined hooks/actions.
- Respond to the first issue/question is crucial.



Thank you

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