

Do Now:

1. Say hello to your neighbor!
2. Think of an OS you use. Discuss what you use it for and how you trust it.

# CS111 Lecture

## OS Trust in Context

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Based on slides and notes created by John Ousterhout, Jerry Cain, Chris Gregg, and others.

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# A mysterious bug

```
year = ORIGINYEAR; /* = 1980 */

while (days > 365) {
    if (IsLeapYear(year)) {
        if (days > 366) {
            days -= 366;
            year += 1;
        }
    }
    else {
        days -= 365;
        year += 1;
    }
}
```

The following code handles the clock driver for a device.

This code contains a bug that affects the device one day every four years.

Discuss with your neighbor why.

# Edge cases, y'all

```
year = ORIGINYEAR; /* = 1980 */
```

```
while (days > 365) {  
    if (IsLeapYear(year)) {  
        if (days > 366) {  
            days -= 366;  
            year += 1;  
        }  
    }  
    else {  
        days -= 365;  
        year += 1;  
    }  
}
```

No else condition

=> stuck in while loop on last day of leap year (until days > 366)



# The day the Zune stood still



On 31 Dec 2008 (last day of leap year), Zune 30s froze.

Solution: let battery run out and bug will disappear next day 🙄

Microsoft discontinued Zunes less than 4 years later...

**What is needed to build a trustworthy OS?**

**How does the deployment context matter?**

# Trusting software is extending agency

- *agency*: our capacity to take actions that align with our goals
- “when we trust, we try to make something a part of our agency... To unquestioningly trust something is to let it in—to attempt to bring it inside one’s practical functioning.”
- Example: glucose monitoring

CT Nguyen: [Trust as an unquestioning attitude](#)



# Risk: Agential Gullibility

- Trusting more than warranted
- Difficult to b/c software changes, hard to inspect
- Example: glucose monitoring issues w/ Android update

## Android 13: Dangerous disconnections to blood glucose meters



Simon Lüthje · 17. February 2023





# Three paths to trust

1. Assumption: trust absent any clues to warrant it
  - a. E.g. using unknown third party library b/c deadline nearing
2. Inference: reputation is based on past performance, characteristics, institutions
  - a. Some weaker (e.g. trust in brands or affiliation)
  - b. Some stronger (e.g. past performance)
  - c. Trust in prior versions of software
3. Substitution: structural arrangements that partly replace need for trust
  - a. Often involves separation of code, responsibilities
  - b. E.g. user permissions of file system, keeping personal info off work accounts, devices

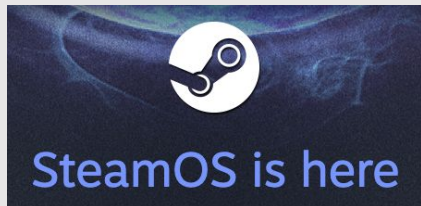


Paul B. de Laat: *How can contributors to open-source communities be trusted? On the assumption, inference, and substitution of trust*

# So many kinds of OS!

Proprietary

iOS

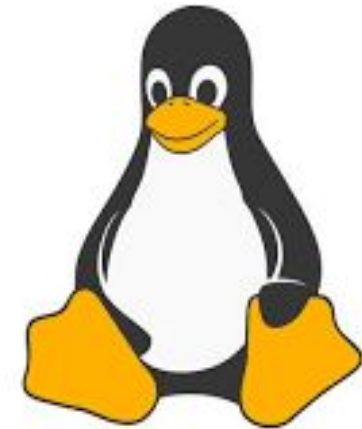


Research & Edu

Open Source



Embedded Systems (e.g. IoT)



Linux

**As a systems programmer,  
what is your responsibility as  
someone designing and  
maintaining operating  
systems?**

# Laws are part of trust (e.g. terms of services)

today in privacy policies

We retain your device/IP data for as long as we need it to ensure that our systems are working appropriately, effectively and efficiently.

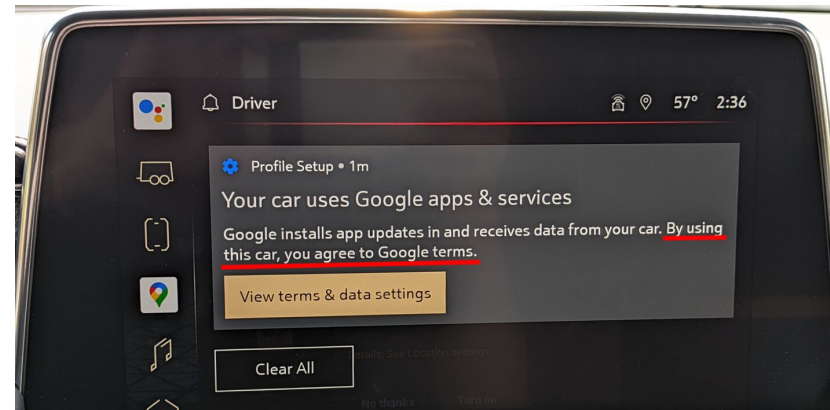
## Personal Data of Children

As noted in the Terms of Use, we do not knowingly collect or solicit Personal Data about children under 13 years of age; if you are a child under the age of 13, please do not attempt to register for or otherwise use the Personal Data. Use of the Personal Data in the presence of a child under the age of 13, but no Personal Data about the child is collected. If we learn we have collected Personal Data from a child under 13 years of age, we will delete that information as quickly as possible. (I don't know that this is accurate. Do we have to say we will delete the information or is there another way around this)? If you

6:20 PM · May 15, 2023

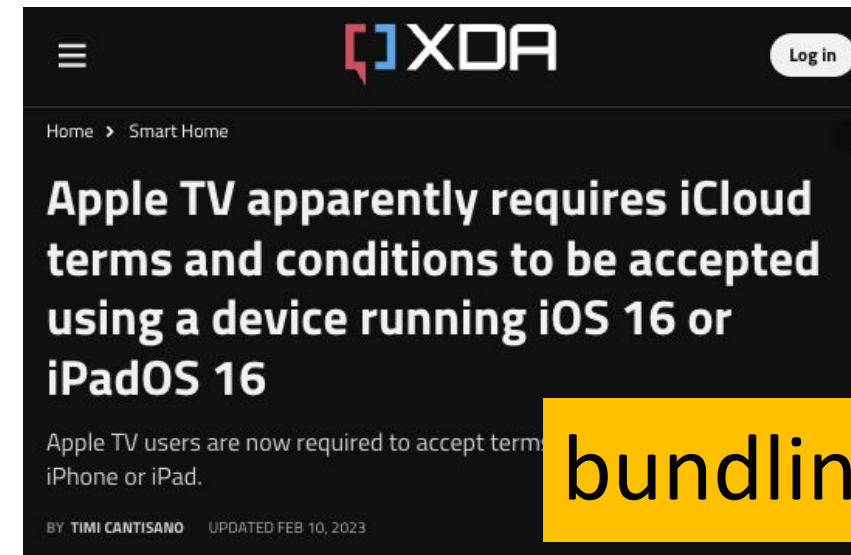


how written



[ars technica](#)

how  
informed  
consent was



bundling

[Tech Crunch](#)

# Dimensions of Context

## Stakeholders

Types: Direct, indirect  
Other considerations: Non-targeted use,  
changing hands, one person multiple roles

## Pervasiveness

How widespread?  
For what? (personal, critical infrastructure)  
Connected w/ what?  
Cultural and political implications?  
Crossing national boundaries?

## Values

Explicit vs collateral  
Value tensions  
Different perceptions of same value

## Time

Support duration  
Obsolescence  
Reappropriation

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# Stakeholders

**Direct stakeholders:** directly interact w/ system

- users
- app developers
- system programmers

**Indirect stakeholders:** affected by system w/o directly using it

- customers
- patients
- everyone?!

Additional considerations:

- **non-targeted use:** tech not always used the way designers intended
- **changing hands:** stewardship of OS handed off between systems or organizations
- **one person, multiple roles:** same person can be direct and indirect stakeholder

# Example: Therac 25

- Radiation therapy machine
- 1985-87: 6 patient deaths (overdoses of radiation)
- dual-mode: switch between by
  - low energy electron: topical cancer
  - high energy X-ray beams: deep cancers



## Therac-6

- Photon-mode
- Manual device
- Hardware safety features

## Therac-20

- **Dual-mode**
- Manual device
- Hardware safety features
- Hardware interlocks prevented accidents from occurring

## Therac-25

- Dual-mode
- **Automatic device**
- **Some hardware safety features replaced with software**



# Race condition in Therac-25

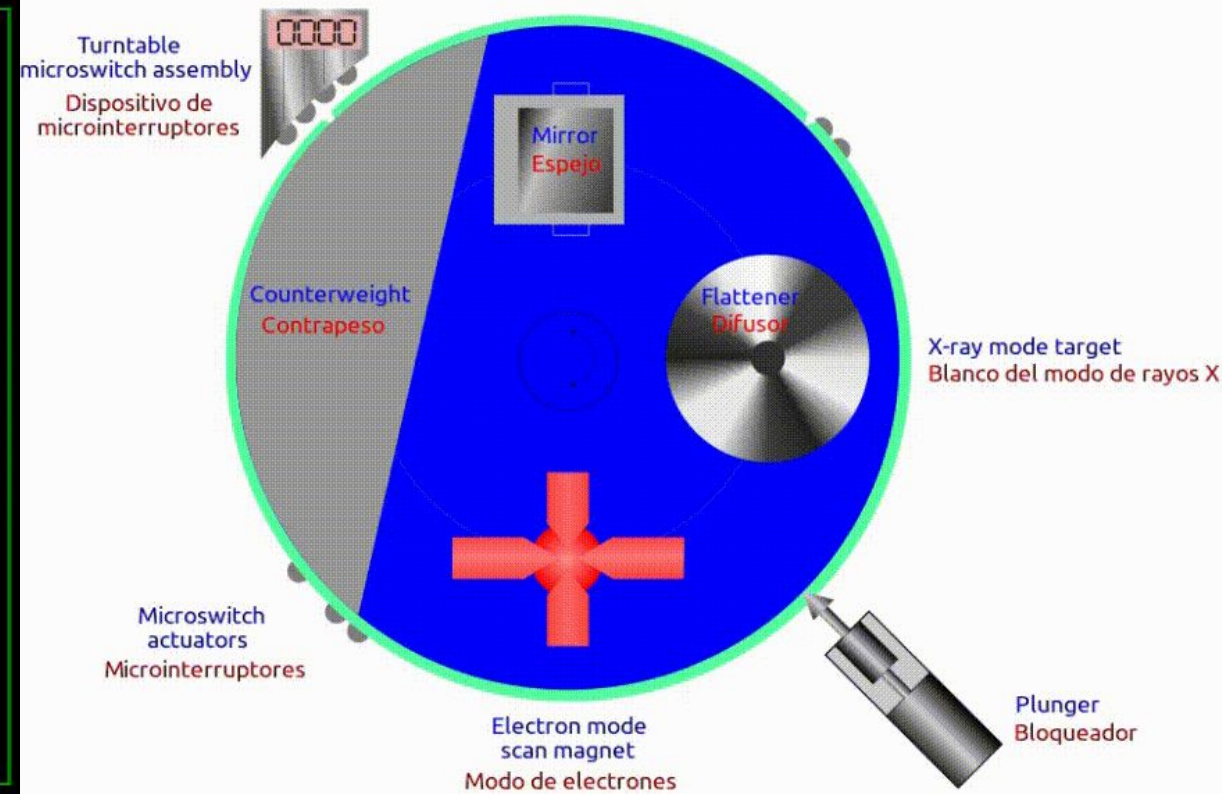
```

PATIENT NAME: John
TREATMENT MODE: FIX
BEAM TYPE: E
ENERGY (KeV): 10

UNIT RATE/MINUTE    0.000000    0.000000
MONITOR UNITS      200.000000    200.000000
TIME (MIN)         0.270000    0.270000

GANTRY ROTATION (DEG)    0.000000    0.000000    VERIFIED
COLLIMATOR ROTATION (DEG) 359.200000    359.200000    VERIFIED
COLLIMATOR X (CM)       14.200000    14.200000    VERIFIED
COLLIMATOR Y (CM)       27.200000    27.200000    VERIFIED
WEDGE NUMBER           1.000000    1.000000    VERIFIED
ACCESSORY NUMBER        0.000000    0.000000    VERIFIED

DATE: 2012-04-16    SYSTEM: BEAM READY    OP.MODE: TREAT    AUTO
TIME: 11:48:58     TREAT: TREAT PAUSE   X-RAY            173777
OPR ID: 033-tfs3p   REASON: OPERATOR     COMMAND: █
    
```



# Not considering context, poor SWE

Poor software engineering practices

1. all code written by single programmer
2. no formal software specifications
3. no testing strategy
4. no external review
5. uninformative error messages

Failure to consider stakeholders:

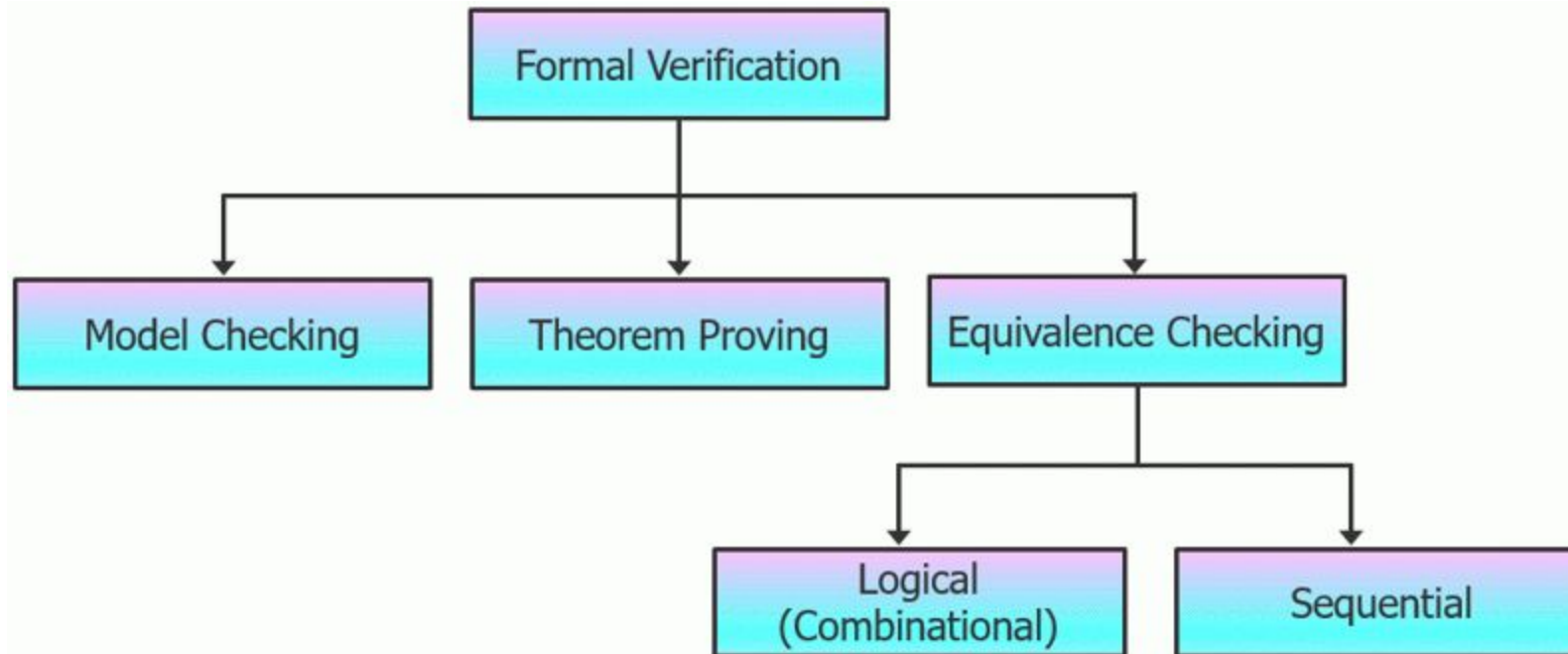
**Direct stakeholders:** medical technician, programmer, service technician

**Indirect stakeholders:** patients

**Non-targeted use:** technicians worked too quickly

**Changing hands:** used buggy software from previous versions (which had redundant hardware safety)

# Modern medical software undergo formal verification



# Dimensions of Context

## Stakeholders (direct, indirect)

Types: Direct, indirect

Other considerations: Non-targeted use,  
changing hands, one person multiple roles

## Pervasiveness

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For what? (personal, critical infrastructure)

Connected w/ what?

Cultural and political implications?

Crossing national boundaries?

## Values

Explicit vs collateral

Value tensions

Different perceptions of same value

## Time

Support duration

Obsolescence

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# Pervasiveness

- How widespread is use?
- For what? (personal, recreation, critical infrastructure)
- Crossing national boundaries (different rules, customs, infrastructure)?
- Connected w/ what?
- Cultural and political implications?

# Dimensions of Context

## Stakeholders

Types: Direct, indirect  
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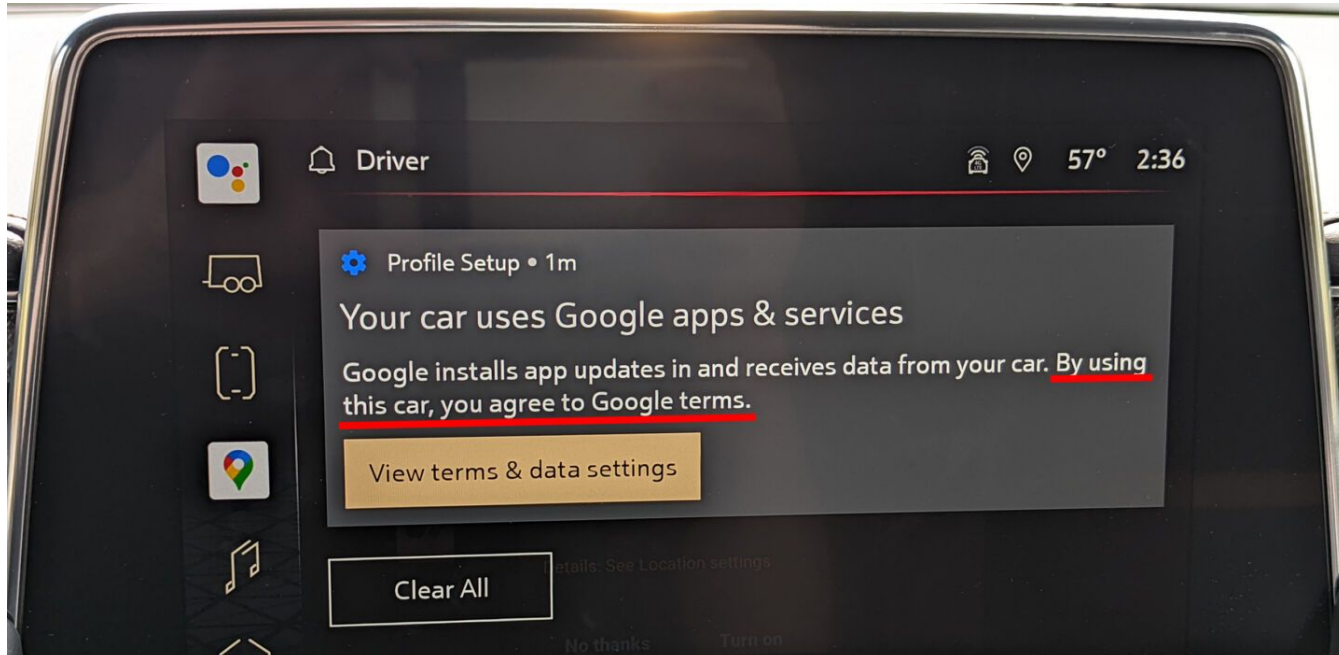
## Time

Support duration  
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# Values

- Explicit values: values designers intended to design for
- Collateral values: side effects of design decisions
- Value tensions: one value in a technology challenges another value
- Perceptions of a value: stakeholders have different perceptions of definition of a specific value
  - e.g. privacy as control over own information vs being left alone

# Bundling: A growing value tension



**XDA** Log in

Home > Smart Home

## Apple TV apparently requires iCloud terms and conditions to be accepted using a device running iOS 16 or iPadOS 16

Apple TV users are now required to accept terms and conditions using an iPhone or iPad.

BY TIMI CANTISANO UPDATED FEB 10, 2023

**Display Daily**

## LG Smart TVs Will Send Data Directly to Nielsen

October 24, 2023

By **Shawnee Blackwood**

Support us → **The Guardian**

News Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle

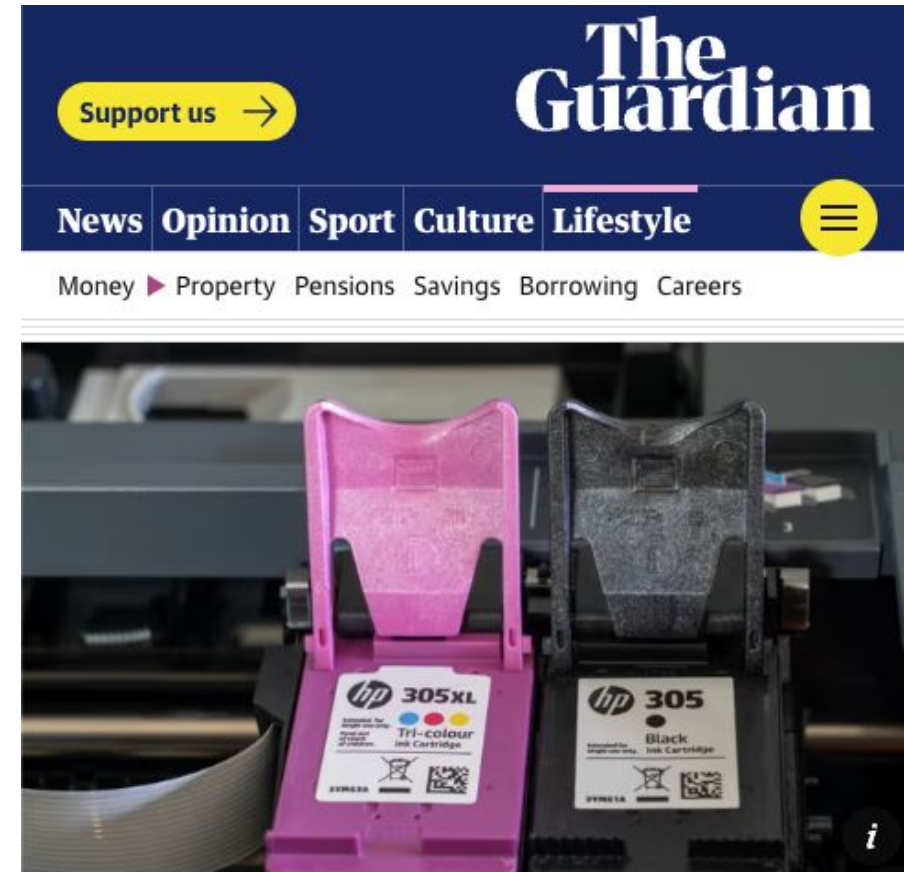
Money ▶ Property Pensions Savings Borrowing Careers

Your problems, with Anna Tims  
**How can HP block me from using a cheaper printer cartridge?**



# Bundling: A growing value tension

- Printers preventing use of cartridges from other manufacturers
- [HP customer support](#): “purpose of dynamic security feature is to protect HP’s innovations and intellectual property”
- included in security updates
- **explicit values**: security
- **collateral values**: profit, quality,
- **value tension**: (lack of) sustainability
- **perceptions of values**: network security vs security of intellectual property



Your problems, with Anna Tims  
**How can HP block me from using a cheaper printer cartridge?**

# Dimensions of Context

## Stakeholders

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## Pervasiveness

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Crossing national boundaries?

## Values

Explicit: intentionally designed for (e.g. privacy, trust, adaptability, performance)?

Collateral: side effects of design decisions

## Time

Support duration

Obsolescence

Reappropriation

# Dimensions of Context

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# Time

- Support duration (long-term support)
- Obsolescence: manage end of support?
- Reappropriation: how OS reappropriated in novel way?
- Choice not to use (or stop using)?

# FreeRTOS communicating trust



“de facto standard for microcontrollers and small microprocessors”

## Why FreeRTOS?

### Trusted kernel

With proven robustness, tiny footprint, and wide device support, the FreeRTOS kernel is trusted by world-leading companies as the de facto standard for microcontrollers and small microprocessors.

### Accelerate time to market

With detailed pre-configured demos and Internet of Things (IoT) reference integrations, there is no need to determine how to setup a project. Quickly download, compile, and get to market faster.

### Broad ecosystem support

Our partner ecosystem provides a breadth of options including community contributions, professional support, as well as integrated IDE and productivity tools.

### Predictability of long term support

FreeRTOS offers feature stability with long term support (LTS) releases. FreeRTOS LTS libraries come with security updates and critical bug fixes for two years. Maintained by AWS for the benefit of the FreeRTOS community.

# The original smartwatch... lives?



# Kicking a Pebble (OS) down the road...

pebble 2012: Raised \$10.3 million on Kickstarter

2015: Pebble raises \$20.3 mil from 75k backers on Kickstarter

2016: Pebble company shut down, IP sold to Fitbit

 2016: Rebble community founded

2018: official Pebble support ended

Pebble OS  
(proprietary, built upon FreeRTOS)



“de facto standard for microcontrollers and small microprocessors”

2017: Rebble Alliance founded, creates RebbleOS

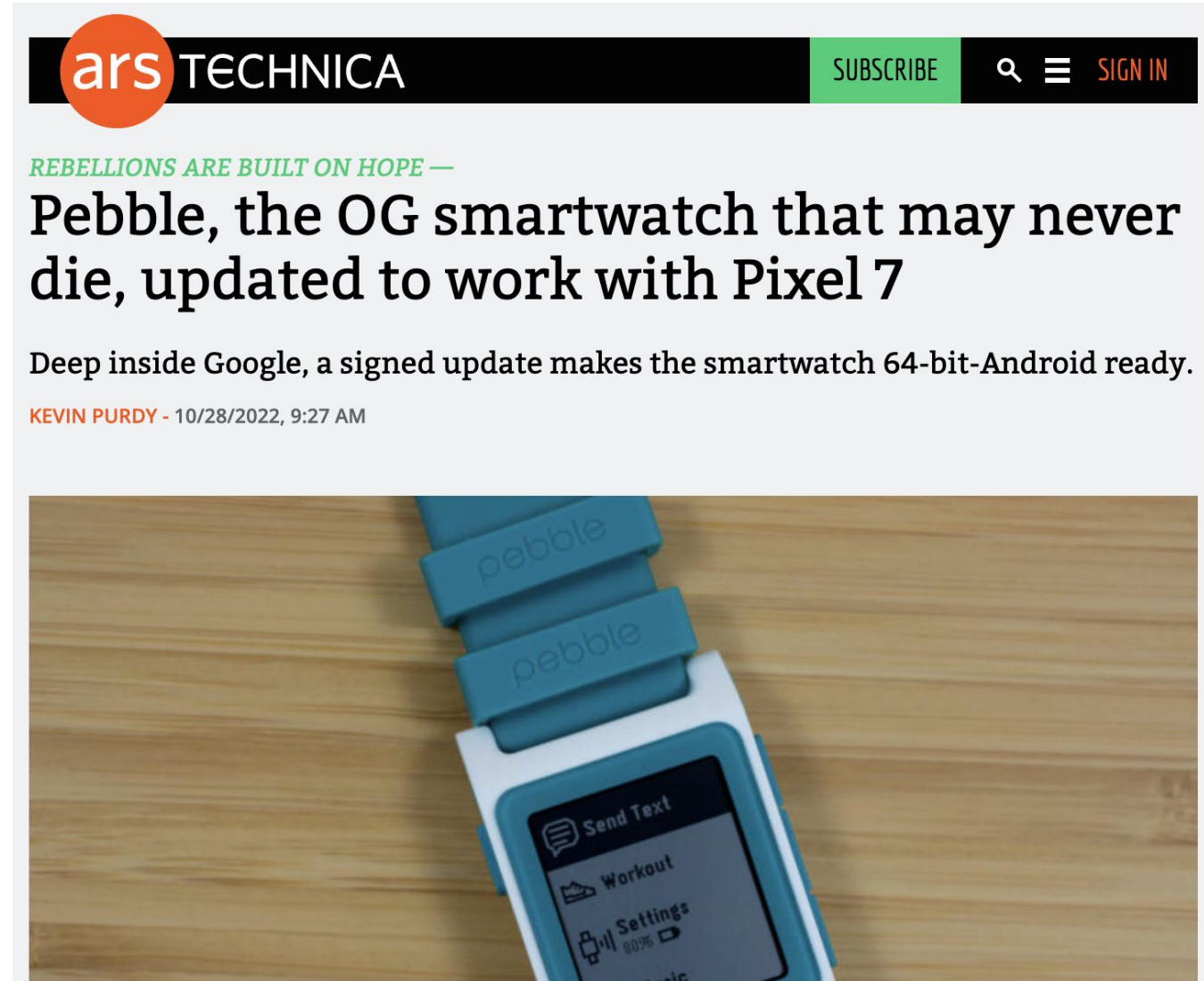
 [pebble-dev / RebbleOS](#) Public

# Pebble is dead! Long live Pebble!

- 2021: Fitbit acquired by Google
- 2021: Pebble app removed from iOS App Store
- 2022: New Pebble Android app (for 64 bit only Android OS)
  - signed w/ official Pebble keys



**Rebble (pebble-dev)**  
Pebble is dead. Long live Pebble!  
112 followers in our hearts and on our wrists




ars TECHNICA SUBSCRIBE SIGN IN

REBELLIONS ARE BUILT ON HOPE —

## Pebble, the OG smartwatch that may never die, updated to work with Pixel 7

Deep inside Google, a signed update makes the smartwatch 64-bit-Android ready.

KEVIN PURDY - 10/28/2022, 9:27 AM





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# Trust and OS in Context

1. Trust amongst tech **users, app developers, and system programmers** is intertwined
2. Trust is about **extending agency** (“unquestioning attitude”)
3. Trust emerges through **assumption, inference, substitution**
4. Can **design ways to substitute** some need to trust

## Stakeholders

Direct & indirect, Non-targeted use, changing hands, one person multiple roles

**Pervasiveness:** How widespread? For what?

Connected w/ what? Cultural, political, national boundaries

## Values

Explicit vs collateral, value tensions, Different perceptions of same value

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Support duration, obsolescence, reappropriation

# Trusting systems involves trusting people

TURING AWARD LECTURE

## Reflections on Trusting Trust

*To what extent should one trust a statement that a program is free of Trojan horses? Perhaps it is more important to trust the people who wrote the software.*

KEN THOMPSON

### INTRODUCTION

I thank the ACM for this award. I can't help but feel that I am receiving this honor for timing and serendip-

programs. I would like to present to you the cutest program I ever wrote. I will do this in three stages and try to bring it together at the end.

*Thompson, Ken. "Reflections on trusting trust."  
Communications of the ACM 27.8 (1984): 761-763.*

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