Why I have a problem with AppImages on Linux

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I get why AppImages exist. They were the precursors for Flatpak and Snaps and made it possible for developers to create portable, universal applications that could run on any Linux distribution.

That, my friends, is a great idea. It's also one that both Flatpak and Snap packages have succeeded to do. On my primary machine (a System76 Thelio), I install applications via source, apt, Snap and Flatpak—I don't discriminate. As long as an application will install and run as expected, I'll install it, regardless of the package format.

With one exception: AppImages.

I do not like AppImages and I believe it's time developers stopped using them, but I get why they do. AppImages aren't actually installed on systems. Instead, they are sort of like the containers of desktop applications, without having to rely on an installed engine like Docker. You simply download an AppImage, give it executable permission, and run it. The application in question should open and you could use it. Simple, right?

[2]

Source URL: http://www.tuxmachines.org/node/141483

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