

Forked-Android smartphones advance to second generation

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Silent Circle and Fairphone, which each offer smartphones that run extensively forked versions of Android, will soon ship powerful second-generation models.

Alternative Android distributions have grown increasingly popular in recent years, from CyanogenMod to the OnePlus 2's Oxygen OS to Chinese Android variants like Xiaomi's MIUI. Last year, two more Android flavors also arrived in specialty phones that aim to find a niche in the smartphonesphere. First, there was the ultra-secure Blackphone from Silent Circle, and then the modular, environmentally and ethically focused Fairphone.

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