

Packages - Freedom issue #1167

[chromium][qt5-webengine][electron] QTWebgine/Electron embeds "entire Chromium platform"

2017-01-07 04:42 AM - g4jc

Status:	confirmed	% Done:	0%
Priority:	freedom issue		
Assignee:			
Category:			
Description			
<p>Due to outstanding freedom issues with Google's Chromium project^[1], we should remove QTWebgine since it is non-free.</p> <p>"QtWebEngine integrates chromium's fast moving web capabilities into Qt. Our goal is to bring the latest and best implementation of the web platform into the universe of Qt. It is not just a port of the core HTML/CSS rendering engine, it is the entire Chromium platform."^[2]</p> <p>Unfortunately, this well break all programs which have sold their souls to Google - by replacing the libre "QTWebkit" with "QTWebengine" including Qupzilla and konqueror and some other important packages.</p> <p>Webkit/Webkit2 remain free software without non-free Google code.^[3]</p> <p>[1] http://www.mail-archive.com/gnu-linux-libre@nongnu.org/msg02199.html [2] https://wiki.qt.io/QtWebEngine [3] https://wiki.qt.io/QtWebKit</p>			
Related issues:			
Related to Packages - Packaging request #140: Possible to make a libre versio...		not-a-bug	
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #1290: Lots of apps are unusable without ...		duplicate	
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #1426: [anki] depend on qt5-webengine		in progress	
Related to Packages - Bug #1147: Qupzilla		not-a-bug	2016-11-20 2016-12-31
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #1231: [electron] embeds Chromium platfor...		fixed	2017-03-14
Related to Packages - Packaging request #1394: [revolt-git] Add package to PCR		open	2017-07-03
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #1236: [apm] is useless without *atom* pa...		not-a-bug	
Related to Packages - Packaging request #1002: [atom-editor] add package to PCR		open	2016-05-04
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #1380: [riot-desktop][element-desktop] re...		fixed	
Related to Packages - Packaging request #1191: [riot] add package to pcr		open	2017-01-24
Related to Packages - Packaging request #1085: [simplenote] add package to PCR		open	2016-08-22
Related to Packages - Packaging request #1034: [brave] Please add package to PCR		not-a-bug	2016-06-19
Related to Packages - Packaging request #1203: [Yakyak] add package to PCR		not-a-bug	2017-01-29
Related to Packages - Bug #1211: Anki Broken after update		not-a-bug	2017-02-12
Related to Packages - Packaging request #1085: [simplenote] add package to PCR		open	2016-08-22
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #1526: kdeplatform replaced by kdevelop ...		fixed	2017-11-14
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #1584: [messagelib]: depends on blacklist...		confirmed	
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #1585: [parley]: depends on blacklisted '...		fixed	2017-12-19
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #1788: [quassel-monolithic][quassel-clien...		fixed	
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #1783: Falkon has broken dependency: qt5-...		fixed	
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #1808: [rssguard]: depends on qt5-webengine		confirmed	
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #1844: [kalarm] Unresolvable dependencies...		confirmed	
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #1862: [libkgapi]: depends on qt5-webengine		confirmed	
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2012: KDE depends on Qt5-Webengine (Duh...)		confirmed	
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2107: nextcloud-client depends on qt5-we...		fixed	
Related to Packages - Bug #2109: [electron2] analogous to [electron], embeds...		fixed	
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2117: [marble]: depends on qt5-webengine		fixed	
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2114: [konqueror]: can not load any URL ...		confirmed	
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2136: [musescore]: depends on 'qt5-weben...		fixed	
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2171: [supercollider]: requires 'qt5-web...		forwarded upstream	

Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2174: [libksysguard] Depends on qt5-webe...	duplicate
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2188: [canorus]: depends on qt5-webengine	confirmed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2189: [babe]: depends on qt5-webengine	confirmed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2190: [clipgrab]: depends on qt5-webengine	confirmed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2191: [kbitex]: depends on qt5-webengine	confirmed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2192: [kube]: depends on qt5-webengine	confirmed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2193: [qmapshack]: depends on qt5-webengine	confirmed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2194: [radare2-cutter]: depends on qt5-w...	confirmed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2195: [psi][psi-l10n][psi-plugins]: depe...	confirmed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2196: [kalgebra]: depends on qt5-webengine	confirmed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2198: [telepathy-kde-text-ui]: depends o...	confirmed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2199: [luminancehdr]: depends on qt5-web...	confirmed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2200: [pgadmin4]: depends on qt5-webengine	confirmed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2201: [wire-desktop]: depends on electron	confirmed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2202: [cozy-desktop]: depends on electron	confirmed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2203: [code]: depends on electron	fixed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2204: [keybase-gui]: depends on electron	fixed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2210: [libkgapi]: depends on nonfree qt5...	fixed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2211: [libksysguard]: depends on nonfree...	fixed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2256: [kmail] [qt5-webengine] Kmail won'...	unconfirmed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2407: [electron4]: on [community]	fixed
Related to Packages - Packaging request #2512: [ungoogled-chromium]: is it a ...	open
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2523: [electron5] another one bites the ...	duplicate
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2527: [asar]: depends on electron	fixed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2528: [caprine]: depends on electron	fixed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2597: [electron6] same freedom issues as...	fixed
Related to Packages - Packaging request #1461: [rstudio] add to PCR	fixed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2708: [kdeplasma-addons] controversial q...	confirmed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #2791: [spyder] depends on webengine	confirmed
Related to Packages - Freedom issue #1275: [otter-browser] depends on qt5-web...	fixed
Related to Packages - Packaging request #1155: [ghostwriter] add package to PCR	open

History

#1 - 2017-01-07 04:44 AM - Anonymous

- Priority changed from bug to freedom issue

#2 - 2017-01-07 07:53 PM - Anonymous

- Subject changed from QTWebgine embeds "entire Chromium platform" to [qt5-webengine] QTWebgine embeds "entire Chromium platform"

#3 - 2017-01-07 08:05 PM - Anonymous

- Assignee set to Anonymous

#4 - 2017-01-07 08:29 PM - g4jc

Note to @Emulatorman: Firefox is now shipping parts of chromium API too. It has been fixed in Iceweasel-hardened -

```
// Disable File and Directory Entries API (Imported from Edge/Chromium)
// https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/Firefox/Releases/50#Files\_and\_directories
// https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/File\_and\_Directory\_Entries\_API
// https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/File\_and\_Directory\_Entries\_API/Introduction
// https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/File\_and\_Directory\_Entries\_API/Firefox\_support
// https://bugzilla.mozilla.org/show\_bug.cgi?id=1265767
pref("dom.webkitBlink.filesystem.enabled", false);
// https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/HTMLInputElement/webkitdirectory
// https://bugzilla.mozilla.org/show\_bug.cgi?id=1258489
// https://hg.mozilla.org/releases/mozilla-release/rev/133af19777be
pref("dom.webkitBlink.dirPicker.enabled", false);

// Directory Upload API, webkitdirectory
```

// https://bugzilla.mozilla.org/show_bug.cgi?id=1188880
// https://bugzilla.mozilla.org/show_bug.cgi?id=907707
// <https://wicg.github.io/directory-upload/proposal.html>
pref("dom.input.dirpicker", false);

#5 - 2017-01-07 08:59 PM - Anonymous

g4jc wrote:

Note to @Emulatorman: Firefox is now shipping parts of chromium API too. It has been fixed in Iceweasel-hardened -

ok, i will add it then, thanks!

#6 - 2017-02-07 11:37 PM - isacdaavid

- Related to Packaging request #140: Possible to make a libre version of Chromium (web browser)? added

#7 - 2017-03-24 08:45 AM - Anonymous

- % Done changed from 0 to 100

- Status changed from open to fixed

#8 - 2017-04-15 02:37 PM - Anonymous

Hi there! You could package otter-browser with qt5-webkit-ng engine: <https://aur.archlinux.org/packages/otter-browser/>

#9 - 2017-06-14 02:02 AM - jdoe

A QtWebEngine developer has recently responded to the bug report at kde.org¹ claiming that QtWebEngine does not include the entirety of Chromium, and that the discussion on LibrePlanet was based on a misunderstanding. In related thread on QtWebEngine mailing list², he explained that QtWebEngine actually removes a large amount of code from Chromium including functionalities that rely on Google's servers, so Chromium's issues may not apply to QtWebEngine. Perhaps it should be re-evaluated for possible re-inclusion?

[1]: https://bugs.kde.org/show_bug.cgi?id=374808

[2]: <http://lists.qt-project.org/pipermail/qtwebengine/2017-January/000409.html>

#10 - 2017-08-03 04:58 PM - Elon_Satoshi

jdoe wrote:

A QtWebEngine developer has recently responded to the bug report at kde.org¹ claiming that QtWebEngine does not include the entirety of Chromium, and that the discussion on LibrePlanet was based on a misunderstanding. In related thread on QtWebEngine mailing list², he explained that QtWebEngine actually removes a large amount of code from Chromium including functionalities that rely on Google's servers, so Chromium's issues may not apply to QtWebEngine. Perhaps it should be re-evaluated for possible re-inclusion?

[1]: https://bugs.kde.org/show_bug.cgi?id=374808

[2]: <http://lists.qt-project.org/pipermail/qtwebengine/2017-January/000409.html>

I second this. I may not know enough about it, but I need qtwebengine to install Anki. And it seems pretty free to me. So we should either re-evaluate this, or modify Anki to work with qtwebkit.

Edit: If somebody can point to specific instances of nonfree-ness in qt5-webengine code, then we know it's nonfree

#11 - 2017-08-03 05:34 PM - isacdaavid

- % Done changed from 100 to 0

- Status changed from fixed to open

#12 - 2017-08-17 10:54 PM - isacdaavid

- Related to Freedom issue #1290: Lots of apps are unusable without qt5-webengine added

#13 - 2017-08-17 10:55 PM - isacdaavid

- Related to Freedom issue #1426: [anki] depend on qt5-webengine added

#14 - 2017-08-17 11:22 PM - isacdaavid

- Assignee set to isacdaavid

#15 - 2017-10-13 10:21 PM - Anonymous

Is there an update on this issue?

Now that the FSF Licensing and Compliance Lab is promoting QupZilla, I'm curious why QtWebEngine remains blacklisted. "QupZilla, currently at version 2.1.2, is a free software Web browser using the new and very fast QtWebEngine browser"
<https://www.fsf.org/blogs/licensing/the-licensing-and-compliance-lab-interviews-david-rosca-of-qupzilla>

#16 - 2017-10-13 10:58 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Bug #1147: Qupzilla added

#17 - 2017-10-13 11:18 PM - bill-auger

jdoe wrote:

so Chromium's issues may not apply to QtWebEngine. Perhaps it should be re-evaluated for possible re-inclusion?

Elon_Satoshi wrote:

Edit: If somebody can point to specific instances of nonfree-ness in qt5-webengine code, then we know it's nonfree

to be clear about this "Chromium's issues" amount to some accusations that have yet to be proven - i looked into this back then scouring emails and bug reports and i have not yet seen any person actually point to any particular file that is question

so to the suggestion that it be "re-evaluated for possible re-inclusion" the fact is that it was never "evaluated" for exclusion - it was a hasty act erring on the side of paranoia - i am not saying that was the wrong move but to be clear there never was to my knowledge any evaluation of either chromium or qtwebengine - so to answer elon: nobody can point to specific instances of non-free code in webengine because whatever non-free code it has allegedly came from chromium and nobody can point to specific instances of non-free code in chromium either

as i remember though it was at the suggestion of the FSF that parabola keep these projects on the blacklist - or if not suggested directly, the decision was heavily influenced by the FSF's current opinion at the time - if the FSF has changed their opinion then perhaps qtwebengine should be re-instated - as well chromium, electron, and anything else that was jettisoned or tainted by what isacdaavid called: "the great Chromium/QtWebEngine purge"

TBH personally i dont use any of those programs so i have no stake in this issue - im just speaking for the sake of clarity

#18 - 2017-10-18 01:06 AM - isacdaavid

- Assignee deleted (isacdaavid)

jc_gargma wrote:

Is there an update on this issue?

not really. i'm prioritizing the outstanding dbscripts backlog for the coming days. the continued existence of i686 depends on it, yet nobody has undertaken that task as far as i'm aware.

i'll report here if i start working on this. feel free to beat me to it.

#19 - 2017-11-03 04:50 PM - bill-auger

i asked donaldr about this today and he asked that i post to the FSD mailing list so hopefully that will re-ignite some discussion

<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/directory-discuss/2017-11/msg00001.html>

#20 - 2017-11-06 08:52 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #1231: [electron] embeds Chromium platform (or part of it), recommends nonfree DRM plugins added

#21 - 2017-11-06 09:04 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Packaging request #1394: [revolt-git] Add package to PCR added

#22 - 2017-11-06 09:04 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #1236: [apm] is useless without *atom* package added

#23 - 2017-11-06 09:04 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Packaging request #1002: [atom-editor] add package to PCR added

#24 - 2017-11-06 09:04 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #1380: [riot-desktop][element-desktop] requires electron added

#25 - 2017-11-06 09:05 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Packaging request #1191: [riot] add package to pcr added

#26 - 2017-11-06 09:18 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Packaging request #1085: [simplenote] add package to PCR added

#27 - 2017-11-06 09:19 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Packaging request #1034: [brave] Please add package to PCR added

#28 - 2017-11-06 09:19 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Packaging request #1203: [Yakyak] add package to PCR added

#29 - 2017-11-06 09:19 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Bug #1211: Anki Broken after update added

#30 - 2017-11-06 09:19 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Packaging request #1085: [simplenote] add package to PCR added

#31 - 2017-11-06 09:20 AM - bill-auger

- Subject changed from [qt5-webengine] QTWebengine embeds "entire Chromium platform" to [chromium][qt5-webengine][electron] QTWebengine/Electron embeds "entire Chromium platform"

#32 - 2017-11-14 03:02 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #1526: kdeplatform replaced by kdevelop which requires qt5-webengine added

#33 - 2017-12-19 03:24 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #1584: [messagelib]: depends on blacklisted 'qt5-webengine' added

#34 - 2017-12-19 03:24 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #1585: [parley]: depends on blacklisted 'qt5-webengine' added

#35 - 2018-01-10 08:19 AM - dikasp

does someone has reevaluated this package ? i just found that:

as g4jc says in [2], recently qtwebengine wiki has been updated to avoid misunderstanding and such claim as its embed entire chromium platform had been removed plus there is some note regarding relationship with chromium (<https://wiki.qt.io/QtWebEngine> - look into wiki history for details)

purism's pureos ship qupzilla and qtwebengine on their main repo

- <http://repo.pureos.net/pureos/pool/main/q/qupzilla/>

- <http://repo.pureos.net/pureos/pool/main/q/qtwebengine-opensource-src/>

as long as i know purism have a high standard and very strict with nonfree and privacy as this is important for distributing their libre product (<https://puri.sm/learn/freedom-roadmap/>) fyi they re based on debian testing

and for the extra i found this:

- <https://trisquel.info/en/forum/qupzilla-libre>

- <https://themicinnnoise.net/blogs/technology/posts/2017-05-12-from-parabola-to-arch.php>

- <https://tracker.debian.org/pkg/qtwebengine-opensource-src>

#36 - 2018-01-10 09:57 PM - Anonymous

I'm still curious as to how QtWebEngine is non-free software.

As someone that uses KDE and assists development on a QtWebEngine based browser, I am very motivated to understand and resolve this situation.

If I can be provided of a list of verifiable problems, I'll bring up the issues with Qt myself.

#37 - 2018-01-14 10:39 PM - bill-auger

jc_gargma wrote:

If I can be provided of a list of verifiable problems, I'll bring up the issues with Qt myself.

that would be great - unfortunately there is no definitive list of verifiable problems and that is the crux of the problem - this issue goes back to the very first week that the *nix port of chromium was released nearly 10 years ago - here is a link to the current discussion on the FSD mailing list noting all of the information i could find on the topic including the original chromium bug report from 2009 that has never been closed - there is probably the best place to start - it lists about 65 "blocker" issues that have been resolved over te years and has about 25 still open - here is another post describing similar reasons why fedora removed electron²

[1]: <https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/directory-discuss/2017-11/msg00003.html>

[2]: <https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/directory-discuss/2017-12/msg00008.html>

dikasp and jc_gargma - please do declare your interest and add any information you can to that thread on the directory-discuss mailing list - i escalated this issue there because it affects all FSDG distros so that is the most current and active discussion on the topic - donoaldr from the FSF has recently told me that RMS and the FSF have taken an interest in resolving this so perhaps a conclusion will be reached soon - but chromium is a massive code-base so it needs to be a community effort

TBH if qtwebengine could be cleared that would make the biggest impact - if the alleged problems remian only in chromium that only excludes a small handful of derived browsers such as 'iridium' and 'ungoogled' - IIRC quzilla browser is based on qtwenengine though so that could be removed from the blacklist - the only popular programs that electron accounts for is atom, riot, and vscode - but with QT deprecating qtwebkit, the qtwebengine is being increasingly more widely adopted and resulting in parabola recently losing many notable programs that it once had (most recently kdevelop)

as an indictor of just how vague this issue is, ill add that the description on the parabola blacklist currently says only this:

```
contains nonfree codecs{{citation needed}}, embeds parts of Chromium{{which?}}
```

#38 - 2018-01-15 12:47 AM - Anonymous

I see no value in posting on that fsf list. If we want to resolve this, the discussion must occur directly on the qtwebengine mailing list where actual qtwebengine developers will be kept informed and actual progress can be made. No more hiding such discussion away in the dark recesses of obscure bugtrackers, wikis, pads, ircs, mailing lists, or torrent trackers.

Face the light and let these claims either be revealed as truth or spirited away as shadows of imagination.

Free software is supposed to be about sharing information and working together, not brooding over how some software developer isn't psychically aware of complaints never uttered.

qtwebengine@qt-project.org

<http://lists.qt-project.org/mailman/listinfo/qtwebengine>

#39 - 2018-01-15 02:09 AM - bill-auger

jc_gargma -

the reason that this issue is being discussed on the the FSD mailing list is because it is not related only to qtwebengine or any single project - the discussion is equally relevant to all FSDG distros as well as chromium and derived browsers, electron "apps", and qtwebengine clients alike - far from keeping this "in the shadows", the very reason for escalating the issue to GNU was to reach more eyes, which happened and now, finally the ball is rolling - if the discussion were to take place only on the qtwebengine mailing list then that would amount to limiting the discussion to one single project - also, the only bugtracker that is "hiding" any information in it's "dark recesses" would be upstream chromium which is at the very root of the issue so there could not be any place less obscure¹

the reason that this discussion started at parabola and them moved to GNU because this is where the effect is most damaging and where the only people i know of who are actually willing to dig in and do the investigation are - im quite sure that all they would say at qtwebengine would be "show me the proof", which would be quite reasonable, but i seriously doubt that anyone at qtwebengine is going to help with the investigation so clearly the FSD mailing list would be the only place where any actual progress would be seen until any hard evidence is found because that is where the only people working on the investigation are discussing it - if nothing is found then qtwebengine nor anyone else needs to do anything - these programs can simply be removed from the blacklist and we can all forget about this mess - for now i think the best thing you could do on the qtwebengine mailing list would be ask others if they are interested to help with the investigation - other than that, there is little to discuss until something conclusive is found

if there is anything conclusive found then bug reports and/or patches surely will be filed against the appropriate project - the 10-year old open bug report against chromium¹ would probably be the best place to start because chromium is at the root of the issue and so chromium is the most appropriate project to resolve it - most likely, downstreams such as qtwebengine and electron would get those patches without any need to do anything unless chromium refuses to co-operate - if that happens then qtwebengine would probably be the best downstream project to ask for co-operation - but as for today, the qtwebengine mailing list would not be the most appropriate project for the main discussion because that would be only addressing a symptom but not confronting the problems at their root

[1]: <https://bugs.chromium.org/p/chromium/issues/detail?id=28291>

#40 - 2018-04-03 09:40 PM - isacdaavid

for everyone not following on the GNU-linux-libre and libreplanet-discuss mailing lists, here is the latest development in the story:

<https://lists.nongnu.org/archive/html/gnu-linux-libre/2018-04/msg00001.html>

compatibility with WideVine is a non-issue (we aren't trying to stop the user from installing nonfree software), but there may be something to the other points g4jc raised. i'm going out of a limb here, but if qt5-webengine is still pinging to google that could be an instance of spying on the user, which the Free Software Distribution Guidelines forbid.

#41 - 2018-05-05 06:41 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #1788: [quassel-monolithic][quassel-client]: depends on 'qt5-webengine' added

#42 - 2018-05-13 10:56 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #1788: Falkon has broken dependency: qt5-webengine added

#43 - 2018-05-17 07:39 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #1808: [rssguard]: depends on qt5-webengine added

#44 - 2018-06-11 04:12 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #1844: [kalarm] Unresolvable dependencies - depends on qt5-webengine added

#45 - 2018-06-29 12:25 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #1862: [libkgapi]: depends on qt5-webengine added

#46 - 2018-09-26 04:38 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2012: KDE depends on Qt5-Webengine (Duh...) added

#47 - 2018-12-10 11:29 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2107: nextcloud-client depends on qt5-webengine added

#48 - 2018-12-12 02:37 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Bug #2109: [electron2] analogous to [electron], embeds Chromium platform (or part of it), recommends nonfree DRM plugins added

#49 - 2018-12-16 05:48 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2117: [marble]: depends on qt5-webengine added

#50 - 2018-12-16 05:59 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2114: [konqueror]: can not load any URL - depends on qt5-webengine added

#51 - 2019-01-11 05:59 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2136: [musescore]: depends on 'qt5-webengine' added

#52 - 2019-02-06 06:55 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2171: [supercollider]: requires 'qt5-webengine' added

#53 - 2019-02-07 11:35 AM - bill-auger

there are several others currently on the blacklist without an associated bug report:

with libre replacement:

bibletime
kdepim-addons
kdepim-runtime
kde-development-environment-meta
kio-extras
pyqt5-common
python2-pyqt5
python-pyqt5

qutebrowser
qtcreator

without libre replacement:

fcitx-libpinyin
qt5-webview
wiznote

#54 - 2019-02-07 11:37 AM - bill-auger

several more (mainly KDE programs) are currently uninstalleable that are consolidated into a single bug report (issue [#2012](#)):

falkon
libkgapi
kmail
kdepim-meta
kontakt
kdenetwork-meta
akonadi-calendar-tools
kio-gdrive
messagelib
libsieve
akonadi-calendar
mailcommon
grantlee-editor
akregator
akonadiconsole
kalarm

(ty brettgilio for this list)

#55 - 2019-02-09 06:59 PM - hnasiet

Is there any chance that qt-webengine or even chromium will be "acquitted" in the near future?

#56 - 2019-02-10 04:14 PM - eschwartz

<https://www.riverbankcomputing.com/news/pyqt-512>

The latest version of pyqt5 now provides the webengine bindings separately, and are duly packaged separately in archlinux (currently in testing).

Please schedule pyqt5 to be removed from the blacklist and add python-pyqtwebengine to the blacklist instead. Progress in archlinux can be tracked in the following TODO: <https://www.archlinux.org/todo/pyqtwebengine-split/>

This has the additional side effect of being one less package that gets rebuilt but not fast enough for the imported repos -- remember the python 3.7 rebuild woes.

(I've said this on IRC, but these are optdepends and the actual pyqt5 library binding is legitimately LGPL, so I don't see the utility of rebuilding it in [libre]; fortunately it doesn't matter now.)

#57 - 2019-02-11 04:37 AM - bill-auger

i have added a commit for these 'pyqtwebengine' split packages to a new 'pyqt5' branch of blacklist.git - it can be merged when the following new packages enter the [extra] repo:

- pyqtwebengine-common
- python2-pyqtwebengine
- python-pyqtwebengine

and v5.12 of the following packages:

- pyqt5-common
- python-pyqt5
- python2-pyqt5

#58 - 2019-02-14 06:03 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2174: [libsysguard] Depends on qt5-webengine added

#59 - 2019-02-22 08:45 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2188: [canorus]: depends on qt5-webengine added

#60 - 2019-02-22 08:46 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2189: [babe]: depends on qt5-webengine added

#61 - 2019-02-22 08:46 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2190: [clipgrab]: depends on qt5-webengine added

#62 - 2019-02-22 08:46 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2191: [kibitex]: depends on qt5-webengine added

#63 - 2019-02-22 08:47 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2192: [kubex]: depends on qt5-webengine added

#64 - 2019-02-22 08:47 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2193: [qmapshack]: depends on qt5-webengine added

#65 - 2019-02-22 08:48 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2194: [radare2-cutter]: depends on qt5-webengine added

#66 - 2019-02-22 08:48 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2195: [psi][psi-l10n][psi-plugins]: depends on qt5-webengine added

#67 - 2019-02-22 08:48 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2196: [kcalgebra]: depends on qt5-webengine added

#68 - 2019-02-22 08:48 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2197: [libkgapi]: depends on qt5-webengine added

#69 - 2019-02-22 08:49 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2198: [telepathy-kde-text-ui]: depends on qt5-webengine added

#70 - 2019-02-22 08:49 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2199: [luminancehdr]: depends on qt5-webengine added

#71 - 2019-02-22 08:49 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2200: [pgadmin4]: depends on qt5-webengine added

#72 - 2019-02-22 08:50 PM - dllud

It is worthwhile to check whether some of those packages can be built without qt5-webengine. That was the case for Marble, it just lost some minor functionality. Probably it is also true for many other KDE apps.

#73 - 2019-02-22 08:55 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2201: [wire-desktop]: depends on electron added

#74 - 2019-02-22 08:56 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2202: [cozy-desktop]: depends on electron added

#75 - 2019-02-22 08:56 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2203: [code]: depends on electron added

#76 - 2019-02-22 08:56 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2204: [keybase-gui]: depends on electron added

#77 - 2019-02-23 03:35 PM - bill-auger

dllud wrote:

It is worthwhile to check whether some of those packages can be built without qt5-webengine.

thats why most of these are still open - the first task for blacklisting any package is to find some way to liberate it; but that is often time consuming - none of these programs are actually installable so the priority is quite low unless someone indicates specifically that they want to use one - you can read the blacklisting protocol here

<https://git.parabola.nu/blacklist.git/tree/README#n33>

#78 - 2019-02-26 03:51 PM - oaken-source

- Related to Freedom issue #2210: [libkgapi]: depends on nonfree qt5-webengine added

#79 - 2019-02-26 04:03 PM - oaken-source

- Related to Freedom issue #2211: [libsysguard]: depends on nonfree qt5-webengine added

#80 - 2019-02-26 06:48 PM - bill-auger

- Related to deleted (Freedom issue #2197: [libkgapi]: depends on qt5-webengine)

#81 - 2019-02-26 08:02 PM - bill-auger

- Status changed from open to confirmed

#82 - 2019-04-14 01:33 AM - freemor

- Related to Freedom issue #2256: [kmail] [qt5-webengine] Kmail won't run without QT-WebEngine. added

#83 - 2019-06-20 09:54 AM - grizzlyuser

kiowebengine does not recommend qt5-webengine anymore, so it's been removed from the blacklist recently:

<https://git.parabola.nu/blacklist.git/commit/?id=d66b6d33f041c50b7001b8a95ee866df024dcd6e>

#84 - 2019-06-20 10:34 AM - bill-auger

yep and the pyqtwebengine patch can be applied now too, which could re-instate some others

<https://git.parabola.nu/blacklist.git/commit/?h=pyqt5&id=20567813917763f2009d91c7392313b269dadd5d>

#85 - 2019-06-28 05:11 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2345: [code] depends on electron added

#86 - 2019-06-28 07:20 PM - bill-auger

- Related to deleted (Freedom issue #2345: [code] depends on electron)

#87 - 2019-07-08 09:34 PM - Megver83

This is getting insane and pointless. The [official Qt Wiki](#) says very clearly:

Relationship to Chromium

Qt WebEngine uses code from the Chromium project. However, **it is not containing all of Chrome/Chromium:**

- **Binary files are stripped out**
- **Auxiliary services that talk to Google platforms are stripped out**
- The codebase is modularized to allow use of system libraries like OpenSSL

We do update to the latest Chromium version in use before a Qt release. After a release some bug fixes and security patches are backported. For LTS releases of Qt we might also update Chromium in a patch level release.

Is it possible to be more explicit than that? Plus, we all know that PureOS ships qt5-webengine and they've got no freedom issues with it. I vote for qt5-webengine package to be **replaced in [libre]** (and not unblacklist it, because Arch builds it [with --proprietary-codecs](#) and there are other issues mentioned later)

We should just dig on its documentation, maybe create a patch to remove any potentially freedom-dangerous thing like the codecs stuff, the [HTML5 DRM support and Adobe Flash plugin](#), and build it in [libre]. We could take a look at PureOS to see how they manage it (IIRC, they take it directly from Debian)

#88 - 2019-07-09 01:16 AM - bill-auger

what do you mean that they have no issues with it? - you mean there are no open bug reports about it? - maybe someone should open one then? - just because their users are not complaining about licensing problems does not imply that they dont exist

if there are legitimate doubts raised about the licensing of some program, then someone should do the work of auditing it before blindly declaring it to

be FSDG-compliant - regardless of explicit publicly stated suspicions, we should hope that the licensing of every software is fully verified before entering any FSDG distro - otherwise, it quite betrays the users expectations of FSDG distros as their vanguards of "purity" - i would not expect anyone to respect any FSDG distro if the criteria for inclusion included: "... or if we are too lazy to prove that this example is unfit", and "... or its too large to audit" - generally speaking, if one is aiming for purity, then a whitelist approach (like [pcr]) is likely to be far more effective toward that goal than a blacklist approach (like your-freedom) - in other words, it is those who claim that the program is freely licensed who have the burden of proving their claim; and not merely by expressing the belief that it is so, but demonstrating in an objectively verifiable way, that it truly is - it is not necessary for anyone to disprove that claim; because non-free is the default for anything that is copyrighted

oaken-source is the only person i know of that has even tried auditing qt5-webengine - maybe we could step up that effort - its is much smaller code-base than chromium and would have a much greater benefit in terms of the number of dependent packages - it would be nice to finally resolve this ugly controversy; but ignoring it is not any resolution at all

<https://lists.nongnu.org/archive/html/gnu-linux-libre/2019-04/msg00000.html>

really though, i dont see this as a very important issue anymore - not many people complain about any of these programs - there is very little or no functionality missing from parabola because of this mess - in almost every case, there is some other program that does the same job - the majority of these programs can be rescued with a little effort, by using webkit instead or by patching out web integration *somehow* - its usually not difficult - many are adding compile switches to disable it; because people are asking them to do so on their bug trackers - but again, there is some time involved and it is a long list

they are desktop programs after-all - they should not need to render HTML or execute javascript, aside from the small few that actually are web-browsers - adding more frivolous javascript to parabola desktops is surely not high on my list of priorities; and i wouldnt want to be seen as a careless engineer, by simply letting it in with only the assurance: "the upstream believes it is ..." - i think that even to discuss this is a waste of valuable time; unless there is a chance that someone is going to complete the audit of either program - if someone can show that there is a real need for any of these qt5-webengine dependents, i would rather prioritize the time to attend to removing that dependency for that one; and to let the rest of them sit in this graveyard of kitchen-sink engineering for as long as it takes to get them patched into [libre] one by one - even with that plan, i would prioritize the backlog of packaging requests, which is probably a longer list than this one, but do not have any deps on the blacklist

i just did that for quassel yesterday, for example - that is one rare example of a legitimate use for an integrated web browser - that is, it actual renders a web page when the mouse hovers over a web URL - its a totally optional feature, and the developers allowed to be replaced by webkit, or compiled out entirely - if all dev teams were that considerate, everything on this list would probably already be in [libre], and i would not expect any complaints about them

#89 - 2019-07-31 05:28 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2407: [electron4]: on [community] added

#90 - 2019-10-20 02:39 AM - anarcobuda

bill-auger wrote:

really though, i dont see this as a very important issue anymore - not many people complain about any of these programs

I don't know what you mean by that. You mean that these programs that depend on qt5-webengine are not important and nobody complains about it? I do wish that I've not understood you well and hope that you didn't mean it that way.

in almost every case, there is some other program that does the same job

Yeah, almost...

In my case, I am a musician and I've used MuseScore (GPLv3) for quite some time.

In MuseScore's case, it uses the package qt5-webengine to access online sheets, although I wouldn't really miss that feature.

the majority of these programs can be rescued with a little effort, by using webkit instead or by patching out web integration somehow - its usually not difficult - many are adding compile switches to disable it; because people are asking them to do so on their bug trackers - but again, there is some time involved and it is a long list

Surely! As I said, I'm a musician, and *only* a musician.

I do profoundly wish I had some wizard godly tech skills so that wouldn't be much of a fuss to me and I could easily fork a libre-version of MuseScore.

And maybe that could be actually a starting point for me, to even learn to do this.

Since I rarely get the feel that people care about musicians and composers, can someone guide me as to how I can make a qt5-webengine-less version of MuseScore program?

By the way, I'd like to thank this amazing community for their commitment to the libre-philosophy.

#91 - 2019-10-20 02:47 AM - dllud

Hi anarcobuda,

There is a good chance it will be trivial to remove the dependency on qt5-webengine. Many applications support being built without it and in turn get some features disabled. Check out my simple example with Marble: [Freedom issue #2117](#): [marble]: depends on qt5-webengine

#92 - 2019-10-20 02:52 AM - dllud

Unlike my trivial example, MuseScore may require much more than a simple compile switch. In that case you can try to open an issue with the original developers, asking if they can provide a way for it to be built without qt5-webengine. As you can see, many applications provide that already.

#93 - 2019-10-20 02:56 AM - bill-auger

many packages have already been modified in that way, including marble - that is how most of the BR associated with this one were closed - if you have any specific recipes for any of your favorite packages that are still on this list with open tickets, we would gladly use them to get the package into the parabola repos

of course, it is best if there is upstream support - there have been some such as supercollider, that we originally patched ourselves, but now the upstream added a compile switch for it

generally, the first thing to do is to start by searching the bug tracker for the project upstream to see if anyone has already asked for a non-webengine version, or a switch to disable compilation; and if not, to open a feature request, then link the to upstream ticket in the parabola ticket - that is how the supercollider devs came to decide to add the switch

what i meant by: "this issue is not very important anymore" is that it was originally very controversial and people often complained of the programs in this list - that was to say that these programs are not important; but simply that there are not many complaints anymore - i take that to mean that most of the ones people like have already been liberated

we are probably never going to get to all of them - the only way we know if people want to use one of them is if you complain about the ones you want to use - in this case, i would add a comment to the bug report for musecore, indicating that you want to use it - so far, no one has

<https://labs.parabola.nu/issues/2136>

#94 - 2019-10-26 05:54 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Packaging request #2512: [ungoogled-chromium]: is it a go with Guix recipe? added

#95 - 2019-10-29 11:17 PM - oaken-source

- Related to Freedom issue #2523: [electron5] another one bites the dust added

#96 - 2019-10-31 11:49 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2527: [asar]: depends on electron added

#97 - 2019-10-31 12:23 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2528: [caprine]: depends on electron added

#98 - 2020-01-10 08:41 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2597: [electron6] same freedom issues as with other electrons added

#99 - 2020-03-04 05:03 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Packaging request #1461: [rstudio] add to PCR added

#100 - 2020-04-24 10:04 AM - theova

- Related to Freedom issue #2708: [kdeplasma-addons] controversial qt5-webengine in makedepends and optdepends added

#101 - 2020-06-11 11:49 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #2791: [spyder] depends on webengine added

#102 - 2020-07-27 01:23 PM - jschwart

What would a proper audit look like? Would a list of all files in the latest source tarball with their origin and license be sufficient? Perhaps also grepping the tree for suspect names like 'google', etc. and see if they are used for communication?

Edit: I just took a look at the source tree. It's pretty horrible and I understand bill-auger's comments much better now. It seems that it would be much better to avoid this stuff and not give in to this Google mess like KDE and even Microsoft did.

#103 - 2020-07-28 06:31 AM - bill-auger

as you described it, for chromium, that would "look like" a 50 volume library of books, listing only the file names - a tool like fossology would be essential to put the task within the scope of feasibility

as for the privacy concerns, the ungoogled project would (or should) have that information already, as that seems to be the

entire reason for the project

the most important factor, which will determine the likelihood of this ever actually happening, is whether the focus is placed on chromium, qt5-webengine, or electron - chromium is an absurdly enormous code-base; and there are not enough people who are willing to do that work, so it is probably never going to happen - electron seems to a hopeless cause for distros; so the only reasonable project to consider, is qt5-webengine - that is fortunate, because qt5-webengine is used by hundreds of programs, making it the one of the three with the greatest impact on distros, by far - to focus on chromium would probably require 1000 times more work, only for that one extra program

after the licensing audit of qt5-webengine is completed, the code-base would need to be reconciled with the ungoogled treatments, to address the privacy concerns

#104 - 2020-08-11 06:12 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom issue #1275: *[otter-browser] depends on qt5-webengine added*

#105 - 2020-09-19 02:22 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Packaging request #1155: *[ghostwriter] add package to PCR added*