

Packages - Feature Request #3528

Can we make virt-manager actually usable for Parabola users?

2023-09-13 06:42 AM - super-gnu

Status: open	% Done: 0%
Priority: bug	
Assignee:	
Category:	
Description	
<p>When I want to create a new virtual machine in virt-manager either by importing it from QCOW2 image or installing it from ISO image, virt-manager doesn't display the appropriate OS name when it tries to autodetect the OS. If I try to set it manually, it displays only Trisquel and "Generic or unknown OS".</p>	
<p>Libosinfo is a package that contains information that helps virt-manager initialize and configure virtual machines' hardware depending on its OS type. Currently libosinfo is unmaintained, it was updated the last time on 2019-04-30. In its description it says that it removes support for detection of non-FSDG operating systems which account for most of the operating systems today except the few ones endorsed by GNU.</p>	
<p>Please also consider this: https://www.mail-archive.com/virt-tools-list@redhat.com/msg16579.html <i>Use of virt-install without a detected guest OS, and without manually specified --os-variant, is a never ending source of bugs and user confusion and poorly performing VM configs.</i></p>	
<p>This all means that it is not possible to create proper and bugless configuration for VMs on Parabola with the means of libvirt-related tools unless one needs to use only Trisquel as a VM. Trisquel is the only OS detected by virt-manager now. Obviously, people who need virt-manager will likely run proprietary operating systems with it as well as those that are largely built on free software. I personally do this in order to isolate my host OS from malware that proprietary systems ship with because I am forced to use proprietary systems and this is how I can isolate them from my main domain of digital life happening on host OS. I believe there are other people who wish to use Parabola in the same way as me.</p>	
<p>I took a look at files required to build libosinfo for Parabola and it has libre.patch file in it. If someone wants to make virt-manager usable again, I think it should be quite easy to do by removing this patch if it removes support for proprietary operating systems.</p>	