

# Redox – A $\mu$ kernel-based Unix-like OS

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# Redox OS

- Unix-like OS, on continuously shrinking  $\mu$ kernel
- Plan 9-inspired userspace filesystems
- Community-developed since 2015
- Written in Rust
  - Including our libc, relibc!
  - Some 3rd-party exceptions
- POSIX source-level compatibility
- Recent focus and progress on porting software
  - COSMIC apps
  - nushell
  - RustPython
  - GCC

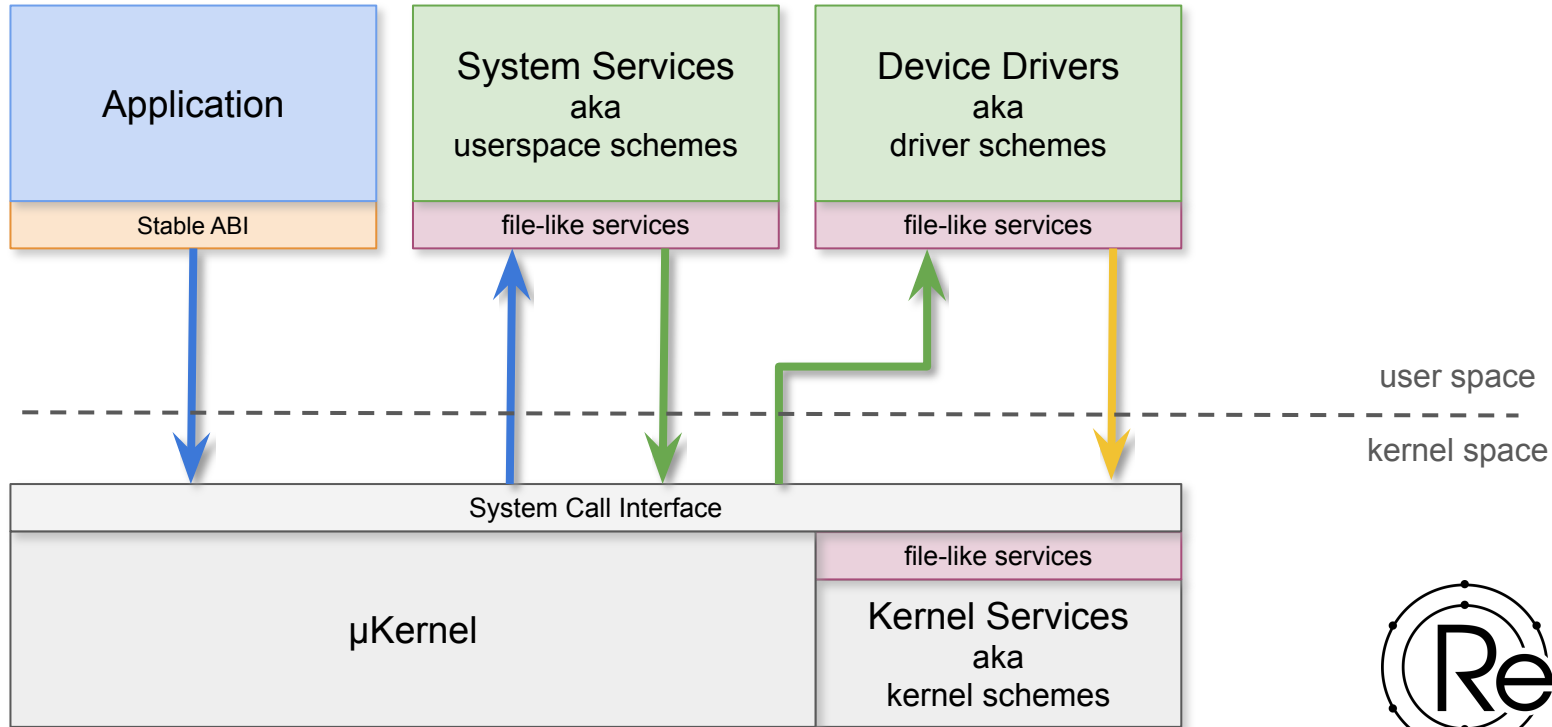


# Me

- Redox contributor since 2019
- Redox Summer of Code 2020..=2023
  - I/O
  - Userspaceification of fork/execv
  - Demand paging implementation
- NLnet project (2024-2025)
  - Userspace signal handling
  - Userspace process management

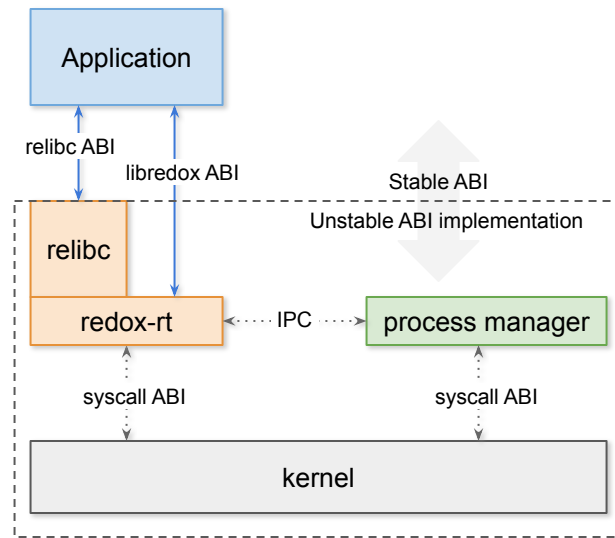


# Architecture



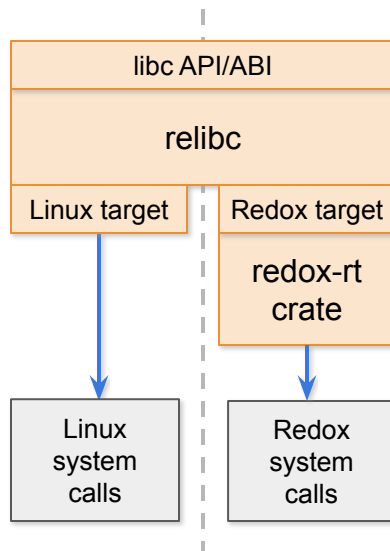
# Architecture

- File syscalls are handled by “schemes”
- Drivers run in separate userspace programs
- Kernel <30 kSLoC (~100k with dependencies)
- Syscall ABI intentionally kept unstable, shifting the stability layer to redox-rt
- POSIX and many other crucial parts moving incrementally to userspace libs



# Relibc

- C library written in Rust
  - Even headers! (apart from macros, etc.)
  - Rustifying over time, reducing unsafe { }
- Redox and Linux support
- Focus on most of POSIX
- Source-level compatibility
- Two backends
  - relibc -> raw syscalls (Linux)
  - relibc -> redox-rt (Redox)



# Status

- Increasing POSIX coverage, for porting
- Dynamically linked relibc/redox-rt is close
- Signals will allow moving more state to userspace
- Although 'blocking' bugs in FS and netstack,
- Self-hosting: cargo, gcc, and rustc themselves now mostly work!



# Demo





# Thanks for listening!

Questions?



# Links

- <https://redox-os.org/>
- <https://nlnet.nl/project/RedoxOS-Signals/>
- <https://fosdem.org/2025/schedule/event/fosdem-2025-5670-posix-signals-in-user-space-on-the-redox-microkernel/>
- <https://fosdem.org/2025/schedule/event/fosdem-2025-5973-redox-os-a-microkernel-based-unix-like-os/>

