ArcaOS Roadmap 2022-2023: What's Planned for 5.x

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Release terminology

- Major release - Major version number (*OS/2 Warp left off at 4.52, so ArcaOS started at 5.0*)

- Minor release - Less than a major release, but more new features than bugfix release (*5.1, 5.2*)

- Bugfix or Maintenance release - Minor fixes and enhancements ready for release (*5.0.1, 5.0.2*)

Overview of anticipated ArcaOS versions (near-term)

- 5.0.7   - current

- 5.1   - Q4 2022

- 5.0.8   - future bug fixes (*installation*)

- 5.1.n-n - normal release cycle (*fixes and minor enhancements*)

- 5.2   - future significant point release

5.0.7 Features

- Media refresh (latest drivers, RPM bootstrap)

- New drivers added, but not auto-selected: NVME, MMJME

- To install to NVMe device, go into preboot menu, select *Use other driver*, and enter "NVME" in the box

- Installer fixes to boot on more systems

5.1.0 Plan

- 5.1.0 is currently a release candidate

- All 5.1.0 features have been set

- 5.1.0 is waiting on infrastructure and documentation updates to get to release

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- Upgrade facility (*ArcaOS 5.0.x -> 5.1*)

Arca Noae UEFI Solution

- Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI)

- Native boot capability utilizing EFI System Partition (ESP)

- Multiboot compliant (boot Win, Linux, ArcaOS) using 3rd party boot manager or NVRAM

- Underlying ArcaOS is the same, traditional BIOS or UEFI; the solution provides an expected environment

Arca Noae UEFI Solution

- Installer will create ESP if not already present (or will update an existing one)

- UEFI support frees ArcaOS from the constraints of older hardware (install on current generation laptops, desktops, and servers)

- Emulated video BIOS provides an expected DOS and Win-OS/2 environment

GPT Summary

- GUID Partition Table (vs Master Boot Record)

- All partitions are created equal (no primaries, logicals, or limit to number of partitions)

- Most new hardware comes preconfigured with another OS using GPT - not MBR - so we can install without wiping and writing new MBR partition table

Arca Noae GPT Solution

- The Arca Noae GPT solution for ArcaOS 5.1.0 provides support for creating up to 2TB GPT partitions on >2TB devices

- Can coexist with MBR devices

- Full support in the ArcaOS installer

- Later plans are to hopefully support removable devices

DOS and Win-OS/2 Support

- Windowed and full screen session support

- Multimedia support (full audio planned for later in the 5.1 cycle, with virtual SoundBlaster - see later)

- Many existing DOS and Win 3.x applications and games have been tested

- Additional DOS and Win-OS/2 session settings available to tune video behavior, etc.

5.1 Localization

- Working in beta: DE, ES, FR, IT, NL, RU, CN, JA, KO, TW

- DBCS will likely not be released with 5.1.0, for a variety of reasons

- NLV quality should continue to improve through the 5.1 release cycle

- Updates to localized files will be made available as subscription updates

5.1 Upgrade

- Works in similar fashion to the 5.0 update, but provides for a greater degree of change to the system (upgrade/update differences transparent to the user)

- Upgrade only valid for EN (no other 5.0.x NLV), and cannot be used to switch NLV (e.g., 5.0.7 EN > 5.1.0 DE will not work)

- 5.1.1 (and later) will include update support from 5.1.0, as well as upgrade from 5.0.x

5.1 Other Bits

- Selectable platform for Unix compatibility subsystem (pentium4 vs i686) in the installer

- Updated Samba 4 client

- New Qt-based ArcaMapper

- Additional calculator

- Gotcha! screen capture utility

- Qt5 runtime packages

5.1.x Planned Features

- Samba 4 server

- New, rewritten Printer Manager

- New desktop notebook Background page, with new capabilities and fixes for long-outstanding issues

- New Hardware Manager

- Newer Java Runtime

5.1.x Planned Features

- New VNC server and viewer, based on UltraVNC

- Improved inetcfg settings

- System-wide (if selected) Squid proxy and Privoxy, with configuration GUI

5.1.x Planned Features

- Multimac WLAN drivers

- Qt5-based browser

- DTAudio (formerly DTA) and virtual SoundBlaster driver (VDD)

- Retro-Gaming Release (5.1.1 or later), with focus on DOS and Win 3.x games, with audio and perhaps joystick support (classic gameport and modern USB)

Update vs Upgrade

- Updates are always included with Support & Maintenance subscriptions

- Upgrade (5.0.x > 5.1.x is new (discounted) purchase

- Updates for 5.0.x will continue to be made available and 5.0.x Support & Maintenance will continue to be renewable

- Updates for 5.1.x will be new Support & Maintenance subscription

Questions?