

About us

- ellyq (@elly@donotsta.re)
 - Systems Engineer by day, hardware hacker by night
 - Contributing to upstream Linux kernel, Fedora, postmarketOS, OpenWrt, Coreboot etc.
 - One of three admins in Chrultrabook community, partially managing infra
 - Has a pile of hacked Chromebooks running Linux
 - You might know me from porting Coreboot to a funny desktop motherboard with laptop ES SoC (erying)
- sdomi (@domi@donotsta.re)
 - toyed with coreboot ever since TP X230 was relevant
 - nerdsniped by elly into chromebook hacking
 - you may know me from making a Minecraft server in Bash
 - into making the most cursed computer stuff you've ever heard of

What are those ChromeOS devices, really?

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 - Low-end: Cheap and durable machines with low-end SoCs for students
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- Generally considered "e-waste" by most people
 - Year-old machines can be found for half the price
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- Great debugging tools, a ton of the firmware code is open

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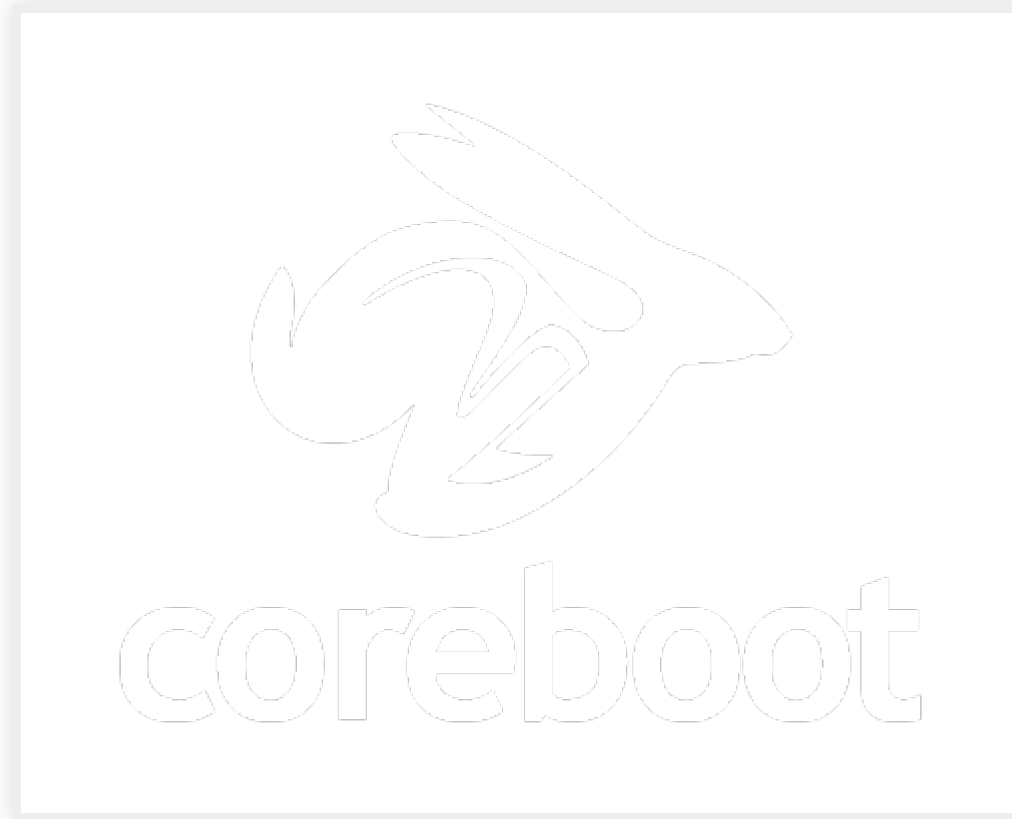
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- Upstart as an init system, SELinux, fully custom userspace
- Some cool tech made especially for cros:
 - Crostini (Linux containers)
 - ArcVM (Android compat layer)
 - CRAS (ChromeOS Audio Server), as a replacement for PulseAudio/PipeWire
 - BioD (Userspace fingerprint driver), as a replacement for LibFprint

Enter: coreboot



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 - as seen on: obsolete ThinkPads and many, many other devices
- ChromeOS devices ship with a version of coreboot by default!
 - Google upstreams their code! See the “Google” manufacturer!

```
/share/coreboot/.config - coreboot configuration
Mainboard model
*** Veyron Mickey ***
-> Veyron_Mickey (Asus Chromebit CS10)
*** Veyron Rialto ***
-> Veyron_Rialto
*** Volteer ***
-> Chronicler (FMV Chromebook 14F)
-> Collis (Asus Chromebook Flip CX3)
-> Copano (ASUS Chromebook Flip CX5400)
-> Delbin (ASUS Chromebook Flip CX5)
-> Drobit (ASUS Chromebook CX9400)
-> Eldrid (HP Chromebook x360 14c)
-> Elemi (HP Pro c640 G2 Chromebook)
-> Halvor
-> Lindar (Lenovo 5i-14/Slim 5 Chromebook)
-> Malefor
-> Terrador
-> Todor
-> Trondo
-> Voema (Acer Chromebook Spin 514)
-> Volet (Acer Chromebook 515)
-> Volteer
-> Volteer2
-> Volteer2_Ti50
-> Voxel (Acer Chromebook Spin 713 (CP713-3W))
*** Zork ***
-> Dalboz
-> Vilboz (Lenovo 100e/300e Gen3 AMD)
-> Ezkinil (Acer Chromebook Spin 514)
<X> -> Morphius (Lenovo ThinkPad C13 Yoga Chromebook)
-> Trembyle
-> Berknip (HP Pro c645 Chromebook Enterprise)
-> Woomax (ASUS Chromebook Flip CM5)
-> Dirinboz (HP Chromebook 14a-nd0097nr)
-> Shuboz
-> Gumboz (HP Chromebook x360 14a)
F1Help F2SymInfo F3Help 2 F4ShowAll F5Back F6Save F7Load F8SymSearch F9Exit
```

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Google’s Coreboot != Coreboot

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- Google also offers AltFW (alternative payloads) on x86:
 - SeaBIOS on ApolloLake and older
 - EDK2 on GeminiLake and newer
 - U-Boot on AMD StoneyRidge... while neat, AltFW doesn't fix firmware issues and non-functioning SMMSTORE (NVRAM)

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- Add your own reason: so many ways to do new, cool things
 - This project is by no means a finished endeavour: help appreciated :)

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- There are other vendors using this Embedded Controller (i.e: Framework)

```
/* A small number of non-Chromebook/box machines also use the ChromeOS EC */
{
    /* the Framework Laptop */
    .matches = {
        DMI_MATCH(DMI_SYS_VENDOR, "Framework"),
        DMI_MATCH(DMI_PRODUCT_NAME, "Laptop"),
    },
},
{ /* sentinel */ }
};
MODULE_DEVICE_TABLE(dmi, cros_ec_lpc_dmi_table);
```

Making Chromebooks run alternative OSes - Chrułtrabook Project:

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Chrułtrabook Project:
“let’s fix google’s stuff!”

Chrułtrabook Project

Coreboot stuff:

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- Debugging EDK2 (UEFI payload), extending features:
 - Added support for SecureBoot and PXE in release 4.20
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- Lots and lots of bugfixing and debugging overall, which also benefits other systems running Coreboot

Chrułtrabook Project

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Chromiumbook Project

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- Fixing audio: all post-2016 machines had broken audio for *years*

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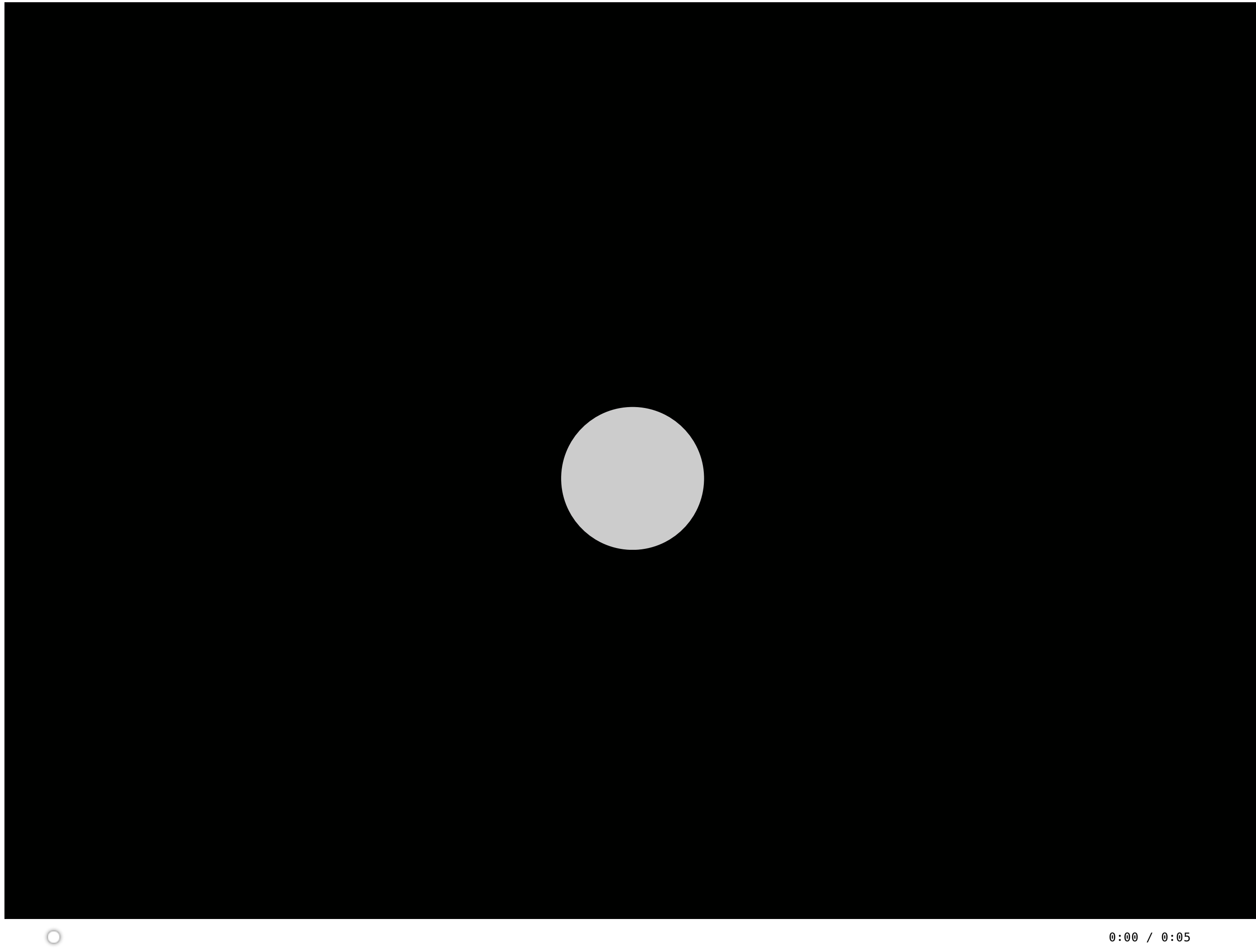
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- AVS limits (speaker safety)
 - Google implemented them in userspace, not firmware
 - We're trying to do the opposite, as we don't control userspace
 - This still isn't finished, but we're working on it

“meh, it’ll be fine” – AVS w/o limits



It's not all FOSS: x86_64 edition

- Microcode (specific for SoC stepping)
- FSP (Firmware Support Package), both S and M (silicon, memory)
 - FSP provides well-documented API for controlling variables (at least in Intel's case)
 - Not open-source, although AMD is working on it.
 - There's some initial OpenSIL code in Coreboot 4.22
- Signed PSP Verstage (AMD), Management Engine (Intel)
 - PSP FW runs on an ARMv7 LE core
- VBT (Intel), VBIOS (AMD)
- GOP (Graphics Option ROM) - in some cases can be done by FSP

It's not all FOSS: ARM64 edition

- Mediatek:
 - MT8183, MT8186: DRAM, PCM, SSPM
 - MT8188, MT8192, MT8195: DRAM, DPM, MCUPM, SPM, SSPM
 - DRAM.ELF - memory training, saves results to specified region in SPI flash
 - PM - Power Management
 - MCUPM (codename "PICACHU") - FreeRTOS 10.1.0
 - Runtime FW (i.e SCP on Kukui): Video Decoding/Encoding, Digital Image Processing, Cameras, possibly USB-C DP AltMode

It's not all FOSS: ARM64 edition

- Qualcomm:
 - AOP (Always-On Processor) - kinda like ME/PSP?
 - DCB - DRAM controller/memory training
 - PMIC, QcLib - PMIC, GPIO, SoC clocks, ROMStage interface
 - QCLib - DDR training data
 - LibQTiSec - AR archive, bunch of ELF's inside. Possibly Secure Monitor?
 - QUP (GSI, I2C, SPI, UART) - GSI seems to be modem-related
 - CPUCP - DCVS (Dynamic Clock Voltage Scaling)
 - SHRM - Yet another DDR "training" - provides QD-UTT interface for debugging?

“Laptop respecting your privacy” comparison

old ThinkPad X60/X200/X230...

random Chromebook

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Hacker cred?	✓	Coming soon!

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...the current situation is actually better than 10+ years ago

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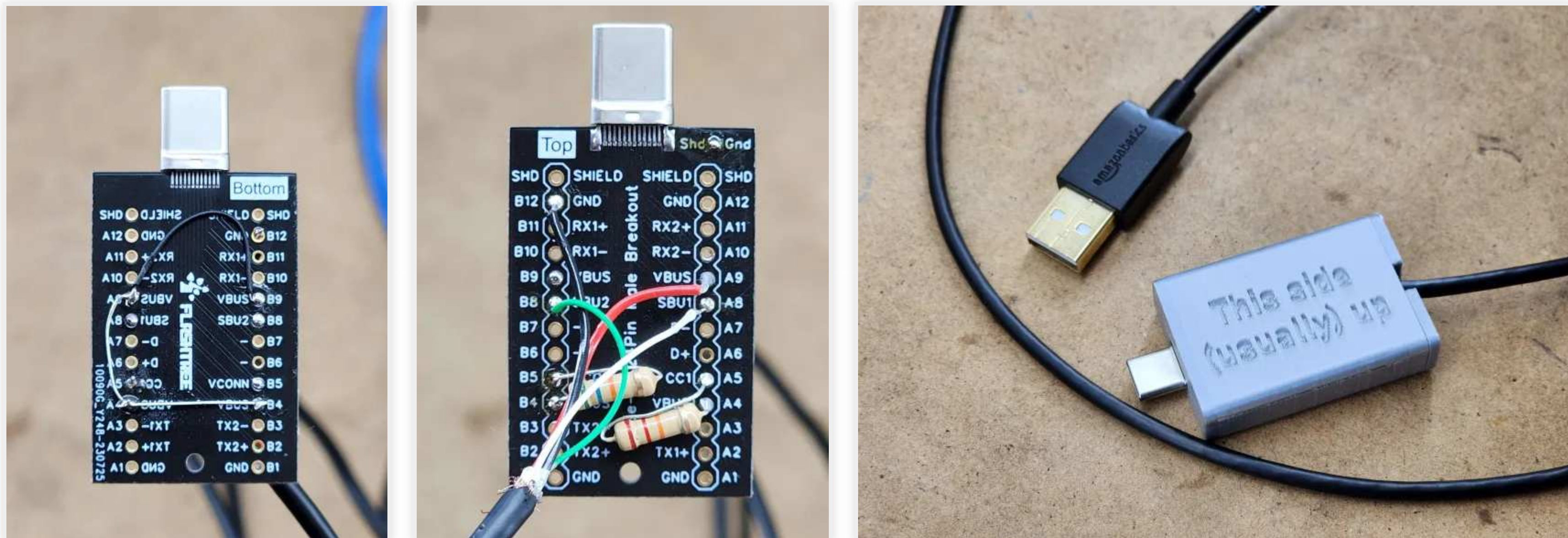
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 - Easy mode: x86_64, Intel
 - Hard mode: x86_64, AMD (worse platform support, some things are WiP)
 - **Expert mode:** ARM64
 - we're working on support as we speak :)
 - want to get into firmware development? join us, we're friendly!

2. Optional: obtain or make a SuzyQ cable
- highly recommended if you want to do development
 - cheap and easy to make
 - exposes three serial ports
 - superpowers: works with flashrom, making unbricking trivial

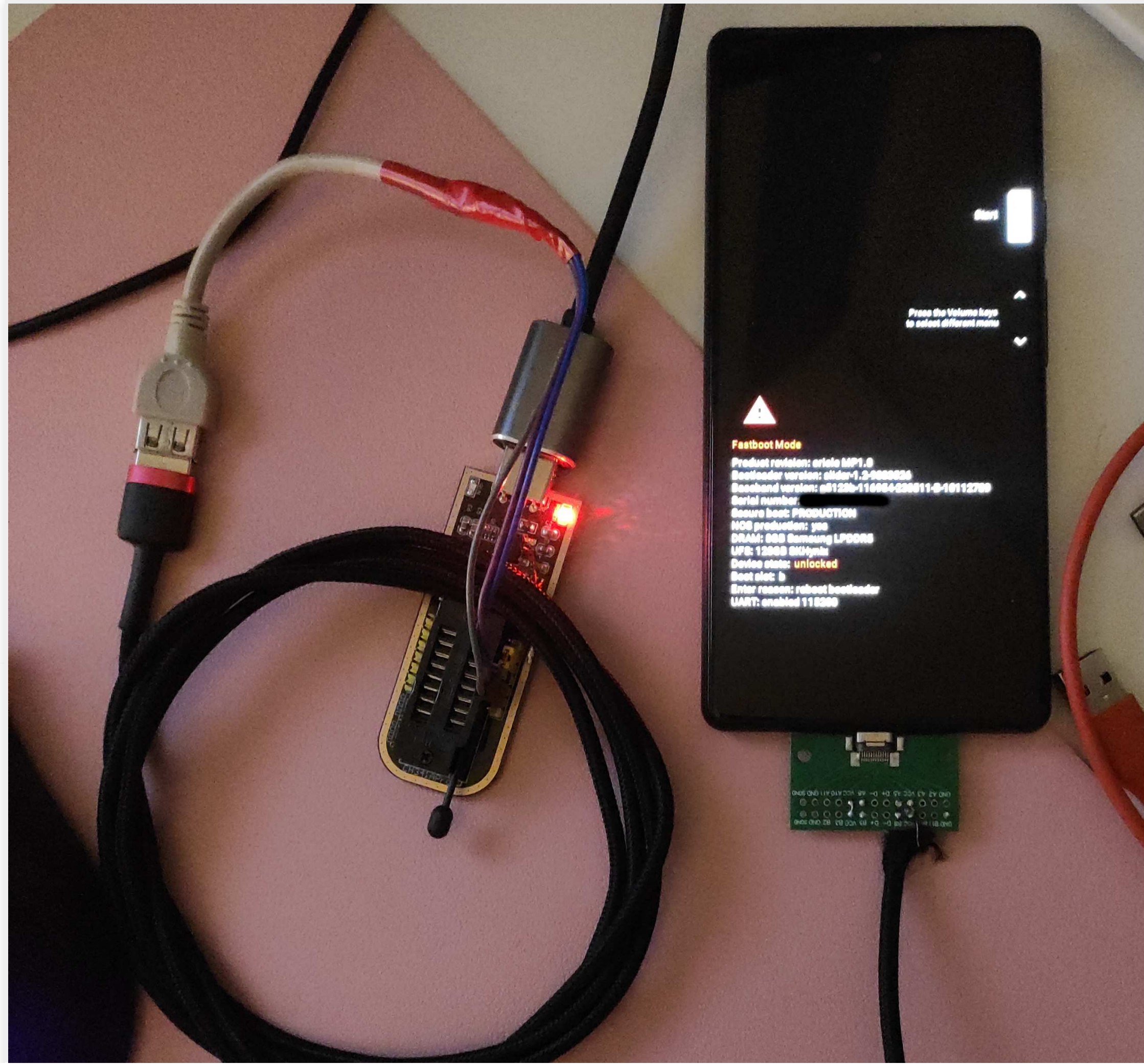


(pic credit: Bringus Studios)

SuzyQ cheat sheet

- `flashrom -p raiden_spi_debug:target=AP` <-- flashing the BIOS through SuzyQ
- `/dev/ttyUSB0` - AP (CR50) console (Google H1 security chip)
- `/dev/ttyUSB1` - Platform UART
- `/dev/ttyUSB2` - Embedded Controller console
 - All UART interfaces use 115200 baud for compatibility reasons
 - SuzyQ as kernel debugger:
 - `console=ttyS4,115200n8` on x86_64
 - `console=ttyS0,115200n8` on ARM64

- Bonus: With USB-TTL adapter, it can also be used to debug new Google Pixel phones!



3. Unlock flash write protect

- Older devices (pre-APL) have a WP screw
- Newer devices require you to open the case and remove the battery
- Some outliers require bridging two contacts on the motherboard (JasperLake)
- SuzyQ makes this process a lot easier :)

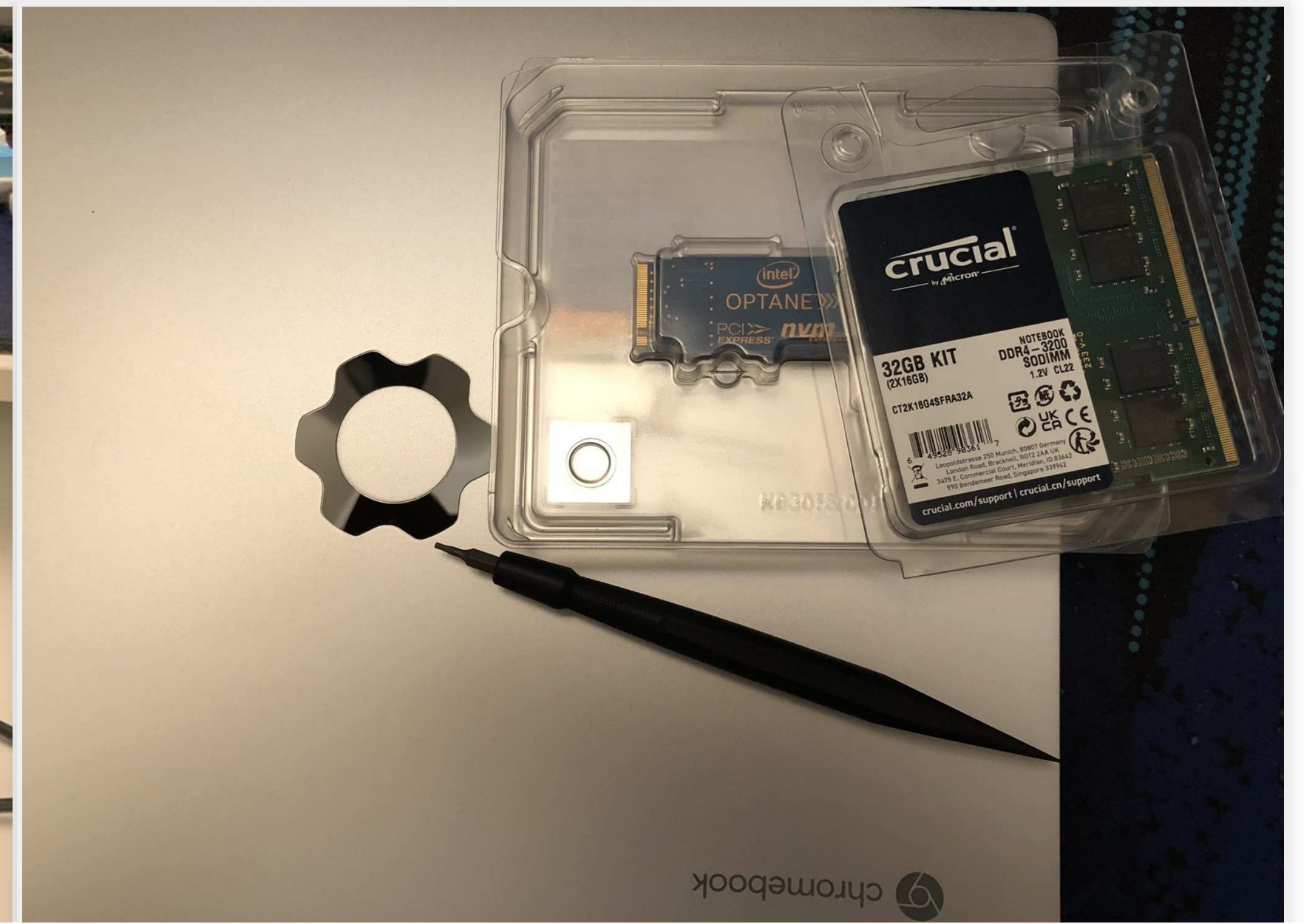
4. Flash and enjoy!

- We provide a wide variety of working, pre-built images
- Everything is open source - compile your own! :3

Cool devices!

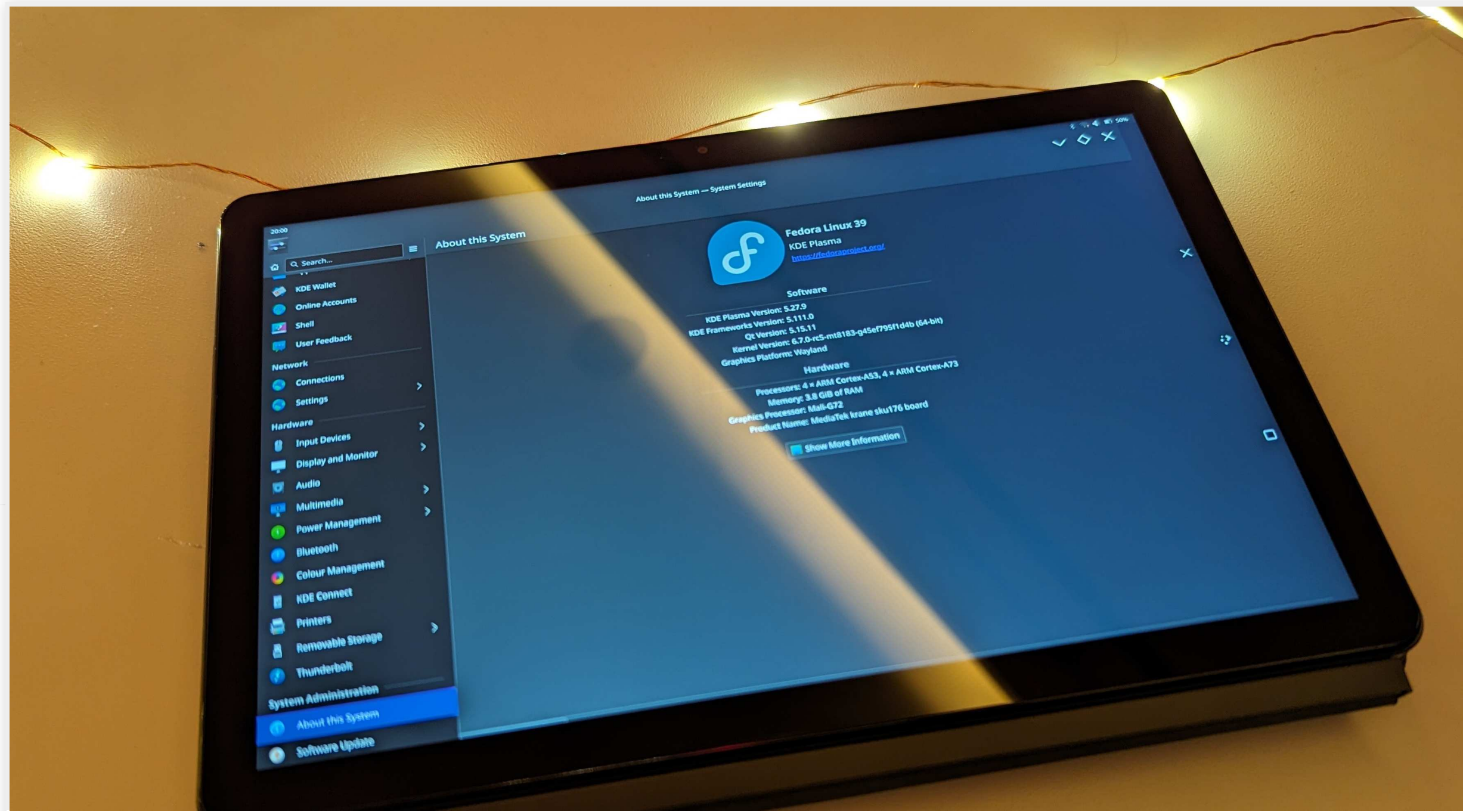
BANSHEE (Framework Chromebook); it has no business being a Chromebook

- Core i5-1240P
- Up to 64GB DDR4 SO-DIMM RAM
- 3:2 100% sRGB display
- Thunderbolt 4
- We've patched Coreboot and adjusted BAR size...



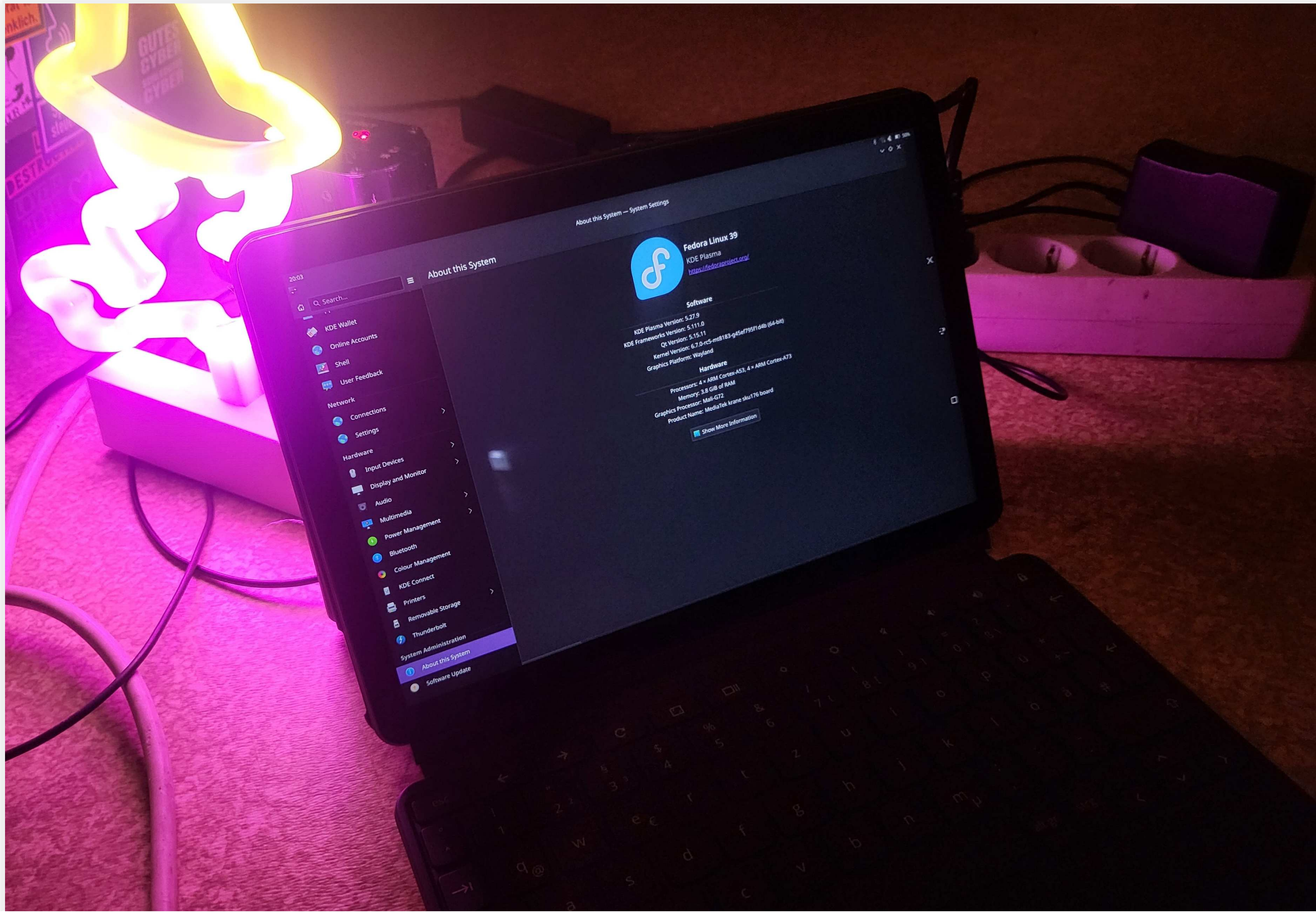
KRANE (Lenovo Duet); cheapo ARM64 tablet with a detachable keyboard and USI stylus support

- Huge potential for mods!
 - We've reverse-engineered pogo pins: USB, 3v3 VCC, GND and a resistor-based sense pin
 - Making our own accessories (i.e dock) would be pretty cool!
- Really small, almost pocketable
- Great for drawing!
- 100-130 EUR used; sometimes even less
- Cons: only 4GB of RAM :(



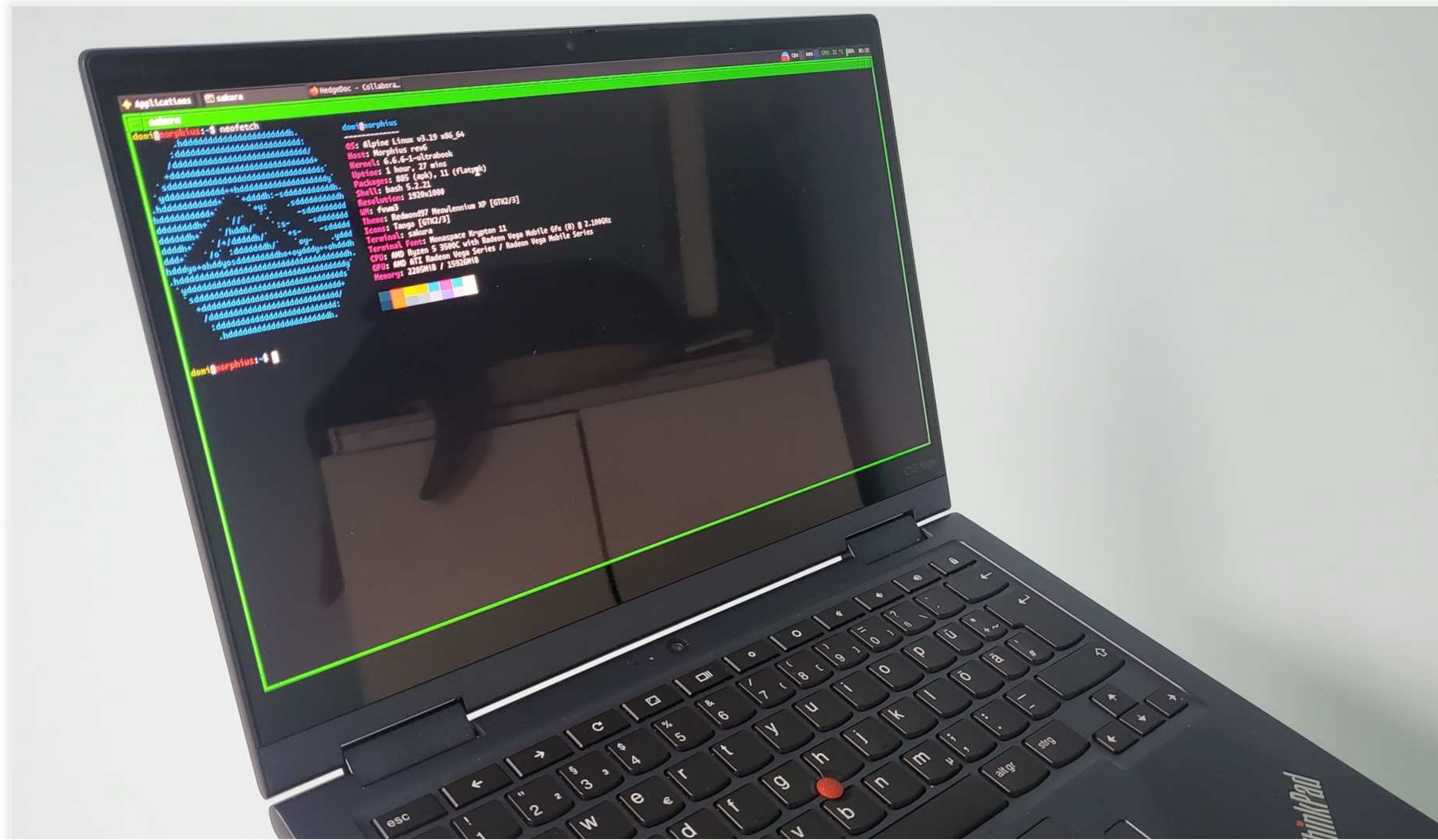


```
Untitled.scad* - OpenSCAD
File Edit Design View Window Help
Editor
1 // KRANE dock connector; accessory side
2 $fn = 50;
3
```

MORPHIUS (ThinkPad C13 Yoga)

- on this list because sdomi likes TrackPoints a bit too much
- ~350EUR new for a 16GB RAM/256GB M.2 NVMe model
- touchscreen w/ USI stylus support
- quite good I/O: 2x USB-C, 2x USB-A, 3.5mm jack, microSD reader

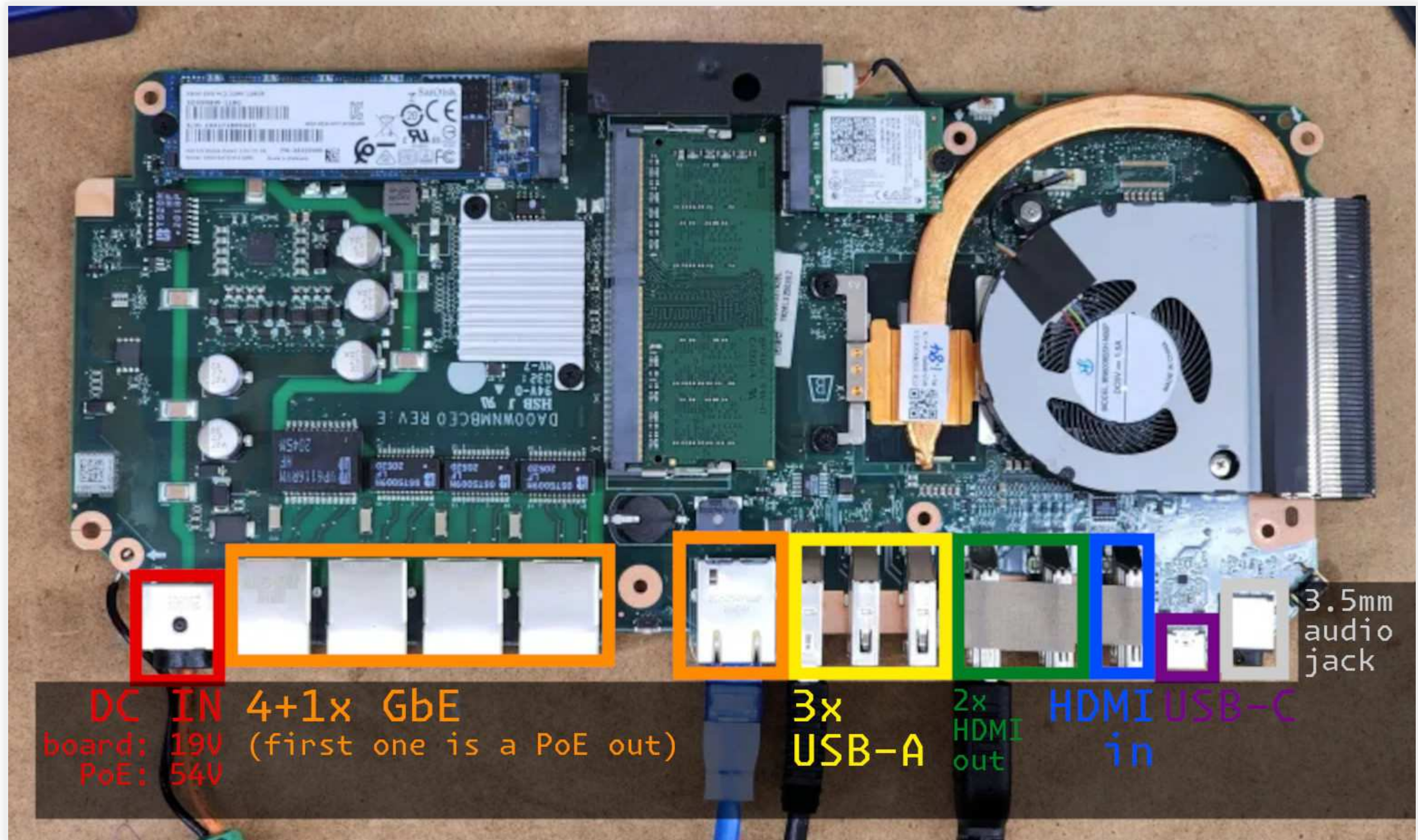


ENDEAVOUR ((Lenovo) Google Meet Series One)

- all-in-one meeting room “solution”
- inside: 2x DDR4 SODIMM, 2x M.2 slots
- quite rare, ~~add to your mental “looking for” list~~
- hard to get into, but has some *awesome* I/O



(pic credit: Bringus Studios)



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Big thanks to:

- FyraLabs
 - Willing to maintain support for devices with stock firmware
 - Packaging our UCMs and other things that haven't been upstreamed (yet!)
 - Collaboration on Submarine project (LinuxBoot-based bootloader for devices with stock firmware)
- Collabora
 - AngeloGioacchino Del Regno
 - Nicolás F. R. A. Prado
 - Everyone working on Panfrost project! :)
- Chromium, Linaro, U-Boot
 - Simon Glass
 - Ilias Apalodimas
 - Heinrich Schuchardt
- Our community and contributors!
- Everyone who helped us with the presentation, gave feedback, etc ;)

Contributions welcome!

/(sorry|yes)/, we're on discord



<https://discord.com/invite/n3gM92XR7r>

chrultrabook docs



<https://chrultrabook.github.io/docs/>

slides



<https://md.sakamoto.pl/p/PczFNGGkj>

additional presentations about the topic



<http://tinyurl.com/meowcoreboot>,



<https://coolstar.org/mirror/osfc-sunnyvale-2023.pdf>