**Subject:** Re: CalyxOS
**From:** Louis Rossmann <louis@rossmanngroup.com>
**Date:** 9/6/22, 00:16
**To:** Daniel Micay <daniel.micay@grapheneos.org>

No, there's no coordinated attack on you here.

I've offered you several chances to do a full length interview, where you can express whatever you want to express, in a format of your choosing, on a YouTube channel with 1.7 million subscribers. This isn't what people who want to harm you do. This is what people who want your work to be known, seen, and donated to by as many people as possible do. If we've ever said something you believe is incorrect, this is your opportunity to tell the world.

You can choose to accept one or two things.

1) it's the rest of the world
2) it's me

The hit piece you're referring to is mostly showing logs of your own chats in public rooms. That isn't a bit piece. It's a documentary. One that, unfortunately, doesn't seem to have resulted in any self reflection.

As I said. I wish you the best of luck with this project. But there's not much more involvement I can have here anymore. These discussions are too unhealthy.

On September 5, 2022 10:24:38 PM CDT, Daniel Micay <daniel.micay@grapheneos.org> wrote:

> On Mon, Sep 05, 2022 at 09:30:32PM -0500, Louis Rossmann wrote:
> > Daniel,
> >
> > From what I see, no one here has attacked you. In the video you link to, Pavel is using grapheneos as the OS of choice on his own device because he prefers it to CalyxOS.
>
> The issue is that the information in the video about many different
> things was not accurate. That includes saying our camera app can't use
> the full hardware capabilities or alternate cameras. It very clearly
> switches to the ultrawide and telephoto cameras on the Pixel 4 and
> later. It also supports them on the most recent Samsung phones. If he
> misunderstood that, he's not the only person. I'm pretty confident that
> that is he was misled by other people from the CalyxOS community because
> this is one of many inaccurate talking points they've spread far and
> wide about GrapheneOS. It just goes to show how harmful it is to have
> what's pretty much a cult spreading attacks across platforms and even
> successfully misleading our own users unless they are active in our
> Matrix chat rooms and discussion forum.
>
> > Feel free to tell me to screw off. I'd understand if you did, and won't be offended. IA6 suggest stepping back for a moment and asking, in an honest manner. Are all of these people against you? Me? Mozilla foundation? Everyone else? Is it normal to give five figures of money to people you're "attacking" ?
>
> Don't know what the Mozilla Foundation has to do with it. Seems that
> you're buying into fabricated stories about me now.
>
> > I'm not a genius programmer managing an amazing project. I'm a college dropout that had to cheat to get out of high school; but I do have 13 years of experience managing and mentoring people in a difficult field. To be blunt, I believe this persecution complex is what holds you back from achieving your true potential. We are not involved in a disinformation smear campaign against you. As long as you believe this, it will hold you back from achieving your full potential.
>
> I'm a high school dropout. I've worked on open source projects for 15
> years and that includes managing my own since fairly early on in that.
>
> You are involved in a disinformation smear campaign against us through
> your support for CalyxOS and repeating their talking points. The $40k
> you got for us is gradually being worn down by damages from attacks on
> the project which you've funded and are repeating.
>
> I don't have a 'persecution complex'. The problem with this industry is
> that most of the people involved lack ethics and honesty. What I have is
> called being on the autism spectrum and we have a different way looking
> at things than you do, where there are much more important things than
> getting money and succeeding. I don't want to have success that's built
> on being dishonest and manipulative. I care a lot about things being
> done correctly, accurately and actually for the benefit of other people.
> I have a problem with CalyxOS publishing a highly insecure OS without
> full privacy/security and misleading people about it. They're putting
> users at risk and I have a problem with them lying to their users then
> rolling back the security model and pretending otherwise. I have a
> problem with CalyxOS as an OS that always uses Google services even for
> users who don't use microG and which gives people a privileged and less
> secure than the stock OS implementation of further services via microG.
>
> GrapheneOS has far broader app compatibility than microG can provide via
> sandboxed Google Play. That's a fact. Presenting it the other way around
> is misinformation. Sandboxed Google Play is easier to use, provides more
> privacy and security and far broader app compatibility.
>
> People can buy devices with GrapheneOS around the world including from
> the manufacturers we've worked with. That's the whole point of us making
> a company and fund our work through a model which conflicts with
> providing users with an easy install process, etc. doesn't mean people
> can't buy devices with GrapheneOS preinstalled.
>
> I'm not going into everything else.
>
> The problem is you're sourcing claims from inaccurate sources and not
> just because it's a mistake but because they are deliberately trying to
> mislead.
>
> > My protege in board repair used to do the same thing. The time, money, and resources he spent on that could have been spent massively growing his business. it wasn't until we stopped wasting time on the stock processes that he started moving forward, making friends and allies in the community and becoming massively more successful.
>
> I'm not trying to build a business. Success is measured in how we
> improve privacy and security for people which largely depends on pushing
> for change elsewhere not just doing technical work in GrapheneOS.
>
> > In my opinion, the "threat" of using the entirety of the donation to argue with people is passive aggressive, manipulative, unhealthy, and wasteful. We want to see your project succeed; if you choose to use those resources to take actions that, IMO, are wasteful, and akin to shooting yourself in the foot, that is your right. That's what no strings attached means. But that's where I give up.
>
> I don't see it as wasteful to defend our project from misinformation and
> to expose scammers in the space. CalyxOS and LineageOS are both leaving
> users with highly insecure devices without privacy or security. They're
> far worse off than if they had just opted out of Google services on the
> stock Pixel OS. They don't have privacy or security on an OS that has
> unpatched, critical remote code execution vulnerabilities.
>
> Do you realize that CalyxOS lacks the full August security patches, all
> the recent Chromium security patches and much more? They have published
> an 'August security update' with literally more than half the important
> patches missing. They don't make it clear how much is missing. Every
> single critical remote code execution vulnerability fixed in August is
> unpatched in CalyxOS. This isn't something unusual. This is the norm.
> They've been doing this consistently. Sometimes they're late, but will
> likely pretend to have shipped them, as they did with August. If you
> think this is okay, fine, but I consider it incredibly damaging scamming
> and they are 100% aware of what they are doing considering they were
> heavily criticized for it by many others too. This is the tip of the
> iceberg. They regularly mislead people about what they provide and what
> GrapheneOS provides. They have misled you, and now you're spreading
> misinformation about us based on it, which I consider damaging not just to
> GrapheneOS but to the overall space.
>
> If you had given $40k to DivestOS, or some other worthy project, and you
> hadn't bought into all these inaccurate talking points, then I wouldn't
> have any issue with it.
>
> I tried to preemptively steer you away from this situation but that
> didn't work, so now we are in the situation that you are supporting
> scammers who are harmful to the space and engaged in a malicious
> misinformation and harassment campaign towards us. They published a 1
> hour hit piece personally targeting me. Nicolas Merrill is directly and
> openly involved in this. You chose to tie yourself to that.
>
> Here are 2 recent threads I posted about Cloudflare supporting Kiwi
> Farms:
>
> https://twitter.com/DanielMicay/status/1565189796179554624
>
> 2k retweets, 10k likes, 1 million impressions
>
> https://twitter.com/DanielMicay/status/1565793186747260210 is another
> less widely spread one.
>
> Why was I posting about that? These are some of the people who have
> engaged in harassment towards my friends, and my project. Why were they
> doing that? CalyxOS involved them through their attacks on us across
> platforms and the 1 hour hit piece posted by a YouTuber they worked with
> to push boosting their donations. Many people in CalyxOS chat rooms,
> neo-nazis openly engaged in harassment towards me. They not only refused
> to cut ties with the incredibly underhanded hostile and abusive YouTuber
> attacking us but actually heavily promoted his channel after he'd
> started doing that and made a 1 hour video with him. Kiwi Farms even got
> banned by a Russian DDoS provider known for hosting criminal content
> after they were banned by Cloudflare. CalyxOS still welcomes them. They
> have multiple Kiwi Farms members in their rooms, talking to them regularly,
> and they won't ban them! Matrix servers.
>
> I'm planning on making similar threads which go into details about how
> CalyxOS has gotten them involved. I have no intention of ever dropping
> this topic and will continue to call out all of the misinformation here
> until these people are exposed and pushed out of the industry. You've
> done the opposite of caring about what has happened and if anything you
> decided to give them money AFTER I'd talked to you about it as far as I
> can tell.
>
> FUTO seems to strongly believe in providing hosting, etc. to content
> that is not illegal regardless of how harmful it is which I think is rooted
> in tied to this stuff. That seems to be what Eron believes in doing. It
> is why I raised it as I issue and why it was harder to give us money
> than people who don't care one bit about ethics and who have engaged in
> the most extreme kinds of unethical behavior.
>
> The biggest problem we have with GrapheneOS are these people harassing
> us and spreading misinformation. The biggest of these people is involved
> in that: Calyx Institute. I will never stop fighting back against them
> and I do have a problem with anyone supporting them too. The only reason
> they can continue scamming people and hurting people is because so many
> people support them despite how blatantly dishonest and lacking in any
> actual substance they are both when it comes to CalyxOS and reselling
> Sprint mobile connections, etc. I have zero problem challenging their
> pile of lies that they've built their entire org and livelihood on. No
> plan on taking legal action against them as I stated previously too.
>
> You gave us both $40k knowing that there was a conflict between us. I
> can promise you that far more than $40k is going to spent on the
> conflict going forward. I plan on substantially fighting back against
> their confluxed assault on our project.
>
> You repeating their talking points with inaccurate info about their OS
> and ours just proves the damage they do. You giving them money and not
> realizing their site is just a bunch of misleading/dishonest marketing
> BS and that they leave users worse off is proof of it too. If someone
> like you can't see through it, how is a regular user supposed to?
>
> The vast majority of these 'private' and 'secure' mobile phone software
> / hardware projects are making people worse off. They are just trying to
> build something because they want a successful product / career,
> influence, power, money, etc. not because they want to make things
> better. I realize that's how most people in the space are and if going
> against that means we are enemies with most people in the space, so be
> it. I will burn all of it down.
>
> If FUTO supports Calyx, then it is funding attacks on GrapheneOS. Giving
> us the same amount of money means I can't really be upset about that,
> but that's only the current situation. I could simply donate the money
> to victims to a worthy cause related to protecting victims of harassment
> and bullying instead of using it ourselves. I'd have zero problem doing
> that.
>
> > As I said in the very beginning, I wish you the best of luck with your project.
>
> I don't have a 'persecution complex'. The privacy and security industry
> is full of people misleading and scamming others for both financial and
> ideological reasons. I explained to you in detail the situation with
> CalyxOS and their associates. I did not imagine that they posted a 1
> hour hit piece targeting us or that they've spent the past couple years
> waging a misinformation war, tricking people into thinking they provide
> something they don't and misleading them about what GrapheneOS provides.
>
> I already explained all that to you previously. I also explained to you
> what our project provides, our goals, etc. I don't understand why you
> portray it as less usable. It has far broader app compatibility. I
> explained that there are companies selling devices with it. I also
> really don't get why out of everything you could have funded, you chose
> to fund attacks on us and the privacy space. There are many worthy
> privacy projects you could have funded, with far less funding available
> and far more worthy of support, but you went with that after I explained
> what was wrong.
>
> You gave the same amount of money to the people harming us as you gave
> to us. I expect you to continue giving them more money and more vocal
> support including parrotting their inaccurate talking points.