Showcase - Mender, an end-to-end OTA solution

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Deploy Software Updates for Linux Devices
About me

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Guilty of most sins in this presentation myself

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OTA requirements checklist

✓ Failsafe so it never renders device unusable ("bricked"), even when losing power
✓ Capable of atomic updates to avoid half-done installations
✓ Do integrity verification to avoid corruption of updates
✓ Able to do code signing of image updates to ensure control over updates
Mender Architecture

Management Server

Devices check for software updates from the Mender Management Server

Download software updates over HTTPS

Device partition layout

- roots + kernel (Active)
- roots + kernel (Passive)
- BIOS/Bootloader
- Data (Persistent settings)
A/B system updates - flow

Image installed to passive rootfs

Device is rebooted

If install successful, passive becomes active partition

If install fails, device rolls back to working image
A/B system updates - partition persistence

Device

Bootloader

OS A (active)

OS B (inactive)

Persistent data
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What artifacts do we need?

- **Full Images**
  - partition layout
  - bootloader
  - payload system / application
  - initial persistent data
    → .sdimg, .uefiimg

- **System images**
  - only payload system
  - doesn’t change persistent data
    → .mender

[1] https://docs.mender.io/overview/artifact
What goes into a Yocto build, from where

- **Machine configuration**
  - comes from the BSP and triggers everything necessary to make a specific set of hardware work

- **Distro configuration**
  - defines the API of the linux system

- **Image recipe**
  - declares the actual application payload that you ship

- **Local configuration**
  - “transient”, per build respectively build setup
How does this fit together?

- **Machine configuration**
  
  *This defines the identifier that the OTA pipeline uses!*
  
  Sets what mender needs on that specific hardware
  
  **Example:**
  
  - `MENDER_BOOT_PART_SIZE_MB = "40"`

- **Distro configuration**
  
  Applies the project-wide mender integration
  
  **Example:**
  
  - `INHERIT += "mender-full"`

- **Local configuration**
  
  Configures how the build will be seen as an update
  
  **Examples:**
  
  - `MENDER_ARTIFACT_NAME = "release-1"`
Mender - Beyond OTA - Add ons

Current Device Management add-ons in Mender

Troubleshoot
"Resolve [support] issues real-time, in a secure way."
- Remote Terminal
- RT Session log
- File transfer
- Port forward

Configuration
"Customize each device to its environment."
- Configuration UI
- Scripting

Monitor
"Detect and analyze health issues of devices, services and applications."
- Alert UI
- Email notifications
- Client CLI
- Custom monitoring scripts

Audit Log

Role Based Access Control (RBAC)
Demo time!
Learn more

Get started now
docs.mender.io/getting-started

Join the Mender Hub community
hub.mender.io

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