

# What to Do When It is Already Too Late ?

Crashdumps for Embedded Systems



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## **Embrace the Fail**

The Qt, OpenGL and C++ experts

#### Content

- The nature of a crash and where to intercept
- Working with core dumps
- Signal handlers and watchdogs
- My serving suggestion:
  - Yocto, and...
  - Google Breakpad, and...
  - Sentry
- On collecting crashdumps in production

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### Scope of Crashes in this Talk

- Crashes mostly in C/C++
- On Embedded Linux
- Crashes induced from the inside and from the outside
- No Kernelpanics, etc.
- SW-Devs' Assumption #1: Hardware just works

#### **Crashes in Development And Production**

- Dev Environment on Embedded Devices
  - All Symbs / (Remote) GDBs
  - Fullsize dumps
  - EvalBoards
  - Small Testing Surface

#### • In Production

- Slim Images
- Slim Dumps / Reduced Bandwidth
- (Often more limited) production hardware, **no storage**
- Large Testing Surface

#### **Crashes in Development And Production**

Boils down to

- Dev Environment on **Embedded Devices** 
  - All Symbs / (Remote) GDBs
  - Fullsize dumps
  - **EvalBoards**
  - Small Testing Surface

#### In Production

Images

- umps / Reduced Bandwidth
- storage <vs.> no storage (Often more limited) production hardware, **no storage** 
  - Large Testing Surface

## **Crashdumps and Symbols**

- Symbols are needed:
  - To make addresses readable for humans
  - To reconstruct the contents of the Stack
  - To infer Line Numbers
- You will get symbols with -g
- Symbols are *independent* of optimization (-g, -O2)
- Symbols are huge





4 Bytes of Core Memory : Arduino Module





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# What do Coredumps Look Like?

• TODO



# Prerequisites

- CONFIG\_COREDUMP enabled in the Kernel
- Executable must be readable (guess why?)
- Process must have permissions to write the core

- You need enough space to store it
- You need enough Bandwidth to transfer it

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# Enable by setting limits

<pre>root@imx6ul-var-dart:~#</pre>	ulimit -a	
core file size	(blocks, -c)	0
data seg size	(kbytes, -d)	unlimited
scheduling priority	(-e)	Θ

<pre>root@imx6ul-var-dart:~#</pre>	ulimit -c unlimited
<pre>root@imx6ul-var-dart:~#</pre>	ulimit -a
core file size	(blocks, -c) unlimited
data seg size	(kbytes, -d) unlimited
scheduling priority	(-e) 0
file size	(blocks, -f) unlimited
pending signals	(-i) 3938

## /proc/sys/kernel/core\_pattern



## **CoreDumps: Did you know?**

- You can **madvise** memorypages to be excluded from Coredump
  - Use madvise with MADV\_DONTDUMP flag
- You can pipe coredumps to stdin of another process
  - Make your corePattern start with a | character, followed by the receiving process
  - Systemd coredumpctl does It **|/usr/lib/systemd/systemd-coredump**
- GDBs **gcore** can create a core of a running process

#### **Development: have GDB on your target!**

- At the Development Stage, just have a gdb on the target
- Find a way to store the coredump
- If you get a Crash producing a coredump, rejoin symbols:
  - Use the elfutils bin eu-unstrip <executable> <symbols>
  - Repeat for all relevant libraries you need for heap / stack

- Its a bit tedious, its worth it, if you need heap information
- If no heap is needed, there are better ways

#### You need it all for Cross-Platform CoreDumps

- A cross-toolchain GDB on your Desktop
- The exact same executable that crashed (/w symbols)
- Symbols for all relevant libs when it crashed
- The core file
- Optionally /proc/kallsyms from the target

• Carefully feed SDK-Paths and Libs and see if you get a stack

## **GDB-Server: A Hybrid**





# Poor-Man's SlimDump: Backward-Cpp

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#### By François-Xavier Bourlet, @bombela - The Pitch

christoph@mareike /tmp/backward-cpp/build \$ ./test\_suicide
Segmentation fault (core dumped)

Tired of seeing this ?

```
230:
                } else {
#3
      Source "/tmp/backward-cpp/test/_test_main.cpp", line 140, in run_test [0x55e66a01cd0c]
              pid_t child_pid = fork();
        138:
              if (child_pid == 0) {
       139:
     > 140:
                exit(static_cast<int>(test.run()));
       141:
       142:
              if (child pid == -1) {
       143:
                error(EXIT_FAILURE, 0, "unable to fork");
#2
     Source "/tmp/backward-cpp/test/test.hpp", line 92, in run [0x55e66a01d143]
               TestStatus run() {
        90:
                                                                          Then Try this :)
        91:
                try {
        92:
                  do test();
                  return SUCCESS;
        93:
        94:
                } catch (const AssertFailedError &e) {
        95:
                  printf("!! %s\n", e.what());
     Source "/tmp/backward-cpp/test/suicide.cpp", line 40, in do_test [0x55e66a00e940]
#1
        37:
              *ptr = 42;
        38: }
        39:
        40: TEST_SEGFAULT(invalid_write) { badass_function(); }
        41:
        42: int you shall not pass() {
              char *ptr = (char *)42;
        43:
     Source "/tmp/backward-cpp/test/suicide.cpp", line 37, in badass_function [0x55e66a00e92a]
#0
        35: void badass function() {
        36: char *ptr = (char *)42;
        37:
             *ptr = 42;
        38: }
        39:
        40: TEST_SEGFAULT(invalid_write) { badass_function(); }
Segmentation fault (Address not mapped to object [0x2a])
!! signal (11) Segmentation fault
christoph@mareike /tmp/backward-cpp/build $
```

## BackwardCpp

- This is in the Development-Situation category
- Include a header + 1 Line of initialization
- Symbols are necessary in build (-g), fat binaries
- Does stack unwinding in the signal handlers
- Requires the source code to print it
- Can be heavily customized
  - $\rightarrow$  This is great for Development!



# The Sanitizers can help you as well.

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#### Crash output of an executable, instrumented with the gcc/clang address sanitizer

AddressSanitizer:DEADLYSIGNAL

```
==46184==The signal is caused by a WRITE memory access.
==46184==Hint: address points to the zero page.
   #0 0x555c1c0f1fd4 in ManualBrewing::setPump
   #1 0x555c1c4d7cf5 in ManualBrewing::qt_metacall
   #2 0x7f9e58707d5f in QQmlPropertyPrivate::write
   #3 0x7f9e58633078 in QV4::QObjectWrapper::setProperty
   #4 0x7f9e58633aa8 in QV4::QObjectWrapper::setQmlProperty
   #5 0x7f9e58633c46 in QV4::QObjectWrapper::virtualPut
   #6 0x7f9e585fe52a in QV4::Object::virtualResolveLookupSetter
   #7 0x7f9e5864c808 (/usr/lib/libQt5Qml.so.5+0x1b0808)
    #8 0x7f9e5865068e (/usr/lib/libQt5Qml.so.5+0x1b468e)
   #9 0x7f9e585ead2d in OV4::Function::call
   #10 0x7f9e58766915 in QQmlJavaScriptExpression::evaluate
   #11 0x7f9e5871962c in QQmlBoundSignalExpression::evaluate
   #12 0x7f9e58719b10 (/usr/lib/libQt5Qml.so.5+0x27db10)
   #13 0x7f9e5874a00c in QQmlNotifier::emitNotify
   #14 0x7f9e57fb5904 (/usr/lib/libQt5Core.so.5+0x2ec904)
   #15 0x7f9e586f76ea in QQmlVMEMetaObject::metaCall
   #16 0x7f9e5874a56d (/usr/lib/libQt5Qml.so.5+0x2ae56d)
   #17 0x7f9e5862f946 (/usr/lib/libQt5Qml.so.5+0x193946)
   #18 0x7f9e58631f39 in QV4::QObjectMethod::callInternal
   #19 0x7f9e5865f2f9 in QV4::Runtime::CallPropertyLookup::call
    #20 0x7f9e399d9af1 (/memfd:JITCode:QtQml (deleted)+0xaf1)
```

AddressSanitizer can not provide additional info. SUMMARY: AddressSanitizer: SEGV ==46184==ABORTING



# No Symbols?, Unwinding Fails? You can still resort to:

# »Desperate-Stack-Reading«

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#### **Printing raw stack memory**, garnished with symbols take everything with teaspoons of salt

```
(gdb) set print asm-demangle on
(gdb) x/300a $sp
0x7ffffff8dd0: 0x7ffffff8e70 0x7ffff694bd60 <QQmlPropertyPrivate::write(QObject*, QQmlPropertyData const&, QVariant const
+448>
0x7fffffff8e20: 0x555555f208e0 0x555555e38db <ManualBrewing::qt_metacall(QMetaObject::Call, int, void**)+139>
0x7fffffff8e50: 0x555555f208e0 0x7ffff694bd60 <QQmlPropertyPrivate::write(QObject*, QQmlPropertyData const&, QVariant const&, QQmlContextData*, QFlags<QQmlPropertyData::WriteFlag>
+448>
0x7fffffff8eb0: 0x7ffff01316b8 0x7ffff6842ec6 <QV4::Object::insertMember(QV4::StringOrSymbol*, QV4::Property const*, QV4::PropertyAttributes)+70>
0x7fffffff8f70: 0x555556272508 0x7ffff6877079 <QV4::QObjectWrapper::setProperty(QV4::ExecutionEngine*, QObject*, QQmlPropertyData*, QV4::Value const&)+2601>
```

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# Signal Handlers can act when its already too late

But they are limited – use them with care!

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## Things **not allowed** in the SignalHandler

- Heap allocations are forbidden from this point on
- One is only permitted to execute "safe" operations
  - That is basically everything that does not allocate
  - Check **man signal-safety** for it
  - Code looks much like pure C-Code then
- Be hyper-careful of Crashes in Crash Handlers. You have been warned :)



### Things **allowed** in the SignalHandler

- Start new processes (wow!)
- Obviously reading heap memory
- Again, everything that man signal-safety allows you to do
- Send signal to self

Signalhandlers / Crashhandlers look much like plain C Code

```
3
   static bool dumpCallback(const google breakpad::MinidumpDescriptor& descriptor,
 4
                             void* context, bool succeeded) {
 5
 6
       // start new process to turn of pump, heating, etc
       // fork returns 0 for the child
 8
       if (fork()) {
 9
10
            printf("App Crashed. Dump can be found at: %s\n", descriptor.path());
            const auto& stack = static cast<ScreenManager*>(context)->getStack();
11
12
            char* filename = strcat(const cast<char*>(descriptor.path()), ".additional")
            int screenStackTrace = open(filename, 0 CREAT | 0 WRONLY, 0644);
13
            char buf[255];
14
15
           const char* start = "{\"Screenstack\":\"";
16
           write(screenStackTrace, start, strlen(start));
            for (const auto& entry : stack) {
17
                snprintf(buf, sizeof (buf), "%s ", entry.toStdString().c_str());
18
                write(screenStackTrace, buf, strlen(buf));
19
20
21
           const char* end = "\"}";
22
           write(screenStackTrace, end, strlen(end));
23
           close(screenStackTrace);
24
       } else {
25
            char* const argv[] = {(char*)"stop.sh", NULL};
            execve("/opt/crash/SystemCrashHandler.sh", argv, NULL);
26
27
28
       return succeeded;
29
   }
```

## **Cool Things possible in the Signal Handler**

- Check out the KDABs QML stack trace dumper[1].
  - Actually unsafe, because allocates
  - but worth the gamble, its too late anyways, right?
- TODO More



[1]https://github.com/KDAB/KDToolBox/tree/master/qt/qml/QmlStackTraceHelper



# Watchdog-like processes can assist

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# It makes sense to have Watchdogs out of the main execution Context

- There is not only Crashes, but also infinite loops
  - Idea: Reset the watchdog periodically, such that infinite loops are detected
- It can make a lot of sense to inject SIGSEGV & friends from the outside
- A stacktrace will still be produced and Analysis is possible

#### The OOM killer

- Most famous external source of an unwanted termination
- Stackdumps are of limited use in Analysis here
- Sends SIGKILL in rare cases also SIGTERM
  - Here, app dumps are a bit less interesting
  - Collect specificly the system-wide memory situation in this case



# In Practice: Google Breakpad + Sentry + Yocto

The Qt, OpenGL and C++ experts

#### **General Architecture**



#### Integrate Google Breakpad into Yocto

- Breakpad Recipes included in meta-oe/recipes-devtools
  - Creates all cross-tools needed
  - Creates the header-only library needed for the custom Signal Handler
  - Provides a yocto bbclass to be added to your app recipe
    - This then splits out symbols before app-binary is stripped by yocto
- Extras can be added in your individual app recipe



#### breakpad.bbclass contains this, always executed for a class inheriting breakpad

```
# Add creation of symbols here
PACKAGE_PREPROCESS_FUNCS += "breakpad_package_preprocess"
breakpad_package_preprocess () {
    mkdir -p ${PKGD}/usr/share/breakpad-syms
    find ${D} -name ${BREAKPAD_BIN} -exec sh -c "dump_syms {} > ${PKGD}/usr/share/breakpad-syms/${BREAKPAD_BIN}.sym" \;
```

#### myapp.bb: I extend the breakpad step to have 2 executables and do the upload on every build

inherit qmake5
BREAKPAD\_BIN="backend"
BREAKPAD\_BIN2="app"
inherit breakpad

```
breakpad_package_preprocess_append () {
    find ${D} -name ${BREAKPAD_BIN2} -exec sh -c "dump_syme {} > ${PKGD}/usr/share/breakpad-syme/${BREAKPAD_BIN2};
    sentry-cli --url https://sentry10.kdab.com/ --auth-token '46Lea7d2dfa44bau;
upload-dif -o kdab -p er ${PKGD}/usr/share/breakpad-syms/${BREAKPAD_BIN}.sym
    sentry-cli --url https://sentry10.kdab.com/ --auth-token '46Lea7d2dfa44bau;
upload-dif -o kdab -p er ${PKGD}/usr/share/breakpad-syms/${BREAKPAD_BIN}.sym
    sentry-cli --url https://sentry10.kdab.com/ --auth-token '46Lea7d2dfa44bau;
upload-dif -o kdab -p er ${PKGD}/usr/share/breakpad-syms/${BREAKPAD_BIN};
```

#### For the **other libs**, I use the yocto-built SDK, it contains split debug symbols in .debug folders

christoph@mareike /tmp \$ ls \$SDKTARGETSYSROOT/usr/lib/.debug/ e2initrd\_helper libgstinsertbin-1.0.so.0.1404.0 libQt53DInput.so.5.12.2 libarchive.so.13.3.3 libgstisoff-1.0.so.0.1404.0 lib0t53DLogic.so.5.12.2 libasm-0.175.so libgstmpegts-1.0.so.0.1404.0 libQt53DQuickAnimation.so.5.12.2 libasound.so.2.0.0 libgstnet-1.0.so.0.1404.0 libQt53DQuickExtras.so.5.12.2 libatomic.so.1.2.0 libgstpbutils-1.0.so.0.1404.0 libQt53DQuickInput.so.5.12.2 libbluetooth.so.3.18.16 libgstphotography-1.0.so.0.1404.0 libQt53DQuickRender.so.5.12.2 libgstplayer-1.0.so.0.1404.0 lib0t53DQuickScene2D.so.5.12.2 libbtrfs.so.0.1 libgstreamer-1.0.so.0.1404.0 lib0t53D0uick.so.5.12.2 libbtrfsutil.so.1.0.0 libbz2.so.1.0.6 libgstriff-1.0.so.0.1404.0 lib0t53DRender.so.5.12.2 libcairo-gobject.so.2.11400.12 libgstrtp-1.0.so.0.1404.0 libQt5Bluetooth.so.5.12.2 libcairo-script-interpreter.so.2.11400.12 libgstrtsp-1.0.so.0.1404.0 lib0t5Charts.so.5.12.2

#### Example for **file libQt5Core.so** : It is important, that debug info is present

christoph@mareike /tmp \$ file \$SDKTARGETSYSROOT/usr/lib/.debug/libQt5Core.so.5.12.2 /home/christoph/KDAB/Braumeister/sdk/sysroots/cortexa7t2hf-neon-fslc-linux-gnueabi/usr/lib/.debug/libQt5Core.so.5.12.2: ELF 32-b it LSB shared object, ARM, EABI5 version 1 (GNU/Linux), dynamically linked, BuildID[sha1]=ea22fbb2d6efcba010ba2cf02739cbe31cff7c 7a, for GNU/Linux 4.11.0, with debug\_info, not stripped

#### ... from there it is uploaded like all symbs with sentry-cli

christoph@mareike /tmp \$ sentry-cli --url https://sentry10.kdab.com/ --auth-token '46 7bd' upload-dif -o kdab -p er \$SDKTARGETSYSROOT/usr/lib/.debug/libQt5Qml.so.5.12.2 > Found 1 debug information file > Prepared debug information file for upload > Uploaded 1 missing debug information file > File upload complete:

PENDING 286179fe-faec-82c0-7af9-97c1d4ad120d (libQt5Qml.so.5.12.2; arm debug companion)
christoph@mareike /tmp \$

### More Infos on Googles Breakpad

- Uses Minidumps
  - Originally envisioned by Microsoft
  - Similar to slim cores, but way smaller (around 20KiB)
  - Cross-platform (unix cores don't work on Windows, settled on minidump)
  - Splitting command: dump\_symbs executable > /path/to/destination.symbs
- Minidump comes with some useful tools
  - minidump\_stackwalk: Re-Combine Minidump+App+Symbols → get a stack
  - **minidump-2-core**: Converts dump to gdb-readable format
  - and more...

#### Integrate Breakpad in your Code

- Breakpads library and headers are included in the new SDK when using it in any of your recipes
- Only 2 extra lines in main() are necessary to register
- Of course you can do more in your custom Handler



Register the handler in your main(), pass any variables to be used

```
33
   int main(int argc, char *argv[])
34
35
   {
36 //...
37
38
   #ifndef TARGET
39
       google breakpad::MinidumpDescriptor descriptor("/home/root/crashreports/");
                                                                                                        Register Breakpad
       google breakpad::ExceptionHandler eh(descriptor, NULL, dumpCallback, screenManager, true, -1);
40
41
                                                                                                                    Handler
42
 Include Breakpad Header,
 Handle crashes and write extra information
 1 #ifdef Target
2 //Breakpad Crashreporter
   #include "client/linux/handler/exception handler.h"
```

Write Extra

Information

```
static bool dumpCallback(const google breakpad::MinidumpDescriptor& descriptor,
                        void* context, bool succeeded) {
   if (fork()) {
       printf("App Crashed. Dump can be found at: %s\n", descriptor.path());
             auto& stack = static cast<ScreenManager*>(context)->getStack();
       char* filename = strcat(const cast<char*>(descriptor.path()), ".additional");
       int screenStackTrace = open(filename, 0 CREAT | 0 WRONLY, 0644);
       char buf[255];
       const char* start = "{\"Screenstack\":\"";
       write(screenStackTrace, start, strlen(start));
        for (const auto& entry : stack) {
           snprintf(buf, sizeof (buf), "%s ", entry.toStdString().c str());
           write(screenStackTrace, buf, strlen(buf));
       const char* end = "\"}";
       write(screenStackTrace, end, strlen(end));
       close(screenStackTrace);
```

9 10

11

12

13

14 15

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17 18

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20 21 22

23

24

## **Sending the Information**

- Let a daemon check the crash folder for crashes
  - Not known if device has connectivity
  - Daemon checks periodically if a minidump is available
  - If allowed in the User-settings, Info is uploaded to the sentry server
- For now, no logs are uploaded, maybe in the future...



#### Snip from the Crashdaemon, A file watcher looks for crash data and uploads it, when possible Extra tag info is garnished for sentry

```
QFile additional(s crashReportPath + filename + ".additional");
11
       additional.open(QIODevice::ReadOnly);
       const QByteArray tags = additional.readAll();
12
13
       additional.close();
14
       QFile crashreport(s crashReportPath + filename);
       crashreport.open(QIODevice::ReadOnly);
       const QByteArray report = crashreport.readAll();
17
       crashreport.close();
       QHttpMultiPart* multipart = new QHttpMultiPart(QHttpMultiPart::FormDataType);
21
       QHttpPart reportPart;
       reportPart.setHeader(QNetworkRequest::ContentTypeHeader, QVariant("application/octet-stream"));
       reportPart.setHeader(QNetworkRequest::ContentDispositionHeader, QVariant("form-data; name=\"upload file minidump\"; filename=\"" + filename + "\""));
       reportPart.setBody(report);
       QHttpPart jsonPart;
        jsonPart.setHeader(QNetworkRequest::ContentDispositionHeader, QVariant("form-data; name=\"sentry\""));
        jsonPart.setBody("{\"tags\": " + tags + "}");
       multipart->append(reportPart);
       multipart->append(jsonPart);
       const QUrl uploadUrl(QUrl("https://sentry10.kdab.com/api/3/minidump/?sentry key=13
34
                                                                                                                      e8"));
       QNetworkRequest request(uploadUrl)
```

#### **The Result**

ssues (15)	Sort by: Events ~	Custom Search ~	${\sf Q}_{\sf c}$ Search for events, users, tags, and everything					☆ ≂
Resolve     Ignore     Herge     Image: Im				GRAPH:	24h 30d	EVENTS	USERS	ASSIGNEE
<ul> <li>GIerrno_location</li> <li>in errno-loc.c</li> <li>Unhandled Fatal Error: SIGSEGV /0x00000000</li> <li>BRAUMEISTER-T ③ 15 days ago – a month old</li> </ul>						4	0	ይ ×
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QVector <t>::erase in qrefcount.h Unhandled Fatal Error: SIGSEGV /0x00000000 BRAUMEISTER-1G © 17 days ago - 17 days old</t>				8		1	0	<u>م</u> ×

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+ experts

2	rags //Ext	tra Inform	mation //Breakpad Informati							ation			
	Screenstack startmenu.c	qml recipes/my_re	cipes.qml h	andled no	level fata	1 mechan	ism minidump	os Linux	4.14.78-m	x6ul+gaecdf9	a os.name	e Linux	
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0	арр	+0x06521e	QVector <t>::e</t>	arase (qrefo	count.h:68)								
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ĺ	app	+0x062c66 SyncManager::autoSync (qvector.h:458) //Symbols available									9		
	libQt5Core.so	+0x1e0806	QtPrivate::QS	QtPrivate::QSlotObjectBase::call (//include/QtCore///git/src/corelib/kernel/qobjectdefs_impl.h:394)									
	libQt5Core.so	+0x1e0806	QMetaObject	IMetaObject::activate (qobject.cpp:3684)									
	арр	+0x071594	RecipeReade	RecipeReader::addRecipe (recipereader.cpp:50)									
	арр	+0x06387a	SyncManage	SyncManager::receiveRecipeResponse (syncmanager.cpp:610)									
	арр	+0x064224	SyncManage	SyncManager::receiveResponse (syncmanager.cpp:534)									
	libQt5Core.so	+0x1e0806	QtPrivate::QS	QtPrivate::QSlotObjectBase::call (//include/QtCore///git/src/corelib/kernel/qobjectdefs_impl.h:394)									
	libQt5Core.so	+0x1e0806	QMetaObject	QMetaObject::activate (qobject.cpp:3684)									
	libQt5Network	+0x031307	<unknown> 🖉</unknown>	//Symbols not available						2			
	libQt5Network	+0x031e41	<unknown></unknown>	2			<i>noymbols not available</i>						

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#### Mail



#### More about sentry

- FOSS Dump Collector
- Sorts Crashes by Stack, configurable
- Supports many DumpFormats
- Supports external Symbol Servers

• ~30€/mo or self hosted



# GDPR? <Im not a lawyer>, but...

The Qt, OpenGL and C++ experts

## On uploading crash(=user)data

- We run it for development / staging / testing only
- If Production is involed, make it opt-In for users
- Practically, stack information might contain all information

• If dumps are anonymized and users know for what purpose the data is collected, one should be fine

... </but Im not a lawyer>



# **#1** Overall there is still much to do, when its already too late



I showed you classic ways in therory and one way I like in practice



Invest in learning from your crashes —it is worth it.

The Qt, OpenGL and C++ experts



# I will answer all questions, AMA!

