



# Portland Print Dialog

## *Print Dialog as a Platform Service*

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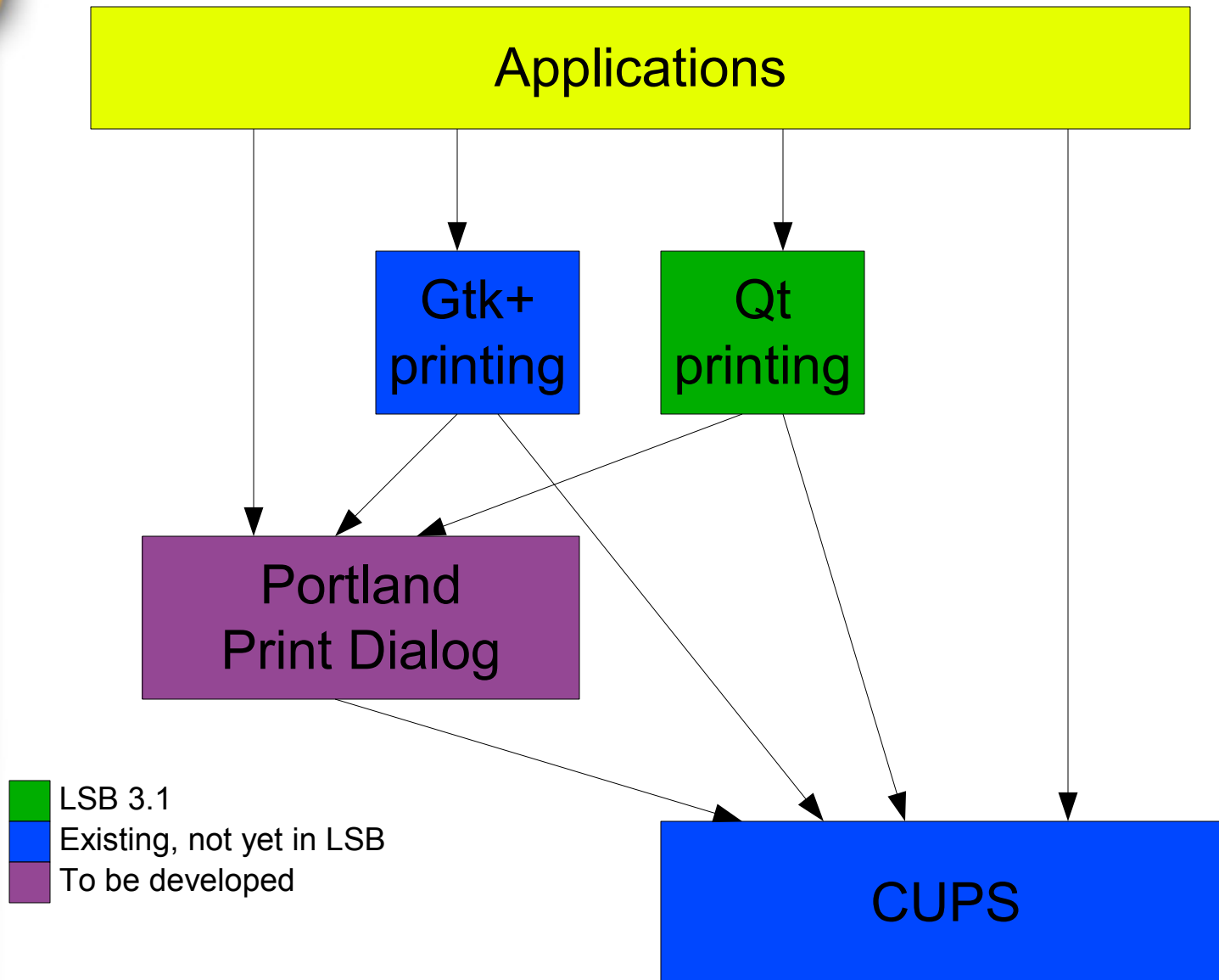
# Print Dialogs on Linux – The Problem

- Print dialog typically provided by GUI toolkit
  - Different applications use different toolkits
  - Different toolkits use different print dialogs
- Result: Variety in print dialogs on any given system
  - Some dialogs better than other
  - Inconsistency is bad for usability
  - Hard to add printer specific features
    - Some dialogs expose PPD options

# Portland Print Dialog – A Solution

- Transfer Print Dialog out of the Toolkit into the Platform
  - Just like MSWindows, MacOS, OS X do
- Single programming interface to Print Dialog for Linux
- All applications on same system using same print dialog
- Possible to introduce Printer Specific extensions
- Multiple implementations can co-exist
  - RealPolitik: Gnome and KDE unlikely to agree on single implementation
    - Dialog will depend on users' choice of desktop environment
  - Not ideal
    - Multiple implementations increase support cost
    - But better than existing fragmentation

# Portland Print Dialog and LSB



# Portland Print Dialog - Requirements

- Runtime dependency for application
- Extensible by application
- Extensible by printer driver
  - PPD Options + More
- Extension mechanism must be implementation independent
  - Work with both Gtk and KDE version
  - Non-binary format preferable
    - some form of XML + scripting
  - Smooth learning curve
    - something that isn't entirely new

# Let's get started

- Chose extension technology
- Define common UI elements in print dialog
  - Compare Gtk and Q print dialog, take a glance at OS X.
- Define extension points for applications and drivers
  - We can learn a lot from OS X
- Define application API
  - We have Gtk+ print , QPrinter and KPrinter to start from
- Use Mozilla and Firefox as guinea pig
- Code, code, code

# Shortcuts for Cheapskates

- Limit extensions to checkboxes and simple selections
- Allow printer specific extensions through stand alone dialog and “Options” button
  - Printer driver must provide LSB binary for dialog
- Don't provide platform API to print dialog
  - All applications shall use Qt or Gtk+
  - Add common extension mechanism to Qt and Gtk+

Let's get this going