

# **Android's C library: bionic**

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# Why?

Why not glibc?

Why not a BSD libc?

Why not musl?

Why not Zoidberg?

# What?

Large parts of (Free|Net|Open)BSD libc +  
script-generated system call stubs +  
home grown Linux-specific code if needed.

Supports arm, arm64, mips, mips64, x86, x86-64.

# What's unusual?

No separate libpthread/libresolv.

No `__isthreaded`.

No support for old kernels.

No legacy syscalls used (on any architecture).

Non-`_r` functions usually thread safe.

Lots of unit tests!

All pic/pie.

# What's in the headers?

Some BSD.

Some home-grown based on POSIX specs.

All the uapi headers under <linux/...>.

<features.h> mostly broken.

Spotty C99/C11 support.

No particular version of POSIX.

# Missing Linux kernel APIs we'd use

- `set_tid_address(2)/clone(2)` tid maintenance flags work great. No paired `unmap+exit`.
- Getting randomness used to be awkward. Tso's `getrandom(2)` looks good.
- How to atomically read `/proc/<pid>/maps`?
- Syscall to query a single mmap region's info?
- `MINHERIT`?