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How big of a problem are Un-upstreamed patches?

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In the never-ending quest to run all of the latest versions of all of the software, issues ensue. From CVEs to makefiles changes needed to get the thing building in an environment, patches are created and applied. Some of these patches are upstreamed and others live forever in the murky bowels of the distro's package. The latter's technical debt can cause issues on the next release, etc. But how big of a problem is this? How long do patches live? How many are upstreamed? We'll take a look at some pretty graphs and see.

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