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one mozilla



Keeping Add-ons Compatible with Rapid Releases

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<http://mzl.la/EUCompat>



Overview

- Rapid releases.
- Finding breaking changes.
- Outreach.
- Compatibility bumps.
- Default to compatible.



Rapid Releases

- Every 6 weeks. **Calendar.**
- Add-on manifest data quickly obsoleted.
- AMO override allows updated data without new version release.
- Binary XPCOM is a bigger problem.
js ctypes.
- Help needed: engagement, add-on devs.



Finding Breaking Changes

- **Aurora channel.**
- Immediately after push to Aurora, 12 weeks before release.
- **All API changes:** IDL, JS API, XUL. UI changes.
- Flag **addon-compat** keyword or CC **jorge@mozilla.com** (:jorgev).
- Help needed: bug triagers.



Outreach

- [Add-ons blog](#).
- [mozilla.announce.compatibility](#) List.
- Direct messaging for compat bumps.
- Help needed: engagement, add-on devs.



Compatibility bumps

- Automatic validation of AMO-hosted add-ons.
- Report sent to authors.
- Standalone **compatibility validator**.
- 1–3 weeks after push to Aurora.
- Help needed: engagement, add-on devs.



Default to Compatible

- **Firefox 10.**
- Most add-ons need no code changes.
- Let pre-release users judge if the add-on works or not. No limitations.
- Bundle **Add-on Compatibility Reporter.**
- Blacklist approach for compat problems.
- Help needed: pre-release users.



Wrap Up

- Add-on compatibility is critical for the success of rapid releases.
- Reaching out to add-on developers can be difficult.
- Broadcasting what we're doing is the best way to help us achieve our goals.



Thanks!

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