

Movelt! Versioning Roadmap

1.0 Release Plan

tldr; we're targeting to release Movelt! 1.0 on March 1st, 2019.

Movelt! has been in beta since 2013 (6 years), yet we have been planning the ROS 2.0 version for the past couple years. It's important to actually use major release versions so we can break API in a structured, transparent way. See [Open Letter To Movelt! Community](#) for more reasoning.

Version Numbers and ROS Distros

Up until now we haven't used major version numbers with Movelt! due to lack of leadership direction, resources, and ambiguous role of ROS distros vs major software versions. We can no longer rely on ROS distros as our only versioning strategy as there will not be a 2019 ROS release, and we wish to accelerate Movelt! development going forward. Conflating this discussion is the ROS 2.0 conversion effort that will be taking off soon.

In the following table we show Movelt!'s past git branching / versioning / and ROS distro strategy and propose future strategy as well:

[intentional page break to allow table and footnotes to fit on same page]

Movelt! Version	ROS Version	Branch Name	Beta Release	API Freeze	Ubuntu Targets
0.3.x	ROS Fuerte	fuerte-devel	Apr 2012		
0.4.x	ROS Groovy	groovy-devel	Dec 2012		
0.5.x	ROS Hydro	hydro-devel	Sep 2013		
0.7.x	ROS Indigo	indigo-devel	Jul 2014	May 2016	14.04 LTS
0.8.x	ROS Jade	jade-devel	May 2015	May 2016	15.04
0.9.x	ROS Kinetic	kinetic-devel	May 2016	May 2018 ¹	16.04 LTS
0.9.x	ROS Lunar	kinetic-devel ²	May 2017	May 2018	17.04
1.0.x ³	ROS Melodic	melodic-devel	May 2018	1 March 2019	18.04, 16.04
2.0.x ⁴	ROS Noetic	master ⁵	1 March 2019	May 2020	18.04, 16.04
3.x	ROS2 Dashing	dashing-devel ⁶	July 2019	Dec 2019	18.04
4.x	ROS2 E	e***-devel	Dec 2019	July 2020	18.04

All green rows are proposed future policy

Steps to Release Movelt! 1.0

The following is necessary to consider 1.0 released:

- Tag all the package.xml files with the new major release number and release to bloom
- Update website and other documentation with version number and status
- Create a master branch for development beyond melodic-devel

Switching to a Master Branch

At the same time as the 1.0 release we will implement our desire to have a master branch where future development will take place. Once switching to the master branch approach, there will not be regular debian releases until we figure out how to do releases outside of the ROS buildfarm. This is necessary because OSRF is not making a 2019 ROS1 release.

¹ The ROS Indigo through Lunar code freeze date is based on the release of the following ROS LTS

² We never branched for Lunar as it was determined the additional effort was not worth the effort beyond using the Kinetic branch for our releases

³ Currently the Melodic branch is versioned 0.10.x, but we are proposing moving to 1.0

⁴ Possibly Movelt! 2.0 is the same as ROS 2.0 compatibility

⁵ A noetic-devel branch will be created after the code freeze / official release

⁶ Will become 'master' branch after Movelt! 2 is officially released

Will MoveIt! 2.0 be the same as ROS 2.0?

It would make the most sense from a marketing perspective if MoveIt! version 2.0 was the release that included support for ROS 2.0. However, this would mean that after the 1.0 release, we can't release another version of MoveIt! for ROS 1.0 that breaks API. This would stagnate development once again, so it may make sense to have MoveIt! 3.0 be the version that includes ROS 2.0 support. This decision depends on how long it takes to get ROS2 support and how many core MoveIt! maintainers are willing to make the switch soon.

ROS 2.0 Branch

Once funding / resources has been secured for ROS 2 development, a new branch will be created off master called "dashing-devel". This branch will be dedicated to the ROS2 port of MoveIt!, but changes to the *master* branch (ROS1) will be cherry picked as much as possible. Eventually the dashing-devel ROS2 branch will become the *master* branch of MoveIt!, but when that occurs is an open question for the future based on a lot of factors.