Bootstrapping Sparrow on POWER9 with GNU Guix

- **Speaker**: Robin Templeton
- **Room**: 340
- **Time**: Saturday, Oct 24th 10:30 – 11:20

- **Format**: Talk (50 minutes)
- **Difficulty**: Advanced
- **Track**: Systems & Infrastructure
- **Additional Tags**: GNU Guix, Reproducible Builds, POWER9, Bitcoin, Java, Rust, Kotlin, Gradle
- **Experience**: Free software advocate specializing in programming language design, compilers, and system architecture.

Description:

This session explores the creation of a full source bootstrap of the Sparrow Bitcoin wallet for the open-firmware POWER9 platform. Moving beyond ordinary reproducible builds, this project builds Sparrow and its entire dependency graph—including build tools—reproducibly from source to minimize trust requirements. The talk will cover the technical hurdles encountered during the process, such as bringing the modern Java ecosystem to Guix, resolving Rust bootstrap compiler bugs, and handling circular dependencies between Gradle and Kotlin, as well as future directions for packaging Sparrow for Debian and other distributions.

Target Audience:

- Reproducible build enthusiasts
- GNU Guix users and developers
- Security-conscious Bitcoin wallet users
- Systems architects and compiler hobbyists

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