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Creating Add-ons for Android Firefox

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http://mzl.la/sin-android

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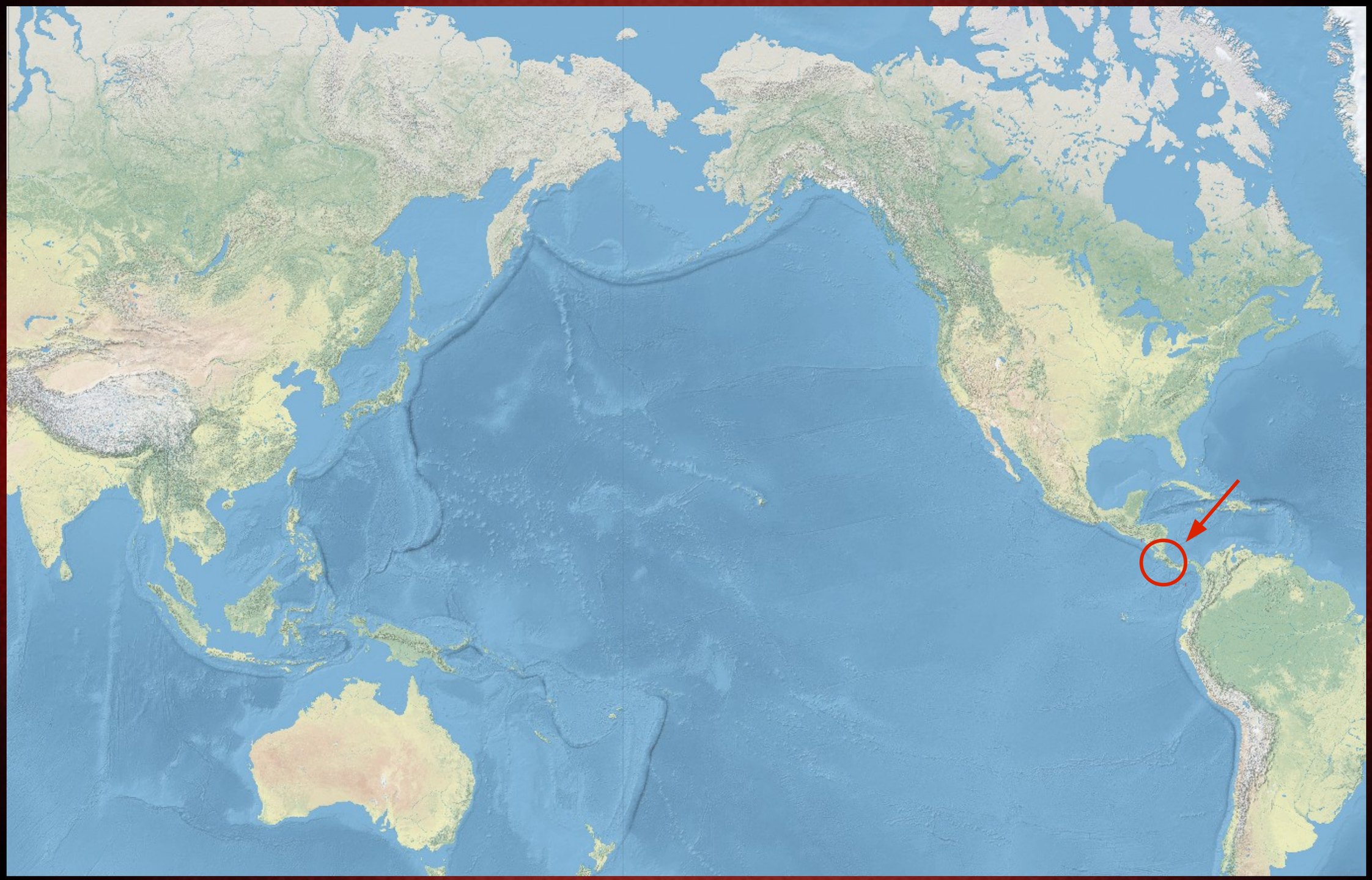

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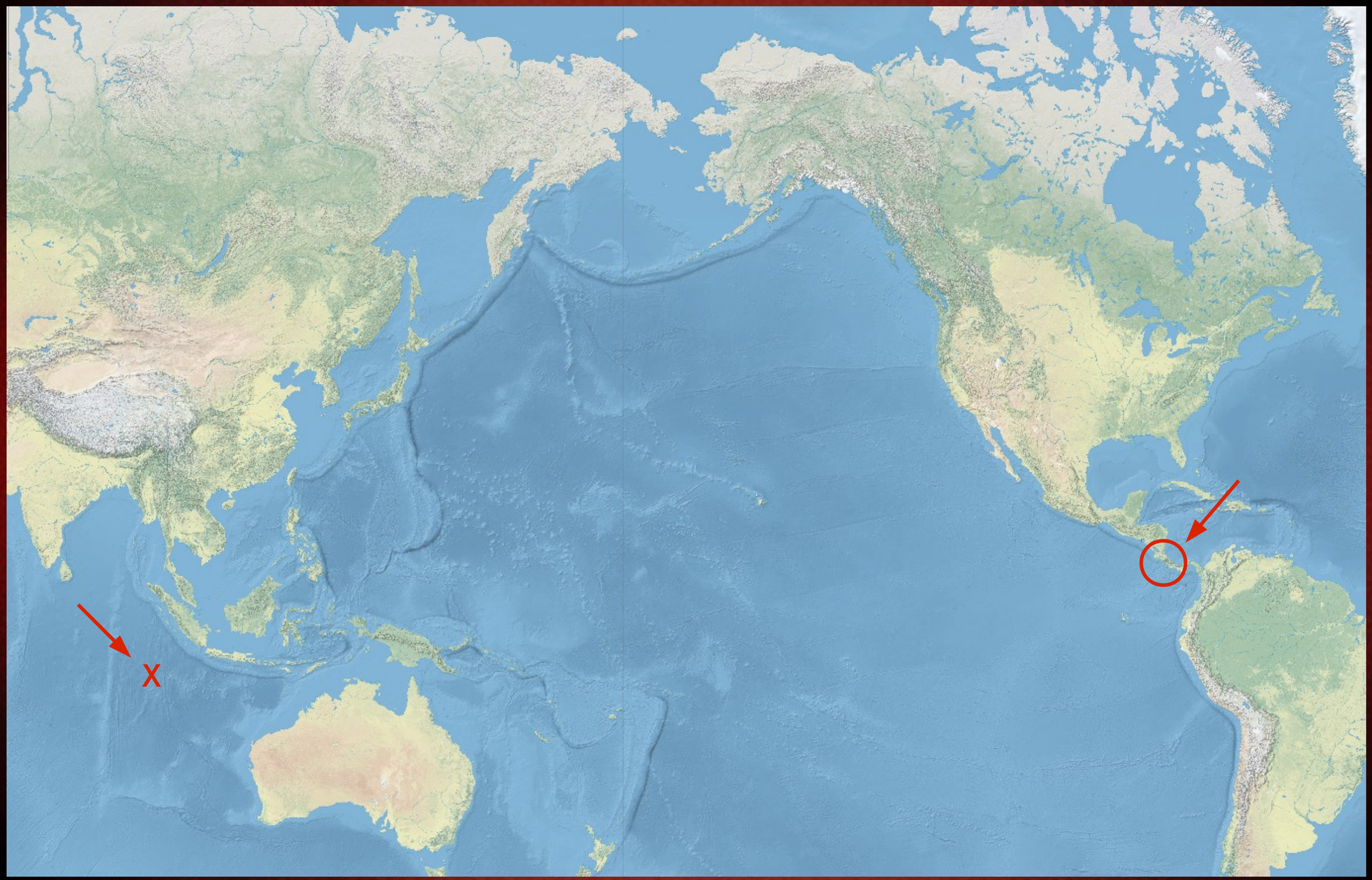

Source

The Plan

- Firefox Mobile background.
- How to create add-ons for Android.
- Examples.
- Code!

Firefox Mobile

- Desktop Firefox is built using:
  - XUL (kinda like HTML)
  - JS, CSS
  - XPCOM
- Mobile Firefox was initially this way.
- Changed in Android
  - Much less XUL.

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Add-ons on Android

- There are 2 ways:
- Add-ons SDK. Docs.
- Bootstrapped extensions. Docs.

Available features

Add-ons SDK	Bootstrapped extensions
• page-mod • page-workers • passwords • request • simple-prefs • simple-storage • More to come later.	• BrowserApp: tabs, windows, prefs. • NativeWindow: menu, doorhanger, context menus, toast notifications. • Userscripts • XMLHttpRequest • XPCOM

Using the SDK

- The easiest way to create SDK add-ons is using the Add-ons Builder.

- Also, you can install the SDK and build your add-on locally.

- As long as you're careful about the APIs you use, you can debug and test in desktop Firefox.

Using bootstrapped extensions

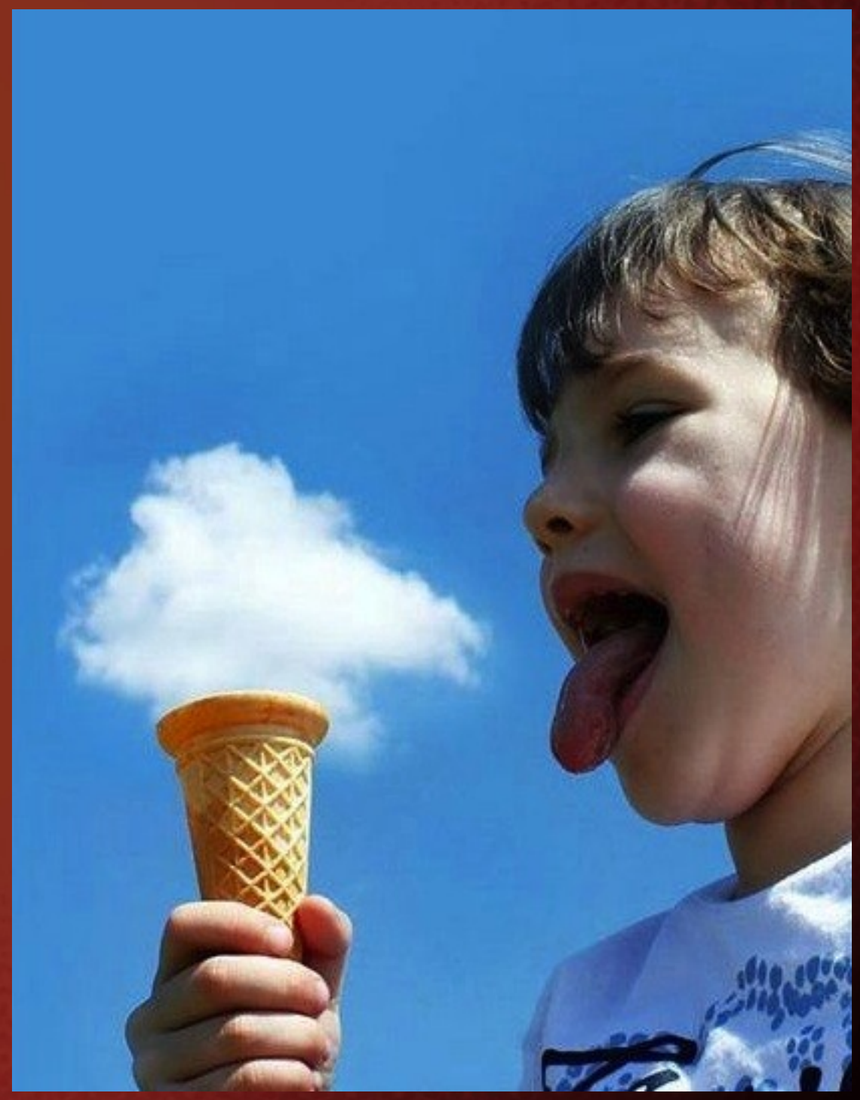
- Two files: install.rdf and bootstrap.js
- bootstrap.js template makes things easier.
- If you don't use the Android-specific APIs (BrowserApp and NativeWindow), you can use desktop to debug and test.

Installing on your device

- You can either install through the web, or transfer the files to the device via USB.
- Web install is easy, but inefficient.
- USB install is more efficient, but needs some time to set up.

Web Install

- Upload XPI file to a free file sharing service (like Dropbox).
- You can also use the Mobile Installer add-on to install XPIs generated from the Builder.

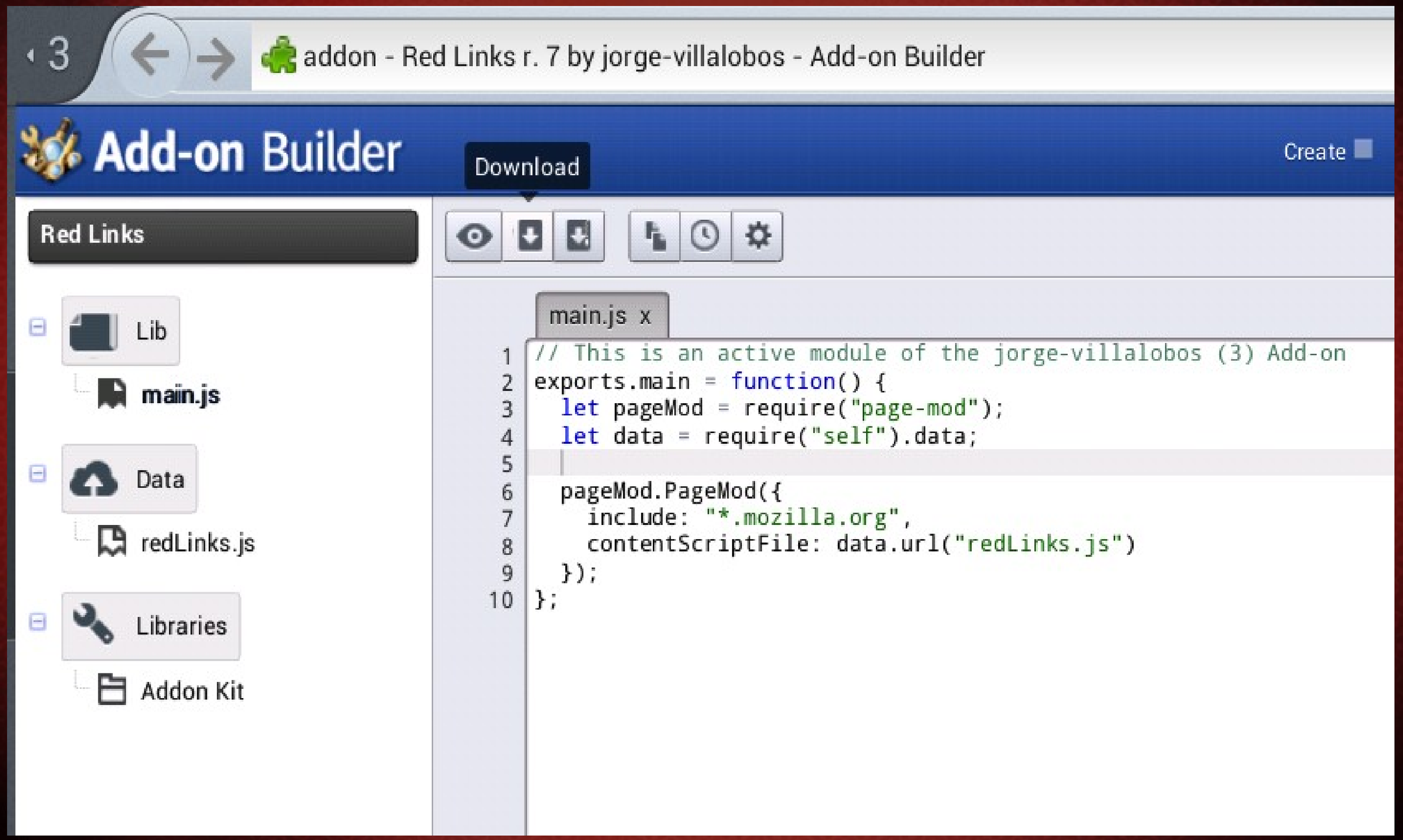


Using Mobile Installer

1. Create your mobile add-on using the Builder.

2. Install Mobile Installer on device:
http://mzl.la/mbl-inst

3. Download from Builder



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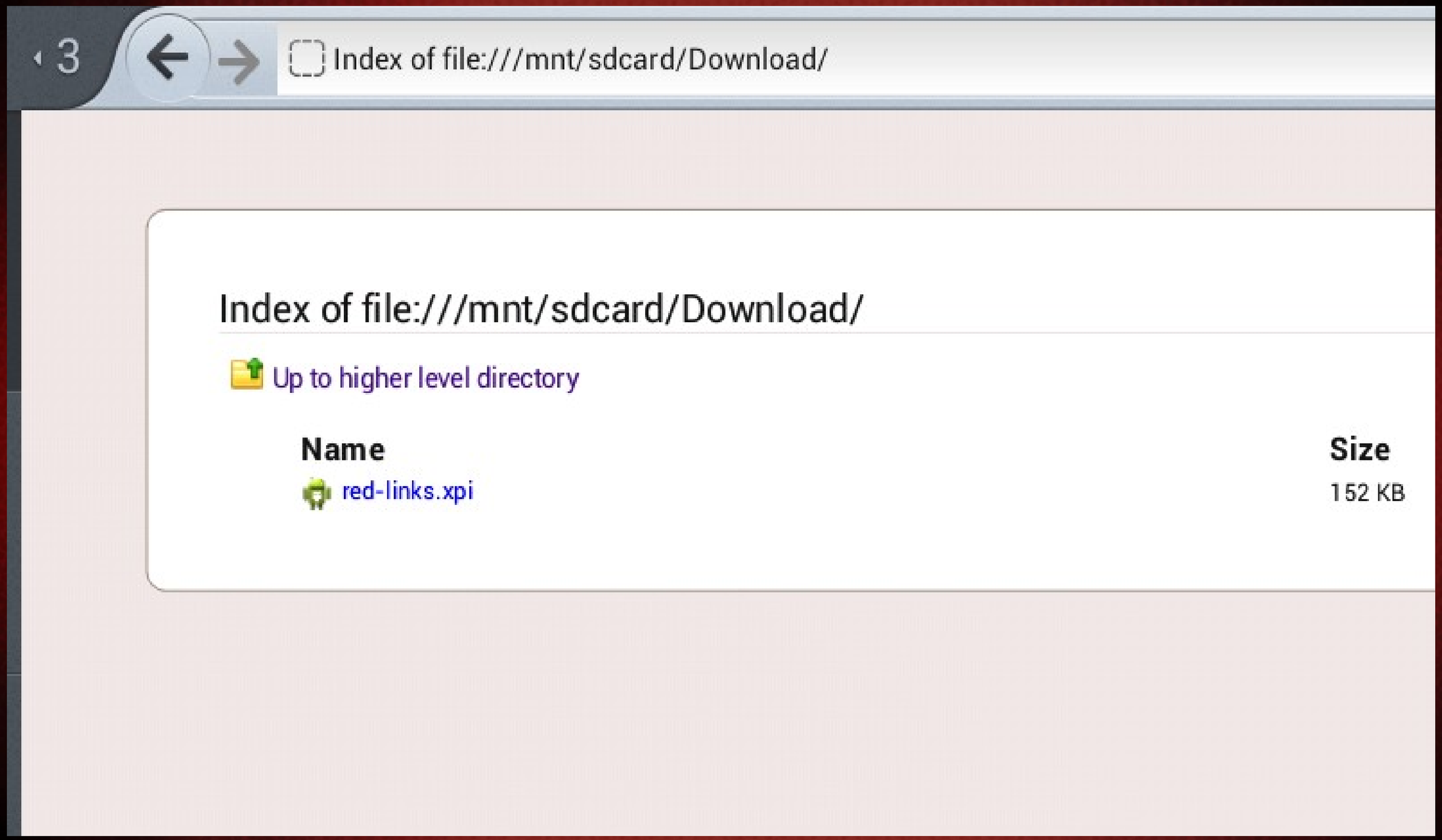
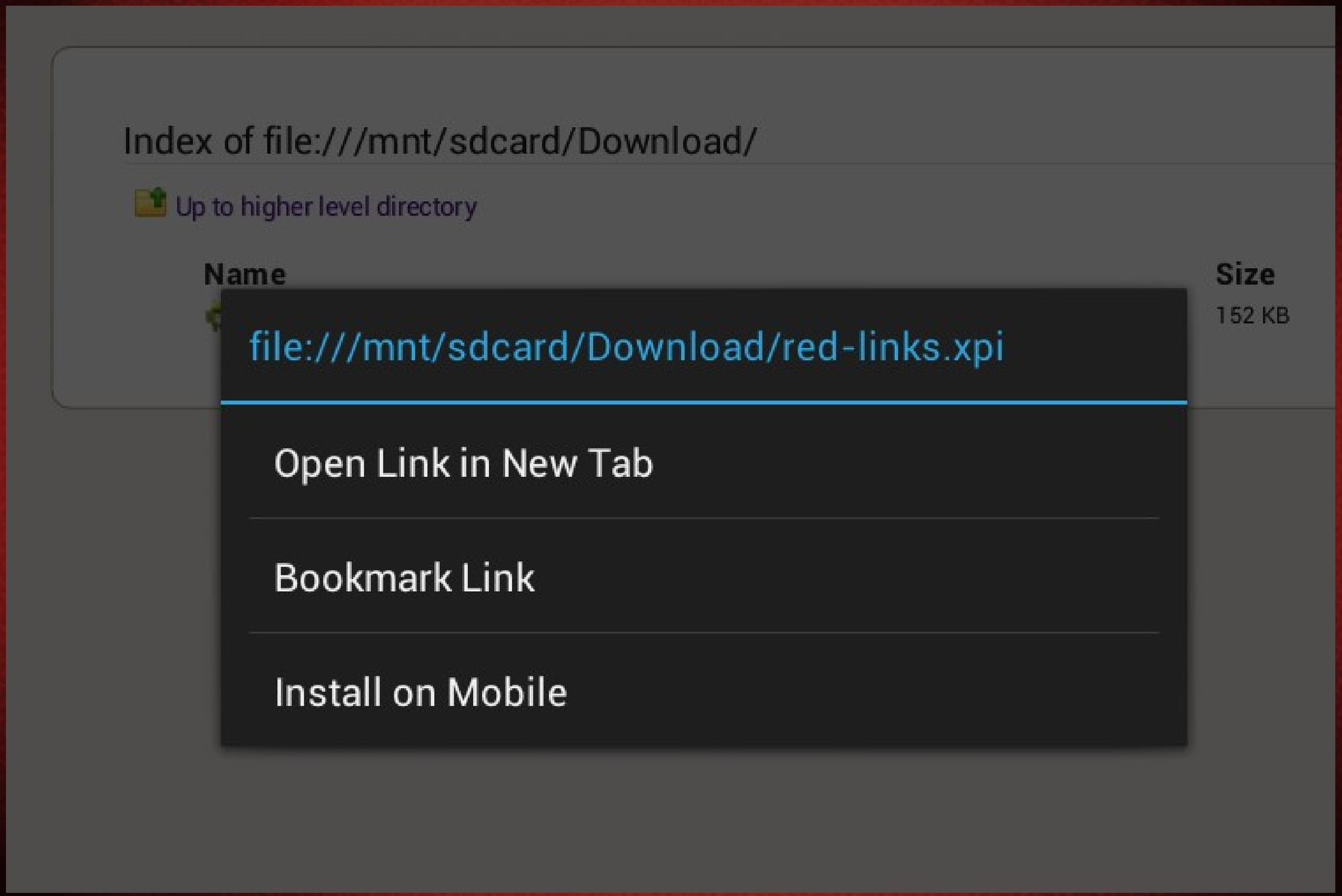
4. Find the file



5. Click and hold



USB Install

1. Download and install Android SDK.
2. Download and install additional platform tools.
3. Copy files using ***adb push***
   - Add-ons SDK.
   - Boostrapped extensions.

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Code!

Code!

- Add-ons SDK:
  - Example: http://mzl.la/red-links
  - Docs: http://mzl.la/mbl-sdk
- Bootstrapped extensions:
  - Example: http://mzl.la/mbl-inst
  - Docs: http://mzl.la/mbl-ext

Thank you!

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