Subject: Re: [PATCH] usbatm: Update to use the kthread api. Posted by Christoph Hellwig on Tue, 02 Jan 2007 11:11:19 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

On Fri, Dec 15, 2006 at 10:14:06AM -0500, Alan Stern wrote:

> On Fri, 15 Dec 2006, Christoph Hellwig wrote:

>

- >>> Are signals the best available mechanism to request that a thread
- >> stop that can exit on it's own.

> >

- >> Defintly not. signals should be avoided in kernel threads at all
- > > cost.

>

- > I have a driver that spawns a kernel thread (using kthread_create) which
- > does I/O by calling vfs_write and vfs_read. It relies on signals to
- > interrupt the I/O activity when necessary. Maybe this isn't a good way of
- > doing things, but I couldn't think of anything better.

Given that we have no other way to interrupt I/O then signals at those lower level I don't see a way around the singals if you stick to that higher level design.

> P.S.: What is the reason for saying "signals should be avoided in kernel > threads at all cost"?

The probem with signals is that they can come from various sources, most notably from random kill commands issues from userland. This defeats the notion of a fixed thread lifetime under control of the owning module. Of course this issue doesn't exist for you above useage where you'd hopefully avoid allowing signals that could terminate the thread.

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