Subject: Re: [RFC][PATCH] rename 'struct pid'
Posted by Dave Hansen on Wed, 11 Apr 2007 16:53:28 GMT

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On Wed, 2007-04-11 at 10:13 -0600, Eric W. Biederman wrote:
> Because the suggestions I have seen are based on a partial understanding
> of struct pid, and the suggested renames will reinforce misunderstandings
> of what struct pid is.

Let's take a step back, then and see if we can nicely define what it
does. Maybe we can come up with a bit better comment for 'struct
pid'.

'struct pid' is a way for the kernel to get (and keep) a reference to a
task (or set of tasks) with a particular numeric value. If there are
any tasks with this numeric value from now on, the structure will stay
pointed to those tasks.

In general, the underlying task will not change, but it can in cases
like when a non-thread-leader does an exec() and takes over as the
leader (the pid will change).

This reference will not keep the tasks from exiting. But, even if all
of these tasks exit, the kernel will honor the fact that your reference
exists and will not re-create any tasks with the same numeric value, as
long as you allow your reference to persist.

-- Dave

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