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Subject: Re: [PATCH] powerpc pseries eeh: Convert to kthread API

Posted by [linas](#) on Mon, 23 Apr 2007 20:50:20 GMT

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On Sun, Apr 22, 2007 at 01:31:55PM +0100, Christoph Hellwig wrote:

> On Thu, Apr 19, 2007 at 01:58:45AM -0600, Eric W. Biederman wrote:

> > From: Eric W. Biederman <[ebiederm@xmission.com](mailto:ebiederm@xmission.com)>

> >

> > This patch modifies the startup of eeHD to use kthread\_run

> > not a combination of kernel\_thread and daemonize. Making

> > the code slightly simpler and more maintainable.

>

> This one has the same scheme as the various s390 drivers where a thread

> is spawned using a workqueue on demand. I think we should not blindly

> convert it but think a little more about it.

>

> The first question is obviously, is this really something we want?

> spawning kernel thread on demand without reaping them properly seems

> quite dangerous.

I'm not quite sure what the intent of this patch really is, being at most a somewhat passing and casual user of kernel threads.

Some background may be useful: (this in reply to some comments from Andrew Morton)

EEH events are supposed to be very rare, as they correspond to hardware failures, typically PCI bus parity errors, but also things like wild DMA's. The code that generates these will limit them to no more than 6 per hour per pci device. Any more than that, and the PCI device is permanently disabled (the sysadmin would need to do something to recover).

The only reason for using threads here is to get the error recovery out of an interrupt context (where errors may be detected), and then, an hour later, decrement a counter (which is how we limit these to 6 per hour). Thread reaping is "trivial", the thread just exits after an hour.

Since these are events rare, I've no particular concern about performance or resource consumption. The current code seems to work just fine. :-)

--linas

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