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Subject: Re: [PATCH (resubmit)][BRIDGE] Properly dereference the  
br\_should\_route\_hook

Posted by [Herbert Xu](#) on Thu, 29 Nov 2007 23:49:00 GMT

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On Thu, Nov 29, 2007 at 06:36:50AM -0800, Paul E. McKenney wrote:

>

> That certainly is an interesting tradeoff... Save a memory barrier  
> when assigning NULL, but pay an extra test and branch in all cases.  
> Though it does make for a simpler rule -- just use rcu\_assign\_pointer()  
> in all cases. Of course, if almost all rcu\_assign\_pointer() executions  
> assign non-NULL pointers, the optimal strategy would be to leave the  
> implementation of rcu\_assign\_pointer() alone, and simply enforce use  
> of rcu\_assign\_pointer(), even if the pointer being assigned is NULL.

I was thinking of something much simpler. If the second argument is  
constant and NULL, then skip the barrier. No run-time slow-down at  
all.

> Although rcu\_dereference() does a memory barrier only on Alpha, that of  
> rcu\_assign\_pointer() is needed on any machine that does not preserve store  
> order (Itanium, POWER, ARM, some MIPS boxes according to rumor, ...).

Good point!

Thanks,

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