

---

Subject: Re: namespace support requires network modules to say "GPL"

Posted by [Stephen Hemminger](#) on Sat, 01 Dec 2007 19:17:36 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On Sat, 01 Dec 2007 08:10:17 -0500

Mark Lord <lkml@rtr.ca> wrote:

> > Now that we have network namespace support merged it is time to  
> > revisit the sysfs support so we can remove the dependency on !SYSFS.  
> ...  
>  
> Now that the namespace updates are part of 2.6.24,  
> there is a major inconsistency in network EXPORT\_SYMBOLs.  
>  
> It used to be that an external network module could get away without  
> having to add a MODULE\_LICENSE("GPL\*") line to the source.  
>  
> In support of that, common networking functions (still) use EXPORT\_SYMBOL()  
> rather than the more restrictive EXPORT\_SYMBOL\_GPL().  
>  
> Eg. register\_netdev(), sk\_alloc(), \_\_dev\_get\_by\_name().  
>  
> But now, none of those three are actually usable by default,  
> because they all require "init\_net", which is EXPORT\_SYMBOL\_GPL().  
>

Then init\_net needs to be not GPL limited. Sorry, we need to allow non GPL network drivers. There is a fine line between keeping the binary seething masses from accessing random kernel functions, and allowing reasonable (but still non GPL) things like ndiswrapper to use network device interface.

--

Stephen Hemminger <[shemminger@linux-foundation.org](mailto:shemminger@linux-foundation.org)>

---

Containers mailing list

[Containers@lists.linux-foundation.org](mailto:Containers@lists.linux-foundation.org)

<https://lists.linux-foundation.org/mailman/listinfo/containers>

---