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

Posted by [ebiederm](#) on Sat, 01 Dec 2007 20:13:46 GMT

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Stephen Hemminger <shemminger@linux-foundation.org> writes:

> Actually, the whole mess would go away if the api for `dev_get_by_XXXX` hadn't
> been changed in the namespace transition. IMHO the interface to
> `dev_get_by_name()`
> should not have added a namespace parameter, of the callers in the tree, only
> two use a different namespace. So it would have been better to to introduce
> `dev_get_by_name_ns()` with the extra parameter.

As a general rule if you are calling `dev_get_by_name` and taking an `&init_net` parameter that means you code has not yet been converted to actually support network namespaces.

Not everything can be safely changed at once so we take it by steps. When the code fully supports network namespaces practically nothing will take an `&init_net` parameter. The network namespace parameter will come in some form from userspace. Either from current or from the network socket.

Except for boot time initialization I don't know of any cases using `dev_get_by_XXXX` that won't need to be modified before the network namespace work is complete.

I believe I mentioned that this getting the fully network namespace support was going to take a while and a bunch of patches at the outset.

> Can we get this resolved before 2.6.24 is released? Going back and forth
> on API's is just needless frottage.

Sure. We keep the updated `dev_get_by_XXXX` that takes a network namespace parameter.

Or is their some legitimate usage of it by out of tree code that I'm not aware of?

Eric

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