Subject: Re: namespace support requires network modules to say "GPL"
Posted by Ben Greear on Mon, 03 Dec 2007 18:19:02 GMT

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Eric W. Biederman wrote:
> Patrick McHardy <kaber@trash.net> writes:
>
>
>> Ben Greear wrote:
>>
>>> I have a binary module that uses dev_get_by_name...it's sort of a bridge-like
>>> thing and
>>> needs user-space to tell it which device to listen for packets on...
>>>
>>> This code doesn't need or care about name-spaces, so I don't see how it could
>>> really
>>> be infringing on the author's code (any worse than loading a binary driver
>>> into the kernel
>>> ever does).
>>>
>
> Regardless of infringement it is incompatible with a complete network
> namespace implementation. Further it sounds like the module you are
> describing defines a kernel ABI without being merged and hopes that
> ABI will still be supportable in the future. Honestly I think doing so
> is horrible code maintenance policy.
>
I don't mind if the ABI changes, so long as I can still use something
similar.

The namespace logic is interesting to me in general, but at this point I
can't think of a way that
it actually helps this particular module. All I really need is a way to
grab every frame
from eth0 and then transmit it to eth1. I'm currently doing this by
finding the netdevice
and registering a raw-packet protocol (ie, like tcpdump would do). At
least up to 2.6.23,
this does not require any hacks to the kernel and uses only non GPL
exported symbols.

Based on my understanding of the namespace logic, if I never add any
namespaces,
the general network layout should look similar to how it does today, so
I should have
no logical problem with my module.

> Once things are largely complete it makes sense to argue with out of

> tree module authors that because they don't have network namespace
> support in their modules, their modules are broken.
>
Does this imply that every module that accesses the network code *must*
become
GPL simply because it must interact with namespace logic that is
exported as GPL only symbols?

Thanks,
Ben

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