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

Posted by [Romano Giannetti](#) on Mon, 03 Dec 2007 08:24:15 GMT

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On Sat, 2007-12-01 at 22:34 -0500, Mark Lord wrote:

> Stephen Hemminger wrote:.

> >>

> > I spoke too soon earlier, ndiswrapper builds and loads against current

> > 2.6.24-rc3. Vmware and proprietary VPN software probably do not. Once again I don't

> > give a damn, but the enterprise distro vendors certainly care.

> ...

>

> Naw, enterprise (or any other) distro vendors shouldn't have any issues here,

> since they can just patch their kernels around any issues.

Please pardon me for jumping in; I am not a kernel developer, but I try to help with debugging whenever I can (and it's not just hand-waving, I helped to track down a couple of nasty bugs on MMC or ACPI EC, recently). And I am an engineer and IANAL, so I wouldn't speak about laws here. But I think it's not just a distribution's problem.

Unfortunately, I need VMware and ndiswrapper to get work done with my laptop. It's not the perfect world, but the only alternative is to boot in XP. So I normally stick with vendors kernels and, when I have time to "play" with new kernel, I go for it. If ndiswrapper and VMware work, perfect, I can test extensively the new kernel; if I find problems, I \*know\* I have to restart without proprietary modules, try to reproduce, report back. I did it a lot of times.

What I think is that every time VMware or (worst) ndiswrapper breaks, the kernel loose an awful lot of testers. In the span of time before Giri and the VMware team post a patch (-rc1 and -rc4, typically), my testing activity is just occasional. And I guess a lot of people is in the same situation.

These are just my 2cents. I will continue to test new kernels every time I can, and to use native solutions as often as I can (go, ath5k, go!; and LabWindows/CVI for Linux, anyone?). But maybe a bit of tolerance can help everyone...

Back in my hole,

Romano

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