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Subject: Re: [PATCH] An attempt to have an unlimitedly extendable sys\_clone  
Posted by [Dave Hansen](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 17:54:20 GMT

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On Tue, 2008-01-15 at 15:50 +0300, Pavel Emelyanov wrote:

```
> +static struct long_clone_arg *get_long_clone_arg(int __user
> *child_tidptr)
> +{
> +    int size;
> +    struct long_clone_arg *carg;
> +
> +    if (get_user(size, child_tidptr))
> +        return ERR_PTR(-EFAULT);
> +
> +    if (size > sizeof(struct long_clone_arg))
> +        return ERR_PTR(-EINVAL);
```

This little bit means that any newer app (with a large long\_clone\_arg->size) trying to run on an older kernel (with a smaller struct) would simply fail to run clone(). Perhaps it shouldn't be \_so\_ generic as to allow anything in the struct and should stick to bits. That way, we can actually go look to see whether there are any \_unknown\_ bits set just like we do now with clone flags.

The more I think about this, the more nervous I get about it. It is really neat, but has a bit of the stink of ioctl()s on it. I'd personally rather see a new system call.

But, this seems like a good Linus question. Want to keep us on cc, but run it by him (and the rest of LKML)?

-- Dave

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