

Hello Pavel,

I've found a problem with one of your patch related to netns:

\* [NETNS] Move some code into \_\_init section when CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n (v2)  
<http://www.spinics.net/lists/netdev/msg43310.html>

This patch introduces the \_\_net\_init/\_\_net\_exit/\_\_net\_initdata defines to save some memory when CONFIG\_NET\_NS is not set.

Cedric Le Goater reported he had a \*non-fatal\* oops when booting a 2.6.23-mm1-lxc1 kernel with CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n. (2.6.23-mm1-lxc1 contains the NETNS49 patchset). The oops occurred when modules related to iptables were loaded after the boot completes.

The problem is the following:

- Your patch adds the \_\_net\_initdata attribute to pernet\_operations structures.
- pernet\_operations are registered via register\_pernet\_subsys() and linked in the pernet\_list during boot.
- At the end of boot, pernet\_operations are freed (because of the \_\_net\_initdata attribute), and the pernet\_list (or first\_device list) points to freed memory.
- After boot, network modules which are netns-aware try to register themselves with register\_pernet\_subsys() and ...KABOOM... page fault when accessing pernet\_list (or first\_device list).  
(I reproduce Cedric's oops with the command: iptables --list)

This is not a problem right now in 2.6.23-mm1 or net-2.6 because there are very few netns-aware network subsystems merged and they are all initialized during boot. But it will be problematic when we will merge netns code for subsystems which can be built as modules (eg. iptables, ...). I'm not sure we can use \_\_net\_init\_data for pernet\_operations then. Maybe we can add some checks in register\_pernet\_operations when CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n.

I haven't found a fix yet.

Regards,

Benjamin

--

Benjamin Thery - BULL/DT/Open Software R&D

<http://www.bull.com>

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Subject: Re: [NETNS] Oops in register\_pernet\_operations() with  
CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n

Posted by [den](#) on Thu, 25 Oct 2007 14:00:33 GMT

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---

The patch attached should help. The idea is simple. The "init" should be called only once without NETNS. Period. No need for any lists.

I'll resend it to Dave after the ACK.

Regards,  
Den

Benjamin Thery wrote:

> Hello Pavel,  
>  
> I've found a problem with one of your patch related to netns:  
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> Maybe we can add some checks in register\_pernet\_operations  
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> I haven't found a fix yet.  
>  
> Regards,  
> Benjamin  
>

```
diff --git a/net/core/net_namespace.c b/net/core/net_namespace.c
index 6f71db8..9ba4809 100644
--- a/net/core/net_namespace.c
+++ b/net/core/net_namespace.c
@@ -186,7 +186,11 @@ static int register_pernet_operations(struct list_head *list,
    int error;

    error = 0;
+#ifdef CONFIG_NET_NS
    list_add_tail(&ops->list, list);
+#endif
+ INIT_LIST_HEAD(&ops->list);
+#endif
    for_each_net(net) {
        if (ops->init) {
            error = ops->init(net);
```

---

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Subject: Re: Re: [NETNS] Oops in register\_pernet\_operations() with  
CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n (resend, was wrong patch)  
Posted by [den](#) on Thu, 25 Oct 2007 14:14:50 GMT  
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---

Denis V. Lunev wrote:

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> I'll resend it to Dave after the ACK.

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    for_each_net(net) {
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---

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Subject: Re: [NETNS] Oops in register\_pernet\_operations() with  
CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n  
Posted by [Benjamin Thery](#) on Thu, 25 Oct 2007 14:50:08 GMT  
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---

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This is the kind of idea I had but I didn't think it could be  
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Thanks Denis.

> I'll resend it to Dave after the ACK.

Tested on x86\_64 with CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n and y.  
It fixes the issue we observed.

Acked-by: Benjamin Thery <benjamin.thery@bull.net>

> Regards,

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>> Regards,  
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>

--

Benjamin Thery - BULL/DT/Open Software R&D

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Subject: Re: [NETNS] Oops in register\_pernet\_operations() with  
CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n

Posted by [ebiederm](#) on Thu, 25 Oct 2007 15:03:37 GMT

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"Denis V. Lunev" <[den@sw.ru](mailto:den@sw.ru)> writes:

> The patch attached should help. The idea is simple. The "init" should be  
> called only once without NETNS. Period. No need for any lists.  
>  
> I'll resend it to Dave after the ACK.

First in the case of the code that is currently merged none of  
the \_\_net\_init \_\_net\_exit or \_\_net\_initdata can be modular, so for  
2.6.24 there is no fix needed. Yeah.

Second the whole concept of concept pernet\_operations being \_\_init  
doesn't work when you have modular code that calls unregister\_pernet\_subsys().  
Because unregister calls the exit method from the pernet\_operations  
structure. So the patch doesn't even begin to address the real  
issue.

Third from my perspective CONFIG\_NET\_NS is a temporary measure  
designed to last only until we have enough implementation experience

so that we can feel comfortable removing the experimental status of the network namespace work. It was not my intention for it to be a space saving measure. So I think it is silly to go marking up the patches in development with `__net_initdata` etc.

At least so far I think `__net_initdata` is a totally bogus concept and I'm not certain about the other two.

Eric

---

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Subject: Re: [NETNS] Oops in register\_pernet\_operations() with CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n  
Posted by [ebiederm](#) on Thu, 25 Oct 2007 15:04:22 GMT  
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Benjamin Thery <[benjamin.thery@bull.net](mailto:benjamin.thery@bull.net)> writes:

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> This is the kind of idea I had but I didn't think it could be  
> that simple. :)  
> Thanks Denis.

It isn't.

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>  
> Tested on x86\_64 with CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n and y.  
> It fixes the issue we observed.  
>  
> Acked-by: Benjamin Thery <[benjamin.thery@bull.net](mailto:benjamin.thery@bull.net)>

Try `rmmod`.

Eric

---

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---



Subject: Re: [NETNS] Oops in register\_pernet\_operations() with CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n

Posted by [Benjamin Thery](#) on Thu, 25 Oct 2007 15:10:38 GMT

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---

Eric W. Biederman wrote:

> Benjamin Thery <benjamin.thery@bull.net> writes:

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>> Tested on x86\_64 with CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n and y.

>> It fixes the issue we observed.

>>

>> Acked-by: Benjamin Thery <benjamin.thery@bull.net>

>

> Try rmmod.

rmmod was part of my tests and it does work.

I did:

```
$ iptables --list
```

```
modules x_tables, ip_tables & iptable_filter are loaded
each calling register_pernet_subsys.
```

```
$ rmmod iptable_filter ip_tables x_tables
```

No problem here

```
$ iptables --list
```

To be sure I can load the modules again.

>

> Eric

> -

> To unsubscribe from this list: send the line "unsubscribe netdev" in

> the body of a message to majordomo@vger.kernel.org

> More majordomo info at <http://vger.kernel.org/majordomo-info.html>

>

--

Benjamin Thery - BULL/DT/Open Software R&D

<http://www.bull.com>

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Subject: Re: [NETNS] Oops in register\_pernet\_operations() with  
CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n

Posted by [ebiederm](#) on Thu, 25 Oct 2007 16:39:41 GMT

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Benjamin Thery <[benjamin.thery@bull.net](mailto:benjamin.thery@bull.net)> writes:

> Eric W. Biederman wrote:

>> Benjamin Thery <[benjamin.thery@bull.net](mailto:benjamin.thery@bull.net)> writes:

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> modules x\_tables, ip\_tables & iptable\_filter are loaded

> each calling register\_pernet\_subsys.

>

> \$ rmmod iptable\_filter ip\_tables x\_tables

>  
> No problem here  
>  
> \$ iptables --list  
>  
> To be sure I can load the modules again.

You haven't changed those modules to be mark struct  
pernet\_operations as \_\_net\_initdata have you?

If that is the case the symptoms you are seeing make sense.

Not doing the list walks helps when if it is only compiled in  
kernel data structures that are removed. However if it  
is potentially modular data structures that are removed  
the dereference of exit in unregister\_pernet\_subsys will also have  
problems.

Eric

---

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Subject: Re: [NETNS] Oops in register\_pernet\_operations() with  
CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n  
Posted by [dlunev](#) on Thu, 25 Oct 2007 16:51:28 GMT  
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---

Eric W. Biederman wrote:

> Benjamin Thery <[benjamin.thery@bull.net](mailto:benjamin.thery@bull.net)> writes:

>

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>>> It isn't.

this will work due to INIT\_LIST\_HEAD with circles list to itself and a  
del operation will work.

By the way, I think that we can in the case of undefined CONFIG\_NET\_NS

reduce register to calling ->init method and unregister to calling  
->exit method.

This is a correct thing at least for now and will be welcomed by the all  
embedded/etc people.

Regards,  
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---

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---

Subject: Re: [NETNS] Oops in register\_pernet\_operations() with  
CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n

Posted by [ebiederm](#) on Thu, 25 Oct 2007 17:21:55 GMT

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---

"Denis V. Lunev" <dlunev@gmail.com> writes:

```
> Eric W. Biederman wrote:
>> Benjamin Thery <benjamin.thery@bull.net> writes:
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>>>>> Thanks Denis.
>>>> It isn't.
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> this will work due to INIT_LIST_HEAD with circles list to itself and a
> del operation will work.
```

Suppose I have this fragment of code in a module:

```
> static int __net_init xt_net_init(struct net *net)
> {
>     ...
> }
>
> static void __net_exit xt_net_exit(struct net *net)
> {
>     ...
```

```

> }
>
> static struct pernet_operations __net_initdata xt_net_ops = {
> .init = xt_net_init,
> .exit = xt_net_exit,
> };
>
> static int __init xt_init(void)
> {
> return register_pernet_subsys(&xt_net_ops);
> }
>
> static void __exit xt_fini(void)
> {
> unregister_pernet_subsys(&xt_net_ops);
> }
>
> module_init(xt_init);
> module_exit(xt_fini);

```

What happens during module removal when unregister\_pernet\_subsys calls xt\_net\_ops.exit after xt\_net\_ops has been removed from the kernel's memory?

```

> By the way, I think that we can in the case of undefined CONFIG_NET_NS
> reduce register to calling ->init method and unregister to calling
> ->exit method.
>
> This is a correct thing at least for now and will be welcomed by the all
> embedded/etc people.

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I'm not fundamentally opposed. Earlier versions of my patchset did that and more. However I think the pain is greater than the gain right now. Especially since this concept seems to require having quality inspected into it.

Eric

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---

Subject: Re: [NETNS] Oops in register\_pernet\_operations() with CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n  
Posted by [davem](#) on Fri, 26 Oct 2007 11:31:55 GMT

---

From: ebiederm@xmission.com (Eric W. Biederman)

Date: Thu, 25 Oct 2007 11:21:55 -0600

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I think the correct thing to do for now is to simply remove these  
\_\_net\_\* markers and their definitions. There are so many tricky cases  
that it is easier to just get rid of them.

Could someone send me a patch which does that?

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Subject: Re: [NETNS] Oops in register\_pernet\_operations() with  
CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n

Posted by [Benjamin Thery](#) on Fri, 26 Oct 2007 11:41:55 GMT

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David Miller wrote:

> From: ebiederm@xmission.com (Eric W. Biederman)

> Date: Thu, 25 Oct 2007 11:21:55 -0600

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The attached patch revert Pavel's original patch from 2.6.23-mm1.  
It should work fine with net-2.6 too.

Benjamin

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Benjamin Thery - BULL/DT/Open Software R&D

<http://www.bull.com>

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Subject: Re: [NETNS] Oops in register\_pernet\_operations() with  
CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n  
Posted by [davem](#) on Fri, 26 Oct 2007 11:55:03 GMT  
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From: Benjamin Thery <[benjamin.thery@bull.net](mailto:benjamin.thery@bull.net)>  
Date: Fri, 26 Oct 2007 13:41:55 +0200

> David Miller wrote:  
> > From: [ebiederm@xmission.com](mailto:ebiederm@xmission.com) (Eric W. Biederman)  
> > Date: Thu, 25 Oct 2007 11:21:55 -0600  
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> It should work fine with net-2.6 too.

Thanks for doing this.

But this appears to be still discussed, so I'll give Denis and others another day to work out the fix they want to include.

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Subject: Re: [NETNS] Oops in register\_pernet\_operations() with CONFIG\_NET\_NS=n  
Posted by [ebiederm](#) on Fri, 26 Oct 2007 23:40:19 GMT  
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David Miller <davem@davemloft.net> writes:

> Thanks for doing this.  
>  
> But this appears to be still discussed, so I'll give  
> Denis and others another day to work out the fix they  
> want to include.

At this point I think all that really needs to happen is to remove \_\_net\_initdata. The function attributes seem sane. Not that I have any problem with the complete revert either.

I will send a patch to that effect in just a moment.

Eric

---

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Subject: [PATCH] net: Marking struct pernet\_operations \_\_net\_initdata was inappropriate  
Posted by [ebiederm](#) on Fri, 26 Oct 2007 23:45:33 GMT

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It is not safe to place struct pernet\_operations in a special section.  
We need struct pernet\_operations to last until we call unregister\_pernet\_subsys.  
Which doesn't happen until module unload.

So marking struct pernet\_operations is a disaster for modules in two ways.

- We discard it before we call the exit method it points to.
- Because I keep struct pernet\_operations on a linked list discarding it for compiled in code removes elements in the middle of a linked list and does horrible things for linked insert.

So this looks safe assuming \_\_exit\_refok is not discarded for modules.

Signed-off-by: Eric W. Biederman <ebiederm@xmission.com>

```
---
drivers/net/loopback.c    |  2 +-
fs/proc/proc_net.c       |  2 +-
include/net/net_namespace.h |  2 --
net/core/dev.c           |  6 +++---
net/core/dev_mcast.c     |  2 +-
net/netlink/af_netlink.c  |  2 +-
6 files changed, 7 insertions(+), 9 deletions(-)
```

```
diff --git a/drivers/net/loopback.c b/drivers/net/loopback.c
index 662b8d1..45f30a2 100644
--- a/drivers/net/loopback.c
+++ b/drivers/net/loopback.c
@@ -284,7 +284,7 @@ static __net_exit void loopback_net_exit(struct net *net)
     unregister_netdev(dev);
 }
```

```
-static struct pernet_operations __net_initdata loopback_net_ops = {
+static struct pernet_operations loopback_net_ops = {
     .init = loopback_net_init,
     .exit = loopback_net_exit,
 };
```

```
diff --git a/fs/proc/proc_net.c b/fs/proc/proc_net.c
index 4edaad0..749def0 100644
--- a/fs/proc/proc_net.c
+++ b/fs/proc/proc_net.c
@@ -185,7 +185,7 @@ static __net_exit void proc_net_ns_exit(struct net *net)
     kfree(net->proc_net_root);
 }
```

```
-static struct pernet_operations __net_initdata proc_net_ns_ops = {
+static struct pernet_operations proc_net_ns_ops = {
     .init = proc_net_ns_init,
```

```

    .exit = proc_net_ns_exit,
};
diff --git a/include/net/net_namespace.h b/include/net/net_namespace.h
index 93aa87d..5279466 100644
--- a/include/net/net_namespace.h
+++ b/include/net/net_namespace.h
@@ -102,11 +102,9 @@ static inline void release_net(struct net *net)
#ifdef CONFIG_NET_NS
#define __net_init
#define __net_exit
-#define __net_initdata
#else
#define __net_init __init
#define __net_exit __exit_refok
-#define __net_initdata __initdata
#endif

struct pernet_operations {
diff --git a/net/core/dev.c b/net/core/dev.c
index ddfef3b..853c8b5 100644
--- a/net/core/dev.c
+++ b/net/core/dev.c
@@ -2668,7 +2668,7 @@ static void __net_exit dev_proc_net_exit(struct net *net)
    proc_net_remove(net, "dev");
}

-static struct pernet_operations __net_initdata dev_proc_ops = {
+static struct pernet_operations dev_proc_ops = {
    .init = dev_proc_net_init,
    .exit = dev_proc_net_exit,
};
@@ -4328,7 +4328,7 @@ static void __net_exit netdev_exit(struct net *net)
    kfree(net->dev_index_head);
}

-static struct pernet_operations __net_initdata netdev_net_ops = {
+static struct pernet_operations netdev_net_ops = {
    .init = netdev_init,
    .exit = netdev_exit,
};
@@ -4359,7 +4359,7 @@ static void __net_exit default_device_exit(struct net *net)
    rtnl_unlock();
}

-static struct pernet_operations __net_initdata default_device_ops = {
+static struct pernet_operations default_device_ops = {
    .exit = default_device_exit,
};

```

```

diff --git a/net/core/dev_mcast.c b/net/core/dev_mcast.c
index 15241cf..ae35405 100644
--- a/net/core/dev_mcast.c
+++ b/net/core/dev_mcast.c
@@ -285,7 +285,7 @@ static void __net_exit dev_mc_net_exit(struct net *net)
    proc_net_remove(net, "dev_mcast");
}

-static struct pernet_operations __net_initdata dev_mc_net_ops = {
+static struct pernet_operations dev_mc_net_ops = {
    .init = dev_mc_net_init,
    .exit = dev_mc_net_exit,
};
diff --git a/net/netlink/af_netlink.c b/net/netlink/af_netlink.c
index 3252729..4f994c0 100644
--- a/net/netlink/af_netlink.c
+++ b/net/netlink/af_netlink.c
@@ -1888,7 +1888,7 @@ static void __net_exit netlink_net_exit(struct net *net)
#ifdef
}

-static struct pernet_operations __net_initdata netlink_net_ops = {
+static struct pernet_operations netlink_net_ops = {
    .init = netlink_net_init,
    .exit = netlink_net_exit,
};
--
1.5.3.rc6.17.g1911

```

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Subject: Re: [PATCH] net: Marking struct pernet\_operations \_\_net\_initdata was inappropriate  
Posted by [davem](#) on Sat, 27 Oct 2007 05:55:16 GMT  
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From: ebiederm@xmission.com (Eric W. Biederman)  
Date: Fri, 26 Oct 2007 17:45:33 -0600

>  
> It is not safe to to place struct pernet\_operations in a special section.  
> We need struct pernet\_operations to last until we call unregister\_pernet\_subsys.  
> Which doesn't happen until module unload.

>  
> So marking struct pernet\_operations is a disaster for modules in two ways.  
> - We discard it before we call the exit method it points to.  
> - Because I keep struct pernet\_operations on a linked list discarding  
> it for compiled in code removes elements in the middle of a linked  
> list and does horrible things for linked insert.  
>  
> So this looks safe assuming \_\_exit\_refok is not discarded  
> for modules.  
>  
> Signed-off-by: Eric W. Biederman <ebiederm@xmission.com>

Applied, thanks Eric.

Although judging by his comments I thought that Denis had different plans in mind to fix this.

---

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Subject: Re: [PATCH] net: Marking struct pernet\_operations \_\_net\_initdata was inappropriate  
Posted by [ebiederm](#) on Sat, 27 Oct 2007 06:07:12 GMT  
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---

David Miller <davem@davemloft.net> writes:

>  
> Applied, thanks Eric.  
>  
> Although judging by his comments I thought that Denis had different  
> plans in mind to fix this.

He might. Somehow I wasn't on that thread so I missed it until after I sent this patch. Reading through that thread again it looks like he had a thought for another attribute. It all sounded very clever.

This patch is minimal stupid and should just work. Doubtless the clever patch can be applied on top, once the details are figured out.

Eric

---

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Subject: Re: [PATCH] net: Marking struct pernet\_operations \_\_net\_initdata was inappropriate

Posted by [davem](#) on Sat, 27 Oct 2007 07:29:43 GMT

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From: ebiederm@xmission.com (Eric W. Biederman)

Date: Sat, 27 Oct 2007 00:07:12 -0600

> This patch is minimal stupid and should just work. Doubtless the  
> clever patch can be applied on top, once the details are figured  
> out.

That is true and that's why I applied your patch.

Thanks!

---

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