Subject: namespace support requires network modules to say "GPL"
Posted by Mark Lord on Sat, 01 Dec 2007 13:10:17 GMT
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> Now that we have network namespace support merged it is time to
> revisit the sysfs support so we can remove the dependency on !SYSFS.
...

Now that the namespace updates are part of 2.6.24,
there is a major inconsistency in network EXPORT_SYMBOLs.

It used to be that an external network module could get away without
having to add a MODULE_LICENSE("GPL*") line to the source.

In support of that, common networking functions (still) use EXPORT_SYMBOL()
rather than the more restrictive EXPORT_SYMBOL_GPL().

Eg. register_netdev(), sk_alloc(), __dev_get_by_name().

But now, none of those three are actually usable by default,
because they all require "init_net", which is EXPORT_SYMBOL_GPL().

So.. It appears that one of three things should really happen next:

1) Change the other exports to also be EXPORT_SYMBOL_GPL.

2) Have register_netdev, sk_alloc, and __dev_get_by_name default
to using init_net when NULL is specified in the namespace field.

or

3) Change init_net to be EXPORT_SYMBOL_GPL.

Right now, things are just a bit inconsistent, and it's not clear
whether the namespace changes intended this consequence or not.

Cheers

(as for me, I think all kernel modules are GPL, whether they have
 the MODULE_LICENSE line or not, so flames to /dev/null on that).

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