Upstreaming 201

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Upstreaming 201

- Highlights from Upstreaming 101
- Get you the right tools to start contributing upstream
- Things to keep in mind when preparing a patch
- Follow-up after a patchset has been submitted
- Overview of commonly used tags
- Any question you may have about upstreaming code
Highlights from Upstreaming 101

● Have the right mindset
  ○ Be Altruist → we win as a community, not as individuals
  ○ Be Polite → people genuinely want to help
  ○ Be Patient → the community has no deadline
  ○ Be Factual → why your submission is important, no “hunch”
  ○ Be Humble → bragging is unpleasant and doesn’t lead anywhere
  ○ Be open to change → you will likely have to rewrite/amend your code several times

● Upstreaming 101/201 is a summary of these documents:
  ○ Documentation/process/*.rst
  ○ Documentation/process/submitting-patches.rst

● Read those documents before trying to upstream anything
A Word About your Name in the Community

- Email/patches you send out stay forever (see marc.info mailing list archive)
- Maintainers are very busy → Don’t waste their time
- Be mindful of what you do → Don’t pick fight with people
- Keep people on the CC list and avoid point-to-point discussions
- Once you’re in the blackbook, it is hard to get out of it

http://lists.openwall.net/netdev/2016/03/16/164
Preparing Your Patches: The Right Subject Line

- The subject line of a patch is very important - many people filter on it
- Also help people quickly identify the purpose of the patch
- Example:

  $ git log --oneline -5 kernel/sched/deadline.c
  176cedc4ed14 sched/dl: Fix comment in pick_next_task_dl()
  9846d50df3de sched/deadline: Fix typo in a comment
  61c7aca695b6 sched/deadline: Fix the intention to re-evaluate tick dependency for
d8206bb3ffe0 sched/deadline: Split cpudl_set() into cpudl_set() and cpudl_clear
12bde33dbb3e cpufreq / sched: Pass runqueue pointer to cpufreq_update_util()

- The subject of the new patch should likely be “sched/deadline: ...”
Preparing Your Patches: Signed-off-by

- Add a “Signed-off-by:” statement to **every** patch you send
- Cover letters don’t need a SOB (Signed-off-by)
- Certifies that:
  - You are the author of the patch
  - You have the right to publish this code as open-source
- Legally Binding → you are responsible for your actions

- **Example:**
  
  Signed-off-by: Random J Developer <random@developer.example.org>

- Other particularities about SOBs → read section 11 of
  
  Documentation/process/submitting-patches.rst for all the details
Preparing Your Patches: The Right Format

- Use "git format-patch" to generate patches → nothing else
- Always compile your code
  - Don’t get caught with uncompiled code by a maintainer (it happens all the time)
  - Generally a good idea to compile for both ARM and x86

- Clean patches using the “checkpatch.pl” script
  ```bash
  ./scripts/checkpatch.pl 0001-sched-core-Fix-rd-rto_mask-memory-leak.patch
total: 0 errors, 0 warnings, 8 lines checked

  0001-sched-core-Fix-rd-rto_mask-memory-leak.patch has no obvious style problems and is ready...
  ```

- Checkpatch.pl assert the code is **syntactically** correct, nothing more
Sending Your Patches: Targeting The Right People

● Sending patches to a mailing list isn’t enough
  ○ the maintainer has to be notified

● To know who and where to send patches to, run the `get_maintainer.pl` script:
  ```bash
  $ ./scripts/get_maintainer.pl 0001-sched-core-Fix-rd-rto_mask-memory-leak.patch
  ```

  Ingo Molnar <mingo@redhat.com> (maintainer:SCHEDULER)
  Peter Zijlstra <peterz@infradead.org> (maintainer:SCHEDULER)
  linux-kernel@vger.kernel.org (open list:SCHEDULER)

● `get_maintainer.pl` is very chatty, try to understand why people are only list
Sending Your Patches: git send-email

- The command `git send-email` is part of the git tools
- Best way to get things right
- Maintainers can’t apply patches that aren’t formatted properly
- Lots of documentation available on how to setup a working environment

- Before sending a set of patches out for review, send them to yourself first
  - Avoids spelling mistake and typos
  - Allows you to catch anything you don’t want to see going out like company disclaimers
  - Use the `--suppress-cc=all` option or patches will be sent to CC’ed individuals
  - Do yourself a favour, just do this extra step compulsively.
I Have Sent My Patches For Review - Now What?

- Double check on the mailing that patches have been published
- Most maintainers will reply within 7 days
  - It can take longer based on the maintainer’s schedule

- If you don’t get anything back within 7 days
  - Look for the maintainer on the mailing list - good indication on how busy they are
  - Gentle ping:
    - Politely ask the maintainer if they have seen your patches
    - Politely ask the maintainer if there is anything you can do to make reviewing your patches easier for them
    - Don’t be surprised if they are annoyed by your ping

- It is always a very bad idea to pressure a maintainer
  - The community is not bound by internal company deadlines
What To Do With Comments?

- **NEVER** ignore comments that were received

- If you don’t understand a comment, ask questions
  - It is better to ask questions then sending a new revision with the same problems

- If you don’t agree with a comment, justify your approach

- If people like your code they may reply with “Reviewed-by” or “Acked-by”
  - Don’t forget to take note of them
  - Those are needed for your next revision
  - Greatly motivates a maintainer to accept your code
Sending A New Revisions

- When **all** comments have been addressed, it is time to send another revision.
- It greatly helps the reviewers to add a version tag in the header:
  
  ```
  [PATCH v2] soc: ti: knav_dma: Fix some error handling
  ```

- Revision number can be added by hand or by using the “--subject-prefix” option when using `git format-patch`:
  
  ```
  $ git format-patch --subject-prefix="PATCH v2" ....
  ```

- As a rule of thumb, wait 24 hours between revisions:
  - Avoids flooding the mailing list
  - Reduces the probability of people reviewing the wrong version
  - Gives you time to think about your code again
When Your Patch Gets Accepted

- Most subsystem maintainers will notify you via email
- Others will simply add your patch to their tree without notification
- It is your responsibility to check that everything is working properly
  - In linux-next
  - In the next cycle when -rc1 is released
Sending More Than One Patch In A Set

● Big patches are always harder to get accepted
  ○ Huge burden on the reviewers
  ○ You will likely be told to split a big patch before it can be reviewed

● Split patches in small chunks
  ○ Each chunk needs to be self-contained
  ○ Each chunk needs to be bisectable (see git bisect for details)

● When working with a feature that spans multiple patches:
  ○ Always use a cover letter → "git format-patch --cover-letter ...."
  ○ Patch version also applies when working with patchsets
A Word On “Reviewed-by” And “Acked-by”

- As you become more familiar with a subsystem you may start reviewing other peoples’ work (greatly encouraged)

- Be careful when using the “Reviewed-by” and “Acked-by” tags

- If you don’t understand the difference, you may convey something you did not intend to.
The “Reviewed-by” Tag

- The strongest way to signify your approval and esteem of a patch
- Indicates that a reviewer has spent time to go through a patch and understand what it does in details
- Implies the reviewer has knowledge of the subsystem and the patch won’t break existing code
- May entice a maintainer to spend less time on a patch then they would normally have done
  - As such, if something goes wrong you may have to answer questions
The “Acked-by” tag

- Can be strong or weak, it depends on who gives it.
- If you are not the maintainer of the subsystem, an “Acked-by” stipulate that you have reviewed the code - nothing more (weak semantic).
- When given by the maintainer of a subsystem, an “Acked-by” means the code can be merged by someone else (strong semantic).
Bonus: The “Tested-by” tag

- Very good way to make news friends in the open source community
- Gets you familiar with a subsystem
- Allows you to see how small changes affect things
- Really helps maintainers having greater confidence in a patch
Your Turn To Talk

Questions ?
Thank You

#BUD17
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