The FOSS contributor’s mindset

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My early approach to FOSS
Discovering Linux, and bliss

Followed later by rage
Thanks systemd
Changing the perspective
Case Study

Linux firmware
Linux Firmware

1. Linux firmware updates take forever on my laptop
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2. What firmwares do I actually need?
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3. Turns out there’s not really a good way of finding out.
4. That’s annoying. How can we fix it? Let’s look at the firmware loader in Linux.
$ cd sources/linux
$ find . -name '*firmware*' | less
...
./drivers/base/firmware_loader
...
$ ls drivers/base/firmware_loader/
builtin/  fallback.h  firmware.h  main.c
 fallback.c  fallback_table.c  Kconfig  Makefile
$
$ cd sources/linux
$ find . -name '*firmware*' | less
...
./drivers/base/firmware_loader
...
$ ls drivers/base/firmware_loader/
builtin/ fallback.h firmware.h main.c
fallback.c fallback_table.c Kconfig Makefile

$ vim drivers/base/firmware_loader/main.c
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5. **Send the patch upstream.**
And it's totally noisy :(

Also, if you have a 'struct device' you should always use the dev_*() calls instead, which will show you exactly what device is asking for what.

Please just make this a debug call, that way you can turn it on dynamically if you really want to see what firmware is attempting to be loaded.

thanks,

greg k-h
firmware loader: log path to loaded firmwares

This is useful for users who are trying to identify the firmwares in use on their system.

Signed-off-by: Drew DeVault <sir@cmpwn.com>

diff --git a/drivers/base/firmware_loader/main.c b/drivers/base/firmware_loader/main.c
index bf44c79beae9..2537da43a572 100644
--- a/drivers/base/firmware_loader/main.c
+++ b/drivers/base/firmware_loader/main.c
@@ -504,6 +504,7 @@ fw_get_filesystem_firmware(struct device *device, struct fw_priv *fw_priv,
    continue;
 }
+dev_dbg(device, "Loading firmware from %s\n", path);
 if (decompress) {
   dev_dbg(device, "f/w decompressing %s\n",
           fw_priv->fw_name);
How to gain confidence as a contributor
Tips for exploring unfamiliar code

- Use find to find files/directories whose names match a pattern
- Use git grep to search for error messages, log messages, or interesting words
- Use git blame to find people to ask questions of
- Find your distro’s package of the software to find out how they compile it
- Build with symbols and look at the files & line numbers in stack traces
  - Build the dependencies with symbols, too

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