

Developer's Diary: Supporting maintainers

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Mainlining patches is good...

Anyone here not convinced?

...especially if done right

- checkpatched
(BTW it's assisting you, not dictating)
- compile tested
- tested on hardware
- mail-client aware
- ...

And now?

*Zzzzz.....*¹

¹Translation: The process is stalled.

Why is that?

- Subsystem is orphaned
- Maintainer hates you (almost never)
- Maintainer is too busy (almost always)
- ...

Method #0

Complain!

Method #1

Become a
(co-)maintainer!

Resend patches

- not after two days ;)
- check if your CC-list can be improved
- make sure you didn't miss a remark
- understand the usual procedure of the subsystem

Assist reviewing

- Ask and you shall be asked
- Ack and you shall be acked
- Review and you shall be reviewed
- Test and you shall be tested

Don't be shy, this is community :)

An example - part I

From: Wolfram Sang <w.sang@pengutronix.de>
Subject: [PATCH 6/6] mmc: sdhci-pltfm: add pltfm-driver for imx35/51

This driver adds basic support for the esdhc-core found on e.g. imx35/51. It adds up to the pltfm-core.

Signed-off-by: Wolfram Sang <w.sang@pengutronix.de>

[...]

An example - part II

From: Wolfram Sang <w.sang@pengutronix.de>
Subject: [PATCH V5 6/6] mmc: sdhci-pltfm: add pltfm-driver for imx35/51

This driver adds basic support for the esdhc-core found on e.g. imx35/51. It adds up to the pltfm-core.

Signed-off-by: Wolfram Sang <w.sang@pengutronix.de>
Acked-by: Anton Vorontsov <xxx>
Tested-by : Eric Benard <yyy>

Change since last version:

* Add Kconfig dependency for imx-archs

[...]

About tags in 2.6.36

Warning: Statistics²

Patches:	9441	(1174 people)
Acks:	1277	(347 people)
Reviews:	412	(92 people)
Tests:	214	(130 people)

There could be some more, right?

²with the help from http://www.remword.com/kps_result/ as of today

Do proper versioning

- collect tags yourself
- state changes since last version (if any)
- base on the latest dev-tree
- (make sure you tested everything again)
- publish also as a branch (for a patch series)

An example - part III

From: Wolfram Sang <w.sang@pengutronix.de>
Subject: [PATCH 0/6] SD/MMC driver for MX25/35/51

Here is the hopefully final (famous last words) version of my patch series. The first four are still updates/improvements for sdhci and sdhci-pltfm and are of generic interest, too. Thanks to Eric for the tests on MX25/35. Looking forward to comments/applied-to-mmc-next-messages ;)

The series is based on mmc-next as of today and also available at

`git://git.pengutronix.de/git/wsa/linux-2.6.git pcm043-mmc`

[...]

(Method #5)

Offer a L2-branch

- ask beforehand if wanted!
- collect patches you believe to be OK
- keep that tree updated

Lowers burden for the maintainer and will keep fellow developers motivated.

Conclusion I

Flow with the stream

- Stay calm, there's no offence involved
- Recheck if you can ease the process
this is a recursive task
- Don't force, better ask if you can help

Conclusion II

QA is not only for maintainers

- everyone can assist (tags!)
- community needs to get more involved
otherwise the process won't scale
- Developers should be given time for this
the interest is usually there

The End

Thank you for your attention!

Questions? Comments?

- right now
- anytime at this conference
- wsa@pengutronix.de