Developer's Diary: Supporting maintainers

Wolfram Sang

27.10.2010, ELC-E 2010
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
- ...

Wolfram Sang (Pengutronix)
And now?

Zzzzzz…..\(^1\)

\(^1\)Translation: The process is stalled.
Why is that?

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

Wolfram Sang (Pengutronix)
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Method #0

Complain!
Complain!
Method #1

Become a (co-)maintainer!
Method #1

Become a (co-)maintainer!
Method #2

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
Method #3

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 :)

Wolfram Sang (Pengutronix)
Developer’s Diary: Supporting maintainers
27.10.2010, ELC-E 2010
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>

[...]
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>
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Change since last version:

* Add Kconfig dependency for imx−archs

[...]
About tags in 2.6.36

Warning: Statistics

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patches</td>
<td>9441</td>
<td>(1174 people)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acks</td>
<td>1277</td>
<td>(347 people)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reviews</td>
<td>412</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tests</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>(130 people)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

There could be some more, right?

\(^2\)with 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)
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

[...]
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