Best Practices to Getting Your Patches Accepted

Greg Kroah-Hartman
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I don't want your code
or
Linux Kernel Maintainers, why are they so grumpy?

Greg Kroah-Hartman
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git.sr.ht/~gregkh/presentation-linux-maintainer
4,659 developers
450+ companies

Kernel releases 5.4.0 – 5.9.0
September 2019 – October 2020
8,300 lines added
2,400 lines removed
2,100 lines modified

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Every day

Kernel releases 5.4.0 – 5.9.0
September 2019 – October 2020
9.2 changes per hour
10.8 changes per hour

5.8 release
Patches merged per hour

2.6.20 to 2.6.24-rc8
Top developers by quantity

Chris Wilson 1377
Christoph Hellwig 1195
Mauro Carvalho Chehab 832
Takashi Iwai 740
Andy Shevchenko 739
Yue Haibing 692
Colin Ian King 671
Geert Uytterhoeven 590
Masahiro Yamada 523
Gustavo Silva 567

Kernel releases 5.4.0 – 5.9.0
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Top Signed-off-by:

- David S. Miller
- Greg Kroah-Hartman
- Alex Deucher
- Mark Brown
- Mauro Carvalho Chehab
- Linus Torvalds
- Andrew Morton
- Chris Wilson
- Jens Axboe
- Martin Petersen

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### Who is funding this work?

1. “Amateurs” 13.5%
2. Intel 11.6%
3. Red Hat 6.6%
4. AMD 4.9%
5. Huawei 4.8%
6. Google 4.7%
7. Linaro 3.8%
8. SUSE 3.6%
9. IBM 3.1%
10. “Consultants” 2.7%

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Who is funding this work?

11. Mellanox 2.5%
12. NXP Semiconductors 2.2%
13. Renesas Electronics 2.2%
14. Facebook 2.0%
15. ARM 1.8%
16. Oracle 1.3%
17. Texas Instruments 1.2%
18. Code Aurora (Qualcomm) 1.2%
19. Linux Foundation 1.2%
20. Canonical 1.1%

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Development Process

- Design
- Emulation
- Simulation
- Tape out
- Power on
- Integration
- OS bringup

Time
“Working upstream saves time and money”

Dan Frye – VP Open Systems, IBM
Dirk Hohndel – Chief Technologist, Intel
Maintainers are like editors in the publishing industry.

– David Miller
Patches I received in a 2 week period
Patches I received in a 2 week period

1487
Subject: [PATCH 48/48] ...
15 patch series, no order given
Patches 1, 3-10
“Signed-off-by:” in signature
Signature saying email was confidential
Tabs were converted to spaces
Leading spaces removed
diff in non-unified format
Patch created in driver directory
Patch created in /usr/src/linux-2.6.32
Made against different tree
Wrong coding style
Wrong coding style, and acknowledged it
Would not compile
Broke the build on patch 3/6
Broke the build on patch 3/6 and fixed it on 6/6
Broke the build on patch 5/8
Broke the build on patch 5/8
Contained note that fix would be sent later
Patches that had nothing to do with me
1 patch, 450kb big (4500 lines added)
Obviously wrong kerneldoc
This was a calm two weeks
How to do it right

Documentation/process/submitting-patches.rst
Documentation/process/submitting-drivers.rst
Documentation/process/submit-checklist.rst
It is in my self-interest to ignore your patch.
Give me no excuse to reject your patch
What I will do for you:
Review your patch within 1-2 weeks
Offer semi-constructive criticism
Let you know the status of your patch
i think the reason it works is not necessarily because

the responses are so terrific

but because

they are TERRIFYING

so i'm forced to do my best possible work