

Re: RFC: [2.6 patch] disallow modular IPv6

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Kernel/2003-09/7721.html>

From: David Woodhouse (dwmw2_at_infradead.org)

Date: 09/30/03

To: "Theodore Ts'o" <tytso@mit.edu>
Date: Tue, 30 Sep 2003 15:51:50 +0100

On Tue, 2003-09-30 at 10:21 -0400, Theodore Ts'o wrote:

> *On Tue, Sep 30, 2003 at 09:26:38AM +0100, David Woodhouse wrote:*
> > > *The suggestions I see do nothing to enhance the kernel tree as it currently*
> > > *stands. If you wish to prevent the kernel image from changing due to*
> > > *out-of-tree modules being built, fine, but don't impose this restriction*
> > > *upon in-kernel modules.*
> >
> > *It's a matter of taste. As I said, it's your right to disagree.*
> >
> > *Some time during 2.7 I'm sure one of the many people who agree with*
> > *Adrian and myself will send patches to Linus and he'll get to arbitrate.*
>
>
> *FWIW, I agree with Dave.*

It would be difficult to have an opinion on the matter without agreeing with one of us :)

> *the user may*
> *have a really hard time figuring out that CONFIG_infrastructure is the*
> *way to make a particular device driver appear.*

To take your chosen example of CONFIG_NET_RADIO.... if your user cannot determine that in order to enable support for her WaveLAN card she must first enable the option marked "Wireless LAN drivers (non-hamradio) & Wireless Extensions" then I respectfully suggest that you quietly take her out back and shoot her.

> *For that reason, I tend to prefer the approach of simply enabling a*
> *device driver, and then letting that force a change in the base kernel*
> *to include any necessary base infrastructure in the kernel if*
> *necessary.*

Unlike the approach taken by your example.

Note that in that particular case we'd probably have the 'guard' option

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"Wireless LAN drivers" `_anyway_`, even if nothing at `_all_` depends upon it other than configuration options.

Just like we have `CONFIG_NET_ETHERNET`, `CONFIG_NET_VENDOR_3COM`, `CONFIG_NET_ISA`, `CONFIG_NET_PCI` and other similar options to keep the config sane.

Such 'infrastructure' options, whether they actually make a difference to the resulting kernel or not, are perfectly normal, acceptable and understandable.

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