

# Driver model: releasing parents before children

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**Date:** 12/18/03

Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2003 12:02:03 -0500 (EST)

To: Greg KH <[greg@kroah.com](mailto:greg@kroah.com)>

Greg:

You recently modified `kobject.c` to fix a bug wherein a `kobject`'s parent could get freed before the `kobject` itself, because `kobject_put()` on the parent was done in the wrong place, during `kobject_del()` rather than `kobject_cleanup()`.

I just noticed two things about this. First, you neglected to remove the comment from `kobject.c:unlink()` about decrementing the parent's refcount.

Second, the same bug appears to need fixing in the driver model core. A device's parent's refcount is decremented in `device_del()`, not in `device_release()`. There may be other instances as well; I haven't looked.

Alan Stern

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