

## Re: protecting source code in 2.6

**Source:** <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Kernel/2004-05/4059.html>

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**From:** Bartlomiej Zolnierkiewicz ([B.Zolnierkiewicz\\_at\\_elka.pw.edu.pl](mailto:B.Zolnierkiewicz_at_elka.pw.edu.pl))

**Date:** 05/20/04

To: "Jinu M." <[jinum@esntechnologies.co.in](mailto:jinum@esntechnologies.co.in)>, <[linux-kernel@vger.kernel.org](mailto:linux-kernel@vger.kernel.org)>

Date: Thu, 20 May 2004 16:05:34 +0200

On Thursday 20 of May 2004 15:18, Jinu M. wrote:

> *Hi All,*

Hi,

> *We are developing a block device driver on linux-2.6.x kernel. We want to distribute our driver as sum of source code and library/object code.*

>

> *We have divided the source code into two parts. The os interface module and the device interface module. The os interface module (osint.c) has all the os interface functions (init, exit, open, close, ioctl, request queue handling etc). The device interface module (devint.c) on the other hand has all the device interface functions (initialize device, read, write etc), these don't use system calls or kernel APIs.*

>

> *The device interface module is proprietary source and we don't intend to distribute it with source code on GPL license.*

You may want to reconsider your decision.

– by providing non-GPL driver your driver is very likely to not work with future kernel versions due to the fact that Linux driver API is not stable (it changes *very* frequently)

– nobody is going to provide support for kernels with your driver loaded – you have to deal with bugreports about *all* Linux kernel issues from users of your driver

> *What we intend to do is, distribute the os interface module (osint.c) with source code and the device interface module as object code or library. The user will compile the os interface module on the target box and link it with the device interface module to generate the .ko (loadable module).*

>

> *We are not very sure of how to achieve this.*

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> *Please help us address this issue.*

Please be aware of the fact that without 'giving source back'  
nobody is going to help you on kernel issues here.

Kind regards,  
Bartłomiej

> *Thanks in advance,*  
> *-Jinu*

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