

Re: [linux-usb-devel] Re: kernel 2.6.8 pwc patches and counterpatches

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Kernel/2004-08/7765.html>

From: Tuukka Toivonen (tuukkat_at_ee.oulu.fi)

Date: 08/26/04

Date: Thu, 26 Aug 2004 12:22:33 +0300 (EEST)

To: Simon Oosthoek <simon@ti-wmc.nl>

On Wed, 25 Aug 2004, Simon Oosthoek wrote:

> *I have one of those philips cams (bought it because I saw pwc in the kernel
> source), but I found out that without pwcx is was next to useless. I haven't*

Could you elaborate why it is next to useless? I think 95% of Linux web camera drivers don't support all features of a camera, like compression. Reverse engineering USB traffic is easy, reverse engineering compressed formats is hard.

> *The fact that the NDA has expired already doesn't surprise me, but I would
> have expected some (or a huge) effort to liberate the source with full
> permission from Philips (they probably don't care anymore and could use the*

I understood that Nemosoft has already asked Philips a permission and denied for that. It hardly helps asking again and again and again... he has to maintain the driver, too.

> *The fact that this hasn't happened is to me a hint that Nemosoft likes the
> power of "owning" it more than the chance of liberating it. But I could be*

Why do you think that **most** of the pwc driver is already GPL'ed then, and even (was) in the kernel?

> *I'd prefer that a clear choice is made on this, as Nemosoft suggests, because
> it shouldn't be in the kernel without the full decoding algorithms.*

Then you should remove most of the other drivers in the kernel too.

Besides, format conversions are not allowed in the kernel. They belong into userspace.

Nemosoft: you should not have the power to demand removing the GPL'd code from the kernel (I don't know about the law, but whatever it says, GPL'd license should not be revocable). You can ask, of course, but wouldn't it

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be simpler to just stop maintaining the in-kernel driver, if it already works?

From: Greg KH <greg@kroah.com>

>> *We'll see. Greg, please remove all references to the PWC driver from the 2.6*

>> *kernel ASAP. This also includes Documentation/usb/philips.txt and a*

>*I'm very sorry it's come to this, I really am.*

>

>*I'd like to personally thank you for all the time you've spent in*

>*working on this driver over the years, and wish you the best in whatever*

>*you do in the future. Come back anytime.*

Too bad seeing this. Nemosoft, I hope you will continue maintaining the driver which looks very nice (though I haven't been able to test it), at least as an external module. That allows you free hands to add any nice features that would never been accepted into kernel, anyway.

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| Tuukka Toivonen <tuukkat@ee.oulu.fi> [OpenPGP public key
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| M.Sc. Researcher, Dept of El & Inf Eng, University of Oulu
| "You will be shot if you try to do
|         format conversion in kernel" -Pavel Machek, 2001
+-----
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