

Re: RFD: Kernel release numbering

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Kernel/2005-03/0933.html>

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Date: 03/03/05

To: Linus Torvalds <torvalds@osdl.org>

Date: Thu, 3 Mar 2005 08:13:19 -0500

On Wednesday 02 March 2005 22:37, Linus Torvalds wrote:

>

> *On Wed, 2 Mar 2005, Jeff Garzik wrote:*

>>

>> *If we want a calming period, we need to do development like 2.4.x is*

>> *done today. It's sane, understandable and it works.*

>

> *No. It's insane, and the only reason it works is that 2.4.x is a totally*

> *different animal. Namely it doesn't have the kind of active development AT*

> *ALL any more. It only has the "even" number kind of things, and quite*

> *frankly, even those are a lot less than 2.6.x has.*

>

>> *2.6.x-pre: bugfixes and features*

>> *2.6.x-rc: bugfixes only*

>

> *And the reason it does not work is that all the people we want testing*

> *sure as hell won't be testing -rc versions.*

>

> *That's the whole point here, at least to me. I want to have people test*

> *things out, but it doesn't matter how many -rc kernels I'd do, it just*

> *won't happen. It's not a "real release".*

>

> *In contrast, making it a real release, and making it clear that it's a*

> *release in its own right, might actually get people to use it.*

It seems to me that the problem is not the numbering scheme. We will experience the same issues no matter what scheme we use... The way I see it is that we need a way to tell how much testing a given release has had. I would suggest an opt outable scheme that records boot (via an email for instance) and asks for comments after a day or two. With this sort of method we would know just how much testing is done. We eventually could start to relate the amount of testing to just how stable the kernel will be.

Comments

Ed Tomlinson

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