

Re: Christmas list for the kernel

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Kernel/2005-11/7909.html>

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To: Jon Smirl <jonsmirl@gmail.com>

On Tue, Nov 22, 2005 at 04:13:01PM -0500, Jon Smirl wrote:

> On 11/22/05, Greg KH <greg@kroah.com> wrote:
> > On Tue, Nov 22, 2005 at 01:31:16PM -0500, Jon Smirl wrote:
> > >
> > > 4) Merge klibc and fix up the driver system so that everything is
> > > hotplugable. This means no more need to configure drivers in the
> > > kernel, the right drivers will just load automatically.
> >
> > What driver subsystem is not hotplugable and does not have automatically
> > loaded modules today?
>
> All of the legacy stuff - VGA, VesaFb, PS2, serial, parallel,
> joystick, floppy, gameport, etc.

You can remove these from the list:

ps/2 and serial (for input devices) use the 'serio' layer, which does have automatic loading.

gameport is missing, but planned. Unfortunately you can't probe for joysticks before you load the specific modules, so it simply will have to load all available drivers. On the other hand, gameports are a dying breed, replaced by USB, which is good.

And the others:

VGA drivers are autoloaded by the PCI subsystem.

VESAfb can't ever be autoloaded.

serial, parallel, gameport, etc are using the PnP subsystem and will be autoloaded if ACPI PnP reports these devices.

And floppy, well, I think it isn't using ACPI PnP but possibly could ...

> *Those drivers could be in initramfs*

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- > *and only load if the hardware is found. Most of these legacy devices*
- > *have poor sysfs support too. Also, it's not just x86 legacy device all*
- > *of the platforms have them.*

The hardware is often found only by the driver, like in the joystick case. Hopefully ACPI/PnP will list all the devices ...

- > *Currently you have to compile most of this stuff into the kernel.*

You don't.

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