

Re: Linux 2.6.16.30-pre1

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Kernel/2006-09/msg06685.html>

- *From:* Adrian Bunk <bunk@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 24 Sep 2006 00:33:48 +0200
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On Sat, Sep 23, 2006 at 10:49:09PM +0200, Jean Delvare wrote:

Hi Adrian, Greg,

Hi Jean,

I second Greg's objection, and share his worries. "No possible regression" is something extremely hard to evaluate in general. Besides, the goal of -stable as I remember it is not "no regression" but rather "only bugfixes", i.e. patches don't go in without a good reason (default policy = reject), rather than patches are rejected if they may cause problem (default policy = accept.)

Adding support for new devices, even if it's only adding an ID in a list, is not always safe. I am not happy about new IDs being considered as OK for late RCs, I am even less so for -stable.

the main goals for 2.6.16 are:

- no regressions
- security fixes

And I did always say that things like adding new PCI IDs are considered OK for 2.6.16.

The sole fact that Adrian felt the need to release a -pre1 for 2.6.16.30 betrays his lack of confidence IMHO.

No, all it says is:

- there was no reason for releasing 2.6.16.30 very soon
- my TODO list still contains reviewing 65 of the patches the -stable team added to 2.6.17

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And the size of ChangeLog-2.6.16.29 speaks for itself.

Except for 2 bug fixes, all of them were patches the -stable team added to 2.6.17.

Given that 2.6.16.y follows the naming convention of -stable and is released in the official v2.6 directory on ftp.kernel.org, I'd like to see it follow the same rules we have for "real" -stable trees. Adrian, if you are going to diverge from the original intent of -stable, this is your own right, but then please change the name of your tree to 2.6.16-ab or something similar, to clear the confusion.

I will not use 2.6.16.y with its current rules, for sure, and I doubt any distribution will. Wasn't the whole point of 2.6.16.y to serve as a common base between several distributions?

No, see [1]:

<-- snip -->

Q:

What is the target audience for this 2.6.16 series?

A:

The target audience are users still using 2.4 (or who'd still use kernel 2.4 if they weren't forced to upgrade to 2.6 for some reason) who want a stable kernel series including security fixes but excluding many regressions.

It might also be interesting for distributions that prefer stability over always using the latest stuff.

<-- snip -->

The 2.6.16 series is an offer.

If you don't want to use it it's OK.

Distributions can use it, cherry pick from it, or ignore it.

Whether a distribution uses 2.6.16 or a more recent kernel (that will anyway support more hardware than 2.6.16 ever will), and if a distribution that uses 2.6.16 will ever follow the 2.6.16 series depends on the goals of the distribution.

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Thanks,
Jean Delvare

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Adrian

[1] <http://article.gmane.org/gmane.linux.kernel/354360>

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"Is there not promise of rain?" Ling Tan asked suddenly out
of the darkness. There had been need of rain for many days.
"Only a promise," Lao Er said.
Pearl S. Buck – Dragon Seed

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