

Re: Driver writer hints (was [PATCH 3/4] Add ETHTOOL_[GS]PFLAGS sub-iocls)

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Kernel/2007-08/msg04625.html>

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 - *Date:* Fri, 10 Aug 2007 17:08:55 -0400
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Rick Jones wrote:

If we are getting (retrieving) flags:

- 3) Userland issues ETHTOOL_GPFLAGS, to obtain a 32-bit bitmap
- 4) Userland prints out a tag returned from ETHTOOL_GSTRINGS for each bit set to one in the bitmap. If a bit is set, but there is no string to describe it, that bit is ignored. (i.e. a list of 5 strings is returned, but bit 24 is set)

Is that to enable "hidden" bits? If not I'd think that emitting some sort of "UNKNOWN_FLAG" might help flush-out little oopses like forgetting a string.

No purpose other than attempting to define sane edge case behavior.

The bitmap interface is completely invisible to the user (who sees UTF8 strings on the command line), and given the interface I felt the easiest thing to do would be to define an "ignore any garbage" default policy.

Due to the way the interface is designed, each userland user must be aware of the precise number of valid bits in the bitmap /anyway/, thus making clipping/ignoring garbage bits almost a trivial side effect.

Jeff

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