

Re: Why linux is so stupid with hardware drivers?

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From: Norm Dresner (*ndrez_at_att.net*)

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<Jens.Toerring@physik.fu-berlin.de> wrote in message
news:2g6q8cF53blhU1@uni-berlin.de...

> *Kasper Dupont* <kasperd@daimi.au.dk> wrote:

>

> << *stupid blatherings by ValGLA snipped* >>

>

> > *You obviously don't know what you are talking about. And*

> > *half of what you said is incorrect. Is this just another*

> > *troll post, or is there a point somewhere? I couldn't*

> > *find one.*

>

> *Looks like a very poorly executed troll. A reasonable troll attempt*

> *should come at least with a few correct facts to make the rest look*

> *credible at a first glance.*

Okay, you're both right that it looks like trolling, But he does have a point [or two, maybe].

First, my background: I started programming mainframes before there were any micros and I've run [part-time] a moderately successful software company that sold to both the CP/M and DOS communities B.W. [Before the Windows meltdown of these markets]. I've had over 5 years of experience developing (real-time) Linux kernel drivers for complex custom systems that are used in testing even more complex systems and I've developed many DOS/AMX drivers and a few Windows device drivers too.

> *From the point of view of a device driver programmer, Linux is both primitive and friendly. The primitiveness — perhaps a better word is simplicity — is both a blessing and a curse. As a WDD [Windows Device Driver] programmer I have a (literally) bewildering API from which to choose the perfect system call to do what I want, but I have to choose the exactly perfect system call or my WDD won't work. The Linux environment is much simpler, and it's correspondingly easier to find the API call I need, though it won't always be exactly what I need and I'll have to work around that.*

But the absolute worst part of LDD [Linux Device Driver] writing is that there's no backward-compatibility built into the kernel and the API for

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identically-named functions can change between major versions. There are some Windows 95 Device Drivers that can still be loaded and function correctly with Windows XP! O