f (https://www.facebook.com/OpenSourceForU/)

y (https://twitter.com/opensourceforu)

► (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJbnMYV_yigckub3RjtXD1Q)

Submit Tips (http://opensourceforu.com/submit-your-tips-tricks/)

Subscribe to Print Edition (http://subscribe.efyindia.com/electronicsforu/subscription/newsubsc2scheme.asp)

Magazine Feedback (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1NnBouU0ZUmu1yUICTAj1aEFiDDWvS-1LIS85-

qXorrM/viewform?usp=send_form)

Latest in Open Source (http://opensourceforu.com/category/news/)

Write For Us (http://opensourceforu.com/write-for-open-source-for-you/)

Contact Us (http://opensourceforu.com/contact-us/)



(http://opensourceforu.com)

Home (http://opensourceforu.com/) > Developers

(http://opensourceforu.com/category/developers/) > Device Drivers, Part 10: Kernel-Space Debuggers in Linux (http://opensourceforu.com/2011/09/kernel-space-debuggers-in-linux/)

Device Drivers, Part 10: Kernel-Space Debuggers in Linux

DEVELOPERS (HTTP://OPENSOURCEFORU.COM/CATEGORY/DEVELOPERS/)

SHARE **f** (http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=http://opensourceforu.com/2011/09/kernel-space-debuggers-in-linux/&t=Device%20Drivers,%20Part%2010:%20Kernel-

Space%20Debuggers%20in%20Linux) **У** (https://twitter.com/home?

status=Device%20Drivers,%20Part%2010:%20Kernel-

Space%20Debuggers%20in%20Linux+http://opensourceforu.com/2011/09/kernel-space-debuggers-in-linux/) 8+ (https://plus.google.com/share?url=http://opensourceforu.com/2011/09/kernel-space-debuggers-in-linux/) 9 (http://pinterest.com/pin/create/button/? url=http://opensourceforu.com/2011/09/kernel-space-debuggers-in-

linux/&media=http://opensourceforu.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/kernel-debugger-

10.jpeg&description=Device%20Drivers,%20Part%2010:%20Kernel-

Space%20Debuggers%20in%20Linux) **t** (https://www.tumblr.com/widgets/share/tool? shareSource=legacy&canonicalUrl=&url=http%3A%2F%2Fopensourceforu.com%2F2011%2F09%2Fkernel-space-debuggers-in-linux%2F&posttype=link&title=Device+Drivers%2C+Part+10%3A+Kernel-Space+Debuggers+in+Linux&content=)

This article, which is part of the series on Linux device drivers (http://www.opensourceforu.com/tag/linux-device-drivers-series/), talks about kernel-space debugging in Linux.



Shweta, back from hospital, was relaxing in the library, reading various books. Ever since she learned of the <code>ioctl</code> way of debugging, she was impatient to find out more about debugging in kernel-space. She was curious about how and where to run the kernel-space debugger, if there was any. This was in contrast with application/user-space debugging, where we have the OS running underneath, and a shell or a GUI over it to run the debugger (like <code>gdb</code>, and the data display debugger, <code>ddd</code>). Then she came across this interesting kernel-space debugging mechanism using <code>kgdb</code>, provided as part of the kernel itself, since kernel 2.6.26.

The debugger challenge in kernel-space



(https://feedburner.google.com/fb/a/mailverify? uri=LinuxForYou&loc=en_US)

CASE STUDIES



(http://opensourceforu.com/2016/03/we-have-not-faced-any-glitches-as-we-do-the-security-hardening%c2%94/)

Wehave not faced any glitches, as we do the security hardening (http://openso urceforu.com/2 016/03/we-have-not-faced-any-glitches-as-we-do-the-security-hardening%c2 %94/)
DIKSHA P GUPTA , ...



(http://opensourceforu.com/2016/01/%c2%93from-a-personal-preference-perspective-i-would-choose-an-open-source-solution-any-day/)

As we need some interface to be up to run a debugger to debug anything, a kernel debugger could be visualised in two possible ways:

- Put the debugger into the kernel itself, accessible via the usual console. For example, in the case of kdb, which was not official until kernel 2.6.35, one had to download source code (two sets of patches one architecture-dependent, one architecture-independent) from this FTP address (ftp://oss.sgi.com/projects/kdb/download/) and then patch these into the kernel source. However, since kernel 2.6.35, the majority of it is in the officially released kernel source. In either case, kdb support needs to be enabled in kernel source, with the kernel compiled, installed and booted with. The boot screen itself would give the kdb debugging interface.
- Put a minimal debugging server into the kernel; a client would connect to it from a remote host or local user-space over some interface (say serial or Ethernet). This is kgdb, the kernel's gdb server, to be used with gdb as its client. Since kernel 2.6.26, its serial interface is part of the official kernel release. However, if you're interested in a network interface, you still need to patch with one of the releases from the kgdb project page (http://sourceforge.net/projects/kgdb/). In either case, you need to enable kgdb support in the kernel, recompile, install and boot the new kernel.

Please note that in both the above cases, the complete kernel source for the kernel to be debugged is needed, unlike for building modules, where just headers are sufficient. Here is how to play around with kgdb over the serial interface.

Setting up the Linux kernel with kgdb

Here are the prerequisites: Either the kernel source package for the running kernel should be installed on your system, or a corresponding kernel source release should have been downloaded from kernel.org (http://kernel.org/).

First of all, the kernel to be debugged needs to have kgdb enabled and built into it. To achieve that, the kernel source has to be configured with CONFIG_KGDB=y . Additionally, for kgdb over serial,

CONFIG_KGDB_SERIAL_CONSOLE=y needs to be configured. And CONFIG_DEBUG_INFO is preferred for symbolic data to be built into the kernel, to make debugging with gdb more meaningful.

CONFIG_FRAME_POINTER=y enables frame pointers in the kernel, allowing gdb to construct more accurate stack back-traces. All these options are available under "Kernel hacking" in the menu obtained in the kernel source directory (preferably as root, or using sudo), by issuing the following command:

forkedb

See the highlighted selections in Figure 1, for how and where these options would be:

- "KGDB: kernel debugging with remote gdb" -> CONFIG KGDB
- "KGDB: use kgdb over the serial console" -> CONFIG_KGDB_SERIAL_CONSOLE
- "Compile the kernel with debug info" -> CONFIG_DEBUG_INFO

From a personal preference perspective, I would choose an open source solution, any day (http://openso urceforu.com/2 016/01/%c2% 93from-apersonalpreferenceperspective-iwould-choosean-open-sourcesolution-anyday/) DIKSHA P GUPTA, ...



(http://opensourceforu.com/2015/11/opensource-technology-first-love-of-the-leaders-at-askmebazaar-com/)

Open Source Technology: First Love of the Leaders at AskMeBazaar.c om! (http://openso urceforu.com/2 015/11/opensourcetechnologyfirst-love-of-theleaders-ataskmebazaarcom/) DIKSHA P GUPTA, ...



(http://opensourceforu.com/2015/08/opensource-and-problem-solving-attitude-is-the-way-to-work-at-zopper/)

"Open source and problem solving attitude is the way to work at Zopper" (http://openso urceforu.com/2 O15/08/opensource-and-problem-solving-attitude-is-the-way-to-work-at-zopper/)

 "Compile the kernel with frame pointers" -> CONFIG_FRAME_POINTER

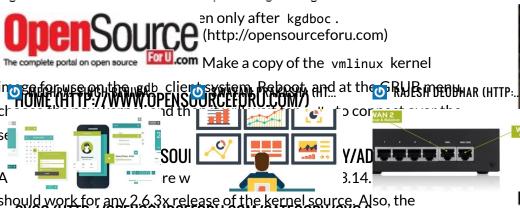
Once configuration is saved, build the kernel (run make), and then a make install to install it, along with adding an entry for the installed kernel in the GRUB configuration file. Depending on the distribution, the GRUB configuration file may be /boot/grub/menu.lst, /etc/grub.cfg, or something similar. Once installed, the kgdb-related kernel boot parameters need to be added to this new entry, as shown in the highlighted text in Figure 2.

> Figure 2 BGRUAR gomes imation for kedb

kgdboc is for gdb connecting over the console, and the basic format is kgdboc= <serial_device>, <baud-rate> where:

- <serial_device> is the serial device file (port) on the system running the kernel to be debugged
- <baud-rate> is the baud rate of this serial port

kgdbwait tells the kernel to delay booting till a gdb client connects to



G**randy Market Borrol** From Highton Agrensource Fo

HOWEDS VETTE A PPENSOURCE FOR O.COM CATEGORY?
Following are the prerequisites:

DBASIGE AHTTPIA/APPENSOURGEFORLE GOM/GATEGORY/BASIGS/Planting prisense in Using MIT App Inventore connected using a null modem (i Dual WANS Failover

(http://prepsourceforu.com/2016/08/develop.RY/NEWS/Mode BUZZ/HTTP://UENSUURCEFORU.COM/CATEGORY/NEWS/Mode androideapps-using-milel image built, with kgdb enabled, the persource for u.com/2016/08/enfiguringapp-inventorform the system to be debugged, into the wopfsegse-dual-wandirectory on the system where gdb is going to be rufailover-mode/)

To get gdb to connect to the waiting kernel, launch gdb from the shell and run these commands:

(gdb) file vmlinux (gdb) set remote interrupt-sequence Ctrl-C (gdb) set remotebaud 115200 (gdb) target remote /dev/ttyS0 (gdb) continue

i.e., the first serial port.

In the above commands, vmlinux is the kernel image copied from the system to be debugged.

Debugging using gdb with kgdb

After this, it is all like debugging an application from gdb . One may stop execution using Ctrl+C, add break points using b [reak], stop execution using s [tep] or n [ext] ... — the usual gdb way. There are enough GDB tutorials available online, if you need them. In fact, if you are not comfortable with text-based GDB, use any of the standard GUI tools over gdb, like ddd, Eclipse, etc.

DIKSHA P GUPTA,...



(http://opensourceforu.com/2015/07/indiarides-on-meru-meru-rides-on-opensource/)

> India rides on Meru, Meru rides on open source! (http://openso urceforu.com/2 015/07/indiarides-on-merumeru-rides-onopen-source/) DIKSHA P GUPTA, ...



(HTTP://OPENSOURCEFO

海龙性(http**s::ø/on//@фреббоbeeE5ool/沙h**)annel/U(

<u>6</u>18861 Subscribers MAILCHIMP-

-(http://opensourceforu.com)

WORDPRESS/)

INTERNET Was to perform

hassle-free MailChimp

integration into **WordPress**

(http://opensourceforu.com/2016/07/4

best-ways-perform-conensourceforu.com/2016/07/organisationshearths-open-source-controlling-securityintegration-

wordpress/) Wehelp organisations reap the benefits of open source, while controlling security and associated risks

Summing up

By now, Shweta was excited about wanting to try out kgdb . Since she needed two systems to try it out, she went to the Linux device drivers' lab. There, she set up the systems and ran gdb as described above.

Related Posts:

Share this:

G- Google (http://opensourceforu.com/2011/09/kernel-space-debuggers-in-linux/? share=google-plus-1&nb=1)

f Facebook (http://opensourceforu.com/2011/09/kernel-space-debuggers-inlinux/?share=facebook&nb=1)

Twitter (http://opensourceforu.com/2011/09/kernel-space-debuggers-in-linux/?

More

TAGS: BOOT SCREEN (HTTP://OPENSOURCEFORU.COM/TAG/BOOT-SCREEN/), CONFIGURATION FILE

(HTTP://NPFNSNIIRCFFNRII COM/TAG/CONFIGURATION-FILE/), DEBUG

For U.com

(HITP://UPENSUURCEFURU.CUM/TAG/ETHERNET/), GDB (HTTP://OPENSOURCEFORU.COM/TAG/GDB/),

GUN HATTE HEALTH SANDER HATTEN SOUND TO THE CHARLES OF THE CHARLES







(http://openso urceforu.com/2 **016/07/organis** ations-reapbenefits-opensourcecontrollingsecurityassociated/) JAGMEET SINGH, J...



(http://opensourceforu.com/2016/05/cioshould-have-digitisation-on-his/)

A CIO should have digitisation on his agenda (http://openso

urceforu.com/2 016/05/cioshould-have-

digitisation-on-

DECTAINATE OF THE BEAL OF NO. (HTTP://OPENSOURCEFOITED: (H) DEEPSOURCEFO DE NO. (H) DE N

(HTTP://OPENSOURCEFORU.COM/TAG/LINUX/), LINUX DEVICE DRIVERS

CHARDRIGHT BEART FROM THE BEAR WAS A THE BEAR WAS A THE BEAR OF TH

(HTTP://OPENSOURCEFORU.COM/TAG/LIN**timog/Weithrig/Watch**ies/), Linux Kernel

RCEFORU COM/TAG/UNICETURO/COM/CATEGURY/HC2016/08/23262/)
RCEFORU COM/TAG/NETWORK-INTERFACE/), PATCHES

(HTTP://OPENSOURCEFORU.COM/TAG/PATCHES/), SERIAL INTERFACE

(HDB461664Hatth404DbWSQURREEORUFCQM/GATEGORY/BASCGW)guring pfSense in **Dual WAN Failover** (H**ttsingerMis**To**Arquerbroverohov**Tag/serial-port/), shell

(H**th:** trovingoenstructorategran/2016/08/depelon BUZZ (HTTP://UPENSUURCEFURU.CUM/CATEGURY/NEWS (H**attrovic**happectisnigsmittag/source-code/)

app-inventor/)

(http://opensourceforu.com/2016/05/emriguring-nfooms duelway pfsense-dual-wanfailover-mode/)

goal-is-to-give-the-world-niche-cost-

give the world

HASSLE-FREIEhe, costeffective

technology MAILCHIMPolutions

(http://openso

goal-is-to-give-WORDPREKS World-niche-

cost-effective-4 best wa**yschuplasu**/m

(http://www.facebook.com/share in physical in particular physical ph

u=http://opensourceforu.com/2 best-ways-perform-

space-debuggers-in-

(http://assle-free-mailchimp-/2016/04/what-

linux/&t=Device%20Drivers,%20Pattw2010:%20Kerr Space%20Debuggers%20in%20Linux ve like



(https://twitter.com/home? status=Device%20Drivers,%20Part%2010;%20Kerne

source is that we can tweak it the way we want to

016/04/what-

Space%20Debuggers%20in%20Linux##########p://opensou that-we-canspace-debuggers-in-linux/) tweak-it-thewav-we-want/) RAHUL CHOPRA, A... (https://plus.google.com/share? url=http://opensourceforu.com/ 09/kernelspace-debuggers-in-linux/) (http://opensourceforu.com/2016/02/iotis-not-an-it-initiative-but-a-businessfunction/) loT is not an IT (http://pinterest.com/pin/create/buttri url=http://opensourceforu.com/2011/ space-debuggers-inurceforu.com/2 linux/&media=http://opensourceforu.**c**g **2011/09/kernel**function/) DIKSHA P GUPTA, ... 20Part%20 POPENSOURCEFO HASSLE FREE Troid Apps ers%2C+Pa (http://opensourceforu.com/2045/09/04/1024/dayelo pfsense-dual-wanapp-inventor/) p-android-apps-WORDPRESSIPE-mit-appfailover-mode/) inventor/) **Previous Article Next Article** 4 best ways to perform Securing Apache, The Comprehensive hassle-free MailChimp Part 11: Logs, et al. LAMP Guide - Part 3 integration into (http://opensourceforu.com/2011/09/securing- (PHP) **WordPress** apache-part-11-logs-et-(http://opensourceforu.com/2011/09/comp thttp://opensourceforu.com/2016/07/4:://opensourceforu.com/2016/08/23262/) best-ways-performMonitor Logs in hassle-free-majichimpintegrationSwatch 1amp-guide-part-3 al/) php/) wordpress//watch (http://openso urceforu.com/2 016/08/23262/ (http://opensourceforu.com/author/anil-SWAYAM PRAKASH... kumarpugalia/) Author 4444 **Anil Kumar Pugalia** (http://opensourceforu.com/author/anil-(http://opensourceforu.com/2016/08/configuring-

kumar-pugalia/)

The author is a freelance trainer in Linux internals, Linux device drivers, embedded Linux and related topics. Prior to this, he had worked at Intel and Nvidia. He has been exploring Linux since 1994. A gold medallist from the Indian Institute of Science, Linux and knowledgesharing are two of his many passions.

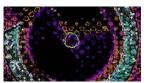
pfsense-dual-wan-failover-mode/)

Configuring pfSense in Dual **WAN Failover** Mode (http://openso urceforu.com/2 016/08/configu ring-pfsensedual-wanfailover-mode/)

RAJESH DEODHAR ,...

RELATED ARTICLES





(http://opensourcefor of-programmingquestions-answers-





(http://opensourcefo apps-qt-part-4/)

V SUBHASH (HTTP://...



(http://opensourcefo sqlite-tasks-usingandroidwithoutstupio

(http://opensourceforu.com/2016/07/4best-ways-perform-hassle-freemailchimp-integration-wordpress/)

> 4 best ways to perform hasslefree MailChimp integration into **WordPress** (http://openso

🔊 NOLA AI



(HTTP://O**Y'2N'50'0'REV**2FO NOLA ARNEY, JULY...

Developing Apps on



Simplifying SQLite Tasks Using AndroidWithoutStup ылн) үндү



q١ WHEN SOURCE FOR HIS OWN ENTER BOOK BY AND TO INTERIOR WITHOUT STUDY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PRO

AFOR HIB MEGLITHINGOPENSONURGETORULGONIX GAITEGORY/FYERNON FOLLOWAN time with Swatch

^CAHPANFEIN VENTBRYOPEN SOURCEPÜR ÜLCÜM VEREGÜR YPH (2016 (1987) 23262/

Recommend

Share

Sort by Newest -

DBASIGS AHTTP: A/APPENSOURCEFORU.COM/CATEGORY/BASIGS / iguring pfSense in app-inventor-app-google-play-store/) **Dual WAN Failover** Using MIT App Inventor

(http://opensourceforu.com/2016/08/develop android-apps-using-mit- (http://opensourceforu.com/category/NEWS/Mode android-apps-using-mitapp-inventor/)

pfsense-dual-wan-

(http://opensourceforu.com/2016/08/2011guring-play Store failover-mode/)

BEST-WAYS-PERFORM-

HASSLE-FREE-

(http://opensourceforu.com/2016/07/publishing-

MAILCHIMPublishing an App Inventor

(http://openso

WORDPRESS Of for u. com/2 016/07/publish

4 best waysetopperform hassle-free Mail Changintegratio@Opetle-play-WordPresstore/)

(http://opensoarceforg.com/2016/07/4

best-ways-performhassle-free-mailchimpintegrationwordpress/)

Be the first to comment.

ALSO ON OPEN SOURCE FOR YOU

Build your first extension for

1 comment • 2 months ago •



Karan — This is awesome, easy to follow tutorial.

Is cross-platform app future of enterprise mobile app

1 comment • 2 months ago•



Nitesh Mishra — There are a number of mobile app development companies

7 great apps to improve security of your Android

1 comment • 11 days ago •



Eric — Is this a paid report? Lastpass has been compromised several times.

Top community projects that start with word 'open'

1 comment • 2 months ago•



Sanjay Tank — very informative article...



Subscribe Add Disgus to your site Add Disgus Add

Privacy

TAG CLOUD RECENT STORIES **TODAY** WEEK MONTH unix (http://opensourceforu.com/tag/unix/) Applications (http://opensourceforu.com/tag/applications/) (http://opensourceforu.com/2016/08/blackarchlinux-iso-now-comes-1500-hacking-tools/) (http://opensourceforu.com/tag/lfy-april-BlackArch Linux 2012/) **python** ISO now comes (http://opensourceforu.com/tag/python/) with over 1,500 lets try hacking tools (http://opensourceforu.com/tag/lettsp://opensourc eforu.com/2016/0 try/) Google 8/blackarch-linux-(http://opensourceforu.com/tag/google/) iso-now-comesxml (http://opensourceforu.com/tag/xml/) 1500-hackingwww tools/) (http://opensourceforu.com/tag/www/) JAGMEET SINGH , AUG... (http://opensourceforu.com) MECHRALS IN GH. RENWY.OPENS PROPER SON REPORT OF THE SECTION OF TH .6/08/lever-)://or uage thon/) Level language (IFTENSOPENSOPENSOURCEFORM CONTINUED TO THE TENSOP OF THE TENSOPENSOURCEFO (HTTP: P/OPISIES C/O ROLEYO form of Python (http://opensourc BEST-WAYS-PERFORM6/0 8/lever-language-HASSLE-METERS-new-formpython/) JAGMEET SINGH, AUG... DBASIGS AHITTPIA/APPENSOURCEFORU.COM/CATEGORY/BASIGSWignring pfSense in om/ชหายนอหา/อหอบอพาเฐชาเทฐ ptSense in MAILCHIMP. (http://opens**ogarwang**aring ptSense in MAILCHIMP. **Using MIT App Inventor** (http://epensourceforu.com/2016 BUZZ (HTTP://UPENSUURCEFURU android-apps-using-mitw.com/2016/08/198hfiguring-(http://opensourceforu.com/htt//e///10pensourceforu.com/htt//e///10pensourceforu.com/htt//e/// pfsense-dual-wanapp-inventor/) Windows (http://opensourceforu.com/2016/08/facebook-(http://opensourceforu.com/ver/made//s/) open-source lastitest classify-bulk-text/) programming Facebook releases (http://opensourceforu.com/tag/programming/) 4 best was souper form Apache hassle-fraceTMditOHethp integrative netwassify (http://opensourceforu.com/tag/apache/) FOSS WordPheels of text (http://opensourceforu.com/tag/foss/) (http://///http:///operesouncom/2016/07/4 (http://opensourceforu.com/tag/insight/pst-waferportm/2016/0 hassle&/caoqladekinnen-Linux (http://opensourceforu.com/pressification/ Red Hat JAGMEET SINGH, AUG... (http://opensourceforu.com/tag/redhat/) database (http://opensourceforu.com/tag/database/) JavaScript (http://opensourceforu.com/tag/javascript/) RAM (http://opensourceforu.com/tag/ram/) Oracle (http://opensourceforu.com/tag/oracle/)

Networking

(http://opensourceforu.com/tag/networking/)

India (http://opensourceforu.com/tag/india/)

Java

(http://opensourceforu.com/tag/java/)

Fedora

(http://opensourceforu.com/tag/fedora/)

cloud (http://opensourceforu.com/tag/cloud/)

operating system

(http://opensourceforu.com/tag/operating-

system/) web applications

(http://opensourceforu.com/tag/web-

applications/) Open source

(http://opensourceforu.com/tag/opensource/) MySQL

(http://opensourceforu.com/tag/mysql/)

Security

(http://opensourceforu.com/tag/security/)

cloud computing

(http://opensourceforu.com/tag/cloud-

computing/) html

(http://opensourceforu.com/tag/html/)

(http://wpenseur/opfasurcom/com/tag/kernel/)

Android



(FXPS/JUTENSOURCEFOURCEFORMESOURCEFO

(HTTP://OPENSOURCEFO

Q

Creative Commons - Attribution + Noncommercial © Copyright

time with Swatch

BEST-WAYS-PERFORM-

MHPNOTON VENTER // OPENSOURCE FOR OP

HASSLE-FREE-

DEASIGES AHITTER / APPENSOURCE FOR U.COM/CATEGORY/BASIGS / Pigning pf Sense in

Using MIT App Inventor

Dual WAN Failover

MAILCHIMP-

app-inventor/)

(http://opensourceforu.com/2016/04/99/hfiguringpfsense-dual-wan-

failover-mode/)

WORDPRESS/)

4 best ways to perform hassle-free MailChimp integration into **WordPress**

(http://opensourceforu.com/2016/07/4

best-ways-performhassle-free-mailchimp-

integrationwordpress/)