

[Ksummit-discuss] [MAINTAINER TOPIC] Succession Planning: Is It time to Throw Linus Under a Bus?

Jens Axboe [axboe at kernel.dk](mailto:axboe@kernel.dk)

Thu Sep 6 21:34:13 UTC 2018

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On 9/6/18 3:28 PM, John W. Linville wrote:

> On Thu, Sep 06, 2018 at 03:20:08PM -0600, Jens Axboe wrote:

>> On 9/6/18 3:13 PM, James Bottomley wrote:

>>> On Thu, 2018-09-06 at 13:59 -0700, Linus Torvalds wrote:

>>>> On Thu, Sep 6, 2018 at 1:51 PM James Bottomley

>>>> <[James.Bottomley at hansenpartnership.com](mailto:James.Bottomley@hansenpartnership.com)> wrote:

>>>>>

>>>>> It's happened occasionally, but it's not very traditional. Usually

>>>>> when people do a palace coup replacement, the tumbrels are waiting

>>>>> outside to cart the old dictator off to their sticky end.

>>>>>

>>>> This has taken a dark turn.

>>>>

>>> You were the one who mentioned dictators ... I was perfectly happy with

>>> the bus.

>>>>

>>>> I do want to point out that I brought the question up last year on

>>>> the spot. I didn't get any reaction then. I was thinking me not being

>>>> around would have been more conducive to discussion. But whatever.

>>>>

>>> OK, so we could still have a plebiscite in Vancouver; we have the room

>>> and the time still reserved. It could propose a succession plan and

>>> just present it to you. I admit there's precedent; it's how we did the

>>> next TAB chair for instance.

>>>>

>>> However, I really think for an orderly succession plan, you need to be

>>> part of it rather than having a palace coup which could end up being

>>> really messy and divisive. I suspect people treated your proposal last

>>> year as more of a joke last year because they didn't think you were

>>> serious. If you're really serious about doing this, let's try to come

>>> up with the succession process in Edinburgh in October and see if we

>>> can run a Maintainer Summit with the new Leadership in Vancouver in

>>> November.

>>>>

>>> This seems rather hasty to me, I think it would be prudent to establish

>>> a timeline (on both sides?). Unless you are really proposing a coup?

>>>>

>>> FWIW, it took me months to coordinate an orderly withdraw just

>>> from the wireless maintainership. If this is a serious discussion,

>>> then I don't think it's too early to start planning for the coming

> *changes. Just the thought of finding enough fools to backfill Linus*
> *makes me shudder...*

I agree it'll take a long time to do this properly, the hastiness remark was mostly in relation to the statement talking about a new leadership being in place the month after.

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Jens Axboe

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