主　题:	Re: Do you think these developers will help you reduce your workload?
发件人:	[redacted] 2019-1-3 23:25:46
收件人:	"Xin Tan" <tanxin16@pku.edu.cn>

Good day Xin Tan,

> I am Xin Tan, a PhD. student from Peking University. Our team is doing a
> research about "how to reduce the burden of the Linux kernel maintainers".
> We have already obtained some results and hope to get your opinions. We
> sincerely hope that our results would help you.
>
> We notice that you are the maintainer of "MULTIFUNCTION DEVICES (MFD)"
> subsystem and you have signed off a large number of patches in the past two
> years. Your workload is ranked in the top 50 driver subsystems list, and you

Where is this list? Is it possible to see it?

> might feel busy about this work. We would like to introduce you the
> multiple-committer model, which could probably reduce your workload.
>
> As you know, in traditional Linux workflow, only the maintainers have the
> right to commit the patches to the repositories from developers. The
> multiple-committer model, first adopted by "i915" subsystem in 2015, gives
> the commit right to some regular contributors (aka committers, usually they
> are driver engineers who do core changes). They can review and commit
> patches directly to the same repository as the maintainer. We evaluated the
> new model and found it could significantly reduce the maintainers' workload,
> latency, and overwork.
>
> The multiple-committer model runs well on i915 subsystem so far. However,
> not all subsystems are suitable to this model. There should be a relatively
> stable core team in the subsystem. The developers from this team are not
> only competent but also enthusiastic about community activities, e.g.,
> actively participating in patch review. They are trustworthy and may be
> elected as candidate committers. We considered the developers' ability and
> their reviewing relationship and used a graph theory method to select
> candidate committers for your subsystem.
> Here is the list of candidate committers.
>
> Hans de Goede, Rob Herring, Lee Jones, Arnd Bergmann, Guenter Roeck, Wolfram
> Sang, Mika Westerberg, Andy Shevchenko, Sebastian Reichel, Geert
> Uytterhoeven, Tony Lindgren
>
> What do you think of the multiple-committer model?
> Do you want to apply it in the future?
> How do you like these candidate committers?

These committers are fine engineers/maintainers, but they are all very
busy maintaining their own subsystems. People are usually only
interested in MFD when they are submitting patches or if they have a
related patch in their own subsystem.

Also I'm happy with the way things are going, but thanks for the
offer.

Kind regards,

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