Using the TRACE_EVENT() macro

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Joey Lee SUSE Labs Taipei



Agenda

- Steven Rostedt's "Using the TRACE_EVENT() macro" articles
- sched_switch TRACE_EVENT review
- TRACE_EVENT() tricks
- sillymod kernel module
- · Q&A



Steven Rostedt

- Creator and maintainer of ftrace.
- Steven Rostedt's "Using the TRACE_EVENT() macro" articles on LWN.net
 - Part 1: https://lwn.net/Articles/379903/
 - Part 2: https://lwn.net/Articles/381064/
 - Part 3: https://lwn.net/Articles/383362/



sched_switch TRACE_EVENT review

sched switch trace event

include/trace/events/sched.h

```
* Tracepoint for task switches, performed by the scheduler:
TRACE_EVENT(sched_switch,
       TP_PROTO(bool preempt,
                struct task_struct *prev,
                struct task_struct *next),
       TP_ARGS(preempt, prev, next),
       TP_STRUCT__entry(
               __array(
                              char, prev_comm,
                                                      TASK COMM LEN )
               __field(
                              pid_t, prev_pid
               __field(
                              int, prev_prio
               __field(
                              long, prev_state
               __array(
                              char, next_comm,
                                                      TASK_COMM_LEN
                              pid_t, next_pid
               __field(
               __field(
                              int, next_prio
       ),
       TP_fast_assign(
               memcpy(__entry->next_comm, next->comm, TASK_COMM_LEN);
               __entry->prev_pid
                                     = prev->pid;
               __entry->prev_prio
                                    = prev->prio;
               __entry->prev_state
                                   = __trace_sched_switch_state(preempt, prev);
               memcpy(__entry->prev_comm, prev->comm, TASK_COMM_LEN);
               __entry->next_pid
                                      = next->pid;
               __entry->next_prio = next->prio;
               /* XXX SCHED DEADLINE */
       ),
       TP_printk("prev_comm=%s prev_pid=%d prev_prio=%d prev_state=%s%s ==> next_comm=%s next_pid=%d next_prio=%d",
               __entry->prev_comm, __entry->prev_pid, __entry->prev_prio,
               __entry->prev_state & (TASK_STATE_MAX-1) ?
                 __print_flags(__entry->prev_state & (TASK_STATE_MAX-1), "|",
                              { 1, "S"} , { 2, "D" }, { 4, "T" }, { 8, "t" },
                              { 16, "Z" }, { 32, "X" }, { 64, "x" },
```



sched_switch trace event (name)

```
name - the name of the tracepoint to be created. [1]
/*

* Tracepoint for task switches, performed by the scheduler:

*/

TRACE_EVENT(sched_switch,
```



sched_switch trace event (prototype)

prototype - the prototype for the tracepoint callbacks

```
TP_PROTO(bool preempt,

struct task_struct *prev,

struct task_struct *next),
```

trace_sched_switch(bool preempt, struct task_struct*prev, struct task_struct *next);



sched_switch trace event (arguments)

args - the arguments that match the prototype.

```
TP_ARGS(preempt, prev, next),
```

 The tracepoint code, when activated, will call the callback functions (more than one callback may be assigned to a given tracepoint). The macro that creates the tracepoint must have access to both the prototype and the arguments. [1]



sched_switch trace event (struct)

- struct the structure that a tracer could use (but is not required to) to store the data passed into the tracepoint. [1]
- This parameter describes the structure layout of the data that will be stored in the tracer's ring buffer. [1]



sched_switch trace event (struct) (cont.)

```
struct {
 char prev comm[TASK COMM LEN];
 pid_t prev_pid;
 int prev prio;
 long prev state;
 char next comm[TASK COMM LEN];
 pid t next pid;
 int next prio;
```



sched_switch trace event (assign)

assign - the C-like way to assign the data to the structure.[1]

```
TP fast assign(
  memcpy( entry->next comm, next->comm, TASK COMM LEN);
   __entry->prev_pid = prev->pid;
   entry->prev prio = prev->prio;
  __entry->prev_state = _ trace_sched_switch_state(preempt, prev);
  memcpy( entry->prev comm, prev->comm, TASK COMM LEN);
   entry->next_pid = next->pid;
   entry->next_prio = next->prio;
  /* XXX SCHED DEADLINE */
```



sched_switch trace event (print)

print - the way to output the structure in human readable ASCII format.

```
TP printk("prev comm=%s prev pid=%d prev prio=%d prev state=
%s%s ==> next comm=%s next pid=%d next prio=%d",
         entry->prev comm, entry->prev pid, entry->prev prio,
         entry->prev state & (TASK STATE MAX-1)?
          print flags( entry->prev state & (TASK STATE MAX-1), "|",
                  { 1, "S"} , { 2, "D" }, { 4, "T" }, { 8, "t" },
                  { 16, "Z" }, { 32, "X" }, { 64, "x" },
                  { 128, "K" }, { 256, "W" }, { 512, "P" },
                  { 1024, "N" }) : "R",
         __entry->prev_state & TASK_STATE_MAX ? "+" : "",
         entry->next comm, entry->next pid, entry->next prio)
```



Header file for sched_switch

include/trace/events/sched.h
 #undef TRACE_SYSTEM
 #define TRACE_SYSTEM sched
 #if !defined(_TRACE_SCHED_H) || defined(TRACE_HEADER_MULTI_READ)
 #define _TRACE_SCHED_H
 #include linux/sched/numa_balancing.h>
 #include linux/tracepoint.h>

- The TRACE_SYSTEM defines what group the TRACE_EVENT() macros in the file belong to. [1]
- The TRACE_HEADER_MULTI_READ test allows this file to be included more than once. [1]
- The tracepoint.h file is required for TRACE_EVENT() marco.



Header file for sched_switch (cont.)

include/trace/events/sched.h

```
#endif /* _TRACE_SCHED_H */
```

```
/* This part must be outside protection */
#include <trace/define_trace.h>
```

 The define_trace.h is where all the magic lies in creating the tracepoints. ...this file must be included at the bottom of the trace header file outside the protection of the #endif. [1]



Using the tracepoint

```
    kernel/sched/core.c

 [...snip]
 #include "../smpboot.h"
 #define CREATE TRACE POINTS
 #include <trace/events/sched.h>
 [...snip]
 static void sched notrace schedule(bool preempt)
 [...snip]
           ++*switch count;
           trace sched switch(preempt, prev, next);
           /* Also unlocks the rq: */
           rq = context switch(rq, prev, next, &rf);
 [...snip]
• To use the tracepoint, the trace header must be included, but one C file (and only one) must also define
 CREATE TRACE POINTS before including the trace. [1]
```



Enable sched_switch event

 cd /sys/kernel/debug/tracing # echo 1 > events/sched/sched switch/enable or # echo sched switch > set event # cat trace pipe [...snip] sshd-2926 [000] d... 97823.734835: sched switch: prev comm=sshd prev_pid=2926 prev_prio=120 prev state=S ==> next comm=kworker/u9:1 next pid=3933 next prio=120



Size of text section

text	data	bss	dec	hex	filename
452114	2788	3520	458422	6feb6 f	s/xfs/xfs.o.notrace
996954	38116	4480	1039550	fdcbe	fs/xfs/xfs.o.trace
638482	38116	3744	680342	a6196	fs/xfs/xfs.o.class

- enabling the trace events causes the xfs.o text section to double in size! [2]
- If two events have the same TP_PROTO, TP_ARGS and TP_STRUCT__entry, there should be a way to have these events share the functions that they use. [2]



DECLARE_EVENT_CLASS

```
    include/trace/events/sched.h

 * Tracepoint for waking up a task:
 */
 DECLARE EVENT CLASS(sched wakeup template,
     TP PROTO(struct task struct *p),
     TP ARGS( perf task(p)),
     TP STRUCT entry([...snip]
     TP fast assign([...snip]
     TP printk("comm=%s pid=%d prio=%d target_cpu=%03d", [...snip]
 );
• The DECLARE EVENT CLASS() macro has the exact same format as TRACE EVENT()
```



DEFINE_EVENT

include/trace/events/sched.h

```
DEFINE EVENT(sched wakeup template, sched_waking,
       TP PROTO(struct task struct *p),
       TP ARGS(p));
DEFINE EVENT(sched wakeup template, sched wakeup,
       TP PROTO(struct task_struct *p),
       TP ARGS(p));
DEFINE EVENT(sched wakeup template,
sched wakeup new,
       TP PROTO(struct task struct *p),
       TP ARGS(p));
```



TRACE_EVENT() tricks

cpp tricks

```
#define DOGS { C(JACK RUSSELL), C(BULL TERRIER),
C(ITALIAN GREYHOUND) }
#undef C
#define C(a) ENUM ##a
enum dog enums DOGS;
#undef C
#define C(a) #a
char *dog strings[] = DOGS;
char *dog to string(enum dog enums dog)
      return dog strings[dog];
```

 The trick is that the macro DOGS contains a sub-macro C() that we can redefine and change the behavior of DOGS. This concept is key to how the TRACE_EVENT() macro works. [3]



Redefine TRACE_EVENT()

- All the sub-macros within TRACE_EVENT() can be redefined and cause the TRACE_EVENT() to be used to create different code that uses the same information.
- The tracepoint code created by Mathieu Desnoyers required a DECLARE_TRACE(name, proto, args) be defined in a header file, and in some C file DEFINE_TRACE(name) was used. TRACE EVENT() now does both jobs. [3]



kernel/sched/core.c

Set to redefine TRACE_EVENT by DEFINE_TRACE to overwrite tracepoint.h

```
#define CREATE_TRACE_POINTS
#include <trace/events/sched.h>
[...snip]
static void __sched notrace __schedule(bool preempt)
        struct task_struct *prev, *next;
        unsigned long *switch_count;
[...snip]
        if (likely(prev != next)) {
                rq->nr_switches++;
                rq->curr = next;
                ++*switch_count;
                trace_sched_switch(preempt, prev, next);
[...snip]
```



include/trace/events/sched.h

```
#undef TRACE_SYSTEM
#define TRACE_SYSTEM sched
#if !defined(_TRACE_SCHED_H) || defined(TRACE_HEADER_MULTI_READ)
#define _TRACE_SCHED_H
#include <linux/sched/numa_balancing.h>
#include <linux/tracepoint.h>
#include <linux/binfmts.h>
[...snip]
* Tracepoint for task switches, performed by the scheduler:
TRACE EVENT(sched switch,
       TP_PROTO(bool preempt,
[...snip]
#endif /* _TRACE_SCHED_H */
/* This part must be outside protection */
#include <trace/define_trace.h>
```



include/linux/tracepoint.h

```
#ifndef _LINUX_TRACEPOINT_H
#define _LINUX_TRACEPOINT_H
[...snip]
#endif /* LINUX TRACEPOINT H */
#ifndef DECLARE TRACE
[...snip]
#define __DECLARE_TRACE(name, proto, args, cond, data_proto, data_args)
        extern struct tracepoint __tracepoint_##name;
        static inline void trace_##name(proto)
//[...snip]
#define DEFINE_TRACE_FN(name, reg, unreg)
//[...snip]
        struct tracepoint __tracepoint_##name
        __attribute__((section("__tracepoints"))) =
                { __tpstrtab_##name, STATIC_KEY_INIT_FALSE, reg, unreg, NULL };\
//[...snip]
#define DEFINE TRACE(name)
        DEFINE_TRACE_FN(name, NULL, NULL);
//[..snip]
#define DECLARE_TRACE(name, proto, args)
        DECLARE TRACE(name, PARAMS(proto), PARAMS(args),
//[...snip]
#define TRACE_EVENT(name, proto, args, struct, assign, print) \
        DECLARE_TRACE(name, PARAMS(proto), PARAMS(args))
#endif /* ifdef TRACE_EVENT (see up
```

First defined TRACE_EVENT by DECLARE_TRACE



include/trace/define_trace.h

#endif

```
* Trace files that want to automate creation of all tracepoints defined
 * in their file should include this file. The following are macros that the
 * trace file may define:
 * TRACE SYSTEM defines the system the tracepoint is for
 * TRACE_INCLUDE_FILE if the file name is something other than TRACE_SYSTEM.h
      This macro may be defined to tell define_trace.h what file to include.
      Note, leave off the ".h".
 * TRACE_INCLUDE_PATH if the path is something other than core kernel include/trace
      then this macro can define the path to use. Note, the path is relative to
      define_trace.h, not the file including it. Full path names for out of tree
      modules must be used.
#ifdef CREATE_TRACE_POINTS
                                            Set in kernel/sched/core.c before
/* Prevent recursion */
#undef CREATE_TRACE_POINTS
                                      Including include/trace/events/sched.h
[...snip]
#undef TRACE EVENT
#define TRACE_EVENT(name, proto, args, tstruct, assign, print) \
       DEFINE_TRACE(name)
[...snip]
#undef TRACE_INCLUDE
                                                 Redefine TRACE EVENT by
#undef __TRACE_INCLUDE
                                     DEFINE TRACE to overwrite tracepoint.h
#ifndef TRACE_INCLUDE_FILE
# define TRACE_INCLUDE_FILE TRACE_SYSTEM
# define UNDEF TRACE INCLUDE FILE
```



include/trace/define_trace.h (cont.)

```
# define __TRACE_INCLUDE(system) <trace/events/system.h>
# define UNDEF TRACE INCLUDE PATH
#else
# define __TRACE_INCLUDE(system) __stringify(TRACE_INCLUDE_PATH/system.h)
#endif
# define TRACE_INCLUDE(system) __TRACE_INCLUDE(system)
/* Let the trace headers be reread */
#define TRACE_HEADER_MULTI_READ
#include TRACE_INCLUDE(TRACE_INCLUDE_FILE)
[...snip]
                                                      #include <trace/events/sched.h>
/* Only undef what we defined in this file */
                                                                              again
#ifdef UNDEF TRACE INCLUDE FILE
# undef TRACE INCLUDE FILE
# undef UNDEF TRACE INCLUDE FILE
#endif
#ifdef UNDEF_TRACE_INCLUDE_PATH
# undef TRACE_INCLUDE_PATH
# undef UNDEF_TRACE_INCLUDE_PATH
#endif
/* We may be processing more files */
#define CREATE_TRACE_POINTS
#endif /* CREATE TRACE POINTS */
```



include/trace/events/sched.h

```
#undef TRACE SYSTEM
#define TRACE_SYSTEM sched
#if !defined(_TRACE_SCHED_H) || defined(TRACE_HEADER_MULTI_READ)
#define _TRACE_SCHED_H
                                   Allow #include <trace/events/sched.h>
#include <linux/sched/numa_balancing.h</pre>
                                                         again
#include linux/tracepoint.h>
#include <linux/binfmts.h>
[...snip]
* Tracepoint for task switches, performed by the schedu
TRACE_EVENT(sched_switch,
                                               Skipped when re-entering
       TP_PROTO(bool preempt,
[...snip]
#endif /* _TRACE_SCHED_H */
/* This part must be outside protection */
                                        Redefine TRACE_EVENT
#include <trace/define_trace.h>
                                      by DEFINE_TRACE because
                                                define trace.h
                                                                          SUSE
```

include/linux/tracepoint.h again

```
#ifndef _LINUX_TRACEPOINT_H
#define _LINUX_TRACEPOINT_H
[...snip]
#endif /* LINUX TRACEPOINT H */
 * Note: we keep the TRACE_EVENT and DECLARE_TRACE outside the include
 * file ifdef protection.
 * This is due to the way trace events work. If a file includes two
 * trace event headers under one "CREATE_TRACE_POINTS" the first include
 * will override the TRACE_EVENT and break the second include.
#ifndef DECLARE TRACE
1...snip
/#define/__beclare_trace(name,/proto/_args/_cond/_data_proto/_data_args/
        extern struct tracepoint tracepoint ##name
(//snip)
#define DECLARE_TRACE(name, proto, args)
          DECLARE TRACE (name PARAMS (proto) PARAMS (args)
                        cpu_online(raw_smp_processor_id())
                        PARAMS(void *__data, proto)
                        PARAMS(_data, args))
\{\ldots, \operatorname{snip}\}
#endif /* DECLARE TRACE */
#ifndef TRACE EVENT
\{...snip\}
                                                                  Skipped when re-entering
#define TRACE_EVENT(name, proto, args, struct, assign, prin
       DECLARE TRACE (name, PARAMS (proto), PARAMS (args))
#endif /* ifdef TRACE_EVENT (see note above) */
```



include/trace/define_trace.h

```
# define TRACE_INCLUDE(system) __TRACE_INCLUDE(system)
/* Let the trace headers be reread */
#define TRACE HEADER MULTI READ
#include TRACE_INCLUDE(TRACE_INCLUDE_FILE)
/* Make all open coded DECLARE_TRACE nops */
#undef DECLARE TRACE
#define DECLARE_TRACE(name, proto, args)
#ifdef TRACEPOINTS ENABLED
#include <trace/trace_events.h>
#include <trace/perf.h>
#endif
                                          Overwrite TRACE_EVENT
                                                 definition again
#undef TRACE_EVENT
#undef TRACE EVENT FN
#undef TRACE EVENT EN COND
```



include/trace/trace_events.h

* Stage 2 of the trace events.

* Include the following:

```
* Stage 1 of the trace events.
 * Override the macros in <trace/trace_events.h> to include the following:
 * struct trace_event_raw_<call> {
[...snip]
#include <linux/trace_events.h>
#ifndef TRACE_SYSTEM_VAR
#define TRACE_SYSTEM_VAR TRACE_SYSTEM
#endif
[...snip]
#undef TRACE_DEFINE_ENUM
#define TRACE_DEFINE_ENUM(a)
[...snip]
#undef TRACE EVENT
#define TRACE_EVENT(name, proto, args, tstruct, assign, print) \
       DECLARE_EVENT_CLASS(name,
[...snip]
#undef DECLARE_EVENT_CLASS
#define DECLARE_EVENT_CLASS(name, proto, args, tstruct, assign, print) \
       struct trace_event_raw_##name {
[...snip]
#undef DEFINE_EVENT
#define DEFINE_EVENT(template, name, proto, args)
       static struct trace_event_call __used
        __attribute__((__aligned__(4))) event_##name
[...snip]
#include TRACE_INCLUDE(TRACE_INCLUDE_FILE)
```

#include <trace/events/sched.h> again



include/trace/trace_events.h (cont.)

```
#undef DEFINE_EVENT
#define DEFINE_EVENT(template, name, proto, args)
#undef DEFINE_EVENT_PRINT
#define DEFINE_EVENT_PRINT(template, name, proto, args, print) \
       DEFINE EVENT(template, name, PARAMS(proto), PARAMS(args))
#include TRACE_INCLUDE(TRACE_INCLUDE_FILE)
                                                   #include <trace/events/sched.h>
                                                                       again
   Stage 4 of the trace events.
 * Override the macros in <trace/trace_events.h> to include the following:
[...snip]
#ifdef CONFIG_PERF_EVENTS
[...snip]
#include TRACE_INCLUDE(TRACE_INCLUDE_FILE)
[...snip]
static struct trace_event_call __used
__attribute__((section("_ftrace_events"))) *__event_##call = &event_##call
#include TRACE_INCLUDE(TRACE_INCLUDE_FILE
                                                   #include <trace/events/sched.h>
```

again

sillymod

sillymode

- sillymod.c
 - Original kernel module for referenece
- sillymod-event.c
 - Kernel module with me_silly trace event
- silly-trace.h
 - Defined me silly trace event by TRACE EVET marco
- Makefile
 - Build sillymod-event.ko



Build sillymod-event.ko

```
linux-g35h:/home/linux/tmp/sillymod # ls
Makefile sillymod.c sillymod-event.c silly-trace.h
linux-g35h:/home/linux/tmp/sillymod # make
make -C /lib/modules/4.4.74-18.20-default/build SUBDIRS=/home/linux/tmp/sillymod modules
make[1]: Entering directory '/usr/src/linux-4.4.74-18.20-obj/x86_64/default'
    CC [M] /home/linux/tmp/sillymod/sillymod-event.o
    Building modules, stage 2.
    MODPOST 1 modules
    CC     /home/linux/tmp/sillymod/sillymod-event.mod.o
    LD [M]    /home/linux/tmp/sillymod/sillymod-event.ko
make[1]: Leaving directory '/usr/src/linux-4.4.74-18.20-obj/x86_64/default'
linux-g35h:/home/linux/tmp/sillymod # insmod sillymod-event.ko
linux-g35h:/home/linux/tmp/sillymod #
```



dmesg

```
[317077.791436] systemd-journald[12121]: Sent WATCHDOG=1 notification.
[317078.792120] hello! 0
[317079.792151] hello! 1
[317080.792147] hello! 2
[317081.792110] hello! 3
[317082.792119] hello! 4
[317083.796031] hello! 5
[317084.796049] hello! 6
[317085.796014] hello! 7
[317086.796059] hello! 8
[317087.796122] hello! 9
linux-g35h:/home/linux/tmp/sillymod #
```



Enable me_silly event

```
linux-g35h:/home/linux/tmp/sillymod # echo 1 > /sys/kernel/debug/tracing/events/silly/me_silly/enable
linux-g35h:/home/linux/tmp/sillymod # cat /sys/kernel/debug/tracing/trace
# tracer: nop
# entries-in-buffer/entries-written: 9/9 #P:2
                              ----=> irgs-off
                             / _---=> need-resched
                             / / ---=> hardirg/softirg
                              / _--=> preempt-depth
                                      delay
           TASK-PID
                      CPU#
                                    TIMESTAMP FUNCTION
   silly-thread-17498 [001] ...1 317316.198324: me_silly: time=4374170995 count=36
   silly-thread-17498 [001] ...1 317317.197846: me_silly: time=4374171245 count=37
   silly-thread-17498 [001] ...1 317318.197962: me_silly: time=4374171495 count=38
   silly-thread-17498 [001] ...1 317319.198305: me silly: time=4374171745 count=39
    silly-thread-17498 [001] ...1 317320.198300: me_silly: time=4374171995 count=40
    silly-thread-17498 [001] ...1 317321.198416: me silly: time=4374172245 count=41
   silly-thread-17498 [001] ...1 317322.198280: me_silly: time=4374172495 count=42
   silly-thread-17498 [001] ...1 317323.198277: me_silly: time=4374172745 count=43
   silly-thread-17498 [001] ...1 317324.198480: me_silly: time=4374172995 count=44
linux-g35h:/home/linux/tmp/sillymod #
```



silly-trace.h

```
#undef TRACE_SYSTEM
#define TRACE_SYSTEM silly
#if !defined(_SILLY_TRACE_H) || defined(TRACE_HEADER_MULTI_READ)
#define _SILLY_TRACE_H
#include <linux/tracepoint.h>
TRACE_EVENT(me_silly,
       TP_PROTO(unsigned long time, unsigned long count),
       TP_ARGS(time, count),
       TP_STRUCT__entry(
               __field(
                               unsigned long, time )
               __field(
                               unsigned long, count )
       ),
       TP_fast_assign(
               __entry->time = jiffies;
               __entry->count = count;
       ),
       TP_printk("time=%lu count=%lu", __entry->time, __entry->count)
);
#endif /* _SILLY_TRACE_H */
/* This part must be outside protection */
#undef TRACE_INCLUDE_PATH
#define TRACE_INCLUDE_PATH .
#define TRACE_INCLUDE_FILE silly-trace
#include <trace/define_trace.h>
```



sillymod-event.c

```
#include <linux/module.h>
#include <linux/kthread.h>
#define CREATE_TRACE_POINTS
#include "silly-trace.h"
static void silly_thread_func(void)
        static unsigned long count;
        set_current_state(TASK_INTERRUPTIBLE);
        schedule_timeout(HZ);
        printk("hello! %lu\n", count);
        trace_me_silly(jiffies, count);
        count++;
static int silly_thread(void *arg)
        while (!kthread_should_stop())
                silly_thread_func();
```



Q&A

Reference

- [1] Using the TRACE_EVENT() macro (Part 1)
- [2] Using the TRACE_EVENT() macro (Part 2)
- [3] Using the TRACE_EVENT() macro (Part 3) Steven Rostedt, LWN.net, March, 2010
- [4] Documentation/trace/events.txt, Theodore Ts'o, Linux Kernel



Feedback to jlee@suse.com

Thank you.







Corporate Headquarters

Maxfeldstrasse 5 90409 Nuremberg Germany +49 911 740 53 0 (Worldwide)

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