

## CHAPTER 12

# PCI Drivers



While Chapter 9 introduced the lowest levels of hardware control, this chapter provides an overview of the higher-level bus architectures. A bus is made up of both an electrical interface and a programming interface. In this chapter, we deal with the programming interface.

This chapter covers a number of bus architectures. However, the primary focus is on the kernel functions that access Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) peripherals, because these days the PCI bus is the most commonly used peripheral bus on desktops and bigger computers. The bus is the one that is best supported by the kernel. ISA is still common for electronic hobbyists and is described later, although it is pretty much a bare-metal kind of bus, and there isn't much to say in addition to what is covered in Chapters 9 and 10.

## The PCI Interface

Although many computer users think of PCI as a way of laying out electrical wires, it is actually a complete set of specifications defining how different parts of a computer should interact.

The PCI specification covers most issues related to computer interfaces. We are not going to cover it all here; in this section, we are mainly concerned with how a PCI driver can find its hardware and gain access to it. The probing techniques discussed in the sections “Module Parameters” in Chapter 2 and “Autodetecting the IRQ Number” in Chapter 10 can be used with PCI devices, but the specification offers an alternative that is preferable to probing.

The PCI architecture was designed as a replacement for the ISA standard, with three main goals: to **get better performance when transferring data** between the computer and its peripherals, to be **as platform independent** as possible, and to **simplify adding and removing peripherals** to the system.

The PCI bus achieves better performance by using a higher clock rate than ISA; its clock runs at 25 or 33 MHz (its actual rate being a factor of the system clock), and 66-MHz and even 133-MHz implementations have recently been deployed as well. Moreover, it is equipped with a 32-bit data bus, and a 64-bit extension has been included in the specification. Platform independence is often a goal in the design of a computer bus, and it's an especially important feature of PCI, because the PC world has always been dominated by processor-specific interface standards. PCI is currently used extensively on IA-32, Alpha, PowerPC, SPARC64, and IA-64 systems, and some other platforms as well.

What is most relevant to the driver writer, however, is PCI's support for autodetection of interface boards. PCI devices are jumperless (unlike most older peripherals) and are automatically configured at boot time. Then, the device driver must be able to access configuration information in the device in order to complete initialization. This happens without the need to perform any probing.

## PCI Addressing

Each PCI peripheral is identified by a *bus number*, a *device number*, and a *function number*. The PCI specification permits a single system to host up to 256 buses, but because 256 buses are not sufficient for many large systems, Linux now supports PCI *domains*. Each PCI domain can host up to 256 buses. Each bus hosts up to 32 devices, and each device can be a multifunction board (such as an audio device with an accompanying CD-ROM drive) with a maximum of eight functions. Therefore, each function can be identified at hardware level by a 16-bit address, or key. Device drivers written for Linux, though, don't need to deal with those binary addresses, because they use a specific data structure, called `pci_dev`, to act on the devices.

Most recent workstations feature at least two PCI buses. Plugging more than one bus in a single system is accomplished by means of bridges, special-purpose PCI peripherals whose task is joining two buses. The overall layout of a PCI system is a tree where each bus is connected to an upper-layer bus, up to bus 0 at the root of the tree. The CardBus PC-card system is also connected to the PCI system via bridges. A typical PCI system is represented in Figure 12-1, where the various bridges are highlighted.

The 16-bit hardware addresses associated with PCI peripherals, although mostly hidden in the struct `pci_dev` object, are still visible occasionally, especially when lists of devices are being used. One such situation is the output of `lspci` (part of the `pciutils` package, available with most distributions) and the layout of information in `/proc/pci` and `/proc/bus/pci`. The `sysfs` representation of PCI devices also shows this addressing scheme, with the addition of the PCI domain information.\* When the hardware address is displayed, it can be shown as two values (an 8-bit bus number and an 8-bit

\* Some architectures also display the PCI domain information in the `/proc/pci` and `/proc/bus/pci` files.

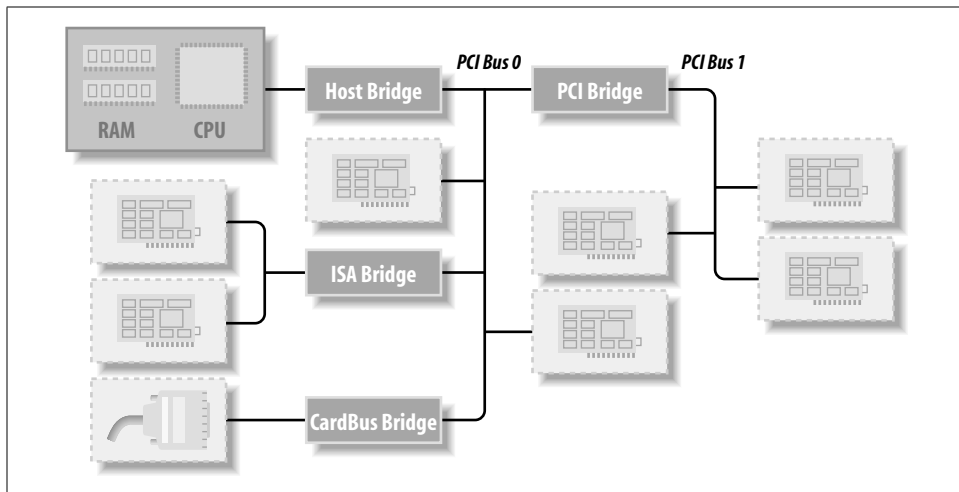


Figure 12-1. Layout of a typical PCI system

device and function number), as three values (bus, device, and function), or as four values (domain, bus, device, and function); all the values are usually displayed in hexadecimal.

For example, `/proc/bus/pci/devices` uses a single 16-bit field (to ease parsing and sorting), while `/proc/bus/busnumber` splits the address into three fields. The following shows how those addresses appear, showing only the beginning of the output lines:

```
$ lspci | cut -d: -f1-3
0000:00:00.0 Host bridge
0000:00:00.1 RAM memory
0000:00:00.2 RAM memory
0000:00:02.0 USB Controller
0000:00:04.0 Multimedia audio controller
0000:00:06.0 Bridge
0000:00:07.0 ISA bridge
0000:00:09.0 USB Controller
0000:00:09.1 USB Controller
0000:00:09.2 USB Controller
0000:00:0c.0 CardBus bridge
0000:00:0f.0 IDE interface
0000:00:10.0 Ethernet controller
0000:00:12.0 Network controller
0000:00:13.0 FireWire (IEEE 1394)
0000:00:14.0 VGA compatible controller
$ cat /proc/bus/pci/devices | cut -f1
0000
0001
0002
0010
0020
0030
```

```

0038
0048
0049
004a
0060
0078
0080
0090
0098
00a0
$ tree /sys/bus/pci/devices/
/sys/bus/pci/devices/
|-- 0000:00:00.0 -> ../../../../devices/pci0000:00/0000:00:00.0
|-- 0000:00:00.1 -> ../../../../devices/pci0000:00/0000:00:00.1
|-- 0000:00:00.2 -> ../../../../devices/pci0000:00/0000:00:00.2
|-- 0000:00:02.0 -> ../../../../devices/pci0000:00/0000:00:02.0
|-- 0000:00:04.0 -> ../../../../devices/pci0000:00/0000:00:04.0
|-- 0000:00:06.0 -> ../../../../devices/pci0000:00/0000:00:06.0
|-- 0000:00:07.0 -> ../../../../devices/pci0000:00/0000:00:07.0
|-- 0000:00:09.0 -> ../../../../devices/pci0000:00/0000:00:09.0
|-- 0000:00:09.1 -> ../../../../devices/pci0000:00/0000:00:09.1
|-- 0000:00:09.2 -> ../../../../devices/pci0000:00/0000:00:09.2
|-- 0000:00:0c.0 -> ../../../../devices/pci0000:00/0000:00:0c.0
|-- 0000:00:0f.0 -> ../../../../devices/pci0000:00/0000:00:0f.0
|-- 0000:00:10.0 -> ../../../../devices/pci0000:00/0000:00:10.0
|-- 0000:00:12.0 -> ../../../../devices/pci0000:00/0000:00:12.0
|-- 0000:00:13.0 -> ../../../../devices/pci0000:00/0000:00:13.0
-- 0000:00:14.0 -> ../../../../devices/pci0000:00/0000:00:14.0

```

All three lists of devices are sorted in the same order, since *lspci* uses the */proc* files as its source of information. Taking the VGA video controller as an example, 0x00a0 means 0000:00:14.0 when split into domain (16 bits), bus (8 bits), device (5 bits) and function (3 bits).

The hardware circuitry of each peripheral board answers queries pertaining to three address spaces: memory locations, I/O ports, and configuration registers. The first two address spaces are shared by all the devices on the same PCI bus (i.e., when you access a memory location, all the devices on that PCI bus see the bus cycle at the same time). The configuration space, on the other hand, exploits *geographical addressing*. Configuration queries address only one slot at a time, so they never collide.

As far as the driver is concerned, memory and I/O regions are accessed in the usual ways via *inb*, *readb*, and so forth. Configuration transactions, on the other hand, are performed by calling specific kernel functions to access configuration registers. With regard to interrupts, every PCI slot has four interrupt pins, and each device function can use one of them without being concerned about how those pins are routed to the CPU. Such routing is the responsibility of the computer platform and is implemented outside of the PCI bus. Since the PCI specification requires interrupt lines to be shareable, even a processor with a limited number of IRQ lines, such as the x86, can host many PCI interface boards (each with four interrupt pins).

The I/O space in a PCI bus uses a 32-bit address bus (leading to 4 GB of I/O ports), while the memory space can be accessed with either 32-bit or 64-bit addresses. 64-bit addresses are available on more recent platforms. Addresses are supposed to be unique to one device, but software may erroneously configure two devices to the same address, making it impossible to access either one. But this problem never occurs unless a driver is willingly playing with registers it shouldn't touch. The good news is that every memory and I/O address region offered by the interface board can be remapped by means of configuration transactions. That is, the firmware initializes PCI hardware at system boot, mapping each region to a different address to avoid collisions.\* The addresses to which these regions are currently mapped can be read from the configuration space, so the Linux driver can access its devices without probing. After reading the configuration registers, the driver can safely access its hardware.

The PCI configuration space consists of 256 bytes for each device function (except for PCI Express devices, which have 4 KB of configuration space for each function), and the layout of the configuration registers is standardized. Four bytes of the configuration space hold a unique function ID, so the driver can identify its device by looking for the specific ID for that peripheral.† In summary, each device board is geographically addressed to retrieve its configuration registers; the information in those registers can then be used to perform normal I/O access, without the need for further geographic addressing.

It should be clear from this description that the main innovation of the PCI interface standard over ISA is the configuration address space. Therefore, in addition to the usual driver code, a PCI driver needs the ability to access the configuration space, in order to save itself from risky probing tasks.

For the remainder of this chapter, we use the word *device* to refer to a device function, because each function in a multifunction board acts as an independent entity. When we refer to a device, we mean the tuple “domain number, bus number, device number, and function number.”

## Boot Time

To see how PCI works, we start from system boot, since that's when the devices are configured.

\* Actually, that configuration is not restricted to the time the system boots; hotpluggable devices, for example, cannot be available at boot time and appear later instead. The main point here is that the device driver must not change the address of I/O or memory regions.

† You'll find the ID of any device in its own hardware manual. A list is included in the file *pci.ids*, part of the *pciutils* package and the kernel sources; it doesn't pretend to be complete but just lists the most renowned vendors and devices. The kernel version of this file will not be included in future kernel series.

When power is applied to a PCI device, the hardware remains inactive. In other words, the device responds only to configuration transactions. At power on, the device has no memory and no I/O ports mapped in the computer's address space; every other device-specific feature, such as interrupt reporting, is disabled as well.

Fortunately, every PCI motherboard is equipped with PCI-aware firmware, called the BIOS, NVRAM, or PROM, depending on the platform. The firmware offers access to the device configuration address space by reading and writing registers in the PCI controller.

At system boot, the firmware (or the Linux kernel, if so configured) performs configuration transactions with every PCI peripheral in order to allocate a safe place for each address region it offers. By the time a device driver accesses the device, its memory and I/O regions have already been mapped into the processor's address space. The driver can change this default assignment, but it never needs to do that.

As suggested, the user can look at the PCI device list and the devices' configuration registers by reading */proc/bus/pci/devices* and */proc/bus/pci/\**. The former is a text file with (hexadecimal) device information, and the latter are binary files that report a snapshot of the configuration registers of each device, one file per device. The individual PCI device directories in the sysfs tree can be found in */sys/bus/pci/devices*. A PCI device directory contains a number of different files:

```
$ tree /sys/bus/pci/devices/0000:00:10.0
/sys/bus/pci/devices/0000:00:10.0
|-- class
|-- config
|-- detach_state
|-- device
|-- irq
|-- power
|   |-- state
|-- resource
|-- subsystem_device
|-- subsystem_vendor
|-- vendor
```

The file *config* is a binary file that allows the raw PCI config information to be read from the device (just like the */proc/bus/pci/\** provides.) The files *vendor*, *device*, *subsystem\_device*, *subsystem\_vendor*, and *class* all refer to the specific values of this PCI device (all PCI devices provide this information.) The file *irq* shows the current IRQ assigned to this PCI device, and the file *resource* shows the current memory resources allocated by this device.

## Configuration Registers and Initialization

In this section, we look at the configuration registers that PCI devices contain. All PCI devices feature at least a 256-byte address space. The first 64 bytes are standardized, while the rest are device dependent. Figure 12-2 shows the layout of the device-independent configuration space.

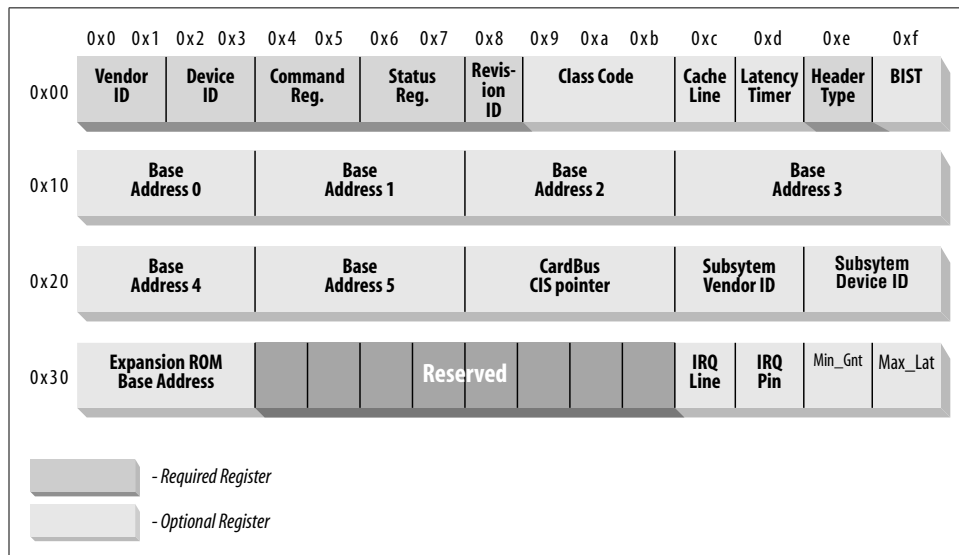


Figure 12-2. The standardized PCI configuration registers

As the figure shows, some of the PCI configuration registers are required and some are optional. Every PCI device must contain meaningful values in the required registers, whereas the contents of the optional registers depend on the actual capabilities of the peripheral. The optional fields are not used unless the contents of the required fields indicate that they are valid. Thus, the required fields assert the board's capabilities, including whether the other fields are usable.

It's interesting to note that the PCI registers are always little-endian. Although the standard is designed to be architecture independent, the PCI designers sometimes show a slight bias toward the PC environment. The driver writer should be careful about byte ordering when accessing multibyte configuration registers; code that works on the PC might not work on other platforms. The Linux developers have taken care of the byte-ordering problem (see the next section, "Accessing the Configuration Space"), but the issue must be kept in mind. If you ever need to convert data from host order to PCI order or vice versa, you can resort to the functions defined in `<asm/byteorder.h>`, introduced in Chapter 11, knowing that PCI byte order is little-endian.

Describing all the configuration items is beyond the scope of this book. Usually, the technical documentation released with each device describes the supported registers. What we're interested in is how a driver can look for its device and how it can access the device's configuration space.

Three or five PCI registers identify a device: vendorID, deviceID, and class are the three that are always used. Every PCI manufacturer assigns proper values to these read-only registers, and the driver can use them to look for the device. Additionally, the fields subsystem vendorID and subsystem deviceID are sometimes set by the vendor to further differentiate similar devices.

Let's look at these registers in more detail:

#### vendorID

This 16-bit register identifies a hardware manufacturer. For instance, every Intel device is marked with the same vendor number, 0x8086. There is a global registry of such numbers, maintained by the PCI Special Interest Group, and manufacturers must apply to have a unique number assigned to them.

#### deviceID

This is another 16-bit register, selected by the manufacturer; no official registration is required for the device ID. This ID is usually paired with the vendor ID to make a unique 32-bit identifier for a hardware device. We use the word *signature* to refer to the vendor and device ID pair. A device driver usually relies on the signature to identify its device; you can find what value to look for in the hardware manual for the target device.

#### class

Every peripheral device belongs to a class. The class register is a 16-bit value whose top 8 bits identify the "base class" (or *group*). For example, "ethernet" and "token ring" are two classes belonging to the "network" group, while the "serial" and "parallel" classes belong to the "communication" group. Some drivers can support several similar devices, each of them featuring a different signature but all belonging to the same class; these drivers can rely on the class register to identify their peripherals, as shown later.

#### subsystem vendorID

#### subsystem deviceID

These fields can be used for further identification of a device. If the chip is a generic interface chip to a local (onboard) bus, it is often used in several completely different roles, and the driver must identify the actual device it is talking with. The subsystem identifiers are used to this end.

Using these different identifiers, a PCI driver can tell the kernel what kind of devices it supports. The struct `pci_device_id` structure is used to define a list of the different



types of PCI devices that a driver supports. This structure contains the following fields:

`__u32 vendor;`

`__u32 device;`

These specify the PCI vendor and device IDs of a device. If a driver can handle any vendor or device ID, the value `PCI_ANY_ID` should be used for these fields.

`__u32 subvendor;`

`__u32 subdevice;`

These specify the PCI subsystem vendor and subsystem device IDs of a device. If a driver can handle any type of subsystem ID, the value `PCI_ANY_ID` should be used for these fields.

`__u32 class;`

`__u32 class_mask;`

These two values allow the driver to specify that it supports a type of PCI class device. The different classes of PCI devices (a VGA controller is one example) are described in the PCI specification. If a driver can handle any type of subsystem ID, the value `PCI_ANY_ID` should be used for these fields.

`kernel_ulong_t driver_data;`

This value is not used to match a device but is used to hold information that the PCI driver can use to differentiate between different devices if it wants to.

There are two helper macros that should be used to initialize a struct `pci_device_id` structure:

`PCI_DEVICE(vendor, device)`

This creates a struct `pci_device_id` that matches only the specific vendor and device ID. The macro sets the subvendor and subdevice fields of the structure to `PCI_ANY_ID`.

`PCI_DEVICE_CLASS(device_class, device_class_mask)`

This creates a struct `pci_device_id` that matches a specific PCI class.

An example of using these macros to define the type of devices a driver supports can be found in the following kernel files:

`drivers/usb/host/ehci-hcd.c:`

```
static const struct pci_device_id pci_ids[] = { {
    /* handle any USB 2.0 EHCI controller */
    PCI_DEVICE_CLASS((PCI_CLASS_SERIAL_USB << 8) | 0x20), ~0),
    .driver_data = (unsigned long) &ehci_driver,
    },
    { /* end: all zeroes */ }
};
```

`drivers/i2c/busses/i2c-i810.c:`

```
static struct pci_device_id i810_ids[] = {
    { PCI_DEVICE(PCI_VENDOR_ID_INTEL, PCI_DEVICE_ID_INTEL_82810_IG1) },
    { PCI_DEVICE(PCI_VENDOR_ID_INTEL, PCI_DEVICE_ID_INTEL_82810_IG3) },
    { PCI_DEVICE(PCI_VENDOR_ID_INTEL, PCI_DEVICE_ID_INTEL_82810E_IG) },
    { PCI_DEVICE(PCI_VENDOR_ID_INTEL, PCI_DEVICE_ID_INTEL_82815_CGC) },
    { PCI_DEVICE(PCI_VENDOR_ID_INTEL, PCI_DEVICE_ID_INTEL_82845G_IG) },
    { 0, },
};
```

These examples create a list of struct `pci_device_id` structures, with an empty structure set to all zeros as the last value in the list. This array of IDs is used in the struct `pci_driver` (described below), and it is also used to tell user space which devices this specific driver supports.

## MODULE\_DEVICE\_TABLE

This `pci_device_id` structure needs to be exported to user space to allow the hotplug and module loading systems know what module works with what hardware devices. The macro `MODULE_DEVICE_TABLE` accomplishes this. An example is:

```
MODULE_DEVICE_TABLE(pci, i810_ids);
```

This statement creates a local variable called `__mod_pci_device_table` that points to the list of struct `pci_device_id`. Later in the kernel build process, the `depmod` program searches all modules for the symbol `__mod_pci_device_table`. If that symbol is found, it pulls the data out of the module and adds it to the file `/lib/modules/KERNEL_VERSION/modules.pcimap`. After `depmod` completes, all PCI devices that are supported by modules in the kernel are listed, along with their module names, in that file. When the kernel tells the hotplug system that a new PCI device has been found, the hotplug system uses the `modules.pcimap` file to find the proper driver to load.

## Registering a PCI Driver

The main structure that all PCI drivers must create in order to be registered with the kernel properly is the struct `pci_driver` structure. This structure consists of a number of function callbacks and variables that describe the PCI driver to the PCI core. Here are the fields in this structure that a PCI driver needs to be aware of:

```
const char *name;
```

The name of the driver. It must be unique among all PCI drivers in the kernel and is normally set to the same name as the module name of the driver. It shows up in `sysfs` under `/sys/bus/pci/drivers/` when the driver is in the kernel.

```
const struct pci_device_id *id_table;
```

Pointer to the struct `pci_device_id` table described earlier in this chapter.

```
int (*probe) (struct pci_dev *dev, const struct pci_device_id *id);
```

Pointer to the probe function in the PCI driver. This function is called by the PCI core when it has a struct pci\_dev that it thinks this driver wants to control. A pointer to the struct pci\_device\_id that the PCI core used to make this decision is also passed to this function. If the PCI driver claims the struct pci\_dev that is passed to it, it should initialize the device properly and return 0. If the driver does not want to claim the device, or an error occurs, it should return a negative error value. More details about this function follow later in this chapter.

```
void (*remove) (struct pci_dev *dev);
```

Pointer to the function that the PCI core calls when the struct pci\_dev is being removed from the system, or when the PCI driver is being unloaded from the kernel. More details about this function follow later in this chapter.

```
int (*suspend) (struct pci_dev *dev, u32 state);
```

Pointer to the function that the PCI core calls when the struct pci\_dev is being suspended. The suspend state is passed in the state variable. This function is optional; a driver does not have to provide it.

```
int (*resume) (struct pci_dev *dev);
```

Pointer to the function that the PCI core calls when the struct pci\_dev is being resumed. It is always called after suspend has been called. This function is optional; a driver does not have to provide it.

In summary, to create a proper struct pci\_driver structure, only four fields need to be initialized:

```
static struct pci_driver pci_driver = {
    .name = "pci_skel",
    .id_table = ids,
    .probe = probe,
    .remove = remove,
};
```

To register the struct pci\_driver with the PCI core, a call to *pci\_register\_driver* is made with a pointer to the struct pci\_driver. This is traditionally done in the module initialization code for the PCI driver:

```
static int __init pci_skel_init(void)
{
    return pci_register_driver(&pci_driver);
}
```

Note that the *pci\_register\_driver* function either returns a negative error number or 0 if everything was registered successfully. It does not return the number of devices that were bound to the driver or an error number if no devices were bound to the

driver. This is a change from kernels prior to the 2.6 release and was done because of the following situations:

- On systems that support PCI hotplug, or CardBus systems, a PCI device can appear or disappear at any point in time. It is helpful if drivers can be loaded before the device appears, to reduce the time it takes to initialize a device.
- The 2.6 kernel allows new PCI IDs to be dynamically allocated to a driver after it has been loaded. This is done through the file `new_id` that is created in all PCI driver directories in `sysfs`. This is very useful if a new device is being used that the kernel doesn't know about just yet. A user can write the PCI ID values to the `new_id` file, and then the driver binds to the new device. If a driver was not allowed to load until a device was present in the system, this interface would not be able to work.

When the PCI driver is to be unloaded, the struct `pci_driver` needs to be unregistered from the kernel. This is done with a call to `pci_unregister_driver`. When this call happens, any PCI devices that were currently bound to this driver are removed, and the `remove` function for this PCI driver is called before the `pci_unregister_driver` function returns.

```
static void __exit pci_skel_exit(void)
{
    pci_unregister_driver(&pci_driver);
}
```

## Old-Style PCI Probing

In older kernel versions, the function, `pci_register_driver`, was not always used by PCI drivers. Instead, they would either walk the list of PCI devices in the system by hand, or they would call a function that could search for a specific PCI device. The ability to walk the list of PCI devices in the system within a driver has been removed from the 2.6 kernel in order to prevent drivers from crashing the kernel if they happened to modify the PCI device lists while a device was being removed at the same time.

If the ability to find a specific PCI device is really needed, the following functions are available:

```
struct pci_dev *pci_get_device(unsigned int vendor, unsigned int device,
                               struct pci_dev *from);
```

This function scans the list of PCI devices currently present in the system, and if the input arguments match the specified vendor and device IDs, it increments the reference count on the struct `pci_dev` variable found, and returns it to the caller. This prevents the structure from disappearing without any notice and ensures that the kernel does not oops. After the driver is done with the struct `pci_dev` returned by the function, it must call the function `pci_dev_put` to decre-

ment the usage count properly back to allow the kernel to clean up the device if it is removed.

The `from` argument is used to get hold of multiple devices with the same signature; the argument should point to the last device that has been found, so that the search can continue instead of restarting from the head of the list. To find the first device, `from` is specified as `NULL`. If no (further) device is found, `NULL` is returned.

An example of how to use this function properly is:

```
struct pci_dev *dev;
dev = pci_get_device(PCI_VENDOR_FOO, PCI_DEVICE_FOO, NULL);
if (dev) {
    /* Use the PCI device */
    ...
    pci_dev_put(dev);
}
```

This function can not be called from interrupt context. If it is, a warning is printed out to the system log.

```
struct pci_dev *pci_get_subsys(unsigned int vendor, unsigned int device,
    unsigned int ss_vendor, unsigned int ss_device, struct pci_dev *from);
```

This function works just like *pci\_get\_device*, but it allows the subsystem vendor and subsystem device IDs to be specified when looking for the device.

This function can not be called from interrupt context. If it is, a warning is printed out to the system log.

```
struct pci_dev *pci_get_slot(struct pci_bus *bus, unsigned int devfn);
```

This function searches the list of PCI devices in the system on the specified `struct pci_bus` for the specified device and function number of the PCI device. If a device is found that matches, its reference count is incremented and a pointer to it is returned. When the caller is finished accessing the `struct pci_dev`, it must call *pci\_dev\_put*.

All of these functions can not be called from interrupt context. If they are, a warning is printed out to the system log.

## Enabling the PCI Device

In the *probe* function for the PCI driver, before the driver can access any device resource (I/O region or interrupt) of the PCI device, the driver must call the *pci\_enable\_device* function:

```
int pci_enable_device(struct pci_dev *dev);
```

This function actually enables the device. It wakes up the device and in some cases also assigns its interrupt line and I/O regions. This happens, for example, with CardBus devices (which have been made completely equivalent to PCI at the driver level).

## Accessing the Configuration Space

After the driver has detected the device, it usually needs to read from or write to the three address spaces: memory, port, and configuration. In particular, accessing the configuration space is vital to the driver, because it is the only way it can find out where the device is mapped in memory and in the I/O space.

Because the microprocessor has no way to access the configuration space directly, the computer vendor has to provide a way to do it. To access configuration space, the CPU must write and read registers in the PCI controller, but the exact implementation is vendor dependent and not relevant to this discussion, because Linux offers a standard interface to access the configuration space.

As far as the driver is concerned, the configuration space can be accessed through 8-bit, 16-bit, or 32-bit data transfers. The relevant functions are prototyped in `<linux/pci.h>`:

```
int pci_read_config_byte(struct pci_dev *dev, int where, u8 *val);
int pci_read_config_word(struct pci_dev *dev, int where, u16 *val);
int pci_read_config_dword(struct pci_dev *dev, int where, u32 *val);
```

Read one, two, or four bytes from the configuration space of the device identified by `dev`. The `where` argument is the byte offset from the beginning of the configuration space. The value fetched from the configuration space is returned through the `val` pointer, and the return value of the functions is an error code. The `word` and `dword` functions convert the value just read from little-endian to the native byte order of the processor, so you need not deal with byte ordering.

```
int pci_write_config_byte(struct pci_dev *dev, int where, u8 val);
int pci_write_config_word(struct pci_dev *dev, int where, u16 val);
int pci_write_config_dword(struct pci_dev *dev, int where, u32 val);
```

Write one, two, or four bytes to the configuration space. The device is identified by `dev` as usual, and the value being written is passed as `val`. The `word` and `dword` functions convert the value to little-endian before writing to the peripheral device.

All of the previous functions are implemented as inline functions that really call the following functions. Feel free to use these functions instead of the above in case the driver does not have access to a struct `pci_dev` at any particular moment in time:

```
int pci_bus_read_config_byte (struct pci_bus *bus, unsigned int devfn, int
    where, u8 *val);
int pci_bus_read_config_word (struct pci_bus *bus, unsigned int devfn, int
    where, u16 *val);
int pci_bus_read_config_dword (struct pci_bus *bus, unsigned int devfn, int
    where, u32 *val);
```

Just like the `pci_read_` functions, but struct `pci_bus *` and `devfn` variables are needed instead of a struct `pci_dev *`.

```
int pci_bus_write_config_byte (struct pci_bus *bus, unsigned int devfn, int
    where, u8 val);
int pci_bus_write_config_word (struct pci_bus *bus, unsigned int devfn, int
    where, u16 val);
int pci_bus_write_config_dword (struct pci_bus *bus, unsigned int devfn, int
    where, u32 val);
```

Just like the *pci\_write\_* functions, but struct *pci\_bus \** and *devfn* variables are needed instead of a struct *pci\_dev \**.

The best way to address the configuration variables using the *pci\_read\_* functions is by means of the symbolic names defined in *<linux/pci.h>*. For example, the following small function retrieves the revision ID of a device by passing the symbolic name for where to *pci\_read\_config\_byte*:

```
static unsigned char skel_get_revision(struct pci_dev *dev)
{
    u8 revision;

    pci_read_config_byte(dev, PCI_REVISION_ID, &revision);
    return revision;
}
```

## Accessing the I/O and Memory Spaces

A PCI device implements up to six I/O address regions. Each region consists of either memory or I/O locations. Most devices implement their I/O registers in memory regions, because it's generally a saner approach (as explained in the section "I/O Ports and I/O Memory," in Chapter 9). However, unlike normal memory, I/O registers should not be cached by the CPU because each access can have side effects. The PCI device that implements I/O registers as a memory region marks the difference by setting a "memory-is-prefetchable" bit in its configuration register.\* If the memory region is marked as prefetchable, the CPU can cache its contents and do all sorts of optimization with it; nonprefetchable memory access, on the other hand, can't be optimized because each access can have side effects, just as with I/O ports. Peripherals that map their control registers to a memory address range declare that range as nonprefetchable, whereas something like video memory on PCI boards is prefetchable. In this section, we use the word region to refer to a generic I/O address space that is memory-mapped or port-mapped.

An interface board reports the size and current location of its regions using configuration registers—the six 32-bit registers shown in Figure 12-2, whose symbolic names are PCI\_BASE\_ADDRESS\_0 through PCI\_BASE\_ADDRESS\_5. Since the I/O space defined by PCI is a 32-bit address space, it makes sense to use the same configuration interface

\* The information lives in one of the low-order bits of the base address PCI registers. The bits are defined in *<linux/pci.h>*.

for memory and I/O. If the device uses a 64-bit address bus, it can declare regions in the 64-bit memory space by using two consecutive PCI BASE ADDRESS registers for each region, low bits first. It is possible for one device to offer both 32-bit regions and 64-bit regions.

In the kernel, the I/O regions of PCI devices have been integrated into the generic resource management. For this reason, you don't need to access the configuration variables in order to know where your device is mapped in memory or I/O space. The preferred interface for getting region information consists of the following functions:

```
unsigned long pci_resource_start(struct pci_dev *dev, int bar);
```

The function returns the first address (memory address or I/O port number) associated with one of the six PCI I/O regions. The region is selected by the integer bar (the base address register), ranging from 0–5 (inclusive).

```
unsigned long pci_resource_end(struct pci_dev *dev, int bar);
```

The function returns the last address that is part of the I/O region number bar. Note that this is the last usable address, not the first address after the region.

```
unsigned long pci_resource_flags(struct pci_dev *dev, int bar);
```

This function returns the flags associated with this resource.

Resource flags are used to define some features of the individual resource. For PCI resources associated with PCI I/O regions, the information is extracted from the base address registers, but can come from elsewhere for resources not associated with PCI devices.

All resource flags are defined in *<linux/ioport.h>*; the most important are:

`IORESOURCE_IO`

`IORESOURCE_MEM`

If the associated I/O region exists, one and only one of these flags is set.

`IORESOURCE_PREFETCH`

`IORESOURCE_READONLY`

These flags tell whether a memory region is prefetchable and/or write protected. The latter flag is never set for PCI resources.

By making use of the *pci\_resource\_* functions, a device driver can completely ignore the underlying PCI registers, since the system already used them to structure resource information.

## PCI Interrupts

As far as interrupts are concerned, PCI is easy to handle. By the time Linux boots, the computer's firmware has already assigned a unique interrupt number to the device, and the driver just needs to use it. The interrupt number is stored in configuration register 60 (PCI INTERRUPT LINE), which is one byte wide. This allows for as





many as 256 interrupt lines, but the actual limit depends on the CPU being used. The driver doesn't need to bother checking the interrupt number, because the value found in `PCI_INTERRUPT_LINE` is guaranteed to be the right one.

If the device doesn't support interrupts, register 61 (PCI INTERRUPT PIN) is 0; otherwise, it's nonzero. However, since the driver knows if its device is interrupt driven or not, it doesn't usually need to read `PCI_INTERRUPT_PIN`.

Thus, PCI-specific code for dealing with interrupts just needs to read the configuration byte to obtain the interrupt number that is saved in a local variable, as shown in the following code. Beyond that, the information in Chapter 10 applies.

```
result = pci_read_config_byte(dev, PCI_INTERRUPT_LINE, &myirq);
if (result) {
    /* deal with error */
}
```

The rest of this section provides additional information for the curious reader but isn't needed for writing drivers.

A PCI connector has four interrupt pins, and peripheral boards can use any or all of them. Each pin is individually routed to the motherboard's interrupt controller, so interrupts can be shared without any electrical problems. The interrupt controller is then responsible for mapping the interrupt wires (pins) to the processor's hardware; this platform-dependent operation is left to the controller in order to achieve platform independence in the bus itself.

The read-only configuration register located at `PCI_INTERRUPT_PIN` is used to tell the computer which single pin is actually used. It's worth remembering that each device board can host up to eight devices; each device uses a single interrupt pin and reports it in its own configuration register. Different devices on the same device board can use different interrupt pins or share the same one.

The `PCI_INTERRUPT_LINE` register, on the other hand, is read/write. When the computer is booted, the firmware scans its PCI devices and sets the register for each device according to how the interrupt pin is routed for its PCI slot. The value is assigned by the firmware, because only the firmware knows how the motherboard routes the different interrupt pins to the processor. For the device driver, however, the `PCI_INTERRUPT_LINE` register is read-only. Interestingly, recent versions of the Linux kernel under some circumstances can assign interrupt lines without resorting to the BIOS.

## Hardware Abstractions

We complete the discussion of PCI by taking a quick look at how the system handles the plethora of PCI controllers available on the marketplace. This is just an informational section, meant to show the curious reader how the object-oriented layout of the kernel extends down to the lowest levels.

The mechanism used to implement hardware abstraction is the usual structure containing methods. It's a powerful technique that adds just the minimal overhead of dereferencing a pointer to the normal overhead of a function call. In the case of PCI management, the only hardware-dependent operations are the ones that read and write configuration registers, because everything else in the PCI world is accomplished by directly reading and writing the I/O and memory address spaces, and those are under direct control of the CPU.

Thus, the relevant structure for configuration register access includes only two fields:

```
struct pci_ops {
    int (*read)(struct pci_bus *bus, unsigned int devfn, int where, int size,
                u32 *val);
    int (*write)(struct pci_bus *bus, unsigned int devfn, int where, int size,
                u32 val);
};
```

The structure is defined in `<linux/pci.h>` and used by `drivers/pci/pci.c`, where the actual public functions are defined.

The two functions that act on the PCI configuration space have more overhead than dereferencing a pointer; they use cascading pointers due to the high object-orientedness of the code, but the overhead is not an issue in operations that are performed quite rarely and never in speed-critical paths. The actual implementation of `pci_read_config_byte(dev, where, val)`, for instance, expands to:

```
dev->bus->ops->read(bus, devfn, where, 8, val);
```

The various PCI buses in the system are detected at system boot, and that's when the `struct pci_bus` items are created and associated with their features, including the `ops` field.

Implementing hardware abstraction via “hardware operations” data structures is typical in the Linux kernel. One important example is the `struct alpha_machine_vector` data structure. It is defined in `<asm-alpha/machvec.h>` and takes care of everything that may change across different Alpha-based computers.

## A Look Back: ISA

The ISA bus is quite old in design and is a notoriously poor performer, but it still holds a good part of the market for extension devices. If speed is not important and you want to support old motherboards, an ISA implementation is preferable to PCI. An additional advantage of this old standard is that if you are an electronic hobbyist, you can easily build your own ISA devices, something definitely not possible with PCI.



On the other hand, a great disadvantage of ISA is that it's tightly bound to the PC architecture; the interface bus has all the limitations of the 80286 processor and causes endless pain to system programmers. The other great problem with the ISA design (inherited from the original IBM PC) is the lack of geographical addressing, which has led to many problems and lengthy unplug-rejumper-plug-test cycles to add new devices. It's interesting to note that even the oldest Apple II computers were already exploiting geographical addressing, and they featured jumperless expansion boards.

Despite its great disadvantages, ISA is still used in several unexpected places. For example, the VR41xx series of MIPS processors used in several palmtops features an ISA-compatible expansion bus, strange as it seems. The reason behind these unexpected uses of ISA is the extreme low cost of some legacy hardware, such as 8390-based Ethernet cards, so a CPU with ISA electrical signaling can easily exploit the awful, but cheap, PC devices.

## Hardware Resources

An ISA device can be equipped with I/O ports, memory areas, and interrupt lines.

Even though the x86 processors support 64 KB of I/O port memory (i.e., the processor asserts 16 address lines), some old PC hardware decodes only the lowest 10 address lines. This limits the usable address space to 1024 ports, because any address in the range 1 KB to 64 KB is mistaken for a low address by any device that decodes only the low address lines. Some peripherals circumvent this limitation by mapping only one port into the low kilobyte and using the high address lines to select between different device registers. For example, a device mapped at 0x340 can safely use port 0x740, 0xB40, and so on.

If the availability of I/O ports is limited, memory access is still worse. An ISA device can use only the memory range between 640 KB and 1 MB and between 15 MB and 16 MB for I/O register and device control. The 640-KB to 1-MB range is used by the PC BIOS, by VGA-compatible video boards, and by various other devices, leaving little space available for new devices. Memory at 15 MB, on the other hand, is not directly supported by Linux, and hacking the kernel to support it is a waste of programming time nowadays.

The third resource available to ISA device boards is interrupt lines. A limited number of interrupt lines is routed to the ISA bus, and they are shared by all the interface boards. As a result, if devices aren't properly configured, they can find themselves using the same interrupt lines.

Although the original ISA specification doesn't allow interrupt sharing across devices, most device boards allow it.\* Interrupt sharing at the software level is described in the section "Interrupt Sharing," in Chapter 10.

## ISA Programming

As far as programming is concerned, there's no specific aid in the kernel or the BIOS to ease access to ISA devices (like there is, for example, for PCI). The only facilities you can use are the registries of I/O ports and IRQ lines, described in the section "Installing an Interrupt Handler" in Chapter 10.

The programming techniques shown throughout the first part of this book apply to ISA devices; the driver can probe for I/O ports, and the interrupt line must be auto-detected with one of the techniques shown in the section "Autodetecting the IRQ Number" in Chapter 10.

The helper functions *isa\_readb* and friends have been briefly introduced in the section "Using I/O Memory" in Chapter 9, and there's nothing more to say about them.

## The Plug-and-Play Specification

Some new ISA device boards follow peculiar design rules and require a special initialization sequence intended to simplify installation and configuration of add-on interface boards. The specification for the design of these boards is called *plug and play* (PnP) and consists of a cumbersome rule set for building and configuring jumperless ISA devices. PnP devices implement relocatable I/O regions; the PC's BIOS is responsible for the relocation—reminiscent of PCI.

In short, the goal of PnP is to obtain the same flexibility found in PCI devices without changing the underlying electrical interface (the ISA bus). To this end, the specs define a set of device-independent configuration registers and a way to geographically address the interface boards, even though the physical bus doesn't carry per-board (geographical) wiring—every ISA signal line connects to every available slot.

Geographical addressing works by assigning a small integer, called the *card select number* (CSN), to each PnP peripheral in the computer. Each PnP device features a unique serial identifier, 64 bits wide, that is hardwired into the peripheral board. CSN assignment uses the unique serial number to identify the PnP devices. But the CSNs can be assigned safely only at boot time, which requires the BIOS to be PnP

\* The problem with interrupt sharing is a matter of electrical engineering: if a device drives the signal line inactive—by applying a low-impedance voltage level—the interrupt can't be shared. If, on the other hand, the device uses a pull-up resistor to the inactive logic level, sharing is possible. This is the norm nowadays. However, there's still a potential risk of losing interrupt events since ISA interrupts are edge triggered instead of level triggered. Edge-triggered interrupts are easier to implement in hardware but don't lend themselves to safe sharing.

aware. For this reason, old computers require the user to obtain and insert a specific configuration diskette, even if the device is PnP capable.

Interface boards following the PnP specs are complicated at the hardware level. They are much more elaborate than PCI boards and require complex software. It's not unusual to have difficulty installing these devices, and even if the installation goes well, you still face the performance constraints and the limited I/O space of the ISA bus. It's much better to install PCI devices whenever possible and enjoy the new technology instead.

If you are interested in the PnP configuration software, you can browse *drivers/net/3c509.c*, whose probing function deals with PnP devices. The 2.6 kernel saw a lot of work in the PnP device support area, so a lot of the inflexible interfaces have been cleaned up compared to previous kernel releases.

## PC/104 and PC/104+

Currently in the industrial world, two bus architectures are quite fashionable: PC/104 and PC/104+. Both are standard in PC-class single-board computers.

Both standards refer to specific form factors for printed circuit boards, as well as electrical/mechanical specifications for board interconnections. The practical advantage of these buses is that they allow circuit boards to be stacked vertically using a plug-and-socket kind of connector on one side of the device.

The electrical and logical layout of the two buses is identical to ISA (PC/104) and PCI (PC/104+), so software won't notice any difference between the usual desktop buses and these two.

## Other PC Buses

PCI and ISA are the most commonly used peripheral interfaces in the PC world, but they aren't the only ones. Here's a summary of the features of other buses found in the PC market.

### MCA

Micro Channel Architecture (MCA) is an IBM standard used in PS/2 computers and some laptops. At the hardware level, Micro Channel has more features than ISA. It supports multimaster DMA, 32-bit address and data lines, shared interrupt lines, and geographical addressing to access per-board configuration registers. Such registers are called *Programmable Option Select* (POS), but they don't have all the features of the PCI registers. Linux support for Micro Channel includes functions that are exported to modules.

A device driver can read the integer value `MCA_bus` to see if it is running on a Micro Channel computer. If the symbol is a preprocessor macro, the macro `MCA_bus__is_a_macro` is defined as well. If `MCA_bus__is_a_macro` is undefined, then `MCA_bus` is an integer variable exported to modularized code. Both `MCA_BUS` and `MCA_bus__is_a_macro` are defined in `<asm/processor.h>`.

## EISA

The Extended ISA (EISA) bus is a 32-bit extension to ISA, with a compatible interface connector; ISA device boards can be plugged into an EISA connector. The additional wires are routed under the ISA contacts.

Like PCI and MCA, the EISA bus is designed to host jumperless devices, and it has the same features as MCA: 32-bit address and data lines, multimaster DMA, and shared interrupt lines. EISA devices are configured by software, but they don't need any particular operating system support. EISA drivers already exist in the Linux kernel for Ethernet devices and SCSI controllers.

An EISA driver checks the value `EISA_bus` to determine if the host computer carries an EISA bus. Like `MCA_bus`, `EISA_bus` is either a macro or a variable, depending on whether `EISA_bus__is_a_macro` is defined. Both symbols are defined in `<asm/processor.h>`.

The kernel has full EISA support for devices with sysfs and resource management functionality. This is located in the `drivers/eisa` directory.

## VLB

Another extension to ISA is the VESA Local Bus (VLB) interface bus, which extends the ISA connectors by adding a third lengthwise slot. A device can just plug into this extra connector (without plugging in the two associated ISA connectors), because the VLB slot duplicates all important signals from the ISA connectors. Such “standalone” VLB peripherals not using the ISA slot are rare, because most devices need to reach the back panel so that their external connectors are available.

The VESA bus is much more limited in its capabilities than the EISA, MCA, and PCI buses and is disappearing from the market. No special kernel support exists for VLB. However, both the Lance Ethernet driver and the IDE disk driver in Linux 2.0 can deal with VLB versions of their devices.

## SBus

While most computers nowadays are equipped with a PCI or ISA interface bus, most older SPARC-based workstations use SBus to connect their peripherals.

SBus is quite an advanced design, although it has been around for a long time. It is meant to be processor independent (even though only SPARC computers use it) and is optimized for I/O peripheral boards. In other words, you can't plug additional RAM into SBus slots (RAM expansion boards have long been forgotten even in the ISA world, and PCI does not support them either). This optimization is meant to simplify the design of both hardware devices and system software, at the expense of some additional complexity in the motherboard.

This I/O bias of the bus results in peripherals using *virtual* addresses to transfer data, thus bypassing the need to allocate a contiguous DMA buffer. The motherboard is responsible for decoding the virtual addresses and mapping them to physical addresses. This requires attaching an MMU (memory management unit) to the bus; the chipset in charge of the task is called IOMMU. Although somehow more complex than using physical addresses on the interface bus, this design is greatly simplified by the fact that SPARC processors have always been designed by keeping the MMU core separate from the CPU core (either physically or at least conceptually). Actually, this design choice is shared by other smart processor designs and is beneficial overall. Another feature of this bus is that device boards exploit massive geographical addressing, so there's no need to implement an address decoder in every peripheral or to deal with address conflicts.

SBus peripherals use the Forth language in their PROMs to initialize themselves. Forth was chosen because the interpreter is lightweight and, therefore, can be easily implemented in the firmware of any computer system. In addition, the SBus specification outlines the boot process, so that compliant I/O devices fit easily into the system and are recognized at system boot. This was a great step to support multi-platform devices; it's a completely different world from the PC-centric ISA stuff we were used to. However, it didn't succeed for a variety of commercial reasons.

Although current kernel versions offer quite full-featured support for SBus devices, the bus is used so little nowadays that it's not worth covering in detail here. Interested readers can look at source files in *arch/sparc/kernel* and *arch/sparc/mm*.

## NuBus

Another interesting, but nearly forgotten, interface bus is NuBus. It is found on older Mac computers (those with the M68k family of CPUs).

All of the bus is memory-mapped (like everything with the M68k), and the devices are only geographically addressed. This is good and typical of Apple, as the much

older Apple II already had a similar bus layout. What is bad is that it's almost impossible to find documentation on NuBus, due to the close-everything policy Apple has always followed with its Mac computers (and unlike the previous Apple II, whose source code and schematics were available at little cost).

The file *drivers/nubus/nubus.c* includes almost everything we know about this bus, and it's interesting reading; it shows how much hard reverse engineering developers had to do.

## External Buses

One of the most recent entries in the field of interface buses is the whole class of external buses. This includes USB, FireWire, and IEEE1284 (parallel-port-based external bus). These interfaces are somewhat similar to older and not-so-external technology, such as PCMCIA/CardBus and even SCSI.

Conceptually, these buses are neither full-featured interface buses (like PCI is) nor dumb communication channels (like the serial ports are). It's hard to classify the software that is needed to exploit their features, as it's usually split into two levels: the driver for the hardware controller (like drivers for PCI SCSI adaptors or PCI controllers introduced in the section "The PCI Interface") and the driver for the specific "client" device (like *sd.c* handles generic SCSI disks and so-called PCI drivers deal with cards plugged in the bus).

## Quick Reference

This section summarizes the symbols introduced in the chapter:

```
#include <linux/pci.h>
```

Header that includes symbolic names for the PCI registers and several vendor and device ID values.

```
struct pci_dev;
```

Structure that represents a PCI device within the kernel.

```
struct pci_driver;
```

Structure that represents a PCI driver. All PCI drivers must define this.

```
struct pci_device_id;
```

Structure that describes the types of PCI devices this driver supports.

```
int pci_register_driver(struct pci_driver *drv);
```

```
int pci_module_init(struct pci_driver *drv);
```

```
void pci_unregister_driver(struct pci_driver *drv);
```

Functions that register or unregister a PCI driver from the kernel.



```

struct pci_dev *pci_find_device(unsigned int vendor, unsigned int device,
                               struct pci_dev *from);
struct pci_dev *pci_find_device_reverse(unsigned int vendor, unsigned int
                                       device, const struct pci_dev *from);
struct pci_dev *pci_find_subsys (unsigned int vendor, unsigned int device,
                                unsigned int ss_vendor, unsigned int ss_device, const struct pci_dev *from);
struct pci_dev *pci_find_class(unsigned int class, struct pci_dev *from);

```

Functions that search the device list for devices with a specific signature or those belonging to a specific class. The return value is NULL if none is found. *from* is used to continue a search; it must be NULL the first time you call either function, and it must point to the device just found if you are searching for more devices. These functions are not recommended to be used, use the *pci\_get\_* variants instead.

```

struct pci_dev *pci_get_device(unsigned int vendor, unsigned int device,
                               struct pci_dev *from);
struct pci_dev *pci_get_subsys(unsigned int vendor, unsigned int device,
                                unsigned int ss_vendor, unsigned int ss_device, struct pci_dev *from);
struct pci_dev *pci_get_slot(struct pci_bus *bus, unsigned int devfn);

```

Functions that search the device list for devices with a specific signature or belonging to a specific class. The return value is NULL if none is found. *from* is used to continue a search; it must be NULL the first time you call either function, and it must point to the device just found if you are searching for more devices. The structure returned has its reference count incremented, and after the caller is finished with it, the function *pci\_dev\_put* must be called.

```

int pci_read_config_byte(struct pci_dev *dev, int where, u8 *val);
int pci_read_config_word(struct pci_dev *dev, int where, u16 *val);
int pci_read_config_dword(struct pci_dev *dev, int where, u32 *val);
int pci_write_config_byte (struct pci_dev *dev, int where, u8 *val);
int pci_write_config_word (struct pci_dev *dev, int where, u16 *val);
int pci_write_config_dword (struct pci_dev *dev, int where, u32 *val);

```

Functions that read or write a PCI configuration register. Although the Linux kernel takes care of byte ordering, the programmer must be careful about byte ordering when assembling multibyte values from individual bytes. The PCI bus is little-endian.

```

int pci_enable_device(struct pci_dev *dev);

```

Enables a PCI device.

```

unsigned long pci_resource_start(struct pci_dev *dev, int bar);
unsigned long pci_resource_end(struct pci_dev *dev, int bar);
unsigned long pci_resource_flags(struct pci_dev *dev, int bar);

```

Functions that handle PCI device resources.