

# I don't want your code

Linux Kernel Maintainers,  
why are they so grumpy?

Greg Kroah-Hartman  
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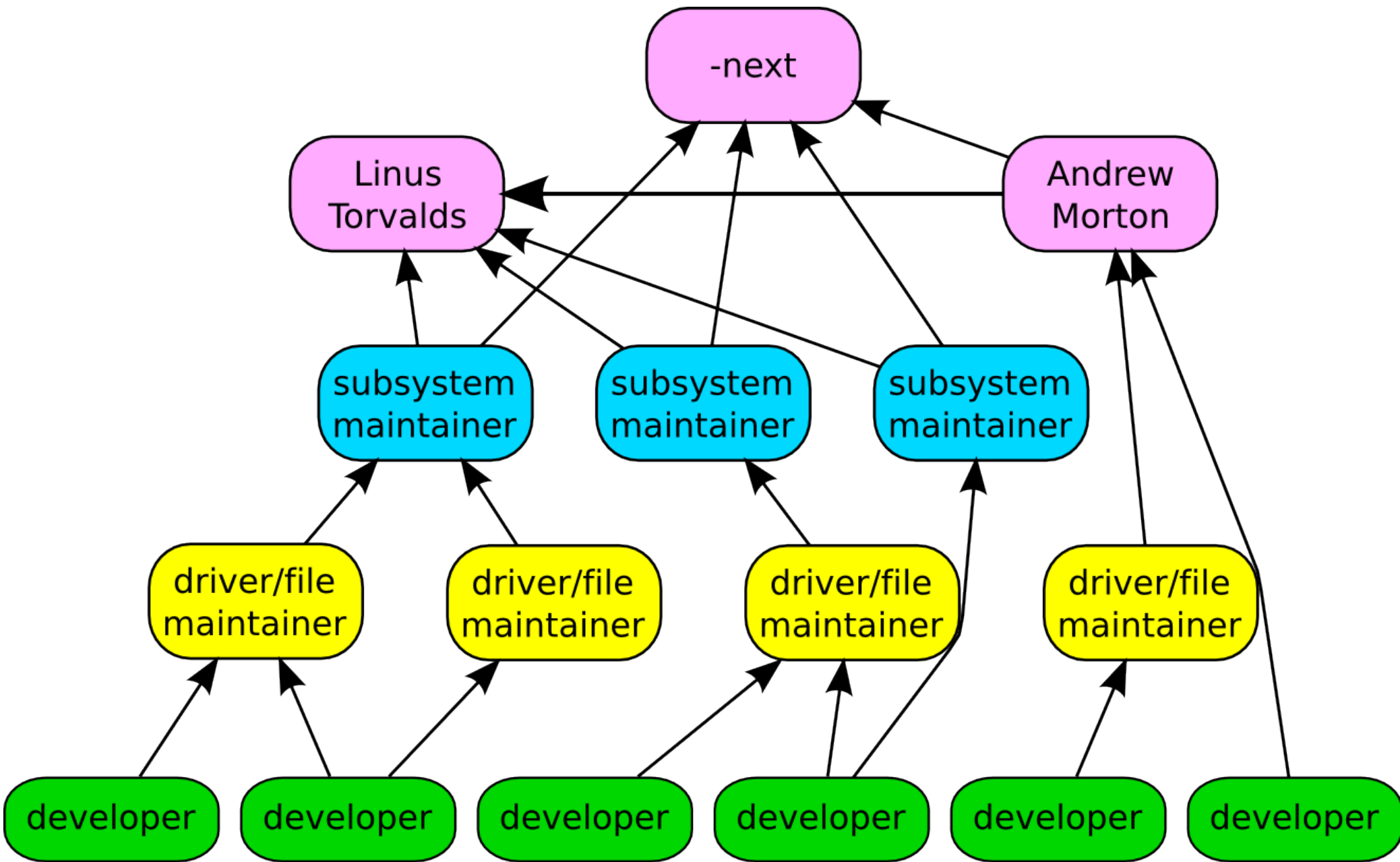
2,829 developers  
407 companies

# 6.98 changes per hour

Kernel releases 3.4.0 – 3.8.0  
March 2012 – Feb 2013

7.38 changes per hour

3.8.0 release



# Top developers by quantity

1	May 30	H. Hartley Sweeten	1438
2	May 30	Mark Brown	642
3	May 30	Al Viro	553
4	May 30	Axel Lin	532
5	May 30	Greg Kroah-Hartman	505
6	May 30	Daniel Vetter	418
7	May 29	Johannes Berg	403
8	May 29	Bill Pemberton	394
9	May 29	David Miller	387
10	May 29	Sachin Kamet	387

# Top Signed-off-by:

Greg Kroah-Hartman	7004
David S. Miller	3883
Mark Brown	2450
Mauro Carvalho Chehab	2436
John Linville	2213
Linus Torvalds	2193
Andrew Morton	1960
H. Hartley Sweeten	1450
Daniel Vetter	1044
Al Viro	981

Kernel releases 3.4.0 – 3.8.0

# Who is funding this work?



1. “Amateurs”	13.9%
2. Red Hat	10.1%
3. Intel	8.4%
4. Unknown Individuals	4.5%
5. Linaro	4.4%
6. Texas Instruments	4.0%
7. Vision Engraving	3.2%
8. Novell	3.1%
9. IBM	3.0%
10. Google	2.3%

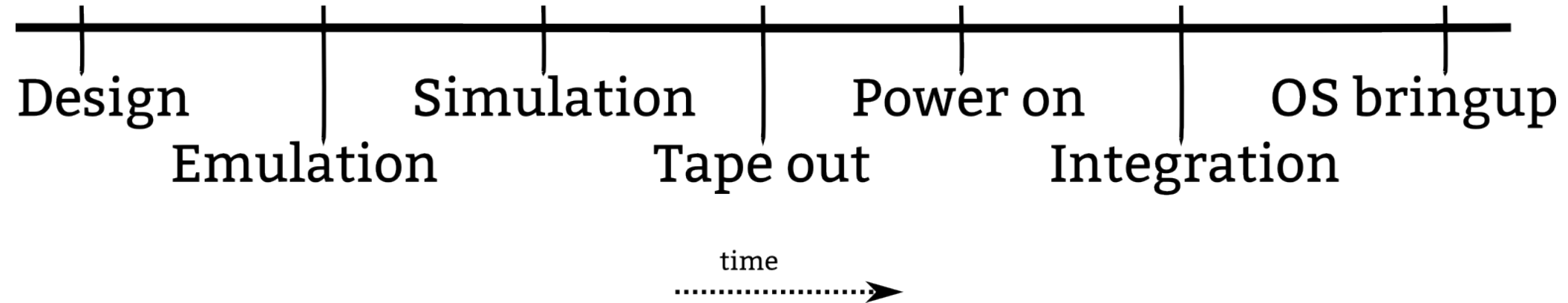


# Who is funding this work?

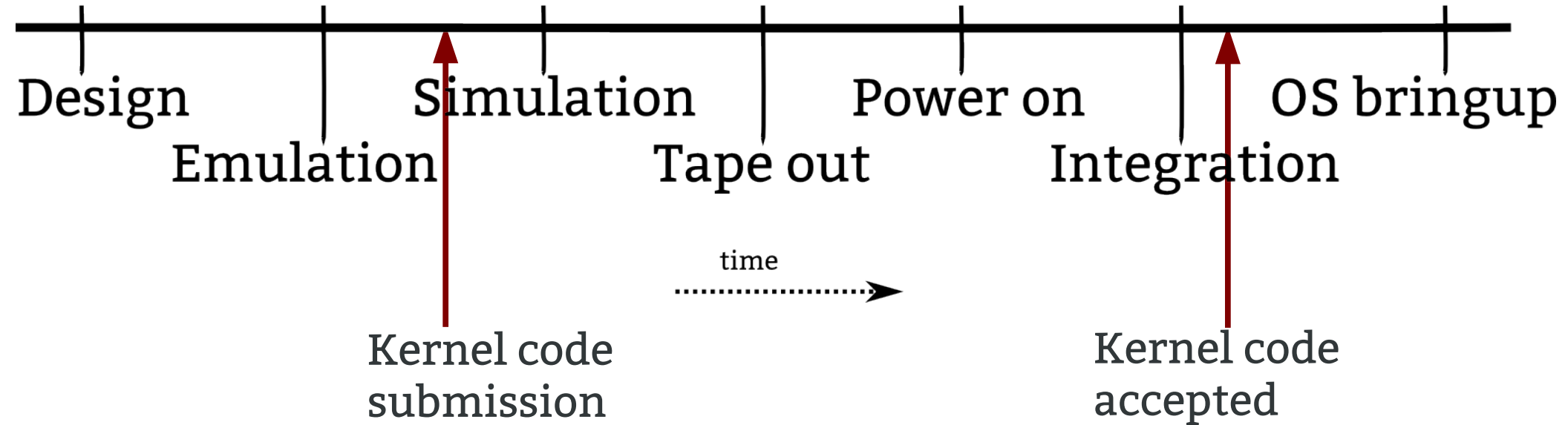


11. Samsung	2.2%
12. Wolfson Micro	1.5%
13. LINBIT	1.5%
14. Consultants	1.4%
15. Linux Foundation	1.3%
16. Nvidia	1.2%
17. Oracle	1.2%
18. Freescale	1.2%
19. Ingics Technology	1.2%
20. Broadcom	1.0%

# Development Process



# Development Process



# “Working upstream saves time and money”

Dan Frye – VP Open Systems, IBM

Dirk Hohndel – Chief Technologist, Intel

Maintainers are like editors in  
the publishing industry.

– David Miller

Patches I received in a 2 week period

Patches I received in a 2 week period

**487**

**Subject: [PATCH 48/48] ...**



15 patch series, no order given

Patches 1, 3-10

**“Signed-off-by:” in signature**

Signature saying email was confidential

**Tabs were converted to spaces**

Leading spaces removed

diff in non-unified format

# Patch created in driver directory



Patch created in /usr/src/linux-2.6.32

Made against different tree

# Wrong coding style

Wrong coding style,  
and acknowledged it

Would not compile

Broke the build on patch 3/6

Broke the build on patch 3/6  
and fixed it on 6/6

Broke the build on patch 5/8



# Broke the build on patch 5/8

Contained note that fix would be sent later

Patches that had nothing to do with me

1 patch, 450kb big (4500 lines added)

Obviously wrong kerneldoc

This was a calm two weeks

# Case study of a Linaro patch submission

8 patch series for USB

No description of why they were needed

Half of the patches broke the build



Patches resent,  
with no description of what changed

Replacements sent again, individually,  
out of order

Third resend, no ordering at all.

Fourth resend,  
described as second version

Insisted that 2 of these HAD  
to go into 3.9-rc1.

Linaro senior developer resent  
just the two patches.

Those two required a follow-on  
patch to fix the Kconfig descriptions

**Patches broke all non-DT systems**



Driver maintainer returned  
from vacation and reviewed them

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“...you can answer a lot of questions like  
this for yourself very easily, simply by  
reading the source code.”

I will not accept a patch directly from  
this developer, for a very long time

```
static void tty_slave_release(struct device *dev)
{
    struct tty_slave *tts = to_tty_slave(dev);

    kfree(tts);
    /* Test code to see if slave device get released */
    BUG();
}
```

It is in my self-interest  
to ignore your patch

Give me no excuse  
to reject your patch





# Proper coding style

`scripts/checkpatch.pl clean`

**Sent to proper people and lists**

Sent to proper people and lists

`scripts/get_maintainer.pl`

# Proper Subject:

# Proper changelog comment

Description of WHY it is needed

# Small incremental change



“obviously” correct

Which tree it was made against

**If multiple patches, state the order**

Has to build properly

**Make sure it works, if possible**

# Don't ignore review comments

Don't resend without saying why



[github.com/gregkh/presentation-maintainer](https://github.com/gregkh/presentation-maintainer)



