Introduction To Free/Open Source Software

Development Process



What Is A Binary



- A representation of a computer program
- Computer instructions encoded into the CPU's native representation
- Each instruction is a number
- Very low-level instructions (assembly level)
- Generally not considered
 - Human readable
 - Modifiable

What Is Source Code



- A representation of a computer program
- The format the SW was originally written in
- Encoded as text
- Human readable
- Readily modifiable in any old text editor
- Can be much more abstract than CPU instructions

Proprietary Software



(slight generalizations)

- You get just the binary, not the source code
- You are allowed to use it with restrictions like:
 - How many copies you can use
 - Who can use it
 - Where you can use it (CPU architecture, OS, geography)
 - What you can use it for
- You can't fix problems
 - You don't have the source
 - The license probably prohibits it (e.g. DMCA)

Free/Open Source Software



(slight generalizations)

- You get the source code
- You can run it wherever/whenever you like
- You can modify it
- You can fix bugs
- You can share it, and modified versions

F/OSS Licenses



- There are many (too many?)
- Differ in:
 - Requirement to share source changes when sharing binaries
 - Requirement for attribution
 - Modifications allowed?
- Not all are compatible!
 - (ability to be mix/match in the same project)
- Not all are OSS

How Does A Project Get Started



- Someone writes something for fun or to solve a problem
- They publish the source code (github, sourceforge, Google code, FTP site...)
- Someone else discovers it, finds it useful
- They improve the software
- They publish their modified version, or send changes back to the original author

Getting The Software



- Download an archive of a release e.g. congruity-5.tar.bz2 using a web browser or script
- Use a source code control system, e.g. git clone git://git.code.sf.net/p/congruity/code
- Build it, run it, etc.

Perhaps Something Is Wrong



- It crashes
- It generates the wrong result
- It's missing a feature you need
- There's no documentation
 - Very useful to fix this,
 and doesn't require coding ability

What To Do



- Report the problem; someone might fix it for you
- Otherwise, go fix it!
- You have the source code
- Once you've fixed the code, you want to contribute the change back to the project
- How? Send a patch

Communication & Help



- Different for each project
- Usually, primarily by email
 - Often centered around patches
- Wikis? Sometimes
- Bug trackers? Sometimes
- IRC (multi-user real-time chat)
- Web forums? Much less common

What Is A Patch



- A textual representation of a change you made to some software
- Delta, so much smaller than the original or modified version of the software
- Easy to send by email
- Perfectly computer readable
- Human readable
- Can be "applied" to the original software to end up with your modified version

Example Patch



```
diff --git a/drivers/regulator/palmas-regulator.c
           b/drivers/regulator/palmas-regulator.c
index 3c861d5f9245..93b4ad842901 100644
--- a/drivers/regulator/palmas-regulator.c
+++ b/drivers/regulator/palmas-regulator.c
@@ -970,7 +970,7 @@ static int palmas regulators probe(
                                              struct platform device *pdev)
                  PALMAS SMPS12 CTRL MODE ACTIVE MASK;
         pmic->desc[id].enable reg =
                  PALMAS BASE TO REG(PALMAS LDO BASE,
                  PALMAS BASE TO REG(PALMAS SMPS BASE,
                          palmas regs info[id].ctrl addr);
         pmic->desc[id].enable mask =
                  PALMAS SMPS12 CTRL MODE ACTIVE MASK;
```

Creating A Patch



```
cd some_git_checkout
vi path/to/file.c
git diff
```

or:

cp -r original edited
vi edited/path/to/file.c
diff -urN original edited

A Better Patch: Source Control



Process



- The next few slides detail the Linux Kernel process
- Other projects may well be lighter weight

Commit Messages



regulator: palmas: fix typo in enable_reg calculation

When setting up .enable_reg for an SMPS regulator, presumably we should call PALMAS_BASE_TO_REG(PALMAS_SMPS_BASE, ...) rather than using LDO_BASE. This change makes the LCD panel and HDMI work again on the NVIDIA Dalmore board anyway.

Fixes: dbabd624d4eec50b6 ("regulator: palmas: Reemove open coded functions with helper functions")

Signed-off-by: Stephen Warren <swarren@nvidia.com>

Signed-off-by



- S-o-b means something specific
- http://developercertificate.org/

Patch Style



- Documentation/CodingStyle (Linux kernel)
- Check with (kernel or U-Boot):

```
$ ./scripts/checkpatch.pl 0001-foo.patch
total: 0 errors, 0 warnings, 8 lines checked
```

0001-regulator-palmas-fix-typo-in-enable_reg-calc.patch has no obvious style problems and is ready for submission.

Sending Patches



```
$ git send-email
  --to 'Liam Girdwood <lgirdwood@gmail.com>'
  --to 'Mark Brown <broonie@kernel.org>'
  --cc linux-kernel@vger.kernel.org
  *.patch
0001-...patch
Password for 'smtp://swarren@localhost:8587':
Result: 250 2.0.0 Ok: queued as 767D8E4103
```

Where To Send A Patch



- Different for each project
- Send to mailing lists for visibility and CC maintainers so notice the patch
- U-Boot: doc/git-mailrc (aliases for git send-email)

```
alias uboot u-boot@lists.denx.de
alias u-boot uboot
alias arm uboot, aaribaud ...
```

Kernel:

```
$ ./scripts/get_maintainer.pl *.patch
Liam Girdwood <lgirdwood@gmail.com> (supporter:VOLTAGE AND CURRE...)
Mark Brown <broonie@kernel.org> (supporter:VOLTAGE AND CURRE...)
linux-kernel@vger.kernel.org (open list)
```

Patch Feedback



```
On 06/19/2014 10:08 AM, Stephen Warren wrote:
> On 06/19/2014 12:58 AM, Alexandre Courbot wrote:
>> > diff --git a/arch/arm/cpu/tegra-common/vpr.c
                b/arch/arm/cpu/tegra-common/vpr.c
>> > +void config vpr(void)
>> > + /* Turn off VPR */
>> + writel(0x00000000, &mc->mc video protect size mb);
>> > + writel(0x0000001, &mc->mc video_protect_reg_ctrl);
>
> Can we use a #define rather than "1" there, so we know what the bit
> means. Also "0" is as good as "0 \times 000000000" and same for "1".
```

Patch Accepted



```
On 06/24/2014 05:01 AM, Mark Brown wrote:
> On Mon, Jun 23, 2014 at 02:53:25PM -0600, Stephen Warren wrote:
>> > From: Stephen Warren <swarren@nvidia.com>
>> >
>> > When setting up .enable reg for an SMPS regulator, presumably we should
>> > call PALMAS BASE TO REG(PALMAS SMPS BASE, ...) rather than using
>> > LDO BASE. This change makes the LCD panel and HDMI work again on the
>> > NVIDIA Dalmore board anyway.
>
> Applied, thanks.
```

Questions?

