Runtime and Postmortem Analyze of the Linux Network Stack

Tracing and Probing Techniques from IRQ Context to User Space

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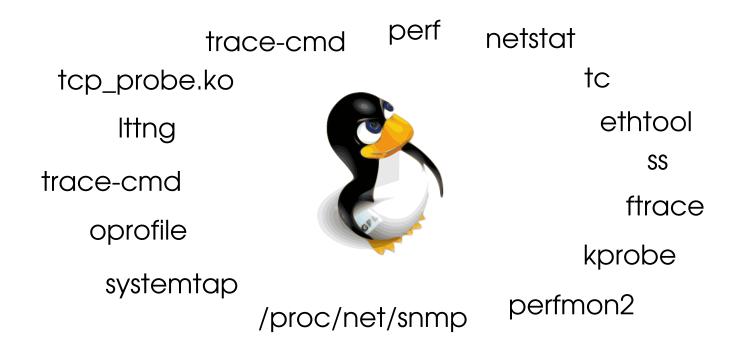
Protocol Labs

Agenda

- ► Goals:
 - 1. Provide information <u>how</u> to analyze the network stack
 - 2. What tools are available to spot corner cases
- ► Agenda
 - Tool Overview
 - Tools in Detail
 - Mostly Kernel Space, but some User Space tools are considered
 - "War Stories"



Tools Overview



- ▶ What tools are available, when to use, how to use
- ▶ But: all of these tools requires a fairly good understanding of the network stack. This talk is about to bring some light into the interaction and provide starting points.

Tools Overview II

- ► Starting with basic tools
- ▶ Going deeper, get into the details by using more specialized tools

Netstat

▶ netstat -s

```
IP:
    3229907 total packets received
        [...]
        108 dropped because of missing route
Icmp:
    ICMP input histogram:
         destination unreachable: 57
Tcp:
    117181 active connections openings
        105765 passive connection openings
        559 connection resets received
        2775 segments retransmited
        2133 resets sent
TcpExt:
    70382 delayed acks sent
        Quick ack mode was activated 772 times
        25235253 bytes directly received in process context from prequeue
        1641950 packet headers predicted
        450 packets collapsed in receive queue due to low socket buffer
        277 connections reset due to unexpected data
        [...]
```

Ethtool

▶ ethtool -S eth0

```
NIC statistics:
     rx_packets: 1172472
     tx_packets: 784183
     rx_bytes: 1561122238
     tx_bytes: 72181402
     rx_broadcast: 2826
     rx_errors: 0
     tx_errors: 0
     tx_dropped: 0
     collisions: 0
     rx_crc_errors: 0
     rx_no_buffer_count: 0
     tx_fifo_errors: 0
     tx_tcp_seg_good: 47
     tx_tcp_seg_failed: 0
     alloc_rx_buff_failed: 0
     rx_dma_failed: 0
     tx_dma_failed: 0
     [\ldots]
```

Ethtool

- ► Ethtool is an excelent tool to discover CPU, BIOS, RAM and Network Card issues!
- ➤ rx_no_buffer_count → if CPU cannot keep new buffers to the hardware fast enough (e.g. increasing interrupt rate, increase RX descriptor ring, eliminate locking issues, . . .)
- ► rx_missed_errors → Not enough bus bandwidth, host is too busy

Ethtool

▶ ethtool -g eth5

```
Ring parameters for eth5:
Pre-set maximums:
RX: 4096
TX: 4096
Current hardware settings:
RX: 256
TX: 256
```

- ► 256 good compromiss:
 - 256 descriptors: 4096 byte, one page (256 * 16)
 - 512 descriptors: 8192 byte, two pages
 - Allow to buffer more incoming packets, increase system memory usage¹, degrade cache line efficiency especially with routing, cacheline efficiency is crucial
 - See drivers/net/e1000/e1000_main.c:e1000_clean_rx_irq()

¹beside 16 byte descriptor, a recive buffer is also allocated 2048, 4096, 8192 or 16384 bytes; depending on the MTU

Strace and Ltrace

- ▶ strace -tt -T -e trace=network -p \$(pidof mutt)
 - -T time spent in system call
 - -tt time of day, include microseconds
 - trace=network trace all network related system calls
 - Dont forgot read()/write()/splice() in the case it is used to tx/rx data via socket(s)

AF Packet and PCAP

- ▶ Understand the internals requires a understanding of the algorithm why versus how
- ▶ Why is partly described in RFCs, IEEE publications and other standard documents
- ▶ Why can also be observed by looking from a higher level: monitoring traffic
 - Raw sockets and PCAP provide a wide set of tools
 - TCP Slow Start, window limited sender, neighbor discovery, . . .
- ► Tools
 - tcpdump
 - wireshark
 - tcptrace
 - . .

SS

- ► To dump socket statistics ss(8)
- ► Show all established connection for ssh

```
•ss -o state established '( dport = :ssh or sport = :ssh )'
```

- ▶ss -i -s
- ► INET_DIAG_INFO

Kprobe

- ▶ Debugging mechanism for for monitoring events
- ► Since 2005; developed by IBM
- ► KProbes as was underlying mechanism, DProbes planned as Tool (scripting capabilities, et cetera)
- ► KProbes
 - Handler installed at a particular instruction (pre and post)
- ► JProbes
 - Get access to a kernel function arguments
- ► Systemtap use it
- ▶ Documentation: http://lwn.net/Articles/132196/

Kprobe Registration

- ▶ implemented by exception handling mechanisms (intr)
- ► KProbes Interface

Kprobe Overhead

- ► kprobe Overhead (for x86_64)
 - kprobe: 0.5us
 - jprobe 0.8us
 - return probe: 0.8 us
 - kprobe + return probe 0.85us
 - kprobe + return probe 0.85us
- ► Documentation:
 - http://www.mjmwired.net/kernel/Documentation/kprobes.txt, http://www-106.ibm.com/developerworks/library/l-kprobes.html?ca=dgr-lnxw42Kprobe, http://www.redhat.com/magazine/005mar05/features/kprobes/, http://www-users.cs.umn.edu/ boutcher/kprobes/
 http://www.linuxsymposium.org/2006/linuxsymposium_procv2.pdf

Systemtap

Example: what process allocate pages and report every 5 seconds

```
global page_allocs
probe kernel.trace("mm_page_alloc") {
      page_allocs[execname()]++
function print_count() {
      printf ("%-25s %-s\n", "#Pages Allocated", "Process Name")
      foreach (proc in page_allocs-)
              printf("%-25d %s\n", page_allocs[proc], proc)
      printf ("\n")
      delete page_allocs
probe timer.s(5) {
        print_count()
```

- ➤ Systemtap understands tracepoints too
- ► Access via kernel.trace() function

Systemtap II

- ► Advantages:
 - Scripting support
 - Multiple instances
 - Type enforcement

Ftrace

- ► Infrastructure since 2.6.27
- ► Ftrace can easily trace function calls or use static tracepoints placed in the kernel source
- ► No dynamic tracepoint on the fly support
- ► Function tracer implementation via mcount (-pg, see next foil)
- ► Interface:

```
mount -t debugfs nodev /sys/kernel/debug
sysctl kernel.ftrace_enabled=1
echo function > current_tracer
echo 1 > tracing_on
usleep 1
echo 0 > tracing_on
cat trace
```

► Documentation/trace/ftrace.txt

Function Tracer

- ▶ Ingo Molnar and William Lee Irwin created a tracer to find latency problems in the RT branch
- ▶ One feature of the latency tracer was the function tracer.
- ▶ Used to show what function where called when interrupts
- ► How can it be that if not enabled nearly no overhead can be measured? How is function tracing implemented?
 - If CONFIG_DYNAMIC_TRACE is set the gcc compiles with -pg[?, ?]
 - In in turn mcount() is placed at every function (this is why inlined function cannot be traced)
 - Gprof is the most prominent user of mcount() (_mcount() BTW is provided by GLIBC not GCC)
 - After compilation objedump will search for mcount() callees in the .text segment (recordmcount.pl)

- This script generates a new segment (__mcount_loc) that hold all references to mcount callees
- At boot time the ftrace code iterate over this list and update replace all mcount() calls by nops. Additionally all locations are saved in a list (available_filter_list)
- When traceing is enabled these nops are patched back to call the ftrace infrastructure (mcount() is a stub)

Background – Trace Points

```
void kfree_skb(struct sk_buff *skb)
{
    if (unlikely(!skb))
        return;
    if (likely(atomic_read(&skb->users) == 1))
        smp_rmb();
    else if (likely(!atomic_dec_and_test(&skb->users)))
        return;
    trace_kfree_skb(skb, __builtin_return_address(0));
    __kfree_skb(skb);
}
```

Trace Points

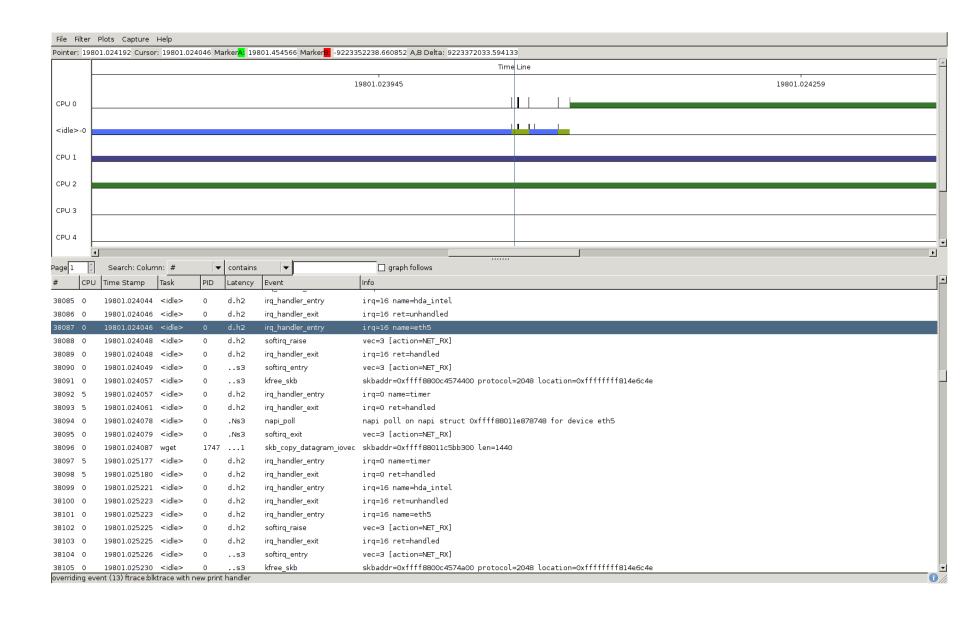
- ightharpoonup cat /sys/kernel/debug/tracing/available_events | wc -1 ightharpoonup 778
- ► (or trace-cmd list or perf list | grep Tracepoint

trace-cmd

- ► Originally a user was constrained to echo and cat to set up a ftrace
- ► Tool from Steven Rostedt to hide the detail
- ► Trace points must be a priory available in the kernel
 - Scheduling
 - Interrupts
 - Free skb's
- ► Set up a tracer:
 - trace-cmd record -e <subsystem:event-name>
 - trace-cmd record -p function -e sched_switch ls > /dev/null
 - what interrupts have the highest latency
 - trace-cmd record -p function_graph -e irq_handler_entry l do_IRQ sleep 10; trace-cmd report
 - kmalloc calls that were greater than 1000 bytes

- trace-cmd report -F 'kmalloc: bytes_req > 1000'
- Function Graph
 - trace-cmd record -p function_graph ls /bin
- Finding high latency interrupts (one of Stevens examples)
 - trace-cmd record -p function_graph -l do_IRQ e irq_handler_entry
 - trace-cmd report | cut -c32-43 --complement
- ▶ git://git.kernel.org/pub/scm/linux/kernel/git/rostedt/trace-cmd.git

Kernelshark II



Kernelshark II



Perf

- ► Access to hardware counters (first releases) ²
- ► First release: Ingo Molnar and Thomas Gleixner; now Arnaldo, Frederic, ...
 - Special hardware registers
 - Count number of certain hardware events like
 - Cache misses
 - TLB missed
 - CPU cycles
 - Branch misprediction
 - Without slowing down the execution (hardware register, say nearly without)
- ► Interface to kernel tracepoints (examples)
 - Trace points are interesting locations in subsystems, not a record of all executed

 $^{^2}$ if you build perf by yourself, make sure you build for the actual kernel version: perf -version (perf version 2.6.39.rc1.210.g66ee33.dirty) should match uname -r (2.6.39-rc1+)

function

- Between these points the must interpolate what happens during that time
- ► Collect all kind of performance data
- ► Superseeds oprofile, perfmon2, (partly systemtap)
- ▶ Per thread, task, CPU or system wide

Perf

► Commands:

annotate	Read perf.data (created by perf record) and display annotated code
bench	General framework for benchmark suites
list	List all symbolic event types
probe	Define new dynamic tracepoints
record	Run a command and record its profile into perf.data
report	Read perf.data (created by perf record) and display the profile
sched	Tool to trace/measure scheduler properties (latencies)
script	Read perf.data (created by perf record) and display trace output
stat	Run a command and gather performance counter statistics
timechart	Tool to visualize total system behavior during a workload
top	System profiling tool.
[]	

Perf stat

▶ perf stat ls -R > /dev/null:

Performance counter stats for 'ls -R':

```
371,191921 task-clock-msecs
                                             0,995 CPUs
          14 context-switches
                                             0,000 M/sec
           2 CPU-migrations
                                             0,000 M/sec
                                             0,001 M/sec
         479 page-faults
                                          3254,382 M/sec (scaled from 65,65%)
1.208.000.453 cycles
1.643.737.756 instructions
                                             1,361 IPC (scaled from 65,67%)
 308.823.362 branches
                                      #
                                           831,978 M/sec (scaled from 67,44%)
   8.156.463 branch-misses
                                             2,641 % (scaled from 67,77%)
                                      #
                                          1272,484 M/sec (scaled from 67,65%)
 472.335.871 cache-references
                                      #
                                            11,247 M/sec (scaled from 66,57%)
   4.174.862 cache-misses
```

0,373027705 seconds time elapsed

Perf

Perf list:

```
[Hardware event]
 cpu-cycles OR cycles
 instructions
                                               [Hardware event]
                                               [Hardware event]
 cache-references
 cache-misses
                                               [Hardware event]
                                               [Hardware event]
 branch-instructions OR branches
                                               [Hardware event]
 branch-misses
[...]
 skb:kfree_skb
                                               [Tracepoint event]
                                               [Tracepoint event]
 skb:consume skb
 skb:skb_copy_datagram_iovec
                                               [Tracepoint event]
                                               [Tracepoint event]
 net:net_dev_xmit
                                               [Tracepoint event]
 net:net_dev_queue
 net:netif_receive_skb
                                               [Tracepoint event]
                                               [Tracepoint event]
 net:netif rx
                                               [Tracepoint event]
 napi:napi_poll
```

Perf

- ▶ sudo perf record -g ./client -r 0 -s 1073741824 -i 0 -d 0 -n 1 e localhost
- ▶ perf report

Perf Scripts

- ▶ Perl or Python
- ► Generate template, the rest (processing) is up to the user
- ▶ perf script record netdev-times
- ▶ perf script report netdev-times dev=eth5

Kprobe based Event Tracer

- ► Masami Hiramatsu (26 files changed, 3924 insertions(+), 163 deletions(-))
- ► Based on kprobe (and kretprobe)
- ▶ Probe various kernel events through ftrace interface
- ► Anywhere where kprobes can probe
- ▶ Unlike the function tracer, this tracer can probe instructions inside of kernel functions
- ► Allows you to check which instruction has been executed
- ► On the fly
- p[:EVENT] SYMBOL[+offset|-offset]|MEMADDR [FETCHARGS]
- ► r[:EVENT] SYMBOL[+0] [FETCHARGS]
- ► LWN Article: http://lwn.net/Articles/343766/

Perf probe

- perf probe ip_rcv
- ▶ perf record -e probe:ip_rcv -R -f -g -a
- ▶ perf report

```
100.00%
             nyxmms2 [kernel.kallsyms] [k] ip_rcv
              --- ip_rcv
                 |--100.00%-- netif_receive_skb
                            |--100.00%-- napi_gro_complete
                                       napi_gro_flush
                                       napi_complete
                                       e1000_clean
                                       net_rx_action
                                       __do_softirq
                                       call_softirg
                                       _local_bh_enable_ip
                                       local_bh_enable
                                       dev_queue_xmit
                                       ip_finish_output2
                                       ip_finish_output
```

		ip_output
		dst_output
		<pre>ip_local_out</pre>
		<pre>ip_queue_xmit</pre>
		tcp_transmit_skb
		tcp_write_xmit
[]		

Trace Packet Flow through Kernel

- ► Attention: NAPI and non-NAPI flow, take your path)
- ► What we (probably) want to know:
 - We want to know when the Userspace blocked in recvfrom()
 - → recvfrom()
 - We want to know when a NIC interrupt is triggered
 - → irq_entry()
 - called by driver when frame received on interface; enqueues frame on current processor's packet receive queue (non NAPI implementation; NAPI driver call netif_receive_skb)
 - ullet \rightarrow netif rx
 - We can check when the softirq is raised
 - ullet o softirq_raise
 - We can check when the interrupt is exited

- ullet \rightarrow irq_exit
- We want to know when the softing is executed
 - ullet \rightarrow softirq_entry
- We want to know when a packet is get from device queue
 - softirq context
 - → dev.c:__netif_receive_skb()
- We want to know when data is delivery to the user (receive queue)
 - → skb_copy_datagram_iovec()
 - tcp_data_queue(), udp_recvmsg, ...call skb_copy_datagram_iovec()
- We want to know napi loop is leaved
 - → napi_poll_exit()
- We want to know when softirg context is leaved
 - → softirq_exit()
- We want to know when the Userspace Application is scheduled in

- We want to know when the Userspace returned from recvfrom()
 - ullet \rightarrow recvfrom()

KVM, Qemu and GDB

- ► Allow so single step in a real system
- Advantage: analyze the behavior on the fly where you don't know where to look in <u>advance</u> (e.g. lot of code must be conditionally analysed, without any prior knowledge)
- ▶ Use your standard qemu setup with two additional qemu flags: -s and -S
- \triangleright Both flags instrument qemu to start a qemu gdb server and to break at the beginning
- ► Setup for the other side:

```
gdb /usr/src/linux/vmlinux
target remote localhost:1234
c
bt
set architecture i386:x86-64:intel
```

➤ set architecture i386:x86-64:intel fix a bug where gdb cannot detect that the target is x86_64

Misc

- ► If all tools fail? trace_printk()
- ► Interface:
 - trace_printk()
 - debug fast path sections that printk is too slow
 - printk may overwhelm the system (livelook)
 - Print to ftrace ringbuffer
 - ms versus us
 - trace_clock_global() may be your friend

- ▶ -finstrument-functions[?]
 - Insert hooks for function entry and exit

```
0000000000400514 <func>:
400514: 53
                                    %rbx
                             push
                                   %esi,%esi
400515: 31 f6
                             xor
                             mov %edi,%ebx
400517: 89 fb
400519: bf 14 05 40 00
                             mov $0x400514, %edi
40051e: e8 ed fe ff ff
                             callq 400410 <__cyg_profile_func_enter@plt>
                                    %esi,%esi
400523: 31 f6
                             xor
400525: bf 14 05 40 00
                                    $0x400514, %edi
                             mov
40052a: e8 f1 fe ff ff
                             callq 400420 <__cyg_profile_func_exit@plt>
40052f: 69 c3 ad de 00 00
                                    $0xdead, %ebx, %eax
                             imul
400535: 5b
                                    %rbx
                             pop
400536: c3
                             retq
```

- Support inlined function as well
- GCC version 2.95 or later required
- See [?] for an user of -finstrument-functions

- ► First argument is the address of the start of traced function
- ► Address to symbol translation can be done via nm

```
[...]

000000000004004d0 t __do_global_dtors_aux

0000000000400540 t frame_dummy

0000000000400564 T __cyg_profile_func_enter

000000000040059a T __cyg_profile_func_exit

00000000004005d2 T func

000000000004005f5 T main

[...]
```

- ► -ftest-coverage
 - Instrument the generated code to count the execution frequencies of each basic block
- ► fprofile-arcs
 - count the execution frequencies of each branch
- ightharpoonup gcov can be used to annotate the source code with this information

- **▶** -pg
 - Adding a call to a function named mount (or _mcount(), depends on compiler)
 - mcount() function of GLIBC
 - Lightweight "only" function call overhead

```
[\ldots]
4005e4: 55
                                      %rbp
                               push
4005e5: 48 89 e5
                              mov
                                      %rsp,%rbp
4005e8: e8 ab fe ff ff
                                     400498 <mcount@plt>
                              callq
4005ed: 5d
                                      %rbp
                              pop
4005ee: 69 c7 ad de 00 00
                                      $0xdead, %edi, %eax
                              imul
4005f4: c3
                               retq
[...]
```

Kernel Oops

```
BUG: unable to handle kernel NULL pointer dereference at 00000050
IP: [<c12280c0>] tc_fill_qdisc+0x68/0x1e5
*pde = 00000000
Oops: 0000 [#1] SMP
last sysfs file:
Modules linked in:
Pid: 600, comm: gdisc Not tainted 2.6.34 #16 /
EIP: 0060: [<c12280c0>] EFLAGS: 00010282 CPU: 0
EIP is at tc_fill_qdisc+0x68/0x1e5
EAX: 00000000 EBX: ffffffff ECX: 00000000 EDX: c7222070
ESI: c14576e0 EDI: c7115200 EBP: c7239ca0 ESP: c7239c3c
DS: 007b ES: 007b FS: 00d8 GS: 0033 SS: 0068
Process qdisc (pid: 600, ti=c7239000 task=c720b700 task.ti=c7239000)
Stack:
00000024 00000014 00000000 c14323a0 c7222060 c7222060 c10a7abd 00001030
<0> 000000d0 c7222060 000000d0 c1228329 000000d0 00000fc4 000000d0 c7115200
<0> 000000d0 00000ec0 c7239cac c12104b1 00000ec0 c1457a98 c7115200 00000258
Call Trace:
[<c10a7abd>] ? __kmalloc_track_caller+0x122/0x131
[<c1228329>] ? qdisc_notify+0x2a/0xc8
[<c12104b1>] ? __alloc_skb+0x4e/0x115
[<c122838a>] ? qdisc_notify+0x8b/0xc8
```

[...]

- ▶ gdb vmlinuz
- ▶ i line *tc_fill_qdisc+0x68
- ▶ 1 sch_api.c:1191
- ► x/8i *tc_fill_qdisc+0x68

End

- ► Contact:
 - Hagen Paul Pfeifer <hagen@jauu.net>
 - Key Id: 0x98350C22
 - Key Fingerprint: 490F 557B 6C48 6D7E 5706 2EA2 4A22 8D45 9835 0C22

Perf Internals

- ▶ via perf report -D recorded raw samples can be displayed
- ► To disable some cores:
 - add maxcpus=1 to kernel command line

Trace Points I

CONFIG_FUNCTION_TRACER
CONFIG_FUNCTION_GRAPH_TRACER
CONFIG_STACK_TRACER
CONFIG_DYNAMIC_FTRACE

Trace Points II

Trace Points III

```
TRACE_EVENT(sched_migrate_task,
 TP_PROTO(struct task_struct *p, int dest_cpu),
 TP_ARGS(p, dest_cpu),
 TP_STRUCT__entry(
        __array(
                    char,
                                    TASK_COMM_LEN
                             comm,
        __field( pid_t, pid
        __field( int, prio
        __field( int, orig_cpu
        __field( int, dest_cpu
 ),
 TP_fast_assign(
        memcpy(__entry->comm, p->comm, TASK_COMM_LEN);
                    = p->pid;
        __entry->pid
        __entry->prio = p->prio;
        __entry->orig_cpu = task_cpu(p);
        __entry->dest_cpu = dest_cpu;
 ),
 TP_printk("comm=%s pid=%d prio=%d orig_cpu=%d dest_cpu=%d",
```

```
__entry->comm, __entry->pid, __entry->prio,
__entry->orig_cpu, __entry->dest_cpu)
);
```

Gigabit and PCI Bus

- ► PCI-Express just great for 1Gbps
- ► lspci -t -v and lspci -vvv

```
O2:00.0 Ethernet controller: Intel Corporation 82574L Gigabit Network Connection
Subsystem: Intel Corporation Gigabit CT Desktop Adapter
Control: I/O+ Mem+ BusMaster+ SpecCycle- MemWINV- VGASnoop- ParErr- Stepping- SERR+ Fa
Status: Cap+ 66MHz- UDF- FastB2B- ParErr- DEVSEL=fast >TAbort- <TAbort- <MAbort- >SERR
Latency: O, Cache Line Size: 64 bytes
Interrupt: pin A routed to IRQ 16
Region O: Memory at fe6e0000 (32-bit, non-prefetchable) [size=128K]
Region 1: Memory at fe600000 (32-bit, non-prefetchable) [size=512K]
Region 2: I/O ports at bc00 [size=32]
Region 3: Memory at fe6dc000 (32-bit, non-prefetchable) [size=16K]
Expansion ROM at fe680000 [disabled] [size=256K]
Capabilities: <access denied>
Kernel driver in use: e1000e
```

➤ Default IRQ assignments are read from the Differentiated System Description Table (DSDT) table in the BIOS

Modifying the DSDT

- ► AML table in BIOS
- ▶ Build a custom DSDT:
 - aptitude install acpidump iasl
 - acpidump > acpidump.data
 - acpixtract acpidump.data (will generate DSDT.dat and SSDT.dat)
 - iasl -d DSDT.dat
 - vim DSDT.dsl
 - iasl -tc DSDT.dsl
 - cp DSDT.hex /usr/src/linux/include/
 - CONFIG_STANDALONE=n, CONFIG_ACPI_CUSTOM_DSDT=y, CON-FIG_ACPI_CUSTOM_DSDT_FILE="DSDT.hex"

Packet Drop

- ➤ since the kernel has a limit of how many fragments it can buffer before it starts throwing away packet
- /proc/sys/net/ipv4/ipfrag_high_thresh
 /proc/sys/net/ipv4/ipfrag_low_thresh
- ➤ Once the number of unprocessed, fragmented packets reaches the number specified by ipfrag_high_thresh (in bytes), the kernel will simply start throwing away fragmented packets until the number of incomplete packets reaches the number specified by ipfrag_low_thresh.
- ► Another counter to monitor is IP: ReasmFails in the file /proc/net/snmp; this is the number of fragment reassembly failures. if it goes up too quickly during heavy file activity, you may have a problem.

Softnet

/proc/net/softnet_stat