UNDERSTANDING LINUX NETWORK INTERNALS

The routing cache

Any time you apply a configuration change, the handler that takes care of it inside the kernel acquires.
To do a research in the source code of a large project is to enter a strange, new land with its own customs and unspoken expectations. It is useful to learn some of the major

Neighboring subsystems: address resolution protocol

The bulk of this chapter is devoted to introducing you to a few of the common programming patterns and tricks that you will often meet in the networking code.
I encourage you, when possible, to try interacting with a given part of the kernel networking code by means of user-space tools. So in this chapter, I will give you a few pointers as to where you can download those tools if they are not already installed on your preferred Linux distribution, or if you simply want to upgrade them to the latest versions.

Basic terminology

In this section, I will introduce terms and abbreviations that are going to be used extensively in this book.

Eight-bit quantities are normally called octets in the networking literature. In this book, however, I use the more familiar term byte. After all, the book describes the behavior of the kernel rather than some network abstraction, and kernel developers ares used to thinking in terms of bytes.

Kernel Infrastructure for Initialization

Boot-Time Kernel Options

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Module Initialization Code

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Optimized Macro-Based Tagging

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