



Here's a picture of our development model, in a simplified form.

We have about 3000 different developers. They make a patch, and send it through email to the file/driver maintainer. We have about 700 different maintainers listed in the kernel tree at the moment. That maintainer reviews it, and if they accept it, they forward it on to the subsystem maintainer. We have around 85 different subsystem maintainers at the moment, and there are about 160 different subsystem trees that get merged to Linux.

Those maintainers have public kernel trees that all get merged into the linux-next release every day. Then, when the merge window opens up, the subsystem maintainers send their stuff to Linux.