

Fixing Coverity Bugs in the Linux Kernel

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Kernel Recipes 2017

Overview

- What am I doing to get involved?
- How am I doing it?
- Response from the community.
- The future of this project.

Coverity

- Static code analyzer.
- Performs analysis without running the code.

Interface

Linux Return to Dashboard | Guided Tour | Help | garsilva@embeddedor.com | Enter CID(s)

Issues: By Snapshot | Outstanding Defects by category Filters: Status, Issue Kind, Classification

Category	# Items	CID	Type	Impact	Status	First Detected	Owner	Classification
Memory - corruptions	399	1415670	Explicit null dereferenced	Medium	New	07/24/17	Unassigned	Unclassified
Incorrect expression	439	1415666	Dereference null return value	Medium	New	07/24/17	Unassigned	Unclassified
Memory - illegal accesses	626	1415417	Dereference before null check	Medium	New	07/17/17	Unassigned	Unclassified
Error handling issues	630	1415409	Explicit null dereferenced	Medium	New	07/17/17	Unassigned	Unclassified
Control flow issues	636	1415404	Dereference after null check	Medium	New	07/17/17	Unassigned	Unclassified
Null pointer dereferences	656	1415402	Explicit null dereferenced	Medium	New	07/17/17	Unassigned	Unclassified
Integer handling issues	781	1415400	Dereference after null check	Medium	New	07/17/17	Unassigned	Unclassified

20 items match | Page 1 of 1 | 1 of 656 issues selected | Page 1 of 4

```
core.c
449
450 static inline blk_status_t nvme_setup_rw(struct nvme_ns *ns,
451     struct request *req, struct nvme_command *cmd)
452 {
453     deref_ptr: Directly dereferencing pointer ns.
454     struct nvme_ctrl *ctrl = ns->ctrl;
455     u16 control = 0;
456     u32 dsgmt = 0;
457
458     /*
459      * If formatted with metadata, require the block layer provide a buffer
460      * unless this namespace is formatted such that the metadata can be
461      * stripped/generated by the controller with PRACT=1.
462      */
463     if (ns && ns->ms &&
464         (!ns->pi_type || ns->ms != sizeof(struct t10_pi_tuple)) &&
465         !blk_integrity_rq(req) && !blk_rq_is_passthrough(req))
466         return BLK_STS_NOTSUPP;
```

1415417 Dereference before null check

There may be a null pointer dereference, or else the comparison against null is unnecessary.

In nvme_setup_rw: All paths that lead to this null pointer comparison already dereference the pointer earlier (CWE-476)

Triage

Classification:

Severity:

Action:

Ext. Reference:

Owner:

Enter comments (See the Triage History section below for previous comments)

► Projects & Streams

► Detection History

► Triage History

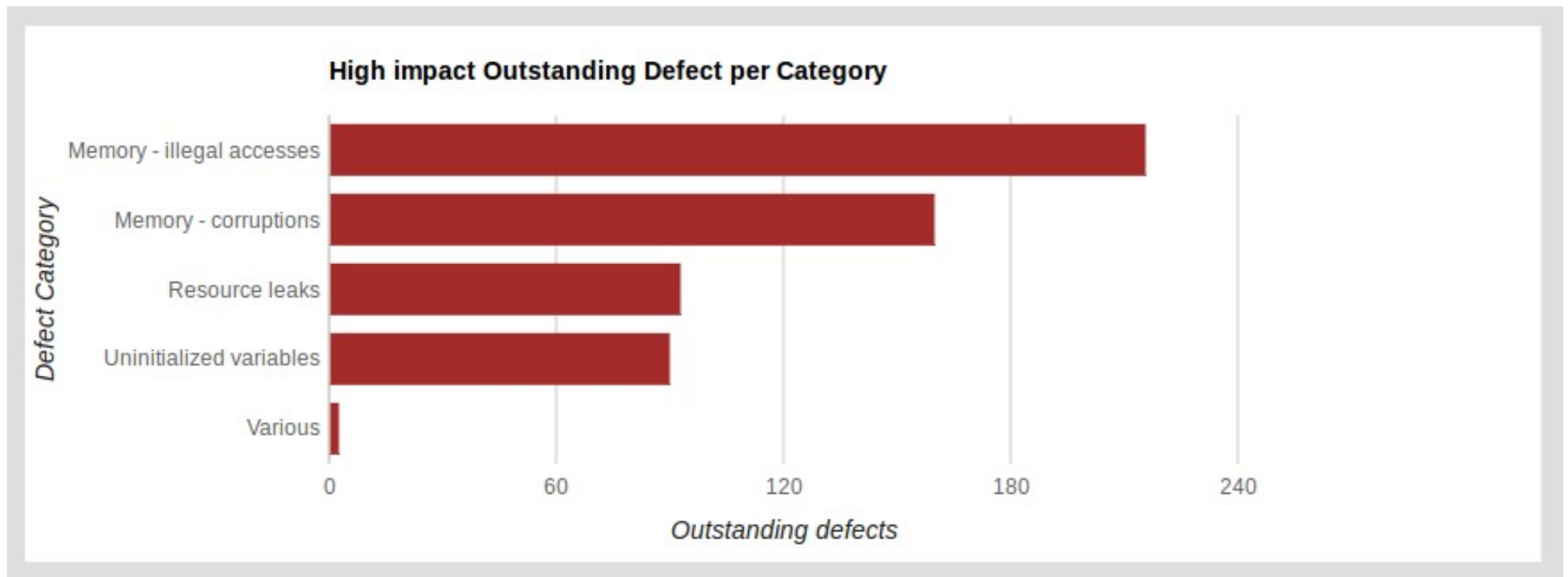
▼ Occurrences

1: Linux

Last Coverity report

High impact issues

- 216 illegal memory accesses.

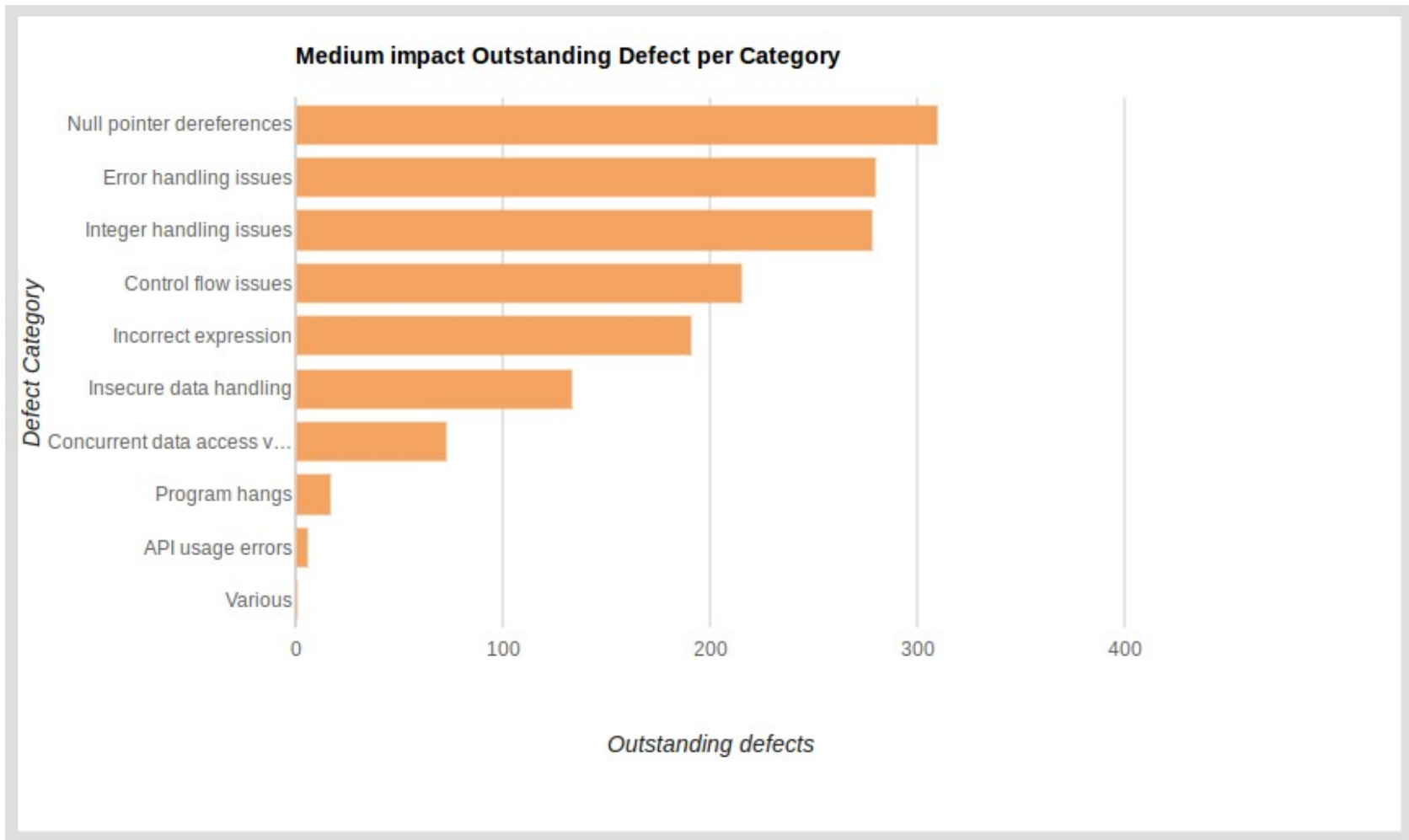


Illegal memory accesses

- Out-of-bounds access.
- Use after free.
- Buffer not null terminated.
- Negative array index read.

Medium impact issues

- 310 null pointer dereferences.



Some examples

From 'Missing break in switch' to Code refactoring

- drivers/usb/misc/usbttest.c

```
/* take the first altsetting with in-bulk + out-bulk;
 * ignore other endpoints and altsettings.
 */
for (ep = 0; ep < alt->desc.bNumEndpoints; ep++) {
    struct usb_host_endpoint    *e;

    e = alt->endpoint + ep;
    switch (usb_endpoint_type(&e->desc)) {
    case USB_ENDPOINT_XFER_BULK:
        break;
    case USB_ENDPOINT_XFER_INT:
        if (dev->info->intr)
            goto try_intr;
    case USB_ENDPOINT_XFER_ISOC:
        if (dev->info->iso)
            goto try_iso;
        /* FALLTHROUGH */
    default:
        continue;
    }
    if (usb_endpoint_dir_in(&e->desc)) {
        if (!in)
            in = e;
    } else {
        if (!out)
            out = e;
    }
    continue;
}
```

From 'missing break in switch' to code refactoring

- It turned out to be a missing continue.

```
1 diff --git a/drivers/usb/misc/usbtest.c b/drivers/usb/misc/usbtest.c
2 index 17c0810..26ae5d1 100644
3 --- a/drivers/usb/misc/usbtest.c
4 +++ b/drivers/usb/misc/usbtest.c
5 @@ -159,6 +159,7 @@ get_endpoints(struct usbtest_dev *dev, struct usb_interface *intf)
6         case USB_ENDPOINT_XFER_INT:
7             if (dev->info->intr)
8                 goto try_intr;
9 +             continue;
10        case USB_ENDPOINT_XFER_ISOC:
11            if (dev->info->iso)
12                goto try_iso;
```

There was some room for improvement.

```
1 diff --git a/drivers/usb/misc/usbtest.c b/drivers/usb/misc/usbtest.c
2 index 26ae5d1..eee82ca 100644
3 --- a/drivers/usb/misc/usbtest.c
4 +++ b/drivers/usb/misc/usbtest.c
5 @@ -124,6 +124,20 @@ static struct usb_device *testdev_to_usbdev(struct usbtest_dev *test
6
7  /*-----*/
8
9  +static inline void endpoint_update(int edi,
10 +                                struct usb_host_endpoint **in,
11 +                                struct usb_host_endpoint **out,
12 +                                struct usb_host_endpoint *e)
13  +{
14  +    if (edi) {
15  +        if (!*in)
16  +            *in = e;
17  +    } else {
18  +        if (!*out)
19  +            *out = e;
20  +    }
21  +}
22  +
23  static int
24  get_endpoints(struct usbtest_dev *dev, struct usb_interface *intf)
25  {
26  @@ -151,47 +165,26 @@ get_endpoints(struct usbtest_dev *dev, struct usb_interface *intf)
27  */
```


The fix

```
1 diff --git a/drivers/scsi/qedf/qedf_els.c b/drivers/scsi/qedf/qedf_els.c
2 index c505d41..9062703 100644
3 --- a/drivers/scsi/qedf/qedf_els.c
4 +++ b/drivers/scsi/qedf/qedf_els.c
5 @@ -109,7 +109,7 @@ retry_els:
6         did = fcport->rdata->ids.port_id;
7         sid = fcport->sid;
8
9 -     __fc_fill_fc_hdr(fc_hdr, FC_RCTL_ELS_REQ, sid, did,
10 +     __fc_fill_fc_hdr(fc_hdr, FC_RCTL_ELS_REQ, did, sid,
11                             FC_TYPE_ELS, FC_FC_FIRST_SEQ | FC_FC_END_SEQ |
12                             FC_FC_SEQ_INIT, 0);
```

'Uninitialized scalar variable' turned out to be a copy/paste error

- drivers/scsi/libfc/fc_rport.c

```
fp = fc_frame_alloc(lport, sizeof(*rtv));
if (!fp) {
    rjt_data.reason = ELS_RJT_UNAB;
    rjt_data.reason = ELS_EXPL_INSUF_RES;
    fc_seq_els_rsp_send(in_fp, ELS_LS_RJT, &rjt_data);
    goto drop;
}
```

- include/scsi/libfc.h

```
struct fc_seq_els_data {
    enum fc_els_rjt_reason reason;
    enum fc_els_rjt_explan explan;
};
```

els_data->explan

```
void fc_seq_els_rsp_send(struct fc_frame *fp, enum fc_els_cmd els_cmd,
                        struct fc_seq_els_data *els_data)
{
    switch (els_cmd) {
    case ELS_LS_RJT:
        fc_seq_ls_rjt(fp, els_data->reason, els_data->explan);
        break;
    case ELS_LS_ACC:
        fc_seq_ls_acc(fp);
        break;
    case ELS_RRQ:
        fc_exch_els_rrq(fp);
        break;
    case ELS_REC:
        fc_exch_els_rec(fp);
        break;
    default:
        FC_LPRT_DBG(fr_dev(fp), "Invalid ELS CMD:%x\n", els_cmd);
    }
}
```


ELS_EXPL_INSUF_RES

Defined in 1 files:

`include/uapi/scsi/fc/fc_els.h`, line 212 (*as a enumerator*)

Referenced in 2 files:

`drivers/scsi/libfc/fc_rport.c`

- └ line 1425
- └ line 1650
- └ line 1866
- └ line 2000
- └ line 2112

`include/uapi/scsi/fc/fc_els.h`, line 212

Same pattern in all cases

```
rjt_data.reason = ELS_RJT_UNAB;  
rjt_data.explan = ELS_EXPL_INSUF_RES;
```

The fix

```
1 diff --git a/drivers/scsi/libfc/fc_rport.c b/drivers/scsi/libfc/fc_rport.c
2 index b44c313..5203258 100644
3 --- a/drivers/scsi/libfc/fc_rport.c
4 +++ b/drivers/scsi/libfc/fc_rport.c
5 @@ -1422,7 +1422,7 @@ static void fc_rport_recv_rtv_req(struct fc_rport_priv *rdata,
6         fp = fc_frame_alloc(lport, sizeof(*rtv));
7         if (!fp) {
8             rjt_data.reason = ELS_RJT_UNAB;
9 -             rjt_data.reason = ELS_EXPL_INSUF_RES;
10 +             rjt_data.explan = ELS_EXPL_INSUF_RES;
11             fc_seq_els_rsp_send(in_fp, ELS_LS_RJT, &rjt_data);
12             goto drop;
13         }
```

From 'Missing break in switch' to Code documentation

- This issue was first detected on 12/21/2016. The importance of commenting ~~your~~ our code.

```
1 diff --git a/drivers/usb/musb/musb_core.c b/drivers/usb/musb/musb_core.c
2 index 892088f..d8bae6c 100644
3 --- a/drivers/usb/musb/musb_core.c
4 +++ b/drivers/usb/musb/musb_core.c
5 @@ -1869,6 +1869,7 @@ static void musb_pm_runtime_check_session(struct musb *musb)
6
7         return;
8     }
9 +     /* fall through */
10     case MUSB_QUIRK_A_DISCONNECT_19:
11         if (musb->quirk_retries--) {
12             musb_dbg(musb,
```

'Dereference before null check'

```
1 diff --git a/drivers/net/ieee802154/ca8210.c b/drivers/net/ieee802154/ca8210.c
2 index f6df75e..7a21854 100644
3 --- a/drivers/net/ieee802154/ca8210.c
4 +++ b/drivers/net/ieee802154/ca8210.c
5 @@ -912,7 +912,7 @@ static int ca8210_spi_transfer(
6     )
7     {
8         int i, status = 0;
9 -     struct ca8210_priv *priv = spi_get_drvdata(spi);
10 +     struct ca8210_priv *priv;
11         struct cas_control *cas_ctl;
12
13         if (!spi) {
14 @@ -923,6 +923,7 @@ static int ca8210_spi_transfer(
15             return -ENODEV;
16         }
17
18 +     priv = spi_get_drvdata(spi);
19         reinit_completion(&priv->spi_transfer_complete);
20
21         dev_dbg(&spi->dev, "ca8210_spi_transfer called\n");
```

Fun with NULL pointers (2009)

<https://lwn.net/Articles/342330/>

From 'Use after free' to Code refactoring

- The bug below was first detected on 09/20/2013. Fixed after 4 years.

```
1 diff --git a/drivers/usb/gadget/udc/amd5536udc.c b/drivers/usb/gadget/udc/amd5536udc.c
2 index ea03ca7..821d088 100644
3 --- a/drivers/usb/gadget/udc/amd5536udc.c
4 +++ b/drivers/usb/gadget/udc/amd5536udc.c
5 @@ -611,21 +611,20 @@ udc_alloc_request(struct usb_ep *usbe, gfp_t gfp)
6 static int udc_free_dma_chain(struct udc *dev, struct udc_request *req)
7 {
8     int ret_val = 0;
9 - struct udc_data_dma *td;
10 - struct udc_data_dma *td_last = NULL;
11 + struct udc_data_dma *td = req->td_data;
12     unsigned int i;
13
14 + dma_addr_t addr_next = 0x00;
15 + dma_addr_t addr = (dma_addr_t)td->next;
16 +
17     DBG(dev, "free chain req = %p\n", req);
18
19     /* do not free first desc., will be done by free for request */
20 - td_last = req->td_data;
21 - td = phys_to_virt(td_last->next);
22 -
23     for (i = 1; i < req->chain_len; i++) {
24 - pci_pool_free(dev->data_requests, td,
25 -               (dma_addr_t)td_last->next);
26 - td_last = td;
27 - td = phys_to_virt(td_last->next);
28 + td = phys_to_virt(addr);
29 + addr_next = (dma_addr_t)td->next;
30 + pci_pool_free(dev->data_requests, td, addr);
31 + addr = addr_next;
32     }
33
34     return ret_val;
```

Duplicated code for different branches

- After talking with the maintainer it turned out to be a copy/paste error.

```
1 diff --git a/drivers/media/platform/qcom/venus/helpers.c b/drivers/media/platform/qcom/venus/helpers.c
2 index b52410d..68933d2 100644
3 --- a/drivers/media/platform/qcom/venus/helpers.c
4 +++ b/drivers/media/platform/qcom/venus/helpers.c
5 @@ -292,7 +292,7 @@ static void return_buf_error(struct venus_inst *inst,
6         if (vbuf->vb2_buf.type == V4L2_BUF_TYPE_VIDEO_OUTPUT_MPLANE)
7             v4l2_m2m_src_buf_remove_by_buf(m2m_ctx, vbuf);
8         else
9 -         v4l2_m2m_src_buf_remove_by_buf(m2m_ctx, vbuf);
10 +         v4l2_m2m_dst_buf_remove_by_buf(m2m_ctx, vbuf);
11
12         v4l2_m2m_buf_done(vbuf, VB2_BUF_STATE_ERROR);
13     }
```


Workflow

Workflow and tips

- Review the code around the issue.
- Review it again.
- In case of doubt ask questions to the maintainers.
(be specific/do your homework).
- Sometimes it is good to ask questions while proposing a patch at the same time.
- Take note of similar cases for future bug fixing.
- Read software security assessment books (sometimes it helps to cope with frustration too).

Problems and the future of this project

- False Positives.
- Use Coccinelle to identify False Positives.
- Continue fixing as much bugs as possible during the next ~8 months.

Contributions

200+ patches upstream

Categories (7)

- NULL pointer dereferences.
- API usage errors.
- Code maintainability issues.
- Control flow issues.
- Uninitialized variables.
- Incorrect expression.
- Integer handling issues.

- Constification (Not a Coverity category)
- Miscellaneous (Not a Coverity category)

Types (21)

- Dereference after null check.
- Dereference before null check.
- Dereference null return value.
- Explicit null dereference.
- Missing null check on return value.
- Arguments in wrong order.
- Ignored error return code.
- Unused value.
- Unused code.
- Unnecessary static on local variable.
- 'Constant' variable guards dead code.
- Missing break in switch.
- Uninitialized scalar variable.
- Array compared against 0.
- Identical code for different branches.
- Self assignment.
- Macro compares unsigned to 0.
- Code refactoring.
- Print error message on failure.
- Unnecessary cast on kcalloc.
- Use sizeof(*var) in kcalloc.

Components impacted (26)

- alsa-devel
- ath10k
- dri-devel
- intel-gfx
- linux-arm-kernel
- linux-arm-msm
- linux-clk
- linux-crypto
- linux-fbdev
- linux-fpga
- linux-input
- linux-media
- linux-mediatek
- linux-mmc
- linux-omap
- linux-parisc
- linux-pm
- linux-rdma
- linux-renesas-soc
- linux-rockchip
- linux-scsi
- linux-wireless
- linux-wpan
- platform-driver-x86
- target-devel
- tpmdd-devel

Contributions

Patchwork User Profile: GustavoARSilva

Logged in as **GustavoARSilva**
[todo \(0\)](#) :: [bundles](#)
[profile](#) :: [logout](#)

[project list](#)

[about](#)

Contributor to [alsa-devel](#), [ath10k](#), [dri-devel](#), [intel-gfx](#), [linux-amlogic](#), [linux-arm-kernel](#), [linux-arm-msm](#), [linux-block](#), [linux-clk](#), [linux-crypto](#), [linux-dmaengine](#), [linux-fbdev](#), [linux-fpga](#), [linux-input](#), [linux-media](#), [linux-mediatek](#), [linux-mmc](#), [linux-omap](#), [linux-parisc](#), [linux-pci](#), [linux-pm](#), [linux-rdma](#), [linux-renesas-soc](#), [linux-rockchip](#), [linux-samsung-soc](#), [linux-scsi](#), [linux-wireless](#), [linux-wpan](#), [LKML](#), [platform-driver-x86](#), [spi-devel-general](#), [target-devel](#), [tpmdd-devel](#), [xen-devel](#).

Thank you!

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