The Linux Kernel API

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Chapter 1. Data Types

1.1. Doubly Linked Lists

list_add

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_add` — add a new entry

Synopsis

```
void list_add (struct list_head * new, struct list_head *
head);
```

Arguments

new

new entry to be added

head

list head to add it after

Description

Insert a new entry after the specified head. This is good for implementing stacks.

list_add_tail

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_add_tail` — add a new entry

Synopsis

```
void list_add_tail (struct list_head * new, struct list_head *
head);
```

Arguments

new

new entry to be added

head

list head to add it before

Description

Insert a new entry before the specified head. This is useful for implementing queues.

__list_del_entry

LINUX

Name

`__list_del_entry` — deletes entry from list.

Synopsis

```
void __list_del_entry (struct list_head * entry);
```

Arguments

entry

the element to delete from the list.

Note

`list_empty` on entry does not return true after this, the entry is in an undefined state.

list_replace

LINUX

Name

`list_replace` — replace old entry by new one

Synopsis

```
void list_replace (struct list_head * old, struct list_head *
new);
```

Arguments

old

the element to be replaced

new

the new element to insert

Description

If *old* was empty, it will be overwritten.

list_del_init

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

list_del_init — deletes entry from list and reinitialize it.

Synopsis

```
void list_del_init (struct list_head * entry);
```

Arguments

entry

the element to delete from the list.

list_move

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_move` — delete from one list and add as another's head

Synopsis

```
void list_move (struct list_head * list, struct list_head *
head);
```

Arguments

list

the entry to move

head

the head that will precede our entry

list_move_tail

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_move_tail` — delete from one list and add as another's tail

Synopsis

```
void list_move_tail (struct list_head * list, struct list_head
* head);
```

Arguments

`list`

the entry to move

`head`

the head that will follow our entry

list_is_last

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_is_last` — tests whether *`list`* is the last entry in list *`head`*

Synopsis

```
int list_is_last (const struct list_head * list, const struct
list_head * head);
```

Arguments

list

the entry to test

head

the head of the list

list_empty

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_empty` — tests whether a list is empty

Synopsis

```
int list_empty (const struct list_head * head);
```

Arguments

head

the list to test.

list_empty_careful

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_empty_careful` — tests whether a list is empty and not being modified

Synopsis

```
int list_empty_careful (const struct list_head * head);
```

Arguments

head

the list to test

Description

tests whether a list is empty _and_ checks that no other CPU might be in the process of modifying either member (next or prev)

NOTE

using `list_empty_careful` without synchronization can only be safe if the only activity that can happen to the list entry is `list_del_init`. Eg. it cannot be used if another CPU could re-`list_add` it.

list_rotate_left

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_rotate_left` — rotate the list to the left

Synopsis

```
void list_rotate_left (struct list_head * head);
```

Arguments

head

the head of the list

list_is_singular

LINUX

Name

`list_is_singular` — tests whether a list has just one entry.

Synopsis

```
int list_is_singular (const struct list_head * head);
```

Arguments

`head`

the list to test.

list_cut_position

LINUX

Name

`list_cut_position` — cut a list into two

Synopsis

```
void list_cut_position (struct list_head * list, struct
list_head * head, struct list_head * entry);
```

Arguments

list

a new list to add all removed entries

head

a list with entries

entry

an entry within head, could be the head itself and if so we won't cut the list

Description

This helper moves the initial part of *head*, up to and including *entry*, from *head* to *list*. You should pass on *entry* an element you know is on *head*. *list* should be an empty list or a list you do not care about losing its data.

list_splice

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

list_splice — join two lists, this is designed for stacks

Synopsis

```
void list_splice (const struct list_head * list, struct
list_head * head);
```

Arguments

list

the new list to add.

head

the place to add it in the first list.

list_splice_tail

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_splice_tail` — join two lists, each list being a queue

Synopsis

```
void list_splice_tail (struct list_head * list, struct
list_head * head);
```

Arguments

list

the new list to add.

head

the place to add it in the first list.

list_splice_init

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_splice_init` — join two lists and reinitialise the emptied list.

Synopsis

```
void list_splice_init (struct list_head * list, struct
list_head * head);
```

Arguments

list

the new list to add.

head

the place to add it in the first list.

Description

The list at *list* is reinitialised

list_splice_tail_init

LINUX

Name

`list_splice_tail_init` — join two lists and reinitialise the emptied list

Synopsis

```
void list_splice_tail_init (struct list_head * list, struct
list_head * head);
```

Arguments

`list`

the new list to add.

`head`

the place to add it in the first list.

Description

Each of the lists is a queue. The list at *`list`* is reinitialised

list_entry

LINUX

Name

`list_entry` — get the struct for this entry

Synopsis

```
list_entry ( ptr,  type,  member);
```

Arguments

ptr

the struct list_head pointer.

type

the type of the struct this is embedded in.

member

the name of the list_struct within the struct.

list_first_entry

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_first_entry` — get the first element from a list

Synopsis

```
list_first_entry ( ptr,  type,  member);
```

Arguments

ptr

the list head to take the element from.

type

the type of the struct this is embedded in.

member

the name of the list_struct within the struct.

Description

Note, that list is expected to be not empty.

list_first_entry_or_null

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_first_entry_or_null` — get the first element from a list

Synopsis

```
list_first_entry_or_null ( ptr,  type,  member);
```

Arguments

ptr

the list head to take the element from.

type

the type of the struct this is embedded in.

member

the name of the list_struct within the struct.

Description

Note that if the list is empty, it returns NULL.

list_for_each

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_for_each` — iterate over a list

Synopsis

```
list_for_each ( pos,  head);
```

Arguments

pos

the struct list_head to use as a loop cursor.

head

the head for your list.

__list_for_each

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`__list_for_each` — iterate over a list

Synopsis

```
__list_for_each ( pos,  head);
```

Arguments

pos

the struct list_head to use as a loop cursor.

head

the head for your list.

Description

This variant doesn't differ from `list_for_each` any more. We don't do prefetching in either case.

list_for_each_prev

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_for_each_prev` — iterate over a list backwards

Synopsis

```
list_for_each_prev ( pos,  head);
```

Arguments

pos

the struct list_head to use as a loop cursor.

head

the head for your list.

list_for_each_safe

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_for_each_safe` — iterate over a list safe against removal of list entry

Synopsis

```
list_for_each_safe ( pos,  n,  head);
```

Arguments

pos

the struct list_head to use as a loop cursor.

n

another struct list_head to use as temporary storage

head

the head for your list.

list_for_each_prev_safe

LINUX

Name

`list_for_each_prev_safe` — iterate over a list backwards safe against removal of list entry

Synopsis

```
list_for_each_prev_safe ( pos,  n,  head);
```

Arguments

pos

the struct list_head to use as a loop cursor.

n

another struct list_head to use as temporary storage

head

the head for your list.

list_for_each_entry

LINUX

Name

`list_for_each_entry` — iterate over list of given type

Synopsis

```
list_for_each_entry ( pos,  head,  member);
```

Arguments

pos

the type * to use as a loop cursor.

head

the head for your list.

member

the name of the list_struct within the struct.

list_for_each_entry_reverse

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_for_each_entry_reverse` — iterate backwards over list of given type.

Synopsis

```
list_for_each_entry_reverse ( pos,  head,  member);
```

Arguments

pos

the type * to use as a loop cursor.

head

the head for your list.

member

the name of the list_struct within the struct.

list_prepare_entry

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_prepare_entry` — prepare a pos entry for use in `list_for_each_entry_continue`

Synopsis

```
list_prepare_entry ( pos,  head,  member);
```

Arguments

pos

the type * to use as a start point

head

the head of the list

member

the name of the list_struct within the struct.

Description

Prepares a pos entry for use as a start point in `list_for_each_entry_continue`.

list_for_each_entry_continue

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_for_each_entry_continue` — continue iteration over list of given type

Synopsis

```
list_for_each_entry_continue ( pos,  head,  member);
```

Arguments

pos

the type * to use as a loop cursor.

head

the head for your list.

member

the name of the list_struct within the struct.

Description

Continue to iterate over list of given type, continuing after the current position.

list_for_each_entry_continue_reverse

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_for_each_entry_continue_reverse` — iterate backwards from the given point

Synopsis

```
list_for_each_entry_continue_reverse ( pos,  head,  member);
```

Arguments

pos

the type * to use as a loop cursor.

head

the head for your list.

member

the name of the list_struct within the struct.

Description

Start to iterate over list of given type backwards, continuing after the current position.

list_for_each_entry_from

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_for_each_entry_from` — iterate over list of given type from the current point

Synopsis

```
list_for_each_entry_from ( pos,  head,  member);
```

Arguments

pos

the type * to use as a loop cursor.

head

the head for your list.

member

the name of the list_struct within the struct.

Description

Iterate over list of given type, continuing from current position.

list_for_each_entry_safe

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_for_each_entry_safe` — iterate over list of given type safe against removal of list entry

Synopsis

```
list_for_each_entry_safe ( pos,  n,  head,  member);
```

Arguments

pos

the type * to use as a loop cursor.

n

another type * to use as temporary storage

head

the head for your list.

member

the name of the list_struct within the struct.

list_for_each_entry_safe_continue

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_for_each_entry_safe_continue` — continue list iteration safe against removal

Synopsis

```
list_for_each_entry_safe_continue ( pos,  n,  head,  member);
```

Arguments

pos

the type * to use as a loop cursor.

n

another type * to use as temporary storage

head

the head for your list.

member

the name of the list_struct within the struct.

Description

Iterate over list of given type, continuing after current point, safe against removal of list entry.

list_for_each_entry_safe_from

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_for_each_entry_safe_from` — iterate over list from current point safe against removal

Synopsis

```
list_for_each_entry_safe_from ( pos,  n,  head,  member);
```

Arguments

pos

the type * to use as a loop cursor.

n

another type * to use as temporary storage

head

the head for your list.

member

the name of the list_struct within the struct.

Description

Iterate over list of given type from current point, safe against removal of list entry.

list_for_each_entry_safe_reverse

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_for_each_entry_safe_reverse` — iterate backwards over list safe against removal

Synopsis

```
list_for_each_entry_safe_reverse ( pos,  n,  head,  member);
```

Arguments

pos

the type * to use as a loop cursor.

n

another type * to use as temporary storage

head

the head for your list.

member

the name of the list_struct within the struct.

Description

Iterate backwards over list of given type, safe against removal of list entry.

list_safe_reset_next

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`list_safe_reset_next` — reset a stale list_for_each_entry_safe loop

Synopsis

```
list_safe_reset_next ( pos,  n,  member);
```

Arguments

pos

the loop cursor used in the list_for_each_entry_safe loop

n

temporary storage used in list_for_each_entry_safe

member

the name of the list_struct within the struct.

Description

list_safe_reset_next is not safe to use in general if the list may be modified concurrently (eg. the lock is dropped in the loop body). An exception to this is if the

cursor element (pos) is pinned in the list, and list_safe_reset_next is called after re-taking the lock and before completing the current iteration of the loop body.

hlist_for_each_entry

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`hlist_for_each_entry` — iterate over list of given type

Synopsis

```
hlist_for_each_entry ( tpos,  pos,  head,  member);
```

Arguments

tpos

the type * to use as a loop cursor.

pos

the struct hlist_node to use as a loop cursor.

head

the head for your list.

member

the name of the hlist_node within the struct.

hlist_for_each_entry_continue

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`hlist_for_each_entry_continue` — iterate over a hlist continuing after current point

Synopsis

```
hlist_for_each_entry_continue ( tpos,  pos,  member);
```

Arguments

tpos

the type * to use as a loop cursor.

pos

the struct hlist_node to use as a loop cursor.

member

the name of the hlist_node within the struct.

hlist_for_each_entry_from

LINUX

Name

`hlist_for_each_entry_from` — iterate over a hlist continuing from current point

Synopsis

```
hlist_for_each_entry_from ( tpos,  pos,  member);
```

Arguments

`tpos`

the type * to use as a loop cursor.

`pos`

the struct hlist_node to use as a loop cursor.

`member`

the name of the hlist_node within the struct.

hlist_for_each_entry_safe

LINUX

Name

`hlist_for_each_entry_safe` — iterate over list of given type safe against removal of list entry

Synopsis

```
hlist_for_each_entry_safe ( tpos,  pos,  n,  head,  member);
```

Arguments

tpos

the type * to use as a loop cursor.

pos

the struct hlist_node to use as a loop cursor.

n

another struct hlist_node to use as temporary storage

head

the head for your list.

member

the name of the hlist_node within the struct.

Chapter 2. Basic C Library Functions

When writing drivers, you cannot in general use routines which are from the C Library. Some of the functions have been found generally useful and they are listed below. The behaviour of these functions may vary slightly from those defined by ANSI, and these deviations are noted in the text.

2.1. String Conversions

simple_strtoull

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`simple_strtoull` — convert a string to an unsigned long long

Synopsis

```
unsigned long long simple_strtoull (const char * cp, char ** endp, unsigned int base);
```

Arguments

cp

The start of the string

endp

A pointer to the end of the parsed string will be placed here

base

The number base to use

simple_strtoul

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`simple_strtoul` — convert a string to an unsigned long

Synopsis

```
unsigned long simple_strtoul (const char * cp, char ** endp,
unsigned int base);
```

Arguments

cp

The start of the string

endp

A pointer to the end of the parsed string will be placed here

base

The number base to use

simple_strtol

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`simple_strtol` — convert a string to a signed long

Synopsis

```
long simple_strtol (const char * cp, char ** endp, unsigned
int base);
```

Arguments

cp

The start of the string

endp

A pointer to the end of the parsed string will be placed here

base

The number base to use

simple_strtoll

LINUX

Name

`simple_strtoll` — convert a string to a signed long long

Synopsis

```
long long simple_strtoll (const char * cp, char ** endp,
unsigned int base);
```

Arguments

cp

The start of the string

endp

A pointer to the end of the parsed string will be placed here

base

The number base to use

vsnprintf

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`vsnprintf` — Format a string and place it in a buffer

Synopsis

```
int vsnprintf (char * buf, size_t size, const char * fmt,
va_list args);
```

Arguments

buf

The buffer to place the result into

size

The size of the buffer, including the trailing null space

fmt

The format string to use

args

Arguments for the format string

Description

This function follows C99 vsnprintf, but has some extensions: `pS` output the name of a text symbol with offset `ps` output the name of a text symbol without offset `pF` output the name of a function pointer with its offset `pf` output the name of a function pointer without its offset `pB` output the name of a backtrace symbol with its offset `pR` output the address range in a struct resource with decoded flags `pr` output the address range in a struct resource with raw flags `pb` output the bitmap with field width as the number of bits `pbl` output the bitmap as range list with field width as the number of bits `pM` output a 6-byte MAC address with colons `pm` output a 6-byte MAC address without colons `pI4` print an IPv4 address without leading zeros `pi4` print an IPv4 address with leading zeros `pI6` print an IPv6 address with colons `pi6` print an IPv6 address without colons `pI6c` print an IPv6 address as specified by

http

//tools.ietf.org/html/draft-ietf-6man-text-addr-representation-00 `pU`[bBlL] print a UUID/GUID in big or little endian using lower or upper case. `n` is ignored

The return value is the number of characters which would be generated for the given input, excluding the trailing '\0', as per ISO C99. If you want to have the exact number of characters written into *`buf`* as return value (not including the trailing '\0'), use `vscnprintf`. If the return is greater than or equal to *`size`*, the resulting string is truncated.

If you're not already dealing with a va_list consider using `snprintf`.

vscnprintf

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`vscnprintf` — Format a string and place it in a buffer

Synopsis

```
int vscnprintf (char * buf, size_t size, const char * fmt,
va_list args);
```

Arguments

`buf`

The buffer to place the result into

`size`

The size of the buffer, including the trailing null space

fmt

The format string to use

args

Arguments for the format string

Description

The return value is the number of characters which have been written into the *buf* not including the trailing '\0'. If *size* is == 0 the function returns 0.

If you're not already dealing with a va_list consider using `scnprintf`.

See the `vsnprintf` documentation for format string extensions over C99.

snprintf

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`snprintf` — Format a string and place it in a buffer

Synopsis

```
int snprintf (char * buf, size_t size, const char * fmt,
 ...);
```

Arguments

buf

The buffer to place the result into

size

The size of the buffer, including the trailing null space

fmt

The format string to use @...: Arguments for the format string

...

variable arguments

Description

The return value is the number of characters which would be generated for the given input, excluding the trailing null, as per ISO C99. If the return is greater than or equal to *size*, the resulting string is truncated.

See the vsnprintf documentation for format string extensions over C99.

scnprintf

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

scnprintf — Format a string and place it in a buffer

Synopsis

```
int scnprintf (char * buf, size_t size, const char * fmt,
 ...);
```

Arguments

buf

The buffer to place the result into

size

The size of the buffer, including the trailing null space

fmt

The format string to use @...: Arguments for the format string

...

variable arguments

Description

The return value is the number of characters written into *buf* not including the trailing '\0'. If *size* is == 0 the function returns 0.

vsprintf

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

vsprintf — Format a string and place it in a buffer

Synopsis

```
int vsprintf (char * buf, const char * fmt, va_list args);
```

Arguments

buf

The buffer to place the result into

fmt

The format string to use

args

Arguments for the format string

Description

The function returns the number of characters written into *buf*. Use `vsnprintf` or `vscnprintf` in order to avoid buffer overflows.

If you're not already dealing with a va_list consider using `sprintf`.

See the `vsnprintf` documentation for format string extensions over C99.

sprintf

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`sprintf` — Format a string and place it in a buffer

Synopsis

```
int sprintf (char * buf, const char * fmt,  ...);
```

Arguments

buf

The buffer to place the result into

fmt

The format string to use @...: Arguments for the format string

...

variable arguments

Description

The function returns the number of characters written into *buf*. Use snprintf or scnprintf in order to avoid buffer overflows.

See the vsnprintf documentation for format string extensions over C99.

vbin_printf

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

vbin_printf — Parse a format string and place args' binary value in a buffer

Synopsis

```
int vbin_printf (u32 * bin_buf, size_t size, const char * fmt,
va_list args);
```

Arguments

bin_buf

The buffer to place args' binary value

size

The size of the buffer(by words(32bits), not characters)

fmt

The format string to use

args

Arguments for the format string

Description

The format follows C99 vsnprintf, except `n` is ignored, and its argument is skiped.

The return value is the number of words(32bits) which would be generated for the given input.

NOTE

If the return value is greater than *size*, the resulting bin_buf is NOT valid for `bstr_printf`.

bstr_printf

LINUX

Name

`bstr_printf` — Format a string from binary arguments and place it in a buffer

Synopsis

```
int bstr_printf (char * buf, size_t size, const char * fmt,
const u32 * bin_buf);
```

Arguments

buf

The buffer to place the result into

size

The size of the buffer, including the trailing null space

fmt

The format string to use

bin_buf

Binary arguments for the format string

Description

This function like C99 vsnprintf, but the difference is that vsnprintf gets arguments from stack, and bstr_printf gets arguments from *bin_buf* which is a binary buffer that generated by vbin_printf.

The format follows C99 vsnprintf, but has some extensions: see vsnprintf comment for details.

The return value is the number of characters which would be generated for the given input, excluding the trailing '\0', as per ISO C99. If you want to have the exact number of characters written into *buf* as return value (not including the trailing

'\0'), use `vscnprintf`. If the return is greater than or equal to *`size`*, the resulting string is truncated.

bprintf

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`bprintf` — Parse a format string and place args' binary value in a buffer

Synopsis

```
int bprintf (u32 * bin_buf, size_t size, const char * fmt,
 ...);
```

Arguments

`bin_buf`

The buffer to place args' binary value

`size`

The size of the buffer(by words(32bits), not characters)

`fmt`

The format string to use @...: Arguments for the format string

`...`

variable arguments

Description

The function returns the number of words(u32) written into *bin_buf*.

vsscanf

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

vsscanf — Unformat a buffer into a list of arguments

Synopsis

```
int vsscanf (const char * buf, const char * fmt, va_list
args);
```

Arguments

buf

input buffer

fmt

format of buffer

args

arguments

sscanf

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`sscanf` — Unformat a buffer into a list of arguments

Synopsis

```
int sscanf (const char * buf, const char * fmt,  ...);
```

Arguments

buf

input buffer

fmt

formatting of buffer @...: resulting arguments

...

variable arguments

2.2. String Manipulation

strnicmp

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`strnicmp` — Case insensitive, length-limited string comparison

Synopsis

```
int strnicmp (const char * s1, const char * s2, size_t len);
```

Arguments

s1

One string

s2

The other string

len

the maximum number of characters to compare

strcpy

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`strcpy` — Copy a `NUL` terminated string

Synopsis

```
char * strcpy (char * dest, const char * src);
```

Arguments

dest

Where to copy the string to

src

Where to copy the string from

strncpy

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

strncpy — Copy a length-limited, NUL-terminated string

Synopsis

```
char * strncpy (char * dest, const char * src, size_t count);
```

Arguments

dest

Where to copy the string to

src

Where to copy the string from

count

The maximum number of bytes to copy

Description

The result is not NUL-terminated if the source exceeds *count* bytes.

In the case where the length of *src* is less than that of count, the remainder of *dest* will be padded with NUL.

strlcpy

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

strlcpy — Copy a NUL terminated string into a sized buffer

Synopsis

```
size_t strlcpy (char * dest, const char * src, size_t size);
```

Arguments

dest

Where to copy the string to

src

Where to copy the string from

size

size of destination buffer

BSD

the result is always a valid NUL-terminated string that fits in the buffer (unless, of course, the buffer size is zero). It does not pad out the result like `strncpy` does.

strcat

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`strcat` — Append one `NUL-terminated` string to another

Synopsis

```
char * strcat (char * dest, const char * src);
```

Arguments

dest

The string to be appended to

src

The string to append to it

strncat

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`strncat` — Append a length-limited, `NUL-terminated` string to another

Synopsis

```
char * strncat (char * dest, const char * src, size_t count);
```

Arguments

dest

The string to be appended to

src

The string to append to it

count

The maximum numbers of bytes to copy

Description

Note that in contrast to `strncpy`, `strncat` ensures the result is terminated.

strlcat

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`strlcat` — Append a length-limited, `NUL-terminated` string to another

Synopsis

```
size_t strlcat (char * dest, const char * src, size_t count);
```

Arguments

dest

The string to be appended to

src

The string to append to it

count

The size of the destination buffer.

strcmp

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`strcmp` — Compare two strings

Synopsis

```
int strcmp (const char * cs, const char * ct);
```

Arguments

cs

One string

ct

Another string

strncmp

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`strncmp` — Compare two length-limited strings

Synopsis

```
int strncmp (const char * cs, const char * ct, size_t count);
```

Arguments

cs

One string

ct

Another string

count

The maximum number of bytes to compare

strchr

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

strchr — Find the first occurrence of a character in a string

Synopsis

```
char * strchr (const char * s, int c);
```

Arguments

s

The string to be searched

c

The character to search for

strrchr

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`strrchr` — Find the last occurrence of a character in a string

Synopsis

```
char * strrchr (const char * s, int c);
```

Arguments

s

The string to be searched

c

The character to search for

strnchr

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`strnchr` — Find a character in a length limited string

Synopsis

```
char * strnchr (const char * s, size_t count, int c);
```

Arguments

s

The string to be searched

count

The number of characters to be searched

c

The character to search for

skip_spaces

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`skip_spaces` — Removes leading whitespace from *`str`*.

Synopsis

```
char * skip_spaces (const char * str);
```

Arguments

`str`

The string to be stripped.

Description

Returns a pointer to the first non-whitespace character in *`str`*.

strim

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`strim` — Removes leading and trailing whitespace from *`s`*.

Synopsis

```
char * strim (char * s);
```

Arguments

s

The string to be stripped.

Description

Note that the first trailing whitespace is replaced with a `NUL-terminator` in the given string *s*. Returns a pointer to the first non-whitespace character in *s*.

strlen

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`strlen` — Find the length of a string

Synopsis

```
size_t strlen (const char * s);
```

Arguments

s

The string to be sized

strnlen

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`strnlen` — Find the length of a length-limited string

Synopsis

```
size_t strnlen (const char * s, size_t count);
```

Arguments

s

The string to be sized

count

The maximum number of bytes to search

strspn

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`strspn` — Calculate the length of the initial substring of *`s`* which only contain letters in *`accept`*

Synopsis

```
size_t strspn (const char * s, const char * accept);
```

Arguments

`s`

The string to be searched

`accept`

The string to search for

strcspn

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`strcspn` — Calculate the length of the initial substring of *`s`* which does not contain letters in *`reject`*

Synopsis

```
size_t strcspn (const char * s, const char * reject);
```

Arguments

s

The string to be searched

reject

The string to avoid

strpbrk

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

strpbrk — Find the first occurrence of a set of characters

Synopsis

```
char * strpbrk (const char * cs, const char * ct);
```

Arguments

cs

The string to be searched

ct

The characters to search for

strsep

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`strsep` — Split a string into tokens

Synopsis

```
char * strsep (char ** s, const char * ct);
```

Arguments

s

The string to be searched

ct

The characters to search for

Description

`strsep` updates *`s`* to point after the token, ready for the next call.

It returns empty tokens, too, behaving exactly like the libc function of that name. In fact, it was stolen from glibc2 and de-fancy-fied. Same semantics, slimmer shape. ;)

sysfs_streq

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`sysfs_streq` — return true if strings are equal, modulo trailing newline

Synopsis

```
bool sysfs_streq (const char * s1, const char * s2);
```

Arguments

`s1`

one string

`s2`

another string

Description

This routine returns true iff two strings are equal, treating both NUL and newline-then-NUL as equivalent string terminations. It’s geared for use with sysfs

input strings, which generally terminate with newlines but are compared against values without newlines.

strtobool

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`strtobool` — convert common user inputs into boolean values

Synopsis

```
int strtobool (const char * s, bool * res);
```

Arguments

s

input string

res

result

Description

This routine returns 0 iff the first character is one of ’Yy1Nn0’, or [oO][NnFf] for “on” and “off”. Otherwise it will return -EINVAL. Value pointed to by res is updated upon finding a match.

memset

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`memset` — Fill a region of memory with the given value

Synopsis

```
void * memset (void * s, int c, size_t count);
```

Arguments

s

Pointer to the start of the area.

c

The byte to fill the area with

count

The size of the area.

Description

Do not use `memset` to access IO space, use `memset_io` instead.

memcpy

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`memcpy` — Copy one area of memory to another

Synopsis

```
void * memcpy (void * dest, const void * src, size_t count);
```

Arguments

`dest`

Where to copy to

`src`

Where to copy from

`count`

The size of the area.

Description

You should not use this function to access IO space, use `memcpy_toio` or `memcpy_fromio` instead.

memmove

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

memmove — Copy one area of memory to another

Synopsis

```
void * memmove (void * dest, const void * src, size_t count);
```

Arguments

dest

Where to copy to

src

Where to copy from

count

The size of the area.

Description

Unlike memcpy, memmove copes with overlapping areas.

memcmp

LINUX

Name

`memcmp` — Compare two areas of memory

Synopsis

```
int memcmp (const void * cs, const void * ct, size_t count);
```

Arguments

`cs`

One area of memory

`ct`

Another area of memory

`count`

The size of the area.

memscan

LINUX

Name

`memscan` — Find a character in an area of memory.

Synopsis

```
void * memscan (void * addr, int c, size_t size);
```

Arguments

addr

The memory area

c

The byte to search for

size

The size of the area.

Description

returns the address of the first occurrence of `c`, or 1 byte past the area if `c` is not found

strstr

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`strstr` — Find the first substring in a `NUL` terminated string

Synopsis

```
char * strstr (const char * s1, const char * s2);
```

Arguments

s1

The string to be searched

s2

The string to search for

strnstr

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

strnstr — Find the first substring in a length-limited string

Synopsis

```
char * strnstr (const char * s1, const char * s2, size_t len);
```

Arguments

s1

The string to be searched

s2

The string to search for

len

the maximum number of characters to search

memchr

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`memchr` — Find a character in an area of memory.

Synopsis

```
void * memchr (const void * s, int c, size_t n);
```

Arguments

s

The memory area

c

The byte to search for

n

The size of the area.

Description

returns the address of the first occurrence of *c*, or NULL if *c* is not found

memchr_inv

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

memchr_inv — Find an unmatching character in an area of memory.

Synopsis

```
void * memchr_inv (const void * start, int c, size_t bytes);
```

Arguments

start

The memory area

c

Find a character other than c

bytes

The size of the area.

Description

returns the address of the first character other than *c*, or NULL if the whole buffer contains just *c*.

2.3. Bit Operations

set_bit

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

set_bit — Atomically set a bit in memory

Synopsis

```
void set_bit (unsigned int nr, volatile unsigned long * addr);
```

Arguments

nr

the bit to set

addr

the address to start counting from

Description

This function is atomic and may not be reordered. See `__set_bit` if you do not require the atomic guarantees.

Note

there are no guarantees that this function will not be reordered on non x86 architectures, so if you are writing portable code, make sure not to rely on its reordering guarantees.

Note that *`nr`* may be almost arbitrarily large; this function is not restricted to acting on a single-word quantity.

__set_bit

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`__set_bit` — Set a bit in memory

Synopsis

```
void __set_bit (int nr, volatile unsigned long * addr);
```

Arguments

`nr`

the bit to set

addr

the address to start counting from

Description

Unlike `set_bit`, this function is non-atomic and may be reordered. If it's called on the same region of memory simultaneously, the effect may be that only one operation succeeds.

clear_bit

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`clear_bit` — Clears a bit in memory

Synopsis

```
void clear_bit (int nr, volatile unsigned long * addr);
```

Arguments

nr

Bit to clear

addr

Address to start counting from

Description

`clear_bit` is atomic and may not be reordered. However, it does not contain a memory barrier, so if it is used for locking purposes, you should call `smp_mb__before_clear_bit` and/or `smp_mb__after_clear_bit` in order to ensure changes are visible on other processors.

__change_bit

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`__change_bit` — Toggle a bit in memory

Synopsis

```
void __change_bit (int nr, volatile unsigned long * addr);
```

Arguments

nr

the bit to change

addr

the address to start counting from

Description

Unlike `change_bit`, this function is non-atomic and may be reordered. If it's called on the same region of memory simultaneously, the effect may be that only one operation succeeds.

change_bit

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`change_bit` — Toggle a bit in memory

Synopsis

```
void change_bit (int nr, volatile unsigned long * addr);
```

Arguments

nr

Bit to change

addr

Address to start counting from

Description

`change_bit` is atomic and may not be reordered. Note that *nr* may be almost arbitrarily large; this function is not restricted to acting on a single-word quantity.

test_and_set_bit

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`test_and_set_bit` — Set a bit and return its old value

Synopsis

```
int test_and_set_bit (int nr, volatile unsigned long * addr);
```

Arguments

nr

Bit to set

addr

Address to count from

Description

This operation is atomic and cannot be reordered. It also implies a memory barrier.

test_and_set_bit_lock

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`test_and_set_bit_lock` — Set a bit and return its old value for lock

Synopsis

```
int test_and_set_bit_lock (int nr, volatile unsigned long * addr);
```

Arguments

nr

Bit to set

addr

Address to count from

Description

This is the same as test_and_set_bit on x86.

__test_and_set_bit

LINUX

Name

`__test_and_set_bit` — Set a bit and return its old value

Synopsis

```
int __test_and_set_bit (int nr, volatile unsigned long * addr);
```

Arguments

nr

Bit to set

addr

Address to count from

Description

This operation is non-atomic and can be reordered. If two examples of this operation race, one can appear to succeed but actually fail. You must protect multiple accesses with a lock.

test_and_clear_bit

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`test_and_clear_bit` — Clear a bit and return its old value

Synopsis

```
int test_and_clear_bit (int nr, volatile unsigned long *
addr);
```

Arguments

nr

Bit to clear

addr

Address to count from

Description

This operation is atomic and cannot be reordered. It also implies a memory barrier.

__test_and_clear_bit

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`__test_and_clear_bit` — Clear a bit and return its old value

Synopsis

```
int __test_and_clear_bit (int nr, volatile unsigned long *
addr);
```

Arguments

nr

Bit to clear

addr

Address to count from

Description

This operation is non-atomic and can be reordered. If two examples of this operation race, one can appear to succeed but actually fail. You must protect multiple accesses with a lock.

test_and_change_bit

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`test_and_change_bit` — Change a bit and return its old value

Synopsis

```
int test_and_change_bit (int nr, volatile unsigned long *
addr);
```

Arguments

nr

Bit to change

addr

Address to count from

Description

This operation is atomic and cannot be reordered. It also implies a memory barrier.

test_bit

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`test_bit` — Determine whether a bit is set

Synopsis

```
int test_bit (int nr, const volatile unsigned long * addr);
```

Arguments

nr

bit number to test

addr

Address to start counting from

__ffs

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__ffs — find first set bit in word

Synopsis

```
unsigned long __ffs (unsigned long word);
```

Arguments

word

The word to search

Description

Undefined if no bit exists, so code should check against 0 first.

ffz

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ffz` — find first zero bit in word

Synopsis

```
unsigned long ffz (unsigned long word);
```

Arguments

word

The word to search

Description

Undefined if no zero exists, so code should check against ~0UL first.

ffs

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ffs` — find first set bit in word

Synopsis

```
int ffs (int x);
```

Arguments

x

the word to search

Description

This is defined the same way as the libc and compiler builtin ffs routines, therefore differs in spirit from the other bitops.

ffs(value) returns 0 if value is 0 or the position of the first set bit if value is nonzero. The first (least significant) bit is at position 1.

fls

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`fls` — find last set bit in word

Synopsis

```
int fls (int x);
```

Arguments

x

the word to search

Description

This is defined in a similar way as the libc and compiler builtin ffs, but returns the position of the most significant set bit.

fls(value) returns 0 if value is 0 or the position of the last set bit if value is nonzero. The last (most significant) bit is at position 32.

Chapter 3. Basic Kernel Library Functions

The Linux kernel provides more basic utility functions.

3.1. Bitmap Operations

__bitmap_shift_right

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`__bitmap_shift_right` — logical right shift of the bits in a bitmap

Synopsis

```
void __bitmap_shift_right (unsigned long * dst, const unsigned
long * src, int shift, int bits);
```

Arguments

dst

destination bitmap

src

source bitmap

shift

shift by this many bits

bits

bitmap size, in bits

Description

Shifting right (dividing) means moving bits in the MS -> LS bit direction. Zeros are fed into the vacated MS positions and the LS bits shifted off the bottom are lost.

__bitmap_shift_left

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__bitmap_shift_left — logical left shift of the bits in a bitmap

Synopsis

```
void __bitmap_shift_left (unsigned long * dst, const unsigned
long * src, int shift, int bits);
```

Arguments

dst

destination bitmap

src

source bitmap

shift

shift by this many bits

bits

bitmap size, in bits

Description

Shifting left (multiplying) means moving bits in the LS -> MS direction. Zeros are fed into the vacated LS bit positions and those MS bits shifted off the top are lost.

bitmap_scnprintf

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`bitmap_scnprintf` — convert bitmap to an ASCII hex string.

Synopsis

```
int bitmap_scnprintf (char * buf, unsigned int buflen, const
unsigned long * maskp, int nmaskbits);
```

Arguments

buf

byte buffer into which string is placed

buflen

reserved size of *buf*, in bytes

maskp

pointer to bitmap to convert

nmaskbits

size of bitmap, in bits

Description

Exactly *nmaskbits* bits are displayed. Hex digits are grouped into comma-separated sets of eight digits per set.

__bitmap_parse

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__bitmap_parse — convert an ASCII hex string into a bitmap.

Synopsis

```
int __bitmap_parse (const char * buf, unsigned int buflen, int
is_user, unsigned long * maskp, int nmaskbits);
```

Arguments

buf

pointer to buffer containing string.

buflen

buffer size in bytes. If string is smaller than this then it must be terminated with a \0.

is_user

location of buffer, 0 indicates kernel space

maskp

pointer to bitmap array that will contain result.

nmaskbits

size of bitmap, in bits.

Description

Commas group hex digits into chunks. Each chunk defines exactly 32 bits of the resultant bitmask. No chunk may specify a value larger than 32 bits (`-EOVERFLOW`), and if a chunk specifies a smaller value then leading 0-bits are prepended. `-EINVAL` is returned for illegal characters and for grouping errors such as “1,,5”, “,44”, “,” and "". Leading and trailing whitespace accepted, but not embedded whitespace.

bitmap_parse_user

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`bitmap_parse_user` — convert an ASCII hex string in a user buffer into a bitmap

Synopsis

```
int bitmap_parse_user (const char __user * ubuf, unsigned int
ulen, unsigned long * maskp, int nmaskbits);
```

Arguments

ubuf

pointer to user buffer containing string.

ulen

buffer size in bytes. If string is smaller than this then it must be terminated with a \0.

maskp

pointer to bitmap array that will contain result.

nmaskbits

size of bitmap, in bits.

Description

Wrapper for `__bitmap_parse`, providing it with user buffer.

We cannot have this as an inline function in bitmap.h because it needs linux/uaccess.h to get the `access_ok` declaration and this causes cyclic dependencies.

bitmap_scnlistprintf

LINUX

Name

`bitmap_scnlistprintf` — convert bitmap to list format ASCII string

Synopsis

```
int bitmap_scnlistprintf (char * buf, unsigned int buflen,
const unsigned long * maskp, int nmaskbits);
```

Arguments

`buf`

byte buffer into which string is placed

`buflen`

reserved size of *`buf`*, in bytes

`maskp`

pointer to bitmap to convert

`nmaskbits`

size of bitmap, in bits

Description

Output format is a comma-separated list of decimal numbers and ranges. Consecutively set bits are shown as two hyphen-separated decimal numbers, the smallest and largest bit numbers set in the range. Output format is compatible with the format accepted as input by `bitmap_parselist`.

The return value is the number of characters which would be generated for the given input, excluding the trailing '\0', as per ISO C99.

bitmap_parselist_user

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

bitmap_parselist_user —

Synopsis

```
int bitmap_parselist_user (const char __user * ubuf, unsigned
int ulen, unsigned long * maskp, int nmaskbits);
```

Arguments

ubuf

pointer to user buffer containing string.

ulen

buffer size in bytes. If string is smaller than this then it must be terminated with a \0.

maskp

pointer to bitmap array that will contain result.

nmaskbits

size of bitmap, in bits.

Description

Wrapper for bitmap_parselist, providing it with user buffer.

We cannot have this as an inline function in bitmap.h because it needs linux/uaccess.h to get the `access_ok` declaration and this causes cyclic dependencies.

bitmap_remap

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`bitmap_remap` — Apply map defined by a pair of bitmaps to another bitmap

Synopsis

```
void bitmap_remap (unsigned long * dst, const unsigned long *
src, const unsigned long * old, const unsigned long * new,
int bits);
```

Arguments

dst

remapped result

src

subset to be remapped

old

defines domain of map

new

defines range of map

bits

number of bits in each of these bitmaps

Description

Let *old* and *new* define a mapping of bit positions, such that whatever position is held by the n-th set bit in *old* is mapped to the n-th set bit in *new*. In the more general case, allowing for the possibility that the weight 'w' of *new* is less than the weight of *old*, map the position of the n-th set bit in *old* to the position of the m-th set bit in *new*, where m == n % w.

If either of the *old* and *new* bitmaps are empty, or if *src* and *dst* point to the same location, then this routine copies *src* to *dst*.

The positions of unset bits in *old* are mapped to themselves (the identify map).

Apply the above specified mapping to *src*, placing the result in *dst*, clearing any bits previously set in *dst*.

For example, lets say that *old* has bits 4 through 7 set, and *new* has bits 12 through 15 set. This defines the mapping of bit position 4 to 12, 5 to 13, 6 to 14 and 7 to 15, and of all other bit positions unchanged. So if say *src* comes into this routine with bits 1, 5 and 7 set, then *dst* should leave with bits 1, 13 and 15 set.

bitmap_bitremap

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

bitmap_bitremap — Apply map defined by a pair of bitmaps to a single bit

Synopsis

```
int bitmap_bitremap (int oldbit, const unsigned long * old,
const unsigned long * new, int bits);
```

Arguments

oldbit

bit position to be mapped

old

defines domain of map

new

defines range of map

bits

number of bits in each of these bitmaps

Description

Let *old* and *new* define a mapping of bit positions, such that whatever position is held by the n-th set bit in *old* is mapped to the n-th set bit in *new*. In the more general case, allowing for the possibility that the weight 'w' of *new* is less than the weight of *old*, map the position of the n-th set bit in *old* to the position of the m-th set bit in *new*, where m == n % w.

The positions of unset bits in *old* are mapped to themselves (the identify map).

Apply the above specified mapping to bit position *oldbit*, returning the new bit position.

For example, lets say that *old* has bits 4 through 7 set, and *new* has bits 12 through 15 set. This defines the mapping of bit position 4 to 12, 5 to 13, 6 to 14 and 7 to 15, and of all other bit positions unchanged. So if say *oldbit* is 5, then this routine returns 13.

bitmap_onto

LINUX

Name

`bitmap_onto` — translate one bitmap relative to another

Synopsis

```
void bitmap_onto (unsigned long * dst, const unsigned long *
orig, const unsigned long * relmap, int bits);
```

Arguments

`dst`

resulting translated bitmap

`orig`

original untranslated bitmap

`relmap`

bitmap relative to which translated

`bits`

number of bits in each of these bitmaps

Description

Set the n-th bit of *`dst`* iff there exists some m such that the n-th bit of *`relmap`* is set, the m-th bit of *`orig`* is set, and the n-th bit of *`relmap`* is also the m-th _set_ bit of *`relmap`*. (If you understood the previous sentence the first time your read it, you're overqualified for your current job.)

In other words, *`orig`* is mapped onto (surjectively) *`dst`*, using the the map { <n, m> | the n-th bit of *`relmap`* is the m-th set bit of *`relmap`* }.

Any set bits in *`orig`* above bit number W, where W is the weight of (number of set bits in) *`relmap`* are mapped nowhere. In particular, if for all bits m set in *`orig`*, m

>= W, then *dst* will end up empty. In situations where the possibility of such an empty result is not desired, one way to avoid it is to use the bitmap_fold operator, below, to first fold the *orig* bitmap over itself so that all its set bits x are in the range 0 <= x < W. The bitmap_fold operator does this by setting the bit (m % W) in *dst*, for each bit (m) set in *orig*.

Example [1] for bitmap_onto: Let's say *relmap* has bits 30-39 set, and *orig* has bits 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 set. Then on return from this routine, *dst* will have bits 31, 33, 35, 37 and 39 set.

When bit 0 is set in *orig*, it means turn on the bit in *dst* corresponding to whatever is the first bit (if any) that is turned on in *relmap*. Since bit 0 was off in the above example, we leave off that bit (bit 30) in *dst*.

When bit 1 is set in *orig* (as in the above example), it means turn on the bit in *dst* corresponding to whatever is the second bit that is turned on in *relmap*. The second bit in *relmap* that was turned on in the above example was bit 31, so we turned on bit 31 in *dst*.

Similarly, we turned on bits 33, 35, 37 and 39 in *dst*, because they were the 4th, 6th, 8th and 10th set bits set in *relmap*, and the 4th, 6th, 8th and 10th bits of *orig* (i.e. bits 3, 5, 7 and 9) were also set.

When bit 11 is set in *orig*, it means turn on the bit in *dst* corresponding to whatever is the twelfth bit that is turned on in *relmap*. In the above example, there were only ten bits turned on in *relmap* (30..39), so that bit 11 was set in *orig* had no affect on *dst*.

Example [2] for bitmap_fold + bitmap_onto: Let's say *relmap* has these ten bits set: 40 41 42 43 45 48 53 61 74 95 (for the curious, that's 40 plus the first ten terms of the Fibonacci sequence.)

Further lets say we use the following code, invoking bitmap_fold then bitmap_onto, as suggested above to avoid the possitility of an empty *dst* result:

unsigned long *tmp; // a temporary bitmap's bits

bitmap_fold(tmp, orig, bitmap_weight(relmap, bits), bits); bitmap_onto(dst, tmp, relmap, bits);

Then this table shows what various values of *dst* would be, for various *orig*'s. I list the zero-based positions of each set bit. The tmp column shows the intermediate result, as computed by using bitmap_fold to fold the *orig* bitmap modulo ten (the weight of *relmap*).

orig tmp *dst* 0 0 40 1 1 41 9 9 95 10 0 40 (*) 1 3 5 7 1 3 5 7 41 43 48 61 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4 40 41 42 43 45 0 9 18 27 0 9 8 7 40 61 74 95 0 10 20 30 0 40 0 11 22 33 0 1 2 3 40 41 42 43 0 12 24 36 0 2 4 6 40 42 45 53 78 102 211 1 2 8 41 42 74 (*)

(*) For these marked lines, if we hadn't first done `bitmap_fold` into tmp, then the *`dst`* result would have been empty.

If either of *`orig`* or *`relmap`* is empty (no set bits), then *`dst`* will be returned empty.

If (as explained above) the only set bits in *`orig`* are in positions m where m >= W, (where W is the weight of *`relmap`*) then *`dst`* will once again be returned empty.

All bits in *`dst`* not set by the above rule are cleared.

bitmap_fold

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`bitmap_fold` — fold larger bitmap into smaller, modulo specified size

Synopsis

```
void bitmap_fold (unsigned long * dst, const unsigned long *
orig, int sz, int bits);
```

Arguments

`dst`

resulting smaller bitmap

`orig`

original larger bitmap

`sz`

specified size

bits

number of bits in each of these bitmaps

Description

For each bit oldbit in *orig*, set bit oldbit mod *sz* in *dst*. Clear all other bits in *dst*. See further the comment and Example [2] for bitmap_onto for why and how to use this.

bitmap_find_free_region

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

bitmap_find_free_region — find a contiguous aligned mem region

Synopsis

```
int bitmap_find_free_region (unsigned long * bitmap, int bits,
int order);
```

Arguments

bitmap

array of unsigned longs corresponding to the bitmap

bits

number of bits in the bitmap

order

region size (log base 2 of number of bits) to find

Description

Find a region of free (zero) bits in a *bitmap* of *bits* bits and allocate them (set them to one). Only consider regions of length a power (*order*) of two, aligned to that power of two, which makes the search algorithm much faster.

Return the bit offset in bitmap of the allocated region, or -errno on failure.

bitmap_release_region

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

bitmap_release_region — release allocated bitmap region

Synopsis

```
void bitmap_release_region (unsigned long * bitmap, int pos,
int order);
```

Arguments

bitmap

array of unsigned longs corresponding to the bitmap

pos

beginning of bit region to release

order

region size (log base 2 of number of bits) to release

Description

This is the complement to `__bitmap_find_free_region` and releases the found region (by clearing it in the bitmap).

No return value.

bitmap_allocate_region

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`bitmap_allocate_region` — allocate bitmap region

Synopsis

```
int bitmap_allocate_region (unsigned long * bitmap, int pos,
int order);
```

Arguments

bitmap

array of unsigned longs corresponding to the bitmap

pos

beginning of bit region to allocate

order

region size (log base 2 of number of bits) to allocate

Description

Allocate (set bits in) a specified region of a bitmap.

Return 0 on success, or `-EBUSY` if specified region wasn't free (not all bits were zero).

bitmap_copy_le

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`bitmap_copy_le` — copy a bitmap, putting the bits into little-endian order.

Synopsis

```
void bitmap_copy_le (void * dst, const unsigned long * src,
int nbits);
```

Arguments

dst

destination buffer

src

bitmap to copy

nbits

number of bits in the bitmap

Description

Require nbits % BITS_PER_LONG == 0.

__bitmap_parselist

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__bitmap_parselist — convert list format ASCII string to bitmap

Synopsis

```
int __bitmap_parselist (const char * buf, unsigned int buflen,
int is_user, unsigned long * maskp, int nmaskbits);
```

Arguments

buf

read nul-terminated user string from this buffer

buflen

buffer size in bytes. If string is smaller than this then it must be terminated with a \0.

is_user

location of buffer, 0 indicates kernel space

maskp

write resulting mask here

nmaskbits

number of bits in mask to be written

Description

Input format is a comma-separated list of decimal numbers and ranges. Consecutively set bits are shown as two hyphen-separated decimal numbers, the smallest and largest bit numbers set in the range.

Returns 0 on success, -errno on invalid input strings.

Error values

`-EINVAL`: second number in range smaller than first `-EINVAL`: invalid character in string `-ERANGE`: bit number specified too large for mask

bitmap_pos_to_ord

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`bitmap_pos_to_ord` — find ordinal of set bit at given position in bitmap

Synopsis

```
int bitmap_pos_to_ord (const unsigned long * buf, int pos, int
bits);
```

Arguments

buf

pointer to a bitmap

pos

a bit position in *buf* (0 <= *pos* < *bits*)

bits

number of valid bit positions in *buf*

Description

Map the bit at position *pos* in *buf* (of length *bits*) to the ordinal of which set bit it is. If it is not set or if *pos* is not a valid bit position, map to -1.

If for example, just bits 4 through 7 are set in *buf*, then *pos* values 4 through 7 will get mapped to 0 through 3, respectively, and other *pos* values will get mapped to 0. When *pos* value 7 gets mapped to (returns) *ord* value 3 in this example, that means that bit 7 is the 3rd (starting with 0th) set bit in *buf*.

The bit positions 0 through *bits* are valid positions in *buf*.

bitmap_ord_to_pos

LINUX

Name

`bitmap_ord_to_pos` — find position of n-th set bit in bitmap

Synopsis

```
int bitmap_ord_to_pos (const unsigned long * buf, int ord, int bits);
```

Arguments

`buf`

pointer to bitmap

`ord`

ordinal bit position (n-th set bit, n >= 0)

`bits`

number of valid bit positions in *`buf`*

Description

Map the ordinal offset of bit *`ord`* in *`buf`* to its position in *`buf`*. Value of *`ord`* should be in range 0 <= *`ord`* < weight(buf), else results are undefined.

If for example, just bits 4 through 7 are set in *`buf`*, then *`ord`* values 0 through 3 will get mapped to 4 through 7, respectively, and all other *`ord`* values return undefined values. When *`ord`* value 3 gets mapped to (returns) *`pos`* value 7 in this example, that means that the 3rd set bit (starting with 0th) is at position 7 in *`buf`*.

The bit positions 0 through *`bits`* are valid positions in *`buf`*.

3.2. Command-line Parsing

get_option

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`get_option` — Parse integer from an option string

Synopsis

```
int get_option (char ** str, int * pint);
```

Arguments

`str`

option string

`pint`

(output) integer value parsed from *`str`*

Description

Read an int from an option string; if available accept a subsequent comma as well.

Return values

0 - no int in string 1 - int found, no subsequent comma 2 - int found including a subsequent comma 3 - hyphen found to denote a range

get_options

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`get_options` — Parse a string into a list of integers

Synopsis

```
char * get_options (const char * str, int nints, int * ints);
```

Arguments

`str`

String to be parsed

`nints`

size of integer array

`ints`

integer array

Description

This function parses a string containing a comma-separated list of integers, a hyphen-separated range of _positive_ integers, or a combination of both. The parse halts when the array is full, or when no more numbers can be retrieved from the string.

Return value is the character in the string which caused the parse to end (typically a null terminator, if *str* is completely parseable).

memparse

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

memparse — parse a string with mem suffixes into a number

Synopsis

```
unsigned long long memparse (const char * ptr, char ** retptr);
```

Arguments

ptr

Where parse begins

retptr

(output) Optional pointer to next char after parse completes

Description

Parses a string into a number. The number stored at *ptr* is potentially suffixed with K (for kilobytes, or 1024 bytes), M (for megabytes, or 1048576 bytes), or G (for gigabytes, or 1073741824). If the number is suffixed with K, M, or G, then the return value is the number multiplied by one kilobyte, one megabyte, or one gigabyte, respectively.

3.3. CRC Functions

crc7

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`crc7` — update the CRC7 for the data buffer

Synopsis

```
u8 crc7 (u8 crc, const u8 * buffer, size_t len);
```

Arguments

`crc`

previous CRC7 value

`buffer`

data pointer

`len`

number of bytes in the buffer

Context

any

Description

Returns the updated CRC7 value.

crc16

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`crc16` — compute the CRC-16 for the data buffer

Synopsis

```
u16 crc16 (u16 crc, u8 const * buffer, size_t len);
```

Arguments

`crc`

previous CRC value

`buffer`

data pointer

`len`

number of bytes in the buffer

Description

Returns the updated CRC value.

crc_itu_t

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`crc_itu_t` — Compute the CRC-ITU-T for the data buffer

Synopsis

```
u16 crc_itu_t (u16 crc, const u8 * buffer, size_t len);
```

Arguments

`crc`

previous CRC value

`buffer`

data pointer

`len`

number of bytes in the buffer

Description

Returns the updated CRC value

/usr/src/packages/BUILD/kernel-docs-3.0.101/linux-3.0//lib/crc32.c

Name

`/usr/src/packages/BUILD/kernel-docs-3.0.101/linux-3.0//lib/crc32.c` — Document generation inconsistency

Oops

Warning

The template for this document tried to insert the structured comment from the file `/usr/src/packages/BUILD/kernel-docs-3.0.101/linux-3.0//lib/crc32.c` at this point, but none was found. This dummy section is inserted to allow generation to continue.

crc_ccitt

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`crc_ccitt` — recompute the CRC for the data buffer

Synopsis

```
u16 crc_ccitt (u16 crc, u8 const * buffer, size_t len);
```

Arguments

crc

previous CRC value

buffer

data pointer

len

number of bytes in the buffer

3.4. idr/ida Functions

idr synchronization (stolen from radix-tree.h)

`idr_find` is able to be called locklessly, using RCU. The caller must ensure calls to this function are made within `rcu_read_lock` regions. Other readers (lock-free or otherwise) and modifications may be running concurrently.

It is still required that the caller manage the synchronization and lifetimes of the items. So if RCU lock-free lookups are used, typically this would mean that the items have their own locks, or are amenable to lock-free access; and that the items are freed by RCU (or only freed after having been deleted from the idr tree *and* a `synchronize_rcu` grace period).

IDA - IDR based ID allocator

This is id allocator without id -> pointer translation. Memory usage is much lower than full blown idr because each id only occupies a bit. ida uses a custom leaf node which contains IDA_BITMAP_BITS slots.

2007-04-25 written by Tejun Heo <htejun*gmail*.com>

idr_pre_get

LINUX

Name

idr_pre_get — reserve resources for idr allocation

Synopsis

```
int idr_pre_get (struct idr * idp, gfp_t gfp_mask);
```

Arguments

idp

idr handle

gfp_mask

memory allocation flags

Description

This function should be called prior to calling the idr_get_new* functions. It preallocates enough memory to satisfy the worst possible allocation. The caller should pass in GFP_KERNEL if possible. This of course requires that no spinning locks be held.

If the system is REALLY out of memory this function returns `0`, otherwise `1`.

idr_get_new_above

LINUX

Name

`idr_get_new_above` — allocate new idr entry above or equal to a start id

Synopsis

```
int idr_get_new_above (struct idr * idp, void * ptr, int
starting_id, int * id);
```

Arguments

`idp`

idr handle

`ptr`

pointer you want associated with the id

`starting_id`

id to start search at

`id`

pointer to the allocated handle

Description

This is the allocate id function. It should be called with any required locks.

If allocation from IDR's private freelist fails, `idr_get_new_above` will return `-EAGAIN`. The caller should retry the `idr_pre_get` call to refill IDR's preallocation and then retry the `idr_get_new_above` call.

If the idr is full `idr_get_new_above` will return `-ENOSPC`.

`id` returns a value in the range *`starting_id`* ... `0x7fffffff`

idr_get_new

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`idr_get_new` — allocate new idr entry

Synopsis

```
int idr_get_new (struct idr * idp, void * ptr, int * id);
```

Arguments

`idp`

idr handle

`ptr`

pointer you want associated with the id

`id`

pointer to the allocated handle

Description

If allocation from IDR's private freelist fails, `idr_get_new_above` will return `-EAGAIN`. The caller should retry the `idr_pre_get` call to refill IDR's preallocation and then retry the `idr_get_new_above` call.

If the idr is full `idr_get_new_above` will return `-ENOSPC`.

`id` returns a value in the range `0` ... `0x7fffffff`

idr_remove

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`idr_remove` — remove the given id and free its slot

Synopsis

```
void idr_remove (struct idr * idp, int id);
```

Arguments

`idp`

idr handle

`id`

unique key

idr_remove_all

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`idr_remove_all` — remove all ids from the given idr tree

Synopsis

```
void idr_remove_all (struct idr * idp);
```

Arguments

idp

idr handle

Description

`idr_destroy` only frees up unused, cached idp_layers, but this function will remove all id mappings and leave all idp_layers unused.

A typical clean-up sequence for objects stored in an idr tree will use `idr_for_each` to free all objects, if necessay, then `idr_remove_all` to remove all ids, and `idr_destroy` to free up the cached idr_layers.

idr_destroy

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`idr_destroy` — release all cached layers within an idr tree

Synopsis

```
void idr_destroy (struct idr * idp);
```

Arguments

idp

idr handle

idr_find

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`idr_find` — return pointer for given id

Synopsis

```
void * idr_find (struct idr * idp, int id);
```

Arguments

idp

idr handle

id

lookup key

Description

Return the pointer given the id it has been registered with. A `NULL` return indicates that *id* is not valid or you passed `NULL` in `idr_get_new`.

This function can be called under `rcu_read_lock`, given that the leaf pointers lifetimes are correctly managed.

idr_for_each

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`idr_for_each` — iterate through all stored pointers

Synopsis

```
int idr_for_each (struct idr * idp, int (*fn) (int id, void
*p, void *data), void * data);
```

Arguments

`idp`

idr handle

`fn`

function to be called for each pointer

`data`

data passed back to callback function

Description

Iterate over the pointers registered with the given idr. The callback function will be called for each pointer currently registered, passing the id, the pointer and the data pointer passed to this function. It is not safe to modify the idr tree while in the callback, so functions such as idr_get_new and idr_remove are not allowed.

We check the return of *fn* each time. If it returns anything other than `0`, we break out and return that value.

The caller must serialize `idr_for_each` vs `idr_get_new` and `idr_remove`.

idr_get_next

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`idr_get_next` — lookup next object of id to given id.

Synopsis

```
void * idr_get_next (struct idr * idp, int * nextidp);
```

Arguments

idp

idr handle

nextidp

pointer to lookup key

Description

Returns pointer to registered object with id, which is next number to given id. After being looked up, *`nextidp` will be updated for the next iteration.

This function can be called under `rcu_read_lock`, given that the leaf pointers lifetimes are correctly managed.

idr_replace

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`idr_replace` — replace pointer for given id

Synopsis

```
void * idr_replace (struct idr * idp, void * ptr, int id);
```

Arguments

`idp`

idr handle

`ptr`

pointer you want associated with the id

`id`

lookup key

Description

Replace the pointer registered with an id and return the old value. A `-ENOENT` return indicates that *`id`* was not found. A `-EINVAL` return indicates that *`id`* was not within valid constraints.

The caller must serialize with writers.

idr_init

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`idr_init` — initialize idr handle

Synopsis

```
void idr_init (struct idr * idp);
```

Arguments

`idp`

idr handle

Description

This function is use to set up the handle (*`idp`*) that you will pass to the rest of the functions.

ida_pre_get

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ida_pre_get` — reserve resources for ida allocation

Synopsis

```
int ida_pre_get (struct ida * ida, gfp_t gfp_mask);
```

Arguments

`ida`

ida handle

`gfp_mask`

memory allocation flag

Description

This function should be called prior to locking and calling the following function. It preallocates enough memory to satisfy the worst possible allocation.

If the system is REALLY out of memory this function returns `0`, otherwise `1`.

ida_get_new_above

LINUX

Name

`ida_get_new_above` — allocate new ID above or equal to a start id

Synopsis

```
int ida_get_new_above (struct ida * ida, int starting_id, int
* p_id);
```

Arguments

`ida`

ida handle

`starting_id`

id to start search at

`p_id`

pointer to the allocated handle

Description

Allocate new ID above or equal to *`ida`*. It should be called with any required locks.

If memory is required, it will return `-EAGAIN`, you should unlock and go back to the `ida_pre_get` call. If the ida is full, it will return `-ENOSPC`.

`p_id` returns a value in the range *`starting_id`* ... `0x7fffffff`.

ida_get_new

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ida_get_new` — allocate new ID

Synopsis

```
int ida_get_new (struct ida * ida, int * p_id);
```

Arguments

`ida`

idr handle

`p_id`

pointer to the allocated handle

Description

Allocate new ID. It should be called with any required locks.

If memory is required, it will return `-EAGAIN`, you should unlock and go back to the `idr_pre_get` call. If the idr is full, it will return `-ENOSPC`.

`id` returns a value in the range `0` ... `0x7fffffff`.

ida_remove

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ida_remove` — remove the given ID

Synopsis

```
void ida_remove (struct ida * ida, int id);
```

Arguments

`ida`

ida handle

`id`

ID to free

ida_destroy

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ida_destroy` — release all cached layers within an ida tree

Synopsis

```
void ida_destroy (struct ida * ida);
```

Arguments

ida

ida handle

ida_simple_get

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

ida_simple_get — get a new id.

Synopsis

```
int ida_simple_get (struct ida * ida, unsigned int start,
unsigned int end, gfp_t gfp_mask);
```

Arguments

ida

the (initialized) ida.

start

the minimum id (inclusive, < 0x8000000)

end

the maximum id (exclusive, < 0x8000000 or 0)

gfp_mask

memory allocation flags

Description

Allocates an id in the range start <= id < end, or returns -ENOSPC. On memory allocation failure, returns -ENOMEM.

Use `ida_simple_remove` to get rid of an id.

ida_simple_remove

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ida_simple_remove` — remove an allocated id.

Synopsis

```
void ida_simple_remove (struct ida * ida, unsigned int id);
```

Arguments

ida

the (initialized) ida.

id

the id returned by ida_simple_get.

ida_init

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ida_init` — initialize ida handle

Synopsis

```
void ida_init (struct ida * ida);
```

Arguments

ida

ida handle

Description

This function is use to set up the handle (*ida*) that you will pass to the rest of the functions.

Chapter 4. Memory Management in Linux

4.1. The Slab Cache

kmalloc_array

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kmalloc_array` — allocate memory for an array.

Synopsis

```
void * kmalloc_array (size_t n, size_t size, gfp_t flags);
```

Arguments

n

number of elements.

size

element size.

flags

the type of memory to allocate.

Description

The *flags* argument may be one of:

GFP_USER - Allocate memory on behalf of user. May sleep.

GFP_KERNEL - Allocate normal kernel ram. May sleep.

GFP_ATOMIC - Allocation will not sleep. May use emergency pools. For example, use this inside interrupt handlers.

GFP_HIGHUSER - Allocate pages from high memory.

GFP_NOIO - Do not do any I/O at all while trying to get memory.

GFP_NOFS - Do not make any fs calls while trying to get memory.

GFP_NOWAIT - Allocation will not sleep.

__GFP_THISNODE - Allocate node-local memory only.

GFP_DMA - Allocation suitable for DMA. Should only be used for kmalloc caches. Otherwise, use a slab created with SLAB_DMA.

Also it is possible to set different flags by OR'ing in one or more of the following additional *flags*:

__GFP_COLD - Request cache-cold pages instead of trying to return cache-warm pages.

__GFP_HIGH - This allocation has high priority and may use emergency pools.

__GFP_NOFAIL - Indicate that this allocation is in no way allowed to fail (think twice before using).

__GFP_NORETRY - If memory is not immediately available, then give up at once.

__GFP_NOWARN - If allocation fails, don't issue any warnings.

__GFP_REPEAT - If allocation fails initially, try once more before failing.

There are other flags available as well, but these are not intended for general use, and so are not documented here. For a full list of potential flags, always refer to linux/gfp.h.

kcalloc

LINUX

Name

`kcalloc` — allocate memory for an array. The memory is set to zero.

Synopsis

```
void * kcalloc (size_t n, size_t size, gfp_t flags);
```

Arguments

`n`

number of elements.

`size`

element size.

`flags`

the type of memory to allocate (see kmalloc).

kmalloc_node

LINUX

Name

`kmalloc_node` — allocate memory from a specific node

Synopsis

```
void * kmalloc_node (size_t size, gfp_t flags, int node);
```

Arguments

size

how many bytes of memory are required.

flags

the type of memory to allocate (see kcalloc).

node

node to allocate from.

Description

kmalloc for non-local nodes, used to allocate from a specific node if available. Equivalent to kmalloc in the non-NUMA single-node case.

kzalloc

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

kzalloc — allocate memory. The memory is set to zero.

Synopsis

```
void * kzalloc (size_t size, gfp_t flags);
```

Arguments

size

how many bytes of memory are required.

flags

the type of memory to allocate (see kmalloc).

kzalloc_node

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

kzalloc_node — allocate zeroed memory from a particular memory node.

Synopsis

```
void * kzalloc_node (size_t size, gfp_t flags, int node);
```

Arguments

size

how many bytes of memory are required.

flags

the type of memory to allocate (see kmalloc).

node

memory node from which to allocate

kmem_cache_create

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

kmem_cache_create — Create a cache.

Synopsis

```
struct kmem_cache * kmem_cache_create (const char * name,
size_t size, size_t align, unsigned long flags, void (*ctor)
(void *));
```

Arguments

name

A string which is used in /proc/slabinfo to identify this cache.

size

The size of objects to be created in this cache.

align

The required alignment for the objects.

flags

SLAB flags

ctor

A constructor for the objects.

Description

Returns a ptr to the cache on success, NULL on failure. Cannot be called within a int, but can be interrupted. The *ctor* is run when new pages are allocated by the cache.

name must be valid until the cache is destroyed. This implies that the module calling this has to destroy the cache before getting unloaded.

The flags are

SLAB_POISON - Poison the slab with a known test pattern (a5a5a5a5) to catch references to uninitialised memory.

SLAB_RED_ZONE - Insert 'Red' zones around the allocated memory to check for buffer overruns.

SLAB_HWCACHE_ALIGN - Align the objects in this cache to a hardware cacheline. This can be beneficial if you're counting cycles as closely as davem.

kmem_cache_shrink

LINUX

Name

`kmem_cache_shrink` — Shrink a cache.

Synopsis

```
int kmem_cache_shrink (struct kmem_cache * cachep);
```

Arguments

`cachep`

The cache to shrink.

Description

Releases as many slabs as possible for a cache. To help debugging, a zero exit status indicates all slabs were released.

kmem_cache_destroy

LINUX

Name

`kmem_cache_destroy` — delete a cache

Synopsis

```
void kmem_cache_destroy (struct kmem_cache * cachep);
```

Arguments

cachep

the cache to destroy

Description

Remove a struct kmem_cache object from the slab cache.

It is expected this function will be called by a module when it is unloaded. This will remove the cache completely, and avoid a duplicate cache being allocated each time a module is loaded and unloaded, if the module doesn't have persistent in-kernel storage across loads and unloads.

The cache must be empty before calling this function.

The caller must guarantee that no one will allocate memory from the cache during the `kmem_cache_destroy`.

kmem_cache_alloc

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kmem_cache_alloc` — Allocate an object

Synopsis

```
void * kmem_cache_alloc (struct kmem_cache * cachep, gfp_t
flags);
```

Arguments

cachep

The cache to allocate from.

flags

See kmalloc.

Description

Allocate an object from this cache. The flags are only relevant if the cache has no available objects.

kmem_cache_free

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

kmem_cache_free — Deallocate an object

Synopsis

```
void kmem_cache_free (struct kmem_cache * cachep, void *
objp);
```

Arguments

cachep

The cache the allocation was from.

objp

The previously allocated object.

Description

Free an object which was previously allocated from this cache.

kfree

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kfree` — free previously allocated memory

Synopsis

```
void kfree (const void * objp);
```

Arguments

objp

pointer returned by kmalloc.

Description

If *objp* is NULL, no operation is performed.

Don't free memory not originally allocated by `kmalloc` or you will run into trouble.

ksize

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ksize` — get the actual amount of memory allocated for a given object

Synopsis

```
size_t ksize (const void * objp);
```

Arguments

objp

Pointer to the object

Description

kmalloc may internally round up allocations and return more memory than requested. `ksize` can be used to determine the actual amount of memory allocated. The caller may use this additional memory, even though a smaller amount of memory was initially specified with the kmalloc call. The caller must guarantee that objp points to a valid object previously allocated with either `kmalloc` or `kmem_cache_alloc`. The object must not be freed during the duration of the call.

4.2. User Space Memory Access

__copy_to_user_inatomic

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`__copy_to_user_inatomic` — Copy a block of data into user space, with less checking.

Synopsis

```
unsigned long __must_check __copy_to_user_inatomic (void
__user * to, const void * from, unsigned long n);
```

Arguments

to

Destination address, in user space.

from

Source address, in kernel space.

n

Number of bytes to copy.

Context

User context only.

Description

Copy data from kernel space to user space. Caller must check the specified block with `access_ok` before calling this function. The caller should also make sure he pins the user space address so that we don't result in page fault and sleep.

Here we special-case 1, 2 and 4-byte copy_*_user invocations. On a fault we return the initial request size (1, 2 or 4), as copy_*_user should do. If a store crosses a page boundary and gets a fault, the x86 will not write anything, so this is accurate.

__copy_to_user

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`__copy_to_user` — Copy a block of data into user space, with less checking.

Synopsis

```
unsigned long __must_check __copy_to_user (void __user * to,
const void * from, unsigned long n);
```

Arguments

to

Destination address, in user space.

from

Source address, in kernel space.

n

Number of bytes to copy.

Context

User context only. This function may sleep.

Description

Copy data from kernel space to user space. Caller must check the specified block with `access_ok` before calling this function.

Returns number of bytes that could not be copied. On success, this will be zero.

__copy_from_user

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`__copy_from_user` — Copy a block of data from user space, with less checking.

Synopsis

```
unsigned long __copy_from_user (void * to, const void __user *
from, unsigned long n);
```

Arguments

to

Destination address, in kernel space.

from

Source address, in user space.

n

Number of bytes to copy.

Context

User context only. This function may sleep.

Description

Copy data from user space to kernel space. Caller must check the specified block with `access_ok` before calling this function.

Returns number of bytes that could not be copied. On success, this will be zero.

If some data could not be copied, this function will pad the copied data to the requested size using zero bytes.

An alternate version - `__copy_from_user_inatomic` - may be called from atomic context and will fail rather than sleep. In this case the uncopied bytes will *NOT* be padded with zeros. See fs/filemap.h for explanation of why this is needed.

strlen_user

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`strlen_user` — Get the size of a string in user space.

Synopsis

```
strlen_user ( str);
```

Arguments

str

The string to measure.

Context

User context only. This function may sleep.

Description

Get the size of a NUL-terminated string in user space.

Returns the size of the string INCLUDING the terminating NUL. On exception, returns 0.

If there is a limit on the length of a valid string, you may wish to consider using `strnlen_user` instead.

__strncpy_from_user

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__strncpy_from_user — Copy a NUL terminated string from userspace, with less checking.

Synopsis

```
long __strncpy_from_user (char * dst, const char __user * src,
long count);
```

Arguments

dst

Destination address, in kernel space. This buffer must be at least *count* bytes long.

src

Source address, in user space.

count

Maximum number of bytes to copy, including the trailing NUL.

Description

Copies a NUL-terminated string from userspace to kernel space. Caller must check the specified block with access_ok before calling this function.

On success, returns the length of the string (not including the trailing NUL).

If access to userspace fails, returns -EFAULT (some data may have been copied).

If *count* is smaller than the length of the string, copies *count* bytes and returns *count*.

strncpy_from_user

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

strncpy_from_user — Copy a NUL terminated string from userspace.

Synopsis

```
long strncpy_from_user (char * dst, const char __user * src,
long count);
```

Arguments

dst

Destination address, in kernel space. This buffer must be at least *count* bytes long.

src

Source address, in user space.

count

Maximum number of bytes to copy, including the trailing NUL.

Description

Copies a NUL-terminated string from userspace to kernel space.

On success, returns the length of the string (not including the trailing NUL).

If access to userspace fails, returns -EFAULT (some data may have been copied).

If *count* is smaller than the length of the string, copies *count* bytes and returns *count*.

clear_user

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

clear_user — Zero a block of memory in user space.

Synopsis

```
unsigned long clear_user (void __user * to, unsigned long n);
```

Arguments

to

Destination address, in user space.

n

Number of bytes to zero.

Description

Zero a block of memory in user space.

Returns number of bytes that could not be cleared. On success, this will be zero.

__clear_user

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`__clear_user` — Zero a block of memory in user space, with less checking.

Synopsis

```
unsigned long __clear_user (void __user * to, unsigned long
n);
```

Arguments

to

Destination address, in user space.

n

Number of bytes to zero.

Description

Zero a block of memory in user space. Caller must check the specified block with `access_ok` before calling this function.

Returns number of bytes that could not be cleared. On success, this will be zero.

strnlen_user

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`strnlen_user` — Get the size of a string in user space.

Synopsis

```
long strnlen_user (const char __user * s, long n);
```

Arguments

s

The string to measure.

n

The maximum valid length

Description

Get the size of a NUL-terminated string in user space.

Returns the size of the string INCLUDING the terminating NUL. On exception, returns 0. If the string is too long, returns a value greater than *n*.

4.3. More Memory Management Functions

read_cache_pages

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`read_cache_pages` — populate an address space with some pages & start reads against them

Synopsis

```
int read_cache_pages (struct address_space * mapping, struct
list_head * pages, int (*filler) (void *, struct page *), void
* data);
```

Arguments

mapping

the address_space

pages

The address of a list_head which contains the target pages. These pages have their ->index populated and are otherwise uninitialised.

filler

callback routine for filling a single page.

data

private data for the callback routine.

Description

Hides the details of the LRU cache etc from the filesystems.

page_cache_sync_readahead

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`page_cache_sync_readahead` — generic file readahead

Synopsis

```
void page_cache_sync_readahead (struct address_space *
mapping, struct file_ra_state * ra, struct file * filp,
pgoff_t offset, unsigned long req_size);
```

Arguments

`mapping`

address_space which holds the pagecache and I/O vectors

`ra`

file_ra_state which holds the readahead state

`filp`

passed on to ->`readpage` and ->`readpages`

`offset`

start offset into *`mapping`*, in pagecache page-sized units

req_size

hint: total size of the read which the caller is performing in pagecache pages

Description

page_cache_sync_readahead should be called when a cache miss happened: it will submit the read. The readahead logic may decide to piggyback more pages onto the read request if access patterns suggest it will improve performance.

page_cache_async_readahead

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

page_cache_async_readahead — file readahead for marked pages

Synopsis

```
void page_cache_async_readahead (struct address_space *
mapping, struct file_ra_state * ra, struct file * filp, struct
page * page, pgoff_t offset, unsigned long req_size);
```

Arguments

mapping

address_space which holds the pagecache and I/O vectors

ra

file_ra_state which holds the readahead state

filp

passed on to ->readpage and ->readpages

page

the page at *offset* which has the PG_readahead flag set

offset

start offset into *mapping*, in pagecache page-sized units

req_size

hint: total size of the read which the caller is performing in pagecache pages

Description

page_cache_async_readahead should be called when a page is used which has the PG_readahead flag; this is a marker to suggest that the application has used up enough of the readahead window that we should start pulling in more pages.

delete_from_page_cache

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

delete_from_page_cache — delete page from page cache

Synopsis

```
void delete_from_page_cache (struct page * page);
```

Arguments

page

the page which the kernel is trying to remove from page cache

Description

This must be called only on pages that have been verified to be in the page cache and locked. It will never put the page into the free list, the caller has a reference on the page.

filemap_flush

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`filemap_flush` — mostly a non-blocking flush

Synopsis

```
int filemap_flush (struct address_space * mapping);
```

Arguments

mapping

target address_space

Description

This is a mostly non-blocking flush. Not suitable for data-integrity purposes - I/O may not be started against all dirty pages.

filemap_fdatawait_range

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`filemap_fdatawait_range` — wait for writeback to complete

Synopsis

```
int filemap_fdatawait_range (struct address_space * mapping,
loff_t start_byte, loff_t end_byte);
```

Arguments

`mapping`

address space structure to wait for

`start_byte`

offset in bytes where the range starts

`end_byte`

offset in bytes where the range ends (inclusive)

Description

Walk the list of under-writeback pages of the given address space in the given range and wait for all of them.

filemap_fdatawait

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`filemap_fdatawait` — wait for all under-writeback pages to complete

Synopsis

```
int filemap_fdatawait (struct address_space * mapping);
```

Arguments

`mapping`

address space structure to wait for

Description

Walk the list of under-writeback pages of the given address space and wait for all of them.

filemap_write_and_wait_range

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`filemap_write_and_wait_range` — write out & wait on a file range

Synopsis

```
int filemap_write_and_wait_range (struct address_space *
mapping, loff_t lstart, loff_t lend);
```

Arguments

mapping

the address_space for the pages

lstart

offset in bytes where the range starts

lend

offset in bytes where the range ends (inclusive)

Description

Write out and wait upon file offsets lstart->lend, inclusive.

Note that ‘lend’ is inclusive (describes the last byte to be written) so that this function can be used to write to the very end-of-file (end = -1).

replace_page_cache_page

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`replace_page_cache_page` — replace a pagecache page with a new one

Synopsis

```
int replace_page_cache_page (struct page * old, struct page *
new, gfp_t gfp_mask);
```

Arguments

old

page to be replaced

new

page to replace with

gfp_mask

allocation mode

Description

This function replaces a page in the pagecache with a new one. On success it acquires the pagecache reference for the new page and drops it for the old page. Both the old and new pages must be locked. This function does not add the new page to the LRU, the caller must do that.

The remove + add is atomic. The only way this function can fail is memory allocation failure.

add_to_page_cache_locked

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`add_to_page_cache_locked` — add a locked page to the pagecache

Synopsis

```
int add_to_page_cache_locked (struct page * page, struct
address_space * mapping, pgoff_t offset, gfp_t gfp_mask);
```

Arguments

page

page to add

mapping

the page's address_space

offset

page index

gfp_mask

page allocation mode

Description

This function is used to add a page to the pagecache. It must be locked. This function does not add the page to the LRU. The caller must do that.

add_page_wait_queue

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`add_page_wait_queue` — Add an arbitrary waiter to a page's wait queue

Synopsis

```
void add_page_wait_queue (struct page * page, wait_queue_t *
waiter);
```

Arguments

`page`

Page defining the wait queue of interest

`waiter`

Waiter to add to the queue

Description

Add an arbitrary *`waiter`* to the wait queue for the nominated *`page`*.

unlock_page

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`unlock_page` — unlock a locked page

Synopsis

```
void unlock_page (struct page * page);
```

Arguments

`page`

the page

Description

Unlocks the page and wakes up sleepers in `___wait_on_page_locked`. Also wakes sleepers in `wait_on_page_writeback` because the wakeup mechananism between PageLocked pages and PageWriteback pages is shared. But that's OK - sleepers in `wait_on_page_writeback` just go back to sleep.

The mb is necessary to enforce ordering between the clear_bit and the read of the waitqueue (to avoid SMP races with a parallel `wait_on_page_locked`).

end_page_writeback

LINUX

Name

`end_page_writeback` — end writeback against a page

Synopsis

```
void end_page_writeback (struct page * page);
```

Arguments

page

the page

__lock_page

LINUX

Name

`__lock_page` — get a lock on the page, assuming we need to sleep to get it

Synopsis

```
void __lock_page (struct page * page);
```

Arguments

page

the page to lock

find_get_page

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`find_get_page` — find and get a page reference

Synopsis

```
struct page * find_get_page (struct address_space * mapping,
pgoff_t offset);
```

Arguments

mapping

the address_space to search

offset

the page index

Description

Is there a pagecache struct page at the given (mapping, offset) tuple? If yes, increment its refcount and return it; if no, return NULL.

find_lock_page

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`find_lock_page` — locate, pin and lock a pagecache page

Synopsis

```
struct page * find_lock_page (struct address_space * mapping,
pgoff_t offset);
```

Arguments

`mapping`

the address_space to search

`offset`

the page index

Description

Locates the desired pagecache page, locks it, increments its reference count and returns its address.

Returns zero if the page was not present. `find_lock_page` may sleep.

find_or_create_page

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`find_or_create_page` — locate or add a pagecache page

Synopsis

```
struct page * find_or_create_page (struct address_space *
mapping, pgoff_t index, gfp_t gfp_mask);
```

Arguments

`mapping`

the page's address_space

`index`

the page's index into the mapping

`gfp_mask`

page allocation mode

Description

Locates a page in the pagecache. If the page is not present, a new page is allocated using *`gfp_mask`* and is added to the pagecache and to the VM's LRU list. The returned page is locked and has its reference count incremented.

`find_or_create_page` may sleep, even if *`gfp_flags`* specifies an atomic allocation!

`find_or_create_page` returns the desired page's address, or zero on memory exhaustion.

find_get_pages_contig

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`find_get_pages_contig` — gang contiguous pagecache lookup

Synopsis

```
unsigned find_get_pages_contig (struct address_space *
mapping, pgoff_t index, unsigned int nr_pages, struct page **
pages);
```

Arguments

mapping

The address_space to search

index

The starting page index

nr_pages

The maximum number of pages

pages

Where the resulting pages are placed

Description

`find_get_pages_contig` works exactly like `find_get_pages`, except that the returned number of pages are guaranteed to be contiguous.

`find_get_pages_contig` returns the number of pages which were found.

find_get_pages_tag

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`find_get_pages_tag` — find and return pages that match *`tag`*

Synopsis

```
unsigned find_get_pages_tag (struct address_space * mapping,
pgoff_t * index, int tag, unsigned int nr_pages, struct page
** pages);
```

Arguments

`mapping`

the address_space to search

`index`

the starting page index

`tag`

the tag index

nr_pages

the maximum number of pages

pages

where the resulting pages are placed

Description

Like find_get_pages, except we only return pages which are tagged with *tag*. We update *index* to index the next page for the traversal.

grab_cache_page_nowait

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

grab_cache_page_nowait — returns locked page at given index in given cache

Synopsis

```
struct page * grab_cache_page_nowait (struct address_space *
mapping, pgoff_t index);
```

Arguments

mapping

target address_space

index

the page index

Description

Same as `grab_cache_page`, but do not wait if the page is unavailable. This is intended for speculative data generators, where the data can be regenerated if the page couldn't be grabbed. This routine should be safe to call while holding the lock for another page.

Clear __GFP_FS when allocating the page to avoid recursion into the fs and deadlock against the caller's locked page.

generic_file_aio_read

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`generic_file_aio_read` — generic filesystem read routine

Synopsis

```
ssize_t generic_file_aio_read (struct kiocb * iocb, const
struct iovec * iov, unsigned long nr_segs, loff_t pos);
```

Arguments

iocb

kernel I/O control block

iov

io vector request

nr_segs

number of segments in the iovec

pos

current file position

Description

This is the "`read`" routine for all filesystems that can use the page cache directly.

filemap_fault

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`filemap_fault` — read in file data for page fault handling

Synopsis

```
int filemap_fault (struct vm_area_struct * vma, struct
vm_fault * vmf);
```

Arguments

vma

vma in which the fault was taken

vmf

struct vm_fault containing details of the fault

Description

`filemap_fault` is invoked via the vma operations vector for a mapped memory region to read in file data during a page fault.

The goto's are kind of ugly, but this streamlines the normal case of having it in the page cache, and handles the special cases reasonably without having a lot of duplicated code.

read_cache_page_async

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`read_cache_page_async` — read into page cache, fill it if needed

Synopsis

```
struct page * read_cache_page_async (struct address_space *
mapping, pgoff_t index, int (*filler) (void *, struct page
*), void * data);
```

Arguments

mapping

the page's address_space

index

the page index

filler

function to perform the read

data

first arg to filler(data, page) function, often left as NULL

Description

Same as read_cache_page, but don't wait for page to become unlocked after submitting it to the filler.

Read into the page cache. If a page already exists, and `PageUptodate` is not set, try to fill the page but don't wait for it to become unlocked.

If the page does not get brought uptodate, return -EIO.

read_cache_page_gfp

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`read_cache_page_gfp` — read into page cache, using specified page allocation flags.

Synopsis

```
struct page * read_cache_page_gfp (struct address_space *
mapping, pgoff_t index, gfp_t gfp);
```

Arguments

mapping

the page's address_space

index

the page index

gfp

the page allocator flags to use if allocating

Description

This is the same as "read_mapping_page(mapping, index, NULL)", but with any new page allocations done using the specified allocation flags.

If the page does not get brought uptodate, return -EIO.

read_cache_page

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`read_cache_page` — read into page cache, fill it if needed

Synopsis

```
struct page * read_cache_page (struct address_space * mapping,
pgoff_t index, int (*filler) (void *, struct page *), void *
data);
```

Arguments

mapping

the page's address_space

index

the page index

filler

function to perform the read

data

first arg to filler(data, page) function, often left as NULL

Description

Read into the page cache. If a page already exists, and `PageUptodate` is not set, try to fill the page then wait for it to become unlocked.

If the page does not get brought uptodate, return -EIO.

__generic_file_aio_write

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`__generic_file_aio_write` — write data to a file

Synopsis

```
ssize_t __generic_file_aio_write (struct kiocb * iocb, const
struct iovec * iov, unsigned long nr_segs, loff_t * ppos);
```

Arguments

iocb

IO state structure (file, offset, etc.)

iov

vector with data to write

nr_segs

number of segments in the vector

ppos

position where to write

Description

This function does all the work needed for actually writing data to a file. It does all basic checks, removes SUID from the file, updates modification times and calls proper subroutines depending on whether we do direct IO or a standard buffered write.

It expects i_mutex to be grabbed unless we work on a block device or similar object which does not need locking at all.

This function does *not* take care of syncing data in case of O_SYNC write. A caller has to handle it. This is mainly due to the fact that we want to avoid syncing under i_mutex.

generic_file_aio_write

LINUX

Name

`generic_file_aio_write` — write data to a file

Synopsis

```
ssize_t generic_file_aio_write (struct kiocb * iocb, const
struct iovec * iov, unsigned long nr_segs, loff_t pos);
```

Arguments

iocb

IO state structure

iov

vector with data to write

nr_segs

number of segments in the vector

pos

position in file where to write

Description

This is a wrapper around `__generic_file_aio_write` to be used by most filesystems. It takes care of syncing the file in case of O_SYNC file and acquires i_mutex as needed.

try_to_release_page

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`try_to_release_page` — release old fs-specific metadata on a page

Synopsis

```
int try_to_release_page (struct page * page, gfp_t gfp_mask);
```

Arguments

page

the page which the kernel is trying to free

gfp_mask

memory allocation flags (and I/O mode)

Description

The address_space is to try to release any data against the page (presumably at page->private). If the release was successful, return ‘1’. Otherwise return zero.

This may also be called if PG_fscache is set on a page, indicating that the page is known to the local caching routines.

The *gfp_mask* argument specifies whether I/O may be performed to release this page (__GFP_IO), and whether the call may block (__GFP_WAIT & __GFP_FS).

zap_page_range

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`zap_page_range` — remove user pages in a given range

Synopsis

```
unsigned long zap_page_range (struct vm_area_struct * vma,
unsigned long address, unsigned long size, struct zap_details
* details);
```

Arguments

vma

vm_area_struct holding the applicable pages

address

starting address of pages to zap

size

number of bytes to zap

details

details of nonlinear truncation or shared cache invalidation

zap_vma_ptes

LINUX

Name

`zap_vma_ptes` — remove ptes mapping the vma

Synopsis

```
int zap_vma_ptes (struct vm_area_struct * vma, unsigned long
address, unsigned long size);
```

Arguments

vma

vm_area_struct holding ptes to be zapped

address

starting address of pages to zap

size

number of bytes to zap

Description

This function only unmaps ptes assigned to VM_PFNMAP vmas.

The entire address range must be fully contained within the vma.

Returns 0 if successful.

__get_user_pages

LINUX

Name

`__get_user_pages` — pin user pages in memory

Synopsis

```
int __get_user_pages (struct task_struct * tsk, struct
mm_struct * mm, unsigned long start, int nr_pages, unsigned
int gup_flags, struct page ** pages, struct vm_area_struct **
vmas, int * nonblocking);
```

Arguments

tsk

task_struct of target task

mm

mm_struct of target mm

start

starting user address

nr_pages

number of pages from start to pin

gup_flags

flags modifying pin behaviour

pages

array that receives pointers to the pages pinned. Should be at least nr_pages long. Or NULL, if caller only intends to ensure the pages are faulted in.

vmas

array of pointers to vmas corresponding to each page. Or NULL if the caller does not require them.

nonblocking

whether waiting for disk IO or mmap_sem contention

Description

Returns number of pages pinned. This may be fewer than the number requested. If nr_pages is 0 or negative, returns 0. If no pages were pinned, returns -errno. Each page returned must be released with a `put_page` call when it is finished with. vmas will only remain valid while mmap_sem is held.

Must be called with mmap_sem held for read or write.

__get_user_pages walks a process's page tables and takes a reference to each struct page that each user address corresponds to at a given instant. That is, it takes the page that would be accessed if a user thread accesses the given user virtual address at that instant.

This does not guarantee that the page exists in the user mappings when __get_user_pages returns, and there may even be a completely different page there in some cases (eg. if mmapped pagecache has been invalidated and subsequently re faulted). However it does guarantee that the page won't be freed completely. And mostly callers simply care that the page contains data that was valid *at some point in time*. Typically, an IO or similar operation cannot guarantee anything stronger anyway because locks can't be held over the syscall boundary.

If *gup_flags* & FOLL_WRITE == 0, the page must not be written to. If the page is written to, set_page_dirty (or set_page_dirty_lock, as appropriate) must be called after the page is finished with, and before put_page is called.

If *nonblocking* != NULL, __get_user_pages will not wait for disk IO or mmap_sem contention, and if waiting is needed to pin all pages, **nonblocking* will be set to 0.

In most cases, get_user_pages or get_user_pages_fast should be used instead of __get_user_pages. __get_user_pages should be used only if you need some special *gup_flags*.

vm_insert_page

LINUX

Name

`vm_insert_page` — insert single page into user vma

Synopsis

```
int vm_insert_page (struct vm_area_struct * vma, unsigned long
addr, struct page * page);
```

Arguments

vma

user vma to map to

addr

target user address of this page

page

source kernel page

Description

This allows drivers to insert individual pages they've allocated into a user vma.

The page has to be a nice clean _individual_ kernel allocation. If you allocate a compound page, you need to have marked it as such (__GFP_COMP), or manually just split the page up yourself (see `split_page`).

NOTE! Traditionally this was done with "`remap_pfn_range`" which took an arbitrary page protection parameter. This doesn't allow that. Your vma protection will have to be set up correctly, which means that if you want a shared writable mapping, you'd better ask for a shared writable mapping!

The page does not need to be reserved.

vm_insert_pfn

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`vm_insert_pfn` — insert single pfn into user vma

Synopsis

```
int vm_insert_pfn (struct vm_area_struct * vma, unsigned long
addr, unsigned long pfn);
```

Arguments

vma

user vma to map to

addr

target user address of this page

pfn

source kernel pfn

Description

Similar to vm_inert_page, this allows drivers to insert individual pages they've allocated into a user vma. Same comments apply.

This function should only be called from a vm_ops->fault handler, and in that case the handler should return NULL.

vma cannot be a COW mapping.

As this is called only for pages that do not currently exist, we do not need to flush old virtual caches or the TLB.

remap_pfn_range

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`remap_pfn_range` — remap kernel memory to userspace

Synopsis

```
int remap_pfn_range (struct vm_area_struct * vma, unsigned
long addr, unsigned long pfn, unsigned long size, pgprot_t
prot);
```

Arguments

vma

user vma to map to

addr

target user address to start at

pfn

physical address of kernel memory

size

size of map area

prot

page protection flags for this mapping

Note

this is only safe if the mm semaphore is held when called.

vm_iomap_memory

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`vm_iomap_memory` — remap memory to userspace

Synopsis

```
int vm_iomap_memory (struct vm_area_struct * vma, phys_addr_t
start, unsigned long len);
```

Arguments

vma

user vma to map to

start

start of area

len

size of area

Description

This is a simplified `io_remap_pfn_range` for common driver use. The driver just needs to give us the physical memory range to be mapped, we'll figure out the rest from the vma information.

NOTE! Some drivers might want to tweak vma->vm_page_prot first to get whatever write-combining details or similar.

unmap_mapping_range

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`unmap_mapping_range` — unmap the portion of all mmaps in the specified address_space corresponding to the specified page range in the underlying file.

Synopsis

```
void unmap_mapping_range (struct address_space * mapping,
loff_t const holebegin, loff_t const holelen, int even_cows);
```

Arguments

`mapping`

the address space containing mmaps to be unmapped.

`holebegin`

byte in first page to unmap, relative to the start of the underlying file. This will be rounded down to a PAGE_SIZE boundary. Note that this is different from `truncate_pagecache`, which must keep the partial page. In contrast, we must get rid of partial pages.

holelen

size of prospective hole in bytes. This will be rounded up to a PAGE_SIZE boundary. A holelen of zero truncates to the end of the file.

even_cows

1 when truncating a file, unmap even private COWed pages; but 0 when invalidating pagecache, don't throw away private data.

follow_pfn

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`follow_pfn` — look up PFN at a user virtual address

Synopsis

```
int follow_pfn (struct vm_area_struct * vma, unsigned long
address, unsigned long * pfn);
```

Arguments

vma

memory mapping

address

user virtual address

pfn

location to store found PFN

Description

Only IO mappings and raw PFN mappings are allowed.

Returns zero and the pfn at *pfn* on success, -ve otherwise.

vm_unmap_aliases

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

vm_unmap_aliases — unmap outstanding lazy aliases in the vmap layer

Synopsis

```
void vm_unmap_aliases ( void);
```

Arguments

void

no arguments

Description

The vmap/vmalloc layer lazily flushes kernel virtual mappings primarily to amortize TLB flushing overheads. What this means is that any page you have now, may, in a former life, have been mapped into kernel virtual address by the vmap layer and so there might be some CPUs with TLB entries still referencing that page (additional to the regular 1:1 kernel mapping).

vm_unmap_aliases flushes all such lazy mappings. After it returns, we can be sure that none of the pages we have control over will have any aliases from the vmap layer.

vm_unmap_ram

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`vm_unmap_ram` — unmap linear kernel address space set up by vm_map_ram

Synopsis

```
void vm_unmap_ram (const void * mem, unsigned int count);
```

Arguments

mem

the pointer returned by vm_map_ram

count

the count passed to that vm_map_ram call (cannot unmap partial)

vm_map_ram

LINUX

Name

vm_map_ram — map pages linearly into kernel virtual address (vmalloc space)

Synopsis

```
void * vm_map_ram (struct page ** pages, unsigned int count,
int node, pgprot_t prot);
```

Arguments

pages

an array of pointers to the pages to be mapped

count

number of pages

node

prefer to allocate data structures on this node

prot

memory protection to use. PAGE_KERNEL for regular RAM

Returns

a pointer to the address that has been mapped, or NULL on failure

unmap_kernel_range_noflush

LINUX

Name

`unmap_kernel_range_noflush` — unmap kernel VM area

Synopsis

```
void unmap_kernel_range_noflush (unsigned long addr, unsigned
long size);
```

Arguments

addr

start of the VM area to unmap

size

size of the VM area to unmap

Description

Unmap PFN_UP(*size*) pages at *addr*. The VM area *addr* and *size* specify should have been allocated using `get_vm_area` and its friends.

NOTE

This function does NOT do any cache flushing. The caller is responsible for calling `flush_cache_vunmap` on to-be-mapped areas before calling this function and `flush_tlb_kernel_range` after.

vfree

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`vfree` — release memory allocated by `vmalloc`

Synopsis

```
void vfree (const void * addr);
```

Arguments

addr

memory base address

Description

Free the virtually continuous memory area starting at *addr*, as obtained from `vmalloc`, `vmalloc_32` or `__vmalloc`. If *addr* is NULL, no operation is performed.

Must not be called in NMI context (strictly speaking, only if we don't have CONFIG_ARCH_HAVE_NMI_SAFE_CMPXCHG, but making the calling conventions for `vfree` arch-depenedent would be a really bad idea)

vunmap

LINUX

Name

`vunmap` — release virtual mapping obtained by `vmap`

Synopsis

```
void vunmap (const void * addr);
```

Arguments

`addr`

memory base address

Description

Free the virtually contiguous memory area starting at *`addr`*, which was created from the page array passed to `vmap`.

Must not be called in interrupt context.

vmap

LINUX

Name

`vmap` — map an array of pages into virtually contiguous space

Synopsis

```
void * vmap (struct page ** pages, unsigned int count,
unsigned long flags, pgprot_t prot);
```

Arguments

pages

array of page pointers

count

number of pages to map

flags

vm_area->flags

prot

page protection for the mapping

Description

Maps *count* pages from *pages* into contiguous kernel virtual space.

vmalloc

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

vmalloc — allocate virtually contiguous memory

Synopsis

```
void * vmalloc (unsigned long size);
```

Arguments

size

allocation size Allocate enough pages to cover *size* from the page level allocator and map them into contiguous kernel virtual space.

Description

For tight control over page level allocator and protection flags use __vmalloc instead.

vzalloc

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

vzalloc — allocate virtually contiguous memory with zero fill

Synopsis

```
void * vzalloc (unsigned long size);
```

Arguments

size

allocation size Allocate enough pages to cover *size* from the page level allocator and map them into contiguous kernel virtual space. The memory allocated is set to zero.

Description

For tight control over page level allocator and protection flags use `__vmalloc` instead.

vmalloc_user

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`vmalloc_user` — allocate zeroed virtually contiguous memory for userspace

Synopsis

```
void * vmalloc_user (unsigned long size);
```

Arguments

size

allocation size

Description

The resulting memory area is zeroed so it can be mapped to userspace without leaking data.

vmalloc_node

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`vmalloc_node` — allocate memory on a specific node

Synopsis

```
void * vmalloc_node (unsigned long size, int node);
```

Arguments

`size`

allocation size

`node`

numa node

Description

Allocate enough pages to cover *`size`* from the page level allocator and map them into contiguous kernel virtual space.

For tight control over page level allocator and protection flags use `__vmalloc` instead.

vzalloc_node

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`vzalloc_node` — allocate memory on a specific node with zero fill

Synopsis

```
void * vzalloc_node (unsigned long size, int node);
```

Arguments

`size`

allocation size

`node`

numa node

Description

Allocate enough pages to cover *`size`* from the page level allocator and map them into contiguous kernel virtual space. The memory allocated is set to zero.

For tight control over page level allocator and protection flags use `__vmalloc_node` instead.

vmalloc_32

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`vmalloc_32` — allocate virtually contiguous memory (32bit addressable)

Synopsis

```
void * vmalloc_32 (unsigned long size);
```

Arguments

size

allocation size

Description

Allocate enough 32bit PA addressable pages to cover *size* from the page level allocator and map them into contiguous kernel virtual space.

vmalloc_32_user

LINUX

Name

`vmalloc_32_user` — allocate zeroed virtually contiguous 32bit memory

Synopsis

```
void * vmalloc_32_user (unsigned long size);
```

Arguments

size

allocation size

Description

The resulting memory area is 32bit addressable and zeroed so it can be mapped to userspace without leaking data.

remap_vmalloc_range_partial

LINUX

Name

`remap_vmalloc_range_partial` — map vmalloc pages to userspace

Synopsis

```
int remap_vmalloc_range_partial (struct vm_area_struct * vma,
unsigned long uaddr, void * kaddr, unsigned long size);
```

Arguments

vma

vma to cover

uaddr

target user address to start at

kaddr

virtual address of vmalloc kernel memory

size

size of map area

Returns

0 for success, -Exxx on failure

This function checks that *kaddr* is a valid vmalloc'ed area, and that it is big enough to cover the range starting at *uaddr* in *vma*. Will return failure if that criteria isn't met.

Similar to `remap_pfn_range` (see mm/memory.c)

remap_vmalloc_range

LINUX

Name

`remap_vmalloc_range` — map vmalloc pages to userspace

Synopsis

```
int remap_vmalloc_range (struct vm_area_struct * vma, void *
addr, unsigned long pgoff);
```

Arguments

vma

vma to cover (map full range of vma)

addr

vmalloc memory

pgoff

number of pages into addr before first page to map

Returns

0 for success, -Exxx on failure

This function checks that addr is a valid vmalloc'ed area, and that it is big enough to cover the vma. Will return failure if that criteria isn't met.

Similar to `remap_pfn_range` (see mm/memory.c)

alloc_vm_area

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`alloc_vm_area` — allocate a range of kernel address space

Synopsis

```
struct vm_struct * alloc_vm_area (size_t size);
```

Arguments

size

size of the area

Returns

NULL on failure, vm_struct on success

This function reserves a range of kernel address space, and allocates pagetables to map that range. No actual mappings are created. If the kernel address space is not shared between processes, it syncs the pagetable across all processes.

find_next_best_node

LINUX

Name

`find_next_best_node` — find the next node that should appear in a given node's fallback list

Synopsis

```
int find_next_best_node (int node, nodemask_t *
used_node_mask);
```

Arguments

`node`

node whose fallback list we're appending

`used_node_mask`

nodemask_t of already used nodes

Description

We use a number of factors to determine which is the next node that should appear on a given node's fallback list. The node should not have appeared already in *`node`*'s fallback list, and it should be the next closest node according to the distance array (which contains arbitrary distance values from each node to each node in the system), and should also prefer nodes with no CPUs, since presumably they'll have very little allocation pressure on them otherwise. It returns -1 if no node is found.

free_bootmem_with_active_regions

LINUX

Name

`free_bootmem_with_active_regions` — Call free_bootmem_node for each active range

Synopsis

```
void free_bootmem_with_active_regions (int nid, unsigned long max_low_pfn);
```

Arguments

`nid`

The node to free memory on. If MAX_NUMNODES, all nodes are freed.

`max_low_pfn`

The highest PFN that will be passed to free_bootmem_node

Description

If an architecture guarantees that all ranges registered with `add_active_ranges` contain no holes and may be freed, this this function may be used instead of calling `free_bootmem` manually.

sparse_memory_present_with_active_regions

LINUX

Name

`sparse_memory_present_with_active_regions` — Call memory_present for each active range

Synopsis

```
void sparse_memory_present_with_active_regions (int nid);
```

Arguments

nid

The node to call memory_present for. If MAX_NUMNODES, all nodes will be used.

Description

If an architecture guarantees that all ranges registered with `add_active_ranges` contain no holes and may be freed, this function may be used instead of calling `memory_present` manually.

get_pfn_range_for_nid

LINUX

Name

`get_pfn_range_for_nid` — Return the start and end page frames for a node

Synopsis

```
void __meminit get_pfn_range_for_nid (unsigned int nid,
unsigned long * start_pfn, unsigned long * end_pfn);
```

Arguments

nid

The nid to return the range for. If MAX_NUMNODES, the min and max PFN are returned.

start_pfn

Passed by reference. On return, it will have the node start_pfn.

end_pfn

Passed by reference. On return, it will have the node end_pfn.

Description

It returns the start and end page frame of a node based on information provided by an arch calling `add_active_range`. If called for a node with no available memory, a warning is printed and the start and end PFNs will be 0.

absent_pages_in_range

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`absent_pages_in_range` — Return number of page frames in holes within a range

Synopsis

```
unsigned long absent_pages_in_range (unsigned long start_pfn,
unsigned long end_pfn);
```

Arguments

start_pfn

The start PFN to start searching for holes

end_pfn

The end PFN to stop searching for holes

Description

It returns the number of pages frames in memory holes within a range.

add_active_range

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

add_active_range — Register a range of PFNs backed by physical memory

Synopsis

```
void add_active_range (unsigned int nid, unsigned long
start_pfn, unsigned long end_pfn);
```

Arguments

nid

The node ID the range resides on

start_pfn

The start PFN of the available physical memory

end_pfn

The end PFN of the available physical memory

Description

These ranges are stored in an early_node_map[] and later used by `free_area_init_nodes` to calculate zone sizes and holes. If the range spans a memory hole, it is up to the architecture to ensure the memory is not freed by the bootmem allocator. If possible the range being registered will be merged with existing ranges.

remove_active_range

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`remove_active_range` — Shrink an existing registered range of PFNs

Synopsis

```
void remove_active_range (unsigned int nid, unsigned long
start_pfn, unsigned long end_pfn);
```

Arguments

nid

The node id the range is on that should be shrunk

start_pfn

The new PFN of the range

end_pfn

The new PFN of the range

Description

i386 with NUMA use `alloc_remap` to store a node_mem_map on a local node. The map is kept near the end physical page range that has already been registered. This function allows an arch to shrink an existing registered range.

remove_all_active_ranges

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`remove_all_active_ranges` — Remove all currently registered regions

Synopsis

```
void remove_all_active_ranges ( void);
```

Arguments

void

no arguments

Description

During discovery, it may be found that a table like SRAT is invalid and an alternative discovery method must be used. This function removes all currently registered regions.

find_min_pfn_with_active_regions

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`find_min_pfn_with_active_regions` — Find the minimum PFN registered

Synopsis

```
unsigned long find_min_pfn_with_active_regions ( void);
```

Arguments

void

no arguments

Description

It returns the minimum PFN based on information provided via `add_active_range`.

free_area_init_nodes

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`free_area_init_nodes` — Initialise all pg_data_t and zone data

Synopsis

```
void free_area_init_nodes (unsigned long * max_zone_pfn);
```

Arguments

max_zone_pfn

an array of max PFNs for each zone

Description

This will call `free_area_init_node` for each active node in the system. Using the page ranges provided by `add_active_range`, the size of each zone in each node and their holes is calculated. If the maximum PFN between two adjacent zones match, it is assumed that the zone is empty. For example, if arch_max_dma_pfn == arch_max_dma32_pfn, it is assumed that arch_max_dma32_pfn has no pages. It is also assumed that a zone starts where the previous one ended. For example, ZONE_DMA32 starts at arch_max_dma_pfn.

set_dma_reserve

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`set_dma_reserve` — set the specified number of pages reserved in the first zone

Synopsis

```
void set_dma_reserve (unsigned long new_dma_reserve);
```

Arguments

`new_dma_reserve`

The number of pages to mark reserved

Description

The per-cpu batchsize and zone watermarks are determined by present_pages. In the DMA zone, a significant percentage may be consumed by kernel image and other unfreeable allocations which can skew the watermarks badly. This function may optionally be used to account for unfreeable pages in the first zone (e.g., ZONE_DMA). The effect will be lower watermarks and smaller per-cpu batchsize.

setup_per_zone_wmarks

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`setup_per_zone_wmarks` — called when min_free_kbytes changes or when memory is hot-{added|removed}

Synopsis

```
void setup_per_zone_wmarks ( void);
```

Arguments

`void`

no arguments

Description

Ensures that the watermark[min,low,high] values for each zone are set correctly with respect to min_free_kbytes.

get_pageblock_flags_group

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`get_pageblock_flags_group` — Return the requested group of flags for the pageblock_nr_pages block of pages

Synopsis

```
unsigned long get_pageblock_flags_group (struct page * page,
int start_bitidx, int end_bitidx);
```

Arguments

page

The page within the block of interest

start_bitidx

The first bit of interest to retrieve

end_bitidx

The last bit of interest returns pageblock_bits flags

set_pageblock_flags_group

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`set_pageblock_flags_group` — Set the requested group of flags for a pageblock_nr_pages block of pages

Synopsis

```
void set_pageblock_flags_group (struct page * page, unsigned
long flags, int start_bitidx, int end_bitidx);
```

Arguments

page

The page within the block of interest

flags

The flags to set

start_bitidx

The first bit of interest

end_bitidx

The last bit of interest

mempool_create

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`mempool_create` — create a memory pool

Synopsis

```
mempool_t * mempool_create (int min_nr, mempool_alloc_t *
alloc_fn, mempool_free_t * free_fn, void * pool_data);
```

Arguments

`min_nr`

the minimum number of elements guaranteed to be allocated for this pool.

`alloc_fn`

user-defined element-allocation function.

`free_fn`

user-defined element-freeing function.

`pool_data`

optional private data available to the user-defined functions.

Description

this function creates and allocates a guaranteed size, preallocated memory pool. The pool can be used from the `mempool_alloc` and `mempool_free` functions. This function might sleep. Both the `alloc_fn` and the `free_fn` functions might sleep - as long as the `mempool_alloc` function is not called from IRQ contexts.

mempool_resize

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`mempool_resize` — resize an existing memory pool

Synopsis

```
int mempool_resize (mempool_t * pool, int new_min_nr, gfp_t
gfp_mask);
```

Arguments

pool

pointer to the memory pool which was allocated via `mempool_create`.

new_min_nr

the new minimum number of elements guaranteed to be allocated for this pool.

gfp_mask

the usual allocation bitmask.

Description

This function shrinks/grows the pool. In the case of growing, it cannot be guaranteed that the pool will be grown to the new size immediately, but new `mempool_free` calls will refill it.

Note, the caller must guarantee that no mempool_destroy is called while this function is running. `mempool_alloc` & `mempool_free` might be called (eg. from IRQ contexts) while this function executes.

mempool_destroy

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`mempool_destroy` — deallocate a memory pool

Synopsis

```
void mempool_destroy (mempool_t * pool);
```

Arguments

`pool`

pointer to the memory pool which was allocated via `mempool_create`.

Description

this function only sleeps if the `free_fn` function sleeps. The caller has to guarantee that all elements have been returned to the pool (ie: freed) prior to calling `mempool_destroy`.

mempool_alloc

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`mempool_alloc` — allocate an element from a specific memory pool

Synopsis

```
void * mempool_alloc (mempool_t * pool, gfp_t gfp_mask);
```

Arguments

`pool`

pointer to the memory pool which was allocated via `mempool_create`.

`gfp_mask`

the usual allocation bitmask.

Description

this function only sleeps if the `alloc_fn` function sleeps or returns NULL. Note that due to preallocation, this function *never* fails when called from process contexts. (it might fail if called from an IRQ context.)

mempool_free

LINUX

Name

`mempool_free` — return an element to the pool.

Synopsis

```
void mempool_free (void * element, mempool_t * pool);
```

Arguments

`element`

pool element pointer.

`pool`

pointer to the memory pool which was allocated via `mempool_create`.

Description

this function only sleeps if the `free_fn` function sleeps.

dma_pool_create

LINUX

Name

`dma_pool_create` — Creates a pool of consistent memory blocks, for dma.

Synopsis

```
struct dma_pool * dma_pool_create (const char * name, struct
device * dev, size_t size, size_t align, size_t boundary);
```

Arguments

name

name of pool, for diagnostics

dev

device that will be doing the DMA

size

size of the blocks in this pool.

align

alignment requirement for blocks; must be a power of two

boundary

returned blocks won't cross this power of two boundary

Context

!in_interrupt

Description

Returns a dma allocation pool with the requested characteristics, or null if one can't be created. Given one of these pools, dma_pool_alloc may be used to allocate memory. Such memory will all have "consistent" DMA mappings, accessible by the device and its driver without using cache flushing primitives. The actual size of blocks allocated may be larger than requested because of alignment.

If *boundary* is nonzero, objects returned from dma_pool_alloc won't cross that size boundary. This is useful for devices which have addressing restrictions on individual DMA transfers, such as not crossing boundaries of 4KBytes.

dma_pool_destroy

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`dma_pool_destroy` — destroys a pool of dma memory blocks.

Synopsis

```
void dma_pool_destroy (struct dma_pool * pool);
```

Arguments

pool

dma pool that will be destroyed

Context

!in_interrupt

Description

Caller guarantees that no more memory from the pool is in use, and that nothing will try to use the pool after this call.

dma_pool_alloc

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

dma_pool_alloc — get a block of consistent memory

Synopsis

```
void * dma_pool_alloc (struct dma_pool * pool, gfp_t
mem_flags, dma_addr_t * handle);
```

Arguments

pool

dma pool that will produce the block

mem_flags

GFP_* bitmask

handle

pointer to dma address of block

Description

This returns the kernel virtual address of a currently unused block, and reports its dma address through the handle. If such a memory block can't be allocated, NULL is returned.

dma_pool_free

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`dma_pool_free` — put block back into dma pool

Synopsis

```
void dma_pool_free (struct dma_pool * pool, void * vaddr,
dma_addr_t dma);
```

Arguments

pool

the dma pool holding the block

vaddr

virtual address of block

dma

dma address of block

Description

Caller promises neither device nor driver will again touch this block unless it is first re-allocated.

dmam_pool_create

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

dmam_pool_create — Managed dma_pool_create

Synopsis

```
struct dma_pool * dmam_pool_create (const char * name, struct
device * dev, size_t size, size_t align, size_t allocation);
```

Arguments

name

name of pool, for diagnostics

dev

device that will be doing the DMA

size

size of the blocks in this pool.

align

alignment requirement for blocks; must be a power of two

allocation

returned blocks won't cross this boundary (or zero)

Description

Managed dma_pool_create. DMA pool created with this function is automatically destroyed on driver detach.

dmam_pool_destroy

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

dmam_pool_destroy — Managed dma_pool_destroy

Synopsis

```
void dmam_pool_destroy (struct dma_pool * pool);
```

Arguments

pool

dma pool that will be destroyed

Description

Managed dma_pool_destroy.

balance_dirty_pages_ratelimited_nr

LINUX

Name

`balance_dirty_pages_ratelimited_nr` — balance dirty memory state

Synopsis

```
void balance_dirty_pages_ratelimited_nr (struct address_space
* mapping, unsigned long nr_pages_dirtied);
```

Arguments

`mapping`

address_space which was dirtied

`nr_pages_dirtied`

number of pages which the caller has just dirtied

Description

Processes which are dirtying memory should call in here once for each page which was newly dirtied. The function will periodically check the system's dirty state and will initiate writeback if needed.

On really big machines, get_writeback_state is expensive, so try to avoid calling it too often (ratelimiting). But once we're over the dirty memory limit we decrease the ratelimiting by a lot, to prevent individual processes from overshooting the limit by (ratelimit_pages) each.

tag_pages_for_writeback

LINUX

Name

`tag_pages_for_writeback` — tag pages to be written by write_cache_pages

Synopsis

```
void tag_pages_for_writeback (struct address_space * mapping,
pgoff_t start, pgoff_t end);
```

Arguments

`mapping`

address space structure to write

`start`

starting page index

`end`

ending page index (inclusive)

Description

This function scans the page range from *`start`* to *`end`* (inclusive) and tags all pages that have DIRTY tag set with a special TOWRITE tag. The idea is that write_cache_pages (or whoever calls this function) will then use TOWRITE tag to identify pages eligible for writeback. This mechanism is used to avoid livelocking of writeback by a process steadily creating new dirty pages in the file (thus it is important for this function to be quick so that it can tag pages faster than a dirtying process can create them).

write_cache_pages

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`write_cache_pages` — walk the list of dirty pages of the given address space and write all of them.

Synopsis

```
int write_cache_pages (struct address_space * mapping, struct
writeback_control * wbc, writepage_t writepage, void * data);
```

Arguments

`mapping`

address space structure to write

`wbc`

subtract the number of written pages from *`wbc`->nr_to_write

`writepage`

function called for each page

`data`

data passed to writepage function

Description

If a page is already under I/O, `write_cache_pages` skips it, even if it's dirty. This is desirable behaviour for memory-cleaning writeback, but it is INCORRECT for data-integrity system calls such as `fsync`. `fsync` and `msync` need to guarantee that all the data which was dirty at the time the call was made get new I/O started

against them. If wbc->sync_mode is WB_SYNC_ALL then we were called for data integrity and we must wait for existing IO to complete.

To avoid livelocks (when other process dirties new pages), we first tag pages which should be written back with TOWRITE tag and only then start writing them. For data-integrity sync we have to be careful so that we do not miss some pages (e.g., because some other process has cleared TOWRITE tag we set). The rule we follow is that TOWRITE tag can be cleared only by the process clearing the DIRTY tag (and submitting the page for IO).

generic_writepages

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`generic_writepages` — walk the list of dirty pages of the given address space and `writepage` all of them.

Synopsis

```
int generic_writepages (struct address_space * mapping, struct
writeback_control * wbc);
```

Arguments

`mapping`

address space structure to write

`wbc`

subtract the number of written pages from *`wbc`->nr_to_write

Description

This is a library function, which implements the `writepages` address_space_operation.

write_one_page

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`write_one_page` — write out a single page and optionally wait on I/O

Synopsis

```
int write_one_page (struct page * page, int wait);
```

Arguments

`page`

the page to write

`wait`

if true, wait on writeout

Description

The page must be locked by the caller and will be unlocked upon return.

`write_one_page` returns a negative error code if I/O failed.

wait_for_stable_page

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`wait_for_stable_page` — wait for writeback to finish, if necessary.

Synopsis

```
void wait_for_stable_page (struct page * page);
```

Arguments

page

The page to wait on.

Description

This function determines if the given page is related to a backing device that requires page contents to be held stable during writeback. If so, then it will wait for any pending writeback to complete.

truncate_inode_pages_range

LINUX

Name

`truncate_inode_pages_range` — truncate range of pages specified by start & end byte offsets

Synopsis

```
void truncate_inode_pages_range (struct address_space *
mapping, loff_t lstart, loff_t lend);
```

Arguments

`mapping`

mapping to truncate

`lstart`

offset from which to truncate

`lend`

offset to which to truncate

Description

Truncate the page cache, removing the pages that are between specified offsets (and zeroing out partial page (if lstart is not page aligned)).

Truncate takes two passes - the first pass is nonblocking. It will not block on page locks and it will not block on writeback. The second pass will wait. This is to prevent as much IO as possible in the affected region. The first pass will remove most pages, so the search cost of the second pass is low.

We pass down the cache-hot hint to the page freeing code. Even if the mapping is large, it is probably the case that the final pages are the most recently touched, and freeing happens in ascending file offset order.

truncate_inode_pages

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`truncate_inode_pages` — truncate *all* the pages from an offset

Synopsis

```
void truncate_inode_pages (struct address_space * mapping,
loff_t lstart);
```

Arguments

`mapping`

mapping to truncate

`lstart`

offset from which to truncate

Description

Called under (and serialised by) inode->i_mutex.

Note

When this function returns, there can be a page in the process of deletion (inside `__delete_from_page_cache`) in the specified range. Thus mapping->nrpages

can be non-zero when this function returns even after truncation of the whole mapping.

invalidate_mapping_pages

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`invalidate_mapping_pages` — Invalidate all the unlocked pages of one inode

Synopsis

```
unsigned long invalidate_mapping_pages (struct address_space *
mapping, pgoff_t start, pgoff_t end);
```

Arguments

`mapping`

the address_space which holds the pages to invalidate

`start`

the offset 'from' which to invalidate

`end`

the offset 'to' which to invalidate (inclusive)

Description

This function only removes the unlocked pages, if you want to remove all the pages of one inode, you must call truncate_inode_pages.

`invalidate_mapping_pages` will not block on IO activity. It will not invalidate pages which are dirty, locked, under writeback or mapped into pagetables.

invalidate_inode_pages2_range

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`invalidate_inode_pages2_range` — remove range of pages from an address_space

Synopsis

```
int invalidate_inode_pages2_range (struct address_space *
mapping, pgoff_t start, pgoff_t end);
```

Arguments

`mapping`

the address_space

`start`

the page offset 'from' which to invalidate

`end`

the page offset 'to' which to invalidate (inclusive)

Description

Any pages which are found to be mapped into pagetables are unmapped prior to invalidation.

Returns -EBUSY if any pages could not be invalidated.

invalidate_inode_pages2

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`invalidate_inode_pages2` — remove all pages from an address_space

Synopsis

```
int invalidate_inode_pages2 (struct address_space * mapping);
```

Arguments

`mapping`

the address_space

Description

Any pages which are found to be mapped into pagetables are unmapped prior to invalidation.

Returns -EBUSY if any pages could not be invalidated.

truncate_pagecache

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`truncate_pagecache` — unmap and remove pagecache that has been truncated

Synopsis

```
void truncate_pagecache (struct inode * inode, loff_t oldsize,
loff_t newsize);
```

Arguments

inode

inode

oldsize

old file size

newsize

new file size

Description

inode's new i_size must already be written before truncate_pagecache is called.

This function should typically be called before the filesystem releases resources associated with the freed range (eg. deallocates blocks). This way, pagecache will always stay logically coherent with on-disk format, and the filesystem would not have to deal with situations such as writepage being called for a page that has already had its underlying blocks deallocated.

truncate_setsize

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`truncate_setsize` — update inode and pagecache for a new file size

Synopsis

```
void truncate_setsize (struct inode * inode, loff_t newsize);
```

Arguments

`inode`

inode

`newsize`

new file size

Description

truncate_setsize updates i_size and performs pagecache truncation (if necessary) to *`newsize`*. It will be typically be called from the filesystem's setattr function when ATTR_SIZE is passed in.

Must be called with inode_mutex held and before all filesystem specific block truncation has been performed.

vmtruncate

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`vmtruncate` — unmap mappings “freed” by `truncate` syscall

Synopsis

```
int vmtruncate (struct inode * inode, loff_t newsize);
```

Arguments

`inode`

inode of the file used

`newsize`

file offset to start truncating

Description

This function is deprecated and truncate_setsize or truncate_pagecache should be used instead, together with filesystem specific block truncation.

Chapter 5. Kernel IPC facilities

5.1. IPC utilities

ipc_init

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ipc_init` — initialise IPC subsystem

Synopsis

```
int ipc_init ( void);
```

Arguments

void

no arguments

Description

The various system5 IPC resources (semaphores, messages and shared memory) are initialised A callback routine is registered into the memory hotplug notifier

chain

since msgmni scales to lowmem this callback routine will be called upon successful memory add / remove to recompute msmgni.

ipc_init_ids

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ipc_init_ids` — initialise IPC identifiers

Synopsis

```
void ipc_init_ids (struct ipc_ids * ids);
```

Arguments

`ids`

Identifier set

Description

Set up the sequence range to use for the ipc identifier range (limited below IPCMNI) then initialise the ids idr.

ipc_init_proc_interface

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ipc_init_proc_interface` — Create a proc interface for sysipc types using a seq_file interface.

Synopsis

```
void ipc_init_proc_interface (const char * path, const char *
header, int ids, int (*show) (struct seq_file *, void *));
```

Arguments

path

Path in procfs

header

Banner to be printed at the beginning of the file.

ids

ipc id table to iterate.

show

show routine.

ipc_findkey

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ipc_findkey` — find a key in an ipc identifier set

Synopsis

```
struct kern_ipc_perm * ipc_findkey (struct ipc_ids * ids,
key_t key);
```

Arguments

ids

Identifier set

key

The key to find

Description

Requires ipc_ids.rw_mutex locked. Returns the LOCKED pointer to the ipc structure if found or NULL if not. If key is found ipc points to the owning ipc structure

ipc_get_maxid

LINUX

Name

`ipc_get_maxid` — get the last assigned id

Synopsis

```
int ipc_get_maxid (struct ipc_ids * ids);
```

Arguments

`ids`

IPC identifier set

Description

Called with ipc_ids.rw_mutex held.

ipc_addid

LINUX

Name

`ipc_addid` — add an IPC identifier

Synopsis

```
int ipc_addid (struct ipc_ids * ids, struct kern_ipc_perm *
new, int size);
```

Arguments

ids

IPC identifier set

new

new IPC permission set

size

limit for the number of used ids

Description

Add an entry 'new' to the IPC ids idr. The permissions object is initialised and the first free entry is set up and the id assigned is returned. The 'new' entry is returned in a locked state on success. On failure the entry is not locked and a negative err-code is returned.

Called with ipc_ids.rw_mutex held as a writer.

ipcget_new

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ipcget_new` — create a new ipc object

Synopsis

```
int ipcget_new (struct ipc_namespace * ns, struct ipc_ids *
ids, struct ipc_ops * ops, struct ipc_params * params);
```

Arguments

ns

namespace

ids

IPC identifer set

ops

the actual creation routine to call

params

its parameters

Description

This routine is called by sys_msgget, `sys_semget` and `sys_shmget` when the key is IPC_PRIVATE.

ipc_check_perms

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ipc_check_perms` — check security and permissions for an IPC

Synopsis

```
int ipc_check_perms (struct ipc_namespace * ns, struct
kern_ipc_perm * ipcp, struct ipc_ops * ops, struct ipc_params
* params);
```

Arguments

ns

IPC namespace

ipcp

ipc permission set

ops

the actual security routine to call

params

its parameters

Description

This routine is called by `sys_msgget`, `sys_semget` and `sys_shmget` when the key is not IPC_PRIVATE and that key already exists in the ids IDR.

On success, the IPC id is returned.

It is called with ipc_ids.rw_mutex and ipcp->lock held.

ipcget_public

LINUX

Name

`ipcget_public` — get an ipc object or create a new one

Synopsis

```
int ipcget_public (struct ipc_namespace * ns, struct ipc_ids *
ids, struct ipc_ops * ops, struct ipc_params * params);
```

Arguments

ns

namespace

ids

IPC identifer set

ops

the actual creation routine to call

params

its parameters

Description

This routine is called by sys_msgget, `sys_semget` and `sys_shmget` when the key is not IPC_PRIVATE. It adds a new entry if the key is not found and does some permission / security checkings if the key is found.

On success, the ipc id is returned.

ipc_rmid

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ipc_rmid` — remove an IPC identifier

Synopsis

```
void ipc_rmid (struct ipc_ids * ids, struct kern_ipc_perm *
ipcp);
```

Arguments

ids

IPC identifier set

ipcp

ipc perm structure containing the identifier to remove

Description

ipc_ids.rw_mutex (as a writer) and the spinlock for this ID are held before this function is called, and remain locked on the exit.

ipc_alloc

LINUX

Name

`ipc_alloc` — allocate ipc space

Synopsis

```
void* ipc_alloc (int size);
```

Arguments

`size`

size desired

Description

Allocate memory from the appropriate pools and return a pointer to it. NULL is returned if the allocation fails

ipc_free

LINUX

Name

`ipc_free` — free ipc space

Synopsis

```
void ipc_free (void * ptr, int size);
```

Arguments

ptr

pointer returned by ipc_alloc

size

size of block

Description

Free a block created with `ipc_alloc`. The caller must know the size used in the allocation call.

ipc_rcu_alloc

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ipc_rcu_alloc` — allocate ipc and rcu space

Synopsis

```
void* ipc_rcu_alloc (int size);
```

Arguments

size

size desired

Description

Allocate memory for the rcu header structure + the object. Returns the pointer to the object. NULL is returned if the allocation fails.

ipc_schedule_free

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ipc_schedule_free` — free ipc + rcu space

Synopsis

```
void ipc_schedule_free (struct rcu_head * head);
```

Arguments

head

RCU callback structure for queued work

Description

Since RCU callback function is called in bh, we need to defer the vfree to `schedule_work`.

ipc_immediate_free

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ipc_immediate_free` — free ipc + rcu space

Synopsis

```
void ipc_immediate_free (struct rcu_head * head);
```

Arguments

`head`

RCU callback structure that contains pointer to be freed

Description

Free from the RCU callback context.

ipcperms

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ipcperms` — check IPC permissions

Synopsis

```
int ipcperms (struct ipc_namespace * ns, struct kern_ipc_perm
* ipcp, short flag);
```

Arguments

ns

IPC namespace

ipcp

IPC permission set

flag

desired permission set.

Description

Check user, group, other permissions for access to ipc resources. return 0 if allowed

flag will most probably be 0 or S_...UGO from <linux/stat.h>

kernel_to_ipc64_perm

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kernel_to_ipc64_perm` — convert kernel ipc permissions to user

Synopsis

```
void kernel_to_ipc64_perm (struct kern_ipc_perm * in, struct
ipc64_perm * out);
```

Arguments

in

kernel permissions

out

new style IPC permissions

Description

Turn the kernel object *in* into a set of permissions descriptions for returning to userspace (*out*).

ipc64_perm_to_ipc_perm

LINUX

Name

`ipc64_perm_to_ipc_perm` — convert new ipc permissions to old

Synopsis

```
void ipc64_perm_to_ipc_perm (struct ipc64_perm * in, struct
ipc_perm * out);
```

Arguments

in

new style IPC permissions

out

old style IPC permissions

Description

Turn the new style permissions object *in* into a compatibility object and store it into the *out* pointer.

ipc_lock

LINUX

Name

`ipc_lock` — Lock an ipc structure without rw_mutex held

Synopsis

```
struct kern_ipc_perm * ipc_lock (struct ipc_ids * ids, int
id);
```

Arguments

ids

IPC identifier set

id

ipc id to look for

Description

Look for an id in the ipc ids idr and lock the associated ipc object.

The ipc object is locked on exit.

ipcget

LINUX

Name

`ipcget` — Common sys_*`get` code

Synopsis

```
int ipcget (struct ipc_namespace * ns, struct ipc_ids * ids,
struct ipc_ops * ops, struct ipc_params * params);
```

Arguments

`ns`

namsepace

`ids`

IPC identifier set

`ops`

operations to be called on ipc object creation, permission checks and further checks

`params`

the parameters needed by the previous operations.

Description

Common routine called by `sys_msgget`, `sys_semget` and `sys_shmget`.

ipc_update_perm

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ipc_update_perm` — update the permissions of an IPC.

Synopsis

```
void ipc_update_perm (struct ipc64_perm * in, struct
kern_ipc_perm * out);
```

Arguments

in

the permission given as input.

out

the permission of the ipc to set.

ipcctl_pre_down

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ipcctl_pre_down` — retrieve an ipc and check permissions for some IPC_XXX cmd

Synopsis

```
struct kern_ipc_perm * ipcctl_pre_down (struct ipc_namespace *
ns, struct ipc_ids * ids, int id, int cmd, struct ipc64_perm *
perm, int extra_perm);
```

Arguments

ns

the ipc namespace

ids

the table of ids where to look for the ipc

id

the id of the ipc to retrieve

cmd

the cmd to check

perm

the permission to set

extra_perm

one extra permission parameter used by msq

Description

This function does some common audit and permissions check for some IPC_XXX cmd and is called from semctl_down, shmctl_down and msgctl_down. It must be called without any lock held and - retrieves the ipc with the given id in the given table. - performs some audit and permission check, depending on the given cmd - returns the ipc with both ipc and rw_mutex locks held in case of success or an err-code without any lock held otherwise.

ipc_parse_version

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`ipc_parse_version` — IPC call version

Synopsis

```
int ipc_parse_version (int * cmd);
```

Arguments

cmd

pointer to command

Description

Return IPC_64 for new style IPC and IPC_OLD for old style IPC. The *cmd* value is turned from an encoding command and version into just the command code.

Chapter 6. FIFO Buffer

6.1. kfifo interface

DECLARE_KFIFO_PTR

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

DECLARE_KFIFO_PTR — macro to declare a fifo pointer object

Synopsis

```
DECLARE_KFIFO_PTR ( fifo,  type);
```

Arguments

fifo

name of the declared fifo

type

type of the fifo elements

DECLARE_KFIFO

LINUX

Name

DECLARE_KFIFO — macro to declare a fifo object

Synopsis

```
DECLARE_KFIFO ( fifo,  type,  size);
```

Arguments

fifo

name of the declared fifo

type

type of the fifo elements

size

the number of elements in the fifo, this must be a power of 2

INIT_KFIFO

LINUX

Name

INIT_KFIFO — Initialize a fifo declared by DECLARE_KFIFO

Synopsis

```
INIT_KFIFO ( fifo);
```

Arguments

fifo

name of the declared fifo datatype

DEFINE_KFIFO

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

DEFINE_KFIFO — macro to define and initialize a fifo

Synopsis

```
DEFINE_KFIFO ( fifo,  type,  size);
```

Arguments

fifo

name of the declared fifo datatype

type

type of the fifo elements

size

the number of elements in the fifo, this must be a power of 2

Note

the macro can be used for global and local fifo data type variables.

kfifo_initialized

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kfifo_initialized` — Check if the fifo is initialized

Synopsis

```
kfifo_initialized ( fifo);
```

Arguments

fifo

address of the fifo to check

Description

Return `true` if fifo is initialized, otherwise `false`. Assumes the fifo was 0 before.

kfifo_esize

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kfifo_esize` — returns the size of the element managed by the fifo

Synopsis

```
kfifo_esize ( fifo);
```

Arguments

`fifo`

address of the fifo to be used

kfifo_recsize

LINUX

Name

`kfifo_recsize` — returns the size of the record length field

Synopsis

```
kfifo_recsize ( fifo);
```

Arguments

`fifo`

address of the fifo to be used

kfifo_size

LINUX

Name

`kfifo_size` — returns the size of the fifo in elements

Synopsis

```
kfifo_size ( fifo);
```

Arguments

fifo

address of the fifo to be used

kfifo_reset

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kfifo_reset` — removes the entire fifo content

Synopsis

```
kfifo_reset ( fifo);
```

Arguments

fifo

address of the fifo to be used

Note

usage of `kfifo_reset` is dangerous. It should be only called when the fifo is exclusived locked or when it is secured that no other thread is accessing the fifo.

kfifo_reset_out

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kfifo_reset_out` — skip fifo content

Synopsis

```
kfifo_reset_out ( fifo);
```

Arguments

`fifo`

address of the fifo to be used

Note

The usage of `kfifo_reset_out` is safe until it will be only called from the reader thread and there is only one concurrent reader. Otherwise it is dangerous and must be handled in the same way as `kfifo_reset`.

kfifo_len

LINUX

Name

`kfifo_len` — returns the number of used elements in the fifo

Synopsis

```
kfifo_len ( fifo);
```

Arguments

`fifo`

address of the fifo to be used

kfifo_is_empty

LINUX

Name

`kfifo_is_empty` — returns true if the fifo is empty

Synopsis

```
kfifo_is_empty ( fifo);
```

Arguments

fifo

address of the fifo to be used

kfifo_is_full

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

kfifo_is_full — returns true if the fifo is full

Synopsis

```
kfifo_is_full ( fifo);
```

Arguments

fifo

address of the fifo to be used

kfifo_avail

LINUX

Name

`kfifo_avail` — returns the number of unused elements in the fifo

Synopsis

```
kfifo_avail ( fifo);
```

Arguments

`fifo`

address of the fifo to be used

kfifo_skip

LINUX

Name

`kfifo_skip` — skip output data

Synopsis

```
kfifo_skip ( fifo);
```

Arguments

fifo

address of the fifo to be used

kfifo_peek_len

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kfifo_peek_len` — gets the size of the next fifo record

Synopsis

```
kfifo_peek_len ( fifo);
```

Arguments

fifo

address of the fifo to be used

Description

This function returns the size of the next fifo record in number of bytes.

kfifo_alloc

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kfifo_alloc` — dynamically allocates a new fifo buffer

Synopsis

```
kfifo_alloc ( fifo,  size,  gfp_mask);
```

Arguments

`fifo`

pointer to the fifo

`size`

the number of elements in the fifo, this must be a power of 2

`gfp_mask`

get_free_pages mask, passed to `kmalloc`

Description

This macro dynamically allocates a new fifo buffer.

The numer of elements will be rounded-up to a power of 2. The fifo will be release with `kfifo_free`. Return 0 if no error, otherwise an error code.

kfifo_free

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kfifo_free` — frees the fifo

Synopsis

```
kfifo_free ( fifo);
```

Arguments

`fifo`

the fifo to be freed

kfifo_init

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kfifo_init` — initialize a fifo using a preallocated buffer

Synopsis

```
kfifo_init ( fifo,  buffer,  size);
```

Arguments

fifo

the fifo to assign the buffer

buffer

the preallocated buffer to be used

size

the size of the internal buffer, this have to be a power of 2

Description

This macro initialize a fifo using a preallocated buffer.

The numer of elements will be rounded-up to a power of 2. Return 0 if no error, otherwise an error code.

kfifo_put

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kfifo_put` — put data into the fifo

Synopsis

```
kfifo_put ( fifo,  val);
```

Arguments

fifo

address of the fifo to be used

val

the data to be added

Description

This macro copies the given value into the fifo. It returns 0 if the fifo was full. Otherwise it returns the number processed elements.

Note that with only one concurrent reader and one concurrent writer, you don't need extra locking to use these macro.

kfifo_get

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kfifo_get` — get data from the fifo

Synopsis

```
kfifo_get ( fifo,  val);
```

Arguments

fifo

address of the fifo to be used

val

the var where to store the data to be added

Description

This macro reads the data from the fifo. It returns 0 if the fifo was empty. Otherwise it returns the number processed elements.

Note that with only one concurrent reader and one concurrent writer, you don't need extra locking to use these macro.

kfifo_peek

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kfifo_peek` — get data from the fifo without removing

Synopsis

```
kfifo_peek ( fifo,  val);
```

Arguments

fifo

address of the fifo to be used

val

the var where to store the data to be added

Description

This reads the data from the fifo without removing it from the fifo. It returns 0 if the fifo was empty. Otherwise it returns the number processed elements.

Note that with only one concurrent reader and one concurrent writer, you don't need extra locking to use these macro.

kfifo_in

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kfifo_in` — put data into the fifo

Synopsis

```
kfifo_in ( fifo,  buf,  n);
```

Arguments

fifo

address of the fifo to be used

buf

the data to be added

n

number of elements to be added

Description

This macro copies the given buffer into the fifo and returns the number of copied elements.

Note that with only one concurrent reader and one concurrent writer, you don't need extra locking to use these macro.

kfifo_in_spinlocked

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kfifo_in_spinlocked` — put data into the fifo using a spinlock for locking

Synopsis

```
kfifo_in_spinlocked ( fifo,  buf,  n,  lock);
```

Arguments

fifo

address of the fifo to be used

buf

the data to be added

n

number of elements to be added

lock

pointer to the spinlock to use for locking

Description

This macro copies the given values buffer into the fifo and returns the number of copied elements.

kfifo_out

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kfifo_out` — get data from the fifo

Synopsis

```
kfifo_out ( fifo,  buf,  n);
```

Arguments

fifo

address of the fifo to be used

buf

pointer to the storage buffer

n

max. number of elements to get

Description

This macro get some data from the fifo and return the numbers of elements copied.

Note that with only one concurrent reader and one concurrent writer, you don't need extra locking to use these macro.

kfifo_out_spinlocked

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kfifo_out_spinlocked` — get data from the fifo using a spinlock for locking

Synopsis

```
kfifo_out_spinlocked ( fifo,  buf,  n,  lock);
```

Arguments

fifo

address of the fifo to be used

buf

pointer to the storage buffer

n

max. number of elements to get

lock

pointer to the spinlock to use for locking

Description

This macro get the data from the fifo and return the numbers of elements copied.

kfifo_from_user

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kfifo_from_user` — puts some data from user space into the fifo

Synopsis

```
kfifo_from_user ( fifo,  from,  len,  copied);
```

Arguments

fifo

address of the fifo to be used

from

pointer to the data to be added

len

the length of the data to be added

copied

pointer to output variable to store the number of copied bytes

Description

This macro copies at most *len* bytes from the *from* into the fifo, depending of the available space and returns -EFAULT/0.

Note that with only one concurrent reader and one concurrent writer, you don't need extra locking to use these macro.

kfifo_to_user

LINUX

Name

`kfifo_to_user` — copies data from the fifo into user space

Synopsis

```
kfifo_to_user ( fifo,  to,  len,  copied);
```

Arguments

`fifo`

address of the fifo to be used

`to`

where the data must be copied

`len`

the size of the destination buffer

`copied`

pointer to output variable to store the number of copied bytes

Description

This macro copies at most *`len`* bytes from the fifo into the *`to`* buffer and returns -EFAULT/0.

Note that with only one concurrent reader and one concurrent writer, you don’t need extra locking to use these macro.

kfifo_dma_in_prepare

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kfifo_dma_in_prepare` — setup a scatterlist for DMA input

Synopsis

```
kfifo_dma_in_prepare ( fifo,  sgl,  nents,  len);
```

Arguments

`fifo`

address of the fifo to be used

`sgl`

pointer to the scatterlist array

`nents`

number of entries in the scatterlist array

`len`

number of elements to transfer

Description

This macro fills a scatterlist for DMA input. It returns the number entries in the scatterlist array.

Note that with only one concurrent reader and one concurrent writer, you don’t need extra locking to use these macros.

kfifo_dma_in_finish

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kfifo_dma_in_finish` — finish a DMA IN operation

Synopsis

```
kfifo_dma_in_finish ( fifo,  len);
```

Arguments

`fifo`

address of the fifo to be used

`len`

number of bytes to received

Description

This macro finish a DMA IN operation. The in counter will be updated by the len parameter. No error checking will be done.

Note that with only one concurrent reader and one concurrent writer, you don't need extra locking to use these macros.

kfifo_dma_out_prepare

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kfifo_dma_out_prepare` — setup a scatterlist for DMA output

Synopsis

```
kfifo_dma_out_prepare ( fifo,  sgl,  nents,  len);
```

Arguments

`fifo`

address of the fifo to be used

`sgl`

pointer to the scatterlist array

`nents`

number of entries in the scatterlist array

`len`

number of elements to transfer

Description

This macro fills a scatterlist for DMA output which at most *`len`* bytes to transfer. It returns the number entries in the scatterlist array. A zero means there is no space available and the scatterlist is not filled.

Note that with only one concurrent reader and one concurrent writer, you don’t need extra locking to use these macros.

kfifo_dma_out_finish

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kfifo_dma_out_finish` — finish a DMA OUT operation

Synopsis

```
kfifo_dma_out_finish ( fifo,  len);
```

Arguments

`fifo`

address of the fifo to be used

`len`

number of bytes transferd

Description

This macro finish a DMA OUT operation. The out counter will be updated by the len parameter. No error checking will be done.

Note that with only one concurrent reader and one concurrent writer, you don't need extra locking to use these macros.

kfifo_out_peek

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`kfifo_out_peek` — gets some data from the fifo

Synopsis

```
kfifo_out_peek ( fifo,  buf,  n);
```

Arguments

`fifo`

address of the fifo to be used

`buf`

pointer to the storage buffer

`n`

max. number of elements to get

Description

This macro get the data from the fifo and return the numbers of elements copied. The data is not removed from the fifo.

Note that with only one concurrent reader and one concurrent writer, you don't need extra locking to use these macro.

Chapter 7. relay interface support

Relay interface support is designed to provide an efficient mechanism for tools and facilities to relay large amounts of data from kernel space to user space.

7.1. relay interface

relay_buf_full

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`relay_buf_full` — boolean, is the channel buffer full?

Synopsis

```
int relay_buf_full (struct rchan_buf * buf);
```

Arguments

buf

channel buffer

Description

Returns 1 if the buffer is full, 0 otherwise.

relay_reset

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`relay_reset` — reset the channel

Synopsis

```
void relay_reset (struct rchan * chan);
```

Arguments

chan

the channel

Description

This has the effect of erasing all data from all channel buffers and restarting the channel in its initial state. The buffers are not freed, so any mappings are still in effect.

NOTE. Care should be taken that the channel isn't actually being used by anything when this call is made.

relay_open

LINUX

Name

relay_open — create a new relay channel

Synopsis

```
struct rchan * relay_open (const char * base_filename, struct
dentry * parent, size_t subbuf_size, size_t n_subbufs, struct
rchan_callbacks * cb, void * private_data);
```

Arguments

base_filename

base name of files to create, NULL for buffering only

parent

dentry of parent directory, NULL for root directory or buffer

subbuf_size

size of sub-buffers

n_subbufs

number of sub-buffers

cb

client callback functions

private_data

user-defined data

Description

Returns channel pointer if successful, NULL otherwise.

Creates a channel buffer for each cpu using the sizes and attributes specified. The created channel buffer files will be named base_filename0...base_filenameN-1. File permissions will be `S_IRUSR`.

relay_switch_subbuf

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`relay_switch_subbuf` — switch to a new sub-buffer

Synopsis

```
size_t relay_switch_subbuf (struct rchan_buf * buf, size_t
length);
```

Arguments

`buf`

channel buffer

`length`

size of current event

Description

Returns either the length passed in or 0 if full.

Performs sub-buffer-switch tasks such as invoking callbacks, updating padding counts, waking up readers, etc.

relay_subbufs_consumed

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`relay_subbufs_consumed` — update the buffer's sub-buffers-consumed count

Synopsis

```
void relay_subbufs_consumed (struct rchan * chan, unsigned int
cpu, size_t subbufs_consumed);
```

Arguments

chan

the channel

cpu

the cpu associated with the channel buffer to update

subbufs_consumed

number of sub-buffers to add to current buf's count

Description

Adds to the channel buffer's consumed sub-buffer count. subbufs_consumed should be the number of sub-buffers newly consumed, not the total consumed.

NOTE. Kernel clients don’t need to call this function if the channel mode is ’overwrite’.

relay_close

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`relay_close` — close the channel

Synopsis

```
void relay_close (struct rchan * chan);
```

Arguments

chan

the channel

Description

Closes all channel buffers and frees the channel.

relay_flush

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`relay_flush` — close the channel

Synopsis

```
void relay_flush (struct rchan * chan);
```

Arguments

chan

the channel

Description

Flushes all channel buffers, i.e. forces buffer switch.

relay_mmap_buf

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`relay_mmap_buf` — mmap channel buffer to process address space

Synopsis

```
int relay_mmap_buf (struct rchan_buf * buf, struct
vm_area_struct * vma);
```

Arguments

buf

relay channel buffer

vma

vm_area_struct describing memory to be mapped

Description

Returns 0 if ok, negative on error

Caller should already have grabbed mmap_sem.

relay_alloc_buf

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`relay_alloc_buf` — allocate a channel buffer

Synopsis

```
void * relay_alloc_buf (struct rchan_buf * buf, size_t *
size);
```

Arguments

buf

the buffer struct

size

total size of the buffer

Description

Returns a pointer to the resulting buffer, NULL if unsuccessful. The passed in size will get page aligned, if it isn't already.

relay_create_buf

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

relay_create_buf — allocate and initialize a channel buffer

Synopsis

```
struct rchan_buf * relay_create_buf (struct rchan * chan);
```

Arguments

chan

the relay channel

Description

Returns channel buffer if successful, NULL otherwise.

relay_destroy_channel

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

relay_destroy_channel — free the channel struct

Synopsis

```
void relay_destroy_channel (struct kref * kref);
```

Arguments

kref

target kernel reference that contains the relay channel

Description

Should only be called from `kref_put`.

relay_destroy_buf

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`relay_destroy_buf` — destroy an rchan_buf struct and associated buffer

Synopsis

```
void relay_destroy_buf (struct rchan_buf * buf);
```

Arguments

buf

the buffer struct

relay_remove_buf

LINUX

Name

`relay_remove_buf` — remove a channel buffer

Synopsis

```
void relay_remove_buf (struct kref * kref);
```

Arguments

`kref`

target kernel reference that contains the relay buffer

Description

Removes the file from the fileystem, which also frees the rchan_buf_struct and the channel buffer. Should only be called from `kref_put`.

relay_buf_empty

LINUX

Name

`relay_buf_empty` — boolean, is the channel buffer empty?

Synopsis

```
int relay_buf_empty (struct rchan_buf * buf);
```

Arguments

buf

channel buffer

Description

Returns 1 if the buffer is empty, 0 otherwise.

wakeup_readers

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`wakeup_readers` — wake up readers waiting on a channel

Synopsis

```
void wakeup_readers (unsigned long data);
```

Arguments

data

contains the channel buffer

Description

This is the timer function used to defer reader waking.

__relay_reset

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__relay_reset — reset a channel buffer

Synopsis

```
void __relay_reset (struct rchan_buf * buf, unsigned int
init);
```

Arguments

buf

the channel buffer

init

1 if this is a first-time initialization

Description

See `relay_reset` for description of effect.

relay_close_buf

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`relay_close_buf` — close a channel buffer

Synopsis

```
void relay_close_buf (struct rchan_buf * buf);
```

Arguments

buf

channel buffer

Description

Marks the buffer finalized and restores the default callbacks. The channel buffer and channel buffer data structure are then freed automatically when the last reference is given up.

relay_hotcpu_callback

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`relay_hotcpu_callback` — CPU hotplug callback

Synopsis

```
int __cpuinit relay_hotcpu_callback (struct notifier_block *
nb, unsigned long action, void * hcpu);
```

Arguments

nb

notifier block

action

hotplug action to take

hcpu

CPU number

Description

Returns the success/failure of the operation. (`NOTIFY_OK`, `NOTIFY_BAD`)

relay_late_setup_files

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`relay_late_setup_files` — triggers file creation

Synopsis

```
int relay_late_setup_files (struct rchan * chan, const char *
base_filename, struct dentry * parent);
```

Arguments

chan

channel to operate on

base_filename

base name of files to create

parent

dentry of parent directory, `NULL` for root directory

Description

Returns 0 if successful, non-zero otherwise.

Use to setup files for a previously buffer-only channel. Useful to do early tracing in kernel, before VFS is up, for example.

relay_file_open

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`relay_file_open` — open file op for relay files

Synopsis

```
int relay_file_open (struct inode * inode, struct file *
filp);
```

Arguments

`inode`

the inode

`filp`

the file

Description

Increments the channel buffer refcount.

relay_file_mmap

LINUX

Name

`relay_file_mmap` — mmap file op for relay files

Synopsis

```
int relay_file_mmap (struct file * filp, struct vm_area_struct
* vma);
```

Arguments

`filp`

the file

`vma`

the vma describing what to map

Description

Calls upon `relay_mmap_buf` to map the file into user space.

relay_file_poll

LINUX

Name

`relay_file_poll` — poll file op for relay files

Synopsis

```
unsigned int relay_file_poll (struct file * filp, poll_table *
wait);
```

Arguments

filp

the file

wait

poll table

Description

Poll implemention.

relay_file_release

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

relay_file_release — release file op for relay files

Synopsis

```
int relay_file_release (struct inode * inode, struct file *
filp);
```

Arguments

inode

the inode

filp

the file

Description

Decrements the channel refcount, as the filesystem is no longer using it.

relay_file_read_subbuf_avail

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

relay_file_read_subbuf_avail — return bytes available in sub-buffer

Synopsis

```
size_t relay_file_read_subbuf_avail (size_t read_pos, struct
rchan_buf * buf);
```

Arguments

read_pos

file read position

buf

relay channel buffer

relay_file_read_start_pos

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

relay_file_read_start_pos — find the first available byte to read

Synopsis

```
size_t relay_file_read_start_pos (size_t read_pos, struct
rchan_buf * buf);
```

Arguments

read_pos

file read position

buf

relay channel buffer

Description

If the *read_pos* is in the middle of padding, return the position of the first actually available byte, otherwise return the original value.

relay_file_read_end_pos

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

relay_file_read_end_pos — return the new read position

Synopsis

```
size_t relay_file_read_end_pos (struct rchan_buf * buf, size_t
read_pos, size_t count);
```

Arguments

buf

relay channel buffer

read_pos

file read position

count

number of bytes to be read

Chapter 8. Module Support

8.1. Module Loading

__request_module

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`__request_module` — try to load a kernel module

Synopsis

```
int __request_module (bool wait, const char * fmt,  ...);
```

Arguments

wait

wait (or not) for the operation to complete

fmt

printf style format string for the name of the module @...: arguments as specified in the format string

...

variable arguments

Description

Load a module using the user mode module loader. The function returns zero on success or a negative errno code on failure. Note that a successful module load does not mean the module did not then unload and exit on an error of its own. Callers must check that the service they requested is now available not blindly invoke it.

If module auto-loading support is disabled then this function becomes a no-operation.

call_usermodehelper_setup

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`call_usermodehelper_setup` — prepare to call a usermode helper

Synopsis

```
struct subprocess_info * call_usermodehelper_setup (char *
path, char ** argv, char ** envp, gfp_t gfp_mask);
```

Arguments

`path`

path to usermode executable

`argv`

arg vector for process

envp

environment for process

gfp_mask

gfp mask for memory allocation

Description

Returns either NULL on allocation failure, or a subprocess_info structure. This should be passed to call_usermodehelper_exec to exec the process and free the structure.

call_usermodehelper_setfns

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

call_usermodehelper_setfns — set a cleanup/init function

Synopsis

```
void call_usermodehelper_setfns (struct subprocess_info *
info, int (*init) (struct subprocess_info *info, struct cred
*new), void (*cleanup) (struct subprocess_info *info), void *
data);
```

Arguments

info

a subprocess_info returned by call_usermodehelper_setup

init

an init function

cleanup

a cleanup function

data

arbitrary context sensitive data

Description

The init function is used to customize the helper process prior to exec. A non-zero return code causes the process to error out, exit, and return the failure to the calling process

The cleanup function is just before ethe subprocess_info is about to be freed. This can be used for freeing the argv and envp. The Function must be runnable in either a process context or the context in which call_usermodehelper_exec is called.

call_usermodehelper_exec

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`call_usermodehelper_exec` — start a usermode application

Synopsis

```
int call_usermodehelper_exec (struct subprocess_info *
sub_info, enum umh_wait wait);
```

Arguments

sub_info

information about the subprocessa

wait

wait for the application to finish and return status. when -1 don't wait at all, but you get no useful error back when the program couldn't be exec'ed. This makes it safe to call from interrupt context.

Description

Runs a user-space application. The application is started asynchronously if wait is not set, and runs as a child of keventd. (ie. it runs with full root capabilities).

8.2. Inter Module support

Refer to the file kernel/module.c for more information.

Chapter 9. Hardware Interfaces

9.1. Interrupt Handling

synchronize_irq

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`synchronize_irq` — wait for pending IRQ handlers (on other CPUs)

Synopsis

```
void synchronize_irq (unsigned int irq);
```

Arguments

irq

interrupt number to wait for

Description

This function waits for any pending IRQ handlers for this interrupt to complete before returning. If you use this function while holding a resource the IRQ handler may need you will deadlock.

This function may be called - with care - from IRQ context.

irq_set_affinity_notifier

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`irq_set_affinity_notifier` — control notification of IRQ affinity changes

Synopsis

```
int irq_set_affinity_notifier (unsigned int irq, struct
irq_affinity_notify * notify);
```

Arguments

irq

Interrupt for which to enable/disable notification

notify

Context for notification, or `NULL` to disable notification. Function pointers must be initialised; the other fields will be initialised by this function.

Description

Must be called in process context. Notification may only be enabled after the IRQ is allocated and must be disabled before the IRQ is freed using `free_irq`.

disable_irq_nosync

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`disable_irq_nosync` — disable an irq without waiting

Synopsis

```
void disable_irq_nosync (unsigned int irq);
```

Arguments

irq

Interrupt to disable

Description

Disable the selected interrupt line. Disables and Enables are nested. Unlike `disable_irq`, this function does not ensure existing instances of the IRQ handler have completed before returning.

This function may be called from IRQ context.

disable_irq

LINUX

Name

`disable_irq` — disable an irq and wait for completion

Synopsis

```
void disable_irq (unsigned int irq);
```

Arguments

`irq`

Interrupt to disable

Description

Disable the selected interrupt line. Enables and Disables are nested. This function waits for any pending IRQ handlers for this interrupt to complete before returning. If you use this function while holding a resource the IRQ handler may need you will deadlock.

This function may be called - with care - from IRQ context.

enable_irq

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`enable_irq` — enable handling of an irq

Synopsis

```
void enable_irq (unsigned int irq);
```

Arguments

irq

Interrupt to enable

Description

Undoes the effect of one call to `disable_irq`. If this matches the last disable, processing of interrupts on this IRQ line is re-enabled.

This function may be called from IRQ context only when desc->irq_data.chip->bus_lock and desc->chip->bus_sync_unlock are NULL !

irq_set_irq_wake

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`irq_set_irq_wake` — control irq power management wakeup

Synopsis

```
int irq_set_irq_wake (unsigned int irq, unsigned int on);
```

Arguments

irq

interrupt to control

on

enable/disable power management wakeup

Description

Enable/disable power management wakeup mode, which is disabled by default. Enables and disables must match, just as they match for non-wakeup mode support.

Wakeup mode lets this IRQ wake the system from sleep states like “suspend to RAM”.

setup_irq

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`setup_irq` — setup an interrupt

Synopsis

```
int setup_irq (unsigned int irq, struct irqaction * act);
```

Arguments

irq

Interrupt line to setup

act

irqaction for the interrupt

Description

Used to statically setup interrupts in the early boot process.

remove_irq

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

remove_irq — free an interrupt

Synopsis

```
void remove_irq (unsigned int irq, struct irqaction * act);
```

Arguments

irq

Interrupt line to free

act

irqaction for the interrupt

Description

Used to remove interrupts statically setup by the early boot process.

free_irq

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`free_irq` — free an interrupt allocated with request_irq

Synopsis

```
void free_irq (unsigned int irq, void * dev_id);
```

Arguments

irq

Interrupt line to free

dev_id

Device identity to free

Description

Remove an interrupt handler. The handler is removed and if the interrupt line is no longer in use by any driver it is disabled. On a shared IRQ the caller must ensure the interrupt is disabled on the card it drives before calling this function. The function does not return until any executing interrupts for this IRQ have completed.

This function must not be called from interrupt context.

request_threaded_irq

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`request_threaded_irq` — allocate an interrupt line

Synopsis

```
int request_threaded_irq (unsigned int irq, irq_handler_t
handler, irq_handler_t thread_fn, unsigned long irqflags,
const char * devname, void * dev_id);
```

Arguments

irq

Interrupt line to allocate

handler

Function to be called when the IRQ occurs. Primary handler for threaded interrupts If NULL and thread_fn != NULL the default primary handler is installed

`thread_fn`

Function called from the irq handler thread If NULL, no irq thread is created

`irqflags`

Interrupt type flags

`devname`

An ascii name for the claiming device

`dev_id`

A cookie passed back to the handler function

Description

This call allocates interrupt resources and enables the interrupt line and IRQ handling. From the point this call is made your handler function may be invoked. Since your handler function must clear any interrupt the board raises, you must take care both to initialise your hardware and to set up the interrupt handler in the right order.

If you want to set up a threaded irq handler for your device then you need to supply `handler` and `thread_fn`. `handler` ist still called in hard interrupt context and has to check whether the interrupt originates from the device. If yes it needs to disable the interrupt on the device and return IRQ_WAKE_THREAD which will wake up the handler thread and run `thread_fn`. This split handler design is necessary to support shared interrupts.

Dev_id must be globally unique. Normally the address of the device data structure is used as the cookie. Since the handler receives this value it makes sense to use it.

If your interrupt is shared you must pass a non NULL dev_id as this is required when freeing the interrupt.

Flags

IRQF_SHARED Interrupt is shared IRQF_TRIGGER_* Specify active edge(s) or level

request_any_context_irq

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`request_any_context_irq` — allocate an interrupt line

Synopsis

```
int request_any_context_irq (unsigned int irq, irq_handler_t
handler, unsigned long flags, const char * name, void *
dev_id);
```

Arguments

irq

Interrupt line to allocate

handler

Function to be called when the IRQ occurs. Threaded handler for threaded interrupts.

flags

Interrupt type flags

name

An ascii name for the claiming device

dev_id

A cookie passed back to the handler function

Description

This call allocates interrupt resources and enables the interrupt line and IRQ handling. It selects either a hardirq or threaded handling method depending on the context.

On failure, it returns a negative value. On success, it returns either IRQC_IS_HARDIRQ or IRQC_IS_NESTED.

9.2. DMA Channels

request_dma

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`request_dma` — request and reserve a system DMA channel

Synopsis

```
int request_dma (unsigned int dmanr, const char * device_id);
```

Arguments

`dmanr`

DMA channel number

`device_id`

reserving device ID string, used in /proc/dma

free_dma

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`free_dma` — free a reserved system DMA channel

Synopsis

```
void free_dma (unsigned int dmanr);
```

Arguments

dmanr

DMA channel number

9.3. Resources Management

request_resource_conflict

LINUX

Name

`request_resource_conflict` — request and reserve an I/O or memory resource

Synopsis

```
struct resource * request_resource_conflict (struct resource *
root, struct resource * new);
```

Arguments

root

root resource descriptor

new

resource descriptor desired by caller

Description

Returns 0 for success, conflict resource on error.

reallocate_resource

LINUX

Name

`reallocate_resource` — allocate a slot in the resource tree given range & alignment. The resource will be relocated if the new size cannot be reallocated in the current location.

Synopsis

```
int reallocate_resource (struct resource * root, struct
resource * old, resource_size_t newsize, struct
resource_constraint * constraint);
```

Arguments

root

root resource descriptor

old

resource descriptor desired by caller

newsize

new size of the resource descriptor

constraint

the size and alignment constraints to be met.

insert_resource_conflict

LINUX

Name

`insert_resource_conflict` — Inserts resource in the resource tree

Synopsis

```
struct resource * insert_resource_conflict (struct resource *
parent, struct resource * new);
```

Arguments

parent

parent of the new resource

new

new resource to insert

Description

Returns 0 on success, conflict resource if the resource can't be inserted.

This function is equivalent to request_resource_conflict when no conflict happens. If a conflict happens, and the conflicting resources entirely fit within the range of the new resource, then the new resource is inserted and the conflicting resources become children of the new resource.

insert_resource

LINUX

Name

`insert_resource` — Inserts a resource in the resource tree

Synopsis

```
int insert_resource (struct resource * parent, struct resource
* new);
```

Arguments

parent

parent of the new resource

new

new resource to insert

Description

Returns 0 on success, -EBUSY if the resource can't be inserted.

insert_resource_expand_to_fit

LINUX

Name

`insert_resource_expand_to_fit` — Insert a resource into the resource

tree

Synopsis

```
void insert_resource_expand_to_fit (struct resource * root,
struct resource * new);
```

Arguments

root

root resource descriptor

new

new resource to insert

Description

Insert a resource into the resource tree, possibly expanding it in order to make it encompass any conflicting resources.

resource_alignment

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`resource_alignment` — calculate resource's alignment

Synopsis

```
resource_size_t resource_alignment (struct resource * res);
```

Arguments

res

resource pointer

Description

Returns alignment on success, 0 (invalid alignment) on failure.

release_mem_region_adjustable

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`release_mem_region_adjustable` — release a previously reserved memory region

Synopsis

```
int release_mem_region_adjustable (struct resource * parent,
resource_size_t start, resource_size_t size);
```

Arguments

parent

parent resource descriptor

start

resource start address

size

resource region size

Description

This interface is intended for memory hot-delete. The requested region is released from a currently busy memory resource. The requested region must either match exactly or fit into a single busy resource entry. In the latter case, the remaining resource is adjusted accordingly. Existing children of the busy memory resource must be immutable in the request.

Note

- Additional release conditions, such as overlapping region, can be supported after they are confirmed as valid cases. - When a busy memory resource gets split into two entries, the code assumes that all children remain in the lower address entry for simplicity. Enhance this logic when necessary.

request_resource

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`request_resource` — request and reserve an I/O or memory resource

Synopsis

```
int request_resource (struct resource * root, struct resource
* new);
```

Arguments

root

root resource descriptor

new

resource descriptor desired by caller

Description

Returns 0 for success, negative error code on error.

release_resource

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

release_resource — release a previously reserved resource

Synopsis

```
int release_resource (struct resource * old);
```

Arguments

old

resource pointer

allocate_resource

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

allocate_resource — allocate empty slot in the resource tree given range & alignment. The resource will be reallocated with a new size if it was already allocated

Synopsis

```
int allocate_resource (struct resource * root, struct resource
* new, resource_size_t size, resource_size_t min,
resource_size_t max, resource_size_t align, resource_size_t
(*alignf) (void *, const struct resource *, resource_size_t,
resource_size_t), void * alignf_data);
```

Arguments

root

root resource descriptor

new

resource descriptor desired by caller

size

requested resource region size

min

minimum size to allocate

max

maximum size to allocate

align

alignment requested, in bytes

alignf

alignment function, optional, called if not NULL

alignf_data

arbitrary data to pass to the *alignf* function

adjust_resource

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

adjust_resource — modify a resource's start and size

Synopsis

```
int adjust_resource (struct resource * res, resource_size_t
start, resource_size_t size);
```

Arguments

res

resource to modify

start

new start value

size

new size

Description

Given an existing resource, change its start and size to match the arguments. Returns 0 on success, -EBUSY if it can't fit. Existing children of the resource are assumed to be immutable.

__request_region

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__request_region — create a new busy resource region

Synopsis

```
struct resource * __request_region (struct resource * parent,
resource_size_t start, resource_size_t n, const char * name,
int flags);
```

Arguments

parent

parent resource descriptor

start

resource start address

n

resource region size

name

reserving caller's ID string

flags

IO resource flags

__check_region

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__check_region — check if a resource region is busy or free

Synopsis

```
int __check_region (struct resource * parent, resource_size_t
start, resource_size_t n);
```

Arguments

parent

parent resource descriptor

start

resource start address

n

resource region size

Description

Returns 0 if the region is free at the moment it is checked, returns `-EBUSY` if the region is busy.

NOTE

This function is deprecated because its use is racy. Even if it returns 0, a subsequent call to `request_region` may fail because another driver etc. just allocated the region. Do NOT use it. It will be removed from the kernel.

__release_region

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`__release_region` — release a previously reserved resource region

Synopsis

```
void __release_region (struct resource * parent,
resource_size_t start, resource_size_t n);
```

Arguments

parent

parent resource descriptor

start

resource start address

n

resource region size

Description

The described resource region must match a currently busy region.

9.4. MTRR Handling

mtrr_add

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`mtrr_add` — Add a memory type region

Synopsis

```
int mtrr_add (unsigned long base, unsigned long size, unsigned
int type, bool increment);
```

Arguments

base

Physical base address of region

size

Physical size of region

type

Type of MTRR desired

increment

If this is true do usage counting on the region

Description

Memory type region registers control the caching on newer Intel and non Intel processors. This function allows drivers to request an MTRR is added. The details and hardware specifics of each processor's implementation are hidden from the caller, but nevertheless the caller should expect to need to provide a power of two size on an equivalent power of two boundary.

If the region cannot be added either because all regions are in use or the CPU cannot support it a negative value is returned. On success the register number for this entry is returned, but should be treated as a cookie only.

On a multiprocessor machine the changes are made to all processors. This is required on x86 by the Intel processors.

The available types are

`MTRR_TYPE_UNCACHABLE` - No caching

`MTRR_TYPE_WRBACK` - Write data back in bursts whenever

`MTRR_TYPE_WRCOMB` - Write data back soon but allow bursts

`MTRR_TYPE_WRTHROUGH` - Cache reads but not writes

BUGS

Needs a quiet flag for the cases where drivers do not mind failures and do not wish system log messages to be sent.

mtrr_del

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`mtrr_del` — delete a memory type region

Synopsis

```
int mtrr_del (int reg, unsigned long base, unsigned long
size);
```

Arguments

`reg`

Register returned by mtrr_add

`base`

Physical base address

`size`

Size of region

Description

If register is supplied then base and size are ignored. This is how drivers should call it.

Releases an MTRR region. If the usage count drops to zero the register is freed and the region returns to default state. On success the register is returned, on failure a negative error code.

9.5. PCI Support Library

pci_bus_max_busnr

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_bus_max_busnr` — returns maximum PCI bus number of given bus' children

Synopsis

```
unsigned char pci_bus_max_busnr (struct pci_bus * bus);
```

Arguments

bus

pointer to PCI bus structure to search

Description

Given a PCI bus, returns the highest PCI bus number present in the set including the given PCI bus and its list of child PCI buses.

pci_find_capability

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_find_capability` — query for devices' capabilities

Synopsis

```
int pci_find_capability (struct pci_dev * dev, int cap);
```

Arguments

`dev`

PCI device to query

`cap`

capability code

Description

Tell if a device supports a given PCI capability. Returns the address of the requested capability structure within the device's PCI configuration space or 0 in case the device does not support it. Possible values for *`cap`*:

PCI_CAP_ID_PM Power Management PCI_CAP_ID_AGP Accelerated Graphics Port PCI_CAP_ID_VPD Vital Product Data PCI_CAP_ID_SLOTID Slot Identification PCI_CAP_ID_MSI Message Signalled Interrupts PCI_CAP_ID_CHSWP CompactPCI HotSwap PCI_CAP_ID_PCIX PCI-X PCI_CAP_ID_EXP PCI Express

pci_bus_find_capability

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_bus_find_capability — query for devices' capabilities

Synopsis

```
int pci_bus_find_capability (struct pci_bus * bus, unsigned
int devfn, int cap);
```

Arguments

bus

the PCI bus to query

devfn

PCI device to query

cap

capability code

Description

Like `pci_find_capability` but works for pci devices that do not have a pci_dev structure set up yet.

Returns the address of the requested capability structure within the device's PCI configuration space or 0 in case the device does not support it.

pci_find_ext_capability

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_find_ext_capability` — Find an extended capability

Synopsis

```
int pci_find_ext_capability (struct pci_dev * dev, int cap);
```

Arguments

`dev`

PCI device to query

`cap`

capability code

Description

Returns the address of the requested extended capability structure within the device's PCI configuration space or 0 if the device does not support it. Possible values for *cap*:

PCI_EXT_CAP_ID_ERR Advanced Error Reporting PCI_EXT_CAP_ID_VC Virtual Channel PCI_EXT_CAP_ID_DSN Device Serial Number PCI_EXT_CAP_ID_PWR Power Budgeting

pci_find_next_ht_capability

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_find_next_ht_capability — query a device's Hypertransport capabilities

Synopsis

```
int pci_find_next_ht_capability (struct pci_dev * dev, int
pos, int ht_cap);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device to query

pos

Position from which to continue searching

ht_cap

Hypertransport capability code

Description

To be used in conjunction with `pci_find_ht_capability` to search for all capabilities matching *ht_cap*. *pos* should always be a value returned from `pci_find_ht_capability`.

NB. To be 100% safe against broken PCI devices, the caller should take steps to avoid an infinite loop.

pci_find_ht_capability

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_find_ht_capability` — query a device's Hypertransport capabilities

Synopsis

```
int pci_find_ht_capability (struct pci_dev * dev, int ht_cap);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device to query

ht_cap

Hypertransport capability code

Description

Tell if a device supports a given Hypertransport capability. Returns an address within the device's PCI configuration space or 0 in case the device does not support the request capability. The address points to the PCI capability, of type PCI_CAP_ID_HT, which has a Hypertransport capability matching *ht_cap*.

pci_find_parent_resource

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_find_parent_resource — return resource region of parent bus of given region

Synopsis

```
struct resource * pci_find_parent_resource (const struct
pci_dev * dev, struct resource * res);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device structure contains resources to be searched

res

child resource record for which parent is sought

Description

For given resource region of given device, return the resource region of parent bus the given region is contained in or where it should be allocated from.

__pci_complete_power_transition

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__pci_complete_power_transition — Complete power transition of a PCI device

Synopsis

```
int __pci_complete_power_transition (struct pci_dev * dev,
pci_power_t state);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device to handle.

state

State to put the device into.

Description

This function should not be called directly by device drivers.

pci_set_power_state

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_set_power_state` — Set the power state of a PCI device

Synopsis

```
int pci_set_power_state (struct pci_dev * dev, pci_power_t
state);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device to handle.

state

PCI power state (D0, D1, D2, D3hot) to put the device into.

Description

Transition a device to a new power state, using the platform firmware and/or the device's PCI PM registers.

RETURN VALUE

-EINVAL if the requested state is invalid. -EIO if device does not support PCI PM or its PM capabilities register has a wrong version, or device doesn't support the

requested state. 0 if device already is in the requested state. 0 if device's power state has been successfully changed.

pci_choose_state

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_choose_state` — Choose the power state of a PCI device

Synopsis

```
pci_power_t pci_choose_state (struct pci_dev * dev,
pm_message_t state);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device to be suspended

state

target sleep state for the whole system. This is the value that is passed to `suspend` function.

Description

Returns PCI power state suitable for given device and given system message.

pci_save_state

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_save_state — save the PCI configuration space of a device before suspending

Synopsis

```
int pci_save_state (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

- PCI device that we're dealing with

pci_restore_state

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_restore_state — Restore the saved state of a PCI device

Synopsis

```
void pci_restore_state (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

- PCI device that we're dealing with

pci_store_saved_state

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_store_saved_state` — Allocate and return an opaque struct containing the device saved state.

Synopsis

```
struct pci_saved_state * pci_store_saved_state (struct pci_dev
* dev);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device that we're dealing with

Description

Rerturn NULL if no state or error.

pci_load_saved_state

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_load_saved_state` — Reload the provided save state into struct pci_dev.

Synopsis

```
int pci_load_saved_state (struct pci_dev * dev, struct
pci_saved_state * state);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device that we're dealing with

state

Saved state returned from `pci_store_saved_state`

pci_load_and_free_saved_state

LINUX

Name

`pci_load_and_free_saved_state` — Reload the save state pointed to by state, and free the memory allocated for it.

Synopsis

```
int pci_load_and_free_saved_state (struct pci_dev * dev,
struct pci_saved_state ** state);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device that we're dealing with

state

Pointer to saved state returned from `pci_store_saved_state`

pci_reenable_device

LINUX

Name

`pci_reenable_device` — Resume abandoned device

Synopsis

```
int pci_reenable_device (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device to be resumed

Description

Note this function is a backend of pci_default_resume and is not supposed to be called by normal code, write proper resume handler and use it instead.

pci_enable_device_io

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_enable_device_io — Initialize a device for use with IO space

Synopsis

```
int pci_enable_device_io (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device to be initialized

Description

Initialize device before it's used by a driver. Ask low-level code to enable I/O resources. Wake up the device if it was suspended. Beware, this function can fail.

pci_enable_device_mem

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_enable_device_mem — Initialize a device for use with Memory space

Synopsis

```
int pci_enable_device_mem (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device to be initialized

Description

Initialize device before it's used by a driver. Ask low-level code to enable Memory resources. Wake up the device if it was suspended. Beware, this function can fail.

pci_enable_device

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_enable_device` — Initialize device before it's used by a driver.

Synopsis

```
int pci_enable_device (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device to be initialized

Description

Initialize device before it's used by a driver. Ask low-level code to enable I/O and memory. Wake up the device if it was suspended. Beware, this function can fail.

Note we don't actually enable the device many times if we call this function repeatedly (we just increment the count).

pcim_enable_device

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pcim_enable_device` — Managed `pci_enable_device`

Synopsis

```
int pcim_enable_device (struct pci_dev * pdev);
```

Arguments

pdev

PCI device to be initialized

Description

Managed `pci_enable_device`.

pcim_pin_device

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pcim_pin_device` — Pin managed PCI device

Synopsis

```
void pcim_pin_device (struct pci_dev * pdev);
```

Arguments

pdev

PCI device to pin

Description

Pin managed PCI device *pdev*. Pinned device won't be disabled on driver detach. *pdev* must have been enabled with pcim_enable_device.

pci_disable_device

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_disable_device — Disable PCI device after use

Synopsis

```
void pci_disable_device (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device to be disabled

Description

Signal to the system that the PCI device is not in use by the system anymore. This only involves disabling PCI bus-mastering, if active.

Note we don't actually disable the device until all callers of `pci_enable_device` have called `pci_disable_device`.

pci_set_pcie_reset_state

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_set_pcie_reset_state` — set reset state for device dev

Synopsis

```
int pci_set_pcie_reset_state (struct pci_dev * dev, enum
pcie_reset_state state);
```

Arguments

dev

the PCIe device reset

state

Reset state to enter into

Description

Sets the PCI reset state for the device.

pci_pme_capable

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_pme_capable` — check the capability of PCI device to generate PME#

Synopsis

```
bool pci_pme_capable (struct pci_dev * dev, pci_power_t
state);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device to handle.

state

PCI state from which device will issue PME#.

pci_pme_active

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_pme_active — enable or disable PCI device's PME# function

Synopsis

```
void pci_pme_active (struct pci_dev * dev, bool enable);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device to handle.

enable

'true' to enable PME# generation; 'false' to disable it.

Description

The caller must verify that the device is capable of generating PME# before calling this function with *enable* equal to 'true'.

__pci_enable_wake

LINUX

Name

`__pci_enable_wake` — enable PCI device as wakeup event source

Synopsis

```
int __pci_enable_wake (struct pci_dev * dev, pci_power_t
state, bool runtime, bool enable);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device affected

state

PCI state from which device will issue wakeup events

runtime

True if the events are to be generated at run time

enable

True to enable event generation; false to disable

Description

This enables the device as a wakeup event source, or disables it. When such events involves platform-specific hooks, those hooks are called automatically by this routine.

Devices with legacy power management (no standard PCI PM capabilities) always require such platform hooks.

RETURN VALUE

0 is returned on success -EINVAL is returned if device is not supposed to wake up the system Error code depending on the platform is returned if both the platform and the native mechanism fail to enable the generation of wake-up events

pci_wake_from_d3

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_wake_from_d3` — enable/disable device to wake up from D3_hot or D3_cold

Synopsis

```
int pci_wake_from_d3 (struct pci_dev * dev, bool enable);
```

Arguments

`dev`

PCI device to prepare

`enable`

True to enable wake-up event generation; false to disable

Description

Many drivers want the device to wake up the system from D3_hot or D3_cold and this function allows them to set that up cleanly - `pci_enable_wake` should not be

called twice in a row to enable wake-up due to PCI PM vs ACPI ordering constraints.

This function only returns error code if the device is not capable of generating PME# from both D3_hot and D3_cold, and the platform is unable to enable wake-up power for it.

pci_target_state

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_target_state` — find an appropriate low power state for a given PCI dev

Synopsis

```
pci_power_t pci_target_state (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device

Description

Use underlying platform code to find a supported low power state for *dev*. If the platform can't manage *dev*, return the deepest state from which it can generate wake events, based on any available PME info.

pci_prepare_to_sleep

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_prepare_to_sleep — prepare PCI device for system-wide transition into a sleep state

Synopsis

```
int pci_prepare_to_sleep (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

Device to handle.

Description

Choose the power state appropriate for the device depending on whether it can wake up the system and/or is power manageable by the platform (PCI_D3hot is the default) and put the device into that state.

pci_back_from_sleep

LINUX

Name

`pci_back_from_sleep` — turn PCI device on during system-wide transition into working state

Synopsis

```
int pci_back_from_sleep (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

`dev`

Device to handle.

Description

Disable device's system wake-up capability and put it into D0.

pci_dev_run_wake

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_dev_run_wake` — Check if device can generate run-time wake-up events.

Synopsis

```
bool pci_dev_run_wake (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

Device to check.

Description

Return true if the device itself is cabable of generating wake-up events (through the platform or using the native PCIe PME) or if the device supports PME and one of its upstream bridges can generate wake-up events.

pci_enable_ido

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_enable_ido — enable ID-based ordering on a device

Synopsis

```
void pci_enable_ido (struct pci_dev * dev, unsigned long
type);
```

Arguments

dev

the PCI device

type

which types of IDO to enable

Description

Enable ID-based ordering on *dev*. *type* can contain the bits PCI_EXP_IDO_REQUEST and/or PCI_EXP_IDO_COMPLETION to indicate which types of transactions are allowed to be re-ordered.

pci_disable_ido

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_disable_ido — disable ID-based ordering on a device

Synopsis

```
void pci_disable_ido (struct pci_dev * dev, unsigned long
type);
```

Arguments

dev

the PCI device

type

which types of IDO to disable

pci_enable_obff

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_enable_obff` — enable optimized buffer flush/fill

Synopsis

```
int pci_enable_obff (struct pci_dev * dev, enum
pci_obff_signal_type type);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device

type

type of signaling to use

Description

Try to enable *type* OBFF signaling on *dev*. It will try using WAKE# signaling if possible, falling back to message signaling only if WAKE# isn't supported. *type* should indicate whether the PCIe link be brought out of L0s or L1 to send the message. It should be either `PCI_EXP_OBFF_SIGNAL_ALWAYS` or `PCI_OBFF_SIGNAL_L0`.

If your device can benefit from receiving all messages, even at the power cost of bringing the link back up from a low power state, use `PCI_EXP_OBFF_SIGNAL_ALWAYS`. Otherwise, use `PCI_OBFF_SIGNAL_L0` (the preferred type).

RETURNS

Zero on success, appropriate error number on failure.

pci_disable_obff

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_disable_obff` — disable optimized buffer flush/fill

Synopsis

```
void pci_disable_obff (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device

Description

Disable OBFF on *dev*.

pci_ltr_supported

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_ltr_supported — check whether a device supports LTR

Synopsis

```
bool pci_ltr_supported (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device

RETURNS

True if *dev* supports latency tolerance reporting, false otherwise.

pci_enable_ltr

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_enable_ltr` — enable latency tolerance reporting

Synopsis

```
int pci_enable_ltr (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device

Description

Enable LTR on *dev* if possible, which means enabling it first on upstream ports.

RETURNS

Zero on success, errno on failure.

pci_disable_ltr

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_disable_ltr — disable latency tolerance reporting

Synopsis

```
void pci_disable_ltr (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device

pci_set_ltr

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_set_ltr — set LTR latency values

Synopsis

```
int pci_set_ltr (struct pci_dev * dev, int snoop_lat_ns, int
nosnoop_lat_ns);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device

snoop_lat_ns

snoop latency in nanoseconds

nosnoop_lat_ns

nosnoop latency in nanoseconds

Description

Figure out the scale and set the LTR values accordingly.

pci_release_region

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_release_region` — Release a PCI bar

Synopsis

```
void pci_release_region (struct pci_dev * pdev, int bar);
```

Arguments

pdev

PCI device whose resources were previously reserved by pci_request_region

bar

BAR to release

Description

Releases the PCI I/O and memory resources previously reserved by a successful call to pci_request_region. Call this function only after all use of the PCI regions has ceased.

pci_request_region

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_request_region — Reserve PCI I/O and memory resource

Synopsis

```
int pci_request_region (struct pci_dev * pdev, int bar, const
char * res_name);
```

Arguments

pdev

PCI device whose resources are to be reserved

bar

BAR to be reserved

res_name

Name to be associated with resource

Description

Mark the PCI region associated with PCI device *pdev* BAR *bar* as being reserved by owner *res_name*. Do not access any address inside the PCI regions unless this call returns successfully.

Returns 0 on success, or EBUSY on error. A warning message is also printed on failure.

pci_request_region_exclusive

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_request_region_exclusive — Reserved PCI I/O and memory resource

Synopsis

```
int pci_request_region_exclusive (struct pci_dev * pdev, int
bar, const char * res_name);
```

Arguments

pdev

PCI device whose resources are to be reserved

bar

BAR to be reserved

res_name

Name to be associated with resource.

Description

Mark the PCI region associated with PCI device *pdev* BR *bar* as being reserved by owner *res_name*. Do not access any address inside the PCI regions unless this call returns successfully.

Returns 0 on success, or EBUSY on error. A warning message is also printed on failure.

The key difference that _exclusive makes it that userspace is explicitly not allowed to map the resource via /dev/mem or sysfs.

pci_release_selected_regions

LINUX

Name

`pci_release_selected_regions` — Release selected PCI I/O and memory resources

Synopsis

```
void pci_release_selected_regions (struct pci_dev * pdev, int bars);
```

Arguments

pdev

PCI device whose resources were previously reserved

bars

Bitmask of BARs to be released

Description

Release selected PCI I/O and memory resources previously reserved. Call this function only after all use of the PCI regions has ceased.

pci_request_selected_regions

LINUX

Name

`pci_request_selected_regions` — Reserve selected PCI I/O and memory resources

Synopsis

```
int pci_request_selected_regions (struct pci_dev * pdev, int
bars, const char * res_name);
```

Arguments

pdev

PCI device whose resources are to be reserved

bars

Bitmask of BARs to be requested

res_name

Name to be associated with resource

pci_release_regions

LINUX

Name

`pci_release_regions` — Release reserved PCI I/O and memory resources

Synopsis

```
void pci_release_regions (struct pci_dev * pdev);
```

Arguments

pdev

PCI device whose resources were previously reserved by pci_request_regions

Description

Releases all PCI I/O and memory resources previously reserved by a successful call to pci_request_regions. Call this function only after all use of the PCI regions has ceased.

pci_request_regions

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_request_regions — Reserved PCI I/O and memory resources

Synopsis

```
int pci_request_regions (struct pci_dev * pdev, const char *
res_name);
```

Arguments

pdev

PCI device whose resources are to be reserved

res_name

Name to be associated with resource.

Description

Mark all PCI regions associated with PCI device *pdev* as being reserved by owner *res_name*. Do not access any address inside the PCI regions unless this call returns successfully.

Returns 0 on success, or EBUSY on error. A warning message is also printed on failure.

pci_request_regions_exclusive

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_request_regions_exclusive — Reserved PCI I/O and memory resources

Synopsis

```
int pci_request_regions_exclusive (struct pci_dev * pdev,
const char * res_name);
```

Arguments

pdev

PCI device whose resources are to be reserved

res_name

Name to be associated with resource.

Description

Mark all PCI regions associated with PCI device *pdev* as being reserved by owner *res_name*. Do not access any address inside the PCI regions unless this call returns successfully.

pci_request_regions_exclusive will mark the region so that /dev/mem and the sysfs MMIO access will not be allowed.

Returns 0 on success, or EBUSY on error. A warning message is also printed on failure.

pci_set_master

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_set_master — enables bus-mastering for device dev

Synopsis

```
void pci_set_master (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

the PCI device to enable

Description

Enables bus-mastering on the device and calls `pcibios_set_master` to do the needed arch specific settings.

pci_clear_master

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_clear_master` — disables bus-mastering for device dev

Synopsis

```
void pci_clear_master (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

the PCI device to disable

pci_set_cacheline_size

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_set_cacheline_size` — ensure the CACHE_LINE_SIZE register is programmed

Synopsis

```
int pci_set_cacheline_size (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

`dev`

the PCI device for which MWI is to be enabled

Description

Helper function for pci_set_mwi. Originally copied from drivers/net/acenic.c. Copyright 1998-2001 by Jes Sorensen, <jes*`trained`*-monkey.org>.

RETURNS

An appropriate -ERRNO error value on error, or zero for success.

pci_set_mwi

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_set_mwi — enables memory-write-invalidate PCI transaction

Synopsis

```
int pci_set_mwi (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

the PCI device for which MWI is enabled

Description

Enables the Memory-Write-Invalidate transaction in PCI_COMMAND.

RETURNS

An appropriate -ERRNO error value on error, or zero for success.

pci_try_set_mwi

LINUX

Name

`pci_try_set_mwi` — enables memory-write-invalidate PCI transaction

Synopsis

```
int pci_try_set_mwi (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

`dev`

the PCI device for which MWI is enabled

Description

Enables the Memory-Write-Invalidate transaction in `PCI_COMMAND`. Callers are not required to check the return value.

RETURNS

An appropriate -ERRNO error value on error, or zero for success.

pci_clear_mwi

LINUX

Name

`pci_clear_mwi` — disables Memory-Write-Invalidate for device dev

Synopsis

```
void pci_clear_mwi (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

the PCI device to disable

Description

Disables PCI Memory-Write-Invalidate transaction on the device

pci_intx

LINUX

Name

`pci_intx` — enables/disables PCI INTx for device dev

Synopsis

```
void pci_intx (struct pci_dev * pdev, int enable);
```

Arguments

pdev

the PCI device to operate on

enable

boolean: whether to enable or disable PCI INTx

Description

Enables/disables PCI INTx for device dev

pci_msi_off

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_msi_off — disables any msi or msix capabilities

Synopsis

```
void pci_msi_off (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

the PCI device to operate on

Description

If you want to use msi see pci_enable_msi and friends. This is a lower level primitive that allows us to disable msi operation at the device level.

__pci_reset_function

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`__pci_reset_function` — reset a PCI device function

Synopsis

```
int __pci_reset_function (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device to reset

Description

Some devices allow an individual function to be reset without affecting other functions in the same device. The PCI device must be responsive to PCI config space in order to use this function.

The device function is presumed to be unused when this function is called. Resetting the device will make the contents of PCI configuration space random, so any caller of this must be prepared to reinitialise the device including MSI, bus mastering, BARs, decoding IO and memory spaces, etc.

Returns 0 if the device function was successfully reset or negative if the device doesn't support resetting a single function.

pci_reset_function

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_reset_function` — quiesce and reset a PCI device function

Synopsis

```
int pci_reset_function (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device to reset

Description

Some devices allow an individual function to be reset without affecting other functions in the same device. The PCI device must be responsive to PCI config space in order to use this function.

This function does not just reset the PCI portion of a device, but clears all the state associated with the device. This function differs from __pci_reset_function in that it saves and restores device state over the reset.

Returns 0 if the device function was successfully reset or negative if the device doesn't support resetting a single function.

pcix_get_max_mmrbc

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pcix_get_max_mmrbc` — get PCI-X maximum designed memory read byte count

Synopsis

```
int pcix_get_max_mmrbc (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device to query

Returns mmrbc

maximum designed memory read count in bytes or appropriate error value.

pcix_get_mmrbc

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pcix_get_mmrbc` — get PCI-X maximum memory read byte count

Synopsis

```
int pcix_get_mmrbc (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device to query

Returns mmrbc

maximum memory read count in bytes or appropriate error value.

pcix_set_mmrbc

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pcix_set_mmrbc — set PCI-X maximum memory read byte count

Synopsis

```
int pcix_set_mmrbc (struct pci_dev * dev, int mmrbc);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device to query

mmrbc

maximum memory read count in bytes valid values are 512, 1024, 2048, 4096

Description

If possible sets maximum memory read byte count, some bridges have erratas that prevent this.

pcie_get_readrq

LINUX

Name

`pcie_get_readrq` — get PCI Express read request size

Synopsis

```
int pcie_get_readrq (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

`dev`

PCI device to query

Description

Returns maximum memory read request in bytes or appropriate error value.

pcie_set_readrq

LINUX

Name

`pcie_set_readrq` — set PCI Express maximum memory read request

Synopsis

```
int pcie_set_readrq (struct pci_dev * dev, int rq);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device to query

rq

maximum memory read count in bytes valid values are 128, 256, 512, 1024, 2048, 4096

Description

If possible sets maximum read byte count

pcie_get_minimum_link

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pcie_get_minimum_link` — determine minimum link settings of a PCI device

Synopsis

```
int pcie_get_minimum_link (struct pci_dev * dev, enum
pci_bus_speed * speed, enum pcie_link_width * width);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI device to query

speed

storage for minimum speed

width

storage for minimum width

Description

This function will walk up the PCI device chain and determine the minimum link width and speed of the device.

pci_select_bars

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_select_bars` — Make BAR mask from the type of resource

Synopsis

```
int pci_select_bars (struct pci_dev * dev, unsigned long
flags);
```

Arguments

dev

the PCI device for which BAR mask is made

flags

resource type mask to be selected

Description

This helper routine makes bar mask from the type of resource.

pci_add_dynid

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_add_dynid — add a new PCI device ID to this driver and re-probe devices

Synopsis

```
int pci_add_dynid (struct pci_driver * drv, unsigned int
vendor, unsigned int device, unsigned int subvendor, unsigned
int subdevice, unsigned int class, unsigned int class_mask,
unsigned long driver_data);
```

Arguments

drv

target pci driver

vendor

PCI vendor ID

device

PCI device ID

subvendor

PCI subvendor ID

subdevice

PCI subdevice ID

class

PCI class

class_mask

PCI class mask

driver_data

private driver data

Description

Adds a new dynamic pci device ID to this driver and causes the driver to probe for all devices again. *drv* must have been registered prior to calling this function.

CONTEXT

Does GFP_KERNEL allocation.

RETURNS

0 on success, -errno on failure.

pci_match_id

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_match_id` — See if a pci device matches a given pci_id table

Synopsis

```
const struct pci_device_id * pci_match_id (const struct
pci_device_id * ids, struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

ids

array of PCI device id structures to search in

dev

the PCI device structure to match against.

Description

Used by a driver to check whether a PCI device present in the system is in its list of supported devices. Returns the matching pci_device_id structure or `NULL` if there is no match.

Deprecated, don't use this as it will not catch any dynamic ids that a driver might want to check for.

__pci_register_driver

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__pci_register_driver — register a new pci driver

Synopsis

```
int __pci_register_driver (struct pci_driver * drv, struct
module * owner, const char * mod_name);
```

Arguments

drv

the driver structure to register

owner

owner module of drv

mod_name

module name string

Description

Adds the driver structure to the list of registered drivers. Returns a negative value on error, otherwise 0. If no error occurred, the driver remains registered even if no device was claimed during registration.

pci_unregister_driver

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_unregister_driver` — unregister a pci driver

Synopsis

```
void pci_unregister_driver (struct pci_driver * drv);
```

Arguments

drv

the driver structure to unregister

Description

Deletes the driver structure from the list of registered PCI drivers, gives it a chance to clean up by calling its `remove` function for each device it was responsible for, and marks those devices as driverless.

pci_dev_driver

LINUX

Name

`pci_dev_driver` — get the pci_driver of a device

Synopsis

```
struct pci_driver * pci_dev_driver (const struct pci_dev *
dev);
```

Arguments

dev

the device to query

Description

Returns the appropriate pci_driver structure or `NULL` if there is no registered driver for the device.

pci_dev_get

LINUX

Name

`pci_dev_get` — increments the reference count of the pci device structure

Synopsis

```
struct pci_dev * pci_dev_get (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

the device being referenced

Description

Each live reference to a device should be refcounted.

Drivers for PCI devices should normally record such references in their `probe` methods, when they bind to a device, and release them by calling `pci_dev_put`, in their `disconnect` methods.

A pointer to the device with the incremented reference counter is returned.

pci_dev_put

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_dev_put` — release a use of the pci device structure

Synopsis

```
void pci_dev_put (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

device that's been disconnected

Description

Must be called when a user of a device is finished with it. When the last user of the device calls this function, the memory of the device is freed.

pci_remove_bus_device

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_remove_bus_device` — remove a PCI device and any children

Synopsis

```
void pci_remove_bus_device (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

the device to remove

Description

Remove a PCI device from the device lists, informing the drivers that the device has been removed. We also remove any subordinate buses and children in a depth-first manner.

For each device we remove, delete the device structure from the device lists, remove the /proc entry, and notify userspace (/sbin/hotplug).

pci_remove_behind_bridge

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_remove_behind_bridge` — remove all devices behind a PCI bridge

Synopsis

```
void pci_remove_behind_bridge (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

PCI bridge device

Description

Remove all devices on the bus, except for the parent bridge. This also removes any child buses, and any devices they may contain in a depth-first manner.

pci_stop_bus_device

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_stop_bus_device — stop a PCI device and any children

Synopsis

```
void pci_stop_bus_device (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

the device to stop

Description

Stop a PCI device (detach the driver, remove from the global list and so on). This also stop any subordinate buses and children in a depth-first manner.

pci_find_bus

LINUX

Name

`pci_find_bus` — locate PCI bus from a given domain and bus number

Synopsis

```
struct pci_bus * pci_find_bus (int domain, int busnr);
```

Arguments

`domain`

number of PCI domain to search

`busnr`

number of desired PCI bus

Description

Given a PCI bus number and domain number, the desired PCI bus is located in the global list of PCI buses. If the bus is found, a pointer to its data structure is returned. If no bus is found, `NULL` is returned.

pci_find_next_bus

LINUX

Name

`pci_find_next_bus` — begin or continue searching for a PCI bus

Synopsis

```
struct pci_bus * pci_find_next_bus (const struct pci_bus *
from);
```

Arguments

`from`

Previous PCI bus found, or `NULL` for new search.

Description

Iterates through the list of known PCI busses. A new search is initiated by passing `NULL` as the *`from`* argument. Otherwise if *`from`* is not `NULL`, searches continue from next device on the global list.

pci_get_slot

LINUX

Name

`pci_get_slot` — locate PCI device for a given PCI slot

Synopsis

```
struct pci_dev * pci_get_slot (struct pci_bus * bus, unsigned
int devfn);
```

Arguments

bus

PCI bus on which desired PCI device resides

devfn

encodes number of PCI slot in which the desired PCI device resides and the logical device number within that slot in case of multi-function devices.

Description

Given a PCI bus and slot/function number, the desired PCI device is located in the list of PCI devices. If the device is found, its reference count is increased and this function returns a pointer to its data structure. The caller must decrement the reference count by calling `pci_dev_put`. If no device is found, `NULL` is returned.

pci_get_domain_bus_and_slot

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_get_domain_bus_and_slot` — locate PCI device for a given PCI domain (segment), bus, and slot

Synopsis

```
struct pci_dev * pci_get_domain_bus_and_slot (int domain,
unsigned int bus, unsigned int devfn);
```

Arguments

domain

PCI domain/segment on which the PCI device resides.

bus

PCI bus on which desired PCI device resides

devfn

encodes number of PCI slot in which the desired PCI device resides and the logical device number within that slot in case of multi-function devices.

Description

Given a PCI domain, bus, and slot/function number, the desired PCI device is located in the list of PCI devices. If the device is found, its reference count is increased and this function returns a pointer to its data structure. The caller must decrement the reference count by calling `pci_dev_put`. If no device is found, `NULL` is returned.

pci_get_subsys

LINUX

Name

`pci_get_subsys` — begin or continue searching for a PCI device by vendor/subvendor/device/subdevice id

Synopsis

```
struct pci_dev * pci_get_subsys (unsigned int vendor, unsigned
int device, unsigned int ss_vendor, unsigned int ss_device,
struct pci_dev * from);
```

Arguments

`vendor`

PCI vendor id to match, or `PCI_ANY_ID` to match all vendor ids

`device`

PCI device id to match, or `PCI_ANY_ID` to match all device ids

`ss_vendor`

PCI subsystem vendor id to match, or `PCI_ANY_ID` to match all vendor ids

`ss_device`

PCI subsystem device id to match, or `PCI_ANY_ID` to match all device ids

`from`

Previous PCI device found in search, or `NULL` for new search.

Description

Iterates through the list of known PCI devices. If a PCI device is found with a matching *`vendor`*, *`device`*, *`ss_vendor`* and *`ss_device`*, a pointer to its device structure is returned, and the reference count to the device is incremented. Otherwise, `NULL` is returned. A new search is initiated by passing `NULL` as the *`from`*

argument. Otherwise if *from* is not NULL, searches continue from next device on the global list. The reference count for *from* is always decremented if it is not NULL.

pci_get_device

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_get_device — begin or continue searching for a PCI device by vendor/device id

Synopsis

```
struct pci_dev * pci_get_device (unsigned int vendor, unsigned
int device, struct pci_dev * from);
```

Arguments

vendor

PCI vendor id to match, or PCI_ANY_ID to match all vendor ids

device

PCI device id to match, or PCI_ANY_ID to match all device ids

from

Previous PCI device found in search, or NULL for new search.

Description

Iterates through the list of known PCI devices. If a PCI device is found with a matching *vendor* and *device*, the reference count to the device is incremented and a pointer to its device structure is returned. Otherwise, NULL is returned. A new search is initiated by passing NULL as the *from* argument. Otherwise if *from* is not NULL, searches continue from next device on the global list. The reference count for *from* is always decremented if it is not NULL.

pci_get_class

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_get_class — begin or continue searching for a PCI device by class

Synopsis

```
struct pci_dev * pci_get_class (unsigned int class, struct
pci_dev * from);
```

Arguments

class

search for a PCI device with this class designation

from

Previous PCI device found in search, or NULL for new search.

Description

Iterates through the list of known PCI devices. If a PCI device is found with a matching *class*, the reference count to the device is incremented and a pointer to its device structure is returned. Otherwise, NULL is returned. A new search is initiated by passing NULL as the *from* argument. Otherwise if *from* is not NULL, searches continue from next device on the global list. The reference count for *from* is always decremented if it is not NULL.

pci_dev_present

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_dev_present — Returns 1 if device matching the device list is present, 0 if not.

Synopsis

```
int pci_dev_present (const struct pci_device_id * ids);
```

Arguments

ids

A pointer to a null terminated list of struct pci_device_id structures that describe the type of PCI device the caller is trying to find.

Obvious fact

You do not have a reference to any device that might be found by this function, so if that device is removed from the system right after this function is finished, the value will be stale. Use this function to find devices that are usually built into a system, or for a general hint as to if another device happens to be present at this specific moment in time.

pci_enable_msi_block

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_enable_msi_block` — configure device's MSI capability structure

Synopsis

```
int pci_enable_msi_block (struct pci_dev * dev, unsigned int
nvec);
```

Arguments

dev

device to configure

nvec

number of interrupts to configure

Description

Allocate IRQs for a device with the MSI capability. This function returns a negative errno if an error occurs. If it is unable to allocate the number of interrupts requested, it returns the number of interrupts it might be able to allocate. If it successfully allocates at least the number of interrupts requested, it returns 0 and updates the *dev*'s irq member to the lowest new interrupt number; the other interrupt numbers allocated to this device are consecutive.

pci_enable_msix

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_enable_msix — configure device's MSI-X capability structure

Synopsis

```
int pci_enable_msix (struct pci_dev * dev, struct msix_entry *
entries, int nvec);
```

Arguments

dev

pointer to the pci_dev data structure of MSI-X device function

entries

pointer to an array of MSI-X entries

nvec

number of MSI-X irqs requested for allocation by device driver

Description

Setup the MSI-X capability structure of device function with the number of requested irqs upon its software driver call to request for MSI-X mode enabled on its hardware device function. A return of zero indicates the successful configuration of MSI-X capability structure with new allocated MSI-X irqs. A return of < 0 indicates a failure. Or a return of > 0 indicates that driver request is exceeding the number of irqs or MSI-X vectors available. Driver should use the returned value to re-send its request.

pci_msi_enabled

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_msi_enabled` — is MSI enabled?

Synopsis

```
int pci_msi_enabled ( void);
```

Arguments

void

no arguments

Description

Returns true if MSI has not been disabled by the command-line option pci=nomsi.

pci_enable_msi_range

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_enable_msi_range` — configure device's MSI capability structure

Synopsis

```
int pci_enable_msi_range (struct pci_dev * dev, int minvec,
int maxvec);
```

Arguments

dev

device to configure

minvec

minimal number of interrupts to configure

maxvec

maximum number of interrupts to configure

Description

This function tries to allocate a maximum possible number of interrupts in a range between *minvec* and *maxvec*. It returns a negative errno if an error occurs. If it succeeds, it returns the actual number of interrupts allocated and updates the *dev*'s irq member to the lowest new interrupt number; the other interrupt numbers allocated to this device are consecutive.

pci_enable_msix_range

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_enable_msix_range — configure device's MSI-X capability structure

Synopsis

```
int pci_enable_msix_range (struct pci_dev * dev, struct
msix_entry * entries, int minvec, int maxvec);
```

Arguments

dev

pointer to the pci_dev data structure of MSI-X device function

entries

pointer to an array of MSI-X entries

minvec

minimum number of MSI-X irqs requested

maxvec

maximum number of MSI-X irqs requested

Description

Setup the MSI-X capability structure of device function with a maximum possible number of interrupts in the range between *minvec* and *maxvec* upon its software driver call to request for MSI-X mode enabled on its hardware device function. It returns a negative errno if an error occurs. If it succeeds, it returns the actual number of interrupts allocated and indicates the successful configuration of MSI-X capability structure with new allocated MSI-X interrupts.

pci_bus_alloc_resource

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_bus_alloc_resource — allocate a resource from a parent bus

Synopsis

```
int pci_bus_alloc_resource (struct pci_bus * bus, struct
resource * res, resource_size_t size, resource_size_t align,
resource_size_t min, unsigned int type_mask, resource_size_t
(*alignf) (void *, const struct resource *, resource_size_t,
resource_size_t), void * alignf_data);
```

Arguments

bus

PCI bus

res

resource to allocate

size

size of resource to allocate

align

alignment of resource to allocate

min

minimum /proc/iomem address to allocate

type_mask

IORESOURCE_* type flags

alignf

resource alignment function

alignf_data

data argument for resource alignment function

Description

Given the PCI bus a device resides on, the size, minimum address, alignment and type, try to find an acceptable resource allocation for a specific device resource.

pci_bus_add_device

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_bus_add_device` — add a single device

Synopsis

```
int pci_bus_add_device (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

device to add

Description

This adds a single pci device to the global device list and adds sysfs and procfs entries

pci_bus_add_devices

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_bus_add_devices — insert newly discovered PCI devices

Synopsis

```
void pci_bus_add_devices (const struct pci_bus * bus);
```

Arguments

bus

bus to check for new devices

Description

Add newly discovered PCI devices (which are on the bus->devices list) to the global PCI device list, add the sysfs and procfs entries. Where a bridge is found, add the discovered bus to the parents list of child buses, and recurse (breadth-first to be compatible with 2.4)

Call hotplug for each new devices.

pci_bus_set_ops

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_bus_set_ops` — Set raw operations of pci bus

Synopsis

```
struct pci_ops * pci_bus_set_ops (struct pci_bus * bus, struct
pci_ops * ops);
```

Arguments

bus

pci bus struct

ops

new raw operations

Description

Return previous raw operations

pci_read_vpd

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_read_vpd` — Read one entry from Vital Product Data

Synopsis

```
ssize_t pci_read_vpd (struct pci_dev * dev, loff_t pos, size_t
count, void * buf);
```

Arguments

dev

pci device struct

pos

offset in vpd space

count

number of bytes to read

buf

pointer to where to store result

pci_write_vpd

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_write_vpd` — Write entry to Vital Product Data

Synopsis

```
ssize_t pci_write_vpd (struct pci_dev * dev, loff_t pos,
size_t count, const void * buf);
```

Arguments

dev

pci device struct

pos

offset in vpd space

count

number of bytes to write

buf

buffer containing write data

pci_set_vpd_size

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_set_vpd_size` — Set size of Vital Product Data space

Synopsis

```
int pci_set_vpd_size (struct pci_dev * dev, size_t len);
```

Arguments

dev

pci device struct

len

size of vpd space

pci_vpd_truncate

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_vpd_truncate` — Set available Vital Product Data size

Synopsis

```
int pci_vpd_truncate (struct pci_dev * dev, size_t size);
```

Arguments

dev

pci device struct

size

available memory in bytes

Description

Adjust size of available VPD area.

pci_block_user_cfg_access

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_block_user_cfg_access — Block userspace PCI config reads/writes

Synopsis

```
void pci_block_user_cfg_access (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

pci device struct

Description

When user access is blocked, any reads or writes to config space will sleep until access is unblocked again. We don't allow nesting of block/unblock calls.

pci_unblock_user_cfg_access

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_unblock_user_cfg_access` — Unblock userspace PCI config reads/writes

Synopsis

```
void pci_unblock_user_cfg_access (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

pci device struct

Description

This function allows userspace PCI config accesses to resume.

pci_lost_interrupt

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_lost_interrupt` — reports a lost PCI interrupt

Synopsis

```
enum pci_lost_interrupt_reason pci_lost_interrupt (struct
pci_dev * pdev);
```

Arguments

pdev

device whose interrupt is lost

Description

The primary function of this routine is to report a lost interrupt in a standard way which users can recognise (instead of blaming the driver).

Returns

a suggestion for fixing it (although the driver is not required to act on this).

__ht_create_irq

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__ht_create_irq — create an irq and attach it to a device.

Synopsis

```
int __ht_create_irq (struct pci_dev * dev, int idx,
ht_irq_update_t * update);
```

Arguments

dev

The hypertransport device to find the irq capability on.

idx

Which of the possible irqs to attach to.

update

Function to be called when changing the htirq message

Description

The irq number of the new irq or a negative error value is returned.

ht_create_irq

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

ht_create_irq — create an irq and attach it to a device.

Synopsis

```
int ht_create_irq (struct pci_dev * dev, int idx);
```

Arguments

dev

The hypertransport device to find the irq capability on.

idx

Which of the possible irqs to attach to.

Description

ht_create_irq needs to be called for all hypertransport devices that generate irqs.

The irq number of the new irq or a negative error value is returned.

ht_destroy_irq

LINUX

Name

`ht_destroy_irq` — destroy an irq created with ht_create_irq

Synopsis

```
void ht_destroy_irq (unsigned int irq);
```

Arguments

`irq`

irq to be destroyed

Description

This reverses ht_create_irq removing the specified irq from existence. The irq should be free before this happens.

pci_scan_slot

LINUX

Name

`pci_scan_slot` — scan a PCI slot on a bus for devices.

Synopsis

```
int pci_scan_slot (struct pci_bus * bus, int devfn);
```

Arguments

bus

PCI bus to scan

devfn

slot number to scan (must have zero function.)

Description

Scan a PCI slot on the specified PCI bus for devices, adding discovered devices to the *bus*->devices list. New devices will not have is_added set.

Returns the number of new devices found.

pci_rescan_bus

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_rescan_bus — scan a PCI bus for devices.

Synopsis

```
unsigned int __ref pci_rescan_bus (struct pci_bus * bus);
```

Arguments

bus

PCI bus to scan

Description

Scan a PCI bus and child buses for new devices, adds them, and enables them.

Returns the max number of subordinate bus discovered.

pci_create_slot

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_create_slot` — create or increment refcount for physical PCI slot

Synopsis

```
struct pci_slot * pci_create_slot (struct pci_bus * parent,
int slot_nr, const char * name, struct hotplug_slot *
hotplug);
```

Arguments

parent

struct pci_bus of parent bridge

slot_nr

PCI_SLOT(pci_dev->devfn) or -1 for placeholder

name

user visible string presented in /sys/bus/pci/slots/<name>

hotplug

set if caller is hotplug driver, NULL otherwise

Description

PCI slots have first class attributes such as address, speed, width, and a struct pci_slot is used to manage them. This interface will either return a new struct pci_slot to the caller, or if the pci_slot already exists, its refcount will be incremented.

Slots are uniquely identified by a *pci_bus*, *slot_nr* tuple.

There are known platforms with broken firmware that assign the same name to multiple slots. Workaround these broken platforms by renaming the slots on behalf of the caller. If firmware assigns name N to

multiple slots

The first slot is assigned N The second slot is assigned N-1 The third slot is assigned N-2 etc.

Placeholder slots

In most cases, *pci_bus*, *slot_nr* will be sufficient to uniquely identify a slot. There is one notable exception - pSeries (rpaphp), where the *slot_nr* cannot be determined until a device is actually inserted into the slot. In this scenario, the caller may pass -1 for *slot_nr*.

The following semantics are imposed when the caller passes *slot_nr* == -1. First, we no longer check for an existing struct pci_slot, as there may be many slots with *slot_nr* of -1. The other change in semantics is user-visible, which is the 'address' parameter presented in sysfs will

consist solely of a dddd

bb tuple, where dddd is the PCI domain of the struct pci_bus and bb is the bus number. In other words, the devfn of the 'placeholder' slot will not be displayed.

pci_renumber_slot

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_renumber_slot — update struct pci_slot -> number

Synopsis

```
void pci_renumber_slot (struct pci_slot * slot, int slot_nr);
```

Arguments

slot

struct pci_slot to update

slot_nr

new number for slot

Description

The primary purpose of this interface is to allow callers who earlier created a placeholder slot in `pci_create_slot` by passing a -1 as slot_nr, to update their `struct` pci_slot with the correct *`slot_nr`*.

pci_destroy_slot

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_destroy_slot` — decrement refcount for physical PCI slot

Synopsis

```
void pci_destroy_slot (struct pci_slot * slot);
```

Arguments

`slot`

struct pci_slot to decrement

Description

`struct` pci_slot is refcounted, so destroying them is really easy; we just call kobject_put on its kobj and let our release methods do the rest.

pci_hp_create_module_link

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_hp_create_module_link` — create symbolic link to the hotplug driver module.

Synopsis

```
void pci_hp_create_module_link (struct pci_slot * pci_slot);
```

Arguments

`pci_slot`

struct pci_slot

Description

Helper function for pci_hotplug_core.c to create symbolic link to the hotplug driver module.

pci_hp_remove_module_link

LINUX

Name

pci_hp_remove_module_link — remove symbolic link to the hotplug driver module.

Synopsis

```
void pci_hp_remove_module_link (struct pci_slot * pci_slot);
```

Arguments

pci_slot

struct pci_slot

Description

Helper function for pci_hotplug_core.c to remove symbolic link to the hotplug driver module.

pci_enable_rom

LINUX

Name

pci_enable_rom — enable ROM decoding for a PCI device

Synopsis

```
int pci_enable_rom (struct pci_dev * pdev);
```

Arguments

pdev

PCI device to enable

Description

Enable ROM decoding on *dev*. This involves simply turning on the last bit of the PCI ROM BAR. Note that some cards may share address decoders between the ROM and other resources, so enabling it may disable access to MMIO registers or other card memory.

pci_disable_rom

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_disable_rom — disable ROM decoding for a PCI device

Synopsis

```
void pci_disable_rom (struct pci_dev * pdev);
```

Arguments

pdev

PCI device to disable

Description

Disable ROM decoding on a PCI device by turning off the last bit in the ROM BAR.

pci_map_rom

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_map_rom — map a PCI ROM to kernel space

Synopsis

```
void __iomem * pci_map_rom (struct pci_dev * pdev, size_t *
size);
```

Arguments

pdev

pointer to pci device struct

size

pointer to receive size of pci window over ROM

Return

kernel virtual pointer to image of ROM

Map a PCI ROM into kernel space. If ROM is boot video ROM, the shadow BIOS copy will be returned instead of the actual ROM.

pci_unmap_rom

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_unmap_rom` — unmap the ROM from kernel space

Synopsis

```
void pci_unmap_rom (struct pci_dev * pdev, void __iomem *
rom);
```

Arguments

pdev

pointer to pci device struct

rom

virtual address of the previous mapping

Description

Remove a mapping of a previously mapped ROM

pci_enable_sriov

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_enable_sriov` — enable the SR-IOV capability

Synopsis

```
int pci_enable_sriov (struct pci_dev * dev, int nr_virtfn);
```

Arguments

dev

the PCI device

nr_virtfn

number of virtual functions to enable

Description

Returns 0 on success, or negative on failure.

pci_disable_sriov

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_disable_sriov` — disable the SR-IOV capability

Synopsis

```
void pci_disable_sriov (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

the PCI device

pci_sriov_migration

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_sriov_migration` — notify SR-IOV core of Virtual Function Migration

Synopsis

```
irqreturn_t pci_sriov_migration (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

the PCI device

Description

Returns IRQ_HANDLED if the IRQ is handled, or IRQ_NONE if not.

Physical Function driver is responsible to register IRQ handler using VF Migration Interrupt Message Number, and call this function when the interrupt is generated by the hardware.

pci_num_vf

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_num_vf` — return number of VFs associated with a PF device_release_driver

Synopsis

```
int pci_num_vf (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

the PCI device

Description

Returns number of VFs, or 0 if SR-IOV is not enabled.

pci_vfs_assigned

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_vfs_assigned — returns number of VFs are assigned to a guest

Synopsis

```
int pci_vfs_assigned (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

the PCI device

Description

Returns number of VFs belonging to this device that are assigned to a guest. If device is not a physical function returns 0.

pci_sriov_set_totalvfs

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_sriov_set_totalvfs` — - reduce the TotalVFs available

Synopsis

```
int pci_sriov_set_totalvfs (struct pci_dev * dev, u16 numvfs);
```

Arguments

`dev`

the PCI PF device

`numvfs`

-- undescribed --

numvfs

number that should be used for TotalVFs supported

Should be called from PF driver's probe routine with device's mutex held.

Returns 0 if PF is an SRIOV-capable device and value of numvfs valid. If not a PF return -ENOSYS; if numvfs is invalid return -EINVAL; if VFs already enabled, return -EBUSY.

pci_sriov_get_totalvfs

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_sriov_get_totalvfs` — - get total VFs supported on this devic3

Synopsis

```
int pci_sriov_get_totalvfs (struct pci_dev * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

the PCI PF device

Description

For a PCIe device with SRIOV support, return the PCIe SRIOV capability value of TotalVFs or the value of drvttl if the driver reduced it. Otherwise, 0.

pci_read_legacy_io

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_read_legacy_io — read byte(s) from legacy I/O port space

Synopsis

```
ssize_t pci_read_legacy_io (struct file * filp, struct kobject
* kobj, struct bin_attribute * bin_attr, char * buf, loff_t
off, size_t count);
```

Arguments

filp

open sysfs file

kobj

kobject corresponding to file to read from

bin_attr

struct bin_attribute for this file

buf

buffer to store results

off

offset into legacy I/O port space

count

number of bytes to read

Description

Reads 1, 2, or 4 bytes from legacy I/O port space using an arch specific callback routine (pci_legacy_read).

pci_write_legacy_io

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_write_legacy_io` — write byte(s) to legacy I/O port space

Synopsis

```
ssize_t pci_write_legacy_io (struct file * filp, struct
kobject * kobj, struct bin_attribute * bin_attr, char * buf,
loff_t off, size_t count);
```

Arguments

filp

open sysfs file

kobj

kobject corresponding to file to read from

bin_attr

struct bin_attribute for this file

buf

buffer containing value to be written

off

offset into legacy I/O port space

count

number of bytes to write

Description

Writes 1, 2, or 4 bytes from legacy I/O port space using an arch specific callback routine (pci_legacy_write).

pci_mmap_legacy_mem

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_mmap_legacy_mem` — map legacy PCI memory into user memory space

Synopsis

```
int pci_mmap_legacy_mem (struct file * filp, struct kobject *
kobj, struct bin_attribute * attr, struct vm_area_struct *
vma);
```

Arguments

filp

open sysfs file

kobj

kobject corresponding to device to be mapped

attr

struct bin_attribute for this file

vma

struct vm_area_struct passed to mmap

Description

Uses an arch specific callback, pci_mmap_legacy_mem_page_range, to mmap legacy memory space (first meg of bus space) into application virtual memory space.

pci_mmap_legacy_io

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_mmap_legacy_io` — map legacy PCI IO into user memory space

Synopsis

```
int pci_mmap_legacy_io (struct file * filp, struct kobject *
kobj, struct bin_attribute * attr, struct vm_area_struct *
vma);
```

Arguments

filp

open sysfs file

kobj

kobject corresponding to device to be mapped

attr

struct bin_attribute for this file

vma

struct vm_area_struct passed to mmap

Description

Uses an arch specific callback, pci_mmap_legacy_io_page_range, to mmap legacy IO space (first meg of bus space) into application virtual memory space. Returns -ENOSYS if the operation isn't supported

pci_adjust_legacy_attr

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_adjust_legacy_attr` — adjustment of legacy file attributes

Synopsis

```
void __weak pci_adjust_legacy_attr (struct pci_bus * b, enum
pci_mmap_state mmap_type);
```

Arguments

b

bus to create files under

mmap_type

I/O port or memory

Description

Stub implementation. Can be overridden by arch if necessary.

pci_create_legacy_files

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_create_legacy_files — create legacy I/O port and memory files

Synopsis

```
void pci_create_legacy_files (struct pci_bus * b);
```

Arguments

b

bus to create files under

Description

Some platforms allow access to legacy I/O port and ISA memory space on a per-bus basis. This routine creates the files and ties them into their associated read, write and mmap files from pci-sysfs.c

On error unwind, but don't propagate the error to the caller as it is ok to set up the PCI bus without these files.

pci_mmap_resource

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_mmap_resource` — map a PCI resource into user memory space

Synopsis

```
int pci_mmap_resource (struct kobject * kobj, struct
bin_attribute * attr, struct vm_area_struct * vma, int
write_combine);
```

Arguments

kobj

kobject for mapping

attr

struct bin_attribute for the file being mapped

vma

struct vm_area_struct passed into the mmap

write_combine

1 for write_combine mapping

Description

Use the regular PCI mapping routines to map a PCI resource into userspace.

pci_remove_resource_files

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_remove_resource_files` — cleanup resource files

Synopsis

```
void pci_remove_resource_files (struct pci_dev * pdev);
```

Arguments

pdev

dev to cleanup

Description

If we created resource files for *pdev*, remove them from sysfs and free their resources.

pci_create_resource_files

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_create_resource_files — create resource files in sysfs for *dev*

Synopsis

```
int pci_create_resource_files (struct pci_dev * pdev);
```

Arguments

pdev

dev in question

Description

Walk the resources in *pdev* creating files for each resource available.

pci_write_rom

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_write_rom — used to enable access to the PCI ROM display

Synopsis

```
ssize_t pci_write_rom (struct file * filp, struct kobject *
kobj, struct bin_attribute * bin_attr, char * buf, loff_t
off, size_t count);
```

Arguments

filp

sysfs file

kobj

kernel object handle

bin_attr

struct bin_attribute for this file

buf

user input

off

file offset

count

number of byte in input

Description

writing anything except 0 enables it

pci_read_rom

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_read_rom — read a PCI ROM

Synopsis

```
ssize_t pci_read_rom (struct file * filp, struct kobject *
kobj, struct bin_attribute * bin_attr, char * buf, loff_t
off, size_t count);
```

Arguments

filp

sysfs file

kobj

kernel object handle

bin_attr

struct bin_attribute for this file

buf

where to put the data we read from the ROM

off

file offset

count

number of bytes to read

Description

Put *count* bytes starting at *off* into *buf* from the ROM in the PCI device corresponding to *kobj*.

pci_remove_sysfs_dev_files

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_remove_sysfs_dev_files — cleanup PCI specific sysfs files

Synopsis

```
void pci_remove_sysfs_dev_files (struct pci_dev * pdev);
```

Arguments

pdev

device whose entries we should free

Description

Cleanup when *pdev* is removed from sysfs.

9.6. PCI Hotplug Support Library

__pci_hp_register

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__pci_hp_register — register a hotplug_slot with the PCI hotplug subsystem

Synopsis

```
int __pci_hp_register (struct hotplug_slot * slot, struct
pci_bus * bus, int devnr, const char * name, struct module *
owner, const char * mod_name);
```

Arguments

slot

pointer to the struct hotplug_slot to register

bus

bus this slot is on

devnr

device number

name

name registered with kobject core

owner

caller module owner

mod_name

caller module name

Description

Registers a hotplug slot with the pci hotplug subsystem, which will allow userspace interaction to the slot.

Returns 0 if successful, anything else for an error.

pci_hp_deregister

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`pci_hp_deregister` — deregister a hotplug_slot with the PCI hotplug subsystem

Synopsis

```
int pci_hp_deregister (struct hotplug_slot * hotplug);
```

Arguments

hotplug

pointer to the struct hotplug_slot to deregister

Description

The *slot* must have been registered with the pci hotplug subsystem previously with a call to pci_hp_register.

Returns 0 if successful, anything else for an error.

pci_hp_change_slot_info

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

pci_hp_change_slot_info — changes the slot's information structure in the core

Synopsis

```
int __must_check pci_hp_change_slot_info (struct hotplug_slot
* hotplug, struct hotplug_slot_info * info);
```

Arguments

hotplug

pointer to the slot whose info has changed

info

pointer to the info copy into the slot's info structure

Description

slot must have been registered with the pci hotplug subsystem previously with a call to pci_hp_register.

Returns 0 if successful, anything else for an error.

9.7. MCA Architecture

9.7.1. MCA Device Functions

Refer to the file arch/x86/kernel/mca_32.c for more information.

9.7.2. MCA Bus DMA

mca_enable_dma

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

mca_enable_dma — channel to enable DMA on

Synopsis

```
void mca_enable_dma (unsigned int dmanr);
```

Arguments

dmanr

DMA channel

Description

Enable the MCA bus DMA on a channel. This can be called from IRQ context.

mca_disable_dma

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

mca_disable_dma — channel to disable DMA on

Synopsis

```
void mca_disable_dma (unsigned int dmanr);
```

Arguments

dmanr

DMA channel

Description

Enable the MCA bus DMA on a channel. This can be called from IRQ context.

mca_set_dma_addr

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`mca_set_dma_addr` — load a 24bit DMA address

Synopsis

```
void mca_set_dma_addr (unsigned int dmanr, unsigned int a);
```

Arguments

dmanr

DMA channel

a

24bit bus address

Description

Load the address register in the DMA controller. This has a 24bit limitation (16Mb).

mca_get_dma_addr

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`mca_get_dma_addr` — load a 24bit DMA address

Synopsis

```
unsigned int mca_get_dma_addr (unsigned int dmanr);
```

Arguments

`dmanr`

DMA channel

Description

Read the address register in the DMA controller. This has a 24bit limitation (16Mb). The return is a bus address.

mca_set_dma_count

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`mca_set_dma_count` — load a 16bit transfer count

Synopsis

```
void mca_set_dma_count (unsigned int dmanr, unsigned int
count);
```

Arguments

dmanr

DMA channel

count

count

Description

Set the DMA count for this channel. This can be up to 64Kbytes. Setting a count of zero will not do what you expect.

mca_get_dma_residue

LINUX

Name

`mca_get_dma_residue` — get the remaining bytes to transfer

Synopsis

```
unsigned int mca_get_dma_residue (unsigned int dmanr);
```

Arguments

`dmanr`

DMA channel

Description

This function returns the number of bytes left to transfer on this DMA channel.

mca_set_dma_io

LINUX

Name

`mca_set_dma_io` — set the port for an I/O transfer

Synopsis

```
void mca_set_dma_io (unsigned int dmanr, unsigned int
io_addr);
```

Arguments

dmanr

DMA channel

io_addr

an I/O port number

Description

Unlike the ISA bus DMA controllers the DMA on MCA bus can transfer with an I/O port target.

mca_set_dma_mode

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

mca_set_dma_mode — set the DMA mode

Synopsis

```
void mca_set_dma_mode (unsigned int dmanr, unsigned int mode);
```

Arguments

dmanr

DMA channel

mode

mode to set

Description

The DMA controller supports several modes. The mode values you can set are-

`MCA_DMA_MODE_READ` when reading from the DMA device.

`MCA_DMA_MODE_WRITE` to writing to the DMA device.

`MCA_DMA_MODE_IO` to do DMA to or from an I/O port.

`MCA_DMA_MODE_16` to do 16bit transfers.

Chapter 10. Firmware Interfaces

10.1. DMI Interfaces

dmi_check_system

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`dmi_check_system` — check system DMI data

Synopsis

```
int dmi_check_system (const struct dmi_system_id * list);
```

Arguments

`list`

array of dmi_system_id structures to match against All non-null elements of the list must match their slot's (field index's) data (i.e., each list string must be a substring of the specified DMI slot's string data) to be considered a successful match.

Description

Walk the blacklist table running matching functions until someone returns non zero or we hit the end. Callback function is called for each successful match. Returns the number of matches.

dmi_first_match

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

dmi_first_match — find dmi_system_id structure matching system DMI data

Synopsis

```
const struct dmi_system_id * dmi_first_match (const struct
dmi_system_id * list);
```

Arguments

list

array of dmi_system_id structures to match against All non-null elements of the list must match their slot's (field index's) data (i.e., each list string must be a substring of the specified DMI slot's string data) to be considered a successful match.

Description

Walk the blacklist table until the first match is found. Return the pointer to the matching entry or NULL if there's no match.

dmi_get_system_info

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`dmi_get_system_info` — return DMI data value

Synopsis

```
const char * dmi_get_system_info (int field);
```

Arguments

`field`

data index (see enum dmi_field)

Description

Returns one DMI data value, can be used to perform complex DMI data checks.

dmi_name_in_vendors

LINUX

Name

`dmi_name_in_vendors` — Check if string is anywhere in the DMI vendor information.

Synopsis

```
int dmi_name_in_vendors (const char * str);
```

Arguments

`str`

Case sensitive Name

dmi_find_device

LINUX

Name

`dmi_find_device` — find onboard device by type/name

Synopsis

```
const struct dmi_device * dmi_find_device (int type, const
char * name, const struct dmi_device * from);
```

Arguments

type

device type or DMI_DEV_TYPE_ANY to match all device types

name

device name string or NULL to match all

from

previous device found in search, or NULL for new search.

Description

Iterates through the list of known onboard devices. If a device is found with a matching *vendor* and *device*, a pointer to its device structure is returned. Otherwise, NULL is returned. A new search is initiated by passing NULL as the *from* argument. If *from* is not NULL, searches continue from next device.

dmi_get_date

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

dmi_get_date — parse a DMI date

Synopsis

```
bool dmi_get_date (int field, int * yearp, int * monthp, int *
dayp);
```

Arguments

field

data index (see enum dmi_field)

yearp

optional out parameter for the year

monthp

optional out parameter for the month

dayp

optional out parameter for the day

Description

The date field is assumed to be in the form resembling [mm[/dd]]/yy[yy] and the result is stored in the out parameters any or all of which can be omitted.

If the field doesn't exist, all out parameters are set to zero and false is returned. Otherwise, true is returned with any invalid part of date set to zero.

On return, year, month and day are guaranteed to be in the range of [0,9999], [0,12] and [0,31] respectively.

dmi_walk

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`dmi_walk` — Walk the DMI table and get called back for every record

Synopsis

```
int dmi_walk (void (*decode) (const struct dmi_header *, void
*), void * private_data);
```

Arguments

decode

Callback function

private_data

Private data to be passed to the callback function

Description

Returns -1 when the DMI table can't be reached, 0 on success.

dmi_match

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

dmi_match — compare a string to the dmi field (if exists)

Synopsis

```
bool dmi_match (enum dmi_field f, const char * str);
```

Arguments

f

DMI field identifier

str

string to compare the DMI field to

Description

Returns true if the requested field equals to the str (including NULL).

10.2. EDD Interfaces

edd_show_raw_data

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

edd_show_raw_data — copies raw data to buffer for userspace to parse

Synopsis

```
ssize_t edd_show_raw_data (struct edd_device * edev, char *
buf);
```

Arguments

edev

target edd_device

buf

output buffer

Returns

number of bytes written, or -EINVAL on failure

edd_release

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

edd_release — free edd structure

Synopsis

```
void edd_release (struct kobject * kobj);
```

Arguments

kobj

kobject of edd structure

Description

This is called when the refcount of the edd structure reaches 0. This should happen right after we unregister, but just in case, we use the release callback anyway.

edd_dev_is_type

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`edd_dev_is_type` — is this EDD device a ’type’ device?

Synopsis

```
int edd_dev_is_type (struct edd_device * edev, const char *
type);
```

Arguments

edev

target edd_device

type

a host bus or interface identifier string per the EDD spec

Description

Returns 1 (TRUE) if it is a ’type’ device, 0 otherwise.

edd_get_pci_dev

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

edd_get_pci_dev — finds pci_dev that matches edev

Synopsis

```
struct pci_dev * edd_get_pci_dev (struct edd_device * edev);
```

Arguments

edev

edd_device

Description

Returns pci_dev if found, or NULL

edd_init

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

edd_init — creates sysfs tree of EDD data

Synopsis

```
int edd_init ( void);
```

Arguments

void

no arguments

Chapter 11. Security Framework

security_init

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`security_init` — initializes the security framework

Synopsis

```
int security_init ( void);
```

Arguments

void

no arguments

Description

This should be called early in the kernel initialization sequence.

security_module_enable

LINUX

Name

`security_module_enable` — Load given security module on boot ?

Synopsis

```
int security_module_enable (struct security_operations * ops);
```

Arguments

ops

a pointer to the struct security_operations that is to be checked.

Description

Each LSM must pass this method before registering its own operations to avoid security registration races. This method may also be used to check if your LSM is currently loaded during kernel initialization.

Return true if

-The passed LSM is the one chosen by user at boot time, -or the passed LSM is configured as the default and the user did not choose an alternate LSM at boot time. Otherwise, return false.

register_security

LINUX

Name

`register_security` — registers a security framework with the kernel

Synopsis

```
int register_security (struct security_operations * ops);
```

Arguments

`ops`

a pointer to the struct security_options that is to be registered

Description

This function allows a security module to register itself with the kernel security subsystem. Some rudimentary checking is done on the *`ops`* value passed to this function. You'll need to check first if your LSM is allowed to register its *`ops`* by calling security_module_enable(*`ops`*).

If there is already a security module registered with the kernel, an error will be returned. Otherwise `0` is returned on success.

securityfs_create_file

LINUX

Name

`securityfs_create_file` — create a file in the securityfs filesystem

Synopsis

```
struct dentry * securityfs_create_file (const char * name,
mode_t mode, struct dentry * parent, void * data, const struct
file_operations * fops);
```

Arguments

name

a pointer to a string containing the name of the file to create.

mode

the permission that the file should have

parent

a pointer to the parent dentry for this file. This should be a directory dentry if set. If this parameter is `NULL`, then the file will be created in the root of the securityfs filesystem.

data

a pointer to something that the caller will want to get to later on. The inode.i_private pointer will point to this value on the `open` call.

fops

a pointer to a struct file_operations that should be used for this file.

Description

This is the basic “create a file” function for securityfs. It allows for a wide range of flexibility in creating a file, or a directory (if you want to create a directory, the

securityfs_create_dir function is recommended to be used instead).

This function returns a pointer to a dentry if it succeeds. This pointer must be passed to the securityfs_remove function when the file is to be removed (no automatic cleanup happens if your module is unloaded, you are responsible here). If an error occurs, the function will return the erorr value (via ERR_PTR).

If securityfs is not enabled in the kernel, the value -ENODEV is returned.

securityfs_create_dir

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

securityfs_create_dir — create a directory in the securityfs filesystem

Synopsis

```
struct dentry * securityfs_create_dir (const char * name,
struct dentry * parent);
```

Arguments

name

a pointer to a string containing the name of the directory to create.

parent

a pointer to the parent dentry for this file. This should be a directory dentry if set. If this parameter is NULL, then the directory will be created in the root of the securityfs filesystem.

Description

This function creates a directory in securityfs with the given *name*.

This function returns a pointer to a dentry if it succeeds. This pointer must be passed to the `securityfs_remove` function when the file is to be removed (no automatic cleanup happens if your module is unloaded, you are responsible here). If an error occurs, `NULL` will be returned.

If securityfs is not enabled in the kernel, the value `-ENODEV` is returned. It is not wise to check for this value, but rather, check for `NULL` or `!NULL` instead as to eliminate the need for #ifdef in the calling code.

securityfs_remove

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`securityfs_remove` — removes a file or directory from the securityfs filesystem

Synopsis

```
void securityfs_remove (struct dentry * dentry);
```

Arguments

dentry

a pointer to a the dentry of the file or directory to be removed.

Description

This function removes a file or directory in securityfs that was previously created with a call to another securityfs function (like `securityfs_create_file` or variants thereof.)

This function is required to be called in order for the file to be removed. No automatic cleanup of files will happen when a module is removed; you are responsible here.

Chapter 12. Audit Interfaces

audit_log_start

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`audit_log_start` — obtain an audit buffer

Synopsis

```
struct audit_buffer * audit_log_start (struct audit_context *
ctx, gfp_t gfp_mask, int type);
```

Arguments

ctx

audit_context (may be NULL)

gfp_mask

type of allocation

type

audit message type

Description

Returns audit_buffer pointer on success or NULL on error.

Obtain an audit buffer. This routine does locking to obtain the audit buffer, but then no locking is required for calls to audit_log_*format. If the task (ctx) is a task that is

currently in a syscall, then the syscall is marked as auditable and an audit record will be written at syscall exit. If there is no associated task, then task context (ctx) should be NULL.

audit_log_format

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`audit_log_format` — format a message into the audit buffer.

Synopsis

```
void audit_log_format (struct audit_buffer * ab, const char *
fmt,  ...);
```

Arguments

ab

audit_buffer

fmt

format string @...: optional parameters matching *fmt* string

...

variable arguments

Description

All the work is done in audit_log_vformat.

audit_log_untrustedstring

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`audit_log_untrustedstring` — log a string that may contain random characters

Synopsis

```
void audit_log_untrustedstring (struct audit_buffer * ab,
const char * string);
```

Arguments

ab

audit_buffer

string

string to be logged

Description

Same as `audit_log_n_untrustedstring`, except that strlen is used to determine string length.

audit_log_end

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`audit_log_end` — end one audit record

Synopsis

```
void audit_log_end (struct audit_buffer * ab);
```

Arguments

ab

the audit_buffer

Description

The netlink_* functions cannot be called inside an irq context, so the audit buffer is placed on a queue and a tasklet is scheduled to remove them from the queue outside the irq context. May be called in any context.

audit_log

LINUX

Name

`audit_log` — Log an audit record

Synopsis

```
void audit_log (struct audit_context * ctx, gfp_t gfp_mask,
int type, const char * fmt,  ...);
```

Arguments

`ctx`

audit context

`gfp_mask`

type of allocation

`type`

audit message type

`fmt`

format string to use @...: variable parameters matching the format string

`...`

variable arguments

Description

This is a convenience function that calls audit_log_start, audit_log_vformat, and audit_log_end. It may be called in any context.

audit_alloc

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`audit_alloc` — allocate an audit context block for a task

Synopsis

```
int audit_alloc (struct task_struct * tsk);
```

Arguments

`tsk`

task

Description

Filter on the task information and allocate a per-task audit context if necessary. Doing so turns on system call auditing for the specified task. This is called from copy_process, so no lock is needed.

audit_free

LINUX

Name

`audit_free` — free a per-task audit context

Synopsis

```
void audit_free (struct task_struct * tsk);
```

Arguments

`tsk`

task whose audit context block to free

Description

Called from copy_process and do_exit

audit_syscall_entry

LINUX

Name

`audit_syscall_entry` — fill in an audit record at syscall entry

Synopsis

```
void audit_syscall_entry (int arch, int major, unsigned long
a1, unsigned long a2, unsigned long a3, unsigned long a4);
```

Arguments

arch

architecture type

major

major syscall type (function)

a1

additional syscall register 1

a2

additional syscall register 2

a3

additional syscall register 3

a4

additional syscall register 4

Description

Fill in audit context at syscall entry. This only happens if the audit context was created when the task was created and the state or filters demand the audit context be built. If the state from the per-task filter or from the per-syscall filter is AUDIT_RECORD_CONTEXT, then the record will be written at syscall exit time (otherwise, it will only be written if another part of the kernel requests that it be written).

audit_syscall_exit

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`audit_syscall_exit` — deallocate audit context after a system call

Synopsis

```
void audit_syscall_exit (int valid, long return_code);
```

Arguments

`valid`

success/failure flag

`return_code`

syscall return value

Description

Tear down after system call. If the audit context has been marked as auditable (either because of the AUDIT_RECORD_CONTEXT state from filtering, or because some other part of the kernel write an audit message), then write out the syscall information. In call cases, free the names stored from `getname`.

__audit_getname

LINUX

Name

`__audit_getname` — add a name to the list

Synopsis

```
void __audit_getname (const char * name);
```

Arguments

`name`

name to add

Description

Add a name to the list of audit names for this context. Called from fs/namei.c:`getname`.

__audit_inode

LINUX

Name

`__audit_inode` — store the inode and device from a lookup

Synopsis

```
void __audit_inode (const char * name, const struct dentry *
dentry);
```

Arguments

name

name being audited

dentry

dentry being audited

Description

Called from fs/namei.c:`path_lookup`.

auditsc_get_stamp

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`auditsc_get_stamp` — get local copies of audit_context values

Synopsis

```
int auditsc_get_stamp (struct audit_context * ctx, struct
timespec * t, unsigned int * serial);
```

Arguments

ctx

audit_context for the task

t

timespec to store time recorded in the audit_context

serial

serial value that is recorded in the audit_context

Description

Also sets the context as auditable.

audit_set_loginuid

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`audit_set_loginuid` — set a task's audit_context loginuid

Synopsis

```
int audit_set_loginuid (struct task_struct * task, uid_t
loginuid);
```

Arguments

task

task whose audit context is being modified

loginuid

loginuid value

Description

Returns 0.

Called (set) from fs/proc/base.c::`proc_loginuid_write`.

__audit_mq_open

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`__audit_mq_open` — record audit data for a POSIX MQ open

Synopsis

```
void __audit_mq_open (int oflag, mode_t mode, struct mq_attr *
attr);
```

Arguments

oflag

open flag

mode

mode bits

attr

queue attributes

__audit_mq_sendrecv

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__audit_mq_sendrecv — record audit data for a POSIX MQ timed send/receive

Synopsis

```
void __audit_mq_sendrecv (mqd_t mqdes, size_t msg_len,
unsigned int msg_prio, const struct timespec * abs_timeout);
```

Arguments

mqdes

MQ descriptor

msg_len

Message length

msg_prio

Message priority

abs_timeout

Message timeout in absolute time

__audit_mq_notify

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__audit_mq_notify — record audit data for a POSIX MQ notify

Synopsis

```
void __audit_mq_notify (mqd_t mqdes, const struct sigevent *
notification);
```

Arguments

mqdes

MQ descriptor

notification

Notification event

__audit_mq_getsetattr

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__audit_mq_getsetattr — record audit data for a POSIX MQ get/set attribute

Synopsis

```
void __audit_mq_getsetattr (mqd_t mqdes, struct mq_attr * mqstat);
```

Arguments

mqdes

MQ descriptor

mqstat

MQ flags

__audit_ipc_obj

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__audit_ipc_obj — record audit data for ipc object

Synopsis

```
void __audit_ipc_obj (struct kern_ipc_perm * ipcp);
```

Arguments

ipcp

ipc permissions

__audit_ipc_set_perm

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__audit_ipc_set_perm — record audit data for new ipc permissions

Synopsis

```
void __audit_ipc_set_perm (unsigned long qbytes, uid_t uid,
gid_t gid, mode_t mode);
```

Arguments

qbytes

msgq bytes

uid

msgq user id

gid

msgq group id

mode

msgq mode (permissions)

Description

Called only after `audit_ipc_obj`.

audit_socketcall

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`audit_socketcall` — record audit data for sys_socketcall

Synopsis

```
void audit_socketcall (int nargs, unsigned long * args);
```

Arguments

nargs

number of args

args

args array

__audit_fd_pair

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__audit_fd_pair — record audit data for pipe and socketpair

Synopsis

```
void __audit_fd_pair (int fd1, int fd2);
```

Arguments

fd1

the first file descriptor

fd2

the second file descriptor

audit_sockaddr

LINUX

Name

`audit_sockaddr` — record audit data for sys_bind, sys_connect, sys_sendto

Synopsis

```
int audit_sockaddr (int len, void * a);
```

Arguments

`len`

data length in user space

`a`

data address in kernel space

Description

Returns 0 for success or NULL context or < 0 on error.

__audit_signal_info

LINUX

Name

`__audit_signal_info` — record signal info for shutting down audit subsystem

Synopsis

```
int __audit_signal_info (int sig, struct task_struct * t);
```

Arguments

sig

signal value

t

task being signaled

Description

If the audit subsystem is being terminated, record the task (pid) and uid that is doing that.

__audit_log_bprm_fcaps

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`__audit_log_bprm_fcaps` — store information about a loading bprm and relevant fcaps

Synopsis

```
int __audit_log_bprm_fcaps (struct linux_binprm * bprm, const
struct cred * new, const struct cred * old);
```

Arguments

bprm

pointer to the bprm being processed

new

the proposed new credentials

old

the old credentials

Description

Simply check if the proc already has the caps given by the file and if not store the priv escalation info for later auditing at the end of the syscall

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__audit_log_capset

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`__audit_log_capset` — store information about the arguments to the capset syscall

Synopsis

```
void __audit_log_capset (pid_t pid, const struct cred * new,
const struct cred * old);
```

Arguments

pid

target pid of the capset call

new

the new credentials

old

the old (current) credentials

Description

Record the aguments userspace sent to sys_capset for later printing by the audit system if applicable

audit_core_dumps

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`audit_core_dumps` — record information about processes that end abnormally

Synopsis

```
void audit_core_dumps (long signr);
```

Arguments

signr

signal value

Description

If a process ends with a core dump, something fishy is going on and we should record the event for investigation.

audit_receive_filter

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

audit_receive_filter — apply all rules to the specified message type

Synopsis

```
int audit_receive_filter (int type, int pid, int uid, int
seq, void * data, size_t datasz, uid_t loginuid, u32
sessionid, u32 sid);
```

Arguments

type

audit message type

pid

target pid for netlink audit messages

uid

target uid for netlink audit messages

seq

netlink audit message sequence (serial) number

data

payload data

datasz

size of payload data

loginuid

loginuid of sender

sessionid

sessionid for netlink audit message

sid

SE Linux Security ID of sender

Chapter 13. Accounting Framework

sys_acct

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`sys_acct` — enable/disable process accounting

Synopsis

```
long sys_acct (const char __user * name);
```

Arguments

name

file name for accounting records or NULL to shutdown accounting

Description

Returns 0 for success or negative errno values for failure.

`sys_acct` is the only system call needed to implement process accounting. It takes the name of the file where accounting records should be written. If the filename is NULL, accounting will be shutdown.

acct_auto_close_mnt

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`acct_auto_close_mnt` — turn off a filesystem's accounting if it is on

Synopsis

```
void acct_auto_close_mnt (struct vfsmount * m);
```

Arguments

m

vfsmount being shut down

Description

If the accounting is turned on for a file in the subtree pointed to to by m, turn accounting off. Done when m is about to die.

acct_auto_close

LINUX

Name

`acct_auto_close` — turn off a filesystem's accounting if it is on

Synopsis

```
void acct_auto_close (struct super_block * sb);
```

Arguments

sb

super block for the filesystem

Description

If the accounting is turned on for a file in the filesystem pointed to by sb, turn accounting off.

acct_collect

LINUX

Name

`acct_collect` — collect accounting information into pacct_struct

Synopsis

```
void acct_collect (long exitcode, int group_dead);
```

Arguments

exitcode

task exit code

group_dead

not 0, if this thread is the last one in the process.

acct_process

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

acct_process — now just a wrapper around acct_process_in_ns, which in turn is a wrapper around do_acct_process.

Synopsis

```
void acct_process ( void);
```

Arguments

void

no arguments

Description

handles process accounting for an exiting task

Chapter 14. Block Devices

blk_get_backing_dev_info

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_get_backing_dev_info` — get the address of a queue's backing_dev_info

Synopsis

```
struct backing_dev_info * blk_get_backing_dev_info (struct
block_device * bdev);
```

Arguments

bdev

device

Description

Locates the passed device's request queue and returns the address of its backing_dev_info

Will return NULL if the request queue cannot be located.

blk_delay_queue

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_delay_queue` — restart queueing after defined interval

Synopsis

```
void blk_delay_queue (struct request_queue * q, unsigned long
msecs);
```

Arguments

q

The struct request_queue in question

msecs

Delay in msecs

Description

Sometimes queueing needs to be postponed for a little while, to allow resources to come back. This function will make sure that queueing is restarted around the specified time. Queue lock must be held.

blk_start_queue

LINUX

Name

`blk_start_queue` — restart a previously stopped queue

Synopsis

```
void blk_start_queue (struct request_queue * q);
```

Arguments

q

The struct request_queue in question

Description

`blk_start_queue` will clear the stop flag on the queue, and call the request_fn for the queue if it was in a stopped state when entered. Also see `blk_stop_queue`. Queue lock must be held.

blk_stop_queue

LINUX

Name

`blk_stop_queue` — stop a queue

Synopsis

```
void blk_stop_queue (struct request_queue * q);
```

Arguments

q

The struct request_queue in question

Description

The Linux block layer assumes that a block driver will consume all entries on the request queue when the request_fn strategy is called. Often this will not happen, because of hardware limitations (queue depth settings). If a device driver gets a ’queue full’ response, or if it simply chooses not to queue more I/O at one point, it can call this function to prevent the request_fn from being called until the driver has signalled it’s ready to go again. This happens by calling `blk_start_queue` to restart queue operations. Queue lock must be held.

blk_sync_queue

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_sync_queue` — cancel any pending callbacks on a queue

Synopsis

```
void blk_sync_queue (struct request_queue * q);
```

Arguments

q

the queue

Description

The block layer may perform asynchronous callback activity on a queue, such as calling the unplug function after a timeout. A block device may call blk_sync_queue to ensure that any such activity is cancelled, thus allowing it to release resources that the callbacks might use. The caller must already have made sure that its ->make_request_fn will not re-add plugging prior to calling this function.

This function does not cancel any asynchronous activity arising out of elevator or throttling code. That would require `elevaotor_exit` and `blk_throtl_exit` to be called with queue lock initialized.

__blk_run_queue

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`__blk_run_queue` — run a single device queue

Synopsis

```
void __blk_run_queue (struct request_queue * q);
```

Arguments

q

The queue to run

Description

See *blk_run_queue*. This variant must be called with the queue lock held and interrupts disabled.

blk_run_queue_async

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

blk_run_queue_async — run a single device queue in workqueue context

Synopsis

```
void blk_run_queue_async (struct request_queue * q);
```

Arguments

q

The queue to run

Description

Tells kblockd to perform the equivalent of *blk_run_queue* on behalf of us.

blk_run_queue

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

blk_run_queue — run a single device queue

Synopsis

```
void blk_run_queue (struct request_queue * q);
```

Arguments

q

The queue to run

Description

Invoke request handling on this queue, if it has pending work to do. May be used to restart queueing when a request has completed.

blk_cleanup_queue

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_cleanup_queue` — shutdown a request queue

Synopsis

```
void blk_cleanup_queue (struct request_queue * q);
```

Arguments

q

request queue to shutdown

Description

Mark *q* DYING, drain all pending requests, mark *q* DEAD, destroy and put it. All future requests will be failed immediately with -ENODEV.

blk_init_queue

LINUX

Name

`blk_init_queue` — prepare a request queue for use with a block device

Synopsis

```
struct request_queue * blk_init_queue (request_fn_proc * rfn,
spinlock_t * lock);
```

Arguments

`rfn`

The function to be called to process requests that have been placed on the queue.

`lock`

Request queue spin lock

Description

If a block device wishes to use the standard request handling procedures, which sorts requests and coalesces adjacent requests, then it must call `blk_init_queue`. The function *`rfn`* will be called when there are requests on the queue that need to be processed. If the device supports plugging, then *`rfn`* may not be called immediately when requests are available on the queue, but may be called at some time later instead. Plugged queues are generally unplugged when a buffer belonging to one of the requests on the queue is needed, or due to memory pressure.

`rfn` is not required, or even expected, to remove all requests off the queue, but only as many as it can handle at a time. If it does leave requests on the queue, it is responsible for arranging that the requests get dealt with eventually.

The queue spin lock must be held while manipulating the requests on the request queue; this lock will be taken also from interrupt context, so irq disabling is needed for it.

Function returns a pointer to the initialized request queue, or `NULL` if it didn't succeed.

Note

`blk_init_queue` must be paired with a `blk_cleanup_queue` call when the block device is deactivated (such as at module unload).

blk_make_request

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_make_request` — given a bio, allocate a corresponding struct request.

Synopsis

```
struct request * blk_make_request (struct request_queue * q,
struct bio * bio, gfp_t gfp_mask);
```

Arguments

q

target request queue

bio

The bio describing the memory mappings that will be submitted for IO. It may be a chained-bio properly constructed by block/bio layer.

gfp_mask

gfp flags to be used for memory allocation

Description

blk_make_request is the parallel of generic_make_request for BLOCK_PC type commands. Where the struct request needs to be farther initialized by the caller. It is passed a struct bio, which describes the memory info of the I/O transfer.

The caller of blk_make_request must make sure that bi_io_vec are set to describe the memory buffers. That `bio_data_dir` will return the needed direction of the request. (And all bio's in the passed bio-chain are properly set accordingly)

If called under none-sleepable conditions, mapped bio buffers must not need bouncing, by calling the appropriate masked or flagged allocator, suitable for the target device. Otherwise the call to blk_queue_bounce will BUG.

WARNING

When allocating/cloning a bio-chain, careful consideration should be given to how you allocate bios. In particular, you cannot use __GFP_WAIT for anything but the first bio in the chain. Otherwise you risk waiting for IO completion of a bio that hasn't been submitted yet, thus resulting in a deadlock. Alternatively bios should be allocated using `bio_kmalloc` instead of `bio_alloc`, as that avoids the mempool deadlock. If possible a big IO should be split into smaller parts when allocation fails. Partial allocation should not be an error, or you risk a live-lock.

blk_requeue_request

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_requeue_request` — put a request back on queue

Synopsis

```
void blk_requeue_request (struct request_queue * q, struct
request * rq);
```

Arguments

q

request queue where request should be inserted

rq

request to be inserted

Description

Drivers often keep queueing requests until the hardware cannot accept more, when that condition happens we need to put the request back on the queue. Must be called with queue lock held.

blk_insert_request

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_insert_request` — insert a special request into a request queue

Synopsis

```
void blk_insert_request (struct request_queue * q, struct
request * rq, int at_head, void * data);
```

Arguments

q

request queue where request should be inserted

rq

request to be inserted

at_head

insert request at head or tail of queue

data

private data

Description

Many block devices need to execute commands asynchronously, so they don't block the whole kernel from preemption during request execution. This is accomplished normally by inserting aritficial requests tagged as REQ_TYPE_SPECIAL in to the corresponding request queue, and letting them be scheduled for actual execution by the request queue.

We have the option of inserting the head or the tail of the queue. Typically we use the tail for new ioctls and so forth. We use the head of the queue for things like a QUEUE_FULL message from a device, or a host that is unable to accept a particular command.

part_round_stats

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`part_round_stats` — Round off the performance stats on a struct disk_stats.

Synopsis

```
void part_round_stats (int cpu, struct hd_struct * part);
```

Arguments

cpu

cpu number for stats access

part

target partition

Description

The average IO queue length and utilisation statistics are maintained by observing the current state of the queue length and the amount of time it has been in this state for.

Normally, that accounting is done on IO completion, but that can result in more than a second's worth of IO being accounted for within any one second, leading to >100% utilisation. To deal with that, we call this function to do a round-off before returning the results when reading /proc/diskstats. This accounts immediately for all queue usage up to the current jiffies and restarts the counters again.

blk_add_request_payload

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_add_request_payload` — add a payload to a request

Synopsis

```
void blk_add_request_payload (struct request * rq, struct page
* page, unsigned int len);
```

Arguments

rq

request to update

page

page backing the payload

len

length of the payload.

Description

This allows to later add a payload to an already submitted request by a block driver. The driver needs to take care of freeing the payload itself.

Note that this is a quite horrible hack and nothing but handling of discard requests should ever use it.

submit_bio

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`submit_bio` — submit a bio to the block device layer for I/O

Synopsis

```
void submit_bio (int rw, struct bio * bio);
```

Arguments

`rw`

whether to `READ` or `WRITE`, or maybe to `READA` (read ahead)

`bio`

The struct bio which describes the I/O

Description

`submit_bio` is very similar in purpose to `generic_make_request`, and uses that function to do most of the work. Both are fairly rough interfaces; *`bio`* must be presetup and ready for I/O.

blk_rq_check_limits

LINUX

Name

`blk_rq_check_limits` — Helper function to check a request for the queue limit

Synopsis

```
int blk_rq_check_limits (struct request_queue * q, struct request * rq);
```

Arguments

q

the queue

rq

the request being checked

Description

rq may have been made based on weaker limitations of upper-level queues in request stacking drivers, and it may violate the limitation of *q*. Since the block layer and the underlying device driver trust *rq* after it is inserted to *q*, it should be checked against *q* before the insertion using this generic function.

This function should also be useful for request stacking drivers in some cases below, so export this function. Request stacking drivers like request-based dm may change the queue limits while requests are in the queue (e.g. dm's table swapping). Such request stacking drivers should check those requests agaist the new queue limits again when they dispatch those requests, although such checkings are also done against the old queue limits when submitting requests.

blk_insert_cloned_request

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_insert_cloned_request` — Helper for stacking drivers to submit a request

Synopsis

```
int blk_insert_cloned_request (struct request_queue * q,
struct request * rq);
```

Arguments

q

the queue to submit the request

rq

the request being queued

blk_rq_err_bytes

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_rq_err_bytes` — determine number of bytes till the next failure boundary

Synopsis

```
unsigned int blk_rq_err_bytes (const struct request * rq);
```

Arguments

rq

request to examine

Description

A request could be merge of IOs which require different failure handling. This function determines the number of bytes which can be failed from the beginning of the request without crossing into area which need to be retried further.

Return

The number of bytes to fail.

Context

queue_lock must be held.

blk_peek_request

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_peek_request` — peek at the top of a request queue

Synopsis

```
struct request * blk_peek_request (struct request_queue * q);
```

Arguments

q

request queue to peek at

Description

Return the request at the top of *q*. The returned request should be started using `blk_start_request` before LLD starts processing it.

Return

Pointer to the request at the top of *q* if available. Null otherwise.

Context

queue_lock must be held.

blk_start_request

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_start_request` — start request processing on the driver

Synopsis

```
void blk_start_request (struct request * req);
```

Arguments

req

request to dequeue

Description

Dequeue *req* and start timeout timer on it. This hands off the request to the driver.

Block internal functions which don't want to start timer should call `blk_dequeue_request`.

Context

queue_lock must be held.

blk_fetch_request

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_fetch_request` — fetch a request from a request queue

Synopsis

```
struct request * blk_fetch_request (struct request_queue * q);
```

Arguments

q

request queue to fetch a request from

Description

Return the request at the top of *q*. The request is started on return and LLD can start processing it immediately.

Return

Pointer to the request at the top of *q* if available. Null otherwise.

Context

queue_lock must be held.

blk_update_request

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_update_request` — Special helper function for request stacking drivers

Synopsis

```
bool blk_update_request (struct request * req, int error,
unsigned int nr_bytes);
```

Arguments

req

the request being processed

error

0 for success, < 0 for error

nr_bytes

number of bytes to complete *req*

Description

Ends I/O on a number of bytes attached to *req*, but doesn't complete the request structure even if *req* doesn't have leftover. If *req* has leftover, sets it up for the next range of segments.

This special helper function is only for request stacking drivers (e.g. request-based dm) so that they can handle partial completion. Actual device drivers should use blk_end_request instead.

Passing the result of `blk_rq_bytes` as *nr_bytes* guarantees `false` return from this function.

Return

`false` - this request doesn't have any more data `true` - this request has more data

blk_unprep_request

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_unprep_request` — unprepare a request

Synopsis

```
void blk_unprep_request (struct request * req);
```

Arguments

`req`

the request

Description

This function makes a request ready for complete resubmission (or completion). It happens only after all error handling is complete, so represents the appropriate moment to deallocate any resources that were allocated to the request in the prep_rq_fn. The queue lock is held when calling this.

blk_end_request

LINUX

Name

`blk_end_request` — Helper function for drivers to complete the request.

Synopsis

```
bool blk_end_request (struct request * rq, int error, unsigned
int nr_bytes);
```

Arguments

rq

the request being processed

error

`0` for success, < `0` for error

nr_bytes

number of bytes to complete

Description

Ends I/O on a number of bytes attached to *rq*. If *rq* has leftover, sets it up for the next range of segments.

Return

`false` - we are done with this request `true` - still buffers pending for this request

blk_end_request_all

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_end_request_all` — Helper function for drives to finish the request.

Synopsis

```
void blk_end_request_all (struct request * rq, int error);
```

Arguments

rq

the request to finish

error

`0` for success, < `0` for error

Description

Completely finish *rq*.

blk_end_request_cur

LINUX

Name

`blk_end_request_cur` — Helper function to finish the current request chunk.

Synopsis

```
bool blk_end_request_cur (struct request * rq, int error);
```

Arguments

`rq`

the request to finish the current chunk for

`error`

`0` for success, < `0` for error

Description

Complete the current consecutively mapped chunk from *`rq`*.

Return

`false` - we are done with this request `true` - still buffers pending for this request

blk_end_request_err

LINUX

Name

`blk_end_request_err` — Finish a request till the next failure boundary.

Synopsis

```
bool blk_end_request_err (struct request * rq, int error);
```

Arguments

rq

the request to finish till the next failure boundary for

error

must be negative errno

Description

Complete *rq* till the next failure boundary.

Return

`false` - we are done with this request `true` - still buffers pending for this request

__blk_end_request

LINUX

Name

`__blk_end_request` — Helper function for drivers to complete the request.

Synopsis

```
bool __blk_end_request (struct request * rq, int error,
unsigned int nr_bytes);
```

Arguments

rq

the request being processed

error

`0` for success, < `0` for error

nr_bytes

number of bytes to complete

Description

Must be called with queue lock held unlike `blk_end_request`.

Return

`false` - we are done with this request `true` - still buffers pending for this request

__blk_end_request_all

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__blk_end_request_all — Helper function for drives to finish the request.

Synopsis

```
void __blk_end_request_all (struct request * rq, int error);
```

Arguments

rq

the request to finish

error

0 for success, < 0 for error

Description

Completely finish *rq*. Must be called with queue lock held.

__blk_end_request_cur

LINUX

Name

`__blk_end_request_cur` — Helper function to finish the current request chunk.

Synopsis

```
bool __blk_end_request_cur (struct request * rq, int error);
```

Arguments

rq

the request to finish the current chunk for

error

`0` for success, < `0` for error

Description

Complete the current consecutively mapped chunk from *rq*. Must be called with queue lock held.

Return

`false` - we are done with this request `true` - still buffers pending for this request

__blk_end_request_err

LINUX

Name

`__blk_end_request_err` — Finish a request till the next failure boundary.

Synopsis

```
bool __blk_end_request_err (struct request * rq, int error);
```

Arguments

rq

the request to finish till the next failure boundary for

error

must be negative errno

Description

Complete *rq* till the next failure boundary. Must be called with queue lock held.

Return

`false` - we are done with this request `true` - still buffers pending for this request

rq_flush_dcache_pages

LINUX

Name

`rq_flush_dcache_pages` — Helper function to flush all pages in a request

Synopsis

```
void rq_flush_dcache_pages (struct request * rq);
```

Arguments

rq

the request to be flushed

Description

Flush all pages in *rq*.

blk_lld_busy

LINUX

Name

`blk_lld_busy` — Check if underlying low-level drivers of a device are busy

Synopsis

```
int blk_lld_busy (struct request_queue * q);
```

Arguments

q

the queue of the device being checked

Description

Check if underlying low-level drivers of a device are busy. If the drivers want to export their busy state, they must set own exporting function using `blk_queue_lld_busy` first.

Basically, this function is used only by request stacking drivers to stop dispatching requests to underlying devices when underlying devices are busy. This behavior helps more I/O merging on the queue of the request stacking driver and prevents I/O throughput regression on burst I/O load.

Return

0 - Not busy (The request stacking driver should dispatch request) 1 - Busy (The request stacking driver should stop dispatching request)

blk_rq_unprep_clone

LINUX

Name

`blk_rq_unprep_clone` — Helper function to free all bios in a cloned request

Synopsis

```
void blk_rq_unprep_clone (struct request * rq);
```

Arguments

rq

the clone request to be cleaned up

Description

Free all bios in *rq* for a cloned request.

blk_rq_prep_clone

LINUX

Name

`blk_rq_prep_clone` — Helper function to setup clone request

Synopsis

```
int blk_rq_prep_clone (struct request * rq, struct request *
rq_src, struct bio_set * bs, gfp_t gfp_mask, int (*bio_ctr)
(struct bio *, struct bio *, void *), void * data);
```

Arguments

rq

the request to be setup

rq_src

original request to be cloned

bs

bio_set that bios for clone are allocated from

gfp_mask

memory allocation mask for bio

bio_ctr

setup function to be called for each clone bio. Returns 0 for success, non 0 for failure.

data

private data to be passed to *bio_ctr*

Description

Clones bios in *rq_src* to *rq*, and copies attributes of *rq_src* to *rq*. The actual data parts of *rq_src* (e.g. ->cmd, ->buffer, ->sense) are not copied, and copying such parts is the caller's responsibility. Also, pages which the original bios are pointing to are not copied and the cloned bios just point same pages. So cloned bios must be completed before original bios, which means the caller must complete *rq* before *rq_src*.

__blk_run_queue_uncond

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__blk_run_queue_uncond — run a queue whether or not it has been stopped

Synopsis

```
void __blk_run_queue_uncond (struct request_queue * q);
```

Arguments

q

The queue to run

Description

Invoke request handling on a queue if there are any pending requests. May be used to restart request handling after a request has completed. This variant runs the queue whether or not the queue has been stopped. Must be called with the queue lock held and interrupts disabled. See also *blk_run_queue*.

__blk_drain_queue

LINUX

Name

`__blk_drain_queue` — drain requests from request_queue

Synopsis

```
void __blk_drain_queue (struct request_queue * q, bool
drain_all);
```

Arguments

q

queue to drain

drain_all

whether to drain all requests or only the ones w/ ELVPRIV

Description

Drain requests from *q*. If *drain_all* is set, all requests are drained. If not, only ELVPRIV requests are drained. The caller is responsible for ensuring that no new requests which need to be drained are queued.

get_request

LINUX

Name

`get_request` — get a free request

Synopsis

```
struct request * get_request (struct request_queue * q, int
rw_flags, struct bio * bio, gfp_t gfp_mask);
```

Arguments

q

request_queue to allocate request from

rw_flags

RW and SYNC flags

bio

bio to allocate request for (can be `NULL`)

gfp_mask

allocation mask

Description

Get a free request from *q*. This function may fail under memory pressure or if *q* is dead.

Must be callled with *q*->queue_lock held and, Returns `NULL` on failure, with *q*->queue_lock held. Returns !`NULL` on success, with *q*->queue_lock *not held*.

get_request_wait

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`get_request_wait` — get a free request with retry

Synopsis

```
struct request * get_request_wait (struct request_queue * q,
int rw_flags, struct bio * bio);
```

Arguments

q

request_queue to allocate request from

rw_flags

RW and SYNC flags

bio

bio to allocate request for (can be `NULL`)

Description

Get a free request from *q*. This function keeps retrying under memory pressure and fails iff *q* is dead.

Must be callled with *q*->queue_lock held and, Returns `NULL` on failure, with *q*->queue_lock held. Returns !`NULL` on success, with *q*->queue_lock *not held*.

attempt_plug_merge

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`attempt_plug_merge` — try to merge with `current`'s plugged list

Synopsis

```
bool attempt_plug_merge (struct request_queue * q, struct bio
* bio, unsigned int * request_count);
```

Arguments

`q`

request_queue new bio is being queued at

`bio`

new bio being queued

`request_count`

out parameter for number of traversed plugged requests

Description

Determine whether *`bio`* being queued on *`q`* can be merged with a request on `current`'s plugged list. Returns `true` if merge was successful, otherwise `false`.

Plugging coalesces IOs from the same issuer for the same purpose without going through *`q`*->queue_lock. As such it's more of an issuing mechanism than scheduling, and the request, while may have elvpriv data, is not added on the elevator at this point. In addition, we don't have reliable access to the elevator

outside queue lock. Only check basic merging parameters without querying the elevator.

__generic_make_request

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__generic_make_request — hand a buffer to its device driver for I/O

Synopsis

```
void __generic_make_request (struct bio * bio);
```

Arguments

bio

The bio describing the location in memory and on the device.

Description

generic_make_request is used to make I/O requests of block devices. It is passed a struct bio, which describes the I/O that needs to be done.

generic_make_request does not return any status. The success/failure status of the request, along with notification of completion, is delivered asynchronously through the bio->bi_end_io function described (one day) else where.

The caller of generic_make_request must make sure that bi_io_vec are set to describe the memory buffer, and that bi_dev and bi_sector are set to describe the

device address, and the bi_end_io and optionally bi_private are set to describe how completion notification should be signaled.

generic_make_request and the drivers it calls may use bi_next if this bio happens to be merged with someone else, and may change bi_dev and bi_sector for remaps as it sees fit. So the values of these fields should NOT be depended on after the call to generic_make_request.

blk_end_bidi_request

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_end_bidi_request` — Complete a bidi request

Synopsis

```
bool blk_end_bidi_request (struct request * rq, int error,
unsigned int nr_bytes, unsigned int bidi_bytes);
```

Arguments

`rq`

the request to complete

`error`

`0` for success, < `0` for error

`nr_bytes`

number of bytes to complete *`rq`*

bidi_bytes

number of bytes to complete *rq*->next_rq

Description

Ends I/O on a number of bytes attached to *rq* and *rq*->next_rq. Drivers that supports bidi can safely call this member for any type of request, bidi or uni. In the later case *bidi_bytes* is just ignored.

Return

`false` - we are done with this request `true` - still buffers pending for this request

__blk_end_bidi_request

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`__blk_end_bidi_request` — Complete a bidi request with queue lock held

Synopsis

```
bool __blk_end_bidi_request (struct request * rq, int error,
unsigned int nr_bytes, unsigned int bidi_bytes);
```

Arguments

rq

the request to complete

error

0 for success, < 0 for error

nr_bytes

number of bytes to complete *rq*

bidi_bytes

number of bytes to complete *rq*->next_rq

Description

Identical to blk_end_bidi_request except that queue lock is assumed to be locked on entry and remains so on return.

Return

false - we are done with this request true - still buffers pending for this request

blk_rq_map_user

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

blk_rq_map_user — map user data to a request, for REQ_TYPE_BLOCK_PC usage

Synopsis

```
int blk_rq_map_user (struct request_queue * q, struct request
* rq, struct rq_map_data * map_data, void __user * ubuf,
unsigned long len, gfp_t gfp_mask);
```

Arguments

q

request queue where request should be inserted

rq

request structure to fill

map_data

pointer to the rq_map_data holding pages (if necessary)

ubuf

the user buffer

len

length of user data

gfp_mask

memory allocation flags

Description

Data will be mapped directly for zero copy I/O, if possible. Otherwise a kernel bounce buffer is used.

A matching `blk_rq_unmap_user` must be issued at the end of I/O, while still in process context.

Note

The mapped bio may need to be bounced through `blk_queue_bounce` before being submitted to the device, as pages mapped may be out of reach. It's the callers responsibility to make sure this happens. The original bio must be passed back in to `blk_rq_unmap_user` for proper unmapping.

blk_rq_map_user_iov

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_rq_map_user_iov` — map user data to a request, for REQ_TYPE_BLOCK_PC usage

Synopsis

```
int blk_rq_map_user_iov (struct request_queue * q, struct
request * rq, struct rq_map_data * map_data, struct sg_iovec *
iov, int iov_count, unsigned int len, gfp_t gfp_mask);
```

Arguments

q

request queue where request should be inserted

rq

request to map data to

map_data

pointer to the rq_map_data holding pages (if necessary)

iov

pointer to the iovec

iov_count

number of elements in the iovec

len

I/O byte count

gfp_mask

memory allocation flags

Description

Data will be mapped directly for zero copy I/O, if possible. Otherwise a kernel bounce buffer is used.

A matching `blk_rq_unmap_user` must be issued at the end of I/O, while still in process context.

Note

The mapped bio may need to be bounced through `blk_queue_bounce` before being submitted to the device, as pages mapped may be out of reach. It's the callers responsibility to make sure this happens. The original bio must be passed back in to `blk_rq_unmap_user` for proper unmapping.

blk_rq_unmap_user

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_rq_unmap_user` — unmap a request with user data

Synopsis

```
int blk_rq_unmap_user (struct bio * bio);
```

Arguments

bio

start of bio list

Description

Unmap a rq previously mapped by `blk_rq_map_user`. The caller must supply the original rq->bio from the `blk_rq_map_user` return, since the I/O completion may have changed rq->bio.

blk_rq_map_kern

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_rq_map_kern` — map kernel data to a request, for REQ_TYPE_BLOCK_PC usage

Synopsis

```
int blk_rq_map_kern (struct request_queue * q, struct request
* rq, void * kbuf, unsigned int len, gfp_t gfp_mask);
```

Arguments

q

request queue where request should be inserted

rq

request to fill

kbuf

the kernel buffer

len

length of user data

gfp_mask

memory allocation flags

Description

Data will be mapped directly if possible. Otherwise a bounce buffer is used. Can be called multple times to append multple buffers.

blk_release_queue

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_release_queue` — release a struct request_queue when it is no longer needed

Synopsis

```
void blk_release_queue (struct kobject * kobj);
```

Arguments

kobj

the kobj belonging of the request queue to be released

Description

blk_cleanup_queue is the pair to `blk_init_queue` or `blk_queue_make_request`. It should be called when a request queue is being released; typically when a block device is being de-registered. Currently, its primary task it to free all the struct request structures that were allocated to the queue and the queue itself.

Caveat

Hopefully the low level driver will have finished any outstanding requests first...

blk_queue_prep_rq

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_queue_prep_rq` — set a prepare_request function for queue

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_prep_rq (struct request_queue * q, prep_rq_fn *
pfn);
```

Arguments

q

queue

pfn

prepare_request function

Description

It’s possible for a queue to register a prepare_request callback which is invoked before the request is handed to the request_fn. The goal of the function is to prepare a request for I/O, it can be used to build a cdb from the request data for instance.

blk_queue_unprep_rq

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_queue_unprep_rq` — set an unprepare_request function for queue

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_unprep_rq (struct request_queue * q,
unprep_rq_fn * ufn);
```

Arguments

q

queue

ufn

unprepare_request function

Description

It's possible for a queue to register an unprepare_request callback which is invoked before the request is finally completed. The goal of the function is to deallocate any data that was allocated in the prepare_request callback.

blk_queue_merge_bvec

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_queue_merge_bvec` — set a merge_bvec function for queue

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_merge_bvec (struct request_queue * q,
merge_bvec_fn * mbfn);
```

Arguments

q

queue

mbfn

merge_bvec_fn

Description

Usually queues have static limitations on the max sectors or segments that we can put in a request. Stacking drivers may have some settings that are dynamic, and thus we have to query the queue whether it is ok to add a new bio_vec to a bio at a given offset or not. If the block device has such limitations, it needs to register a merge_bvec_fn to control the size of bio's sent to it. Note that a block device *must* allow a single page to be added to an empty bio. The block device driver may want to use the `bio_split` function to deal with these bio's. By default no merge_bvec_fn is defined for a queue, and only the fixed limits are honored.

blk_set_default_limits

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_set_default_limits` — reset limits to default values

Synopsis

```
void blk_set_default_limits (struct queue_limits * lim);
```

Arguments

lim

the queue_limits structure to reset

Description

Returns a queue_limit struct to its default state.

blk_set_stacking_limits

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_set_stacking_limits` — set default limits for stacking devices

Synopsis

```
void blk_set_stacking_limits (struct queue_limits * lim);
```

Arguments

lim

the queue_limits structure to reset

Description

Returns a queue_limit struct to its default state. Should be used by stacking drivers like DM that have no internal limits.

blk_queue_make_request

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_queue_make_request` — define an alternate make_request function for a device

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_make_request (struct request_queue * q,
make_request_fn * mfn);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device to be affected

mfn

the alternate make_request function

Description

The normal way for struct bios to be passed to a device driver is for them to be collected into requests on a request queue, and then to allow the device driver to select requests off that queue when it is ready. This works well for many block devices. However some block devices (typically virtual devices such as md or lvm) do not benefit from the processing on the request queue, and are served best by having the requests passed directly to them. This can be achieved by providing a function to `blk_queue_make_request`.

Caveat

The driver that does this *must* be able to deal appropriately with buffers in "highmemory". This can be accomplished by either calling `__bio_kmap_atomic` to get a temporary kernel mapping, or by calling `blk_queue_bounce` to create a buffer in normal memory.

blk_queue_bounce_limit

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_queue_bounce_limit` — set bounce buffer limit for queue

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_bounce_limit (struct request_queue * q, u64
dma_mask);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

dma_mask

the maximum address the device can handle

Description

Different hardware can have different requirements as to what pages it can do I/O directly to. A low level driver can call blk_queue_bounce_limit to have lower memory pages allocated as bounce buffers for doing I/O to pages residing above *dma_mask*.

blk_limits_max_hw_sectors

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

blk_limits_max_hw_sectors — set hard and soft limit of max sectors for request

Synopsis

```
void blk_limits_max_hw_sectors (struct queue_limits * limits,
unsigned int max_hw_sectors);
```

Arguments

limits

the queue limits

max_hw_sectors

max hardware sectors in the usual 512b unit

Description

Enables a low level driver to set a hard upper limit, max_hw_sectors, on the size of requests. max_hw_sectors is set by the device driver based upon the combined capabilities of I/O controller and storage device.

max_sectors is a soft limit imposed by the block layer for filesystem type requests. This value can be overridden on a per-device basis in /sys/block/<device>/queue/max_sectors_kb. The soft limit can not exceed max_hw_sectors.

blk_queue_max_hw_sectors

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_queue_max_hw_sectors` — set max sectors for a request for this queue

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_max_hw_sectors (struct request_queue * q,
unsigned int max_hw_sectors);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

max_hw_sectors

max hardware sectors in the usual 512b unit

Description

See description for `blk_limits_max_hw_sectors`.

blk_queue_max_discard_sectors

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_queue_max_discard_sectors` — set max sectors for a single discard

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_max_discard_sectors (struct request_queue * q,
unsigned int max_discard_sectors);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

max_discard_sectors

maximum number of sectors to discard

blk_queue_max_segments

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_queue_max_segments` — set max hw segments for a request for this queue

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_max_segments (struct request_queue * q,
unsigned short max_segments);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

max_segments

max number of segments

Description

Enables a low level driver to set an upper limit on the number of hw data segments in a request.

blk_queue_max_segment_size

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_queue_max_segment_size` — set max segment size for blk_rq_map_sg

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_max_segment_size (struct request_queue * q,
unsigned int max_size);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

max_size

max size of segment in bytes

Description

Enables a low level driver to set an upper limit on the size of a coalesced segment

blk_queue_logical_block_size

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_queue_logical_block_size` — set logical block size for the queue

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_logical_block_size (struct request_queue * q,
unsigned short size);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

size

the logical block size, in bytes

Description

This should be set to the lowest possible block size that the storage device can address. The default of 512 covers most hardware.

blk_queue_physical_block_size

LINUX

Name

`blk_queue_physical_block_size` — set physical block size for the queue

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_physical_block_size (struct request_queue * q,
unsigned int size);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

size

the physical block size, in bytes

Description

This should be set to the lowest possible sector size that the hardware can operate on without reverting to read-modify-write operations.

blk_queue_alignment_offset

LINUX

Name

`blk_queue_alignment_offset` — set physical block alignment offset

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_alignment_offset (struct request_queue * q,
unsigned int offset);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

offset

alignment offset in bytes

Description

Some devices are naturally misaligned to compensate for things like the legacy DOS partition table 63-sector offset. Low-level drivers should call this function for devices whose first sector is not naturally aligned.

blk_limits_io_min

LINUX

Name

`blk_limits_io_min` — set minimum request size for a device

Synopsis

```
void blk_limits_io_min (struct queue_limits * limits, unsigned
int min);
```

Arguments

`limits`

the queue limits

`min`

smallest I/O size in bytes

Description

Some devices have an internal block size bigger than the reported hardware sector size. This function can be used to signal the smallest I/O the device can perform without incurring a performance penalty.

blk_queue_io_min

LINUX

Name

`blk_queue_io_min` — set minimum request size for the queue

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_io_min (struct request_queue * q, unsigned int
min);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

min

smallest I/O size in bytes

Description

Storage devices may report a granularity or preferred minimum I/O size which is the smallest request the device can perform without incurring a performance penalty. For disk drives this is often the physical block size. For RAID arrays it is often the stripe chunk size. A properly aligned multiple of minimum_io_size is the preferred request size for workloads where a high number of I/O operations is desired.

blk_limits_io_opt

LINUX

Name

`blk_limits_io_opt` — set optimal request size for a device

Synopsis

```
void blk_limits_io_opt (struct queue_limits * limits, unsigned
int opt);
```

Arguments

`limits`

the queue limits

`opt`

smallest I/O size in bytes

Description

Storage devices may report an optimal I/O size, which is the device's preferred unit for sustained I/O. This is rarely reported for disk drives. For RAID arrays it is usually the stripe width or the internal track size. A properly aligned multiple of optimal_io_size is the preferred request size for workloads where sustained throughput is desired.

blk_queue_io_opt

LINUX

Name

`blk_queue_io_opt` — set optimal request size for the queue

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_io_opt (struct request_queue * q, unsigned int
opt);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

opt

optimal request size in bytes

Description

Storage devices may report an optimal I/O size, which is the device's preferred unit for sustained I/O. This is rarely reported for disk drives. For RAID arrays it is usually the stripe width or the internal track size. A properly aligned multiple of optimal_io_size is the preferred request size for workloads where sustained throughput is desired.

blk_queue_stack_limits

LINUX

Name

`blk_queue_stack_limits` — inherit underlying queue limits for stacked drivers

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_stack_limits (struct request_queue * t, struct
request_queue * b);
```

Arguments

t

the stacking driver (top)

b

the underlying device (bottom)

blk_stack_limits

LINUX

Name

`blk_stack_limits` — adjust queue_limits for stacked devices

Synopsis

```
int blk_stack_limits (struct queue_limits * t, struct
queue_limits * b, sector_t start);
```

Arguments

t

the stacking driver limits (top device)

b

the underlying queue limits (bottom, component device)

start

first data sector within component device

Description

This function is used by stacking drivers like MD and DM to ensure that all component devices have compatible block sizes and alignments. The stacking driver must provide a queue_limits struct (top) and then iteratively call the stacking function for all component (bottom) devices. The stacking function will attempt to combine the values and ensure proper alignment.

Returns 0 if the top and bottom queue_limits are compatible. The top device's block sizes and alignment offsets may be adjusted to ensure alignment with the bottom device. If no compatible sizes and alignments exist, -1 is returned and the resulting top queue_limits will have the misaligned flag set to indicate that the alignment_offset is undefined.

bdev_stack_limits

LINUX

Name

`bdev_stack_limits` — adjust queue limits for stacked drivers

Synopsis

```
int bdev_stack_limits (struct queue_limits * t, struct
block_device * bdev, sector_t start);
```

Arguments

t

the stacking driver limits (top device)

bdev

the component block_device (bottom)

start

first data sector within component device

Description

Merges queue limits for a top device and a block_device. Returns 0 if alignment didn’t change. Returns -1 if adding the bottom device caused misalignment.

disk_stack_limits

LINUX

Name

`disk_stack_limits` — adjust queue limits for stacked drivers

Synopsis

```
void disk_stack_limits (struct gendisk * disk, struct
block_device * bdev, sector_t offset);
```

Arguments

`disk`

MD/DM gendisk (top)

`bdev`

the underlying block device (bottom)

`offset`

offset to beginning of data within component device

Description

Merges the limits for a top level gendisk and a bottom level block_device.

blk_queue_dma_pad

LINUX

Name

`blk_queue_dma_pad` — set pad mask

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_dma_pad (struct request_queue * q, unsigned int
mask);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

mask

pad mask

Description

Set dma pad mask.

Appending pad buffer to a request modifies the last entry of a scatter list such that it includes the pad buffer.

blk_queue_update_dma_pad

LINUX

Name

`blk_queue_update_dma_pad` — update pad mask

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_update_dma_pad (struct request_queue * q,
unsigned int mask);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

mask

pad mask

Description

Update dma pad mask.

Appending pad buffer to a request modifies the last entry of a scatter list such that it includes the pad buffer.

blk_queue_dma_drain

LINUX

Name

`blk_queue_dma_drain` — Set up a drain buffer for excess dma.

Synopsis

```
int blk_queue_dma_drain (struct request_queue * q,
dma_drain_needed_fn * dma_drain_needed, void * buf, unsigned
int size);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

dma_drain_needed

fn which returns non-zero if drain is necessary

buf

physically contiguous buffer

size

size of the buffer in bytes

Description

Some devices have excess DMA problems and can't simply discard (or zero fill) the unwanted piece of the transfer. They have to have a real area of memory to transfer it into. The use case for this is ATAPI devices in DMA mode. If the packet command causes a transfer bigger than the transfer size some HBAs will lock up if there aren't DMA elements to contain the excess transfer. What this API does is adjust the queue so that the buf is always appended silently to the scatterlist.

Note

This routine adjusts max_hw_segments to make room for appending the drain buffer. If you call `blk_queue_max_segments` after calling this routine, you must set the limit to one fewer than your device can support otherwise there won't be room for the drain buffer.

blk_queue_segment_boundary

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_queue_segment_boundary` — set boundary rules for segment merging

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_segment_boundary (struct request_queue * q,
unsigned long mask);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

mask

the memory boundary mask

blk_queue_dma_alignment

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_queue_dma_alignment` — set dma length and memory alignment

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_dma_alignment (struct request_queue * q, int mask);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

mask

alignment mask

description

set required memory and length alignment for direct dma transactions. this is used when building direct io requests for the queue.

blk_queue_update_dma_alignment

LINUX

Name

`blk_queue_update_dma_alignment` — update dma length and memory alignment

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_update_dma_alignment (struct request_queue * q,
int mask);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

mask

alignment mask

description

update required memory and length alignment for direct dma transactions. If the requested alignment is larger than the current alignment, then the current queue alignment is updated to the new value, otherwise it is left alone. The design of this is to allow multiple objects (driver, device, transport etc) to set their respective alignments without having them interfere.

blk_queue_flush

LINUX

Name

`blk_queue_flush` — configure queue's cache flush capability

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_flush (struct request_queue * q, unsigned int flush);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

flush

0, REQ_FLUSH or REQ_FLUSH | REQ_FUA

Description

Tell block layer cache flush capability of *q*. If it supports flushing, REQ_FLUSH should be set. If it supports bypassing write cache for individual writes, REQ_FUA should be set.

blk_execute_rq_nowait

LINUX

Name

`blk_execute_rq_nowait` — insert a request into queue for execution

Synopsis

```
void blk_execute_rq_nowait (struct request_queue * q, struct
gendisk * bd_disk, struct request * rq, int at_head,
rq_end_io_fn * done);
```

Arguments

q

queue to insert the request in

bd_disk

matching gendisk

rq

request to insert

at_head

insert request at head or tail of queue

done

I/O completion handler

Description

Insert a fully prepared request at the back of the I/O scheduler queue for execution. Don’t wait for completion.

Note

This function will invoke *done* directly if the queue is dead.

blk_execute_rq

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

blk_execute_rq — insert a request into queue for execution

Synopsis

```
int blk_execute_rq (struct request_queue * q, struct gendisk *
bd_disk, struct request * rq, int at_head);
```

Arguments

q

queue to insert the request in

bd_disk

matching gendisk

rq

request to insert

at_head

insert request at head or tail of queue

Description

Insert a fully prepared request at the back of the I/O scheduler queue for execution and wait for completion.

blkdev_issue_flush

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blkdev_issue_flush` — queue a flush

Synopsis

```
int blkdev_issue_flush (struct block_device * bdev, gfp_t
gfp_mask, sector_t * error_sector);
```

Arguments

bdev

blockdev to issue flush for

gfp_mask

memory allocation flags (for bio_alloc)

error_sector

error sector

Description

Issue a flush for the block device in question. Caller can supply room for storing the error offset in case of a flush error, if they wish to. If WAIT flag is not passed then caller may check only what request was pushed in some internal queue for later handling.

blkdev_issue_discard

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blkdev_issue_discard` — queue a discard

Synopsis

```
int blkdev_issue_discard (struct block_device * bdev, sector_t
sector, sector_t nr_sects, gfp_t gfp_mask, unsigned long
flags);
```

Arguments

`bdev`

blockdev to issue discard for

`sector`

start sector

`nr_sects`

number of sectors to discard

gfp_mask

memory allocation flags (for bio_alloc)

flags

BLKDEV_IFL_* flags to control behaviour

Description

Issue a discard request for the sectors in question.

blkdev_issue_zeroout

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blkdev_issue_zeroout` — generate number of zero filed write bios

Synopsis

```
int blkdev_issue_zeroout (struct block_device * bdev, sector_t
sector, sector_t nr_sects, gfp_t gfp_mask);
```

Arguments

bdev

blockdev to issue

sector

start sector

nr_sects

number of sectors to write

gfp_mask

memory allocation flags (for bio_alloc)

Description

Generate and issue number of bios with zerofiled pages.

blk_queue_find_tag

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_queue_find_tag` — find a request by its tag and queue

Synopsis

```
struct request * blk_queue_find_tag (struct request_queue * q,
int tag);
```

Arguments

q

The request queue for the device

tag

The tag of the request

Notes

Should be used when a device returns a tag and you want to match it with a request.

no locks need be held.

blk_free_tags

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_free_tags` — release a given set of tag maintenance info

Synopsis

```
void blk_free_tags (struct blk_queue_tag * bqt);
```

Arguments

`bqt`

the tag map to free

Description

For externally managed *`bqt`* frees the map. Callers of this function must guarantee to have released all the queues that might have been using this tag map.

blk_queue_free_tags

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_queue_free_tags` — release tag maintenance info

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_free_tags (struct request_queue * q);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

Notes

This is used to disable tagged queuing to a device, yet leave queue in function.

blk_init_tags

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_init_tags` — initialize the tag info for an external tag map

Synopsis

```
struct blk_queue_tag * blk_init_tags (int depth);
```

Arguments

depth

the maximum queue depth supported

blk_queue_init_tags

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_queue_init_tags` — initialize the queue tag info

Synopsis

```
int blk_queue_init_tags (struct request_queue * q, int depth,
struct blk_queue_tag * tags);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

depth

the maximum queue depth supported

tags

the tag to use

Description

Queue lock must be held here if the function is called to resize an existing map.

blk_queue_resize_tags

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_queue_resize_tags` — change the queueing depth

Synopsis

```
int blk_queue_resize_tags (struct request_queue * q, int
new_depth);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

new_depth

the new max command queueing depth

Notes

Must be called with the queue lock held.

blk_queue_end_tag

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_queue_end_tag` — end tag operations for a request

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_end_tag (struct request_queue * q, struct
request * rq);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

rq

the request that has completed

Description

Typically called when `end_that_request_first` returns `0`, meaning all transfers have been done for a request. It's important to call this function before `end_that_request_last`, as that will put the request back on the free list thus corrupting the internal tag list.

Notes

queue lock must be held.

blk_queue_start_tag

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_queue_start_tag` — find a free tag and assign it

Synopsis

```
int blk_queue_start_tag (struct request_queue * q, struct
request * rq);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

rq

the block request that needs tagging

Description

This can either be used as a stand-alone helper, or possibly be assigned as the queue prep_rq_fn (in which case struct request automagically gets a tag assigned). Note that this function assumes that any type of request can be queued! if this is not true for your device, you must check the request type before calling this function. The

request will also be removed from the request queue, so it's the drivers responsibility to readd it if it should need to be restarted for some reason.

Notes

queue lock must be held.

blk_queue_invalidate_tags

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_queue_invalidate_tags` — invalidate all pending tags

Synopsis

```
void blk_queue_invalidate_tags (struct request_queue * q);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

Description

Hardware conditions may dictate a need to stop all pending requests. In this case, we will safely clear the block side of the tag queue and readd all requests to the request queue in the right order.

Notes

queue lock must be held.

__blk_free_tags

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`__blk_free_tags` — release a given set of tag maintenance info

Synopsis

```
int __blk_free_tags (struct blk_queue_tag * bqt);
```

Arguments

bqt

the tag map to free

Description

Tries to free the specified *bqt*. Returns true if it was actually freed and false if there are still references using it

__blk_queue_free_tags

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`__blk_queue_free_tags` — release tag maintenance info

Synopsis

```
void __blk_queue_free_tags (struct request_queue * q);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue for the device

Notes

`blk_cleanup_queue` will take care of calling this function, if tagging has been used. So there's no need to call this directly.

blk_rq_count_integrity_sg

LINUX

Name

`blk_rq_count_integrity_sg` — Count number of integrity scatterlist elements

Synopsis

```
int blk_rq_count_integrity_sg (struct request_queue * q,
struct bio * bio);
```

Arguments

q

request queue

bio

bio with integrity metadata attached

Description

Returns the number of elements required in a scatterlist corresponding to the integrity metadata in a bio.

blk_rq_map_integrity_sg

LINUX

Name

`blk_rq_map_integrity_sg` — Map integrity metadata into a scatterlist

Synopsis

```
int blk_rq_map_integrity_sg (struct request_queue * q, struct
bio * bio, struct scatterlist * sglist);
```

Arguments

q

request queue

bio

bio with integrity metadata attached

sglist

target scatterlist

Description

Map the integrity vectors in request into a scatterlist. The scatterlist must be big enough to hold all elements. I.e. sized using `blk_rq_count_integrity_sg`.

blk_integrity_compare

LINUX

Name

`blk_integrity_compare` — Compare integrity profile of two disks

Synopsis

```
int blk_integrity_compare (struct gendisk * gd1, struct
gendisk * gd2);
```

Arguments

gd1

Disk to compare

gd2

Disk to compare

Description

Meta-devices like DM and MD need to verify that all sub-devices use the same integrity format before advertising to upper layers that they can send/receive integrity metadata. This function can be used to check whether two gendisk devices have compatible integrity formats.

blk_integrity_register

LINUX

Name

`blk_integrity_register` — Register a gendisk as being integrity-capable

Synopsis

```
int blk_integrity_register (struct gendisk * disk, struct
blk_integrity * template);
```

Arguments

`disk`

struct gendisk pointer to make integrity-aware

`template`

optional integrity profile to register

Description

When a device needs to advertise itself as being able to send/receive integrity metadata it must use this function to register the capability with the block layer. The template is a blk_integrity struct with values appropriate for the underlying hardware. If template is NULL the new profile is allocated but not filled out. See Documentation/block/data-integrity.txt.

blk_integrity_unregister

LINUX

Name

`blk_integrity_unregister` — Remove block integrity profile

Synopsis

```
void blk_integrity_unregister (struct gendisk * disk);
```

Arguments

`disk`

disk whose integrity profile to deallocate

Description

This function frees all memory used by the block integrity profile. To be called at device teardown.

blk_trace_ioctl

LINUX

Name

`blk_trace_ioctl` — handle the ioctls associated with tracing

Synopsis

```
int blk_trace_ioctl (struct block_device * bdev, unsigned cmd,
char __user * arg);
```

Arguments

bdev

the block device

cmd

the ioctl cmd

arg

the argument data, if any

blk_trace_shutdown

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

blk_trace_shutdown — stop and cleanup trace structures

Synopsis

```
void blk_trace_shutdown (struct request_queue * q);
```

Arguments

q

the request queue associated with the device

blk_add_trace_rq

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_add_trace_rq` — Add a trace for a request oriented action

Synopsis

```
void blk_add_trace_rq (struct request_queue * q, struct
request * rq, u32 what);
```

Arguments

q

queue the io is for

rq

the source request

what

the action

Description

Records an action against a request. Will log the bio offset + size.

blk_add_trace_bio

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_add_trace_bio` — Add a trace for a bio oriented action

Synopsis

```
void blk_add_trace_bio (struct request_queue * q, struct bio *
bio, u32 what, int error);
```

Arguments

q

queue the io is for

bio

the source bio

what

the action

error

error, if any

Description

Records an action against a bio. Will log the bio offset + size.

blk_add_trace_bio_remap

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_add_trace_bio_remap` — Add a trace for a bio-remap operation

Synopsis

```
void blk_add_trace_bio_remap (void * ignore, struct
request_queue * q, struct bio * bio, dev_t dev, sector_t
from);
```

Arguments

ignore

trace callback data parameter (not used)

q

queue the io is for

bio

the source bio

dev

target device

from

source sector

Description

Device mapper or raid target sometimes need to split a bio because it spans a stripe (or similar). Add a trace for that action.

blk_add_trace_rq_remap

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_add_trace_rq_remap` — Add a trace for a request-remap operation

Synopsis

```
void blk_add_trace_rq_remap (void * ignore, struct
request_queue * q, struct request * rq, dev_t dev, sector_t
from);
```

Arguments

ignore

trace callback data parameter (not used)

q

queue the io is for

rq

the source request

dev

target device

from

source sector

Description

Device mapper remaps request to other devices. Add a trace for that action.

blk_mangle_minor

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_mangle_minor` — scatter minor numbers apart

Synopsis

```
int blk_mangle_minor (int minor);
```

Arguments

minor

minor number to mangle

Description

Scatter consecutively allocated *minor* number apart if MANGLE_DEVT is enabled. Mangling twice gives the original value.

RETURNS

Mangled value.

CONTEXT

Don’t care.

blk_alloc_devt

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

blk_alloc_devt — allocate a dev_t for a partition

Synopsis

```
int blk_alloc_devt (struct hd_struct * part, dev_t * devt);
```

Arguments

part

partition to allocate dev_t for

devt

out parameter for resulting dev_t

Description

Allocate a dev_t for block device.

RETURNS

0 on success, allocated dev_t is returned in **devt*. -errno on failure.

CONTEXT

Might sleep.

blk_free_devt

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`blk_free_devt` — free a dev_t

Synopsis

```
void blk_free_devt (dev_t devt);
```

Arguments

devt

dev_t to free

Description

Free *devt* which was allocated using `blk_alloc_devt`.

CONTEXT

Might sleep.

__device_add_disk

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`__device_add_disk` — add disk information to kernel list

Synopsis

```
void __device_add_disk (struct gendisk * disk, bool
register_queue);
```

Arguments

disk

per-device partitioning information

register_queue

register the queue if set to true

Description

This function registers the partitioning information in *disk* with the kernel.

FIXME

error handling

disk_replace_part_tbl

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

disk_replace_part_tbl — replace disk->part_tbl in RCU-safe way

Synopsis

```
void disk_replace_part_tbl (struct gendisk * disk, struct
disk_part_tbl * new_ptbl);
```

Arguments

disk

disk to replace part_tbl for

new_ptbl

new part_tbl to install

Description

Replace disk->part_tbl with *new_ptbl* in RCU-safe way. The original ptbl is freed using RCU callback.

LOCKING

Matching bd_mutx locked.

disk_expand_part_tbl

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

disk_expand_part_tbl — expand disk->part_tbl

Synopsis

```
int disk_expand_part_tbl (struct gendisk * disk, int partno);
```

Arguments

disk

disk to expand part_tbl for

partno

expand such that this partno can fit in

Description

Expand disk->part_tbl such that *partno* can fit in. disk->part_tbl uses RCU to allow unlocked dereferencing for stats and other stuff.

LOCKING

Matching bd_mutex locked, might sleep.

RETURNS

0 on success, -errno on failure.

disk_block_events

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`disk_block_events` — block and flush disk event checking

Synopsis

```
void disk_block_events (struct gendisk * disk);
```

Arguments

disk

disk to block events for

Description

On return from this function, it is guaranteed that event checking isn't in progress and won't happen until unblocked by `disk_unblock_events`. Events blocking is counted and the actual unblocking happens after the matching number of unblocks are done.

Note that this intentionally does not block event checking from `disk_clear_events`.

CONTEXT

Might sleep.

disk_unblock_events

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`disk_unblock_events` — unblock disk event checking

Synopsis

```
void disk_unblock_events (struct gendisk * disk);
```

Arguments

disk

disk to unblock events for

Description

Undo `disk_block_events`. When the block count reaches zero, it starts events polling if configured.

CONTEXT

Don’t care. Safe to call from irq context.

disk_clear_events

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`disk_clear_events` — synchronously check, clear and return pending events

Synopsis

```
unsigned int disk_clear_events (struct gendisk * disk,
unsigned int mask);
```

Arguments

disk

disk to fetch and clear events from

mask

mask of events to be fetched and clearted

Description

Disk events are synchronously checked and pending events in *mask* are cleared and returned. This ignores the block count.

CONTEXT

Might sleep.

disk_get_part

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

disk_get_part — get partition

Synopsis

```
struct hd_struct * disk_get_part (struct gendisk * disk, int partno);
```

Arguments

disk

disk to look partition from

partno

partition number

Description

Look for partition *partno* from *disk*. If found, increment reference count and return it.

CONTEXT

Don’t care.

RETURNS

Pointer to the found partition on success, NULL if not found.

disk_part_iter_init

LINUX

Name

`disk_part_iter_init` — initialize partition iterator

Synopsis

```
void disk_part_iter_init (struct disk_part_iter * piter,
struct gendisk * disk, unsigned int flags);
```

Arguments

piter

iterator to initialize

disk

disk to iterate over

flags

DISK_PITER_* flags

Description

Initialize *piter* so that it iterates over partitions of *disk*.

CONTEXT

Don’t care.

disk_part_iter_next

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`disk_part_iter_next` — proceed iterator to the next partition and return it

Synopsis

```
struct hd_struct * disk_part_iter_next (struct disk_part_iter
* piter);
```

Arguments

piter

iterator of interest

Description

Proceed *piter* to the next partition and return it.

CONTEXT

Don't care.

disk_part_iter_exit

LINUX

Name

`disk_part_iter_exit` — finish up partition iteration

Synopsis

```
void disk_part_iter_exit (struct disk_part_iter * piter);
```

Arguments

`piter`

iter of interest

Description

Called when iteration is over. Cleans up *`piter`*.

CONTEXT

Don’t care.

disk_map_sector_rcu

LINUX

Name

`disk_map_sector_rcu` — map sector to partition

Synopsis

```
struct hd_struct * disk_map_sector_rcu (struct gendisk * disk,
sector_t sector);
```

Arguments

`disk`

gendisk of interest

`sector`

sector to map

Description

Find out which partition *`sector`* maps to on *`disk`*. This is primarily used for stats accounting.

CONTEXT

RCU read locked. The returned partition pointer is valid only while preemption is disabled.

RETURNS

Found partition on success, part0 is returned if no partition matches

register_blkdev

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`register_blkdev` — register a new block device

Synopsis

```
int register_blkdev (unsigned int major, const char * name);
```

Arguments

major

the requested major device number [1..255]. If *major*=0, try to allocate any unused major number.

name

the name of the new block device as a zero terminated string

Description

The *name* must be unique within the system.

The return value depends on the *major* input parameter. - if a major device number was requested in range [1..255] then the function returns zero on success, or a negative error code - if any unused major number was requested with *major*=0 parameter then the return value is the allocated major number in range [1..255] or a negative error code otherwise

get_gendisk

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`get_gendisk` — get partitioning information for a given device

Synopsis

```
struct gendisk * get_gendisk (dev_t devt, int * partno);
```

Arguments

devt

device to get partitioning information for

partno

returned partition index

Description

This function gets the structure containing partitioning information for the given device *devt*.

bdget_disk

LINUX

Name

`bdget_disk` — do `bdget` by gendisk and partition number

Synopsis

```
struct block_device * bdget_disk (struct gendisk * disk, int
partno);
```

Arguments

`disk`

gendisk of interest

`partno`

partition number

Description

Find partition *`partno`* from *`disk`*, do `bdget` on it.

CONTEXT

Don’t care.

RETURNS

Resulting block_device on success, NULL on failure.

disk_check_events

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`disk_check_events` — schedule immediate event checking

Synopsis

```
void disk_check_events (struct gendisk * disk);
```

Arguments

disk

disk to check events for

Description

Schedule immediate event checking on *disk* if not blocked.

CONTEXT

Don’t care. Safe to call from irq context.

Chapter 15. Char devices

register_chrdev_region

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`register_chrdev_region` — register a range of device numbers

Synopsis

```
int register_chrdev_region (dev_t from, unsigned count, const
char * name);
```

Arguments

`from`

the first in the desired range of device numbers; must include the major number.

`count`

the number of consecutive device numbers required

`name`

the name of the device or driver.

Description

Return value is zero on success, a negative error code on failure.

alloc_chrdev_region

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`alloc_chrdev_region` — register a range of char device numbers

Synopsis

```
int alloc_chrdev_region (dev_t * dev, unsigned baseminor,
unsigned count, const char * name);
```

Arguments

dev

output parameter for first assigned number

baseminor

first of the requested range of minor numbers

count

the number of minor numbers required

name

the name of the associated device or driver

Description

Allocates a range of char device numbers. The major number will be chosen dynamically, and returned (along with the first minor number) in *dev*. Returns zero or a negative error code.

__register_chrdev

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__register_chrdev — create and register a cdev occupying a range of minors

Synopsis

```
int __register_chrdev (unsigned int major, unsigned int
baseminor, unsigned int count, const char * name, const struct
file_operations * fops);
```

Arguments

major

major device number or 0 for dynamic allocation

baseminor

first of the requested range of minor numbers

count

the number of minor numbers required

name

name of this range of devices

fops

file operations associated with this devices

Description

If *major* == 0 this functions will dynamically allocate a major and return its number.

If *major* > 0 this function will attempt to reserve a device with the given major number and will return zero on success.

Returns a -ve errno on failure.

The name of this device has nothing to do with the name of the device in /dev. It only helps to keep track of the different owners of devices. If your module name has only one type of devices it's ok to use e.g. the name of the module here.

unregister_chrdev_region

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

unregister_chrdev_region — return a range of device numbers

Synopsis

```
void unregister_chrdev_region (dev_t from, unsigned count);
```

Arguments

from

the first in the range of numbers to unregister

count

the number of device numbers to unregister

Description

This function will unregister a range of *count* device numbers, starting with *from*. The caller should normally be the one who allocated those numbers in the first place...

__unregister_chrdev

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__unregister_chrdev — unregister and destroy a cdev

Synopsis

```
void __unregister_chrdev (unsigned int major, unsigned int
baseminor, unsigned int count, const char * name);
```

Arguments

major

major device number

baseminor

first of the range of minor numbers

count

the number of minor numbers this cdev is occupying

name

name of this range of devices

Description

Unregister and destroy the cdev occupying the region described by *major*, *baseminor* and *count*. This function undoes what __register_chrdev did.

cdev_add

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

cdev_add — add a char device to the system

Synopsis

```
int cdev_add (struct cdev * p, dev_t dev, unsigned count);
```

Arguments

p

the cdev structure for the device

dev

the first device number for which this device is responsible

count

the number of consecutive minor numbers corresponding to this device

Description

`cdev_add` adds the device represented by *p* to the system, making it live immediately. A negative error code is returned on failure.

cdev_del

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`cdev_del` — remove a cdev from the system

Synopsis

```
void cdev_del (struct cdev * p);
```

Arguments

p

the cdev structure to be removed

Description

`cdev_del` removes *p* from the system, possibly freeing the structure itself.

cdev_alloc

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`cdev_alloc` — allocate a cdev structure

Synopsis

```
struct cdev * cdev_alloc ( void);
```

Arguments

void

no arguments

Description

Allocates and returns a cdev structure, or NULL on failure.

cdev_init

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`cdev_init` — initialize a cdev structure

Synopsis

```
void cdev_init (struct cdev * cdev, const struct
file_operations * fops);
```

Arguments

`cdev`

the structure to initialize

`fops`

the file_operations for this device

Description

Initializes *`cdev`*, remembering *`fops`*, making it ready to add to the system with `cdev_add`.

Chapter 16. Miscellaneous Devices

misc_register

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`misc_register` — register a miscellaneous device

Synopsis

```
int misc_register (struct miscdevice * misc);
```

Arguments

misc

device structure

Description

Register a miscellaneous device with the kernel. If the minor number is set to `MISC_DYNAMIC_MINOR` a minor number is assigned and placed in the minor field of the structure. For other cases the minor number requested is used.

The structure passed is linked into the kernel and may not be destroyed until it has been unregistered.

A zero is returned on success and a negative errno code for failure.

misc_deregister

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`misc_deregister` — unregister a miscellaneous device

Synopsis

```
int misc_deregister (struct miscdevice * misc);
```

Arguments

misc

device to unregister

Description

Unregister a miscellaneous device that was previously successfully registered with `misc_register`. Success is indicated by a zero return, a negative errno code indicates an error.

Chapter 17. Clock Framework

The clock framework defines programming interfaces to support software management of the system clock tree. This framework is widely used with System-On-Chip (SOC) platforms to support power management and various devices which may need custom clock rates. Note that these "clocks" don’t relate to timekeeping or real time clocks (RTCs), each of which have separate frameworks. These struct clk instances may be used to manage for example a 96 MHz signal that is used to shift bits into and out of peripherals or busses, or otherwise trigger synchronous state machine transitions in system hardware.

Power management is supported by explicit software clock gating: unused clocks are disabled, so the system doesn’t waste power changing the state of transistors that aren’t in active use. On some systems this may be backed by hardware clock gating, where clocks are gated without being disabled in software. Sections of chips that are powered but not clocked may be able to retain their last state. This low power state is often called a *retention mode*. This mode still incurs leakage currents, especially with finer circuit geometries, but for CMOS circuits power is mostly used by clocked state changes.

Power-aware drivers only enable their clocks when the device they manage is in active use. Also, system sleep states often differ according to which clock domains are active: while a "standby" state may allow wakeup from several active domains, a "mem" (suspend-to-RAM) state may require a more wholesale shutdown of clocks derived from higher speed PLLs and oscillators, limiting the number of possible wakeup event sources. A driver’s suspend method may need to be aware of system-specific clock constraints on the target sleep state.

Some platforms support programmable clock generators. These can be used by external chips of various kinds, such as other CPUs, multimedia codecs, and devices with strict requirements for interface clocking.

clk_get

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`clk_get` — lookup and obtain a reference to a clock producer.

Synopsis

```
struct clk * clk_get (struct device * dev, const char * id);
```

Arguments

dev

device for clock “consumer”

id

clock comsumer ID

Description

Returns a struct clk corresponding to the clock producer, or valid IS_ERR condition containing errno. The implementation uses *dev* and *id* to determine the clock consumer, and thereby the clock producer. (IOW, *id* may be identical strings, but clk_get may return different clock producers depending on *dev*.)

Drivers must assume that the clock source is not enabled.

clk_get should not be called from within interrupt context.

clk_enable

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

clk_enable — inform the system when the clock source should be running.

Synopsis

```
int clk_enable (struct clk * clk);
```

Arguments

clk

clock source

Description

If the clock can not be enabled/disabled, this should return success.

Returns success (0) or negative errno.

clk_disable

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

clk_disable — inform the system when the clock source is no longer required.

Synopsis

```
void clk_disable (struct clk * clk);
```

Arguments

clk

clock source

Description

Inform the system that a clock source is no longer required by a driver and may be shut down.

Implementation detail

if the clock source is shared between multiple drivers, clk_enable calls must be balanced by the same number of clk_disable calls for the clock source to be disabled.

clk_get_rate

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

clk_get_rate — obtain the current clock rate (in Hz) for a clock source. This is only valid once the clock source has been enabled.

Synopsis

```
unsigned long clk_get_rate (struct clk * clk);
```

Arguments

clk

clock source

clk_put

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

clk_put — "free" the clock source

Synopsis

```
void clk_put (struct clk * clk);
```

Arguments

clk

clock source

Note

drivers must ensure that all clk_enable calls made on this clock source are balanced by clk_disable calls prior to calling this function.

clk_put should not be called from within interrupt context.

clk_round_rate

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`clk_round_rate` — adjust a rate to the exact rate a clock can provide

Synopsis

```
long clk_round_rate (struct clk * clk, unsigned long rate);
```

Arguments

`clk`

clock source

`rate`

desired clock rate in Hz

Description

Returns rounded clock rate in Hz, or negative errno.

clk_set_rate

LINUX

Name

`clk_set_rate` — set the clock rate for a clock source

Synopsis

```
int clk_set_rate (struct clk * clk, unsigned long rate);
```

Arguments

`clk`

clock source

`rate`

desired clock rate in Hz

Description

Returns success (0) or negative errno.

clk_set_parent

LINUX

Name

`clk_set_parent` — set the parent clock source for this clock

Synopsis

```
int clk_set_parent (struct clk * clk, struct clk * parent);
```

Arguments

clk

clock source

parent

parent clock source

Description

Returns success (0) or negative errno.

clk_get_parent

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

clk_get_parent — get the parent clock source for this clock

Synopsis

```
struct clk * clk_get_parent (struct clk * clk);
```

Arguments

clk

clock source

Description

Returns struct clk corresponding to parent clock source, or valid IS_ERR condition containing errno.

clk_get_sys

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

clk_get_sys — get a clock based upon the device name

Synopsis

```
struct clk * clk_get_sys (const char * dev_id, const char *
con_id);
```

Arguments

dev_id

device name

con_id

connection ID

Description

Returns a struct clk corresponding to the clock producer, or valid `IS_ERR` condition containing errno. The implementation uses *`dev_id`* and *`con_id`* to determine the clock consumer, and thereby the clock producer. In contrast to `clk_get` this function takes the device name instead of the device itself for identification.

Drivers must assume that the clock source is not enabled.

clk_get_sys should not be called from within interrupt context.

clk_add_alias

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`clk_add_alias` — add a new clock alias

Synopsis

```
int clk_add_alias (const char * alias, const char *
alias_dev_name, char * id, struct device * dev);
```

Arguments

`alias`

name for clock alias

`alias_dev_name`

device name

id

platform specific clock name

dev

device

Description

Allows using generic clock names for drivers by adding a new alias. Assumes clkdev, see clkdev.h for more info.