

Opening the Developer Community

Gentoo Linux

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The Gentoo Community

- User Community
 - Very large
 - Passionate
- Developer Community
 - Small
 - Overworked
 - Secure
- Too much separation?

Becoming a Developer

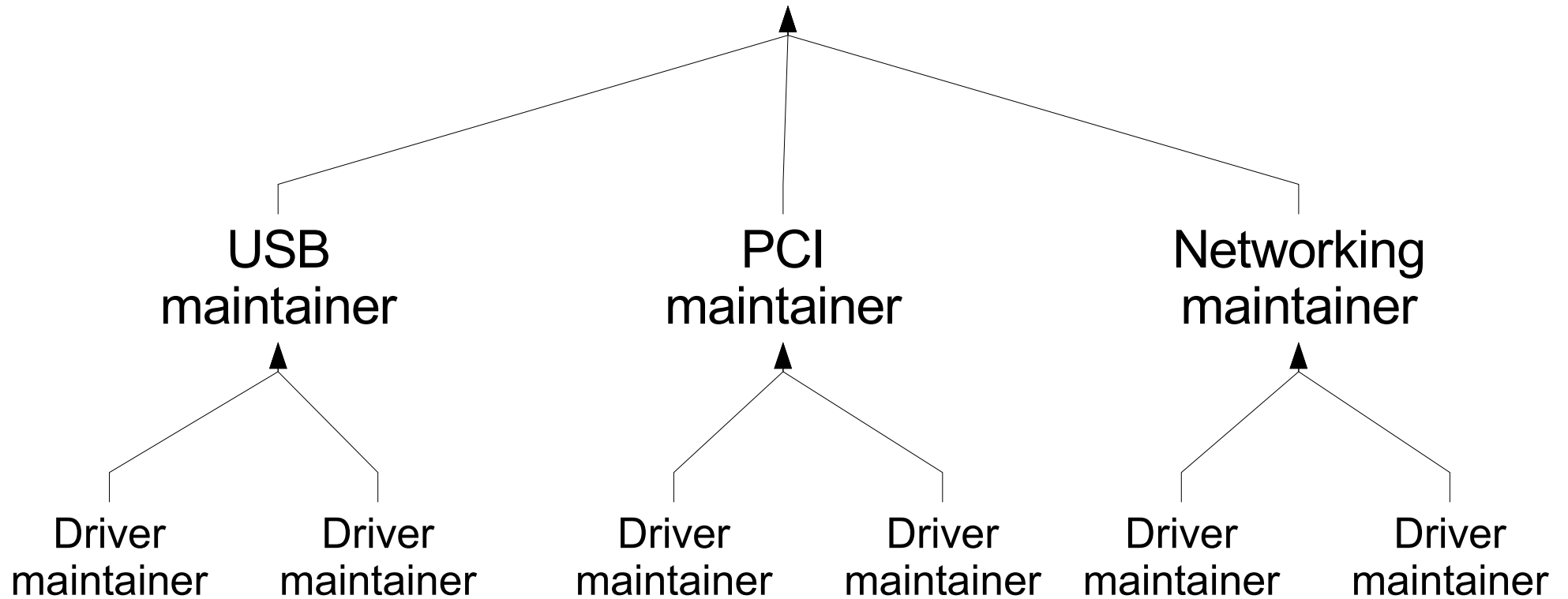
- You will need:
 - Good contact with a developer
 - Lots of time to read documents
 - A lot of motivation
 - A notion towards doing a lot of work in the long term
- The barrier is very high
- Developer intake is rather slow
- How do other projects manage?

Linux Kernel Development

- No centralised user community
 - Everyone is a developer
- Quality of patch is the only contribution barrier
- Very refined
 - Efficient
 - Fast-moving
 - Adaptable

Linux Hierarchy

Andrew Morton
Linus Torvalds



GNOME Development

- Somewhat centralised
 - A developer CVS repository
 - Most resources on gnome.org
- Becoming a developer was a breeze
 - Implied responsibility only
- Lack of policy docs
 - Common sense

Gentoo Development

- Central group of developers
- Contributions accepted through bugzilla
 - But many are left to bit-rot
- Each developer has @gentoo.org email, hosting, CVS, and more
- Easy option: add more developers?

LIVE EBUILD TREE!

- All developers have commit access to the whole tree
 - This is one of the things which makes Gentoo unique
 - Developers must be skilled and trusted

Problems

- Expensive to add developers
- Risky to have inactive developer accounts
- Doesn't take a lot of open-source factors into account:
 - Interested candidates want to scratch an itch but will lose interest if they have to wait 4 weeks
 - System doesn't really consider the fact that people's interests change, not everybody gets married to Gentoo

Ideas

- We want to keep the live tree
- Developer hierarchy
 - Senior developers, who have live tree access
 - Junior developers who commit to a non-live tree
 - A system in place to migrate ebuilds into live tree
- Open access to all non-live repositories and overlays
- Don't provide @gentoo.org services to junior developers

Recent Developments

- Gentoo Overlays
 - Slower moving trees
- Project Sunrise
 - A user-oriented overlay with a lower contribution barrier