



linux-media patch and review process: how to improve this?

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Sub-maintainers

- In 2012, at the Barcelona's Media Summit, it was agreed to create sub-maintainers, in order to allow more patch reviews. The sub-maintainers were (from <http://linuxtv.org/news.php?entry=2012-12-29.mchehab> :
 - “Michael Krufky: frontends/tuners/demodulators . In addition he'll be a reviewer for DVB core patches.
 - Hans Verkuil: V4L2 drivers and video A/D and D/A subdev drivers (aka video receivers and transmitters). In addition he'll be a reviewer for V4L2 core patches.
 - Laurent Pinchart: sensor subdev drivers
 - Kamil Debski: codec (aka memory-to-memory) drivers
 - Hans de Goede: non-UVC USB webcam drivers
 - Guennadi Liakhovetski: soc-camera drivers”
- Two developers (one at TI and one at Samsung) would be “sub-maintaining” the drivers for their company's hardware.
- Core patches would be reviewed by sub-maintainers and by me.

Sub-maintainers current status

- Michael didn't have time to review DVB patches, and stopped being a sub-maintainer. We asked Sakari last year to help submaintaining webcams.
- We never found a replacement for DVB sub-maintainership and never found a sub-maintainer for Remote Controllers.
- Unfortunately, only, nowadays, most sub-maintainers don't send pull requests on each new Kernel version, with seems to be a signal that something's wrong:
 - Lack of time?
 - Lack of interests?
 - The area they maintain are now stable?
- Sometimes, patches take a very long time to be applied. How to handle lack of responsiveness on sub-maintainers/reviewers?
 - How much time a patch without review should wait to be merged?

How can we fix it?

- Some alternatives:
 - 1) we could find sub-maintainers for DVB, Media Controller and Remote Controller;
 - Wow? Place a RFC at the linux-media asking for volunteers?
 - How to handle unresponsive^Wbusy sub-maintainers?
 - 2) sub-maintainers for “stable” areas could step up to help on areas lacking sub-maintainership.
 - 3) We could attract reviewers. How?
 - Projects with academy?
 - Hire some reviewers? If so, where to get money?
 - 1) we could find sub-maintainers for DVB, Media Controller and Remote Controller;
 - Place a RFC at the linux-media asking for volunteers?
 - Some other ideas?