Studienarbeit Description

A Case Study or Experiment in Open Source Patch Submission

This Studienarbeit analyses the patch submission process of a new feature to the Linux kernel and related projects using a specific example. A major challenge is the coordination of multiple patches to different yet interdependent projects. The analysis is based on a yet-to-be-chosen research method, e.g. case study or experiment, with the goal of determining best practices and likely successful strategies for submitting patches to large well-known open source projects.

Work Description

- Review of literature on Patch Submission
  - General reception of patch submission experiences
  - Summary of general patch submission strategies, "best practices", e.g.
    - Order patch submissions by code dependencies
    - Use kconfig variables to bracket ACPI patch
    - Use C macros to enable/disable patches
    - Match code quality with project neediness
- Definition of patch submission strategy for Docking Station support, e.g.
  - ACPI and udev patches before Gnome and KDE patches
  - Depending target project, less code quality effort
- Creation of original patches to work with
- Choice of research approach, e.g. case study or experiment
  - Used to justify patch submission process
  - To be discussed with advisor
- Documentation of patch submission process
  - Which patches where when
  - Back-and-forth (if so) between submitter and maintainer
  - Documentation of changes, strategy adaption

Advisor

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2011-08-15