USB Gadget API for Linux

David Brownell

dbrownell@users.sourceforge.net

USB Gadget API for Linux

by David Brownell

20 August 2004 Edition
Copyright © 2003-2004 David Brownell

This documentation is free software; you can redistribute it and/or modify it under the terms of the GNU General Public License as published by the Free Software Foundation; either version 2 of the License, or (at your option) any later version.
This program is distributed in the hope that it will be useful, but WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY; without even the implied warranty of MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. See the GNU General Public License for more details.
You should have received a copy of the GNU General Public License along with this program; if not, write to the Free Software Foundation, Inc., 59 Temple Place, Suite 330, Boston, MA 02111-1307 USA
For more details see the file COPYING in the source distribution of Linux.

Table of Contents

1. Introduction **1**
2. Structure of Gadget Drivers **3**
3. Kernel Mode Gadget API **7**
3.1. Driver Life Cycle 8
3.2. USB 2.0 Chapter 9 Types and Constants 9
struct usb_ctrlrequest 9
usb_endpoint_maxp_mult 11
usb_endpoint_num 11
usb_endpoint_type 12
usb_endpoint_dir_in 13
usb_endpoint_dir_out 14
usb_endpoint_xfer_bulk 15
usb_endpoint_xfer_control 16
usb_endpoint_xfer_int 16
usb_endpoint_xfer_isoc 17
usb_endpoint_is_bulk_in 18
usb_endpoint_is_bulk_out 19
usb_endpoint_is_int_in 20
usb_endpoint_is_int_out 21
usb_endpoint_is_isoc_in 21
usb_endpoint_is_isoc_out 22
usb_endpoint_maxp 23
usb_speed_string 24
3.3. Core Objects and Methods 25
struct usb_request 25
struct usb_ep 27
usb_ep_enable 29
usb_ep_disable 30
usb_ep_alloc_request 31
usb_ep_free_request 32
usb_ep_queue 33
usb_ep_dequeue 35
usb_ep_set_halt 35
usb_ep_clear_halt 37
usb_ep_set_wedge 37
usb_ep_fifo_status 38
usb_ep_fifo_flush 39
struct usb_gadget 40
gadget_is_dualspeed 42
gadget_is_otg 43

usb_gadget_frame_number 44
usb_gadget_wakeup 45
usb_gadget_set_selfpowered 46
usb_gadget_clear_selfpowered 46
usb_gadget_vbus_connect 47
usb_gadget_vbus_draw 48
usb_gadget_vbus_disconnect 49
usb_gadget_connect 50
usb_gadget_disconnect 51
struct usb_gadget_driver 52
usb_gadget_probe_driver 54
usb_gadget_unregister_driver 55
struct usb_string 56
struct usb_gadget_strings 57
usb_free_descriptors 58
3.4. Optional Utilities 59
usb_gadget_get_string 59
usb_descriptor_fillbuf 60
usb_gadget_config_buf 61
usb_copy_descriptors 63
usb_find_endpoint 64
3.5. Composite Device Framework 65
struct usb_function 65
ep_choose 68
struct usb_configuration 69
struct usb_composite_driver 71
struct usb_composite_dev 73
usb_add_function 74
usb_function_deactivate 75
usb_function_activate 76
usb_interface_id 77
usb_add_config 78
usb_string_id 79
usb_string_ids_tab 80
usb_string_ids_n 82
usb_composite_probe 83
usb_composite_unregister 84
usb_composite_setup_continue 85
3.6. Composite Device Functions 86
acm_cdc_notify 86
acm_bind_config 87
ecm_bind_config 88
geth_bind_config 89

obex_bind_config 90
gser_bind_config 91
4. Peripheral Controller Drivers 95
5. Gadget Drivers 97
6. USB On-The-GO (OTG) 99

Chapter 1. Introduction

This document presents a Linux-USB "Gadget" kernel mode API, for use within peripherals and other USB devices that embed Linux. It provides an overview of the API structure, and shows how that fits into a system development project. This is the first such API released on Linux to address a number of important problems, including:

- Supports USB 2.0, for high speed devices which can stream data at several dozen megabytes per second.
- Handles devices with dozens of endpoints just as well as ones with just two fixed-function ones. Gadget drivers can be written so they’re easy to port to new hardware.
- Flexible enough to expose more complex USB device capabilities such as multiple configurations, multiple interfaces, composite devices, and alternate interface settings.
- USB "On-The-Go" (OTG) support, in conjunction with updates to the Linux-USB host side.
- Sharing data structures and API models with the Linux-USB host side API. This helps the OTG support, and looks forward to more-symmetric frameworks (where the same I/O model is used by both host and device side drivers).
- Minimalist, so it’s easier to support new device controller hardware. I/O processing doesn’t imply large demands for memory or CPU resources.

Most Linux developers will not be able to use this API, since they have USB "host" hardware in a PC, workstation, or server. Linux users with embedded systems are more likely to have USB peripheral hardware. To distinguish drivers running inside such hardware from the more familiar Linux "USB device drivers", which are host side proxies for the real USB devices, a different term is used: the drivers inside the peripherals are "USB gadget drivers". In USB protocol interactions, the device driver is the master (or "client driver") and the gadget driver is the slave (or "function driver").

The gadget API resembles the host side Linux-USB API in that both use queues of request objects to package I/O buffers, and those requests may be submitted or canceled. They share common definitions for the standard USB *Chapter 9* messages, structures, and constants. Also, both APIs bind and unbind drivers to devices. The APIs differ in detail, since the host side’s current URB framework exposes a number of implementation details and assumptions that are inappropriate for a gadget API. While the model for control transfers and configuration management is necessarily different (one side is a hardware-neutral master, the

other is a hardware-aware slave), the endpoint I/0 API used here should also be usable for an overhead-reduced host side API.

Chapter 2. Structure of Gadget Drivers

A system running inside a USB peripheral normally has at least three layers inside the kernel to handle USB protocol processing, and may have additional layers in user space code. The "gadget" API is used by the middle layer to interact with the lowest level (which directly handles hardware).

In Linux, from the bottom up, these layers are:

USB Controller Driver

This is the lowest software level. It is the only layer that talks to hardware, through registers, fifos, dma, irqs, and the like. The `<linux/usb/gadget.h>` API abstracts the peripheral controller endpoint hardware. That hardware is exposed through endpoint objects, which accept streams of IN/OUT buffers, and through callbacks that interact with gadget drivers. Since normal USB devices only have one upstream port, they only have one of these drivers. The controller driver can support any number of different gadget drivers, but only one of them can be used at a time.

Examples of such controller hardware include the PCI-based NetChip 2280 USB 2.0 high speed controller, the SA-11x0 or PXA-25x UDC (found within many PDAs), and a variety of other products.

Gadget Driver

The lower boundary of this driver implements hardware-neutral USB functions, using calls to the controller driver. Because such hardware varies widely in capabilities and restrictions, and is used in embedded environments where space is at a premium, the gadget driver is often configured at compile time to work with endpoints supported by one particular controller. Gadget drivers may be portable to several different controllers, using conditional compilation. (Recent kernels substantially simplify the work involved in supporting new hardware, by *autoconfiguring* endpoints automatically for many bulk-oriented drivers.) Gadget driver responsibilities include:

- handling setup requests (ep0 protocol responses) possibly including class-specific functionality
- returning configuration and string descriptors
- (re)setting configurations and interface altsettings, including enabling and configuring endpoints

- handling life cycle events, such as managing bindings to hardware, USB suspend/resume, remote wakeup, and disconnection from the USB host.
- managing IN and OUT transfers on all currently enabled endpoints

Such drivers may be modules of proprietary code, although that approach is discouraged in the Linux community.

Upper Level

Most gadget drivers have an upper boundary that connects to some Linux driver or framework in Linux. Through that boundary flows the data which the gadget driver produces and/or consumes through protocol transfers over USB. Examples include:

- user mode code, using generic (gadgetfs) or application specific files in `/dev`
- networking subsystem (for network gadgets, like the CDC Ethernet Model gadget driver)
- data capture drivers, perhaps video4Linux or a scanner driver; or test and measurement hardware.
- input subsystem (for HID gadgets)
- sound subsystem (for audio gadgets)
- file system (for PTP gadgets)
- block i/o subsystem (for usb-storage gadgets)
- ... and more

Additional Layers

Other layers may exist. These could include kernel layers, such as network protocol stacks, as well as user mode applications building on standard POSIX system call APIs such as *open()*, *close()*, *read()* and *write()*. On newer systems, POSIX Async I/O calls may be an option. Such user mode code will not necessarily be subject to the GNU General Public License (GPL).

OTG-capable systems will also need to include a standard Linux-USB host side stack, with *usbcore*, one or more *Host Controller Drivers* (HCDs), *USB Device Drivers* to support the OTG "Targeted Peripheral List", and so forth. There will also be an *OTG Controller Driver*, which is visible to gadget and device driver developers only indirectly. That helps the host and device side USB controllers implement the two new OTG protocols (HNP and SRP). Roles switch (host to peripheral, or vice versa) using HNP during USB suspend processing, and SRP can be viewed as a more battery-friendly kind of device wakeup protocol.

Over time, reusable utilities are evolving to help make some gadget driver tasks simpler. For example, building configuration descriptors from vectors of descriptors for the configurations interfaces and endpoints is now automated, and many drivers now use autoconfiguration to choose hardware endpoints and initialize their descriptors. A potential example of particular interest is code implementing standard USB-IF protocols for HID, networking, storage, or audio classes. Some developers are interested in KDB or KGDB hooks, to let target hardware be remotely debugged. Most such USB protocol code doesn't need to be hardware-specific, any more than network protocols like X11, HTTP, or NFS are. Such gadget-side interface drivers should eventually be combined, to implement composite devices.

Chapter 3. Kernel Mode Gadget API

Gadget drivers declare themselves through a *struct usb_gadget_driver*, which is responsible for most parts of enumeration for a *struct usb_gadget*. The response to a set_configuration usually involves enabling one or more of the *struct usb_ep* objects exposed by the gadget, and submitting one or more *struct usb_request* buffers to transfer data. Understand those four data types, and their operations, and you will understand how this API works.

> **Incomplete Data Type Descriptions:** This documentation was prepared using the standard Linux kernel `docproc` tool, which turns text and in-code comments into SGML DocBook and then into usable formats such as HTML or PDF. Other than the "Chapter 9" data types, most of the significant data types and functions are described here.
>
> However, docproc does not understand all the C constructs that are used, so some relevant information is likely omitted from what you are reading. One example of such information is endpoint autoconfiguration. You'll have to read the header file, and use example source code (such as that for "Gadget Zero"), to fully understand the API.
>
> The part of the API implementing some basic driver capabilities is specific to the version of the Linux kernel that's in use. The 2.6 kernel includes a *driver model* framework that has no analogue on earlier kernels; so those parts of the gadget API are not fully portable. (They are implemented on 2.4 kernels, but in a different way.) The driver model state is another part of this API that is ignored by the kerneldoc tools.

The core API does not expose every possible hardware feature, only the most widely available ones. There are significant hardware features, such as device-to-device DMA (without temporary storage in a memory buffer) that would be added using hardware-specific APIs.

This API allows drivers to use conditional compilation to handle endpoint capabilities of different hardware, but doesn't require that. Hardware tends to have arbitrary restrictions, relating to transfer types, addressing, packet sizes, buffering, and availability. As a rule, such differences only matter for "endpoint zero" logic that handles device configuration and management. The API supports limited run-time detection of capabilities, through naming conventions for endpoints. Many drivers will be able to at least partially autoconfigure themselves. In particular, driver init sections will often have endpoint autoconfiguration logic that scans the hardware's list of endpoints to find ones matching the driver requirements (relying on those conventions), to eliminate some of the most common reasons for conditional compilation.

Like the Linux-USB host side API, this API exposes the "chunky" nature of USB messages: I/O requests are in terms of one or more "packets", and packet boundaries are visible to drivers. Compared to RS-232 serial protocols, USB resembles synchronous protocols like HDLC (N bytes per frame, multipoint addressing, host as the primary station and devices as secondary stations) more than asynchronous ones (tty style: 8 data bits per frame, no parity, one stop bit). So for example the controller drivers won't buffer two single byte writes into a single two-byte USB IN packet, although gadget drivers may do so when they implement protocols where packet boundaries (and "short packets") are not significant.

3.1. Driver Life Cycle

Gadget drivers make endpoint I/O requests to hardware without needing to know many details of the hardware, but driver setup/configuration code needs to handle some differences. Use the API like this:

1. Register a driver for the particular device side usb controller hardware, such as the net2280 on PCI (USB 2.0), sa11x0 or pxa25x as found in Linux PDAs, and so on. At this point the device is logically in the USB ch9 initial state ("attached"), drawing no power and not usable (since it does not yet support enumeration). Any host should not see the device, since it's not activated the data line pullup used by the host to detect a device, even if VBUS power is available.
2. Register a gadget driver that implements some higher level device function. That will then bind() to a usb_gadget, which activates the data line pullup sometime after detecting VBUS.
3. The hardware driver can now start enumerating. The steps it handles are to accept USB power and set_address requests. Other steps are handled by the gadget driver. If the gadget driver module is unloaded before the host starts to enumerate, steps before step 7 are skipped.
4. The gadget driver's setup() call returns usb descriptors, based both on what the bus interface hardware provides and on the functionality being implemented. That can involve alternate settings or configurations, unless the hardware prevents such operation. For OTG devices, each configuration descriptor includes an OTG descriptor.
5. The gadget driver handles the last step of enumeration, when the USB host issues a set_configuration call. It enables all endpoints used in that configuration, with all interfaces in their default settings. That involves using a list of the hardware's endpoints, enabling each endpoint according to its descriptor. It may also involve using `usb_gadget_vbus_draw` to let more

power be drawn from VBUS, as allowed by that configuration. For OTG devices, setting a configuration may also involve reporting HNP capabilities through a user interface.

6. Do real work and perform data transfers, possibly involving changes to interface settings or switching to new configurations, until the device is disconnect()ed from the host. Queue any number of transfer requests to each endpoint. It may be suspended and resumed several times before being disconnected. On disconnect, the drivers go back to step 3 (above).
7. When the gadget driver module is being unloaded, the driver unbind() callback is issued. That lets the controller driver be unloaded.

Drivers will normally be arranged so that just loading the gadget driver module (or statically linking it into a Linux kernel) allows the peripheral device to be enumerated, but some drivers will defer enumeration until some higher level component (like a user mode daemon) enables it. Note that at this lowest level there are no policies about how ep0 configuration logic is implemented, except that it should obey USB specifications. Such issues are in the domain of gadget drivers, including knowing about implementation constraints imposed by some USB controllers or understanding that composite devices might happen to be built by integrating reusable components.

Note that the lifecycle above can be slightly different for OTG devices. Other than providing an additional OTG descriptor in each configuration, only the HNP-related differences are particularly visible to driver code. They involve reporting requirements during the SET_CONFIGURATION request, and the option to invoke HNP during some suspend callbacks. Also, SRP changes the semantics of `usb_gadget_wakeup` slightly.

3.2. USB 2.0 Chapter 9 Types and Constants

Gadget drivers rely on common USB structures and constants defined in the `<linux/usb/ch9.h>` header file, which is standard in Linux 2.6 kernels. These are the same types and constants used by host side drivers (and usbcore).

struct usb_ctrlrequest

LINUX

Name

`struct usb_ctrlrequest` — SETUP data for a USB device control request

Synopsis

```
struct usb_ctrlrequest {
  __u8 bRequestType;
  __u8 bRequest;
  __le16 wValue;
  __le16 wIndex;
  __le16 wLength;
};
```

Members

bRequestType

matches the USB bmRequestType field

bRequest

matches the USB bRequest field

wValue

matches the USB wValue field (le16 byte order)

wIndex

matches the USB wIndex field (le16 byte order)

wLength

matches the USB wLength field (le16 byte order)

Description

This structure is used to send control requests to a USB device. It matches the different fields of the USB 2.0 Spec section 9.3, table 9-2. See the USB spec for a fuller description of the different fields, and what they are used for.

Note that the driver for any interface can issue control requests. For most devices, interfaces don't coordinate with each other, so such requests may be made at any time.

usb_endpoint_maxp_mult

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_endpoint_maxp_mult` — get endpoint's transactional opportunities

Synopsis

```
int usb_endpoint_maxp_mult (const struct
usb_endpoint_descriptor * epd);
```

Arguments

epd

endpoint to be checked

Description

Return *epd*'s wMaxPacketSize[12:11] + 1

usb_endpoint_num

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_endpoint_num` — get the endpoint's number

Synopsis

```
int usb_endpoint_num (const struct usb_endpoint_descriptor *
epd);
```

Arguments

epd

endpoint to be checked

Description

Returns *epd*'s number: 0 to 15.

usb_endpoint_type

LINUX

Name

`usb_endpoint_type` — get the endpoint's transfer type

Synopsis

```
int usb_endpoint_type (const struct usb_endpoint_descriptor *
epd);
```

Arguments

epd

endpoint to be checked

Description

Returns one of USB_ENDPOINT_XFER_{CONTROL, ISOC, BULK, INT} according to *epd*'s transfer type.

usb_endpoint_dir_in

LINUX

Name

`usb_endpoint_dir_in` — check if the endpoint has IN direction

Synopsis

```
int usb_endpoint_dir_in (const struct usb_endpoint_descriptor
* epd);
```

Arguments

epd

endpoint to be checked

Description

Returns true if the endpoint is of type IN, otherwise it returns false.

usb_endpoint_dir_out

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_endpoint_dir_out` — check if the endpoint has OUT direction

Synopsis

```
int usb_endpoint_dir_out (const struct usb_endpoint_descriptor
* epd);
```

Arguments

epd

endpoint to be checked

Description

Returns true if the endpoint is of type OUT, otherwise it returns false.

usb_endpoint_xfer_bulk

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_endpoint_xfer_bulk` — check if the endpoint has bulk transfer type

Synopsis

```
int usb_endpoint_xfer_bulk (const struct
usb_endpoint_descriptor * epd);
```

Arguments

epd

endpoint to be checked

Description

Returns true if the endpoint is of type bulk, otherwise it returns false.

usb_endpoint_xfer_control

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_endpoint_xfer_control` — check if the endpoint has control transfer type

Synopsis

```
int usb_endpoint_xfer_control (const struct
usb_endpoint_descriptor * epd);
```

Arguments

epd

endpoint to be checked

Description

Returns true if the endpoint is of type control, otherwise it returns false.

usb_endpoint_xfer_int

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

usb_endpoint_xfer_int — check if the endpoint has interrupt transfer type

Synopsis

```
int usb_endpoint_xfer_int (const struct
usb_endpoint_descriptor * epd);
```

Arguments

epd

endpoint to be checked

Description

Returns true if the endpoint is of type interrupt, otherwise it returns false.

usb_endpoint_xfer_isoc

LINUX

Name

`usb_endpoint_xfer_isoc` — check if the endpoint has isochronous transfer type

Synopsis

```
int usb_endpoint_xfer_isoc (const struct
usb_endpoint_descriptor * epd);
```

Arguments

epd

endpoint to be checked

Description

Returns true if the endpoint is of type isochronous, otherwise it returns false.

usb_endpoint_is_bulk_in

LINUX

Name

`usb_endpoint_is_bulk_in` — check if the endpoint is bulk IN

Synopsis

```
int usb_endpoint_is_bulk_in (const struct
usb_endpoint_descriptor * epd);
```

Arguments

epd

endpoint to be checked

Description

Returns true if the endpoint has bulk transfer type and IN direction, otherwise it returns false.

usb_endpoint_is_bulk_out

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_endpoint_is_bulk_out` — check if the endpoint is bulk OUT

Synopsis

```
int usb_endpoint_is_bulk_out (const struct
usb_endpoint_descriptor * epd);
```

Arguments

epd

endpoint to be checked

Description

Returns true if the endpoint has bulk transfer type and OUT direction, otherwise it returns false.

usb_endpoint_is_int_in

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_endpoint_is_int_in` — check if the endpoint is interrupt IN

Synopsis

```
int usb_endpoint_is_int_in (const struct
usb_endpoint_descriptor * epd);
```

Arguments

epd

endpoint to be checked

Description

Returns true if the endpoint has interrupt transfer type and IN direction, otherwise it returns false.

usb_endpoint_is_int_out

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_endpoint_is_int_out` — check if the endpoint is interrupt OUT

Synopsis

```
int usb_endpoint_is_int_out (const struct
usb_endpoint_descriptor * epd);
```

Arguments

epd

endpoint to be checked

Description

Returns true if the endpoint has interrupt transfer type and OUT direction, otherwise it returns false.

usb_endpoint_is_isoc_in

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_endpoint_is_isoc_in` — check if the endpoint is isochronous IN

Synopsis

```
int usb_endpoint_is_isoc_in (const struct
usb_endpoint_descriptor * epd);
```

Arguments

epd

endpoint to be checked

Description

Returns true if the endpoint has isochronous transfer type and IN direction, otherwise it returns false.

usb_endpoint_is_isoc_out

LINUX

Name

`usb_endpoint_is_isoc_out` — check if the endpoint is isochronous OUT

Synopsis

```
int usb_endpoint_is_isoc_out (const struct
usb_endpoint_descriptor * epd);
```

Arguments

epd

endpoint to be checked

Description

Returns true if the endpoint has isochronous transfer type and OUT direction, otherwise it returns false.

usb_endpoint_maxp

LINUX

Name

`usb_endpoint_maxp` — get endpoint's max packet size

Synopsis

```
int usb_endpoint_maxp (const struct usb_endpoint_descriptor *
epd);
```

Arguments

epd

endpoint to be checked

Description

Returns *epd*'s max packet

usb_speed_string

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

usb_speed_string — Returns human readable-name of the speed.

Synopsis

```
const char * usb_speed_string (enum usb_device_speed speed);
```

Arguments

speed

The speed to return human-readable name for. If it's not any of the speeds defined in usb_device_speed enum, string for USB_SPEED_UNKNOWN will be returned.

3.3. Core Objects and Methods

These are declared in `<linux/usb/gadget.h>`, and are used by gadget drivers to interact with USB peripheral controller drivers.

struct usb_request

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`struct usb_request` — describes one i/o request

Synopsis

```
struct usb_request {
  void * buf;
  unsigned length;
  dma_addr_t dma;
  unsigned no_interrupt:1;
  unsigned zero:1;
  unsigned short_not_ok:1;
  void (* complete) (struct usb_ep *ep,struct usb_request *req);
  void * context;
  struct list_head list;
  int status;
  unsigned actual;
};
```

Members

buf

Buffer used for data. Always provide this; some controllers only use PIO, or don't use DMA for some endpoints.

length

Length of that data

dma

DMA address corresponding to 'buf'. If you don't set this field, and the usb controller needs one, it is responsible for mapping and unmapping the buffer.

no_interrupt

If true, hints that no completion irq is needed. Helpful sometimes with deep request queues that are handled directly by DMA controllers.

zero

If true, when writing data, makes the last packet be "short" by adding a zero length packet as needed;

short_not_ok

When reading data, makes short packets be treated as errors (queue stops advancing till cleanup).

complete

Function called when request completes, so this request and its buffer may be re-used. The function will always be called with interrupts disabled, and it must not sleep. Reads terminate with a short packet, or when the buffer fills, whichever comes first. When writes terminate, some data bytes will usually still be in flight (often in a hardware fifo). Errors (for reads or writes) stop the queue from advancing until the completion function returns, so that any transfers invalidated by the error may first be dequeued.

context

For use by the completion callback

list

For use by the gadget driver.

status

Reports completion code, zero or a negative errno. Normally, faults block the transfer queue from advancing until the completion callback returns. Code "-ESHUTDOWN" indicates completion caused by device disconnect, or when the driver disabled the endpoint.

actual

Reports bytes transferred to/from the buffer. For reads (OUT transfers) this may be less than the requested length. If the short_not_ok flag is set, short reads are treated as errors even when status otherwise indicates successful completion. Note that for writes (IN transfers) some data bytes may still reside in a device-side FIFO when the request is reported as complete.

Description

These are allocated/freed through the endpoint they're used with. The hardware's driver can add extra per-request data to the memory it returns, which often avoids separate memory allocations (potential failures), later when the request is queued.

Request flags affect request handling, such as whether a zero length packet is written (the "zero" flag), whether a short read should be treated as an error (blocking request queue advance, the "short_not_ok" flag), or hinting that an interrupt is not required (the "no_interrupt" flag, for use with deep request queues).

Bulk endpoints can use any size buffers, and can also be used for interrupt transfers. interrupt-only endpoints can be much less functional.

NOTE

this is analogous to 'struct urb' on the host side, except that it's thinner and promotes more pre-allocation.

struct usb_ep

LINUX

Name

`struct usb_ep` — device side representation of USB endpoint

Synopsis

```
struct usb_ep {
  void * driver_data;
  const char * name;
  const struct usb_ep_ops * ops;
  struct list_head ep_list;
  unsigned maxpacket:16;
};
```

Members

driver_data

for use by the gadget driver. all other fields are read-only to gadget drivers.

name

identifier for the endpoint, such as “ep-a” or “ep9in-bulk”

ops

Function pointers used to access hardware-specific operations.

ep_list

the gadget’s ep_list holds all of its endpoints

maxpacket

The maximum packet size used on this endpoint. The initial value can sometimes be reduced (hardware allowing), according to the endpoint descriptor used to configure the endpoint.

Description

the bus controller driver lists all the general purpose endpoints in gadget->ep_list. the control endpoint (gadget->ep0) is not in that list, and is accessed only in response to a driver `setup` callback.

usb_ep_enable

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_ep_enable` — configure endpoint, making it usable

Synopsis

```
int usb_ep_enable (struct usb_ep * ep, const struct
usb_endpoint_descriptor * desc);
```

Arguments

ep

the endpoint being configured. may not be the endpoint named “ep0”. drivers discover endpoints through the ep_list of a usb_gadget.

desc

descriptor for desired behavior. caller guarantees this pointer remains valid until the endpoint is disabled; the data byte order is little-endian (usb-standard).

Description

when configurations are set, or when interface settings change, the driver will enable or disable the relevant endpoints. while it is enabled, an endpoint may be used for i/o until the driver receives a `disconnect` from the host or until the endpoint is disabled.

the ep0 implementation (which calls this routine) must ensure that the hardware capabilities of each endpoint match the descriptor provided for it. for example, an endpoint named “ep2in-bulk” would be usable for interrupt transfers as well as bulk, but it likely couldn’t be used for iso transfers or for endpoint 14. some endpoints are fully configurable, with more generic names like “ep-a”. (remember that for USB, “in” means “towards the USB master”.)

returns zero, or a negative error code.

usb_ep_disable

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_ep_disable` — endpoint is no longer usable

Synopsis

```
int usb_ep_disable (struct usb_ep * ep);
```

Arguments

`ep`

the endpoint being unconfigured. may not be the endpoint named “ep0”.

Description

no other task may be using this endpoint when this is called. any pending and uncompleted requests will complete with status indicating disconnect (-ESHUTDOWN) before this call returns. gadget drivers must call `usb_ep_enable` again before queueing requests to the endpoint.

returns zero, or a negative error code.

usb_ep_alloc_request

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_ep_alloc_request` — allocate a request object to use with this endpoint

Synopsis

```
struct usb_request * usb_ep_alloc_request (struct usb_ep * ep,
gfp_t gfp_flags);
```

Arguments

ep

the endpoint to be used with with the request

gfp_flags

GFP_* flags to use

Description

Request objects must be allocated with this call, since they normally need controller-specific setup and may even need endpoint-specific resources such as allocation of DMA descriptors. Requests may be submitted with `usb_ep_queue`, and receive a single completion callback. Free requests with `usb_ep_free_request`, when they are no longer needed.

Returns the request, or null if one could not be allocated.

usb_ep_free_request

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_ep_free_request` — frees a request object

Synopsis

```
void usb_ep_free_request (struct usb_ep * ep, struct
usb_request * req);
```

Arguments

ep

the endpoint associated with the request

req

the request being freed

Description

Reverses the effect of `usb_ep_alloc_request`. Caller guarantees the request is not queued, and that it will no longer be requeued (or otherwise used).

usb_ep_queue

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_ep_queue` — queues (submits) an I/O request to an endpoint.

Synopsis

```
int usb_ep_queue (struct usb_ep * ep, struct usb_request *
req, gfp_t gfp_flags);
```

Arguments

ep

the endpoint associated with the request

req

the request being submitted

gfp_flags

GFP_* flags to use in case the lower level driver couldn't pre-allocate all necessary memory with the request.

Description

This tells the device controller to perform the specified request through that endpoint (reading or writing a buffer). When the request completes, including being canceled by `usb_ep_dequeue`, the request's completion routine is called to return the request to the driver. Any endpoint (except control endpoints like ep0) may have more than one transfer request queued; they complete in FIFO order. Once a gadget driver submits a request, that request may not be examined or modified until it is given back to that driver through the completion callback.

Each request is turned into one or more packets. The controller driver never merges adjacent requests into the same packet. OUT transfers will sometimes use data that's already buffered in the hardware. Drivers can rely on the fact that the first byte of the request's buffer always corresponds to the first byte of some USB packet, for both IN and OUT transfers.

Bulk endpoints can queue any amount of data; the transfer is packetized automatically. The last packet will be short if the request doesn't fill it out completely. Zero length packets (ZLPs) should be avoided in portable protocols since not all usb hardware can successfully handle zero length packets. (ZLPs may be explicitly written, and may be implicitly written if the request 'zero' flag is set.) Bulk endpoints may also be used for interrupt transfers; but the reverse is not true, and some endpoints won't support every interrupt transfer. (Such as 768 byte packets.)

Interrupt-only endpoints are less functional than bulk endpoints, for example by not supporting queueing or not handling buffers that are larger than the endpoint's maxpacket size. They may also treat data toggle differently.

Control endpoints ... after getting a `setup` callback, the driver queues one response (even if it would be zero length). That enables the status ack, after transferring data as specified in the response. Setup functions may return negative error codes to generate protocol stalls. (Note that some USB device controllers disallow protocol stall responses in some cases.) When control responses are deferred (the response is written after the setup callback returns), then `usb_ep_set_halt` may be used on ep0 to trigger protocol stalls. Depending on the controller, it may not be possible to trigger a status-stage protocol stall when the data stage is over, that is, from within the response's completion routine.

For periodic endpoints, like interrupt or isochronous ones, the usb host arranges to poll once per interval, and the gadget driver usually will have queued some data to transfer at that time.

Returns zero, or a negative error code. Endpoints that are not enabled report errors; errors will also be reported when the usb peripheral is disconnected.

usb_ep_dequeue

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_ep_dequeue` — dequeues (cancels, unlinks) an I/O request from an endpoint

Synopsis

```
int usb_ep_dequeue (struct usb_ep * ep, struct usb_request *
req);
```

Arguments

ep

the endpoint associated with the request

req

the request being canceled

Description

if the request is still active on the endpoint, it is dequeued and its completion routine is called (with status -ECONNRESET); else a negative error code is returned.

note that some hardware can't clear out write fifos (to unlink the request at the head of the queue) except as part of disconnecting from usb. such restrictions prevent drivers from supporting configuration changes, even to configuration zero (a "chapter 9" requirement).

usb_ep_set_halt

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_ep_set_halt` — sets the endpoint halt feature.

Synopsis

```
int usb_ep_set_halt (struct usb_ep * ep);
```

Arguments

ep

the non-isochronous endpoint being stalled

Description

Use this to stall an endpoint, perhaps as an error report. Except for control endpoints, the endpoint stays halted (will not stream any data) until the host clears this feature; drivers may need to empty the endpoint's request queue first, to make sure no inappropriate transfers happen.

Note that while an endpoint CLEAR_FEATURE will be invisible to the gadget driver, a SET_INTERFACE will not be. To reset endpoints for the current altsetting, see `usb_ep_clear_halt`. When switching altsettings, it's simplest to use `usb_ep_enable` or `usb_ep_disable` for the endpoints.

Returns zero, or a negative error code. On success, this call sets underlying hardware state that blocks data transfers. Attempts to halt IN endpoints will fail (returning -EAGAIN) if any transfer requests are still queued, or if the controller hardware (usually a FIFO) still holds bytes that the host hasn't collected.

usb_ep_clear_halt

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_ep_clear_halt` — clears endpoint halt, and resets toggle

Synopsis

```
int usb_ep_clear_halt (struct usb_ep * ep);
```

Arguments

ep

the bulk or interrupt endpoint being reset

Description

Use this when responding to the standard usb “set interface” request, for endpoints that aren’t reconfigured, after clearing any other state in the endpoint’s i/o queue.

Returns zero, or a negative error code. On success, this call clears the underlying hardware state reflecting endpoint halt and data toggle. Note that some hardware can’t support this request (like pxa2xx_udc), and accordingly can’t correctly implement interface altsettings.

usb_ep_set_wedge

LINUX

Name

`usb_ep_set_wedge` — sets the halt feature and ignores clear requests

Synopsis

```
int usb_ep_set_wedge (struct usb_ep * ep);
```

Arguments

ep

the endpoint being wedged

Description

Use this to stall an endpoint and ignore CLEAR_FEATURE(HALT_ENDPOINT) requests. If the gadget driver clears the halt status, it will automatically unwedge the endpoint.

Returns zero on success, else negative errno.

usb_ep_fifo_status

LINUX

Name

`usb_ep_fifo_status` — returns number of bytes in fifo, or error

Synopsis

```
int usb_ep_fifo_status (struct usb_ep * ep);
```

Arguments

ep

the endpoint whose fifo status is being checked.

Description

FIFO endpoints may have “unclaimed data” in them in certain cases, such as after aborted transfers. Hosts may not have collected all the IN data written by the gadget driver (and reported by a request completion). The gadget driver may not have collected all the data written OUT to it by the host. Drivers that need precise handling for fault reporting or recovery may need to use this call.

This returns the number of such bytes in the fifo, or a negative errno if the endpoint doesn’t use a FIFO or doesn’t support such precise handling.

usb_ep_fifo_flush

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_ep_fifo_flush` — flushes contents of a fifo

Synopsis

```
void usb_ep_fifo_flush (struct usb_ep * ep);
```

Arguments

ep

the endpoint whose fifo is being flushed.

Description

This call may be used to flush the “unclaimed data” that may exist in an endpoint fifo after abnormal transaction terminations. The call must never be used except when endpoint is not being used for any protocol translation.

struct usb_gadget

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`struct usb_gadget` — represents a usb slave device

Synopsis

```
struct usb_gadget {
  const struct usb_gadget_ops * ops;
  struct usb_ep * ep0;
  struct list_head ep_list;
  enum usb_device_speed speed;
  unsigned is_dualspeed:1;
```

```
  unsigned is_otg:1;
  unsigned is_a_peripheral:1;
  unsigned b_hnp_enable:1;
  unsigned a_hnp_support:1;
  unsigned a_alt_hnp_support:1;
  const char * name;
  struct device dev;
};
```

Members

ops

Function pointers used to access hardware-specific operations.

ep0

Endpoint zero, used when reading or writing responses to driver `setup` requests

ep_list

List of other endpoints supported by the device.

speed

Speed of current connection to USB host.

is_dualspeed

True if the controller supports both high and full speed operation. If it does, the gadget driver must also support both.

is_otg

True if the USB device port uses a Mini-AB jack, so that the gadget driver must provide a USB OTG descriptor.

is_a_peripheral

False unless is_otg, the “A” end of a USB cable is in the Mini-AB jack, and HNP has been used to switch roles so that the “A” device currently acts as A-Peripheral, not A-Host.

b_hnp_enable

OTG device feature flag, indicating that the A-Host enabled HNP support.

a_hnp_support

OTG device feature flag, indicating that the A-Host supports HNP at this port.

a_alt_hnp_support

OTG device feature flag, indicating that the A-Host only supports HNP on a different root port.

name

Identifies the controller hardware type. Used in diagnostics and sometimes configuration.

dev

Driver model state for this abstract device.

Description

Gadgets have a mostly-portable “gadget driver” implementing device functions, handling all usb configurations and interfaces. Gadget drivers talk to hardware-specific code indirectly, through ops vectors. That insulates the gadget driver from hardware details, and packages the hardware endpoints through generic i/o queues. The “usb_gadget” and “usb_ep” interfaces provide that insulation from the hardware.

Except for the driver data, all fields in this structure are read-only to the gadget driver. That driver data is part of the “driver model” infrastructure in 2.6 (and later) kernels, and for earlier systems is grouped in a similar structure that’s not known to the rest of the kernel.

Values of the three OTG device feature flags are updated before the `setup` call corresponding to USB_REQ_SET_CONFIGURATION, and before driver `suspend` calls. They are valid only when is_otg, and when the device is acting as a B-Peripheral (so is_a_peripheral is false).

gadget_is_dualspeed

LINUX

Name

`gadget_is_dualspeed` — return true iff the hardware handles high speed

Synopsis

```
int gadget_is_dualspeed (struct usb_gadget * g);
```

Arguments

g

controller that might support both high and full speeds

gadget_is_otg

LINUX

Name

`gadget_is_otg` — return true iff the hardware is OTG-ready

Synopsis

```
int gadget_is_otg (struct usb_gadget * g);
```

Arguments

g

controller that might have a Mini-AB connector

Description

This is a runtime test, since kernels with a USB-OTG stack sometimes run on boards which only have a Mini-B (or Mini-A) connector.

usb_gadget_frame_number

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_gadget_frame_number` — returns the current frame number

Synopsis

```
int usb_gadget_frame_number (struct usb_gadget * gadget);
```

Arguments

gadget

controller that reports the frame number

Description

Returns the usb frame number, normally eleven bits from a SOF packet, or negative errno if this device doesn't support this capability.

usb_gadget_wakeup

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_gadget_wakeup` — tries to wake up the host connected to this gadget

Synopsis

```
int usb_gadget_wakeup (struct usb_gadget * gadget);
```

Arguments

`gadget`

controller used to wake up the host

Description

Returns zero on success, else negative error code if the hardware doesn't support such attempts, or its support has not been enabled by the usb host. Drivers must return device descriptors that report their ability to support this, or hosts won't enable it.

This may also try to use SRP to wake the host and start enumeration, even if OTG isn't otherwise in use. OTG devices may also start remote wakeup even when hosts don't explicitly enable it.

usb_gadget_set_selfpowered

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

usb_gadget_set_selfpowered — sets the device selfpowered feature.

Synopsis

```
int usb_gadget_set_selfpowered (struct usb_gadget * gadget);
```

Arguments

gadget

the device being declared as self-powered

Description

this affects the device status reported by the hardware driver to reflect that it now has a local power supply.

returns zero on success, else negative errno.

usb_gadget_clear_selfpowered

LINUX

Name

`usb_gadget_clear_selfpowered` — clear the device selfpowered feature.

Synopsis

```
int usb_gadget_clear_selfpowered (struct usb_gadget * gadget);
```

Arguments

gadget

the device being declared as bus-powered

Description

this affects the device status reported by the hardware driver. some hardware may not support bus-powered operation, in which case this feature's value can never change.

returns zero on success, else negative errno.

usb_gadget_vbus_connect

LINUX

Name

`usb_gadget_vbus_connect` — Notify controller that VBUS is powered

Synopsis

```
int usb_gadget_vbus_connect (struct usb_gadget * gadget);
```

Arguments

gadget

The device which now has VBUS power.

Context

can sleep

Description

This call is used by a driver for an external transceiver (or GPIO) that detects a VBUS power session starting. Common responses include resuming the controller, activating the D+ (or D-) pullup to let the host detect that a USB device is attached, and starting to draw power (8mA or possibly more, especially after SET_CONFIGURATION).

Returns zero on success, else negative errno.

usb_gadget_vbus_draw

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_gadget_vbus_draw` — constrain controller's VBUS power usage

Synopsis

```
int usb_gadget_vbus_draw (struct usb_gadget * gadget, unsigned
mA);
```

Arguments

gadget

The device whose VBUS usage is being described

mA

How much current to draw, in milliAmperes. This should be twice the value listed in the configuration descriptor bMaxPower field.

Description

This call is used by gadget drivers during SET_CONFIGURATION calls, reporting how much power the device may consume. For example, this could affect how quickly batteries are recharged.

Returns zero on success, else negative errno.

usb_gadget_vbus_disconnect

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_gadget_vbus_disconnect` — notify controller about VBUS session end

Synopsis

```
int usb_gadget_vbus_disconnect (struct usb_gadget * gadget);
```

Arguments

gadget

the device whose VBUS supply is being described

Context

can sleep

Description

This call is used by a driver for an external transceiver (or GPIO) that detects a VBUS power session ending. Common responses include reversing everything done in `usb_gadget_vbus_connect`.

Returns zero on success, else negative errno.

usb_gadget_connect

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_gadget_connect` — software-controlled connect to USB host

Synopsis

```
int usb_gadget_connect (struct usb_gadget * gadget);
```

Arguments

gadget

the peripheral being connected

Description

Enables the D+ (or potentially D-) pullup. The host will start enumerating this gadget when the pullup is active and a VBUS session is active (the link is powered). This pullup is always enabled unless `usb_gadget_disconnect` has been used to disable it.

Returns zero on success, else negative errno.

usb_gadget_disconnect

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_gadget_disconnect` — software-controlled disconnect from USB host

Synopsis

```
int usb_gadget_disconnect (struct usb_gadget * gadget);
```

Arguments

gadget

the peripheral being disconnected

Description

Disables the D+ (or potentially D-) pullup, which the host may see as a disconnect (when a VBUS session is active). Not all systems support software pullup controls.

This routine may be used during the gadget driver `bind` call to prevent the peripheral from ever being visible to the USB host, unless later `usb_gadget_connect` is called. For example, user mode components may need to be activated before the system can talk to hosts.

Returns zero on success, else negative errno.

struct usb_gadget_driver

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`struct usb_gadget_driver` — driver for usb 'slave' devices

Synopsis

```
struct usb_gadget_driver {
  char * function;
  enum usb_device_speed speed;
  void (* unbind) (struct usb_gadget *);
  int (* setup) (struct usb_gadget *,const struct usb_ctrlrequest *);
  void (* disconnect) (struct usb_gadget *);
  void (* suspend) (struct usb_gadget *);
  void (* resume) (struct usb_gadget *);
  struct device_driver driver;
};
```

Members

function

String describing the gadget's function

speed

Highest speed the driver handles.

unbind

Invoked when the driver is unbound from a gadget, usually from rmmod (after a disconnect is reported). Called in a context that permits sleeping.

setup

Invoked for ep0 control requests that aren't handled by the hardware level driver. Most calls must be handled by the gadget driver, including descriptor and configuration management. The 16 bit members of the setup data are in USB byte order. Called in_interrupt; this may not sleep. Driver queues a response to ep0, or returns negative to stall.

disconnect

Invoked after all transfers have been stopped, when the host is disconnected. May be called in_interrupt; this may not sleep. Some devices can't detect disconnect, so this might not be called except as part of controller shutdown.

suspend

Invoked on USB suspend. May be called in_interrupt.

resume

Invoked on USB resume. May be called in_interrupt.

driver

Driver model state for this driver.

Description

Devices are disabled till a gadget driver successfully `bind`s, which means the driver will handle `setup` requests needed to enumerate (and meet "chapter 9" requirements) then do some useful work.

If gadget->is_otg is true, the gadget driver must provide an OTG descriptor during enumeration, or else fail the `bind` call. In such cases, no USB traffic may flow until

both `bind` returns without having called `usb_gadget_disconnect`, and the USB host stack has initialized.

Drivers use hardware-specific knowledge to configure the usb hardware. endpoint addressing is only one of several hardware characteristics that are in descriptors the ep0 implementation returns from `setup` calls.

Except for ep0 implementation, most driver code shouldn't need change to run on top of different usb controllers. It'll use endpoints set up by that ep0 implementation.

The usb controller driver handles a few standard usb requests. Those include set_address, and feature flags for devices, interfaces, and endpoints (the get_status, set_feature, and clear_feature requests).

Accordingly, the driver's `setup` callback must always implement all get_descriptor requests, returning at least a device descriptor and a configuration descriptor. Drivers must make sure the endpoint descriptors match any hardware constraints. Some hardware also constrains other descriptors. (The pxa250 allows only configurations 1, 2, or 3).

The driver's `setup` callback must also implement set_configuration, and should also implement set_interface, get_configuration, and get_interface. Setting a configuration (or interface) is where endpoints should be activated or (config 0) shut down.

(Note that only the default control endpoint is supported. Neither hosts nor devices generally support control traffic except to ep0.)

Most devices will ignore USB suspend/resume operations, and so will not provide those callbacks. However, some may need to change modes when the host is not longer directing those activities. For example, local controls (buttons, dials, etc) may need to be re-enabled since the (remote) host can't do that any longer; or an error state might be cleared, to make the device behave identically whether or not power is maintained.

usb_gadget_probe_driver

LINUX

Name

`usb_gadget_probe_driver` — probe a gadget driver

Synopsis

```
int usb_gadget_probe_driver (struct usb_gadget_driver *
driver, int (*bind) (struct usb_gadget *));
```

Arguments

driver

the driver being registered

bind

the driver's bind callback

Context

can sleep

Description

Call this in your gadget driver's module initialization function, to tell the underlying usb controller driver about your driver. The *bind*() function will be called to bind it to a gadget before this registration call returns. It's expected that the *bind*() function will be in init sections.

usb_gadget_unregister_driver

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_gadget_unregister_driver` — unregister a gadget driver

Synopsis

```
int usb_gadget_unregister_driver (struct usb_gadget_driver *
driver);
```

Arguments

driver

the driver being unregistered

Context

can sleep

Description

Call this in your gadget driver's module cleanup function, to tell the underlying usb controller that your driver is going away. If the controller is connected to a USB host, it will first `disconnect`. The driver is also requested to `unbind` and clean up any device state, before this procedure finally returns. It's expected that the `unbind` functions will in in exit sections, so may not be linked in some kernels.

struct usb_string

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`struct usb_string` — wraps a C string and its USB id

Synopsis

```
struct usb_string {
  u8 id;
  const char * s;
};
```

Members

id

the (nonzero) ID for this string

s

the string, in UTF-8 encoding

Description

If you're using `usb_gadget_get_string`, use this to wrap a string together with its ID.

struct usb_gadget_strings

LINUX

Name

`struct usb_gadget_strings` — a set of USB strings in a given language

Synopsis

```
struct usb_gadget_strings {
  u16 language;
  struct usb_string * strings;
};
```

Members

language

identifies the strings' language (0x0409 for en-us)

strings

array of strings with their ids

Description

If you're using `usb_gadget_get_string`, use this to wrap all the strings for a given language.

usb_free_descriptors

LINUX

Name

`usb_free_descriptors` — free descriptors returned by `usb_copy_descriptors`

Synopsis

```
void usb_free_descriptors (struct usb_descriptor_header ** v);
```

Arguments

v

vector of descriptors

3.4. Optional Utilities

The core API is sufficient for writing a USB Gadget Driver, but some optional utilities are provided to simplify common tasks. These utilities include endpoint autoconfiguration.

usb_gadget_get_string

LINUX

Name

`usb_gadget_get_string` — fill out a string descriptor

Synopsis

```
int usb_gadget_get_string (struct usb_gadget_strings * table,
int id, u8 * buf);
```

Arguments

table

of c strings encoded using UTF-8

id

string id, from low byte of wValue in get string descriptor

buf

at least 256 bytes

Description

Finds the UTF-8 string matching the ID, and converts it into a string descriptor in utf16-le. Returns length of descriptor (always even) or negative errno

If your driver needs stings in multiple languages, you'll probably "switch (wIndex) { ... }" in your ep0 string descriptor logic, using this routine after choosing which set of UTF-8 strings to use. Note that US-ASCII is a strict subset of UTF-8; any string bytes with the eighth bit set will be multibyte UTF-8 characters, not ISO-8859/1 characters (which are also widely used in C strings).

usb_descriptor_fillbuf

LINUX

Name

`usb_descriptor_fillbuf` — fill buffer with descriptors

Synopsis

```
int usb_descriptor_fillbuf (void * buf, unsigned buflen, const
struct usb_descriptor_header ** src);
```

Arguments

buf

Buffer to be filled

buflen

Size of buf

src

Array of descriptor pointers, terminated by null pointer.

Description

Copies descriptors into the buffer, returning the length or a negative error code if they can't all be copied. Useful when assembling descriptors for an associated set of interfaces used as part of configuring a composite device; or in other cases where sets of descriptors need to be marshaled.

usb_gadget_config_buf

LINUX

Name

`usb_gadget_config_buf` — builts a complete configuration descriptor

Synopsis

```
int usb_gadget_config_buf (const struct usb_config_descriptor
* config, void * buf, unsigned length, const struct
usb_descriptor_header ** desc);
```

Arguments

`config`

Header for the descriptor, including characteristics such as power requirements and number of interfaces.

`buf`

Buffer for the resulting configuration descriptor.

`length`

Length of buffer. If this is not big enough to hold the entire configuration descriptor, an error code will be returned.

`desc`

Null-terminated vector of pointers to the descriptors (interface, endpoint, etc) defining all functions in this device configuration.

Description

This copies descriptors into the response buffer, building a descriptor for that configuration. It returns the buffer length or a negative status code. The config.wTotalLength field is set to match the length of the result, but other descriptor fields (including power usage and interface count) must be set by the caller.

Gadget drivers could use this when constructing a config descriptor in response to USB_REQ_GET_DESCRIPTOR. They will need to patch the resulting bDescriptorType value if USB_DT_OTHER_SPEED_CONFIG is needed.

usb_copy_descriptors

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_copy_descriptors` — copy a vector of USB descriptors

Synopsis

```
struct usb_descriptor_header ** usb_copy_descriptors (struct
usb_descriptor_header ** src);
```

Arguments

src

null-terminated vector to copy

Context

initialization code, which may sleep

Description

This makes a copy of a vector of USB descriptors. Its primary use is to support usb_function objects which can have multiple copies, each needing different

descriptors. Functions may have static tables of descriptors, which are used as templates and customized with identifiers (for interfaces, strings, endpoints, and more) as needed by a given function instance.

usb_find_endpoint

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_find_endpoint` — find a copy of an endpoint descriptor

Synopsis

```
struct usb_endpoint_descriptor * usb_find_endpoint (struct
usb_descriptor_header ** src, struct usb_descriptor_header **
copy, struct usb_endpoint_descriptor * match);
```

Arguments

src

original vector of descriptors

copy

copy of *src*

match

endpoint descriptor found in *src*

Description

This returns the copy of the `match` descriptor made for `copy`. Its intended use is to help remembering the endpoint descriptor to use when enabling a given endpoint.

3.5. Composite Device Framework

The core API is sufficient for writing drivers for composite USB devices (with more than one function in a given configuration), and also multi-configuration devices (also more than one function, but not necessarily sharing a given configuration). There is however an optional framework which makes it easier to reuse and combine functions.

Devices using this framework provide a *struct usb_composite_driver*, which in turn provides one or more *struct usb_configuration* instances. Each such configuration includes at least one *struct usb_function*, which packages a user visible role such as "network link" or "mass storage device". Management functions may also exist, such as "Device Firmware Upgrade".

struct usb_function

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`struct usb_function` — describes one function of a configuration

Synopsis

```
struct usb_function {
  const char * name;
  struct usb_gadget_strings ** strings;
  struct usb_descriptor_header ** descriptors;
  struct usb_descriptor_header ** hs_descriptors;
  struct usb_configuration * config;
  int (* bind) (struct usb_configuration *,struct usb_function *);
```

```
  void (* unbind) (struct usb_configuration *,struct usb_function *);
  int (* set_alt) (struct usb_function *,unsigned interface, unsigned alt)
  int (* get_alt) (struct usb_function *,unsigned interface);
  void (* disable) (struct usb_function *);
  int (* setup) (struct usb_function *,const struct usb_ctrlrequest *);
  void (* suspend) (struct usb_function *);
  void (* resume) (struct usb_function *);
};
```

Members

name

For diagnostics, identifies the function.

strings

tables of strings, keyed by identifiers assigned during `bind` and by language IDs provided in control requests

descriptors

Table of full (or low) speed descriptors, using interface and string identifiers assigned during *`bind`*(). If this pointer is null, the function will not be available at full speed (or at low speed).

hs_descriptors

Table of high speed descriptors, using interface and string identifiers assigned during *`bind`*(). If this pointer is null, the function will not be available at high speed.

config

assigned when *`usb_add_function`*() is called; this is the configuration with which this function is associated.

bind

Before the gadget can register, all of its functions `bind` to the available resources including string and interface identifiers used in interface or class descriptors; endpoints; I/O buffers; and so on.

unbind

Reverses *`bind`*; called as a side effect of unregistering the driver which added this function.

set_alt

(REQUIRED) Reconfigures altsettings; function drivers may initialize usb_ep.driver data at this time (when it is used). Note that setting an interface to its current altsetting resets interface state, and that all interfaces have a disabled state.

get_alt

Returns the active altsetting. If this is not provided, then only altsetting zero is supported.

disable

(REQUIRED) Indicates the function should be disabled. Reasons include host resetting or reconfiguring the gadget, and disconnection.

setup

Used for interface-specific control requests.

suspend

Notifies functions when the host stops sending USB traffic.

resume

Notifies functions when the host restarts USB traffic.

Description

A single USB function uses one or more interfaces, and should in most cases support operation at both full and high speeds. Each function is associated by *usb_add_function*() with a one configuration; that function causes *bind*() to be called so resources can be allocated as part of setting up a gadget driver. Those resources include endpoints, which should be allocated using *usb_ep_autoconfig*().

To support dual speed operation, a function driver provides descriptors for both high and full speed operation. Except in rare cases that don't involve bulk endpoints, each speed needs different endpoint descriptors.

Function drivers choose their own strategies for managing instance data. The simplest strategy just declares it "static', which means the function can only be activated once. If the function needs to be exposed in more than one configuration at a given speed, it needs to support multiple usb_function structures (one for each configuration).

A more complex strategy might encapsulate a *usb_function* structure inside a driver-specific instance structure to allows multiple activations. An example of multiple activations might be a CDC ACM function that supports two or more distinct instances within the same configuration, providing several independent logical data links to a USB host.

ep_choose

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

ep_choose — select descriptor endpoint at current device speed

Synopsis

```
struct usb_endpoint_descriptor * ep_choose (struct usb_gadget
* g, struct usb_endpoint_descriptor * hs, struct
usb_endpoint_descriptor * fs);
```

Arguments

g

gadget, connected and running at some speed

hs

descriptor to use for high speed operation

fs

descriptor to use for full or low speed operation

struct usb_configuration

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`struct usb_configuration` — represents one gadget configuration

Synopsis

```
struct usb_configuration {
  const char * label;
  struct usb_gadget_strings ** strings;
  const struct usb_descriptor_header ** descriptors;
  void (* unbind) (struct usb_configuration *);
  int (* setup) (struct usb_configuration *,const struct usb_ctrlrequest *
  u8 bConfigurationValue;
  u8 iConfiguration;
  u8 bmAttributes;
  u8 bMaxPower;
  struct usb_composite_dev * cdev;
};
```

Members

label

For diagnostics, describes the configuration.

strings

Tables of strings, keyed by identifiers assigned during *bind*() and by language IDs provided in control requests.

descriptors

Table of descriptors preceding all function descriptors. Examples include OTG and vendor-specific descriptors.

unbind

Reverses *bind*; called as a side effect of unregistering the driver which added this configuration.

setup

Used to delegate control requests that aren't handled by standard device infrastructure or directed at a specific interface.

bConfigurationValue

Copied into configuration descriptor.

iConfiguration

Copied into configuration descriptor.

bmAttributes

Copied into configuration descriptor.

bMaxPower

Copied into configuration descriptor.

cdev

assigned by *usb_add_config*() before calling *bind*(); this is the device associated with this configuration.

Description

Configurations are building blocks for gadget drivers structured around function drivers. Simple USB gadgets require only one function and one configuration, and handle dual-speed hardware by always providing the same functionality. Slightly more complex gadgets may have more than one single-function configuration at a given speed; or have configurations that only work at one speed.

Composite devices are, by definition, ones with configurations which include more than one function.

The lifecycle of a usb_configuration includes allocation, initialization of the fields described above, and calling *usb_add_config*() to set up internal data and bind it to a specific device. The configuration's *bind*() method is then used to initialize all the functions and then call *usb_add_function*() for them.

Those functions would normally be independent of each other, but that's not mandatory. CDC WMC devices are an example where functions often depend on other functions, with some functions subsidiary to others. Such interdependency

may be managed in any way, so long as all of the descriptors complete by the time the composite driver returns from its `bind` routine.

struct usb_composite_driver

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`struct usb_composite_driver` — groups configurations into a gadget

Synopsis

```
struct usb_composite_driver {
  const char * name;
  const char * iProduct;
  const char * iManufacturer;
  const struct usb_device_descriptor * dev;
  struct usb_gadget_strings ** strings;
  unsigned needs_serial:1;
  int (* unbind) (struct usb_composite_dev *);
  void (* disconnect) (struct usb_composite_dev *);
  void (* suspend) (struct usb_composite_dev *);
  void (* resume) (struct usb_composite_dev *);
};
```

Members

name

For diagnostics, identifies the driver.

iProduct

Used as iProduct override if *`dev`*->iProduct is not set. If NULL value of *`name`* is taken.

iManufacturer

Used as iManufacturer override if *dev*->iManufacturer is not set. If NULL a default "<system> <release> with <udc>" value will be used.

dev

Template descriptor for the device, including default device identifiers.

strings

tables of strings, keyed by identifiers assigned during `bind` and language IDs provided in control requests

needs_serial

set to 1 if the gadget needs userspace to provide a serial number. If one is not provided, warning will be printed.

unbind

Reverses bind; called as a side effect of unregistering this driver.

disconnect

optional driver disconnect method

suspend

Notifies when the host stops sending USB traffic, after function notifications

resume

Notifies configuration when the host restarts USB traffic, before function notifications

Description

Devices default to reporting self powered operation. Devices which rely on bus powered operation should report this in their *bind*() method.

Before returning from bind, various fields in the template descriptor may be overridden. These include the idVendor/idProduct/bcdDevice values normally to bind the appropriate host side driver, and the three strings (iManufacturer, iProduct, iSerialNumber) normally used to provide user meaningful device identifiers. (The strings will not be defined unless they are defined in *dev* and *strings*.) The correct ep0 maxpacket size is also reported, as defined by the underlying controller driver.

struct usb_composite_dev

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`struct usb_composite_dev` — represents one composite usb gadget

Synopsis

```
struct usb_composite_dev {
  struct usb_gadget * gadget;
  struct usb_request * req;
  unsigned bufsiz;
  struct usb_configuration * config;
};
```

Members

gadget

read-only, abstracts the gadget's usb peripheral controller

req

used for control responses; buffer is pre-allocated

bufsiz

size of buffer pre-allocated in *`req`*

config

the currently active configuration

Description

One of these devices is allocated and initialized before the associated device driver's `bind` is called.

OPEN ISSUE

it appears that some WUSB devices will need to be built by combining a normal (wired) gadget with a wireless one. This revision of the gadget framework should probably try to make sure doing that won't hurt too much.

One notion for how to handle Wireless USB devices involves

(a) a second gadget here, discovery mechanism TBD, but likely needing separate "register/unregister WUSB gadget" calls; (b) updates to usb_gadget to include flags "is it wireless", "is it wired", plus (presumably in a wrapper structure) bandgroup and PHY info; (c) presumably a wireless_ep wrapping a usb_ep, and reporting wireless-specific parameters like maxburst and maxsequence; (d) configurations that are specific to wireless links; (e) function drivers that understand wireless configs and will support wireless for (additional) function instances; (f) a function to support association setup (like CBAF), not necessarily requiring a wireless adapter; (g) composite device setup that can create one or more wireless configs, including appropriate association setup support; (h) more, TBD.

usb_add_function

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_add_function` — add a function to a configuration

Synopsis

```
int usb_add_function (struct usb_configuration * config,
struct usb_function * function);
```

Arguments

config

the configuration

function

the function being added

Context

single threaded during gadget setup

Description

After initialization, each configuration must have one or more functions added to it. Adding a function involves calling its *bind*() method to allocate resources such as interface and string identifiers and endpoints.

This function returns the value of the function's bind, which is zero for success else a negative errno value.

usb_function_deactivate

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

usb_function_deactivate — prevent function and gadget enumeration

Synopsis

```
int usb_function_deactivate (struct usb_function * function);
```

Arguments

function

the function that isn't yet ready to respond

Description

Blocks response of the gadget driver to host enumeration by preventing the data line pullup from being activated. This is normally called during *bind*() processing to change from the initial "ready to respond" state, or when a required resource becomes available.

For example, drivers that serve as a passthrough to a userspace daemon can block enumeration unless that daemon (such as an OBEX, MTP, or print server) is ready to handle host requests.

Not all systems support software control of their USB peripheral data pullups.

Returns zero on success, else negative errno.

usb_function_activate

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

usb_function_activate — allow function and gadget enumeration

Synopsis

```
int usb_function_activate (struct usb_function * function);
```

Arguments

function

function on which `usb_function_activate` was called

Description

Reverses effect of `usb_function_deactivate`. If no more functions are delaying their activation, the gadget driver will respond to host enumeration procedures.

Returns zero on success, else negative errno.

usb_interface_id

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_interface_id` — allocate an unused interface ID

Synopsis

```
int usb_interface_id (struct usb_configuration * config,
struct usb_function * function);
```

Arguments

config

configuration associated with the interface

`function`

function handling the interface

Context

single threaded during gadget setup

Description

`usb_interface_id` is called from usb_function.`bind` callbacks to allocate new interface IDs. The function driver will then store that ID in interface, association, CDC union, and other descriptors. It will also handle any control requests targeted at that interface, particularly changing its altsetting via `set_alt`. There may also be class-specific or vendor-specific requests to handle.

All interface identifier should be allocated using this routine, to ensure that for example different functions don't wrongly assign different meanings to the same identifier. Note that since interface identifiers are configuration-specific, functions used in more than one configuration (or more than once in a given configuration) need multiple versions of the relevant descriptors.

Returns the interface ID which was allocated; or -ENODEV if no more interface IDs can be allocated.

usb_add_config

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_add_config` — add a configuration to a device.

Synopsis

```
int usb_add_config (struct usb_composite_dev * cdev, struct
usb_configuration * config, int (*bind) (struct
usb_configuration *));
```

Arguments

cdev

wraps the USB gadget

config

the configuration, with bConfigurationValue assigned

bind

the configuration's bind function

Context

single threaded during gadget setup

Description

One of the main tasks of a composite *bind*() routine is to add each of the configurations it supports, using this routine.

This function returns the value of the configuration's *bind*(), which is zero for success else a negative errno value. Binding configurations assigns global resources including string IDs, and per-configuration resources such as interface IDs and endpoints.

usb_string_id

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_string_id` — allocate an unused string ID

Synopsis

```
int usb_string_id (struct usb_composite_dev * cdev);
```

Arguments

`cdev`

the device whose string descriptor IDs are being allocated

Context

single threaded during gadget setup

Description

`usb_string_id`() is called from `bind` callbacks to allocate string IDs. Drivers for functions, configurations, or gadgets will then store that ID in the appropriate descriptors and string table.

All string identifier should be allocated using this, *`usb_string_ids_tab`*() or *`usb_string_ids_n`*() routine, to ensure that for example different functions don't wrongly assign different meanings to the same identifier.

usb_string_ids_tab

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_string_ids_tab` — allocate unused string IDs in batch

Synopsis

```
int usb_string_ids_tab (struct usb_composite_dev * cdev,
struct usb_string * str);
```

Arguments

`cdev`

the device whose string descriptor IDs are being allocated

`str`

an array of usb_string objects to assign numbers to

Context

single threaded during gadget setup

Description

`usb_string_ids`() is called from `bind` callbacks to allocate string IDs. Drivers for functions, configurations, or gadgets will then copy IDs from the string table to the appropriate descriptors and string table for other languages.

All string identifier should be allocated using this, *`usb_string_id`*() or *`usb_string_ids_n`*() routine, to ensure that for example different functions don't wrongly assign different meanings to the same identifier.

usb_string_ids_n

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_string_ids_n` — allocate unused string IDs in batch

Synopsis

```
int usb_string_ids_n (struct usb_composite_dev * c, unsigned
n);
```

Arguments

c

the device whose string descriptor IDs are being allocated

n

number of string IDs to allocate

Context

single threaded during gadget setup

Description

Returns the first requested ID. This ID and next *n*-1 IDs are now valid IDs. At least provided that *n* is non-zero because if it is, returns last requested ID which is now very useful information.

usb_string_ids_n() is called from bind callbacks to allocate string IDs. Drivers for functions, configurations, or gadgets will then store that ID in the appropriate descriptors and string table.

All string identifier should be allocated using this, *usb_string_id*() or *usb_string_ids_n*() routine, to ensure that for example different functions don't wrongly assign different meanings to the same identifier.

usb_composite_probe

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

usb_composite_probe — register a composite driver

Synopsis

```
int usb_composite_probe (struct usb_composite_driver * driver,
int (*bind) (struct usb_composite_dev *cdev));
```

Arguments

driver

the driver to register

bind

the callback used to allocate resources that are shared across the whole device, such as string IDs, and add its configurations using *usb_add_config*(). This may fail by returning a negative errno value; it should return zero on successful initialization.

Context

single threaded during gadget setup

Description

This function is used to register drivers using the composite driver framework. The return value is zero, or a negative errno value. Those values normally come from the driver's *bind* method, which does all the work of setting up the driver to match the hardware.

On successful return, the gadget is ready to respond to requests from the host, unless one of its components invokes `usb_gadget_disconnect` while it was binding. That would usually be done in order to wait for some userspace participation.

usb_composite_unregister

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_composite_unregister` — unregister a composite driver

Synopsis

```
void usb_composite_unregister (struct usb_composite_driver * driver);
```

Arguments

driver

the driver to unregister

Description

This function is used to unregister drivers using the composite driver framework.

usb_composite_setup_continue

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`usb_composite_setup_continue` — Continue with the control transfer

Synopsis

```
void usb_composite_setup_continue (struct usb_composite_dev * cdev);
```

Arguments

`cdev`

the composite device who's control transfer was kept waiting

Description

This function must be called by the USB function driver to continue with the control transfer's data/status stage in case it had requested to delay the data/status stages. A USB function's setup handler (e.g. `set_alt`) can request the composite framework to delay the setup request's data/status stages by returning USB_GADGET_DELAYED_STATUS.

3.6. Composite Device Functions

At this writing, a few of the current gadget drivers have been converted to this framework. Near-term plans include converting all of them, except for "gadgetfs".

acm_cdc_notify

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`acm_cdc_notify` — issue CDC notification to host

Synopsis

```
int acm_cdc_notify (struct f_acm * acm, u8 type, u16 value,
void * data, unsigned length);
```

Arguments

acm

wraps host to be notified

type

notification type

value

Refer to cdc specs, wValue field.

data

data to be sent

`length`

size of data

Context

irqs blocked, acm->lock held, acm_notify_req non-null

Description

Returns zero on success or a negative errno.

See section 6.3.5 of the CDC 1.1 specification for information

about the only notification we issue

SerialState change.

acm_bind_config

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`acm_bind_config` — add a CDC ACM function to a configuration

Synopsis

```
int acm_bind_config (struct usb_configuration * c, u8
port_num);
```

Arguments

c

the configuration to support the CDC ACM instance

port_num

/dev/ttyGS* port this interface will use

Context

single threaded during gadget setup

Description

Returns zero on success, else negative errno.

Caller must have called *gserial_setup*() with enough ports to handle all the ones it binds. Caller is also responsible for calling *gserial_cleanup*() before module unload.

ecm_bind_config

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

ecm_bind_config — add CDC Ethernet network link to a configuration

Synopsis

```
int ecm_bind_config (struct usb_configuration * c, u8
ethaddr[ETH_ALEN]);
```

Arguments

c

the configuration to support the network link

ethaddr[ETH_ALEN]

a buffer in which the ethernet address of the host side side of the link was recorded

Context

single threaded during gadget setup

Description

Returns zero on success, else negative errno.

Caller must have called *gether_setup*(). Caller is also responsible for calling *gether_cleanup*() before module unload.

geth_bind_config

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

geth_bind_config — add CDC Subset network link to a configuration

Synopsis

```
int geth_bind_config (struct usb_configuration * c, u8
ethaddr[ETH_ALEN]);
```

Arguments

c

the configuration to support the network link

ethaddr[ETH_ALEN]

a buffer in which the ethernet address of the host side side of the link was recorded

Context

single threaded during gadget setup

Description

Returns zero on success, else negative errno.

Caller must have called *gether_setup*(). Caller is also responsible for calling *gether_cleanup*() before module unload.

obex_bind_config

LINUX

Name

obex_bind_config — add a CDC OBEX function to a configuration

Synopsis

```
int obex_bind_config (struct usb_configuration * c, u8
port_num);
```

Arguments

c

the configuration to support the CDC OBEX instance

port_num

/dev/ttyGS* port this interface will use

Context

single threaded during gadget setup

Description

Returns zero on success, else negative errno.

Caller must have called *gserial_setup*() with enough ports to handle all the ones it binds. Caller is also responsible for calling *gserial_cleanup*() before module unload.

gser_bind_config

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`gser_bind_config` — add a generic serial function to a configuration

Synopsis

```
int gser_bind_config (struct usb_configuration * c, u8
port_num);
```

Arguments

c

the configuration to support the serial instance

port_num

/dev/ttyGS* port this interface will use

Context

single threaded during gadget setup

Description

Returns zero on success, else negative errno.

Caller must have called *gserial_setup*() with enough ports to handle all the ones it binds. Caller is also responsible for calling *gserial_cleanup*() before module unload.

Chapter 4. Peripheral Controller Drivers

The first hardware supporting this API was the NetChip 2280 controller, which supports USB 2.0 high speed and is based on PCI. This is the `net2280` driver module. The driver supports Linux kernel versions 2.4 and 2.6; contact NetChip Technologies for development boards and product information.

Other hardware working in the "gadget" framework includes: Intel's PXA 25x and IXP42x series processors (`pxa2xx_udc`), Toshiba TC86c001 "Goku-S" (`goku_udc`), Renesas SH7705/7727 (`sh_udc`), MediaQ 11xx (`mq11xx_udc`), Hynix HMS30C7202 (`h7202_udc`), National 9303/4 (`n9604_udc`), Texas Instruments OMAP (`omap_udc`), Sharp LH7A40x (`lh7a40x_udc`), and more. Most of those are full speed controllers.

At this writing, there are people at work on drivers in this framework for several other USB device controllers, with plans to make many of them be widely available.

A partial USB simulator, the `dummy_hcd` driver, is available. It can act like a net2280, a pxa25x, or an sa11x0 in terms of available endpoints and device speeds; and it simulates control, bulk, and to some extent interrupt transfers. That lets you develop some parts of a gadget driver on a normal PC, without any special hardware, and perhaps with the assistance of tools such as GDB running with User Mode Linux. At least one person has expressed interest in adapting that approach, hooking it up to a simulator for a microcontroller. Such simulators can help debug subsystems where the runtime hardware is unfriendly to software development, or is not yet available.

Support for other controllers is expected to be developed and contributed over time, as this driver framework evolves.

Chapter 5. Gadget Drivers

In addition to *Gadget Zero* (used primarily for testing and development with drivers for usb controller hardware), other gadget drivers exist.

There's an *ethernet* gadget driver, which implements one of the most useful *Communications Device Class* (CDC) models. One of the standards for cable modem interoperability even specifies the use of this ethernet model as one of two mandatory options. Gadgets using this code look to a USB host as if they're an Ethernet adapter. It provides access to a network where the gadget's CPU is one host, which could easily be bridging, routing, or firewalling access to other networks. Since some hardware can't fully implement the CDC Ethernet requirements, this driver also implements a "good parts only" subset of CDC Ethernet. (That subset doesn't advertise itself as CDC Ethernet, to avoid creating problems.)

Support for Microsoft's *RNDIS* protocol has been contributed by Pengutronix and Auerswald GmbH. This is like CDC Ethernet, but it runs on more slightly USB hardware (but less than the CDC subset). However, its main claim to fame is being able to connect directly to recent versions of Windows, using drivers that Microsoft bundles and supports, making it much simpler to network with Windows.

There is also support for user mode gadget drivers, using *gadgetfs*. This provides a *User Mode API* that presents each endpoint as a single file descriptor. I/O is done using normal *read()* and *read()* calls. Familiar tools like GDB and pthreads can be used to develop and debug user mode drivers, so that once a robust controller driver is available many applications for it won't require new kernel mode software. Linux 2.6 *Async I/O (AIO)* support is available, so that user mode software can stream data with only slightly more overhead than a kernel driver.

There's a USB Mass Storage class driver, which provides a different solution for interoperability with systems such as MS-Windows and MacOS. That *File-backed Storage* driver uses a file or block device as backing store for a drive, like the `loop` driver. The USB host uses the BBB, CB, or CBI versions of the mass storage class specification, using transparent SCSI commands to access the data from the backing store.

There's a "serial line" driver, useful for TTY style operation over USB. The latest version of that driver supports CDC ACM style operation, like a USB modem, and so on most hardware it can interoperate easily with MS-Windows. One interesting use of that driver is in boot firmware (like a BIOS), which can sometimes use that model with very small systems without real serial lines.

Support for other kinds of gadget is expected to be developed and contributed over time, as this driver framework evolves.

Chapter 6. USB On-The-GO (OTG)

USB OTG support on Linux 2.6 was initially developed by Texas Instruments for OMAP (http://www.omap.com) 16xx and 17xx series processors. Other OTG systems should work in similar ways, but the hardware level details could be very different.

Systems need specialized hardware support to implement OTG, notably including a special *Mini-AB* jack and associated transciever to support *Dual-Role* operation: they can act either as a host, using the standard Linux-USB host side driver stack, or as a peripheral, using this "gadget" framework. To do that, the system software relies on small additions to those programming interfaces, and on a new internal component (here called an "OTG Controller") affecting which driver stack connects to the OTG port. In each role, the system can re-use the existing pool of hardware-neutral drivers, layered on top of the controller driver interfaces (*usb_bus* or *usb_gadget*). Such drivers need at most minor changes, and most of the calls added to support OTG can also benefit non-OTG products.

- Gadget drivers test the *is_otg* flag, and use it to determine whether or not to include an OTG descriptor in each of their configurations.
- Gadget drivers may need changes to support the two new OTG protocols, exposed in new gadget attributes such as *b_hnp_enable* flag. HNP support should be reported through a user interface (two LEDs could suffice), and is triggered in some cases when the host suspends the peripheral. SRP support can be user-initiated just like remote wakeup, probably by pressing the same button.
- On the host side, USB device drivers need to be taught to trigger HNP at appropriate moments, using `usb_suspend_device()`. That also conserves battery power, which is useful even for non-OTG configurations.
- Also on the host side, a driver must support the OTG "Targeted Peripheral List". That's just a whitelist, used to reject peripherals not supported with a given Linux OTG host. *This whitelist is product-specific; each product must modify* `otg_whitelist.h` *to match its interoperability specification.*

  Non-OTG Linux hosts, like PCs and workstations, normally have some solution for adding drivers, so that peripherals that aren't recognized can eventually be supported. That approach is unreasonable for consumer products that may never have their firmware upgraded, and where it's usually unrealistic to expect traditional PC/workstation/server kinds of support model to work. For example, it's often impractical to change device firmware once the product has been distributed, so driver bugs can't normally be fixed if they're found after shipment.

Additional changes are needed below those hardware-neutral *usb_bus* and *usb_gadget* driver interfaces; those aren't discussed here in any detail. Those affect

the hardware-specific code for each USB Host or Peripheral controller, and how the HCD initializes (since OTG can be active only on a single port). They also involve what may be called an *OTG Controller Driver*, managing the OTG transceiver and the OTG state machine logic as well as much of the root hub behavior for the OTG port. The OTG controller driver needs to activate and deactivate USB controllers depending on the relevant device role. Some related changes were needed inside usbcore, so that it can identify OTG-capable devices and respond appropriately to HNP or SRP protocols.