SCSI Interfaces Guide

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SCSI Interfaces Guide

by James Bottomley and Rob Landley

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Chapter 1. Introduction

1.1. Protocol vs bus

Once upon a time, the Small Computer Systems Interface defined both a parallel I/O bus and a data protocol to connect a wide variety of peripherals (disk drives, tape drives, modems, printers, scanners, optical drives, test equipment, and medical devices) to a host computer.

Although the old parallel (fast/wide/ultra) SCSI bus has largely fallen out of use, the SCSI command set is more widely used than ever to communicate with devices over a number of different busses.

The SCSI protocol (http://www.t10.org/scsi-3.htm) is a big-endian peer-to-peer packet based protocol. SCSI commands are 6, 10, 12, or 16 bytes long, often followed by an associated data payload.

SCSI commands can be transported over just about any kind of bus, and are the default protocol for storage devices attached to USB, SATA, SAS, Fibre Channel, FireWire, and ATAPI devices. SCSI packets are also commonly exchanged over Infiniband, I20 (http://i2o.shadowconnect.com/faq.php), TCP/IP (iSCSI (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISCSI)), even Parallel ports (http://cyberelk.net/tim/parport/parscsi.html).

1.2. Design of the Linux SCSI subsystem

The SCSI subsystem uses a three layer design, with upper, mid, and low layers. Every operation involving the SCSI subsystem (such as reading a sector from a disk) uses one driver at each of the 3 levels: one upper layer driver, one lower layer driver, and the SCSI midlayer.

The SCSI upper layer provides the interface between userspace and the kernel, in the form of block and char device nodes for I/O and ioctl(). The SCSI lower layer contains drivers for specific hardware devices.

In between is the SCSI mid-layer, analogous to a network routing layer such as the IPv4 stack. The SCSI mid-layer routes a packet based data protocol between the upper layer's /dev nodes and the corresponding devices in the lower layer. It manages command queues, provides error handling and power management functions, and responds to ioctl() requests.

Chapter 2. SCSI upper layer

The upper layer supports the user-kernel interface by providing device nodes.

2.1. sd (SCSI Disk)

sd (sd_mod.o)

2.2. sr (SCSI CD-ROM)

sr (sr_mod.o)

2.3. st (SCSI Tape)

st (st.o)

2.4. sg (SCSI Generic)

sg (sg.o)

2.5. ch (SCSI Media Changer)

ch (ch.c)

Chapter 3. SCSI mid layer

3.1. SCSI midlayer implementation

3.1.1. include/scsi/scsi_device.h

shost_for_each_device

LINUX

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Name

`shost_for_each_device` — iterate over all devices of a host

Synopsis

```
shost_for_each_device ( sdev,  shost);
```

Arguments

`sdev`

the struct scsi_device to use as a cursor

`shost`

the struct scsi_host to iterate over

Description

Iterator that returns each device attached to *shost*. This loop takes a reference on each device and releases it at the end. If you break out of the loop, you must call scsi_device_put(sdev).

__shost_for_each_device

LINUX

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Name

__shost_for_each_device — iterate over all devices of a host (UNLOCKED)

Synopsis

```
__shost_for_each_device ( sdev,  shost);
```

Arguments

sdev

the struct scsi_device to use as a cursor

shost

the struct scsi_host to iterate over

Description

Iterator that returns each device attached to *shost*. It does _not_ take a reference on the scsi_device, so the whole loop must be protected by shost->host_lock.

Note

The only reason to use this is because you need to access the device list in interrupt context. Otherwise you really want to use shost_for_each_device instead.

3.1.2. drivers/scsi/scsi.c

Main file for the SCSI midlayer.

scsi_device_type

LINUX

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Name

`scsi_device_type` — Return 17 char string indicating device type.

Synopsis

```
const char * scsi_device_type (unsigned type);
```

Arguments

type

type number to look up

__scsi_get_command

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`__scsi_get_command` — Allocate a struct scsi_cmnd

Synopsis

```
struct scsi_cmnd * __scsi_get_command (struct Scsi_Host *
shost, gfp_t gfp_mask);
```

Arguments

shost

host to transmit command

gfp_mask

allocation mask

Description

allocate a struct scsi_cmd from host's slab, recycling from the host's free_list if necessary.

scsi_get_command

LINUX

Name

`scsi_get_command` — Allocate and setup a scsi command block

Synopsis

```
struct scsi_cmnd * scsi_get_command (struct scsi_device * dev,
gfp_t gfp_mask);
```

Arguments

dev

parent scsi device

gfp_mask

allocator flags

Returns

The allocated scsi command structure.

__scsi_put_command

LINUX

Name

`__scsi_put_command` — Free a struct scsi_cmnd

Synopsis

```
void __scsi_put_command (struct Scsi_Host * shost, struct
scsi_cmnd * cmd, struct device * dev);
```

Arguments

shost

dev->host

cmd

Command to free

dev

parent scsi device

scsi_put_command

LINUX

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Name

scsi_put_command — Free a scsi command block

Synopsis

```
void scsi_put_command (struct scsi_cmnd * cmd);
```

Arguments

cmd

command block to free

Returns

Nothing.

Notes

The command must not belong to any lists.

scsi_allocate_command

LINUX

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Name

`scsi_allocate_command` — get a fully allocated SCSI command

Synopsis

```
struct scsi_cmnd * scsi_allocate_command (gfp_t gfp_mask);
```

Arguments

gfp_mask

allocation mask

Description

This function is for use outside of the normal host based pools. It allocates the relevant command and takes an additional reference on the pool it used. This function *must* be paired with scsi_free_command which also has the identical mask, otherwise the free pool counts will eventually go wrong and you'll trigger a bug.

This function should *only* be used by drivers that need a static command allocation at start of day for internal functions.

scsi_free_command

LINUX

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Name

`scsi_free_command` — free a command allocated by scsi_allocate_command

Synopsis

```
void scsi_free_command (gfp_t gfp_mask, struct scsi_cmnd * cmd);
```

Arguments

`gfp_mask`

mask used in the original allocation

`cmd`

command to free

Note

using the original allocation mask is vital because that's what determines which command pool we use to free the command. Any mismatch will cause the system to BUG eventually.

scsi_cmd_get_serial

LINUX

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Name

`scsi_cmd_get_serial` — Assign a serial number to a command

Synopsis

```
void scsi_cmd_get_serial (struct Scsi_Host * host, struct
scsi_cmnd * cmd);
```

Arguments

host

the scsi host

cmd

command to assign serial number to

Description

a serial number identifies a request for error recovery and debugging purposes. Protected by the Host_Lock of host.

scsi_finish_command

LINUX

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Name

`scsi_finish_command` — cleanup and pass command back to upper layer

Synopsis

```
void scsi_finish_command (struct scsi_cmnd * cmd);
```

Arguments

cmd

the command

Description

Pass command off to upper layer for finishing of I/O request, waking processes that are waiting on results, etc.

scsi_adjust_queue_depth

LINUX

Name

`scsi_adjust_queue_depth` — Let low level drivers change a device's queue depth

Synopsis

```
void scsi_adjust_queue_depth (struct scsi_device * sdev, int tagged, int tags);
```

Arguments

sdev

SCSI Device in question

tagged

Do we use tagged queueing (non-0) or do we treat this device as an untagged device (0)

tags

Number of tags allowed if tagged queueing enabled, or number of commands the low level driver can queue up in non-tagged mode (as per cmd_per_lun).

Returns

Nothing

Lock Status

None held on entry

Notes

Low level drivers may call this at any time and we will do the right thing depending on whether or not the device is currently active and whether or not it even has the command blocks built yet.

scsi_track_queue_full

LINUX

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Name

`scsi_track_queue_full` — track QUEUE_FULL events to adjust queue depth

Synopsis

```
int scsi_track_queue_full (struct scsi_device * sdev, int
depth);
```

Arguments

sdev

SCSI Device in question

depth

Current number of outstanding SCSI commands on this device, not counting the one returned as QUEUE_FULL.

Description

This function will track successive QUEUE_FULL events on a specific SCSI device to determine if and when there is a need to adjust the queue depth on the device.

Returns

0 - No change needed, >0 - Adjust queue depth to this new depth, -1 - Drop back to untagged operation using host->cmd_per_lun as the untagged command depth

Lock Status

None held on entry

Notes

Low level drivers may call this at any time and we will do “The Right Thing.” We are interrupt context safe.

scsi_get_vpd_page

LINUX

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Name

`scsi_get_vpd_page` — Get Vital Product Data from a SCSI device

Synopsis

```
int scsi_get_vpd_page (struct scsi_device * sdev, u8 page,
unsigned char * buf, int buf_len);
```

Arguments

sdev

The device to ask

page

Which Vital Product Data to return

buf

where to store the VPD

buf_len

number of bytes in the VPD buffer area

Description

SCSI devices may optionally supply Vital Product Data. Each 'page' of VPD is defined in the appropriate SCSI document (eg SPC, SBC). If the device supports this VPD page, this routine returns a pointer to a buffer containing the data from that page. The caller is responsible for calling `kfree` on this pointer when it is no longer needed. If we cannot retrieve the VPD page this routine returns `NULL`.

scsi_device_get

LINUX

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Name

`scsi_device_get` — get an additional reference to a scsi_device

Synopsis

```
int scsi_device_get (struct scsi_device * sdev);
```

Arguments

sdev

device to get a reference to

Description

Gets a reference to the scsi_device and increments the use count of the underlying LLDD module. You must hold host_lock of the parent Scsi_Host or already have a reference when calling this.

scsi_device_put

LINUX

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Name

`scsi_device_put` — release a reference to a scsi_device

Synopsis

```
void scsi_device_put (struct scsi_device * sdev);
```

Arguments

sdev

device to release a reference on.

Description

Release a reference to the scsi_device and decrements the use count of the underlying LLDD module. The device is freed once the last user vanishes.

starget_for_each_device

LINUX

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Name

`starget_for_each_device` — helper to walk all devices of a target

Synopsis

```
void starget_for_each_device (struct scsi_target * starget,
void * data, void (*fn) (struct scsi_device *, void *));
```

Arguments

`starget`

target whose devices we want to iterate over.

`data`

Opaque passed to each function call.

`fn`

Function to call on each device

Description

This traverses over each device of *starget*. The devices have a reference that must be released by scsi_host_put when breaking out of the loop.

__starget_for_each_device

LINUX

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Name

__starget_for_each_device — helper to walk all devices of a target (UNLOCKED)

Synopsis

```
void __starget_for_each_device (struct scsi_target * starget,
void * data, void (*fn) (struct scsi_device *, void *));
```

Arguments

starget

target whose devices we want to iterate over.

data

parameter for callback *fn*()

fn

callback function that is invoked for each device

Description

This traverses over each device of *starget*. It does _not_ take a reference on the scsi_device, so the whole loop must be protected by shost->host_lock.

Note

The only reason why drivers would want to use this is because they need to access the device list in irq context. Otherwise you really want to use starget_for_each_device instead.

__scsi_device_lookup_by_target

LINUX

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Name

__scsi_device_lookup_by_target — find a device given the target (UNLOCKED)

Synopsis

```
struct scsi_device * __scsi_device_lookup_by_target (struct
scsi_target * starget, uint lun);
```

Arguments

starget

SCSI target pointer

lun

SCSI Logical Unit Number

Description

Looks up the scsi_device with the specified *lun* for a given *starget*. The returned scsi_device does not have an additional reference. You must hold the host's host_lock over this call and any access to the returned scsi_device. A scsi_device in state SDEV_DEL is skipped.

Note

The only reason why drivers should use this is because they need to access the device list in irq context. Otherwise you really want to use scsi_device_lookup_by_target instead.

scsi_device_lookup_by_target

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

scsi_device_lookup_by_target — find a device given the target

Synopsis

```
struct scsi_device * scsi_device_lookup_by_target (struct
scsi_target * starget, uint lun);
```

Arguments

starget

SCSI target pointer

lun

SCSI Logical Unit Number

Description

Looks up the scsi_device with the specified *lun* for a given *starget*. The returned scsi_device has an additional reference that needs to be released with scsi_device_put once you're done with it.

__scsi_device_lookup

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

__scsi_device_lookup — find a device given the host (UNLOCKED)

Synopsis

```
struct scsi_device * __scsi_device_lookup (struct Scsi_Host *
shost, uint channel, uint id, uint lun);
```

Arguments

shost

SCSI host pointer

channel

SCSI channel (zero if only one channel)

id

SCSI target number (physical unit number)

lun

SCSI Logical Unit Number

Description

Looks up the scsi_device with the specified *channel*, *id*, *lun* for a given host. The returned scsi_device does not have an additional reference. You must hold the host's host_lock over this call and any access to the returned scsi_device.

Note

The only reason why drivers would want to use this is because they need to access the device list in irq context. Otherwise you really want to use scsi_device_lookup instead.

scsi_device_lookup

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_device_lookup` — find a device given the host

Synopsis

```
struct scsi_device * scsi_device_lookup (struct Scsi_Host *
shost, uint channel, uint id, uint lun);
```

Arguments

shost

SCSI host pointer

channel

SCSI channel (zero if only one channel)

id

SCSI target number (physical unit number)

lun

SCSI Logical Unit Number

Description

Looks up the scsi_device with the specified *channel*, *id*, *lun* for a given host. The returned scsi_device has an additional reference that needs to be released with scsi_device_put once you're done with it.

3.1.3. drivers/scsi/scsicam.c

SCSI Common Access Method (http://www.t10.org/ftp/t10/drafts/cam/cam-r12b.pdf) support functions, for use with HDIO_GETGEO, etc.

scsi_bios_ptable

LINUX

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Name

`scsi_bios_ptable` — Read PC partition table out of first sector of device.

Synopsis

```
unsigned char * scsi_bios_ptable (struct block_device * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

from this device

Description

Reads the first sector from the device and returns `0x42` bytes starting at offset `0x1be`.

Returns

partition table in kmalloc(GFP_KERNEL) memory, or NULL on error.

scsicam_bios_param

LINUX

Name

`scsicam_bios_param` — Determine geometry of a disk in cylinders/heads/sectors.

Synopsis

```
int scsicam_bios_param (struct block_device * bdev, sector_t
capacity, int * ip);
```

Arguments

bdev

which device

capacity

size of the disk in sectors

ip

return value: ip[0]=heads, ip[1]=sectors, ip[2]=cylinders

Description

determine the BIOS mapping/geometry used for a drive in a SCSI-CAM system, storing the results in ip as required by the HDIO_GETGEO `ioctl`.

Returns

-1 on failure, 0 on success.

scsi_partsize

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_partsize` — Parse cylinders/heads/sectors from PC partition table

Synopsis

```
int scsi_partsize (unsigned char * buf, unsigned long
capacity, unsigned int * cyls, unsigned int * hds, unsigned
int * secs);
```

Arguments

buf

partition table, see `scsi_bios_ptable`

capacity

size of the disk in sectors

cyls

put cylinders here

hds

put heads here

secs

put sectors here

Description

determine the BIOS mapping/geometry used to create the partition table, storing the results in *cyls, *hds, and *secs

Returns

-1 on failure, 0 on success.

3.1.4. drivers/scsi/scsi_error.c

Common SCSI error/timeout handling routines.

scsi_schedule_eh

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_schedule_eh` — schedule EH for SCSI host

Synopsis

```
void scsi_schedule_eh (struct Scsi_Host * shost);
```

Arguments

shost

SCSI host to invoke error handling on.

Description

Schedule SCSI EH without scmd.

scsi_block_when_processing_errors

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_block_when_processing_errors` — Prevent cmds from being queued.

Synopsis

```
int scsi_block_when_processing_errors (struct scsi_device * sdev);
```

Arguments

sdev

Device on which we are performing recovery.

Description

We block until the host is out of error recovery, and then check to see whether the host or the device is offline.

Return value

0 when dev was taken offline by error recovery. 1 OK to proceed.

scsi_eh_prep_cmnd

LINUX

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Name

`scsi_eh_prep_cmnd` — Save a scsi command info as part of error recovery

Synopsis

```
void scsi_eh_prep_cmnd (struct scsi_cmnd * scmd, struct
scsi_eh_save * ses, unsigned char * cmnd, int cmnd_size,
unsigned sense_bytes);
```

Arguments

`scmd`

SCSI command structure to hijack

`ses`

structure to save restore information

`cmnd`

CDB to send. Can be NULL if no new cmnd is needed

`cmnd_size`

size in bytes of *`cmnd`* (must be <= BLK_MAX_CDB)

sense_bytes

size of sense data to copy. or 0 (if != 0 *cmnd* is ignored)

Description

This function is used to save a scsi command information before re-execution as part of the error recovery process. If *sense_bytes* is 0 the command sent must be one that does not transfer any data. If *sense_bytes* != 0 *cmnd* is ignored and this functions sets up a REQUEST_SENSE command and cmnd buffers to read *sense_bytes* into *scmd*->sense_buffer.

scsi_eh_restore_cmnd

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

scsi_eh_restore_cmnd — Restore a scsi command info as part of error recovery

Synopsis

```
void scsi_eh_restore_cmnd (struct scsi_cmnd * scmd, struct
scsi_eh_save * ses);
```

Arguments

scmd

SCSI command structure to restore

ses

saved information from a coresponding call to scsi_eh_prep_cmnd

Description

Undo any damage done by above `scsi_eh_prep_cmnd`.

scsi_eh_finish_cmd

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_eh_finish_cmd` — Handle a cmd that eh is finished with.

Synopsis

```
void scsi_eh_finish_cmd (struct scsi_cmnd * scmd, struct
list_head * done_q);
```

Arguments

scmd

Original SCSI cmd that eh has finished.

done_q

Queue for processed commands.

Notes

We don't want to use the normal command completion while we are are still handling errors - it may cause other commands to be queued, and that would disturb what we are doing. Thus we really want to keep a list of pending commands for final completion, and once we are ready to leave error handling we handle completion for real.

scsi_eh_get_sense

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_eh_get_sense` — Get device sense data.

Synopsis

```
int scsi_eh_get_sense (struct list_head * work_q, struct
list_head * done_q);
```

Arguments

work_q

Queue of commands to process.

done_q

Queue of processed commands.

Description

See if we need to request sense information. if so, then get it now, so we have a better idea of what to do.

Notes

This has the unfortunate side effect that if a shost adapter does not automatically request sense information, we end up shutting it down before we request it.

All drivers should request sense information internally these days, so for now all I have to say is tough noogies if you end up in here.

XXX

Long term this code should go away, but that needs an audit of all LLDDs first.

scsi_eh_ready_devs

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_eh_ready_devs` — check device ready state and recover if not.

Synopsis

```
void scsi_eh_ready_devs (struct Scsi_Host * shost, struct
list_head * work_q, struct list_head * done_q);
```

Arguments

shost

host to be recovered.

work_q

list_head for pending commands.

done_q

list_head for processed commands.

scsi_eh_flush_done_q

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_eh_flush_done_q` — finish processed commands or retry them.

Synopsis

```
void scsi_eh_flush_done_q (struct list_head * done_q);
```

Arguments

done_q

list_head of processed commands.

scsi_normalize_sense

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_normalize_sense` — normalize main elements from either fixed or descriptor sense data format into a common format.

Synopsis

```
int scsi_normalize_sense (const u8 * sense_buffer, int sb_len,
struct scsi_sense_hdr * sshdr);
```

Arguments

`sense_buffer`

byte array containing sense data returned by device

`sb_len`

number of valid bytes in sense_buffer

`sshdr`

pointer to instance of structure that common elements are written to.

Notes

The “main elements” from sense data are: response_code, sense_key, asc, ascq and additional_length (only for descriptor format).

Typically this function can be called after a device has responded to a SCSI command with the CHECK_CONDITION status.

Return value

1 if valid sense data information found, else 0;

scsi_sense_desc_find

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_sense_desc_find` — search for a given descriptor type in descriptor sense data format.

Synopsis

```
const u8 * scsi_sense_desc_find (const u8 * sense_buffer, int
sb_len, int desc_type);
```

Arguments

`sense_buffer`

byte array of descriptor format sense data

`sb_len`

number of valid bytes in sense_buffer

`desc_type`

value of descriptor type to find (e.g. 0 -> information)

Notes

only valid when sense data is in descriptor format

Return value

pointer to start of (first) descriptor if found else NULL

scsi_get_sense_info_fld

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_get_sense_info_fld` — get information field from sense data (either fixed or descriptor format)

Synopsis

```
int scsi_get_sense_info_fld (const u8 * sense_buffer, int
sb_len, u64 * info_out);
```

Arguments

`sense_buffer`

byte array of sense data

`sb_len`

number of valid bytes in sense_buffer

info_out

pointer to 64 integer where 8 or 4 byte information field will be placed if found.

Return value

1 if information field found, 0 if not found.

scsi_build_sense_buffer

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_build_sense_buffer` — build sense data in a buffer

Synopsis

```
void scsi_build_sense_buffer (int desc, u8 * buf, u8 key, u8
asc, u8 ascq);
```

Arguments

desc

Sense format (non zero == descriptor format, 0 == fixed format)

buf

Where to build sense data

key

Sense key

asc

Additional sense code

ascq

Additional sense code qualifier

3.1.5. drivers/scsi/scsi_devinfo.c

Manage scsi_dev_info_list, which tracks blacklisted and whitelisted devices.

scsi_dev_info_list_add

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_dev_info_list_add` — add one dev_info list entry.

Synopsis

```
int scsi_dev_info_list_add (int compatible, char * vendor,
char * model, char * strflags, int flags);
```

Arguments

compatible

if true, null terminate short strings. Otherwise space pad.

vendor

vendor string

model

model (product) string

strflags

integer string

flags

if strflags NULL, use this flag value

Description

Create and add one dev_info entry for *vendor*, *model*, *strflags* or *flag*. If *compatible*, add to the tail of the list, do not space pad, and set devinfo->compatible. The scsi_static_device_list entries are added with *compatible* 1 and *clfags* NULL.

Returns

0 OK, -error on failure.

scsi_dev_info_list_add_str

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

scsi_dev_info_list_add_str — parse dev_list and add to the scsi_dev_info_list.

Synopsis

```
int scsi_dev_info_list_add_str (char * dev_list);
```

Arguments

dev_list

string of device flags to add

Description

Parse dev_list, and add entries to the scsi_dev_info_list. dev_list is of the form "vendor:product:flag,vendor:product:flag". dev_list is modified via strsep. Can be called for command line addition, for proc or mabye a sysfs interface.

Returns

0 if OK, -error on failure.

scsi_get_device_flags

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_get_device_flags` — get device specific flags from the dynamic device list.

Synopsis

```
int scsi_get_device_flags (struct scsi_device * sdev, const
unsigned char * vendor, const unsigned char * model);
```

Arguments

sdev

scsi_device to get flags for

vendor

vendor name

model

model name

Description

Search the global scsi_dev_info_list (specified by list zero) for an entry matching *vendor* and *model*, if found, return the matching flags value, else return the host or global default settings. Called during scan time.

scsi_exit_devinfo

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

scsi_exit_devinfo — remove /proc/scsi/device_info & the scsi_dev_info_list

Synopsis

```
void scsi_exit_devinfo ( void);
```

Arguments

void

no arguments

scsi_init_devinfo

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_init_devinfo` — set up the dynamic device list.

Synopsis

```
int scsi_init_devinfo ( void);
```

Arguments

void

no arguments

Description

Add command line entries from scsi_dev_flags, then add scsi_static_device_list entries to the scsi device info list.

3.1.6. drivers/scsi/scsi_ioctl.c

Handle ioctl() calls for SCSI devices.

scsi_ioctl

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_ioctl` — Dispatch ioctl to scsi device

Synopsis

```
int scsi_ioctl (struct scsi_device * sdev, int cmd, void
__user * arg);
```

Arguments

sdev

scsi device receiving ioctl

cmd

which ioctl is it

arg

data associated with ioctl

Description

The `scsi_ioctl` function differs from most ioctls in that it does not take a major/minor number as the dev field. Rather, it takes a pointer to a struct scsi_device.

scsi_nonblockable_ioctl

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_nonblockable_ioctl` — Handle SG_SCSI_RESET

Synopsis

```
int scsi_nonblockable_ioctl (struct scsi_device * sdev, int
cmd, void __user * arg, int ndelay);
```

Arguments

sdev

scsi device receiving ioctl

cmd

Must be SC_SCSI_RESET

arg

pointer to int containing SG_SCSI_RESET_{DEVICE,BUS,HOST}

ndelay

file mode O_NDELAY flag

3.1.7. drivers/scsi/scsi_lib.c

SCSI queuing library.

scsi_execute

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_execute` — insert request and wait for the result

Synopsis

```
int scsi_execute (struct scsi_device * sdev, const unsigned
char * cmd, int data_direction, void * buffer, unsigned
bufflen, unsigned char * sense, int timeout, int retries, int
flags, int * resid);
```

Arguments

sdev

scsi device

cmd

scsi command

data_direction

data direction

buffer

data buffer

bufflen

len of buffer

sense

optional sense buffer

timeout

request timeout in seconds

retries

number of times to retry request

flags

or into request flags;

resid

optional residual length

Description

returns the req->errors value which is the scsi_cmnd result field.

scsi_device_from_queue

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_device_from_queue` — return sdev associated with a request_queue

Synopsis

```
struct scsi_device * scsi_device_from_queue (struct
request_queue * q);
```

Arguments

q

The request queue to return the sdev from

Description

Return the sdev associated with a request queue or NULL if the request_queue does not reference a SCSI device.

scsi_mode_select

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_mode_select` — issue a mode select

Synopsis

```
int scsi_mode_select (struct scsi_device * sdev, int pf, int
sp, int modepage, unsigned char * buffer, int len, int
timeout, int retries, struct scsi_mode_data * data, struct
scsi_sense_hdr * sshdr);
```

Arguments

sdev

SCSI device to be queried

pf

Page format bit (1 == standard, 0 == vendor specific)

sp

Save page bit (0 == don't save, 1 == save)

modepage

mode page being requested

buffer

request buffer (may not be smaller than eight bytes)

len

length of request buffer.

timeout

command timeout

retries

number of retries before failing

data

returns a structure abstracting the mode header data

sshdr

place to put sense data (or NULL if no sense to be collected). must be SCSI_SENSE_BUFFERSIZE big.

Description

Returns zero if successful; negative error number or scsi status on error

scsi_mode_sense

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_mode_sense` — issue a mode sense, falling back from 10 to six bytes if necessary.

Synopsis

```
int scsi_mode_sense (struct scsi_device * sdev, int dbd, int
modepage, unsigned char * buffer, int len, int timeout, int
retries, struct scsi_mode_data * data, struct scsi_sense_hdr *
sshdr);
```

Arguments

sdev

SCSI device to be queried

dbd

set if mode sense will allow block descriptors to be returned

modepage

mode page being requested

buffer

request buffer (may not be smaller than eight bytes)

len

length of request buffer.

timeout

command timeout

retries

number of retries before failing

data

returns a structure abstracting the mode header data

sshdr

place to put sense data (or NULL if no sense to be collected). must be SCSI_SENSE_BUFFERSIZE big.

Description

Returns zero if unsuccessful, or the header offset (either 4 or 8 depending on whether a six or ten byte command was issued) if successful.

scsi_test_unit_ready

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_test_unit_ready` — test if unit is ready

Synopsis

```
int scsi_test_unit_ready (struct scsi_device * sdev, int
timeout, int retries, struct scsi_sense_hdr * sshdr_external);
```

Arguments

sdev

scsi device to change the state of.

timeout

command timeout

retries

number of retries before failing

sshdr_external

Optional pointer to struct scsi_sense_hdr for returning sense. Make sure that this is cleared before passing in.

Description

Returns zero if unsuccessful or an error if TUR failed. For removable media, UNIT_ATTENTION sets ->changed flag.

scsi_device_set_state

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_device_set_state` — Take the given device through the device state model.

Synopsis

```
int scsi_device_set_state (struct scsi_device * sdev, enum
scsi_device_state state);
```

Arguments

sdev

scsi device to change the state of.

state

state to change to.

Description

Returns zero if unsuccessful or an error if the requested transition is illegal.

sdev_evt_send

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

sdev_evt_send — send asserted event to uevent thread

Synopsis

```
void sdev_evt_send (struct scsi_device * sdev, struct
scsi_event * evt);
```

Arguments

sdev

scsi_device event occurred on

evt

event to send

Description

Assert scsi device event asynchronously.

sdev_evt_alloc

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

sdev_evt_alloc — allocate a new scsi event

Synopsis

```
struct scsi_event * sdev_evt_alloc (enum scsi_device_event
evt_type, gfp_t gfpflags);
```

Arguments

evt_type

type of event to allocate

gfpflags

GFP flags for allocation

Description

Allocates and returns a new scsi_event.

sdev_evt_send_simple

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`sdev_evt_send_simple` — send asserted event to uevent thread

Synopsis

```
void sdev_evt_send_simple (struct scsi_device * sdev, enum
scsi_device_event evt_type, gfp_t gfpflags);
```

Arguments

sdev

scsi_device event occurred on

evt_type

type of event to send

gfpflags

GFP flags for allocation

Description

Assert scsi device event asynchronously, given an event type.

scsi_device_quiesce

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_device_quiesce` — Block user issued commands.

Synopsis

```
int scsi_device_quiesce (struct scsi_device * sdev);
```

Arguments

sdev

scsi device to quiesce.

Description

This works by trying to transition to the SDEV_QUIESCE state (which must be a legal transition). When the device is in this state, only special requests will be accepted, all others will be deferred. Since special requests may also be requeued requests, a successful return doesn't guarantee the device will be totally quiescent.

Must be called with user context, may sleep.

Returns zero if unsuccessful or an error if not.

scsi_device_resume

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_device_resume` — Restart user issued commands to a quiesced device.

Synopsis

```
void scsi_device_resume (struct scsi_device * sdev);
```

Arguments

sdev

scsi device to resume.

Description

Moves the device from quiesced back to running and restarts the queues.

Must be called with user context, may sleep.

scsi_internal_device_block

LINUX

Name

`scsi_internal_device_block` — internal function to put a device temporarily into the SDEV_BLOCK state

Synopsis

```
int scsi_internal_device_block (struct scsi_device * sdev);
```

Arguments

sdev

device to block

Description

Block request made by scsi lld's to temporarily stop all scsi commands on the specified device. Called from interrupt or normal process context.

Returns zero if successful or error if not

Notes

This routine transitions the device to the SDEV_BLOCK state (which must be a legal transition). When the device is in this state, all commands are deferred until the scsi lld reenables the device with scsi_device_unblock or device_block_tmo fires. This routine assumes the host_lock is held on entry.

scsi_internal_device_unblock

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_internal_device_unblock` — resume a device after a block request

Synopsis

```
int scsi_internal_device_unblock (struct scsi_device * sdev,
enum scsi_device_state new_state);
```

Arguments

sdev

device to resume

new_state

state to set devices to after unblocking

Description

Called by scsi lld's or the midlayer to restart the device queue for the previously suspended scsi device. Called from interrupt or normal process context.

Returns zero if successful or error if not.

Notes

This routine transitions the device to the SDEV_RUNNING state or to one of the offline states (which must be a legal transition) allowing the midlayer to goose the queue for this device. This routine assumes the host_lock is held upon entry.

scsi_kmap_atomic_sg

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_kmap_atomic_sg` — find and atomically map an sg-elemnt

Synopsis

```
void * scsi_kmap_atomic_sg (struct scatterlist * sgl, int
sg_count, size_t * offset, size_t * len);
```

Arguments

sgl

scatter-gather list

sg_count

number of segments in sg

offset

offset in bytes into sg, on return offset into the mapped area

len

bytes to map, on return number of bytes mapped

Description

Returns virtual address of the start of the mapped page

scsi_kunmap_atomic_sg

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_kunmap_atomic_sg` — atomically unmap a virtual address, previously mapped with scsi_kmap_atomic_sg

Synopsis

```
void scsi_kunmap_atomic_sg (void * virt);
```

Arguments

virt

virtual address to be unmapped

3.1.8. drivers/scsi/scsi_lib_dma.c

SCSI library functions depending on DMA (map and unmap scatter-gather lists).

scsi_dma_map

LINUX

Name

`scsi_dma_map` — perform DMA mapping against command's sg lists

Synopsis

```
int scsi_dma_map (struct scsi_cmnd * cmd);
```

Arguments

cmd

scsi command

Description

Returns the number of sg lists actually used, zero if the sg lists is NULL, or -ENOMEM if the mapping failed.

scsi_dma_unmap

LINUX

Name

`scsi_dma_unmap` — unmap command's sg lists mapped by scsi_dma_map

Synopsis

```
void scsi_dma_unmap (struct scsi_cmnd * cmd);
```

Arguments

cmd

scsi command

3.1.9. drivers/scsi/scsi_module.c

The file drivers/scsi/scsi_module.c contains legacy support for old-style host templates. It should never be used by any new driver.

3.1.10. drivers/scsi/scsi_proc.c

The functions in this file provide an interface between the PROC file system and the SCSI device drivers It is mainly used for debugging, statistics and to pass information directly to the lowlevel driver. I.E. plumbing to manage /proc/scsi/*

proc_scsi_read

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`proc_scsi_read` — handle read from /proc by calling host's `proc_info` command

Synopsis

```
int proc_scsi_read (char * buffer, char ** start, off_t
offset, int length, int * eof, void * data);
```

Arguments

buffer

passed to proc_info

start

passed to proc_info

offset

passed to proc_info

length

passed to proc_info

eof

returns whether length read was less than requested

data

pointer to a struct Scsi_Host

proc_scsi_write_proc

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

proc_scsi_write_proc — Handle write to /proc by calling host's

proc_info

Synopsis

```
int proc_scsi_write_proc (struct file * file, const char
__user * buf, unsigned long count, void * data);
```

Arguments

file

not used

buf

source of data to write.

count

number of bytes (at most PROC_BLOCK_SIZE) to write.

data

pointer to struct Scsi_Host

scsi_proc_hostdir_add

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

scsi_proc_hostdir_add — Create directory in /proc for a scsi host

Synopsis

```
void scsi_proc_hostdir_add (struct scsi_host_template * sht);
```

Arguments

sht

owner of this directory

Description

Sets sht->proc_dir to the new directory.

scsi_proc_hostdir_rm

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

scsi_proc_hostdir_rm — remove directory in /proc for a scsi host

Synopsis

```
void scsi_proc_hostdir_rm (struct scsi_host_template * sht);
```

Arguments

sht

owner of directory

scsi_proc_host_add

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

scsi_proc_host_add — Add entry for this host to appropriate /proc dir

Synopsis

```
void scsi_proc_host_add (struct Scsi_Host * shost);
```

Arguments

shost

host to add

scsi_proc_host_rm

LINUX

Name

`scsi_proc_host_rm` — remove this host's entry from /proc

Synopsis

```
void scsi_proc_host_rm (struct Scsi_Host * shost);
```

Arguments

shost

which host

proc_print_scsidevice

LINUX

Name

`proc_print_scsidevice` — return data about this host

Synopsis

```
int proc_print_scsidevice (struct device * dev, void * data);
```

Arguments

dev

A scsi device

data

struct seq_file to output to.

Description

prints Host, Channel, Id, Lun, Vendor, Model, Rev, Type, and revision.

scsi_add_single_device

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_add_single_device` — Respond to user request to probe for/add device

Synopsis

```
int scsi_add_single_device (uint host, uint channel, uint id,
uint lun);
```

Arguments

host

user-supplied decimal integer

channel

user-supplied decimal integer

id

user-supplied decimal integer

lun

user-supplied decimal integer

Description

called by writing “scsi add-single-device” to /proc/scsi/scsi.

does `scsi_host_lookup` and either `user_scan` if that transport type supports it, or else `scsi_scan_host_selected`

Note

this seems to be aimed exclusively at SCSI parallel busses.

scsi_remove_single_device

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_remove_single_device` — Respond to user request to remove a device

Synopsis

```
int scsi_remove_single_device (uint host, uint channel, uint
id, uint lun);
```

Arguments

host

user-supplied decimal integer

channel

user-supplied decimal integer

id

user-supplied decimal integer

lun

user-supplied decimal integer

Description

called by writing “scsi remove-single-device” to /proc/scsi/scsi. Does a `scsi_device_lookup` and `scsi_remove_device`

proc_scsi_write

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`proc_scsi_write` — handle writes to /proc/scsi/scsi

Synopsis

```
ssize_t proc_scsi_write (struct file * file, const char __user
* buf, size_t length, loff_t * ppos);
```

Arguments

file

not used

buf

buffer to write

length

length of buf, at most PAGE_SIZE

ppos

not used

Description

this provides a legacy mechanism to add or remove devices by Host, Channel, ID, and Lun. To use, “echo ’scsi add-single-device 0 1 2 3’ > /proc/scsi/scsi” or “echo ’scsi remove-single-device 0 1 2 3’ > /proc/scsi/scsi” with “0 1 2 3” replaced by the Host, Channel, Id, and Lun.

Note

this seems to be aimed at parallel SCSI. Most modern busses (USB, SATA, Firewire, Fibre Channel, etc) dynamically assign these values to provide a unique identifier and nothing more.

proc_scsi_open

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`proc_scsi_open` — glue function

Synopsis

```
int proc_scsi_open (struct inode * inode, struct file * file);
```

Arguments

`inode`

not used

`file`

passed to `single_open`

Description

Associates proc_scsi_show with this file

scsi_init_procfs

LINUX

Name

`scsi_init_procfs` — create scsi and scsi/scsi in procfs

Synopsis

```
int scsi_init_procfs ( void);
```

Arguments

void

no arguments

scsi_exit_procfs

LINUX

Name

`scsi_exit_procfs` — Remove scsi/scsi and scsi from procfs

Synopsis

```
void scsi_exit_procfs ( void);
```

Arguments

void

no arguments

3.1.11. drivers/scsi/scsi_netlink.c

Infrastructure to provide async events from transports to userspace via netlink, using a single NETLINK_SCSITRANSPORT protocol for all transports. See the original patch submission (http://marc.info/?l=linux-scsi&m=115507374832500&w=2) for more details.

scsi_nl_rcv_msg

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_nl_rcv_msg` — Receive message handler.

Synopsis

```
void scsi_nl_rcv_msg (struct sk_buff * skb);
```

Arguments

skb

socket receive buffer

Description

Extracts message from a receive buffer. Validates message header and calls appropriate transport message handler

scsi_nl_rcv_event

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_nl_rcv_event` — Event handler for a netlink socket.

Synopsis

```
int scsi_nl_rcv_event (struct notifier_block * this, unsigned
long event, void * ptr);
```

Arguments

this

event notifier block

event

event type

ptr

event payload

scsi_generic_msg_handler

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_generic_msg_handler` — receive message handler for GENERIC transport messages

Synopsis

```
int scsi_generic_msg_handler (struct sk_buff * skb);
```

Arguments

skb

socket receive buffer

scsi_netlink_init

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_netlink_init` — Called by SCSI subsystem to initialize the SCSI transport netlink interface

Synopsis

```
void scsi_netlink_init ( void);
```

Arguments

void

no arguments

scsi_netlink_exit

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_netlink_exit` — Called by SCSI subsystem to disable the SCSI transport netlink interface

Synopsis

```
void scsi_netlink_exit ( void);
```

Arguments

void

no arguments

Description

3.1.12. drivers/scsi/scsi_scan.c

Scan a host to determine which (if any) devices are attached. The general scanning/probing algorithm is as follows, exceptions are made to it depending on device specific flags, compilation options, and global variable (boot or module load time) settings. A specific LUN is scanned via an INQUIRY command; if the LUN has a device attached, a scsi_device is allocated and setup for it. For every id of every channel on the given host, start by scanning LUN 0. Skip hosts that don't respond at all to a scan of LUN 0. Otherwise, if LUN 0 has a device attached, allocate and setup a scsi_device for it. If target is SCSI-3 or up, issue a REPORT LUN, and scan all of the LUNs returned by the REPORT LUN; else, sequentially scan LUNs up until some maximum is reached, or a LUN is seen that cannot have a device attached to it.

scsi_complete_async_scans

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_complete_async_scans` — Wait for asynchronous scans to complete

Synopsis

```
int scsi_complete_async_scans ( void);
```

Arguments

void

no arguments

Description

When this function returns, any host which started scanning before this function was called will have finished its scan. Hosts which started scanning after this function was called may or may not have finished.

scsi_unlock_floptical

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_unlock_floptical` — unlock device via a special MODE SENSE command

Synopsis

```
void scsi_unlock_floptical (struct scsi_device * sdev,
unsigned char * result);
```

Arguments

sdev

scsi device to send command to

result

area to store the result of the MODE SENSE

Description

Send a vendor specific MODE SENSE (not a MODE SELECT) command. Called for BLIST_KEY devices.

scsi_alloc_sdev

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_alloc_sdev` — allocate and setup a scsi_Device

Synopsis

```
struct scsi_device * scsi_alloc_sdev (struct scsi_target *
starget, unsigned int lun, void * hostdata);
```

Arguments

starget

which target to allocate a scsi_device for

lun

which lun

hostdata

usually NULL and set by ->slave_alloc instead

Description

Allocate, initialize for io, and return a pointer to a scsi_Device. Stores the *shost*, *channel*, *id*, and *lun* in the scsi_Device, and adds scsi_Device to the appropriate list.

Return value

scsi_Device pointer, or NULL on failure.

scsi_alloc_target

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

scsi_alloc_target — allocate a new or find an existing target

Synopsis

```
struct scsi_target * scsi_alloc_target (struct device *
parent, int channel, uint id);
```

Arguments

parent

parent of the target (need not be a scsi host)

channel

target channel number (zero if no channels)

id

target id number

Description

Return an existing target if one exists, provided it hasn't already gone into STARGET_DEL state, otherwise allocate a new target.

The target is returned with an incremented reference, so the caller is responsible for both reaping and doing a last put

scsi_target_reap

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_target_reap` — check to see if target is in use and destroy if not

Synopsis

```
void scsi_target_reap (struct scsi_target * starget);
```

Arguments

starget

target to be checked

Description

This is used after removing a LUN or doing a last put of the target it checks atomically that nothing is using the target and removes it if so.

sanitize_inquiry_string

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`sanitize_inquiry_string` — remove non-graphical chars from an INQUIRY result string

Synopsis

```
void sanitize_inquiry_string (unsigned char * s, int len);
```

Arguments

s

INQUIRY result string to sanitize

len

length of the string

Description

The SCSI spec says that INQUIRY vendor, product, and revision strings must consist entirely of graphic ASCII characters, padded on the right with spaces. Since not all devices obey this rule, we will replace non-graphic or non-ASCII characters with spaces. Exception: a NUL character is interpreted as a string terminator, so all the following characters are set to spaces.

scsi_probe_lun

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_probe_lun` — probe a single LUN using a SCSI INQUIRY

Synopsis

```
int scsi_probe_lun (struct scsi_device * sdev, unsigned char *
inq_result, int result_len, int * bflags);
```

Arguments

`sdev`

scsi_device to probe

`inq_result`

area to store the INQUIRY result

`result_len`

len of inq_result

bflags

store any bflags found here

Description

Probe the lun associated with *req* using a standard SCSI INQUIRY;

If the INQUIRY is successful, zero is returned and the INQUIRY data is in *inq_result*; the scsi_level and INQUIRY length are copied to the scsi_device any flags value is stored in **bflags*.

scsi_test_lun

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

scsi_test_lun — waiting for a LUN to become ready

Synopsis

```
int scsi_test_lun (struct scsi_device * sdev);
```

Arguments

sdev

scsi_device to test

Description

Wait for the lun associated with *sdev* to become ready

Send a TEST UNIT READY to detect any unit attention conditions. Retry TEST UNIT READY for up to *scsi_scan_timeout* if the returned sense key is 02/04/01 (Not ready, Logical Unit is in process of becoming ready)

scsi_add_lun

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

scsi_add_lun — allocate and fully initialze a scsi_device

Synopsis

```
int scsi_add_lun (struct scsi_device * sdev, unsigned char *
inq_result, int * bflags, int async);
```

Arguments

sdev

holds information to be stored in the new scsi_device

inq_result

holds the result of a previous INQUIRY to the LUN

bflags

black/white list flag

async

1 if this device is being scanned asynchronously

Description

Initialize the scsi_device *sdev*. Optionally set fields based on values in **bflags*.

SCSI_SCAN_NO_RESPONSE

could not allocate or setup a scsi_device

SCSI_SCAN_LUN_PRESENT

a new scsi_device was allocated and initialized

scsi_inq_str

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_inq_str` — print INQUIRY data from min to max index, strip trailing whitespace

Synopsis

```
unsigned char * scsi_inq_str (unsigned char * buf, unsigned
char * inq, unsigned first, unsigned end);
```

Arguments

buf

Output buffer with at least end-first+1 bytes of space

inq

Inquiry buffer (input)

first

Offset of string into inq

end

Index after last character in inq

scsi_probe_and_add_lun

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_probe_and_add_lun` — probe a LUN, if a LUN is found add it

Synopsis

```
int scsi_probe_and_add_lun (struct scsi_target * starget, uint
lun, int * bflagsp, struct scsi_device ** sdevp, int rescan,
void * hostdata);
```

Arguments

starget

pointer to target device structure

lun

LUN of target device

bflagsp

store bflags here if not NULL

sdevp

probe the LUN corresponding to this scsi_device

rescan

if nonzero skip some code only needed on first scan

hostdata

passed to `scsi_alloc_sdev`

Description

Call scsi_probe_lun, if a LUN with an attached device is found, allocate and set it up by calling scsi_add_lun.

SCSI_SCAN_NO_RESPONSE

could not allocate or setup a scsi_device

SCSI_SCAN_TARGET_PRESENT

target responded, but no device is attached at the LUN

SCSI_SCAN_LUN_PRESENT

a new scsi_device was allocated and initialized

scsi_sequential_lun_scan

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_sequential_lun_scan` — sequentially scan a SCSI target

Synopsis

```
void scsi_sequential_lun_scan (struct scsi_target * starget,
int bflags, int scsi_level, int rescan);
```

Arguments

`starget`

pointer to target structure to scan

`bflags`

black/white list flag for LUN 0

`scsi_level`

Which version of the standard does this device adhere to

`rescan`

passed to `scsi_probe_add_lun`

Description

Generally, scan from LUN 1 (LUN 0 is assumed to already have been scanned) to some maximum lun until a LUN is found with no device attached. Use the bflags to figure out any oddities.

Modifies sdevscan->lun.

scsi_report_lun_scan

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_report_lun_scan` — Scan using SCSI REPORT LUN results

Synopsis

```
int scsi_report_lun_scan (struct scsi_target * starget, int
bflags, int rescan);
```

Arguments

`starget`

which target

`bflags`

Zero or a mix of BLIST_NOLUN, BLIST_REPORTLUN2, or BLIST_NOREPORTLUN

`rescan`

nonzero if we can skip code only needed on first scan

Description

Fast scanning for modern (SCSI-3) devices by sending a REPORT LUN command. Scan the resulting list of LUNs by calling scsi_probe_and_add_lun.

If BLINK_REPORTLUN2 is set, scan a target that supports more than 8 LUNs even if it's older than SCSI-3. If BLIST_NOREPORTLUN is set, return 1 always. If BLIST_NOLUN is set, return 0 always. If starget->no_report_luns is set, return 1 always.

0

scan completed (or no memory, so further scanning is futile)

1

could not scan with REPORT LUN

scsi_prep_async_scan

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_prep_async_scan` — prepare for an async scan

Synopsis

```
struct async_scan_data * scsi_prep_async_scan (struct
Scsi_Host * shost);
```

Arguments

shost

the host which will be scanned

Returns

a cookie to be passed to `scsi_finish_async_scan`

Tells the midlayer this host is going to do an asynchronous scan. It reserves the host's position in the scanning list and ensures that other asynchronous scans started after this one won't affect the ordering of the discovered devices.

scsi_finish_async_scan

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_finish_async_scan` — asynchronous scan has finished

Synopsis

```
void scsi_finish_async_scan (struct async_scan_data * data);
```

Arguments

data

cookie returned from earlier call to `scsi_prep_async_scan`

Description

All the devices currently attached to this host have been found. This function announces all the devices it has found to the rest of the system.

3.1.13. drivers/scsi/scsi_sysctl.c

Set up the sysctl entry: "/dev/scsi/logging_level" (DEV_SCSI_LOGGING_LEVEL) which sets/returns scsi_logging_level.

3.1.14. drivers/scsi/scsi_sysfs.c

SCSI sysfs interface routines.

scsi_remove_device

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_remove_device` — unregister a device from the scsi bus

Synopsis

```
void scsi_remove_device (struct scsi_device * sdev);
```

Arguments

sdev

scsi_device to unregister

scsi_remove_target

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_remove_target` — try to remove a target and all its devices

Synopsis

```
void scsi_remove_target (struct device * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

generic starget or parent of generic stargets to be removed

Note

This is slightly racy. It is possible that if the user requests the addition of another device then the target won't be removed.

3.1.15. drivers/scsi/hosts.c

mid to lowlevel SCSI driver interface

scsi_host_set_state

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_host_set_state` — Take the given host through the host state model.

Synopsis

```
int scsi_host_set_state (struct Scsi_Host * shost, enum
scsi_host_state state);
```

Arguments

shost

scsi host to change the state of.

state

state to change to.

Description

Returns zero if unsuccessful or an error if the requested transition is illegal.

scsi_remove_host

LINUX

Name

scsi_remove_host — remove a scsi host

Synopsis

```
void scsi_remove_host (struct Scsi_Host * shost);
```

Arguments

shost

a pointer to a scsi host to remove

scsi_add_host_with_dma

LINUX

Name

scsi_add_host_with_dma — add a scsi host with dma device

Synopsis

```
int scsi_add_host_with_dma (struct Scsi_Host * shost, struct
device * dev, struct device * dma_dev);
```

Arguments

shost

scsi host pointer to add

dev

a struct device of type scsi class

dma_dev

dma device for the host

Note

You rarely need to worry about this unless you're in a virtualised host environments, so use the simpler `scsi_add_host` function instead.

Return value

0 on success / != 0 for error

scsi_host_alloc

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_host_alloc` — register a scsi host adapter instance.

Synopsis

```
struct Scsi_Host * scsi_host_alloc (struct scsi_host_template
* sht, int privsize);
```

Arguments

sht

pointer to scsi host template

privsize

extra bytes to allocate for driver

Note

Allocate a new Scsi_Host and perform basic initialization. The host is not published to the scsi midlayer until scsi_add_host is called.

Return value

Pointer to a new Scsi_Host

scsi_host_lookup

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_host_lookup` — get a reference to a Scsi_Host by host no

Synopsis

```
struct Scsi_Host * scsi_host_lookup (unsigned short hostnum);
```

Arguments

hostnum

host number to locate

Return value

A pointer to located Scsi_Host or NULL.

The caller must do a `scsi_host_put` to drop the reference that `scsi_host_get` took. The `put_device` below dropped the reference from `class_find_device`.

scsi_host_get

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_host_get` — inc a Scsi_Host ref count

Synopsis

```
struct Scsi_Host * scsi_host_get (struct Scsi_Host * shost);
```

Arguments

shost

Pointer to Scsi_Host to inc.

scsi_host_put

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

scsi_host_put — dec a Scsi_Host ref count

Synopsis

```
void scsi_host_put (struct Scsi_Host * shost);
```

Arguments

shost

Pointer to Scsi_Host to dec.

scsi_queue_work

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

scsi_queue_work — Queue work to the Scsi_Host workqueue.

Synopsis

```
int scsi_queue_work (struct Scsi_Host * shost, struct
work_struct * work);
```

Arguments

shost

Pointer to Scsi_Host.

work

Work to queue for execution.

Return value

1 - work queued for execution 0 - work is already queued -EINVAL - work queue doesn't exist

scsi_flush_work

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_flush_work` — Flush a Scsi_Host's workqueue.

Synopsis

```
void scsi_flush_work (struct Scsi_Host * shost);
```

Arguments

shost

Pointer to Scsi_Host.

3.1.16. drivers/scsi/constants.c

mid to lowlevel SCSI driver interface

scsi_print_status

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_print_status` — print scsi status description

Synopsis

```
void scsi_print_status (unsigned char scsi_status);
```

Arguments

scsi_status

scsi status value

Description

If the status is recognized, the description is printed. Otherwise “Unknown status” is output. No trailing space. If CONFIG_SCSI_CONSTANTS is not set, then print status in hex (e.g. “0x2” for Check Condition).

3.2. Transport classes

Transport classes are service libraries for drivers in the SCSI lower layer, which expose transport attributes in sysfs.

3.2.1. Fibre Channel transport

The file drivers/scsi/scsi_transport_fc.c defines transport attributes for Fibre Channel.

fc_get_event_number

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`fc_get_event_number` — Obtain the next sequential FC event number

Synopsis

```
u32 fc_get_event_number ( void);
```

Arguments

void

no arguments

Notes

We could have inlined this, but it would have required fc_event_seq to be exposed. For now, live with the subroutine call. Atomic used to avoid lock/unlock...

fc_host_post_event

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`fc_host_post_event` — called to post an even on an fc_host.

Synopsis

```
void fc_host_post_event (struct Scsi_Host * shost, u32
event_number, enum fc_host_event_code event_code, u32
event_data);
```

Arguments

shost

host the event occurred on

event_number

fc event number obtained from `get_fc_event_number`

event_code

fc_host event being posted

event_data

32bits of data for the event being posted

Notes

This routine assumes no locks are held on entry.

fc_host_post_vendor_event

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`fc_host_post_vendor_event` — called to post a vendor unique event on an fc_host

Synopsis

```
void fc_host_post_vendor_event (struct Scsi_Host * shost, u32
event_number, u32 data_len, char * data_buf, u64 vendor_id);
```

Arguments

shost

host the event occurred on

event_number

fc event number obtained from `get_fc_event_number`

data_len

amount, in bytes, of vendor unique data

data_buf

pointer to vendor unique data

vendor_id

Vendor id

Notes

This routine assumes no locks are held on entry.

fc_remove_host

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`fc_remove_host` — called to terminate any fc_transport-related elements for a scsi host.

Synopsis

```
void fc_remove_host (struct Scsi_Host * shost);
```

Arguments

shost

Which Scsi_Host

Description

This routine is expected to be called immediately preceding the a driver's call to `scsi_remove_host`.

WARNING

A driver utilizing the fc_transport, which fails to call this routine prior to `scsi_remove_host`, will leave dangling objects in /sys/class/fc_remote_ports. Access to any of these objects can result in a system crash !!!

Notes

This routine assumes no locks are held on entry.

fc_remote_port_add

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`fc_remote_port_add` — notify fc transport of the existence of a remote FC port.

Synopsis

```
struct fc_rport * fc_remote_port_add (struct Scsi_Host *
shost, int channel, struct fc_rport_identifiers * ids);
```

Arguments

shost

scsi host the remote port is connected to.

channel

Channel on shost port connected to.

ids

The world wide names, fc address, and FC4 port roles for the remote port.

Description

The LLDD calls this routine to notify the transport of the existence of a remote port. The LLDD provides the unique identifiers (wwpn,wwn) of the port, it's FC address (port_id), and the FC4 roles that are active for the port.

For ports that are FCP targets (aka scsi targets), the FC transport maintains consistent target id bindings on behalf of the LLDD. A consistent target id binding is an assignment of a target id to a remote port identifier, which persists while the scsi host is attached. The remote port can disappear, then later reappear, and it's target id assignment remains the same. This allows for shifts in FC addressing (if binding by wwpn or wwnn) with no apparent changes to the scsi subsystem which is based on scsi host number and target id values. Bindings are only valid during the attachment of the scsi host. If the host detaches, then later re-attaches, target id bindings may change.

This routine is responsible for returning a remote port structure. The routine will search the list of remote ports it maintains internally on behalf of consistent target id mappings. If found, the remote port structure will be reused. Otherwise, a new remote port structure will be allocated.

Whenever a remote port is allocated, a new fc_remote_port class device is created.

Should not be called from interrupt context.

Notes

This routine assumes no locks are held on entry.

fc_remote_port_delete

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`fc_remote_port_delete` — notifies the fc transport that a remote port is no longer in existence.

Synopsis

```
void fc_remote_port_delete (struct fc_rport * rport);
```

Arguments

rport

The remote port that no longer exists

Description

The LLDD calls this routine to notify the transport that a remote port is no longer part of the topology. Note: Although a port may no longer be part of the topology, it may persist in the remote ports displayed by the fc_host. We do this under 2 conditions: 1) If the port was a scsi target, we delay its deletion by “blocking” it. This allows the port to temporarily disappear, then reappear without disrupting the SCSI device tree attached to it. During the “blocked” period the port will still exist. 2) If the port was a scsi target and disappears for longer than we expect, we’ll delete

the port and the tear down the SCSI device tree attached to it. However, we want to semi-persist the target id assigned to that port if it eventually does exist. The port structure will remain (although with minimal information) so that the target id bindings remails.

If the remote port is not an FCP Target, it will be fully torn down and deallocated, including the fc_remote_port class device.

If the remote port is an FCP Target, the port will be placed in a temporary blocked state. From the LLDD's perspective, the rport no longer exists. From the SCSI midlayer's perspective, the SCSI target exists, but all sdevs on it are blocked from further I/O. The following is then expected.

If the remote port does not return (signaled by a LLDD call to `fc_remote_port_add`) within the dev_loss_tmo timeout, then the scsi target is removed - killing all outstanding i/o and removing the scsi devices attached ot it. The port structure will be marked Not Present and be partially cleared, leaving only enough information to recognize the remote port relative to the scsi target id binding if it later appears. The port will remain as long as there is a valid binding (e.g. until the user changes the binding type or unloads the scsi host with the binding).

If the remote port returns within the dev_loss_tmo value (and matches according to the target id binding type), the port structure will be reused. If it is no longer a SCSI target, the target will be torn down. If it continues to be a SCSI target, then the target will be unblocked (allowing i/o to be resumed), and a scan will be activated to ensure that all luns are detected.

Called from normal process context only - cannot be called from interrupt.

Notes

This routine assumes no locks are held on entry.

fc_remote_port_rolechg

LINUX

Name

`fc_remote_port_rolechg` — notifies the fc transport that the roles on a remote may have changed.

Synopsis

```
void fc_remote_port_rolechg (struct fc_rport * rport, u32
roles);
```

Arguments

`rport`

The remote port that changed.

`roles`

New roles for this port.

Description

The LLDD calls this routine to notify the transport that the roles on a remote port may have changed. The largest effect of this is if a port now becomes a FCP Target, it must be allocated a scsi target id. If the port is no longer a FCP target, any scsi target id value assigned to it will persist in case the role changes back to include FCP Target. No changes in the scsi midlayer will be invoked if the role changes (in the expectation that the role will be resumed. If it doesn't normal error processing will take place).

Should not be called from interrupt context.

Notes

This routine assumes no locks are held on entry.

fc_block_scsi_eh

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`fc_block_scsi_eh` — Block SCSI eh thread for blocked fc_rport

Synopsis

```
int fc_block_scsi_eh (struct scsi_cmnd * cmnd);
```

Arguments

cmnd

SCSI command that scsi_eh is trying to recover

Description

This routine can be called from a FC LLD scsi_eh callback. It blocks the scsi_eh thread until the fc_rport leaves the FC_PORTSTATE_BLOCKED, or the fast_io_fail_tmo fires. This is necessary to avoid the scsi_eh failing recovery actions for blocked rports which would lead to offlined SCSI devices.

Returns

SUCCESS if the fc_rport left the state FC_PORTSTATE_BLOCKED.
FAST_IO_FAIL if the fast_io_fail_tmo fired, this should be passed back to scsi_eh.

fc_vport_create

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`fc_vport_create` — Admin App or LLDD requests creation of a vport

Synopsis

```
struct fc_vport * fc_vport_create (struct Scsi_Host * shost,
int channel, struct fc_vport_identifiers * ids);
```

Arguments

shost

scsi host the virtual port is connected to.

channel

channel on shost port connected to.

ids

The world wide names, FC4 port roles, etc for the virtual port.

Notes

This routine assumes no locks are held on entry.

fc_vport_terminate

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`fc_vport_terminate` — Admin App or LLDD requests termination of a vport

Synopsis

```
int fc_vport_terminate (struct fc_vport * vport);
```

Arguments

vport

fc_vport to be terminated

Description

Calls the LLDD `vport_delete` function, then deallocates and removes the vport from the shost and object tree.

Notes

This routine assumes no locks are held on entry.

3.2.2. iSCSI transport class

The file drivers/scsi/scsi_transport_iscsi.c defines transport attributes for the iSCSI class, which sends SCSI packets over TCP/IP connections.

iscsi_create_flashnode_sess

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`iscsi_create_flashnode_sess` — Add flashnode session entry in sysfs

Synopsis

```
struct iscsi_bus_flash_session * iscsi_create_flashnode_sess
(struct Scsi_Host * shost, int index, struct iscsi_transport *
transport, int dd_size);
```

Arguments

shost

pointer to host data

index

index of flashnode to add in sysfs

transport

pointer to transport data

dd_size

total size to allocate

Description

Adds a sysfs entry for the flashnode session attributes

Returns

pointer to allocated flashnode sess on sucess `NULL` on failure

iscsi_create_flashnode_conn

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`iscsi_create_flashnode_conn` — Add flashnode conn entry in sysfs

Synopsis

```
struct iscsi_bus_flash_conn * iscsi_create_flashnode_conn
(struct Scsi_Host * shost, struct iscsi_bus_flash_session *
fnode_sess, struct iscsi_transport * transport, int dd_size);
```

Arguments

shost

pointer to host data

fnode_sess

pointer to the parent flashnode session entry

transport

pointer to transport data

dd_size

total size to allocate

Description

Adds a sysfs entry for the flashnode connection attributes

Returns

pointer to allocated flashnode conn on success `NULL` on failure

iscsi_is_flashnode_conn_dev

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`iscsi_is_flashnode_conn_dev` — verify passed device is to be flashnode conn

Synopsis

```
int iscsi_is_flashnode_conn_dev (struct device * dev, void *
data);
```

Arguments

dev

device to verify

data

pointer to data containing value to use for verification

Description

Verifies if the passed device is flashnode conn device

Returns

1 on success 0 on failure

iscsi_find_flashnode_sess

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`iscsi_find_flashnode_sess` — finds flashnode session entry

Synopsis

```
struct device * iscsi_find_flashnode_sess (struct Scsi_Host *
shost, void * data, int (*fn) (struct device *dev, void
*data));
```

Arguments

shost

pointer to host data

data

pointer to data containing value to use for comparison

fn

function pointer that does actual comparison

Description

Finds the flashnode session object comparing the data passed using logic defined in passed function pointer

Returns

pointer to found flashnode session device object on success NULL on failure

iscsi_find_flashnode_conn

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

iscsi_find_flashnode_conn — finds flashnode connection entry

Synopsis

```
struct device * iscsi_find_flashnode_conn (struct
iscsi_bus_flash_session * fnode_sess, void * data, int (*fn)
(struct device *dev, void *data));
```

Arguments

fnode_sess

pointer to parent flashnode session entry

data

pointer to data containing value to use for comparison

fn

function pointer that does actual comparison

Description

Finds the flashnode connection object comparing the data passed using logic defined in passed function pointer

Returns

pointer to found flashnode connection device object on success `NULL` on failure

iscsi_destroy_flashnode_sess

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`iscsi_destroy_flashnode_sess` — destory flashnode session entry

Synopsis

```
void iscsi_destroy_flashnode_sess (struct
iscsi_bus_flash_session * fnode_sess);
```

Arguments

fnode_sess

pointer to flashnode session entry to be destroyed

Description

Deletes the flashnode session entry and all children flashnode connection entries from sysfs

iscsi_destroy_all_flashnode

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

iscsi_destroy_all_flashnode — destory all flashnode session entries

Synopsis

```
void iscsi_destroy_all_flashnode (struct Scsi_Host * shost);
```

Arguments

shost

pointer to host data

Description

Destroys all the flashnode session entries and all corresponding children flashnode connection entries from sysfs

iscsi_scan_finished

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`iscsi_scan_finished` — helper to report when running scans are done

Synopsis

```
int iscsi_scan_finished (struct Scsi_Host * shost, unsigned
long time);
```

Arguments

shost

scsi host

time

scan run time

Description

This function can be used by drives like qla4xxx to report to the scsi layer when the scans it kicked off at module load time are done.

iscsi_block_scsi_eh

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`iscsi_block_scsi_eh` — block scsi eh until session state has transistioned

Synopsis

```
int iscsi_block_scsi_eh (struct scsi_cmnd * cmd);
```

Arguments

cmd

scsi cmd passed to scsi eh handler

Description

If the session is down this function will wait for the recovery timer to fire or for the session to be logged back in. If the recovery timer fires then FAST_IO_FAIL is returned. The caller should pass this error value to the scsi eh.

iscsi_unblock_session

LINUX

Name

`iscsi_unblock_session` — set a session as logged in and start IO.

Synopsis

```
void iscsi_unblock_session (struct iscsi_cls_session *
session);
```

Arguments

session

iscsi session

Description

Mark a session as ready to accept IO.

iscsi_create_session

LINUX

Name

`iscsi_create_session` — create iscsi class session

Synopsis

```
struct iscsi_cls_session * iscsi_create_session (struct
Scsi_Host * shost, struct iscsi_transport * transport, int
dd_size, unsigned int target_id);
```

Arguments

shost

scsi host

transport

iscsi transport

dd_size

private driver data size

target_id

which target

Description

This can be called from a LLD or iscsi_transport.

iscsi_destroy_session

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

iscsi_destroy_session — destroy iscsi session

Synopsis

```
int iscsi_destroy_session (struct iscsi_cls_session *
session);
```

Arguments

session

iscsi_session

Description

Can be called by a LLD or iscsi_transport. There must not be any running connections.

iscsi_create_conn

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`iscsi_create_conn` — create iscsi class connection

Synopsis

```
struct iscsi_cls_conn * iscsi_create_conn (struct
iscsi_cls_session * session, int dd_size, uint32_t cid);
```

Arguments

session

iscsi cls session

dd_size

private driver data size

cid

connection id

Description

This can be called from a LLD or iscsi_transport. The connection is child of the session so cid must be unique for all connections on the session.

Since we do not support MCS, cid will normally be zero. In some cases for software iscsi we could be trying to preallocate a connection struct in which case there could be two connection structs and cid would be non-zero.

iscsi_destroy_conn

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`iscsi_destroy_conn` — destroy iscsi class connection

Synopsis

```
int iscsi_destroy_conn (struct iscsi_cls_conn * conn);
```

Arguments

conn

iscsi cls session

Description

This can be called from a LLD or iscsi_transport.

iscsi_session_event

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`iscsi_session_event` — send session destr. completion event

Synopsis

```
int iscsi_session_event (struct iscsi_cls_session * session,
enum iscsi_uevent_e event);
```

Arguments

session

iscsi class session

event

type of event

3.2.3. Serial Attached SCSI (SAS) transport class

The file drivers/scsi/scsi_transport_sas.c defines transport attributes for Serial Attached SCSI, a variant of SATA aimed at large high-end systems.

The SAS transport class contains common code to deal with SAS HBAs, an aproximated representation of SAS topologies in the driver model, and various sysfs attributes to expose these topologies and management interfaces to userspace.

In addition to the basic SCSI core objects this transport class introduces two additional intermediate objects: The SAS PHY as represented by struct sas_phy defines an "outgoing" PHY on a SAS HBA or Expander, and the SAS remote PHY represented by struct sas_rphy defines an "incoming" PHY on a SAS Expander or end device. Note that this is purely a software concept, the underlying hardware for a PHY and a remote PHY is the exactly the same.

There is no concept of a SAS port in this code, users can see what PHYs form a wide port based on the port_identifier attribute, which is the same for all PHYs in a port.

sas_remove_children

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`sas_remove_children` — tear down a devices SAS data structures

Synopsis

```
void sas_remove_children (struct device * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

device belonging to the sas object

Description

Removes all SAS PHYs and remote PHYs for a given object

sas_remove_host

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

sas_remove_host — tear down a Scsi_Host's SAS data structures

Synopsis

```
void sas_remove_host (struct Scsi_Host * shost);
```

Arguments

shost

Scsi Host that is torn down

Description

Removes all SAS PHYs and remote PHYs for a given Scsi_Host. Must be called just before scsi_remove_host for SAS HBAs.

sas_tlr_supported

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`sas_tlr_supported` — checking TLR bit in vpd 0x90

Synopsis

```
unsigned int sas_tlr_supported (struct scsi_device * sdev);
```

Arguments

sdev

scsi device struct

Description

Check Transport Layer Retries are supported or not. If vpd page 0x90 is present, TRL is supported.

sas_disable_tlr

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`sas_disable_tlr` — setting TLR flags

Synopsis

```
void sas_disable_tlr (struct scsi_device * sdev);
```

Arguments

sdev

scsi device struct

Description

Seting tlr_enabled flag to 0.

sas_enable_tlr

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`sas_enable_tlr` — setting TLR flags

Synopsis

```
void sas_enable_tlr (struct scsi_device * sdev);
```

Arguments

sdev

scsi device struct

Description

Seting tlr_enabled flag 1.

sas_phy_alloc

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`sas_phy_alloc` — allocates and initialize a SAS PHY structure

Synopsis

```
struct sas_phy * sas_phy_alloc (struct device * parent, int
number);
```

Arguments

parent

Parent device

number

Phy index

Description

Allocates an SAS PHY structure. It will be added in the device tree below the device specified by *parent*, which has to be either a Scsi_Host or sas_rphy.

Returns

SAS PHY allocated or NULL if the allocation failed.

sas_phy_add

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

sas_phy_add — add a SAS PHY to the device hierarchy

Synopsis

```
int sas_phy_add (struct sas_phy * phy);
```

Arguments

phy

The PHY to be added

Description

Publishes a SAS PHY to the rest of the system.

sas_phy_free

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`sas_phy_free` — free a SAS PHY

Synopsis

```
void sas_phy_free (struct sas_phy * phy);
```

Arguments

phy

SAS PHY to free

Description

Frees the specified SAS PHY.

Note

This function must only be called on a PHY that has not successfully been added using `sas_phy_add`.

sas_phy_delete

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`sas_phy_delete` — remove SAS PHY

Synopsis

```
void sas_phy_delete (struct sas_phy * phy);
```

Arguments

phy

SAS PHY to remove

Description

Removes the specified SAS PHY. If the SAS PHY has an associated remote PHY it is removed before.

scsi_is_sas_phy

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_is_sas_phy` — check if a struct device represents a SAS PHY

Synopsis

```
int scsi_is_sas_phy (const struct device * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

device to check

Returns

`1` if the device represents a SAS PHY, `0` else

sas_port_add

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`sas_port_add` — add a SAS port to the device hierarchy

Synopsis

```
int sas_port_add (struct sas_port * port);
```

Arguments

port

port to be added

Description

publishes a port to the rest of the system

sas_port_free

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

sas_port_free — free a SAS PORT

Synopsis

```
void sas_port_free (struct sas_port * port);
```

Arguments

port

SAS PORT to free

Description

Frees the specified SAS PORT.

Note

This function must only be called on a PORT that has not successfully been added using `sas_port_add`.

sas_port_delete

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`sas_port_delete` — remove SAS PORT

Synopsis

```
void sas_port_delete (struct sas_port * port);
```

Arguments

port

SAS PORT to remove

Description

Removes the specified SAS PORT. If the SAS PORT has an associated phys, unlink them from the port as well.

scsi_is_sas_port

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_is_sas_port` — check if a struct device represents a SAS port

Synopsis

```
int scsi_is_sas_port (const struct device * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

device to check

Returns

`1` if the device represents a SAS Port, `0` else

sas_port_get_phy

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`sas_port_get_phy` — try to take a reference on a port member

Synopsis

```
struct sas_phy * sas_port_get_phy (struct sas_port * port);
```

Arguments

port

port to check

sas_port_add_phy

LINUX

Name

sas_port_add_phy — add another phy to a port to form a wide port

Synopsis

```
void sas_port_add_phy (struct sas_port * port, struct sas_phy
* phy);
```

Arguments

port

port to add the phy to

phy

phy to add

Description

When a port is initially created, it is empty (has no phys). All ports must have at least one phy to operated, and all wide ports must have at least two. The current code makes no difference between ports and wide ports, but the only object that can be connected to a remote device is a port, so ports must be formed on all devices with phys if they're connected to anything.

sas_port_delete_phy

LINUX

Name

`sas_port_delete_phy` — remove a phy from a port or wide port

Synopsis

```
void sas_port_delete_phy (struct sas_port * port, struct
sas_phy * phy);
```

Arguments

port

port to remove the phy from

phy

phy to remove

Description

This operation is used for tearing down ports again. It must be done to every port or wide port before calling sas_port_delete.

sas_end_device_alloc

LINUX

Name

`sas_end_device_alloc` — allocate an rphy for an end device

Synopsis

```
struct sas_rphy * sas_end_device_alloc (struct sas_port *
parent);
```

Arguments

parent

which port

Description

Allocates an SAS remote PHY structure, connected to *parent*.

Returns

SAS PHY allocated or `NULL` if the allocation failed.

sas_expander_alloc

LINUX

Name

`sas_expander_alloc` — allocate an rphy for an end device

Synopsis

```
struct sas_rphy * sas_expander_alloc (struct sas_port *
parent, enum sas_device_type type);
```

Arguments

parent

which port

type

SAS_EDGE_EXPANDER_DEVICE or
SAS_FANOUT_EXPANDER_DEVICE

Description

Allocates an SAS remote PHY structure, connected to *parent*.

Returns

SAS PHY allocated or `NULL` if the allocation failed.

sas_rphy_add

LINUX

Name

`sas_rphy_add` — add a SAS remote PHY to the device hierarchy

Synopsis

```
int sas_rphy_add (struct sas_rphy * rphy);
```

Arguments

rphy

The remote PHY to be added

Description

Publishes a SAS remote PHY to the rest of the system.

sas_rphy_free

LINUX

Name

`sas_rphy_free` — free a SAS remote PHY

Synopsis

```
void sas_rphy_free (struct sas_rphy * rphy);
```

Arguments

rphy

SAS remote PHY to free

Description

Frees the specified SAS remote PHY.

Note

This function must only be called on a remote PHY that has not successfully been added using `sas_rphy_add` (or has been `sas_rphy_remove`'d)

sas_rphy_delete

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`sas_rphy_delete` — remove and free SAS remote PHY

Synopsis

```
void sas_rphy_delete (struct sas_rphy * rphy);
```

Arguments

rphy

SAS remote PHY to remove and free

Description

Removes the specified SAS remote PHY and frees it.

sas_rphy_unlink

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`sas_rphy_unlink` — unlink SAS remote PHY

Synopsis

```
void sas_rphy_unlink (struct sas_rphy * rphy);
```

Arguments

rphy

SAS remote phy to unlink from its parent port

Description

Removes port reference to an rphy

sas_rphy_remove

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`sas_rphy_remove` — remove SAS remote PHY

Synopsis

```
void sas_rphy_remove (struct sas_rphy * rphy);
```

Arguments

rphy

SAS remote phy to remove

Description

Removes the specified SAS remote PHY.

scsi_is_sas_rphy

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`scsi_is_sas_rphy` — check if a struct device represents a SAS remote PHY

Synopsis

```
int scsi_is_sas_rphy (const struct device * dev);
```

Arguments

dev

device to check

Returns

`1` if the device represents a SAS remote PHY, `0` else

sas_attach_transport

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`sas_attach_transport` — instantiate SAS transport template

Synopsis

```
struct scsi_transport_template * sas_attach_transport (struct
sas_function_template * ft);
```

Arguments

ft

SAS transport class function template

sas_release_transport

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`sas_release_transport` — release SAS transport template instance

Synopsis

```
void sas_release_transport (struct scsi_transport_template *
t);
```

Arguments

t

transport template instance

3.2.4. SATA transport class

The SATA transport is handled by libata, which has its own book of documentation in this directory.

3.2.5. Parallel SCSI (SPI) transport class

The file drivers/scsi/scsi_transport_spi.c defines transport attributes for traditional (fast/wide/ultra) SCSI busses.

spi_schedule_dv_device

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`spi_schedule_dv_device` — schedule domain validation to occur on the device

Synopsis

```
void spi_schedule_dv_device (struct scsi_device * sdev);
```

Arguments

`sdev`

The device to validate

Description

Identical to `spi_dv_device` above, except that the DV will be scheduled to occur in a workqueue later. All memory allocations are atomic, so may be called from any context including those holding SCSI locks.

spi_display_xfer_agreement

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`spi_display_xfer_agreement` — Print the current target transfer agreement

Synopsis

```
void spi_display_xfer_agreement (struct scsi_target *
starget);
```

Arguments

`starget`

The target for which to display the agreement

Description

Each SPI port is required to maintain a transfer agreement for each other port on the bus. This function prints a one-line summary of the current agreement; more detailed information is available in sysfs.

3.2.6. SCSI RDMA (SRP) transport class

The file drivers/scsi/scsi_transport_srp.c defines transport attributes for SCSI over Remote Direct Memory Access.

srp_rport_add

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`srp_rport_add` — add a SRP remote port to the device hierarchy

Synopsis

```
struct srp_rport * srp_rport_add (struct Scsi_Host * shost,
struct srp_rport_identifiers * ids);
```

Arguments

`shost`

scsi host the remote port is connected to.

`ids`

The port id for the remote port.

Description

Publishes a port to the rest of the system.

srp_rport_del

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`srp_rport_del` — remove a SRP remote port

Synopsis

```
void srp_rport_del (struct srp_rport * rport);
```

Arguments

rport

SRP remote port to remove

Description

Removes the specified SRP remote port.

srp_remove_host

LINUX

Name

`srp_remove_host` — tear down a Scsi_Host's SRP data structures

Synopsis

```
void srp_remove_host (struct Scsi_Host * shost);
```

Arguments

shost

Scsi Host that is torn down

Description

Removes all SRP remote ports for a given Scsi_Host. Must be called just before scsi_remove_host for SRP HBAs.

srp_attach_transport

LINUX

Name

`srp_attach_transport` — instantiate SRP transport template

Synopsis

```
struct scsi_transport_template * srp_attach_transport (struct
srp_function_template * ft);
```

Arguments

ft

SRP transport class function template

srp_release_transport

LINUX

Kernel Hackers ManualNovember 2026

Name

`srp_release_transport` — release SRP transport template instance

Synopsis

```
void srp_release_transport (struct scsi_transport_template *
t);
```

Arguments

t

transport template instance

Chapter 4. SCSI lower layer

4.1. Host Bus Adapter transport types

Many modern device controllers use the SCSI command set as a protocol to communicate with their devices through many different types of physical connections.

In SCSI language a bus capable of carrying SCSI commands is called a "transport", and a controller connecting to such a bus is called a "host bus adapter" (HBA).

4.1.1. Debug transport

The file drivers/scsi/scsi_debug.c simulates a host adapter with a variable number of disks (or disk like devices) attached, sharing a common amount of RAM. Does a lot of checking to make sure that we are not getting blocks mixed up, and panics the kernel if anything out of the ordinary is seen.

To be more realistic, the simulated devices have the transport attributes of SAS disks.

For documentation see http://sg.danny.cz/sg/sdebug26.html

4.1.2. todo

Parallel (fast/wide/ultra) SCSI, USB, SATA, SAS, Fibre Channel, FireWire, ATAPI devices, Infiniband, I20, iSCSI, Parallel ports, netlink...