

# The Stable Linux Kernel Tree

10 years of insanity

Greg Kroah-Hartman

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[github.com/gregkh/stable-presentation](https://github.com/gregkh/stable-presentation)

19 years ago...

**Linux 2.0.0**

**4 months later:**

**Linux 2.1.0**

# Linux branches

Even number stable

Odd number development

**848 days and 141 releases later...**

**Linux 2.2.0**

**4 months later:**

**Linux 2.3.0**



604 days and 58 releases later...

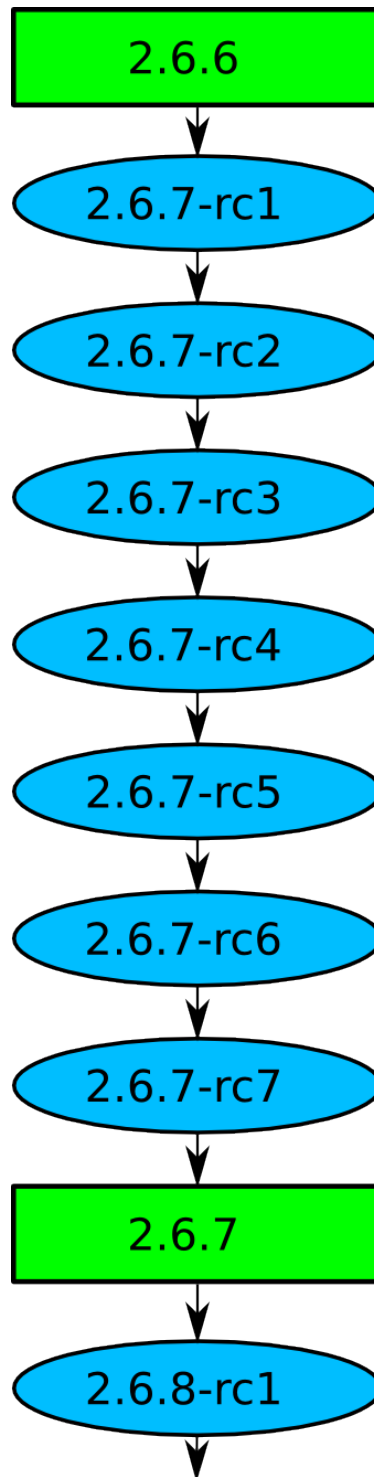
**Linux 2.4.0**

**10 months later:**

**Linux 2.5.0**

**1057 days and 86 releases later...**

**Linux 2.6.0**





**New release every  
2 ½ months**

From: Linus Torvalds <torvalds@osdl.org>  
Subject: Re: RFD: Kernel release numbering  
Date: 2005-03-03 16:23:39 UTC

I'll tell you what the problem is: I don't think you'll find anybody to do the parallel "only trivial patches" tree. They'll go crazy in a couple of weeks. Why? Because it's a damn hard problem. Where do you draw the line? What's an acceptable patch? And if you get it wrong, people will complain very loudly, since by now you've "promised" them a kernel that is better than the mainline. In other words: there's almost zero glory, there are no interesting problems, and there will absolutely be people who claim that you're a dick-head and worse, probably on a weekly basis.

Anybody?



From: Greg KH <greg@kroah.com>

Subject: Re: RFD: Kernel release numbering

Date: 2005-03-03 16:43:53 GMT

> Anybody?

Well, I'm one person who has said that this would be a very tough problem to solve. And hey, I like tough problems, so I'll volunteer to start this. If I burn out, I'll take the responsibility of finding someone else to take it over.

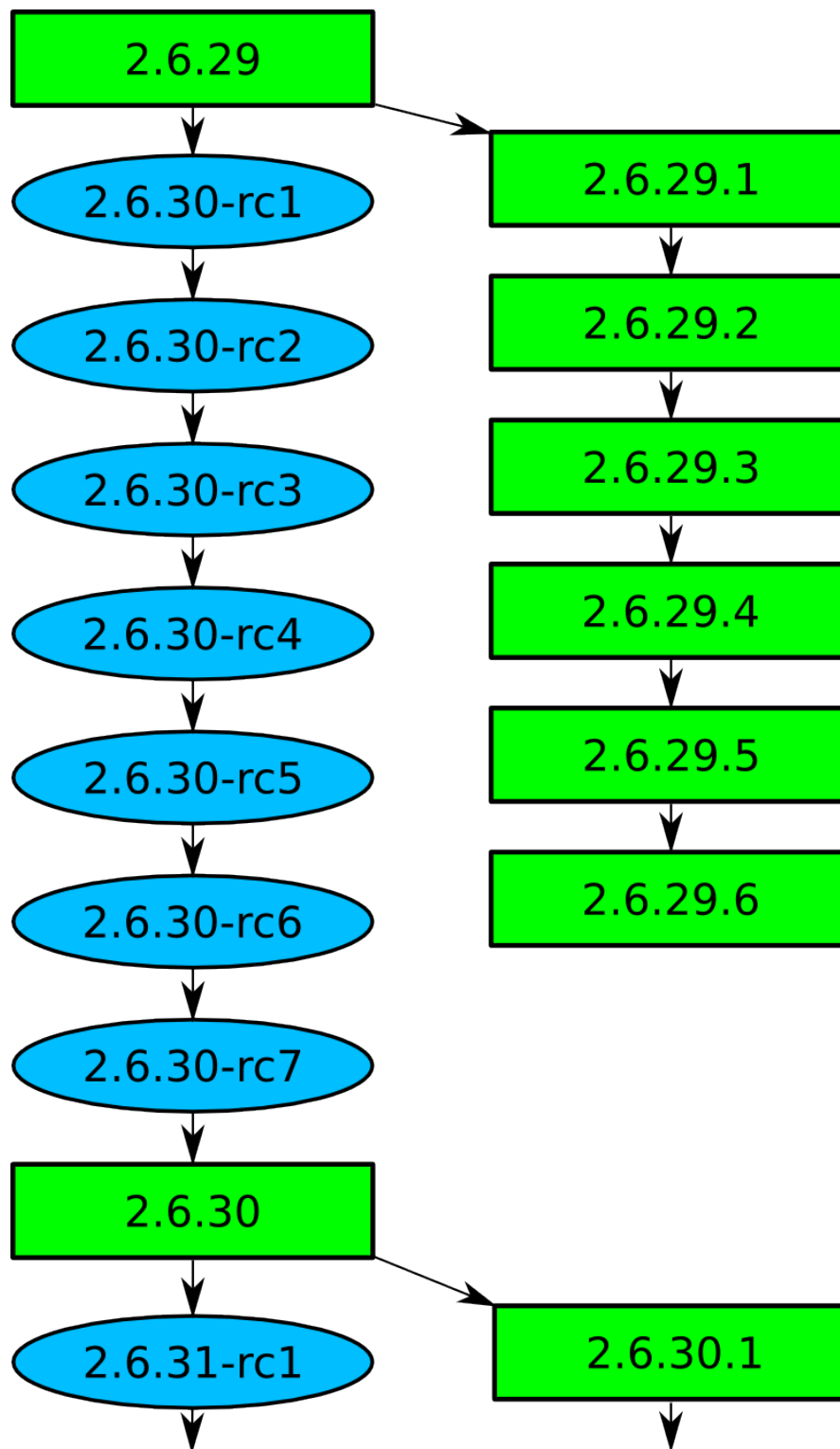
From: Chris Wright <chrisw@osdl.org>

Subject: Re: RFD: Kernel release numbering

Date: 2005-03-03 16:55:33 GMT

> Anybody?

Andres Salomon (-as patches) and I have been talking about that at least regarding security fixes. It's worth trying in a more complete and formalized way. Guess I can be branded a sucker :)



# “Longterm kernels”

One picked per year

Maintained for two years

3.10    3.14    4.1

## Longterm release kernels

| Version | Maintainer         | Released   | Projected EOL |
|---------|--------------------|------------|---------------|
| 4.1     | Greg Kroah-Hartman | 2015-06-21 | Sep, 2017     |
| 3.18    | Sasha Levin        | 2014-12-07 | Jan, 2017     |
| 3.14    | Greg Kroah-Hartman | 2014-03-30 | Aug, 2016     |
| 3.12    | Jiri Slaby         | 2013-11-03 | 2016          |
| 3.10    | Greg Kroah-Hartman | 2013-06-30 | Sep, 2015     |
| 3.4     | Li Zefan           | 2012-05-20 | Sep, 2016     |
| 3.2     | Ben Hutchings      | 2012-01-04 | 2016          |
| 2.6.32  | Willy Tarreau      | 2009-12-03 | Mid-2015      |

**stable\_kernel\_rules.txt**

**obviously correct and tested**

**not bigger than 100 lines**

**must fix only one thing**

**must fix a real bug**

**must fix a real problem**

**new device ids and quirks**

**must be in Linus's tree already**

# **stable\_kernel\_rules.txt**

**"Cc: <stable@vger.kernel.org>" to the  
Signed-off-by: area of the patch**

**or**

**send git id to stable@vger.kernel.org**

# Review cycle

Patches are sent to maintainers  
and authors

48-72 hour review





