

Community Call

December 2019201920192019

Agenda items are added black.

Minutes are added in blue.

Closed ACTIONS in green.

Open ACTIONS in red.

Past minutes are in the folder <https://cryptpad.fr/drive/#/2/drive/edit/uZ1UjYxICjse+XIjRrIwZXN/>

A) Attendees (right now based on past attendees - delete/add as appropriate)

- **Lars Kurth, George Dunlap, Igor Druzhinin, Andy Cooper, Roger Pau Monné** (Citrix)
- Juergen Gross, **Jan Beulich** (Suse)
- Brian Woods (AMD)
- Tamas K Lengyel (Intel)
- Daniel Kiper (Oracle)
- Christopher Clark (OpenXT Project)
- Rich Persaud (OpenXT)
- Stefano Stabellini (Xilinx)
- **Wei Liu**
- **Paul Durrant, Hongyan Xia, Julien Grall (AWS)**
- **Jeff Kubascik (Dornerworks)**
- **Daniel Smith (Apertus)**

Above is a list of past regular attendees. UPDATE

B) Actions not yet resolved

B.1) Actions recently resolved

None

B.2) Actions not yet resolved

ACTION: Lars to contact Doug and Wei and try and find out what is happening re CI Loop v2
Done, but Doug is currently maxed out

Am wondering whether we need a co-maintainer

Andy: Doug is trying to get a plan in place

Lars: there seems to have been recent discussion, but I didn't follow it. Can someone provide a quick update

Andy: recently put in remediate fixes to fix CI loop for GitLab

Still not working for GitHub: there seems to be an issue with the push logic on Xen Project infra

In a nutshell: we are now having an operational CI loop again

One of the tests (bisection test) times out at times, which causes tests to fail => have to do something more clever

ACTION: Lars to bring resourcing up at Advisory Board meeting

C) Proposed Agenda Items

C.1) Release Coordination

Are we ready for a 4.13 release the week of Dec 16 or do we need to defer to later?

RC5 is held up: pending XSAs => public at the Dec 11 12:00 UTC - then we create another RC and need another 2-3 working days. This should get us th Dec 13/16 at which time we can go and build the tarballs

Outstanding issues

1: One Python build problem which breaks compatibility

Primarily affects CentOS 8

Andy: feels that we should just fix the Python issue. Is not hard

2: Licensing for docs - need to come to a conclusion

Andy: will submit patch as agreed in the thread

3: Jan points out a boot problem on HP ProLiant (might be uCode).

The reporter has never come back and has not confirmed the issue has gone away - AP bring-up.

Not certain it is a regression in the first place.

Sergey: points out a problem with another HP intermittent issue during early in Dom0 boot - but this is not the same issue

4: PVShim booting problem due to resume/init code interactions

Andy: Manifests itself on AMD Naples systems. Currently there is some discussion on how to fix this.

It's a clear regression vs 4.12

5: libxl / CEPH backend support which impacts xl parameter passing to qemu

George: Anthony working on it (has a patch)

Broke between 4.12 - 4.13

6: Missed some of the discussion (audio issue) - **NEEDS HEADLINE**

Sergey points out that Jan is right on asymmetry issue which was discussed

Jan: proposes to commit v2 as it is now and decide how to fix asymmetry later

Andy: in that case it would be better to move the thunk into the init section

ACTION: Andy will have another look and respond

Summary: Release for Dec 16/17 looks likely, but small chance it wont happen

IMPORTANT NOTE: Lars would need to know ideally on Fri 13th whether we release the following week for press briefing of reporters

We typically share the press release to reporters under embargo on the 13th (assuming a press release on the 17th)

D) New Series / Series that need attention

D.1) Various long standing pending patches/series (Jan)

(Jan) In chronological order:

1. [PATCH] x86/HVM: adjust hvm_interrupt_blocked()
2. [PATCH] x86/HVM: correctly deal with benign exceptions when combining two
3. [PATCH 4/4] x86/PV: remove unnecessary toggle_guest_pt() overhead 4/4] x86/PV: remove unnecessary toggle_guest_pt() overhead
4. [PATCH v3] x86: suppress XPTI-related TLB flushes when possible
5. [PATCH] x86/HVM: use single (atomic) MOV for aligned emulated writes
6. [PATCH] x86/CPUID: RSTR_FP_ERR_PTRS depends on FPU
7. [PATCH v3 0/5] (remaining) XSA-292 follow-up
8. [PATCH v3] x86: clear RDRAND CPUID bit on AMD family 15h/16h
9. [PATCH v2 0/3] x86: Protected Processor Inventory Number (PPIN) support

Jan: notes that all of these are for 4.14

The issue is an ongoing x86 maintainer bottleneck - aka on Andy

Some of these patches are more than a year old and we should address these!

George: suggests that he, Roger or Wei pick up some of these series (aka Andy delegating)

Jan: remembers that George had a proposal which ACKs are required by which maintainer. If we went that route, it would be sufficient to have a review but not a maintainers ACK. That would take load of Andy. However, the proposal has stalled

ACTION: see below

Note: Lars could pick this up to take this off George's TODO list (assuming George sends Lars the link)

George: points out that we should maybe make more use of Lazy consensus in more cases, unless co-maintainers raise a red flag

Jan: points out that Lazy consensus only works well when we have enough bandwidth (because a co-maintainer looks at it first)

And that is where we currently have issues

Andy: is happy to run some experiments with the one or other approach

George: points out that another x86 maintainer would also help with the bottleneck

ACTION: Lars to talk to George, Roger, Wei about picking up these series

E) AOB

1. **Defer January 2nd meeting to January 9th**
2. Lars to buy cryptpad subscription
3. Lars will share some MISRA findings in January
4. **Andy and XenServer engineers have a lot pending work holding other people up (see thread "4.14 and future work") - please look at the thread and respond**
See <https://xen.markmail.org/thread/gn5pq3z6jbhdvlp>