

Modifications to the storage stack to better support tgt, sg, st and bsg.

- Scatterlist building and userspace <-> kernel data transfer.
- Userspace interface and SG v4 requirements.

Userspace<->Kernel Data Transfer

- sg, st, tgt, bsg and scsi_ioctl.c have implemented their own methods to copy or map data between userspace and the kernel. Reasons:
 - Block layer helpers provides basic functionality for sg v3, but sg and st have lots of features:
 - Reserved buffer support
 - mmap helper functions
 - Large requests using contiguous segments
 - tgt cannot control what size commands that will be sent to it.

Merging Data Transfer Code

- Move sg and st features to the block layer.
 - Do we need a new abstraction like sg_limits?
- Supporting real limits of hardware.
 - Modern Emulex and Qlogic hardware do not have scatter gather or IO size limits as they are defined by scsi_host_template and q limits today.
 - Increase SG_ALL and SCSI_MAX_PHYS_SEGMENTS.
 - Still have hard limit, but might be able to handle most case.
 - Is there a way to make scatterlist allocation not reliant on scsi_sg_pools for SG_IO and tgt requests?

Merging Data Transfer Code (cont)

- Pass through permission table
 - sg and SG_IO use the different permission tables
 - cmdfilter enables userspace to change permissions
 - Where should the permission tables be attached? gendisk, request queue, or something?
 - How to handle ATA passthrough?

sgv4: Basic Design Issues

- Who needs this?
 - Command (with task tag and attribute) and TMF
 - Transport level request & responses
 - Non request & response protocol?
 - requests from kernel & responses from user (tgt)
- How should sgv4 be implemented?
 - bsg, sg.c, or both
 - How to support bsg for non devices (like FC crasses)?
 - bsg-devicess attached to gendisk
 - Make bsg devices to everything via resest queue
- How should sgv4 be compatible with sgv3?
 - iovec -> 32/64 bit compat problem
 - mmap -> only one outstanding semantics

sgv4: Basic Design Issues (cont.)

- The interface between user and kernel
 - write/read system call
 - Writes buffer containing requests / reads buffer containing responses
 - A bit hacky & not effective
 - consumer/producer ring buffer
 - Use just two pointers
 - Not work well with multiple processes/threads
 - Ring buffer with new system calls
 - kevent is trying this
 - Common code for ring buffer (share with kevent, tgt, etc)

sgv4: Task Tag

- sgv4 needs task tag for task abort
 - TMF request to abort a task from user space
- User can send a command with tag or sg returns a tag to user?
 - The block layer tagging might work in the latter case
 - The block layer tagging happens a bit later after user sends a command.
 - Only few LLDs use the block layer tagging
- Task tag collision
- Some LLDs simply can't support task tag

sgv4: Task Management Functions

- Where should hooks for tmf be added?
 - transport classes?