Packages - Bug #2824
[linux-libre]: 5.7.3+ makes external (USB) ath9k devices unusable

2020-07-02 01:49 AM - freemor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status:</th>
<th>fixed</th>
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<tr>
<td>Priority:</td>
<td>bug</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignee:</td>
<td>Megver83</td>
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<td>Category:</td>
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Description
Upgrading to linux-libre-5.7.6-1-x86_64 causes ath9k_htc to fail to initialize which causes the wifi adapter to not show up even though all modules are loaded.

see forum entry: https://labs.parabola.nu/boards/5/topics/489

For initial discussion on this.

History
#1 - 2020-07-02 02:07 AM - Megver83
- Priority changed from broken to bug
- Subject changed from linux-libre-5.7.6-1-x86_64 breaks various (all?) ath9k wifi modules to linux-libre-5.7.6-1-x86_64 makes external (USB) ath9k devices unusable

It's fine to me, I use an ath9k device:

$ lspci
02:00.0 Network controller: Qualcomm Atheros AR928X Wireless Network Adapter (PCI-Express) (rev 01)
  Subsystem: Foxconn International, Inc. Device e007
  Kernel driver in use: ath9k
  Kernel modules: ath9k

$ uname -r
5.7.6-gnu-1

$ lsmod | grep ath9k
ath9k 184320 0

However, it didn't work for my external USB dongle (TP-Link TL-WN722N)
Users will temporarily have to use linux-libre-lts

#2 - 2020-07-02 02:12 AM - bill-auger
ok i added a news post already, suggesting that everyone installs the linux-libre-lts - i have an ath9k USB thingy too - i will check it out

#3 - 2020-07-02 02:19 AM - Megver83
OK, so it looks like linux-libre-lts doesn't work too :S

#4 - 2020-07-02 02:20 AM - bill-auger
thsats bad news then - i guess the news post advice needs to be changed

#5 - 2020-07-02 08:03 AM - bill-auger
there are bug reports for this in arch and also in linux - it does not seem to be moving very fast though - the fix probably will not get in until at least 5.7.8

https://bugs.archlinux.org/task/67041
https://bugzilla.kernel.org/show_bug.cgi?id=208251

the patches which broke it entered in 5.7.3 - the last working version 5.7.2 is still on winston - maybe we should just pull 5.7.6 and publish 5.7.2 again
the last working LTS version is 5.4.44; but we do not have that anymore

or to fix 5.7.6, the bad commit has been identified, and it has been confirmed by several people, that reverting its changes fixes the problem

6602f080cb8745259e2faba14d55e6b5894f93 (ath9k: Fix general protection fault in ath9k_hif_usb_rx_cb)
i pulled linux-libre and linux-libre-headers 5.7.6 for all three arches, and re-released 5.7.2 - i left the linux-libre-docs, linux-libre-chromebook, and other kernel packages as they were

i thought that was best because the lts kernel has the same problem

maybe users should just use it in the meantime, rather than forcibly downgrading linux-libre

the fix probably will not get in until at least 5.7.8

so let's wait, then :) we did sth. similar when a linux version broke i686, we just waited for the next release

I tested a few USB wifi antennas (one, with Atheros chipset and other, with Realtek). In the upstream version of the kernel, this bug has been present (at least, I have a PLC to use in my desktop PC). In my netbook with Arch, the Realtek blob does not be afected with the upgrade of the kernel.

Arch fixed this bug with this patch

I'm building linux-libre 5.7.8 right now

Just uploaded and tested it, it's solved now