

# LTTng as a fast system call tracer

*Wednesday, 22 September 2021 09:00 (25 minutes)*

Upstreaming the LTTng kernel tracer [1] (originally created in 2005) into the Linux kernel has been a long-term goal of the LTTng project.

Today, various tracing technologies are available in the Linux kernel: instrumentation with tracepoints, kprobes, kretprobes, function tracing, performance counters through perf, as well as user-visible ABIs, namely Ftrace, Perf, and eBPF. There are however areas in which the LTTng kernel tracer has unique capabilities which other tracers lack.

Efficiently tracing system call entry/exit while fetching system call input/output parameters from user-space is a use-case the LTTng kernel tracer can cover, thanks to its ring buffer design which allows preemption.

Discuss the challenges and establish a roadmap towards upstreaming the pieces of the LTTng kernel tracer required to trace system calls into the Linux kernel.

[1] <https://lttng.org>

## I agree to abide by the anti-harassment policy

I agree

**Primary author:** DESNOYERS, Mathieu (EfficiOS Inc.)

**Presenter:** DESNOYERS, Mathieu (EfficiOS Inc.)

**Session Classification:** Tracing MC

**Track Classification:** Tracing MC