

pin-init: Solving Address Stability in Rust

Benno Lossin <benno.lossin@proton.me>

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Initialization and Address Stability

- A Motivation for Rust

- Address Stability in the Kernel

- Address Stability Support in Rust

- A Problem with Initialization

- The Solution: `pin-init`

Field Projections

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- The Problem with `Pin<P>`

- A possible solution: Pin-Projections

- Other Kinds of Field Projections

A Motivation for Rust

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```
$ git log --oneline --since 2023-01-01 | grep 'fix.*uninitialized'
```

```
cca202a5e595 fbdev: hyperv_fb: fix uninitialized local variable use
fc12a722e6b7 exfat: fix setting uninitialized time to ctime/atime
2a76e7679b59 media: platform: mtk-mdp3: fix uninitialized variable in mdp_path_config()
8f8abb863fa5 net: usb: dm9601: fix uninitialized variable use in dm9601_mdio_read
72151ad0cba8 ASoC: codecs: wsa-macro: fix uninitialized stack variables with name prefix
9147b9ded499 btrfs: fix some -Wmaybe-uninitialized warnings in ioctl.c
e10a35abb3da net: ethernet: mtk_eth_soc: fix uninitialized variable
1c9fd080dffe kunit: fix uninitialized variables bug in attributes filtering
13a0d1088c8f power: supply: qcom_pmi8998_charger: fix uninitialized variable
222a6c42e9ef octeontx2-af: Initialize 'cntr_val' to fix uninitialized symbol error
8362bf82fb54 Input: mcs-touchkey - fix uninitialized use of error in mcs_touchkey_probe()
f72207a5c0db netdevsim: fix uninitialized data in nsim_dev_trap_fa_cookie_write()
f61d2d5cf142 sfc: fix uninitialized variable use
97deb66ed4f9 selftests/mm: fix a "possibly uninitialized" warning in pkey-x86.h
df14afeed2e6 ksmbd: fix uninitialized pointer read in smb2_create_link()
48b47f0caaa8 ksmbd: fix uninitialized pointer read in ksmbd_vfs_rename()
8fd9f4232d81 btrfs: fix an uninitialized variable warning in btrfs_log_inode
0d9b41daa590 nfc: llcp: fix possible use of uninitialized variable in nfc_llcp_send_connect()
714dd3c29a22 phy: mediatek: hdmi: mt8195: fix uninitialized variable usage in pll_calc
8ba7d5f5ba93 btrfs: fix uninitialized variable warnings
c17caf0ba3aa f2fs: fix uninitialized skipped_gc_rwsem
08570b7c8db6 gpu: host1x: fix uninitialized variable use
e88adb4ac27a drm/rockchip: vop2: fix uninitialized variable possible_crtcs
05107edc9101 selftests: sigaltstack: fix -Wuninitialized
7d31677bb7b1 gpu: host1x: fix uninitialized variable use
dc934c183d43 accel/habana: fix a maybe-uninitialized compilation warnings
...
```

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- ⇒ try to avoid `unsafe` code.

Address Stability in the Kernel

Why is address stability needed in the Kernel?

Address Stability in the Kernel

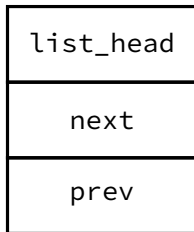
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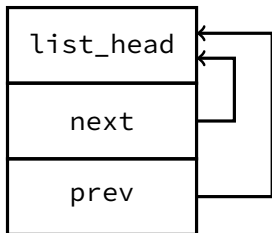
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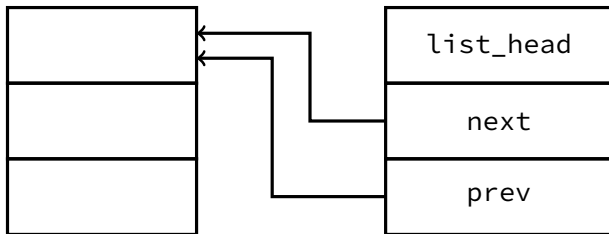
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⇒ cannot give access to `&mut T` from `Pin<&mut T>`

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    struct list_head head;  
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    return head;  
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void init_list_head(struct list_head* head) {  
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But this requires unsafe code!

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Rust aims to offload most of this work to the compiler.

The Solution: pin-init

Turn this:

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Into this:

```
fn new() -> impl PinInit<ListHead> {  
    pin_init!(&this in ListHead {  
        prev: this,  
        next: this,  
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It is a feature-rich API, so if you need help just ask on zulip:
<https://rust-for-linux.zulipchat.com>

The `pin-init` API in action

Code from the `rust` branch without the `pin-init` API:

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```
1 let mut state = Pin::from(UniqueRef::try_new(Self {
2     // SAFETY: `condvar_init!` is called below.
3     state_changed: unsafe { CondVar::new() },
4     // SAFETY: `mutex_init!` is called below.
5     inner: unsafe { Mutex::new(SharedStateInner { token_count: 0 }) },
6 })?);
7
8 // SAFETY: `state_changed` is pinned when `state` is.
9 let pinned = unsafe {
10     state.as_mut().map_unchecked_mut(|s| &mut s.state_changed)
11 };
12 kernel::condvar_init!(pinned, "SharedState::state_changed");
13
14 // SAFETY: `inner` is pinned when `state` is.
15 let pinned = unsafe {
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The pin-init API in action

Improved code with the pin-init API:

```
1 pin_init!(Self {
2     state_changed <- new_condvar!("SharedState::state_changed"),
3     inner <- new_mutex!(
4         SharedStateInner { token_count: 0 },
5         "SharedState::Inner",
6     ),
7 })
```

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natural projection:

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- ▶ But this is not (safely) possible in Rust at the moment

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- ▶ How to modify `count`?

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Observe that there are two types of fields:

1. Fields that do not require to be pinned (like `count`)
2. Fields that require to be pinned (like `list_head`)

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Thanks for Your Attention!

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- ▶ `pin-init` userspace library:
<https://github.com/Rust-for-Linux/pinned-init>

Contact me on:

- ▶ <https://rust-for-linux.zulipchat.com>