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Module Error Injection with eBPF

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Fault Injection

- Fault Injection framework (2006)
 - `should_fail()`
 - `debugfs`
 - **Examples:** `/sys/kernel/debug/nvme0/fault_inject/`
`/sys/kernel/debug/failslab/`



Fault Injection and BPF Error Injection

- Fault Injection framework (2006)
 - `should_fail()`
 - `debugfs`
 - **Examples:** `/sys/kernel/debug/nvme0/fault_inject/`
`/sys/kernel/debug/failslab/`
- BPF Error Injection (2017)
 - Introduced by Josef Bacik in 2017
 - `BPF_ALLOW_ERROR_INJECTION()`
 - `bpf_override_return()` BPF helper
 - Support for kprobes
 - First user: **btrfs**



Error Injection

- BPF Error Injection (2018)
 - Name: Fault Injection
 - Generalized from kprobe in Jan 2018 → Error Injection Framework by Masami Hiramatsu
 - `BPF_ALLOW_ERROR_INJECTION()` → `ALLOW_ERROR_INJECTION()`
 - `CONFIG_FUNCTION_ERROR_INJECTION`
 - **Debugfs support:** `/sys/kernel/debug/fail_function`



Adding Support

cfcbfb1382db

mm/filemap.c: enable error
injection at add_to_page_cache()

```
diff --git a/mm/filemap.c b/mm/filemap.c
index 4157f858a9c6..0e929b4da48b 100644
--- a/mm/filemap.c
+++ b/mm/filemap.c
@@ -24,6 +24,7 @@
#include <linux/pagemap.h>
#include <linux/file.h>
#include <linux/uio.h>
+#include <linux/error-injection.h>
#include <linux/hash.h>
#include <linux/writeback.h>
#include <linux/backing-dev.h>
@@ -882,6 +883,7 @@ static int __add_to_page_cache_locked(struct page *page,
    put_page(page);
    return xas_error(&xas);
}
+ALLOW_ERROR_INJECTION(__add_to_page_cache_locked, ERRNO);

/**
 * add_to_page_cache_locked - add a locked page to the pagecache
```



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Requirements

Documentation/fault-injection/fault-injection.rst

- **The function returns an error code if it fails, and the callers must check it correctly** (need to recover from it).
- **The function does not execute any code which can change any state before the first error return.** The state includes global or local, or input variable. For example, clear output address storage (e.g. `*ret = NULL`), increments/decrements counter, set a flag, preempt/irq disable or get a lock (if those are recovered before returning error, that will be OK.)

Why?

- Testing is hard
- Test error paths is harder
 - They are difficult to trigger
 - May require specific conditions
 - May require production or simulated environments
- Error paths probably under-tested
- Deterministic



Fault and Error Injection Frameworks

- Fault Injection Framework
 - Specific:
 - `should_fail()`
 - **Example:** `/sys/kernel/debug/failslab/`
 - Generic:
 - `fail_function()`
 - `ALLOW_ERROR_INJECTION() + should_fail()`
 - **Example:** `/sys/kernel/debug/fail_function/`



Fault and Error Injection Frameworks

- Fault Injection (via debugfs)
 - Requires in-kernel code
 - Pollutes sources
 - Arbitrary points



Fault and Error Injection Frameworks

- Fault Injection (via debugfs)
 - Requires in-kernel code
 - Pollutes sources
 - Arbitrary points
- This may lead to maintainer rejection
 - Example:
 - <https://lore.kernel.org/all/20210512064629.13899-1-mcgrof@kernel.org/>



Fault and Error Injection Frameworks

- Fault Injection (via debugfs)
 - Requires in-kernel code
 - Pollutes sources
 - Arbitrary points
 - Example: mm/failslab.c; drivers/nvme/host/fault_inject.c
 - Error injection points are configured via /sys/kernel/debug/fail*
 - failcmd.sh utility
 - Feature reach
 - Specific: failslab, fail_page_alloc, fail_sunrpc...
 - failslab: ignore-gpf-wait
 - fail_page_alloc: ignore-gfp-wait, min-order...



Fault and Error Injection Frameworks

- Fault Injection (via debugfs)
 - Requires in-kernel code
 - Pollutes sources
 - Arbitrary points
 - Example: mm/failslab.c; drivers/nvme/host/fault_inject.c
 - Error injection points are configured via `/sys/kernel/debug/fail_func`
 - `failcmd.sh` utility
 - Feature reach
 - Generic: `fail_func`: Probability, interval, times, space, task-filter, stacktrace failslab: `ignore-gpf-wait`
 - Only requires annotated functions with `ALLOW_ERROR_INJECTION` tag



Fault and Error Injection Frameworks

- Fault Injection (via debugfs)
- BPF
 - Only requires annotated functions with `ALLOW_ERROR_INJECTION()` tag
 - Code lives in a standalone tool



Fault and Error Injection Frameworks

- Fault Injection (via debugfs)
- BPF
- XFS errortag (Custom XFS Error Injection framework via debugfs)

Tooling

- Fault Injection (via debugfs)
 - Specific: MM (slab, page_alloc), NVMe, Block Layer, Net, MTD...
 - ?
 - Generic: xe, btrfs, Microsoft Surface Agreggator, filemap...
 - IGT testsuite, xfstests, ...?
- BPF
 - xe, btrfs, Microsoft Surface Agreggator, filemap...
- Custom XFS Error Injection framework (debugfs)
 - xfs_io

Users

- 40 + 62 + 47 error injection points

Users

- 40 + 62 + 47 error injection points
 - btrfs
 - Intel Xe (37)
 - MTD
 - Microsoft Surface System Aggregator
 - Block layer
 - MM
 - page_alloc, slab (kmalloc), filemap
 - Net
 - skb, page_pool_netmems



Introducing moderr

Example: Inject error -22 to module_enable_rodata_ro_after_init() for brd module:

```
sudo moderr --modname=brd \  
    --modfunc=module_enable_rodata_ro_after_init \  
    --error=-22 --trace  
Monitoring module error injection... Hit Ctrl-C to end.  
MODULE  ERROR FUNCTION  
brd     -22  module_enable_rodata_after_init()
```

Kernel messages:

```
[ 89.463690] brd: module loaded  
[ 89.463855] brd: module_enable_rodata_ro_after_init() returned -22,  
ro_after_init data might still be writable
```



Initial Error Injection Points

`ALLOW_ERROR_INJECTION(module_enable_rodata_ro_after_init, ERRNO);`

When an error occurs while setting memory to RO after module initialization. This is when module initialization reaches `MODULE_STATE_LIVE` stage.

`ALLOW_ERROR_INJECTION(complete_formation, ERRNO);`

When module initialization switches from `MODULE_STATE_UNFORMED` to `MODULE_STATE_COMING` stage.

`ALLOW_ERROR_INJECTION(do_init_module, ERRNO);`

When an error occurs during module initialization and before we switch from `MODULE_STATE_COMING` to `MODULE_STATE_LIVE` stage.

Additional Error Injection Points

```
ALLOW_ERROR_INJECTION(module_memory_alloc, ERRNO);
```

When allocating memory types for module. Helped to reproduce a memory leak problem.

Moderr Use Cases

1. To test error paths and validate correctness:

Enable rodata after init

2. To test and validate memory leak

- kmemleak couldn't detect it (marked with `kmemleak_not_leak()`)
- Only found through systematic error injection
- 1.2GB memory leak in `move_module()` validated with moderr



Upstream moderr 1/2

Feedback:

- Valuable tool
- BPF side
 - Not valuable in-tree (No tools in the kernel repo)
 - Not clear value on the initial error injection points
 - Error injection points need to be test paths that are difficult to test
- Selftest/modules side
 - We do add random tools
 - Suggestion to go under: tools/testing/selftests/module/



Upstream moderr 2/2

Feedback:

- Why needs to be module-specific?
 - Suggestion to make it generic
 - Xe maintainer interesting in using it
 - Reminder: +30 error injection points
 - Suggestion to integrate the tool under kmod-project
 - Suggestion to have it in-tree for simpler maintenance-wise



Alternatives

IOVisor/BCC: inject.py

- Currently maintained (last commit 2024)
- Feature reach
 - eBPF tool generator
 - Detect call chain and optional predicates
- Uses the old and deprecated Python eBPF/BCC infrastructure
- No evidence of libbpf replacement exists
- What do currently users of `ALLOW_ERROR_INJECTION()` use?

Proposal: Promote moderr to generic

- “It is already generic”
 - Command line supports hook point + error
 - Command line also supports module specific filters
 - Module name, memory type,
 - Only supports module hooks (hardcoded)



How do we scale?

- Function discovery
- Error code injection via `bpf_override_return()`
- Probability and count limits?
- Call chain filtering (using `bpf_get_stack()`, `blazesym...`)
- Real-time tracing output



How do we scale?

moderr uses an enum to detect kprobe function to override the return value

1. moderr.h - Enum

```
enum modfunc {  
    COMPLETE_FORMATION = 1,  
    DO_INIT_MODULE,  
    MODULE_ENABLE_RODATA_AFTER_INIT,  
    // Add new entry for EACH function  
};
```



How do we scale?

moderr uses an enum to detect kprobe function to override the return value

1. moderr.h - Enum
2. moderr.c - String parsing

```
static enum modfunc string_to_modfunc(char *arg) {  
    if (strncmp(arg, "complete_formation", ...) == 0)  
        return COMPLETE_FORMATION;  
    // Add new comparison for EACH function  
}
```

How do we scale?

moderr uses an enum to detect kprobe function to override the return value

1. moderr.h - Enum
2. moderr.c - String parsing
3. moderr.bpf.c - Kprobe handler

```
SEC("kprobe/complete_formation")
int BPF_KPROBE(complete_formation, struct module *mod, ...) {
    return module_error_injection(ctx, mod, COMPLETE_FORMATION);
}
```



Solutions to Problem 1

- bpf_get_stack()/bpf_get_stackid()
- bpf_get_func_ip()
- Old approach: hardcoded per-function handler

```
SEC("kprobe/complete_formation")  
int BPF_KPROBE(complete_formation, struct module *mod, ...) { }
```

New Problems

- bpf_get_stack()/bpf_get_stackid()
- bpf_get_func_ip()
- Old approach: hardcoded per-function handler
- New approach: fentry with BTF

```
SEC("fentry")
int BPF_PROG(generic_entry, void *arg0, void *arg1, ...) {
    // Get function IP
    u64 func_ip = bpf_get_func_ip(ctx);
    struct module *mod = (struct module *)arg0;
    bpf_override_return(ctx, target_error);
}
```



New Problems

- bpf_get_stack()/bpf_get_stackid()
- bpf_get_func_ip()
- Old approach: hardcoded per-function handler
- New approach: fentry with BTF

```
SEC("fentry")
int BPF_PROG(generic_entry, void *arg0, void *arg1, ...) {
    // Get function IP
    u64 func_ip = bpf_get_func_ip(ctx);
    struct module *mod = (struct module *)arg0;
    bpf_override_return(ctx, target_error);
}
```

- Optional and subsystem specific
 - Allows additional filters:
 - Module name
 - Block layer device



Home

- kernel sources
- IOVisor/BCC
 - blkalg: add support
 - <https://github.com/iovisor/bcc/pull/5128>
- <https://git.kernel.org/errinj/errinj.git>



Possible Roadmap

- Support dynamic function discovery
 - Remove enums
 - Replace kprobe with fentry
- Allow subsystem specific filtering
 - Access to `arg0`, `arg1`, etc (context)
 - Example: module name filter
 - Can we generalize this with predicates?
- Add inject.py features
 - Stack trace filter with `bpf_get_stack()`, (or `blazesym`)

Example

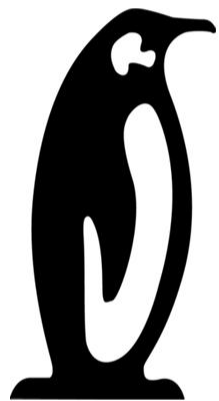
Generic:

```
errinject --func=<function_ip> --error=-<error_code>
```

Subsystem specific (e.g. modules)

```
errinject --func=<function_ip> --error=-<error_code> --modname=brd
```





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