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# Planning code obsolescence

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# Motivation

- Document state of older code
- Remove unused code earlier
- Avoid breaking actual users



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# Definitions

## Obsolete hardware

- No longer made by manufacturer
- Examples:
  - `arch/parisc/`
  - `drivers/macintosh/`
- May still be maintained
- Keep kernel support until code becomes obsolete

## Obsolete code

- Last user stopped upgrading kernels
- Examples:
  - `arch/tile/`
  - `arch/arm/mach-axxia/`
  - `drivers/isdn/i4l/`
- May still be produced
- Remove kernel support



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# Proposal

Document state of obsolete hardware, e.g.

- Kconfig symbol controlling the feature
- How long we expect to keep it as a minimum
- Known use cases, or other reasons this needs to stay
- Latest kernel in which it was known to have worked
- Contact information for known users (mailing list, personal email)
- Other features that may depend on this
- Possible benefits of eventually removing it



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# Possible categories

## Hobbyist platforms (steampunk!)

- Unix workstations (ca. 1985 through 2005)
- ax.25 networking

## Embedded, industrial, aerospace, military

- VME, PC/104 based systems
- x.25, hdlc, wan networking

## Long term planning (15+ year timeframe)

- All 32-bit architectures (depends on arch/arm/ etc.)
- Big-endian (depends on arch/s390/ etc.)



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# Poll: where to document

- A. Documentation/obsolescence/
- B. {arch,drivers}/\*/Kconfig
- C. MAINTAINERS
- D. [wiki.kernel.org](http://wiki.kernel.org)
- E. Not at all
- F. Other



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