



core
systems

Programmer's Manual

In-depth LinuxBIOS Development for Dummies

Discussion on the
LinuxBIOS Symposium 2006
2006-10-01

Why a programmer's manual?

- Programming BIOS has certain restrictions that do not exist in other Open Source development projects.
- “I switched on the cache, see here, it only touches the code in src/mainboard/...”
- The learning curve for LinuxBIOS participation is a tough one.
- Mainly because the developers are sitting on a lot of knowledge they don't usually think about
- The mailing list is currently the best (only real) information source for developers.



What goes into the Programmer's manual?

- Hardware requirements (serial cable, BIOS savior, other nice toys)
- How to use the flashrom utility correctly.
- What's the concept behind LinuxBIOS' device tree?
- Pointers to Build-System and Test-System
- What's a good starting point? (i.e. NOT writing DRAM init for a new CPU generation)
- What is a payload, what payloads are there, and which one is good for which purpose?



What goes into the Programmer's manual?

- How does one write a valid config/board description?
- What documentation is required to write support for a northbridge, southbridge, SuperIO
- How to write support for a new component correctly. Things to have in mind while doing so.



Discussion

