

Community updates and new LTS process

Open vSwitch and OVN 2020 Fall Conference

Ilya Maximets
Senior Software Engineer

What's new since the last December?

In Open vSwitch project:

- 27 new contributors (according to git log).
- 497 commits (previous year: 981, OVN split, +524 commits in OVN).
- 2 major releases: 2.13 and 2.14.
- 10 stable releases (should be more somewhere soon)

Patch review activities

- Patchwork cleanup
 - <https://patchwork.ozlabs.org/project/openvswitch/list/>
 - More than 1600 patches updated with the correct (more or less) status.
 - Still have ~150-200 patches listed, but these are mostly patches that actually needs review.
- Patch review initiative brought up during OVS+DPDK public meetings.
 - Attempt to reduce scope of reviews to a shorter list of patches to be more focused and engage others.
 - E.g. <https://mail.openvswitch.org/pipermail/ovs-dev/2020-November/377597.html>

Travis CI ---> GitHub Actions

- Reasons:
 - Travis CI shuts down travis-ci.org service.
 - OVS as many other open-source projects is not eligible for free OSS compute credits on travis-ci.com
 - More information here:
<https://mail.openvswitch.org/pipermail/ovs-dev/2020-November/377773.html>
- Why GitHub Actions?
 - Similar configuration, easy to use with our existing build scripts.
 - No need to enable or install anything.
- No support for Arm builds.
 - Arm64 builds kept on Travis for now, but it will become read-only by the end of this month. Need another solution.
 - Ideas are welcome!

Are you using a kernel module from the OVS repo?

Out-of-tree kernel module that is supported within OVS main repository ('datapath' directory).

Current state:

- Supports build with kernels up to 5.8.
- Supports STT and LISP tunnels, that will probably never be in upstream kernel. Does anybody use them?
- Upstream kernel supports everything else (AFAIK) that OOT module supports and a little bit more.

Question:

- Should we deprecate it?
 - In this case OVS will stop backporting new features from the upstream kernel (bug fixes only).
 - Users will still be able to build OOT kernel module for kernels ≤ 5.8 .

Discussion thread: <https://mail.openvswitch.org/pipermail/ovs-dev/2020-October/376816.html>

New LTS process

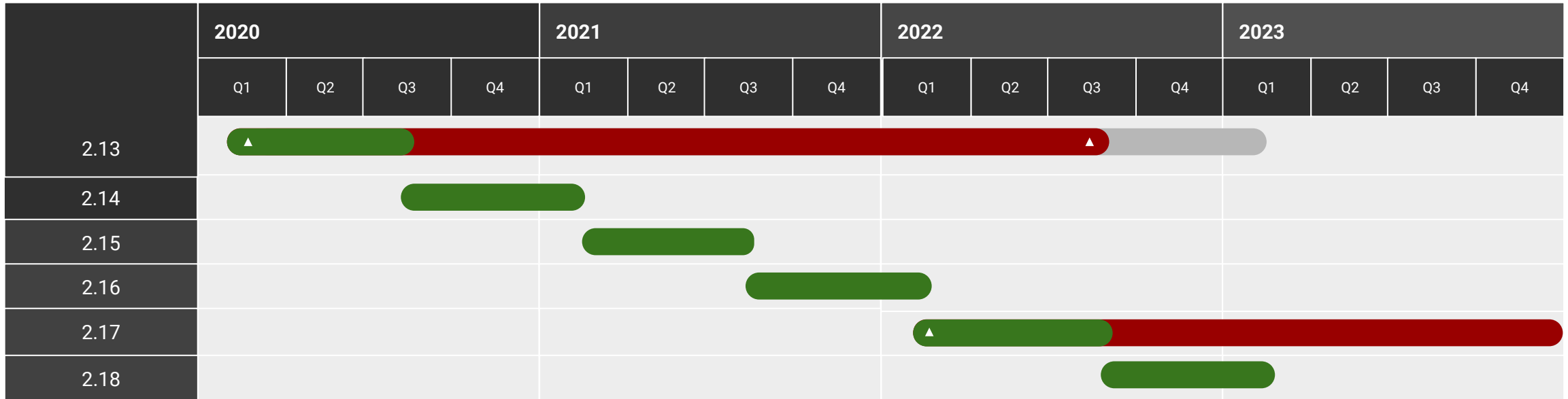
Old




- New LTS release is chosen manually after discussion on a mailing list.
 - 2.5 was released in 2016!
- Old LTS becomes unmaintained immediately after choosing a new LTS.

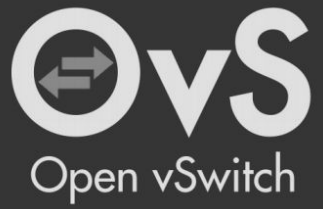
New

- New LTS release is chosen every 2 years (latest stable release becomes an LTS at the same time the next major release is out).
 - 2.13 ---> 2.17 ---> 2.21 ---> ...
- Transition period (1 release time frame, i.e. 6 months) for the old LTS.

Approximate release support timeline



-  Latest Stable
-  Long Term Support
-  Transition Period



Thank you!

Ilya Maximets
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