Community updates and new LTS process

Open vSwitch and OVN 2020 Fall Conference

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Community updates and new LTS process

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)

Statistics collected on 30.11.2020
Community updates and new LTS process

Patch review activities

- Patchwork cleanup
  - [https://patchwork.ozlabs.org/project/openvswitch/list/](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](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](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.
Community updates and new LTS process

Approximate release support timeline

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- **Latest Stable**
- **Long Term Support**
- **Transition Period**
Thank you!

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