

# svn UPDATE

by Steven Kreuzer

Since I began writing this column, it has always been focused on documenting the new and exciting changes that have been recently added to FreeBSD. For this installment, I decided to shift the focus and highlight some of the features that have been recently removed. The FreeBSD Project has been around for a long time (over 20 years), and when FreeBSD 1.0 was released back in November 1993, most machines ran at 33 Mhz and had 16 megabytes of RAM. From that time, right up until today, we have seen countless new technologies become mainstream and slowly fade away into obscurity as they get replaced with something faster, cheaper, and more reliable. All technology has a shelf life, and for all of it, the user base will eventually drop to zero or the hardware will become more difficult to find. While FreeBSD developers attempt to support these systems for as long as possible, at some point, the time and effort required to do so stops making sense. Today we pay homage to the technology of yesteryear that has sadly outlived its usefulness.

## Remove pc98 support (<https://svnweb.freebsd.org/changeset/base/312910>).

The NEC PC-9801, which was first released in October 1982, was the Japanese equivalent of the IBM personal computer. While the system was based around Intel 8086 and compatible processors and it was possible to run localized versions of Windows and DOS, the design is proprietary and not compatible with the IBM PC or clones. PC-98 dominated the Japanese computer market selling in excess of 18 million units by 1999, but when Windows 95 was released with the ability for IBM-compatible PCs to display Japanese text, the popularity of the platform started to decline.

## Remove System V Release 4 binary compatibility support (<https://svnweb.freebsd.org/changeset/base/314373>).

UNIX System V, developed by AT&T and first released in 1983, is one of the first commercial versions of the Unix operating system. System V Release 4 (also known as SRV4), which was released in 1988, was the most commercially suc-

cessful version. Throughout the 1990s, a variety of SVR4 versions of Unix were available commercially for the x86 PC platform, but with the increase in popularity of both Linux and BSD Unix, the market for commercial versions of Unix on desktop PCs quickly declined. By the early 2000s, SRV4 had pretty much ceased to exist. FreeBSD has kept SRV4 binary compatibility support, but the discovery that socket layer compatibility has been broken for quite some time made it clear that there is a good chance that no one is making use of this feature anymore.

## Remove Micro Channel Architecture support (<https://svnweb.freebsd.org/changeset/base/313783>).

Introduced by IBM in 1987, Micro Channel Architecture was a proprietary 16- or 32-bit parallel bus that superseded the ISA bus. It was mostly used on PS/2 computers until the mid-1990s, when it was eventually replaced by PCI. Of the commonly available machines, only a few 486 machines used it, and those haven't had enough memory to run FreeBSD for quite some time.

Remove EISA bus support for add-in cards (<https://svnweb.freebsd.org/changeset/base/313839>).

**T**he Extended Industry Standard Architecture was a bus standard for IBM PC-compatible computers that was announced in 1988 as an alternative to IBM's proprietary Micro Channel Architecture. Despite being backwards compatible with ISA and not a proprietary bus, EISA never really became popular on desktop computers and was only reasonably successful in the server market, as it was well-suited for bandwidth-intensive tasks.

Remove bdes(1) (<https://svnweb.freebsd.org/changeset/base/313329>).

**T**he bdes utility implements all DES modes of operation described in FIPS PUB 81, including alternative cipher feedback mode and both authentication modes. The use of DES for anything is discouraged, especially with a static IV of 0, but if you need bdes(1), it can still be installed from the ports system.

Remove the ie(4) driver for Intel 82586 ISA Ethernet adapters (<https://svnweb.freebsd.org/changeset/base/304513>).

**T**his driver only supports 10-Mb Ethernet using Peripheral Input/Output, and there are not any PC Card adapters supported by this driver, only ISA cards. ●

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