

Re: Bug in #! processing – "pear broken on current"

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/arch/2005-06/0065.html>

From: Garance A Drosehn (gad_at_FreeBSD.org)

Date: 06/10/05

Date: Fri, 10 Jun 2005 08:39:37 -0400

To: Roman Neuhauser <neuhauser@sigpipe.cz>, Florent Thoumie <flz@xbsd.org>

At 12:48 PM +0200 6/10/05, Roman Neuhauser wrote:

># flz@xbsd.org / 2005-06-10 10:06:46 +0200:

>> On Jun 10, 2005, at 8:24 AM, Roman Neuhauser wrote:

>>>

>>> *The pear people have hacked around the other OS's limitations.*

>>>

>>> *This change makes FreeBSD lose one small but fine competitive*

>>> *advantage over other unix-like systems. Pity.*

>>

>> *FreeBSD needed special handling, no it doesn't anymore.*

>>

>> *I'm not sure that's losing a *competitive* advantage.*

>

> *The previous behavior in FreeBSD allowed me to use things on*

> *the shebang line that weren't possible in e. g. Linux, and I*

> *enjoyed it, because it saved me from various hacks. Aiming for*

> *the lowest common denominator means losing useful features. One*

> *reason to prefer FreeBSD less.*

Well, there's more than one way to get the job done, and it is much too early to be wailing over the end of FreeBSD due to this change.

The recent change to the kernel-level parsing pretty much has to stay, or FreeBSD users will continue to run into some other problems which happen **only** on FreeBSD. The parsing that we used to do was meant to be helpful, but in some situations it was completely wrong.

However, I do agree that the previous behavior could be very useful in other situations. I will soon have a version of `env' which will provide all the benefits that used to happen due to the previous parsing behavior. In fact, it will be even more flexible and support even more options than the previous parsing behavior did. And I think I can even define it in such a way that other operating systems could pick up these changes to `env' (if they wanted to), and enjoy the same flexibility. And more important to me, I could recompile this new `env' on other operating systems, and at least **I** would have those

freebsd-arch: Re: Bug in #! processing – "pear broken on current"

benefits on all platforms I work on!

I think these changes could even be MFC'ed to 5.x (and 4.x, if needed), and then a single #!-line could be written which would work on all those systems. I'm not sure that MFC-ing would be worth it, though.

I actually have my changes written and mostly working, and right now I am reviewing the ideas to see if the design could be done any better. Now I don't know if I can get everyone else to agree that my ideas are wonderful, of course, but it sounds like I might get a 'yes' vote from you. :-) More details soon, and then we shall see.

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