NAME

nfe – Compaq Netflex-2 Dualport Ethernet and ENET/TR Drivers

SYNOPSIS

/dev/nfe

AVAILABILITY

x86

DESCRIPTION

The **nfe** Ethernet driver is a multi-threaded, loadable, clonable, STREAMS hardware driver supporting the connectionless Data Link Provider Interface, **dlpi**(7P), over Compaq Netflex-2 controllers. Multiple Netflex-2 controllers installed within the system are supported by the driver. The **nfe** driver provides basic support for the Netflex-2 hardware. Functions include chip initialization, frame transmit and receive, multicast support, and error recovery and reporting. NOTE: Promiscuous mode is not supported using the current revision of the firmware.

APPLICATION PROGRAMMING INTERFACE

The cloning, character-special device **/dev/nfe** is used to access all Netflex-2 devices installed within the system.

nfe and DLPI

The **nfe** driver is a "style 2" Data Link Service provider. All **M_PROTO** and **M_PCPROTO** type messages are interpreted as **DLPI** primitives. An explicit **DL_ATTACH_REQ** message by the user is required to associate the opened stream with a particular device (**ppa**). The **ppa** ID is interpreted as an unsigned long integer and indicates the corresponding device instance (unit) number. The unit numbers are assigned sequentially to each board found. The search order is determined by the order defined in the **/kernel/drv/nfe.conf** file. An error (**DL_ERROR_ACK**) is returned by the driver if the **ppa** field value does not correspond to a valid device instance number for this system. The device is initialized on first attach and de-initialized (stopped) on last detach.

The values returned by the driver in the **DL_INFO_ACK** primitive in response to the **DL_INFO_REQ** from the user are as follows:

- The maximum SDU is **1500** (**ETHERMTU**).
- The minimum SDU is **0**. The driver will pad to the mandatory 60-octet minimum packet size.
- The **dlsap** address length is **8**.
- The MAC type is **DL_ETHER**.
- The **sap** length value is **–2**, meaning the physical address component is followed immediately by a 2-byte **sap** component within the **DLSAP** address.
- The service mode is **DL_CLDLS**.
- No optional quality of service (QOS) support is included at present, so the QOS fields are **0**.
- The provider style is **DL_STYLE2**.
- The version is **DL_VERSION_2**.
- The broadcast address value is Ethernet/IEEE broadcast address (**FF:FF:FF:FF:FF:FF**).

Once in the **DL_ATTACHED** state, the user must send a **DL_BIND_REQ** to associate a particular Service Access Pointer (SAP) with the stream. The **nfe** driver interprets the **sap** field within the **DL_BIND_REQ** as an Ethernet "type;" therefore valid values for the **sap** field are in the [**0-0xFFFF**] range. Only one Ethernet type can be bound to the stream at any time.

In addition to Ethernet V2 service, an "802.3 mode" is also provided by the driver. In this mode, **sap** values in the range [**0-1500**] are treated as equivalent and represent a desire by the user for "802.3" mode. If the value of the **sap** field of the **DL_BIND_REQ** is within this range, then the driver expects that the destination **DLSAP** in a **DL_UNITDATA_REQ** will contain the *length* of the data rather than a **sap** value. All frames received from the media that have a "type" field in this range are assumed to be 802.3 frames, and they are routed up all open streams which are bound to any **sap** value within this range. If more than one stream is in "802.3 mode," then the frame will be duplicated and routed up multiple streams as **DL_UNITDATA_IND** messages.

The **nfe** driver **DLSAP** address format consists of the 6-byte physical (Ethernet) address component followed immediately by the 2-byte **sap** (type) component, producing an 8-byte **DLSAP** address. Applications should *not* hardcode to this particular implementation-specific **DLSAP** address format, but should instead use information returned in the **DL_INFO_ACK** primitive to compose and decompose **DLSAP** addresses. The **sap** length, full **DLSAP** length, and **sap**/physical ordering are included within the **DL_INFO_ACK**. The physical address length can be computed by subtracting the **sap** length from the full **DLSAP** address length or by issuing the **DL_PHYS_ADDR_REQ** to obtain the current physical address associated with the stream.

Once in the **DL_BOUND** state, the user may transmit frames on the Ethernet by sending **DL_UNITDATA_REQ** messages to the **nfe** driver. The **nfe** driver will route received Ethernet frames up all open and bound streams that have a **sap** which matches the Ethernet type as **DL_UNITDATA_IND** messages. Received Ethernet frames are duplicated and routed up multiple open streams if necessary. The **DLSAP** address contained within the **DL_UNITDATA_REQ** and **DL_UNITDATA_IND** messages consists of both the **sap** (type) and physical (Ethernet) components.

nfe Primitives

In addition to the mandatory connectionless **DLPI** message set, the driver also supports the following primitives:

The **DL_ENABMULTI_REQ** and **DL_DISABMULTI_REQ** primitives enable/disable reception of individual multicast group addresses. A set of multicast addresses may be iteratively created and modified on a per-stream basis using these primitives. These primitives are accepted by the driver in any state following **DL_ATTACHED**.

The **DL_PROMISCON_REQ** and **DL_PROMISCOFF_REQ** primitives with the **DL_PROMISC_PHYS** flag set in the **dl_level** field enables/disables reception of all "promiscuous mode" frames on the media including frames generated by the local host, however, the current revision of the firmware does not allow the promiscuous reception of frames.

DL_PROMISC_MULTI flag set, this enables/disables reception of all multicast group addresses. The effect of each is always on a per-stream basis and independent of the other **sap** and physical level configurations on this stream or other streams.

The **DL_PHYS_ADDR_REQ** primitive returns the 6-octet Ethernet address currently associated (attached) to the stream in the **DL_PHYS_ADDR_ACK** primitive. This primitive is valid only in states following a successful **DL_ATTACH_REQ**.

The **DL_SET_PHYS_ADDR_REQ** primitive changes the 6-octet Ethernet address currently associated (attached) to this stream. The credentials of the process which originally opened this stream must be superuser or an **EPERM** error is returned in the **DL_ERROR_ACK**. This primitive is destructive in that it affects all other current and future streams attached to this device. An **M_ERROR** is sent up all other streams attached to this device when this primitive on this stream is successful. Once changed, all streams subsequently opened and attached to this device will obtain this new physical address. The new physical address will remain in effect until this primitive is used to change the physical address again or the system is rebooted, whichever comes first.

CONFIGURATION

The **/kernel/drv/nfe.conf** file supports the following options:

intr	Specifies the IRQ level for the board.
nframes	Specifies the number of receive frames to store at once. The higher the nframes property, the more system RAM is used.
xmits	Specifies the number of transmit frames to store at once. This number should be substantially lower than the **nframes** property.

The **nfe** driver does not support the use of shared RAM on the board. Auto-detect of the media type is also not supported and the board has to be explicitly configured for which media connector it is using. It is important to ensure that there are no conflicts for the board's IRQ level.

FILES

/dev/nfe	**nfe** character special device
/kernel/drv/nfe.conf	configuration file of **nfe** driver
<sys/stropts.h>	
<sys/ethernet.h>	
<sys/dlpi.h>	

SEE ALSO

dlpi(7P)