

While testing out another student's patch I found a bug in quilt's<sup>1</sup> handling of an import of an existing patch. The problem is that if you import a patch and attempt to change its strip level with the `-p` flag the strip level doesn't change. This feature is important because in some cases the new patch you are replacing could be based differently. On top of that the manual says it should work.

The first step I took was grabbing the latest code from quilt's CVS. I wanted to be sure that I wasn't seeing a bug that had been fixed upstream already. After installing a CVS version of quilt it was clear that this was indeed an upstream bug.

Next, I tried to figure out how the quilt code base is laid out and where the bug actually happened. My starting point was grepping the tree for the term "replacing patch" which found the `import.in` file. With the import code located I started looking through the `scripts/patchfns` library to figure out what helper code was already written to tackle this task.

`change_db_strip_level` was the function I was looking for and I put together the first rev of my patch. After writing the patch (using quilt of course) I joined the quilt-dev mailing list and submitted it. A few hours later the developer, Andreas Gruenbacher, pointed out that my patch always ran `change_db_strip_level` and was incorrect. He offered a new patch and asked me to test it.

It turns out this new patch had a bug too. It used the `$patch_file` variable instead of `$patch` which caused the code not to work on files outside of the current directory. A few days later I replied with a revised patch: <http://ifup.org/patches/quilt/import-fix.diff>

I am still waiting for feedback on this new patch but I am fairly certain that it is correct.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://savannah.nongnu.org/projects/quilt/>

## **Mailing list messages**

<http://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/quilt-dev/2007-01/msg00011.html>

<http://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/quilt-dev/2007-01/msg00013.html>

<http://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/quilt-dev/2007-02/index.html>