Planning code obsolescence

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Motivation

- Document state of older code
- Remove unused code earlier
- Avoid breaking actual users
Definitions

Obsolete hardware
- No longer made by manufacturer
- Examples:
  - arch/parisc/
  - drivers/macintosh/
- May still be maintained
- Keep kernel support until code becomes obsolete

Obsolete code
- Last user stopped upgrading kernels
- Examples:
  - arch/tile/
  - arch/arm/mach-axxia/
  - drivers/isdn/i4l/
- May still be produced
- Remove kernel support
Document state of obsolete hardware, e.g.

- Kconfig symbol controlling the feature
- How long we expect to keep it as a minimum
- Known use cases, or other reasons this needs to stay
- Latest kernel in which it was known to have worked
- Contact information for known users (mailing list, personal email)
- Other features that may depend on this
- Possible benefits of eventually removing it
Possible categories

Hobbyist platforms (steampunk!)
- Unix workstations (ca. 1985 through 2005)
- ax.25 networking

Embedded, industrial, aerospace, military
- VME, PC/104 based systems
- x.25, hdlc, wan networking

Long term planning (15+ year timeframe)
- All 32-bit architectures (depends on arch/arm/ etc.)
- Big-endian (depends on arch/s390/ etc.)
Poll: where to document

A. Documentation/obsolescence/
B. {arch,drivers}/*/Kconfig
C. MAINTAINERS
D. wiki.kernel.org
E. Not at all
F. Other