Klever Tutorial

This tutorial describes a basic workflow of using Klever.

Deployment

There is rather good documentation about Klever deployment. You can find it at https://klever.readthedocs.io/en/latest/. In this tutorial we assume that you deploy Klever locally on Debian 9 in the production mode with default settings from the latest master. In addition, we assume that your username is ***debian*** and your home directory is ***/home/debian***[1].

Preparing Build Bases

After a successful deployment of Klever you need to prepare a *build base* on the same machine where you deployed Klever. This tutorial treats just build bases for Linux kernel loadable modules since the publicly available version of Klever supports verification of other software in the experimental stage. You should not expect that Klever supports all versions and configurations of the Linux kernel well. There is a big list of things to do in this direction.

Below we consider as an example preparation of a build base for verification of Linux 3.14.79 modules (architecture *x86_64*, configuration *allmodconfig*, GCC 4.8.5). You can try to execute similar steps for other versions and configurations of the Linux kernel at your own risks. To build new versions of the Linux kernel you may need newer versions of GCC.

You can download the archive of the target build base prepared in advance from here. Let's assume that you decompress this archive into directory ***/home/debian/build-base-linux-3.14.79-x86_64-allmodconfig*** so that there should be file *meta.json* directly at the top level in that directory.

To prepare the target build base from scratch you can follow the next steps:

```
$ wget https://cdn.kernel.org/pub/linux/kernel/v3.x/linux-3.14.79.tar.xz

$ tar -xvf linux-3.14.79.tar.xz

$ cd linux-3.14.79/
```

[1] If this is not the case, you should adjust paths to build bases below respectively.

```
$ make allmodconfig
$ clade -w ~/build-base-linux-3.14.79-x86_64-allmodconfig -p klever_linux_kernel make -j8 modules
```

Then you will need to wait for quite a long period of time depending on the performance of your machine.

Signing in

Before performing all other actions described further in this tutorial you need to sign in to a Klever web interface:

1. Open page *http://localhost:8998* in your web-browser[2].
2. Input ***manager*** as a username and a password and sign in (Fig. 1).

Then you will be automatically redirected to a *job tree* page presented in the following sections.

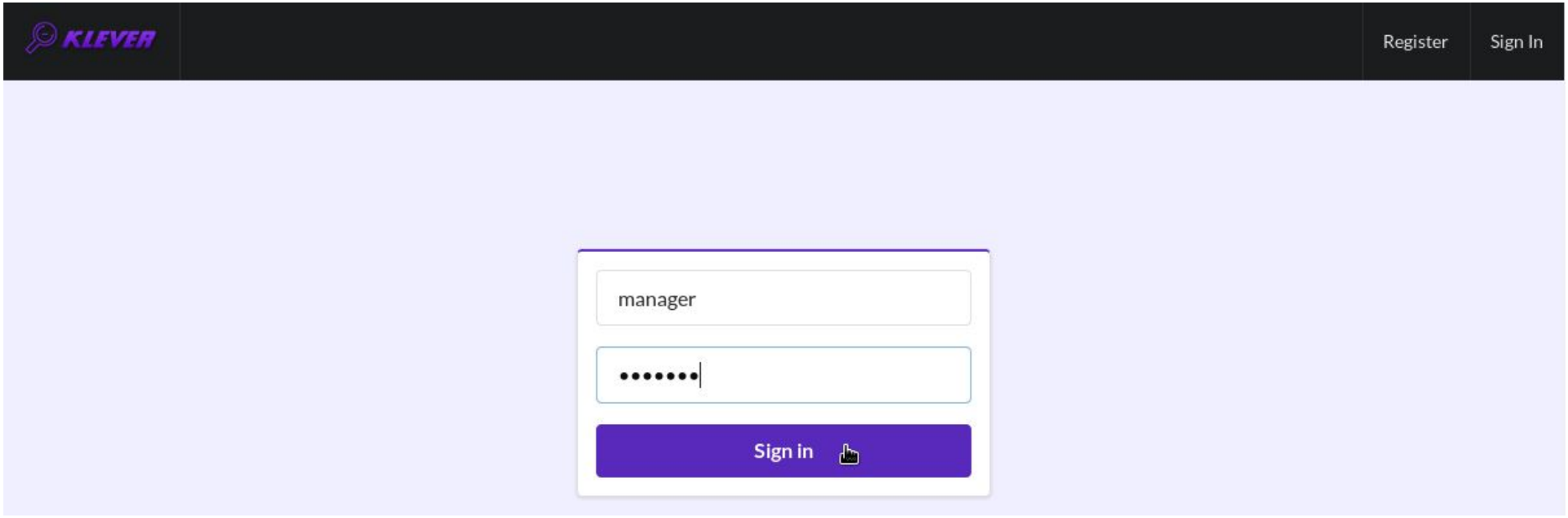


Figure 1. Signing in

[2] You can open the Klever web interface from other machines as well, but you need to set up appropriate access for that.

Starting Verification

As an example we consider checking usage of clocks in device drivers. To start up verification you need to do as follows:

1. Start the creation of a new *job* (Fig. 2).
2. Specify an appropriate title and create the new job (Fig. 3).
3. To configure a first *job version* you need to specify (Fig. 4):
    a. The path to the prepared build base that is ***/home/debian/build-base-linux-3.14.79-x86_64-allmodconfig***.
    b. Targets, e.g. device drivers, i.e. all modules from directory ***drivers*** in our example.
    c. Requirement specifications to be checked, e.g. ***drivers:clk1*** and ***drivers:clk2*** in our example (you can see a complete list of supported requirement specifications at the end of this section).
4. Press *Ctrl-S* when being at the editor window to save changes.
5. Start a *decision of the job version* (Fig. 4).

After that Klever automatically redirects you to a job version/decision page that is described in detail in the following sections.

Later you can create new jobs by opening the job tree page, e.g. through clicking on the Klever logo (Fig. 5), and by executing steps above. You can create new jobs even when some job version is being decided, but job versions are decided one by one by default.

Below there are requirement specifications that you can choose for verification of Linux loadable kernel modules (we do not recommend to check requirement specifications which identifiers are italicised since they produce either many false alarms or there are just a few violations of these requirements at all):

1. alloc:irq
2. alloc:spinlock
3. alloc:usb lock
4. arch:asm:dma-mapping
5. arch:mm:ioremap
6. *block:blk-core:queue*
7. *block:blk-core:request*
8. *block:genhd*
9. *concurrency safety*
10. drivers:base:class
11. drivers:usb:core:usb:coherent
12. drivers:usb:core:usb:dev
13. drivers:usb:core:driver
14. drivers:usb:core:urb
15. drivers:usb:gadget:udc-core
16. drivers:clk1
17. drivers:clk2
18. fs:sysfs:group
19. kernel:locking:mutex
20. kernel:locking:rwlock
21. kernel:locking:spinlock
22. kernel:module
23. *kernel:rcu:update:lock bh*
24. *kernel:rcu:update:lock shed*
25. kernel:rcu:update:lock
26. *kernel:rcu:srcu*
27. *kernel:sched:completion*
28. *lib:find_next_bit*
29. *lib:idr*
30. memory safety
31. net:core:dev
32. *net:core:rtnetlink*
33. *net:core:sock*

In case of verification of the Linux kernel rather than vanilla 3.14.79, you may need to specify one extra parameter ***specifications set***, when configuring the job version (Fig. 4), with a value from the following list:

1. 2.6.33
2. 4.6.7
3. 4.15
4. 4.17
5. 5.5

These specification sets correspond to vanilla versions of the Linux kernel. You should select such a specifications set that matches your custom version of the Linux kernel better through trial and error.

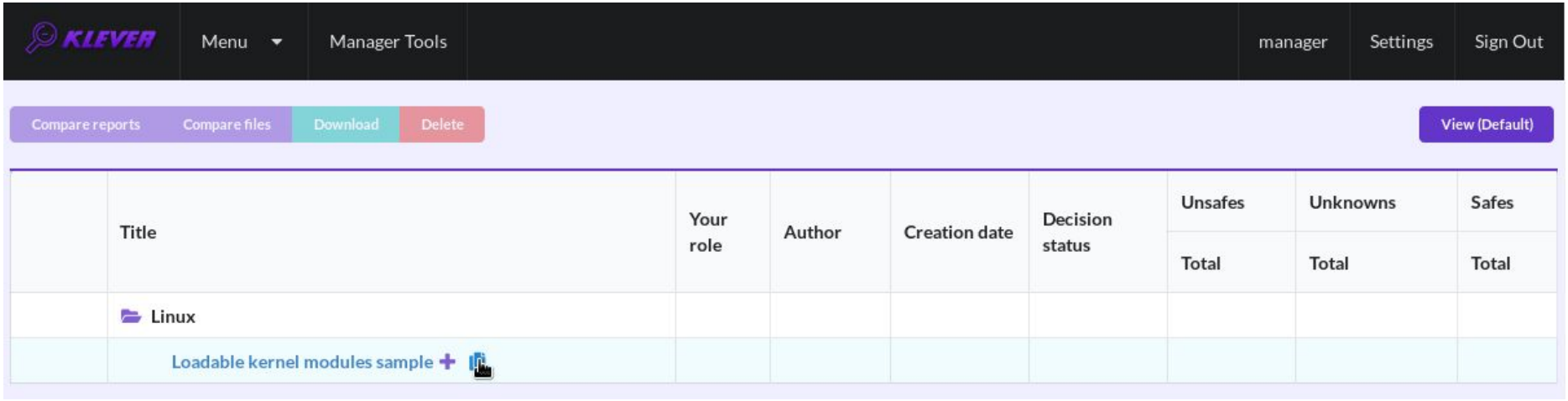


Figure 2. Starting the creation of a new job

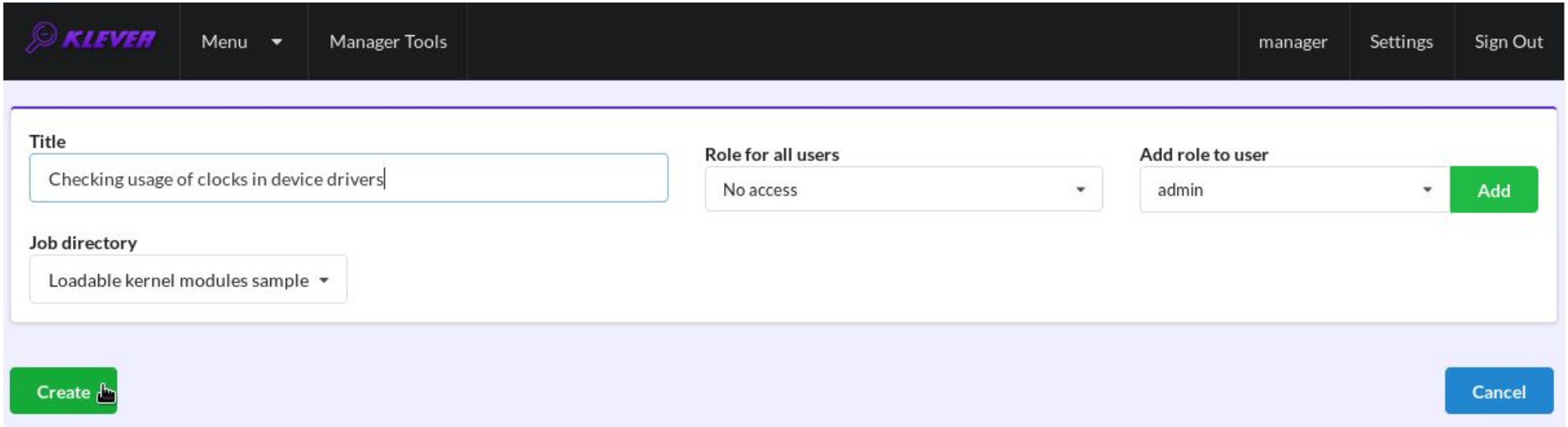


Figure 3. The creation of the new job

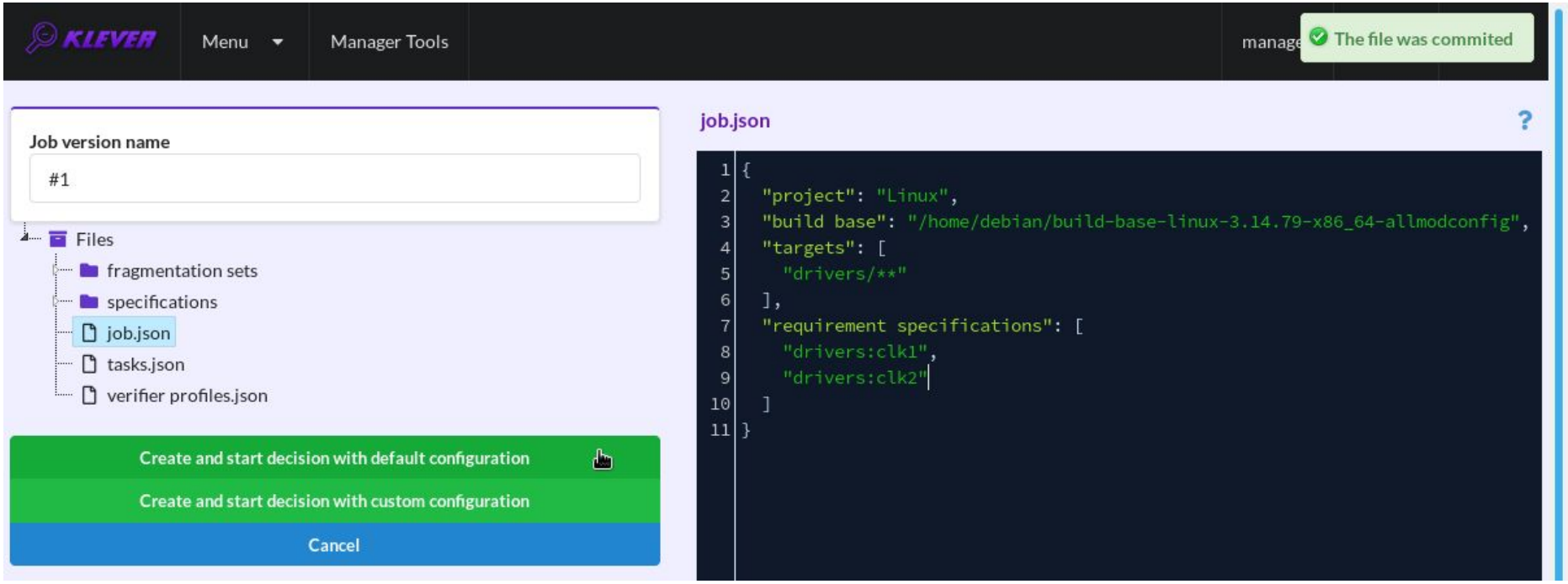


Figure 4. Configuring the first job version and starting its decision

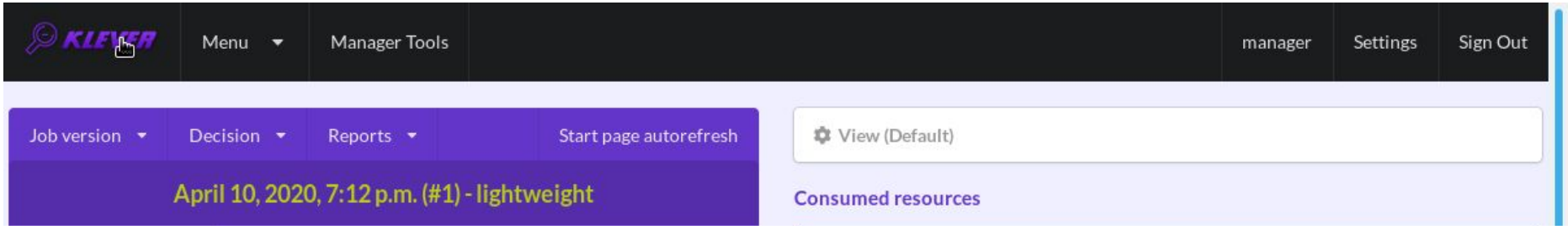


Figure 5. Opening the job tree page

Decision Progress

At the beginning of the decision of the job version Klever indexes each new build base. This can take rather much time before it starts to generate and to decide first *tasks*[3] for large build bases. In about 15 minutes you can refresh the page and see some tasks and their decisions there. Please, note that the automatic refresh of the job version/decision page stops after 5 minutes, so you either need to refresh it through web browser means or request Klever to switch it on back (Fig. 6).

Before the job version is eventually decided Klever estimates and provides a *decision progress* (Fig. 7-8). You should keep in mind that Klever collects statistics for 10% of tasks before it starts predicting an approximate remaining time for their decision. After that, it recalculates it on the base of new, accumulated statistics. In our example it takes 1 day and 2 hours to decide the job version completely (Fig. 9).

At the job tree page you can see all versions of particular jobs (Fig. 10) and their *decision statutes* (Fig. 11). Besides, you can open the page with details of the decision of the latest job version (Fig. 12) or the page describing the decision of the particular job version (Fig. 13).

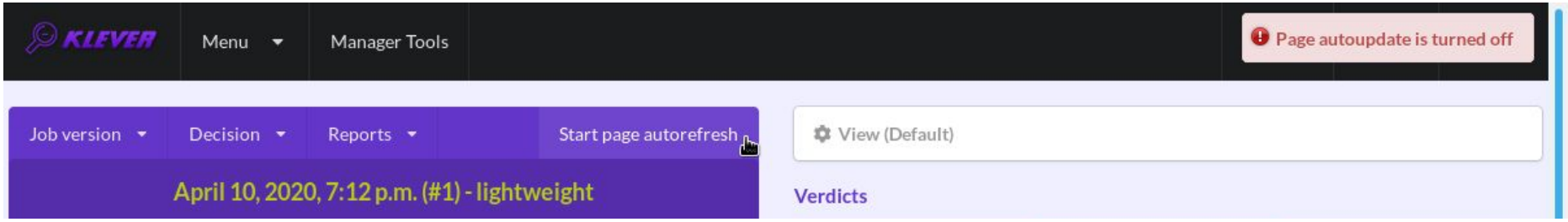


Figure 6. Switching on the automatic refresh of the job version/decision page

[3] For the considered example each task is a pair of a Linux loadable kernel module and a requirements specification. There are 3355 modules under verification and 2 requirement specifications to be checked, so there are 6710 tasks in total.

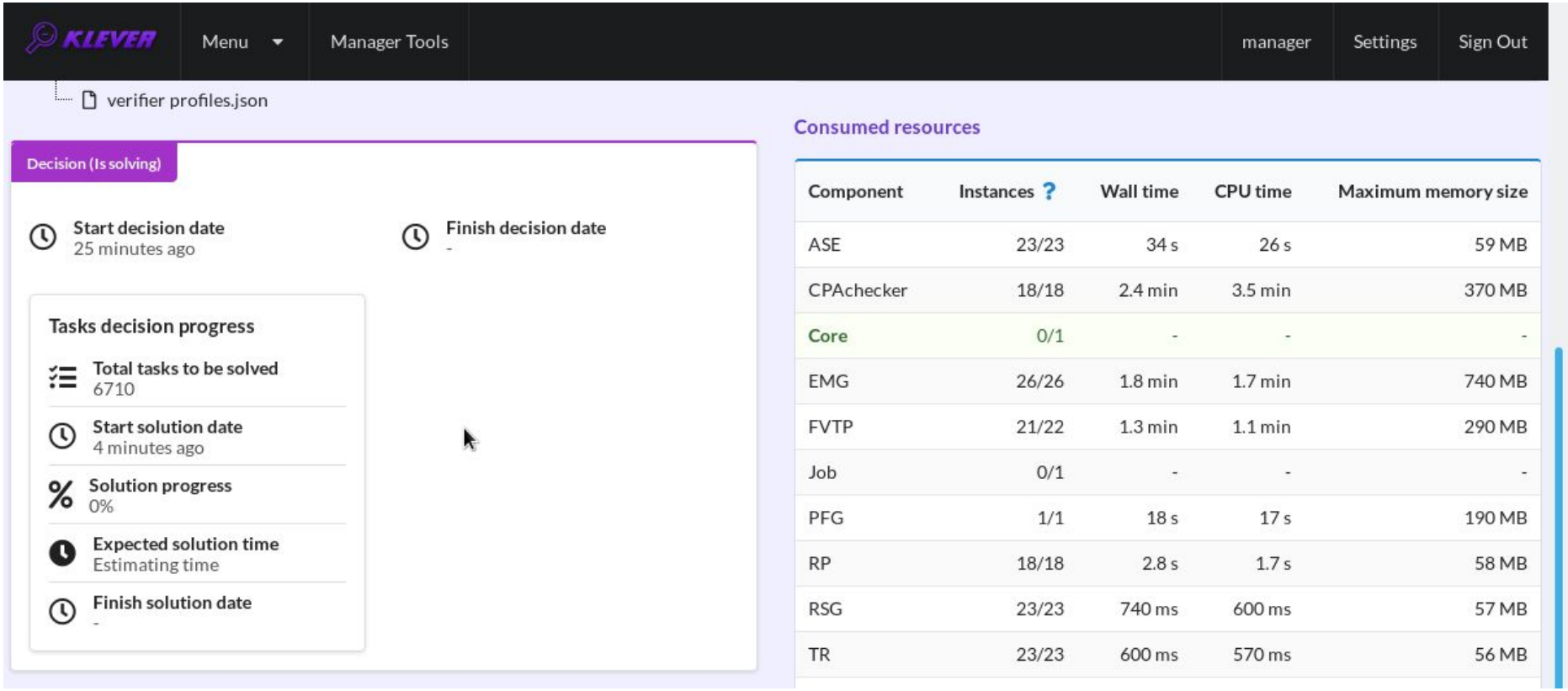


Figure 7. The progress of the decision of the job version (estimating a remaining time)

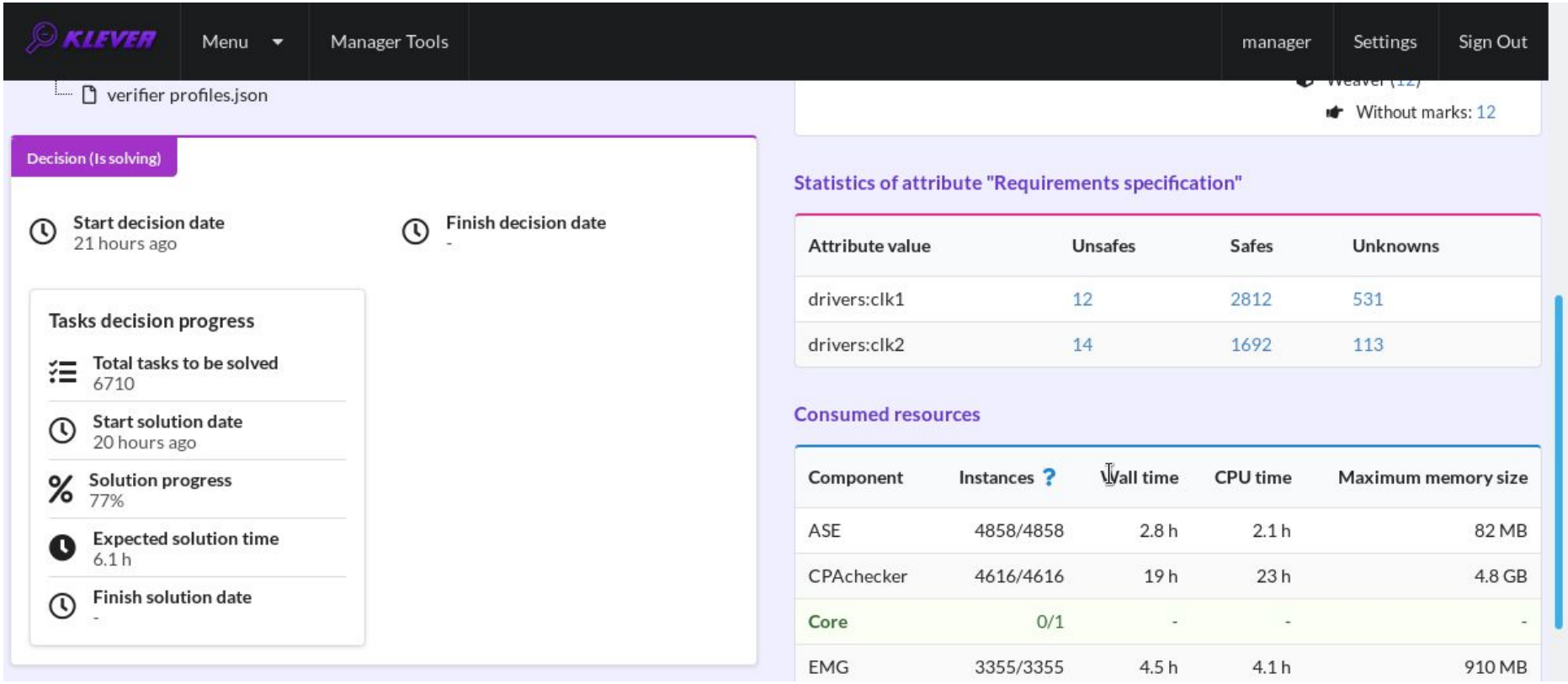


Figure 8. The progress of the decision of the job version (the remaining time is estimated)

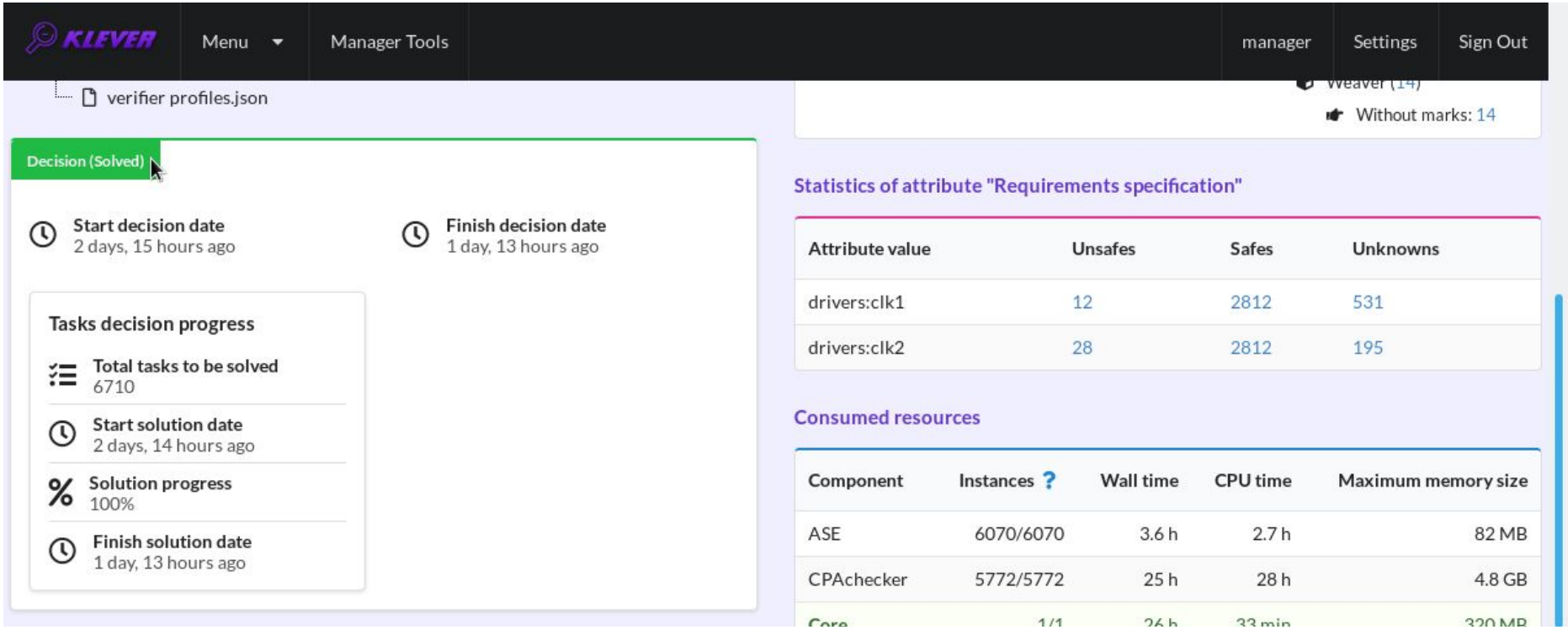


Figure 9. The completed decision of the job version

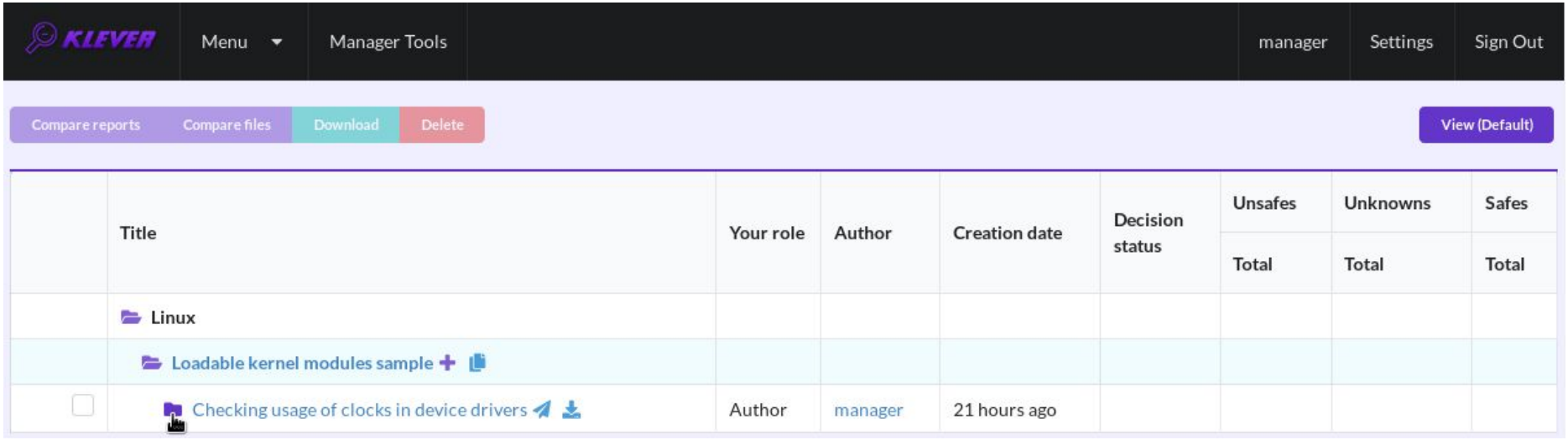


Figure 10. Showing job versions

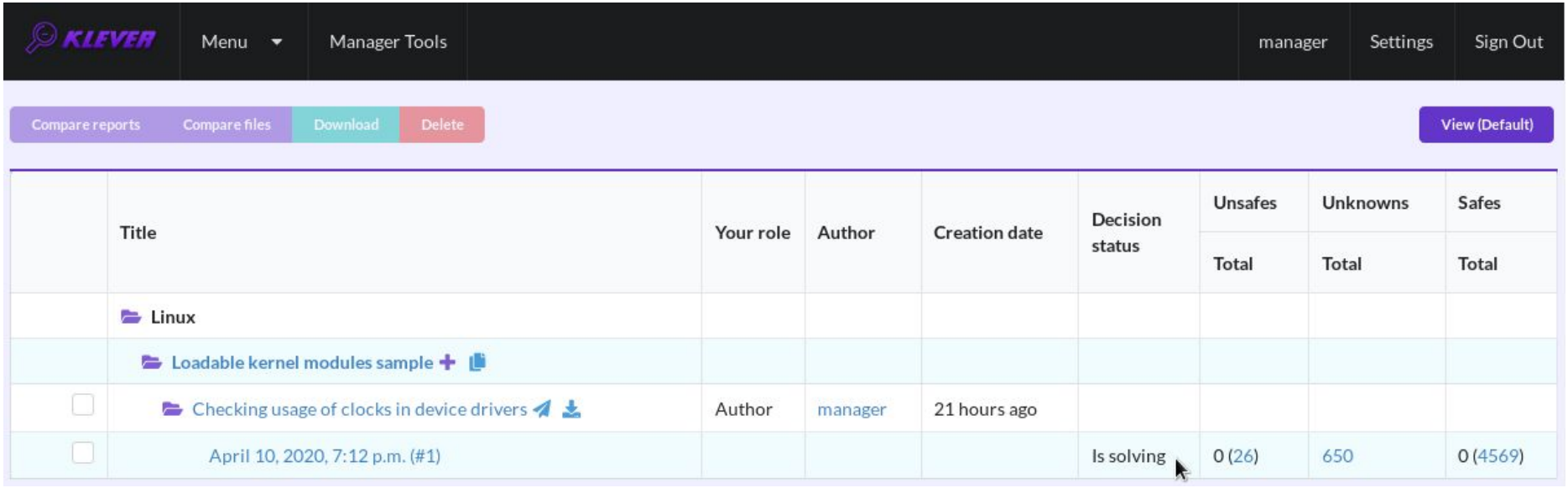


Figure 11. The status of the decision of the job version

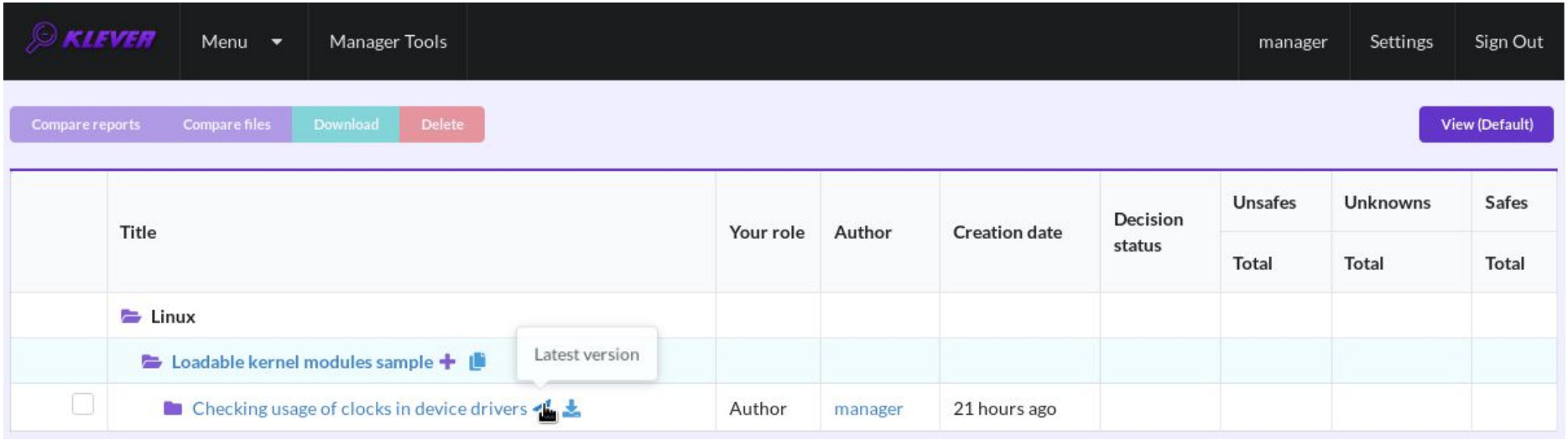


Figure 12. Opening the page with the decision of the latest job version

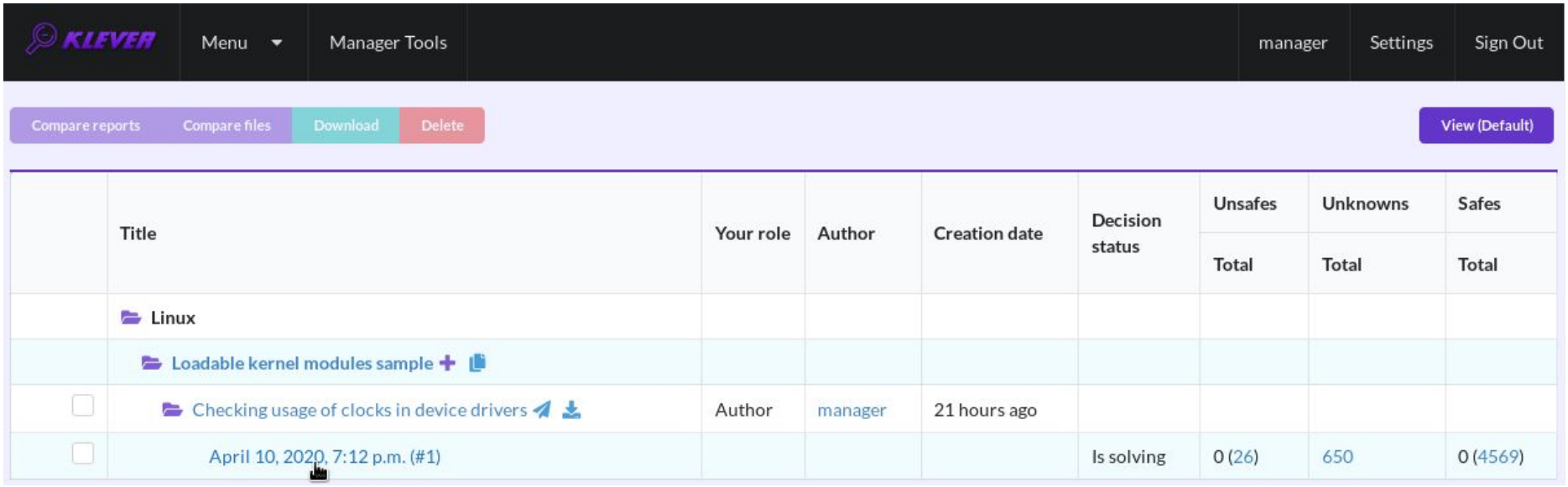


Figure 13. Opening the page with the decision of the particular job version

Analyzing Verification Results

Klever can fail to generate and to decide tasks. In this case it provides users with *unknown* verdicts, otherwise there are *safe* or *unsafe* verdicts (Fig. 14). You already saw the example with summaries of these verdicts at the job tree page (Fig. 10-11). In this tutorial we do not consider other verdicts rather than unsafes that are either violations of checked requirements or false alarms (Fig. 15). Klever reports unsafes if so during the decision of the job version and you can assess them both during the decision and after its completion.

During assessment of unsafes experts can create marks that can match other unsafes with similar error traces (we consider marks and error traces in detail within the next section). For instance, there is a preset mark for a sample job that matches one of the reported unsafes (Fig. 16). Automatic assessment can reduce efforts for analysis of verification results considerably, e.g. when verifying several versions or configurations of the same software. But experts should analyze such automatically assessed unsafes since the same mark can match unsafes with error traces that look very similar but correspond to different faults. Unsafes without marks need assessment as well (Fig. 17). When checking several requirement specifications in the same job, one is able to analyze unsafes just for a particular requirements specification (Fig. 18).

After clicking on the links in Fig. 15-18 you will be redirected to pages with lists of corresponding unsafes (e.g. Fig. 19) except for if there is the only element in this list an error trace will be shown immediately. For further analysis we recommend clicking on an unsafe index on the left to open a new page in a separate tab (Fig. 20). To return back to the job version/decision page you can click on the title of the job decision on the top left (Fig. 21). This can be done at any page with such the link.

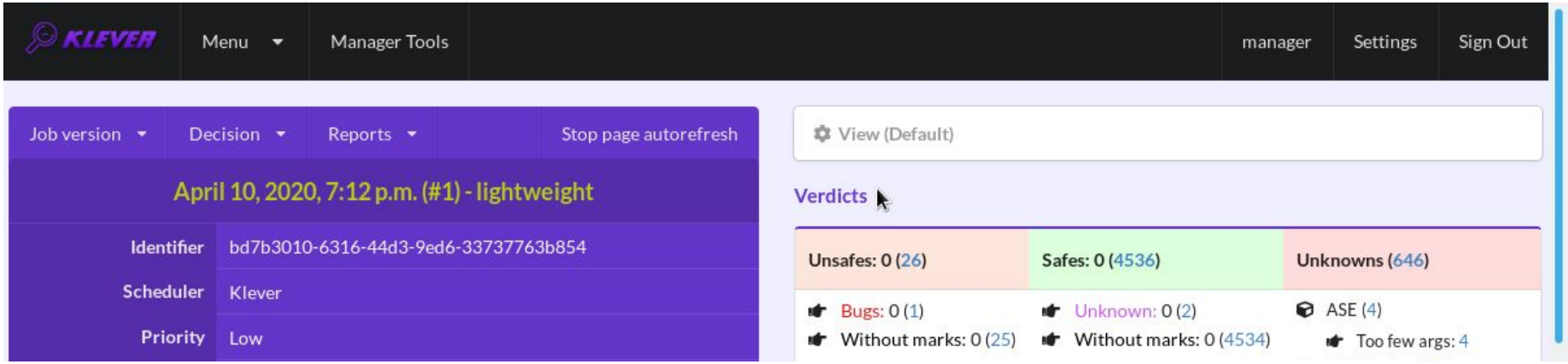


Figure 14. Verdicts

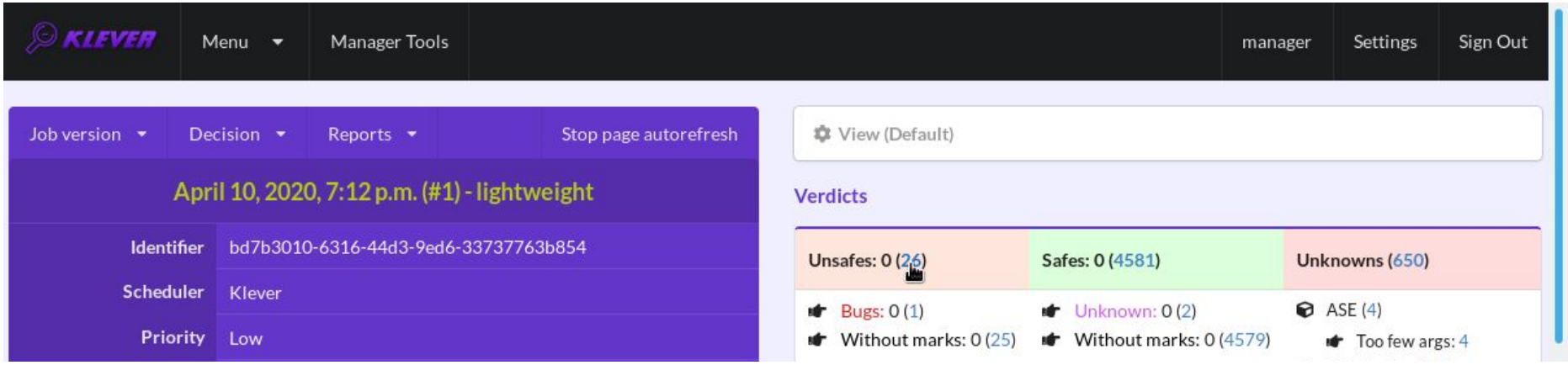


Figure 15. The total number of unsafes reported thus far

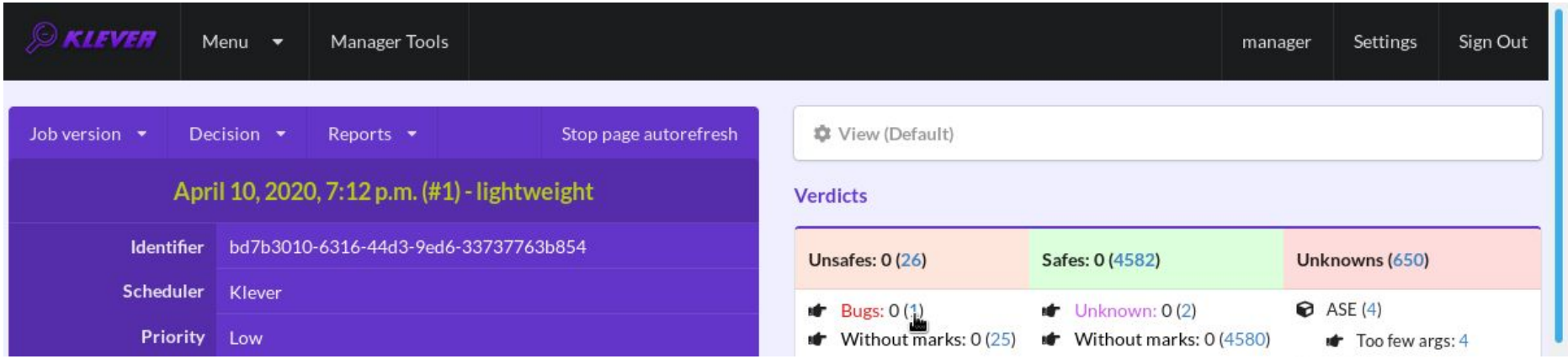


Figure 16. The total number of automatically assessed unsafes

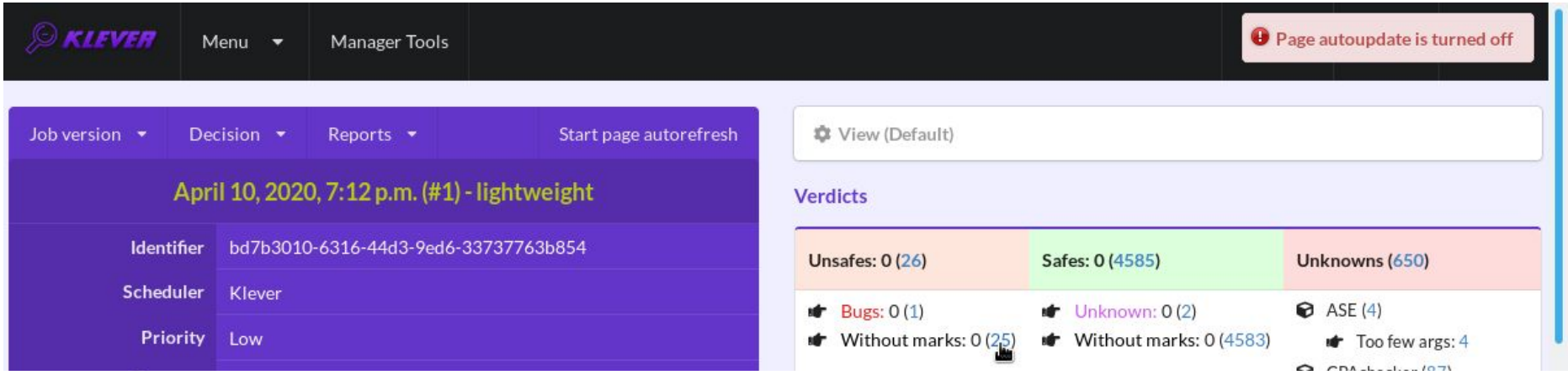


Figure 17. The total number of unsafes without any assessment

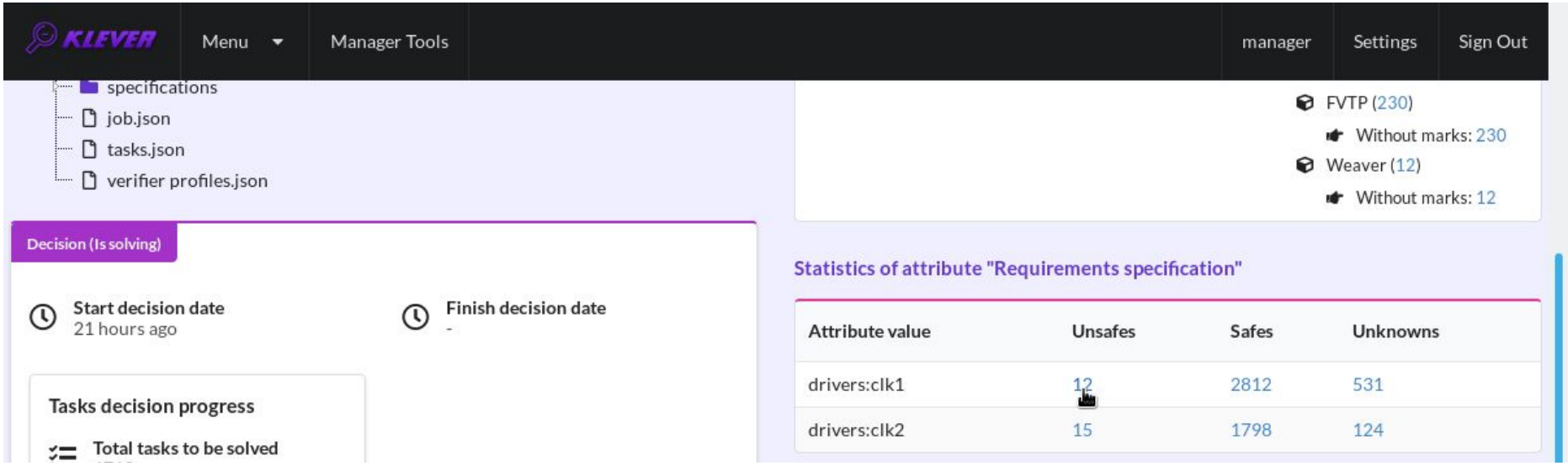
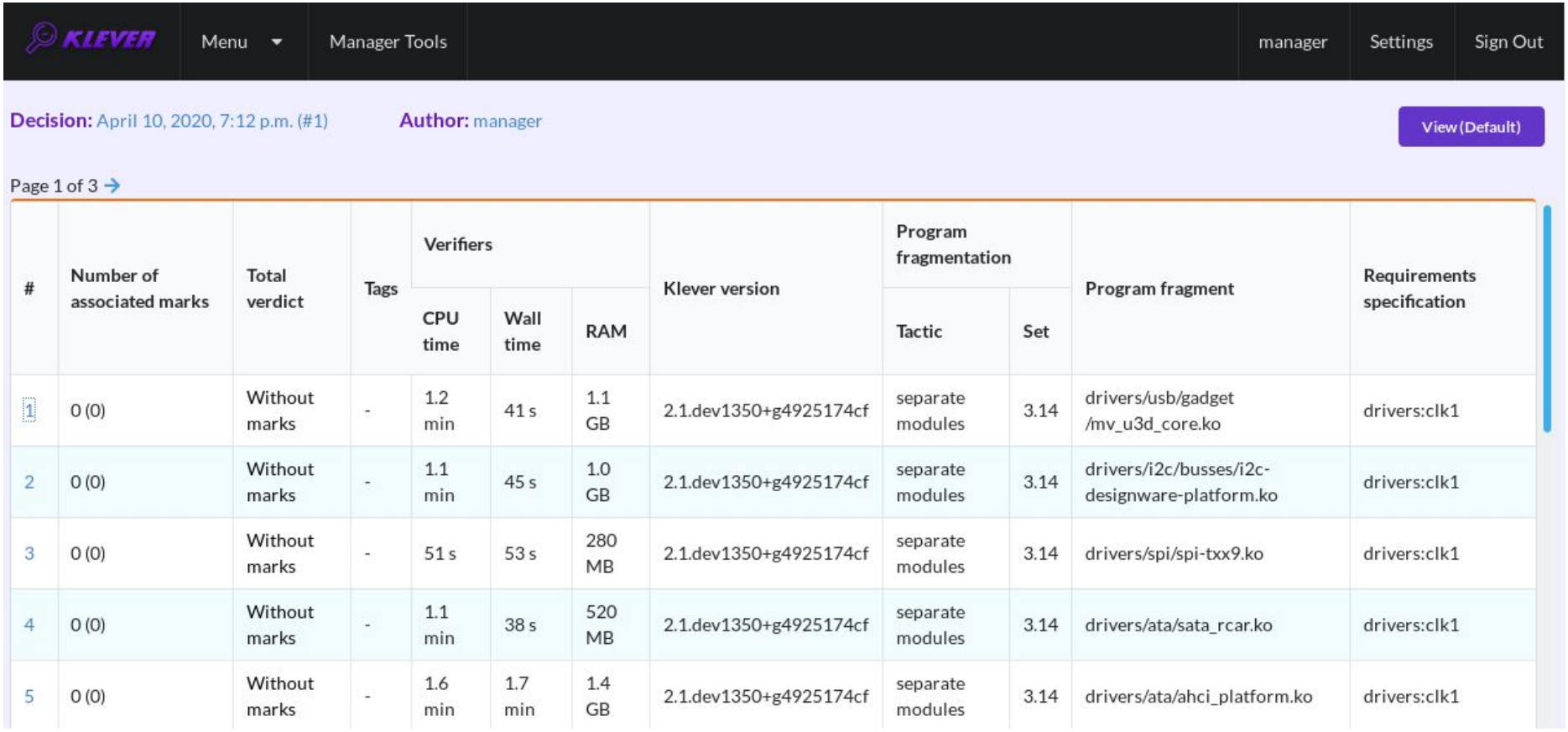


Figure 18. The total number of unsafes corresponding to the particular requirements specification



#	Number of associated marks	Total verdict	Tags	Verifiers			Klever version	Program fragmentation		Program fragment	Requirements specification
				CPU time	Wall time	RAM		Tactic	Set		
1	0 (0)	Without marks	-	1.2 min	41 s	1.1 GB	2.1.dev1350+g4925174cf	separate modules	3.14	drivers/usb/gadget /mv_u3d_core.ko	drivers:clk1
2	0 (0)	Without marks	-	1.1 min	45 s	1.0 GB	2.1.dev1350+g4925174cf	separate modules	3.14	drivers/i2c/busses/i2c-designware-platform.ko	drivers:clk1
3	0 (0)	Without marks	-	51 s	53 s	280 MB	2.1.dev1350+g4925174cf	separate modules	3.14	drivers/spi/spi-txx9.ko	drivers:clk1
4	0 (0)	Without marks	-	1.1 min	38 s	520 MB	2.1.dev1350+g4925174cf	separate modules	3.14	drivers/ata/sata_rcar.ko	drivers:clk1
5	0 (0)	Without marks	-	1.6 min	1.7 min	1.4 GB	2.1.dev1350+g4925174cf	separate modules	3.14	drivers/ata/ahci_platform.ko	drivers:clk1

Figure 19. The list of unsafes without any assessment

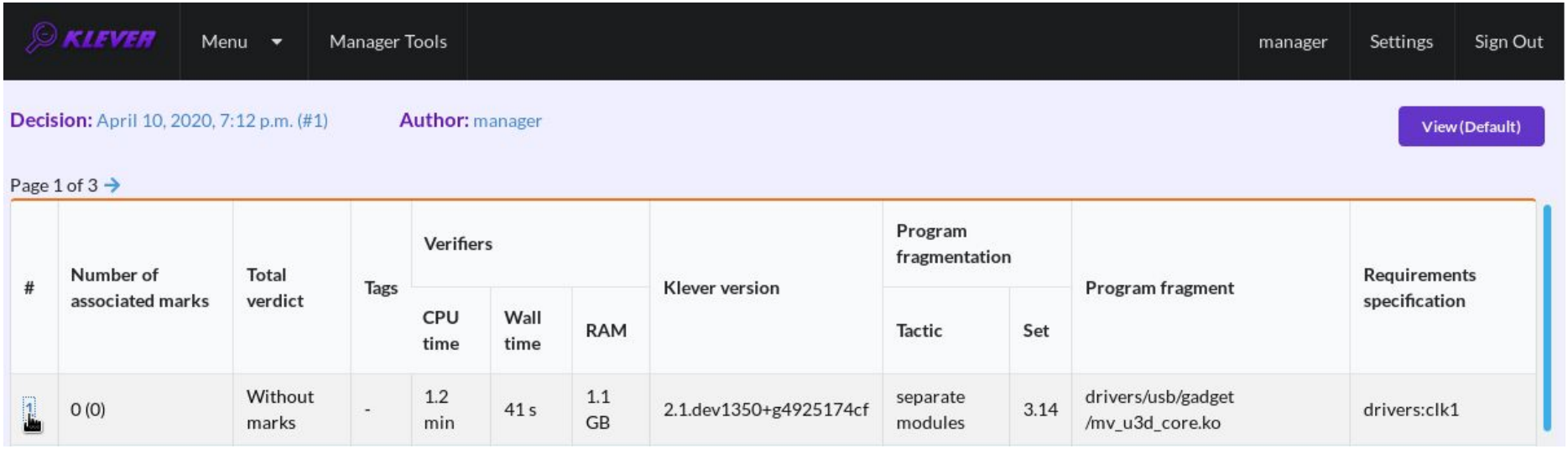


Figure 20. Opening the error trace corresponding to the unsafe without any assessment

Figure 21. Moving back to the job version/decision page

Analyzing Error Traces

After clicking on links within the list of unsafes like in Fig. 20, you will see corresponding error traces. For instance, Fig. 22 demonstrates an error trace example for module *drivers/usb/gadget/mv_u3d_core.ko* and requirements specification *drivers:clk1*.

An *error trace* is a sequence of declarations and statements in a source code of a module under verification and an *environment model*[4] generated by Klever. Besides, within that sequence there are *assumptions* specifying conditions that a software model

[4] Environment models emulate interactions of target programs or *program fragments* like Linux kernel loadable modules with their environment like libraries, user inputs, interruptions and so on. Ideally they should cover only those interaction scenarios that are possible during real executions, but usually this is not

checker considers to be true. Declarations, statements and assumptions represent a path starting from an entry point and ending at a violation of one of checked requirements. The entry point analogue for userspace programs is the function *main* while for Linux loadable kernel modules entry points are generated by Klever as a part of environment models. Requirement violations do not always correspond to places where detected faults should be fixed. For instance, the developer can omit a check for a return value of a function that can fail. As a result various issues, such as leaks or null pointer dereferences, can be revealed somewhere later.

Numbers in the left column correspond to line numbers in source files and models. Source files and models are displayed to the right of error traces. Fig. 22 does not contain anything at the right part of the window since there should be the environment model containing the generated *main* function but by default models are not demonstrated for users in the web interface. If you click on a line number corresponding to an original source file, you will see this source file as in Fig. 23.

You can click on eyes and on rectangles to show hidden parts of the error trace (Fig. 24-25). Then you can hide them back if they are out of your interest. The difference between eyes and rectangles is that functions with eyes have either notes (Fig. 26) or warnings (Fig. 27) at some point of their execution, perhaps, within called functions. *Notes* describe important actions in models. *Warnings* represent places where Klever detects violations of checked requirements.

You can see that before calling module initialization and exit functions as well as module callbacks there is additional stuff in the error trace. These are parts of the environment model necessary to initialize models, to invoke module interfaces in the way the environment does and to check the final state. This tutorial does not consider models in detail, but you should keep in mind that Klever can detect faults not only directly in the source code under verification but also when checking something after execution of corresponding functions. For instance, this is the case for the considered error trace (Fig. 27).

The analyzed unsafe corresponds to the fault that was fixed in commit 374a1020d21b to the Linux kernel. To finalize assessment you need to create a new *mark* (Fig. 28-30):

1. Specify a verdict (***Bug*** in our example).
2. Specify a status (***Fixed***).
3. Provide a description.
4. Save the mark.

---

the case, so false alarms and missing bugs take place. Each environment model is generated on the basis of specifications and it is represented as a number of additional C source files (*models*) bound with original ones through instrumentation.

After that you will be automatically redirected to the page demonstrating changes in total verdicts (Fig. 31). In our example there is the only change that corresponds to the analyzed unsafe and the new mark. But in a general case there may be many changes since the same mark can match several unsafes, and you may need to investigate these changes.

After creating the mark you can see the first manually assessed unsafe (Fig. 32). Besides, as it was already noted, you should investigate automatically assessed unsafes by analyzing corresponding error traces and marks and by (un)confirming their associations (Fig. 33-35).

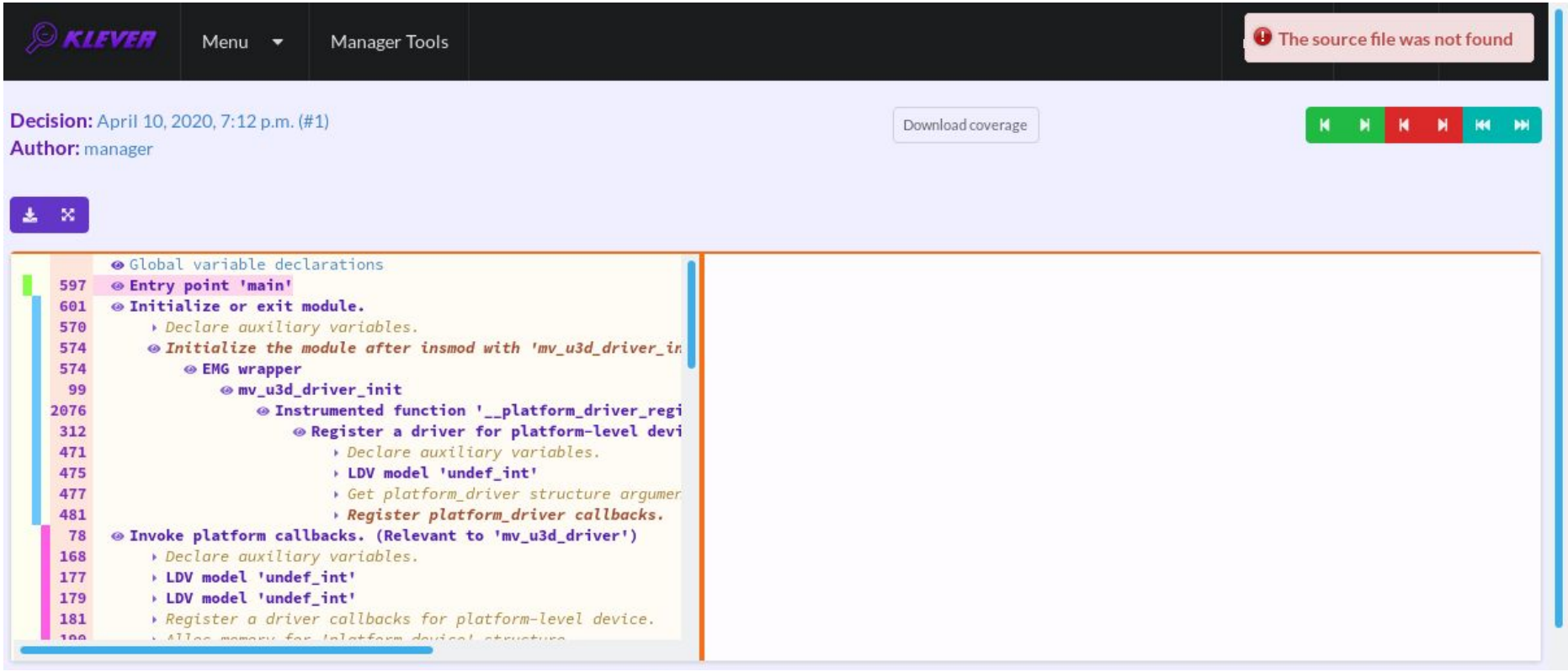


Figure 22. The error trace for module drivers/usb/gadget/mv_u3d_core.ko and requirements specification drivers:clk1

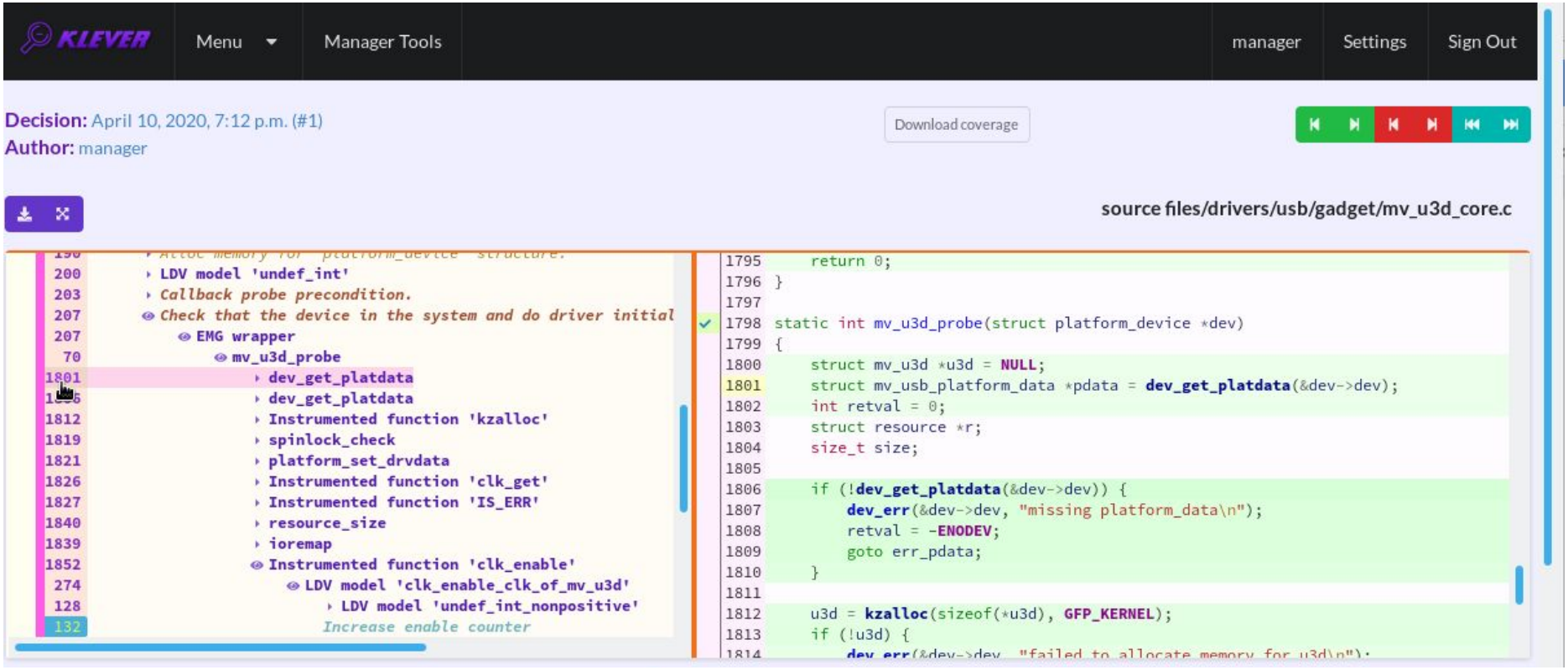


Figure 23. Showing the line in the original source file corresponding to the error trace statement

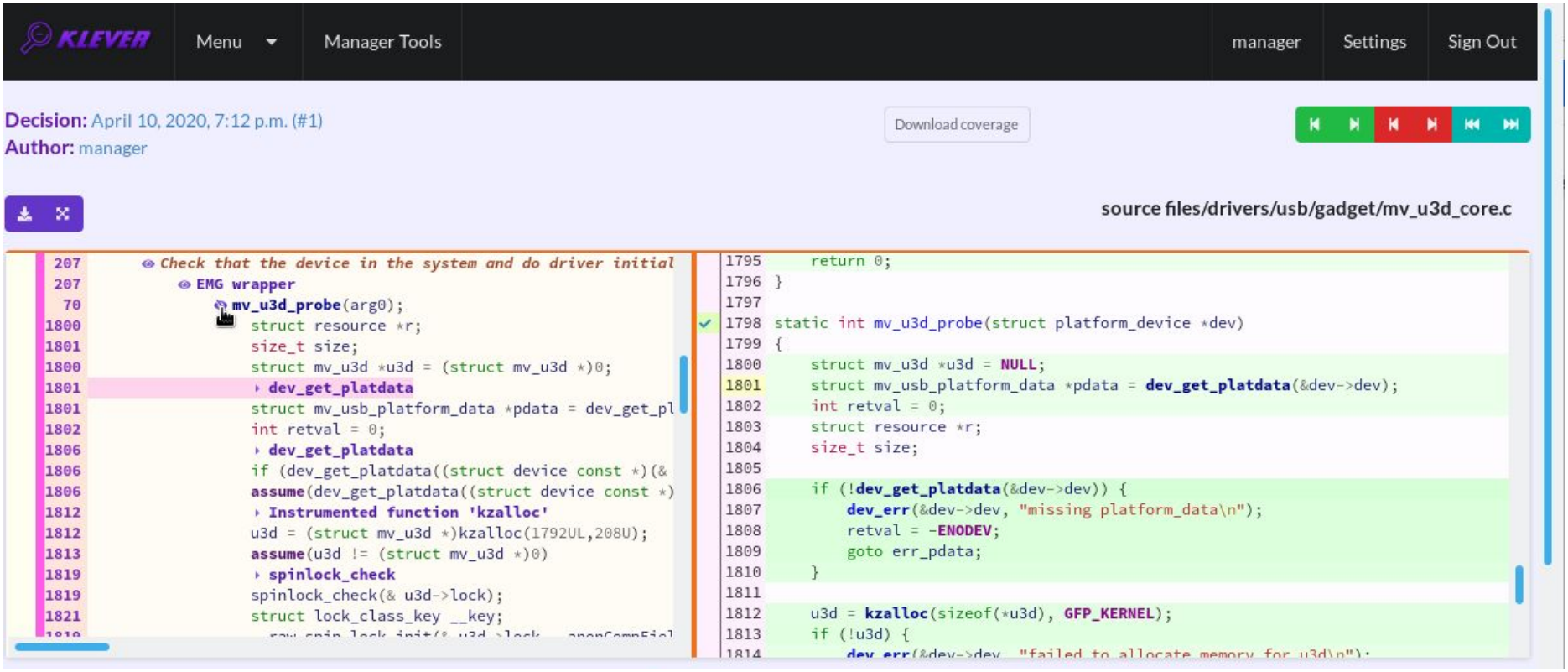


Figure 24. Showing hidden declarations, statements and assumptions for functions with notes or warnings

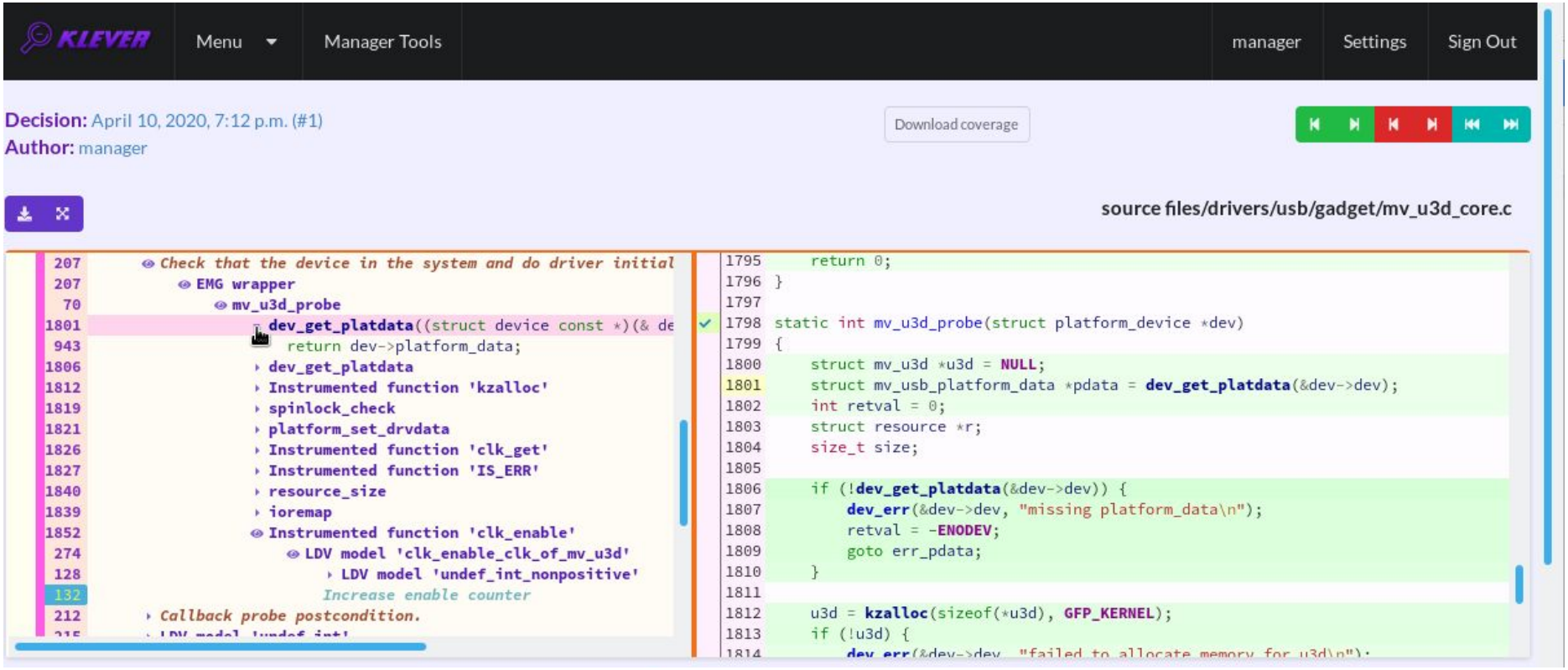


Figure 25. Showing hidden declarations, statements and assumptions for functions without notes and warnings

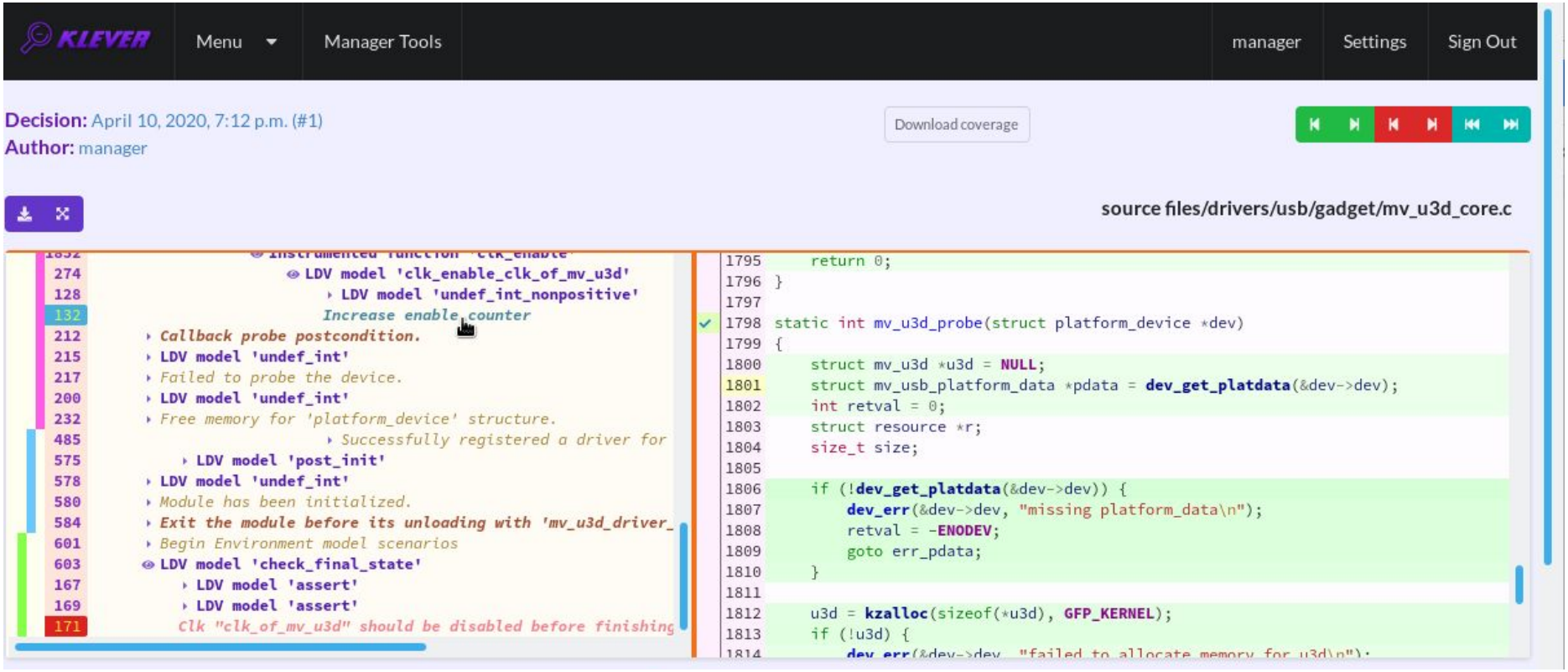


Figure 26. The error trace note

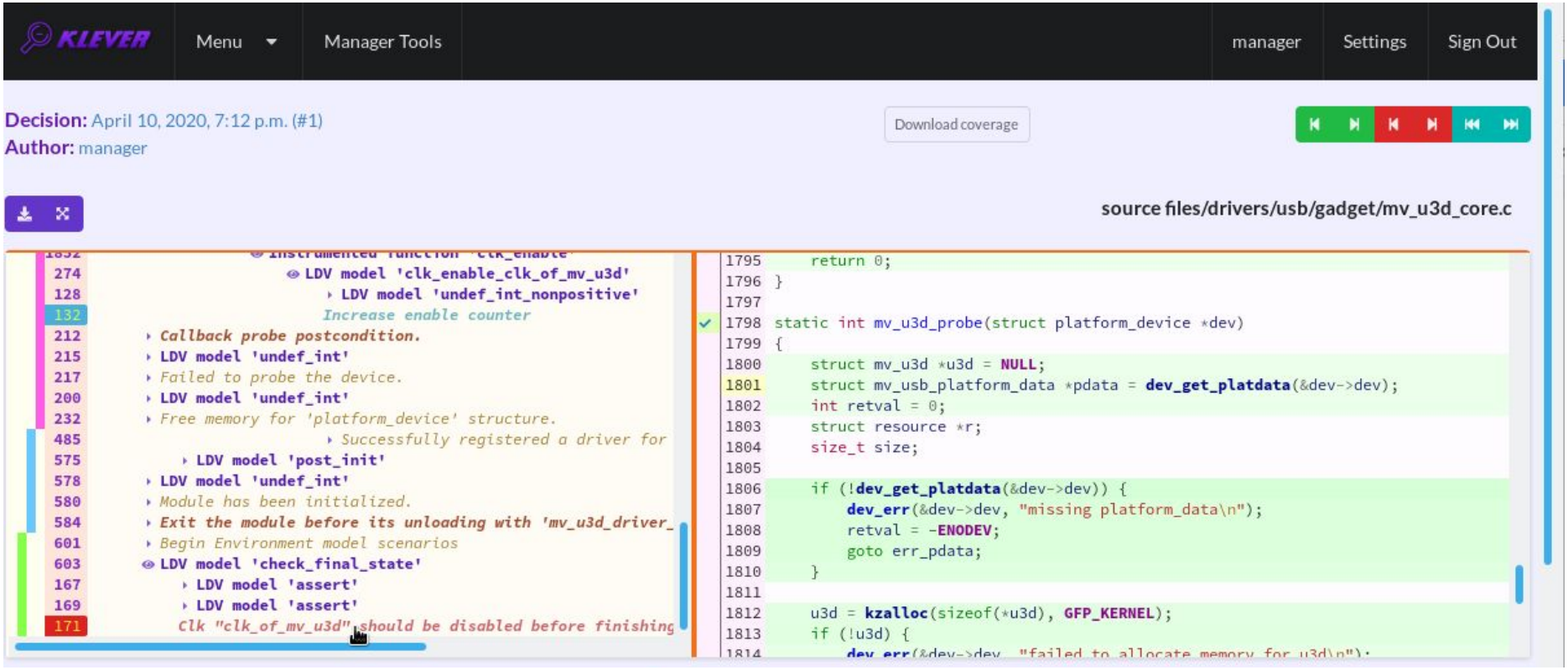


Figure 27. The error trace warning

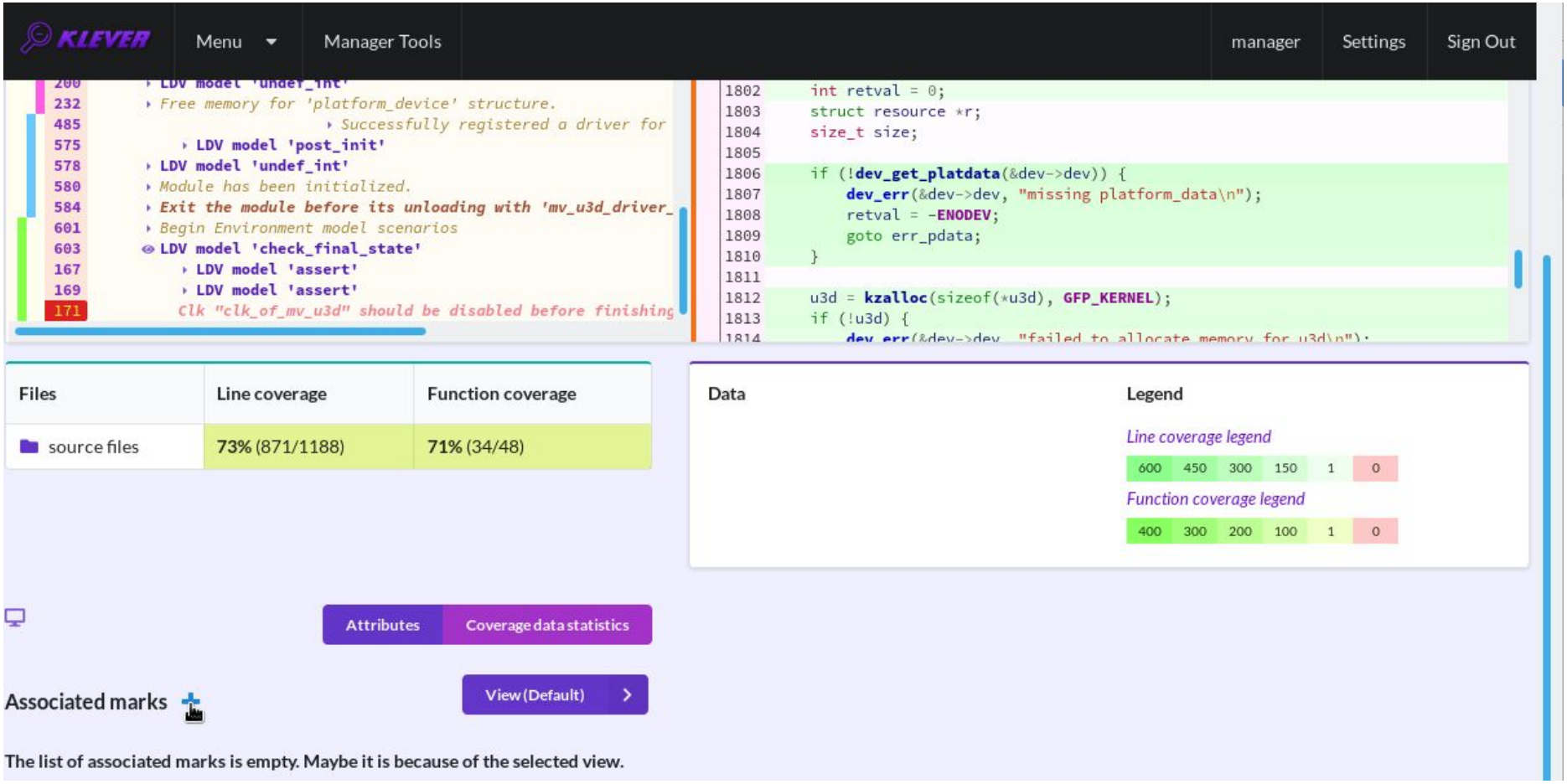


Figure 28. Starting the creation of a new mark

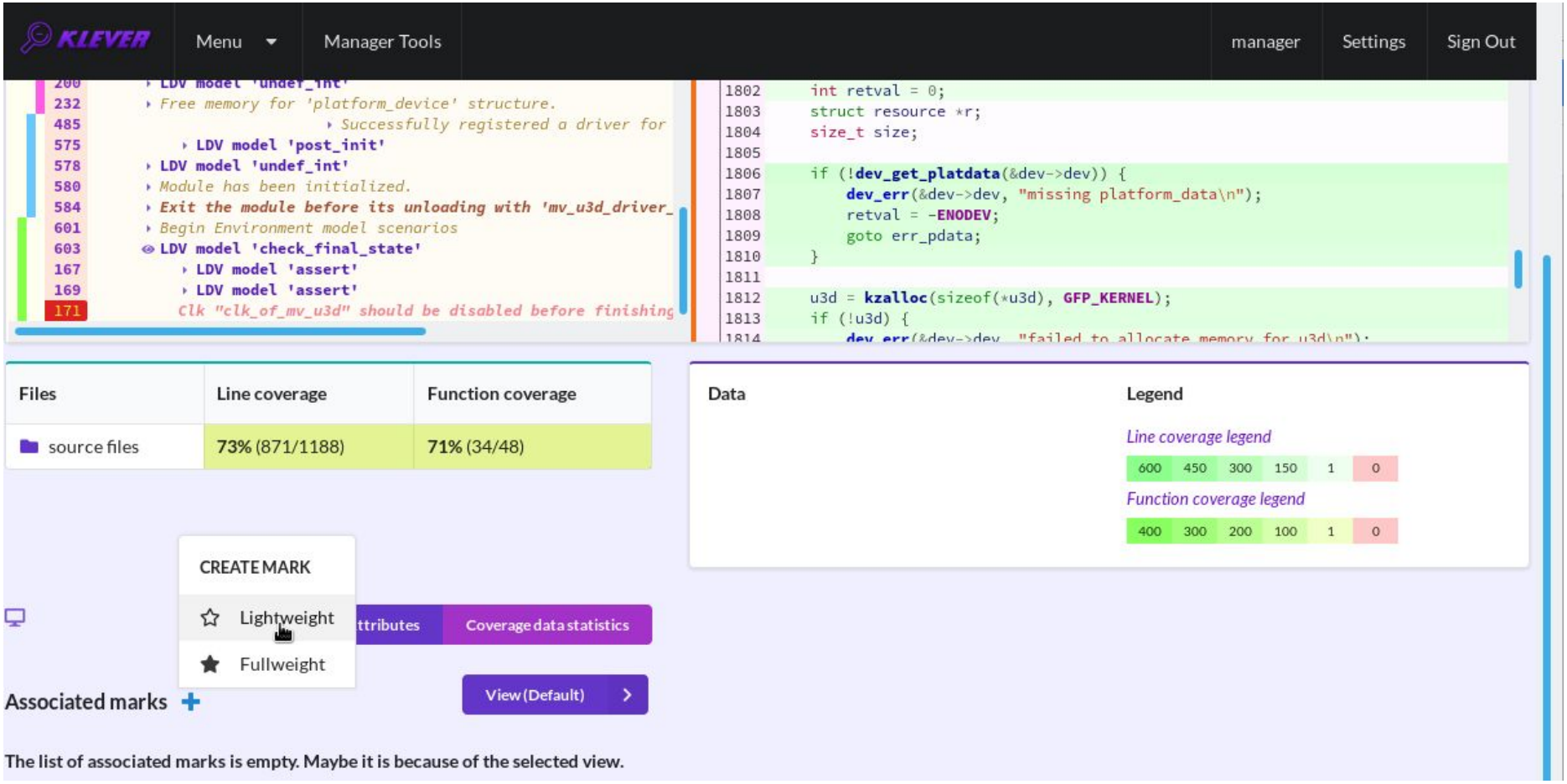


Figure 29. Starting the creation of a new lightweight mark

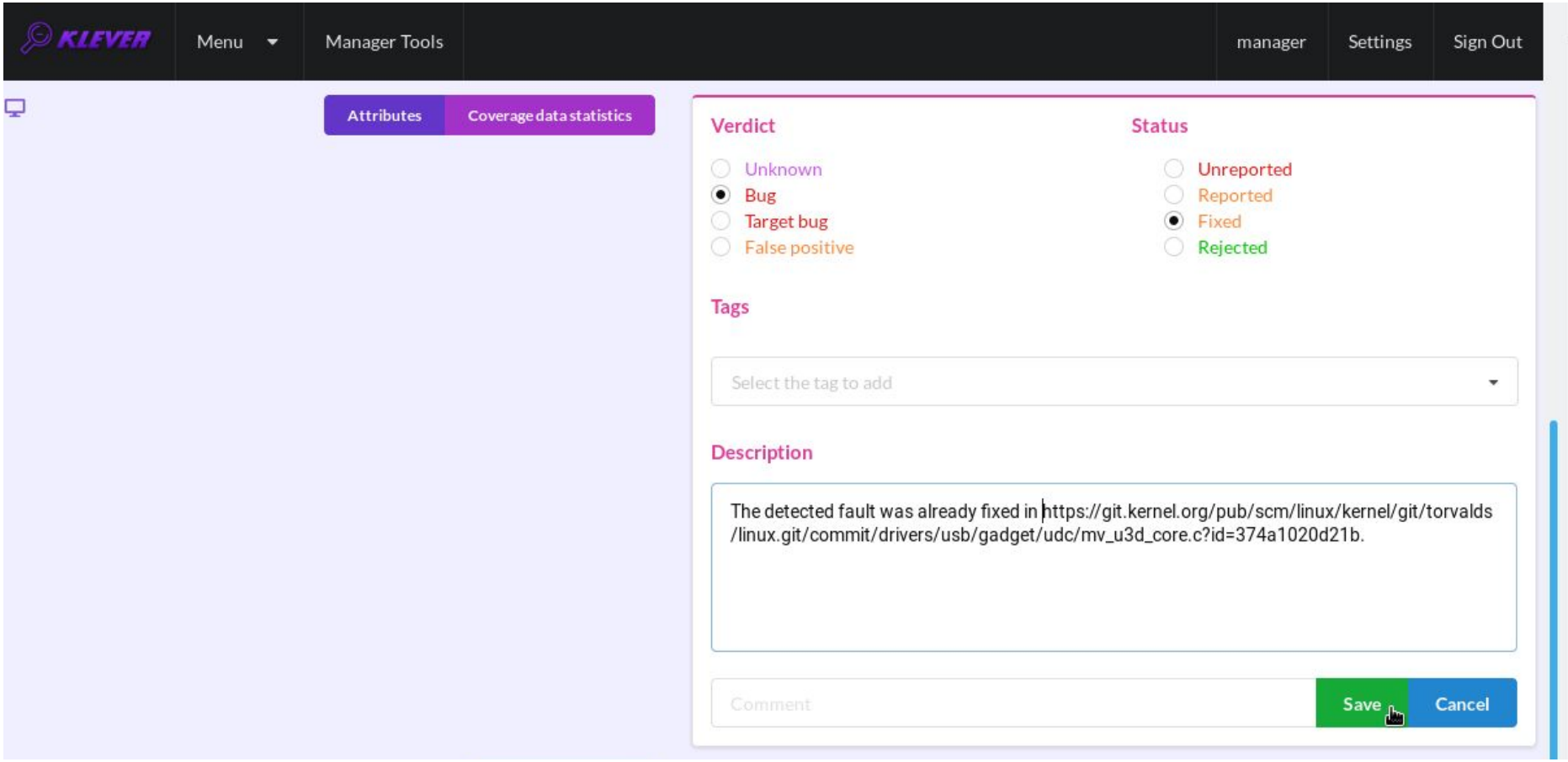


Figure 30. The creation of the new lightweight mark

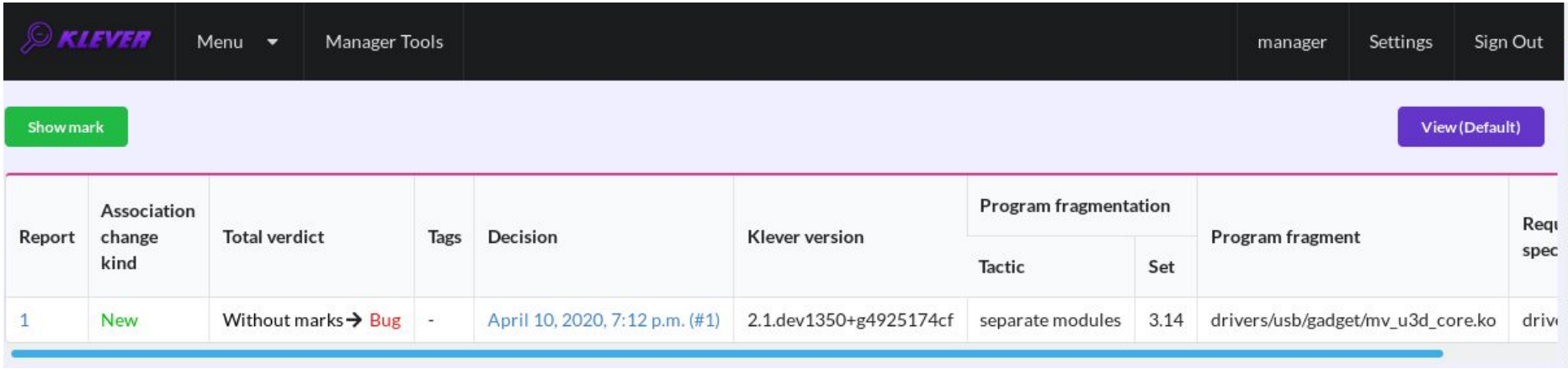


Figure 31. Changes in total verdicts

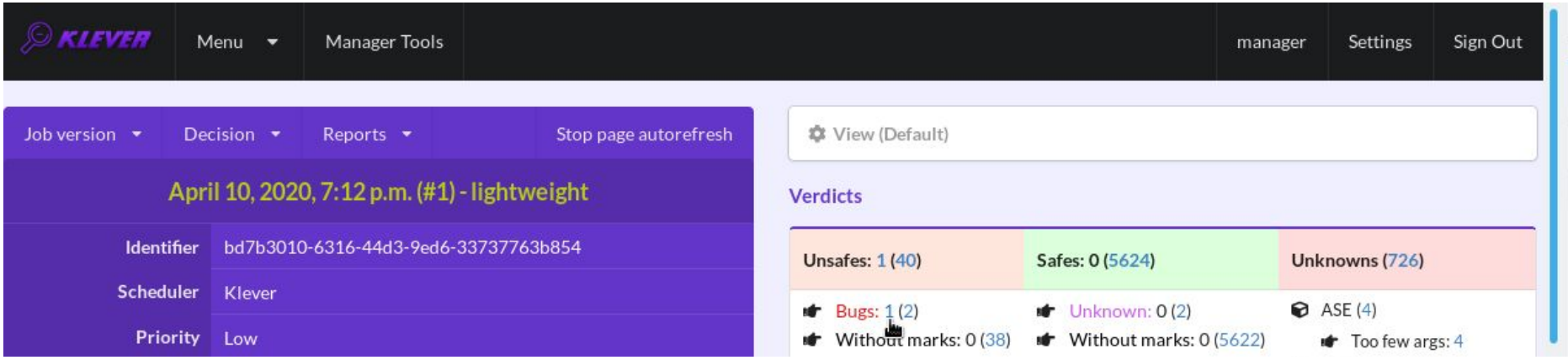
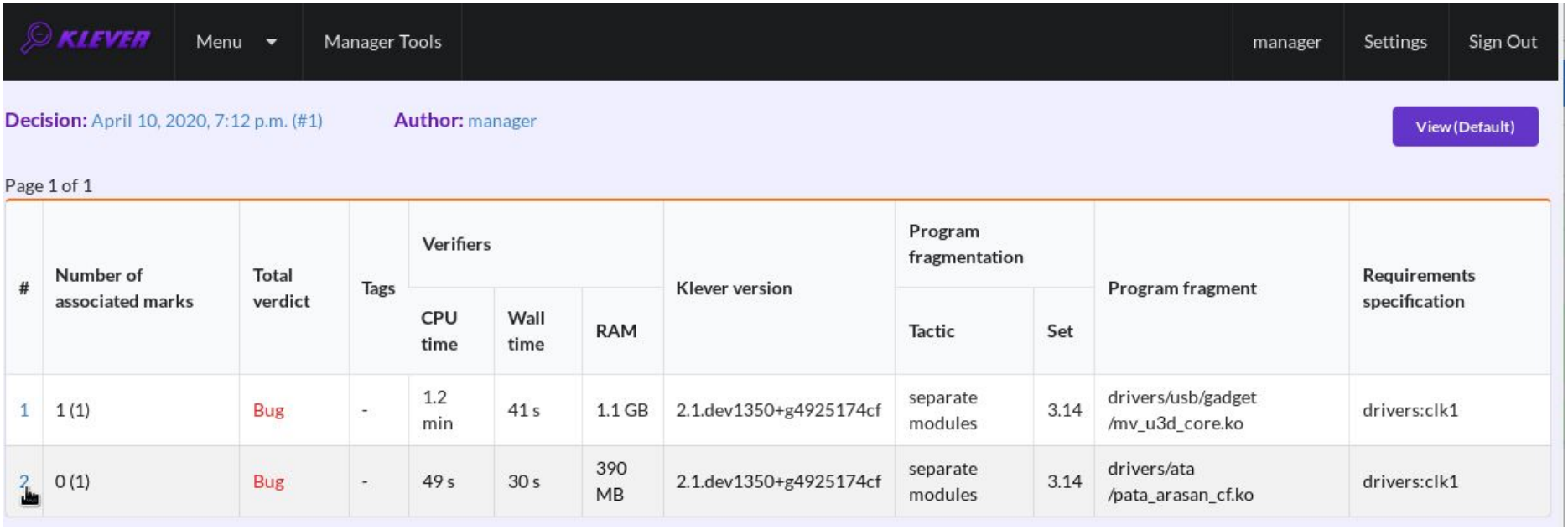


Figure 32. The total number of manually assessed unsafes



#	Number of associated marks	Total verdict	Tags	Verifiers			Klever version	Program fragmentation		Program fragment	Requirements specification
				CPU time	Wall time	RAM		Tactic	Set		
1	1 (1)	Bug	-	1.2 min	41 s	1.1 GB	2.1.dev1350+g4925174cf	separate modules	3.14	drivers/usb/gadget /mv_u3d_core.ko	drivers:clk1
2	0 (1)	Bug	-	49 s	30 s	390 MB	2.1.dev1350+g4925174cf	separate modules	3.14	drivers/ata /pata_arasan_cf.ko	drivers:clk1

Figure 33. Opening the error trace of the unsafe with automatic assessment

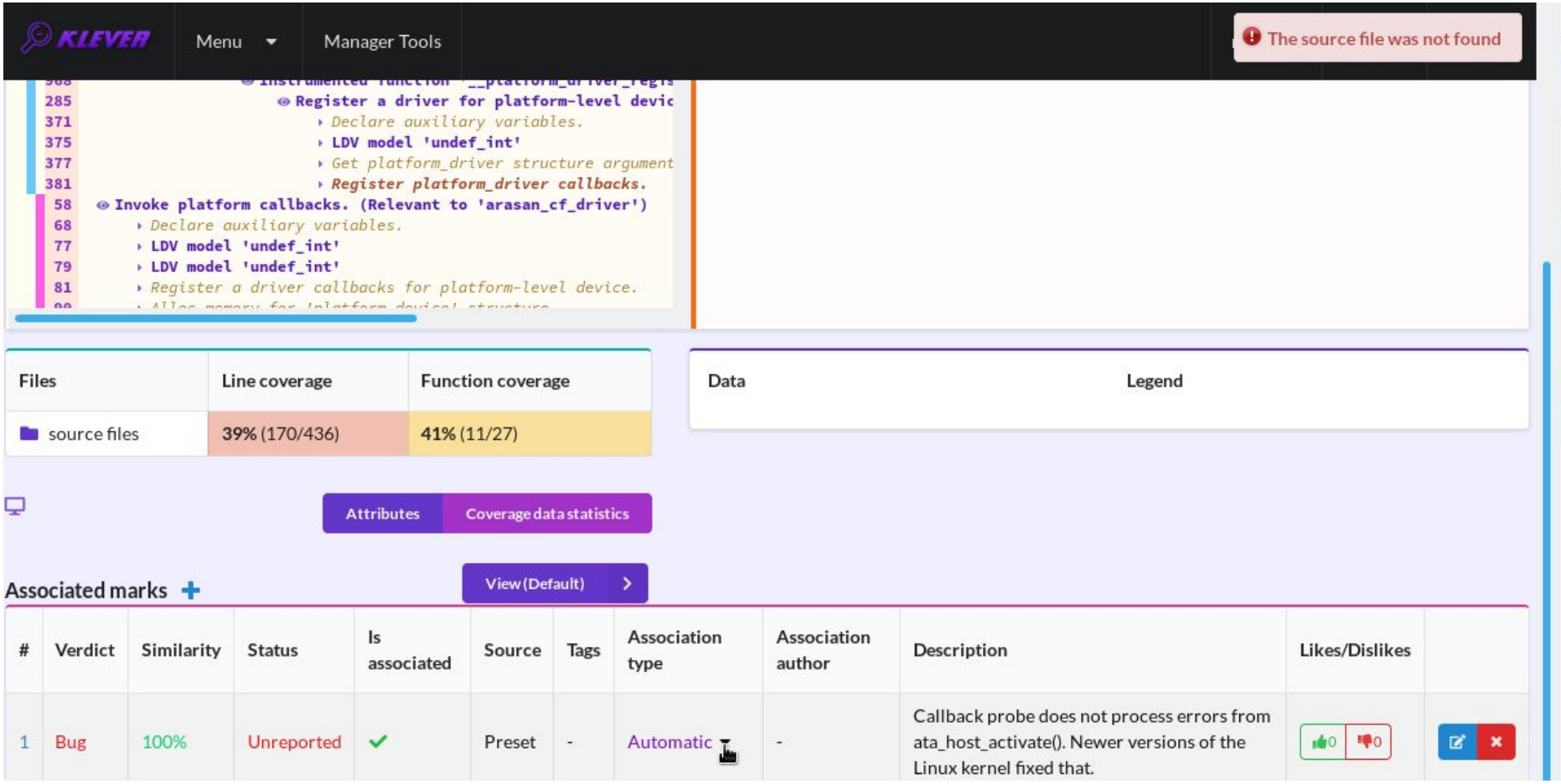


Figure 34. Starting changing the association type

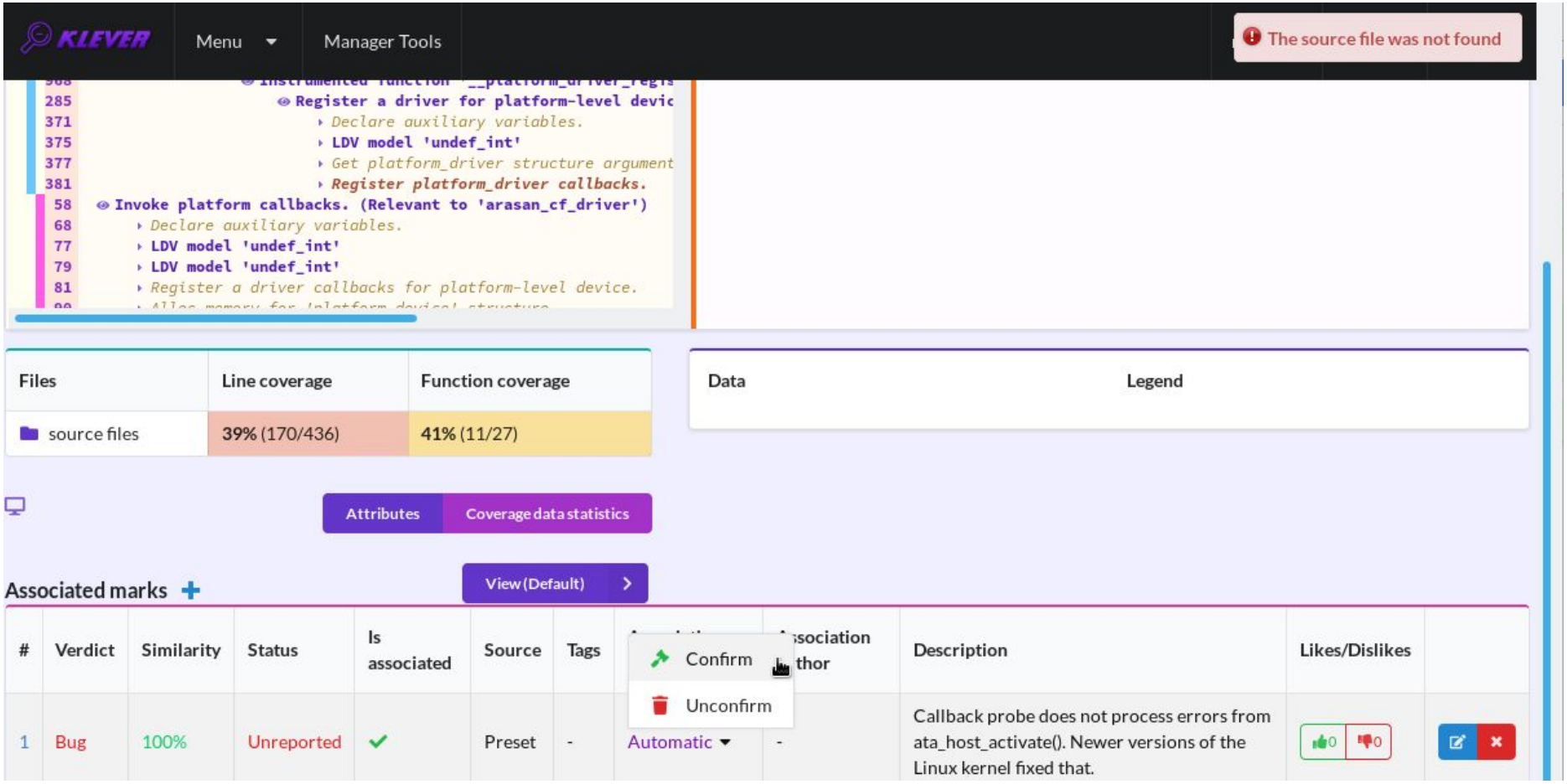


Figure 35. Confirming the automatic association

What's Next?

We assume that you can be non-satisfied fully with a quality of obtained verification results. Perhaps, you even could not obtain them at all. This is expected since Klever is an open source software developed in the Academy and we support verification of Linux kernel loadable modules for evaluation purposes primarily. Besides, this tutorial misses many tricky activities like

development of specifications and support for verification of additional software. We are ready to discuss different issues and even to fix some crucial bugs, but we do not have the manpower to make any considerable improvements for you for free.