



Linux For Embedded Systems

For Arabs

Course 101:

Introduction to Embedded Linux

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THREADX



VxWorks®
WIND RIVER



Lecture 4: A Tour in RTOS Land



PROPRIETARY RTOS'S

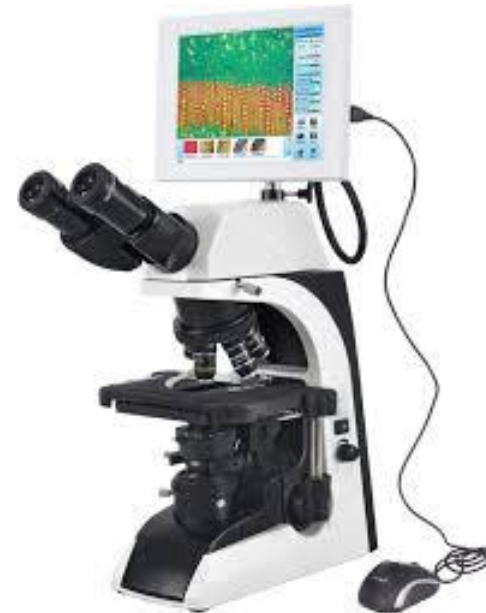
Windows CE



- Developed by Microsoft
- Has recently been replaced by Windows Embedded Compact
- Has the mix of the windows desktop and embedded devices requirements
- Suitable for embedded devices that require also a good user interface
- Medium to Large HW requirements:
 - Footprint of OS around 200-350KB
 - May run in under a 1MB of memory
- True RTOS, has a deterministic behavior
- Cost is around \$3 per device license + Initial Cost for tools



Application Examples



Nucleus

NUCLEUS



- Developed by Mentor Graphics
- Portable to different devices (Microcontrollers and Micro - Processors)
- Foot print as small as 2KB
- Support unique power management features
 - Power/clock gating
 - Deep sleep modes
- Cost is about
 - \$13K for the OS license per implementation
 - \$3K per seat for the tools
 - Royalty free

NUCLEUS Application Examples

- Very widely used



Threadx



- Developed by Express Logic, Inc. by the same the author of Nucleus
- Small footprint (can go as low as 2KB on Microcontrollers)
- True RTOS, Fast and deterministic behavior
- Fast boot time (This is very important for devices that can't afford a long boot time)
- Flexible licensing models + Royalty free



Application Example



Hewlett-Packard use ThreadX in all of their printers,

- Inkjets
- LaserJets
- All-in-One





Application Example



Broadcom use ThreadX in a lot of its Chips for cell phones in their communication processors



VxWorks

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WIND RIVER



- Developed by Wind River Systems, 1987
- Legacy RTOS. Used to be the top OS for Embedded Platforms
- Not used recently for small system, but still considered by heavy Institutions (such as Aerospace and Defense)
- Expensive licensing cost + Royalty cost
- Other OS's with their latest development are catching up



WIND RIVER

Application Example



KUKA



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WIND RIVER

Application Example





FREE-OPEN SOURCE OS'S

Is Free Really Free ??

- Free for freedom and not for free drink
- Free means freedom to run, study, copy, modify, distribute both the original code and the modified versions
- Free/Open source OS's include:
 - The OS itself (the kernel)
 - Development tools: Compilers, Debuggers, toolchains, ...
 - Support libraries: C library, XML parsers, Security, command line utilities
- Keep in mind the licensing risks (GPL, LGPL, ...)
 - Licensing terms
 - Might mean you can not have a proprietary system
 - Might mean you need to give up your source code



Advantages of Open Source OS

- Cost perspective
 - Kernel, development tools, associated libraries and support tools, applications, ...
- Big community help and support
- Ability to understand and control details of operation
- Availability of online resources and documents
- Fast release cycles
- Ability to influence the future of the OS

Linux (www.kernel.org)



- Most popular Open Source OS
- Big Community Support
- Distributions
 - Build your own distribution
 - Redhat
 - Suse
 - Ubuntu
 - And many others
- GPL v2.0 License
- Require 32bit processors with MMU
- Highly configurable, RAM and Storage requirements according to configurations
- Not a real RTOS
- Sometimes used with patches to support hard real time embedded applications (such as RTLinux)

uClinux (www.uclinux.org)



- Started as a port of Linux for systems with,
 - Micro-controllers
 - Processors without MMU
- Used for simple Embedded devices
- Now highly integrated with the Linux mainstream as a patch
- Used in several devices such as,
 - DVD players
 - Security cameras
 - VoIP phones
 - Scanners



eCos (<http://ecos.sourceware.org>)



- Suitable for smaller embedded systems
- Small footprint, with low requirement on resources
- Modified GPL License to give developer more rights to use it without need to GPL his code
- One of the most popular open source RTOS in the world today
- Highly configurable (eCos stands for the "Embedded Configurable Operating System")
- Support multi-tasking with priority-based real-time scheduler
- standards based APIs
- True RTOS, Highly deterministic behavior
- Highly portable to most of 32 bits processors



Application Example



Sony, Playstation 3 Gaming Console for WiFi support





Application Example



Samsung, latest LCD HDTVs (32-70 inch) to support multi-media playback via USB2 from cameras, mp3 players and flash drives





Application Example



Eye-Fi Wireless SD Cards that use WiFi to transfer images between camera and computer



Nuttx



- First released by Gregory Nutt in 2007 with BSD license
- True RTOS (deterministic)
- Small footprint
- Supports from simple 8 bit processors (such as Zilog Z80) to 32 bit processors (such as ARM-9, x86)
- Supports C & C++ development
- TCP/IP Stack and USB support
- Support multitasking with FIFO and round-robin scheduling
- Support pre-emption
- Highly configurable
- Supports Standard APIs such as ANSI and POSIX
- Used in MP-3 players, Auto-pilot, ...



Application Example





Linux 4

Embedded Systems

<http://Linux4EmbeddedSystems.com>