getting started with the Yocto Project and systemd

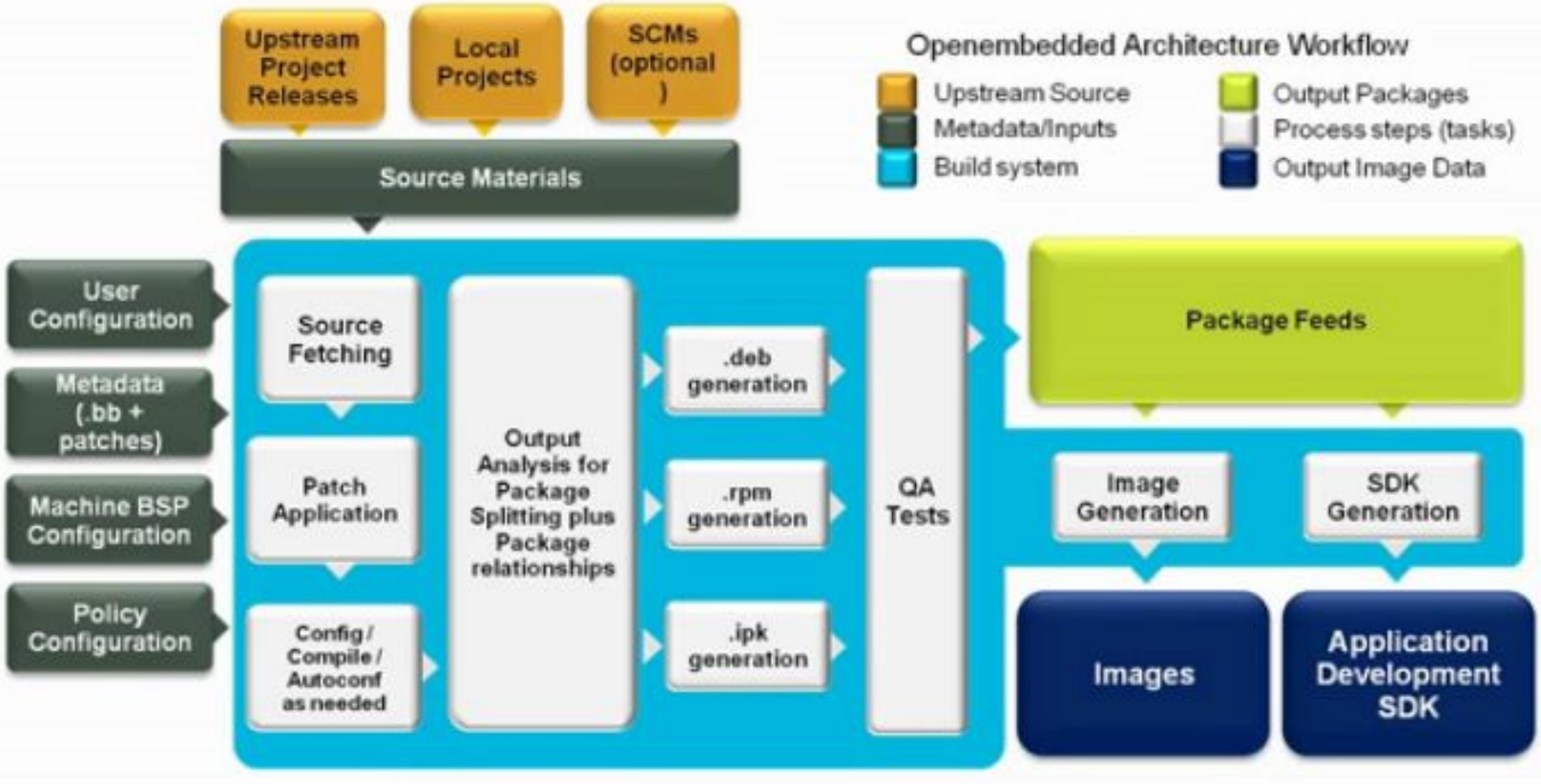
ESE3005

Yocto Project

- backed by a number of large tech corporations and individuals, in order to expedite getting embedded Linux systems working!
- hardware companies like IBM and TI have a vested interest in getting IoT hardware systems working (so they can sell their chips!)
- getting a Linux OS working for a newly designed embedded system is not a simple matter (there is no off-the-shelf distribution like Beagleboard Debian or Raspbian!)
- although there are several embedded OS “generic” operating systems available, notably: Android, Angstrom, OpenWrt;

Yocto Project Cont’d

- Yocto is not the only embedded Linux Build System:
  - Baserock
  - Buildroot
  - OpenEmbedded
- What is hard about a custom Linux distribution?
  - Bootloader
  - Kernel
  - Device Drivers
  - Life Cycle Management
  - Application Software Management



yocto PROJECT · The LINUX FOUNDATION

Yocto: fetch, extract, patch, configure, build...

- essentially, you use various configuration files and special script files called “recipes” to direct the build system in how to construct your Linux image
- the image is then “flashed” on your embedded system
  - in this unit, we’ll be emulating the embedded system, so you won’t have to worry about flashing a physical device!
- the Yocto’s BitBake program then runs, based on the configuration files and recipes goes through a repetitive process involving the same steps:
    - fetch (from many different sources on the Internet)
    - extract (un-zipping, un-archiving)
    - patch (updating the source code)
    - configure (configuring the build)
    - build (compiling, linking)
    - install (placing the program in the right directories, etc.)
    - package (creating the archive or image)

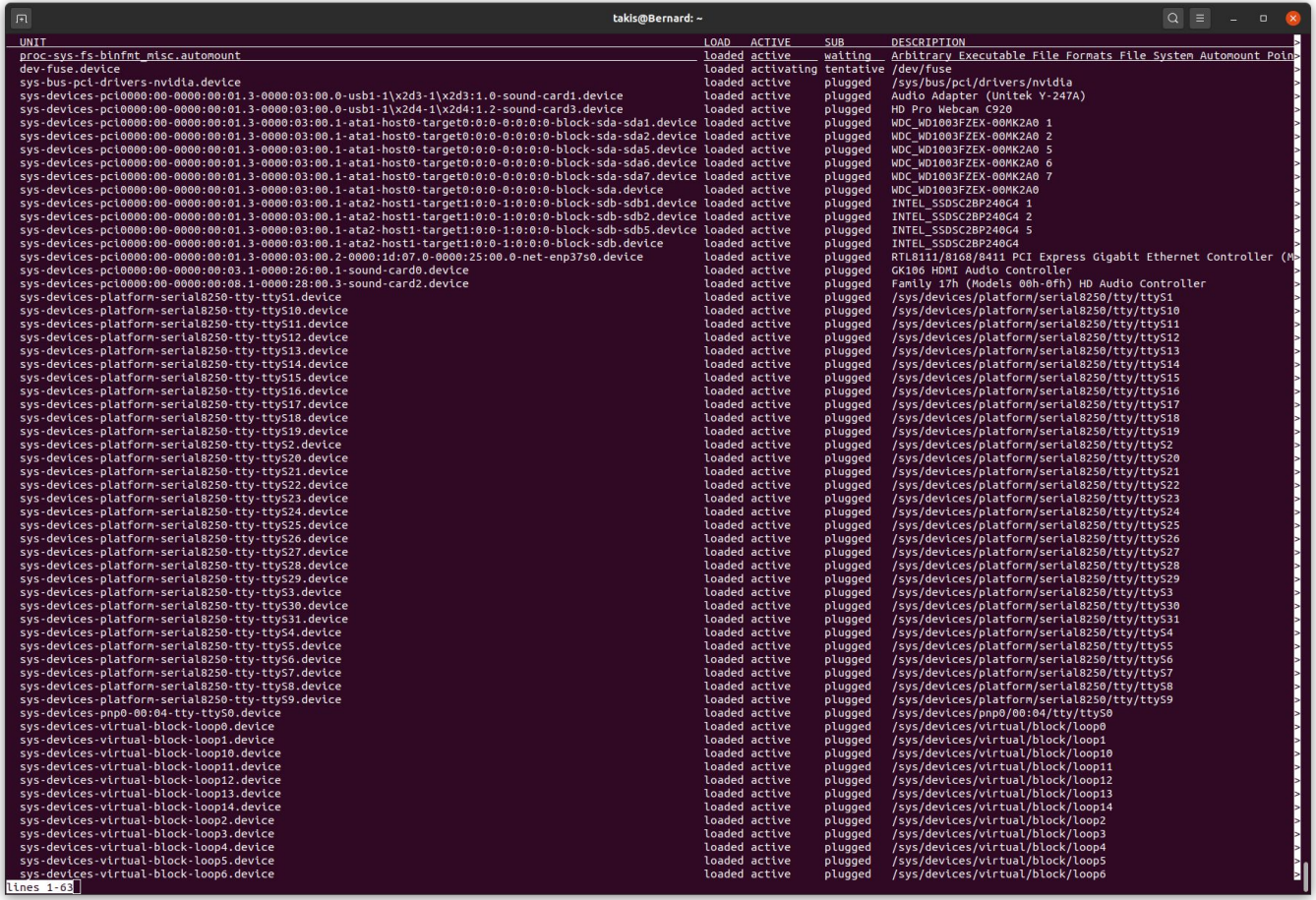
systemd

- originally developed by Lennart Poettering and Kay Sievers, two software engineers working at RedHat
- a software suite consisting of various system components
  - some components work as a “glue” between applications and the kernel
  - the *system and service manager*
- the predecessor to the systemd startup and service manager is System V init (sometimes called “SysV”)
  - drawback of SysV is the slow boot process:
    - SysV waits for one task to complete, before starting the next
    - whereas systemd starts up services in parallel, this was one of systemd’s primary initial aims

systemd cont’d

- What are services? Examples include:
  - webservers (Apache server)
  - ssh (secure shell), interfacing kernel and /bin/bash
  - uart communication management
  - low-level hardware control (graphics, sound, etc.)
- core components:
  - *systemd*: the start-up and service manager itself
  - *systemctl*: a command used to probe *systemd*
  - *systemd-analyze*: system state information, including boot-up performance
  - other components also provide login management, journal logging, device management, and more
- systemd has been criticized for taking on too many functions, diverting from its original mission; nevertheless, this has not slowed its widespread adoption by various Linux distributions

typing the *systemctl* command at the Linux prompt yields:



systemd (cont’d)

further reading:

see pp. 85-90, Exploring Beaglebone, 2nd Edition