

T E C H N I C A L D E E P D I V E

Anki Vector

A LOVE LETTER TO THE LITTLE DUDE

AUTHOR

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OVERVIEW

This fascicle explores how the Anki Vector was realized in hardware and software.



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Preface

The Anki Vector is a charming little robot – cute, playful, with a slightly mischievous character. It is everything I ever wanted to create in a bot. Sadly Anki went defunct shortly after releasing Vector.

This book is my attempt to understand the Anki Vector and its construction. The book is based on speculation. Speculation informed by Anki’s SDKs, blog posts, patents and FCC filings; by articles about Anki, presentations by Anki employees; by PCB photos, and hardware teardowns from others; by a team of people (Project Victor) analyzing the released software; and by functional areas.

1.1. VERSION(S)

The software analyzed here is mostly version 1.5 and version 1.6 of Vector. There are incremental differences with each version; I have not always described the places that only apply to a specific version. Version 1.6 was a release rushed to customers as Anki ceased operation. This release includes more software elements that are unused, but are nonetheless telling.

1.2. CUSTOMIZATION AND PATCHING

What can be customized – or patched – in Vector?

- The software in the main processor may be customizable; that will be discussed in many areas of the rest of the document
- The base-board firmware is field updatable, and will take expertise to construct updates.
- The cube firmware can be updated, but that appears to be the hardest to change, and not likely to be useful.

2. ORGANIZATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

- CHAPTER 1: PREFACE. This chapter describes the other chapters.
- CHAPTER 2: OVERVIEW OF VECTOR’S ARCHITECTURE. Introduces the overall design of the Anki Vector.

PART I: ELECTRICAL DESIGN. This part provides an overview of the design of the electronics in Vector and his accessories:

- CHAPTER 3: VECTOR’S ELECTRICAL DESIGN. A detailed look at the electrical design of Vector.
- CHAPTER 4: ACCESSORY ELECTRICAL DESIGN. A look at the electrical design of Vector’s accessories.

PART II: BASIC OPERATION. This part provides an overview of Vector’s software design.

- CHAPTER 5: ARCHITECTURE. A detailed look at Vector’s overall software architecture.
- CHAPTER 6: STARTUP. A detailed look at Vector’s startup, and shutdown processes

- CHAPTER 7: POWER MANAGEMENT. A detailed look at Vector's architecture for battery monitoring, changing and other power management.
- CHAPTER 8: BUTTON & TOUCH INPUT AND OUTPUT LEDs
- CHAPTER 9: AUDIO INPUT AND OUTPUT
- CHAPTER 10: LCD DISPLAY

PART III: COMMUNICATION. This part provides details of Vector's communication protocols. These chapters describe structure communication, the information that is exchange, its encoding, and the sequences needed to accomplish tasks. Other chapters will delve into the functional design that the communication provides interface to.

- CHAPTER 11: COMMUNICATION. A look at Vector's communication stack.
- CHAPTER 12: BLUETOOTH LE. The Bluetooth LE protocol that Vector responds to.
- CHAPTER 13: SDK PROTOCOL. The HTTPS protocol that Vector responds to.
- CHAPTER 14: CLOUD. A look at how Vector syncs with remote services.

PART IV: ADVANCED FUNCTIONS.

- CHAPTER 15: MOTOR CONTROL. At look at how Vector's moves.
- CHAPTER 16: IMAGE PROCESSING. A look at how Vector vision system.

PART V: MAINTENANCE. This part describes items that are not Vector's primary function; they are practical items to support Vector's operation.

- CHAPTER 18: SETTINGS, PREFERENCES, FEATURES AND STATISTICS. A look at how Vector syncs with remote servers
- CHAPTER 19: SOFTWARE UPDATES. How Vector's software updates are applied.
- CHAPTER 20: DIAGNOSTICS. The diagnostic support built into Vector, including logging and usage statistics.

REFERENCES AND RESOURCES. This provides further reading and referenced documents.

APPENDICES: The appendices provide extra material supplemental to the main narrative. These include tables of information, numbers and keys.

- APPENDIX A: ABBREVIATIONS, ACRONYMS, & GLOSSARY. This appendix provides a gloss of terms, abbreviations, and acronyms.
- APPENDIX B: TOOL CHAIN. This appendix lists the tools known or suspected to have been used by Anki to create, and customize the Vector, and for the servers. Tools that can be used to analyze Vector
- APPENDIX C: FAULT AND STATUS CODES. This appendix provides describes the system fault codes, and update status codes.
- APPENDIX D: FILE SYSTEM. This appendix lists the key files that are baked into the system.
- APPENDIX E: BLUETOOTH LE PROTOCOLS. This appendix provides information on the Bluetooth LE interfaces to the companion Cube, and to Anki Vector
- APPENDIX F: SERVERS. This appendix provides the servers that the Anki Vector and App contacts

- APPENDIX G: FEATURES. This appendix enumerates the Vector OS “features” that can be enabled and disabled.
- APPENDIX H: PHRASES. This appendix reproduces the phrases that the Vector keys off of.
- APPENDIX J: PLEO. This appendix gives a brief overview of the Pleo animatronic dinosaur, an antecedent with many similarities.

Note: I use many diagrams from Cozmo literature. They’re close enough

2.1. ORDER OF DEVELOPMENT

A word on the order of development; the chapters are grouped in sections of related levels of functionality and (usually) abstraction.

Most chapters will description a vertical slice or stack of the software. The higher levels will discuss features and interactions with other subsystems that have not been discussed in detail yet. For instance, the section on the basic operation of Vectors hardware includes layers that link to the behavior and communication well ahead of those portions. Just assume that you’ll have to flip forward and backward from time to time.

The communication interface is held to its own section with the relevant interactions, commands, structures and so on.

CHAPTER 2

Overview of Vector

Anki Vector is a cute, palm-sized robot; a buddy with a playful, slightly mischievous character. This chapter provides an overview of Vector:

- Overview
- Privacy and Security
- Ancestry: Cozmo
- Alexa Builtin

3. OVERVIEW

Vector is an emotionally expressive animatronic robot that we all love.

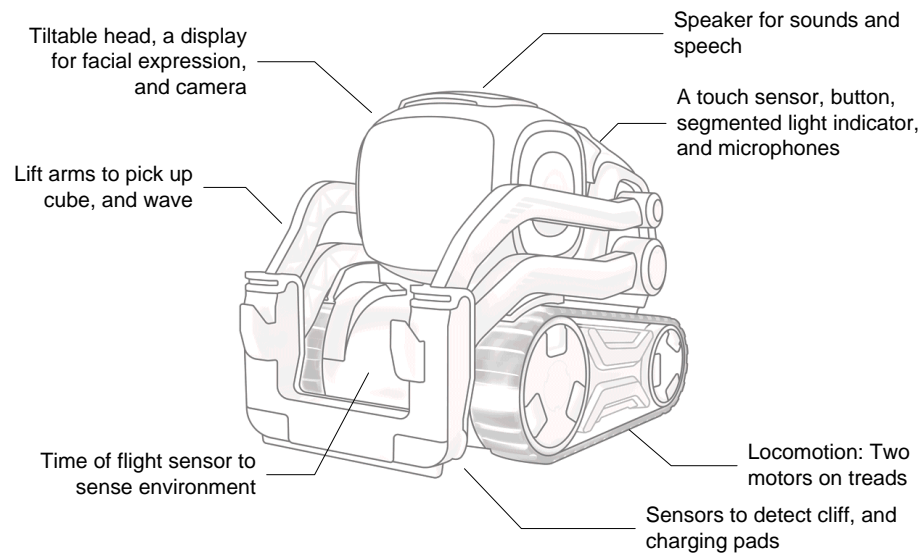


Figure 1: Vector's main features

He can express emotions thru expressive eyes (on an LCD display), raising and lower his head, sounds, wiggling his body (by using his treads), or lifting his arms... or shaking them.

Vector can sense surrounding environment, interact and respond to it. Recognize his name¹, follow the gaze of a person looking at him, and seek petting.²

3.1. FEATURES

Although cute, small, and affordable,³ Vector's design is structured like many other robots.

¹ Vector can't be individually named.

² Admittedly this is a bit hit and miss.

³ Although priced as an expensive toy, this feature set in a robot is usually an order of magnitude more, usually with less quality.

He has a set of operator inputs:

- A touch sensor is used detect petting
- Internal microphone(s) to listen, hear commands and ambient activity level
- A button that is used to turn Vector on, to cause him to listen – or to be quiet (and not listen), to reset him (wiping out his personality and robot-specific information).
- He can detect his arms being raised and lowered.⁴

He has a set of indicators/annunciators:

- Segmented lights on Vector’s backpack are used to indicate when he is on, needs the charger, has heard the wake word, is talking to the Cloud, can’t detect WiFi, is booting, is resetting (wiping out his personality and robot-specific information).
- An LCD display, primarily to show eyes of a face. Robot eyes were Anki’s strongest piece of imagery. Vector smiles and shows a range of expressions with his eyes.
- Speaker for cute sounds and speech synthesis

He has other means to express affect as well:

- His head can be tilted up and down to represent sadness, happiness, etc.
- His arms flail to represent frustration
- He can uses his treads to shake or wiggle, usually to express happiness or embarrassment

He has environmental sensors:

- A camera is used to map the area, detect and identify objects and faces.
- Fist-bump and being lifted can be detected using an internal *inertial measurement unit* (IMU)
- A forward facing “time of flight” proximity sensor aids in mapping and object avoidance
- Ground sensing proximity sensors that are used to detect cliffs and the edge of his area; these may also be used in following lines on his charger.

His internal sensing includes:

- Battery voltage, charging; charging temperature
- IMU for orientation position (6-axis)
- Encoders provide feedback on motor rotation

His other articulation & actuators are:

- Vector drives using two independent treads to do skid-steering
- Using his arms Vector can lift, or flip a cube; he can pop a wheelie, or lift himself over a small obstacle.
- Vector can raise and lower his head

Communication (other than user facing):

- Communication with the external world is thru WiFi and Bluetooth LE.

⁴ and possibly a pat on his head?

- Internally RS-232 (CMOS levels) and USB

Motion control

- At the lowest level can control each of the motors speed, degree of rotation, etc. This allows Vector to make quick actions.
- Combined with the internal sensing, he can drive in a straight line and turn very tightly.
- Driving is done using a skid-steering, kinematic model
- To do all this, the motion control takes in feedback from the motor encoder, IMU-gyroscope. May also use the image processing for SLAM-based orientation and movement.

Guidance, path planning

- Vector plans a route to his goals – if he knows where his goal is – along a path free of obstacles; he adapts, moving around in changing conditions.
- A*, Rapidly-Expanding Random Tree (RRT), D*-lite
- Paths are represented as arcs, line segments, and turn points

Mapping and Navigation:

- Maps are built using *simultaneous location and mapping* (SLAM) algorithms, using the camera and IMU gyroscope movement tracking, time of flight sensor to measure distances, and particle system algorithms to fill in the gaps.
- The maps are represented uses quad-tree (position, pose)

Behaviour system:

- Variety of behaviors animations
- Goals, linking up to the guidance system to accomplish them
- A simple emotion model to drive selection of behaviours

Emotion model. Dimensions to emotional state

- Happy (also referred to as his default state)
- Confident
- Social
- Stimulated

Vision. This is one of Anki's hallmark: they used vision where others used beacons. For instance iRobot has a set of IR beacons to keep the robots out of areas, and to guide it to the dock. Mint has an IR beacon that the mint robots use to navigate and drive in straight lines. Although Vector's companion cube is powered, this is not used for localization. It has markers that can visually recognized by Vector.

- Illumination sensing
- Motion sensing
- Links to Navigation system for mapping, (SLAM etc)
- Recognizing marker symbols in his environment

- Detecting faces and gaze detection allows him to maintain eye contact

4. PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Vector's design includes a well thought out system to protect privacy. This approach protects the following from strangers gaining access:

- Photos taken by Vector
- The image stream from the camera
- The audio stream from the microphone — if it had been finished being implemented
- Information about the owner
- Control of the robot's movement, speech & sound, display, etc.

Vector's software is protected from being altered in a way that would impair its ability to secure the above.

5. COZMO

We shouldn't discuss Vector without mentioning the prior generation. Vector's body is based heavily on Cozmo; the mechanical refinements and differences are relatively small. Nathaniel Monso's team designed Cozmo's hardware. Vector's software architecture also borrows from Cozmo and extends it greatly. Andrew Stein was Cozmo's original (but not only) software developer. Brian Chapados's team developed the Android and iOS applications.

Many of Vector's behaviours, senses, and functions were first implemented in Cozmo (and/or in the smartphone application). One notable difference is that Cozmo did not include a microphone.

6. ALEXA INTEGRATION

Vector includes Amazon Alexa functionality, but it is not intimately integrated. Vector only acts like an Echo Dot. By using the key word "Alexa," Vector will suppress his activity, face and speaking, and the Alexa "echo dot" functionality takes over. Vector has no awareness of Alexa's to-do list, reminders, messages, alarms, notifications, question-and-answers, and vice-versa.

The most likely reason for including Alexa is the times: everything had to include Alexa to be hip, or there would be great outcry. Including Alexa may have also been intended to provide functionality and features that Anki couldn't, to gain experience with the features that Amazon provides, and (possibly) to more tightly integrate those features into Anki products while differentiating themselves in other areas.

Alexa clearly took a lot of effort to integrate, and a lot of resources:

“[Alexa Voice Service] solutions for Alexa Built-in products required expensive application processor-based devices with >50MB memory running on Linux or Android”⁵

Alexa's software resources consume as much space Vector's main software. And the software is not power efficient. Even casual use of Alexa noticeably reduces battery life, and (anecdotally) increases the processor temperature.

⁵ <https://aws.amazon.com/blogs/iot/introducing-alexa-voice-service-integration-for-aws-iot-core/>

Alexa's SDK and services have continued to evolve. New Alexa SDKs allow simpler processors and smaller code by acting as little more than a remote microphone.

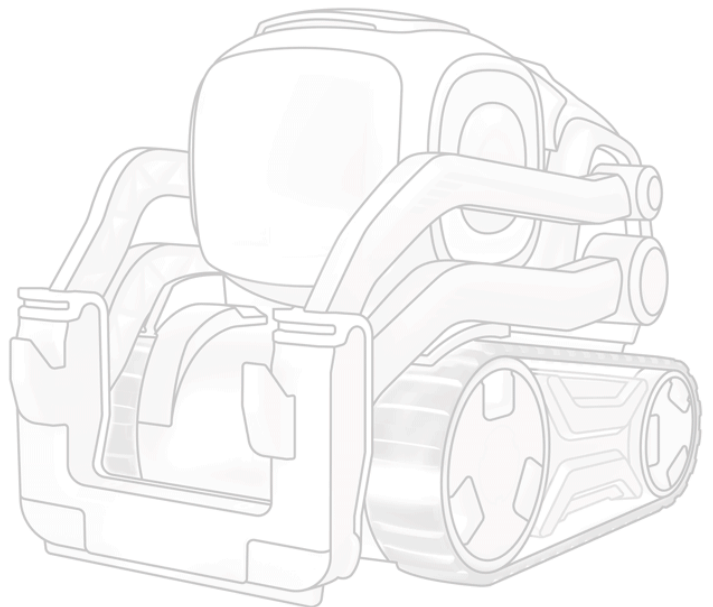
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PART I

Electronics Design

This part provides an overview of the design of the electronics in Vector and his accessories

- VECTOR'S ELECTRICAL DESIGN. A detailed look at the electrical design of Vector.
- ACCESSORY ELECTRICAL DESIGN. A look at the electrical design of Vectors accessories.



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CHAPTER 3

Electronics design description

This chapter describes the electronic design of the Anki Vector:

- Design Overview
- Detailed design of the main board
- Detailed design of the base-board
- Power characteristics

7. DESIGN OVERVIEW

Vector's design includes numerous some to sense and interact with his environment, other to interact with people and express emotion and behaviour.

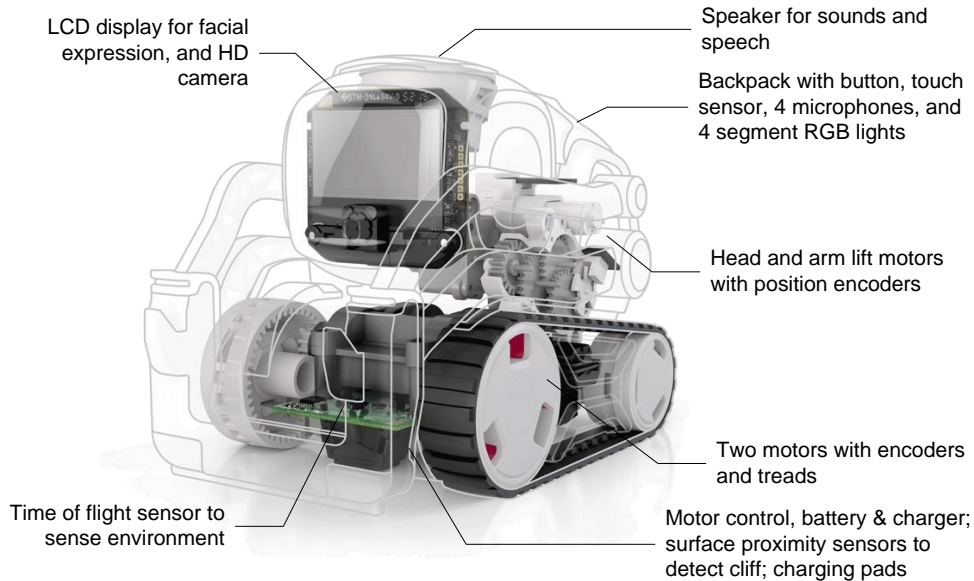


Figure 2: Vector's main elements

Vector's functional elements are:

Element	Description
backpack	The top of Vector, where he has a button, segmented lights, and a touch sensor.
battery	There is an internal battery pack (3.7v 320 mAh) that is used as Vector's source of energy.
button	A momentary push button is used to turn Vector on, to cause him to listen – or to be quiet (and not listen) – to reset him (wiping out his personality and robot-specific information).
camera	Vector uses an HD camera to visualize his environment, and recognize his human companions.
charging pad	Two pads on the bottom are used to replenish the energy in the battery pack from the dock.
LCD display	An IPS LCD, with an active area is 23.2mm x 12.1mm. It has a resolution of 184 x 96 pixels, with RGB565 color.
microphones	There are 4 internal microphone(s) to listen to commands and ambient activity level. Employs beam forming to localize sounds.
motors & encoders	There are four motors with single-step optical encoders to measure their position and approximate speed. One motor controls the tilt of the head assembly. Another controls the lift of his arms. Two are used to drive him in a skid-steering fashion.
segmented RGB lights	There are 4 LEDs used to indicate when he is on, needs the charger, has heard the wake word, is talking to the Cloud, can't detect WiFi, is booting, is resetting (wiping out his personality and robot-specific information).
speaker	A speaker is used to play sounds, and for speech synthesis
surface proximity sensors	4 infrared proximity sensors are used to detect the surface beneath Vector – and to detect drop offs ("cliffs") at the edge of his driving area.
time of flight sensor	A time of flight sensor is used to aid in mapping (by measuring distances) and object avoidance.
touch sensor	A touch allows Vector to detect petting and other attention.

Table 1: Vector's main elements

Vector has 6 circuit boards

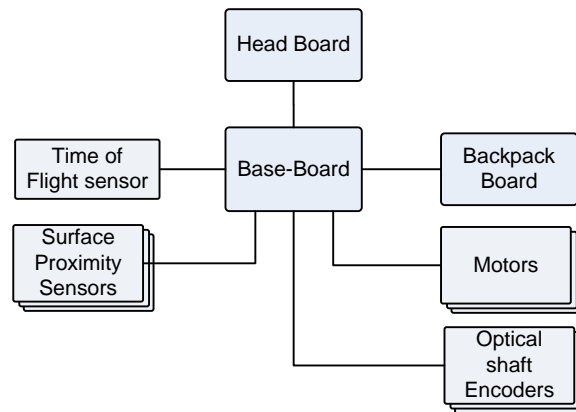
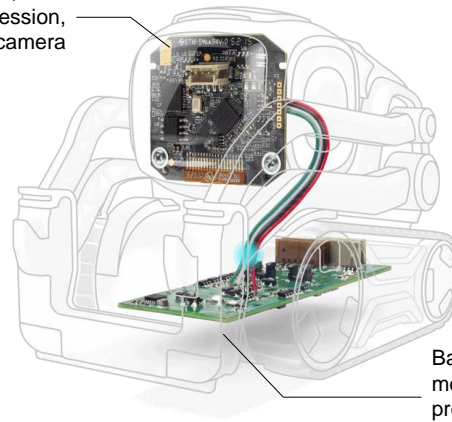


Figure 3: Circuit board topology

The main two boards are the head-board where the major of Vector's processing occurs, and the base-board, which drives the motors and connects to the other boards.

Main circuit board, LCD display for facial expression, and HD camera



Base board for controlling motors, charging battery; proximity sensors to detect cliff; charging pads

Figure 4: Vector's main microcontroller circuit boards

The table below summarizes the boards:

Circuit Board	Description
backpack board	The backpack board has 4 RGB LEDs, 4 MEMS microphones, a touch wire, and a button. This board connects to the base-board.
base-board	Drives the motor, power management battery charger
encoder-boards	The two encoder boards have single opto-coupler encoder each. The encoder is used to monitor the position of the arms and head, either as driven by the motor, or by a person manipulating them.
head-board	The head board includes the main processor, flash & RAM memory storage, an IMU, and a PMIC. The WiFi and Bluetooth LE are built into the processor. The camera and LCD are attached to the board, thru a flex tape. The speaker is also attached to this board.
time of flight sensor board	The time of flight sensor is on a separate board, allowing it to be mounted in Vector's front.

Table 2: Vector's circuit boards

7.1. POWER SOURCE AND DISTRIBUTION TREE

Vector is powered by a rechargeable battery pack, and the energy is distributed by the base-board:

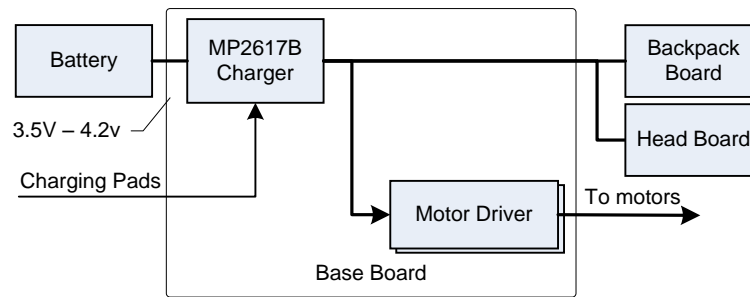


Figure 5: Power distribution

The MP2617B is a central element to managing the battery. It acts as a battery charger, a power switch and power converter for the whole system.

- When Vector is going into an *off* state – such as running too low on power, going into a ship state before first use, or has been turned off by a human companion – the MP2617B charger and power converted can be signaled to turn off
- When Vector is turned off the boards are not energized. The exception is that the high side of the push button is connected to the battery. When closed, the signals the MP2617B to connect the battery to the rest of the system, powering it up.
- The MP2617B is also responsible for charging the battery. There are two pads that mate the dock to supply energy to charge the battery.

In many rechargeable lithium ion battery systems there is a coulomb counter to track the state of charge. Vector does not have one. The need for recharge is triggered solely on the battery voltage.

Excessive current demand – such as from a stalled motor – can trigger a system brown-out and shutdown.

8. THE BACKPACK BOARD

The backpack board is effectively daughter board to the base-board. It provides extra IO and a couple of smart peripherals:

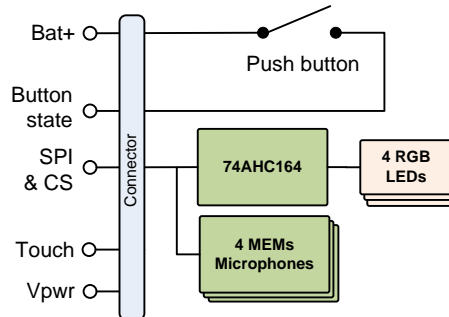


Figure 6: Backpack board block diagram

The table below summarizes the functional elements of the backpack board:

Elements	Description
74AHC164	A SPI-based GPIO expander. This is used to drive the RGB LEDs.
microphones	There are 4 internal MEMS microphone(s). The microphones are accessed via SPI, in an output only mode. These are designated MK1, MK2, MK3, MK4
push button	A momentary push button is connected to the battery terminal, allowing a press to wake Vector, as well as signal the processor(s).
RGB LEDs	There are 4 RGB LEDs to make up a segmented display. Each segment can be illuminated individually but may share a colour configuration with its counterparts.
touch sensor	A touch-sensing wire (and passive components)

Table 3: Backpack board functional elements

8.1. BACKPACK CONNECTION

The backpack connection includes:

- Power and ground connections. This includes connection to the battery rail.
- The touch wire as an analog signal to the base-board
- A quasi digital signal out from the momentary push button
- (at least) Two chip selects
- A SPI-like set of clock, master-out-slave-in (MOSI) and *two* master-in-slave-out (MISO) signals

8.2. OPERATION

The touch sensor conditioning and sensing is handled by the base-board. The touch sense wire is merely an extension from the base-board through the backpack board.

The push-button is wired to the battery. When pressed, the other side of the push button signals both base-board microcontroller, and (if Vector is off) the charger chip to connect power. The theory of operation will be discussed further in the base-board section below.

The 74AHC164 serial-shift-register is used as a GPIO expander. It takes a chip select, clock signal and serial digital input, which are used to control up to 8 outputs. The inputs determine the state of 8 digital outputs used to control the RGB LEDs. More on this below.

Each of the 4 MEMS microphones take a chip select, clock signal, and provide a serial digital output. The clock signal (and one of the chip selects) is shared with the 74AHC164.

The base-board sets the digital outputs, and reads 2 microphones at a time. It reads all four microphones by alternating the chip selects to select which two are being accessed. (This will be discussed in the base-board section).

8.2.1 The LED controls

8 outputs are not enough to drive 4 RGB LEDs (each with 3 inputs) independently. 3 of the LEDs are always the same colour – but illuminated independently. The 4th LED may have a different colour and is illuminated independently.

Backpack LED control scheme

- D1 has separate red and green signals from the 74AHC164. It may share blue with the others.
- 3 signals from the 74AHC164 – Red, Green, and Blue – are shared for D2, D3, D4.⁶
- D2, D3, and D4 each have individual bottom drives

With care the LEDs can be individually turned on and off (the low sides), and selected for a colour (the red, green, and blue signals).

⁶ If I'm seeing the chip right, the ground, green and blue are wired together but that doesn't make sense in the truth-table to get the effect of the LED patterns

9. THE BASE-BOARD

The base board is a battery charger, smart IO expander, and motor controller. It connects the battery to the rest of the system and is responsible for charging it. It is based on an STM32F030 which acts as second processor in the system.

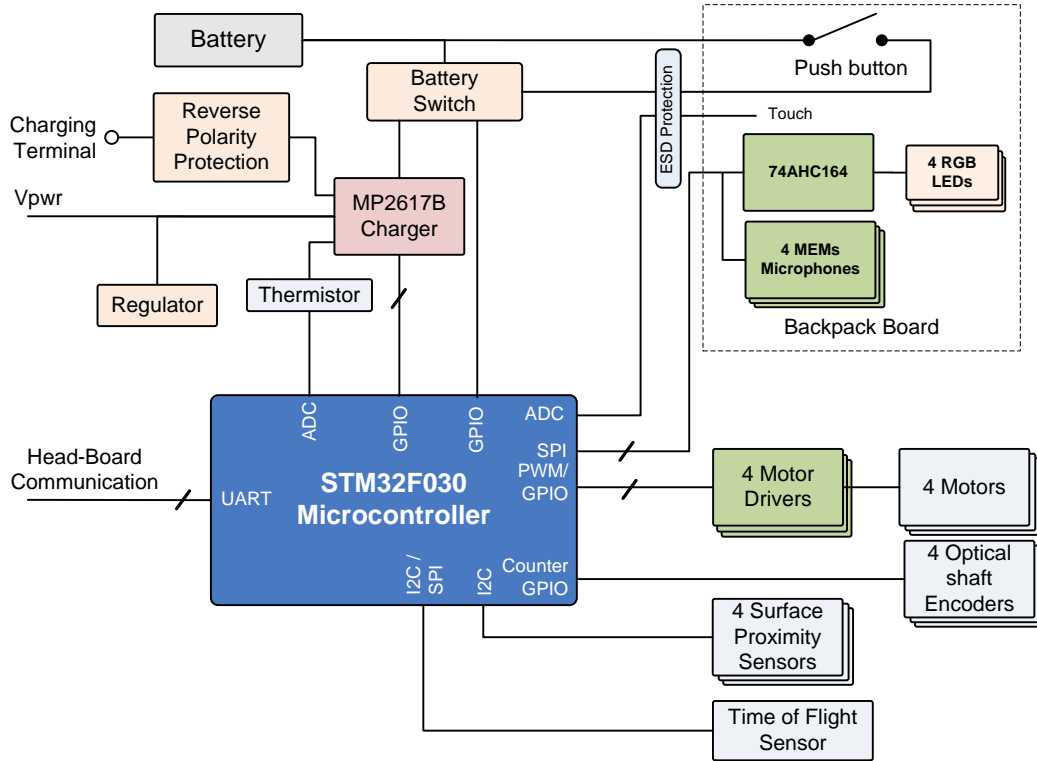


Figure 7: Base-board block diagram

The functional elements of the base-board are:

Element	Description
battery	An internal, rechargeable battery pack (3.7v 320 mAh)
battery switch	Used to disconnect the battery to support off-mode (such as when stored) and to reconnect the battery with a button press.
charging pad	Two pads on the bottom are used to replenish the energy in the battery pack from the dock.
motor driver	There are four motor drivers, based on an H-bridge design. This allows a motor to be driven forward and backward.
motors	There are four motors with to measure their position and approximate speed. One motor controls the tilt of the head assembly. Another controls the lift of his arms. Two are used to drive him in a skid-steering fashion.
MP2617B charger	The Monolithic Power Systems MP2617B serves as the battery charger. It provides a state of charge to the microcontroller.
optical shaft encoder	An opto-coupler, in conjunction with a slotted disc on a motor's shaft, which is used to measure a motors speed.
regulator	A 3.3v used to supply power to the microcontroller and logical components.
reverse polarity protection	Protects the circuitry from energy being applied to the charging pads in reverse polarity, such

Table 4: The base-board functional elements

	as putting Vector onto the charging pads in reverse.
STM32F030 microcontroller	The “brains” of the baseboard, used to drive the motors, and RGB LEDs; to sample the microphones, time of flight sensor, proximity sensor, temperature, and the touch sense, and monitoring the battery charge state. It communicates with the head-board.
surface proximity sensors	4 infrared proximity sensors are used to detect the surface beneath Vector – and to detect drop offs (“cliffs”) at the edge of his driving area.
thermistor ⁷	A temperature sense resistor used measure the battery pack temperature; it is used to prevent overheating during recharge.
VL53L1 time of flight sensor	A ST Microelectronics VL53L1 time of flight sensor is used to measure distance to objects in front of Vector. This sensor is connected by I ² C.

9.1. POWER MANAGEMENT

The battery charging is based on a MP2617B IC, which also provides some protection functions. There is no Coulomb counter; the state of charge is based solely on the battery voltage.

9.1.1 Battery pack

Vector’s single-cell lithium battery is connected to the baseboard and laid on top of the PCBA. The battery is not removable. The battery label has it as a 3.7v 320mAh pack. It is rechargeable. The pack is not a “smart” battery – it only has positive and negative leads but lacks an onboard temperature sensor or BMS.

9.1.2 Protections

The charging pads have reverse polarity protection.

The MP2617B has an over-current cut off. If the current exceeds ~5A (4-6A), the battery will be disconnected from the system bus. Such a high-current indicates a short. There is no fuse.

The MP2617B has a low voltage cut off. If the battery voltage drops below ~2.4 (2.2-2.7V) the battery will be disconnected from the system bus (TBD) until the battery voltage rises above ~2.6V (2.4-2.8V).

The MP2617B has a temperature sense. If the temperature exceeds a threshold, charging is paused until the battery cools. The temperature sense is not on the battery. It is likely on the circuit board, or possibly top of the battery retention.

⁷ Not identified. The customer service screen does show a battery pack temperature, indicating that this is reported.

9.1.3 Battery connect/disconnect

To preserve the battery there is a need to isolate the battery from the rest of the system when in an off state. If there is minute current draw, the battery will irreversibly deplete while in storage even before the first sale. This constraint shapes the battery disconnect-reconnect logic. The schematic below shows one way to do this:

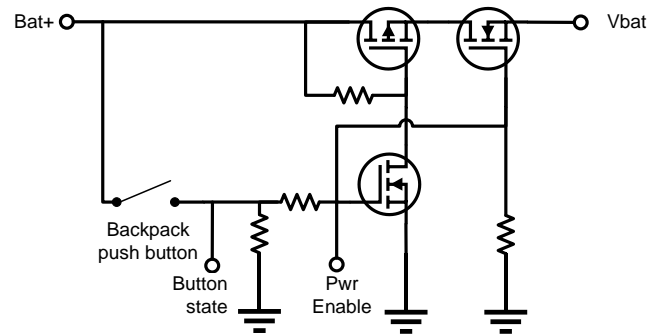


Figure 8: A representative battery connect switch

Two MOSFETs (a PFET and NFET)⁸ act as a switch. These are in a single package, the DMC2038LVT. (This part is also used in the motor drivers.)

- When the system is in an off state, the MOSFETs are kept in an off state with biasing resistors. The PFET's gate is biased high with a resistor. The NFET gate is biased low, to ground. There is no current flow. Two MOSFETs are needed due to internal body diodes. The PFET body diode would allow current to flow from the battery (from the source to the drain). However, this current is blocked by the NFET body diode, which has a different polarity
- The push button can wake the system. When the button is closed, the battery terminal (Bat+) is connected to the gate of the NFET, turning it on. A second NFET is also energized, pulling the PFET gate to ground, turning it on as well. When the button is open, Bat+ is not connected to anything, so there is no leakage path draining the battery.
- To keep the system energized when the button is open, the STM32F030 MCU must drive the Pwr Enable line high, which has the same effect as the button closed. The gate threshold voltage is 1V, well within the GPIO range of the MCU.
- The MCU can de-energize the system by pulling Pwr Enable line low. The switches will open, disconnect the battery.
- The MCU needs to be able to sense the state of the button while Pwr Enable is pulled high. The MCU can do this by sampling the Button State signal. This signal is isolated from Pwr Enable by a large resistor and pulled to ground by smaller resistor. This biases the signal to ground while the button is open.

This circuit also provides reverse polarity protection. It will not close the switch if the battery is connected backwards.

9.1.4 Charging

The charging station pads are connected to a MP2617B charger IC thru a reverse polarity protection circuit. The reverse polarity protection⁹ is a DMG2305UX PFET in a diode

charging station pads

⁸ Q11 and/or Q12

⁹ Q14

configuration. This approach has much lower losses than using an equivalent diode.

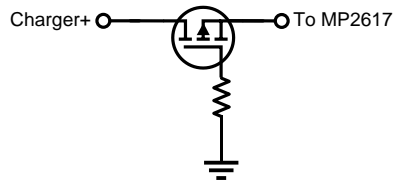


Figure 9: A representative PFET based reversed polarity protection

The MP2617B internally switches the charger input voltage to supply the system with power, and to begin charging the battery. This allows the charger to power the system even when the battery is depleted, or disconnected.

supplying power from the charging station

The presence of the dock power, and the state of MP2617B (charging or not) are signaled to the microcontroller.

The charger goes through different states as it charges the battery. Each state pulls a different amount of current from the charging pads and treats the battery differently.

charging states

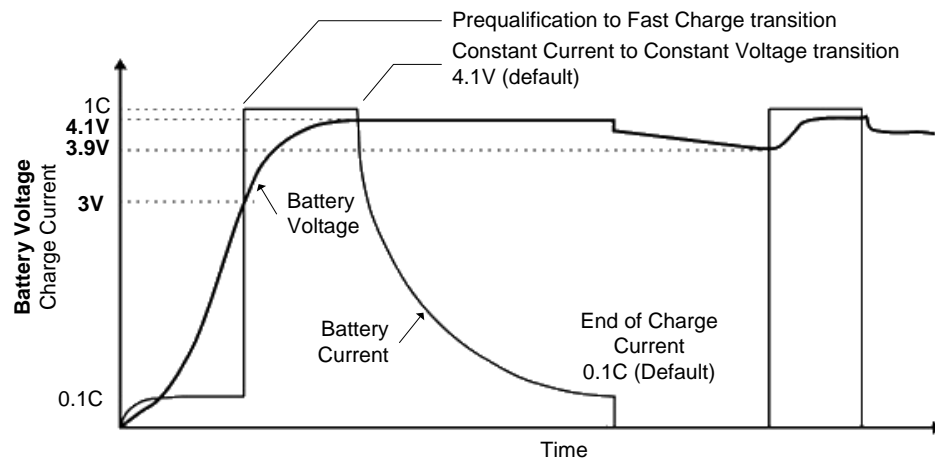


Figure 10: Charging profile (adapted from Texas Instruments)

The basic idea is that the charger first applies a low current to the battery to bring it up to a threshold; this is called *prequalification* in the diagram. Then it applies a high current, call *constant current*. Once the battery voltage has risen to a threshold, the charger switches to *constant voltage*, and the current into the battery tapers off. I refer to the data sheet for more detail.

constant current
constant voltage

The MP2617B measures the battery temperature using a thermistor. If the temperature exceeds a threshold, charging is paused until the battery cools. The microcontroller also samples this temperature.

The MP2617B supports limiting the input current, to accommodate the capabilities of external USB power converts. There are four different possible levels that the IC may be configured for: 2A is the default limit, 450mA to support USB2.0 limits, 825mA to support USB3.0 limits, and a custom limit that can be set by resistors. The input limit appears to be set for either default (up to ~2A input), or a programmable input.

input current limits

Commentary. In my testing, using a USB battery pack charging pulls up to 1A during the constant current, then falls off to 100mA-200mA during constant voltage, depending on the

Is the charger
damaging the battery?

head-board's processing load. Stepped down to the ~4V battery the applied current at peak is approximately 1A.¹⁰ This seems far too high.

Battery cells are normally charged at no more than a "1C" rate – in this case, the battery maximum charge rate should be 320mA at max. The IC data sheet supports a charging rate up to 2A.

My speculation is that, intentionally or unintentionally, the charger is configured for the default input limit of 2A and supports a faster charge. It is possible that the impact to battery life was considered low. My analysis could be wrong. As a preventative measure, I have a current limiter between my USB power adapter and Vector's charging dock.¹¹

9.1.5 Brown-out

The motor stall current is enough to cause Vector to brown-out and shut down unexpectedly.

motor stall & brown out effects

This indicates two possible mechanisms:

- If the system browns out the STM32F030, the MCU will no longer hold the power switch closed, and the system power will be disconnected.
- If the current exceeds a threshold, the MP2617B will disconnect power to the system. This threshold is very high – ~5A – and is unlikely to ever be encountered in operation.

Commentary: It may be interesting to modify either the MCU's Vdd to have a larger retaining capacitor, or to add a current limiting mechanism for the motors, such as an inline resistor.

9.2. ELECTRO-STATIC DISCHARGE (ESD) PROTECTION

The base-board employs a Vishay GMF05, TVS diode (U4) for electro-static discharge (ESD) protection, likely on the pushbutton and touch input.

9.3. STM32F030 MICROCONTROLLER

The base-board is controlled by a STM32F030C8 microcontroller (MCU). This processor essentially acts as a smart IO expander and motor controller.

The MCU's digital inputs:

- 4 optical shaft encoders, one for each motor (left, right, head, lift)
- Momentary push button
- 4 IR proximity sensor used to detect cliffs
- 2 charger state

The MCU's digital outputs:

- 4 motors enable
- 4 motors direction
- charger enable
- 3 chip selects

The MCU's analog inputs:

- Touch

¹⁰ Other reports suggest up to 2As into the battery, possible with the use of high-power USB adapters intended to support tablet recharge.

¹¹ 1Ω on the USB power. I tried 1Ω -14Ω; these should have limited the current to 1A and 500mA respectively. Instead, Vector would only pull 40mA - 370mA; in many cases, not enough to charge.

- Battery voltage
- Temperature sensor (picks off the thermistor used by the MP2617)

The communication:

- 2 SPI, to LED outputs, from microphones. Uses an SPI MCLK to clock out the state, and MOSI to send the state of that IO channel
- I2C for communication with the time of flight sensor
- UART, for communication with the head board

Note: The microcontroller does not have an external crystal¹² and uses an internal RC oscillator instead.

9.3.1 Manufacturing test connector

The base-board does include pads that appear to be intended for programming and test at manufacturing time.

9.3.2 Firmware updates

The firmware is referred to as “syscon”. The microcontroller includes a boot loader, allowing the firmware to be updated by the head-board. The firmware can be updated in OTA software releases.

Future changes to the base-board firmware will require expertise. The STM32F030 firmware can be analyzed by the syscon.dfu file (or be extracted with a ST-Link) and disassembled. Shy of recreating the firmware source codes, the patches replace a key instruction here and there with a jump to the patch, created in assembly (most likely) code to fix or add feature, then jump back.

Emulation (such as QEM-STM32) , ST-link (\$25) and a development environment will be required to debug and modify the firmware initially. The development environment ranges from free to several thousand dollars, the later being the more productive tools.

9.4. SENSING

9.4.1 Time of Flight sensor

The MCU interfaces with a ST Microelectronics VL53L1 time of flight sensor, which can measure the distance to objects in front of vector. It “has a usable range 30mm to 1200mm away (max useful range closer to 300mm for Vector) with a field of view of 25 degrees.”¹³

These sensors work by timing how long it takes for a coded pulse to return. The time value is then converted to a distance. Items too close return the pulse faster than the sensor can measure. The measured distance is available to the microcontroller over I²C.

9.4.2 Proximity sensing

Has 4 IR proximity sensors that are used to detect drops offs, or “cliffs.” The exact model hasn’t been identified, but the Everlight EAAPMST3923A2 is a typical proximity sensor. The sensor is an LED and IR detector pair. The sensor reports, via I²C, the brightness sensed by the detector. This are often pulsed, to reject to sunlight; and use a configurable threshold to reduce sensitivity to ambient light.

¹² as far as I can see

¹³ Anki SDK, in the proximity.py file

9.4.3 Touch sensing

The touch sensing works by alternating pulsing and sampling (with the ADC) the touch wire. The samples will vary “by various environmental factors such as whether the robot is on its charger, being held, humidity, etc.”¹⁴

9.5. MOTOR DRIVER AND CONTROL

Each motor driver is an H-bridge, allowing a brushed-DC motor to turn in either direction.

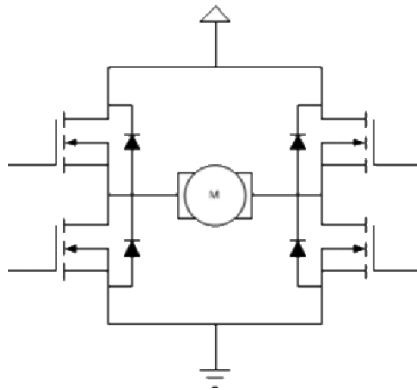


Figure 11: Motor driver H-bridge

Each side of the H-bridge based on the DMC2038LVT, which has a P-FET and N-FET in each package. Two of these are needed for each motor.

The MCU (probably) independently controls the high side and low side to prevent shoot thru. This is done by delaying a period of time between turning off a FET and turning on a FET.

The motors can be controlled with a control loop that takes feedback from the optical encoder to represent speed and position.

9.6. COMMUNICATION

The base-board communicates with the head-board via RS-232 3.3V (3 Mbits/sec¹⁵). As the MCU does not have a crystal, there may be communication issues from clock drift at extreme temperatures; since Vector is intended for use at room temperature, the effect may be negligible.

The firmware can be updated over the serial communication by the head-board.

The communication with the backpack board is special. Two microphones are read at a time, using a shared SPI clock and chip select. The process can be:

SPI communication with 2 microphones simultaneously

1. The first chip select is asserted
2. A 16-bit SPI transfer is initiated on two SPI ports nearly simultaneously; the clock and data output (MOSI) on the second is ignored. This may be done carefully in code with as little as 1-instruction cycle skew.
 - a. This transfer sends the state of the RGB LED's to the 74AHC164 chip
 - b. The receiver accepts 16-bits each from the microphone 1 and 3.
3. After completion, the first chip select is de-asserted, and the second chip select is asserted.

¹⁴ Anki SDK, in the touch.py file

¹⁵ Value from analyzing the RAMPOST program. Melanie T measured it on an oscilloscope and estimated it to be 2Mbps.

4. A 16-bit SPI transfer is initiated on two SPI ports nearly simultaneously; the clock and data output (MOSI) on the second is ignored. This transfers 16-bits each from the microphone 2 and 4.
5. After completion, the second chip select is de-asserted

The microphones are sampled a rate of 15625 samples/sec.

10. THE HEAD-BOARD (THE MAIN PROCESSOR BOARD)

The head-board handles the display, playing sounds, communication, and all of Vector's real processing. It is powered by a quad-core Arm-A7 Qualcomm APQ8009 microprocessor. The processor also connects to Bluetooth LE and WiFi transceivers, an HD camera, LCD display, speakers and an IMU.

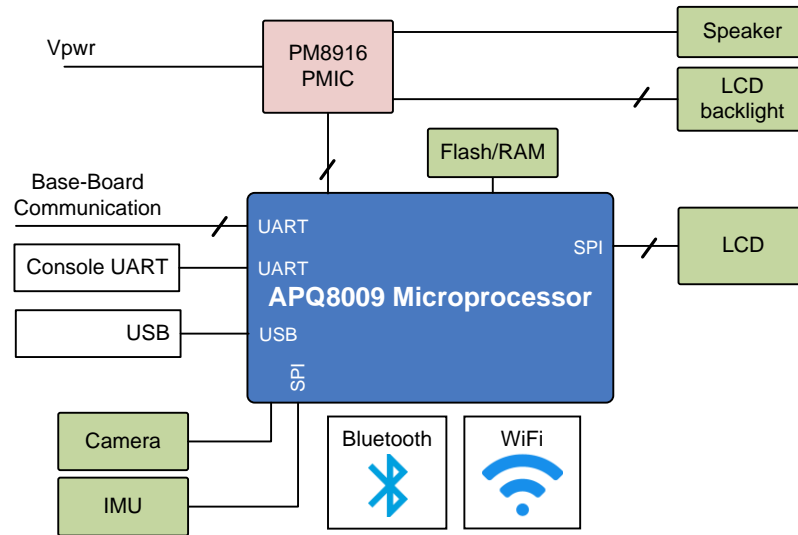


Figure 12: Head-board block diagram

The head-board's functional elements are:

Element	Description
Bluetooth LE transceiver	A Bluetooth LE transceiver is built into the package
camera	Vector uses a 720P camera to visualize his environment and recognize his human companions.
flash/RAM	Flash and RAM are provided by single external package, a Kingston 04EMCP04-NL3DM627 mixed memory chip with 4 GB flash and 512MB RAM.
inertial measurement unit (IMU)	The headboard includes a 6-axis IMU – gyroscope and accelerometer – used for navigation and motion control.
LCD backlight	There are two LEDs used to illuminate the LCD display.
LCD display	An IPS LCD, with an active area is 23.2mm x 12.1mm. It has a resolution of 184 x 96 pixels, with RGB565 color.
microprocessor	The head-board is based on a Qualcomm APQ8009 (Snapdragon 212). The processor is a quad-core Arm A7 (32-bit) CPU.
power management IC (PMIC)	The PM8916 power management IC provides voltage regulation for the processor, flash/RAM and other parts; it also provides audio out to the speaker and controls the LCD backlight.

Table 5: The head-boards functional elements

speaker	A speaker is used to play sounds, and for speech synthesis
WiFi transceiver	An 802.11AC WiFi transceiver is built into the processor package

10.1. THE APQ8009 PROCESSOR

The head-board is based on the Qualcomm “Snapdragon 212” APQ8009 SOC. It is a quad-core processor; each core is a 32-bit ARM Cortex A7. It also includes a DSP (“Hexagon 536”), and GPU (Adreno 304). It also includes WiFi and Bluetooth LE transceivers. The processor has interfaces to external memory, for the camera (using MIPI), the display, and the audio playback.

The APQ8009 processor is a sibling to the MSM8909 processor employed in cell phones, where APQ is short for “application processor Qualcomm” and MSM is short for “mobile station modem.” The difference is that the later includes some form of modem, such as HPSA, CDMA, or LTE. Both designators are used in software code-bases employed with Vector. The most likely reason is the naming of registers, drivers, and other useful software didn't carefully limit the use of MSMxxxx references to just the processors with modems.

10.2. SPEAKERS

The speaker is driven at 16bits, single channel, with a sample rate of 8000-16025 samples/sec.

10.3. CAMERA

Vector has a 720p camera with a 120° field of view. The camera is calibrated at manufacturing time.

The cameras power control is on GPIO #83

10.4. THE LCD

Vector's LCD is a backlit IPS display. The processor is connected to the LCD via SPI. Two LEDs are used to illuminate the LCD. The backlight is PWM controlled by the PM8916 PMIC.

LCD display

The prior generation, Cozmo, used an OLED display for his face and eyes. OLEDs are susceptible to burn-in and uneven dimming or discoloration of overused pixels. Anki addressed this with two accommodations. First it gave the eyes regular motion, looking around and blinking. Second, the LCD's illuminated rows were regularly alternated to give a retro-technology interlaced row effect, like old CRTs.

US Patent 20372659

Vector's IPS display gives a smoother imagery that is much less susceptible to burn-in, at the expense of higher power.

10.5. TRIM, CALIBRATION SERIAL NUMBERS AND KEYS

Each Vector has a set of per unit calibrations:

- The camera is calibrated
- The IMU is calibrated

- The motor power is calibrated¹⁶

There are per unit keys, MAC addresses and serial numbers

- Each processor has its own unique key, used to with the Trust Zone
- The WiFi and Bluetooth have assigned, unique MAC addresses.
- Each Vector has an assigned serial number

10.6. MANUFACTURING TEST CONNECTOR/INTERFACE

It is a common practice to include at least one interface on a product for use during manufacture. This is used to load software and firmware, unique ids – WiFi MACs, serial number – to perform any calibration steps and to perform run-up checks that the device functions / is assembled correctly. It is intended to be a fast interface that doesn't cause yield fallout. Typically (but there are exception) this is not radio based, as they can interfere or have fiddly issues.

The USB interface is used to load firmware. The microprocessors include a built-in boot-loader (ABOOT), which includes support for loading firmware into the devices flash.

For the other functions, there are three possibilities

- There is a UART, that provides a boot console, but does not accept input
- There is a USB connector that probably is used to load firmware.
- The WiFi, once MAC addresses have been loaded into the unit

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<https://www.st.com/resource/en/datasheet/vl5311x.pdf>

US Patent 20372659 A1; Nathaniel Monson, Andrew Stein, Daniel Casner, *Reducing Burn-in of Displayed Images*, Anki, 2017 Dec 28

CHAPTER 4

Accessory Electronics design description

This chapter describes the electronic design of the Anki Vector accessories:

- The charging station
- The companion cube

12. CHARGING STATION

The charging station is intended to provide energy to the Vector, allowing it to recharge.

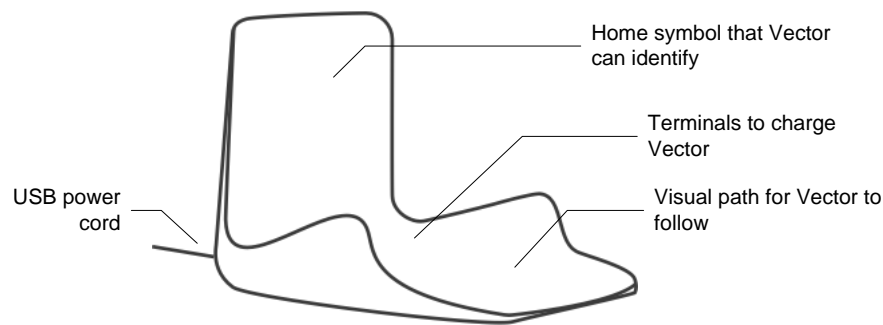


Figure 13: Charging station main features

The charging station has a USB cable that plugs into an outlet adapter or battery. The adapter or battery supplies power to the charging station. The base of the station has two terminals to supply +5V (from the power adapter) to Vector, allowing him to recharge. The terminals are offset in such a way to prevent Vector from accidentally being subject to the wrong polarity. Vector has to be backed into charging station in mate with the connectors. Vector face-first, even with his arms lifted, will not contact the terminals.

The charging station has an optical marker used by Vector to identify the charging station and its pose (see chapter TBD).

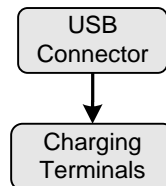


Figure 14: Charging station block diagram

13. CUBE

This section describes the companion cube accessory. The companion cube is a small toy for Vector play with. He can fetch it, roll it, and use it to pop-wheelies. Each face of the cube has a unique optical marker used by Vector to identify the cube and its pose (see chapter TBD).

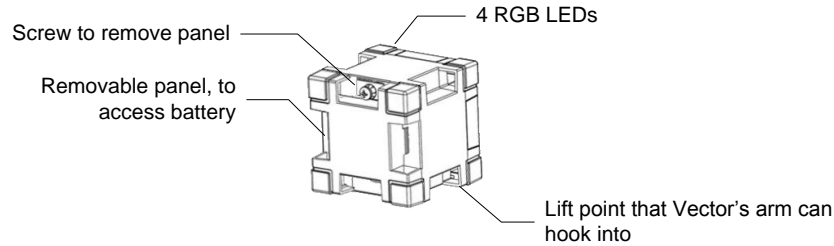


Figure 15: Cube's main features

Although the companion cube is powered, this is not used for localization or pose. The electronics are only used to flash lights for his owner, and to detect when a person taps, moves the cube or changes the orientation.

The cube has holes near the corners to allow the lift to engage, allowing Vector to lift the cube. Not all corners have such holes. The top – the side with the multicolour LEDs – does not have these. Vector is able to recognize the cubes orientation by symbols on each face, and to flip the cube so that it can lift it.

The electronics in the cube are conventional for a small Bluetooth LE accessory:

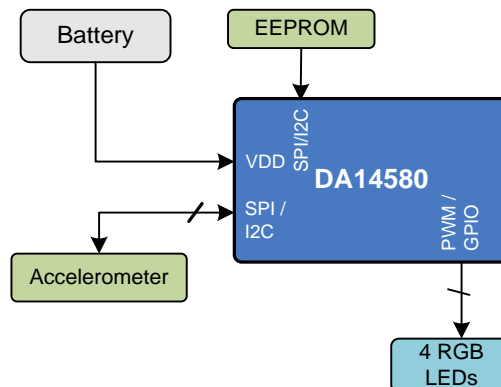


Figure 16: Block diagram of the Cube's electronics

The Cube's electronic design includes the following elements:

Element	Description
accelerometer	Used to detect movement and taps of the cube.
battery	The cube is powered by a 1.5 volt N / E90 / LR1 battery cell. ¹⁷
crystal	The crystal provides the accurate frequency reference used by the Bluetooth LE radio.
Dialog DA14580	This is the Bluetooth LE module (transmitter/receiver, as well as microcontroller and protocol implementation).
EEPROM	The EEPROM holds the updatable application firmware.
RGB LEDs	There are 4 RGB LEDs. They can flash and blink. Unlike the backpack LEDs, two LEDs can

Table 6: The Cube's electronic design elements

¹⁷ The size is similar to the A23 battery, which will damage the cubes electronics.

have independent colors.

The communication protocol is given in Appendix E.

13.1. OVER THE AIR FIELD UPDATES

The DA14580 has a minimal ROM boot loader that initializes hardware, moves a secondary boot loader from “One Time Programmable” ROM (OTP) into SRAM, before passing control to it. The firmware is executed from SRAM to reduce power consumption. The secondary boot loader loads the application firmware from I2C or SPI EEPROM or flash to SRAM and pass control to it.

If the application passes control back to the boot loader – or there isn't a valid application in EEPROM – a new application can be downloaded. The boot loader uses a different set of services and characteristics to support the boot loading process.

13.2. REFERENCES & RESOURCES

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PART II

Basic Operation

This part provides an overview of Vector's software design.

- **THE SOFTWARE ARCHITECTURE.** A detailed look at Vector's overall software architecture and main modules.
- **STARTUP.** A detailed look at Vector's startup and shutdown processes
- **POWER MANAGEMENT.** A detailed look at Vector's architecture for battery monitoring, changing and other power management.
- **AUDIO INPUT AND OUTPUT.**



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CHAPTER 5

Architecture

This chapter describes Vector's software architecture:

- The architecture
- The emotion-behaviour system
- The communication infrastructure
- Internal support

14. OVERVIEW OF VECTOR'S COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Vector's architecture has a structure something like:

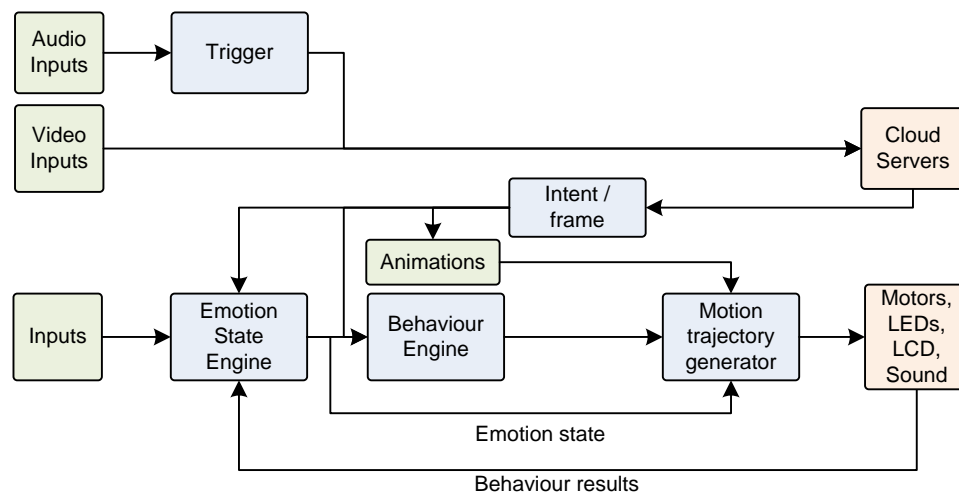


Figure 17: The overall functional block diagram

Fast control loops — to respond quickly — are done on the Vector's hardware. Other items, processing heavy including (but not limited to) speech recognition, natural language processing, and training for faces are sent to the cloud.

Vector is built on a version of Yocto Linux. Anki selected this for a balance of reasons: some form of Linux is required to use the Qualcomm processor, the low up front (and royalty) costs, the availability of tools and software modules. The Qualcomm is a multi-processor, with four main processing cores and a GPU. Vector runs a handful of different application programs, in addition to the OS's foundational service tasks and processes.

explored in Casner, and Wiltz

14.1. APPLICATION SERVICES ARCHITECTURE

The application is divided into the following services

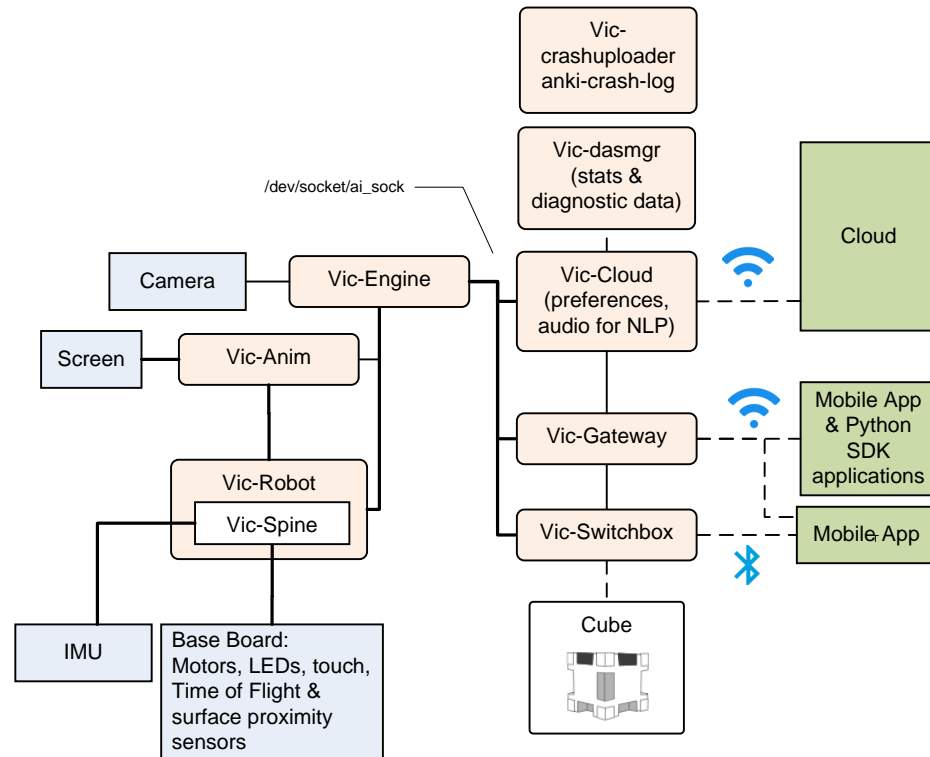


Figure 18: The overall communication infrastructure

There are multiple applications that run:

Services	Speculated purpose
vic-anim	Probably plays multi-track animations (which include motions as well as LCD display and sound) config file: /anki/etc/config/platform_config.json /anki/data/assets/cozmo_resources/webserver/webServerConfig_anim.json
vic-bootAnim	LCD and sound animations during boot
vic-cloud	Probably connects to the cloud services for natural language
vic-crashuploader anki-crash-log	A service that sends logs (especially crash logs and mini-dumps) to remote servers for analysis.
vic-dasmgr	Gathering data on processor and feature usage, possibly intended to serve as a foundation for gathering data when performing experiments on settings and features.
vic-engine	The behaviour / emotion engine. Hooks into the camera face recognizer.
vic-gateway	Responsible for the local API/SDK services available as gRPC services on https.
vic-robot	Basic power management. Resets watchdog timer. Internally has “vic-spine” that manages the sensors.
vic-switchboard	Supports the Bluetooth LE communication interface, including the mobile application protocol (see chapter 12). Routes messages between the other services? Manages the access keys

Table 7: Vector processes

15. STORAGE SYSTEM

Vector's system divides the storage into many regions, primarily based on whether the region is modifiable (and when), and which subsystem manages the data. Appendix D describes the flash partitions and file system structure. See chapter 6 for a description of the partitions used for system start up and restore.

Most of the partitions on the flash storage are not modifiable – and are checked for authenticity (and alteration). These partitions hold the software and assets as delivered by Anki (and Qualcomm) for a particular release of the firmware. They are integrity checked as part of the start procedure. (See Chapter 6 for a description.)

Data that is specific to the robot, such as settings, security information, logs, and user data (such as pictures) are stored in modifiable partitions. Some of this data is erased when the unit is “reset” to factory conditions

These are described below.

15.1. EMR

The EMR partition holds the following information.

- Electronic serial number (ESN). This the same serial number as printed on the bottom of Vector
- Hardware FER (?)
- Model number
- Lot code
- Playpen ready flag
- Playpen passed flag
- Packed out flag
- Packed out date

This information is not modified after manufacture; it persists after a device reset or wipe.

15.2. OEM PARTITION FOR OWNER CERTIFICATES AND LOGS

The OEM partition is a read/writeable ext2 file-system. It is used to hold the SDK certificate folders:

Folder	Description
	The top level holds the log files.
<i>cloud</i>	Holds the SDK TLS certificate and signing keys. With newer firmware, the folder may also hold some other calibration information.
<i>nvStorage</i>	holds some binary “.nvdata” files

Table 8: OEM
partition file hierarchy

16. SECURITY AND PRIVACY

Vector's design includes a well thought-out system to protect against disclosing (i.e. providing to strangers) sensitive information, and allowing the operator to review and delete it at any time:

Anki Security & Privacy Policy

- Photographs taken by Vector are not sent to (nor stored in) a remote server. They are stored in encrypted file system, and only provided to authenticated applications on the local network. Each photograph can be individually deleted (via the mobile application).
- The image stream from Vector's camera is not sent to a remote server. It is only provided to authenticated applications on the local network.
- The data used to recognize faces¹⁸ and the names that Vector knows are not sent to (nor stored in) a remote server. The information is stored in encrypted file system. The list of known faces (and their names) is only provided to authenticated applications on the local network. Any facial recognition data not associated with a name is deleted when Vector goes to sleep. Facial data associated with an individual name can be deleted (along with the name) via the mobile application.
- “[After] you say the wake words, “Hey Vector”, Vector streams your voice command to the cloud, where it is processed. Voice command audio is deleted after processing. Text translations of commands are saved for product improvement not associated with a user.”
- The audio stream from the microphone — if it had been finished being implemented — would have been provided to authenticated applications on the local network.
- Information about the owner
- Control of the robots movement, speech & sound, display, etc. is limited to authenticated applications on the local network.

Vector's software is protected from being altered in a way that would impair its ability to secure the above.

Vector also indicates when it is doing something sensitive:

- When the microphone is actively listening, it is always indicated on the backpack lights (blue).
- The microphone is enabled by default, but only listening for the wake word, unless Vector's microphone has been disabled.
- When the camera is taking a picture (to be saved), Vector makes a sound
- When the camera is XYZ on?
- Unless the backpack lights are all orange, the WiFi is enabled. (All orange indicates it is disabled.)

16.1. ENCRYPTED COMMUNICATION

The communication sent between Vector and the mobile application, SDK application, and the remote. This is done using certificates signed by Anki.

¹⁸ The Anki privacy and security documents logically imply that the face image is not sent to Anki servers to construct a recognition pattern. I would have guessed heavy crunching would have been performed on a server.

16.2. ENCRYPTED FILESYSTEM

The file system with personally identifying information and other data about the owner — photos, account information, WiFi passwords, and so on — is encrypted.

16.3. THE OPERATING SYSTEM

There is a chain of firmware signed by Anki. This is intended to protect Vector's software from being altered in a way that would impair its ability to secure the above information.

Android boot loaders typically include a few powerful (but unchecked) bits that disable the signature checking, and other security features. These bits typically are set either thru commands to the firmware during boot up, by applications, or possibly by hack/exploit. Sometimes this requires disassembling the device and shorting some pins on the circuit board.

Vector doesn't support those bits, nor those commands. Signature checking of the boot loader, kernel and RAM disk can't be turned off.

16.3.1 The possibility for future modifications to Vector's firmware

There may be a way to disable checking of the system file system and its software.

Anki created special Vectors for internal development. The software for these units has a special version of the kernel and RAM disk that does not check system room file system, and makes it writable. This file system has Vector's application soft, supports SSH. This software was tightly controlled, and "only .. available inside the Anki corporate network." For purposes of customizing and updating Vector, this version is essential. (Note: the kernel and RAM disk can't not be modified.) *Jane Fraser, 2019*

Note: the OTA software has a "dev" (or development) set of OTA packages. Those packages are not the same; they are essential software release candidates being pushed out for test purposes.

16.4. AUTHENTICATION

The web services built into Vector require a token. This is used to prove that you have authenticated (with the more capable — and not physically accessible — servers). This authentication is to protect:

- Photos already on Vector
- The image stream from the camera
- The audio stream from the microphone — if it had finished being implemented
- The sensitive owner information
- Controlling the robot

17. CONFIGURATION AND ASSET FILES

The Anki vector software is configured by JSON files. Some of the JSON files were probably created by a person (for the trivial ones). Others were created by scripting / development tools; a few of these were edited by developers. These JSON files are clearly intended to be edited by people:

- The files are cleanly spaced, not in the most compact minimized size

- The JSON parser supports comments, which is not valid JSON. Many files have comments in them. Many have sections of the configuration that are commented out.

17.1. CONFIGURATION FILES

The top-level configuration file provides the paths to the network other configuration files. It is found at:

`/anki/etc/config/platform_config.json`

This path is hardcoded into the vic-dasmgr, and provided in the editable startup files for vic-anim and vic-engine. The configuration file contains a JSON structure with the following fields:

Field	Value	Description & Notes
<code>DataPlatformCachePath</code>	<code>"/data/data/com.anki.victor/cache"</code>	
<code>DataPlatformPersistentPath</code>	<code>"/data/data/com.anki.victor/persistent"</code>	
<code>DataPlatformResourcesPath</code>	<code>"/anki/data/assets/cozmo_resources"</code>	The path to most configuration files and assets

Table 9: The platform config JSON structure

When describing the configuration and asset files, a full path will be provided. When the path is constructed from different parts, the part that is specified in another configuration or binary file will be outlined. The path to a settings file might look like:

`/anki/assets/cozmo_resources/config/engine/settings_config.json`

The path leading up to the settings file (not outlined in red) is specified in an earlier configuration file, usually the platform configuration file described above.

18. SOFTWARE-HARDWARE LAYERS

- Base-board input/output software architecture
- The LCD display
- Camera

18.1. THE BASE BOARD INPUT/OUTPUT

The base-board input-output software has a structure like so:

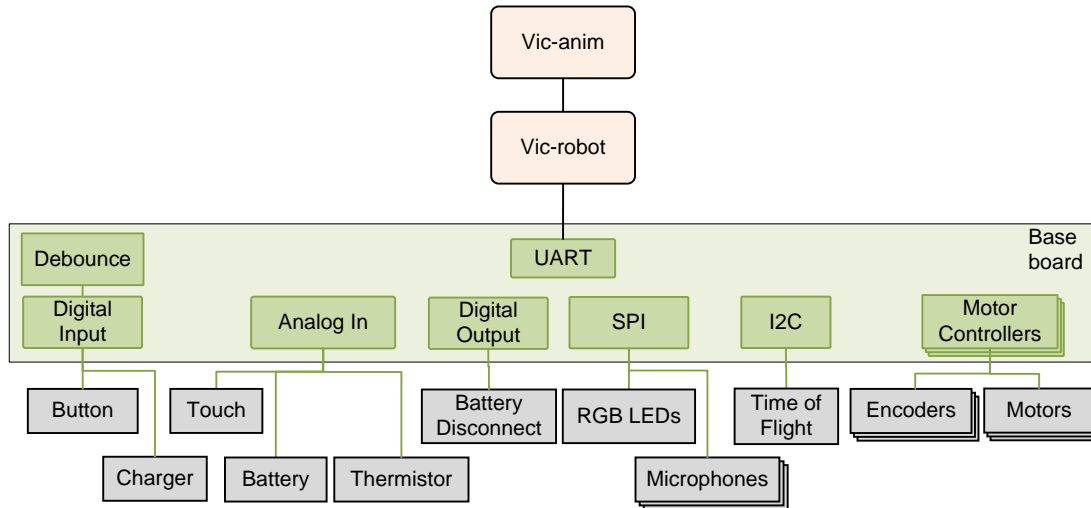


Figure 19: The baseboard-related architecture

18.2. THE LCD DISPLAY

Four different applications may access the display, albeit not at the same time:

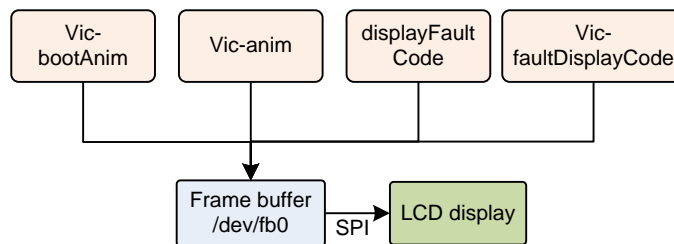


Figure 20: The LCD architecture

Note: `displayFaultCode` is present on Vector, but it is not called by any program.

The LCD is connected to the MPU via an SPI interface (`/dev/spidev1.0`). The frame buffer (`/dev/fb0`) is essentially a buffer with metadata about its width, height, pixel format, and orientation. Application modifies the frame buffer by `write()` or `mmap()` and modifies the bytes. Then the frame buffer has the bytes transfer (via SPI) to the display.

`vic-anim` employs a clever screen compositing system to create Vector's face (his eyes), animate text jumping and exploding, and small videos, such as rain or fireworks.

The `vic-faultDisplayCode` and Customer Care Information Screen of `vic-anim` have a visual aesthetic is unlike the rest of Vector. These modes employ a barebones system for the display.

The text appears to be rendered into the buffer using OpenCV's `putText()` procedure, and transferring it to the display without any further compositing.

18.3. THE CAMERA

The camera subsystem has the following architecture:

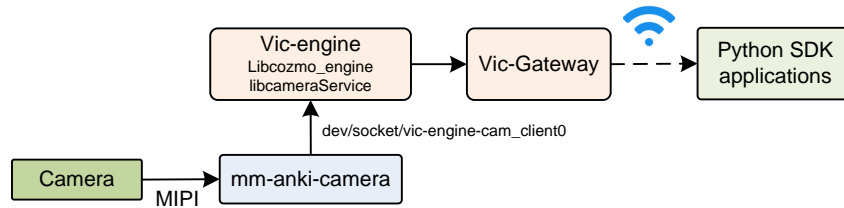


Figure 21: The camera architecture

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<https://anki.com/en-us/company/elemental-platform.html>

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lm80-p0337-

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CHAPTER 6

Startup

This chapter describes Vector’s start up and shutdown processes:

- The startup process
- The shutdown steps

20. STARTUP

Vector’s startup is based on the Android boot loader and linux startup.¹⁹ These are otherwise not relevant to Vector, and their documentation is referred to. The boot process gets quite far before knowing why it booted up or being able to respond in complex fashion.

1. The backpack button is pressed, or Vector is placed into the charger. This powers the base board, and the head-boards.
2. The base-board displays an animation of the backpack LEDs while turning on. If turned on from a button press and the button is released before the LED segments are fully lit, the power will go off. If the held long enough, the head-board will direct the base-board to keep the battery switch closed.

20.1. QUALCOMM’S PRIMARY AND SECONDARY BOOTLOADER

Meanwhile, on the head-board:

1. “Qualcomm’s Primary Boot Loader is verified and loaded into [RAM] memory²⁰ from BootROM, a non-writable storage on the SoC. [The primary boot loader] is then executed and brings up a nominal amount of hardware,” Nolen Johnson
2. The primary boot loader checks to see if a test point is shorted on the board, the unit will go into emergency download (EDL) mode. It is known the when F_USB pad on the head-board is pulled to Vcc, USB is enabled; this may be the relevant pin. Roe Hay
3. If the primary boot loader is not in EDL mode it “then verifies the signature of the next boot loader in the chain [the secondary bootloader], loads it, [and] then executes it.” The secondary boot loader is stored in the flash partition SBL. Nolen Johnson
4. If the secondary boot loader does not pass checks, the primary boot loader will go into emergency down load mode.
5. “The next boot loader(s) in the chain are SBL*/XBL (Qualcomm’s Secondary/eXtensible Boot Loader). These early boot loaders bring up core hardware like CPU cores, the MMU, etc. They are also responsible for bringing up core processes .. [for] TrustZone. The last

¹⁹ An ideal embedded system has a fast (seemingly instant) turn on. Vector’s startup *isn’t* fast. The steps to check the data integrity of the large flash storage – including checking the security signatures – and the complex processes that linux provides each contribute to the noticeable slow turn on time. Checking the signatures is inherently slow, by design.

²⁰ The boot loader is placed into RAM for execution to defeat emulators.

purpose of SBL*/XBL is to verify the signature of, load, and execute `aboot`/ABL [Android boot loader].”

The Android boot loader (`aboot`) is stored on the “`ABOOT`” partition.

The secondary bootloader also supports the Sahara protocol; it is not known how to activate it.

Note: The keys for the boot loaders and TrustZone are generated by Qualcomm, with the public keys programmed into the hardware fuses before delivery to Anki or other customers. The signed key pair for the secondary boot loader is not necessarily the same signed key pair for the `aboot`. They are unique for each of Qualcomm’s customer. Being fuses they cannot be modified, even with physical access.

20.2. ANDROID BOOTLOADER (ABOOT)

1. “`Abboot` brings up most remaining core hardware then in turn normally verifies the signature of the boot image, reports the verify status to Android Verified boot through `dm-verity`... On many devices, `Abboot`/ABL can be configured to skip cryptographic signature checks and allow booting any kernel/boot image.”

- a. On other devices, `aboot` reads the `DEVINFO` partition for a structure. It checks the header of the structure for a magic string (“`ANDROID-BOOT!`”) and then uses the values internally to indicate whether or not the device is unlocked, whether `verity`-mode enabled or disabled, as well as a few other settings. By writing a version of this structure to the partition, the device can be placed into unlock mode.

Roe Hay

Vector does *not* support this method of unlocking.

- b. “The build system calculates the SHA256 hash of the raw `boot.img` and signs the hash with the user’s private key... It then concatenates this signed hash value at the end of raw `boot.img` to generate signed `boot.img`.”
- c. “During bootup, [`Abboot`²¹] strips out the raw `boot.img` and signed hash attached at the end of the image. [`Abboot`] calculates the SHA256 hash of the complete raw `boot.img` and compares it with the hash provided in the `boot.img`. If both hashes match, kernel image is verified successfully.”

Qualcomm LM80
P0436

2. `ABoot` can either program the flash with software via boot loader mode, or load a kernel. The kernel can be flagged to use a recovery RAM disk or mount a regular system.
3. If recovery mode, it will load the kernel and file systems from the active `RECOVERY` partitions.
4. `ABoot` loads the kernel and RAM file system from the active “`BOOT`” partition and passes it command line to perform a check of the boot and RAM file system the signatures.²² The command line is stored in the header of the boot partition; it is checked as part of the signature check of the boot partition and RAM file system.

Many of these elements will be revisited in Chapter 19 where updating `aboot`, `boot`, and system partitions are discussed.

²¹ The Qualcomm document speaks directly about Little Kernel; `ABoot` is based on Little Kernel.

²² The check specifies the blocks on the storage to perform a SHA256 check over and provides expected signature result.

20.3. REGULAR SYSTEM BOOT

The boot partition kernel and RAM disk begin an Anki-specific system check:

1. The RAM file system contains two programs: `init` and `/bin/rampost`. `init` is a shell script and the first program launched by the kernel. This script calls `rampost` to turn on the LCD, its backlight and initiate communication with the base-board. (This occurs ~6.7 seconds after power-on is initiated).
 - a. `rampost` will perform a firmware upgrade of the base-board if its version is out of date. It loads the firmware from `syscon.dfu` (Note: the firmware in the base-board is referred to as `syscon`.)
 - b. `rampost` checks the battery voltage, temperature and error flags. It posts any issues to `/dev/rampost_error`
 - c. All messages from `rampost` are prefixed with “@rampost.”
2. Next, `init` performs a signature check of the system partition to ensure integrity. This is triggered by the command line which includes `dm-verity` options prefixed with “`dm=`”. If the system does not pass checks, `init` fails and exits.²³
 - a. Note: none of the file systems in `fstab` marked for verity checking, so this is the only place where it is performed.
3. The main system file-system is mounted and launches the main system initialization.

The regular boot uses `systemd` to allow of the startup steps to be performed in parallel. The rough start up sequence is:

1. Starts the Qualcomm Secure Execution Environment Communicator (`dev-qseecom.device`) and ION memory allocator (`dev-ion.device`)
2. The encrypted user file system is checked and mounted (via the `mount-data` service). This file system is where the all of the logs, people’s faces, and other information specific to the individual Vector are stored. The keys to this file system are stored in the TrustZone in the MPU’s SOC fuse area. This file system can only be read by the MPU that created it.
3. The MPU’s clock rate is limited to 533Mhz, and the RAM is limited to 400MHz to prevent overheating.
4. The camera power is enabled
5. If Vector doesn’t have a robot name, Vic-christen is called to give it one.
6. After that several mid-layer communication stacks are started:
 - a. `usb-service` any time after that
 - b. the WiFi connection manager (`connman`)
 - c. The time client (`chronyd`), to retrieve network time. (Vector does not have a clock that keeps time when turned off)
 - d. `init-debuggerd`
7. `multi-user`, `sound`, `init_post_boot`

²³ TBD what happens for recovery?

8. The “Victor Boot Animator” is start (~8 seconds after power on). This is probably the sparks.
9. Victor Boot completes ~20.5 after power on, and the post boot services launches
10. vic-crashloader
11. vic-robot
12. Once the startup has sufficiently brought up enough the next set of animations the sound of boot
13. VicOS is running ~32 seconds after power on. The boot is complete, and Vector is ready to play

20.4. ABNORMAL SYSTEM BOOT

If there is a problem during startup – such as one of the services is unable to successfully start, a fault code associated with that service is stored in `/run/fault code` and the fault code displayed. See chapter 20 for a description of the display of fault codes and diagnostics. See Appendix C for fault codes.

21. SHUTDOWN

- Turning Vector off manually
- Vector turning off spontaneously due to brown-out or significant loss of power
- Vector turning off (under low power) by direction of the head-board

Vector cannot be turned off via Bluetooth LE, or the local gRPC SDK access. There are no exposed commands that do this. Using a verbal command, like “turn off” does not direct Vector to shut off (disconnect the battery). Instead it goes into a quiet mode. Although it may be possible for a Cloud command to turn Vector off, this seems unlikely.

However, there is likely a command to automate the manufacture and preparation for ship process.

21.1. TURNING VECTOR OFF (INTENTIONALLY)

There is a shutdown code that tracks the reason for shutdown:

Element	Description & Notes
SHUTDOWN_BATTERY_CRITICAL_TEMP	Vector shut down automatically because the battery temperature was too high.
SHUTDOWN_BATTERY_CRITICAL_VOLT	Vector shut down automatically because the battery voltage was too low.
SHUTDOWN_BUTTON	Vector was shut down by a long button press.
SHUTDOWN_GYRO_NOT_CALIBRATING	Vector shut down automatically because of an IMU problem(?)
SHUTDOWN_UNKNOWN	Vector shut down unexpectedly; the reason is not known. Likely a brown-out or battery voltage dipped low faster than Vector could respond to.

Table 10: Vector shutdown codes

It is not clear where the shutdown code is stored

21.2. UNINTENTIONALLY

The base-board is responsible for keeping the battery connected. However brownouts, self-protects when the voltage get to too low, and bugs can cause the battery to be disconnected.

21.3. GOING INTO AN OFF STATE

When Vector wants to intentionally turn off, it cleans up its state, to gracefully shutdown the linux system and tells the base-board to disconnect the battery.

22. REFERENCES & RESOURCES

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Discusses how one can get the source to the secondary bootloader (SBL), the tools to sign it and about using sectools

<https://gitlab.com/cryptsetup/cryptsetup/wikis/DMVerity>

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[lm80-p0436-1_little_kernel_boot_loader_overview.pdf](#)

<https://github.com/alephsecurity>

A set repositories researching tools to discover commands in Sahara and EDL protocols

<https://github.com/openpst>

A set of repositories researching and implementing an interface to the Sahara protocol.

CHAPTER 7

Power management

This chapter describes Vector's power management:

- The battery management
- Load shedding
- Charger info

Vector, in the advertising material, aspires to be on all the time. In practice, he will be turned on to play with, turned off when done playing – or when his battery runs low, or before being shipped.

23. POWER MANAGEMENT

23.1. BATTERY MANAGEMENT

There isn't a coulomb counter to track the remaining energy in the battery. At the broadest strokes, the battery voltage is used to predict the battery state of charge.

23.1.1 Battery levels

Vector maps the battery voltage into a battery level, taking into account whether or not the charger is active:

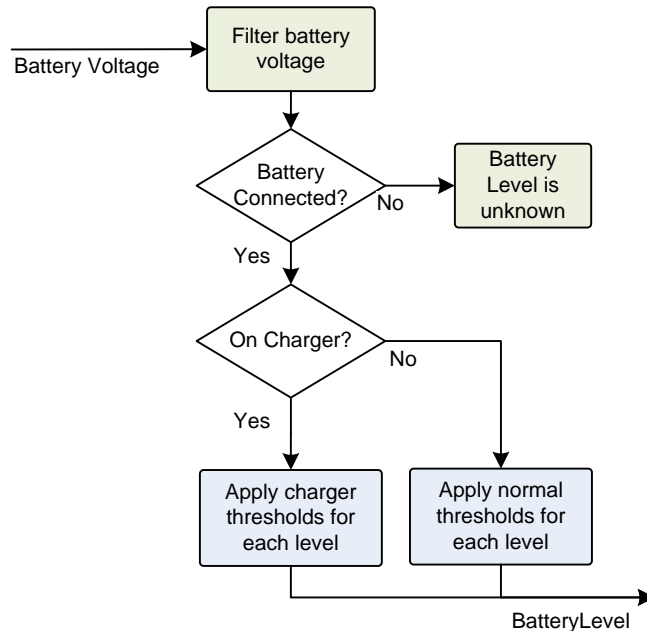


Figure 22: The battery level classification tree

Note: The battery voltage is filtered because the voltage will bounce around with activity by the motors, driving the speaker and processors.

The BatteryLevel enumeration is used to categorize the condition of the Cube and Vector batteries:

Element	Description & Notes
BATTERY_LEVEL_FULL	Vector's battery is at least 4.1V
BATTERY_LEVEL_LOW	Vector's battery is 3.6V or less; or if Vector is on the charger, the battery voltage is 4V or less.
BATTERY_LEVEL_NOMINAL	Vector's battery level is between low and full.
BATTERY_LEVEL_UNKNOWN	If the battery is not connected, Vector can't measure its battery. This enumeration is (probably) reserved for the case where the Cube is not in contact, thus its battery level is not known

Table 11:
BatteryLevel codes²⁴
as they apply to
Vector

The battery levels are organized conventionally:

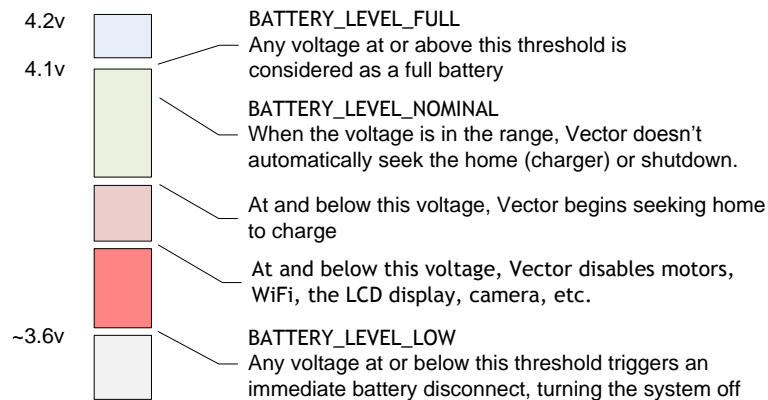


Figure 23: The battery thresholds

23.1.2 Battery Statistics

The battery management collects a set of battery related statistics and state information, with named key-value pairs.

Element	Description & Notes
battery.battery_level_changed	This is set when the battery level has changed from event posting.
battery.cooldown	Indicates that Vector is or needed to pause charging and activity to let the battery cool down.
battery.encoder_power_stats	?? Strange name. Is this the voltage seen on the charger input and charging duration stats?
battery.fully_charged_voltage	The battery voltage seen when the charger reported the battery to be fully charged.
battery.is_charging_changed	This is set when the state of charging has changed from event posting.

Table 12: Battery statistics, possibly posted to DAS

²⁴ The levels are from robot.py

battery.on_charger_changed	
battery.saturation_charging	
battery.temp_crossed_threshold	
battery.temperature_stats	Information about the range of battery temperatures that have been observed; e.g. min/max, average, etc.
battery.voltage_reset	
battery.voltage_stats	Information about the range of battery voltages that have been observed; e.g. min/max, average, etc.

{commentary: Are these posted to DAS?}

23.2. RESPONSES, SHEDDING LOAD / POWER SAVING EFFORTS

Vector's main (power-related) activity modes are:

- active, interacting with others
- calm, where primarily sitting still, waiting for assistance or stimulation
- sleeping

Depending on the state of the battery – and charging – Vector may engage in behaviours that override others.

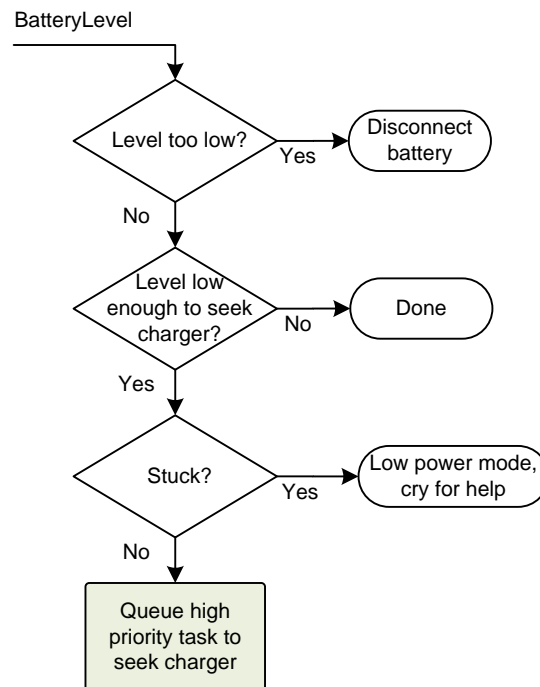


Figure 24: The response to battery level

If Vector is unable to dock (or even locate a dock) he sheds load as he goes into a lower state:

- He no longer responds to his trigger word or communicates with WiFi servers
- He turns off camera and LCD; presumably the time of flight sensor as well.
- He reduces processing on the processor

24. CHARGING

Tracks whether is charging is in process, and how long. The software may estimate how long before charging is complete.²⁵

²⁵ It is possible, but unlikely, that the baseboard is acting as a coulomb counter by sampling the current across the resistor with low resistance. (The purpose of this resistor isn't known.)

CHAPTER 8

Push Button, Touch, and LEDs

This chapter describes Vectors most basic input and output: his button, touch and LEDs:

- Touch and button input
- Backpack Lights control

25. TOUCH AND BUTTON INPUT

Vector's backpack button used to wake (and silence) vector, or place him into recovery mode. Touch is used to pet Vector and provide him stimulation. The responsibility for the touch and button input functions are divided across multiple processes and boards in Vector:

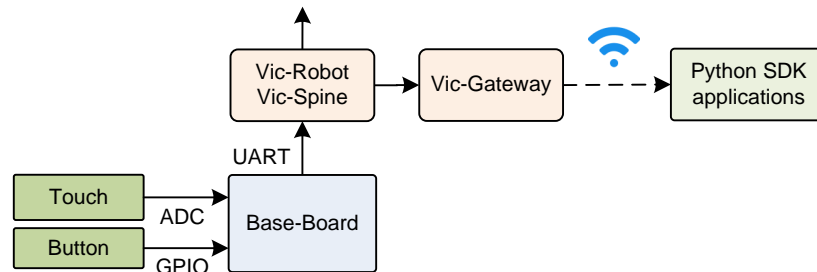


Figure 25: The touch and button input architecture

26. BACKPACK LIGHTS CONTROL

The backpack lights are used to show the state of the microphone, charging, WiFi and some other behaviours.

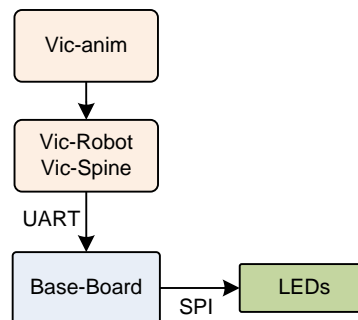


Figure 26: The backpack lights output architecture

Vic-anim controls the backpack lights based on specifications in JSON files in

/anki/data/assets/cozmo_resources/**config/engine/lights/backpackLights/**

The path is hard coded into vic-anim. All of the JSON files have the same structure with the following fields:

Field	Type	Description	Table 13: The JSON structure
<i>offColors</i>	array of 3 colors	Each color corresponds to each of the 3 lower back pack lights	
<i>offPeriod_ms</i>	array of 3 floats	The “off” duration (in ms) for each of the 3 back pack lights. This the duration to show the back pack light its corresponding “of” color (in <i>offColors</i>).	
<i>offset</i>	array of 3 floats	always 0	
<i>onColors</i>	array of 3 colors	Each color corresponds to each of the 3 lower back pack lights	
<i>onPeriod_ms</i>	array of 3 floats	The “on” duration (in ms) for each of the 3 back pack lights. This the duration to show the back pack light its corresponding “on” color (in <i>onColors</i>).	
<i>transitionOffPeriod_ms</i>	array of 3 floats	The time (in ms) to transition from the on color to the off color.	
<i>transitionOnPeriod_ms</i>	array of 3 floats	The time (in ms) to transition from the off color to the on color	

The colors are an array with 4 floats corresponding to red, green, blue, and alpha. The numbers are in the range of 0 to 1. Alpha is always 1. Note: red can be different for each of the LEDs, otherwise the blue and greens are the same for all three. The mid-range floating point values suggest that the baseboard PWM’s the LEDs.

This structure is similar (not quite the same) as the one used with the companion cube lights.

CHAPTER 9

Audio

This chapter describes the sound input and output system:

- The audio input
- The audio filtering, and triggering of the speech recognition
- The audio output
- Text to speech

27. AUDIO INPUT

The audio input is used to both give Vector verbal interaction, and to give him environmental stimulation:

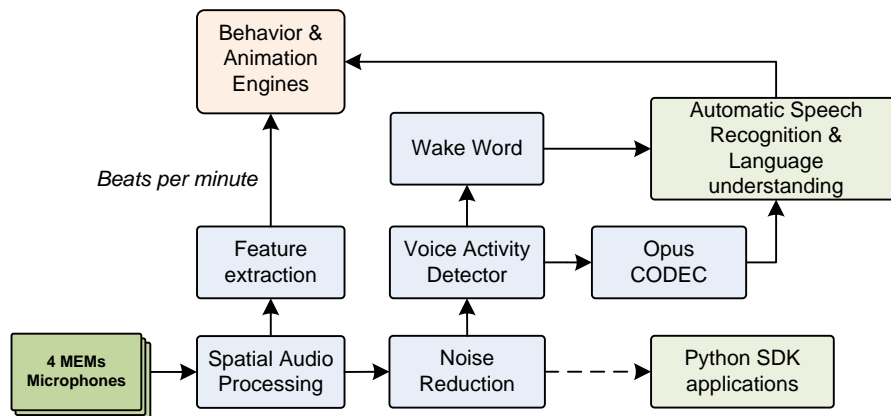


Figure 27: The audio input functional block diagram

- Spatial audio processing localizes the sound of someone talking from the background music.
- The feature extraction detects the tempo of the music. If the tempo is right, Vector will dance to it. It also provides basic stimulation to Vector.
- Noise reduction makes for the best sound.
- Voice activity detector usually triggered off of the signal before the beam-forming.
- A wake word is used to engage the automatic speech recognition system. *Note: the wake word is also referred to as the trigger word.*
- The speech recognition system is on a remote server. The audio sent to the automatic speech recognition system is compressed to reduce data usage.

The responsibility for these functions is divided across multiple processes and boards in Vector:

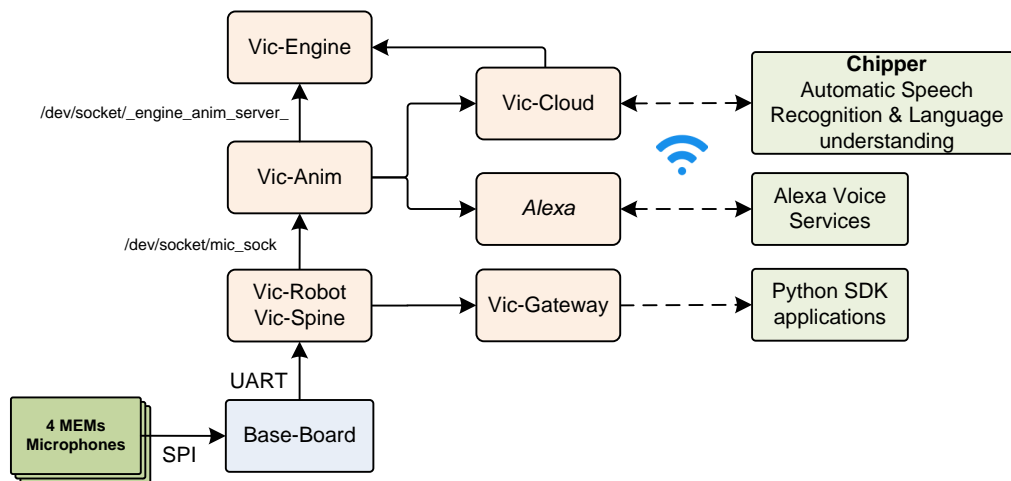


Figure 28: The audio input architecture

Note: providing the audio input to the SDK (via Vic-gateway) was never completed. It will be discussed based on what was laid out in the protobuf specification files.

The audio processing blocks, except where otherwise discussed, are part of Vic-Anim. These blocks were implemented by Signal Essence, LLC. They probably consulted on the MEMs microphones and their configuration. The Qualcomm family includes software support for these tasks, as part of the Hexagon DSP SDK; it is not known how much of this Signal Essence took advantage off.

27.1. THE MICROPHONES

The microphone array is 4 MEMs microphones that sample the incoming sound and transfer the samples to base-board. The audio is sampled by the base-board at 15,625 samples/sec. The audio is transferred to the Vic-spine module (part of Vic-robot) in regular communication with the head-board. The audio samples are extracted and forward to the Vic-Anim process.

The audio samples, once received, are processed at 16,000 samples/sec. (“As a result, the pitch is altered by 2.4%.”) The signal processing is done in chunks of 160 samples.

Note: The Customer Care Information Screen (CCIS) shows the microphones to be about 1024 when quiet. If this is center, the max would be 2048... or 11 bit. Probably is 12 bit.

27.2. SPATIAL AUDIO PROCESSING

The spatial audio processing is uses multiple microphones to pick-out the wanted signal and cancel out the unwanted. *Note:* The spatial audio processing is bypassed until voice activity has been detected.

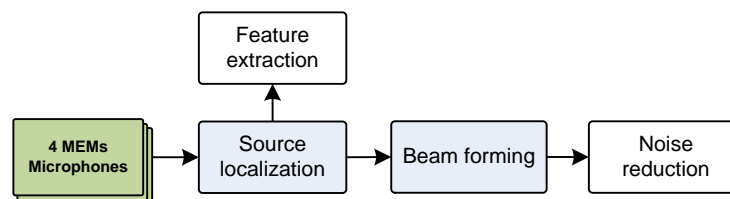


Figure 29: Typical spatial audio processing flow

THE SOURCE LOCALIZATION estimates direction of arrival of the person talking.

BEAM-FORMING combines the multiple microphone inputs to cancel audio coming from other directions.

The output of this stage includes:

- A histogram of the directions that the sound(s) in this chunk of audio came from. There are 12 bins, each representing a 30° direction.
- The direction that is picked for the origin of the sound of interest
- A confidence value for that direction
- A measure of the background noise

27.3. NOISE REDUCTION

Noise reduction identifies and eliminates noise and echo in the audio input

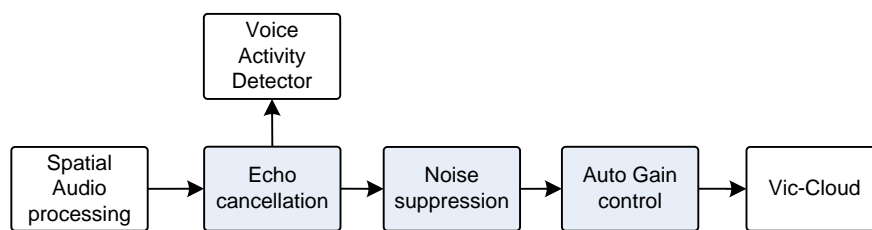


Figure 30: Typical audio noise reduction flow

ACOUSTIC ECHO CANCELLATION cancels slightly delayed repetitions of a signal.

NOISE SUPPRESSION is used to eliminate noise.

The combination of spatial processing and noise reduction gives the cleanest sound (as compared with no noise reduction and/or no spatial processing).

27.4. VOICE ACTIVITY DETECTOR AND WAKE WORD

The voice activity detector is given cleaned up sound from multiple microphones without beam-forming. When it detects voice activity, then the spatial audio processing is fully enabled.²⁶

The voice activity detector and the wake word are used so that downstream processing – the search for the wake word, and the automatic speech recognition system – are not engaged all the time.

They are both expensive (in terms of power and data usage), and the speech recognition is prone to misunderstanding.

When the voice activity detector triggers – indicating that a person may be talking – the spatial audio processing is engaged (to improve the audio quality) and the audio signals are passed to the Wake Word Detector.

The detector for the “Hey, Vector” is provided by Sensory, Inc. Pryon, Inc provided the detector for “Alexa.”²⁷ The recognition is locale dependent, detecting different wake words for German, etc. It may be possible to create other recognition files for other wake words.

²⁶ Vector’s wake word detection, and speech recognition is pretty hit and miss. Signal Essence’s demonstration videos show much better performance. The differences are they used more microphones and the spatial audio filtering in their demos.

²⁷ This appears to be standard for Alexa device SDKs.

When the “Hey, Vector” wake word is heard,

1. A connection (via Vic-Cloud) is made to the remote speech processing server for automatic speech recognition.
2. A “WakeWordBegin” event message is posted to Vic-Engine and Vic-Gateway. Vic-Gateway may forward the message on to a connected application.
3. An WakeWordEnd event message may be sent if the Vic-cloud has received an intent back

27.5. CLOUD SPEECH RECOGNITION

The audio snippets are sent to a remote server known as “chipper” for processing.

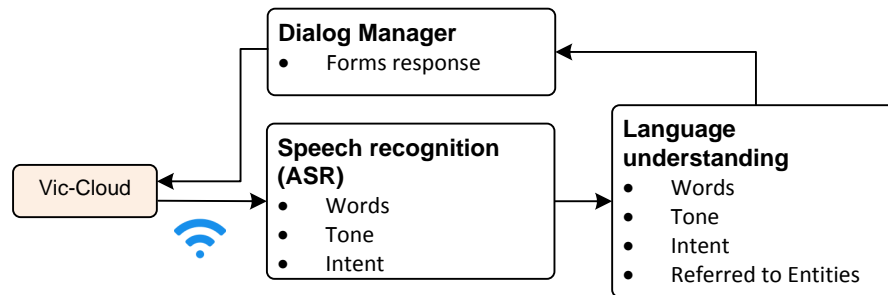


Figure 31: The speech recognition

Chipper does speech recognition, and some language understanding. What the user says is mapped to an “user intent” – this may be a command, or a question to be answered. The intent also includes some supporting information – the colour to set the eyes to, for instance. Many of the phrase patterns and the intent they map to can be found in Appendix H. The intent may be further handled by Anki servers; an intent is eventually sent back to Vector.

When the response comes sends a “WakeWordEnd” event message is posted to Vic-Engine and Vic-Gateway. Vic-Gateway may forward the message on to a connected application. This message includes the intent JSON data structure (if any).

27.6. CONNECTIONS WITH VIC-GATEWAY

It is clear that Anki made provisions to connect the audio stream to Vic-Gateway (and potentially Vic-Cloud) but were unable to complete the features before they ceased operation.

The SDK would have been able to

- Enable and disable listening to the microphone(s)
- Select whether the audio would have the spatial audio filter and noise reduction processing done on it.
- Include the direction of sound information from the spatial audio processing (see section 27.2 *Spatial audio processing*)
- 1600 audio samples; Note: this is 10x the chunk size of the internal processing size

28. SPEAKER

This section describes the audio produced by Vector. Vector uses sound to convey emotion and activities, to speak, and to play sounds streamed from SDK applications and Alexa's remote servers. To support this, it includes a sophisticated audio architecture:

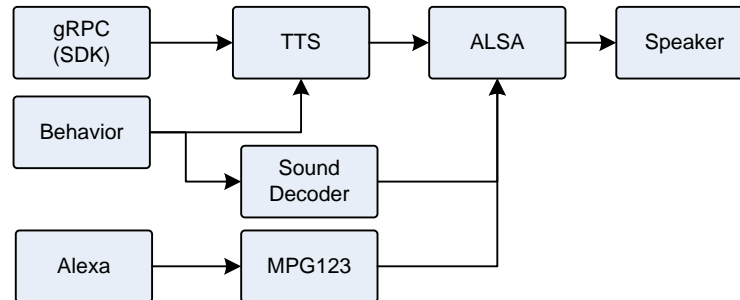


Figure 32: The audio output architecture

28.1. SOUND FILES

The audio files are located in:

`/anki/data/assets/cozmo_resources/sound`

Audio uses WEM/RIFF sound files. These are produced by a script on the end of XXX.

Sounds are in wwise bank (bnk extension)

28.2. TEXT TO SPEECH

Vector includes a text to speech (TTS) facility. The engine is based on Cozmo text-to-speech subsystem, with the basic software from Acapela. The text to speech engine is part of vic-anim, with some components in libcozmo_engine.

The text-to-speech voices are stored in

`/anki/data/assets/cozmo_resources/tts`

The voice files include:

- co-French-Bruno-22khz
- co-German-Klaus-22khz
- co-Japanese-Sakura-22khz
- co-USEnglish-Bendnn-22khz

28.2.1 Configuration

The configuration file for the text to speech engine is located at:

`/anki/data/assets/cozmo_resources/config/engine/tts_config.json`

(This path is hardcoded into vic-anim.) This file is organized as dictionary whose key is the operating system. The “vicos” key is the one relevant for Vector.²⁸ This dereferences to a

²⁸ The other OS key is “osx” which suggests that Vector’s software was development on an OS X platform.

dictionary whose key is the language base: “de”, “en”, “fr”, or “ja”. The language dereferences to a structure with the following fields:

Field	Type	Description & Notes
<i>pitch</i>	float	Optional. There is a pitch setting field. This is not supported by all voices / platforms. (The comment says that this is Acapela TTS SDK.) “Pitch... adjustment is actually performed by audio layer.”
<i>shaping</i>		optional
<i>speed</i>	float	
<i>speedTraits</i>	array of speedTraits	Optional array speed traits structures (see below)
<i>voice</i>	string	a path to the ini file within the [assets/cozmo_resources/tts] folder

Table 14: The JSON structure

Each speedTraits structure has the following fields:

Field	Type	Description & Notes
<i>rangeMax</i>		
<i>rangeMin</i>		
<i>textLengthMax</i>		
<i>textLengthMin</i>		

Table 15: The speedTraits JSON structure

28.2.2 Localization

Vector internally has support for German, French, and Japanese, but the application-level language settings only really support US, UK, and Australian dialects of English. The files for non-English localization were not completed.

The localization files for feature stores its text strings (to be spoken) in

/anki/data/assets/cozmo_resources/LocalizedStrings

This path is not present in versions before v1.6. The folder holds sub-folders based on the language:

de-DE en-US fr-FR

Note: there is no ja-JA, but it may be possible to create.

Inside of each are three files intended to provide the strings, for a behaviour, in the locale:

- BehaviorStrings.json
- BlackJackStrings.json
- FaceEnrollmentStrings.json

Each JSON file is a dictionary with the following fields:

Field	Type	Description & Notes
<i>smartling</i>	structure	see below to the structure below. Note all smartling structures examined are the same.

Table 16: The JSON structure

The dictionary also includes keys, such as “BehaviorDisplayWeather.Rain” that map to a locale specific string. These have the following fields:

Field	Type	Description & Notes
<i>translation</i>	string	The text in the given locale. The string may have placeholders, such as {0}, where text is substituted in.

Table 17: The JSON structure

Each smartling structure has the following fields:

Field	Type	Description & Notes
<i>placeholder_format_custom</i>	array of strings	An array of patterns that represent possible placeholder patterns.
<i>source_key_paths</i>	array of strings	“/{*}” Strings are path of a JSON key?
<i>translate_paths</i>	array of strings	“*/translation” Strings are path of a JSON key?
<i>translate_mode</i>	string	“custom”
<i>variants_enabled</i>	boolean	

Table 18: The smartling JSON structure

This is handled by libcozmo_engine, including the key strings

28.2.2.1 Weather files

The weather behaviour stores its text strings (to be spoken) in

/anki/data/assets/cozmo_resources/**config/engine/behaviorComponent/weather/condition_to_tts.json**

This path is hardcoded into libcozmo_engine. The JSON file is an array of structures. Each structure has the following fields:²⁹

Field	Type	Description & Notes
<i>Condition</i>	string	e.g. “Cloudy”, “Cold”
<i>Say</i>	string	The key used in the BehaviourStrings.json file to look up the localized test. (In previous versions, this was the text to say, in English.)

Table 19: The JSON structure

28.2.3 Customization

Vector’s voice files are from Acapela. Acapela sells language packs for book readers, but the format appears different and likely very difficult to modify or create.

²⁹ That this file (and many others) is a simple 1:1 transform lends the suspicion that the localization process is more complex than need be.

Cozmo's employs a different English voice (in the Cozmo APK). This likely could be extracted and used on Vector. (In turn, Vectors voice could probably be used with Cozmo.)

Customization of the Localization TTS would give Vector a bit more personality.

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PART III

Communication

This part provides details of Vector's communication protocols. These chapters describe structure communication, the information that is exchange, its encoding, and the sequences needed to accomplish tasks. Other chapters will delve into the functional design that the communication provides interface to.

- **COMMUNICATION.** A look at Vector's communication stack.
- **BLUETOOTH LE.** The Bluetooth LE protocol that Vector responds to.
- **SDK PROTOCOL.** The HTTPS protocol that Vector responds to.
- **CLOUD.** A look at how Vector interacts with remote services



drawing by Jesse Easley

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CHAPTER 11

Communication

This chapter describes the communication system:

- Internal communication with the base-board, and internal peripherals
- Bluetooth LE: with the Cube, and with the application
- WiFi: with the cloud, and with the application
- Internal support

29. OVERVIEW OF VECTOR'S COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE

A significant part of Vector's software is focused on communication.

- Internal IPC between processes
- Communication with local peripherals and the base-board processor
- Communication with external accessories and applications.

The communication stacks look something like:

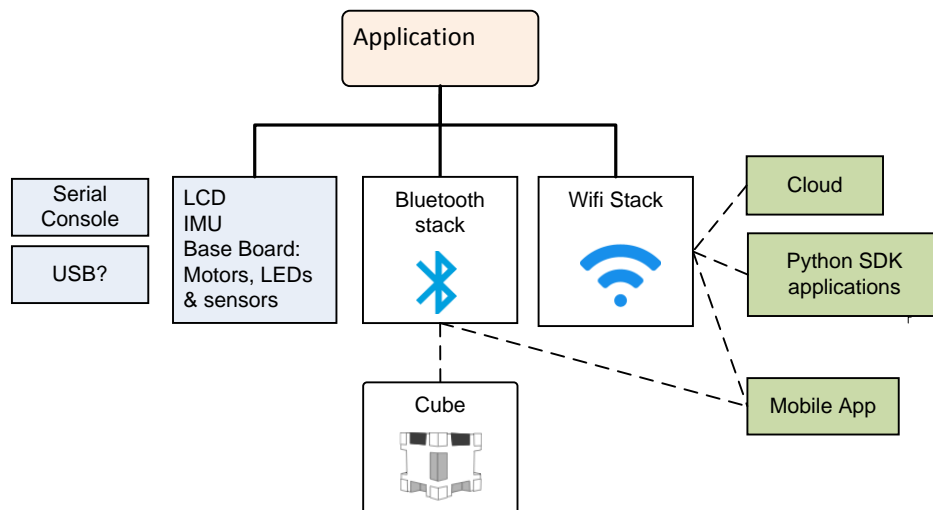


Figure 33: The overall communication infrastructure

30. INTERNAL COMMUNICATION WITH PERIPHERALS

Communication stack within the software. One part Linux, one part Qualcomm, and a big heaping dose of Anki's stuff.

30.1. COMMUNICATION WITH THE BASE-BOARD

The head board communicates with the base board using a serial interface. The device file is /dev/ttyHS0.

Data rate: 3 Mbits/sec³⁰

30.1.1 Messages from the base-board to the head board

The base-board sends packets at regular intervals to the head-board. The frame of the message in

[Unknown byte] AA₁₆ 'B' '2' 'H' [16-bit packet type] [16-bit payload size] [payload bytes] [32-bit CRC]

(All multi-byte values are in little endian order.) The maximum packet size is 1280 bytes.

The packet type implies both the size of the payload, and the contents. If the packet type is not recognized, or the implied size does not match the passed payload size, the packet is considered in error.) The table below gives the different type codes:

Packet type	Payload Size	Description
6473 ₁₆	0	
6b61 ₁₆	4	
6466 ₁₆	768	The size of the message suggests that it holds 120 samples from one or two microphones (2 microphones × 2bytes/sample × 120 samples/microphone == 960 bytes) for the voice activity detection audio processing.
6662 ₁₆	4	
6675 ₁₆	1028	The size of the message suggests that it holds 120 samples from the microphones (4 microphones × 2bytes/sample × 120 samples/microphone == 960 bytes) for the spatial audio processing.
736c ₁₆	16	
6d64 ₁₆	0	
7276 ₁₆	40	
7374 ₁₆	0	
7878 ₁₆	0	

Table 20: JSON structure

The payload can contain (depending on the type of packet):

- The state of the backpack button
- The touch sensor voltage
- The microphone signals for all 4 microphones. (Most likely as 16 bits)
- The battery voltage
- State of the charger (on dock/etc)
- The temperature of the battery or charger
- The state of 4 motor encoders, possibly as encoder counters, possibly as IO state

³⁰ Value from analysis of the RAMPOST program.

- The time of flight reading, probably 16bits in mm
- The voltage (or other signal) of each of the 4 cliff proximity sensors

The messages are sent fast enough to support microphone sample rate of 15625 samples/second.

30.1.2 Messages from the head-board to the base-board

The messages from the head board to the base-board have the content:

- The 4 LED RGB states
- Controls for the motors: possible direction and enable; direction and duty cycle; or a target position and speed.
- Power control information: disable power to the system, turn off distance, cliff sensors, etc.

The head-board can update the firmware in the base-board, by putting into DFU (device firmware upgrade) mode and downloading the replacement firmware image.

30.2. SERIAL BOOT CONSOLE

The head-board employs a serial port to display kernel boot up and log messages. The parameters are 115200 bits/sec, 8 data bits no parity, 1 stop bit; the device file is /dev/ttyHSL0. This serial port is not bi-directional, and cannot be used to login.

Melanie T

30.3. USB

There are pins for USB on the head board. Asserting “F_USB” pad to VCC enables the port. During power-on, and initial boot it is a Qualcomm QDL port. The USB supports a Qualcomm debugging driver (QDL), but the readout is locked. It appears to be intended to inject software during manufacture.

Melanie T

The /etc/initscriptsusb file enables the USB and the usual functionfs adb. It lives in /sbin/usr/composition/9091 (I think, if I understand the part number matching correctly). This launches ADB (DIAG + MODEM + QMI_RMNET + ADB)

Vectors log shows the USB being disabled 24 seconds after linux starts.

31. BLUETOOTH LE

Bluetooth LE is used for two purposes:

1. Bluetooth LE is used to initially configure Vector, to reconfigure him when the WiFi changes; and to pair him to with the companion cube accessory. Potentially allows some diagnostic and customization.
2. Bluetooth LE is used to communicate with the companion Cube: to detect its movement, taps, and to set the state of its LEDs.

Vector's Bluetooth LE stack looks like:

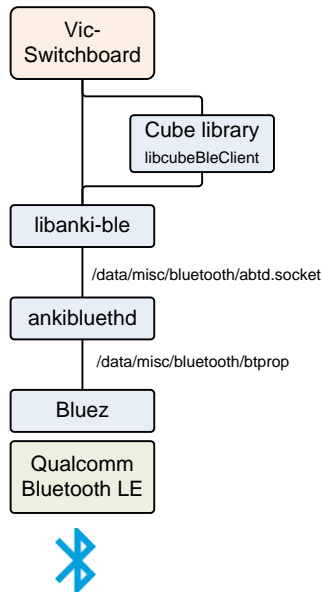


Figure 34: The Bluetooth LE stack

The elements of the Bluetooth LE stack include:

Element	Description & Notes
ankiblueetoothd	A server daemon. The application layer communicates with it over a socket; /data/misc/bluetooth/abtd.socket
BlueZ	Linux's official Bluetooth stack, including Bluetooth LE support. The Anki Bluetooth daemon interacts with it over a socket: /data/misc/bluetooth/btprop
bccmd	A Bluetooth core command
btmon	A command-line Bluetooth tool
libanki-ble.so	Communicates with Anki Bluetooth daemon probably serves both the external mobile application interface and communication with the companion cube.
libcubeBleClient.so ³¹	A library to communicate with the companion cube, play animations on its LEDs, detect taps and the orientation of the cube.
viccubetool	Probably used to update the firmware in the Cube.

Table 21: Elements of the Bluetooth LE stack

32. WIFI

WiFi networking is used by Vector for five purposes:

1. WiFi is used to provide the access to the remote servers for Vector's speech recognition, natural language processing

³¹ The library includes a great deal of built in knowledge of the state of application ("game engine"), animations, and other elements

2. WiFi is used to provide the access to the remote servers for software updates, and providing diagnostic logging and troubleshooting information to Anki
3. To provide time services to so that Vector knows the current time
4. To provide an interface, on the local network, that the mobile application can use to configure Vector, and change his settings.
5. To provide an interface, on the local network, that SDK applications can use to program Vector.

The WiFi network stack looks like:

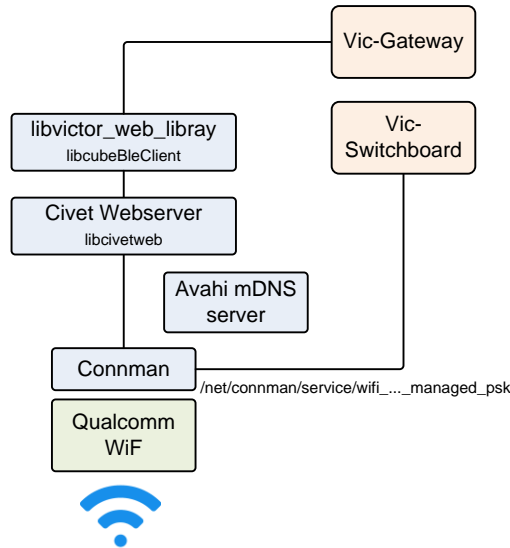


Figure 35: The WiFi stack

The elements of the stack include:³²

Element	Description & Notes
avahi 0.6.31	A mDNS server that registers Vector's robot name (with his network address) on the local network;
chronyd	Fetches the time from a network time server.
libcivetweb.so.1.9.1	Embedded web server
libvictor_web_library.so	Anki Vector Web Services.

Table 22: Elements of the Bluetooth LE stack

32.1. FIREWALL

The network configuration includes a firewall set up with the usual configuration files:

```

/etc/iptables/iptables.rulesiptables
/etc/iptables/ip6tables.rulesiptables

```

³² All of the software versions include an Anki webserver service systemd configuration file whose executable is missing. The most likely explanation is that early architecture (and possibly early versions) included this separate server, and that the systemd configuration file is an unnoticed remnant.

Is set to block incoming traffic (but not internal traffic), except for:

1. Responses to outgoing traffic
2. DHCP
3. TCP port 443 for vic-gateway
4. UDP port 5353 for mDNS (Avahi)
5. And the ping ICMP

The firewall does not block outgoing traffic

32.2. WIFI CONFIGURATION

The WiFi is configured by the Vic-switchboard over Bluetooth LE. The WiFi settings cannot be changed by the remote servers or thru the WiFi-based API; nor is information about the WiFi settings is not stored remotely.

The WiFi is managed by connman thru the Vic-Switchbox:

- To provide a list of WiFi SSIDs to the mobile app
- To allow the mobile app to select an SSID and provide a password to
- Tell it forget an SSID
- To place the WiFi into Access Point mode

33. COMMUNICATING WITH MOBILE APP AND SDK

Vector's *robot name* is something that looks like "Vector-E5S6". This name is used consistently; it will be Vector's:

- advertised Bluetooth LE peripheral name (although spaces are used instead of dashes)
- mDNS network name (dashes are used instead of spaces),
- the name used to sign certificates, and
- it will be the name of his WiFi Access Point, when placed into Access Point mode

33.1. CERTIFICATE BASED AUTHENTICATION

A *session token* is always provided by Anki servers.³³ It is passed to Vector to authenticate with him and create a client token. The session token is passed to Vector via the Bluetooth LE RTS protocol or the HTTPS-based SDK protocol; Vector will return a client token. The session token is single use only.

A *client token* is passed to Vector in each of the HTTPS-based SDK commands, and in the Bluetooth LE SDK Proxy commands. It is generated in one of two ways. One method is by the Bluetooth LE command (cloud session); the other is by posting "/v1/user_authentication" SDK request. The client token should be saved indefinitely for future use. It is not clear if the client token can be shared between the two transport mechanisms.

³³ <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!msg/anki-vector-rooting/Y1YQsX08OD4/fvkAOZ91CgAJ>
<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!msg/anki-vector-rooting/XAaBE6e94ek/OdES50PaBQAJ>

A *certificate* is also generated by Vector in the case of the SDK request. The certificate is intended to be added to the trusted SSL certificates before an HTTPS communication session. The certificate issued by Vector is good for 100 years.

Note: the certificates are invalidated and new ones are created when recovery-mode is used. Vector is assigned a new robot name as well.

The typical information embedded in a Vector certificate:

Element	Value
Common Name	<i>Vector's robot name</i>
Subject Alternative Names	<i>Vector's robot name</i>
Organization	Anki
Locality	SF
State	California
Country	US
Valid From	<i>the date the certificate was created</i>
Valid To	<i>100 years after the date the certificate was created</i>
Issuer	<i>Vector's robot name, Anki</i>
Serial Number	

Table 23: Elements of a Vector certificate

The TLS certificates and signing keys are stored in the OEM partition, in the “cloud” folder:

File	Description
<i>AnkiRobotDeviceCert.pem</i>	The
<i>AnkiRobotDeviceKeys.pem</i>	The
<i>Info\${serialNum}.json</i>	A configuration file that
<i>\${serialNum}</i>	empty

Table 24: OEM cloud folder

The Info\${serialNum}.json file has the following structure:

Field	Type	Description
<i>CertDigest</i>	base64 string	
<i>CertSignature</i>	base64 string	
<i>CertSignatureAlgorithm</i>	string	The name of openssl signature algorithm to use, “sha256WithRSAEncryption”
<i>CommonName</i>	string	‘vic:’ followed by the serial number. (This is also called the “thing id” in other structures.
<i>KeysDigest</i>	base64 string	

Table 25: Cloud Info\${serialNum} structure

34. REFERENCES & RESOURCES

PyCozmo.

<https://github.com/zayfod/pycozmo/blob/master/docs/protocol.md>

https://github.com/zayfod/pycozmo/blob/master/pycozmo/protocol_declaration.py

Vector has a couple UDP ports open internally; likely this is inherited from libcozmo_engine.

The PyCozmo project has reverse engineered much of Cozmo's UDP protocol.

CHAPTER 12

Bluetooth LE Communication Protocol

This chapter describes Vector’s Bluetooth LE communication protocol.

- The kinds of activities that can be done thru communication channels
- The interaction sequences
- The communication protocol stack, including encryption, fragmentation and reassembly.

Note: communication with the Cube is simple reading and writing a characteristic, and covered in Appendix E.

35. COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL OVERVIEW

Vector advertises services on Bluetooth LE, with the Bluetooth LE peripheral name the same as his robot name (i.e. something that looks like “Vector-E5S6”).

Communication with Vector, once established, is structure as a request-response protocol. The request and responses are referred to as “C-Like Abstract Data structures” (CLAD) which are fields and values in a defined format, and interpretation. Several of these messages are used to maintain the link, setting up an encryption over the channel.

The application layer messages may be arbitrarily large. To support Bluetooth LE 4.1 (the version in Vector, and many mobile devices) the CLAD message must be broken up into small chunks to be sent, and then reassembled on receipt.

Combined with application-level encryption, the communication stack looks like:

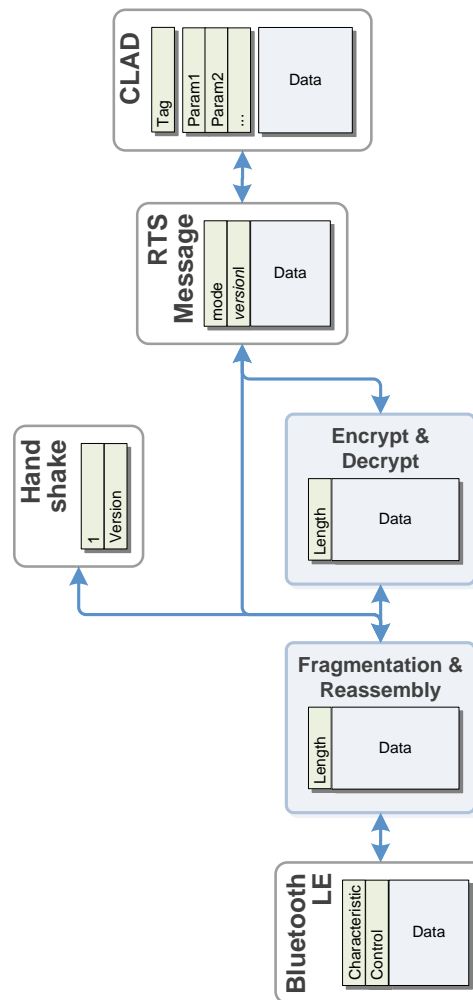


Figure 36: Overview of encryption and fragmentation stack

THE BLUETOOTH LE is the link/transport media. It handles the delivery, and low-level error detection of exchanging message frames. The frames are fragments of the overall message. The GUID's for the services and characteristics can be found in Appendix E.

THE FRAGMENTATION & REASSEMBLY is responsible for breaking up a message into multiple frames and reassembling them into a message.

THE ENCRYPTION & DECRYPTION LAYER is used to encrypt and decrypt the messages, after the communication channel has been set up.

THE RTS is extra framing information that identifies the kind of CLAD message, and the version of its format. The format changed with version, so this version code is embedded at this layer.

THE C-LIKE ABSTRACT DATA (CLAD) is the layer that decodes the messages into values for fields, and interprets them,

35.1. SETTING UP THE COMMUNICATION CHANNEL

It sometimes helps to start with the overall process. This section will walk thru the process, referring to later sections where detailed information resides.

If you use “first time” – or wish to re-pair with him – put him on the charger and press the backpack button twice quickly. He’ll display a screen indicating he is getting ready to pair.

If you have already paired the application with Vector, the encryption keys can be reused.

The process to set up a Bluetooth LE communication with Vector is complex. The sequence has many steps:

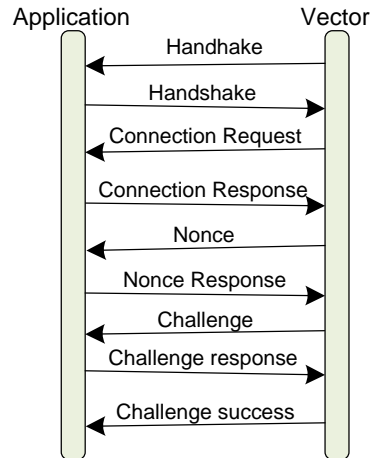


Figure 37: Sequence for initiating communication with Vector

1. The application opens Bluetooth LE connection (retrieving the service and characteristics handles) and subscribes to the “read” characteristic (see Appendix E for the UUID).
2. Vector sends *handshake* message; which the application receives. The handshake message structure is given below. The handshake message includes the version of the protocol supported.

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint8_t	<i>type</i>	?
1	4	uint32_t	<i>version</i>	The version of the protocol/messages to employ

Table 26: Parameters for Handshake message

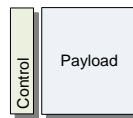
3. The application sends the handshake back
4. Then the Vector will send a *connection request*, consisting of the public key to use for the session. The application’s response depends on whether this is a first-time pairing, or a reuse.
 - a. First time pairing requires that Vector have already been placed into pairing mode prior to connecting to Vector. The application keys should be created (see section 35.3.1 *First time pairing* above).
 - b. Reconnection can reuse the public and secret keys, and the encryption and decryption keys from a prior pairing
5. The application should then send the *publicKey* in the response

6. If this is a first-time pairing, Vector will display a *pin code*. This is used to create the public and secret keys, and the encryption and decryption keys (see section 35.3.1 *First time pairing* above). These can be saved for use in future reconnection.
7. Vector will send a *nonce* message. After the application has sent its response, the channel will now be encrypted.
8. Vector will send a *challenge* message. The application should increment the passed value and send it back as a challenge message.
9. Vector will send a *challenge success* message.
10. The application can now send other commands

If the user puts Vector on the charger, and double clicks the backpack button, Vector will usually send a *disconnect* request.

35.2. FRAGMENTATION AND REASSEMBLY

An individual frame sent over Bluetooth LE is limited to 20 bytes. (This preserves compatibility with Bluetooth LE 4.1) A frame looks like:



The control byte is used to tell the receiver how to *reassemble* the message using this frame.

- If the MSB bit (bit 7) is set, this is the start of a new message. The previous message should be discarded.
- If the 2nd MSB (bit 6) is set, this is the end of the message; there are no more frames.
- The 6 LSB bits (bits 0..5) are the number of payload bytes in the frame to use.

The receiver would append the payload onto the end of the message buffer. If there are no more frames to be received it will pass the buffer (and size count) on to the next stage. If encryption has been set up, the message buffer will be decrypted and then passed to the RTS and CLAD. If encryption has not been set up, it is passed directly to the RTS & CLAD.

Fragmenting reverses the process:

1. Set the MSB bit of the control byte, since this is the start of a message.
2. Copy up to 19 bytes to the payload.
3. Set the number of bytes in the 6 LSB bits of the control byte
4. If there are no more bytes remaining, set the 2nd MSB bit of the control byte.
5. Send the frame to Vector
6. If there are bytes remaining, repeat from step 2.

35.3. ENCRYPTION SUPPORT

For the security layer, you will need the following:

```
uint8_t Vectors_publicKey[32];
uint8_t publicKey [crypto_kx_PUBLICKEYBYTES];
uint8_t secretKey [crypto_kx_SECRETKEYBYTES];
uint8_t encryptionKey[crypto_kx_SESSIONKEYBYTES];
uint8_t decryptionKey[crypto_kx_SESSIONKEYBYTES];
uint8_t encryptionNonce[24];
uint8_t decryptionNonce[24];
uint8_t pinCode[16];
```

Example 1: Bluetooth
LE encryption structures

The variables mean:

Variable	Description
<i>decryptionKey</i>	The key used to decrypt each message from to Vector.
<i>decryptionNonce</i>	An extra bit that is added to each message. The initial nonce's to use are provided by Vector.
<i>encryptionKey</i>	The key used to encrypt each message sent to Vector.
<i>encryptionNonce</i>	An extra bit that is added to each message as it is encrypted. The initial nonce's to use are provided by Vector.
<i>pinCode</i>	6 digits that are displayed by Vector during an initial pairing.
<i>Vectors_publicKey</i>	The public key provided by Vector, used to create the encryption and decryption keys.

Table 27: The
encryption variables

There are two different paths to setting up the encryption keys:

- First time pairing, and
- Reconnection

35.3.1 First time pairing

First time pairing requires that Vector be placed into pairing mode prior to the start of communication. This is done by placing Vector on the charger, and quickly double clicking the backpack button.

The application should generate its own internal *public* and *secret keys* at start.

```
crypto_kx_keypair(publicKey, secretKey);
```

Example 2: Bluetooth
LE key pair

The application will send a *connection response* with first-time-pairing set, and the public key. After Vector receives the connection response, he will display the *pin code*. (See the steps in the next section for when this will occur.)

The session *encryption* and *decryption keys* can then created:

```
crypto_kx_client_session_keys(decryptionKey, encryptionKey, publicKey, secretKey,
    Vector_publicKey);
size_t pin_length = strlen(pin);

crypto_generichash(encryptionKey, sizeof(encryptionKey), encryptionKey,
    sizeof(encryptionKey), pin, pin_length);
crypto_generichash(decryptionKey, sizeof(decryptionKey), decryptionKey,
    sizeof(decryptionKey), pin, pin_length);
```

Example 3: Bluetooth
LE encryption &
decryption keys

35.3.2 Reconnecting

Reconnecting can reused the public and secret keys, and the encryption and decryption keys. It is not known how long these persist on Vector. {Next pairing? Next reboot? Indefinitely?}

35.3.3 Encrypting and decryption messages

Vector will send a *nonce* message with the *encryption* and *decryption nonces* to employ in encrypting and decrypting message.

Each received enciphered message can be decrypted from cipher text (cipher, and cipherLen) to the message buffer (message and messageLen) for further processing:

```
crypto_aead_xchacha20poly1305_ietf_decrypt(message, &messageLen, NULL, cipher,
      cipherLen, NULL, 0L, decryptionNonce, decryptionKey);
sodium_increment(decryptionNonce, sizeof decryptionNonce);
```

Example 4: Decrypting a Bluetooth LE message

Note: the decryptionNonce is incremented each time a message is decrypted.

Each message to be sent can be encrypted from message buffer (message and messageLen) into cipher text (cipher, and cipherLen) that can be fragmented and sent:

```
crypto_aead_xchacha20poly1305_ietf_encrypt(cipher, &cipherLen, message,
      messageLen, NULL, 0L, NULL, encryptionNonce, encryptionKey);
sodium_increment(encryptionNonce, sizeof encryptionNonce);
```

Example 5: Encrypting a Bluetooth LE message

Note: the encryptionNonce is incremented each time a message is encrypted.

35.4. THE RTS LAYER

There is an extra, pragmatic layer before the messages can be interpreted by the application. The message has two to three bytes at the header:

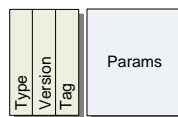


Figure 38: The format of an RTS frame

- The type byte is either 1 or 4. If it is 1 the version of the message format is 1.
- If type byte is 4, the version is held in the next byte. (If the type is 1, there is no version byte).
- The next byte is the tag – the value used to interpret the message.

The tag, parameter body, and version are passed to the CLAD layer for interpretation. This is described in the next section.

35.5. FETCHING A LOG

The process to set up a Bluetooth LE communication with Vector is complex. The sequence has many steps:

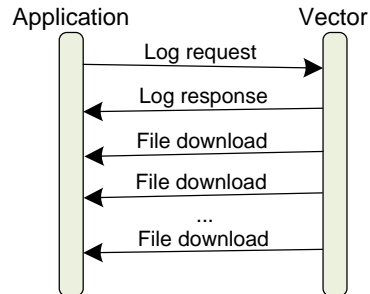


Figure 39: Sequence for initiating communication with Vector

The log request is sent to Vector. In principal this includes a list of the kinds of logs (called filter names) to be included. In practice, the “filter name” makes no difference.

Vector response, and if there will be a file sent, includes an affirmative and a 32-bit file identifier used for the file transfer.

Vector zips the log files up (as a tar.bz2 compressed archive) and sends the chunks to the application. Each chunk has this file identifier. (Conceptually there could be several files in transfer at a time.)

The file transfer is complete when the packet number matches the packet total.

36. MESSAGE FORMATS

This section describes the format and interpretation of the CLAD messages that go between the App and Vector. It describes the fields and how they are encoded, etc. Fields that do not have a fixed location, have no value for their offset. Some fields are only present in later versions of the protocol. They are marked with the version that they are present.

Except where otherwise stated:

- Requests are from the mobile application to Vector, and responses are Vector to the application
- All values in little endian order

	Request	Response	Min Version
Application connection id	1F ₁₆	20 ₁₆	4
Cancel pairing	10 ₁₆		0
Challenge	04 ₁₆	04 ₁₆	0
Challenge success	05 ₁₆		0
Connect	01 ₁₆	02 ₁₆	0
Cloud session	1D ₁₆	1E ₁₆	3
Disconnect	11 ₁₆		0
File download		1a ₁₆	2
Log	18 ₁₆	19 ₁₆	2
Nonce	03 ₁₆	12 ₁₆	
OTA cancel	17 ₁₆		2
OTA update	0E ₁₆	0F ₁₆	0
SDK proxy	22 ₁₆	23 ₁₆	5
Response		21 ₁₆	4
SSH	15 ₁₆	16 ₁₆	0
Status	0A ₁₆	0B ₁₆	0
WiFi access point	13 ₁₆	14 ₁₆	0
WiFi connect	06 ₁₆	07 ₁₆	0
WiFi forget	1B ₁₆	1C ₁₆	3
WiFi IP	08 ₁₆	09 ₁₆	0
WiFi scan	0C ₁₆	0D ₁₆	0

Table 28: Summary of the commands

36.1. APPLICATION CONNECTION ID

?

36.1.1 Request

The parameters of the request body are:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	2	uint16_t	<i>name length</i>	The length of the application connection id; may be 0
2	<i>varies</i>	uint8_t[name length]	<i>name</i>	The application connection id

Table 29: Parameters for Application Connection Id request

36.1.2 Response

There is no response.

36.2. CANCEL PAIRING

Speculation: this is sent by the application to cancel the pairing process

36.2.1 Request

The command has no parameters.

36.2.2 Response

There is no response.

36.3. CHALLENGE

This is sent by Vector if he liked the response to a nonce message.

36.3.1 Request

The parameters of the request body are:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	4	uint8_t	<i>value</i>	The challenge value

Table 30: Parameters for challenge request

The application, when it receives this message, should increment the value and send the response (a challenge message).

36.3.2 Response

The parameters of the response body are:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	4	uint8_t	<i>value</i>	The challenge value; this is 1 + the value that was received.

Table 31: Parameters for challenge response

If Vector accepts the response, he will send a *challenge success*.

36.4. CHALLENGE SUCCESS

This is sent by Vector if the challenge response was accepted.

36.4.1 Request

The command has no parameters.

36.4.2 Response

There is no response.

36.5. CLOUD SESSION

This command is used to request a cloud session.

36.5.1 Command

The parameters of the request body are:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	2	uint16_t	<i>session token length</i>	The number of bytes in the session token; may be 0
2	varies	uint8_t	<i>session token</i>	The session token, as received from the cloud server. ³⁴
	1	uint8_t	<i>client name length</i>	The number of bytes in the client name string; may be 0 version >= 5
	varies	uint8_t[]	<i>client name</i>	The client name string. Informational only. The mobile app uses the name of the mobile device. version >= 5
	1	uint8_t	<i>application id length</i>	The number of bytes in the application id string; may be 0; version >= 5
	varies	uint8_t[]	<i>application id</i>	The application id. Informational only. The mobile uses “companion-app”. version >= 5

Table 32: Parameters for Cloud Session request

36.5.2 Response result

The parameters for the connection response message:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint8_t	<i>success</i>	0 if failed, otherwise successful
1	1	uint8_t	<i>status</i>	See Table 34: Cloud status enumeration
2	1	uint16_t	<i>client token GUID length</i>	The number of bytes in the client token GUID; may be 0
	varies	uint8_t[]	<i>client token GUID</i>	The client token GUID. The client token GUID should be saved for future use.

Table 33: Parameters for Cloud Session Response

The cloud status types are:

Index	Meaning
0	unknown error
1	connection error
2	wrong account
3	invalid session token
4	authorized as primary

Table 34: Cloud status enumeration

³⁴ <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!msg/anki-vector-rooting/Y1YQsX08OD4/fvkAOZ91CgAJ>
<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!msg/anki-vector-rooting/XAaBE6e94ek/OdES50PaBQAJ>

5	authorized as secondary
6	reauthorization

36.6. CONNECT

The connect request *comes from Vector* at the start of a connection. The response is from the application.

36.6.1 Request

The parameters of the request body are:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	32	uint8_t[32]	<i>publicKey</i>	The public key for the connection

Table 35: Parameters for Connection request

The application, when it receives this message, should use the public key for the session, and send a response back.

36.6.2 Response

The parameters for the connection response message:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint8_t	<i>connectionType</i>	See Table 37: Connection types enumeration
1	32	uint8_t[32]	<i>publicKey</i>	The public key to use for the connection

Table 36: Parameters for Connection Response

The connection types are:

Index	Meaning
0	first time pairing (requests pin code to be displayed)
1	reconnection

Table 37: Connection types enumeration

The application sends the response, with its *publicKey* (see section 35.3 *Encryption support*). A “first time pairing” connection type will cause Vector to display a pin code on the screen

If a first time pairing response is sent:

- If Vector is not in pairing mode – was not put on his charger and the backpack button pressed twice, quickly – Vector will respond. Attempting to enter pairing mode now will cause Vector to send a *disconnect* request.
- If Vector is in pairing mode, Vector will display a pin code on the screen, and send a nonce message, triggering the next steps of the conversation.

If a reconnection is sent, the application would employ the public and secret keys, and the encryption and decryption keys from a prior pairing.

36.7. DISCONNECT

This may be sent by Vector if there is an error, and it is ending communication. For instance, if Vector enters pairing mode, it will send a disconnect.

The application may send this to request Vector to close the connection.

36.7.1 Request

The command has no parameters.

36.7.2 Response

There is no response.

36.8. FILE DOWNLOAD

This command is used to pass chunks of a file to Vector. Files are broken up into chunks and sent.

36.8.1 Request

There is no direct request.

36.8.2 Response

The parameters of the response body are:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint8_t	<i>status</i>	
1	4	uint32_t	<i>file id</i>	
5	4	uint32_t	<i>packet number</i>	The chunk within the download
9	4	uint32_t	<i>packet total</i>	The total number of packets to be sent for this file download
13	2	uint16_t	<i>length</i>	The number of bytes to follow (can be 0)
	varies	uint8_t[length]	<i>bytes</i>	The bytes of this file chunk

Table 38: Parameters for File Download request

36.9. LOG

This command is used to request the Vector send a compressed archive of the logs.

36.9.1 Request

The parameters of the request body are:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint8_t	<i>mode</i>	
1	2	uint16_t	<i>num filters</i>	The number of filters in the array
3	varies	filter[num filters]	<i>filters</i>	The filter names

Table 39: Parameters for Log request

Each filter entry has the following structure:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	2	uint16_t	<i>filter length</i>	The length of the filter name; may be 0
2	varies	uint8_t[filter length]	<i>filter name</i>	The filter name

Table 40: Log filter

36.9.2 Response

It can take several seconds for Vector to prepare the log archive file and send a response. The response will be a “log response” (below) and a series of “file download” responses.

The parameters for the response message:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint8_t	<i>exit code</i>	
1	4	uint32_t	<i>file id</i>	A 32-bit identifier that will be used in the file download messages.

Table 41: Parameters for Log Response

36.10. NONCE

A nonce is sent by Vector after he has accepted your key, and the application sends a response

36.10.1 Request

The parameters for the nonce request message:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	24	uint8_t[24]	<i>toVectorNonce</i>	The nonce to use for sending stuff to Vector
24	24	uint8_t[24]	<i>toAppNonce</i>	The nonce for receiving stuff from Vector

Table 42: Parameters for Nonce request

36.10.2 Response

After receiving a nonce, if the application is in first-time pairing the application should send a response, with a value of 3.

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint8_t	<i>connection tag</i>	This is always 3

Table 43: Parameters for Nonce response

After the response has been sent, the channel will now be encrypted. If vector likes the response, he will send a challenge message.

36.11. OTA UPDATE

This command is used to request the Vector download software from a given server

36.11.1 Request

The parameters of the request body are:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint8_t	<i>length</i>	The length of the URL; may be 0
1	<i>varies</i>	uint8_t[length]	<i>URL</i>	The URL string

Table 44: Parameters for OTA request

36.11.2 Response

The response will be one or more “OTA response” indicating the status of the update, or errors. Status codes ≥ 200 indicate that the update process has completed. The update has completed the download when the current number of bytes match the expected number of bytes.

The parameters for the response message:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint8_t	<i>status</i>	See Table 46: OTA status enumeration
1	8	uint64_t	<i>current</i>	The number of bytes downloaded
9	8	uint64_t	<i>expected</i>	The number of bytes expected to be downloaded

Table 45: Parameters for OTA Response

The OTA status codes are:

Status	Meaning
0	idle
1	unknown
2	in progress
3	complete
4	rebooting
5	error
200...	Status codes from the update-engine. See Appendix C, Table 116: OTA update-engine status codes for these update-engine status codes.

Table 46: OTA status enumeration

Note: the status codes 200 and above are from the update-engine, and are given in Appendix C.

36.12. RESPONSE

This message will be sent on the event of an error. Primarily if the session is not cloud authorized and the command requires it.

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint16_t	<i>code</i>	0 if not cloud authorized, otherwise authorized
1	1	uint8_t	<i>length</i>	The number of bytes in the string that follows.
	<i>varies</i>	uint8_t [length]	<i>text</i>	A text error message.

Table 47: *Parameters for Response*

36.13. SDK PROXY

This command is used to pass the gRPC/protobufs messages to Vector over Bluetooth LE. It effectively wraps a HTTP request/response. Note: the HTTPS TLS certificate is not employed with this command.

36.13.1 Request

The parameters of the request body are:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint8_t	<i>GUID length</i>	The number of bytes in the GUID string; may be 0
2	<i>varies</i>	uint8_t[GUID length]	<i>GUID</i>	The GUID string
	1	uint8_t	<i>msg length</i>	The number of bytes in the message id string
	<i>varies</i>	uint8_t[msg id length]	<i>msg id</i>	The message id string
	1	uint8_t	<i>path length</i>	The number of bytes in the URL path string
	<i>varies</i>	uint8_t[path length]	<i>path</i>	The URL path string
	2	uint16_t	<i>JSON length</i>	The length of the JSON
	<i>varies</i>	uint8_t[JSON length]	<i>JSON</i>	The JSON (string)

Table 48: Parameters for the SDK proxy request

36.13.2 Response

The parameters for the response message:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint8_t	<i>msg id length</i>	The number of bytes in the message id string; may be 0
2	<i>varies</i>	uint8_t[msg id length]	<i>msg id</i>	The message id string
	2	uint16_t	<i>status code</i>	The HTTP-style status code that the SDK may return.
	1	uint8_t	<i>type length</i>	The number of bytes in the response type string
	<i>varies</i>	uint8_t[type length]	<i>type</i>	The response type string
	2	uint16_t	<i>body length</i>	The length of the response body
	<i>varies</i>	uint8_t[body length]	<i>body</i>	The response body (string)

Table 49: Parameters for the SDK proxy Response

36.14. SSH

This command is used to request the Vector allow SSH. It is reported that only the developer releases support SSH; it is not known which versions are applicable. It does not appear that SSH can be enabled in the release software.

36.14.1 Request

The parameters for the request message:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	2	uint16_t	<i>num keys</i>	The number of SSH authorization keys; may be 0
2	<i>varies</i>	keys[num keys]	<i>keys</i>	The array of authorization key strings (see below).

Table 50: Parameters for SSH request

Each authorization key has the following structure:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint8_t	<i>key length</i>	The length of the key; may be 0
1	<i>varies</i>	uint8_t[key length]	<i>key</i>	The SSH authorization key

Table 51: SSH authorization key

36.14.2 Response

The response has no parameters.

36.15. STATUS

This command is used to request basic info from Vector.

36.15.1 Request

The request has no parameters.

36.15.2 Response

The parameters for the response message:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint8_t	<i>SSID length</i>	The number of bytes in the SSID string; may be 0
2	<i>varies</i>	uint8_t[SSID length]	<i>SSID</i>	The WiFi SSID (hex string).
	1	uint8_t	<i>WiFi state</i>	See <i>Table 53: WiFi state enumeration</i>
	1	uint8_t	<i>access point</i>	0 not acting as an access point, otherwise acting as an access point
	1	uint8_t	<i>Bluetooth LE state</i>	0 if the Bluetooth
	1	uint8_t	<i>Battery state</i>	
	1	uint8_t	<i>version length</i>	The number of bytes in the version string; may be 0 version >= 2
	<i>varies</i>	uint8_t [version length]	<i>version</i>	The version string; version >= 2
	1	uint8_t	<i>ESN length</i>	The number of bytes in the ESN string; may be 0 version >= 4
	<i>varies</i>	uint8_t[ESN length]	<i>ESN</i>	The <i>electronic serial number</i> string; version >= 4
	1	uint8_t	<i>OTA in progress</i>	0 over the air update not in progress, otherwise in process of over the air update; version >= 2
	1	uint8_t	<i>has owner</i>	0 does not have owner, otherwise has owner; version >= 3
	1	uint8_t	<i>cloud authorized</i>	0 is not cloud authorized, otherwise is cloud authorized; version >= 5

Table 52: Parameters for Status Response

Note: a *hex string* is a series of bytes with values 0-15. Every pair of bytes must be converted to a single byte to get the characters. Even bytes are the high nibble, odd bytes are the low nibble.

The WiFi states are:

Index	Meaning
0	Unknown
1	Online
2	Connected
3	Disconnected

Table 53: WiFi state enumeration

36.16. WIFI ACCESS POINT

This command is used to request that the Vector act as a WiFi access point. This command requires that a “cloud session” have been successfully started first (see section 36.5 *Cloud session*).

If successful, Vector will provide a WiFi Access Point with an SSID that matches his robot name.

36.16.1 Request

The parameters of the request body are:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint8_t	<i>enable</i>	0 to disable the WiFi access point, 1 to enable it

Table 54: Parameters for WiFi Access Point request

36.16.2 Response

If the Bluetooth LE session is not cloud authorized a “response” message will be sent with this error. Otherwise the WiFi Access Point response message will be sent.

The parameters for the response message:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint8_t	<i>enabled</i>	0 if the WiFi access point is disabled, otherwise enabled
1	1	uint8_t	<i>SSID length</i>	The number of bytes in the SSID string; may be 0
2	<i>varies</i>	uint8_t[SSID length]	<i>SSID</i>	The WiFi SSID (hex string)
	1	uint8_t	<i>password length</i>	The number of bytes in the password string; may be 0
	<i>varies</i>	uint8_t [password length]	<i>password</i>	The WiFi password

Table 55: Parameters for WiFi Access Point Response

36.17. WIFI CONNECT

This command is used to request Vector to connect to a given WiFi SSID. Vector will retain this WiFi for future use.

36.17.1 Request

The parameters for the request message:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint8_t	<i>SSID length</i>	The number of bytes in the SSID string; may be 0
1	varies	uint8_t[SSID length]	<i>SSID</i>	The WiFi SSID (hex string)
	1	uint8_t	<i>password length</i>	The number of bytes in the password string; may be 0
	varies	uint8_t [password length]	<i>password</i>	The WiFi password
	1	uint8_t	<i>timeout</i>	How long to given the connect attempt to succeed.
	1	uint8_t	<i>auth type</i>	The type of authentication to employ; see <i>Table 57: WiFi authentication types enumeration</i>
	1	uint8_t	<i>hidden</i>	0 the access point is not hidden; 1 it is hidden

Table 56: Parameters for WiFi Connect request

The WiFi authentication types are:

Index	Meaning
0	None, open
1	WEP
2	WEP shared
3	IEEE8021X
4	WPA PSK
5	WPA2 PSK
6	WPA2 EAP

Table 57: WiFi authentication types enumeration

36.17.2 Response

The parameters for the response message:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint8_t	<i>SSID length</i>	The length of the SSID that was deleted; may be 0
1	varies	uint8_t[SSID length]	<i>SSID</i>	The SSID (hex string) that was deleted
	1	uint8_t	<i>WiFi state</i>	See <i>Table 53: WiFi state enumeration</i>
	1	uint8_t	<i>connect result</i>	version >= 3

Table 58: Parameters for WiFi Connect command

36.18. WIFI FORGET

This command is used to request Vector to forget a WiFi SSID.

36.18.1 Request

The parameters for the request message:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint8_t	<i>delete all</i>	0 if Vector should delete only one SSID; otherwise Vector should delete all SSIDs
1	1	uint8_t	<i>SSID length</i>	The length of the SSID that to be deleted; may be 0
2	<i>varies</i>	uint8_t[SSID length]	<i>SSID</i>	The SSID (hex string) to be deleted

Table 59: Parameters for WiFi Forget request

36.18.2 Response

The parameters for the response message:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint8_t	<i>did delete all</i>	0 if only one; otherwise Vector deleted all SSIDs
1	1	uint8_t	<i>SSID length</i>	The length of the SSID that was deleted; may be 0
2	<i>varies</i>	uint8_t[SSID length]	<i>SSID</i>	The SSID (hex string) that was deleted

Table 60: Parameters for WiFi Forget response

36.19. WIFI IP ADDRESS

This command is used to request Vector's WiFi IP address.

36.19.1 Request

The request has no parameters

36.19.2 Response

The parameters for the response message:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint8_t	<i>has IPv4</i>	0 if Vector doesn't have an IPv4 address; other it does
1	1	uint8_t	<i>has IPv6</i>	0 if Vector doesn't have an IPv6 address; other it does
2	4	uint8_t[4]	<i>IPv4 address</i>	Vector's IPv4 address
6	32	uint8_t[16]	<i>IPv6 address</i>	Vector's IPv6 address

Table 61: Parameters for WiFi IP Address response

36.20. WIFI SCAN

This command is used to request Vector to scan for WiFi access points.

36.20.1 Request

The command has no parameters.

36.20.2 Response

The parameters for the response message:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint8_t	<i>status code</i>	
1	1	uint8_t	<i>num entries</i>	The number of access points in the array below
2	<i>varies</i>	AP[num entries]	<i>access points</i>	The array of access points

Table 62: Parameters for WiFi scan response

Each access point has the following structure:

Offset	Size	Type	Parameter	Description
0	1	uint8_t	<i>auth type</i>	The type of authentication to employ; see Table 57: WiFi authentication types enumeration
1	1	uint8_t	<i>signal strength</i>	The number of bars, 0..4
2	1	uint8_t	<i>SSID length</i>	The length of the SSID string
3	<i>varies</i>	uint8_t[SSID length]	<i>SSID</i>	The SSID (hex string)
	1	uint8_t	<i>hidden</i>	0 not hidden, 1 hidden; version >= 2
	1	uint8_t	<i>provisioned</i>	0 not provisioned, 1 provisioned; version >= 3

Table 63: Parameters access point structure

CHAPTER 13

The HTTPS based API

This chapter describes the communication with Vector over the local HTTPS. This chapter provides supplemental information not available at:

<https://developer.anki.com/vector/docs/proto.html>

- JSON document storage interface
- Settings and preferences

The Anki documentation include descriptions of the following types:

- `ResponseStatus`

The descriptions below³⁵ give the JSON keys, value format. It is implemented as gRPC/protobufs interaction over HTTP. Each command is requested by POST-ing the request structure to the given relative URL (relative to Vector's address or local network name) and interpreting the returned body as the response structure.

The HTTPS header should include

- Bearer *BASE64KEY*
- Content-Type: application/json

(The JSON request is posted in the body)

³⁵ The protocol was specified in Google Protobuf.

37. MISC

37.1. ENUMERATIONS

37.1.1 ConnectionCode

The ConnectionCode enumeration has the following named values:

Name	Value	Description
AVAILABLE	1	The cloud is connected, and has authenticated successfully
BAD_CONNECTIVITY	2	The internet or servers are down
FAILED_AUTH	4	The cloud connection has failed due to an authentication issue
FAILED_TLS	3	The cloud connection has failed due to [TLS certificate?] issue
UNKNOWN	0	There is an error connecting to the cloud, but the reason is unknown

Table 64:
*ConnectionCode
Enumeration*

37.2. CHECKCLOUDCONNECTION

Post: “/v1/check_cloud_connection”

37.2.1 Request

The CheckCloudConnectionRequest has no fields.

37.2.2 Response

The CheckCloudConnectionResponse has the following fields:

Field	Type	Description
code	ConnectionCode	Whether the cloud is available, or the relevant connection error
expected_packets	int32	
num_packets	int32	
status	ResponseStatus	
status_message	string	

Table 65:
*CheckCloudConnectionR
esponse JSON structure*

37.3. DELETECUSTOMOBJECTS

DeleteCustomObjects

Post: “/v1/delete_custom_objects”

37.3.1 Request

37.3.2 Response

37.4. UPLOADDEBUGLOGS

UploadDebugLogs

Post: “/v1/upload_debug_logs”

37.4.1 Request

37.4.2 Response

38. JDOCS

This section discussed the commands for “Jdocs” (short for “JSON Documents”), which are JSON objects that are passed to Vic-Engine and Vic-Cloud. See the next chapter for interactions with a remote Jdocs server, using a sibling protocol.

The TBD sends a foo for events that have changed

event message JdocsChanged jdocs_changed = 14;

38.1. ENUMERATIONS

38.1.1 JdocType

The JdocType enumeration has the following named values:

Name	Value	Description
ACCOUNT_SETTINGS	2	Refers to the owner’s account settings
ROBOT_LIFETIME_STATS	1	Refers to the robot’s settings (owner preferences)
ROBOT_SETTINGS	0	Refers to the robot’s lifetime stats.
USER_ENTITLEMENTS	3	Refers to the owner’s entitlements.

Table 66: JdocType Enumeration

Items of these types are described in more detail in Chapter 18.

38.1.2 ResultCode

The ResultCode enumeration has the following named values:

Name	Value	Description
ERROR_UPDATE_IN_PROGRESS	1	
SETTINGS_ACCEPTED	0	

Table 67: ResultCode Enumeration

38.2. STRUCTURES

38.2.1 JDoc

The Jdoc type has the following fields:

Field	Type	Description
<i>client_meta</i>	string	
<i>doc_version</i>	uin64	
<i>fmt_version</i>	uint64	
<i>json_doc</i>	string	

Table 68: JSON Jdoc structure

38.2.2 NamedJDoc

The NamedJdoc type has the following fields:

Field	Type	Description
<i>doc</i>	Jdoc	The JSON structure and meta-data about the document
<i>jdoc_type</i>	JdocType	The type of document provided in “doc”

Table 69: JSON NamedJdoc structure

38.3. JDOCSCHANGED

The JdocsChanged message has the following fields:

Field	Type	Description
<i>jdoc_types</i>	JdocType repeated	

Table 70: JSON JdocsChanged request structure

38.4. PULLJDOCS

Post: “/v1/pull_jdocs”

38.4.1 Request

The PullJdocsRequest has the following fields:

Field	Type	Description
<i>jdoc_types</i>	JdocType repeated	

Table 71: JSON PullJdocsRequest structure

38.4.2 Response

The PullJdocResponse has the following fields:

Field	Type	Description
<i>named_jdocs</i>	NamedJdoc repeated	
<i>status</i>	ResponseStatus	

Table 72: JSON PullJdocsResponse structure

39. SETTINGS AND PREFERENCES

This section describes the commands and queries related to settings and preferences on Vector. For a description of the settings and what they mean, see Chapter 18 *Settings, Preferences, Features, and Statistics*. That chapter includes definitions for the following types:

- AccountSettingsConfig
- RobotSettingsConfig

39.1. ENUMERATIONS

39.1.1 UpdateStatus

The UpdateStatus enumeration has the following named values:

Name	Value	Description
<i>IN_PROGRESS_DOWNLOAD</i>	2	
<i>NO_UPDATE</i>	0	
<i>READY_TO_INSTALL</i>	1	

Table 73: UpdateStatus Enumeration

39.2. STRUCTURES

39.2.1 AccountSettingsConfig

The AccountSettingsConfig type has the following fields:

Field	Type	Description
<i>app_locale</i>	string	
<i>data_collection</i>	boolean	

Table 74: AccountSetting JSON structure

39.3. UPDATESettings

Post: “/v1/update_settings”

39.3.1 Request

The UpdateSettingsRequest has the following fields:

Field	Type	Description
<i>settings</i>	RobotSettingsConfig	

Table 75: UpdateSettingsRequest JSON structure

39.3.2 Response

The UpdateSettingsResponse type has the following fields:

Field	Type	Description
<i>code</i>	ResultCode	
<i>doc</i>	Jdoc	
<i>status</i>	ResponseStatus	

Table 76:
UpdateSettingsResponse JSON structure

39.4. UPDATEACCOUNTSETTINGS

Post: “/v1/update_account_settings”

39.4.1 Request

The UpdateAccountsSettingsRequest has the following fields:

Field	Type	Description
<i>account_settings</i>	AccountSettingsConfig	

Table 77: *JSON Parameters for UpdateAccountSettings Request*

39.4.2 Response

The UpdateAccountsSettingsResponse type has the following fields:

Field	Type	Description
<i>code</i>	ResultCode	
<i>doc</i>	Jdoc	
<i>status</i>	ResponseStatus	

Table 78:
UpdateAccountSettingsResponse JSON structure

39.5. UPDATEUSERENTITLEMENTS

UpdateUserEntitlements

Post: “/v1/update_user_entitlements”

40. FEATURES

Vector has granular features that can be enabled and disabled thru the use of feature flags. This section describes the queries related to list Vector’s features flags, and their state. For a description of feature flags, see Chapter 18 *Settings, Preferences, Features, and Statistics*. For a list of the features, and a description of each, see Appendix G.

Note: the API does not include the ability to enable a feature.

40.1. GETFEATUREFLAG

The request the current setting of a feature flag.

post: “/v1/feature_flag”

40.1.1 Request

The FeatureFlagRequest message has the following fields:

Field	Type	Description
<i>feature_name</i>	string	

Table 79:
FeatureFlagRequest
JSON structure

40.1.2 Response

The FeatureFlagResponse type has the following fields:

Field	Type	Description
<i>feature_enabled</i>	bool	
<i>status</i>	ResponseStatus	
<i>valid_feature</i>	bool	

Table 80:
FeatureFlagResponse
JSON structure

40.2. GETFEATUREFLAGLIST

To get a list of the current feature flags.

post: “/v1/feature_flag_list”

40.2.1 Request

The following is streamed... to the robot?

Field	Type	Description
<i>request_list</i>	string	

Table 81:
FeatureFlagListRequest
JSON structure

40.2.2 Response

The FeatureFlagListResponse type has the following fields:

Field	Type	Description
<i>list</i>	string repeated	
<i>status</i>	ResponseStatus	

Table 82:
FeatureFlagListResponse
JSON structure

41. UPDATES

These commands are siblings to the OTA Update and related commands in Chapter 12 Bluetooth LE protocol. However, they differ: in some cases, less information, in others present the same information in different ways.

41.1. STARTUPDATEENGINE

“StartUpdateEngine cycles the update-engine service (to start a new check for an update) and sets up a stream of UpdateStatusResponse events.”

Post: “/v1/start_update_engine”

This command uses the same request and response structures as CheckUpdateStatus

41.2. CHECKUPDATESTATUS

“CheckUpdateStatus tells if the robot is ready to reboot and update.”

Post: “/v1/check_update_status”

41.2.1 Request

The CheckUpdateStatusRequest structure has no fields.

41.2.2 Response

This is streamed set of update status

The CheckUpdateStatusResponse type has the following fields:

Field	Type	Description
<i>expected</i>	int64	The number of bytes expected to be downloaded
<i>progress</i>	int64	The number of bytes downloaded
<i>status</i>	ResponseStatus	
<i>update_status</i>	UpdateStatus	
<i>update_version</i>	string	

Table 83:
CheckUpdateStatusResponse JSON structure

41.3. UPDATEANDRESTART

Post: “/v1/update_and_restart”

41.3.1 Request

The UpdateAndRestartRequest structure has no fields.

41.3.2 Response

The UpdateAndRestartResponse has the following fields:

Field	Type	Description
<i>status</i>	ResponseStatus	

Table 84:
UpdateAndRestartResponse JSON structure

CHAPTER 14

The Cloud Services

This chapter describes the remote servers that provide functionality for Vector.

- JSON document storage server
- The crash uploader
- The diagnostic logger
- The token/certificate system
- The natural language processing

42. CONFIGURATION

The server URLs are specified in “/anki/data/assets/cozmo_resources/config/server_config.json” (The path to this JSON file is hardcoded in the vic-cloud binary.)

Element	Description & Notes
<i>appkey</i>	A base64 token used to communicate with servers. “oDoa0quieSeir6goowai7f”
<i>check</i>	The server to use for connection checks
<i>chipper</i>	The natural language processing server
<i>jdocs</i>	The remote JSON storage server
<i>logfiles</i>	The server to upload log files to
<i>tms</i>	The token server where Vector gets authentication items like certificates and tokens

Table 85: The cloud services configuration file

The crash upload URL is given in /anki/etc/vic-crashuploader.env

The OTA download URL is given in /anki/etc/update-engine.env

The DAS server to contact is given in /anki/data/assets/cozmo_resources/config/DASConfig.json (This path is hardcoded in vic-DASMgr)

43. JDOCS SERVER

The Vic-Cloud services stores information on a “JDocs” server. This unusual name appears to be short for “JSON Documents.”

Vic-Cloud uses the “jdocs” tag in the cloud services configuration file to know which server to contact. It uses the file

/anki/data/assets/cozmo_resources/**config/engine/jdocs_config.json**

to adjust how often it contacts the server. (The path to this JSON file is hardcoded in libcozmo_engine.)

The interactions are basic: store, read, and delete a JSON blob by an identifier. The description below³⁶ gives the JSON keys, value format. It is implemented as gRPC/protobuf interaction over HTTP.

43.1. JDOCS INTERACTION

The JDoc message has the following fields

Field	Type	Description
<i>client_meta</i>	string	
<i>doc_version</i>	uin64	
<i>fmt_version</i>	uint64	
<i>json_doc</i>	string	

Table 86: JSON Parameters for JDoc request

43.2. DELETE DOCUMENT

43.2.1 Request

DeleteDocReq

- account
- thing – the thing id is a ‘vic:’ followed by the serial number
- doc_name

43.2.2 Response

DeleteDocResp

43.3. ECHO TEST

43.3.1 Request

EchoReq

- data

43.3.2 Response

EchoResp

- data

³⁶ The protocol was specified in Google Protobuf. Vic-Cloud and Vic-Gateway were both written in Go. There is enough information in those binaries to reconstruct significant portions of the Protobuf specification in the future.

43.4. READ DOCUMENTS

43.4.1 Request

ReadDocsReq

- account
- thing
- items

43.4.2 Response

ReadDocsResp

- items

43.5. READ DOCUMENT ITEM

43.5.1 Request

ReadDocsReq_Item

- doc_name
- my_doc_version

43.5.2 Response

ReadDocsResp_Item

- status (int)
- doc

43.6. WRITE DOCUMENT

43.6.1 Request

WriteDocReq

- account
- thing
- doc_name
- doc

43.6.2 Response

WriteDocResp

- status (int)
- latest_doc_version

44. NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING

The “knowledge graph” Q&A server is done by Sound Hound.

45. LOG UPLOADER

The logs are uploading by performing a HTTP PUT to the server. The URL is the “logfiles” URL in the server configuration file, with the compressed log file “/vector- $\{esn\}$ - $\{timestamp\}$ - $\{pid\}$.log.gz” appended. The HTTP headers are:

HTTP header	Description
<i>Anki-App-Key:</i>	The appKey from the server configuration file.
<i>Ustr-RobotESN:</i>	Vector’s serial number
<i>Ustr-RobotOSRevision:</i>	The OS revision string from /etc/os-version-rev
<i>Ustr-RobotOSVersion:</i>	The OS version string from /etc/os-version
<i>Ustr-RobotRevision:</i>	The Anki revision string from /anki/etc/revision
<i>Ustr-RobotTimestamp:</i>	The time of Vector’s internal clock.
<i>Ustr-RobotVersion:</i>	The Anki version string from /anki/etc/version
<i>Ustr-Username:</i>	

Table 87: Log upload HTTP header fields

Note: the log uploader does not appear to be enabled in the production software.

46. CRASH UPLOADER

Minidumps are uploaded to a backtrace.io server. The URL (including the key) is hard coded in anki-crashuploader. This is done using a POST. The HTTP headers are:

Form fields	Description
<i>attachment_messages.log</i>	The “.log” file associated with the minidump. This is optional; only included if /run/das_allow_upload exists
<i>hostname</i>	$\{hostname\}$
<i>robot.esn</i>	Vector’s serial number
<i>robot.os_version</i>	The OS version string from /etc/os-version
<i>robot.anki_version</i>	The Anki version string from /anki/etc/version
<i>upload_file</i>	The minidump “.dmp” file

Table 88: Crash upload form fields

47. DAS MANAGER

DAS Manager uploads TBD to an Amazon “Simple Queue Service” (SQS) server. Amazon’s API uses the following key/value pairs in a URL encoded form:

Keys	Value
<i>Action</i>	SendMessage
<i>MessageAttribute.1.Name</i>	DAS-Transport-Version
<i>MessageAttribute.1.Value.DataType</i>	Number
<i>MessageAttribute.1.Value.StringValue</i>	2

Table 89: DAS Manager SQS key-value pairs

<i>MessageAttribute.2.Name</i>	Content-Encoding
<i>MessageAttribute.2.Value.DataType</i>	String
<i>MessageAttribute.2.Value.StringValue</i>	gzip, base64
<i>MessageAttribute.3.Name</i>	Content-Type
<i>MessageAttribute.3.Value.DataType</i>	String
<i>MessageAttribute.3.Value.StringValue</i>	application/vnd.anki.json; format=normal; product=vic
<i>MessageBody</i>	
<i>Version</i>	2012-11-05 ³⁷

Note: there may be a body of compressed JSON data. These values are hardcoded in vic-dasmgr and libcozmo_engine

48. REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

Davis, Jason; *File Attachments in Backtrace*, Backtrace.io

<https://help.backtrace.io/en/articles/1852523-file-attachments-in-backtrace>

³⁷ This date is very far in the past, before Vector or Cozmo were developed. This was the time frame of the Overdrive product development.

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PART IV

Advanced Functions

- IMAGE PROCESSING. A look at how Vector vision system
- MOTOR CONTROL. At look at how Vector's moves.



Steph 2019

drawing by Steph Dare

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CHAPTER 15

Motion Control

This chapter describes the motion control subsystem:

- The control of the motors
- Performing head and lift movements
- Moving along paths in a smooth and controlled fashion

49. MOTION CONTROL

The motion control is designed to take a path of movements from the path planner or the animation systems. The path consisting of arc, line, and turn (in place) movement commands. These can be coordinated with the head and lift, by the animation system.

Note: the animation system is described in a later chapter

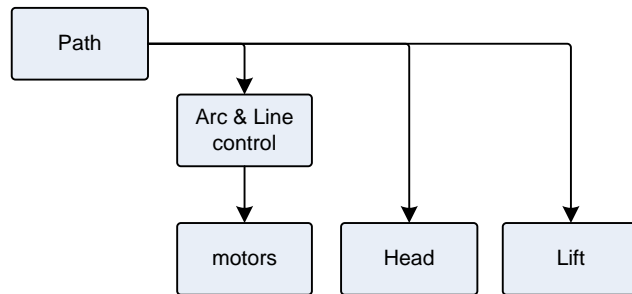


Figure 40: Motion plan path

The path planner thinks of the word and robot coordinates within it in terms of x, y and θ (theta) coordinates. The θ being the direction angle that Vector is facing at the time.

Each of the motors is independently driven and controlled, with the motion controller coordinating their action.

49.1. FEEDBACK

The motion controller may take position and orientation feedback from

- The linear speed can be estimated from the motors shaft rotation speed (and some estimated tread slip), merged with IMU information
- The speed that the robot is rotating can be measured by the IMU and the vision system.
- The navigation and localization subsystem, which employs a sophisticated Kalman filter on all of the above position.

49.2. MOTOR CONTROL

The motor control is (likely) implemented in the base-board, where it can respond most conveniently. A typical speed and position controller for the brushed DC motors is a set of PID control loops. (Although the “d” – derivative – term is often small or not needed.)

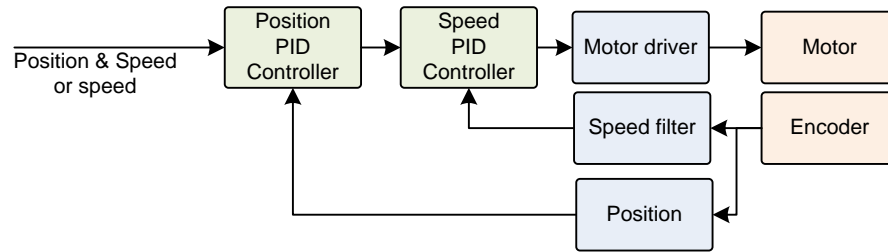


Figure 41: A typical motor controller

The motors can be commanded to travel to an encoder position at a speed (given in radians/sec).

The motors can also be “unlocked” – allowed to be spun by external forces. This allows a person to raise and lower the lift, as well as raise and lower the head. Both of these are used as inputs to enter diagnostic modes.

The position – the cumulative number of radians that the shaft has turned – can be computed by counting encoder events, taking into account the direction the motor was commanded to run. (There is a single encoder for each motor, so it can’t determine direction independently.)

The speed of rotation is computed from the encoder counts, taking into account the command direction. The encoder is discrete, and at slow speeds its update rate will produce false measures of shaft speed; the typical way to address this is apply a low-pass filter to the encoder events.

CHAPTER 16

Image Processing

This chapter describes the image processing system:

- Recognizing symbols and specially marked objects
- Detecting faces, recognizing people, and estimating emotion
- Hand detection
- Pet detection

50. OVERVIEW

Vector has a camera with a very wide field of view to see around it without moving its head, similar to how an animal can see a wide area around it by moving its eyes. The camera has a 120° field of view, by comparison the iPhone's camera has a 73° field of view, and the human eye is approximately 95°. The camera is calibrated at manufacturing time.

Vector visually recognizes some elements in its environment:

- Special visual markers; Vector treats all marked objects as moveable... and all other objects in its driving are as fixed & unmovable.
- Faces
- Hands
- Pets (sorta)

51. MARKER

Anki considered QR codes to mark accessories and special items... but they were universally rejected in the feedback received during development. So Anki created their own visual labeling system, starting with Cozmo. Vector has a newer set of visual labels that is not compatible with Cozmos. (There isn't a clear reason for the incompatibility.) The algorithm used is among the most documented of Anki's internally developed modules for Vector.

A key characteristic of the markers are big bold square line around it:

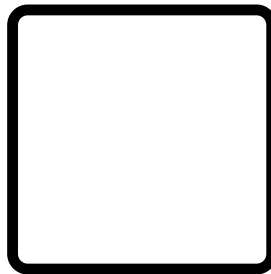


Figure 42: A typical rectangle around the visual markers

The square is used to estimate the distance and relative orientation (pose) of the marker and the object is on. Vector, internally, knows the physical size of marker. The size of the square in the view — and being told how big the shape really is —lets Vector know enough to compute the likely physical distance to the marked item. And since the “true” mark has parallel lines, Vector can infer the pose (relative angles) of the surface the mark is on.

The steps in processing are:

1. Acquire a gray scale image,
2. Apply classic erosion-dilation and Sobel transforms to build a vector representation (no pun intended) of the image; this is most familiar as “vector drawing” vs bitmapimages
3. Detect the squares – the parallel and perpendicular lines – in the vector drawing. This will be the potential area that a symbol is in.
4. Analyze square to determine its size, and affine transform – how it is tilted up-and-down, and tilted away from the camera.
5. Screen the squares, tossing out those that are horribly distorted,
6. Analyze the pixels in the square to identify the code

52. FACE AND FACIAL FEATURES RECOGNITION

Vector’s facial detection and recognition is based on the OKAO vision library. This lets Vector know when one (or more) people are looking at it. This library is primarily used by Vector for facial recognition tasks:

- Face detection ability – the ability to sense that there is a face in the field of view, and locate it within the image.
- Face recognize, the ability to identify whose face it is, looking up the identify for a set of known faces
- Recognize parts of the face, such as eyes, nose and mouth, and where they are located within the image.

There are a couple of areas that Vector includes access to in the SDK API, but did not incorporate into Vector’s AI:

- The ability to recognize the facial expression: happiness, surprise, anger, sadness and neutral. This is likely to be unreliable; that is the consensus of research on facial expression software.
- Ability to estimate the direction of gaze

And there are several features in OKAO that are not used

- The ability to estimate the gender and age of the person
- Human upper body detection
- Hand detection and the ability to detect an open palm. The hand detection used in Vector is done in a different way (which we will discuss in a section below.)

Side note: they were exploring ideas (akin to the idea of object permanence) to keeping track of a known person or object in the field of view even when it was too small to be recognized (or detected).

OpenCV also has facial detection, but not recognition. OpenCV's classic face detector is an implementation of an algorithm developed by Viola-Jones. Since we know how that works, we can discuss it as representative of how OKAO may work. Viola-Jones applies a series of fast filters (called a "cascade" in the jargon) to detect low-level facial features (called Haar feature selection) and then applies a series of classifiers (also called a cascade). This divides up interesting areas of the image, identify facial parts, and makes conclusions about where a face is.

53. TENSORFLOW LITE, DETECTING HANDS, PETS... AND THINGS?

Vector includes TensorFlow Lite³⁸, an inference only neural-net discriminator. Vector's is only trained on:

- Hand detection
- Recognizing the kinds of objects

A TensorFlow Lite stack:

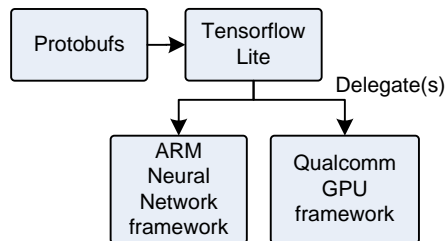


Figure 43:
TensorFlow lite with
hardware specific
accelerators

53.1. LABEL IMAGES

In `Cozmo_resources/config/engine/vision/dnn_models` Vector has a detector of hands

Vector also includes the MobileNet V1 (0.5, 128) model to classify images, but it does not appear to have been used yet. This model was likely intended to give Vector the ability to identify a wide variety of things, and pets.³⁹



Figure 44: Vector
recognizing fruit
drawing by Jesse
Easley

MobileNet V1 includes higher quality models that may be explored. Since this model was released, a version 2 and version 3 of MobileNet have been developed and released. These may be faster, higher quality, and/or require fewer processor resources.

³⁸ Since both TensorFlow Lite and Vector were both introduced in 2018, Anki were right on the edge. There has been a steady trickle of improvements to TensorFlow Lite

³⁹ Or a special model for recognizing pets may have been under development

54. RESOURCES & RESOURCES

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- Example code for running a TensorFlow Lite model on a PC
<https://github.com/ctuning/ck-tensorflow/blob/master/program/object-detection-tflite/detect.cpp>

PART V

Maintenance

This part describes items that are not Vector's primary function; they are practical items to support Vector's operation.

- **SETTINGS, PREFERENCES, FEATURES AND STATISTICS.** A look at how Vector syncs with remote servers
- **SOFTWARE UPDATES.** How Vector's software updates are applied.
- **DIAGNOSTICS & STATS.** The diagnostic support built into Vector, including logging and usage statistics



drawing by Steph Dare

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CHAPTER 18

Settings, Preferences, Features, and Statistics

This chapter describes:

- The owner's account settings and entitlements
- The robot's settings (owner preferences)
- The robot's lifetime stats

55. THE ARCHITECTURE

The architecture for setting and storing settings, statistics, account information is:

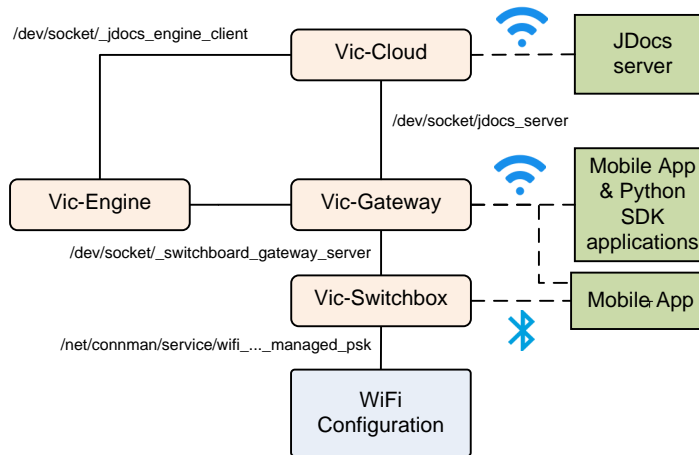


Figure 45: The architecture for storing preferences, account info, entitlements, and tracking stats

The Vic-Cloud service accesses information on a remote server.

The Vic-Switchbox interacts with the WiFi subsystem (connman) to allow the mobile App to set the preferred WiFi network to use. The mobile app must use Bluetooth LE to do this.

Vic-Gateway interacts with the mobile App and SDK programs to changes the robot settings.

Vic-Engine receives the preferences from the Vic-Cloud and Vic-Gateway, to carry out an changes in behaviour of Vector.

56. WIFI CONFIGURATION

The WiFi configuration (aka settings or preferences) is entirely local to the Vector robot. The information about the WiFi settings is not stored remotely.

The mobile application can configuration the WiFi settings via Vic-Switchbox commands. The WiFi is managed by connman thru the Vic-Switchbox:

- To provide a list of WiFi SSIDs to the mobile app
- To allow the mobile app to select an SSID and provide a password to
- Tell it forget an SSID
- To place the WiFi into Access Point mode

57. THE OWNER ACCOUNT INFORMATION

The owner account information is sent from the mobile application to Anki servers at time of registration and setting up a Vector. The owner account information includes;⁴⁰

JSON Key	units	Description & Notes
<i>user_id</i>	base64	A base64 token to identify the user
<i>created_by_app_name</i>	string	The name of the mobile application that register the owner. Example: “chewie”
<i>created_by_app_platform</i>	string	The mobile OS version string when the mobile application created the owners account. Example “ios 12.1.2; iPhone8,1
<i>created_by_app_version</i>	string	The version of the mobile application that register the owner. Example: “1.3.1”
<i>deactivation_reason</i>		
<i>dob</i>	YYYY-MM-DD	The owner’s date of birth (the one given at time of registration)
<i>drive_guest_id</i>	GUID	A GUID to identify the owner. This is the same as the “player_id”
<i>email</i>	string	The email address used to register the account; the same as the user name.
<i>email_failure_code</i>		The reason that the email was unable to be verified
<i>email_is_blocked</i>	boolean	
<i>email_is_verified</i>	boolean	True if the email verification has successfully completed. False otherwise.
<i>email_lang</i>	IETF language tag	The IETF language tag of the owner’s language preference. example: “en-US”
<i>family_name</i>	string	The surname of the owner; null if not set
<i>gender</i>	string	The gender of the owner; null if not set
<i>given_name</i>	string	The given of the owner; null if not set
<i>is_email_account</i>	boolean	
<i>no_autodelete</i>	boolean	
<i>password_is_complex</i>	boolean	
<i>player_id</i>	GUID	A GUID to identify the owner. This is the same as the “drive_guest_id”

Table 90: The owners account information

⁴⁰ It is not clear why there is so much information, and why this is sent from the Jdocs server in so many cases.

<i>purge_reason</i>		
<i>status</i>	string	Example “active”
<i>time_created</i>	string	The time, in ISO8601 format, that the account was created
<i>user_id</i>	base64	A base64 token to identify the owner
<i>username</i>	string	Same as the email address

58. PREFERENCES & ROBOT SETTINGS

The following settings & preferences are stored in (and retrieved from) the JDoc server. They are set by the mobile app or python SDK program using the HTTPS protocol described in chapter 13. They may also be set (in some cases) by the cloud in response to verbal interaction with the owner, via vic-cloud (e.g. “Hey Vector, set your eye color to teal.”).

58.1. ENUMERATIONS

58.1.1 ButtonWakeWord

When Vector’s backpack button is pressed once for attention, he acts as if someone has said his wake word. The ButtonWakeWord enumeration describes which wake word is treated as having been said:

Name	Value	Description
<i>BUTTON_WAKEWORD_ALEXA</i>	1	When the button is pressed, act as if “Alexa” was said.
<i>BUTTON_WAKEWORD_HEY_VECTOR</i>	0	When the button is pressed, act is “Hey, Vector” was said.

Table 91:
ButtonWakeWord
Enumeration

58.1.2 EyeColor

This is the selectable colour to set Vector’s eyes to. The JdocType enumeration maps the playful name to the following value used in the RobotSettingsConfig (and vice-versa) and the colour specification:

Name	Value	Hue	Saturation	Description
<i>CONFUSION_MATRIX_GREEN</i>	6	0.30	1.00	
<i>FALSE_POSITIVE_PURPLE</i>	5	0.83	0.76	
<i>NON_LINEAR_LIME</i>	3	0.21	1.00	
<i>OVERFIT_ORANGE</i>	1	0.05	0.95	
<i>SINGULARITY_SAPPHIRE</i>	4	0.57	1.00	
<i>TIP_OVER_TEAL</i>	0	0.42	1.00	
<i>UNCANNY_YELLOW</i>	2	0.11	1.00	

Table 92: *EyeColor*
Enumeration

The mapping from to enumeration to color values is held in

/anki/assets/cozmo_resources/**config/engine/eye_color_config.json**

(This path is hardcoded into libcozmo_engine.so.) This JSON configuration file is a hash that maps the EyeColor *name* (not the numeric value) to a structure with the “Hue” and “Saturation” values suitable for the SetEyeColor API command. The structure has the following fields:

Field	Type	Description & Notes
<i>Hue</i>	float	The hue to use for the color
<i>Saturation</i>	float	The saturation to use for the color.

Table 93: The eye colour JSON structure

This structure has the same interpretation as the SetEyeColor request, except the first letter of the keys are capitalized here.

The mapping of the number to the JSON key for the eye colours configuration file is embedded in Vic-Gateway. Adding more named colours would likely require successful complete decompilation and modification. Patching the binary is unlikely to be practical. The colours for the existing names can be modified to give custom, permanent eye colours.

58.1.3 Volume

This is the volume to employ when speaking and for sound effects. Note: the MasterVolume API enumeration is slightly different enumeration.

Name	Value	Description
<i>MUTE</i>	0	
<i>LOW</i>	1	
<i>MEDIUM_LOW</i>	2	
<i>MEDIUM</i>	3	
<i>MEDIUM_HIGH</i>	4	
<i>HIGH</i>	5	

Table 94: Volume Enumeration

58.2. ROBOTSETTINGSCONFIG

The RobotSettingsConfig structure has the following fields:

Field	Type	Description & Notes
<i>button_wakeword</i>	ButtonWakeWord	When the button is pressed, act as if this wake word (“Hey Vector” vs “Alexa”) was spoken. default: 0 (“Hey Vector”)
<i>clock_24_hour</i>	boolean	If false, use a clock with AM and PM and hours that run from 1 to 12. If true, use a clock with hours that run from 1 to 24. default: false
<i>default_location</i>	string	default: “San Francisco, California, United States”
<i>dist_is_metric</i>	boolean	If true, use metric units for distance measures; if false, use imperial units. default: false

Table 95: The RobotSettingsConfig JSON structure

<i>eye_color</i>	EyeColor	The colour used for the eyes. The colour is referred to by one of an enumerated set. (Within the SDK, the eyes can be set to a colour by hue and saturation, but this is not permanent.) default: 0 (TIP_OVER_TEAL)
<i>locale</i>	strong	The IETF language tag of the owner's language preference – American English, UK English, Australian English, German, French, Japanese, etc. default: "en-US"
<i>master_volume</i>	Volume	default: 4 (MEDIUM_HIGH)
<i>temp_is_fahrenheit</i>	boolean	If true, use Fahrenheit for temperature units; otherwise use Celsius. ⁴¹ default: true
<i>time_zone</i>	string	The "tz database name" for time zone to use for the time and alarms. default: "America/Los_Angeles"

The default settings are held in

/anki/assets/cozmo_resources/**config/engine/settings_config.json**

(This path is hardcoded into libcozmo_engine.so.) The file is a JSON structure that maps each of the fields of RobotSettingsConfig to a control structure. The control structure has the following fields:

Field	Type	Description & Notes
<i>defaultValue</i>		The The value to employ unless one has been given by the operator or other precedent.
<i>updateCloudOnChange</i>	boolean	true if the value is pushed to the colour when it is changed by the operator. False if not. Won't be restored..?

Table 96: The setting control structure

It is implied that the setting value is to be pulled from the Cloud when the robot is restored after clearing.

59. OWNER ENTITLEMENTS

An entitlement is a family of features or resources that the program or owner is allowed to use. It is represented as set of key-value pairs. This is a concept that Anki provided provision for but was not used in practice.

The only entitlement defined in Vector's API (and internal configuration files) is "kickstarter eyes" (JSON key "KICKSTARTER_EYES"). Anki decided not to pursue this, and its feature(s) remain unimplemented.

The default entitlement settings are held in

/anki/assets/cozmo_resources/**config/engine/userEntitlements_config.json**

⁴¹ Anyone else notes that metric requires a true for distance, but a false for temperature? Parity.

(This path is hardcoded into libcozmo_engine.so.) The file is a JSON structure that maps each of the entitlement to a control structure. The control structure is the same as *Table 96: The setting control structure*, used in settings in the previous section.

60. VESTIGAL COZMO SETTINGS

There is an “account settings” file held in

/anki/etc/`config/engine/accountSettings_config.json`

This path is hardcoded into libcozmo_engine.so and these settings are only read (possibly) by vic-gateway. The file is a JSON structure that maps each of the settings to a control structure. The control structure is the same as *Table 96: The setting control structure*, used in settings in an earlier section.

The settings include:

Field	Type	Description & Notes
APP_LOCALE	string	The IETF language tag of the owner’s language preference – American English, UK English, Australian English, German, French, Japanese, etc. default: “en-US”
DATA_COLLECTION	boolean	default: false

Table 97: The Cozmo account settings

61. FEATURE FLAGS

Vector has granular features that can be enabled and disabled thru the use of feature flags. Feature flags allow the code to be deployed, and selectively enabled. As a software engineering practice, a feature is usually is not enabled because the feature is:

- not yet fully developed, or
- specific to a customer, or
- mostly developed and being tested in some groups, or
- only enabled when there is some error occurs or other functionality is not working intended, or
- a special/premium function sold at a cost or reward (like entitlement).

Many of these possibilities do not apply to Anki. But some do. Many of the disabled features are probably disabled because they are incomplete, do not work, and likely not to work for without further development.

61.1. CONFIGURATION FILE

The features flag configuration file is located at:

/anki/data/assets/cozmo_resources/`config/features.json`

(This path is hardcoded into libcozmo_engine.so.) This file is organized as an array of structures with the following fields:

Field	Type	Description & Notes
<i>enabled</i>	boolean	True if the feature is enabled, false if not
<i>feature</i>	string	The name of the feature

Table 98: The feature flag structure

The set of feature flags and their enabled/disabled state can be found in Appendix G. The features are often used as linking mechanisms of the modules. It is likely modules of behavior / functionality.

61.2. COMMUNICATION INTERFACE TO THE FEATURES

The list of features can be queried with the `GetFeatureFlagList` command. The status of each individual feature (whether it is enabled or not) can be found with the `GetFeatureFlag` query.

62. ROBOT LIFETIME STATISTICS

Vector summarizes his experiences and activities into a set of fun measures. The intent is that they can be shared as attaboys and novel dashboard.

The following lifetime statics are held in the server, updated by the robot (I don't know if the robot has a local copy), and retrievable by the application.

Key	units	Description & Notes
Alive.seconds	seconds	Vector's age, since he was given preferences (a factory reset restarts this)
Stim.CumlPosDelta		Cumulative stimulation of some kind
BStat.AnimationPlayed	count	The number of animations played
BStat.BehaviorActivated	count	
BStat.AttemptedFistBump	count	The number of fist bumps (attempted)
BStat.FistBumpSuccess	count	
BStat.PettingBlissIncrease		
BStat.PettingReachedMaxBliss		
BStat.ReactedToCliff	count	
BStat.ReactedToEyeContact	count	
BStat.ReactedToMotion	count	
BStat.ReactedToSound	count	
BStat.ReactedToTriggerWord	count	
Feature.AI.DanceToTheBeat		
Feature.AI.Exploring		
Feature.AI.FistBump		
Feature.AI.GoHome		
Feature.AI.InTheAir		

Table 99: The robot lifetime stats schema

Feature.AI.InteractWithFaces	count	The number of times recognized / interacted with faces
Feature.AI.Keepaway		
Feature.AI.ListeningForBeats		
Feature.AI.LowBattery		
Feature.AI.Observing		
Feature.AI.ObservingOnCharger		
Feature.AI.Onboarding		
Feature.AI.Sleeping		
Feature.AI.Petting		
Feature.AI.ReactToCliff		
Feature.AI.StuckOnEdge		
Feature.AI.UnmatchedVoiceIntent		
Feature.Voice.VC_Greeting		
FeatureType.Autonomous		
FeatureType.Failure		
FeatureType.Sleep		
FeatureType.Social		
FeatureType.Play		
FeatureType.Utility1		
Odom.LWheel		The left wheel odometer
Odom.Rwheel		The right wheel odometer
Odom.Body		
Pet.ms	ms	The number of milliseconds petted?

63. REFERENCES & RESOURCES

Wikipedia, *List of tz database time zones*,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_tz_database_time_zones

CHAPTER 19

The Software Update process

This chapter describes the software update process

- The software architecture
- The software update process
- How to extract official program files

64. THE ARCHITECTURE

The architecture for updating Vector's software is:

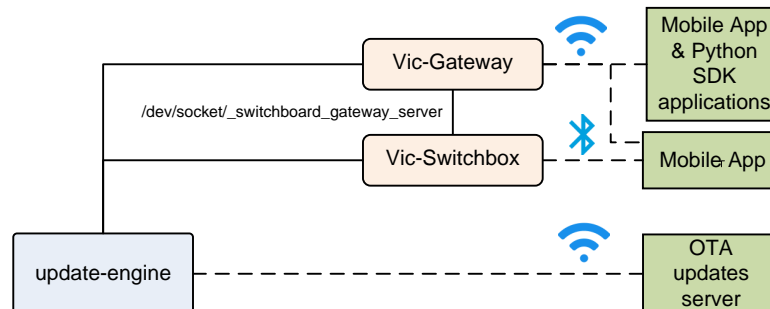


Figure 46: The architecture for updating Vector's software

The Vic-Gateway and Vic-Switchbox both may interact with the mobile App and SDK programs to receive software update commands, and to provide update status information.

The update-engine is responsible for downloading the update, validating it, applying it, and providing status information to Vic-Gateway and Vic-switchbox. [It isn't known yet how they kick off the update]. The update-engine provides status information in a set of files with the "/run/update-engine" folder

65. THE UPDATE FILE

The update files are TAR files with a suffix "OTA". The TAR file has a fixed structure, with some of the files encrypted. There are 3 kinds of update files

- Factory updates. These modify the RECOVERY and RECOVERYFS partitions.
- Production updates. These modify the ABOOT, BOOT, and SYSTEM partitions
- Delta updates

The archive contains 3 to 5 files, and they must be in a specific order:

1. manifest.ini
2. manifest.sha256
3. apq8009-robot-delta.bin.gz (optionally encrypted). This is present only in delta updates
4. apq8009-robot-emmc_appsboot.img.gz (optionally encrypted). This is present only in factory updates. It will be applied to the ABOOT partition.
5. apq8009-robot-boot.img.gz (optionally encrypted) . This is not present in delta updates. In factory updates it will be applied to the RECOVERY partition; otherwise it will be applied to the BOOT partition.
6. apq8009-robot-sysfs.img.gz (optionally encrypted). In factory updates it will be applied to the RECOVERYFS partition; otherwise it will be applied to the SYSTEM partition.

65.1. MANIFEST.INI

The manifest.ini is checked by verifying its signature⁴² against manifest.sha256 using a secret key (/anki/etc/ota.pub):

```
openssl dgst \  
-sha256 \  
-verify /anki/etc/ota.pub \  
-signature /run/update-engine/manifest.sha256 \  
/run/update-engine/manifest.ini
```

Example 6: Checking the manifest.ini signature

Note: the signature check that prevents turning off encryption checks in the manifest below. At this time the signing key is not known.

All forms of update have a [META] section. This section has the following structure:

Key	Description
ankidev	0 if production release, 1 if development
manifest_version	Acceptable versions include 0.9.2, 0.9.3, 0.9.4, 0.9.5, or 1.0.0
num_images	The number of img.gz files in the archive. The number must match that of the type of update file it is. 1, 2, or 3
qsn	The Qualcomm Serial Number; if there are three images (ABOOT, RECOVERY, RECOVERYFS) present, the software is treated as a factory update. The QSN must match the robot's serial number. Optional.
reboot_after_install	0 or 1. 1 to reboot after installing.
update_version	The version that the system is being upgrade to, e.g. 1.6.0.3331

Table 100: manifest.ini META section

After the [META] section, there are 1 to 3 sections, depending on the type of update:

- A delta update has a [DELTA] section
- A regular update has a [BOOT], [SYSTEM] sections; both must be present/

⁴² I'm using the information originally at: <https://github.com/GoocyChickenman/victor/tree/master/firmware>

- A factory update has [ABOOT], [RECOVERY], and [RECOVERYFS] sections; all 3 must be present.

Each of these sections has the same structure:

Key	Description
<i>base_version</i>	The version that Vector must be at in order to accept this update. Honored only in delta updates.
<i>bytes</i>	The number of bytes in the uncompressed archive
<i>compression</i>	gz (for gzipped). This is the only supported compression type.
<i>delta</i>	1 if this is a delta update; 0 otherwise
<i>encryption</i>	1 if the archive file is encrypted; 0 if the archive file is not encrypted.
<i>sha256</i>	The digest of the decompressed file must match this
<i>wbits</i>	31. Not used buy update-engine

Table 101:
*manifest.ini image
stream sections*

65.2. HOW TO DECRYPT THE OTA UPDATE ARCHIVE FILES⁴³

How to decrypt the OTA update archive files:

```
openssl enc -d -aes-256-ctr -pass file:ota.pas -in apq8009-robot-boot.img.gz -out
apq8009-robot-boot.img.dec.gz
openssl enc -d -aes-256-ctr -pass file:ota.pas -in apq8009-robot-sysfs.img.gz -out
apq8009-robot-sysfs.img.dec.gz
```

Example 7: *Decrypting
the OTA update
archives*

To use OpenSSL 1.1.0 or later, add “-md md5” to the command:

```
openssl enc -d -aes-256-ctr -pass file:ota.pas -md md5 -in apq8009-robot-boot.img.gz -
out apq8009-robot-boot.img.dec.gz
openssl enc -d -aes-256-ctr -pass file:ota.pas -md md5 -in apq8009-robot-sysfs.img.gz -
out apq8009-robot-sysfs.img.dec.gz
```

Example 8: *Decrypting
the OTA update
archives with Open SSL
1.1.0 and later*

Note: the password on this file is insecure (ota.pas has only a few bytes⁴⁴) and likely intended only to prevent seeing the assets inside of the update file. The security comes from (a) the individual image files are signed (this is checked by the updater), and (b) the file systems that they contain are also signed, and are checked by aboot and the initial kernel load. See Chapter 6 *Startup* for the gory details.

Signing the files is a whole other kettle of fish.

66. THE UPDATE PROCESS

66.1. STATUS DIRECTORY

The update-engine provides its status thru a set of files in the /run/update-engine folder.

⁴³ <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!searchin/anki-vector-rooting/ota.pas%7Csort:date/anki-vector-rooting/YIYQsX08OD4/fvkAOZ91CgAJ>

⁴⁴ Opening up the file in a UTF text editor will show Chinese glyphs; google translate reveals that they say “This is a password”

File	Description
<i>done</i>	If this file exists, the update has completed
<i>error</i>	The error code representing why the update failed. See Appendix C, <i>Table 116: OTA update-engine status codes</i> .
<i>expected-download-size</i>	The expected file size (the given total size of the OTA file) to download.
<i>expected-size</i>	In non-delta updates, the total number of bytes of the unencrypted image files. This is the sum of the “bytes” field in the sections.
<i>progress</i>	Indicates how many of the bytes to download have been completed, or how much of the partitions have been written.

Table 102: update-engine status file

This folder also holds the unencrypted, uncompressed files from the OTA file:

- manifest.ini
- manifest.sha256
- delta.bin
- aboot.img
- boot.img

66.2. PROCESS

The update process if there is an error at any step, skips the rest, deletes the bin and img files.

1. Remove everything in the status folder
2. Being downloading the OTA file. It does *not* download the TAR then unpack it. The file is unpacked as it is received.
3. Copies the manifest.ini to a file in the status folder
4. Copies the manifest.sha256 to a file
5. Verifies the signature of the manifest file
6. Validates that the update to the OTA version is allowed. This includes a check that it is to a newer version number, and the developer vs production software type matches whether this Vector is a developer or production.
7. If this is factory update, it checks that the QSN in the manifest matches Vector’s QSN.
8. It marks the target partition slots as unbootable
9. Checks the img and bin contents
 - a) delta
 - b) boot & system
 - c) If this is a factory update, aboot, recovery, and recoveryfs
10. If this is a factory update:
 - a) Sets /run/wipe-data. This will trigger erasing all of the user data on the next startup
 - b) Makes both a and b slots for BOOT and SYSTEM partitions as unbootable

11. If this is not factory update
 - a) Sets the new target slot as active
12. Deletes any error file
13. Sets the done file
14. Posts a DAS event `robot.ota_download_end` to success + next version
15. If the `reboot_after_install` option was set, reboots the system

67. RESOURCES & RESOURCES

<https://source.android.com/devices/bootloader/flashing-updating>
Describes the a/b process as it applies to android

CHAPTER 20

Diagnostics

This chapter describes the diagnostic support built into Vector

- The customer care information screen
- The logging of regular use
- Crash logs
- Gathering usage, and performance data

68. OVERVIEW

Anki gathers “analytics data to enable and improve the services and enhance your gameplay... Analytics Data enables us to analyze crashes, fix bugs, and personalize or develop new features and services.” There are lot different services that accomplish the analytics services. This data is roughly: logs, crash dumps and “DAS manager”

Logging and diagnostic messages are typically not presented to the owner, neither in use with Vector or thru the mobile application... nor even in the SDK.

The exception is gross failures that display a 3-digit error code. This is intended to be very exceptional.

Diagnostic and logging information is available thru undocumented interfaces.⁴⁵

68.1. THE SOFTWARE INVOLVED

There are many different programs and libraries used in the diagnostic and logging area. The table below summarizes of them:

Program / Library	Description
<i>animfail</i>	This is started by the animfail service.
<i>anki-crash-log</i>	Copies the last 500 system messages and the crash dump passed to the command line to a given log file. This is called by vic-cloud, vic-dasmgr, vic-engine, vic-gateway, vic-log-kernel-panic, vic-log-upload, vic-robot, vic-switchboard, and the anki-crash-log service.
<i>ankitrace</i>	This program wraps the Linux tract toolkit (LTtng). This program is not present in Vector’s file system. This is called by fault-code-handler.
<i>cti_vision_debayer</i>	This is not called.
<i>diagnostics-logger</i>	Bundles together several log and configuration states into a compressed tar file. This is called by vic-switchboard, in a response to a Bluetooth LE log command.

Table 103: Vector diagnostic & logging software

⁴⁵ The lack of documentation indicates that this was not intended to be supported and employed by the public... at least not until other areas had been resolved.

<i>displayFaultCode</i>	Displays error fault codes on the LCD. This is not called; see <i>vic-faultCodeDisplay</i> .
<i>fault-code-clear</i>	This clears and pending or displayed faults (by deleting the relevant files). This allows new fault code to be displayed. This is called by <i>vic-init.sh</i> .
<i>fault-code-handler</i>	XXX This is called by the <i>fault-code</i> service.
<i>librobotLogUploader.so</i>	Sends logs to cloud. This library is employed by <i>libcozmo_engine</i> , <i>vic-gateway</i> and <i>vic-log-upload</i> .
<i>libosState</i>	Used to profile the CPU temperature, frequency, load; the WiFi statistics, and ETC. This is used by <i>libvictor_web_library</i> , <i>vic-anim</i> , and <i>vic-dasmgr</i> .
<i>libwhiskeyToF</i>	This unusually named library ⁴⁶ has lots of time of flight sensor diagnostics. This is present only in version 1.6. This library is employed by <i>libcozmo_engine</i> .
<i>rampost</i>	This is to perform initial communication and version check of the firmware on the baseboard (syscon). This exists within the initial RAM disk, and is called by <i>init</i> .
<i>vic-anim</i>	Includes the support for the Customer Care Information Screen. This is started by the <i>vic-anim</i> service.
<i>vic-crashuploader-init</i>	Removes empty crash files, renames the files ending in “.dmp-” to “.dmp”. This is called by the <i>vic-crashuploader</i> service.
<i>vic-crashuploader</i>	A script that sends crash mini-dump files to backtrace.io. This is called by the <i>vic-crashuploader</i> service.
<i>vic-dasmgr</i>	This is started by the <i>vic-dasmgr</i> service.
<i>vic-faultCodeDisplay</i>	Displays error fault codes on the LCD. This is called by <i>fault-code-handler</i> .
<i>vic-init.sh</i>	Takes the log messages from <i>rampost</i> and places them into the system log, forwards any kernel panics. This is started by the <i>vic-init</i> service.
<i>vic-log-event</i>	A program that is passed an event code in the command line. This is called by TBD.
<i>vic-log-forward</i>	This is called by <i>vic-init.sh</i>
<i>vic-log-kernel-panic</i>	This is called by <i>vic-init.sh</i>
<i>vic-log-upload</i>	This is called by <i>vic-log-uploader</i>
<i>vic-log-uploader</i>	“This script runs as a background to periodically check for outgoing files and attempt to upload them by calling ‘vic-log-upload.’” This is started by the <i>vic-log-uploader</i> service.
<i>vic-logmgr-upload</i>	“This script collects a snapshot of recent log data” into a compressed (gzip) file, then uploads the file” and software revision “to an Anki Blobstore bucket.” This is not called.
<i>vic-on-exit</i>	Called by <i>systemd</i> after any service stops. This script places the fault code associated with the service (if another fault code is not pending) into <i>/run/fault_code</i> for display.
<i>vic-powerstatus.sh</i>	Record every 10 seconds the CPU frequency, temperature and the CPU & memory usage of the “vic-” processes. This is not called.

(Quotes from Anki scripts.) Support programs are located in */bin*, */anki/bin*, and */usr/bin*

69. SPECIAL SCREENS AND MODES

Vector has 3 special screens and two special modes. The screens are

⁴⁶ Anki has taken great care for squeaky-clean image, even throughout the internal files, so it’s a surprise to see one clearly named after a rude acronym (WTF).

- Customer Care Info Screen (CCIS) that can display sensor values and other internal measures,
- Debug screen used to display Vector’s serial number (ESB) and IP address, and
- The fault code display which is used to display a 3-digit fault code when there is an internal failure (this screen is only displayed if there is a fault, and can’t be initiated by an operator.)

Vector has two special modes

- Entering recovery mode, to force Vector use factory software and download replacement firmware. (This mode doesn’t delete any user data.)
- “Factory reset” which erases all user data, and Vector’s robot name

69.1. CUSTOMER CARE INFORMATION SCREEN

Customer Care Info Screen (CCIS). It has a series of screens that display sensor values and other readings.

See <https://www.kinver.com/anki-vector-customer-care-info-screen-ccis/> for a walk thru

69.2. VECTORS’ DEBUG SCREEN (TO GET INFO FOR USE WITH THE SDK)

Steps to enter the debug screen

1. Place Vector on the charger,
2. Double-click his backpack button,
3. Move the arms up and down

This will display his ESN (serial number) and IP address. The font is much smaller than normal, and may be hard to read.

69.3. DISPLAY FAULT CODES FOR ABNORMAL SYSTEM SERVICE EXIT / HANG

If there is a problem while the system is starting or running— such as one of the services exits (e.g. crashes) – a fault code associated with that service is stored in `/run/fault_code` and the fault code displayed. See Appendix C for fault codes.

69.4. RECOVERY MODE

Vector includes a *recovery mode* that is used to force Vector to boot using factory software. The recovery mode will not delete any user data or software that had previously been installed via Over-The-Air (OTA) update.

The recovery mode is intended to help with certain issues such as Vector failing to boot up using the regular firmware. He may have been unable to charge (indicated by teal Back Lights), or encountered other software bugs.⁴⁷

The application in the recovery mode attempts to download and reinstall the latest software. This is likely done under the assumption that the firmware may be corrupted, or not the latest, and that a check for corruption would take so long as to not be useful.

⁴⁷ The web page says that are “indicated by a blank screen. If you get a status code between 200-219, recovery mode will also help.”

69.5. "FACTOR RESET"

Erases all user data, include pictures, faces, and API certificates. It clears out the robot name. The Vector will be given a new robot name when he is set up again.

The name "factory reset" is controversial, as this does not truly place Vector into an identical software state as robot in the factory.

70. BACKPACK LIGHTS

The lights on the backpack are primarily set by Vic-robot, but driven by the base-board. If the base-board firmware (syscon) is unable to communicate with Vic-robot, it will set the lights on its own.

71. LOGS

- Logs can be downloaded to a PC or mobile application using the Bluetooth LE API
- The Logs can be used to the server using the SDK command X

71.1. GATHERING LOGS, ON DEMAND

The logs can be requested by issuing a log fetch command via Bluetooth LE. Vic-switchboard handles the request, delegating the preparation of the log files to `diagnostics-logger`. This utility gathers the following tars and compresses them:

File	Description
<i>connman-services.txt</i>	connmanctl services
<i>dmesg.txt</i>	dmesg
<i>ifconfig.txt</i>	ifconfig wlan0
<i>iwconfig.txt</i>	iwconfig wlan0
<i>log.txt</i>	Concatenates /var/log/messages.1.gz (uncompressed) and /var/log/messages
<i>netstat-ptlnu.txt</i>	netstat -ptlnu
<i>ping-anki.txt</i>	Ping's anki.com for connectivity and latency.
<i>ping-gateway.txt</i>	Looks up the IP address (using netstat) of the gateway that Vector is using and pings it for connectivity and latency.
<i>ps.txt</i>	Process stats (ps) of Anki's "Vic" processes
<i>top.txt</i>	top -n 1

Table 104: Files in the log archive

This utility is triggered by:

- vic-switchboard when issued a log fetch command (via Bluetooth LE).
- Vic-gateway when the upload log command is issued

72. CRASHES

Crash logs are sent on system start (reboot). They are primarily minidump files produced by Google breakpad, and are sent to backtrace.io for analysis.

73. CONSOLE FILTER

The logging by functional blocks (primarily in Vic-engine) can be configured. The logging configuration file is located at:

/anki/data/assets/cozmo_resources/`config/engine/console_filter_config.json`

This file is organized as dictionary whose key is the operating system. The “vicos” key is the one relevant for Vector.⁴⁸ It dereferences to a structure with the following fields:

Field	Type	Description & Notes
<i>channels</i>	array	An array of the channel logging enable structures
<i>levels</i>	array	An array of logging level enable structures

Table 105: The console filter channel structure

This “channels” is as an array of structures with the following fields:

Field	Type	Description & Notes
<i>channel</i>	string	The name of the channel
<i>enabled</i>	boolean	True if should log information from the channel, false if not.

Table 106: The channel logging enable structure

This “levels” is an array of structures with the following fields:

Field	Type	Description & Notes
<i>enabled</i>	boolean	True if should log information at that level, false if not.
<i>level</i>	string	“event” or “debug”

Table 107: The logging level enable structure

The features are used as linking mechanisms of the modules. It is likely modules of behavior / functionality. It is not clear how it all ties together.

Channel	enabled	Description & Notes
<i>Actions</i>	false	
<i>AIWhiteboard</i>	false	
<i>Alexa</i>	false	
<i>Audio</i>	false	
<i>Behaviors</i>	false	
<i>BlockPool</i>	false	
<i>BlockWorld</i>	false	
<i>CpuProfiler</i>	true	
<i>FaceRecognizer</i>	false	
<i>FaceWorld</i>	false	

Table 108: The channels

⁴⁸ The other OS key is “osx” which suggests that Vector’s software was development on an OS X platform.

<i>JdocsManager</i>	true
<i>MessageProfiler</i>	true
<i>Microphones</i>	false
<i>NeuralNets</i>	false
<i>PerfMetric</i>	true
<i>SpeechRecognizer</i>	false
<i>VisionComponent</i>	false
<i>VisionSystem</i>	false
*	false

74. USAGE STUDIES AND PROFILING DATA

Anki had ambitious to perform engagement studies and experiments with device settings:

“The Services collect gameplay data such as scores, achievements, and feature usage. The Services also automatically keep track of information such as events or failures within them. In addition, we may collect your device make and model, an Anki-generated randomized device ID for the mobile device on which you run our apps, robot/vehicle ID of your Anki device, ZIP-code level data about your location (obtained from your IP address), operating system version, and other device-related information like battery level (collectively, "Analytics Data").

The DAS manager protocol’s version identifier dates to development of Overdrive. One patent on their “Adaptive Data Analytics Service” is quite an ambitious plan to tune and improve systems.

A closed-loop service, referred to as an Adaptive Data Analytics Service (ADAS), characterizes the performance of a system or systems by providing information describing how users or agents are operating the system, how the system components interact, and how these respond to external influences and factors. The ADAS then builds models and/or defines relationships that can be used to optimize performance and/or to predict the results of changes made to the system(s). Subsequently, this learning provides the basis for administering, maintaining, and/or adjusting the system(s) under study. Measurement can be ongoing, even after the operating parameters or controls of a system under the administration or monitoring of the ADAS have been adjusted, so that the impact of such adjustments can be determined. This recursive process of observation, analysis, and adjustment provides a closed-loop system that affords adaptability to changing operating conditions and facilitates self-regulation and self-adjustment of systems.

There is no information on whether this was actually accomplished, or that these techniques were used in Cozmo or Vector. Anki developed “both batch and real-time dashboards to gain insights over device and user behavior,” according to their Elemental toolkit literature.

74.1. PROFILING AND LIBOSSTATE

The tools in Vector gather a variety of diagnostic information about

- Basic information about the robot – the version of software it is running, and what the robot’s identifier/serial number is.

- Whether Vector is booted into recovery mode when it is sending the information.
- The WiFi performance, to understand the connectivity at home since Vector depends so heavily on cloud connectivity for his voice interactions.
- The CPU temperature profile, to find the balance between overheating and AI performance. Some versions and features of Vector can cause faults due to the processor overheating. Anki probably wanted to identify unusual temperatures and whether their revised settings addressed it.
- The CPU and memory usage statistics for the “vic-” application services. Anki probably sought to identify typical and on unusual processing loads and heavy use cases.

74.1.1 WiFi Stats

libosState gathers the following information about the WiFi network:

- The WiFi MAC address
- The WiFi SSID (and flagged if it isn’t valid)
- The assigned IP Address (and flagged if it isn’t valid)
- The number of bytes received and sent
- The number of transmission and receive errors

The key files employed to access this information:

File	Description
<code>/sys/class/net/wlan0/address</code>	The IP address assigned to Vector
<code>/sys/class/net/wlan0/statistics/rx_bytes</code>	The number of bytes received
<code>/sys/class/net/wlan0/statistics/rx_errors</code>	The number of receive errors
<code>/sys/class/net/wlan0/statistics/tx_bytes</code>	The number of transmit errors
<code>/sys/class/net/wlan0/statistics/tx_errors</code>	The number of bytes sent

Table 109: The WiFi related stats /proc files

How this is used: to get a sense of WiFi connectivity in the home, and rooms where Vector is used. Anki’s internal research showed that rooms in a home can have a wide range of connectivity characteristics.

Jane Fraser, 2019

74.1.2 CPU stats

libosState gathers the following information about the CPU temperature:

- The CPU temperature
- The CPU target and actual frequency
- Whether the CPU is being throttled
- The limits set on the CPU frequency

The key files employed to access this information:

File	Description
<code>/sys/devices/system/cpu/cpu0/cpufreq/cpuinfo_cur_freq</code>	
<code>/sys/devices/system/cpu/cpu0/cpufreq/scaling_max_freq</code>	

Table 110: Named device and control files

```
/sys/devices/system/cpu/cpu0/cpufreq/scaling_governor  
/sys/devices/system/cpu/cpu0/cpufreq/scaling_setspeed  
/sys/devices/virtual/thermal/thermal_zone3/temp
```

How this is used: This information was probably intended to find the balance between overheating and AI performance.

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os-release — *Operating system identification*
<https://www.freedesktop.org/software/systemd/man/os-release.html>
Describes the `/etc/os-version` and `/etc/os-version-rev` files

References & Resources

Note: most references appear in the margins, significant references will appear at the end of their respective chapter.

76. CREDITS

Credit and thanks to Anki, CORE, Melanie T for access to the flash partitions, file-systems, decode keys, and board shots. Fictiv for board shots. The board shots that help identify parts on the board and inter-connection on the board. HSReina for Bluetooth LE protocol information. Some drawings adapted from Steph Dere, and Jesse Easley's twitter.

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Appendices

These appendices provide extra material supplemental to the main narrative. These include tables of information, numbers and keys.

- **ABBREVIATIONS, ACRONYMS, & GLOSSARY.** This appendix provides a gloss of terms, abbreviations, and acronyms.
- **TOOL CHAIN.** This appendix lists the tools known or suspected to have been used by Anki to create, and customize the Vector, and for the servers. Tools that can be used to analyze Vector
- **FAULT AND STATUS CODES.** This appendix provides describes the system fault codes, and update status codes.
- **FILE SYSTEM.** This appendix lists the key files that are baked into the system.
- **BLUETOOTH LE PROTOCOLS.** This appendix provides information on the Bluetooth LE interfaces to the companion Cube, and to Anki Vector
- **SERVERS.** This appendix provides the servers that the Anki Vector and App contacts
- **FEATURES.** This appendix enumerates the Vector OS “features” that can be enabled and disabled.
- **PHRASES.** This appendix reproduces the phrases that the Vector keys off of.
- **PLEO.** This appendix gives a brief overview of the Pleo animatronic dinosaur, an antecedent with many similarities.



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APPENDIX A

Abbreviations, Acronyms, Glossary

Abbreviation / Acronym	Phrase
ADC	analog to digital converter
AG	animation group
APQ	application processor Qualcomm (used when there is no modem in the processor module)
AVS	Alexa Voice Service
BIN	binary file
CCIS	customer care information screen
CLAD	C-like abstract data structures
CRC	cyclic redundancy check
CSI	Camera serial interface
DAS	<i>unknown (diagnostic/data analytics service?)</i>
DFU	device firmware upgrade
EEPROM	electrical-erasable programmable read-only memory
EMR	<i>unknown (emergency mode recovery?)</i>
ESD	electro-static discharge
ESN	electronic serial number
FBS	flat buffers
FDE	full disc encryption
GPIO	general purpose IO
GUID	globally unique identifier (effectively same as UUID)
I2C	inter-IC communication
IMU	inertial measurement unit
IR	infrared
JDocs	JSON Documents

Table 111: Common acronyms and abbreviations

JSON	JavaScript Object Notation
JTAG	Joint Test Action Group
LCD	liquid crystal display
LED	light emitting diode
LUKS	linux unified key setup
MCU	microcontroller
mDNS	multicast domain name service (DNS)
MEMS	micro-electromechanical systems
MIPI	mobile industry processor interface
MISO	master-in, slave-out
MOSI	master-out, slave-in
MPU	microprocessor
MSM	mobile station modem, the APC processor and a modem.
MSRP	manufacturer's suggest retail price
OLED	organic light-emitting diode display
OTA	over the air updates
PCB	printed circuit board
PCBA	printed circuit board assembly (PCB with the components attached)
PMIC	power management IC
PWM	pulse width modulation
QSN	Qualcomm serial number
RPM	resource power management
RRT	rapidly-expanding random tree
SCLK	(I2C) serial clock
SDA	(I2C) serial data
SDK	software development kit
SLAM	simultaneous localization and mapping
SOC	system on a chip
SPI	serial-peripheral interface
SSH	secure shell
SSID	service set identifier (the name of the Wifi network)
STM32	A microcontroller family from ST Microelectronics
SWD	single wire debug
TAR	tape archive file

TTS	text to speech
UART	universal asynchronous receiver/transmitter
USB	universal serial bus
UUID	universally unique identifier (effectively same as GUID)
vic	short for Victor (Vector's working name)

Phrase	Description
<i>A*</i>	A path finding algorithm
<i>aboot</i>	The Android boot-loader used to launch Vector's linux system.
<i>attitude</i>	orientation
<i>beam forming</i>	A technique using multiple microphones to listen to a single speaker by selectively paying attention to sound only coming from that direction.
<i>boot loader</i>	A piece of software used to load and launch the application software.
<i>C-like abstract data structure</i>	Anki's phrase for when information is packed into fields and values with a defined binary format, and interpretation. (Protobufs are often used for the same purpose.)
<i>capacitive touch</i>	A type of sensing where light contact, such as touch, is detected without requiring pressing a mechanism.
<i>certificate</i>	Vector generates an SSL certificate that can be used for the secure communications.
<i>characteristic (Bluetooth LE)</i>	A key (or slot) that holds a value in the services key-value table. A characteristic is uniquely identified by its UUID.
<i>client token</i>	A string token provided by Vector that is passed with each SDK command.
<i>control</i>	Responsible for motors and forces to move where and how it is told to. (smooth arcs)
<i>D*-lite</i>	A path-finding algorithm
<i>device mapper verity (dm-verity)</i>	A feature of the Linux kernel that checks the boot and RAM file systems for alteration, using signed keys
<i>entitlement</i>	An entitlement is a family of features or resources that the program or owner is allowed to use.
<i>feature flags aka feature toggle</i>	A setting that enables and disables features, especially those still in development. This allows developing the code and integrating its structure before the module or function is completely ready. Otherwise it is very difficult to keep the different branches of development in sync and merge them when the feature is ready.
<i>firmware</i>	A type of software held (and usually executed from) in ROM or flash. It may have a (minimal) operating system, but often does not.
<i>flash</i>	A type of persistent (non-volatile) storage media.
<i>guidance</i>	Builds the desired path
<i>navigation</i>	Knowing where it is in the map

Table 112: Glossary of common terms and phrases

<i>nonce</i>	An initially random number, incremented after each use.
<i>path planning</i>	Forms smooth arcs and line segments to move in around an environment to avoid collisions, blocked paths, and TBD.
<i>pose</i>	The position and orientation of an object relative to a coordinate system
<i>power source</i>	Where the electric energy used to power Vector comes from.
<i>rapidly-expanding random tree</i>	A path-finding algorithm
<i>recovery mode</i>	A separate, independent operating system that Vector can boot into for purposes of downloading software to replace a damaged partition.
<i>robot name</i>	Vector's robot name looks like "Vector-E5S6". It is "Vector-" followed by a 4 letters and numbers.
<i>session token</i>	A string token provided by the Anki servers that is passed to Vector to authenticate with him and create a <i>client token</i> .
<i>simultaneous localization and mapping</i>	A vision-based technique for building a map of the immediate world for purposes of positioning oneself within it and detecting relative movements.
<i>service (Bluetooth LE)</i>	A key-value table grouped together for a common purpose. A service is uniquely identified by its UUID.
<i>software</i>	Software is distinct from firmware in that is often loaded from external storage to be run in RAM, and is based on dynamic linking, allowing the use of other (replaceable) software elements. It does not access hardware directly; instead it employs sophisticated features of the operating system.
<i>syscon</i>	The name of the firmware program running on the base-board.
<i>text to speech</i>	A process of reading aloud a word, phrase, sentence, etc.
<i>trigger word</i>	aka wake word
<i>Trust Zone</i>	A security mode on ARM processor where privileged/special code is run. This includes access to encryption/decryption keys.
<i>universally unique identifier (UUID)</i>	A 128bit number that is unique. (effectively same as GUID)
<i>wake word</i>	The phrase ("Hey, Vector") used to activate Vector so that he will respond to spoken interaction.

APPENDIX B

Tool chain

This appendix tries to capture the tools that Anki is known or suspected to have used for the Anki Vector and its cloud server.

Note: Several of these the licenses requiring Anki to post their versions of the GPL tools, and their modification, Anki never did. Qualcomm may have; as the license requirement only to those their customer, they may have provided the changes to them.

Tool	Description
<i>Acapela</i>	Vector uses Acapela's text to speech synthesizer, and the Ben voice. https://www.acapela-group.com/
<i>Advanced Linux Sound Architecture (alsa)</i>	The audio system https://www.alsa-project.org
<i>Amazon Alexa</i>	A set of software tools that allows Vector to integrate Alexa voice commands, probably in the AMAZONLITE distribution https://developer.amazon.com/alexa-voice-service/sdk
<i>Amazon Simple Queue Service (SQS)</i>	Vector employs Amazon's SQS for its DAS functions.
<i>Amazon Simple Storage Service (S3)</i>	Vector's cloud interface uses Amazon's AWS go module to interact with Amazon's service: https://docs.aws.amazon.com/sdk-for-go/api/service/s3/ https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AmazonS3/latest/API/API_Operations_Amazon_Simple_Storage_Service.html
<i>Amazon Web services</i>	used on the server https://aws.amazon.com/
<i>android boot-loader</i>	Vector uses the Android Boot-loader;
<i>ARM NN</i>	ARM's neural network support https://github.com/ARM-software/armnn
<i>AudioKinetic Wwise</i> ⁴⁹	Used to craft the sounds https://www.audiokinetic.com/products/wwise/
<i>Backtrace.io</i>	A service that receives uploaded minidumps from applications in the field and provides tools to analyze them. https://backtrace.io
<i>clang</i>	A C/C++ compiler, part of the LLVM family https://clang.llvm.org
<i>bluez5</i>	Bluetooth LE support http://www.bluez.org/
<i>busybox</i>	The shell on the Anki Vector linux https://busybox.net

Table 113: Tools used by Anki

⁴⁹ <https://blog.audiokinetic.com/interactive-audio-brings-cozmo-to-life/>

<i>chromium update</i>	?
<i>civetweb</i>	The embedded webserver that allows Mobile apps and the python SDK to communicate with Vector. https://github.com/civetweb/civetweb
<i>connman</i>	Connection manager for WiFi https://01.org/connman
<i>GNU C Compiler (gcc)</i>	GCC version 4.9.3 was used to compile the kernel
<i>golang</i>	Go is used on the server applications, and (reported) some of Vector's internal software.
<i>Google Breakpad</i>	Google Breakpad is used to generate tracebacks and mini-dump files of programs that crash. Results are sent to http://backtrace.io https://chromium.googlesource.com/breakpad/breakpad
<i>Google FlatBuffers</i>	Google FlatBuffers is used to encode the animation data structures https://github.com/google/flatbuffers
<i>Google Protobuf</i>	Google's Protobuf interface-description language is used to describe the format/encoding of data sent over gRPC to and from Vector. This is used by mobile and python SDK, as well as on the server. https://developers.google.com/protocol-buffers
<i>Google RPC (gRPC)</i>	A "remote procedure call" standard, that allows mobile apps and the python SDK to communicate with Vector. https://grpc.io/docs/quickstart/cpp/
<i>hdr-histogram</i>	Unknown use https://github.com/HdrHistogram/HdrHistogram
<i>libsodium</i>	Cryptography library suitable for the small packet size in Bluetooth LE connections. Used to encrypt the mobile applications Bluetooth LE connection with Vector. https://github.com/jedisct1/libsodium
<i>linux, yocto</i> ⁵⁰	The family of linux distribution used for the Anki Vector (v3.18.66)
<i>linux</i>	on the server
<i>linux unified key storage (LUKS)</i>	
<i>Maya</i>	A character animation tool set, used to design the look and movements of Cozmo and Vector. The tool emitted the animation scripts.
<i>mpg123</i>	A MPEG audio decoder and player. This is needed by Alexa; other uses are unknown. https://www.mpg123.de/index.shtml
<i>ogg vorbis</i>	Audio codec https://xiph.org/vorbis
<i>Omron OKAO Vision</i>	Vector uses the Omron Okao Vision library for face recognition and tracking. https://plus-sensing.omron.com/technology/position/index.html
<i>open CV</i>	Used for the first-level image processing – to locate faces, hands, and possibly accessory symbols. https://opencv.org/
<i>openssl</i>	used to validate the software update signature https://www.openssl.org

⁵⁰ <https://www.designnews.com/electronics-test/lessons-after-failure-anki-robotics/140103493460822>

<i>opkg</i>	Package manager, from yocto https://git.yoctoproject.org/cgi/cgit.cgi/opkg/
<i>Opus codec</i>	Audio codec; to encode speech sent to servers http://opus-codec.org/
<i>perl</i>	A programming language, on Victor https://www.perl.org
<i>Pretty Fast FFT pffft</i>	Julien Pommier's FFT implementation for single precision, 1D signals https://bitbucket.org/jpommier/pffft
<i>Pryon, Inc</i>	The recognition for the Alexa keyword at least the file system includes the same model as distributed in AMAZONLITE https://www.pryon.com/company/
<i>python</i>	A programming language and framework used with desktop tools to communicate with Vector. Vector has python installed. Probably used on the server as well. https://www.python.org
<i>Qualcomm</i>	Qualcomm's device drivers, camera support and other kit are used.
<i>Segger ICD</i>	A high-end ARM compatible in-circuit debugging probe. Rumoured to have been used by Anki engineers, probably with the STM32F030 https://www.segger.com/products/debug-probes/j-link/
<i>Sensory TrulyHandsFree</i>	Vectors recognition for "Hey Vector" and Alexa wake word is done by Sensory, Inc's TrulyHandsfree SDK 4.4.23 (c 2008) https://www.sensory.com/products/technologies/trulyhandsfree/ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sensory,_Inc.
<i>Signal Essence</i>	Designed the microphone array, and the low-level signal processing of audio input. https://signalessence.com/
<i>Sound Hound, inc</i>	Vector's Q&A "knowledge graph" is done by Sound Hound https://blog.soundhound.com/hey-vector-i-have-a-question-3c174ef226fb
<i>SQLite</i>	This is needed by Alexa; other uses are unknown https://www.sqlite.org/index.html
<i>systemd</i>	Used by Vector to launch the internal services https://www.freedesktop.org/software/systemd/
<i>tensor flow lite (TFLite)</i>	Probably used to recognize hands, the desk surface, and was intended to support recognizing pets and common objects. https://www.tensorflow.org/lite/microcontrollers/get_started

Other tools, useful for analyzing and patching Vector:

Tool	Description
<i>Segger ICD</i>	An education version of the J-Link, suitable for the STM32F030, can be found on ebay for <\$60 https://www.segger.com/products/debug-probes/j-link/
<i>ST-Link (v3)</i>	Suitable for debugging STM32F030, extracting and patching firmware; \$35 https://www.st.com/en/development-tools/stlink-v3set.html
<i>TI BLE sniffer</i>	\$50 http://www.ti.com/tool/CC2540EMK-USB https://www.ti.com/tool/PACKET-SNIFFER
<i>Wireshark</i>	To decode what is said to the servers

Table 114: Tools that can be used to analyze and patch Vector

APPENDIX C

Fault and status codes

The following are system status codes that may be produced during startup:

Code	Meaning
1..10	Systemd failed...?
200...	Software update status code, see table below
700-702	Internal sensor out of range or failed. These require vic-robot to tell the base-board to power the system off.
703-705	Internal sensor out of range or failed.
800	Vic-anim was unable to start or crashed.
801	?
898	“general hardware disconnect” Perhaps vic-robot is unable to communicate with the base-board?
899	?
913	Vic-switchboard was unable to start or crashed
914	Vic-engine was unable to start or crashed
915	Vic-engine stopped responding.
916	Vic-robot was unable to start or crashed
917	Vic-anim stopped responding
920	Vic-gateway-cert was unable to generate a x509 certificate for vic-gateway
921	Vic-gateway was unable to start or crashed
923	Vic-cloud was unable to start or crashed
980-981	“These codes indicate issues with the camera. These issues are typically caused by mm-anki-camera hanging when we try to stop the camera stream on vic-engine stop. We have to manually kill it and start it again.”

Table 115: The system fault codes

The following are the update-engine status codes that may be produced during the update process:

Status	Meaning
200	The TAR contents did not follow the expected order.
201	Unhandled section format for expansion, or The manifest version is not supported, or The OTA has the wrong number of images for the type, or The OTA is missing a BOOT or SYSTEM image, or The manifest configuration is not understood
202	Could not mark target, a, or b slot unbootable, or Could not set target slot as active
203	Unable to construct automatic update URL, or The URL could not be opened

Table 116: OTA update-engine status codes

204	The file wasn't a valid TAR file, or is corrupt
205	The compression scheme is not supported, or Decompression failed, the file may be corrupt
207	Delta payload error
208	Couldn't sync OS images to disk, or Disk error while transferring OTA file.
209	The manifest failed signature validation; or the <code>aboot</code> , <code>boot</code> image, <code>system</code> image, or <code>delta.bin</code> hash doesn't match signed manifest
210	The encryption scheme is not supported.
211	Vector's current version doesn't match the baseline for a delta update.
212	The decompression engine had an unexpected, undefined error.
213	QSN doesn't match manifest
214	There is a mismatch: development Vectors can't install release OTA software, and release Vectors can't install development OTA software.
215	OTA transfer failed, due to timeout.
216	OS version name in the update file doesn't follow an acceptable pattern, or it is not allowed to upgrade or downgrade from the current version to the new version.
219	Other unexpected, undefined error while transferring OTA file.

APPENDIX D

File system

This Appendix describes the file systems on Vector's flash. As the Vector uses the Android bootloader, it reuses – or at least reserves – many of the Android partitions⁵¹ and file systems. Many are probably not used. Quotes are from Android documentation.

The file system table tells use where they are stored in the partitions, and whether they are non-volatile.

Mount point	Partition name	Description & Notes
/	BOOT_A	The primary linux kernel and initramfs
/data ⁵²	USERDATA	The data created for the specific robot (and user) that customizes it. A factory reset wipes out this user data. This portion of the file system is encrypted using “Linux Unified Key Setup” (LUKS).
/firmware	MODEM	The firmware for the WiFi/Bluetooth radio
/factory	OEM	Customizations, such as bootloader property values. ... Or the factory recovery?
/persist	PERSIST	Device specific “data which shouldn't be changed after the device is shipped, e.g. DRM related files, sensor reg file (sns.reg) and calibration data of chips; wifi, bluetooth, camera etc.”
/media/ram /run /var/volatile /dev/sm		Internal temporary file systems; holds temporary files, interprocess communication

Table 117: The file system mount table

The partition table⁵³ found on the Vector:

Partition name	Size	Description & Notes
ABOOT	1 MB	The primary and backup Android boot loader, which may load the kernel, recovery, or fastboot. This is in the format of a signed, statically linked ELF binary.
ABOOTBAK	1 MB	
BOOT_A	32 MB	These are the primary and backup linux kernel and initramfs. Updates modify the non-active partition, and then swap which one is active.
BOOT_B	32 MB	
CONFIG	512 KB	This partition is not employed by Vector. It is zero'd out.
DDR	32 KB	Configuration of the DDR RAM.
DEVINFO	1 MB	This partition is not read by Vector. It is zero'd out. In typical aboot implementations this partition is used to hold “device

Table 118: The partition table

⁵¹ <https://forum.xda-developers.com/android/general/info-android-device-partitions-basic-t3586565>

⁵² This is mounted by “mount-data.service” The file has a lot of information on how it unbricks

⁵³ Much information from: <https://source.android.com/devices/bootloader/partitions-images>

		information including: is_unlocked (aboot), is_tampered, is_verified, charger_screen_enabled, display_panel, bootloader_version, radio_version etc. Contents of this partition are displayed by “fastboot oem device-info” command in human readable format. Before loading boot.img or recovery.img, [the] boot loader verifies the locked state from this partition.”
		Vector’s aboot will write to this partition to indicate tampering when it finds that the boot image does not pass integrity checks.
EMR	16 MB	Holds Vector’s Model, Serial Number, and such. This appears to be a binary data structure, rather than a file system.
FSC	1KB	“Modem FileSystem Cookies”
FSG	1.5 MB	Golden backup copy of MODEMST1, used to restore it in the event of error
KEystore	512 KB	“Related to [USERDATA] Full Disk Encryption (FDE)”
MISC	1MB	This is “a tiny partition used by recovery to communicate with bootloader store away some information about what it's doing in case the device is restarted while the OTA package is being applied. It is a boot mode selector used to pass data among various stages of the boot chain (boot into recovery mode, fastboot etc.). e.g. if it is empty (all zero), system boots normally. If it contains recovery mode selector, system boots into recovery mode.”
MODEM	64 MB	Binary “blob” for the WiFi/Bluetooth radio firmware
MODEMST1	1.5MB	A FAT file-system holding executables and binary “blobs” for the WiFi/Bluetooth radio firmware. Several are signed by Anki. Includes a lot of test code, probably for emissions testing.
MODEMST2	1.5MB	
OEM	16MB	A modifiable ext2/4 file system that holds the logs, robot name, some calibration info, and SDK TLS certificates.
PAD	1MB	“related to OEM”
PERSIST	64MB	This partition is not employed by Vector. It is zero’d out.
RECOVERY	32 MB	An alternate partition holding kernel and initial RAM filesystem that allows the system boot into a mode that can download a new system. Often used to wipe out the updates.
RECOVERYFS	640 MB	An alternate partition holding systems applications and libraries that let the application boot into a mode that can download a new system. Often used to wipe out the updates. This partition holds v0.90 of the Anki software.
RPM	512KB	The primary and backup partitions for resource and power management. This is in the format of a signed, statically linked ELF binary.
RPMBAK	512KB	
SBL1	512KB	The primary and back up partitions for the secondary boot-loader. Responsible for loading aboot; has an “Emergency” download (EDL) mode using Qualcomm’s Sahara protocol. This is in the format of a signed, statically linked ELF binary.
SBL1BAK	512KB	
SEC	16KB	The secure boot fuse settings, OEM settings, signed-bootloader stuff
SSD	8KB	“Secure software download” for secure storage, encrypted RSA keys, etc
SYSTEM_A	896MB	The primary and backup system applications and libraries with application specific code. Updates modify the non-active partition, and then swap which one is active.
SYSTEM_B	896MB	
SWITCHBOARD	16 MB	This is a modifiable data area used by Vic-switchboard to hold persistent communication tokens. This appears to be a binary data structure, rather than a file system.
TZ	768KB	The primary and backup TrustZone. This is in the format of a signed, statically

TZBAK	768KB	linked ELF binary. This code is executed with special privileges to allow encrypting and decrypting key-value pairs without any other modules (or debuggers) having access to the secrets.
USERDATA	768MB	The data created for the specific robot (and user) that customizes it. A factory reset wipes out this user data. This partition is encrypted using “Linux Unified Key Setup” (LUKS).

The following files are employed in the Vector binaries and scripts:

File	Description
/anki/etc/revision	Contains the robot revision number
/anki/etc/version	Contains the robot version number
/data/data/com.anki.victor	
/data/data/com.anki.victor/cache/crashDumps	Holds the crash dump files
/data/data/com.anki.victor/cache/outgoing	
/data/data/com.anki.victor/cache/vic-logmgr	A folder used to hold the log files while constructing the compressed archive file that will be uploaded.
/data/diagnostics/	Used to hold the diagnostic logs as the archive is constructed and compressed.
/data/etc	
/data/etc/localtime	The time zone
/data/fault-reports	
/data/lib/connman/	The contents of /var/lib/connman are copied here
/data/maintenance_reboot	This is set when the system has rebooted for maintenance reasons (e.g. updates)
/data/misc/bluetooth	A folder to hold communication structures for the Bluetooth LE stack.
/data/misc/bluetooth/abtd.socket	The IPC socket interface to Anki’s Bluetooth LE service
/data/misc/bluetooth/btprop	The IPC socket interface to BlueZ Bluetooth LE service.
/data/misc/camera	
/data/panics	
/data/run/connamn	
/data/data/com.anki.victor/persistent/switchboard/sessions	Used by Vic-switchboard to hold persistent session information, e.g. tokens
/data/unbrick	
/data/usb	
/data/vic-gateway	
/dev/block/bootdevice/by-name/emr	File system access to the manufacturing records, including serial number
/dev/block/bootdevice/by-name/switchboard	File system access to switchboards persistent data.
/dev/rampost_error	The status of the rampost checks of the baseboard.
/dev/socket/_anim_robot_server_	The IPC socket with Vector’s animation controller
/dev/socket/_engine_gateway_server_	The IPC socket interface to Vector’s Gateway [TBD] server

Table 119: Files

<code>/dev/socket/_engine_gateway_proto_server_</code>	The IPC socket interface to Vector's Gateway [TBD] server
<code>/dev/socket/_engine_switch_server_</code>	The IPC socket interface to Vector's Switchbox [TBD] server
<code>/etc/os-version</code>	Contains the OS (linux) version string.
<code>/etc/os-version-rev</code>	Contains the OS (linux) revision string.
<code>/factory/cloud/something.pem</code>	
<code>/proc/sys/kernel/random/boot_id</code>	A random identifier, created each boot
<code>/sys/devices/system/cpu/possible⁵⁴</code> <code>/sys/devices/system/cpu/present</code>	The number of CPUs and whether they can be used.
<code>/run/after_maintenance_reboot</code>	This is set to indicate to Vectors services that the system was rebooted for maintenance reasons, and they should take appropriate action. This will be set, on boot, if <code>/data/maintenance_reboot</code> had been set.
<code>/run/anki-crash-log</code>	
<code>/run/das_allow_upload</code>	If this exists, the crash log files can be uploaded to the backtrace.io servers; if it does not exist, the files are not uploaded. This file probably always exists, but was intended to be a user settable feature.
<code>/run/fake-hwclock-cmd⁵⁵</code>	Sets the fake time to the time file (Vector doesn't have a clock)
<code>/run/fault_code</code>	This is set to the fault code (see Appendix C) if a program is unable to carry out a significant task, or crashes. The fault display program may present this code on the LCD display.
<code>/run/fault_code.pending</code>	The next fault code in queue to be handled
<code>/run/fault_code.showing</code>	The fault code being displayed
<code>/run/fault_restart_count</code>	This is incremented with each restart, and cleared by a reboot.
<code>/run/fault_restart_uptime</code>	
<code>/tmp/data_cleared</code>	
<code>/tmp/vision/neural_nets</code>	

Key named device files employed in Vector binaries:

File	Description
<code>/dev/fb0</code>	The display framebuffer
<code>/dev/spidev0.0</code>	The SPI channel to communicate with the IMU
<code>/dev/spidev1.0</code>	The SPI channel to communicate with the LCD
<code>/dev/ttyHS0</code>	Serial connection with the base-board
<code>/dev/ttyHSL0</code>	Console log
<code>/sys/class/android_usb/android0/iSerial</code>	Set to Vector's serial number
<code>/sys/class/gpio/gpio83</code>	Used to control the camera power
<code>/sys/class/leds/face-backlight-left/brightness</code>	LCD left backlight control
<code>/sys/class/leds/face-backlight-right/brightness</code>	LCD right backlight control
<code>/sys/devices/platform/soc/1000000.pinctrl/gpio/gpiochip0/base</code>	LCD backlight enable (left or right?) GPIO config

Table 120: Named device and control files

⁵⁴ <https://www.kernel.org/doc/Documentation/ABI/testing/sysfs-devices-system-cpu>

⁵⁵ <https://manpages.debian.org/jessie/fake-hwclock/fake-hwclock.8.en.html>

<i>/sys/devices/system/cpu/cpu0/cpufreq/scaling_max_freq</i>	The maximum frequency that the CPU can run at. Initially set to 533MHz
<i>/sys/kernel/debug/msm_otg/bus_voting</i>	Disabled to prevent the USB from pinning RAM to 400MHz.
<i>/sys/kernel/debug/rpm_send_msg/message</i>	Used to control the RAM controller. The RAM is set to a maximum of 400MHz.
<i>/sys/devices/soc/1000000.pinctrl/gpio/gpiochip0/base</i>	LCD backlight enable (left or right?) GPIO config
<i>/sys/devices/soc.0/1000000.pinctrl/gpio/gpiochip911/base</i>	LCD backlight enable (left or right?) GPIO config
<i>/sys/module/spidev/parameters/bufsiz</i>	The buffer size for SPI transfers. This is set to the size of the LCD frame (184 pixels × 96 pixels × 2 bytes/pixel).

APPENDIX E

Bluetooth LE Services & Characteristics

This Appendix describes the configuration of the Bluetooth LE services – and the data access they provide – for the accessory cube and for Vector.

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times and other feature parameters:

Service	UUID ⁵⁶	Description & Notes
<i>Device Info Service</i> ⁵⁷	180A ₁₆	Provides device and unit specific info –it’s manufacturer, model number, hardware and firmware versions
<i>Generic Access Profile</i> ⁵⁸	1800 ₁₆	The device name, and preferred connection parameters
<i>Generic Attribute Transport</i> ⁵⁹	1801 ₁₆	Provides access to the services.
<i>Cube’s Service</i>	C6F6C70F-D219-598B-FB4C-308E1F22F830 ₁₆	Service custom to the cube, reporting battery, accelerometer and date of manufacture

Table 121: The Bluetooth LE services

Note: It appears that there isn’t a battery service on the Cube. When in over-the-air update mode, there may be other services present (i.e. by a bootloader)

Element	Value
<i>Device Name (Default)</i>	“Vector Cube”
<i>Firmware Revision</i>	“v_5.0.4”
<i>Manufacturer Name</i>	"Anki"
<i>Model Number</i>	"Production"
<i>Software Revision</i>	“2.0.0”

Table 122: The Cube’s Device info settings

⁵⁶ All values are a little endian, per the Bluetooth 4.0 GATT specification

⁵⁷ http://developer.bluetooth.org/gatt/services/Pages/ServiceViewer.aspx?u=org.bluetooth.service.device_information.xml

⁵⁸ http://developer.bluetooth.org/gatt/services/Pages/ServiceViewer.aspx?u=org.bluetooth.service.generic_access.xml

⁵⁹ http://developer.bluetooth.org/gatt/services/Pages/ServiceViewer.aspx?u=org.bluetooth.service.generic_attribute.xml

78.1. CUBE'S ACCELEROMETER SERVICE

Values are little-endian, except where otherwise stated.

UUID	Access	Size	Notes
0EA75290-6759-A58D-7948-598C4E02D94A ₁₆	Write	unknown	
450AA175-8D85-16A6-9148-D50E2EB7B79E ₁₆	Read	The date and time of manufacture (?) char[]	A date and time string
43EF14AF-5FB1-7B81-3647-2A9477824CAB ₁₆	Read, Notify, Indicate	Reads the battery and accelerometer uint16_t uint16_t uint16_t uint16_t uint16_t uint16_t uint16_t uint16_t uint16_t uint16_t	battery ADC value accelerometer X ADC value #1 accelerometer Y ADC value #1 accelerometer Z ADC value #1 accelerometer X ADC value #2 accelerometer Y ADC value #2 accelerometer Z ADC value #2 accelerometer X ADC value #3 accelerometer Y ADC value #3 accelerometer Z ADC value #3
9590BA9C-5140-92B5-1844-5F9D681557A4 ₁₆	Write		Unknown

Table 123: Cube's accelerometer service characteristics

Presumably some of these will cause the Cube to go into over the air update (OTAU) mode, allowing its firmware to be updated.

Others turn the RGB on to an RGB color, possibly duty cycle and pulsing duty cycle

79. VECTOR SERVICES SERVICE

times and other feature parameters:

Service	UUID ⁶⁰	Description & Notes
Generic Access Profile	1800 ₁₆	The device name, and preferred connection parameters
Generic Attribute Transport	1801 ₁₆	Provides access to the services.
Vector's Serial Service	FEE3 ₁₆	The service with which we can talk to Vector.

Table 124: Vector's Bluetooth LE services

It appears that there isn't a battery service on the Vector.

Element	Value
Device Name (Default)	"Vector" followed by his serial number

Table 125: The Vector's Device info settings

⁶⁰ All values are a little endian, per the Bluetooth 4.0 GATT specification

79.1. VECTOR'S SERIAL SERVICE

UUID	Access	Format	Notes
30619F2D-0F54-41BD-A65A-7588D8C85B45 ₁₆	Read, Notify, Indicate		
7D2A4BDA-D29B-4152-B725-2491478C5CD7 ₁₆	write		

Table 126: Vector's serial service characteristics

APPENDIX F

Servers & Data Schema

This Appendix describes the servers that Vector contacts⁶¹

Server	Description & Notes
chipper.api.anki.com:443	The speech recognition engine lives here
conncheck.global.anki-services.com/ok	Used to check to see if it can connect to Anki
jdocs.api.anki.com:443	Storage of some sort of data. Name, faces, prefs?
token.api.anki.com:443	Used to get the API certificate. ⁶²
https://anki.sp.backtrace.io:6098/post?format=minidump&token=6fd2bd053e8dd542ee97c05903b1ea068f090d37c7f6bbfa873c5f3b9c40b1d9	Vector posts crashes (linux minidumps) to this server. This is hard coded in anki-crashuploader
https://sqs.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/792379844846/DasProd-dasprodSqs-1845FTIME3RHN	This is used to synchronize with data analytics services.
https://ota.global.anki-services.com/vic/prod/	Where Vector checks for updates
https://ota.global.anki-dev-services.com/vic/rc/lo8awreh23498sf/amazon.com/code	For the Developer branch

Table 127: The servers that Vector contacts.

The mobile application contacts the following servers:

Server	Description & Notes
https://locations.api.anki.com/1/locations	This is used to provide a list of locations to the mobile application that the Chipper servers will recognize. Without this, you cannot change Vector's location in the mobile application

Table 128: The servers that the mobile application contacts.

⁶¹ Todo: sync up with info at: <https://github.com/anki-community/vector-archive>

⁶² Project Vector had a write up, reference that.

The Alexa modules contact the following servers:

Server	Description & Notes
https://api.amazon.com/auth/O2/	Used to authenticate the account for the Alexa device.
https://avs-alexa-na.amazon.com	The Alexa Voice Service that accepts the spoken audio and returns a rich intent. Amazon changed preferred URLs on 2019 May 22, and this is considered legacy. ⁶³

Table 129: *The Amazon Alexa Voice Service servers that Vector contacts.*

⁶³ <https://developer.amazon.com/docs/alexa-voice-service/api-overview.html>

APPENDIX G

Features

The following is the set of features and whether they are enabled:

Feature	enabled	Description & Notes
<i>ActiveIntentFeedback</i>	true	
<i>Alexa</i>	true	The ability to use Alexa
<i>Alexa_AU</i>	true	The ability to use Alexa, localized for Australia
<i>Alexa_UK</i>	true	The ability to use Alexa, localized for the UK
<i>AttentionTransfer</i>	false	
<i>CubeSpinner</i>	false	
<i>Dancing</i>	true	The ability for Vector to dance to music.
<i>Exploring</i>	true	The ability for Vector to explore his area
<i>EyeColorVC</i>	true	The ability to set Vector's eye color through a voice command
<i>FetchCube</i>	true	The ability for Vector to fetch his cube
<i>FindCube</i>	true	The ability for Vector to find his cube
<i>GazeDirection</i>	false	
<i>GreetAfterLongTime</i>	true	
<i>HandDetection</i>	true	The ability for Vector to spot hands
<i>HeldInPalm</i>	true	
<i>HowOldAreYou</i>	true	The ability for Vector to track how long it has been since he was activated (his age) and use that info to respond to the question "How old are you?"
<i>Invalid</i>	false	
<i>Keepaway</i>	true	
<i>KnowledgeGraph</i>	true	The ability for Vector to answer a question when asked "Hey Vector, I have a question..."
<i>Laser</i>	false	
<i>Messaging</i>	false	
<i>MoveCube</i>	true	
<i>PopAWheelie</i>	true	The ability for Vector pop a wheelie using his cube
<i>PRDemo</i>	false	

Table 130: The features

<i>ReactToHeldCube</i>	true	
<i>ReactToIllumination</i>	true	
<i>RollCube</i>	true	The ability for Vector to drive up and roll his cube
<i>StayOnChargerUntilCharged</i>	true	
<i>TestFeature</i>	false	
<i>Volume</i>	true	The ability to set Vector's volume by voice command.

APPENDIX H

Phrases and their Intent

This Appendix maps the published phrases that Vector responds to and their intent:

Intent	Phrase
<i>movement_backward</i>	Back up
<i>imperative_scold</i>	Bad robot
	Be quiet
<i>global_stop</i>	Cancel the timer
	Change/set your eye color to [blue, green, lime, orange, purple, sapphire, teal, yellow].
<i>check_timer</i>	Check the timer
<i>imperative_come</i>	Come here
<i>imperative_dance</i>	Dance.
<i>play_popawheelie</i>	Do a wheelstand
<i>imperative_fetchcube</i>	Fetch your cube
<i>imperative_findcube</i>	Find your cube
<i>play_fistbump</i>	Fist Bump
<i>play_fistbump</i>	Give me a Fist Bump
<i>movement_backward</i>	Go backward
<i>explore_start</i>	Go explore
<i>movement_forward</i>	Go forward.
<i>movement_turnleft</i>	Go left
<i>movement_turnright</i>	Go right
	Go to sleep
	Go to your charger
	Good afternoon
<i>greeting_goodbye</i>	Goodbye

Table 131: The “Hey Vector” phrases

	Good evening
	Good night
<i>greeting_goodmorning</i>	Good morning
<i>imperative_praise</i>	Good robot
<i>seasonal_happyholidays</i>	Happy Holidays
<i>seasonal_happynewyear</i>	Happy New Year
<i>greeting_hello</i>	Hello
	He's behind you
<i>character_age</i>	How old are you
<i>imperative_abuse</i>	I hate you.
<i>knowledge_question</i>	I have a question ...
<i>imperative_love</i>	I love you.
<i>imperative_apology</i>	I'm sorry.
<i>play_blackjack</i>	Let's play Blackjack
	Listen to music
<i>imperative_lookatme</i>	Look at me
	Look behind you
	My name is [Your Name]
<i>imperative_negative</i>	No
<i>play_anygame</i>	Play a game
<i>play_anytrick</i>	Play a trick
<i>play_blackjack</i>	Play Blackjack
<i>play_pickupcube</i>	Pick up your cube.
<i>play_popawheelie</i>	Pop a wheelie.
<i>play_rollcube</i>	Roll your Cube
	Run
<i>set_timer</i>	Set a timer for [length of time]
<i>explore_start</i>	Start Exploring
	Stop Exploring
<i>global_stop</i>	Stop the timer
<i>take_a_photo</i>	Take a picture of [me/us]
<i>take_a_photo</i>	Take a picture
<i>take_a_photo</i>	Take a selfie
<i>movement_turnaround</i>	Turn around
<i>movement_turnleft</i>	Turn left

<i>{same as quiet down}</i>	Turn off
<i>movement_turnright</i>	Turn right
<i>imperative_volumellevel</i>	Volume [number].
<i>imperative_volumedown</i>	Volume down
<i>imperative_volumeup</i>	Volume up.
	Volume maximum
<i>names_ask</i>	What's my name?
<i>weather_response</i>	What's the weather in [City Name]?
<i>weather_response</i>	What's the weather report?
<i>show_clock</i>	What time is it?
<i>imperative_affirmative</i>	Yes

Note: Vector's NLP server doesn't recognize "home" ..

Questions

Subject	Example Phrase
<i>Current conversion</i>	What's 1000 Yen in US Dollars?
<i>Flight status</i>	What is the status of American Airlines Flight 100?
<i>Equation solver</i>	What is the square root of 144?
<i>General knowledge</i>	What is the tallest building?
<i>places</i>	What is the distance between London and New York?
<i>People</i>	Who is Jarvis?
<i>Nutrition</i>	How many calories are in an avocado?
<i>Sports</i>	Who won the World Series?
<i>Stock market</i>	How is the stock market?
<i>Time zone</i>	What time is it in Hong Kong?
<i>Unit conversion</i>	How fast is a knot?
<i>Word definition</i>	What is the definition of Artificial Intelligence?

Table 132: The Vector questions phrases

APPENDIX J

Pleo

The Pleo, sold in 2007 –a decade prior to Vector – has many similarities. The Pleo was a software skinned animatronic baby dinosaur created by Caleb Chung, John Sosuka and their team at Ugobe. Ugobe went bankrupt in 2009, and the rights were bought by Innvo Labs which introduced a second generation in 2010. This appendix is mostly adapted from the Wikipedia article and reference manual.

Sensing for interacting with a person

- Two microphones, could do beat detection allowing Pleo to dance to music. The second generation (2010) could localize the sound and turn towards the source.
- 12 touch sensors (head, chin, shoulders, back, feet) to detect when petted,

Environmental sensors

- Camera-based vision system (for light detection and navigation). The first generation treated the image as gray-scale, the second generation could recognize colors and patterns.
- Four ground foot sensors to detect the ground. The second generation could prevent falling by detecting drop-offs
- Fourteen force-feedback sensors, one per joint
- Orientation tilt sensor for body position
- Infrared mouth sensor for object detection into mouth, in the first generation. The second generation could sense accessories with an RFID system.
- Infrared detection of objects
- Two-way infrared communication with other Pleos
- The second generation include a temperature sensor

Annunciators and Actuators

- 2 speakers, to give it sounds
- 14 motors
- Steel wires to move the neck and tail (these tended to break in the first generation)

The processing

- Atmel ARM7 microprocessor was the main processor.
- An NXP ARM7 processor handle the camera system, audio input
- Low-level motor control was handled by four 8-bit processors

A developers kit – originally intended to be released at the same time as the first Pleo – was released ~2010. The design included a virtual machine intended to allow “for user programming of new behaviors.”⁶⁴

79.2. SALES

Pleo’s original MSRP was \$350, “the wholesale cost of Pleo was \$195, and the cost to manufacture each one was \$140” sold ~100,000 units, ~\$20 million in sales⁶⁵

The second generation (Pleo Reborn) had an MSRP of \$469

79.3. RESOURCES

Wikipedia article. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pleo>

iFixit’s teardown. <https://www.ifixit.com/Teardown/Pleo+Teardown/597>

Ugobe, *Pleo Monitor*, Rev 1.1, 2008 Aug 18

Ugobe, *Pleo Programming Guide*, Rev 2, 2008 Aug 15

⁶⁴ <https://news.ycombinator.com/item?id=17755596>

⁶⁵ <https://www.idahostatesman.com/news/business/article59599691.html>

<https://www.robotshop.com/community/blog/show/the-rise-and-fall-of-pleo-a-fairwell-lecture-by-john-sosoka-former-cto-of-ugobe> John Sosoka