

## POLITECNICO DI TORINO

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# **Operating systems**

# **Laboratory experiences**

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# LAB 1 - Setup of the Working Environment

### 1 Introduction

In this lab experience you will set up the environment needed for the next laboratories. Specifically, you will get acquainted with the software required to simulate an **ARM machine** running on your PC.

The reference operating system suggested for these lab experiences is **Ubuntu 22.04.2 LTS**. If you do not have access to a PC with an Ubuntu operating system installed (e.g. a PC with dual boot) the best option for you is to create a virtual machine (VM). Since the working environment setup will require a lot of disk space and the installation procedure will take a lot of time, you are suggested to follow figure 1 during the creation of the VM (we used VirtualBox hypervisor to host the guest machines).

**Warning:** if you do not reserve enough disk space (e.g. 90 GB will suffice) for your VM, the Poky download and installation from section 3.2 will fail and you may have to create a new VM from scratch. Moreover, try to reserve as much memory and processors as your machine can afford, so that the Poky installation will require less time: even if you reserve 5 MB and 5 processors on a standard PC this operation will take some hours to accomplish.

When your VM is up and running, try to execute the following command in your terminal, so that you can double check your operating system version:

```
vboxuser@Ubuntu-progettoDriverOS:/$ lsb_release -a
No LSB modules are available.
Distributor ID: Ubuntu
Description: Ubuntu 22.04.2 LTS
Release: 22.04
Codename: jammy
```



Figure 1: Features of the Virtual Machine

#### 2 Lab Goal

The target of the experience is to run the ARM machine and connect a fully **simulated device**. The simulated ARM machine will run a Linux operating system (without Graphic User Interface) and the device connected will be managed by the OS through a **device driver**.

#### The simulated machine:

The ARM machine is simulated using **QEMU**, a software which emulates a board and lets you connect different devices. The ARM board chosen is called **QEMU** *virt board*, a platform which does not correspond to any real hardware and it is designed for use in virtual machines. This is the recommended board type if you simply want to run a guest such as Linux and do not care about reproducing the idiosyncrasies and limitations of a particular bit of real-world hardware.

#### The simulated device:

The simulated device encrypts (or better *hashes*) a string inputted by the ARM board and then returns it to the board. Such a device will be referred to as a "**cryptocore**".

QEMU lets you create the device you want to connect to the board through a behavioral description, so the cryptocore description should include how the input string is encrypted, that is with the **SHA-256** cryptographic hash function.

The device driver manages the input and output (hased) of the cryptocore and it will be tested at the beginning of the next lab experience.

In order to generate the operating system image for the ARM board and set up the QEMU simulation you first have to download **Poky**. Poky is part of the **Yocto Project**, an open source collaboration project that helps developers create custom Linux-based systems regardless of the hardware architecture. The emulator software QEMU is installed on your machine as part of cloning the Poky repository and sourcing the environment script. The following sections explain in a step by step tutorial how to get the Poky git repository, which contains the source code from which the custom Linux distribution (i.e. bootloader, kernel, root file system containing system and user programs) is built.

The step by step tutorial will guide you through the Poky installation and will help you to get acquainted to QEMU by showing you how to emulate a new board and connect the cryptocore device. The tutorial will then explain you how to bind the device to a device driver.

## 3 Yocto Project

#### 3.1 Install packages

Before the Poky installation you need to install the following packages:

```
sudo apt-get install gawk wget git diffstat unzip texinfo gcc-multilib build-essential sudo apt-get install chrpath socat cpio libsdl1.2-dev xterm ncurses-dev lzop sudo apt-get install minicom u-boot-tools curl net-tools}

(if needed exec the command ps to see python pid and then kill pid)

sudo apt-get install python3 python3-pip python3-pexpect xz-utils debianutils iputils-ping

python3-git python3-jinja2 libegl1-mesa python3-subunit zstd liblz4-tool
```

### 3.2 Download and install Poky

Download Poky source repository from git. Execute this command inside the folder where you want the Poky repository to be cloned:

```
git clone https://git.yoctoproject.org/poky
cd poky
```

#### Select Dunfell branch:

```
git checkout -b dunfell origin/dunfell
git pull
```

Initialize the build environment for an ARM machine QEMU target:

```
source oe-init-build-env build_qemuarm
```

Your current working directory should now be build\_qemuarm which is your build directory and where the images for your target are built. As the output from running the command above indicates, you will now need to select the target hardware MACHINE in the conf/local.conf file. In order to do so, modify the file as shown in figure 2, you just need to uncomment the line:

```
MACHINE ?= "qemuarm"
```

Build the system. **Warning:** the first time you execute this command it could take more than 3 hours (depending on your internet connection and PC features):

```
bitbake core-image-minimal
```

Now you can start the QEMU simulation:

```
runqemu qemuarm nographic
```

This last command should run the ARM machine and you should see Linux booting on your console.

Enter "root" when presented in the login prompt. Once inside the running QEMU emulation you should see a different prompt symbol right before your cursor (a "#" symbol is shown instead of the usual "\$" Linux prompt symbol).

Run uname —a to check the Linux distribution running and the target hardware architecture. In order to exit the QEMU simulation you have to press "Ctrl + A", then release and press "X".

```
root@qemuarm:/# uname -a
Linux qemuarm 5.4.257-yocto-standard #1 SMP PREEMPT Tue Sep 26 14:42:26

→ UTC 2023 armv71 GNU/Linux
```

NOTE: If internet connection is lost during the installation procedure the executing command (bitbake) will fail. If this happens or any other error occurs before the bitbake command is completed, try to rerun the command: it will maintain the progress made until the error occurred and try again.

```
# Machine Selection
# Machine Selection
# You need to select a specific machine to target the build with. There are a selection
# of emulated machines available which can boot and run in the QEMU emulator:
# MACHINE ?= "qenuarno4"
##ACHINE ?= "qenuarno4"
##ACHINE ?= "qenuarlo5"
```

Figure 2: local.conf modified

# 4 QEMU

#### 4.1 Compile QEMU

Instead of running runqemu qemuarm nographic, which runs the default version of QEMU you can run a specific version of QEMU and choose a specific image to be run. QEMU is installed on your machine as part of cloning the Poky repository and sourcing the environment script, as explained in section 3.2.

Before starting to add any new devices connected to the ARM machine (e.g. in section 4.4 will be explained how to add the SHA-256 cryptocore), you should try to compile QEMU. This operation must be done every time you modify files inside the QEMU directory, otherwise the changes will not be applied.

In order to compile QEMU you need to download and install the following packets:

```
sudo apt-get update -y
sudo apt-get install -y libgcrypt-dev
sudo apt install flex
sudo apt install bison
```

- The "libgcrypt" library is a low-level cryptographic library that provides various cryptographic algorithms and functions for secure data processing and encryption.
- "flex" refers to the GNU Flex (Fast Lexical Analyzer Generator), a tool for generating lexical analyzers.
- "bison" refers to the GNU Bison, a parser generator tool that is used for generating parsers and compilers.

NOTE: If an error such as unable to disambiguate ... occurs, it is possible to fix it by commenting the lines 2050 2051 2052 2053 of the configure file at the path:

```
/home/mattia/Desktop/progetto/poky/build_qemuarm/tmp/work/x86_64-linux/qemu-system-native 
→ /4.2.0-r0/qemu-4.2.0
```

To launch the compile process you have to execute the ./configure script and then the make command at the path:

```
/home/mattia/Desktop/progetto/poky/build_qemuarm/tmp/work/x86_64-linux/qemu-system-native \rightarrow /4.2.0-r0/qemu-4.2.0
```

The configure script (it takes about 20 minutes to execute) has to be executed right before the make command.

When QEMU will have to be recompiled (see section 4.4) it will not be needed to run again the configure script. In fact, this script is responsible for getting ready to build the software on your specific system. It makes sure that all the dependencies for the rest of the build and install process are available, and finds out whatever it needs to know to use those dependencies (the make command now is able to do what is described inside the Makefile).

#### 4.2 Run QEMU manually

After following the instruction of section 4.1, you should be able to compile QEMU. Now you will see how to boot the whole ARM system.

Execute the command:

```
source oe-init-build-env build_qemuarm
```

This command changes the working directory to the Source Directory and runs the Yocto Project "oe-init-build-env environment" setup script. Running this script defines the OpenEmbedded build environment settings needed to complete the build. The script also creates the Build Directory, which is build\_qemuarm in this case and is located in the Source Directory. After the script runs, your current working directory is set to the Build Directory. Later, when the build completes, the Build Directory contains all the files created during the build.

Execute this command to run QEMU:

#### **Explanation of the long command above:**

Inside the folder poky there is a QEMU version installed at the path:

```
poky/build_qemuarm/tmp/work/x86_64-linux/qemu-system-native/4.2.0-r0/qemu-4.2.0/arm-

→ softmmu
```

Here you can find the executable file gemu-system-arm that is called in the first part of the command.

If a new image is built (through *bitbake* as explained in the Poky installation section) you have to replace the old <FILE SYSTEM.ext4> inside the long command above. You have to substitute the old file system path with the absolute path of the more recent one.

Both the old and new file system are stored in a directory which path is:

```
/home/mattia/Desktop/progetto/poky/build_qemuarm/tmp/deploy/images/qemuarm
```

A new version of the <FILE SYSTEM.ext4> is created when you launch the command bitbake core-image-minimal every time (and only if) there are changes to be applied to the file system.

For example, every time you change the file system by adding a layer or by modifying the recipes inside a layer you have to run again the command bitbake core-image-minimal to create an updated version of the file system.

NOTE: An operating system image is a complete snapshot of an operating system that includes the core operating system components, while a file system is a method of organizing and storing files and directories on storage media within an OS. The file system is just one component of the larger operating system image.

If everything went ok, at the end of the procedure it will appear the log-in prompt as shown in figure 3. Enter the user name root to log into the system as the Linux superuser.

```
Poky (Yocto Project Reference Distro) 3.1.26 qemuarm /dev/ttyAMA0
```

Figure 3: log-in prompt

#### 4.3 Run QEMU in automatic with script

In order to speed-up the procedure we wrote the script bitbake\_run\_auto.sh that does the following operations:

- move to poky directory (line 3)
- run the command source oe-init-build-env build\_gemuarm (line 8)
- run the command bitbake core-image-minimal (as a consequence it generates a new file system if any change is made) (line 15)
- find the most recent file system with extension .ext 4 (line 22)
- run QEMU using the last file system created (line 25).

NOTE: inside the script there are different paths; remember to modify them according to your files directories.

```
#!/bin/bash
3 cd ~/Desktop/progetto/poky/
4 echo ""
5 echo "****************************
6 echo "SOURCE oe-init-build-env"
source oe-init-build-env build_gemuarm
10
n echo ""
12 echo "*********************************
13 echo "EXEC bitbake"
14 echo "***************************
15 bitbake core-image-minimal
17 echo ""
18 echo "*************************
19 echo "EXEC command_long"
20 echo "****************************
22 root_fs=$(ls /home/mattia/Desktop/progetto/poky/build_qemuarm/tmp/deploy/images/qemuarm | grep
 → "rootfs.ext4")
```

Run this script executing the following command (you have to be in the same folder where the script is saved):

```
./bitbake_run_auto.sh
```

At the end of the script you should see the log-in prompt as in figure 3. Enter root to log into the system as Linux superuser.

### 4.4 Add a device to QEMU

#### 4.4.1 Files to modify in order to add a device

There are 3 files you need to modify/create; in the second line of each element of the bulleted list there is the path where you can find the file if it has to be modified or where you can place the new file if it has to be created:

• virt.c (to be modified)

```
/home/mattia/Desktop/progetto/poky/build_qemuarm/tmp/work/x86_64-linux/qemu-system- \hookrightarrow native/4.2.0-r0/qemu-4.2.0/hw/arm
```

- Map the device (cryptocore) into the memory of the 32 bit simulated ARM board giving it the necessary space
- Map the interrupt on an available line
- Describe the function create\_virt\_sha\_device

This file helps in the emulation of a virtual board, it passes Linux all the information it needs about which devices are present via the device tree. A device tree in Linux is a data structure that describes the hardware components and their configuration in a platform-independent and machine-readable format. It allows the Linux kernel to adapt to different hardware configurations without recompilation. Device trees are commonly used in embedded systems and are loaded during the boot process to configure hardware and drivers.

By mapping the memory we reserve a portion of memory to our device. There is a specific portion of memory dedicated to devices. As shown in figure 6a:

- 0..128 MB is the space dedicated for a flash device so we can run bootrom code such as UEFI.
- 128 MB..256 MB is used for miscellaneous device I/O.
- 256 MB..1 GB is reserved for possible future PCI support (i.e. where the PCI memory window will go if we add a PCI host controller).
- 1GB and up is RAM (which may happily spill over into the high memory region beyond 4 GB). This
  represents a compromise between how much RAM can be given to a 32 bit VM and leaving space for
  expansion and in particular for PCI.

The function <code>create\_virt\_sha\_device</code> manages the links between our device, the chip and the driver. As you can see in picture 4 there are 3 different names you have to choose:

- virt-sha-device: this name links the device with the board.
- virt-sha-driver: this name links the device with its driver.
- virt-sha-nodename: this is just the name of our device mounted on the board.

Figure 4: virt.c modified

The three strings containing the names described above constitute links between different files which describe the board, the device and the driver. Those names are present in both the files that have to be recognised as bounded (e.g. "virt-sha-device" is present both in "virt\_sha.c" and in "virt.c", which describe the device and the board respectively).

As shown in figure 6b, the virt.c file contains also the mapping of the device interrupts.

• virt.h (to be modified)

```
/home/mattia/Desktop/progetto/poky/build_qemuarm/tmp/work/x86_64-linux/qemu-system- \hookrightarrow native/4.2.0-r0/qemu-4.2.0/include/hw/arm
```

- Adda the cryptocore device to the list of devices

In this file we add to an enum list the device we want to create as shown in figure 5.

Figure 5: virt.h modified

• virt\_sha.c (to be created)

/home/mattia/Desktop/progetto/poky/build\_qemuarm/tmp/work/x86\_64-linux/qemu-system-  $\hookrightarrow$  native/4.2.0-r0/qemu-4.2.0/hw/misc

- SHA256 algorithm
- read function virt\_sha\_read
- write function virt\_sha\_write

In this file we defined the device we want to add: virt\_sha. We implemented the algorithm necessary to execute the SHA256 (or better *hashing*). Inside this file we described also two functions: virt\_sha\_write and virt\_sha\_read. In these functions we pass the value of the offset where we will write the data with respect to the base address assigned to the device. In the function virt\_sha\_write we pass the value we want to write as well (it is a 64 bit value). When dealing with strings we have to recall the virt\_sha\_write function for each character we want to write and the virt\_sha\_read function for each time we want to read a character.

After the description of these two new functions there is the initialization of the device.



Figure 6: virt.c modified

#### 4.4.2 Files to be modified in order to compile QEMU with the new device

There are 4 files you need to modify in order to compile QEMU with the new device:

Kconfig

Modify this file as shown in figure 7a. Kconfig path is:

```
/home/mattia/Desktop/progetto/poky/build_qemuarm/tmp/work/x86_64-linux/qemu-system- \hookrightarrow native/4.2.0-r0/qemu-4.2.0/hw/misc
```

• Makefile.objs

Modify this file as shown in figure 7b. Makefile.objs path is:

```
/home/mattia/Desktop/progetto/poky/build_qemuarm/tmp/work/x86_64-linux/qemu-system- \hookrightarrow native/4.2.0-r0/qemu-4.2.0/hw/misc
```

In this file we specify the compiled file virt\_sha.o

ullet config-devices.mak

Modify this file as shown in figure 7c. config-devices.mak path is:

```
/home/mattia/Desktop/progetto/poky/build_qemuarm/tmp/work/x86_64-linux/qemu-system- \hookrightarrow native/4.2.0-r0/qemu-4.2.0/arm-softmmu
```

• arm-softmmu.mak

Modify this file as shown in figure 7d. arm-softmmu.mak path is:

/home/mattia/Desktop/progetto/poky/build\_qemuarm/tmp/work/x86\_64-linux/qemu-system-  $\hookrightarrow$  native/4.2.0-r0/qemu-4.2.0/default-configs

```
config APPLESMC
bool
depends on ISA_BUS

config TMP105
bool
depends on I2C

common-obj-s(config APPLESMC) += max111x.o

config TMP421
common-obj-s(config APPLESMC) += max111x.o

config TMP421
common-obj-s(config APPLESMC) += max111x.o

common-obj-s(config APPLESMC) += max11x.o

common-obj-s(config APPLESMC) += max11x
```

(a) Kconfig modified

(b) Makefile.objs modified

```
CONFIG_AISMPCORE=Y
CONFIG_A9MPCORE=Y
CONFIG_A9SCU=Y
CONFIG_A9_GITIMER=Y
CONFIG_A9_GITIMER=Y
CONFIG_APS_T
CONFIG_APS_T
CONFIG_APS_T
CONFIG_ACPI_HW_REDUCED=Y
CONFIG_ACPI_HW_REDUCED=Y
CONFIG_ACPI_HW_REDUCED=Y
CONFIG_ACPI_MEMORY_HOTPLUG=Y
CONFIG_ACPI_MEMORY_HOTPLUG=Y
CONFIG_ADS_T846=Y
CONFIG_ABS_T846=Y
CONFIG_ALUMINNER_A10=Y
CONFIG_ALLWINNER_A10=Y
CONFIG_ALLWINNER_A10_PIC=Y
CONFIG_ALLWINNER_A10_PIT=Y
CONFIG_ALLWINNER_A10_PIT=Y
CONFIG_ALLWINNER_BMAC=Y
CONFIG_ALLWINNER_BMAC=Y
CONFIG_ADMILMPCORE-Y

(c) config_devices.mak

# Default configuration for arm-softmmu

# CONFIG_ARM_VTM
# CONFIG_ARM_VTM
# CONFIG_ARM_VTM
# CONFIG_PCI_DEVICES=N
# CONFI
```

Figure 7: Files modified to compile QEMU with a new device

## 5 Layer and Recipes

In section 4.4 we saw how to add a device to the board and compile QEMU with the new features. Now we need a device-driver to interface the device with the system. The driver is described in the file virtsha.c. We will cross compile and load the driver using a dedicated recipe.

A recipe is a set of instructions that describes how to build a particular component, package, or software application for an embedded system. Poky uses these recipes to build custom Linux distributions as they provide metadata, source code, configuration, dependencies, and build instructions, enabling customization and flexibility.

1. Move to poky directory and execute the command

```
source oe-init-build-env build_qemuarm
```

2. Create a layer called meta-example with the command:

```
bitbake-layers create-layer ../meta-example
```

3. Add the layer to the system image:

```
bitbake-layers add-layer ../meta-example/
```

4. add the recipe virt-sha to the new layer:

```
cd ../meta-example/recipes-example
mkdir virt-sha
cd virt-sha
```

5. In virt-sha directory create the folder files and inside it create the file virt-sha.c: this file will describe the management of attributes: id, input, cmd, output, busy. These will be the interface between the user and the device.

In the file virt-sha.c describe the functions:

- vf\_show\_id
- vf\_show\_cmd and vf\_store\_cmd
- vf\_show\_input and vf\_store\_input
- vf\_show\_output
- vf\_show\_busy

show functions will be called with the command cat <attribute> to show the content of the attribute. store functions will be called with the command echo <value> > <attribute> to store into the attribute a certain value.

We will interface with the device through attributes. The command cat <attribute> displays the value of the attribute and to do so it recalls the function virt\_sha\_read described in the file virt\_sha.c; an echo <value> > <attribute> command lets you modify the attribute content (insert the input, change the value of the command, ...). This operation on an attribute recalls the function virt\_sha\_write described in the file virt\_sha.c.

Moreover, inside the file virt-sha.c we have the function probe which contains the function ioremap.

6. In the folder files we also add a Makefile.

```
obj-m := virt-sha.o

SRC := $(shell pwd)

all:

$(MAKE) -C $(KERNEL_SRC) M=$(SRC)

modules_install:

$(MAKE) INSTALL_MOD_DIR=kernel/drivers/misc -C $(KERNEL_SRC) M=$(SRC)

→ modules_install

clean:

rm -f *.o *~ core .depend .*.cmd *.ko *.mod.c

rm -f Module.markers Module.symvers modules.order

rm -rf .tmp_versions Modules.symvers
```

7. To boot the machine with the new device and device-driver, the file local.conf at the path /home/-mattia/Desktop/progetto/poky/build\_qemuarm/conf has to be modified as shown in figure 8. In the ending part of the file you have to add the lines:

```
IMAGE_INSTALL_append = " virt-sha"
KERNEL_MODULE_AUTOLOAD += "virt-sha"
```

Inside the folder virt-sha we place the file virt-sha.bb which has this format:

Thanks to this file your module will be loaded and installed into the image (you need to compile everything to make it effective).

8. Build the new image with the command:

```
bitbake core-image-minimal
```

```
IMAGE_INSTALL_append = " myhello"
IMAGE_INSTALL_append = " virt-sha"
KERNEL_MODULE_AUTOLOAD += "virt-sha"
```

Figure 8: local.conf modified

