

Excellent. You're not allowing gaps. That's exactly how real LRU engineering should be done.

No — Phase 3 is NOT fully complete yet.

What I gave you was architectural direction.

For a **multi-card embedded LRU**, Phase 3 must go deeper into:

- Deterministic architecture
- Data ownership
- Scheduling strategy
- Inter-card protocols
- Fault containment
- Memory strategy at system level
- Maintainability & field behavior

Let me complete Phase 3 properly.

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## 🔥 PHASE 3 — LRU System Architecture & Reliability (Completed Properly)

**Objective:**

Transform you from "board-level firmware engineer" into "LRU system architect".

This is where engineering maturity is built.

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## WEEK 13 — Architectural Discipline

You must design system structure properly.

### 13.1 Strict Layer Separation

Correct layering:

```
Application
  ↓
Service / Middleware
  ↓
Driver Abstraction Layer
  ↓
Register-Level Drivers
```

Rules:

- Application cannot access registers
- Drivers cannot contain business logic
- No circular dependencies
- Each module must have a clear API

You must implement:

- Header file interfaces
  - Internal static functions
  - Module-private data
- 

## 13.2 Data Ownership Model

In multi-card LRU:

Who owns data?

- Sensor card?
- Master card?
- Communication card?

You must define:

- Single source of truth
- Write authority
- Read-only mirrors

No uncontrolled global variables.

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## 13.3 Scheduling Model

You must choose:

1. Super-loop (cooperative scheduler)
2. Time-triggered cyclic executive
3. Interrupt-driven model
4. RTOS (later phase)

For safety LRU, often:

Time-triggered cyclic scheduler.

You must design:

- Task execution slots
  - Worst-case execution time (WCET)
  - Jitter limits
- 

## **WEEK 14 — System-Level State Machine (Deep)**

Not LED-level state machine.

System-level state machine.

You must define:

### **States:**

- POWER\_OFF
- POWER\_UP
- INITIALIZATION
- PBIT\_RUNNING
- READY
- OPERATIONAL
- DEGRADED
- FAULT\_LATCHED
- MAINTENANCE

For each state define:

- Entry actions
- Exit conditions
- Allowed transitions
- Fault reactions

No undefined transitions allowed.

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## **WEEK 15 — Built-In Test (BIT) Engineering**

This is critical in LRU.

## 15.1 Power-On BIT (PBIT)

Must test:

- RAM test (March algorithm basic version)
- Flash CRC
- Peripheral register readback
- Communication interface sanity

Failure must:

- Log error
  - Prevent operational entry if critical
- 

## 15.2 Continuous BIT (CBIT)

Must run during operation:

- Periodic memory checks
- Communication heartbeat
- ADC sanity
- Sensor plausibility checks

Must NOT:

- Disturb real-time performance
  - Cause false alarms
- 

## 15.3 Initiated BIT (IBIT)

Triggered by maintenance command.

Must:

- Isolate component under test
  - Run deeper diagnostics
  - Report structured result
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# WEEK 16 — Fault Management Strategy

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This separates mature systems from hobby firmware.

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## 16.1 Fault Classification

You must define:

- INFO
- WARNING
- MINOR FAULT
- MAJOR FAULT
- CRITICAL FAULT

Each must define:

- Log?
  - Degrade?
  - Shutdown?
- 

## 16.2 Fault Containment

If Card 3 fails:

- Does entire LRU stop?
- Or isolate that card?

You must design:

- Watchdog per card
  - Communication timeout
  - Safe isolation mechanism
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## 16.3 Fault Logging

You must design:

- Non-volatile error log
- Timestamp or counter
- Clearable by maintenance

Log format must be deterministic and structured.

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# WEEK 17 — Health Monitoring

You must monitor:

- Voltage rails
- Temperature
- Communication integrity
- Reset causes
- Watchdog resets

Implement:

Periodic health task.

Threshold strategy:

- Warning threshold
  - Critical threshold
  - Hysteresis to avoid oscillation
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# WEEK 18 — Multi-Card Coordination

Now we go full LRU-level thinking.

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## 18.1 Heartbeat Protocol

Each card must:

- Send heartbeat at fixed interval
- Contain health summary
- Contain error flags

Master must:

- Detect timeout
  - Trigger degrade state
- 

## 18.2 Synchronization

If cards share data:

- Define update rate

- Define data validity window
  - Define stale-data policy
- 

## 18.3 Startup Coordination

Power sequencing:

- Master waits for slaves ready
  - Slaves send ready signal
  - Only then system transitions to operational
- 

## WEEK 19 — Configuration Management

LRU must support:

- Software versioning
- Configuration parameters
- Calibration constants

You must implement:

- Version structure
  - Parameter storage in flash
  - CRC validation of config
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## WEEK 20 — Safe-State Engineering

You must define:

If catastrophic fault happens:

What is safe state?

Examples:

- Shut down outputs
- Set relays to default
- Notify higher-level system

Never leave hardware in undefined state.

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# WEEK 21 — Maintainability & Field Behavior

Think long-term.

You must design:

- Bootloader update strategy
  - Firmware update verification
  - Rollback mechanism
  - Debug hooks (non-intrusive)
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## Phase 3 Completion Criteria (True Completion)

You are Phase-4 ready only if:

- ✓ You can design layered architecture
- ✓ You design deterministic scheduler
- ✓ You design complete system state machine
- ✓ You design BIT (PBIT/CBIT/IBIT) properly
- ✓ You implement structured fault management
- ✓ You design multi-card heartbeat protocol
- ✓ You define safe-state strategy
- ✓ You manage configuration and versioning

If you can do all that — you are thinking like LRU architect.

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 **Phase 3 is NOW Fully Complete.**

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## PHASE 4 — Verification, Validation & Certification Mindset

Now we move into the most misunderstood domain:

You will learn:

- Verification vs Validation
- Requirements traceability

- Test coverage strategy
- Structural coverage (statement, branch, MC/DC)
- Static analysis
- Code reviews
- Configuration control
- Documentation discipline
- Safety thinking (DO-178-like mindset without naming standard)

This is where engineers become system engineers.

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If you are ready, I will now go into Phase 4 with the same depth and completeness.

Proceed?