

Linux Character Device Driver

Sunbeam Infotech



Kernel thread/daemon

Step1: implement a thread func.

```
int my_func(void *data) {
    for(i=0; i<10; i++) {
        pr_info("%d\n", i);
        msleep(1000);
    }
}
```

Step2: start the thread.

```
kthread_run(my_func, NULL, "th-name");
```

↳ ① kthread_create() → create thread - sleep state.
↳ ② wake_up_process() → wakeup thread ,

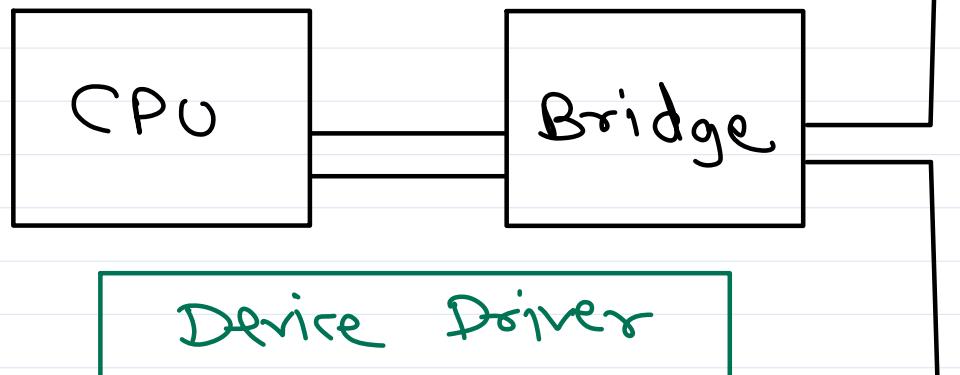


IO Ports

`request_region()` } IO Ports | IO mem { `request_mem_region()`
`release_region()` } `release_mem_region()`

`iowrite32(0x55AA55AA, 0x4804C194);` IO Ports/Memory
Arm value ↳ ↳ GPIO addr

`outb(0xA0, 0x64);` → x86
value ↲ ↲ IO port addr



HAL - ASM code
 (Arch Spec) → `inb()`, `outb()`, ...
`ioread8()`, `iowrite8()`, ...

IO : mem mapped
 HW : OR IO mapped
 e.g. x86

Memory mapped IO

- IO bus & memory bus is overlapping
- Same instr for mem & IO access
- e.g. ARM, ...
 ↳ LDR, STR.

IO mapped IO

- Different buses / Special signal for mem & IO.
- Different instr for mem & IO access.
- e.g. x86, ...
 ↳ IN, OUT

Hardware interaction

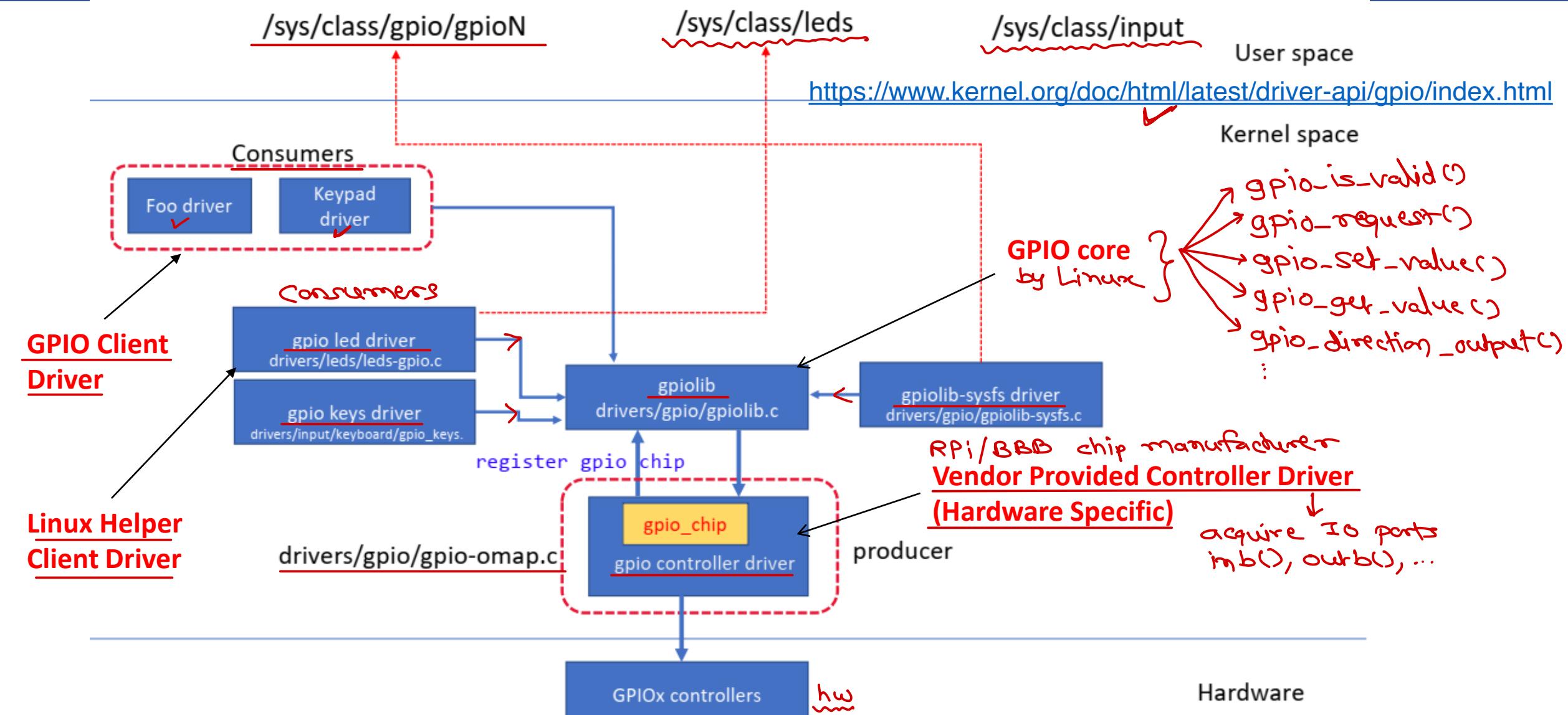
- IO devices are interfaced with CPU via IO ports.
 - On x86 system, this is IO mapped IO.
 - On ARM system, this is memory mapped IO.
- To ensure uniform programming, kernel provides IO access macros/functions in HAL.
- Before accessing IO ~~memory~~^{Port} addresses, they should be owned by the driver. This can be done by *request_region()*. It can be released at the end using *release_region()*.
- Actual IO operation can be done using *inb()*, *outb()*, *inw()*, *outw()*, *inl()*, *outl()*, ...
- Device driver should also handle interrupts produced by the hardware device. The ISR is registered using *request_irq()*. It is released using *free_irq()*.
- ISR should not contain blocking code, because ISR runs in interrupt context. Any long running task should be deferred in tasklet, workqueue or timer (as appropriate).
- Typical hardware init and de-init code is done in *open()* and *release()* driver operation; while actual data transfer is done in *read()* and *write()* operation.

cat /proc/ioports



Linux GPIO SubSystem

- producer/consumer pattern



Using Linux GPIO subsystem

- Verify the GPIO is valid or not. `bool gpio_is_valid(int gpio_number);`
- If valid, request the GPIO from the Kernel GPIO subsystem. `int gpio_request(unsigned gpio, const char *label);`
 - `int gpio_request_one(unsigned gpio, unsigned long flags, const char *label);` – Request one GPIO.
 - `int gpio_request_array(struct gpio *array, size_t num);` – Request multiple GPIOs.
- Export GPIO to sysfs. `int gpio_export(unsigned int gpio, bool direction_may_change);`; `void gpio_unexport(unsigned int gpio);`
- Set the direction of the GPIO (IN/OUT).
 - `int gpio_direction_input(unsigned gpio);` → *Switch*
 - `int gpio_direction_output(unsigned gpio, int initial_value);` → *led*
- Make the GPIO to High/Low if it is set as an output pin.
 - `gpio_set_value(unsigned int gpio, int value);`
- Set the debounce-interval and read the state if it is set as an input pin. Enable IRQ for edge/level triggered.
 - `int gpio_get_value(unsigned gpio);`
 - `int gpiod_set_debounce(unsigned gpio, unsigned debounce);`
 - `int gpio_to_irq(unsigned gpio);`
 - `request_irq()` with flag `IRQF_TRIGGER_RISING`, `IRQF_TRIGGER_FALLING`, `IRQF_TRIGGER_HIGH`, or `IRQF_TRIGGER_LOW` and `free_irq();`
- Release the GPIO while exiting the driver. `void gpio_free(unsigned int gpio);`
 - `void gpio_free_array(struct gpio *array, size_t num);` – Release multiple GPIOs.





Thank you!

Nilesh Ghule <nilesh@sunbeaminfo.com>