



# IoT Security – Autumn 2024

## Lab 1: Introduction to Contiki - A tiny OS for the Internet of Things

Manh Bui

School of Electrical and Data Engineering

Email: [DucManh.Bui@uts.edu.au](mailto:DucManh.Bui@uts.edu.au)

# About me



- Name: Manh Bui
- You can call me **Manh**
- Research interests: Cybersecurity, Blockchain and Machine Learning
- Email/Teams: [DucManh.Bui@uts.edu.au](mailto:DucManh.Bui@uts.edu.au)

# Aims of Lab 1



- Getting to know **Contiki** and **Cooja Simulator**
- Setting up the lab environment
- Creating the first simulation with Cooja
- Doing some example
- Exercises

# What is Contiki?



- An **open-source** operating system for the **Internet of Things**
- Connects tiny **low-cost, low-power** microcontrollers to the Internet
- A powerful toolbox for building complex wireless systems
- Support a variety of hardware
- Open source, contributors from: SICS, Cisco, Redwire LLC, and many others.



Arduino



Arduino Pro  
Mini 328



Raspberry Pi



Particle Photon  
with Headers



- A **network simulator** inside Contiki specifically designed for **Wireless Sensor Networks**.
- A highly useful tool for Contiki development as it allows developers to **test** their code and systems long before running it on the target hardware.

# Get Started with Contiki



- Download Instant Contiki (2.2 GB)

<http://sourceforge.net/projects/contiki/files/Instant%20Contiki/>

- Download VMWare Player (Windows) (It is free to download, but requires a registration)

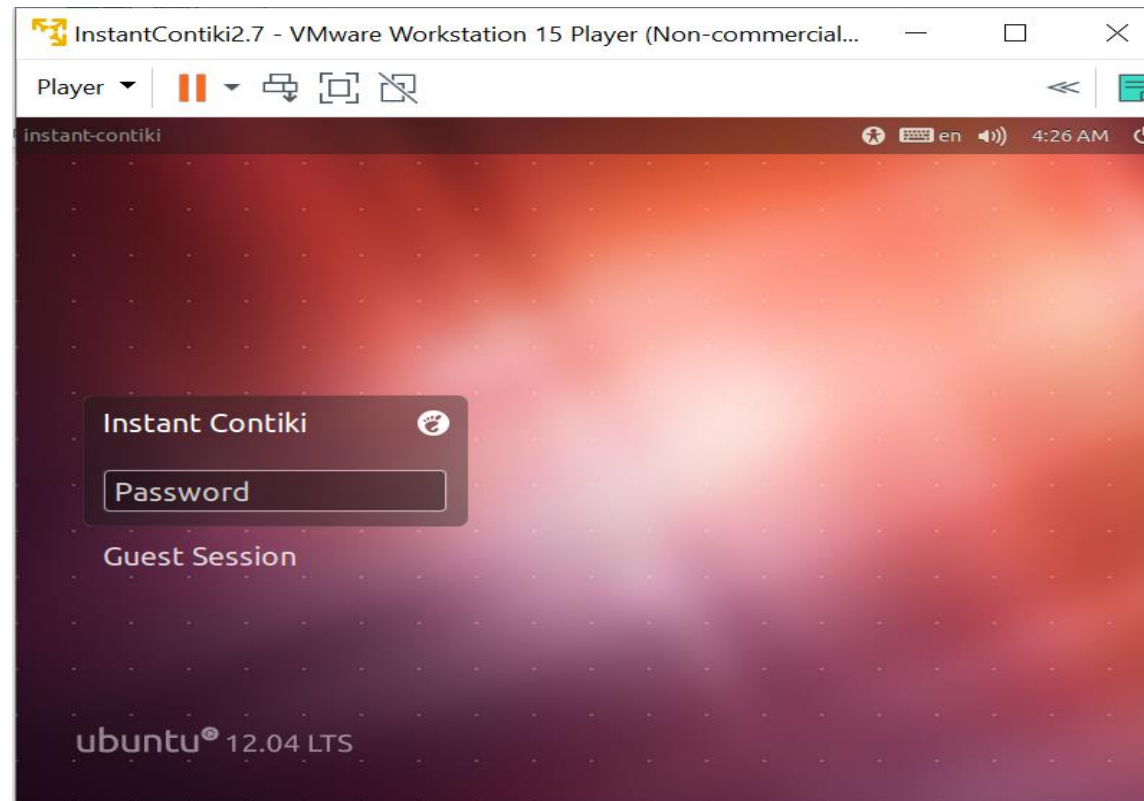
<http://www.vmware.com/go/downloadplayer/>

- For Mac Intel users, we use Virtual Box instead of VMWare
- For Mac M1/M2 users, we use Vmware fusion (need to request license from UTS)
- Last option: Install Windows on MAC 😞

# Get Started with Contiki



- Start Instant Contiki by running InstantContiki2.6.vmx. Wait for the virtual Ubuntu Linux boot up.
- Log into Instant Contiki. The password is **user**.



# Start Cooja



- To start Cooja, first open a terminal window. In the terminal window, go to the Cooja directory: `cd contiki/tools/cooja`
- Start Cooja with the command: `ant run`

A screenshot showing a terminal window on the left and the Cooja GUI on the right. The terminal window is titled 'user@instant-contiki: ~/contiki/tools/cooja' and shows the execution of 'ant run'. The output includes 'init:', 'clean: [delete] Deleting directory /home/user/contiki/tools/cooja/build', 'compile: [mkdir] Created dir: /home/user/contiki/tools/cooja/build [javac] Compiling 1 source file to /home/user/contiki/tools/cooja/build', 'jar: [jar] Building jar: /home/user/contiki/tools/cooja/cooja.jar', and 'run: [java] INFO [AWT-EventQueue-0] (GUI.java:2846) - External tools: /external\_tools\_linux.config [java] INFO [AWT-EventQueue-0] (GUI.java:2876) - External properties: /home/user/.cooja.user.properties'. The Cooja GUI window is titled 'Cooja: The Contiki Network Simulator' and has a menu bar with 'File', 'Simulation', 'Motes', 'Tools', 'Settings', and 'Help'. The main area of the GUI is currently blank.

```
user@instant-contiki: ~/contiki/tools/cooja
File Edit View Search Terminal Help

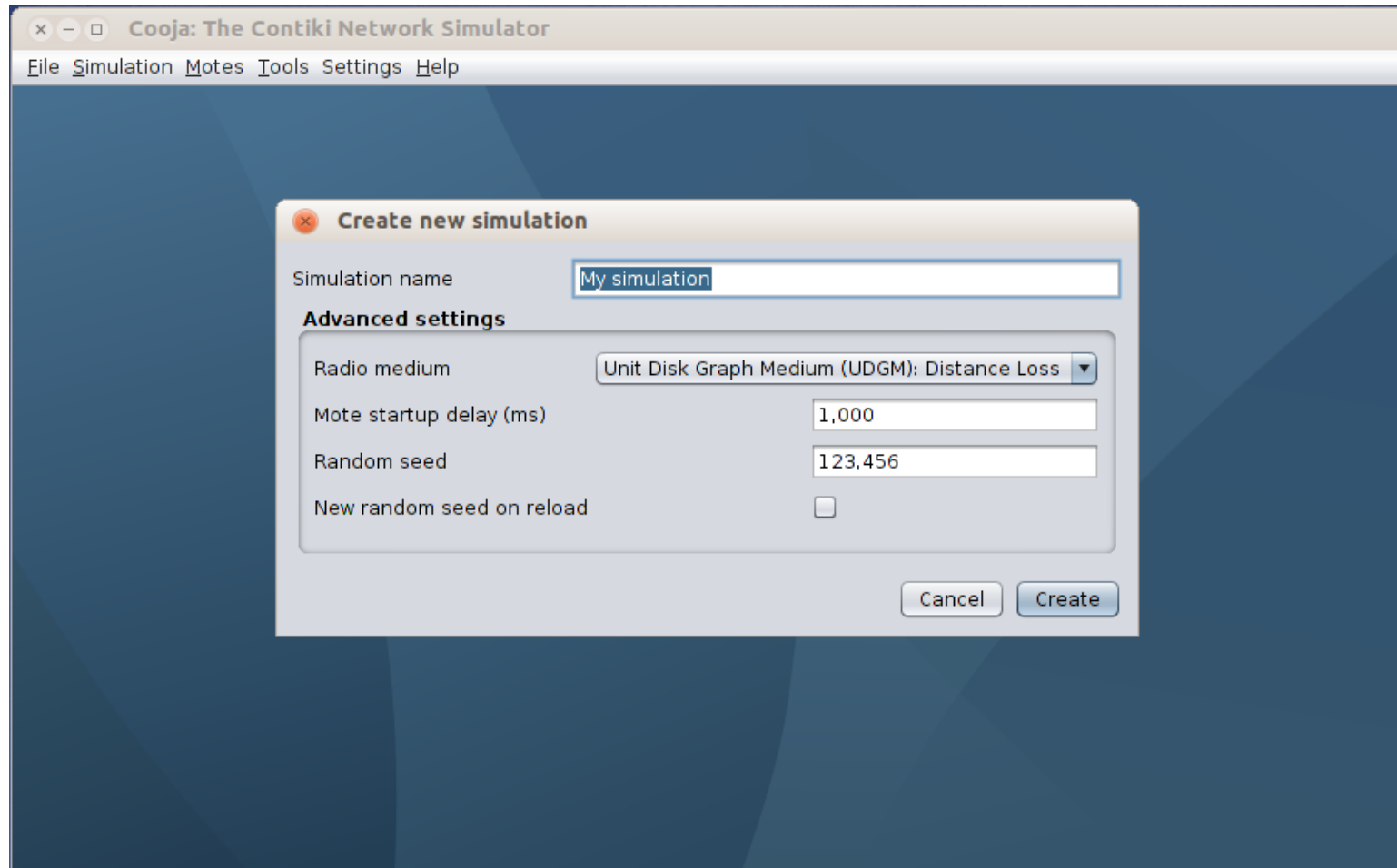
init:
clean:
[delete] Deleting directory /home/user/contiki/tools/cooja/build
build
compile:
[mkdir] Created dir: /home/user/contiki/tools/cooja/build
[javac] Compiling 1 source file to /home/user/contiki/tools/cooja/build
jar:
[jar] Building jar: /home/user/contiki/tools/cooja/cooja.jar
run:
[java] INFO [AWT-EventQueue-0] (GUI.java:2846) - External tools: /external_tools_linux.config
[java] INFO [AWT-EventQueue-0] (GUI.java:2876) - External properties: /home/user/.cooja.user.properties
```



# Creating Simulation



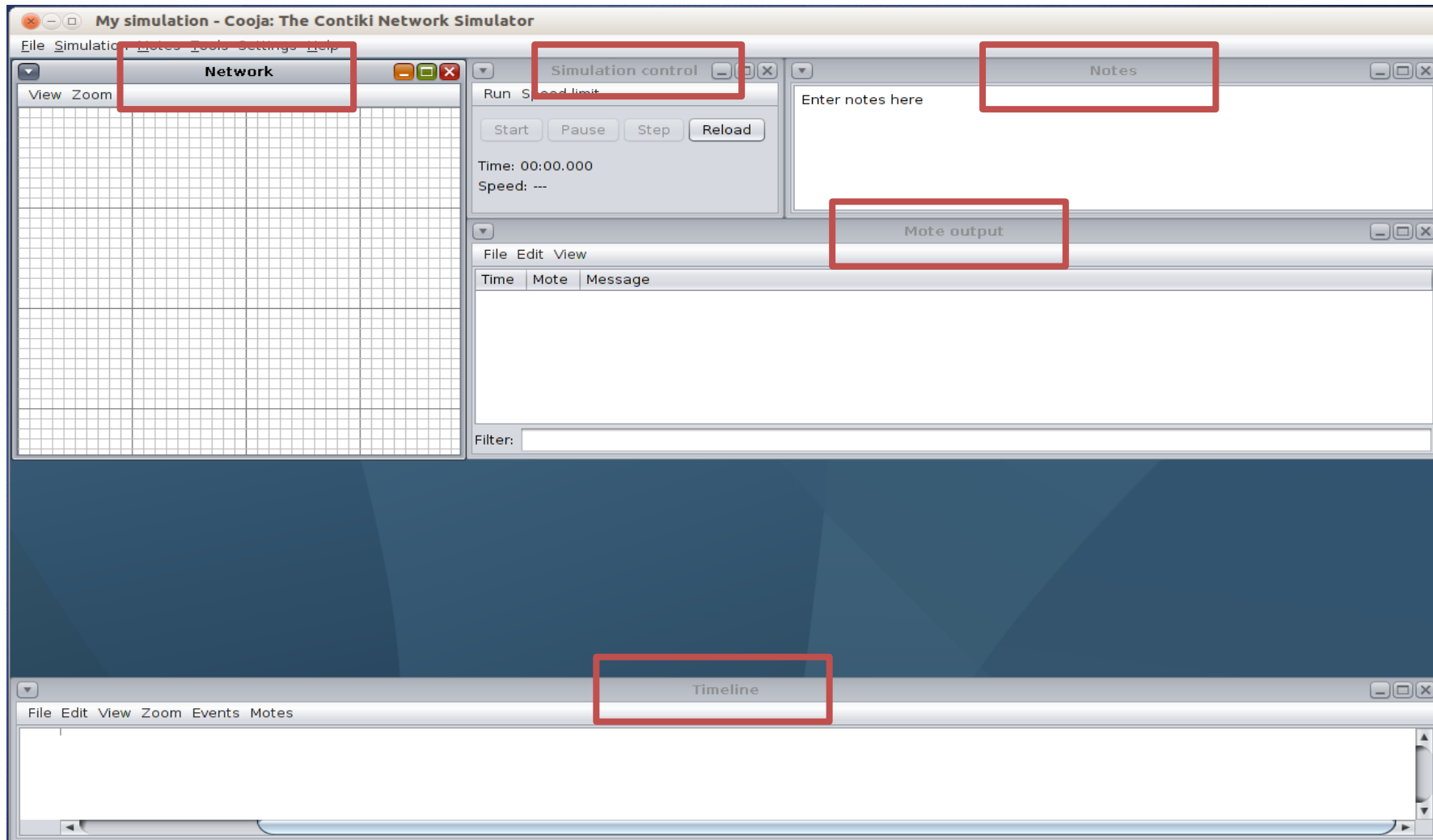
- Click the File menu and click New simulation



# Creating Simulation



- Cooja brings up the new simulation



# Creating Simulation

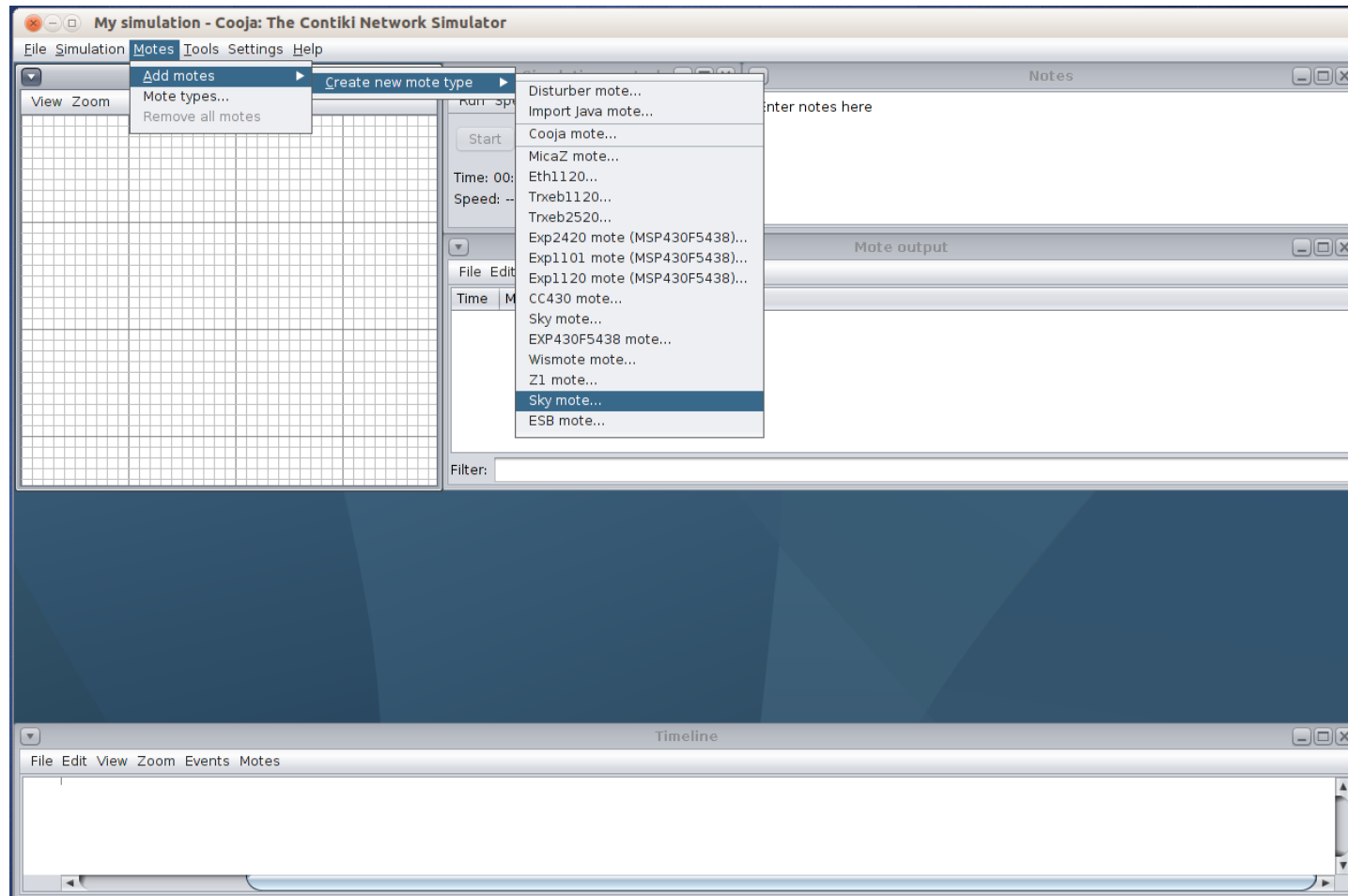


- The **Network window** (top left of the screen) shows all the nodes in the simulated network
- The **Timeline window** (bottom of the screen) shows all communication events in the simulation over time
- The **Node output window** (right side of the screen) shows all serial port printouts from all the nodes.
- The **Notes window** on the top right is where we can put notes for our simulation.
- The **Simulation control** window is where we start, pause, and reload our simulation

# Creating Simulation



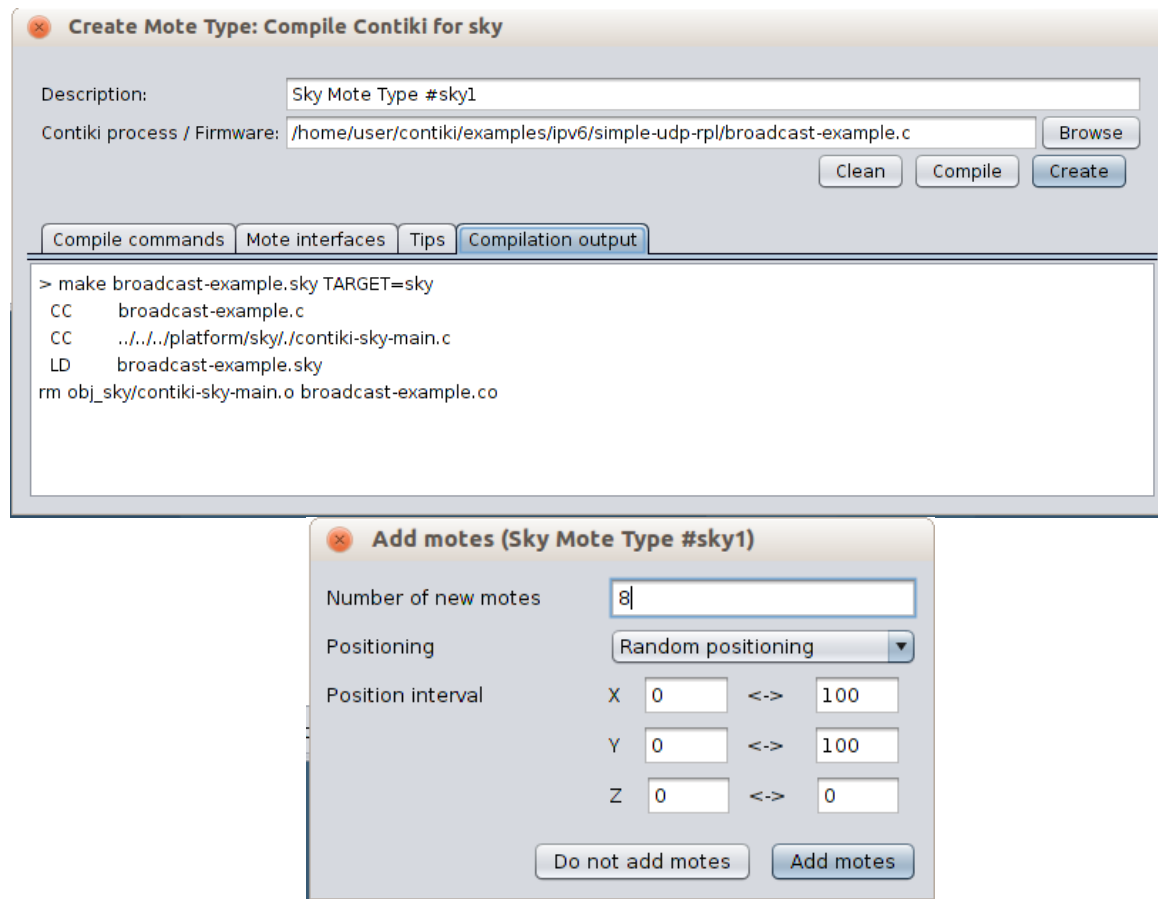
- Before we can simulate our network, we must add one or more motes



# Creating Simulation



- Cooja opens the Create Mote Type dialog, in which we can choose a name for our mote type as well as the Contiki application that our mote type will run.



# Simple Example: Turn on LEDs on the Sky mote



```
#include "contiki.h"
#include "dev/leds.h"
#include <stdio.h>
```

Libraries used in the code

```
char hello[] = "hello from the mote!";
/*-----*/
PROCESS(led_process, "led process test 1");
AUTOSTART_PROCESSES(&led_process);
/*-----*/
PROCESS_THREAD(led_process, ev, data)
{
    PROCESS_BEGIN();
    leds_on(LEDS_RED);
    leds_on(LEDS_GREEN);
    printf("%s\n", hello);
    PROCESS_END();
}
```

"led\_process" is the name of the process and "led process test 1" is the readable name of the process when you print it to the terminal.

Tells Contiki to start that process when it finishes booting.

Inside the thread you begin the process, do what you want and finally end the process

You declare the content of the process in the process thread. You have the name of the process and callback functions (event handler and data handler).

# Simple Example: Turn on LEDs on the Sky mote

The screenshot displays the Contiki IDE interface. The main window is titled "Create Mote Type: Compile Contiki for sky". It contains a "Description" field with the text "Sky Mote Type #sky1" and a "Contiki process / Firmware:" field with the path "/home/user/contiki/examples/sky/test\_led.c". Below these fields are buttons for "Clean", "Compile", and "Create". A tabbed interface at the bottom shows "Compilation output" selected, displaying the following commands:

```
> make test_led.sky TARGET=sky
CC      test_led.c
CC      ../platform/sky/./contiki-sky-main.c
LD      test_led.sky
rm obj_sky/contiki-sky-main.o test_led.co
```

Overlaid on the bottom of the IDE are three other windows. The "Network" window shows a grid with a small icon representing a mote. The "Mote Interface Viewer (Sky 1)" window has a dropdown menu set to "Sky LED" and shows three colored circles (green, red, and blue). The "Simulation control" window has buttons for "Start", "Pause", "Step", and "Reload", and displays "Time: 04:42.973" and "Speed: ---".

# Blink Application - Timer



- Contiki OS provides 4 kinds of timers:
  - Simple timer: A simple ticker, the application should check manually if the timer has expired. More information at `core/sys/timer.h` .
  - Callback timer: When a timer expires, it can callback a given function. More information at `core/sys/ctimer.h` .
  - **Event timer**: Same as above, but instead of calling a function, when the timer expires, it posts an event signalling its expiration. More information at `core/sys/etimer.h` .
  - Real time timer: The real-time module handles the scheduling and execution of real-time tasks; there's only 1 timer available at the moment. More information at `core/sys/rtimer.h`



# Blink Application - Timer



```
PROCESS_THREAD(hello_timer_process, ev, data)
{
    PROCESS_BEGIN();
    static struct etimer et;
    while(1) {
        etimer_set(&et, CLOCK_SECOND*SECONDS);
        PROCESS_WAIT_EVENT_UNTIL(etimer_expired(&et));
        printf("LEDS ON\n");
        leds_on(LEDS_ALL);
        etimer_set(&et, CLOCK_SECOND*SECONDS);
        PROCESS_WAIT_EVENT_UNTIL(etimer_expired(&et));
        printf("LEDS OFF\n");
        leds_off(LEDS_ALL);
        etimer_reset(&et);
    }
    PROCESS_END();
}
```

CLOCK\_SECOND is a value related to the number of the microcontroller's ticks per second. As Contiki runs on different platforms with different hardware, the value of CLOCK\_SECOND also differs.

Turn on all leds

Turn off all leds

PROCESS\_WAIT\_EVENT\_UNTIL() waits for the timer expired

# Exercises



1. Switch on the LED when the button is pressed. Switch off the LED when the button is pressed again.
2. Blink the LED for a certain number of seconds.
3. A new application that starts only when the button is pressed and when the button is pressed again it stops.

# References



1. Get Started with Contiki: <http://www.contiki-os.org/start.html>
2. Contiki Tutorial:  
[http://anrg.usc.edu/contiki/index.php/Contiki tutorials](http://anrg.usc.edu/contiki/index.php/Contiki_tutorials)
3. A. Dunkels, B. Gronvall, and T. Voigt, “Contiki-a lightweight and flexible operating system for tiny networked sensors,” IEEE international conference on local computer networks, Tampa, FL, USA, Nov. 2004.

