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# OPEN SOURCE IN SAFETY CRITICAL APPLICATIONS: THE END GAME

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Kate Stewart, The Linux Foundation

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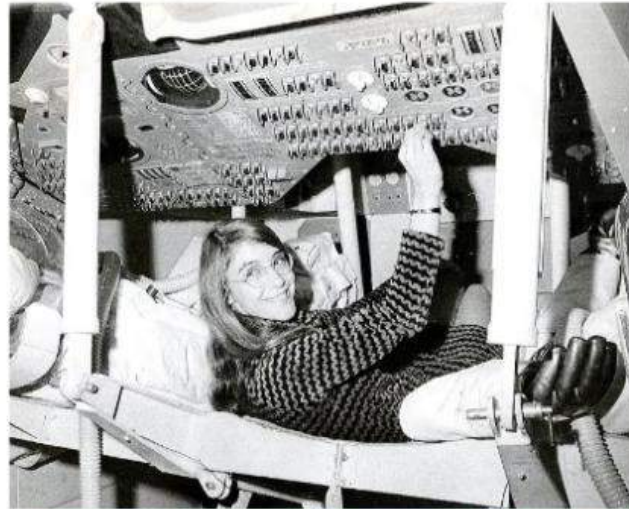
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SOURCE: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret\\_Hamilton\\_\(software\\_engineer#/media/File:Margaret\\_Hamilton\\_in\\_action.jpg\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret_Hamilton_(software_engineer#/media/File:Margaret_Hamilton_in_action.jpg)





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## Apollo On-Board Flight Software

- The challenge was unique: build man-rated software; meaning astronauts' lives were at stake. It had to WORK—the first time
- Not only did the software, itself, have to be ultra-reliable, but it would need to be able to detect an error and recover from it in real time
- Learning by "doing" and "being". Hardware engineers came with rules; we didn't. Problems had to be solved that had never been solved before. At times, we made it up
- Most developers were fearless and young; yet, dedication and commitment a given
- Managers (mostly from hardware backgrounds) for whom software was a mystery, gave us total freedom and trust

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source: [https://www.lcas2018.org/papers/orb/SE550\\_10w.0.pdf](https://www.lcas2018.org/papers/orb/SE550_10w.0.pdf)  
video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z1xYQF0j62U>



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## Open Source is the Foundation for Innovation

“99% of codebases audited in 2019 contained **open source components**. Open source made up **70%** of the audited codebases.” - [2020 Black Duck Report](#)

“ We’ve observed **double and triple digit growth** in open source component ecosystems for a decade, and there is no slowdown in sight.” [2019 SonaType Report](#)

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Source: <https://www.space.com/spacex-reuse-crew-dragon-falcon-9-rockets.html> (Image: © Bill Ingalls/NASA)





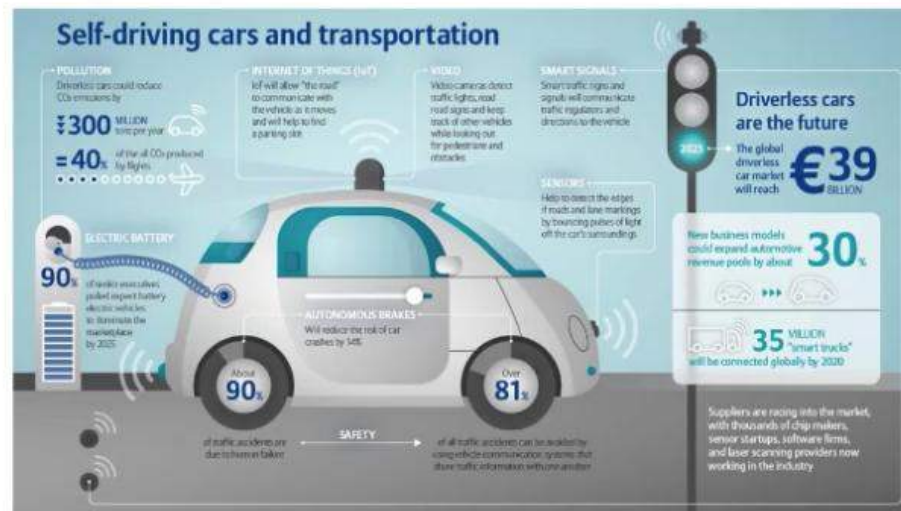
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Source: <https://www.datasciencecentral.com/profiles/blogs/ai-in-transportation-top-3-real-world-cases>



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[illegible]

Source: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1inYw5H4RiL0AC\\_J9vPWzJxXCdlkMLPBRdPgEVKF8DZw/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1inYw5H4RiL0AC_J9vPWzJxXCdlkMLPBRdPgEVKF8DZw/edit#gid=0)





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Open source is already being used  
in safety critical applications

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## Safety Certification of Open Source Projects?

Some of the Linux Foundation projects that working towards being able to demonstrate functional safety

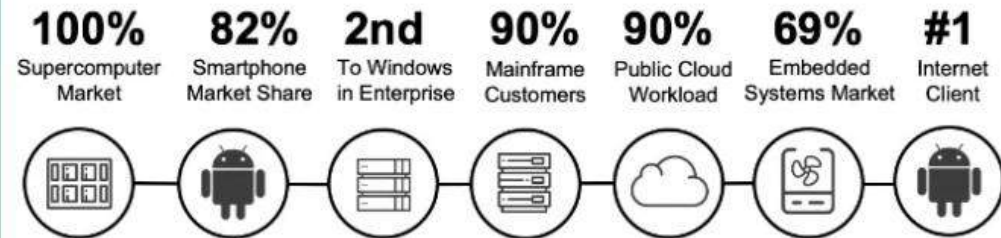


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## Linux Has Grown Into the Most Important Open Source Project in the World



Every market Linux has entered it eventually dominates

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## Enabling Linux in Safety-Critical Applications

**To assess whether your system is safe,  
you need to understand your system sufficiently.**

→ If your system's safety depends on **Linux**, you need to **understand** Linux sufficiently for **your system's context and use**



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## Safety-Critical Process Approach to Linux

**The difference** between Linux development for safety-critical and use in general applications **is the way you use it.**

- *Understand* your system and *understand* Linux interactions
- Make sure your system uses Linux based on the *selected* properties of Linux where *you can assure* quality exists already.





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## Compliance to Objectives of Safety Standards by Development Process Assessment:

- Linux has been **continuously developed for 29+ years**
- **Continuous process Improvement is in place.**
  - ✓ When technical or procedural issues in the kernel development are identified and pressing, the community addresses them.
- Evidence for the **requisite process quality** and **process improvement quality exists** already.
- This **evidence can indicate** that all objectives of a safety integrity level 2 for **selected parts and properties are met.**



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## ELISA Mission Statement

Define and maintain a common set of elements, processes and tools that can be incorporated into specific Linux-based, safety-critical systems amenable to safety certification.



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## Path forward for "Closing the Gaps"



Kernel  
Development  
Community

**Kernel Development  
Process Working Group**

Identify safe reference process requirements and assess Linux Process Collateral and introduce features to fill the gaps

**Safety Architecture  
Working Group**

Identify Linux Software Architecture elements for FFI Analysis and Safety Mechanisms

**Safety Standards**

- IEC 61508 Generic Standard
  - IEC 62304 Medical devices
  - IEC 61511 Industrial Processes
  - ISO 26262 Automotive
- ...
- DO178B/C Aeronautics
- UL 1998
- ...





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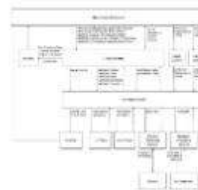
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## Proving out the Path

Medical Devices  
Working Group

Automotive  
Working Group

...



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## Understanding the Limits

The collaboration:

- *cannot engineer* your system to be safe
- *cannot ensure* that you know how to apply the described process and methods
- *cannot create* an out-of-tree Linux kernel for safety-critical applications (Remember the continuous process improvement argument!)
- *cannot relieve* you from your responsibilities, legal obligations and liabilities.

But it will provide a **path forward** and peers to **collaborate** with!



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## What Will Success Look Like?

### Assets for safety certification of Linux-based systems

- consisting of a complete process, selected kernel features and tools, and previous process assessments
- shown feasible with a reference system(s)
- usable by properly educated system integrators
- maintained over industrial-grade product lifetimes
- well-known and accepted by safety community, certification authorities and standardization bodies in multiple industries
- positively recognised and impacting the Linux kernel community
- hardware collateral from multiple supporting vendors





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## More Information about ELISA?

Next workshop: virtual in 2020Q3 (more info on devel mail list in July)

Web site: <https://elisa.tech>

Mail lists: <https://lists.elisa.tech/g/devel>

Sources: <https://github.com/elisa-tech/workgroups>



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## Zephyr Project

- **Open source** real time operating system
- Built with **safety and security** in mind
- Vibrant **Community** Participation
- **Cross-architecture** with broad SoC and development board support.
- **Vendor Neutral** governance
- **Permissively** licensed - Apache 2.0
- **Complete**, fully integrated, highly configurable, **modular** for **flexibility**
- **Product** development ready using LTS includes security updates
- **Certification** ready with Auditable

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Open Source, RTOS, Connected, Embedded  
Fits where Linux is too big

## Zephyr OS

3rd Party Libraries

Application Services

OS Services

Kernel

HAL





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## Zephyr OS: Development

- **Quality is a mandatory expectation** for software across the industry.
- Assumptions:
  - Software Quality is enforced across Zephyr project members
  - Compliance to internal quality processes is expected.
- **Software Quality** is not an additional requirement caused by functional safety standards.
- Functional safety considers Quality as an **existing pre-condition**.



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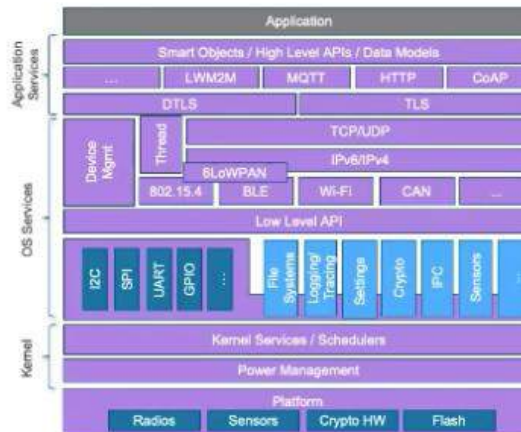
Embedded Linux  
Conference  
North America

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## Architecture



- Highly Configurable, Highly Modular
- Cooperative and Preemptive Threading
- Memory and Resources are typically statically allocated
- Integrated device driver interface
- Memory Protection: Stack overflow protection, Kernel object and device driver permission tracking, Thread isolation
- Bluetooth® Low Energy (BLE 5.1) with both controller and host, BLE Mesh
- 802.15.4 OpenThread
- Native, fully featured and optimized networking stack

Fully featured OS allows developers to focus on the application



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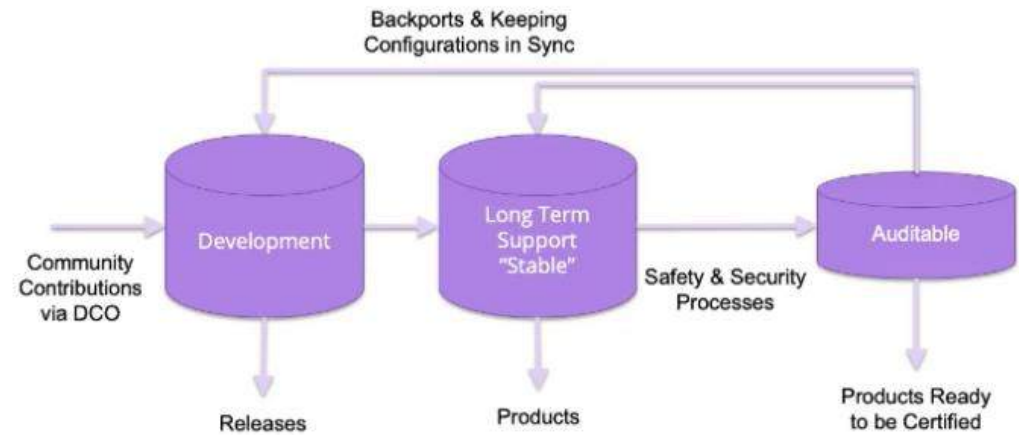


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## Code Repositories





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## Zephyr OS: Auditable



An auditable code base will be established from a subset of the **Zephyr OS LTS**.

- Code bases will be kept in sync.
- More rigorous processes (necessary for certification) will be applied to the auditable code base.

Processes to achieve selected certification to be:

- Determined by **Safety** Committee and **Security** Committee
- Coordinated with **Technical Steering** Committee



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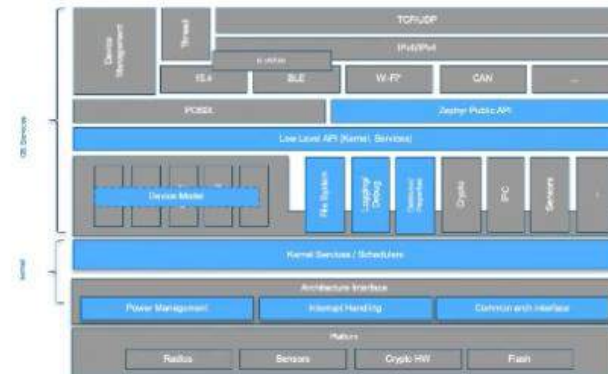
## Zephyr OS: Initial Certification Focus - 61508



- In scope
- Out of scope

Scope will be **extended** to include **additional components** as determined by the safety committee

Some of the modules under consideration for the next iteration include: Crypto, IPC, Flash, etc.

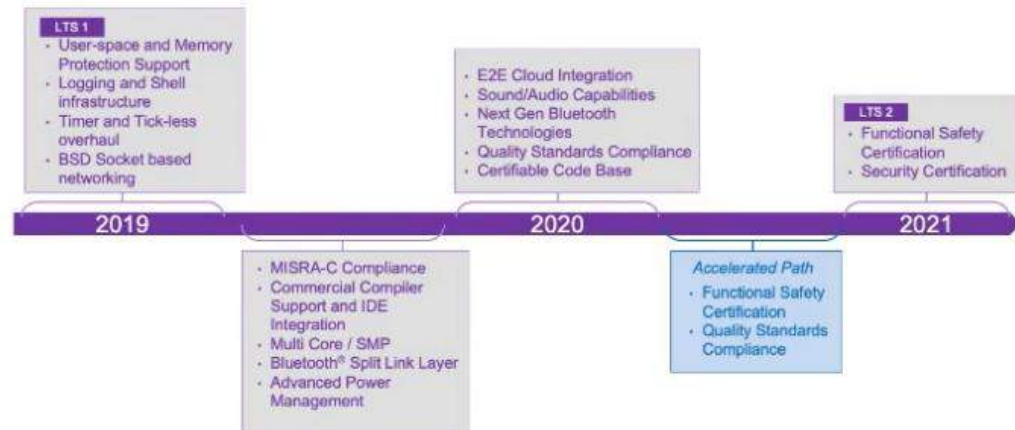


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## Zephyr Project Roadmap





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## More Information about Zephyr?

**Github:**

- <https://github.com/zephyrproject-rtos/zephyr>

**Orientation:**

- <https://www.zephyrproject.org/community/how-to-contribute>
- [https://www.zephyrproject.org/doc/contribute/contribute\\_guidelines.htm](https://www.zephyrproject.org/doc/contribute/contribute_guidelines.htm)

**Mail Lists:**

- <https://lists.zephyrproject.org/g/main>

**Slack:**

- <https://zephyrproject.slack.com>



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## Summary

- Functional safety can **coexist** with open source projects, but we need to become **efficient at scale**.
- Quality needs to be driven at the open source **project level**
  - Need to showcase quality processes and plans for process improvements publicly
- Manage **developer** and **certification authority** expectations
  - Work within a well defined certification scope and focus on interfaces to system.
  - Understand the system where you want to use certified open source and get early buy in on design from certification authorities.



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## Questions?



For more information on these Linux Foundation projects see:

- <https://www.zephyrproject.org/>
- <https://elisa.tech/>

Or contact:

[stewart@linux.com](mailto:stewart@linux.com)

Thank you!

