

```
/*
 * Copyright (c) 2014 The Chromium OS Authors.
 *
 * SPDX-License-Identifier:      GPL-2.0+
 */
```

Native Execution of U-Boot

=====

The 'sandbox' architecture is designed to allow U-Boot to run under Linux on almost any hardware. To achieve this it builds U-Boot (so far as possible) as a normal C application with a main() and normal C libraries.

All of U-Boot's architecture-specific code therefore cannot be built as part of the sandbox U-Boot. The purpose of running U-Boot under Linux is to test all the generic code, not specific to any one architecture. The idea is to create unit tests which we can run to test this upper level code.

CONFIG_SANDBOX is defined when building a native board.

The chosen vendor and board names are also 'sandbox', so there is a single board in board/sandbox/sandbox.

CONFIG_SANDBOX_BIG_ENDIAN should be defined when running on big-endian machines.

Note that standalone/API support is not available at present.

Basic Operation

To run sandbox U-Boot use something like:

```
make sandbox_config all
./u-boot
```

Note:

If you get errors about 'sdl-config: Command not found' you may need to install libsdl1.2-dev or similar to get SDL support. Alternatively you can build sandbox without SDL (i.e. no display/keyboard support) by removing the CONFIG_SANDBOX_SDL line in include/configs/sandbox.h or using:

```
make sandbox_config all NO_SDL=1
./u-boot
```

U-Boot will start on your computer, showing a sandbox emulation of the serial console:

U-Boot 2014.04 (Mar 20 2014 - 19:06:00)

DRAM: 128 MiB
Using **default** environment

```
In:    serial
Out:   lcd
Err:   lcd
=>
```

You can issue commands as your would normally. If the command you want is not supported you can add it to include/configs/sandbox.h.

To exit, type 'reset' or press Ctrl-C.

Console / LCD support

Assuming that CONFIG_SANDBOX_SDL is defined when building, you can run the sandbox with LCD and keyboard emulation, using something like:

```
./u-boot -d u-boot.dtb -l
```

This will start U-Boot with a window showing the contents of the LCD. If that window has the focus then you will be able to type commands as you would on the console. You can adjust the display settings in the device tree file - see arch/sandbox/dts/sandbox.dts.

Command-line Options

Various options are available, mostly **for** test purposes. Use -h to see available options. Some of these are described below.

The terminal is normally in what is called 'raw-with-sigs' mode. This means that you can use arrow keys **for** command editing and history, but **if** you press Ctrl-C, U-Boot will exit instead of handling this as a keypress.

Other options are 'raw' (so Ctrl-C is handled within U-Boot) and 'cooked' (where the terminal is in cooked mode and cursor keys will not work, Ctrl-C will exit).

As mentioned above, -l causes the LCD emulation window to be shown.

A device tree binary file can be provided with -d. If you edit the source (it is stored at arch/sandbox/dts/sandbox.dts) you must rebuild U-Boot to recreate the binary file.

To execute commands directly, use the -c option. You can specify a single command, or multiple commands separated by a semicolon, as is normal in U-Boot. Be careful with quoting as the shell will normally process and swallow quotes. When -c is used, U-Boot exists after the command is complete, but you can force it to go to interactive mode instead with -i.

Memory Emulation

Memory emulation is supported, with the size set by CONFIG_SYS_SDRAM_SIZE. The -m option can be used to read memory from a file on start-up and write it when shutting down. This allows preserving of memory contents across test runs. You can tell U-Boot to remove the memory file after it is read (on start-up) with the --rm_memory option.

To access U-Boot's emulated memory within the code, use map_sysmem(). This function is used throughout U-Boot to ensure that emulated memory is used rather than the U-Boot application memory. This provides memory starting at 0 and extending to the size of the emulation.

Storing State

With sandbox you can write drivers which emulate the operation of drivers on real devices. Some of these drivers may want to record state which is preserved across U-Boot runs. This is particularly useful **for** testing. For example, the contents of a SPI flash chip should not disappear just because U-Boot exits.

State is stored in a device tree file in a simple format which is driver-specific. You then use the -s option to specify the state file. Use -r to

make U-Boot read the state on start-up (otherwise it starts empty) and -w to write it on exit (otherwise the stored state is left unchanged and any changes U-Boot made will be lost). You can also use -n to tell U-Boot to ignore any problems with missing state. This is useful when first running since the state file will be empty.

The device tree file has one node **for** each driver - the driver can store whatever properties it likes in there. See 'Writing Sandbox Drivers' below **for** more details on how to get drivers to read and write their state.

Running and Booting

Since there is no machine architecture, sandbox U-Boot cannot actually boot a kernel, but it does support the bootm command. Filesystems, memory commands, hashing, FIT images, verified boot and many other features are supported.

When 'bootm' runs a kernel, sandbox will exit, as U-Boot does on a real machine. Of course in this **case**, no kernel is run.

It is also possible to tell U-Boot that it has jumped from a temporary previous U-Boot binary, with the -j option. That binary is automatically removed by the U-Boot that gets the -j option. This allows you to write tests which emulate the action of chain-loading U-Boot, typically used in a situation where a second 'updatable' U-Boot is stored on your board. It is very risky to overwrite or upgrade the only U-Boot on a board, since a power or other failure will brick the board and require **return** to the manufacturer in the **case** of a consumer device.

Supported Drivers

U-Boot sandbox supports these emulations:

- Block devices
- Chrome OS EC
- GPIO
- Host filesystem (access files on the host from within U-Boot)
- Keyboard (Chrome OS)
- LCD
- Serial (**for** console only)
- Sound (incomplete - see sandbox_sdl_sound_init() **for** details)
- SPI
- SPI flash
- TPM (Trusted Platform Module)

Notable omissions are networking and I2C.

A wide range of commands is implemented. Filesystems which use a block device are supported.

Also sandbox uses generic board (CONFIG_SYS_GENERIC_BOARD) and supports driver model (CONFIG_DM) and associated commands.

SPI Emulation

Sandbox supports SPI and SPI flash emulation.

This is controlled by the spi_sf argument, the format of which is:

```
bus:cs:device:file
```

```

bus      - SPI bus number
cs       - SPI chip select number
device   - SPI device emulation name
file     - File on disk containing the data

```

For example:

```

dd if=/dev/zero of=spi.bin bs=1M count=4
./u-boot --spi_sf 0:0:M25P16:spi.bin

```

With this setup you can issue SPI flash commands as normal:

```

=>sf probe
SF: Detected M25P16 with page size 64 KiB, total 2 MiB
=>sf read 0 0 10000
SF: 65536 bytes @ 0x0 Read: OK
=>

```

Since this is a full SPI emulation (rather than just flash), you can also use low-level SPI commands:

```

=>sspi 0:0 32 9f
FF202015

```

This is issuing a READ_ID command and getting back 20 (ST Micro) part 0x2015 (the M25P16).

Drivers are connected to a particular bus/cs using sandbox's state structure (see the 'spi' member). A set of operations must be provided **for** each driver.

Configuration settings **for** the curious are:

```

CONFIG_SANDBOX_SPI_MAX_BUS
    The maximum number of SPI buses supported by the driver (default 1).

```

```

CONFIG_SANDBOX_SPI_MAX_CS
    The maximum number of chip selects supported by the driver
    (default 10).

```

```

CONFIG_SPI_IDLE_VAL
    The idle value on the SPI bus

```

Writing Sandbox Drivers

Generally you should put your driver in a file containing the word 'sandbox' and put it in the same directory as other drivers of its type. You can then implement the same hooks as the other drivers.

To access U-Boot's emulated memory, use map_sysmem() as mentioned above.

If your driver needs to store configuration or state (such as SPI flash contents or emulated chip registers), you can use the device tree as described above. Define handlers **for** this with the SANDBOX_STATE_IO macro. See arch/sandbox/include/**asm**/state.h **for** documentation. In short you provide a node name, compatible string and functions to read and write the state. Since writing the state can expand the device tree, you may need to use state_setprop() which does this automatically and avoids running out of space. See existing code **for** examples.

Testing

U-Boot sandbox can be used to run various tests, mostly in the test/ directory. These include:

- command_ut
 - Unit tests **for** command parsing and handling
- compression
 - Unit tests **for** U-Boot's compression algorithms, useful **for** security checking. It supports gzip, bzip2, lzma and lzo.
- driver model
 - test/dm/test-dm.sh to run these.
- image
 - Unit tests **for** images:
 - test/image/test-imagetools.sh - multi-file images
 - test/image/test-fit.py - FIT images
- tracing
 - test/trace/test-trace.sh tests the tracing system (see README.trace)
- verified boot
 - See test/vboot/vboot_test.sh **for** this

If you change or enhance any of the above subsystems, you should write or expand a test and include it with your patch series submission. Test coverage in U-Boot is limited, as we need to work to improve it.

Note that many of these tests are implemented as commands which you can run natively on your board **if** desired (and enabled).

It would be useful to have a central script to run all of these.

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