

Mendel University in Brno
Faculty of Business and Economy

MicroPython Utilizing Zephyr Port and NXP FRDM-MCXXN947

Bachelor thesis

Supervisor:
Ing. Jan Kolomazník, Ph.D.

Dmitrii Titarenko

Brno 2025

Acknowledgment

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who contributed to completion of this thesis.

I would like to thank my thesis supervisor, Ing. Jan Kolomazník, Ph.D. , for his guidance and support. Furthermore, I express my gratitude to Ph.D. Zbynek Fedra for guiding me during the creation of this thesis.

I am also very grateful to all the professors in the Department of Informatics at Mendel University for their teaching, openness, and constant support throughout my study.

A big thank you to family members and friends for their support and encouragement. Finally, I express gratitude to the people who directly or indirectly contributed to the creation of this work. To those who came before me and on whose shoulders I stand.

Declaration

I hereby declare that this thesis entitled **MicroPython Utilizing Zephyr Port and NXP FRDM-MCXM947** was written and completed by me. I also declare that all the sources and information used to complete the thesis are included in the list of references. I agree that the thesis could be made public in accordance with Article 47b of Act No. 111/1998 Coll., Higher Education Institutions and on Amendments and Supplements to Some Other Acts (the Higher Education Act), and in accordance with the current Directive on publishing of the final thesis.

I am aware that my thesis is written in accordance to Act No. 121/2000 Coll., on Copyright and therefore Mendel University in Brno has the right to conclude licence agreements on the utilization of the thesis as a school work in accordance with Article 60(1) of the Copyright Act.

Before concluding a licence agreement on utilization of the work by another person, I will request a written statement from the university that the licence agreement is not in contradiction to legitimate interests of the university, and I will also pay a prospective fee to cover the cost incurred in creating the work to the full amount of such costs.

Brno 03.08.2025

.....
signature

Abstract

Titarenko, D. MicroPython Utilizing Zephyr Port and NXP FRDM-MCXXN947. Bachelor thesis. Brno, 2025.

This thesis explores MicroPython support on Zephyr RTOS using the NXP FRDM-MCXXN947 development board. Zephyr RTOS itself provides extended support and easy-to-use APIs to many embedded devices and their peripherals, but the support of MicroPython remains limited and not consistent with MicroPython ports developed for target devices. This work analyzes the current limitations of MicroPython on Zephyr RTOS and selects specific functionality for implementation. The implementation involves initializing Zephyr and MicroPython development environments adjusted to FRDM-MCXXN947, conducting functional testing of the development board peripherals with Zephyr and MicroPython environment, and comparing the comparability of native and Zephyr ports of MicroPython.

Key words: MicroPython, thesis, Zephyr RTOS, FRDM-MCXXN947

Contents

1	Introduction	11
2	Background	13
2.1	Zephyr RTOS	13
3	References	14

1 Introduction

The world of microcontrollers and embedded devices continues to grow, and such devices become more common with every day. Even though they are seldom noticeable we more often might find ourselves surrounded by them. From home appliances, to cars, to factory machines to city-wide networks embedded devices reach wide and deep in our lives.

But with the growing count of embedded devices grows complexity of functions they implement. Hence arises a need for Operating Systems(OSs) to manage sets of complex programs and provide a layer of abstraction to ease development in such constrain but demanding environments.

To cover demand of an Operating System in embedded devices the Zephyr Real Time Operating System (RTOS) was created. Zephyr RTOS is an open-source operating system with build-in security and optimization for resource limited devices. Zephyr kernel supports ARM, Intel x86, ARC, RISC-V, Nios II, Tensilica Xtensa and large number of development boards, among others NXP's FRDM-MCXM947. Also Zephyr has rich API that allows developers to write high-level code for embedded devices.

Writing software for embedded devices is still a complex task regardless of what underlying technologies are used. Writing it in a language such as C adding an additional complexity due to need of managing program memory allocation and deallocation by hand. Leaving unhandled memory sector could lead to memory leaks or worse opens an opportunity for an attacker to execute malicious code on an embedded device. The consequences of such problems become much grater when occurring in the embedded world. MicroPython is an optimized subset of Python 3 programming language for embedded devices. It aims to ease writing software by managing memory using its garbage collector system, using easy to read Python-like syntax and providing various modules to enable work with different peripherals. Additionally, MicroPython allows for code portability, meaning that code written for FRDM-MCXM947 could be ported and ran on ESP32 with minimal updates to code.

But MicroPython does not support every single device straightaway – ported versions of MicroPython are submitted to the MicroPython repository, by a manufacturer or an enthusiasts. Later submitted port will be reviewed and tested by MicroPython maintainers, which is a lengthy process, for example MicroPython port for Zephyr was under review for 2 years.

By combining Zephyr RTOS and MicroPython in one technological stack the best of both technologies could be utilized. Potential exists for developers to write highly readable, easy-to-understand and efficient code with MicroPython that make use of various hardware support introduced by Zephyr RTOS. Yet the state of this development environment is not yet firm and have plenty of rough edges and unapparent problems that could arise during the process of software development.

The aim of this thesis is to construct a method for configuring the development

environment for MicroPython, Zephyr RTOS and FRDM-MCXXN947 development board, provide insight of compatibility challenges of both platforms and propose potential solutions for extending MicroPython port to Zephyr RTOS. The finding of this thesis will contribute to understanding of the state of both platforms and their integration, informing future developers and increasing usability of MicroPython and Zephyr.

2 Background

This chapter introduces the reader to an information about Zephyr RTOS, MicroPython and FRDM- MCKN947 board that is needed for understanding this thesis.

2.1 Zephyr RTOS

Zephyr is an Operation System designed for resource-constrained and embedded system from simple sensors to smart industrial embedded solutions. It supports a broad list of embedded devices, development boards and peripherals. Zephyr offers extensive number of features and services including multi-threading, inter-thread data passing, inter-thread synchronization, dynamic memory allocation, interrupt service, power management, networking. Zephyr project is open-source, distributed under Apache 2.0 license and was created under Linux Foundation organization.(Zephyr Project – Introduction)

3 References

Zephyr Project – Intorduction [online] Zephyr Project, 2025 Available from:
<https://docs.zephyrproject.org/latest/introduction/index.html>.