Mendel University in Brno Faculty of Business and Economy

MicroPython Utilizing Zephyr Port and NXP FRDM-MCXN947

Bachelor thesis

Supervisor: Ing. Jan Kolomazník, Ph.D.

Dmitrii Titarenko

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 Zbynek Fedra Ph.D. 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-MCXN947 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

Abstrakt

Titarenko, D. MicroPython Utilizing Zephyr Port and NXP FRDM-MCXN947. Bachelor thesis. Brno, 2025.

Práce zkoumá podporu MicroPython na Zephyr RTOS s využitím vývojové desky FRDM-MCXN947 od NXP. Samo o sobe Zephyr RTOS poskytuje širokou podporu a snadno použitelné API pro mnoho embedded zařízení a jejích periferii, ale podpora MicroPython je stále limitovaná a nekonzistentní s MicroPython porty vyvíjený pro jíná zařízení. Práce analyzuje součastné limity MicroPython na Zephyr RTOS a vybírá funkčnost pro implementaci. Implementace zahrnuje inicializaci vývojovýho prostředí pro Zephyr a MicroPython, které bude upravené pro FRDM-MCXN947, provádění funkčního testování periferii vývojové desky v vývojovém prostředí pro Zephyr a MicroPython a porovnáním kompatibility nativného poru a Zephyr portu MicroPython.

Klíčová slova: MicroPython, závěrečná práce, Zephyr RTOS, FRDM-MCXN947

Abstract

Titarenko, D. MicroPython Utilizing Zephyr Port and NXP FRDM-MCXN947. Bachelor thesis. Brno, 2025.

This thesis explores MicroPython support on Zephyr RTOS using the NXP FRDM-MCXN947 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 other 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-MCXN947, conducting functional testing of the development board peripherals with Zephyr and MicroPython environment, and comparing the compatibility of native and Zephyr ports of MicroPython.

Key words: MicroPython, thesis, Zephyr RTOS, FRDM-MCXN947

CONTENTS 9

Contents

1	Intr	roduction	12
	1.1	Goal of this thesis	13
2	Bac	kground	14
	2.1	Zephyr RTOS	14
		2.1.1 West	
		2.1.2 Kconfig	15
		2.1.3 Devicetree	15
	2.2	MicroPython	16
	2.3	FRDM-MCXN947	16
		2.3.1 Signal Multiplexing	17
		2.3.2 LinkServer	17
	2.4	MicroPython port to Zephyr	
	2.5	Summary	18
3	Met	thodology	19
	3.1	Introduction	19
	3.2	Zephyr development environment setup	19
	3.3	Use of MicroPython on FRDM-MCXN947	19
	3.4	MicroPython port to Zephyr RTOS	19
	3.5	Comparing native and Zephyr ports	20
	3.6	Extending Zephyr Port functionality	20
	3.7	Creating an HTTP server of FRDM-MCXN947 with MicroPython's	
		Zephyr port	20
4	Imp	blementation	21
	4.1	Introduction	21
	4.2	Zephyr development environment setup	21
		4.2.1 Installing Zephyr and it's dependencies	
		4.2.2 Installing LinkServer	
		4.2.3 Configuring serial port	
		4.2.4 Building and flashing a program to FRDM-MCXN947	
	4.3	Use of MicroPython on FRDM-MCXN947	
		4.3.1 Installing MicroPython on FRDM-MCXN947	
		4.3.2 Writing and flashing MicroPython programs	
	4.4	MicroPython port to Zephyr RTOS	26
5	Ref	erences	27

LIST OF FIGURES 11

List	of	Figures

_	l: Zephyr System Architecture rce: (Zephyr Project, Zephyr Security Overview, 2024)
Figure 2	2: FRDM-MCXN947 Block diagram
Sour	rce: (NXP semiconductors, FRDM Development Board for MCX
N94	/N54 MCUs , 2025)
_	3: MicroPython REPL environment on the FRDM-MCXN947 board, ss via the <i>minicom</i> utility
	v
_	4: Output of the FRDM-MXN947 board after loading temperature
read	ing program
Listi	ngs
1	FRDM-MCXN947 Kconfig configuration
$\frac{1}{2}$	Installing Zephyr SDK: obtaining SDK
$\frac{2}{3}$	Installing udev rules
4	Creating and activating Python venv environment
5	Installing Zephyr's West tool
6	Obtaining Zephyr's source code
7	Installing Zephyr SDK using West
8	Serial port configuration
9	Building the Blinky Program
10	Flashin a program
11	LinkServer erase
12	LnkServer flasg
13	Read tempreture data from P3T1755 sensor using MicroPython 25
14	Loading a program to FRDM-MCXN947 board with MicroPython
	using ampy utility

1 INTRODUCTION

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 NXPs FRDM-MCXN947. 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-MCXN947 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

1.1 Goal of this thesis 13

environment for MicroPython, Zephyr RTOS and FRDM-MCXN947 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.

1.1 Goal of this thesis

Goal of the thesis is to establish development environment and workflow for developing applications for embedded devices with the MicroPython Zephyr port. This work could be used in future to ease start of application development and as a reference.

14 2 BACKGROUND

2 Background

This chapter introduces the reader to an information about Zephyr RTOS, MicroPython and FRDM- MCXN947 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 with emphasis on safety. 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, file system. Zephyr project is open-source, distributed under Apache 2.0 license and was created under Linux Foundation organization. (Zephyr Project, Introduction, 2024)

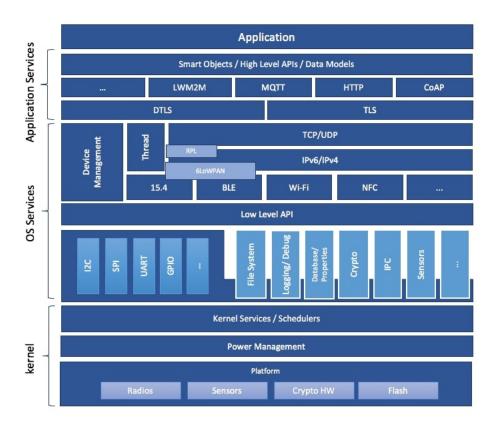


Figure 1: Zephyr System Architecture

Source: (Zephyr Project, Zephyr Security Overview, 2024)

2.1 Zephyr RTOS 15

2.1.1 West

West is a part of Zephyr's tool-chain used for building and configuring. West can initiate Zephyr workspace from official upstream repository, update or change version of a local Zephyr workspace to any version in official repository, build Zephyr application from source, flash built application to a board. (Zephyr Project, West (Zephyr's meta-tool), 2024)

2.1.2 Kconfig

Kconfig is Zephyr's kernel, peripheral drivers and subsystems configuration system that allow to configure Zephyr at a build time. Kconfig goal is to enable configuration without introducing changes to the source code.

The initial board configuration can be found in **<board>_defconfig** files. For example configuration file for FRDM-MCXN947 is located at **board-s/nxp/frdm_mcxn947/ frdm_mcxn947_mcxn947_cpu0_defconfig**. The board configuration for NXPs' FRDM-MCXN947 is as follows:

Listing 1: FRDM-MCXN947 Kconfig configuration

```
CONFIG_CONSOLE=y
CONFIG_UART_CONSOLE=y
CONFIG_SERIAL=y
CONFIG_UART_INTERRUPT_DRIVEN=y
CONFIG_GPIO=y
CONFIG_PINCTRL=y
CONFIG_ARM_MPU=y
CONFIG_HW_STACK_PROTECTION=y
CONFIG_TRUSTED_EXECUTION_SECURE=y
```

Kconfig values can be set to a **<board>_defconfig** files, temporarily with terminal graphical interfaces or with a **prj.conf** file at application level which overrides the initial configuration during application build.(Zephyr Project, Configuration System (Kconfig), 2022)

2.1.3 Devicetree

Devicetree is a data structure to describe hardware. It is a community driven standard that is heavily used in Zephyr project. In Zephyr devicetrees are usually build inherently meaning that for example FRDM-MCXN947 has a devicetree configuration board/nxp/frdm_mcxn947/frdm_mcxn947_mcxn947_cpu0.dts which mainly enables peripheral devices, but includes FRDM-MCXN947 specific configuration from frdm_mcxn947.dtsi (include file), which in turn includes frdm_mcxn947-pinctrl.dtsi file that mostly defines pinmux groups. Additionally the frdm_mcxn947_mcxn947_cpu0.dts includes nxp_mcxn94x.dtsi file that defines memory ranges for SRAM, FLEXSPI and peripherals and includes

16 2 BACKGROUND

nxp_mcxn94x_common.dtsi include file where most of devices including CPU, GPIO, CTIMER and others are defined and assigned memory ranges.(devicetree.org, Devicetree Specification Release v0.4, 2023)

Same as Konfig Devicetrees can be overwritten or have some specific devices configured differently with *overlay* files, which as well needs to be placed in build directory, from there *west* tool will use it to edit the Devicetree configuration.

2.2 MicroPython

MicroPython is an open-source project founded by Damien George. MicroPython is an implementation of the Python programming language that is optimized to be run on embedded and resource constraint devices. It implements the entire Python 3.4 syntax with some selected features from the later versions such as async/await from Python 3.5, additionally on par with Python it uses garbage collection system for memory management. MicroPython final build include a compiler that compiles MicroPython code to bytecode and an runtime interpreter of the compiled bytecode. Programs could be written directly to the MicroPython REPL(Read–eval–print loop) or be loaded onto MicroPython host device with use of serial connection and utility programs like ampy.

MicroPython's core development is focused on implementing and maintaining core features of the MicroPython like Python language features, libraries, memory management and MicroPython interpreter. The responsibility for adapting and porting MicroPython to different platforms lies on the community around it. Every MicroPython port introduces required adaptations and addresses hardware features and limitations of its platform. Consequently, MicroPython support is not linear on all platforms, because some might lack the necessary configuration for enabling a part of functionality or even lack reimplementation of a number of core libraries. Additionally, the slow pace of adding to source code features for various platforms created by the community means that even fully functional and tested ports or features might wait for months before being reviewed. Despite all of this, there are already many supported devices and architectures that MicroPython can run on. MicroPyton has additional support to be run on operating system Zephyr RTOS and on OSes from UNIX family, as well as experimental Windows port.

MicroPython remains in beta-stage, hence it is a subject to possible API and code-base changes in the future. (Nicholas H. Tollervey, 2017)

2.3 FRDM-MCXN947

The FRDM-MCXN947 is a low-cost development board designed by NXP semi-conductors. FRDM-MCXN947 integrates Dual Arm Cortex-M33 microcontroller, a neural processing unit, P3T1755DP I3C temperature sensor, TJA1057GTK/3Z CAN PHY, Ethernet PHY, SDHC circuit, RGB LED, touch pad, high-speed USB, MCU-Link debuger, push buttons and has an option to be extended with external

2.3 FRDM-MCXN947 17

devices. (NXP semiconductors, UM12018 FRDM-MCXN947 Board User Manual, 2024)

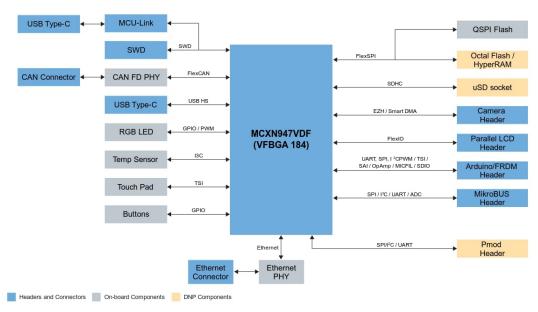


Figure 2: FRDM-MCXN947 Block diagram

Source: (NXP semiconductors, FRDM Development Board for MCX N94/N54 MCUs , 2025)

2.3.1 Signal Multiplexing

FRDM-MXCN947 enables use of several functions for different pins by utilizing Signal Multiplexing. For example pin P0_10 which is an red RGB pin can use GPIO functionality directly, FLEXCOMM by utilizing FC0_P6 FLEXCOMM device, CTIMER by utilizing CT0_MAT0 CTIMER device, and FLEXIO functionality by utilizing FLEXIO0_D2 device.

Only one function can be used at a time on a pin and only one pin can be assigned to a peripheral device. (NXP semiconductors, MCX Nx4x Reference Manual, 2025)

2.3.2 LinkServer

LinkServer is an NXP command-line utility that provides target flashing capabilities and firmware updates for FRDM-MCXN947. This is typically used as a backend for flashing FRDM-MCXN947 in west utility. (NXP semiconductors – LinkServer for Microcontrollers, 2025)

18 2 BACKGROUND

2.4 MicroPython port to Zephyr

While Zephyr RTOS provides a feature-packed and expandable development and system to be used in embedded world standard development in C can be time consuming. MicroPython's Zephyr port brings advantages of both MicroPython and Zephyr to single environment, allowing to write hight-level Python like code and rapidly prototype and debug, while also leveraging hardware agnostic Zephyr APIs and wide support of different embedded devices and their peripherals.

But despite growth in support between Zephyr and MicroPython there are still features that lack in the port and issues with coupling of both technologies. For a long time the MicroPythons' Zephyr port have been using an older versions of Zephyr and MicroPython itself. It used MicroPython 1.19.1 and Zephyr 3.1.0 versions which both came out in period between May and June 2022 until September 2024. In September 2022 began work by Maureen Helm to introduce a CI pipeline into MicroPython repository to ease porting MicroPython to latest Zephyr release. From this work emerged last MicroPython Zephyr port version based on MicroPython 1.24.0 and Zephyr 3.7.0.

And though MicroPython Zephyr port already supports the MicroPython modules like socket, time, math, machine and other are implemented and usable in the final MicroPython build they may lack support of some sub-modules like machine's PWM sub-module or functionality of modules and sub-modules like not yet implemented features of machine's I2C sub-module that do not have ability to set clock and data lines.

A MicroPython's Zephyr port is built in a same way any Zephyr application is built. A west utility is used and MicroPython port to Zephyr source code as a build target. The final build could be configured and some features or peripherals could be activated or deactivated with Kconfig and a final devicetree be overwritten with devicetree overlays. Then the result binary file is fleshed to a target board with west utility.

2.5 Summary

For utilizing MciroPython Zephyr port on FRDM-MCXN947 board it is needed to build MicroPython port as a Zephyr application, and then flash this application onto the development board, both operations are made with use of Zephyr's west utility. Program flashing is made using LinkServer.

Pre-build configuration is possible using *Kconfig*, for setting what peripherals and sub-system are to be enabled or disable, and *Devicetree*, for creating or updating a structured description of the underling hardware.

FRDM-MCXN947 is a programmable and extendable development board with many devices, peripherals and systems available.

3 METHODOLOGY 19

3 Methodology

3.1 Introduction

This chapter introduces the reader to the set of tools used in this thesis and outlines a methodological approach. First Zephyr and MicroPython development environments will be setup and tested, following with their integration for building MicroPython's Zephyr port. Next the MicroPython's Zephyr port will be extended with use of configuration and additional code to bring it closer to the level of native port support. Finally, the thesis will conclude by building a web server that will run on FRDM-MCXN947 utilizing MicroPython's Zephyr port.

3.2 Zephyr development environment setup

This section will detail the process of setting up a development environment for working with Zephyr RTOS. The setup will be broken into several steps to provide clear and easy-to-follow instructions to the reader.

Firstly, the prerequisites and dependencies would be introduced along with the installation process. The reader will be briefed on purpose of the key dependencies. After the necessary preparation the Zephyr Software Development Kit (SDK) and source code will be obtained. For the Zephyr SDK two methods for obtaining it will be presented and discussed. Then the west tool will be described in detail and it's abilities for managing the project will be discussed. Next, the installation and use of the LinkServer utility and its alternatives will be discussed. Finally, the development setup will be verified with a functional test on a FRDM-MCXN947 board and test prerequisites discussed.

3.3 Use of MicroPython on FRDM-MCXN947

This section will describe how to use MicroPython on FRDM-MCXN947 board. The *LinkServer* utility will be used and aspects of it will be discussed.

The section will begin with an explanation on what are the possibilities to obtain MicroPython binary. Particularly, the current process of that takes place to obtain MicroPython binary working on FRDM-MCXN947 will be shown. After obtaining the binary it will be shown how to load it to the board. The section will conclude with a functional test of MicroPython possibilities.

3.4 MicroPython port to Zephyr RTOS

The section will present an approach on how to setup and start using MicroPython's Zephyr port.

It will start with setting up a development environment for MicroPython. After this process of building a MicroPython Zephyr port will be shown with ways of how to influence the final build. The section will conclude with an illustrative program. 20 3 METHODOLOGY

3.5 Comparing native and Zephyr ports

This section will compare two MicroPython builds the NXP native MicroPython implementation and Zephyr port focusing on availability and functionality of the built-in modules. The goal of this section is to identify what modules are supported by each implementation and to highlight the missing features.

3.6 Extending Zephyr Port functionality

This section will try to extend the MicroPython's Zephyr port with modules.

First, the process of how modules are getting added will be explained. Then how a new module could be created, and how to add this module to the MicroPython build. Next MicroPython Zephyr port will be extended by modules to make it on par with NXP port. Finally, a community extension will be added to bring a PWM support and the board build will be configured with *Kconfig* and *Devicetree* for PWM to work.

3.7 Creating an HTTP server of FRDM-MCXN947 with MicroPython's Zephyr port

In this section the process and steps to create a web server for controlling the FRDM-MCXN947 board will be discussed. Zephyr's strong networking stack will be utilized for local network IP configuration as well as data transition and reception. The necessary configuration will be explained along with the code for the server.

4 IMPLEMENTATION 21

4 Implementation

4.1 Introduction

This chapter describes configuration and development of the MicoPython's Zephyr port itself as of the web server built utilizing this port. The main outcome of this thesis is a MicroPython-based web server running on a FRDM-MCXN947 board that host Zephyr RTOS.

The first part of this thesis is focusing on describing the setup and a necessary configuration of the development environment for building and running MicroPython on Zephyr RTOS. Next the MicroPython port for Zephyr is compared against a MicroPython port for FRDM- MCXN947 developed by NXP. The MicroPython's Zephyr port then is synchronized with the port by NXP in terms of capabilities and modules supported.

This chapter concludes with implementation of a web server that demonstraites the capabilities of the extended MicroPython's Zephyr port.

4.2 Zephyr development environment setup

4.2.1 Installing Zephyr and it's dependencies

Before starting to setting up the development environment for Zephyr the needed dependencies need to be obtained. Those include:

- qit Zephyr's west tool uses qit as a backend
- cmake Zephyr use cmake as it's build system for configuration and build files generation.
- ninja is a performance based build system that is used by CMake for building a project.
- make some tools expecting or fall back to Make.
- gperf GNU utility for fast hash generation used in Zephyr for lookup.
- ccache an utility that speeds up compilation time by caching previous compilation.
- dtc compiles Devicetree files.
- xz is a set of data compression utilities used for decompressing Zephyr SDK.
- wget used to download Zephyr SDK.
- python-pip used to install Zephyr's west tool.
- python-setuptools Python build helper package.
- python-wheel Python build helper package.

• *dfu-util* – implementation of Direct Firmware Update and is used in Zephyr to flash firmware and programs to a board.

The next step after obtaining all the dependencies is to install the Zephyr SDK. There are two options of installing Zephyr SDK: using the *west* tool (which is shown at page 23) or performing a manual installation. To install the SDK in desired installation directory execute:

Listing 2: Installing Zephyr SDK: obtaining SDK

```
\label{eq:wgethttps://github.com/zephyrproject-rtos/sdk-ng/releases/download/v0.17.0/zephyr-sdk-0.17.0_linux-x86_64.tar.xz\\ wget -O - https://github.com/zephyrproject-rtos/sdk-ng/releases/download/v0.17.0/sha256.sum | shasum — check — ignore-missing
```

These commands download the archived Zephyr SDK and verify it's integrity using SHA-256 checksum. The download *URL* could be altered to download the SDK for other operating systems like *Windows*, *Mac Os* by changing the system name to *windows*(windows SDK version uses 7z archive format and does not have ARM variant) or *macos* and for ARM processors by changing architecture name to *aarch64*.

The content of the downloaded archive is the extracted file and the *setup* script is run. Additionally for Linux systems it is recommend to install *udev* rules, which will allow to flash boards with Zephyr as a regular user:

Listing 3: Installing udev rules

For building and working with Zephyr applications it is required to obtain Zephyr source code and configure a Python virtual environment. First, Python virtual environment *venv* needs to be installed. In the preferred working directory then the new *venv* environment is initialized and activated:

Listing 4: Creating and activating Python venv environment

```
python3 -m venv ~/zephyrproject/.venv
source ~/zephyrproject/.venv/bin/activate
```

Zephyr uses it's tool *west* for to manage it's source code, dependencies and to build and flash applications. West could be installed to *venv* environment using:

Listing 5: Installing Zephyr's West tool

```
pip install west
```

With west installed it could be used to obtain Zephyr's source code:

Listing 6: Obtaining Zephyr's source code

```
west init
west update
```

This command registers the current Zephyr installation as a CMake config package in the CMake user package registry. (Zephyr Project, Additional Zephyr extension commands, 2025)

```
west zephyr-export
```

At this point Zephyr's SDK could be installed if it was not already using west:

Listing 7: Installing Zephyr SDK using West

west sdk install

4.2.2 Installing LinkServer

To flash application to FRDM-MCXN947 board Zephyr uses the NXP's *LinkServer* utility. The installation files for different Operating systems are available on the web page of the *LinkServer* utility.(NXP semiconductors – LinkServer for Microcontrollers, 2025)

Also J-Link could be used as an alternative though it needs additional hardware peripherals. (Zephyr Project, FRDM-MCXN947, 2025)

4.2.3 Configuring serial port

This step is not required for the development and correct work with Zephyr, but it's useful to have a capability to see board logs and to interact with the board through a command line interface from the development environment. For Linux and Mac OS minicom(Jayantilal, S. H., Interfacing of AT command based HC-05 serial Bluetooth module with minicom in Linux, 2014) and <math>screen(Free Software Foundation, GNU Screen, 2016) open-source utilities could be used, for Windows PuTTY serial port capabilities could be utilized.

For establishing serial communication with a FRDM-MCXN947 board the following configuration parameters should be used(NXP semiconductors, Getting Started with FRDM-MCXN947,2024):

Listing 8: Serial port configuration

Baud rate: 115200
Data size: 8
Parity: None
Stop bit: 1

24 4 IMPLEMENTATION

4.2.4 Building and flashing a program to FRDM-MCXN947

In this subsection to carry out testing of the development environment and demonstrate the flashing and building process of Zephyr applications, a Zephyr-provided sample program will be built.

To build the sample application west utility is used:

Listing 9: Building the Blinky Program

west build -p always -b frdm_mcxn947/mcxn947/cpu0 samples/basic/blinky

where arguments -p always makes a pristine build (Zephyr Project, Building, Flashing and Debugging, 2024), -b frdm_mcxn947/mcxn947/cpu0 specifies the target(cpu0 is specified because only it can be targeted standalone, second core is enabled after configuring (Zephyr Project, FRDM-MCXN947, 2025)) and samples/basic/blinky specifies program to build.

The built binary then can be flashed to the board using west and LinkServer. For this, board need to be connected with USB-C via J-17 port. Flashing is run with:

Listing 10: Flashin a program

west flash

After flashing, the red led will start to blink with a one-second period.

With the successful build and flashing of the program to the FRDM-MCXN947 board, it is verified that the Zephyr development environment functions correctly and now prepared for further development.

4.3 Use of MicroPython on FRDM-MCXN947

4.3.1 Installing MicroPython on FRDM-MCXN947

In this section the process of installing MicroPython interpreter on FRDM-MCXN947 board is described.

There are many boards that have direct MicroPython ports or support through their architecture (MicroPython, MicroPython downloads, 2025), but FRDM-MCXN947 is not among them due to the port made by NXP developers not yet being reviewed and merged into the main MicroPython repository. Instead the MicroPython binary must be obtained through NXP's article (NXP semiconductors, Quick start guide for MicroPython on FRDM-MCXN947 board, 2024) or compiled from source code of the development branch from NXP with port to FRDM-MCXN947. For sake of time saving the MicroPython binary version used in this thesis was downloaded from the said NXP article.

Before proceeding with flashing the binary to the target board the *LinkServer* utility must be installed on the host computer and the board itself is connected to the host computer with USB-C via *J-17* port.

To ensure the board has no prior binaries install the following command is used:

```
Listing 11: LinkServer erase
```

```
LinkServer flash MCXN947:FRDM-MCXN947 erase
```

To flash the binary to the FRDM-MCXN947 this command is used:

```
Listing 12: LnkServer flasg
```

```
LinkServer flash MCXN947:FRDM-MCXN947 load firmware.bin — addr 0
```

After the flash process has ended, serial port connection could be made to the board, which will reveal REPL environment for code execution.

```
MicroPython v1.23.0-preview.83.g6cc5c454f on 2024-02-02; FRDM_MCXN947 with MCXN947VDF Type "help()" for more information.
>>> ■
```

Figure 3: MicroPython REPL environment on the FRDM-MCXN947 board, access via the *minicom* utility

4.3.2 Writing and flashing MicroPython programs

There are two common approaches to writing programs for MicroPython: either by entering the code directly to REPL, which allows fast prototyping and modules or periphery testing, or to load the python code onto the board using utilities like rshell or ampy.

Both *ampy* and *rshell* utilities are installed via Python's *pip* package manager and to the Python virtual environment.

To test MicroPython capability and program loading to the board with MicroPython the following code for reading temperature data from the P3T1755 temperature sensor on the FRDM-MCXN947 board:

Listing 13: Read temperature data from P3T1755 sensor using MicroPython

```
import machine, time
P3T_ADDR = 72

i2c = machine.I2C(5, scl=machine.Pin('P1_17'), sda=machine.
    Pin('P1_16'))

class P3T1755:
    def __init__(self, i2c, addr):
        self.addr = addr
```

```
self.i2c = i2c
self.i2c.writeto(self.addr, b'\x00')

def read(self):
    temp_raw = i2c.readfrom(self.addr, 2)
    temp_converted = ((temp_raw[0] << 4) | (temp_raw[1] >> 4)) * 0.0625
    return temp_converted

ts = P3T1755(i2c, P3T_ADDR)

while(True):
    print("Temperature: {:.2f} Deg.C".format(ts.read()))
    time.sleep_ms(100)
```

To load and run this code on the board with MicroPython the code must be saved to a file and loaded with:

Listing 14: Loading a program to FRDM-MCXN947 board with MicroPython using ampy utility

```
ampy —port /dev/ttyACM0 run you_micropython_code.py
```

The output from the board will be shown in the console the program was loaded from, to only load the program the -no-output parameter could be passed to the ampy utility.

```
.venv[padrition@Lenovo micropython]$ ampy --port /dev/ttyACM0 run temp.py
Temperature: 26.63 Deg.C
Temperature: 26.56 Deg.C
Temperature: 26.63 Deg.C
Temperature: 26.63 Deg.C
Temperature: 26.56 Deg.C
Temperature: 26.56 Deg.C
```

Figure 4: Output of the FRDM-MXN947 board after loading temperature reading program

It is now verified that the MicroPython port by NXP works correctly on the FRDM-MCXN947 board.

4.4 MicroPython port to Zephyr RTOS

5 REFERENCES 27

5 References

- Zephyr Project, Introduction [online], 2024 Available from: https://docs.zephyrproject.org/latest/introduction/index.html.
- Zephyr Project, West (Zephyr's meta-tool) [online], 2024 Available from: https://docs.zephyrproject.org/latest/develop/west/index.html.
- Zephyr Project, Configuration System (Kconfig) [online], 2022 Available from: https://docs.zephyrproject.org/latest/build/kconfig/index.html.
- Zephyr Project, FRDM-MCXN947 [online], 2025 https://docs.zephyrproject.org/latest/boards/nxp/frdm_mcxn947/doc/index.html.
- Zephyr Project, Zephyr Security Overview [online], 2024 Available from: https://docs.zephyrproject.org/latest/security/security-overview.html.
- Zephyr Project, Additional Zephyr extension commands [online], 2025 Available from: https://docs.zephyrproject.org/latest/develop/west/zephyr-cmds.html.
- Zephyr Project, Building, Flashing and Debugging, [online], 2024 Available from: https://docs.zephyrproject.org/latest/develop/west/build-flash-debug.html.
- devicetree.org, Devicetree Specification Release v0.4, 2023.
- NXP semiconductors, MCX Nx4x Reference Manual, 2025 MCXNX4XRM.
- NXP semiconductors, UM12018 FRDM-MCXN947 Board User Manual, 2024.
- NXP semiconductors, Getting Started with FRDM-MCXN947 [online] ,2024 Available from: https://www.nxp.com/document/guide/getting-started-with-frdm-mcxn947:GS-FRDM-MCXNXX?section=build-and-run.
- NXP semiconductors, FRDM Development Board for MCX N94/N54 MCUs [online], 2025 Available from: https://www.nxp.com/design/design-center/development-boards-and-designs/FRDM-MCXN947.
- NXP semiconductors, Quick start guide for MicroPython on FRDM-MCXN947 board [online], 2024 Available from: https://community.nxp.com/t5/NXP-Tech-Blog/Quick-start-guide-for-MicroPython-on-FRDM-MCXN947-board/ba-p/1799949.
- NXP semiconductors, LinkServer for Microcontrollers [online], 2025 Available from: https://www.nxp.com/design/design-center/software/development-software/mcuxpresso-software-and-tools-/linkserver-for-microcontrollers:LINKERSERVER.
- NICHOLAS H. TOLLERVEY Programming with MicroPython: embedded programming with microcontrollers and Python. O'Reilly Media, Inc., 2017.

28 5 REFERENCES

- ISBN 978-1-491-97273-1.
- MicroPython, MicroPython downloads [online], 2025 Available from: https://micropython.org/download/.
- Jayantilal, S. H., Interfacing of AT command based HC-05 serial Bluetooth module with minicom in Linux, International Journal for Scientific Research and Development, 2014; 2(3): 329–332.
- Free Software Foundation, GNU Screen [online], 2016 Available from: https://www.gnu.org/software/screen/.