Linux SmartFusion

BSP (Board Support Package) Guide for the Emcraft Systems A2F-LNX-EVB Board

Release 1.8.0

Table of Contents

1. Overview

This document is a Linux SmartFusion BSP (Board Support Package) Guide for the Emcraft Systems A2F-LNX-EVB board, Release 1.8.0.

The BSP provides a software development environment for evaluation and development of Linux on the Cortex-M3 processor core of the Microsemi SmartFusion microcontroller using the Emcraft Systems A2F-LNX-EVB board as a hardware platform.

This BSP is provided as part of the Emcraft Systems Linux SmartFusion Evaluation Kit. The evaluation kit provides a hardware platform and Linux software development environment for the Microsemi SmartFusion microcontroller.

2. Product Contents

This product includes the following components.

2.1. Shippable Hardware Items

The following hardware items are shipped to customers of this product:

1. A2F-LNX-EVB board;
2. Mini-USB cable.

Note that unless purchased as a product option bundled with a Microsemi's FlashPro device, this product does not include a FlashPro programmer tool or associated hardware items. That equipment needs to be purchased directly from Microsemi.

2.2. Downloadable Hardware Materials

The following hardware materials are available for download from Emcraft's web site to customers of this product:

1. `A2F-LNX-EVB-2A-schem.pdf` - A2F-LNX-EVB schematics in PDF format;
2. `A2F-LNX-EVB-2A-bom.xls` - A2F-LNX-EVB Bill-Of-Materials (BOM) in Excel format.

2.3. Downloadable Software Materials

The following software materials are available for download from Emcraft's web site to customers of this product:

1. `a2f-lnx-evb-2a.pdb` - Libero `.pdb` file with the U-Boot image embedded, ready for installation onto the A2F-LNX-EVB board using the Microsemi FlashPro tool;
2. `a2f-lnx-evb-2a.zip` - Libero project file corresponding to the `pdb` file in the item above;
3. `networking.uImage` - prebuilt kernel image ready to be loaded to the A2F-LNX-EVB board;
4. `linux-A2F-1.8.0.tar.bz2` - Linux SmartFusion software development environment, including:
   a) U-Boot firmware;
   b) Linux kernel;
   c) `busybox` and other target components;
   d) Linux-hosted cross-development environment;
   e) Framework for developing multiple projects (embedded applications) from a single installation, including sample projects allowing to kick-start software development for Linux SmartFusion.

2.4. Downloadable Documentation Materials

The following documentation materials are available for download from Emcraft's web site to customers of this product:

1. `linux-cortexm-um-1.8.0.pdf` - Linux Cortex-M User's Manual;
2. `linux-A2F-LNX-EVB-bspg-1.8.0.pdf` - Linux SmartFusion BSP (Board Support Package) Guide for the Emcraft Systems A2F-LNX-EVB Board (this document).

3. Software Functionality

3.1. Supported Features

The following list summarizes the features and capabilities of Linux SmartFusion, Release 1.8.0:

- U-Boot firmware:
  - U-Boot v2010.03;
  - Target initialization from power-on / reset;
  - Runs from the internal eNVM and internal SRAM (no external memory required for standalone operation);
  - Serial console;
  - Ethernet driver for loading images to the target;
  - Serial driver for loading images to the target;
  - Device driver for built-in Flash (eNVM) and self-upgrade capability;
  - Device driver for storing environment and Linux images in external Flash;
  - Autoboot feature, allowing boot of OS images from Flash or other storage with no operator intervention;
  - Persistent environment in Flash for customization of target operation;
  - Sophisticated command interface for maintenance and development of the target.
- Linux:
  - uClinux kernel v2.6.33;
  - Boot from compressed and uncompressed images;
  - Ability to run critical kernel code from integrated Flash of SmartFusion;
  - Serial device driver and Linux console;
  - Ethernet device driver and networking (`ping`, NFS, Telnet, FTP, `ntpd`, etc.);
  - `busybox` v1.17;
  - POSIX `pthreads`;
  - Process-to-kernel and process-to-process protection using the Memory Protection Unit (MPU) of the SmartFusion core;
  - Hardened exception handling; an exception triggered by a process affects only the offending process;
  - Loadable kernel modules;
  - Secure shell (`ssh`) daemon;
  - Web server;
  - MTD-based Flash partitioning and persistent JFFS2 Flash file system for external Flash;
  - SPI controller master-mode device driver;

  - Device driver for the embedded NVM;
  - Framebuffer device driver for the low-cost SPI-based LCD monitor (Nokia6100 LCD);
  - Serial device driver for CoreUARTapb;
  - Support for RS-485 in the serial device driver;
  - Target tool for self-upgrades of the SmartFusion FPGA fabric over IAP.
- Development tools:
  - ARMv7-optimized GNU toolchain from CodeSourcery (`2010q1`) is used for development of U-Boot, Linux and user-space applications (toolchain must be downloaded separately from the CodeSourcery web site);
  - Cross GDB for debugging user-space applications;
  - `mkimage` tool used by the Linux kernel build process to create a Linux image bootable by U-Boot.
- Development environment:
  - Linux-hosted cross-development environment;
  - Development of multiple projects (embedded applications) from a single installation;
  - `hello` sample project ("Hello, world!" single-process configuration);
  - `networking` sample project (basic shell, networking and Flash management tools demonstration);
  - `developer` sample project (template project that can be used to jump-start development of custom user-space applications and loadable kernel modules).

3.2. New and Changed Features

This section lists new and changed features of this release:

1. Enable tickless kernel (CONFIG_NO_HZ).
   ID: RT 79812.

3.3. Known Problems & Limitations

This section lists known problems and limitations of this release:

1. NFS-mounts without an `-o rsize=1024` option result in "Frame CRC errors" reported by the Linux Ethernet driver.
   ID: RT 62655.
   Workaround: Use an `-o rsize=1024` option when NFS-mounting remote directories. Example:

```
mount -o nolock,rsize=1024 <ip>:<remote_dir> <mount_point>
```

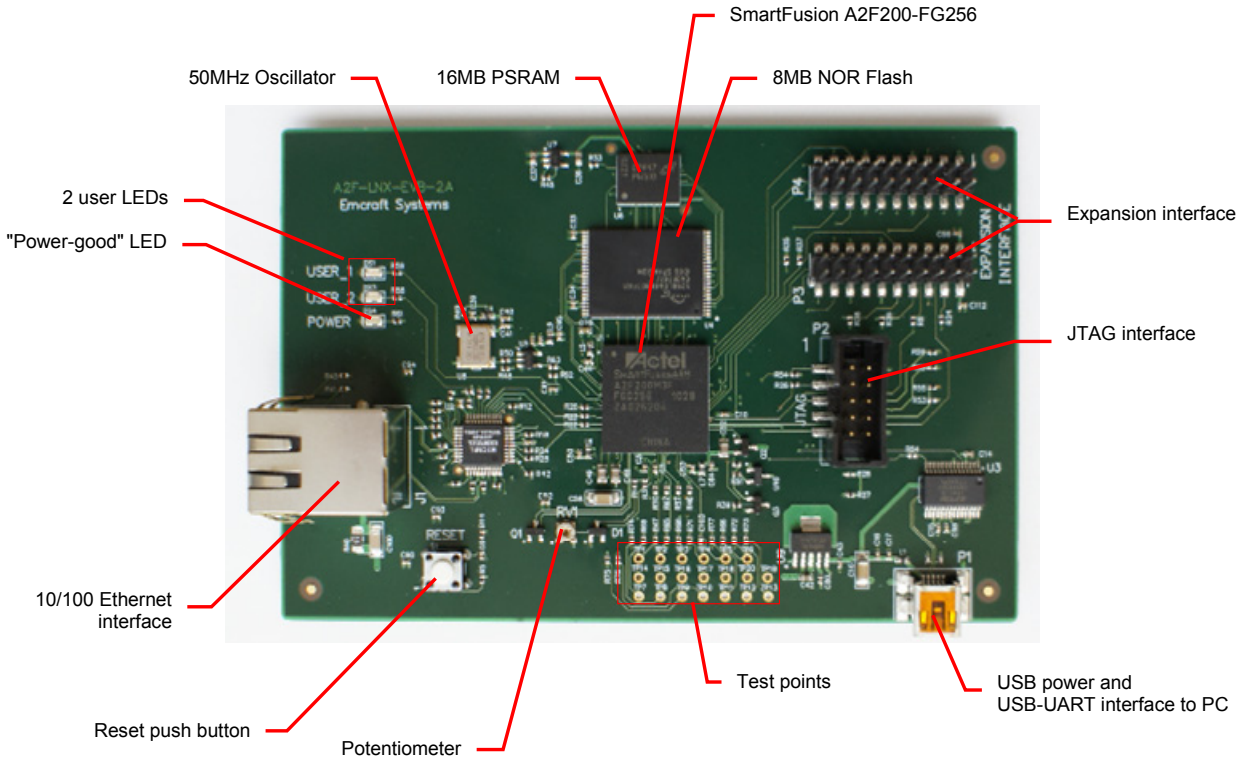
2. When the A2F-LNX-EVB board is plugged into a 1Gb Ethernet switch, U-boot has a delay on download of images from the network.
   ID: RT 64892.
   Workaround: Ignore the delay; download of images completes successfully, even despite the reported delay.
3. SPI driver doesn't work on A2F500.
   ID: RT 71635.
   Workaround: None.
4. `CONFIG_KERNEL_IN_ENVM` requires disabling `CONFIG_ARM_UNWIND` and `CONFIG_EARLY_PRINTK`.
   ID: RT 74683.
   Workaround: When enabling `CONFIG_KERNEL_IN_ENVM` in the kernel, disable `CONFIG_ARM_UNWIND` and `CONFIG_EARLY_PRINTK`.

4. Hardware Setup

This section explains how to set up the Emcraft Systems A2F-LNX-EVB board in such a way as to allow running uClinux on this hardware platform.

4.1. Hardware Interfaces

The A2F-LNX-EVB board provides the following components and interfaces:



4.2. Board Connections

To power the A2F-LNX-EVB board up, simply connect it to a PC / notebook by plugging the mini-USB cable into the P1 connector of the A2F-LNX-EVB. As soon as the connection to the PC has been made, the `POWER` LED should lit, indicating that the board is up and running.

On the PC, the USB link provides a serial console device to the A2F-LNX-EVB target. The Linux SmartFusion software installed on the board is configured for a 115.2Kb terminal. On the Linux host, the serial console is available using a `/dev/ttyUSB`*n* device.

To provide network connectivity to the board, connect it into your LAN by plugging a standard Ethernet cable into the J1 connector.

The A2F-LNX-EVB comes with the U-Boot firmware and an appropriate Libero project pre-installed into SmartFusion. U-Boot provides sufficient interfaces for uploading and installing new firmware images onto the board so you may never need to re-install firmware over the JTAG interface. If however at some point you require re-programming U-Boot onto your board, connect it to a Microsemi FlashPro programmer tool by plugging a standard JTAG cable into the P2 connector.

4.3. Extension Interfaces

The Emcraft Systems A2F-LNX-EVB provides the following interfaces that can be used to prototype custom hardware extensions to the main hardware design of the board as well as to develop new software drivers and applications.

4.3.1. User LEDs

LED	SmartFusion Pin
USER_1	G4
USER_2	L15

4.3.2. Potentiometer

Measurement	SmartFusion Pin
Current through the Potentiometer	N6, P6
Voltage on the Potentiometer	T5

4.3.3. Expansion Interface

P3 Pin	SmartFusion Pin	P3 Pin	SmartFusion Pin
1	VCC3	11	GND
2	VCC3	12	GND
3	M16	13	K15
4	N16	14	K14
5	M15	15	GND
6	M13	16	GND
7	J13	17	R11
8	J12	18	T11
9	J16	19	P9
10	J14	20	R9

P4 Pin	SmartFusion Pin	P4 Pin	SmartFusion Pin
1	GND	11	D15
2	GND	12	D14
3	E16	13	GND
4	E15	14	GND
5	F12	15	C16
6	E12	16	C15
7	GND	17	D13
8	GND	18	C14
9	E14	19	G5
10	F14	20	F3

4.3.4. Test Points

Test Point #	SmartFusion Pin	Test Point #	SmartFusion Pin
1	T10	11	N9

Test Point #	SmartFusion Pin	Test Point #	SmartFusion Pin
2	R10	12	N10
3	R6	13	P10
4	P7	14	GND
5	T12	15	GND
6	M12	16	GND
7	M11	17	GND
8	R5	18	GND
9	N5	19	GND
10	M9	20	GND

5. A2F-LNX-EVB Board Software Set-up

5.1. U-Boot Environment

When the A2F-LNX-EVB board is reset, U-Boot comes up from the built-in Flash printing the following output to the serial console:

```
U-Boot 2010.03-linux-cortexm-1.8.0 (Sep 07 2012 - 19:43:45)

CPU: SmartFusion FPGA (Cortex-M3 Hard IP)
Freqs: FCLK=80MHz,PCLK0=20MHz,PCLK1=20MHz,ACE=40MHz,FPGA=40MHz
Board: A2F-LNX-EVB Rev 2.A, www.emcraft.com
DRAM:  16 MB
Flash:  8 MB
In:    serial
Out:   serial
Err:   serial
Net:   Core10/100
Hit any key to stop autoboot:  0
A2F-LNX-EVB>
```

U-Boot provides a command called `saveenv` that stores the up-to-date run-time environment to the persistent storage, which will be the external Flash for the U-Boot configuration used on the A2F-LNX-EVB board.

This is how you can write the current U-Boot environment to the external Flash:

```
A2F-LNX-EVB> saveenv
Saving Environment to Flash...
...
A2F-LNX-EVB>
```

5.2. Ethernet MAC Address

In Linux SmartFusion, the MAC address of the Ethernet interface is defined by the `ethaddr` U-Boot environment variable. The value of the MAC address can be examined from the U-Boot command line monitor as follows:

```
A2F-LNX-EVB> printenv ethaddr
ethaddr=C0:B1:3C:88:88:88
A2F-LNX-EVB>
```

The A2F-LNX-EVB board comes with `ethaddr` set to a MAC address uniquely allocated for the specific board. Given that each A2F-LNX-EVB board has a unique MAC address allocated to it, there is no need to update the `ethaddr` variable (although it is possible to do so).

5.3. Network Configuration

You will have to update the network configuration of your board to match settings of your local environment.

Typically, all you have to allow loading images over network from a TFTP server is update the U-Boot environment variables `ipaddr` (the board IP address) and `serverip` (the IP address of the TFTP server). Here is how it is done.

Update `ipaddr` and `serverip`:

```
A2F-LNX-EVB> setenv ipaddr 192.168.0.2
A2F-LNX-EVB> setenv serverip 192.168.0.1
```

and then save the updated environment to the external Flash so that your changes are persistent across resets/power cycles:

```
A2F-LNX-EVB> saveenv
Saving Environment to Flash...
...
A2F-LNX-EVB>
```

5.4. Installation of Linux Images to Flash

The A2F-LNX-EVB board arrives with a Linux bootable image for the `networking` project installed into external Flash. To boot this Linux configuration onto the A2F-LNX-EVB board just reset the board and let U-Boot perform the autoboot sequence.

At this point, you are able to load Linux bootable images to the board over TFTP and either boot them directly or install them to the external Flash to allow booting Linux from Flash in the auto-boot mode.

On the host, activate the Linux SmartFusion development environment and build the `networking` project:

```
-bash-3.2$ . ACTIVATE.sh
-bash-3.2$ cd projects/networking/
-bash-3.2$ make
...
-bash-3.2$
```

Copy the Linux bootable image to the TFTP download directory:

```
-bash-3.2$ cp networking.uImage /tftpboot/vlad/
-bash-3.2$
```

To load the image directly, use the `netboot` U-Boot macro:

```
A2F-LNX-EVB> setenv image vlad/networking.uImage
A2F-LNX-EVB> run netboot
Auto-negotiation...completed.
Core10/100: link UP (100/Full)
Using Core10/100 device
TFTP from server 172.17.0.1; our IP address is 172.17.5.100
Filename 'vlad/networking.uImage'.
...
Loading: #################################################################
         #################################################################
         #############
done
Bytes transferred = 2084704 (1fcf60 hex)
...
   Image Name:   Linux-2.6.33-arm1
   Image Type:   ARM Linux Kernel Image (uncompressed)
...
   Verifying Checksum ... OK
   Loading Kernel Image ... OK
OK

Starting kernel ...
```

```
Linux version 2.6.33-arm1 (vlad@ocean.emcraft.com) (gcc version 4.4.1 (Sourcery G++ Lite
2010q1-189) ) #1 Mon Mar 12 15:43:44 MSK 2012
...
```

To load the image into the Flash, use the U-Boot `update` macro:

```
A2F-LNX-EVB> setenv image vlad/networking.uImage
A2F-LNX-EVB> run update
Auto-negotiation...completed.
Core10/100: link UP (100/Full)
Using Core10/100 device
TFTP from server 172.17.0.1; our IP address is 172.17.5.100
Filename 'vlad/networking.uImage'.
...
Loading: ################################################################
         ################################################################
         #############
done
Bytes transferred = 2084704 (1fcf60 hex)
............................... done
Un-Protected 32 sectors

............................... done
Erased 32 sectors
Copy to Flash... done
A2F-LNX-EVB>
```

Reset the board and verify that the newly programmed image boots on the target in the autoboot mode:

```
A2F-LNX-EVB> reset
resetting ...

U-Boot 2010.03-linux-cortexm-1.8.0 (Sep 07 2012 - 17:19:37)
...
Starting kernel ...
...
init started: BusyBox v1.17.0 (Sep 07 2012 - 17:19:37)
~ #
```

5.5. U-Boot Build

The BSP distribution comes with U-Boot pre-built for the A2F-LNX-EVB board. If however you need to re-build U-Boot for your board, please follow the instructions below:

1. Install the Linux SmartFusion distribution to the development host, as described in the Linux Cortex-M User's Manual.
2. From the top of the Linux SmartFusion installation, activate the Linux SmartFusion cross-compile environment by running `. ACTIVATE.sh`.
3. Go to the U-Boot source directory (`cd u-boot/`).
4. Run the following commands:

```
[psl@pvr u-boot]$ make a2f-lnx-evb_config
Configuring for a2f-lnx-evb board...
[psl@pvr u-boot]$ make -s
[psl@pvr u-boot]$ make -s u-boot.hex
```

6. FPGA Interfaces

6.1. FPGA IP Programming Interfaces

The Libero project included with the Linux SmartFusion distribution installs the following IP blocks to the FPGA fabric of the SmartFusion:

IP	Address Range	Tiles	Description
CoreInterrupt	0x40050000-0x4005002F	68*	Flexible Interrupt Controller for AMBA–Based Systems
VersionROM	0x40050100-0x4005010F	20	Provides an APB register-based interface ROM used for storing FPGA design type and version information
CoreGPIO	0x40050200-0x400502A3	460**	Provides an APB register-based interface to up to 32 GPIO signals
PSRAM_CR	0x40050300-0x40050313	470	Emcraft's custom IP allowing to configure external RAM (Micron's PSRAM) and put it to the faster Page Mode

** - This is an approximate value for the Number of IRQ Sources = 4, taken from the CoreIterrupt datasheet. The exact number of used tiles may vary in different projects.*
*** - This is an approximate value for the "minimum" configuration of the CoreGPIO (number of used GPIOs = 8), taken from the CoreGPIO datasheet. The exact number of used tiles may vary in different projects.*

6.2. FPGA Development in Linux SmartFusion

To facilitate development involving FPGA modifications, the `developer` project includes the `iap_tool` utility designed for run-time FPGA fabric upgrades of the SmartFusion. Such FPGA self-upgrades are performed on a running system and do not require additional hardware, such as a FlashPro3/4 programmer device.

The `iap_tool` utility resides in the `/bin` directory of the `developer` project's root filesystem. It can be invoked from the command line as follows:

```
~ # /bin/iap_tool
Program FPGA Array of the SmartFusion
Usage: /mnt/iap_tool [options] <programming_data_file>
Options:
    -h, --help
        display this help and exit
    -l, --lock
        specify the lock file to use (default is /var/run/iap_tool)
    -a, --action
        specify the IAP action to run (default is PROGRAM_ARRAY)
        available actions (case insensitive):
         1 DEVICE_INFO
         2 READ_IDCODE
         3 ERASE
         4 ERASE_ALL
         5 PROGRAM
         6 VERIFY
         7 ENC_DATA_AUTHENTICATION
         8 ERASE_ARRAY
         9 PROGRAM_ARRAY
        10 VERIFY_ARRAY
        11 ERASE_FROM
        12 PROGRAM_FROM
        13 VERIFY_FROM
        14 ERASE_SECURITY
        15 PROGRAM_SECURITY
        16 PROGRAM_NVM
        17 VERIFY_NVM
        18 VERIFY_DEVICE_INFO
        19 READ_USERCODE
        20 PROGRAM_NVM_ACTIVE
        21 VERIFY_NVM_ACTIVE
        22 IS_CORE_CONFIGURED
```

Behavior of the commands listed above is the same as implemented by the corresponding commands supported by the Actel FlashPro programming tool. Refer to: http://www.actel.com/documents/flashpro_ug.pdf for further details.

For example, to upgrade the FPGA array from a `file.dat` file the utility should be invoked as follows:

```
~ # /bin/iap_tool --action PROGRAM_ARRAY file.dat
```

As soon as the above command completes, the new image has been installed into the FPGA fabric and is running. No reset or Linux reboot is required.

To create a `.dat` file for FPGA upgrades using the `iap_tool` utility, load corresponding `.pdb` file into the Microsemi FlashPro application, select the `File -> Export -> Export Single Programming File` item of the main menu, choose the "DirectC File (*.dat)" in the "Output formats" list, type in the resulting file name and location, and press button "Export".

Note that the FPGA fabric is hold in reset during execution of IAP operations and cannot be accessed by software drivers. Due to this, it is strongly recommended to configure kernel drivers for FPGA-based controllers as modules and unload all such modules before running the `iap_tool` utility.

The `iap_tool` utility must be used with caution since some actions (e.g. `ERASE_ARRAY`) can render the A2F non-functional (in such cases, a FlashPro3/4 device will be required to restore the SmartFusion device to a functional state).

7. Further Materials

Refer to *Linux Cortex-M User's Manual* for detailed information on the software architecture of the Linux SmartFusion distribution.

Visit Emcraft Systems' web site at www.emcraft.com to obtain additional materials related to Linux SmartFusion.

8. Support

We appreciate your review of our product and welcome any and all feedback. Comments can be sent directly by email to:

a2f-linux-support@emcraft.com

The following level of support is included with your purchase of this product:

- Email support for installation, configuration and basic use scenarios of the product during 6 months since the product purchase;
- Free upgrade to new releases of the downloadable materials included in the product during 6 months since the product purchase.

If you require support beyond of what is described above, we will be happy to provide it using resources of our contract development team. Please contact us for details.