Building Embedded Operating System with IMGUI Demo for *Raspberry π - 4 - model B* with *Yocto*

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1 introduction

These instructions[5] follow the configuration and build of a Linux-based operating system for *Raspberry* π - 4 - *model B*[7] with *Yocto*[2]. Find project overview in [6].

The *operating system* (OS) build is done in four steps and instructions are organized in four corresponding sections as follows.

- section 2 get *metadata*
- section 3 configure OS build
- section 4 build OS *image*
- section 5 copy *image* to *SD* card

Section 6 is dedicated to post-install issues like the configuration of the WiFi interface from the command line.

2 download

Metadata is a set of instructions to build targets. It is organized in *recipe* files with the *.bb* suffix. Further there are *class* files with the suffix *.bbclass* with information shared between *recipes*. Finally, there are configuration files with the extension *.conf*. These define configuration variables to control the build process. *Metadata* is organized in *layers*. Layers logically separate information of a project. *OpenEmbedded*[1] defines the following layer types.

- base layer
  base *metadata* for the build
- machine aka *board support package* (BSP) layer
  hardware (HW) support
- distribution layer
  policy configuration
- *software* (SW) layer
  additional SW
- miscellaneous layer
  for layers that do not fall in upper categories

The complete list of *github* SW *metadata* repositories used in this project includes *Yocto* layers, the *Raspberry* π - 4 - *model B* BSP layer, a SW layer with custom recipes, and the build configuration itself. Please refer [6] for details.

It is up to users to decide where to download *metadata*. It is a good idea to have all layer sub-directories in one location. In these instructions this is referred as <layer-directory>. Once you have it created execute next lines to get layer *metadata*.

```
git clone -b kirkstone \
git@github.com:yoctoproject/poky.git \
<layer-directory>

git clone -b kirkstone \
git@github.com:openembedded/meta-openembedded.git \
<layer-directory>

git clone -b kirkstone \
git@github.com:agherzan/meta-raspberrypi \
<layer-directory>/rpi

git clone git@github.com:kaloyanski/meta-thc.git \
<layer-directory>/thc/meta-thc
```

The second directory to create is the <build-directory> and I suggest that this one is not inside the <layer-directory> to not mix *data* and *metadata*. Further, to get project build configuration use the command that follows.

```
git clone git@github.com:TripleHelixConsulting/rpiconf.
<build-directory>/conf
```

3 configuration

3.1 layers

Here is a list of *Yocto* layers. The project reference distribution is *poky*.

- *meta*
  User-space data

- *meta – poky*
  Yocto reference distribution

- *meta – raspberrypi*
  This[3] is the general HW specific BSP overlay for the *RaspberryPi* device. The core BSP part of *meta – raspberrypi* works with different *OpenEmbedded/ Yocto* distributions and layer stacks. In short, the recipes to build the kernel and kernel modules are in this layer. For details see the package *linux-raspberrypi*. In addition, here is the HW specific firmware. By chance, the build configuration corresponds the specific HW, in this case *Raspberry π - 4 - model B*.

- *meta – thc*
  I have introduced a new *Yocto* SW layer to control the build of *Dear ImGui* and *GLFW*. As long as the source codes have a standard build configuration, the *bitbake* recipes are straightforward. Both instructions inherit *cmake*.

4 build

```
cd <layer-directory>/poky
source oe-init-build-env <build-directory>
bitbake core-image-x11
```

The primary build tool of *OpenEmbedded* based projects, such as the *Yocto* project, *bitbake*, works in the <build-directory>. Here is a list of the most important sub-directory names by default. These are configurable but there is no need to change their default names.

- <build-directory>/conf - build (*local.conf*) and layer (*bblayers.conf*) configuration files
- <build-directory>/downloads - downloaded source code archives, usually fetched from github.com
- <build-directory>/tmp/work - working directory where source code is extracted, configured, compiled and installed
- <build-directory>/tmp/deploy/ipk - final SW packages in *ipk* format
- <build-directory>/tmp/deploy/images/raspberrypi4-64 - OS and boot images and compiled kernels

4.1 configuration

Yocto provides a list of image types. For obvious reasons, I have chosen $core-image-x11$[2] - a very basic X11 image with a terminal. In the main build configuration, apart from *Dear ImGui* and *GLFW*, I have added the following packages;

- *os − release*
  OS identification

- *Dropbear*
  Compact *secure shell* (SSH) server[4]

- *dhcpcd*
  dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) client[8]

- *thcp*
  OS post-configuration scripts

5 install

The total size of the operating system is between from 250 up to $384MB$ or $79MB$ *tar.bz* archive, including kernel ARM, 64 *bit* boot executable *image* of $23MB$, a *Raspberry* π - 4 - *model B* configuration of Linux 5.15. The total size of kernel modules is $21MB$. Happily this kernel release has a $long - term\ support$ (LTS). The list of packages included in the OS *image* in Table 1 gives a good idea of the contents.

Yocto provides multiple package and *image* formats. Further, different ways exist to install *images* on *SD* card. The result is an OS with two partitions only - */root* and */boot*. There are not *swap* and *home* partitions. I recommend the classic command-line tool *dd* to copy data. It works fine with different *image* formats like $rpi-sdimg$, *hddimg* and *wic*. The last format is recommended. Find the card device name, usually */dev/sda*, unmount it with *umount* if it is mounted, and do copy data with the simple command

package	description
packagegroup-core-boot	boot
packagegroup-base-extended	base
run-postinsts	post
opkg	package manager
psplash-raspberrypi	*Raspberry* π - 4 - *model B* splash
packagegroup-core-x11-base	the *X* server
os-release	OS identifier
dropbear	SSH server
dhcpcd	DHCP client
thcp	SW layer
glfw	*OpenGL*
imgui	*Dear ImGui*

Table 1: A list of packages in *core-image-x*11-*raspberrypi*4-64

dd if=whatever.wic of=/dev/sda status=progress

Run this command with *root* privileges and be careful to not specify the device name of your hard drive. This will take a while. When it is over, put the card in you *Raspberry* π - 4 - *model B* and turn it on. That's it.

6 run

Connected embedded systems can communicate to one another and to cloud-based *platform-as-a-service* (PaaS) solutions. In addition, a remote control may be required. An SSH server is a standard solution for both problems.

Wireless connection is established via classic command-line tools like *ip*, *iw*, *dhcpcd*, and *wpa_supplicant*. Custom shell scripts are installed in */usr/bin*, as well as a running *graphical user interface* (GUI) example to demonstrate the usage of the *Dear ImGui* library. Once an *internet protocol* (IP) address is assigned, the SSH server by *Dropbear* allows for a secured remote login, remote control and file transfer.

7 outlook

This reports the progress in the development of a custom Linux-based OS for *Raspberry* π - 4 - *model B*[7]. The kernel version of this embedded OS is Linux release 5.15. An example GUI application using the *Dear ImGui* library is built as a part of the OS *image*. In addition, an SSH server provides remote connection, data transfer and device control. As the OS is now functional, performance and real-time tests are ongoing.

acronyms

BSP *board support package*

SSH *secure shell*

GUI *graphical user interface*

SW *software*

HW *hardware*

OS *operating system*

DHCP *dynamic host configuration protocol*

IP *internet protocol*

PaaS *platform-as-a-service*

LTS *long – term support*

bibliography

[1] Yocto Project community. *OpenEmbedded*. 2017. URL: https://www.openembedded.org (visited on 2023).

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[5] Kaloyan Krastev. *Building Embedded Operating System with IMGUI Demo for Raspberry π - 4 - model B with* Yocto. 2023. URL: https://kaloyanski.github.io/meta-thc/thchowto.html (visited on 2023).

[6] Kaloyan Krastev. *Embedded Operating System for Raspberry π - 4 - model B with* Yocto. 2023. URL: https://kaloyanski.github.io/meta-thc/thcport.html (visited on 2023).

[7] Raspberry π Ltd. *Raspberi π*. 2023. URL: https://www.raspberrypi.com (visited on 2023).

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