

Tock Embedded OS Training

SOSP 2017

Please make sure you have completed all of the tutorial pre-requisites. If you prefer, you can download a virtual machine image with all the pre-requisites already installed.

`https://github.com/helena-project/tock/tree/master/
doc/courses/sosp/README.md
aka https://goo.gl/s17fy8`

Tock

A secure operating system for microcontrollers

- ▶ Kernel components in Rust
- ▶ Type-safe API for safe driver development
- ▶ Hardware isolated processes for application code

Use cases

- ▶ Security applications (e.g. authentication keys)
- ▶ Sensor networks
- ▶ Programmable wearables

Operating System

Tock itself provides services to components in the system:

- ▶ Scheduling
- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Hardware multiplexing

Low Resource

- ▶ 10's of μA average power draw
- ▶ 10's of kB of RAM
- ▶ Moderate clock speeds

Microcontrollers

System-on-a-chip with integrated flash, SRAM, CPU and a bunch of hardware controllers.

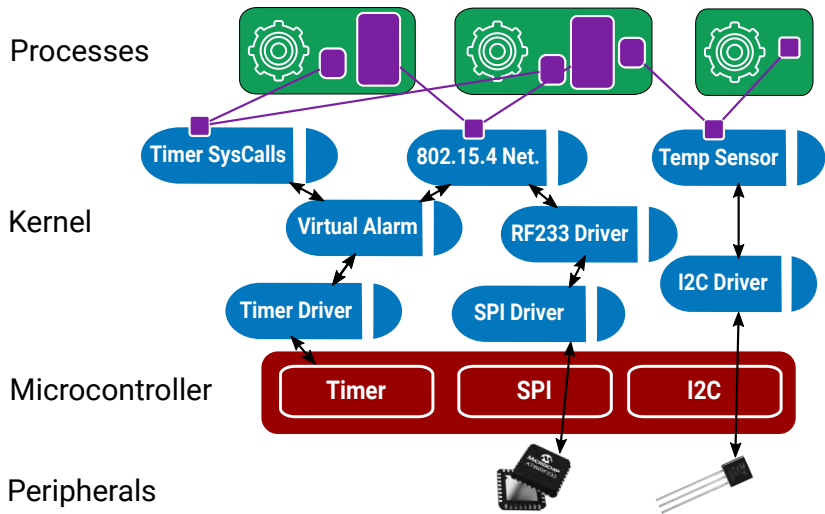
Typically:

- ▶ Communication: UART, SPI, I2C, USB, CAN...
- ▶ External I/O: GPIO, external interrupt, ADC, DAC
- ▶ Timers: RTC, countdown timers

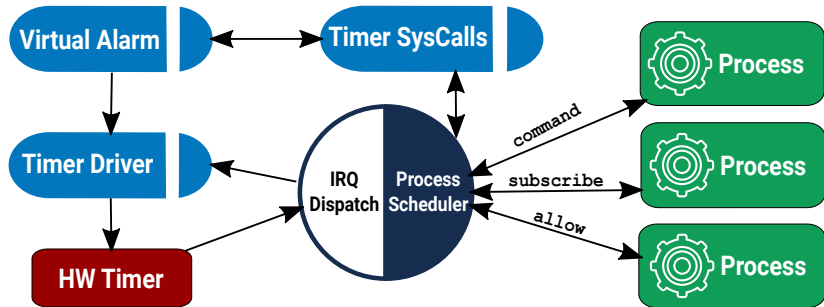
Maybe...

- ▶ Radio (Bluetooth, 15.4)
- ▶ Cryptographic accelerators
- ▶ Other specialized hardware...

Two types of components: capsules and processes



Two types of scheduling: cooperative and preemptive



Agenda Today

1. Intro to hardware, tools and development environment
2. Add functionality to the Tock kernel
3. Write an end-to-end Bluetooth Low Energy environment sensing application.

Part 1: Hardware, tools and development environment

Hail

SAM4L

Accelerometer

MCU

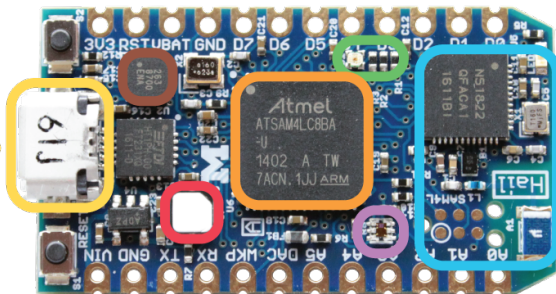
RGB LED

USB

BLE

Temperature &
Humidity

Light Sensor



Binaries on-board

Bootloader

Kernel

Processes

Tools

- ▶ `make` (just instrumenting `xargo`)
- ▶ `Rust` (nightly for `asm!`, compiling core, etc)
- ▶ `xargo` to automate compiling base libraries
- ▶ `arm-none-eabi GCC/LD` to link binaries
- ▶ `tockloader` to interact with Hail and the bootloader

Tools: tockloader

Write a binary to a particular address in flash

```
$ tockloader flash --address 0x1000 \  
    target/thumbv7em-none-eabi/release/hail.bin
```

Program a process in Tock Binary Format¹:

```
$ tockloader install myapp.tab
```

Restart the board and connect to the debug console:

```
$ tockloader listen
```

¹TBFs are relocatable process binaries prefixed with headers like the package name. .tab is a tarball of TBFs for different architectures as well as a metadata file for tockloader.

Check your understanding

1. What kinds of binaries exist on a Tock board? Hint: There are three, and only two can be programmed using `tockloader`.
2. Can you point to the chip on the Hail that runs the Tock kernel? How about the processes?
3. What steps would you follow to program a processes onto Hail? What about to replace the kernel?

Hands-on: Set-up development environment

1. Compile and flash the kernel
2. Compile and program `ble-env-sense` service
3. (Optional) Add some other apps from the repo, like `blink` and `sensors`
4. (Optional) Familiarize yourself with `tockloader` commands
 - ▶ `uninstall`
 - ▶ `list`
 - ▶ `erase-apps`

Part 2: User space

System calls

Call	Target	Description
command	Capsule	Invoke an operation on a capsule
allow	Capsule	Share memory with a capsule
subscribe	Capsule	Register an upcall
memop	Core	Modify memory break
yield	Core	Bloc until next upcall is ready

C System Calls: command & allow

```
int command(uint32_t driver, uint32_t command,  
            int arg1, int arg2);  
  
int allow(uint32_t driver, uint32_t allow, void* ptr,  
          size_t size);
```

C System Calls: subscribe

```
typedef void (subscribe_cb)(int, int, int,void*);  
  
int subscribe(uint32_t driver, uint32_t subscribe,  
             subscribe_cb cb, void* userdata);
```

C System Calls: yieldk & yieldk_for

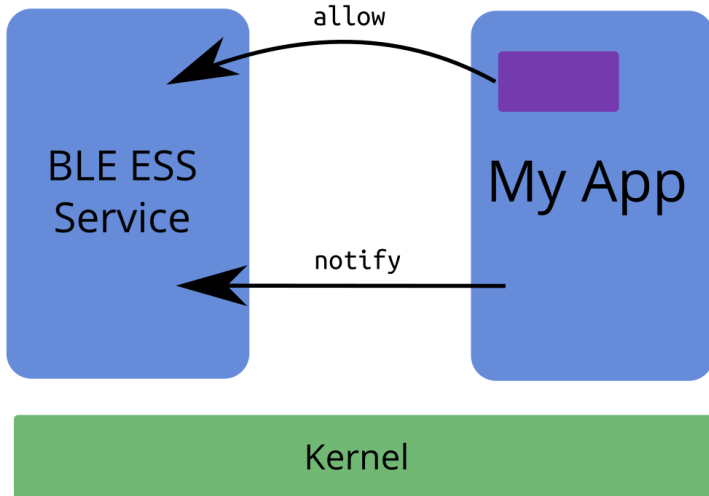
```
void yield(void);
```

```
void yield_for(bool *cond) {  
    while (!*cond) {  
        yield();  
    }  
}
```

Example: printing to the debug console

```
static void putstr_cb(int _x, int _y, int _z, void* ud) {  
    putstr_data_t* data = (putstr_data_t*)ud;  
    data->done = true;  
}  
  
int putnstr(const char *str, size_t len) {  
    putstr_data_t* data;  
    data->buf = str; data->done = false;  
  
    allow(DRIVER_NUM_CONSOLE, 1, str, len);  
    subscribe(DRIVER_NUM_CONSOLE, 1, cb, userdata);  
    command(DRIVER_NUM_CONSOLE, 1, len, 0);  
    yield_for(&data->done);  
    return ret;  
}
```

Inter Process Communication (IPC)



Inter Process Communication API

TODO

Check your understanding

1. How does a process perform a blocking operation? Can you draw the flow of operations when a process calls `delay_ms(1000)`?
2. What is a Grant? How do processes interact with grants?
Hint: Think about memory exhaustion.

Hands-on: Write a BLE environment sensing application

1. Get an application running on Hail
2. Periodically sample on-board sensors
3. Extend your app to report through the `ble-env-sense` service

Part 3: The kernel

Trusted Computing Base (unsafe allowed)

- ▶ Hardware Abstraction Layer
- ▶ Board configuration
- ▶ Event & Process scheduler
- ▶ Rust core library
- ▶ Core Tock primitives

kernel/

chips/

Capsules (unsafe not allowed)

- ▶ Virtualization
- ▶ Peripheral drivers
- ▶ Communication protocols (IP, USB, etc)
- ▶ Application logic

`capsules/`

Constraints

Small isolation units

Breaking a monolithic component into smaller ones should have low/no cost

Avoid memory exhaustion in the kernel

No heap. Everything is allocated statically.

Low communication overhead

Communicating between components as cheap as an internal function call. Ideally inlined.

Event-driven execution model

```
pub fn main<P, C>(platform: &P, chip: &mut C,
                  processes: &mut [Process]) {
    loop {
        chip.service_pending_interrupts();
        for (i, p) in processes.iter_mut().enumerate() {
            sched::do_process(platform, chip, process);
        }

        if !chip.has_pending_interrupts() {
            chip.prepare_for_sleep();
            support::wfi();
        }
    }
}
```


Event-driven execution model

```
fn service_pending_interrupts(&mut self) {  
    while let Some(interrupt) = get_interrupt() {  
        match interrupt {  
            ASTALARM => ast::AST.handle_interrupt(),  
            USART0 => usart::USART0.handle_interrupt(),  
            USART1 => usart::USART1.handle_interrupt(),  
            USART2 => usart::USART2.handle_interrupt(),  
            ...  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Event-driven execution model

```
impl Ast {
    pub fn handle_interrupt(&self) {
        self.clear_alarm();
        self.callback.get().map(|cb| { cb.fired(); });
    }
}

impl time::Client for MuxAlarm {
    fn fired(&self) {
        for cur in self.virtual_alarms.iter() {
            if cur.should_fire() {
                cur.armed.set(false);
                self.enabled.set(self.enabled.get() - 1);
                cur.fired();
            }
        }
    }
}
```

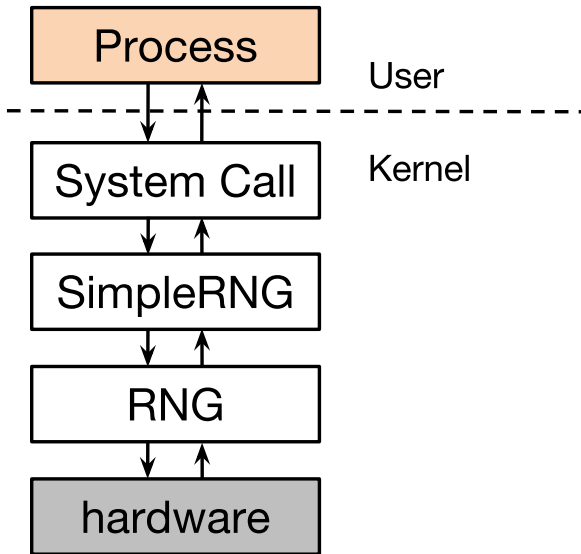


Figure: Capsules reference each other directly, assisting inlining

The mutable aliases problem

```
enum NumOrPointer {  
    Num(u32),  
    Pointer(&mut u32)  
}  
  
// n.b. will not compile  
let external : &mut NumOrPointer;  
match external {  
    Pointer(internal) => {  
        // This would violate safety and  
        // write to memory at 0xdeadbeef  
        *external = Num(0xdeadbeef);  
        *internal = 12345; // Kaboom  
    },  
    ...  
}
```

Interior mutability to the rescue

Type	Copy-only	Mutual exclusion	Opt.	Mem Opt.
Cell	✓	✗	✓	✓
VolatileCell	✓	✗	✗	✓
TakeCell	✗	✓	✗	✓
MapCell	✗	✓	✓	✗

```

pub struct Fxos8700cq<`a> {
    i2c: &`a I2CDevice,
    state: Cell<State>,
    buffer: TakeCell<`static, [u8]>,
    callback:
        Cell<Option<&`a hil::ninedof::NineDofClient>>,
}

impl<`a> I2CClient for Fxos8700cq<`a> {
    fn cmd_complete(&self, buf: &`static mut [u8]) { ... }
}

impl<`a> hil::ninedof::NineDof for Fxos8700cq<`a> {
    fn read_accelerometer(&self) -> ReturnCode { ... }
}

pub trait NineDofClient {
    fn callback(&self, x: usize, y: usize, z: usize);
}

```

Check your understanding

1. What is a `VolatileCell`? Can you find some uses of `VolatileCell`, and do you understand why they are needed?
Hint: look inside `chips/sam4l/src`.
2. What is a `TakeCell`? When is a `TakeCell` preferable to a standard `Cell`?

Hands-on: Write and add a capsule to the kernel

1. Read the Hail boot sequence in `boards/hail/src/main.rs`
2. Write a new capsule that prints “Hello World” to the debug console.
3. Extend your capsule to print “Hello World” every second
4. Extend your capsule to read and report the accelerometer
5. Extra Credit: Write a 9dof virtualization capsule.