

Pure Go Unikernels

Go metal with TamaGo
The bare metal framework for ARM SoCs

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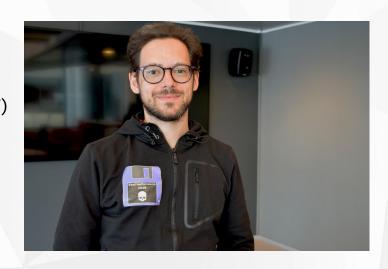


Maker of the USB armory



Speaker at too many conferences...

Security auditing and engineering with focus on safety critical systems in the automotive, avionics, industrial domains.



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Motivation: USB armory firmware





The USB armory is a tiny, but powerful, embedded platform for personal security applications.

Designed to fit in a pockets, laptops, PCs and servers.

The USB armory targets the following primary applications:

- Encrypted storage solutions
- Hardware Security Module (HSM)
- Enhanced smart cards
- Electronic vaults (e.g. cryptocurrency wallets) and key escrow services
- Authentication, provisioning, licensing tokens
- USB firewall





Motivation



In an ideal world you should be free to choose the language you prefer.

In an ideal world all compilers would generate machine code with the same efficiency.

However in real world lower specs heavily dictate language choices:

Microcontroller (MCU) firmware == unsafe¹ low level languages (C)



Examples:

cryptographic tokens, cryptocurrency wallets, hardware diodes, lower specs IoT and "smart" appliances.



¹ **Pro tip**: certification does not matter.

Motivation



In an ideal world using higher level languages should not entail complex dependencies.

In an ideal world higher level languages should reduce complexity.

Complexity should be reduced for the entire environment, not just being shifted away.

However in real world higher specs heavily dictate OS requirements:

System-on-Chip (SoC) firmware == complex OS + safe (or unsafe¹) languages



Examples:

TEE applets, infotainment units, avionics gateways, home routers, higher specs IoT and "smart" appliances.



¹ Privileged C-based apps running under Linux to "parse stuff" are very common, like your car infotainment/parking ECU.

Killing C



When security matters software and hardware optimizations matter less.

This means that less constrained hardware (e.g. SoCs in favor of MCUs) and higher level code are perfectly acceptable.

However high level programming typically entails several layers (e.g. OS, libraries) to serve runtime execution.

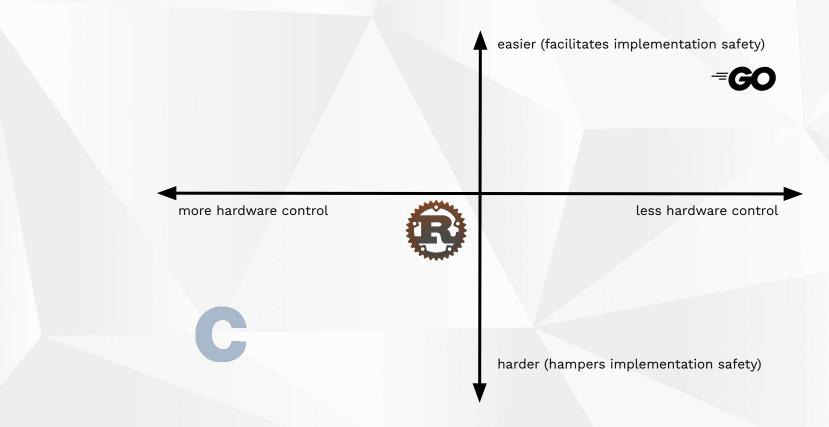
TamaGo spawns from the desire of **reducing the attack surface** of embedded systems firmware by **removing any runtime dependency on C code and inherently complex Operating Systems**.

In other words we want to avoid shifting complexity around and run a higher level language, such as Go in our effort, directly on the bare metal.



Speed vs Safety

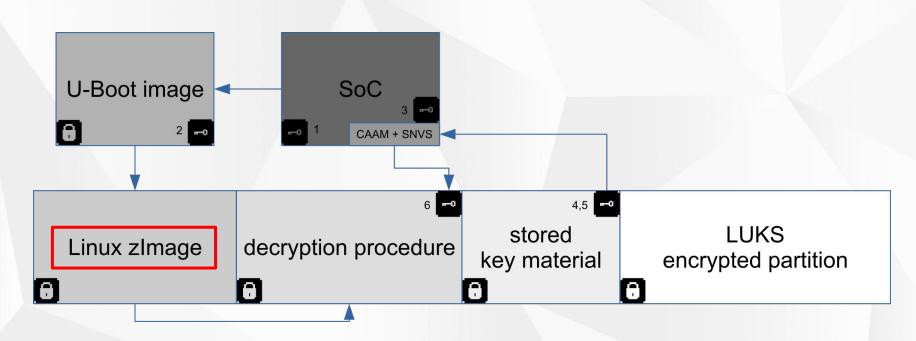






Reducing the attack surface



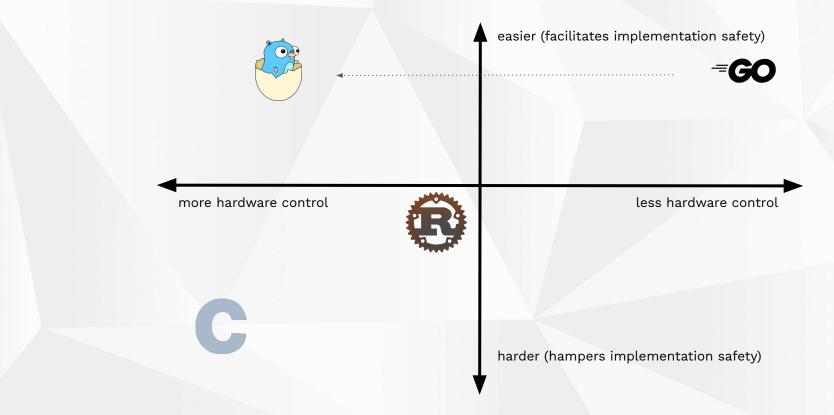


Typical secure booted firmware with authentication and confidentiality, taken from USB armory implementation example (NXP i.MX6UL).



Speed vs Safety







Unikernels / library OS



Unikernels¹ are a single address space image to executed a "library operating system", typically running under bare metal.

The focus is reducing the attack surface, carrying only strictly necessary code.

"True" unikernels are mostly unicorns, as a good chunk of available ones do not fit in this category and represent "fat" unikernels running under hypervisors and/or other (mini) OSes And just shift around complexity (e.g. the app is PID 1).

Apart for some exceptions there is always still a lot of C/dependencies involved in the underlying OS, drivers or hypervisor.

Running or importing *BSD kernels

Rump kernels (NetBSD based)
OSv (re-uses code from FreeBSD)

Running under hypervisor and 3rd party kernel
MirageOS (Solo5)
ClickOS (MiniOS)



Running under hypervisor

Nanos (Xen/KVM/Qemu) HalVM (Haskell, Xen) LING (Erlang, Xen) RustyHermit (KVM)

Bare metal

GRISP (Erlang)
IncludeOS



Unikernel security



From a security standpoint leveraging on Unikernels (whatever the kind) to run multiple applications or an individual C applications is not ideal¹.

Having an industry standard OS is necessary to support required security measures which otherwise are not present or rather primitive on most Unikernels.

Again, we want to **kill C** from the entire environment while keeping code efficiency, developing drivers having "only" to worry about interpreting reference manuals.

Unlike most unikernel projects we focus on small embedded systems, not the cloud.

We chose **Go** for its shallow learning curve, productivity, strong cryptographic library and standard library.

Languages like Rust have already proven they role in bare metal world, Go on the other hand needs to ... and it really can!



¹ https://www.nccgroup.trust/uk/about-us/newsroom-and-events/blogs/2019/april/assessing-unikernel-security/

TamaGo in a nutshell



TamaGo is made of two main components.

- A minimally¹ patched Go distribution to enable GOOS=tamago support, which provides freestanding execution on GOARCH=arm bare metal.
- A set of packages² to provide board support (e.g. hardware initialization and drivers).

TamaGo currently provides drivers for the NXP i.MX6UL System-on-Chip family (USB armory Mk II) as well as the BCM2835 (Raspberry Pi Zero, Pi 1, Pi 2).

On the i.MX6UL we target development of security applications, TamaGo is fully integrated with our existing open source tooling for i.MX6 Secure Boot (HAB) image signing.

TamaGo also provides full hardware initialization removing the need for intermediate bootloaders.







¹ https://github.com/f-secure-foundry/tamago-go

Similar efforts



Biscuit (unmaintained) - https://github.com/mit-pdos/biscuit

Go kernel for non-Go software underneath, larger scope, needs two C bootloaders, hijacks GOOS=linux, only for GOARCH=amd64, redoes memory allocation and threading.

G.E.R.T (unmaintained) - https://github.com/ycoroneos/G.E.R.T

ARM adaptation of Biscuit but without non-Go software support, needs two C bootloaders, hijacks GOOS=linux for GOARCH=arm, redoes memory allocation and threading.

AtmanOS (unmaintained) - https://github.com/atmanos

Similar to TamaGo but targets the Xen hypervisor, adds GOOS=atman but with limited runtime support.

Tiny Go (active and rocking!) - https://github.com/tinygo-org

LLVM based compiler (not original one) aimed at MCUs and minimal footprint, does not support the entire runtime and Go language support differs from standard Go.

Embedded Go (active) - https://github.com/embeddedgo

Similar to TamaGo but targets ARMv7-M/Thumb2 adding new support for it, as not native to Go. Adds GOOS=noos GOARCH=thumb, features interrupt/timer support.

All these projects greatly supported us in proving feasibility and identify TamaGo unique approach, diversity is good.



Enabling trust



TamaGo not only wants to prove that it is possible to have a bare metal Go runtime, but wants to prove that it can be achieved with **clean and minimal modifications against the original Go distribution²**.

Much of the effort has been placed to understand whether Go bare metal support can be achieved without complex re-implementation of memory allocation, threading, ASM/C OS primitives that would "pollute" the Go runtime to unacceptable levels.

Less is more. Complexity is the enemy of verifiability.

The acceptance of this (and similar) efforts hinges on maintainability, ease of review, clarity, simplicity and **trust**.

- ★ Designed to achieve upstream inclusion and with commitment to always sync to latest Go release.
- ★ ~4000 LOC of changes against Go distribution with clean separation from other GOOS support.
- ★ Strong emphasis on code reuse from existing architectures of standard Go runtime, see Internals¹.
- * Requires only one import ("library OS") on the target Go application.
- ★ Supports unencumbered Go applications with nearly full runtime availability.
- ★ In addition to the compiler, aims to provide a complete set of peripheral drivers for SoCs.



Go distribution modifications¹



Glue code (~350 lines, ~100 files): patches to adds GOOS=tamago to the list of supported architectures and required stubs for unsupported operations. All changes are benign (no logic/function):

```
// +build aix darwin dragonfly freebsd js,wasm linux nacl netbsd openbsd solaris tamago
```

Re-used² code (~3000 lines, ~10 files): patches that clone original Go runtime functionality from an existing architecture to GOOS=tamago, either unmodified or with minimal changes:

- plan9 memory allocation is re-used with 2 LOC changed (brk vs simple pointer)
- js, wasm locking is re-used identically (with JS VM hooks removed)
- nacl in-memory filesystem is re-used (raw SD/MMC access implemented in imx6)

New code (~600 lines, 12 files): tamago architecture specific functionality, mainly provides ARMv7 initialization functions and set Go heap arena size to available RAM:

```
rt0_tamago_arm.s (LOC: 20) sys_tamago_arm.s (LOC: 150) rand tamago.go (LOC: 20) os tamago arm.go (LOC: 270)
```

https://github.com/golang/go/compare/go1.15...f-secure-foundry:tamago1.15



TamaGo memory layout





Board packages and applications are free to override ramStart, ramSize, dmaStart and dmaSize if required.

mem.dmaStart + mem.dmaSize

Go runtime support



```
// the following variables must be provided externally
var ramStart uint32
var ramStackOffset uint32
var ramSize uint32
// the following functions must be provided externally
func hwinit()
func printk(byte)
func exceptionHandler()
func getRandomData([]byte)
func initRNG()
func nanotime1() int64
func mmuinit() {
          // Initialize page tables and map regions in privileged system area.
          // MMU initialization is required to take advantage of data cache.
          // http://infocenter.arm.com/help/index.jsp?topic=/com.arm.doc.faqs/ka13835.html
          // Define an empty L1 page table, the MMU is enabled only for caching to work.
          // The L1 page table is located 16KB after ramStart.
          llpageTableStart := ramStart + llpageTableOffset
          memclrNoHeapPointers(unsafe.Pointer(uintptr(llpageTableStart)), uintptr(llpageTableSize))
          dmb()
          set_ttbr0(unsafe.Pointer(uintptr(l1pageTableStart)))
```

Example of separation between Go runtime, SoC and board packages with pre-defined hooks using go:linkname.

```
package imx6ul

//go:linkname ramStart runtime.ramStart
var ramStart uint32 = 0x80000000

// ramSize defined in board package

//go:linkname ramStackOffset runtime.ramStackOffset
var ramStackOffset uint32 = 0x100
```

```
package usbarmory

//go:linkname ramSize runtime.ramSize
var ramSize uint32 = 0x200000000 // 512 MB

//go:linkname printk runtime.printk
func printk(c byte) {
    imx6.UART2.Write(c)
}
```



Go runtime support



```
os_tamago_arm.go (Go runtime)
//go:linkname syscall_now syscall.now
func syscall_now() (sec int64, nsec int32) {
         sec, nsec, _ = time_now()
                                  imx6.go (imx6 package)
//go:linkname nanotime1 runtime.nanotime1
func nanotime1() int64 {
         return int64(ARM.TimerFn() * ARM.TimerMultiplier)
                                  timer.s (arm package)
// func read_gtc() int64
TEXT ·read_gtc(SB),$0-8
         // Cortex™-A9 MPCore® Technical Reference Manual
         // 4.4.1 Global Timer Counter Registers, 0x00 and 0x04
         // p214, Table 2-1, ARM MP Global timer, IMX6DQRM
         MOVW $0x00a00204, R1
         MOVW $0x00a00200, R2
read:
         MOVW
                   (R1), R3
                   (R2), R4
         MOVW
                   (R1), R5
         MOVW
                   R5, R3
         BNE
                   R3, ret_hi+4(FP)
         MOVW
         MOVW
                   R4, ret_lo+0(FP)
         RET
```

A small set of low-level functions are integrated directly with Go Assembly.

This follows existing patterns in the Go runtime.

In the example ARM Generic Timers (ARM Cortex-A7) are used to support ticks and time related functions.

Overall initialization code accounts for less than 500 lines of code.



Go low level access



```
import "github.com/f-secure-foundry/tamago/internal/reg"
func setARMFreqIMX6ULL(hz uint32) (err error) {
         var div select uint32
         var arm podf uint32
         var uV uint32
         curHz := ARMFreq()
         // set bypass source to main oscillator
          reg.SetN(pll, CCM_ANALOG_PLL_ARM_BYPASS_CLK_SRC, 0b11, 0)
         // bypass
          reg.Set(pll, CCM_ANALOG_PLL_ARM_BYPASS)
          // set PLL divisor
          reg.SetN(pll, CCM_ANALOG_PLL_ARM_DIV_SELECT, 0b1111111, div_select)
          // wait for lock
          log.Printf("imx6_clk: waiting for PLL lock\n")
          reg.Wait(pll, CCM_ANALOG_PLL_ARM_LOCK, 0b1, 1)
          // remove bypass
          reg.Clear(pll, CCM_ANALOG_PLL_ARM_BYPASS)
          // set core divisor
          reg.SetN(cacrr, CCM_CACRR_ARM_PODF, 0b111, arm_podf)
          setOperatingPointIMX6ULL(uV)
```

Example: changing the i.MX6UL SoC ARM core clock frequency.

Go's unsafe can be easily identified to spot areas that require care (e.g. pointer arithmetic), it is currently used only in register and DMA memory manipulation primitives.

There are overall only 3 occurrences of unsafe used in dma and reg packages.

Applications are never required to use any unsafe function.



Go runtime support



```
//go:linkname syscall
func syscall(number, a1, a2, a3 uintptr) (r1, r2, err uintptr) {
          switch number {
          case 1: // SYS_WRITE
                    r1 := write(a1, unsafe.Pointer(a2), int32(a3))
                    return uintptr(r1), 0, 0
          default:
                    throw("unexpected syscall")
          return
//go:nosplit
func write(fd uintptr, buf unsafe.Pointer, count int32) int32 {
          if fd != 1 && fd != 2 {
                    throw("unexpected fd, only stdout/stderr are supported")
          c := uintptr(count)
          for i := uintptr(0); i < c; i++ {</pre>
                    p := (*byte)(unsafe.Pointer(uintptr(buf) + i))
                    printk(*p)
          return int32(c)
```

Only the write syscall is required for the overwhelming majority of basic runtime support.

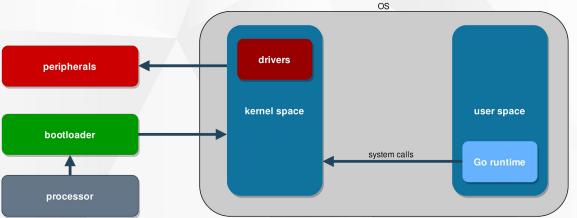
As shown before, printk is provided by the application to define method for writing on standard output (e.g. UART).

```
imx6_clk: changing ARM core frequency to 900 MHz
imx6_clk: changing ARM core operating point to 575000 uV
imx6_clk: 450000 uV -> 575000 uV
imx6_clk: waiting for PLL lock
imx6_clk: 396 MHz -> 900 MHz
imx6_soc: i.MX6ULL (0x65, 0.1) @ freq:900 MHz - native:true
```

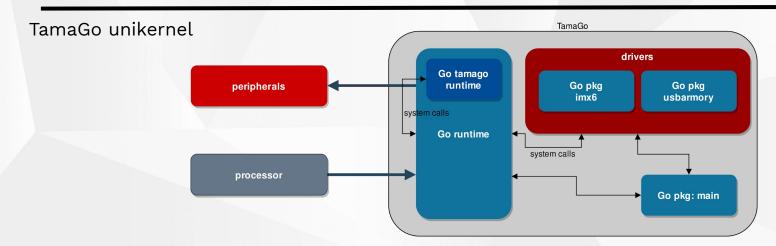


TamaGo





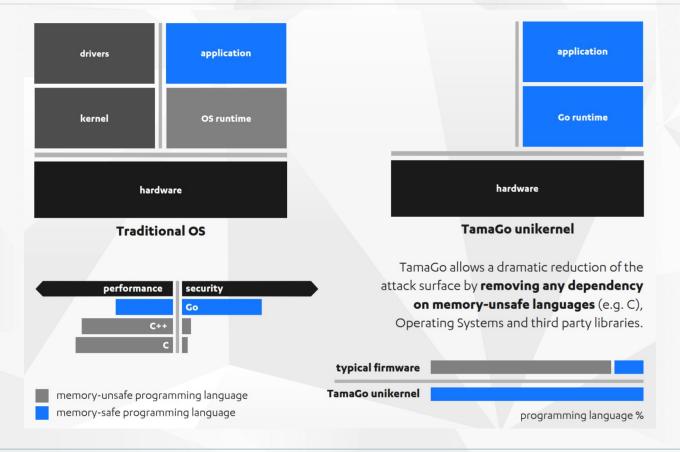
Traditional OS





Enabling trust







Developing, building and running



The full Go runtime is supported without any specific changes required on the application side (Rust on bare metal², for comparison, requires #! [no std] pragma).

```
package main
import (
          _ "github.com/f-secure-foundry/tamago/board/f-secure/usbarmory/mark-two"
func main() {
          // your code
```

```
GO EXTLINK ENABLED=0 CGO ENABLED=0 GOOS=tamago GOARM=7 GOARCH=arm \
 ${TAMAGO} build -ldflags "-T 0x80010000 -E rt0 arm tamago -R 0x1000"
```

```
=> ext2load mmc $dev:1 0x90000000 tamago.elf
=> bootelf -p 0x90000000
```

Examples shown for USB armory Mk II / i.MX6ULZ.

- 1. The application requires a single import for the board package to enable necessary initializations.
- 2. Go code can be written with very few limitations and the imx6 package can be used for any SoC specific driver operation.
- 3. go build can be used as usual (reproducible builds!) with few linker flags to define entry point.
- The resulting ELF binary can be 4a. passed to a bootloader (e.g U-Boot).
- 4b. The imx6 package supports imximage creation for native loading (no bootloader required!).



i.MX6ULZ driver: Data Co-Processor (DCP)



The DCP provides hardware accelerated crypto functions and use of the SoC unique OTPMK key for device unique encryption/decryption operations. The driver takes ~230 LOC.

```
workPacket := WorkPacket{}
workPacket.Control0 |= (1 << DCP_CTRL0_OTP_KEY)</pre>
workPacket.Control1 |= (AES128 << DCP_CTRL1_CIPHER_SELECT)</pre>
workPacket.Control1 |= (CBC << DCP_CTRL1_CIPHER_MODE)</pre>
workPacket.Control1 |= (UNIQUE_KEY << DCP_CTRL1_KEY_SELECT)</pre>
workPacket.BufferSize = uint32(len(diversifier))
workPacket.SourceBufferAddress = dma.Alloc(diversifier, 0)
defer dma.Free(workPacket.SourceBufferAddress)
workPacket.DestinationBufferAddress = dma.Alloc(key, 0)
defer dma.Free(workPacket.DestinationBufferAddress)
workPacket.PayloadPointer = dma.Alloc(iv, 0)
defer dma.Free(workPacket.PayloadPointer)
buf := new(bvtes.Buffer)
binary.Write(buf, binary.LittleEndian, &workPacket)
pkt := dma.Alloc(buf.Bytes(), 0)
defer dma.Free(pkt)
reg.Write(HW_DCP_CH0CMDPTR, pkt)
reg.Set(HW_DCP_CH0SEMA, 0)
```

```
diversifier := []byte{0xde, 0xad, 0xbe, 0xef}
iv := make([]byte, aes.BlockSize)

key, err := imx6.DCP.DeriveKey(diversifier, iv)
```

```
-- i.mx6 dcp
imx6_dcp: derived test key 75f9022d5a867ad430440feec6611f0a

USB armory Mk II example DCP + SNVS run (w/ Secure Boot)

-- i.mx6 dcp
imx6_dcp: error, SNVS unavailable, not in trusted or secure state

USB armory Mk II example DCP + SNVS run (w/o Secure Boot)
```

Note that Go defined structs (such as WorkPacket) can be easily made C-compatible¹ if required.



i.MX6ULZ driver: Random Number Generator



The RNGB provides a hardware True Random Number Generator, useful to gather the initial seed on embedded systems without a battery backed RTC (and not much else²). The driver takes ~140 LOC and is hooked as provider for crypto/rand.

```
var getRandomDataFn func([]byte)
//go:linkname getRandomData runtime.getRandomData
func getRandomData(b []byte) {
          getRandomDataFn(b)
func (hw *rngb) getRandomData(b []byte) {
          read := 0
          need := len(b)
          for read < need {
                    if reg.Get(hw.status, HW_RNG_SR_ERR, 0x1) != 0 {
                              panic("imx6_rng: panic\n")
                    if reg.Get(hw.status, HW_RNG_SR_FIFO_LVL, 0xf) > 0 {
                              val := *hw.fifo
                              read = fill(b, read, val)
```

USB armory Mk II example TRNG run



¹ https://media.ccc.de/v/32c3-7441-the plain simple reality of entropy

i.MX6ULZ driver: USB



```
func buildDTD(n int, dir int, ioc bool, addr uint32, size int) (dtd *dTD) {
         dtd = &dTD{}
          // interrupt on completion (ioc)
         if ioc {
                    bits.Set(&dtd.Token, 15)
         } else {
                    bits.Clear(&dtd.Token, 15)
          // invalidate next pointer
         dtd.Next = 0b1
          // multiplier override (Mult0)
         bits.SetN(&dtd.Token, 10, 0b11, 0)
          // active status
         bits.Set(&dtd.Token, 7)
         // total bytes
         bits.SetN(&dtd.Token, 16, 0xffff, uint32(size))
         dtd. buf = addr
         dtd. size = uint32(size)
          for n := 0; n < DTD_PAGES; n++ {</pre>
                    dtd.Buffer[n] = dtd._buf + uint32(DTD_PAGE_SIZE*n)
         buf := new(bytes.Buffer)
         binary.Write(buf, binary.LittleEndian, dtd)
         dtd._dtd = dma.Alloc(buf.Bytes()[0:DTD_SIZE], DTD_ALIGN)
          return
```

Example of Endpoint Transfer Descriptor (dTD) configuration.

A custom DMA allocator is used to copy structures on memory reserved for DMA operation, with required alignements.

```
addr = dma.Alloc(buf, align)
defer dma.Free(addr)
```

Buffers can be also reserved by the application to spare re-allocation (automatic detection of slices already in DMA memory).

Using Go goroutines, channels, mutexes, interfaces freely in low level drivers is a delight!

All in ~1000 LOC!



i.MX6ULZ driver: USB networking



```
func configureEthernetDevice(device *usb.Device) {
         // Supported Language Code Zero: English
         device.SetLanguageCodes([]uint16{0x0409})
         // device descriptor
         device.Descriptor = &usb.DeviceDescriptor{}
         device.Descriptor.SetDefaults()
         device.Descriptor.DeviceClass = 0x2
         device.Descriptor.VendorId = 0x0525
         device.Descriptor.ProductId = 0xa4a2
         device.Descriptor.Device = 0 \times 0001
         device.Descriptor.NumConfigurations = 1
          iManufacturer, _ := device.AddString(`TamaGo`)
         device.Descriptor.Manufacturer = iManufacturer
          iProduct, _ := device.AddString(`RNDIS/Ethernet Gadget`)
         device.Descriptor.Product = iProduct
          iSerial, := device.AddString(`0.1`)
         device.Descriptor.SerialNumber = iSerial
         // device qualifier
         device.Qualifier = &usb.DeviceQualifierDescriptor{}
         device.Qualifier.SetDefaults()
         device.Qualifier.DeviceClass = 2
         device.Qualifier.NumConfigurations = 2
```

```
func configureECM(device *usb.Device) {
          conf.Interfaces = append(conf.Interfaces, iface)
          ep1IN := &usb.EndpointDescriptor{}
          ep1IN.SetDefaults()
          eplIN.EndpointAddress = 0x81
          ep1IN.Attributes = 2
          ep1IN.MaxPacketSize = 512
          ep1IN.Function = ECMTx
          iface.Endpoints = append(iface.Endpoints, eplIN)
          ep10UT := &usb.EndpointDescriptor{}
          ep10UT.SetDefaults()
          ep10UT.EndpointAddress = 0x01
          ep10UT.Attributes = 2
          ep10UT.MaxPacketSize = 512
          ep10UT.Function = ECMRx
          iface.Endpoints = append(iface.Endpoints, ep10UT)
```

Example USB Ethernet (CDC ECM) driver integrated with Google netstack (gvisor.dev/gvisor/pkg/tcpip) for pure Go networking.

```
func ECMTx( []byte, lastErr error) (in []byte) {
         // gvisor tcpip channel link
          pkt := <-link.C:
          // Ethernet frame header
          in = append(in, hostMAC...)
          in = append(in, deviceMAC...)
          in = append(in, proto...)
          // packet header
          in = append(in, hdr...)
          // payload
          in = append(in, payload...)
          return
func ECMRx(out []byte, lastErr error) ([]byte) {
          pkt := tcpip.PacketBuffer{
                    LinkHeader: hdr,
                                payload,
                    Data:
          // gvisor tcpip channel link
          link.InjectInbound(proto, pkt)
          return
```

Developed in less than 2 hours and ~150 LOC.



i.MX6ULZ driver: uSDHC (MMC/SD)



```
// p351, 35.4.5 SD card initialization flow chart, IMX6FG
// p57, 4.2.3 Card Initialization and Identification Process, SD-PL-7.10
func (hw *USDHC) initSD() (err error) {
          var arg uint32
          var bus width uint32
          var mode uint32
          var root clk uint32
          var clk int
          var tune bool
          if hw.LowVoltage == nil {
                    hw.card.Rate = HS MBPS
          } else if hw.card.Rate >= SDR50_MBPS {
                    if err = hw.voltageSwitchSD(); err != nil {
                              hw.card.Rate = HS MBPS
          // CMD2 - ALL SEND CID - get unique card identification
          if err = hw.cmd(2, READ, arg, RSP_136, false, true, false, 0); err != nil {
                    return
          // CMD3 - SEND_RELATIVE_ADDR - get relative card address (RCA)
          if err = hw.cmd(3, READ, arg, RSP_48, true, true, false, 0); err != nil {
                    return
. . .
```

The uSDHC driver supports read/write operation on MMC/SD with speeds up to HS200 and SDR104 respectively.

All in ~1000 LOC!

It is used by armory-ums to allow export of the USB armory Mk II internal eMMC card as USB mass storage devices to ease firmware flashing.

In combination with packages such as go-ext4 it allows filesystem access (see armory-boot).



Demo

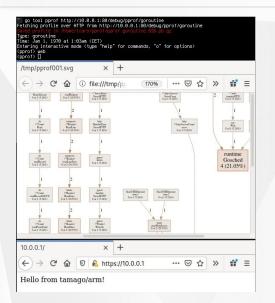


```
example $ make clean && make gemu
GO_EXTLINK_ENABLED=0 CGO_ENABLED=0 GOOS=tamago GOARM=7 GOARCH=arm /mnt/git/public/tamago-go/bin/go build -ldflags "-T 0x80010000 -E _rt0_arm_tamago -R 0x1000"
Hello from tamago/arm! (epoch 899072000)
launched 6 test goroutines
-- btc ------
Script Hex: 76a914128004ff2fcaf13b2b91eb654b1dc2b674f7ec6188ac
Script Disassembly: OP_DUP OP_HASH160 128004ff2fcaf13b2b91eb654b1dc2b674f7ec61 OP_EQUALVERIFY OP_CHECKSIG
Script Class: pubkeyhash
Addresses: [12gpXQVcCL2ghTNQgyLVdCFG2Qs2px98nV]
Required Signatures: 1
Transaction successfully signed
-- file ------
read /tamago-test/tamago.txt (22 bytes)
-- timer -----
waking up timer after 100ms
woke up at 171120352 (93.738512ms)
sleeping 100ms
  slept 100ms (100.223056ms)
-- rng ------
a4da1f2b0d400650c26b3b51d32d2e4b10fdd11809d0e3560e8258182fd4237a
-- ecdsa ------
ECDSA sign and verify with p224 ... done (133.080912ms)
ECDSA sign and verify with p256 ... done (59.179904ms)
completed 6 goroutines (772.217728ms)
-- memory allocation (9 runs) -----
1440 MB allocated (Mallocs: 3166 Frees: 2530 HeapSys: 171868160 NumGC:45)
Goodbye from tamago/arm (2.172031504s)
exit with code 0 halting
```



Debugging







GDB can be used as usual, on emulated (QEMU) targets or real ones (JTAG).

On networked targets, such as the USB armory, the pprof package can be used as usual for tracing.

```
Breakpoint 1, main.main () at /mnt/git/public/tamago-example/example.go:286
     31354 main.main+0 ldr r1, [r10, #8]
      31358 main.main+4 cmp
3135c main.main+8 bls
                              sp, r1
      1360 main.main+12 str lr, [sp, #-60]
                                                   0x00000000
                                                                                      0x00000000
                8×88888888
                                                                                      0x00000000
               8×86888888
                                                   0x00000000
               0×10101105
               8×88888888
                                                   0x000000000000000000
                0×000000000
                                                   0x00000000
                                                                                      0x00000000
                                                   0x00000000
                                                                                      0x00000000
               0×000000000
                                                   0x00000000
                                                                                      0x000000000
                                                                                      0x00000000
               TestUSDHC(card, count, readSize)
    func main() (
       start := time.Now()
       log.Println(banner)
  1 from 0x80431354 in main.main+0 at /mnt/git/public/tamago-example/example.go:206
 11 id 1 from 0x80431354 in main.main+0 at /mnt/git/public/tamago-example/example.go:206
```



Example applications: GoKey



The GoKey application implements a composite USB OpenPGP 3.4 smartcard and FIDO U2F token, written in pure Go (~2500¹ LOC).

It allows to implement a radically different security model for smartcards, taking advantage of TamaGo to safely mix layers and protocols not easy to combine.

For instance authentication can happen over SSH instead of plaintext PIN transmission over USB.

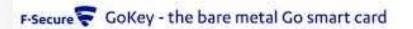
	Trust anchor	Data protection	Runtime	Application	Requires tamper proofing	Encryption at rest
traditional smartcard	flash protection	flash protection	JCOP	JCOP applets	Yes	No
USB armory with GoKey	secure boot	SoC security element	TamaGo	Go application	No	Yes

```
rsa4096 rsa4096 rsa4096
                 05EC DEB4 43FA 5C01 9C7A 51A2 E9C8 5194 3E46 C2B5
                 656B E354 EE12 BFFB 988B 1607 556B 9659 5A2C D776
rsa4096/556B96595A2CD776 created: 2020-04-03 expires: 2022-04-03
                           card-no: F5EC D209320C
     rsa4096/E9C851943E46C2B5 created: 2020-04-03 expires: 2022-04-03
                            card-no: F5EC D2093200
    rsa4096/2EB31B5E996EE83D created: 2020-04-03 expires: 2022-04-03
GoKey • tamago/arm (gol.14) • 0330e82 user@host on 2020-04-09 07:42:11 • 1.MX6ULL
                            # gather 32 bytes from TRNG via crypto/rand
                            # display card status
                            # key unlock, prompts decryption passphrase
closing ssh connection
gpg: encrypted with 4096-bit RSA key, ID 556B96595A2CD776, created 2020-04-03
```



Demo: GoKey





MANUFACTURE ACCURATION with had mostly the flown induced of the tild of the parish, Supran blood. he cares for you?" hate \$2006, cake had grown he had ball able by fell heed a "may be called that a your of second?" ny ita-amin'ny ny taona ny taona mandrina ny taona 2008. Ny kaominina dia kaominina ny taona ao ao ao ao ao ao Ny taona mpikambana ny taona ny taona ny taona ny taona mandrina mandrina ny taona ny taona ny taona ny taona ed, her could expend her, and held, "It was a nation from more, many partially," but one but he at one one of a partial head for the last one of the partial head from the second Free had made in common memor? Unit Africa, must less traffe her autores, de latte un elle mission memore et est, alle blesse les his bay sector, on addit year as also tady may, however, but must selver mann, badating the saiding own, and beauting at 1000 Ordy, the discount of 1920s blanch blacket, but have made the 192 bush was cleaned and her bear, and the bright asset if made 1970s for the 1970s and 1970s for the 1970s to begin the first of the first of the first of the first to be first to the first the first of the first to with the suppose or empty are this case. Only independent of the standard in the standard in the suppose of the standard in th Figure 1 and the second second



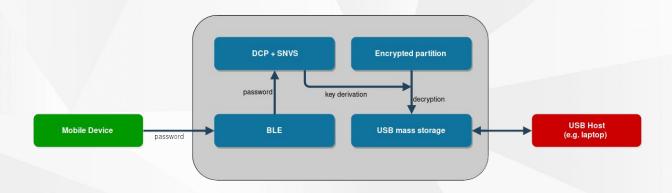
Example applications: USB Mass Storage



The armory-ums application implements a USB Mass Storage device to expose the USB armory Mk II internal eMMC and external uSD cards to any host for read/write operations.

It consists of ~350 LOC of pure Go code.

It is the foundation of our upcoming encrypted storage solution.





Demo: disk encryption







Example applications: armory-boot



A primary signed boot loader (~300 LOC) to launch authenticated Linux kernel images on secure booted¹ USB armory boards, replacing U-Boot.

```
func boot(kernel []byte, dtb []byte, cmdline string) {
          dma.Init(dmaStart, dmaSize)
          mem, _ := dma.Reserve(dmaSize, 0)
          dma.Write(mem, kernel, kernelOffset)
          dma.Write(mem, dtb, dtbOffset)
          image := mem + kernelOffset
          params := mem + dtbOffset
          arm.ExceptionHandler(func(n int) {
                    if n != arm.SUPERVISOR {
                              panic("unhandled exception")
                    usbarmory.LED("blue", false)
                    usbarmory.LED("white", false)
                    imx6.RNGB.Reset()
                    imx6.ARM.InterruptsDisable()
                    imx6.ARM.CacheFlushData()
                    imx6.ARM.CacheDisable()
                    exec(image, params)
          })
          svc()
```

```
func verifySignature(bin []byte, s []byte) (valid bool, err error) {
          sig, err := DecodeSignature(string(s))
          if err != nil {
                    return false, fmt.Errorf("invalid signature, %v", err)
          pub, err := NewPublicKey(PublicKeyStr)
          if err != nil {
                    return false, fmt.Errorf("invalid public key, %v", err)
          return pub.Verify(bin, sig)
func verifyHash(bin []byte, s string) bool {
         h := sha256.New()
          h.Write(bin)
          if hash, err := hex.DecodeString(s); err != nil {
                    return false
          return bytes.Equal(h.Sum(nil), hash)
```



Performance

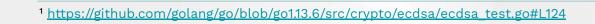


Go code runs (expectedly) with identical, or improved, speed compared to the same code executed under a full blown OS.

TamaGo drivers operates comparably to their Linux counterparts, no serious overhead is present and anyway absolute performance is not a main focus of the effort, which remains security oriented.

Go ECDSA testsuite ¹	TamaGo	Linux	
ECDSA sign+verify p224	115 ms	116 ms	
ECDSA sign+verify p256	48 ms	46 ms	
ECDSA sign+verify p384	1.85 s	1.89 s	
ECDSA sign+verify p521	3.48 s	3.60 s	
AES-128-CBC encryption w/ DCP	TamaGo	OpenSSL (cryptodev)	Linux userspace (AF_ALG)
65536 blocks for 10s	6143	4501	3138
4096 blocks for 10s	60985	56465	6578

Go standard libraries run with comparable performance, while TamaGo hardware drivers highlight increased performance.





Current limitations



The TamaGo runtime is single threaded therefore:

- avoid¹ tight loops without function calls
- avoid deadlocks (e.g. do not sleep in main() if nothing else is happening)

Packages/applications which rely on unsupported system calls do not compile (e.g. terminal prompt packages that require <code>syscall.SYS_IOCTL</code>), though usually such packages do not make sense in the context of OS-less unikernel operations.

Importing libraries that require cgo can only be done with internal linking, integrating C code with cgo is possible as long as such code is free standing.

There is no OS, there are no users, there are no signals, there are no environment variables. This is a feature, not a bug.

With the exception of few limitations² Go is surprisingly adept to run on bare metal.



¹ or just force runtime. Gosched

² https://github.com/f-secure-foundry/tamago/wiki/Internals#go-application-limitations

Applications and future



TamaGo imx6 package supports a variety of i.MX6 SoC drivers such as DCP, RNGB, UART, USB, GPIO, USDHC (SD/MMC). Initial Raspberry Pi support is also available.

TamaGo lays out the foundation for development of pure Golang
HSMs,
cryptocurrency wallets,
authentication tokens,
TrustZone secure monitors,
and much more...

It is our policy to keep comments and references (document title and page number) for all low level interactions within drivers.

TamaGo source code is a great tool to learn low level SoC development!



What have we¹ learned?



Bare metal applications can play a big role in the future of secure embedded systems and can be built by **reducing complexity**.

We feel the need for a paradigm shift and think there is no place for C code in complex drivers or applications anymore.

Go is a language that, among others, can definitely play a role in this.

To achieve trust we proved that Go distribution modifications can be minimal to achieve bare metal execution.

We completely **killed C**².

It's all about enabling choice and building trust.



¹ "We" as in the authors, but maybe the audience as well.



Repository: https://github.com/f-secure-foundry/tamago

Documentation: https://github.com/f-secure-foundry/tamago/wiki

API: http://pkg.go.dev/github.com/f-secure-foundry/tamago

Q & A

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