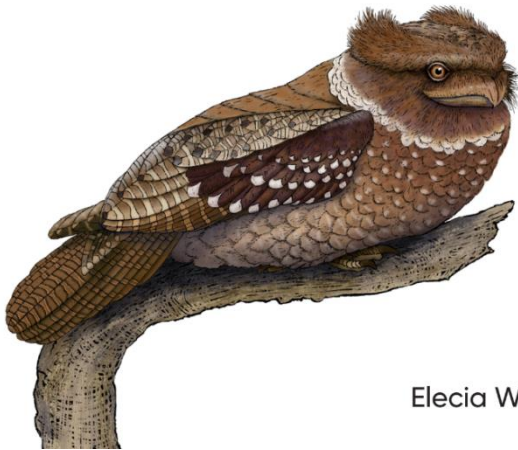


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Making Embedded Systems

Design Patterns for Great Software



Elecia White

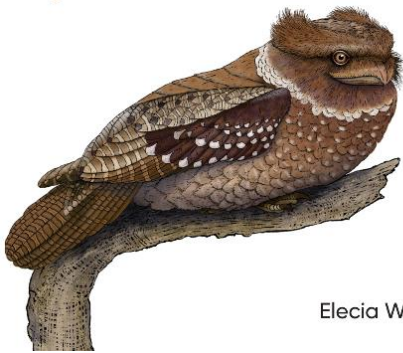
Second
Edition

Introduction to Embedded Systems

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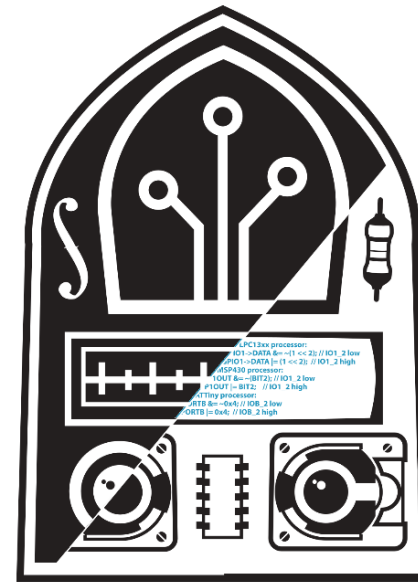
Making Embedded Systems

Design Patterns for Great Software



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Logical Elegance, Inc

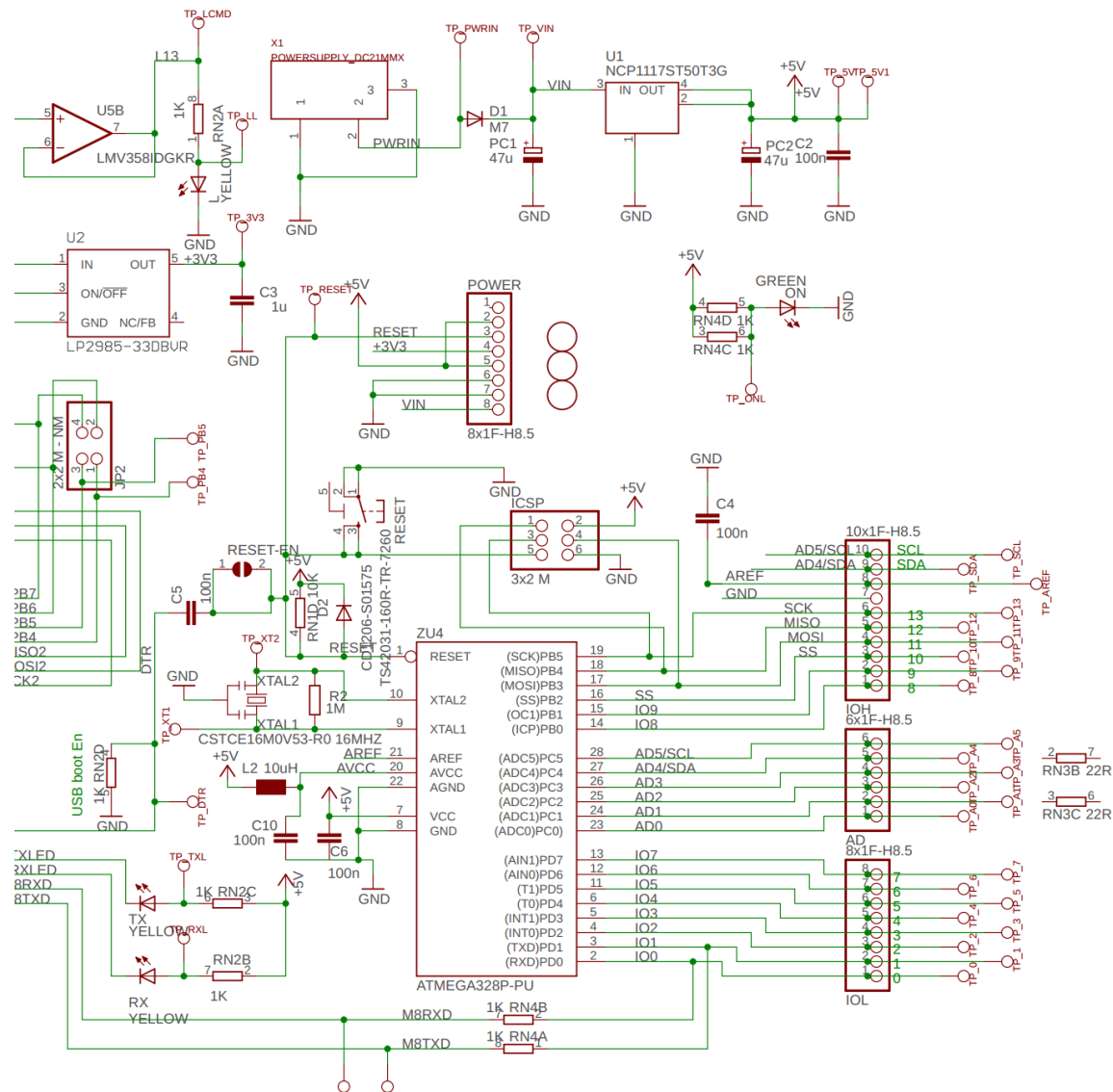
About Me

What Is an Embedded System?





Embedded Software: CS or EE?



Touching Hardware

Talking to the Processor

8.5.6 GPIO port output data register (GPIOx_ODR) (x = A to I)

Address offset: 0x14

Reset value: 0x0000 0000

31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16
Res.	Res.	Res.	Res.	Res.	Res.	Res.	Res.	Res.	Res.	Res.	Res.	Res.	Res.	Res.	Res.
15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
OD15	OD14	OD13	OD12	OD11	OD10	OD9	OD8	OD7	OD6	OD5	OD4	OD3	OD2	OD1	OD0
rw	rw	rw	rw	rw	rw	rw	rw	rw	rw	rw	rw	rw	rw	rw	rw

Bits 31:16 Reserved, must be kept at reset value.

Bits 15:0 **OD[15:0]**: Port output data I/O pin y (y = 15 to 0)

These bits can be read and written by software.

If you want to set a bit in a register, OR it with the register:

```
register = register | bit;  
register = register | (1 << 3); // turn on the 3rd bit in the register  
register |= 0x08;                // same, different syntax
```

```
*((uint32_t*) 0x80000014) |= 1 << 2; // set pin A2 high
```

STM32F103 processor

```
GPIOA->ODR |= (1 << 2);    // IOA_2 high
```

MSP430 processor

```
P1OUT |= BIT2;             // IO1_2 high
```

ATtiny processor

```
PORTB |= 0x4;              // IOB_2 high
```

Setting Registers

Bitwise operation	Meaning	Syntax	Examples
AND	If both of the two inputs have a bit set, the output will as well.	&	0x01 & 0x02 = 0x00 0x01 & 0x03 = 0x01 0xF0 & 0xAA = 0xA0
OR	If either of the two inputs has a bit set, the output will as well.		0x01 0x02 = 0x03 0x01 0x03 = 0x03 0xFF 0x00 = 0xFF
XOR	If only one of the two inputs has a bit set, the output will as well.	^	0x01 ^ 0x02 = 0x03 0x01 ^ 0x03 = 0x02 0xAA ^ 0xF5 = 0x5F
NOT	Every bit is set to its opposite.	~	~0x01 = 0xFE ~0x00 = 0xFF ~0x55 = 0xAA

```
test = register & bit;           // test a bit
test = register & (1 << 3);      // check 3rd bit
test = register & 0x08;         // same, different syntax
```

```
register = register | bit;       // set or turn on a bit
register = register | (1 << 3);  // turn on the 3rd bit
register |= 0x08;                // same, different syntax
```

```
register = register ^ bit;       // toggle a bit using XOR
register = register ^ (1 << 3);  // toggle 3rd bit
register ^= 0x08;                // same, different syntax
```

```
register = register & ~bit;      // clear or turn off a bit
register = register & ~(1 << 3); // turn off the 3rd bit
register &= ~0x08;               // same, different syntax
```

Manipulating Bits

Binary	Hex	Decimal	Remember this number
0000	0	0	This one is easy.
0001	1	1	This is (1 << 0).
0010	2	2	This is (1 << 1). Shifting is the same as multiplying by $2^{\text{shiftValue}}$.
0011	3	3	Notice how in binary this is just the sum of one and two.
0100	4	4	(1 << 2) is a 1 shifted to the left by two zeros.
0101	5	5	This is an interesting number because every other bit is set.
0110	6	6	See how this looks like you could shift the three over to the left by one? This could be put together as ((1 << 2) (1 << 1)), or ((1 << 2) + (1 << 1)), or, most commonly, (3 << 1).
0111	7	7	Look at the pattern of binary bits. They are very repetitive. Learn the pattern, and you'll be able to generate this table if you need to.
1000	8	8	(1 << 3). See how the shift and the number of zeros are related? If not, look at the binary representation of 2 and 4.
1001	9	9	We are about to go beyond the normal decimal numbers. Because there are more digits in hexadecimal, we'll borrow some from the alphabet. In the meantime, 9 is just 8 + 1.
1010	A	10	This is another special number with every other bit set.
1011	B	11	See how the last bit goes back and forth from 0 to 1? It signifies even and odd.
1100	C	12	Note how C is just 8 and 4 combined in binary? So of course it equals 12.
1101	D	13	The second bit from the right goes back and forth from 0 to 1 at half the speed of the first bit: 0, then 0, then 1, then 1, then repeat.
1110	E	14	The third bit also goes back and forth, but at half the rate of the second bit.
1111	F	15	All of the bits are set. This is an important one to remember.

See [Wikipedia Bitwise Operations](#)

volatile Keyword

A **volatile** variable may change asynchronously.

Used for registers and variables shared with interrupts.

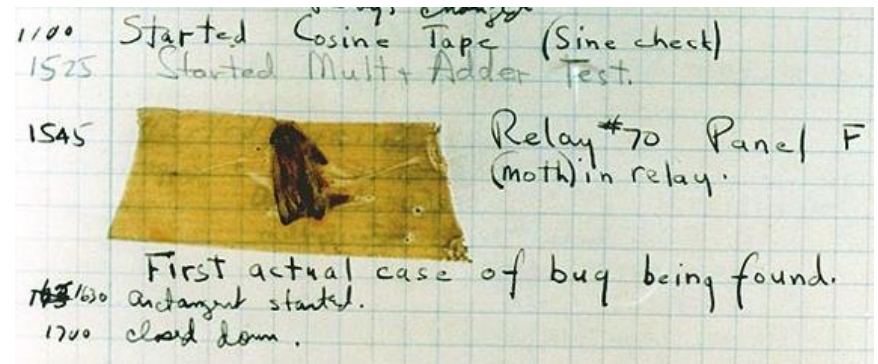
```
volatile uint32_t *reg;
reg = GPIO_REGISTER_ADDRESS;
*reg |= IO_RESET_LINE; // set reset line high
DelayMs(50);
*reg &= ~IO_RESET_LINE; // set reset line low
```

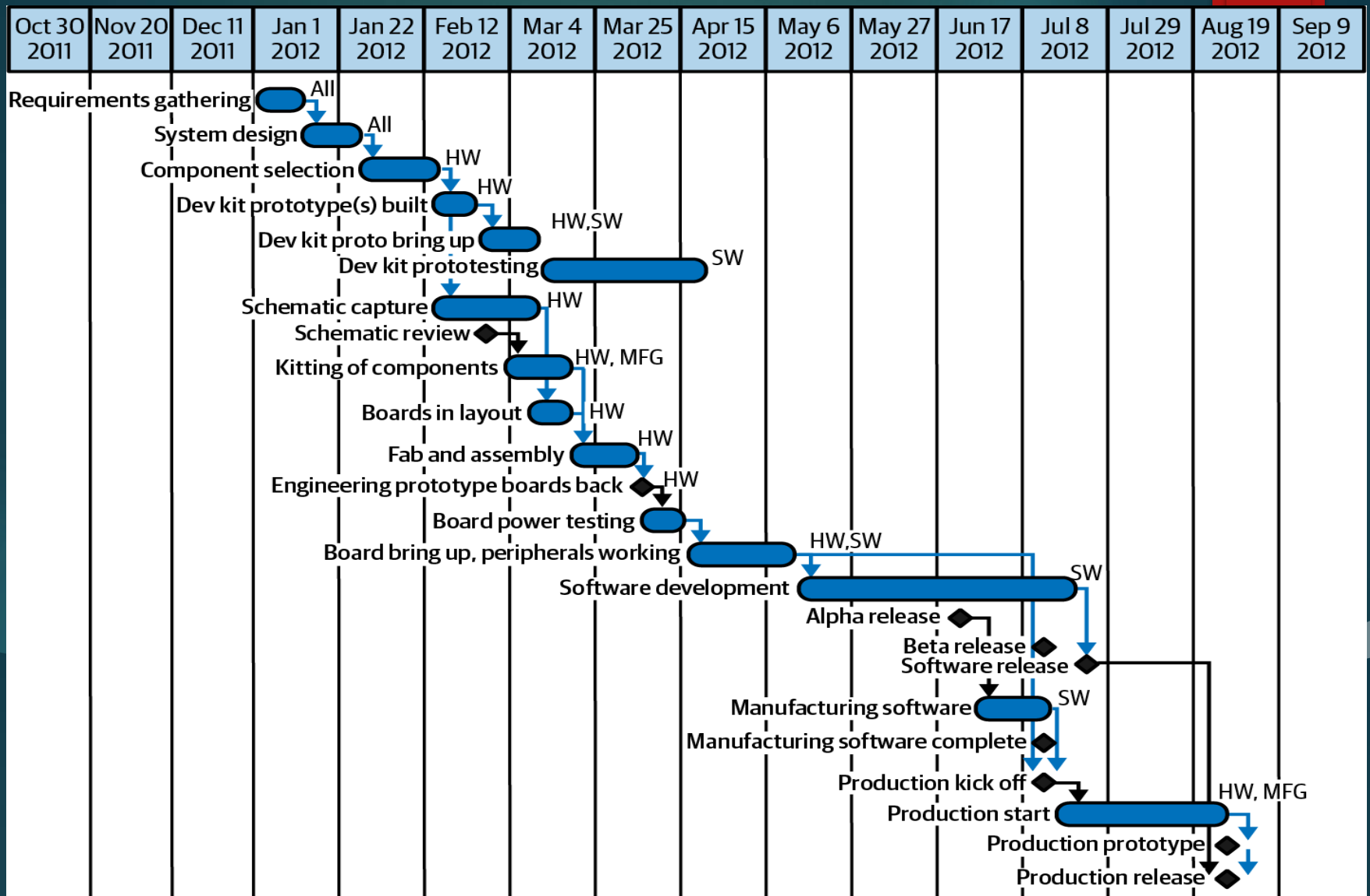
```
volatile tBoolean gFeedChicken= FALSE; // global variable set by the interrupt
                                         // handler, which is cleared by normal
                                         // code when event handled

void TIM2_IRQHandler(void){
    __disable_irq();           // disallow nesting of interrupts
    gFeedChicken = TRUE;
    __enable_irq();
}
```

Software and Hardware Bugs

While Admiral Grace Hopper was working on a Mark II Computer at Harvard University in 1947, her associates discovered a moth stuck in a relay and thereby impeding operation, whereupon she remarked that they were "debugging" the system.

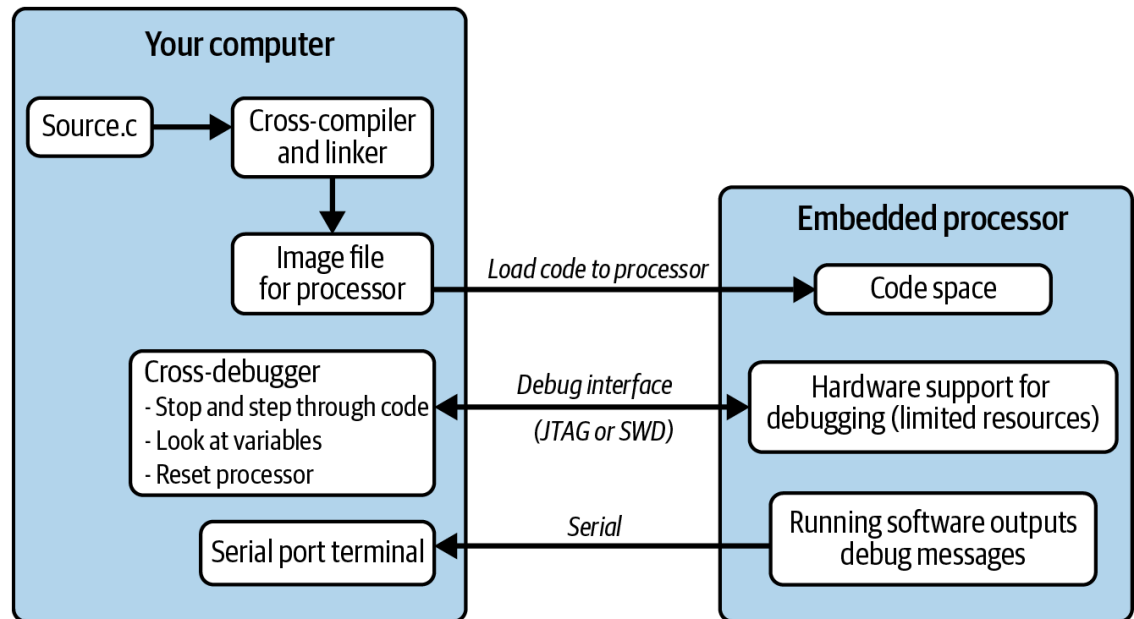


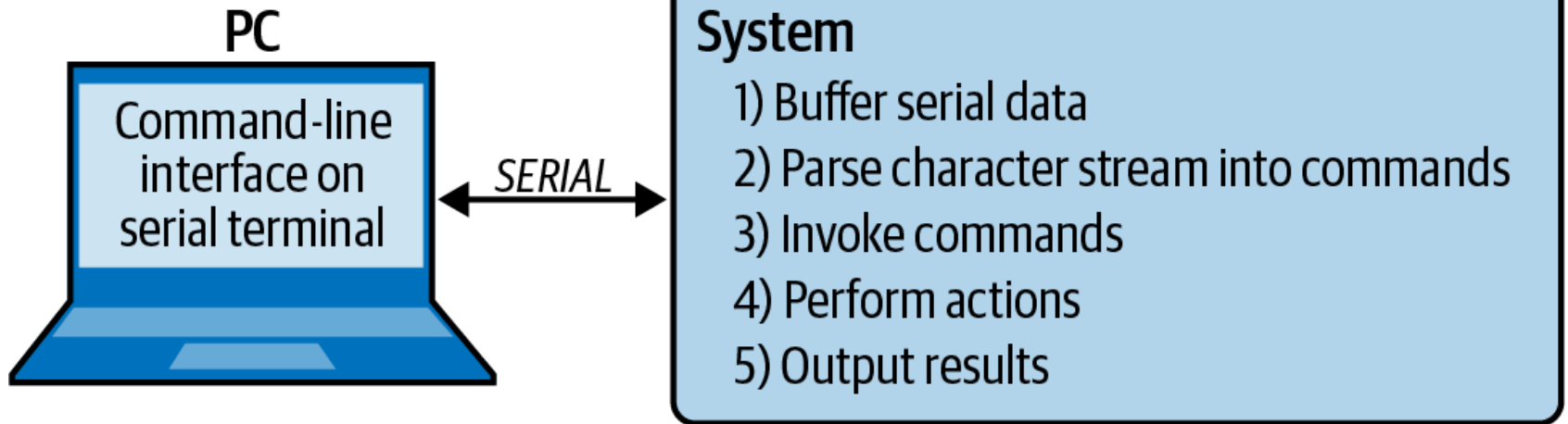


Scheduling Dependencies

The Device Is Not Your Computer

- ▶ **Cross-compiler** creates code for a processor different from what it is running on
- ▶ **Cross-debugger** (aka “jay-tag”) debugs the remote processor
 - Stop and step through code
 - Look at variables
 - Reset processor
- ▶ **Serial ports** are generally used for logging and command line interfaces (CLIs)





Debugging via `printf`

Testing Each Piece of the Device

Application

Processing

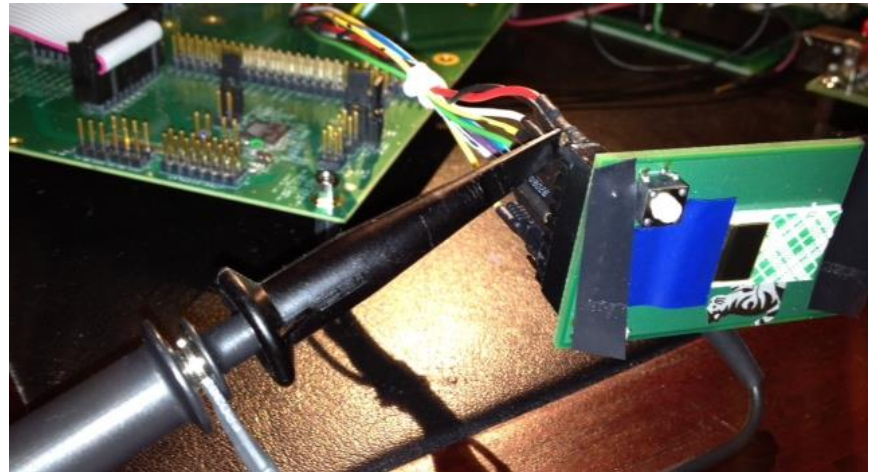
Image collection

SPI driver

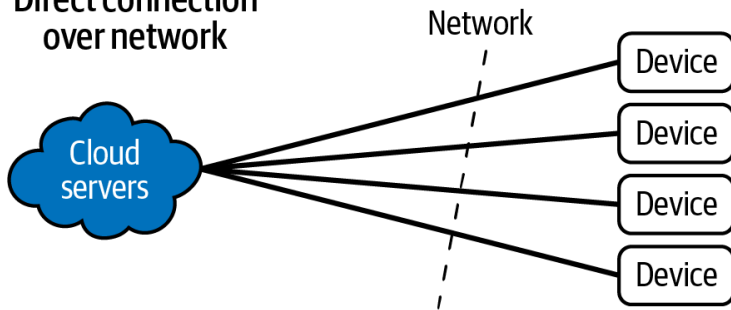
SPI wires

ADC

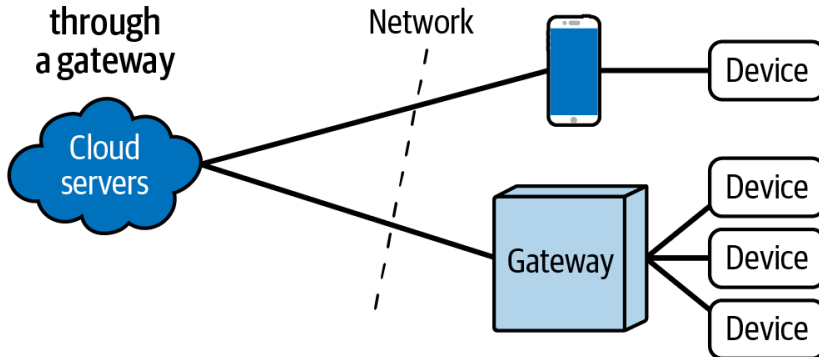
Sensor



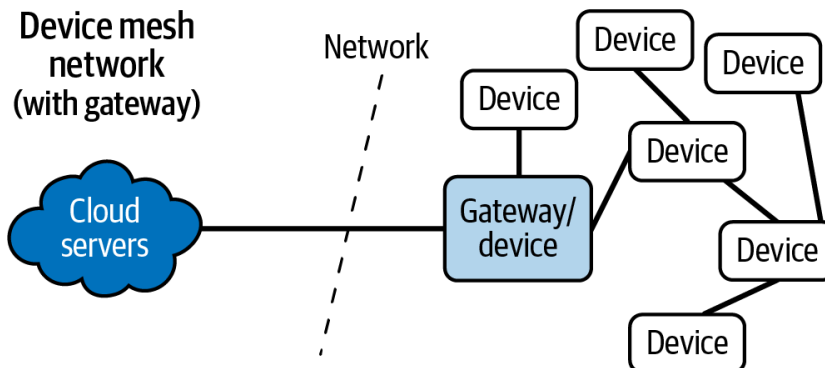
Direct connection
over network



Connected
through
a gateway



Device mesh
network
(with gateway)



Device Networks

Debugging the System



Is it powered?
(Really?)



Is it running the
code you think?
(Really?)



Can you test only
that part of the
system?



Did you check
the **errata** for the
part?



Have you
described how
the behavior is
different from
what you want?



Is it intermittent?
Timing error |
Uninitialized
variable | Need
volatile keyword
| Stack problems



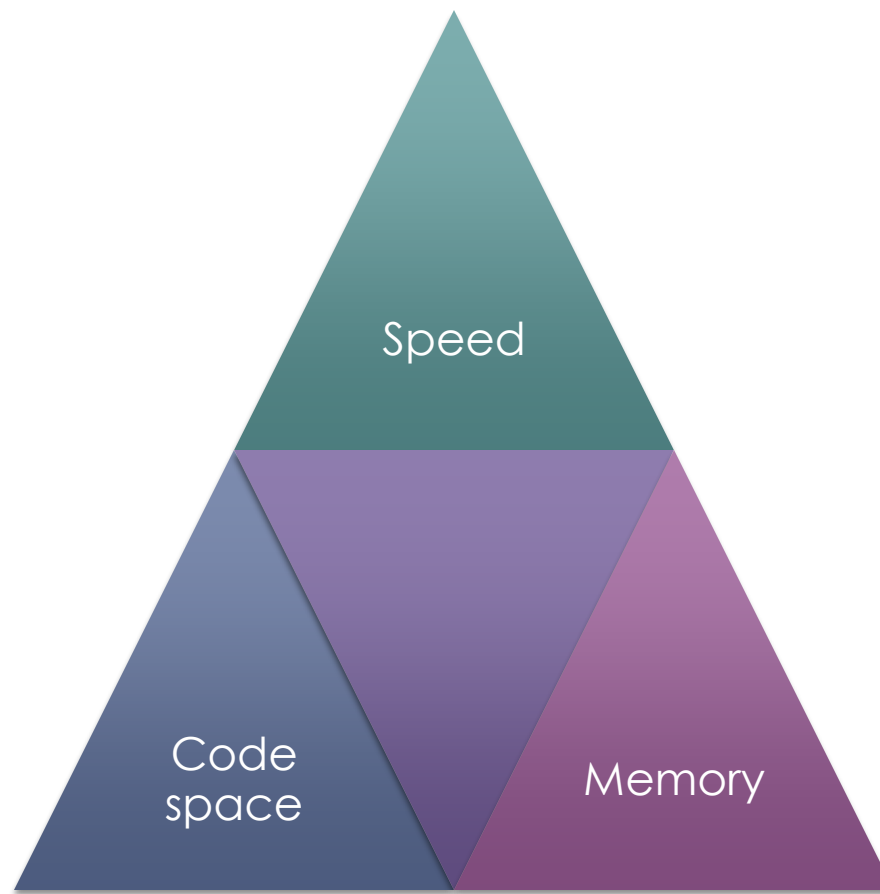
Can you turn
optimizations off
and see if it still
happens?



Have you looked
at the **map file**?



In case of
emergency:
ground loop?
cosmic rays?



Resource Constraints

Optimization

"We should forget about small efficiencies, say about 97% of the time: premature optimization is the root of all evil. Yet we should not pass up our opportunities in that critical 3%. A good programmer will not be lulled into complacency by such reasoning, he will be wise to look carefully at the critical code; but only after that code has been identified" — [Donald Knuth](#)

"More computing sins are committed in the name of efficiency (without necessarily achieving it) than for any other single reason — including blind stupidity." — [W.A. Wulf](#)

"Bottlenecks occur in surprising places, so don't try to second guess and put in a speed hack until you have proven that's where the bottleneck is." — [Rob Pike](#)

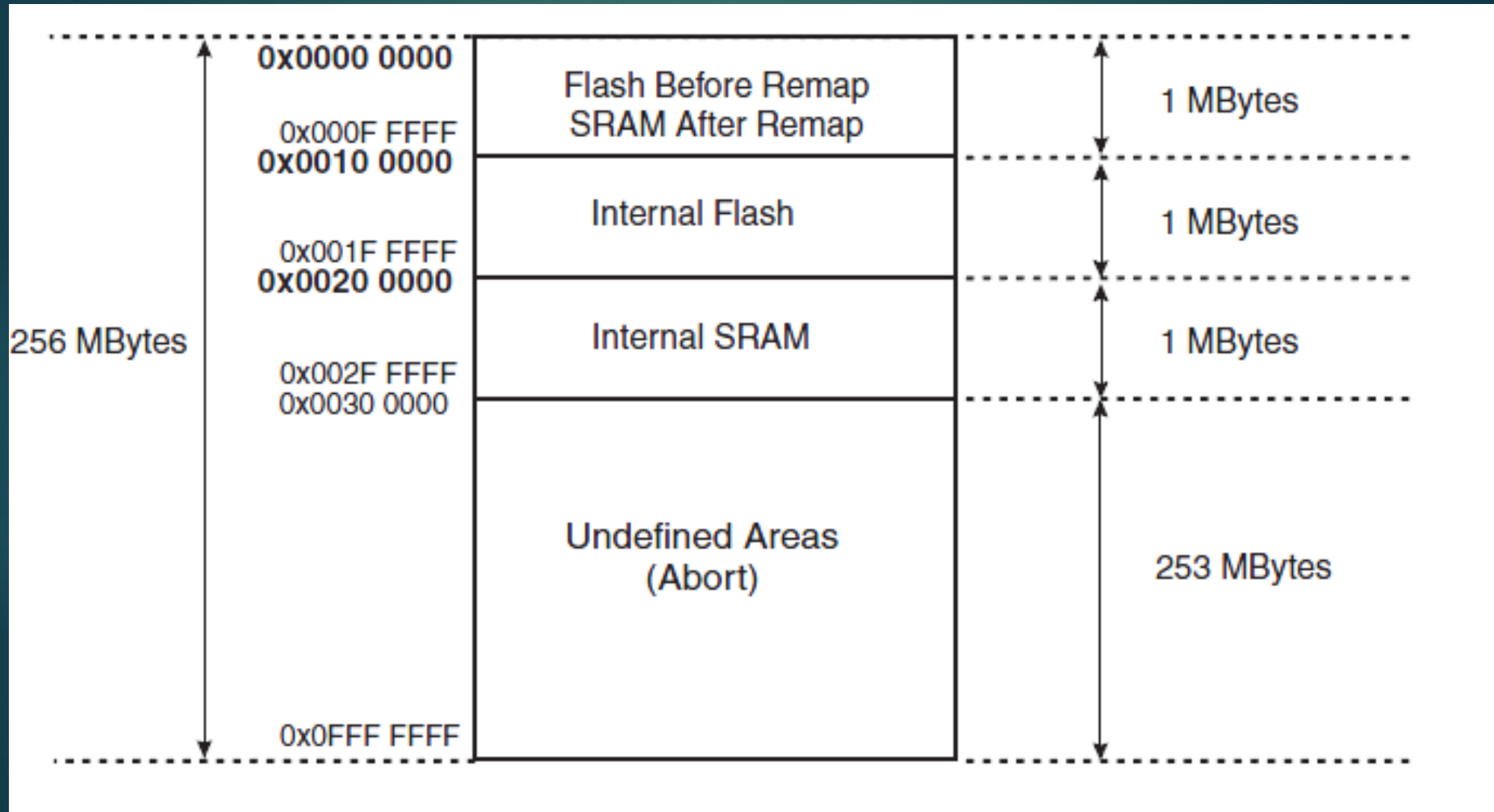
"The First Rule of Program Optimization: Don't do it. The Second Rule of Program Optimization (for experts only!): Don't do it yet." — [Michael A. Jackson](#)



Speed

- ▶ Power requirements
- ▶ Cost
- ▶ Required peripherals
- ▶ Processor
- ▶ Co-processor(s)
- ▶ Memory speed
- ▶ Non-processor memory transfers (DMA)
- ▶ Compiler optimizations

Memory (RAM)



Allocating common symbols	Common symbol	size	file
	gNewFirmwareVersion	0x6	./src/firmwareVersion.o

Memory Configuration			
Name	Origin	Length	Attributes
Flash	0x00000000	0x00008000	xr
RAM	0x10000000	0x00002000	xrw
default	0x00000000	0xffffffff	

.text.Initialize	0x0000037c	0x7c	./src/main.o
	0x0000037c		Initialize
.text.main	0x000003f8	0xb4	./src/main.o
	0x000003f8		main

.section.functionName	address	size	file
	address		functionName

.text.__aeabi_ldiv0	0x00006c6c	0x4	../lib/gcc/arm-none-eabi/4.3.3/thumb2/libcr_eabihelpers.a(rtlb.o)
	0x00006c6c		__aeabi_ldiv0
.text.__bhs_ldivmod	0x00006ec0	0x20c	../lib/gcc/arm-none-eabi/4.3.3/thumb2/libcr_eabihelpers.a(rtlb.o)
	0x00006ec0		__bhs_ldivmod

Code Space (ROM, Flash, MRAM)

Take-aways

- ▶ Embedded systems involve hardware. It is a separate discipline from software and most people have big gaps in their knowledge.
- ▶ Processors are like languages, with their own finicky syntax (registers, bit manipulation, volatiles).
- ▶ Debugging an embedded system means identifying issues as hardware or software and then figuring out how to capture them. Designing for testability is critical.
- ▶ Hardware generally needs to be as cheap as possible which means software doesn't have as much RAM, code space and processing speed as it would like. Sometimes these resources can be traded for each other, but it makes embedded software fragile.



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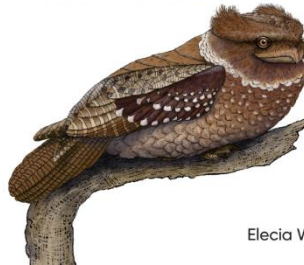


- + Chapter 1. Introduction
- + Chapter 2. Creating a System Architecture
- + Chapter 3. Getting Your Hands on the Hardware
- + Chapter 4. Inputs, Outputs, and Timers
- + Chapter 5. Interrupts
- Chapter 6. Managing the Flow of Activity
 - + Scheduling and Operating System Basics
 - + State Machines
 - Watchdog
 - + Main Loops
 - Further Reading
- + Chapter 7. Communicating with Peripherals
- + Chapter 8. Putting Together a System
- + Chapter 9. Getting into Trouble
- Chapter 10. Building Connected Devices
 - + Connecting Remotely
 - + Robust Communication
 - + Updating Code
 - Managing Large Systems
 - Manufacturing
 - Further Reading
- + Chapter 11. Doing More with Less
- + Chapter 12. Math
- + Chapter 13. Reducing Power Consumption
- + Chapter 14. Motors and Movement

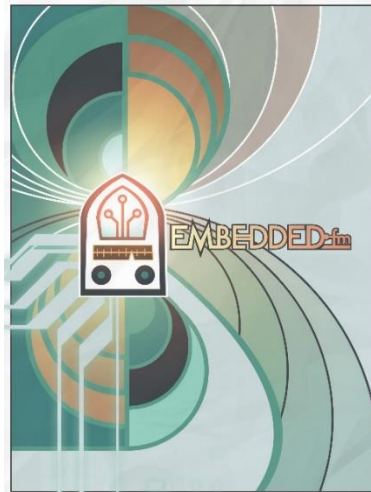
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Elecia White



Thank you!

The background features a complex arrangement of 3D geometric shapes. Several tall, narrow cones in shades of teal and blue are scattered across the scene. A prominent, thick, curved band in a deep purple or magenta color winds through the center, creating a sense of depth and movement. The lighting is soft, casting subtle shadows and highlighting the edges of the shapes. The overall color palette is cool and modern, with a gradient from dark blue at the top to lighter teal at the bottom.

Bonus Slides

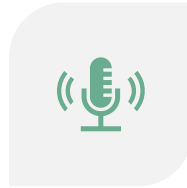
What else do you want to know?



[Making Embedded Systems, 2nd Edition](#)



github.com/eleciawhite/making-embedded-systems Slides for this talk are in the Presentations folder.



[Embedded.fm](https://embedded.fm) is a podcast about engineering, art, education, and technology.



[Buried Treasure and Map Files](#) is my presentation about memory map files.



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Resources

What's New in the 2nd Edition?

- ▶ New chapters include:
 - ▶ Interrupts
 - ▶ There is this whole thing with a chicken pressing a button
 - ▶ Managing the Flow of Activity
 - ▶ How to set up your main loop
 - ▶ Getting into Trouble (debugging)
 - ▶ Motors and Movement
- ▶ Architecture diagrams section overhaul
- ▶ Bootloaders changed to covering whole IoT systems (Building Connected Device)
- ▶ Updated information (more HALs)
- ▶ New figures!

+	Chapter 1. Introduction
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+	Chapter 5. Interrupts
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