
Embedded Operating Systems

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Outline

- 1. Introduction to Embedded Operating Systems**
- 2. Examples of Embedded Operating Systems**
- 3. Multitasking without OS Support**

Definition of Embedded OS

☐ OSes used in embedded systems

- Past embedded systems did not use operating systems, but implemented in firmware
- Modern embedded systems are adopting operating systems

☐ Main requirements on embedded OS

- Small size requirement for limited resources
- Real-time services
- Predictability

Why OS in Embedded Systems?

☐ Technical aspects

- Multitasking
- Networking and communications
- Storage and memory management
- Protection and security
- GUI

☐ Economic aspects

- Time-to-market
- Low NRE (non-recurring engineering) cost
- Maintenance cost
 - 40% - 80% in the software lifecycle

Typical Embedded Operating Systems

☐ RTOS

- VxWorks, QNX, pSOS, VRTX, Nucleus, WinCE

☐ Mobile OS

- iOS, Android, Tizen, WinCE, Symbian, PalmOS

☐ Open general purpose OS

- Linux, Solaris 10, FreeBSD, eCOS

☐ DSP OS

- ARC/MQX, DSP/BIOS

☐ Others

- TinyOS (smart sensor), Nachos (education), Xinu (education),
- IOS (Internetwork OS, Cisco routers)
- ThreadX (peripherals)

Commercial RTOSes

❑ Commercial RTOSes

- QNX, VxWorks, pSOS, VRTX, Nucleus

❑ Features

- **Multithreading, real-time synchronization and POSIX APIs**
- **Lightweight kernel**
 - Even scaled down to fit in the ROM of the system
- **Modularized structure**
 - Minimum kernel + service components
- **Responsiveness**
 - Minimal interrupt and switching latency

RTOS does not mean “fast”

- RTOS adds runtime overheads
- Slightly slower performance than OS-less systems

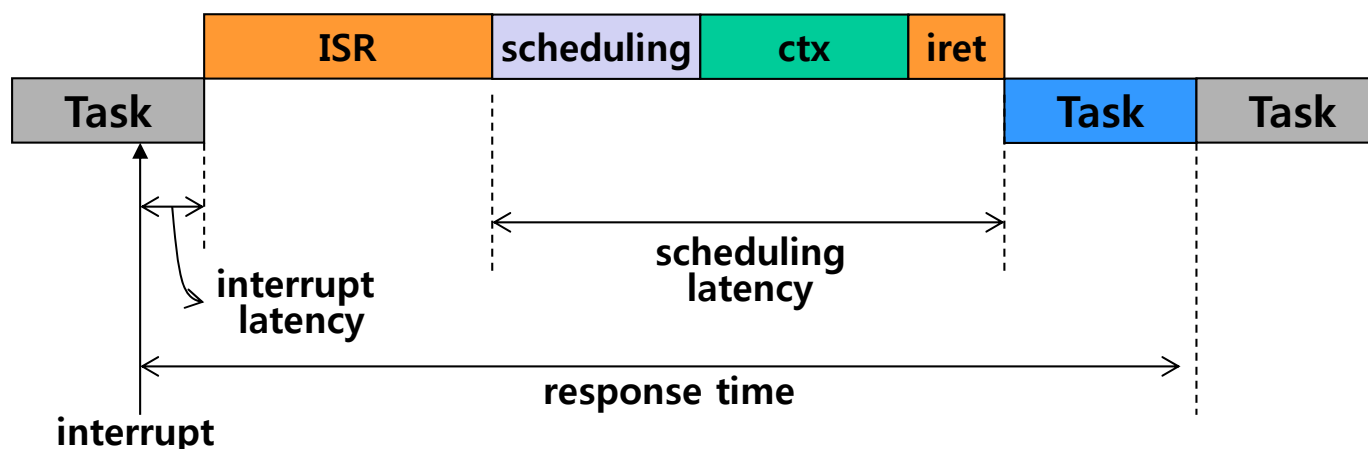
RTOS does mean “deterministic”

- Guarantees “worst case” times
- Better performance than GPOS

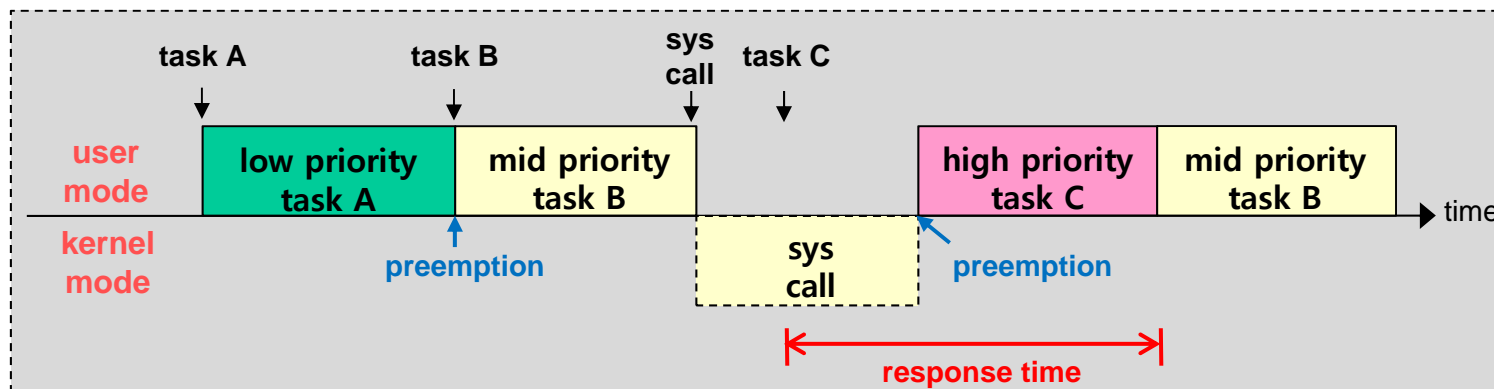
Timing Guarantees from RTOS

□ Key requirements

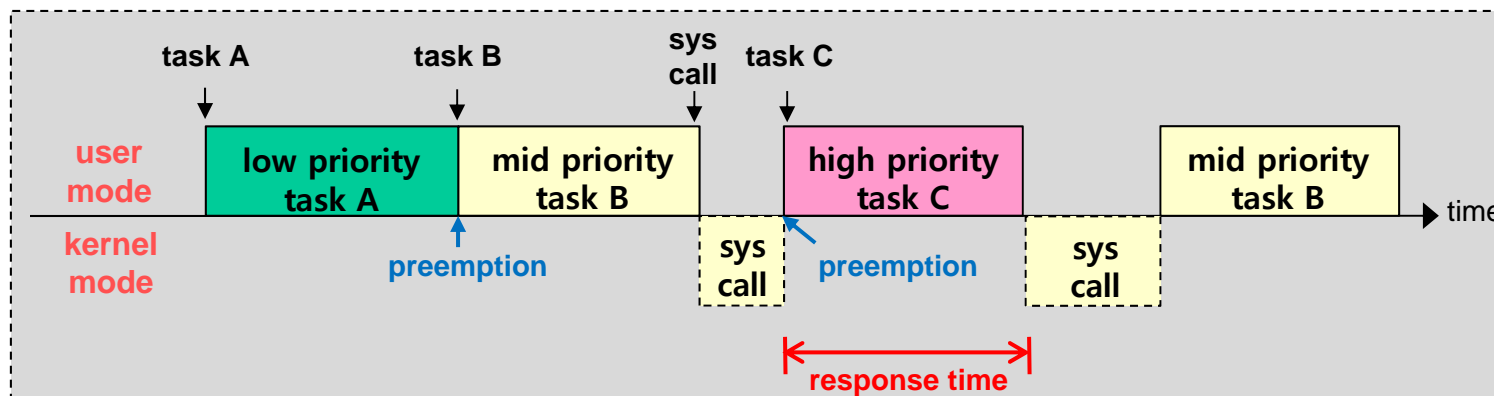
- **Fully preemptive priority-based scheduling**
 - High priority tasks preempt low ones
- **Bounded latency**
 - eg.) interrupt off time $< \alpha$ and scheduling latency $< \beta$



Partially Preemptive vs. Fully Preemptive



system call task preemptive X
-> real time scheduling 가



Monolithic Kernel vs. Microkernel

portability 가

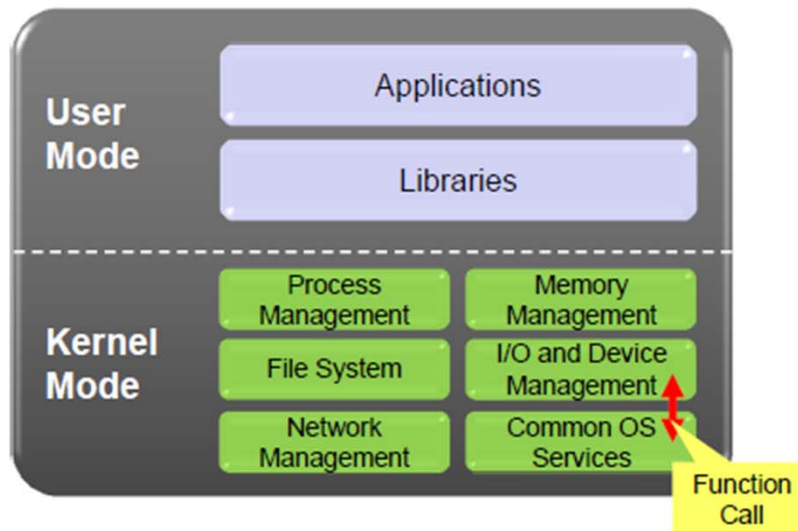
가

monolithic
real time
80

rtos

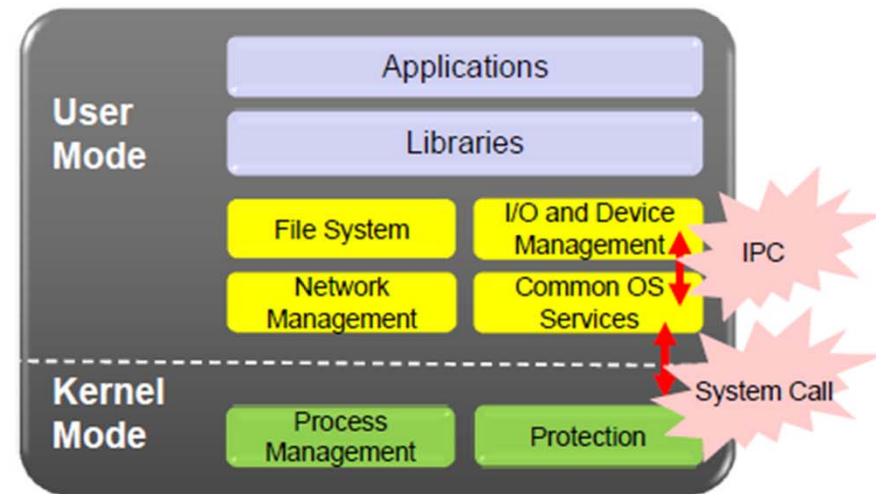
, micro kernel

Monolithic Kernel



- Every kernel functionality runs in kernel mode
 - Better Performance
 - E.g., UNIX, Linux, MS Windows 9x
- OS

Microkernel



- Most kernel functionality runs in user mode except only the elementary functions
- Better extensibility and modularity
- E.g., MINIX, L4, QNX

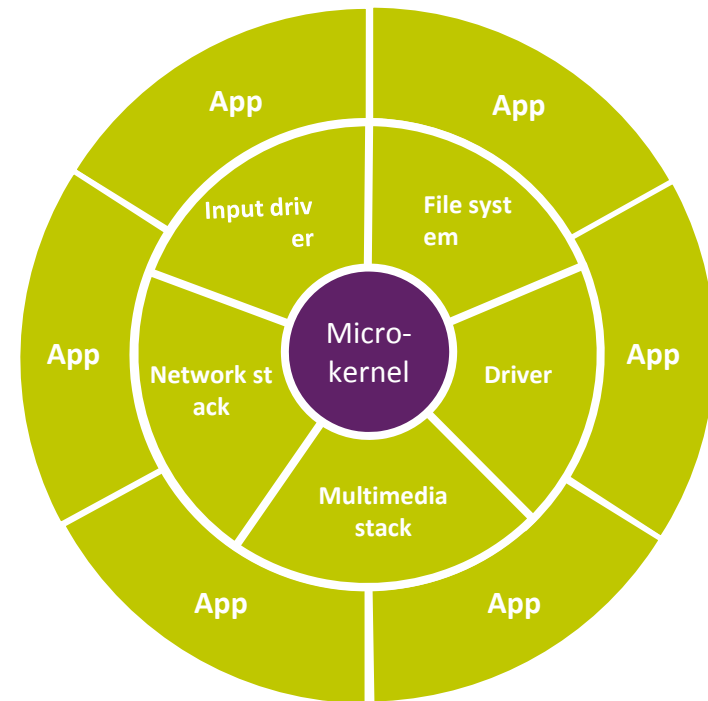
QNX Neutrino RTOS

❑ Microkernel structure

- Moves as much from the kernel into “*user*” space

❑ Rich features

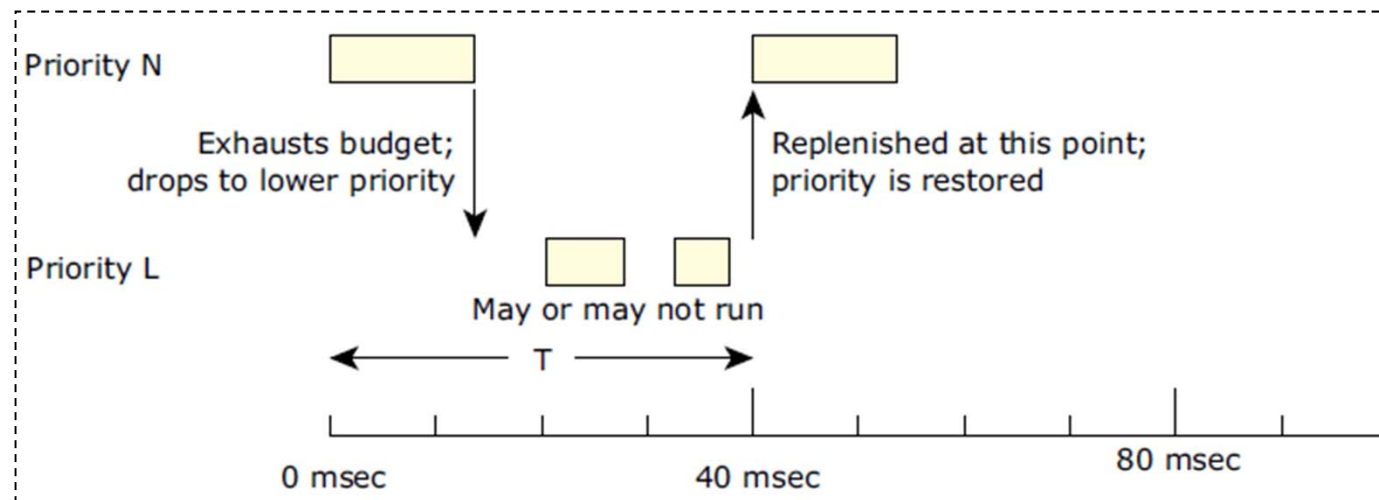
- Momentics C/C++ IDEs
- Photon microGUI
- HMI's such as HTML5 and Qt
- Multimedia and acoustics support
- Mobile connectivity framework and navigation



QNX Support for Sporadic Scheduling

□ Scheduling of real-time periodic tasks

- Initial budget: the amount of time a task is allowed to run
- Replenishment period: the period of task execution



QNX High Availability Manager

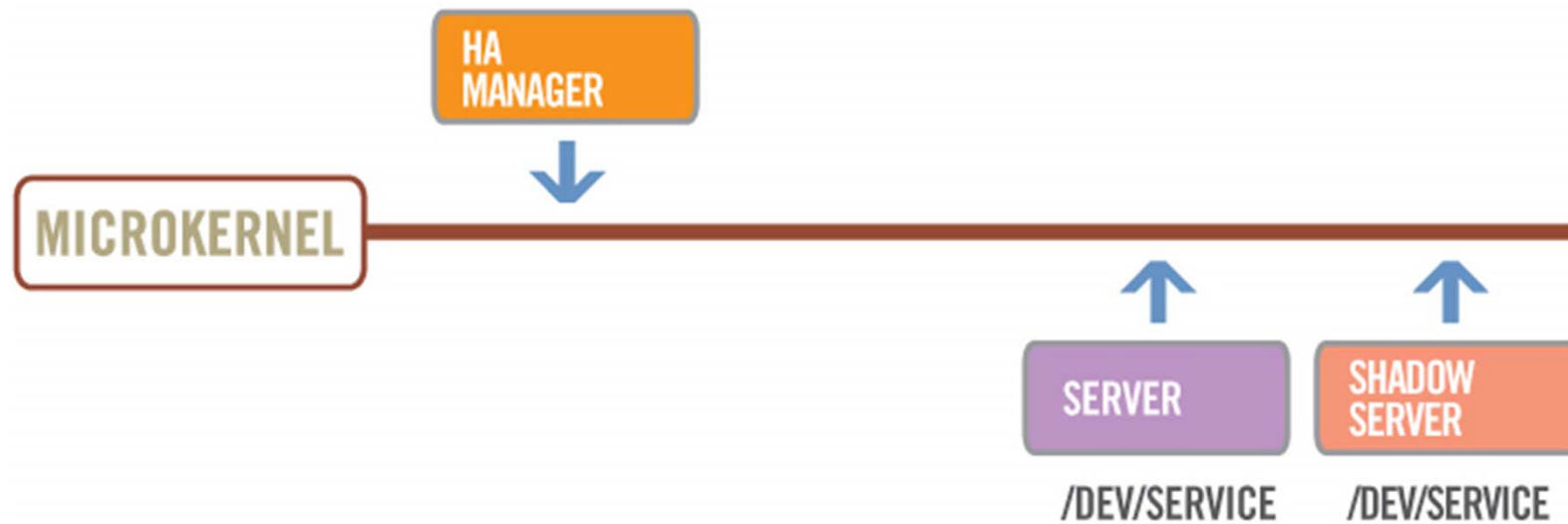
❑ HAM (High Availability Manager)

- Monitor tasks and services (smart watchdog)
- Perform multistage recovery

❑ HAM Hierarchy

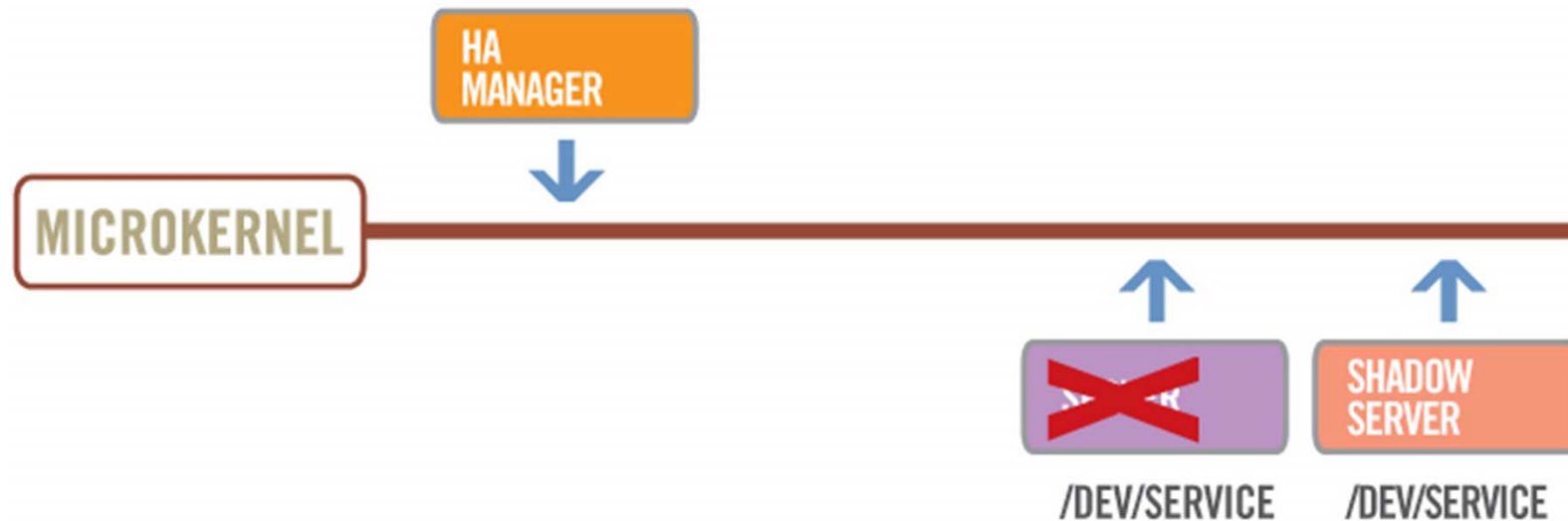
- **Entities**
 - Units of observation and monitoring
- **Conditions**
 - Represent entity states
- **Actions**
 - Executed when the appropriate conditions are true with respect to a specific entity

HAM Example



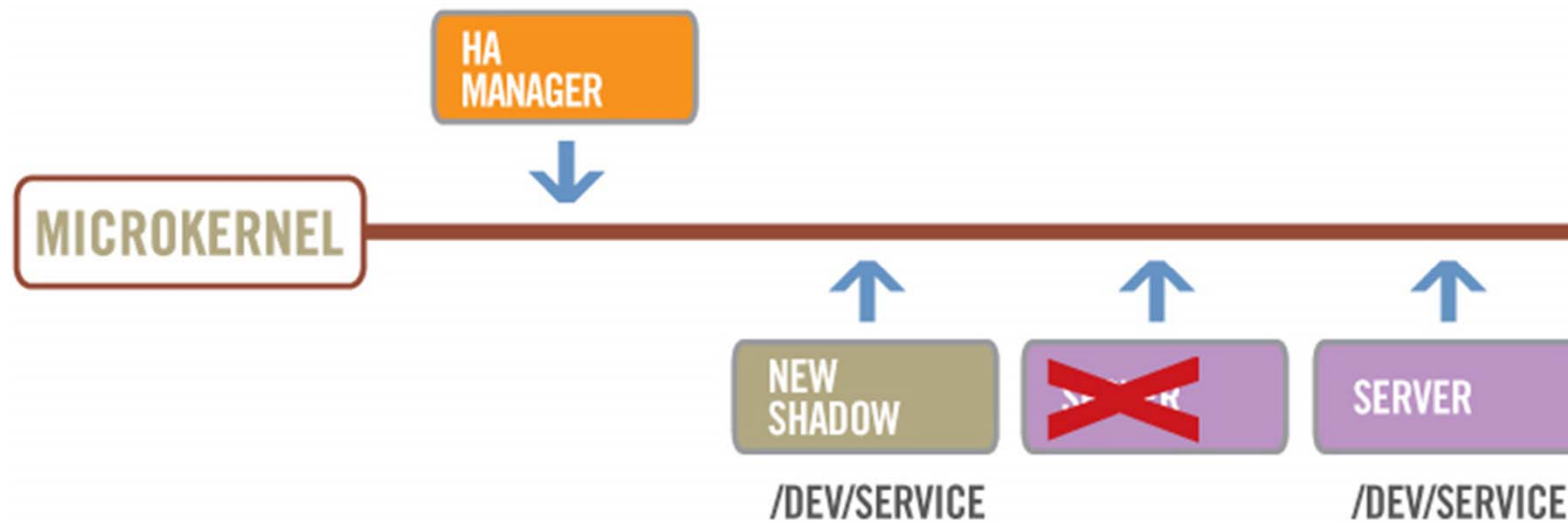
- ❑ A second “shadow” server runs

HAM Example



- ❑ A second “shadow” server runs
- ❑ If a fault occurs, new clients use the shadow server

HAM Example



❑ Start a new “shadow” server

QNX Certification

- ❑ Several certified variants for use in products with high criticality and low tolerance for failure

safety
rtos
rtos

(

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가

,

IEC6150 ()

ISO26262 ()

ASIL -

. DO-178B ()

Operating System	Certification/Compliance
QNX OS for Automotive	ISO 26262 ASIL D
QNX OS for Medical	IEC 62304
QNX OS for Safety and Security	Common Criteria ISO/IEC 15408 Evaluation Assurance Level (EAL) 4+ and IEC 61508 Safety Integrity Level 3 (SIL 3)
QNX OS for Security	Common Criteria ISO/IEC 15408 Evaluation Assurance Level (EAL) 4+
QNX OS for Safety	IEC 61508 Safety Integrity Level 3 (SIL 3)

Linux for Real-Time?

- ❑ **Linux is a general purpose OS**

- Aimed at high performance and stability

- ❑ **Old Linux did not support**

- Full preemption and bounded latency

- ❑ **Current Linux supports**

- ✓ **Deterministic scheduler (SCHED_FIFO and EDF)**
- ✓ **Priority inheritance mutexes**
- ✓ **Lockable memory (disabling demand paging)**
- ✓ **High resolution timers**

? **Bounded latency inside the kernel**

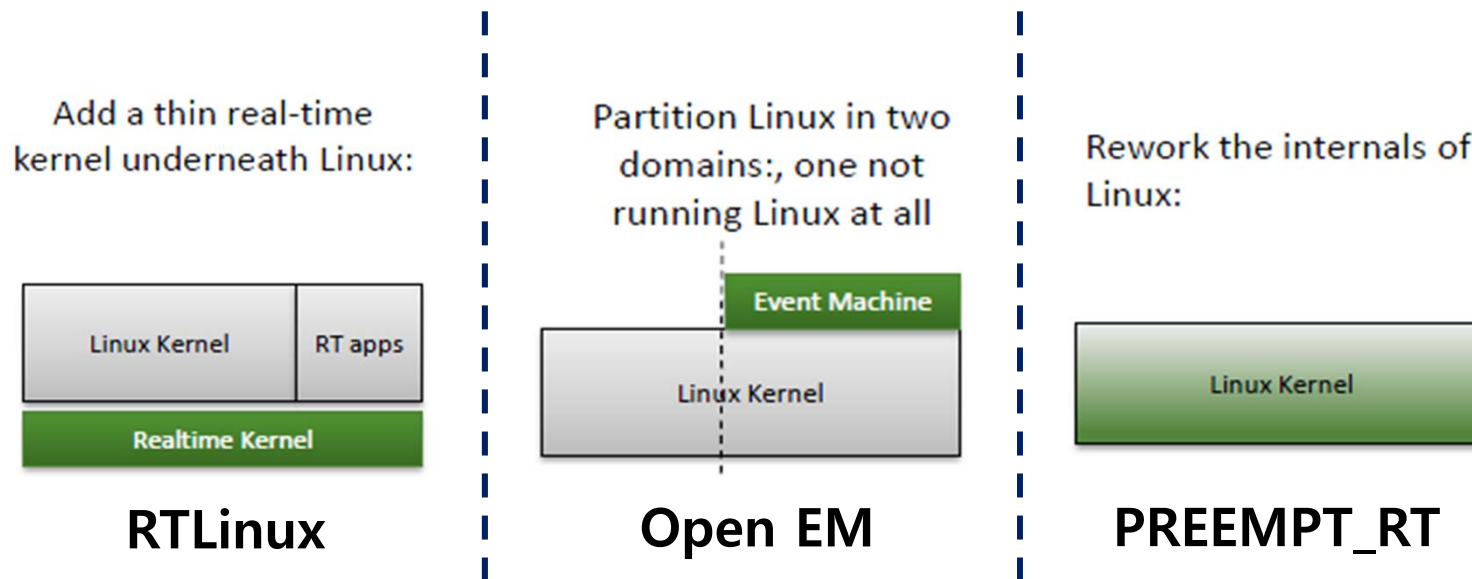
? **Boot-up time**

linux rtos가
1. interrupt bound
2. fully preemptive
x

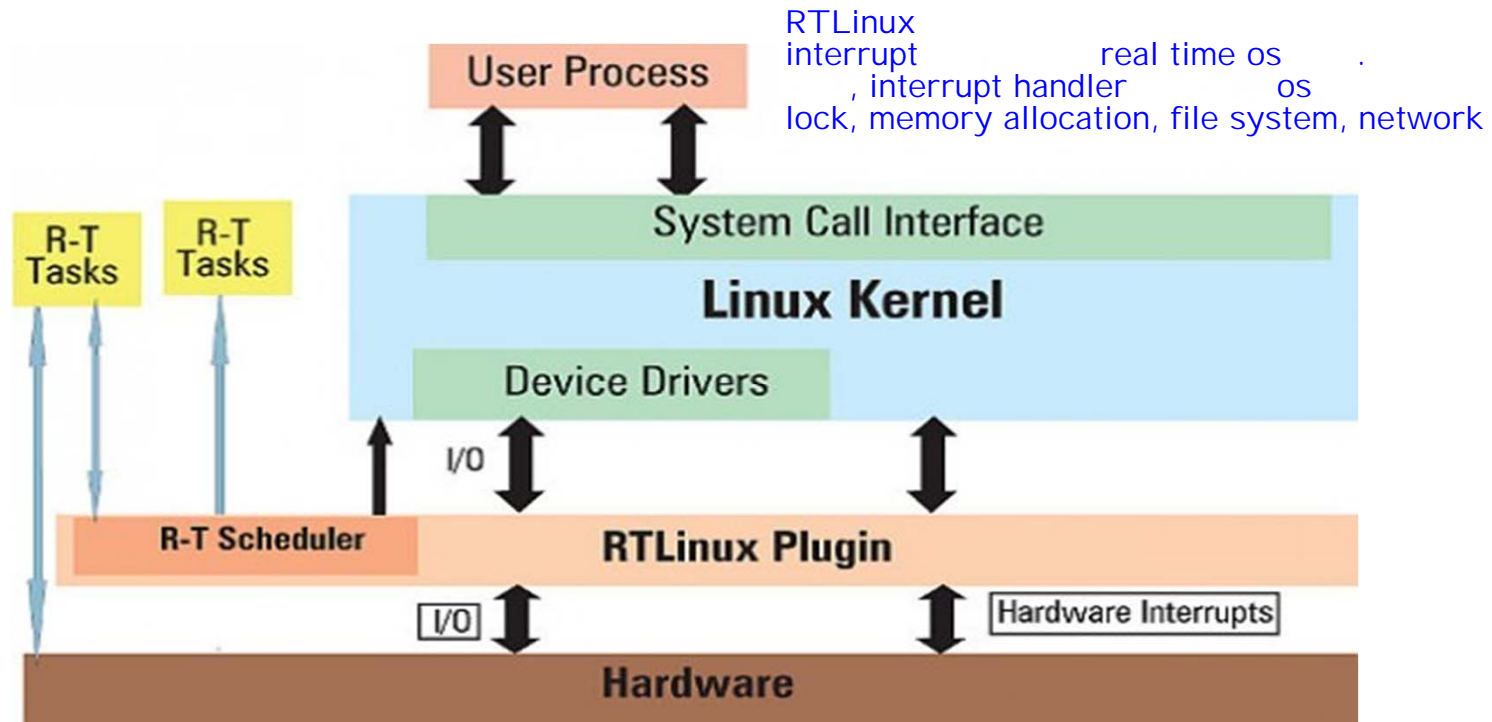
Linux Variants for RT

❑ Extensions for real-time systems

- RTLinux
- Open Event Machine
- PREEMP_RT patch



RTLinux



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- ❑ Developed by Victor Yodaiken, Michael Barabanov, Cort Dougan as a commercial product at FSMLabs
- ❑ Wind River Systems acquired FSMLabs in February 2007, but ended it in 2011

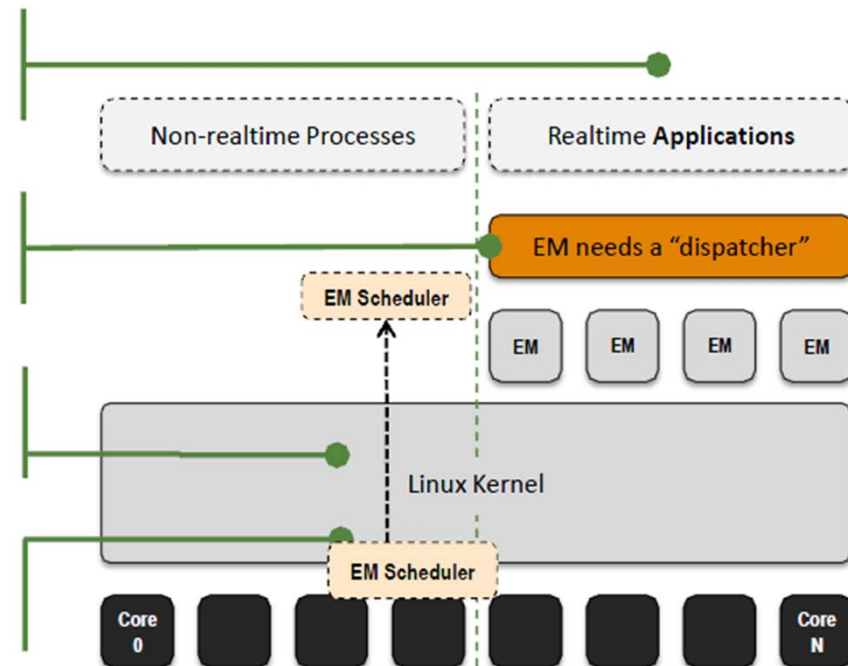
Open Event Machine

EM partitions the system into one RT domain and one non-RT domain

EM uses an event-based model, a run-to-completion model, for individual “context-less” work packages (NO threading or OS model)

Non-essential Linux processes and interrupts are migrated away from the EM cores

EM does not need a special interrupt handling model. Needs a “scheduler” in either Linux partition OR in HW

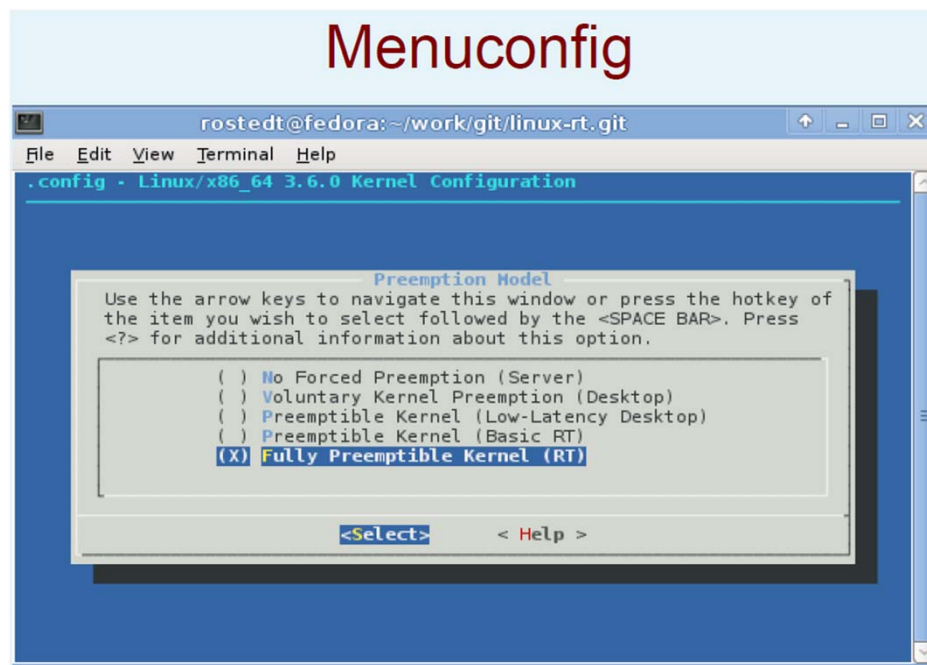


- ❑ Open EM has been chosen as a starting point for the OpenDataPlane™ (ODP) initiative by Linaro, the not-for-profit engineering organization developing open source software for the ARM® architecture

PREEMPT_RT

❑ PREEMPT_RT has merged into the mainline kernel

- Since August 2006 by Ingo Molnar *et al.*
- <https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/kernel/projects/rt/>



PREEMPT_RT

☐ Features

- Preemptible critical sections
- Preemptible interrupt handlers
- Priority inheritance for in-kernel spinlocks and semaphores
- Deferred operations
- Some latency-reduction measures

☐ Work is still going on

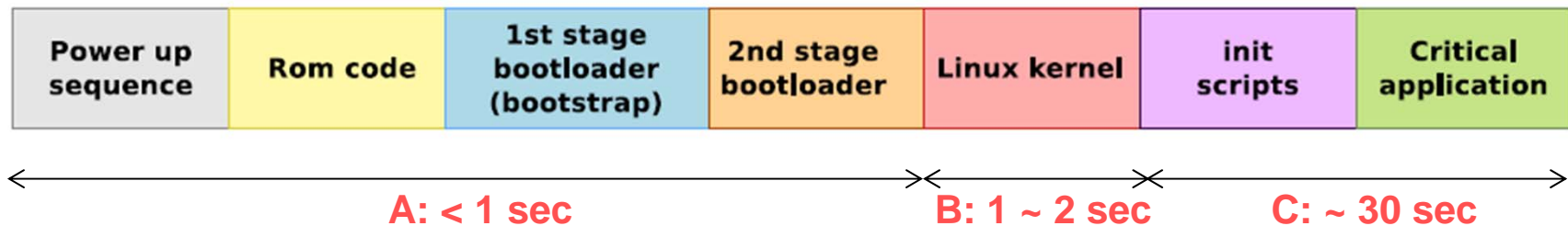
Linux Boot-up Time

□ Generic boot sequence

- A. Firmware initialization phase
- B. Kernel initialization phase
- C. User Space initialization phase

rtos
boot-up time
why?

가 가 가



□ Typical boot time

- < 60 seconds: desktops, set top boxes, GPS devices, ...
- < 30 seconds: smartphones
- < 5 seconds: smart TVs

Boot-up Time Reduction

☐ General techniques for boot-up time reduction

- Optimize each job of the boot sequence
- See backup slides for details

☐ Snapshot-based techniques

- Save RAM content to nonvolatile storage before power-off
- Upon power-on, restore RAM state

☐ Limitations of snapshot approach

- Stability problem
- Retake snapshot every time power is turned off
- Take snapshot only at “stable” state
- Android adds another SW layer, increasing snapshot size

GPL License Issue

- ❑ **GPL guarantees end users the freedoms to use, study, share (copy), and modify the software**
 - Written by Richard Stallman of the Free Software Foundation (FSF) for the GNU project

GPL

-
-
-

GPL library
(GPL) -

(GPL) - (GPL)

GPL
, GPL

- ❑ **Restriction**

- Modified or derived code must be released under GPL

- ❑ **LGPL (Lesser GPL)**

LGPL
- library
-

GPL

library

LGPL

- Library linking is allowed without releasing the code
 - Android uses Bionic libc derived from BSD libc to isolate apps from GPL and LGPL

Multitasking without OS Support

Four Approaches to Multitasking

☐ Four approaches

- Polling-based approach (PA)
- Event-based approach (EA)
- Schedule-based approach (SA)
- Thread-based approach (TA)

☐ The first three can be implemented without operating system's support

☐ The above approaches can be combined

- PA + EA, PA + SA, EA + SA, PA + TA ...

Polling-based Approach

❑ Extremely simple

- No preemption and no context switch

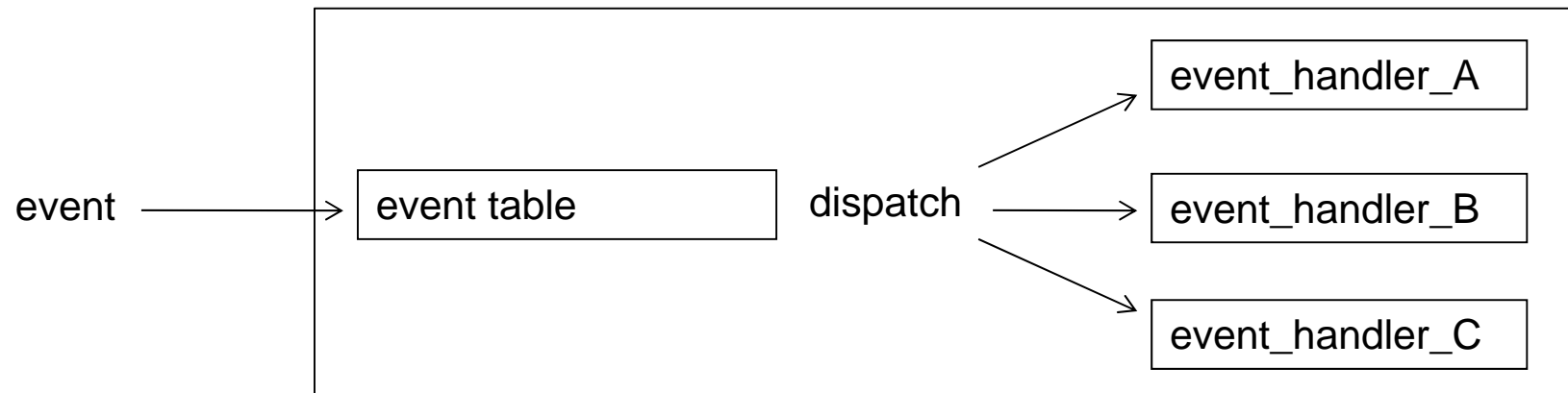
```
void main(void)
{
    while(1) {
        if (check_A) {
            service_A();
        }
        if (check_B) {
            service_B();
        }
        if (check_C) {
            service_C();
        }
    }
}
```

Problems with PA

- ❑ PA does not support multi-rate systems
 - Voice recorder samples microphone at 20kHz, samples switches at 15Hz, and updates display at 4Hz
- ❑ Polling frequency is limited by the time required to execute the loop
 - We may obtain more performance by testing more often
 - A/B/A/C/A/B/A/C ...
- ❑ Waiting time may be very long
 - In the worst case, we need to wait for all services to be completed (no preemption)
- ❑ The architecture is fragile
 - Adding a new service will affect timing of all other services
 - Changing rates is tedious and difficult

Event-based Approach

- ❑ A typical approach for interrupt handling
 - Possible to execute periodic tasks by using timer events
 - Response time is short



Problems with EA

- ❑ **Waiting time may be long**
 - We need to wait for the current job to be completed (no preemption)

- ❑ **It is hard to control the execution rate of each task**
 - It may depend upon the frequency of event occurring

- ❑ **Hard to apply a priority scheme**
 - But some hardware supports priorities

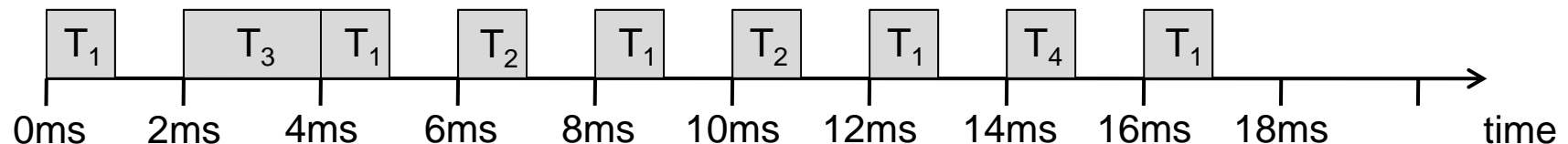
Schedule-based Approach

□ Basically meant for real-time periodic task scheduling

- Off-line schedule creation
- On-line task dispatching according to the schedule
- Uses periodic timer interrupts (time-triggered)

□ Four task scheduling: $T_i(\text{period}, \text{execution time})$ =calendar scheduling

- $T_1(4, 1)$, $T_2(10, 1)$, $T_3(20, 2)$, $T_4(20, 1)$



Some Issues with SA

❑ Advantages

- Deterministic behavior
- Amenable to timing analysis
- Jitter control

❑ We need an algorithm for off-line schedule creation

- RM (rate monotonic)
 - Tasks with small periods get high priorities
- EDF (earliest deadline first)
 - Tasks with early deadlines get high priorities

❑ We need WCET (worst-case execution time) for each task

- Schedule must be based on WCETs
- If not, tasks may overrun

Cyclic Executive Example

```
#define MAX 10
int schedule[MAX] = {1,3,1,2,1,2,1,4,1,0}; <- task
int tick = 0;

/* timer interrupt every 2ms */

void Timer_ISR()
{
    switch (schedule[tick]) {
        case 0: break;
        case 1: execute_task_1(); break;
        case 2: execute_task_2(); break;
        case 3: execute_task_3(); break;
        case 4: execute_task_4(); break;
    }

    tick = (tick + 1)%MAX;
}
```

Thread-based Approach

programmer가

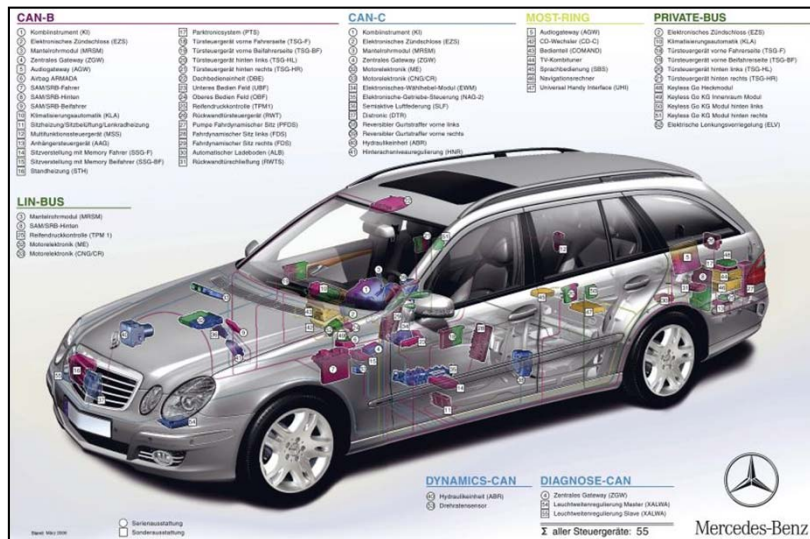
context switch timing&code

- ☐ Good for managing the inherent concurrency of an application
- ☐ Easy to apply a priority scheme or real-time scheduling policy
- ☐ Response time can be short
 - Preemption is supported
 - Blocking can be allowed in a thread, but there is no blocking for the entire application

AUTomotive Open System ARchitecture

Software Crisis?

- ❑ Complexity: a lot of ECUs, buses, and gateways
- ❑ Productivity: poor reusability and composability
- ❑ Diversity: diverse OEMs and their suppliers



- 55 ECUs
- 7 Buses of 4 types
- 4 Gateways
- More than 10 million LOC

AUTomotive Open System ARchitecture

AUTOSAR -

S/W convention

❑ Standardized system S/W architecture

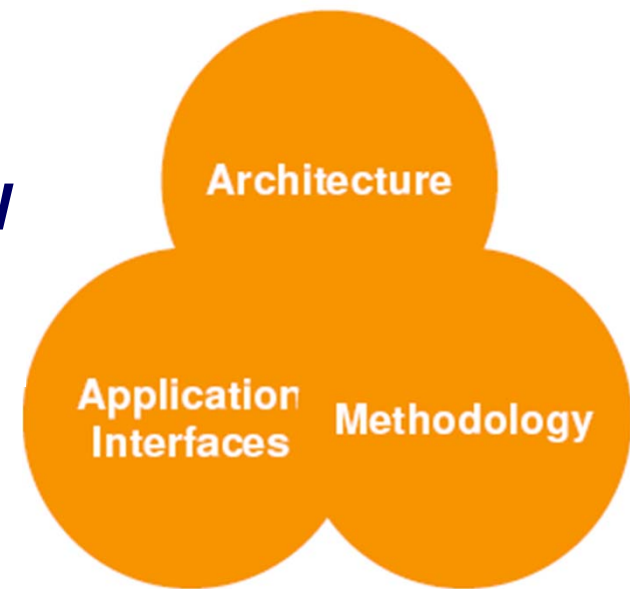
- OSEK kernel
- OS services and H/W abstractions

❑ Component-based application S/W

- Standard component interfaces
- Communication middleware

❑ Model-based development

- Authoring tools and XML formats
- Automatic code generation



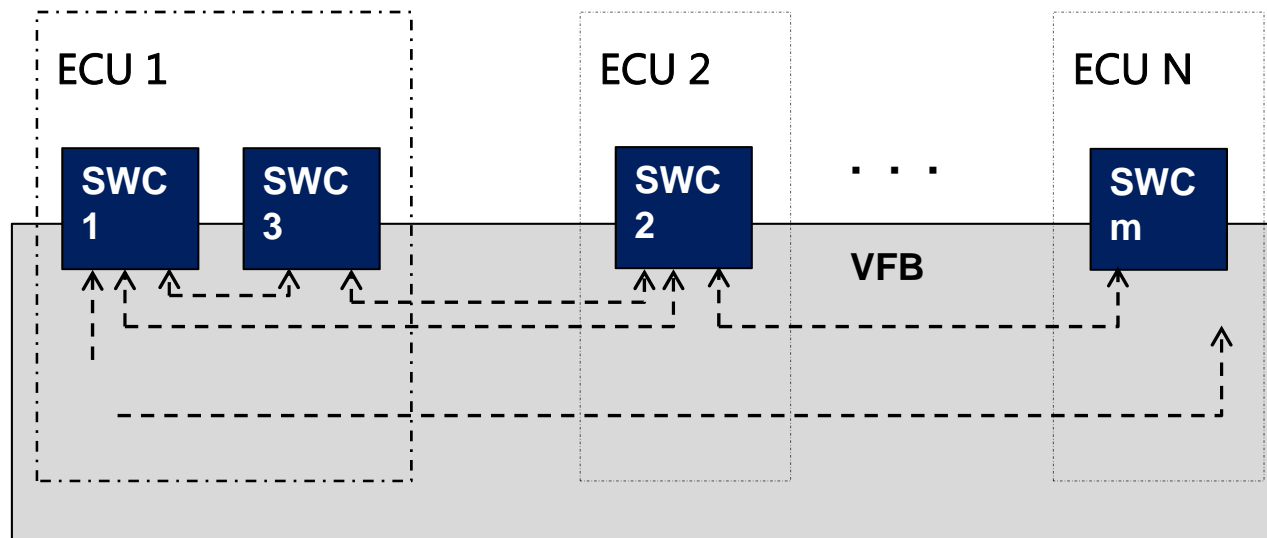
SW Components and Virtual Functional Bus

❑ SWC (Software Components)

- Standardized interfaces
- Reusability and composability

❑ VFB (Virtual Functional Bus)

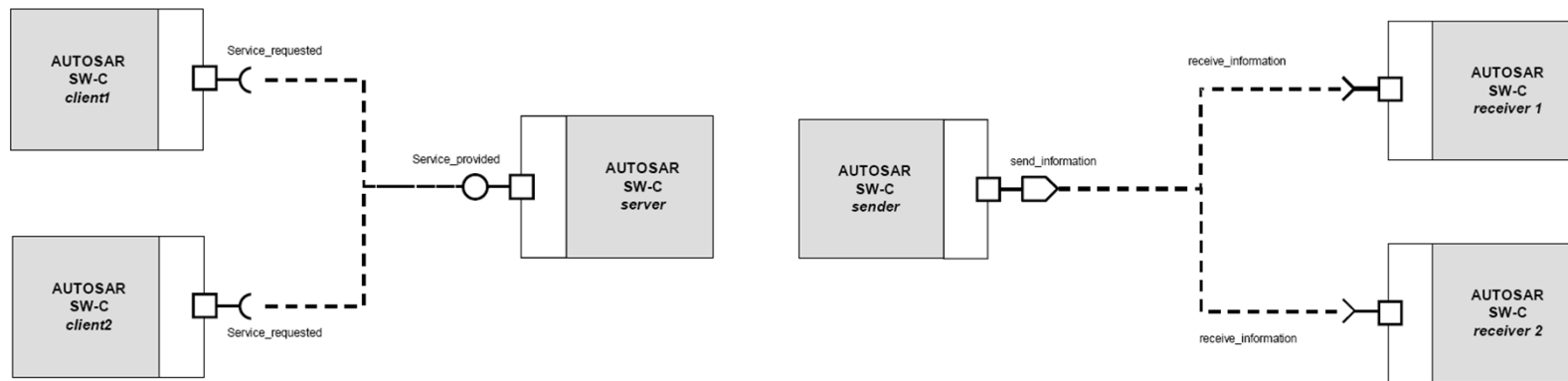
- Separation between software components and infrastructure



SWC and VFB

□ Two types of communication

- Client-Server Communication
- Sender-Receiver Communication



Client-Server Communication

Sender-Receiver Communication

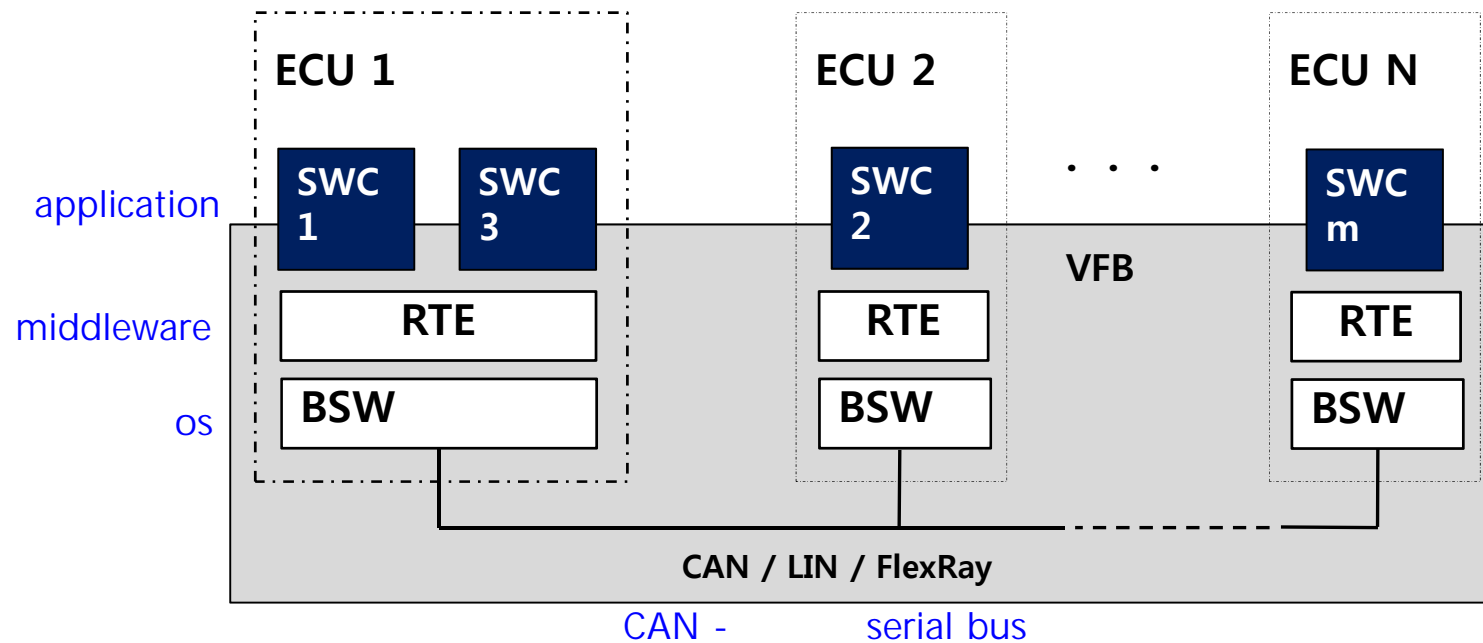
Runtime Environment and Basic SW

❑ RTE (Runtime Environment)

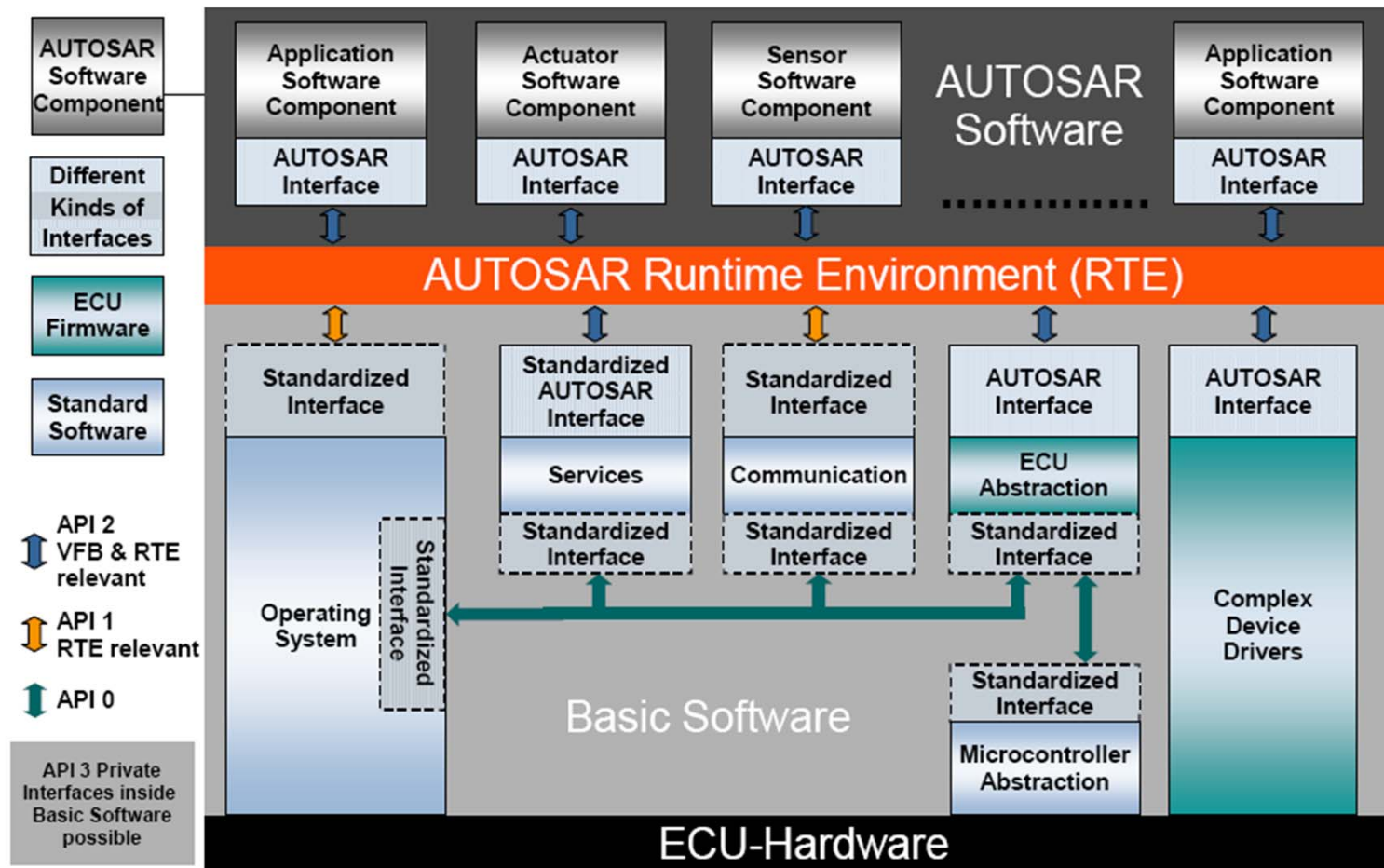
- Middleware for inter- and intra-ECU communication

❑ BSW (Basic Software)

- Traditional OS services



Layered Architecture



microprocessor
- cpu
microcontroller ~ SOC
- cpu+ram+

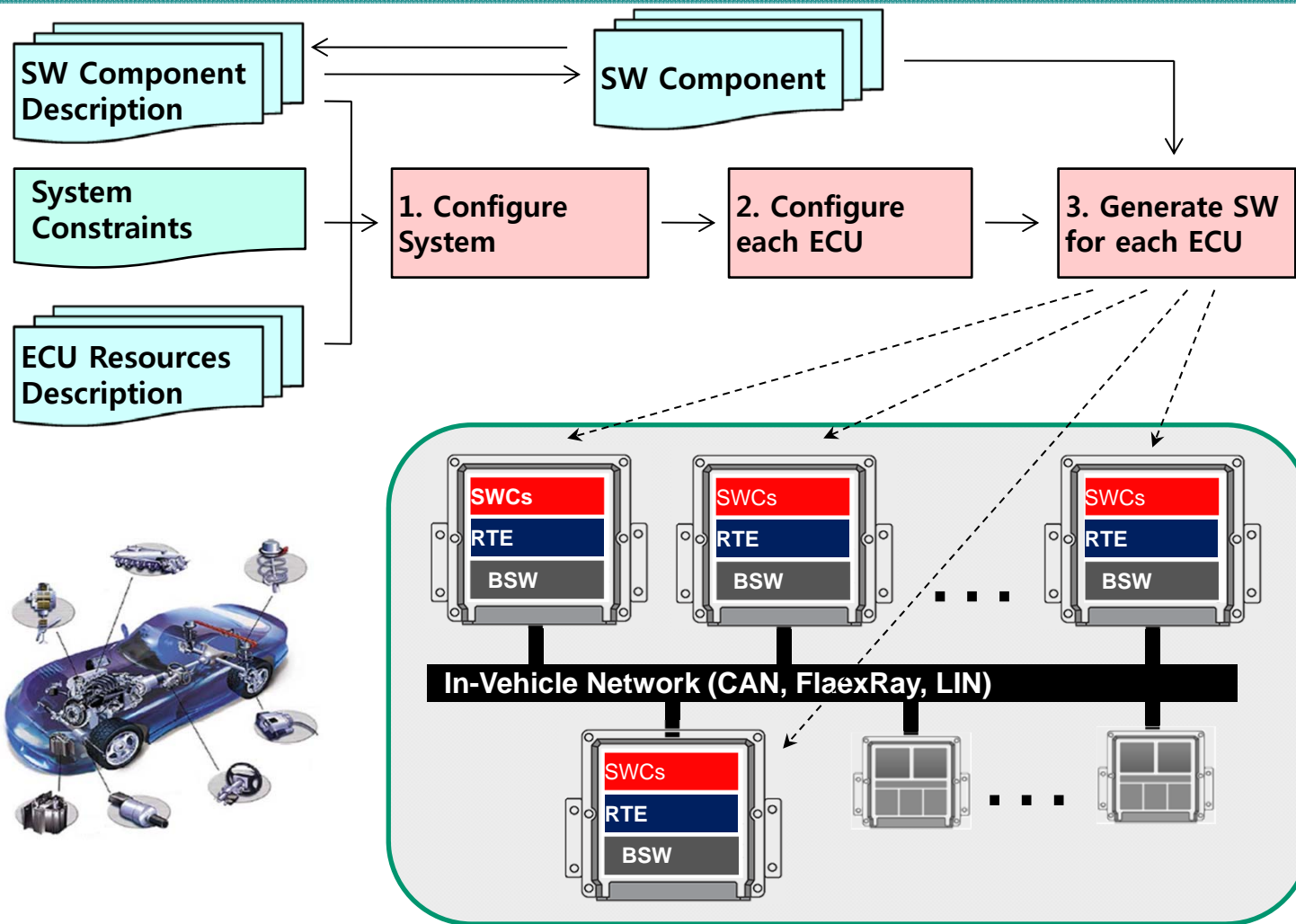
Methodology

s/w
1. vector tool
component <-
BSW RTE
2. eb tool

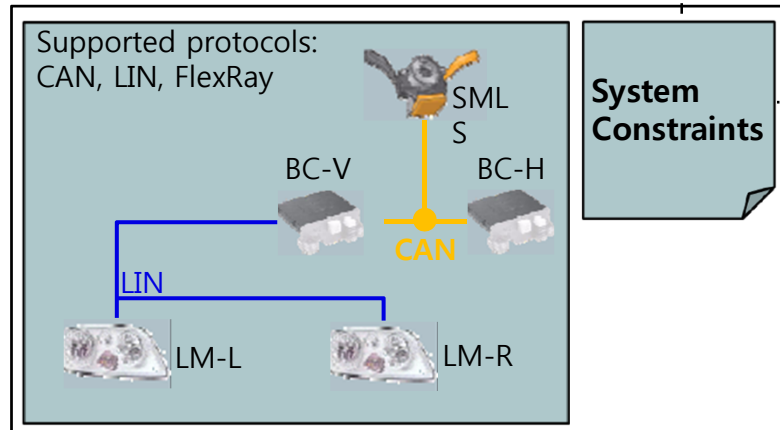
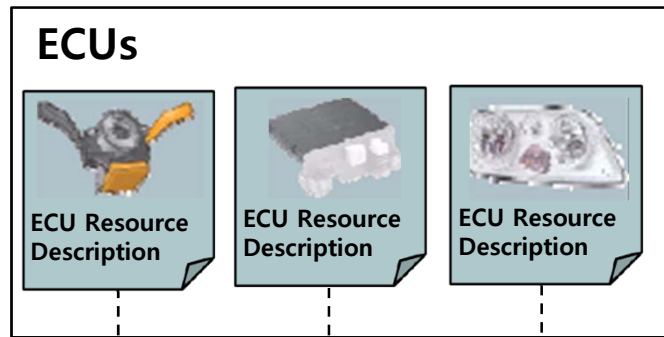
가 s/w

=> BSW/RTE가

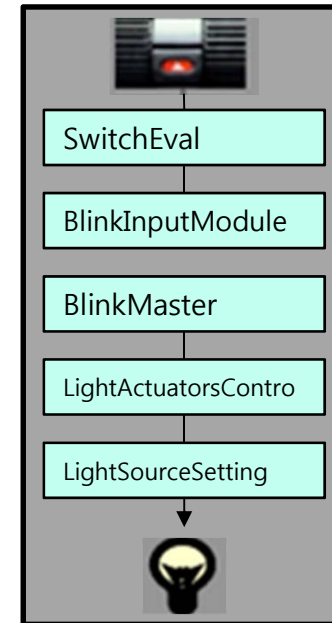
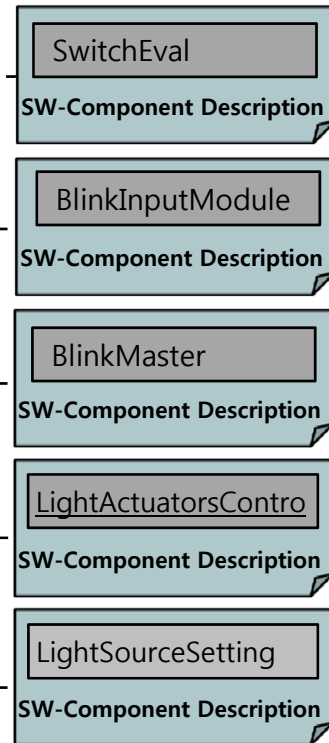
compile binary
executable



Input Descriptions



Software Components



Example

hierarchy

ex)

1

2 SW,POWER

BMW,
- AUTOSAR
가 ! S/W

Input Descriptions

SW Component Description

- General characteristics (name, manufacturer, etc.)
- Communication properties:
 - p_ports
 - r_ports
 - interfaces
- Inner structure (composition)
 - sub-components
 - connections
- Required HW resources:
 - processing time
 - scheduling
 - memory (size, type, etc.)

ECU Resource Description

- General characteristics (name, manufacturer, etc.)
- Temperature (own, environment, cooling/heating)
- Available signal processing methods
- Available programming capabilities
- Available HW:
 - uC, architecture
 - Memory
 - Interfaces (CAN, LIN, MOST, FlexRay)
 - Periphery (sensor/actuator)
- SW below RTE for microcontroller
- Signal path from Pin to ECU-abstraction

System Description

- Network topology
 - bus systems: CAN, LIN, FlexRay
 - connected ECUs, Gateways
 - power supply, system activation
- Communication (for each channel)
 - K-matrix
 - gateway table
- Mapping / Clustering of SW components

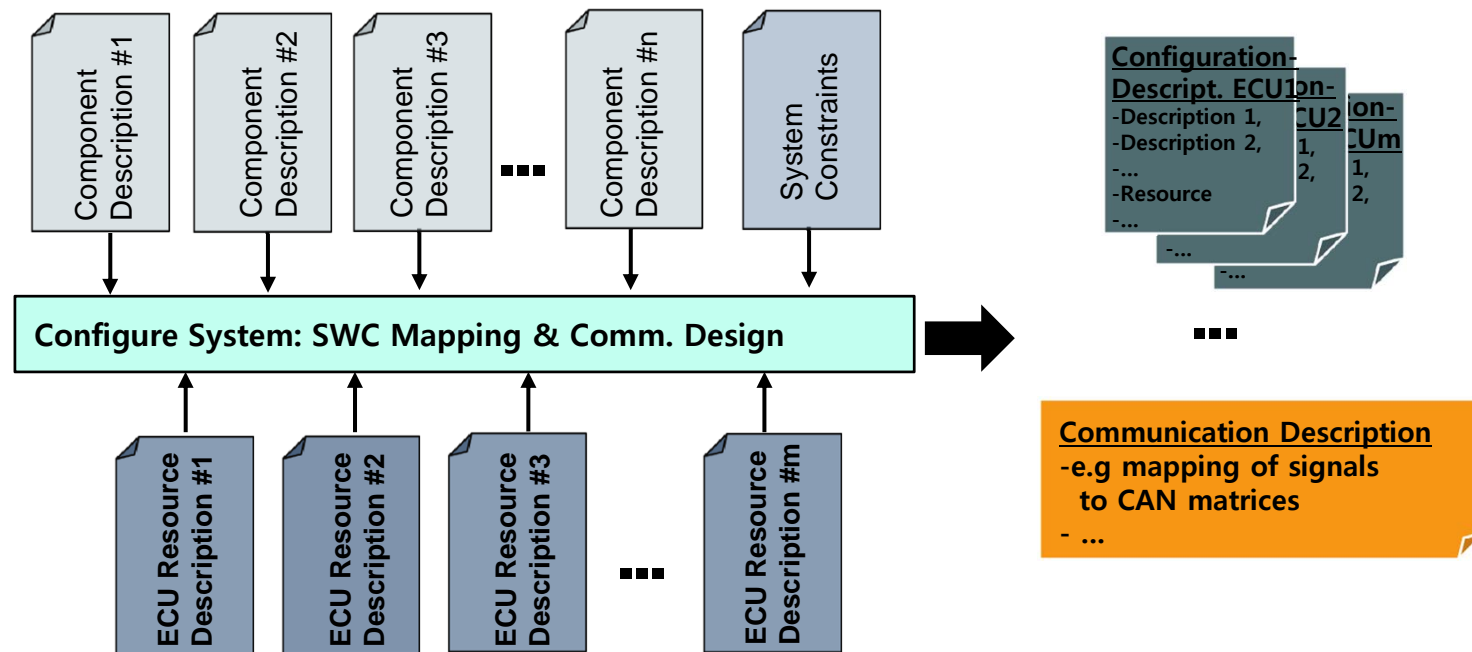
System Configuration

❑ SWC mapping

- **Maps the software components to the ECUs**

❑ Communication design

- **Completely describes the frames running on the networks and the contents and timing of those frames**



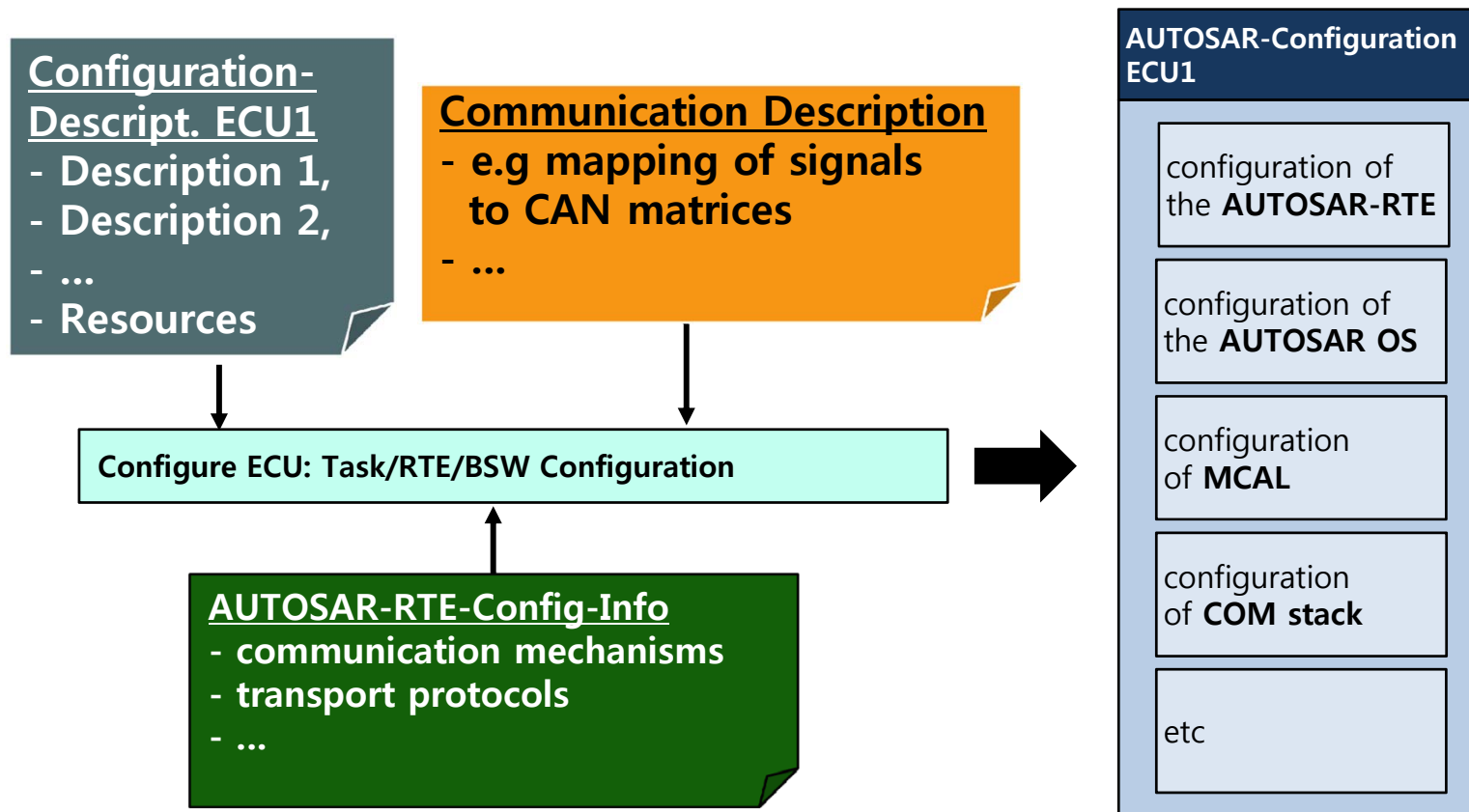
ECU Configuration

component

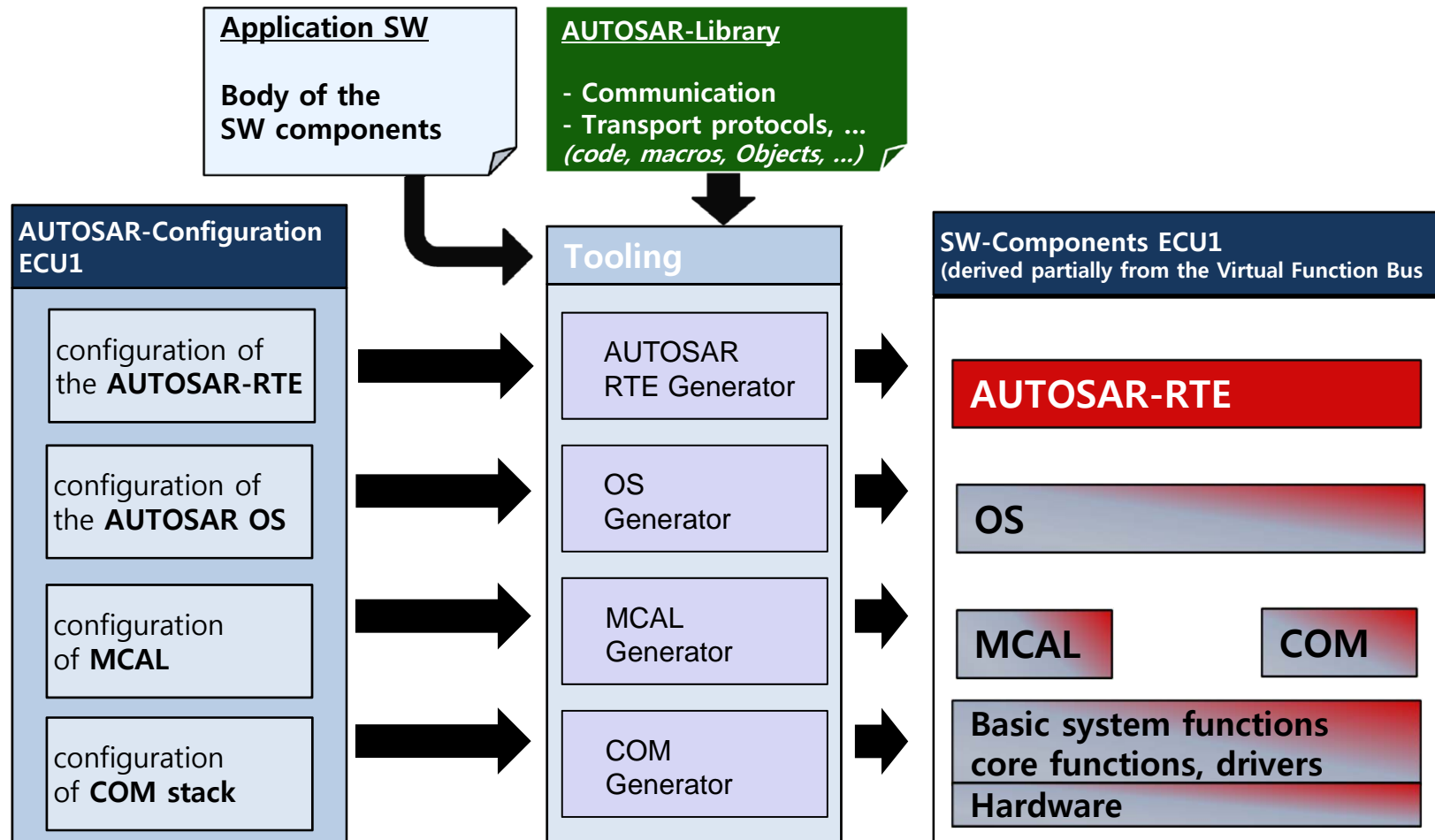
- Runnable <- os(scheduler)가

thread

- ❑ Runnable-to-task mapping and task scheduling
- ❑ RTE and BSW configuration



Software Generation



Workflow and Tools

Work	Tools
1. Control Function Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MATLAB, Simulink, Stateflow (Mathworks) → MIL (Model-in-the-Loop) simulation support
2. Code Generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real-Time Workshop Embedded Coder (Mathworks) • TargetLink (dSPACE)
3. System Architecture Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SystemDesk (dSPACE) → SIL (SW-in-the-Loop) simulation support • DaVinci Developer (Vector Informatik) • RTA-RTE (ETAS) • Volcano Vehicle System Architect (Mentor Graphics)
4. BSW Configuration and Generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EB tresos Studio and AutoCore (Electrobit) • MICROSAR (Vector Informatik)
5. Experimenting, Testing and Debugging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ControlDesk (dSPACE) • NUnit (Vector Informatik) • DaVinci Component Tester (Vector Informatik) • EB tresos Inspector (Electrobit)

matlab
code translation