Polling vrs Interrupts

Polling

Repeatedly reading a data port and testing the input data value.

- simple to code
- not very efficient because the polling happens even if the sensor reading has not changed
- safe and reliable because the measurements happen at guaranteed time intervals

Interrupts

hardware or software signals that trigger the interrupt subroutine to run.

1. the original process is paused and the return-address is saved onto the stack.
2. the interrupt code is run.
3. the original process is re-started using the return-address retrieved from the stack.

Timer Interrupts

Most processors have built-in timers which can be used to trigger processes when the timer interval ends.

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