

# HOW TO RUST WHEN STANDARDS ARE DEFINED IN C

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🌐 <http://ramblingfoo.blogspot.com/>

# AUTOMOTIVE & STANDARDS



# I CAN DO ANYTHING IN C!

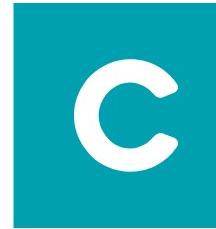
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A photograph of a white motorcycle helmet with a black visor and red, white, and blue stripes at the bottom, resting on a gravel surface next to a black leather bag and a small yellow container. In the background, the front wheel and fork of a motorcycle are visible.

# VALUES MATTER

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SIMPLE



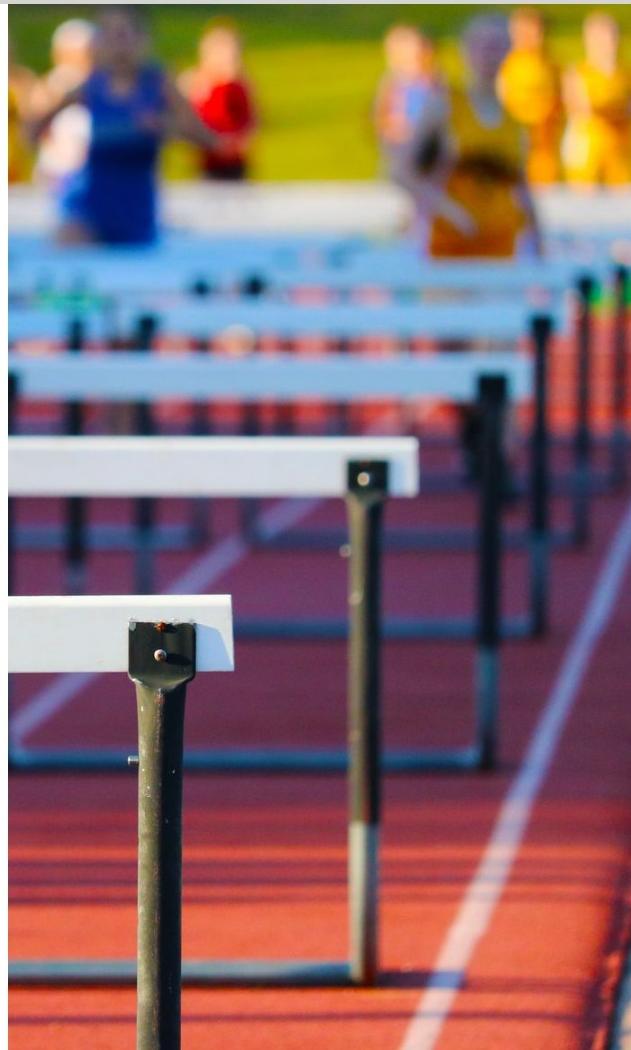
MEMORY SAFE

See video: [Scale By The Bay 2018: Bryan Cantrill, Rust and Other Interesting Things](#)

# CAN WE RUST?

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- 1 AUTOSAR STANDARD**
- 2 C, ASM & RUST INTEGRATION**
- 3 KNOWN (RUST) PROBLEMS**
- 4 ENGINEERS & MANAGERS**
- 5 LEGACY SOFTWARE**



# CAN WE RUST?

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1

AUTOSAR STANDARD

2

C, ASM & RUST INTEGRATION

3

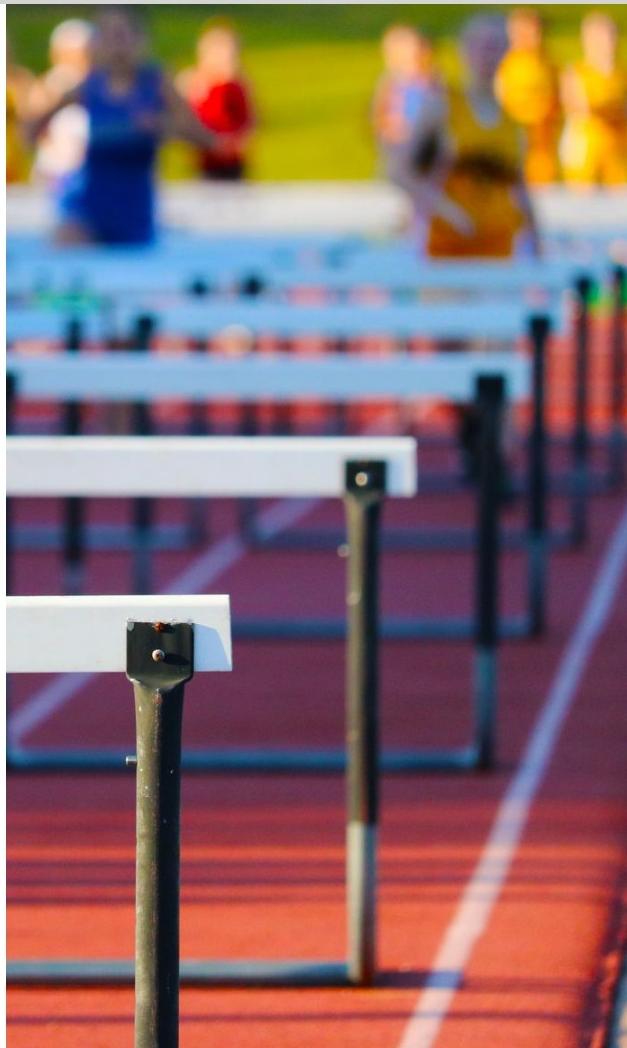
KNOWN (RUST) PROBLEMS

4

ENGINEERS & MANAGERS

5

LEGACY SOFTWARE



# QUOTES FROM THE AUTOSAR STANDARD

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# SPECIFICATION OF OPERATING SYSTEM

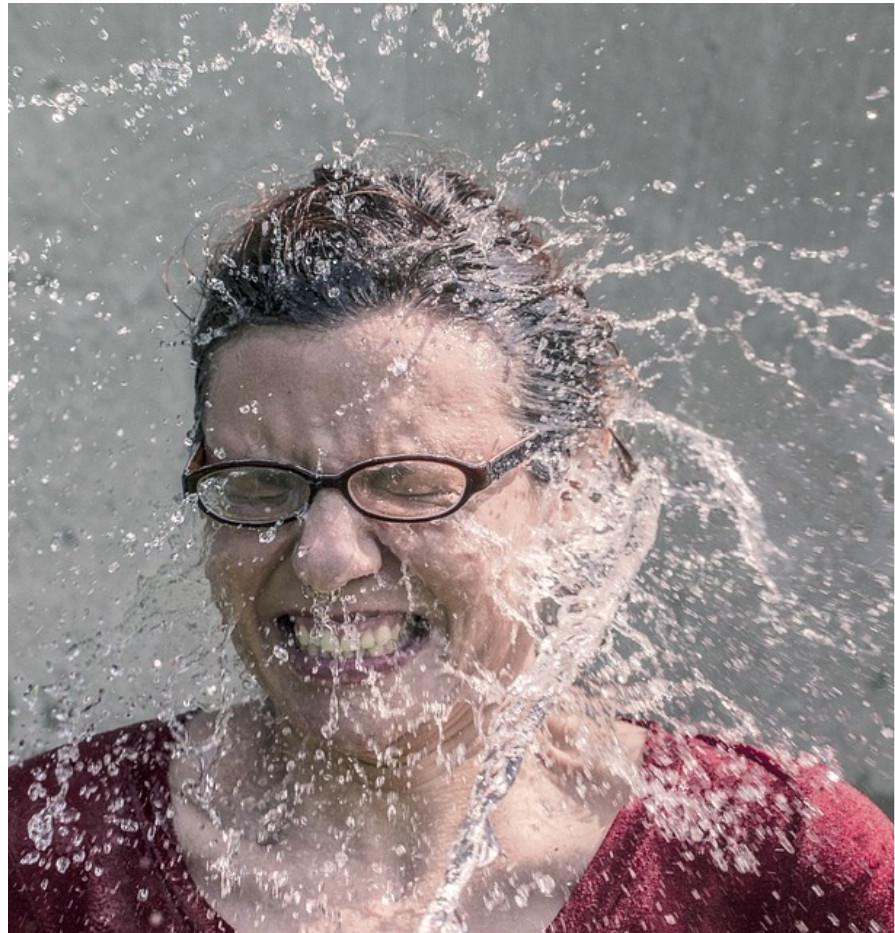
V5.0.0 R4.0 Rev 3 - 4.6.2 Programming Language

The API of the operating system is defined as **C89** [23] function calls or macros. **If other languages are used they must adapt to the C interface.** This is because C99[24] allows for internal dynamic memory allocation during subroutine calls. Most automotive applications are **static (non-heap based)**.



# REALITY CHECK!

BSW171: [...] functionalities [...] which are disabled by static configuration shall not consume resources (RAM, ROM, runtime).



# OPTIMIZING RAM USAGE IN C (PREPROCESSOR)

```
#if (OS_NO_OF_RESOURCES > 0U)

    #if (OS_NO_OF_RESOURCES <= 8U)
        typedef uint8_t res_t;

    #elif OS_NO_OF_RESOURCES <= 16U)
        typedef uint16_t res_t;

    #elif OS_NO_OF_RESOURCES <= 32U)
        typedef uint32_t res_t;

    #else
        /* typically somewhere else, maybe computed by a cfg generator */
        #define OS_RES_ARRAY_SIZE \
            ((OS_NO_OF_RESOURCES / 8) + (!!(OS_NO_OF_RESOURCES % 8)))
        typedef uint8_t res_t[OS_RES_ARRAY_SIZE];

#endif
```

# OPTIMIZING RAM USAGE IN C - USING THE PREPROCESSOR

---

```
struct tcb_t {  
    ... TaskIdType id; /* also priority */  
    ... struct ctx_t ctx;  
  
    /* if no memory protection, stack is common */  
    #if defined(USE_PREEMPTION) || defined(USE_MEMORY_PROTECTION)  
        stack_info *stk; /* ISRs of the same prio share the stack */  
    #endif  
  
    #if (OS_NO_OF_RESOURCES > 0U)  
        res_t res_mask;  
    #endif  
  
    #if (OS_NO_OF_ALARMS > 0U)  
        alarm_t alarms;  
    #endif  
};
```

# (AB)USING THE PREPROCESSOR / A POWERFUL TOOL

[https://github.com/evidence/erika3/blob/GH63/pkg/kernel/oo/ee\\_ar\\_sched\\_table.c#L52](https://github.com/evidence/erika3/blob/GH63/pkg/kernel/oo/ee_ar_sched_table.c#L52)

```
52 #include "ee_internal.h"
53
54 FUNC(StatusType, OS_CODE)
55 . osEE_st_start_rel
56 (
57 . P2VAR(OsEE_CounterDB, AUTOMATIC, OS_APPL_DATA) p_counter_db,
58 . P2VAR(OsEE_SchedTabDB, AUTOMATIC, OS_APPL_DATA) p_st_db,
59 . VAR(TickType, AUTOMATIC) offset
60 )
61 {
62 . VAR(StatusType, AUTOMATIC) ev;
63 . CONSTP2VAR(OsEE_SchedTabCB, AUTOMATIC, OS_APPL_DATA)
64 . . p_st_cb = osEE_st_get_cb(p_st_db);
65 . . CONSTP2VAR(OsEE_TriggerDB, AUTOMATIC, OS_APPL_DATA)
66 . . p_trigger_db = osEE_st_get_trigger_db(p_st_db);
67 . . CONSTP2VAR(OsEE_TriggerCB, AUTOMATIC, OS_APPL_DATA)
68 . . p_trigger_cb = p_trigger_db->p_trigger_cb;
69 #if (!defined(OSEE_SINGLECORE))
70 . CONST(CoreIdType, AUTOMATIC)
71 . . counter_core_id = p_counter_db->core_id;
72 . /* Lock the Core Lock witch the counter is tied */
73 . . osEE_lock_core_id(counter_core_id);
74 #endif /* OSEE_SINGLECORE */
75 |
76 . if (p_trigger_cb->status > OSEE_TRIGGER_CANCELED) {
```

# OPTIMIZING RAM USAGE IN RUST

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**EMULATE C PREPROCESSOR?**

# OPTIMIZING RAM USAGE IN RUST

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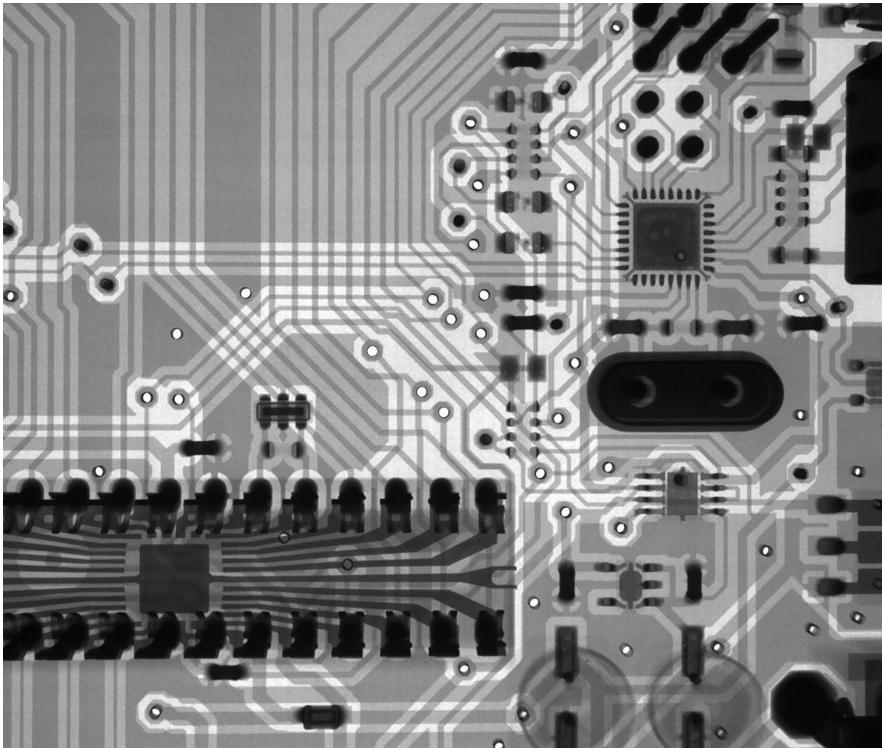


## IS THIS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS?

It matters only if used in the interface

# OPTIMIZING RAM USAGE IN RUST

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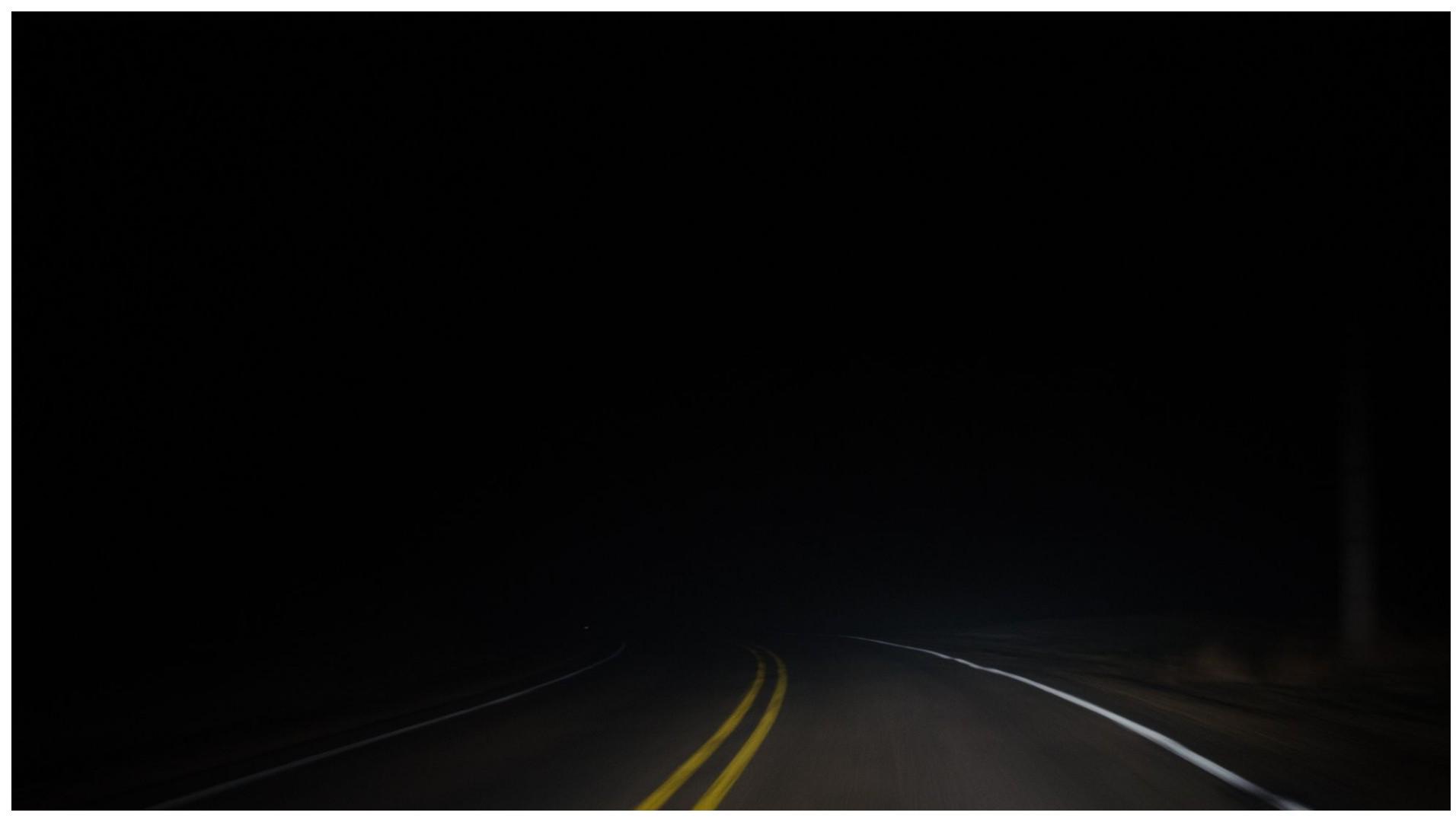
**SMART COMPILER?**

## RUST: OPTIONAL STRUCT FIELDS

---

```
#[repr(C)]
pub struct TaskControlBlock {
    id: SafeTaskIdType,
    ctx: TaskContext,
    #[cfg(any(mem_protection, preemption))]
    stk: StackInfo,
    #[cfg(resources)]
    res_mask: ResourceType,
    #[cfg(alarms)]
    alarms: Alarms,
}
```

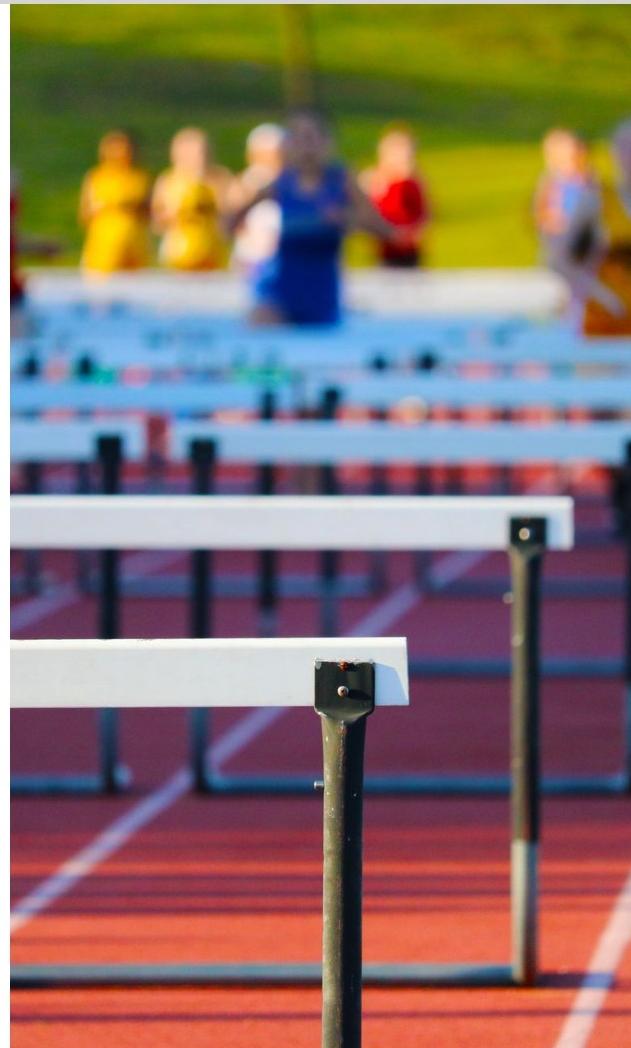




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# WHERE IS THE RUST CODE?

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RUST  
COMPONENT  
SOURCES

RUST  
COMPONENT -  
BINARIES &  
GENERATOR

CONFIGURATION

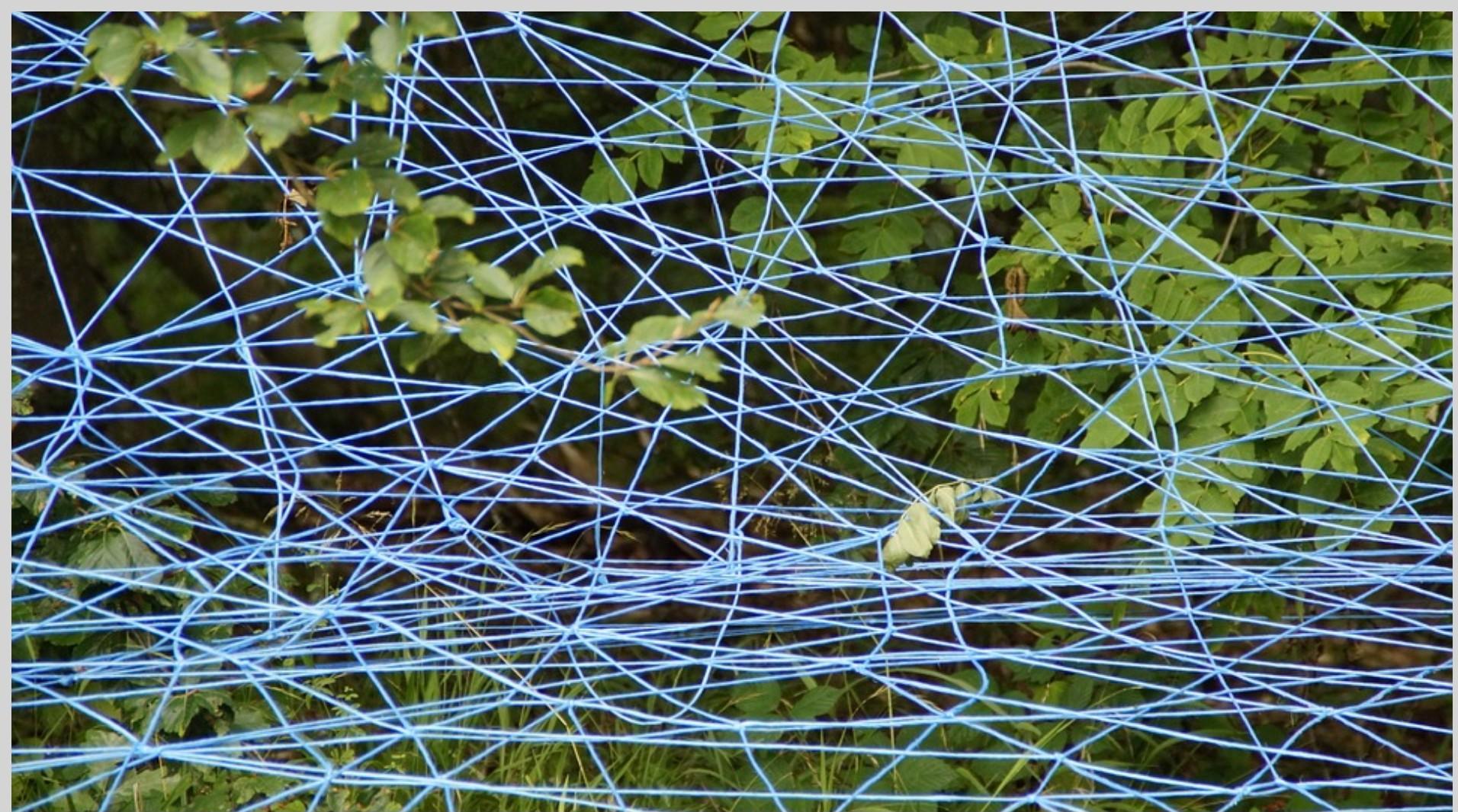
LINKING INTO  
INTEGRATION  
APP

# THE BRIDGE BETWEEN C & RUST

---

Config files:  
Os\_cfg.h, Os\_cfg.c





# LET'S TAKE IT EASY ...

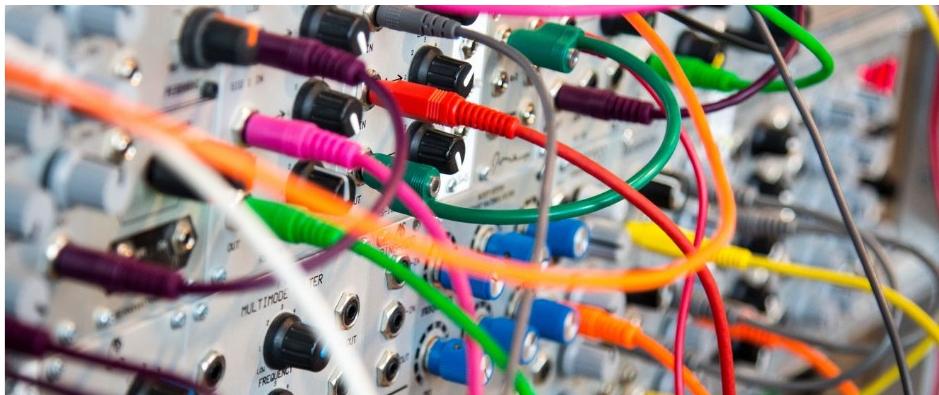
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IN

# THE EASY “MUSTS”

---



# THE EASY “MUSTS” - LINKER FILES

---

*linker.ld*

~~x~~

```
1
2 SECTIONS
3 {
4     . = 0x10000;
5     .ostext : { librust.os.a(.text) }
6     .text : { *(.text) }
7     . = 0x8000000;
8     .data : { *(.data) }
9     .bss : { *(.bss) }
10 }
11
```

# THE EASY “MUSTS” - NO MANGLING

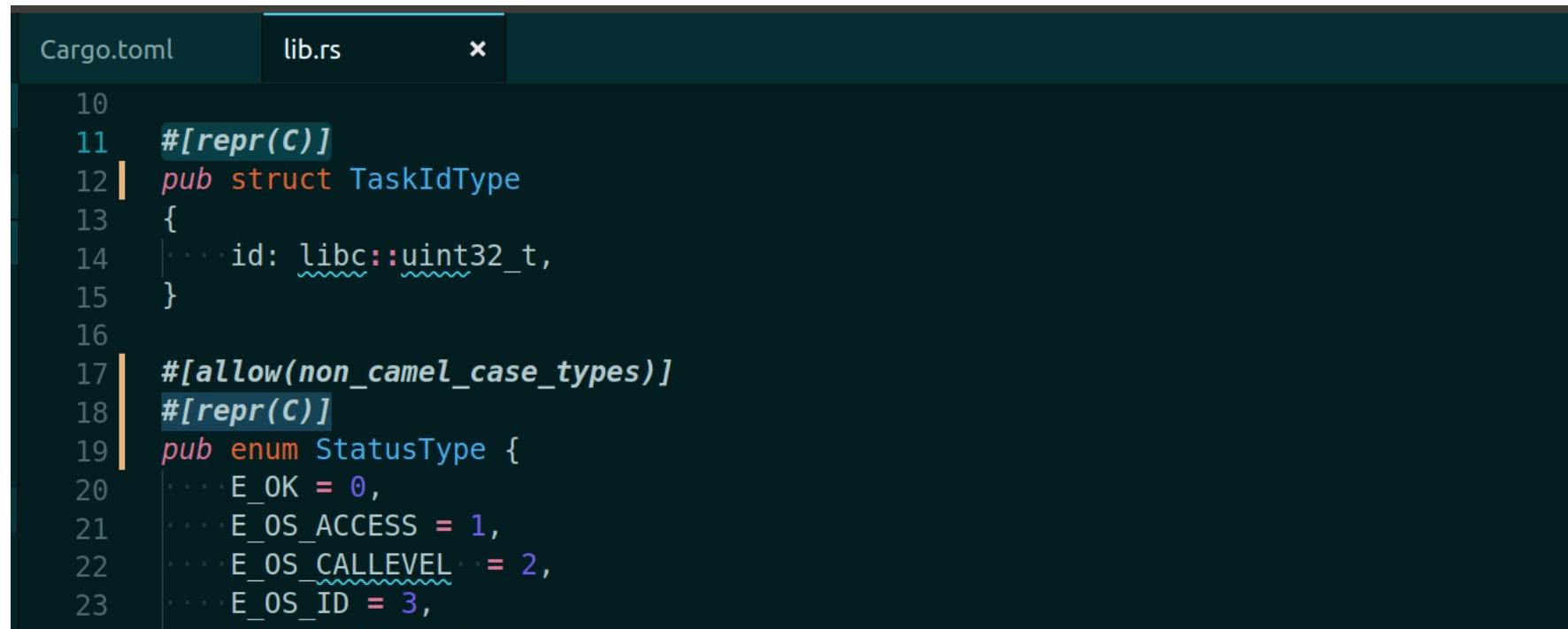
---

```
lib.rs      x

75 // fn get_safe_task_id(unsafe_task_id: TaskIdType) -> Result<SafeTaskIdType, StatusType>
76
77 // C declaration: StatusType ActivateTask (TaskType TaskID);
78 #[allow(non_snake_case)]
79 #[no_mangle]
80 pub fn ActivateTask(TaskID: TaskIdType) -> StatusType {
81     match get_safe_task_id(TaskID) {
82         Ok(_safe_task_id) => {
83             // really activate task
84         }
85         Err(status) => return status,
86     }
87
88     StatusType::E_OK
89 }
90 }
```

# THE EASY “MUSTS” - C REPRESENTATION

The Rustonomicon / Alternative representations: <https://doc.rust-lang.org/nomicon/other-reprs.html>



Cargo.toml      lib.rs      x

```
10
11 #[repr(C)]
12 pub struct TaskIdType
13 {
14     id: libc::uint32_t,
15 }
16
17 #[allow(non_camel_case_types)]
18 #[repr(C)]
19 pub enum StatusType {
20     E_OK = 0,
21     E_OS_ACCESS = 1,
22     E_OS_CALLEVEL = 2,
23     E_OS_ID = 3,
```

# THE EASY “MUSTS” - FFI: WHAT TO AVOID

<https://doc.rust-lang.org/nomicon/other-reprs.html#reprc>

```
1  repr(C) will be nonsensical or problematic:  
2  
3  * ZSTs are still zero-sized even though  
4    * is not standard behavior in C  
5    * in C++ they should consume a byte  
6  * Enums with fields  
7    * aren't a concept in C or C++  
8    * a valid bridging is defined - unimplemented!  
9  * Tuple struct: like struct but fields aren't named  
10 [..]
```



# ENUM: SHORT/SMALL/BEST & SIGNED/UNSIGNED

ABI compatibility matters

Using the GNU Compiler X +

https://gcc.gnu.org/onlinedocs/gcc-8.2.0/gcc/Structures-unions-enum.html

- *The integer type compatible with each enumerated type (C90 6.5.2.2, C99 and C11 6.7.2.2).*

Normally, the type is `unsigned int` if there are no negative values in the enumeration, otherwise `int`. If `-fshort-enums` is specified, then if there are negative values it is the first of `signed char`, `short` and `int` that can represent all the values, otherwise it is the first of `unsigned char`, `unsigned short` and `unsigned int` that can represent all the values.

On some targets, `-fshort-enums` is the default; this is determined by the ABI.

---

Next: [Qualifiers implementation](#). Previous: [Hints implementation](#). Up: [C Implementation](#)



# MORE UNDEFINED BEHAVIOR, NOW 100% ALIGNED

Technically correct, but still undefined behavior

```
3
4  struct aXc {
5      uint32_t a;
6      uint16_t X;
7      uint32_t c;
8  };
9
10 //.....0..1..2..3.....0..1..2..3
11 //...+-----+.....+-----+
12 // 0 | a | a | a | a | .. 0 | a | a | a | a |
13 //...+-----+.....+-----+
14 // 4 | X | X | . | . | .. 4 |    |    | X | X |
15 //...+-----+.....+-----+
16 // 8 | c | c | c | c | .. 8 | c | c | c | c |
17 //...+-----+.....+-----+
18
19
```

# THE CURIOUS CASE OF DIAB STRUCT PACK - (2, 8, \*)

```
#pragma pack(max_member_align, min_struct_align, byte-swap)
```

```
#pragma pack(2, 8[, byte-swap])
struct aXc_pack_maxmember2_minstruct8 {
    uint32_t a;
    uint16_t X;
    uint32_t c;
} vec_2_8[2];
```

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	a	b	c	d	e	f
// 0x10	a	a	a	a	X	X	c	c	c	c						
// 0x20	a	a	a	a	X	X	c	c	c	c						



# THE CURIOUS CASE OF DIAB STRUCT PACK - (4, 8, \*)

```
#pragma pack(max_member_align, min_struct_align, byte-swap)
```

```
#pragma pack(4, 8[, byte-swap])
struct aXc_pack_maxmember4_minstruct8 {
    uint32_t a;
    uint16_t X;
    uint32_t c;
} vec_4_8[2];
```

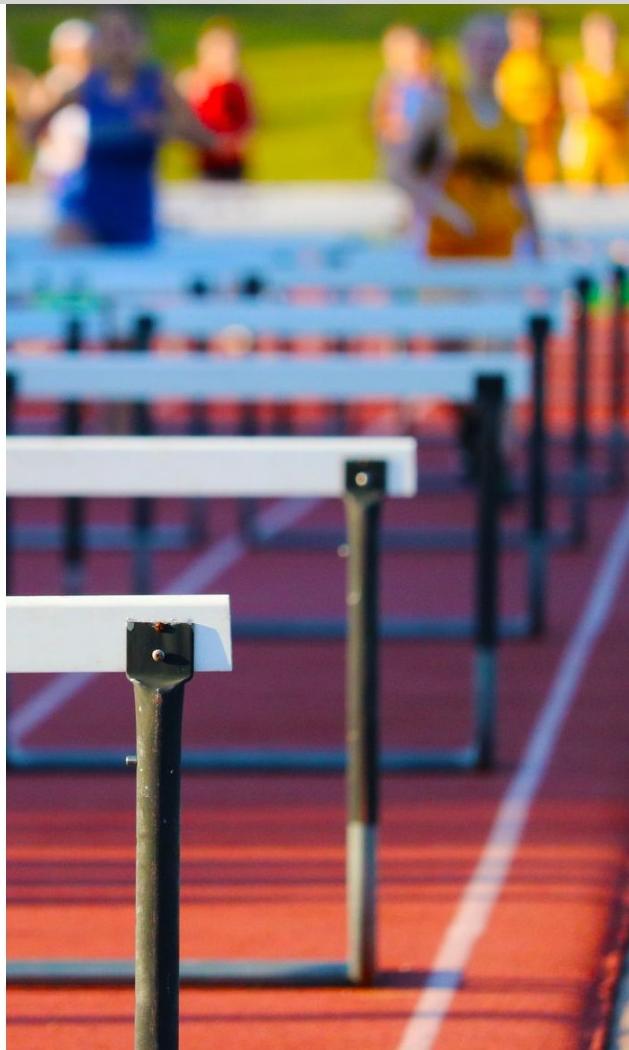
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	a	b	c	d	e	f
// 0x10	a	a	a	a	X	X	.	.	.	c	c	c	c	.	.	.
// 0x20	a	a	a	a	X	X	.	.	.	c	c	c	c	.	.	.



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RUST IS PERFECT!!!11

---



# RUST GUARANTEES DATA-RACE FREE CODE & THREAD SAFE/MULTI-CORE SCALABILITY<sup>1</sup>

---



EVEN FOR  $\mu\text{C}$ <sup>2 3</sup>

# RUST GUARANTEES DATA-RACE FREE CODE & THREAD SAFE/MULTI-CORE SCALABILITY<sup>1</sup>

---

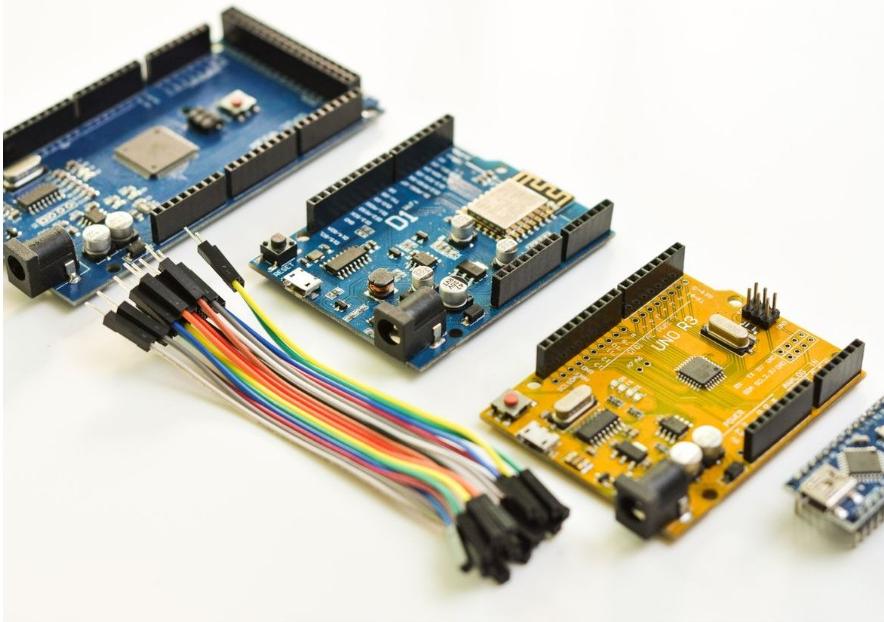


EVEN FOR  $\mu\text{C}$ <sup>2 3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> with an OS/std, since that provides `Arc<>`, `Mutex<>` etc.

# RUST GUARANTEES DATA-RACE FREE CODE & THREAD SAFE/MULTI-CORE SCALABILITY<sup>1</sup>

---



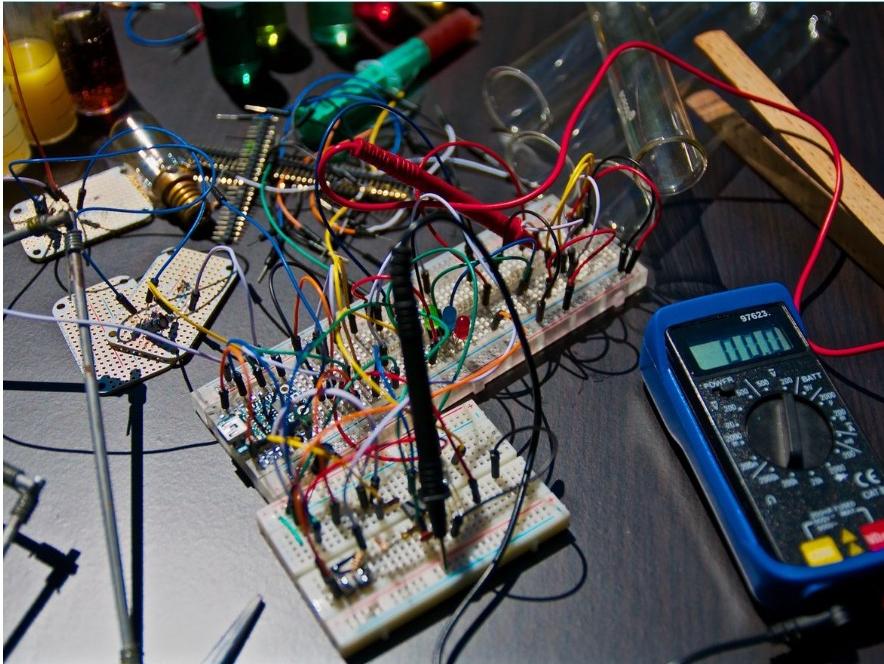
## EVEN FOR µC<sup>2 3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> with an OS/std, since that provides `Arc<>`, `Mutex<>` etc.

<sup>2</sup> if the µC is single core

# RUST GUARANTEES DATA-RACE FREE CODE & THREAD SAFE/MULTI-CORE SCALABILITY<sup>1</sup>

---



## EVEN FOR µC<sup>2 3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> with an OS/std, since those provide `Arc<>`, `Mutex<>` etc.

<sup>2</sup> if the µC is single core

<sup>3</sup> if you use a DSL (cortex-m-rt macros)

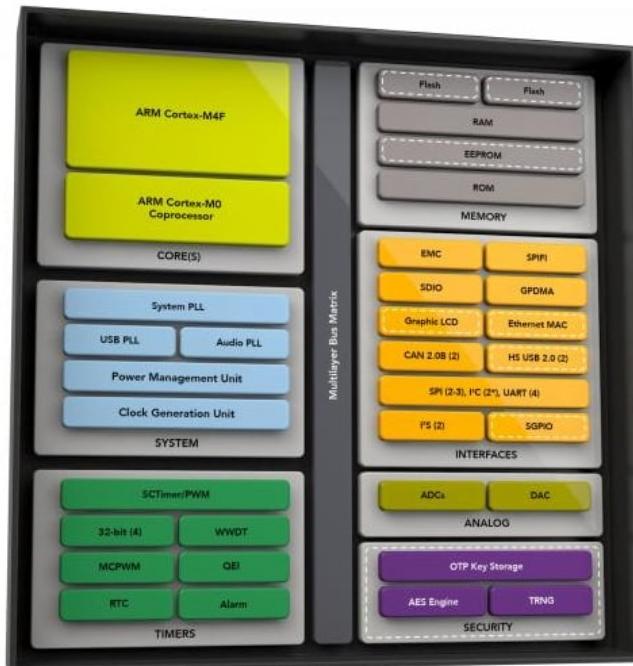
# UNCOVERED USE CASES

---



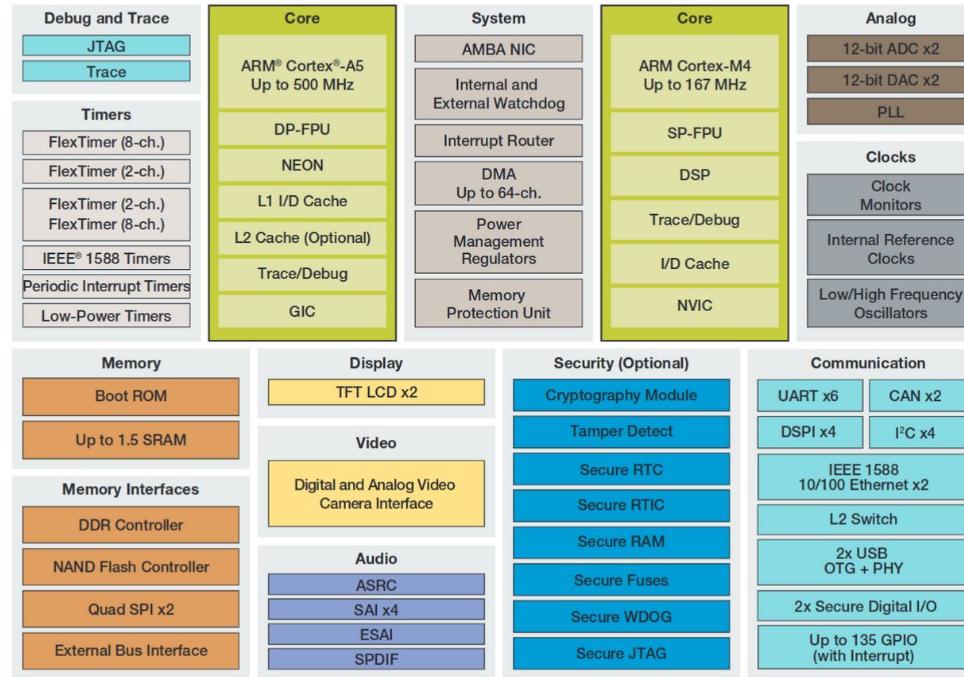
# MULTICORE - LPC34XX: M4 + M0

Cortex-M4 based microcontrollers which include a Cortex-M0 coprocessor

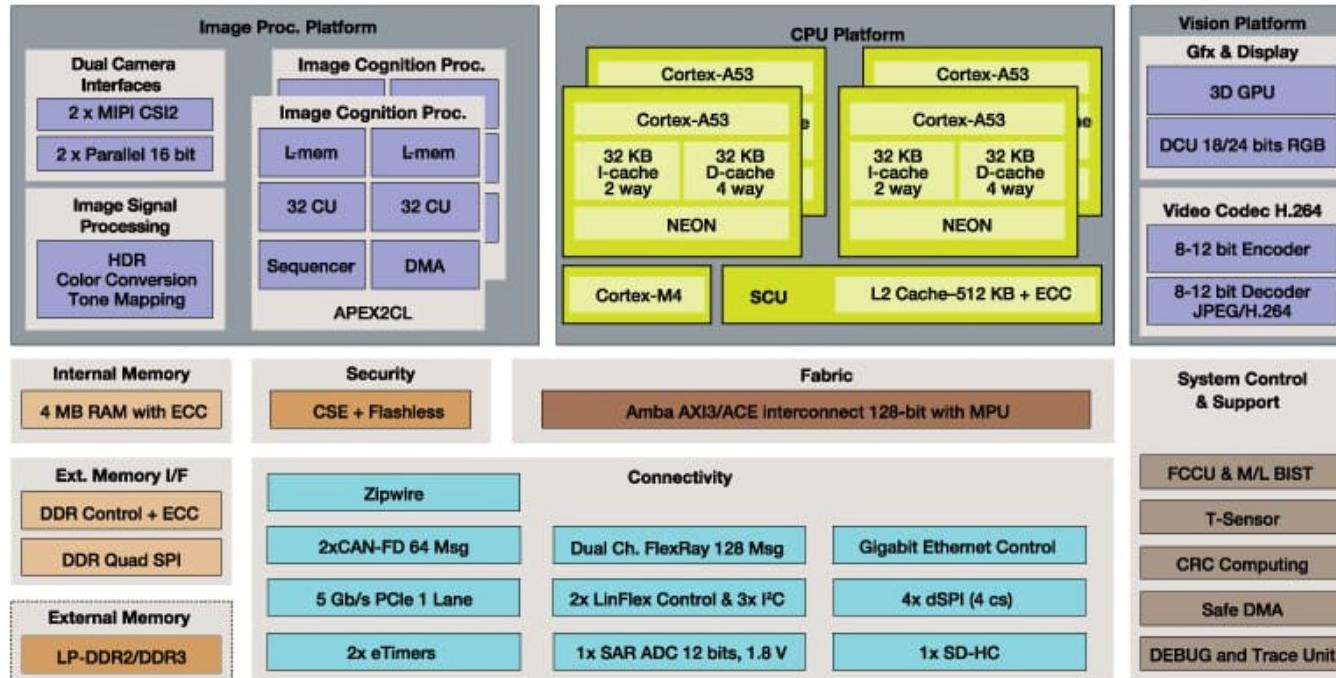


# MULTICORE - VF6XX: A5 + M4

Vybrid VF6xx Block Diagram



# MULTICORE - S32V234: 4XA53 + M4



**IT WILL WORK...  
“ALL THE TIME,  
80% OF THE TIME”**

---

#[repr(packed), #[repr(align(N))]



<https://doc.rust-lang.org/reference/type-layout.html>

# **#[REPR(PACKED)] == #PRAGMA PACK(1)**



# #`[REPR[ALIGN(N)]]`

---



# WHAT'S MISSING

---

between #[repr(packed)] and #[repr(align(N))]



SHORT ENUM



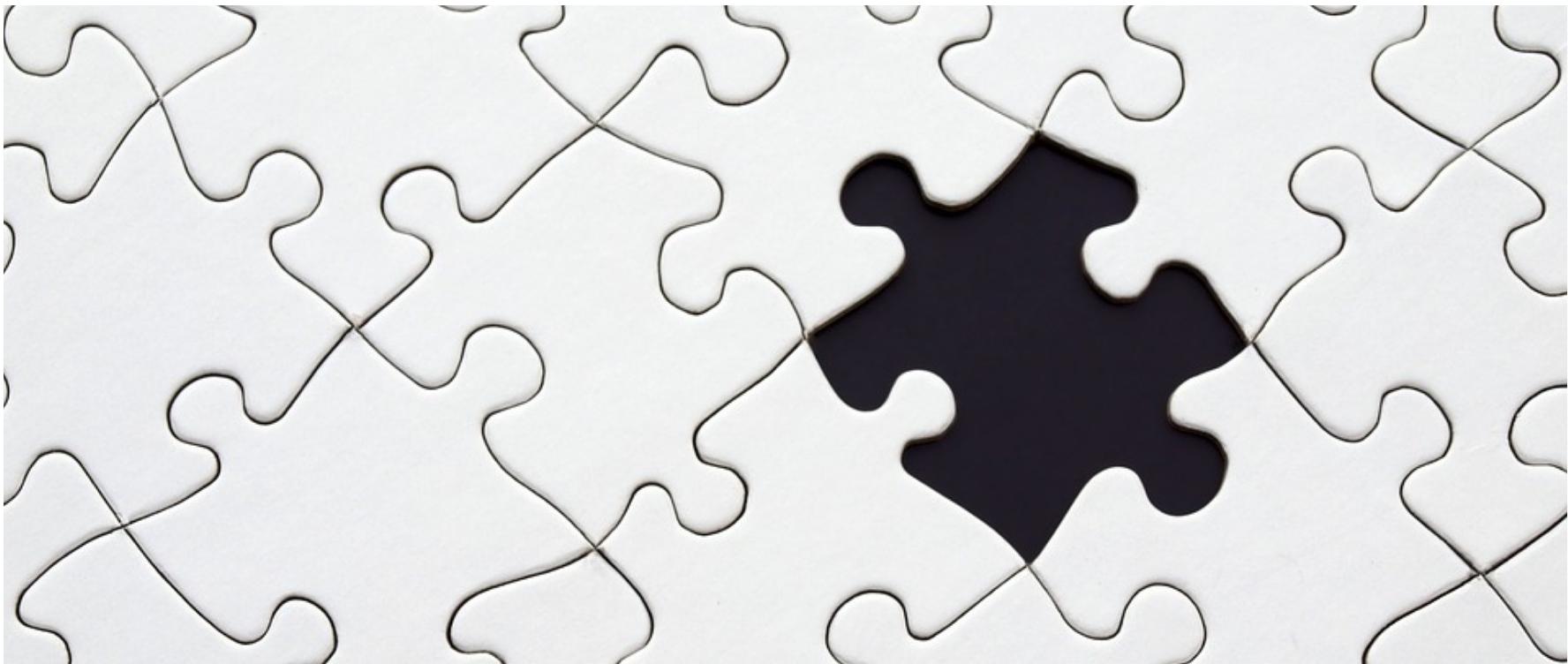
PACK != 1



PACK &&  
ALIGN

# **EXTERN “C” STATIC(?) VARIABLE?**

---



# “#DEFINE” != “CONST”

---

```
#define MY_CONST 1234U
```

```
const MY_CONST:u32 = 1234u32;
```

# MEMMAP.H MULTIPLE INCLUSION

[https://www.autosar.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/standards/classic/4-0/AUTOSAR\\_SWS\\_MemoryMapping.pdf](https://www.autosar.org/fileadmin/user_upload/standards/classic/4-0/AUTOSAR_SWS_MemoryMapping.pdf)



Specification of Memory Mapping  
V1.4.0  
R4.0 Rev 3

```
#define EEP_START_SEC_VAR_INIT_16
#include "MemMap.h"
static uint16 EepTimer = 100;
static uint16 EepRemainingBytes = 16;
#define EEP_STOP_SEC_VAR_INIT_16
#include "MemMap.h"
```

# NIGHTLY - “DAMNIT EVERYTHING REQUIRES NIGHTLY D:”

---

#rust-embedded: jamesmunns: [...]some stuff [...] is preventing me from making the BBQueue::new() function const. I think it should be possible on nightly, but not possible on stable for now

---

durka42: [...] you can run `rustc --pretty=expanded` on nightly to see the code that is generated

---

21:18 SpaceManiac darkstalker: yes, **with nightly feature 'specialization'**

21:19 darkstalker damnit everything requires nightly D:

21:20 SpaceManiac eddyp: the other reason is that (IIRC) traits being known to have fields is a nightly feature

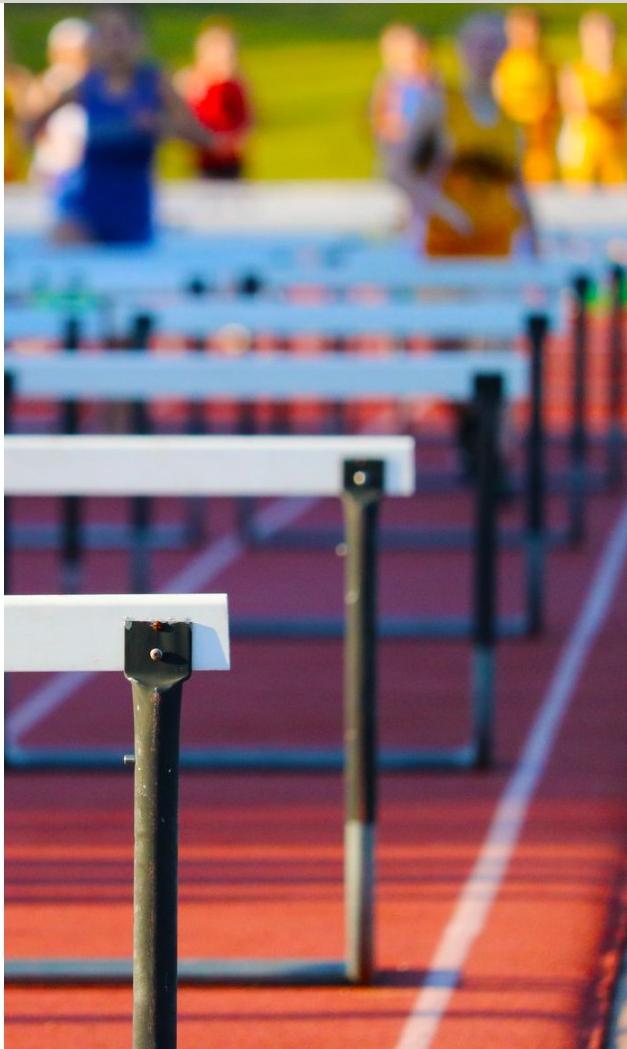
21:21 eddyp may I quote darkstalker?

21:26 darkstalker yes **it's true. all the cool things require nightly**

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# **ENGINEERS, MUCH LIKE OLD DOGS**

---



**NEW TRICKS ARE HARD**

# HELLO, EMBEDDED RUST WORLD!

```
fn main() {  
    println!("Hello, world!");  
}
```

The screenshot shows a Rust development environment with three tabs open:

- main.rs**: The source code for the application. It contains a main function that prints "Hello, world!". It also includes a panic handler and a reset vector.
- config**: A build configuration file. It specifies the target as thumbv7m-none-eabi and sets rustflags to [-C, -link-arg=-Tlink.ld]. It also defines a build target.
- link.ld**: A linker script. It defines memory regions for FLASH and RAM, sets the entry point to the reset handler, and specifies sections for the vector table and text.

```
main.rs
fn main() {
    println!("Hello, world!");
}

#[no_main]
#[no_std]
use core::panic::PanicInfo;
// The reset handler
#[no_mangle]
pub unsafe extern "C" fn Reset() -> ! {
    let _x = 42;
    ... // can't return so we go into an infinite loop here
    loop {}
}
// The reset vector, a pointer into the reset handler
#[link_section = ".vector_table.reset_vector"]
#[no_mangle]
pub static RESET_VECTOR: unsafe extern "C" fn() -> ! = Reset;
#[panic_handler]
fn panic(_panic: &PanicInfo<'_>) -> ! {
    loop {}
}

config
[target.thumbv7m-none-eabi]
rustflags = ["-C", "-link-arg=-Tlink.ld"]
[build]
target = "thumbv7m-none-eabi"

link.ld
MEMORY
{
    FLASH : ORIGIN = 0x00000000, LENGTH = 256K
    RAM : ORIGIN = 0x20000000, LENGTH = 64K
}
/* The entry point is the reset handler */
ENTRY(Reset);

EXTERN(RESET_VECTOR);

SECTIONS
{
    .vector_table ORIGIN(FLASH) :
    {
        /* First entry: initial Stack Pointer value */
        LONG(ORIGIN(RAM) + LENGTH(RAM));
        /* Second entry: reset vector */
        KEEP(*(.vector_table.reset_vector));
    } > FLASH
    .text :
    {
        *(.text .text.*);
    } > FLASH
    /DISCARD/ :
    {
        *(.ARM.exidx.*);
    }
}
```

# HELLO, EMBEDDED RUST WORLD!

```
fn main() {
    println!("Hello, world!");
}
```

The screenshot shows a terminal window with four tabs, each displaying code or configuration:

- main.rs**: The source code for the main application.
- config**: The build configuration file.
- link.ld**: The linker script.

**main.rs** content:

```
1 fn main() {
2     println!("Hello, world!");
3 }
```

**config** content:

```
1 [target.thumbv7m-none-eabi]
2 rustflags = ["-C", "link-arg=-Tlink.ld"]
3
4 [build]
5 target = "thumbv7m-none-eabi"
6
```

**link.ld** content:

```
3 MEMORY
4 {
5     FLASH : ORIGIN = 0x00000000, LENGTH = 256K
6     RAM : ORIGIN = 0x20000000, LENGTH = 64K
7 }
8
9 /* The entry point is the reset handler */
10 ENTRY(Reset);
11
12 EXTERN(RESET_VECTOR);
13
14 SECTIONS
15 {
16     .vector_table ORIGIN(FLASH) :
17     {
18         /* First entry: initial Stack Pointer value */
19         LONG(ORIGIN(RAM) + LENGTH(RAM));
20
21         /* Second entry: reset vector */
22         KEEP(*(.vector_table.reset_vector));
23     } > FLASH
24
25     .text :
26     {
27         *(.text .text.*);
28     } > FLASH
29
30     /DISCARD/ :
31     {
32         *(.ARM.exidx.*);
33     }
34 }
```

# MANAGERS

---



## **INDUSTRY/MANAGEMENT: ADVERSE TO MONOCULTURE (OR OSS)**

---

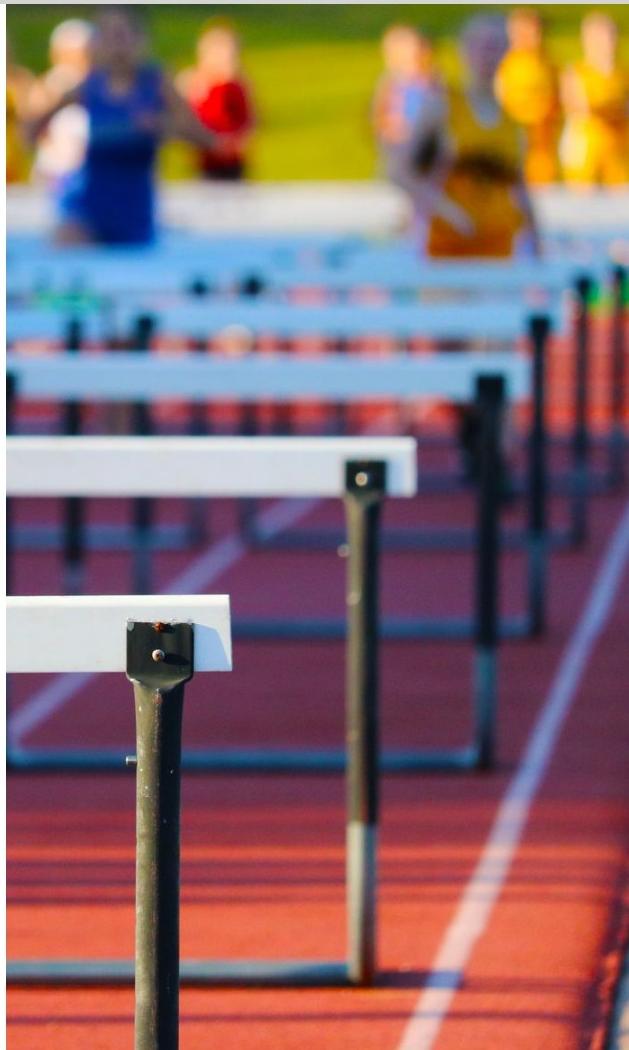
(unless is theirs)



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# LEGACY SOFTWARE

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Sometimes you feel like taking a shower after touching it...



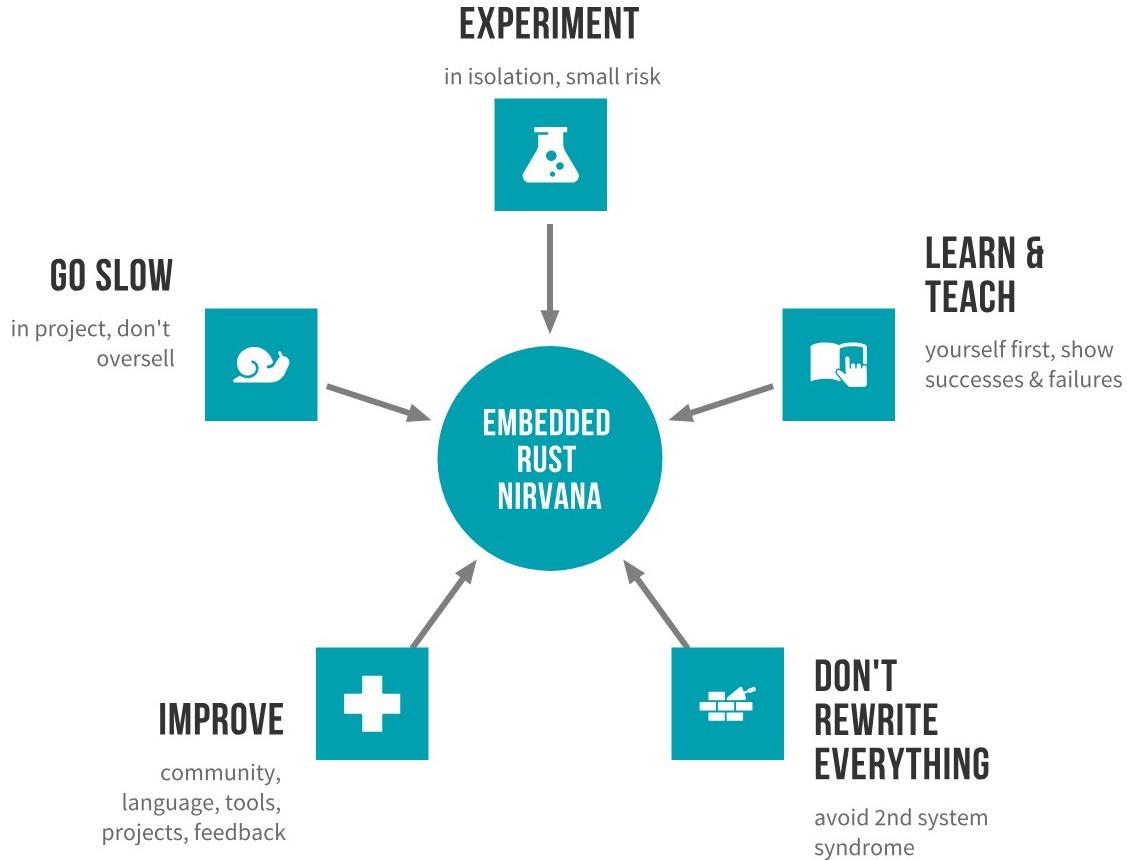
\*NOT ALL OF IT FEELS LIKE THIS



# CONCLUSIONS

# WHAT CAN YOU DO?

---



# WHAT CAN THE (EMBEDDED) RUST COMMUNITY DO?





# STABILIZATION (BEYOND CORTEX M)

ASM INTERFACE - NOT JUST ARM

# SAMPLES

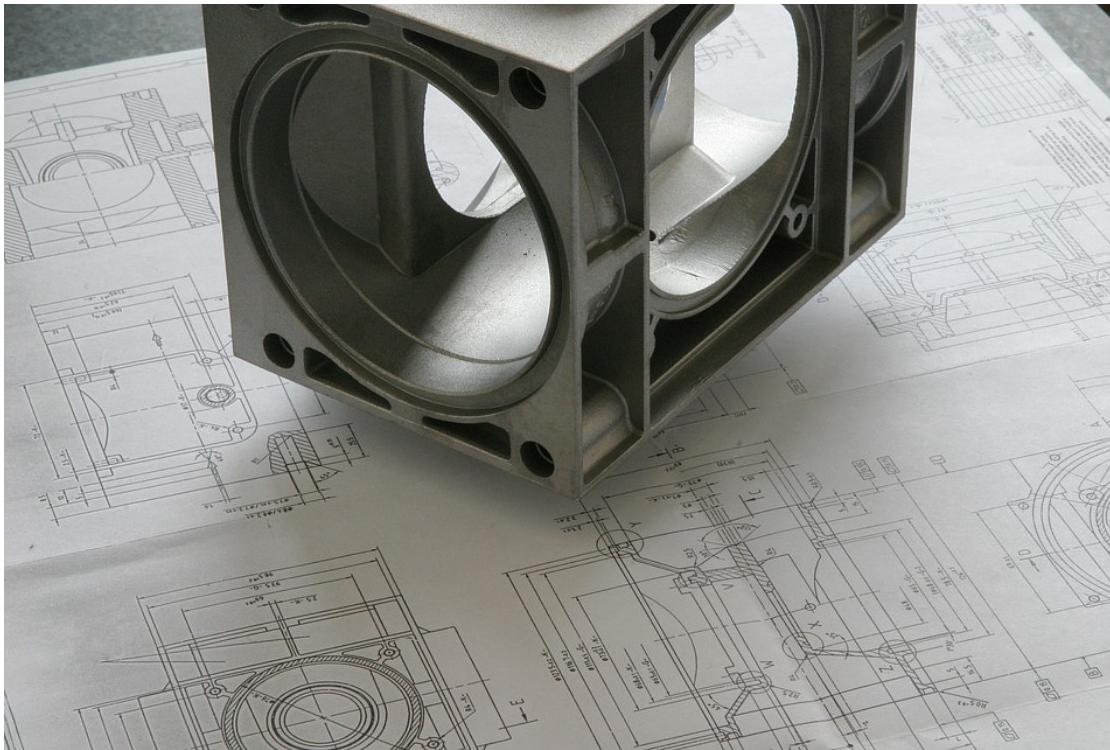
HOPEFULLY, LESS CREEPY THAN THESE >>>



Provide more std-like examples: Sema4<> mutex?

# NO FORMAL SPEC

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# WE NEED ALTERNATIVE RUSTC IMPLEMENTATIONS

Mutabah's Rust Compiler - <https://github.com/thepowersgang/mrustc> - might be an easier entry



NEW RUSTACEAN  
MY WIFE SPONSORS THE BOOK  
#RUST-EMBEDDED  
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