

RTOS

RF and Temperature driver implementation

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KUBOS

Introduction

Our project goal to use KubOS, to implement temperature monitoring as well as an RF driver. KubOS is software that accesses functions from the real-time operating system FreeRTOS (Kubos, 2016). FreeRTOS is stored in a container in Docker. By using KubOS to implement FreeRTOS, we are able to leverage the KubOS hardware abstraction layer (HAL) to enable wider deployment on different chips/boards.. This project would involve intimate knowledge of the build system within KubOS as well as the interface information for each of the chips we are writing drivers for.

KubOS is middleware that is used to communicate with FreeRTOS. The purpose of KubOS is to make programming using FreeRTOS easier. KubOS is supported by Unix systems, such as Linux and Mac. Using a HAL, KubOS communicates with embedded systems and microcontrollers. The current microcontrollers supported by KubOS is the MSP430 and the STM32F4. KubOS's middleware SDK enables programmers to access functions from FreeRTOS and implement tasks on the OS (Kubos, 2016). The FreeRTOS SDK is stored in a container in Docker and the container contains all the tools to compile the libraries needed for FreeRTOS. KubOS wrote a command-line wrapper around both compiling code inside the Docker container, and flashing the embedded RTOS board connected to the USB port. The wrapper is implemented in Python so everything is cross-platform compatible.

The two boards used in this project were the MSP430 and the STM32F4. The reason why we are using this boards is because they are currently supported by KubOS. Both of the boards support I2C, SPI, and UART communication. One major difference between the boards

is that the STM32F4 requires an external FTDI adapter to use its UART. The MSP430 immediately communicates once it is plugged in by USB.

The paper is laid out as follows: the next two sections cover both the embedded system boards we tested our code with. Then we explain the hardware for the drivers we wrote. After that, we examine some example code we wrote for both the drivers and tasks in KubOS. Next we discuss the Docker build environment, and finally the conclusion.

MSP430

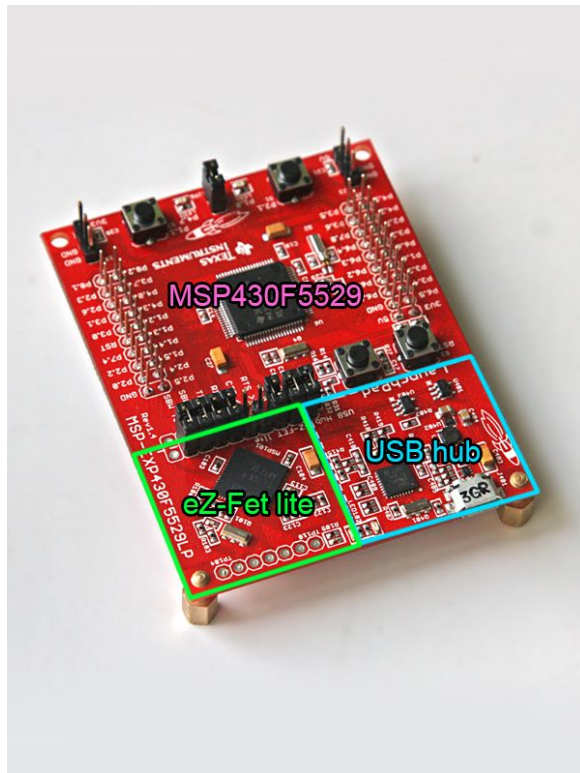
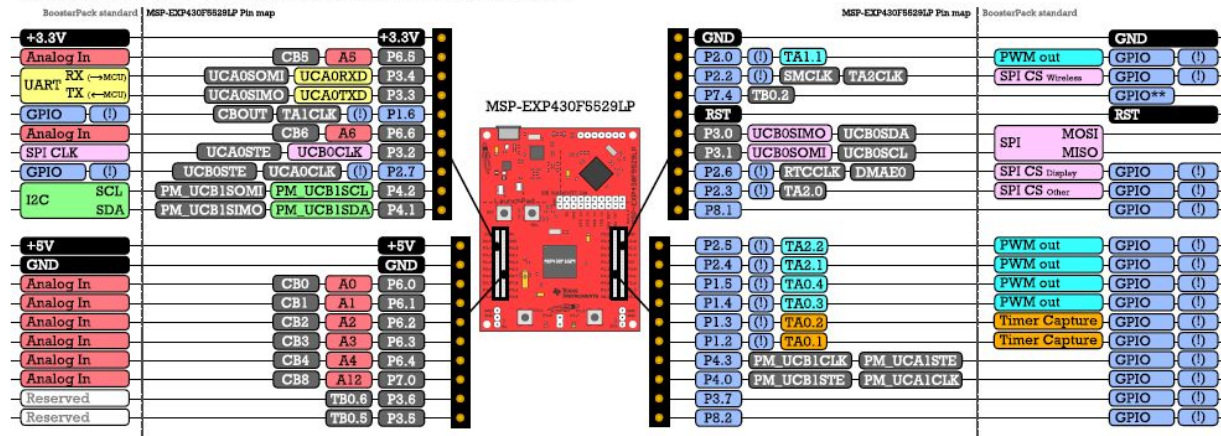
The MSP430 is a 16-Bit Ultra-Low-Power Microcontroller with 128KB Flash, 8KB RAM, USB Support, 12-bit ADC, and 2 SPI/I2C Interfaces (Texas Instruments, Inc., 2016a). This is a unique addition to KubOS due to the fact that it is a 16-bit processor and is not an ARM core.

Below are the pins exposed @ the MSP-EXP430F5529LP BoosterPack connector.

Also shown are functions that map with the BoosterPack pinout standard. Refer to the MSP430F5529 Datasheet for additional details.
NOTE: Some LaunchPads & BoosterPacks do not 100% comply with the standard, so please check your specific LaunchPad to ensure pin compatibility.

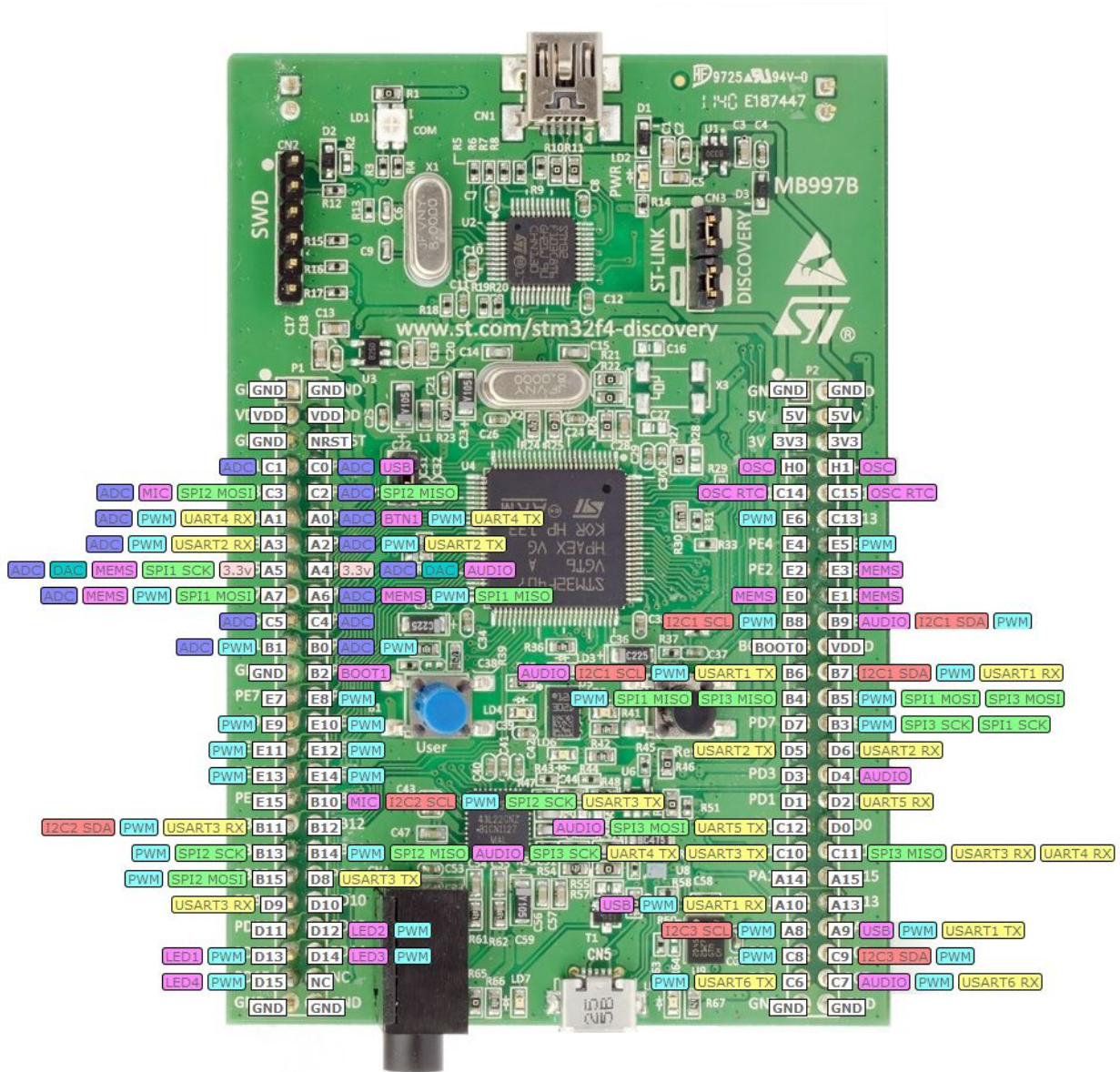
(!) Denotes I/O pins that are interrupt-capable.

** Some LaunchPads do not have a GPIO here. De-prioritize this pin when making a BoosterPack.



In our testing the MSP430 work much quicker for debugging as we did not need to have to find another FTDI adapter to enable the UART to USB. The debugger has this support natively.

STM32F4



The STM32F407VGT6 is a microcontroller featuring 32-bit ARM® Cortex® -M4 with FPU core, 1-Mbyte Flash memory, 192-Kbyte RAM (STMicroelectronics, 2016). This processor is much faster than the MSP430 shown before. The available I/O is also much better as well. The reason we have decided to use two different boards is to test our driver in Kubos to ensure that we have compatibility between the platforms.

CC1120 SPI Radio

The first chip that we wrote drivers for is the CC1120 (Texas Instruments Inc., 2016).

This chip is an RF transceiver meaning that if you matched an antenna to one side of the chip

and understood its state machine variables

via

the control and communication interface

you could transmit packets of data to some

other transceiver using a common protocol.

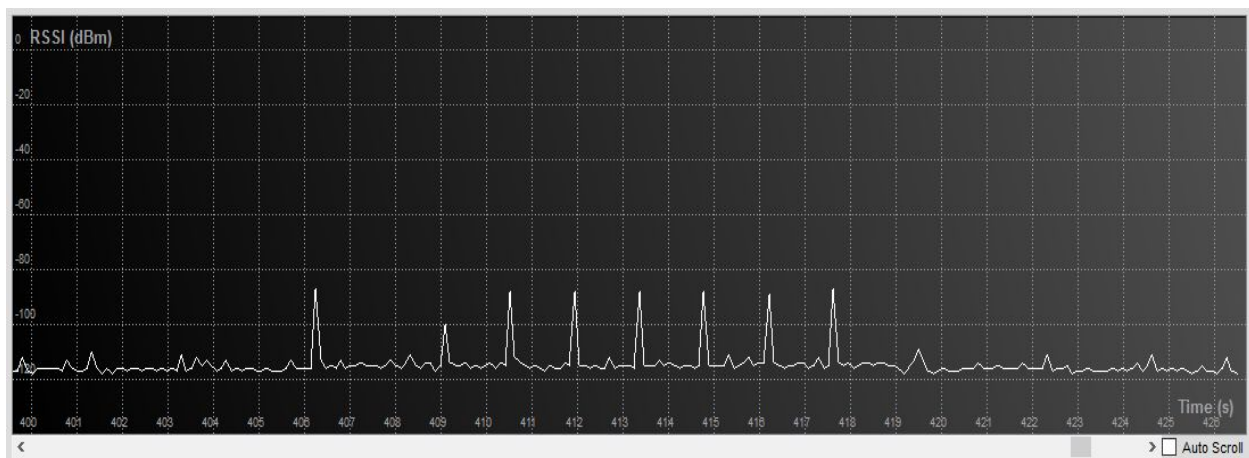
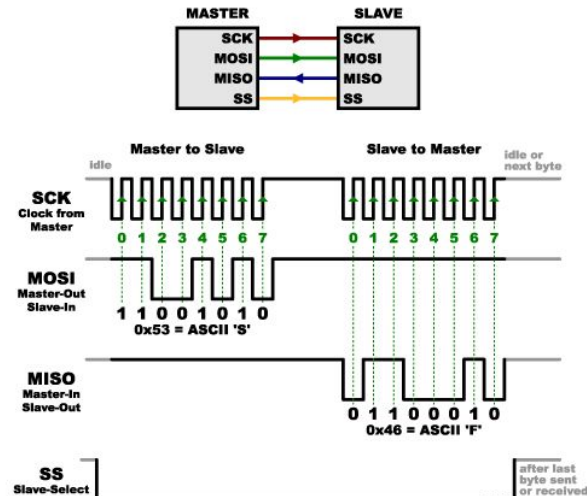
The communication interface to the IC is

known as SPI or serial peripheral interface.

The interface uses a common clock and TX

and RX lines but uses a hardware enable

line to slide information in both the RX and TX registers. This action is similar to a shift register.



Here is an output seen on a matching radio graphing RSSI values.

We have fallen short on ensuring that we had reliable 2 way packet transfer yet we are able to

see that the radio is transmitting via our software layer in terms of controlling the radio. Given

another month I am certain we would see the errors perhaps in our setup registers. Below is a state diagram for the CC112X family showing the various states and transitions.

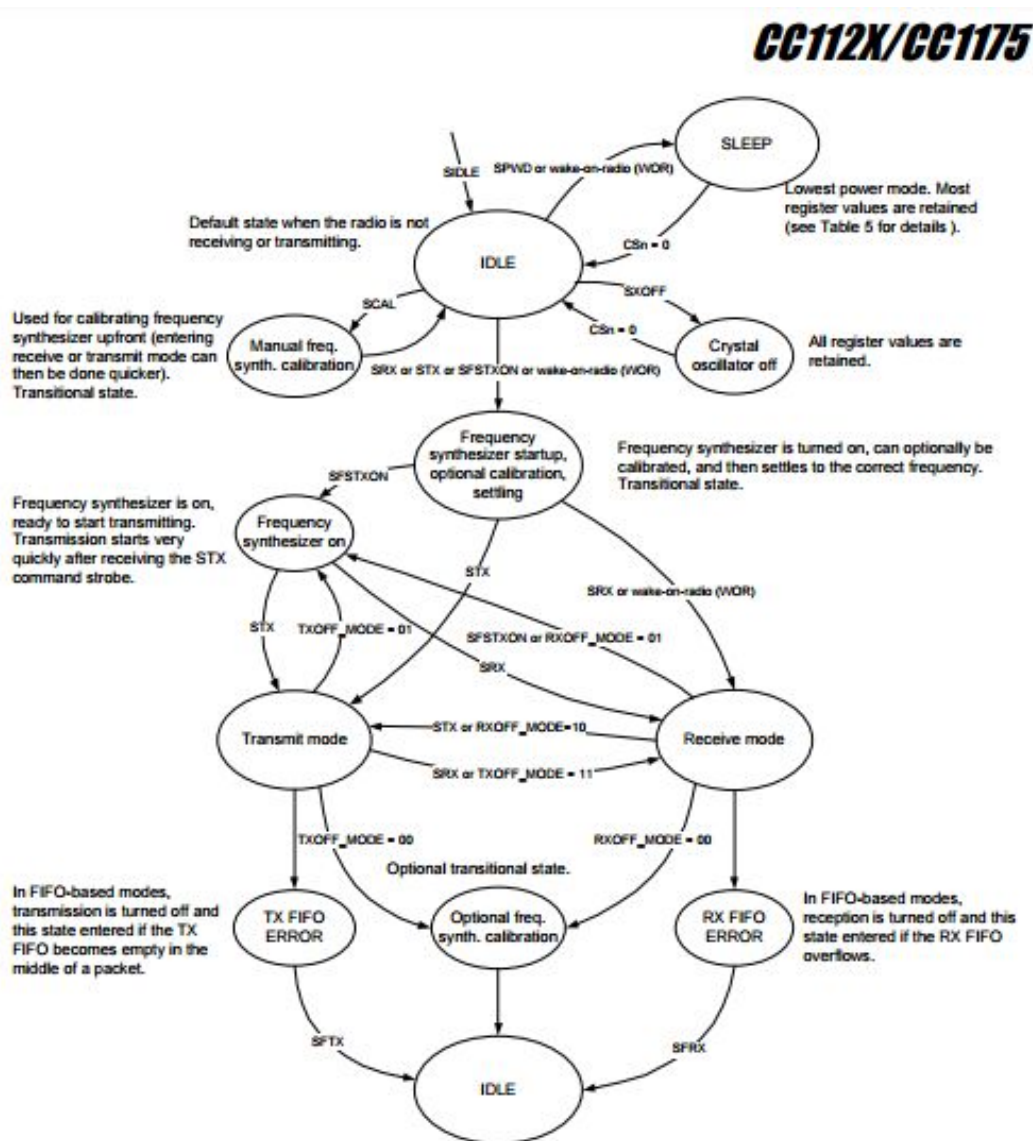
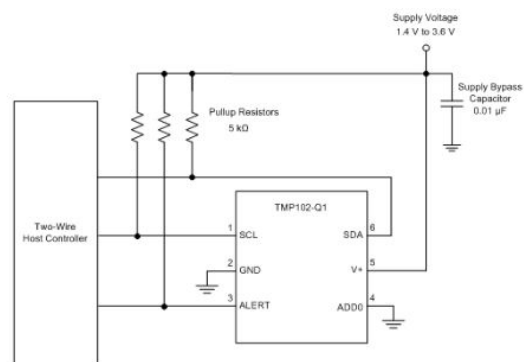


Figure 2: Simplified State Diagram

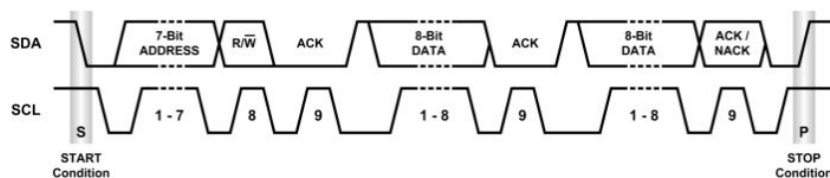
TMP102 I2C Temperature Sensor

On the other hand we are able to claim success on a driver for the TMP102 temperature sensor developed by TI (Texas Instruments, Inc., 2016b). This sensor stands as a replacement of needing to have an analog interface that might be subject to noise when looking at precision temperatures. Per TI:

The TMP102 device is a digital temperature sensor ideal for NTC/PTC thermistor replacement where high accuracy is required. The device offers an accuracy of $\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ without requiring calibration or external component signal conditioning. IC temperature sensors are



TMP102 schematic



I2C signal diagram

highly linear and do not require complex calculations or lookup tables to derive the temperature. The on-chip 12-bit ADC offers resolutions down to 0.0625°C . -Texas Instruments.

This IC differs from the last IC in terms of the communication bus. As compared to SPI I2C aka (Inter-Integrated Circuit) uses a two wire bus as compared to the four wires required for the SPI chips. This is down by having assigned address in the hardware that we must address within our software to be able to communicate to the chip on that bus line. Beyond this simple bit math is applied to ensure that we are outputting the appropriate value for temperature.

KubOS Driver and Task Examples (C code)

TMP102 Driver

```
1  #include "tmp102.h"
2
3  void tmp102_setup()
4  {
5      KI2CConf conf = {
6          .addressing_mode = K_ADDRESSINGMODE_7BIT,
7          .role = K_MASTER,
8          .clock_speed = 10000};
9      // Initialize first i2c bus with configuration
10     k_i2c_init(I2C_DEV, &conf);
11 }
12
13 void tmp102_read_temperature(int *temp)
14 {
15     uint8_t cmd = 0x00;
16     uint16_t value;
17     uint8_t buffer[2];
18
19     k_i2c_write(I2C_DEV, I2C_SLAVE_ADDR, &cmd, 1);
20     // Processing delay
21     vTaskDelay(50);
22     // Read back 3 byte response from slave
23     k_i2c_read(I2C_DEV, I2C_SLAVE_ADDR, &buffer, 2);
24
25     value = (buffer[0] << 4) | (buffer[1] >> 4);
26     value /= 16;
27
28     value *= 9 / 5.0;
29     value += 32;
30
31     *temp = value;
32 }
```

TMP102 temperature sensor implementation file

Temperature and Fan Speed RTOS Task

```
void task_set_fan_speed(void *p)
{
    uint16_t speed = FAN_IDLE, new_speed = FAN_IDLE;
    uint8_t average_temperature;

    while (1)
    {
        if (temperature_count)
        {
            average_temperature = temperature_sum / temperature_count;
            printf(" Fan speed: %d\tAverage Temp: %d\r\n", speed, average_temperature);
            if (average_temperature > TEMP_TX_THRESHOLD)
                new_speed = FAN_HIGH;
            else if (average_temperature > 75)
                new_speed = FAN_MED;
            else if (average_temperature > 70)
                new_speed = FAN_LOW;
            else
                new_speed = FAN_IDLE;

            if (new_speed != speed)
            {
                speed = new_speed;
                printf("! New speed set: %d\r\n", speed);
            }

            temperature_sum = 0;
            temperature_count = 0;
        }
        vTaskDelay(10000 / portTICK_RATE_MS);
    }
}
```

RTOS task to average the input from the temperature sensor and set fan speed

Console Output

[illegible]

Output from MSP board with 2 tasks:

1. Collect and then send temperature
2. Average the sum of collected temperatures and set fan speed accordingly

Build Environment

Docker

Since building an RTOS, middleware and tasks require a significant amount of third-party libraries, specific tooling and versions, the KubOS team created a Docker image to ease development. The Docker image contains all the needed shared libs, headers, and the specific compiler needed to build FreeRTOS, and KubOS. This enabled development to take place on any system that can run Docker, namely Windows 7+, Linux 3.10+, and OSX 10.10+ (Docker Inc., 2016).

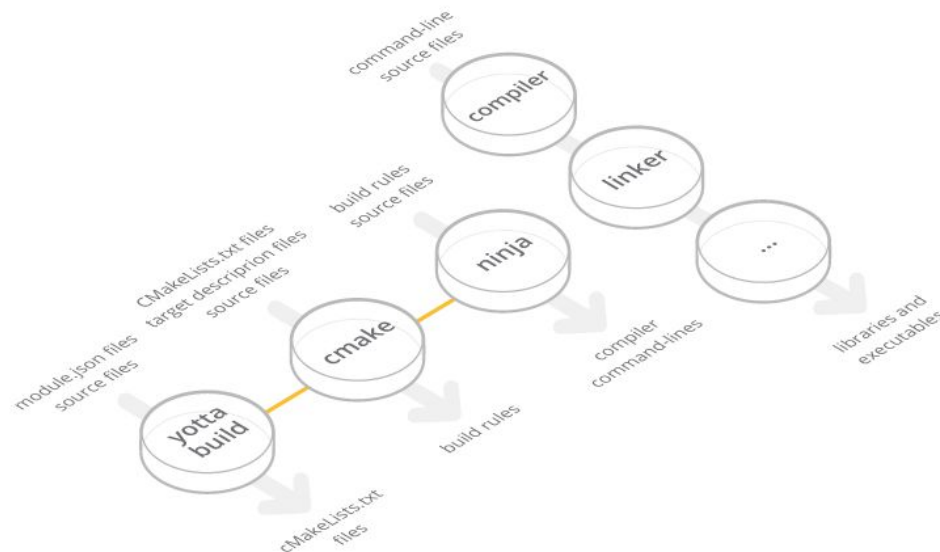
The build environment is wrapped with a simple command line app written in Python. This wrapper does three main things:

- Installs and updates the Docker build environment (Docker image/container)
- Builds and tests the environment (FreeRTOS/KubOS/userland code)
- Flashes embedded boards (through a connected port)

Yotta

Yotta is a json-based module manager (ARM Ltd., 2016). Yotta simplifies reusing code among projects and enables different build targets for different embedded CPUs. Once a `module.json` file is created, yotta can download, build and inject C/C++ modules for easy reusability. It is based on the concepts of 'npm', which is the package manager for NodeJS.

With Yotta, drivers for different chips or sensors can be dynamically injected during the



build process, shortening the overall process to increase development iteration. It also enables reuse among different manufacturers, since pinouts and lines can be set for each project without relying on static “defines” within each module.

Conclusion

This project opened our eyes to the industry of RTOS middleware. Abstraction allows software developers in other domains to support and advance your project even when using an RTOS. Given the opportunity to further develop our RF driver would be fun as it was ambitious in our scope. We are grateful to be able to deliver to KubOS a working temperature driver and to provide feedback of their software environment. This was a fun course and an even more fun project. We look forward to applying our newly found skills in industry.

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