HASviolet

Installation and User Guide for RPI

Hudson Valley Digital Network 18 March 2021

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Introduction

Welcome to HASviolet!

Within Hudson Valley Digital Network (HVDN) we look at HASviolet as a project that is as much (if not more) about the journey as it is about the destination. The project's origins started with a member of HVDN sharing the idea "I've been wanting to do a "communicator" for a while. Something that someone could use over relatively short distances to send text messages back and forth. I have been looking for others to work on a project with too!"

After some investigation LoRa was something to consider since it "should play well with the hacker/maker crowd and possibly the IoT/computer science area." From this point we thought it was a good idea to take forward and started developing a concept around it.

We sifted through a number of existing published LoRa projects using Raspberry Pi and various microcontrollers. We found many github sites with code, libraries, and recommended hardware but most of them were just "proof of concepts", no demonstrations of use cases, or sharing of lessons learned whether as a "lone eagle" or part of a team.

Since we would be building new and flexing existing skillsets along the way our differentiation with this project would be sharing the journey through articles, videos, and (hopefully) good documentation.

This guide will help you get started with HASviolet beginning with required RPi hardware and Raspberry Pi OS installation. We will follow this with HASviolet installation, configuration, and the HASviolet application themselves. All references to "RPi" in this guide are to the Raspberry Pi Zero WH hardware.

Design

When we embarked on the HASviolet project, we reviewed all the LoRa projects that were already out there. The vast majority of LoRa projects chose microcontrollers as their platform but we noticed many LoRa projects hit a roadblock after they reached basic objectives such as basic text chat between units. We came to the conclusion that unless a project is use-case driven and highlights the journey to a level of detail for others to build with you, the project just whithers over time especially with microcontroller based projects. We opted to lead the HASviolet project with a RPi solution first since it provides an optimal educational platform opportunity and would ease the "learning curve" as microcontroller options are included.

Hardware

HASviolet consists of the following architecture components:

- Single board computer
- Display (OLED)
- Input (Pushbuttons) Network (WiFi)
- RF Module (LoRa)
- RF Antenna
- Power (2.5A)
 - Uses case requiring portable power find 1200maH delivers ~7 hours of RF at low power when sent at 5 second intervals.

Tested hardware includes the following:

Raspberry Pi Zero WH (Wireless with Headers) You will need to solder the 20-pin header to the board. Adafruit LoRa Radio Bonnet with OLED – RFM95W @915Mhz Requires an antenna connected via a male U.FL connector SanDisk Ultra 16GB RAM Class 10 MicroSD RPi require quality microSD cards at least Class 10 Power Source 5V @ 2.5A minimum The hardware can be powered via USB to PC as part of setup but for operation it needs to be on a standalone power source. 900 MHz Omnidirectional "stub" Antenna Our antenna U.FL IPEX to SMA Connector Connect the omnidirectional antenna to the Adafruit LoRa Radio Bonnet If you plan on connecting i2c sensors we recommend using the Sparkfun Qwiic Connect System adding the Sparkfun Qwiic HAT for RPI to your hardware stack.		
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	Sparkfun QwiiC Connect System adding the Sparkfun Qwiic HAT	

Software

Preparing the microSD

An overview of building HASviolet starts with microSD card preparation;

- From a computer download and run Raspberry Pi Imager
- Within Raspberry Pi Imager, click on CHOOSE OS under Operating System, then Raspberry Pi OS (Other), then Raspberry Pi OS Lite (32-bit)
- o Insert microSD card then click on CHOOSE SD CARD under SD Card then select SD card.
- Click WRITE to begin formatting the SD card and installing the OS

Preparing the OS

Once the image has been created on the microSD card, you will need to mount the card and create/edit files if you plan to remotely connect to the RPi via WiFi or USB. If you plan on using a directly connected monitor and keyboard then you can jump to the RPi Setup section.

Remote Connectivity

Existing Wireless Network

 Mount the SD card Change to the boot directory on the SD card Enable ssh access by creating a blank file named ssh 	cd /media/sd-card/boot touch ssh
 Within the boot directory, create a file called wpa_supplicant.co and edit 	nf vi wpa_supplicant.conf
 When you have opened the new file, add the configuration at right and save Be sure to replace SSID with your local wireless network SSID 	country=US ctrl_interface=DIR=/var/run/wpa_supplicant GROUP=netdev update_config=1 network={ ssid="MyWiFiNetwork" psk="aVeryStrongPassword" key_mgmt=WPA-PSK }
 Change to your home directory, run sync as sudo, and unmount the SD card Remove the SD card 	cd ~ sudo sync umount /media/sd-card/root umount /media/sd-card/boot

USB connection

If WiFi is not available, using zero-configuration networking services may be an option if you are running OSX or Windows with Apple BonJour Services installed. Linux users will need to consult their distribution documentation on adding USB as an IP interface and any configuration changes to the installed Avahi software.

Change to the boot directory on the SD card	cd /media/sd-card/boot	
•	Edit the config.txt file	vi config.txt
		Append the following line:
		dtoverlay=dwc2
		Then save the file.
•	While in the boot directory, edit the cmdline.txt file, replace a line,	vi cmdline.txt
	then save file.	Replace with the following all as one continuous line:
		<pre>dwc_otg.lpm_enable=0 console=serial0,115200 console=tty1 root=/dev/mmcblk0p2 rootfstype=ext4 elevator=deadline fsck.repair=yes rootwait modules-load=dwc2,g_ether quiet init=/usr/lib/raspi-config/init_resize.sh</pre>
		Than save the file.
•	Remaining in the boot directory, enable ssh access by creating a blank file named ssh	touch ssh

RPi Setup

 Insert SD card Connect RPI and Power on Log in with default pi:raspberry 	If accessing via IP over USB, connect PC USB port to RPi USB Data port (next to mini-HDMI port) ssh -l pi -o IdentitiesOnly=yes <yourpi></yourpi>
	If connecting via SSH for first time click yes to accept fingerprint
Run Configuration tool	sudo raspi-config
Navigate through each menu making selections as noted then ex tool	1. System Options S1 Wireless. LAN update (if using to connect) S3 Password. (change password) S4 Hostname. Change hostname to your call + number [50-98] yourcall-50 S5 Boot/Auto Login select B1 2. Display Option (Nothing to do) 3. Interfacing options P2 SSH Enable P4 SPI Enable P5 I2C Enable 4. Performance Options P2 GPU Memory: Set to 16 5. Localization Options L1 Change Local to <your-local>.UTF-8 L2 Change Timezone L4 WLAN Country 7. Advanced Options A1 Expand filesystem 8. Update</your-local>
Run sync as sudo, and reboot (ignore errors)	sudo sync sudo reboot

HASviolet Install

 SSH into your Pi Run OS update and upgrade Install Git Run sync and reboot 	sudo apt-get update sudo apt-get -y upgrade sudo apt-get install git sudo sync sudo reboot
Log back in as piClone the HASviolet repo	git clone https://github.com/hudsonvalleydigitalnetwork/hasviolet.git
 Change directories to /home/pi/hasviolet Run ./HASviolet_install_fresh.sh 	
 Run ./HASviolet_config.py Change NOCALL to your call or handle Change SSID to a number 50 – 99 If needed increase Transmit power from 5 to as high as 20 Change beacon as you see fit Save and exit 	-==- HASviolet Config Tool -==- 1 Change my Call / Handle PURPLE 2
 [Optional] If you want to install the Web Interface daemon. See Web Interface section for more info frst 	./HASviolet_websox.sh install
Installation is complete. Apps are run from /home/pi/hasviolet	

HASviolet is now installed!

Using HASviolet RPi

Overview

HASviolet is a data communications application suite designed to be used on RF networks such as LoRa. Applications are written in Python 3.7.X using <u>Visual Studio Code</u>. Shell scripts (<u>Bash</u>) are used for creating the HASviolet installation environment. The working directory for all applications is installed in /home/pi/HASviolet

The application suite is developed in Python and includes the following core applications;

- HASviolet config.py to configure your station with your call sign/handle
- HASviolet_BEACON.py sends a repeating broadcast message
- HASviolet_chat.py is a half-duplex messaging app
- HASviolet_TX.py sends a message to another station
- HASviolet_RX.py listens for messages from other stations
- **HASvioletRF.py** is a RF interface library used by all HASviolet applications to support abstraction from the variety of RF libraries/modules expected to be support edover time.
- **HASvioletHID.py** is a HID library (OLED, Buttons, etc) used by all HASviolet applications to support abstraction from the variety of modules/methods to be supported over time.
- HASrf95.py is a HOPE RFM95 library referenced by the HASvioletRF library
- font5x8.bin is a font file for OLEDs as used by the HASvioletHID library

Core and other applications have the dependency on the following config files stored in the cfg/ directory;

- HASviolet.json is a configuration file generated by HASviolet-config.py
- hvdn-logo.xbm is a bitmap graphic file used by the HASvioletHID library

HASviolet includes a WebUI. Applications that support this include;

- HASviolet_websox.sh is a script that can install, start, stop, and remove the HASviolet Web server as a
 daemon on startup
- HASviolet websox.service is a systemd file installed that starts HASviolet websox.py
- HASviolet_websox.py is a web server that runs on RPi bootup and serves HTML, CSS, and Javascript
 files as the WebUI.
- HASviolet.crt is a certificate file for SSLv3/TLS used by HASviolet_web.py
- HASviolet.key is a key file for SSLv3/TLS used by HASviolet_web.py
- HASviolet.pwf is a password file used by HASviolet web.py
- HASviolet_account.py is a ID/password management tool used for HASviolet.pwf

Applications

HASviolet_account.py

ID/Password management tool for Web UI your station. Updates hasVIOLET.pwf

Password

usage: HASviolet_account.py [-h] [-s] [-c] [-d] -u USER [-p PASSWORD]

optional arguments:
-h, --help show this help message and exit
-s, --store Store Password
-c, --check Check Password
-d, --delete Delete User
-u USER, --user USER Username

HASviolet_config.py

-p PASSWORD, --password PASSWORD

Configure your station. Updates hasVIOLET.json

Usage: HASviolet-config.py

HASviolet_BEACON.py

Beacon a LoRa message

```
Usage: HASviolet_BEACON.py -c COUNT -t DELAY "message"

OPTIONS
-h, --help show this help message and exit
-d DESTINATION, --destination DESTINATION
Destination
-m MESSAGE, --message MESSAGE
Message in quotes
```

HASviolet_CHAT.py

Half-duplex LoRa messaging app

HASviolet_TX.py

Send a LoRa message

```
Usage: HASviolet_TX.py -d DESTINATION "message"

• If you want the Web Interface installed run ./HASviolet_websox.sh install

OPTIONS

-h, --help show this help message and exit
-d DESTINATION, --destination DESTINATION

Destination

-m MESSAGE, --message MESSAGE

Message in quotes
```

HASviolet_RX.py

Listens for messages from other LoRa stations

Libraries

For ease of development by end-users, HASviolet core applications in the previous release (Antigua) have been ported into two libraries to be used in your applications. The library names are **HASvioletRF.py** and **HASvioletHID.py**

HASvioletRF.py

All RF functions are performed through this library. It has dependencies on RF specific modules that currently include **HASrf95.py** for the HOPE RFM95 module currently used on the Adafruit Radio bonnet. Support for the ST126X module is planned and will be referenced via the HASvioletRF.py. Some of the variables available to user applications include the following

Variable	Туре	Description
self.radio	string	RF Modules used (RFM9X, Sx126X, etc)
self.modem	string	Modemstring as standardizedby Radiohead
self.frequency	string	Frequency in Hz
self.spreadfactor	string	LoRa Mode spreadfactor
self.codingrate4	string	LoRa Mode Coding Rate
self.bandwidth	string	LoRa Mode Bandwidth
self.spreadfactor	string	LoRa Mode spreadfactor
self.spreadfactor	string	LoRa Mode spreadfactor
self.txpwr	integer	Value from 5 to 23
self.mycall	string	Callsign or Handle (ie VIOLET)
self.myssid	integer	Recommended 50-99 (ie 50)

HASvioletHID.py

All HID functions are performed through this library. This includes GPIO addressable buttons and OLED displays. This library has dependencies on the 128x32 SSD1306 display driver as available through the **adafruit_ssd1306** library. Some of the methods available to user applications include the following

Variable	Туре	Description	
self.OLED	method	Frequency within 868 or 900 MHz bands in MHz (ie 911.25)	
self.OLED.fill	method	Fill OLED screen	
self.OLED.show	method	Show on OLED screen	
self.btnLeft.value	method	Left Button position	
self.btnMid.value	method	Middle Button position	
self.btnRight.value	method	Right Button position	
self.logo	method	Displays HVDN Logo on OLED	

Sensors

There are four interfaces that can be used to physically connect sensors and other devices to HASviolet. They are:

- SPI which we reserve for the RF module given speed and full-duplex support
- i2c which is our preference for use with sensors connected using the <u>Qwiic connect system</u>.
- microUSB which we prefer for GPS devices
- GPIO as a last resort

The following sensor application "alpha code" is available in the apps/sensors/ directory.

- HASviolet-atmos.py for use with the <u>Sparkfun BME280 Atmospheric sensor (Qwiic)</u>
- HASviolet-distance.py for use with the Sparkfun Distance Sensor (Qwiic)
- HASviolet-gps.py for use with <u>USB accessible GPS/GLONASS</u>
- HASviolet-sensors.py for use with all three of the aforementioned sensors simultaneously

HASviolet-atmos.py

```
usage: HASviolet-atmos.py [-h] [-d DESTINATION]

HASviolet Atmos Sensor

-h, --help show this help message and optional arguments:

-d DESTINATION, --destination DESTINATION
```

HASviolet-distance.py

```
usage: HASviolet-distance.py [-h] [-d DESTINATION]

HASviolet Distance Sensor

-h, --help show this help message and optional arguments:
-d DESTINATION, --destination DESTINATION
```

HASviolet-gps.py

```
usage: HASviolet-gps.py [-h] [-d DESTINATION]

HASviolet GPS SensorHASviolet-distance.py

-h, --help show this help message and optional arguments:
```

HASviolet-sensors.py

```
usage: HASviolet-sensors.py [-h] [-d DESTINATION] [-a] [-f] [-g]

HASviolet Sensor TX

-h, --help show this help message and optional arguments:

-d DESTINATION, --destination DESTINATION

-a, --atmosphere Atmosphere Sensor

-f, --distance Distance Sensor

-f, --distance Distance Sensor
```

Web Interface

Overview

When installed using **./HASviolet_web.sh install**, **HASViolet_websox.py** server is installed as a daemon under Systemd. On start, HASviolet_websox.py performs the following in order;

- loads SSL keys cfg/hasVIOLET.crt and cfg/hasVIOLET.key
- loads JSON file cfg/hasVIOLET.json
- listen for (browser) client connections on port 8000

When a new client connects the following occur in order;

- Client is served server/static/hasVIOLET_LOGIN.html made pretty with server/static/hasVIOLET_LOGIN.css
- Client is required to authenticate using ID/password in cfg/hasVIOLET.pwf file
- Once authenticated, the client is redirected to the Dashboard server/static/hasVIOLET_INDEX.html made pretty with server/static/hasVIOLET.css
- After the page is made pretty, server/static/hasVIOLET_INDEX.html tells the browser to load Javascript from server/static/hasVIOLET.js
- Javascript instructs the client to the server and load cfg/hasVIOLET.json

Usage

The server runs two

•	If not done so previously,install the Web Interface Daemon	./HASviolet_websox.sh install
		This command also includes the following options:
		start : Start service stop : Stop Service status : Service Status remove : Nuke Service
•	Note IP address of RPi	ip -f inet address
•	Connect with browser to RPi	https://ip-address-or-name:8000
•	Login with ID/ password	Default included is radio:radio
•	You are now connected. Further Instructions provided in web browser window.	

Server Flow

The server runs two async processes;

- Tornado Web Framework providing web and websocket services
- LoRa Transceiver function (HASviolet)

When HASviolet sees a LoRa packet, it captures the message and sends a WebSocket client broadcast. When a TX request comes from the browser (client) via WebSockets, **HASit.transmit** function is called, transmits the LoRa packet and then trips a conditional inner-loop to restart recieving. We also use this trick if we want to change channels from the client which includes frequency, spreadfactor, coding, and bandwidth.

Details

SSL Certificate and Key (hasVIOLET.crt and hasVIOLET.key)

The framework uses SSLv3/TLS only. A untrusted self-signed certificate and server key are provided cfg/hasVIOLET.crt and cfg/hasVIOLET.key, respectively. But it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED these be replaced with your own trusted credentials. Know until you have done that you will see (harmless) iostream errors from the websocket server like the following.

[SSL: SSLV3 ALERT CERTIFICATE UNKNOWN] sslv3 alert certificate unknown (ssl.c:852)

User Authentication

cfg/hasVIOLET.pwf is a password file that stores ID and password pairs. An account management program is included called **hasVIOLET_account.py** to generate your own ID and password pairs into the password file. Passwords are stored as hashes to protect them. The password file is pre-populated with three ID:Password pairs provided as examples only and should be immediately replaced using the account program.

FAVICON.ICO

An annoying thing all browsers do is look for a **FAVICON.ICO** file. The file is a small image icon that some sites host and is displayed in your browser tab with the title of the web page. I created one cause I go tired of seeing an error in the Browser inspect console while I was building the app. If you want to create your own FAVICON.ICO, easiest way is from the following website that generates them.

https://www.favicon.cc/

Index CSS code (hasVIOLET_INDEX.css)

The CSS code is what makes the WebUI shine. It is commented into sections that reference the grid containers they serve. The Tuner-Container CSS is the most complex out of all the sections. To best grasp CSS use start with reviewing Buttson CSS and Controls CSS sections. They serve the radio-controls, cmd-controls, and msg-control containers.

Login CSS code (hasVIOLET_LOGIN.css)

The CSS code for server/static/hasVIOLET_LOGIN.html

JS Code

This code is loaded and run by the browser. To see it in action on the browser, after loading the web page (in Chrome) right click on empty page space and select **Inspect** then click on the **Console tab** The code generates alot of console.log in here.

Appendices

XARPS

XARPS stands for eXtensible Amateur Radio Payload Specification. Referencing the Open Systems Interconnection model (OSI model), XARPS is an application layer protocol with link-level awareness for use by RF systems providing application level connectivity to other networked systems. ASCII (UTF-8) is used throughout the specification

Payload Fields

Source	Destination	Options	Data Type	Data
9 bytes (string)	9 bytes (string)	1 byte (hex)	1 byte (hex)	235 bytes (string)

Source and Destination

Each contain callsign/handle with SSID. Field size supports IARU decision for 7 character callsigns. Example source and destination data include W1FCC50, PURPLE53.

BEACON99 is a reserved word in the destination field for broadcast messages.

Options

Value	Option	Description
0x00 - 0x05	Reserved	
0x06	ACK Response	Response to ACK Request
0x07	ACK Request	Used when positive verification is required that a payload was received

Data Type

Value	Туре	Description
0x00	Reserved	Reserved
0x01	Battery	Battery voltage update
0x02	Time	Current time payload
0x03	Position Update	GPS position update
0x04	Weather Update	Weather station data
0x05	Text Message	Text message between stations
0x06	Broadcast	Broadcast Message to all stations
0x07	Last Seen Stations	Digest of recent stations
80x0	Binary Data	Binary Datat Transport
0x08 - 0x0F	Reserved	Reserved
0x46	Gopher	Gopher

Value	Туре	Description
0x50	HTTP	НТТР
0x71	Ident	Ident
0x77	NNTP	NNTP
0x7B	NTP	NTP
0xC2	IRC	IRC

0x00 Reserved

Not used

0x01 Battery

This payload type provides battery voltage in ASCII numeric format, which may contain a floating point.

0x02 Time

This payload contains the time in epoch UTC

0x03 Position Update

This message is used to provide position updates, such as GPS locations of any station and is formatted as follows:

[time in UTC],[latitude],[longitude],[altitude],[speed],[direction],[station type]

Station types include:

Value	Туре
0	handheld
1	pedestrian
2	car
3	truck
4	van
5	emergency vehicle
6	ambulance
7	fire truck
8	command vehicle
9	officer
10	aircraft
11	boat
12	quadcopter UAV
13	fixed wing UAV
14	balloon
15	float

Value	Туре
16	landmark
17	road closed
18	accident
19	hazard
20	Perimeter Marker
21-255	reserved for future use

0x04 Weather Update

Weather updates are still in the definition process, but should utilize METAR format

0x05 Text Message

Free text field for text message between stations.

0x06 Broadcast Message

Broadcast and beacon messages. While <u>BEACON99</u> is a reserved for any broadcast, it is recommended to <u>BEACON</u> and another <u>SSID</u> if you wish to send specific broadcast types like club bulletins, etc.

0x07 Last Seen Stations

Contains a comma delimited list of recently heard stations.

0x08 Binary Data

Binary Data transport

0x0F Reserved

Not used