Creating a Custom Embedded Linux Distribution Using the Yocto Project

Part 1

General concepts, BitBake, Recipes, Troubleshooting

This section will introduce the Yocto Project main concepts

GENERAL CONCEPTS

Yocto Project Overview

- Collection of tools and methods enabling
- Rapid evaluation of embedded Linux on many popular off-theshelf boards
- Easy customization of distribution characteristics
- Supports x86, ARM, MIPS, Power, RISC-V
- Based on technology from the OpenEmbedded Project
- Layer architecture allows for easy re-use of code

What is the Yocto Project?

- Umbrella organization under Linux Foundation
- Backed by many companies interested in making Embedded Linux easier for the industry
- Co-maintains OpenEmbedded Core and other tools (including opkg)

Yocto Project Governance

- Organized under the Linux Foundation
- Split governance model
- Technical Leadership Team
- Advisory Board made up of participating organizations

Yocto Project Member Organizations

PLATINUM MEMBERS

















































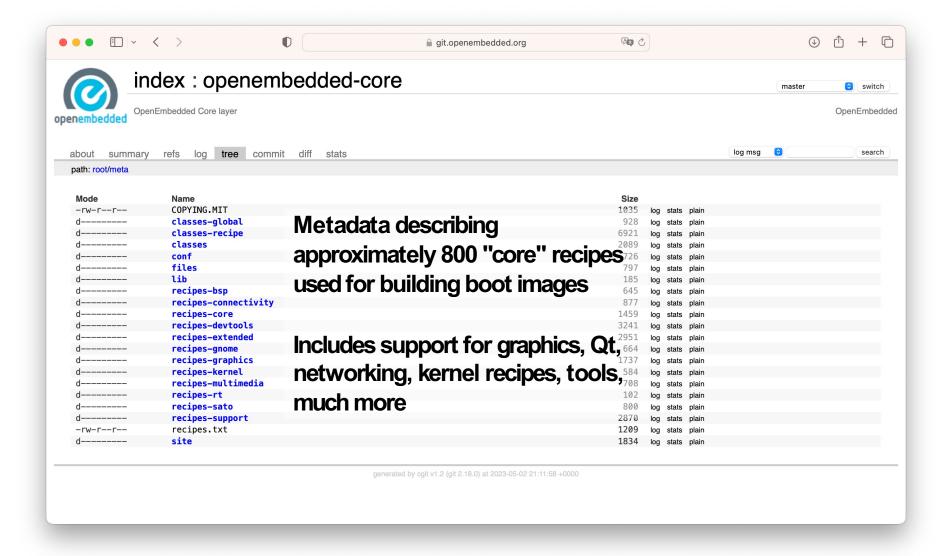




Yocto Project Overview

- YP builds packages then uses these packages to build bootable images
- Supports use of popular package formats
 - Including rpm, deb, ipk
- Releases on a 6-month cadence
- App Development Tools including SDK, toaster
- Latest (stable) kernel, toolchain and packages, documentation

Yocto is based on OpenEmbedded-core



Intro to OpenEmbedded

- The OpenEmbedded Project co-maintains OE-core build system:
 - bitbake build tool and scripts
 - Metadata and configuration
- Provides a central point for new metadata
- (see the OE Layer index)

What is BitBake?

BitBake

- Powerful and flexible build engine (Python)
- Reads metadata
- Determines dependencies
- Schedules tasks

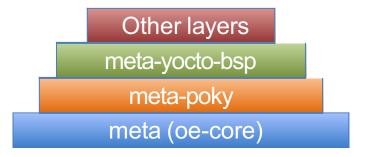


Metadata

 A structured collection of "recipes" which tell BitBake what to build, organized in layers

OK, so what is Poky?

- Poky is a reference distribution
- Poky has its own git repo
 - git clone git://git.yoctoproject.org/poky
- Primary Poky layers
 - oe-core (poky/meta)
 - meta-poky (poky/meta-poky)
 - meta-yocto-bsp

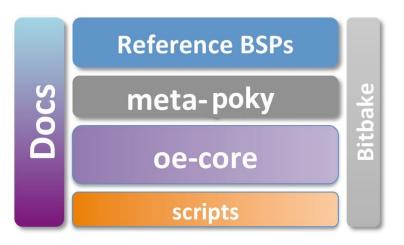


Poky is the starting point for building things with the Yocto Project

Poky in Detail

Contains core components

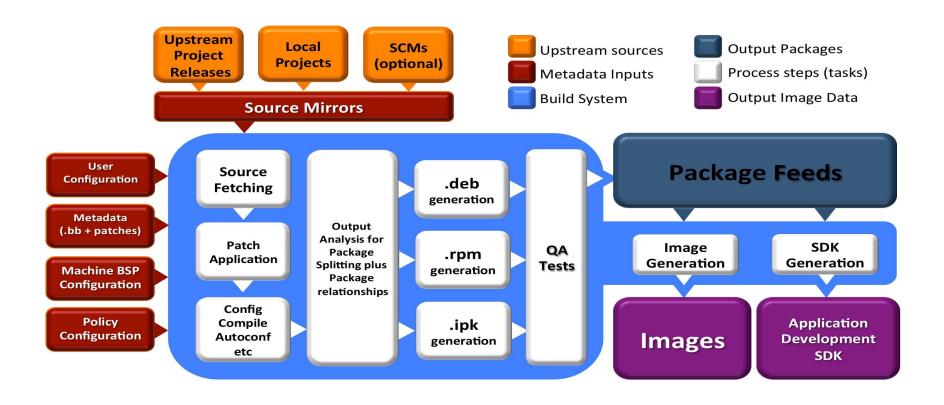
- Bitbake tool: A python-based build engine
- Build scripts (infrastructure)
- Foundation package recipes (oe-core)
- meta-poky (Contains distribution policy)
- Reference BSPs
- Yocto Project documentation



Putting It All Together

- Yocto Project is a large collaboration project
- OpenEmbedded is providing most metadata
- Bitbake is the build tool
- Poky is the Yocto Project's reference distribution
- Poky contains a version of bitbake and oe-core from which you can start your project

Build System Workflow

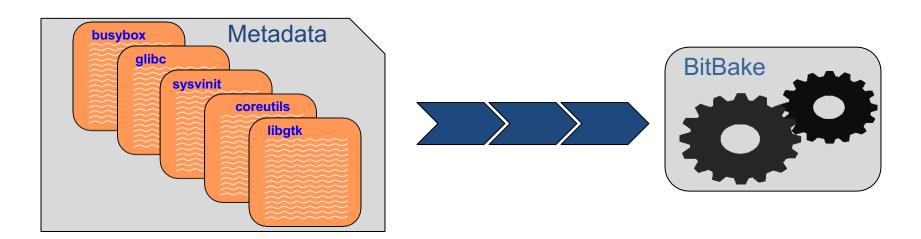


This section will introduce the concept of the bitbake build tool and how it can be used to build recipes

BITBAKE

Metadata and BitBake

- Most common form of metadata: the recipe
- A recipe provides a "list of ingredients" and "cooking instructions"
- Defines settings and a set of tasks used by bitbake to build binary packages



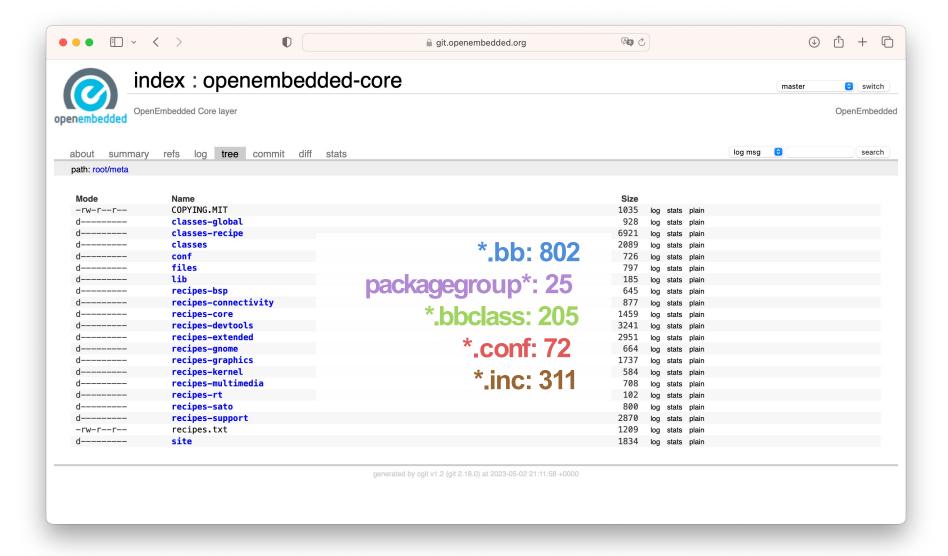
What is Metadata?

- Metadata exists in four general categories:
- Recipes (*.bb)
 - Usually describe build instructions for a single package
- PackageGroups (special *.bb)
 - Often used to group packages together for a FS image
- Classes (*.bbclass)
 - Inheritance mechanism for common functionality
- Configuration (*.conf)
 - Drives the overall behaviour of the build process

Other Metadata

- Append files (*.bbappend)
 - Define additional metadata for a similarly named .bb file
 - Can add or override previously set values
- Include files (*.inc)
 - Files which are used with the include directive
 - Also, can be included with require (mandatory include)
 - Include files are typically found via the BBPATH variable

OE-CORE Breakdown



Introduction to Bitbake

- Bitbake is a task executor and scheduler
- By default, the *build* task for the specified recipe is executed

```
$ bitbake myrecipe
```

You can indicate which task you want run

```
$ bitbake -c clean myrecipe
$ bitbake -c cleanall myrecipe
```

You can get a list of tasks with

```
$ bitbake -c listtasks myrecipe
```

Building Recipes

- By default, the highest version of a recipe is built
 - Can be overridden with DEFAULT_PREFERENCE or PREFERRED_VERSION metadata
 - \$ bitbake myrecipe
- You can specify the version of the package you want built (version of upstream source)
 - \$ bitbake myrecipe-1.0
- You can also build a particular revision of the package metadata
 - \$ bitbake myrecipe-1.0-r0
- Or you can provide a recipe file to build
 - \$ bitbake -b mydir/myrecipe.bb

Running bitbake for the First Time

- Running bitbake normally will stop on the first error found
 - \$ bitbake core-image-minimal
- When running a long build (e.g. overnight) you want as much of the build done as possible before debugging issues
- Running with --continue (-k) means bitbake will proceed as far as possible after finding an error
 - \$ bitbake -k core-image-minimal

Bitbake is a Task Scheduler

- Bitbake builds recipes by scheduling build tasks in parallel
 - \$ bitbake recipe
 - This looks for recipe.bb in BBFILES
- Each recipe defines build tasks, each which can depend on other tasks
- Recipes can also depend on other recipes, meaning more than one recipe may be built
- Tasks from more than one recipe are often executed in parallel at once on multi-cpu build machines

Recipe Basics - Default Tasks*

do fetch

do_unpack

do patch

do_configure

do compile

do install

do populate sysroot

do package *

Locate and download source code

Unpack source into working directory

Apply any patches

Perform any necessary pre-build configuration

Compile the source code

Installation of resulting build artifacts in WORKDIR

Copy artifacts to sysroot

Create binary package(s)

Note: to see the list of all possible tasks for a recipe, do this:

\$ bitbake -c listtasks <recipe name>

*Simplified for illustration

Simple recipe task list*

\$ bitbake hello

```
NOTE: Running task 337 of 379 (ID: 4, hello_1.0.0.bb, do_fetch)

NOTE: Running task 368 of 379 (ID: 0, hello_1.0.0.bb, do_unpack)

NOTE: Running task 369 of 379 (ID: 1, hello_1.0.0.bb, do_patch)

NOTE: Running task 370 of 379 (ID: 5, hello_1.0.0.bb, do_configure)

NOTE: Running task 371 of 379 (ID: 7, hello_1.0.0.bb, do_populate_lic)

NOTE: Running task 372 of 379 (ID: 6, hello_1.0.0.bb, do_compile)

NOTE: Running task 373 of 379 (ID: 2, hello_1.0.0.bb, do_install)

NOTE: Running task 374 of 379 (ID: 11, hello_1.0.0.bb, do_package)

NOTE: Running task 375 of 379 (ID: 3, hello_1.0.0.bb, do_packagedata)

NOTE: Running task 376 of 379 (ID: 8, hello_1.0.0.bb, do_package_write_ipk)

NOTE: Running task 377 of 379 (ID: 12, hello_1.0.0.bb, do_package_qa)
```

*Simplified for illustration 25

SSTATE CACHE

Several bitbake tasks can use past versions of build artefacts if there have been no changes since the last time you built them

do_packagedata	Creates package metadata used by the build system to generate the final packages
do_package	Analyzes the content of the holding area and splits it into subsets based on available packages and files
do_package_write_rpm	Creates the actual RPM packages and places them in the Package Feed area
do_populate_lic	Writes license information for the recipe that is collected later when the image is constructed
do_populate_sysroot	Copies a subset of files installed by do_install into the sysroot in order to make them available to other recipes

Simple recipe build from sstate cache*

```
$ bitbake -c clean hello
$ bitbake hello
```

```
NOTE: Running setscene task 69 of 74 (hello_1.0.0.bb, do_populate_sysroot_setscene)

NOTE: Running setscene task 70 of 74 (hello_1.0.0.bb, do_populate_lic_setscene)

NOTE: Running setscene task 71 of 74 (hello_1.0.0.bb, do_package_qa_setscene)

NOTE: Running setscene task 72 of 74 (hello_1.0.0.bb, do_package_write_ipk_setscene)

NOTE: Running setscene task 73 of 74 (hello_1.0.0.bb, do_packagedata_setscene)
```

*Simplified for illustration

This section will introduce the concept of metadata and recipes and how they can be used to automate the building of packages

RECIPES

What is a Recipe?

- A recipe is a set of instructions for building packages, including:
 - Where to obtain the upstream sources and which patches to apply (this is called "fetching")
 - SRC_URI
- Dependencies (on libraries or other recipes)
 - DEPENDS, RDEPENDS
- Configuration/compilation options
 - EXTRA_OECONF, EXTRA_OEMAKE
- Define which files go into what output packages
 - FILES_*

Example Recipe – ethtool_3.15.bb

```
SUMMARY = "Display or change ethernet card settings"
DESCRIPTION = "A small utility for examining and tuning the settings of your
ethernet-based network interfaces."
HOMEPAGE = "http://www.kernel.org/pub/software/network/ethtool/"
SECTION = "console/network"
LICENSE = "GPLv2+"
LIC FILES CHKSUM = "file://COPYING; md5=b234ee4d69f5fce4486a80fdaf4a4263 \
file://ethtool.c;beginline=4;endline=17;md5=c19b30548c582577fc6b443626fc1216"
SRC URI = "${KERNELORG MIRROR}/software/network/ethtool/ethtool-${PV}.tar.gz \
           file://run-ptest \
           file://avoid parallel tests.patch \
SRC URI[md5sum] = "fbb24aa414ab9a11ff66d351b5b8493b"
SRC URI[sha256sum] =
"0b25a46b61bc6e26f56dcb973fc28acea159e2c32c9d6da42c0fa8d1a6339829"
UPSTREAM CHECK URI = "https://www.kernel.org/pub/software/network/ethtool/"
```

What can a Recipe Do?

- Build one or more packages from source code
 - Host tools, compiler, utilities
 - Bootloader, Kernel, etc.
 - Libraries, interpretors, etc.
 - User-space applications
- Package Groups
- **Full System Images**

Recipe Operators

- BitBake files have their own syntax
 - The syntax has similarities to several other languages but also has some unique features

(late assignment)

(default value)

(late default)

(immediate assignment)

(append) -> "foobar"

(prepend) -> "woot"

(append) -> "foo bar"

(prepend) -> "uvw xyz"

More Recipe Operators

- A:append = "bar"
- B:prepend = "wo"
- A:remove = "oob"
- **■** B:remove = "oo"

- -> "foobar"
- -> "woot"
- -> "far"
- -> "wt"

Recipe Override Operators

- Bitbake uses OVERRIDES to control what variables are overridden after bitbake parses recipes and configuration files
- OVERRIDES = "architecture:os:machine"
- TEST = "default"
- TEST:os = "osspecific"
- TEST:nooverride = "othercondvalue"

Unsetting Variables

It is possible to completely remove a variable or a variable flag from bitbake's internal data dictionary by using the "unset" keyword

- unset DATE
- unset do_fetch[noexec]

(unset variable)

(unset task attribute/flag)

Bitbake Variables/Metadata

- These are set automatically by bitbake
 - **TOPDIR** The build directory
 - LAYERDIR Current layer directory
 - FILE Path and filename of file being processed
- Policy variables control the build
 - BUILD_ARCH Host machine architecture
 - TARGET_ARCH Target architecture
 - And many others...

Build Time Metadata

```
PN – Pakage name ("myrecipe")
■ PV – Package version (1.0)
PR – Package Release (r0)
■ P = "${PN}-${PV}"
PF = "${PN}-${PV}-${PR}"
■ FILE_DIRNAME - Directory for FILE
 FILESPATH = "${FILE DIRNAME}/${PF}:\
              ${FILE DIRNAME}/${P}:\
              ${FILE_DIRNAME}/${PN}:\
```

\${FILE_DIRNAME}/files:\${FILE_DIRNAME}"

Build Time Metadata

- **TOPDIR** The build directory
- TMPDIR = "\${TOPDIR}/tmp"
- WORKDIR = \${TMPDIR}/work/\${PF}"
- **S** = "\${WORKDIR}/\${P}"
- B = "\${S}"
- D = "\${WORKDIR}/\${image}" (Destination dir)
- DEPLOY_DIR = "\${TMPDIR}/deploy"
- DEPLOY_DIR_IMAGE = "\${DEPLOY_DIR}/images"

Dependency Metadata

- Build time package variables
 - DEPENDS Build time package dependencies
 - PROVIDES = "\${P} \${PF} \${PN}"
- Runtime package variables
 - RDEPENDS Runtime package dependencies
 - RRECOMMENDS Runtime recommended packages
 - RSUGGESTS Runtime suggested packages
 - RPROVIDES Runtime provides
 - RCONFLICTS Runtime package conflicts
 - RREPLACES Runtime package replaces

Common Metadata

Variables you commonly set

- SUMMARY Short description of package/recipe
- **HOMEPAGE** Upstream web page
- LICENSE Licenses of included source code
- LIC_FILES_CHKSUM Checksums of license files at time of packaging (checked for change by build)
- SRC_URI URI of source code, patches and extra files to be used to build packages. Uses different fetchers based on the URI
- FILES Files to be included in binary packages

Examining Recipes: bc

Look at 'bc' recipe:

- Found in poky/meta/recipes-extended/bc/bc_1.07.1.bb
- Uses LIC FILES CHKSUM and SRC URI checksums
- Note the DEPENDS build dependency declaration indicating that this package depends on flex to build

Examining Recipes: bc.bb

```
SUMMARY = "Arbitrary precision calculator language"
HOMEPAGE = "http://www.gnu.org/software/bc/bc.html"
DESCRIPTION = "bc is an arbitrary precision numeric processing language.
Syntax is similar to C, but differs in many substantial areas. It supports
interactive execution of statements."
I_{i}ICENSE = "GPI_{i}v_{i}3+"
LIC FILES CHKSUM = "file://COPYING; md5=d32239bcb673463ab874e80d47fae504 \
                    file://COPYING.LIB;md5=6a6a8e020838b23406c81b19c1d46df6 \
  file://bc/bcdefs.h;endline=17;md5=4295c06df9e833519a342f7b5d43db06 \
  file://dc/dc.h;endline=18;md5=36b8c600b63ee8c3aeade2764f6b2a4b \
  file://lib/number.c;endline=20;md5=cf43068cc88f837731dc53240456cfaf"
SECTION = "base"
DEPENDS = "flex-native"
SRC URI = "${GNU MIRROR}/${BPN}/${BP}.tar.gz \
           file://no-gen-libmath.patch \
           file://libmath.h \
           file://0001-dc-fix-exit-code-of-g-command.patch"
SRC URI[md5sum] = "cda93857418655ea43590736fc3ca9fc"
SRC URI[sha256sum] =
"62adfca89b0a1c0164c2cdca59ca210c1d44c3ffc46daf9931cf4942664cb02a"
inherit autotools texinfo update-alternatives
```

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Building upon bbclass

- Use inheritance for common design patterns
- Provide a class file (.bbclass) which is then inherited by other recipes (.bb files)
- inherit autotools
 - Bitbake will include the autotools.bbclass file
 - Found in a 'classes' directory via the BBPATH variable

Examining Recipes: flac

Look at 'flac' recipe

Found in poky/meta/recipesmultimedia/flac/flac_1.3.3.bb

■ Inherits from both autotools and gettext

Customizes autoconf configure options (EXTRA_OECONF) based on "TUNE" features

■ Breaks up output into multiple binary packages

- See PACKAGES var
- This recipe produces additional packages with those names, while the FILES_* vars specify which files go into these additional packages

Examining Recipes: flac.bb

```
SUMMARY = "Free Lossless Audio Codec"
DESCRIPTION = "FLAC stands for Free Lossless Audio Codec, a lossless audio
compression format."
HOMEPAGE = "https://xiph.org/flac/"
BUGTRACKER = "http://sourceforge.net/p/flac/bugs/"
SECTION = "libs"
LICENSE = "GFDL-1.2 & GPLv2+ & LGPLv2.1+ & BSD"
LIC FILES CHKSUM = ...
DEPENDS = "liboqq"
SRC URI = "http://downloads.xiph.org/releases/flac/${BP}.tar.xz"
SRC URI[md5sum] = "26703ed2858c1fc9ffc05136d13daa69"
SRC URI[sha256sum] =
"213e82bd716c9de6db2f98bcadbc4c24c7e2efe8c75939a1a84e28539c4e1748"
CVE PRODUCT = "libflac flac"
inherit autotools gettext
EXTRA OECONF = "--disable-oggtest \
                --with-ogg-libraries=${STAGING LIBDIR} \
                --with-ogg-includes=${STAGING INCDIR} \
                --disable-xmms-plugin \
                --without-libiconv-prefix \
                ac cv prog NASM="" \
```

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Examining Recipes: flac.bb

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```
EXTRA_OECONF += "${@bb.utils.contains("TUNE_FEATURES", "altivec", " --enable-
altivec", " --disable-altivec", d)}"

EXTRA_OECONF += "${@bb.utils.contains("TUNE_FEATURES", "vsx", " --enable-
vsx", " --disable-vsx", d)}"

EXTRA_OECONF += "${@bb.utils.contains("TUNE_FEATURES", "core2", " --enable-
sse", "", d)}"

EXTRA_OECONF += "${@bb.utils.contains("TUNE_FEATURES", "corei7", " --enable-
sse", "", d)}"

PACKAGES += "libflac libflac++ liboggflac liboggflac++"
FILES_${PN} = "${bindir}/*"

FILES_libflac = "${libdir}/libFLAC.so.*"

FILES_libflac++ = "${libdir}/libFLAC.so.*"

FILES_liboggflac = "${libdir}/libOggFLAC.so.*"

FILES_liboggflac++ = "${libdir}/libOggFLAC++.so.*"
```

Grouping Local Metadata

- Sometimes sharing metadata between recipes is easier via an include file
- include file.inc
 - Will include .inc file if found via BBPATH
 - Can also specify an absolute path
 - If not found, will continue without an error
- require file.inc
 - Same as an include
 - Fails with an error if not found

Examining Recipes: dhcp

- Look at 'dhcp' recipe(s):
 - Found in poky/meta/recipesconnectivity/dhcp/dhcp_4.4.2.bb
- Splits recipe into common .inc file to share common metadata between multiple recipes

Examining Recipes: dhcp.bb

```
require dhcp.inc
SRC URI += "file://0001-define-macro- PATH DHCPD CONF-and-
PATH DHCLIENT CON.patch \
            file://0002-dhclient-dbus.patch \
            file://0003-link-with-lcrypto.patch \
            file://0004-Fix-out-of-tree-builds.patch \
            file://0005-dhcp-client-fix-invoke-dhclient-script-failed-on-
Rea.patch \
            file://0007-Add-configure-argument-to-make-the-libxml2-
dependenc.patch \
            file://0009-remove-dhclient-script-bash-dependency.patch \
            file://0012-dhcp-correct-the-intention-for-xml2-lib-search.patch
            file://0013-fixup use libbind.patch \
            file://0001-workaround-busybox-limitation-in-linux-dhclient-
script.patch \
            file://CVE-2021-25217.patch \
            file://CVE-2022-2928.patch \
            file://CVE-2022-2929.patch \
**
SRC URI[md5sum] = "2afdaf8498dc1edaf3012efdd589b3e1"
SRC URI[sha256sum] =
"1a7ccd64a16e5e68f7b5e0f527fd07240a2892ea53fe245620f4f5f607004521"
```

Some useful tools to help guide you when something goes wrong

TROUBLESHOOTING

Bitbake Environment

- Each recipe has its own environment which contains all the variables and methods required to build that recipe
- You've seen some of the variables already
 - DESCRIPTION, SRC_URI, LICENSE, S, LIC_FILES_CHKSUM, do_compile(), do_install()

Example

- \blacksquare S = "\${WORKDIR}"
- What does this mean?

Examine a Recipe's Environment

To view a recipe's envrionment

```
$ bitbake -e myrecipe
```

Where is the source code for this recipe?

```
$ bitbake -e virtual/kernel | grep "^S="
S="${HOME}/yocto/build/tmp/work-
shared/qemuarm/kernel-source"
```

What file was used in building this recipe?

```
$ bitbake -e netbase | grep "^FILE="
FILE="${HOME}/yocto/poky/meta/recipes-
core/netbase/netbase_5.3.bb"
```

Examine a Recipe's Environment

■ What is this recipe's full version string?

```
$ bitbake -e netbase | grep "^PF="
PF="netbase-1_5.3-r0"
```

Where is this recipe's BUILD directory?

```
$ bitbake -e virtual/kernel | grep "^B="
B="${HOME}/yocto/build/tmp/work/qemuarm-poky-linux-\
gnueabi/linux-yocto/3.19.2+gitAUTOINC+9e70b482d3\
_473e2f3788-r0/linux-qemuarm-standard-build"
```

■ What packages were produced by this recipe?

```
$ bitbake -e virtual/kernel | grep "^PACKAGES="
PACKAGES="kernel kernel-base kernel-vmlinux kernel-
image kernel-dev kernel-modules kernel-devicetree"
```

BitBake Log Files

- Every build produces lots of log output for diagnostics and error chasing
 - Look in build/tmp/log/cooker/<machine>

```
$ cat tmp/log/cooker/qemuarm/console-latest.log | grep 'NOTE:.*task.*Started'

NOTE: recipe hello-1.0.0-r0: task do_fetch: Started

NOTE: recipe hello-1.0.0-r0: task do_unpack: Started

NOTE: recipe hello-1.0.0-r0: task do_patch: Started

NOTE: recipe hello-1.0.0-r0: task do_configure: Started

NOTE: recipe hello-1.0.0-r0: task do_populate_lic: Started

NOTE: recipe hello-1.0.0-r0: task do_install: Started

NOTE: recipe hello-1.0.0-r0: task do_install: Started

NOTE: recipe hello-1.0.0-r0: task do_populate_sysroot: Started

NOTE: recipe hello-1.0.0-r0: task do_package: Started

NOTE: recipe hello-1.0.0-r0: task do_packagedata: Started

NOTE: recipe hello-1.0.0-r0: task do_package_write_rpm: Started

NOTE: recipe hello-1.0.0-r0: task do_package_qa: Started

NOTE: recipe hello-1.0.0-r0: task do_package_qa: Started
```

BitBake Per-Recipe Log Files

- Every recipe produces lots of log output for diagnostics and debugging
- Use the environment to find the log files for a given recipe:

```
$ bitbake -e hello | grep "^T="
T="${HOME}yocto/build/tmp/work/armv5e-poky-linux-
gnueabi/hello/1.0.0-r0/temp"
```

- Each task that runs for a recipe produces "log" and "run" files in \${WORKDIR}/temp
 - These files contain the output of the respective tasks for each recipe

```
$ find . -type 1 -name 'log.*'
```

These contain the commands executed which produce the build results

```
$ find . -type l -name 'run.*'
```