BeagleBoardUbuntu

From eLinux.org

(For BeagleBoardAngstrom, click here.) (Should Beagleboard: Ubuntu On BeagleBone Black be merged into this page?)

This page is about running a Linux distribution (ARM EABI (https://wiki.debian.org/ArmEabiPort)) Ubuntu (http://www.ubuntu.com/) on the BeagleBoard. BeagleBoard will boot the (ARM EABI) Ubuntu distribution from the SD card. Since much of this page is generic, it has also been extended to help support devices such as the PandaBoard and BeagleBone.

■ For the best experience, make sure you have an LCD/HDMI monitor attached to the BeagleBoard's HDMI port, 2 GB/4 GB/8 GB SD card, and a known good USB 2.0 hub with mouse and keyboard.

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Help

If you need any help:

- Kernel related help:
 - Email Beagleboard user group (https://groups.google.com/group/beagleboard)
 *Recommended method
 - #beagle: Beagle IRC on Freenode, accessible also by web interface (http://beagleboard.org/discuss) (logs (http://www.beagleboard.org/irclogs/index.php))
 - Kernel Trees
 - v3.17.x kernel branch (https://github.com/RobertCNelson/armv7-multiplatform/)
 - Development Kernel source code (https://github.com/RobertCNelson/linux-dev)
- Ubuntu related help:
 - #ubuntu-arm: Ubuntu's ARM IRC on Freenode (logs (http://irclogs.ubuntu.com/) -> year -> month -> day -> #ubuntu-arm.html)
- When requesting help, please provide some debugging information:
 - U-Boot Version installed on board
 - Kernel Version: uname -a
 - pastebin dmesg
 - Copy from serial port or use "dmesg | pastebinit" (sudo apt-get install pastebinit)

Required Beagle Software

Mainline U-Boot:

- All older BeagleBoard (classic) Ax, Bx, Cx and Dx boards are required to upgrade to at least these U-Boot versions
- XM Boards have no NAND, so MLO/u-boot.img is always required on the first partition
- Directions: Upgrade X-loader and U-Boot (http://elinux.org/BeagleBoardUbuntu#Upgrade_X-loader_and_U-boot)

Omap Serial Changes

boot.scr/boot.cmd changes:	
With 2.6.35:	
console=ttyS2,115200n8	
With 2.6.36/37+:	
 console=ttyO2,115200n8	I
Serial console login: /etc/init/ttyO2.conf	
start on stopped rc RUNLEVEL=[2345] stop on runlevel [!2345] respawn exec /sbin/getty 115200 ttyO2	1

Method 1: Download a Complete Pre-Configured Image

Demo Image

■ **Advanced Users only**: BeagleBoard xM: Kernel source, used in these demo images: https://github.com/RobertCNelson/armv7-multiplatform

```
git clone https://github.com/RobertCNelson/armv7-multiplatform.git
cd armv7-multiplatform
git checkout origin/v4.4.x -b tmp
```

../build_kernel.sh

■ Advanced Users only: BeagleBone/BeagleBone Black: Kernel v4.1.x source, used in these demo images: https://github.com/RobertCNelson/ti-linux-kernel-dev/tree/ti-linux-4.1.y

```
git clone https://github.com/RobertCNelson/ti-linux-kernel-dev.git
cd ti-linux-kernel-dev
git checkout origin/ti-linux-rt-4.1.y -b tmp
./build_kernel.sh
```

Ubuntu (14.04.3)

Default username/password:

username: ubuntupassword: temppwd

Image Updated:

- **2016-01-14**
 - BeagleBoard xM: v4.4.0-armv7-x3 kernel
 - BeagleBone White/Black/Green: v4.1.15-ti-rt-r40 kernel
 - OMAP5432 uEVM: v4.1.15-ti-rt-r40 kernel
 - BeagleBoard-X15: v4.1.15-ti-rt-r40 kernel
- **2015-12-11**
 - BeagleBoard xM: v4.3.2-armv7-x1 kernel
 - BeagleBone White/Black/Green: v4.1.13-ti-r36 kernel
 - OMAP5432 uEVM: v4.1.13-ti-r36 kernel
 - BeagleBoard-X15: v4.1.13-ti-r36 kernel
- **2015-11-13**
 - BeagleBoard xM: v4.3.0-armv7-x0 kernel
 - BeagleBone White/Black/Green: v4.1.12-ti-r29 kernel
 - OMAP5432 uEVM: v4.1.12-ti-r29 kernel
 - BeagleBoard-X15: v4.1.12-ti-r29 kernel

Services Active:

```
Note: Depending on your internal network these may work out of the box
Apache, Port 80: http://arm.local/ (Bone: via usb) http://192.168.7.2
SSH, Port 22: ssh ubuntu@arm.local (Bone: via usb) ubuntu@192.168.7.2
Getty, Serial Port
```

Default user: ubuntu pass: temppwd

Get prebuilt image:

```
wget https://rcn-ee.com/rootfs/2016-01-14/elinux/ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14.tar.xz
```

Verify Image with:

```
sha256sum ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14.tar.xz
3f2fa9b8c95ae5f52d2f285f51de5d1d2195fddf28032b10f079c8356ade1f52 ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14
```

Unpack Image:

```
tar xf ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14.tar.xz
cd ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14
```

If you don't know the location of your SD card:

```
|sudo ./setup_sdcard.sh --probe-mmc
```

You should see something like:

■ In this example, we can see via mount, /dev/sda1 is the x86 rootfs, therefore /dev/sdd is the other drive in the system, which is the MMC/SD card that was inserted and should be used by _/setup_sdcard.sh...

Install Image:

Quick install script for [board]

```
|
|sudo ./setup_sdcard.sh --mmc /dev/sdX --dtb board
|
```

board options:

- BeagleBoard Ax/Bx/Cx/Dx omap3-beagle
- BeagleBoard xM omap3-beagle-xm
- BeagleBone White/Black/Green beaglebone
- OMAP5432 uEVM omap5-uevm
- BeagleBoard-X15 am57xx-beagle-x15

So for the BeagleBoard xM: | sudo ./setup_sdcard.sh --mmc /dev/sdx --dtb omap3-beagle-xm | | Advanced: Build Image: | git clone https://github.com/RobertCNelson/omap-image-builder.git | | cd omap-image-builder | | git checkout v2016.01 -b tmp | | Stable: | ./RootStock-NG.sh -c rcn-ee_console_ubuntu_trusty_armhf | | Testing: | | ./RootStock-NG.sh -c rcn-ee_console_ubuntu_xenial_armhf |

Ubuntu Testing (xenial)

Image Updated:

- **2016-01-14**
 - BeagleBoard xM: v4.4.0-armv7-x3 kernel
 - BeagleBone White/Black/Green: v4.1.15-ti-rt-r40 kernel
 - OMAP5432 uEVM: v4.1.15-ti-rt-r40 kernel
 - BeagleBoard-X15: v4.1.15-ti-rt-r40 kernel
- **2015-12-11**
 - BeagleBoard xM: v4.3.2-armv7-x1 kernel
 - BeagleBone White/Black/Green: v4.1.13-ti-r36 kernel
 - OMAP5432 uEVM: v4.1.13-ti-r36 kernel
 - BeagleBoard-X15: v4.1.13-ti-r36 kernel
- **2015-11-13**
 - BeagleBoard xM: v4.3.0-armv7-x0 kernel
 - BeagleBone White/Black/Green: v4.1.12-ti-r29 kernel
 - OMAP5432 uEVM: v4.1.12-ti-r29 kernel
 - BeagleBoard-X15: v4.1.12-ti-r29 kernel

Get prebuilt image:

| |wget https://rcn-ee.com/rootfs/2016-01-14/elinux/ubuntu-xenial-console-armhf-2016-01-14.tar.xz

Verify Image with:

```
sha256sum ubuntu-xenial-console-armhf-2016-01-14.tar.xz
a8b5995584caf58a37e1b454724b4b4e300a21bfd72e2156f30052a104d2b035 ubuntu-xenial-console-armhf-2016-01-14

Unpack image:
tar xf ubuntu-xenial-console-armhf-2016-01-14.tar.xz
cd ubuntu-xenial-console-armhf-2016-01-14
```

Then follow the directions shown above with the other images...

Flasher

eMMC: BeagleBone Black/Green

This image can be written to a 2GB (or larger) microSD card, via 'dd' on linux or on windows: https://wiki.ubuntu.com/Win32DiskImager First press and hold the boot select button (next to the microSD card), then apply power. On bootup the board should indicate it has started the flashing procedure visually via a Cylon Sweep pattern shown on the 4 LED's next to the ethernet jack. Progress is reported on both the serial debug and hdmi connectors, once completed all 4 LED's should be full ON. Simply remove power, remove the microSD card and Ubuntu will now boot directly from eMMC.

Script for reference: (this is the script that writes to the eMMC)

https://github.com/RobertCNelson/boot-scripts/blob/master/tools/eMMC/init-eMMC-flasher-v3.sh

This script will only take about 5-6 Minutes after power on.

Notes:

- If only two LED's stay lit and nothing happens, the board has crashed due to lack of power. Retry with a 5Volt DC power supply connected.
- If the 4 LED's blink a constant pattern, the eMMC write has failed. First REMOVE ALL capes, then retry again.

User: ubuntu pass: temppwd

Image Updated:

- **2016-01-14**
 - BeagleBone Black/Green: v4.1.15-ti-rt-r40 kernel
- **2015-12-11**
 - BeagleBone Black/Green: v4.1.13-ti-r36 kernel
- **2015-11-13**
 - BeagleBone Black/Green: v4.1.12-ti-r29 kernel

Get prebuilt image: wget https://rcn-ee.com/rootfs/2016-01-14/flasher/BBB-eMMC-flasher-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14/get https://rcn-ee.com/rootfs/2016-01-14/flasher/BBB-eMMC-flasher-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14/get https://rcn-ee.com/rootfs/2016-01-14/flasher/BBB-eMMC-flasher-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14/get https://rcn-ee.com/rootfs/2016-01-14/flasher/BBB-eMMC-flasher-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb* | cf6cae65a5cceb0bf777a6c9a9826c24991d1a9d9b8dfb3c9d86c980d5628982 | BBB-eMMC-flasher-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-2b02acd35c419b6ae9f91f5b5f99bff8ef918ac9200bea74f10e397c90d2e918 | BBB-eMMC-flasher-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb. | BBB-eMMC-f

eMMC: BeagleBoard-X15

This image can be written to a 2GB (or larger) microSD card, via 'dd' on linux or on windows: https://wiki.ubuntu.com/Win32DiskImager First press and hold the boot select button (next to the microSD card), then apply power. On bootup the board should indicate it has started the flashing procedure visually via a Cylon Sweep pattern shown on the 4 LED's next to the ethernet jack. Progress is reported on both the serial debug and hdmi connectors, once completed all 4 LED's should be full ON. Simply remove power, remove the microSD card and Ubuntu will now boot directly from eMMC.

Script for reference: (this is the script that writes to the eMMC)

https://github.com/RobertCNelson/boot-scripts/blob/master/tools/eMMC/init-eMMC-flasher-v3.sh

This script will only take about 5-6 Minutes after power on.

unxz BBB-eMMC-flasher-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb.img.xz

sudo dd if=./BBB-eMMC-flasher-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb.img of=/dev/sdX

Notes:

- If only two LED's stay lit and nothing happens, the board has crashed due to lack of power. Retry with a 5Volt DC power supply connected.
- If the 4 LED's blink a constant pattern, the eMMC write has failed. First REMOVE ALL capes, then retry again.

User: ubuntu pass: temppwd

Image Updated:

- **2016-01-14**
 - BeagleBoard-X15: v4.1.15-ti-rt-r40 kernel
- **2015-12-11**
 - BeagleBoard-X15: v4.1.13-ti-r36 kernel
- **2015-11-13**
 - BeagleBoard-X15: v4.1.12-ti-r29 kernel

Get prebuilt image:

```
wget https://rcn-ee.com/rootfs/2016-01-14/flasher/bbx15-eMMC-flasher-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01
wget https://rcn-ee.com/rootfs/2016-01-14/flasher/bbx15-eMMC-flasher-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01
Verify Image with:

| sha256sum bbx15-eMMC-flasher-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb*
| 9fb1dad893f59dd520b77ebb2561e774154ba150486b0c5073ff14ff238d3a04 | bbx15-eMMC-flasher-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-05-406 | bbx15-eMMC-flasher-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-05-4
```

raw microSD img

BeagleBone White/Black/Green

This image can be written to a 2GB (or larger) microSD card, via 'dd' on linux or on windows: https://wiki.ubuntu.com/Win32DiskImager

User: ubuntu pass: temppwd

Auto partition resize:

```
cd /opt/scripts/tools
git pull
./grow_partition.sh
sudo reboot
```

Image Updated:

- **2016-01-14**
 - BeagleBone White/Black/Green: v4.1.15-ti-rt-r40 kernel
- **2015-12-11**
 - BeagleBone White/Black/Green: v4.1.13-ti-r36 kernel
- **2015-11-13**
 - BeagleBone White/Black/Green: v4.1.12-ti-r29 kernel

Get prebuilt image:

```
wget https://rcn-ee.com/rootfs/2016-01-14/microsd/bone-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb.img.xz
wget https://rcn-ee.com/rootfs/2016-01-14/microsd/bone-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb.bmap

Verify Image with:

sha256sum bone-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb*
4ffbb35026f3f25925d65895da4d17d69aa5133e4d2f7afcf093672073a5fa82 bone-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-
991888ec1ce4fb66e6d6b3d3ab4715983f0082f67508d2bd74581dfb843e3747 bone-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-
Linux: (bmaptool 3.2)

sudo bmaptool copy --bmap bone-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb.bmap \
bone-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb.bmap \
bone-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb.img.xz /dev/sdX
```

Linux: (dd)

```
unxz bone-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb.img.xz
sudo dd if=./bone-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb.img of=/dev/sdX
```

OMAP5432 uEVM

This image can be written to a 2GB (or larger) microSD card, via 'dd' on linux or on windows: https://wiki.ubuntu.com/Win32DiskImager

User: ubuntu pass: temppwd

Auto partition resize:

```
cd /opt/scripts/tools
git pull
./grow_partition.sh
sudo reboot
```

Image Updated:

- **2016-01-14**
 - OMAP5432 uEVM: v4.1.15-ti-rt-r40 kernel
- **2015-12-11**
 - OMAP5432 uEVM: v4.1.13-ti-r36 kernel
- **2015-11-13**
 - OMAP5432 uEVM: v4.1.12-ti-r29 kernel

Get prebuilt image:

```
wget https://rcn-ee.com/rootfs/2016-01-14/microsd/omap5-uevm-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb.wget https://rcn-ee.com/rootfs/2016-01-14/microsd/omap5-uevm-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb.
```

Verify Image with:

```
| sha256sum omap5-uevm-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb*
| 89759c74dd879900a7757c1abfdcf101f3ee40527c835f86d40159025ddd4d96 omap5-uevm-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf
| a7130cc1a143aec3f35b6869ef722fd987b8e0f3e7e51590c3a3d80e82de93f8 omap5-uevm-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf
```

Linux: (bmaptool 3.2)

```
sudo bmaptool copy --bmap omap5-uevm-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb.bmap \
comap5-uevm-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb.img.xz /dev/sdX
```

Linux: (dd)

```
unxz omap5-uevm-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb.img.xz
sudo dd if=./omap5-uevm-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb.img of=/dev/sdX
```

BeagleBoard-X15

This image can be written to a 2GB (or larger) microSD card, via 'dd' on linux or on windows: https://wiki.ubuntu.com/Win32DiskImager

User: ubuntu pass: temppwd

Auto partition resize:

```
cd /opt/scripts/tools
git pull
//grow_partition.sh
sudo reboot
```

Image Updated:

- **2016-01-14**
 - BeagleBoard-X15: v4.1.15-ti-rt-r40 kernel

- **2015-12-11**
 - BeagleBoard-X15: v4.1.13-ti-r36 kernel
- **2015-11-13**
 - BeagleBoard-X15: v4.1.12-ti-r29 kernel

Get prebuilt image:

wget https://rcn-ee.com/rootfs/2016-01-14/microsd/bbx15-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb.img.
wget https://rcn-ee.com/rootfs/2016-01-14/microsd/bbx15-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb.bmap

Verify Image with:

sha256sum bbx15-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb*
871a6e0022f14db643c37e81ad0684bb6111e52d90a6184b29d597c4alb0f7fb bbx15-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016
938cb6d2c5876bccf7dfa897a22d4a56a21f4ea05bff78cdde589060700ac9a2 bbx15-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016

Linux: (bmaptool 3.2)

sudo bmaptool copy --bmap bbx15-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb.bmap \bbx15-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb.img.xz /dev/sdX

Linux: (dd)

unxz bbx15-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb.img.xz sudo dd if=./bbx15-ubuntu-14.04.3-console-armhf-2016-01-14-2gb.img of=/dev/sdX

Method 2: Use the NetInstall method

You will need a 1GB/2GB/4GB/8GB SD card or greater.

Standard system : ~700 MB

Report Bugs/Issues to: https://github.com/RobertCNelson/netinstall/issues (anywhere else will be ignored..)

Download the netinstall script:

git clone https://github.com/RobertCNelson/netinstall.git

Currently supported Ubuntu distributions:

--distro oneiric (11.10)

```
--distro precise-armhf (12.04)
--distro quantal (12.10)
--distro raring (13.04)
--distro saucy (13.10)
```

Device: <box>

selection:</br>

```
*BeagleBoard Ax/Bx/Cx - omap3-beagle

*BeagleBoard xMA/B/C - omap3-beagle-xm

*BeagleBone Ax - am335x-bone-serial

*BeagleBone (DVI cape) - am335x-bone-video

*BeagleBone Black - am35x-boneblack

*PandaBoard Ax - omap4-panda

*PandaBoard A4+ - omap4-panda-a4

*PandaBoard ES - omap4-panda-es
```

Installation script for new <board> selection: (slowly migrating all devices to this method)

```
|sudo ./mk_mmc.sh --mmc /dev/sdX --dtb <board> --distro <distro>
```

So for the xM: with quantal:

```
|sudo ./mk_mmc.sh --mmc /dev/sdX --dtb omap3-beagle-xm --distro quantal
```

- Other Options:
 - --firmware : installs firmware
 - --serial-mode : debian-installer uses Serial Port

Place SD card into BeagleBoard and boot:

Configure the network:

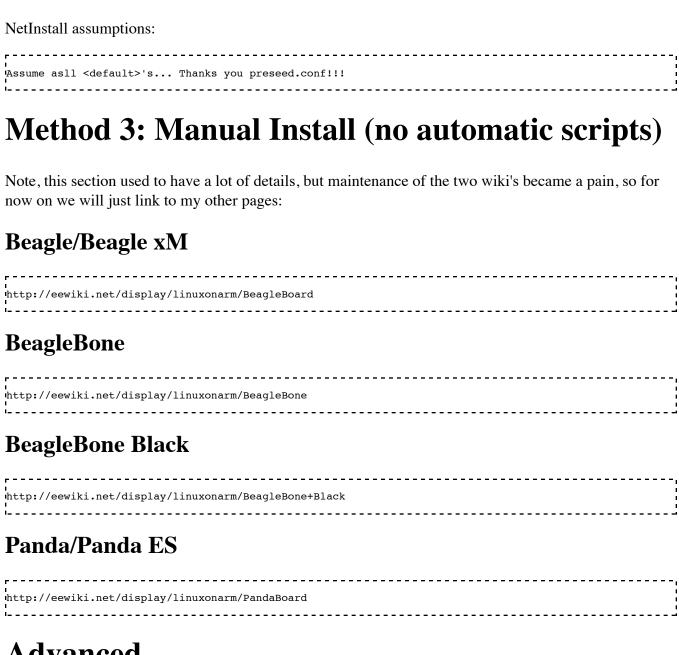
```
usb0: USB net <- (usually the OTG port)
eth0: USB net <- (usually the smsc95xx adapter on the BeagleBoard and PandaBoard)
wlan0: Wifi <- Your USDB-Wi-Fi device..
```

See my notes for my testing procedure: https://github.com/RobertCNelson/netinstall/blob/master/test.Ubuntu

Troubleshooting: If booting fails..

- Hold the user button down to force booting from MMC
- Upgrade X-loader and U-boot Upgrade X-loader and U-Boot (http://elinux.org /BeagleBoardUbuntu#Upgrade_X-loader_and_U-boot)
- Clear U-boot's Environment Variables in NAND:

```
nand erase 260000 20000
```



Advanced

Install Latest Kernel Image

General apt syntax for searching and installing a specific kernel:

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install linux-image-<specific version>
```

Latest kernel script

```
cd /opt/scripts/tools/
git pull
sudo ./update_kernel.sh <OPTIONS>
```

3.8.x

This is the first beagleboard.org long term kernel tree with capemanager support, it's been the default install for Debian Wheezy

```
beagleboard.org patchset: https://github.com/beagleboard/linux/tree/3.8

3.8.x BeagleBone/BeagleBone Black FULL Cape Support
--bone-channel --stable

3.8.x BeagleBone/BeagleBone Black FULL Cape Support + Xenomai
--bone-xenomai-channel --stable
```

4.1.x-ti

This is slated to replace the v3.8.x tree in Debian Jessie, cape manager support is enabled.

```
beagleboard.org patchset: https://github.com/beagleboard/linux/tree/4.1
Based on: http://git.ti.com/gitweb/?p=ti-linux-kernel/ti-linux-kernel.git;a=shortlog;h=refs/heads/ti-linu
4.1.x-ti BeagleBone/BeagleBone Black/BeagleBoard-X15
--ti-channel --stable

4.1.x-ti BeagleBone/BeagleBone Black/BeagleBoard-X15 + RT
--ti-rt-channel --stable
```

Mainline (lts)

```
4.1.x BeagleBone/BeagleBone Black + SGX
--bone-kernel --lts
4.1.x BeagleBone/BeagleBone Black + RT + SGX
--bone-rt-kernel --lts
```

Mainline

```
4.3.x BeagleBone/BeagleBone Black
```



SGX Drivers

SGX BeagleBone/BeagleBone Black

Note, these are FBDEV only, no xorg/x11/etc...

Install the "4.1.x" lts/bone kernel: http://elinux.org/BeagleBoardUbuntu#Mainline_.28lts.29

Build SGX userspace for 4.1.x (must be done on an x86, due to the TI 5.01.01.02 blob extractor)

```
git clone https://github.com/RobertCNelson/bb-kernel.git
cd bb-kernel/
git checkout origin/am33x-v4.1 -b tmp-sgx
./sgx_create_package.sh
```

Copy ./deploy/GFX_5.01.01.02.tar.gz to BeagleBone/BeagleBone Black and install

```
|
|sudo tar xfv GFX_5.01.01.02.tar.gz -C /
```

```
cd /opt/gfxinstall/
sudo ./sgx-install.sh
sudo reboot
```

Verify omaplfb & pvrsrvkm loaded

```
debian@arm:~$ lsmod | grep omaplfb
omaplfb 12065 0
ovrsrvkm 178782 1 omaplfb
```

Xorg Drivers

Script:

```
cd /opt/scripts/tools/
git pull
```

BeagleBoard/PandaBoard:

```
cd /opt/scripts/tools/graphics/
./ti-omapdrm.sh
```

BeagleBone/BeagleBone Black:

```
cd /opt/scripts/tools/graphics/
./ti-tilcdc.sh
```

Swapfile

Using a File for Swap Instead of a Partition

On the Beagleboard you should expect to require a swap file given the limitation of how little RAM is available (between 256 MB and 512 MB). Some system programs like apt-get will only run properly when some swap space is present (due to 256 MB not being enough RAM).

Some images (such as those from Linaro.org) do not come with a swap partition or any swap space allocated.

Under Linux, swap space can be either a dedicated partition or a swap file. Both can be mounted as swap which the OS can access.

Creating a Swapfile

The following commands will create a 1 GB file, limit access only to root, format it as swap and then

make it available to the OS:

```
sudo mkdir -p /var/cache/swap/
sudo dd if=/dev/zero of=/var/cache/swap/swapfile bs=1M count=1024
sudo chmod 0600 /var/cache/swap/swapfile
sudo mkswap /var/cache/swap/swapfile
sudo swapon /var/cache/swap/swapfile
```

To tell the OS to load this swapfile on each start up, edit the /etc/fstab file to include the following additional line:

```
/var/cache/swap/swapfile none swap sw 0 0
```

To verify that the swapfile is accessible as swap to the OS, run "top" or "htop" at a console.

Ubuntu Software

Wi-Fi Networking (command line)

/etc/network/interfaces

It is relatively easy to configure a Wi-Fi card from the command line.

You will need to edit the /etc/network/interfaces file. There are several guides available via Google.

This is a particularly useful guide https://ubuntuforums.org/showthread.php?t=202834

A sample /etc/network/interfaces file for a WPA2 encrypted access point is:

Your Wi-Fi card will automatically load these settings upon startup and initialize wireless network access.

Lightweight window managers

If you intend to use Ubuntu on the BeagleBoard you can install JWM or IceWM to improve

performance.

JWM in particular uses little RAM. On a BeagleBoard with 256 MB, using JWM will leave about 60 MB free in which to run applications.

Web Apps

Midori

Given that the BeagleBoard has fewer resources than a desktop a lightweight browser is more responsive. Midori is a lightweight browser that still supports flash, etc. It is available from the standard repositories: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midori_%28web_browser%29

Surveillance

Motion

If you have a video source (webcam, IP cam, etc.) which appears as /dev/video0, etc. then you can use the Linux surveillance software "motion" to monitor the video stream and record periods of activity.

Motion is also available from the standard repositories: http://www.debian-administration.org/article /An_Introduction_to_Video_Surveillance_with_%27Motion%27 Using a 960x720 resolution webcam with a 15 fps rate under the UVC driver the Rev C BeagleBoard under Xubuntu reports ~60% CPU utilisation.

To make the BeagleBoard automatically start recording on boot, do the following:

- Auto Login run "gdmsetup" from a terminal and select a user to automatically login
- Sessions make sure you don't save any previous X Windows sessions so that it doesn't prompt you for which one you want
- motion.conf edit /etc/motion/motion.conf to use the settings you want (that is, video output directory, record only video, record in MPEG-4, set frame rate, etc). Do this with "sudo medit /etc/motion/motion.conf" at a prompt.
- Boot script create a new script in /etc/rc2.d called "S65motion_client" and set permissions appropriately ("sudo chmod 777 /etc/rc2.d/S65motion_client"). Then edit the file so it contains the following lines:

#! /bin/sh
v/usr/bin/motion -c /etc/motion/motion.conf

This will now launch the motion client as root when you boot up.

Also note that unless your BeagleBoard can remember the time (battery backed up clock installed), the timestamps will not be correct until you update the time. If your BeagleBoard has an Internet connection this can be achieved using the ntpdate application.

Robotics

ROS

ROS (Robot Operating System) provides libraries and tools to help software developers create robot applications. It provides hardware abstraction, device drivers, libraries, visualizers, message-passing, package management, and more. ROS is licensed under an open source, BSD license.

There are currently builds of ROS for Ubuntu Trusty armhf. These builds include most but not all packages, and save a considerable amount of time compared to doing a full source-based installation:

http://wiki.ros.org/indigo/Installation/UbuntuARM

Alternatively ROS can be installed from source and is generally easy to do so (although slow).

For more information about ROS, see www.ros.org.

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