

Date: 10/25/2021

## Assignment 4: Timers

The following will document completion of the fourth assignment for ECE-40290, with the stated goals of:

- Create "Task 1" that blinks the LED2 at a rate of 1 second
- Create "Task 2" that blinks the "Wifi/BLE" LED at a rate of 2 seconds
- Create "Timer 1" that is a One-Shot timer function named `prvMyTimerOneShot()`. The timer should fire 15 seconds after startup and display a message "prvMyTimerOneShot" on the console.
- Create "Timer 2" that is an auto-reload timer function named `prvMyTimerAutoReload()`. The timer should fire every 5 seconds and display a count and a message on the console, for example, "prvMyTimerAutoReload: 1".

As before, generate a default FreeRTOS-based project file and open the configuration. We'll define tasks and timers as seen below:

The top screenshot shows the 'Configuration' window with the 'Tasks' tab selected. It displays a table with the following data:

Task Name	Priority	Stack Size (...)	Entry Function	Code Generation Op...	Parameter	Allocation	Buffer Name	Control Block Name
BlinkLED2Task	osPriorityNormal	128	StartBlinkLED2Task	Default	NULL	Dynamic	NULL	NULL
BlinkLED3_LED4T	osPriorityBelowNormal	128	StartBlinkLED3_LED4Task	Default	NULL	Dynamic	NULL	NULL

The bottom screenshot shows the 'Configuration' window with the 'Timers' tab selected. It displays a table with the following data:

Timer Name	Callback	Type	Code Generation Option	Parameter	Allocation	Control Block Name
MyTimerOneShot	MyTimerOneShotCallback	osTimerOnce	Default	NULL	Dynamic	NULL
MyTimerAutoReload	MyTimerAutoReloadCallback	osTimerPeriodic	Default	NULL	Dynamic	NULL

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### 1. Create "Task 1" that blinks the LED2 at a rate of 1 second

As in the Week 3 assignment, task code is fairly straightforward to implement in each case, *StartBlinkLED2Task()* seen here:

```
505  /* USER CODE BEGIN Header_StartBlinkLED2Task */
506  /**
507   * @brief Function implementing the BlinkLED2Task thread.
508   * @param argument: Not used
509   * @retval None
510   */
511  /* USER CODE END Header_StartBlinkLED2Task */
512  void StartBlinkLED2Task(void const * argument)
513  {
514      /* USER CODE BEGIN 5 */
515      /* Infinite loop */
516      for(;;)
517      {
518          // Create "Task 1" that blinks the LED2 at a rate of 1 second
519          HAL_GPIO_TogglePin(LED2_GPIO_Port, LED2_Pin);
520          osDelay(1000);
521      }
522      /* USER CODE END 5 */
523  }
524
```

### 2. Create "Task 2" that blinks the "Wifi/BLE" LED at a rate of 2 seconds

Again for *StartBlinkLED3\_LED4Task()*:

```
525  /* USER CODE BEGIN Header_StartBlinkLED3_LED4Task */
526  /**
527   * @brief Function implementing the BlinkLED3_LED4T thread.
528   * @param argument: Not used
529   * @retval None
530   */
531  /* USER CODE END Header_StartBlinkLED3_LED4Task */
532  void StartBlinkLED3_LED4Task(void const * argument)
533  {
534      /* USER CODE BEGIN StartBlinkLED3_LED4Task */
535      /* Infinite loop */
536      for(;;)
537      {
538          // Create "Task 2" that blinks the "Wifi/BLE" LED at a rate of 2 seconds
539          HAL_GPIO_TogglePin(LED3_WIFI__LED4_BLE_GPIO_Port, LED3_WIFI__LED4_BLE_Pin);
540          osDelay(2000);
541      }
542      /* USER CODE END StartBlinkLED3_LED4Task */
543  }
544
```

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### 3. Create "Timer 1" that is a One-Shot timer function named `prvMyTimerOneShot()`

Moving to the timer function calls, we will need to make calls to `osTimerStart()` for each one, with the appropriate period value as a parameter:

```
127      /* USER CODE BEGIN RTOS_TIMERS */
128      /* start timers, add new ones, ... */
129      osTimerStart(MyTimerOneShotHandle, 15000);
130      osTimerStart(MyTimerAutoReloadHandle, 5000);
131
```

From there, the callback function for each is defined in a similar manner to the task definitions, see `MyTimerOneShotCallback()` here:

```
545      /* MyTimerOneShotCallback function */
546      void MyTimerOneShotCallback(void const * argument)
547      {
548          /* USER CODE BEGIN MyTimerOneShotCallback */
549          char* callBackString = "prvMyTimerOneShot\n";
550          HAL_UART_Transmit(&huart1, (uint8_t*) callBackString, strlen(callBackString), 1000);
551
552          /* USER CODE END MyTimerOneShotCallback */
553      }
```

### 4. Create "Timer 2" that is an auto-reload timer function named `prvMyTimerAutoReload()`

`MyTimerAutoReloadCallback()` is defined similarly:

```
555      /* MyTimerAutoReloadCallback function */
556      void MyTimerAutoReloadCallback(void const * argument)
557      {
558          /* USER CODE BEGIN MyTimerAutoReloadCallback */
559          char buffer[100];
560          snprintf(buffer, sizeof(buffer), "prvMyTimerAutoReload: %d\n", ++counter);
561          HAL_UART_Transmit(&huart1, (uint8_t*) buffer, strlen(buffer), 1000);
562
563          /* USER CODE END MyTimerAutoReloadCallback */
564      }
```

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### **Closing Thoughts**

Again, the material presented made for an easy to implement assignment using these building blocks. As the course progresses, I'm reminded of my intro to ladder logic courses in college, where these simple ideas are eventually tied in together to build something like a traffic light simulator (or a coffee machine?) by the end of the term. Additionally, these sections on timers and tasks have led to more than one "AHA"-moments at work as I suddenly see similarities between FreeRTOS and whatever proprietary OS that Allen-Bradly controllers use for time and task scheduling.