QEMU and OpenBMC

Joel Stanley joel@jms.id.au / @shenki



Your Presenter

- Free and Open Source (FOSS) developer
- Live in Adelaide, Australia
- Long distance runner
- Cricket fan, Adelaide Oval member
- Worked on OpenBMC at IBM since 2015
- Maintain OpenBMC Linux and u-boot
- Upstream ASPEED kernel maintainer





QEMU and OpenBMC

- What is QEMU
- Use case 1: Booting a custom kernel
- Use case 2: Running userspace tool
- Use case 3: Testing PGOOD
- Developing for QEMU
- Next steps



What is QEMU

- "QEMU is a generic and open source machine emulator and virtualizer"
- Two main usecases: virtualisation (KVM) and emulation
- System Emulation
 - ARM CPU
 - System on Chip peripherals
 - o External devices: I2C, GPIO, Ethernet, FSI, LPC, eMMC, SPI

• (Also user emulation: running binaries from a different architecture. We're not talking about that today)



QEMU in OpenBMC

- Cedric, Andrew, Jeremy, Rashmica and Joel at IBM have created an ASPEED model
 - o AST2400, AST2500, AST2600 emulation
 - Used for pre-silicon bringup of AST2600
 - Coverage of most periperhals used by OpenBMC
 - Upstream: apt install qemu-system-arm
- Can boot full OpenBMC system images
- Used in OpenBMC CI



Demo

AST2600 with direct kernel boot and provided initrd

```
qemu-system-arm -M tacoma-bmc -nic user -nographic
-kernel aspeed-g5-dev/arch/arm/boot/zImage \
-dtb aspeed-g5-dev/arch/arm/boot/dts/aspeed-bmc-opp-tacoma.dtb \
-initrd ~/dev/kernels/misc/broomstick-v3.cpio.xz
```

AST2500 booting from SPI NOR

```
qemu-system-arm -M romulus-bmc -nic user -nographic \
-drive file=flash-romulus,if=mtd,format=raw
```

AST2600 with SD card and direct kernel boot

```
qemu-system-arm -M tacoma-bmc -nic user -nographic \
-kernel aspeed-g5-dev/arch/arm/boot/zImage \
-dtb aspeed-g5-dev/arch/arm/boot/dts/aspeed-bmc-opp-tacoma.dtb \
-drive file=obmc-phosphor-image-witherspoon-tacoma.wic,if=sd,index=2,format=raw
```



Use case 1: Booting a custom kernel

- Kernel development workflow
- Build a kernel, point qemu at it, and get results quickly

```
apt install gcc-arm-linux-gnueabi qemu-system-arm
wget https://is.gd/romulus_cpio -0 obmc-phosphor-initramfs-romulus.cpio.xz
wget https://is.gd/flash_romulus -0 flash-romulus
export ARCH=arm CROSS_COMPILE=gcc-arm-linux-gnueabi
git clone https://github.com/openbmc/linux openbmc-linux && cd openbmc-linux
```

Docker



Use case 1: Booting a custom kernel (cont)

- I have a bug!
- gdb can debug the running kernel
 - -s: gdb server listens on localhost, port 1234
 - S: do not start execution.

```
docker run --name=myqemuimg -it shenki/openbmc-qemu
cd /build/openbmc-linux
qemu-system-arm -M romulus-bmc -nic user -nographic \
    -kernel arch/arm/boot/zImage \
    -dtb arch/arm/boot/dts/aspeed-bmc-opp-romulus.dtb \
    -initrd ../obmc-phosphor-initramfs-romulus.cpio.xz \
    -drive file=../flash-romulus,if=mtd,format=raw -S -s
```

Start gdb

```
docker exec -it myqemuimg
cd /build/openbmc-linux
gdb-multiarch -s vmlinux 'target remote localhost:1234'
0x800000000 in ?? ()
(gdb) c
ctrl+c
(gdb) bt
```



Use case 2: Running userspace tool

- We can copy a binary into QEMU and run it
- Start QEMU with a port forward from 2222 to 22 (SSH)
 - This means localhost:2222 will connect to port 22 on our emulated BMC

```
docker run --name=myqemuimg -it shenki/openbmc-qemu
qemu-system-arm -M romulus-bmc -nic user,hostfwd=::2222-:22 \
-nographic \
-drive file=flash-romulus,if=mtd,format=raw
```

Build a simple program and scp it to the emulated BMC

```
docker exec -it myqemuimg
echo "main() {printf(\"Hello, OpenBMC!\\n\");}" > hello.c && make hello
scp -p2222 hello root@localhost:
root@localhost's password:
hello 100% 0 0.0KB/s 00:00
ssh -p2222 root@localhost
root@localhost's password:
root@romulus:~# hello
Hello, OpenBMC!
```

With this in our toolkit, we can build applications using the SDK and run the in an emulated BMC environment

OpenBN

Use case 3: Testing PGOOD

- Scenario:
 - OpenPower systems have the concept of PGOOD, a signal that tells the BMC that the system is ready for the host CPU to be powered on
 - This is a GPIO input to the BMC
 - We can manipulate GPIOs using the QEMU monitor
- Once QEMU has booted the machine press ctrl+a c to switch to the monitor



Use case 3: Testing PGOOD

- QOM is the QEMU Object Model
 - We can manipulate properties of objects using the QOM APIs
 - This allows us to manipulate the BMC state



Developing QEMU

- QEMU is written in C
- The development model is close to the kernel
 - o git, mailing list code review, pull requests by maintainers
- Modeling involves
 - Providing read() and write() callbacks for the address space a device occupies
 - Modelling logic such that the emulated code behaves as it does on hardware
 - Surprisingly minimal in many cases
- hw/misc/tmp105.c models temperature sensor i2c devices
- A simple model can involve dumping the default state of a device under linux, and putting it in an array
 - o i2cdump
 - https://github.com/shenki/gemu/blob/dps310/hw/misc/dps310.c#L249
 - This is how I developed the upstream dps310 iio kernel driver

Next Steps

- Try using qemu to test your userspace change
- Write a qemu model for a i2c sensor your board has
- Add more qemu booting to CI
- IBM team continues to work on modelling
 - eMMC boot and secure boot is a work in progress
 - Simple FSI modelling
 - Proof of concept connecting "host" QEMU to BMC QEMU
- Google submitted model for Nuvoton NPCM730



Resources

- https://github.com/openbmc/gemu/wiki/
- https://github.com/openbmc/qemu/wiki/Usage

https://github.com/shenki/openbmc-gemu-tutorial

- https://www.qemu.org/docs/master/system/arm/aspeed.html
- https://wiki.gemu.org/Documentation

