# Run RT-THREAD using QEMU

## **RT-THREAD** Document Center

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Friday 28th September, 2018

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Section 1 Purpose and structure of this paper

This application note describes how to use QEMU to run

Run the RT-Thread qemu-vexpress-a9 BSP project.

#### 1 Purpose and structure of this paper

## 1.1 Purpose and Background of this Paper

Embedded software development requires a development board. If a physical development board isn't available, you can use a virtual machine like QEMU to simulate it. QEMU is a cross-platform virtualization virtual machine that can simulate many development boards. To facilitate the experience of RT-Thread without a development board, RT-Thread provides a board support package (BSP) for the ARM vExpress A9 development board, which is emulated by QEMU. This article describes how to run the RT-Thread qemu-vExpress-a9 BSP project on Windows and Ubuntu platforms using QEMU, and explains how to connect QEMU to a network using a virtual network card.

#### 1.2 Structure of this paper

This article first introduces the usage details of qemu-vexpress-a9 BSP on the Windows platform, and then introduces the usage details on the Ubuntu platform.

## 2. Run RT-Thread using QEMU on Windows

## 2.1 Preparation

- Download RT-Thread Source code, it is recommended to download version 3.1.0 or above.
- Download RT-Thread Env Tools, it is recommended to download version 1.0.0 or above.

The board support package (BSP) for the ARM vexpress A9 development board simulated by QEMU provided by RT-Thread is located in the qemu-vexpress-a9 folder under the RT-Thread source code BSP directory. This BSP implements related drivers such as LCD, keyboard, mouse, SD card, Ethernet card, and serial port. The folder contents are shown in the figure below.



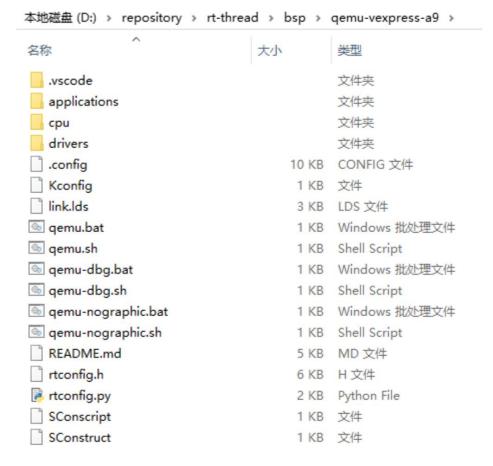


Figure 1: gemu-vexpress-a9Folder

The main files and directories of qemu-vexpress-a9 BSP are described as follows:

Files/Directories	describe
.vscode	vscode configuration files
applications	User application code directory
cpu	Chip related
drivers	The underlying driver provided by RT-Thread
qemu.bat	Running script files on Windows platforms
qemu.sh	Running script files on Linux platforms
qemu-dbg.bat	Windows platform debugging script file
qemu-dbg.sh	Linux platform debugging script file
README.md	BSP documentation
rtconfig.h	BSP configuration header file



## 2.2 Compile and run RT-Thread

## 2.2.1. Step 1: Use the scons command to compile the project

Open the Env folder and double-click the env.exe file to open the Env console:

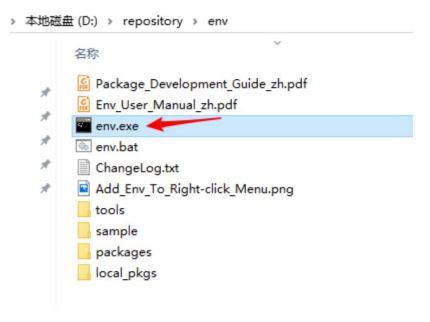


Figure 2: Env Folder

Switch directories in the Env console and enter the command cd D:\repository\rt-thread\bsp\qemu-vexpress

-a9 Switch to the qemu-vexpress-a9 BSP root directory under the RT-Thread source code folder, and then enter the scons command Compile the project. If the compilation is correct, the rtthread.elf target running under QEMU will be generated in the BSP directory.



## Section 2: Using QEMU to run RT-Thread on Windows

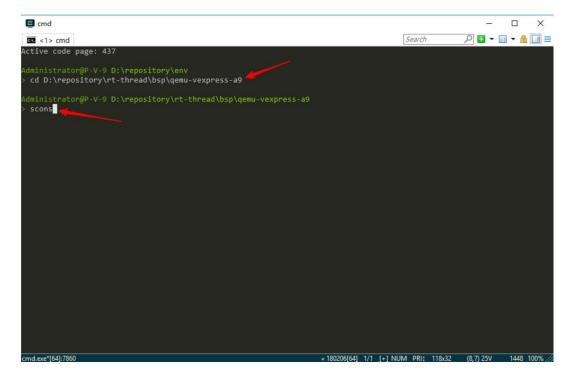


Figure 3: Compile project

#### 2.2.2. Step 2: Run the project using the qemu.bat command

After the compilation is complete, enter qemu.bat to start the virtual machine and BSP project. qemu.bat is a Window batch file.

This file is located in the BSP folder and mainly includes QEMU execution instructions. The first time you run the project, it will be in the BSP folder.

Create a blank sd.bin file in the folder. This is a virtual SD card with a size of 64M. The Env command line interface displays

The initialization information and version number information printed during the startup of the RT-Thread system are displayed, and the gemu virtual machine is also running.

As shown in the following picture:



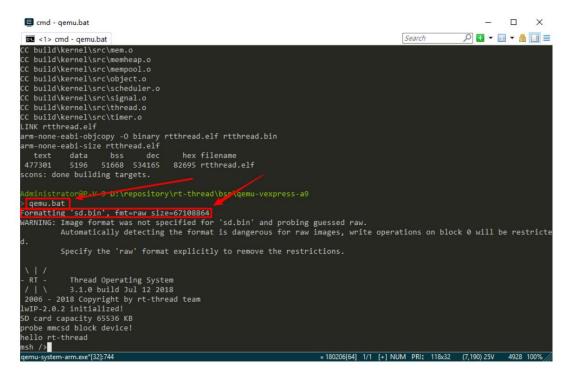


Figure 4: Run the project

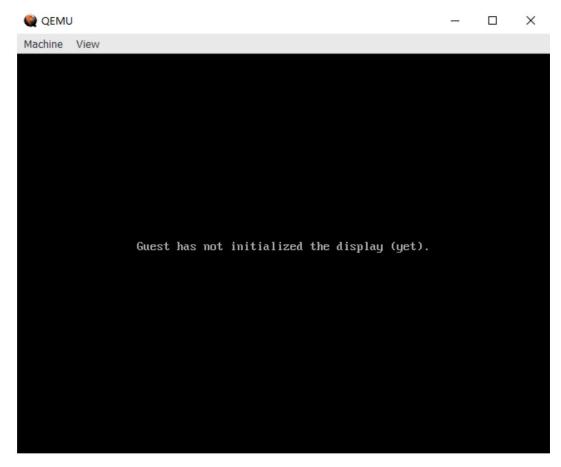


Figure 5: Virtual Machine



Note: If 360 Security Guard is installed on your computer, there will be a warning. Please click to allow the program to run.

## 2.3 Run RT-Thread Finsh Console

RT-Thread supports Finsh, and users can use command operations in command line mode. Enter help or press the tab key

You can view all supported commands. As shown in the figure below, the left side shows the command and the right side shows the command description.

```
cmd - qemu.bat
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             Search
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       P = □ + □ =
  <1> cmd - qemu.bat
 RT-Thread shell commands:
RT-Thread shell commands:

memcheck - check memory data

memtrace - dump memory trace information

list_fd - list file descriptor

version - show RT-Thread version information

list_thread - list thread

list_sem - list semaphore in system

list_mutex - list went in system

list_mutex - list mutex in system

list_mailbox - list mail box in system

list_msgqueue - list message queue in system
list_fd

    list mail box in system
    list message queue in system
    list memory heap in system
    list memory pool in system
    list timer in system
    list device in system
    return to RT-Thread shell mode.

 list_msgqueue
list_mempool
list_timer
list_device
help
ls
                                          - RT-Thread shell help.
                                         Rename SOURCE to DEST.Concatenate FILE(s)
                                          - Remove(unlink) the FILE(s).
- Change the shell working directory.
- Print the name of the current working directory.
                                               Create the DIRECTORY.
                                                                                                                                                        ~ 190206[64] 1/1 [+] NIIM DRIT 112v26 (7.470) 25V
```

Figure 6: Check Finsh Order

As shown in the figure below, for example, you can enter the list\_thread command to view the currently running threads, as well as the thread status and stack

Stack size, etc. Enter list\_timer to view the status of the timer.



#### Section 2: Using QEMU to run RT-Thread on Windows

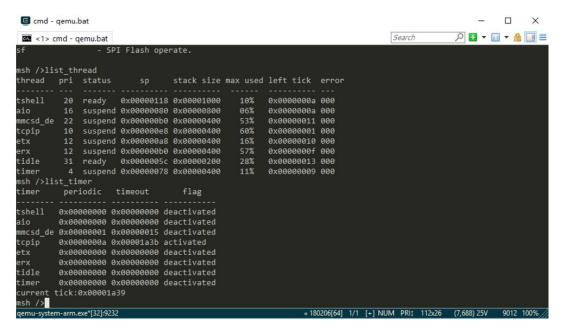


Figure 7: Check system thread status

## 2.4 Running the RT-Thread File System

Enter list\_device to view all devices registered to the system. As shown in the following picture, you can see the virtual sd card "sd0" device, then we can use the mkfs sd0 command to format the sd card, executing this command will format the sd card Format it into FatFS file system. FatFs is a file system developed for small embedded devices that is compatible with Microsoft FAT. The system is written in ANSI C, uses an abstract hardware I/O layer and provides continuous maintenance, so it has good hardware Software independence and portability.

For more information about FatFS, please click on the link: http://elm-chan.org/fsw/ff/00index\_e.html



#### Section 2: Using QEMU to run RT-Thread on Windows

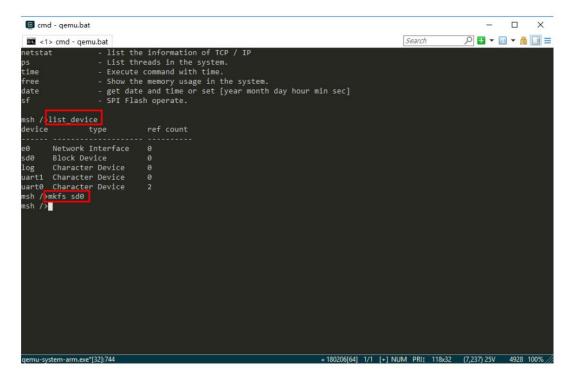


Figure 8: format sd Card

After formatting the SD card for the first time, the file system will not be loaded immediately. It will be loaded correctly after the second boot.

Exit the virtual machine, then enter gemu.bat in the Env command line interface to restart the virtual machine and project, and enter the Is command to

You can see that the new Directory directory has been added and the file system has been mounted. Then you can use other functions provided by RT-Thread.

Command experience file system

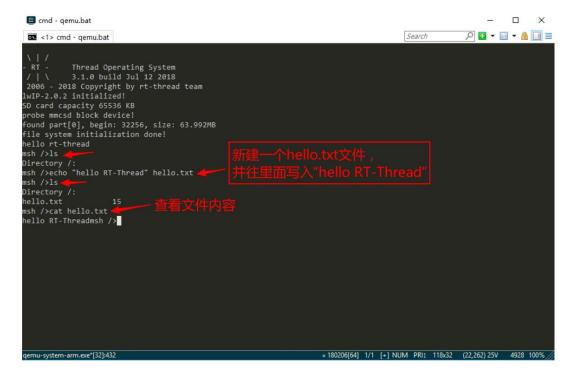


Figure 9: Other file system commands



## 2.5 Running the RT-Thread Network

2.5.1. Step 1: Install and configure the TAP network card

- 1. Download the TAP network card tap-windows-9.21.2.exe. After downloading, double-click the installer and follow the default installation procedure.
- 2. Open the Network and Sharing Center to change the adapter settings and rename the installed virtual network card to tap, as shown below:



Figure 10: tap\_rename

Method A: Right-click the network connection that can access the Internet (this article uses Ethernet), open Properties -> Sharing, and select Home

The network connection is tap, click OK to complete the setting, as shown below:



## Section 2: Using QEMU to run RT-Thread on Windows



Figure 11: tap\_share\_internet

Method B: You can also bridge a physical network card that can connect to the network normally with the tap. After the bridge is successfully connected,

A network bridge appears. As shown in the following picture:



Section 2: Using QEMU to run RT-Thread on Windows

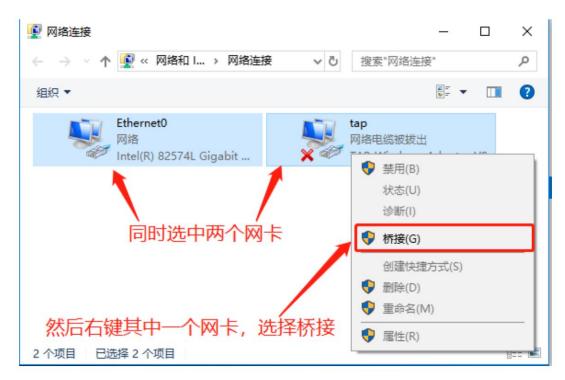


Figure 12: tap\_ bridging

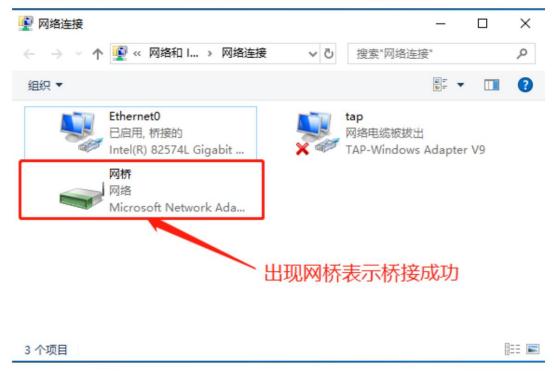


Figure 13: tap\_ Bridge successful

Note: The tap network card and VMware's virtual network card may conflict. If network sharing cannot be enabled, Or if you cannot ping the network, please delete the VMware virtual network card and try again.



#### 2.5.2. Step 2: Modify the qemu.bat script file

Open the qemu.bat file in the qemu-vexpress-a9 BSP directory and add -net nic in the location shown below -net tap,ifname=tap configuration. Ifname=tap means the name of the network card is tap.

Figure 14: gemu\_modify

#### 2.5.3. Step 3 Check the IP address

Enter the qemu.bat command to run the project, enter the ifconfig command in the shell to check the network status, and obtain it normally

If the IP is received, it means the network driver is normal and the configuration is completed. The effect is as shown in the figure below:

```
cmd - qemu.bat
                                                                                                  X
                                                                                  P = 1 + 1 =
<1> cmd - qemu.bat
 gemu.bat
Formatting 'sd.bin', fmt=raw size=67108864
WARNING: Image format was not specified for 'sd.bin' and probing guessed raw.
         Automatically detecting the format is dangerous for raw images, write operations on bloc
 0 will be restricted.
         Specify the 'raw' format explicitly to remove the restrictions.
           Thread Operating System
           3.1.0 build Jul 9 2018
2006 - 2018 Copyright by rt-thread team
lwIP-2.0.2 initialized!
SD card capacity 65536 KB
probe mmcsd block device!
hello rt-thread
msh />ifconfig
network interface: e0 (Default)
MAC: 52 54 00 11 22 33
FLAGS: UP LINK UP ETHARP BROADCAST
gw address: 192.168.137.1
net mask : 255.255.255.0
dns server #0: 192.168.137.1
dns server #1: 0.0.0.0
msh />
qemu-system-arm.exe*[32]:14444
                                                 « 180206[64] 1/1 [+] NUM PRII 97x26 (7,32766) 25V 13616 100%
```

Figure 15: ifconfig

## 2.5.4. Notes

• If you cannot obtain an IP address, first turn off Ethernet sharing and then turn it on again.



- If the IP obtained is 10.0.x,x, it is because the startup parameters -net nic -net are not added to QEMU tap,ifname=tap.
- When the virtual machine starts running, it will not get the IP address immediately. Sometimes it takes several seconds to get it.
   to IP.
- To shut down the virtual machine, press Ctrl + 'C' to end the program.

## 2.6 Run the RT-Thread Ping Tool

2.6.1. Step 1: Download the network tool software package

1. Open the Env tool in the path bsp\qemu-vexpress-a9 and execute menuconfig, as shown below:

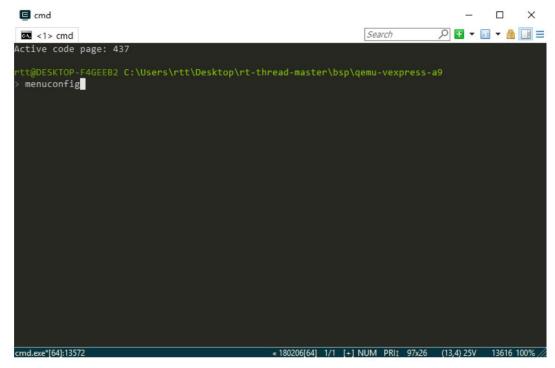


Figure 16: Env\_menuconfig

2. Open the netutils: Networking utilities for RT-Thread function on the RT-Thread online packages->IoT - internet of things page, as shown below:



#### Section 2: Using QEMU to run RT-Thread on Windows

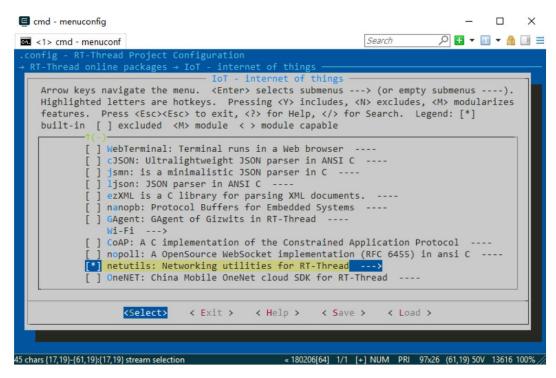


Figure 17: online packages

3. Go to netutils: Networking utilities for RT-Thread page and turn on Enable Ping utility.

Yes, as shown below:

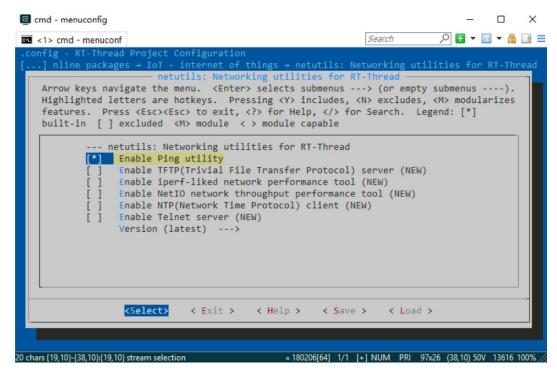


Figure 18: enable\_ping

4. Save and exit the configuration interface. If the Env automatic update package function is not enabled, you need to enter



pkgs --update updates the software package configuration. After the update is complete, use the scons command to recompile the project, as shown below:

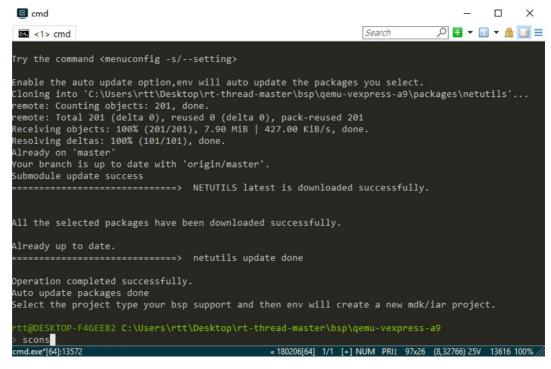


Figure 19: scons

5. After compilation is complete, run the qemu.bat file, as shown below:

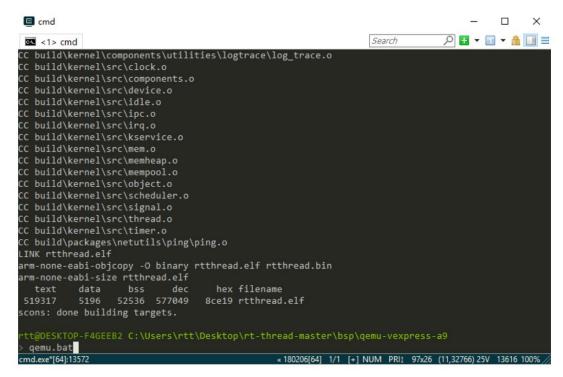


Figure 20: qemu\_bat



## Section 2: Using QEMU to run RT-Thread on Windows

## 2.6.2. Step 2: Run the ping tool

Enter the ifconfig command in the shell to check the network status. If the IP address is obtained normally, it means that the network driver is normal:

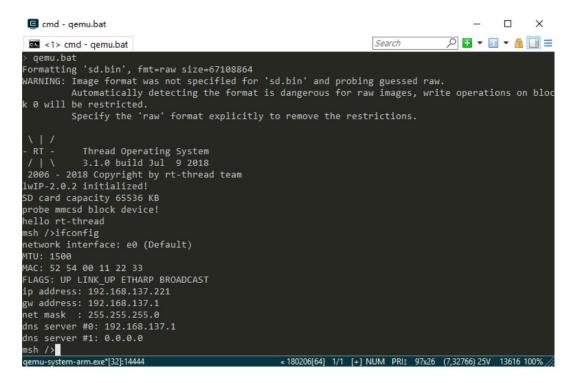


Figure 21: ifconfig

Enter ping www.rt-thread.com in the shell and you can see the ping result, indicating that the network configuration is Success, ping is possible, as shown below:



Section 2: Using QEMU to run RT-Thread on Windows

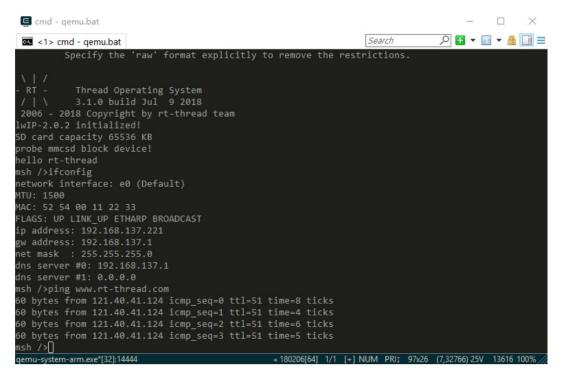


Figure 22: ping

## 2.7 Running the RT-Thread GUI Engine

2.7.1. Step 1: Download the GUI engine software package

Shut down the QEMU virtual machine, return to the ENV console, and enter the menuconfig command to enter the configuration interface:



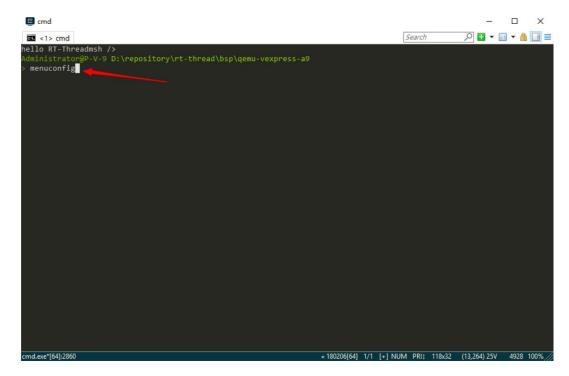


Figure 23: menuconfig

Enter "RT-Thread oneline packages" ÿ "system packages" ÿ "RT-Thread GUI Engine" In the submenu, select "Enable GUI Engine" and "Enable the example of GUI Engine":

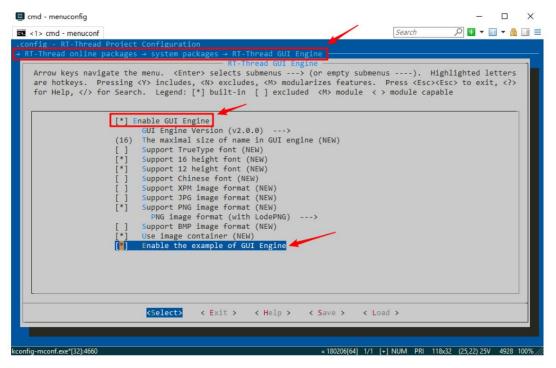


Figure 24: choose GUI Example

Press the 'ÿ' key to select "save" to save the configuration, and press the "Exit" key to exit the configuration interface and return to the command line interface. Enter



pkgs --update downloads the GUI software package and sample code:

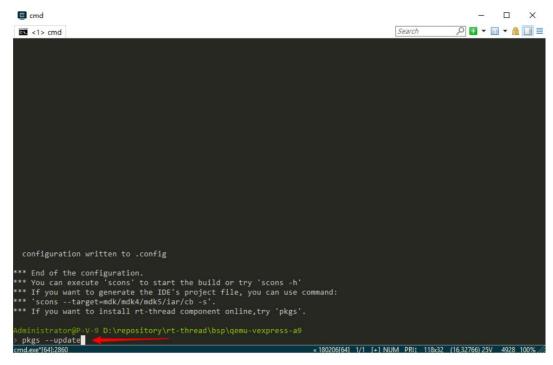


Figure 25: download GUI Software Package

#### 2.7.2. Step 2: Run the GUI engine

After the software package is downloaded, enter scons to recompile the project:

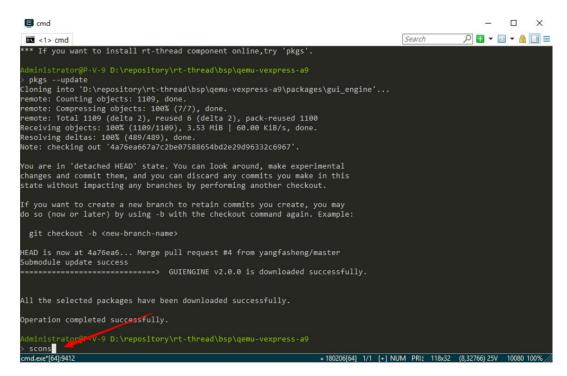


Figure 26: scons Command compilation project



After the compilation is complete, enter the qemu.bat command to start the QEMU virtual machine and project. You can see the QEMU virtual display.

The screen displays the pictures, text, and graphic information displayed by the sample code:

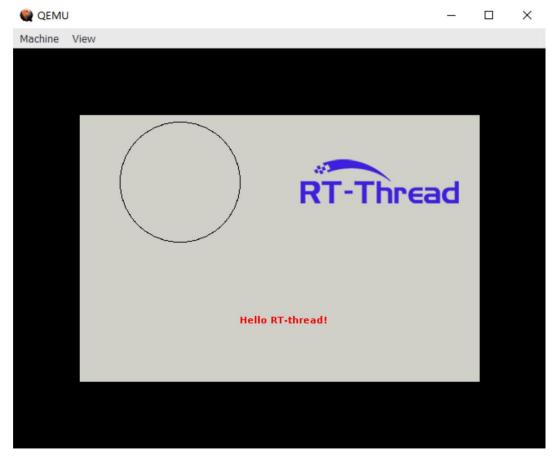


Figure 27: Virtual Screen GUI Example display

# 3. Run RT-Thread using QEMU on Ubuntu

## 3.1 Preparation

- Download RT-Thread source code, use the command: git clone https://github.com/RT-Thread/rt-thread.git
- Install QEMU using the command: sudo apt-get install qemu
- Install Scons using the command: sudo apt-get install scons
- Install the compiler. If the compiler version installed using apt-get is too old, compilation errors will occur. You can use the following command in sequence:
- 1. wget https://armkeil.blob.core.windows.net/developer/Files/downloads/gnu-rm

/6-2016q4/gcc-arm-none-eabi-6\_2-2016q4-20161216-linux.tar.bz2



- 2. cd /opt
- ${\it 3. sudo tar xf \sim /Downloads/gcc-arm-none-eabi-6\_2-2016q4-20161216-linux.tar.}$

bz2

• Install the ncurses library using the command: sudo apt-get install libncurses5-dev

After the compiler is installed, you need to modify the rtconfig.py file under the qemu-vexpress-a9 BSP and change the corresponding path to the bin directory corresponding to the compiler extracted to

the opt directory. Refer to the figure below. The directory name varies depending on the downloaded compiler version:

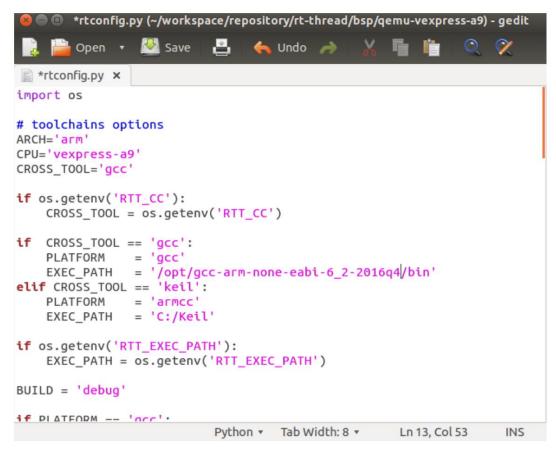


Figure 28: Compiler path modification

## 3.2 Use menuconfig to configure the project

1. Enter scons --menuconfig in the root directory of qemu-vexpress-a9 BSP to open the configuration interface and configure the operation benefit in the same as that on Windows platform:



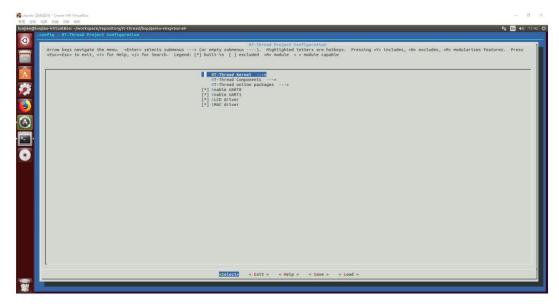


Figure 29: menuconfig

Configuration interface

2. After using the scons --menuconfig command, the Env tool will be installed and initialized, and under the home directory Generate a ".env" folder, which is a hidden folder. Switch to the home directory and use the la command to view all

Directories and files. The env.sh file is the file that needs to be executed. It will configure the environment variables so that we can use pkgs

To update the software package, enter the source ~/.env/env.sh command to execute. If you have selected the online software package,

You can use the pkgs --update command to download the software package to the packages folder under the BSP directory:

```
jiao@jiao:~/.env$ ls
env.sh local_pkgs packages tools
jiao@jiao:~/.env$
```

Figure 30: .env Folder

```
jiao@jiao:-/workspace/repository/rt-thread/bsp/qemu-vexpress-a9$ source -/.env/env.sh
jiao@jiao:-/workspace/repository/rt-thread/bsp/qemu-vexpress-a9$ pkgs --update
Cloning into '/home/luojiao/workspace/repository/rt-thread/bsp/qemu-vexpress-a9/packages/pahomqtt'...
remote: Counting objects: 72, done.
remote: Total 72 (delta 0), reused 0 (delta 0), pack-reused 72
Unpacking objects: 100% (72/72), done.
Checking connectivity... done.
Already on 'master'
Your branch is up-to-date with 'origin/master'.
Submodule update success
operate successfully.
jiao@jiao:-/workspace/repository/rt-thread/bsp/qemu-vexpress-a9$
```

Figure 31: pkgs –update

Command to download the software package

## 3.3 Compile and run RT-Thread

1. Enter the scons command in the qemu-vexpress-a9 BSP directory to compile the project:



```
jiao@jiao:~/workspace/repository/rt-thread/bsp/qemu-vexpress-a9$ scons
scons: Reading SConscript files ...
scons: done reading SConscript files.
scons: Building targets ..
scons: building associated VariantDir targets: build
CC build/applications/lcd_init.o
CC build/applications/mnt.o
cc build/cpu/cpu.o
CC build/cpu/gic.o
CC build/cpu/interrupt.o
CC build/cpu/mmu.o
CC build/cpu/pmu.o
CC build/cpu/stack.o
CC build/cpu/trap.o
CC build/drivers/board.o
CC build/drivers/drv_clcd.o
CC build/drivers/drv_keyboard.o
CC build/drivers/drv_mouse.o
CC build/drivers/drv_sdio.o
CC build/drivers/drv smc911x.o
```

Figure 32: scons Command compilation project

2. Enter the Is command to view the file details under BSP. The files displayed in green are files with execution permissions.

We need to add execution permissions to the gemu.sh file and enter the chmod +x gemu.sh command:

```
jiao@jiao:~/workspace/repository/rt-thread/bsp/qemu-vexpress-a9$ ls
applications drivers
                                         qemu-nographic.sh README.md
                                                                             rtconfig.py~ rtthread.elf
                        packages
              Kconfig qemu.bat qemu.sh
link.lds qemu-dbg.bat qemu.sh~
                                                                            rtconfig.pyc
rtthread.bin
                                                                                           rtthread.map
build
                                                              rtconfig.h
pu
                                                              rtconfig.py
                                                                                            SConscript
jiao@jiao:~/workspace/repository/rt-thread/bsp/qemu-vexpress-a9$ chmod +x qemu.sh
jiao@jiao:~/workspace/repository/rt-thread/bsp/qemu-vexpress-a9$ ls
                                        qemu-nographic.sh README.md
applications drivers packages
                                                                             rtconfig.py~ rtthread.elf
              Kconfig qemu.bat qemu.sh
link.lds qemu-dbg.bat qemu.sh~
                                                                             rtconfig.pyc rtthread.martthread.bin SConscript
build
                                                              rtconfig.h
                                                                                            rtthread.map
                                                              rtconfig.py
pu
jiao@jiao:~/workspace/repository/rt-thread/bsp/qemu-vexpress-a9$
```

Figure 33: *qemu.sh* Add execute permissions to the file

3. Enter the Jaemush command to execute the script file. At this time, the virtual machine will run, as shown in the figure below.

The lines show the relevant information printed during the RT-Thread operating system startup process, and the white window is a virtual LCD screen.

Figure 34: Virtual machine running interface



Run RT-Thread using QEMU Section 4 Reference

## 4References

- Env tool user manual
- File System Application Notes

## 5 Frequently Asked Questions

• For issues related to the Env tool, please refer to the Common Resources section of the Env Tool User

Manual. • When compiling a project, the error message "fatal error: rtgui/driver.h: No such file or

directory" appears. • Solution: After enabling "Enable GUI Engine" using menuconfig, you need to use the command pkgs --update

Download the GUI package.

