

# hackerspace global grid

world domination - one measurement at a time

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shackspace - devision for aerospace research and space exploration

10. Mai 2012

## 1 What is hgg

2 What we're actually doing

3 On the horizon

## Caveat

- hgg is, at its heart, a *very* technical project
- Fear not! This presentation will give you a general overview and keep technicalities to a minimum

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## 1 What is hgg

- History
- hgg in a nutshell
- Who's behind it?

## 2 What we're actually doing

- The core idea
- Status quo

## 3 On the horizon

- Roadmap
- How to help

# CCCamp 2011

- Nick Farr, Lars Weiler, Jens Ohlig propose a *Hacker Space Program*
  - Ambitious goal: 23 years to put a hacker on the moon!
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- "This is awesome!"
- "Let's do it!"
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# The first idea

- Short term: Understand how satellite communication works
- Mid term: Setup something so we can receive sat comm

Make it simple. Each hackerspace could have one.

Use a small antenna.

Use a cheap receiver.

- Long term: Add something so we can also send signals

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- Both sides immediately notice the similarity in his DGSN and our HGG idea
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- So we handed in a talk for 28c3
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– *Stuttgarter Zeitung*
  - "Hacking im Weltraum - Hacker arbeiten an eigenem Satellitennetzwerk"  
– *Golem*
  - "Hackers send internet into space"  
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# What hgg definitely isn't

- The *Hacker Space Program's* aim is to have communication infrastructure in place at some point
- *Hackespace Global Grid / hgg* is working on the very basics of this (distributed ground station network)
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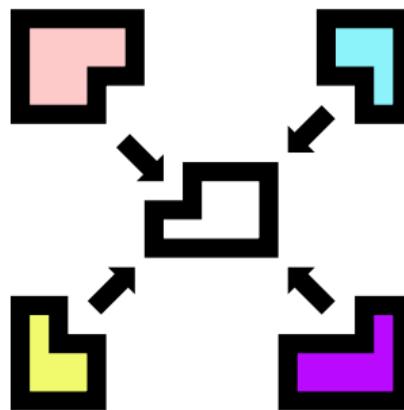
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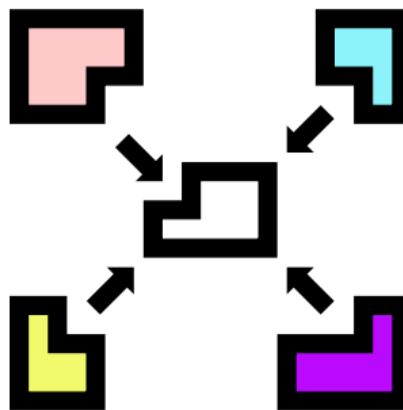
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## Build a modular system



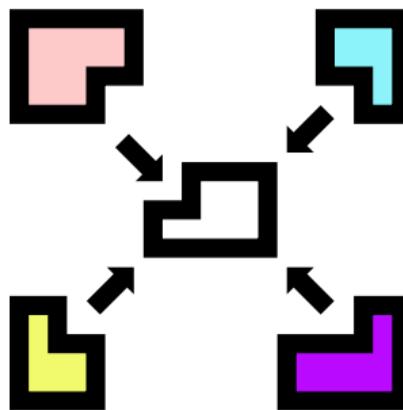
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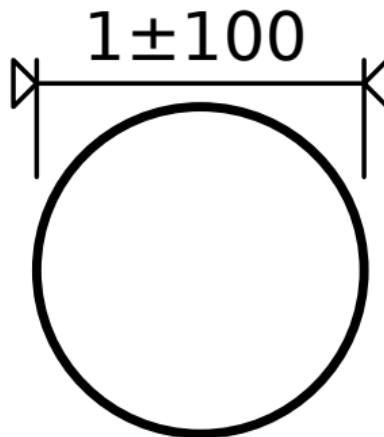
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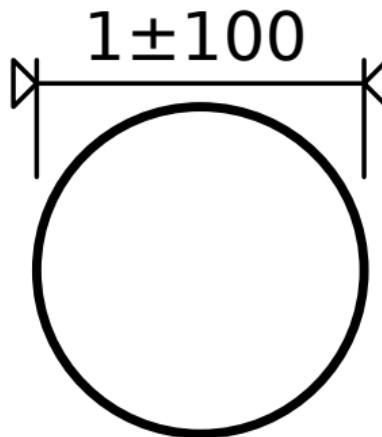
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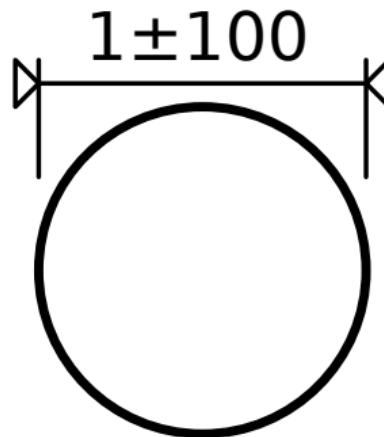
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- Let's aim for 100 ns
- Allow scaling up to "ridiculous"

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## Measure stuff



- Airplanes
  - Satellites
  - Background radiation
  - Or even just the temperature

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- Many simple measurement stations
    - networked together
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  - Realistic: assemble a kit
  - Lazy: buy it, plug it in, forget about it

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- Roadmap
- How to help

# Who's behind it?

- Just a bunch of folks, really
  - reloc0 & hadez & saeugetier working on hgg
  - -horn- working on Constellation
  - Paweł, Isaac, and a few others working on various projects
- No company or governments
- By hackers, for everyone

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# Consolidating existing and new information

- There is already a *lot* of information available
  - HAM radio community
  - Amateur satellite community
  - Hackers & makers
- We're collecting information relevant to the ask
- Try to make it easier to understand where certain details aren't documented well
- Document our findings, results and failures for others to learn from

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# What about applications?

- Constellation

- Track amateur satellites
  - Using pseudo-ranging w/ multiple receiver stations

- Once ground stations start gathering and publishing data, the possibilities are endless

- Weather monitoring

- Radio frequency spectrum monitoring

- Space debris tracking

- Space weather monitoring

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  - Live-track background radiation levels
  - Predict orbital paths of amateur satellites
  - Create a real-time map of the sky
  - Create a real-time map of the solar system
  - Create a real-time map of the universe

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  - Accurate, geo-referenced time
  - Basis for assisted GPS solutions
  - and many, many more

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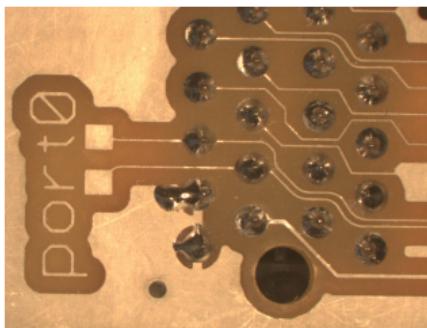
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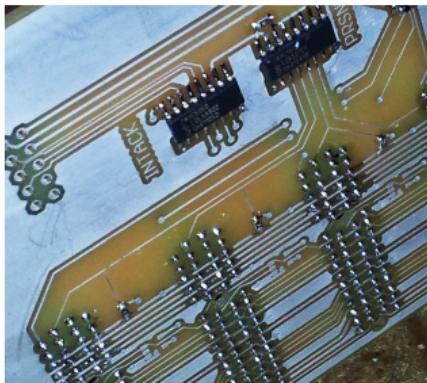
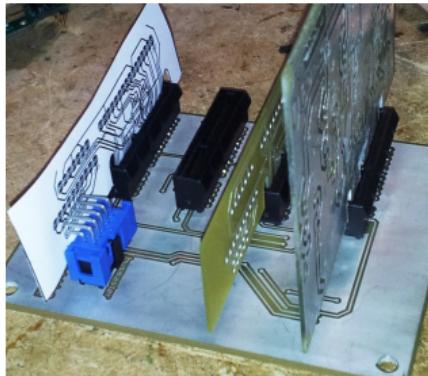
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# Specification of physical interface between modules



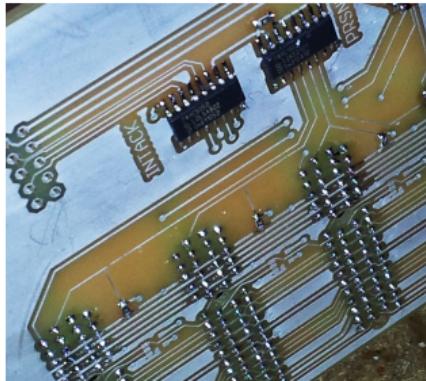
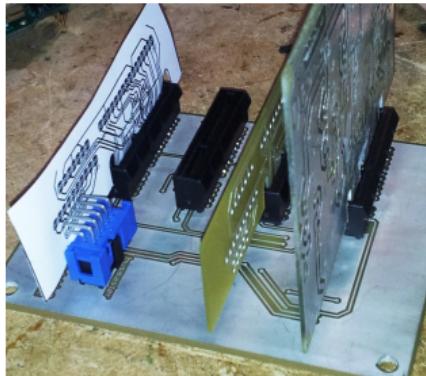
- Modules are connected via a backplane
- PCIe 4x plug w/ custom pinout
- 2x RS485 lanes for inter-module communication
- SPI-ish time broadcast bus
- Differential clock signal for high-res timing signal
- Each module sports storage for calibration data

## friendship0 backplane



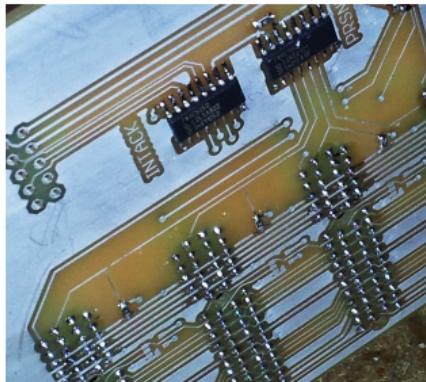
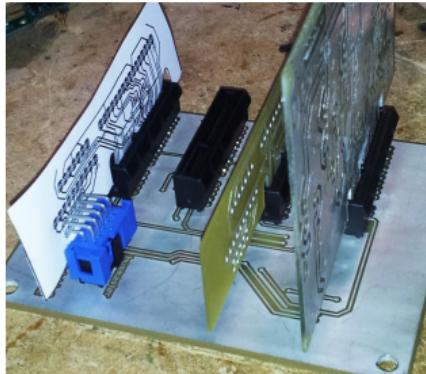
- Four modules slots, one dedicated to bus master module
- ICs for interrupt handling
- Can be easily scaled up, next step eight or nine slots

# friendship0 backplane



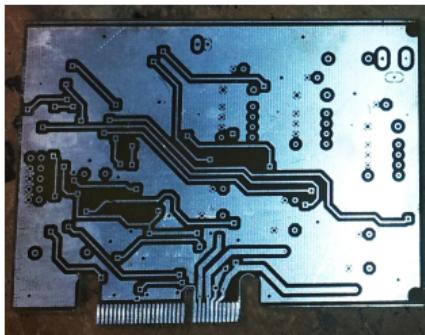
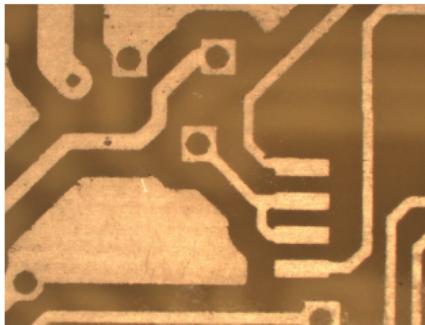
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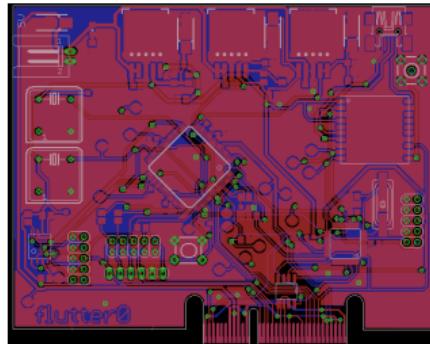
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# braeburn0 & 1 power supply module



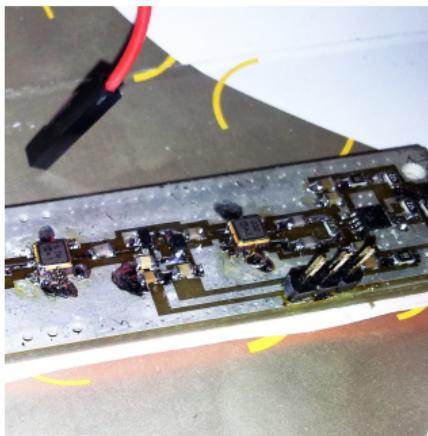
- Single external power source
- All voltages generated on-board, stabilized
- In-system voltage level monitoring
- braeburn1 using PC power supply

# flutter0 high precision distributed time source module



- Spartan3 FPGA for high-res timing (<100 ns)
- ATmega 168 for lo-res timing (1 s to 1/10th s)
- Low cost GPS module w/ external antenna support

## dash0 proof of concept



- ADS-B receiver based around miniADSB module
- Easily track commercial aircrafts
- Perfect for verifying pseudo ranging algorithms

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- Manages interrupt requests by modules
- Arbitrates resources
- Enumeration of available modules

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# dash0 ADSB receiver module

- Built around the proof of concept
- Most likely CPLD-based decoding of Manchester-encoded signal
- Contributions by Paweł
- Perfect to test pseudo-ranging because ADSB signal contains GPS location data already (ground truth)
- Your own flight tracking radar at home? Hell, yeah!

# dash0 ADSB receiver module

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- High accuracy measurement requires diligent calibration
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- Review everything
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- Environment sensors

Temperature, humidity, light, motion, ...  
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# Satellites!

- Not impossible, though not really *our* goal

## 1 What is hgg

- History
- hgg in a nutshell
- Who's behind it?

## 2 What we're actually doing

- The core idea
- Status quo

## 3 On the horizon

- Roadmap
- How to help

# Why we have not asked for donations, yet

- Offers from heartwarming to ridiculous
- Still doing research and feasibility studies
- No guarantee that it'll ever work (chances are good, though)
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# Keep in touch

- Wiki

- Edit away at <http://hgg.aero/>
- There's a list of open tasks. Pick one or add one!

- GitHub

- <https://github.com/hackerspace-global-grid>
- <https://github.com/hackerspace-global-grid/hackerspace-global-grid>

- Public mailing list

- [info@hgg.aero](mailto:info@hgg.aero)
- <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/hackerspace-global-grid>

- twitter

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It's a low-volume list where we discuss the direction of the project and other general topics.

- twitter

@HackerspaceGG

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- [lists.hackerspace.de/listinfo/constellation](mailto:lists.hackerspace.de/listinfo/constellation)

- A mailing list for the constellation project, where you can discuss your ideas and ask for help.

- twitter

- [@hackerspace](https://twitter.com/hackerspace)

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Pretty please :)