

Intro to embedded systems and drivers as selected subject

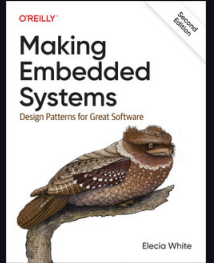
DHT22 Temp/humidity and LCD1602 display on Pi Pico W microcontroller

by: **Simon Lalonde**

For: **IFT-769** (Theoretical concepts CS)

Project overview (1/2) - Read 'Making Embedded Systems' by Elecia White

Making Embedded Systems 2nd edition by Elecia White



Book overview:

- **Introduction** to embedded systems architecture and design
- How to work with various **I/O** devices (sensor, display, etc.)
- Learn how to **optimize** and **debug** within resource constraints
- **Advanced** topics like **RTOS**, **networking**, **security**, etc.

White, Elecia. Making Embedded Systems. 2nd ed., O'Reilly Media.



Project overview (2/2) - Apply the concepts from 1st half of reference book

Make a **Temperature** 🌡️ and **humidity** 💧 station with DHT22 sensor and LCD1602 display on Raspberry Pi Pico W microcontroller.

- ➡ **Design** a simple embedded system with a microcontroller.
- ➡ **Learn** to work with I/O on a microcontroller.
- ➡ **Write custom C drivers** for each peripheral.

(Optional goal)

Take advantage of the Pico W microcontroller's 📶 chip and run a **web server** to **display** the data on a web page via local network.

Project overview (3/3) - Present and apply relevant concepts from the main reference

Relevant concepts (from the 1st half of the book):

- Create **system diagram** and **flowchart** for the project (ch. 2)
- Choosing and understanding **hardware** (ch.3)
- **I/O** and **interrupts** (ch. 4-5)
- Drivers and **communication protocols** (ch. 7)
- **Flow** of activity and **hollistic system** view (ch.6 and 8)



Project goals

1. **Understand** the basics of embedded systems and drivers.
2. **Learn** to work with I/O devices on a microcontroller.
3. **Write** custom C drivers for each peripheral.
4. **Apply** the concepts from the reference book to the project.
5. **Present** and **apply** relevant concepts from the main reference.



Project timeline - (1/2)

Theoretical concepts

- Read a chapter of the book every week

Applied Project

- Write **System diagram** and **flowchart** for the project
- **Choosing** and **understanding** hardware
- Setup **development environment** and **toolchain**
- Start **writing** the DHT22 driver



Project timeline - End-of-term objectives

Theoretical concepts

Continue reading the book past the applied objectives.

Applied project

- **Finish** the DHT22 driver
- **Write** the LCD1602 driver
- **Integrate** the drivers and **test** the system
- (OPTIONAL) Run a **web server** to display the data



What are embedded systems?

- **Dedicated** computing devices that are part of a larger system. They are designed to perform a specific task or set of tasks.
- Often **resource-constrained** (sometimes $< 1\text{Kb}$ of RAM and $\text{CPU} < 1\text{MHz}$).
- Need to be **reliable** and operate in **real-time**.
- Some might have **no OS** or a **real-time OS**.

Examples

IoT devices (smart  , game controllers , medical devices  etc.



Typical hardware components

Microcontroller (CPU, RAM, ROM, I/O)

The **brain** of the system. It executes the program and interacts with the peripherals.

Peripherals (I/O devices)

Input and output devices that interact with the environment. Sensors, displays, motors, etc.

Power supply

Provides power to the system. Can be a battery, USB, etc.

Communication interfaces

Ways to communicate with the system. Serial, I2C, SPI, etc.



Hardware and software design and integration

Ideal Workflow:

1. *Hardware*: SysDesign/Schematics -> Printed Circuit Board (PCB) -> Assembly -> Board bring-up
2. *Software*: Read datasheets -> Write drivers -> Write application code
3. *Integration*: Test and debug -> Optimize -> Repeat
4. *Deployment*: Production -> Maintenance

Both software and hardware/electrical engineers need to work together to design and integrate the system.



Weather station project hardware design

Weather station that displays **temperature and humidity** on an **LCD screen** (custom drivers) on a **Raspberry Pi Pico W** microcontroller.

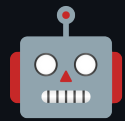
Components:

- **Raspberry Pi Pico W microcontroller:** Microcontroller with RP2040 chip and WiFi capabilities
- **DHT22 sensor:** Temperature and humidity sensor with proprietary protocol (DHT22)
- **LCD1602 display:** Small 2.5" LCD display with I2C communication interface
- Breadboard, jumper wires, resistors, etc.

Adafruit. "DHT22 Temperature-Humidity Sensor." Adafruit Learning System, 2021.

LCD1602 Display. "LCD1602 Display." RoHS, 2021.

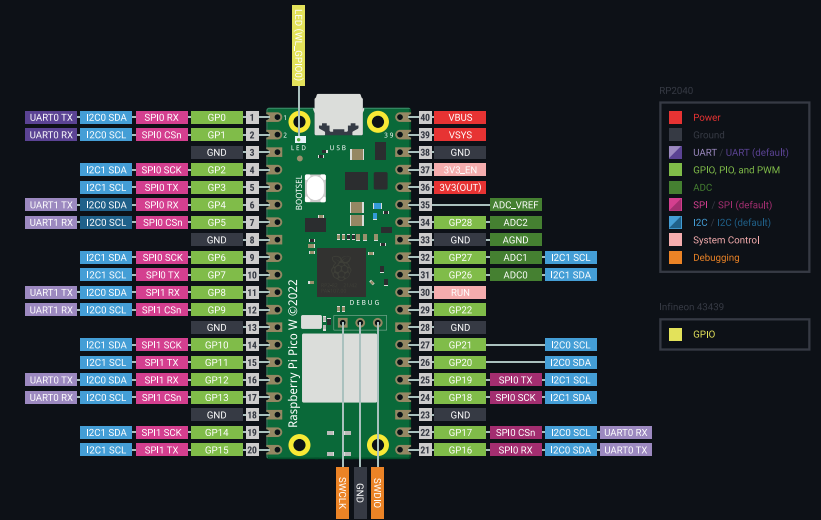
Raspberry Pi Foundation. "Raspberry Pi Pico." Raspberry Pi, 2021.

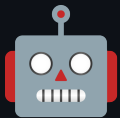


Pico W Microcontroller - Datasheet (DS) overview

Datasheet overview and Pinout

- RP2040 microcontroller (2MB flash MEM)
- Dual-core ARM Cortex-M0+ processor (133MHz)
- 26 GPIO pins (23 digital + 3 ADC)
- Micro USB-B for power and data
- SRAM: 264KB
- 2.4GHz WiFi and Bluetooth 5.0
- Comms: SPI, I2C, UART, etc.





Pico W Microcontroller - DS Applications information (1/2)

Programming the flash

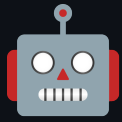
Reprogram the flash memory with a new program using the USB bootloader.

GPIO pins and ADC

- Each pin can be configured as a digital input/output, analog input, or a special function (UART, SPI, I2C, etc.)
- Pins are 3.3V tolerant with 3 of them ADC capable (convert analog to digital)

USB and power supply

- Micro USB-B port for power and data (range of 1.8V to 5.5V; can be powered by battery)
- USB bootloader for programming the flash memory



Pico W Microcontroller - DS Applications information (2/2)

Wireless interface

- 2.4GHz WiFi and Bluetooth 5.0 for wireless communication
- ***LIMITATIONS:***
 - Cannot use CLK and VSYS monitor at the same time
 - Cannot check for IRQs when SPI transaction is in progress

Debugging


- Using the SWD (Serial Wire Debug) interface

Raspberry Pi Foundation. "Raspberry Pi Pico-W Datasheet." Raspberry Pi, 2024.



Setting up the development environment (Hello World!)

Steps

1. **Download** and **install** the Pico C/C++ SDK from  including submodules
2. Install the **toolchain**: `CMake` and GCC cross compiler `gcc-arm-embedded` (using `nix-shell`)
3. Make a `c_cpp_properties.json` file for the **VSCode** IDE to recognize SDKs and includes
4. Create a **hello_usb** project by use the SDKs provided libs (configure c/cpp compiler and include in IDE)
5. Compile with the `CMakeLists.txt` and `pico_sdk_import.cmake` scripts. Automated with custom `picow-build.sh` script.
6. **Flash** the program to the Pico W microcontroller using the USB bootloader.



Breadboard + Pico W + USB

stdio over USB

A USB Communication Device Class (CDC) ACM virtual serial port, using TinyUSB's CDC support. We can easily:

- Pass compiled binary (as uf2) to the Pico W which will convert it to a binary file and flash it to the microcontroller.
- Use the USB serial port to send and receive data from the Pico W (standard calls avail. like `printf`)



Raspberry Pi Foundation. "Getting Started with Raspberry Pi Pico." Raspberry Pi, 2024.



Blink onboard LED via Wireless chip's GPIO



DEMO



Input and output via USB and UART (Hello World!)

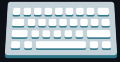
UART:

- **Universal Asynchronous Receiver-Transmitter** (UART) is a serial communication protocol.
- **TX** (transmit) and **RX** (receive) pins are used to send and receive data.
- **Baud rate** is the speed of communication (bits per second).

USB:

- **Universal Serial Bus** (USB) is a common interface for connecting devices.
- **CDC ACM** (Communication Device Class Abstract Control Model) is a USB class for serial communication.

We will first use USB to send (binary file) and receive data (`printf`) from the Pico W microcontroller and use `minicom` to listen to data on the serial port.



IO with Pico W's default GPIO over UART

Serial input (*stdin*) and output (*stdout*) can be directed to either serial UART or to USB CDC (USB serial). By default, `printf` target UART0 on Pico.

| UART0 | Physical Pin | GPIO Pin |
|------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| GND | 3 | N/A |
| UART0_TX (sending from Pico) | 1 | GPIO0 |
| UART0_RX (receiving at Pico) | 2 | GPIO1 |

See the macros in `/pico-sdk/src/boards/include/boards/pico.h` for the default UART pins.



Hello World! USB output



DEMO

```
# Compile the hello_usb project
cd hello_usb
./picow-build.sh

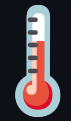
# Check for the picow device with dmesg (kernel ring buffer)
sudo dmesg -w

# In a new terminal, flash the compiled binary to the Pico W
cp build/hello_usb.uf2 /run/media/deck/RPI-RP2/

# Open a serial terminal to see the output (using the dmesg output to find the device)
RATE=115200      # The baud rate of the serial port (bits per second)
sudo minicom -D /dev/ttyACM0 -b $RATE

# USE CTL+A then X to exit minicom
```

 **Project - To Be Continued**



DHT - Overview



Drivers and communication protocols

Drivers

- Software that allows the microcontroller to interact with peripherals.
- They abstract the hardware and provide a simple interface for the application code.

Communication protocols

- A set of rules that define how devices communicate with each other.
- Examples: I2C, SPI, UART, etc.



I/O and interrupts

Input/Output (I/O)

- **Input:** Reading data from the environment (sensors, switches, etc.)
- **Output:** Sending data to the environment (displays, motors, etc.)

Interrupts

- A way for the microcontroller to respond to events in real-time.
- The microcontroller can stop what it's doing and handle the interrupt.

Model view controller in embedded systems

Often, embedded systems are designed using the **Model-View-Controller** (MVC) pattern. This pattern separates the system into three main components:



- **Model:** The data and logic of the system.
- **View:** The user interface.
- **Controller:** The logic that connects the model and the view. It processes user input and updates the model and view accordingly.

White, Elecia. Making Embedded Systems. 2nd ed., O'Reilly Media.



System diagram

TODO ADD STATIC FILE

