INTERRUPT MANAGEMENT

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1. Introduction

It is important to draw a distinction between the priority of a task, and the priority of an interrupt:

- · A task is a software feature that is unrelated to the hardware on which FreeRTOS is running. The priority of a task is assigned in software by the application writer, and a software algorithm (the scheduler) decides which task will be in the Running state.
- · Although written in software, an interrupt service routine is a hardware feature because the hardware controls which interrupt service routine will run, and when it will run. Tasks will only run when there are no ISRs running, so the lowest priority interrupt will interrupt the highest priority task, and there is no way for a task to pre-empt an ISR.

All architectures on which FreeRTOS will run are capable of processing interrupts, but details relating to interrupt entry, and interrupt priority assignment, vary between architectures.

2. FreeRTOS APIs from an ISR

Often it is necessary to use the functionality provided by a FreeRTOS API function from an interrupt service routine (ISR), but many FreeRTOS API functions perform actions that are not valid inside an ISR—the most notable of which is placing the task that called the API function into the Blocked state; if an API function is called from an ISR, then it is not being called from a task, so there is no calling task that can be placed into the Blocked state.

FreeRTOS solves this problem by providing two versions of some API functions; one version for use from tasks, and one version for use from ISRs. Functions intended for use from ISRs have "FromISR" appended to their name

2.1 Benefits of Using a Separate Interrupt Safe API

If the same version of an API function could be called from both a task and an ISR then:

- 1. The API functions would need additional logic to determine if they had been called from a task or an ISR. The additional logic would introduce new paths through the function, making the functions longer, more complex, and harder to test
- 2. Some API function parameters would be obsolete when the function was called from a task, while others would be obsolete when the function was called from an ISR.
- **3.** Each FreeRTOS port would need to provide a mechanism for determining the execution context (task or ISR).

4. Architectures on which it is not easy to determine the execution context (task or ISR) would require additional, wasteful, more complex to use, and non-standard interrupt entry code that allowed the execution context to be provided by software

2.2 Disadvantages of Using a Separate Interrupt Safe API

Having two versions of some API functions allows both tasks and ISRs to be more efficient, but introduces a new problem; sometimes it is necessary to call a function that is not part of the FreeRTOS API, but makes use of the FreeRTOS API, from both a task and an ISR.

This is normally only a problem when integrating third party code, as that is the only time when the software's design is out of the control of the application writer. If this does become an issue then the problem can be overcome using one of the following techniques:

- 1. Defer interrupt processing to a task1, so the API function is only ever called from the context of a task.
- 2. If you are using a FreeRTOS port that supports interrupt nesting, then use the version of the API function that ends in "FromISR", as that version can be called from tasks and ISRs (the reverse is not true, API functions that do not end in "FromISR" must not be called from an ISR).
- 3. Third party code normally includes an RTOS abstraction layer that can be implemented to test the context from which the function is being called (task or interrupt), and then call the API function that is appropriate for the context.

3. xHigherPriorityTaskWoken Parameter

- If a context switch is performed by an interrupt, then the task running when the interrupt exits might be different to the task that was running when the interrupt was entered—the interrupt will have interrupted one task, but returned to a different task.
- Some FreeRTOS API functions can move a task from the Blocked state to the Ready state. This has already been seen with functions such as xQueueSendToBack(), which will unblock a task if there was a task waiting in the Blocked state for data to become available on the subject queue
- If the priority of a task that is unblocked by a FreeRTOS API function is higher than the priority of the task in the Running state then, in accordance with the FreeRTOS scheduling

policy, a switch to the higher priority task should occur. When the switch to the higher priority task actually occurs is dependent on the context from which the API function is called:

3.1 If the API function was called from a task

If configUSE_PREEMPTION is set to 1 in FreeRTOSConfig.h then the switch to the higher priority task occurs automatically within the API function—so before the API function has exited., where writing to the timer command queue resulted in a switch to the RTOS daemon task before the function that wrote to the command queue had exited.

3.2 If the API function was called from an interrupt

- o A switch to a higher priority task will not occur automatically inside an interrupt. Instead, a variable is set to inform the application writer that a context switch should be performed. Interrupt safe API functions (those that end in "FromISR") have a pointer parameter called pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken that is used for this purpose.
- o If a context switch should be performed, then the interrupt safe API function will set *pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken to pdTRUE. To be able to detect this has happened, the variable pointed to by pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken must be initialized to pdFALSE before it is used for the first time.
- o If the application writer opts not to request a context switch from the ISR, then the higher priority task will remain in the Ready state until the next time the scheduler runs—which in the worst case will be during the next tick interrupt.
- o FreeRTOS API functions can only set *pxHighPriorityTaskWoken to pdTRUE. If an ISR calls more than one FreeRTOS API function, then the same variable can be passed as the pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken parameter in each API function call, and the variable only needs to be initialized to pdFALSE before it is used for the first time.
- There are several reasons why context switches do not occur automatically inside the interrupt safe version of an API function:

1. Avoiding unnecessary context switches

An interrupt may execute more than once before it is necessary for a task to perform any processing. For example, consider a scenario where a task processes a string that was

received by an interrupt driven UART; it would be wasteful for the UART ISR to switch to the task each time a character was received because the task would only have processing to perform after the complete string had been received.

2. Control over the execution sequence

Interrupts can occur sporadically, and at unpredictable times. Expert FreeRTOS users may want to temporarily avoid an unpredictable switch to a different task at specific points in their application—although this can also be achieved using the FreeRTOS scheduler locking mechanism.

3. Portability

It is the simplest mechanism that can be used across all FreeRTOS ports.

4. Efficiency

Ports that target smaller processor architectures only allow a context switch to be requested at the very end of an ISR, and removing that restriction would require additional and more complex code. It also allows more than one call to a FreeRTOS API function within the same ISR without generating more than one request for a context switch within the same ISR.

5. Execution in the RTOS tick interrupt

it is possible to add application code into the RTOS tick interrupt. The result of attempting a context switch inside the tick interrupt is dependent on the FreeRTOS port in use. At best, it will result in an unnecessary call to the scheduler.

Use of the pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken parameter is optional. If it is not required, then set pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken to NULL.

4. portYIELD_FROM_ISR() and portEND_SWITCHING_ISR() Macros

- the macros that are used to request a context switch from an ISR
- taskYIELD() is a macro that can be called in a task to request a context switch.
- portYIELD_FROM_ISR() and portEND_SWITCHING_ISR() are both interrupt safe versions of taskYIELD(). portYIELD_FROM_ISR() and portEND_SWITCHING_ISR() are both used in the same way, and do the same thing .
- Some FreeRTOS ports only provide one of the two macros. Newer FreeRTOS ports provide both macros.

```
portEND_SWITCHING_ISR( xHigherPriorityTaskWoken );
portYIELD FROM ISR( xHigherPriorityTaskWoken );
```

- The xHigherPriorityTaskWoken parameter passed out of an interrupt safe API function can be used directly as the parameter in a call to portYIELD FROM ISR().
- If the portYIELD_FROM_ISR() xHigherPriorityTaskWoken parameter is pdFALSE (zero), then a context switch is not requested, and the macro has no effect. If the portYIELD_FROM_ISR() xHigherPriorityTaskWoken parameter is not pdFALSE, then a context switch is requested, and the task in the Running state might change. The interrupt will always return to the task in the Running state, even if the task in the Running state changed while the interrupt was executing.
- Most FreeRTOS ports allow portYIELD_FROM_ISR() to be called anywhere within an ISR.
 A few FreeRTOS ports (predominantly those for smaller architectures), only allow portYIELD FROM ISR() to be called at the very end of an ISR.

5. Deferred Interrupt Processing

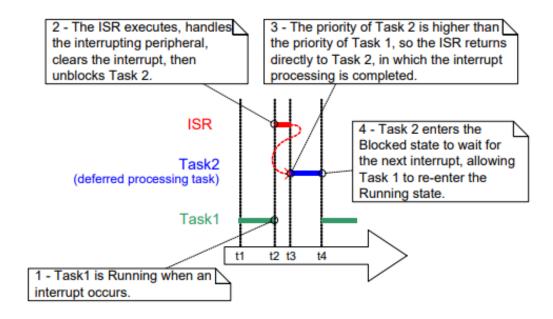
It is normally considered best practice to keep ISRs as short as possible. Reasons for this include:

- \cdot Even if tasks have been assigned a very high priority, they will only run if no interrupts are being serviced by the hardware.
- · ISRs can disrupt both the start time, and the execution time, of a task.
- · Depending on the architecture on which FreeRTOS is running, it might not be possible to accept any new interrupts, or at least a subset of new interrupts, while an ISR is executing.
- · The application writer needs to consider the consequences of, and guard against, resources such as variables, peripherals, and memory buffers being accessed by a task and an ISR at the same time.
- · Some FreeRTOS ports allow interrupts to nest, but interrupt nesting can increase complexity and reduce predictability. The shorter an interrupt is, the less likely it is to nest.

An interrupt service routine must record the cause of the interrupt, and clear the interrupt. Any other processing necessitated by the interrupt can often be performed in a task, allowing the interrupt service routine to exit as quickly as is practical. This is called 'deferred interrupt processing', because the processing necessitated by the interrupt is 'deferred' from the ISR to a task.

Deferring interrupt processing to a task also allows the application writer to prioritize the processing relative to other tasks in the application, and use all the FreeRTOS API functions.

If the priority of the task to which interrupt processing is deferred is above the priority of any other task, then the processing will be performed immediately, just as if the processing had been performed in the ISR itself



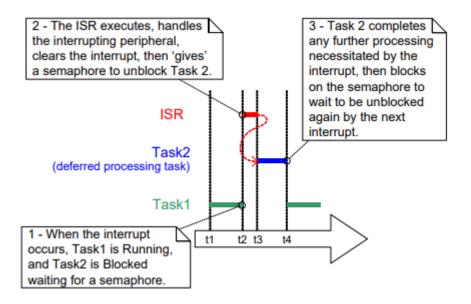
In above figure interrupt processing starts at time t2, and effectively ends at time t4, but only the period between times t2 and t3 is spent in the ISR. If deferred interrupt processing had not been used then the entire period between times t2 and t4 would have been spent in the ISR.

There is no absolute rule as to when it is best to perform all processing necessitated by an interrupt in the ISR, and when it is best to defer part of the processing to a task. Deferring processing to a task is most useful when:

- · The processing necessitated by the interrupt is not trivial. For example, if the interrupt is just storing the result of an analog to digital conversion, then it is almost certain this is best performed inside the ISR, but if result of the conversion must also be passed through a software filter, then it may be best to execute the filter in a task.
- · It is convenient for the interrupt processing to perform an action that cannot be performed inside an ISR, such as write to a console, or allocate memory.
- The interrupt processing is not deterministic—meaning it is not known in advance how long the processing will take.

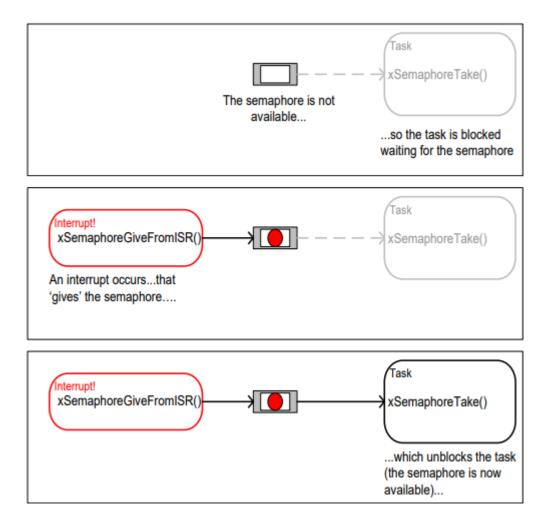
6. Binary Semaphores used for synchronization

- The interrupt safe version of the Binary Semaphore API can be used to unblock a task each time a particular interrupt occurs, effectively synchronizing the task with the interrupt. This allows the majority of the interrupt event processing to be implemented within the synchronized task, with only a very fast and short portion remaining directly in the ISR
- If the interrupt processing is particularly time critical, then the priority of the deferred processing task can be set to ensure the task always preempts the other tasks in the system. The ISR can then be implemented to include a call to portYIELD_FROM_ISR(), ensuring the ISR returns directly to the task to which interrupt processing is being deferred. This has the effect of ensuring the entire event processing executes contiguously (without a break) in time, just as if it had all been implemented within the ISR itself



- The deferred processing task uses a blocking 'take' call to a semaphore as a means of entering the Blocked state to wait for the event to occur. When the event occurs, the ISR uses a 'give' operation on the same semaphore to unblock the task so that the required event processing can proceed.
- In this interrupt synchronization scenario, the binary semaphore can be considered conceptually as a queue with a length of one. The queue can contain a maximum of one item at any time, so is always either empty or full (hence, binary).
- By calling xSemaphoreTake(), the task to which interrupt processing is deferred effectively attempts to read from the queue with a block time, causing the task to enter the Blocked state

if the queue is empty. When the event occurs, the ISR uses the xSemaphoreGiveFromISR() function to place a token (the semaphore) into the queue, making the queue full. This causes the task to exit the Blocked state and remove the token, leaving the queue empty once more. When the task has completed its processing, it once more attempts to read from the queue and, finding the queue empty, re-enters the Blocked state to wait for the next event.



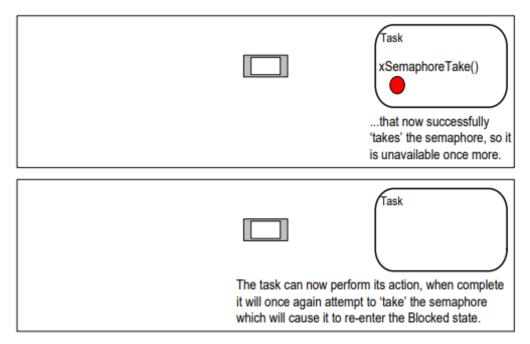


Figure 50. Using a binary semaphore to synchronize a task with an interrupt

7. Binary semaphore APIs

7.1 xSemaphoreCreateBinary()

- Handles to all the various types of FreeRTOS semaphore are stored in a variable of type SemaphoreHandle t.
- Before a semaphore can be used, it must be created. To create a binary semaphore, use the xSemaphoreCreateBinary() API function

SemaphoreHandle t xSemaphoreCreateBinary(void);

• Returned value:

- o If NULL is returned, then the semaphore cannot be created because there is insufficient heap memory available for FreeRTOS to allocate the semaphore data structures.
- o A non-NULL value being returned indicates that the semaphore has been created successfully. The returned value should be stored as the handle to the created semaphore.

7.2 xSemaphoreTake()

- 'Taking' a semaphore means to 'obtain' or 'receive' the semaphore. The semaphore can be taken only if it is available.
- All the various types of FreeRTOS semaphore, except recursive mutexes, can be 'taken' using the xSemaphoreTake() function.
- xSemaphoreTake() must not be used from an interrupt service routine.

BaseType_t xSemaphoreTake(SemaphoreHandle_t xSemaphore,
TickType_t xTicksToWait);

Parameter Name/ Returned Value	Description	
xSemaphore	 A semaphore is referenced by a variable of type SemaphoreHandle_t. It must be explicitly created before it can be used. 	
xTicksToWait	 The maximum amount of time the task should remain in the Blocked state to wait for the semaphore if it is not already available. If xTicksToWait is zero, then xSemaphoreTake() will return immediately if the semaphore is not available. The block time is specified in tick periods, so the absolute time it represents is dependent on the tick frequency. The macro pdMS_TO_TICKS() can be used to convert a time specified in milliseconds to a time specified in ticks. Setting xTicksToWait to portMAX_DELAY will cause the task to wait indefinitely (without a timeout) if INCLUDE_vTaskSuspend is set to 1 in FreeRTOSConfig.h. 	
Returned value	There are two possible return values: 1. pdPASS pdPASS is returned only if the call to xSemaphoreTake() was successful in obtaining the semaphore. If a block time was specified (xTicksToWait was not zero), then it is possible that the calling task was placed into the Blocked	

state to wait for the semaphore if it was not immediately available, but the semaphore became available before the block time expired.

2. pdFALSE

The semaphore is not available. If a block time was specified (xTicksToWait was not zero), then the calling task will have been placed into the Blocked state to wait for the semaphore to become available, but the block time expired before this happened.

7.3 xSemaphoreGiveFromISR()

- Binary and counting semaphores can be 'given' using the xSemaphoreGiveFromISR() function.
- xSemaphoreGiveFromISR() is the interrupt safe version of xSemaphoreGive(), so has the pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken parameter

```
BaseType_t xSemaphoreGiveFromISR( SemaphoreHandle_t
xSemaphore, BaseType_t *pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken );
```

Parameter Name/ Returned Value	Description	
xSemaphore	A semaphore is referenced by a variable of type	
	SemaphoreHandle_t. It must be explicitly created	
	before it can be used.	
pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken	• It is possible that a single semaphore will have one or more tasks blocked on it waiting for the semaphore to become available. Calling xSemaphoreGiveFromISR() can make the semaphore available, and so cause a task that was	
	waiting for the semaphore to leave the Blocked state. If calling xSemaphoreGiveFromISR() causes a task to leave the Blocked state, and the unblocked task has a priority higher than the currently executing task (the task that was interrupted), then, internally, xSemaphoreGiveFromISR() will set *pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken to pdTRUE. • If xSemaphoreGiveFromISR() sets this value to pdTRUE, then normally a context switch should be performed before the interrupt is exited. This will ensure that the interrupt returns directly to the highest priority Ready state task.	
Returned value	 There are two possible return values: 1. pdPASS pdPASS will be returned only if the call to xSemaphoreGiveFromISR() is successful. 2. pdFAIL If a semaphore is already available, it cannot be given, and xSemaphoreGiveFromISR() will return pdFAIL state to wait for the semaphore to become available, but the block time expired before this happened. 	

8. Using a binary semaphore to synchronize a task with an interrupt

• This example uses a binary semaphore to unblock a task from an interrupt service routine—effectively synchronizing the task with the interrupt.

```
/* The number of the software interrupt used in this example. The code shown is from
the Windows project, where numbers 0 to 2 are used by the FreeRTOS Windows port
itself, so 3 is the first number available to the application. */
#define mainINTERRUPT NUMBER
static void vPeriodicTask( void *pvParameters )
const TickType_t xDelay500ms = pdMS_TO_TICKS( 500UL );
    /* As per most tasks, this task is implemented within an infinite loop. */
    for( ;; )
        /* Block until it is time to generate the software interrupt again. */
        vTaskDelay( xDelay500ms );
        /* Generate the interrupt, printing a message both before and after
        the interrupt has been generated, so the sequence of execution is evident
        from the output.
        The syntax used to generate a software interrupt is dependent on the
        FreeRTOS port being used. The syntax used below can only be used with the FreeRTOS Windows port, in which such interrupts are only simulated. */
        vPrintString( "Periodic task - About to generate an interrupt.\r\n" );
        vPortGenerateSimulatedInterrupt( mainINTERRUPT NUMBER );
        vPrintString( "Periodic task - Interrupt generated.\r\n\r\n" );
    }
```

- A simple periodic task is used to generate a software interrupt every 500 milliseconds. A
 software interrupt is used for convenience because of the complexity of hooking into a real
 interrupt in some target environments
- Note that the task prints out a string both before and after the interrupt is generated. This
 allows the sequence of execution to be observed in the output produced when the example is
 executed

```
static void vHandlerTask( void *pvParameters )
{
    /* As per most tasks, this task is implemented within an infinite loop. */
    for(;;)
    {
        /* Use the semaphore to wait for the event. The semaphore was created
        before the scheduler was started, so before this task ran for the first
        time. The task blocks indefinitely, meaning this function call will only
        return once the semaphore has been successfully obtained - so there is
        no need to check the value returned by xSemaphoreTake(). */
        xSemaphoreTake( xBinarySemaphore, portMAX_DELAY );

    /* To get here the event must have occurred. Process the event (in this
        Case, just print out a message). */
        vPrintString( "Handler task - Processing event.\r\n" );
}
```

• The implementation of the task to which the interrupt processing is deferred—the task that is synchronized with the software interrupt through the use of a binary semaphore

```
static uint32 t ulExampleInterruptHandler( void )
BaseType_t xHigherPriorityTaskWoken;
    /* The xHigherPriorityTaskWoken parameter must be initialized to pdFALSE as
    it will get set to pdTRUE inside the interrupt safe API function if a
    context switch is required. */
   xHigherPriorityTaskWoken = pdFALSE;
    /* 'Give' the semaphore to unblock the task, passing in the address of
   xHigherPriorityTaskWoken as the interrupt safe API function's
   pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken parameter. */
    xSemaphoreGiveFromISR(xBinarySemaphore, &xHigherPriorityTaskWoken);
    /* Pass the xHigherPriorityTaskWoken value into portYIELD FROM ISR(). If
    xHigherPriorityTaskWoken was set to pdTRUE inside xSemaphoreGiveFromISR()
    then calling portYIELD FROM ISR() will request a context switch. If
   xHigherPriorityTaskWoken is still pdFALSE then calling
   portYIELD FROM ISR() will have no effect. Unlike most FreeRTOS ports, the
   Windows port requires the ISR to return a value - the return statement
   is inside the Windows version of portYIELD_FROM_ISR(). */
   portYIELD FROM ISR( xHigherPriorityTaskWoken );
```

- This does very little other than 'give' the semaphore to unblock the task to which interrupt processing is deferred.
- Note how the xHigherPriorityTaskWoken variable is used. It is set to pdFALSE before calling xSemaphoreGiveFromISR(), then used as the parameter when portYIELD_FROM_ISR() is called. A context switch will be requested inside the portYIELD FROM ISR() macro if xHigherPriorityTaskWoken equals pdTRUE.

```
int main ( void )
    /* Before a semaphore is used it must be explicitly created. In this example
   a binary semaphore is created. */
   xBinarySemaphore = xSemaphoreCreateBinary();
    /* Check the semaphore was created successfully. */
   if ( xBinarySemaphore != NULL )
        /* Create the 'handler' task, which is the task to which interrupt
        processing is deferred. This is the task that will be synchronized with
        the interrupt. The handler task is created with a high priority to ensure
        it runs immediately after the interrupt exits. In this case a priority of
        3 is chosen. */
        xTaskCreate( vHandlerTask, "Handler", 1000, NULL, 3, NULL );
        /* Create the task that will periodically generate a software interrupt.
        This is created with a priority below the handler task to ensure it will
        get preempted each time the handler task exits the Blocked state. */
        xTaskCreate( vPeriodicTask, "Periodic", 1000, NULL, 1, NULL );
        /* Install the handler for the software interrupt. The syntax necessary
        to do this is dependent on the FreeRTOS port being used. The syntax
        shown here can only be used with the FreeRTOS windows port, where such
        interrupts are only simulated. */
        vPortSetInterruptHandler( mainINTERRUPT NUMBER, ulExampleInterruptHandler );
        /* Start the scheduler so the created tasks start executing. */
        vTaskStartScheduler();
    }
    /* As normal, the following line should never be reached. */
   for( ;; );
```

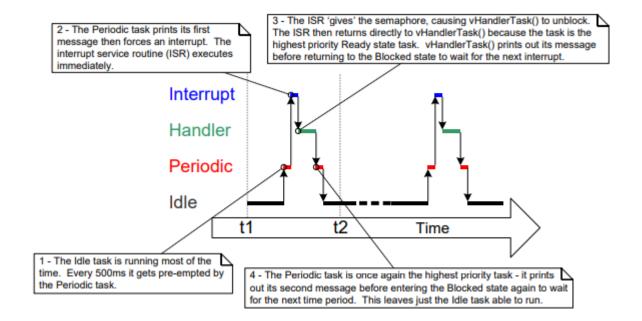
• As expected, vHandlerTask() enters the Running state as soon as the interrupt is generated, so the output from the task splits the output produced by the periodic task

```
Handler task - Processing event.
Periodic task - About to generate an interrupt.
Handler task - Processing event.
Periodic task - About to generate an interrupt.
Handler task - Interrupt generated.

Perodic task - About to generate an interrupt.
Handler task - Processing event.
Periodic task - Interrupt generated.

Perodic task - About to generate an interrupt.
Handler task - Processing event.
Periodic task - Interrupt generated.

Perodic task - About to generate an interrupt.
Handler task - Processing event.
Periodic task - About to generate an interrupt.
Handler task - Interrupt generated.
```



Improving the Implementation of the Task Used Above

The execution sequence was as follows:

- 1. The interrupt occurred.
- 2. The ISR executed and 'gave' the semaphore to unblock the task.
- 3. The task executed immediately after the ISR, and 'took' the semaphore.
- 4. The task processed the event, then attempted to 'take' the semaphore again—entering the Blocked state because the semaphore was not yet available (another interrupt had not yet occurred).

The structure of the task used in above example is adequate only if interrupts occur at a relatively low frequency. To understand why, consider what would happen if a second, and then a third, interrupt had occurred before the task had completed its processing of the first interrupt:

- · When the second ISR executed the semaphore would be empty, so the ISR would give the semaphore, and the task would process the second event immediately after it had completed processing the first event.
- · When the third ISR executed, the semaphore would already be available, preventing the ISR giving the semaphore again, so the task would not know the third event had occurred.

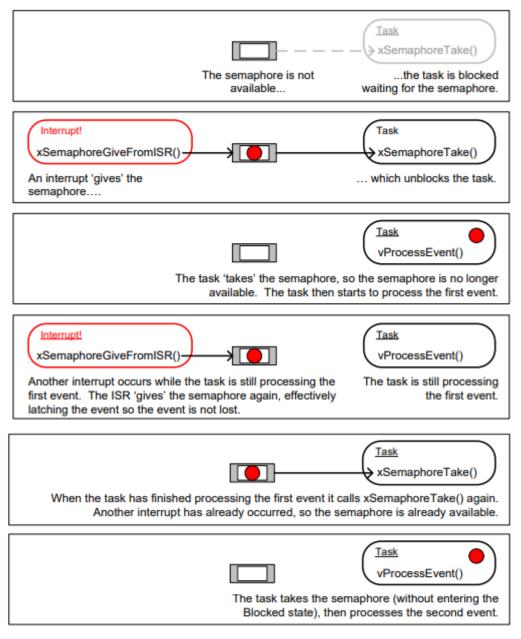


Figure 53. The scenario when one interrupt occurs before the task has finished processing the first event

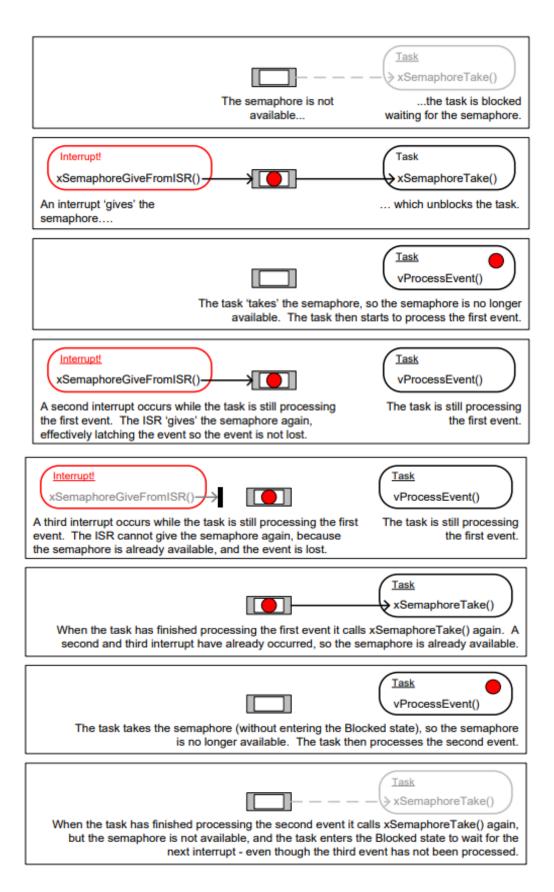


Figure 54 The scenario when two interrupts occur before the task has finished processing the first event

- The deferred interrupt handling task used in Example 16, and shown in Listing 93, is structured so that it only processes one event between each call to xSemaphoreTake(). That was adequate for above example, because the interrupts that generated the events were triggered by software, and occurred at a predictable time.
- In real applications, interrupts are generated by hardware, and occur at unpredictable times. Therefore, to minimize the chance of an interrupt being missed, the deferred interrupt handling task must be structured so that it processes all the events that are already available between each call to xSemaphoreTake().
- The deferred interrupt handling task used in Example had one other weakness; it did not use a time out when it called xSemaphoreTake(). Instead, the task passed portMAX_DELAY as the xSemaphoreTake() xTicksToWait parameter, which results in the task waiting indefinitely (without a time out) for the semaphore to be available.
- Indefinite timeouts are often used in example code because their use simplifies the structure of the example, and therefore makes the example easier to understand. However, indefinite timeouts are normally bad practice in real applications, because they make it difficult to recover from an error.
- As an example, consider the scenario where a task is waiting for an interrupt to give a semaphore, but an error state in the hardware is preventing the interrupt from being generated:
 - o If the task is waiting without a time out, it will not know about the error state, and will wait forever.
 - o If the task is waiting with a time out, then xSemaphoreTake() will return pdFAIL when the time out expires, and the task can then detect and clear the error the next time it executes

9. Counting Semaphores

- Just as binary semaphores can be thought of as queues that have a length of one, counting semaphores can be thought of as queues that have a length of more than one.
- Tasks are not interested in the data that is stored in the queue—just the number of items in the queue. **configUSE_COUNTING_SEMAPHORES** must be set to 1 in FreeRTOSConfig.h for counting semaphores to be available.
- Each time a counting semaphore is 'given', another space in its queue is used. The number of items in the queue is the semaphore's 'count' value.
- Counting semaphores are typically used for two things:

1. Counting events

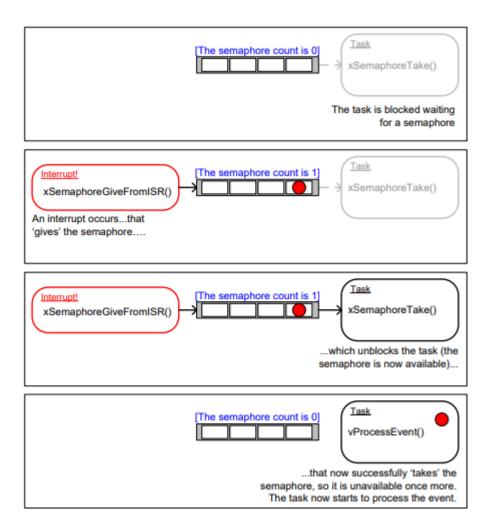
In this scenario, an event handler will 'give' a semaphore each time an event occurs—causing the semaphore's count value to be incremented on each 'give'. A task will 'take' a semaphore each time it processes an event—causing the semaphore's count value to be decremented on each 'take'. The count value is the difference between the number of events that have occurred and the number that have been processed.

Counting semaphores that are used to count events are created with an initial count value of zero.

2. Resource management.

In this scenario, the count value indicates the number of resources available. To obtain control of a resource, a task must first obtain a semaphore—decrementing the semaphore's count value. When the count value reaches zero, there are no free resources. When a task finishes with the resource, it 'gives' the semaphore back—incrementing the semaphore's count value.

Counting semaphores that are used to manage resources are created so that their initial count value equals the number of resources that are available



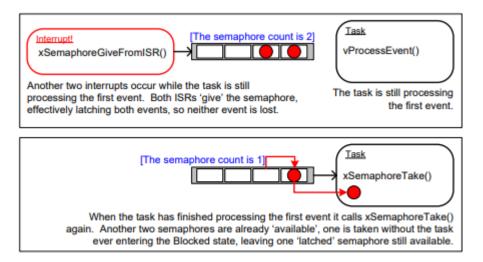


Figure 55. Using a counting semaphore to 'count' events

10. Counting Semaphore APIs

10.1 xSemaphoreCreateCounting()

 Before a semaphore can be used, it must be created. To create a counting semaphore, use the xSemaphoreCreateCounting() API function.

Parameter Name/ Returned Value	Description	
uxMaxCount	The maximum value to which the semaphore will	
	count. To continue the queue analogy, the	
	uxMaxCount value is effectively the length of the	
	queue.	
	When the semaphore is to be used to count or latch	
	events, uxMaxCount is the maximum number of	
	events that can be latched.	
	When the semaphore is to be used to manage	
	access to a collection of resources, uxMaxCount	

	should be set to the total number of resources that are available
uxInitialCount	 The initial count value of the semaphore after it has been created. When the semaphore is to be used to count or latch events, uxInitialCount should be set to zero—as, presumably, when the semaphore is created, no events have yet occurred. When the semaphore is to be used to manage access to a collection of resources, uxInitialCount should be set to equal uxMaxCount—as, presumably, when the semaphore is created, all the resources are available.
Returned value	 If NULL is returned, the semaphore cannot be created because there is insufficient heap memory available for FreeRTOS to allocate the semaphore data structures. A non-NULL value being returned indicates that the semaphore has been created successfully. The returned value should be stored as the handle to the created semaphore.

11. Using a counting semaphore to synchronize a task with an interrupt

It improves on the binary semaphore Example implementation by using a counting semaphore in place of the binary semaphore. main() is changed to include a call to xSemaphoreCreateCounting() in place of the call to xSemaphoreCreateBinary().

```
/* Before a semaphore is used it must be explicitly created. In this example a
counting semaphore is created. The semaphore is created to have a maximum count
value of 10, and an initial count value of 0. */
xCountingSemaphore = xSemaphoreCreateCounting( 10, 0 );
```

To simulate multiple events occurring at high frequency, the interrupt service routine is changed to 'give' the semaphore more than once per interrupt. Each event is latched in the semaphore's count value.

The modified interrupt service routine is

```
static uint32_t ulExampleInterruptHandler( void )
BaseType t xHigherPriorityTaskWoken;
    /* The xHigherPriorityTaskWoken parameter must be initialized to pdFALSE as it
    will get set to pdTRUE inside the interrupt safe API function if a context switch
    is required. */
    xHigherPriorityTaskWoken = pdFALSE;
    /* 'Give' the semaphore multiple times. The first will unblock the deferred
    interrupt handling task, the following 'gives' are to demonstrate that the
    semaphore latches the events to allow the task to which interrupts are deferred
    to process them in turn, without events getting lost. This simulates multiple
    interrupts being received by the processor, even though in this case the events
    are simulated within a single interrupt occurrence. */
    xSemaphoreGiveFromISR( xCountingSemaphore, &xHigherPriorityTaskWoken );
    xSemaphoreGiveFromISR( xCountingSemaphore, &xHigherPriorityTaskWoken );
    xSemaphoreGiveFromISR( xCountingSemaphore, &xHigherPriorityTaskWoken );
    /* Pass the xHigherPriorityTaskWoken value into portYIELD_FROM_ISR(). If
    xHigherPriorityTaskWoken was set to pdTRUE inside xSemaphoreGiveFromISR() then
    calling portYIELD_FROM_ISR() will request a context switch. If
    xHigherPriorityTaskWoken is still pdFALSE then calling portYIELD FROM ISR() will
    have no effect. Unlike most FreeRTOS ports, the Windows port requires the ISR to
    return a value - the return statement is inside the Windows version of
    portYIELD FROM ISR(). */
   portYIELD FROM ISR( xHigherPriorityTaskWoken );
```

As can be seen, the task to which interrupt handling is deferred processes all three [simulated] events each time an interrupt is generated. The events are latched into the count value of the semaphore, allowing the task to process them in turn

12. Deferring Work to the RTOS Daemon Task

- The deferred interrupt handling examples presented so far have required the application writer to create a task for each interrupt that uses the deferred processing technique.
- It is also possible to use the **xTimerPendFunctionCallFromISR()** API function to defer interrupt processing to the RTOS daemon task—removing the need to create a separate task for each interrupt.
- Deferring interrupt processing to the daemon task is called 'centralized deferred interrupt processing'
- The xTimerPendFunctionCall() and xTimerPendFunctionCallFromISR() API functions use the same timer command queue to send an 'execute function' command to the daemon task. The function sent to the daemon task is then executed in the context of the daemon task.
- Advantages of centralized deferred interrupt processing include:
 - o Lower resource usage

It removes the need to create a separate task for each deferred interrupt.

o Simplified user model

The deferred interrupt handling function is a standard C function.

• Disadvantages of centralized deferred interrupt processing include:

o Less flexibility

It is not possible to set the priority of each deferred interrupt handling task separately. Each deferred interrupt handling function executes at the priority of the daemon task, the priority of the daemon task is set by the configTIMER_TASK_PRIORITY compile time configuration constant within FreeRTOSConfig.h.

o Less determinism

xTimerPendFunctionCallFromISR() sends a command to the back of the timer command queue. Commands that were already in the timer command queue will be processed by the daemon task before the 'execute function' command sent to the queue by xTimerPendFunctionCallFromISR().

12.1 xTimerPendFunctionCallFromISR()

- It is the interrupt safe version of xTimerPendFunctionCall().
- Both API functions allow a function provided by the application writer to be executed by, and therefore in the context of, the RTOS daemon task.
- Both the function to be executed, and the value of the function's input parameters, are sent to the daemon task on the timer command queue.

• When the function actually executes is therefore dependent on the priority of the daemon task relative to other tasks in the application.

BaseType_t xTimerPendFunctionCallFromISR(PendedFunction_t
xFunctionToPend, void *pvParameter1, uint32_t ulParameter2,
BaseType t *pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken);

• The prototype to which a function passed in the xFunctionToPend parameter of xTimerPendFunctionCallFromISR() must conform

void vPendableFunction(void *pvParameter1, uint32_t
ulParameter2);

Parameter Name/ Returned Value	Description		
xFunctionToPend	A pointer to the function that will be executed in the daemon task (in effect, just the function name)		
pvParameter1	• The value that will be passed into the function that is executed by the daemon task as the function's pvParameter1 parameter. The parameter has a void * type to allow it to be used to pass any data type. For example, integer types can be directly cast to a void *, alternatively the void * can be used to point to a structure.		
ulParameter2	The value that will be passed into the function that is executed by the daemon task as the function's ulParameter2 parameter.		
pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken	• xTimerPendFunctionCallFromISR() writes to the timer command queue. If the RTOS daemon task was in the Blocked state to wait for data to become available on the timer command queue, then writing to the timer command queue will cause the daemon task to leave the Blocked state. If the priority of the daemon task is higher than the priority of the currently executing task (the task that was interrupted), then, internally,		

	xTimerPendFunctionCallFromISR() will set		
	*pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken to pdTRUE.		
	• If xTimerPendFunctionCallFromISR() sets this		
	value to pdTRUE, then a context switch must be		
	performed before the interrupt is exited. This will		
	ensure that the interrupt returns directly to the		
	daemon task, as the daemon task will be the highest		
	priority Ready state task		
Returned value	There are two possible return values:		
	1. pdPASS		
	pdPASS will be returned if the 'execute		
	function' command was written to the timer		
	command queue.		
	2. pdFAIL		
	pdFAIL will be returned if the 'execute function'		
	command could not be written to the timer		
	command queue because the timer command		
	queue was already full.		

12.2 Example: Centralized deferred interrupt processing

- It provides similar functionality to above example, but without using a semaphore, and without creating a task specifically to perform the processing necessitated by the interrupt. Instead, the processing is performed by the RTOS daemon task.
- The interrupt service routine used calls xTimerPendFunctionCallFromISR() to pass a pointer to a function called vDeferredHandlingFunction() to the daemon task. The deferred interrupt processing is performed by the vDeferredHandlingFunction() function. The interrupt service routine increments a variable called ulParameterValue each time it executes.
- ulParameterValue is used as the value of ulParameter2 in the call to xTimerPendFunctionCallFromISR(), so will also be used as the value of ulParameter2 in the call to vDeferredHandlingFunction() when vDeferredHandlingFunction() is executed by the daemon task. The function's other parameter, pvParameter1, is not used in this example.

```
static uint32 t ulExampleInterruptHandler( void )
static uint32 t ulParameterValue = 0;
BaseType_t xHigherPriorityTaskWoken;
    /* The xHigherPriorityTaskWoken parameter must be initialized to pdFALSE as it will
    get set to pdTRUE inside the interrupt safe API function if a context switch is
    required. */
   xHigherPriorityTaskWoken = pdFALSE;
    /* Send a pointer to the interrupt's deferred handling function to the daemon task.
    The deferred handling function's pvParameter1 parameter is not used so just set to
    NULL. The deferred handling function's ulParameter2 parameter is used to pass a
    number that is incremented by one each time this interrupt handler executes. */
    xTimerPendFunctionCallFromISR( vDeferredHandlingFunction, /* Function to execute. */
                                                           /* Not used. */
                                  NULL,
                                                            /* Incrementing value. */
                                  ulParameterValue.
                                  &xHigherPriorityTaskWoken );
    ulParameterValue++;
    /* Pass the xHigherPriorityTaskWoken value into portYIELD FROM ISR(). If
    xHigherPriorityTaskWoken was set to pdTRUE inside xTimerPendFunctionCallFromISR() then
    calling portYIELD_FROM_ISR() will request a context switch. If
    xHigherPriorityTaskWoken is still pdFALSE then calling portYIELD_FROM_ISR() will have
    no effect. Unlike most FreeRTOS ports, the Windows port requires the ISR to return a
    value - the return statement is inside the Windows version of portYIELD_FROM_ISR(). */
   portYIELD_FROM_ISR( xHigherPriorityTaskWoken );
static void vDeferredHandlingFunction( void *pvParameter1, uint32 t ulParameter2 )
     /* Process the event - in this case just print out a message and the value of
    ulParameter2. pvParameter1 is not used in this example. */
    vPrintStringAndNumber( "Handler function - Processing event ", ulParameter2 );
```

• vPeriodicTask() is the task that periodically generates software interrupts. It is created with a priority below the priority of the daemon task to ensure it is pre-empted by the daemon task as soon as the daemon task leaves the Blocked state.

```
int main( void )
{
/* The task that generates the software interrupt is created at a priority below the
priority of the daemon task. The priority of the daemon task is set by the
configTIMER_TASK_PRIORITY compile time configuration constant in FreeRTOSConfig.h. */
const UBaseType_t ulPeriodicTaskPriority = configTIMER_TASK_PRIORITY - 1;

/* Create the task that will periodically generate a software interrupt. */
    xTaskCreate( vPeriodicTask, "Periodic", 1000, NULL, ulPeriodicTaskPriority, NULL );

/* Install the handler for the software interrupt. The syntax necessary to do
    this is dependent on the FreeRTOS port being used. The syntax shown here can
    only be used with the FreeRTOS windows port, where such interrupts are only
    simulated. */
    vPortSetInterruptHandler( mainINTERRUPT_NUMBER, ulExampleInterruptHandler );

/* Start the scheduler so the created task starts executing. */
    vTaskStartScheduler();

/* As normal, the following line should never be reached. */
    for( ;; );
}
```

The priority of the daemon task is higher than the priority of the task that generates the software interrupt, so vDeferredHandlingFunction() is executed by the daemon task as soon That results the interrupt is generated. in the message output as vDeferredHandlingFunction() appearing in between the two messages output by the periodic task, just as it did when a semaphore was used to unblock a dedicated deferred interrupt processing task

```
C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe-rtosdemo

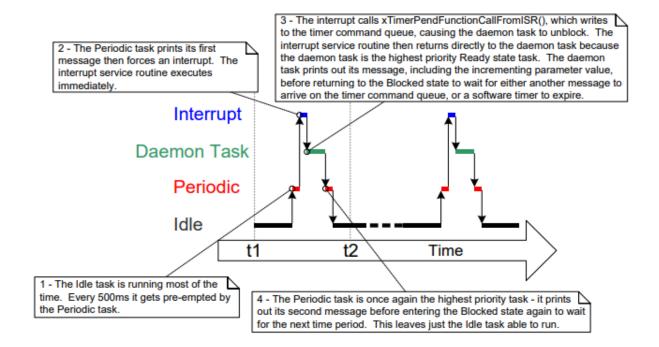
C:\temp>rtosdemo
Periodic task = About to generate an interrupt.
Handler function = Processing event
Periodic task = Interrupt generated.

Periodic task = About to generate an interrupt.
Handler function = Processing event
Periodic task = Interrupt generated.

Periodic task = About to generate an interrupt.
Handler function = Processing event
Periodic task = Interrupt generated.

Periodic task = Interrupt generated.

Periodic task = About to generate an interrupt.
Handler function = Processing event
Periodic task = Interrupt generated.
```



13. Using Queues within an Interrupt Service

Routine

- Binary and counting semaphores are used to communicate events. Queues are used to communicate events, and to transfer data.
- xQueueSendToFrontFromISR() is the version of xQueueSendToFront() that is safe to use in
 an interrupt service routine, xQueueSendToBackFromISR() is the version of
 xQueueSendToBack() that is safe to use in an interrupt service routine, and
 xQueueReceiveFromISR() is the version of xQueueReceive() that is safe to use in an interrupt
 service routine.

13.1 xQueueSendToFrontFromISR()

BaseType_t xQueueSendToFrontFromISR(QueueHandle_t xQueue, void
*pvItemToQueue BaseType t *pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken);

13.2 xQueueSendToBackFromISR()

BaseType_t xQueueSendToBackFromISR(QueueHandle_t xQueue, void
*pvItemToQueue BaseType_t *pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken);

• xQueueSendFromISR() and xQueueSendToBackFromISR() are functionally equivalent.

Parameter Name/ Returned Value	Description	
xQueue	The handle of the queue to which the data is being sent (written). The queue handle will have been returned from the call to xQueueCreate() used to create the queue	
pvItemToQueue	 A pointer to the data that will be copied into the queue. The size of each item the queue can hold is set when the queue is created, so this many bytes will be copied from pvItemToQueue into the queue storage area. 	
pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken	 It is possible that a single queue will have one or more tasks blocked on it, waiting for data to become available. Calling xQueueSendToFrontFromISR() or xQueueSendToBackFromISR() can make data available, and so cause such a task to leave the Blocked state. If calling the API function causes a task to leave the Blocked state, and the unblocked task has a priority higher than the currently executing task (the task that was interrupted), then, internally, the API function will set *pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken to pdTRUE. If xQueueSendToFrontFromISR() or xQueueSendToBackFromISR() sets this value to pdTRUE, then a context switch should be performed before the interrupt is exited. This will ensure that the interrupt returns directly to the highest priority Ready state task. 	
Returned value	There are two possible return values:	

1.	pdPASS
	pdPASS is returned only if data has been
	sent successfully to the queue.
2.	errQUEUE_FULL
	errQUEUE_FULL is returned if data cannot
	be sent to the queue because the queue is
	already full

13.3 Example: Sending and receiving on a queue from within an interrupt

This example demonstrates xQueueSendToBackFromISR() and xQueueReceiveFromISR() being used within the same interrupt. As before, for convenience the interrupt is generated by software.

A periodic task is created that sends five numbers to a queue every 200 milliseconds. It generates a software interrupt only after all five values have been sent.

```
static void vIntegerGenerator( void *pvParameters )
TickType t xLastExecutionTime;
uint32 t ulValueToSend = 0;
int i;
    /* Initialize the variable used by the call to vTaskDelayUntil(). */
   xLastExecutionTime = xTaskGetTickCount();
    for( ;; )
        /* This is a periodic task. Block until it is time to run again. The task
        will execute every 200ms. */
        vTaskDelayUntil( &xLastExecutionTime, pdMS_TO_TICKS( 200 ) );
        /\star Send five numbers to the queue, each value one higher than the previous
        value. The numbers are read from the queue by the interrupt service routine.
        The interrupt service routine always empties the queue, so this task is
        guaranteed to be able to write all five values without needing to specify a
        block time. */
        for( i = 0; i < 5; i++)
            xQueueSendToBack(xIntegerQueue, &ulValueToSend, 0);
            ulValueToSend++:
        /* Generate the interrupt so the interrupt service routine can read the
        values from the queue. The syntax used to generate a software interrupt is
        dependent on the FreeRTOS port being used. The syntax used below can only be
        used with the FreeRTOS Windows port, in which such interrupts are only
        simulated.*/
        vPrintString( "Generator task - About to generate an interrupt.\r\n" );
        vPortGenerateSimulatedInterrupt( mainINTERRUPT_NUMBER );
        vPrintString( "Generator task - Interrupt generated.\r\n\r\n\r\n" );
   }
}
```

The interrupt service routine calls xQueueReceiveFromISR() repeatedly until all the values written to the queue by the periodic task have been read out, and the queue is left empty. The last two bits of each received value are used as an index into an array of strings. A pointer to the string at the corresponding index position is then sent to a different queue using a call to xQueueSendFromISR().

```
static uint32_t ulExampleInterruptHandler( void )
BaseType_t xHigherPriorityTaskWoken;
uint32 t ulReceivedNumber;
/* The strings are declared static const to ensure they are not allocated on the
interrupt service routine's stack, and so exist even when the interrupt service
routine is not executing. */
static const char *pcStrings[] =
    "String 0\r\n",
    "String 1\r\n",
    "String 2\r\n",
    "String 3\r\n"
    /* As always, xHigherPriorityTaskWoken is initialized to pdFALSE to be able to
    detect it getting set to pdTRUE inside an interrupt safe API function. Note that
    as an interrupt safe API function can only set xHigherPriorityTaskWoken to
    pdTRUE, it is safe to use the same xHigherPriorityTaskWoken variable in both
    the call to xQueueReceiveFromISR() and the call to xQueueSendToBackFromISR(). */
    xHigherPriorityTaskWoken = pdFALSE;
    /* Read from the queue until the queue is empty. */
    while ( xQueueReceiveFromISR( xIntegerQueue,
                                 &ulReceivedNumber.
                                 &xHigherPriorityTaskWoken ) != errQUEUE EMPTY )
        /* Truncate the received value to the last two bits (values 0 to 3
        inclusive), then use the truncated value as an index into the pcStrings[]
        array to select a string (char *) to send on the other queue. */
        ulReceivedNumber &= 0x03;
        xQueueSendToBackFromISR( xStringQueue,
                                 &pcStrings[ ulReceivedNumber ],
                                 &xHigherPriorityTaskWoken );
    /* If receiving from xIntegerQueue caused a task to leave the Blocked state, and
    if the priority of the task that left the Blocked state is higher than the
    priority of the task in the Running state, then xHigherPriorityTaskWoken will
    have been set to pdTRUE inside xQueueReceiveFromISR().
    If sending to xStringQueue caused a task to leave the Blocked state, and if the
    priority of the task that left the Blocked state is higher than the priority of
    the task in the Running state, then xHigherPriorityTaskWoken will have been set
    to pdTRUE inside xQueueSendToBackFromISR().
    xHigherPriorityTaskWoken is used as the parameter to portYIELD FROM ISR(). If
    xHigherPriorityTaskWoken equals pdTRUE then calling portYIELD_FROM_ISR() will
    request a context switch. If xHigherPriorityTaskWoken is still pdFALSE then
    calling portYIELD FROM ISR() will have no effect.
   portYIELD FROM ISR( xHigherPriorityTaskWoken );
}
```

The task that receives the character pointers from the interrupt service routine blocks on the queue until a message arrives, printing out each string as it is received

```
static void vStringPrinter( void *pvParameters )
{
    char *pcString;

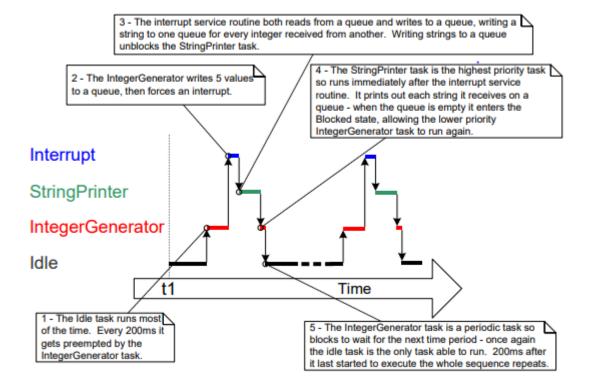
    for( ;; )
    {
        /* Block on the queue to wait for data to arrive. */
        xQueueReceive( xStringQueue, &pcString, portMAX_DELAY );

        /* Print out the string received. */
        vPrintString( pcString );
    }
}
```

As normal, main() creates the required queues and tasks before starting the scheduler

```
int main ( void )
    /* Before a queue can be used it must first be created. Create both queues used
   by this example. One queue can hold variables of type uint32_t, the other queue
   can hold variables of type char*. Both queues can hold a maximum of 10 items. A
   real application should check the return values to ensure the queues have been
    successfully created. */
   xIntegerQueue = xQueueCreate( 10, sizeof( uint32_t ) );
   xStringQueue = xQueueCreate( 10, sizeof( char * ) );
    /* Create the task that uses a queue to pass integers to the interrupt service
   routine. The task is created at priority 1. */
   xTaskCreate( vIntegerGenerator, "IntGen", 1000, NULL, 1, NULL );
   /* Create the task that prints out the strings sent to it from the interrupt
   service routine. This task is created at the higher priority of 2. */
   xTaskCreate( vStringPrinter, "String", 1000, NULL, 2, NULL );
   /* Install the handler for the software interrupt. The syntax necessary to do
   this is dependent on the FreeRTOS port being used. The syntax shown here can
   only be used with the FreeRTOS Windows port, where such interrupts are only
    simulated. */
   vPortSetInterruptHandler( mainINTERRUPT NUMBER, ulExampleInterruptHandler );
    /* Start the scheduler so the created tasks start executing. */
   vTaskStartScheduler();
    /* If all is well then main() will never reach here as the scheduler will now be
   running the tasks. If main() does reach here then it is likely that there was
    insufficient heap memory available for the idle task to be created. Chapter 2
   provides more information on heap memory management. */
   for( ;; );
```

```
C:\WINDOW5\system32\cmd.exe - rtosdemo
                                                                                  _ O X
tring
tring
string 1
Generator task – Interrupt generated.
Generator task - About to generate an interrupt.
tring
tring
tring
      1 2
tring
Generator task - Interrupt generated.
Generator task - About to generate an interrupt.
tring 3
tring
tring
tring
enerator task - Interrupt generated.
```



14. Interrupt Nesting

- It is common for confusion to arise between task priorities and interrupt priorities. This section discusses interrupt priorities, which are the priorities at which interrupt service routines (ISRs) execute relative to each other.
- The priority assigned to a task is in no way related to the priority assigned to an interrupt.

- Hardware decides when an ISR will execute, whereas software decides when a task will
 execute. An ISR executed in response to a hardware interrupt will interrupt a task, but a task
 cannot pre-empt an ISR.
- Ports that support interrupt nesting require one or both of the constants to be defined in FreeRTOSConfig.h. configMAX_SYSCALL_INTERRUPT_PRIORITY and configMAX API CALL INTERRUPT PRIORITY both define the same property.
- Older FreeRTOS ports use configMAX_SYSCALL_INTERRUPT_PRIORITY, and newer FreeRTOS port use configMAX_API_CALL_INTERRUPT_PRIORITY.

Constant	Description				
configMAX_SYSCALL_INTERRUPT_PRI	Sets the highest interrupt priority from				
ORITY or	which interrupt-safe FreeRTOS API				
configMAX_API_CALL_INTERRUPT_PRI	functions can be called.				
ORITY					
configKERNEL_INTERRUPT_PRIORITY	Sets the interrupt priority used by the tick				
	interrupt, and must always be set to the				
	lowest possible interrupt priority.				
	If the FreeRTOS port in use does not also				
	use the				
	configMAX_SYSCALL_INTERRUPT_P				
	RIORITY constant, then any interrupt that				
	uses interrupt-safe FreeRTOS API				
	functions must also execute at the priority				
	defined by				
	configKERNEL_INTERRUPT_PRIORIT				
	Y				

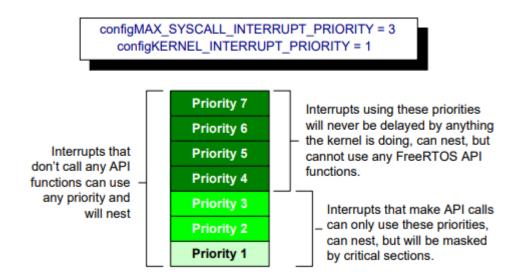
Each interrupt source has a numeric priority, and a logical priority:

· Numeric priority

The numeric priority is simply the number assigned to the interrupt priority. For example, if an interrupt is assigned a priority of 7, then its numeric priority is 7. Likewise, if an interrupt is assigned a priority of 200, then its numeric priority is 200.

· Logical priority

- o An interrupt's logical priority describes that interrupt's precedence over other interrupts.
- o If two interrupts of differing priority occur at the same time, then the processor will execute the ISR for whichever of the two interrupts has the higher logical priority before it executes the ISR for whichever of the two interrupts has the lower logical priority.
- o An interrupt can interrupt (nest with) any interrupt that has a lower logical priority, but an interrupt cannot interrupt (nest with) any interrupt that has an equal or higher logical priority.
- The relationship between an interrupt's numeric priority and logical priority is dependent on the processor architecture; on some processors, the higher the numeric priority assigned to an interrupt the higher that interrupt's logical priority will be, while on other processor architectures the higher the numeric priority assigned to an interrupt the lower that interrupt's logical priority will be.
- A full interrupt nesting model is created by setting configMAX_SYSCALL_INTERRUPT_PRIORITY to a higher logical interrupt priority than configKERNEL INTERRUPT PRIORITY
 - o The processor has seven unique interrupt priorities.
 - o Interrupts assigned a numeric priority of 7 have a higher logical priority than interrupts assigned a numeric priority of 1.
 - o configKERNEL INTERRUPT PRIORITY is set to one.
 - o configMAX SYSCALL INTERRUPT PRIORITY is set to three



- Interrupts that use priorities 1 to 3, inclusive, are prevented from executing while the kernel or the application is inside a critical section. ISRs running at these priorities can use interrupt-safe FreeRTOS API functions
- Interrupts that use priority 4, or above, are not affected by critical sections, so nothing the
 scheduler does will prevent these interrupts from executing immediately—within the
 limitations of the hardware itself. ISRs executing at these priorities cannot use any FreeRTOS
 API functions.
- Typically, functionality that requires very strict timing accuracy (motor control, for example)
 would use a priority above configMAX_SYSCALL_INTERRUPT_PRIORITY to ensure the
 scheduler does not introduce jitter into the interrupt response time

15. A Note to ARM Cortex-M1 and ARM GIC

Users

- The ARM Cortex cores, and ARM Generic Interrupt Controllers (GICs), use numerically low priority numbers to represent logically high priority interrupts. This can seem counter-intuitive, and is easy to forget. If you wish to assign an interrupt a logically low priority, then it must be assigned a numerically high value
- The Cortex-M interrupt controller allows a maximum of eight bits to be used to specify each interrupt priority, making 255 the lowest possible priority. Zero is the highest priority. However, Cortex-M microcontrollers normally only implement a subset of the eight possible bits. The number of bits actually implemented is dependent on the microcontroller family.
- When only a subset of the eight possible bits has been implemented, it is only the most significant bits of the byte that can be used—leaving the least significant bits unimplemented. Unimplemented bits can take any value, but it is normal to set them to 1.

Priority 5, or 95, in a device that implements 4 priority bits								
0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	
Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0	

Figure 62 How a priority of binary 101 is stored by a Cortex-M microcontroller that implements four priority bits

- the binary value 101 has been shifted into the most significant four bits because the least significant four bits are not implemented.
- The unimplemented bits have been set to 1. Some library functions expect priority values to be specified after they have been shifted up into the implemented (most significant) bits
- Decimal 95 is binary 101 shifted up by four to make binary 101nnnn (where 'n' is an unimplemented bit), and with the unimplemented bits set to 1 to make binary 1011111

16. Example Codes

16.1 Use of Binary Semaphores

```
#include "FreeRTOS.h"
#include "task.h"
#include "semphr.h"
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdarg.h>
/* Declare a binary semaphore handle */
SemaphoreHandle t xBinarySemaphore;
void vApplicationIdleHook(void)
/* Utility function to print to console */
void vPrintString(const char *format, ...) {
   va list args;
   va start(args, format);
   vprintf(format, args);
   va end(args);
    fflush(stdout);
}
/* Task function that periodically generates a software interrupt */
void vPeriodicTask(void *pvParameters) {
    const TickType t xDelay500ms = pdMS TO TICKS(500UL);
    for (;;) {
        /* Block until it is time to generate the software interrupt
again */
       vTaskDelay(xDelay500ms);
              vPrintString("Periodic task - About to generate an
interrupt.\r\n");
        /* Simulate an interrupt handling by giving the semaphore */
```

```
if (xSemaphoreGive(xBinarySemaphore) != pdTRUE) {
            vPrintString("Failed to give semaphore.\r\n");
        }
                        vPrintString("Periodic task
                                                            Interrupt
generated.\r\n\r\n\r\n");
    }
}
/* Task function that handles the software interrupt */
void vHandlerTask(void *pvParameters) {
    for (;;) {
        /* Wait indefinitely for the semaphore */
            if (xSemaphoreTake(xBinarySemaphore, portMAX DELAY) ==
pdTRUE) {
            vPrintString("Handler task - Processing event.\r\n");
        }
    }
}
/* Main function */
int main(void) {
    /* Before a semaphore is used it must be explicitly created */
    xBinarySemaphore = xSemaphoreCreateBinary();
    /* Check the semaphore was created successfully */
    if (xBinarySemaphore != NULL) {
        /* Create the handler task */
                              xTaskCreate(vHandlerTask,
                                                           "Handler",
configMINIMAL STACK SIZE, NULL, 2, NULL);
        /* Create the periodic task */
                            xTaskCreate(vPeriodicTask,
                                                          "Periodic",
configMINIMAL STACK SIZE, NULL, 1, NULL);
        /* Start the FreeRTOS scheduler */
        vTaskStartScheduler();
    }
    /* The following line should never be reached */
    for (;;);
}
```

Output:

Periodic task - About to generate an interrupt.

Handler task - Processing event.

Periodic task - Interrupt generated.

```
Periodic task - About to generate an interrupt.
Handler task - Processing event.
Periodic task - Interrupt generated.

Periodic task - About to generate an interrupt.
Handler task - Processing event.
Periodic task - Interrupt generated.

Periodic task - About to generate an interrupt.
Handler task - Processing event.
Periodic task - Interrupt generated.
```

16.2 Use of xSemaphoreGiveFromISR()

```
#include "FreeRTOS.h"
#include "task.h"
#include "semphr.h"
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdarg.h>
/* Declare a binary semaphore handle */
SemaphoreHandle t xBinarySemaphore;
void vApplicationIdleHook(void)
{
/* Utility function to print to console */
void vPrintString(const char *format, ...) {
   va list args;
    va_start(args, format);
    vprintf(format, args);
    va end(args);
    fflush(stdout);
}
/* Task function that handles the software interrupt */
void vHandlerTask(void *pvParameters) {
    for (;;) {
        /* Wait indefinitely for the semaphore */
        if (xSemaphoreTake(xBinarySemaphore, portMAX DELAY) ==
pdTRUE) {
            vPrintString("Handler task - Processing event.\r\n");
        }
    }
}
/* Function to simulate raising an interrupt */
void vRaiseInterrupt(void) {
```

```
BaseType t xHigherPriorityTaskWoken = pdFALSE;
    /* Print ISR message */
    vPrintString("Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.\r\n");
    /* Give the semaphore to unblock the handler task */
    xSemaphoreGiveFromISR(xBinarySemaphore,
&xHigherPriorityTaskWoken);
    /* Perform a context switch if necessary */
   portYIELD FROM ISR(xHigherPriorityTaskWoken);
}
/* Task function that periodically generates an interrupt */
void vPeriodicTask(void *pvParameters) {
    const TickType t xDelay500ms = pdMS TO TICKS(500UL);
    /* As per most tasks, this task is implemented within an
infinite loop. */
    for (;;) {
        /* Print message indicating intent to generate an interrupt
*/
       vPrintString("Periodic task - About to generate an
interrupt.\r\n");
        /* Simulate raising an interrupt */
        vRaiseInterrupt();
        /* Print message indicating interrupt generation */
       vPrintString("Periodic task - Interrupt generated.\r\n");
        /* Block until it is time to generate the interrupt again.
*/
       vTaskDelay(xDelay500ms);
   }
/* Main function */
int main(void) {
    /* Before a semaphore is used it must be explicitly created */
    xBinarySemaphore = xSemaphoreCreateBinary();
    /* Check the semaphore was created successfully */
    if (xBinarySemaphore != NULL) {
        /* Create the handler task */
        xTaskCreate(vHandlerTask, "Handler",
configMINIMAL STACK SIZE, NULL, 2, NULL);
        /* Create the periodic task */
        xTaskCreate(vPeriodicTask, "Periodic",
configMINIMAL STACK SIZE, NULL, 1, NULL);
```

```
/* Start the FreeRTOS scheduler */
    vTaskStartScheduler();
}

/* The following line should never be reached */
for (;;);
}
```

Output:

Periodic task - About to generate an interrupt.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Handler task - Processing event.

Periodic task - Interrupt generated.

Periodic task - About to generate an interrupt.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Handler task - Processing event.

Periodic task - Interrupt generated.

Periodic task - About to generate an interrupt.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Handler task - Processing event.

Periodic task - Interrupt generated.

Periodic task - About to generate an interrupt.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Handler task - Processing event.

Periodic task - Interrupt generated.

Periodic task - About to generate an interrupt.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Handler task - Processing event.

Periodic task - Interrupt generated.

Periodic task - About to generate an interrupt.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Handler task - Processing event.

Periodic task - Interrupt generated.

Periodic task - About to generate an interrupt.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Handler task - Processing event.

Periodic task - Interrupt generated.

16.3 Binary semaphore with multiple interrupts

```
#include "FreeRTOS.h"
#include "task.h"
#include "semphr.h"
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdarg.h>
/* Declare a binary semaphore handle */
SemaphoreHandle t xBinarySemaphore;
volatile uint32 t ulInterruptCount = 0;
static uint32 t taskCount = 0;
void vApplicationIdleHook(void)
/* Function prototypes */
void vMyTask(void *pvParameters);
void vPeriodicInterruptGenerator(void *pvParameters);
/* Utility function to print to console */
void vPrintString(const char *format, ...) {
   va list args;
    va start(args, format);
    vprintf(format, args);
    va end(args);
    fflush(stdout);
}
/* Task function that waits for the binary semaphore */
void vMyTask(void *pvParameters) {
    for (;;) {
        /* Wait for the semaphore to be given by the ISR */
            if (xSemaphoreTake(xBinarySemaphore, portMAX DELAY) ==
pdTRUE) {
            vPrintString("Task: Processing interrupt event.\r\n");
            taskCount = ulInterruptCount;
            /* Simulate some processing time */
            vTaskDelay(pdMS TO TICKS(500));
                           vPrintString("Task: Finished processing
event.%lu\r\n",taskCount);
```

```
}
   }
}
/* Simulated ISR Handler */
void vMyISRHandler(void) {
    BaseType t xHigherPriorityTaskWoken = pdFALSE;
    /* Give the semaphore to unblock the task */
                             xSemaphoreGiveFromISR(xBinarySemaphore,
&xHigherPriorityTaskWoken);
      /* Request a context switch if a higher priority task was
unblocked */
    portYIELD FROM ISR(xHigherPriorityTaskWoken);
    ulInterruptCount++;
        vPrintString("Simulated ISR: Interrupt number %lu.\r\n",
ulInterruptCount);
}
/* Task to simulate periodic interrupts */
void vPeriodicInterruptGenerator(void *pvParameters) {
    const TickType t xDelay = pdMS TO TICKS(200); // 200 ms delay to
simulate high frequency interrupts
    for (;;) {
        vTaskDelay(xDelay);
        vPrintString("Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.\r\n");
        vMyISRHandler();
    }
}
/* Main function */
int main(void) {
    /* Create the binary semaphore */
    xBinarySemaphore = xSemaphoreCreateBinary();
    /* Ensure the semaphore was created successfully */
    if (xBinarySemaphore != NULL) {
        /* Create the task that will wait for the semaphore */
           xTaskCreate(vMyTask, "MyTask", configMINIMAL STACK SIZE,
NULL, 1, NULL);
        /* Create the task that will simulate periodic interrupts */
                            xTaskCreate(vPeriodicInterruptGenerator,
"InterruptGenerator", configMINIMAL STACK SIZE, NULL, 2, NULL);
        /* Start the scheduler */
       vTaskStartScheduler();
    }
```

```
/* The following line should never be reached */
for (;;) {
}
```

Output:

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Simulated ISR: Interrupt number 1.

Task: Processing interrupt event.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Simulated ISR: Interrupt number 2.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Simulated ISR: Interrupt number 3.

Task: Finished processing event.1

Task: Processing interrupt event.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Simulated ISR: Interrupt number 4.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Simulated ISR: Interrupt number 5.

Task: Finished processing event.3

Task: Processing interrupt event.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Simulated ISR: Interrupt number 6.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Simulated ISR: Interrupt number 7.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Simulated ISR: Interrupt number 8.

Task: Finished processing event.5

Task: Processing interrupt event.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Simulated ISR: Interrupt number 9.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Simulated ISR: Interrupt number 10.

Task: Finished processing event.8

Task: Processing interrupt event.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Simulated ISR: Interrupt number 11.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Simulated ISR: Interrupt number 12.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Simulated ISR: Interrupt number 13.

Task: Finished processing event.10

Task: Processing interrupt event.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Simulated ISR: Interrupt number 14.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Simulated ISR: Interrupt number 15.

Task: Finished processing event.13

Task: Processing interrupt event.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Simulated ISR: Interrupt number 16.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Simulated ISR: Interrupt number 17.

Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.

Simulated ISR: Interrupt number 18.

Task: Finished processing event.15

16.4 Use of counting semaphore

```
#include "FreeRTOS.h"
#include "task.h"
#include "semphr.h"
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdarg.h>
```

/* Declare a counting semaphore handle */

```
SemaphoreHandle t xCountingSemaphore;
void vApplicationIdleHook(void)
1
/* Utility function to print to console */
void vPrintString(const char *format, ...) {
    va list args;
    va start(args, format);
   vprintf(format, args);
   va end(args);
    fflush(stdout);
}
/* Task function that handles the software interrupt */
void vHandlerTask(void *pvParameters) {
    for (;;) {
        /* Wait indefinitely for the semaphore */
        if (xSemaphoreTake(xCountingSemaphore, portMAX DELAY) ==
pdTRUE) {
           vPrintString("Handler task - Processing event.\r\n");
        }
    }
}
/* Function to simulate raising an interrupt */
void vRaiseInterrupt(void) {
    BaseType t xHigherPriorityTaskWoken = pdFALSE;
    /* Print ISR message */
    vPrintString("Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.\r\n");
    /* Give the semaphore to unblock the handler task */
    xSemaphoreGiveFromISR(xCountingSemaphore,
&xHigherPriorityTaskWoken);
    xSemaphoreGiveFromISR(xCountingSemaphore,
&xHigherPriorityTaskWoken);
    xSemaphoreGiveFromISR(xCountingSemaphore,
&xHigherPriorityTaskWoken);
    /* Perform a context switch if necessary */
   portYIELD FROM ISR(xHigherPriorityTaskWoken);
}
/* Task function that periodically generates an interrupt */
void vPeriodicTask(void *pvParameters) {
    const TickType t xDelay500ms = pdMS TO TICKS(500UL);
    /* As per most tasks, this task is implemented within an
infinite loop. */
    for (;;) {
```

```
/* Print message indicating intent to generate an interrupt
*/
        vPrintString("Periodic task - About to generate an
interrupt.\r\n");
        /* Simulate raising an interrupt */
        vRaiseInterrupt();
        /* Print message indicating interrupt generation */
        vPrintString("Periodic task - Interrupt generated.\r\n\n");
        /* Block until it is time to generate the interrupt again.
*/
        vTaskDelay(xDelay500ms);
    }
/* Main function */
int main(void) {
    /* Before a semaphore is used it must be explicitly created */
    xCountingSemaphore = xSemaphoreCreateCounting(10, 0);
    /* Check the semaphore was created successfully */
    if (xCountingSemaphore != NULL) {
        /* Create the handler task */
        xTaskCreate(vHandlerTask, "Handler",
configMINIMAL STACK SIZE, NULL, 2, NULL);
        /* Create the periodic task */
        xTaskCreate(vPeriodicTask, "Periodic",
configMINIMAL STACK SIZE, NULL, 1, NULL);
        /* Start the FreeRTOS scheduler */
        vTaskStartScheduler();
    }
    /* The following line should never be reached */
    for (;;);
}
Output:
Periodic task - About to generate an interrupt.
Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.
Handler task - Processing event.
Handler task - Processing event.
Handler task - Processing event.
Periodic task - Interrupt generated.
Periodic task - About to generate an interrupt.
Simulated ISR: Giving semaphore.
```

```
Handler task - Processing event.
Handler task - Processing event.
Handler task - Processing event.
Periodic task - Interrupt generated.
```

16.5 Deferred Daemon task

```
#include "FreeRTOS.h"
#include "task.h"
#include "timers.h"
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdarg.h>
void vApplicationIdleHook(void)
}
/* Utility function to print to console */
void vPrintString(const char *format, ...) {
    va list args;
    va_start(args, format);
    vprintf(format, args);
    va end(args);
    fflush(stdout);
}
/* Deferred handling function */
void vDeferredHandlingFunction(void *pvParameter1, uint32 t
ulParameter2) {
    /* Process the event - in this case just print out a message and
the value of ulParameter2 */
    vPrintString("Handler function - Processing event %lu\r\n",
ulParameter2);
}
/* Example interrupt handler */
static uint32 t ulExampleInterruptHandler(void) {
    static uint32_t ulParameterValue = 0;
    BaseType t xHigherPriorityTaskWoken = pdFALSE;
    xTimerPendFunctionCallFromISR(vDeferredHandlingFunction, /*
Function to execute. */
                                                              /* Not
                                  NULL,
used. */
```

```
/*
                                  ulParameterValue,
Incrementing value. */
                                  &xHigherPriorityTaskWoken);
    ulParameterValue++;
   portYIELD FROM ISR(xHigherPriorityTaskWoken);
}
/* Function to simulate raising an interrupt */
void vRaiseInterrupt(void) {
    /* Print ISR message */
    vPrintString("Simulated ISR: Triggering example
interrupt.\r\n");
    /* Simulate an interrupt by directly calling the handler */
    ulExampleInterruptHandler();
}
/* Task function that periodically generates an interrupt */
void vPeriodicTask(void *pvParameters) {
    const TickType t xDelay500ms = pdMS TO TICKS(500UL);
    /* As per most tasks, this task is implemented within an
infinite loop. */
    for (;;) {
        /* Print message indicating intent to generate an interrupt
*/
       vPrintString("Periodic task - About to generate an
interrupt.\r\n");
        /* Simulate raising an interrupt */
       vRaiseInterrupt();
        /* Print message indicating interrupt generation */
        vPrintString("Periodic task - Interrupt generated.\r\n");
        /* Block until it is time to generate the interrupt again.
*/
       vTaskDelay(xDelay500ms);
    }
/* Main function */
int main(void) {
    /* The priority of the daemon task is set by the
configTIMER TASK PRIORITY compile time configuration constant in
FreeRTOSConfig.h. */
    const UBaseType t ulPeriodicTaskPriority =
configTIMER TASK PRIORITY - 1;
```

```
/* Create the task that will periodically generate a software
interrupt. */
    xTaskCreate(vPeriodicTask, "Periodic", configMINIMAL_STACK_SIZE,
NULL, ulPeriodicTaskPriority, NULL);

/* Start the FreeRTOS scheduler */
    vTaskStartScheduler();

/* The following line should never be reached */
    for (;;);
}
```

16.6 Use of queues from ISR

```
#include "FreeRTOS.h"
#include "task.h"
#include "queue.h"
#include "timers.h"
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdarg.h>
// Define the queue handles globally
static QueueHandle t xIntegerQueue = NULL;
static QueueHandle t xStringQueue = NULL;
// Print utility function
void vPrintString(const char *format, ...) {
    va list args;
   va start(args, format);
   vprintf(format, args);
   va end(args);
   fflush(stdout);
}
// Idle hook function
void vApplicationIdleHook(void) {
    // Idle hook code here
}
// Deferred handling function
void vDeferredHandlingFunction(void *pvParameter1, uint32 t
    vPrintString("Handler function - Processing event %lu\r\n",
ulParameter2);
}
```

```
// Example interrupt handler
static uint32 t ulExampleInterruptHandler(void) {
    BaseType t xHigherPriorityTaskWoken;
    uint32 t ulReceivedNumber;
    static const char *pcStrings[] = {
        "String 0\r\n",
        "String 1\r\n",
        "String 2\r\n",
        "String 3\r\n"
    };
    xHigherPriorityTaskWoken = pdFALSE;
    // Read from the queue until the queue is empty
    while (xQueueReceiveFromISR(xIntegerQueue, &ulReceivedNumber,
&xHigherPriorityTaskWoken) != errQUEUE EMPTY) {
        ulReceivedNumber &= 0x03;
        xQueueSendToBackFromISR(xStringQueue,
&pcStrings[ulReceivedNumber], &xHigherPriorityTaskWoken);
    }
    portYIELD FROM ISR(xHigherPriorityTaskWoken);
    return 0; // Return value not used in this context
}
// Function to simulate raising an interrupt
void vRaiseInterrupt(void) {
    vPrintString("Simulated ISR: Triggering example
interrupt.\r\n");
    ulExampleInterruptHandler();
}
// Integer generator task
static void vIntegerGenerator(void *pvParameters) {
    TickType t xLastExecutionTime;
    uint32 t ulValueToSend = 0;
    int i;
    xLastExecutionTime = xTaskGetTickCount();
    for (;;) {
        vTaskDelayUntil(&xLastExecutionTime, pdMS TO TICKS(200));
        for (i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
            xQueueSendToBack(xIntegerQueue, &ulValueToSend, 0);
            ulValueToSend++;
        }
        vPrintString("Generator task - About to generate an
interrupt.\r\n");
        vRaiseInterrupt();
```

```
vPrintString("Generator task - Interrupt
generated.\r\n\r\n\r\n");
    }
}
// String printer task
static void vStringPrinter(void *pvParameters) {
    char *pcString;
    for (;;) {
        xQueueReceive(xStringQueue, &pcString, portMAX DELAY);
        vPrintString(pcString);
    }
}
int main(void) {
    xIntegerQueue = xQueueCreate(10, sizeof(uint32 t));
    xStringQueue = xQueueCreate(10, sizeof(char *));
    if (xIntegerQueue == NULL || xStringQueue == NULL) {
        vPrintString("Failed to create queues\r\n");
    }
    xTaskCreate(vIntegerGenerator, "IntGen",
configMINIMAL STACK SIZE, NULL, 1, NULL);
    xTaskCreate(vStringPrinter, "String", configMINIMAL STACK SIZE,
NULL, 2, NULL);
    // Note: vPortSetInterruptHandler is specific to FreeRTOS
Windows port.
    // For actual MCU, ensure the proper interrupt setup.
    // vPortSetInterruptHandler(mainINTERRUPT NUMBER,
ulExampleInterruptHandler);
    vTaskStartScheduler();
    for (;;);
}
Output:
Generator task - About to generate an interrupt.
Simulated ISR: Triggering example interrupt.
String 0
String 1
String 2
String 3
String 0
Generator task - Interrupt generated.
```

Generator task - About to generate an interrupt. Simulated ISR: Triggering example interrupt. String 1 String 2 String 3 String 0 String 1 Generator task - Interrupt generated. Generator task - About to generate an interrupt. Simulated ISR: Triggering example interrupt. String 2 String 3 String 0 String 1 String 2 Generator task - Interrupt generated. Generator task - About to generate an interrupt. Simulated ISR: Triggering example interrupt. String 3 String 0 String 1 String 2 String 3 Generator task - Interrupt generated. Generator task - About to generate an interrupt. Simulated ISR: Triggering example interrupt. String 0 String 1 String 2 String 3 String 0 Generator task - Interrupt generated. Generator task - About to generate an interrupt. Simulated ISR: Triggering example interrupt. String 1 String 2 String 3 String 0 String 1 Generator task - Interrupt generated.

Generator task - About to generate an interrupt.

Simulated ISR: Triggering example interrupt.
String 2
String 3
String 0
String 1

Generator task - Interrupt generated.

Generator task - About to generate an interrupt. Simulated ISR: Triggering example interrupt.

String 3

String 2

String 0

String 1

String 2

String 3

Generator task - Interrupt generated.