

Embedded Linux System using Yocto Project and Docker

Devendra Tewari

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Objective

Provide a project template to build an embedded Linux system for the Raspberry Pi using Yocto Project and Docker.

Hardware and Software Requirements

- ▶ A host machine running Linux, macOS, or Windows, with Git and Docker
 - ▶ 16 GB RAM - 8 GB assigned to Docker, on macOS or Windows
- ▶ A target machine
 - ▶ Raspberry Pi Zero W (default target)
 - ▶ 8 GB Class 10 Micro SD Card
 - ▶ Power adapter
 - ▶ Headless
 - ▶ USB to TTL Serial 3.3V Adapter Cable
 - ▶ Display (optional)
 - ▶ Mini HDMI adapter
 - ▶ HDMI cable
 - ▶ HDMI display
 - ▶ Micro USB male to USB female adapter
 - ▶ USB mouse and keyboard (wireless works)

Background

This topic gives you some background knowledge required to effectively use this project.

Docker

Docker enables you to build this project exactly as intended. You can download and install Docker Desktop on Linux, macOS, and Windows. You'll need to have some familiarity with `docker` commands such as `cp`, `build`, `buildx`, `exec`, `image`, `ps`, `rm`, `run`, and `start`.

You'll also need to understand Dockerfile syntax to tweak the build's Dockerfile.

Yocto Project

- ▶ Is a Linux Foundation Collaborative Project
- ▶ Uses a declarative, layered, build configuration that leverages BitBake
- ▶ Downloads software from Git and other sources
- ▶ Builds cross-compile toolchain, board support package (BSP), and Linux kernel image
- ▶ Builds software by automatically invoking make, autotools, or cmake
- ▶ Builds software as packages and installs to generate file system image
- ▶ Maintains system state (sstate) cache to speed up incremental builds
- ▶ Builds SDK or eSDK for application development

Layers and Recipes

The embedded Linux system is built from recipes available in the following layers. A recipe typically builds one software package for the target machine, and its native, native SDK, debug, development, and documentation packages.

- ▶ poky - core Yocto Project container layer that provides
 - ▶ meta - openembedded-core distro-less layer
 - ▶ meta-poky - contains recipes for the poky distro
 - ▶ meta-yocto-bsp - core BSP and Linux kernel recipes
- ▶ meta-raspberrypi - BSP layer that extends poky to build the Raspberry Pi Linux kernel
- ▶ meta-openembedded - container layer that provides
 - ▶ meta-oe - provides hostapd
 - ▶ meta-networking - provides dnsmasq
 - ▶ meta-python

Configuration files and kas

Yocto Project provides no means to download layers, and setup configuration files, for different builds.

kas is a build tool for Yocto Project that

- ▶ Is configured through a single file in YAML format
- ▶ Downloads layers - checks out to a specified version, and applies patches
- ▶ Generates build directory with
 - ▶ `conf/bblayers.conf` - list of layers to build
 - ▶ `conf/local.conf` - MACHINE and DISTRO configuration

Learning Resources

- ▶ Yocto Project Mega Manual
- ▶ Yocto Project Presentation Videos
- ▶ Alessandro Flaminio's Master Thesis

Build instructions

This section discusses how you can perform a build and save its history in a Docker image.

Build using Docker

Clone the project repo and run

```
git clone https://github.com/tewarid/berry  
cd berry  
docker build -t berry:latest .
```

Pick a different Raspberry Pi

By default, the image is built for Raspberry Pi Zero Wi-Fi. Edit machine in `kas-poky-raspberrypi0-wifi.yml` to build for a different model

MACHINE	Model
raspberrypi-cm	Raspberry Pi Compute Module
raspberrypi-cm3	Raspberry Pi 3 Compute Module
raspberrypi	Raspberry Pi Model B+
raspberrypi0-wifi	Raspberry Pi Zero with Wi-Fi
raspberrypi0	Raspberry Pi Zero
raspberrypi2	Raspberry Pi 2
raspberrypi3-64	Raspberry Pi 3 64-bit build
raspberrypi3	Raspberry Pi 3 32-bit build
raspberrypi4-64	Raspberry Pi 4 64-bit build
raspberrypi4	Raspberry Pi 4 32-bit build

Access private Git repos in build

Run ssh-agent on host and add default ~/.ssh/id_rsa key

```
export SSH_AUTH_SOCKET=~/.ssh/ssh-auth.sock
```

```
ssh-agent -a $SSH_AUTH_SOCKET
```

```
ssh-add ~/.ssh/id_rsa
```

```
ssh-add -l
```

The last command in the sequence above should list the key you added.

Build with BuildKit or docker buildx

```
export DOCKER_BUILDKIT=1
```

```
docker build \
```

```
--ssh default=$SSH_AUTH_SOCKET \
```

```
-t berry:latest .
```

Incremental development

This section shows how you can create a container from a Docker image, to do additional development, and perform incremental builds.

Create a container

Create a container called berrydev for incremental development

```
docker run --name berrydev -it berry:latest
```

Start a stopped container

```
docker start -ai berrydev
```

See whether the container is running or stopped

```
docker ps -a
```


Run incremental build

Make the necessary changes to source code and rebuild

```
kas build kas-poky-raspberrypi0-wifi.yml
```

Note that BitBake may fail with Invalid cross-device link error. Follow the link for additional information and a patch.

Access private Git repos in container

Create Docker container with access to ssh-agent on host

```
export SSH_AUTH_SOCKET=~/.ssh/ssh-auth.sock
```

```
docker run --name berrydev -it \  
  -v $SSH_AUTH_SOCKET:/run/host-services/ssh-auth.sock \  
  -e SSH_AUTH_SOCKET="/run/host-services/ssh-auth.sock" \  
  berry:latest
```

Enable non-root access to ssh-agent

Since we're using a non-root user, you may get an access denied message when you run

```
# Access your Git server instead of example.com
```

```
ssh git@example.com
```

If so, you will need to fix access to ssh-agent socket at least once

```
docker exec -u 0 -it berrydev /bin/bash
```

```
chmod 777 /run/host-services/ssh-auth.sock
```

Download cache

A download cache can be setup under build/downloads. It will be copied into the image along with the source code. This can reduce build times significantly.

To copy download folder from a container to the host

```
docker cp \
  berrydev:/home/pi/berry/build/downloads \
  build/
```

Working with BitBake

Setup build environment in a container to gain access to BitBake

```
source layers/poky/oe-init-build-env
```

this will leave you in the build directory

Run incremental build using BitBake in the build directory

```
bitbake core-image-base
```

Clean a recipe

You can clean state of any recipe to build it from scratch

```
bitbake recipe_name -c cleansstate
```

`cleanall` also cleans the download cache for the recipe.

Run devshell

devshell enables you to work in a recipe's build environment

```
bitbake recipe_name -c devshell
```

Use `exit` to close devshell.

Generate SDK or eSDK

```
bitbake core-image-base -c populate_sdk
```

OR

```
bitbake core-image-base -c populate_sdk_ext
```

SDK should be located at tmp/deploy/sdk under build directory.

Working with the kernel

To clean kernel build

```
bitbake virtual/kernel -c clean
```

To change kernel config and produce a diff

```
bitbake virtual/kernel -c menuconfig
```

using menuconfig to change kernel config here

```
bitbake virtual/kernel -c diffconfig
```

To build kernel

```
bitbake virtual/kernel
```

Write image to SD card

This section discusses how to use bmaptool to copy image file to SD card.

Copy image file to host

To copy image files from the Docker container to host, use `docker cp`

```
docker cp \
    berrydev:/home/pi/berry/build/tmp/deploy/images/raspberrypi/core-image-b
    build/tmp/deploy/images/raspberrypi/
```

```
docker cp \
    berrydev:/home/pi/berry/build/tmp/deploy/images/raspberrypi/core-image-b
    build/tmp/deploy/images/raspberrypi/
```

To write image to a SD card, use `bmaptool`.

Install and use bmaptool on Ubuntu

```
sudo apt install bmap-tools
```

Use `lsblk` to find SD card device, unmount boot and root partitions, if mounted, and write image to SD card

```
lsblk
```

```
sudo umount /dev/mmcblk0p1
```

```
sudo umount /dev/mmcblk0p2
```

```
sudo bmaptool copy \
```

```
  --bmap build/tmp/deploy/images/raspberrypi0-wifi/core-image-base-raspber  
build/tmp/deploy/images/raspberrypi0-wifi/core-image-base-raspberrypi-20  
/dev/mmcblk0
```

Install and use bmaptool on macOS

```
git clone https://github.com/intel/bmap-tools.git
```

```
cd bmap-tools
```

```
python3 setup.py install
```

```
pip3 install six
```

Find SD card device using `diskutil list`, then unmount disk, and write image to SD card

```
diskutil unmountDisk /dev/disk2
```

```
sudo bmaptool copy \
```

```
--bmap build/tmp/deploy/images/raspberrypi0-wifi/core-image-base-raspber
```

```
build/tmp/deploy/images/raspberrypi0-wifi/core-image-base-raspberrypi-20
```

```
/dev/rdisk2
```

Note the `r` in device path i.e. `/dev/rdisk2` in `bmaptool` command.

Login shell

A login shell is available through HDMI display. Log in as root with a blank password. You can set a password using `passwd root`.

Enable serial console

To use device without an HDMI display i.e. headless, enable serial console through expansion headers.

Navigate to DOS boot partition of SD Card on host machine.

Add `console=ttyS0,115200` to kernel command line in file `cmdline.txt`

`dwc_otg.lpm_enable=0 root=/dev/mmcblk0p2 rootfstype=ext4`

`console=ttyS0,115200 console=tty1 rootwait`

At the end of `config.txt` file, add

`enable_uart=1`

Configure audio

alsa-utils package is built into the image. You can disable it by removing the audio section in kas configuration.

To see a list of device names

```
aplay -L
```

To play test sound to HDMI display

```
speaker-test -c2 iec958
```

Use alsamixer and amixer to change audio settings

Configure Wi-Fi

Use `wpa_passphrase` utility to print out network configuration

```
wpa_passphrase ssid password
```

Copy the output and add, all but the commented out plain text password line, to end of `/etc/wpa_supplicant.conf`.

Bring up the Wi-Fi network

```
ifup wlan0
```

With the board on the network, you can access it using `ssh` from the host.

Configure Software Access Point

If you want to configure Raspberry Pi as a software access point (SoftAP/hotspot) and access it via ssh, follow the instructions at [Setting up a Raspberry Pi as a routed wireless access point](#), and

1. Don't use sudo
2. Don't configure dhcpcd or iptables
3. Use vi to edit `/etc/dnsmasq.conf` and `/etc/hostapd.conf`
4. Reboot system using `reboot`
5. Assign static IP address to interface wlan0 - `ifconfig wlan0 up 192.168.4.1 netmask 255.255.255.0`
6. Start hostapd service manually - `systemctl start hostapd`

Configure Bluetooth

Bring up interface and make device discoverable

```
hciconfig hci0 up
```

```
hciconfig hci0 piscan
```

DBUS can also used to bring up interface programmatically

```
dbus-send --system --print-reply \  
  --dest=org.bluez \  
  /org/bluez/hci0 \  
  org.freedesktop.DBus.Properties.Set \  
  string:"org.bluez.Adapter1" \  
  string:"Powered" \  
  variant:boolean:true
```