Linux Lab v1.0 Manual

TinyLab Community | Tinylab.org

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目录

1.	Linux Lab Overview	8
	1.1 Project Introduction	8
	1.2 Project Homepage	8
	1.3 Demonstration	9
	1.3.1 Free Video Courses In Chinese	9
	1.3.2 Non-Free Video Courses In Chinese	10
	1.4 Project Functions	10
	1.5 Project History	11
	1.5.1 Project Origins	11
	1.5.2 Problems Solved	11
	1.5.3 Project Born	11
2.	Linux Lab Installation	12
	2.1 Hardware and Software Requirement	13
	2.2 Docker Installation	14
	2.3 Choose a working directory	15
	2.4 Switch to normal user	15
	2.5 Download the lab	15
	2.6 Run and login the lab	16
	2.7 Update and rerun the lab	17
	2.8 Quickstart: Boot a board	17
3.	Linux Lab Kickstart	19
	3.1 Using boards	19
	3.1.1 List available boards	19
	3.1.2 Choosing a board	21
	3.1.2.3 Buy one	23
	3.1.3 Using as plugins	23
	3.1.4 Configure boards	23
	3.2 Build in one command	24

	3.3 Detailed Operations	24
	3.3.1 Downloading	24
	3.3.2 Checking out	25
	3.3.3 Patching	25
	3.3.4 Configuration	26
	3.3.5 Building	27
	3.3.6 Saving	27
	3.3.7 Booting	27
4.	Linux Lab Advance	30
	4.1 Using Linux Kernel	30
	4.1.1 non-interactive configuration	30
	4.1.2 using kernel modules	31
	4.1.3 using kernel features	32
	4.1.4 Create new development branch	33
	4.1.5 Use standalone git repository	34
	4.2 Using Uboot Bootloader	34
	4.3 Using Qemu Emulator	36
	4.4 Using Toolchains	36
	4.5 Using Rootfs	37
	4.6 Debugging Linux and Uboot	38
	4.6.1 Debugging Linux	38
	4.6.2 Debugging Uboot	39
	4.7 Test Automation	39
	4.8 File Sharing	41
	4.8.1 Install files to rootfs	41
	4.8.2 Share with NFS	41
	4.8.3 Transfer via tftp	42
	4.8.4 Share with 9p virtio	42
	4.9 Learning Assembly	43
	4.10 Learning C	44

	4.10.1 Host build and Run	44
	4.10.2 Cross build and Run	44
	4.11 Running any make goals	45
	4.12 More Usage	45
5 .	Linux Lab Development	47
	5.1 Choose a board supported by qemu	47
	5.2 Create the board directory	47
	5.3 Clone a Makefile from an existing board	47
	5.4 Configure the variables from scratch	47
	5.5 At the same time, prepare the configs	47
	5.6 Choose the versions of kernel, rootfs and uboot	48
	5.7 Configure, build and boot them	49
	5.7.1 Speed up compiling and save disk life	49
	5.8 Save the images and configs	50
	5.9 Upload everything	50
6.	\mathbf{FAQs}	51
	6.1 Docker Issues	51
	6.1.1 Speed up docker images downloading	51
	6.1.2 Docker network conflicts with LAN	51
	6.1.3 Why not allow running Linux Lab in local host	51
	6.1.4 Run tools without sudo	51
	6.1.5 Network not work	52
	6.1.6 Client.Timeout exceeded while waiting headers	52
	6.1.7 Restart Linux Lab after host system shutdown or reboot	53
	6.1.8 the following directives are specified both as a flag and in the configuration file	53
	6.1.9 pathspec FETCH_HEAD did not match any file known to git	53
	6.1.10 Docker not work in Ubuntu 20.04	54
	6.1.11 Error creating aufs mount	54
	6.2 Qemu Issues	54

	6.2.1 Why kvm speedding up is disabled	54
	6.2.2 Poweroff hang	55
	6.2.3 How to exit qemu	55
	6.2.4 Boot with missing sdl2 libraries failure	55
	6.3 Environment Issues	56
	6.3.1 NFS/tftpboot not work	56
	6.3.2 How to switch windows in vim	56
	6.3.3 How to delete typo in shell command line	56
	6.3.4 Language input switch shortcuts	56
	6.3.5 How to tune the screen size	56
	6.3.6 How to work in fullscreen mode	57
	6.3.7 How to record video	58
	6.3.8 Linux Lab not response	58
	6.3.9 VNC login with failures	58
	6.3.10 Ubuntu Snap Issues	59
	6.3.11 How to exit fullscreen mode of vnc clients	59
	6.4 Lab Issues	59
	6.4.1 No working init found	59
	6.4.2 linux/compiler-gcc7.h: No such file or directory	60
	6.4.3 linux-lab/configs: Permission denied	60
	6.4.4 scripts/Makefile.headersinst: Missing UAPI file	60
	6.4.5 unable to create file: net/netfilter/xt_dscp.c	60
	6.4.6 how to run as root	60
	6.4.7 not in supported list	61
	6.4.8 is not a valid rootfs directory	61
7.	Contact and Sponsor	62
•	Contact Us	62
	Give me a star	62
	Buy our products	62
	Sponsor	63
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Figure 1: Linux Lab Logo

Subscribe Wechat:



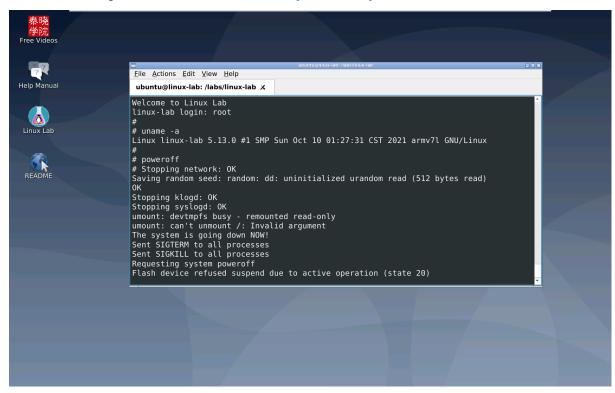
Figure 2: Wechat Public

1. Linux Lab Overview

1.1 Project Introduction

This project aims to create a Docker and Qemu based Linux development Lab to easier the learning, development and testing of Linux Kernel.

Linux Lab is open source with no warranty – use at your own risk.



1.2 Project Homepage

- Homepage
 - https://tinylab.org/linux-lab/
 - https://oschina.net/p/linux-lab
- Repository
 - https://gitee.com/tinylab/linux-lab
 - https://github.com/tinyclub/linux-lab

Related Projects:

• Cloud Lab

- Linux Lab Running Environment Manager, provide GUI and CLI, support local and remote login
- https://tinylab.org/cloud-lab
- Linux 0.11 Lab
 - Learning Linux 0.11, only available in Linux Lab Disk from now on
 - Download it to labs/linux-0.11-lab and use it in Linux Lab directly
 - https://tinylab.org/linux-0.11-lab
- CS630 Qemu Lab
 - Learning X86 Linux Assembly, only available in Linux Lab Disk from now on
 - Download it to labs/cs630-qemu-lab and use it in Linux Lab directly
 - https://tinylab.org/cs630-qemu-lab
- RVOS Lab
 - Learning RISC-V OS course, merged in Linux Lab Disk
 - Download it to src/examples and use it in Linux Lab directly
 - https://gitee.com/tinylab/rvos-lab
- GUI Lab
 - Learning embedded GUI (e.g. Guilite), merged in Linux Lab Disk
 - Download it to src/examples and use it in Linux Lab directly
 - https://gitee.com/tinylab/gui-lab
- RISC-V Linux
 - Learning RISC-V Linux kernel, merged in Linux Lab Disk
 - Download it to src/examples and use it in Linux Lab directly
 - https://gitee.com/tinylab/riscv-linux

1.3 Demonstration

1.3.1 Free Video Courses In Chinese

- Linux Lab Open Videos
 - Linux Lab Introduction
 - Loongson Linux Development
 - Linux Lab Disk Demonstration
 - Linux Lab Release Meeting Replay Videos
 - Rust For Linux Introduction

1.3.2 Non-Free Video Courses In Chinese

- The Perspective of Linux ELF
 - Learn Linux ELF by practice, with hundreds of examples, all verified in Linux Lab
- 《Rust Language Quickstart》
 - Rust course for C programmer, with examples verified in Linux Lab
- 《Software Reverse Engineering Quickstart》
 - Learn reverse engineering by practice, with examples verified in Linux Lab
- 《Linux Kernel Livepatch Introduction》
 - Learn Linux live patching in AArch64 by practice, with examples verified in Linux Lab

1.4 Project Functions

Now, Linux Lab becomes an intergrated Linux learning, development and testing environment, it supports:

Items	Description
Boards	Qemu based, 7+ main Architectures, 20+ popular boards; Several real boards supported
Components	Uboot, Linux / Modules, Buildroot, Qemu, Linux v 0.11, v2.6.10 ~ 5.x supported
Prebuilt	All of above components have been prebuilt
Rootfs	Support include initrd, harddisk, mmc and nfs, Debian availab for ARM
Docker	Cross toolchains from gcc-4.3 available in one command, external ones configurable
Access	Accessible from local or remote, include CLI and GUI, support bash, ssh, vnc, web vnc
Network	Builtin bridge networking, every board has network (except Raspi3)
Boot	Support serial port, curses (bash/ssh friendly) and graphic booting
Testing	Support automatic testing via make test target
Debugging	debuggable via make debug target

Continue reading for more features and usage.

1.5 Project History

1.5.1 Project Origins

About 10 years ago (2010), a tinylinux proposal: Work on Tiny Linux Kernel accepted by Embedded Linux Foundation, therefore I have worked on this project for serveral months.

1.5.2 Problems Solved

During the project cycle, several scripts written to verify if the adding tiny features (e.g. gc-sections) breaks the other kernel features on the main cpu architectures.

These scripts uses qemu-system-ARCH as the cpu/board simulator, basic boot+function tests have been done for ftrace+perf, accordingly, defconfigs, rootfs, test scripts have been prepared, at that time, all of them were simply put in a directory, without a design or holistic consideration.

1.5.3 Project Born

They have slept in my harddisk for several years without any attention, untill one day, docker and novnc came to my world, at first, Linux 0.11 Lab was born, after that, Linux Lab was designed to unify all of the above scripts, defconfigs, rootfs and test scripts.

2. Linux Lab Installation

Linux Lab uses Docker, if have already installed Docker and configured the best mirror site of docker images, it is very easy to install Linux Lab.

If really a Linux newbie or simply don't want to spend time on boring installation, buy the instant Linux Lab Disk:



It supports:

- Capacity
 - From 32G to 512G and even 1T, 2T
- Systems
 - Top6 Linux Distributions and even more based on your requirement
 - Include Ubuntu 18.04-22.04, Deepin 20.5+, Fedora 34+, Mint 20.2+, Kali,
 Manjaro
- Features
 - Boot from any powered-off 64bit X86 Machine, include PC, Laptop and Mac-Book

- Boot from any running Windows, Linux and MacOS and run in parallel with them
- Switch from or to any running Windows, Linux without poweroff
- Multiple Linux Lab Disks can boot or switch from/to each other
- Support timezone setting of different systems transparently, without manual setting
- Share files and clipboards automatically between the main system and our disk system
- Support transparent compress, use 128G as ~256G capacity
- Support memory compiling, speedup compiling and save disk erase life
- Support factory restore, allow restore factory system in some cases
- Merged in many labs, such as Linux Lab, Linux 0.11 Lab, be able to learn Linux kernel, embedded Linux, Uboot, Assembly, C, Python, Database, Network and so forth
- Where to buy
 - Taobao shop of TinyLab.org Community
- Product details
 - https://tinylab.org/linux-lab-disk
 - Introduce and demonstrate the features, functions and usage of Linux Lab Disk

2.1 Hardware and Software Requirement

Linux Lab is a full embedded Linux development system, it needs enough calculation capacity and disk & memory storage space, to avoid potential extension issues, here is the recommended configuration:

Hardware	Requirement	Description
Processor	$X86_64, > 1.5GHz$	Must choose 64bit X86 while using virtual machine
Disk	>=50G	System (25G), Docker Images(~5G), Linux Lab (20G)
Memory	>=4G	Lower than 4G may have many unpredictable exceptions

If often use, please increase disk storage to $100G\sim200G$, memory storage to 8G, cpu cores to 4 and above.

Currently, all of the X86_64 systems support Docker should be able to run Linux Lab, include Windows, Linux and MacOS, all of the popular Linux distributions may

have been tried by different users.

Welcome to take a look at the systems running Linux Lab and share yours, for example:

```
1  $ cd /path/to/cloud-lab
2  $ tools/docker/env
3  System: Ubuntu 16.04.6 LTS
4  Linux: 4.4.0-176-generic
5  Docker: Docker version 18.09.4, build d14af54
```

2.2 Docker Installation

Docker is required by Linux Lab, please install it at first:

• Linux, Mac OSX, Windows 10

Docker CE

• older Windows (include some older Windows 10)

Docker Toolbox; Install Ubuntu via Virtualbox or Vmware Virtual Machine

Before running Linux Lab, please refer to section 6.1.4 and make sure the following command works without sudo and without any issue:

```
1 $ docker run hello-world
```

In China, to use docker service normally, please **must** configure one of chinese docker mirror sites, for example:

- Aliyun Docker Mirror Documentation
 - For non University users, require login with freely registered account
- USTC Docker Mirror Documentation
 - For University users

More docker related issues, such as download slowly, download timeout and download errors, are cleary documented in the 6.1 section of FAQs.

The other issues, please read the official docker docs.

Notes for Ubuntu Users - doc/install/ubuntu-docker.md

Notes for Arch Users - doc/install/arch-docker.md

Notes for Manjaro Users - doc/install/manjaro-docker.md

Notes for Windows Users:

- Please make sure your Windows version support docker: Official Docker Documentation and determine Docker Desktop or Docker Toolbox should be used
- Linux Lab only tested with 'Git Bash' in Windows, please must use with it
 - After installing Git For Windows, "Git Bash Here" will come out in rightbutton press menu

2.3 Choose a working directory

Please simply choose one directory in ~/Downloads or ~/Documents or create a new ~/Develop directory.

```
1 $ mkdir ~/Develop
2 $ cd ~/Develop
```

For Windows and Mac OSX, to compile Linux normally, please refer to section 5.7.1 and enable building cache:

2.4 Switch to normal user

Before downloading Linux Lab, please MUST switch to normal user.

Check who am i, o means root, non-zero means normal user:

```
1  $ id -u `whoami`
2  1000
```

If current user is root, switch to a normal one:

```
1  # id -u `whoami`
2  0  # sudo -su <USER>
```

If no normal user exists, create new:

```
$ sudo useradd --create-home --shell /bin/bash --user-group --groups adm, sudo laber
$ sudo passwd laber
$ sudo -su laber
$ whoami
laber
```

2.5 Download the lab

Use Ubuntu system as an example:

Download cloud lab framework with normal user, pull images and checkout linux-lab repository:

If cloned source code with root account, please MUST switch to normal user and change their owner:

```
$ sudo -su <USER>
2 $ sudo chown -R <USER> -R cloud-lab/{*,.git}
```

2.6 Run and login the lab

Launch the lab and login with the user and password printed in the console:

```
1 $ tools/docker/run linux-lab
```

Login with Bash:

```
1 $ tools/docker/bash
```

Re-login the lab via web browser:

```
1 $ tools/docker/webvnc
```

The other login methods:

```
1 $ tools/docker/vnc
2 $ tools/docker/ssh
3 $ tools/docker/webssh
```

Choose one of the methods:

```
$ tools/docker/login list # List, choose and record
$ tools/docker/login vnc # Choose one directly and record for late login
```

Summary of login methods:

Login Method	Description	Default User	Where
bash	docker bash	ubuntu	localhost
ssh	normal ssh	ubuntu	localhost
vnc	normal vnc	ubuntu	localhost+VNC client
webvnc	web desktop	ubuntu	anywhere via internet
webssh	web ssh	ubuntu	anywhere via internet

Since vnc clients differs from operating systems, we use webvnc by default to make sure auto login vnc for all systems.

If really want to use local vnc clients, please install a vnc client, for example: vinagre, then specify it like this:

```
1 $ tools/docker/vnc vinagre
```

If the above command not work normally, based on the information printed above, please configure the vnc client yourself.

Notes: The directly connected ssh and vnc may not always work, please use one of the other three methods instead.

2.7 Update and rerun the lab

Usually, only need to update Linux Lab itself, to get the new boards support or related fixups:

```
$ cd /path/to/cloud-lab/labs/linux-lab/
$ git checkout master
$ git pull
```

Sometimes, need to update Cloud Lab, to fix up potential running issues or getting newer docker image:

```
$ cd /path/to/cloud-lab
git checkout master
git pull
```

If modified the running environment of Linux Lab locally and want to reuse it in the future, save the container (very slow, not recommend if not necessary):

```
$ tools/docker/save linux-lab
2 $ git checkout -- configs/linux-lab/docker/name
```

Then rerurn linux lab:

```
tools/docker/rerun linux-lab
```

2.8 Quickstart: Boot a board

Get into the lab environment, switch directory:

```
1 $ cd /labs/linux-lab
```

Issue the following command to boot the prebuilt kernel and rootfs on the default vexpress-a9 board:

```
1 $ make boot
```

Login as root user without password(password is empty), just input root and press Enter:

Shutdown the board with the poweroff command.

**Notes*: If some boards not support poweroff, please press ctrl+a x. Of course, open another terminal and issue kill or pkill command also can quit qemu.

3. Linux Lab Kickstart

3.1 Using boards

3.1.1 List available boards

List builtin boards:

```
$ make list
2
   [ aarch64/raspi3 ]:
3
         ARCH
                  = arm64
          CPU
                  ?= cortex-a53
 5
         LINUX ?= v5.1
 6
          ROOTDEV_LIST := /dev/mmcblk0 /dev/ram0
 7
         ROOTDEV ?= /dev/mmcblk0
   [ aarch64/virt ]:
 8
9
         ARCH
                  = arm64
10
         CPU
                 ?= cortex-a57
         LINUX ?= v5.1
11
12
         ROOTDEV_LIST := /dev/sda /dev/vda /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
         ROOTDEV ?= /dev/vda
13
   [ arm/mcimx6ul-evk ]:
14
15
         ARCH
                  = arm
         CPU
                 ?= cortex-a9
16
17
         LINUX ?= v5.4
18
         ROOTDEV_LIST := /dev/mmcblk0 /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
19
         ROOTDEV ?= /dev/mmcblk0
20
    [ arm/versatilepb ]:
21
         ARCH
                  = arm
22
         CPU
                 ?= arm926t
23
         LINUX ?= v5.1
24
         ROOTDEV_LIST := /dev/sda /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
25
         ROOTDEV ?= /dev/ram0
26
   [ arm/vexpress-a9 ]:
27
         ARCH
                  = arm
         CPU
                  ?= cortex-a9
28
29
         LINUX ?= v5.1
30
         ROOTDEV_LIST := /dev/mmcblk0 /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
31
         ROOTDEV ?= /dev/ram0
32
   [ i386/pc ]:
33
         ARCH
                   = x86
34
         CPU
                  ?= qemu32
35
         LINUX ?= v5.1
         ROOTDEV_LIST ?= /dev/hda /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
36
37
         ROOTDEV_LIST[LINUX_v2.6.34.9] ?= /dev/sda /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
38
         ROOTDEV ?= /dev/hda
39
    [ mips64el/ls2k ]:
40
          ARCH
                  = mips
41
          CPU
                  ?= mips64r2
42
                 ?= loongnix-release-1903
43
          LINUX[LINUX_loongnix-release-1903] := 04b98684
44
          ROOTDEV_LIST := /dev/sda /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
45
         ROOTDEV ?= /dev/ram0
46
    [ mips64el/ls3a7a ]:
47
         ARCH
                  = mips
48
          CPU
                  ?= mips64r2
49
         LINUX
                ?= loongnix-release-1903
50
         LINUX[LINUX_loongnix-release-1903] := 04b98684
51
         ROOTDEV_LIST ?= /dev/sda /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
```

```
ROOTDEV ?= /dev/ram0
53
    [ mipsel/ls1b ]:
54
          ARCH
                  = mips
          CPU
55
                  ?= mips32r2
                ?= v5.2
56
          LINUX
57
          ROOTDEV_LIST ?= /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
          ROOTDEV ?= /dev/ram0
58
    [ mipsel/ls232 ]:
59
60
          ARCH
                  = mips
61
          CPU
                 ?= mips32r2
62
          LINUX ?= v2.6.32-r190726
          ROOTDEV_LIST := /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
63
64
          ROOTDEV ?= /dev/ram0
65
    [ mipsel/malta ]:
66
          ARCH
                  = mips
67
          CPU
                 ?= mips32r2
68
          LINUX ?= v5.1
69
          ROOTDEV_LIST := /dev/hda /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
70
          ROOTDEV ?= /dev/ram0
71
    [ ppc/g3beige ]:
72
          ARCH
                  = powerpc
73
          CPU
                 ?= generic
74
          75
          ROOTDEV_LIST := /dev/hda /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
          ROOTDEV ?= /dev/ram0
76
    [ riscv32/virt ]:
77
                  = riscv
78
         ARCH
79
          CPU
                 ?= any
          LINUX ?= v5.0.13
80
81
          ROOTDEV_LIST := /dev/vda /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
          ROOTDEV ?= /dev/vda
82
    [ riscv64/virt ]:
83
         ARCH
84
                  = riscv
          CPU
                 ?= any
85
          LINUX ?= v5.1
86
          ROOTDEV_LIST := /dev/vda /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
87
88
          ROOTDEV ?= /dev/vda
89
    [ x86_64/pc ]:
                  = x86
90
          ARCH
91
          CPU
                 ?= qemu64
          LINUX ?= v5.1
92
93
          ROOTDEV_LIST := /dev/hda /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
94
          ROOTDEV_LIST[LINUX_v3.2] := /dev/sda /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
95
          ROOTDEV ?= /dev/ram0
96
    [ csky/virt ]:
97
          ARCH
                   = csky
98
          CPU
                  ?= ck810
99
          LINUX ?= v4.9.56
          ROOTDEV ?= /dev/nfs
100
```

ARCH, FILTER arguments are supported:

```
1 $ make list ARCH=arm
2 $ make list FILTER=virt
```

and more:

```
$ make list-board # only ARCH
$ make list-short # ARCH and LINUX
$ make list-base # no plugin
```

```
4 $ make list-plugin # only plugin
5 $ make list-full # everything
6 $ make list-real # real hardware boards
7 $ make list-virt # only virtual boards
```

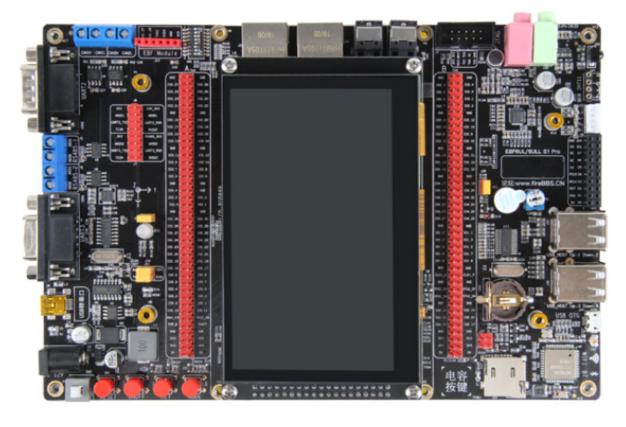
3.1.2 Choosing a board

3.1.2.1 Real board

From version v0.6, to support learn external devices, Linux Lab adds real hardware board support, to use such boards, please buy them and connect them to your develop host correctly.

Only list real boards:

Because real hardware boards differs from each other, so, board specific document are recommended, for example: boards/arm/ebf-imx6ull/README.md.



3.1.2.2 Virtual board

By default, the default virtual board: vexpress-a9 is used, we can configure, build and boot for a specific board with BDARD, for example:

```
1 $ make BOARD=malta
2 $ make boot
```

If several boards have the same name, please specify the architecture to distinguish:

```
1 $ make BOARD=mipsel/malta
```

Currently, such boards have the same name:

```
$ make list FILTER=virt
   [ aarch64/virt ]:
 2
3
         ARCH
 4
         CPU
                  ?= cortex-a57
         LINUX ?= v5.1
5
6
         ROOTDEV_LIST := /dev/sda /dev/vda /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
         ROOTDEV ?= /dev/vda
   [ riscv32/virt ]:
9
         ARCH
                   = riscv
10
         CPU
                  ?= any
11
         LINUX ?= v5.0.13
12
         ROOTDEV_LIST := /dev/vda /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
13
         ROOTDEV ?= /dev/vda
   [ riscv64/virt ]:
14
         ARCH
15
                  = riscv
         CPU
                 ?= any
16
17
         T.TNUX
                ?= v5.1
         ROOTDEV_LIST := /dev/vda /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
18
         ROOTDEV ?= /dev/vda
19
20
21
   $ make list FILTER=/pc
22
   [ i386/pc ]:
23
         ARCH
                   = x86
24
         CPU
                 ?= qemu32
25
         LINUX ?= v5.1
26
         ROOTDEV_LIST ?= /dev/hda /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
27
         ROOTDEV_LIST[LINUX_v2.6.34.9] ?= /dev/sda /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
28
         ROOTDEV ?= /dev/hda
29
   [ x86_64/pc ]:
         ARCH
30
                  = x86
                  ?= qemu64
31
         CPU
         LINUX ?= v5.1
32
33
         ROOTDEV LIST := /dev/hda /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
34
         ROOTDEV LIST[LINUX v3.2] := /dev/sda /dev/ram0 /dev/nfs
         ROOTDEV ?= /dev/ram0
```

Use them like this:

If using board, it only works on-the-fly, the setting will not be saved, this is helpful to run multiple boards at the same and not to disrupt each other:

```
s make board=malta boot
```

This allows to run multi boards in different terminals or background at the same time.

Check the board specific configuration:

```
1 $ cat boards/arm/vexpress-a9/Makefile
```

Notes: More money are required to maintain this project, only one virtual board is free now, the others are non-free, buy one as you want.

3.1.2.3 Buy one

All supported real hardware boards, virtual hardware boards support and the related Linux Lab Disk will be put in TinyLab.org's Taobao Shop, after bought them, please contact with wechat: tinylab and join in the development group.

3.1.3 Using as plugins

The 'Plugin' feature is supported by Linux Lab, to allow boards being added and maintained in standalone git repositories. Standalone repository is very important to ensure Linux Lab itself not grow up big and big while more and more boards being added in.

Book examples or the boards with a whole new cpu architecture benefit from such feature a lot, for book examples may use many boards and a new cpu architecture may need require lots of new packages (such as cross toolchains and the architecture specific qemu system tool).

Here maintains the available plugins:

- C-Sky Linux
- Loongson Linux

The Loongson plugin has been merged into v5.0.

3.1.4 Configure boards

Every board has its own configuration, some can be changed on demand, for example, memory size, linux version, buildroot version, qemu version and the other external devices, such as serial port, network devices and so on.

The configure method is very simple, just edit it by referring to current values (boards /<BOARD>/Makefile), this command open local configuration (boards/<BOARD>/.labconfig) via vim:

```
1 | $ make edit
```

But please don't make a big change once, we often only need to tune linux version, this command is better for such case:

If want to upstream your local changes, please use board-edit and board-config, otherwise, edit and config are preferrable, for they will avoid conflicts while pulling remote updates.

3.2 Build in one command

v0.3+ version add target dependency by default, so, if want to compile a kernel, just run:

```
$ make kernel-build

Or

make build kernel

$ make build kernel
```

It will do everything required, of course, we still be able to run the targets explicitly.

And futher, with the timestamping support, finished targets will not be run again during the late operations, if still want, just clean the stamp and run it again:

```
$ make cleanstamp kernel-build

$ make kernel-build

Or

$ make force-kernel-build
```

To clean all of the stamp files:

```
$ make cleanstamp kernel
```

This function also support uboot, root and qemu.

3.3 Detailed Operations

3.3.1 Downloading

Download board specific package and the kernel, buildroot source code:

Download one by one:

```
$ make bsp-source
$ make kernel-source
$ make root-source
$ make uboot-source

6 Or

7 
8 $ make source bsp
9 $ make source kernel
10 $ make source root
11 $ make source uboot
```

After v0.5, the source code are downloaded in src/, before, they are saved in the root directory of Linux Lab.

Notes: the source code will be downloaded to build/src when CACHE_SRC or ONESHOT is configured to 1, please save or backup the data inside manually, otherwise, they will be lost after system poweroff.

3.3.2 Checking out

Checkout the target version of kernel and builroot:

```
$ make checkout APP=kernel,root
```

Checkout them one by one:

If checkout not work due to local changes, save changes and run to get a clean environment:

The same to gemu and uboot.

3.3.3 Patching

Apply available patches in boards/<BOARD>/bsp/patch/linux and src/patch/linux/:

```
$ make kernel-patch

Or

make patch kernel

$ make patch kernel
```

3.3.4 Configuration

3.3.4.1 Default Configuration

Configure kernel and buildroot with defconfig:

```
1 $ make defconfig APP=kernel,root
```

Configure one by one, by default, use the defconfig in boards/<BOARD>/bsp/:

```
$ make kernel-defconfig

kernel make root-defconfig

for

make defconfig kernel

make defconfig root
```

Configure with specified defconfig:

```
$ make B=raspi3

$ make kernel-defconfig bcmrpi3_defconfig

$ make root-defconfig raspberrypi3_64_defconfig
```

If only defconfig name specified, search boards/ at first, and then the default configs path of buildroot, u-boot and linux-stable respectively: src/buildroot/configs, src/u-boot/configs, src/linux-stable/arch//configs.

3.3.4.2 Manual Configuration

```
$ make kernel-menuconfig
$ make root-menuconfig

4 Or

5 

6 $ make menuconfig kernel
7 $ make menuconfig root
```

3.3.4.3 Old default configuration

```
7    $ make olddefconfig kernel
8    $ make olddefconfig root
9    $ make olddefconfig uboot
```

3.3.5 Building

Build kernel and buildroot together:

```
1 $ make build APP=kernel,root
```

Build them one by one:

After v0.5, the building result are stored in build, before they are put in output/.

3.3.6 Saving

Save all of the configs and rootfs/kernel/dtb images:

```
$ make save APP=kernel,root
$ make saveconfig APP=kernel,root
```

Save configs and images to boards/<BOARD>/bsp/:

```
$ make kernel-saveconfig
$ make root-saveconfig
$ make root-save
$ make kernel-save

5 
6 Or
7 
8 $ make saveconfig kernel
9 $ make saveconfig root
10 $ make save root
```

3.3.7 Booting

Boot with serial port (nographic) by default, exit with ctrl+a x, poweroff, reboot or pkill qemu (See poweroff hang):

```
1 $ make boot
```

Boot with graphic (Exit with CTRL+ALT+2 quit):

Note:

- real graphic boot require LCD and keyboard drivers, the above boards work well, with linux v5.1, raspi3 and malta has tty0 console but without keyboard input.
- new buildroot config files set tty console to serial with (BR2_TARGET_GENERIC_GETTY_PORT="ttyAMAO"), to enable console with G=1, please change the getty line in /etc/inittab, for example, replace ttyAMAO with console, we can also simply switch to the serial console via the Qemu 'View' menu.

vexpress-a9 and virt has no LCD support by default, but for the latest qemu, it is able to boot with G=1 and switch to serial console via the 'View' menu, this can not be used to test LCD and keyboard drivers. xopts specify the eXtra qemu options.

Boot with curses graphic (friendly to bash/ssh login, not work for all boards, exit with ESC+2 quit Or ALT+2 quit):

```
1 $ make b=pc boot G=2 LINUX=v4.6.7
```

Boot with PreBuilt Kernel, Dtb and Rootfs:

```
$ make boot kernel=old dtb=old root=old
```

Boot with new kernel, dtb and rootfs if exists:

```
1 $ make boot kernel=new dtb=new root=new
```

Boot with new kernel and uboot, build them if not exists:

```
1 $ make boot BUILD=kernel,uboot
```

Boot without Uboot (only versatilepb and vexpress-as boards tested):

```
1 $ make boot U=0
```

Boot with different rootfs (depends on board, check /dev/ after boot):

```
$ make boot ROOTDEV=ram // support by all boards, basic boot method

$ make boot ROOTDEV=nfs // depends on network driver, only raspi3 not work

$ make boot ROOTDEV=sda

$ make boot ROOTDEV=mmcblk0

$ make boot ROOTDEV=vda // virtio based block device
```

Boot with extra kernel command line (XKCLI = eXtra Kernel Command LIne):

```
1 $ make boot ROOTDEV=nfs XKCLI="init=/bin/bash"
```

List supported options:

```
$ make list ROOTDEV

$ make list BOOTDEV

$ make list CCORI

$ make list NETDEV

$ make list LINUX

$ make list UBOOT

$ make list QEMU
```

And more <xxx>-list are also supported with list <xxx>, for example:

```
$ make list features

$ make list modules

$ make list gcc
```

4. Linux Lab Advance

4.1 Using Linux Kernel

4.1.1 non-interactive configuration

A tool named scripts/config in linux kernel is helpful to get/set the kernel config options non-interactively, based on it, both of kernel-getconfig and kernel-setconfig are added to tune the kernel options, with them, we can simply "enable/disable/setstr/setval/getstate" of a kernel option or many at the same time:

Get state of a kernel module:

```
$ make kernel-getconfig m=minix_fs
Getting kernel config: MINIX_FS ...

build/aarch64/linux-v5.1-virt/.config:CONFIG_MINIX_FS=m
```

Enable a kernel module:

```
$ make kernel-setconfig m=minix_fs
Setting kernel config: m=minix_fs ...

build/aarch64/linux-v5.1-virt/.config:CONFIG_MINIX_FS=m

Enable new kernel config: minix_fs ...
```

More control commands of kernel-setconfig including y, n, c, o, s, v:

Option	Description
у	build the modules in kernel or enable anther kernel options.
С	build the modules as pluginable modules, just like $\mathtt{m}.$
0	build the modules as pluginable modules, just like $\mathtt{m}.$
n	disable a kernel option.
s	RTC_SYSTOHC_DEVICE="rtc0", set the rtc device to rtc0
v	PANIC_TIMEOUT=5, set the kernel panic timeout to 5 secs.

Operates many options in one command line:

```
$ make kernel-setconfig m=tun,minix_fs y=ikconfig v=panic_timeout=5 s=DEFAULT_HOSTNAME=
linux-lab n=debug_info
$ make kernel-getconfig o=tun,minix,ikconfig,panic_timeout,hostname
```

4.1.2 using kernel modules

Build all internel kernel modules:

List available modules in src/modules/, boards/<BOARD>/bsp/modules/:

```
1 $ make modules-list
```

If m argument specified, list available modules in src/modules/, boards/<BOARD>/bsp/modules/ and src/linux-stable/:

Enable one kernel module:

```
$ make kernel-getconfig m=minix_fs
Getting kernel config: MINIX_FS ...

build/aarch64/linux-v5.1-virt/.config:CONFIG_MINIX_FS=m

make kernel-setconfig m=minix_fs
Setting kernel config: m=minix_fs ...

build/aarch64/linux-v5.1-virt/.config:CONFIG_MINIX_FS=m

Enable new kernel config: minix_fs ...
```

Build one kernel module (e.g. minix.ko):

```
1 $ make modules M=fs/minix/
2 Or
3 $ make modules m=minix
```

Install and clean the module:

```
$ make modules-install M=fs/minix/
$ make modules-clean M=fs/minix/
```

More flexible usage:

Build external kernel modules (the same as internel modules):

```
1 | $ make modules m=hello
2 | Or
3 | $ make kernel x=$PWD/modules/hello.ko
```

4.1.3 using kernel features

4.1.3.1 list supported kernel features

Kernel features are abstracted in 'src/feature/linux/, including their configurations patchset, it can be used to manage both of the out-of-mainline and in-mainline features.

```
$ make feature-list
 2
   [ /labs/linux-lab/src/feature/linux ]:
 3
      + 9pnet
 4
      + core
 5
        - debug
        - module
 6
 7
      + ftrace
 8
        -v2.6.36
9
          * env.g3beige
10
          * env.malta
11
          * env.pc
12
          * env.versatilepb
13
        - v2.6.37
14
          * env.g3beige
15
      + gcs
16
        - v2.6.36
17
          * env.g3beige
18
          * env.malta
19
          * env.pc
20
          * env.versatilepb
21
      + kft
22
        - v2.6.36
23
          * env.malta
24
          * env.pc
25
      + uksm
26
        - v2.6.38
```

Verified boards and linux versions are recorded there, so, it should work without any issue if the environment not changed.

4.1.3.2 using kernel modules

For example, to enable kernel modules support, simply do:

```
// only upper case 'FEATURE' will be saved
$ make feature FEATURE=module
$ make kernel-olddefconfig
$ make kernel
```

4.1.3.3 using rust feature

Use $x86_64/pc$ as an example:

switch to v5.13 Linux, because the current latest rust patchset can only be applied to v5.13:

```
1 $ make config LINUX=v5.13
```

Compile the kernel, and test it with one of the simplest module - rust_print:

```
// clean up everything for a whole new test
make kernel-cleanall
// this 'f' variable will not be saved for standalone make targets
make test f=rust m=rust_print
```

4.1.3.4 using kft feature

For kft feature in v2.6.36 for malta board:

```
$ make cleanall b=malta

$ make test b=malta f=kft LINUX=v2.6.36
```

4.1.3.5 using rt feature

Linux officially provide RT Preemption support, but many patches are outside of mainline kernel, to use it:

```
$ make feature-list f=rt
$ make test b=i386/pc f=rt LINUX=v5.2
```

4.1.3.6 persist or clear feature setting

Clear feature setting (reset feature saved in .labconfig):

The above function is the same as 'make config'.

4.1.4 Create new development branch

If want to use a new development branch, please follow such steps:

At first, Get into src/linux-stable or another directory specified with KERNEL_SRC, checkout a development branch from a specific version:

```
1 $ cd src/linux-stable
2 $ git checkout -b linux-v5.1-dev v5.1
```

And then, clone the necessary configurations and directories for our new branch.

```
1 $ make kernel-clone LINUX=v5.1 LINUX_NEW=linux-v5.1-dev
```

The v5.1 must be the already supported version, if not, please use the near one in supported list, for example, i386/pc board support such versions:

If want to develop v2.6.38, please try to clone one from v2.6.36:

```
$ cd src/linux-stable
$ git checkout -b linux-v2.6.38-dev v2.6.38
$ make kernel-clone LINUX=v2.6.36 LINUX_NEW=linux-v2.6.38-dev
```

In development, please commit asap, and also, please use such commands carefully to avoid destroy your important changes:

- kernel-checkout, checkout a specified kernel version, may override your changes
- kernel-cleanup, clean up git repository, may remove your changes
- kernel-clean, clean building history
- kernel-cleanall, clean both of the building history and the source code changes

4.1.5 Use standalone git repository

v0.8 starts to add KERNEL_FORK, allows to configure the third party Linux source code repository, has added openEuler and wsl2, both of them support x86_64/pc and the former support aarch64/virt too.

For example, to compile wsl2 kernel, switch kernel_fork to wsl2 directly:

To configure the wsl2 kernel version, configure it as following:

The value should be one of the available tag in git tag list.

4.2 Using Uboot Bootloader

Choose one of the tested boards: versatilepb and vexpress-a9.

```
1 $ make BOARD=vexpress-a9
```

Download Uboot:

```
1 $ make uboot-source
```

Checkout the specified version:

```
1 $ make uboot-checkout
```

Patching with necessary changes, BOOTDEV and ROOTDEV available, use flash by default.

```
1 $ make uboot-patch
```

Use tftp, sdcard or flash explicitly, should run make uboot-checkout before a new uboot-patch:

```
$ make uboot-patch BOOTDEV=tftp
$ make uboot-patch BOOTDEV=sdcard
$ make uboot-patch BOOTDEV=flash
```

BOOTDEV is used to specify where to store and load the images for uboot, ROOTDEV is used to tell kernel where to load the rootfs.

Configure:

```
$ make uboot-defconfig
$ make uboot-menuconfig
```

Building:

```
$ make uboot
```

Boot with BOOTDEV and ROOTDEV, use flash by default:

```
$ make boot U=1
```

Use tftp, sdcard or flash explicitly:

We can also change ROOTDEV during boot, for example:

```
1 $ make boot U=1 BOOTDEV=flash ROOTDEV=nfs
```

Clean images if want to update ramdisk, dtb and uImage:

Save uboot images and configs:

```
1 $ make uboot-save
2 $ make uboot-saveconfig
```

4.3 Using Qemu Emulator

Builtin qemu may not work with the newest linux kernel, so, we need compile and add external prebuilt qemu, this has been tested on vexpress-a9 and virt board.

At first, build qemu-system-ARCH:

```
$ make B=vexpress-a9
$ make qemu
$ make qemu-save
```

qemu-ARCH-static and qemu-system-ARCH can not be compiled together. to build qemu-ARCH-static, please enable qemu_us=1 in board specific Makefile and rebuild it.

If QEMU and QTOOL specified, the one in bsp submodule will be used in advance of one installed in system, but the first used is the one just compiled if exists.

While porting to newer kernel, Linux 5.0 hangs during boot on qemu 2.5, after compiling a newer qemu 2.12.0, no hang exists. please take notice of such issue in the future kernel upgrade.

If already download qemu and its submodules and don't want to upadte the submodules, just skip it:

```
1 $ make qemu git_module_status=0
```

4.4 Using Toolchains

The pace of Linux mainline is very fast, builtin toolchains can not keep up, to reduce the maintaining pressure, external toolchain feature is added. for example, ARM64/virt, CCVER and CCPATH has been added for it.

List available prebuilt toolchains:

```
1 $ make gcc-list
```

Download, decompress and enable the external toolchain:

```
1 $ make gcc
```

Switch compiler version if exists, for example:

```
$ make gcc-switch CCORI=internal GCC=4.7

make gcc-switch CCORI=linaro
```

If not external toolchain there, the builtin will be used back.

If no builtin toolchain exists, please must use this external toolchain feature, currently, aarch64, arm, riscv, mipsel, ppc, i386, x86_64 support such feature.

GCC version can be configured in board specific Makefile for Linux, Uboot, Qemu and Root, for example:

```
1 GCC[LINUX_v2.6.11.12] = 4.4
```

With this configuration, GCC will be switched automatically during defconfig and compiling of the specified Linux v2.6.11.12.

To build host tools, host gcc should be configured too(please specify b=i386/pc explicitly):

```
1 $ make gcc-list b=i386/pc
2 $ make gcc-switch CCORI=internal GCC=4.8 b=i386/pc
```

4.5 Using Rootfs

Builtin rootfs is minimal, is not enough for complex application development, which requires modern Linux distributions.

Such a type of rootfs has been introduced and has been released as docker image, ubuntu 18.04 is added for arm32v7 at first, more later.

Run it via docker directly:

```
1 $ docker run -it tinylab/arm32v7-ubuntu
```

Extract it out and run in Linux Lab:

```
(host)$ sudo apt-get install -y qemu-user-static
```

ARM32/vexpress-a9 (user: root, password: root):

```
(host)$ tools/root/docker/extract.sh tinylab/arm32v7-ubuntu arm
(lab )$ make boot b=arm/vexpress-a9 U=0 V=1 MEM=1024M ROOTDEV=nfs ROOTFS=$PWD/prebuilt/fullroot/tmp/tinylab-arm32v7-ubuntu
```

ARM64/raspi3 (user: root, password: root):

```
1 (host)$ tools/root/docker/extract.sh tinylab/arm64v8-ubuntu arm
2 (lab )$ make boot b=aarch64/virt V=1 ROOTDEV=nfs ROOTFS=$PWD/prebuilt/fullroot/tmp/
tinylab-arm64v8-ubuntu
```

More rootfs from docker can be found:

4.6 Debugging Linux and Uboot

4.6.1 Debugging Linux

Compile the kernel with debugging options:

Compile with one thread:

```
1 $ make kernel JOBS=1
```

And then debug it directly:

```
1 $ make debug
```

If login via vnc or webvnc, It will open a new terminal, load the scripts from .gdb/kernel. default, run gdb automatically.

But if login with bash, ssh or webssh, please read the prompt and run this command again to start debugging:

```
1 $ make debug
```

To customize kernel gdbinit script, simply copy one and edit it manually:

```
1 $ cp .gdb/kernel.default .gdb/kernel.user
```

It equals to:

```
$ make debug linux
```

to automate debug testing:

```
1 $ make test-debug linux
```

find out the code line of a kernel panic address:

```
$ make kernel-calltrace func+offset/length
```

if the debug port has been used, please try to find out who used the port and kill it:

4.6.2 Debugging Uboot

To debug uboot with .gdb/uboot.default:

```
$ make debug uboot
```

If login with vnc or webvnc, the above command will open a terminal and start debugging automatically.

But if login with bash, ssh or webssh, please read the prompt and run this command again to start real debugging:

```
1 $ make debug uboot
```

To automate uboot debug testing:

```
1 $ make test-debug uboot
```

The same to kernel gdbinit script, customize one for uboot:

```
1 $ cp .gdb/uboot.default .gdb/uboot.user
```

4.7 Test Automation

Use aarch64/virt as the demo board here.

```
1 $ make BOARD=virt
```

Prepare for testing, install necessary files/scripts in src/system/:

```
1 $ make rootdir 2 $ make root-rebuild
```

Simply boot and poweroff (See poweroff hang):

```
1 $ make test
```

Don't poweroff after testing:

```
1 $ make test TEST_FINISH=echo
```

Run guest test case:

```
1 $ make test TEST_CASE=/tools/ftrace/trace.sh
```

Run guest test cases (COMMAND_LINE_SIZE must be big enough, e.g. 4096, see cmdline_size feature below):

```
$ make test TEST_BEGIN=date TEST_END=date TEST_CASE='ls /;echo hello world'
```

Reboot the guest system for several times:

```
1 $ make test TEST_REBOOT=2
```

NOTE: reboot may 1) hang, 2) continue; 3) timeout killed, TEST_TIMEOUT=30; 4) timeout continue, TIMEOUT_CONTINUE=1

Test a feature of a specified linux version on a specified board(cmdline_size feature is for increase command_line_size to 4096):

```
$ make test f=kft LINUX=v2.6.36 b=malta TEST_PREPARE=board-init,kernel-cleanup
```

NOTE: board-init and kernel-cleanup make sure test run automatically, but kernel-cleanup is not safe, please save your code before use it!!

Test a kernel module:

```
1 $ make test m=hello
```

Test multiple kernel modules:

```
$ make test m=exception,hello
```

Test modules with specified ROOTDEV, nfs boot is used by default, but some boards may not support network:

```
$ make test m=hello,exception TEST_RD=ram0
```

Run test cases while testing kernel modules (test cases run between insmod and rm-mod):

```
$ make test m=exception TEST_BEGIN=date TEST_END=date TEST_CASE='ls /root;echo hello
world' TEST_PREPARE=board-init,kernel-cleanup f=cmdline_size
```

Run test cases while testing internal kernel modules:

Run test cases while testing internal kernel modules, pass kernel arguments:

```
1 | $ make test m=lkdtm lkdtm_args='cpoint_name=DIRECT cpoint_type=EXCEPTION'
```

Run test without feature-init (save time if not necessary):

Run test with module and the module's necessary dependencies (check with make kernel -menuconfig):

Run test without feature-init, boot-init, boot-finish and no TEST_PREPARE:

```
1 | $ make boot-test m=lkdtm lkdtm_args='cpoint_name=DIRECT cpoint_type=EXCEPTION'
```

Test a kernel module and make some targets before testing:

```
$ make test m=exception TEST=kernel-checkout,kernel-patch,kernel-defconfig
```

Test everything in one command (from download to poweroff, see poweroff hang):

```
$ make test TEST=kernel,root TEST_PREPARE=board-init,kernel-cleanup,root-cleanup
```

Test everything in one command (with uboot while support, e.g. vexpress-a9):

```
$ make test TEST=kernel,root,uboot TEST_PREPARE=board-init,kernel-cleanup,root-cleanup, uboot-cleanup
```

Test kernel hang during boot, allow to specify a timeout, timeout must happen while system hang:

Test kernel debug:

```
1 $ make test DEBUG=1
```

Notes: The above tests may fail on some boards with some Linux versions, please upgrade the kernel versions if necessary.

4.8 File Sharing

To transfer files between Qemu Board and Host, three methods are supported by default:

4.8.1 Install files to rootfs

Simply put the files with a relative path in src/system/, install and rebuild the rootfs:

4.8.2 Share with NFS

Boot the board with ROOTDEV=nfs:

```
1 $ make boot ROOTDEV=nfs
```

Host:

4.8.3 Transfer via tftp

Using tftp server of host from the Qemu board with the tftp command.

Host:

```
1    $ ifconfig br0
2    inet addr:172.17.0.3    Bcast:172.17.255.255    Mask:255.255.0.0
3    $ cd tftpboot/
4    $ ls tftpboot
5    kft.patch kft.log
```

Qemu Board:

Note: while put file from Qemu board to host, must create an empty file in host firstly. Buggy?

4.8.4 Share with 9p virtio

To enable 9p virtio for a new board, please refer to qemu 9p setup. qemu must be compiled with --enable-virtfs, and kernel must enable the necessary options.

Reconfigure the kernel with:

```
CONFIG_NET_9P=y
CONFIG_NET_9P_VIRTIO=y
CONFIG_NET_9P_DEBUG=y (Optional)
CONFIG_9P_FS=y
CONFIG_9P_FS_POSIX_ACL=y
CONFIG_PCI=y
CONFIG_VIRTIO_PCI=y
CONFIG_PCI_HOST_GENERIC=y (only needed for the QEMU Arm 'virt' board)
```

If using -virtfs or -device virtio-9p-pci option for qemu, must enable the above PCI related options, otherwise will not work:

```
9pnet_virtio: no channels available for device hostshare
mount: mounting hostshare on /hostshare failed: No such file or directory
```

-device virtio-9p-device requires less kernel options.

To enable the above options, please simply type:

```
$ make feature FEATURE=9pnet
$ make kernel-olddefconfig
```

Docker host:

Host:

```
$ make BOARD=virt

make root-rebuild

touch hostshare/test  # Create a file in host

make boot U=0 ROOTDEV=ram0 PBR=1 SHARE=1

make boot SHARE=1 SHARE_DIR=src/modules  # for external modules development

make boot SHARE=1 SHARE_DIR=build/aarch64/linux-v5.1-virt/  # for internal modules learning

make boot SHARE=1 SHARE_DIR=src/examples  # for c/assembly learning
```

Qemu Board:

```
$\text{ls /hostshare/}  # Access the file in guest test
$\text{test}$
$\text{touch /hostshare/guest-test}  # Create a file in guest
```

Verified boards with Linux v5.1:

boards	Status
	Status
aarch64/virt	virtio-9p-device (virtio-9p-pci breaks nfsroot)
arm/vexpress-a9	only work with virtio-9p-device and without uboot booting
arm/versatilepb	only work with virtio-9p-pci
$x86_64/pc$	only work with virtio-9p-pci
i386/pc	only work with virtio-9p-pci
riscv64/virt	work with virtio-9p-pci and virtio-9p-dev
riscv32/virt	work with virtio-9p-pci and virtio-9p-dev

4.9 Learning Assembly

Linux Lab has added many assembly examples in src/examples/assembly:

```
$ cd src/examples/assembly
2 $ ls
3 aarch64 arm mips64el mipsel powerpc powerpc64 riscv32 riscv64 x86 x86_64
4 $ make -s -C aarch64/
Hello, ARM64!
```

4.10 Learning C

4.10.1 Host build and Run

Use hello as example:

4.10.2 Cross build and Run

Use X32 (Code for x86-64, int/long/pointer to 32bits), ARM, MIPS, PPC and RISCV as example:

```
1 $ sudo apt-get update -y
 2
 3 | $ sudo apt-get install -y libc6-x32 libc6-dev-x32 libx32gcc-8-dev
   $ gcc -mx32 -o hello hello.c
   $ ./hello
   Hello, World!
   $ sudo apt-get install -y libc6-dev-armel-cross libc6-armel-cross
   $ arm-linux-gnueabi-gcc -o hello hello.c
10
   $ qemu-arm -L /usr/arm-linux-gnueabi/ ./hello
11 Hello, World!
12
13 | $ sudo apt-get install -y libc6-dev-mipsel-cross libc6-mipsel-cross
   $ mipsel-linux-gnu-gcc -o hello hello.c
15 | $ qemu-mipsel -L /usr/mipsel-linux-gnu/ ./hello
16 Hello, World!
17
18 | $ sudo apt-get install -y libc6-dev-powerpc-cross libc6-powerpc-cross
19 // Must use -static for Linux Lab v0.6, otherwise, there will be segmentation fault
20 | $ powerpc-linux-gnu-gcc -static -o hello hello.c
21 | $ qemu-ppc -L /usr/powerpc-linux-gnu/ ./hello
22 Hello, World!
23
24 | $ sudo apt-get install -y libc6-riscv64-cross libc6-dev-riscv64-cross
25 | $ riscv64-linux-gnu-gcc -o hello hello.c
26 | $ qemu-riscv64 -L /usr/riscv64-linux-gnu/ ./hello
27 Hello, World!
```

Above run through qemu-user, to run on target boards, please copy the binaries to target boards' rootfs with help from section 4.8.1.

The main packages are libc6-dev, libc6 or libgcc, but x32 is an expection, it is libx32gcc. please list them via apt-cache search.

4.11 Running any make goals

Linux Lab allows to access Makefile goals of the APPS easily, for example:

```
$ make kernel help
   $ make kernel menuconfig
3
   $ make root help
   $ make root busybox-menuconfig
   $ make uboot help
   $ make uboot menuconfig
10
11
12
   $ make kernel-help
13
   $ make kernel-menuconfig
14
15
   $ make root-help
16
   $ make root-busybox-menuconfig
17
18
   $ make uboot-help
   $ make uboot-menuconfig
```

Allows to run sub-make goals of kernel, root and uboot directly without entering into their own building directory.

4.12 More Usage

Read more:

- Why
 - Why Using Linux Lab V1.0 (In Chinese)
 - Why Using Linux Lab V2.0 (In Chinese)
- User Manual
 - Linux Lab v1.0 User Manual
 - Linux Lab v0.9 User Manual
 - Linux Lab v0.8 User Manual
 - Linux Lab Loongson Manual V0.2
- Linux Lab Videos
 - CCTALK

- Bilibili
- Zhihu
- Video Courses use Linux Lab as experiment environment
 - The Perspective Linux ELF
 - 《Rust Language Quickstart》
 - «Software Reverse Engineering Quickstart»
 - 《Linux Kernel Livepatch Introduction》
- $\bullet\,$ The books or courses Linux Lab supported or plan to support
 - books or courses list
- The boards Linux Lab supported or plan to support
 - ARM IMX6ULL
 - RISCV-64 D1
- The hardwares developed by Linux Lab community
 - Linux Lab Disk, pre-installed Linux Lab disk
 - * Support Ubuntu 18.04-21.04, Deepin 20.2+, Fedora 34+, Mint 20.2+, Ezgo 14.04+, Kali, Manjaro
 - Pocket Linux Disk, pre-installed Linux distribution disk
 - * Support Ubuntu 18.04-21.04, Deepin 20.2+, Fedora 34+, Mint 20.2+, Ezgo 14.04+, Kali, Manjaro

5. Linux Lab Development

This introduces how to add a new board for Linux Lab.

5.1 Choose a board supported by gemu

list the boards, use arm as an example:

```
1 $ qemu-system-arm -M ?
```

5.2 Create the board directory

Use vexpress-a9 as an example:

```
$ mkdir boards/arm/vexpress-a9/
```

5.3 Clone a Makefile from an existing board

Use versatilepb as an example:

```
cp boards/arm/versatilebp/Makefile boards/arm/vexpress-a9/Makefile
```

5.4 Configure the variables from scratch

Comment everything, add minimal ones and then others.

Please refer to doc/qemu/qemu-doc.html or the online one https://www.qemu.org/docs/master/.

5.5 At the same time, prepare the configs

We need to prepare the configs for linux, buildroot and even uboot.

Buildroot has provided many examples about buildroot and kernel configuration:

```
buildroot: src/buildroot/configs/qemu_ARCH_BOARD_defconfig kernel: src/buildroot/board/qemu/ARCH-BOARD/linux-VERSION.config
```

Uboot has also provided many default configs:

```
1 uboot: src/u-boot/configs/vexpress_ca9x4_defconfig
```

Kernel itself also:

```
kernel: src/linux-stable/arch/arm/configs/vexpress_defconfig
```

Linux Lab itself also provide many working configs too, the xxx-clone target is a good helper to utilize existing configs:

Edit the configs and Makefile untill they match our requirements.

```
1  $ make kernel-menuconfig
2  $ make root-menuconfig
3  $ make board-edit
```

The configuration must be put in boards/<BOARD>/ and named with necessary version info, use raspi3 as an example:

2019.02.2 is the buildroot version, v5.1 is the kernel version, both of these variables should be configured in boards/SDARD>/Makefile.

More usage about the xxx-clone commands:

```
$ make qemu-clone QEMU=<old_version> QEMU_NEW=<new_version>
$ make uboot-clone UB00T=<old_version> UB00T_NEW=<new_version>
$ make kernel-clone LINUX=<old_version> LINUX_NEW=<new_version>
$ make root-clone BUILDROOT=<old_version> BUILDROOT_NEW=<new_version>
```

5.6 Choose the versions of kernel, rootfs and uboot

Please use tag instead of branch, use kernel as an example:

```
1 $ cd src/linux-stable
2 $ git tag
3 ...
4 v5.0
5 ...
6 v5.1
7 ..
8 v5.1.1
9 v5.1.5
10 ...
```

If want v5.1 kernel, just put a line "LINUX = v5.1" in boards/<BOARD>/Makefile.

Or clone a kernel config from the old one or the official defconfig:

```
$ make kernel-clone LINUX_NEW=v5.3 LINUX=v5.1

Or

make B=i386/pc

pushd linux-stable && git checkout v5.4 && popd

make kernel-clone LINUX_NEW=v5.4 KCFG=i386_defconfig
```

If no tag existed, a virtual tag name with the real commmit number can be configured as following:

```
LINUX = v2.6.11.12
LINUX[LINUX_v2.6.11.12] = 8e63197f
```

Linux version specific ROOTFS are also supported:

```
ROOTFS[LINUX_v2.6.12.6] ?= $(BSP_ROOT)/$(BUILDROOT)/rootfs32.cpio.gz
```

5.7 Configure, build and boot them

Use kernel as an example:

The same to rootfs, uboot and even qemu.

5.7.1 Speed up compiling and save disk life

Notes: This operation may lose data, please take care!

This feature aims to create a ram based temporary filesystem as the 'build' directory, to store the building data, If not backup them, they will be lost after shutting down the machine.

Create temporary building cache:

```
1 $ make build cache
```

Check the status of building cache:

```
1 $ make build status
```

Use the cache for building speedup:

```
1 $ time make kernel
```

Backup the cache to a persistent file (If the building file are important to you):

```
1 $ make build backup
```

Stop the building cache, revert back to use the build directory on the disk:

```
1 $ make build uncache
```

Use the backup as the build directory:

```
$ sudo mount /path/to/backup-file /labs/linux-lab/build/
```

5.8 Save the images and configs

5.9 Upload everything

At last, upload the images, defconfigs, patchest to board specific bsp submodule repository.

Firstly, get the remote bsp repository address as following:

```
$ git remote show origin

* remote origin

Fetch URL: https://gitee.com/tinylab/qemu-aarch64-raspi3/

Push URL: https://gitee.com/tinylab/qemu-aarch64-raspi3/

HEAD branch: master

Remote branch:

master tracked

Local branch configured for 'git pull':

master merges with remote master

Local ref configured for 'git push':

master pushes to master (local out of date)
```

Then, fork this repository from gitee.com, upload your changes, and send your pull request.

6. FAQs

6.1 Docker Issues

6.1.1 Speed up docker images downloading

To optimize docker images download speed, please refer to section 6.1.6.

6.1.2 Docker network conflicts with LAN

We assume the docker network is 10.66.0.0/16, if not, we'd better change it as following:

```
$ sudo vim /etc/default/docker
DOCKER_OPTS="$DOCKER_OPTS --bip=10.66.0.10/16"

$ sudo vim /lib/systemd/system/docker.service
ExecStart=/usr/bin/dockerd -H fd:// --bip=10.66.0.10/16
```

Please restart docker service and lab container to make this change works:

```
$ sudo service docker restart
$ tools/docker/rerun linux-lab
```

If lab network still not work, please try another private network address and eventually to avoid conflicts with LAN address.

6.1.3 Why not allow running Linux Lab in local host

The full function of Linux Lab depends on the full docker environment managed by Cloud Lab, so, please really never try and therefore please don't complain about why there are lots of packages missing failures and even the other weird issues.

Linux Lab is designed to use pre-installed environment with the docker technology and save our life by avoiding the packages installation issues in different systems, so, Linux Lab would never support local host using even in the future.

6.1.4 Run tools without sudo

To use the tools under tools without sudo, please make sure add your account to the docker group and reboot your system to take effect:

```
1 $ sudo usermod -aG docker <USER>
2 $ newgrp docker
```

Notes: Currently, root user is not allowed to run Linux Lab.

6.1.5 Network not work

If ping not work, please check one by one:

• DNS issue

if ping 8.8.8.8 work, please check /etc/resolv.conf and make sure it is the same as your host configuration.

• IP issue

if ping not work, please refer to network conflict issue and change the ip range of docker containers.

6.1.6 Client. Timeout exceeded while waiting headers

This means must configure one of the following docker mirror sites:

- Aliyun Docker Mirror Documentation
- USTC Docker Mirror Documentation

Potential methods of configuration in Ubuntu, depends on docker and ubuntu versions:

/etc/default/docker:

```
echo "DOCKER_OPTS=\"\$DOCKER_OPTS --registry-mirror=<your accelerate address>\""
```

/lib/systemd/system/docker.service:

```
ExecStart=/usr/bin/dockerd -H fd:// --bip=10.66.0.10/16 --registry-mirror=<your accelerate address>
```

/etc/docker/daemon.json:

```
1 {
2     "registry-mirrors": ["<your accelerate address>"]
3 }
```

Please restart docker service after change the accelerate address:

```
1 $ sudo service docker restart
```

For the other Linux systems, Windows and MacOS System, please refer to Aliyun Mirror Speedup Document.

IF still slow, please check if the mirror site is configured normally and without typos:

```
1 $ docker info | grep -A1 -i Mirrors
2 Registry Mirrors:
3 https://XXXXX.mirror.aliyuncs.com/
```

6.1.7 Restart Linux Lab after host system shutdown or reboot

If want to restore the installed softwares and related configurations, please save the container manually:

```
1 $ tools/docker/save linux-lab
```

After host system (include virtual machine) shutdown or reboot, you can restart the lab via the "Linux Lab" icon on the desktop, or just like before, issue this command:

```
1 $ tools/docker/run linux-lab
```

Current implementation doesn't support the direct 'docker start' command, please learn it.

If the above methods still not restart the lab, please refer to the methods mentioned in the 6.3.9 section.

If resume from a suspended host system, the lab will restore automatically, no need to do anything to restart it, just use one of the 4 login methods mentioned in the 2.4 section, for example, start a web browser to connect it:

```
1 $ tools/docker/webvnc
```

6.1.8 the following directives are specified both as a flag and in the configuration file

If getting such error:

```
unable to configure the Docker daemon with file /etc/docker/daemon.json: the
following directives are specified both as a flag and in the configuration
file: registry-mirrors: (from flag: [https://docker.mirrors.ustc.edu.cn/], from
file: [https://xxx.mirror.aliyuncs.com])
```

Means both /etc/docker/daemon.json and /etc/default/docker configured registry-mirrors, please comment the late one and restart docker:

```
1 $ sudo service docker restart
```

6.1.9 pathspec FETCH HEAD did not match any file known to git

If get such error while running make boot, it means network issue, please refer to section 6.1.5 \circ

```
Could not resolve host: gitee.com
error: pathspec 'FETCH_HEAD' dit not match any file(s) known to git
```

6.1.10 Docker not work in Ubuntu 20.04

If docker not work in Ubuntu 20.04, please use doc/install/daemon.json and clean up the arguments of dockerd, learn more from docker daemon:

```
$ sudo cat /etc/systemd/system/docker.service.d/docker.conf
[Service]
ExecStart=
ExecStart=/usr/bin/dockerd

$ sudo cp /etc/docker/daemon.json /etc/docker/daemon.json.bak
$ sudo cp doc/install/daemon.json /etc/docker/
$ sudo service docker restart
```

Please make sure using the best registry-mirrors for better download speed.

6.1.11 Error creating aufs mount

If not work with failure like "error creating aufs mount to ... invalid arguments", that means the storage driver used by docker is not supported by current system, please choose another one from this page, and configure it in /etc/docker/daemon.json, for example:

```
$ sudo vim /etc/docker/daemon.json
{
    "registry-mirrors": ["https://docker.mirrors.ustc.edu.cn"],
    "storage-driver": "devicemapper"
}
```

This issue is related to kernel version, the same system may upgrade kernel version and therefore support different storage driver.

6.2 Qemu Issues

6.2.1 Why kvm speedding up is disabled

kvm only supports both of qemu-system-i386 and qemu-system-x86_64 currently, and it also requires the cpu and bios support, otherwise, you may get this error log:

```
1 modprobe: ERROR: could not insert 'kvm_intel': Operation not supported
```

Check cpu virtualization support, if nothing output, then, cpu not support virtualization:

```
1 $ cat /proc/cpuinfo | egrep --color=always "vmx|svm"
```

If cpu supports, we also need to make sure it is enabled in bios features, simply reboot your computer, press 'Delete' to enter bios, please make sure the 'Intel virtualization technology' feature is 'enabled'.

6.2.2 Poweroff hang

Both of the poweroff and reboot commands not work on these boards currently (LINUX=v5.1):

- mipsel/malta (exclude LINUX=v2.6.36)
- mipsel/ls232
- mipsel/ls1b
- mips64el/ls2k
- mips64el/ls3a7a
- aarch64/raspi3
- arm/versatilepb

System will directly hang there while running poweroff or reboot, to exit qemu, please pressing CTRL+a x Or using pkill qemu.

To test such boards automatically, please make sure setting Test_TIMEOUT, e.g. make test Test_TIMEOUT=50.

Welcome to fix up them.

6.2.3 How to exit qemu

Where	How	
Serial Port Console	CTRL+a x	
Curses based Graphic	ESC+2 quit Or ALT+2 quit	
X based Graphic	CTRL+ALT+2 quit	
Generic Methods	poweroff, reboot, kill, pkill	

6.2.4 Boot with missing sdl2 libraries failure

That's because the docker image is not updated, just enter into cloud-lab and rerun the lab (please must not use tools/docker/restart here for it not using the new docker image):

```
1 $ tools/docker/rerun linux-lab
```

6.3 Environment Issues

6.3.1 NFS/tftpboot not work

If nfs or tftpboot not work, please run modprobe nfsd in host side and restart the net services via /configs/tools/restart-net-servers.sh and please make sure not use tools/docker/trun.

6.3.2 How to switch windows in vim

CTRL+w is used in both of browser and vim, to switch from one window to another, please use CTRL+Left or CTRL+Right key instead, Linux Lab has remapped CTRL+Right to CTRL+w and CTRL+Left to CTRL+p.

6.3.3 How to delete typo in shell command line

Long keypress not work in novnc client currently, so, long Delete not work, please use alt+delete or alt+backspace instead, more tips:

Function	Vim	Bash
begin/end	^/\$	Ctrl + a/e
forward/backward	w/b	Ctrl + Home/end
cut one word backword	db	Alt + Delete/backspace
cut one word forward	dw	Alt + d
cut all to begin	d^	Ctrl + u
cut all to end	d\$	Ctrl + k
paste all cutted	р	Ctrl + y

6.3.4 Language input switch shortcuts

In order to switch English/Chinese input method, please use ctrl+s shortcuts, it is used instead of ctrl+space to avoid conflicts with local system.

6.3.5 How to tune the screen size

There are tow methods to tune the screen size, one is auto scaling by noVNC, another is pre-setting during launching.

The first one is setting noVNC before connecting.

```
* Press the left sidebar of noVNC web page

2 * Disconnect

* Enable 'Auto Scaling Mode' via 'Settings -> Scaling Mode: -> Local Scaling -> Apply'

4 * Connect
```

The second one is setting screen_size while running Linux Lab.

The screen size of lab is captured by xrandr, if not work, please check and set your own, for example:

Get available screen size values:

```
Screen 0: minimum 1 x 1, current 1916 x 891, maximum 16384 x 16384
 3
   Virtual1 connected primary 1916x891+0+0 (normal left inverted right x axis y axis) 0mm x
        Omm
 4
      1916x891
                      60.00*+
      2560x1600
 5
                     59.99
 6
      1920x1440
                      60.00
 7
      1856x1392
                      60.00
 8
      1792x1344
                      60.00
      1920x1200
9
                     59.88
      1600x1200
10
                     60.00
11
      1680x1050
                     59.95
12
      1400x1050
                     59.98
13
      1280x1024
                      60.02
14
      1440x900
                      59.89
15
      1280x960
                      60.00
16
      1360x768
                      60.02
17
      1280x800
                      59.81
18
      1152x864
                      75.00
      1280x768
19
                      59.87
20
      1024x768
                      60.00
21
      800x600
                      60.32
      640x480
                      59.94
```

Update remote screen size:

```
$ cd /path/to/cloud-lab

$ tools/docker/resize 1280x1024  # Specifiy anyone above

$ tools/docker/resize  # If no argument, Sync with host system
```

If want fullscreen, follow these steps:

- 1. If using virtual machine, fullscreen virtual machine at fist
- 2. Run tools/docker/resize to resize remote lab screen size
- 3. Enter into WebVNC Interface, Click the FullScreen button at the left sidebar

6.3.6 How to work in fullscreen mode

Open the left sidebar, press the 'Fullscreen' button.

6.3.7 How to record video

• Enable recording

Open the left sidebar, press the 'Settings' button, config 'File/Title/Author/Category/Tags/Description' and enable the 'Record Screen' option.

• Start recording

Press the 'Connect' button.

• Stop recording

Press the 'Disconnect' button.

• Replay recorded video

Press the 'Play' button.

• Share it

Videos are stored in 'cloud-lab/recordings', share it with help from showdesk.io.

6.3.8 Linux Lab not response

The VNC connection may hang for some unknown reasons and therefore Linux Lab may not response sometimes, to restore it, please press the flush button of web browser or re-connect after explicitly disconnect.

6.3.9 VNC login with failures

If VNC login return "Disconnect timeout", wait a while and press the left 'Connect' button again, otherwise, check as following:

At first, check the containers' status (Up: Ok, Exit: Bad):

```
$ docker ps -a
CONTAINER ID IMAGE COMMAND CREATED STATUS PORTS NAMES
19a61ba075b5 tinylab/linux-lab "/tools/lab/run" 4 days ago Up 4 days 22/tcp, 5900/tcp
linux-lab-21575
75dae89984c9 tinylab/cloud-ubuntu-web "/startup.sh" 8 days ago Up 8 days ....443/tcp
cloud-ubuntu-web
```

If the status is 'Exit', that means container may be shutdown or may never up, run it again to resume for the shutdown case:

```
1 $ tools/docker/run linux-lab
```

Otherwise, check the running logs:

```
1 $ tools/docker/logs linux-lab
```

If normal, that means the login account and password may have been invalid for some exceptions, please regenerte new account and password with the coming steps:

Note: The clean command will remove some containers and data, please do necessary backup before run it, for example, save the container:

```
1 $ tools/docker/save linux-lab
```

VNC login fails while using mismatched password, to fix up such issue, please clean up all and rerun it:

```
$ tools/docker/clean linux-lab
2 $ tools/docker/rerun linux-lab
```

If the above command not work, please try this one (It will clean more data, please do necessary backup)

```
1 $ tools/docker/clean-all 2 $ tools/docker/rerun linux-lab
```

6.3.10 Ubuntu Snap Issues

Users report many snap issues, please use apt-get instead:

- users can not be added to docker group and break non-root operation.
- snap service exhausts the /dev/loop devices and break mount operation.

6.3.11 How to exit fullscreen mode of vnc clients

The easiest method is kill the VNC server in Linux Lab:

```
1 $ sudo pkill x11vnc
```

6.4 Lab Issues

6.4.1 No working init found

This means the rootfs.ext2 image may be broken, please remove it and try make boot again, for example:

```
$ rm boards/aarch64/raspi3/bsp/root/2019.02.2/rootfs.ext2
$ make boot
```

make boot command can create this image automatically.

6.4.2 linux/compiler-gcc7.h: No such file or directory

This means using a newer gcc than the one linux kernel version supported, the solution is switching to an older gcc version via make gcc-switch, use i386/pc board as an example:

6.4.3 linux-lab/configs: Permission denied

This may happen at make boot while the repository is cloned with root user, please simply update the owner of cloud-lab/ directory:

```
$ cd /path/to/cloud-lab
$ sudo chown <USER> -R ./
$ tools/docker/rerun linux-lab
```

Notes: To make a consistent working environment, Linux Lab only support using as general user: 'ubuntu'.

6.4.4 scripts/Makefile.headersinst: Missing UAPI file

This means MAC OSX not use Case sensitive filesystem, create one using haintil or Disk Utility yourself:

```
$ hdiutil create -type SPARSE -size 60g -fs "Case-sensitive Journaled HFS+" -volname labspace labspace.dmg

$ hdiutil attach -mountpoint ~/Develop/labspace -nobrowse labspace.dmg.sparseimage $ cd ~/Develop/labspace
```

6.4.5 unable to create file: net/netfilter/xt_dscp.c

This means Windows not enable filesystem's case sensitive feature, just enable it:

```
1  $ cd /path/to/cloud-lab
2  $ fsutil file SetCaseSensitiveInfo ./ enable
```

6.4.6 how to run as root

By default, no password required to run as root with:

```
1 $ sudo -s
```

Notes: Please don't use the 'su' command.

6.4.7 not in supported list

Such information means the specified value is not supported currently:

There are two main types:

- One is the specified version is not there or has not been verified
 - Please clone one and verify it with the usage of xxx-clone from section 5.
- Another is the specified value is invalid or simply not verified
 - For example, the above vda is not added in the ROOTDEV_LIST
 - This board may not support such type of device or just nobody verify and add it
 - This differs from board and kernel version

6.4.8 is not a valid rootfs directory

If using prebuilt filesystem, this error means the rootfs dir, ramdisk or harddisk creating procedure has been interrupted by CTRL+C or similar operations and it means the filesystem is not complete. If no important changes in BSP repository, reset it may help:

```
1 $ make bsp-cleanup
```

If using external filesystem, please make sure the filesystem architecture follows the Linux standards.

7. Contact and Sponsor

Contact Us

Welcome to join our discuss group:

• Wechat: tinylab

• Email: contact /AT tinylab /dot/ org

Give me a star

Welcome to mark our web site, star our git repositories:

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 $-\,$ Focus on Linux kernel and embedded Linux system

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 - Welcome to buy some based on your requirement, you can search 'Linux Lab' in taobao application to find us
- Circle: https://t.zsxq.com/uB2vJyF
 - The VIP knowledge channel of TinyLab.org community
 - Create 3+ years, about 1000+ shares and 20+ Linux professionals
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Figure 3: contact-sponsor

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 - Lazyparser
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