SMP and Networking support on NuttX / LC823450

Conference Paper · March 2018

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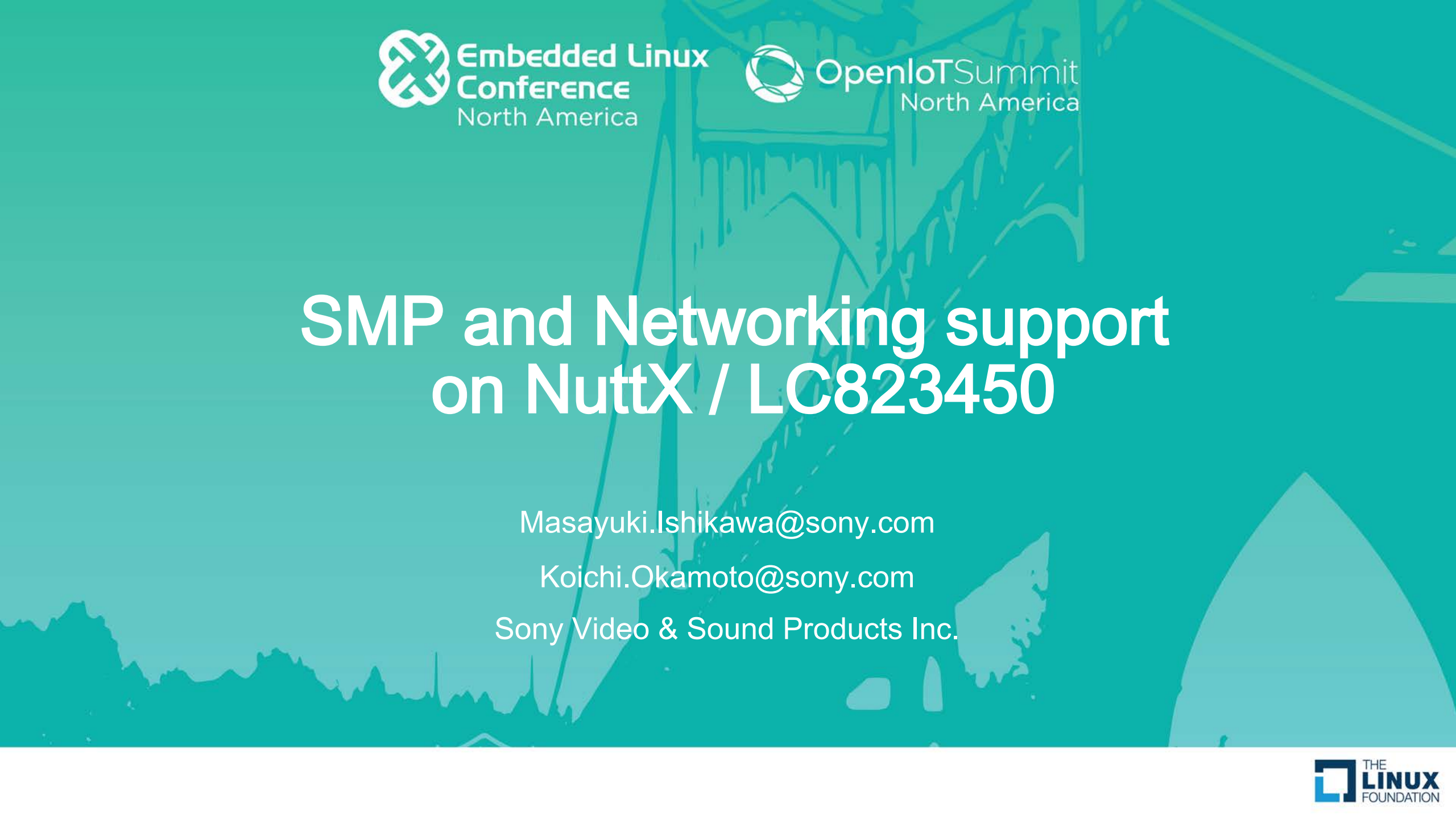

SMP and Networking support on NuttX / LC823450

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About us

SONY

Masayuki Ishikawa

Sony Video & Sound Products Inc.

Senior Software Engineer

Technical background

- 3D graphics application development
- Home networking software development
- Internet-to-home service development
- Linux-based audio products development
- Android-based audio products development
- NuttX-based audio products development

Koichi Okamoto

Sony Video & Sound Products Inc.

Senior System Engineer

Technical background

- DAB Base Band LSI development
- Non OS Car audio development
- Linux-based 1SEG mobile DTV development
- Android-based AVC/AVN development
- uITRON-based Car audio development
- Linux-based network platform development

Agenda

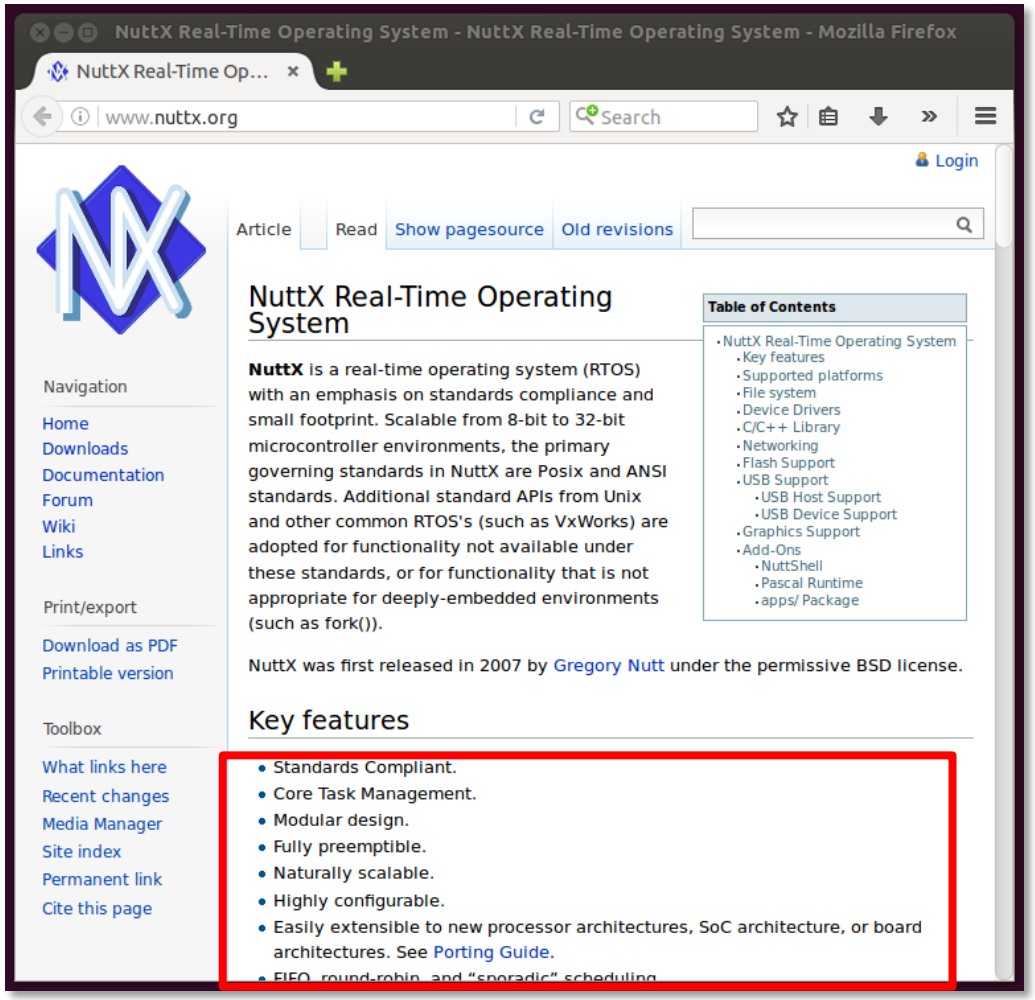
SONY

- About NuttX and why we chose it
- Development history (NuttX-based products)
- New topics
  - The road to NuttX upstream
  - SMP (Symmetric Multiprocessing) related status
  - OpenOCD NuttX status
  - Networking related status
- Demo videos
- Future challenges

About NuttX and why we chose it

SONY

- POSIX and libc are supported
  - Can reuse existing software
  - Can reduce training costs
- ELF* is supported
  - Can divide into small apps
- Driver framework is supported
  - Helps us implement drivers
- Has Linux-like configuration system
  - Helps us develop multiple products
- Many MCUs and boards are supported
  - Helps us port NuttX to new MCU
- Provided with BSD license



From http://www.nuttx.org/

* ELF = Executable and Linking Format

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Project report from OpenHub *

SONY

NuttX

Settings | Report Duplicate

Very High Activity

In a Nutshell, NuttX...

... has had 35,557 commits made by 220 contributors representing 1,524,735 lines of code

... is mostly written in C with a very well-commented source code

... has a well established, mature codebase maintained by a very large development team with stable Y-O-Y commits

... took an estimated 435 years of effort (COCOMO model) starting with its first commit in February, 2007 ending with its most recent commit 26 days ago

Contributors per Month

Most Recent Contributors

patacongo

raiden00pl

Masayuki Ishikawa

Fanda Vacek

Matt Thompson

Fanda

*https://www.openhub.net/p/nuttx (as of 23/Feb/2018)

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Development history*(NuttX-based products)

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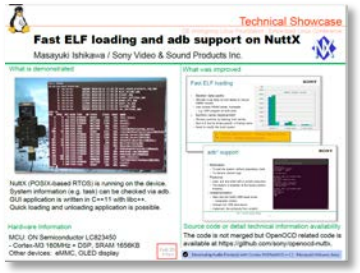
- 10/2013 -
  - Ported NuttX to LC823425 (ARM7)
- 04/2014 –
  - Ported bluetooth stack to NuttX + QEMU
- 07/2014 -
  - Ported NuttX to LC823450 (Cortex-M3) FPGA
- 01/2015 -
  - Migrated to LC823450-ES board
- 09/2015 -
  - Released NuttX-based audio products.
- 02/2017 -
  - Talked at ELC2017 North America **





*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TjuzH6JthxQ ** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8fLjWyI5nI,

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FY16-17 products*

SONY

NW-WS620

- Music player with bluetooth (A2DP, HFP/HSP)
- Ambient sound mode
- Up to 12h of battery life

ICD-TX800

- Small (38mm x 38mm) and light (22g) voice recorder
- REC Remote App support with bluetooth

SMR-10

- Personal sound amplifier
- Bluetooth (A2DP with Low latency SBC: 50ms)
- SPI Flash Boot

*ICD-PX470 is also available but not shown here

LC823450 Features

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- ARM Cortex-M3 **Dual Core**
- 32bit fixed point, dual-MAC original DSP
- Internal SRAM (1656KB) for ARM and DSP
- I2S I/F with 16/24/32bit, MAX 192kHz (2chx2)
- Hard wired audio functions
  - MP3 encoder and decoder, EQ (6-band equalizer), etc.
- Integrated analog functions
  - Low-power Class D HP amplifier, system PLL
  - Dedicated audio PLL, ADC
- Various interfaces
  - USB2.0 HS device / host (not OTG), eMMC, SD card, SPI, I2C, etc.
- ARM and DSP clock max frequency
  - 160MHz at 1.2V
  - 100MHz at 1.0V

ON Semiconductor LC823450

From http://www.onsemi.com/PowerSolutions/product.do?id=LC823450

The road to NuttX upstream *

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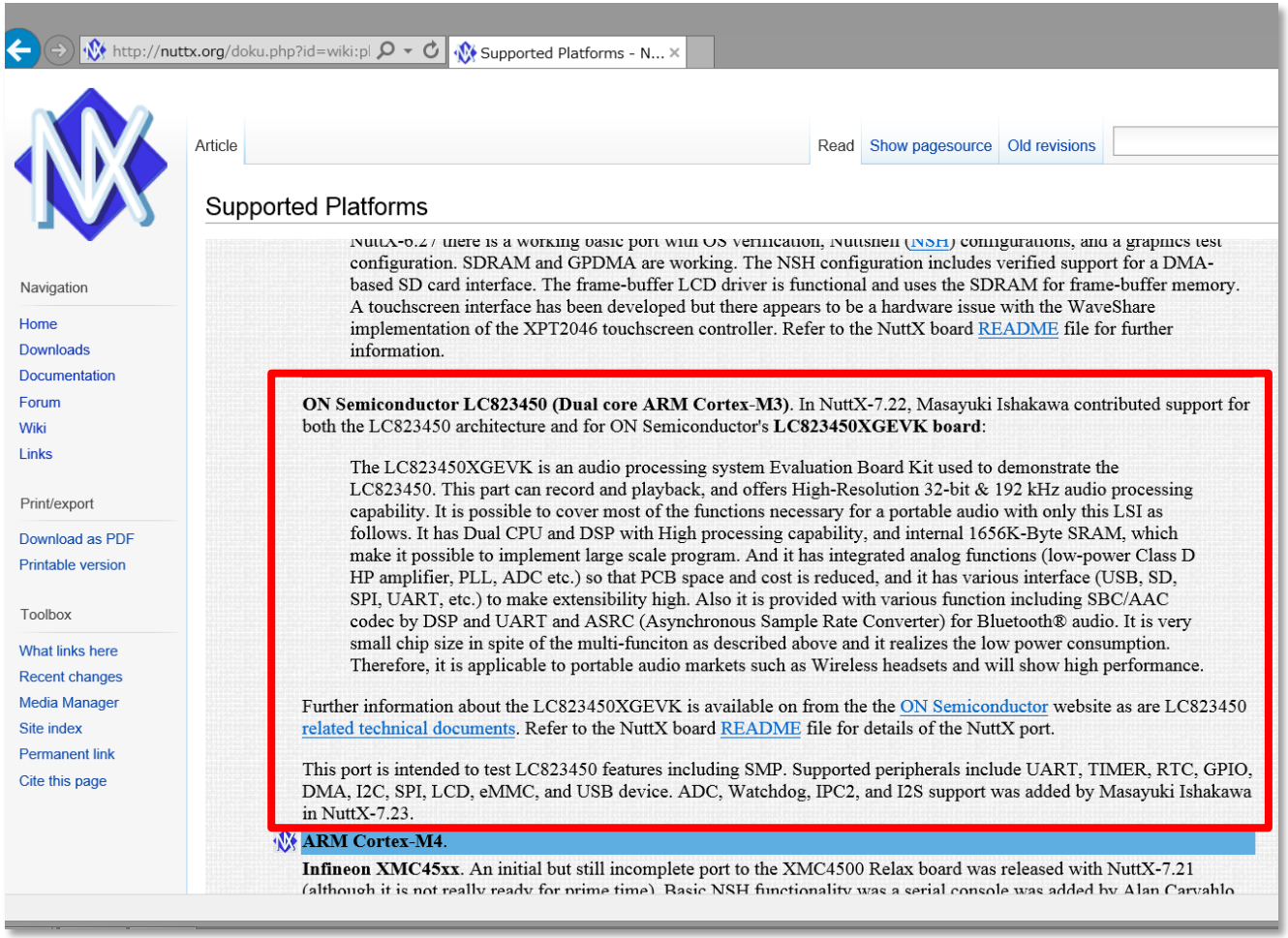
- Start discussion with ON Semiconductor
  - To disclose their technical documents
  - Because we developed the code based on their documents.
- Purchase LC823450XGEVK evaluation kit
  - Using an evaluation board is much better than a Sony's proprietary board.
- Port existing code to the latest upstream
  - Must comply with NuttX C Coding Standard
- Prepare an account on bitbucket
  - Sending a PR (Pull Request) is more useful than sending patches by e-mail.
- Finally send a Pull Request



* Contribution started in August 2017

AMP vs SMP *

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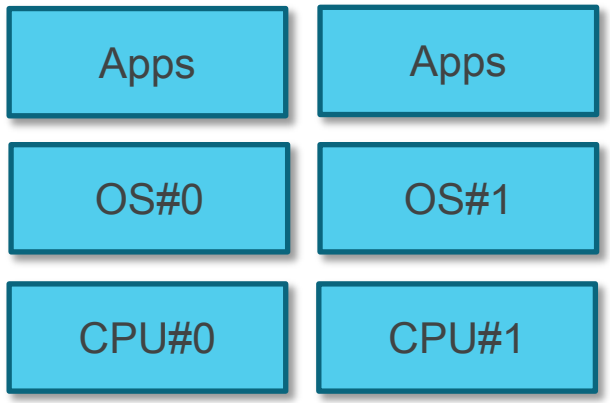
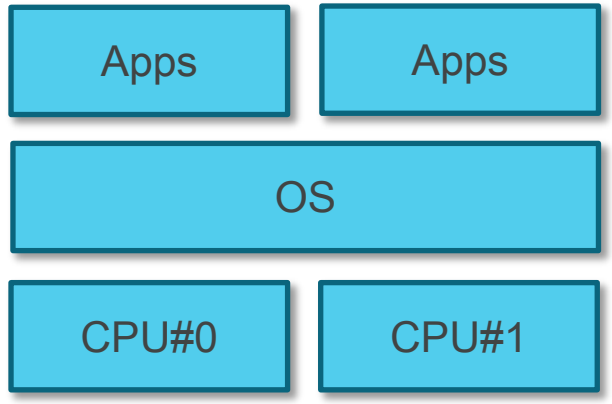
- Asymmetric multiprocessing (AMP)
  - A separate OS, or a separate copy of the same OS, manages each core.
  - Provides an execution environment similar to that of uniprocessor system, allowing simple migration of legacy code. Also allows developers to manage each core independently.



AMP

- Symmetric multiprocessing (SMP)
  - A single OS manages all processor cores simultaneously. The OS can dynamically schedule any process on any core.
  - Provides greater scalability and parallelism than AMP, along with simpler shared resource management



SMP

* http://www.embeddedintel.com/special_features.php?article=189

Why SMP with LC823450?

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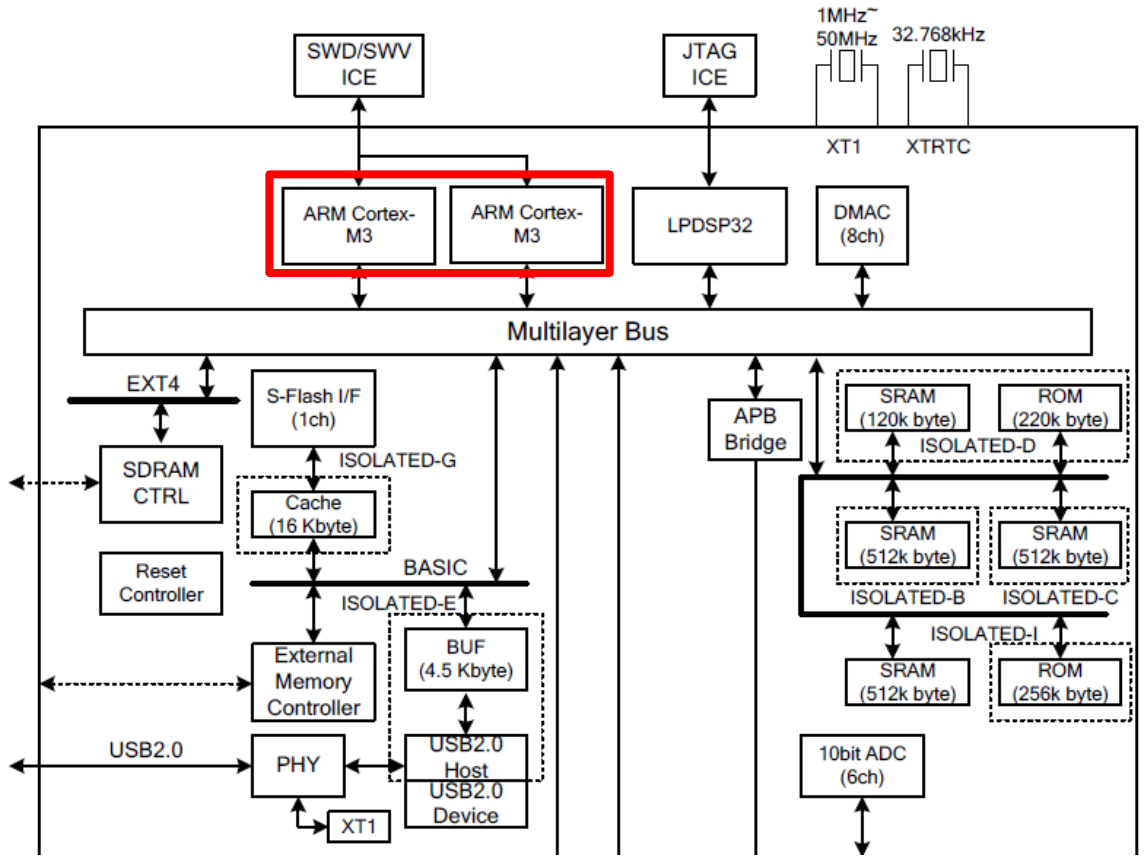
- Motivation
  - Achieve low power + high performance
  - Run existing applications in SMP mode
  - Confirm performance penalty
  - Establish knowledge on debugging
  - Very challenging theme (because NuttX is not just a scheduler)
- Other reasons…
  - The architecture is much simpler than quad Cortex-A9.
  - Suitable system to understand SMP kernel.



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Introduction to the NuttX SMP kernel

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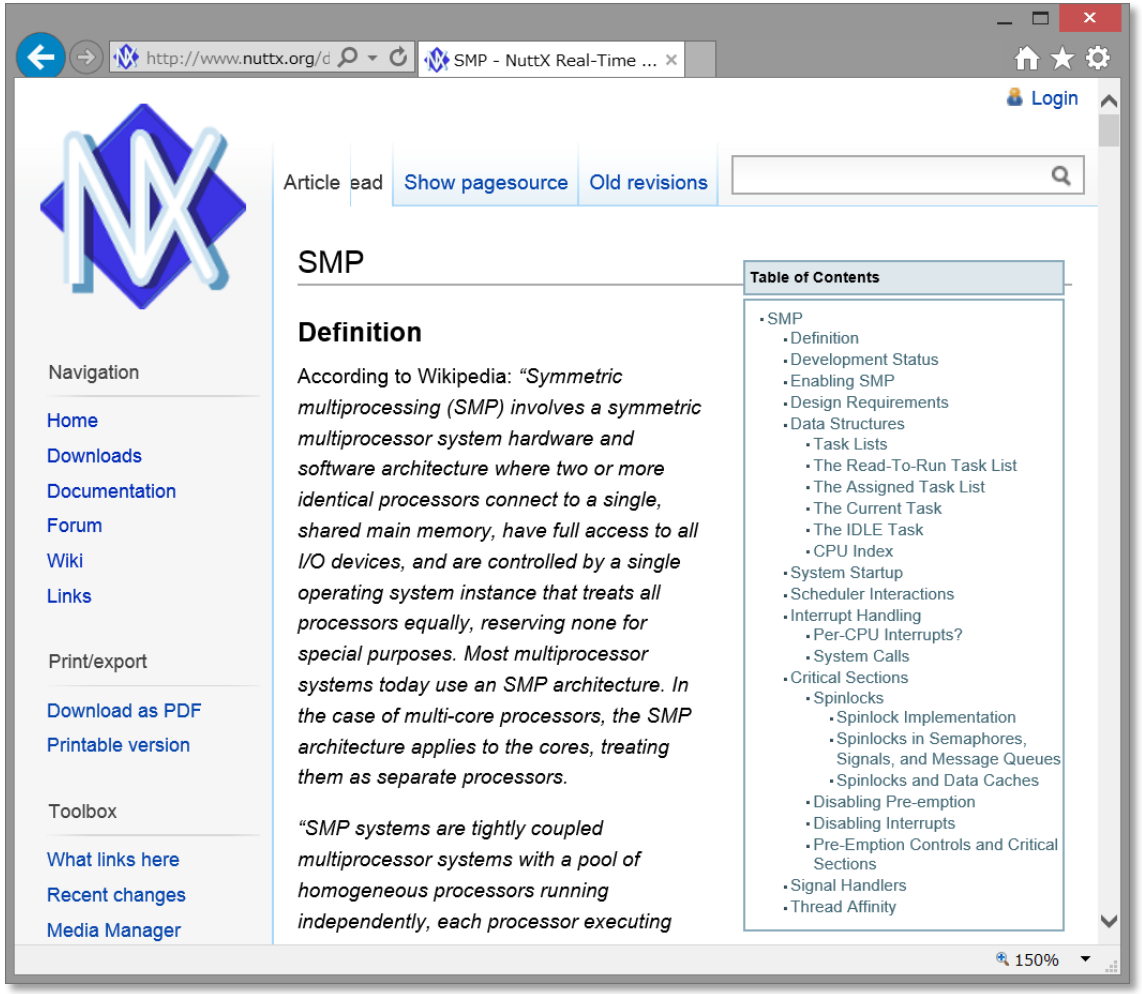
- Minimum changes to non-SMP kernel
  - CONFIG_SMP is introduced.
  - Main changes are done in the scheduler
- Newly introduced
  - g_assignedtasks[cpu] to hold assigned tasks including currently running tasks for each CPU
  - Spinlock to protect shared resources
  - Critical section APIs to replace with local interrupt control APIs.
- CPU affinity
  - pthread_setaffinity_np(), sched_setaffinity() are supported
- H/W interrupts except for inter-CPU interrupts are assumed to be handled at CPU0
  - To prevent deadlocks



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NuttX SMP : available boards

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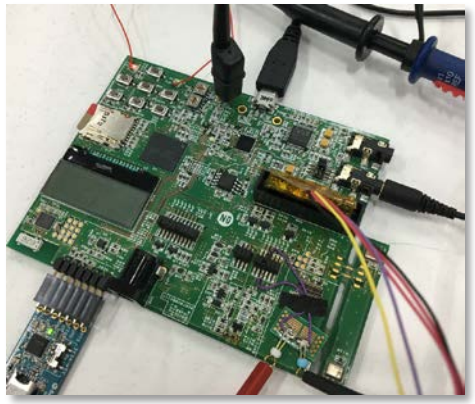
- NXP (Freescale) i.MX6 Quad Sabre
  - Quad Arm Cortex-A9
  - SMP kernel can run on QEMU *
- Espressif Systems ESP32
  - Dual Tensilica LX6
- Microchip (Atmel) SAM4CMP-DB
  - Arm Cortex-M4 w/MPU + Cortex-M4F
- ON Semiconductor LC823450XGEVK
  - Dual Arm Cortex-M3
  - Approx. $46 **

i.MX6 Quad Sabre

ESP32

SAM4CMP-DB



LC823450XGEVK

*ostest still has some issues.

**http://www.components-center.com/product/ON-Semiconductor/LC823450XGEVK.html

Running SMP kernel : SAM4CMP-DB

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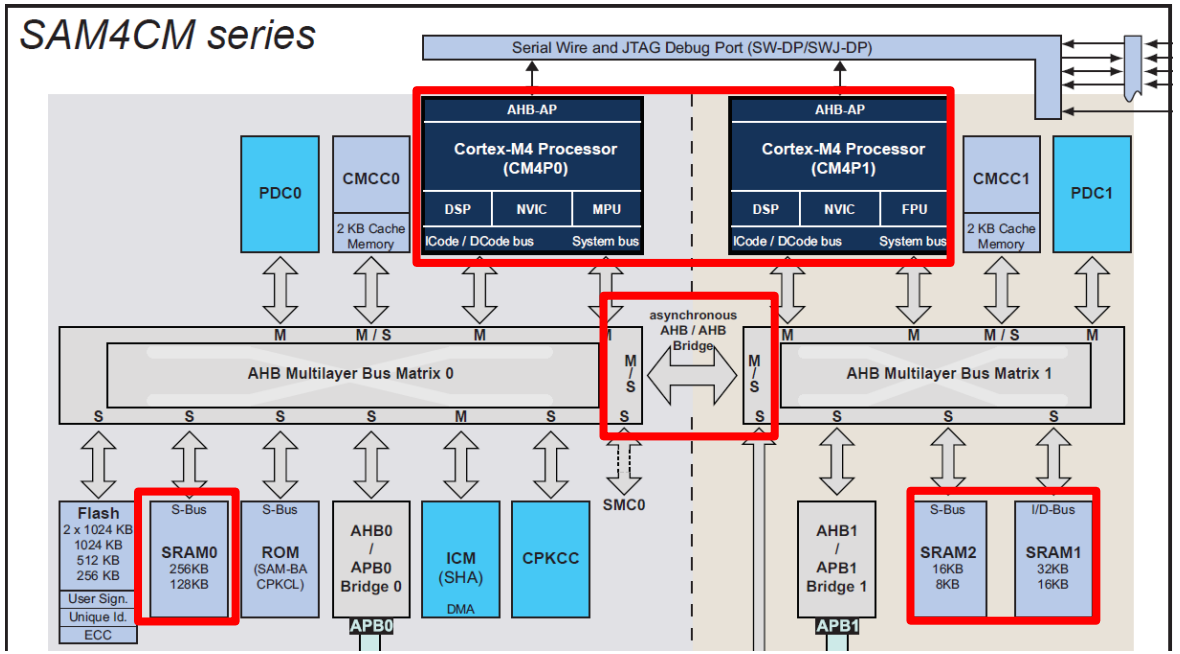
- Cortex-M4 /w MPU + Cortex-M4F
  - Not symmetric, but if both CPU does not use MPU nor FPU, it should be OK.
  - Each CPU has local SRAM which can be accessed via bus bridge from another CPU.
- Bus bridge issue *
  - “ostest” crashes due to CPU lockup or hardfault
  - It’s difficult to assure memory access just by memory barrier operations.
  - Dummy memory read/write might resolve this issue, but we still can not find the correct way.
  - We asked this issues to Atmel before, but no response received yet.



* we don’t think this board can perfectly work in SMP mode

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Running SMP kernel : LC823450XGEVK

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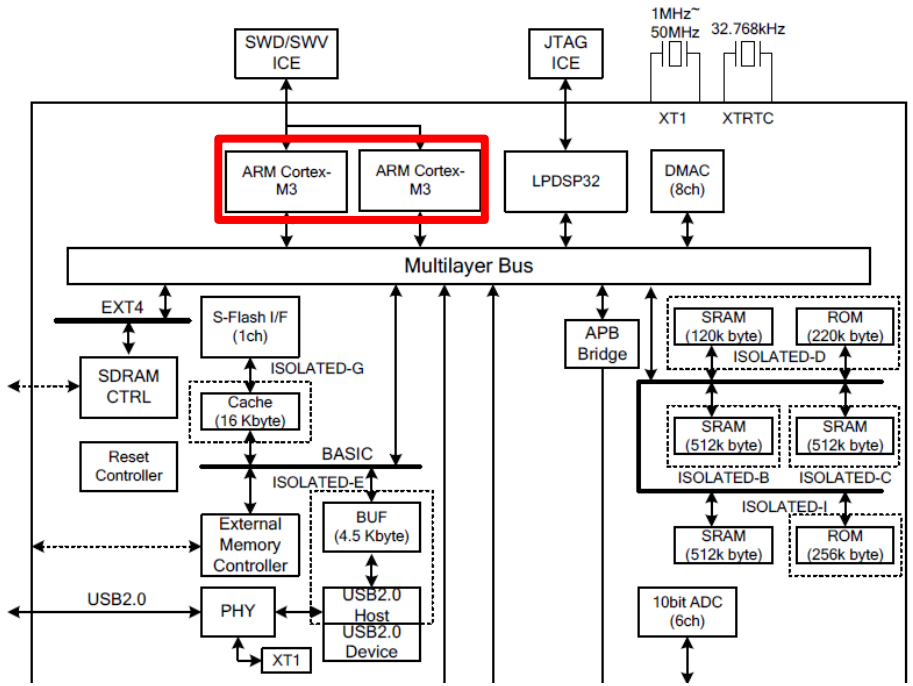
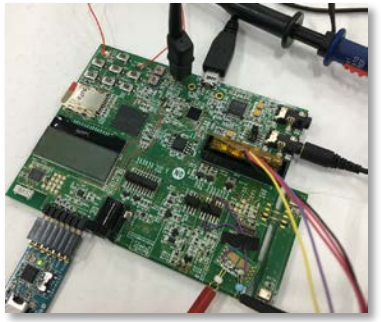
- Port existing drivers to the latest NuttX *
  - UART, Timer, GPIO, DMA, I2C, SPI, LCD
  - eMMC (including boot), SD, USB, ADC, …
- Implement SMP related code
  - lc823450_cpuidlestack.c, lc823450_cpuindex.c
  - lc823450_cpupause.c, lc823450_cpustart.c, lc823450_testset.c (H/W Mutex is used instead of ldex, strex)
- Performance improvement
  - Introduced spin_lock_irqsave(), spin_unlock_irqrstore()
  - Applied APIs inside the driver code.
  - Up to 20% performance improvement achieved



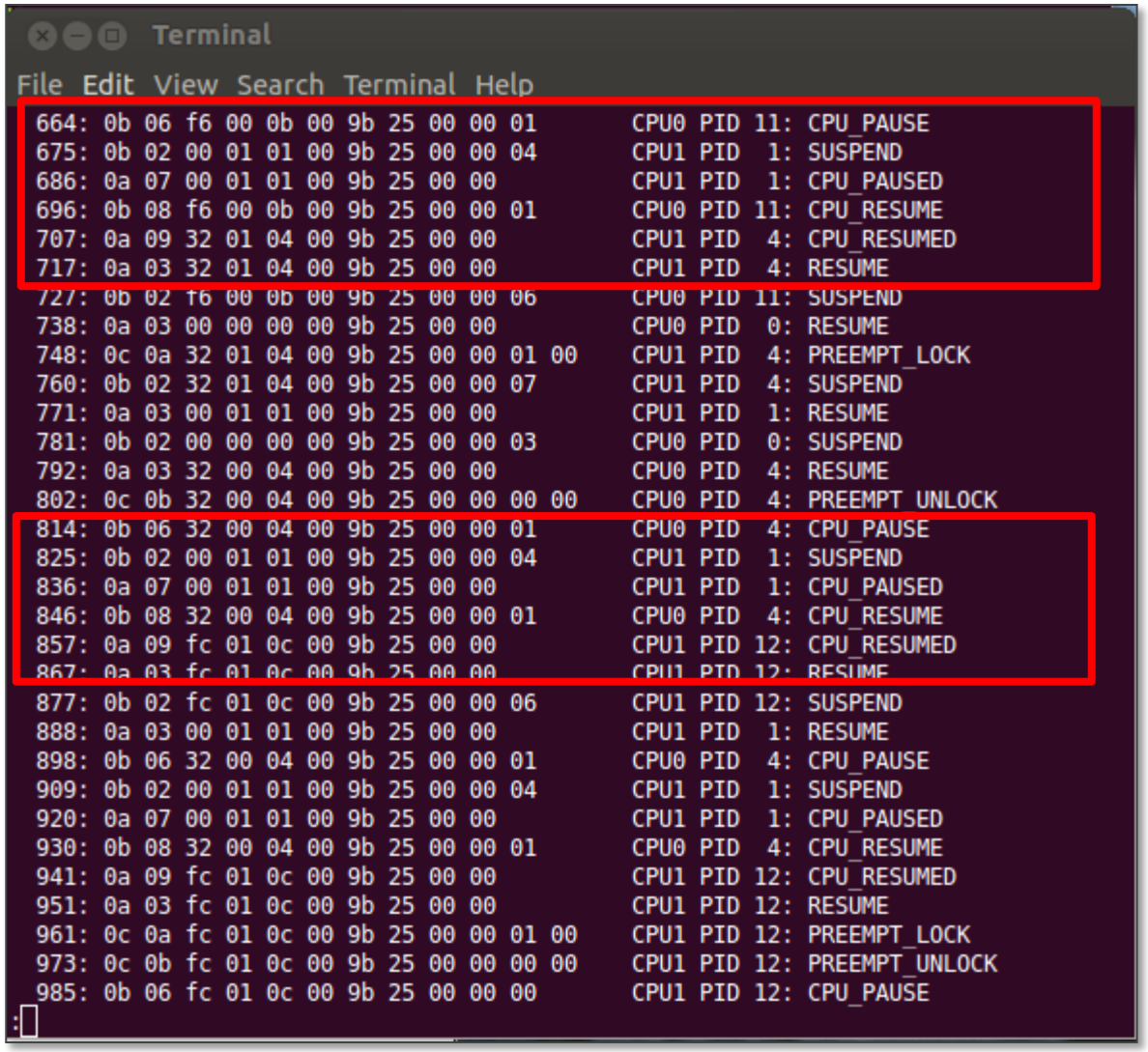


*Code is already merged into the upstream
*I2S and audio codec drivers were developed from scratch.

Tracing SMP kernel

SONY

- What can be traced
  - SMP specific (inter-CPU communication)
    - CPU_PAUSE, CPU_PAUSED, CPU_RESUMED
  - SMP/non-SMP common
    - SUSPEND, RESUME (context switch)
    - PREEMPT_LOCK, PREEMPT_UNLOCK
- Tools
  - Use gdb macro to dump the trace buffer
  - Use “noteinfo” to analyze the dump file



OpenOCD for lc823450-smp*

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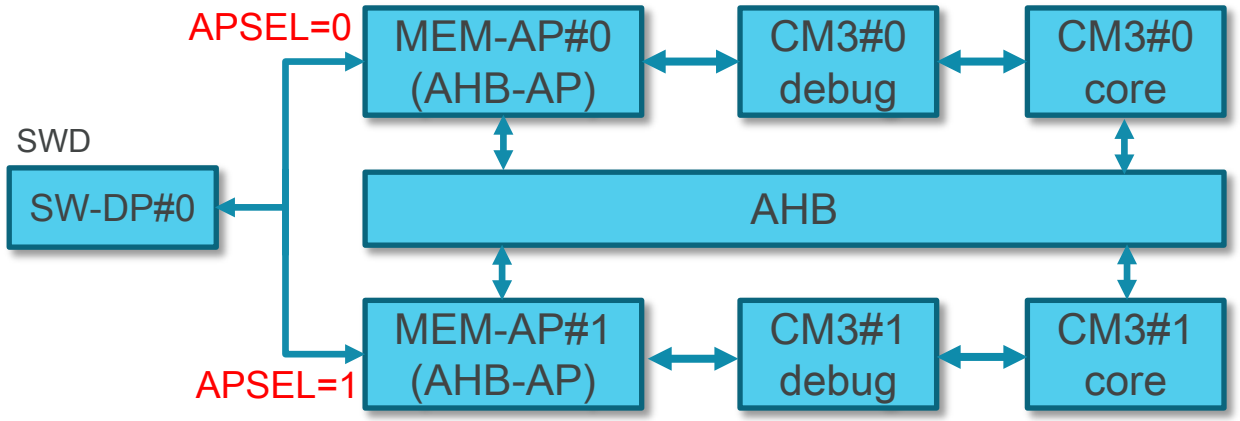
- Implementation
  - Understand how Cortex-A SMP support works in OpenOCD
  - Modify several files (target/cortex_m.c …) to support Cortex-M in SMP mode
  - Specify APSEL (Access Port Selection) when accessing to each core in LC823450
  - Modify tcl/target/lc823450.cfg to support multiple debug access ports and targets.
  - Modify rtos/nuttx.c to show SMP related tasklists

```
Open On-Chip Debugger 0.10.0-dev-00610-gca7ae9cb-dirty (2017-07-03-14:24)
Licensed under GNU GPL v2
For bug reports, read
        http://openocd.org/doc/doxygen/bugs.html
adapter speed: 300 kHz
Info : FTDI SWD mode enabled
cortex_m reset_config sysresetreq
Info : clock speed 300 kHz
Info : SWD IDCODE 0x2ba01477
Info : lc823450.cpu0: hardware has 6 breakpoints, 4 watchpoints
Info : lc823450.cpu1: hardware has 6 breakpoints, 4 watchpoints
lc823450.cpu1: target state: halted
target halted due to debug-request, current mode: Thread
xPSR: 0x61000000 pc: 0x0204610e msp: 0x02016478
lc823450.cpu0: target state: halted
target halted due to debug-request, current mode: Handler External Interrupt(18)
xPSR: 0x01000022 pc: 0x02041cfe msp: 0x02001d68
```



*Code is NOT merged yet.

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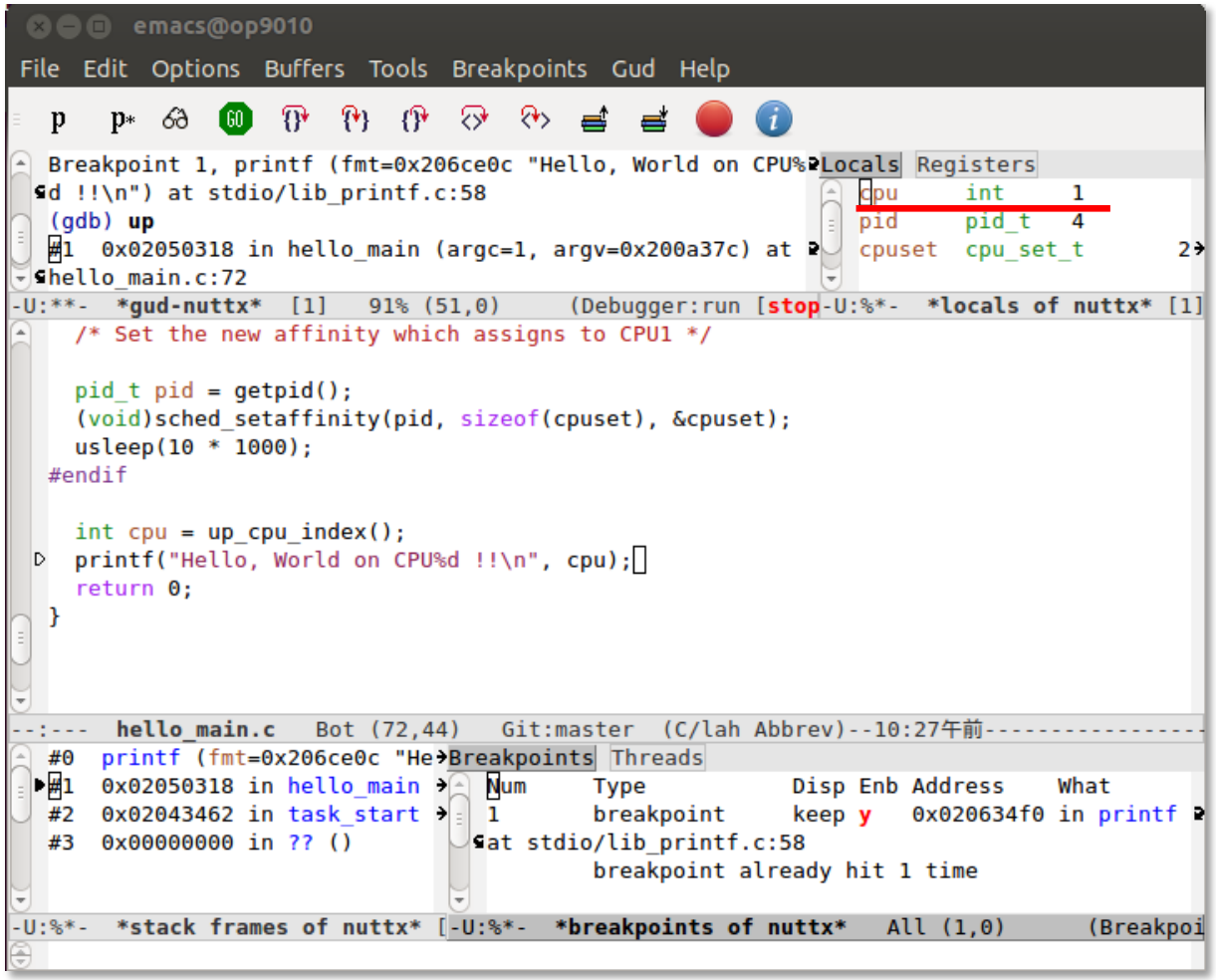
Debugging example

SONY

- Modify hello_main.c
  - Assign the current task to CPU1
  - Print CPU index.
- Add a break point at printf()
- Run “hello” on the nsh
- Break point hits on CPU1
- Check the trace log

```
340: 0a 03 00 00 00 00 a7 02 00 00          CPU0 PID  0: RESUME
350: 0b 02 00 00 00 00 c2 02 00 00 03       CPU0 PID  0: SUSPEND
361: 0a 03 64 00 03 00 c2 02 00 00          CPU0 PID  3: RESUME
371: 10 00 64 00 04 00 c2 02 00 00 68 65 6c 6c 6f 00 CPU0 PID  4: START
387: 0b 02 64 00 03 00 c2 02 00 00 07       CPU0 PID  3: SUSPEND
398: 0a 03 64 00 04 00 c2 02 00 00          CPU0 PID  4: RESUME
408: 0b 02 64 00 04 00 c2 02 00 00 07       CPU0 PID  4: SUSPEND
419: 0a 03 00 00 00 00 c2 02 00 00          CPU0 PID  0: RESUME
429: 0b 06 00 00 00 00 c4 02 00 00 01       CPU0 PID  0: CPU_PAUSE
440: 0b 02 00 01 01 00 c4 02 00 00 04       CPU1 PID  1: SUSPEND
451: 0a 07 00 01 01 00 c4 02 00 00          CPU1 PID  1: CPU_PAUSED
461: 0b 08 00 00 00 00 c4 02 00 00 01       CPU0 PID  0: CPU_RESUME
472: 0a 09 64 01 04 00 c4 02 00 00          CPU1 PID  4: CPU_RESUMED
482: 0a 03 64 01 04 00 c4 02 00 00          CPU1 PID  4: RESUME
```



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Enhance DVFS for SMP*

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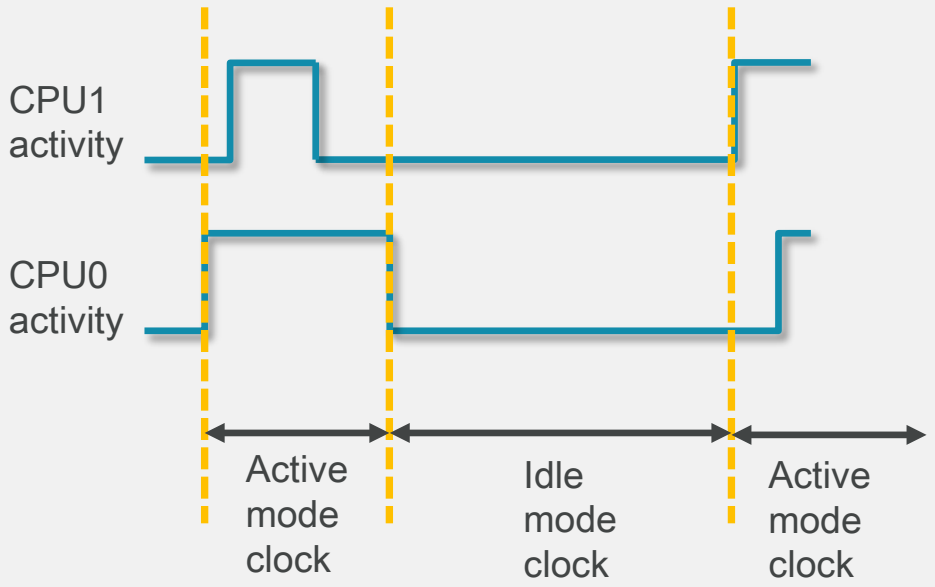
- Need to handle both CPUs
  - 1. If at least one CPU is active, the apply active mode clock.
  - 2. If both CPUs are idle (i.e. WFI), then apply idle mode clock
- Calculate CPU idle time on both CPUs
  - 3. If at least one CPU falls below lower threshold (e.g. 20% idle), then go to higher clock mode.
  - 4. If both CPUs exceed higher threshold (e.g. 70% idle), then go to lower clock mode

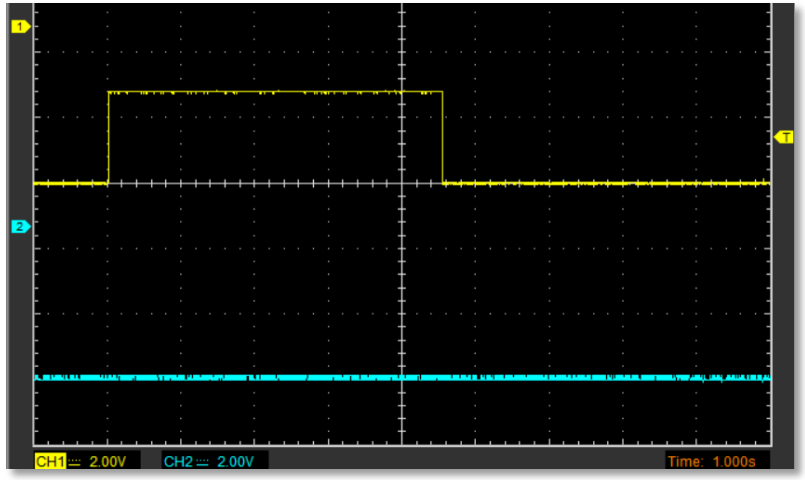


CPU0 idle	CPU1 idle	Next clock state
10%	80%	Go to higher clock mode
80%	10%	Go to higher clock mode
80%	80%	Go to lower clock mode
50%	50%	Keep the current clock mode

*LC823450 specific code is available at bitbucket.org/nuttx/nuttx

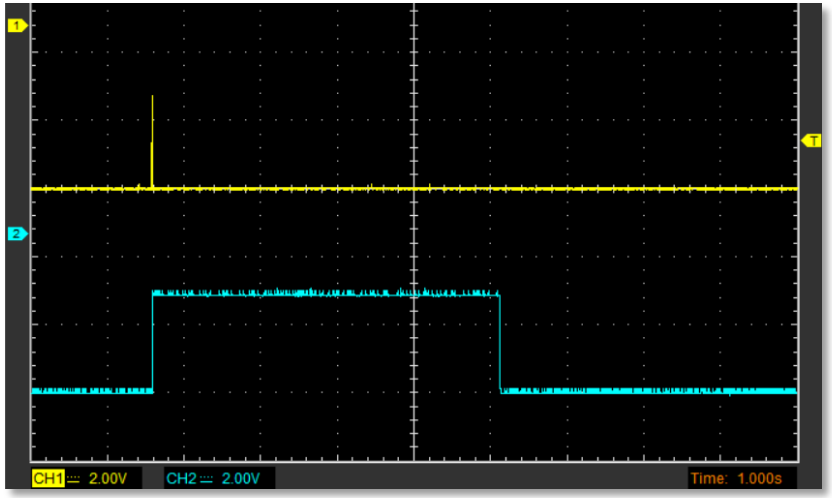
CPU activity examples* (1/2)

SONY



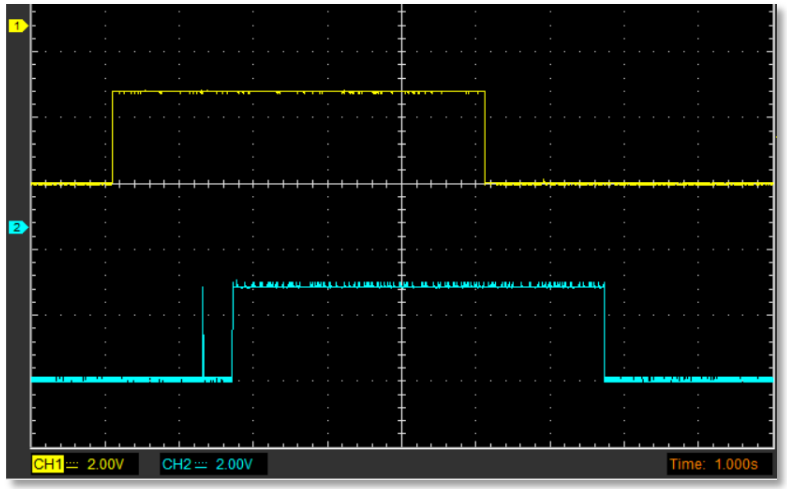
(1) busyloop x 1

nsh> taskset 3
busyloop



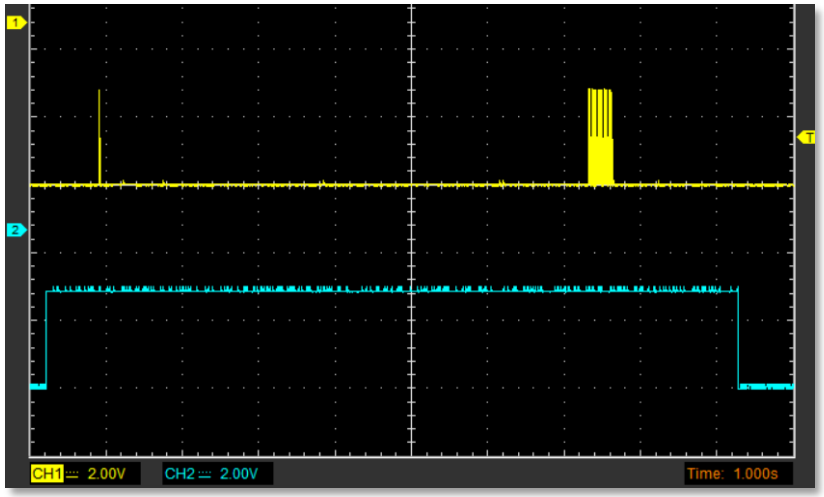
(3) busyloop x 1
bound to CPU1

nsh> taskset 2
busyloop &



(2) busyloop x 2

nsh> taskset 3
busyloop &
nsh> taskset 3
busyloop &



(4) busyloop x 2
bound to CPU1

nsh> taskset 2
busyloop &
nsh> taskset 2
busyloop &

* CH1=Cortex-M3 #0, CH2=Cortex-M3 #1

Usage: taskset mask command…
mask=1 means CPU0, mask=2 means CPU1, mask=3 means CPU0 or CPU1

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CPU activity examples (2/2)

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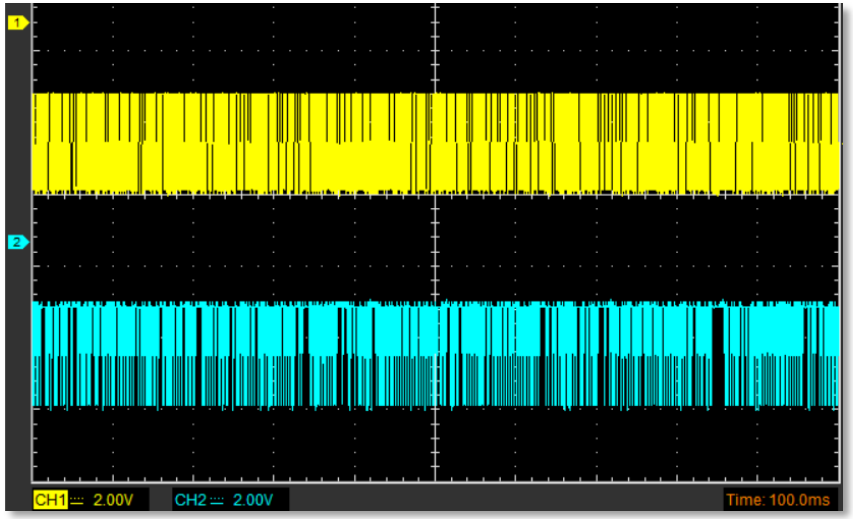
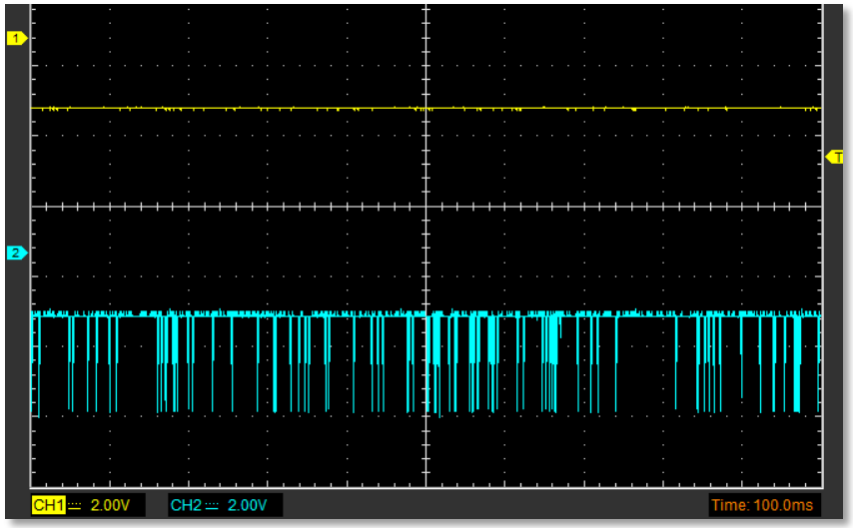
- Background
  - LC823450 has 3 SDIO controllers. eMMC is assigned to CH0 and uSD is assigned to CH1.
  - Accessing different channels will be faster than accessing the same channel.
- (1) Two md5 to the same file on eMMC
  - Concurrent access is impossible.
  - time 85.4sec (file size=44MB)
- (2) md5 to eMMC and md5 to uSD
  - Concurrent access is possible.
  - time 46.6sec & 53.0sec (file size=44MB)



(1) Two md5 to the same file on eMMC



(2) md5 to eMMC and md5 to uSD

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Power consumption comparison

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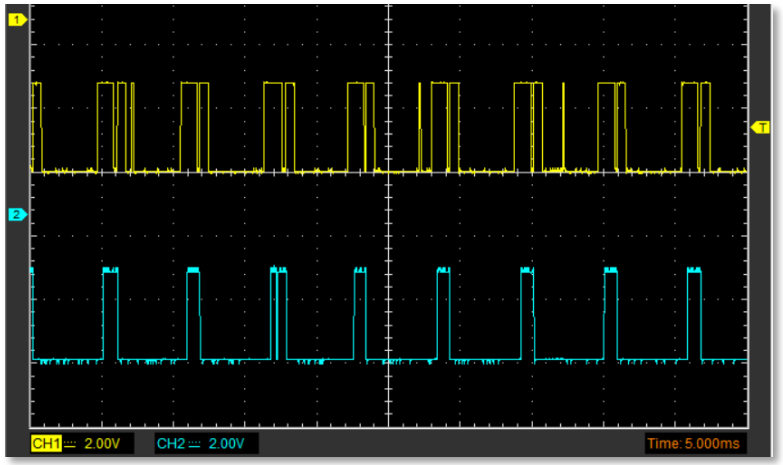
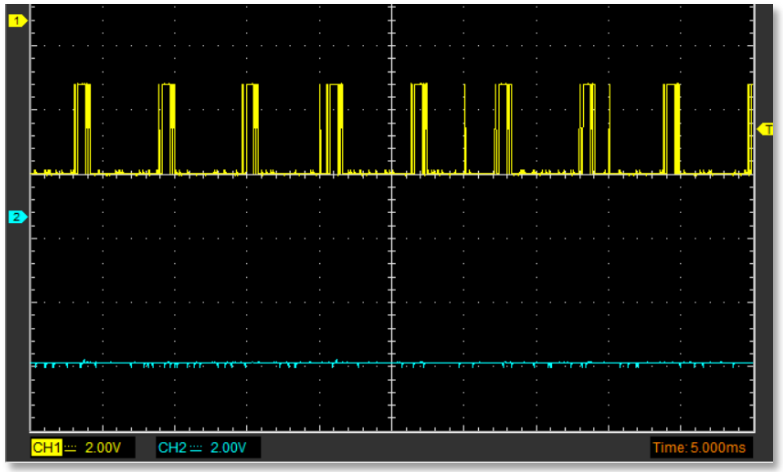
- nxplayer with local playback
  - WAV file 44.1kHz/16bit/2ch
  - Vdd1=1.0V *
  - CPU clock = 40MHz (active), 6MHz(idle)

- Power consumption @Vdd1
  - SMP : 5.6mA (idle=3.5mA)
  - non-SMP : 4.2mA (idle=3.4mA)

  - SMP scheduling overhead is outstanding because CPU load is relatively low. However, more optimization would be possible.



SMP



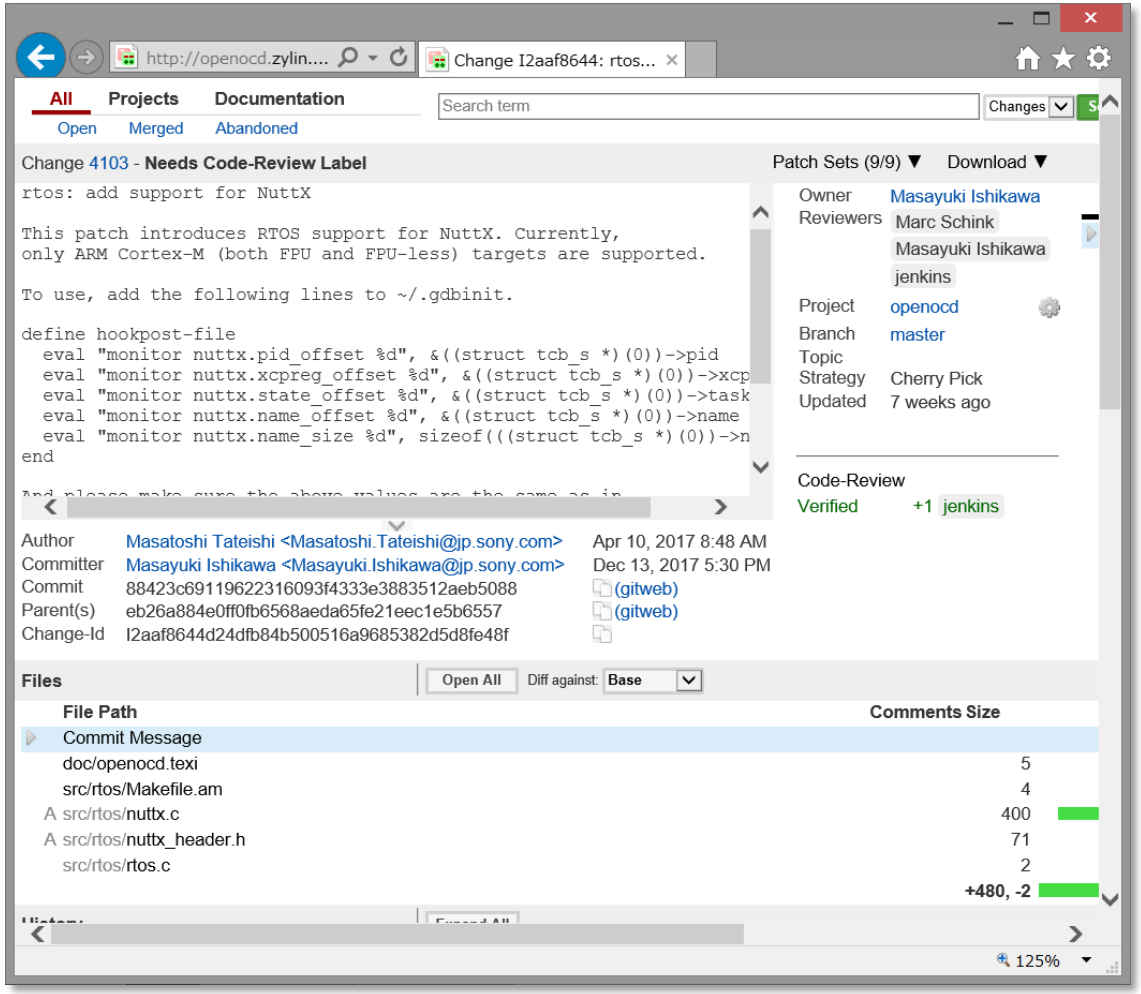
non-SMP

*Power consumption of the logic part (i.e. Cortex-M3, SRAM, DMA, I2S, …) inside the MCU

OpenOCD NuttX support status

SONY

- github.com/sony/openocd-nuttx
  - Initial release in Oct 2016
  - Merged 0.10.0 release
  - Merged Cortex-M4F support by Sony Semiconductor Solution group
  - Added LC823450 related scripts
- OpenOCD upstream *
  - Contribution started in Apr 2017
  - Review started in Dec 2017
  - Still open … (as of 26/Feb/2018)



* http://openocd.zylin.com/#/c/4103/

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Networking with LC823450XGEVK

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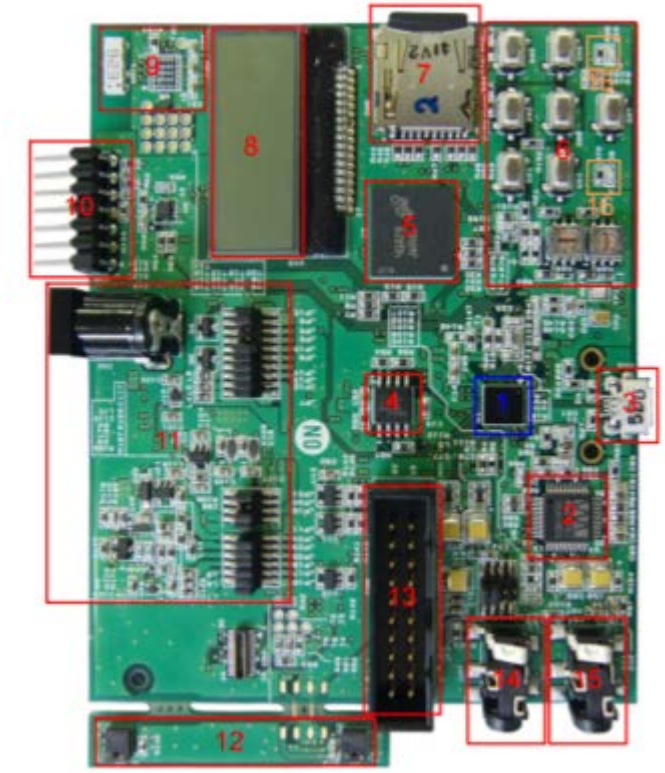
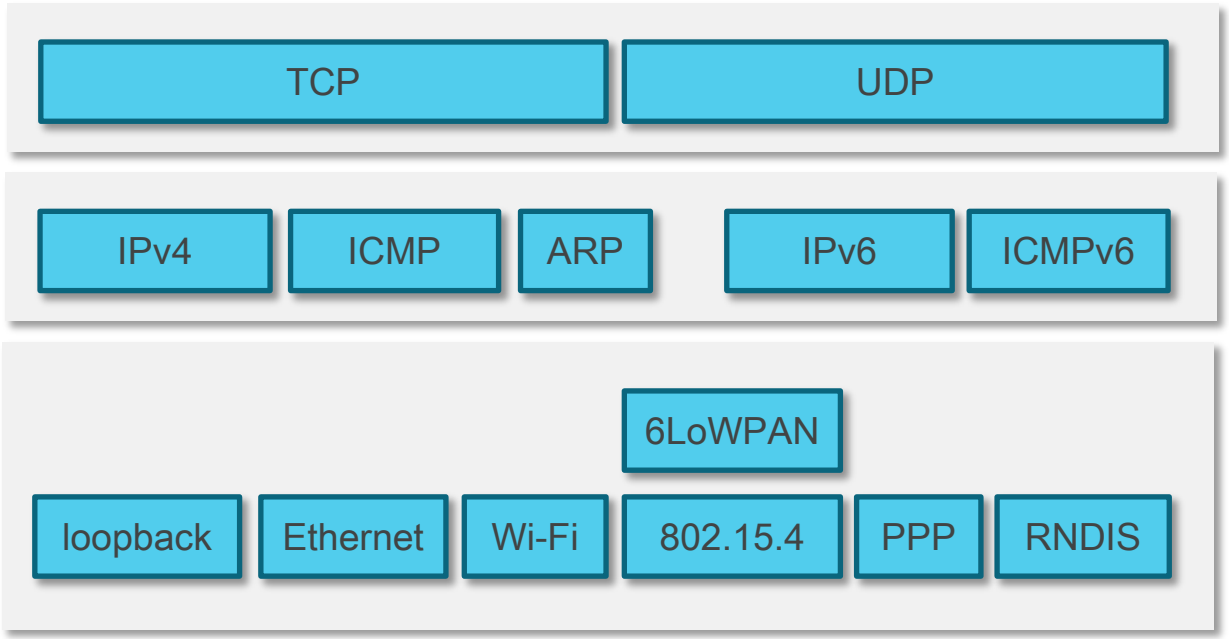
- Motivation
  - Confirm NuttX network stack feasibility
    - IPv4, IPv6, ICMP, UDP, TCP, …
  - Run the network stack with minimum efforts.
    (We already have an USB driver for LC823450)
  - Audio streaming
  - Run the network stack in SMP mode
  - Do various tests via telnet



NuttX networking features

SONY

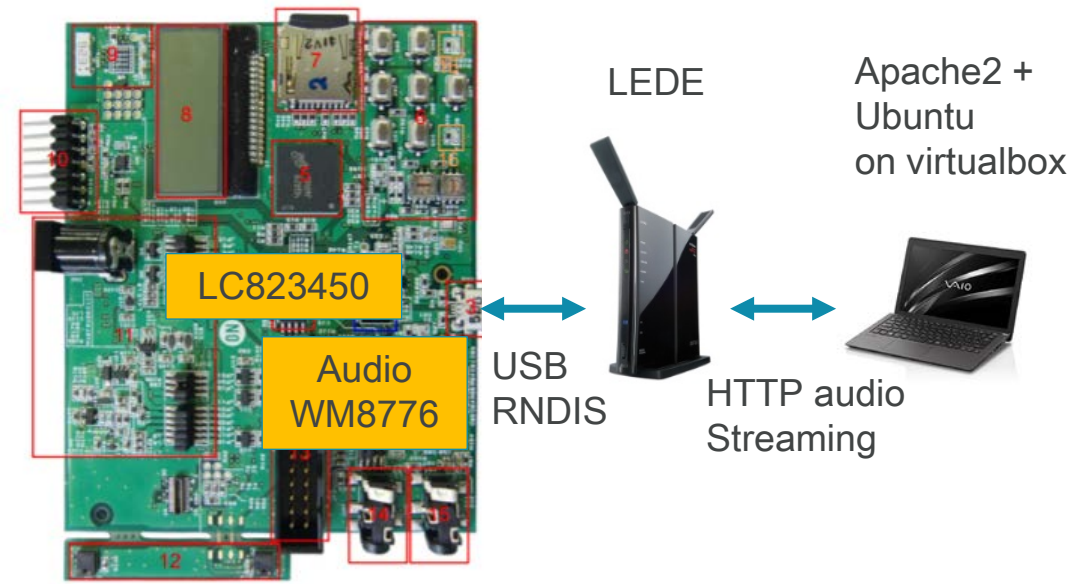
- Ethernet and IEEE 802.11 Full MAC
- 6LoWPAN for radio network drivers (IEEE 802.15.4 MAC)
- USB RNDIS **(Newly added in Sep 2017)**
- SLIP, TUN/PPP, local loopback devices
- IPv4, IPv6, TCP, UDP, ARP, ICMP, ICMPv6, IGMPv2
- ICMPv6 autonomous auto-configuration
- IP forwarding
- BSD compatible socket layer
- DNS name resolution / NetDB



HTTP audio streaming support *

SONY

- Fix RNDIS driver for NuttX
  - Fix data corruption
  - Add USB high speed mode support
- Modify tcp_send.c to support receive window control.
  - Still experimental
- Modify nxplayer to support HTTP connection.
  - Currently only WAV format is supported.
- Still testing with SMP kernel



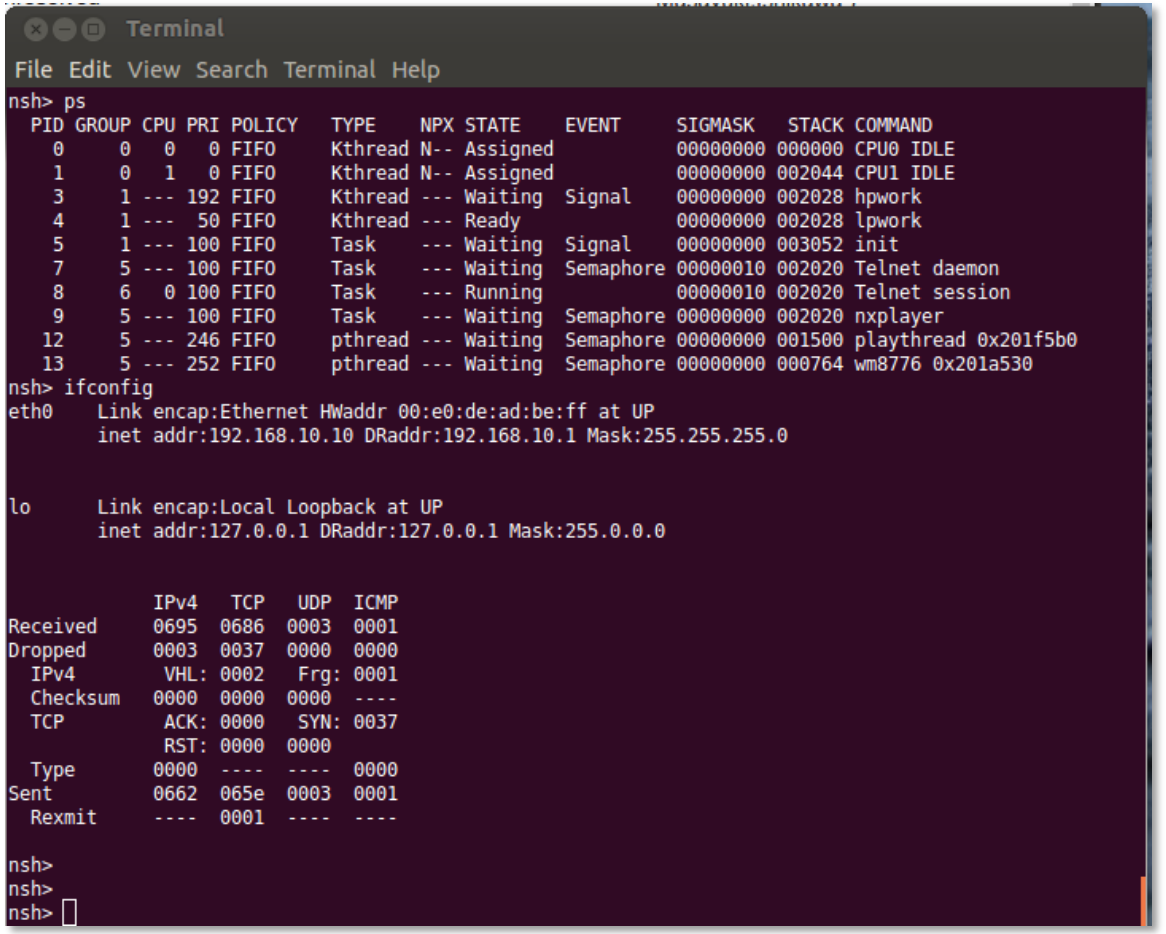
ON Semiconductor LC823450XGEVK evaluation kit with the latest NuttX

*Code is available at bitbucket.org/nuttx/nuttx

HTTP audio streaming example

SONY

- ‘ps’ command results shows
  - Dual CPUs are running
  - telnet daemon is running
  - one telnet session is running
  - nxplayer is running
- ‘ifconfig’ command results shows
  - private address has been assigned via DHCP
  - TCP/UDP traffic



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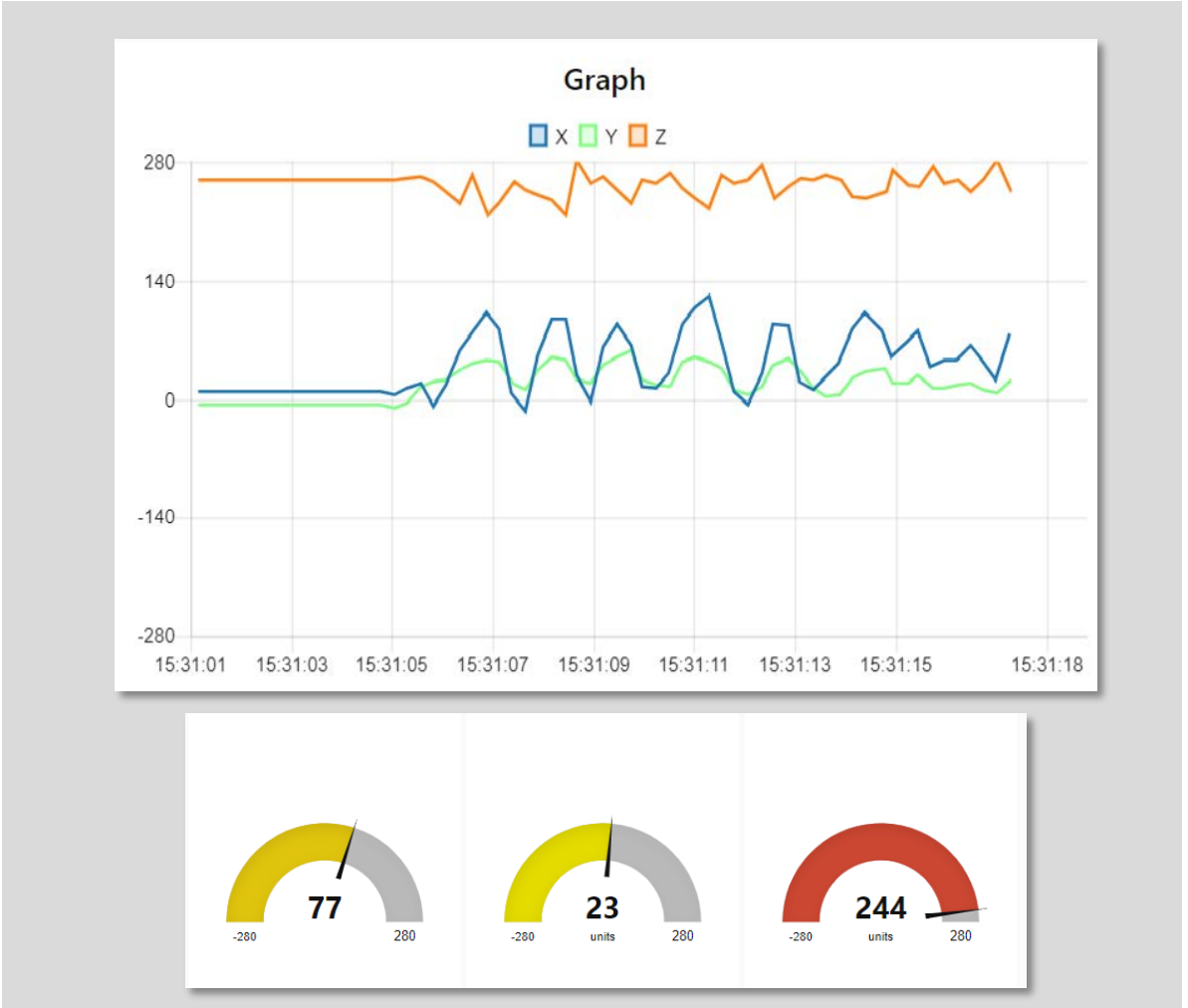
MQTT example with Bluemix *

SONY

- What is MQTT?
  - MQ Telemetry Transport
  - Useful to send telemetry data such as accelerometer.
- What is Bluemix?
  - A cloud platform as a service developed by IBM
  - You can create IoT applications with Node-Red on Bluemix
- MQTT library
  - Eclipse Paho MQTT C/C++ client library for Embedded platforms
  - https://github.com/eclipse/paho.mqtt.embedded-c



*Code is NOT merged yet

Introduction to LEDE

SONY

- Motivation
  - Build a shareable network testing environment for NuttX
- Software
  - LEDE project as of ELC2017 session
  - The project was forked from OpenWRT that is famous OSS for the router world as a turn key solution but they became one again (at the beginning of 2018)
- Hardware
  - WZR-HP-G300NH (buffalo) Wi-Fi router with USB 2.0 port

WZR-HP-G300NH

Announcing the OpenWrt/LEDE merge

Installing and Using LEDE created Jan 3 last reply Jan 13 45 replies 18.6k views 17 users 82 likes 16 links

jow SysAdmin Jan 3

Both the OpenWrt and LEDE projects are happy to announce their unification under the OpenWrt name.

After long and sometimes slowly moving discussions about the specifics of the re-merge, with multiple similar proposals but little subsequent action, we're happy to announce that both projects are about to execute the final steps of the merger.

The new, unified OpenWrt project will be governed under the rules established by the LEDE project 598. Active members of both the former LEDE and OpenWrt projects will continue working on the unified OpenWrt.

LEDE's fork and subsequent re-merge into OpenWrt will not alter the overall technical direction taken by the unified project. We will continue to work on improving stability and release maintenance while aiming for frequent minor releases to address critical bugs and security issues like we did with LEDE 17.01 and its four point releases until now.

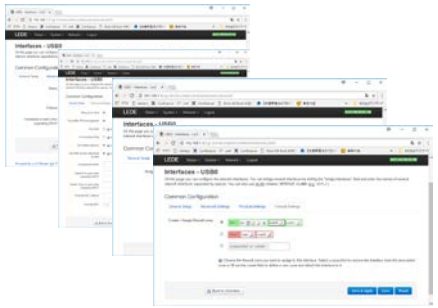
Old pre-15.05 OpenWrt CC releases will not be supported by the merged project anymore, leaving these releases without any future security or bug fixes. The OpenWrt CC 15.05 release series will receive a limited amount of security and bug fixes, but is not yet fully integrated in our release automation, so binary releases are lacking behind for now.

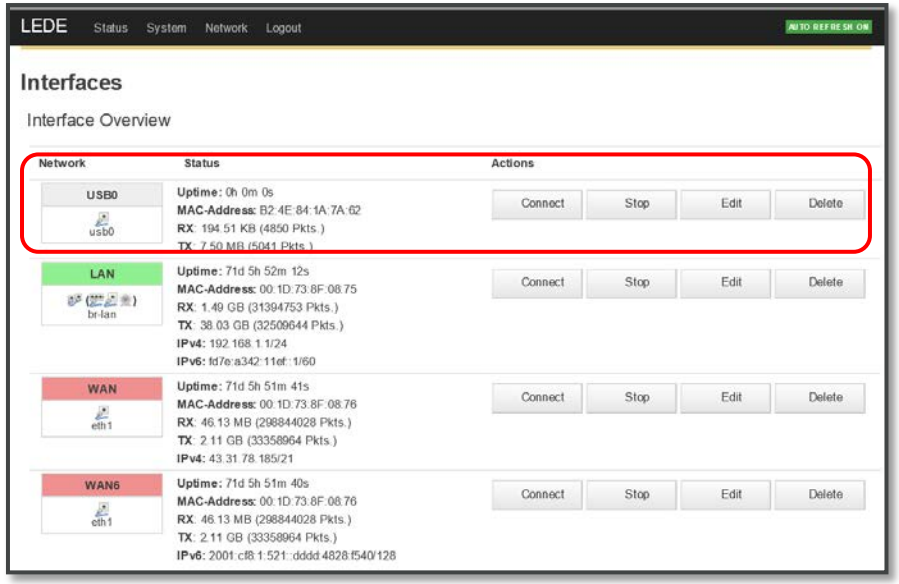
The LEDE 17.01 release will continue to get full security and bug fix support for both source code and binary releases. We are planning a new major release under the new name in the next few months.

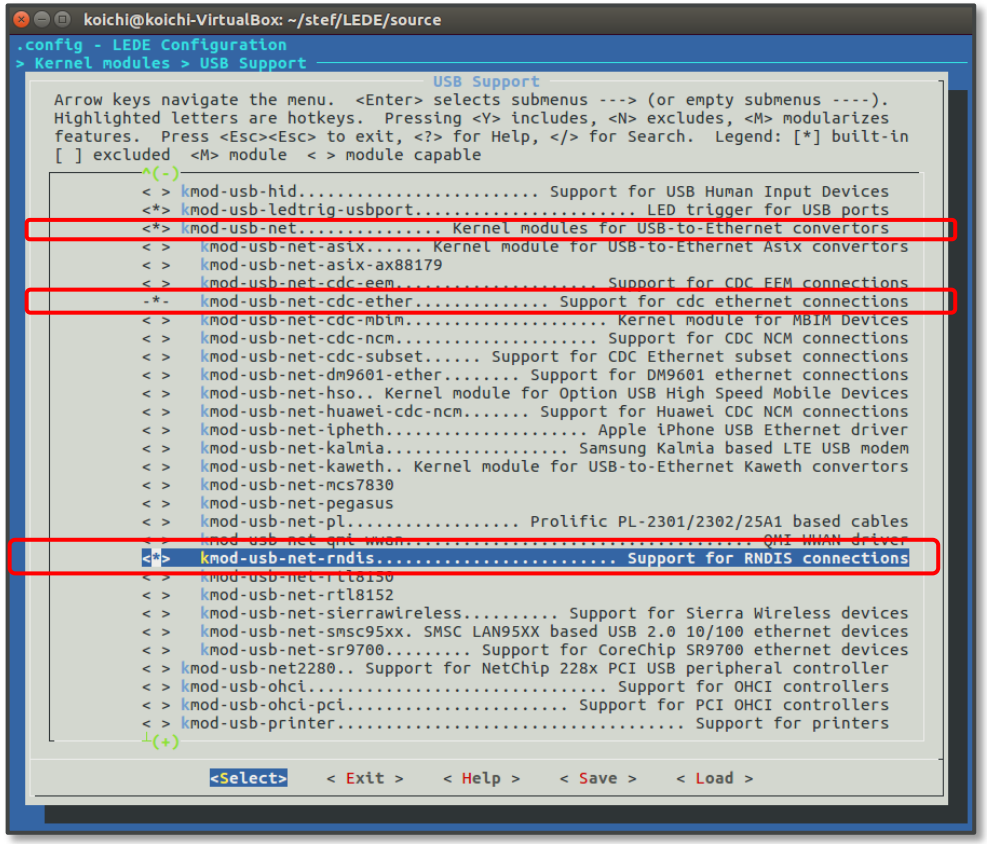
Support RNDIS on LEDE

SONY

- How to setup
  - Modify configuration
  - Add network USB0 (RNDIS) via LuCI
  - Change the network setting of USB0







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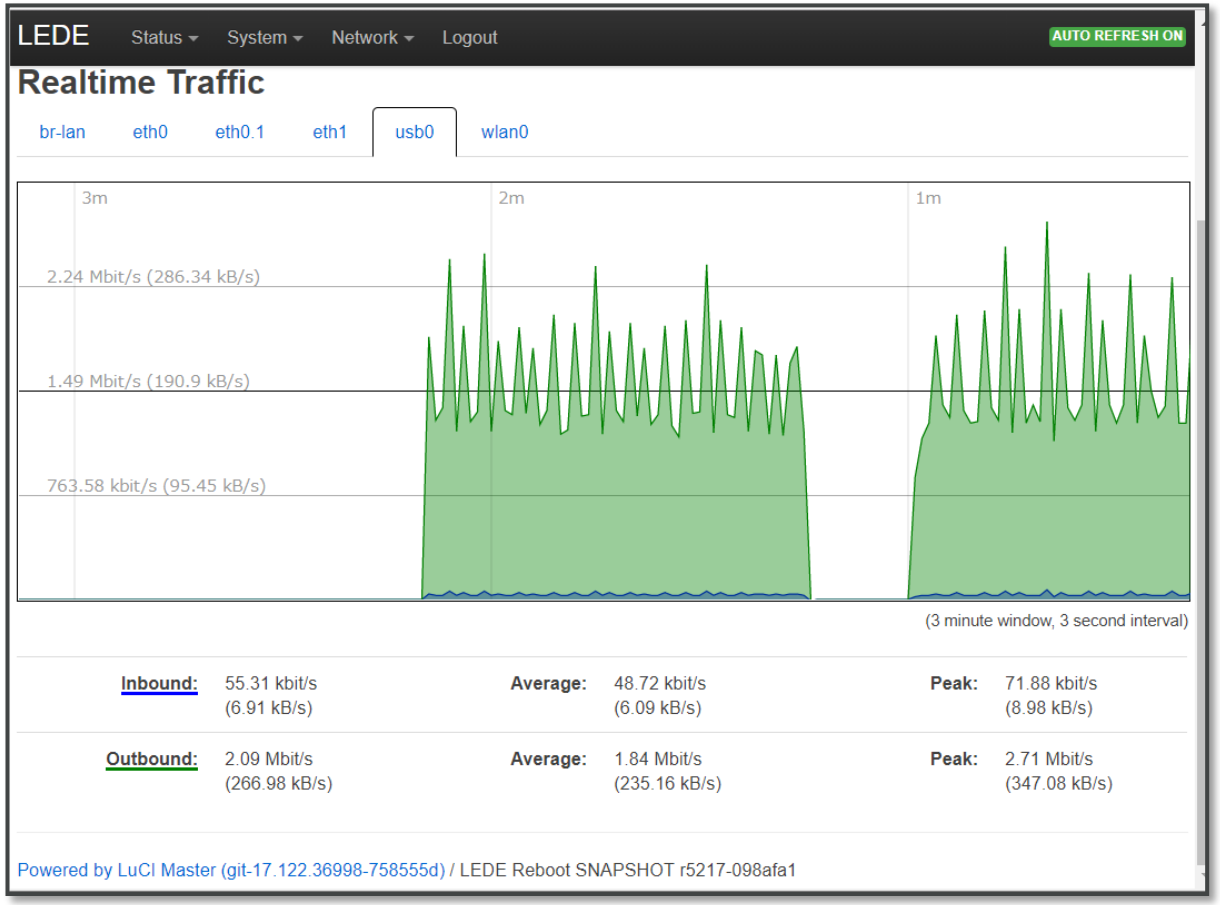
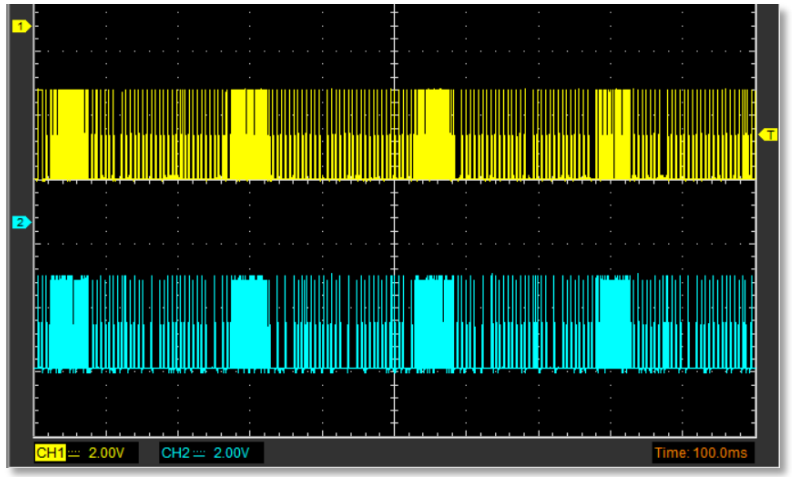
Network traffic and CPU activity

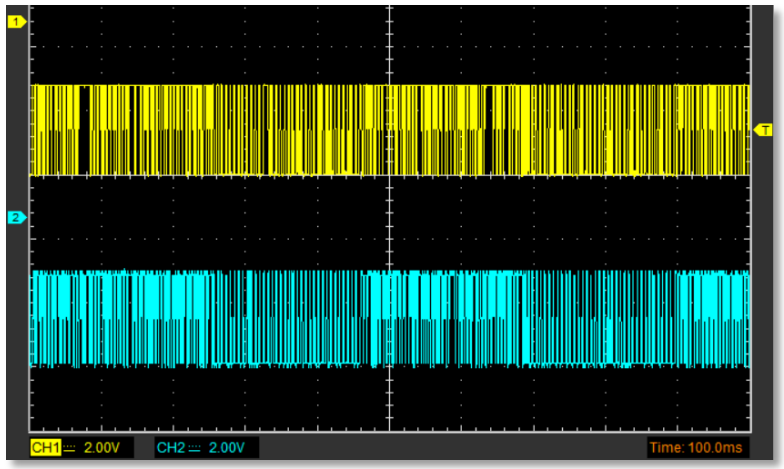
SONY



Network traffic when HTTP audio streaming is working



Active clock = 160MHz



Active clock = 40MHz

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Demo videos

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- CPU activity examples (busyloop, md5)
- ‘smp’ app & ‘ostest’ app
- MQTT + Bluemix
- HTTP audio streaming + other tasks

Future challenges

SONY

- SMP related
  - Improve stability and performance
  - Contribute OpenOCD LC823450-SMP support
  - Real-time trace via OpenOCD
  - CPU hotplug and dynamic scheduler switching
  - Per-CPU interrupt handling
- Networking related
  - Improve TCP flow control
  - Bluetooth IP network

Acknowledgement

SONY

- We specially thank Mr. Gregory Nutt who is the author of NuttX. He discussed SMP related issues with us and helped us merge our code to the upstream.

- Also, we appreciate ON Semiconductor disclosed their technical documents.

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Any Questions?