

ECE 471 – Embedded Systems

Lecture 5

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Announcements

- HW#2 was posted, will need Pi
- Note you won't need to bring your Pi to class
- Note: I will be out of town on Monday the 14th so class is cancelled that day
Also office hours are cancelled Tuesday the 15th

Homework #2 – Background

- It's mostly about getting everyone up to speed on the Pi as not everyone has used one before
 - Many ways to set up your Pi for use, everyone has a different preference
 - Be sure to change your password from default
- Also a small C coding assignment, and some short-answer questions.

Using the Pi for this Class – Two Challenges

- Getting Pi to the point you can log in
- Getting files onto and off of the board. (Definitely needed for homework)

Installing Linux

- Any Linux fine
I typically use Raspberry Pi OS (Raspbian)
If you use same as me I can more easily help
- Easiest way is to buy SD card with image pre-installed
- If you have an existing install from a previous class or project, that's fine, you can re-use it

Installing Linux on Blank SD card

- Need a computer with SD card reader
- <https://www.raspberrypi.com/software/> has images and even a tool you can use that will help you install things.
- If Pi3 or later you can install the 64-bit version. Either 32-bit or 64-bit both fine for this class.
- This includes the ability to pre-configure things like password, ssh, keyboard, locale, wifi
- Warning: it's a large download (900MB?) and takes a while to write to SD (which is slow)

Linux on Blank SD card – Advanced

- If you are using Linux you can get the file and directly write it to the SD card with a low-level tool from the command-line (the `dd` tool or similar)
- If you do this, be sure **to get right partition** as the destination!
- It's easy to accidentally overwrite your laptop/desktop's hard drive

Booting Linux on Pi

- Why called booting?
- Bootstrapping?
- Pull oneself up by own bootstraps? Meaning to get something going starting with nothing

Getting Linux going

- Put SD card in
- Hook up input/output (see later)
- Plug in the USB power adapter; **NOTE** can also draw power over serial or usb or sometimes HDMI
- Lights should come on and blink and should boot
- If you have a display hooked up you will get a rainbow gradient on screen which is GPU starting up.
If installed GUI edition it will have a splash screen, if barebones text then instead a number of raspberries should appear and some Linux boot messages
- Things can also go wrong in ways hard to troubleshoot

First Boot

- It will boot, generate SSH keys, re-size disk, reboot
- Next a menu comes up. This varies depending on what OS you are on, I'm assuming Raspbian v12 (Bookworm) here
 - Will prompt for keyboard type. It will try to default to UK English (Pis are from England). Navigate to other / English (US), English. It can be hard to navigate, use arrows, tab, and enter.
 - It will ask for username password
In the old days it would just default to pi/raspberry. Why was that bad security-wise?
- At this point it might continue until you get to a login prompt

More Configuration

- The system will prompt you to configure things. If for some reason it doesn't you can always run "raspi-config" to configure more
- System Settings
 - Enable Wifi
 - Pick a Hostname
 - various other things
- Display Options
 - Only matter if you are using a TV as a display

Even More Configuration

- Interfaces
 - Can enable ssh for remote network logins
 - Can also enable SPI, i2c, and 1-wire that we'll use in class
- Advanced
 - You might be able to expand the disk image to fill the whole sd-card, not sure if that's automatic
 - Performance: can overclock, select how much RAM used by GPU

And Even More Configuration

- Localization
 - Probably already picked keyboard
 - Can pick language. Probably your best bet is `en_US.UTF-8`
 - Pick timezone: `Americas/NY`
 - Can configure Wifi more (what frequencies it can use depend on what country you are in)

Other Optional things you can do

- If on network, can install updates
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get upgrade

Connecting to the Pi

- Monitor/Keyboard (Easiest)
- Network Connection (ssh)
- Network Connect (rpi-connect, VNC ?)
- Serial Connection

Monitor and Keyboard

- HDMI monitor, USB keyboard, USB mouse (optional unless using gui)
- Need HDMI cable (micro-HDMI on pi4/pi5)
- In the ancient past people used to use the screens/keyboards in some of the labs, but I don't know what the current policy is on hanging out in the labs outside of lab time

Wired Ethernet Connection

- Can run “headless” (though if something goes wrong on boot can be hard to troubleshoot)
- Ethernet cable
- Either an Ethernet port, or connect direct to PC
- Can hook it onto dorm network, but complex (and maybe need to request a static IP)
- Can also direct connect between PC (configure pi with a local address like 192.168.1.2 and set your wired Ethernet on PC side to something like 192.168.1.1 and then use ssh to connect)
- Using wired ethernet in the dorms can be a pain

Wifi

- Recent Pis have built-in wifi
- I haven't done this much, but you can find directions online
- Setting up eduroam tricky, I have put a link on the course website with some instructions

Serial Connection

- Just mentioning this as it's possible, but it's unlikely you want to do this
- Need USB/serial adapter
- Need another machine to hook to, with a comm program minicom, putty
- Thankfully unlike old days don't need specific NULL modem cable. Still might need to set some obscure COM port settings (BAUD, stop bits, parity) and console TERM settings (ANSI, VT102).

Other Ways of Connecting

- There are rumors about being able to login using USB-C on Pi4 but haven't seen it done
- VNC or X11 to export display (over ssh or otherwise)
- Rpi-connect. Says you can connect via web-browser from around world. Have never tried this.

Obsolete

- In way past times people used “netatalk” on MacOS
I think this doesn't work anymore

Transferring Files

- Easiest: if using like a desktop just use web-browser
- USB-KEY: transfer data using a regular USB-key In theory the Pi should auto-mount the drive for you
May need to mount / umount by hand or be root
- Network: just use ssh/scp (or putty/winscp)
- Serial: sz/rz ZMODEM
- Putting sd-card (after unpowering!) in another machine. Challenge: Filesystem is in Linux format (ext4) so Windows and Macs can't read it by default.

Homework #2 – Unpacking Assignment

- It's a .tar.gz file. What is that?
- Sort of the Linux equivalent of a zip file
- tar = tape archive (ancient history) that runs lots of files together
gz = gzip, which compresses it (makes it smaller)
- you may see other (Z, bz2, xz). What are the differences?
Mostly in compressed size vs compress/uncompress resources
gzip good enough for what we are doing.

Homework #2 – Editing C on Pi

- Take some existing C code and modify it.
- Can use the editor of your choice. Many on Linux.
 - “nano” is easy
 - “vim” if you are serious about Linux.
 - “emacs” – I’ve known some emacs wizards
 - Also various graphical ones
 - Modern (MS VS Studio? Eclipse? Atom?) but can take more RAM than the Pi has

What you will do before starting HW2

- Get Linux installed
- Login with the username/password you created (in the old days the default was pi / raspberry but for security reasons that's not done anymore)
- Learning a little bit of Linux. Most importantly compiling C/asm programs and transferring HW assignments in and out

SD Card Digression

- Why are they so slow?
- BACK UP YOUR WORK. ALL THE TIME. SD cards corrupt easily. Why?
- SHUTDOWN CLEANLY
menu or `shutdown -h now`
- Try to get things done a little before the deadlines, that way you have some time to recover if a hardware failure does happen.

Using the Pi

- I usually assume you'll be doing things at the command line, either at the text console or by starting a terminal emulator (like `lxterm`) in the GUI interface

Homework #2 – Editing C on your own computer

- if you want you can even code it up on your desktop/laptop, but you probably want to copy it over to test before submitting.
- Be careful not to introduce errors if cutting and pasting
- Be sure to test before submitting! If it won't compile I'll take points off

C compiler

- C compiling on Linux

We will use gcc (what others exist. clang?)

Typical command line is something like:

```
gcc -O2 -Wall -o hello_world hello_world.c
```

-O2 is optimization, -Wall is show all warnings

A lot more options, see man page

Makefiles

- We use a Makefile to automate the process.
- What is make?
- You give it a list of dependencies, then it automatically sees what files have changed and then runs commands to build things
- Feel free to play with it, but a warning, tabs are significant so weird errors if you use spaces instead.
- If you for some reason add things with Makefiles, be sure you update submit to include the extras

Submitting your Code

- Run “make submit” and it will take the files you’ve worked on and create a .tar.gz file you can e-mail to me
- Be sure to send the right file! Often people send me the assignment instead of submission
- If it’s the last minute and you can’t get it to work you can try sending a zip file instead, but it makes it harder for me to grade. Also gmail likes to block attachments (even zips) with executable code in them so be sure you only send source files

Aside on Cross-compiling

- Can compile for a different architecture, for example x86 to ARM
- Why do it? Faster. Target doesn't have enough resources. Want to target multiple devices.
- To test would need an emulator (like qemu)

Comment your Code!

- Comment your code!!!!
- Why?
- I will take points off if you don't.
- Also helps other people looking at your code figure out what's going on.
- Especially the grader
- But also, you looking at your own code at a later date

Comment your Code!

- Mostly comment non-obvious stuff.
- `for(i=0;i<10;i++)` *// loop 1 to 10*
- `for(i=0;i<10;i++)` *// loop through all LEDs*
- Things like `i=4.3+10*j`; definitely need to
- You can't really over-comment (well you can, but it's harder to over-comment than under-comment)

Code Style

- Some classes/projects will have enforced style guide to follow
- For this class not picky
- Having your name and a description of what the overall file and each function is fine
- Even fancier commenting conventions companies will have for automated tools.
- Aside on IOCCC

Using git

- Not using gitlab like ECE271, was huge hassle
- Still a good idea to use some sort of source control management (SCM)
You can use git locally to track files w/o uploading to server
- Note: don't use a publicly visible github repository for your homeworks, people can and will find them and copy your code
- There are actually worse than git out there
- Who wrote git? Linus Torvalds.

Documentation on Linux commands

- Use `man command` where `command` is what you are interested in
- Use `man ls` to see how to use `ls`
- Also useful for functions `man -a printf` or random stuff `man ascii`

HW#2 Something Cool

- ANSI escape color/art – Demoscene / BBS!
- In old days: how could you do colors on screen?
- Over serial port, so couldn't directly write to video card
- Escape sequences: A pattern not normally typed by accident
- ESCAPE (ASCII 27) followed by [then some pattern of characters.
- Can move cursor, change colors, etc.
- Back in the day I used to make a lot of ANSI/ASCII art.