

# IoT Project

## Introduction

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Faculty 2: Computer Science and Engineering  
[oliver.hahm@fb2.fra-uas.de](mailto:oliver.hahm@fb2.fra-uas.de)  
<https://teaching.dahahm.de>

# Agenda

- 1** About
- 2** Organizational
- 3** Internet of Things
- 4** Software for low-end IoT Devices
- 5** Technical Insights on RIOT
- 6** RIOT Community

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## About me



- Study of Computer Science at Freie Universität Berlin
- Software Developer for ScatterWeb and Zühlke Engineering
- Research on IoT and Operating Systems

## Contact

**E-mail:** [oliver.hahm@fb2.fra-uas.de](mailto:oliver.hahm@fb2.fra-uas.de)

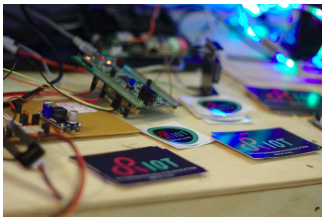
**Office hours:** Fridays 10:00 – 11:00, room 1-212

## Join the RIOT!

RIOT is the friendly  
operating system  
for the IoT!

You're interested in ...

- ... programming the IoT?
- ... collaborate with hundreds of people from all over the world?
- ... contribute to a big FLOSS project?



## Get in touch

Get in touch and do some hacking at the **All RIOT** event at the university!

Every two or three weeks 4pm in room 1-237.

Or look at <https://riot-os.org/community.html>



## What about you?

- What is your motivation for this course?
- What do you think about the Internet of Things?

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# What?

- Create a firmware based on RIOT (<https://riot-os.org> )
- The firmware should periodically read sensor data and send it towards an IoT Cloud provider
- Sending data to the cloud requires ...
  - a **border router**
  - multi-hop forwarding towards the border router
- Create a driver for an emulated sensor

## How?

- Team work (two students per group)
- Each team work on a common code base
- git is used as version control system
- Write documentation about your project
- Run (and evaluate) your code on the FIT IoT-Lab
- Present your work

## What (and when) to Submit?

- February 07, 2023: Presentation
  - Give a short presentation on your work (live demo?)
- February 10, 2023: Submission
  - Final version of the code is in the repository
  - You have granted access to me
  - Send me your documentation

## Further Information

### Course page

All material regarding this course can be found at <https://teaching.dahahm.de>

This includes

- Announcements
- Slides
- Dates

### campUAS

Enrolment Key:  
HahmDigi

### Additional Sources

Everything related to RIOT can be found at <https://riot-os.org> .  
All information about the IoT-Lab testbed facility can be found at <https://iot-lab.info> .

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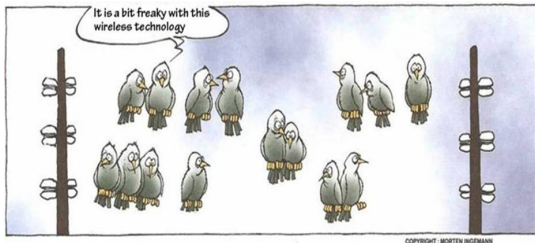
# The Evolution of the IoT

Three Disruptive Technologies  
as the Roots of the IoT

# The Evolution of the IoT

## Three Disruptive Technologies as the Roots of the IoT

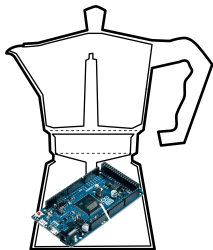
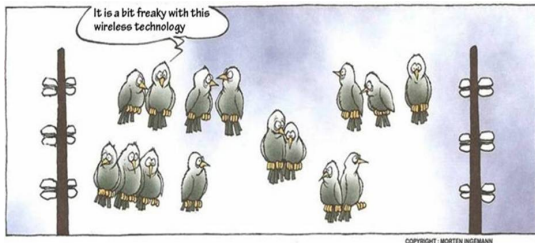
- **Wireless Communication**
- Low-cost Embedded Systems
- The Internet



# The Evolution of the IoT

## Three Disruptive Technologies as the Roots of the IoT

- Wireless Communication
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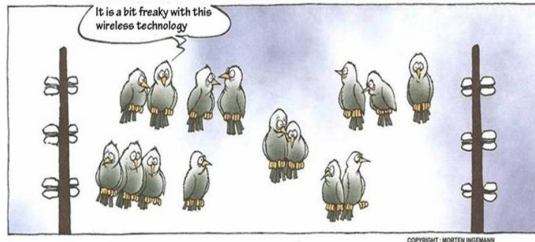
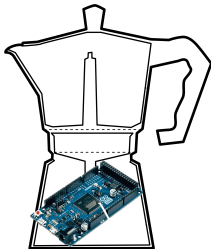




# The Evolution of the IoT

## Three Disruptive Technologies as the Roots of the IoT

- Wireless Communication
- Low-cost Embedded Systems
- The Internet



# Smart Object Networking at Internet-Scale

## Connecting the Physical World with the Internet

- Transforming Things into Smart Objects
- Enabling Interconnected Smart Services

# Smart Object Networking at Internet-Scale

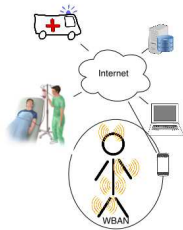
## Industrial Automation



Connecting the Physical World with the Internet

- Transforming Things into Smart Objects
- Enabling Interconnected Smart Services

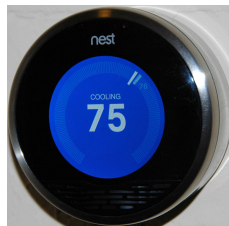
## Mobile Health



## Micro & Nano Satellites



## Building & Home Automation





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# Requirements for IoT Software

## Low-end IoT Devices: Limited Resources (RFC7228)

iotlab-m3



Senslab  
WSN430



Arduino Due



- Memory < 1 Mb
- CPU < 100 MHz
- Energy < 10 Wh

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+

Use Case Requirements

=

### Software Requirements

- Energy Efficiency
- Sustainability
- Network Connectivity
- Real-Time Capabilities
- Small Memory Footprint
- Security and Safety
- Support for Heterogeneous Hardware

# Embedded Operating Systems

## No User Interaction

- No GUI required  $\Rightarrow$  No Pseudo-Parallel Execution is required
- Must Operate Autonomously  
 $\rightarrow$  Must Recover from Errors
- Autoconfiguration is required



Source: Embedded Lab, <https://www.electronics-lab.com/>



# Embedded Operating Systems

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## Constrained Hardware

- Often no MMU<sup>1</sup> and no FPU<sup>2</sup>
- Typically no Display or Input Devices
- In many cases no Persistent Memory



Source: Embedded Lab, <https://www.electronics-lab.com/>

<sup>1</sup>Memory Management Unit

<sup>2</sup>Floating Point Unit

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- No Multi-User Support required
- Often only one Application
- Typically no dynamic linking  $\rightarrow$  just one statically linked binary

Source: Embedded Lab, <https://www.electronics-lab.com/>

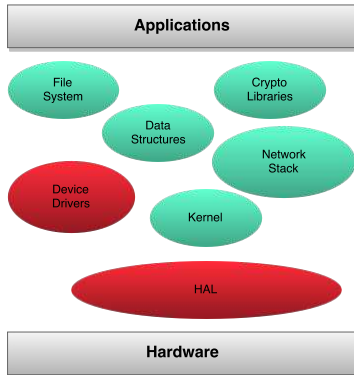
<sup>1</sup>Memory Management Unit

Prof. Dr. Oliver Hahn – IoT Project – Introduction – WS 22/23

<sup>2</sup>Floating Point Unit

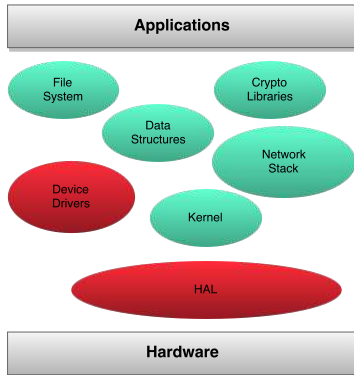
# The Need for an OS for Low-end IoT Devices

## Unified Software Platform

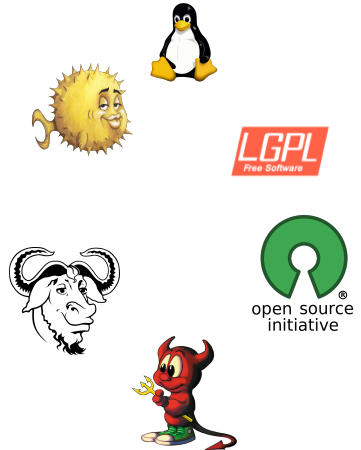


# The Need for an OS for Low-end IoT Devices

## Unified Software Platform



## Open Source



# Operating Systems for Low-End IoT Devices: Linux

## Full-fledged OS



## Does not fit

- Too Big
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## Too Complicated

- Hard to Learn
- No System Level Compatibility

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## RTOS



## Too Minimalistic

- No Built in Networking Support
- No Common API

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# The friendly OS for the IoT

"If your IoT device cannot run Linux, then use RIOT!"

- RIOT requires only a few kB of RAM/ROM, and a small CPU
- With RIOT, code once & run heterogeneous IoT hardware
  - 8bit hardware (e.g. Arduino)
  - 16bit hardware (e.g. MSP430)
  - 32bit hardware (e.g. ARM Cortex-M, x86)



## Open Standards, Open Source

- Free, open source (LGPLv2.1) operating system for constrained IoT devices
- Write your code in **ANSI-C** or **C++**
- Compliant with the most widely used POSIX features like pthreads and sockets
- No IoT hardware needed for development
- Run & debug RIOT as native process in Linux



Valgrind



# Programming Language and Guidelines

## Important Programming Language Properties

- No Overhead
- Full Control over Memory Management
- Direct Access to the Hardware
- Binding to other Languages
- Usability

### Why C?

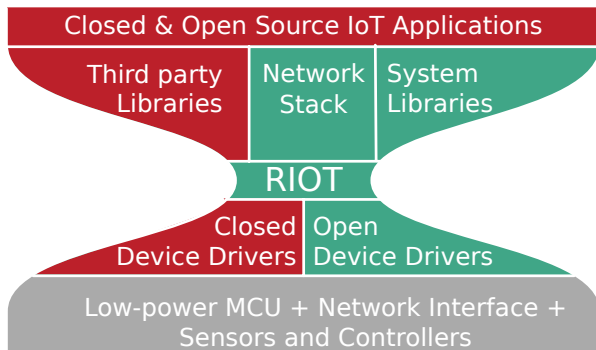
- Ticks all the Boxes
- Stable Specification
- Widely Used → Tooling

```
140 void thread_yield(void)
141 {
142     unsigned old_state = irq_disable();
143     thread_t *me = thread_get_active();
144
145     if (me->status >= STATUS_ON_RUNQUEUE) {
146         sched_runq_advance(me->priority);
147     }
148     irq_restore(old_state);
149
150     thread_yield_higher();
151 }
```

## Programming Guidelines

- Follow a Structured and Procedural Approach
- Keep It Simple, Stupid (KISS)
- No Dynamic Memory Allocation
- Be Resource-aware
- No Macro “Magic”

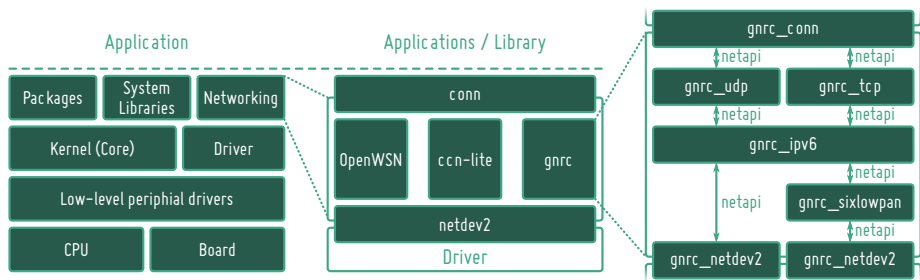
# Architectural Overview



## Design Decisions

- Efficient & Flexible Micro-Kernel
- System Level Interoperability
- Networking Interoperability

# The Structure



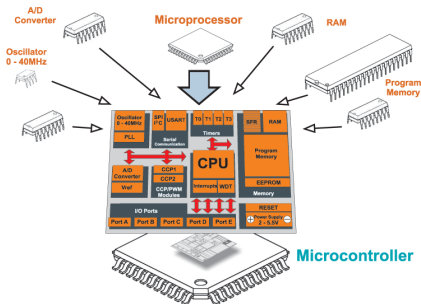
# Hardware Abstraction Layer (HAL)

## Challenge: Support a Plethora of different Platforms

- Different Processor Architectures (8 bit, 16 bit, 32 bit ...)
- Microcontroller<sup>1</sup>Peripherals
- Sensors and Actuators
- Network Devices
- Crypto Devices
- ...

## Goal: Provide a Common API

- Drivers for MCU Core
- Drivers for MCU Peripherals
- Device Drivers
- Timer API



Source: MikroElektronika, <https://www.mikroe.com>

<sup>1</sup>MicroController Unit (MCU)

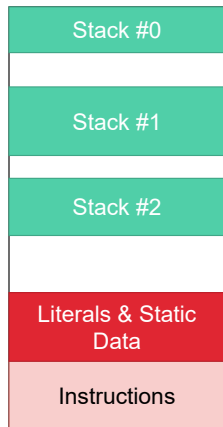
# Multi-Threading

- Microkernel approach
  - But no Memory Protection
  - ⇒ Stack Overflows are possible
- Provides Standard Multi-Threading
- Each Thread contains a (minimal) Thread Control Block (TCB)

## Low Memory Usage

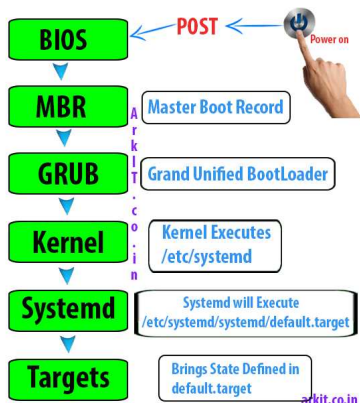
### On a Low-end IoT Device (16-bit, 8 MHz):

- Min. TCB: 8 bytes
- Min. Stack Size: 96 bytes
- Up to 16,000 Messages/s  
( $\hat{=}$  10,000 Packets/s for 802.15.4)



# Boot Sequence

## Linux Boot Sequence

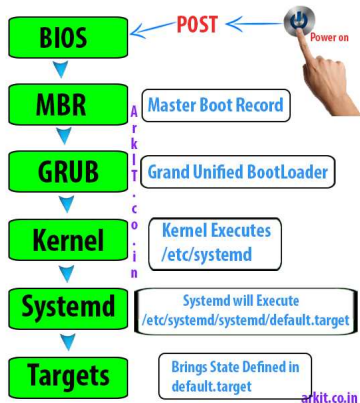


Source: <https://arkit.co.in/linux-boot-process-millionaire-guide/>



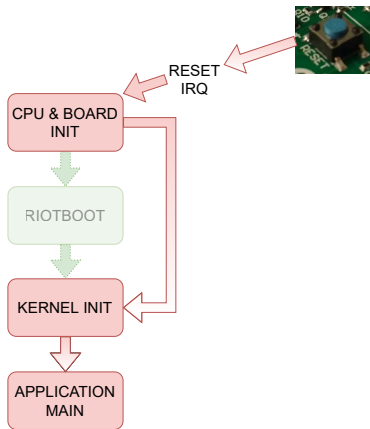
# Boot Sequence

## Linux Boot Sequence



Source: <https://arkit.co.in/linux-boot-process-millionaire-guide/>

## RIOT Boot Sequence



# Scheduling

- Preemptive
- Threads have fixed Priorities
- The Thread in the Run-Queue with the highest Priority will run

## A Periodic System Tick requires Timers

- A running Timer prevent the MCU to enter Deep Sleep Modes
- Periodic Wakeup waste Energy if there is nothing to do



## Accounting for Real-Time Requirements

- All Data Structures in the Kernel have Static Size  $\Rightarrow$  All Operations are  $O(1)$
- The Behavior of the Kernel is completely deterministic
- Interrupt Handlers are as short as possible



Source: Educación Física,

<https://efsancristobalcartagena.blogspot.com>

# Thread States

- A Thread can have one of the following States:

- Stopped
- Sleeping
- Blocked
- Running
- Pending

- The States Running and Pending indicate that the Thread is on the **Run-Queue**

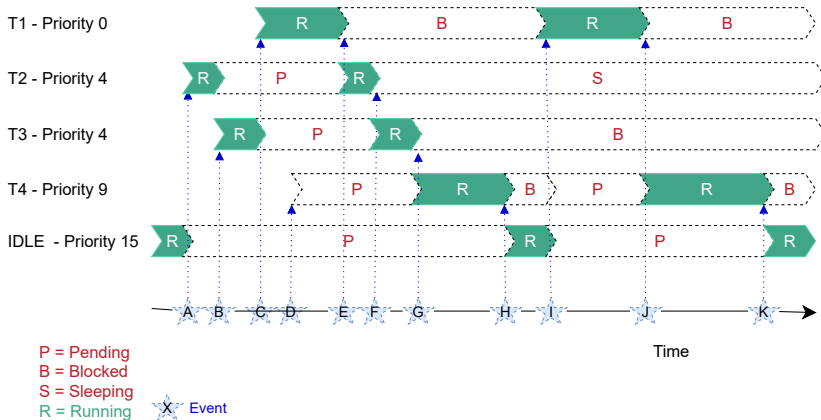
⇒ The Thread is ready to run

It may be blocked waiting for

...

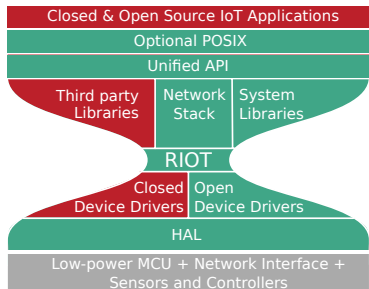
- a mutex
- a message to be received
- a message to be sent
- a response to a previous message
- a thread flag
- an action in its mailbox
- a condition variable

# Scheduling example



# Application Programming Interface (API)

- Application shall be independent from the Hardware
- Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX) provides a common API among OS
- Not well suited for low-power IoT Devices
  - Origins from the 1980's
    - Not very modern
  - Not tailored for constrained Resources
    - But facilitates (initial) porting
- A POSIX-like API for this Class of Devices is missing so far



# Modularity and Reusability



- Specialized Applications require only a Subset of the available Features
- Fine-grained Modularity is required to reduce the Binary Size
- Kernel Features may be disabled (→ Even Multi-Threading is optional)

```

    [0] [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6]
    (Top)
    RIOT Configuration
    Native modules ----
    [ ] Configure RIOT Core ----
    Drivers -->
    System -->
    Packages ----
    External Modules ----
    *** RIOT is in a migration phase. ***
    *** Some configuration options may not be here. Use CFLAGS instead. ***
    [*] Development Help

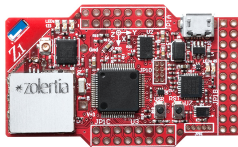
    [Space/Enter] Toggle/enter [ESC] Leave menu [S] Save
    [O] Load [I] Symbol info [J] Jump to symbol
    [F] Toggle show-help mode [C] Toggle show-name mode [A] Toggle show-all mode
    [Q] Quit (prompts for save) [D] Save minimal config (advanced)
  
```

## Result: Low Porting Effort

- Emulation support: RIOT as a Process
- Third-Party Development Tools
- Third-Party Library Packages

Package	Diff Size	
	Overall	Relative
libcoap	639 lines	6.3 %
libfixmath	34 lines	0.2 %
lwip	767 lines	1.3 %
micro-ecc	14 lines	0.8 %
relc	24 lines	<0.1 %

# Memory Comparison



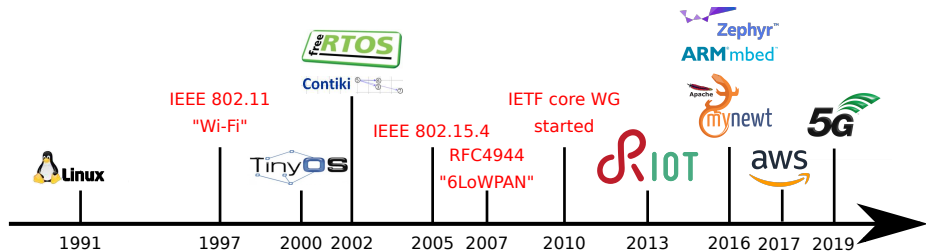
RIOT is as Small as Traditional WSN Operating Systems

Application	ROM	RAM
RIOT 2016.04	52,378	5,618
Contiki 3.0	51,562	5,530
TinyOS tinyos-main	40,574	6,812

Standard IoT IPv6 Networking Application

Code size comparison [Bytes] between RIOT, Contiki, and TinyOS.

# Review & Perspectives



## IoT Software in 2022

- Most popular IoT OS are:
  - RIOT
  - Zephyr
  - AWS FreeRTOS
- RIOT as the Linux for the IoT?
- ongoing challenges: Cloud integration, security, software updates



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# 9 Years of RIOT

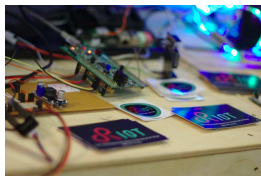
## RIOT Open Source Development

- More Than 38,000 Commits and More Than 14,000 Pull Requests
- Over 1,800 forks on GitHub
- More Than 290 Contributors
- Support for More Than 230 Hardware Platforms
- Over 500 Scientific Publications



## Get in touch!

- News: [https://twitter.com/RIOT\\_OS](https://twitter.com/RIOT_OS) and [https://fosstodon.org/@RIOT\\_OS](https://fosstodon.org/@RIOT_OS)
- For Developers and Users: <https://forum.riot-os.org>
- Support & Discussions on Matrix: <https://matrix.to/#/#riot-os:matrix.org>
- Get the Source Code and Contribute: <https://github.com/RIOT-OS/RIOT>
- Show Cases: <https://www.hackster.io/riot-os>
- Videos on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/RIOT-IoT>
- Pics: <https://www.flickr.com/people/142412063@N07/>
- Get together at the yearly RIOT Summit: <https://summit.riot-os.org>
- Getting started with a tutorial on <https://riot-os.github.io/riot-course/>



## Literature

- E. Baccelli et al. “RIOT: An open source operating system for low-end embedded devices in the IoT,” IEEE Internet of Things Journal, December 2018.
- O. Hahm, “Enabling Energy Efficient Smart Object Networking at Internet-Scale,” Ecole Polytechnique, December 2016.
- O. Hahm, E. Baccelli, H. Petersen, and N. Tsiftes, “Operating Systems for Low-End Devices in the Internet of Things: a Survey,” IEEE Internet of Things Journal, October 2016.
- D. Lacamera, “Embedded Systems Architecture,” O’Reilly, May 2018.



Any Questions?

