

# Tock Embedded OS Tutorial

SenSys 2017

# Welcome to the Tock OS Training!

*Please make sure you have completed all of the tutorial pre-requisites. If you prefer, you can download a virtual machine image with all the pre-requisites already installed.*

`https://github.com/helena-project/tock/tree/master/doc/courses/sensys/README.md`

*aka*

`http://j2x.us/tock`

# Agenda Today

1. Intro to hardware, tools and development environment
2. Write an end-to-end Bluetooth Low Energy environment sensing application
3. Add functionality to the Tock kernel
  - ▶ Write some Rust!

## Part 1: Hardware, tools, and development environment

Hail

SAM4L

Accelerometer

MCU

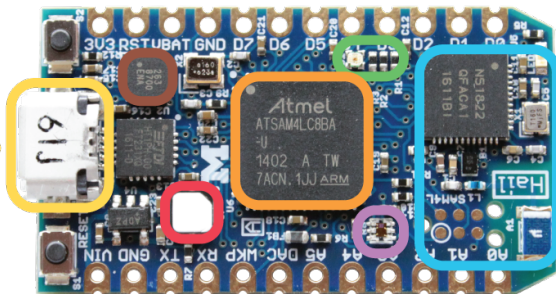
RGB LED

USB

BLE

Temperature &  
Humidity

Light Sensor



## We need the Hails back at the end of the tutorial

But you can take one home with you! Purchase here:

<https://tockos.org/hardware>

Put in “SENSYS17” for \$5 off, and “2600 Hearst Ave, Berkeley CA 94709” as the address for local pickup.

## Binaries on-board in flash

- ▶ 0x00000: **Bootloader**: Interact with Tockloader; load code
- ▶ 0x10000: **Kernel**
- ▶ 0x30000: **Processes**: Packed back-to-back

# Tools

- ▶ `make`
- ▶ Rust/Cargo/Xargo (Rust code → LLVM)
- ▶ `arm-none-eabi` (LLVM → Cortex-M)
- ▶ `tockloader` to interact with Hail and the bootloader



## Tools: tockloader

Write a binary to a particular address in flash

```
$ tockloader flash --address 0x10000 \  
    target/thumbv7em-none-eabi/release/hail.bin
```

Program a process in Tock Binary Format<sup>1</sup>:

```
$ tockloader install myapp.tab
```

Restart the board and connect to the debug console:

```
$ tockloader listen
```

---

<sup>1</sup>TBFs are relocatable process binaries prefixed with headers like the package name. `.tab` is a tarball of TBFs for different architectures as well as a metadata file for `tockloader`.

## Check your understanding

Turn to the person next to you:

1. What kinds of binaries exist on a Tock board? Hint: There are three, and only two can be programmed using `tockloader`.
2. What steps would you follow to program a process onto Hail? What about to replace the kernel?

# Answers

1. The three binaries are the serial bootloader, the kernel, and a series of processes. The bootloader can be used to load the kernel and processes, but cannot replace itself.
2. Use tockloader:
  - ▶ `tockloader install app.tab`
  - ▶ `tockloader flash --address 0x10000 hail-kernel.bin`

# Hands-on: Set-up development environment

3. Compile and program the kernel
  4. (Optional) Familiarize yourself with `tockloader` commands
    - ▶ `uninstall`
    - ▶ `list`
    - ▶ `erase-apps`
  5. (Optional) Add some other apps from the repo, like `blink` and `sensors`
- 
- ▶ Head to <http://j2x.us/tock1> to get started!
  - ▶ (<https://github.com/helena-project/tock/blob/master/doc/courses/sensys/environment.md>)

## Part 2: User space

## System calls

Tock supports five syscalls that applications use to interact with the kernel.

Call	Target	Description
command	Capsule	Invoke an operation on a capsule
allow	Capsule	Share memory with a capsule
subscribe	Capsule	Register an upcall
memop	Core	Modify memory break
yield	Core	Block until next upcall is ready

## C System Calls: command & allow

*// Start an operation*

```
int command(u32 driver, u32 command, int arg1, int arg2);
```

*// Share memory with the kernel*

```
int allow(u32 driver, u32 allow, void* ptr, size_t size);
```

## C System Calls: subscribe

```
// Callback function type
typedef void (sub_cb)(int, int, int, void* userdata);

// Register a callback with the kernel
int subscribe(u32 driver,
              u32 subscribe,
              sub_cb cb,
              void* userdata);
```



## C System Calls: yield & yield\_for

*// Block until next callback*

```
void yield(void);
```

*// Block until a specific callback*

```
void yield_for(bool *cond) {  
    while (!*cond) {  
        yield();  
    }  
}
```

## Example: printing to the debug console

```
#define DRIVER_NUM_CONSOLE 0x0001

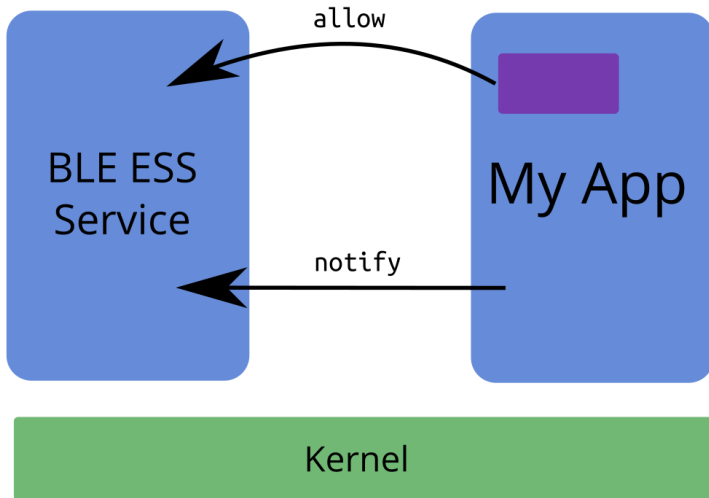
bool done = false;

static void putstr_cb(int x, int y, int z, void* ud) {
    done = true;
}

int putnstr(const char *str, size_t len) {
    allow(DRIVER_NUM_CONSOLE, 1, str, len);
    subscribe(DRIVER_NUM_CONSOLE, 1, putstr_cb, NULL);
    command(DRIVER_NUM_CONSOLE, 1, len, 0);
    yield_for(&done);

    return SUCCESS;
}
```

## Inter Process Communication (IPC)



# Tock Inter Process Communication Overview

## *Servers*

- ▶ Register as an IPC service
- ▶ Call `notify` to trigger callback in connected client
- ▶ Receive a callback when a client calls `notify`

## *Clients*

- ▶ Discover IPC services by application name
- ▶ Able to share a buffer with a connected service
- ▶ Call `notify` to trigger callback in connected service
- ▶ Receive a callback when service calls `notify`

## Client Inter Process Communication API

*// Discover IPC service by name*

```
int ipc_discover(const char* pkg_name);
```

*// Share memory slice with IPC service*

```
int ipc_share(int pid, void* base, int len);
```

*// Register for callback on server `notify`*

```
int ipc_register_client_cb(int pid, subscribe_cb cb,  
                           void* userdata);
```

*// Trigger callback in service*

```
int ipc_notify_svc(int pid);
```

## Check your understanding

Turn to the person next to you:

1. How does a process perform a blocking operation? Can you draw the flow of operations when a process calls `delay_ms(1000)`?
2. Which functions would a client call to interact with an IPC service that provides a UART console? What does the design of the console service look like?

# Answers

1. A blocking call follows these steps:
  - ▶ Set up a callback using `subscribe`
  - ▶ Initiate an operation with `command`
  - ▶ Continually `yield` using `yield_for`
2. A console service first registers a callback to receive notifications from clients. When the callback triggers, it uses a buffer shared by the client and prints the contents to the console.
  - ▶ Call `ipc_discover()` to find the ID of the console service.
  - ▶ Call `ipc_share` to share a buffer where output will live
  - ▶ Fill the buffer with output
  - ▶ Call `ipc_notify_svc` to invoke a console write.

## Hands-on: Write a BLE environment sensing application

3. Get an application running on Hail
4. Print “Hello World” every second
5. Extend your app to sample on-board sensors
6. Extend your app to report through the `ble-env-sense` service

▶ Head to <http://j2x.us/tock2> to get started!

▶ (<https://github.com/helena-project/tock/blob/master/doc/courses/sensys/application.md>)



## Part 3: The kernel

## Trusted Computing Base (unsafe allowed)

- ▶ Hardware Abstraction Layer
- ▶ Board configuration
- ▶ Event & Process scheduler
- ▶ Rust core library
- ▶ Core Tock primitives

arch/  
chips/  
kernel/

## Capsules (unsafe not allowed)

- ▶ Virtualization
- ▶ Peripheral drivers
- ▶ Communication protocols (IP, USB, etc)
- ▶ Application logic

capsules/

# Constraints

## Small isolation units

Breaking a monolithic component into smaller ones should have low/no cost

## Avoid memory exhaustion in the kernel

No heap. Everything is allocated statically.

## Low communication overhead

Communicating between components as cheap as an internal function call. Ideally inlined.

## Event-driven execution model

```
pub fn main<P, C>(platform: &P, chip: &mut C,
                  processes: &mut [Process]) {
    loop {
        chip.service_pending_interrupts();
        for (i, p) in processes.iter_mut().enumerate() {
            sched::do_process(platform, chip, process);
        }

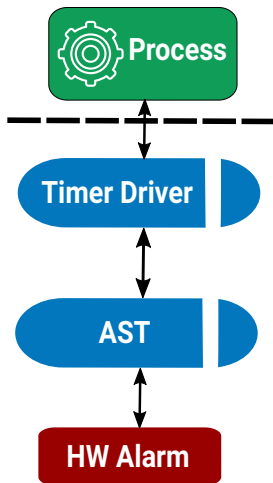
        if !chip.has_pending_interrupts() {
            chip.prepare_for_sleep();
            support::wfi();
        }
    }
}
```

## Event-driven execution model

```
fn service_pending_interrupts(&mut self) {  
    while let Some(interrupt) = get_interrupt() {  
        match interrupt {  
            ASTALARM => ast::AST.handle_interrupt(),  
            USART0 => usart::USART0.handle_interrupt(),  
            USART1 => usart::USART1.handle_interrupt(),  
            USART2 => usart::USART2.handle_interrupt(),  
            ...  
        }  
    }  
}
```

## Event-driven execution model

```
impl Ast {  
    pub fn handle_interrupt(&self) {  
        self.clear_alarm();  
        self.callback.get().map(|cb| { cb.fired(); });  
    }  
}  
  
impl time::Client for MuxAlarm {  
    fn fired(&self) {  
        for cur in self.virtual_alarms.iter() {  
            if cur.should_fire() {  
                cur.armed.set(false);  
                self.enabled.set(self.enabled.get() - 1);  
                cur.fired();  
            }  
        }  
    }  
}
```





# Check your understanding

Turn to the person next to you:

1. What are Tock kernel components called?
2. Is the kernel scheduled cooperatively or preemptively? What happens if a capsule performs a very long computation?
3. How is a hardware interrupt handled in the kernel?

# Answers

1. Tock kernel components are called “capsules”
2. The kernel is scheduled cooperatively by capsules calling methods on each other. If a capsule performs a very long computation it might prevent other capsules from running or cause them to miss events.
3. Hardware interrupts are scheduled to run when capsules next yield. If a process is running when a hardware event happens, the hardware event will be immediately handled.

## Hands-on: Write and add a capsule to the kernel

4. Read the Hail boot sequence in `boards/hail/src/main.rs`
5. Write a new capsule that prints “Hello World” to the debug console.
6. Extend your capsule to print “Hello World” every second
7. Extend your capsule to print light readings every second
8. Extra credit

► Head to <http://j2x.us/tock3> to get started!

► (<https://github.com/helena-project/tock/blob/master/doc/courses/sensys/capsule.md>)

## We need the Hails back!

But you can take one home with you! Purchase here:

<https://tockos.org/hardware>

Put in “SENSYS17” for \$5 off, and “2600 Hearst Ave, Berkeley CA 94709” as the address for local pickup.

	imix (\$100)	Hail (\$60)
Sensors		
- Accelerometer	✓	✓
- Temperature/Humidity	✓	✓
- Light	✓	✓
- Accelerometer	✓	✓
Radios	BLE & 802.15.4	BLE
Buttons	1 user, 1 reset	1 user, 1 reset
LEDs	3	1 blue, 1 RGB
Hardware RNG	✓	
USB Host	✓	pins only
Independent Power Domains	✓	
Form Factor	Custom, 2.45" x 4"	Particle Photon

## Stay in touch!

<https://www.tockos.org>

<https://github.com/helena-project/tock>

[tock-dev@googlegroups.com](mailto:tock-dev@googlegroups.com)

#tock on Freenode

---

## Quick Survey!

► <https://j2x.us/tock-survey>

---

## Hardware!

<https://tockos.org/hardware>

Put in “SENSYS17” for \$5 off, and “2600 Hearst Ave, Berkeley CA 94709” as the address for local pickup.