Porting Contiki OS to VSN

Erik Pertovt, Miha Smolnikar

Jozef Stefan Institute

AgroSense

Outline

Contiki Operating System

- Introduction
- Features
- Communication

Porting Contiki OS to VSN platform

- Requirements - Contiki vs. TinyOS
- Environment and porting
- Testbed

Contiki - Introduction

- Lightweight OS for sensor network nodes
- Swedish Institute of Computer Science (http://www.sics.se/)
- Open Source (BSD license)
  - Contiki 1.0 - 2003, Contiki 2.0 - 2007, …, Contiki 2.4 - 2010
- Implementation
  - C programming language
  - Footprint size
    - Bigger then TinyOS (event-driven)
    - Smaller than Mantis (preemptive multi-thread)

Contiki - Features

- Ported to several platforms
  - MSP430, AVR, HC12, Z80, 6502, x86
- Simulators
  - COOJA, MSPsim, netsim
- File System – Coffee
  - Flash based file system
- Memory management
  - Allocation at loading time (both ROM and RAM)

Contiki - Features

- Modular image
  - Core + loadable programs
  - Dynamic loading and replacement of individual programs and services
  - Core cannot be modified after node's deployment
- Over the air programming
- No power save mechanisms
  - Lets application specific parts of the system to implement such mechanisms (by exposing the size of the queue)

Contiki - Features

- Contiki system consists of
  - Kernel (CPU multiplexing and has no platform-specific code)
    - does not provide a hardware abstraction layer, but lets device drivers and applications communicate directly with the hardware
  - Program loader
  - Libraries
  - Set of processes (program or service)
    - service is a process implementing functionality used by more than application process (e.g. communication)
    - communication between processes always goes through the kernel

Contiki - Features

- Contiki uses a hybrid model of event-driven kernel and the support for preemptive multi-threading
  - processes in event-driven systems are implemented as event handlers that run to completion (cannot block)
  - preemptive multi-threading can be used with individual processes (e.g. long computations) and is implemented as a library
  - this allows the threaded programs to run on top of an event-based kernel without the overhead of multiple stacks

Contiki - Features

- Event / Thread Hybrid model
  - Event-driven kernel
    - No preemption – only by interrupts
  - Preemptive multi-threading
    - On a per-process basis
    - Implemented as a library that can be explicitly linked with programs that require multi-threading
    - Memory management functions - library
  - Protothreads
    - Thread-like construct on top of the event-driven Contiki kernel (no need of one stack per thread)

Contiki - Communication

- Implemented as a service
  - Multiple communication stacks can be loaded simultaneously
  - Run-time replacement of individual parts of a stack
- Supported protocol stacks
  - Rime
  - lwIP
  - µIP
  - µIPv6

Contiki - Communication

- RIME
  - Extremely thin layers
  - Low overhead
  - Not a fully modular structure
    - Only the lowest and upper layer can be replaced
  - 2kB ROM, few 10kB RAM

- lwIP – lightweight IP - 2000
  - IPv4 Compatible
  - Implemented protocols: UDP, TCP, ICMP and IP
  - Modular design – allows extension with additional protocols
  - 40kB ROM, 40kB RAM

Contiki - Communication

- µIP – “the world’s smallest TCP/IP stack” – 2001
  - IPv4 compliant
  - 6kB ROM, 1kB RAM
  - Minimal set of features
  - Implemented protocols: TCP, ICMP, IP
    - No UDP support
- µIPv6 - 2008
  - IPv6 extension of µIP
  - 11.5kB ROM and 1.8kB RAM
  - Implemented protocols: TCP, UDP, ICMP, IP

Outline

- Contiki Operating System
  - Introduction
  - Features
  - Communication
- **Porting Contiki OS to VSN platform**
  - Requirements - Contiki vs. TinyOS
  - Environment and porting
  - Testbed

Requirements

- Large scale, heterogeneous sensor networks
  - Platform portability
  - C programming language
  - IP communication stack
  - Remote reprogramming

Requirements - Contiki vs. TinyOS

Contiki

- Written in C programming language (ported to Texas Instruments MSP430 and Atmel AVR)
- Event-driven OS with optional preemptive multi-threading
- Dynamic linking

TinyOS

- Written in nesC programming language (ported to Atmel AVR)
- Event-driven OS with non-preemptive multi-threading
- Statically linked

Environment and porting

- Contiki directory structure
  - `/core/`
    - `/dev/` - device drivers (`CC1101/CC2500 on SPI`)
    - `/net/` - network drivers
  - `/cpu/` - common code to all platforms with the same microcontroller (`stm32f103`)
  - `/platform/` - platform specific code (`VSN v1.2`)
  - `/apps/` - applications (`test applications`)

Environment and porting

- **ST microcontroller with ARM Cortex-M3 core**
- **µVision IDE from Keil Software**
  - Project Management
  - Source Code Editing
  - C/C++ Compiler
  - Program Debugging
- **OS Contiki version 2.4**
  - kernel
  - communication protocol stack Rime
  - system clock and event timer files for ARM
    - stm32f103 (from Contiki version 2.x-20100303)
- **Microcontroller drivers STM32F10x version 3.1.2**

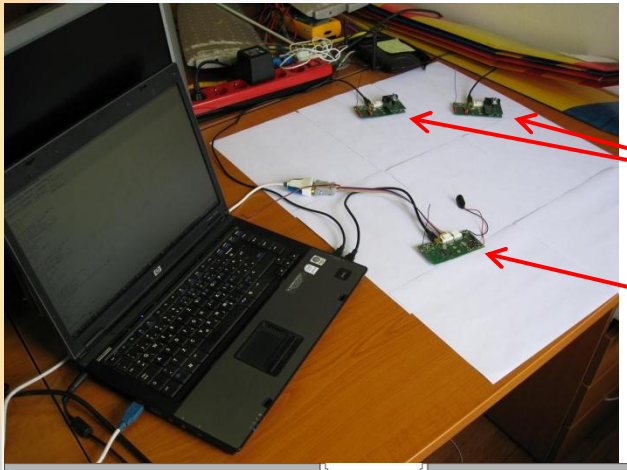
Testbed

- **Main function**
  - Initialization of VSN peripherals
  - OS Contiki initialization (processes, Rime protocol stack)

- **Packets sending**
  - on sensor nodes: code for sending packets
    - reading temperature and humidity
    - periodically broadcasts packets with measures for broadcasting periodically uses event timer

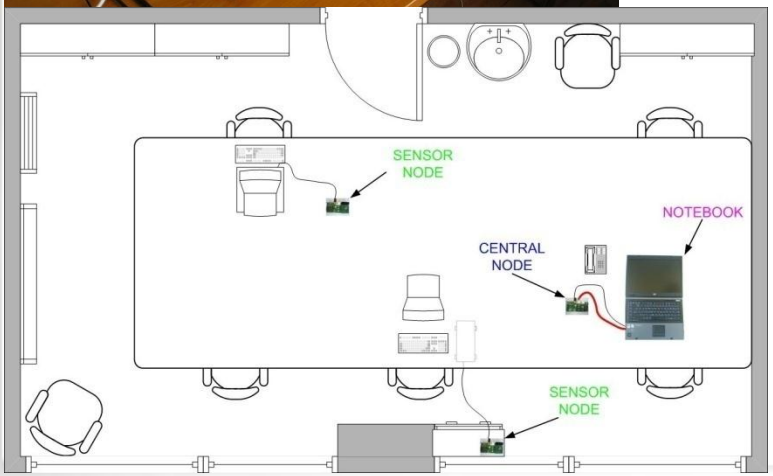
- **Packets receiving**
  - on central node: code for receiving packets
    - processing of received packet
    - delivering ordered packet's data to the user

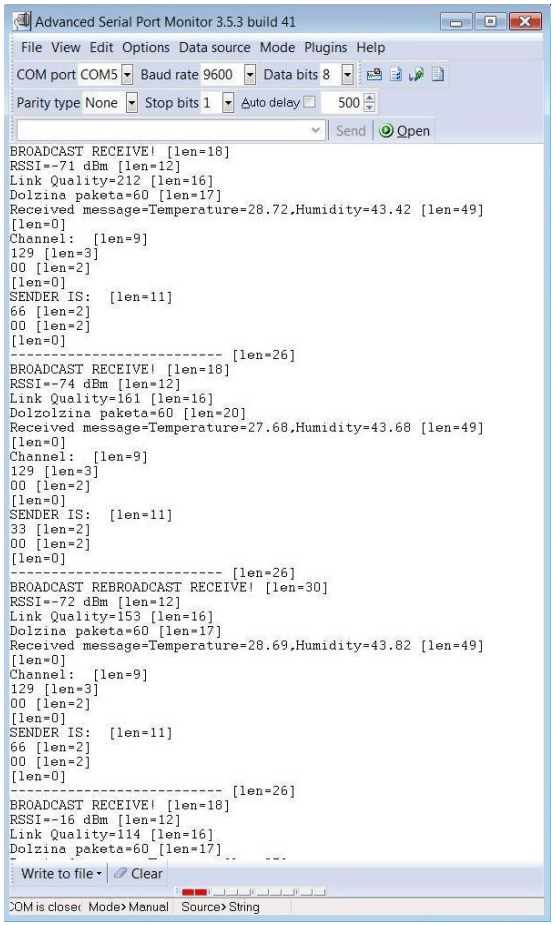
Testbed



Sensor nodes

Central node





AgroSense

Jozef Stefan Institute
Department of
Communication Systems

Thanks for your attention!

Miha Smolnikar

miha.smolnikar@ijs.si

AgroSense