# Cooperative Development Inside Communities

Jeff Osier-Mixon

MontaVista Software, Inc.

Embedded Linux Conference 2009 Kabuki Hotel, San Francisco, CA

## Who is Jeff?

- Veteran technical writer
- Embedded open-source greybeard: has worked in embedded open-source software and related hardware for 17 yrs (OMG)
- Experienced web guru: created one of the first corporate websites and intranets in 1994 (and hasn't stopped since)
- Longtime community volunteer in many areas: homeschooling, airport, Habitat, historical society
- Developer advocate and open-source blogger at http://www.jefro.net/blog

# Why is he talking to us?

- Passionate about community and its potential for research efficiency, developer harmony, and world peace
- Sees something missing in the Linux community and wants to help
- Admin for MontaVista's new developer community

## Who is MontaVista Software?

- Leader in embedded software solutions based on Linux
- Major developer of real-time features
- Major innovator and code submitter to mainline
- A company of developer advocates

# Community-Oriented Software Development

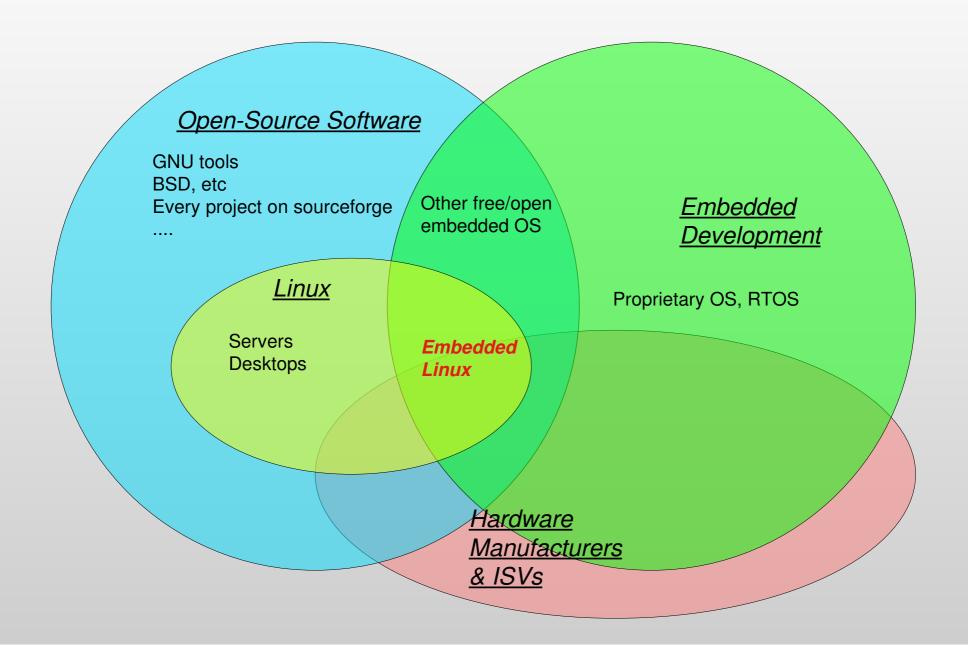
# The Benefits of Community-Based Development

Preaching to the converted

# The Caveats of Community-Based Development

Still preaching to the converted

# Who is the Community?

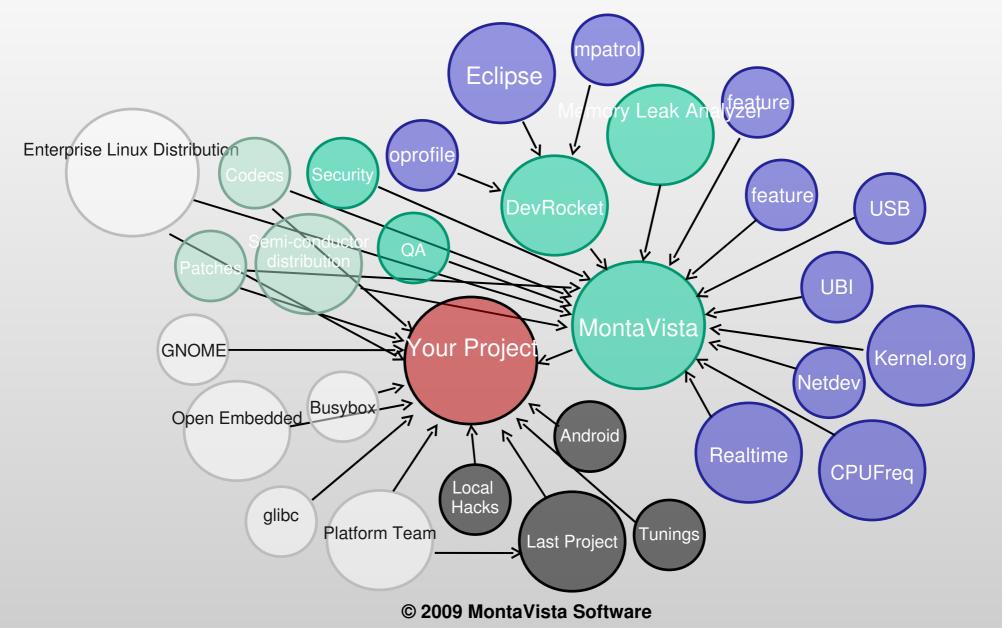


# Let's Look Closer at the Embedded Linux Community and its challenges

Because it's not "the" community you are after.

It is YOUR community you want---the one that answers your questions and enables your participation

# One View of the Embedded Linux Community



# Finding a Needle in Multiple Haystacks





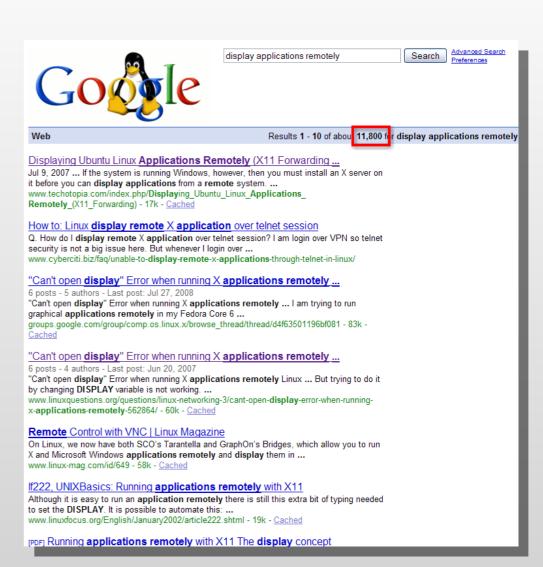




# People, Not Pages







### Over 12,000 results

# The Challenges

# Embedded Linux development is information intensive

Locate information, hardware and software

Validate information, credibility and completeness

Adapt information, specific project needs

# A Proposed Solution

An embedded Linux community that connects all engineers

**Connect:** Leverage the experience of other

embedded Linux developers

**Share:** Collaborate on information and ideas

**Design:** Develop products faster with

information re-use



Embedded Linux community,

For systems engineers,

To connect and share information, ideas, and software,

Unlike search engines, Meld directly connects experienced systems engineers to assist one another on specific projects and to design commercial-ready embedded devices.

# Meld...

IS	IS NOT
Community of embedded Linux <u>users</u>	An open source project for code development
Supporting commercial device development	Targeting academic, research, hobbyist development
Connecting embedded developers who use Linux, connecting communities	Replacement for already existing communities
Embedded: device-specific root filesystem	Enterprise/desktop: one-size-fits-all distribution
Public, open	MontaVista customers only, paid for, application specific

## Welcome to Meld

### meld.mvista.com



An embedded Linux community by MontaVista

#### Search | Browse Tags



Latest Activity Home Recent Discussions Top Pages Top Contributors My Page

Search Members By Attribute People Map

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My Profile View My Profile Update My Profile

Discussion Groups View All Groups My Groups

Personal Info Update My Personal Info Notification Preferences

Invite A Colleague

Getting Started My Messages Help/FAQ RSS Feed for All Discussions

#### Request MontaVista Info

Logout

#### How to use Meld (video)

Welcome from Brad Dixon, MontaVista Director of Product Management

#### **Meld Community**

#### **Meet Your Community**

Welcome to Meld, where embedded Linux developers connect and collaborate on software designs in order to bring commercial products to market!

- Connect: Leverage the experience of other embedded Linux developers.
- Share: Collaborate on information and ideas.
- Design: Develop products faster with information













#### Developer Spotlight



#### Kurt Lloyd Alcatel-Lucent

"Meld is a well-implemented framework for facilitating effective communication among people using (or wanting to use) open source in their products. Good job putting it together!"

Kurt has worked on a variety of high-end telecommunication products, with more to come. Kurt is currently working on a large DWDM switch, and some smaller switches using much of the same code base.

#### Discussion Groups

#### General Discussion



General discussion about embedded Linux

#### System Integration



System The system integration forum is focused on the often forgotten challenge of how to take a pile of software and turn it into product. Everything from build, configuration, image

creation, deployment, provisioning, and even a bit of systems management is a great topic for this forum.

#### Recent Discussions

#### System Size Reduction Pointers

Hi all.

am looking for information about system size reduction. These sites have some information:

http://elinux.org/System Size http://www.celinuxforum.org/CelfPub Wiki/SystemSizeResources

What I am really seeking is advice on limiting system functionality to further reduce the size,...

DSDP TmL Open Meeting 3/20/09

# Connect: Update My Interests

#### connectsharedesign An embedded Linux community by Mont Close Welcome! Search | Brows This system empowers you to quickly identify others with whom you can communicate, exchange knowledge, schedule meetings, and share ideas. To get started, just follow these three easy steps: Latest Activity Home 1. Update Your Profile 2. Update Your Interests 3. Match With Others Recent Discuss Top Pages Click the Update My Profile ink and Click the Update My Interests ink and After you complete the first two steps, Top Contribute describe a few things about yourself or this system will automatically build a list specify the attributes of those My Page your company. You can provide as much individuals with whom you would most of individuals whom most closely match My Contacts or as little information as you wish. like to meet. your interests. At this point, use the People Map to browse your network and Search Membe request introductions, schedule By Attribute meetings, and share ideas with others. People Map What Else Can I Do? My Profile View My Profile To get even more out of this system, upload your photograph, share your portfolio, or participate in group discussions. Make this system work for you! Update My Pro Discussion Groups General discussion about embedded Linux I'm curious to see what specific or types of View All Groups tools developers are using most frequently of My Groups course of their development nowadays? (op Personal Info mpatrol, Ittng, strace, Itrace, kgdb, gdb, wire Update Personal Info printk's, etc) What types of tools would you System Integration Notification Preference and want to use? The system integration forum is focused System Invite A Colleague on the often forgotten challenge of how to take a pile of software and turn it into Integrated Linux board with GSM module an Getting Started product. Everything from build, configuration, image creation, deployment, Dear all. Help/FAO provisioning, and even a bit of systems management

# Connect: Update My Profile

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elect all that are relevant).	that you are in acreiop.			
arm_v5	mips64	□ ppc_83xx		
arm_v6	ppc_440	ppc_85xx		
arm_v7	ppc_7xx	ppc_9xx		
arm_xscale	ppc_74xx	✓×86 (32-bit)		
mips32	ppc_8xx	▼×86 (64-bit)		
ease identify the host operatin	g system you use most o	ften for embedded development		
elect one from Host OS list belo	ow)			
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other please indicate:				
ease indicate what functions yo elect all that apply)	ou perform on your curre	nt project		
Firmware, boot code				
Toolchain management: upda	ates, buafixes, trouble-sh	ooting		
Software development infrastructure: Source Control Management, build				
Kernel features: kernel config, feature/patch management				
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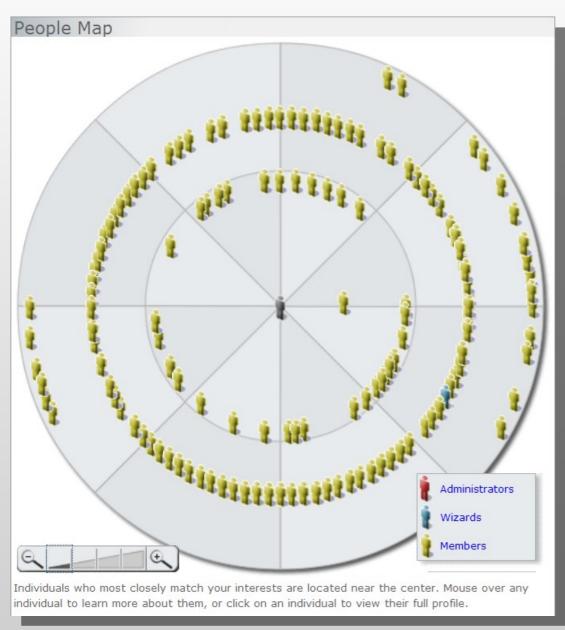
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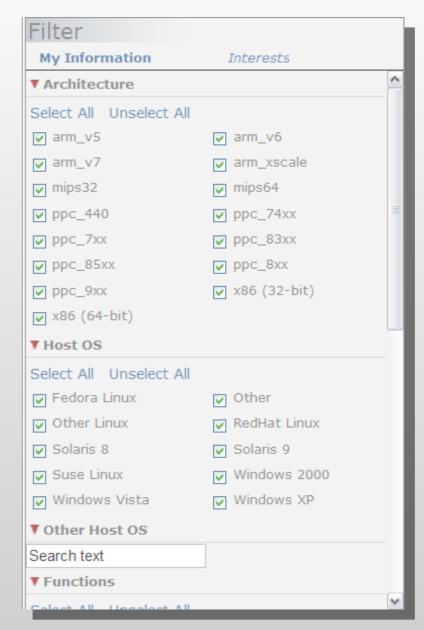
Who Would You Like to Meet?				
I would like to meet members performing the following functions:				
☐ Firmware, boot code				
Toolchain management: updates, bugfixes, trouble-shooting				
Software development infrastruction: Source Control Mangement, build				
Kernel features: kernel config, feature/patch management				
Device drivers:				
System configuration: configuration files, daemon configuration				
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Documentation: communication of product info				
Field engineering / technical marketing: communicating product information to customers and partners				
Testing / QA: verifying product functionality and performance characteristics				
Architect: Overall system design, software component selection				
Project management:				
Other				
I would like to meet members using these architectures for development. (If your architecture is not shown, please let us know at community@mvista.com.)				
arm_v5	ppc_440	ppc_85xx		
arm_v6	ppc_7xx	ppc_9xx		
arm_xscale	ppc_74xx	x86 (32-bit)		
mips2	ppc_8xx	x86 (64-bit)		
mips64	ppc_83xx			
With the following Host OS				
Fedora Linux	Other Linux	Solaris 8		
RedHat Linux	Windows XP	Solaris 9		
Suse Linux	Windows 2000	Other		
What are your top objectives for joining the community?				

# Connect: Update My Interests

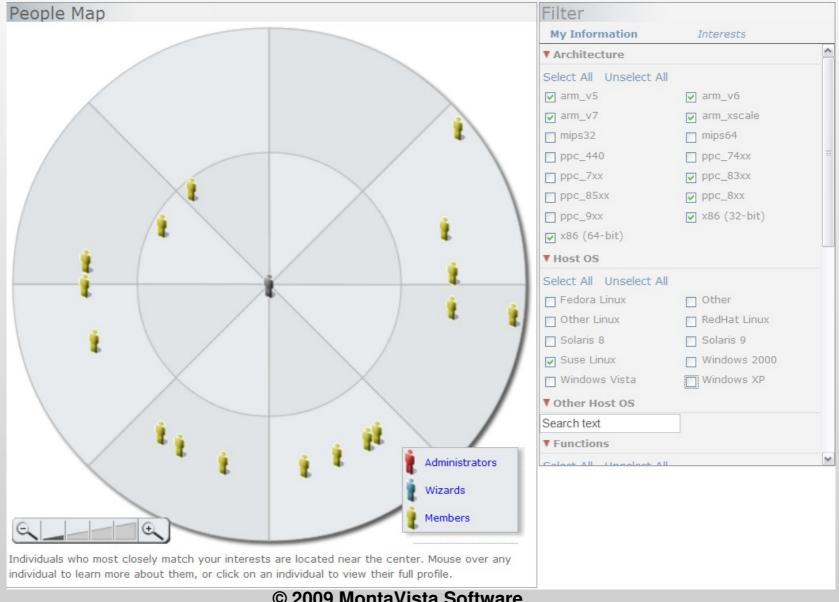
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Testing  Notify me when members join who may be of interest to me.  Architect  Project management:  Other				
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# Connect: People Map





# Connect: People Map Filter



# Connect: View Profile



# Connect: User Profiles

### ptrmike

Member since February 27, 2009 | My Activity



H

Top Contributor

Total Contributions



Send a message



Request a meeting



Add to contacts

#### ABOUT ME

Architecture

arm\_v5, arm\_v6, arm\_v7, arm\_xscale, mips32, mips64, ppc\_440, ppc\_8xx, ppc\_83xx, ppc\_85xx, x86 (32-bit), x86 (64-bit)

Host OS

Other Linux

Other Host OS Ubuntu

Functions

Firmware, boot code, Toolchain management: updates, bugfixes, trouble-shooting, Software development infrastructure: Source Control Management, build, Kernel features: kernel

#### About Me

A guy who makes a living from helping customers understand and use Linux in their products.

#### I Am Looking For

To be able to see what others are doing to solve the same problems that I am. We're all in the same boat and somebody surely has an idea of which end of the oar to grab.

### My Community Activity

#### async. notofication using signals from kernel space to userland

Yes, spawn a thread that blocks on a read in your driver. Then, have the interrupt, timer, whatever do a wake\_up\_interruptible to the driver to release the blocked read. That should be much faster than using more...

17 hours ago | 🍗

#### System integration webinar

Although I certainly understand David Woodhouse's perspective on always having the latest kernel, I feel it neglects the reality of manufacturing and QA. Any change that you make to a product's software more...

3/19/2009 3:43 PM | 1 3

### Polling GPIO pin status

Hmm... You'll need to be more specific. What CPU architecture are you using? Are the GPIO lines I/O mapped or memory mapped? You say you have a user-space "driver". How did you implement it? Using more...

3/19/2009 8:26 AM | 1 1

#### Linux on emerson MVME3100 board

It could be done any of the ways you've outlined. Since I'm not from Emerson and don't have access to the code, I really couldn't say how they were doing it. I'm sure you'll be able to access the bus from the more...

3/18/2009 7:42 AM | 🎦 1

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The firmware is typically located in /lib/firmware. The firmware will be loaded when your driver does the request\_firmware call. And, did you look in at the example in linux>/samples/firmware\_class? more...

# Connect: Email, Meetings

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# Connect: Learn More About Melders

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2009 MontaVista Software

# Share: Group Discussions

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# Share: Group Discussions

#### async. notofication using signals from kernel space to userland

Posts 16 | Created 3/9/2009 7:08 AM by ajitnatu | 7

i have an ISR written as a kernel driver that handles interrupts from an external device, after getting the interrupt, i need to intimate the user application to update the app. state. currently i use kill\_proc\_info() to



signals from my kernel driver to user app. however, i have observed that the system gets slower and slower with time and finally halts. the signal frequency is around 10ms.

i would appreciate if somebody can suggest better alternative for implementing such asynchronous notification from kernel to user space.

[Updated on 3/9/2009 7:17 AM]

Posted 3/9/2009 7:08 AM | 1 1

One approach would be to hang a user thread in a perpetual blocked read to the driver. Then have the ISR issue a wakeup\_interruptible() on the driver's read wait queue. This should work pretty reliably, although it's bound to have some jitter due to scheduling. Alternatively, you could set up a kernel thread/wait queue, give it a high priority and have the ISR data handled in kernel space by queuing it up. Then have the kernel thread issue the wakeup\_interruptible and pass bigger chunks of data via debugFS to minimize the kernel-to-user space transitions. And there are probably 3-4 more alternate approaches.

Which one is better? Well, it depends ;-). Which CPU architecture? Clock rate of the processor? How much data is moved at a time? How "real-time" is the application? How sensitive is it to jitter? Any answer that anyone gives you will be subject to these answers and more.

#### HTH.

Posted 3/9/2009 7:57 AM | 1 4

ajitnatu, if your system gets slower over time, this sounds like you have a memory leak somewhere. I'm not sure this has to do with your choice of kill proc info(), so be prepared to look for other causes. But do take a look at all structs you allocate in the kernel - are you really freeing them all?



I have to agree with ptrmike that a blocked read on a device file is a nice, clean, reliable mechanism to get notifications to user space - and transfer some app data at the same time, saving you yet another set of user-to-kernel calls.

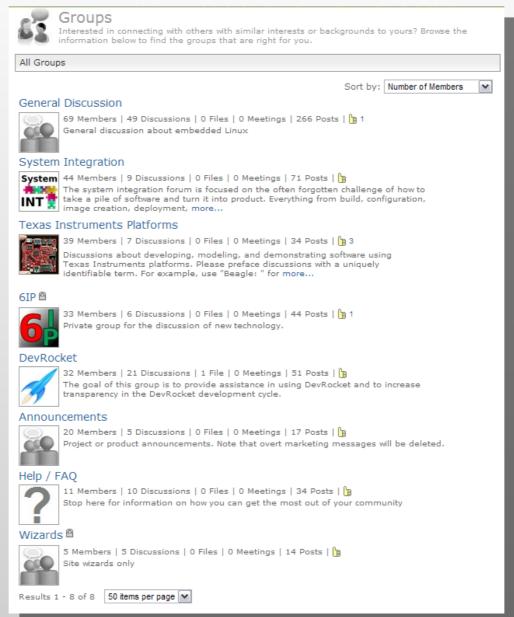
Posted 3/9/2009 12:49 PM | 1 1

hello ptrmike, hello kaaching, thanks for the information.

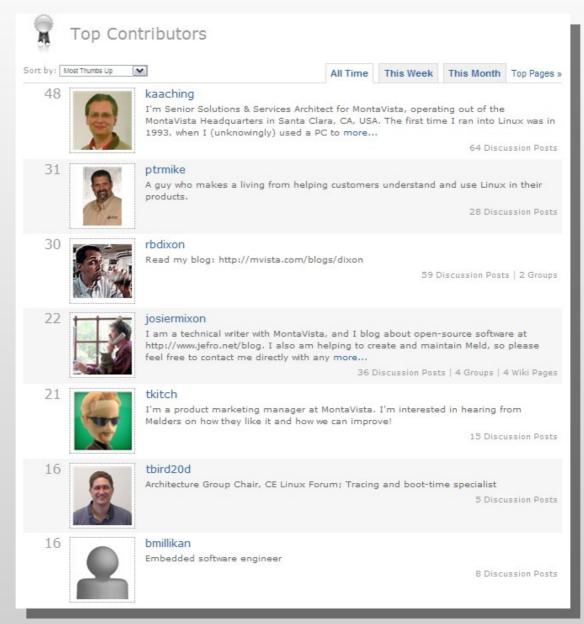


doing a blocked read in the app. and issuing wakeup\_interruptible() from the

# Share: Groups



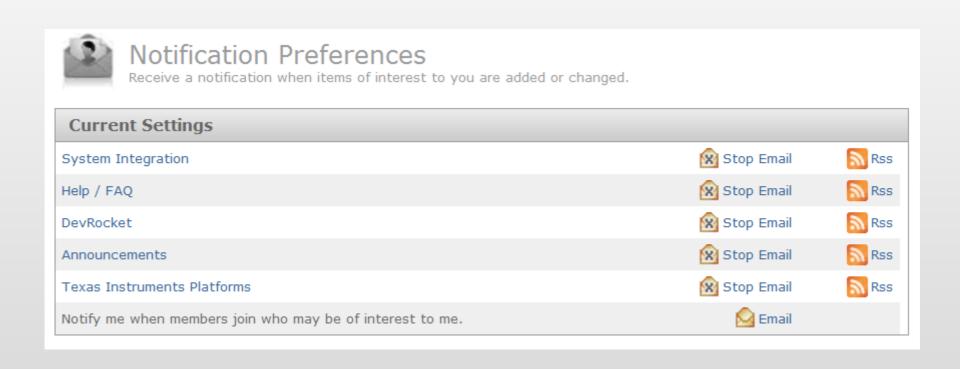
# Share: Top Contributions



# Share: Content, Files



# Share: Notification Preferences



# Design

### **Developer Spotlight**



Kurt Lloyd Alcatel-Lucent

"Meld is a well-implemented framework for facilitating effective communication among people using (or wanting to use) open source in their products. Good job putting it together!"

Kurt has worked on a variety of high-end telecommunication products, with more to come. Kurt is currently working on a large DWDM switch, and some smaller switches using much of the same code base.

# Why is MontaVista doing this?

- As a company, MontaVista realizes that the best return on investment comes from happy developers
- The end goal of Meld is to create happy developers
- The beyond-the-end goal is happy ISVs and hardware manufacturers, who will create more and better products for those happy developers
- MontaVista wants to foster the communication to make this possible---collaboration is king

# Thanks for participating!

meld.mvista.com

994 members, be the next one