



**Embedded Linux  
Conference**  
Europe

# NuttX for Embedded Linux Developers

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# Agenda

SONY

- Sony audio products based on NuttX
- Feasibility studies for NuttX enhancements
  - SMP
  - Networking
  - Porting the AVS device SDK
- Support for Sony Spresense board
- NuttX workshop

# About Me

SONY



Senior Software Engineer  
at Sony Home Entertainment & Sound Products Inc.

## Technical background

- 3D graphics, home networking, Internet-to-Home, Embedded Systems
- Product development
- Portable Media Player (Linux/Android)
- Digital voice recorder, music player, head phone (NuttX)

## Public talks

- Arm Techcon 2016, ELC2017NA, OpenIoT2018NA, NuttX2019, ELC2019NA

NW-A800



NW-ZX1

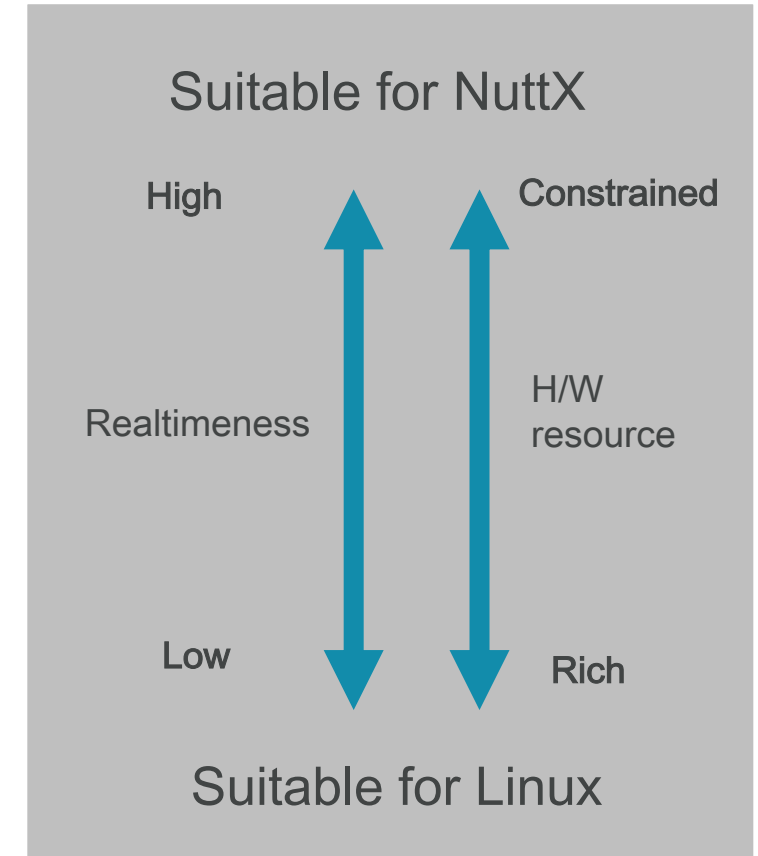


ICD-UX560



# About NuttX (1/2)

- Gregory Nutt released in 2007 as an open source
- Mostly POSIX-compliant\* **real-time** OS
  - **Suitable for robotics \*\* including Drones.**
- From 8bit to 32bit CPU are supported
  - Z80, x86, Arm7/9/11, Cortex-Mx/Ax/Rx, AVR, MIPS, RISC-V, Xtensa,...
  - Many evaluation boards (over 180) are supported
- Small footprint and runtime memory
  - **Suitable for resource constraint devices**



\* Linux is also a mostly POSIX-compliant OS



# About NuttX (2/2)

- Almost all code are written from scratch\*
  - Straightforward and consistent without vendor HAL
- Many key features are implemented
  - Virtual file systems, loadable module, tickless, SMP
  - FAT12/16/32, SmartFS, romfs, procfs, NFS (client only)
  - Networking (IPv4,IPv6,UDP,TCP, ...)
  - USB (CDC/ACM, MSC, HID, RNDIS, ...),
- Many example applications are included
  - NuttX shell, webserver and client, telnet daemon,...

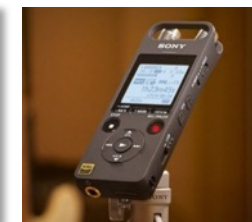
\* Some drivers are ported from other open source

- Sony audio products based on NuttX
  - Development history
  - Audio products
  - Reasons for choosing NuttX
- Feasibility studies for NuttX enhancements

# Development history\*

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- Oct 2013 -
  - Ported NuttX to LC823425 (ARM7)
- Apr 2014 -
  - Ported bluetooth stack to NuttX + QEMU
- Jul 2014 -
  - Ported NuttX to LC823450 (Cortex-M3) FPGA
- Jan 2015 -
  - Migrated to LC823450-ES board
- Sep 2015 -
  - Released the first NuttX-based audio products.
- Oct 2016 -
  - Talked at Arm TechCon 2016, ELC NA 2017\*-2019, NuttX 2019



\*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TjuzH6JthxQ> \*\* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8fLjWyl5nI>



# NuttX based audio products

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FY2015



Voice Recorders



Music Player

FY2016,17



Voice Recorders



Wireless Headphones



FY2018



Wireless Headphones

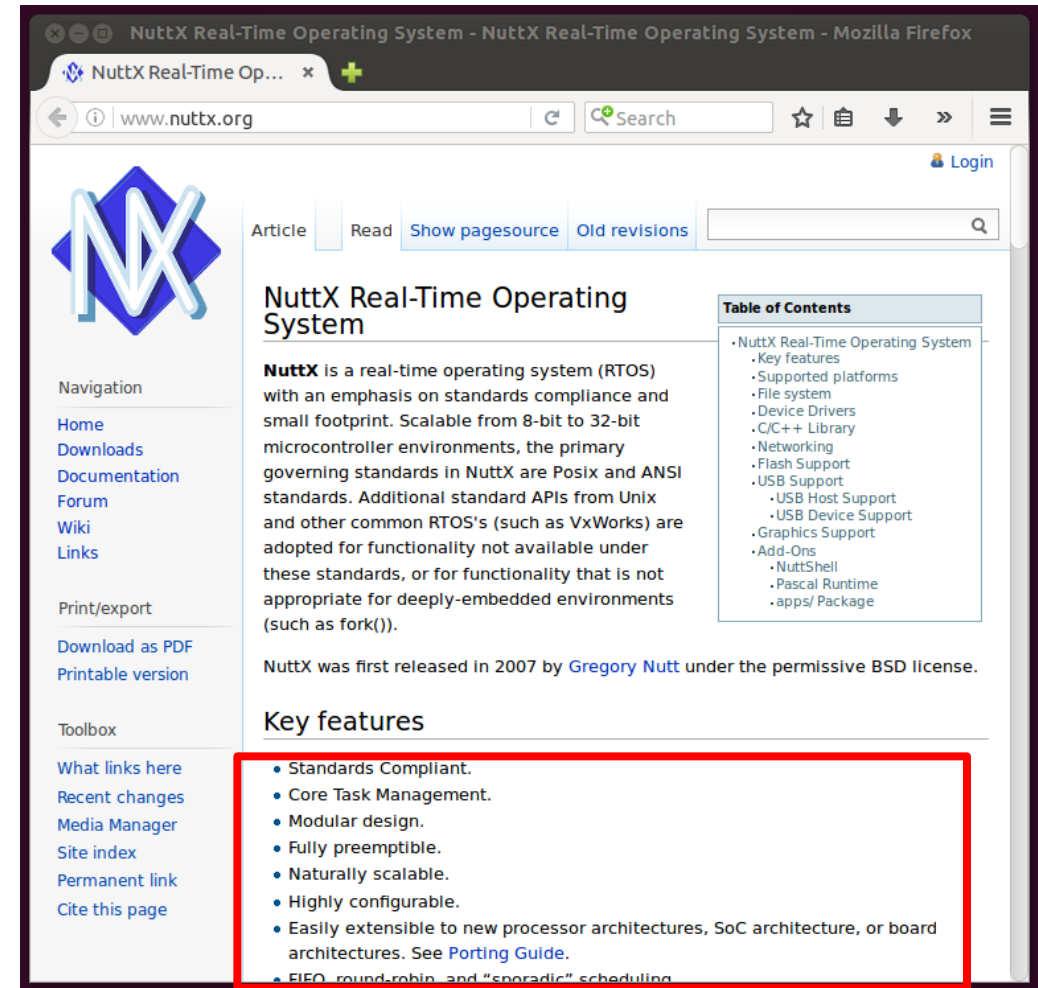


PCM Recorders



# Why we chose NuttX for audio products

- POSIX and libc are supported
  - Can **reuse** existing software
  - Can **reduce** learning costs
- ELF\* is supported
  - Can **divide** a big app into small apps
- Driver framework is supported
  - Helps us implement drivers
- Has Linux-like configuration system
  - Helps us develop multiple products
- Many MCUs and boards are supported
  - Helps us port NuttX to new MCU
- Provided with BSD license



From <http://www.nuttx.org/>

\* ELF = Executable and Linking Format



# LC823450 Features

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- ARM **dual** Cortex-M3
- 32bit fixed point, dual-MAC original DSP
- Internal SRAM (1656KB) for ARM and DSP
- I2S I/F with 16/24/32bit, MAX 192kHz (2chx2)
- Hard wired audio functions
  - MP3 encoder and decoder, EQ (6-band equalizer), etc.
- Integrated analog functions
  - Low-power Class D HP amplifier, system PLL
  - Dedicated audio PLL, ADC
- Various interfaces
  - USB2.0 HS device / host (not OTG), eMMC, SD card, SPI, I2C, etc.
- ARM and DSP clock max frequency
  - 160MHz at 1.2V
  - 100MHz at 1.0V



ON Semiconductor LC823450

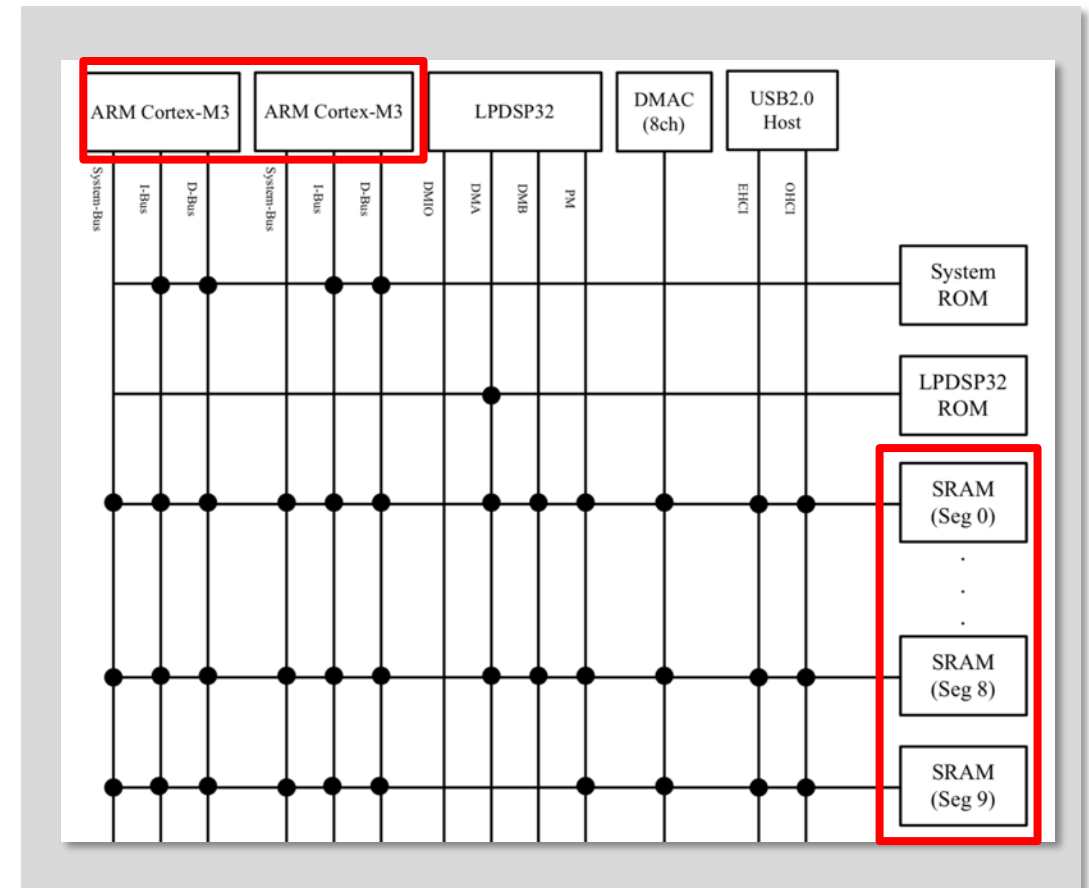
From <http://www.onsemi.com/PowerSolutions/product.do?id=LC823450>



# Why SMP with LC823450?

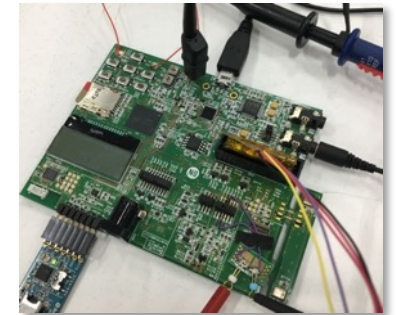
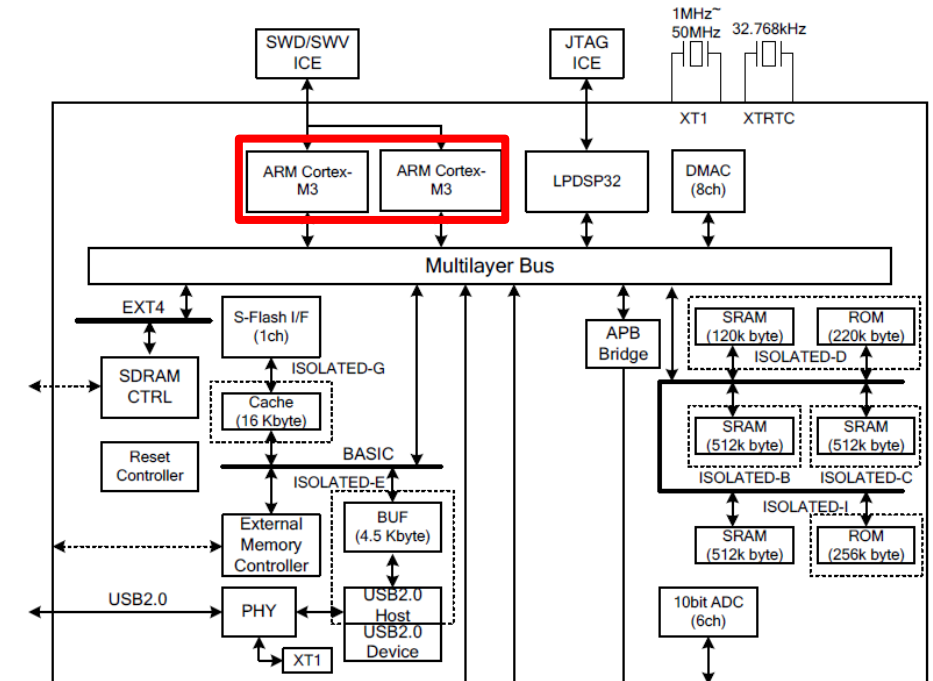
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- Motivation
  - Run **existing applications** in SMP mode
  - Establish knowledge on debugging
  - Confirm effects on **memory contention** because the processor **does not have** CPU cache.
  - Confirm power consumption
  - Very challenging theme (because NuttX is not just a scheduler)
- Other reasons...
  - The architecture is much simpler than quad Cortex-A9.
  - Suitable system to understand SMP kernel.



# Supporting SMP on the processor

- Port existing drivers to the latest NuttX
  - UART, Timer, GPIO, DMA, I2C, SPI, LCD
  - eMMC (including boot), SD, USB, ADC, ...
- Implement SMP related code
  - lc823450\_cpuidlestack.c, lc823450\_cpuindex.c
  - lc823450\_cpupause.c, lc823450\_cpustart.c, lc823450\_testset.c (NOTE: **H/W Mutex is used instead of Idex, strex**)
- Performance improvement
  - Introduced spin\_lock\_irqsave(), spin\_unlock\_irqrestore()
  - Applied APIs inside the driver code.
  - Up to 20% performance improvement achieved





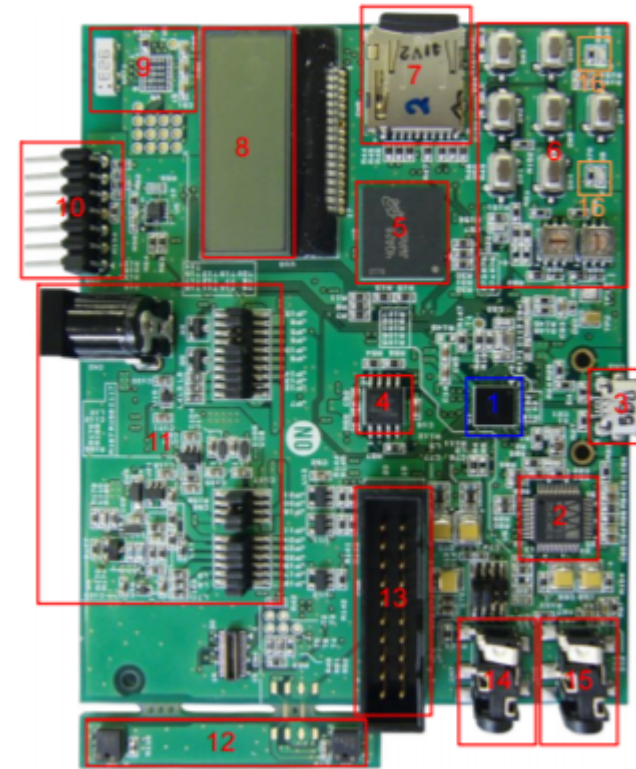
# Feasibility studies for networking

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- Adding Networking
- NuttX networking features
- USB RNDIS and Bluetooth PAN

# Adding Networking

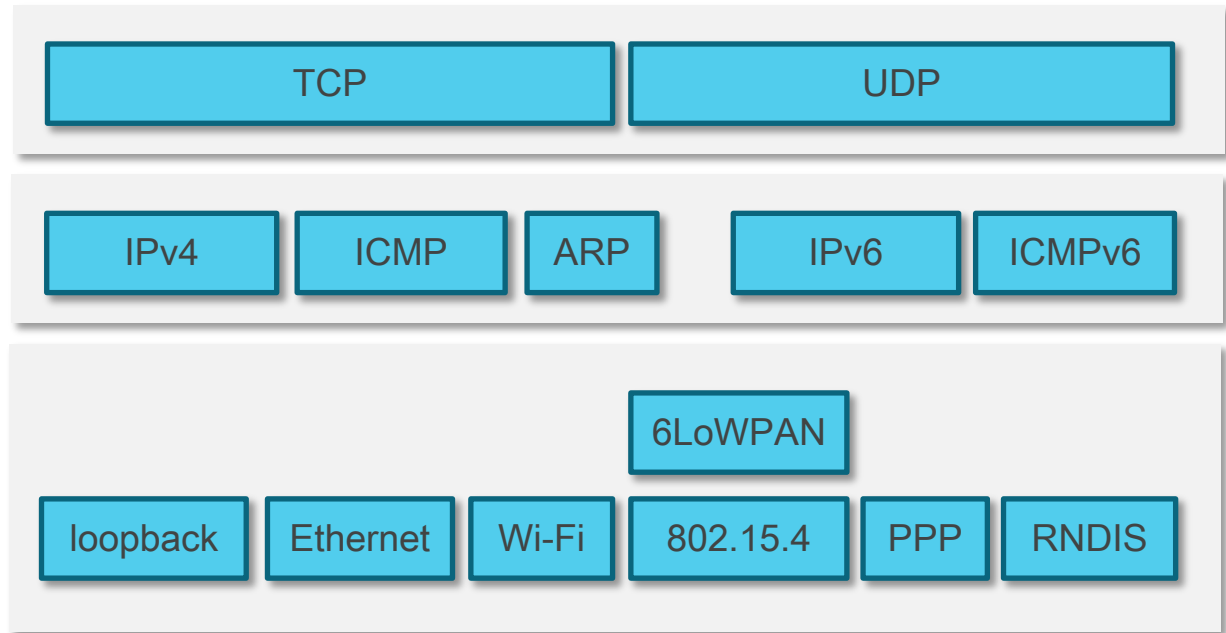
- Motivation
  - Confirm NuttX network stack feasibility
    - IPv4, IPv6, ICMP, UDP, TCP, ...
  - Run the network stack with minimum efforts.  
(We **already have a USB driver** for LC823450)
  - Audio streaming (PCM and MP3)
  - Run the network stack in SMP mode
  - Do various tests via telnet



LC823450XGEVK board

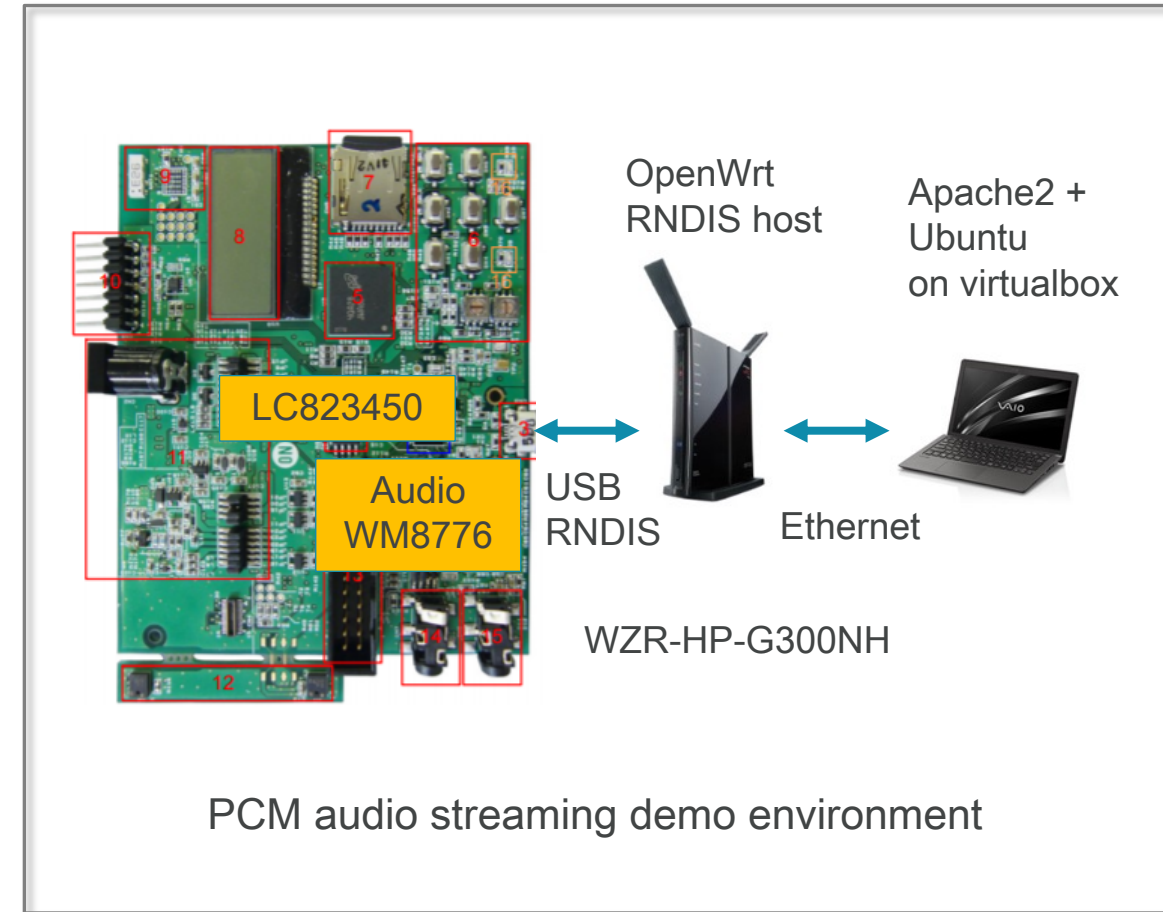
# NuttX networking features

- Ethernet and IEEE 802.11 Full MAC
- 6LoWPAN for radio network drivers (IEEE 802.15.4 MAC)
- USB RNDIS (since 7.23), CDC-ECM (since 7.26)
- SLIP, TUN/PPP, local loopback devices
- IPv4, IPv6, TCP, UDP, ARP, ICMP, ICMPv6, IGMPv2
- IP forwarding
- BSD compatible socket layer
- DNS name resolution / NetDB
- User socket (listen/accept are supported in 7.26)
- Bluetooth socket



# PCM audio streaming via RNDIS

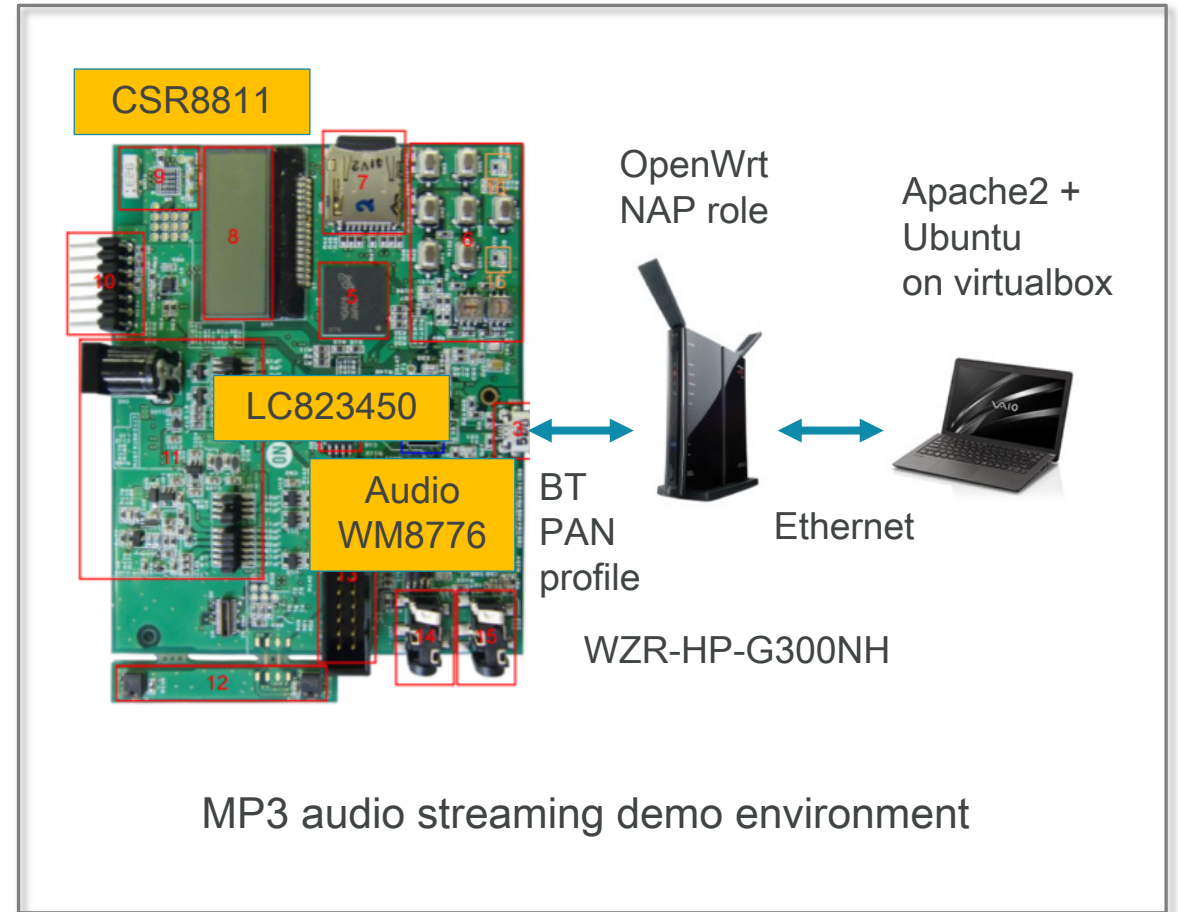
- Fix RNDIS driver for NuttX
  - Fix data corruption
  - Add USB high speed mode support
- Receive window control has been added
  - Needs more improvement
- Modify nxplayer to support HTTP streaming
  - Currently only WAV format is supported.
- Still testing with SMP kernel
  - In various conditions (clock speed, network traffic, etc)



# MP3 audio streaming via Bluetooth

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- Port the BTstack\* by Bluekitchen to NuttX
  - Based on posix-h4\*\* with H/W flow control
  - UART speed : 921600 baud
  - Tested with iOS/Android/macOS/OpenWrt
  - **Free for non-commercial use**
- Add TAP mode to the NuttX tun driver
  - TAP mode is used for network bridge
  - NOTE: TUN mode is used for network routing
- Add H/W MP3 decoder to lc823450\_i2s.c
- HCI\_RESET issue in SMP mode
  - CSR's mode change with HCI\_RESET is tricky
  - Still unstable in SMP mode

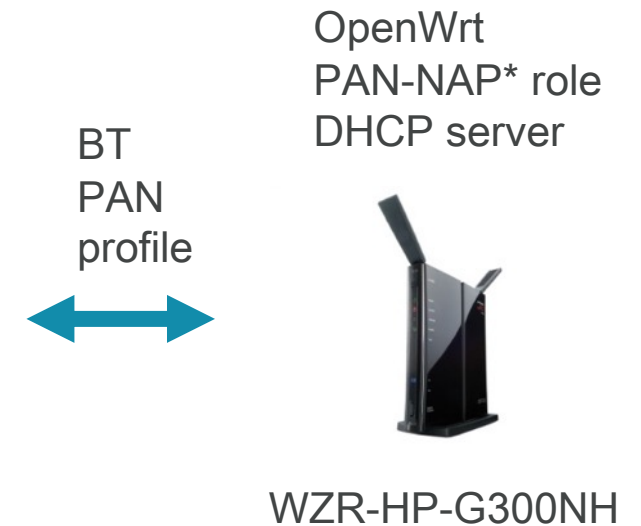
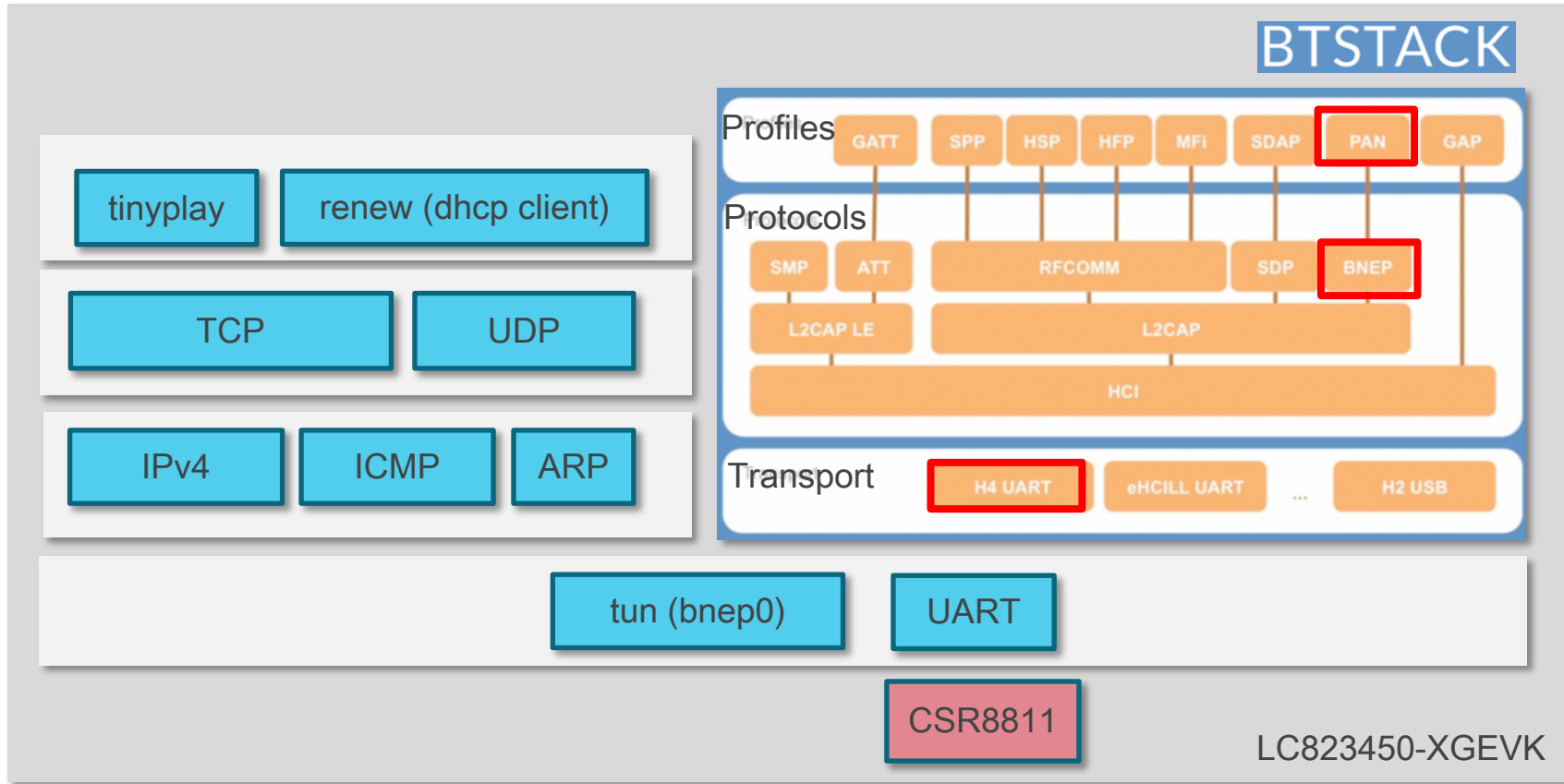


\* <https://bluekitchen-gmbh.com/>

\*\* We can use posix-h5 (3-wire protocol) as well. However, it has performance drawbacks.

# Running the BTstack on NuttX

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\*PAN: Personal Area Network

\*BNEP: Bluetooth Network Encapsulation Protocol

\*NAP: Network Access Point

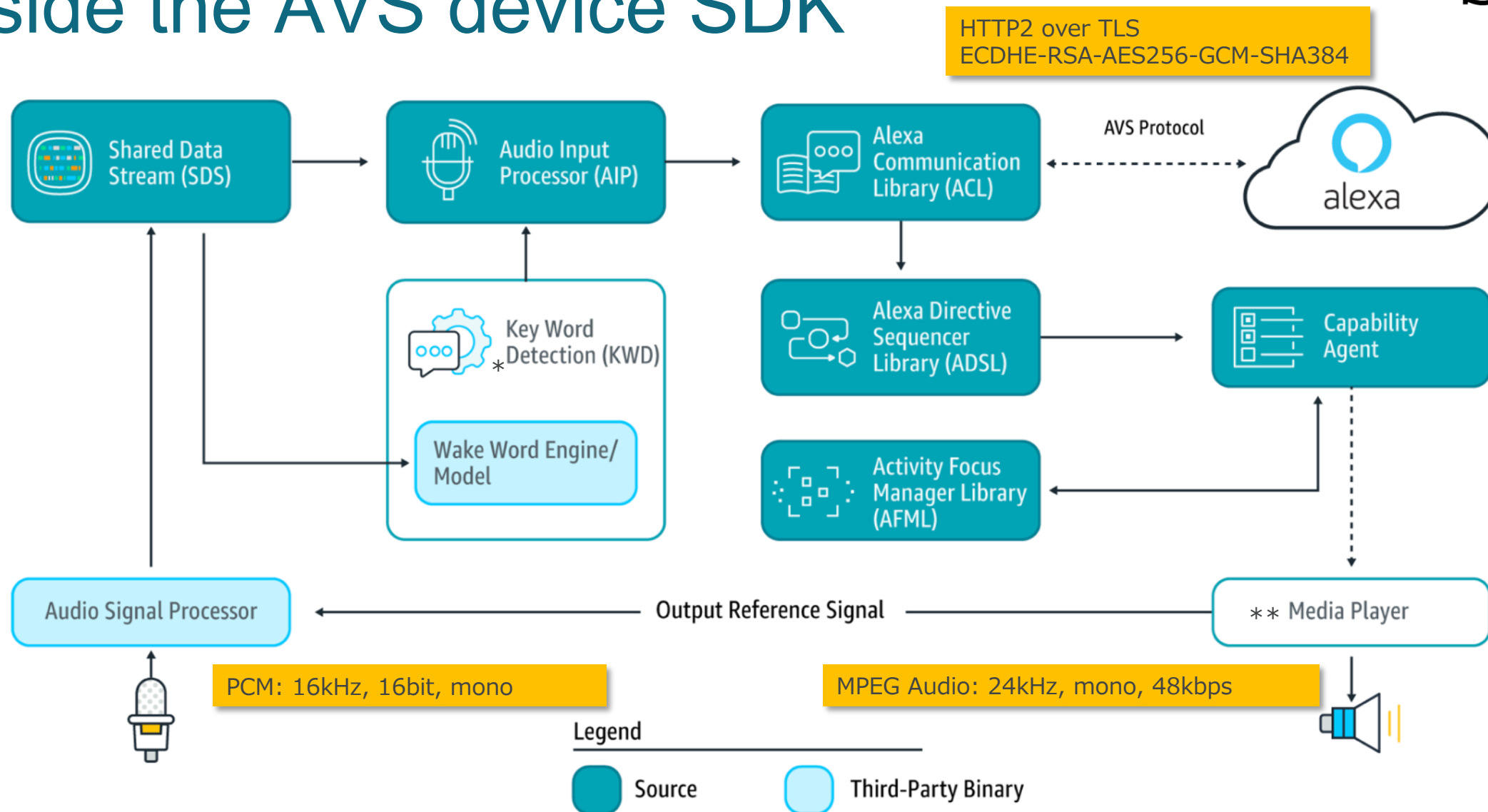


# Porting the AVS\* device SDK to NuttX

- Motivation
  - Confirm OSS portability with large software systems
- Approaches
  - Build the AVS device SDK on Linux
  - Run the AVS device SDK on Linux
  - Port OSS components such as mbedTLS to NuttX
  - Implement missing components such as MediaPlayer with minimal efforts
  - Reduce runtime memory on NuttX

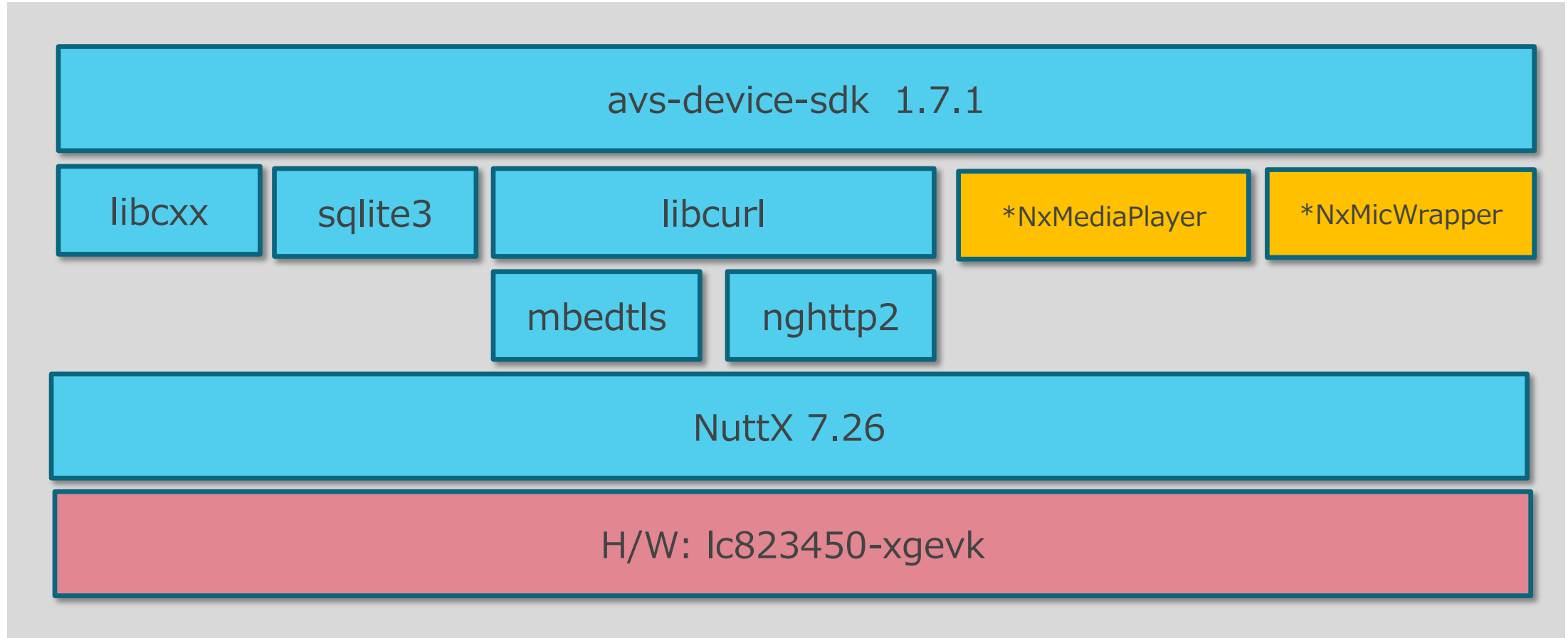
# Inside the AVS device SDK

SONY





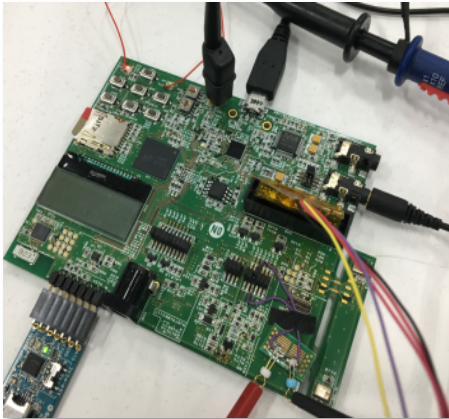
# Software stack



Total code size is about 3.6MB

# Network topology

avs-device-sdk 1.7.1  
NuttX 7.26 (CONFIG\_SMP=n)



LC823450XGEVK

RNDIS / USB



HTTPS Proxy : squid  
Guest OS : ubuntu 18.04



\* VAIO S11 + VirtualBox  
Host OS : Windows 8.1



iPhone 6S



Internet

# Activities

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- Spresense overview
- Spresense SDK
- Upstreaming status
- Working with Wi-Fi



# Spresense overview

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- **Application Domain**

- Cortex-M4F x6 + SRAM 1.5MB
- eMMC/USB/SDIO

- **System and IOP Domain**

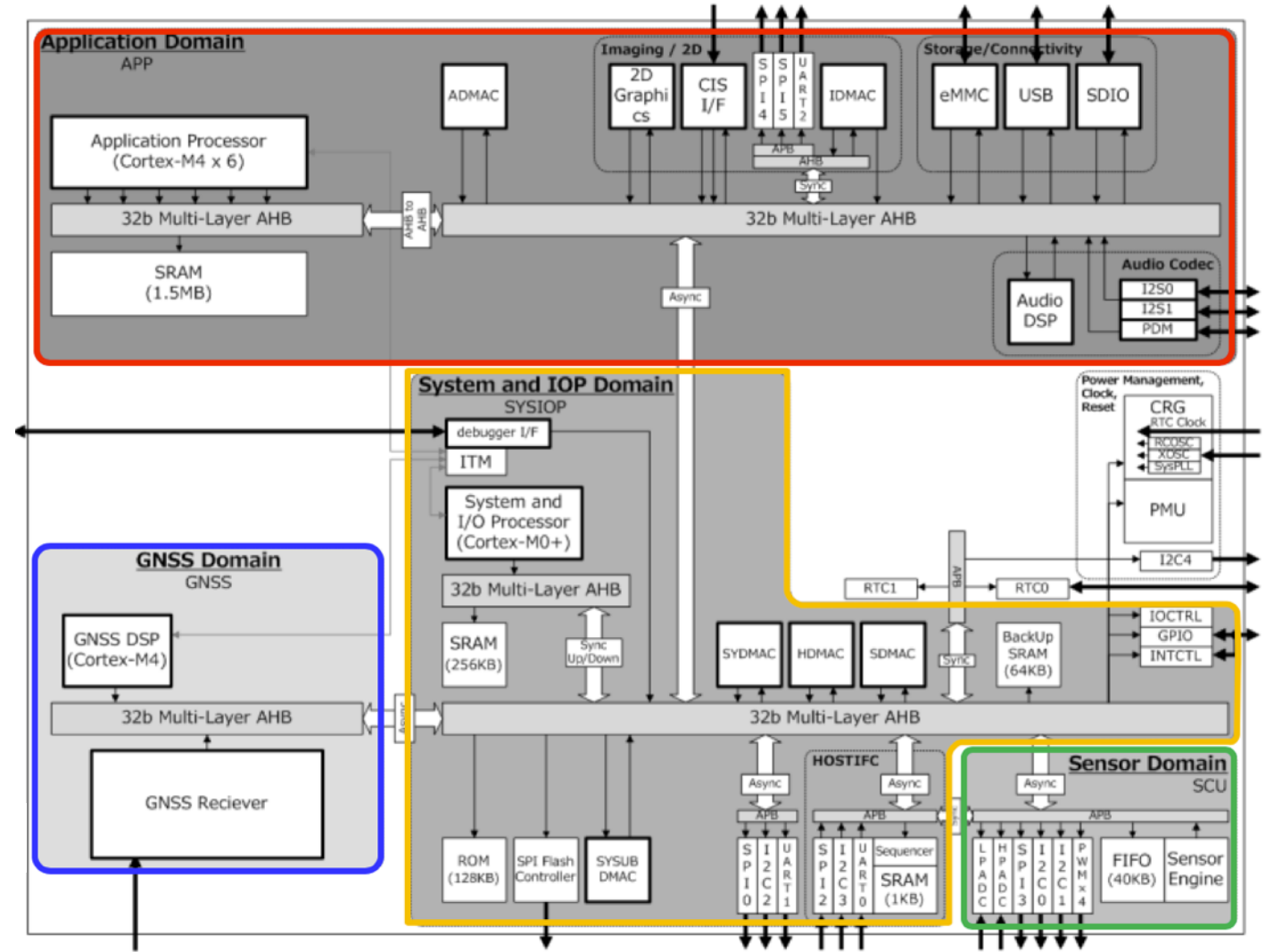
- System management
- Power domain control

- **Sensor Domain**

- Sensor Engine + FIFO (40KB)

- **GNSS Domain**

- Independent GNSS positioning

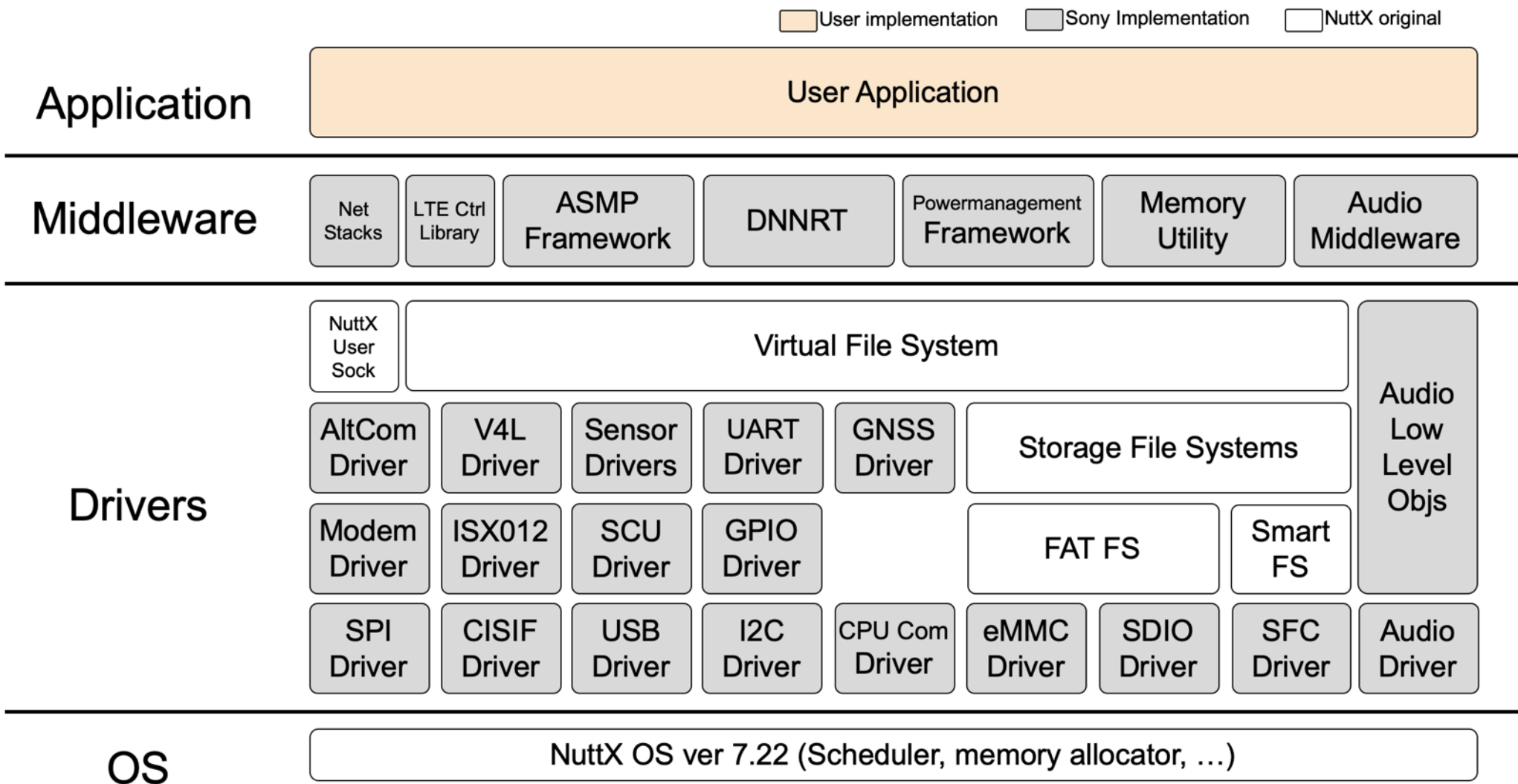


Spresense (cx5602) is here (size 6.5x6.5mm)



# Spresense SDK\*

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# Upstreaming status (as of Oct/12/2019)

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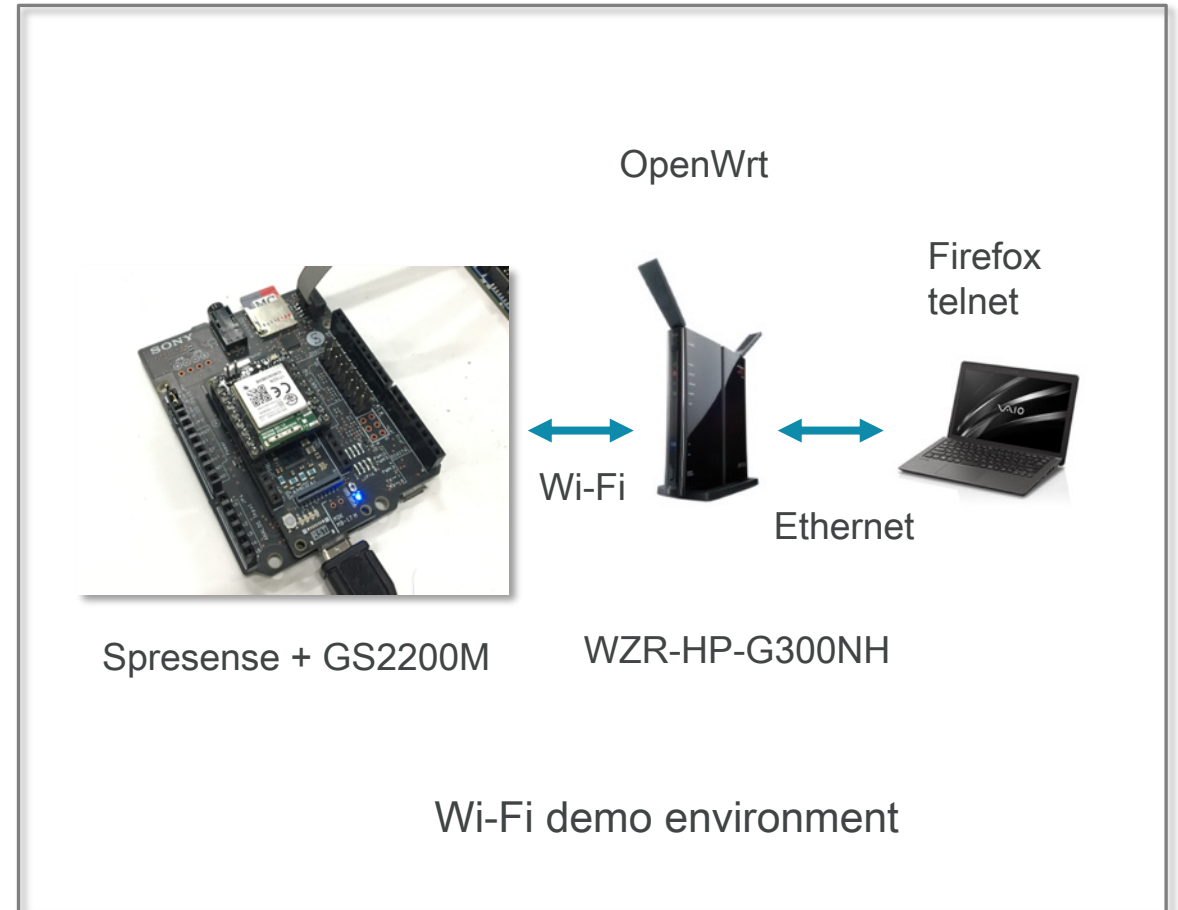
COMPLETED (July Workshop)			COMPLETED (October Meetup)		PLANNED(January Meetup)
<b>CORE</b> adc allocateheap clock composite cpufifo delay dmac farapi flash gpio gpioint i2c i2cdev gpioif icc idle leds pinconfig pmic powermgr	pwm rtc scu sdcard sdhci serial sfc spi spisd sysctl timer timerisr uart udmac uid usbdev usbmsc userleds Wdt  <b>WIFI</b> gs2200m	<b>SENSORS (I2C)</b> ak09912 bmi160 Bmp280  <b>DISPLAY</b> ili9340 lpm013m091a  <b>CAMERA</b> video cisif isx012  <b>Extra HW</b> buttons charger emmc gauge  <b>GRAPHIC</b> ge2d	<b>GNSS</b> cpu1signal geofence gnss  <b>BT</b>  <b>EXTRA</b> backuplog crashdump  <b>ASMP</b> sph	<b>SENSORS (SCU)</b> ak09912 apds9930 apds9960 bcm20706 bh1721fvc bh1745nuc bm1383glv bm1422gmw bmi160 bmp280 kx022 lt1pa01 Rpr0521rs  <b>AUDIO</b> audio audio_amp	<b>MODEM</b> altmdm altmdm_spi audio_baseband



# Working with Wi-Fi

SONY

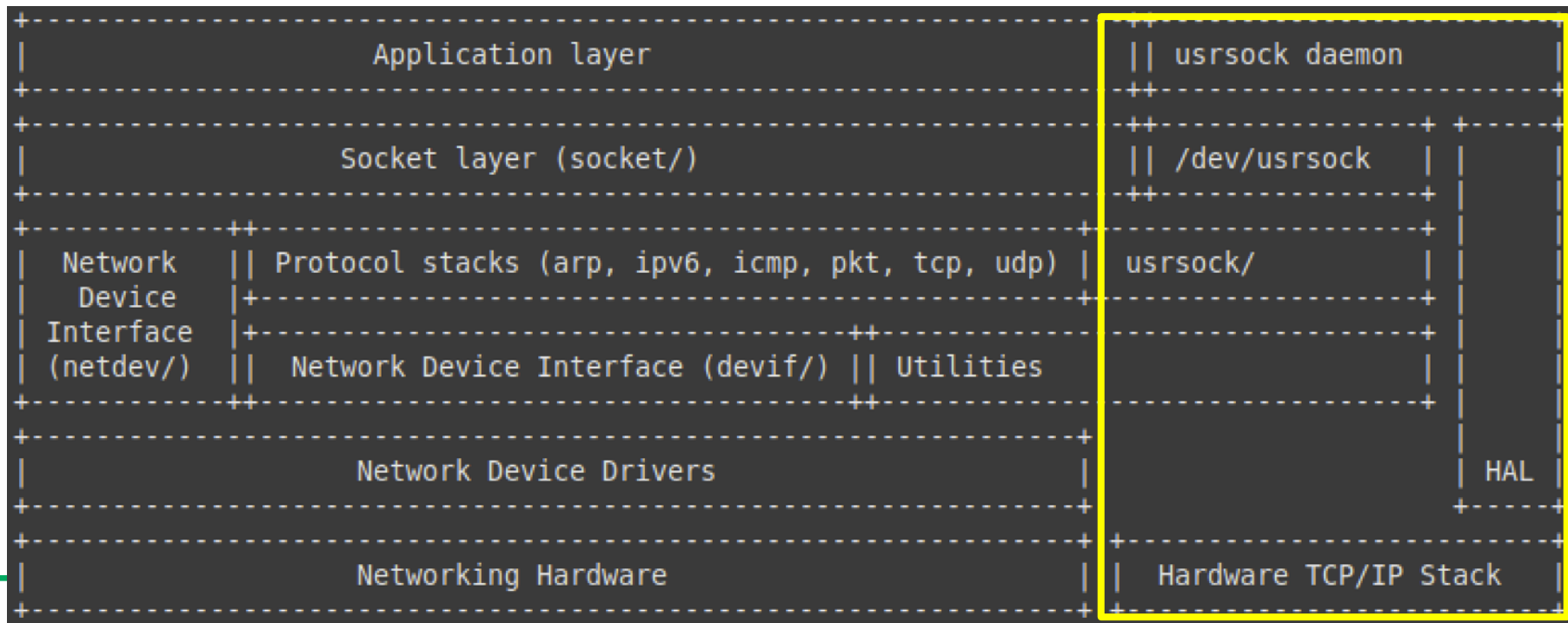
- Wi-Fi module : Telit GS2200M
  - Radio protocols: 802.11b/g/n (2.4GHz)
  - Interface : SPI 10MHz with DMA
- Implement GS2200M driver from scratch\*
  - Based on the NuttX **usrsock**
  - Both STA and AP modes are supported
  - Fix cxd56\_gpioint.c for interrupt handling
  - TCP and UDP are supported
- Modify the uIP webserver app for NuttX
  - Add a directory listing feature



\* The code is available at <https://bitbucket.org/nuttX/nuttX>

# What is the usrsock ?

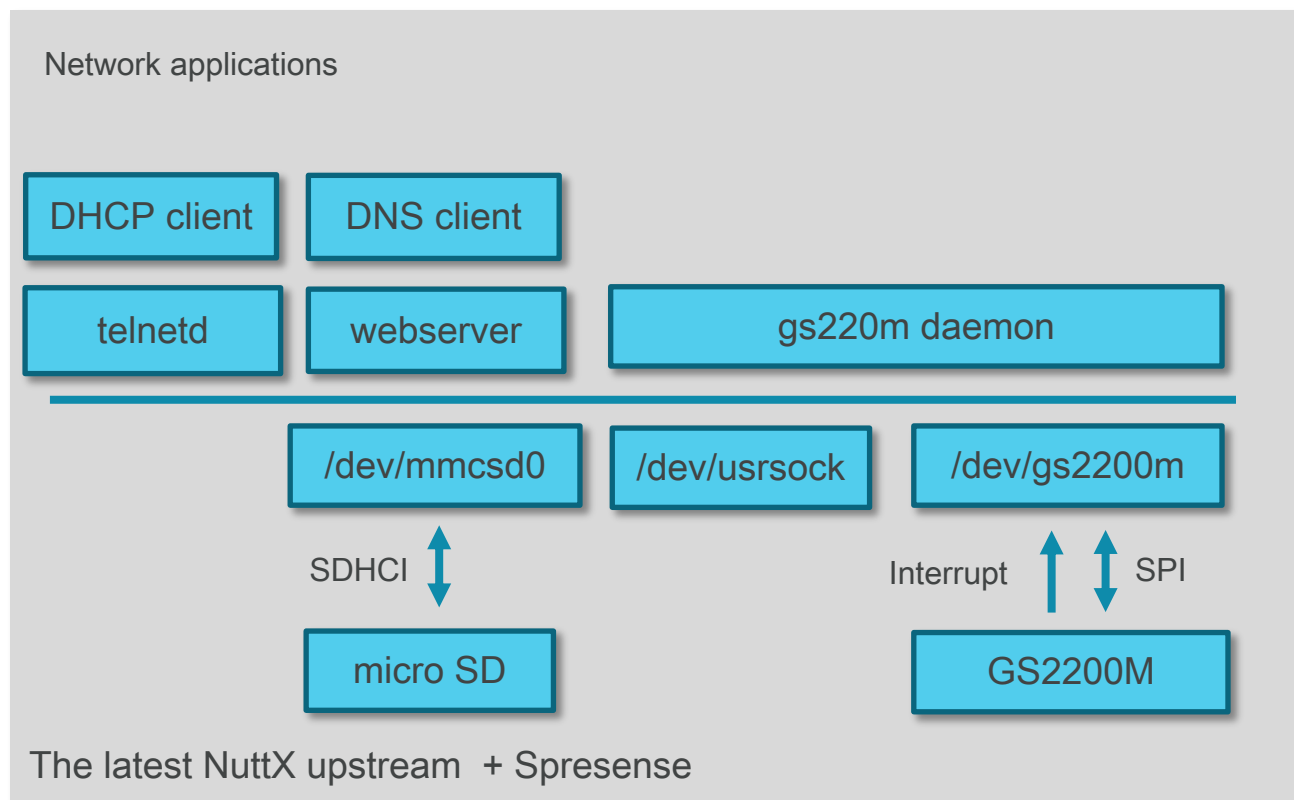
- User-space networking stack API defined in NuttX
- User-space daemon and HAL provide NuttX networking
- This allows **seamless integration of HW-provided TCP/IP stacks** to NuttX





# Use-case for Webserver via Wi-Fi

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Code size:

wifi: .text=157,234 .bss=7,956, rndis\*: .txt=166,924, .bss=15,384



Web browsing with Firefox

Name	Last modified	Size
<a href="#">./</a>	-	-
<a href="#">audio/</a>	2019-07-05 16:05	-
<a href="#">ps.txt</a>	2019-07-05 17:06	814
<a href="#">fsevents/</a>	2019-07-05 17:48	-
<a href="#">Spotlight-V100/</a>	2019-07-03 09:24	-
<a href="#">spresense_header_code.jpg</a>	2019-07-05 17:48	107550
<a href="#">Trashes/</a>	2019-07-05 16:04	-
<a href="#">hello.txt</a>	2019-07-05 16:14	8

uIP web server (NuttX 7.30 d228dd3 Jul 5 2019 17:49:54)

Wi-Fi



VirtualBox + Ubuntu

\* USB MSC was removed to compare, because it is not used in Wi-Fi configuration



# NuttX workshop

SONY

- About NuttX2019
- Applications Introduced at NuttX2019
- Why they chose NuttX



# About NuttX2019

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- The 1<sup>st</sup> international workshop for NuttX
- Held in Gouda, the Netherlands (Jul/16,17)
- Over 40 people joined





# Applications\* introduced at NuttX2019

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Drone by Verge Aero



Pixhawk (flight controller)



NXP drone reference design



micro-ROS Kobuki by Bosch



Personal Alert system by Hexagon



TagMaster by TagMaster AB



CubeSat by STARA

\*We also introduced audio products and Spresense.

# Why they chose NuttX

Alan from Keenix

## Why to use NuttX for IIoT:

- Linux compatibility;
- Broad range of features;
- POSIX compliance (easy to port applications);
- Easy to move to high-end OS in the future;
- Flexibility to move among supported MCUs;

Anthony from Verge Aero

## Why NuttX?

- Focus on standards
  - Posix
  - Linux-compatibility (where possible)
- RTOS
- Vendor Neutral - many MCUs are supported
- Most applications can be written and tested entirely in Linux first
- C++ support
- Full network stack

## Why PX4 Chose NuttX

David from NSCDg

- The BSD Licensing - "BSD licenses are a family of permissive free software licenses, imposing minimal restrictions on the use and distribution of covered software. This is in contrast to copyleft licenses, which have share-alike requirements. The original BSD license was used for its namesake, the Berkeley Software Distribution (BSD)"
- "The Portable **Operating System** Interface (**POSIX**) is an IEEE standard that helps compatibility and portability between **operating systems**. Theoretically, **POSIX compliant** source code should be seamlessly portable. In the real world, application transition often runs into **system** specific issues"
- Real Time OS
- The scalability and degree of freedom to which it can be modified to suit application specific needs, from small footprint to large.
- Code Quality and conformity.

## Leveraging POSIX compliance

Markus from HEXAGON

- Application can be run under NuttX on embedded target and under Linux
- Implementing, debugging and testing application code under Linux  
→ huge development speed-up
- Plenty of documentation for POSIX APIs available online
- Unit testing under Linux is straightforward
- Application code can be integrated in a Linux-based simulation framework

# Demo videos

**SONY**

- LC823450 + AVS Device SDK
- Spresense + Wi-Fi
- LC823450 + HTTP Audio streaming in SMP



# Any Questions?





# Embedded Linux Conference Europe