# Buildroot vs Yocto: Differences for Your Daily Job

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#### About me



- Embedded Linux engineer at AIM Sportline http://www.aim-sportline.com/
  - Develop products on custom hardware
  - Kernel, drivers, bootloader, FPGA
  - Integration, build system
- Open source enthusiast
  - Contributor to Buildroot, the Linux kernel and a few other projects

### Introduction

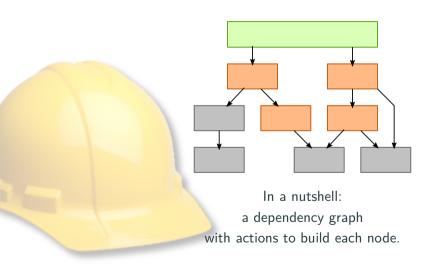
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- This is not a feature comparison, not a selection guide

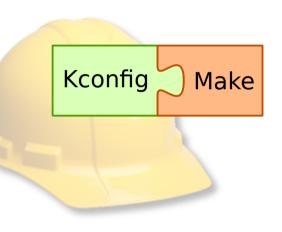
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- If you need one:
  - Buildroot vs. OpenEmbedded/Yocto: A Four Hands Discussion, Belloni and Petazzoni, ELC 2016 (slides and video online)
  - http://www.jumpnowtek.com/linux/ Choosing-an-embedded-linux-build-system.html
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  - https://opensource.com/article/18/6/embedded-linux-build-tools
- Fact: both tools have pros and cons

### Similar...

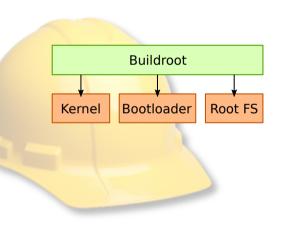


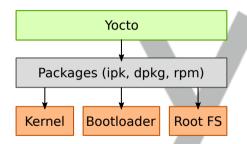
### ...but different — based on different tools





### ...but different — root filesystem VS distribution





### **Topics**

- Bootstrapping
- Naming
- Writing recipes
- Layers / external trees
- Building
- Understanding what's going on
- Customizing the root filesystem
- Tweaking recipes

## Bootstrapping

### Ingredients

- Get the sources
  - git clone git://git.buildroot.net/buildroot; cd buildroot



### Ingredients

- 1. Get the Poky sources (bitbake, oe-core)
  - git clone -b sumo git://git.yoctoproject.org/poky; cd poky
- 2. You'll probably need more recipes
  - git clone -b sumo git://git.openembedded.org/meta-openembedded
- 3. Additional layers can be useful
  - SoC/board vendor BSP layer, additional software, ...
  - http://layers.openembedded.org/layerindex/branch/master/layers/

### Configure

- Smooth start: find a defconfig for a similar board
  - make list-defconfigs # minimal booting configs
  - make similar\_board\_defconfig
- Or from scratch
  - Find kernel and U-Boot sources that work for your SoC
  - make menuconfig
    - Target: architecture, CPU features
    - Kernel: where to fetch it from, defconfig, dtbs
    - U-Boot: where to fetch it from, defconfig

### Configure

- . oe-init-build-env # creates and enters the build/ dir
- Smooth start: find a defconfig for a similar board
  - ls conf/machine/ in your SoC vendor layer
  - Set MACHINE ?= "<similar\_machine>" in conf/local.conf

### Build

### make

• Without parameters builds "all"



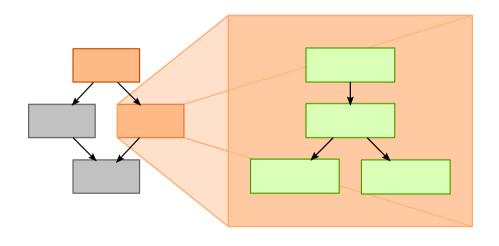
### Build

- bitbake <IMAGE>
- bitbake core-image-minimal



### Naming

### **Building items**



### Package == Recipe

Rules to download and "build" a single program, library or other (e.g. binutils, busybox, gcc, libxml2)

- Each package is a Make target and has a Kconfig on/off knob
- make libxml2
- host-<PKG>: the same package built for the development host (native build)

- Each package is a Bitbake target
- bitbake libxml2
- <PKG>-native: the same package built for the development host (native build)

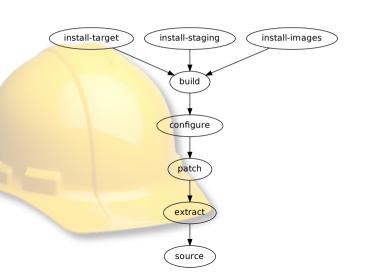
### Step == Task

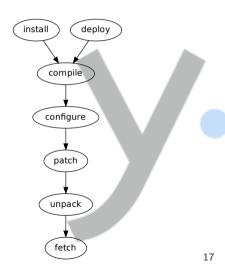
#### Each package requires several steps to be built

- No formal name, usually called just steps
- source, extract, patch, configure, build, install, ...
- Each step is also a make target
- The special <PKGNAME> make target depends on all other normal tasks required to 'build' a recipe
- make libxml2-configure host-binutils-build busybox

- Called tasks (often prefixed with do\_)
- fetch, unpack, patch, configure, compile, install, deploy, ...
- First-class citizens in bitbake
- The special build task depends on all other normal tasks required to 'build' a recipe
- bitbake -c configure libxml2 busybox

### Default steps/tasks





### Naming side-by-side

Package Package Stan	Recipe
Package Step	Recipe Task
host- <pkg></pkg>	<pkg>-native</pkg>
pkg-generic.mk	base.bbclass
source	fetch
extract	unpack
patch	patch
configure	configure
build	compile
install-{target,staging}	install
install-images	deploy

Layers / external trees

### Yocto: layers

The preferred way to add features: layers

conf/bblayers.conf

```
BBLAYERS ?= " \
   /home/murray/devel/poky/meta \
   /home/murray/devel/poky/meta-poky \
   /home/murray/devel/poky/meta-yocto-bsp \
   <...path to other layers...> \
   "
```



### Yocto: adding layers

```
BBLAYERS ?= " \
    /home/murray/devel/poky/meta \
    /home/murray/devel/poky/meta-poky \
    /home/murray/devel/poky/meta-yocto-bsp \
+ ${TOPDIR}/../meta-my-soc-vendor \
+ ${TOPDIR}/../meta-openembedded/meta-oe \
    "
```

Suggestion: use relative paths

### Yocto: .bbappend

- .bbappend files are appended to the .bb file while parsing
  - Change variable values
  - Append/prepend to tasks
- The resulting myrecipe is a concatenation of:
  - <LAYER1>/\*/\*/myrecipe.bb
  - <LAYER2>/\*/\*/myrecipe.bbappend
  - <LAYER3>/\*/\*/myrecipe.bbappend



### Yocto: issues with layers

- Some SoC vendor layers augment the buildsystem, at times creating problems
- Conflict between layers (e.g. in gstreamer)
- Suggestion: add layers one by one, bottom-up, test each time
- Problems?
  - Fix the offending code in your layer (.bbappend)
  - disable the recipe (PNBLACKLIST) and provide an alternative
  - Don't use the layer, copy only what you need

### Yocto: your top-level layer

- Add your top-level layer
  - Your machine configuration
  - Your proprietary packages
  - .bbappends and other files to modify the behaviour of lower layers

### Buildroot: BR2\_EXTERNAL

- BR2\_EXTERNAL is technically similar to Yocto layers, but simpler
- The goal is to add, not modify
- Typical use: add your own product customizations
  - packages
  - Kconfig options
  - defconfigs
  - boards
  - patches
  - ...
- Need to fix/improve a Buildroot package?
  - Suggested policy: do it in the Buildroot code, then submit your improvements upstream

### Buildroot: BR2\_EXTERNAL

\$ make BR2\_EXTERNAL=~/devel/myext:~/devel/myext2 menuconfig

- The list of your externals is saved in .config
- The top-level Makefile will include each external Makefile
- The same for Config.in files

### Writing recipes

### A simple Yocto package: the .bb file

### <MYLAYER>/recipes-app/corporate-apps/foo\_1.0.bb

```
SRC_URI = "http://www.foo.org/download/foo-${PV}.tar.xz"
DEPENDS = "libbar-native libusb"
do_compile() {
    oe_runmake all
do_install() {
    install -D -m 0755 ${B}/foo ${D}${bindir}/foo
```

### A simple Buildroot package: the makefile

package/foo/foo.mk

```
FOO_VERSION = 1.0
FOO_SITE = http://www.foo.org/download
FOO DEPENDENCIES = host-libbar libusb
define FOO BUILD CMDS
    $(MAKE) $(TARGET_CONFIGURE_OPTS) -C $(@D) all
endef
define FOO INSTALL TARGET CMDS
    $(INSTALL) -D -m 0755 $(@D)/foo $(TARGET DIR)/usr/bin/foo
endef
$(eval $(generic-package))
```

#### A simple Buildroot package: Config.in

- Shows the package in the Kconfig interfaces
- Uses the Kconfig language

#### package/foo/Config.in

```
config BR2_PACKAGE_F00
bool "foo"
select BR2_PACKAGE_LIBUSB
help
A brief description.
```

#### Yocto classes

- classes implement common features for reuse in recipes
  - .bbclass files
  - There are classes for the most common build tools: Autotools, CMake

#### <MYLAYER>/recipes-app/corporate-apps/foo\_1.0.bb

```
SRC_URI = "http://www.foo.org/download/foo-${PV}.tar.xz"
DEPENDS = "libbar-native libusb"
inherit autotools
```

#### **Buildroot package infrastructures**

- package infrastructures are classes of packages that use the same build tool
  - Autotools, CMake, Python, LuaRocks, Perl/CPAN ...
- Most commands have a default

#### package/foo/foo.mk

```
FOO_VERSION = 1.0
FOO_SITE = http://www.foo.org/download
FOO_DEPENDENCIES = host-libbar libusb
$(eval $(autotools-package))
```

#### Yocto classes

- With classes the common do\_<TASK> functions are already set
- Customizable via infrastructure-specific variables

```
EXTRA_OECONF += "--enable-warp-speed"
```

- Can be extended with
  - do\_<TASK>\_prepend
  - do\_<TASK>\_append
    do\_install\_append() {
     touch \${D}\${sysconfdir}/foo.conf
    }



#### **Buildroot package infrastructures**

- With package infrastructures FOO\_<STEP>\_CMDS are already set
- Customizable via infrastructure-specific variables
   FOO\_CONF\_OPTS = --enable-warp-speed
- To extend them define hooks
  - FOO\_PRE\_<STEP>\_HOOKS
  - FOO\_POST\_<STEP>\_HOOKS

```
define F00_CREATE_CONF_FILE
    touch $(TARGET_DIR)/etc/foo.conf
endef
F00_POST_INSTALL_HOOKS += F00_CREATE_CONF_FILE
```

#### **Predefined variables**

Lots of predefined variables can (and should) be user in rules. The most widely used:

	Buildroot	Yocto
Package name	<pkg>_NAME</pkg>	PN
Package raw name	<pkg>_RAWNAME</pkg>	BPN
Package version	<pkg>_VERSION</pkg>	PV
Source code dir	@D	S
Build dir	@D	В
Install files in (*)	TARGET_DIR	D
Install images in (*)	BINARIES_DIR	DEPLOYDIR

<sup>\*</sup> The final dirs in Buildroot, temp dirs in Yocto.

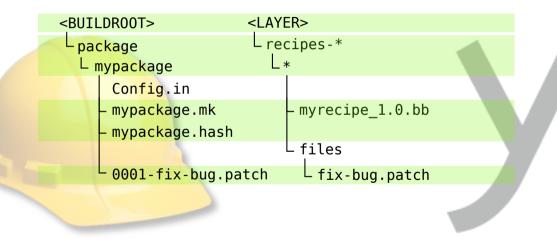
#### **Adding patches**

# Buildroot Yocto .patch file in package dir .patch file in recipe subdir (\*) <PKG>\_PATCH = <URL> SRC\_URI += <URL> BR2\_GLOBAL\_PATCH\_DIR tree Your layer

```
* Plus SRC_URI += "file://foo.patch"

(and FILESEXTRAPATHS_prepend = "<DIR>:")
```

#### Overall recipe directory layout



## Building

### Invoking

E	Buildr	root	Yocto
n	nake	[all]	bitbake <image/>
n	nake	busybox	bitbake busybox
n	nake	busybox-configure	bitbake -c configure busybox
n	nake	busybox-reconfigure	bitbake -C configure busybox
n	nake	clean	bitbake -c clean world
n	nake	busybox-dirclean	bitbake -c clean busybox

#### Tuning resource usage

Buildroot	Yocto
BR2_JLEVEL=2 make	PARALLEL_MAKE="-j 2" bitbake BB_NUMBER_THREADS=2 bitbake
Build options → Enable compiler cache —	SSTATE_DIR ?= " /.sstate-cache"

#### **Buildroot: out-of-tree builds**

- make O=foo foo\_defconfig
- make O=bar bar\_defconfig
- cd foo; make
  - Build in foo/\* instead of output/\*



#### **Buildroot: out-of-tree builds**

- make O=foo foo\_defconfig
- make O=bar bar\_defconfig
- cd foo; make
  - Build in foo/\* instead of output/\*
- cd bar; make
  - Can run in parallel



#### Yocto: multiple machines and images

- bitbake core-image-minimal
- bitbake my-image-huge
  - Recycles common artifacts



#### Yocto: multiple machines and images

- bitbake core-image-minimal
- bitbake my-image-huge
  - Recycles common artifacts
- MACHINE=another-board bitbake my-image-huge
  - Remember to use ?= to set MACHINE in your conf file



#### Buildroot dependency tracking: stamp files

- Dependency tracking is at the core of Make (program  $\rightarrow$  .o  $\rightarrow$  .c)
  - Does not fit completely the needs of a buildsystem
- Internally Buildroot touches a stamp file after completing each step
  - An empty file
  - Tracks successful step completion, not the rules that originated it
  - If the rules change, Buildroot is unaware

#### Buildroot dependency tracking: stamp files

- You need to manually trigger a rebuild when:
  - You changed the configuation of the package or one of its dependencies
  - You're developing the package and changed the rules (.mk, patches...)
- How to rebuild
  - The safe option: make clean; make
  - If you know what you really need: make <PKG>-dirclean <PKG>
  - Or make <PKG>-reconfigure / make <PKG>-rebuild

#### Yocto: recipe hash

- Bitbake stores a hash for each task
- Hash content:
  - All the recipe variables and task code (bitbake -e)
  - Content of all files stored in SRC\_URI
- Automatically detect recipe changes and rebuilds what's needed
- Result stores in the sstate cache for later reuse

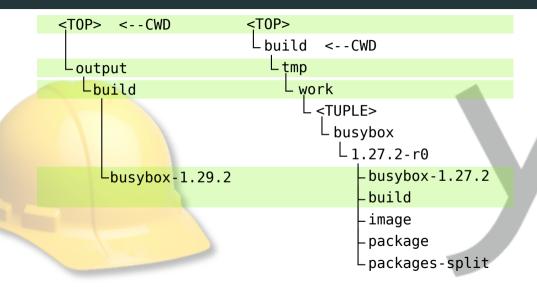
#### Yocto: recipe hash

- Still want to force a task?
  - bitbake -f -c configure <PKG>
  - -f forces to run tasks even when not needed



Where are my output files?

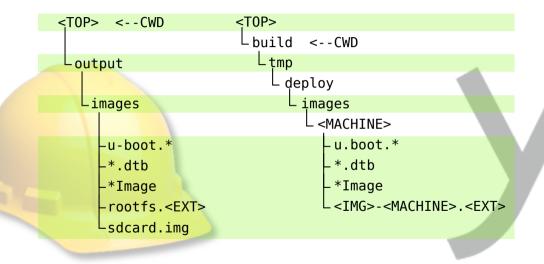
#### Work directory layout



#### Root filesystem generation

```
<T0P>
       <-- CWD
                      <T0P>
                       └build <--CWD
Loutput
                         ∟ tmp
                           Lwork
                             L <MACHINE TUPLE>
                               L core-image-minimal
                                 └1.0-r0
                                   rootfs
  Ltarget
    bin, usr...
                                      └bin, usr...
```

#### Output directory layout

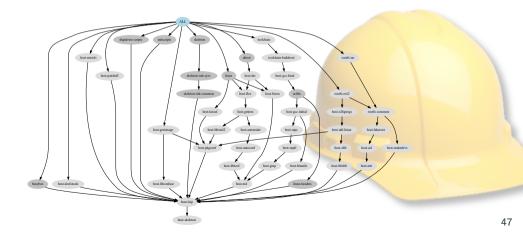


Understanding what's going on

What will it build?

#### Buildroot: graph-depends

- make graph-depends
- Produces output/graphs/graph-depends.pdf



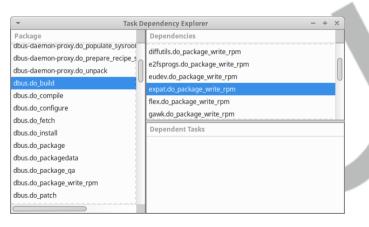
#### Buildroot: graph-depends

- Build a per-package graph: <PKG>-graph-depends
- Set BR2\_GRAPH\_DEPS\_OPTS in the environment to control the output
- BR2\_GRAPH\_DEPS\_OPTS="--exclude=host" make avahi-graph-depends
- Produces output/graphs/avahi-graph-depends.pdf



#### Yocto: taskexp

- Generating dot graphs not really usable
- Task Explorer: bitbake -g -u taskexp world
- Shows dependencies between tasks (not recipes)



What does it do?
What went wrong?

#### **Buildroot: default output**

```
$ make
. . .
>>> host-e2fsprogs 1.44.2 Extracting
xzcat /home/murray/src/e2fsprogs/e2fsprogs-1.44.2.tar.xz...
>>> host-e2fsprogs 1.44.2 Patching
>>> host-e2fsprogs 1.44.2 Configuring
checking build system type... x86_64-pc-linux-gnu
checking host system type... x86 64-pc-linux-gnu
```

- ">>>" marks the started tasks
- The whole output of each step follows
- Failure? Look at the last lines

#### **Buildroot: concise output**

```
$ ./utils/brmake
...
2018-10-06T16:15:58 >>> host-zlib Patching
2018-10-06T16:15:58 >>> host-zlib Configuring
2018-10-06T16:15:58 >>> host-zlib Building
2018-10-06T16:15:58 >>> host-zlib Installing to host directory
2018-10-06T16:15:58 >>> host-util-linux 2.32.1 Patching
...
```

- Adds step start time
- Verbose output saved in br.log

#### Yocto: default output

- The default output shows the current status, no logs
- Hides completed tasks

#### Yocto: concise "log" output

- To see the completed tasks:
- bitbake ... | cat

```
NOTE: Running task 119 of 2645 (.../binutils/binutils-cross_2.30.bb:do_unpack)

NOTE: Running task 232 of 2645 (virtual:native:...lzo/lzo_2.10.bb:do_compile)

NOTE: recipe binutils-cross-arm-2.30-r0: task do_unpack: Started

NOTE: recipe binutils-cross-arm-2.30-r0: task do_prepare_recipe_sysroot: Started

NOTE: recipe elfutils-native-0.170-r0: task do_prepare_recipe_sysroot: Started

NOTE: recipe lzo-native-2.10-r0: task do_compile: Started

NOTE: recipe elfutils-native-0.170-r0: task do_prepare_recipe_sysroot: Succeeded

NOTE: Running task 247 of 2645 (virtual:native:.../elfutils_0.170.bb:do_configure)

NOTE: recipe binutils-cross-arm-2.30-r0: task do_prepare_recipe_sysroot: Succeeded
```

#### Yocto: inspect build logs

- Failure?
- For each task a log file is saved
  - in tmp/work/<TUPLE>/<RECIPE>/<VERSION>/temp/log.do\_<TASK>
  - e.g. tmp/work/x86\_64-linux/gmp-native/6.1.2-r0/temp/log.do\_configure
- Or re-run the failed task with verbose output to see its output on your terminal
  - bitbake -v -f -c configure gmp-native



#### **Buildroot:** printvars

- make -s printvars
  - Print all variables
- make -s VARS=BUSYBOX\_% printvars
  - Only variables matching a pattern
- make -qp
  - Print the whole Make database
  - Variables (before expansion) and the file where they were set
  - Rules (target + prerequisites + actions)

#### Yocto: bitbake -e

- bitbake -e
  - Show the global environment
  - Variables and the files where they were set
- bitbake -e <RECIPE>
  - Show the per-recipe environment
  - Variables and the files where they were set
  - Tasks actions



# Customizing the root filesystem

## **Buildroot: Kconfig**

- The same configuration system as the kernel, Busybox, U-Boot, Barebox...
- make menuconfig, make xconfig
- .config is your current configuration
- make savedefconfig updates your defconfig with the new values

#### Yocto: .bb files

- Your "configuration" is in several .bb files.
- A common layout:
  - Build options, toolchain, MACHINE: a conf file in your top layer (or build/conf/local.conf)
  - Target options, kernel and bootloader selection: in your layer conf/machine/<MACHINE>.bb
  - System configuration: various recipes, other places
  - Packages to put in rootfs: image recipe (see later)

# **Buildroot: adding packages**

- lacktriangledown make menuconfig ightarrow Packages
  - Search, add, remove, change packages
- make clean (if you changed or remove packages)
- make



## Yocto: adding packages

- Find the package you need
  - bitbake-layers show-recipes
  - http://layers.openembedded.org/layerindex/branch/master/layers/
- Create your own image recipe
  - Image = list of packages to but in rootfs (a subset of all the packages)

## Yocto: adding packages

Create an image recipe (<MYLAYER>/recipes-\*/images/\*-image-\*.bb)

```
require recipes-core/images/core-image-minimal.bb

DESCRIPTION = "My own root filesystem"

LICENSE = "MIT"

IMAGE_FSTYPES = "tar.gz"

IMAGE_INSTALL += "htop packagegroup-debug"
```

Package groups (<MYLAYER>/recipes-\*/packagegroups/packagegroup-\*.bb)

```
inherit packagegroup
RDEPENDS_${PN} = "gdb strace"
```

## Typical root filesystem customizations

- And embedded systems needs customizations
  - High-level choices: init system, /dev management, locales...
  - Creation of users, passwords, assorted files, ...
  - And many more
- Buildroot
  - lacktriangle make menuconfig o System configuration
- Yocto
  - Add appropriate lines to your conf, board or image files
  - Search the Yocto reference manual https: //www.yoctoproject.org/docs/current/ref-manual/ref-manual.html
  - Grep the poky source code

# Some system settings, side-by-side

Yocto
hostname_pn-base-files = "mybox"  DISTRO_NAME_pn-base-files = "Welcome",  DISTRO_VERSION_pn-base-files = ""
VIRTUAL-RUNTIME_init_manager VIRTUAL-RUNTIME_dev_manager
IMAGE_FEATURES += "empty-root-password"
inherit extrausers;
EXTRA_USERS_PARAMS = "usermod -P 1876*18 root;"

#### Other rootfs customizations

- Buildroot: System configuration menu:
  - Root filesystem overlay directories
  - Post-build and post-image scripts
- Yocto
  - ROOTFS\_POSTPROCESS\_COMMAND and IMAGE\_POSTPROCESS\_COMMAND

# Tweaking recipes

## **Configuring Kconfig-based packages**

#### Buildroot

- Based on kconfig-package
- Kconfig packages: at91bootstrap3, barebox, uboot, linux, busybox, linux-backports, swupdate, uclibc, xvisor

#### Yocto

- Inherit the obscure cml1 class
- Kconfig packages in the Poky layer: linux, busybox (not U-Boot)

# **Configuring Kconfig-based packages**

Description	Buildroot	Yocto
Enter menu	make <pkg>-menuconfig</pkg>	bitbake -c menuconfig <rcp></rcp>
Save defconfig	make <pkg>-savedefconfig</pkg>	bitbake -c savedefconfig <rcp></rcp>
Update defconfig	<pre>make <pkg>-update-defconfig</pkg></pre>	_
Extract fragment		bitbake -c diffconfig <rcp></rcp>

# Yocto: (re)assigning variables

- Assignments
  - F := "foo-\${A}" Immediate expansion
  - F = "foo-\${A}" Expansion on usage
- Weak assignments: used for values the user is supposed to customize
  - Base layer .bb: VAR ??= "white"
  - Middle layer .bbappend: VAR ?= "black"
  - Top-level layer.bbappend: VAR = "green"
  - The recipe will use VAR = "green"
- Append or prepend
  - VAR += "val", VAR =+ "val" (adds spaces)
  - VAR\_append = "val", VAR\_prepend = "val" (does not add spaces)
  - VAR\_remove = "val"

# Buildroot: (re)assigning variables

- It's a Makefile, use the Make syntax
- Assignments
  - F := "foo-\$(VER)" Immediate expansion
  - F = "foo-\$(VER)" Expansion on usage
- Append or prepend
  - VAR = "\$(VAR) extra", VAR = "extra \$(VAR)"



## More string processing

- Buildroot
  - Make has several functions for transforming text
  - Example: VAR = \$(filter-out bug, foo bug bar)
- Yocto
  - If Bitbake is not enough, use Python
  - PV\_x = "\${@'.'.join('\${PV}'.split('.')[0:2] + ['x'])}"
    "10.11.12" → "10.11.x"

## Yocto: changing task code

```
do_conf_append() {
    echo CONFIG_ACS >>${D}/.config
}
do_install_prepend() {
    mkdir -p ${D}${bindir}
}
```

- Append or prepend code
- Final task code = concatenation of prepends + base + appends
  - Don't mix Bash and Python

### Buildroot: changing task code

```
define FOO_ENABLE_ACS
    echo CONFIG_ACS >>$(@D)/.config
endef
FOO_POST_CONFIGURE_HOOKS += FOO_ENABLE_ACS

define FOO_CREATE_BIN_DIR
    mkdir -p $(TARGET_DIR)/bin
endef
FOO_PRE_INSTALL_HOOKS += FOO_CREATE_BIN_DIR
```

- Append or prepend code
- Final Make rule actions =
   concatenation of pre-hooks + base +
   post-hooks

# Conclusions

# Questions?

Ask now...

...or during my Office Hour Wednesday, October 24 from 10:45 to 11:45 Level -2 Built-In Seating (near Lennox)

# Thank you for your attention!

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# Extra slides

# Working with local sources

- Use sources from a local directory
  - Not managed by the build system
  - Useful during application development
- Buildroot
  - <PKG>\_OVERRIDE\_SRCDIR=/my/src/tree make
  - Skips source, extract, patch
  - rsyncs from /my/src/tree before building
- Yocto
  - inherit externalsrc
  - EXTERNALSRC = "/my/src/tree"
  - fetch, unpack, patch
  - Points S to /my/src/tree