



Building the LINUX kernel for LEON

LINUX build process overview

Written by Konrad Eisele, Daniel Hellstrom

*LinuxBuild
Version 1.0.0
December 2010*

LINUX build process overview

Konrad Eisele, Daniel Hellstrom

Copyright © 2010 Aeroflex Gaisler AB

Table of Contents

- 1. Buildlinux 1
 - 1.1. Introduction 1
 - 1.2. Requirements 1
 - 1.2.1. Installing Toolchain 1
 - 1.3. Download Location 2
- 2. Installing 3
- 3. Configuring 4
 - 3.1. Buildroot 4
 - 3.1.1. Network Configuration 4
- 4. Building 6
- 5. Upgrading 7
- 6. Support 8

1. Buildlinux

1.1. Introduction

This document describes how the Linuxbuild utility is used to build one or more of the components listed below. The Linuxbuild utility consists of small Makefile-scripts for building and configuring some of the Linux tools that Aeroflex Gaisler provides patches for.

- Linux Kernel
- Buildroot user-space root file system
- Linux Kernel RAM image
- PROM/FLASH image

The Linuxbuild utility is a quick way of getting started with Linux development for the LEON architecture, it ties different components together to build a complete Linux environment. Each component is designed to be used separately from each other, one can see Linuxbuild as an example utility that provides a quick way of getting started with Linux development using the different tools and components. Currently the following components are supported in Linuxbuild.

- Linux Kernel + LEON Linux patches
- LEON Linux RAM loader (**mklinuximg**)
- Buildroot + LEON patches
- MKPROM2

Settings for standard LEON Linux configurations are available within the Linuxbuild package and can also be created by the user. Multiple build directories can be managed in order to test different configuration. The predefined configurations can be found in the `gaisler/configs` directory.

Note also that since each component is configured separately it is sometimes needed to set the same configuration option in multiple locations.

1.2. Requirements

- SPARC/LEON Linux Toolchain (Buildroot can be used to build a toolchain)
- MKPROM2 - for creating PROM/FLASH images
- wget
- git
- Internet access

Buildroot requires a number of tools such as bison, flex, msgfmt, makeinfo, etc. please see respective tool's homepage for requirements.

1.2.1. Installing Toolchain

Unless a custom toolchain is built with `crosstool-ng` or the Buildroot tool, the standard SPARC/LEON Linux toolchain should be installed before proceeding.

The GCC-4.4.2 multilib based toolchain is downloaded from the Aeroflex Gaisler FTP server at `ftp://ftp.gaisler.com/gaisler.com/linux/linux-2.6/toolchains/sparc-linux-4.4.2/`.

The toolchain is installed into the `/opt` directory creating the resulting directory `/opt/sparc-linux-x.y.z-toolchains/multilib`. The `bin` directory containing `sparc-linux-gcc` should be added to the `PATH` variable:

```
$ export PATH=/opt/sparc-linux-4.4.2-toolchains/multilib/bin:$PATH
$ which sparc-linux-gcc
/opt/sparc-linux-4.4.2-toolchains/multilib/bin/sparc-linux-gcc
```

Note that the toolchain path is hardcoded and cannot be installed to another directory.

1.3. Download Location

Table 1.1. Build steps

Tool	Download location
LINUXBUILD	ftp://gaisler.com/gaisler.com/linux/linux-2.6/linuxbuild/linuxbuild-x.y.z.tar.bz2
Linux toolchain	ftp://ftp.gaisler.com/gaisler.com/linux/linux-2.6/toolchains/sparc-linux-4.4.2/
MKPROM2	ftp://ftp.gaisler.com/gaisler.com/mkprom2/linux/mkprom2-2.0.36.tar.gz

2. Installing

Before installing Linuxbuild the SPARC/LEON Linux toolchain must be installed, unless Buildroot is used to build a uClibc toolchain. See Section 1.2.1.

After downloading the Linuxbuild package it is extracted using **tar -xf**, and the components are installed the first time by using the "upgrade" functionality of the KConfig GUI:

```
$ tar -xf linuxbuild-x.y.z.tar.bz2
$ cd linuxbuild-x.y.z
$ make xconfig
... do SELECT/INSTALL/UPGRADE PACKAGES...
```

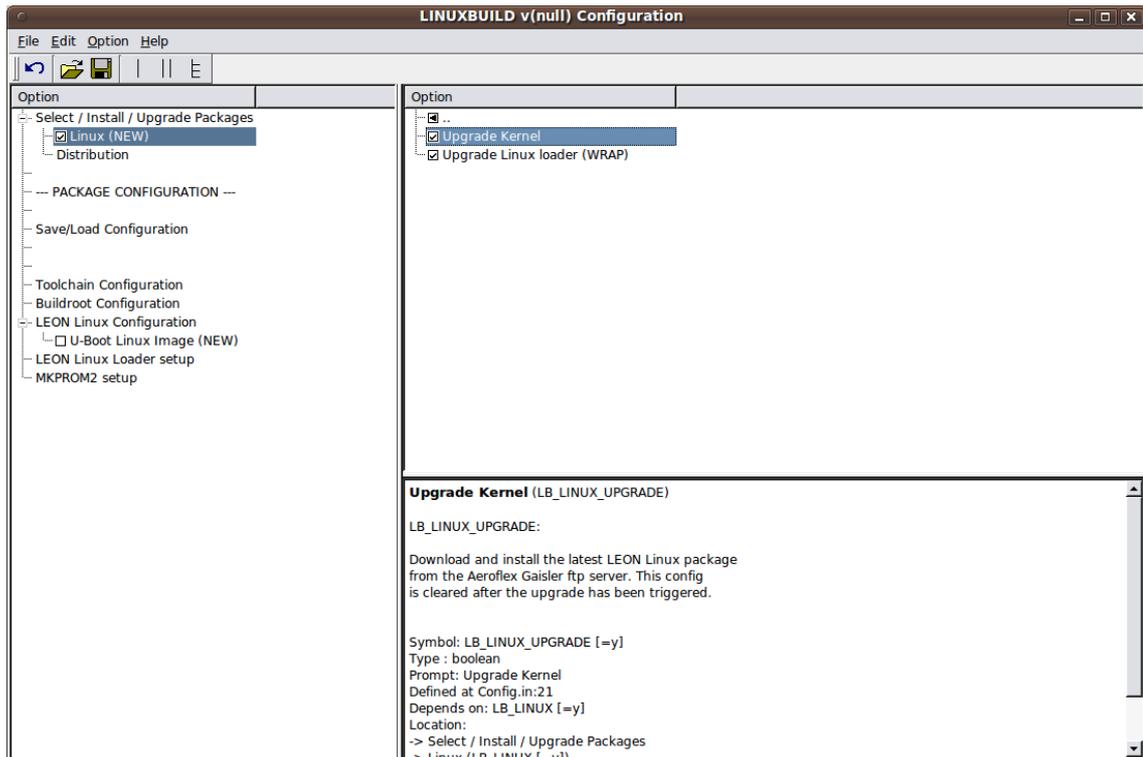


Figure 2.1. Selecting Linux components for installing/upgrading

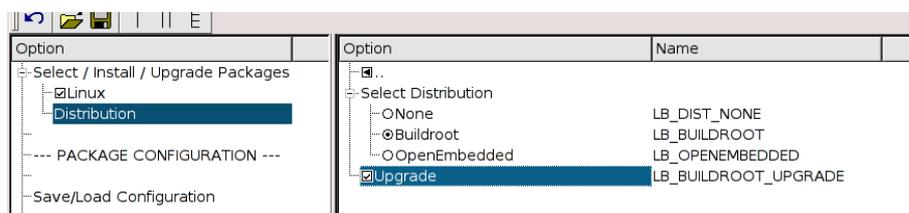


Figure 2.2. Installing/upgrading distribution components

3. Configuring

After the selected components have been downloaded or upgraded, Linuxbuild and each selected component is configured using one of the following make targets (**make xconfig**):

- xconfig - Qt based GUI (Qt-3 libs required)
- gconfig - GTK based GUI
- menuconfig - ncurses based terminal interface

Prepared LEON configurations can be found in `gaisler/configs`, they can be loaded by Linuxbuild under the "Save/Load Configuration" in the GUI. Loading a configuration updates the current configuration of all components. For this to work all enabled components must have been installed/upgraded.

Note that since each component is configured separately it is sometimes needed to set the same configuration option more than once in different configuration GUIs.

3.1. Buildroot

Buildroot is used to build user-space applications and tool chains, Aeroflex Gaisler does not distribute uClibc tool chains at the time of writing, in order to build one self Buildroot can be used. In either case a toolchain used to build user-space applications must be selected, see the table below for a number of prepared configurations. The Buildroot configuration GUI is entered by selecting `LB_BUILDROOT_CONFIGURE` (first selecting Buildroot `LB_BUILDROOT`).

Table 3.1. Prepared Buildroot Toolchain Configurations

Config	Builds Toolchain	Libc	Target	Toolchain Location
sfleon_shared_basic	YES	uClibc	soft-float/v7	Buildroot builddir/output/staging
sfleov8_shared_basic	YES	uClibc	soft-float/v8	Buildroot builddir/output/staging
hfleon_shared_basic	YES	uClibc	hard-float/v7	Buildroot builddir/output/staging
hfleov8_shared_basic	YES	uClibc	hard-float/v8	Buildroot builddir/output/staging
hfleov8_glibc_basic	NO	GLIBC	hard-float/v8	/opt/sparc-linux-toolchains/hfleov8
sfleon_glibc_basic	NO	GLIBC	soft-float/v7	/opt/sparc-linux-toolchains/sfleon
sfleon_multilib_glibc_basic	NO	GLIBC	soft-float/v7	/opt/sparc-linux-toolchains/multilib
sfleov8_multilib_glibc_basic	NO	GLIBC	soft-float/v8	/opt/sparc-linux-toolchains/multilib
hfleon_multilib_glibc_basic	NO	GLIBC	hard-float/v7	/opt/sparc-linux-toolchains/multilib
hfleov8_multilib_glibc_basic	NO	GLIBC	hard-float/v8	/opt/sparc-linux-toolchains/multilib

3.1.1. Network Configuration

After building the Buildroot file system the first time the file system content is located in the Buildroot build directory `build-br/target`. Adding network settings for the network interfaces can be done by editing the `/etc/network/interfaces` file, for example setting `eth0` in DHCP and `eth1` to a static IP address is done by editing the `interfaces` file as follows:

```
# Configure Loopback
auto lo
iface lo inet loopback

# Do DHCP for ETH0
auto eth0
iface eth0 inet dhcp

# Static IP for ETH1
auto eth1
iface eth1 inet static
    address 192.168.1.207
    network 192.168.1.0
    netmask 255.255.255.0
    broadcast 192.168.1.255
    gateway 192.168.1.1
```

4. Building

After configuring the Linuxbuild and all the selected components the build process is started by typing **make build**. If the build process fail it may be due to that a required tool is missing. The resulting images and file system images are found in the `output/` directory.

```
$ make build  
...
```

5. Upgrading

Individual components can be upgraded when Aeroflex Gaisler release new updated packages, the upgrade process can be started from the KConfig GUI (make xconfig).

If a package requires the Linuxbuild itself to be upgraded the user must do that manually. So save time the `linux/linux-git` and `dist/buildroot/buildroot-git` trees can be moved from the old Linuxbuild directory to the new, also the current configuration can be saved from the xconfig GUI and loaded into the new Linuxbuild installation.

6. Support

For Support, contact the Aeroflex Gaisler support team at support@gaisler.com.
