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Revision History

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<td>2010-03-09</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Initial public release</td>
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<td>2010-11-10</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>The document has been updated. In PetaLinux Tools 1.2, users don’t have to manually set the shared library search path for the GDB client.</td>
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<td>2010-11-26</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Updated to refer to PowerPC targets</td>
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Online Updates

Please refer to the PetaLinux v2014.2 Master Answer Record (Xilinx Answer Record #55776) for the latest updates on PetaLinux Tools usage and documentation.
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About this Guide

PetaLinux provides an easy way to develop user applications for Zynq and MicroBlaze Linux systems, including building, installing, and debugging. This guide describes how to create and debug these applications. User can use PetaLinux tools to create Linux user applications from PetaLinux templates. These templates include application source code and Makefiles so that you can easily configure and compile applications for the target, and install them into the root file system.

**IMPORTANT:** It is assumed that the readers of this document have basic Linux knowledge such as how to run Linux commands, and basic PetaLinux familiarity having read and worked through the examples in the Getting Started with PetaLinux Tools Guide.

Prerequisites

This document assumes that the following prerequisites have been satisfied:

- PetaLinux Tools have been installed.
- Xilinx Software Development Kit (XSDK) has been installed.
- PetaLinux setup script has been sourced in each command console in which you work with PetaLinux. Run the following command to check whether the PetaLinux environment has been setup on the command console:

  ```
  $ echo $PETALINUX
  ```

- If the PetaLinux working environment has been setup, it should show the path to the installed PetaLinux. If it shows nothing, please refer to section Environment Setup in the Getting Started with PetaLinux Tools document to setup the environment.
New Application

Create New Application

The basic steps are as follows:

1. Create a user application by running `petalinux-create -t apps` from inside a PetaLinux project on your workstation:

```
$ cd <project-root>
$ petalinux-create -t apps [--template TYPE] --name <user-application-name>
```

e.g., to create a user application called myapp in C (the default):

```
$ petalinux-create -t apps --name myapp
```

or:

```
$ petalinux-create -t apps --template c --name myapp
```

To create a C++ application template, pass the `--template c++` option, as follows:

```
$ petalinux-create -t apps --template c++ --name myapp
```

To create a autoconf application template, pass the `--template autoconf` option, as follows:

```
$ petalinux-create -t apps --template autoconf --name myapp
```

If you have developed your application outside PetaLinux, e.g. through Xilinx SDK, you may just want to add the application binary into PetaLinux file system. In this case, you can create an application template which will allow you to copy existing content to the target filesystem. Pass the `--template install` option, as follows:

```
$ petalinux-create -t apps --template install --name myapp
```

**IMPORTANT:** You need to ensure that the binary data being installed into the target file system by an install template application is compatible with the underlying hardware implementation of your system.

You can use `-h` or `--help` to see the usage of the `petalinux-create -t apps`. The new application you have created can be found in the "<project-root>/components/apps/myapp" directory.

2. Change to the newly created application directory

```
$ cd <project-root>/components/apps/myapp
```
You will see the following PetaLinux template-generated files:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Template</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kconfig</td>
<td>Configuration file template - this file controls how your application is integrated into the PetaLinux menu configuration system, and allows you to add configuration options for your own application to control how it is built or installed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makefile</td>
<td>Compilation file template - this is a basic Makefile containing targets to build and install your application into the root filesystem. This file needs to be modified when you add additional source code files to your project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>README</td>
<td>A file to introduce how to build the user application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>myapp.c for C; myapp.cpp for C++</td>
<td>Simple application program in either C or C++, depending upon your choice. These files will be edited or replaced with the real source code for your application.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Building New Application

Once you have created the new application, the next step is to configure, build and install it. The required steps are shown below:

1. Select your new application to be included in the build process. The application is not enabled by default. Launch the rootfs configuration menu:

   ```
   $ petalinux-config -c rootfs
   ```

   linux/rootfs Configuration menu will show as:

   ```
   Filesystem Packages --->
   Libs --->
   Apps --->
   Modules --->
   PetaLinux RootFS Settings --->
   Debugging --->
   ```

   **TIP:**
   - `v(+)` below the menu means there are more options below; you can scroll down the menu to see those options by pressing arrow key (↓).
   - `^(-)` above the menu means there are more options above; you can scroll up the menu to see those options by pressing arrow key (↑).

2. Press the down arrow key (↓) to scroll down the menu to Apps.

3. Press Enter to go into the Apps sub-menu:

   ```
   [ ] fwupgrade --->
   [ ] gpio-demo --->
   [ ] latencystat --->
   [*] myapp --->
   [*] peekpoke --->
   [*] uWeb --->
   ```

   You will see your newly created user application - myapp - listed in the menu.

4. Select and enter the myapp sub-menu, which will then show:

   ```
   --- myapp
   *** No additional options for MYAPP ***
   ```

   By default, there are no additional options for myapp. Advanced users can modify the Kconfig file in the "myapp" directory, to add custom options.

5. Exit the menu and select <Yes> when asked Do you wish to save your new configuration?
Building New Application

Do you wish to save your new configuration? <ESC><ESC> to continue.
< Yes > < No >

It will take a few seconds to apply the configuration change, please wait until you return to the shell prompt on the command console.

6. Running petalinux-build in the project directory "<project-root>" will rebuild the system image including the selected user application myapp. (The output directory for this build process is "<project-root>/build/linux/rootfs/apps/myapp")

```
$ petalinux-build
```

To build myapp into an existing system image:

```
$ cd <project-root>
$ petalinux-build -c rootfs/myapp
$ petalinux-build -x package
```

**TIP:** Other `petalinux-build` options are explained with `--help`. Some of the build options are:

- to clean the selected user application:
  
  ```
  $ petalinux-build -c rootfs/myapp -x clean
  ```

- to rebuild the selected user application:

  ```
  $ petalinux-build -c rootfs/myapp -x build
  ```

- to install the selected user application:

  ```
  $ petalinux-build -c rootfs/myapp -x install
  ```
Testing New Application

So far, you have created and compiled a new application. Now it’s time to test it.

1. Boot the newly created system image, either in QEMU or on your hardware board. If you are not sure how to do so, please refer to section Test New Software Image with QEMU and section Test New Software Image on Hardware in the Getting Started with PetaLinux Tools document.

2. Confirm your user application is present on the PetaLinux system, by running the following command on the target system login console:

   # ls /bin

   Unless you have changed the user application’s Makefile to put the user application to somewhere else, the user application will be put in to "/bin" directory.

3. Run your user application on the target system console, e.g., to run user application myapp:

   # myapp

4. Confirm the result of the application is as expected.

If the new application is missing from the target filesystem, double check to make sure that you completed the petalinux-build -x package step described in the previous section. This ensures that your application binary is copied into the root filesystem staging area, and that the target system image is updated with this new filesystem.
Debugging MicroBlaze Applications with GDB

PetaLinux supports debugging MicroBlaze user applications with GDB. This section describes the basic debugging procedure.

Preparing the build system for debugging

1. Change the user application Makefile so that compiler optimisations are disabled. Compiler optimisations make debugging difficult because the compiler can re-order or remove instructions that do not impact the program result.

   Here is an example taken from a changed Makefile:

   ```
   ...
   include apps.common.mk
   CFLAGS += -O0
   APP = myapp
   ...
   ```

2. Change to the project directory:

   ```
   $ cd <project-root>
   ```

3. Run `petalinux-config -c rootfs` on the command console:

   ```
   $ petalinux-config -c rootfs
   ```

4. Scroll down the `linux/rootfs Configuration menu to Debugging`:

   ```
   Filesystem Packages -->
   Libs -->
   Apps -->
   Modules -->
   PetaLinux RootFS Settings -->
   Debugging -->
   ```

5. Select the `Debugging` sub-menu and ensure that `build debugable applications` is selected:

   ```
   [*] build debugable applications
   ```

6. Exit the Debugging sub-menu, and select the `Filesystem Packages`, followed by the `base` sub-menu:
Performing a Debug Session

1. Boot your board (or QEMU) with the new image created above.

2. Run `gdbserver` with the user application on the target system console (set to listening on port 1534):

```
root@Xilinx-KC705-AXI-full-2014.2:~# gdbserver host:1534 /bin/myapp
Process /bin/myapp created; pid = 73
Listening on port 1534
```

1534 is the `gdbserver` port - it can be any unused port number

3. On the workstation, navigate to the compiled user application’s directory:

```
$ cd <project-root>/build/linux/rootfs/apps/myapp
```

4. Run GDB client
Performing a Debug Session

$ petalinux-util --gdb myapp

5. The GDB console will start:

```
...gnuc urses = 2.0) 7.6.0.20130721-cvs...
... (gdb)
```

6. In the GDB console connect to the target machine using the command:

- Use the IP address of the target system, e.g.: 192.168.0.10. If you are not sure about the IP address, run `ifconfig` on the target console to check.
- Use the port 1534. If you chose a different gdbserver port number in the earlier step, use that value instead.

```
(gdb) target remote 192.168.0.10:1534
```

The GDB console will attach to the remote target. Gdbserver on the target console will display the following confirmation, where the host IP is displayed;

```
Remote Debugging from host 192.168.0.9
```

7. Before starting the execution of the program create some breakpoints. Using the GDB console you can create breakpoints throughout your code using function names and line numbers. For example create a breakpoint for the `main` function:

```
(gdb) break main
Breakpoint 1 at 0x10000444: file myapp.c, line 10.
```

8. Run the program by executing the `continue` command in the GDB console. GDB will begin the execution of the program and break at any breakpoints.

```
(gdb) continue
Continuing.
Breakpoint 1, main (argc=1, argv=0xbffffe64) at myapp.c:10
10 printf("Hello, PetaLinux World!\n");
```

9. To print out a listing of the code at current program location use the `list` command.
Try the step, next and continue commands. Try setting and removing breakpoints using the break command. More information on the commands can be obtained using the GDB console help command.

When the program finishes, the GDB server application on the target system will exit. Here is an example of messages shown on the console:

Hello, PetaLinux World!
cmdline args: /bin/myapp
Child exited with status 0
GDBserver exiting
root@Xilinx-KC705-AXI-full-2014.2:~#  

TIP: A .gdbinit file will be automatically created, to setup paths to libraries. You may add your own GDB initialisation commands at the end of this file if desired.

For more information on general usage of GDB, please refer to the GDB project documentation:

- http://www.gnu.org/software/gdb/documentation
Debugging Zynq Applications with TCF Agent

PetaLinux supports debugging Zynq user applications with TCF Agent. This section describes the basic debugging procedure.

Preparing the build system for debugging

1. Change to the project directory:

   ```
   $ cd <project-root>
   ```

2. Run `petalinux-config -c rootfs` on the command console:

   ```
   $ petalinux-config -c rootfs
   ```

3. Scroll down the `linux/rootfs Configuration menu` to `Filesystem Packages`, followed by the base sub-menu:

   ```
   [ ] Advanced Package Selection
   [*] base-system-default
   base --->
   base/shell --->
   console/network --->
   console/utils --->
   devel --->
   doc --->
   libs --->
   libs/network --->
   ```

4. Select `base --->` submenu, and then click into `tcf-agent --->` submenu:
Performing a Debug Session

1. Boot your board (or QEMU) with the new image.

2. Ensure that the boot log indicates that tcf-agent has started. You should see a message like the following:

   Starting tcf-agent: OK

3. Launch XSDK, and create a workspace.


5. In the pop-up window select Xilinx > Hardware Platform Specification

6. Give the Hardware Project a name. E.g. ZC702

---

5. Ensure tcf-agent is enabled:

   [+] tcf-agent

6. Exit the menu and select <Yes> to save the configuration.

7. Rebuild the target system image as described previously, including myapp.
Performing a Debug Session

7. Locate the system.hdf for your target hardware. If the PetaLinux project was based on a PetaLinux bsp, this can be found in "<project-root>/hardware/Xilinx-ZC702-2014.2/Xilinx-ZC702-2014.2.sdk/system.hdf"

8. Open the Debug Launch Configuration window by selecting Run > Debug Configurations.

9. Create a new Xilinx C/C++ application (System Debugger) launch configuration:

![Figure 1: XSDK Debug Configurations](image)

10. Ensure that Debug Type is set to Linux Application Debug

11. Select the New option to enter the Connection details.
Performing a Debug Session

12. Give the Target Connection a name, and specify the Host to be the correct IP for the target

13. Set the port of tcf-agent and select OK

**IMPORTANT:** If debugging on QEMU, refer to the PetaLinux Tools QEMU System Emulation Guide (UG982) for information regarding IP and port redirection when testing in non-root (default) or root mode. E.g. if testing in non-root mode, you will need to use localhost as the target IP in the subsequent steps.

14. Switch to the Application Tab
15. Enter the Local File Path to your compiled application in the project directory, e.g. 
   "<project-root>/build/linux/rootfs/apps/myapp/myapp"

16. Enter the Remote File Path to the location on the target file system where your application can be 
   found, e.g. "/bin/myapp"

17. Select Debug to Apply the configuration and begin the Debug session. (If asked to switch to Debug 
   Perspective, accept).

18. Standard XSDK debug flow can now commence:
Performing a Debug Session

Figure 4: XSDK Debug
Customising the Application Template

In the previous section, you modified the application Makefile for debugging. In this section, we will change the Kconfig file and the source file to customise the application template.

As mentioned in the earlier sections, the Kconfig file in the user application directory allows you to configure your user application with the Linux Kconfig mechanism.

In this section, we will see a simple example of how to change the Kconfig template and the source file.

1. Change the source file to print a configurable welcome string. Here is the change (highlighted) to the source file:

```c
#include <stdio.h>

int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    char *welcome;
    #ifdef WELCOME
    welcome=WELCOME;
    #else
    welcome="PetaLinux World!";
    #endif
    printf("Hello, %s\n",welcome);
    printf("cmdline args:\n");
    while(argc--)
    printf("%s\n",*argv);
    return 0;
}
```

2. Change the Kconfig file of the user application to add a configuration option: APPS_MYAPP_WELCOME. Here is the change (highlighted) to the Kconfig file:

```
if ROOTFS_COMPONENT_APPS_NAME_MYAPP
    comment "No additional options for MYAPP"
    config APPS_MYAPP_WELCOME
    string "Welcome String:"
    help
    Welcome string for myapp
endif
```

3. Change the user application Makefile to pass the configurable option to the user application executable. Here is an example (highlighted):
include apps.common.mk

include $(ROOTFS_CONFIG)

ifeq ($(CONFIG_APPS_MYAPP_WELCOME),)
CFLAGS += -DWELCOME="$(CONFIG_APPS_MYAPP_WELCOME)"
endif

APP = myapp

4. Re-run the application configuration menu:

$ petalinux-config -c rootfs

5. When the `linux/rootfs Configuration` menu appears, the newly created configuration option will be visible under the following sub menu:

Apps --->
    myapp --->

You should see the new `Welcome String` configuration on the myapp sub-menu list:

Figure 5: myapp menu with new configuration option
6. Choose the Welcome String: option and then input a string, e.g., "It’s a user application test!".

7. Exit and save the configuration change.

8. Rebuild application and target system image:

   $ cd <project-root>
   $ petalinux-build -c rootfs/myapp -x clean
   $ petalinux-build -c rootfs/myapp
   $ petalinux-build -x package

9. Boot the new image on hardware or with QEMU. When the system boots, run the new application.

   root@Xilinx-KC705-AXI-full-2014.2:~# myapp
   Hello, It’s a user application test!
   cmdline args:
   myapp

One final thing to note, any configuration settings you choose for your application will be saved if you save your default configurations in the top level menuconfig system.
### Troubleshooting

This section describes some common issues you may experience when creating and testing user application, and ways to solve them.

<table>
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<th>Problem/Error Message</th>
<th>Description and Solution</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDB Error message:</td>
<td><strong>Problem Description:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;IP Address&gt;:&lt;port&gt;:</td>
<td>This error message indicates that the GDB client failed to connect to the GDB server.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connection refused. GDB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cannot connect to the</td>
<td><strong>Solution:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>target board using &lt;IP&gt;</td>
<td>1. Check whether the gdbserver is running on the target system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;port&gt;</td>
<td>2. Check whether there is another gdb client already connected to the GDB server. This can be done by looking at the target console. If you can see:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Remote Debugging from host &lt;IP&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>it means there is another GDB client connecting to the server.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Check whether the IP address and the port are correctly set.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional Resources

References

- PetaLinux Tools Application Development Guide (UG981)
- PetaLinux Tools Board Bringup Guide (UG980)
- PetaLinux Tools Firmware Upgrade Guide (UG983)
- PetaLinux Tools Getting Started Guide (UG977)
- PetaLinux Tools Installation Guide (UG976)
- PetaLinux Tools QEMU System Emulation Guide (UG982)