



Open Kernel Labs™

Be open. Be safe.

Next-Generation Embedded Operating Systems

Gernot Heiser

Founder and CTO, *Open Kernel Labs*

Professor of Operating Systems, *UNSW*

Program Leader, *NICTA*

August 2007



Embedded Systems are Everywhere



Let's think about the implications...

Lessons from Desktop Systems

Desktop Computers Suck

- They crash
- They get cracked
- They get infected



How about embedded systems?

Wireless Everywhere!

- Bank accounts
 - Is someone monitoring your financial transactions?
 - Is someone taking money out of your account?
- Automobiles
 - Is someone changing your engine settings?
 - Is someone manipulating your breaks?
- Health cards
 - Is someone accessing your medical history?
 - Is someone changing your medication?
- Your home
 - Is someone watching you at home?
 - Is someone entering while you are away?

Computer Unreliability — Why?

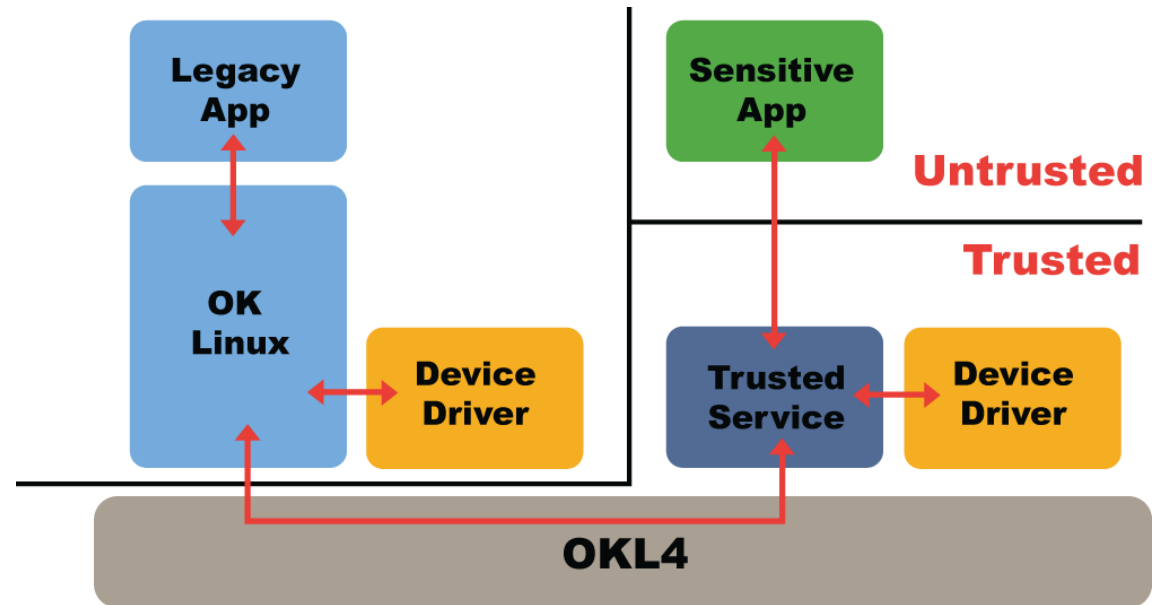
- Complexity is the arch-enemy of reliability
 - Complex systems are impossible to understand completely
 - Complex systems are faulty
- Software systems are incredibly complex
 - Smartphones have 5-7 M lines of code (LOC)
 - Cars contain Gigabytes of software
 - Future systems will be even more complex
- Software is buggy
 - Good-quality software has about 1 bug per 1,000 LOC
 - Bug count grows super-linearly in code size
 - Systems have thousands and thousands of bugs

Reliable Systems — How?

- Need a high-performance microkernel
- Need certainty it provides *right mechanisms*
- Need certainty its *implementation is correct*
- Need *credible timing model*
- Need *software-engineering infrastructure*

OKL4: Embedded OS and Virtualization

- Small OKL4 micro-kernel (10 kLOC)
 - unbeaten IPC performance
 - native real-time programming env
- Virtualization for standard high-level OS API (Linux)
 - Full binary compatibility



- Developed at UNSW and NICTA, spun out into startup
- Open Kernel Labs markets and continues development
- Joint venture of Open Kernel Labs and NICTA
 - develop next-generation technology based on OKL4



OKL4 Commercial Deployment

- Shipped by QUALCOMM on their latest chipsets
- First OKL4 phone on the market: Toshiba W47T
 - on sale in Japan since late 2006
- More handsets to hit market in next 12 months
 - US, Korean manufacturers
- Products in other industry verticals in pipeline



Reliable Systems — How?

- Need a high-performance microkernel
 - This exists: OKL4
- Need certainty it provides *right mechanisms*
 - can support secure systems (encapsulation etc)
- Need certainty its *implementation is correct*
- Need *credible timing model*
- Need *software-engineering infrastructure*

Reliable Systems — How?

- Need a high-performance microkernel
 - This exists: OKL4
- Need certainty it provides *right mechanisms*
 - can support secure systems (encapsulation etc)
 - NICTA project seL4
- Need certainty its *implementation is correct*
 - implementation matches specification
- Need *credible timing model*
- Need *software-engineering infrastructure*

Reliable Systems — How?

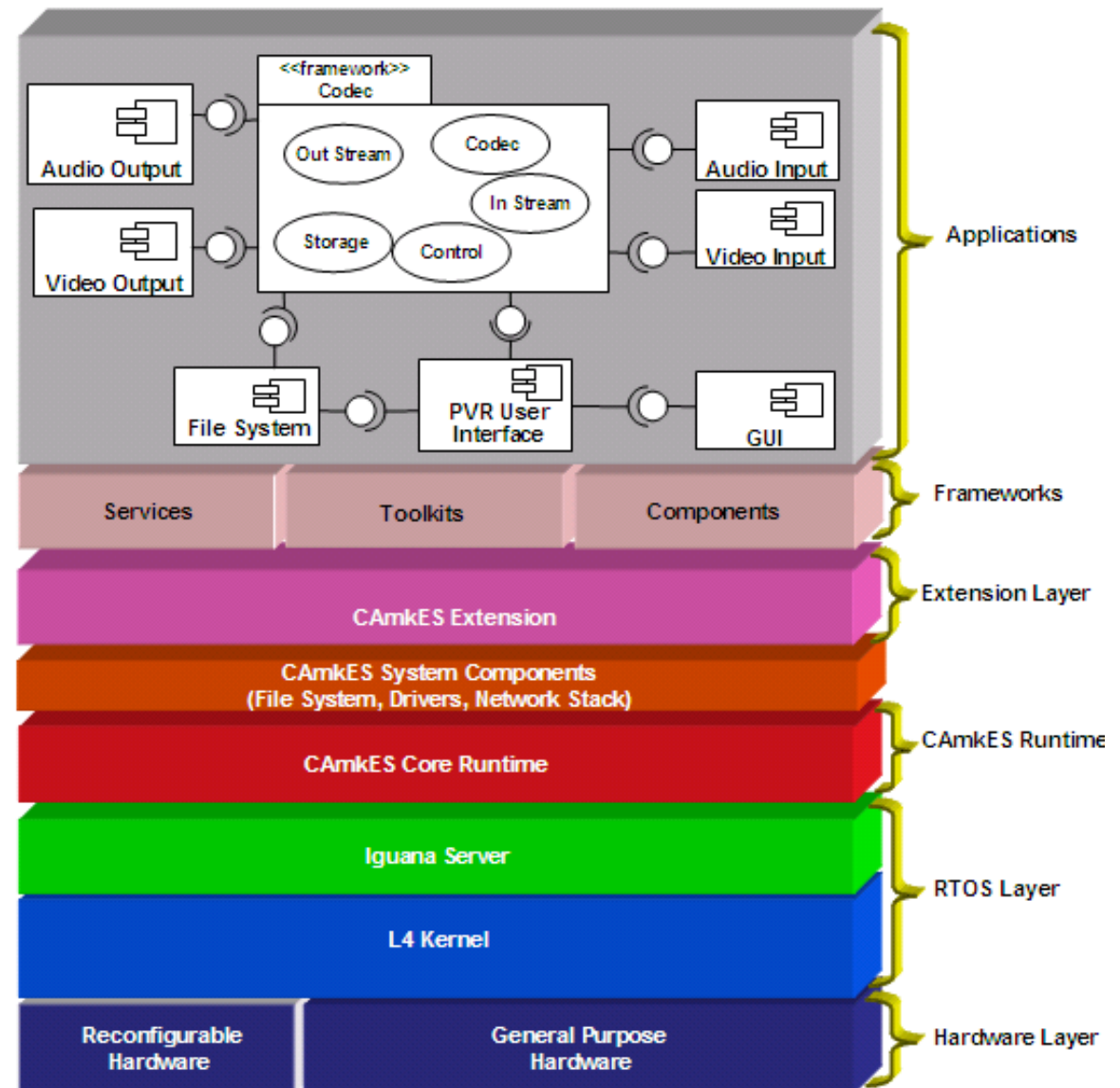
- Need a high-performance microkernel
 - This exists: OKL4
- Need certainty it provides *right mechanisms*
 - can support secure systems (encapsulation etc)
 - NICTA project seL4
- Need certainty its *implementation is correct*
 - implementation matches specification
 - NICTA project L4.verified
- Need *credible timing model*
 - actual worst-case latencies, based on sound methodology
- Need *software-engineering infrastructure*

Reliable Systems — How?

- Need a high-performance microkernel
 - This exists: OKL4
- Need certainty it provides *right mechanisms*
 - can support secure systems (encapsulation etc)
 - NICTA project seL4
- Need certainty its *implementation is correct*
 - implementation matches specification
 - NICTA project L4.verified
- Need *credible timing model*
 - actual worst-case latencies, based on sound methodology
 - NICTA project Potoroo
- Need *software-engineering infrastructure*
 - support for building large and complex systems

CamkES Project: Component Architecture

- Software-Engineering framework for OKL4
 - support **highly modular systems**
 - **components encapsulated by kernel**
- Designed for embedded systems
 - **very lightweight**
 - **no overhead for unused features (eg. dynamic components)**



Reliable Systems — How?

- Need a high-performance microkernel
 - This exists: OKL4
- Need certainty it provides *right mechanisms*
 - can support secure systems (encapsulation etc)
 - NICTA project seL4
- Need certainty its *implementation is correct*
 - implementation matches specification
 - NICTA project L4.verified
- Need *credible timing model*
 - actual worst-case latencies, based on sound methodology
 - NICTA project Potoroo
- Need *software-engineering infrastructure*
 - support for building large and complex systems
 - NICTA project CAmkES

Next-Generation Embedded Operating Systems

- Need to be ultra-reliable
 - based on microkernels
 - provably-secure mechanisms
 - provably-correct implementation
 - credible timing models
- Need to be highly componentised
 - components protected by microkernel address spaces
 - can isolate faults, support run-time upgrades
 - can prove correctness of components, or at least confinement of faults
- NICTA/OK Partnership will deliver this
 - core technology OKL4 already on market and deployed on products
 - research agenda for next generation completed next year
 - commercial availability within 2-3 years



Open Kernel Labs™

Be open. Be safe.

Gernot Heiser
Founder and CTO

Open Kernel Labs
t +61 28306 0550
gernot@ok-labs.com