

Arch Linux as a lightweight audio platform

David Runge

Linux Audio Conference 2015

10.04.2015

What, Where, Why?

Arch Linux
as a
lightweight
audio
platform

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Conditionals

IRQ &
kthread
scheduling

Awesome

- “Arch Linux exposes the user to the system without hiding any details.” [man 7 archlinux]



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- 36 developers, 40 trusted users, 8 support staff



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- pacman/ aura
- Archiso
- rolling release, systemd
- lightweight, high customizability, easy build system



Preparations

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Note: *The following assumes you also configure, what you install!*

- Choose supported hardware!!!



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- Install cpupower



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- Boot into realtime kernel

Checks

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- # Add your user to the audio group
gpasswd -a <username> audio
Fully log out and log back in again

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- # Add your user to the audio group
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Fully log out and log back in again
- # Have a look at your hardware interrupts
cat /proc/interrupts

Find the devices (and sometimes their parent devices),
that you will use/ need for your audio setup
You can also use your audio card's IRQ for the next test

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You can also use your audio card's IRQ for the next test
- # clone the realtimeconfigquickscan and run it
git clone https://github.com/raboof/realtimeconfigquickscan
cd realtimeconfigquickscan
./realtimeconfigquickscan
Try and meet all criteria
(except maybe the one for 'fs.inotify.max_user_watches')

Systemd Conditional “Hook”

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Listing 1: Add `systemd.setenv=REALTIME=true` to your kernel command line

```
# syslinux: /boot/syslinux/syslinux.cfg
[..]
LINUX ../vmlinuz-linux-rt
APPEND root=/dev/<your-root-fs> systemd.setenv=REALTIME=true rw
[..]

# grub: /boot/grub/grub.cfg (or set stuff using /etc/default/grub)
[..]
linux /boot/vmlinuz-linux-rt root=/dev/<your-root-fs> systemd.setenv=REALTIME=true rw
[..]
```

IRQs, cgroups & CPU settings

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The screenshot shows the 'Kernel Monitoring' window of the tuna tool. It features two main tables. The top table lists IRQs with columns for Filter, CPU, Usage, IRQ, PID, Policy, Priority, Affinity, Events, and Users. The bottom table lists kthreads with columns for PID, Policy, Priority, Affinity, VolCtxSwitch, NonVolCtxSwitch, CGroup, and Command Line.

Filter	CPU	Usage	IRQ	PID	Policy	Priority	Affinity	Events	Users
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0	99	0	-1	-1	0-7	36		timer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	8	1	-1	-1	0-7	67775		i8042
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	2	8	-1	-1	0-7	1		rtc0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3	9	9	-1	-1	0-7	109336		acpi
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	9	12	-1	-1	0-7	2332806		i8042
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5	17	16	3215	FIFO	50	0-7	181	16-fasteo ehci.hcdusb1.mmc0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	99	18	-1	-1	0-7	0		18-fasteo i801.smbus
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7	99	23	-1	-1	0-7	211		23-fasteo ehci.hcdusb2

PID	Policy	Priority	Affinity	VolCtxSwitch	NonVolCtxSwitch	CGroup	Command Line
1	OTHER	0	0-7	246171	765	1:name=systemd/	/sbin/init
2	OTHER	0	0-7	735	0	1:name=systemd/	kthreadd
3	OTHER	0	0	186701	420	1:name=systemd/	ksftirqd/0
5	OTHER	0	0	5	1	1:name=systemd/	kworker/0.OH
7	OTHER	0	0-7	1191987	225	1:name=systemd/	rcu_preempt
8	OTHER	0	0-7	300	1	1:name=systemd/	rcu_sched
9	OTHER	0	0-7	1	1	1:name=systemd/	rcu_bh
10	FIFO	99	0	99548	2	1:name=systemd/	migration/0
11	FIFO	99	0	5713	2	1:name=systemd/	watchdog/0
12	FIFO	99	1	5718	4	1:name=systemd/	watchdog/1
13	FIFO	99	1	100989	2	1:name=systemd/	migration/1
14	OTHER	0	1	130398	74	1:name=systemd/	ksftirqd/1
16	OTHER	0	1	14	1	1:name=systemd/	kworker/1.OH
17	FIFO	99	2	5718	2	1:name=systemd/	watchdog/2
18	FIFO	99	2	108981	2	1:name=systemd/	migration/2
19	OTHER	0	2	192664	281	1:name=systemd/	ksftirqd/2
21	OTHER	0	2	14	1	1:name=systemd/	kworker/2.OH
22	FIFO	99	3	5718	2	1:name=systemd/	watchdog/3
23	FIFO	99	3	117479	2	1:name=systemd/	migration/3
24	OTHER	0	3	148054	110	1:name=systemd/	ksftirqd/3
26	OTHER	0	3	14	1	1:name=systemd/	kworker/3.OH

Figure: Sample tuna display of IRQs and kthreads on linux

IRQs, cgroups & CPU settings

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Filter	CPU	Usage	IRQ	PID	Policy	Priority	Affinity	Events	Users
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0	7	0	-1		-1	0-7	97	timer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	4	1	136	FIFO	50	0-7	5758	i8042
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	2	8	88	FIFO	90	0-7	1	rtc0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3	5	9	77	FIFO	50	0-7	9314	acpi
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	3	12	135	FIFO	50	0-7	63629	i8042
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5	1	16	140	FIFO	50	0-7	30	16-fastec0 mmc0,ehci_hcd,usb1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	3	18	387	FIFO	88	0-7	0	18-fastec0 i801_smbus
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7	1	23	183	FIFO	50	0-7	35	23-fastec0 ehci_hcd,usb4
			25	110	FIFO	50	0-7	1517	i915
			26	142	FIFO	50	0-7	287	xhci_hcd
			27	165	FIFO	50	0-7	28543	0000:00:1f:2
			28	340	FIFO	50	0-7	708	snd_hda_intel
			29	342	FIFO	50	0-7	206	snd_hda_intel
			30	355	FIFO	50	0-7	25	mei_me
			31	666	FIFO	50	0-7	938	enp0s25(e=1000e)
			32	360	FIFO	50	0-7	27855	iwlmwifi

PID	Policy	Priority	Affinity	VolCtxSwitch	NonVolCtxSwitch	CGroup	Command Line
1	OTHER	0	0-7	28397	3544	1:name=systemd/	/sbin/init
2	OTHER	0	0-7	229	4	1:name=systemd/	/kthreadd
3	FIFO	1	0	243508	3	1:name=systemd/	/ksoftirqd/0
4	OTHER	0	0	1122	16	1:name=systemd/	/kworker/0-0
5	OTHER	0	0	5	1	1:name=systemd/	/kworker/0-QH
7	OTHER	0	0-7	161986	4	1:name=systemd/	/rcu_preempt
8	OTHER	0	0-7	143	1	1:name=systemd/	/rcu_sched
9	OTHER	0	0-7	1	1	1:name=systemd/	/rcu_bh
10	OTHER	0	0	120995	14	1:name=systemd/	/rcuc/0
11	OTHER	0	0-7	1	1	1:name=systemd/	/kllissetdelay
12	FIFO	99	0	2	1	1:name=systemd/	/posixcpumt/0
13	OTHER	0	0-7	6	1	1:name=systemd/	/kcmosdelay
14	FIFO	99	0	8388	2	1:name=systemd/	/migration/0

Figure: Sample tuna display of IRQs and kthreads on linux-rt

Cyclictest and oscilloscope

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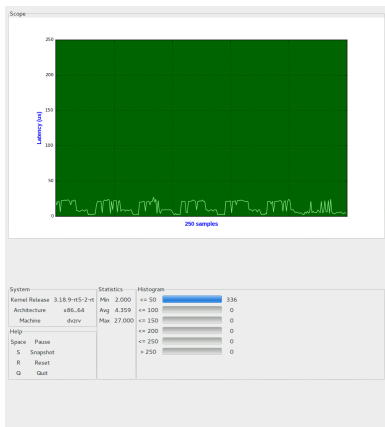


Figure: Example Oscilloscope output (being fed by cyclictest)

Listing 2: Cyclictest feeding oscilloscope

```
# Start cyclictest (package: rt-tests) and feed it to oscilloscope (package: tuna)
cyclictest --smp -n -p99 -m -v | oscilloscope >/dev/null
```

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- *systemd is a system and service manager for Linux operating systems. When run as first process on boot (as PID 1), it acts as init system that brings up and maintains userspace services. (man 1 init)*

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- `systemctl <start/stop/enable/disable> *.{service,target,timer}`

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- **systemctl** <start/stop/enable/disable> *.{service,target,timer}
- /run/systemd/system/*,
/usr/lib/systemd/{system,user}/*,
/etc/systemd/{system,user}/*

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- /run/systemd/system/*,
/usr/lib/systemd/{system,user}/*,
/etc/systemd/{system,user}/*
- /etc/systemd/journald.conf,
/etc/systemd/logind.conf,
/etc/systemd/system.conf,
/etc/systemd/user.conf

Realtime

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■ My Service Can't Get Realtime!

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- ~~My Service Can't Get Realtime!~~
- Let's ignore dbus as long as it is not kdbus

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- “[...] When a process is in a cgroup in the “cpu” controller, and no RT budget is set for that cgroup, then RT is not available to it. This is very unfortunate. I'd love to assign an RT budget by default from systemd, but this isn't really doable, since there's no sane RT budget one could assign a cgroup given the current semantics of it (which require that all RT budgets of cgroups within another cgroup must sum up to less than 1/1...).

THIS is something that needs to be cleaned up in the kernel, and then we can expose this nicer in systemd.

For now, my recommendation would be to disable the RT cgroup stuff in the kernel, and thus forego the whole problem. [...]” ~Lennart Poettering

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- **ControlGroup, ControlGroupAttribute** directives removed in systemd > 205

man 5 systemd.exec

[...]

IOSchedulingClass = Sets the IO scheduling class for executed processes. Takes an integer between 0 and 3 or one of the strings none, realtime, best-effort or idle. See `ioprio_set(2)` for details.

IOSchedulingPriority = Sets the IO scheduling priority for executed processes. Takes an integer between 0 (highest priority) and 7 (lowest priority). The available priorities depend on the selected IO scheduling class (see above). See `ioprio_set(2)` for details.

CPUSchedulingPolicy = Sets the CPU scheduling policy for executed processes. Takes one of other, batch, idle, fifo or rr. See `sched_setscheduler(2)` for details.

CPUSchedulingPriority = Sets the CPU scheduling priority for executed processes. The available priority range depends on the selected CPU scheduling policy (see above). For real-time scheduling policies an integer between 1 (lowest priority) and 99 (highest priority) can be used. See `sched_setscheduler(2)` for details.

CPUSchedulingResetOnFork = Takes a boolean argument. If true, elevated CPU scheduling priorities and policies will be reset when the executed processes fork, and can hence not leak into child processes. See `sched_etscheduler(2)` for details. *Defaultstofalse.*

CPUAffinity = Controls the CPU affinity of the executed processes. Takes a space-separated list of CPU indices. This option may be specified more than once in which case the specified CPU affinity masks are merged. If the empty string is assigned, the mask is reset, all assignments prior to this will have no effect. See `sched_setaffinity(2)` for details.

[...]

LimitCPU=, LimitFSIZE=, LimitDATA=, LimitSTACK=, LimitCORE=, LimitRSS=, LimitNOFILE=, LimitAS=, LimitNPROC=, LimitMEMLOCK=, LimitLOCKS=, LimitSIGPENDING=, LimitMSGQUEUE=, LimitNICE=, LimitRTPRIO=, LimitRTTIME= These settings set both soft and hard limits of various resources for executed processes. See `setrlimit(2)` for details. Use the string infinity to configure no limit on a specific resource.

[...]

Custom JACK systemd –user service

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Listing 3: /etc/conf.d/fw1

```
# Sample configuration file for a JACK systemd --user service, using a firewire device
NAME="default"
DRIVER="firewire"
DEVICE="/dev/fw1"
NOMLOCK=""
REALTIME="-R"
PORTMAX=512
UNLOCK="-u"
VERBOSE="-v"
DRIVER_SETTINGS="\
-n 3 \
-p 256\
-r 48000"
```

Listing 4: /usr/lib/systemd/user/jack@.service

```
[Unit]
Description=JACK Audio
After=sound.target local-fs.target

[Service]
EnvironmentFile=-/etc/conf.d/%i
EnvironmentFile=-%h/.config/jack/%i
ExecStart=/usr/bin/jackd -n $NAME $REALTIME -p $PORTMAX -d $DRIVER -d $DEVICE $DRIVER_SETTINGS
CPUSchedulingPolicy=rr
CPUSchedulingPriority=70
LimitRTPRIO=71
LimitRTTIME=-1

[Install]
WantedBy=default.target
```

Conditional cpupower (cpupower-rt)

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Listing 5: /usr/lib/systemd/system/cpupower-rt.service (package: uenv)

```
[Unit]
Description=Apply cpupower configuration
ConditionKernelCommandLine=systemd.setenv=REALTIME=true
After=cpupower.service

[Service]
Type=oneshot
ExecStart=/usr/lib/systemd/scripts/cpupower-rt
RemainAfterExit=yes

[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target
```

Listing 6: /etc/default/cpupower-rt

```
# Define CPUs governor
# valid governors: ondemand, performance, powersave, conservative, userspace.
governor='performance'

# Limit frequency range
# Valid suffixes: Hz, kHz (default), MHz, GHz, THz
#min_freq="2.25GHz"
#max_freq="3.4GHz"

# Specific frequency to be set.
# Requires userspace governor to be available.
# Do not set governor field if you use this one.
#freq=

# Utilizes cores in one processor package/socket first before processes are
# scheduled to other processor packages/sockets.
# See man (1) CPUPOWER-SET for additional details.
#mc_scheduler=

# Utilizes thread siblings of one processor core first before processes are
# scheduled to other cores. See man (1) CPUPOWER-SET for additional details.
#smp_scheduler=

# Sets a register on supported Intel processors which allows software to convey
# its policy for the relative importance of performance versus energy savings to
# the processor. See man (1) CPUPOWER-SET for additional details.
perf_bias=0

# vim:set ts=2 sw=2 ft=sh et:
```

Conditional Compositing

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Listing 7: /usr/lib/systemd/user/compton.service

```
[Unit]
Description=Compton X Compositor
After=display-manager.service local-fs.target
ConditionFileIsExecutable=/usr/bin/compton
ConditionKernelCommandLine=!systemd.setenv=REALTIME=true

[Service]
Type=forking
ExecStart=/usr/bin/compton --config %h/.config/compton.conf -b
Restart=always

[Install]
WantedBy=default.target
```

Tuna scripting

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With the help of **tuna** and **rts** you can create a customized IRQ and kthread scheduling setup!

Listing 8: /etc/rts/examples/w540-expresscard-firewire

```
# IRQ scheduling

# set priority for hardware clock rtc0
tuna -q 8 -p 90
# set priority for device with irq 18 (firewire_ohci, i801_smbus)
tuna -q 18 -p 85

# kthread scheduling
tuna -t 'irq/*rtc0*' -p 90
tuna -t 'irq/*i801_smb*' -p 88
tuna -t 'irq/*firewire*' -p 86
```

Listing 9: /usr/lib/systemd/system/rts@.service

```
[Unit]
Description=Apply Realtime-Kernel specific settings
After=multi-user.target sound.target
ConditionKernelCommandLine=systemd.setenv=REALTIME=true
ConditionFileIsExecutable=/usr/bin/tuna

[Service]
Type=oneshot
ExecStart=/usr/lib/systemd/scripts/rts %i
RemainAfterExit=true

[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target
```


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- *“awesome is a highly configurable, next generation framework window manager for X. It is very fast, extensible and licensed under the GNU GPLv2 license.”*

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- Integrates well with Desktop/Session Managers
- Extensible via widgets
- Well documented, vast wiki and a helpful community
- Suited for work with lightweight and realtime environments



Questions, suggestions, blame?

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