Arch Linux as a lightweight audio platform

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- lightweight, high customizability, easy build system

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- Install rts & uenv
- Install jack2
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- Boot into realtime kernel

Checks


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gpasswd -a <username> audio
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- ```
  # 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”

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

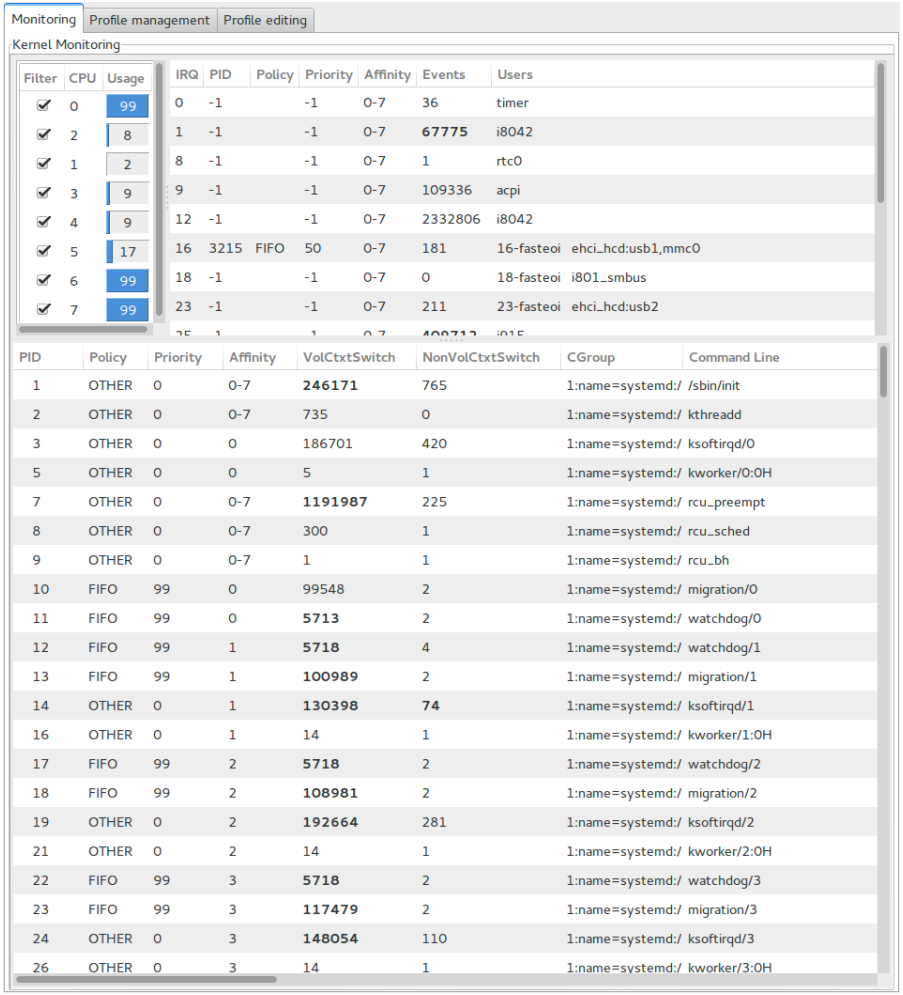

Figure: Sample tuna display of IRQs and kthreads on linux

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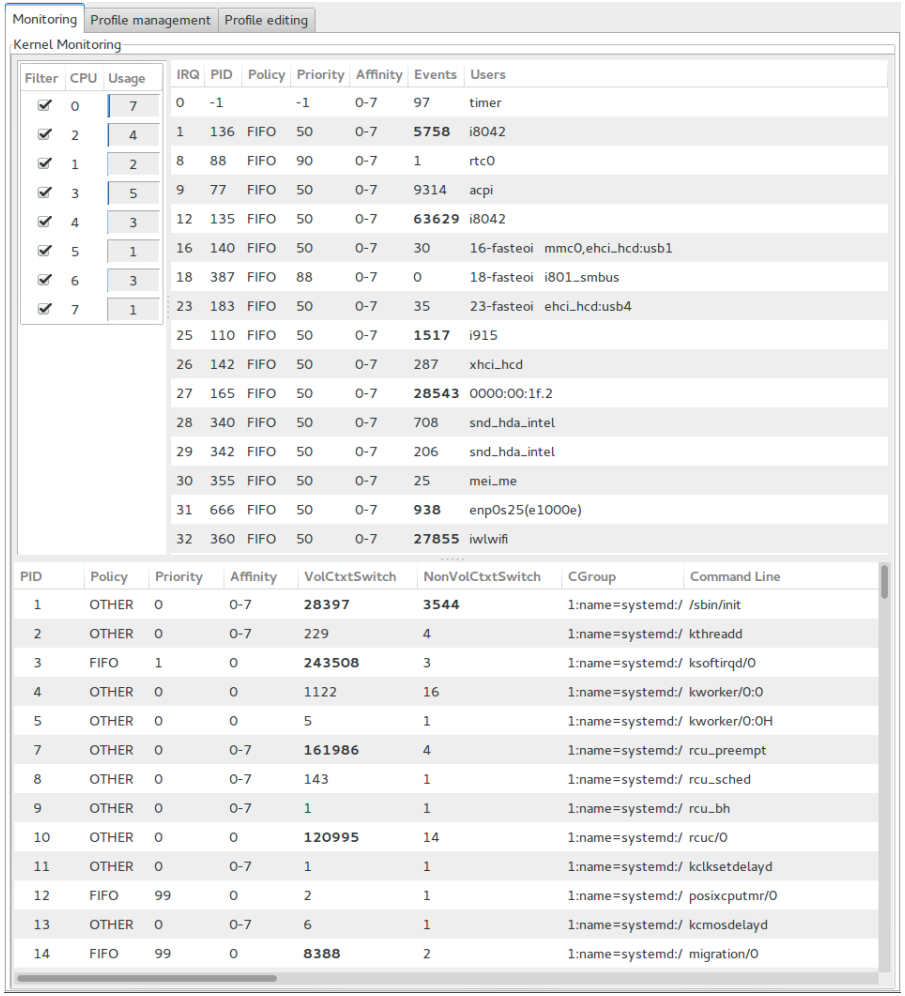

Figure: Sample tuna display of IRQs and kthreads on linux-rt

Cyclictest and oscilloscope

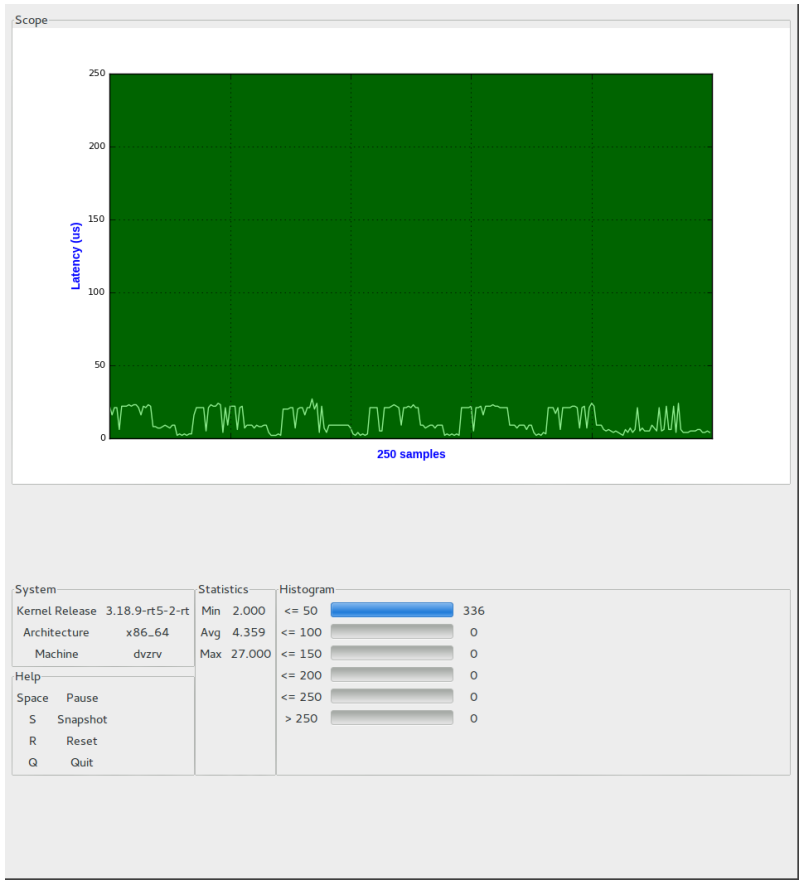

Figure: Example Oscilloscope output (being fed by cyclictest)

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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- /etc/systemd/journald.conf,
  /etc/systemd/logind.conf,
  /etc/systemd/system.conf,
  /etc/systemd/user.conf

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

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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 $sched_setscheduler(2) for details. Defaults to false.$

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

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)

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 processore 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

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

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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- Extensible via widgets
- Well documented, vast wiki and a helpful community
- Suited for work with lightweight and realtime environments

Contact

Questions, suggestions, blame?

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References

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