IOC ‘makeBaseApp’

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EPICS IOC

• Database
  – Known & well tested records
  – Remote access
  – Access security
  – ‘bumpless’ reboot

• Sequencer
  – Others might not understand your C code

• Device Support
  – Include existing device support? Easy enough
  – Have to write new device (driver) code? Varying degrees of difficulty
softloc, softlocPVA

Pre-built IOC with Database engine, Channel Access, opt. PVA.

Run as many instances as needed.

Need autosave, sequencer, device support?
→ Create your own IOC application binary!
‘Host’ vs. ‘Target’ IOCs

• Host-based
  – Runs on same type of host (Linux, Mac, Windows) on which it’s compiled
  – IOC is just another program on the host
  – May run many IOCs on the same host
  – Examples: `softloc`, `softlocPVA`

• Target IOC
  – Cross-compiled from e.g. Linux to VxWorks
  – Runs on VxWorks, RTEMS, RTLinux
  – IOC is the primary, maybe only program running on the target

A lot of EPICS code can be used on both
  – Records
  – Device support for networked I/O
How many custom IOC binaries?

Accelerator
- Vacuum: Autosave, Support for AllenBradley PLC
- LLRF: Autosave, Support for LLRF hardware

Beamlines
- Cameras: Autosave, AreaDetector
- Various sample environments:
  Autosave, Motor Record, Stream Device
‘makeBaseApp.pl’

Creates skeleton for custom IOC
- Directory structure
- Makefiles
- Examples: *.db, *.st, driver/device/record *.c
- IOC startup file

Two extremes
- makeBaseApp.pl –t example
  • Get most everything; you delete what’s not needed
- makeBaseApp.pl –t ioc
  • Just dirs & Makefiles; you add what’s needed
EPICS Build Facility

Is outstanding

- make, perl
- Builds on Linux, Mac, Windows, for Linux, FreeBSD, OS X, Windows, vxWorks, RTEMS, x86, x86_64, ppc, arm, ...
- AppDevGuide
- Functioned for decades across many changes of OSs, compilers, ...

Is aggravating

- Why is it not an Eclipse, Visual C++, KDeveloper ... project? What about CMake, GNU automake, ... ?
- What’s the name of that option again?
- What’s causing this error now?
‘demo’ based on ‘example’ template

```
# Go somewhere
mkdir -p ~/epics-train/mine
cd ~/epics-train/mine

# Create IOC application of type ‘example’,
# using ‘demo’ in the generated names
makeBaseApp.pl -t example demo

# Create IOC startup settings of type ‘example’,
# call it ‘demo’ because it’s for the app of that name
makeBaseApp.pl -t example -i demo
# When prompted, use the previously created ‘demo’
# application as the one that the IOC should load

# Compile everything
make

# Start IOC
cd iocBoot/iocdemo
chmod +x st.cmd
./st.cmd
```
Directory Layout: Key Files

# makeBaseApp.pl -t example demo
configure/RELEASE
configure/CONFIG_SITE
demoApp/Db/*\.db
demoApp/Db/*\.substitutions
demoApp/Db/Makefile
demoApp/src/Makefile

# makeBaseApp.pl -t example -i demo
iocBoot/iocdemo/Makefile
iocBoot/iocdemo/st.cmd

To study the skeleton, check files before the first ‘make’ or after a ‘make distclean’
**configure/RELEASE**

- Defines the path to EPICS base and other modules
  
  BASE=/home/training/epics-train/tools/base-7.0.1.1  
  SNCSEQ = /home/training/epics-train/tools/seq-2.2.6  
  AUTOSAVE = /home/training/epics-train/tools/autosave-R5-9

- Since about 3.15, includes ../RELEASE.local
  
  basedir/RELEASE.local: Lists all the modules
  
  basedir/top1/configure/RELEASE  - includes ../.../RELEASE.local  
  basedir/top1/abcApp/          - uses EPICS base etc.  
  basedir/top1/iocBoot/         - IOC bootups  
  basedir/top2/configure/RELEASE  - includes ../.../RELEASE.local  
  basedir/top2/xyzApp/          - uses EPICS base etc.  
  basedir/top2/iocBoot/         - IOC bootups
demoApp

- xyzApp/Db  Database files
- xyzApp/src  *Main.cpp,
  Sequences,
  custom device support,
  Makefile that lists required *.dbd and libs
HowTo: Add Database files

1. Create `xyzApp/Db/another.db`
   For simple database, can test via
   `softIoc -d another.db`

2. Add to `xyzApp/Db/Makefile`:
   ```
   DB += another.db
   ```

3. `make`
   Now it’s under `db/another.db`

4. Add to `iocBoot/iocwhatever/st.cmd`
   ```
   dbLoadRecords "db/another.db", "macro=value"
   ```

5. (Re-)start the IOC
Directory Layout: Generated Files

**/O.Common
**/O.linux-x86_64
**/O.*
db/*
dbd/*
include/*
lib/*
bin/*

Beware of difference:

• **xyzApp/Db/**
  - Database ‘Sources’. Edit these!

• db/*
  - ‘Installed’ databases, may have macros replaced. **Will be overwritten** by next ‘make’!
*.dbd: Database Descriptions

IOC record types, device support, ... are extensible
- Implement new record type, new device support:
  Write C/C++ code for certain interfaces, compile.
- Somehow ‘register’ this with core IOC code:
  *.dbd file

Internals:
VxWorks RTOS, the original IOC target, had runtime loader and symbol table.
RTEMS, .. don’t necessarily offer this.
EPICS build facility generates IOC startup source code from *.dbd file.
HowTo: Add Support Modules (Device, …)

Example: ‘Autosave’

1. Define path in configure/RELEASE resp. ../../RELEASE.local

```
AUTOSAVE=/home/training/epics-train/tools/autosave-R5-9
```

Path to the support directory is usually pulled into a macro, since you often include more than one support module:

```
TOOLS =/home/training/epics-train/tools
AUTOSAVE=$(TOOLS)/autosave-R5-9
```

2. Add binary and DBD info to xyzApp/Db/Makefile:

```
YourProduct_DBD += asSupport.dbd
YourProduct_LIBS += autosave
```

3. Use the support module in the IOC startup file:

```
  cd ${AUTOSAVE}
  dbLoadRecords "db/save_restoreStatus.db", "P=demo"
  set_requestfile_path("/home/controls/var")
  create_monitor_set(...)  
```

Details on how to use a support module depend on the specific one, including names of provided *.dbd, binary, *.db, IOC commands
Summary

makeBaseApp.pl creates the IOC skeleton

Good practice:

- Use `makeBaseApp.pl -t example...` for copy/paste.
- Create empty operational setup, and only paste-in what you need.
- Do it in small steps.

Much more:
EPICS Application Developer’s Guide