



detLFS - Getting started

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Hello. Welcome. Thank you for your interest in the system builder `detLFS`. I started this project, because I had a Raspberry Pi lying around, and I had to do something very specific to it at work. The distribution images offered by the `raspberrypi.org` homepage were good, but not what I was looking for. Other system builders like `cross-tool-ng`, `buildroot` or `Yocto` seemed popular, but quite exhaustive. I was looking for something smaller. Something everybody could understand and modify. So, out of my stubbornness, `detLFS` was born. Its goal is to provide the advanced Raspberry Pi user with a minimalistic set of scripts to build their very own Linux system. Including a Kernel, `busybox` as a shell replacement and a working `GCC`, which is always a tedious process.

At its core is a selection of shell scripts, which are less than 150 lines long, and pretty straight forward. There are no conditions in them, no loops, just pure and utter commands. One after the other. Understanding what the scripts do is thus not only easy, but also imperative. If you have not done so, just look at them. They are going to be explained in greater detail in chapter 3.1.

1.1 Nomenclature

Host system The scripts will require to be run on a Desktop PC. This is the host. So far, only Ubuntu 14.04 and 16.04 have been used for this, building everything under OpenBSD failed.

Target system This will be the Raspberry Pi, albeit only because of the Kernel which is downloaded via `git` and the bootloader. In theory, the scripts can be expanded to include other eval boards.

Chapter 2

Building a system

Building a system is as easy as 1, 2, 3. It can be downloaded and unpacked on the commandline:

```
% wget http://www.dettus.net/detLFS/detLFS_0.02.tar.gz
% tar xvfz detLFS_0.02.tar.gz
% cd detLFS_0.02
% ls
0_getit.sh          4_mkscard.sh      logo/
1_buildtools.sh    bsd_twoclaue.txt  readme.txt
2_basesystem.sh    config_busybox    runall.sh
3a_comppackages.sh config_kernel      skeldir/
3b_ownpackages.sh  helloworld.c
```

Note that all the files in here start with either a number or a lower case letter. This is because generated files and directories will start with upper case letters. After running the scripts (which will take hours), the directory looks like this:

```
% sh 0_getit.sh          #download the packages
% sh 1_buildtools.sh     #build the cross compiler
% sh 2_basesystem.sh     #for a minimalistic system
% sh 3a_comppackages.sh  #build the compilers
% sh 3b_ownpackages.sh   #build your own packages
% sudo sh 4_mkscard.sh   #HAZARDOUS
% ls
0_getit.sh          Build/             Helloworld_shared.app
1_buildtools.sh     config_busybox    Helloworld_static.app
2_basesystem.sh     config_kernel     readme.txt
3a_comppackages.sh Destination/       runall.sh
3b_ownpackages.sh   Downloads/        skeldir/
4_mkscard.sh        helloworld.c      Sources/
bsd_twoclaue.txt    logo/             Tools/
Mnt/
```

Which will take approximately three hours. `4_mkscard.sh` will not run out of the box, since it needs a handful of changes. It is also the one

that needs root privileges and is therefore DANGEROUS. Once it has been built, you can use it. See chapter ?? for that.

2.1 Prerequisites

The build system was tested successfully on Ubuntu 14.04, as well as Ubuntu 16.04. The requirements are quite moderate: gcc-4.8.4 was installed, gawk, git, as well as Imagemagick and netpbm. Among the usual suspects were make, tar, gzip, bzip2 and xz. Not even a working cross compiler is needed, the scripts can build everything they need. Even though they are small, running them results in at least 11 Gigabytes of downloaded sources and binaries. The final system is either 64 Mbyte or 700 MBytes large. Depending on how many scripts were running. You will need to have an SD card that size. As well as a Raspberry Pi to run everything on.

2.2 Cleanup after build

After the system has been build, only `Destination/` needs to be saved. The directories `Build/`, `Downloads/`, `Mnt/`, `Sources/` and `Tools/` can go:

```
% rm -rf Build Downloads Mnt Sources Tools
% rm -rf Destination # if you want
```

2.3 Pre-build configuration

Before you want to build your system, you have to make up your mind what you want to have in it. I needed something to run on a Raspberry Pi2 with a Touchscreen attached to it and a Cherry Keyboard. And I wanted to have a fancy and colourful bootlogo, as well as a root user. For this, the directories `skeldir/` and `logo/` are important, as well as the two files `config_busybox` and `config_kernel`.

2.3.1 The hostname

The hostname can be changed simply by typing

```
% cat skeldir/etc/hostname
dctlfs
% echo "newhostname" >skeldir/etc/hostname
```


2.3.2 Changing to a UART console

Since my machine was connected directly to a monitor, I did not need the serial port. This is reflected by the `cmdline.txt` in `skeldir/boot/`:

```
% cat skeldir/boot/cmdline.txt
dwc_otg.lpm_enable=0 console=tty1 root=/dev/mmcblk0p2
rootfstype=ext4 elevator=deadline fsck.repair=yes
init=/sbin/init rootwait
```

Note that this is a single line. Change this to

```
% cat skeldir/boot/cmdline.txt
dwc_otg.lpm_enable=0 console=ttyAMA0,115200
root=/dev/mmcblk0p2 rootfstype=ext4 elevator=deadline
fsck.repair=yes init=/sbin/init rootwait
```

That SHOULD DO THE TRICK. I HAVE NOT TRIED IT OUT YET! (sorry)

2.3.3 The boot logo

When the system is booting, it is displaying a nice little logo. For this, basically any picture with 80x80 pixels and no more than 224 colours can be used. Just overwrite the `mylogo.xpm` in `logo/`:

```
% convert WHATEVER.png -scale \!80x80 logo/mylogo.xpm.
```

It will be converted into its final format during the run of `1_buildtools.sh`.

2.3.4 Kernel and busybox configuration

Configuration of the kernel and for busybox can be performed by editing the `config_kernel` and `config_busybox`. Those files have been configured to work with my Raspberry, and the `2_basesystem.sh` will use them during its run. If you prefer to have a menu driven interface, and are not bothered by the sudden user interaction requires, please edit it. The following lines

```

make ARCH=arm CROSS_COMPILE=$TOOLSDIR/bin/arm-linux-gnuea
## configuration of the kernel can be done by choosing on
cat $DETLFSROOT/config_kernel | sed -e 's?CONFIG_CROSS_CO
#vimdiff .config $DETLFSROOT/config_kernel
#make ARCH=arm menuconfig
### pick one!
make ARCH=arm CROSS_COMPILE=$TOOLSDIR/bin/arm-linux-gnuea
...
make ARCH=arm CROSS_COMPILE=$TOOLSDIR/bin/arm-linux-gnuea
## configuration of busybox can be done by choosing one o
cat $DETLFSROOT/config_busybox | sed -e 's?CONFIG_CROSS_C
#vimdiff .config ../../../../config_busybox
#make ARCH=arm menuconfig
### pick one!
make ARCH=arm CROSS_COMPILE=$TOOLSDIR/bin/arm-linux-gnuea

```

should become

```

make ARCH=arm CROSS_COMPILE=$TOOLSDIR/bin/arm-linux-gnuea
## configuration of the kernel can be done by choosing on
#cat $DETLFSROOT/config_kernel | sed -e 's?CONFIG_CROSS_C
#vimdiff .config $DETLFSROOT/config_kernel
make ARCH=arm menuconfig
### pick one!
make ARCH=arm CROSS_COMPILE=$TOOLSDIR/bin/arm-linux-gnuea
...
make ARCH=arm CROSS_COMPILE=$TOOLSDIR/bin/arm-linux-gnuea
## configuration of busybox can be done by choosing one o
#cat $DETLFSROOT/config_busybox | sed -e 's?CONFIG_CROSS_
#vimdiff .config ../../../../config_busybox
make ARCH=arm menuconfig
### pick one!
make ARCH=arm CROSS_COMPILE=$TOOLSDIR/bin/arm-linux-gnuea

```

2.3.5 Network, System time etc.

I don't know.

2.4 Preparing the SD card

If you have tried running `4_mkcard.sh` earlier, you might have noticed that it refused to run at all. This is because it contains a line

```
echo "aborting now." ; exit ## COMMENT THIS ONE OUT ONC
```

As the line says, it can be commented out once the script has been understood. Just plug in an SD card into your computer, and use `dmesg` to figure out which device it is.

```
% dmesg
[950012.353484] sd 11:0:0:2: [sdh] 31116288 512-byte logi
[950012.354814] sd 11:0:0:2: [sdh] No Caching mode page f
[950012.354819] sd 11:0:0:2: [sdh] Assuming drive cache:
[950012.356714] sd 11:0:0:2: [sdh] No Caching mode page f
[950012.356715] sd 11:0:0:2: [sdh] Assuming drive cache:
[950012.361979] sdh: sdh1 sdh2
```

On my computer, it was /dev/sdh. So edit 4_mkcard.sh, ESPECIALLY the line where MMCCARD is being set:

```
export MMCCARD="/dev/sdf"
```

into /dev/sdh. Or /dev/mmcblk0 or something. Not /dev/mmcblk0p1. Not /dev/sdh2. Once you have done that AND YOU ARE SURE, comment out the exit:

```
# echo "aborting now." ; exit ## COMMENT THIS ONE OUT ON
```

Then you can run the script, and partition the SD card.

```
% sudo sh 4_mkcard.sh
Command (m for help): n
Partition type:
   p   primary (0 primary, 0 extended, 4 free)
   e   extended
Select (default p): p
Partition number (1-4, default 1): 1
First sector (2048-31116287, default 2048): 2048
Using default value 2048
Last sector, +sectors or +size{K,M,G}: +16M
Command (m for help): n
Partition type:
   p   primary (1 primary, 0 extended, 3 free)
   e   extended
Select (default p): p
Partition number (1-4, default 2): 2
First sector (34816-31116287, default 34816): 34816
Using default value 34816
Last sector, +sectors or +size{K,M,G}: +1024M
Command (m for help): t
Partition number (1-4): 1
Hex code (type L to list codes): c
Changed system type of partition 1 to c (W95 FAT32 (LBA))
Command (m for help): p
   Device Boot   Start      End  Blocks  Id  System
/dev/sdh1          2048    34815    16384   c  W95 FAT32 (LBA)
/dev/sdh2          34816 2131967 1048576  83  Linux
Command (m for help): w
```

The type for partition one is important. If it is set to anything other than Id=c, your Raspberry will not boot.

After this brief user interaction, the SD card should be finished and bootable. Try it out now!

2.5 Current packages

At the moment of writing this document, the latest version of the packages were

- binutils-2.26.1
- busybox-1.25.0
- gcc-5.4.0
- glibc-2.23
- gmp-6.1.1
- linux 4.4.15, raspberry pi extensions 4eda74f2dfcc8875482575c79471bde6766de3ad
- make-4.2.1
- mpc-1.0.3
- mpfr-3.1.4

The latest version can always be downloaded by editing `0_getit.sh`. Of note is the fact that gcc 5.4.0 has been chosen as the build tool of choice, even though the latest version was 6.1.0. However, that version was unable to build the glibc.

Chapter 3

The build process explained

3.1 The scripts

3.1.1 0_getit.sh

The purpose of this script is to download the packages needed for the target linux, as well as the sources for the cross compiler. After running it, the directories `Downloads/` and `Sources/` will appear.

3.1.2 1_buildtools.sh

This script is building the cross compiler. After running it, the directories `Build/` and `Tools/` will appear. It will also create two applications, `Helloworld_shared.app` and `Helloworld_static.app`. If they appeared, the cross compiler is able to run.

3.1.3 2_basesystem.sh

This script is creating the base system, consisting of the Kernel and Busybox. They are being copied into `Destination/`.

3.1.4 3a_comppackages.sh

This script is optional, but it will compile the GLIBC and GCC for the Raspberry Pi, and install them into `Destination/`.

3.1.5 3b_ownpackages.sh

This script is optional, its purpose is to provide an example to show how to extend the build process.

3.1.6 `4_mkcard.sh`

This script will create the final folder `Mnt/`. It is dangerous, since it needs to be run with root privilege. Please see chapter 2.4 before running it.

3.2 The directorys

3.2.1 `Downloads/`

This directory holds the packages which have been downloaded from the internet.

3.2.2 `Sources/`

This directory contains the extracted sources from the packages. The version numbers have been removed, to make the build scripts easier to understand.

3.2.3 `Build/`

This directory contains object files and binaries, as well as the temporary files during the build.

3.2.4 `Tools/`

This directory contains the cross compiler.

3.2.5 `Destination/`

This directory will become the root filesystem on the Raspberry.

3.2.6 `Mnt/`

This is where the SD Card will be mounted.

Chapter 4

Using your system

?? The login is root, the password is root as well.

4.1 The init scripts

4.2 Changing the root password