

kconfig-webconf: Retrofitting Performance Models onto Kconfig-Based Software Product Lines

Birte Friesel, Kathrin Elmenhorst, Lennart Kaiser, Michael Müller, Olaf Spinczyk
birte.friesel@uos.de

Sep 15, 2022

Osnabrück University / Embedded Software Systems

Kconfig-Based Software Product Lines

Option	Value
General setup	
IRQ subsystem	
Timers subsystem	
Timer tick handling	
..	
Periodic timer ticks (constant rate, no dynticks)	N
Idle dynticks system (tickless idle)	N
Full dynticks system (tickless)	Y
Force user context tracking (NEW)	N
Old Idle dynticks config	N
High Resolution Timer Support	Y
Clocksource watchdog maximum allowable skew (in µs)	100
CPU/Task time and stats accounting	
RCU Subsystem	
Scheduler features	
Control Group support	
CPU controller	
Namespaces support	
Configure standard kernel features (expert users)	
Kernel Performance Events And Counters	

Linux: kconfig-qconf

- Kconfig: variability modeling language [Sin+07; EKS15]

Kconfig-Based Software Product Lines

The screenshot shows two panels of the kconfig-qconf tool. The left panel displays a tree of kernel configuration options under the heading 'Option'. The right panel shows specific configuration settings with a 'Value' column.

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- Does not support performance models

Kconfig-Based Software Product Lines

```
.config - Configuration
System Logging Utilities

[*] klogd (5.7 kb)
    *** klogd should not be used together with syslog to kernel printk buffer ***
[*] Use the klogctl() interface
[*] logger (6.3 kb)
[*] logread (4.8 kb) [ ]
[*] Double buffering
[*] syslogd (13 kb)
[*] Rotate message files
[*] Remote Log support
[*] Support -D (drop dups) option
[*] Support syslog.conf
[ ] Include milliseconds in timestamps
(256) Read buffer size in bytes
[*] Circular Buffer support
(16) Circular buffer size in Kbytes (minimum 4KB)

F1Help F2SymInfo F3Help_2 F4ShowAll F5Back F6Save F7Load F8SymSearch F9Exit
```

Busybox: kconfig-nconf

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Busybox: kconfig-nconf

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- Does not support performance models
- Integrated into build process → switching is costly

Kconfig + Performance Models

Configuration data+bss size: 1999432 B ELF size: 5684950 B

Settings

- What kind of applet links to install (NEW)
- Additional debugging library (NEW)
- Buffer allocation policy (NEW)
- Archival Utilities
- Coreutils
- Console Utilities
- Debian Utilities
- klibc-utils
- Editors
- Finding Utilities
- Init Utilities
- Login/Password Management Utilities
- Linux Ext2 FS Progs
- Linux Module Utilities
- Linux System Utilities
- Filesystem/Volume identification
- Miscellaneous Utilities

System Logging Utilities

- klogd (5.7 kb) -26369 B
- Use the klogctl() interface -487327 B
- logger (6.3 kb) -177980 B
- logread (4.8 kb) +589752 B
- Double buffering -944697 B
- syslogd (13 kb) -1008095 B
- Rotate message files -1385690 B
- Remote Log support +1506995 B
- Support -D (drop dups) option +425415 B
- Support syslog.conf -74323 B
- Include milliseconds in timestamps +687093 B

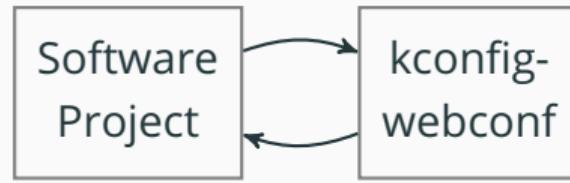
Read buffer size in bytes

⇒ kconfig-webconf: Performance-aware drop-in replacement for Kconfig

Implementation

- kconfig-webconf: single-page React application
Rationale: Browsers are ubiquitous cross-platform GUI

Implementation



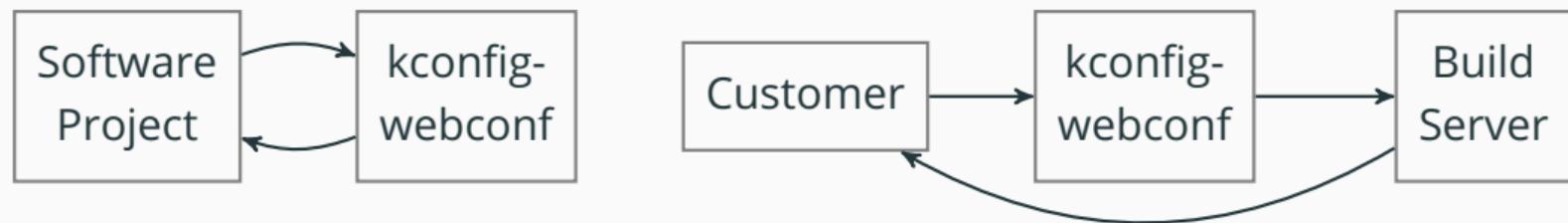
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- web usage (e.g. combined with build server)

Implementation



- kconfig-webconf: single-page React application
Rationale: Browsers are ubiquitous cross-platform GUI
- local usage (no internet connection required)
- web usage (e.g. combined with build server)
- dfatool: Python3 companion tool for NFP model generation

Workflow



Example: **busybox** multi-call binary

Workflow



Kconfig: machine-readable variability model → known configuration space

```
config MD5_SMALL
    int "MD5: Trade bytes for speed (0:fast, 3:slow)"
    default 1 # all "fast or small" options default to small
    range 0 3
    help
        Trade binary size versus speed for the md5sum algorithm.
        Approximate values running uClibc and hashing
        linux-2.4.4.tar.bz2 were:
        value          user times (sec)  text size (386)
        0 (fastest)    1.1              6144
        1              1.4              5392
        2              3.0              5088
        3 (smallest)  5.1              4912
```

Workflow



Define and measure performance attributes (non-functional properties)

```
df@ios /t/t/busybox-1.35.0 > make nfpkeys
{"Image": {"ROM": {"unit": "B", "description": "ELF size", "minimize": true},
"RAM": {"unit": "B", "description": "data+bss size", "minimize": true}}}
df@ios /t/t/busybox-1.35.0 > make nfpvalues
>{"Image": {"ROM": 566328, "RAM": 2344}}
```

Workflow



Automatic measurements in configuration space

```
df@ios /t/t/busybox_data > explore-kconfig.py --log-level debug --random 2000 --with-neighbourhood ./busybox-1.35.0
INFO:root:Running randconfig 1 of 2000
INFO:dfatool.kconfig:build error
INFO:root:Running randconfig 2 of 2000
INFO:root:Exploring neighbourhood of /tmp/tmpfs/busybox_data/RandomConfig-b43a6b027123600c80b85d064e20053b/.config
DEBUG:dfatool.kconfig:Set DESKTOP to y
warning: FEATURE_MOUNT_FAKE (defined at /tmp/tmpfs/busybox-1.35.0/Kconfig:4746) has direct dependencies MOUNT with val
g symbols:
 - FEATURE_MTAB_SUPPORT (defined at /tmp/tmpfs/busybox-1.35.0/Kconfig:5119), with value y, direct dependencies MOUNT |
NT (value: y)
DEBUG:dfatool.kconfig:Set EXTRA_COMPAT to y
DEBUG:dfatool.kconfig:Set FEDORÄ_COMPAT to n
DEBUG:dfatool.kconfig:Set INCLUDE_SUSv2 to n
```

Workflow



Automatic performance model generation

```
df@ios /t/t/busybox-data > analyze-kconfig.py --force-tree --export-webconf busybox.json ..../busybox-1.35.0/Kconfig .
Model error after cross validation (kfold, 10):
key          attribute          static          parameterized          LUT
Image        RAM           ||| 157.08% / 2033715 ||| 9.40% / 196390 ||| 157.08% / 2033715
Image        ROM           ||| 106.35% / 4837516 ||| 9.27% / 538199 ||| 106.35% / 4837516
```

Workflow



Performance-aware system configuration

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- Read buffer size in bytes

256

Further Resources

- Live Demo
 - ess.cs.uos.de/git-build/kconfig-webconf/splc22
 - ess.cs.uos.de/git-build/kconfig-webconf/splc22/embeddedml
- Source Code
 - ess.cs.uos.de/git/software/kconfig-webconf (Frontend)
 - ess.cs.uos.de/git/software/dfatool (Model Generation)

Details ⇒ Demo session during coffee break

References i

- [EKS15] Sascha El-Sharkawy, Adam Krafczyk, and Klaus Schmid. **“Analysing the Kconfig Semantics and Its Analysis Tools”**. In: Proceedings of the 2015 ACM SIGPLAN International Conference on Generative Programming: Concepts and Experiences. GPCE 2015. Pittsburgh, PA, USA: Association for Computing Machinery, 2015, pp. 45–54. ISBN: 9781450336871. DOI: [10.1145/2814204.2814222](https://doi.org/10.1145/2814204.2814222). URL: <https://doi.org/10.1145/2814204.2814222>.
- [Sin+07] Julio Sincero et al. **“Is The Linux Kernel a Software Product Line?”** In: Open Source Software and Product Lines (SPLC-OSSPL 2007). Ed. by Frank van der Linden and Björn Lundell. Kyoto, Japan, Sept. 2007.