



How to build Linux kernel user space tools



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1 Article purpose

This article provides the basic information needed to build the user space tools available on the Linux[®] kernel.



2 Introduction

The Linux kernel provides some user-space tools that are available in the tools directory ^[1] of the source tree.

These tools are not compiled by default when compiling the Linux kernel for the target board. They can be compiled independently, depending on the user's needs.



3 Installing the trace and debug tool on your target board

3.1 Using the STM32MPU Embedded Software distribution

3.1.1 Developer Package

Prerequisites, please ensure:

- the SDK is installed
- the SDK is started up
- the Linux kernel is installed

The available user space tools can be listed by using the following commands in the Linux kernel source root path:

```
PC $> cd <Linux_kernel_source_path>
PC $> make tools/help O="<Linux_kernel_build_dir>" (optional)
Possible targets:

acpi           - ACPI tools
cgroup         - cgroup tools
cpupower       - a tool for all things x86 CPU power
firewire       - the userspace part of nosy, an IEEE-1394 traffic sniffer
freefall       - laptop accelerometer program for disk protection
gpio           - GPIO tools
hv             - tools used when in Hyper-V clients
iio            - IIO tools
kvm_stat       - top-like utility for displaying kvm statistics
leds           - LEDs tools
liblockdep     - user-space wrapper for kernel locking-validator
bpf            - misc BPF tools
perf           - Linux performance measurement and analysis tool
selftests     - various kernel selftests
spi            - spi tools
objtool        - an ELF object analysis tool
tmon           - thermal monitoring and tuning tool
turbostat      - Intel CPU idle stats and freq reporting tool
usb            - USB testing tools
virtio         - vhost test module
vm             - misc vm tools
wmi            - WMI interface examples
x86_energy_perf_policy - Intel energy policy tool
```

Note: some tools are made for specific platforms (ARM, x86, RISC, and so on), so cannot be used on STM32MPU systems

The following basic steps must be done :

- Compiling the application:
 - Refer to <Linux kernel installation directory>/README.HOW_TO.txt helper file to know how to compile (the latest version of this helper file is also available in GitHub: README.HOW_TO.txt).
 - Ensure at least that the kernel configuration file is generated (.config) (information available in README.HOW_TO file previously mentioned)
 - Compile the expected **tool (i.e. iio, spi...)**

```
PC $> cd <Linux_kernel_source_path>/tools
PC $> make <tool> [O=<Linux_kernel_build_dir>]
```



Note: The 'O' option can be used to specify the output directory

- Deploying the application on a board:
 - The binary is generated in the directory path `<Linux_kernel_build_dir>/<tool>`
 - Push it onto the board.

```
PC $> scp <tool_binary> root@<board_ip_address>:/<dest_path>
```

PS: please ensure that the `<dest_path>` is known in the `$PATH` to execute the tool binary from anywhere on the target board.

3.1.2 Distribution Package

There is currently no recipe to build the Linux kernel user space tools, so the [Developer package](#) has to be used.



4 References

- /tools

Linux[®] is a registered trademark of Linus Torvalds.

Central processing unit

General-Purpose Input/Output (A realization of open ended transmission between devices on an embedded level. These pins available on a processor can be programmed to be used to either accept input or provide output to external devices depending on user desires and applications requirements.)

Industrial I/O Linux[®] subsystem

Executable and linkable file