



TIM Linux driver



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Stable: 16.01.2020 - 15:02 / Revision: 16.01.2020 - 14:58

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1 Article purpose

This article introduces the TIM Linux[®] driver for the TIM internal peripheral^[1]:

- Which TIM features are supported by the driver
- How to configure, use and debug the driver
- What is the driver structure, and where the source code can be found.

2 Short description

The TIM^[1] Linux driver (kernel space) is based on the PWM and IIO frameworks. It provides several functionalities:

MFD driver:

- handles registers, clock and DMA^[2] resources
- detects the TIM counter resolution, e.g. 16 or 32 bits.

PWM driver:

- detects the number of TIM channels.
- handles **PWM output** channels.
- handles **PWM capture** channels (input). Note that the PWM capture relies on DMA, which is handled by the MFD core.

IIO driver:

- handles hardware **trigger sources** (synchronously with PWM) for other internal peripherals such as ADC^[3], DAC^[4], DFSDM^[5].
- handles the **quadrature encoder** interface^[6].



3 Configuration

3.1 Kernel configuration

Activate the TIM^[1] Linux driver in the kernel configuration using the Linux Menuconfig tool: [Menuconfig or how to configure kernel](#).

Enable the following configurations (and their dependencies):

- CONFIG_MFD_STM32_TIMERS
- CONFIG_PWM_STM32
- CONFIG_IIO_STM32_TIMER_TRIGGER

```
Device Drivers --->
-> Multifunction device drivers --->
  <*> Support for STM32 Timers
-> Pulse-width modulation (PWM) support --->
  <*> STMicroelectronics STM32 PWM
-> Industrial I/O support --->
  -> Triggers - standalone --->
    <*> STM32 timer trigger
```

3.2 Device tree

Refer to the [TIM device tree configuration](#) article when configuring the TIM Linux kernel driver.

4 How to use

[How to use PWM with sysfs interface](#)

[How to set up a TIM or LPTIM trigger using the sysfs interface](#)

[How to use the quadrature encoder with the sysfs interface](#)

5 How to trace and debug

The TIM^[1] Linux driver can access the timer registers through REGMAP.

It comes with debugfs^[7] entries, which allow dumping registers:

```
$ cd /sys/kernel/debug/regmap
$ ls
40004000.timer  44000000.timer

$ cd 44000000.timer
$ cat registers
```



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```
000: 00000081
004: 00000000
008: 00000000
00c: 00000000
...
```

It also comes with tracepoints^[8]:

```
$ cd /sys/kernel/debug/tracing
$ cat available_events | grep regmap
...
regmap:regmap_reg_read
regmap:regmap_reg_write
```

6 Source code location

The TIM Linux driver source code is composed of:

- [stm32-timers.c](#) MFD driver to handle common resources: registers, clock, dmas.
- [pwm-stm32.c](#) PWM driver to handle PWM channel(s).
- [stm32-timer-trigger.c](#) IIO driver to handle trigger source for other internal peripherals and quadrature encoder interface.
- [include/linux/mfd/stm32-timers.h](#) and [include/linux/iio/timer/stm32-timer-trigger.h](#) header files

7 References

- [1.01.11.21.3](#) TIM internal peripheral
- [DMA_internal_peripheral](#)
- [ADC internal peripheral](#)
- [DAC internal peripheral](#)
- [DFSDM internal peripheral](#)
- [Incremental encoder](#) Incremental encoder overview
- [Debugfs](#)
- [Ftrace](#)

Multifunction device

Direct Memory Access

Pulse Width Modulation

Industrial I/O Linux subsystem

Analog-to-digital converter. The process of converting a sampled analog signal to a digital code that represents the amplitude of the original signal sample.

Digital-to-analog converter

Digital Filter for Sigma-Delta Modulator



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Register map (Linux registers map abstraction API)

Debug File System (See <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Debugfs> for more details)