TinyOS – an operating system for sensor nets

- Embedded operating systems
 - How do they differ from desktop operating systems?
- Event-based programming model
 - How is concurrency handled?
 - How are resource conflicts managed?
- Programming in TinyOS
 - What new language constructs are useful?

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Embedded Operating Systems

- Features of all operating systems
 - Abstraction of system resources
 - Managing of system resources
 - Concurrency model
 - Launch applications
- Desktop operating systems
- General-purpose all features may be needed
- Large-scale resources memory, disk, file systems
- Embedded operating systems
 - Application-specific just use features you need, save memory
 - Small-scale resources sensors, communication ports

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System Resources on Motes

- Timers
- Sensors
- Serial port
- Radio communications
- Memory
- Power management

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Abstraction of System Resources

- Create virtual components
 - E.g., multiple timers from one timer
- Allow them to be shared by multiple threads of execution
 - E.g., two applications that want to share radio communication
- Device drivers provide interface for resource
 - Encapsulate frequently used functions
 - Save device state (if any)
 - Manage interrupt handling

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Very simple device driver

- Turn LED on/off
- Parameters:
 - port pin
- ΔΡΙ:

 - □ off(port_pin)
- Interactions:
 - only if other devices want to use the same port

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Simple device driver

- Turning an LED on and off at a fixed rate
- Parameters:
 - port pin
 - rate at which to blink LED
- API:
 - on(port_pin, rate)
 - specifies the port pin (e.g., port D pin 3)
 - specifies the rate to use in setting up the timer (what scale?)
 - off(port_pin)
- Internal state and functions:
 - $\hfill \square$ keep track of state (on or off for a particular pin) of each pin
 - $\mbox{\ }_{\mbox{\ }}$ interrupt service routine to handle timer interrupt

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Interesting interactions

- What if other devices also need to use timer (e.g., PWM device)?
 - timer interrupts now need to be handled differently depending on which device's alarm is going off
- Benefits of special-purpose output compare peripheral
 - output compare pins used exclusively for one device
 - output compare has a separate interrupt handling routine
- What if we don't have output compare capability or run out of output compare units?

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Sharing timers

- Create a new device driver for the timer unit
 - Allow other devices to ask for timer services
 - Manage timer independently so that it can service multiple requests
- Parameters
 - Time to wait, address to call when timer reaches that value
- API:
 - set_timer(time_to_wait, call_back_address)
 - Set call back address to correspond to time+time to wait
 - Compute next alarm to sound and set timer
 Update in interrupt service routine for next alarm
- Internal state and functions:
 - How many alarms can the driver keep track of?
 - How are they organized? FIFO? priority queue?

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Concurrency

- Multiple programs interleaved as if parallel
- Each program requests access to devices/services
- e.g., timers, serial ports, etc.
- Exclusive or concurrent access to devices
 - allow only one program at a time to access a device (e.g., serial port)
 - arbitrate multiple accesses (e.g., timer)
- State and arbitration needed

 - arbitrate their accesses (order, fairness, exclusivity)
 monitors/locks (supported by primitive operations in ISA test-and-set)
- Interrupts
 - disabling may effect timing of programs
 - $\hfill \square$ keeping enabled may cause unwanted interactions

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Handling concurrency

- Traditional operating system
 - multiple threads or processes
 - □ file system
 - virtual memory and paging
 - □ input/output (buffering between CPU, memory, and I/O devices)
 - □ interrupt handling (mostly with I/O devices)
 - resource allocation and arbitration
 - command interface (execution of programs)
- Embedded operating system
 - lightweight threads
 - □ input/output
 - □ interrupt handling
 - real-time guarantees

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Embedded operating systems

- Lightweight threads
 - basic locks
 - fast context-switches
- Input/output
 - API for talking to devices
 - buffering
- Interrupt handling (with I/O devices and UI)
 - $\hfill \square$ translate interrupts into events to be handled by user code
 - □ trigger new tasks to run (reactive)
- Real-time issues
 - guarantee task is called at a certain rate
 - guarantee an interrupt will be handled within a certain time
 - priority or deadline driven scheduling of tasks

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Examples

- Palm OS
 - US Robotics Palm Pilot
 - Motorola microcontrollers (68328 Dragonball, migrating to Xscale)
 - simple OS for PDAs
 - only supports single threads
- Pocket PC
 - PDA operating system
 - spin-off of Windows NT
 - portable to a wide variety of processors (e.g., Xscale)
 - full-featured OS modularized to only include features as needed
- Wind River Systems VxWorks
 - one of the most popular embedded OS kernels
 - highly portable to an even wider variety of processors (tiny to huge)
 - modularized even further than the ones above (basic system under 50K)

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embedded operating systems typically

reside in ROM (flash)

TinyOS

- Open-source development environment
- Simple (and tiny) operating system TinyOS
- Programming language and model nesC
- Set of services
- Principal elements
 - Scheduler/event model of concurrency
 - Software components for efficient modularity
 - Software encapsulation for resources of sensor networks

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TinyOS History - www.tinyos.net

- Motivation create Unix analog (circa 1969)
 - Uniform programming language: C
 - Uniform device abstractions
 - Open source: grow with different developers/needs
 - Support creation of many tools
- Created at UC Berkeley
 - 1st version written by Jason Hill in 2000
 - Large part of development moved to Intel Research Berkeley in 2001
 - www.intel-research.net/berkeley
 - Smart Dust, Inc. founded in 2002
- Large deployments
 - Great Duck Island (GDI)
 - http://www.greatduckisland.net/
 - Center for Embedded Network Sensing (CENS)

- http://www.cens.ucla.edu/

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TinyOS Design Goals

- Support networked embedded systems
 - Asleep most of the time, but remain vigilant to stimuli
 - Bursts of events and operations
- Support UCB mote hardware
 - Power, sensing, computation, communication
 - Easy to port to evolving platforms
- Support technological advances
 - Keep scaling down
 - Smaller, cheaper, lower power

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TinyOS Design Options

- Can't use existing RTOS's
 - Microkernel architecture
 - VxWorks, PocketPC, PalmOS
 - Execution similar to desktop systems
 - PDA's, cell phones, embedded PC's
 - More than a order of magnitude too heavyweight and slow
 - Energy hogs

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TinyOS Design Conclusion

- Similar to building networking interfaces
 - Data driven execution
 - Manage large # of concurrent data flows
 - Manage large # of outstanding events
- Add: managing application data processing
- Conclusion: need a multi-threading engine
 - Extremely efficient
 - Extremely simple

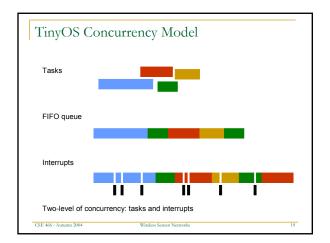
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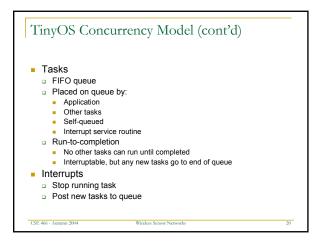
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TinyOS Kernel Design

- Two-level scheduling structure
 - Events
 - Small amount of processing to be done in a timely manner
 - E.g. timer, ADC interrupts
 - Can interrupt longer running tasks
 - Tasks
 - Not time critical
 - Larger amount of processing
 - E.g. computing the average of a set of readings in an array
 - Run to completion with respect to other tasks
 - Only need a single stack

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TinyOS Concurrency Model (cont'd)

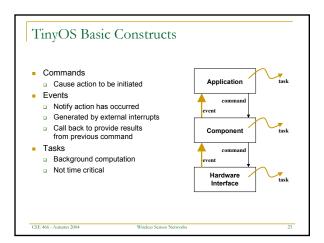
Two-levels of concurrency
Possible conflicts between interrupts and tasks

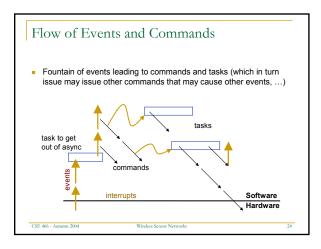
Atomic statements
Atomic statements
Asynchronous service routines (as opposed to synchronous tasks)
Asynchronous tasks)
Async result_t interface_name.cmd_or_event_name {

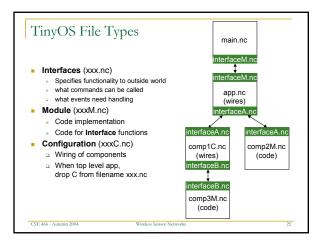
Race conditions detected by compiler

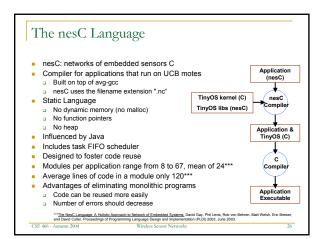
Can generated false positives - norace keyword to stop warnings, but be careful

TinyOS Programming Model Separation of construction and composition Programs are built out of components Specification of component behavior in terms of a set of interfaces Components specify interfaces they use and provide Components are statically wired to each other via their interfaces This increases runtime efficiency by enabling compiler optimizations Finite-state-machine-like specifications Thread of control passes into a component through its interfaces to another component

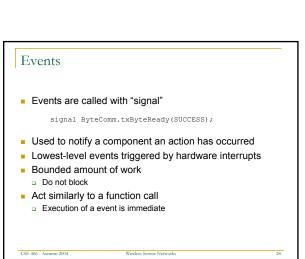








Commands Commands are issued with "call" Call Timer.start(TIMER_REPEAT, 1000); Cause action to be initiated Bounded amount of work Does not block Act similarly to a function call Execution of a command is immediate



Tasks Tasks are queued with "post" post radioEncodeThread(); Used for longer running operations Pre-empted by events Initiated by interrupts Tasks run to completion Not pre-empted by other tasks Example tasks High level – calculate aggregate of sensor readings Low level – encode radio packet for transmission, calculate CRC

Components

Two types of components in nesC:

Module
Configuration
A component provides and uses Interfaces

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Module

- Provides application code
 - Contains C-like code
- Must implement the 'provides' interfaces
 - Implement the "commands" it provides
 - Make sure to actually "signal"
- Must implement the 'uses' interfaces
 - □ Implement the "events" that need to be handled
 - "call" commands as needed

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Configuration

- A configuration is a component that "wires" other components together.
- Configurations are used to assemble other components together
- Connects interfaces used by components to interfaces provided by others.

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Interfaces

- Bi-directional multi-function interaction channel between two components
- Allows a single interface to represent a complex event
- E.g., a registration of some event, followed by a callback
- Critical for non-blocking operation
- provides" interfaces
 - Represent the functionality that the component provides to its user
- □ Service "commands" implemented command functions
- □ Issue "events" signal to user for passing data or signalling done
- uses" interfaces
 - Represent the functionality that the component needs from a provider
 - □ Service "events" implement event handling
 - □ Issue "commands" ask provider to do something

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Application

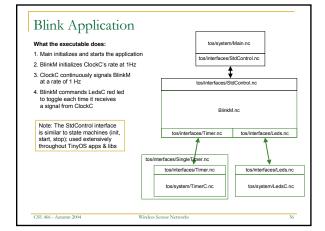
- Consists of one or more components, wired together to form a runnable program
- Single top-level configuration that specifies the set of components in the application and how they connect to one another
- Connection (wire) to main component to start execution
 - $\hfill \square$ Must implement init, start, and stop commands

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Components/Wiring

- Directed wire (an arrow: '->') connects components
 - □ Only 2 components at a time point-to-point
 - Connection is across compatible interfaces
 - □ 'A <- B' is equivalent to 'B -> A'
- [component using interface] -> [component providing interface]
 - [interface] -> [implementation]
- '=' can be used to wire a component directly to the top-level object's interfaces
 - Typically used in a configuration file to use a sub-component directly
- Unused system components excluded from compilation

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```
Configuration Blink {
    }
    implementation {
        components Main, BlinkM, SingleTimer, LedsC;
        Main.StdControl -> SingleTimer.StdControl;
        Main.StdControl -> BlinkM.StdControl;
        BlinkM.Timer -> SingleTimer.Timer;
        BlinkM.Leds -> LedsC.Leds;
}

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```

```
interface StdControl {
    command result_t init();
    command result_t start();
    command result_t stop();
}
```

```
BlinkM.nc
BlinkM.nc module BlinkM {
 provides {
    interface StdControl;
                        implementation {
    interface Timer:
                          command result_t StdControl.init() {
  call Leds.init();
    interface Leds;
                             return SUCCESS;
                          command result t StdControl.start() {
                            return call Timer.start(TIMER_REPEAT, 1000);
                          command result_t StdControl.stop() {
  return call Timer.stop();
                          event result t Timer.fired()
                            call Leds.redToggle();
                             return SUCCESS;
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```

```
SingleTimer.nc (should have been SingleTimerC.nc)

    Parameterized interfaces

    allows a component to provide multiple instances of an interface that are

       parameterized by a value

    Timer implements one level of indirection to actual timer functions

    Timer module supports many interfaces

    This module simply creates one unique timer interface and wires it up

    By wiring Timer to a separate instance of the Timer interface provided by TimerC,

       each component can effectively get its own "private" timer
    \,\,\square\,\, Uses a \underline{\text{compile-time}} constant function \mathtt{unique} () to ensure index is unique
                configuration SingleTimer {
                   provides interface Timer;
provides interface StdControl;
                implementation {
                   components TimerC;
                   Timer = TimerC.Timer[unique("Timer")];
                   StdControl = TimerC.StdControl;
```

```
Configuration Blink {
}
implementation {
components Main, BlinkM, TimerC, LedsC;
Main, StdControl -> TimerC.StdControl;
Main, StdControl -> BlinkM.StdControl;
BlinkM.Timer -> TimerC.Timer[unique("Timer")];
BlinkM.Leds -> LedsC.Leds;
}

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```

```
Timer.nc

interface Timer {
    command result_t start(char type, uint32_t interval);
    command result_t stop();
    event result_t fired();
}

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```

TimerC.nc

- Implementation of multiple timer interfaces to a single shared timer
- Each interface is named
- Each interface connects to one other module

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```
Leds.nc (partial)

interface Leds (

/**

* Initialize the LEDs; among other things, initialization turns them all off.

**async command result_t init();

/**

* Turn the red LED on.

*/

async command result_t redOn();

/**

* Turn the red LED off.

*/

* Turn the red LED off.

*/

* Turn the red LED off.

* /

* async command result_t redOff();

/**

* Toggle the red LED. If it was on, turn it off. If it was off,

* turn it on.

*/

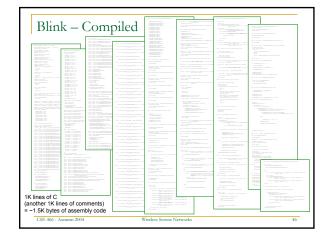
async command result_t redToggle();

...

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44
```



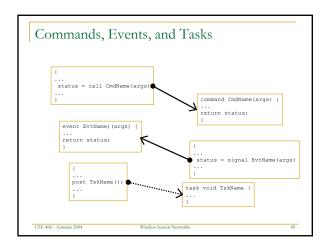
Blink – Compiled – a small piece result_t rval; { _nesc_atomic_t __nesc_atomic = __nesc_atomic_start(); if (LedsC\$ledsOn & LedsC\$RED_BIT) { rval = LedsC\$Leds\$redOff(); } else { rval = LedsC\$Leds\$redOn(); nline static result_t BlinkM\$Leds\$redToggle(v static inline result_t LedsC\$Leds\$redOn(void) signed char result; sult = LedsCSLeds\$redToggle(); (__nesc_atomic_t __nesc_atomic = __nesc_atomic_start(); TOSH_CLR_RED_LED_PIN(); LedsC\$ledsOn |= LedsC\$RED_BIT; static inline result_t BlinkMSTimerSfired(void) ____nesc atomic end(__nesc_atomic); } return SUCCESS; BlinkM\$Leds\$redToggle(); return SUCCESS; tatic inline result_t LedsC%Leds%redOff(void) (__nesc_atomic_t __nesc_atomic = __nesc_atomic_start(); TOSH_SET_RED_LED_PIN(); LedsC\$ledsOn_&= ~LedsC\$RED_BIT; ____nesc atomic end(__nesc atomic);) return SUCCESS; CSE 466 - Autumn 2004

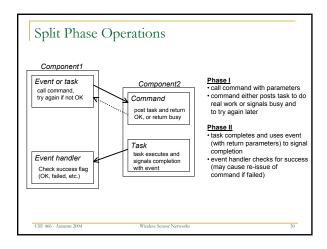
Concurrency Model

- Asynchronous Code (AC)
 - Any code that is reachable from an interrupt handler
- Synchronous Code (SC)
 - Any code that is ONLY reachable from a task
 - Boot sequence
- Potential race conditions

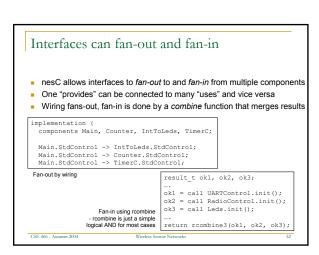
 - Asynchronous Code and Asynchronous Code
 - Non-preemption eliminates data races among tasks
- nesC reports potential data races to the programmer at compile time (new with version 1.1)
- Use atomic statement when needed
- async keyword is used to declare asynchronous code to compiler

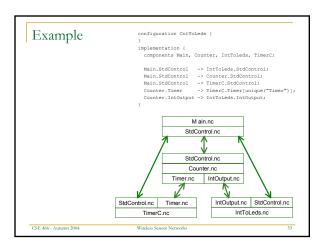
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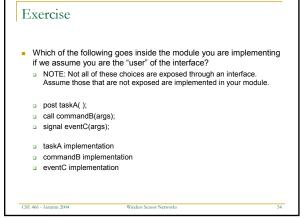




Naming Convention Use mixed case with the first letter of word capitalized Interfaces (Xxx.nc) Components Configuration (XxxC.nc) Module (XxxM.nc) Application – top level component (Xxx.nc) Commands, Events, & Tasks First letter lowercase Task names should start with the word "task", commands with "cmd", events with "evt" or "event" If a command/event pair form a split-phase operation, event name should be same as command name with the suffix "Done" or "Complete" Commands with "TOSH_" prefix indicate that they touch hardware directly Variables – first letter lowercase, caps on first letter of all sub-words Constants – all caps







```
Sense Application
                                                                provides {
  interface StdControl;
                                                                 uses {
                                                                   ses (
interface Timer;
interface ADC;
interface StdControl as ADCControl;
interface Leds;
Sense.nc
implementation
  components Main, SenseM, LedsC, TimerC, DemoSensorC as Sensor;
  Main.StdControl -> Sensor.StdControl;
Main.StdControl -> TimerC.StdControl;
Main.StdControl -> SenseM.StdControl;
                                                                          configuration DemoSensorC
                                                                             provides interface ADC;
provides interface StdControl;
  SenseM.ADC -> Sensor.ADC;
SenseM.ADCControl -> Sensor.StdControl;
SenseM.Leds -> LedsC.Leds;
                                                                           ,
implementation
   SenseM.Timer -> TimerC.Timer[unique("Timer")];
                                                                             components Photo as Sensor;
                                                                             StdControl = Sensor;
ADC = Sensor;
                                                   DemoSensorC.nc
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                                                   Wireless Sensor Netwo
```

```
cont'd
implementation (
/* Module scoped method. Displays the lowest 3 bits to the LEDs, with RED
/* Module scoped method. Displays the lowest 3 bits to the LEDs, with RED
/* Bodule scoped method. Displays the lowest 3 bits to the LEDs, with RED
/* being the most significant and YELLOW being the least significant */
result_t display(unite_t value) {
    if (value 61) call Leds.yellowOn(); else call Leds.yellowOff();
    if (value 62) call Leds.greenOn(); else call Leds.greenOff();
    if (value 62) call Leds.greenOn(); else call Leds.greenOff();
    return SUCCESS;
}

command result_t StdControl.init() { return call Leds.init(); }
command result_t StdControl.stapt() { return call Timer.start(TIMER_REPEAT, 500); }
command result_t Timer.fired() { return call ADC.getData(); }
async event result_t ADC.dataReady(uint16_t data) {
    display(7-(data)-x)7; 60x7);
    return SUCCESS;
}
}

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```

```
Sense Application Using Task

SenseM.nc

| module SenseTaskM {
| provides {
| provi
```

```
SenseTaskM.nc
                                                                       task void processData()
implementation {
                                                                           int16_t i, sum=0;
atomic {
  for (i=0; i<size; i++)
    sum += (rdata[i] >> 7);
     int8_t head; // head index
int16 t rdata[size]; // circular buffe
                                                                            display(sum >> log2size);
                                                                       }
command result_t StdControl.init() {
  atomic head = 0;
  return call Leds.init();
  inline void putdata(int16_t val)
      int16_t p;
atomic {
              c {
p = head;
head = (p+1) & sizemask;
rdata[p] = val;
                                                                       command result_t StdControl.stop() {
  return call Timer.stop();
    result t display(uint16 t value)
        if (value &1) call Leds.yellowOn();
else call Leds.yellowOff();
if (value &2) call Leds.greenOn();
else call Leds.greenOff();
if (value &4) call Leds.redOn();
else call Leds.redOff();
return SUCCESS;
                                                                       async event result t ADC.dataReady(uint16 t data)
                                                                         putdata(data);
                                                                         post processData();
return SUCCESS;
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                                                             Wireless Sensor Networks
```

```
A More Extensive Application

Route map Router Sensor Application

Radio Packet Serial Packet Serial
```

Tips Make liberal use of "grep" or "find in files" Look at example applications in the /apps directory All interfaces are in /interfaces directory Utilities are in /system, /lib, /platform, or /sensorboards Try to keep commands and events very short Avoid loops, use queues and callbacks

Debugging

- Cover in more detail in later lectures
- Applications can be built to run on the PC (TOSSIM)
 - Good to debug
 - Does not perfectly simulate the hardware
- Toggling LEDs
 - Can only get so much information from 1 LED
 - □ Useful for indicating specific events (will LED be on long enough?):
 - Radio packet transmit/receive
 - Timer fired
 - Sensor activation

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