

Support Booting from QSPI Flash in Linux i.MX RT1050/RT1060/RT1170

Detailed Requirements and Design

qspi-drad-1 1.doc

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1. Overview

The following is a high-level overview of the problem being resolved by this project:

This project develops support for booting from QSPI Flash in the Linux i.MX RT1050/RT1060/RT1170 BSPs.

2. Requirements

2.1. Detailed Requirements

The following are the requirements for this project:

- Support booting of U-Boot from QSPI Flash, with no reliance on presence of SD Card or any other storage devices.
 - Rationale: Explicit customer requirement.
 Implementation: Section: "Design: U-Boot Boot from QSPI Flash".
 Test: Section: "Test Plan: U-Boot Boot from QSPI Flash".
- 2. Support the U-Boot standard QSPI commands (the sf commands family) for QSPI Flash.
 - Rationale: Explicit customer requirement.
 Implementation: Section: "Design: U-Boot sf_ Commands".

 Test: Section: "Test Plan: U-Boot sf_ Commands".
- 3. Store the U-Boot environment in QSPI Flash.
 - Rationale: Explicit customer requirement.
 Implementation: Section: "Design: U-Boot Environment in QSPI Flash".
 Test: Section: "Test Plan: U-Boot Environment in QSPI Flash".
- 4. Support installation of images to QSPI Flash from SD Card from the U-Boot command line interface.
 - Rationale: Explicit customer requirement.
 Implementation: Section: "Design: U-Boot Install Images to QSPI Flash".
 Test: Section: "Test Plan: U-Boot Install Images to QSPI Flash".
- 5. Support Linux boot from QSPI Flash, in the following configuration:
 - kernel image loaded from QSPI Flash to RAM for execution;
 - odtb image loaded from QSPI Flash into RAM for execution;
 - o root file system mounted in QSPI Flash as the read-write Flash file system (UBIFS).

Rationale: Explicit customer requirement.

Implementation: Section: "Design: Linux Boot from QSPI Flash".

Test: Section: "Test Plan: Linux Boot from QSPI Flash".

- 6. Support QSPI Flash in Linux, using a newly developed device driver following the structure of the following existing device driver: fsl-quadspi.c ({BSP-ROOT}/linux/drivers/mtd/spi-nor/fsl-quadspi.c). This must include support for Linux Flash file system.
 - Rationale: Explicit customer requirement.
 Implementation: Section: "Design: Linux Device Driver for QSPI Flash and Flash File System".
 Test: Section: "Test Plan: Linux Device Driver for QSPI Flash and Flash File System".

2.2. Detailed Non-Requirements

The following are the non-requirements for this project that may otherwise not be obvious:

- Support for any Flash devices other than the QSPI Flash device present on the NXP i.MX RT1050/RT1060/RT1170 EVKB boards is not required.
 - o Rationale: Costs reduction measure.
- Support for Linux boot scenarios other than the one listed in Section: "Detailed Requirements" is not required.
 - Rationale: Costs reduction measure.

3. Design

3.1. Design: U-Boot Boot from QSPI Flash

A dedicated configuration file \text{board_name} > \text{stboot_defconfig} will be added to U-Boot to support boot from QSPI Flash on the NXP i.MX RT1050/RT1060. The configuration file mxrt117x-evk_defconfig will be used in U-Boot to support boot from QSPI Flash on the NXP i.MX RT1170. The standard build procedure will be used to generate the image u-boot.flexspi bootable from QSPI Flash:

make mxrt1050-evk-sfboot config

or:

make mxrt1060-evk-sfboot config

or:

make mxrt117x-evk_defconfig

then build u-boot:

make

The u-boot.flexspi image must be programmed to the QPSI flash on the NXP i.MX RT1050/1060 EVKB board at offset 0. The u-boot.flexspi image must be programmed to the QPSI flash on the NXP i.MX RT1170 EVKB board at offset 0x400. The image consists of the U-Boot itself and two i.MX RT1050-specific headers:

- Image Vector Table (IVT);
- The FlexSPI Configuration Block.

The Image Vector Table is generated by mkimage using the board/freescale/<board_name>/imximage.cfg configuration file.

The The FlexSPI Configuration Block is compiled from the <code>board/freescale/<board_name>/flexspi_cb.c</code> file. This file contains a definition of the <code>flexspi_nor_config_t</code> structure, as per the corresponding Processor Reference Manual.

board_name is as follows:

- mxrt105x-evk for the i.MX RT1050 board
- mxrt106x-evk for the i.MX RT1060 board
- mxrt117x-evk for the i.MX RT1170 board

The default configuration will be set up to support the ISSI QSPI Flash installed on the EVKB board.

3.2. Design: U-Boot sf_ Commands

The standard U-Boot sf commands will be enabled in the U-Boot configuration to support the SPI Flash read, erase and write operations.

3.3. Design: U-Boot Environment in QSPI Flash

Whenever the corresponding configuration described above is selected in U-Boot, the U-Boot environment will be stored in the QSPI Flash.

The environment, along with the redundant environment copy, will be placed at the address range 0x50000 - 0x70000 in OSPI flash.

3.4. Design: U-Boot Install Images to QSPI Flash

The QSPI Flash device will be logically divided into 5 sections to store the software components of the system:

- 0x000000 0x050000 U-Boot
- 0x050000 0x070000 U-Boot Environment
- 0x070000 0x080000 DTB Image
- 0x080000 0x480000 Kernel Image
- 0x480000 0x800000 Root File System

The following commands will be defined in the U-Boot environment to update the above components:

- sf uboot update Update the U-Boot section
- sf dtb update Update the DTB section
- sf kernel update Update the Kernel section
- $\bullet \quad \texttt{sf_rootfs_update} \; \textbf{-} \; Update \; the \; RootFS \; section \\$

For the NXP i.MX RT1050/RT1060 BSPs all the sf_*_update commands will read images from the FAT FS partition on SD-card and install them to the corresponding section in QSPI Flash. The names of the images are defined by the following U-Boot environment variables:

- uboot File name for the U-Boot image, default is u-boot.flexspi
- dtb File name for the DTB image, default is rootfs_ubi.dtb
- image File name for the Kernel image, default is rootfs ubi.uImage
- rootfs File name for the RootFS image, default is rootfs.ubi

For the NXP i.MX RT1170 BSP all the sf_*_update commands will download images via tftp and install them to the corresponding section in QSPI Flash. The names of the images are defined by the following U-Boot environment variables:

- uboot File name for the U-Boot image, default is u-boot.flexspi
- dtb File name for the DTB image, default is rootfs ubi.dtb
- image_ubi File name for the Kernel image, default is rootfs_ubi.uImage
- rootfs File name for the RootFS image, default is rootfs.ubi

The sf_*_update commands will be available in the mxrt1050-evk-sfboot or mxrt1060-evk-sfboot or mxrt117x-evk defconfig configuration when booting from QSPI Flash.

If there is no U-Boot installed in QSPI Flash yet on the i.MX RT1050/RT1060 board, the user can use the regular mxrt1050-evk or mxrt1060-evk configuration to boot from SD-card and make the first installation of U-Boot to the QSPI Flash. The following is the instruction on how to build the U-Boot image to boot from SD-card with write support to QSPI flash:

- 1. Switch to the regular mxrt1050-evk or mxrt1060-evk configuration.
- 2. Run make menuconfig to enable the FSL_FLEXSPI, SPI_FLASH, SPI_FLASH_ISSI and CMD_SF configuration options.
- 3. Build the u-boot-dtb.imx image and install it to the SD-card.

Note that only the sf erase and sf write operation supported when booting from SD-card. The sf read command is available bu can return wrong data, when booting from SD card. This boot mode is used only for the first installation of U-Boot to QSPI Flash. sf read is fully supported when booting from the QSPI Flash.

If there is no U-Boot installed in QSPI Flash yet on the i.MX RT1170 board, the user can follow the instruction described in the MIMXRT1170 EVK Board Hardware User's document.

3.5. Design: Linux Boot from QSPI Flash

The separate project projects/rootfs_ubi will be created to demonstrate booting Linux from QSPI flash. The following main feature will be enabled in the new project:

- Support for QSPI flash will be enabled in the kernel configuration.
- initramfs will be disabled in the kernel configuration. Instead the root filesystem will be mounted on an UBIFS file system in QSPI Flash.
- The kernel and the DTB images will be built separately, outside of the mkimage multi-part image.

To implement these features the following options will be added to the common build rules and will be used in Makefile for the rootfs_ubi project:

- RES BUILD DIR temporary directory to build the root file system image
- UBI IMAGES tells the make to build the file system image
- MKFSUBIFS FLAGS Flash-specific flags for the mkfs.ubifs utility
- UBINIZE FLAGS Flash-specific flags for the ubinize utility
- SEPARATE DTB tells the make not to build the multi-part image but save the DTB separately.

3.6. Design: Linux Device Driver for QSPI Flash and Flash File System

An fsl flexspi.c driver will be added to the Linux device drivers.

The driver will provide an API compatible with the standard SPI-NOR framework in the kernel similar to the existing fsl qspi.c driver. The QSPI Flash will be available in Linux as a standard MTD device.

Support for Linux Flash file systems does not require changes to the kernel.

4. Test Plan

4.1. Secure Download Area

The downloadable materials developed by this project are available from a secure Web page on the Emcraft Systems web site. Specifically, proceed to the following URL to download the software materials.

for the i.MX RT1050 BSP:

https://www.emcraft.com/imxrt1050/rm2595

for the i.MX RT1060 BSP:

• https://www.emcraft.com/imxrt1060/rm2861

for the i.MX RT1170 BSP:

• https://www.emcraft.com/imxrt1170/rm6629

The page is protected as follows:

- Login: Contact emcraft for details
- Password: Contact emcraft for details

4.2. Downloadable Files

The following files are available from the secure download area for this release:

- u-boot.flexspi U-Boot image installable to QSPI Flash.
- u-boot-dtb.imx U-Boot image installable to SD-card with support for sf_* commands; this image allows booting from SD Card and installing U-Boot to QSPI Flash. Only for the i.MX RT1050/RT1060 BSPs.
- rootfs ubi.dtb Linux device tree.
- rootfs ubi.uImage Linux kernel.
- rootfs.ubi UBIFS image with Linux rootfs.
- u-boot.patch Source code patch to U-Boot.
- linux.patch Source code patch to Linux.
- projects.patch Source code patch to projects/.

4.3. Test Set-Up

4.3.1. Hardware Set-Up

The following hardware set-up is required for execution of the test plan in this project:

- A development host Linux PC.
- The NXP i.MX RT1050 EVKB board or i.MX RT1060 EVKB board or i.MX RT1170 EVKB board with serial console connected to PC.

- The following hardware reworks are required on the NXP i.MX RT1050 EVKB board to enable the QSPI Flash, as described in section 2.7 of the NXP IMXRT1050 EVKB Board Hardware User's Guide:
 - o Remove resistors: R356, R361 R366
 - \circ Weld 0Ω resistors: R153 R158.
- SD-card as the media to transfer the images from the development host to the target board (only for the i.MX RT1050/RT1060 boards).
- The NXP i.MX RT1170 EVK Board is connected to LAN using the J3 100M ENET connector.

4.3.2. Software Set-Up

U-Boot Build:

1. Apply the U-Boot patch from the top of the fresh linux-cortexm installation:

```
$ cd u-boot
$ patch -p1 < ../u-boot.patch</pre>
```

- 2. Build the bootable SD-card image with support for the sf_* commands for the first U-Boot installation to QSPI Flash (only for the IMXRT1050/IMXRT1060 EVK boards):
 - 1. Enable the default configuration
 - for the IMXRT1050 EVK board

```
$ make distclean
$ make mxrt105x-evk_config
```

for the IMXRT1060 EVK board

```
$ make distclean
$ make mxrt106x-evk_config
```

2. Run menuconfig and enable the FSL_FLEXSPI, SPI_FLASH, SPI_FLASH_ISSI and CMD_SF configuration options:

```
$ make menuconfig
Symbol: FSL FLEXSPI [=y]
Prompt: Freescale Flex SPI controller
 Location:
   -> Device Drivers
(1) -> SPI Support
Symbol: SPI FLASH [=y]
Type : boolean
Prompt: Legacy SPI Flash Interface support
 Location:
    -> Device Drivers
      -> SPI Flash Support
Symbol: SPI FLASH ISSI [=y]
Type : boolean
Prompt: ISSI SPI flash support
 Location:
    -> Device Drivers
      -> SPI Flash Support
         -> Legacy SPI Flash Interface support (SPI FLASH [=y])
Symbol: CMD SF [=y]
Type : boolean
Prompt: sf
 Location:
    -> Command line interface
      -> Device access commands
```

3. Build U-Boot:

```
$ make
```

4. Install the resultant image to the connected SD-card:

```
$ sudo dd if=u-boot-dtb.imx of=/dev/sdX bs=1k seek=1
$ sync
```

- 3. Build the U-Boot image bootable from QSPI Flash
 - 1. Configure and build U-Boot for QSPI Flash
 - for the IMXRT1050 EVK board:

```
$ make distclean
$ make mxrt105x-evk-sfboot config
$ make
```

• for the IMXRT1060 EVK board:

```
$ make distclean
$ make mxrt106x-evk-sfboot_config
$ make
```

• for the IMXRT1170 EVK board:

```
$ make distclean
$ make mxrt117x-evk_defconfig
$ make
```

2. Copy the resultant image to the FATFS partition on the SD-card for the IMXRT1050/IMXRT1060 EVK boards:

```
$ sudo mount /dev/sdX1 ~/tmp/
$ sudo cp u-boot.flexspi ~/tmp/
$ sudo umount ~/tmp/
```

or copy the resultant image to a TFTP server in the same network as the target board is connected to for the IMXRT1170 EVK board.

Linux Build:

1. Apply the Linux and projects/ patches:

```
$ cd linux
$ patch -p1 < ../linux.patch
$ cd ../projects
$ patch -p1 < ../projects.patch</pre>
```

2. Build the rootfs_ubi project:

```
$ cd rootfs_ubi
$ make
```

3. Copy the resultant images to the FATFS partition on the SD-card for the IMXRT1050/IMXRT1060 EVK boards:

```
$ sudo mount /dev/sdX1 ~/tmp/
$ sudo cp rootfs_ubi.uImage rootfs_ubi.dtb rootfs.ubi ~/tmp/
$ sudo umount ~/tmp/
```

or copy the resultant images (rootfs_ubi.uImage, rootfs_ubi.dtb, rootfs.ubi) to a TFTP server in the same network as the target board is connected to for the IMXRT1170 EVK board.

Prebuilt Binaries: For convenience, the prebuilt binaries resulting from the above build procedure are available in the area documented in Section: "Downloadable Files".

4.4. Detailed Test Plan

4.4.1. Test Plan: U-Boot Boot from QSPI Flash

The following step-wise test procedure will be used:

- 1. Power off the target board.
- 2. IMXRT1050/IMXRT1060 EVK boards:
 - Set-up the SW7 switch on the target board to boot from SD-card (SW7/1 = ON, SW7/2 = OFF, SW7/3 = ON, SW7/4 = OFF)
 - Insert the SD-card prepared in Section: "Software Set-Up" and power on the board.
 - Stop U-Boot at the command monitor.
 - Run the following commands to install U-Boot to QSPI Flash:

```
=> sf probe 0
=> sf erase 0 0x50000
=> fatload mmc 0 ${loadaddr} u-boot.flexspi
=> sf write ${loadaddr} 0 ${filesize}
```

- Power off the target board.
- Set-up the SW7 switch on the target board to boot from QSPI Flash (SW7/1 = OFF, SW7/2 = OFF, SW7/3 = ON, SW7/4 = OFF)
- Remove the SD-card and power on the board.
- Validate that U-Boot has successfully booted from QSPI Flash.
- 3. IMXRT1170 EVK board:
 - Set-up the SW7 switch on the target board to boot from QSPI Flash (SW7/1 = OFF, SW7/2 = OFF, SW7/3 = ON, SW7/4 = OFF)
 - Power on the target board.
 - Stop U-Boot at the command monitor.
 - o Run the following commands to install U-Boot to QSPI Flash:

```
=> run sf uboot update
Using ethernet@40424000 device
TFTP from server 192.168.1.79; our IP address is 192.168.1.15
Filename 'imxrt117x/u-boot.flexspi'.
Load address: 0x80007fc0
Loading: #################
         332 KiB/s
Bytes transferred = 258048 (3f000 hex)
SF: 327680 bytes @ 0x0 Erased: OK
device 0 offset 0x0, size 0x3f000
SF: 258048 bytes @ 0x0 Written: OK
=> env default -a -f
## Resetting to default environment
=> setenv ipaddr 192.168.1.15
=> setenv serverip 192.168.1.79
Saving Environment to SPI Flash...
SF: Detected is25wp128a with page size 256 Bytes, erase size 64 KiB, total 16 MiB
Erasing SPI flash...Writing to SPI flash...done
Valid environment: 1
```

O Validate that U-Boot has successfully booted from QSPI Flash:

```
=> reset
resetting ...
U-Boot 2017.09-rc1 (May 14 2023 - 20:14:46 +0300)
```

```
CPU: i.MX RT117x at 996MHz
Model: NXP i.MXRT1174 EVK
DRAM: 64 MiB
MMC: FSL_SDHC: 0
SF: Detected is25wp128a with page size 256 Bytes, erase size 64 KiB, total 16 MiB
In: serial@4007c000
Out: serial@4007c000
Err: serial@4007c000
Net: eth0: ethernet@40424000
Hit any key to stop autoboot: 0
=>
```

4.4.2. Test Plan: U-Boot sf Commands

The following step-wise test procedure will be used:

- 1. Boot U-Boot from QSPI Flash.
- 2. Probe the QSPI Flash. Make sure that the correct Flash info is printed out to the console:

```
=> sf probe 0
SF: Detected is25wp064a with page size 256 Bytes, erase size 64 KiB, total 8 MiB
=>
```

3. Read the U-Boot partition to RAM:

```
=> sf read ${loadaddr} 0 0x50000
device 0 offset 0x0, size 0x50000
SF: 327680 bytes @ 0x0 Read: OK
=>
```

4. Make sure the FlexSPI Configuration Block is at the beginning of the read data: the first 4 symbols must be "FCFB" for the IMXRT1050/IMXRT1060 EVK boards:

```
=> md ${loadaddr} 1
80007fc0: 42464346 FCFB
=>
```

5. Make sure the FlexSPI Configuration Block is at the 0x400 offset of the read data: the 4 symbols must be "FCFB" for the IMXRT1170 EVK board:

```
=> md 800083C0 1
800083c0: 42464346 FCFB
```

6. Erase 5 sectors in the middle of QSPI Flash:

```
=> sf erase 0x300000 0x50000
SF: 327680 bytes @ 0x300000 Erased: OK
=>
```

7. Write the U-Boot image to the erased area:

```
=> sf write ${loadaddr} 0x300000 0x50000
device 0 offset 0x300000, size 0x50000
SF: 327680 bytes @ 0x300000 Written: OK
=>
```

8. Read it back to a separate area in RAM:

```
=> sf read 0x81000000 0x300000 0x50000
device 0 offset 0x300000, size 0x50000
SF: 327680 bytes @ 0x300000 Read: OK
=>
```

9. Make sure that the data in 2 areas are identical:

```
=> cmp.b ${loadaddr} 0x81000000 0x50000
```

```
Total of 327680 byte(s) were the same =>
```

4.4.3. Test Plan: U-Boot Environment in QSPI Flash

The following step-wise test procedure will be used:

- 1. Remove SD-card and boot U-Boot from QSPI Flash.
- 2. Define and save a test variable:

```
=> setenv testvar testval
=> saveenv
Saving Environment to SPI Flash...
SF: Detected is25wp064a with page size 256 Bytes, erase size 64 KiB, total 8 MiB
Erasing SPI flash...Writing to SPI flash...done
Valid environment: 2
=>
```

3. Reset the board:

```
=> reset
```

4. Make sure the test variable exists and has the correct value:

```
=> print testvar
testvar=testval
=>
```

4.4.4. Test Plan: U-Boot Install Images to QSPI Flash

The following step-wise test procedure will be used:

- 1. Boot U-Boot from QSPI Flash.
- 2. Insert the SD-card prepared in Section: "Software Set-Up" to the SD Card holder (for the IMXRT1050/IMXRT1060 EVK boards).
- 3. Reset the environment:

```
=> env default -f -a
=> saveenv
=>
```

4. Install the software components

for the IMXRT1050/IMXRT1060 EVK boards:

```
=> sf probe 0
SF: Detected is25wp064a with page size 256 Bytes, erase size 64 KiB, total 8 MiB
=> run sf uboot update
reading u-boot.flexspi
256000 bytes read in 78 ms (3.1 MiB/s)
SF: 327680 bytes @ 0x0 Erased: OK
device 0 offset 0x0, size 0x3e800
SF: 256000 bytes @ 0x0 Written: OK
=> run sf dtb update
reading rootfs ubi.dtb
10438 bytes read in 25 ms (407.2 KiB/s)
SF: 65536 bytes @ 0x70000 Erased: OK
device 0 offset 0x70000, size 0x28c6
SF: 10438 bytes @ 0x70000 Written: OK
=> run sf kernel update
reading rootfs ubi.uImage
2957824 bytes read in 693 ms (4.1 MiB/s)
SF: 4194304 bytes @ 0x80000 Erased: OK
```

```
device 0 offset 0x80000, size 0x2d2200
SF: 2957824 bytes @ 0x80000 Written: OK
=> run sf rootfs update
reading rootfs.ubi
1310720 bytes read in 320 ms (3.9 MiB/s)
SF: 3670016 bytes @ 0x480000 Erased: OK
device 0 offset 0x480000, size 0x140000
SF: 1310720 bytes @ 0x480000 Written: OK
=>
```

for the IMXRT1170 EVK board:

```
=> sf probe 0
SF: Detected is25wp128a with page size 256 Bytes, erase size 64 KiB, total 16 MiB
=> run sf dtb update
Using ethernet@40424000 device
TFTP from server 192.168.1.79; our IP address is 192.168.1.15
Filename 'imxrt117x/rootfs ubi.dtb'.
Load address: 0x80007fc0
Loading: #
       98.6 KiB/s
done
Bytes transferred = 7896 (1ed8 hex)
SF: 65536 bytes @ 0x70000 Erased: OK
device 0 offset 0x70000, size 0x1ed8
SF: 7896 bytes @ 0x70000 Written: OK
=> run sf kernel update
Using ethernet@40424000 device
TFTP from server 192.168.1.79; our IP address is 192.168.1.15
Filename 'imxrt117x/rootfs ubi.uImage'.
Load address: 0x80007fc0
*****************
       237.3 KiB/s
done
Bytes transferred = 3550944 (362ee0 hex)
SF: 10485760 bytes @ 0x80000 Erased: OK
device 0 offset 0x80000, size 0x362ee0
SF: 3550944 bytes @ 0x80000 Written: OK
=> run sf rootfs update
Using ethernet@40424000 device
TFTP from server 192.168.1.79; our IP address is 192.168.1.15
Filename 'imxrt117x/rootfs.ubi'.
Load address: 0x80007fc0
#########################
       346.7 KiB/s
done
Bytes transferred = 1310720 (140000 hex)
SF: 3670016 bytes @ 0x480000 Erased: OK
device 0 offset 0x480000, size 0x140000
SF: 1310720 bytes @ 0x480000 Written: OK
```

4.4.5. Test Plan: Linux Boot from QSPI Flash

The following step-wise test procedure will be used:

1. Remove the SD Card from the SD holder. Reset the board and make sure it automatically boots up to busybox:

```
=> reset
...
init started: BusyBox v1.24.2 (2018-06-18 18:30:51 MSK)
/ #
```

4.4.6. Test Plan: Linux Device Driver for QSPI Flash and Flash File System

The following step-wise test procedure will be used:

- 1. Boot from QSPI Flash up busybox.
- 2. Make sure that the UBIFS partition is mounted as the Linux root file system:

```
/ # mount
ubi0:rootfs on / type ubifs (rw,relatime)
devtmpfs on /dev type devtmpfs (rw,relatime,mode=0755)
proc on /proc type proc (rw,relatime)
sysfs on /sys type sysfs (rw,relatime)
/ #
```

3. Make copy of the busybox binary in the Flash-based root file system and reboot:

```
/ # cp /bin/busybox /
/ # reboot
```

4. After reboot, make sure that the original file and the copy are identical:

```
/ # md5sum busybox
ea6e64963727e1c6bb26946070795644 busybox
/ # md5sum /bin/busybox
ea6e64963727e1c6bb26946070795644 /bin/busybox
/ #
```