

Warm Welcome

to our inovex Meetup!





inovex is an IT project center driven by innovation and quality, focusing its services on 'Digital Transformation'.

> Scan here for the Meetup Group in Karlsruhe



\rightarrow

AGENDA

18:00 Doors Open

18:30 **Yocto Vendor BSPs**

Anna-Lena Marx, inovex

19:15 Break - Pizza, Beer & Discussions

19:45 What keeps you from updating

your Yocto version?

Vyacheslav Yurkov, OSSKeepers

20:30 Time for more Discussions & Socializing:)







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- in @anna-lena-marx-embedded
- @Allegra42

Hello,

I'm Anna-Lena Marx

Tech Lead Embedded Linux, Karlsruhe (Germany)

- with inovex since 2015
- has a Master's degree in Embedded Systems
- studies studied Electrical Engineering as a hobby
- Yocto user since ~2017? Pre-LTS times!

#embeddedsystems #yocto #linux #kernel #zephyr #aosp



The PromiseBoard Support Packages

You get a new board from your hardware vendor.

It boots with the vendor BSP.

The demos run.

It feels like you're 90% done.





The Reality... some years (or months) later





The Reality... some years (or months) later

- Lots of CVE's to fix
 ... for components you don't remember why they are even part of the system
- The Yocto release just went out-of-support
 ... and was your BSP even based on a LTS release?
- You notice your vendor BSP utilizes a 3 years old kernel fork
 ... unmaintained and with critical binary blobs for the cool and shiny board features

And have you thought about updates and regulatory requirements at all?



Let's step back

Our Goals are not Aligned

Board/Silicon Vendor Focus and Goals



- Showcase all product features
 - CPU
 - o special co-processors
 - unique selling points
- Provide an easy starting point for customers
- Provide several BSP variants for the whole product portfolio
 - often several BSP variants needed e.g Linux, Android, QNX, ...
 - o must be easy and manageable for the vendor!
- Sell silicon
 - ... and move to the next product

Integrator/Product Manufacturer Goals

- Build and ship one product
 - o stable, secure & maintainable
 - minimal software stack
 → reduced surface for attacks and CVEs
 - low maintenance effort needed
 - expected lifespan: 5 20 years
- Fulfil target market regulations
 - e.g. Cyber Resilience Act,
 IEC 62304 (Medical Devices), ...
 - Security Updates
 - o ..
- Sell this product
 - ... and support it over its lifetime





The good, the bad, the ugly Let's have a look on some real world examples

Quick reminder

The BSP quality is one aspect, but there are more factors to decide for a hardware platform, like

- hardware quality & support
- extra functionality, e.g. GPU or NPU (maybe with closed source drivers provided as binary blobs)
- general support
- pricing
- availability
- ٠,

No vendor blaming! You are not obligated to use a vendor's BSP!

Let's just collect some points for our BSP wishlist!

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IOT-GATE-iMX8 and SBC-IOT-iMX8 NXP iMX8M-Mini Yocto Linux

This page contains links to information about Yocto Linux distribution for the CompuLab IOT-GATE-iMX8 Internet of Things Gateway and SBC-IOT-iMX8 Single Board Computer.

The Yocto Project is an open-source collaboration focused on embedded Linux development.

Getting Started Development How-to Guide Evaluation **Building Yocto and U-Boot** Using Interfaces Quick Start Guide . Setting Up Yocto Build Environment Serial Conso IOT-GATE-iMX8 Documents and Resources ₽ . Building IOT-GATE-iMX8 / SBC-IOT-iMX8 Yocto Linux images Login SBC-IOT-iMX8 Documents and Resources Cellular Mode Installing Yocto on IOT-GATE-iMX8 / SBC-IOT-iMX8 Boot Firmware Recovery · GPS Support . Common Yocto Build Errors WiFi . Getting Technical Support Customizing O/S and Drivers Application Note Engineering Support Portal ₽ Introduction to Yocto development Production In **Useful Links** . Making Changes to Yocto Meta-Layers · Optimizing el roduction to Device Trees SBC-IOT-iMX8 Product Page ₽ Releases based on ating OTA update enabled images with Mender Accessories Guider abling secure boot (HAB) in Yoctor Yocto LTS branches

Release Notes

11-May-2025, IOT-GATE-iMX8 / SBC-IOT-iMX8 Yocto Linux 4.1

Yocto 5.0 (Scarthgap) for IOT-GATE-iMX8 / SBC-IOT-iMX8 (release not

- Kernel 6.6.52

25-Dec-2024, IOT-GATE-iMX8 / SBC-IOT-iMX8 Yocto Linux 4.0

Yocto 5.0 (Scarthgap) for IOT-GATE-iMX8 / SBC-IOT-iMX8 (release notes)

- Kernel 6.6.3
- U-Boot 2023.04

15-Jun-2023, IOT-GATE-iMX8 / SBC-IOT-iMX8 Yocto Linux 3.2.1

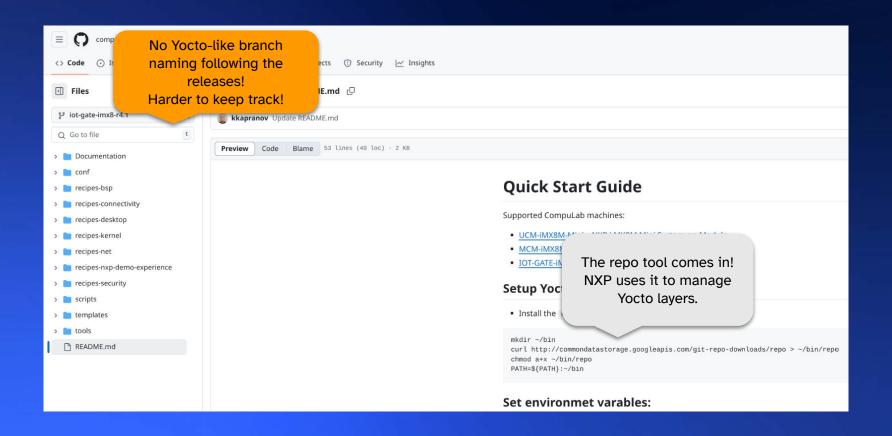
Yocto 4.0 (Kirkstone) for IOT-GATE-iMX8 / SBC-IOT-iMX8 (release notes)

LTS kernel versions

Very long cycles between BSP releases

Forked kernel or mainline Yocto/Linux with patches?

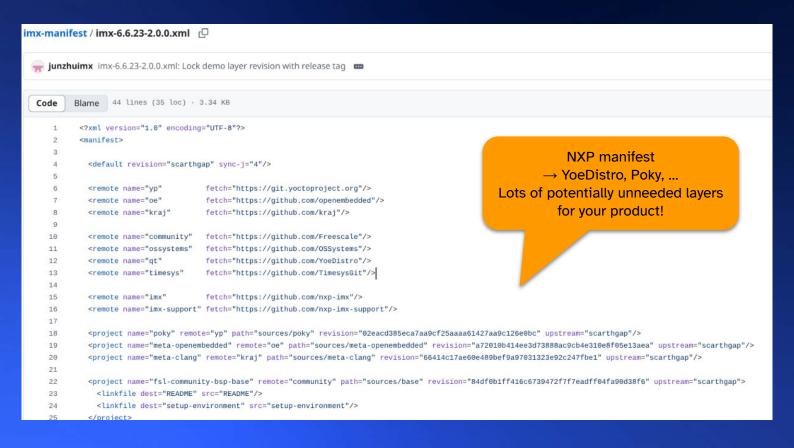




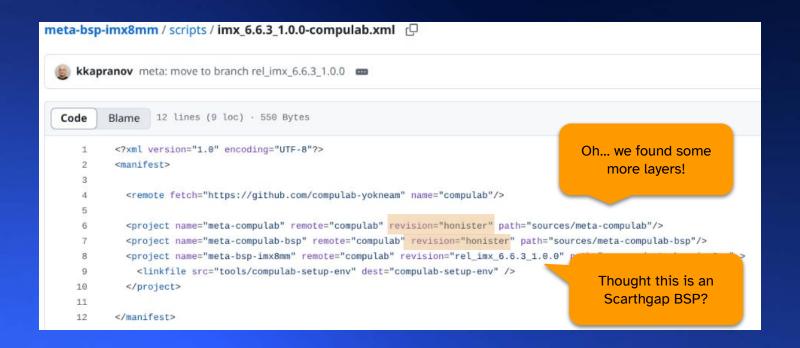




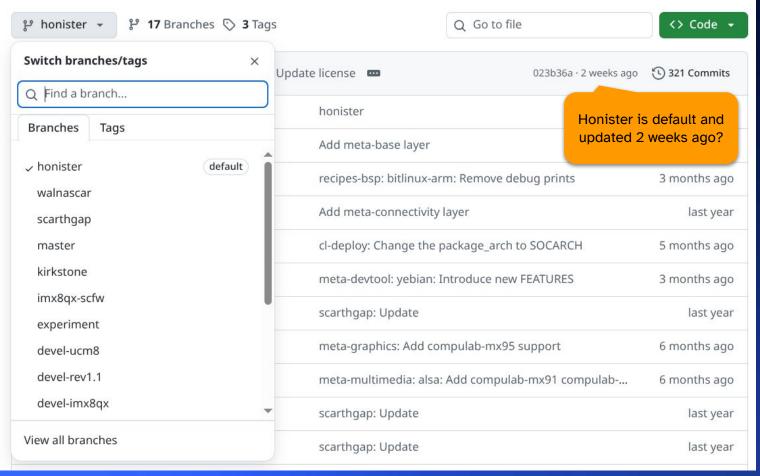




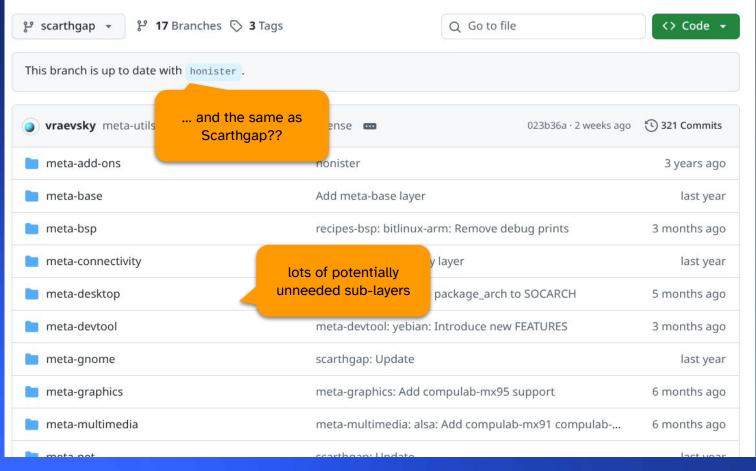














```
meta-bsp-imx8mm / conf / layer.conf
  vraevsky Update LAYERSERIES_COMPAT list +kirkstone
           Blame 30 lines (24 loc) · 1.13 KB
  Code
            # We have a conf and classes directory, append to BBPATH
            BBPATH .= ":${LAYERDIR}"
      3
            # We have a recipes directory containing .bb and .bbappend files, add to BBFILES
      5
            BBFILES += "${LAYERDIR}/recipes-*/*/*.bb \
                       ${LAYERDIR}/recipes-*/*/*.bbappend"
      6
      8
            BBFILE_COLLECTIONS += "compulab-bsp-imx8mm"
            BBFILE_PATTERN_compulab-bsp-imx8mm := "^${LAYERDIR}/"
      9
            BBFILE_PRIORITY:compulab-bsp-imx8mm = "9"
     10
     11
     12
            BBMASK += "meta-compulab/recipes-bsp"
            BBMASK += "meta-compulab/recipes-xfce"
     13
            BBMASK += "meta-compulab/recipes-kernel"
     14
                                                                            hidden extra installs!
     15
            BBMASK += "meta-compulab/recipes-graphics"
            BBMASK += ".*boundary.*"
     16
            BBMASK += "meta-compulab-bsp/meta-utils/recipes-utils/keyctl-c
     17
            BBMASK += "meta-compulab-bsp/meta-utils/recipes-utils/mbpoll"
     18
     19
            CORE_IMAGE_EXTRA_INSTALL += " kernel-modules kernel linux-compulab-headers kernel-dev firmware-imx-sdma-imx7d"
     20
     21
            CORE_IMAGE_EXTRA_INSTALL += " packagegroup-tools-bluetooth "
     22
            CORE_IMAGE_EXTRA_INSTALL += " grub "
     23
            CORE_IMAGE_EXTRA_INSTALL += " iw "
     24
            CORE_IMAGE_EXTRA_INSTALL += " e2fsprogs-tune2fs "
            CORE_IMAGE_EXTRA_INSTALL += " watchdog "
     25
     26
     27
            HOSTTOOLS += " git-lfs "
            HOSTTOOLS += " bison "
     28
     29
     30
            LAYERSERIES_COMPAT_compulab-bsp-imx8mm = "kirkstone scarthgap"
```

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```
meta-bsp-imx8mm / templates / local.conf / local.conf.append
     kkapranov meta: Fix connman removing ....
           Blame 26 lines (21 loc) · 1.19 KB
  Code
            LICENSE_FLAGS_ACCEPTED = "commercial"
      1
            CORE_IMAGE_EXTRA_INSTALL += " cl-uboot cl-deploy cl-stest cl-camera cl-audio "
            CORE_IMAGE_EXTRA_INSTALL += " memtester htop iotop tmux iperf3 "
            CORE_IMAGE_EXTRA_INSTALL += " wvdial "
            CORE_IMAGE_EXTRA_INSTALL += " libubootenv-bin u-boot-compulab-env "
      5
            CORE IMAGE EXTRA INSTALL += " u-boot-update-script "
            CORE_IMAGE_EXTRA_INSTALL += " linux-firmware-ax210 firmware-imx-sdma-imx7d "
      8
            CORE IMAGE EXTRA INSTALL:append = " u-boot-script linux-firmware-ax200"
      9
                                                                                                             hidden extra installs!
     10
            CORE_IMAGE_EXTRA_INSTALL:append = " networkmanager networkmanager-nmcli wireless-tools "
            CORE_IMAGE_INSTALL:remove = " connman-client connman-tools "
     11
     12
            RDEPENDS:connman-client:remove = "connman"
     13
            RDEPENDS:connman-tools:remove = "connman"
     14
     15
            CORE_IMAGE_EXTRA_INSTALL:append = " libgpiod-tools eeprom-util bluez5 gpsd modemmanager "
            CORE_IMAGE_EXTRA_INSTALL:append = " gps-utils can-utils minicom ntp socat "
     16
            CORE_IMAGE_EXTRA_INSTALL:append = " wpa-supplicant pulseaudio pulseaudio-server"
     17
     18
            EXTRA_IMAGE_FEATURES:append:iot-gate-imx8 = " ssh-server-openssh "
     19
            IMAGE_BOOT_FILES:append = " boot.update.scr "
     20
     21
            HOSTTOOLS += " git-lfs"
     22
            PREFERRED RPROVIDER:u-boot-fw-utils = "u-boot-fw-utils"
     23
     24
      25
            INHERIT += " rm_work "
      26
            RM WORK EXCLUDE += ""
```





The Linux Kernel Archives

Contact us

2025-11-02 [tarball]

Releases

Site news



Forked kernel! Actively developed, but no security patches applied!

Protocol Location

6.18-rc4

6.17.7

HTTP GIT

mainline:

stable:

https://www.kernel.org/pub/ https://git.kernel.org/

rsync://rsync.kernel.org/pub/ RSYNC

Latest Release

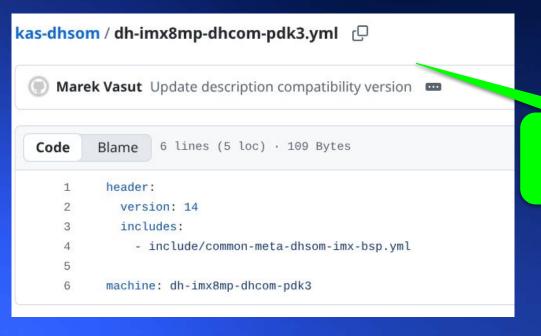
[patch] [inc. patch] [view diff] [browse] 2025-11-02 [tarball] [pgp] [patch] [inc. patch] [view diff] [browse] [changelog]

6.16.12 [EOL] 2025-10-12 [tarball] [pqp] [patch] [inc. patch] [view diff] [browse] [changelog] stable: longterm: 6.12.57 2025-11-02 [tarball] [pgp] [patch] [inc. patch] [view diff] [browse] [changelog] longterm: 6.6.116 2025-10-29 [tarball] [pgp] [patch] [inc. patch] [vic. longterm: 6.1.158 longterm: 5.15.196 2025-10-29 [tarball] [pqp] [patch] [inc. patch] [view diff] [browse] [changelog] longterm: 5.10.246 2025-10-29 [tarball] [pqp] [patch] [inc. patch] [view diff] [browse] [changelog] 2025-10-29 [tarball] [pgp] [patch] [inc. patch] [view diff] [browse] [changelog] longterm: 5.4.301 linux-next: next-20251103 2025-11-03 [browse]

Current LTS Version 6.6.116

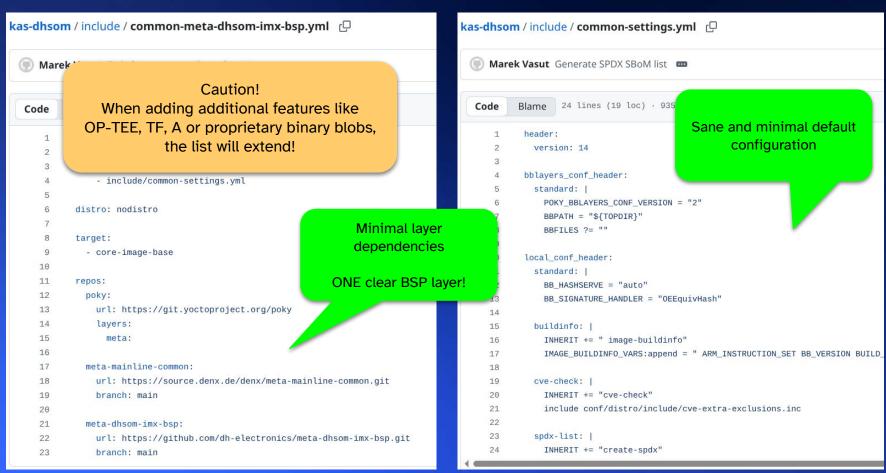


Another example

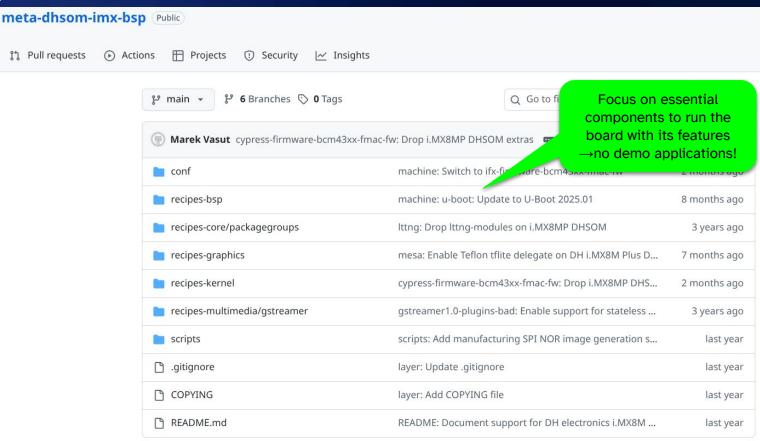


 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Standard tool} \\ \rightarrow \text{KAS for convenience} \end{array}$

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meta-dhsom-imx-bsp / recipes-kernel / linux / linux-stable 6.6.bbappend Marek Vasut machine: Switch DH i.MX6ULL DHSOM based systems to Linux 6.6.y Blame 29 lines (24 loc) · 1.19 KB Code FILESEXTRAPATHS:prepend := "\${THISDIR}/\${PN}:" KBRANCH:dh-imx-dhsom ?= "linux-6.6.y" KMACHINE: dh-imx6-dhsom ?= "dh-imx6-dhsom" 5 KMACHINE: dh-imx6ull-dhsom ?= "dh-imx6ull-dhsom" 6 KMACHINE:dh-imx8mp-dhsom ?= "dh-imx8mp-dhsom" COMPATIBLE_MACHINE: dh-imx6-dhsom = "(dh-imx6-dhsom)" 8 COMPATIBLE_MACHINE: dh-imx6ull-dhsom = "(dh-imx6ull-dhsom)" 9 COMPATIBLE_MACHINE: dh-imx8mp-dhsom = "(dh-imx8mp-dhsom)" 10 DEPENDS:append:dh-imx-dhsom = " lzop-native " 11 12 13 SRC_URI:append:dh-imx6-dhsom = " \ 14 file://\${BPV}/dh-imx6-dhsom;type=kmeta;destsuffix=\${BPV}/dh-imx6-dhsom \ 15 file://common/dh-imx6-dhsom;type=kmeta;destsuffix=common/dh-imx6-dhsom \ 16 17 KERNEL FEATURES:dh-imx6-dhsom = " dh-imx6-dhsom-standard.scc " 18 SRC_URI:append:dh-imx6ull-dhsom = " \ 19 file://\${BPV}/dh-imx6ull-dhsom;type=kmeta;destsuffix=\${BPV}/dh-imx6ull-dhsom \ 20 21 file://common/dh-imx6ull-dhsom;type=kmeta;destsuffix=common/dh-imx6ull-dhsom \ 22 KERNEL_FEATURES:dh-imx6ull-dhsom = " dh-imx6ull-dhsom-standard.scc " 23 24 25 SRC_URI:append:dh-imx8mp-dhsom = " \ 26 file://\${BPV}/dh-imx8mp-dhsom;type=kmeta;destsuffix=\${BPV}/dh-imx8mp-dhsom \ 27 file://common/dh-imx8mp-dhsom;type=kmeta;destsuffix=common/dh-imx8mp-dhsom \ 28 29 KERNEL_FEATURES:dh-imx8mp-dhsom = " dh-imx8mp-dhsom-standard.scc "

Appends the common Yocto kernel!

No fork!

Same for bootloader and other firmware components



So what do we actually need from a BSP? A Wishlist

- One single BSP Layer based on a Yocto LTS release, including
 - o a mainline Linux or Yocto based LTS kernel with needed patches
 - \rightarrow the less patches the better!
 - same for the bootloader
 - o a device tree describing the board (ARM machines)
 - for kernel and bootloader
 - o a Yocto machine.conf configuration
 - → focused on the essentials, clean, understandable and reusable
 - o additional **firmware** for the board features
 - if needed binary blobs
 - o board specific overlays if needed



And that's it!



So what do we actually need from a BSP? A Wishlist

Further points:

- Standard tools like KAS or bitbake-setup
 - → avoid the need to maintain yet another build and layer management tool, also as a vendor!
- A full featured demo layer or demo configuration is fine!
 - o if it is separated from the actual BSP
 - and optional

As a vendor, please do not install additional packages from obscure and incomprehensible locations!





Messy Vendor BSP? When is the time to build your own BSP Layer?

Consider setting up your own BSP if

- the vendor's BSP is based on an outdated Yocto release or a non-LTS version
- kernel or bootloader are forked and do not get security updates
- you do continuously find packages you did not add into the image
- the BSP is a mess and hard to understand and use



Setting up your own Yocto BSP layer is not that hard!

It's a valid approach and you are in control!



Messy Vendor BSP? When it is time to build your own BSP Layer

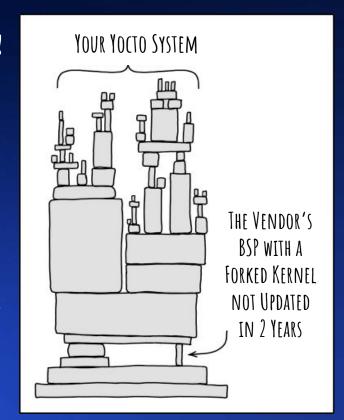
- Start with a mainline Yocto LTS release
- 2. Create your own meta-<cpu>-bsp layer
- Get the device tree for kernel and bootloader from the vendor's BSP
- 4. Define your bootloader and kernel
 - a. Are board specific patches needed?
 - → keep as close as possible on a mainline LTS release!
 - → cherry-pick needed patches
 - b. Are specific firmware blobs needed?
- 5. Create your machine.conf configuration
 - → copy&paste only the relevant parts from the vendor's definition
 - → adjust as needed
- 6. Integrate additional firmware components e.g. trusted firmware, OPTEE, ...
- Add hardware specific appends if needed





The Takeaway Your BSP is a Foundation, Not a Demo!

- A well-maintained, up-to-date BSP is essential for security
 - → a forked vendor kernel can showcase features
 - → but fast and reliable security patches are crucial in production
- Most often, very few demo features are actually needed in your product
 - → but demo features and additional packages increase the attack surface
- Investing in a solid and maintainable base helps on the long run
 - → and lowers the ongoing effort during a product's lifecycle
- Regulations like CRA require security updates
 - → have a well-tested update mechanism in place
 - \rightarrow establish a BSP foundation and workflow that support you to meet regulatory requirements with ease!





Time for Questions and your Horror Stories!





Great, you are here -

stay connected!





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