FST-01SZ (Flying Stone Tiny 01 revision ShenZhen) free hardware design for Gnuk Token

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FST-01SZ (board+shell) is ready now!





FST-01SZ (board+shell) and case





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RiseUP	micah and guido
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About Me - Niibe with 'g'

GNU Project

- ▶ 90s: GNU Emacs, Guile, glibc, GCC
- 00s: GPLv3
- 10s: www.gnu.org (Japanese), GnuPG
- ► GNU/Linux on SuperH around 2000



Debian developer since 2005

GnuPG developer since 2011



0, 1, and *

0: NeuG Nobody should control on random number generation

- 1: Gnuk Privacy is important It's only you who controls your private keys
- *: GNU Everyone deserves computing freedom



Gnuk Token - for user freedom

- Firmware: "Gnuk" is free software
- **FST-01**: Reference free hardware design
 - Original version: 2011
 - Manufactured in 2012





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Why Gnuk Token?

To control our crypto computation

- Minimize the attack surface
- ► Goal: can be **reproduced** by others
 - All technical docs available
 - Free (as in freedom) tool
 - KiCAD
 - GNU Toochains
 - OpenOCD...
 - No NDA, **never**!
 - Avoiding possible backdoors



My use case of Gnuk Token



FST-01G

Design updated in 2016, because...

- KiCAD: format change
- LDO: discon
- SPI flash in original version: not used



FST-01SZ

- Design updated in 2018, because...
 - KiCAD: format change
 - MCU protection: reverse engineered???
 - ► USB-A connector: **too large**



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FST-01SZ's challenge

Use of Chinese parts

- GD32F103TB (replaces STM32F103TB)
 - Newer
 - Faster
 - Cheaper
- Chinese USB form factor: "Wrist-Board" 手腕板
- Use of unique tools
 - Test clip with pogo pin needles
 - BeagleBone Green as JTAG/SWD debugger



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GD32F103TB

- ► GD stands for "Giga Device" (not Godot Engine :-)
- ARM Cortex-M3 core
- Can run @ 96MHz with USB
- no wait cycle, no cache accessing flash
 - static RAM loaded by flash content at boot
 - less side channel info: power analysis, timing analysis
- Peripherals like USB and ADC are independent implementation



USB form factor



- Chinese De-facto standard
- Smaller form factor
 - metal shell
 - plastic connector
- Used for USB Memory





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USB form factor: The parts

- ZL-271 (left, metal shell, CJ-AM-C5B0C010)
- ZL-272 (right, plastic connector)





The name: wrist-board (1)



Originally one for wrist band USB memory





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The name: wrist-board (2)



But now, there are many kinds of plastic covers, like:





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The name: wrist-board (2)



Or, there is a metal case





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FST-01SZ with metal case

- Putting the board+shell into the case
- It's an one-way procedure
- Offering a feature of tamper resistance



FST-01SZ prototype in action



FST-01SZ prototype to be flashed and tested

BeagleBone Green as SWD debugger



Chinese test clip with pogo pin needles



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Experiences (1) - Reproducibility

Our purpose is reproducibility for computing freedom

- Component availability matters
- ► Tools' data format matters, too
- As well as tools themselves



Experiences (2) - Test plan

For reproducibility, if it is intended for (mass) production,

- Test plan should be a part of "Open Hardware Design"
- I'd like to propose a practice publishing a test plan for hardware design



It's good to learn Chinese culture for better communication

- The holiday seasons (Chinese New Year, National Day)
- How Taobao and Alibaba work (for unique parts)
- Relationship between person is so important
 - It's good you meet in person occasionally
- Better to confirm: exact part, exact material, date...



Experiences (4) - China

 Specifying manufacturer and MPN (Manufacturer Product Number) is not enough

- ▶ it's OK, when it's available in Digikey, Mouser, etc.
- when it's a Chinese unique part not available there...
- better to confirm with your own eyes
- For them, it's a kind of reference number
- Remember: the copycat culture
- I like it!: Re-implementation is good for improvement and innovation!



Experiences (5) - ShenZhen

Another big city in China

- Computer and electronics
- Many young engineers
- QR-code payment
- Surveillance system and "SECURITY" persons



To summarize

▶ In 2011, I started using PCB service in ShenZhen

- Mainly because it's cheap
- Things have been evolved a lot in China
- Now, good PCBA service is also available
- And many unique advantages, like:

▶ GD32F103TB

- "Wrist-Board"
- BeagleBone Green
- Test clip with pogo pin needles
- I take advantage of those things in ShenZhen
- ... to achieve good product



- How do you maintain your hardware design in a repo?
 - Do you also put the output (gerber) to a repo?
- How do you ensure the output is same as yours?
 - Do you use some automation (with CI/CD)?
- How do you care about reproducibility?



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- If it is so reproducible, why people buy from you, papa?
 - Well, I don't know... but...
 - There is a tribe called hackers...



Questions?

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Happy Hacking!



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