

# The ELISA Project

Enabling Linux in Safety Applications

Philipp Ahmann, Robert Bosch GmbH





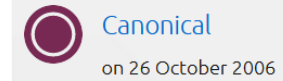
# Embedded IoT Linux@Bosch



- Technical business development manager for embedded open source - Robert Bosch GmbH
- Technical Steering Committee Chair & WG Lead - Linux Foundation's ELISA project
- 15 years+ Linux user (and open source enthusiast)
- 10 years+ Linux in Automotive (Infotainment)



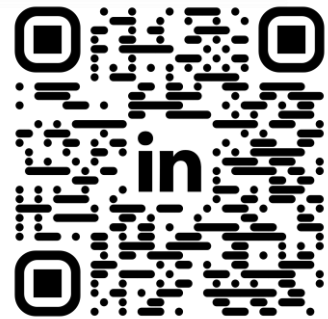
Ubuntu 6.10 released



ou se Octopel 500e



<https://oss.bosch-cm.com/>





**ENGINE  
START**



**ELISA**

ENABLING LINUX IN SAFETY APPLICATIONS

# Linux in Safety Critical Systems

Assessing whether a system is safe, requires understanding the system sufficiently.

Understand Linux within that system context and how Linux is used in that system.

Selecting Linux components and features that can be evaluated for safety.

Identifying gaps that exist where more work is needed to evaluate safety sufficiently.

# Challenge: Linux in Safety-Critical Systems

The Linux kernel has:

- Large Development Ecosystem
- Security Capabilities
- Multi-Core Support
- Unmatched Hardware Support
- Many Linux Experts at all levels available

Traditional safety-critical OS has:

- Hard Real-time Capabilities
- Proven Safety-compliant Development Process
- ...

Can these differences be tackled?

# Understanding the Limits

## The collaboration...

- *cannot engineer* your system to be safe.
- *cannot ensure* that you know how to apply the described process and methods.
- *cannot create* an out-of-tree Linux kernel for safety-critical applications. (Remember the continuous process improvement argument!)
- *cannot relieve* you from your responsibilities, legal obligations and liabilities.

## But...

**ELISA provides a path forward and peers to collaborate with!**



Premier  
Members



**BOEING**

**intel**®



**Red Hat**

**TOYOTA**

General  
Members

**ADIT**



**AISIN**

**arm**



斑马智行  
Powered by AliOS



**BOSCH**



Elektrobit



地平线  
Horizon Robotics



HUAWEI



LINUTRONIX  
LINUX FOR INDUSTRY



上汽集团  
SAIC MOTOR



SUSE



WNDRVR



XPENG

**ZTE**

Associate  
Members



OSTBAYERISCHE  
TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE  
REGENSBURG

Industry  
Support





*“The mission of the project is to define and maintain a common set of elements, processes and tools that can be incorporated into Linux-based, safety-critical systems amenable to safety certification.”*



*“The scope of the project includes software and documentation development under an OSI-approved license supporting the mission, including documentation, testing, integration and the creation of other artifacts that aid the development, deployment, operation or adoption of the project.”*



from the [technical charter](#)

# ELISA Working Groups - Deliverable grouping (based on mission)

- Elements / Software
- Processes
- Tools
- Documentation

# Working groups (WGs)



# Horizontal Working Groups



Safety Architecture



Open Source  
Engineering Process



Linux Features



Systems



Tool investigation &  
Code Improvement



# Vertical Use Cases



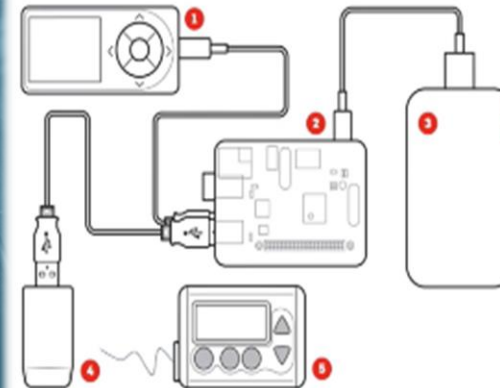
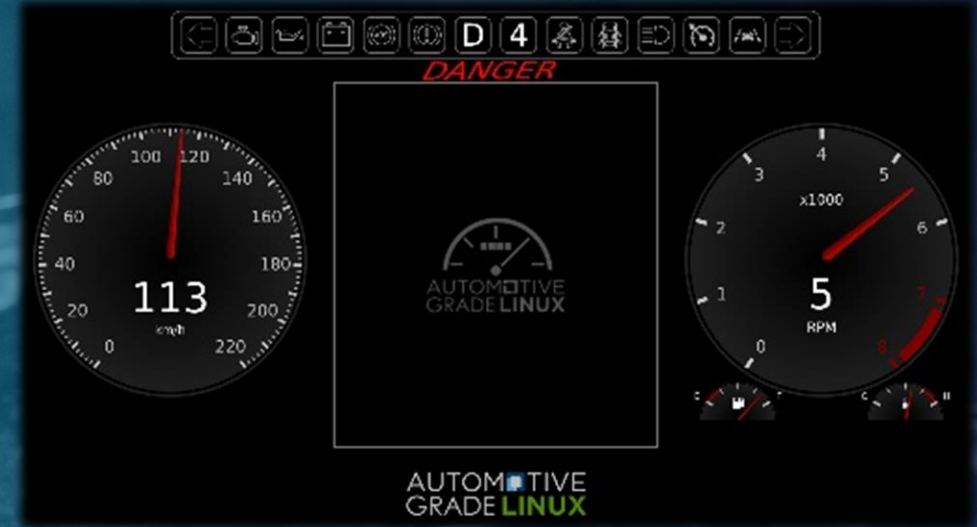
**Aerospace** *New!*



**Automotive**



**Medical Devices**



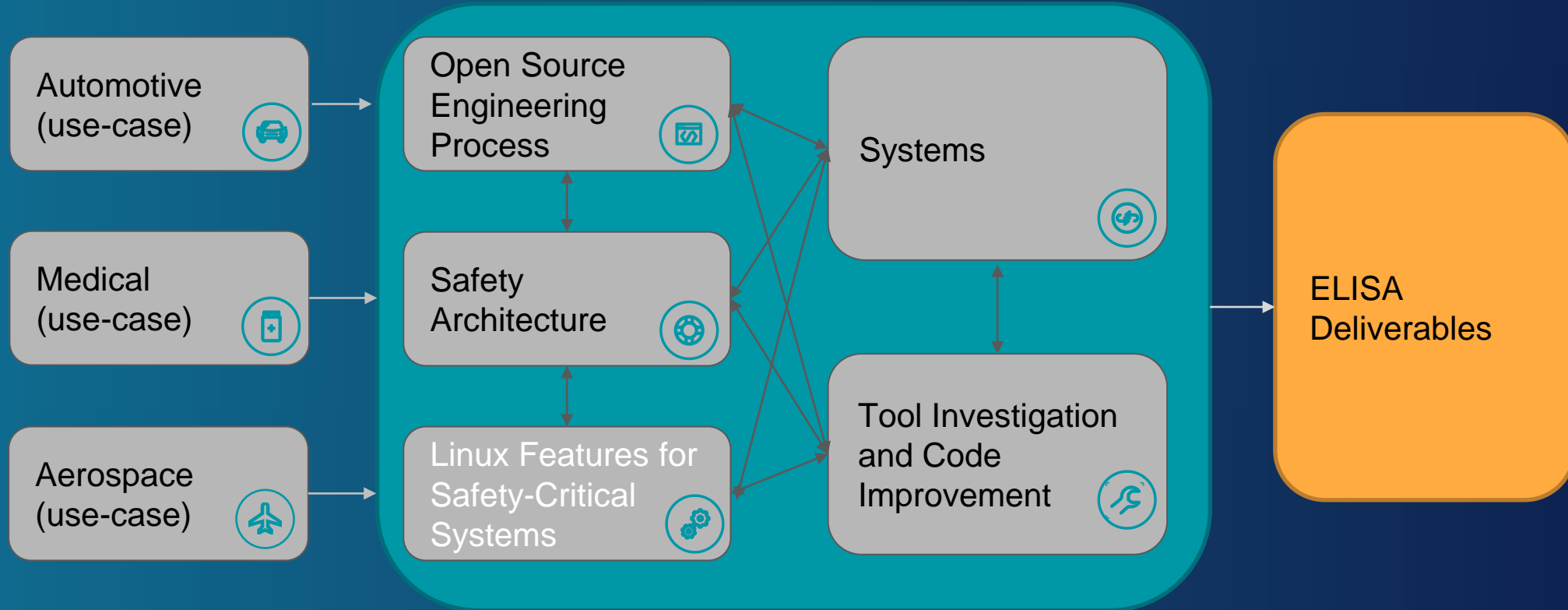
## OpenAPS elements

1. Continuous glucose monitor
2. Computer
3. Battery
4. Radio stick
5. Insulin pump

@DanaMLewis

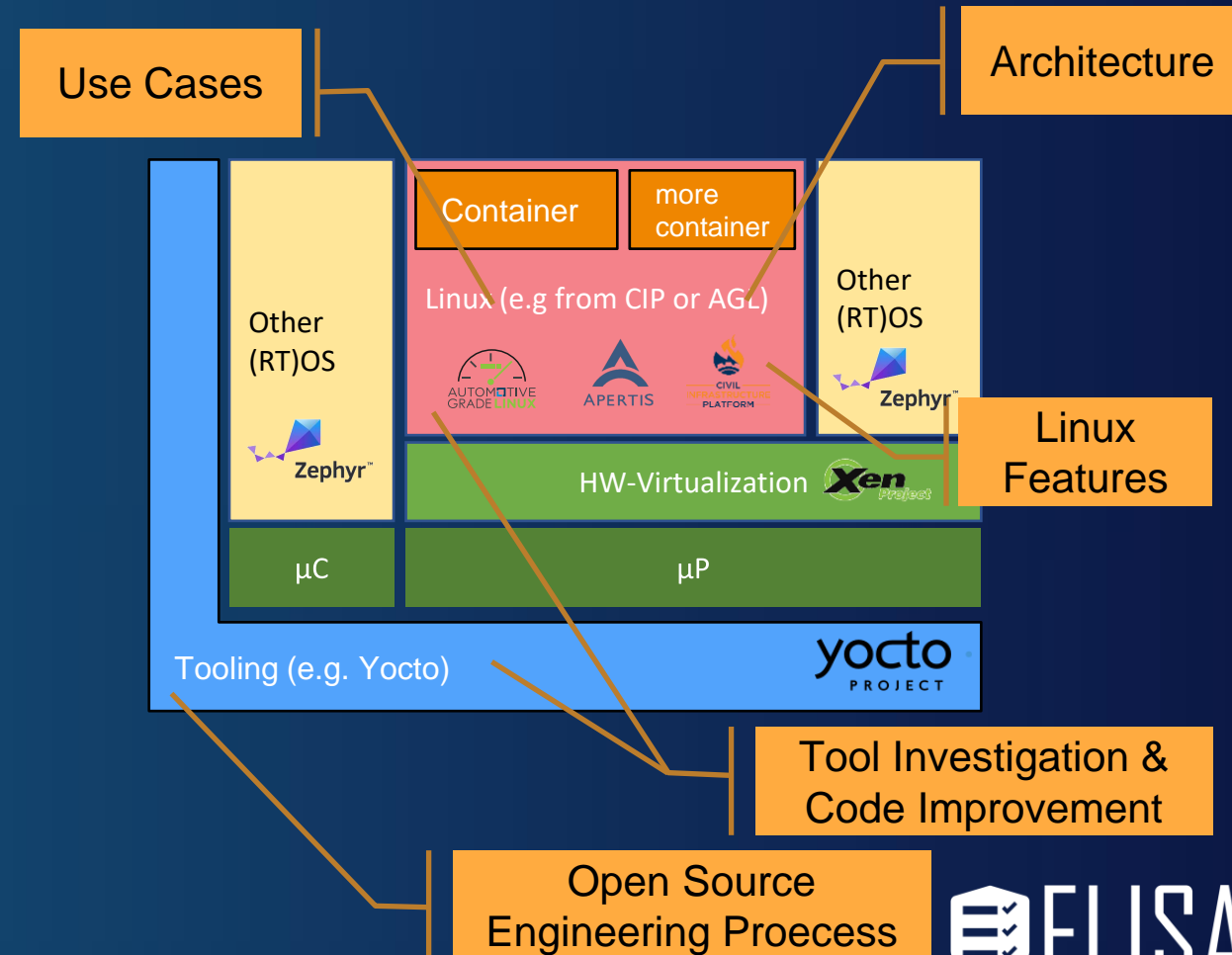
Dana Lewis' OpenAPS project: <https://youtu.be/kgu-AYSnyZ8>

# ELISA Working Groups



# ELISA Working Groups - Fit in an exemplary system

- **Linux Features, Architecture and Code Improvements** should be integrated into the reference system directly.
- **Tools and Engineering process** should serve the reproducible product creation.
- **Medical, Automotive, Aerospace** and future WG use cases should be able to strip down the reference system to their use case demands.



# Interaction with other communities (outside of ELISA)



- Safety-critical open source projects



- OSS project with safety-critical relevance and comparable system architecture considerations



- Further interactions



*“If you have an apple and I have an apple and we exchange these apples then you and I will still each have **one apple**. But if you have an idea and I have an idea and we exchange these ideas, then each of us will have **two ideas**.”*

— George Bernard Shaw





# Artifacts & Activities



# ELISA Working Groups - Deliverables

- Elements / Software



meta-elisa

- Processes



STPA

- Tools



Codechecker

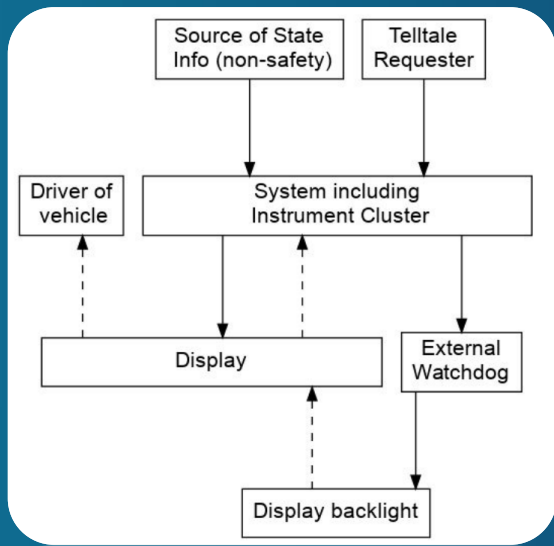
Workload tracing

Call-Tree

- Documentation



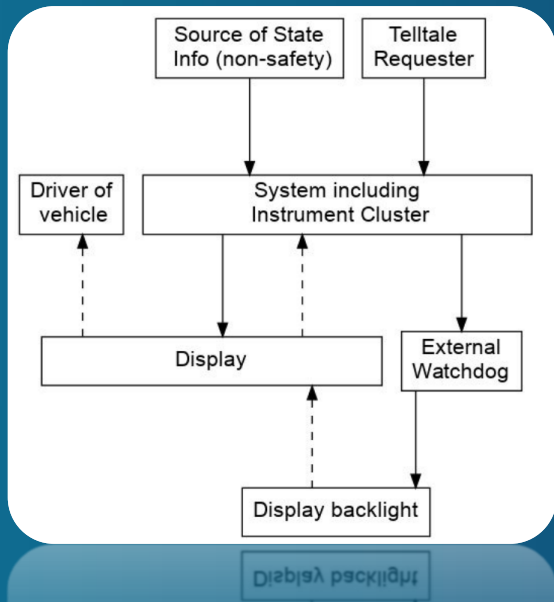
GitHub / Gdrive / Blog / Whitepaper



# S T P A

System - Theoretic Process Analysis

# STPA – Basic Idea

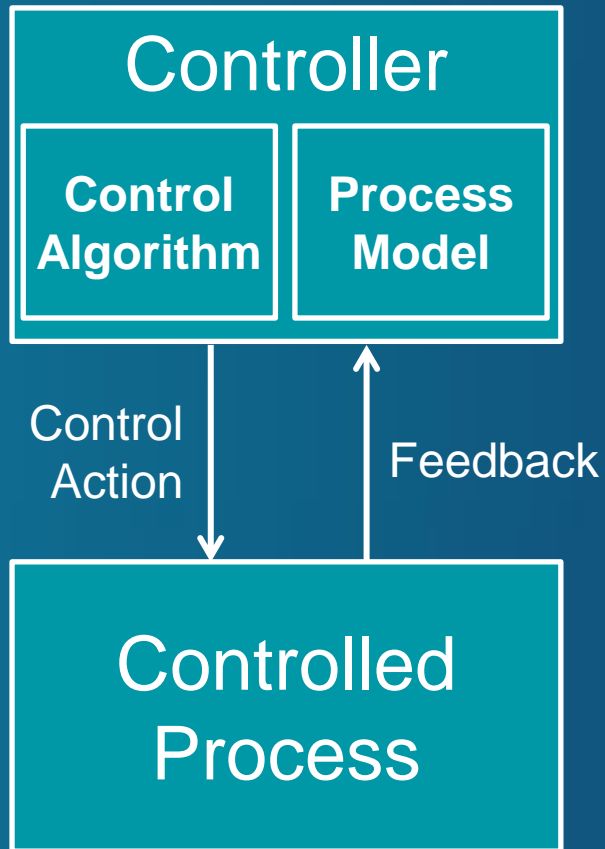


- Relatively new hazard analysis technique
- Very complex systems can be analyzed
- Iterative towards detailed design decisions
- Includes software and human operators
- Provides documentation of system functionality
- Can be easily integrated into (model-based) system engineering process

Reading more about the methodology in the handbook:

[https://psas.scripts.mit.edu/home/get\\_file.php?name=STPA\\_handbook.pdf](https://psas.scripts.mit.edu/home/get_file.php?name=STPA_handbook.pdf)

# STPA – Basic Idea

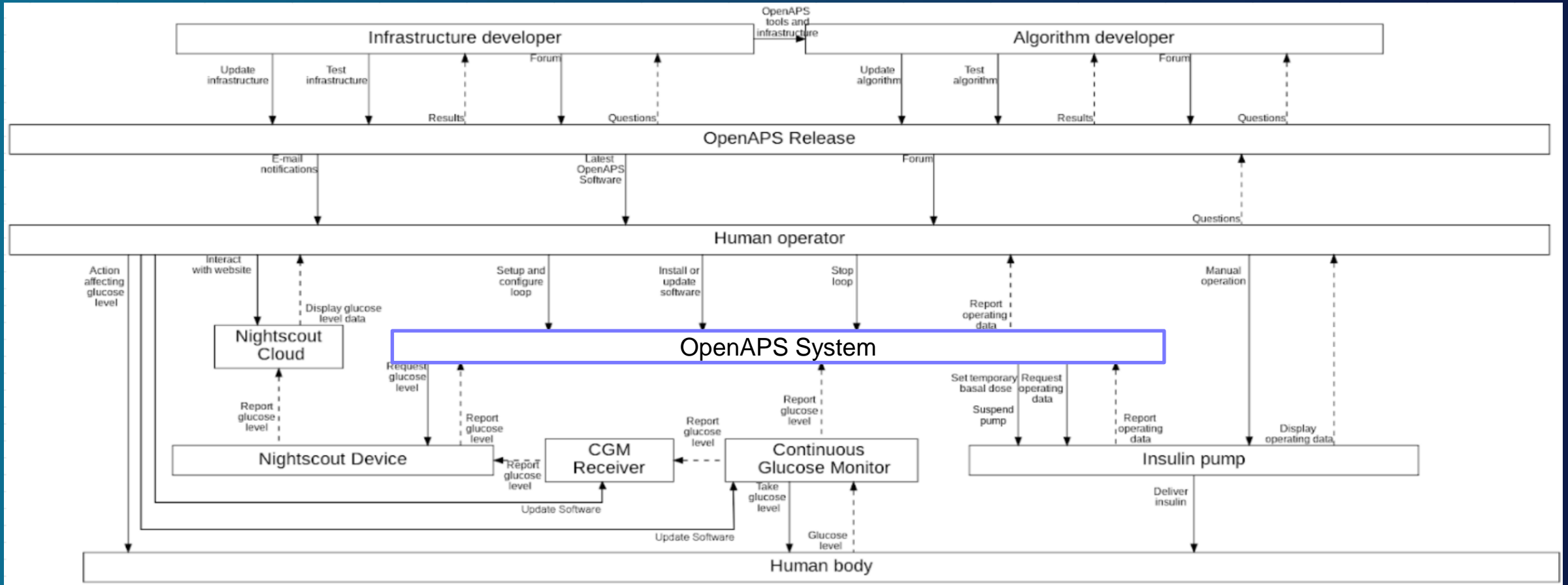


4 key elements

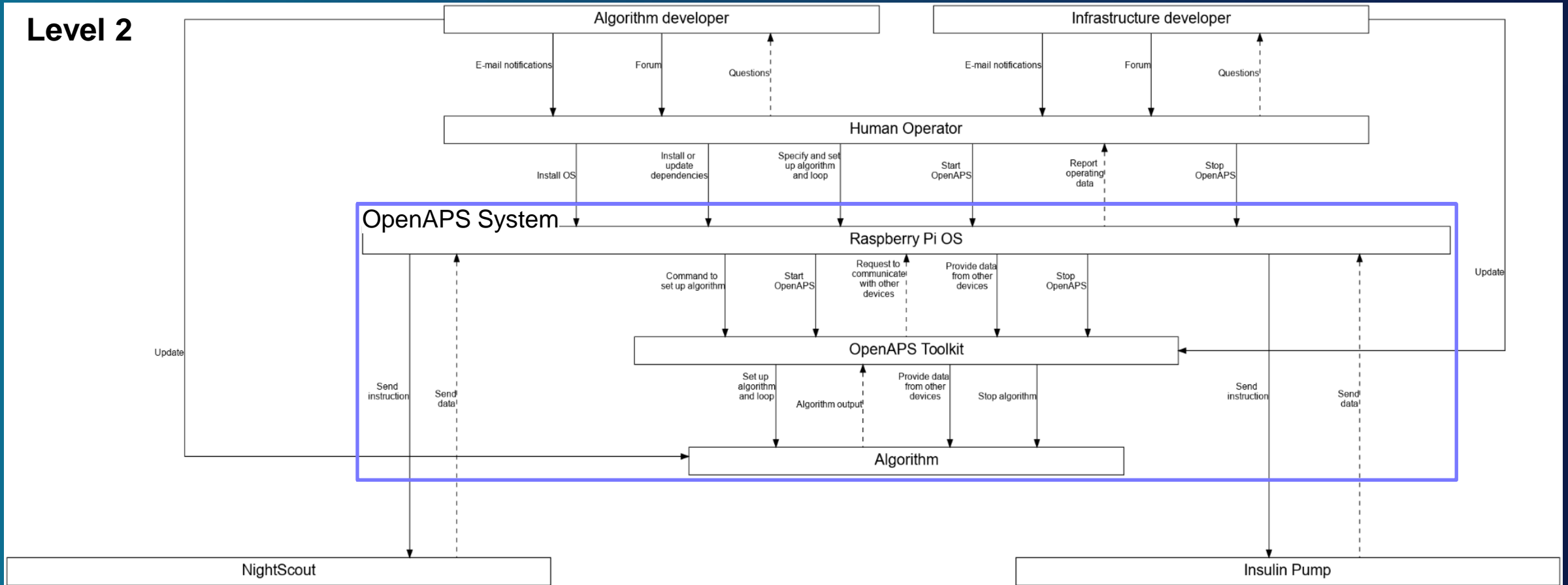
- Controller sends
- Control Action(s) to a
- Controlled Process which provides
- Feedback
- A controlled process can be a controller

**Q: What can be unsafe control actions?**

# STPA – Example for OpenAPS



# STPA – Example for OpenAPS



# Workload tracing

## Main tools used:

- strace
- cscope

## Extract information:

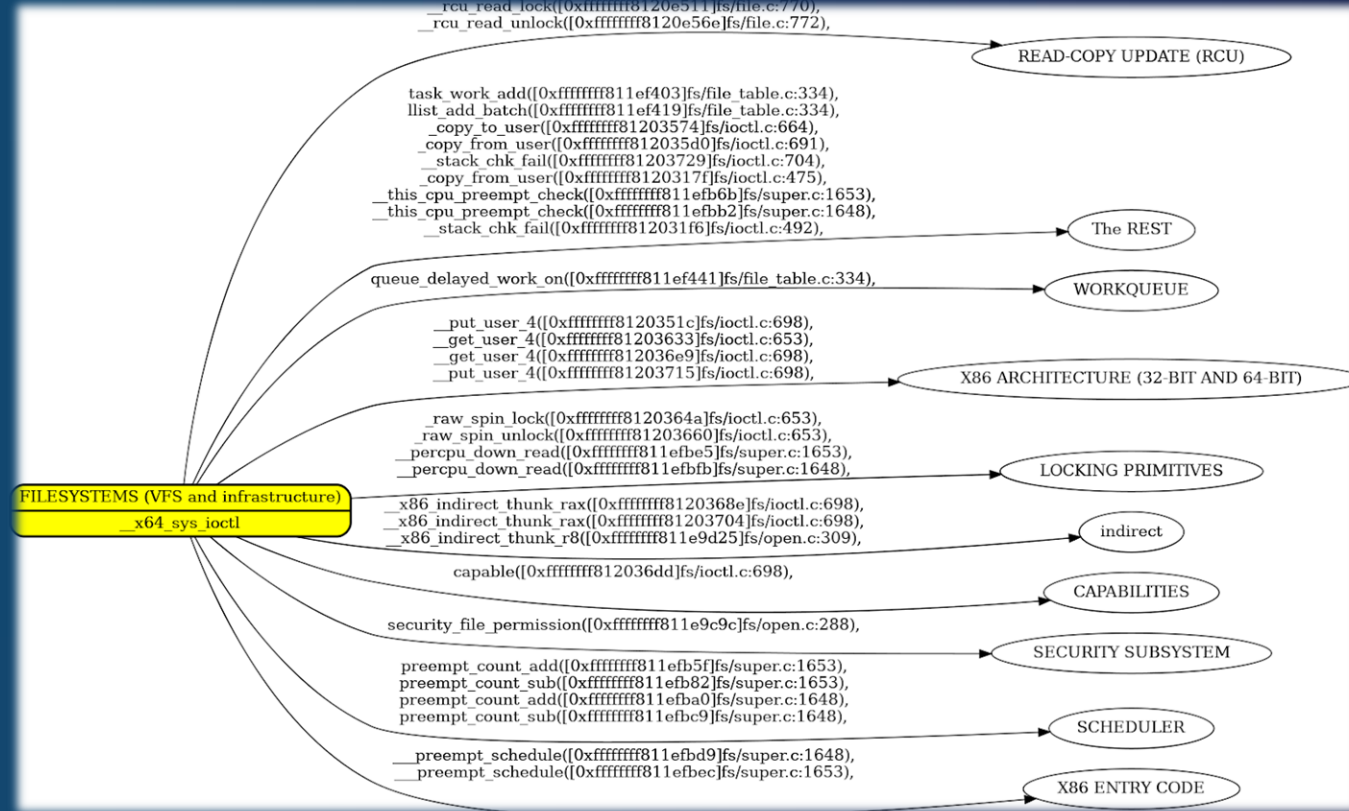
- System Call
- Frequency of call
- Involved Subsystem
- System Call Entry Point

System Call	Frequency	Linux Subsystem	System Call Entry Point (API)
read	3	Filesystem	<a href="#">sys_read()</a>
write	11	Filesystem	<a href="#">sys_write()</a>
close	41	Filesystem	<a href="#">sys_close()</a>
stat	24	Filesystem	<a href="#">sys_stat()</a>
fstat	2	Filesystem	<a href="#">sys_fstat()</a>
pread64	6	Filesystem	<a href="#">sys_pread64()</a>
access	1	Filesystem	<a href="#">sys_access()</a>
pipe	1	Filesystem	<a href="#">sys_pipe()</a>
dup2	24	Filesystem	<a href="#">sys_dup2()</a>
execve	1	Filesystem	<a href="#">sys_execve()</a>
fcntl	26	Filesystem	<a href="#">sys_fcntl()</a>
openat	14	Filesystem	<a href="#">sys_openat()</a>
rt_sigaction	7	Signal	<a href="#">sys_rt_sigaction()</a>
rt_sigreturn	38	Signal	<a href="#">sys_rt_sigreturn()</a>
clone	38	Process Mgmt.	<a href="#">sys_clone()</a>
wait4	44	Time	<a href="#">sys_wait4()</a>
mmap	7	Memory Mgmt.	<a href="#">sys_mmap()</a>
mprotect	3	Memory Mgmt.	<a href="#">sys_mprotect()</a>
munmap	1	Memory Mgmt.	<a href="#">sys_munmap()</a>
brk	3	Memory Mgmt.	<a href="#">sys_brk()</a>
getpid	1	Process Mgmt.	<a href="#">sys_getpid()</a>
getuid	1	Process Mgmt.	<a href="#">sys_getuid()</a>
getgid	1	Process Mgmt.	<a href="#">sys_getgid()</a>
geteuid	2	Process Mgmt.	<a href="#">sys_geteuid()</a>
getegid	1	Process Mgmt.	<a href="#">sys_getegid()</a>
getppid	1	Process Mgmt.	<a href="#">sys_getppid()</a>
arch_prctl	2	Process Mgmt.	<a href="#">sys_arch_prctl()</a>



# Call Tree Tool

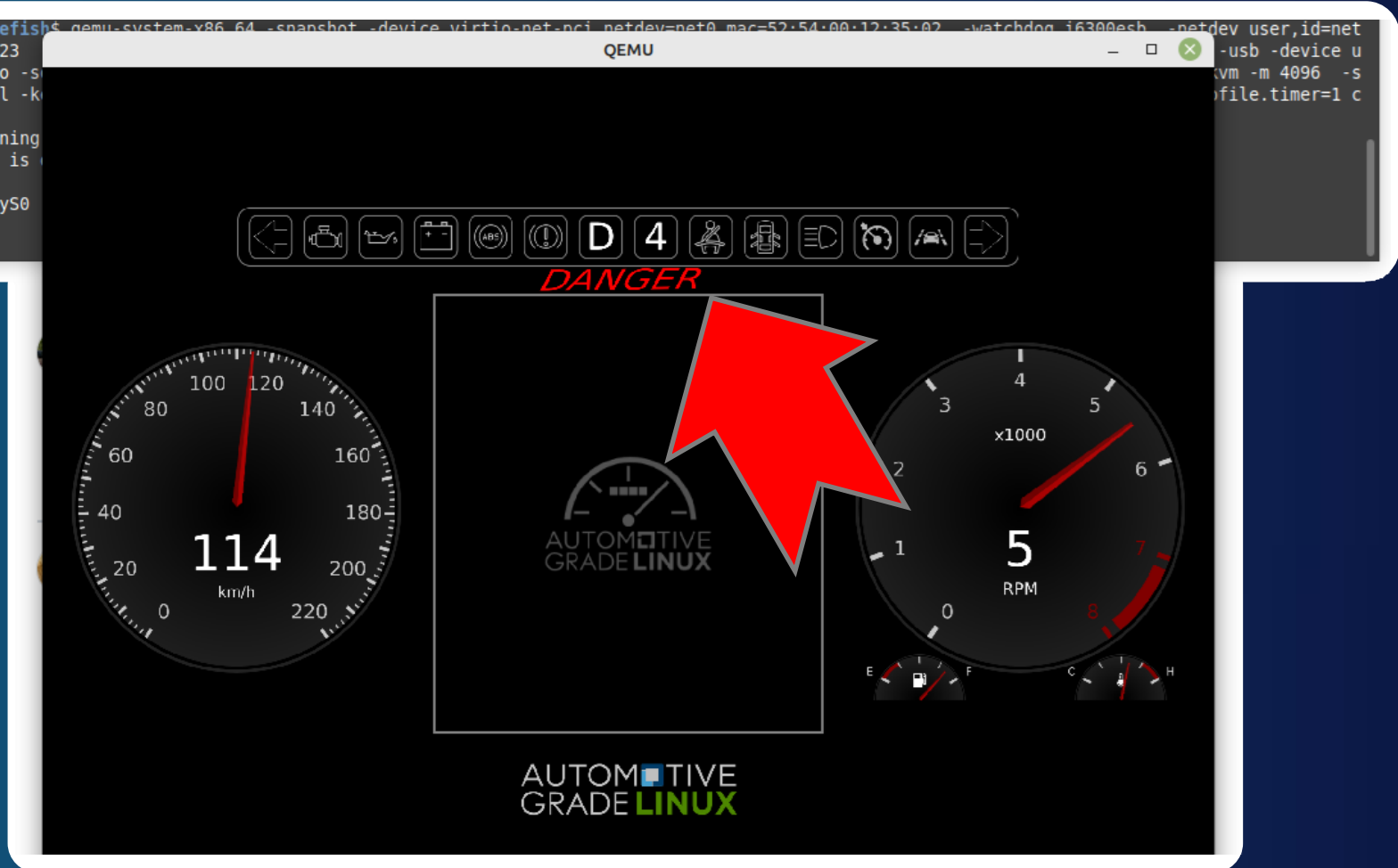
- Supports the analysis on code/kernel level
- Graphical representation of source code
- Provides insights about the Kernel construction



# meta-elisa: Instrument cluster example derived from AGL

```
philipp@GB-BER7-philipp:~/projects/agl/needefish$ qemu-system-x86_64 -snapshot -device virtio-net-pci,netdev=net0,mac=52:54:00:12:35:02 -watchdog i6300esb -netdev user,id=net0,hostfwd=tcp::2222-:22,hostfwd=tcp::2323-:23
sb-tablet -device virtio-rng-pci -vga virtio -smp 4 -m 2048 -serial mon:stdio -serial null -kvm -usb -device usb-tablet -netdev user,id=net0,hostfwd=tcp::2222-:22,hostfwd=tcp::2323-:23
onsole=ttyS0,115200n8 quiet '
qemu-system-x86_64: -watchdog i6300esb: warning: watchdog is not supported on this architecture
qemu-system-x86_64: warning: '-soundhw hda' is deprecated
Automotive Grade Linux 14.0.1 qemux86-64 ttyS0
qemux86-64 login: □
```

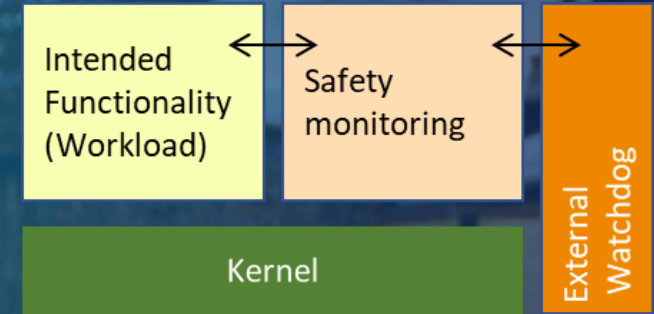
- Reuse Automotive Grade Linux (AGL) instrument cluster demo
- QT based running on qemu
- **DANGER** added to illustrate tell tale safety monitoring



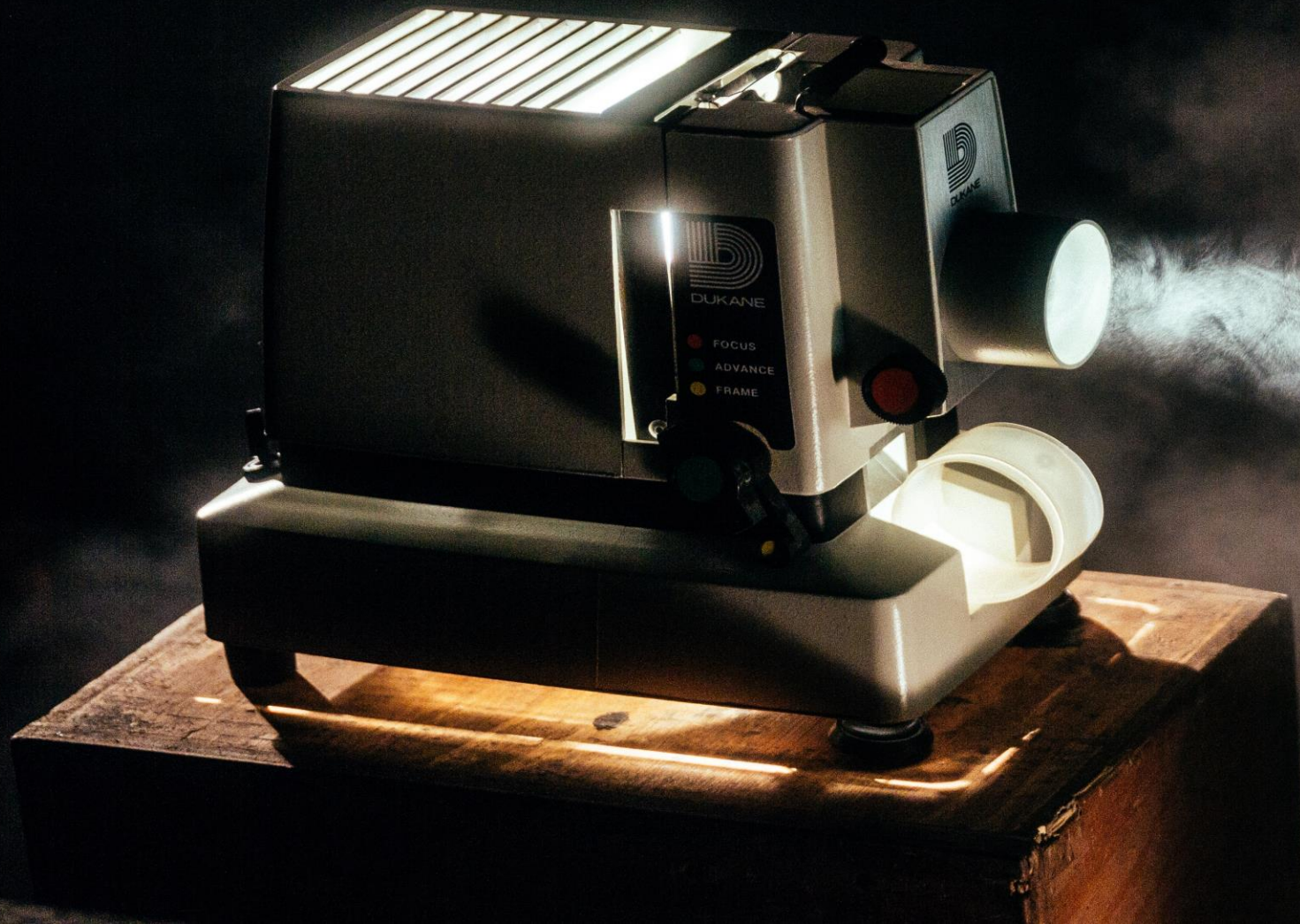
# External Watchdog

- The challenge-response watchdog serves as the “safety net” for the safety-critical workload
- The concept is widely used in Automotive and other industrial applications
- It can be used as an iterative approach to assign more safety-critical functionality to Linux

**With a proper system design the watchdog will never need to trigger the “safe state”.**



Use case recording on the event side



## meta-elisa: Various starting points provided

- Plain and native from source

<https://github.com/elisa-tech/meta-elisa>

- Using docker container

[https://github.com/elisa-tech/wg-automotive/tree/master/Docker\\_container](https://github.com/elisa-tech/wg-automotive/tree/master/Docker_container)

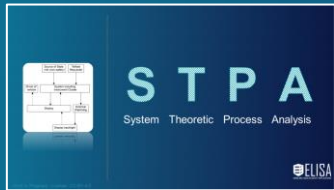
- With cached build using SSTATE

[modify "conf/local.conf" after the "source" command before the "bitbake" command](#)

- Download binaries directly from build server

<https://gitlab.com/elisa-tech/meta-elisa-ci>

# Next steps



## STPA

- Align implementation and design using workload tracing and Linux analysis



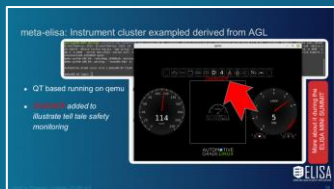
## Call Tree

- Extend call tree with additional tools.  
[PR](#) for a tool called “ks-nav” is already open



## Workload tracing

- Use the workload tracing from medical devices for the automotive use case
- Add other tracing tools like SystemTap



## meta-elisa

- Bring the qemu showcase on real hardware using the work of the systems WG
- Improve the monitoring and checking apps

And more: System SBOM generation, Kernel configuration & image size trim down, RT docu review, cluster demo on complex system architecture, more docu...



# Conclusion



# Conclusion

## Challenges

**Challenge: Linux in Safety-Critical Systems**

The Linux kernel has:

- Large Development Ecosystem
- Security Capabilities
- Multi-Core Support
- Unmatched Hardware Support
- Many Linux Experts at all levels available

Traditional safety-critical OS has:

- Hard Real-time Capabilities
- Proven Safety-compliant Development Process
- ...

Can these differences be tackled?

**Understanding the Limits**

The collaboration...

- cannot engineer your system to be safe.
- cannot ensure that you know how to apply the described process and methods.
- cannot create an out-of-tree Linux kernel for safety-critical applications. (Remember the continuous process improvement argument!)
- cannot relieve you from your responsibilities, legal obligations and liabilities.

But... ELISA provides a path forward and peers to collaborate with!

## Goals and technical strategy

*"The mission of the project is to define and maintain a common set of elements, processes and tools that can be incorporated into Linux-based, safety-critical systems generable to safety certification."*

*"The scope of the project includes software and documentation development under an OSI approved license supporting the mission, including documentation, testing, integration and the creation of other artifacts that aid the development, deployment, operation or adoption of the project."*

**ELISA Working Groups - Deliverable grouping (based on mission)**

- Elements / Software
- Processes
- Tools
- Documentation

## Different work groups & their interaction

**ELISA Working Groups - Fit in an exemplary system**

- Linux Features, Architecture and Code Improvements should be integrated into the reference system directly.
- Tools and Engineering process should serve the reproducible product creation.
- Medical, Automotive, Aerospace and future VQ use cases should be able to strip down the reference system to their use case details.

**Interaction with other communities (outside of ELISA)**

- Safety-critical open source projects: Xen, Zephyr
- Identified OSS project with safety-critical relevance: SOAFEE, SDV
- Further interactions: yocto, SPDX

*"If you have an apple and I have an apple and we exchange these apples then you don't have an apple and we each have one apple, and that's not good. If you have an apple and I have an apple and you keep your apple and I take my apple, then you have an apple and I don't have an apple, and that's not good either. If you have an apple and I have an apple and you have my apple and I have your apple then we each have two apples and that's good. It's the same with ideas."*

## Contributions & Deliverables

**ELISA Working Groups - Deliverables**

- Elements / Software
- Processes
- Tools
- Documentation

**meta-elisa: Instrument cluster exemplar derived from AGL**

- QT based running on qemu
- ... added to illustrate real time safety monitoring

## Used methodologies and tools

**STPA**  
System Theoretic Process Analysis

**Workload tracing**

Mainly used tools:

- scope

Extracted information:

- System Call
- Frequency of call
- Involved Subsystem
- System Call Entry Point

## Current status & what comes next

**Next steps**

- STPA: Align implementation and design using workload tracing and Linux analysis
- Call Tree: Extend call tree with additional tools for a low cost "kernel" to already open
- Workload tracing: Use the workload tracing from medical devices for the automotive use case
- meta-elisa: Add other tracing tools like SystemTap
- Add more: Bring the same flowover to test hardware using the work of the systems WG
- Improve the tracing and checking apps

Add more: System SBOM generation, Kernel configuration & image firm down, RT clock review, cluster stand an complete system.





# Questions? info@elisa.tech



The screenshot shows the ELISA website homepage. At the top left is the ELISA logo with the tagline "ENABLING LINUX IN SAFETY APPLICATIONS". To the right of the logo is a navigation menu with links for "About", "Membership", "Community", "News & Events", and "Resources". A prominent "Join Now" button is located to the right of the navigation menu. Below the navigation is a large hero section with a blue background and a blurred image of people wearing hard hats. The main heading reads "Advancing Open Source Safety-Critical Systems". Below this heading is a paragraph of text: "The mission of the Enabling Linux In Safety Applications (ELISA) project is to make it easier for companies to build and certify Linux-based safety-critical applications – systems whose failure could result in loss of human life, significant property damage or environmental damage. ELISA members are working together to define and maintain a common set of tools and processes that can help companies demonstrate that a specific Linux-based system meets the necessary safety requirements for certification." To the right of the text is a tablet displaying a white paper titled "White Paper: Advancing Open Source Safety-Critical Systems". Below the tablet is a "Read the White Paper" button.



ENABLING LINUX IN SAFETY APPLICATIONS

# Getting involved...

- Join main technical and weekly calls of interest:
  - Main Technical List: [devel@lists.elisa.tech](mailto:devel@lists.elisa.tech)
  - Safety Architecture Workgroup: [safety-architecture@lists.elisa.tech](mailto:safety-architecture@lists.elisa.tech)
  - Open-Source Engineering Process WG [osep@lists.elisa.tech](mailto:osep@lists.elisa.tech)
  - Linux Features for Safety-Critical Systems WG: [linux-features@lists.elisa.tech](mailto:linux-features@lists.elisa.tech)
  - Medical Devices Workgroup: [medical-devices@lists.elisa.tech](mailto:medical-devices@lists.elisa.tech)
  - Automotive Workgroup: [automotive@lists.elisa.tech](mailto:automotive@lists.elisa.tech)
  - Systems Workgroup: [systems@lists.elisa.tech](mailto:systems@lists.elisa.tech)
  - (Full list at: <https://lists.elisa.tech/g/linux-features/subgroups>)
- Contribute content, review materials and add your comments to:
  - ELISA Technical Community Google Drive: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Y6Uwqt5VEDEZjpRe0CBClibdtXPgDwlG>
  - ELISA github repository: <https://github.com/elisa-tech/workgroups>
  - ELISA github issue tracker: <https://github.com/elisa-tech/workgroups/issues>
  - “Final location” for (Architecture/Process/...) Documentation on kernel: <https://git.kernel.org/pub/scm/linux/kernel/git/torvalds/linux.git/tree/Documentation>



# Advancing Open Source Safety-Critical Systems

Elements • Processes • Tools • Documentation

