



e-ale-scale17x

# Embedded Apprentice Linux Engineer SCaLE17x

Version 1.0  
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The E-ALE (Embedded Apprentice Linux Engineer) is a series of seminars held at existing conferences covering topics which are fundamental to a Linux professional in the field of Embedded Linux.

This seminar will spend equal time on lecture and hands on labs at the end of each seminar which allow you to practice the material you've learned.

This material makes the assumption that you have minimal experience with using Linux in general, and a basic understanding of general industry terms. The assumption is also made that you have access to your own computers upon which to practice this material.

More information can be found at <https://e-ale.org/>

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# Chapter 1

## GPIOs and libgpiod

### General Purpose Input/Outputs

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## 1.1 GPIO

# Introduction to GPIOs and libgpio

- Speaker: Behan Webster <behanw@converseincode.com>
- ScaLE17x (2019.03.08)

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- Linux Foundation Training has provided room funding

# GPIO

- GPIO stands for **General Purpose Input/Output**
- GPIO pins can be programmed to be used as inputs or outputs
- As an input you can read back values of 1 or 0
- As an output you can write values of 1 or 0 to the GPIO pin



## Active high or low

- Further they can be configured **Active high** or **Active low**
- These settings designate whether a high or low voltage is considered a 1 or a 0

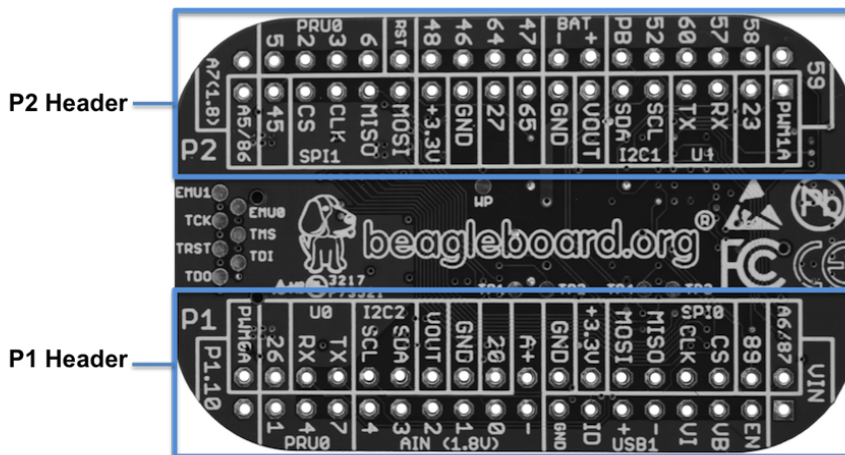
## Open Drain or Open Source

- Further more some SoCs have internal pull up and/or pull down resistors which can be used to force the value of the pin up or down when the pin isn't being driven
- **Open Drain** refers to the situation where a signal usually floats high unless driven low by the value of the GPIO pin
- **Open Source** refers to the situation where a signal usually floats low unless driven high by the value of the GPIO pin

# Bit Banging Protocols

- The best situation is one where dedicated HW can be used to implement HW protocols in the most efficient manner possible
- However in situations where you don't have a HW bus controller, or you don't have enough buses, one can elect to synthesize a protocol using SW to drive GPIOs appropriately to emulate the bus protocol
- This SW implementation of a HW protocol is affectionately known as **bit banging** in the industry

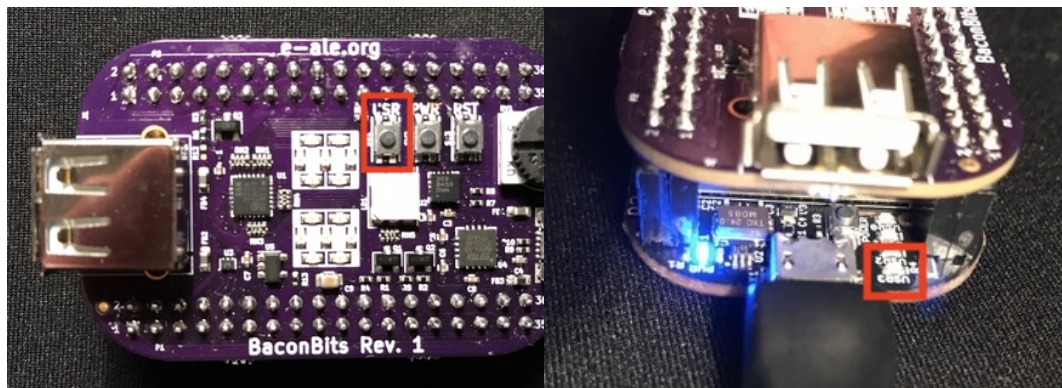
# PocketBeagle Pins



- Pins are shared amongst multiple peripherals
- A pin multiplexer is used to choose the configuration of the pins in use.



# PocketBeagle GPIO pins



- We will use the GPIOs tied to the button on the BaconBits and USR3 LED on the Pocket Beagle for our labs.

# Using the sysfs gpio interface for input

Our button is tied to the 13th pin on the second out of 4 gpio banks or gpio 45.

$$1 \times 32 + 13 = 45$$

```
# Since gpio 45 is already exported we don't need to do it
# echo "45" > /sys/class/gpio/export
cat /sys/class/gpio/gpio45/direction
in
# Read from button input
cat /sys/class/gpio/gpio45/value
1
```

# Using the sysfs gpio interface for output

```
# Set up GPIO 56 for USR3 and set to output
echo "56" > /sys/class/gpio/export
echo "out" > /sys/class/gpio/gpio56/direction
# Write output
echo "1" > /sys/class/gpio/gpio56/value
echo "0" > /sys/class/gpio/gpio56/value
# Clean up
echo "56" > /sys/class/gpio/unexport
```



## sysfs led interface

- The sysfs mechanism also provides a generic led interface

```
root@beaglebone:~# ls /sys/class/leds/  
beaglebone:green:usr0  beaglebone:green:usr2  
beaglebone:green:usr1  beaglebone:green:usr3  
root@beaglebone:~# ls /sys/class/leds/beaglebone\:green\:usr3  
brightness device max_brightness power subsystem trigger uevent  
root@beaglebone:~# cat /sys/class/leds/beaglebone\:green\:usr3/trigger  
[none] rc-feedback rfkill-any kbd-scrolllock kbd-numlock kbd-capslock  
kbd-kanalock kbd-shiftlock kbd-altgrlock kbd-ctrllock kbd-altlock  
kbd-shiftllock kbd-shiftrlock kbd-ctrlrlock kbd-ctrlrlock usb-gadget  
usb-host mmc0 timer oneshot disk-activity ide-disk mtd nand-disk  
heartbeat backlight gpio cpu cpu0 default-on panic
```

## sysfs gpio interface is deprecated

- The sysfs gpio mechanism is actually deprecated in favour of libgpiod
- Although the libgpiod set of tools are now the preferred way of handling gpios, platforms like the PocketBeagle have their own utilities like `show-pins.pl`

```
perl /opt/scripts/device/bone/show-pins.pl -v
```

# The show-pins.pl utility

```
debian@beaglebone:~$ perl /opt/scripts/device/bone/show-pins.pl -v
P8.25 / eMMC d0          0  U7 fast rx down 7 gpio 1.00
P8.24 / eMMC d1          1  V7 fast rx down 7 gpio 1.01
P8.05 / eMMC d2          2  R8 fast rx down 7 gpio 1.02
P8.06 / eMMC d3          3  T8 fast rx down 7 gpio 1.03
...
pmic irq                 112 B18 fast rx up 0 mpu irq
jtag emu0                121 C14 fast rx up 0 emu 0
jtag emu1                122 B14 fast rx up 0 emu 1
usb A vbus en           141 F15 fast rx down 0 usb 1 vbus out en
```

# libgpiod - gpiodetect

- The libgpiod library and set of tools is now the official way of dealing with gpios.

```
debian@beaglebone:~$ gpiodetect
gpiochip0 [gpio] (32 lines)
gpiochip1 [gpio] (32 lines)
gpiochip2 [gpio] (32 lines)
gpiochip3 [gpio] (32 lines)
```

## libgpiod - gpiointro

- The libgpiod library and set of tools is now the official way of dealing with gpios.

```
debian@beaglebone:~$ gpiointro
gpiochip0 - 32 lines:
    line 0: "MDIO_DATA"          unused  input  active-high
    line 1: "MDIO_CLK"           unused  input  active-high
...
gpiochip1 - 32 lines:
    line 0: "GPMC_A0"            unused  input  active-high
    line 1: "GPMC_A1"            unused  input  active-high
...
gpiochip2 - 32 lines:
    line 0: "GPMC_CSN3"          "P2_20" input  active-high [used]
    line 1: "GPMC_CLK"           "P2_17" input  active-high [used]
...
gpiochip3 - 32 lines:
    line 0: "GMII1_COL"          unused  input  active-high
    line 1: "GMII1_CRS"          unused  input  active-high
...
```

# gpiowrite and gpioget

- **gpiowrite** and **gpioget** allow for a shell programmatic interface to gpio without directly manipulating sysfs

```
root@beaglebone:~# gpiowrite -m wait gpiochip1 24=1
root@beaglebone:~# gpioget gpiochip1 13
1
```

## 1.2 Labs

**Exercise 1.1: List all the PocketBeagle pins and their configuration** We'll use `show-pins.pl` to do so.

### Solution 1.1

```
perl /opt/scripts/device/bone/show-pins.pl -v
```

**Exercise 1.2: Playing with the button** First we'll use the button to read the value of a GPIO input.

The button on the Bacon Bits is on the 13th gpio of the second gpio chip (gpiochip1), although sysfs lists this as gpiochip32, since there are 32 gpios per chip.

So the gpio number is  $32 + 13$ , or 45. gpio45 is on by default, but otherwise we'd have to first export it to make it available in sysfs.

Read both the settings and the value of gpio45 with the USR button both pressed and not pressed.

### Solution 1.2

```
root@beaglebone:~# ls /sys/class/gpio/gpio45
active_low device direction edge label power subsystem uevent value
root@beaglebone:~# cat /sys/class/gpio/gpio45/active_low
0
root@beaglebone:~# cat /sys/class/gpio/gpio45/direction
in
root@beaglebone:~# cat /sys/class/gpio/gpio45/label
P2_33
root@beaglebone:~# cat /sys/class/gpio/gpio45/value
1
watch -n0 cat /sys/class/gpio/gpio45/value
```

**Exercise 1.3: Read the button with libgpiod** Now use gpiodet from libgpiod to read the button.

## Solution 1.3

```
root@beaglebone:~# gpioget gpiochip1 13
1
```

**Exercise 1.4: Light up the USR3 LED with the LED class** Now use `/sys/class/led/*` to light up the LED.

## Solution 1.4

```
root@beaglebone:~# ls /sys/class/leds/beaglebone\:green\:usr3
brightness device max_brightness power subsystem trigger uevent
root@beaglebone:~# cat /sys/class/leds/beaglebone\:green\:usr3/brightness
0
root@beaglebone:~# echo 255 > /sys/class/leds/beaglebone\:green\:usr3/brightness
root@beaglebone:~# cat /sys/class/leds/beaglebone\:green\:usr3/brightness
255
root@beaglebone:~# echo 0 > /sys/class/leds/beaglebone\:green\:usr3/brightness
```

**Exercise 1.5: Light up the USR3 LED with a LED trigger**

## Solution 1.5

```
root@beaglebone:~# cat /sys/class/leds/beaglebone\:green\:usr3/triggers
[none] rc-feedback rfc-kill-any kbd-scrolllock kbd-numlock kbd-capslock
kbd-kanalock kbd-shiftlock kbd-altgrlock kbd-ctrllock kbd-altlock
kbd-shiftllock kbd-shiftrlock kbd-ctrllllock kbd-ctrlrlock usb-gadget
usb-host mmc0 timer oneshot disk-activity ide-disk mtd nand-disk
heartbeat backlight gpio cpu cpu0 default-on panic
root@beaglebone:~# echo heartbeat > /sys/class/leds/beaglebone\:green\:usr3/triggers
root@beaglebone:~# cat /sys/class/leds/beaglebone\:green\:usr3/triggers
none rc-feedback rfc-kill-any kbd-scrolllock kbd-numlock kbd-capslock
kbd-kanalock kbd-shiftlock kbd-altgrlock kbd-ctrllock kbd-altlock
kbd-shiftllock kbd-shiftrlock kbd-ctrllllock kbd-ctrlrlock usb-gadget
```



```
usb-host mmc0 timer oneshot disk-activity ide-disk mtd nand-disk
[heartbeat] backlight gpio cpu cpu0 default-on panic
root@beaglebone:~# echo none > /sys/class/leds/beaglebone\:green\:usr3/trigger
```

## Exercise 1.6: Light up the USB3 LED with the button as a LED trigger

### Solution 1.6

```
root@beaglebone:~# cat /sys/class/leds/beaglebone\:green\:usr3/trigger
[none] rc-feedback rkill-any kbd-scrolllock kbd-numlock kbd-capslock
kbd-kanalock kbd-shiftlock kbd-altgrlock kbd-ctrllock kbd-altlock
kbd-shiftrllock kbd-shiftrlock kbd-ctrlrlock kbd-ctrlrlock usb-gadget
usb-host mmc0 timer oneshot disk-activity ide-disk mtd nand-disk
heartbeat backlight gpio cpu cpu0 default-on panic
root@beaglebone:~# echo gpio > /sys/class/leds/beaglebone\:green\:usr3/trigger
root@beaglebone:~# cat /sys/class/leds/beaglebone\:green\:usr3/trigger
none rc-feedback rkill-any kbd-scrolllock kbd-numlock kbd-capslock
kbd-kanalock kbd-shiftlock kbd-altgrlock kbd-ctrllock kbd-altlock
kbd-shiftrllock kbd-shiftrlock kbd-ctrlrlock kbd-ctrlrlock usb-gadget
usb-host mmc0 timer oneshot disk-activity ide-disk mtd nand-disk
heartbeat backlight [gpio] cpu cpu0 default-on panic
root@beaglebone:~# echo 45 > /sys/class/leds/beaglebone\:green\:usr3/gpio
```

Now press the button a few times. The LED should be on when the button isn't pressed and off when the button is pressed.

How do we reverse this configuration and have it come on when the button is pressed.

```
root@beaglebone:~# cat /sys/class/leds/beaglebone\:green\:usr3/inverted
0
root@beaglebone:~# echo 1 > /sys/class/leds/beaglebone\:green\:usr3/inverted
```

## Exercise 1.7: Turn on USB3 LED with gpio sysfs interface

Now we'll turn on USB3 which is connected to the 24th gpio gpiochip1.

So the gpio number is  $32 + 24$  or gpio56.

This gpio isn't yet setup so we have a little more work to do.

## Solution 1.7

```
root@beaglebone:~# echo 56 > /sys/class/gpio/export
root@beaglebone:~# ls /sys/class/gpio/gpio56
active_low device direction edge label power subsystem uevent value
root@beaglebone:~# cat /sys/class/gpio/gpio56/active_low
0
root@beaglebone:~# cat /sys/class/gpio/gpio56/direction
out
root@beaglebone:~# cat /sys/class/gpio/gpio56/value
0
root@beaglebone:~# echo 1 > /sys/class/gpio/gpio56/value
root@beaglebone:~# cat /sys/class/gpio/gpio56/value
1
root@beaglebone:~# echo 0 > /sys/class/gpio/gpio56/value
```

**Exercise 1.8: Light up the USB LED with libgpiod** Now use gpiocfg from libgpiod to light up the LED.

## Solution 1.8

```
root@beaglebone:~# gpiocfg -m wait gpiochip1 24=1
# Press enter to terminate
```