core Flight System (cFS)

A Low Cost Solution for SmallSats

David McComas
Susanne Strege
Jonathan Wilmot

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
Software Engineering Division Flight
Software Systems Branch

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What is the core Flight System?

- The cFS is a re-usable spacecraft flight software architecture and software suite that is both platform and project independent.
- Layered architecture and compile-time configuration parameters make it scalable and portable to a wide range of platforms.

Original product created by NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center.

The FSW Service and Platform Abstraction layers are now controlled by a NASA multi-center configuration control board.
Recent cFS Success Stories

- Johnson’s Morpheus: 14 months from concept to flight test in 2010

- Goddard’s Class B missions: Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) launched February 2014 and Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS) launched March 2015

- Goddard’s 2014 Class D balloon mission: Observatory for Planetary Investigations from the Stratosphere (OPIS)
  - Baseline command and data handling software was up and running on the target platform (Intel Core Duo/Xenomai) within a month and launched 6 months later

- DARPA’s F6 program: Emergent funded (2013-2014) to develop Flight Software to Provide Autonomous Satellite Cluster Services
  - Cluster Flight System applications ported to cFS in less 6 months and formally demonstrated in simulation test bed
In Development - NICER

- **Objectives**
  - Reveal the nature of matter in the interiors of neutron stars
  - Uncover the physics of dynamic phenomena associated with neutron stars
  - Determine how energy is extracted from neutron stars

- **On-board Processor**
  - Broad Reach Engineering Radiation Hardened BRE440 PowerPC
    - 32 Bit RISC embedded processor
    - 83 MHz OSC (2 MIPS / MHz = ~166 MIPS)
  - VxWorks 6.7

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In Development - Dellingr

- **Objectives**
  - Low cost science and technology demonstration

- **On-board Processor**
  - ARM7
    - 40 Mhz, 2Mb RAM
  - FreeRTOS

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In Development - PiSat

- **Objectives**
  - Low cost test bed

- **On-board Processor**
  - Raspberry Pi
  - Raspberry Pi OS (DEBIAN/Linux)

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cFS Architecture Highlights
cFS Key Features

- Layered architecture
  - Reusable components
  - Platform Independent
  - Supports advances in technology without changes to the framework
The cFS core layer is the system glue. It provides the common software functions that are needed by all missions.
# cFS Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CFDP</td>
<td>Transfers/receives file data to/from the ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checksum</td>
<td>Performs data integrity checking of memory, tables and files</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Command Ingest Lab</td>
<td>Accepts CCSDS telecommand packets over a UDP/IP port</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Storage</td>
<td>Records housekeeping, engineering and science data onboard for downlink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>File Manager</td>
<td>Interfaces to the ground for managing files</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housekeeping</td>
<td>Collects and re-packages telemetry from other applications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Safety</td>
<td>Ensures that critical tasks check-in, services watchdog, detects CPU hogging, and calculates CPU utilization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limit Checker</td>
<td>Provides the capability to monitor values and take action when exceed threshold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memory Dwell</td>
<td>Allows ground to telemeter the contents of memory locations. Useful for debugging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memory Manager</td>
<td>Provides the ability to load and dump memory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software Bus Network</td>
<td>Passes Software Bus messages over Ethernet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduler</td>
<td>Schedules onboard activities via (e.g. HK requests)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduler Lab</td>
<td>Simple activity scheduler with a one second resolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stored Command</td>
<td>Onboard Commands Sequencer (absolute and relative).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telemetry Output Lab</td>
<td>Sends CCSDS telemetry packets over a UDP/IP port</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Complete Engineering Solution

Includes reusable:
- Requirements
- Source Code
- Design Documentation
- Development Standards
- Test Artifacts
- Tools
  - Unit Test Framework
  - Software Timing Analyzer
- User’s Guides
  - Application Developers Guide
  - API Reference Guides
  - Deployment Guides
  - Flight Operations Guides
- Command & Telemetry GUI

The CFS architecture reduces Non-Recurring Engineering (NRE) up to 90%
The cFS architecture creates a Flight Software “App Store”.

Inter-task Message Router (Software Bus)
CFS Component Metrics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Logical Lines of Code</th>
<th>Configuration Parameters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Flight Executive</td>
<td>6.3.2</td>
<td>12930</td>
<td>General: 17, Executive Service: 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Event Service: 5, Software Bus: 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Table Service: 10, Time Service: 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFDP</td>
<td>2.2.1</td>
<td>8559</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checksum</td>
<td>2.2.0</td>
<td>2873</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Storage</td>
<td>2.3.0</td>
<td>2429</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>File Manager</td>
<td>2.3.1</td>
<td>1853</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; safety</td>
<td>2.2.0</td>
<td>1531</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housekeeping</td>
<td>2.4.0</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limit Checker</td>
<td>2.2.1</td>
<td>2074</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memory Dwell</td>
<td>2.3.0</td>
<td>1035</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memory Manager</td>
<td>2.3.0</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stored Commanding</td>
<td>2.3.0</td>
<td>2314</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduler</td>
<td>2.2.0</td>
<td>1164</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Two scopes of configuration parameters: mission or processor
- Configuration parameters span a large functional range from a simple default file name to a system behavioral definition like the time client/server configuration
Example Mission Code Metrics
Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM)

- Noteworthy items
  + cFE was very reliable and stable
  + Easy rapid prototyping with heritage code that was cFE compliant
  + Layered architecture has allowed COTS lab to be maintained through all builds
  - Addition of PSP changed build infrastructure midstream

- Lines of Code Percentages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BAE</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEFS</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSAL</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSP</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cFE</td>
<td>12.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNC Library</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFS Applications</td>
<td>23.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Clone &amp; Own</td>
<td>38.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Source</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Building a cFS Community
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johnson Space Center</td>
<td>Trick Simulator integration, Enhanced Build environment, Training materials, ITOS integration, multiple new platforms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson Space Center</td>
<td>Class A certification of OSAL, cFE and selected cFS applications</td>
<td>Use in Orion Backup flight computer, video processing unit, and Advanced Space Suit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson Space Center</td>
<td>Enhanced Unit tests and increased code coverage, new performance analysis tool</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenn Research Center</td>
<td>Code Improvements, modern build environment (cmake), Electronic Data Sheet integration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ames Research Center</td>
<td>cFS community configuration management services, continuous integration build services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ames Research Center</td>
<td>Simulink Interface Layer for auto-coding cFS applications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JHU/APL</td>
<td>Multi-Core cFE/OSAL port</td>
<td>Joint IRAD with GSFC, will be used for GSFC MUSTANG flight processor card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DARPA/Emergent</td>
<td>Fractionated Spacecraft / Distributed Mission cFS applications</td>
<td>Part of DARPA F6 project, they hope to make the apps available as open source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interns and misc contributors</td>
<td>cFS development tools are being created and shared by many organizations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miscellaneous bug fixes reported via open source sites.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ongoings

Technical Enhancements

- Integrated Development Environment (IDE)
- Automated tests (unit, functional, build…)
- CCSDS EDS specifications for cFS components
- Integrate Multi-core support into OSAL and cFE
- Integrate/Merge ARINC653 port into OSAL and cFE
- Integrate Dellingr Cubesat FreeRTOS OSAL Port
- Improve scheduler time synchronization
- Expand SB namespace beyond $2^{11}$
- Lab upgrades
  - RTEMS 4.11 updates
  - VxWorks 6.9 updates
  - RAD750 simulator
  - MPC8377E: PowerQUICC II Pro Processor test beds
  - LEON3 test bed
  - MCP750 test bed

Operational Enhancements

- Formalize cFS user community
- Web based app store
Acronyms

- API: Application Programmer Interface
- ARC: Ames Research Center
- BAT: Burst Alert Telescope
- CCSDS: Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems
- CDH: Command Data Handling
- CFDP: CCSDS File Delivery Protocol
- cFE: core Flight Executive
- CFS: Core Flight System
- CMMI: Capability Maturity Model Integrated
- FSW: Flight Software
- GLAS: Geoscience Laser Altimeter System
- GN&C: Guidance, Navigation, and Control
- GPM: Global Precipitation Measurement
- GSFC: Goddard Space Flight Center
- JSC: Johnson Space Center
- LADEE: Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer
- LOC: Lines of Code
- LRD: Launch Readiness Date
- LRO: Lunar Robotic Orbiter
- MAP: Microwave Anisotropy Probe
- MMS: Magnetic Multiscale Mission
- NRE: Non-Recurring Engineering
- OSAL: Operating System Abstraction Layer
- RBSP: Radiation Belt Storm Probe
- RTEMS: Real-Time Executive for Multiprocessor Systems
- SAMPEX: Solar Anomalous and Magnetospheric Particle Explorer
- SAR, SARB: Software Architecture Review Board
- SDO: Solar Dynamics Observatory
- SMEX: Small Explorer
- ST-5: Space Technology 5
- SWAS: Submillimeter Wave Astronomy Satellite
- TRACE: Transition Region and Coronal Explorer
- TRL: Technology Readiness Level
- TRMM: Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission
- WIRE: Widearea Infrared Explorer
- XTE: X-Ray Timing Explorer

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Where is the cFS?

- cFE open Internet access at http://sourceforge.net/projects/coreflightexec/
  - Source code
  - Requirements and user guides
  - Tools

- OSAL open Internet access at http://sourceforge.net/projects/osal/
  - Source code
  - Requirements and user guides
  - Tools

- cFS application suite is also available on sourceforge
Questions? Contact:

- **CFS 582 Branch Management**
  - David McComas - NASA GSFC/Code 582 Flight Software Branch
    - david.c.mccomas@nasa.gov
    - 301.286.9038

- **CFS Lead Architect**
  - Jonathan Wilmot - NASA GSFC/Code 582 Flight Software Branch
    - jonathan.j.wilmot@nasa.gov
    - 301.286.2623

- **CFS Product Development Lead**
  - Susie Strege - NASA GSFC/Code 582 Flight Software Branch
    - susie.strege@nasa.gov
    - 301.286.3829

- **OSAL Product Development Lead**
  - Alan Cudmore - NASA GSFC/Code 582 Flight Software Branch
    - alan.p.cudmore@nasa.gov
    - 301.286.5809
### Software Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Class A, B and lower instantiations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TRL</td>
<td>OSAL &amp; cFE TRL 9, selected cFS Apps TRL 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMMI</td>
<td>Certified level 2 for Class B (GSFC) Certified level 3 for Class A (JSC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Systems</td>
<td>VxWorks, RTEMS, Linux, ARINC 653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardware Supported</td>
<td>MCP750, BAE RAD750, Coldfire, LEON3, MCP405, BRE440, and many more at JSC, GRC, ARC, MSFC, and APL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lines of Code</td>
<td>45K (LOC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Components available</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentation Available</td>
<td>Requirements, User’s Guides, Deployment Guides, Design Documents, Test Plans, Test Reports</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

cFS is a software system designed to address software quality and usability issues of performance, reliability, reuse, maintainability, and lifecycle cost.
What's in the cFE open source tarball

- There are many other PSPs at each center that are not open source
  - We are compiling a list to be hosted on the NSCKN site
- Included are simple UDP/IP command and telemetry GUIs
What’s in the OSAL open source tarball

- There are other BSPs at each center that are not open source
  - We are compiling a list to be hosted on the NSCKN site