

# SELECTING AN EMBEDDED RTOS



## FEATURED INTERVIEW:

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## CMX SYSTEMS, INC. - RTOS PRODUCTS &amp; SERVICES, 2009

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COMPANY. CMX SYSTEMS INC.

WEB. <http://www.cmx.com>**Q. First of all, tell us a little bit about yourself and your responsibilities at CMX Systems, Inc..**

A. I am president and CEO of CMX. I started CMX Systems in 1990, with the goal of providing engineers with a comprehensive set of software to help program their embedded applications. Today, I oversee the day-to-day operations and strategic planning. I also do some software coding and remain active in our product development strategies.

**Q. If you would, please give us a very brief, bulleted outline of your products. What sorts of real-time operating systems (RTOSes), tools, and/or services does your company offer?**

A. We offer:

- Two RTOS Products, the *CMX-RTX* and *CMX-TINY+*
- Two TCP/IP Stacks which are the *CMX-TCP/IP* and the *CMX-MicroNet TCP/IP* stack
- *CMX-USB* which includes USB Host, USB Device and OTG software with a variety of USB Class options
- *CMX-FFS* Flash file systems supporting a wide range of embedded storage media

All software is highly portable and modular in respect that each our stacks can run with or without an RTOS, which is based on the customers' requirements. Our software is royalty free and there are multiple licensing options available.

We provide free technical support with the purchase of our software and provide custom versions of the above on occasion.

**Q. What is CMX Systems, Inc.'s "unique value proposition" for the embedded systems engineer or programmer who is considering an embedded RTOS? What do you and your products do to help him get his product to market faster, cheaper, better?**

A. We help embedded engineers achieve and exceed their time to market goals by providing thoroughly tested, well documented source code products which are tested on their target processors and ported for their development environment. All of our products include specific drivers for their hardware. As a philosophy and practice, technical support requests are of the highest priority and because of this, we have numerous repeat

customers who have remained with us since our beginning. Our software products are offered together or can be purchased independently. Some projects may require one more of the following - a TCP/IP stack, USB stack and Flash file system. In any case, all of our products are designed to work with or without an RTOS.

- Q. How are you different as a company from competitors? What sets your products apart from those of other RTOS companies?**
- A. We are different from many competitors in several respects. First, we have been delivering efficient, embedded software since the early 1990's thus our software has been extensively proven and implemented in numerous 8-bit, 16-bit and 32-bit architectures. Secondly, we focus on providing software that is both fast and occupies a very small footprint in terms of both ROM (Flash) and RAM. Third, our software is modular so that customers can purchase only the software that they need, hence our TCP/IP, USB stacks and file systems do not require an RTOS, but will run with one if it's required. Finally, we have earned a reputation for support that is second-to-none in our market.
- Q. What embedded architectures do you support - e.g., Intel architecture, MIPS, ARM, PowerPC, etc.?**
- A. We support most 8-bit, 16-bit and 32-bit architectures including ARM7/9, Cortex-M3, PowerPC, ColdFire, MIPS, Intel, 80x86, 8051, etc. Over 50 processor families altogether.
- Q. What additional software do you offer such as networking, file systems, TCP/IP, security, IDE, GUIs etc.? What about development tools? Are there particular partnerships with other software companies that are especially helpful?**
- A. In addition to our RTOS, we provide TCP/IP, USB, File systems and CANopen software that is typically ported for industry leading development tools.
- Q. How are your products sold? What is a typical fee arrangement? Is it royalty free? Per unit royalty?**
- A. All of our software is provided as full source code and is royalty free and includes free technical support. There are five license types offered to our customers enabling them to pick the most appropriate license type for their application(s) and budget.
- Q. Finally, what sort of "try before buy" experiences does your company offer? Are there free demo downloads, webinars, seminars? What web URL's can you point us to for more information?**
- A. We offer a number of evaluation versions of our software that can be downloaded from our web site, <http://www.cmx.com/> (See Downloads). We also allow customers to try before they buy our software.
- Q. Thank you for this product interview.**