

SELECTING AN EMBEDDED RTOS



FEATURED INTERVIEW:

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MONTAVISTA - LINUX PRODUCTS & SERVICES, 2009

MontaVista: Linux Products & Services, 2009

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- Q. First of all, tell us a little bit about yourself and your responsibilities at MontaVista.**
- A. I have been working in the embedded space for nearly 30 years. I started Ready Systems in 1980, where we developed the first commercially viable RTOS, the VRTX real-time kernel. I founded MontaVista Linux in 1999, and we invented the category of embedded Linux commercialization to provide the Linux operating system to the embedded systems market, and to offer embedded systems expertise to the open source Linux community.
- Q. If you would, please give us a very brief, bulleted outline of your products. What sorts of embedded Linux / RTOSes, tools, and/or services does your company offer?**
- A. MontaVista currently offers four difference Linux distributions:
- MontaVista Professional Edition (Pro)*, a platform for development across an array of intelligent devices, including networking and communications, instrumentation and control, aerospace and defense, SOHO devices and medical electronics.
 - MontaVista Carrier Grade Edition (CGE)*, the platform used by 7 of the 8 major network equipment providers. *CGE* is the only Linux to comply with CGL 4.0, earn the LSB 3.0 certification, and is IPv6 logo certified.
 - MontaVista Mobilinux*, the operating system used in 90% of Linux-based smartphones, running on more than 35 million phones and other mobile devices.
 - MontaVista DevRocket*, the integrated development environment that supports MontaVista Linux Platform and Application development.
- Q. What is MontaVista's "unique value proposition" for the embedded systems engineer or programmer who is considering an embedded RTOS or a commercial Linux? What do you and your products do to help him get his product to market faster, cheaper, better?**
- A. MontaVista helps embedded developers get the most from open source by providing commercial-grade quality, integration, hardware enablement, expert support, and the resources of the MontaVista development community. Because MontaVista customers enjoy faster time to market, more competitive device functionality, and lower total cost, more devices have been deployed with MontaVista than with any other Linux.

- Q. How are you different as a company from competitors? What sets your products apart from those of other RTOS companies as well as other Linux vendors?**
- A. MontaVista is different because we are pure Linux. We invented the commercial Linux OS and we have been totally dedicated to refining it for the past nine years. Specifically, MontaVista Linux provides proven quality, complete integration, full support, integration with all of the most popular hardware, and control. By offering a high-quality, fully supported Linux OS, MontaVista allows developers to have complete control of their project.
- Q. What embedded architectures do you support - e.g., Intel architecture, MIPS, ARM, PowerPC, etc.?**
- A. MontaVista supports a variety of architectures including AMCC, ARM, Broadcom, Cavium, Emerson Network Embedded Computing, Freescale, IBM Microelectronics, Intel, MIPS Technologies, NEC, Phillips, RadiSys, Samsung, Texas Instruments, Toshiba and Xilinx. See <http://mvista.com/boards.php> for a full listing.
- 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. MontaVista offers a full Platform Development Kit that includes analysis tools, CPU architecture cross tool chain, Linux support packages (LSP), target application packages and the source tree and configuration files required to (re) build MontaVista Linux binaries.
- Q. How are your products sold? What is a typical fee arrangement? Is it royalty free? Per unit royalty?**
- A. MontaVista Linux is sold on a per developer license model and is royalty free.
- 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. MontaVista offers TestDrive, a virtual evaluation lab allowing embedded developers to test the full capabilities of *MontaVista Professional Edition* and *DevRocket* developer tools at <http://www.mvista.com/embedded-linux-evaluation/index.php>.
- Q. Thank you for this interview.**