

SELECTING AN EMBEDDED RTOS



FEATURED INTERVIEW:

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VIRTUALLOGIX - VIRTUALIZATION PRODUCTS & SERVICES, 2009

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- Q. First of all, tell us a little bit about yourself and your responsibilities at VirtualLogix.**
- A. I am a director of product marketing and management at VirtualLogix (VL) with background in engineering and technology management spanning Wind River, Alcatel and Nortel Networks. My responsibilities include inbound and outbound marketing in addition to go-to-market strategies, positioning and sales enablement.
- Q. If you would, please give us a very brief, bulleted outline of your products. What sorts of virtualization, tools, and/or services does your company offer?**
- VLX for Intel Microarchitectures (Real-Time Virtualization)
 - VLX for Power Architecture
 - VLX for ARM
 - VLX for TI DSP
 - VLX Developer tools suite. This Eclipse-based suite of tools enables designers to develop, monitor and deploy VLX-based solutions in real-time.
- Q. What is VirtualLogix's "unique value proposition" for the embedded systems engineer or programmer who is considering an embedded RTOS, especially as it relates to "virtualization." What do you and your products do to help him get his product to market faster, cheaper, better?**
- A. Embedded virtualization allows multiple execution environments such as Windows and Linux, to collocate with real-time OS's on the same shared hardware. This gives designers the ability to harness the power and determinism of an RTOS without sacrificing the richness or openness of alternative user OS's such as Linux. This is achieved via the unique embedded-from-the-ground-up VLX architecture that allows for multiple scheduling policies and native I/O device utilization across all virtual machines.
- Q. How are you different as a company from competitors? What sets your products apart from those of other virtualization companies?**
- A. Alternative embedded virtualizations approaches require invasive peering into the insides of all guest OS's and the applications/processes they're running. This translates into a 2-level scheduling complexity that potentially interferes in the original application design parameters. This becomes a portability hindrance, holding back the support of new OS's and/or processor architectures, one that VLX does not suffer from. The unique VLX approach lends itself to real-time performance and portability while maintaining

configurable security capabilities with VLX being the only bit of code that runs in privileged mode. Performance is a top priority of VLX thanks to the flexible scheduling policies and the ability of any VM to handle native device I/Os partitioned or virtualized.

Q. What embedded architectures do you support - e.g., Intel architecture, MIPS, ARM, PowerPC, etc.? What RTOSes?

A. Intel, ARM, PowerPC and TI DSP.

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. We're an enablement layer sitting under the OS and as such enable all the software (stacks, security, IDE..etc) supported by any of our supported OS's. We have strong partnerships with a number of hardware (Intel, TI, ARM, Freescale, Radisys, Emerson) and software (QNX, MontaVista, 6Wind..etc) partners that help provide customers with a complete ecosystem.

Q. How are your products sold? What is a typical fee arrangement? Is it royalty free? Per unit royalty?

A. Flexible business models that offer shared risk design and deployment schemes. Contact VirtualLogix for more information.

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 have a few webinars and collateral available online for downloads. In addition, evaluation copies can be made available via contact of VL sales department.

Q. Thank you for this product interview.