

SELECTING AN EMBEDDED RTOS



FEATURED INTERVIEW:

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ESOL - RTOS PRODUCTS & SERVICES, 2009

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Q. First of all, tell us a little bit about yourself and your responsibilities at eSOL.

A. I joined eSOL in 2003, and have been wearing many hats. Right now, I am the director of global business development and work with global semiconductor vendors, with which we form strategic partnerships to promote solutions for specific tier one, vertical markets.

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 eSOL offers a complete solution for embedded systems development:

- RTOS suite
http://www.esol.co.jp/english/embedded/rtos_lineup.html
 - *PrKERNELv4*, a μ ITRON 4.0 compliant RTOS
 - *eT-Kernel*, an enhanced T-Kernel RTOS with the following profiles:
 1. *eT-Kernel/Compact*
 2. *eT-Kernel/Standard*
 3. *eT-Kernel/Extended*
 4. *eT-Kernel/POSIX*
 5. *eT-Kernel Multi-Core Edition*
- Embedded Tool suite
<http://www.esol.co.jp/english/embedded/ebinder.html>
 - *eBinder* Integrated Development Environment
- Professional Services
<http://www.esol.co.jp/english/embedded/service.html>
 - Consultation
 - Training
 - Software development
 - Maintenance

- Q. What is eSOL'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. "Embedded, Engineering, and Enabling Solutions" are what defines eSOL. With in-depth knowledge earned from more than 30 years of experience in the embedded industry, eSOL helps developers by providing high-quality products such as RTOSes that are scalable and portable, combined with tools that are easy to use, capable of multi-task and real time debugging, and advanced system analysis. These features enable quick project start-up, create complex applications, and effective debugging.
- Q. How are you different as a company from competitors? What sets your products apart from those of other RTOS companies?**
- A. eSOL develops its products with emphasis on performance, cost, ease-of-use, and development support. It is reflected not only on its RTOS suite but also to its line of products. With years in the RTOS industry, our company has addressed issues relating to but not limited to scheduling, task/process model, memory, and interrupt/exception handling. eSOL's RTOSes comes in different flavors and are very configurable to suit different functional requirements and cost constraints. Full development support is provided by eSOL from product documentation to integrated development environment that compliments embedded RTOS development.
- Q. What embedded architectures do you support - e.g., Intel architecture, MIPS, ARM, PowerPC, etc.?**
- A. Currently, numerous target architectures are supported by eSOL: MIPS, ARM, SH, and PowerPC, and we will continue to support more in the coming future.
- 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. eSOL also offers the following middleware:
- File System
http://www.esol.co.jp/english/embedded/lineup_filesystem.html
 - *PrFILE2* - FAT12/16/32, VFAT file system
 - Network Stack
http://www.esol.co.jp/english/embedded/lineup_network.html
 - *PrCONNECT/Pro* - High Speed TCP/IP Protocol Stack
 - USB
http://www.esol.co.jp/english/embedded/lineup_usb.html
 - *PrMTP* - Media Transfer Protocol stack
 - *PrUSB/Host* – Host protocol stack
 - *PrUSB/OTG* – On-The-Go protocol stack

➤ *PrUSB/Device* – Device protocol stack

eSOL also develops or customizes BSPs, middleware, and drivers for devices such as NAND Flash, SD Memory Cards, and WLAN.

As for partnerships, eSOL expedites its partner network by supporting partners' services to make it easier for customers to develop their products efficiently.

Our partners are introduced here;

<http://www.esol.co.jp/english/embedded/partner.html>

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

A. For IDEs, it is a per-seat license. For run-time software, most of our software is licensed for one-time upfront payment without any per-unit royalty. We do use the per-unit royalty model for certain run-time software.

Q Finally, what sort of “try before buy” experiences does your company offer? Are there free demo downloads, webinars, seminars? What web URLs can you point us to for more information?

A. At this moment, no, but we are working on it and some will be available in the first half of 2009.

Q Thank you for this product interview.