

DAnCE

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What is DAnCE?

(Data Acquisition and Control Electronics)

New control platform for in-house developments as well as the design of several general interest control electronics modules

Generic hardware and software components
(DCore, embedded Linux, basic libraries, ...)



Applications



Applications



Applications

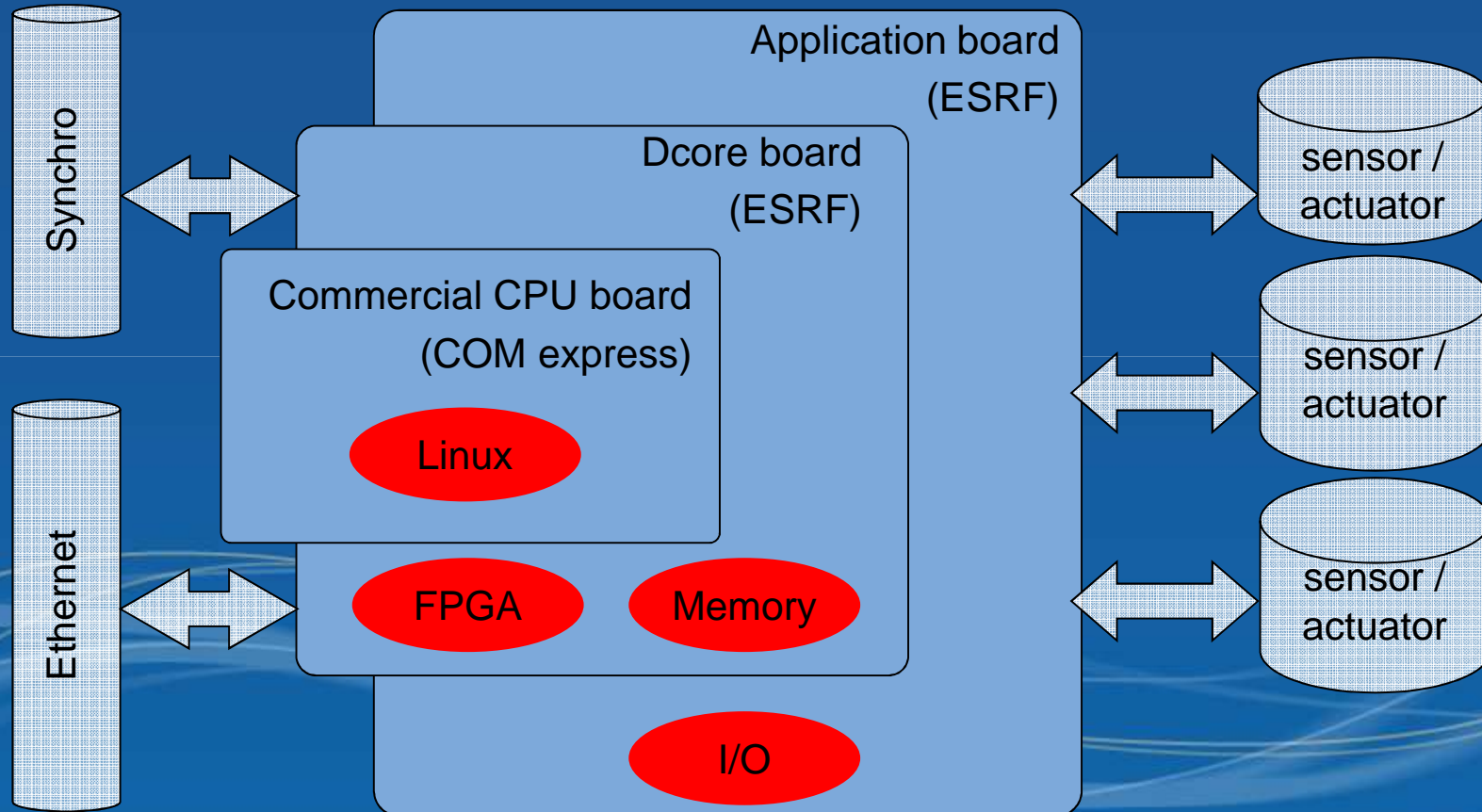
First Applications

- Encoder readout/mux module
- Analog to Digital/Frequency converter
- Single channel electrometer

Why an internal development?

- VME boards not supported in new beamlines
- Keep the modules close to the sensor/actuator
- Have a common interface with the applications

DAnCE internals



DAnCE internals (cont.)

- CPU board:
 - COM Express NANO standard compliant (55x84mm)
 - Standard footprint and connector
 - Several commercial products
 - Resizable resources (calculation, low power, memory, etc)
 - 1 Gb Ethernet link
 - Evaluating KONTRON boards
(Intel Atom E6xx 600MHz/1.6GHz, 512MB/2GB ram, 1/8GB flash)
- Dcore:
 - FPGA XILINX SPARTAN6 (SLX100T)
 - Large data memory directly connected to FPGA (64M x 16b)
 - FPGA internal design based on ESRF E-bone specifications
 - Communication between CPU and FPGA through PCI Express

DAnCE software issues

- Embedded:
 - Linux kernel 2.6 (built and customized by ESRF)
 - Three kernels under evaluation (standard, RT patched, XENOMAI)
 - PCI Express Linux driver (ESRF)
 - Communication/configuration program (ESRF)
 - Socket based (ASCII and binary) protocol (ESRF)
- Remote:
 - Unique Python communication library
 - TANGO Device Server on client host
 - Standalone clients
 - Etc

DAnCE: Synchronization aspects

- Synchronization outputs:
 - For each application board some internal events can be defined:
 - Reaching a certain position in an encoder
 - An event generated at regular encoder step intervals
 - Getting out of a position range
 - 2 events can be configured to be output through 2 generic Synchro OUT signals
- Synchronization inputs:
 - 2 generic Synchro IN signals allow for external events
 - For each application board, some actions can be defined and linked to the external events
 - Store all the input channels values in a buffer
 - Start an ADC conversion and store the result in a buffer

DAnCE: Synchronization aspects (cont.)

- For applications with more than one channel (4 channel ADC, others), more synchronization signals can be added
- **Buffers**
 - Each application board has a large memory buffer (1Gb)
 - Storage into the buffer can be done entirely by hardware events
 - Time stamping methods under discussion, but for the most common applications (continuous scans) it is not mandatory

Hardware Synchronization summary

- With the 3 first applications described (encoders, ADC, electrometer) and the use of P201, OPIOM and MUSST we meet the needs in terms of hardware synchronization expected at ESRF
- The next step towards simplification in the experiment configuration would be to have a timer board and a programmable hardware sequencer as application modules within the DAnCE platform

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