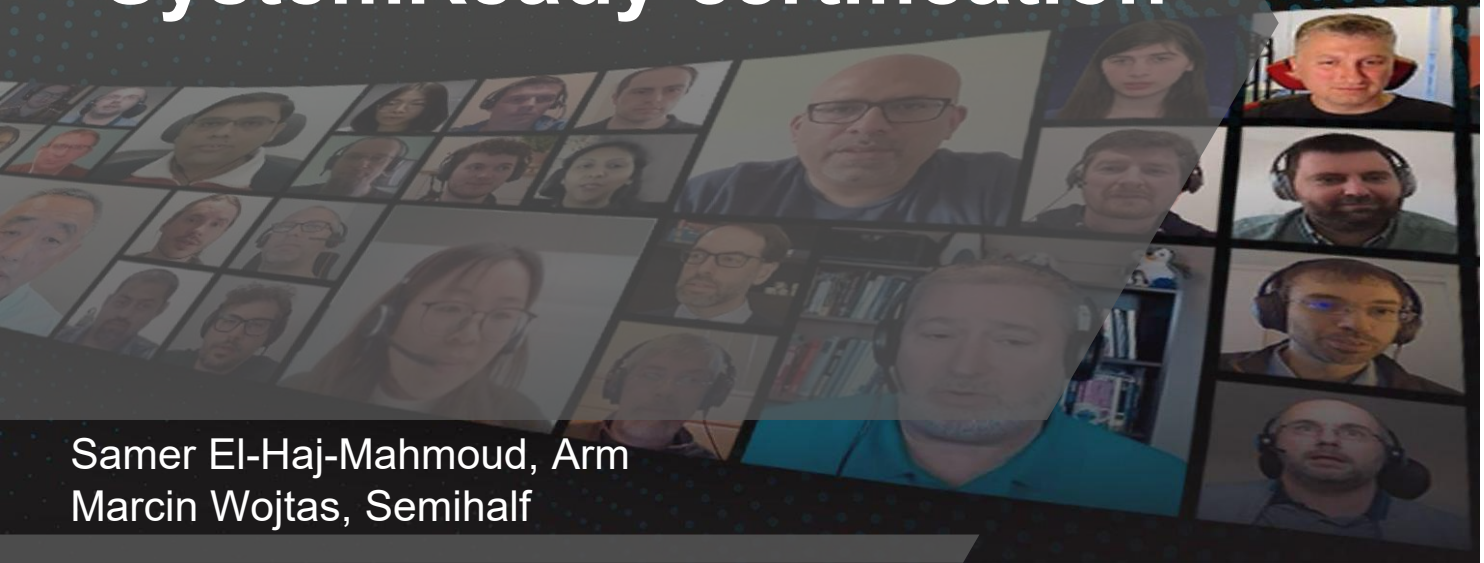
LVC21F-313
A firmware journey through standards to Arm SystemReady certification



Samer El-Haj-Mahmoud, Arm
Marcin Wojtas, Semihalf

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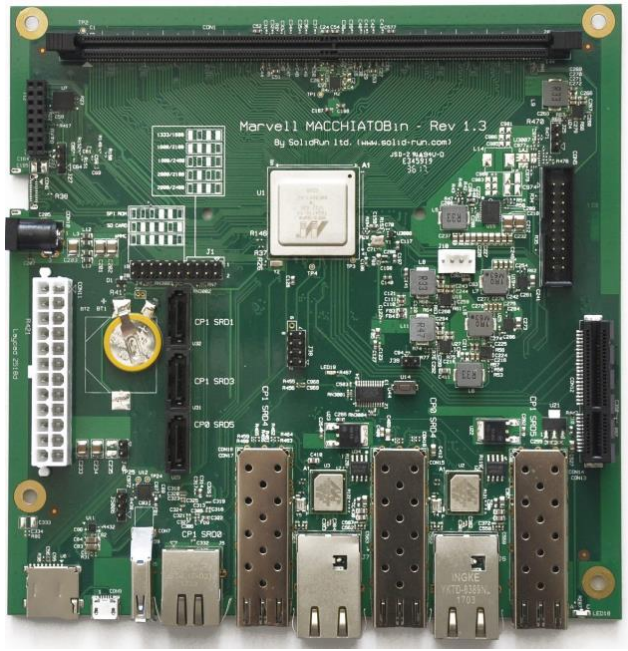
The beginnings - Arm ServerReady?

http://macchiatobin.net/product/macchiatobin-double-shot/

- Marvell Armada7k8k and SolidRun MacchiatoBin
- One of the first public arm64 UEFI ports in Linaro OpenPlatformPkg

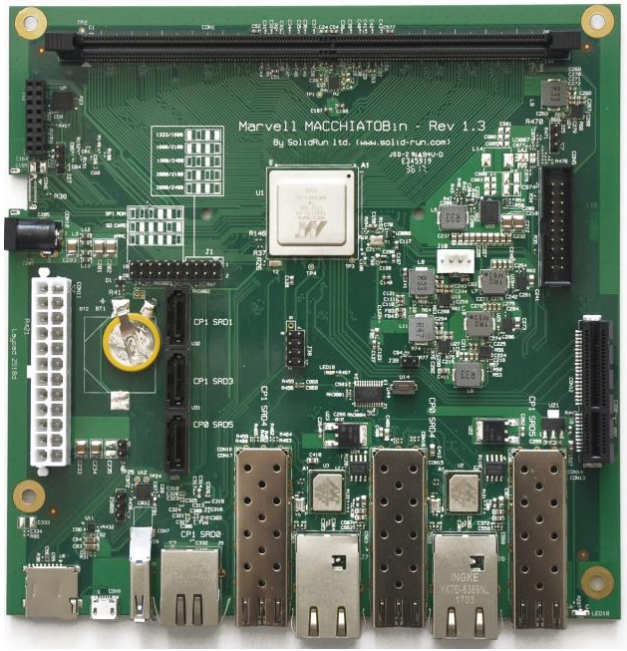
The beginnings - Arm ServerReady?



http://macchiatobin.net/product/macchiatobin-double-shot/

- SBSA/SBBR evaluation in 2018/2019
  - SBSA level 1
  - UEFI 2.x
  - ACPI 6.0
  - SMBIOS 3.2
  - Minor remaining issues in SBBR tests
- Why it failed to get certified as Arm ServerReady?

The beginnings - Arm ServerReady?



http://macchiatobin.net/product/macchiatobin-double-shot/

- It’s not a server!
- Ecosystem was not ready.
- HW limitations
  - Non-standard PCIe require quirks
  - Several non-discoverable controllers/platform devices, lacking ACPI support
  - FW cannot work around some of the SBSA compliance issues

Solution? SystemReady ES!

- SystemReady ES is perfect match for the Marvell SoCs
- Previous FW work paid off
- Already 3 systems certified!
  - Marvell OCTEON TX2 CN9130 Dev Board
  - SolidRun Macchiatobin Double Shot
  - SolidRun CN9132 CEx7 Eval Board

MacchiatoBin Double Shot

SolidRun CN9132 CEx7 Eval Board

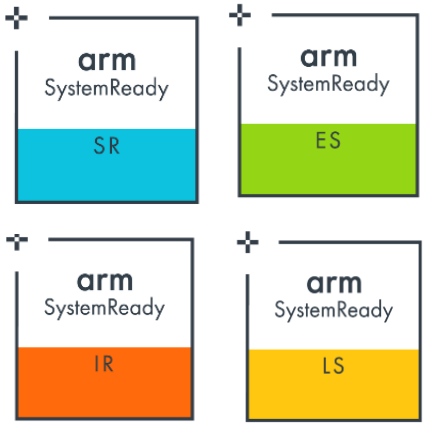
MARVELL

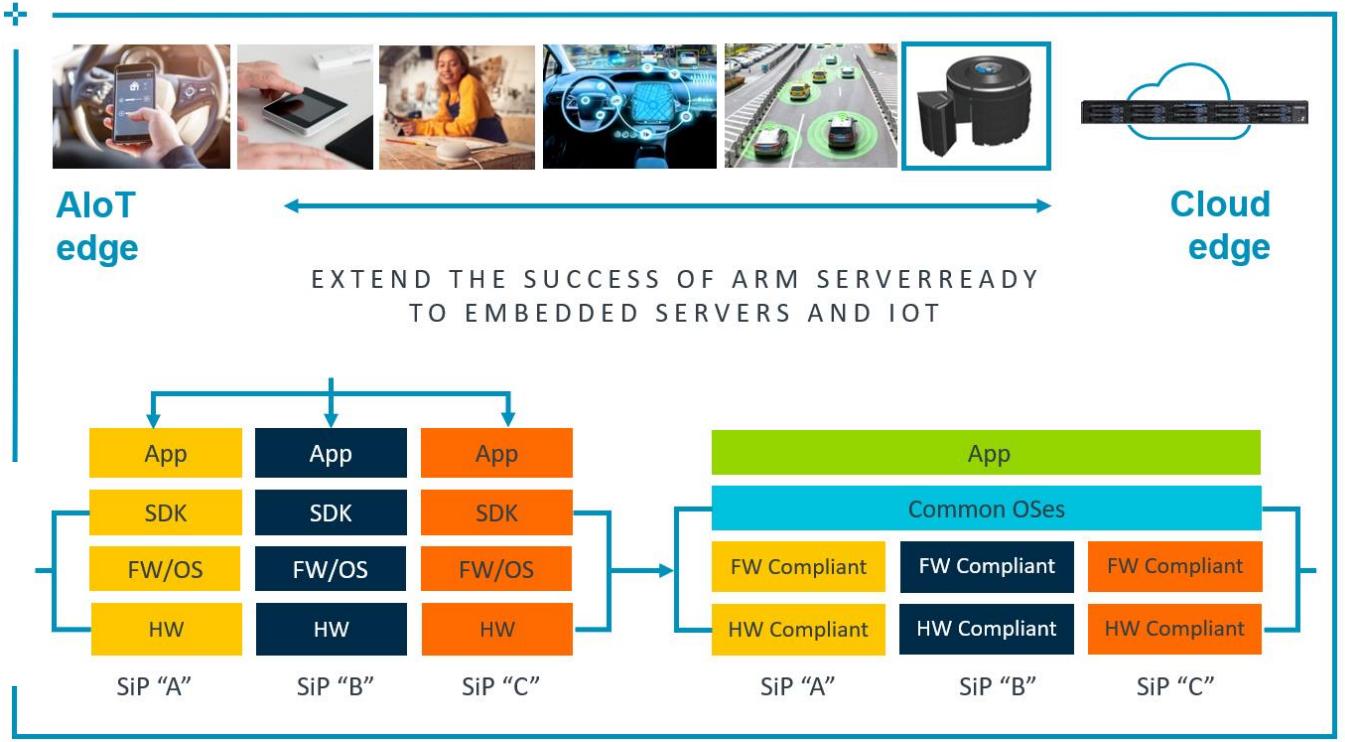
Marvell® OCTEON TX2™ CN913X

SystemReady Vision

arm SystemReady

Software Can Just Work on Arm-based Devices





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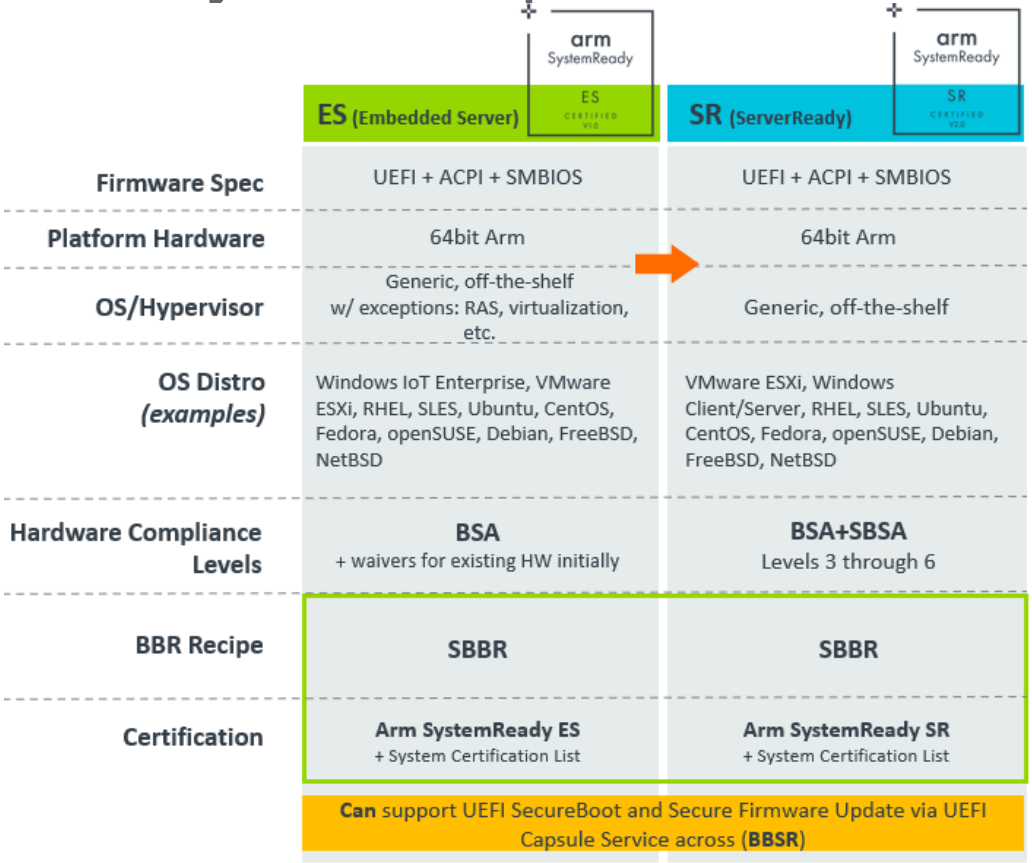
SystemReady ES - requirements



	ES (Embedded Server)	SR (ServerReady)
Firmware Spec	UEFI + ACPI + SMBIOS	UEFI + ACPI + SMBIOS
Platform Hardware	64bit Arm	64bit Arm
OS/Hypervisor	Generic, off-the-shelf w/ exceptions: RAS, virtualization, etc.	Generic, off-the-shelf
OS Distro *(examples)*	Windows IoT Enterprise, VMware ESXi, RHEL, SLES, Ubuntu, CentOS, Fedora, openSUSE, Debian, FreeBSD, NetBSD	VMware ESXi, Windows Client/Server, RHEL, SLES, Ubuntu, CentOS, Fedora, openSUSE, Debian, FreeBSD, NetBSD
Hardware Compliance Levels	**BSA** + waivers for existing HW initially	**BSA+SBSA** Levels 3 through 6
BBR Recipe	**SBBR**	**SBBR**
Certification	**Arm SystemReady ES** + System Certification List	**Arm SystemReady SR** + System Certification List
	Can support UEFI SecureBoot and Secure Firmware Update via UEFI Capsule Service across (**BBSR**)	

arm SystemReady

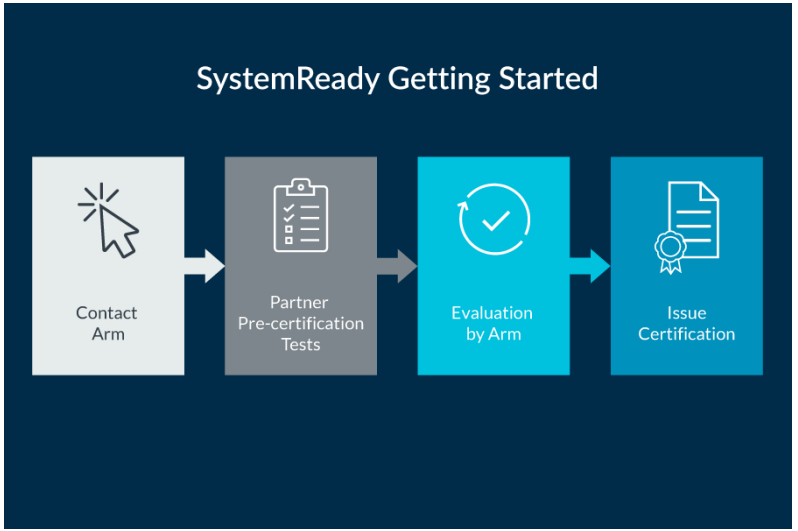
SystemReady ES – why is it needed?

- Arm ServerReady had great success in achieving its goals (standardizing Arm servers, hyperscale/datacentre segments)
- Arm SystemReady was launched @ Arm DevSummit Oct 2020 to continue & expand on the success of ServerReady
  - SystemReady SR for servers
  - SystemReady ES for IoT/edge segments (non-server HW)
- SystemReady ES Provides a path for certification
  - ES makes certification more achievable on non-server HW
  - ES requires SBBR+BSA, SR requires SBBR+ BSA+SBSA
  - ES certification waivers Levels 0 – 2 allowed
  - FW workarounds to hide PCIe ECAM and other BSA issues (may be possible on non-servers with limited PCIe topology)

arm SystemReady

SystemReady ES - how it's done?

- Partners contact Arm SystemReady Certification Program
- Partners then prepare pre-certification tests to evaluate the platform (HW and FW) readiness for certification
- Once ready, partners submit the platform HW and test results to be evaluated by Arm
- After evaluation, and addressing any FW issues, Arm issues Certification, along with any necessary Waivers, and publishes to Arm SystemReady ES Certification List
- Details of the process and criteria are in the Arm SystemReady Requirements Specification



SystemReady ES - FW/HW evaluation

- SystemReady ES certification is based on standards specifications:
  - BSA – Base System Architecture
  - BBR – Base Boot Architecture (SBBR Recipe)
- Initial evaluation include:
  - Completing a “Firmware Readiness Checklist”
  - Initial run of the test suites and installation of unmodified OS distros
  - Making HW and FW available to Arm
  - Arm performs a gap-analysis to determine compliance issues that need to be addressed in the FW

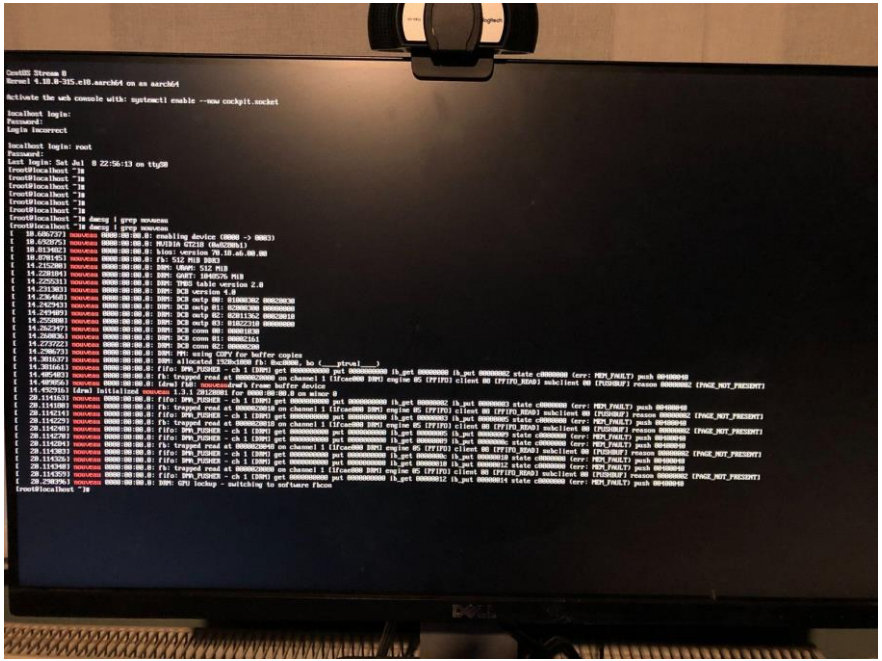
SystemReady ES - Testing

- Architecture Compliance Suite (ACS)
- Arm Enterprise ACS
- Includes open-source components:
  - UEFI Self Certification Test (SCT)
  - Firmware Test Suite (FWTS)
  - sbsa-acs (UEFI and Linux)
  - LUVOS
- Latest release: Enterprise ACS 3.0
- Currently still being used for SystemReady ES certification

- SystemReady ES ACS
- Using re-structured ACS tailored for different SystemReady bands
  - bbr-acs(SCT and FWTS)
  - bsa-acs (UEFI and Linux)
  - Linux busybox
- Beta 0.9 release available

SystemReady ES - OS installations

- Installation from ISO **just works**!
- Examples:
  - Centos 8 Stream



SystemReady ES - OS installations

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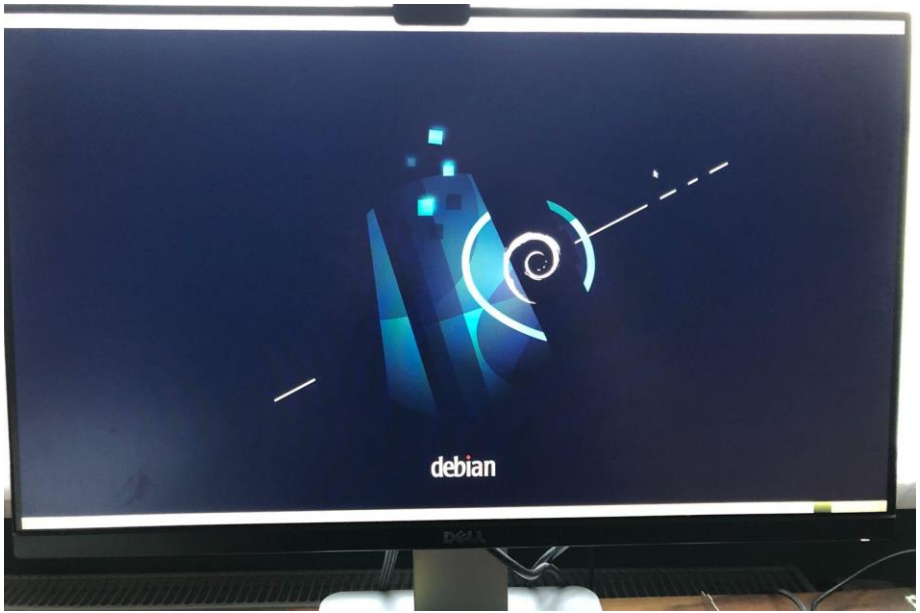
- Examples:
  - Centos 8 Stream
  - Debian 11



SystemReady ES - OS installations

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- Examples:
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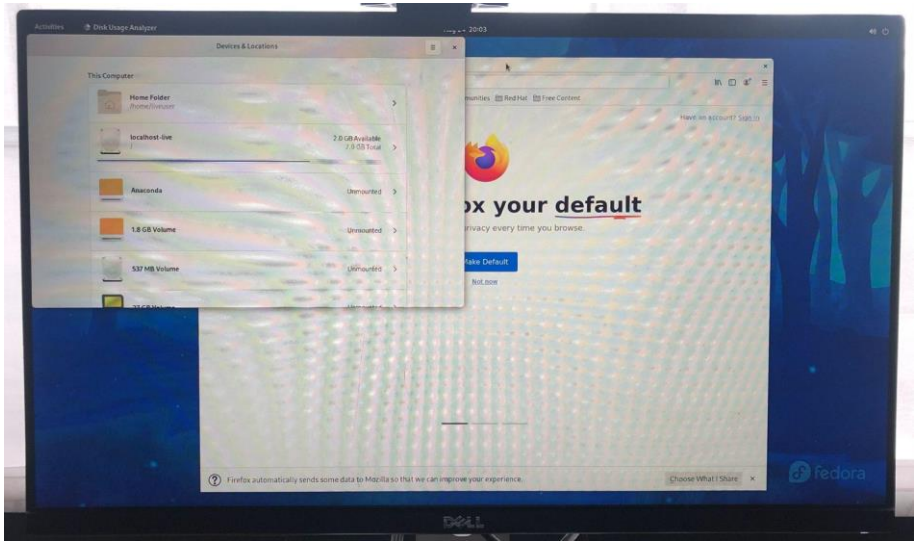
  - Debian 11
  - Fedora 34



SystemReady ES - OS installations

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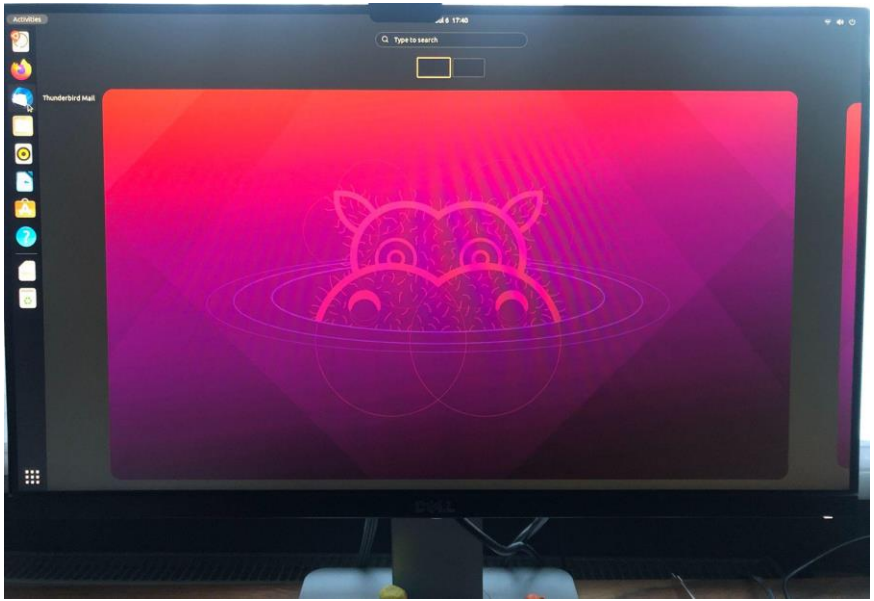
  - Fedora 34
  - Ubuntu 21.10



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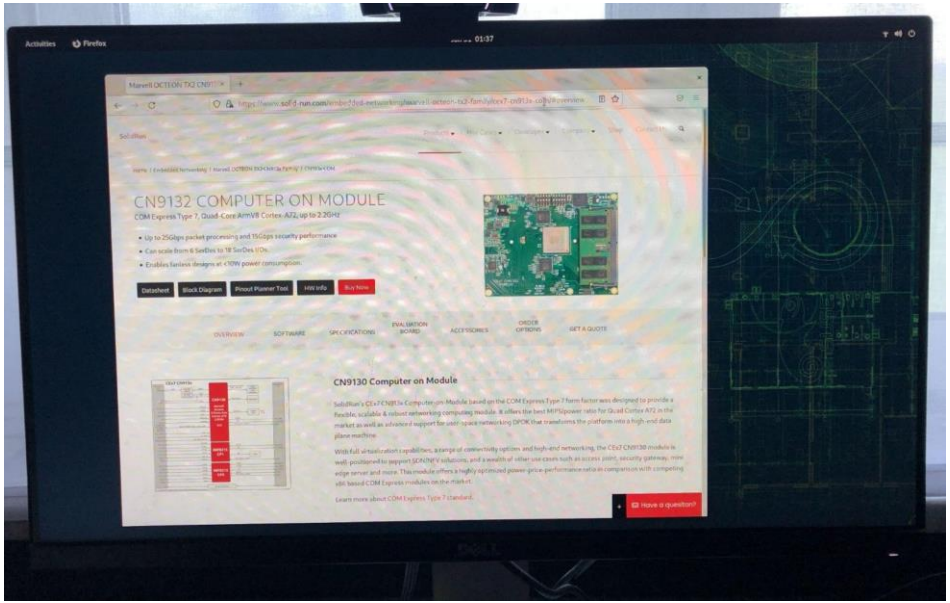

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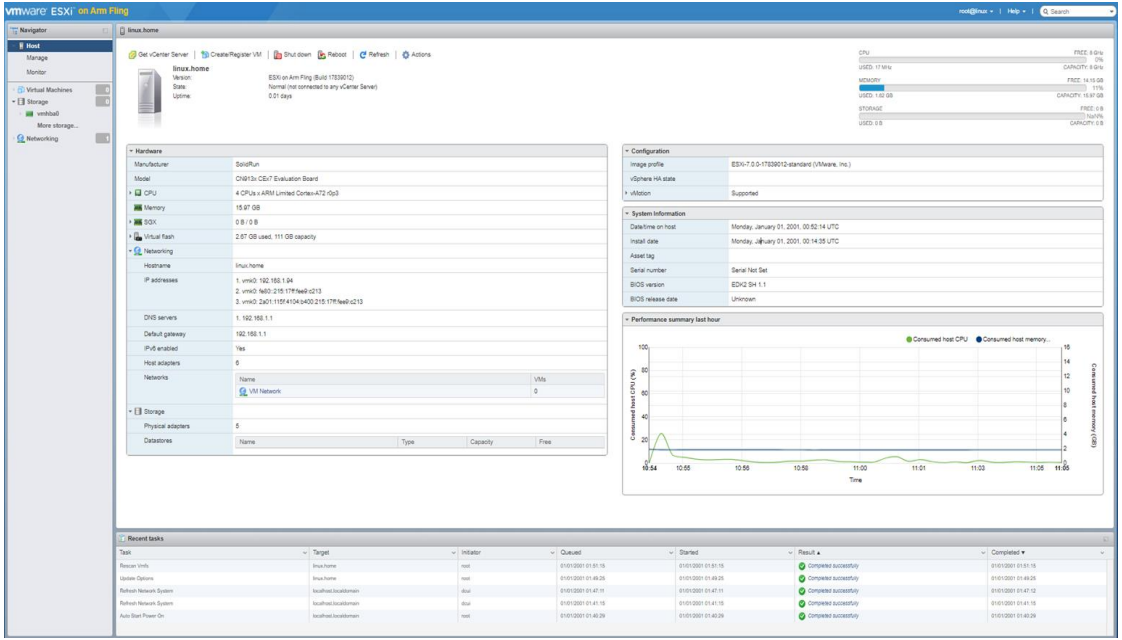
  - VMware ESXI-Arm v1.5



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  - FreeBSD & OpenBSD

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  - Centos 8 Stream
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  - OpenSUSE Tumbleweed
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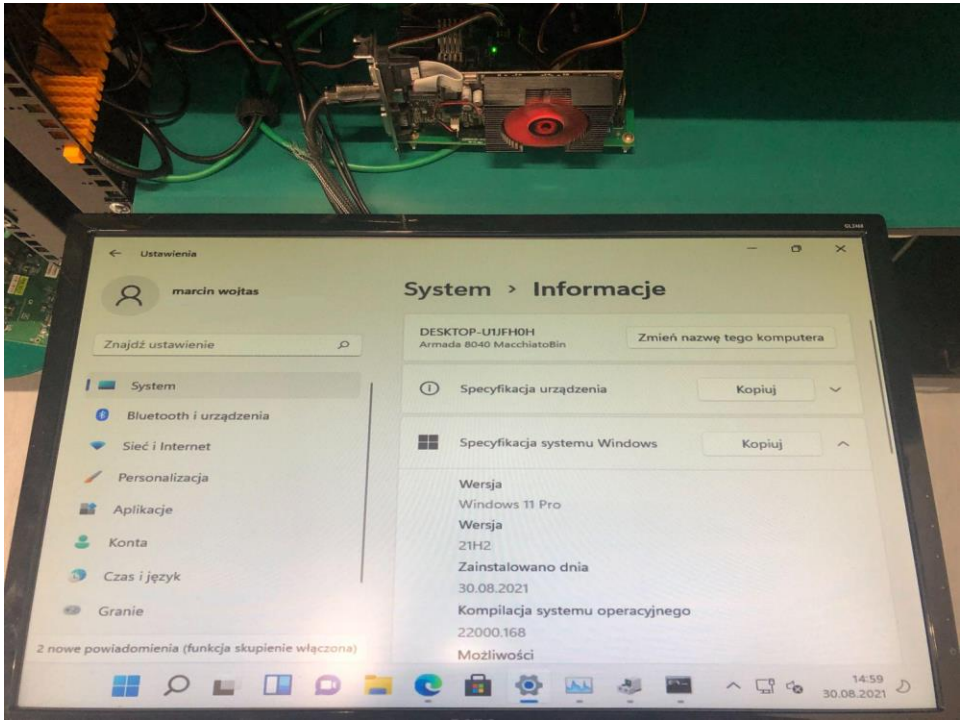
  - FreeBSD & OpenBSD
  - Windows 11 in a VM and natively (!)



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SystemReady ES - final steps

- Results reviewed and evaluated by Arm
- Waivers approved by Arm
- Certification issued by Arm

MARVELL

Company	Marvell
System	Marvell OCTEON TX2 CN9130 Development Board (DB) Variant A
SoC family	Marvell OCTEON TX2 CN913X
Firmware version	EDK2 SH 1.0
Additional Information	Firmware README on EDK2
ACS version	Enterprise ACS v3.0
BSA details	BSA v1.0 (currently tested with ACS for SBSA Level 3)
BBR details	SBBR (BBR 1.0)
Arm SystemReady certification	SystemReady ES V1.0 (Level 1)
Tested operating systems	• Windows PE ver 19041 • Fedora 34 • Fedora Workstation 34 Live • CentOS Stream 8 • Debian 11 • FreeBSD 14.0 • OpenBSD 6.9 • OpenSUSE Leap 15.2 • OpenSUSE Tumbleweed Yomi Live • Ubuntu Server 20.04.2 LTS • Ubuntu 21.10 Daily Build (dev) • VMware ESXi-Arm 7.0.0 Fling v1.5

arm SystemReady

Certificate of Compliance

SystemReady

This document certifies that the following company and system have passed the specified version of the Architecture Compliance Suite (ACS), in the below-stated SystemReady band.

Arm SystemReady certification: SystemReady ES V1.0 (Level 1)

Company: SolidRun

System: CEx7 CN9132 Evaluation board

SoC family: Marvell OCTEON TX2 CN913X

Firmware version: EDK2 SH 1.1

ACS version: Enterprise ACS 3.0

BSA details: BSA v1.0 (currently tested with ACS for SBSA Level 3)

BBR details: : SBBR (BBR 1.0)

This certificate is subject to the Arm SystemReady Terms and Conditions and is awarded with the following number of waivers*: 14

Certification number: 430

Date issued: 10/08/2021

Issued by: Arm Digitally signed by Arm Date: 2021.08.10 15:19:16 +01'00'

arm SystemReady ES CERTIFIED V1.0

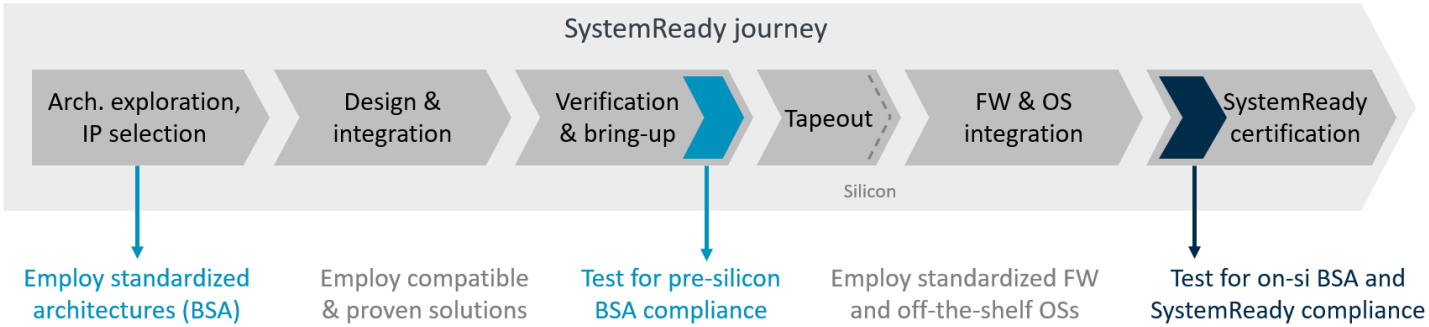
*If waivers apply, they have been communicated by Arm in an accompanying waiver document

https://developer.arm.com/architectures/system-architectures/arm-systemready/es

Lessons learned & best practices

✓ Check BSA spec pre-silicon

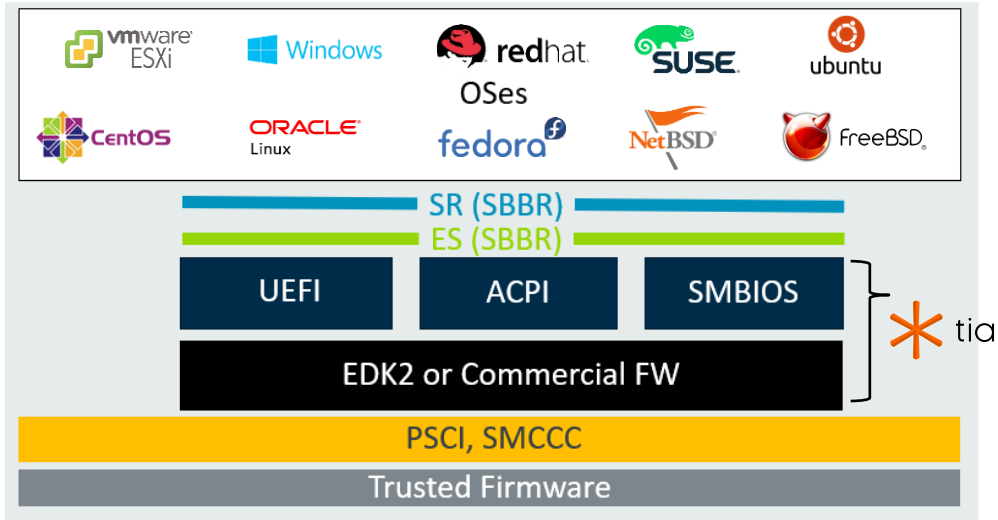
- Pre-silicon validation testing helps reduce most costly / problematic silicon compliance issues
- Validation include running Arm ACS test suites and EDA partners (S)BSA verification solutions



Lessons learned & best practices

- ✓ Check BSA spec pre-silicon
- ✓ SBBR leverage open source and commonalities

- Open source FW is not required for Arm SystemReady certification
- But having open source platforms helps in building the ecosystem
- Leverage open source components and common silicon / platform code, whenever possible
- Common firmware projects: tianocore.org and trustedfirmware.org



TrustedFirmware.org

Lessons learned & best practices

- ✓ Check BSA spec pre-silicon
- ✓ SBBR leverage open source and commonalities
- ✓ Common problematic areas:
  - ✓ PCIe ECAM

- Lack of **standard PCIe ECAM** is the most common BSA compliance issue
- Pre-silicon validation testing is key in resolving before tape-out.
- Firmware workarounds (to fake ECAM, or make it “look OK” to the OS) are possible, but costly and have side effects
- OS platform specific quirks not desired: Existing OS distros will not “just work”
- Arm standard: PCI Configuration Space Access SMC Interface as a possible alternative

Lessons learned & best practices

- ✓ Check BSA spec pre-silicon
- ✓ SBBR leverage open source and commonalities
- ✓ Common problematic areas:
  - ✓ PCIe ECAM
  - ✓ UART

- BSA requires either Arm Generic UART (such as PL011) or 16550 fully compliant UART for OS console and debug
- PL011 / Arm Generic UART is the safest choice
- 16550 IP in SoCs vary widely, and mostly not fully compliant to the standard: Assume OS specific drivers/quirks (e.g. many “DW8250” variations Linux drivers)
- Critical for embedded systems to provide main/only OS console (especially if there is no video console or PCIe slot to add a graphics card)

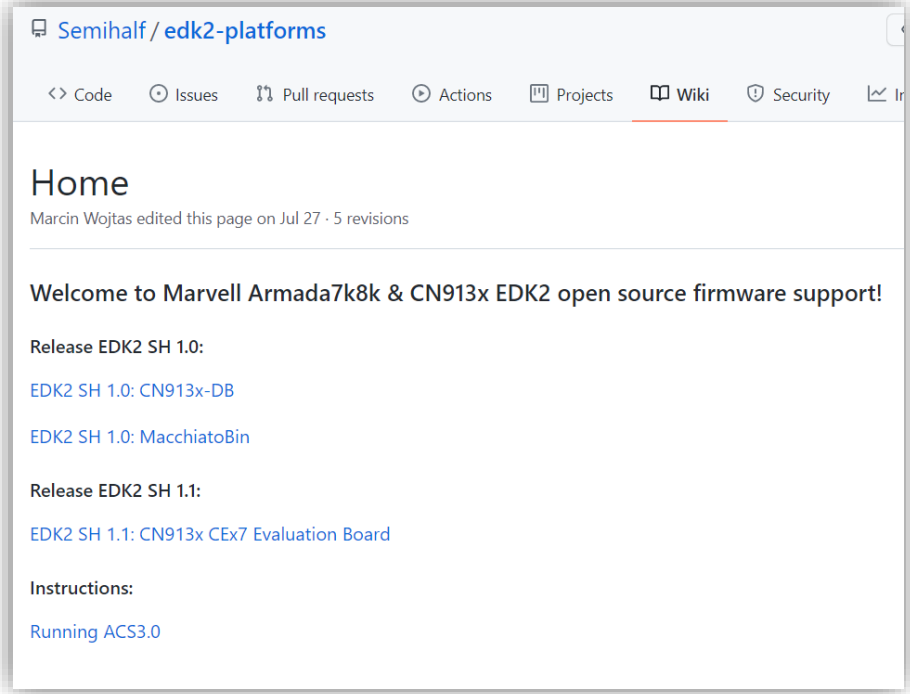
Lessons learned & best practices

- ✓ Check BSA spec pre-silicon
- ✓ SBBR leverage open source and commonalities
- ✓ Common problematic areas:
  - ✓ PCIe ECAM
  - ✓ UART
- ✓ Enable networking!

- Some OS/Hypervisor install require NIC card (e.g. ESXi-Arm)
- NICs on embedded systems are usually not supported in ACPI world (at least initially)
- For SystemReady ES certification, use PCIe or USB NIC common adapters with UEFI & OS support

Where is the firmware?

- Public binaries available on Semihalf GitHub wiki page
- What about the FW sources?
- Marvell CN913x/Armada7k8k - all code already in upstream!
- Fast path for next certifications



Thank you

Accelerating deployment in the Arm Ecosystem

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Contact us at: **systemReady@arm.com**

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