

Pervasive Systems

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Lecture 17:
Wiselib: Algorithmic Library for WSN



Typical Problems In WSN Programming

- Theoreticians are not interested in programming
 - Ideally they just have to write their algorithms
 - And do not need to care about boilerplate code
- Practitioners are not interested in theory
 - Just need a good algorithm for their task
 - Without having to study the field for years

- ⇒ There is need for an algorithm library
- With lots of algorithms for all kinds of tasks
 - That are easy to integrate into existing systems
 - And are combinable
 - And easily enhanceable



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Solution

The Wiselib

A library of about 50 algorithms, lots more to come! These are

- Extensible
- Combineable
- Exchangeable

Currently includes the following algorithm categories

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| • Clustering | • Metrics |
| • Graph Coloring | • Routing |
| • Crypto | • Synchronization |
| • Energy Preservation | • Topology Control |
| • Localization | • Tracking |



The Wiselib is . . .

- A C++ project
- Free (as in freedom), licensed under LGPL
- **NOT** a middleware (we will see later why)

<http://wiselib.org>

There you'll find:

- The Documentation Wiki
- The Wiselib Sourcecode
- The Bugtracker
- Instructions on how to download & install the Wiselib



Wiselib Distributions

Testing

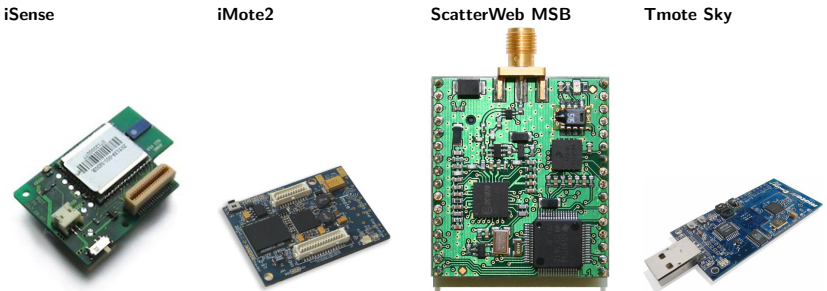
- Under development
- Not necessarily tested on all platforms
- New things that may still change their interface
- “Release early, release often”

Stable

- Tested on all supported platforms
- Interfaces will not change anymore



Platform Independence



Hardware	iSense	iMote2	ScatterWeb MSB	Tmote Sky
Jennic	Intel XScale	MSP430	MSP 430	
Operating System	iSense	TinyOS	Scatterweb / Contiki	Contiki / TinyOS
ROM / RAM	128kB / 92kB	32MB / 32MB	48kB / 10kB	48kB / 10kB
Memory Management	Dynamic	Dynamic	Static	Dynamic
Programming Language	C++	nesC	C	C, nesC



Platform Independence

- When scientists all over the world work together, they likely use different experimentation environments
- The Wiselib aims to be **versatile**
 - So it can be used for **different tasks**
 - Which also require **different hardware**
- In lots of applications we need **heterogeneous nodes**
 - But do not want to write the same code again and again for each node type

→ We want the Wiselib to be platform independent!



Platform Independence

- Some platforms do not provide dynamic memory
- And/or have limited RAM
- Some do not provide a C++ environment
 - No libstdc++
 - So no exception handling, RTTI, virtual inheritance, etc...

The “extremely portable” subset of C++

- C (except malloc / free)
- Static memory management
- “Simple” (non-virtual) inheritance
- Templates
- Use C-Headers (<math.h> instead of <cmath>)

The Wiselib adheres to those conditions!



Memory Management

Platform independence demands:

- No malloc/free or new/delete
- Data can be allocated in 3 ways:
 - Global
 - Static
 - On the stack (function-local)
- Constructors of global/static variables will be called before main()
- ... in undefined order!
- That can be very undesirable:

```
1 Radio radio;
2 SomeAlgorithm algo(radio); // Might receive uninitialized radio!
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- Provide init()/destruct() methods, call them manually
- Hide initialization method of system objects ("Facets")



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Inheritance

Problem: Virtual inheritance is not portable.

What would we use virtual inheritance for?

- **Code reuse**
Base class provides functionality which can be used by derived class
 - Still possible with non-virtual inheritance
- **Abstraction**
Define an *interface* which *classes* can use to interact with each other
 - An algorithm only has to know the interface of the things its using, the concrete implementation is exchangeable

We want both!



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Inheritance

Do it with templates!

- The “interface” is given by a piece of documentation, called **Concept**
- An algorithm expects a template parameter for the type of the concrete class, which is called **Model**



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Template Based Design

```

1 class iSenseRadioModel {
2   int enable_radio() {}
3 }

1 class ShawnRadioModel {
2   int enable_radio() {}
3 }

1 template<typename Radio_P>
2 class Algorithm
3 {
4   typedef Radio_P Radio;
5
6   int init( Radio& radio ) {
7     radio_ = &radio;
8     radio_->enable_radio();
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10
11  Radio::self_pointer_t radio_;
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Abstraction

Concept

- Describes behaviour of components
- E.g. "A Radio has a void send(char*) method"
- Only documentation

Model

- Actual class
- Implements any number of concepts
- E.g. A routing protocol may implement the radio concept
- ...so it can be used like one



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How Usable Is The Template Approach?

- There are other ways to provide abstraction
 - In C, one would usually abstract with **function pointers**
 - In C++ one would use **virtual inheritance**

How do they compare to the template approach?



Abstracting with C function pointers

```

1 // C
2 typedef struct {
3   int (*value)(void);
4 } Concept;
5
6 int model_value() { return 5; }
7 Concept model = { .value = &model_value };
8
9 void algorithm(Concept *c) {
10  // pointer->pointer->function
11  int v = c->value();
12 }
13
14 int main(int argc, char** argv) {
15  algorithm(&model);
16 }

```



Abstracting with templates

```

1 // C++
2
3 // concept "Concept" {
4 //   has an 'int value()' method
5 // }
6
7 class Model {
8 public:
9   int value() { return 5; }
10 };
11
12 template<typename Concept_P>
13 class Algorithm {
14 public:
15   // reference->function
16   void init(Concept_P& c) { v = c.value(); }
17   int v;
18 };
19
20 int main(int argc, char** argv) {
21   Model m;
22   Algorithm<Model> a;
23   a.init(m);
24 }

```



Abstracting with virtual inheritance

```

1 // C++
2 class Concept {
3 public:
4   virtual int value();
5 };
6
7 class Model : public Concept {
8 public:
9   int value() { return 5; }
10 };
11
12 class Algorithm {
13 public:
14   // reference->vtable->function
15   void init(Concept& c) { v = c.value(); }
16   int v;
17 };
18
19 int main(int argc, char** argv) {
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22   a.init(m);
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```



Comparing the results

After compiling (for jennic, using ba-elf-gcc/ba-elf-g++) with -Os:

	text	data	bss	dec	hex	filename
2	56	4	0	60	3c	c.o
3	16	0	0	16	10	template.o
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- Template-based design is space efficient!
- Template-based design produces fast code!
- Template-based design is portable!



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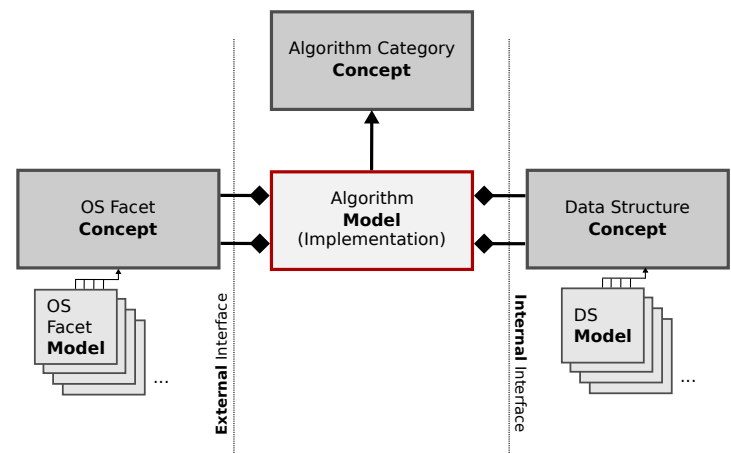


Concept Organization

- Lots of models
 - Lots of concepts
 - Models that behave similar should share concepts
 - E.g. A routing algorithm should be usable like a radio
 - For the user, both are just things that
 - Can receive messages
 - Can send messages to nodes
 - Only the neighborhood is different!
 - But a routing algorithm might have additional methods!
- We want a (loose) hierarchy of concepts
- We want to express concept inheritance
- We want to have “base concepts” for general things



Types Of Concepts



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The OsModel Facet

```

1 concept OsModel {
2   typedef ... size_t;
3   typedef ... block_data_t; // "byte"-like type for buffers
4   enum ReturnValues { SUCCESS = ..., ERR.UNSPEC = ..., ... };
5
6   typedef ... Radio; // Wireless communication facet
7   typedef ... Timer;
8   typedef ... Debug; // Send debug messages
9
10  static const Endianness endianness; // WISELIB.LITTLE-Endian or
11  WISELIB.BIG-Endian
11 }

```

- Holds platform properties (like endianness, size type, etc...)
- Constants for return values
 - Include at least SUCCESS and ERR.UNSPEC (unspecified error)
 - May/will include more, similar to errno
- Holds types of other OS Facets



Concept Inheritance

```

1 concept RadioFacet {
2   typedef ... OsModel;
3   typedef ... node_id_t;
4   typedef ... block_data_t;
5   typedef ... size_t;
6
7   typedef ... message_id_t;
8
9   enum SpecialNodeIds {
10    BROADCAST_ADDRESS = ...,
11    NULL_NODE_ID = ...
12 };
13 enum Restrictions {
14    MAX_MESSAGE_LENGTH = ...
15 };
16
17 int enable_radio();
18 int disable_radio();
19
20 int send(node_id_t receiver, size_t
21         len, block_data_t *data);
22
23 node_id_t id();
24 // ...
25 };
    
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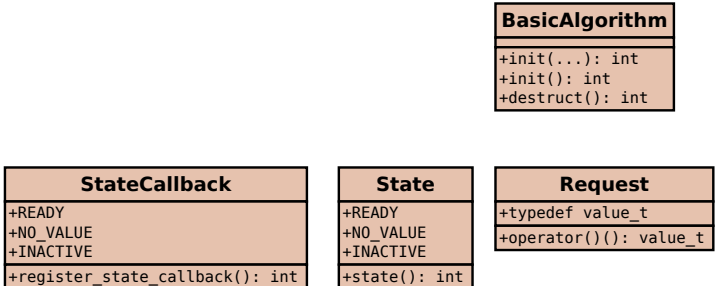
← We "derive" another concept from this one:

```

1 concept VariablePowerRadioFacet
2 : public RadioFacet
3 {
4   // Everything in RadioFacet plus:
5
6   typedef ... TxPower;
7
8   int set_power(TxPower p);
9   TxPower power();
10 };
    
```



Base Concepts



- BasicAlgorithm** Manual initialization & destruction (so the order is defineable)
- Request** Produces values (can be polled with call-operator)
- State** Object is not guaranteed to be able to operate all the time
- StateCallback** Object can inform its user about state changes



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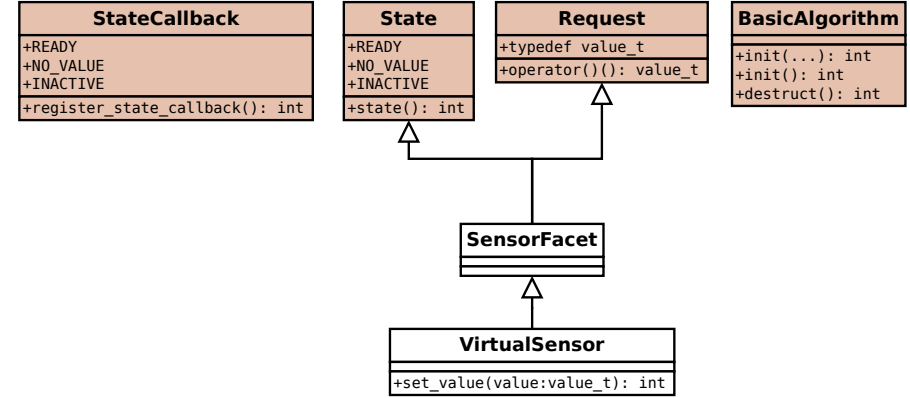
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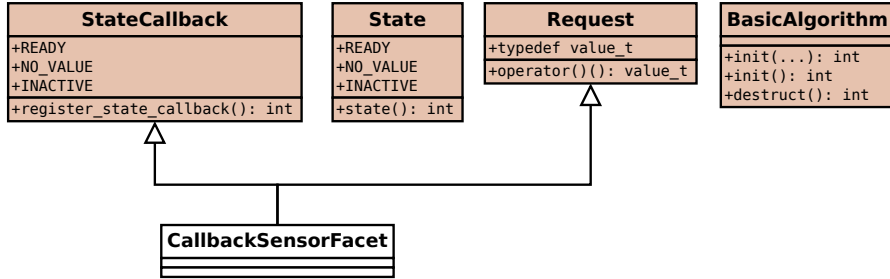
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Stackability

Idea: Things with similar behaviour should share a concept!

Routing algorithms behave like radios

- They send and receive data to other nodes
- Routing algorithms implement the *Radio Concept*

Localization algorithms produce a stream of values

- So do sensors!
- Localization algorithms implement the *Sensor Concept* or the *CallbackSensor Concept*

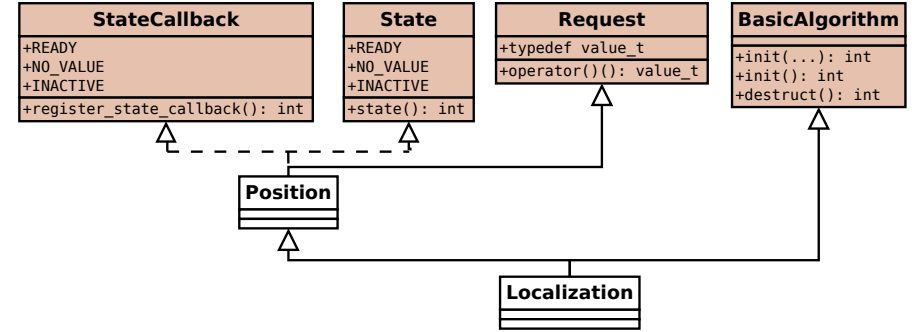
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Benefit

- Say some algorithm uses a radio (i.e. transmits data)
- We can pass a routing algorithm instead
- And extend the algorithms functionality that way!



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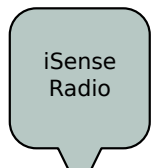
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- Create arbitrary complex applications
- Just by plugging together algorithms

Here:

- "Physical" radio by iSense
- AES-Encrypted node-to-node radio
- Routing, all packets AES-encrypted node-to-node
- All packets AES-encrypted node-to-node, payload ECC encrypted end-to-end

...can be used like a single simple radio!



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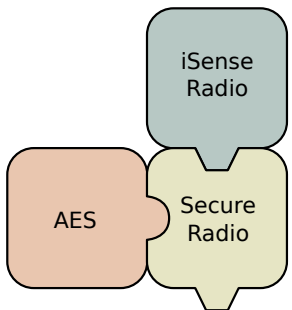
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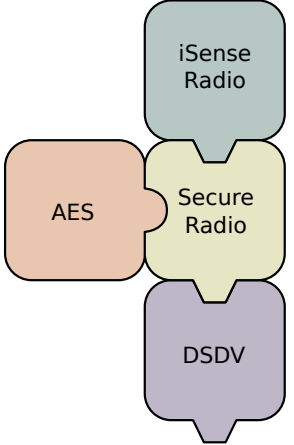
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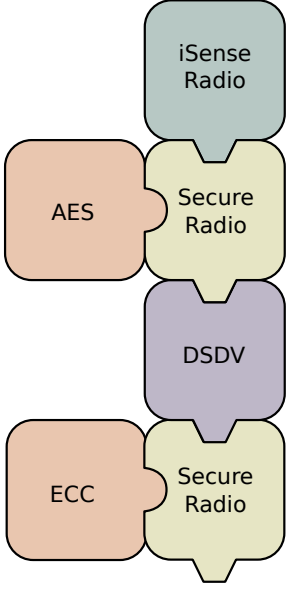
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- 1 "Physical" radio by iSense
- 2 AES-Encrypted node-to-node radio
- 3 Routing, all packets AES-encrypted node-to-node
- 4 All packets AES-encrypted node-to-node, payload ECC encrypted end-to-end

...can be used like a single simple radio!



Stackability



- Create arbitrary complex applications
- Just by plugging together algorithms

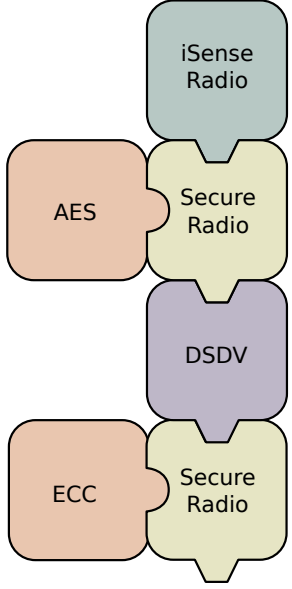
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Integration Demands

- Wiselib components should be easily integrable into existing code
- We want and/or need the full power of the platform.
 - Examples:
 - Dynamically discover attached sensors
 - Fine-tuned device configuration

BUT

- Sometimes you want to run the same application on different platforms
- Advanced hardware settings are relatively unimportant

Two different integration mechanisms needed!



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Two different integration mechanisms needed!



Integration Mechanisms

Direct Integration

- Just use whatever parts of the Wiselib you like
- ⊕ Retain full power of your platform
- ⊕ Good if you have existing code
- ⊖ Not portable



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Two different integration mechanisms needed!



Integration Mechanisms

Generic Application

- Write a Wiselib application class
- ⊕ Can be compiled for all Wiselib backends
- ⊖ You can only access the operating system through facets
- ⊖ But functionality will be limited to a common subset
E.g. you have to write "extremely portable" C++ (no new/delete, RTTI, exceptions, ...) in order to retain portability



Direct Integration

```

1 // ...
2
3 void iSenseDemoApplication::boot(void) {
4   os_.debug("WiselibExample::boot");
5   routing_.enable();
6   routing_.reg_rcv_callback<
7     iSenseDemoApplication,
8     &iSenseDemoApplication::receive_routing_message>(this);
9
10  os_.allow_sleep(false);
11  os_.add_task_in(isense::Time(MILLISECONDS), this, 0);
12 }
13
14 // ...

```

- iSense specific code
- Wiselib specific code



Direct Integration

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- iSense specific code
- Wiselib specific code



Generic Application

```

1#include "external_interface/external_interface.h"
2#include "external_interface/external_interface_testing.h"
3// ...
4
5typedef wiselib::PCOsModel Os;
6class DemoApplication {
7public:
8    void init(Os::AppMainParameter& amp) {
9        radio_ = &wiselib::FacetProvider<Os, Os::Radio>::get_facet(amp);
10       debug_ = &wiselib::FacetProvider<Os, Os::Debug>::get_facet(amp);
11
12       algorithm_.init();
13
14       radio_>enable_radio();
15       debug_>debug(" Initialized.\n");
16   }
17
18private:
19    Os::Debug::self_pointer_t debug_;
20    Os::Radio::self_pointer_t radio_;
21    SomeAlgorithm algorithm_;
22};
23
24wiselib::WiselibApplication<Os, DemoApplication> demo_app;
25void application_main(Os::AppMainParameter& amp) {
26    demo_app.init(amp);
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```



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Initialization: FacetProvider for OS facets / Manual for algorithms

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Platform selection

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application_main getting called by Wiselib ↔ OS adaptor

What is a Facet?

- **Connection** between algorithms and OS
- **OS Facets (Concepts)**
 - OS Facet
 - Radio Facet
 - Timer Facet
 - ...
- For **each** supported OS at least **one model** per facet
 - iSenseOsModel
 - ContikiRadioModel
 - ShawnTimerModel
 - ...
- **Possible** to provide **multiple models** per facet
 - ContikiRimeRadioModel
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OS Facet Overview

	OS	Radio (TX/Power Ext.) (RSSI/LQI Ext.)	Timer	Logging	Clock (Set Clock Ext.)	Serial Comm.	Position	
WP2 OSA	⊕	○	○	⊕				4/7
Contiki	⊕	○	⊕	⊕		○		5/7
TinyOS	⊕			⊕				2/7
iSense	⊕	⊕ ● ●	⊕	⊕	⊕ ●	⊕	○	7/7
ScatterWeb	⊕	○	⊕	⊕				4/7
Shawn	⊕	⊕ ● ●	⊕	⊕	⊕		⊕	6/7

(⊕ = fully supported, ○ = works / proof of concept, ● = with extension)



Exchangeability with Algorithms

- Basic design issue: **Flexibility**
- Pass an **algorithm** where a **facet** is expected
- Examples
 - Pass routing algorithm where radio is expected
⇒ Enable flexible multihop neighborhoods
 - Pass time-synchronization algorithm where clock is expected
⇒ Enable system-wide time basis
 - Pass localization algorithm where position is expected
⇒ Only some nodes in the network need to know their position
 - Pass routing-based debug model where debug facet is expected
⇒ Debug nodes that are not connected to a gateway position
- Advantage: Totally **transparent** for algorithm



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The OS Facet

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2   typedef ... size_t;
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4   enum ReturnValues { SUCCESS, EUNSPEC, ... }; // Define constants for return
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6   typedef ... Radio; // Wireless communication facet
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- **Only** facet which does **not need** to be **instantiated**
- Provide **type definitions** and **constants**
- Platform properties (endianness, size type, ...)
- Constants for return values
 - Include at least SUCCESS and ERR_UNSPEC (unspecified error)
 - May/will include more, similar to errno
- Default types for basic OS Facets



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Radio Facet (1 of 4)

- Design issues
 - Abstraction to underlying hardware radio
 - Complex routing algorithms
 - *Virtual* radio providing *virtual* ids
- Send messages to other nodes
- Callback registration for received messages
- Provide node id (and its **type!**)
 - Node id type is defined **per radio**
 - E.g., provide IP addresses, but run on 16-bit addresses
 - Only restriction: Be passed to sizeof()



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Radio Facet (2 of 4)

```

1 concept RadioFacet {
2   typedef ... node_id_t;
3   typedef ... block_data_t;
4   typedef ... size_t;
5   typedef ... message_id_t;

```

- Ability to provide **arbitrary** node ID types
- Message ID type to identify received messages

```

9 enum SpecialNodeIds { BROADCAST_ADDRESS = ..., NULL_NODE_ID = ... };
10 enum Restrictions { MAX_MESSAGE_LENGTH = ... };

```

- Basic constants for broadcasting and unknown nodes
- Maximal message length defined **per radio**

```

11 int enable_radio();
12 int disable_radio();

```

- Turn on/off radio
- Return **SUCCESS** or error code if failed



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Radio Facet (3 of 4)

```
13 int send(node_id_t receiver, size_t len, block_data_t *data );
```

- Send message to receiver (either unicast or broadcast)
- Return SUCCESS or error code if failed

```
14 node_id_t id();
```

- Return node id: Can be of **arbitrary** type

```
15 template<class T, void (T::*TMethod)(node_id_t, size_t, block_data_t*)>
16 int reg_rcv_callback(T *obj_pnt);
17
18 int unreg_rcv_callback(int cid);
19 }
```

- Callback registration: Return *callback id* (or -1 if failed)
- Pass *callback id* to unregister callback



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Radio Facet (4 of 4) - Derived Concepts

• VariablePowerRadio

```
1 typedef ... TxPower;
2
3 int set_power(TxPower p);
4 TxPower power();
```

- Set transmission power
- Read out TX power to work on value (increment, decrement, ...)

• ExtendedDataRadio

```
1 typedef ... ExtendedData;
2
3 template<class T, void (T::*TMethod)(node_id_t, size_t,
4 block_data_t*, ExtendedData&)>
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```

- Register **receive** method with additional parameter
- Extended data can be LQI, RSSI, ...
→ Again a concept with different ExtendedData-models



Radio Facet (4 of 4) - Derived Concepts

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```

- Register **receive** method with additional parameter
- Extended data can be LQI, RSSI, ...
→ Again a concept with different ExtendedData-models



Timer Facet

- Event mechanism
- Wait for given time, then call me back...*

```
1 concept TimerFacet {
2     typedef ... millis_t;
3
4     template<typename T, void (T::*TMethod)(void*)>
5     int set_timer(millis_t millis, T *obj_pnt, void *userdata);
6 }
```

- Time given in milliseconds
- Callback registration: Call passed method in given time
- userdata is passed on callback



Timer Facet

- Event mechanism
- Wait for given time, then call me back...*

```
1 concept TimerFacet {
2     typedef ... millis_t;
3
4     template<typename T, void (T::*TMethod)(void*)>
5     int set_timer(millis_t millis, T *obj_pnt, void *userdata);
6 }
```

- Time given in milliseconds
- Callback registration: Call passed method in given time
- userdata is passed on callback



Debug/Logging Facet

- Write out debug or logging data
- Equivalent to printf()

```
1 concept DebugFacet
2 {
3     void debug( const char *msg, ... );
4 }
```

- Only one method: debug(...)
- Usage as printf()
⇒ debug->debug("print an int: %d", my_int);



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Clock Facet

- Access to system time
- Type defined by model (platform dependent)

```

1 concept ClockFacet {
2   typedef ... time_t;
3
4   enum ClockSpecificData { CLOCKS_PER_SEC = ..., };
5
6   time_t time();
7 }
    
```

- Only one method: time()
- Number of clock tics per second (CLOCKS_PER_SEC):
 - Deal with platform independent time calculations

- Derived Concept: Settable Clock facet

```

1 int set_time( time_t time );
    
```

- Set time (e.g., for time-synchronization)
- Currently only implemented for iSense



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Facet Structure

- **Construction** of facets **system dependent**
 - Shawn: A facet needs to know to which processor it belongs
 - iSense: Require access to `isense::Os`
 - Contiki: Only calls to C functions
- Each system with **own constructors**
- Generic Wiselib Application
 - **Construction** must be **hidden** for user
 - Solution: Template based **facet provider**
- Direct Integration
 - Facets are **known** to user
 - **Directly** initialize facets



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Generic Wiselib Application (1 of 2)

- Template FacetProvider
→ Internals in Session 4
- Template **specialization** for different platforms
- Method `get_facet()` returns **reference to facet**

```

1  template<typename OsModel_P,
2      typename Facet_P>
3  class FacetProvider {
4      static Facet& get_facet( AppMainParameter& os );
5  }

```

```

1  void init( Os::AppMainParameter& value )
2  {
3      radio_ = &wiselib::FacetProvider<Os, Os::Radio>::get_facet(
4          value );
5      ...
6  Os::Radio::self_pointer_t radio_;

```



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Generic Wiselib Application (2 of 2)

Special Issue: The self_pointer_t

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- Each facet/algorithm provides self_pointer_t
- Access via radio_>enable_radio()
- Usually, this is just a pointer
→ typedef self_t* self_pointer_t
- For C systems, this can be used to **optimize** code space



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Facet Instantiation	Facet Instantiation
<h1 style="margin: 0;">iSense Application</h1>	<h1 style="margin: 0;">iSense Application</h1>

- iSense facets usually expect `isense::Os` in constructor

```

1  template<typename OsModel_P>
2  class iSenseRadioModel
3  : public isense::Receiver
4  {
5      iSenseRadioModel( isense::Os& os )
6      : os_(os)
7      {
8          os_.dispatcher().add_receiver( this );
9      }
10     ...
11 }
    
```

- Directly used as members

```

1  #include "external_interface/isense/isense_radio.h"
2  typedef wiselib::iSenseOsModel Os;
3
4  class iSenseDemoApplication {
5
6      iSenseDemoApplication( isense::Os& os )
7      : isense::Application( os ),
8        radio_( os )
9      {}
10
11     Os::Radio radio_;
12 }
    
```



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Facet Instantiation	Facet Instantiation
<h1 style="margin: 0;">Shawn Application</h1>	<h1 style="margin: 0;">Shawn Application</h1>

- Shawn facets usually expect `ShawnOs` in constructor
→ Defined in `external_interface/shawn/shawn_types.h`

```

1  template<typename OsModel_P>
2  class ShawnRadioModel {
3      ShawnRadioModel( ShawnOs& os )
4      : os_(os)
5      {}
6      ...
7      ShawnOs& os_;
    
```

- Directly used as members

```

1  #include "external_interface/shawn/shawn_radio.h"
2  typedef wiselib::ShawnOsModel Os;
3
4  class WiselibExampleProcessor
5  : public virtual ExtIfaceProcessor {
6
7      WiselibExampleProcessor()
8      : wiselib_radio_( os_ )
9      {}
10
11     void boot() { os_.proc = this; }
12
13     ShawnOs os_;
14     Os::Radio wiselib_radio_;
    
```



- Shawn facets usually expect `ShawnOs` in constructor
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