

# Verification of the Contiki-NG Operating System for the Internet of Things Circular Lists

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## Context

Connected devices and services, also referred to as Internet of Things (IoT), are gaining wider and wider adoption in many security critical domains. This raises important security challenges, which can be addressed using formal verification.

Contiki [5] is a popular open-source operating system for IoT devices providing full low-power IPv6 connectivity, including 6TiSCH, 6LoWPAN, RPL, or CoAP standards. It is implemented in C with an emphasis on memory and power optimization, and contains a kernel linked to platform-specific drivers at compile-time. When Contiki was created in 2002, no particular attention was paid to security. Later, communication security was integrated.

Formal verification of the Contiki code was not performed until very recent case studies [8, 9, 2, 7, 3, 4]. These case studies were performed using the ACSL specification language [1] and the deductive verification plugin WP of Frama-C [6].

Contiki-NG <sup>1</sup> is a new version of Contiki.

## The Project

The goal of the project is to verify, using Frama-C and WP, the circular lists module of Contiki-NG. Non circular lists have already been verified in two different ways [2, 3]. The verification of circular lists raises new challenges. Part of the work will be to determine if one of these approaches can be adapted to circular lists, or if a completely new approach is required.

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.contiki-ng.org>

Students will be given access to SSERL<sup>2</sup> (room 227, SICCS) and its machines including the Titan workstation (256 Gb of memory and 32 cores).

## Requirements

### Minimum Requirements

- Good knowledge of programming in C
- A taste for formal reasoning
- CS 396
- CS 451

## References

- [1] Patrick Baudin, Jean C. Filliâtre, Thierry Hubert, Claude Marché, Benjamin Monate, Yannick Moy, and Virgile Prevosto. *ACSL: ANSI/ISO C Specification Language*, February 2011. <http://frama-c.cea.fr/acsl.html>.
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- [3] Allan Blanchard, Nikolai Kosmatov, and Frédéric Loulergue. Logic against ghosts: Comparison of two proof approaches for a list module. In *ACM Symposium on Applied Computing (SAC)*, pages 2186–2195. ACM, 2019. doi:10.1145/3297280.3297495. Best Paper Award.
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- [5] Adam Dunkels, Bjorn Gronvall, and Thiemo Voigt. Contiki – a lightweight and flexible operating system for tiny networked sensors. In *LCN 2014*. IEEE, 2004.
- [6] Florent Kirchner, Nikolai Kosmatov, Virgile Prevosto, Julien Signoles, and Boris Yakobowski. Frama-C: A software analysis perspective. *Formal Asp. Comput.*, 27(3):573–609, 2015. doi:10.1007/s00165-014-0326-7.
- [7] Frédéric Loulergue, Allan Blanchard, and Nikolai Kosmatov. Ghosts for lists: from axiomatic to executable specifications. In *Tests and Proofs (TAP)*, volume 10889 of LNCS, pages 177–184. Springer, 2018. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-92994-1\_11.

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<sup>2</sup><https://sserl.github.io>

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- [9] Alexandre Peyrard, Simon Duquennoy, Nikolai Kosmatov, and Shahid Raza. Towards formal verification of Contiki: Analysis of the AES-CCM\* modules with Frama-C. In *RED-IoT 2018, co-located with EWSN 2018*. ACM, 2018.