

CoreMP135 Overlay Device Trees support

DTBO introduction:

In Linux, Overlay Device Trees (DTBO) is a special device tree used to dynamically add or modify hardware configuration without modifying the main device tree (DTB). This is useful for certain applications that require runtime hardware configuration changes, such as adjusting the system for different peripheral requirements. DTBO support can be divided into two stages. The first stage is the uboot boot stage. uboot directly overwrites dtbo into the device tree. After starting the kernel, this is an adjusted device. The kernel adjusts this There is no perception and it is an unchangeable adjustment. The second stage is the adjustment after Linux starts. After Linux starts, the device tree can be dynamically adjusted with the help of dtbo, thereby controlling the opening and closing of fixed devices and the adjustment of related operating parameters.

Version requirements:

Please use mirrors [M5_CoreMP135_debian12_20240515](#), [M5_CoreMP135_buildroot_20240515](#) and above (enable [CONFIG_OF_OVERLAY](#) support)

1.Device tree plug-in format

1.The device tree plug-in is an addition based on the device tree. The syntax is exactly the same as the device tree. You can copy the previously written device tree nodes into the device tree plug-in. The device tree plug-in has a relatively fixed format. It can even be considered that it just adds a "shell" to the device node and the kernel can dynamically load it after compilation. The format is as follows, specific nodes are omitted.

```
/dts-v1/;
/plugin/;

/{
    fragment@0 {
        target-path = "/";
        __overlay__ {
            /*Add the node to be inserted here*/
            .....
        };
    };

    fragment@1 {
        target = <&XXXXXX>;
        __overlay__ {
            /*Add the node to be inserted here*/
            .....
        };
    };
    .....
};
```

- Line 1: Used to specify the version of dts.
- Line 2: Indicates that undefined references are allowed and recorded. The device tree plug-in can reference nodes in the main device tree, and these "referenced nodes" are undefined for the device tree plug-in, so the device tree Plugins should be added with "/plugin/".
- Line 6: Specify the loading location of the device tree plug-in. By default, we load it under the root node, which is target-path = "/", or use target = <&XXXXXX> to add nodes or attributes to a certain node.

- Lines 7-8: The device and node we want to insert or the device tree node we want to reference (append) are placed in **overlay** {...}. You can add, modify or overwrite the nodes of the main device tree.

Another device tree plug-in format: The writing method of this plug-in is the same as the formal dts format. The only difference is that the second line declares that this plug-in is applied in the form of a plug-in.

```
/dts-v1/;
/plugin/;

&{/} {
    /*Here, under the root node "/", add the node or attribute to be inserted*/
};

&XXXXX {
    /*Here, under the node "XXXXX", add the node or attribute to be inserted*/
};
```

2. Device tree plug-in case

1. Taking the CoreMP135 device as an example, write a device tree plug-in `led-overlay.dts` that inserts the LED device node.

```
// file: led-overlay.dts
/dts-v1/;
/plugin/;

/{
    fragment@0 {
        target-path = "/";
        __overlay__ {
            leds {
                compatible = "gpio-leds";

                led-blue {
                    function = "heartbeat"; // LED_FUNCTION_HEARTBEAT
                    color = <3>; // LED_COLOR_ID_BLUE
                    gpios = <&gpio 13 1>; // &gpio 13 GPIO_ACTIVE_LOW
                    linux,default-trigger = "heartbeat";
                    default-state = "off";
                };
            };
        };
    };
};
```

2. Use the dtc tool to compile the device tree

```
dtc -I dts -O dtb -o led-overlay.dtbo led-overlay.dts

ls
led-overlay.dtbo led-overlay.dts
```

3. Use of DTBO in uboot

1. The boot file stored in the `/boot` directory of the CoreMP135 root file system, where `/boot/extlinux/extlinux.conf` is the boot script of `uboot`. Through this script, you can set the device tree to be overlaid on startup.

```
label stm32mp135f-core135-buildroot
kernel/boot/zImage
devicetree /boot/stm32mp135f-core135.dtb
append root=/dev/mmcblk0p5 rw panic=5 quiet rootwait
```

- label: startup label, there can be multiple startup labels, uboot can select according to the startup label when booting.
- kernel: the kernel file to be started
- devicetree: To start the kernel device tree
- append: added kernel startup parameters
- For more parameters, please refer to the pxe menu of uboot.

2. What we need to pay attention to is the `fdtoverlays` parameter, which is used to define the `dtbo` device tree file that enables overlay. The specific operations are as follows:

```
# Compile the dtbo device tree file and transfer it to CoreMP135 (Note: The default root user may not have s
scp led-overlay.dtbo root@192.168.2.52:/root
```

```
# Place the device tree file in the /boot boot directory.
cp /root/led-overlay.dtbo /boot
```

3. Set the `dtbo` parameter in the boot file `/boot/extlinux/extlinux.conf`

```
label stm32mp135f-core135-buildroot
kernel/boot/zImage
devicetree /boot/stm32mp135f-core135.dtb
fdtoverlays /boot/led-overlay.dtbo
append root=/dev/mmcblk0p5 rw panic=5 quiet rootwait
```

4. Restart the device and we can see the led device we added in the `/sys/class/leds` directory.

4. Usage of DTBO in Linux

1. Linux can also dynamically adjust the device tree during runtime. This method relies on the support of the `dtbocfg.ko` module. The relevant precautions are as follows.

Use dtbocfg module:

1. Make sure that support for `CONFIG_OF_OVERLAY` is turned on when compiling the kernel.
2. Download and cross-compile the <https://github.com/m5stack/dtbocfg> kernel project to generate the `dtbocfg.ko` kernel module.
3. Load `dtbocfg.ko` in the system

2. Kernel compilation must be completed before cross-compiling the module. The module generates ko files through external compilation. (Please replace `$PROJECT_PATH` with the actual project path)

```
git clone https://github.com/m5stack/dtbocfg.git
cd dtbocfg
```

```
make ARCH=arm KERNEL_SRC=$PROJECT_PATH/Core135_buildroot/output/build/linux-custom CROSS_COMPILE=$PROJECT_PA
```

3. Place the generated `dtbocfg.ko` in the path `/lib/modules/$version/kernel/drivers/`, run `depmod -a` to update the driver dependencies, and then load the module through the `modprobe` command.

```
depmod -a
#Load dtbocfg module
modprobe dtbocfg
```

4. Copy the previously compiled `led-overlay.dtbo` to the system and import it according to the following process.

```
# Mount the configs file system. If the system does not automatically mount the directory, you need to mount
# mount -t configfs none /sys/kernel/config

#Create loading directory
mkdir /sys/kernel/config/device-tree/overlays/leds

# After the creation is completed, two files dtbo, status will be automatically generated in the directory.
ls /sys/kernel/config/device-tree/overlays/leds
dtbo status

# Fill dtbo
cat led-overlay.dtbo > /sys/kernel/config/device-tree/overlays/leds/dtbo

# Start dtbo
echo 1 > /sys/kernel/config/device-tree/overlays/leds/status
```

After completing the above steps, the current device tree plug-in has been successfully imported and taken effect.

5. Check the PC13 pin status through an oscilloscope or build a simple LED circuit through a breadboard to check the implementation effect.

