# MTCA4U — The DESY MicroTCA.4 User Tool Kit. Generic software and drivers for MicroTCA.4 based controls

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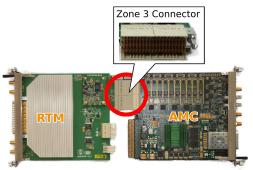


#### The MicroTCA.4 Crate Standard



# Based on Advanced Telecommunications Computing Architecture (ATCA)

- High speed serial bus
- High modularity due to Advanced Mezzanine Cards (AMCs)
- Redundancy
- Hot-swap capability



#### MicroTCA.4 Enhancements

Application in physics and accelerator control

- Rear Transition Modules (RTMs)
- AMC-RTM connection via Zone 3
- Allows separation of analog and digital processing
- Clock and trigger lines
- Low latency point to point serial I/O
- Advanced shelf management

ATCA and MicroTCA are industry standards defined by the PCI Industrial Computer Manufacturers Group (PICMG).

#### MTCA4U — The DESY MicroTCA.4 User Tool Kit



#### Goal

Provide a tool kit to facilitate the development for MicroTCA.4 based control applications.

# MTCA4U comprises

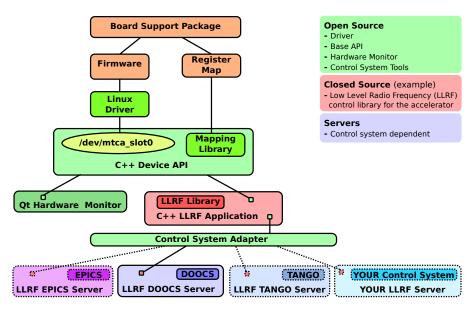
- Linux drivers for PClexpress
- Intuitive C++ API
- Tools for easy integration into control systems
- Board-specific classes for implementations used at DESY

# Requirements

- Independent from the control system
- Universal and extensible
- Base version open source (compile on many distributions)
- Board-specific classes can be closed source (protection of intellectual property)

## **Design Concept**





# The PClexpress Driver



# Required functionality is the same for all boards

- Read and write access to registers on the FPGA
- Direct Memory Access for large data transfers (needs firmware support)
- Atomic read-modify-write of registers via ioctl

#### Generic base driver

- Implements common functionality
- Functions exported to kernel space
- High re-usability of code
- Only board-specific ioctls have to be added

#### Universal driver

- Standard register set for all boards
- DMA support for DESY firmware

# **PICMG Software Working Group**

Recommendation for a Standard Hardware API which defines a common register set for all boards

# The C++ Interface



#### Basic C++ API

- Classes for convenient read/write via PClexpress
- Interface for Direct Memory Access (no need to bother with driver implementation details)
- Register name mapping

## **Register Name Mapping**

Mapping file for the specific firmware

- Automatically generated by the firmware board support package
- Contains information about
  - Register name

- Size
- Address
- Data type

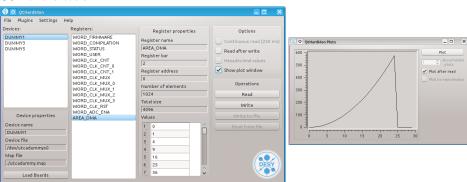
# Advantages:

- Use descriptive names instead of hex-addresses
- Better code readability
- User code becomes independent from firmware version
- Automated type conversion

# QtHardMon — A GUI for the Basic API



#### GUI for the basic API



- Display devices and registers by name
- Show and modify register content
- Basic plotting functionality

# **Control System Adapter**



#### **Task**

Complex control algorithms should be used with different control systems.

# Contradicting requirements

- Keep application code control system independent
- The algorithm must interact with the control system
- Do not re-implement functionality provided by the control system
- ⇒ Keep the layer as thin as possible

### Additional requirements:

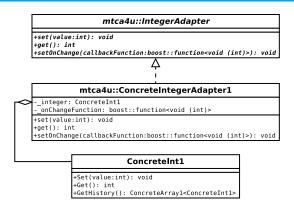
- Thread-safety
- Real-time capability
- Must not copy large data objects (arrays)

## **Control System Adapter**

- Process variables to transfer data to/from the control system
- Callback mechanism to perform actions

# **Process Variable Adapter**





- Wrapper classes for
  - simple data types
  - arrays of simple data types
- Contains instance of control system variable

- Only basic interface
  - Get function
  - Set function
  - Callback function on change
  - No control system functionality!
  - Random access operator and iterators for arrays

# **Control System Callback Interface**



### Three types of actions

- Synchronous actions on set/get
  - Only one process variable is updated
  - Callback function registered with each process variable
- Update functions triggered by the control system
  - Periodic updates
  - Control system triggers
  - All process variables are updated
  - Callback function registered with the control system adapter
- Synchronisation triggered by the business logic
  - Control loop running in its own thread
  - Business logic determines when to synchronise
  - All process variables are updated
  - Callback function registered with the control system adapter
- The control system adapter assures thread safety for all process variables inside the callback functions.
- All callback functions have a control system independent signature.

#### Status and Outlook



## Engineering versions for

- Board support package and firmware
- Universal PClexpress driver
- C++ I/O class
- Register name mapping
- Hardware monitor GUI

### Under development

- Control system adapter
- Python bindings
- Quality control (fully automated unit tests)

MTCA4U is published under the GNU General Public License.

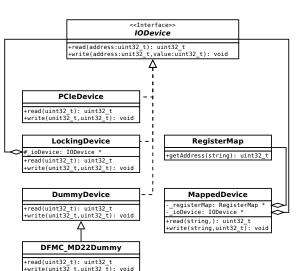
Subversion repository on the DESY svn server:

https://svnsrv.desy.de/public/mtca4u/



# **Backup**





# Modern, object oriented design

- Easy to use interfaces
- Multiple abstraction layers, adapted to the different use cases
  - Normal operation
  - Calibration/setup
  - Expert

# Unit testing framework

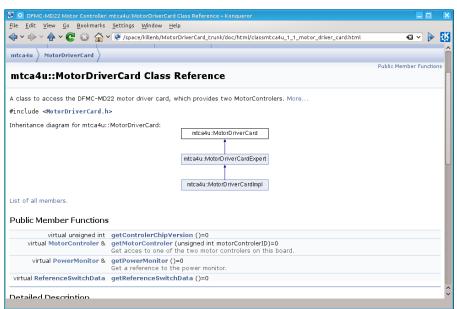
- Well tested code
- Facilitates refactoring
- Dummy devices for software development without hardware access
- Code coverage

## Doxygen documentation

Complete, browsable API documentation

# **Doxygen Documentation**

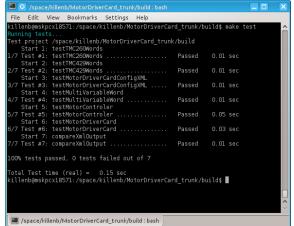




#### **Unit Tests**



- Tests written using the boost::test library
- Fully integrated into the CMake build system
  - Automatically run when packaging, e.g.
- Used to create code coverage report
  - Goal: Test every single line of code



# **Code Coverage Report**



