Application Note **How to Linux Fast Boot on DRA821U**

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

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ABSTRACT

This application report describes the procedure to achieve fast boot using Linux on the DRA821/J7200/J7VCL platform. The details captured here are directed towards replicating the results on the DRA821. However, this concept can be very easily extended to other devices in the Jacinto 7 family.

This document enables achieving a Linux prompt in approximately 3 seconds using an optimized filesystem (tisdk-tiny-image) and reduced DTSI.

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Table 3-1. Jacinto DRA821U EVM Boot Switch Setting
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1 Hardware and Software Required Stuff

- Hardware:
 - TI DRA821U EVM
- Software
 - J7200XSOMXEVM
 - Linux SDK version: ti-processor-sdk-linux-j7200-evm-08_00_00_05
 - RTOS SDK version: ti-processor-sdk-rtos-j7200-evm-08_00_00_12

Regarding how to build the Linux/RTOS for DRA821U, see the Understanding bootloaders in Processor SDK J7200 (RTOS/Linux) section.

Regarding how to set up the EVM to test, see the Jacinto7 DRA821 Evaluation Module (EVM) User's Guide.

2 DRA821U Boot Mode With Fast Boot Method

Figure 2-1 shows the current Linux boot flow with the SDK.

SPL: Linux boot



Figure 2-1. Jacinto DRA821U Linux Boot Flow

R5 SPL --> A72 ATF --> A72 SPL --> A72 U-Boot --> A72 Linux.

In the above boot flow each phase is optimized to achieve faster boot time:

- Optimize U-Boot to remove UART prints.
- Enable only the peripherals that are mandatory for booting Linux and disable the rest.
- Switch to booting from xSPI instead booting from SD card.
- Switch to file system in eMMC as against using SD card for hosting the file system.

The time spent in booting to Linux kernel is approximately 3 Seconds.

3 Detailed Steps

The process is broken down into seven steps. Follow the steps exactly.

- Step1: patch and build / copy the u-boot onto your SD card "Boot Partition".
- Step2: Optimize boot time by switching to xSPI boot, so we copy the bootloaders from SD card onto xSPI Flash.
- Step3: Optimize the device tree by disabling nodes not mandatory for Linux Boot.
- Step4: Create bootable SD card, and Switch to TinyFS.
- Step5: Switch to eMMC TinyFS filesystem (Very important step!!)



- Step6: Optimizations with bootargs in the uboot.
- Step7: Hijack the init.

Understand this:

- When a brand new SD card that has never be formatted is used: Following this sequence:
 Step4 > step1 > step2 > step3 > step5 > step6 > step7
- If using a DRA821 bootable SD card follow the below sequence:
- Step1 > step2 > step3 > step4 > step5 > step6 > step7

Regarding the boot switch jumper setting on the DRA821U EVM, see Table 3-1.

WKUP Bootmode	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
DIP SW9	(SW9.1)	(SW9.2)	(SW9.3)	(SW9.4)	(SW9.5)	(SW9.6)	(SW9.7)	(SW9.8)
SD Boot (Default)	OFF							
eMMC	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
OSPI	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
UART	OFF	ON	ON	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
USB	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
No Boot	OFF	ON	ON	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF

Table 3-1. Jacinto DRA821U EVM Boot Switch Setting

Main Bootmode	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
DIP SW8	(SW8.1)	(SW8.2)	(SW8.3)	(SW8.4)	(SW8.5)	(SW8.6)	(SW8.7)	(SW8.8)
SD Boot (Default)	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF
eMMC	ON	OFF						
OSPI	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	ON	OFF
UART	OFF							
USB	ON	OFF						
No Boot	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF

There are boot switches need to be matched correctly in each step as shown above. Two boot switch settings are summarized in this document: one is the SD card switch and one is the xSPI switch.

In the step2:

- The SD card to boot is used
- Perform some actions that is copying the uboot onto xSPI flash.
- Switch to the xSPI flash.

The switch setting in each step should be marked.

3.1 Step1: Patch and Build/Copy the u-boot

Assume you are familiar with TI Jacinto SDK build setting up. Make sure your NB is connecting to the network while building. Because the uboot might referencing the ti github. The working copy cmd is as this, you need to change according the red parameters (root).

Boot Switch setting:

This step is no needing to touch the boot switch on the EVM.



Patches:

 01 - Remove-prints-to-optimize-U-Boot-time.patch (this patch is here: https://e2e.ti.com/support/processors-group/processors/f/processors-forum/1105700/dra821uapplication-note-how-to-linux-fast-boot-on-dra821u-putting-the-required-2-patches-here)

Cmds: (Do this on ubuntu, not the EVM)

```
cd $PSDKLA/board-support/u-boot-2021.01+gitAUTOINC+53e79d0e89-g53e79d0e89/
git am 0001-Remove-prints-to-optimize-U-Boot-time.patch
cd ../..
make u-boot
```

cp board-support/k3-image-gen-2021.05/tiboot3.bin board-support/u-boot_build/a72/tispl.bin board-support/u-boot_build/a72/u-boot.img /media/root/boot/

3.2 Step2: Optimizations by Switching to xSPI Boot: Copy Bootloaders to xSPI

This step is to copy the SD card uboot files onto the xSPI.

So, there are 2 boot switch settings in this step2.

The SD card is used to boot first, then the xSPI switch is used.

1st time Boot Switch setting:

#EVM to set SD Boot Mode, refer /psdk_rtos_auto/docs/user_guide/J7_EVM_SETUP.html

SW8[1-8] = 1000 0010

SW9[1-8] = 0000 0000 <--Rio: Read EVM user guide

SW3[1-10] = 0110001001

Commands:

When in uboot prompt, do these. (Do this on the EVM!)

sf probe

fatload mmc 1 \${loadaddr} tiboot3.bin; sf update \$loadaddr 0x0 \$filesize;

fatload mmc 1 \${loadaddr} tispl.bin; sf update \$loadaddr 0x100000 \$filesize;

fatload mmc 1 \${loadaddr} u-boot.img; sf update \$loadaddr 0x300000 \$filesize;

After doing those actions above, do this:

- 1. Turn off the board.
- 2. Change the dip switch settings to xSPI as below:

2nd time Boot switch setting:

#EVM to set **<u>xSPI Boot</u>** Mode

SW8[1-8]: 1000 0010

SW9[1-8]: 0011 0000

SW3[1-10]: 0111 0010 10

After this point, do not change the SW8/SW9/SW3.

Now, hereafter, you only can use this setting, no need to change again.

3.3 Step 3: Optimize the DTSI by Disabling Nodes not Mandatory for Linux Boot

Boot switch setting:

No need to change the boot switches in this step.

Insert the SD card to Host PC



Patches:

0001-arch-arm64-boot-dts-ti-k3-j7200-Optimize-DT-for-earl.patch

This patch is here: https://e2e.ti.com/support/processors-group/processors/f/processors-forum/1105700/ dra821u-application-note-how-to-linux-fast-boot-on-dra821u-putting-the-required-2-patches-here

Commands: (Do this on the ubuntu, not the EVM)

gedit \$PSDKLA/Rules.make

Change this line: DESTDIR=/media/\$USER/rootfs

Insert the SD card to Host P

```
cd $PSDKLA/board-support/linux-5.10.41+gitAUTOINC+4c2eade9f7-g4c2eade9f7/
git am 0001-arch-arm64-boot-dts-ti-k3-j7200-Optimize-DT-for-earl.patch
cd ../..
make linux
sudo make linux_install
```

3.4 Step 4: Create Bootable SD Card, Switch to TinyFS

Boot switch setting:

No need to change the boot switches in this step:

Commands: (Do this on the ubuntu, not the EVM)

Open <u>\$PSDKLA/bin/mksdboot.sh</u> (This is to switch the TinyFS)

Do the following change from:

root_fs="\$sdkdir/filesystem/tisdk-default-image-j7200-evm.tar.xz"

to

root_fs="\$sdkdir/filesystem/tisdk-tiny-image-j7200-evm.tar.xz"

Do this:

```
sudo dpkg-reconfigure dash (This is very important Step!)
```

sudo ./mksdboot.sh --device /dev/sdb --sdk /opt/ti-processor-sdk-linux-j7200-evm-08_00_00_05/

or

sudo ./mksdboot.sh --device /dev/sdc --sdk /opt/ti-processor-sdk-linux-j7200-evm-08_00_05/

Re insert the SD card onto ubuntu.

make linux

sudo make linux_install

Go to TargetNFS, find the lib + usr/lib + sbin , do those 3 copy actions, then "sync".

Do this:

```
sudo cp -r lib/* /media/root/rootfs/lib (See the "root", you need to change this according your
ubuntu env).
sudo cp -r usr/lib/* /media/root/rootfs/usr/lib
cp sbin/mkfs.ext4 /media/root/rootfs/mnt/ (This is very important!!)
sync
```

3.5 Step 5: Switch to eMMC Filesystem

Boot switch setting:

#EVM to set **xSPI Boot** Mode

SW8[1-8]: 1000 0010

SW9[1-8]: 0011 0000

SW3[1-10]: 0111 0010 10

Commands: (Do this on the EVM)

Insert your SD card onto EVM.

do this in uboot prompt

• gpt write mmc 0 \${partitions}

Do this in kernel console

- mkfs.ext4 /dev/mmcblk0p1
- mount /dev/mmcblk0p1 /mnt/emmc
- mount /dev/mmcblk1p2 /mnt/sd
- cp -r /mnt/sd/* /mnt/emmc/
- sync

3.6 Step 6: Optimizations With Bootargs

Boot switch setting:

#EVM to set **<u>xSPI Boot</u>** Mode

SW8[1-8]: 1000 0010

SW9[1-8]: 0011 0000

SW3[1-10]: 0111 0010 10

Commands: (Do this on the EVM)

Beware!

You can see there is the **mmcblk0p1**, so, you need to make sure you have this partition by issuing "fdisk -l" in there kernel to check.

in uboot prompt, do these:

```
setenv bootdelay 0
setenv mmcdev 0
setenv bootpart 0
setenv args_mmc "run finduuid;setenv bootargs console=ttyS2,115200n8 root=/dev/mmcblk0p1 rw
rootfste=ext4 rootwait loglevel=0"
saveenv
boot
```

3.7 Step 7: Hijack the init

Boot switch setting:

#EVM to set **xSPI Boot** Mode

SW8[1-8]: 1000 0010

SW9[1-8]: 0011 0000

SW3[1-10]: 0111 0010 10

Commands: (Do this on the EVM)

Once you get to Linux shell prompt. Create file /home/root/init.sh with contents below:

- #!/bin/sh
- mount -t proc proc /proc
- mount -n -t sysfs none /sys
- mount -n -t tmpfs none /run
- · echo "entering init script"
- /bin/sh

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Debug Commands

- Then, do these, this is called "hijack".
- chmod +x init.sh
- cd /sbin/
- rm init
- In -s /home/root/init.sh init

4 Debug Commands

Here are some basic cmds set for assisting you to debug the partitions/mount devices.

4.1 SF Probe

When issuing the SF probe, you will send this kind of result.

You can see those three uboot files is flashing onto the xSPI flash.

Cmds:

Sf probe



Figure 4-1. Jacinto DRA821U SF Probe in uboot

4.2 mmcblk

This is how to check the mmcblk

Cmds:

→ Is /dev/mmcblk*

1						
root@j7200-	evm:/#ls/d	¦ev∕mmc* –	al			
brw	1 root	root	179,	96 Jan	1	1970 /dev/mmcblk0
brw	1 root	root	179,	97 Jan	1	1970 /dev/mmcblk0p1
brw	1 root	root	179,	98 Jan	1	1970 /dev/mmcblk0p2
brw	1 root	root	179,	0 Jan	1	1970 /dev/mmcblk1
brw	1 root	root	179,	32 Jan	1	1970 /dev/mmcblk1boot0
brw	1 root	root	179,	64 Jan	1	1970 /dev/mmcblk1boot1
crw	1 root	root	237,	0 Jan	1	1970 /dev/mmcblk1rpmb
root@i7200-	evm:/#					





4.3 How to Check Mounted Devices?

Cmds:

cat /proc/mtd

root@j7200-evm:/# cat /proc/mtd
dev: size erasesize name
mtd0: 00100000 00040000
mtd1: 00200000 00040000
mtd2: 00400000 00040000
mtd3: 00040000 00040000
mtd4: 00040000 00040000
mtd5: 037c0000 00040000
mtd6: 00040000 00040000 "ospi.phypattern"
root@j7200-evm:/#



4.4 How to Check Your Partitions?

Cmds:

cat /proc/partitions

root⊎,	/200-evm:/#	f_cat_/pi	roc/partitions	
major	minor #blo	ocks nar	ne	
1	0	2001	ramû	
1	1	4030	rami	
i	2	4096	ram?	
1	3	4096	ram3	
1	Å	4096	ram4	
1	5	4096	ram5	
1	6	4096	ram6	
1	7	4096	ram7	
1	8	4096	ram8	
1	.9	4096	ram9	
1	10	4096	ram10	
	11	4096	ram]]	
	12	4096	ramIZ	
	13	4096	ram13	
	14	4096	ram14	
21	15	4090	ramio	
31	U 1	2040	mt db lockU	
21	- 2	2040	mtdblocki	
21	42	4030	mtdb1ock2	
21	3	250	mtdblock3	
ši	7 17	57088	mtdblock5	
ši	š	256	mtdblock6	
179	ň 1	15540224	mmchlkfl	
179	9Ğ F	0817408	mmcblk1	
179	97	63488	mmcblk1p1	
179	<u>98</u> 6	0752896	mmcblk1p2	
root®	7200-evm:/	1		

Figure 4-4. Jacinto DRA821U Check Partitions



4.5 How to Restore Your Boot Setting?

When you are doing the boot debug, if boot failed and as long as your SD card contain is not broken, switch your Boot setting to the SD card, and do the following cmd. Your DRA821U will be boot-able again.

Cmds:

- env default -f -a
- setenv board_name j7200
- setenv default_device_tree k3-j7200-common-proc-board.dtb

5 Fast Boot Result Review

This is the cold boot until the Kernel login, the cost time is about ~3 seconds.

From the log result in the following picture, we have (10.070 - 7.098) = 2.972 seconds.

Comparing the original Linux boot (2X~4X seconds), this fast boot result is good enough for automotive applications.

User can base on this to do those following developing:

- Addon their DTSI devices.
- Addon their application based on the tiny rootfs.



Figure 5-1. Jacinto DRA821U Fast Boot Result

6 References

The first four documents listed below are must-read materials before making this fast-boot Linux work. It is best to read all of the following documents.

- Texas Instruments: Jacinto7 DRA821 Evaluation Module (EVM) User's Guide
- Texas Instruments: DRA821 Jacinto™ Processors Data Sheet
- TI Docs for DRA821U u-boot
- Fast boot related E2E
- Texas Instruments: J7200 DRA821 Processor Silicon Revision 1.0 Texas Instruments Families of Products Technical Reference Manual
- TI Docs for DRA821U emmc flashing
- LDconfig

7 Revision History NOTE: Page numbers for previous revisions may differ from page numbers in the current version.

С	Changes from Revision * (December 2021) to Revision A (July 2022)					
•	Updated the numbering format for tables, figures and cross-references throughout the document	2				
•	Updated patch in Section 3.1	3				
•	Updated patch in Section 3.3.	4				

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