

tinyML[®] Talks

Enabling Ultra-low Power Machine Learning at the Edge

“Streamlining tinyML application development using open-CMSIS and visual studio code”

Varun Chari – Staff Software Engineer, Arm

May 7, 2024



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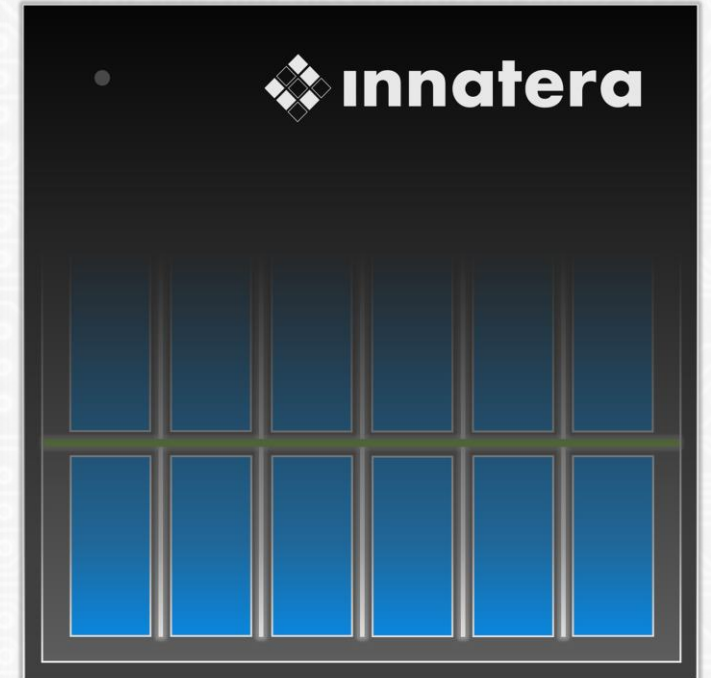
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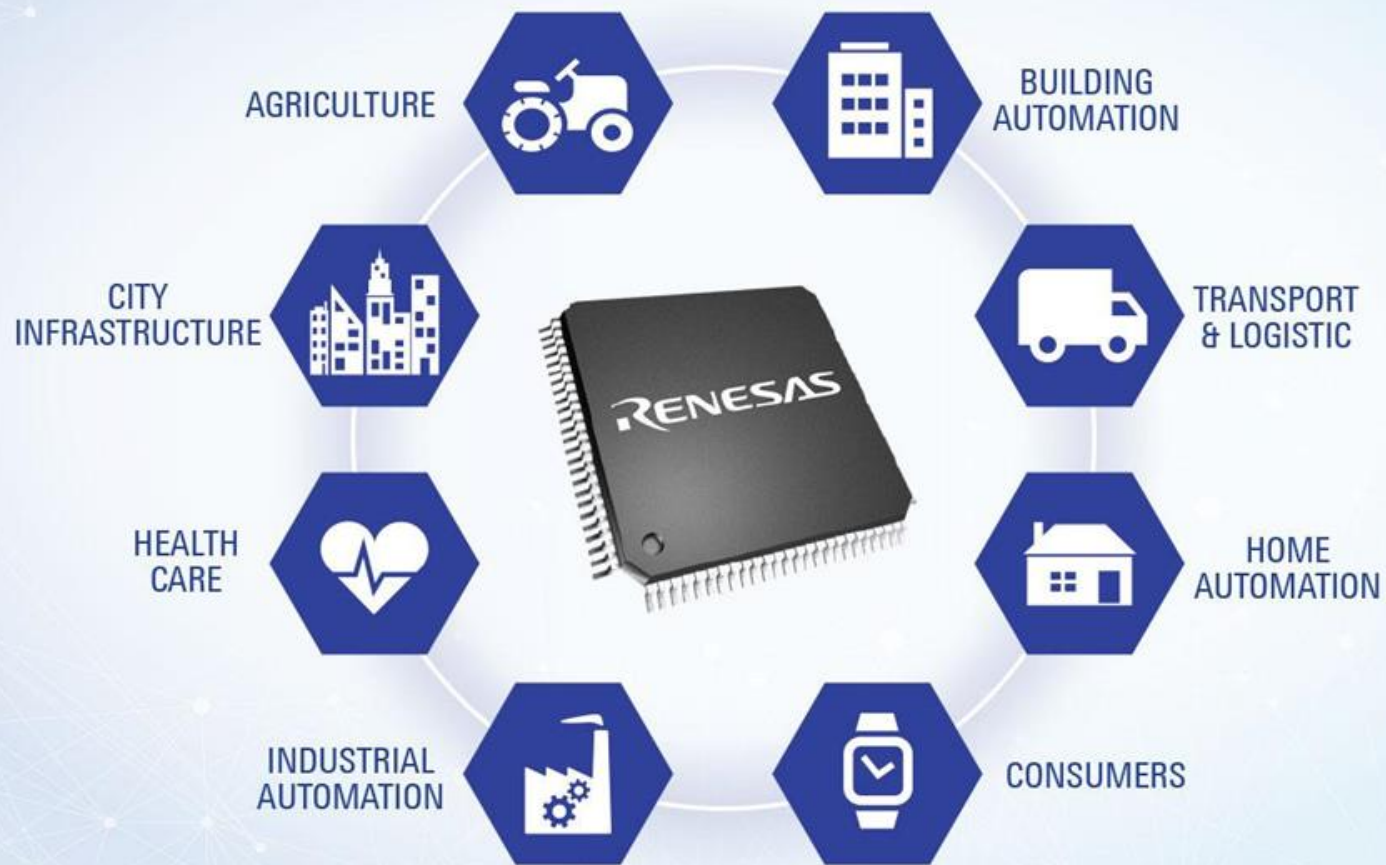


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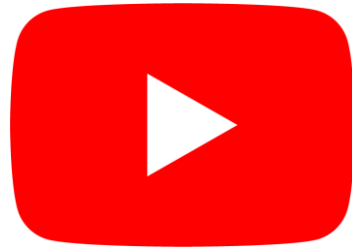


Reminders

Slides & Videos will be posted tomorrow



tinyml.org/forums



youtube.com/tinyml



Please use the Q&A window for your questions





Varun Chari



Varun is a Staff Software Engineer in Strategic Alliances Technical Marketing Team at Arm. He focuses on enabling and leading software strategies on emerging technologies relevant to Arm across the strategic partners (Google, Meta, Amazon, Microsoft) in Machine Learning and IoT space.



arm

Streamlining tinyML application development using Open CMSIS packs and Visual Studio Code

Varun Chari, Arm
07 May 2024

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arm

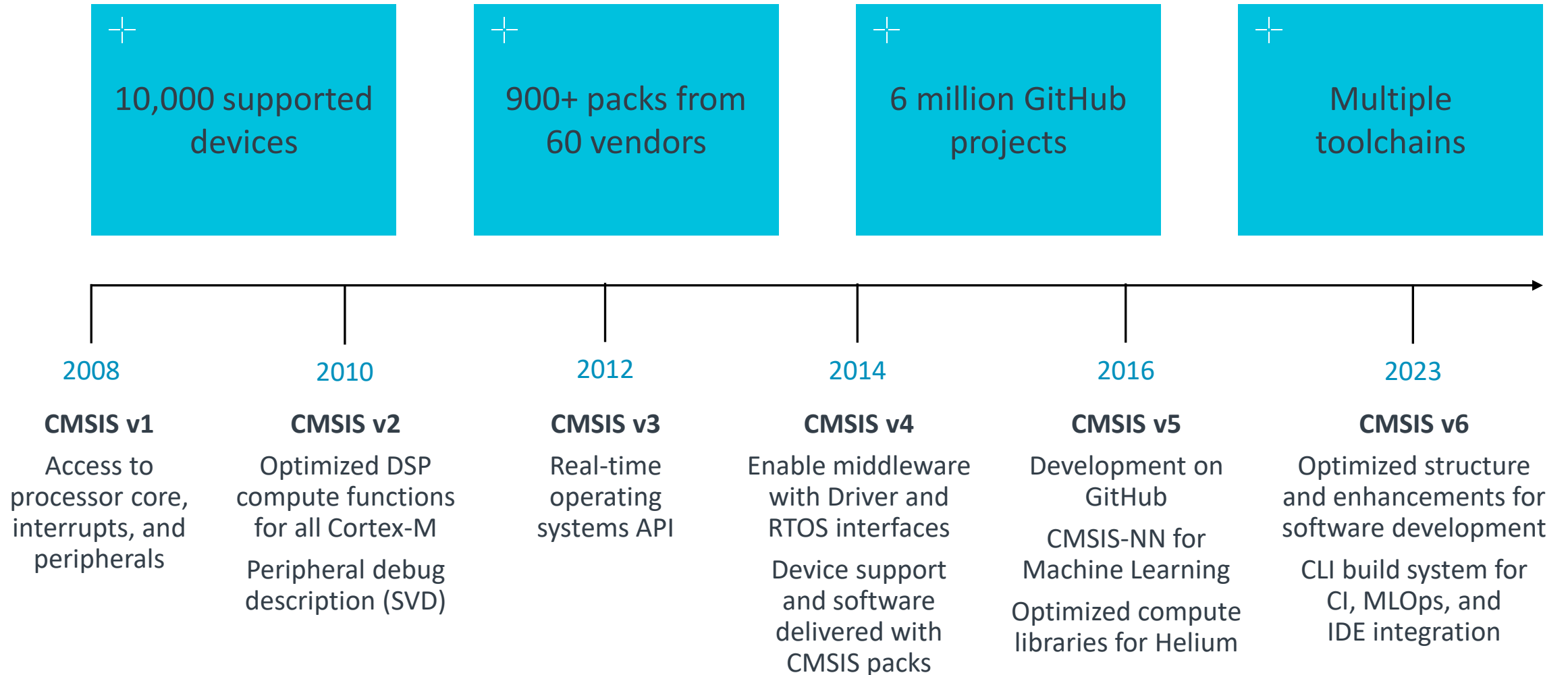
Current Challenges

- + Fragmentation
 - Variety of toolchains/IDEs from silicon providers
- + Duplication
 - Duplicate copies of codebase for different projects
- + Vulnerability
 - Vulnerable open-source, unmaintained software
- + Modularity
 - Monolithic non-modular projects
- + Deployment at scale
 - Limited CI/CD integrations and MLOps support
- + Connectivity
 - Challenging to add cloud connectivity components
- + Security
 - Unsecure codebase sharing



arm

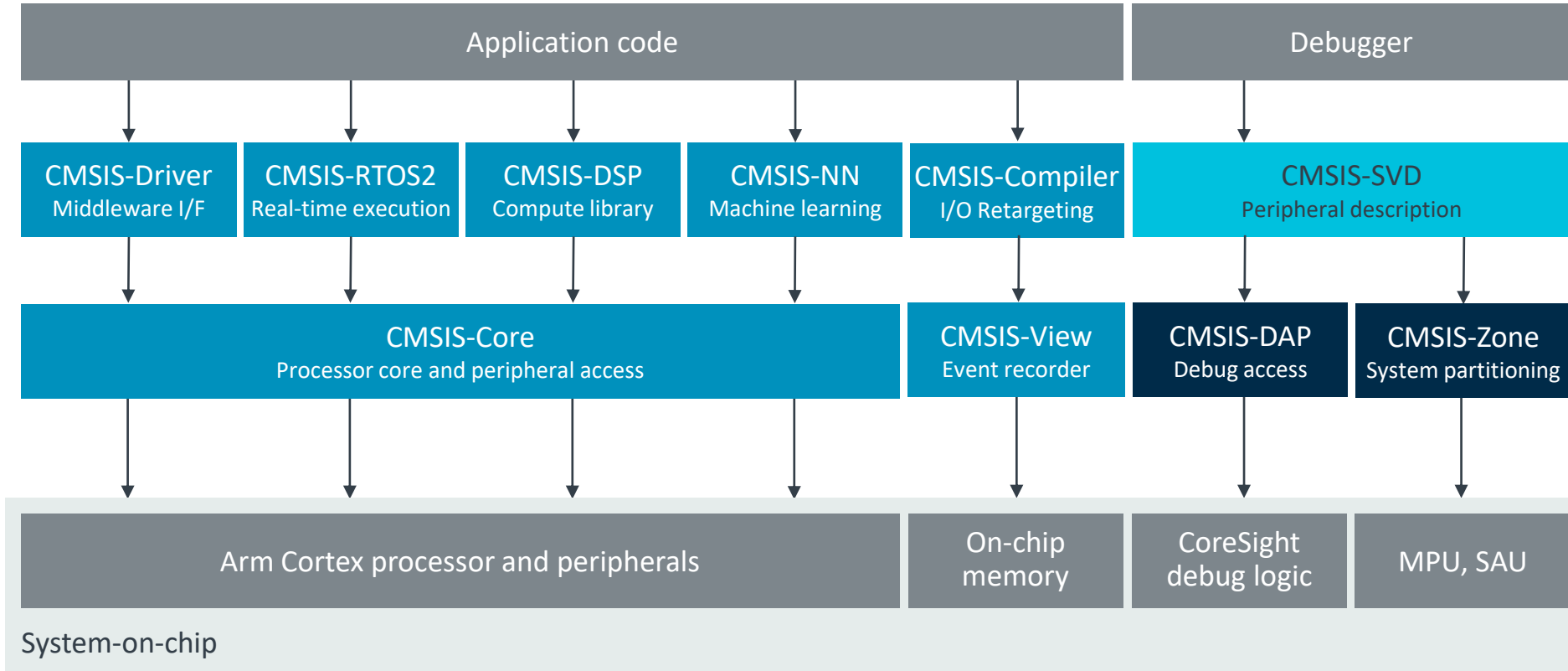
Common Microcontroller Software Interface Standard (CMSIS)



CMSIS Version 6

github.com/ARM-software/CMSIS_6

Consistent software framework for billions of devices



CMSIS-Toolbox
Command-line project build

CMSIS-Stream
Optimized data streaming for ML and DSP

CMSIS-Pack
Software packaging and delivery

Software components for the Arm Cortex processor target

Tools for optimizing software development flows

Specifications

arm

Application
Development
Using CMSIS
Middleware
Components

Using CMSIS Components (Middleware)

+ File System

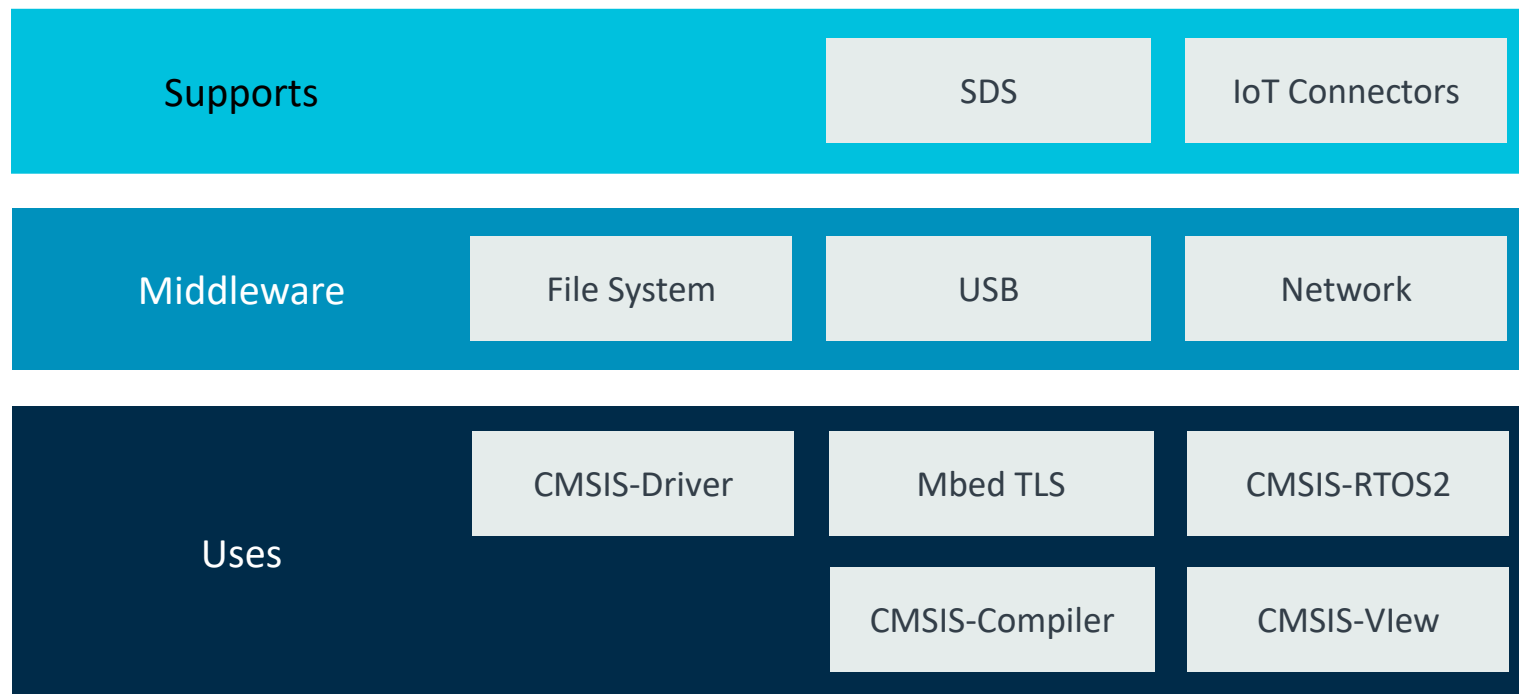
- RAM, Flash, SD/SDHC/MMC memory cards, or USB memory devices.

+ USB

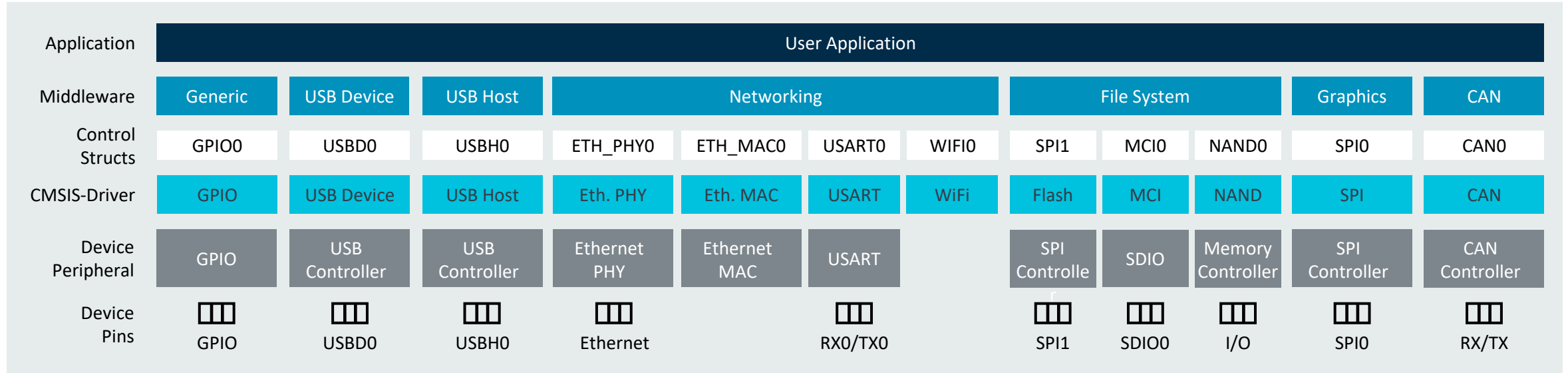
- For USB Device and Host applications with various USB device classes.

+ Network

- Services, protocol sockets, and communication I/Fs supporting IPv4 and IPv6.



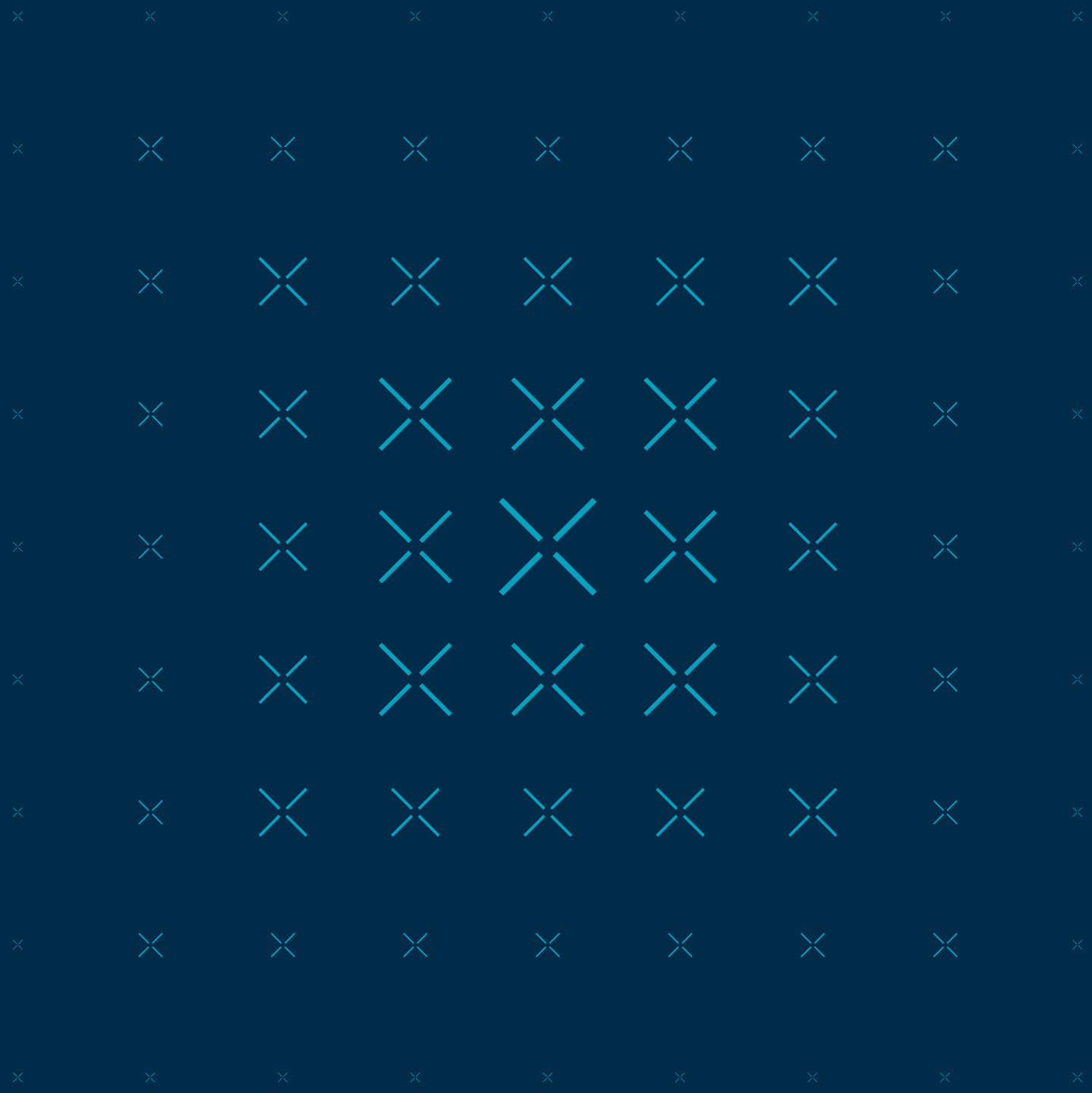
Using Standardized Driver Interfaces (CMSIS-Driver)



- + The unified API follows the similar design principles across all peripherals.
- + Driver templates files provide code skeletons for specific peripherals.
- + Support for multiple driver instances with Access Struct.
- + Driver-Validation Suite provides a set of tests to verify compatibility to CMSIS-Driver API definitions.

arm

Reusable Software Components

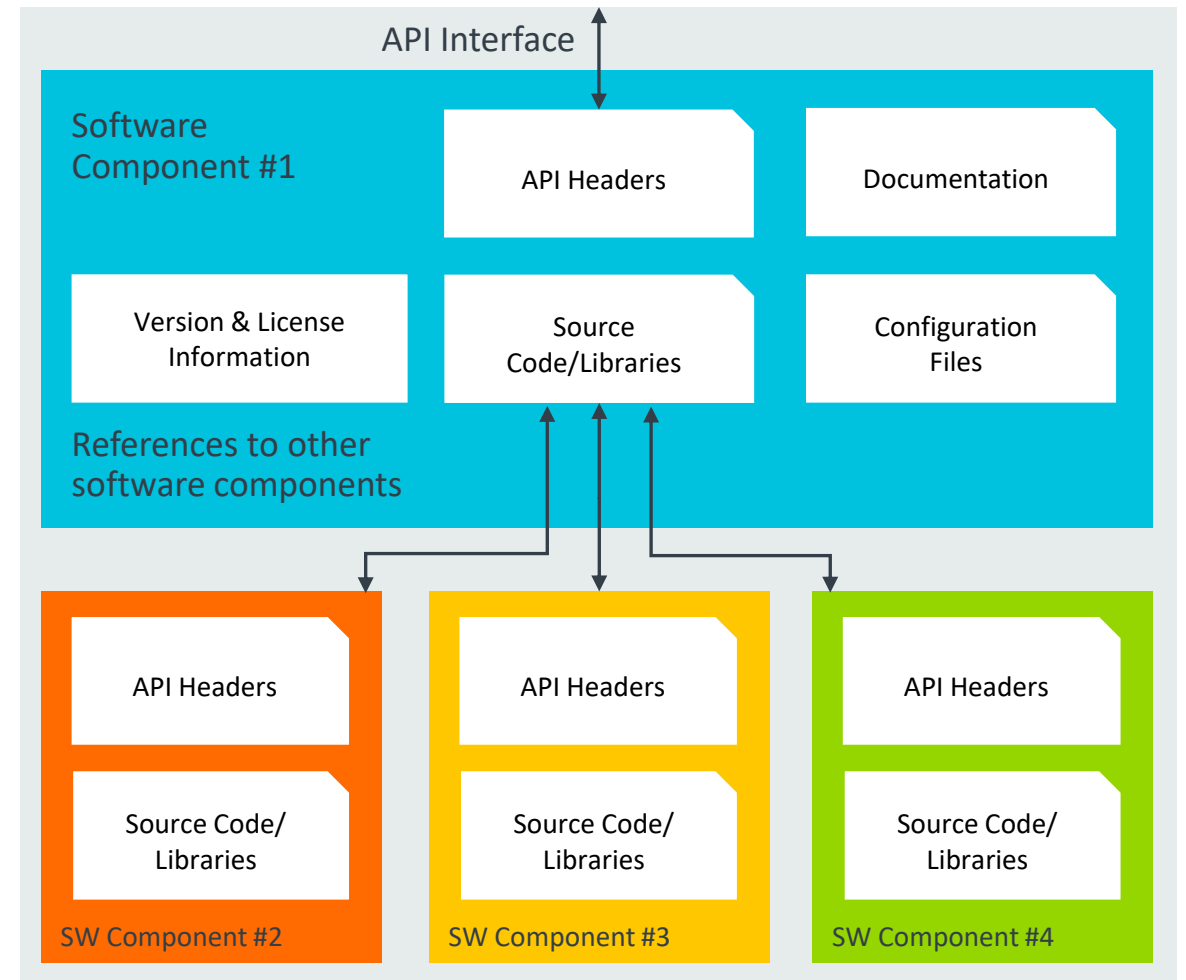


CMSIS-Pack: What is a Software Component?

- + XML framed information used by project management utilities from various tools

Software components should have:

- + Version and history information
- + License information
- + API interface definition
- + Documentation
- + Source files
- + Configuration files (optional)
- + Requirements to other components (optional)



CMSIS-Pack: Central API Interface Definition

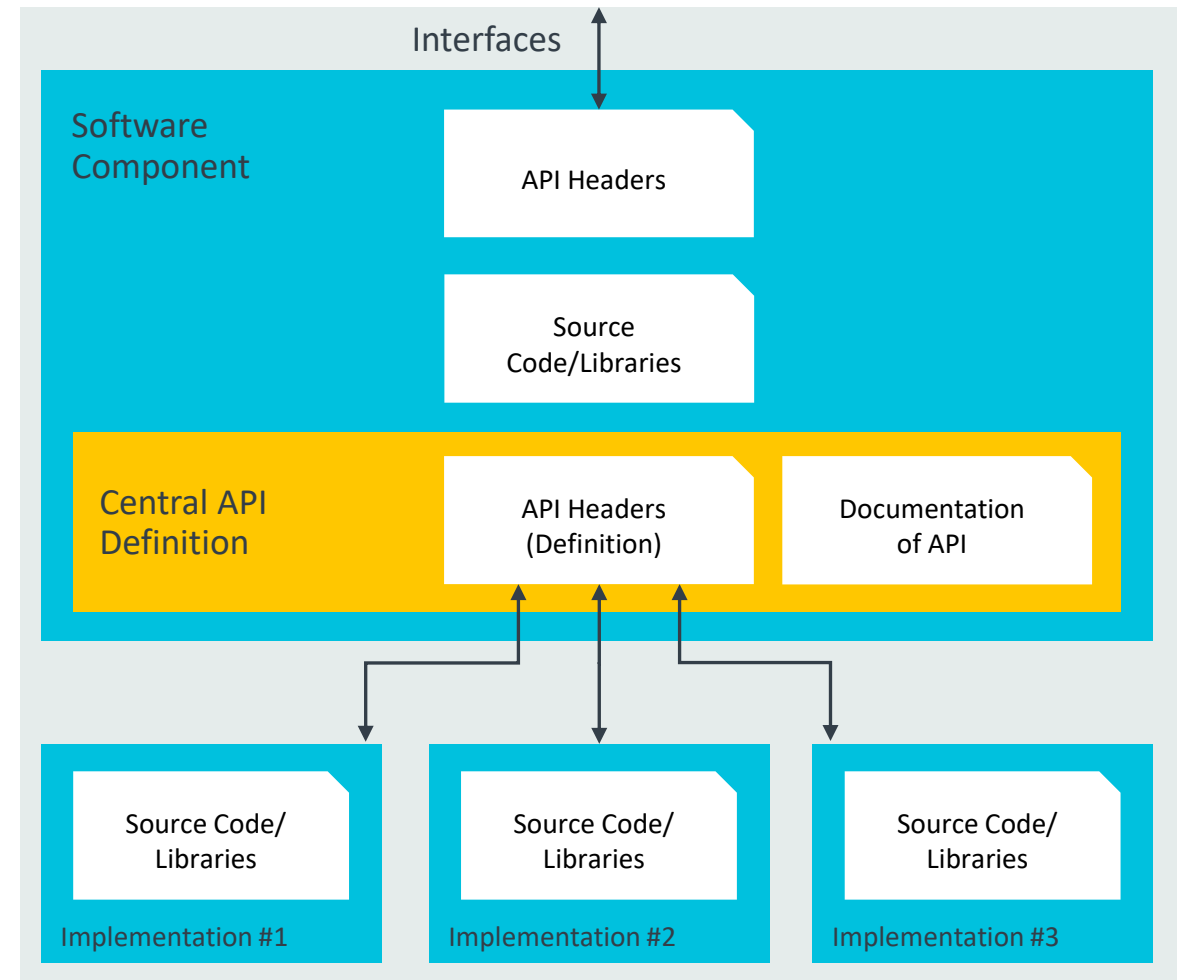
Ensuring consistent interfaces across standard components

A common problem: API headers evolve over time.

A central [API](#) definition shares header file and documentation of an [API interface](#) across multiple other software components to ensure consistency.

The [API interface](#) is distributed separate or as part of the software component that defines this interface. The API header file is therefore consistent.

An example is the [CMSIS-Driver pack](#) that contains various Flash, Ethernet and WiFi drivers – all compatible with the CMSIS-Driver APIs that are published in the CMSIS Pack.



Example: MDK Middleware

+ Network

- IPv4/IPv6 TCP/IP connectivity via Ethernet or Serial Connection

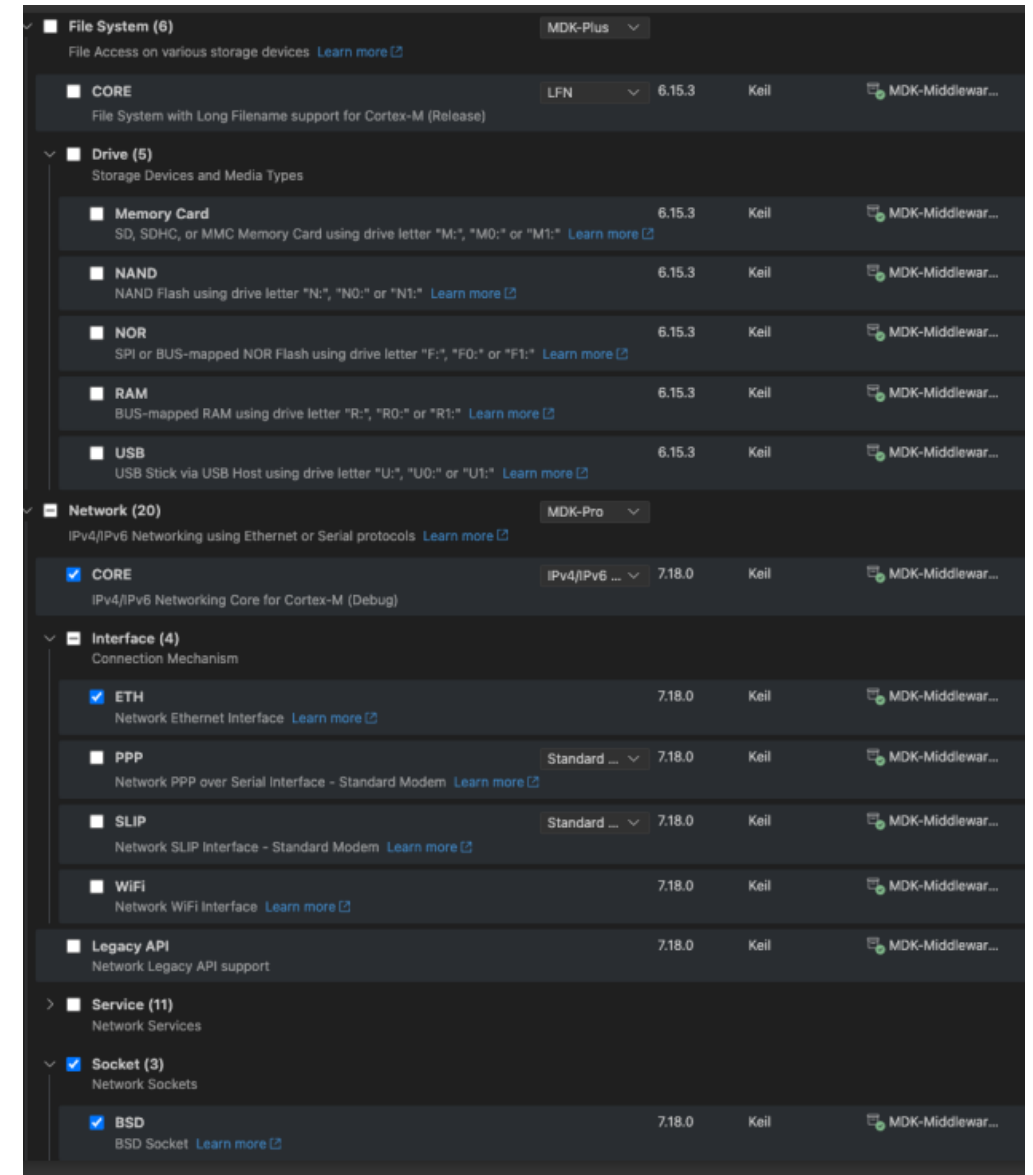
+ USB

- USB Host and USB Device support
- High performance, small footprint
- No necessity for Windows/Linux drivers

+ File System

- ROM, RAM, Flash, SD/MMC/SDHC
- FAT32 support
- Simultaneous device access

+ mbedTLS



Providers of Software Packs

keil.arm.com/packs

Graphics



Middleware



Machine Learning/DSP



RTOS



Other



CMSIS

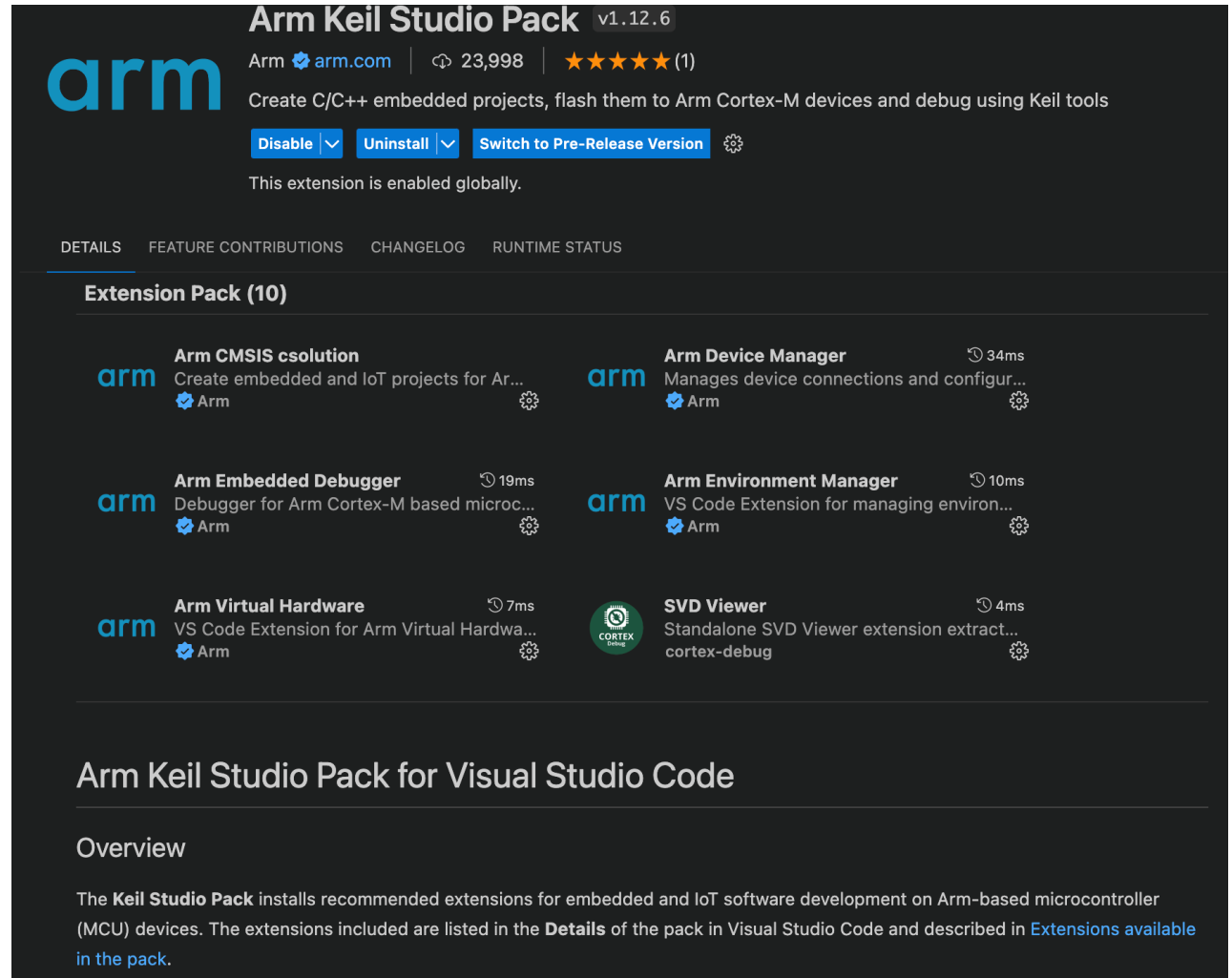


arm

Arm Keil Studio Pack VS Code Extension

Introduction

- + Comprehensive software development environment for embedded systems and IoT software development on Arm-based microcontroller (MCU) devices
- + A composable set of Visual Studio Code extensions
- + Plug and play device support for debug probes and development boards
- + Access to the CMSIS Pack ecosystem
- + Integration of Open-CMSISPack



The screenshot shows the Visual Studio Code interface for the 'Arm Keil Studio Pack' extension. At the top, the extension name 'Arm Keil Studio Pack' is displayed with version 'v1.12.6'. Below this, the publisher 'Arm' is listed with a link to 'arm.com', a download count of '23,998', and a star rating of '5 (1)'. A description states: 'Create C/C++ embedded projects, flash them to Arm Cortex-M devices and debug using Keil tools'. Action buttons for 'Disable', 'Uninstall', and 'Switch to Pre-Release Version' are visible, along with a gear icon for settings. A status message indicates 'This extension is enabled globally'. Below the main header, there are tabs for 'DETAILS', 'FEATURE CONTRIBUTIONS', 'CHANGELOG', and 'RUNTIME STATUS'. The 'DETAILS' tab is active, showing a list of 'Extension Pack (10)' items:

- Arm CMSIS csolution**: Create embedded and IoT projects for Ar... (34ms)
- Arm Device Manager**: Manages device connections and configur... (34ms)
- Arm Embedded Debugger**: Debugger for Arm Cortex-M based microc... (19ms)
- Arm Environment Manager**: VS Code Extension for managing environ... (10ms)
- Arm Virtual Hardware**: VS Code Extension for Arm Virtual Hardwa... (7ms)
- SVD Viewer**: Standalone SVD Viewer extension extract... (4ms)

At the bottom, the section 'Arm Keil Studio Pack for Visual Studio Code' includes an 'Overview' section with the text: 'The **Keil Studio Pack** installs recommended extensions for embedded and IoT software development on Arm-based microcontroller (MCU) devices. The extensions included are listed in the **Details** of the pack in Visual Studio Code and described in [Extensions available in the pack](#).'

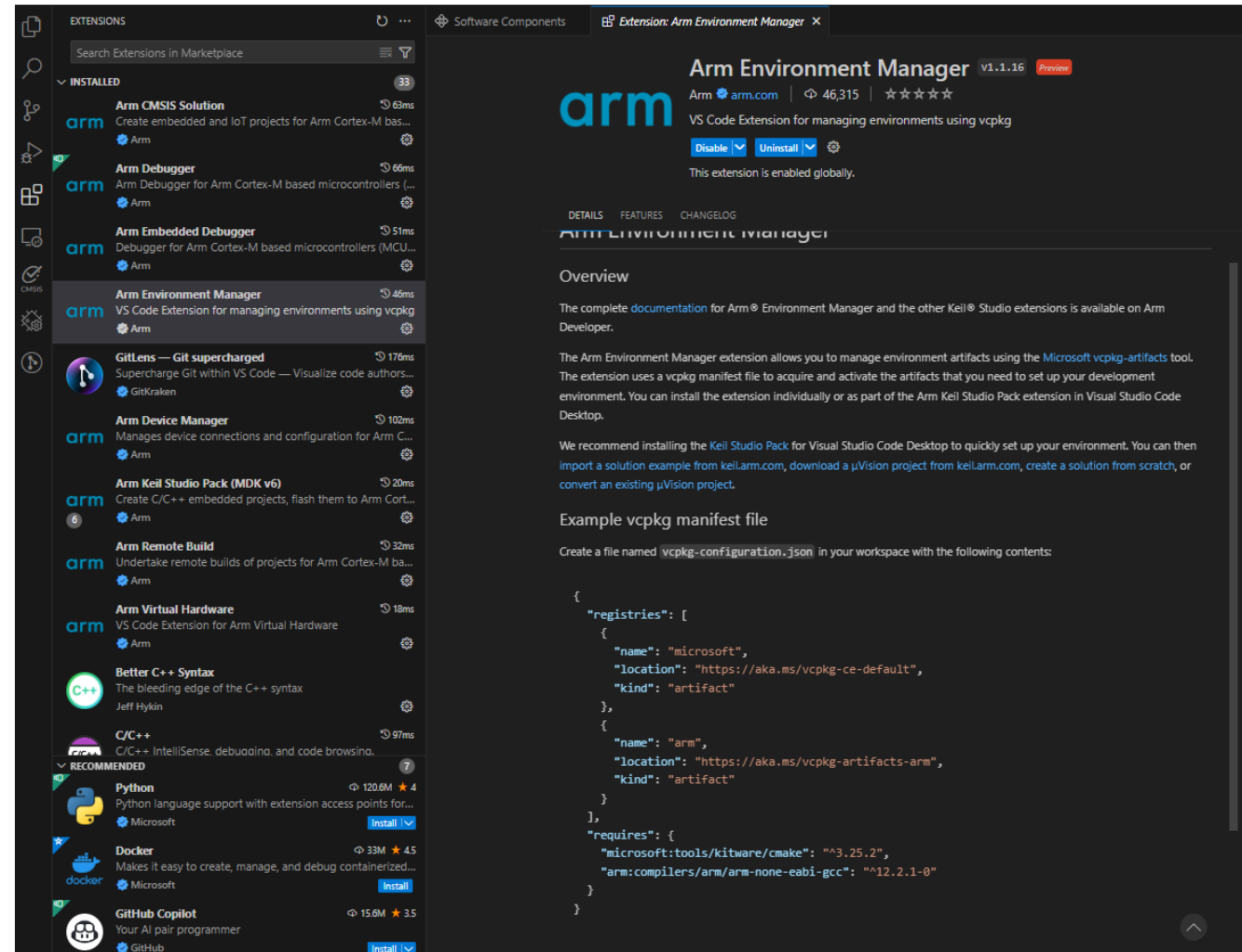
Arm Keil Studio Pack – Essential VS Code Extensions

Project & Build	Description	Used Services
Arm CMSIS csolution (*)	Create and Manage CMSIS based projects	CMSIS-Toolbox (CMake, Ninja), Compiler (AC6, GCC, LLVM) Arm License Manager – for activation of Arm Compiler
Arm Environment Manager	Arm Tools installation and activation	MSFT vcpkg Arm License Manager – for activation of Arm Compiler
clangd (LLVM)	Intellisense	
YAML (RedHat)	YAML Language Support	

Debug	Description	Used Services
Arm Debugger	Debug for Cortex-M/A processors	Arm CLI Debugger, MSDAP
Arm Device Manager	Manages device connections and configuration for Arm Cortex-M	ULINK series, CMSIS-DAP, ST-Link, Arm Fixed Virtual Platforms
Eclipse CDT Cloud Memory Inspector Peripheral Inspector Web Socket	Memory Window SVD supported access to peripherals	MSDAP

Arm Environment Manager

- + Part of extension for Microsoft VS Code
- + Manage development environment artifacts using the [Microsoft vcpkg-artifacts](#) tool.
- + Use vcpkg manifest file to acquire and activate the artifacts that you need to set up your development environment.
- + Arm tools antifactory provides access to all tools.
- + Microsoft vcpkg enables tool installation across various host systems
- + Arm tools antifactory provides access to all tools.



The screenshot displays the Visual Studio Code interface with the Extensions Marketplace open. The left sidebar shows a list of installed extensions, including 'Arm CMSIS Solution', 'Arm Debugger', 'Arm Embedded Debugger', 'Arm Environment Manager', 'GitLens', 'Arm Device Manager', 'Arm Keil Studio Pack (MDK v6)', 'Arm Remote Build', 'Arm Virtual Hardware', 'Better C++ Syntax', and 'C/C++'. The main panel shows the details for the 'Arm Environment Manager' extension (v1.1.16, Preview) by Arm. The extension is described as a 'VS Code Extension for managing environments using vcpkg'. The 'Overview' section provides documentation links and installation instructions. An 'Example vcpkg manifest file' is shown with the following content:

```
{
  "registries": [
    {
      "name": "microsoft",
      "location": "https://aka.ms/vcpkg-ce-default",
      "kind": "artifact"
    },
    {
      "name": "arm",
      "location": "https://aka.ms/vcpkg-artifacts-arm",
      "kind": "artifact"
    }
  ],
  "requires": {
    "microsoft:tools/kitware/cmake": "^3.25.2",
    "arm:compilers/arm/arm-none-eabi-gcc": "^12.2.1-0"
  }
}
```


CMSIS-Toolbox - Introduction

The basis for next generation software tooling

- + Part of extension for Microsoft VS Code
- + Based on CMSIS standards
- + Multi-compiler support (Arm, Clang, GCC, IAR)
- + CLI and IDE workflows
- + Supports all major host operating systems



A screenshot of the Visual Studio Code interface showing the 'Arm CMSIS csolution' extension. The left sidebar displays a list of installed extensions, with 'Arm CMSIS csolution' at the top. The main panel shows the extension's details, including the 'arm' logo, version 'v0.31.0', and a 'Preview' badge. The 'Overview' section describes the extension's purpose: providing support for working with CMSIS solutions (csolution projects). It mentions that it can be installed individually or as part of the 'Keil Studio Pack'. The 'More Info' section on the right provides publication and update dates. The bottom status bar shows the current project path and file encoding.

CMSIS-Toolbox - Navigation

The screenshot displays the Visual Studio Code interface with the CMSIS-Toolbox extension. The interface is divided into several panels:

- Left Panel (CONTEXT):** Shows the 'Active Solution' (Hello), 'Target Type' (AVH), 'Build Type' (Debug), and 'Project' (Blinky). Below this is the 'ACTIONS' section with buttons for 'Build', 'Flash', 'Debug', and 'Open Serial'.
- Editor:** Displays the 'Hello.csolution.yml' file with the following content:

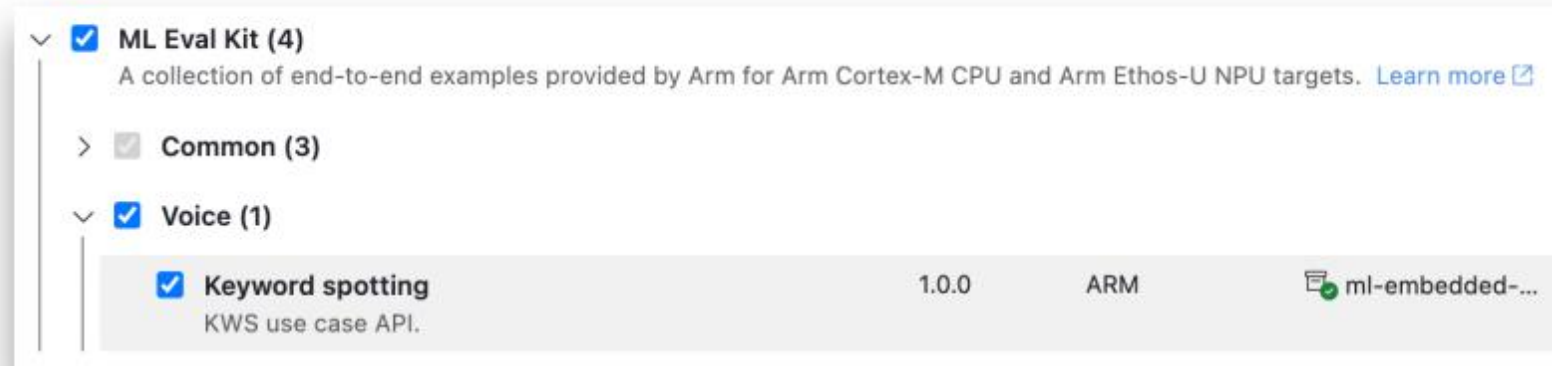
```
1 solution:
2   build-types:
3     - compiler: AC6
4     misc:
5       - C*:
6         - -O1
7         - -g
8         - -Wno-macro-redefined
9         - -Wno-pragma-pack
10        - -Wno-parentheses-equality
11      - C:
12        - -std=gnu11
13      - ASM:
14        - -std=gnu11
15
16 types: Debug
17 - compiler: AC6
18 misc:
19   - C*:
20     - -O3
21     - -Wno-macro-redefined
22     - -Wno-pragma-pack
23     - -Wno-parentheses-equality
24   - C:
25     - -std=gnu11
26   - ASM:
27     - -std=gnu11
```
- Right Panel (Software components):** Shows the 'Project: Blinky' and 'Components (943)' list. A table lists components with columns for Name, Description, Vendor, Version, and Variant. A 'Validation' section below shows a red bar for 'Keil RTX5 CMSIS > RTOS2 Unable to resolve'.
- Bottom Panel (TERMINAL):** Shows the output of the 'convert' command, listing generated files for various build configurations.

Callouts point to the following features:

- Select project context of the solution
- Detect connected hardware
- Manage related projects
- Solution and project build script
- Available project actions
- Manage CMSIS software components
- IntelliSense
- Validate software component dependency
- Command line build (optional)

Validate middleware dependencies

- + Choose from professional middleware in thousands of CMSIS-Packs
- + Resolve dependencies across your stack automatically
- + Download and install required CMSIS-Packs with a single click



Pin tools versions

- + **Keep your engineering team in sync across tools, source code and project settings**
- + Create reproducible builds that pin your compiler, debugger, CMSIS toolbox and third party build tools like ninja
- + Share your configuration with your team through source control

Arm Compiler for Embedded

Arm's embedded C/C++ compilation toolchain for the development of bare

6.21.0

Arm Debugger

A command-line debug server supporting Arm IP and providing Arm-specif

None

None

6.1.1

6.1.0

6.0.2

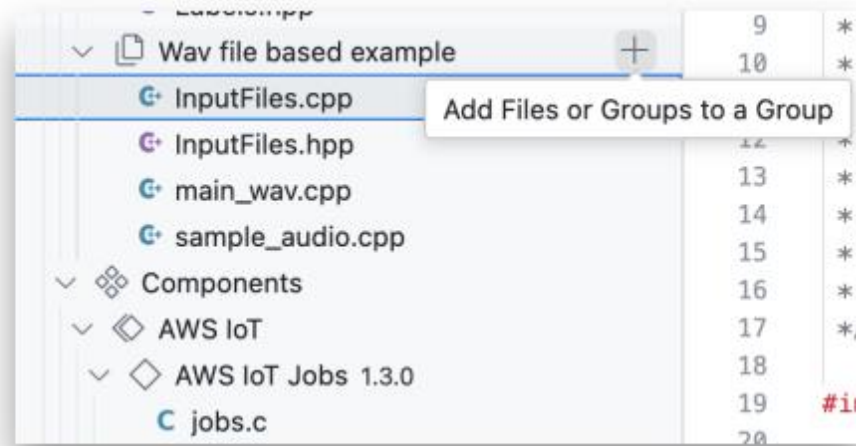
6.0.1

6.0.0

bly programming

Rapid prototyping with code templates

- + **Copy code template files directly into your application to build up your solution quickly**
- + Software components are shipped with example templates
- + Once a component has been added, you can select the template easily from the solution outline view



Add New File

Create a new file and add it to this group

Add Existing File

Choose a file on disk to add to this group

Add From Component Code Template

Apply a template provided by a software component

New solutions

- + Create your next solution from a basic template, or start from one of thousands of examples
- + Pre-set device and core information for 10,000+ MCUs and hundreds of development boards
- + Pick from Arm Compiler 6, GCC or LLVM to get started
- + Handle complex edits and flags directly in the Open CMSIS Pack yml files

Create New CMSIS Solution [↗](#)

Target Board (Optional)	Target Device	Target Type
STM32L562E-DK (Re... × ▾	STM32L562QEIxQ ▾	STM32L562QEIxQ

Template and Examples

TrustZone solution ▾

Project Name	Core	TrustZone	
Secure	Cortex-M33 ▾	secure ▾	🗑️
NonSecure	Cortex-M33 ▾	non-secure ▾	🗑️

[Add Project](#)

ⓘ Some TrustZone devices will be shipped with secure firmware by the manufacturer. Please check your device's specification before adding your own secure project.

Compiler ⓘ

- Arm Compiler 6
- GCC
- LLVM

arm

Arm ML Eval Kit

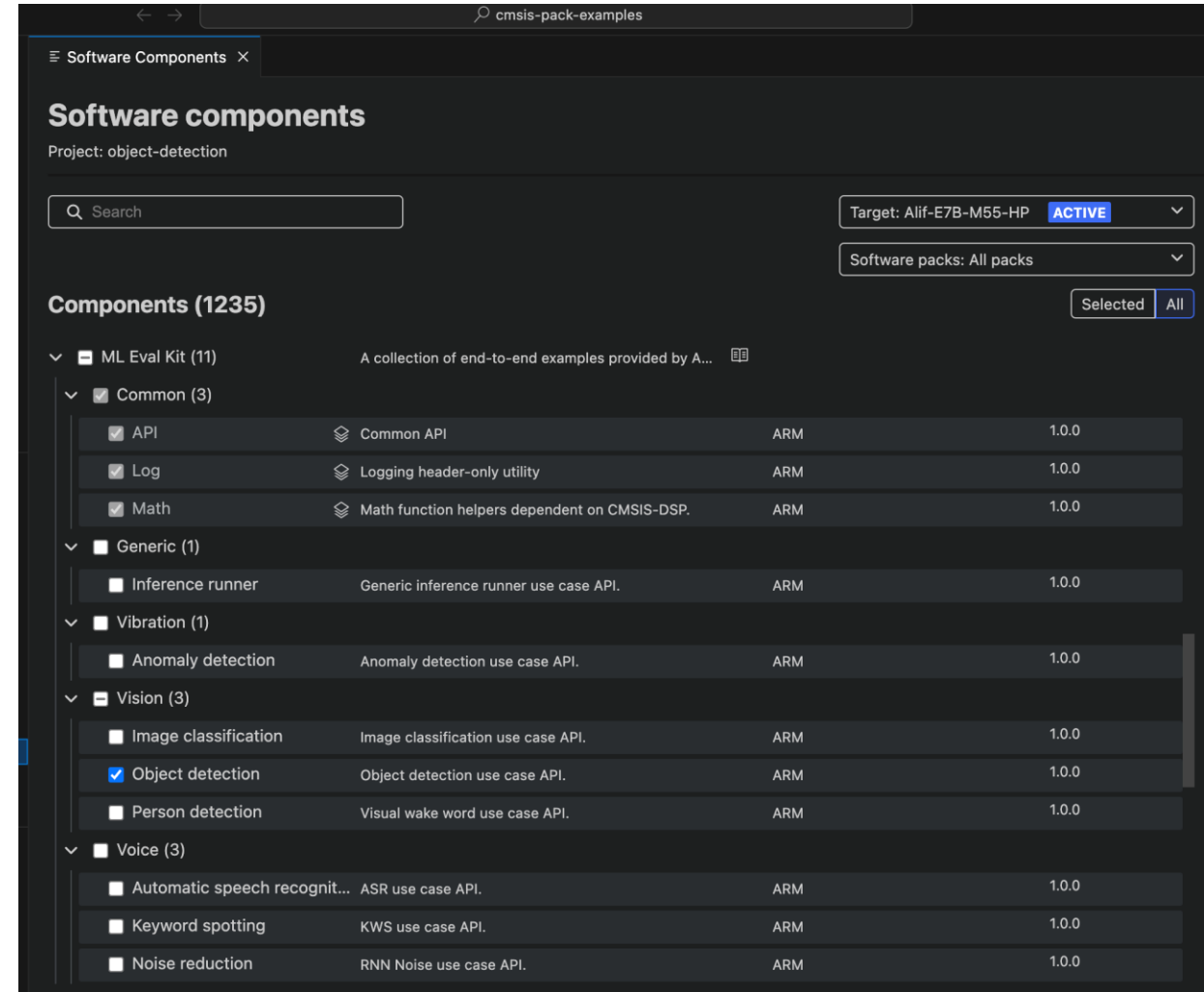
ML Eval Kit - Introduction

- + Introduce users to ML software stack used to run models Arm MCUs and NPUs
- + Help to evaluate performance of the most common ML use-cases – end to end ML applications
- + Help to run and evaluate users' custom models



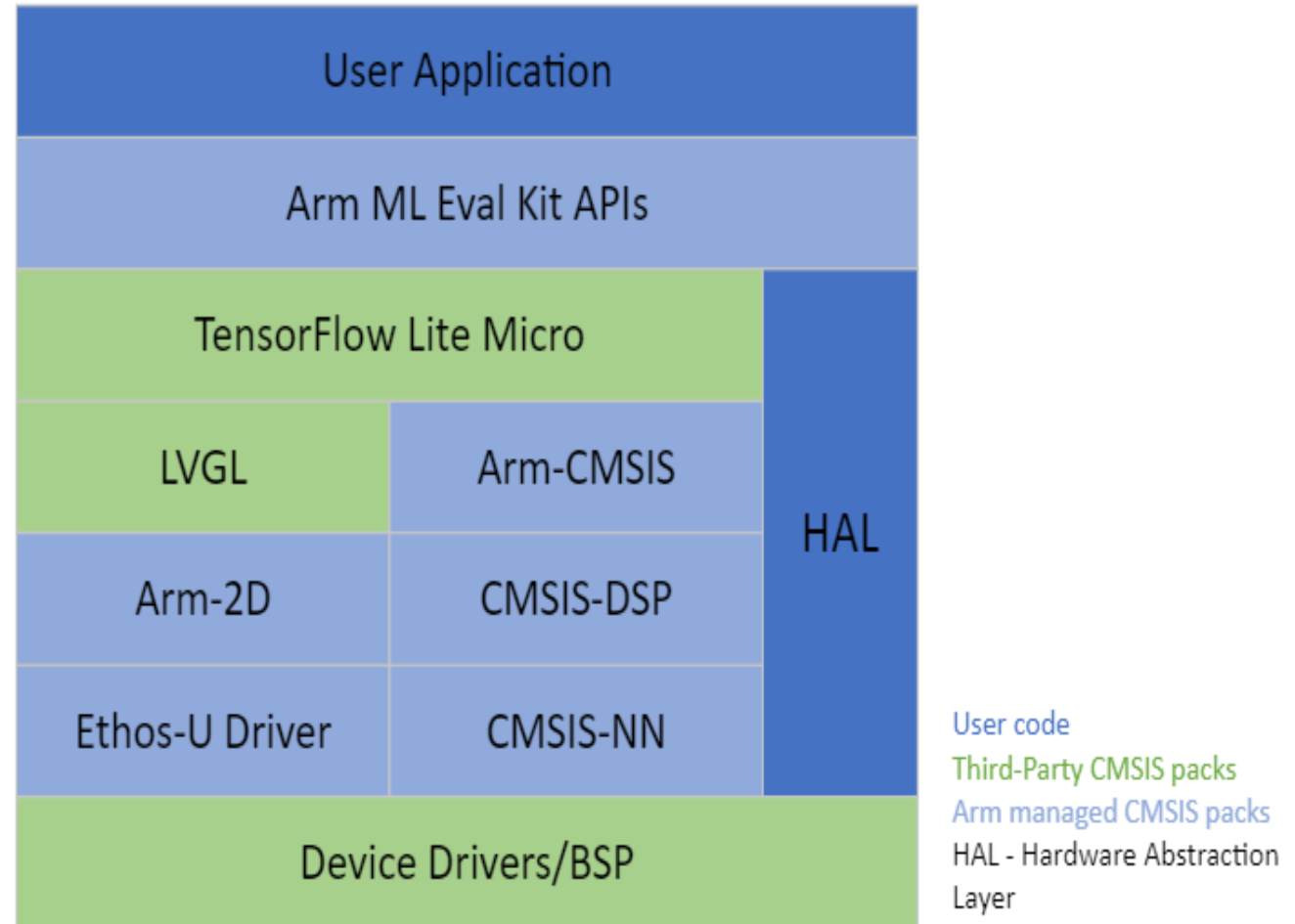
ML Eval Kit – CMSIS Pack

- + Generalized abstracted APIs to interface with TensorFlow Lite for Microcontrollers as a CMSIS-Pack
- + The APIs address basic vision and audio-based use cases:
 - Anomaly/Person/Object detection
 - Keyword spotting, Speech recognition, Noise reduction
- + Offers support for:
 - Logging
 - Math functions
- + Model zoo with hardware optimized models for above use cases



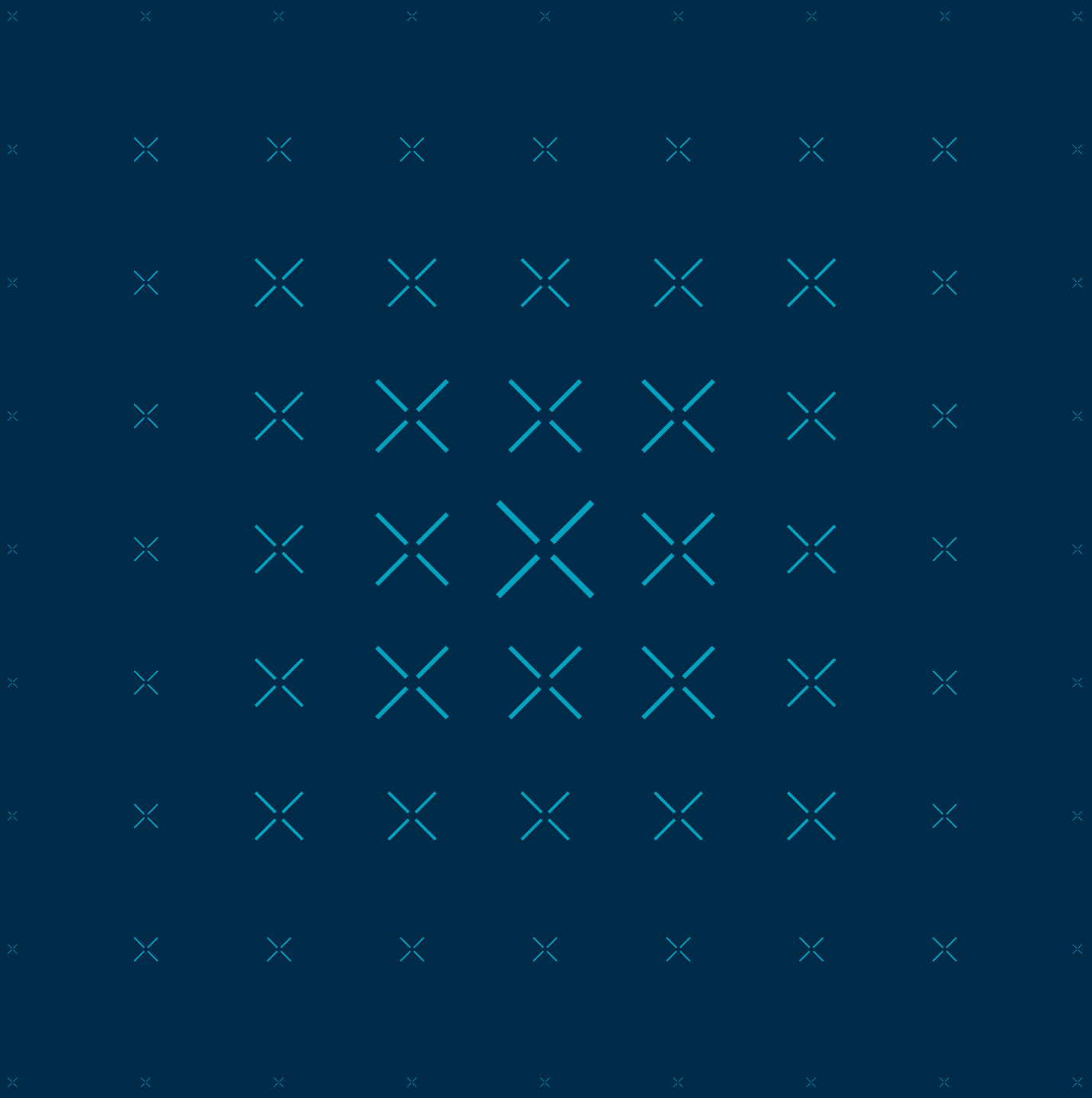
ML Eval Kit - Architecture

- + Single project supporting various boards/devices using 'clayer', and various use cases using 'cproject', thus enabling faster scaling
- + Distributed software management, vendors update and maintain CMSIS-Packs; developers only need to manage and update application code
- + Faster agile development, avoiding duplication, leveraging and integrating existing solutions
- + Single pane of glass for dependency tree
- + Faster update cycles, using plug and play CMSIS-Packs



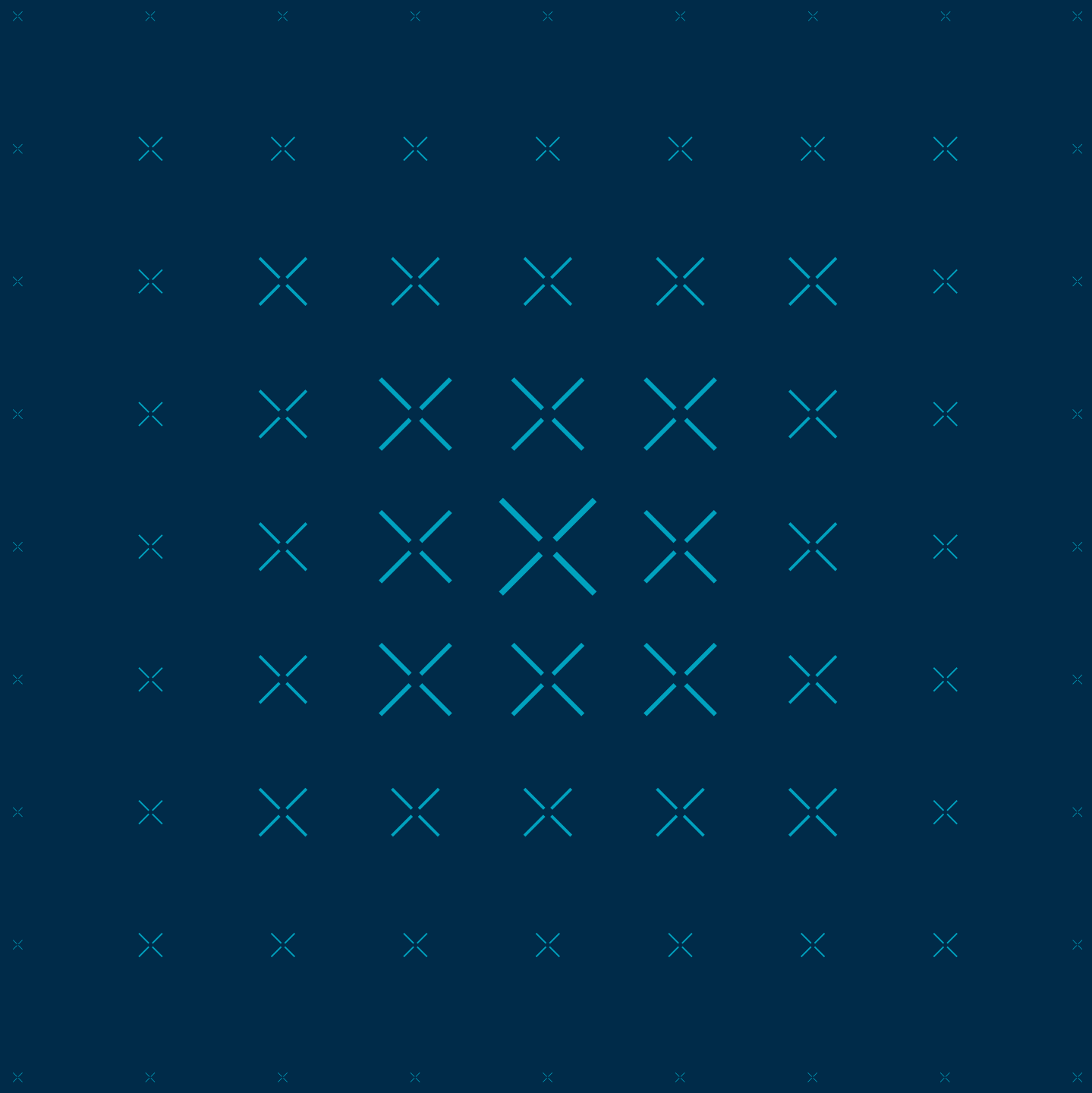
arm

Demo



arm

Arm ML Tools



Corstone FVP and AVH

+ Accelerate development using Arm's Fixed Virtual Platforms

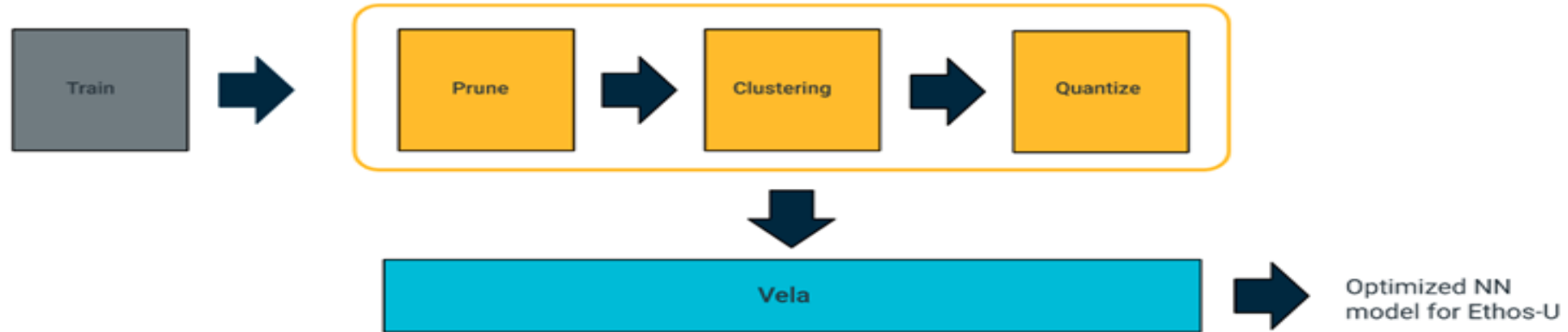
- Start bare metal or OS-hosted software development for Arm
- Remove the bottleneck of starting software design only after the hardware is available.
- Virtual prototypes are easier to scale and maintain

+ Leverage Arm Virtual Hardware to scale development and deployment

- Replace physical hardware with a mature, instruction-accurate, and extensible modeling engine
- Easily run and scale CI infrastructure in the cloud with potentially thousands of virtual boards being launched in seconds



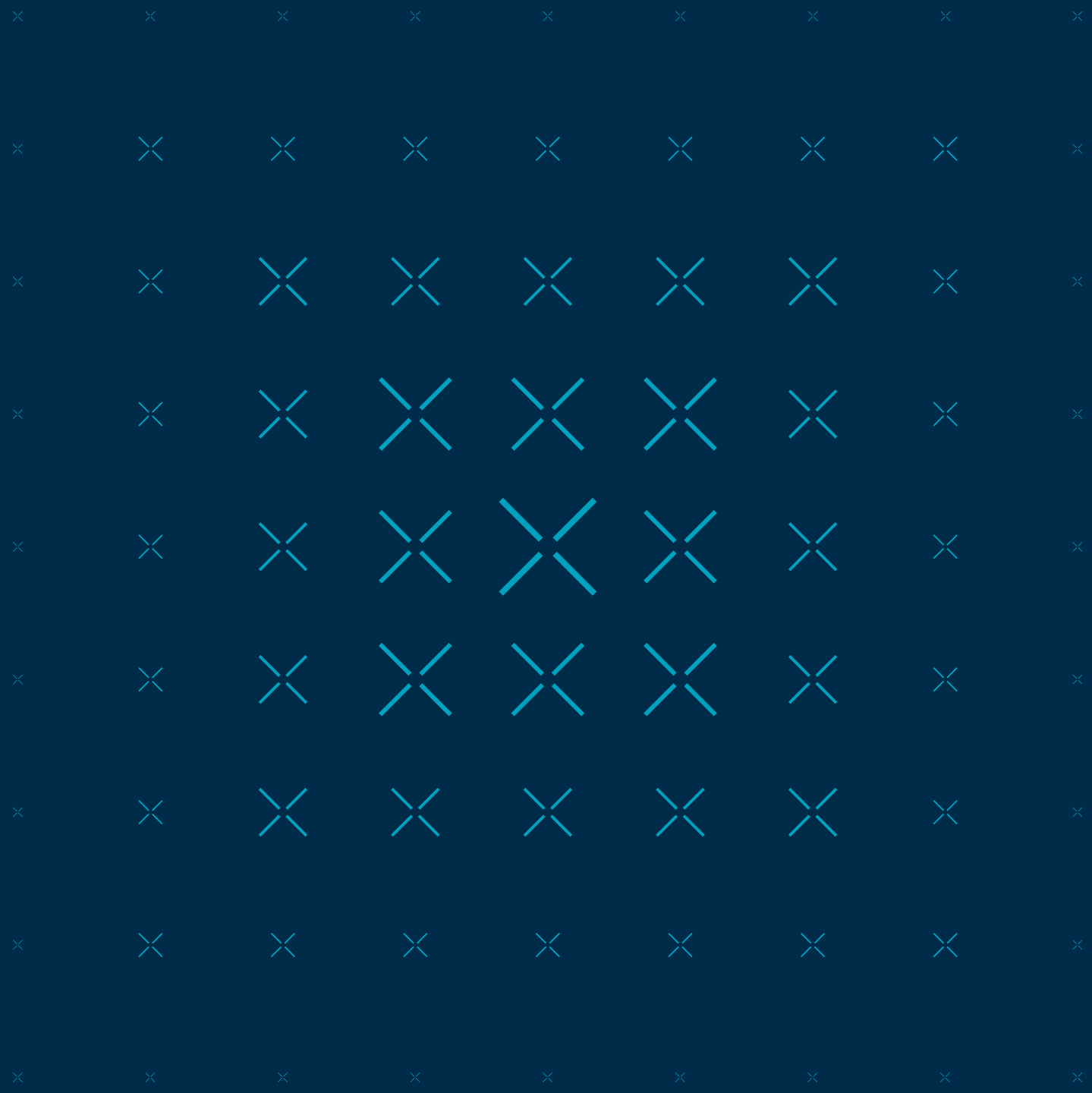
Vela Compiler



- + Open-source hardware aware optimizer, which optimizes the quantized ML model to run efficiently on intended hardware.
- + Investigates the graph and tags the operators that can be offloaded to Arm's Ethos-U NPU for increased efficiency and performance.

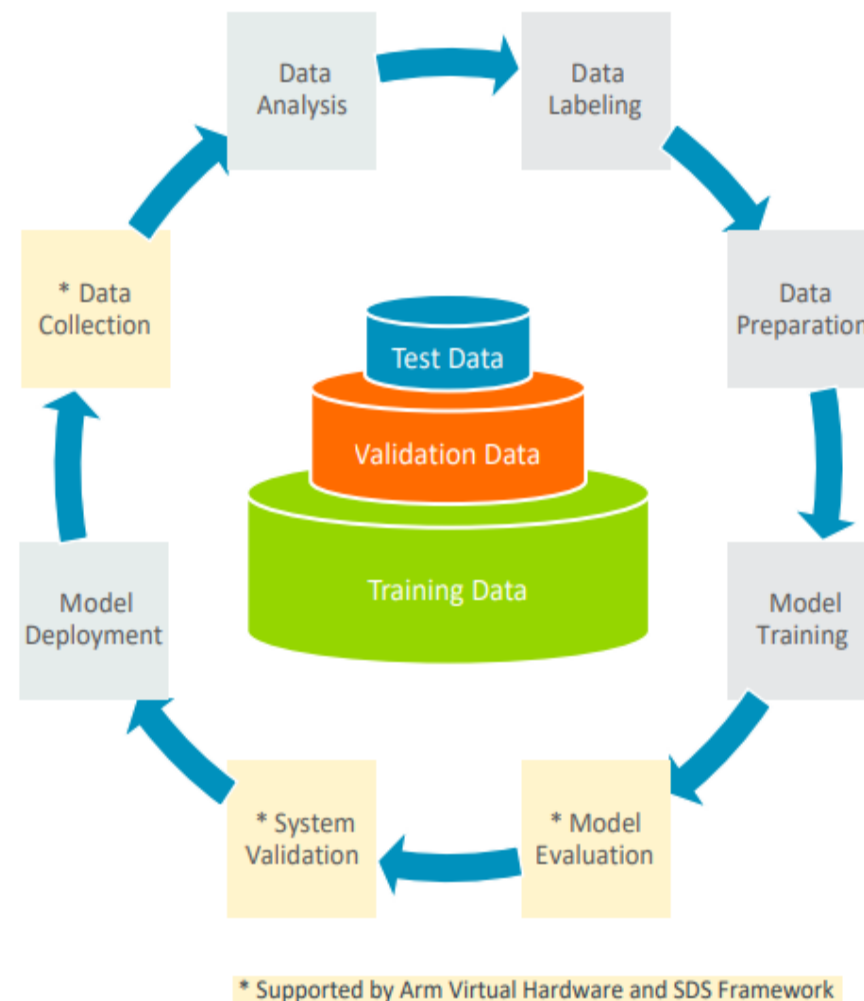
arm

MLOps



MLOps: deploy and maintain Machine Learning (ML) models

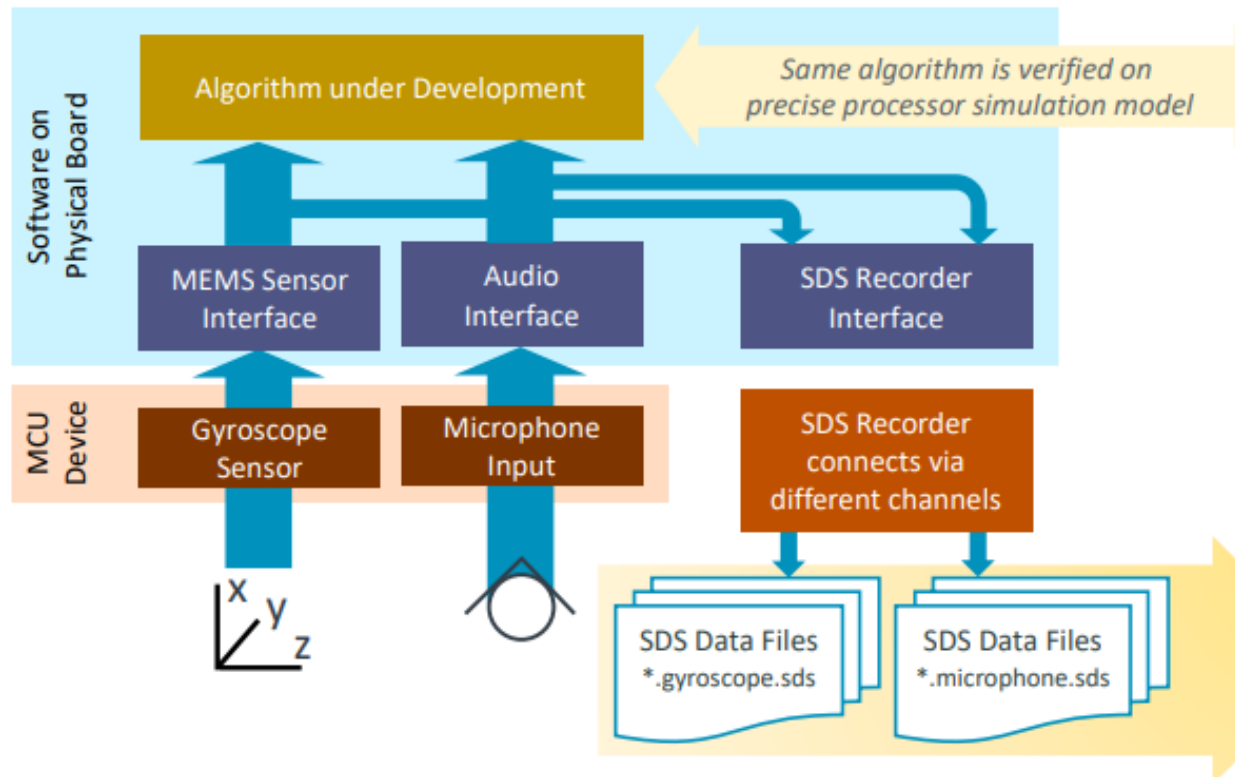
- + ML models are tested and developed in isolated systems
- + MLOps is an iterative process to transition the ML model to production systems.
- + Evaluation and validation require the model to run on target hardware.
- + Data collection requires frequently inputs of the final target system



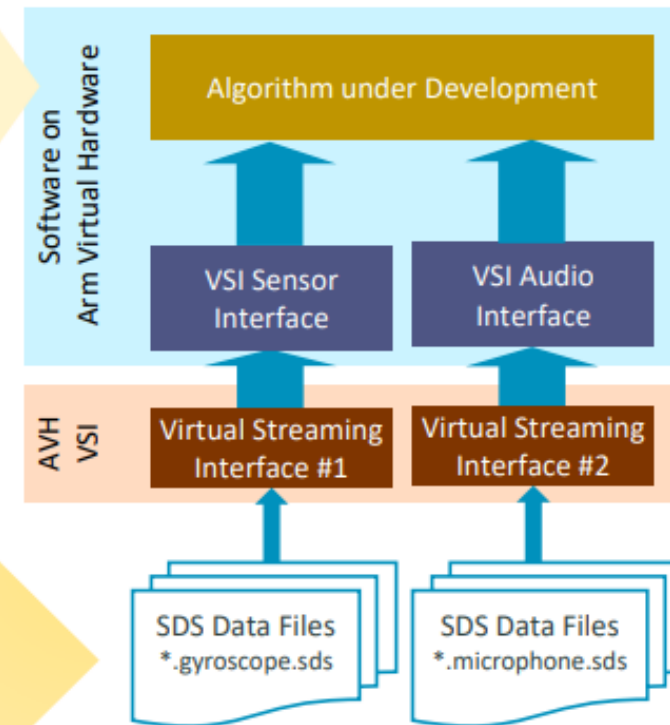
MLOps: Example flow



Microcontroller Hardware



Arm Virtual Hardware (AVH)



arm

Thank You

Danke

Gracias

Grazie

谢谢

ありがとう

Asante

Merci

감사합니다

धन्यवाद

Kiitos

شكرًا

ধন্যবাদ

תודה

ధన్యవాదములు



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