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

www.tinyML.org

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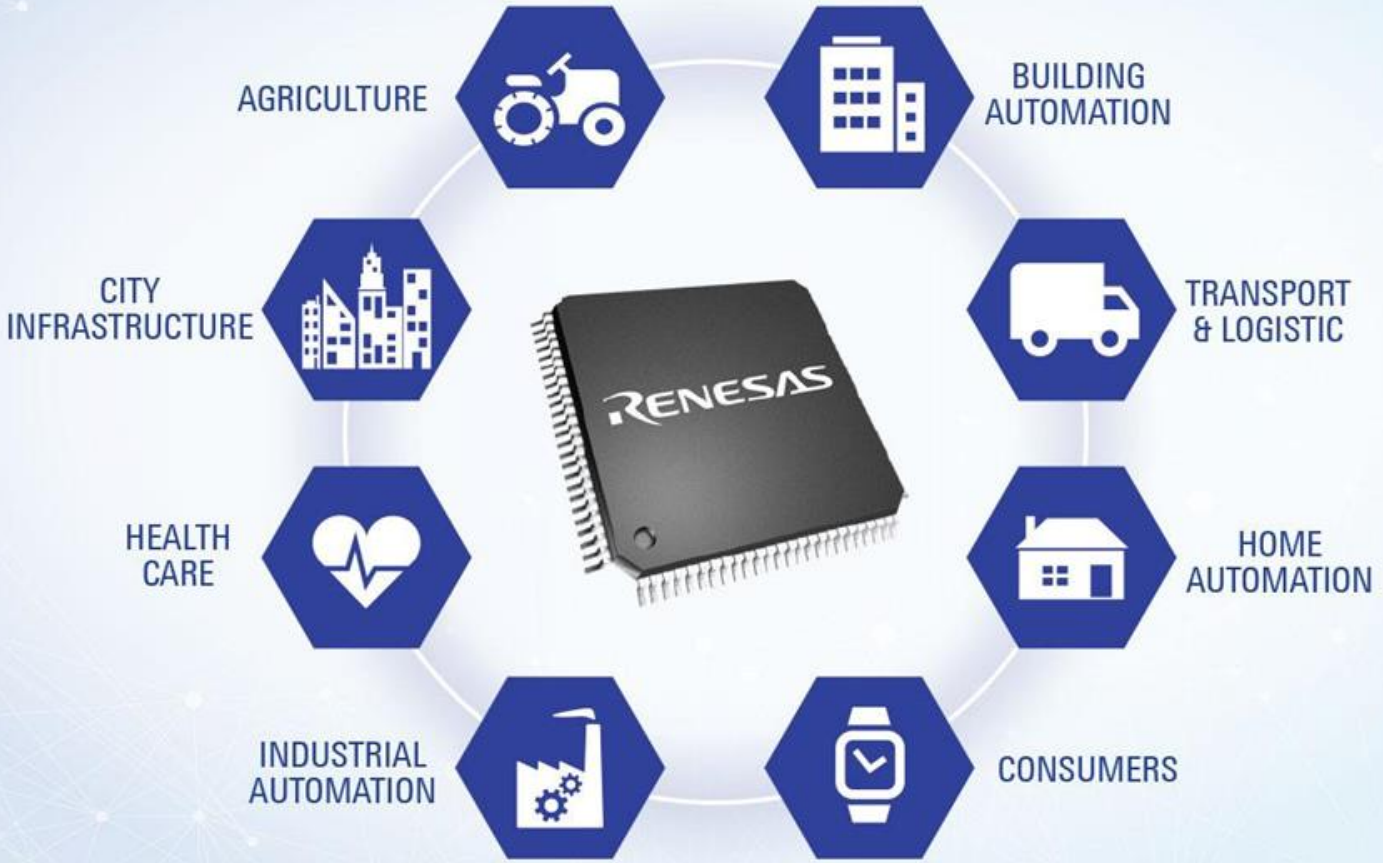

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&
15k followers

The tinyML Community

https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13694488/

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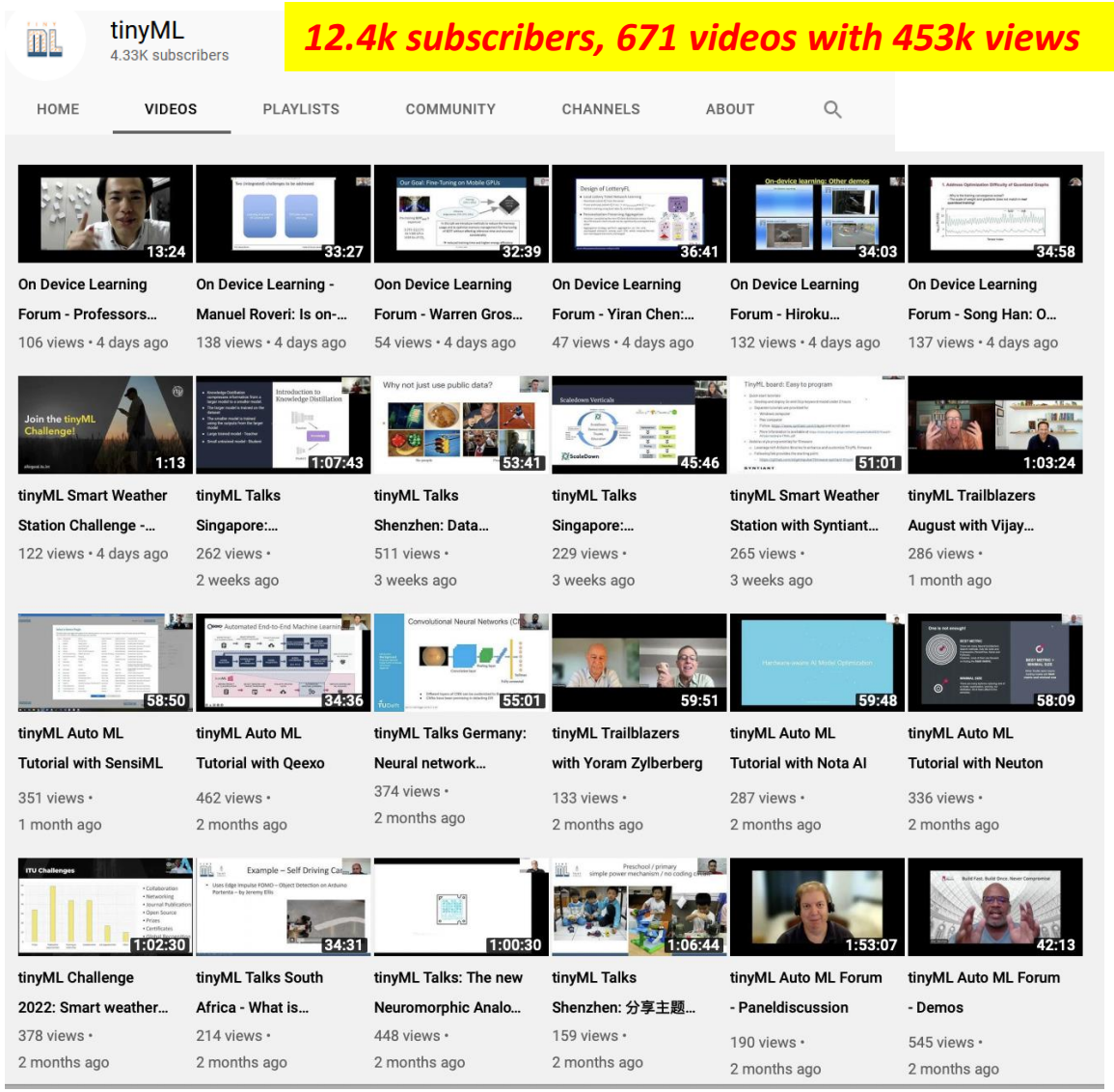

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Reminders

Slides & Videos will be posted tomorrow

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tinyml.org/forums

youtube.com/tinyml

Please use the Q&A window for your questions

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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.

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

Varun Chari, Arm

07 May 2024

AI-generated image

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

Common Microcontroller Software Interface Standard (CMSIS)

CMSIS

10,000 supported devices

900+ packs from 60 vendors

6 million GitHub projects

Multiple toolchains

2008

CMSIS v1

Access to processor core, interrupts, and peripherals

2010

CMSIS v2

Optimized DSP compute functions for all Cortex-M

Peripheral debug description (SVD)

2012

CMSIS v3

Real-time operating systems API

2014

CMSIS v4

Enable middleware with Driver and RTOS interfaces

Device support and software delivered with CMSIS packs

2016

CMSIS v5

Development on GitHub

CMSIS-NN for Machine Learning

Optimized compute libraries for Helium

2023

CMSIS v6

Optimized structure and enhancements for software development

CLI build system for CI, MLOps, and IDE integration

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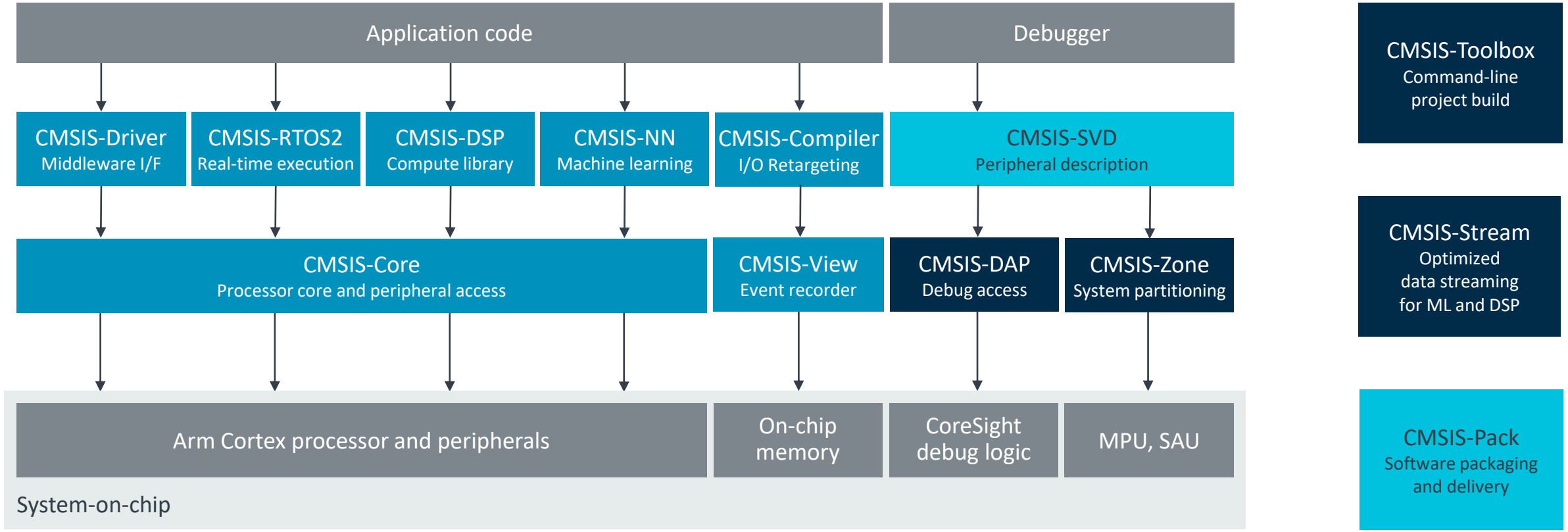
CMSIS Version 6

github.com/ARM-software/CMSIS_6

Consistent software framework for billions of devices



Software components for the Arm Cortex processor target

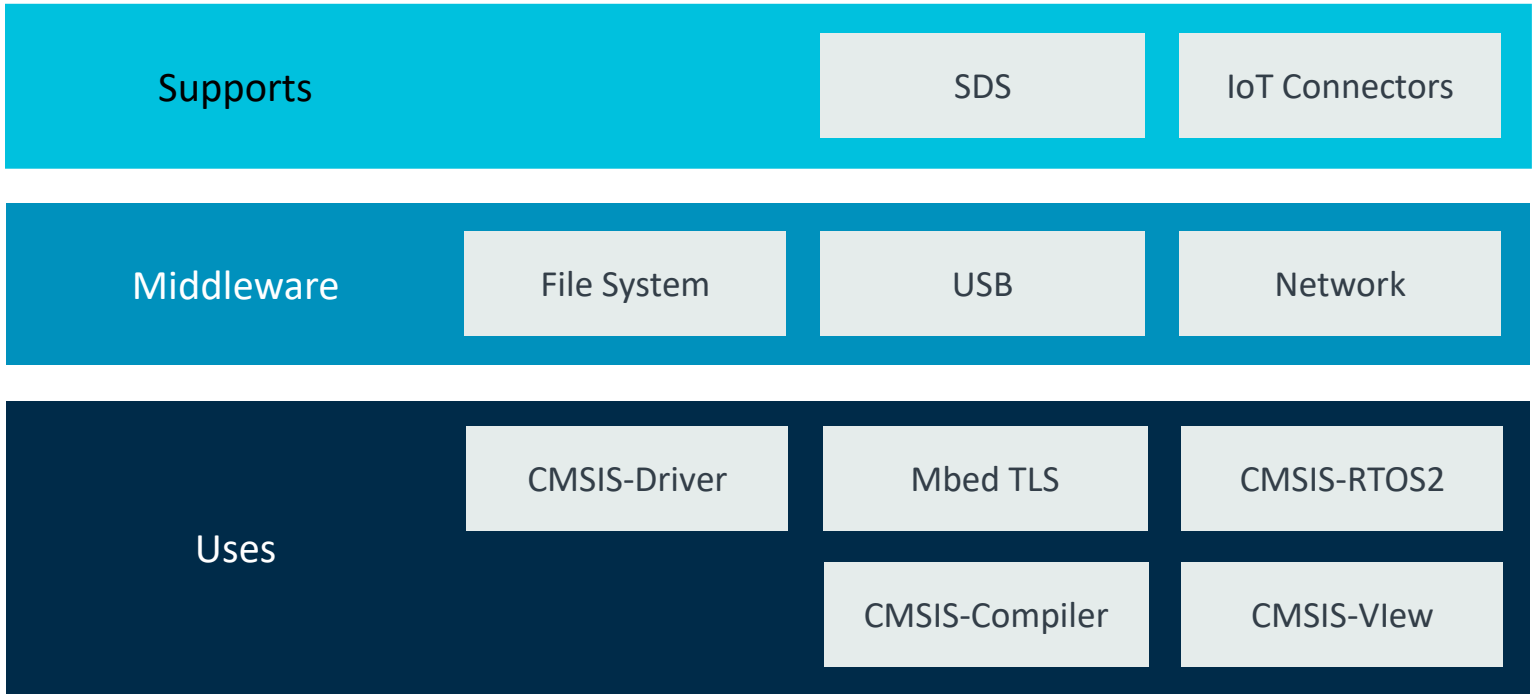
Tools for optimizing software development flows

Specifications

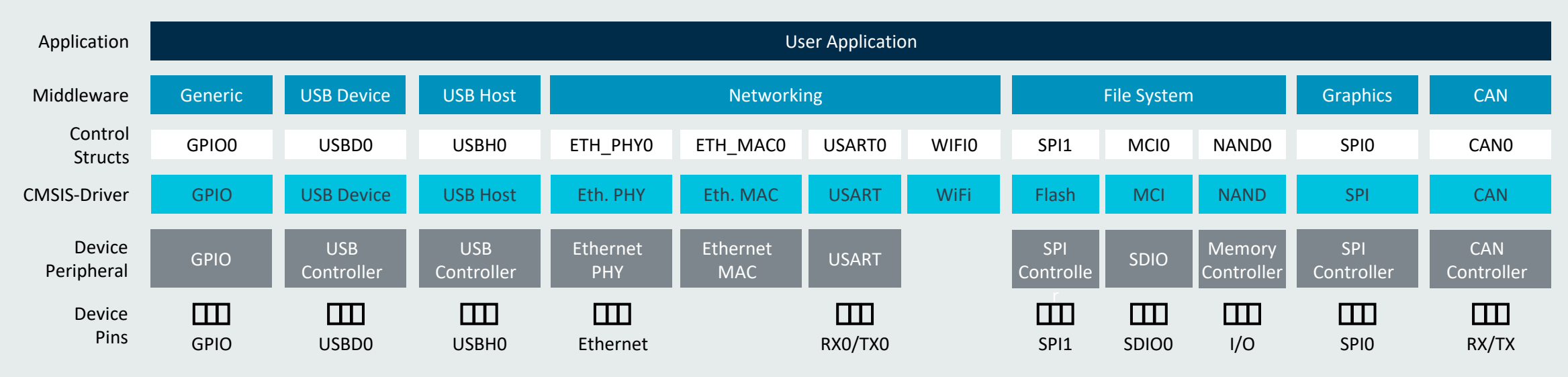
Application Development Using CMSIS Middleware Components

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.

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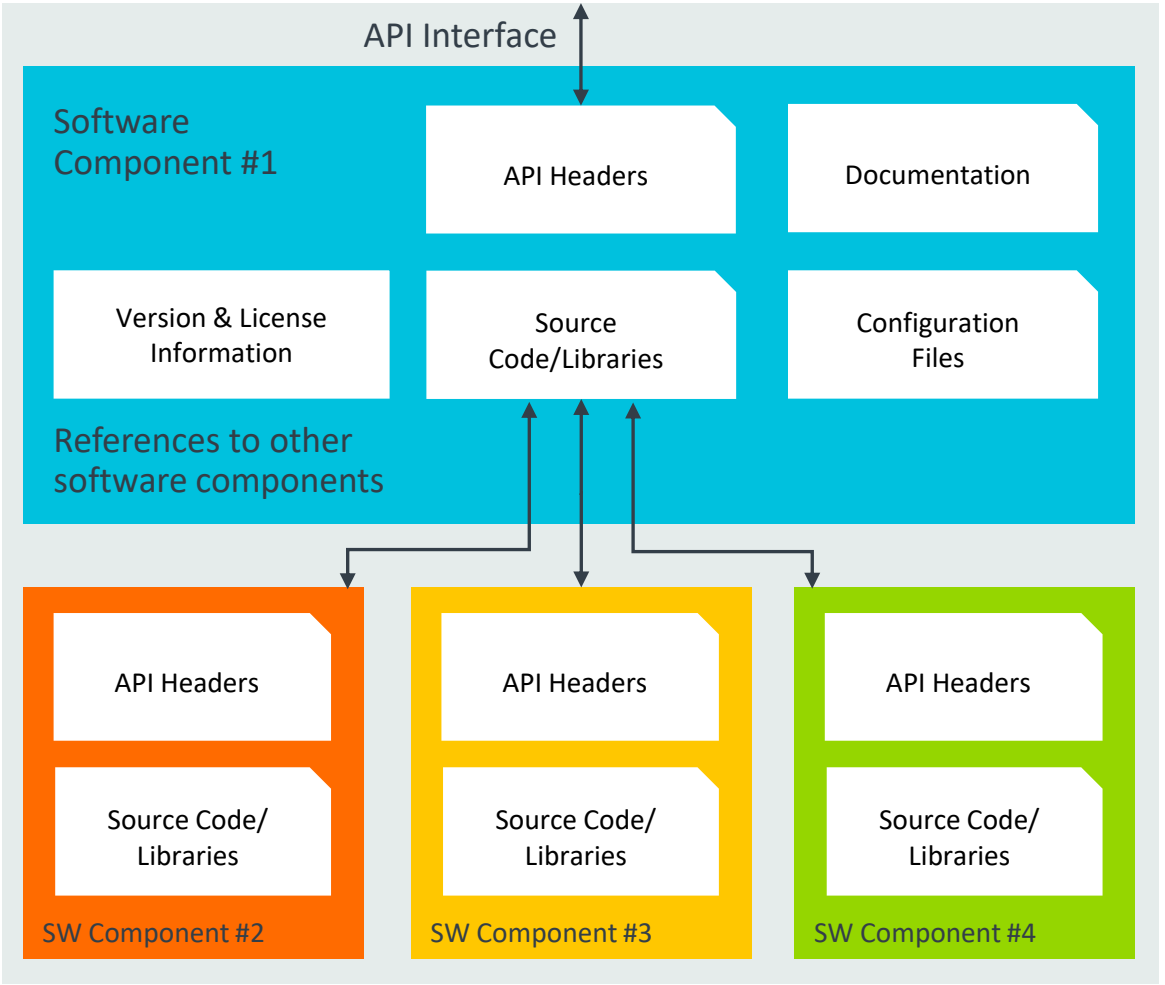
Reusable Software Components

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)

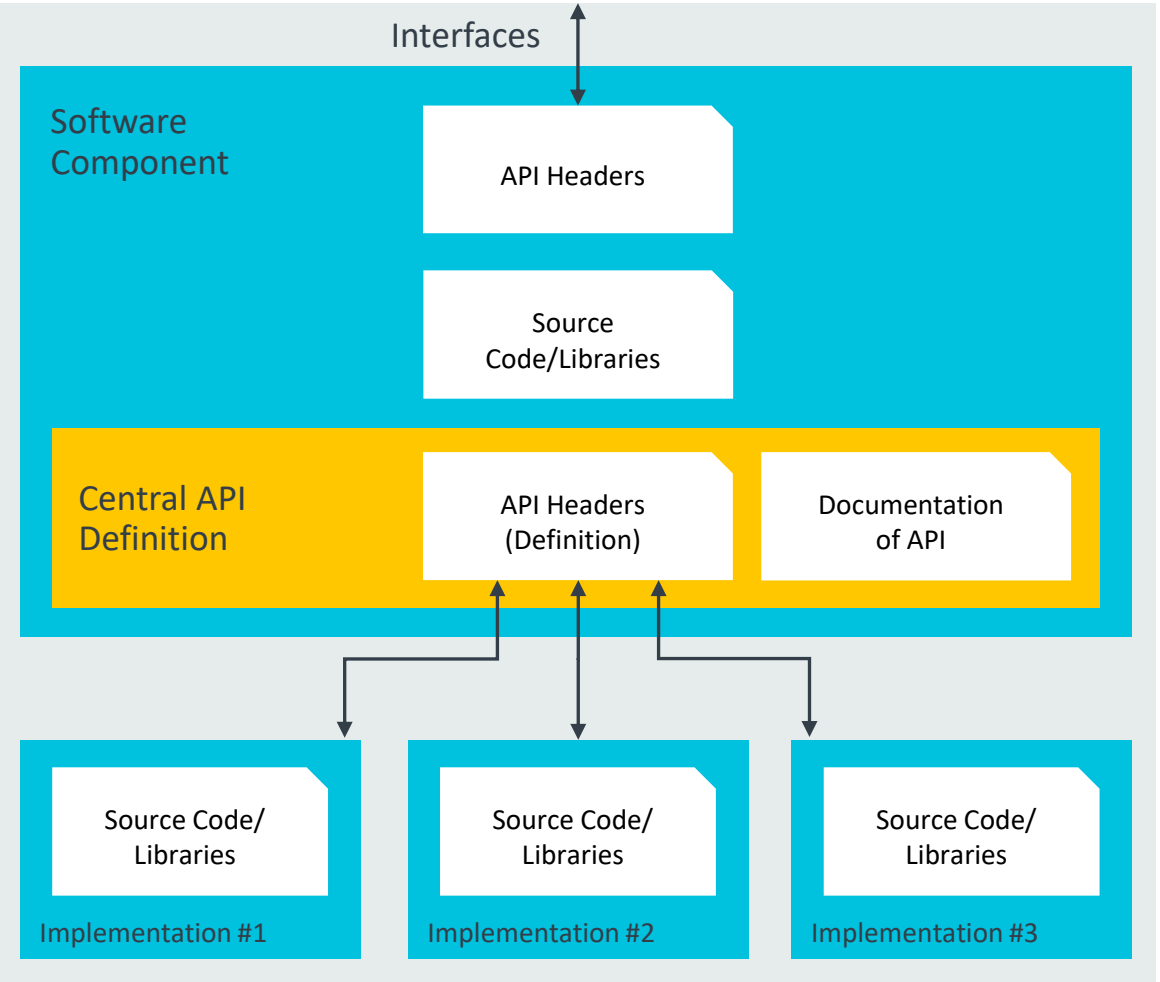


Read the blog

CMSIS-Pack: Central API Interface Definition

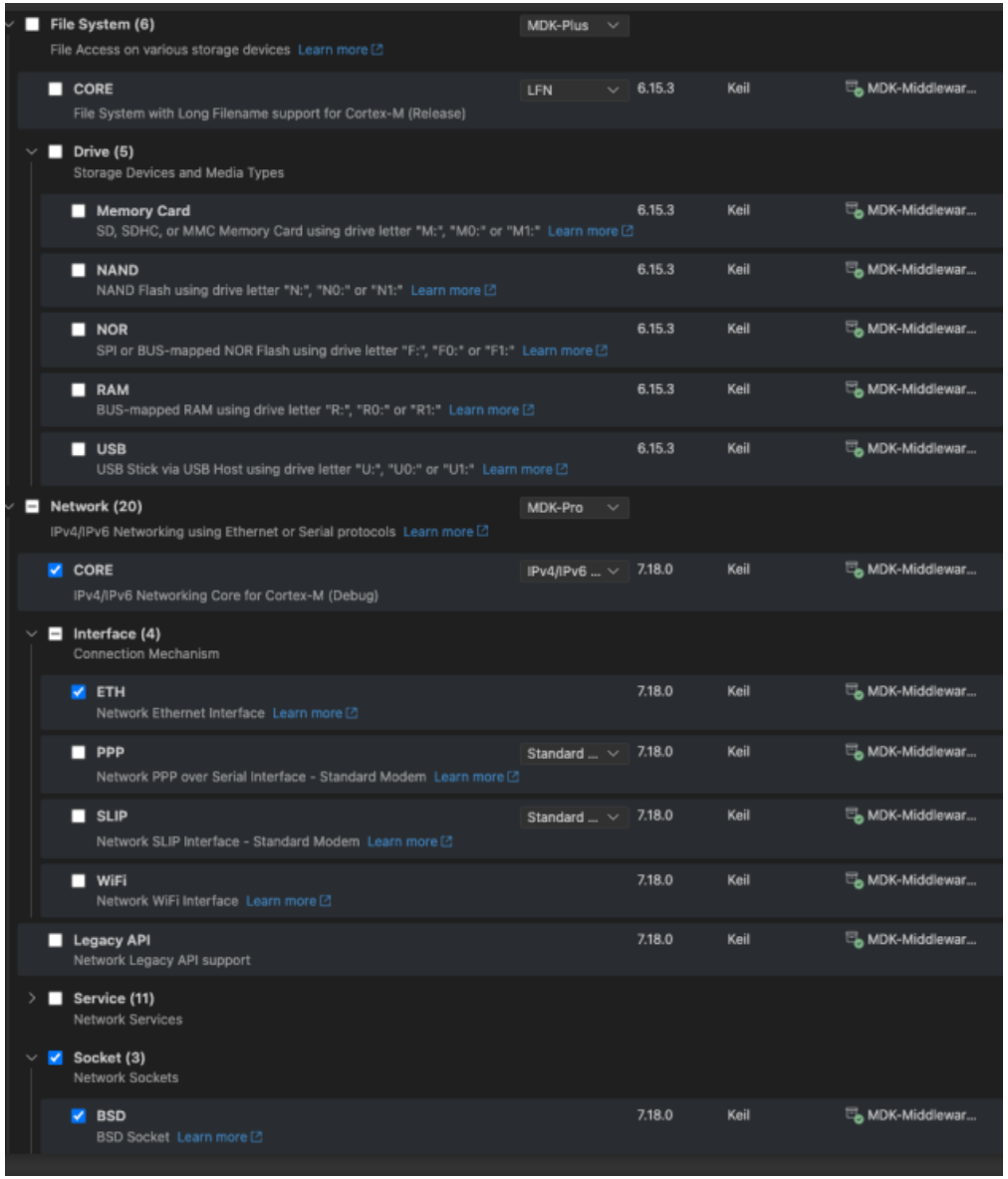
Ensuring consistent interfaces across standard components

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

Embedded Wizard
GUI Solutions by TARA Systems

SEGGER
The Embedded Experts

LVGL

Middleware

aws

Mongoose

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ORYX EMBEDDED

wolfSSL

Mbed TLS

Machine Learning/DSP

EDGE IMPULSE

TDK Qeexo

TensorFlow

RTOS

Quantum Leaps
Modern Embedded Software

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SEGGER
The Embedded Experts

RT-Thread

Embedde Office

FreeRTOS

Other

EmSA

redlogix

Memfault

CMSIS

CMSIS
CMSIS-RTX
CMSIS-DSP
CMSIS-NN
CMSIS-FreeRTOS

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CMSIS-View
CMSIS-Stream
CMSIS-Compiler

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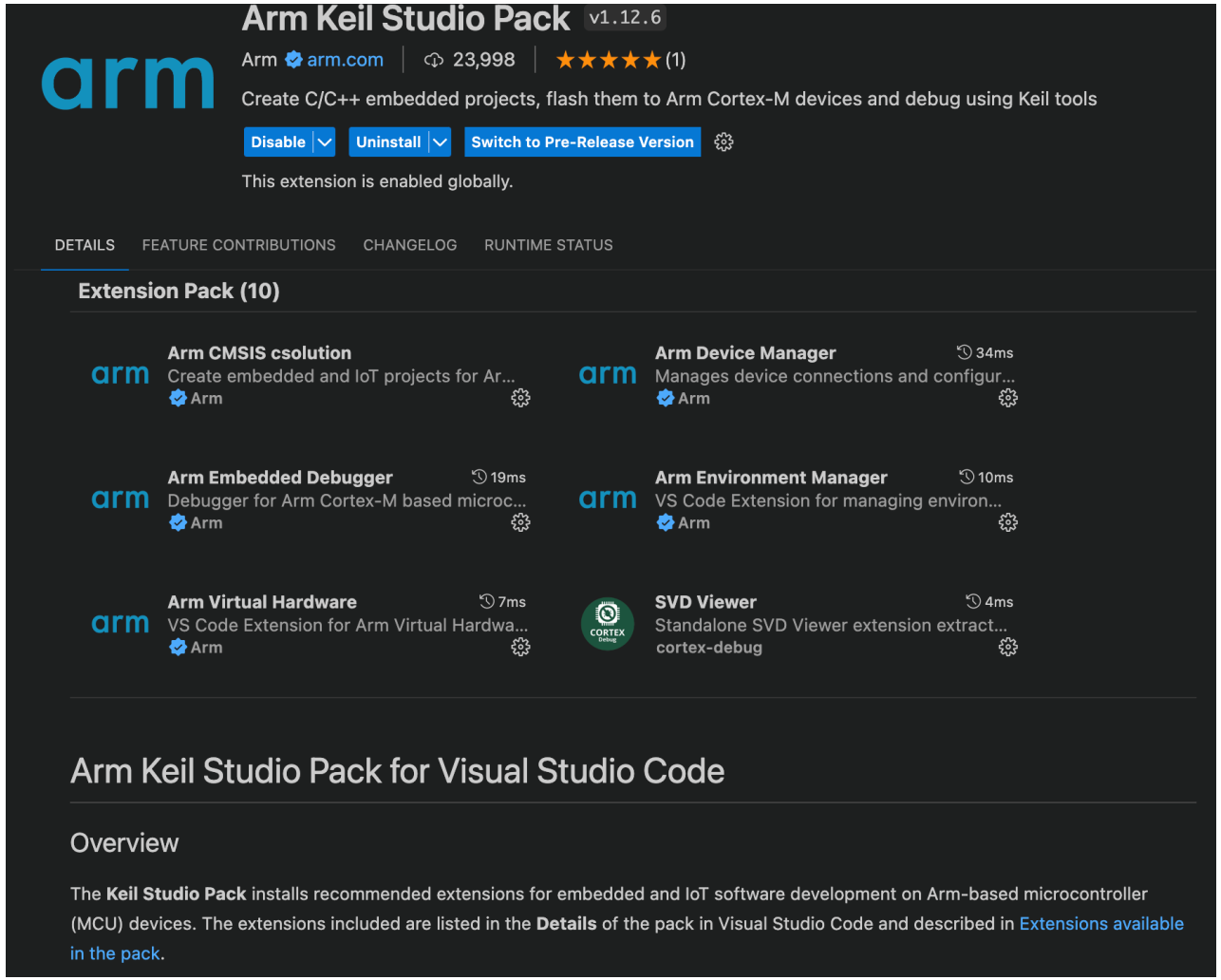
Arm Keil Studio Pack VS Code Extension

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



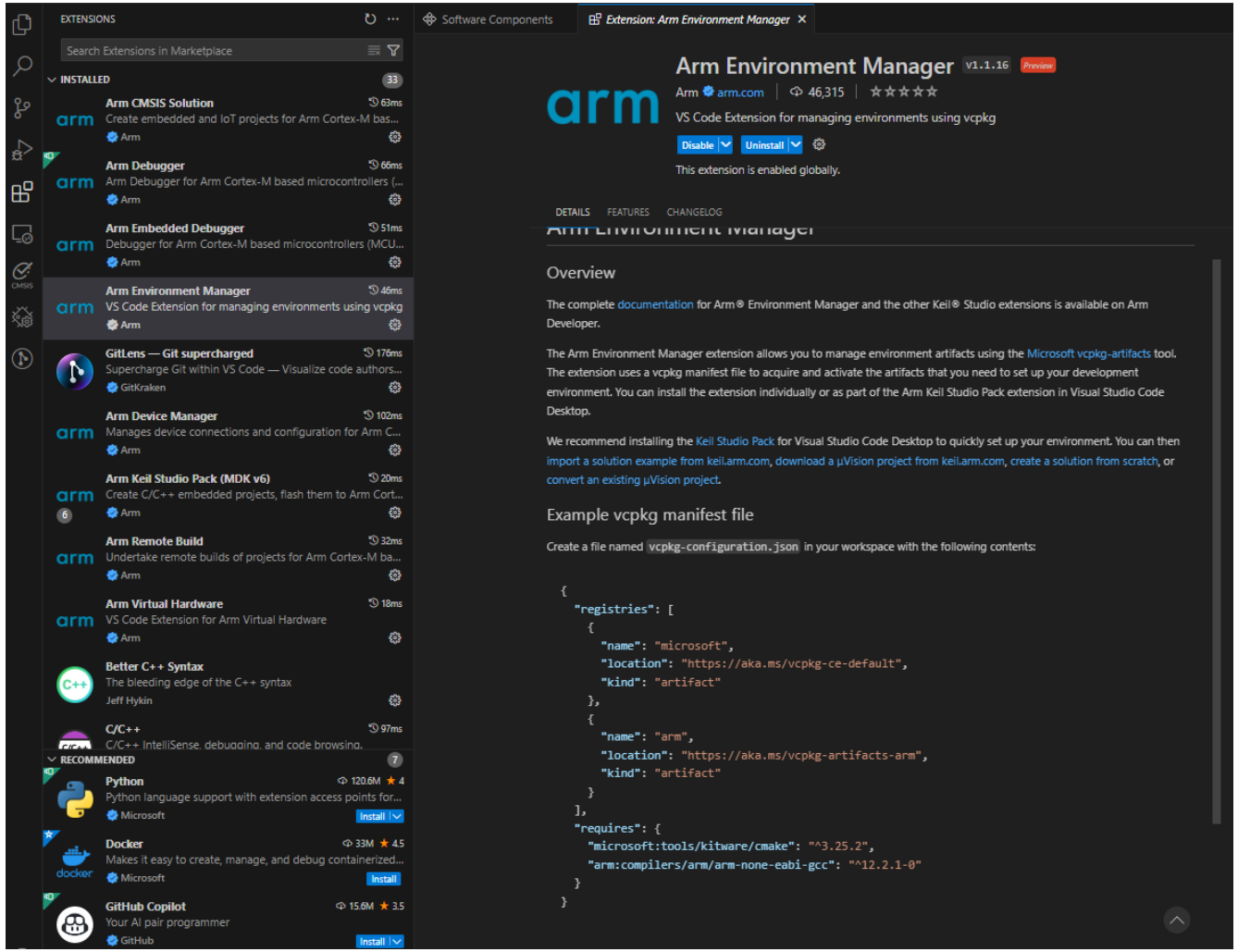
Arm Keil Studio Pack – Essential VS Code Extensions

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

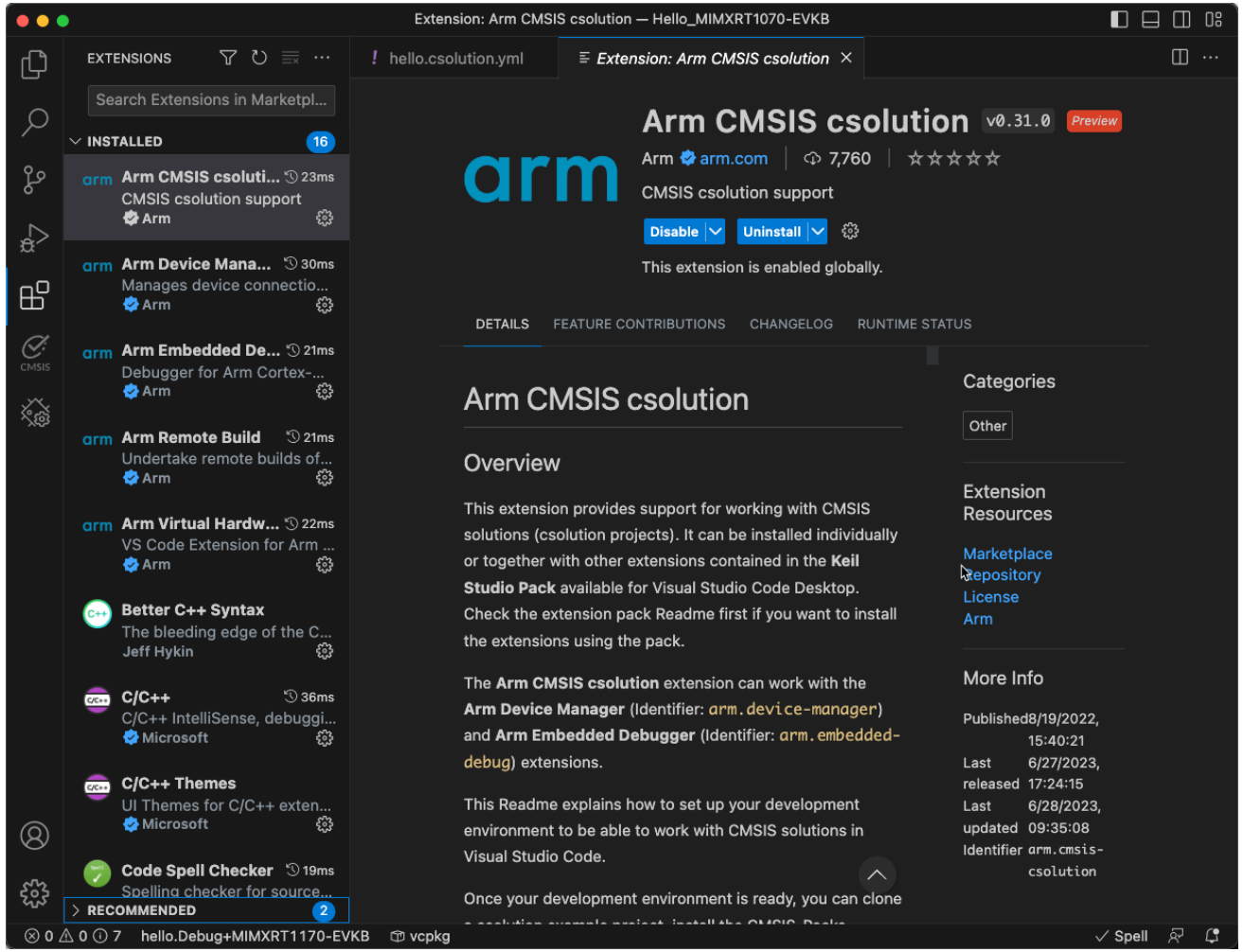
- Part of extension for Microsoft VS Code
- Manage development environment artifacts using the Microsoft vcpkg-artifacts tool.
- Use vcpkg manifest file to acquire and activate the artifacts that you need to set up your development environment.
- Arm tools antifactory provides access to all tools.
-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



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



CMSIS-Toolbox - Navigation

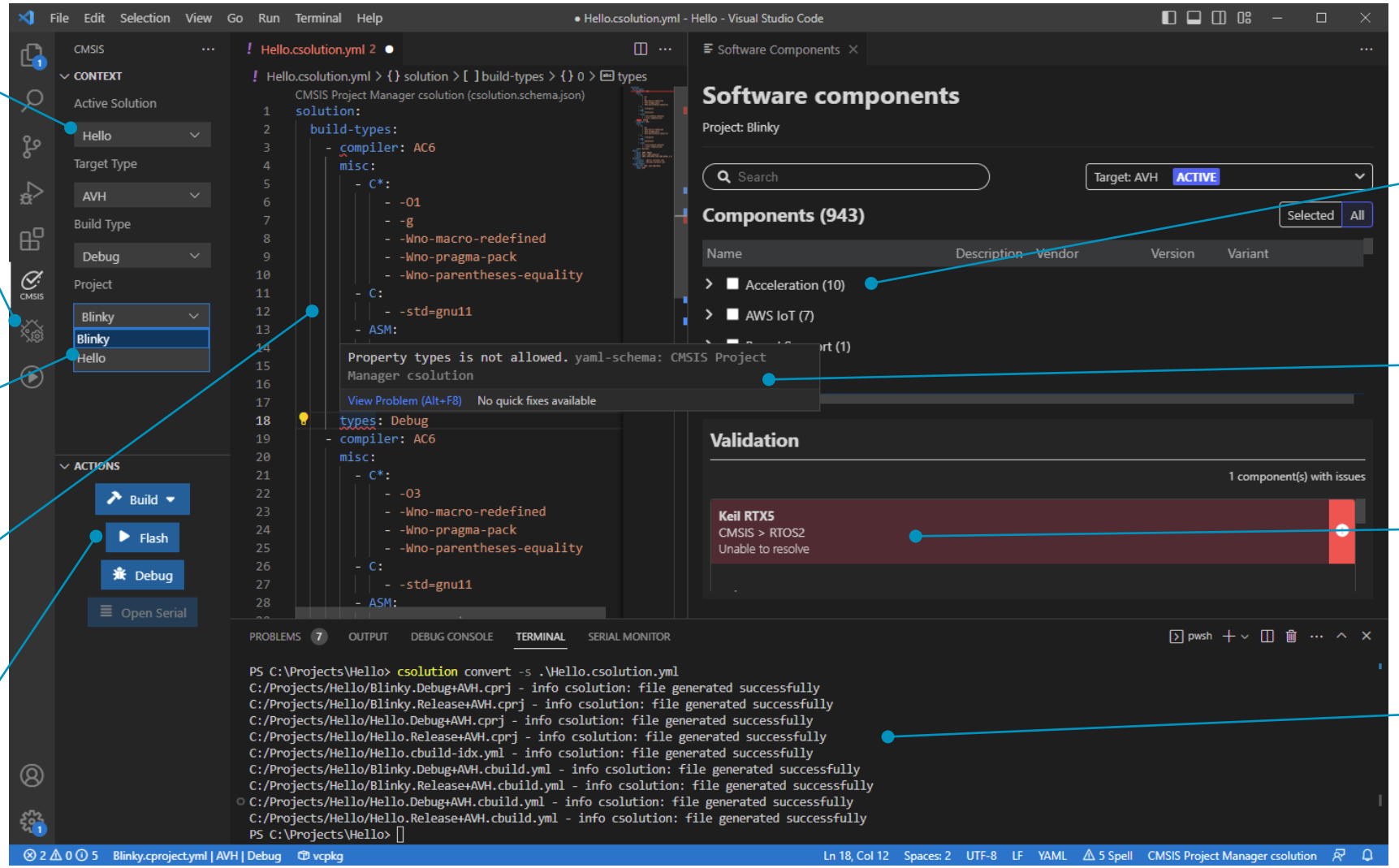
Select project context of the solution

Detect connected hardware

Manage related projects

Solution and project build script

Available project actions



Manage CMSIS software components

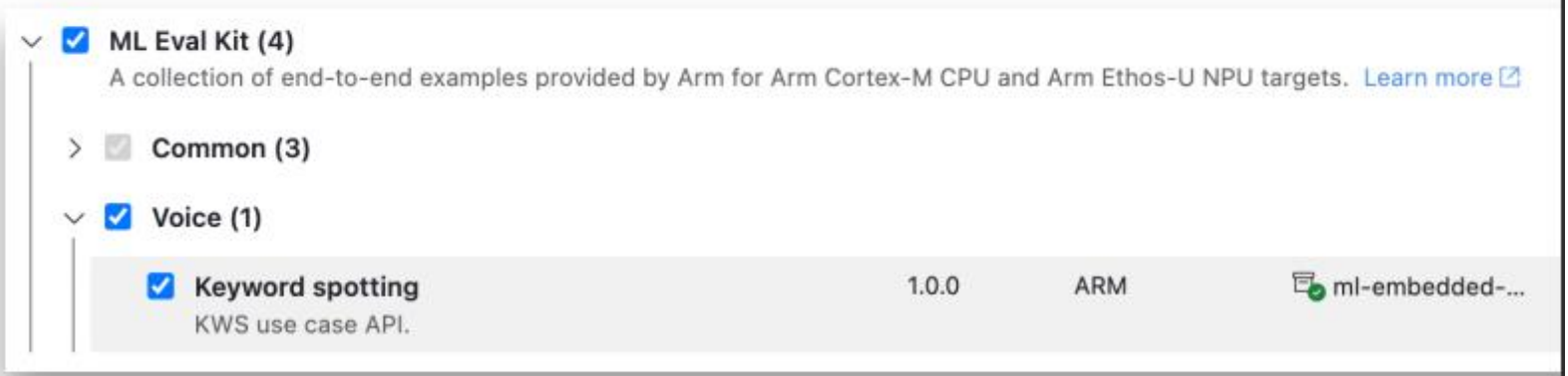
IntelliSense

Validate software component dependency

Command line build (optional)

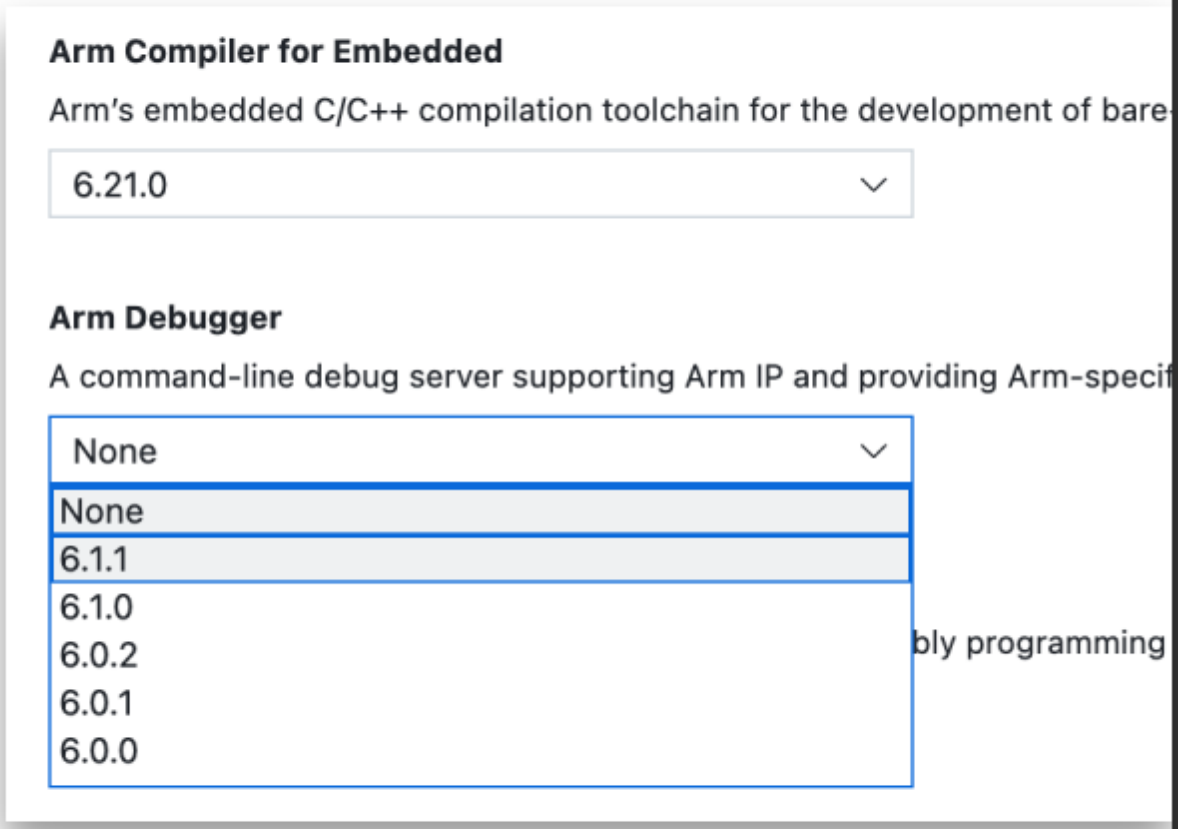
Validate middleware dependencies

- **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



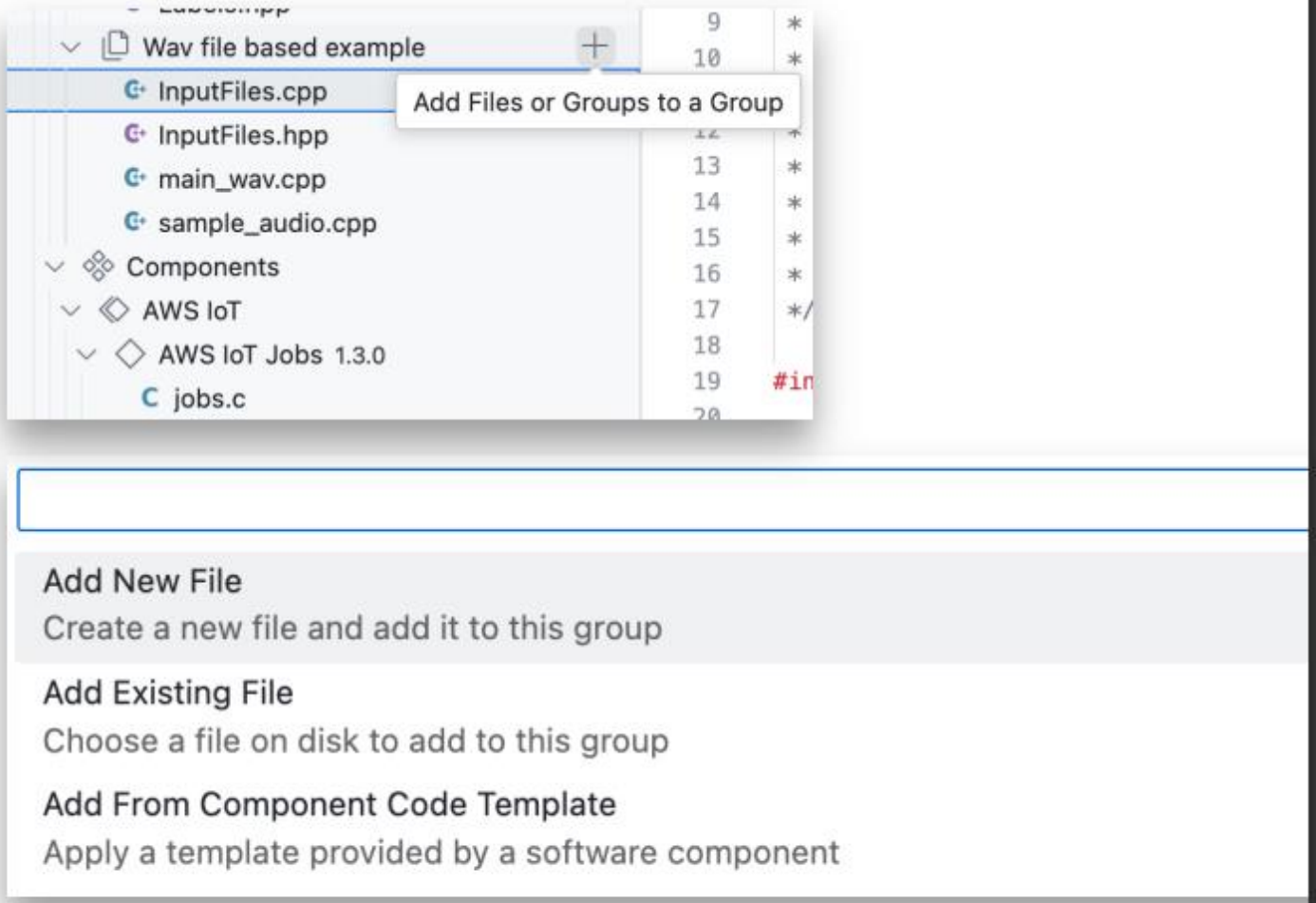
Pin tools versions

- **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



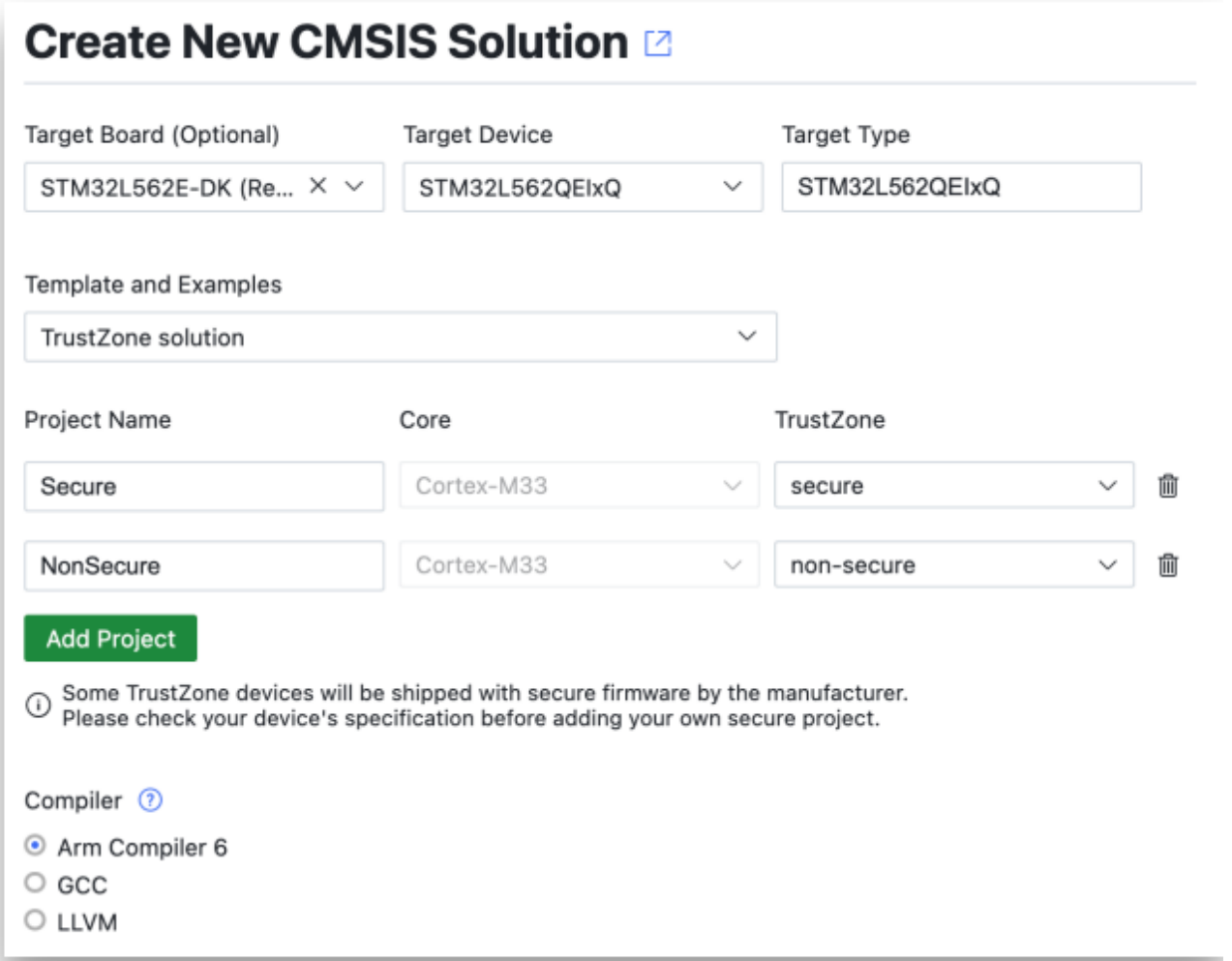
Rapid prototyping with code templates

- **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



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



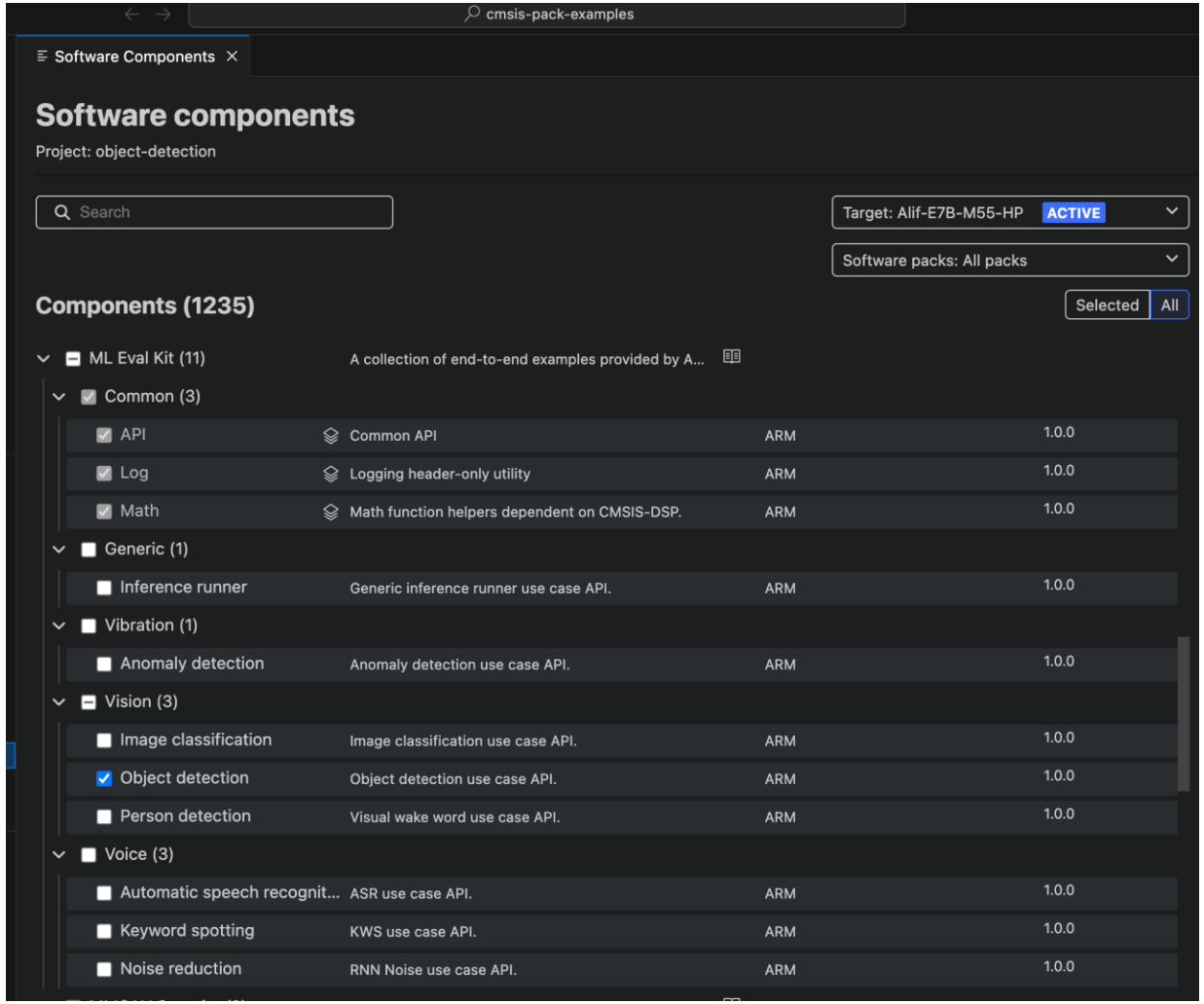
Arm ML Eval Kit

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

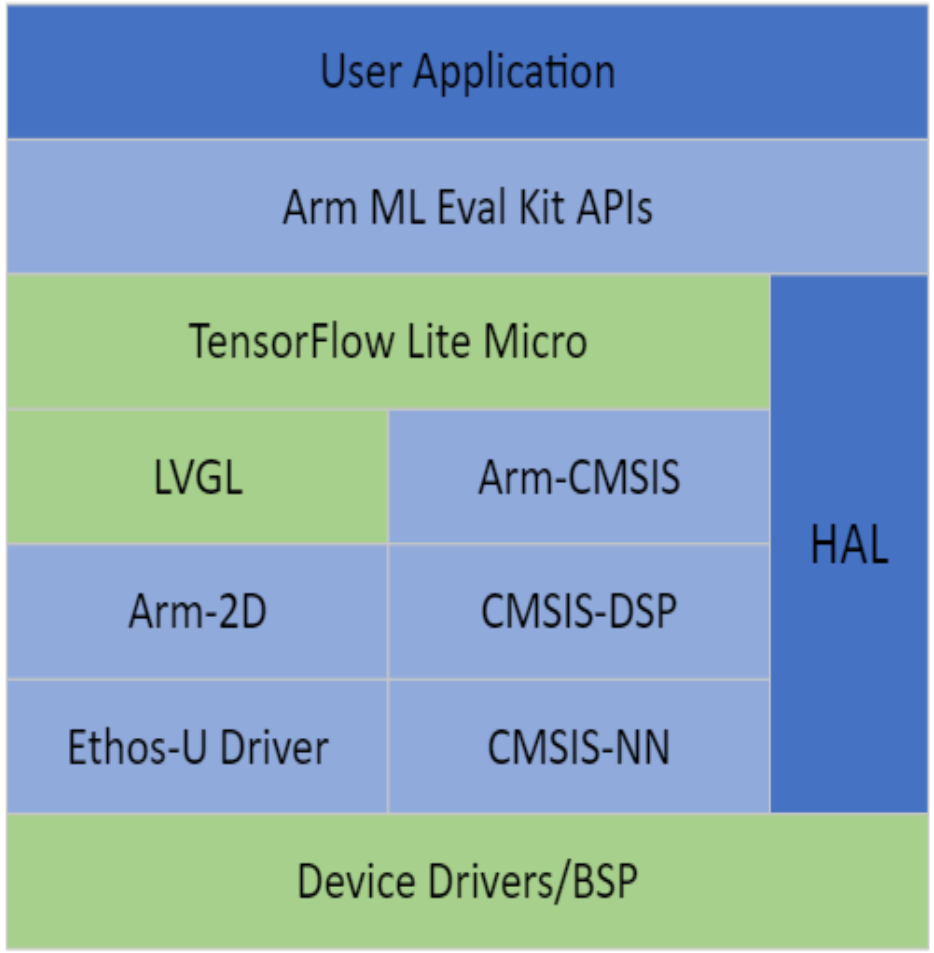
ML Eval Kit – CMSIS Pack

- 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



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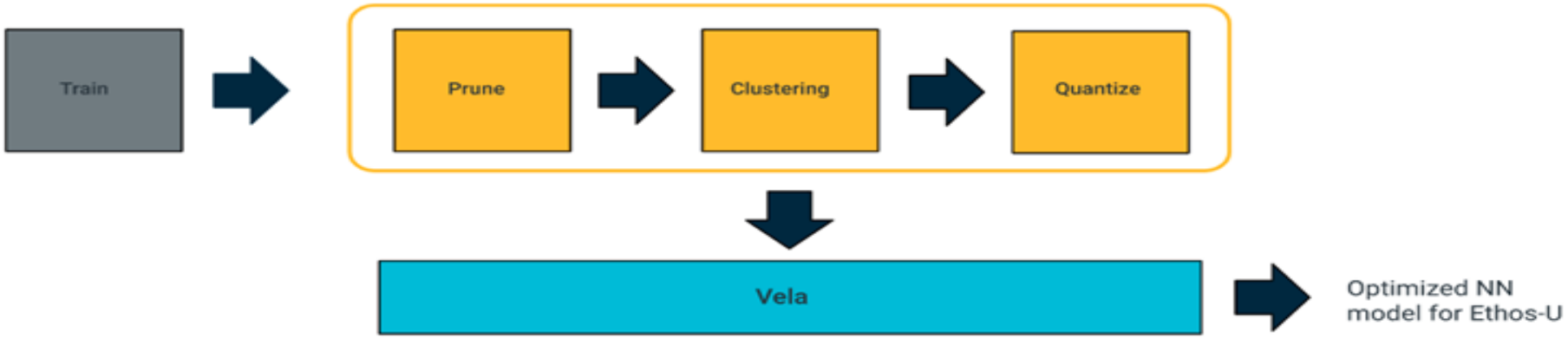
Demo

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

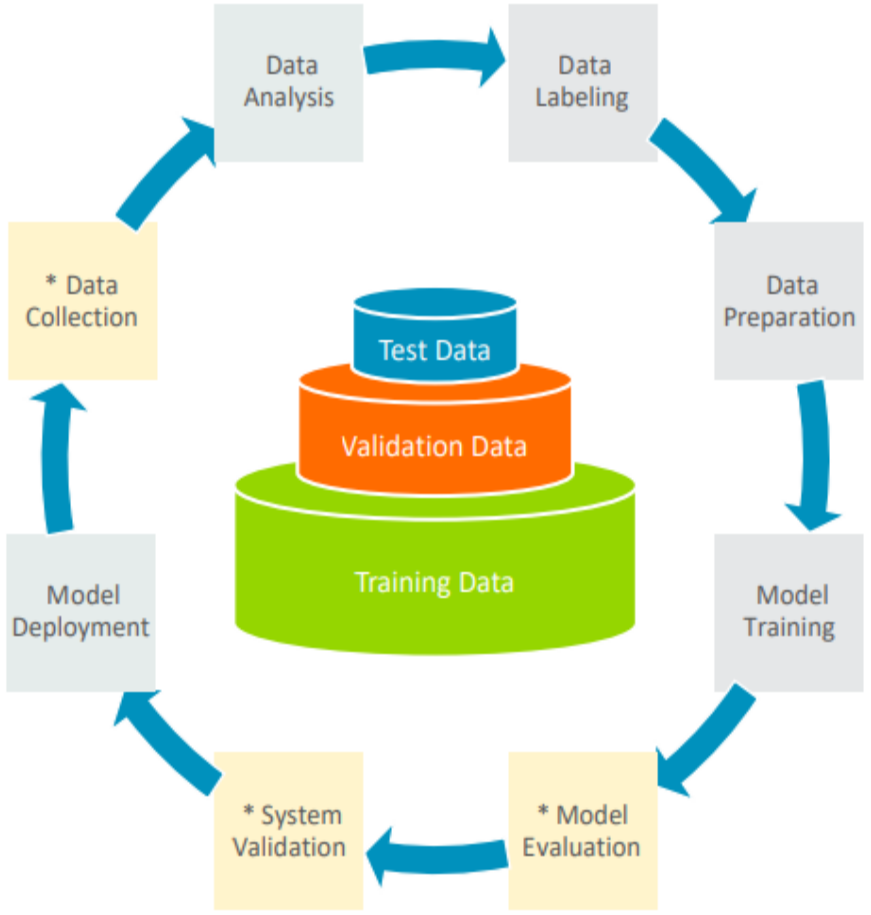


- Open-source hardware aware optimizer, which optimizes the quantized ML model to run efficiently on intended hardware.
- Investigates the graph and tags the operators that can be offloaded to Arm's Ethos-U NPU for increased efficiency and performance.

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



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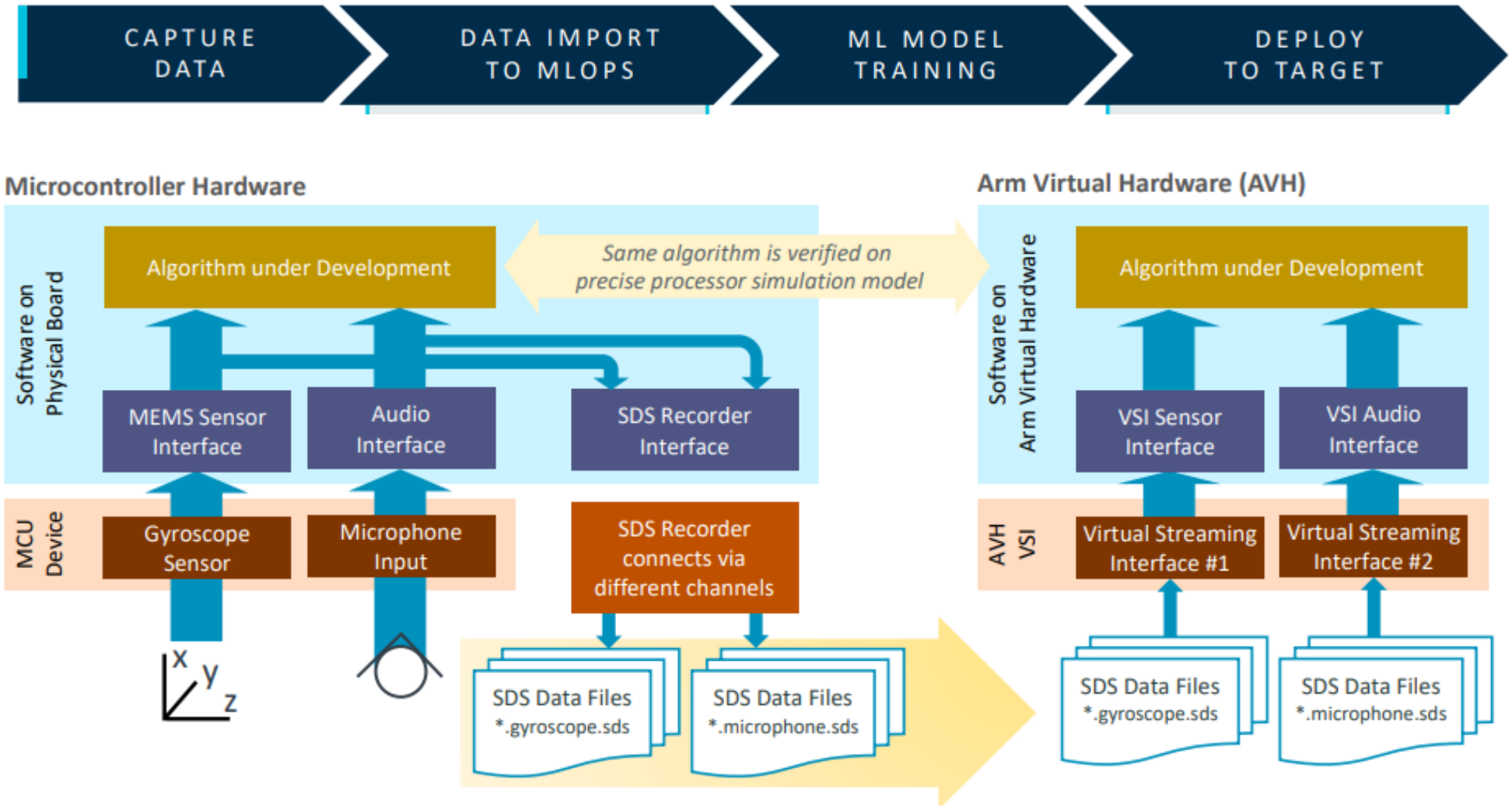
MLOps: Example flow



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Thank You
Danke
Gracias
Grazie
谢谢
ありがとう
Asante
Merci
감사합니다
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Kiitos
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