



AES 143  
Network Audio Track

# How to Make An AES70 Device

Session NA09  
October 21, 2017

## Agenda

- **Basic AES70 Concepts**  
*Simon Jones, CTO, Focusrite*
- **Implementation**  
*Tom de Brouwer, Software Engineer, Bosch Communications*
- **The OCA Alliance for Developers**  
*Ethan Wetzell, Platform Strategist, Bosch Communications*
- **Demonstrations**



# **AES143 NA09:**

How to make an AES70 Device  
Concepts & Design



# Making an AES70 Device: *Concepts & Design*

Presented by Simon Jones:

Member, Board of Directors, OCA Alliance

Member, Technical Working Group, OCA Alliance

CTO, Focusrite Audio Engineering

# Making an AES70 Device: *Concepts*

- Basic Elements of AES70
- Device Model
- Minimum Device (OCC-MIN)
- Designing an AES70 Device

# Making an AES70 Device: *Concepts*

## Basic Elements of AES70

- Specifications
- Class System
- Protocols

# Making an AES70 Device: *Concepts*

## The Specification

- Divided into three Sections:
  - **AES70-1:** The Framework. Defines the models and mechanisms that form AES70. AES70 is a **control model**, not a **programming model**.
  - **AES70-2:** Class Structure. Specifies the control class structure, which defines the control and monitoring capabilities of AES70 classes.
  - **AES70-3:** Communication Protocol. Defines AES70 remote control and monitoring over a network.

# Making an AES70 Device: *Concepts*

## AES70-2: Open Control Class Structure

- Open Control Class Structure, OCC.
- Based on object-orientated programming hierarchical **Class** methodology.
- Classes are program-code templates for creating objects, in this case controllable and monitorable objects.
- All OCC classes are based on the **base class, OcaRoot**.
- OcaRoot defines the basic functionality of all OCC class types
- Defines the entire repertoire of objects that an AES70 device can use (Annex A).
- Defines the mandatory objects an AES70 device must implement (Annex B).



# Making an AES70 Device: *Concepts*

OCC is divided into four categories:

- Workers
- Managers
- Agents
- Networks

# Making an AES70 Device: *Concepts*

- **Workers:** Classes that represent signal processing and monitoring functions
- **Managers:** Classes that represent device housekeeping functions
- **Agents:** Classes that represent control-flow processing functions
- **Networks:** Classes that represent the physical network (or networks) to which the device is connected

# Making an AES70 Device: *Concepts*

- Workers are divided into three categories:
  - Actuators – Signal processing and routing functions, e.g. gain, mute, source selection
  - Sensors – Detectors and monitors of various types, e.g. signal level, gain reduction, temperature
  - Blocks and Matrices – Classes that aggregate objects into structured collections, generally used for modeling / managing complex devices, e.g. collecting objects into blocks of “channels”

# Making an AES70 Device: *Concepts*

## **Signal Processing (Actuators)**

Gain controls

Mutes

Switches (n-position)

Delays

Equalizers

Filters (IIR & FIR)

Limiters & Compressors

Expanders & Gates

Levelers

Signal generators

Arbitrary numeric and text parameters

## **Signal Monitoring (Sensors)**

- Level sensors (meters)
- Frequency sensors
- Time interval sensors
- Temperature sensors
- Arbitrary numeric sensors

# Making an AES70 Device: *Concepts*

## **Basic Actuators**

OcaBooleanActuator

OcaInt8Actuator, Int16, Int32, Int64

OcaUInt8Actuator, UInt16, UInt32, UInt64

OcaFloat32Actuator, Float64

OcaStringActuator

OcaBitStringActuator

## **Basic Sensors**

- OcaBooleanSensor
- OcaInt8Sensor, Int16 ...
- OcaUInt8Sensor, Int16 ...
- OcaFloat32Sensor, Float64
- OcaStringSensor
- OcaBitStringSensor

+ *Proprietary extensions as needed*

# Making an AES70 Device: *Concepts*

## AES70-2 : Non-standard Classes

- Also termed “proprietary” classes
- Follow the same rules as the OCC class tree
- They are an extension [derivative] of a standard class
  - Only derived from a single standard class
  - Must have the same functionality as the derivative standard class
  - Enhance the definitions of existing features
  - Can have extra functionality and features beyond the standard class

# Making an AES70 Device: *Concepts*

## AES70-2 : Non-standard Classes

- OCC Derivation Example:
- OcaSwitch (1.1.1.4)
  - OcaActuator (1.1.1)
    - OcaWorker (1.1)
      - OcaRoot (1)
- OcaSwitchAES (1.1.1.4.[MfrID].1):
  - Has all the features of the OcaSwitch
  - Plus the “extra” functionality required

# Making an AES70 Device: *Concepts*



AES70-2, Mandatory Objects (Annex B):





# Making an AES70 Device: *Concepts*

AES70-2, Mandatory Objects (Annex B):

- Mandatory objects have defined (fixed) object numbers (oNo).

# Making an AES70 Device: *Concepts*

AES70-2, Mandatory Objects (Annex B):

- Two Managers
  1. OcaDeviceManager (oNo:1) – Overall device manager, containing the Device Name, Manufacturer Name, Serial Number and ModelGUID etc

# Making an AES70 Device: *Concepts*

## AES70-2, Mandatory Objects (Annex B):

- Two Managers
  1. OcaDeviceManager (oNo:1)
  2. OcaSubscriptionManager (oNo:5) – Manages reporting of device data back to controllers. Not actually mandatory, but its absence would imply a polled system, which may be okay for small devices

# Making an AES70 Device: *Concepts*

AES70-2, Mandatory Objects (Annex B):

- One Worker
  1. OcaBlock (oNo:100) – The “root” block, which contains all the device’s worker objects

# Making an AES70 Device: *Concepts*

## AES70-3: Protocol for IP Networks

- Referred to as OCP.1.
- AES70 only uses *standard* transport protocols.
- Devices are “discovered” by interested controllers using DNS-SD service discovery.
- DNS-SD is often referred to by its common implementation, *Bonjour*

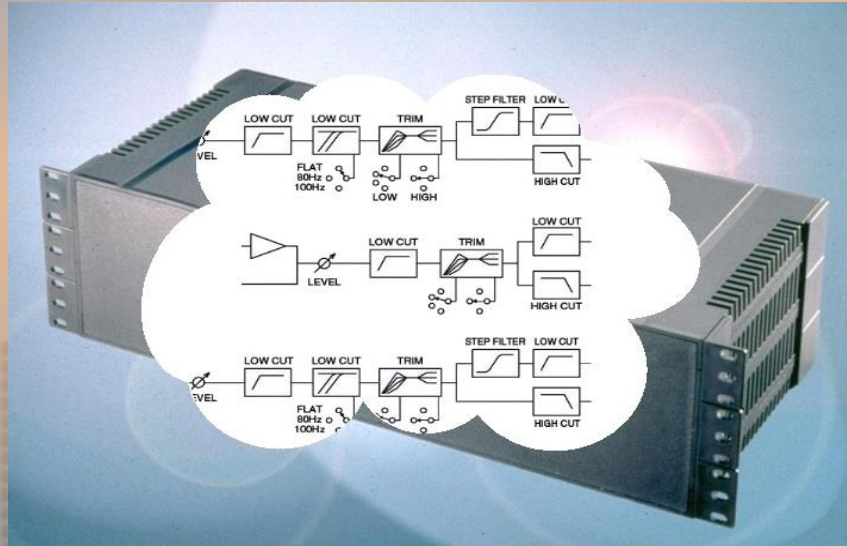
# Making an AES70 Device: *Concepts*

## AES70-3: Protocol for IP Networks

- Up to Four Supported Services:
  1. TCP/IP (`_oca._tcp`)
  2. UDP (`_oca._udp`)
  3. Web-socket (`_ocaws._tcp`)
  4. Secure via Pre-shared Key (`_ocasec._tcp`)
- At least one service must be supported

# Making an AES70 Device: *Devices*

Implementation of AES70 Devices, three examples:



# Making an AES70 Device: *Devices*

Implementation of AES70 Devices, three examples:

- A commercial audio device
- Demo Devices:
  - Simple non-audio control device
  - Development audio streaming device



# Making an AES70 Device: *Audio Device*

A Commercial Implementation of AES70:



# Making an AES70 Device: *Audio Device*

## Focusrite RedNet4:

- Eight Channel Microphone Preamplifier
- IP audio product based on Audinate Dante / AES67
- Remote controlled via the IP network using a Focusrite proprietary protocol
- RedNet range is an ideal target for AES70

# Making an AES70 Device: *Audio Device*

## Implementation Requirements:

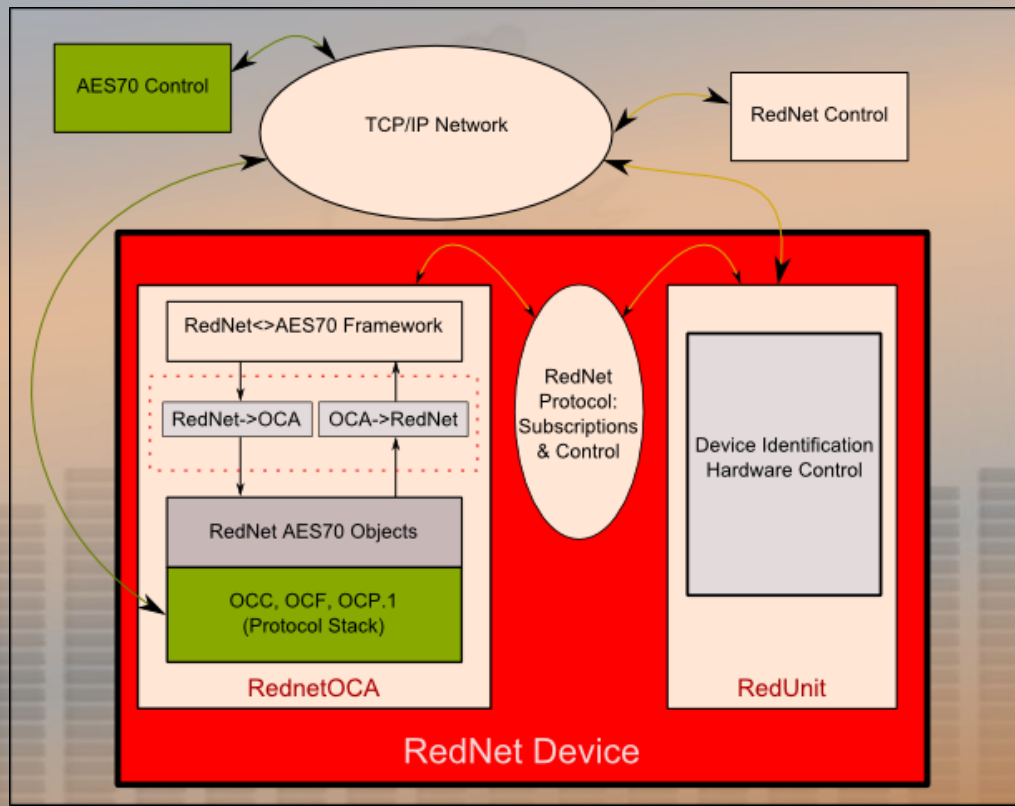
- Must be a simple firmware upgrade, no hardware changes
- Must be backwards compatible so that existing control software remains fully functional

# Making an AES70 Device: *Audio Device*

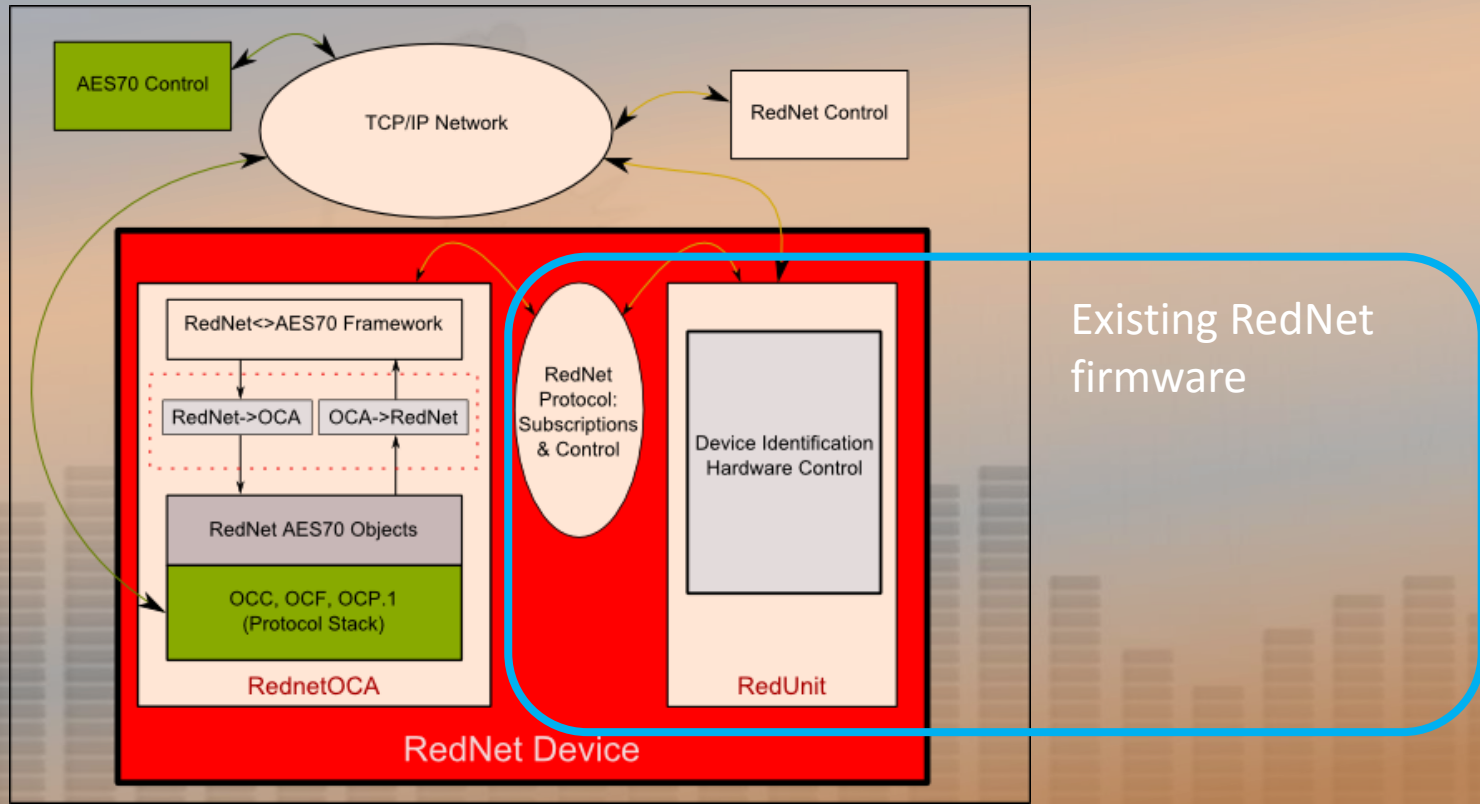
## The Proxy Solution:

- Allow the existing firmware paradigm to continue to function, giving backwards compatibility
- Act as a “bridge” between the existing control protocol and AES70

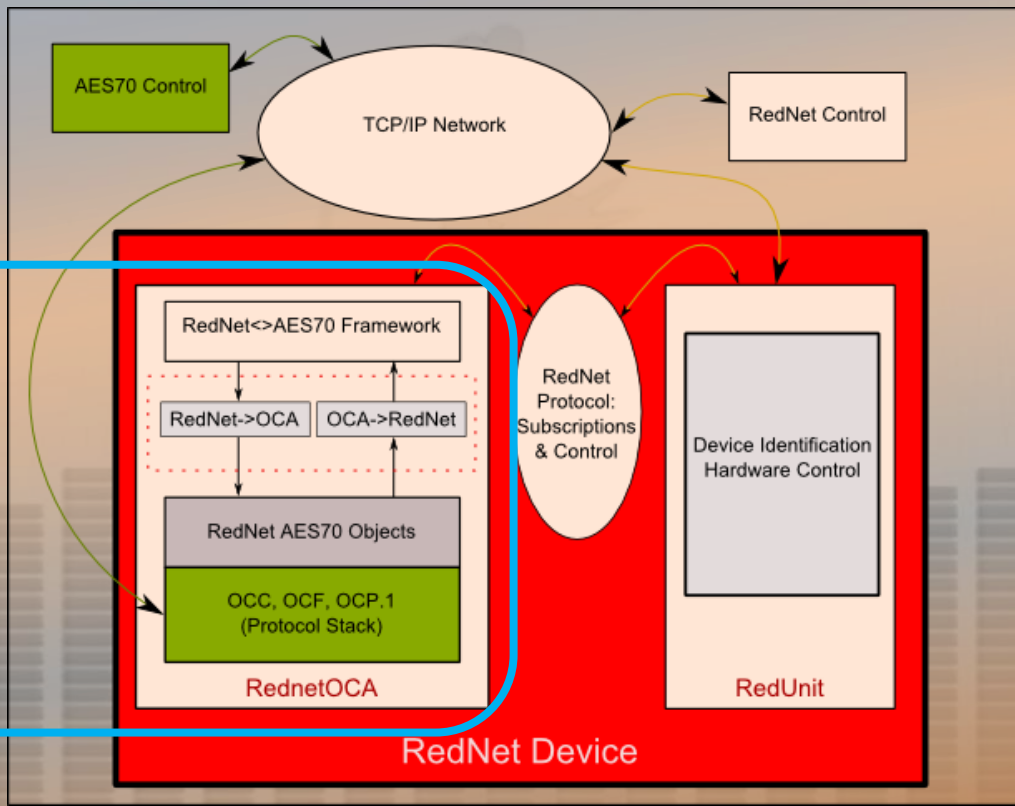
# Making an AES70 Device: *Audio Device*



# Making an AES70 Device: *Audio Device*



# Making an AES70 Device: *Audio Device*



Proxy solution.  
Developed on a  
Windows PC, with  
a simple port to  
the target:  
**Very Efficient and  
Quick**

# Making an AES70 Device: *Audio Device*

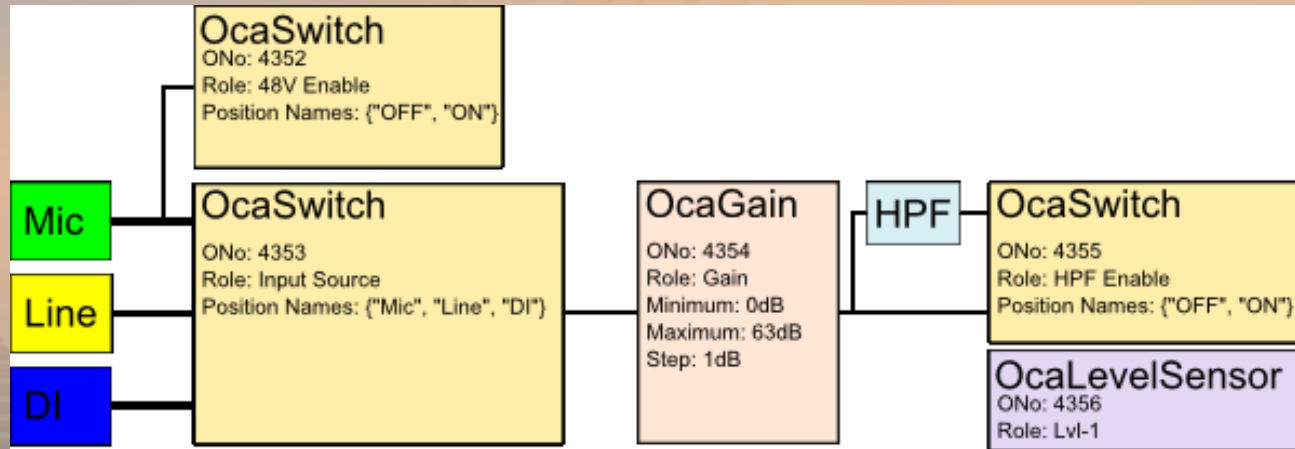
## The Proxy Solution:

- Allow the existing firmware paradigm to continue to function, giving backwards compatibility
- Act as a “bridge” between the existing control protocol and AES70
- Allows for the creation of ***virtual devices***
- Virtual devices allow ecosystem development without needing multiple hardware units



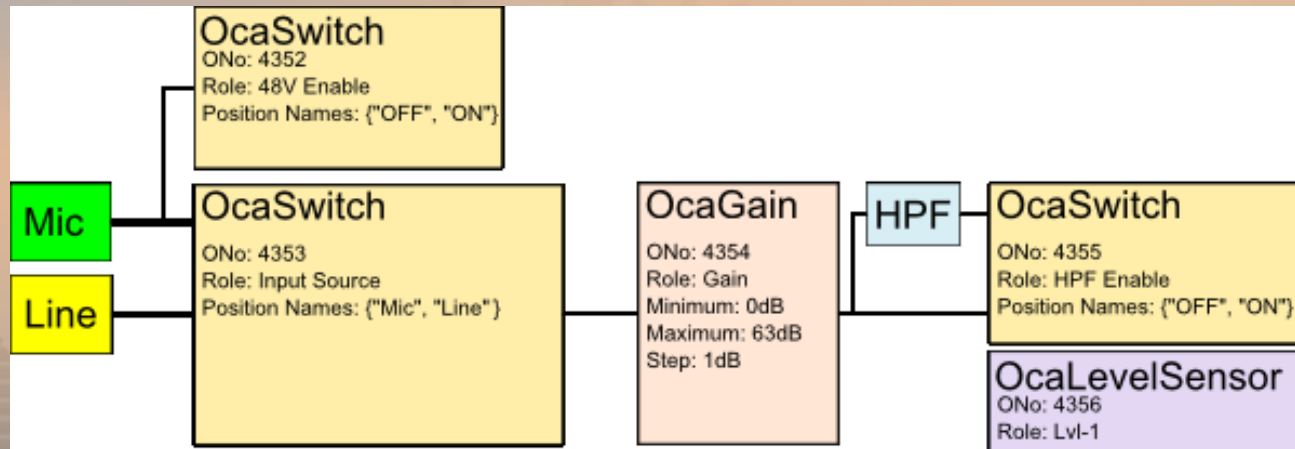
# Making an AES70 Device: *Audio Device*

## AES70 Channel Control Classes: Channels 1 & 2



# Making an AES70 Device: *Audio Device*

## AES70 Channel Control Classes: Channels 3 - 8



# Making an AES70 Device: *Audio Device*

## AES70 Media Networking Related Classes

### OcaMediaClock

ONo: 10000  
Role: DanteMediaClock

Control of the Device Sample Rate

### OcaStreamNetworkDante

ONo: 8192  
Role: OcaLiteSteamNetworkDante

The Streaming Network: Dante adaption derived class

### OcaNetworkSignalChannelDante

ONo: 8193  
Role: SourceChannel  
Ch: 0

### OcaNetworkSignalChannelDante

ONo: 8197  
Role: SourceChannel  
Ch: 4

### OcaNetworkSignalChannelDante

ONo: 8194  
Role: SourceChannel  
Ch: 1

### OcaNetworkSignalChannelDante

ONo: 8198  
Role: SourceChannel  
Ch: 5

### OcaNetworkSignalChannelDante

ONo: 8195  
Role: SourceChannel  
Ch: 2

### OcaNetworkSignalChannelDante

ONo: 8199  
Role: SourceChannel  
Ch: 6

### OcaNetworkSignalChannelDante

ONo: 8196  
Role: SourceChannel  
Ch: 3

### OcaNetworkSignalChannelDante

ONo: 8200  
Role: SourceChannel  
Ch: 7

Advertisement of the streaming source audio channels

# Making an AES70 Device: *Devices*

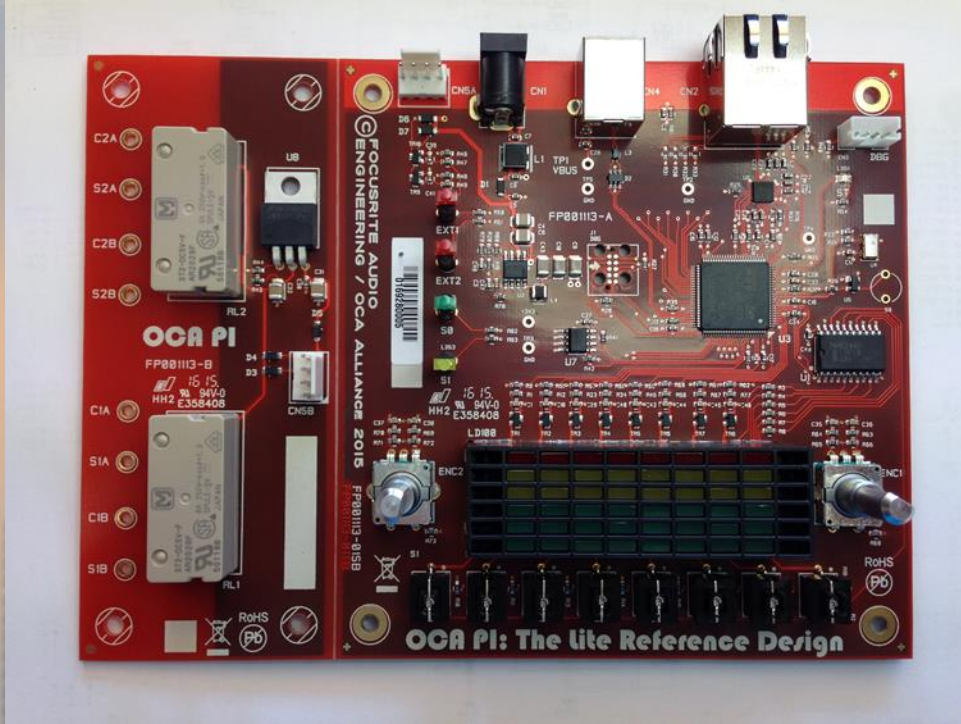
Implementation of AES70 Devices, two examples:

- An audio device
- **A simple non-audio control device**

# Making an AES70 Device: *Non-Audio Device*

## The OCA Microdemo

120 mm



165 mm

# Making an AES70 Device: *Non-Audio Device*

## Brief:

- To show that it's possible to implement OCA in small embedded processor environments

# Making an AES70 Device: *Non-Audio Device*

## Hardware Overview:

- CPU: ST Microelectronics STM32F207VET6 (512kB flash, 128kB SRAM, 120MHz Cortex M3)
- 10/100 baseT Ethernet
- Eight switches with LED's
- Two rotary encoders
- Eight LED bargraph meters, six segments
- Two GPO outputs, controlling relays for isolated control
- USB 2.0 full speed, for future use.

# Making an AES70 Device: *Non-Audio Device*

## AES70 Implementation:

- Make use of the repertoire of “simple” actuators and sensors, keeping it as generic as possible
- Only four different worker classes required for all functions

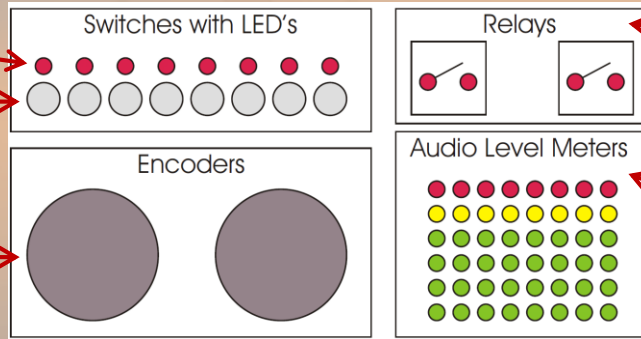


# AES70 Objects:

**OcaBitStringActuator (8W)**

**OcaBitStringSensor (8W)**

**2 of OcaInt8Sensor (-128 to 127 with wrap)**

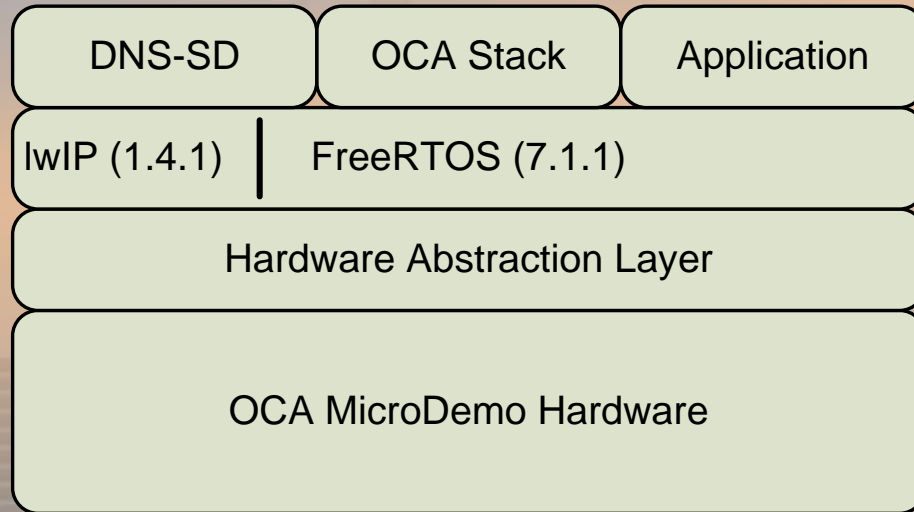


**2 of OcaBooleanActuator**

**8 of OcaBitStringActuator (6W)**

# Making an AES70 Device: *Non-Audio Device*

## Core Firmware Implementation:



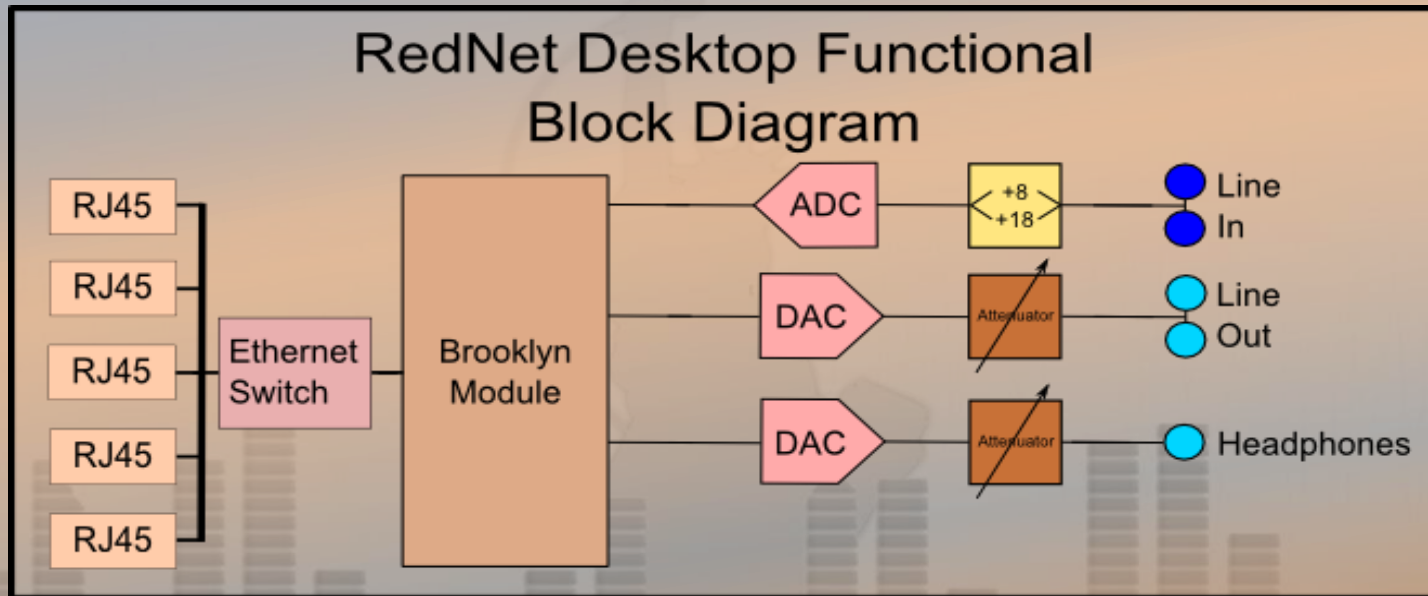
The firmware architecture is straightforward and familiar to many embedded developers

# Making an AES70 Device: *Devices*

Implementation of AES70 Devices, two examples:

- An audio device
- A simple non-audio control device
- **A development streaming device**

# Making an AES70 Device: *Audio Device*



# Making an AES70 Device: *Audio Device*

## RedNet Desktop OCA Implementation

**OcaDeviceManager**  
ONo: 1  
Role: DeviceManager

**OcaFirmwareManager**  
ONo: 2  
Role: FirmwareManager

**OcaSubscriptionManager**  
ONo: 4  
Role: SubscriptionManager

**OcaNetworkManager**  
ONo: 6  
Role: NetworkManager

**OcaMediaClockManager**  
ONo: 7  
Role: MediaClockManager

**OcaNetwork**  
ONo: 4096  
Role: Ocp1LiteNetwork

**OcaBlock**  
ONo: 100  
Role: RootBlock

**OcaSwitch**  
ONo: 4097  
Role: InputLevel: ("\*+18dBu", "+8dBu")

**OcaMediaClock**  
ONo: 10000  
Role: DanteMediaClock

**OcaStreamNetworkDante**  
ONo: 8192  
Role: OcaLiteStreamNetworkDante

**OcaNetworkSignalChannelDante**  
ONo: 8193  
Role: SinkChannel  
Ch: 0

**OcaNetworkSignalChannelDante**  
ONo: 8194  
Role: SinkChannel  
Ch: 1

**OcaNetworkSignalChannelDante**  
ONo: 8195  
Role: SinkChannel  
Ch: 2

**OcaNetworkSignalChannelDante**  
ONo: 8196  
Role: SinkChannel  
Ch: 3

**OcaLevelSensor**  
ONo: 4352, Role: InputLvl-1

**OcaLevelSensor**  
ONo: 4368, Role: InputLvl-2

**OcaLevelSensor**  
ONo: 4353, Role: OutputLvl-1

**OcaLevelSensor**  
ONo: 4369, Role: OutputLvl-2

**OcaLevelSensor**  
ONo: 4384, Role: OutputLvl-3

**OcaLevelSensor**  
ONo: 4400, Role: OutputLvl-4

**OcaGain**  
ONo: 4354  
Role: OutputVol-1  
Minimum: -112dB  
Maximum: 0dB  
Step: 1dB

**OcaGain**  
ONo: 4370  
Role: OutputVol-2  
Minimum: -112dB  
Maximum: 0dB  
Step: 1dB

**OcaNetworkSignalChannelDante**  
ONo: 8201  
Role: SourceChannel  
Ch: 0

**OcaNetworkSignalChannelDante**  
ONo: 8202  
Role: SourceChannel  
Ch: 1

# Making an AES70 Device: *Devices*

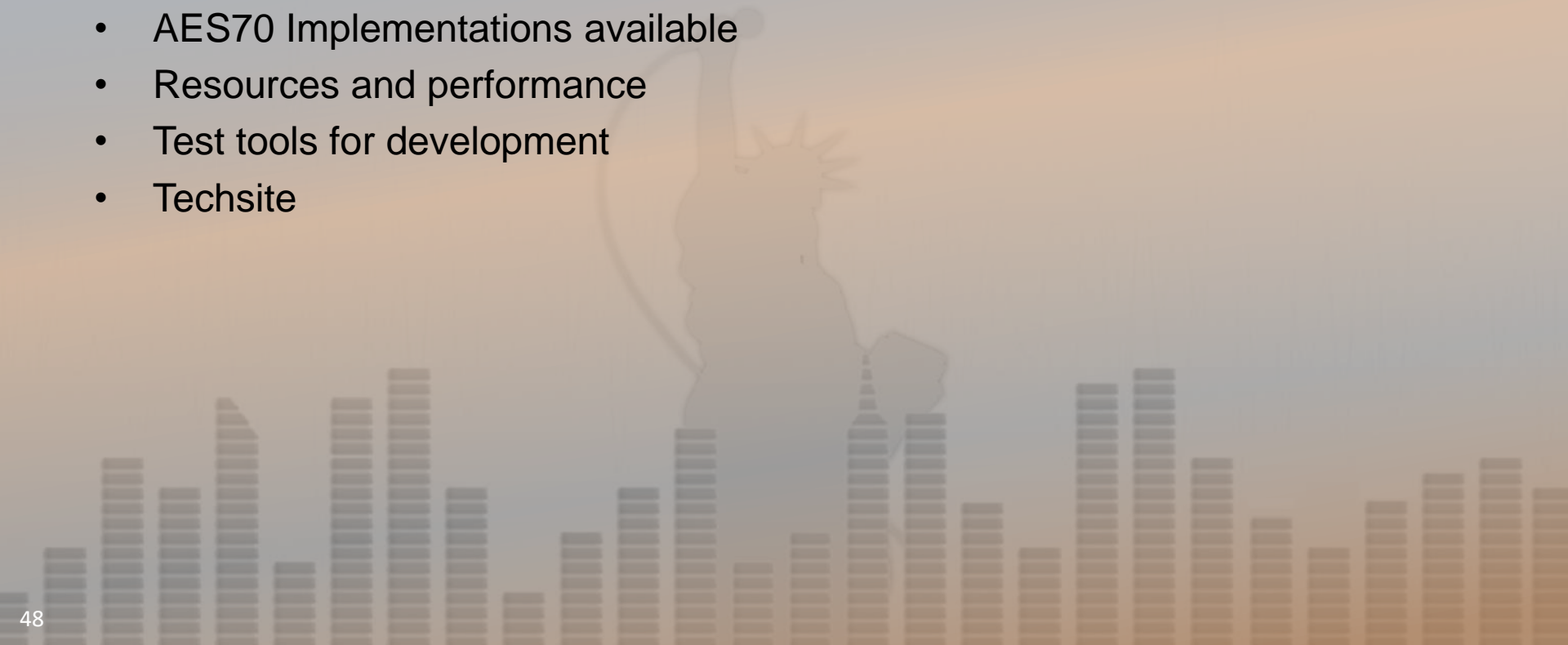
## Device Manager and Identification:

ModelDescription	Focusrite	PITest	0.01
OcaVersion	1	Set Reset Key	
State	Operational	Reset	
Serial	00130e000122		
ModelGUID	00130E	00010001	

## Tom de Brouwer

- Software Architect for Bosch Security Systems
- Involved in programming AES70 products:  
RTS Intercoms, Eletrovoice, Dynacord, Bosch
- Based in The Netherlands

## Agenda

- AES70 Implementations available
  - Resources and performance
  - Test tools for development
  - Techsite
- 



## AES70 implementations available

- Micro demo code
  - <https://ocaalliance.github.io/downloads.html>
  - Contains a lite AES70 device implementation found in actual products
    - Platform ports are included:
      - Windows
      - uClinux
      - STM32 (with FreeRTOS/LwIP) with GCC compiler

# How to make an AES70 device

- Limited set of objects implemented
  - 3 agents
  - 5 managers
  - 8 workers (5 actuators, 3 sensors, 1 block)
- Supports OCP.1 TCP connections
- OCA Alliance EULA is Apache like license

- Commercial implementation
  - Available from a commercial party
  - Device and controller code
  - Fully functional with all specified objects implemented, OCA 1.4 specification in progress
  - Support for Windows platform, has been ported to other platforms.
  - Supports OCP.1 over TCP / “Secure TCP” and UDP
  - Used by multiple manufacturers for critical applications

## Programming environments

- Since AES70 is object oriented C++
- Platform interface is C

Visual Studio

Make files (ARM GCC)

AES70 compatible  
product

Application

OCA (lite)

Platform interface

OS

## Resources and performance

- Depends highly on the implementation:
  - Micro demo is based on (**STM32F207VE**)
    - ARM® 32-bit Cortex®-M3 CPU (120 MHz max)
    - 1 Mbyte of Flash memory
    - 128 Kbytes of SRAM
- Number of simultaneous controllers (TCP buffers / OCA connection buffers)
- Number of objects (code / heap)
- Device functionality
- Binary protocol / event
- OCA Micro (FreeRTOS / LwIP / OCA Stack) uses 195 Kbytes flash

## Protocols

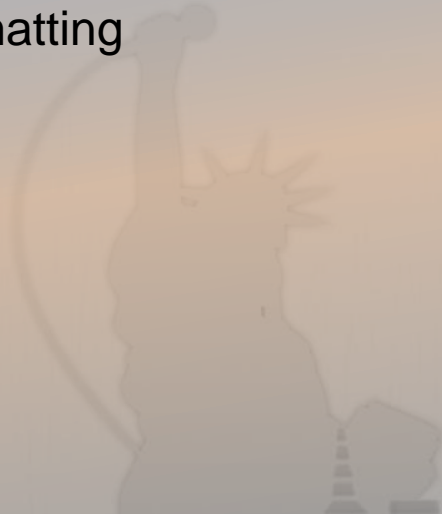
- DNS-SD
  - mDNSresponder / Bonjour (Registration / Browsing)
  - Tinysvcmdns (Registration)
- DHCP / IPv4 LL

## OCP.1 selection

- TCP
- UDP
- Throughput / Buffers / Platform support / etc..

## OCP.1 selection – future

- Websockets / JSON formatting

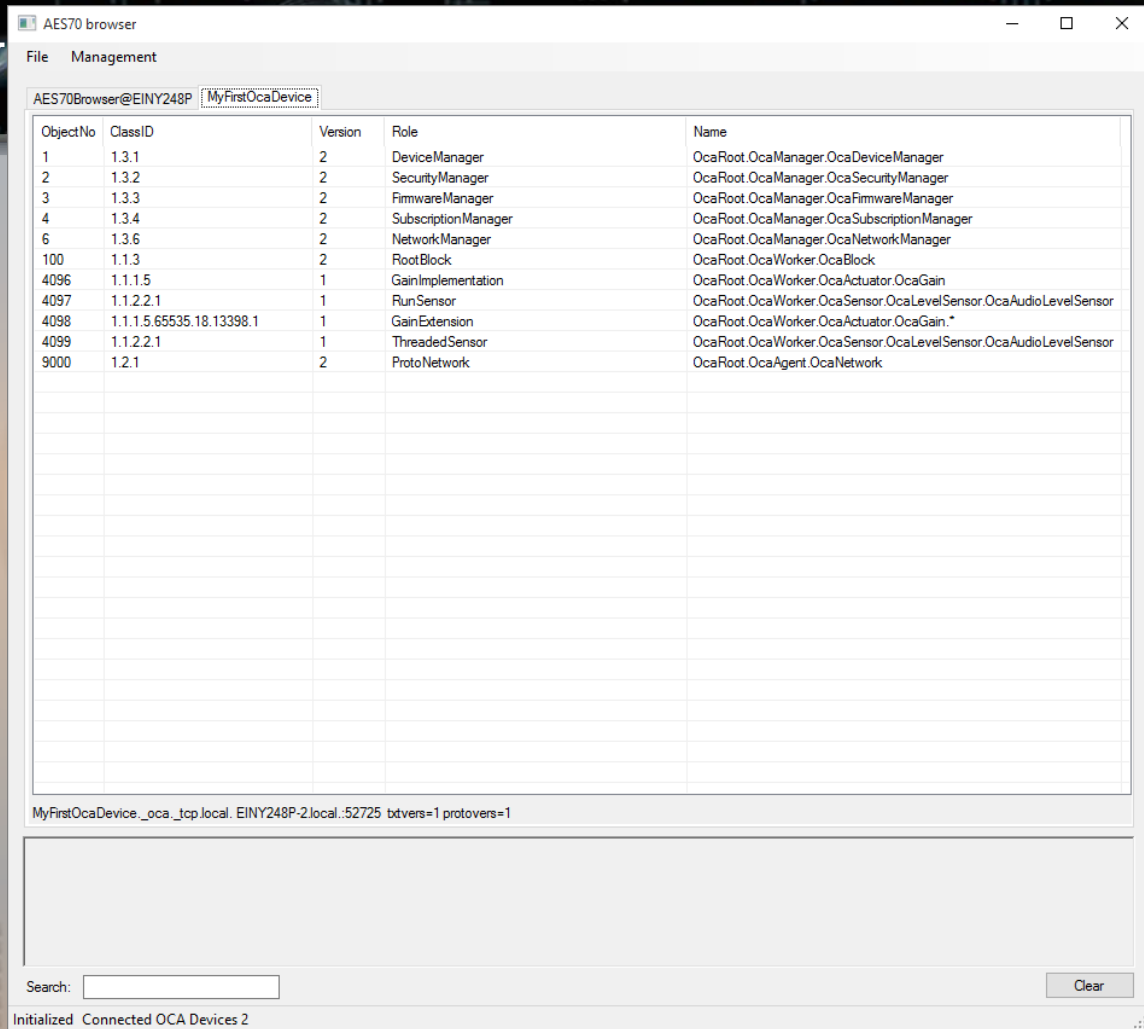




# How to make an AES70 dev

## Test tools

- AES70 Browser
- Based on the commercial implementation
- Only binaries available



The screenshot shows the AES70 Browser application window. The title bar reads "AES70 browser". The menu bar includes "File" and "Management". The main content area displays a table of connected OCA devices. The table has columns for ObjectNo, ClassID, Version, Role, and Name. Below the table, there is a status bar showing the connection details: "MyFirstOcaDevice\_oca\_tcp.local. EINY248P-2.local.:52725 txtvers=1 protovers=1". At the bottom, there is a search bar and a "Clear" button. The status bar at the very bottom indicates "Initialized Connected OCA Devices 2".

ObjectNo	ClassID	Version	Role	Name
1	1.3.1	2	DeviceManager	OcaRoot.OcaManager.OcaDeviceManager
2	1.3.2	2	SecurityManager	OcaRoot.OcaManager.OcaSecurityManager
3	1.3.3	2	FirmwareManager	OcaRoot.OcaManager.OcaFirmwareManager
4	1.3.4	2	SubscriptionManager	OcaRoot.OcaManager.OcaSubscriptionManager
6	1.3.6	2	NetworkManager	OcaRoot.OcaManager.OcaNetworkManager
100	1.1.3	2	RootBlock	OcaRoot.OcaWorker.OcaBlock
4096	1.1.1.5	1	GainImplementation	OcaRoot.OcaWorker.OcaActuator.OcaGain
4097	1.1.2.2.1	1	RunSensor	OcaRoot.OcaWorker.OcaSensor.OcaLevelSensor.OcaAudioLevelSensor
4098	1.1.1.5.65535.18.13398.1	1	GainExtension	OcaRoot.OcaWorker.OcaActuator.OcaGain."
4099	1.1.2.2.1	1	ThreadedSensor	OcaRoot.OcaWorker.OcaSensor.OcaLevelSensor.OcaAudioLevelSensor
9000	1.2.1	2	ProtoNetwork	OcaRoot.OcaAgent.OcaNetwork

MyFirstOcaDevice\_oca\_tcp.local. EINY248P-2.local.:52725 txtvers=1 protovers=1

Search:  Clear

Initialized Connected OCA Devices 2

# How to make an AES70 device

OcaRoot.OcaWorker.OcaSensor.OcaLevelSensor.OcaAudio...

**OcaRoot**

Classification: 1.1.2.2.1 version 1 Lockable: False

ObjectRole: RunSensor Lock Unlock

**OcaWorker**

Enabled Owner: 100 Latency: 0 Set latency

owner: 4097;id: {mode: Input,index: 1};name: RunSensorInput Delete Add Set name

Label: Set label

**OcaSensor**

Reading state: Valid

**OcaLevelSensor**

Reading: -40 dB

Min Reading: -96 dB

Max Reading: 20 dB

**OcaAudioLevelSensor**

Available Law Property: StandardVuMeter Set

Current Law: PeakMeter

OcaRoot.OcaWorker.OcaActuator.OcaGain.\* 1.1.1.5.65535.1...

**OcaRoot**

Classification: ;65535.18.13398.1 version 1 Lockable: True

ObjectRole: GainExtension Lock Unlock

**OcaWorker**

Enabled Owner: 100 Latency: 0 Set latency

Delete Add Set name

Label: Set label

**OcaActuator**

**OcaGain**

Min: -80 Max: -40 Current: -63.8

## AES70 compliancy test tool

- CLI tool
- Checks for interface compliancy
- Checks for implementation of required functionality
- Can be extended for your proprietary extensions to verify the interface is stable

# How to make an AES70 device

## Wireshark plugin

- Decoding of OCP.1 protocol

The screenshot shows the Wireshark interface with the following details:

- Packet List:** A table of captured packets with columns for No., Time, Source, Destination, Length, Protocol, and Info.
- Packet Details:**
  - OCA Protocol for TCP/IP Networks**
    - OCP.1 Synchronization Value: 0x3b
    - OCP.1 PDU Header: 000100000077030001
      - Protocol Version: 1
      - Message Size: 119
      - Message Type: Response (3)
      - Message Count: 1
    - OCP.1 Message Data: 0000006e000001400001000700000002000000010000332b...
    - Response 1
      - Response Size: 110
      - Handle: 320
      - Status: OK (0)
      - Response Parameters: 0100700000002000000010000332b000700000004000000...
      - Parameter Count: 1
      - Data: 0007000000002000000010000332b00070000000400000001...
    - OcaFirmwareManager.GetComponentVersions
      - OcaList
        - Count: 7
        - Component Version: 0000002000000010000332b0007
      - Component Version: 0000004000000010000000000001
        - Major: 4
        - Minor: 1
        - Build: 0
        - Component: Unknown (1)
      - Component Version: 0000003000000090000000000002
      - Component Version: 0000003000000040000000010003

The packet bytes pane shows hex and ASCII data for the selected packet.

## Where to find tools

- Members only area
- Public techsite

<https://ocaalliance.github.io/>

### Downloads

#### OCA Microdemo

The OCA Microdemo is a demonstration product developed by OCA Alliance members. Its primary purpose is to prove that OCA can run well in lightweight hardware environments. The MicroDemo meets minimum requirements for AES70 compliance, and provides a small set of OCA-controlled application functions as well.

The custom software, finished schematic diagrams, and PC board layouts, for the MicroDemo are publicly available at no charge, on commercially appropriate licensing terms. Please review the OCA Alliance End User License Agreement ([EULA](#)) prior to downloading and using these tools.

Download source code here: [OCAMicroOpenSource\\_r60.zip](#)

Download hardware design files here: [OCA Micro Hardware Package 20160802.zip](#)

#### Focusrite RedNet Virtual OCA Device

The Focusrite RedNet Virtual OCA Device is a device simulation developed by [Focusrite](#). It is useful when testing OCA Controllers. The device simulation is available as a Windows executable.

Download ZIP Archive here: [Focusrite RedNet Virtual OCA Device.zip](#)

#### OCA.js JavaScript library

OCA.js is a javascript library that supports OCA. It can be used for building web-based OCA device controllers. It's an open-source component developed by OCA Alliance member Deus0, and is available on GitHub here: <https://github.com/Deus0/OCA.js>

#### AES70 Implementation Chart

The AES70 Implementation Chart is an Excel spreadsheet template that offers a standard way for documenting the OCA objects of a device. It is similar in purpose to the "MIDI Implementation Chart" pages frequently found in user manuals of MIDI-controlled devices. The AES70 Implementation chart is not part of the AES70 standard itself, but instead a recommended practice offered by the OCA Alliance.

Download here: [OCA Implementation Chart v06.xlsm](#)

Here are example implementation charts for OCA devices mentioned elsewhere in this site:

- [OCA MicroDemo](#)
- [Focusrite Rednet Virtual OCA Device](#)

#### OCA Wireshark Plugin

[Wireshark](#) is a widely used network protocol analyzer. This plugin allows analyzing OCA network traffic using wireshark.

Download here: [OCPI.lua](#)

#### OCA Alliance member downloads

Other OCA downloads are available to OCA Alliance members. These are mainly software development tools. Alliance membership information can be found here: <http://ocaalliance.com/membership/>

## Membership



# How to make an AES70 device



## Demo setups



# Making an AES70 Device: *Demo Setup*

