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*

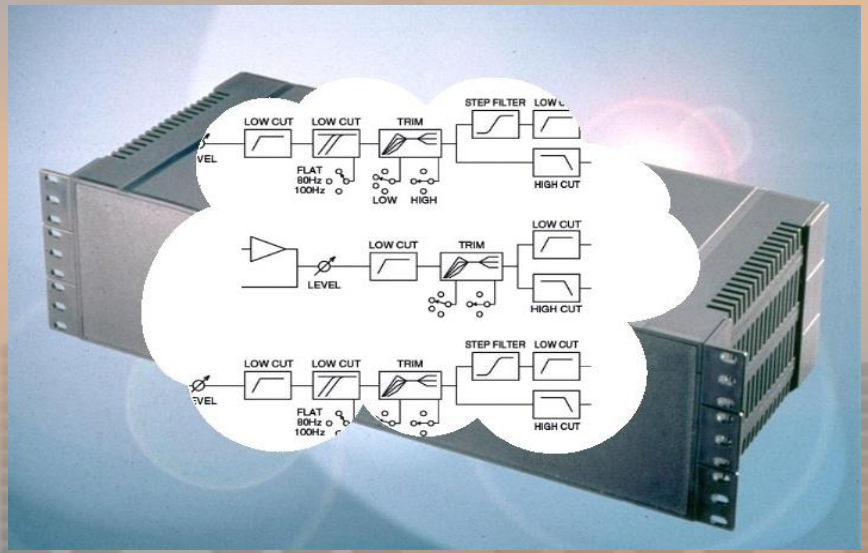
Making an AES70 Device: *Concepts*

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:

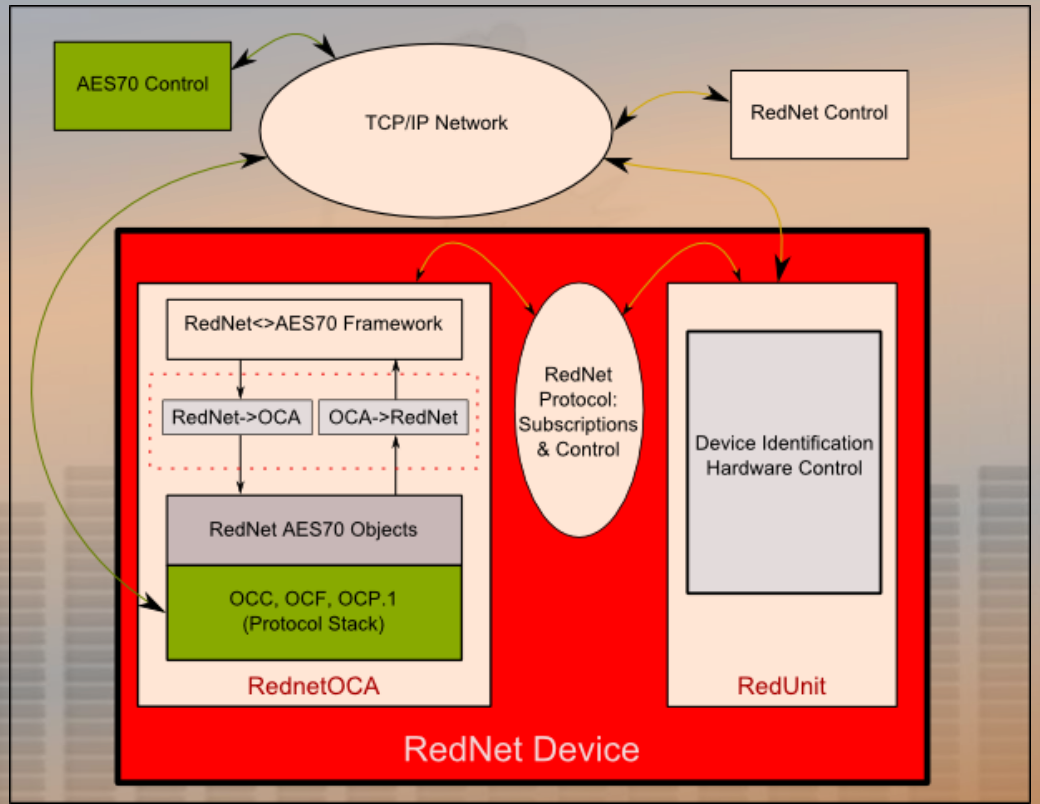
- Must be a simple firmware upgrade, no hardware changes
- Must be backwards compatible so that existing control software remains fully functional

Making an AES70 Device: *Audio Device*

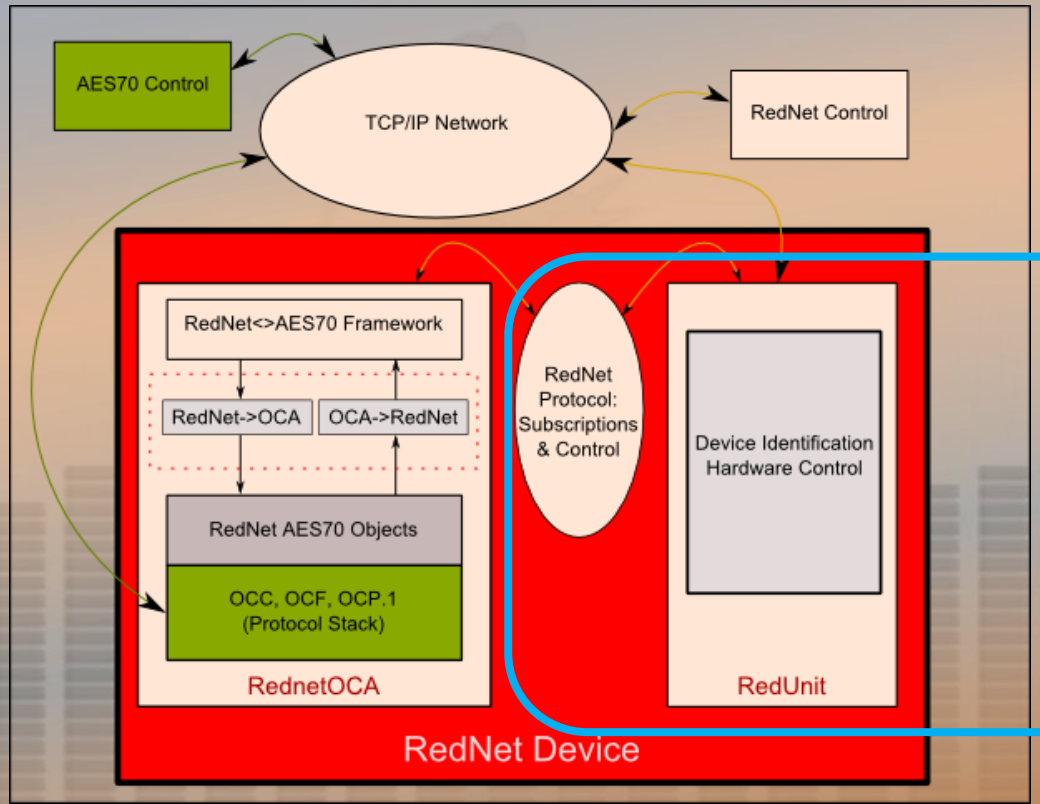
The Proxy Solution:

- 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*



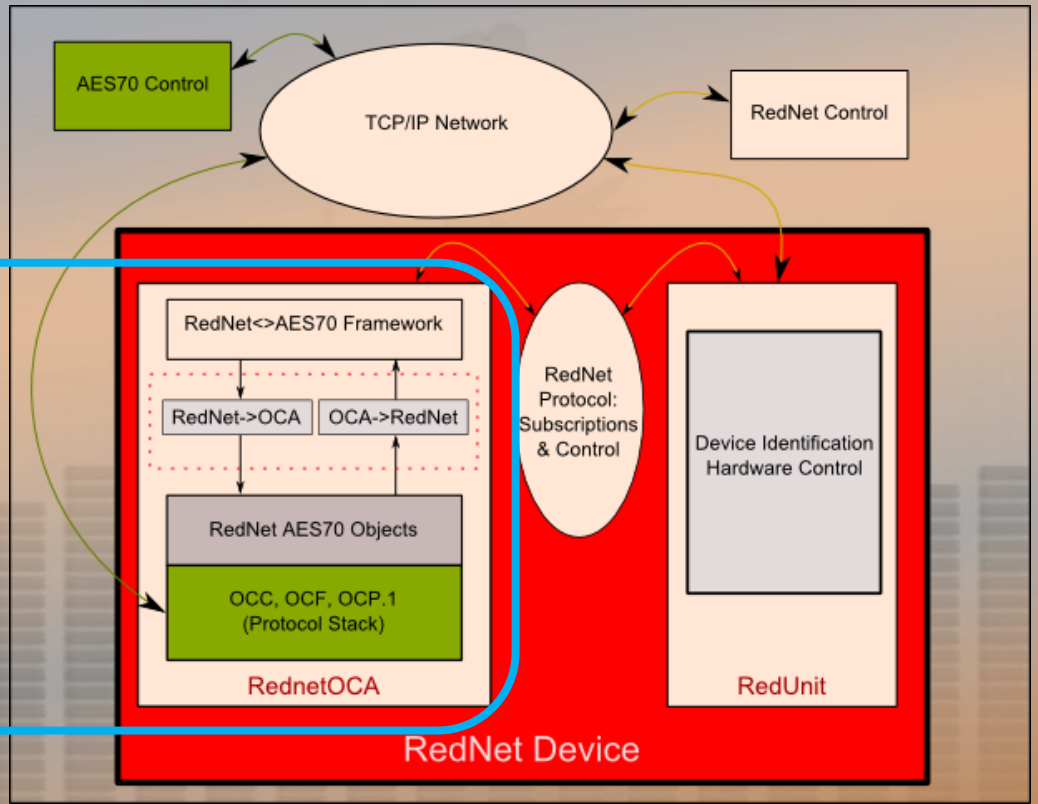
Making an AES70 Device: *Audio Device*



Existing RedNet firmware

Making an AES70 Device: *Audio Device*

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



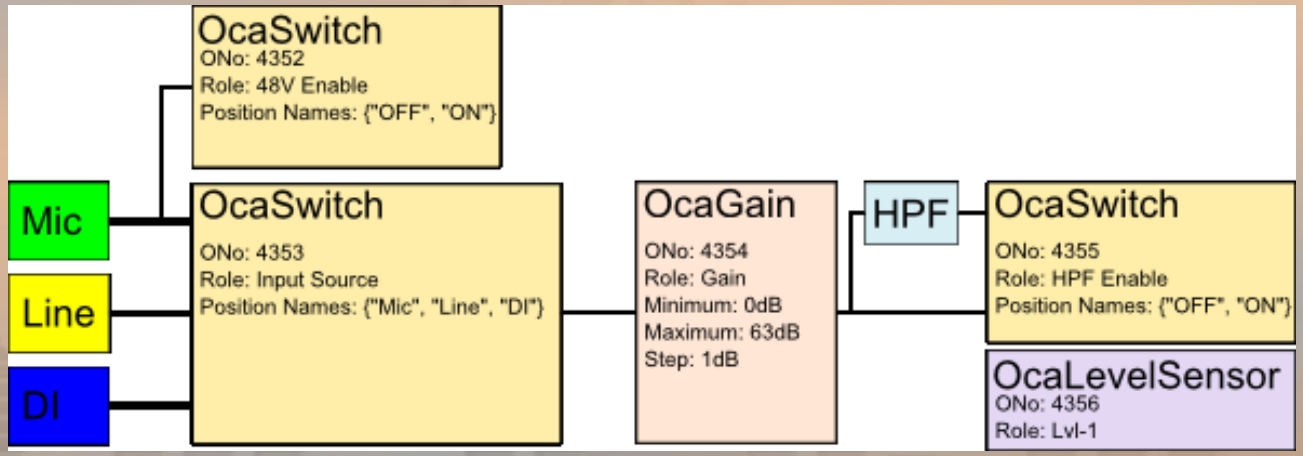
Making an AES70 Device: *Audio Device*

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

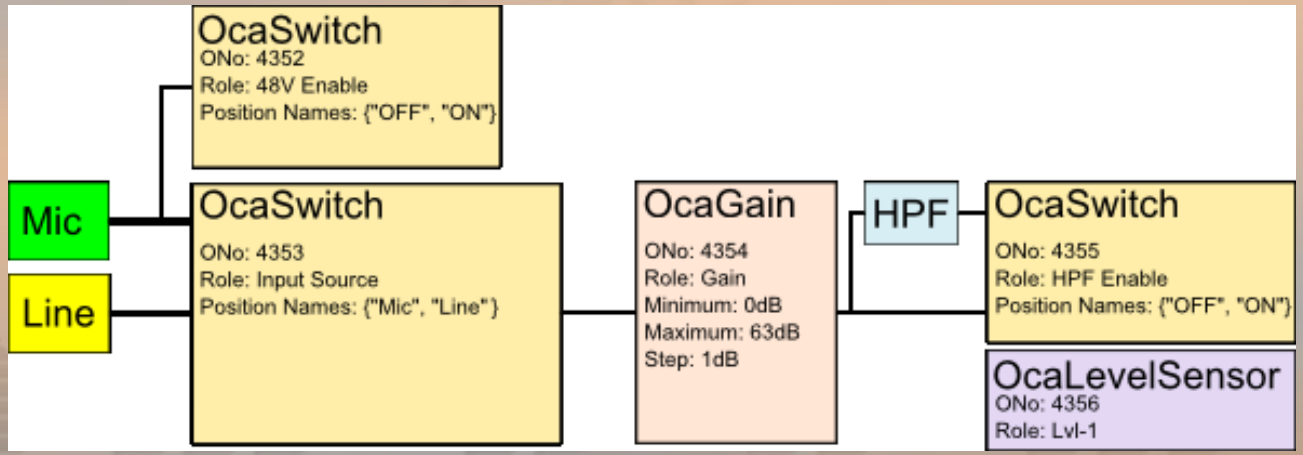
Making an AES70 Device: *Audio Device*

AES70 Channel Control Classes: Channels 1 & 2



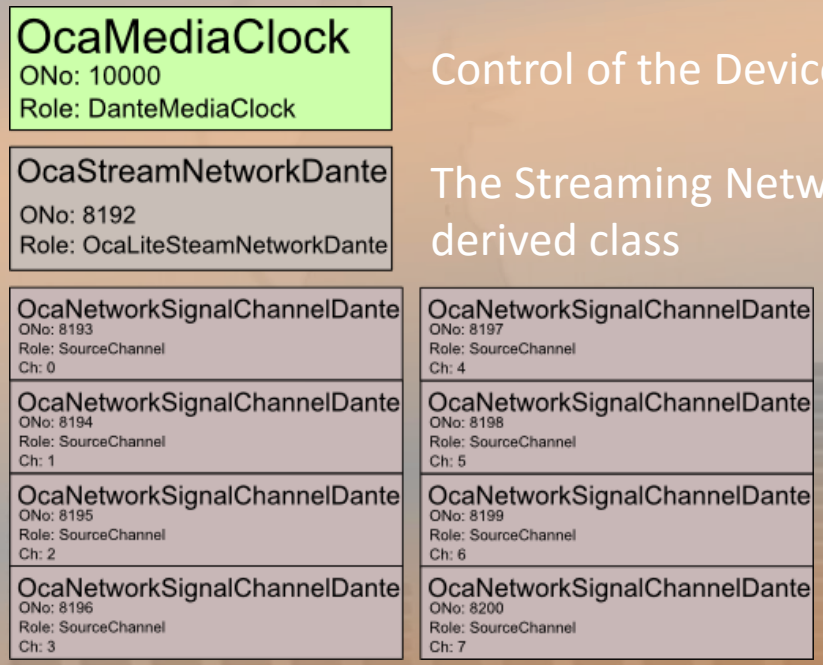
Making an AES70 Device: *Audio Device*

AES70 Channel Control Classes: Channels 3 - 8



Making an AES70 Device: *Audio Device*

AES70 Media Networking Related Classes



Control of the Device Sample Rate

The Streaming Network: Dante adaption derived class

Advertisement of the streaming source audio channels

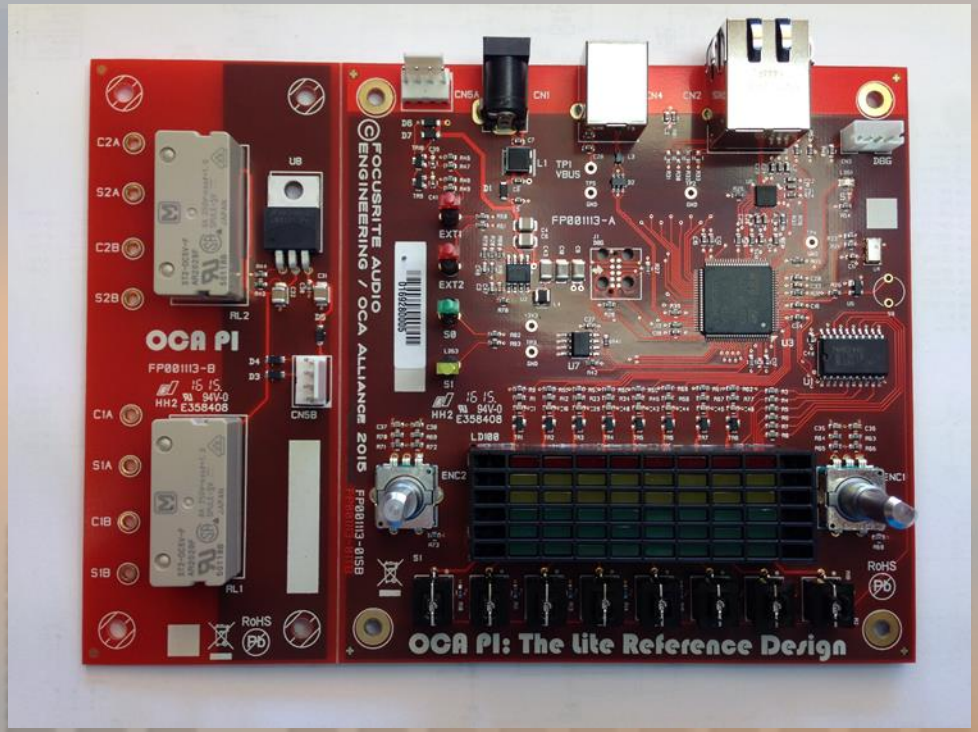
Making an AES70 Device: *Devices*

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



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*

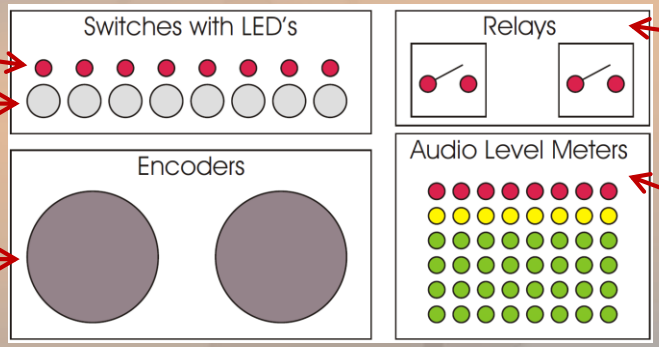
AES70 Implementation:

- 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)

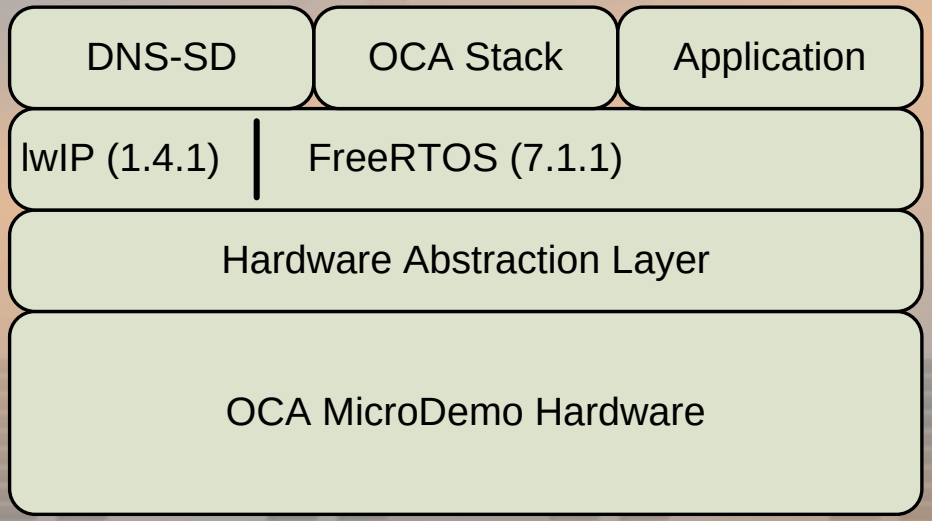


2 of OcaBooleanActuator

8 of OcaBitStringActuator (6W)

Making an AES70 Device: *Non-Audio Device*

Core Firmware Implementation:



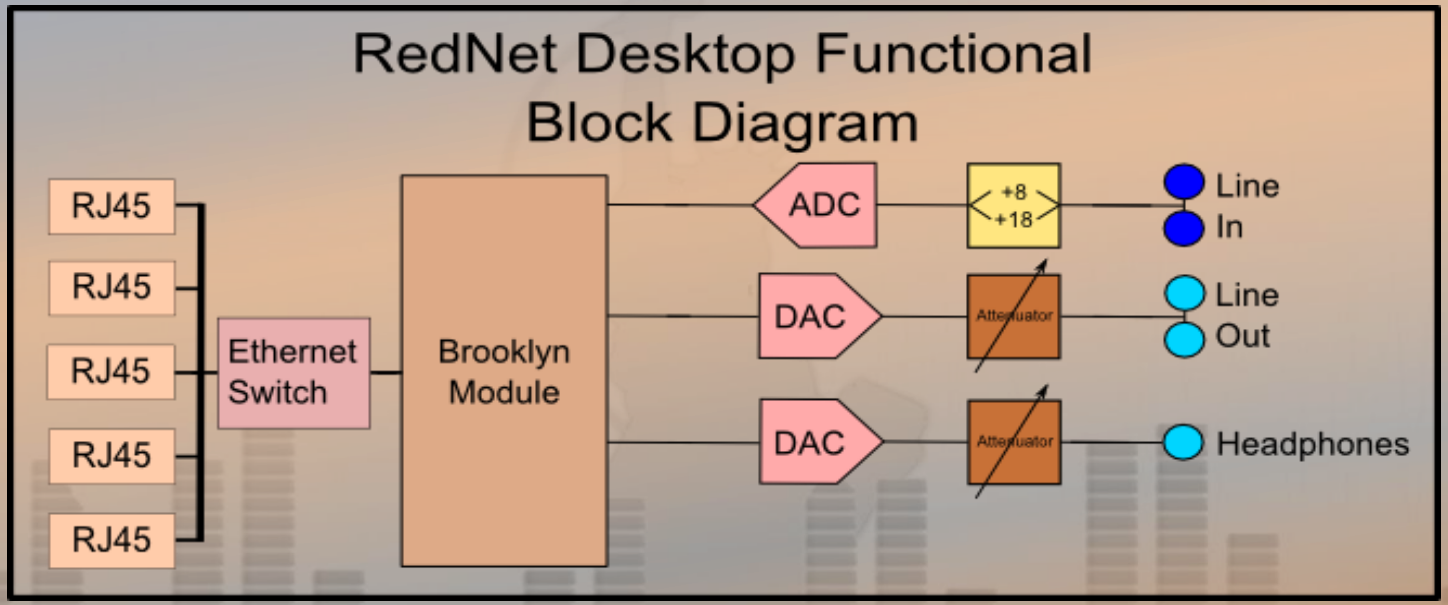
The firmware architecture is straightforward and familiar to many embedded developers

Making an AES70 Device: *Devices*

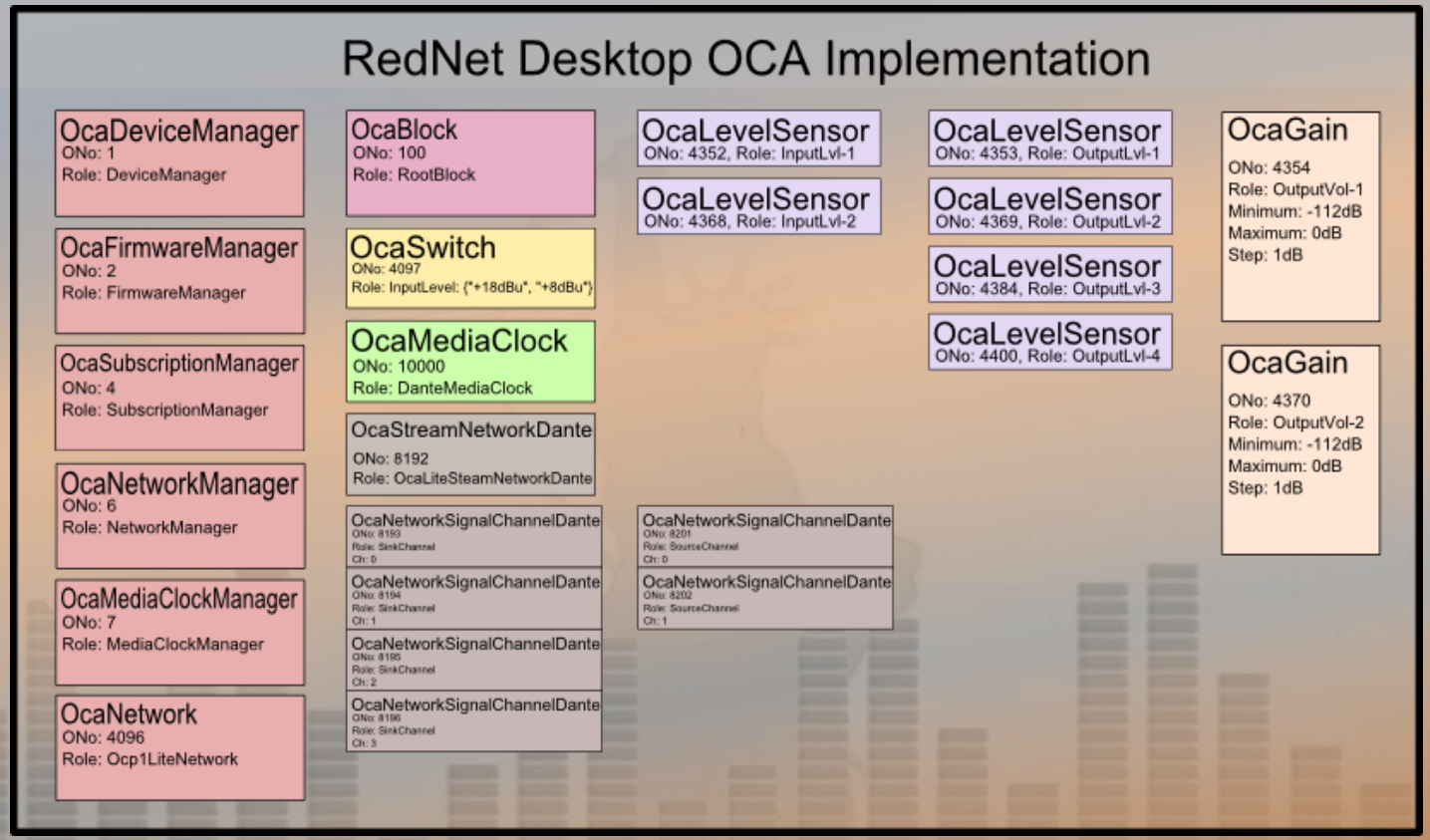
Implementation of AES70 Devices, two examples:

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

Making an AES70 Device: *Audio Device*

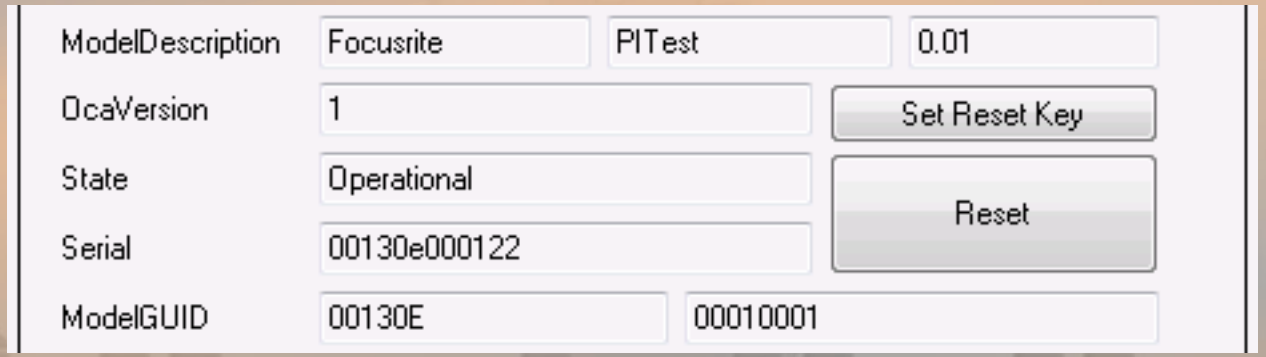


Making an AES70 Device: *Audio Device*



Making an AES70 Device: *Devices*

Device Manager and Identification:



How to make an AES70 device

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

How to make an AES70 device

- 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)

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 simultanous 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..

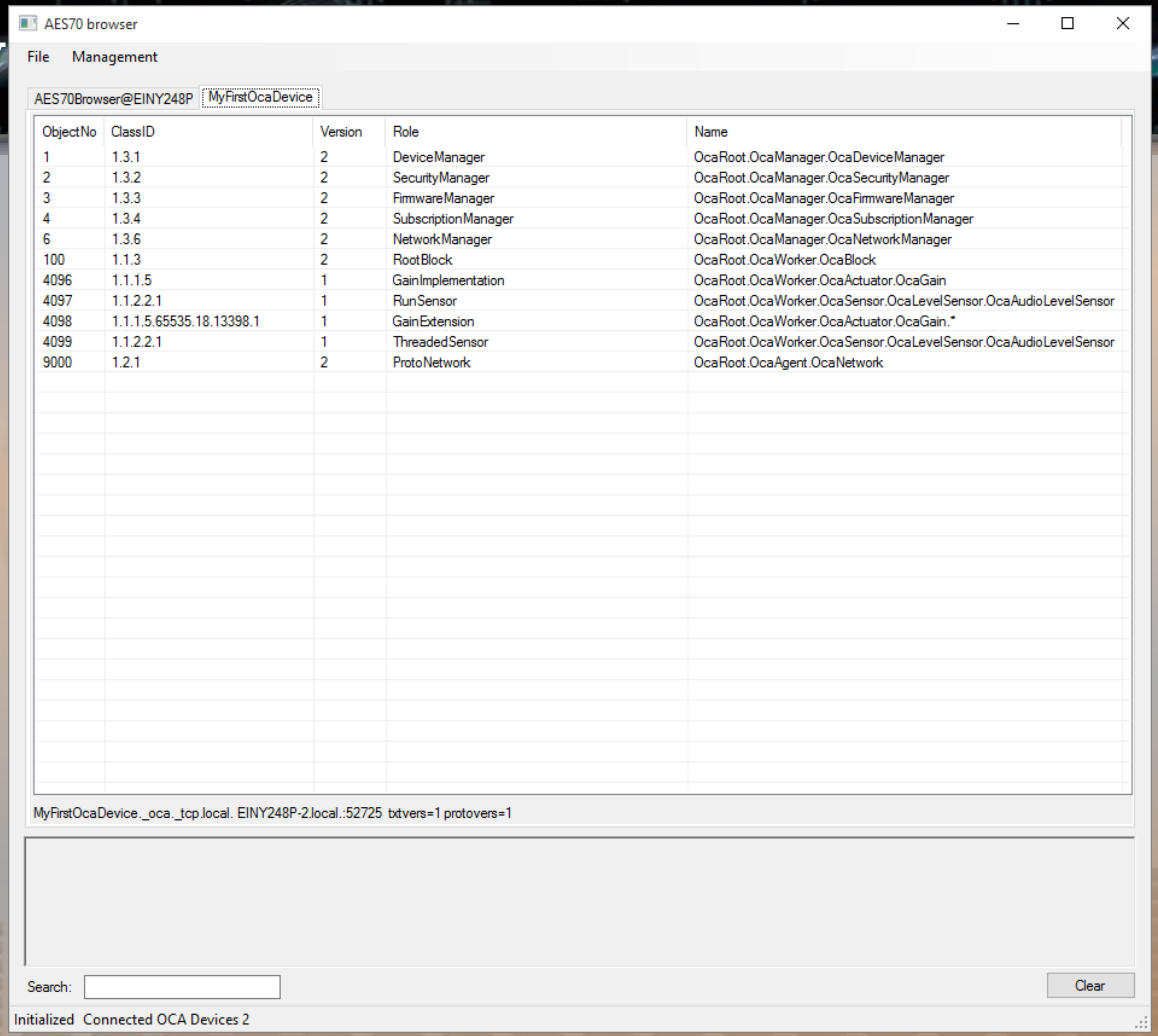
OCP.1 selection – future

- Websockets / JSON formatting

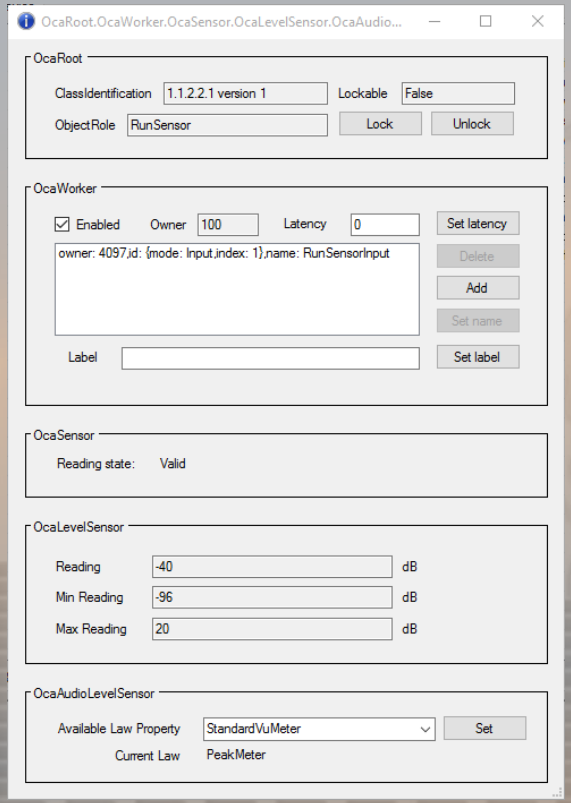
How to make an AES70 dev

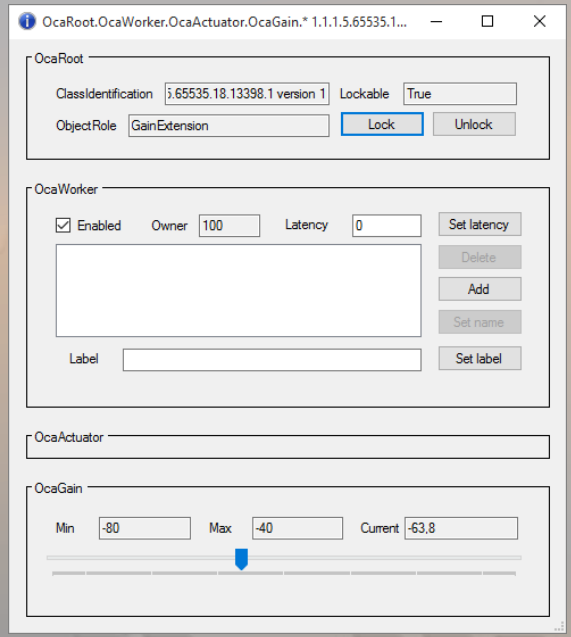
Test tools

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



How to make an AES70 device



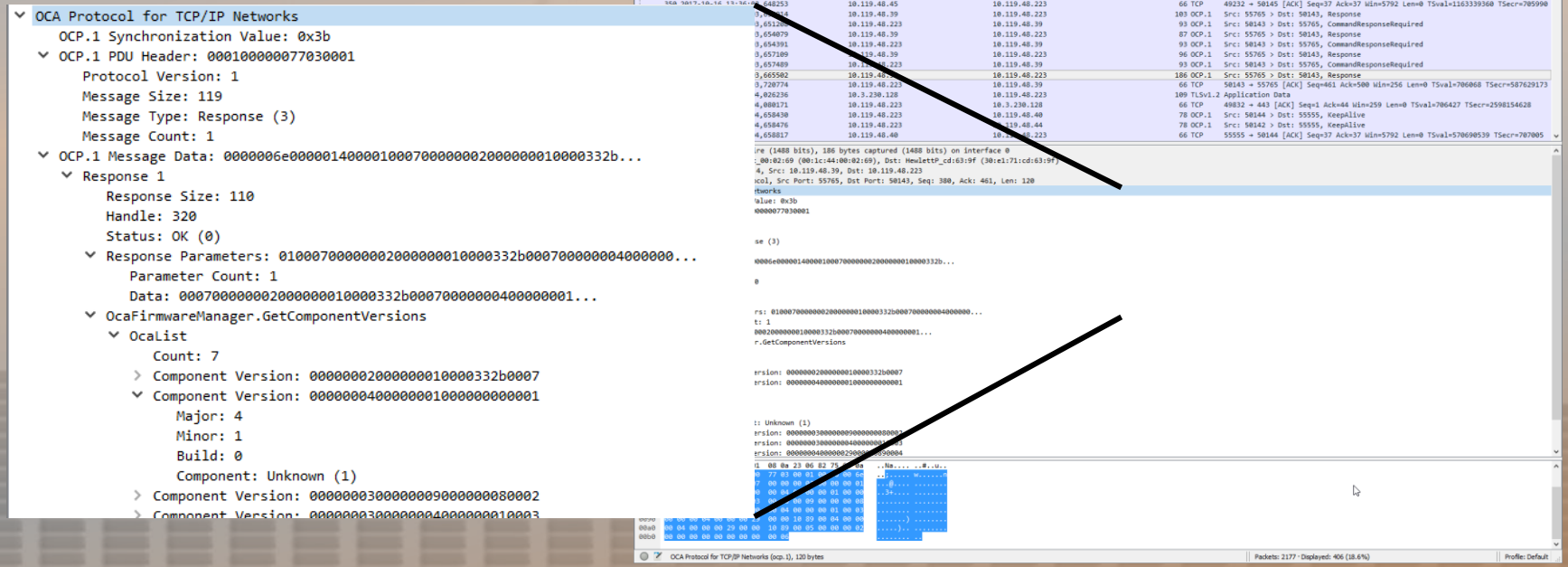


AES70 compliancy test tool

- 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

Wireshark plugin

- Decoding of OCP.1 protocol



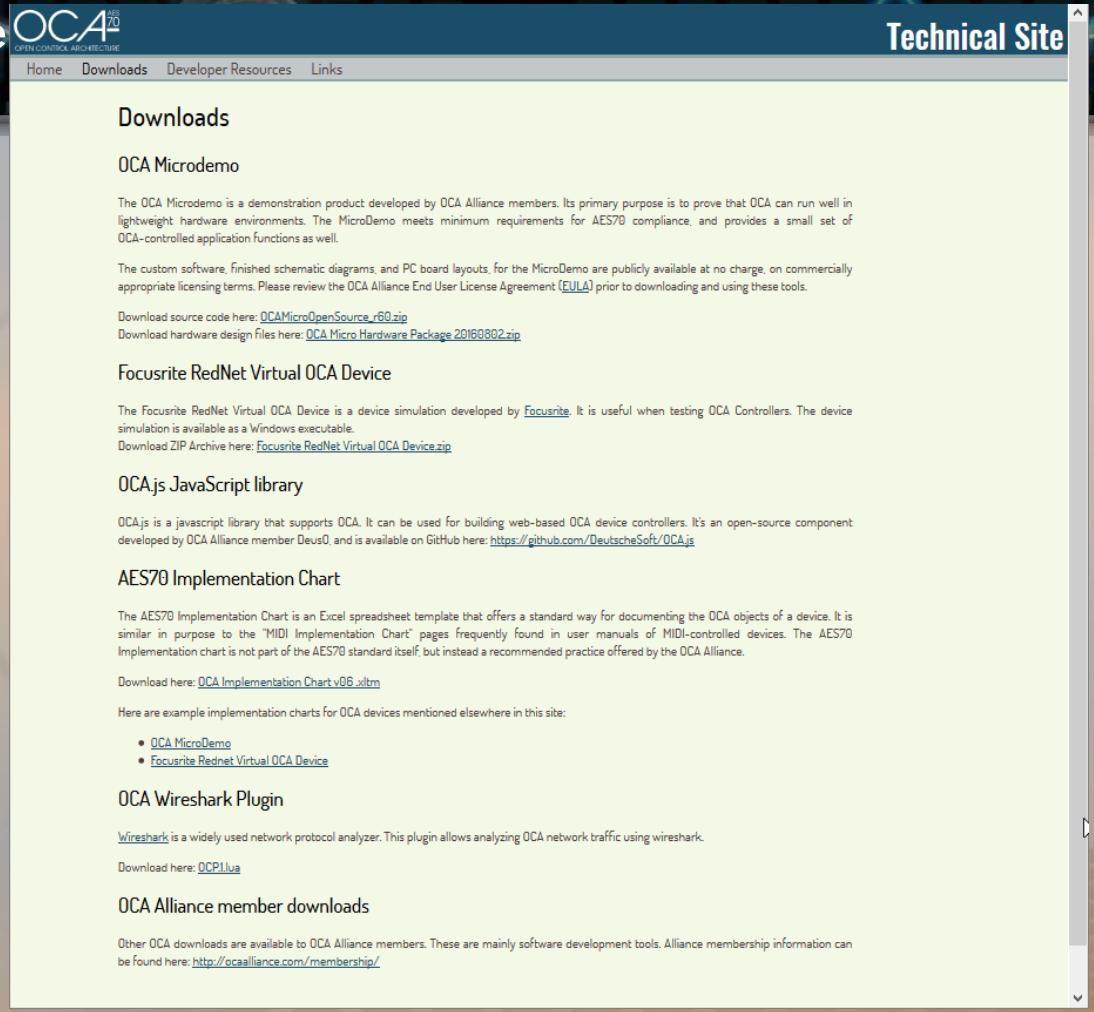
How to make an AES70 device

Where to find tools

- Members only area

- Public techsite

https://ocaalliance.github.io/



Membership

Demo setups

Making an AES70 Device: *Demo Setup*

Virtual Device

Desktop Device

Microdemo Device

AES70-UDP Device

Wireless Browser