Infineon is the world’s second largest chip supplier to the automotive industry, serving automotive applications such as power, body and convenience, safety management and infotainment.

The PRO-SIL Concept is a range of services provided by Infineon to support customers developing applications to meet IEC 61508 or ISO 26262. These services include safety drivers called SafeTCore. These drivers are functionally independent of microcontroller hardware and can run on all microcontrollers in Infineon’s TriCore family.

Infineon asked Rapita Systems to conduct a two-stage project on the timing correctness of SafeTCore drivers:

- to use RapiTime to look for optimization opportunities that would lead to reduced SafeTCore driver execution times
- to perform a WCET analysis with RapiTime to gain confidence that the timing requirements would still be met in worst-case situations

**Challenge**

Since the SafeTCore is not only dealing with functional safety but also timing safety, deadlines are being monitored and it is vital that the SafeTCore is able to provide guarantees about its own execution time requirements.

The SafeTCore software must have a low execution time so that there is sufficient time for the application to run within each frame. If the SafeTCore driver execution time is too long, then it becomes necessary to schedule some tests over multiple frames leading to a significantly longer response time for error detection.

**Solution**

Infineon selected RapiTime for its ability to provide a hybrid static analysis/dynamic measurement approach to WCET analysis. This avoided the challenges of a purely static analysis technique, which relies upon a specific model for each target to be analyzed.

As well as obtaining WCET values from RapiTime, Infineon recognized that it could derive other benefits from the use of a tool that measures timing for small blocks of source code. In particular, feedback is received on the software implementation quality with respect to temporal variability and optimization potential.

Using RapiTime’s idpack technology meant it was possible to uniquely identify as many instrumentation points as necessary within an 8-bit value. A trace of timestamped Ipoints was collected from an 8-bit output port using a Tektronix Logic Analyzer.
**Benefits**

The timing analysis part of the case study concentrated on five TriCore functions. The chart below shows the difference in WCET between the initial versions and optimized functions, showing up to 43.9% reduction in WCET.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>W-Freq</th>
<th>W-SafeET</th>
<th>W-SafeED</th>
<th>W-CrET</th>
<th>W-CrED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>main</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL_BChecFCC,Sk,CycK</td>
<td>-0.01</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL_BChecFCC,CCCycK</td>
<td>-0.01</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>-0.01 (-1%)</td>
<td>-0.00 (-1%)</td>
<td>-0.00 (-1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL_BChecFCC,SK,Cell</td>
<td>-0.02</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>-0.00 (-2.5%)</td>
<td>-0.00 (-2.5%)</td>
<td>-0.00 (-2.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL_BChecFCC,ES,CycK</td>
<td>-0.01</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>-0.01 (-2.5%)</td>
<td>-0.01 (-2.5%)</td>
<td>-0.01 (-2.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL_BChecFCC,ES,CCycK</td>
<td>-0.12</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The timing measurements obtained for the WCET analysis were also used to find source code optimizations in parallel with providing evidence of meeting timing requirements.

Beyond the high potential for software optimization revealed by the WCET analysis, it was also possible to identify areas of the software for further review. For example, unexpectedly long execution times can point to an unexpected error condition being triggered.

Where RapITime showed a large difference between maximum and calculated worst-case times, the cause was quickly identified as a data-dependent algorithm. This information is valuable when providing rationale for design and implementation decisions of future software.

**Next steps**

To discuss timing verification solutions for your company, please contact Rapita Systems at:

- www.rapitasystems.com/contact

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