Bootlin training course evaluation

6 responses

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Overall rating of the course

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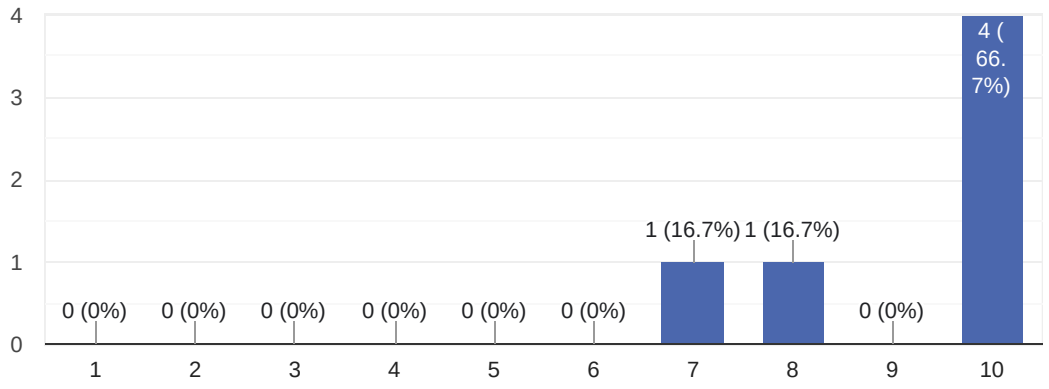
6 responses



Comments and suggestions

3 responses

The course is very complete and well-balanced between the labs and the lectures

Just perfect, I'm sincerely grateful for the quality of this course. It has been extremely informative and excellent in every aspect.

A bit too fast for the practicals

How useful were the lectures?

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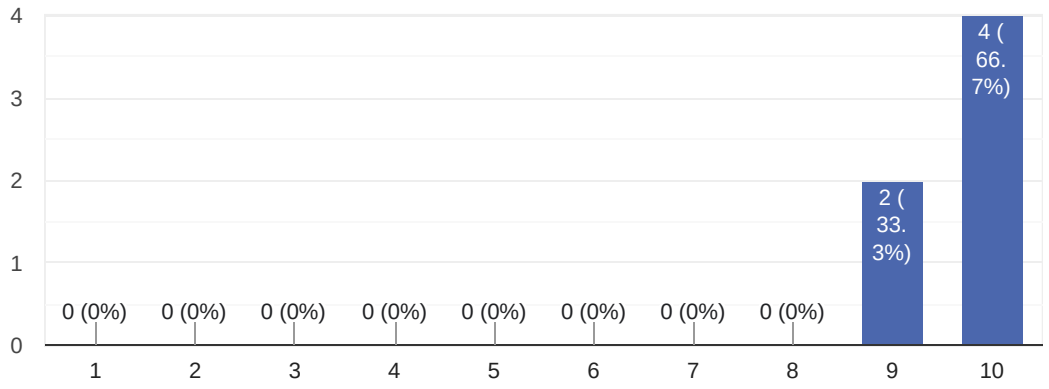
6 responses



Comments and suggestions

3 responses

This has really made me appreciate all the tools that are available to use which I was not aware of.

The slides are very well-detailed, and the spoken explanations are essential for clear comprehension.

I very much liked having the slides on my side to annotate :)

How useful were the practical demos?

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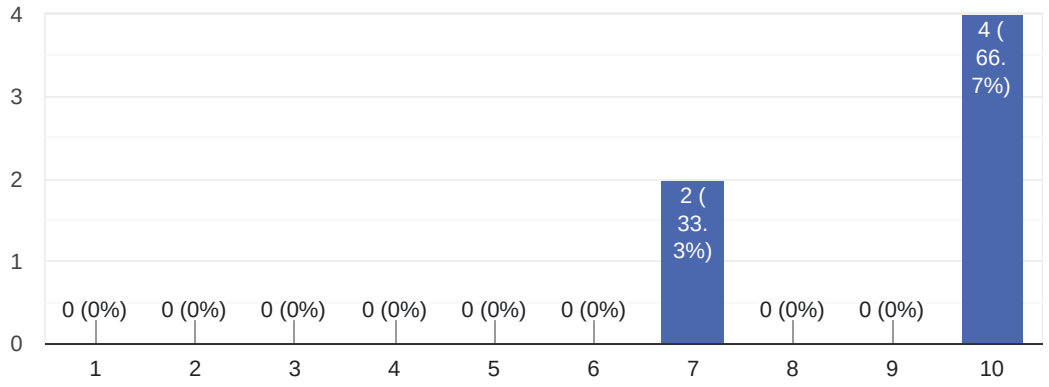
6 responses



Comments and suggestions

3 responses

It would be great to have lab session with litter slower pace and more time as this can help us to look at the material not lab pdf but actual slides again to get a complete picture

Very well structured and detailed, all build timings measured, lots of logs inspections explained. I've not yet repeated the lab myself but I'll do next days and I'm pretty confident about the result (or there will be Matrix, thanks for that as well).

Hard to follow along, I believe practicals are more impactful in person.

How would you rate the overall organization of the course?

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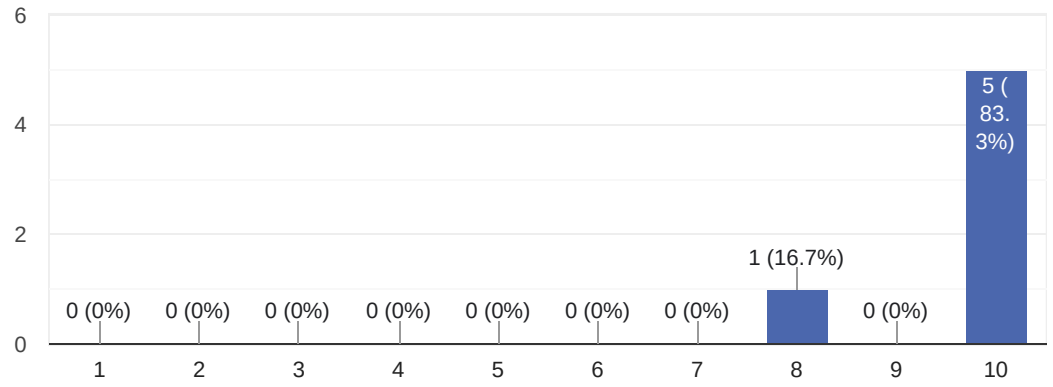
6 responses



Comments and suggestions

4 responses

I would like to spend more time on practical demos

One thing I liked was that we had free Wednesdays and a free week midway through the course. This allowed me to review the lesson frequently as needed and repeat the labs over and over again, although I haven't been able to complete them all yet. I hope I can.
This has been very important for me, as I had very little knowledge of Linux before the course. I understand that this may not be the case for others, but I'm writing from my perspective.

All at top. Sequence of topics, lessons start time, end time, breaks, all very well spaced. The additional day has allowed for good organization with daily work also. It's a valuable bonus.

the spread over several weeks made it easy to manage !

How would you rate the trainer?

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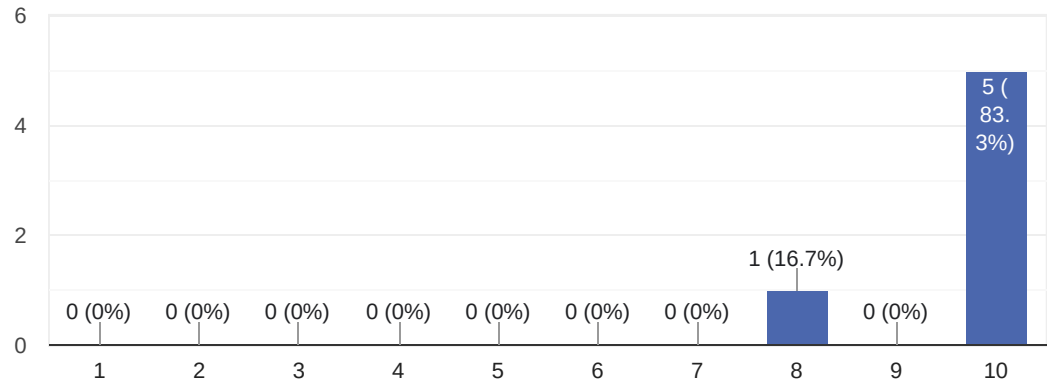
6 responses



Comments and suggestions

1 response

Thomas has a truly exceptional knowledge but also a great ability to make every concept clear and easy to understand. It has been a truly pleasant journey of skill development. I appreciated also the sense that there was a genuine willingness to share knowledge in a positive way.

How did the course meet your learning objectives?

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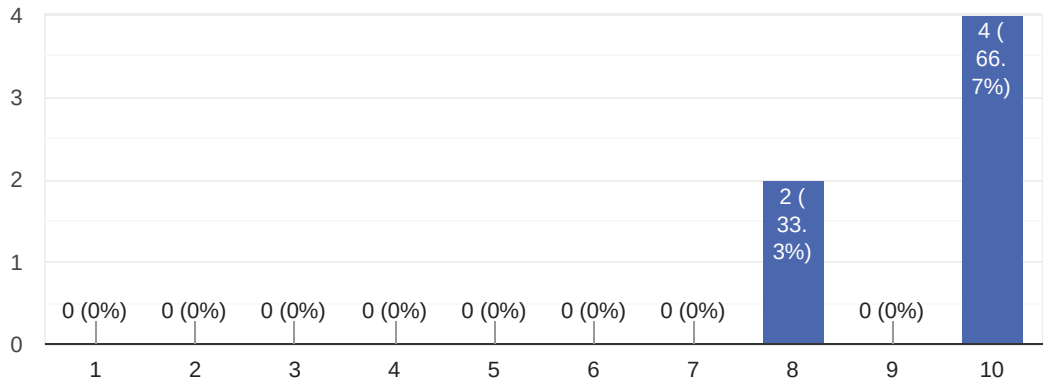
6 responses



Comments and suggestions

2 responses

I definitely learnt so many new things for sure!

I still need to review all the notes, slides, and labs, but I already know I've learned a lot. I was expecting clarifications and details on certain aspects, but the course has truly exceeded my expectations.

What part(s) of the course did you like most?

5 responses

Lab

Toolchains

From a technical standpoint: toolchain creation and buildroot and uboot (those I knew less about). I also found the overview of topics that can be further explored in other courses (debugging/profiling) well balanced and useful, as it reinforced my existing knowledge and provided several new insights.

Learning about the device trees, the kernel drivers and modules

The labs

What part(s) of the course did you like least?

4 responses

hardware access

I don't think there is something specific. Some of the things were already known to me but the amount of details provided gave anyway additional knowledge.

the userspace libraries

Device trees, going through each of the references, and that is for no other reason that it wasn't something I was interested in getting out of the course, so while useful information it was the least aligned with my interests.

What reasons prompted you to choose a Bootlin course?

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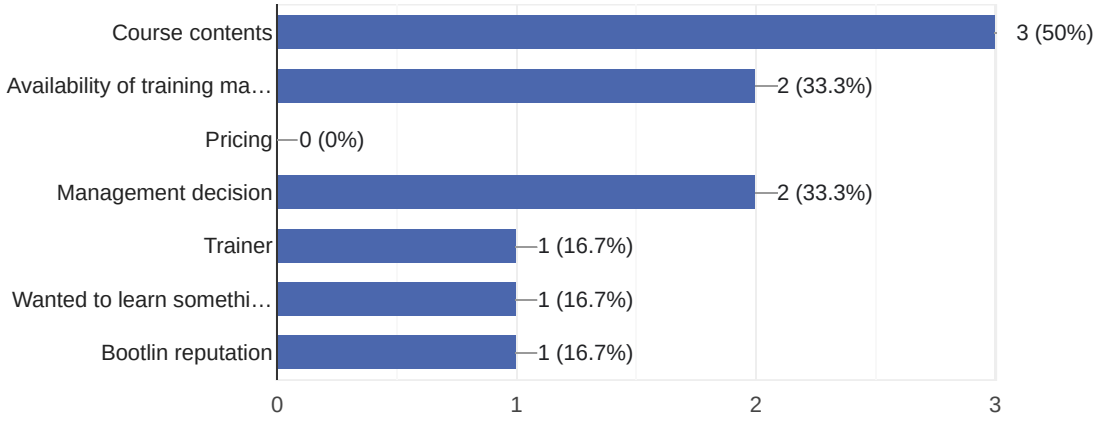
6 responses



Comments

3 responses

Just one note about the test:
I have 3 incorrect answers that I think they are absolutely correct: :(

What's the name of the Linux kernel sound subsystem?
*
0/1
ALSA (Advanced Linux Sound Architecture)

Respuestas correctas
alsa
ALSA
Alsa

What's the name of the Linux kernel video stack?
*
0/1
Video4Linux (V4L)

Respuestas correctas
video4linux
Video4Linux
video4Linux
V4L
v4l
v4l2
V4L2
V4l2

What environment variables do you need to set to cross-compile the Linux kernel
*
Separate the case sensitive variables with commas, e,g. "FOO, BAR".
0/1
"ARCH, CROSS_COMPILE"

Respuestas correctas
ARCH, CROSS_COMPILE
CROSS_COMPILE, ARCH
ARCH,CROSS_COMPILE
CROSS_COMPILE,ARCH
CROSS_COMPILE ARCH
ARCH CROSS_COMPILE

I give full marks to the course and the instructor.

I think the overall course was excellent, the following is a bit of constructive criticism that I mean in no way to undermine how excellent the course was, the hope is it will improve aspects I've hit and make it an even better experience going forward.

There is a bit of "you have to figure it out yourself" in the course which I don't disagree with but certain aspects, such as getting the development board to a functioning state, should have corresponding "if you get stuck use this" as is already seen for the various helpers in the data directories. I was trying to run the labs at the same time as Thomas was running them, and was unable to do so simply because I could not get the BeagleBone Black to a working state. In fact I was able to get the kernel working 2 days before the training ended, so all of the labs I was behind on doing.

Ideally (even though I do understand it's more work) there should be bootstrap configs for all the hardware devices that are listed in the Hardware Accessories list of the training session page, most are going to be very similar, except for naming, with the STM32MP1* ones but BeagleBone ones need this as well. It was not clear to me that a specific dev board would be used for the labs prior to starting the course, and when I tried to find these boards for purchase from Ireland the BeagleBone was both in stock and available to ship soon enough for me to get one before the course started, while the STM32MP1* ones were not.

For the BeagleBone Black the defconfig omap2_plus having the correct kernel driver selections was something I learned on the last day of the course, I checked both the slides and the labs pdf and that information is not there, but the docs are also geared only towards the STM32MP1 platform explicitly. I think it could improve the overall ratio for success for people who want to do the labs themselves if there was clearer messaging around what hardware is used in the course and what isn't and if there are configs for getting the all the listed boards to a running state.

What would have helped me was if at the very beginning of the course when the intros are done and the initial slides are presented a slide is added to talk specifically about labs and ask if there are people who have the hardware and are attempting to do this at home, what are the devices people are using, here's what you need to know, and then that sets the expectation throughout the course the for anyone doing the labs at home. I would think 3-4 slides where you have the model of hardware and the pinout for connecting the serial console is enough to get started. This is another thing I hit, I had purchased all the hardware and accessories listed on the site but actually only connected the board to the laptop over regular USB not the serial port. If any of these are just highlighted quickly at the beginning of the course, I think it will improve things for others as well.

Further training needs?

2 responses

I'd read through the other courses online material but I think already OpenEmbedded is likely the one I'd be more interested into for the future.

I would love to see a course that focuses on networking on Linux, a deep dive into the networking options in the Linux kernel, firewall options, userspace tooling for networking, routing packets in the kernel (fwmark and), iproute2, ipsets, ip rule, iptables, nftables, arptables, ebtables, high speed networking, XDR, ebpf, jumbo frames, packet switching, store-and-forward, fast-forward, cut-through, OSI layers, sublevel-MAC, sublevel-LLC, 4B5B encoding, fast-link-pulses, time division multiplexing, cat 5e, cat 6a, fiber optics, single mode, multi mode, vlans, Q-in-Q tagging, MPLS, OSPF, VPN technologies (openvpn, wireguard), reducing MTU for VPNs to work inside of mobile networks (e.g.: phone tethering), QoS, voice, video, traffic shaping (tc), wireless, wireless drivers by vendor, finding drivers for newest hardware when not available in latest upstream kernel, compiling out-of-kernel wireless drivers, 802.11 a,b,g,n, WiFi 6, 7, wireshark, pcap packet capture, wavemon, sparrow-wifi, WEP, WPA, WPA2, WPA3, TKIP. High speed networking, infiniband, RDMA over Coherent Ethernet, remote storage options (Samba, NFS) and block storage (iscsi, nvme over ethernet). History of the internet, DARPA to SpaceX.