Bootlin training course evaluation

9 responses

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Overall rating of the course

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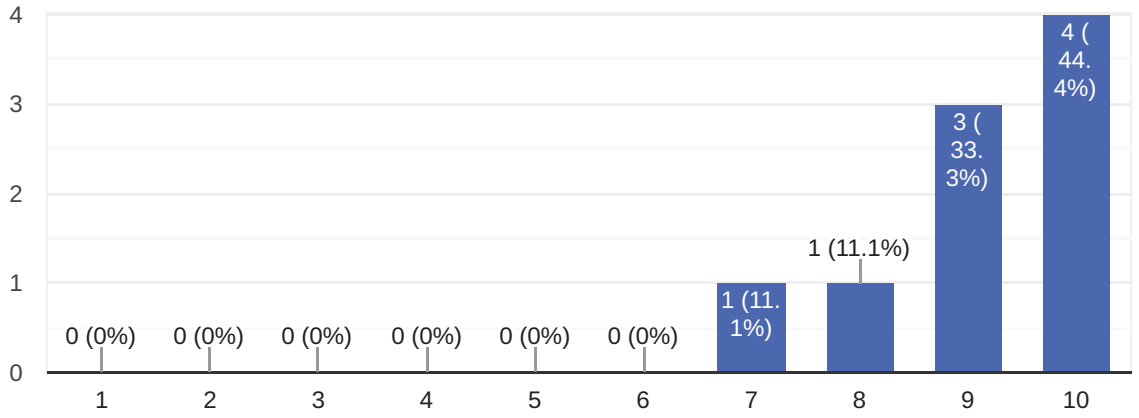
9 responses



Comments and suggestions

8 responses

Hardware Logistics Issues

- I had a bit of a logistics issue getting hardware through my organization. Especially as a person new to embedded systems. It would have been great to be able to purchase a complete kit with all of the hardware, and accessories. This might not be an issue for someone that regularly does this work, but I was starting from zero.
- The links on the site were awesome! I was able to purchase the beaglebone black board, power supply (after the second try), and the Nunchuk.
- I had some of the breadboard wires, and a USB audio device on hand, but again, having everything in one kit would be great!
- I did not realize until I received the welcome to the course email two weeks prior to start, that I needed a USB to TTL adapter (and apparently it needs to be 3.3V?, and uses only 3 wires? and needs to use the PL2303Xa chip?). I did not think the one from Olmex would arrive in time, so I ordered a couple of different ones from Amazon.
- waveshare Industrial USB to TTL Converter with Original FT232RL Onboard and Multi Protection Circuits - This is the one I used for the class.
- CenryKay PL2303HX USB to TTL Serial Adapter USB to RS232 TTL Converter Download Flash Line USB to Serial Port for Arduino Download Cable - These have 4 wires, not sure what the difference between that and the one from Olmex is.
- Suggestion: add this info to the Practical Labs area of the bootlin.com/training/embedded-linux site.
- Suggestion: add an additional item to the Prerequisites area for "Setting up serial communication with the board", that way you can help to ensure the students will be able to have the hardware needed to do the labs at home.

Also, Adafruit has a Beagle Bone Black Starter Pack, maybe they would be interested in putting a Bootlin Embedded Linux training kit together for you (it seems like they have all of the components):
https://www.adafruit.com/product/703

I will from now on recommend the course to anyone who wants to get started with embedded Linux in their job.

Very good material and presentation

The course was thorough, and the presenter explained everything very clearly.

Great course, the pacing was fantastic to split in the middle of the weeks worked well. Allowed for time to conduct labs between work schedule

The video compression made by google meet was so high some times, that made impossible to read the command line when the commands were written fast. I would think about changing for a more stable platform.

Nice course

The course was really useful and the obtained knowledge will help me in my upcoming projects. At some moments it was hard to follow because many details were included and it was a fast-paced course.

How useful were the lectures?

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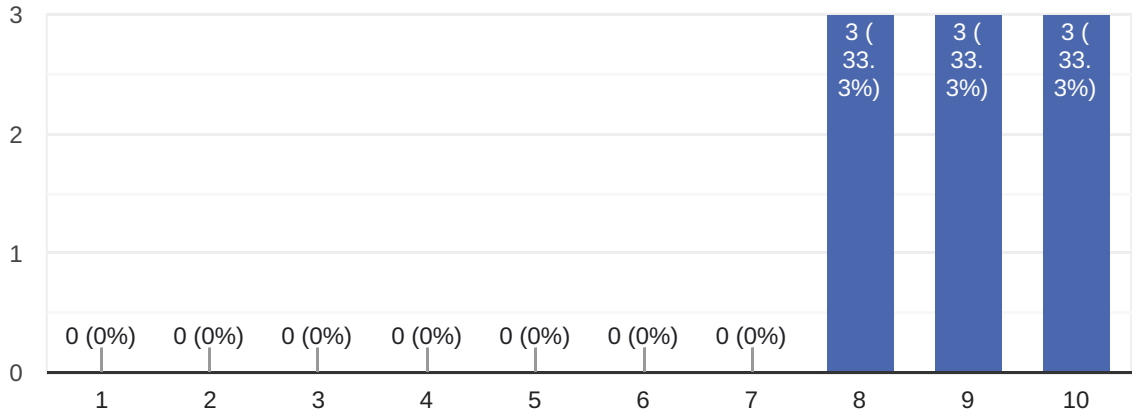
9 responses



Comments and suggestions

6 responses

- Good mix of background / history and relevance to today.
- More recommendations for if you were getting started today / green field would be welcomed.

It was really great to see the system build from the ground up.

I feel like some stuff went way above my head/underexplained (kernel, and hardware code) and some stuff was very simple/overexplained (basic linux commands/fs). Everything was

Some points were explained so fast and I felt at some points of the course that we were running to be able to finish the course in the specified time.

Information is dense, it's sometimes hard to place the pieces in the big picture

The slides were good and I like that the materials are open to anyone. A lot of details were mentioned and for someone who is still a beginner in this field it is easy to lose focus and track.

How useful were the practical demos?

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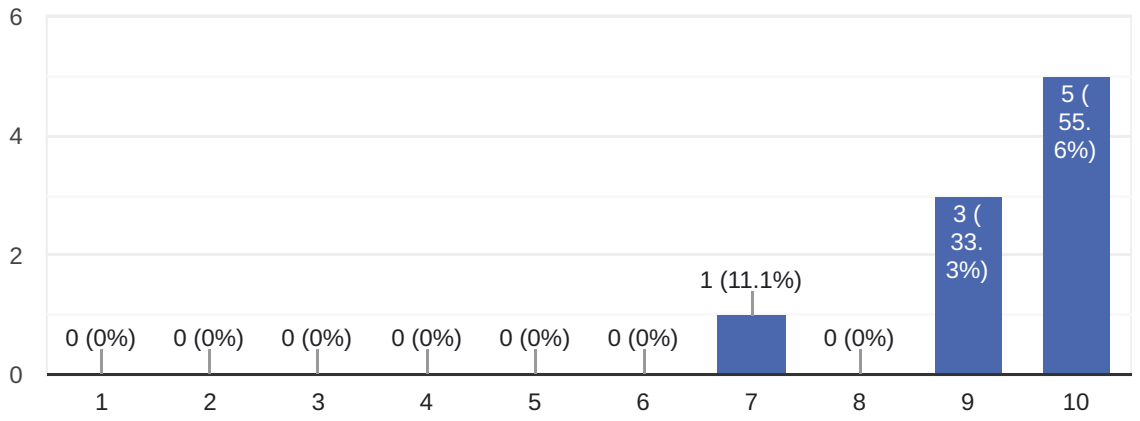
9 responses



Comments and suggestions

7 responses

- Slow down during demos
- Appreciated increasing the font size
- Provide a list of commands run in the Element chat to assist students when doing labs on their own
- It can be challenging to keep the mental model of the directory structures, and host / target machines. Consider providing a big picture of where things are being done, and where things are going to go.
- Consider using some background colors to differentiate between host and target machines. For example, Terminator and many shells allow you to create profiles with different background and/or font colors. One color (maybe black on white) for your host / dev machine and a different background color for the embedded board.

When the system became more complex (using systemd) it became a little hard to follow with the fast pace of the trainer

Bash with colors would definitely help in the lab sessions.

Practical demos and labs have already helped me deploy code to embedded systems at work and I am actively employing skills like remote debugging and cross compilation thanks to working on the demos.

They were fine. But I would share the command history of every class to be able to reproduce the same practical demos at home.

Nice illustration, still have to implement them in a more complex use case

The practical demos were really useful and led to better understanding. It is needed more time to do the labs than expected and hard to keep the pace with other work. It would have helped a lot to have entire bash history of the lecturer´s commands. That could save much more time!

How would you rate the overall organization of the course?

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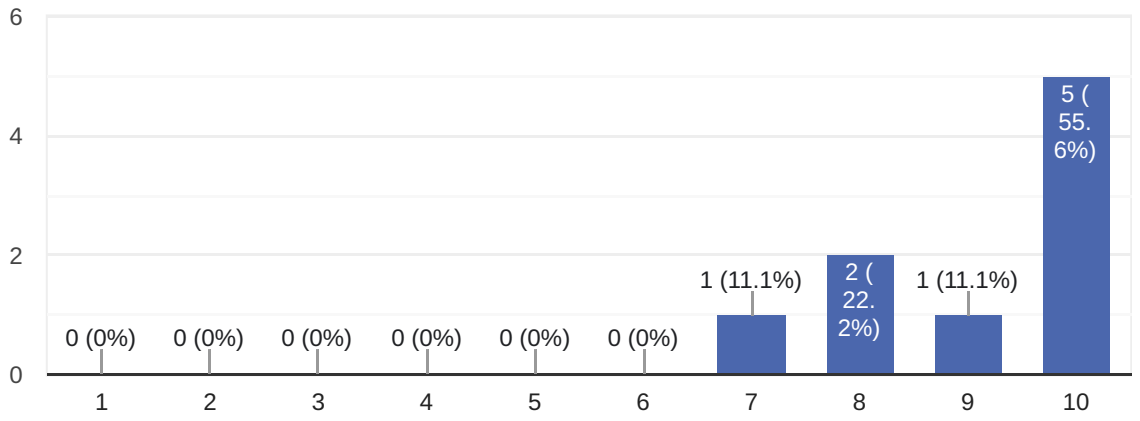
9 responses



Comments and suggestions

7 responses

- The course was well organized.
- The 4 hour lecture format was the perfect and provided time to work on the labs before the next class.
- There was plenty of time for questions.
- The materials were amazing.

Having the 1 week break gave a great opportunity to catch up with the slides and the practical labs. Also great to always end of time. 4 hour sessions are a great duration as well.

Only doing afternoons instead of full days is better, and the skipped week in between was actually great to have time to go over the material again and properly do the practical exercise

Simple no, problems.

I would split it in 3 weeks instead of in 2. The course is so dense some times and it is hard to maintain 100% focus during all the week.

Licensing in important for legal reasons, that complexify even more software development

The overall organization of the course was really professional. Having longer breaks could be more beneficial.

How would you rate the trainer?

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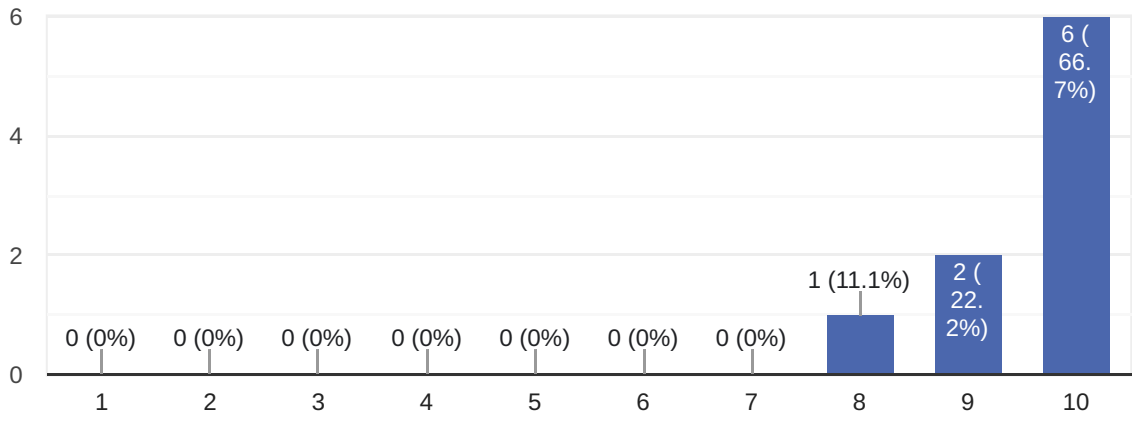
9 responses



Comments and suggestions

7 responses

- Trainer was amazing!
- Unparalleled knowledge of the material.
- Great communicator!

overall very good, clear explanations. I'll just point out a couple weird pronunciations that my fellow non-french coworkers tripped over: 'kernel' that sounded more like 'canal'/'keynel', 'those' pronounced with 'oo' instead of a proper 'o'

Great, friendly, experienced, and knowledgeable trainer.

Thomas was very interesting to hear speak, with a very in depth background and experience.

Thomas is one of the best teachers I have had. He knew the lectures perfectly and he managed to answer all the questions in an understandable way.

No problem, answers questions

The trainer was well-experienced and understands the topic profoundly.

How did the course meet your learning objectives?

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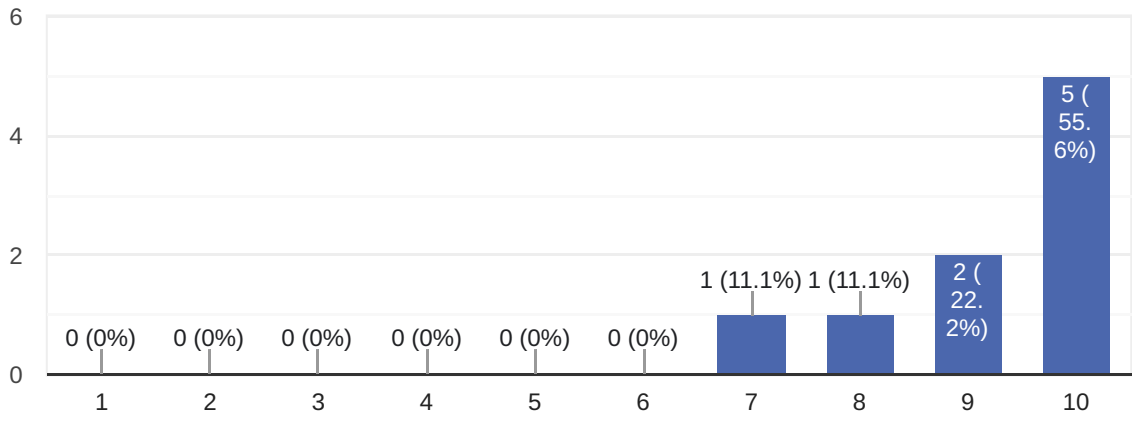

Comments and suggestions

5 responses

- The course exceeded my expectations.
- It covered all of the learning objectives.

Even exceeded

As stated, already employing the knowledge i've gained in my work life.

I felt like I miss some points like more hw selection examples.

Need more courses though

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

6 responses

- Difficult to answer because the entire course was great!
- I liked how each major section started "zoomed out", and provided a big picture for context, before getting into the details.
- The use of graphics were very helpful in building a mental model of the topics being discussed.
- I liked the way the course kept building upon the prior sections, and reinforcing those concepts.
- The labs were great! It was great being able to re-create what the instructor did on my own hardware.

The demo where Thomas booted a kernel without anything, then built a working system from there, first adding a root fs, then an init, etc...

Embedded Linux System Architecture

The labs, specifically the first week of cross compiling bootloader/linux/fs/tools

The practical demos.

Presentation of parts and how the fit together

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

7 responses

- The demos sometimes seemed a little rushed, and it would be nice to see some of the suggestions (above) implemented in the future.
- The labs were awesome, but some of the sections were a little sparse on details (for example the section on initramfs).
- A suggestion to include some common "gotchas" or issues at the end of each section, might help. However, it wasn't really an issue because the Element chat, and the ability to ask questions the next day.

Google Meet was causing some trouble. Screen sharing did not have the best quality.

none, although the bootloader part was completely new to me and quite dense

Device Tree Sources (DTS)

Some of the lectures on basic linux concepts like filesystems and common utilities. I use GNU/linux everyday for work and is my main OS at home so these would still be beneficial to someone who has a development background but no experience in linux.

the command line during the class. It was really hard to follow changing tabs constantly taking into account that it was horrible with the video compression.

Command lines with so many options that needs to be explored

What reasons prompted you to choose a Bootlin course?

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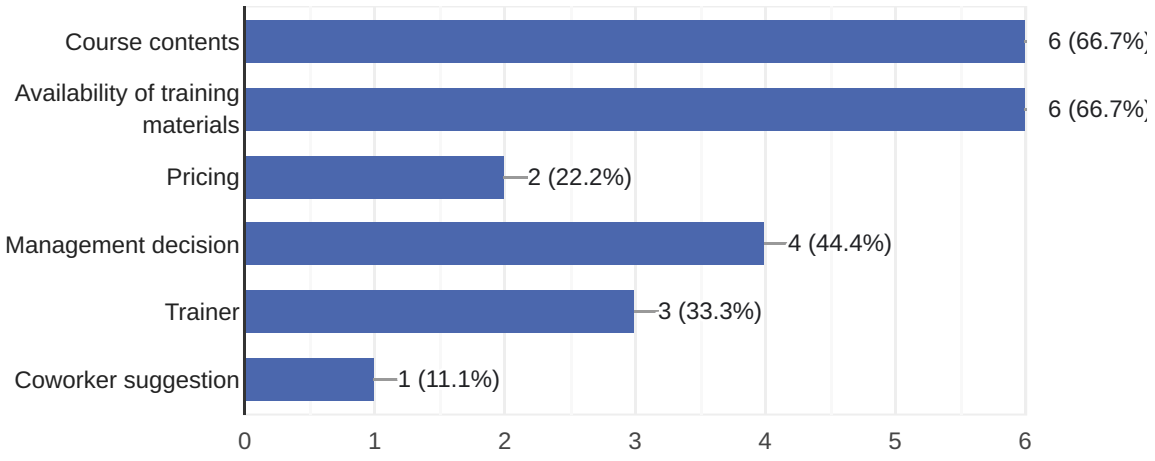
9 responses



Comments

4 responses

I learned about Bootlin in another class when we looked at the amazing elixir.bootlin.com site. After that class, I explored the bootlin.com site, and training materials and saw that you offered courses!

I really enjoyed participating in the training and would definitely recommend it to some friends. Thank you!

Thank you for the course and for transmitting us the open source mindset!

Nope

Further training needs?

3 responses

I would be interested in you creating a mailing list, and a chat server. That way there is a place to go to ask questions in the future, and receive updates from Bootlin about new courses, and the other great work you do for the open source community.

Bootlin. Kernel drivers. Kernel development.

Linux application development using the right APIs, KISS and no overhead