

User Needs and Requirements

Code Critiquer System for the C Language and Embedded C

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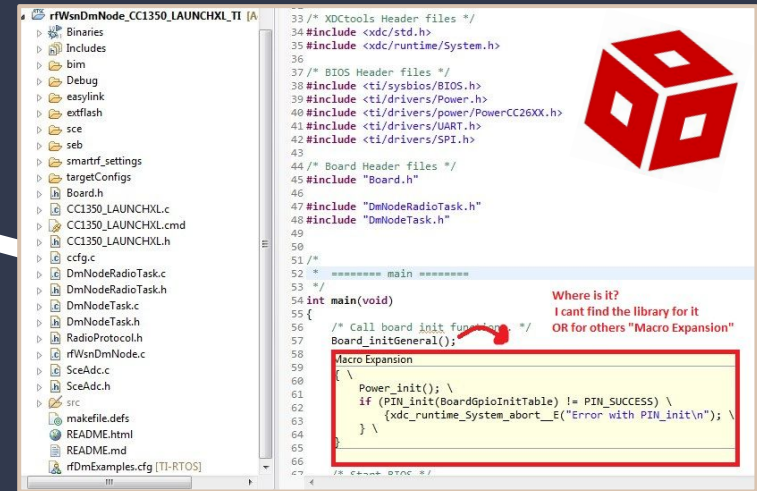
Code Critiquer System for the C Language and Embedded C

Project Overview

- Current state of project (continuation of sdmay24-34) is a web-based critiquer tool
 - Students upload C files to tool
 - Files are statically analyzed to search for antipatterns
 - Tool generates feedback
 - Students use feedback to improve skills
- Will modify current system and/or develop new prototypes
- Ideally tailored for CPR E 288
- Targeting a Spring Semester Prototype

- Static Code Analysis is a challenging problem
- Many off-the-shelf solutions
 - Many leave a lot to be desired
 - They are not bespoke for CPR E 288 usage
 - No off-the-shelf “perfect combination” for what the project client needs
- Client needs a code critiquer that can...
 - Be accessed by students and instructors
 - Provide beginner-oriented feedback
 - Ability to give embedded and datasheet-focused feedback
 - Potentially integrate with Code Composer Studio

Problem Statement



The screenshot shows the Code Composer Studio IDE with a project named 'rfWsnDmNode_CC1350_LAUNCHXL_TI'. The left pane shows a file tree with folders like Binaries, Includes, and Debug, and files like Board.h, CCI350_LAUNCHXL.c, and rfWsnDmNode.c. The main editor shows a C source file with various include statements and a main function. A red box highlights a macro expansion error in the main function, with a red arrow pointing to the error message: 'Where is it? I cant find the library for it OR for others "Macro Expansion"'. The error message is displayed in a yellow box with a red border. The code in the editor includes comments for XDCtools Header files, BIOS Header files, and Board Header files, followed by include statements for <xdc/std.h>, <xdc/runtime/System.h>, <ti/systems/BIOS.h>, <ti/drivers/Power.h>, <ti/drivers/power/PowerCC26XX.h>, <ti/drivers/UART.h>, and <ti/drivers/SPI.h>. The main function is defined as 'main(void)' and calls 'Board_initGeneral()', 'Power_init()', and 'if (PIN_init(BoardGpioInitTable) != PIN_SUCCESS) \ { xdc_runtime_System_abort_E("Error with PIN_init\n"); \ }'.

User Needs

- Feedback
 - Quick answers
 - Confidence in the response
 - Comprehensive
 - Understandable at a basic level
- Security
 - Students can't cheat results
 - System won't fail when running
- UI/UX
 - Intuitive/out of the way
 - Quick to use and interpret

Functional

- Provide automated feedback based on the antipatterns in the database
- Allow professors to add and remove custom antipatterns to the database
- Allow students to submit code files for critiquing
- Add clarity to existing static C analysis tools
- Use simulated CyBots to analyze the results and function of the code

Requirements

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Requirements Cont.

Resources

- Linux server for running the web application
- Server for running the CyBot simulation
- Git repository to hold code and run pipelines

UI/UX

- Clear and intuitive design
- Quick feedback
- Easy to navigate

- **IEEE 1028-2008** - Talks about reviewing code, and our first task of this project is to review the previous team's code.
- **IEEE 2675-2021** - Covers the concepts of reliably, securing, and safely building, packaging, and deploying applications in relation to DevOps. Since our project focuses on having both a frontend and backend, practicing efficient and safe DevOps will be critical to the group's success.
- **IEEE 1016-1998** - Covers the recommended practices for Software Design Descriptors, which are a medium used for conveying the structure of a software system. It will be important to be able to effectively and concisely communicate how the senior design project is structured to the clients and advisor.

Engineering Standards

(IEEE)



IEEE

Engineering Standards Cont.

(ISO)



- **ISO/IEC 9899:2018** - Explains how C code is made to compile and run. This will be a useful resource to compare code against. Most code that goes against these patterns will include antipatterns
- **ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288:2023** - Describes the terminology, concepts, and frameworks that deal with the lifecycle of a software system. It applies to bespoke and mass-produced systems, so it will be applicable to our project.
- **ISO/IEC TS 17961:2013** - Covers the rules for secure coding in the C language. Since our project heavily deals with identifying errors and antipatterns in C programs, this standard will be an excellent reference for a more memory-safe and cybersecurity standpoint.

Conclusions from User Needs and Requirements Definition

- The software solution involves many types of users
 - Need to ensure that each user group is satisfied
 - The implementation of functionality must be cohesive
- C is a programming language that can easily create security vulnerabilities if not careful
 - Team needs to pay close attention to Engineering Standards to ensure safety, security, and correctness

Any Questions, Suggestions, or
Comments?