

Travel report by  
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Visiting 21st Real-Time System Symposium (RTSS00) and Real-Time Linux Workshop (RTLW).

## 1 Where and Why

The 21st Real Time System Symposium 2000 was held 28-30 November 2000 at Hilton Hotel Orlando, Florida. Parallel with RTSS00 the Real Time Linux Workshop was held 27-28 November 2000. I arrived at Orlando International airport on Saturday 25 November. So I had the opportunity to spend the Sunday to explore the nature of Florida. We visited the Homosassa Springs wildlife park and looked on manatees, and other birds and animals in Florida.

RTSS00 was my first international conference, and therefore I had no expectations of what the conference could give. The purpose for attending the conference was to learn and see how it works at a conference. But I got more than that. I got an overview of state-of-the-art in the real-time research community today.

## 2 The symposium

In RTLW the main topic was how to use Real-Time Linux in industry applications. I got the impression that the industry will use RT-Linux more in the future than today due to the reason that it is a free software. Since it is shipped with the source code the system designers can have control over the whole system not only the in-house developed code. There was many interesting presentation. Thomas Bihari talked about using RT-Linux in safety critical applications, Phil Wilshire talked about testing and evaluation of RT-Linux, and Lars Albertsson talked about simulation-based temporal debugging of Linux.

Topics of the RTSS00 conference was in the range from real-time system design, including analysis, verification, and scheduling theory to real-time communication, distributed real-time systems, and applications of real-time system. Tuesday afternoon there was a joint session between RTSS00 and RTLW with a talk by Richard Stallman. He talked about free software foundation. Next there was a panel discussion about development of RTOSes and the use of Linux in the RTOS and embedded market. Wednesday's talk were of no interest for me, but there was some talks about worst-case execution time analysis and Scheduling that considered the impact of cache and pipelines. I probably going to read more about these topics since this seems to be a new approach to get more optimistic methods.

## 3 Impressions

Since this was my first conference I had nothing to compare to, but in my opinion the talks in RTSS00 was of high standard (with a few exceptions), the talks in RTLW had more varying quality. The only thing that was not so good was that those who presents their papers had so much trouble with their laptops and the projector. The Symposium ended on Thursday and my plane departed on Saturday so I had a whole day to spend in downtown Disney. The grand finale of the trip was to see the launch of the Endeavour space shuttle.