

RTSS Travel report
Tomas Lennvall
Department of Computer Engineering
Mälardalens University, Västerås, Sweden
2000-12-19

1 Location

The RTSS 2000 was held at the Hilton Hotel Orlando, Florida, from November 28 to 30 this year. The symposium was held in conjunction with the RT-Linux workshop that was held from November 27 to 28. I went to the symposium with two other Ph.D. students from my department, and my supervisor. I also liked the location they choose for the conference since it was a lot hotter in Orlando the home in Sweden:-), and i had never visited USA so i was curious of how it was over there.

2 RT-Linux Workshop

My expectations for the workshop was the same as for a symposium but with shorter presentations. And the area of RT-Linux interested me so i thought that it would be very interesting to attend the workshop. But i was a bit disappointed, the quality of the presentations was not good, people had trouble keeping the time and seemed generally unprepared for the presentation. There were a few good one though, one interesting topic was the simulation of temporal debugging for RT-Linux, and another interesting topic was shared memory between user and kernel space. Since I'm not a RT-Linux expert it was difficult for me to follow some of the presentations that dove really deep into the internals of RT-Linux.

In the afternoon of day two, as a joint session for both the workshop and the symposium, there was an interesting speech about free software by Richard Stallman.

3 RTSS

I had heard that RTSS is supposed to be the biggest and most renown of the real-time conferences, so my expectations was quite high. And since this is my second conference, i also visited EUROMICRO conference on real-time systems in Stockholm this summer, i now how a conference works. Generally the quality of the presentations in the symposium was better than the presentations in the RT-Linux workshop, and more in my area of knowledge, but the conference didn't really live up to my expectations.

RTSS covers most of the topics in the real-time area but my impression is that scheduling is the most common topic, which is quite good for me since

we do a lot of scheduling in my research group. There were interesting presentations about scheduling to minimize the energy consumption of the system, for both embedded systems and PDAs. Another interesting presentation was about scheduling and considering cache and pipelines, and also a presentation about scheduling of dynamic method invocations in distributed systems. These presentations has lead to me searching for more papers in these topics, and they are in a way related to my own project.