

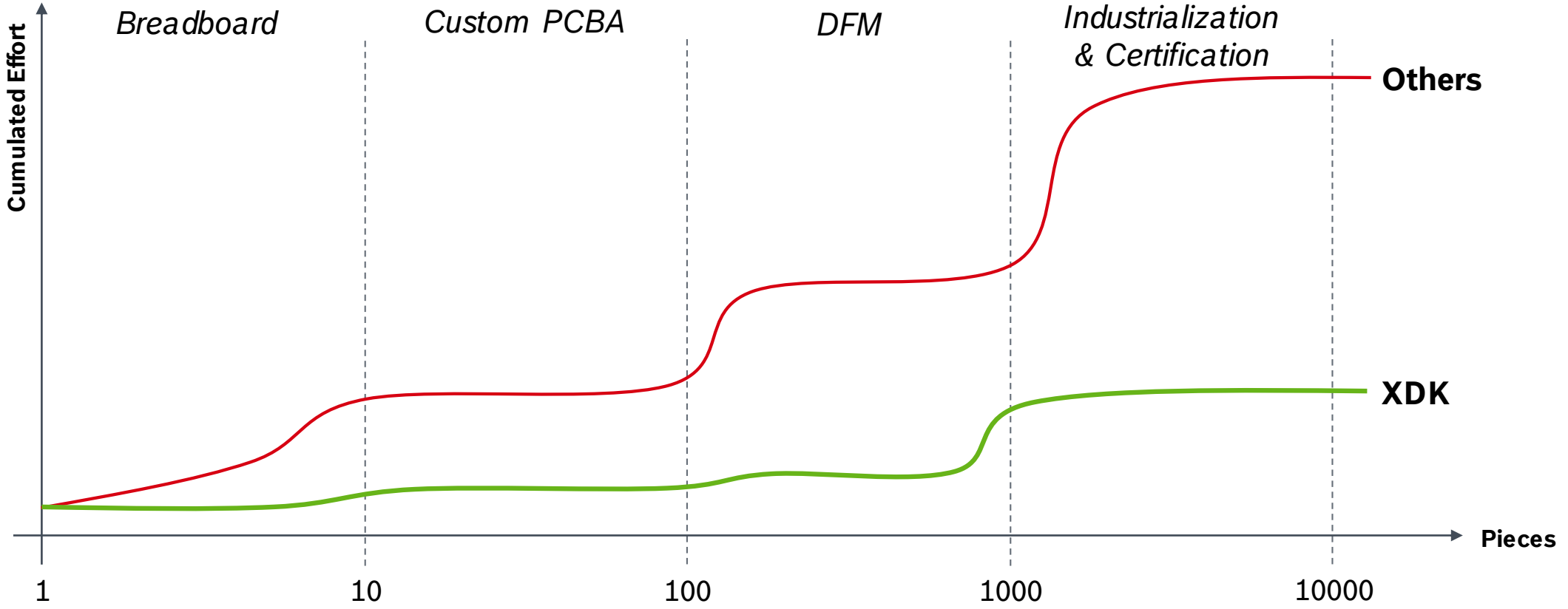
PAX

LANGUAGE FOR THE EMBEDDED IOT



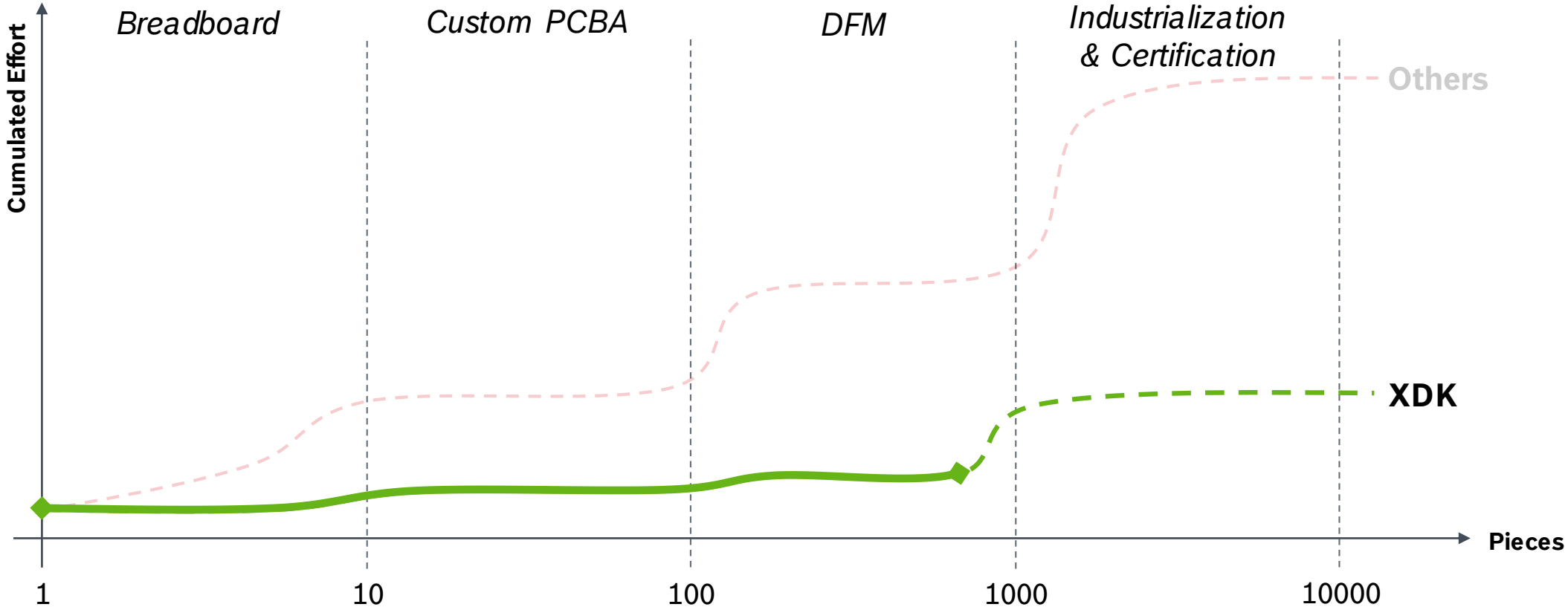
Eclipse PAX

Scaling over quantity



Eclipse PAX

Scaling over quantity



Eclipse PAX

Scaling through integration



Accelerometer



Gyroscope



Magnetometer



Humidity sensor



Pressure sensor



Temperature sensor



Acoustic sensor



Digital light sensor



32-bit
Microcontroller
ARM



Wireless
LAN



Bluetooth
LE



Li-Ion
rechargeable
battery

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We need a way to program that

Lowers barriers

- ▶ Familiar and easy to learn
- ▶ “Feels” good
→ user centred design
- ▶ Convenience matters
→ high abstraction
- ▶ Doesn't annoy power users
→ high ceiling

- ▶ Enable IoT development for new user groups

Scales to production

- ▶ Afford a lot of control → go really low level

- ▶ Based on proven infrastructure
(LLVM on bare metal, e.g. Rust + Zinc or Taylor Swift are still years out)

- ▶ Enable trust in software → allow inspection in a world people know

Scales to low-power HW

- ▶ Very low runtime impact

- ▶ No garbage collection

- ▶ Preference for static memory allocation

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What about existing languages

● **LUA**

● **Python**

● **mRuby**

● **Javascript**

Widespread adoption but
expensive at runtime and far removed the system

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What about existing languages and platforms

● Rust

Far away from being
production ready on
bare metal

● C++

High “accidental
complexity”

● Arduino

Based on C++ / removed from other industry-
grade platforms

● mbed OS

Eclipse PAX

Inspired by research

▶ Powerful language (C#) and brilliant IDE support make IoT prototyping more accessible.

▶ Kubitz A and Schmidt A (2015), "Towards a Toolkit for the Rapid Creation of Smart Environments", In End-User Development: 5th International Symposium, IS-EUD 2015, Madrid, Spain, May 26-29, 2015. Proceedings. Cham, p People understand what they can see.

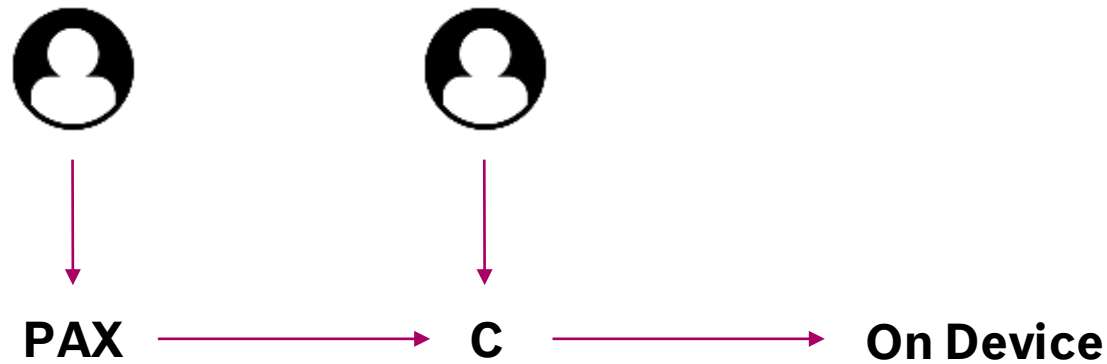
→ Direct interaction with sensor data and devices.

▶ Victor B. (2012), *Learnable Programming. Designing a programming system for understanding programs.* <http://worrydream.com/LearnableProgramming/>

▶ Programming as Domain Specific Language (DSL).

▶ Brown KJ, Sujeeth AK, Lee HJ, Rompf T, Chafi H, Odersky M and Olukotun K (2011), "A Heterogeneous Parallel Framework for Domain-Specific Languages". In Proceedings of the 2011 International Conference on Parallel Architectures and Compilation Techniques. Washington, DC, USA, pp. 89-100. IEEE Computer Society.

Eclipse PAX Transpiles to C



Eclipse PAX

Base Language

- ▶ Imperative
with future aspirations for functional elements
- ▶ Event driven
- ▶ Exceptions
try/catch instead of return
- ▶ Extension methods
provide OO feeling
- ▶ String interpolation
built into the language

Type System

- ▶ Statically typed
with generics and optional types
- ▶ Type inference
- ▶ Generic Types
- ▶ Static Heapless
Memory Management
through Data Structure Size
Inference

Model-Driven

- ▶ Declarative Setup
of platform-defined system
resources
- ▶ Direct Access to
System Resources
such as sensors,
connectivity and GPIO
- ▶ Generic Extensible
Platform Support
not specific to XDK
- ▶ Built-in Library Mgmt

Transpiler

- ▶ Transpiles to C code
- ▶ Traceability between
PAX and C code
(thanks to Xtext > 2.12)
- ▶ Variable names,
function names and
comments are carried
over

Eclipse PAX

Imperative and Statically Typed

```
uint32_t                                     iterable<int32_t>
|                                             |
|                                             |
function <T : integer> sumEven(list : iterable<T>) : T {
  let immutableValue = 2;
  var result = 0; ..... int32_t

  for(var x in list) {
    if(x % immutableValue == 0) {
      result += x;
    }
  }

  return result;
}
```

- ▶ Language design inspired to TypeScript, Swift, Rust, Scala
- ▶ Supports all classic control structures
- ▶ Immutable and mutable variables
- ▶ Static typing → all expressions have a type at compile time
 - ▶ Generics are supported for types and functions

Eclipse PAX

Extension Methods

```
function mean(self : iterable<float>) : float {  
    var result = 0.0;  
    for(var x in self) {  
        result += x;  
    }  
    return self.sum() / self.length();  
}
```

```
let values = [0.0, 1.0, 2.0, 3.0];  
var meanValueA = mean(values);
```

```
var meanValueB = values.mean();
```

- ▶ First parameter can be written on left side during function invocation
- ▶ Provides an “object oriented feeling”
 - ▶ It helps that functions are polymorphic
- ▶ Standard library is implemented this way

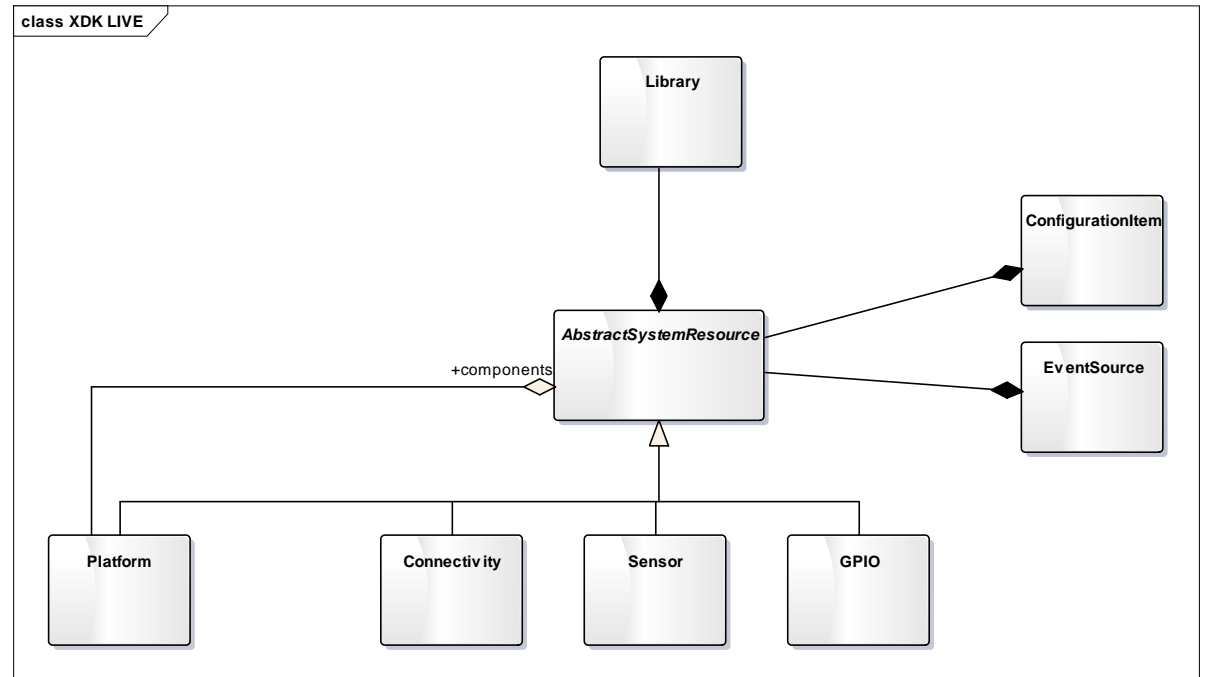
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Declarative Setup

- ▶ We need to configure the system we run on
 - ▶ Sensors, Connectivity and GPIO

- ▶ All of those define “configuration items”
 - ▶ Accelerometer Range
 - ▶ Bluetooth Advertising Interval
 - ▶ SPI clock speed

- ▶ All of those can offer events
 - ▶ Accelerometer Activity
 - ▶ Bluetooth Connection Incoming
 - ▶ SPI Slave Message Received



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Declarative Setup of Sensors

All setup starts with the **setup** keyword

Followed by the resource we want to configure

```
setup accelerometer {  
    range = Range_8g;  
    activity_threshold = 200;  
}
```

Sensors offer platform-defined *configuration* items

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Declarative Setup of Connectivity

Connectivity (and GPIO) can be named

```
setup devNetwork : WLAN {  
    ssid = "BCDS_DevNet";  
    psk = "MySuperSecretPassword";  
}
```

Setup connectivity become global variables and can be referenced

```
setup backend : LWM2M {  
    transport = devNetwork;  
    server = "10.0.0.1";  
  
    var shockDetected =  
        property(url="/1/2", init=false);  
}
```

Signals configure things like LWM2M properties, BLE characteristics, REST APIs or GPIO pins

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Declarative Setup of GPIO

Every system resource has their own signals

```
setup gpio {  
    var externalLed = digitalOut(pin=A4, driveStrength=High);  
    var battery = analogIn(pin=B2);  
}
```

```
setup mySensor : I2C {  
    sda = Pins.A1;  
    scl = Pins.A2;
```

I2C registers mapping, including data type

```
    var creg1 = register(address=0x0A, init=0x00 as uint16_t);  
    var value = register(address=0xAB, init=0x00 as uint32_t);  
}
```


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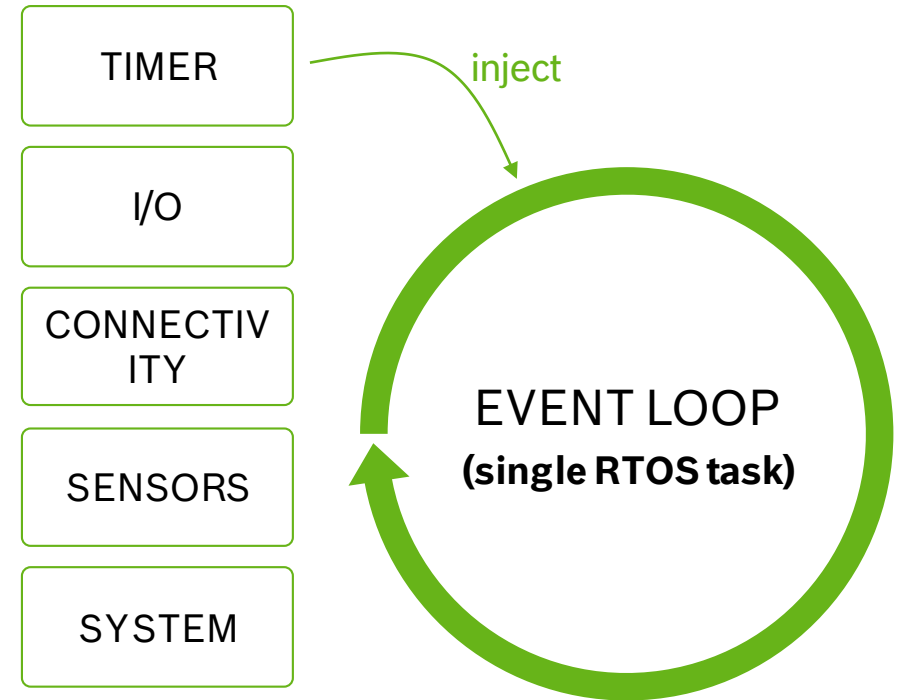
Direct Access

Access sensor values as if they were variables

```
every 100 milliseconds {  
    if(accelerometer.magnitude > 5000) {  
        // TODO: do something  
    }  
}
```

Eclipse PAX Event Driven

```
every system.startup {  
    // system just started  
}  
  
every 100 milliseconds {  
    // TODO: do something every 100ms  
}  
  
every accelerometer.activity {  
    // our device was just moved  
}
```



Eclipse PAX Event Driven



Time

5 seconds
100 milliseconds



Sensors

accelerometer.activity
light.bright



Connectivity

backend.connected
smartphone.cfgchar.written



GPIO

gpio.myPin.fallingEdge

Eclipse PAX

Where do we go from here?



Eclipse PAX

Where do we go from here?



Eclipse PAX

Is a new programming language for the embedded IoT

Enables high-level features transpiled to C

Is not limited to the XDK

Want to play with this stuff?
<http://xdk.io>