

The Internet of Satellites: A C&DH Software Framework Built on Open Internet Standards and Software



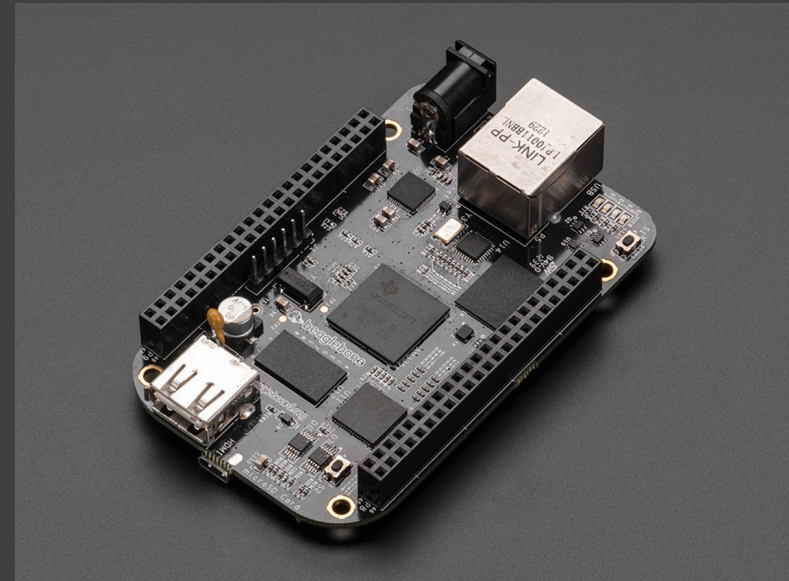
Jesse Coffey
Smallsat 2016
Logan, Utah

PUMPKIN

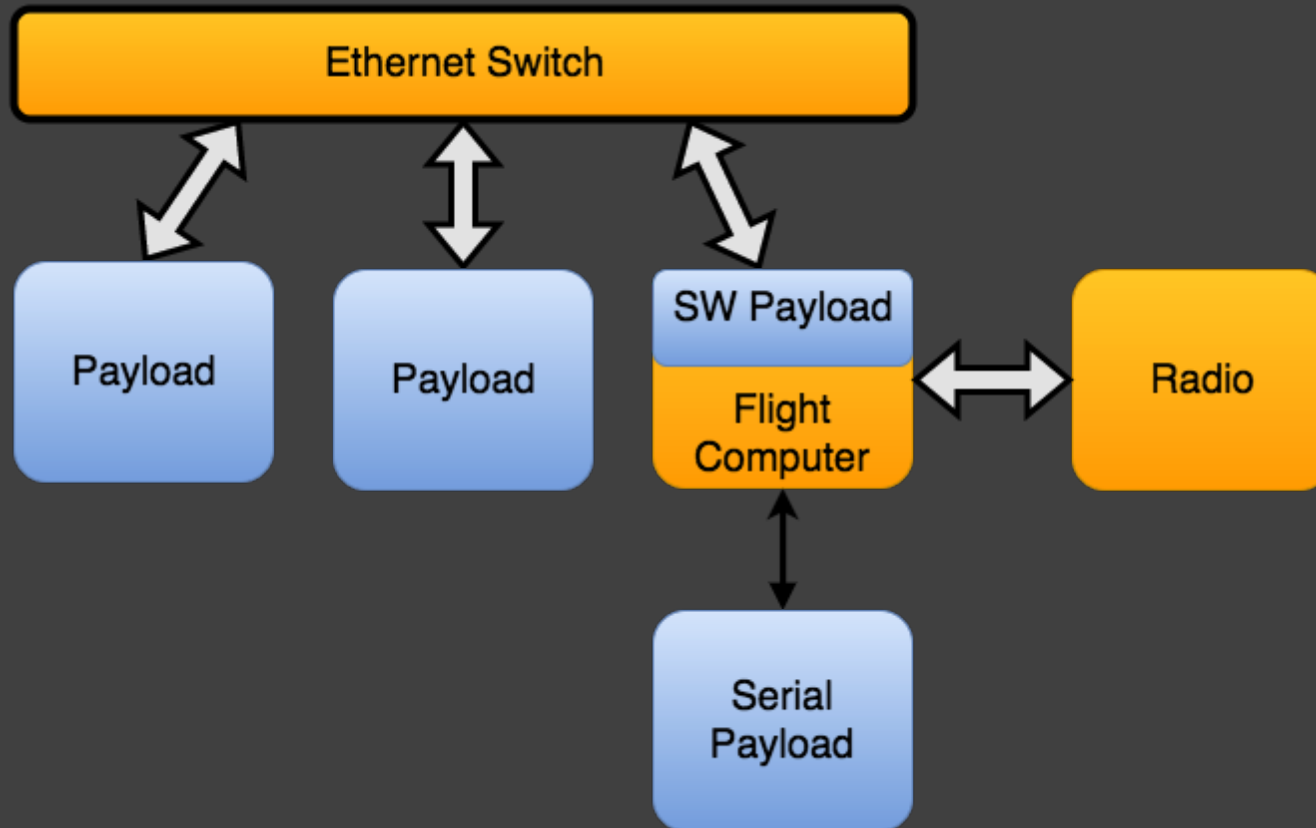
SUPERNOVA

Capable Cubesats

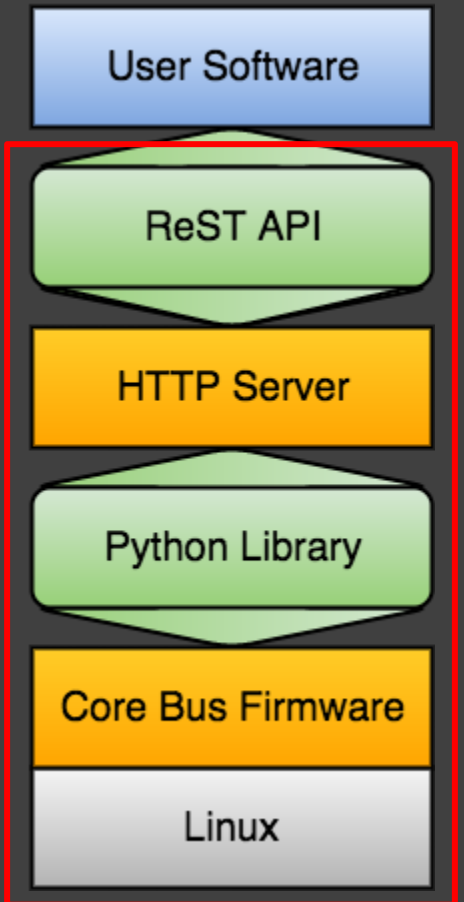
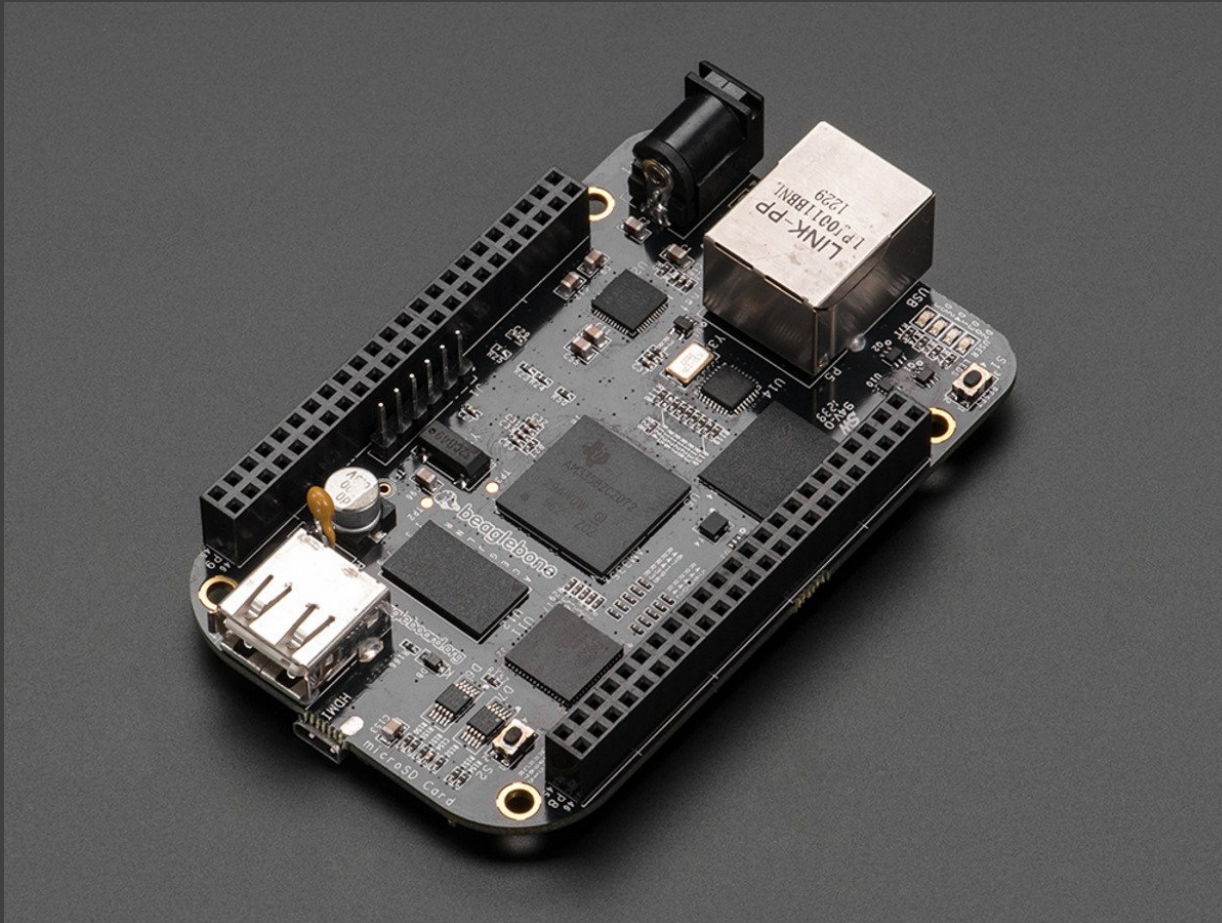
- **Powerful Processors with Small Form Factors**
 - Beaglebone Black, Raspberry Pi, etc.
- **Ethernet Connectivity**
 - Internal IP network
- **Open Source tools**
 - Massive user base
 - Exponentially increases speed of development
- **You can now “Fly your Laptop”**



Satellite Local IP Network

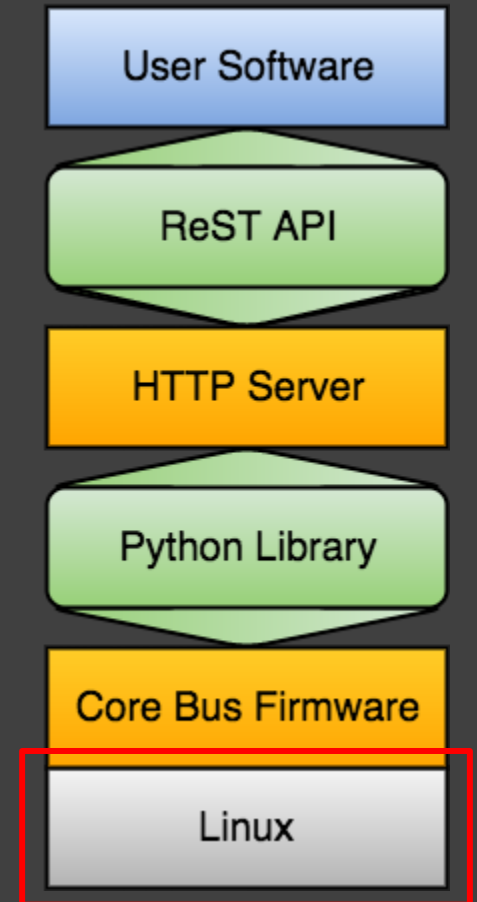


“Under the Hood” - System Architecture



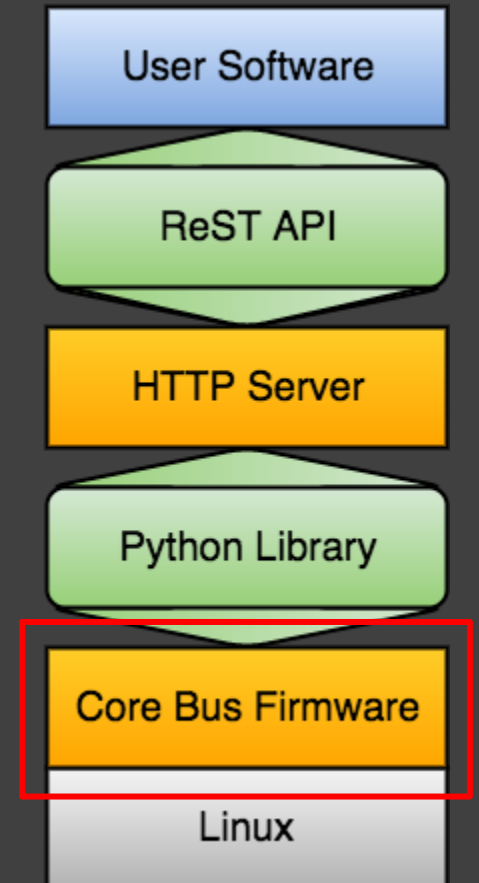
System Architecture

- **Linux Base**
 - Custom linux build tailored to the Beaglebone
 - Familiar platform for developers
 - Massive user base to provide open source tools and support



System Architecture

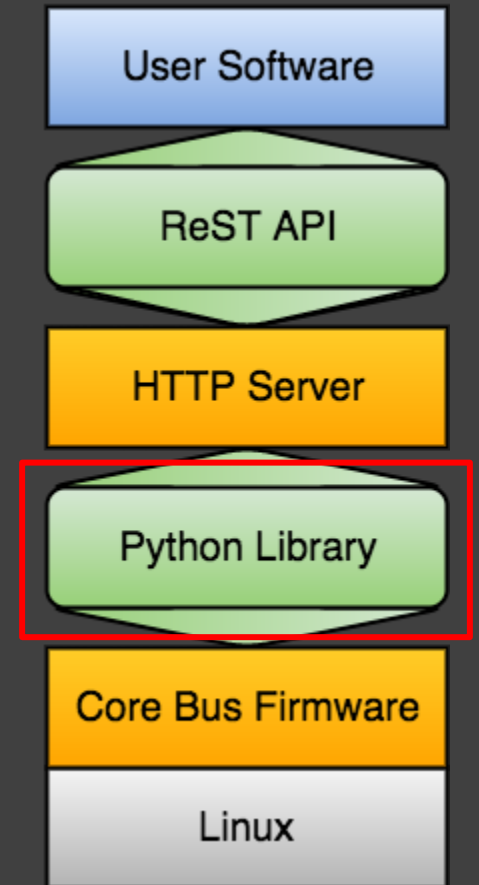
- **Core Bus Firmware**
 - Hardware Interface
 - “bent-pipe”
 - CCSDS Spacepacket standard
 - Ubiquitous in current flight software and groundstations
 - Lowest level interface
 - High TRL base



System Architecture

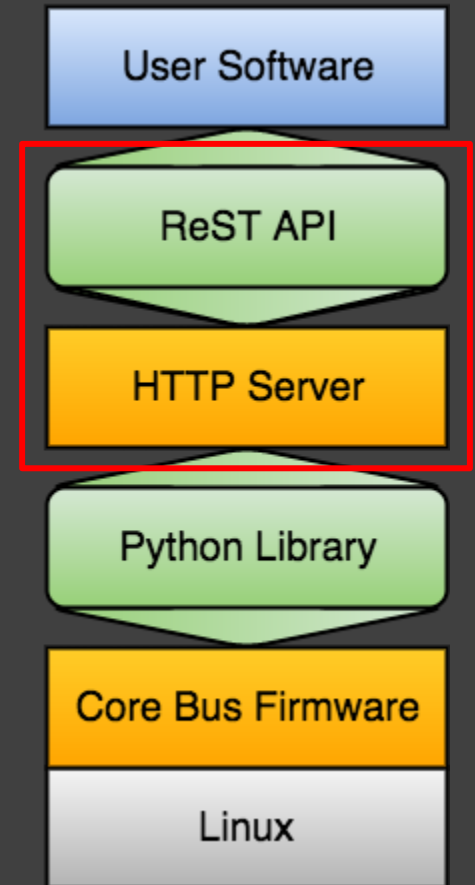
- **Python Library**

- Open Source - On our GitHub
- Library for interfacing with the Core Firmware
 - CCSDS Spacepackets
- Can be used directly to build Python payload applications
 - event-driven applications
 - service based



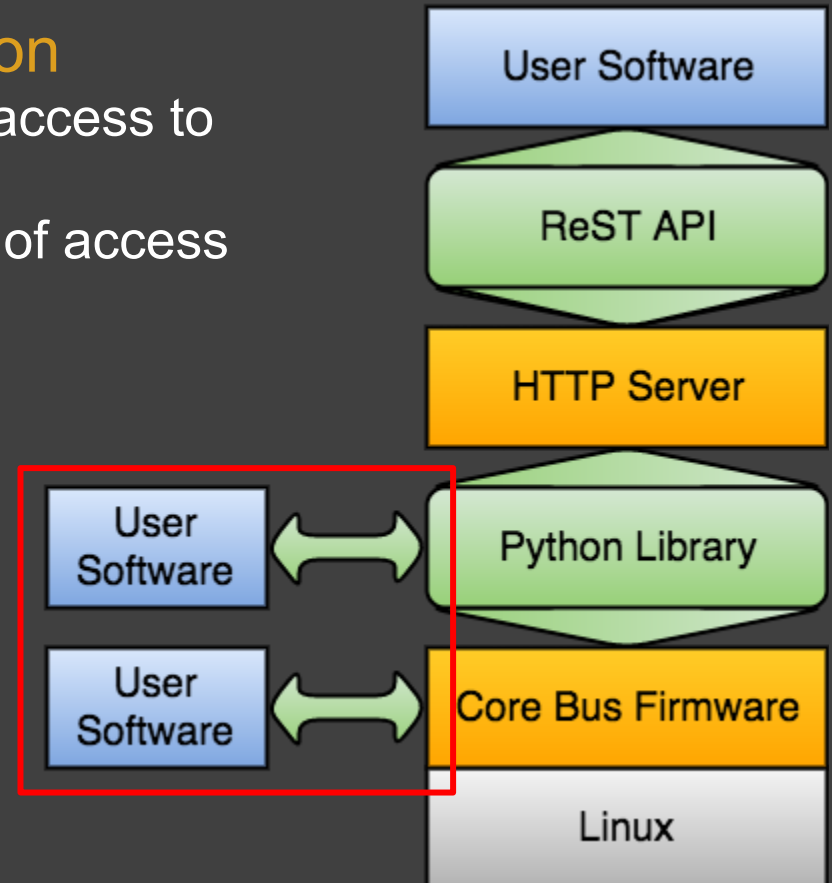
System Architecture

- **HTTP server**
 - High Level
 - Internet standards:
 - ReSTful API
 - JSON data format
 - Exposes most common Core functionality
- **Advantages to Payload Developer**
 - Familiar protocol
 - Wide native or library HTTP support:
 - Java, Python, JavaScript, C/C++, C#, ...
 - API retains backward-compatibility through hardware upgrades
 - Data interchange is standard & intuitive (JSON)



System Architecture

- **Multiple Levels of Abstraction**
 - Low level control and direct access to the Core
 - High level interface for ease of access and development



Example Payload: Antarctic Observation

- **Mission:**
 - Support antarctic base research with aerial footage at high temporal resolution.
- **Tasks:**
 - Take pictures of area around arctic base
 - Process pictures during orbit to measure ice
 - Downlink data & satellite health when passing over ground stations in lower latitudes



Example Payload: Design

- **Hardware:**

- Camera
- Linux Computer for controlling camera and image processing
 - Raspberry Pi, Beaglebone Black, NVidia Tegra
- SSD Drive for photo storage

- **Software:**

- Pick your favorite language.... Let's say C++
- Open HTTP Library for communication with the Flight Computer:
 - libcurl - <https://curl.haxx.se/libcurl/>
- Open Source JSON library:
 - JSON for modern C++ - <https://github.com/nlohmann/json>
- Open Source library for image processing:
 - OpenCV - <http://opencv.org/>

Example Payload: Payload <--> Bus

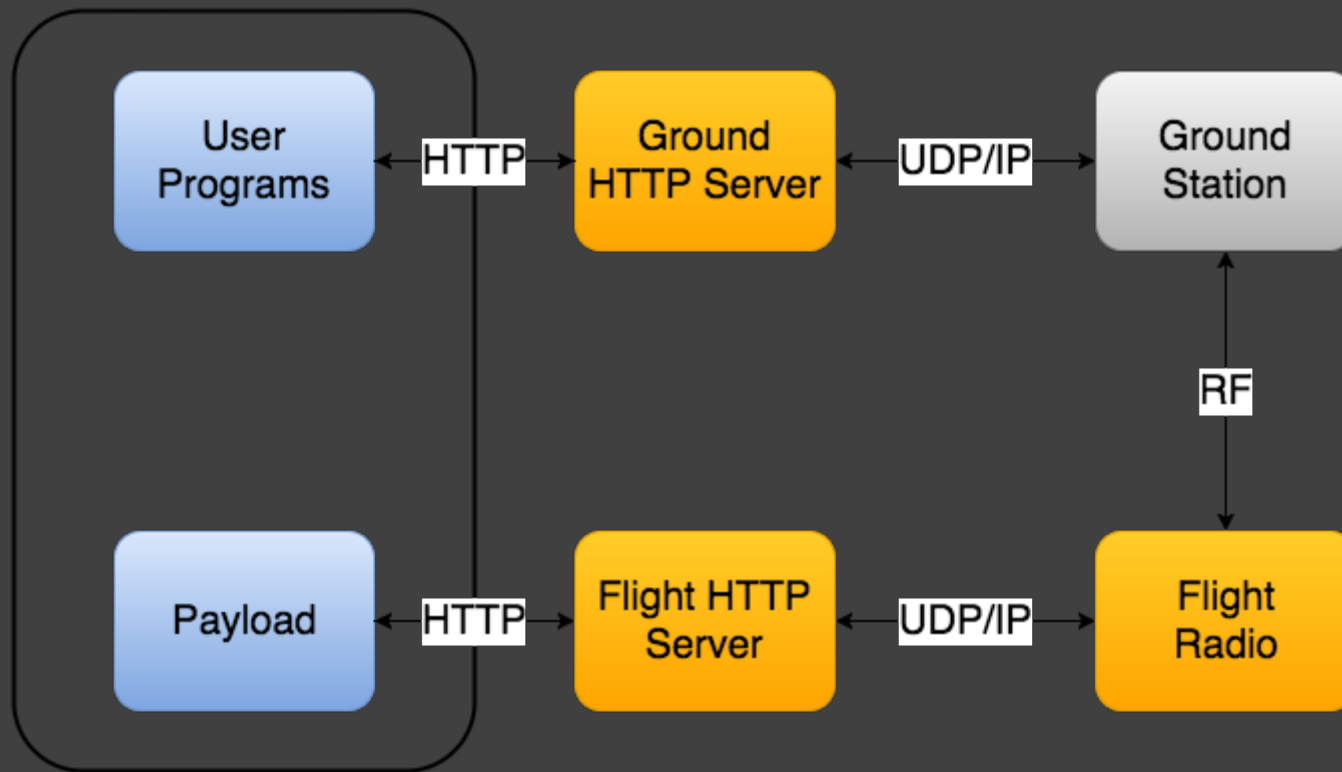
- Check for pass over antarctic to take photos:
 - *GET /gps/state*
 - Response: {lat: 84, long: -44, altitude: 235}
- Request to point camera at targets:
 - *POST /adcs/attitude*
- Send data to flight computer for downlink on next pass:
 - *PUT /payload-01/telemetry-downlink*
 - Body: {measurement_1: 344, measurement_2: 874, ...}
- Check for commands from ground to downlink raw data:
 - *GET /payload-01/commands*
- Send raw files to be downlinked:
 - *PUT /payload-01/data-downlink*

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Data and
Commands are
human readable

Pumpkin Mission Architecture



Example Payload: Ground Station <--> Ground Applications

- **Same Interface on Ground**
 - Payload data pulled into cloud database for analysis
 - Command/control remote from ground stations
 - Phone alerts about satellite health, pass information, etc. sent to dish operators & mission engineers.
- **Design an App for your satellite**

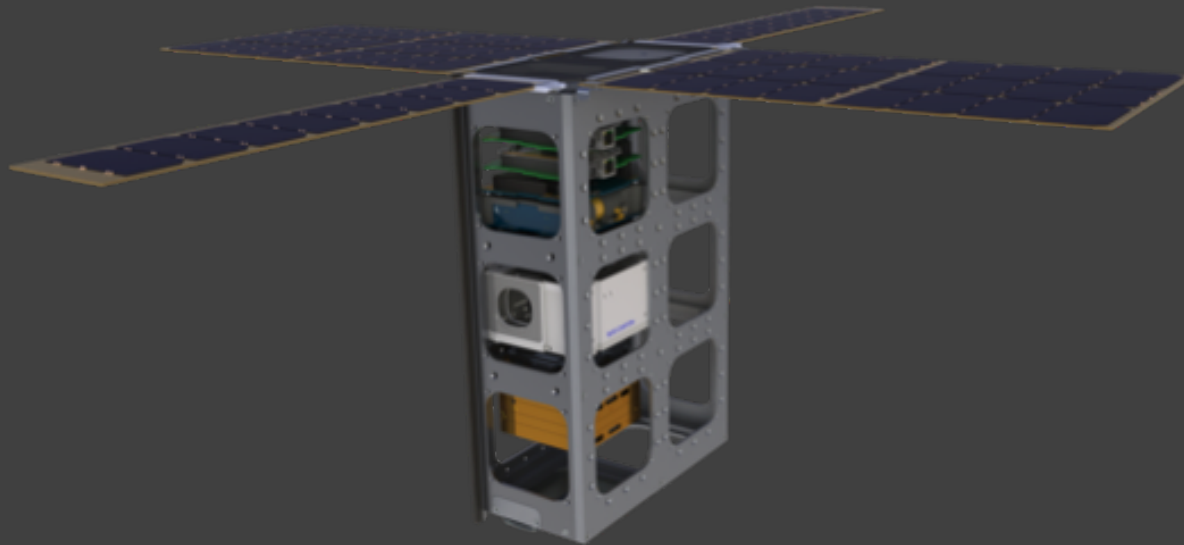


Development Status

- **Beta Release Ready:**
 - Core Bus Firmware
 - Python Libraries
 - HTTP/ReST Server Bus - Payload
- **In early development:**
 - Ground station HTTP server

Conclusion

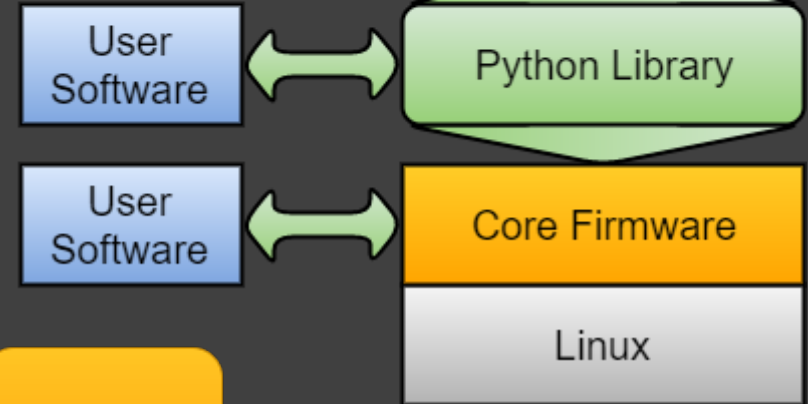
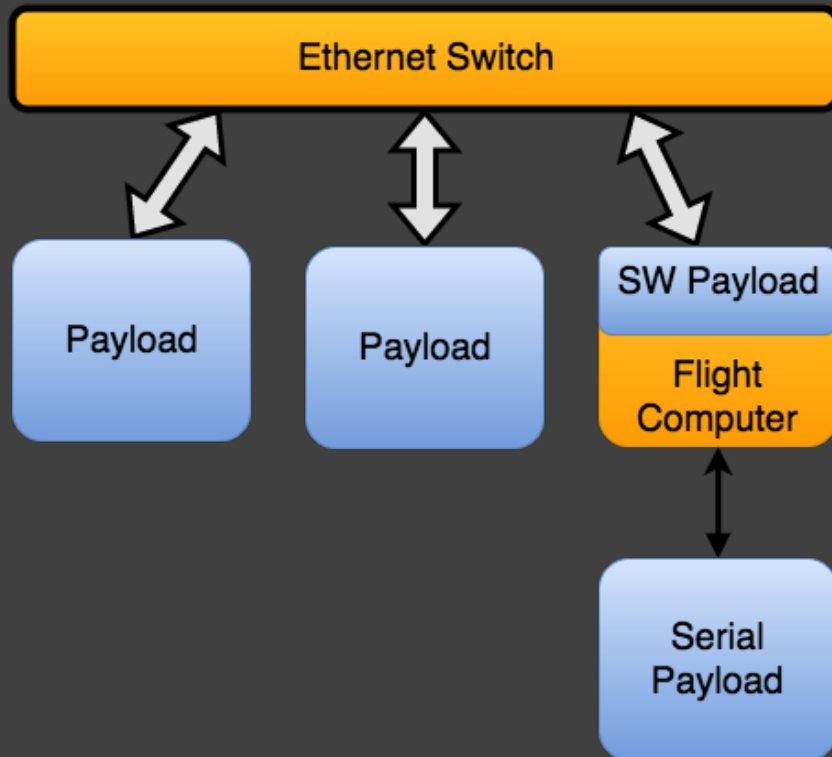
- Powerful flight computers for Cubesats are here
- Adopt web standards for easy integration
- Modular and Open Source Systems speed up development



Thanks...

- Shaun Houlihan
- Austin Small
- James Womack
- Devlyn Nelson

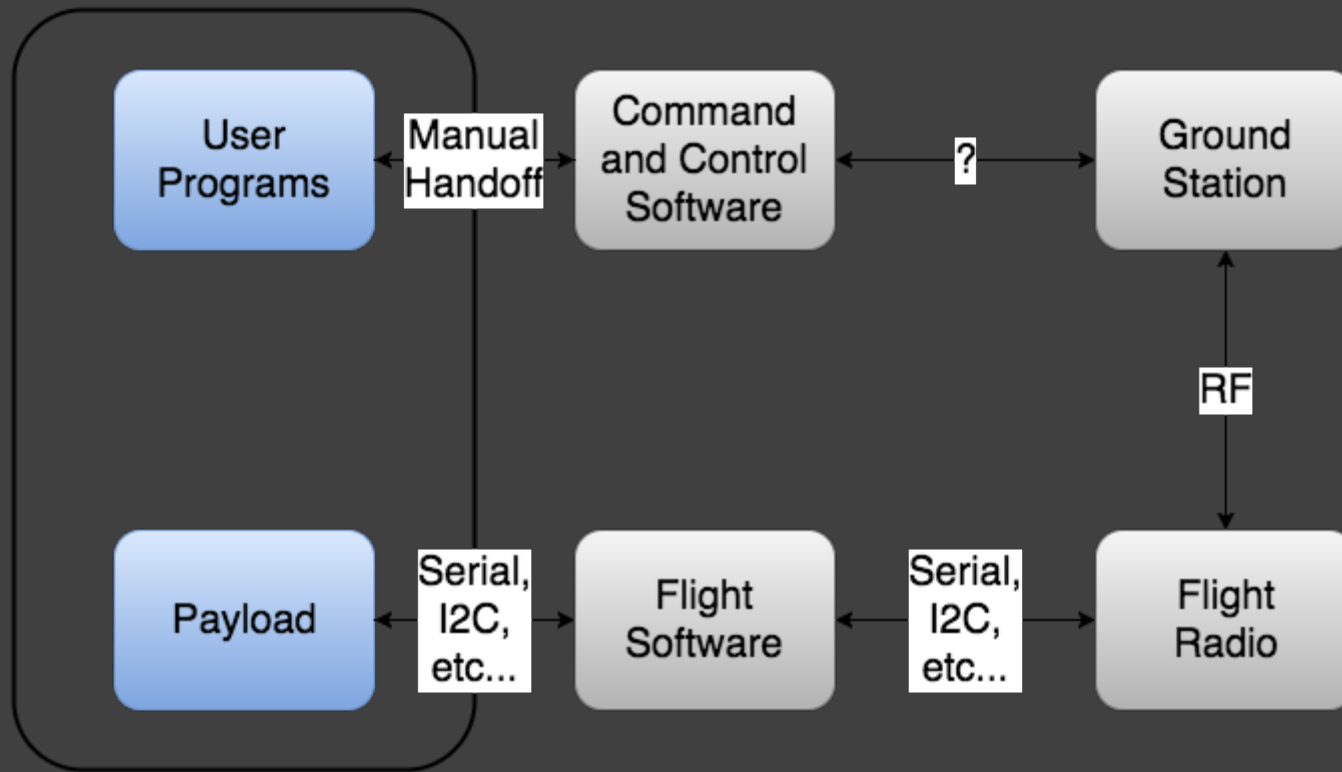
Questions?



Goals

- **Reliable**
 - Leverage as much flight heritage as possible
 - Compartmentalize mission specific code
- **Capable**
 - Fully utilize all onboard hardware
 - Allow access to all levels of the system
- **Compatible**
 - Fits into current systems seamlessly
 - Use widely adopted hardware/software standards
- **User friendly**
 - Provide multiple levels of abstraction
 - Enable everyone from novice to veteran developers
 - Open source

Typical Mission Architecture



Pumpkin Mission Architecture

