

16AIO

**16-Bit/12-Bit ADC/DAC, 32 Scanned Analog Inputs
4 Analog Outputs, 16-bit Digital I/O**

**All Form Factors
All 16AIO/LCAIO Models
All 12AIO/LCAIO Models**

Linux Driver User Manual

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Preface

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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to describe the interface to the 16AIO API Library and to the underlying Linux device driver. The API Library software provides the interface between "Application Software" and the device driver. The driver software provides the interface between the API Library and the actual 16AIO hardware. The API Library and driver interfaces are based on the board's functionality.

1.2. Acronyms

The following is a list of commonly occurring acronyms which may appear throughout this document.

Acronyms	Description
ADC	Analog-to-Digital Converter
API	Application Programming Interface
DAC	Digital-to-Analog Converter
DMA	Direct Memory Access
glibc	GNU C Library
GS	General Standards
GSC	General Standards Corporation
PC104P	This refers to the PC/104+ form factor.
PCI	Peripheral Component Interconnect
PIO	Programmed I/O
PMC	PCI Mezzanine Card

1.3. Definitions

The following is a list of commonly occurring terms which may appear throughout this document.

Term	Definition
...	This is a shortcut representation of the 16AIO installation directory or any of its subdirectories.
16AIO	This is used as a general reference to any device supported by this driver.
API Library	This is a library that provides application-level access to 16AIO hardware.
Application	This is a user mode process, which runs in user space with user mode privileges.
Driver	This is the 16AIO device driver, which runs in kernel space with kernel mode privileges.
Library	This is usually a general reference to the API Library.

1.4. Software Overview

1.4.1. Basic Software Architecture

This section describes the general architecture for the basic components that comprise 16AIO applications. The overall architecture is illustrated in Figure 1 below.

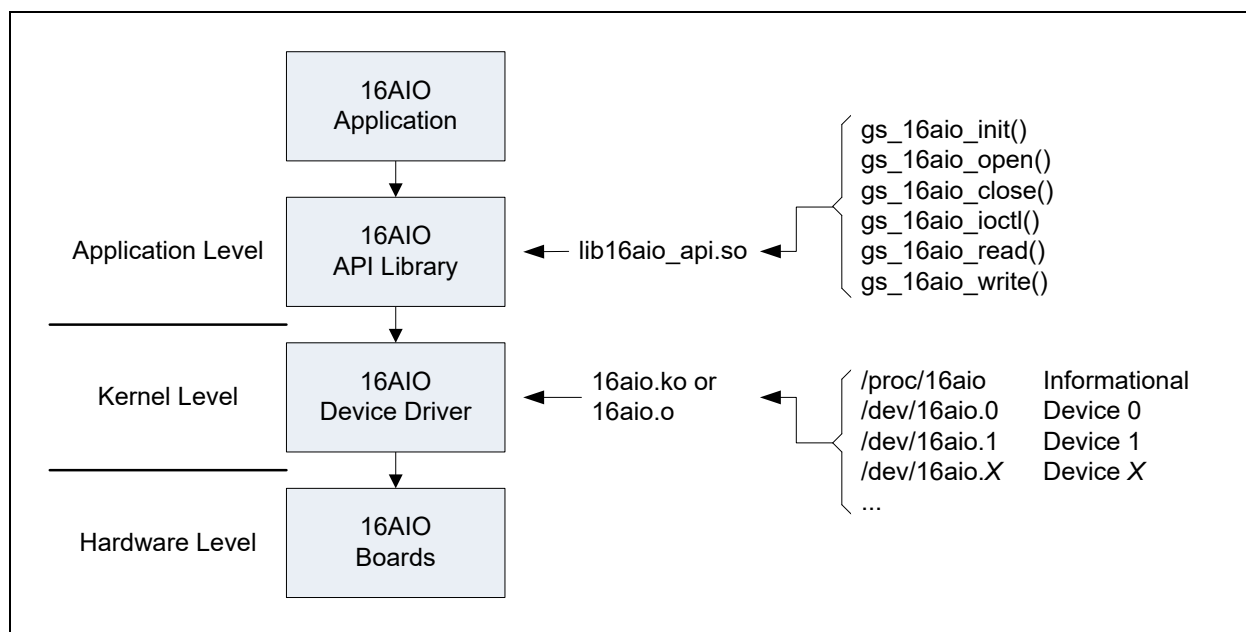


Figure 1 Basic architectural representation.

1.4.2. API Library

The primary means of accessing 16AIO boards is via the 16AIO API Library. This library forms a layer between the application and the driver. Additional information is given in section 4 (page 17). With the library, applications are able to open and close access to a device and, while open, perform I/O control and read and write operations.

1.4.3. Device Driver

The device driver is the host software that provides a means of communicating directly with 16AIO hardware. The driver executes under control of the operating system and runs in Kernel Mode as a Kernel Mode device driver. The driver is implemented as a standard dynamically loadable Linux device driver written in the C programming language. While applications can access the driver directly without use of the API Library, it is recommended that all access is made through the Library.

1.5. Hardware Overview

The 16AIO is a high-speed analog Input/Output board. The 16AIO offers 16-bits of resolution. The 12AIO offers 12-bits of resolution. The inputs are configurable as either 32 single-ended input channels or as 16 differential input pairs. There are also four analog output channels. The input sampling rate is at an aggregate rate of up to 300,000 samples per second for the 16AIO and it is up to 1,500,000 for the 12AIO. The output sampling rate is up to 300,000 samples per second per channel for the 16AIO and up to 400,000 for the 12AIO. The analog channels can be clocked from either of two independently configurable on-board clocks. Input and output clocking can be either synchronized or independent and can use either on-board or external synchronization signals. A synchronization output is included so that multiple boards can operate in unison. The analog I/O voltage range is software selectable as +/-2.5V, +/-5V or +/-10V. Internal auto calibration networks permit periodic calibration to be performed without removing the board from the system. The board also features two independent 32K deep FIFOs; one for input and one for output. The output FIFO can be configured for single-shot or continuous waveform output. A 16-bit bi-directional digital I/O port is also provided, along with two auxiliary I/O lines. The board also includes DMA and interrupt capabilities.

1.6. Reference Material

The following reference material may be of particular benefit in using the 16AIO. The specifications provide the information necessary for an in depth understanding of the specialized features implemented on this board.

- The applicable *16AIO User Manual* from General Standards Corporation.
- The PCI9080 PCI Bus Master Interface Chip data handbook from PLX Technology, Inc.

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870 Maude Avenue
Sunnyvale, California 94085 USA
Phone: 1-800-759-3735
WEB: <http://www.plxtech.com>

1.7. Licensing

For licensing information please refer to the text file `LICENSE.txt` in the root installation directory.

1.8. API Naming Conventions, Asynchronous I/O and glibc 2.34

The GSC device driver and API Libraries derive their API identifier prefixes primarily from the base model number of the board(s) supported by the driver. For the 16AIO and 12AIO family of boards, the default API identifiers originally used a prefix of “`aio_`”. Identifier content following the prefix referred more specifically to the identifier’s purpose. So, the identifier “`aio_init`” was a function name whose purpose was to initialize the 16AIO API Library for subsequent use. (See section 4, page 17 for more details.) Unfortunate for the 16AIO API Library, that same prefix has been used by POSIX since 1993 for the Asynchronous I/O services. Not only does the 16AIO API Library use the same prefix, but it duplicates some of the exact same identifiers. Originally, the duplicate identifiers may have generated compilation errors, but only if source code included both the 16AIO API Library header (`16aio.h`) and the Asynchronous I/O header (`aio.h`). Otherwise, the duplicate identifiers may have resulted in either linker errors or run time errors, depending on the environment and other libraries used by the application. Now however, for glibc users, as of glibc 2.34, the Asynchronous I/O functionality has been moved from the Real Time library (`librt.so`) to the GNU Standard C library (`libc.so`). As a result, 16AIO based applications might report multiple definition linker errors or they may operate incorrectly, where such errors had not previously appeared. Thus, such errors might now appear merely by updating the GNU Standard C library. To address these conflicting symbol errors, the 16AIO driver and API Library have both switched from the prefix “`aio_`” to “`gs_16aio_`”, for both lowercase and uppercase identifiers.

2. Installation

2.1. CPU and Kernel Support

The driver is designed to operate with Linux kernel versions 6.x, 5.x, 4.x, 3.x, 2.6, 2.4 and 2.2 running on a PC system with one or more x86/x64 processors. This release of the driver supports the below listed kernels.

Kernel	Distribution
6.8.5	Red Hat Fedora Core 40
6.5.6	Red Hat Fedora Core 39
6.2.9	Red Hat Fedora Core 38
6.0.7	Red Hat Fedora Core 37
5.17.5	Red Hat Fedora Core 36
5.14.10	Red Hat Fedora Core 35
5.11.12	Red Hat Fedora Core 34
5.8.15	Red Hat Fedora Core 33
5.6.6	Red Hat Fedora Core 32
5.3.7	Red Hat Fedora Core 31
5.0.9	Red Hat Fedora Core 30
4.18.16	Red Hat Fedora Core 29
4.16.3	Red Hat Fedora Core 28
4.13.9	Red Hat Fedora Core 27
4.11.8	Red Hat Fedora Core 26
4.8.6	Red Hat Fedora Core 25
4.5.5	Red Hat Fedora Core 24
4.2.3	Red Hat Fedora Core 23
4.0.4	Red Hat Fedora Core 22
3.17.4	Red Hat Fedora Core 21
3.11.10	Red Hat Fedora Core 20
3.9.5	Red Hat Fedora Core 19
3.6.10	Red Hat Fedora Core 18
3.3.4	Red Hat Fedora Core 17
3.1.0	Red Hat Fedora Core 16
2.6.38	Red Hat Fedora Core 15
2.6.35	Red Hat Fedora Core 14
2.6.33	Red Hat Fedora Core 13
2.6.31	Red Hat Fedora Core 12
2.6.29	Red Hat Fedora Core 11
2.6.27	Red Hat Fedora Core 10
2.6.25	Red Hat Fedora Core 9
2.6.23	Red Hat Fedora Core 8
2.6.21	Red Hat Fedora Core 7
2.6.18	Red Hat Fedora Core 6
2.6.15	Red Hat Fedora Core 5
2.6.11	Red Hat Fedora Core 4
2.6.9	Red Hat Fedora Core 3
2.4.18	Red Hat 8.0

NOTE: Some older kernel versions are supported (the sources are maintained), but are not tested.

NOTE: While only Red Hat Fedora distributions are listed, numerous other distributions are supported and have been tested on an as needed basis.

NOTE: The driver will have to be built before being used as it is provided in source form only.

NOTE: The driver has not been tested with a non-versioned kernel.

NOTE: The driver is designed for SMP support, but has not undergone SMP specific testing.

2.1.1. 32-bit Support Under 64-bit Environments

This driver supports 32-bit applications under 64-bit environments. The availability of this feature in the kernel depends on a 64-bit kernel being configured to support 32-bit application compatibility. Additionally, 2.6 kernels prior to 2.6.11 implemented 32-bit compatibility in a way that resulted in some drivers not being able to take advantage of the feature. (In these kernels a driver's IOCTL command codes must be globally unique. Beginning with 2.6.11 this requirement has been lifted.) If the driver is not able to provide 32-bit support under a 64-bit kernel, the "32-bit support" field in the `/proc/16aio` file will be "no".

2.2. The `/proc/` File System

While the driver is running, the text file `/proc/16aio` can be read to obtain information about the driver and the boards it detects. Each file entry includes an entry name followed immediately by a colon, a space character, and the entry value. Below is an example of what appears in the file, followed by descriptions of each entry.

```
version: 6.0.117.52
32-bit support: yes
boards: 2
models: 16AIO,12AIO
```

Entry	Description
version	This gives the driver version number in the form <code>x.x.x.x</code> .
32-bit support	This reports the driver's support for 32-bit applications. This will be either "yes" or "no" for 64-bit driver builds and "yes (native)" for 32-bit builds.
boards	This identifies the total number of boards the driver detected.
models	This gives a comma separated list of the basic model number for each board the driver detected. The model numbers are listed in the same order that the boards are accessed via the API Library's open function.

2.3. File List

This release consists of the below listed primary files. The archive content is described in following subsections.

File	Description
<code>16aio.linux.tar.gz</code>	This archive contains the driver, the API Library and all related files.
<code>16aio_api_rm.pdf</code>	This is a PDF version of the 16AIO API Library Reference Manual.
<code>16aio_linux_um.pdf</code>	This is a PDF version of this user manual, which is included in the archive.

2.4. Directory Structure

The following table describes the directory structure utilized by the installed files. During installation the directory structure is created and populated with the respective files.

Directory	Description
<code>16aio/</code>	This is the driver root directory. It contains the documentation, the Overall Make Script (section 2.7, page 12) and the below listed subdirectories.
<code>.../api/</code>	This directory contains the API Library source files (section 4, page 17).

.../docsrc/	This directory contains the source files for the code samples given in this document (section 6, page 23).
.../driver/	This directory contains the device driver source files (section 5, page 19).
.../include/	This directory contains the header files for the various libraries.
.../lib/	This directory contains all of the libraries built from the installed sources.
.../samples/	This directory contains the sample application subdirectories and all of their corresponding source files (section 9, page 26).
.../utils/	This directory contains the source files for the utility libraries used by the sample applications (section 7, page 24).

2.5. Installation

Perform installation following the below listed steps. This installs the device driver, the API Library and all related sources and documentation.

1. Create and change to the directory where the files are to be installed, such as `/usr/src/linux/drivers/`. (The path name may vary among distributions and kernel versions.)
2. Copy the archive file `16aio.linux.tar.gz` into the current directory.
3. Issue the following command to decompress and extract the files from the provided archive. This creates the directory `16aio` in the current directory, and then copies all of the archive's files into this new directory.

```
tar -xzf 16aio.linux.tar.gz
```

2.6. Removal

Perform removal following the below listed steps. This removes the device driver, the API Library and all related sources and documentation.

NOTE: The following steps may require elevated privileges.

1. Shutdown the driver as described in section 5.6 (page 22).
2. Change to the directory where the driver archive was installed, which may have been `/usr/src/linux/drivers/`. (The path name may vary among distributions and kernel versions.)
3. Issue the below command to remove the driver archive and all of the installed driver files.

```
rm -rf 16aio.linux.tar.gz 16aio
```

4. Issue the below command to remove all of the installed device nodes.

```
rm -f /dev/16aio.*
```

5. If the automatic startup procedure was adopted (section 5.3.2, page 20), then edit the system startup script `rc.local` and remove the line that invokes the 16AIO's `start` script. The file `rc.local` should be located in the `/etc/rc.d/` directory.

2.7. Overall Make Script

An Overall Make Script is included in the root installation directory. Executing this script will perform a make for all build targets included in the release. The script also loads the driver and copies the API Library to `/usr/lib/`. The script is named `make_all`. Follow the below steps to perform an overall make and to load the driver.

NOTE: The following steps may require elevated privileges.

1. Change to the driver root directory (.../16aio/).
2. Remove existing build targets using the below command. This does not unload the driver.

```
./make_all clean
```

3. Issue the following command to make all archive targets and to load the driver.

```
./make_all
```

2.8. Environment Variables

Some build environments may require compiler or linker options not present in the provided make files. To accommodate local environment specific requirements, the provided make files incorporate support for the following set of GSC specific environment variables.

2.8.1. GSC_API_COMP_FLAGS

This environment variable accommodates adding compiler command line options when compiling source files for the API Library. The compiler used by the API Library make file is “gcc”. The content of this environment variable is noted in the make file’s output to the screen. The table below shows a portion of the screen output. The “xxx” in the table refers to the contents of the environment variable. This environment variable has no effect on compiling any other distributed source files or linking of any object files.

Undefined or Empty	== Compiling: init.c	
	== Compiling: ioctl.c	
	== Compiling: open.c	
Defined and Not Empty	== Compiling: init.c (added 'xxx')	
	== Compiling: ioctl.c (added 'xxx')	
	== Compiling: open.c (added 'xxx')	

2.8.2. GSC_API_LINK_FLAGS

This environment variable accommodates adding linker command line options when linking object files for the API Library. The linker used by the API Library make file is “ld”. The content of this environment variable is noted in the make file’s output to the screen. The table below shows a portion of the screen output. The “xxx” in the table refers to the contents of the environment variable. This environment variable has no effect on compiling of any source files or linking of any other object files.

Undefined or Empty	==== Linking: ../lib/lib16aio_api.so
Defined and Not Empty	==== Linking: ../lib/lib16aio_api.so (added 'xxx')

2.8.3. GSC_LIB_COMP_FLAGS

This environment variable accommodates adding compiler command line options when compiling source files for the utility libraries. The compiler used by the utility library make files is “gcc”. The content of this environment variable is noted in the make files’ output to the screen. The table below shows a portion of the screen output. The “xxx” in the table refers to the contents of the environment variable. This environment variable has no effect on compiling any other distributed source files or linking of any object files.

Undefined or Empty	== Compiling: close.c == Compiling: init.c == Compiling: ioctl.c
Defined and Not Empty	== Compiling: close.c (added 'xxx') == Compiling: init.c (added 'xxx') == Compiling: ioctl.c (added 'xxx')

2.8.4. GSC_LIB_LINK_FLAGS

This environment variable accommodates adding linker command line options when linking object files for the utility libraries. The linker used by the utility library make files is “ld”. The content of this environment variable is noted in the make files’ output to the screen. The table below shows a portion of the screen output. The “xxx” in the table refers to the contents of the environment variable. This environment variable has no effect on compiling of any source files or linking of any other object files.

Undefined or Empty	==== Linking: ../lib/16aio_utils.a
Defined and Not Empty	==== Linking: ../lib/16aio_utils.a (added 'xxx')

2.8.5. GSC_APP_COMP_FLAGS

This environment variable accommodates adding compiler command line options when compiling source files for the sample applications. The compiler used by the sample application make files is “gcc”. The content of this environment variable is noted in the make files’ output to the screen. The table below shows a portion of the screen output. The “xxx” in the table refers to the contents of the environment variable. This environment variable has no effect on compiling any other distributed source files or linking of any object files.

Undefined or Empty	== Compiling: main.c == Compiling: perform.c
Defined and Not Empty	== Compiling: main.c (added 'xxx') == Compiling: perform.c (added 'xxx')

2.8.6. GSC_APP_LINK_FLAGS

This environment variable accommodates adding linker command line options when linking object files for the sample applications. The linker used by the sample application make files is “gcc”. The content of this environment variable is noted in the make files’ output to the screen. The table below shows a portion of the screen output. The “xxx” in the table refers to the contents of the environment variable. This environment variable has no effect on compiling of any source files or linking of any other object files.

Undefined or Empty	==== Linking: id
Defined and Not Empty	==== Linking: id (added 'xxx')

3. Main Interface Files

This section gives general information on the suggested device interface files to use when developing 16AIO based applications.

3.1. Main Header File

Throughout the remainder of this document references are made to various header files included as part of the 16AIO driver installation. For ease of use it is suggested that applications include only the single header file shown below rather than individually including those headers identified separately later in this document. Including this header file pulls in all other pertinent 16AIO specific header files. Therefore, sources may include only this one 16AIO header and make files may reference only this one 16AIO include directory.

Description	File	Location
Header File	16aio_main.h	.../include/

3.2. Main Library File

Throughout the remainder of this document references are made to various statically linkable libraries included as part of the 16AIO driver installation. For ease of use it is suggested that applications link only the single library file shown below rather than individually linking those libraries identified separately later in this document. Linking this library file pulls in all other static libraries included with the driver. Therefore, make files may reference only this one 16AIO static library and only this one 16AIO library directory.

Description	File	Location
Static Library	16aio_main.a	.../lib/
	16aio_multi.a	

NOTE: For applications using the 16AIO and no other GSC devices, link the 16aio_main.a library. For applications using multiple GSC device types, link the xxxx_main.a library for one of the devices and the xxxx_multi.a library for the others. Linking multiple xxxx_main.a libraries may likely produce link errors due to duplicate symbols being defined. While it may make little or no difference, it is recommended that one choose the xxxx_main.a library from the driver with the largest number in positions three (x.x.X.x.x) and/or four (x.x.x.X.x) in the driver release version number.

NOTE: The 16AIO API Library is implemented as a shared library and is thus not linked with the 16AIO Main Library. The API Library must be linked with applications by adding the argument -l16aio_api to the linker command line.

3.2.1. Build

The main library is built via the Overall Make Script (section 2.7, page 12). However, the main library can be built separately following the below steps.

1. Change to the directory where the main library resides (.../lib/).
2. Remove existing build targets using the below command.

```
make clean
```

3. Build the main library by issuing the below command.

```
make
```

3.2.2. System Libraries

In addition to linking the static library named above, as well as the API Library shared object file, applications may need to also link in additional system libraries as noted below.

Library	gcc Link Flag
Math	-lm
POSIX Thread	-lpthread
Real Time	-lrt

3.2.3. Shared Object Script: Build the Main Libraries as Shared Object Files

The main libraries built via the Overall Make Script (section 2.7, page 12) are static library files. Some applications however, require that the Main Libraries be accessed as shared object files. Generating shared object files require that all of the static libraries be recompiled for this purpose and linked as .so files. This is done using the Shared Object Script named below. When run, the script invokes the Overall Make Script to clean all existing build targets, deletes the two shared object files named below, if they exist, defines an environment variable used by all of the static library make files, invokes the Overall Make Script again to rebuild all existing build targets then invokes make on the library make file (.../lib/makefile) to link the shared object files. The required manual steps are as follows.

1. Change to the directory where the main library files reside (.../lib/).
2. Execute the below script.

```
./static_to_shared.sh
```

Running the above-named Shared Object Script produces the files given in the table below. These shared object files fulfill the same purpose as the similarly named static libraries as described in the note under section 3.2 above. Refer to that note when selecting which shared object file to use.

Description	File	Location
Shared Object Files	lib16aio_main.so	.../lib/
	lib16aio_multi.so	
	lib16aio_all.so†	

† This library includes all generated libraries, including the API Library shared object file content.

The shared object files can be linked via two different methods. In the first method, the application linker command line can explicitly name the file in the same manner as is done were it a static library. This is the method used by the sample applications, all of which use the 16AIO API Library, which itself is a shared object file. This file is also found in the .../lib/ subdirectory. In the second method, the .so files are copied to the /usr/lib/ subdirectory and are referenced on the application's linker command line as given in the table below.

Library	gcc Link Flag
lib16aio_main.so	-l16aio_main
lib16aio_multi.so	-l16aio_multi
lib16aio_all.so†	-l16aio_all

† This library includes all generated libraries, including the API Library shared object file content.

4. API Library

The 16AIO API Library is the software interface between user applications and the 16AIO device driver. The interface is accessed by including the header file `16aio_api.h`.

NOTE: Contact General Standards Corporation if additional library functionality is required.

4.1. Files

The library files are summarized in the table below.

Description	File	Location
Source Files	*.c, *.h/api/
Header File	<code>16aio_api.h</code>	.../include/
Library File	<code>lib16aio_api.so</code>	.../lib/ /usr/lib/ †

† The shared object library is automatically copied to `/usr/lib/` when it is built.

4.2. Build

The API Library is built via the Overall Make Script (section 2.7, page 12), but can be built separately following the below steps.

NOTE: The following steps may require elevated privileges.

1. Change to the directory where the library sources are installed (`.../api/`).
2. Remove existing build targets using the below command.

```
make clean
```

3. Compile the source files and build the library by issuing the below command. This step copies the API Library file to `/usr/lib/`.

```
make
```

4.3. Library Use

The library is used at application compile time, at application link time and at application run time. At compile time include the below listed header file in each source file using a component of the Library interface. Also, edit the include file search path to locate the header file in the below listed directory. At link time the Library's shared object file is linked via the linker command line. This can be done by naming the `.so` file explicitly or by adding the below linker command line argument. At run time the library is found in the directory `/usr/lib/`. (The shared object file is automatically copied to `/usr/lib/` when it is built.)

Description	File	Location	Linker Argument
Header File	<code>16aio_api.h</code>	.../include/	
Shared Object Library	<code>lib16aio_api.so</code>	.../lib/	
		/usr/lib/	<code>-l16aio_api</code>

4.4. Macros

For detailed macro information refer to this same section number in the *16AIO API Library Reference Manual*.

4.5. Data Types

For detailed data type information refer to this same section number in the *16AIO API Library Reference Manual*.

4.6. Functions

For detailed function information refer to this same section number in the *16AIO API Library Reference Manual*.

4.7. IOCTL Services

For detailed IOCTL information refer to this same section number in the *16AIO API Library Reference Manual*.

5. The Driver

NOTE: Contact General Standards Corporation if additional driver functionality is required.

5.1. Files

The device driver files are summarized in the table below.

Description	Files	Location
Source Files	*.c, *.h/driver/
Header File	16aio.h	
Driver File	16aio.ko † 16aio.o ‡	

† This is for kernel versions 2.6 and later.

‡ This is for kernel versions 2.4 are earlier.

5.2. Build

NOTE: Building the driver requires installation of the kernel headers and possibly other packages.

The device driver is built via the Overall Make Script (section 2.7, page 12), but can be built separately following the below steps.

1. Change to the directory where the driver and its sources are installed (.../driver/).
2. Remove existing build targets by issuing the below command.

```
make clean
```

3. Build the driver by issuing the below command.

```
make
```

NOTE: Due to the differences between the many Linux distributions some build errors may occur. These errors may include system header location differences, which should be easily corrected.

5.3. Startup

NOTE: The driver will have to be built before being used as it is provided in source form only.

The startup script used in this procedure is designed to load the device driver and create fresh device nodes. This is accomplished by unloading the current driver, if loaded, and then loading the accompanying driver executable. In addition, the script deletes and recreates the device nodes. This is done to ensure that the device nodes in use have the same major number as assigned dynamically to the driver by the kernel, and so that the number of device nodes corresponds to the number of boards identified by the driver.

5.3.1. Manual Driver Startup Procedures

Start the driver manually by following the below listed steps.

NOTE: The following steps may require elevated privileges.

1. Change to the directory where the driver sources are installed (.../driver/).
2. Install the driver module and create the device nodes by executing the below command. If any errors are encountered then an appropriate error message will be displayed.

```
./start
```

NOTE: This script must be executed each time the host is booted.

NOTE: The 16AIO device node major number is assigned dynamically by the kernel. The minor numbers and the device node suffix numbers are index numbers beginning with zero, and increase by one for each additional board installed.

3. Verify that the device driver module has been loaded by issuing the below command and examining the output. The module name `16aio` should be included in the output.

```
lsmod
```

4. Verify that the device nodes have been created by issuing the below command and examining the output. The output should include one node for each installed board.

```
ls -l /dev/16aio.*
```

5.3.2. Automatic Driver Startup Procedures

Start the driver automatically with each system reboot by following the below listed steps.

1. Locate and edit the system startup script `rc.local`, which should be in the `/etc/rc.d/` directory. Modify the file by adding the below line so that it is executed with every reboot. The example is based on the driver being installed in `/usr/src/linux/drivers/`, though it may have been installed elsewhere.

```
/usr/src/linux/drivers/16aio/driver/start
```

NOTE: For `systemd` installations the file `rc.local` may be located under the `/etc/` directory rather than under `/etc/rc.d/`.

2. Load the driver and create the required device nodes by rebooting the system.
3. Verify that the driver is loaded and that the device nodes have been created. Do this by following the verification steps given in the manual startup procedures.

5.3.2.1. File `rc.local` Not Present

Some distributions may not install a default version of `rc.local`. Some may not even create the directory `/etc/rc.d/`. If the directory is not present, then it may be created. The directory must be created with the owner and group set to `root`. The directory permissions must be set to `rwxr-xr-x`. If the file `/etc/rc.d/rc.local` is not present, then it too may be created. The file must also be created with the owner and group set to `root`. Additionally, the file permissions must also be set to `rwxr-xr-x`. After the directory and file are created as described, reboot to verify boot time loading of the driver. Here is an example of a default version of `rc.local`.

```
#!/bin/bash

# Add your local content here.
```

5.3.2.2. Default `rc.local` File Permissions

The `rc.local` script may fail to run at boot time because some distributions install a default version of the file without execute permissions. Without execute permissions, boot time invocation of the script fails, which inhibits boot time loading of the driver. If this is the case, then change the file permissions to `rxwxr-xr-x`. After the file permissions are adjusted as described, reboot to verify boot time loading of the driver.

5.3.2.3. `systemd` Installations

With the advent of the `systemd` startup implementation, `rc.local` may be accessed via a `systemd` startup service. The service name may be `rc-local`, `rc-local.service` or something similar. This service may or may not be enabled by default. If the service is disabled, then the script will not execute, which prevents boot time loading of the driver. The service can be enabled with the below command line. After the service is enabled, reboot to verify boot time loading of the driver.

```
systemctl enable rc-local
```

NOTE: For `systemd` installations the file `rc.local` may be located under the `/etc/` directory rather than under `/etc/rc.d/`.

5.3.2.4. `systemd` and `rc.local` Timing

If the above steps have been performed but the driver still does not start then examine the `dmesg` output for driver messages. If the output shows that the driver starts and immediately stops, then the problem may be timing. That is, since `systemd` doesn't serialize startup initialization as done in the past, driver loading may fail if required services have not completed their own initialization. If this is the problem, then it may be corrected simply by inserting a delay in `rc.local` prior to it calling the driver's start script (i.e., sleep for one or more seconds).

5.3.2.5. SELinux Implications

If not disabled, then SELinux may prevent boot time loading of the driver. If this is the case, then it can be verified and corrected using SELinux related tools and utilities. First, install the necessary software using the below command. (As necessary, replace the `yum` command line with that which is available for your distribution.)

```
yum install setroubleshoot setools
```

Next, run the below command to determine if SELinux is preventing the driver from loading at boot time.

```
sealert -a /var/log/audit/audit.log
```

If SELinux is preventing the driver from loading, then the output from the above command should include a reference to the driver's start script, the `insmod` command that loads the driver or the name of the driver executable. If so, then the output should also indicate the commands necessary to resolve the issue. The following is an example of the instructions given when the culprit is `insmod`, which is the start script command that loads the driver. After running these commands reboot the system to verify boot time loading of the driver.

```
ausearch -c 'insmod' --raw | audit2allow -M my-insmod
semodule -X 300 -i my-insmod.pp
```

5.4. Verification

Follow the below steps to verify that the driver has been properly installed and started.

1. Verify that the file `/proc/16aio` is present. If the file is present then the driver is loaded and running. Verify the file's presence by viewing its content with the below command.

```
cat /proc/16aio
```

5.5. Version

The driver version number can be obtained in a variety of ways. It is reported by the driver both when the driver is loaded and when it is unloaded (depending on kernel configuration options, this may be visible only in places such as `/var/log/messages`). It is reported in the text file `/proc/16aio` while the driver is loaded and running. The version number is also given in the file `release.txt` in the root install directory.

5.6. Shutdown

Shutdown the driver following the below listed steps.

NOTE: The following steps may require elevated privileges.

1. If the driver is currently loaded then issue the below command to unload the driver.

```
rmmod 16aio
```

2. Verify that the driver module has been unloaded by issuing the below command. The module name `16aio` should not be in the listed output.

```
lsmod
```

6. Document Source Code Examples

The source code examples included in the 16AIO API Library Reference Manual are built into a statically linkable library usable with console applications. The purpose of these files is to verify that the documentation samples compile and to provide a library of working sample code to assist in a user's learning curve and application development effort.

6.1. Files

The library files are summarized in the table below.

Description	Files	Location
Source Files	*.c, *.h/docsrc/
Header File	16aio_dsl.h	.../include/
Library File	16aio_dsl.a	.../lib/

6.2. Build

The library is built via the Overall Make Script (section 2.7, page 12), but can be built separately following the below steps.

1. Change to the directory where the documentation sources are installed (.../docsrc/).
2. Remove existing build targets by issuing the below command.

```
make clean
```

3. Compile the sample files and build the library by issuing the below command.

```
make
```

4. Rebuild the Main Library (section 3.2.1, page 15).

6.3. Library Use

The library is used both at application compile time and at application link time. At compile time include the above listed header file in each source file using a component of the library interface. At link time include the above listed static library file with the objects being linked with the application.

7. Utilities Source Code

The API Library installation includes a body of utility source code designed to aid in the understanding and use of the interface calls and IOCTL services. Utility sources are also included for device independent and common, general-purpose services. Most of the utilities are implemented as visual wrappers around the corresponding services to facilitate structured console output for the sample applications. The utility sources are compiled and linked into static libraries to simplify their use. An additional purpose of these utility services is to provide a library of working sample code to assist in a user's learning curve and application development effort.

For each API function there is a corresponding utility source file with a corresponding utility service. As an example, for the API function `gs_16aio_open()` there is the utility file `open.c` containing the utility function `gs_16aio_open_util()`. The naming pattern is as follows: API function `gs_16aio_xxxx()`, utility file name `xxxx.c`, utility function `gs_16aio_xxxx_util()`. Additionally, for each IOCTL code there is a corresponding utility source file with a corresponding utility service. As an example, for IOCTL code `GS_16AIO_IOCTL_QUERY` there is the utility file `query.c` containing the utility function `gs_16aio_query()`. The naming pattern is as follows: IOCTL code `GS_16AIO_IOCTL_xxxx`, utility file name `xxxx.c`, utility function `gs_16aio_xxxx()`.

7.1. Files

The utility files are summarized in the table below.

Description	Files	Location
Source Files	*.c, *.h/utils/
Header File	16aio_utils.h	.../include/
Library Files	16aio_utils.a gsc_utils.a os_utils.a plx_utils.a	.../lib/

7.2. Build

The libraries are built via the Overall Make Script (section 2.7, page 12), but can be built separately following the below steps.

1. Change to the directory where the utility sources are installed (.../utils/).
2. Remove existing build targets by issuing the below command.

```
make clean
```

3. Compile the sample files and build the library by issuing the below command.

```
make
```

4. Rebuild the Main Library (section 3.2.1, page 15).

7.3. Library Use

The library is used both at application compile time and at application link time. At compile time include the above listed header file in each source file using a component of the library interface. At link time include the above listed static library file with the objects being linked with the application.

8. Operating Information

For operating information refer to this same section number in the *16AIO API Library Reference Manual*.

9. Sample Applications

The driver archive includes a variety of sample and test applications located under the `samples` subdirectory. While they are provided without support and without any external documentation, any problems reported will be addressed as time permits. The applications are command line based and produce text output for display on a console. All of the applications are built via the Overall Make Script (section 2.7, page 12), but each may be built individually by changing to its respective directory and issuing the commands “`make clean`” and “`make`”. The initial output from each application includes information on its supported command line arguments. The following gives a brief overview of each application.

9.1. aoburst - Analog Output Burst - `.../aoburst/`

This application outputs a ramp wave on each of the four output channels using output bursting.

9.2. aout - Analog Output - `.../aout/`

This application outputs a repeating pattern on the four output channels. The pattern is different for each channel, though they are synchronized at the same sample rate.

9.3. auxin - Auxiliary Input - `.../auxin/`

This application reads the cable’s auxiliary input and reports the values read to the console.

9.4. auxout - Auxiliary Output - `.../auxout/`

This application writes a pattern to the cable’s auxiliary output line.

9.5. din - Digital Input - `.../din/`

This application reads the cable’s digital I/O signals and reports the values read to the console.

9.6. dout - Digital Output - `.../dout/`

This application writes a pattern to the cable’s digital output lines as it is displayed to the console.

9.7. id - Identify Board - `.../id/`

This application reports detailed board identification information. This can be used with tech support to help identify as much technical information about the board as possible from software.

9.8. laout - Looping Analog Output - `.../laout/`

This application outputs different test patterns on the four output channels using the output buffer looping feature.

9.9. regs - Register Access - `.../regs/`

This application provides menu based interactive access to the board’s registers, and reports other pertinent information to the console.

9.10. rxrate - Receive Rate - .../rxrate/

This application configures the board for its highest ADC sample rate then reads the input as fast as possible. The purpose is to measure the peak sustainable input rate for the host, per the provided command line arguments.

9.11. savedata - Save Acquired Data - .../savedata/

This application configures the board for a modest sample rate, reads a megabyte of data, then saves the data to a hex file.

9.12. sbtest - Single Board Test - .../sbtest/

This application performs functional testing of the driver and a user specified board, at least to the extent possible with just a single board and no additional equipment.

9.13. signals - Digital Signals - .../signals/

This application configures the board to drive the digital output signals for a user specified period of time. This is done to facilitate setup of test equipment to capture those signals during actual use.

Document History

Revision	Description
March 17, 2026	Updated to version 6.0.117.52.0. Minor editorial changes. Updated the kernel support table. Replaced all instances of the “aio_” prefix with “gs_16aio_”, both lower case and upper case. Removed the “util_” prefix from the utility source files.
August 12, 2024	Updated to version 5.8.111.50.0. Updated the kernel support table. Minor editorial changes.
June 22, 2023	Updated to version 5.7.104.47.0. Updated the kernel support table. Minor editorial changes.
October 7, 2022	Updated to version 5.6.101.43.0.
July 8, 2022	Updated to version 5.6.100.42.0. Updated the kernel support table. Added section on environment variables. Minor editorial changes.
February 15, 2022	Updated to version 5.5.96.38.0. Expanded automatic startup information. Updated the kernel support table. Minor editorial updates.
January 8, 2021	Updated to version 5.4.92.35.0. Updated the kernel support table. Numerous minor editorial updates. Expanded automatic startup information. Minor editorial changes.
July 16, 2019	Updated to version 5.4.86.28.0. Updated the kernel support table. Minor editorial changes. Added a licensing subsection.
May 7, 2019	Updated to version 5.3.85.27.0. Document reorganization.
November 6, 2018	Updated to version 5.3.81.26.0. Minor editorial changes.
July 11, 2018	Updated to version 5.3.79.25.0.
July 8, 2018	Updated to version 5.2.77.25.0. Divided document into an API Library Reference Manual and this Linux User Manual. Updated the inside cover page.
April 11, 2018	Updated to version 5.2.76.21.0. Updated notes for the read service. Updated the CPU and kernel support section. Reorganized the user manual and directory structure. Numerous modifications to add consistency and clarity.
November 29, 2016	Updated to version 5.1.68.18.0. Removed the built field from the /proc/ file. Updated the kernel support table. Organized the sample applications alphabetically. Updated the usage of the Wait Event timeout_ms field. Updated material on the open call. Added open access mode descriptions. Added support for infinite I/O timeouts. Added a section for general operating information. Made various miscellaneous updates. Some document reorganization.
September 17, 2015	Updated to version 5.0.60.8.0. Updated the device node name to include a period before the device index. Removed double underscore that prefaced various data types.
November 10, 2014	Updated to version 4.6.57.0. Added the aoburst sample application. Reduced the minimum NRATE values to two for cascaded configurations.
February 17, 2014	Updated to version 4.5.52.0. Updated the kernel support data.
January 8, 2014	Updated to version 4.4.51.0. Updated the kernel support data.
November 15, 2013	Updated to version 4.4.50.0.
July 3, 2013	Updated to version 4.4.45.0. Updated the kernel support data.
July 25, 2012	Updated to version 4.4.39.0. Updated the kernel support data.
December 21, 2011	Updated to version 4.3.34.0.
October 30, 2011	Updated to version 4.2.30.0.
March 8, 2011	Updated to version 4.1.22.0. Added the laout sample application.
January 7, 2011	Updated to version 4.1.21.0. Various editorial changes. Removed the IRQX_STS and IRQ_ENABLE IOCTL services. Renamed the IRQX_SEL IOCTL service values to IRQX. Updated the CPU and Kernel Support information. Updated the comments for the Initialize IOCTL service. Updated the comments for the Initialize IOCTL service. Changed the spelling of various Auto Calibration related software items.
January 18, 2010	Updated to version 4.0.13.0. This is the initial release of the version 4 series driver. This is an overhauled version of the preceding LCAIO Linux driver.