Break-out session on future of network stack lower layers -- RIOT Summit 2020

Synopsis: focus on MAC / PHY rework, including security aspects (if time: security also

beyond lower layers)

Moderator: José. Location: Room B in Gather.town

see slides from José: https://github.com/jia200x/docs/blob/master/bs ll.pdf

Status:

RDM: The 802.15.4 Radio HAL #13943

https://github.com/RIOT-OS/RIOT/pull/13943

ieee802154 submac: add initial support for common MAC sub layer https://github.com/RIOT-OS/RIOT/pull/14950

Discussion:

- * function pointer vs. switch case:
 - -> Security concerns about function pointers
 - -> Focus on the API instead of optimizations
- * Hannes suggest to compare network device driver APIs among different network stack implementations and try to harmonize
 - -> The Radio HAL design was revised against the following Radio APIs:
 - OpenWSN
 - OpenThread
 - Linux (ieee802154 ops)
 - Contiki (radio_driver)
 - Mbed (device_driver_s)
 - Zephyr-0S
 - -> Should we follow this discussion on Github? Mailing list?
 - * Status of other Link Layers:
- -> BLE probably doesn't require such a rework because most internal stuff are handled by the stack (Nimble)
 * IEEE 802.15.4 MAC
- -> Options: implement custom IEEE 802.15.4 MAC (with L2 security, indirect transmission, etc).
- -> There seems to be consensus about focusing on existing implementations of IEEE 802.15.4 (OpenWSN, OpenThread)
 - * How to send L2 data?
 - -> It might be interesting to have a mechanism to abstract sending L2 data.
- -> E.g it's not nice to build an ethernet or IEEE 802.15.4 frame each time sometimes wants to send
 - * Unify network stack integration code (IRQ handling, init code)
- -> The OS shouldn't hardcode the desired mechanism for handling IRQ (e.g `event_t`, `msg t`)
- -> However, these mechanisms could be unified and reused by different network stacks
- -> E.g processing IRQ could be implemented once (one for `msg t`, one for `event t`, process from ISR) and then configure the network stack to use one mechanism * GNRC: Use only one stack for all network interfaces?
- -> Rough consensus for NO. GNRC was designed for being flexible. Probably memory consumption is not the focus here.
 - * Frame-buffers and zero-copy
- -> We ran out of time. Will open an issue and/or post something in the mailing list.