



SparkFun Edge Development Board - Apollo3 Blue

DEV-15170 RoHS

Edge computing is here! You've probably heard of this latest entry to the long lineage of tech buzzwords like "IoT," "LoRa," and "cloud" before it, but what is the edge and why does it matter? The cloud is impressively powerful but all-the-time connection requires power and connectivity that may not be available. Edge computing handles discrete tasks such as determining if someone said 'start washer' and responds accordingly. The audio analysis is done at the edge rather than on the web. This dramatically reduces costs and complexity while limiting potential data privacy leaks.

In collaboration with Google and Ambiq, SparkFun's Edge Development Board is based around the newest edge technology and is perfect for getting your feet wet with voice and even gesture recognition without relying on the distant services of other companies. The magic sauce is in the utilization of Ambiq Micro's latest Apollo3 Blue microcontroller whose ultra efficient ARM Cortex-M4F 48MHz (with 96MHz burst mode) processor can run TensorFlow Lite using only 6uA/MHz. Apollo3 Blue sports all the cutting edge features expected of modern microcontrollers including six configurable I²C/SPI masters, two UARTs, one I²C/SPI slave, a 15-channel 14-bit ADC, and a dedicated Bluetooth processor that supports BLE5. On top of all that the Apollo3 Blue has 1MB of flash and 384KB of SRAM memory - plenty for the vast majority of applications.

On the Edge you'll have built-in access to sensors, Bluetooth, I²C expansion, and GPIO inputs/outputs. To support edge computing cases like voice recognition the Edge board features two MEMS microphones, an ST LIS2DH12 3-axis accelerometer on its own I²C bus, and a connector to interface to an OV7670 camera (sold separately). An onboard Bluetooth antenna gives the Edge out-of-the-box connectivity. Also available on the board is a Qwiic connector to add I²C sensors/devices, four LEDs, and four GPIO pins. To boast the low-power capabilities of the board we've outfitted it with battery operation from the CR2032 coin cell holder. Programming the board is taken care of with an external USB-serial adapter like the Serial Basic Breakout via a serial bootloader, but for more advanced users we've also made available the JTAG programming and debugger port.

As a brave explorer of this new technology you'll have to use some advanced concepts but don't worry. Between Ambiq Micro's Software Development Kit and our SDK Setup Guide you'll have access to plenty of examples to begin working with your hardware.

Now get out there and make something amazing with the latest machine learning technology at your very own fingertips!

Important: The SparkFun Edge Development Board is available for pre-order and final board appearance may change before the final release. Adding a pre-order product to an order may cause a delay. Be sure to uncheck "ship complete order" in your cart to avoid delays in shipping in-stock items. We expect to have physical stock ready to ship by the end of March.

FEATURES

Microcontroller

- 32-bit ARM Cortex-M4F processor with Direct Memory Access
- 48MHz CPU clock, 96MHz with TurboSPOT™
- Extremely low-power usage: 6uA/MHz
- 1MB Flash
- 384KB SRAM
- Dedicated Bluetooth processor with BLE 5

Onboard

- ST LIS2DH12 3-axis accelerometer
- 2x MEMS microphones with operational amplifier
- OV7670 camera connector
- Qwiic connector
- 4 x GPIO connections
- 4 x user LEDs
- 1 x user button
- FTDI-style serial header for programming
- Bluetooth antenna
- CR2032 coin cell holder for battery operation