

Mastering ROS 2 for Robotics Programming, Simulation, and Robot Development

Course Description

This course covers ROS 2 programming, robot modeling, simulation, navigation, manipulation, perception, aerial robotics, mobile robot development, testing, continuous integration and deployment, large language model integration, deep reinforcement learning, and ROS 2 visualization and simulation plugins. Participants will work with ROS 2 Jazzy, DDS, C++, URDF, Xacro, Gazebo Sim, Webots, Isaac Sim, ros2_control, BehaviorTree.CPP, Nav2, MoveIt 2, OpenCV, NVIDIA Isaac ROS, PX4, Raspberry Pi, GTest, GitHub Actions, Isaac Lab, rqt, and RViz2.

Audience Profile

This course is suitable for:

- Robotics developers
- ROS and ROS 2 developers
- C++ developers working on robotics applications
- Robot simulation engineers
- Autonomous navigation and manipulation developers
- Computer vision and perception developers
- UAV and mobile robot developers
- Robotics researchers and engineers

Prerequisites

Participants should have the technical environment and supporting hardware or software required for the relevant modules, including ROS 2 Jazzy, Ubuntu 24.04 LTS, Windows 10/11 or macOS, Docker, C++, Gazebo Sim, Webots, NVIDIA Isaac Sim, Raspberry Pi, robotics sensors, and robot hardware where applicable.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Understand ROS 2 architecture, DDS, middleware, client libraries, and application layers.
- Install and configure ROS 2 Jazzy across supported operating systems and containers.

- Develop ROS 2 nodes, topics, services, actions, parameters, interfaces, and launch files.
- Design and visualize robot models using URDF, Xacro, Fusion 360, and RViz.
- Simulate robotic systems using Gazebo Sim, Webots, and Isaac Sim.
- Control simulated and physical robots using the ros2_control framework.
- Develop applications using BehaviorTree.CPP, Nav2, MoveIt 2, and the ROS 2 perception stack.
- Implement aerial robotics and autonomous mobile robot applications.
- Test ROS 2 nodes and implement continuous integration and deployment.
- Integrate large language models and AI agents with ROS 2.
- Train and deploy robots using deep reinforcement learning.
- Develop plugins for rqt, Gazebo, and RViz2.

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Part 1: ROS 2 Programming and Simulation

Module 1: Introduction to ROS 2

- Understanding ROS as a Robotics Framework
 - What Is ROS?
 - Important Features of ROS
 - ROS Equation
 - ROS Development Timeline
- Comparing ROS 1 and ROS 2 Architecture
 - OS Layer
 - Middleware Layer
 - Application Layer
 - Feature Comparison Between ROS 1 and ROS 2
- Why You Should Migrate from ROS 1 to ROS 2
- Diving into DDS in ROS 2

- What Is DDS?
- Components of the DDS Standard
- Platform Layer
- Middleware Layer
- Application Layer
- How DDS Works
- Workflow for Sending and Receiving Data Using DDS
- DDS Vendors
- Dissecting Important ROS 2 Layers
 - RMW Layer—ROS Middleware Abstraction Interface
 - RCL Layer and Client Libraries
 - ROS 2 Application Layer

Module 2: Getting Started with ROS 2 Programming

- Mastering ROS 2 Installation
 - Installing Ubuntu 24.04 LTS and ROS 2 Jazzy
 - Installing Ubuntu 24.04 LTS
 - Installing ROS 2 Jazzy on Ubuntu 24.04 LTS
 - Installing ROS 2 Jazzy on Windows 11/10
 - Installing ROS 2 Jazzy on macOS
 - Installing ROS 2 Jazzy in Docker
 - Installing Docker and the NVIDIA Container Toolkit
 - Running Docker with ROS 2 Jazzy
 - Dockerfile for ROS 2 Jazzy
 - Enabling GUI in a ROS 2 Jazzy Container
 - Building the Docker Image

- Docker Compose with ROS 2 Jazzy
- Installing ROS 2 Jazzy in Robots
- Mastering ROS 2 Tools and Concepts
 - Running ROS 2 Nodes and Applications in a Robot
 - ROS 2 Packages
 - ROS Nodes
 - ROS Topics
 - ROS Computation Graph
 - ROS Messages
 - ROS Services and Turtlesim

Module 3: Implementing ROS 2 Concepts

- ROS 2 Actions
- ROS Parameters
- ROS 2 Launch Files
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 - Creating a ROS 2 Workspace
 - Building a Workspace
- Introduction to ROS 2 Client Libraries
- Diving into ROS 2 Nodes
 - Different Types of ROS 2 Nodes
 - Standard or Non-composable Nodes
 - Composable or Component Nodes
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 - Communication Between ROS 2 Nodes
 - QoS in ROS 2 Nodes

- Implementing ROS 2 Topics in C++
 - Creating a Custom Interface ROS 2 Package
 - Creating a ROS 2 Package for a Custom Interface
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 - Editing CMakeLists.txt to Add Message Generation
 - Editing package.xml to Add Dependencies
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 - Creating the Package
 - Creating the src Directory for a C++ Node
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 - Editing CMakeLists.txt to Build the Node
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 - Reading ROS 2 Parameter Values
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 - Adding a Custom Service Interface
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 - ROS 2 Service Server

- ROS 2 Service Client
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 - Creating a Custom Action Interface for the ROS 2 Action and Server
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 - Writing a ROS 2 Action Client
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 - Writing Launch Files for Nodes
- Configuring ROS 2 DDS, Zenoh, and ROS_DOMAIN_ID
 - Configuring ROS 2 DDS
 - Setting ROS_DOMAIN_ID
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 - Setting Up ROS 2 Development in Docker Compose
 - ROS 2 Development Using VS Code Dev Containers

Module 4: Working with Robot 3D Modeling in ROS 2

- Introduction to Robot Modeling in ROS 2
 - Robot Modeling
 - Importance of Robot Modeling
 - Robot Modeling Tools
- Introduction to URDF and Xacro
 - Components of URDF and Xacro
 - <robot> Tag

- <link> Tag
- <joint> Tag
- Building the First URDF Model
- Verifying URDF Files
- Visualizing URDF Links and Joints
- Visualizing URDF in RViz
- Parsing a URDF File
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- Defining and Calling a Macro in a Xacro File
- Constants and Variables in Xacro
- Mathematical Equations in Xacro
- Writing the ROS 2 Launch File for Visualizing a URDF or Xacro File
- Exporting a 3D CAD Robot Model to URDF
- Installing Autodesk Fusion 360
- Installing the Fusion 360 to URDF Plugin
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- Adding Caster Wheels to the Base
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- Creating the Tree Executor
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