



# AN1219: Power Consumption Measurement Setup and Results on WF(M)200

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WF(M)200 is a Wi-Fi network co-processor optimized for low-energy consumption. This application note describes how to perform current consumption measurements and get the lowest current consumption with WF(M)200.

Additionally, this document shows how to achieve accurate measurements using BDR8022 or BRD8023 and provides measurement examples for different use cases. This document applies to both WF200 and WFM200. For simplicity, both devices are referred to as WF(M)200.

## KEY POINTS

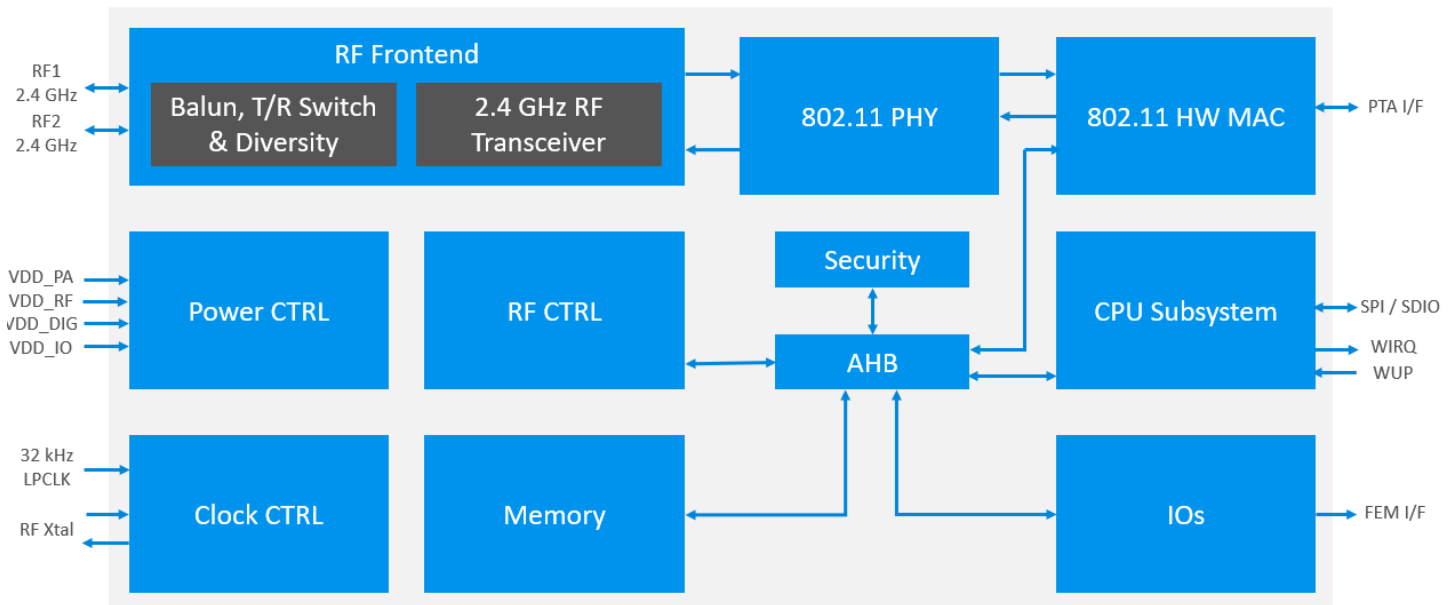
- WF200 and WFM200 are optimized for low consumption
- Improving WF(M)200 usage for low-current consumption
- Performing accurate current measurements with BRD8022/BRD8023
- Measurement examples

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## 1. WF200 and WFM200 Overview

WF200 is a Wi-Fi network co-processor optimized for RF performance, low energy, and low cost, with two antenna ports, Crystal Oscillator, One Time Programmable Memory, and several GPIOs for interfacing with multi-protocol and controls for a potential external RF Front End Module.



**Figure 1.1. WF200 Overview**

In addition to WF200, WFM200 integrates:

- 50 ohm matching networks on WF200 RF\_1 and RF\_2 pins
- 38.4 MHz crystal oscillator
- Antenna for RF\_1 port (according to the part number)

Therefore, the WFM200 consumption is expected to be the same as the WF200 consumption.

## 1.1 Power Supplies

WF200 has four different power domains and four supply pins, namely VDD\_PA, VDD\_RF, VDD\_DIG, and VDD\_IO. WFM200 has three supply pins, given that a single pin on WFM200 feeds both VDD\_RF and VDD\_DIG pins of WF200 inside the module.

The table below provides basic description and summarizes the requirements for the supply pins.

**Table 1.1. Supply Pins**

WFM200 supplies	WF200 supplies	Description	Voltage range	Recommendations and Comments
VDD_PA	VDD_PA	Supply of the Power amplifier part.	$3.0 < VDD\_PA < 3.6V$	VDD_PA voltage should not be lower than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VDD_RF on WF200</li> <li>VDD_D on WFM200</li> </ul> Very limited current drawn while not transmitting.
VDD_D	VDD_RF	Supply of the RF part part	$1.8 < VDD\_RF < 3.6 V$	Internal LDO (current does not vary much with voltage)
	VDD_DIG	Supply of the digital part	$1.8 < VDD\_DIG < 3.6 V$	Internal LDO (current does not vary much with voltage)
VDD_IO	VDD_IO	Supply of I/Os part	$1.8 < VDD\_IO < 3.6 V$	VDD_IO should be set such that the levels are compliant with other devices it interfaces with.

For details including currents on each supply in various conditions, see the power supplies section of WF200 or WFM200 data sheets. Note that some current values in the data sheets are typical and might vary depending on the part used.

Currents in the data sheets are measured with specified supply voltages. Usually VDD\_RF and VDD\_DIG voltages are set to 1.8 V, which ensures the lowest power consumption. Note that both VDD\_RF and VDD\_DIG supplies are regulated with LDOs within WF(M)200, so the current drawn does not vary much with supply voltage.

Both BRD8022A (WF200) and BRD8023A (WFM200) boards are using a single power supply for the board (VMCU\_NCP) set to 3.3 V.

## 1.2 Clocks

WF200 requires a 38.4 MHz reference clock, which can be generated either with an XTAL attached to WF200 XTAL pins or provided by an external XO. The 38.4 MHz XO is embedded in WFM200. Additionally, WF(M)200 has a provision for a 32 kHz clock input (LP\_CLK pin) that allows achieving the lowest power consumption (sleep state) while in power save mode.

Most hosts have 32 kHz that can be shared with WF(M)200.

Two low-consumption modes occur (when power-save is enabled) depending on LP\_CLK presence.

- If a 32 kHz clock is available at LP\_CLK input, the device goes in **sleep mode** between receptions of beacons. In this mode, most of the chip is turned off (including XTAL oscillator and host interface) to reduce the consumption as much as possible. Given that the host interface is shut down in this mode, the host should assert the WUP pin to wake up the device before any communication with the host can be achieved.
- If the clock is not available on LP\_CLK, the device goes in **snooze mode** between receptions of beacons. In this mode, a smaller part of the device is shut down, so the typical consumption is higher.

The LP\_CLK is detected automatically by the WF(M)200 after reset.

If the XTAL is shared with another device, additional mode exists for WF200 only. In this case, the XTAL oscillator cannot be shut down between beacons (even if LP\_CLK is provided), which results in additional consumption. This use case is referred to as **sleep with XO** and should be configured according to PDS settings.

### 1.3 Power Profiles Definitions

The current consumption on WF(M)200 is highly dynamic and varies significantly depending on the following factors.

- Wi-Fi data traffic activity depends on the application. The more transmit and receive data, the higher the consumption.
- Wi-Fi Power-save enabled depends on the application. It saves power consumption if the data throughput is low or if the host uses short period of high throughput and no data traffic between them.

**Table 1.2. Power States Description**

Modes	State	Definitions
Traffic modes (STA and Soft-AP)	WF(M)200 is associated with an Access Point, handling some traffic in transmitting or in receiving data frames traffic or in listen state	
	TX	Transmitting Wi-Fi frames
	RX	Receiving Wi-Fi frames.
	Listen	Listening to the channel to receive frames or between RX and TX. This is also the default mode if power save is not enabled.
Additional modes when power save is enabled (STA only)	WF(M)200 is associated with an Access Point and set in power save. TX, RX and listen states listed above are still valid. States below are observed between beacons reception, provided that WUP pin is Low. These states also occur if there is no activity with the host before association.	
	Sleep	This state is using LP_CLK and switching off the XTAL.
	Snooze	Occurs when there is no LP_CLK provided to WF(M)200.
	Sleep with XO	This state is using LP_CLK but maintains XTAL oscillator active and switching off the XTAL.
Idle modes (STA and Soft-AP)	WF(M)200 is shut down. Resuming operation requires a complete start-up sequence triggered by a rising edge on RESETn pin.	
	Shut-down mode	Occurs when the host has sent the HIF message requesting the WF(M)200 to switch in Shutdown mode. Achieved only when WUP pin is Low.
	Reset mode	Occurs when RESETn pin is set low.

### 1.4 Host Interface (SPI/SDIO)

WF(M)200 can be controlled by an MCU or SoC using either SPI or SDIO (upon SDIO\_DAT2/HIF\_SEL pin state during the rising edge of RESETn) through the host interface.

The SPI/SDIO clock frequency has an impact on consumption during sleep. As a result, during this state, when possible, the lowest consumption is achieved when the clock is stopped. Moreover, when the wake-up is set to high to exchange message between the host and the WF(M)200, use the highest possible serial clock to reduce this duration.

**Note:** With Linux driver on Raspberry Pi, it is not possible to get the lowest current consumption in sleep state with SDIO interface because the serial clock is not stopped. As a result, the measurements presented in [3. Measurement Setup](#) use the SPI interface.

### 1.5 RESETn

WF(M)200 RESETn pin has an internal pull-up (43 Kohm typical).

This pin should be kept high when in Shutdown mode to achieve the lowest current consumption.

## 1.6 Other Pins

Two signals are used between the host and the WF(M)200 to help reduce the current consumption.

- WUP : the signal WUP (for Wake-UP) comes from the host
- WIRQ : the signal WIRQ comes from WF(M)200. It raises when the WFM200 is ready to receive or transmit frame on the serial interface

**Table 1.3. Summary of the Possible WUP and WIRQ Pin Names**

Signal	SPI	SDIO
WUP	GPIO/WUP	GPIO/WUP
WIRQ	SPI_WIRQ	SDIO_DAT1 or GPIO/WIRQ

**Note:** The SDIO\_DAT1 is a bidirectional data line which can be used as an interrupt from WF(M)200 to the host when no data is present. If the host does not allow usage of SDIO\_DAT1, the GPIO/WIRQ can be used instead.

Below are details on GPIO/WUP and GPIO/WIRQ pins:

- The GPIO/WUP pin should be used by the host to wake up the WF(M)200 when in power-save mode. This pin is programmable and if power save is not enabled on the device, this pin can be configured as a GPIO. Note that this pin should be LOW to enable the WF(M)200 to reach sleep or Shutdown modes. To be used like WUP, the GPIO/WUP pin must be configured in the PDS file in functional mode: PIN\_MODE : "func".
- The GPIO/WIRQ pin can optionally be used in SDIO mode to provide the Interrupt request to the host if a given host does not support in-band IRQ. It is also used to wake up the host if it's in a power saving mode with the host interface inactive. If this is not required, the pin can be configured as GPIO. To be used like WIRQ, the GPIO/WIRQ pin must be configured in the PDS string in functional mode: PIN\_MODE : "func".

In this document, the assumption is that GPIO/WUP and GPIO/WIRQ use the following PDS configuration recommended for low power (no pull-up and no pull-down).

```
GPIO_WUP: {  
    SLEW_RATE: 4,  
    PULL_UP_DOWN: none,  
    SLEEP_CFG: none,  
    PIN_MODE: func,  
    GPIO_ID: L  
},  
GPIO_WIRQ: {  
    SLEW_RATE: 4,  
    PULL_UP_DOWN: none,  
    SLEEP_CFG: none,  
    PIN_MODE: func,  
    GPIO_ID: M  
},
```

Details about managing these two signals are provided in [6. Appendix B: Details on WUP and WIRQ](#).

Power consumption may also vary upon configuration of pins (pull-ups or pull-downs) and the way they are potentially connected to other devices. Pins are configured using the PDS settings. All measurement results shown in this document assume that all GPIO pins except WUP and WIRQ have the following PDS configuration:

```
PULL_UP_DOWN: none,  
SLEEP_CFG: none,  
PIN_MODE: tri,
```

Any GPIO used on WF(M)200 can add additional current consumption and increase the lowest current consumption. The GPIO pin level during sleep state can be set using the settings SLEEP\_CFG in the PROG\_PINS\_CFG section of the PDS file with the following enumerate: 'none', 'down', 'up', and 'maintain'.

## 2. Measurement Summary

Static use cases for current consumption are mentioned in the table below.

These current consumptions are detailed in the data sheet.

Dynamic use cases:

- Power save mode when associated under DTIM provides the WF(M)200 average current consumption when there is no TX/RX of data (only receiving Beacons with the DTIM interval and using the sleep state). The current consumption for DTIM1, DTIM3, and DTIM10 is described in the data sheet.
- Time and consumption during boot and firmware download
- Time and consumption during scan: An active scan is performed on channels 1 up to 11 and a passive scan on channel 12 up to 14
- Time and consumption during Association to an Access Point: The current consumption to get the association with a selected Access Point
- Consumption during data traffic: Low bit rate and short burst of high bit rate, ping current consumption

All current consumption figures provide a better understanding for the global consumption of the WF(M)200 according to the targeted application.

The table below includes a summary of measurements detailed in the following sections:

### Static power states:

**Table 2.1. Current Consumption Summary for Static States**

Use Case	Typical current consumption at 3.3 V	Comments
TX burst	154.4 mA	Depends on the constellation and code rate used in TX and depending of the maximum power allowed
RX burst	41.8 mA	
Listen	45.4 mA	
Sleep	24.33 $\mu$ A	Depends on the WF(M)200 parts used (some variations are possible)
Sleep with XO ON	438.4 $\mu$ A	
Snooze (No LP_CLK)	1.48 mA	
Shutdown	~513 nA	WUP low and RESETn stay high
Reset	~75.5 $\mu$ A	When RESETn is low. Depends on the internal pull-up resistor in the WF(M)200 part.

### Dynamic use cases:

**Table 2.2. Current Consumption Summary for Dynamic States**

Use Case	Measurement Duration	Averaged current consumption at 3.3 V	Comments
Wi-Fi Power save DTIM1	1.02 s	~927 $\mu$ A	Can depend on the Access Point and Wi-Fi context.
Wi-Fi Power save DTIM3	2.45 s	~327 $\mu$ A	Can depend on the Access Point and Wi-Fi context.
Wi-Fi Power save DTIM10	4.1 s	~115 $\mu$ A	Can depend on the Access Point and Wi-Fi context.
Firmware download	264.16 ms	~16.38 mA	Depends on the SPI/SDIO clock and firmware size.

Use Case	Measurement Duration	Averaged current consumption at 3.3 V	Comments
Wi-Fi Scanning	951.26 ms	~51.76 mA	Can depend on the Access Point and Wi-Fi context.
Wi-Fi association	31.2 ms	~59.64 mA	Can depend on the Access Point.
Host to WF(M)200 SPI exchange (when no Wi-Fi activity during sleep)	2 ms	~7.8 mA	Depends on the SPI/SDIO clock and exchange frame length.
Ping traffic with 1 packet per second in DTIM1 (1 ICMP packet of 64 bytes)	5 s	~7.36 mA	Can depend on the Access Point and Wi-Fi context.
UDP downstream traffic of 100 kbps in DTIM3 with burst profile use case 1	13.2 s	~5.6 mA	Can depend on the Access Point and Wi-Fi context. It depends also on the burst profile.
UDP downstream traffic of 100 kbps in DTIM3 with burst profile use case 2	10.4 s	~1.91 mA	Can depend on the Access Point and Wi-Fi context. It depends also on the burst profile.
UDP upstream traffic of 100 kbps in DTIM3 with burst profile use case 1	11 s	~6.5 mA	Can depend on the Access Point and Wi-Fi context. It depends also on the burst profile.
UDP upstream traffic of 100 kbps in DTIM3 with burst profile use case 2	10.5 s	~1.93 mA	Can depend on the Access Point and Wi-Fi context. It depends also on the burst profile.

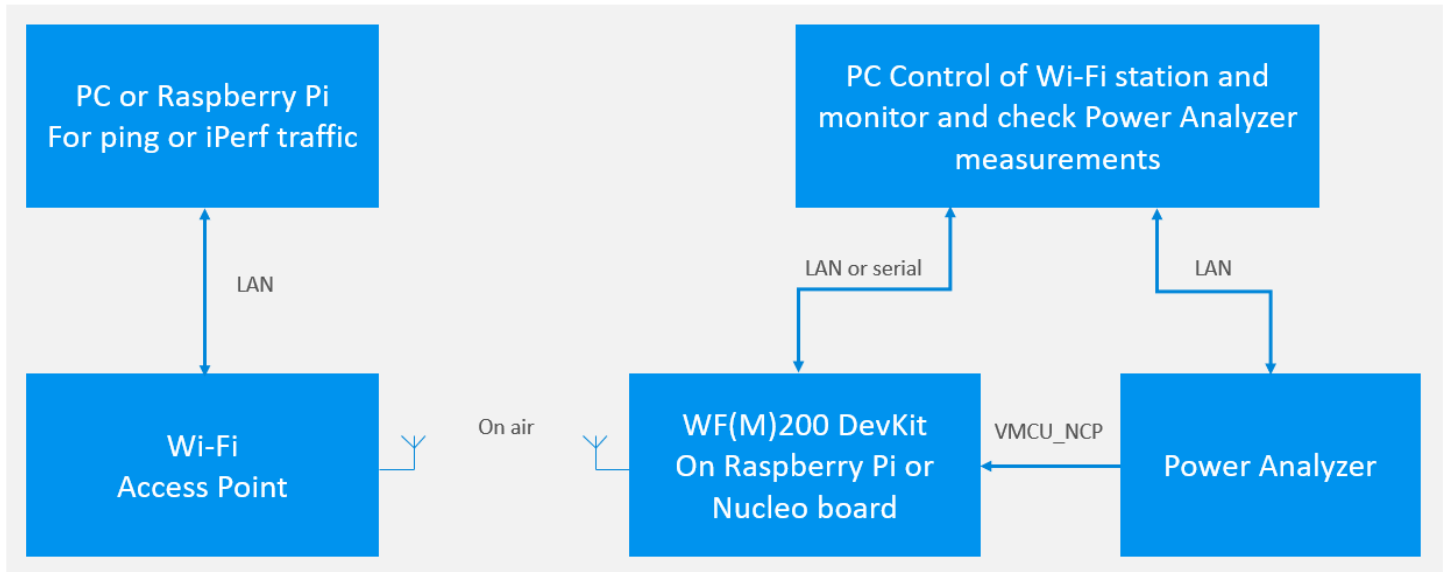
**Note:** To optimize power consumption in DTIM modes, the frequency drift of LP\_CLK should be within 1 second lower than  $\pm 100$  ppm.

### 3. Measurement Setup

This section describes how to perform current measurements and get expected results.

#### 3.1 Hardware and Software Requirements

The figure below provides the typical setup to perform WF(M)200 current measurements:



**Figure 3.1. Measurement Testbed**

WF(M)200 DevKit:

- BRD8022A for WF200
- BRD8023 for WFM200

The same firmware and driver is used for both use cases.

Wi-Fi Access Point: see [9. Appendix E: Access Point Configuration](#)

- Alfa Access Point with a Raspberry Pi for Beacon duration of 1ms for DTIM1, DTIM3, and DTIM10 current measurements.
- TP-Link Archer C3150 configured with a PC to perform data traffic.

Power analyzer:

- Keysight N6705C DC power analyzer with software Keysight 14585A on PC to Monitor and check results.

Data Traffic generator:

- iPerf version 3.7 on Raspberry Pi

Related documentation

For WF200:

- <https://www.silabs.com/documents/login/data-sheets/wf200-datasheet.pdf>
- <https://www.silabs.com/documents/login/user-guides/ug382-wf200-hardware-design-ug.pdf>

For BRD8022A hardware and software:

- [https://www.silabs.com/documents/login/user-guides/ug379\\_slexpwx200-users-guide.pdf](https://www.silabs.com/documents/login/user-guides/ug379_slexpwx200-users-guide.pdf)
- The Raspberry Pi uses the SD card provided with the BRD8022A: <https://www.silabs.com/documents/login/quick-start-guides/qsg166-wf200-wifi-devkit.pdf>

### 3.2 Setup Configuration Requirements

The measurements assume setup configurations described below:

- The Software requirements are provided in [5. Appendix A: WF\(M\) Software Requirements](#) and [6. Appendix B: Details on WUP and WIRQ](#).
- The BRD8022A or BRD8023 must be modified to measure the lowest current consumption. More details about hardware requirements are provided in [7. Appendix C: Devkit Hardware Setup for Measurements](#).
- The Keysight N-6705C DC power analyzer has been configured as described in [8. Appendix D: N6705C Configuration](#).
- Details about the Access Point usage and configuration are provided in [9. Appendix E: Access Point Configuration](#).
- Another way to perform current measurements without the N-6705C is described in [10. Appendix F: Advanced Energy Monitoring Usage to Measure Current Consumption](#).

## 4. Detailed Measurements

### 4.1 Static Use Cases and DTIM

In this section, two Wi-Fi power save settings are used which can be set in Linux OS using the following commands:

- Power save mode disabled: `[sudo iw dev wlan0 set power_save off]`
- Power save mode enabled: `[sudo iw dev wlan0 set power_save on]`

### 4.1.1 TX Burst Current Consumption

This current consumption depends on the constellation and code rate used in TX and its transmitted power.

The following is an example of TX current consumption with power save mode disabled:



Figure 4.1. TX Burst Current Consumption Snapshot

The TX current consumption is easy to detect because the consumption is higher than 45 mA during RX (between marker 1 and 2).

To get TX current consumption, the WF(M)200 can be associated to an Access Point and then the host can do the following:

- Request to re-associate with the Wi-Fi Access Point (in Linux OS using command: `[wpa_cli -i wlan0 reassociate]`)
- Request a scan (in Linux OS using command: `[wpa_cli -i wlan0 scan]`)
- Request data traffic: for example doing a ping between the WF(M)200 Wi-Fi station and another Wi-Fi station associated on the same Access Point.

This is an example of TX current consumption with power save mode enabled in DTIM1:



Figure 4.2. TX Burst Current Consumption in Power Save Mode Snapshot

Zoom on the TX power burst:

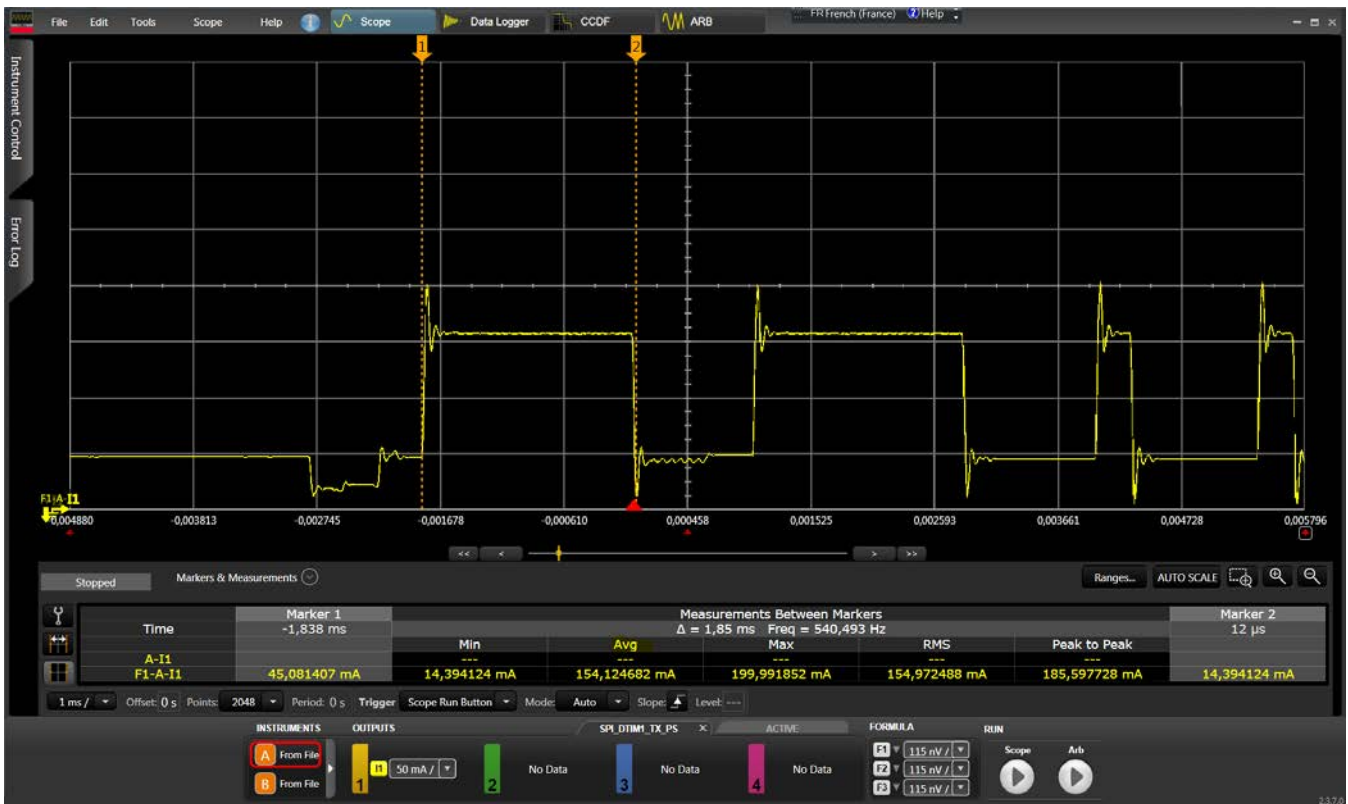


Figure 4.3. Zoom on TX Burst Current Consumption in Power Save Mode

## 4.1.2 RX Burst Current Consumption

Use this command for RX current consumption with power save mode disabled in Linux OS: `[sudo iw dev wlan0 set power_save off]`.

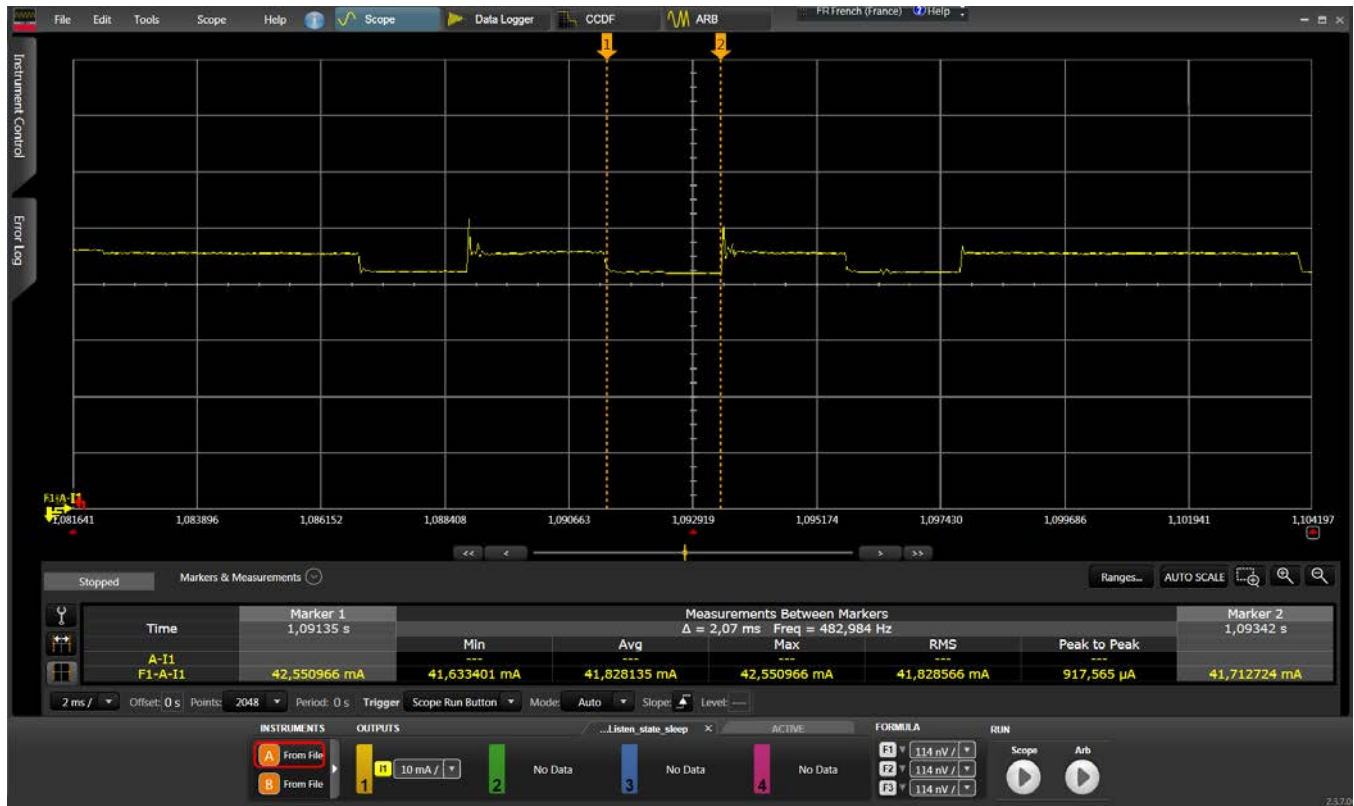


Figure 4.4. RX Burst Current Consumption

Use this command for RX current consumption with power save mode enabled in DTIM1 in Linux OS: `[sudo iw dev wlan0 set power_save on]`.

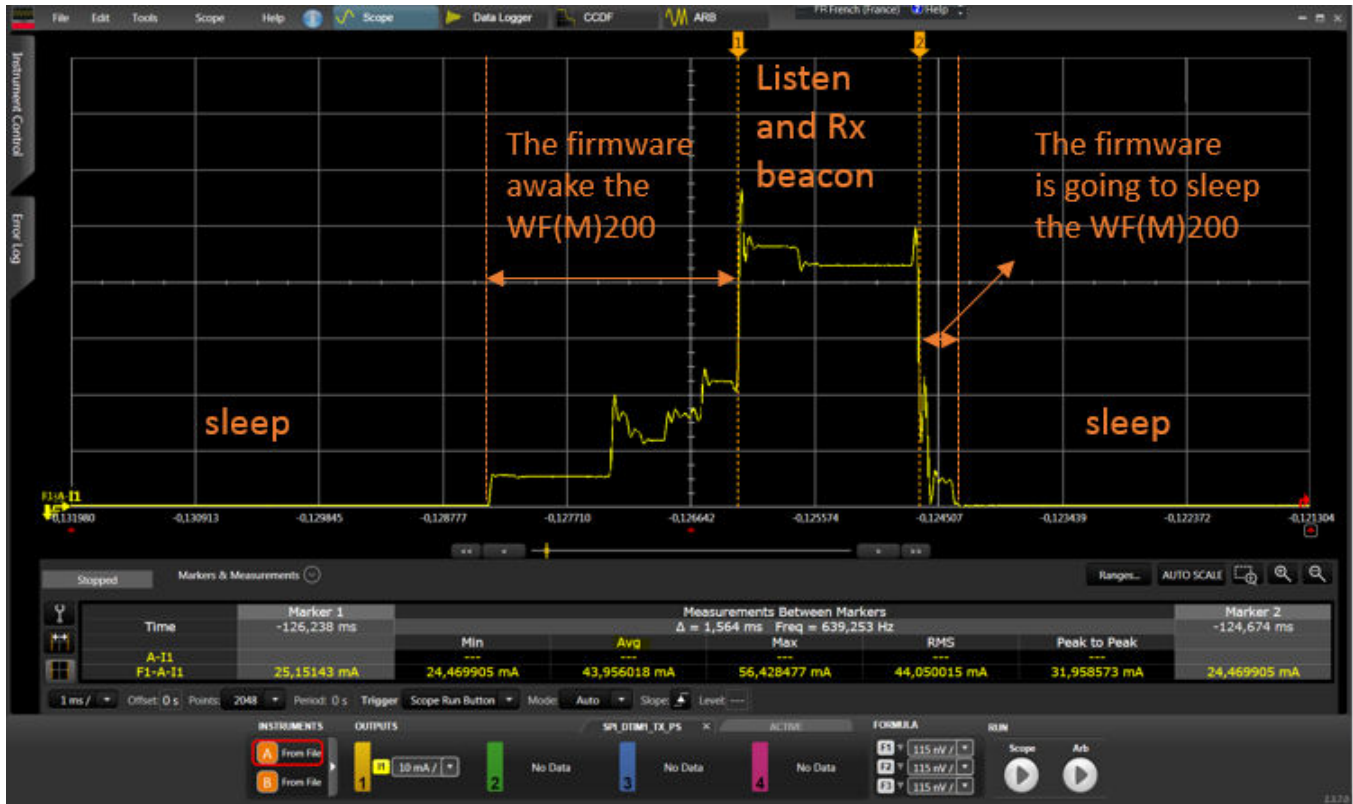


Figure 4.5. RX Burst Current Consumption in Power Save Mode

Nothing is required for the RX current consumption. In power save mode, after association with an Access Point without data traffic, you should only see the RX beacon with a time interval equal to DTIM period multiply by the beacon interval. However, you could also see some TX or longer RX because TCP/IP or upper layers need to send or receive packets.

Global RX beacon current consumption and time duration in DTIM:



Figure 4.6. Global RX Burst Current Consumption in Power Save Mode

### 4.1.3 Listen State Current Consumption

To get this state, the power save mode should be disabled using the following command: `[sudo iw dev wlan0 set power_save off]`.

This is an example of averaged current consumption in the listen state.



Figure 4.7. Listen Current Consumption

The averaged current consumption in listen state is ~45.4 mA.

This figure shows the RX state with a lower current consumption step with ~42 mA. It also shows the WF(M)200 switching between Listen and RX modes. In listen, the current consumption is higher because the detection algorithm is running in this mode.

Averaged current consumption with RX and Listen state between marker 1 and 2 (after a TX burst):

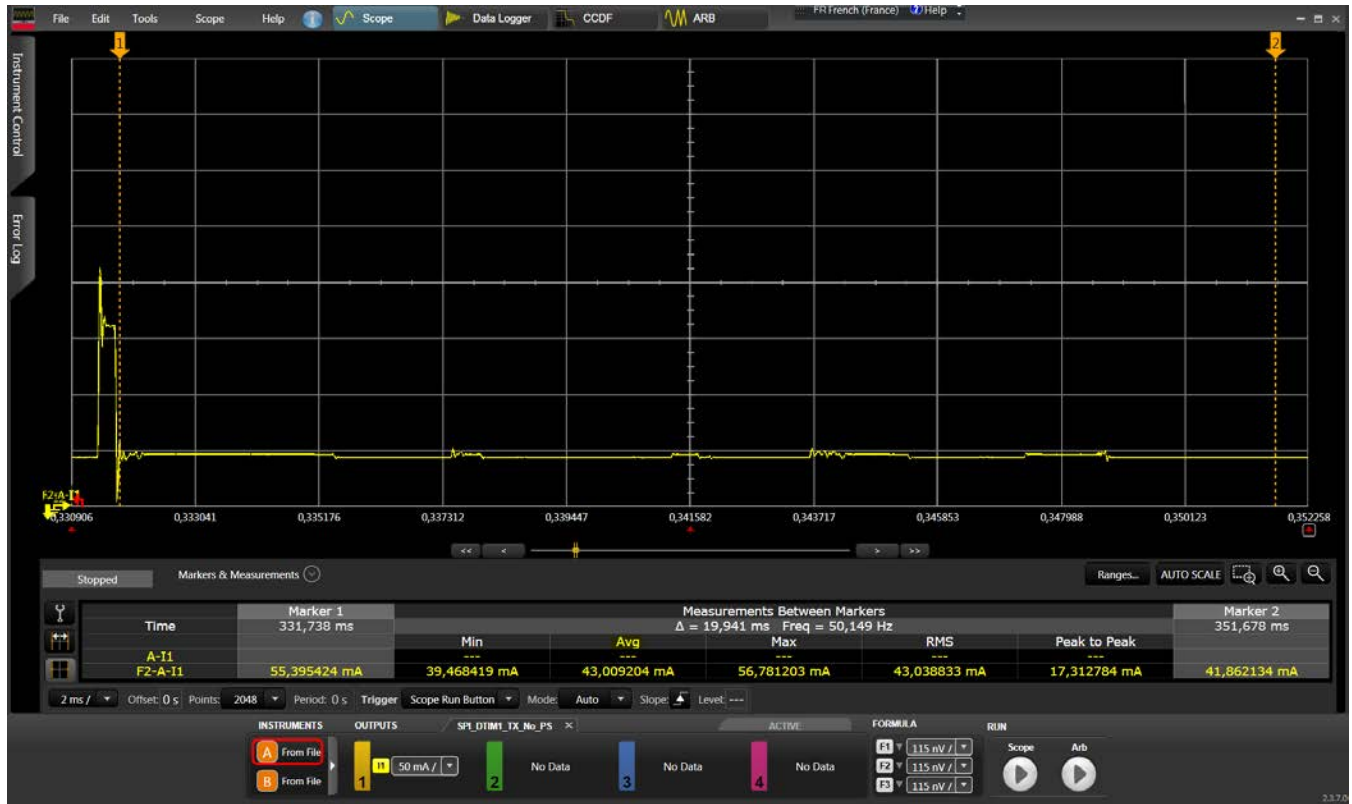


Figure 4.8. Global RX and Listen Current Consumption

#### 4.1.4 Sleep Mode/State Current Consumption

This is an example of averaged current consumption in sleep between SPI accesses from the Host to WF(M)200 after the firmware download and the boot is done.



Figure 4.9. Sleep Current Consumption when not Associated

When not associated to a Wi-Fi Access Point, the WF(M)200 can switch to this mode.

To get this state when associated to an Access Point, the power save mode should be enabled using the following command: `[sudo iw dev wlan0 set power_save on]`. This is an example of averaged current consumption in DTIM1 between two RX beacons:



**Figure 4.10. Sleep Current Consumption in Power Save Mode DTIM1**

The averaged current consumption is close to  $\sim 24 \mu\text{A}$  for the part measured. Keep in mind that some fluctuations are possible depending on the part used.

### 4.1.5 Sleep with XO ON Current Consumption

To get this level of current consumption, set the field XTAL\_SHARED in the PDS file in the section HF\_CLK to yes as follows:

```
HF_CLK: {
  // XTAL_SHARED to indicate if the crystal is shared with another IC and thus must be kept ac-tive during
  sleep
  XTAL_SHARED : yes,
}
```

This is an example of averaged current consumption profile in this mode in DTIM1 between two RX beacons with power save mode enabled:

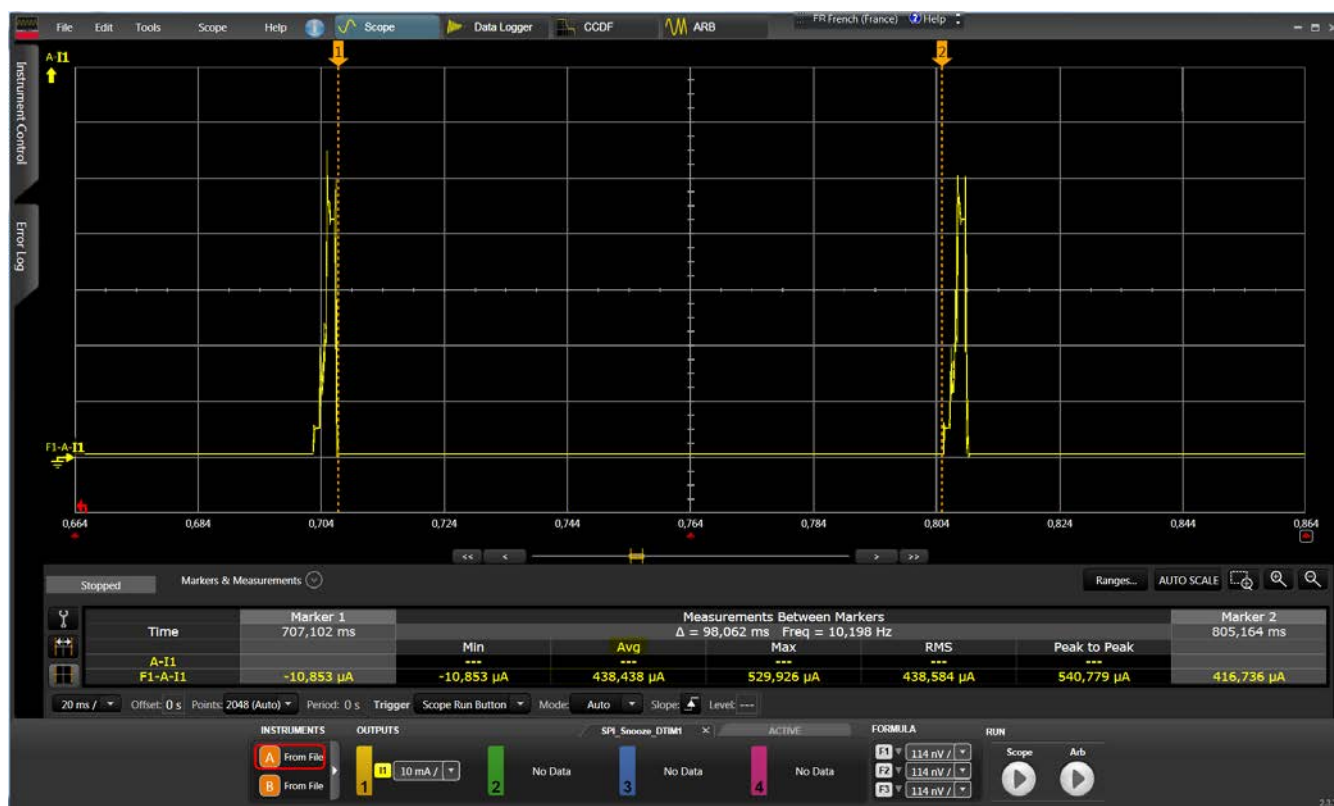


Figure 4.11. Sleep with XO ON Current Consumption in Power Save Mode DTIM1

The average current consumption in this state between marker 1 and 2 is 438.4  $\mu$ A.

In sleep with XO ON mode, the averaged current consumption in DTIM1 is ~1.330 mA.

#### 4.1.6 Snooze Current Consumption

To get this level of current consumption, disable the LP\_CLK. With BRD8022/BRD8023, this can be done by removing the R645 (0 Ohm) resistor.

As expected, the current consumption in power save mode during the snooze mode is higher than in sleep mode.

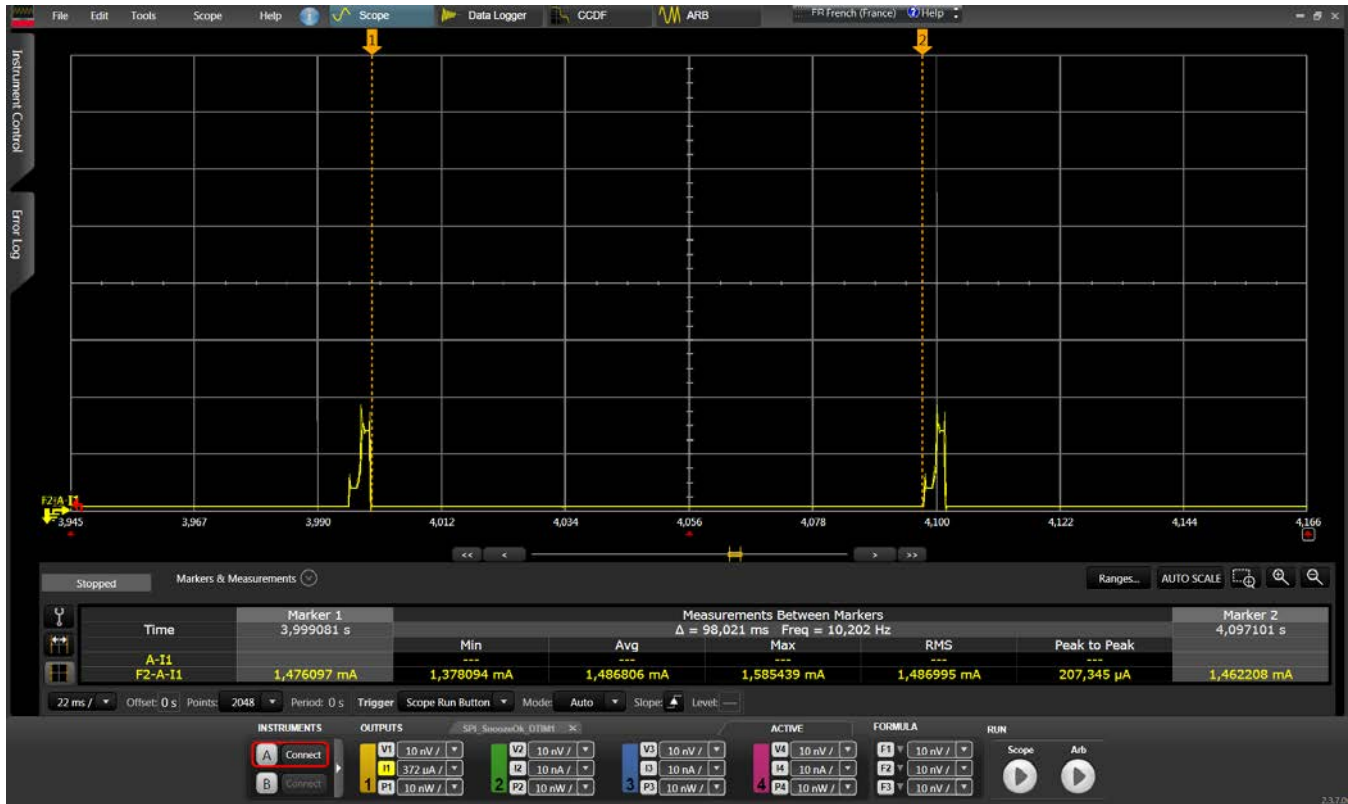


Figure 4.12. Snooze Current Consumption in Power Save Mode DTIM1

The average current consumption in this state between marker 1 and 2 is 1.48 mA.

In snooze mode, the averaged current consumption in DTIM3 is ~2.43 mA.

### 4.1.7 Shutdown Current Consumption

To get this mode, after loading the firmware in the WF(M)200 and booting it, launch the following Linux OS command to release the WFX driver: `[sudo modprobe wfx -r]`

Before marker 1, note the current consumption from the host to request the shutdown.

Between marker 1 and 2, the averaged current consumption is achieved during shutdown:



Figure 4.13. Shutdown Current Consumption

The averaged current consumption is ~513 nA.

After this mode, reload the firmware and the PDS file. In Linux OS, use: `[sudo modprobe wfx]` (or use the script provided with SD card: `wfx_driver_reload`).

#### 4.1.8 Reset Current Consumption

The following is the current consumption after getting the Shutdown mode ([**sudo modprobe wfx -r**]) and pressing the Push Button RESETn on the board. You have to push on the button during all the measurement to get RESETn low during this time.



Figure 4.14. Current Consumption with WF(M)200 in Reset

The averaged current consumption of  $\sim 75.5 \mu\text{A}$  results from the internal pull-up in the WF(M)200 on RESETn pin. The current consumption could depend on this internal resistor value (43 Kohm typical) inside the part. This consumption is higher than in shutdown mode.

**Note:** After a RESETn low and when high (without firmware loaded), the WF(M)200 current consumption is  $\sim 4.6 \text{ mA}$  (the same after power supply off on cycle)

After this mode, reload the firmware and the PDS file. In Linux OS, use the following command: [**sudo modprobe wfx**] (or use the script provided with SD card: wfx\_driver\_reload).

#### 4.1.9 Time and Consumption during Association to an Access Point

The following is an example current consumption during association to an Access Point after a scan step:



Figure 4.15. Association Current Consumption

Zoom on the Association step showing an averaged current consumption of 59.65 mA:



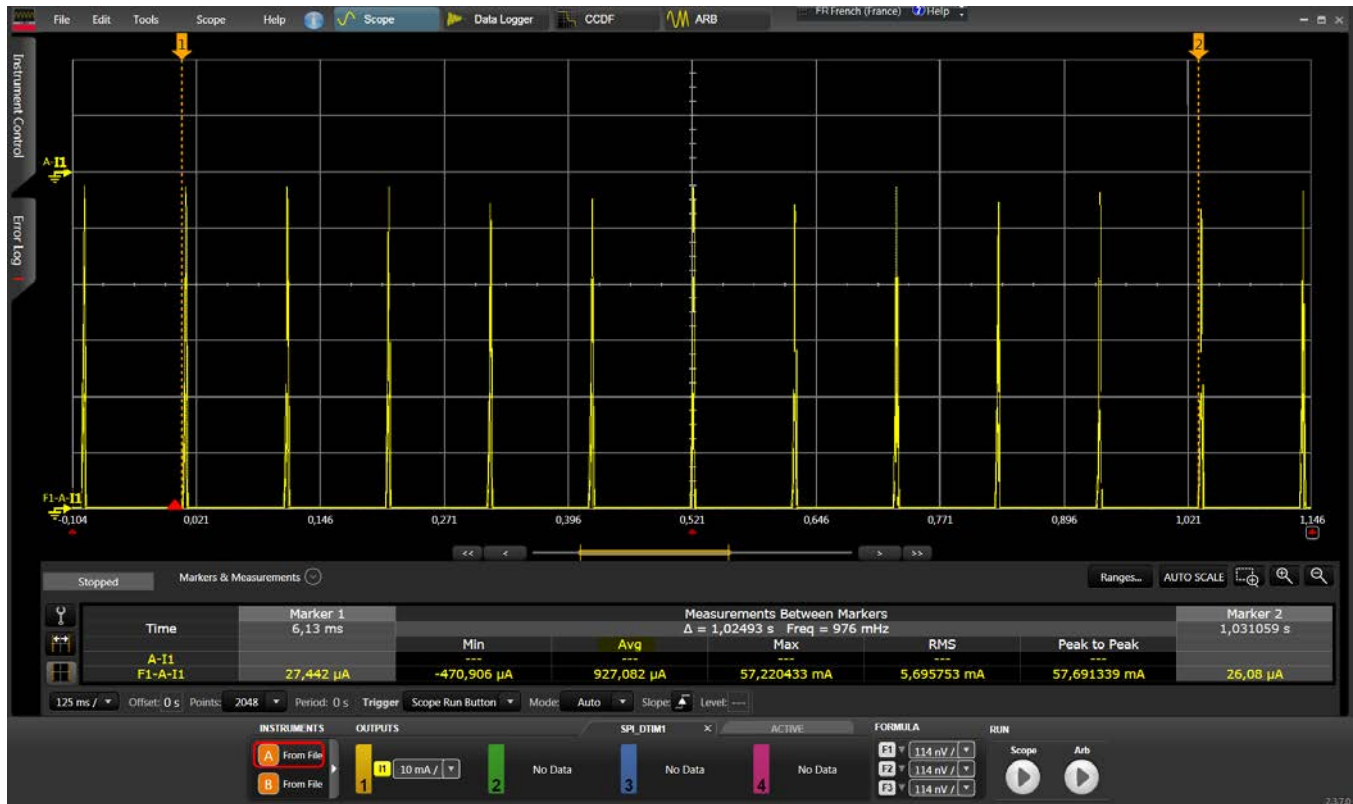
Figure 4.16. Zoom on Association Current Consumption

#### 4.1.10 Power Save Mode when Associated under DTIM 1

To get this mode, associate the WF(M)200 with an Access Point with power save mode enabled using the following command in Linux OS: **[sudo iw dev wlan0 set power\_save on]**.

Then, configure the Access Point in DTIM1 with a beacon interval of 102.4 ms and a beacon time duration of 1ms.

The following is an example of DTIM1 current consumption:



**Figure 4.17. Averaged Current Consumption in DTIM1**

The 927  $\mu$ A is measured in DTIM1 when the WF(M)200 receives all beacons (averaged on 10 DTIM intervals). Ensure that you do not include a use case with TX inside the two markers.

**Note:** DTIM figures in this document are not identical to those mentioned in WF(M)200 data sheets. Figures in the data sheet are meant for comparison with competitive devices and are measured with a firmware implementing a lower time margin during wake up for beacons reception. The firmware used for measurements in this document implements a little bit more margin to improve interoperability because some APs have a potential drift on beacons.

The following is a zoom on two RX beacons:

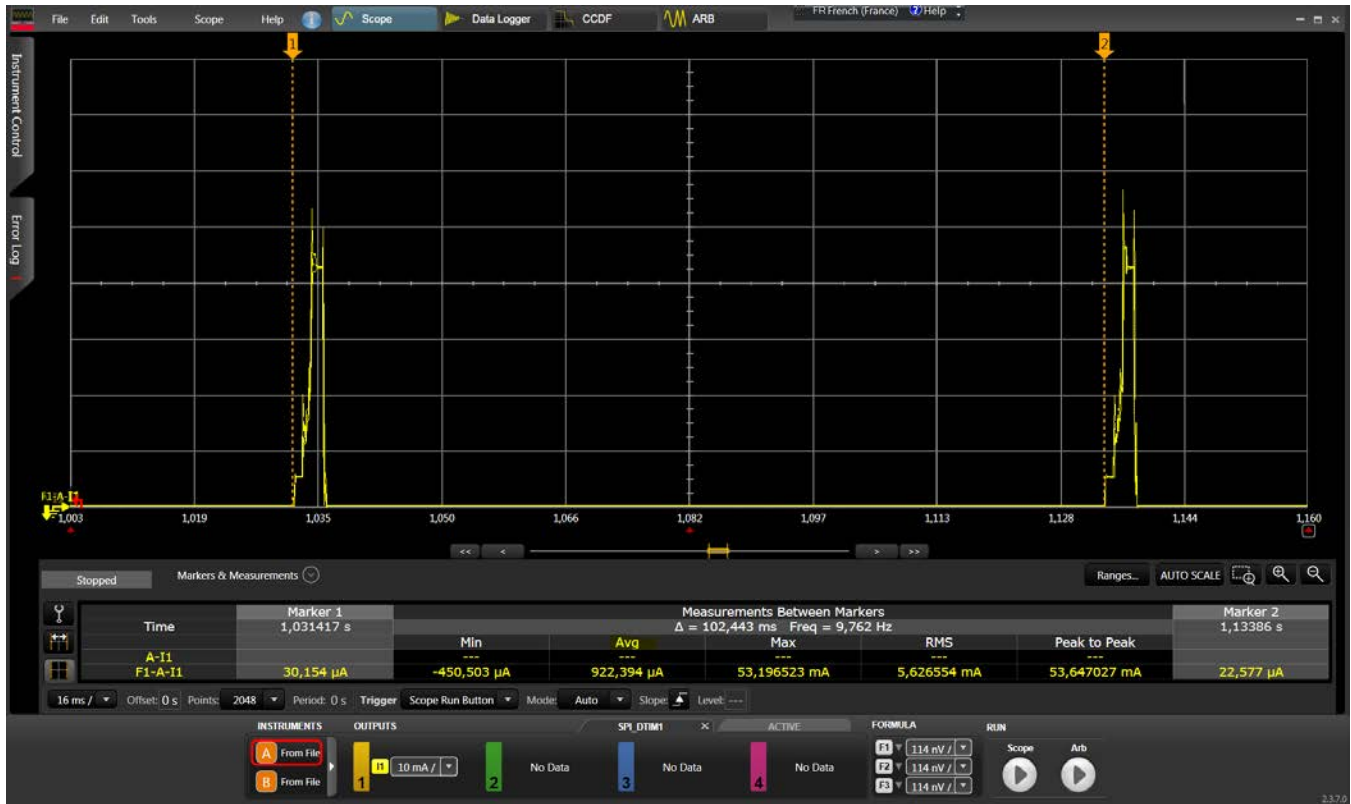


Figure 4.18. Current Consumption in DTIM1

The following is a use case with a marker between the two RX DTIM1 beacons providing the sleep state current consumption:

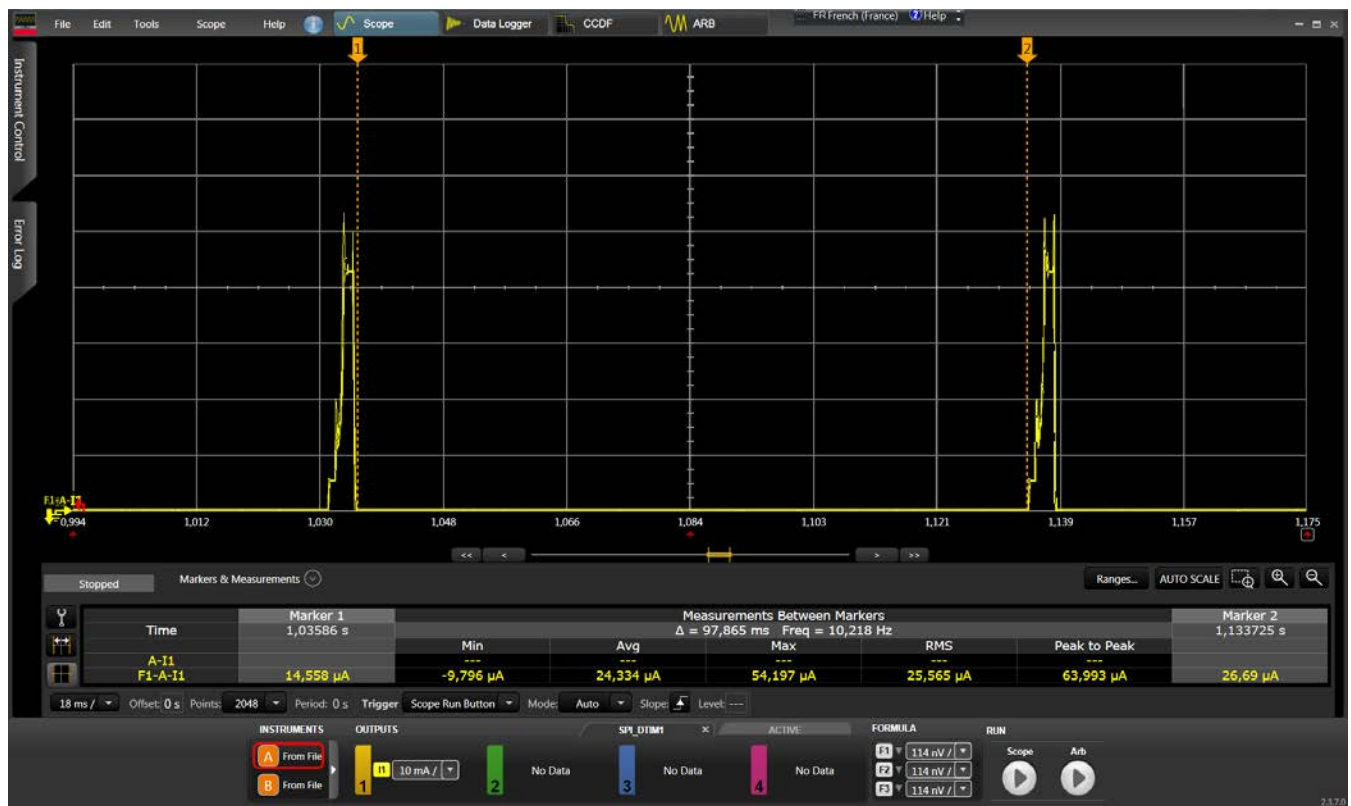


Figure 4.19. Sleep Current Consumption between RX in DTIM1

### 4.1.11 Power Save Mode when Associated under DTIM 3

To get this mode, associate the WF(M)200 with an Access Point with power save mode enabled. Then, configure the Access Point in DTIM3 with a beacon interval of 102.4 ms and a beacon time duration of 1 ms.

The following is an example of DTIM3 current consumption:

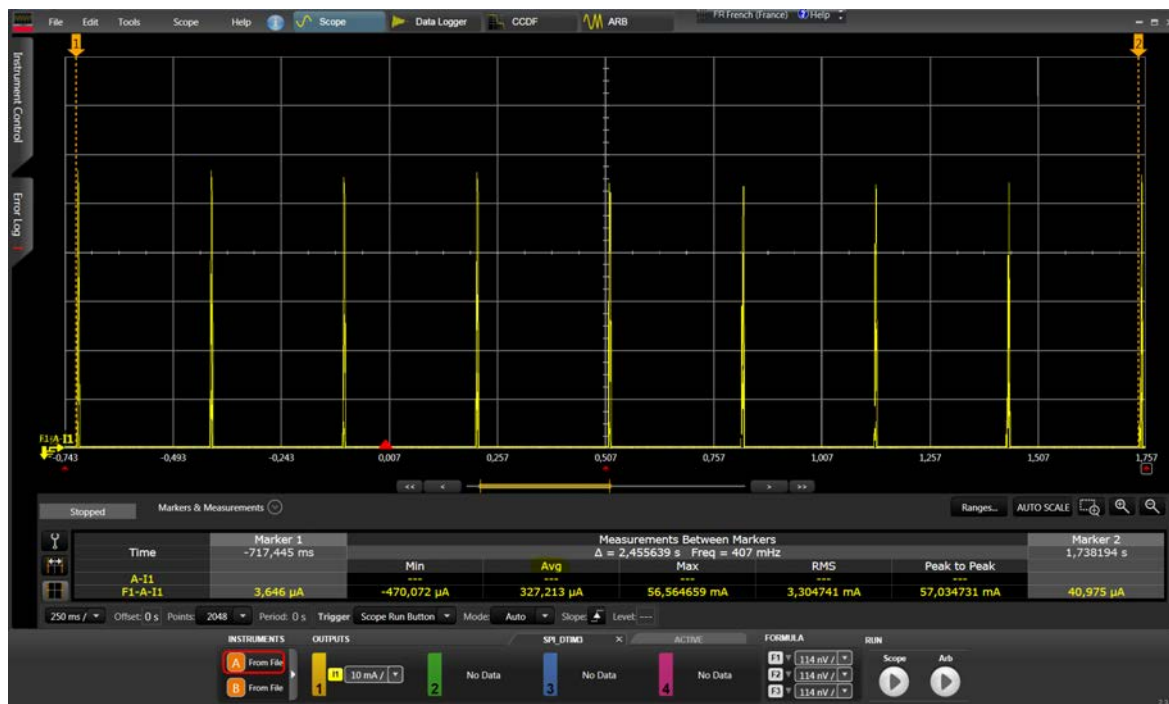


Figure 4.20. Averaged Current Consumption in DTIM3

The ~327  $\mu$ A are measured in DTIM3 when the WF(M)200 receives only one over 3 beacons (averaged on 8 DTIM3 periods).

The following is a zoom on two RX beacons:



Figure 4.21. Current Consumption in DTIM3

#### 4.1.12 Power Save Mode when Associated Under DTIM 10

To get this mode, associate the WF(M)200 with an Access Point with power save mode enabled. Then, configure the Access Point in DTIM10 with a beacon interval of 102.4 ms and a beacon time duration of 1 ms.

The following is an example of DTIM10 current consumption:



Figure 4.22. Averaged Current Consumption in DTIM10

The 115 µA is measured in DTIM10 when the WF(M)200 receives only one over 10 beacons (averaged on 4 DTIM10 periods).

The following is a zoom on two RX beacons:



Figure 4.23. Current Consumption in DTIM10

## 4.2 Other Use Cases

### 4.2.1 Firmware Download, Boot and Calibration Time, and Current Consumption

The following is an example of the activity you can get on Linux OS after using this command: `[sudo modprobe wfx]` (or the script command `[wfx_driver_reload]`).

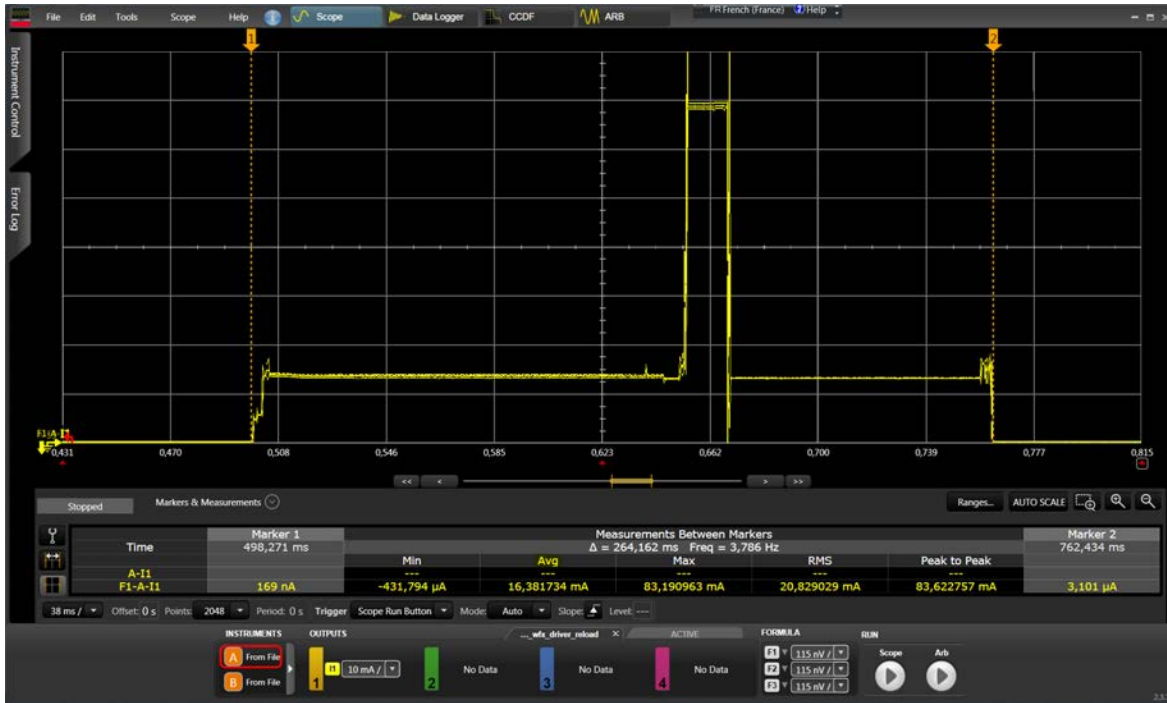


Figure 4.24. Firmware Download, Boot, Calibration Current Consumption

The calibration step is between the marker 1 and 2:

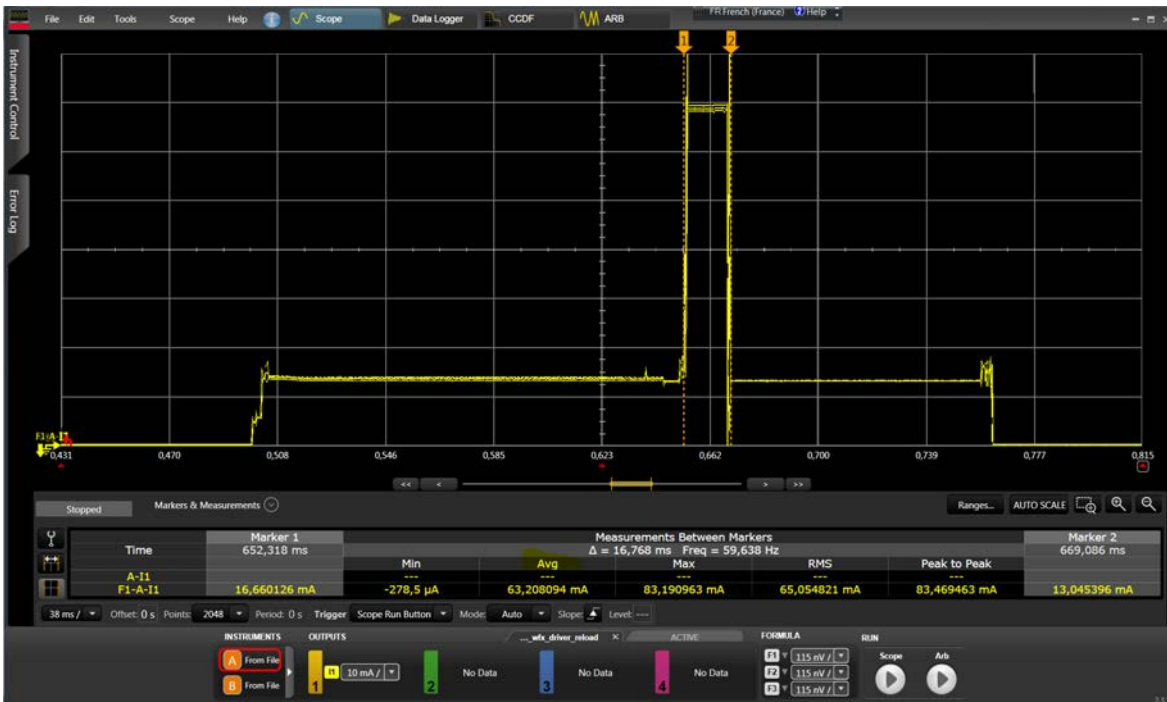


Figure 4.25. Calibration Current Consumption

## 4.2.2 Time and Consumption during Scan

This is an example of current consumption when requesting a scan using the following command in Linux OS: `[wpa_cli scan]`



Figure 4.26. Scanning Current Consumption

The Wi-Fi channel scanning causes significant current consumption over a long period of time. To reduce current consumption, avoid this task whenever possible.

### 4.2.3 Host Sending a Request to the WF(M)200 during Sleep State

The following is an example of current consumption when the WF(M)200 is in sleep mode and the host sends messages through the SPI (9 SPI accesses).

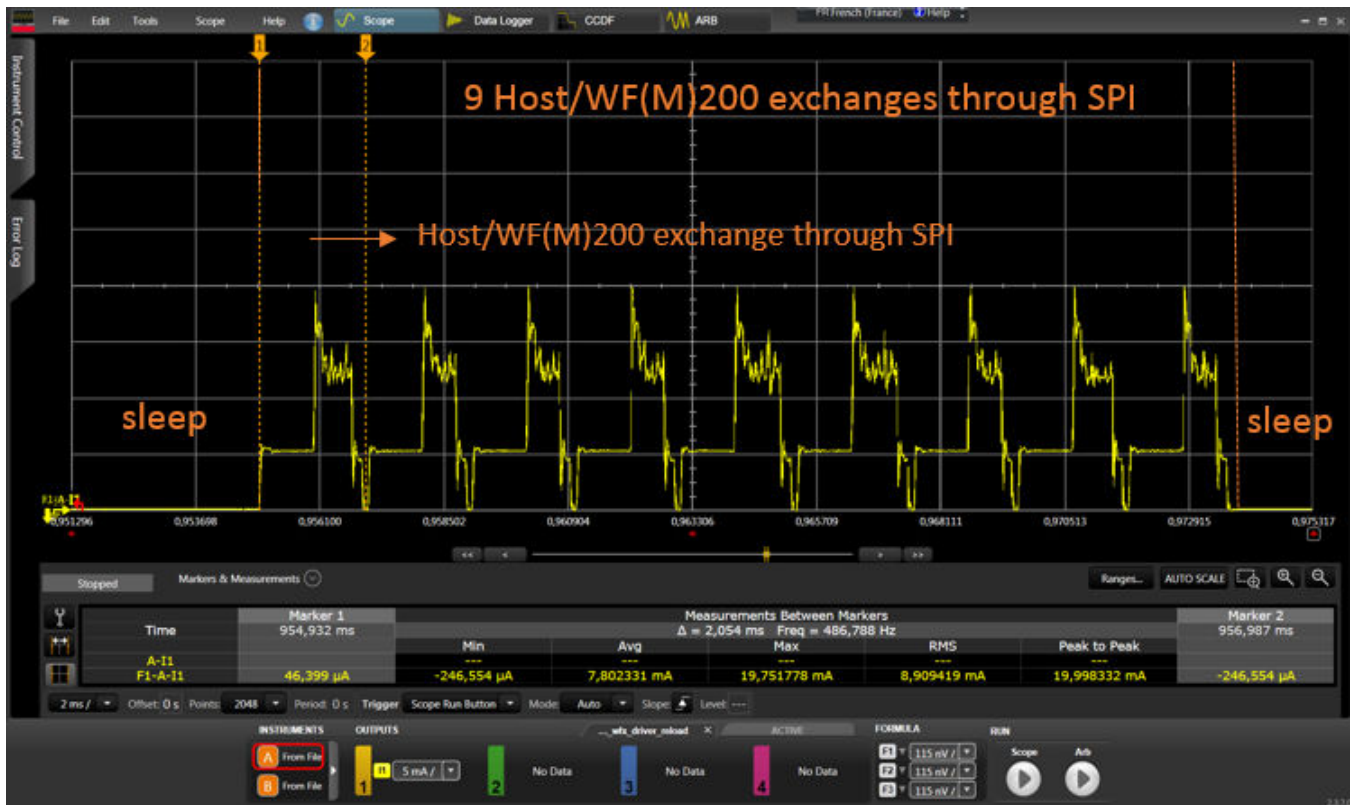


Figure 4.27. Current Consumption when Host Sends Request during Sleep State

The duration of this consumption depends of the SPI/SDIO serial clock used.

#### 4.2.4 Ping Data Traffic

For this measurement, a ping data traffic is launched with 1 ping packet per second (ping packet size of 64 bytes). This is the command in Linux OS: `[ping -I wlan0 IP_address_connected_with_the_access_point]`.

The following is an example when the Wi-Fi power save mode is not enabled on WF(M)200.



Figure 4.28. Current Consumption during Ping Traffic without Power Save Mode

The averaged current consumption in this case is 45.5 mA.

The following is a zoom on ping TX that shows TX for the ping request, RX of the ping reply, and finally TX of ACK.



Figure 4.29. Current Consumption Zoom during Ping Traffic without Power Save Mode

The following is an example of ping traffic with Wi-Fi power save mode enabled in DTIM1:



Figure 4.30. Current Consumption during Ping Traffic with Power Save Mode in DTIM1

The averaged current consumption in this use case is 7.36 mA.

The following is a zoom on the previous snapshot on the TX phase:



Figure 4.31. Current Consumption Zoom during Ping Traffic with DTIM1

## 4.2.5 Downstream UDP Data Traffic of 100 kbps

To generate a UDP throughput from the TP-Link Access Point using DTIM3 to the WF(M)200, use iPerf 3 with an average throughput target of 100 kbps. The effect of the burst profile to receive the UDP throughput on the current consumption for two burst configurations is shown as follows:

1. UDP burst traffic of 100 Kbits during ~120 ms every second (average UDP throughput of 100 kbps).
2. UDP burst traffic of 500 Kbits during ~120 ms every 5 seconds (average UDP throughput of 100 kbps).

The following figure shows power save mode and current consumption for the first use case:

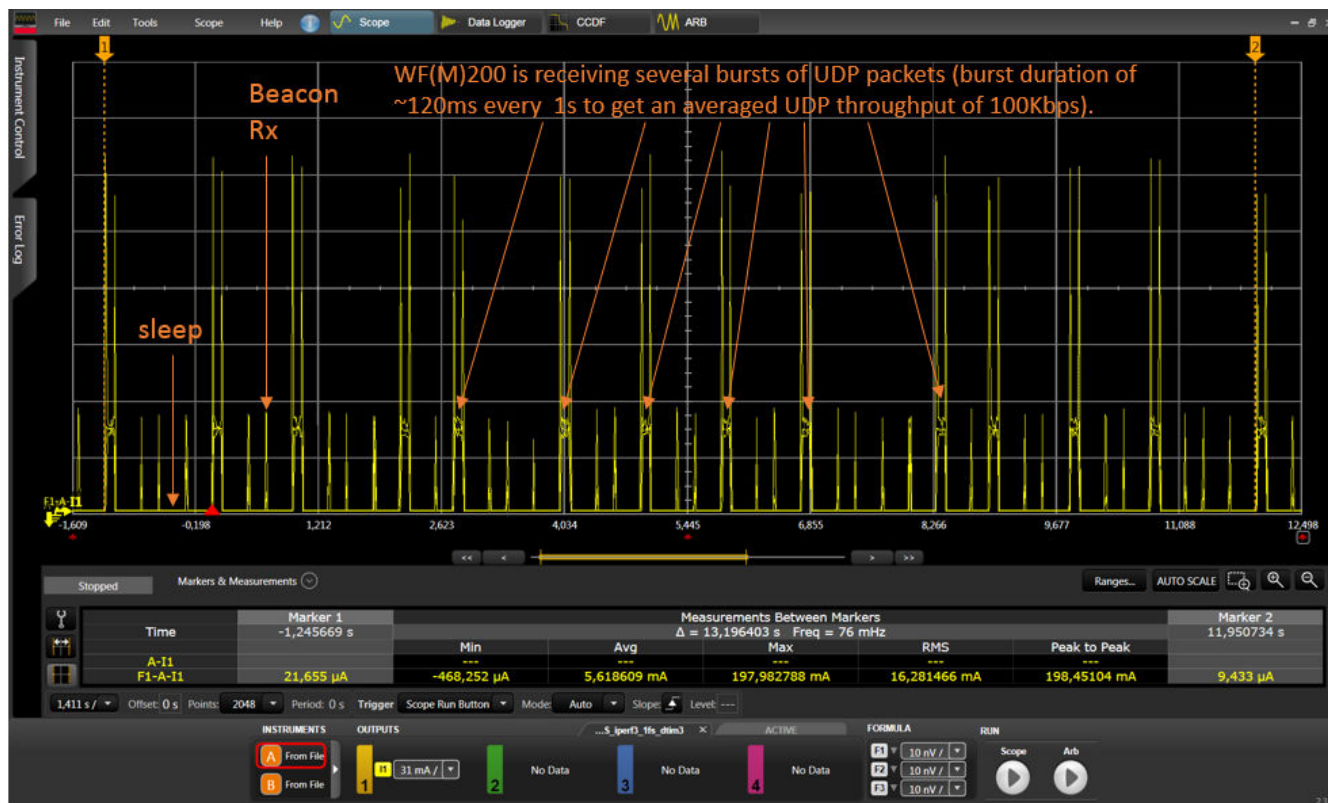


Figure 4.32. Current Consumption during Downstream Burst UDP Traffic (Use Case 1)

Note that in this example the averaged current consumption between marker 1 and 2 is ~5.6 mA.

The following figure shows the power save mode and current consumption for the second use case:

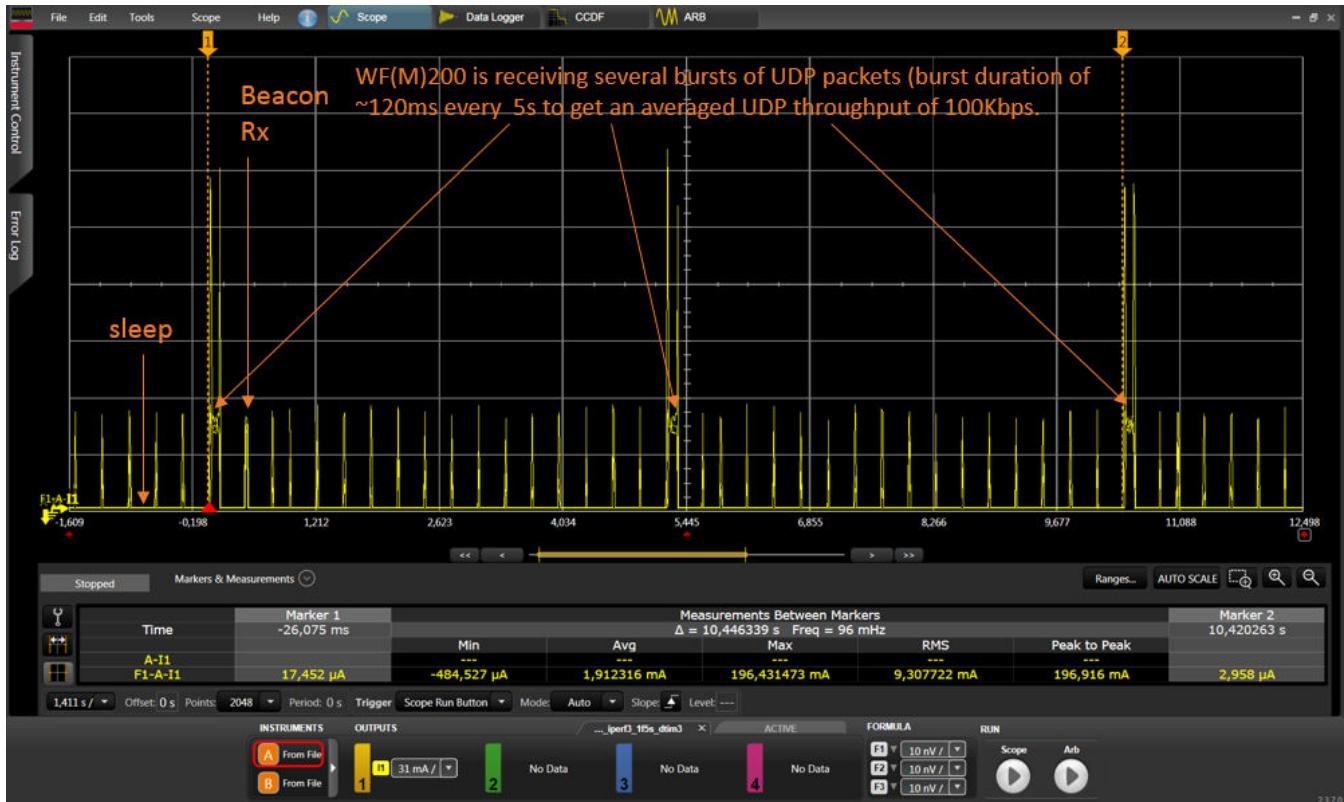


Figure 4.33. Current Consumption during Downstream Burst UDP Traffic (Use Case 2)

Note that in this example the averaged current consumption between marker 1 and 2 is ~1.91 mA.

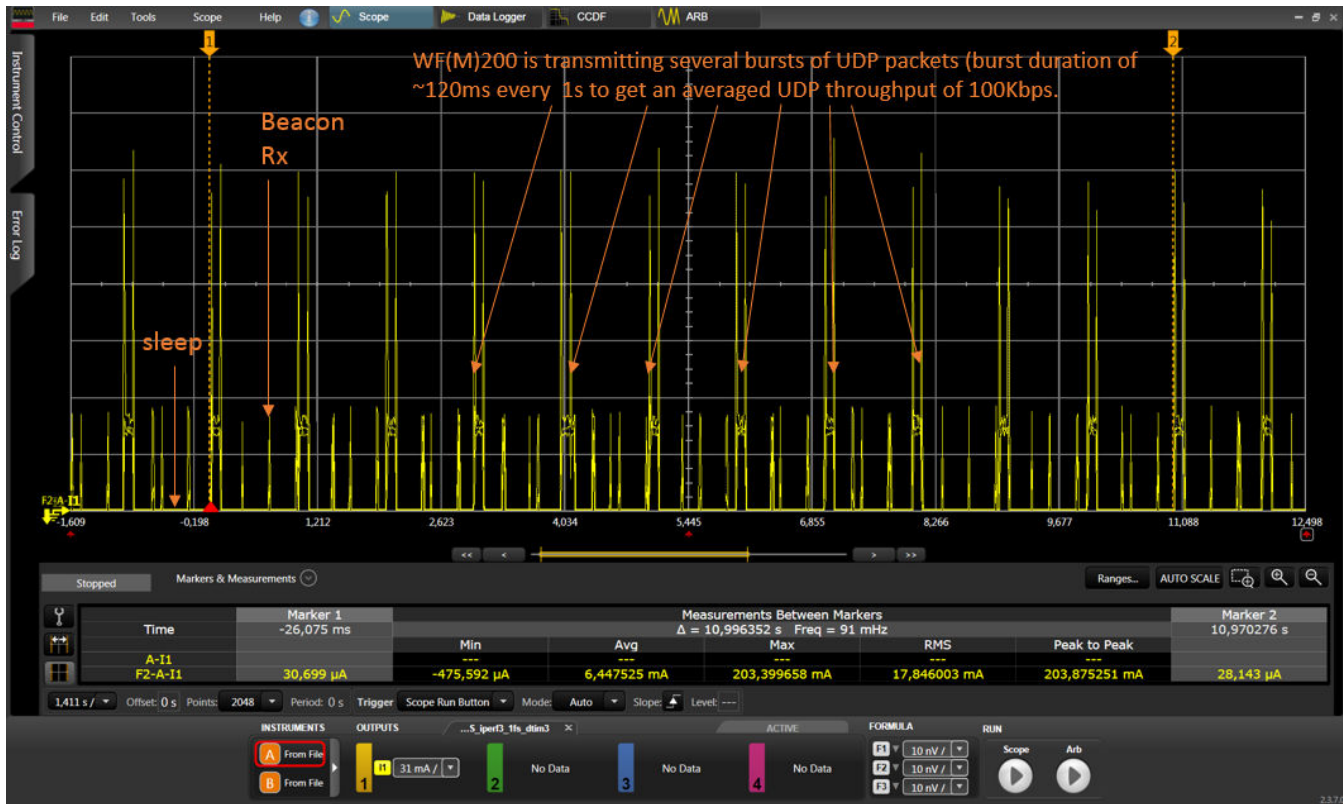
These two use cases show the impact of the throughput profile provided by the application. Moreover, with a burst profile with UDP packets spread regularly (every ~100 ms) to get the same UDP throughput of 100 kbps, the averaged current consumption can be higher than 30 mA.

## 4.2.6 Upstream UDP Data Traffic of 100 kbps

To generate a UDP throughput from the WF(M)200 to the TP-Link Access Point using DTIM3, use iPerf 3 with an average throughput target of 100 kbps. As in the previous section, two burst configurations are shown as follows:

1. UDP burst traffic of 100 Kbits during ~120 ms each second.
2. UDP burst traffic of 500 Kbits during ~120 ms every 5 seconds.

This following figure shows power save mode and current consumption for the first use case:



**Figure 4.34. Current Consumption during Upstream Burst UDP Traffic (Use Case 1)**

Note that in this example the averaged current consumption between marker 1 and 2 is ~6.5 mA.

The following figure shows power save mode and current consumption for the second use case:

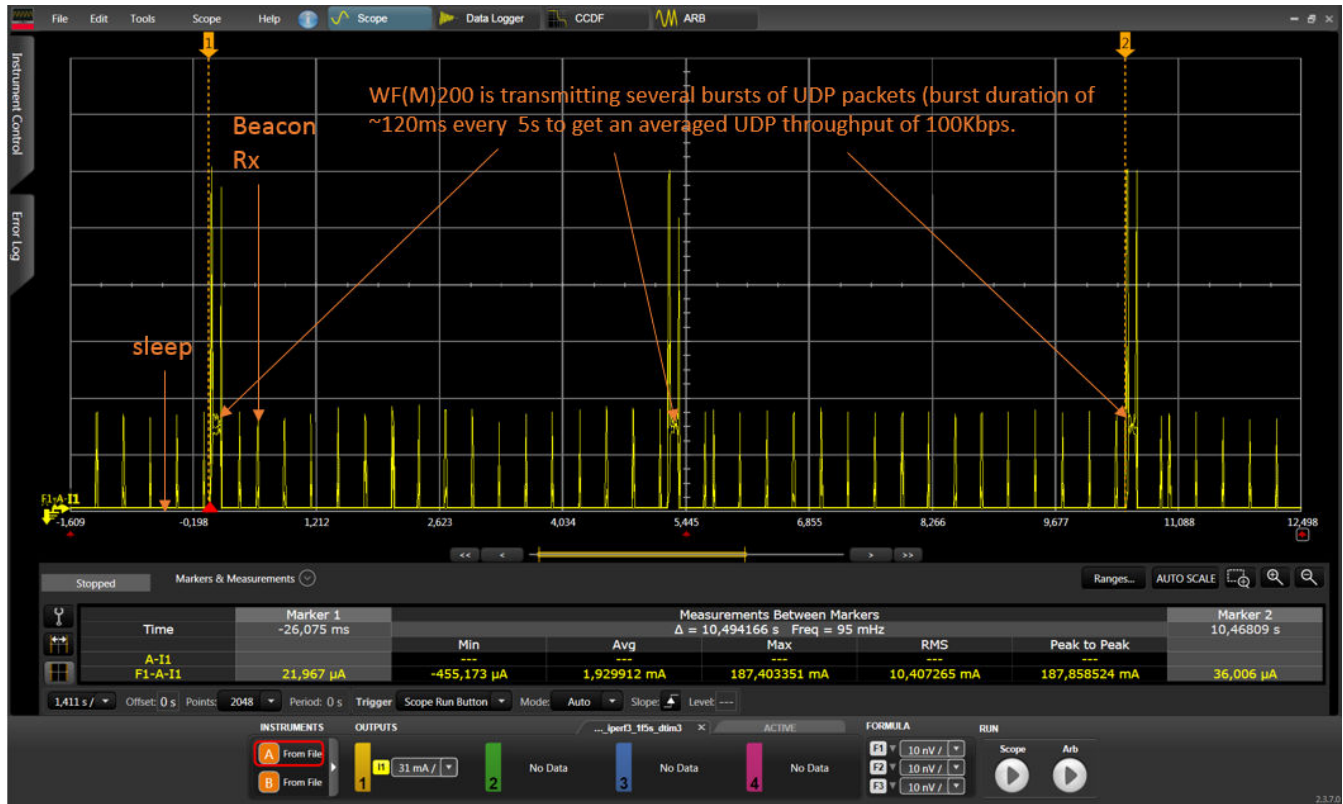


Figure 4.35. Current Consumption during Upstream Burst UDP Traffic (Use Case 2)

Note that in this example the averaged current consumption between marker 1 and 2 is ~1.93 mA.

These two use cases show the impact of the throughput profile provided by the application. Moreover, with a burst profile with UDP packets spread regularly (every ~100 ms) to get the same UDP throughput of 100 kbps, the averaged current consumption can be higher than 30 mA.

## 5. Appendix A: WF(M) Software Requirements

Use the following document to get software requirements for Lower MAC Linux driver or Full MAC driver example on STM32 with FreeRTOS OS and LwIP:

<https://docs.silabs.com/wifi/> for various WF(M)200 documentation needs including the Quick Start Guide.

The measurements done in [3. Measurement Setup](#) are based on SLEXP8022 using the SD card provided for the Raspberry Pi with the BRD8022 with hardware modifications described in [7. Appendix C: Devkit Hardware Setup for Measurements](#).

The current measurement presented in this document are done with Firmware 2.3.0 and Linux driver 2.2.0.

All “wfx” GitHub repositories contain driver implementation examples and tools related to the WF(M)200 Wi-Fi solution. The repositories can be found at the following link:

<https://github.com/SiliconLabs?utf8=%E2%9C%93&q=wfx&type=&language=>

## 6. Appendix B: Details on WUP and WIRQ

The WF(M)200 firmware manages Wi-Fi power save mode when enabled by the driver or from upper layer in the host.

To get the lowest current consumption in sleep mode, the driver manages the wake-up signal (WUP) and the wake-up IRQ signal (WIRQ) with the following definition:

WUP is used by the host to allow the WF(M)200 device to go in sleep/snooze mode. To get the lowest current consumption achievable, the serial interface has to be disabled.

WIRQ is used by the WF(M)200 to wake up the host to read the message available in the WF(M)200 through the serial interface. It is also used to acknowledge that the WF(M)200 is awake as described below.

The driver in the host requests wake-up of WF(M)200 SPI/SDIO interface and the firmware decides when it is ready. Independently of this, the WF(M)200 firmware manages the Wi-Fi activity. For instance, the WF(M)200 will wake-up autonomously to receive frames when due without any host intervention.

The WUP and WIRQ and the serial clock activity are managed by the host according the following steps.

- As long as the WUP signal is high, the WF(M)200 stays awake and processes incoming commands on the serial interface. The serial clock is running.
- If the host sets the WUP signal to zero, the WF(M)200 may stop processing incoming commands on the serial bus and may enter sleep mode. The serial clock is stopped by the host.
- The host does not access the serial interface while the WUP signal is low.
- If the host wants to send a command to the WF(M)200, it must first raise the WUP pin and wait for the WIRQ interrupt signaling the WF(M)200 is awake. The serial clock is started after WIRQ is raised.
- The WIRQ interrupt indicates that the HI\_WAKUP\_IND\_BODY message is ready for the host to read. The serial clock is started to get this message.
- If the WF(M)200 needs to send a message to the host while the WUP is down, it will raise the WIRQ. Then, the host must raise the WUP signal and start the serial clock before reading the message. When the message is read, the WF(M)200 sets the WIRQ to low.

The following chronogram provides the overview of this behavior managed by the driver:

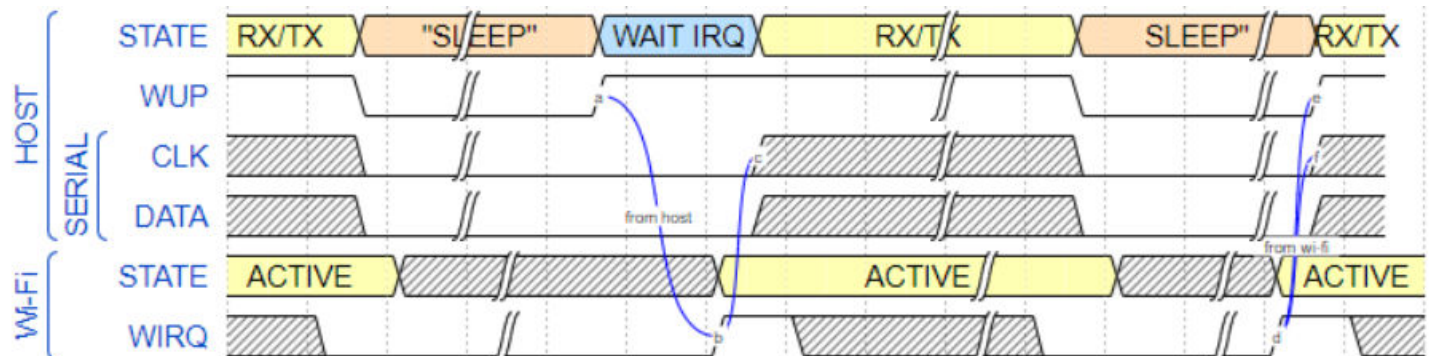


Figure 6.1. Chronogram of the State Transition on Host and WF(M)200 Side

**Note:** When the Wi-Fi STATE is unknown, it covers both ACTIVE (TX or RX state) and SLEEP state.

When the WUP goes up, the WIRQ should go up in a maximum of 1.5 ms. When the WIRQ goes up, the host raises the WUP signal and the serial clock as quickly as possible to avoid losing Wi-Fi frames.

**Note:** To get the lowest current consumption in DTIM, the host should manage WUP and WIRQ correctly and efficiently. More details are available using the driver example on GitHub (for Lower MAC or Full MAC driver).

## 7. Appendix C: Devkit Hardware Setup for Measurements

The BRD8022A provides a way to perform accurate WF200 current measurement (the same way is possible with the BRD8023A for WFM200). For this, simple hardware modifications are required as described below.

The snapshot below provides the top overview of the BRD8022A board where U1 is the WF200.

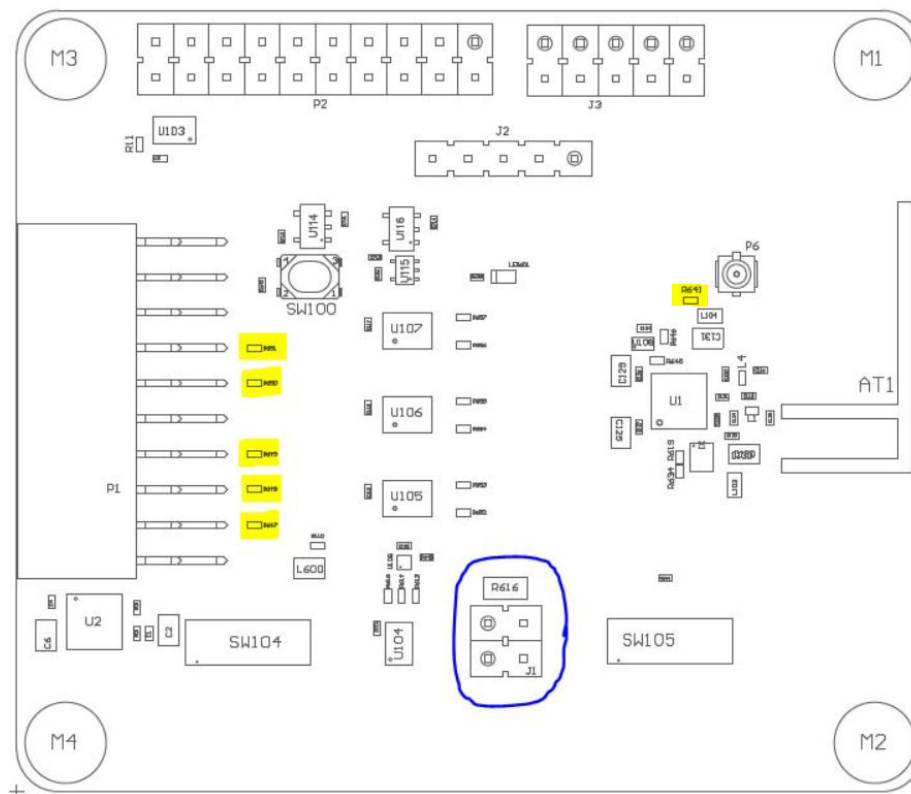


Figure 7.1. BRD8022 Top Overview

The BRD8022A uses a pull-up resistor on the WF200 RESETn pin which is not useful because an internal pull-up already exists. As a result, the R641 resistor (in yellow close to P6 and higher than U1) should be removed to get the lowest current consumption when RESETn is at low level.

For SDIO interface, the standard requires pull-up resistors on signals in the host. The BRD8022A provides five 82 K pull-up resistors and with the Raspberry Pi, they should be removed to get the lowest current consumption because they are not useful. These five pull-up resistors to remove in SPI or SDIO interface are highlighted in yellow close to P1 in the previous figure.

The elements contained in the blue circle above are necessary to perform current measurement of the WF(M)200. The schematic of this part is described below:

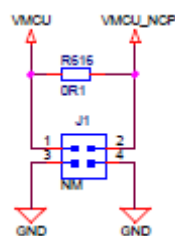


Figure 7.2. R616 and J1 Schematic

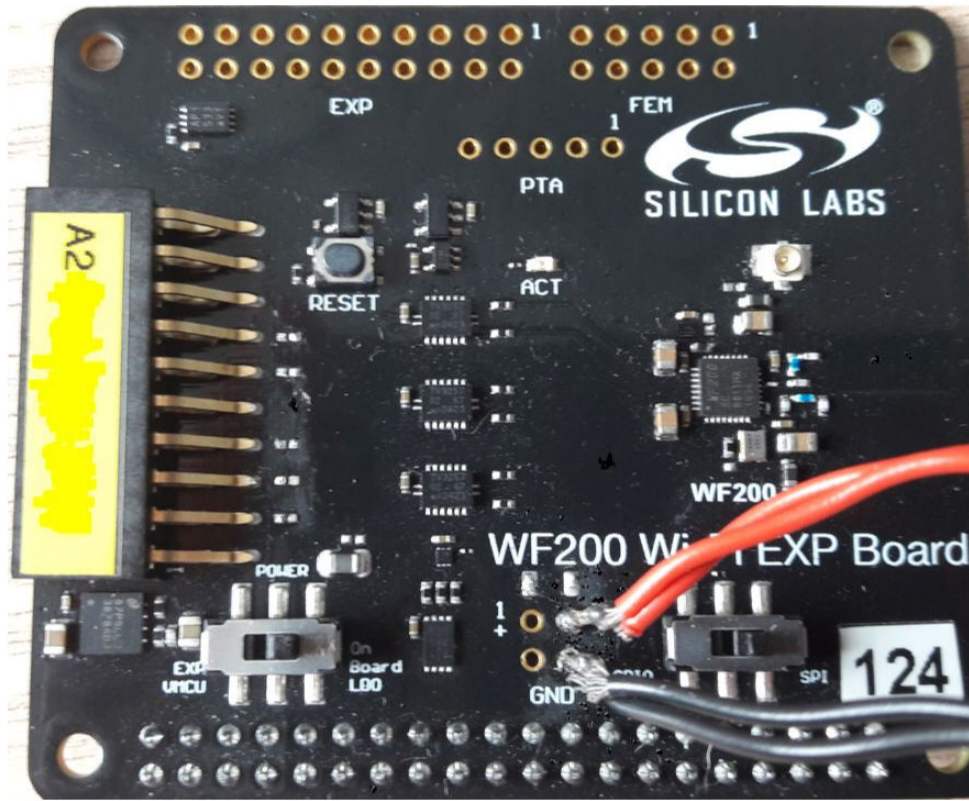
The R616 is a 0.1 Ohm resistor which connects the VMCU with the VMCU\_NCP (WF200).

The J1 can be used to solder a HE10 connector (2.54 mm), which is useful for measurements.

Therefore, using R616 and J1 provides two ways to perform WF200 current measurements during TX, RX, or averaged on DTIM3, as follows:

- Using a Voltmeter on J1-1 and J2-2, you can monitor the R616 voltage and then compute the current consumption
- Using an Ampere meter in serial between J1-1 and J1-2 after removing the R616 resistor

To get more accurate current measurements after you've removed the R616 resistor, use a monitored power supply using J1, as described in the image below.



**Figure 7.3. BRD8022 Removing Pull-up Resistors, R641 and R616 and Using J1**

This is also a preferred method to measure the average lowest current consumption during the sleep state.

To get the lowest current consumption in sleep state using Raspberry Pi, set the interface using SPI interface because the clock is stopped during sleep (not possible with the kernel SDIO driver).

Additional details are available in [https://www.silabs.com/documents/login/user-guides/ug379\\_slexpwx200-users-guide.pdf](https://www.silabs.com/documents/login/user-guides/ug379_slexpwx200-users-guide.pdf).

## 8. Appendix D: N6705C Configuration

The N6705C DC Power Analyzer provides a way to measure DC voltage and current into the DUT. The DC Power Analyzer provides 4 GB of non-volatile data storage for scope traces and all functions and measurements are available at the front panel. For even greater control and analysis functions, the DC Power Analyzer can be used with the 14585A Control and Analysis Software.

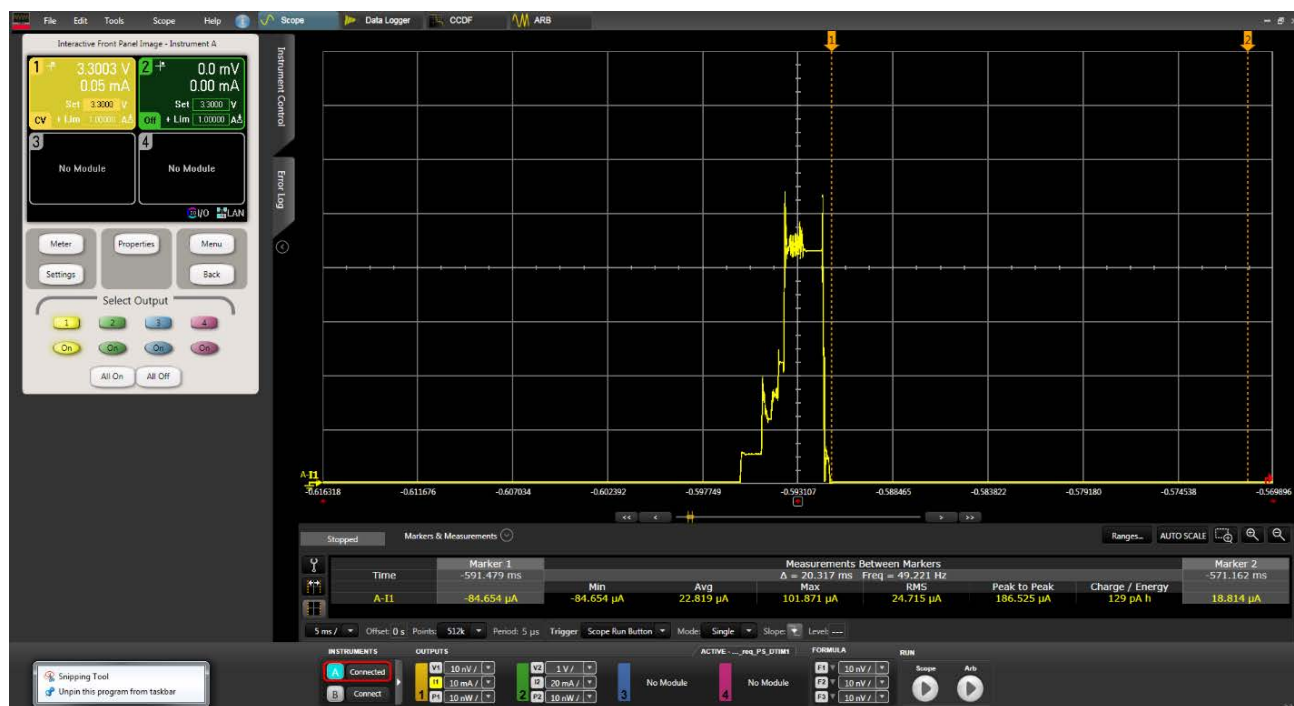


Figure 8.1. 14585A Snapshot

N6705C Key features and specifications:

- Voltmeter or Ammeter with range and accuracy depending of DC Power module (N6781A)
- Scope function: Digitizes voltage and current at up to 200 kHz, 512 kpts, up to 18 bits
- 4 GB of non-volatile data storage for data log, scope traces, instrument settings

Table 8.1. DC Power Module Key Performance Specifications

DC power Module	DC output ratings (volts/ amps/watts)	Ripple & noise (p-p / rms)	Voltage programming accuracy	Current programming accuracy	Voltage measurement accuracy	Current measurement accuracy
N6781A	20 V / $\pm 3$ A / 20 W	12 mV / 1.2 mV	0.025% + 1.8 mV	0.04% + 0.3 mA	0.025% + 1.2 mV	0.03% + 0.25 mA

The current measurement accuracy is a function of the current range selected by the user with the 14585A software or the N6705C user interface.

Table 8.2. N6781A Current Measurement Accuracy Table

Current range selection	Current accuracy
3 A range	0.03% + 0.25 mA
100 mA range	0.025% + 10 $\mu$ A
1 mA range	0.025% + 100 nA
10 $\mu$ A range	0.025% + 8 nA

Because the WF200 current consumption varies dynamically, use the auto range feature. This can be selected using the range button on 14585 software:

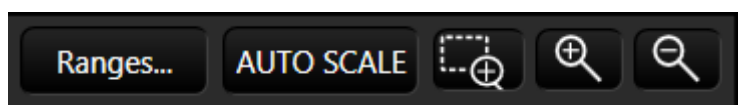


Figure 8.2. 14585A Ranges Selection Snapshot

Then, set the “Current” field to “Auto”:

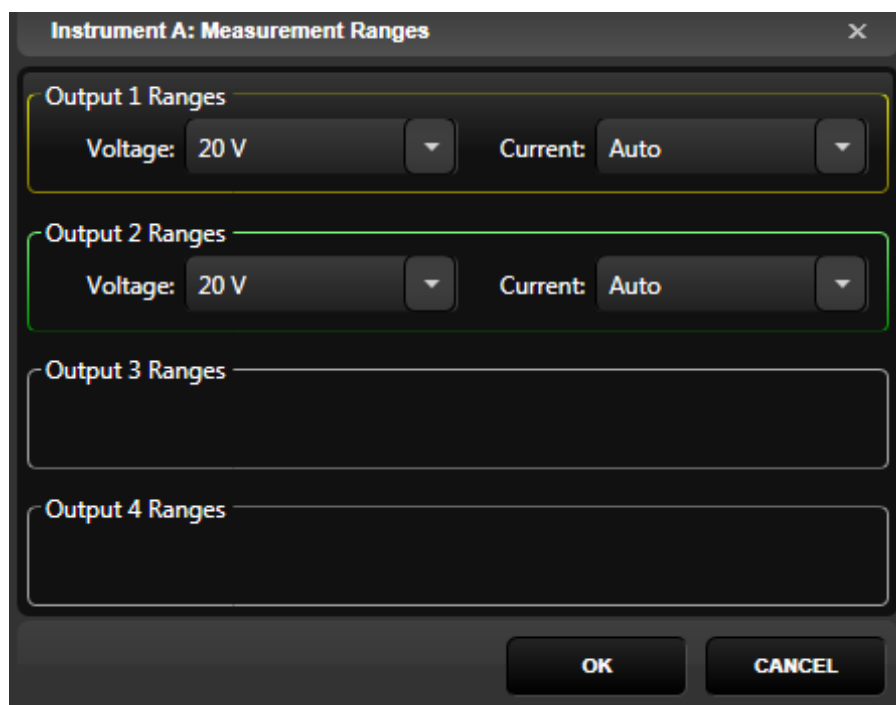


Figure 8.3. 14585A Measurements Ranges Snapshot

The following is the configuration used to perform current measurement with the WF200:

**Output 1 - Source Settings**

Mode

Emulating **Unipolar Power Supply**

Operating In **Voltage Priority**

Voltage **3.3000** V Range **6.12 V**

+ Current Limit **1.00000** A

- Current Limit **-0.61200** A ☐ Tracking Limits

Resistance

☒ Enable **0.0000** Ω

Delay... Ratings... Protection... Advanced... Close

Figure 8.4. Source Settings

Moreover, the Keysight DC power analyzer N6705C set in 4-wire sensing (voltage is monitored at the load and automatically compensate for any voltage drop within supply cables) is used.

The configuration for this on the user interface is:

**Output 1 - Advanced Source Settings**

Voltage Slew

☒ Maximum **3300** V/s

Sense **4 Wire**

Output Turn Off Mode

☐ Low Impedance ☒ High Impedance

Voltage Bandwidth Range **Low for (0-150 uF)**

Voltage Bandwidth Frequency **1440** Hz

Close

Figure 8.5. Advanced Source Settings

The hardware 4 wires connection is as follows.

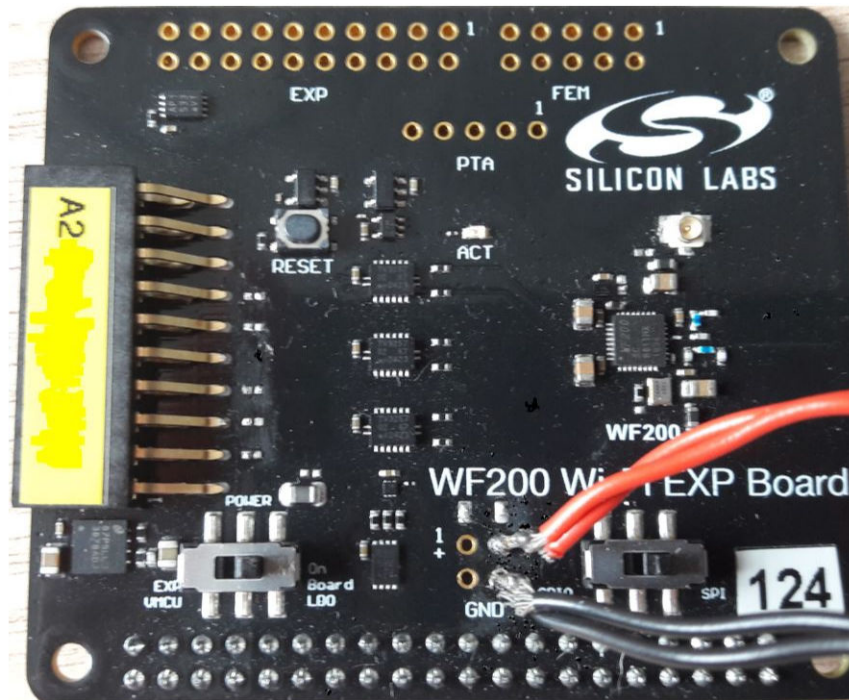


Figure 8.6. J1 Connector with 4 Wires Connection

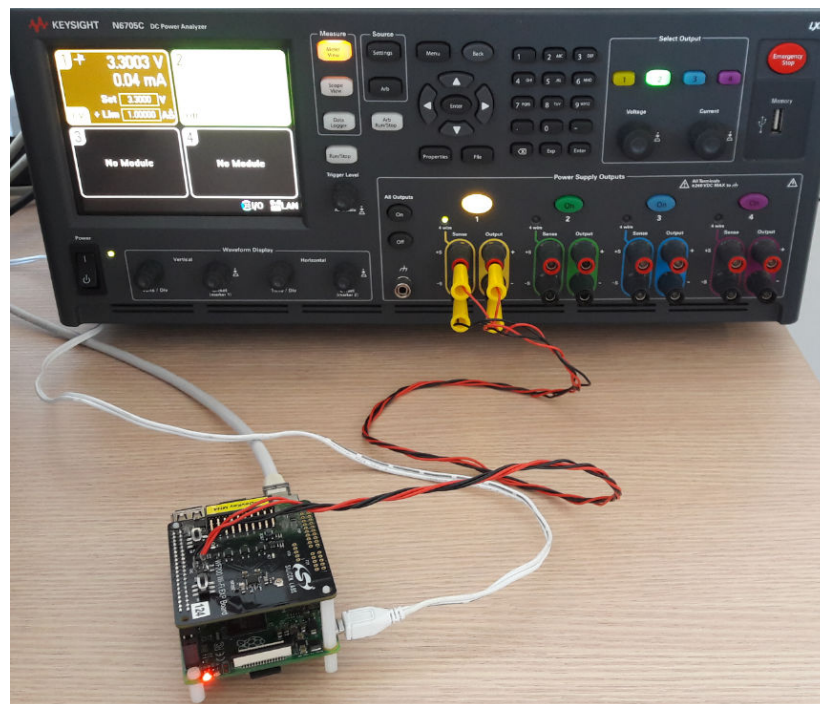


Figure 8.7. N6705C 4 Wires Connection

## 9. Appendix E: Access Point Configuration

Two Wi-Fi Access Points are used:

- TP-Link Archer C3150 Wi-Fi Gigabit Tri-Band Router configured with a PC to handle data traffic (high-throughput Access Point). Configured in 2.4 GHz 11 bgn 20 Mhz. Used for UDP iPerf throughput test
- ALFA Network AWUS036NHA – USB Wi-Fi adaptor, 150 Mbps, 802.11b/g/n, connector RP-SMA, chipset Atheros AR9271L used with a Raspberry Pi and Hostapd configuration to get Beacon duration of 1 ms for DTIM1, DTIM3, DTIM10 current measurements

The Alfa is a Wi-Fi adaptor on USB usable on a Raspberry Pi and can be easily configured in Access Point using Hostapd. Below is the command to launch Hostapd with the configuration file hostapd\_1ms\_DTIM3.conf.

```
Sudo hostapd -B hostapd_1ms_DTIM3.conf
```

The following is the Hostapd configuration file hostapd\_1ms\_DTIM3.conf, necessary to get the beacon time duration of 1 ms with beacon interval of 102.4 ms and DTIM period set to 3.

```
# Configuration to generate beacons 1ms long (127 bytes)
interface=wlan0
driver=nl80211
ctrl_interface=/var/run/hostapd

ssid=AP_Beacon_1ms
channel=6
hw_mode=g
auth_algs=1

beacon_int=100
dtim_period=3

# +8B
vendor_elements=dd06000000000000
```

You can modify the DTIM interval by modifying the dtim\_period parameter.

## 10. Appendix F: Advanced Energy Monitoring Usage to Measure Current Consumption

Using Advanced Energy Monitoring (AEM) is simple. To set it up, see the Knowledge Base Article (KBA) below: [https://www.silabs.com/community/mcu/32-bit/knowledge-base.entry.html/2014/05/21/using\\_aem\\_to\\_measure-BdWI](https://www.silabs.com/community/mcu/32-bit/knowledge-base.entry.html/2014/05/21/using_aem_to_measure-BdWI)

AEM is capable of measuring currents in the 0.1  $\mu\text{A}$  to 95 mA range with a frequency close to 10 kHz. The following is a snapshot the BRD8022A on top of the Raspberry Pi using the SPI interface, the EFM32GG-STK3700A with AEM.

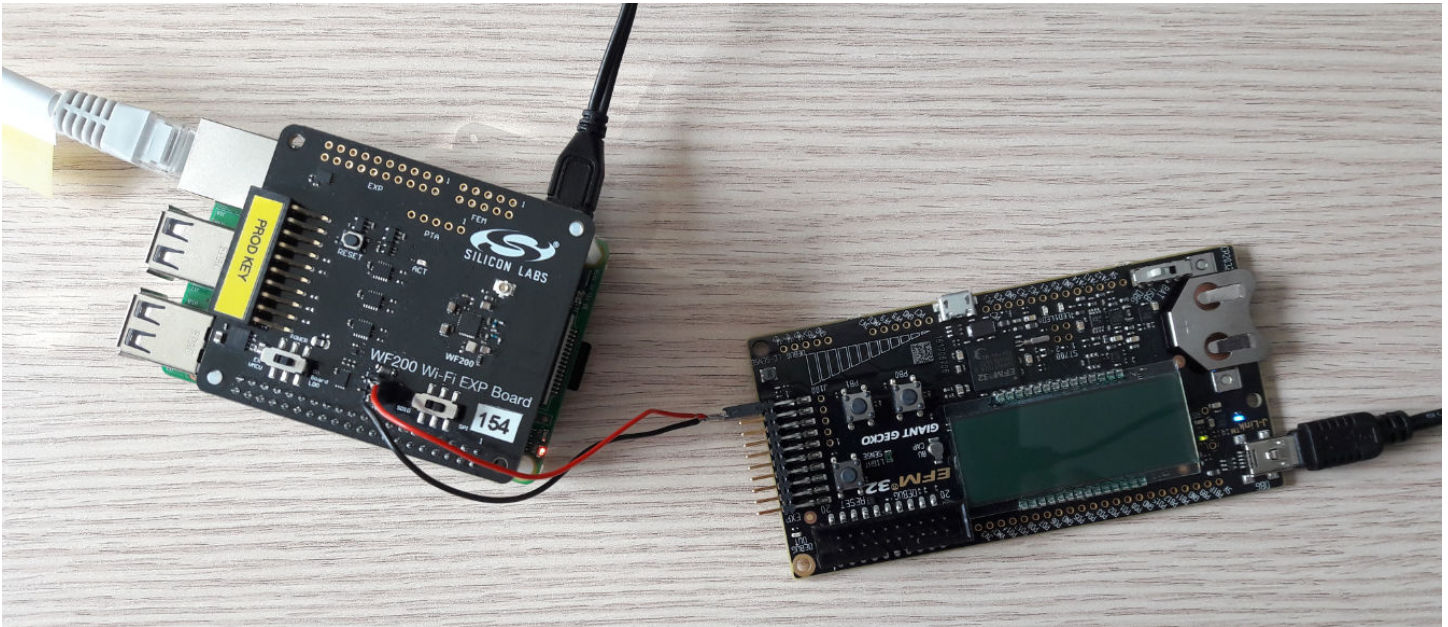


Figure 10.1. EFM32GG-STK3700A and BRD8022A Connection

You have to remove the 5 SDIO pull-up resistors, the R641 RESETn Pull-up, the R616 (0.1 Ohm) and to connect J1 on the BRD8022A to use power supply and AEM from STK, as shown in the previous figure. See also this KBA:

[https://www.silabs.com/community/wireless/wi-fi/knowledge-base.entry.html/2019/03/19/kba\\_how\\_to\\_do\\_curr-U9le](https://www.silabs.com/community/wireless/wi-fi/knowledge-base.entry.html/2019/03/19/kba_how_to_do_curr-U9le).

Below are examples from AEM measurement:

RX current consumption in DTIM3 (beacon interval de  $\sim 102$  ms; beacon  $\sim 2$  ms; Average DTIM3 current consumption of 559.46  $\mu\text{A}$ ):

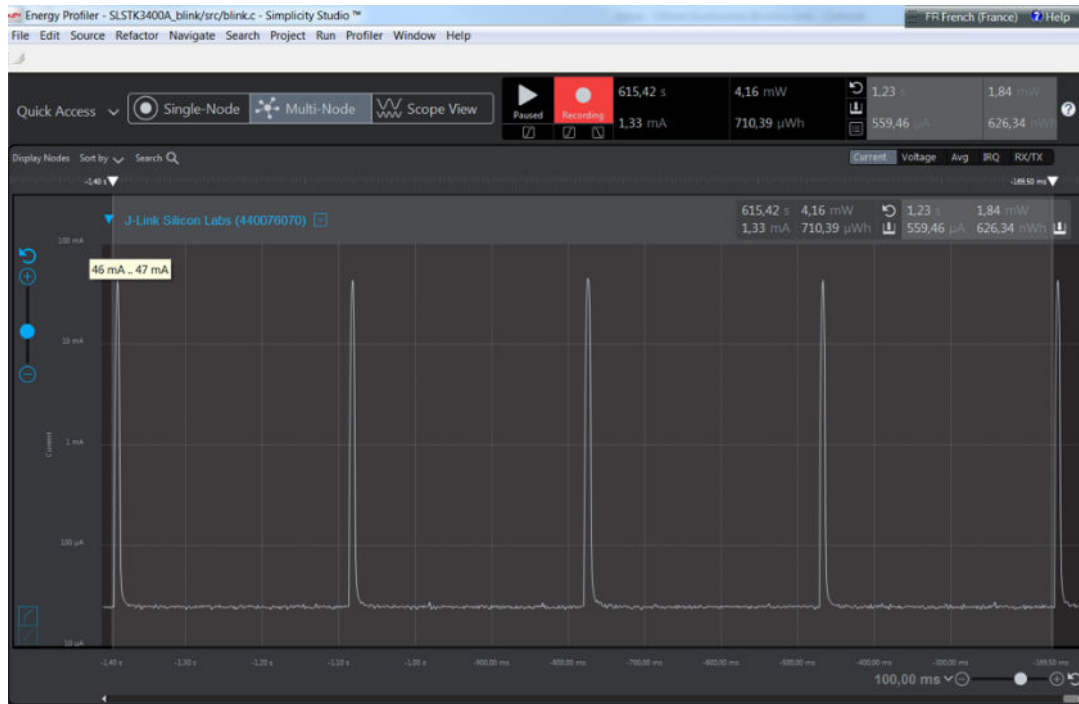


Figure 10.2. RX Current Consumption in DTIM3

Warning: The vertical scale is in Log in the above snapshot (you can switch between linear or log scale).

Zoom on RX beacon current consumption (~42  $\mu$ A):

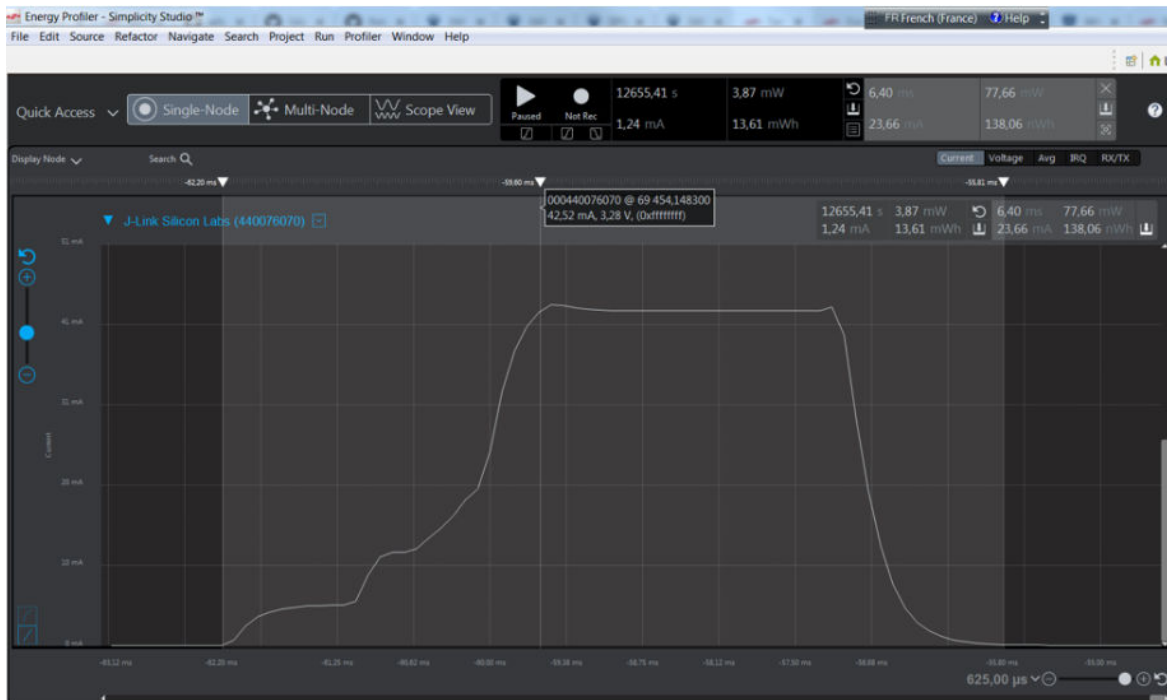
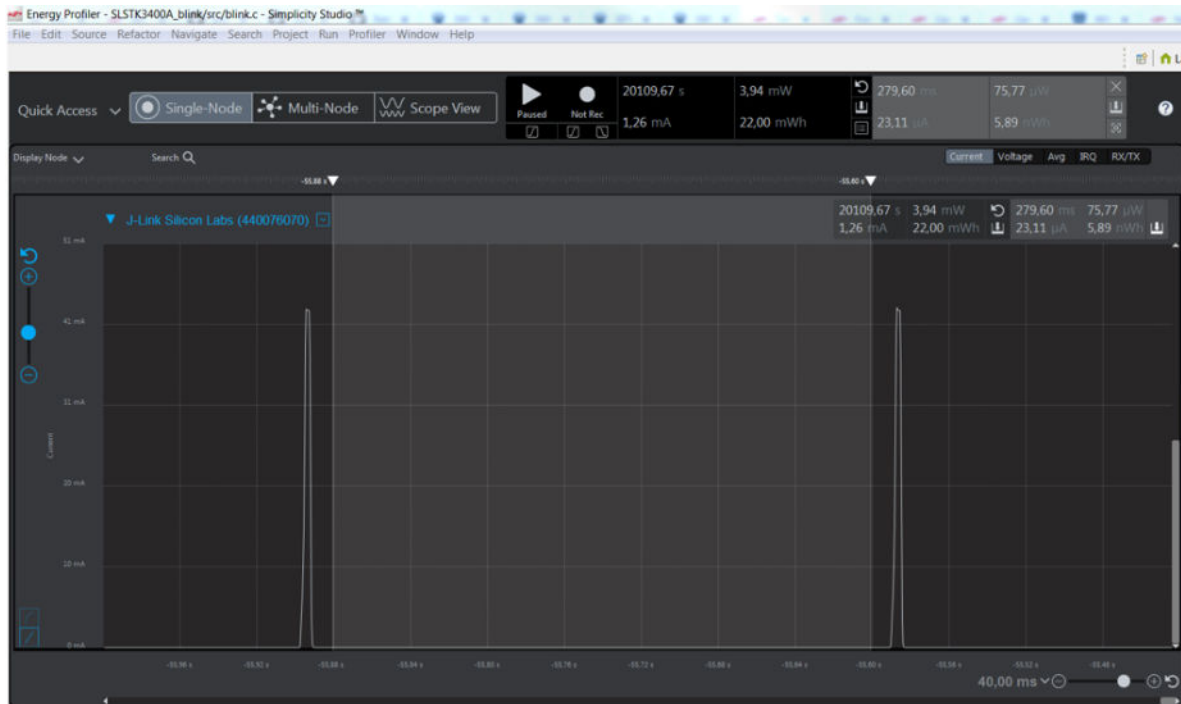


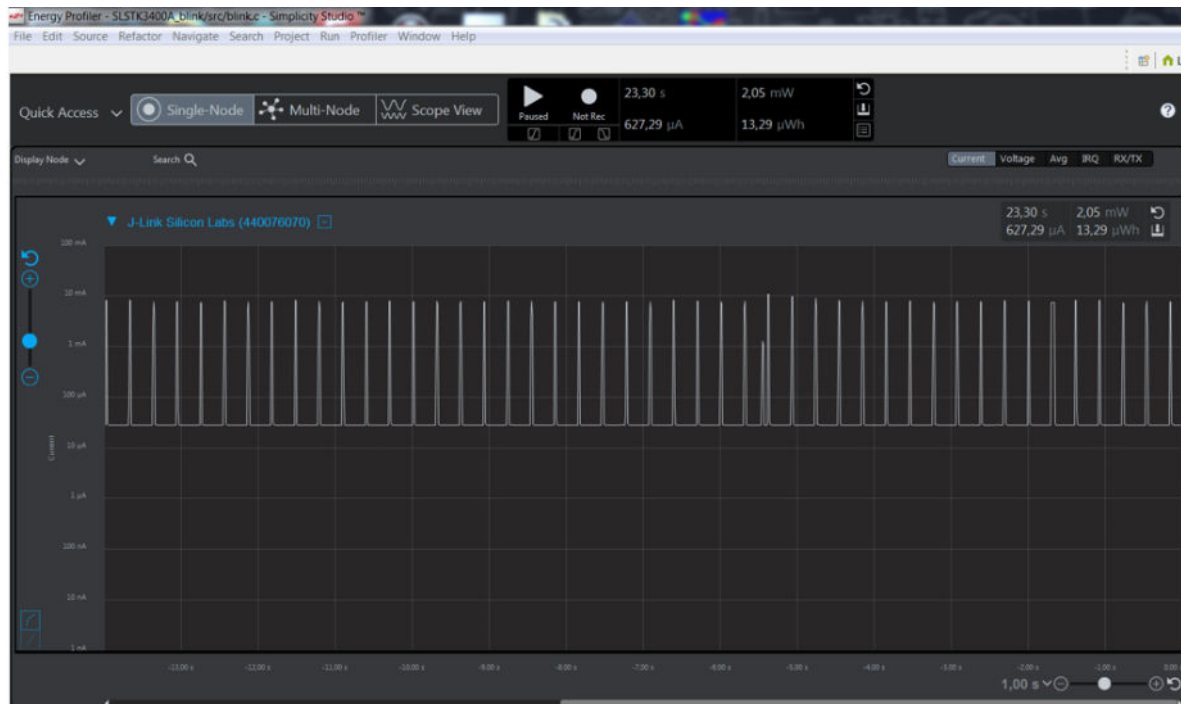
Figure 10.3. Zoom on RX Beacon Current Consumption

Note that the average sleep state current consumption is 23.11  $\mu$ A.



**Figure 10.4. Average Sleep State Current Consumption**

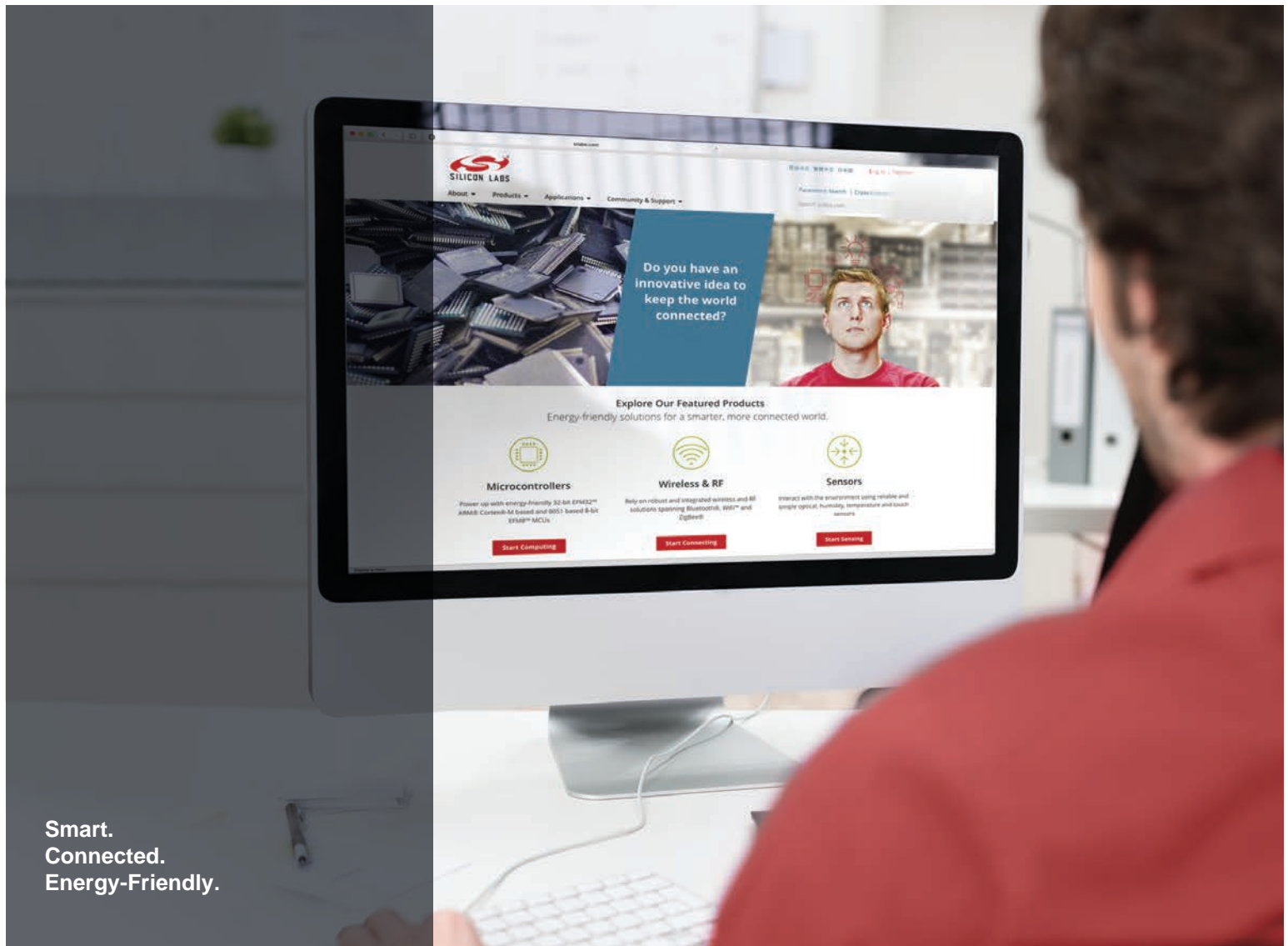
Note a wide overview of the current consumption with DTIM3 (log scale in current consumption), but with such scale then the RX peak consumption is not at the correct value. Use a maximum 200 ms per division to get an accurate level:



**Figure 10.5. Average DTIM3 Current Consumption**

Nevertheless, the sleep state current consumption is acceptable.

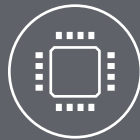
In TX, the current measurement is not possible because the AEM is limited to 95 mA max. However, it is possible to do ping traffic without packet loss. Therefore, this limitation is for the measurement and not for delivering the current.



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