



Proprietary Flex SDK 2.7.0.0 GA

Gecko SDK Suite 2.7

December 13, 2019

The Proprietary Flex SDK is a complete software development suite for proprietary wireless applications. Per its namesake, Flex offers two implementation options.

The first uses Silicon Labs RAIL (Radio Abstraction Interface Layer), an intuitive and easily-customizable radio interface layer designed to support both proprietary and standards-based wireless protocols.

The second uses Silicon Labs Connect, an IEEE 802.15.4-based networking stack designed for customizable broad-based proprietary wireless networking solutions that require low power consumption and operates in either the sub-GHz or 2.4 GHz frequency bands. The solution is targeted towards simple network topologies.

The Flex SDK is supplied with extensive documentation and sample applications. All examples are provided in source code within the Flex SDK sample applications.

These release notes cover SDK version(s):

2.7.0.0 released December 13, 2019



CONNECT APPS AND STACK KEY FEATURES

- New and updated APIs

RAIL LIBRARY KEY FEATURES

- Added support for a mode to select the best PA for a given power level
- Added support for new IEEE 802.15.4G-2012 features

Compatibility and Use Notices

If you are new to the Silicon Labs Flex SDK, see [Using This Release](#).

Compatible Compilers:

IAR Embedded Workbench for ARM (IAR-EWARM) version 8.30.1

- Using wine to build with the IarBuild.exe command line utility or IAR Embedded Workbench GUI on macOS or Linux could result in incorrect files being used due to collisions in wine's hashing algorithm for generating short file names.
- Customers on macOS or Linux are advised not to build with IAR outside of Simplicity Studio. Customers who do should carefully verify that the correct files are being used.

GCC (The GNU Compiler Collection) version 7.2.1, provided with Simplicity Studio.

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1 Applications

1.1 New Items

Added in release 2.7.0.0

- Enable FEC for DSSS-OQPSK PHYs: in Simplicity Studio Radio Configurator enable FEC (Forward Error Correction) for DSSS-OQPSK PHYs for both 2.4GHz and Sub-GHz to improve overall interferers rejection and increase the success rate of transmissions in noisy environments.
- Use sleeptimer at RAIL Examples: instead of rtdriver from now on the RAIL example application makes use of the new sleeptimer platform component.
- Update NWK command decoder in Network Analyzer: Two new network commands related to the Connect stack are added to the Network Analyzer decoder (`Network Leave Request` command ID 0x05 and `Network Leave Notification` command ID 0x06).

1.2 Improvements

None

1.3 Fixed Issues

None

1.4 Known Issues in the Current Release

None

1.5 Deprecated Items

None

1.6 Removed Items

None

2 Connect Stack

2.1 New Items

2.1.1 Application Framework API

None

2.1.2 Stack API

For additional documentation please refer to the [Connect API Reference Guide](#).

Added in release 2.7.0.0

- Added a new API `emberNetworkLeave()` that can be invoked by star network nodes such as end devices, sleepy end devices and range extenders to leave the current network. The leaving node informs the parent node with a "network leave" control message so that the parent can remove the child from its child table.

2.2 Improvements

2.2.1 Application Framework API

None

2.2.2 Stack API

Changed in release 2.7.0.0

- Stale child table entries now stay in the table until the child table is full and there is a need for an empty entry for a new joining child. Also, the child table timeout can now be set up to a maximum of `EMBER_CHILD_TABLE_MAX_TIMEOUT_S`. A value of `EMBER_CHILD_TABLE_AGING_DISABLED` would disable aging of the child table completely, that is, a child table entry would never be removed from the table.
- The `emberRemoveChild()` API now causes a parent node to send a "network leave" control message to the child being removed prior to actually removing the child from the child table.
- The `emberFormNetwork()` API now requires the "Parent Support" plugin.
- The Connect stack now supports 32-bit values for the indirect queue timeout. The timeout can now be set at runtime using the new API `emberSetIndirectQueueTimeout()`. The corresponding compile time plugin option "Indirect Transmission Timeout" in the "Parent Support" plugin was removed.
- The Micrium RTOS plugin now requires using NVM3 as non-volatile storage system.

2.3 Fixed Issues

None

2.4 Known Issues in the Current Release

Issues in bold were added since the previous release.

| ID # | Description | Workaround |
|------|--|------------|
| | When running the RAIL Multiprotocol Library (used for example when running DMP Connect+BLE), IR Calibration is not performed because of a know issue in the RAIL Multiprotocol Library. As result, there is an RX sensitivity loss in the order of 3 or 4 dBm. | |

2.5 Deprecated Items

None

2.6 Removed Items

2.6.1 Application Framework API

None

2.6.2 Stack API

- Removed all stack stub plugins. Not selecting the corresponding full-feature plugin is now equivalent to selecting the stub plugin.

3 RAIL Library

3.1 New Items

Added in release 2.7.0.0

- Added a new PA mode which will attempt to automatically choose the PA which consumes the least amount of current to reliably produce the requested output power. See `RAIL_EnablePaAutoMode()` for details.
- On EFR32xG12 thru EFR32xG14, added support for 802.15.4G-2012 SUN PHY dynamic frame payload whitening on reception and transmit based on the PHY header's Data Whitening flag setting. This feature is automatically enabled when `RAIL_IEEE802154_ConfigGOptions()`' `RAIL_IEEE802154_G_OPTION_GB868` is enabled, and assumes the radio configuration specifies the appropriate whitening algorithm and settings.
- On EFR32xG12 thru EFR32xG14, added support for 802.15.4G-2012 SUN PHY dynamic frame payload 2/4-byte FCS (CRC) on reception and transmit based on the PHY header's FCS Type flag setting. This feature is automatically enabled when `RAIL_IEEE802154_ConfigGOptions()`' `RAIL_IEEE802154_G_OPTION_GB868` is enabled. The radio configuration's (single) CRC algorithm settings are ignored, overridden by RAIL.
- On EFR32xG12 thru EFR32xG14, 802.15.4 AutoACK behavior has also been updated so transmitted immediate ACKs reflect the Whitening and 2/4-byte FCS of the received frame being acknowledged.
- Added two new APIs, `RAIL_GetSyncWords` and `RAIL_ConfigSyncWords()`, to allow getting and setting the sync word configuration of your PHY at runtime.
- Added `RAIL_TX_OPTION_CCA_ONLY` to just perform CCA (CSMA/LBT), stopping short of automatically transmitting when the channel is clear.
- Added support for a new `RAIL_EVENT_TX_STARTED`, triggered when the first preamble bit is about to go on-air. Also included the ability to retrieve the equivalent `RAIL_PACKET_TIME_AT_PREAMBLE_START` timestamp of that event from the event's handler via `RAIL_GetTxTimePreambleStart()`. Note: This new event shifted the bit positions of some events in `RAIL_Events_t`.
- Added an API, `RAIL_StopInfinitePreambleTx`, that can stop an infinite preamble on PHYs configured to use infinite preambles.
- Added additional information to the packet trace stream for the Z-Wave protocol to indicate what region is currently active to help with decoding.
- Added support for RFSENSE Selective (OOK) mode for supported chips, which currently includes only EFR32xG22 devices. Please refer to RAIL internal chip specific documentation for more details.

3.2 Improvements

Changed in release 2.7.0.0

- Changed `RAIL_GetRxTimePreambleStartAlt()`, `RAIL_GetRxTimeSyncWordEndAlt()`, and `RAIL_GetRxTimeFrameEndAlt()` to properly update its `pPacketDetails'` `RAIL_PacketTimeStamp_t::timePosition` to reflect the adjusted `RAIL_PacketTimeStamp_t::packetTime` rather than leaving it as `RAIL_PACKET_TIME_DEFAULT`.
- Enforced and clarified that `RAIL_Init()` should not be called more than once per protocol.
- Clarified documentation of the `RAIL_EVENT_RX_ACK_TIMEOUT` event and `RAIL_AutoAckConfig_t::ackTimeout` period which extends only to packet sync word detection of an expected ACK, not packet completion of that ACK.
- Documented RAIL's internal 16-packet metadata FIFO which exists on EFR32 platforms supplementing the receive FIFO of packet data. Refer to `Data_Management` and `efr32_main` for details. Included is support for a new `RAIL_EVENT_RX_FIFO_FULL`, triggered with any packet completion event in which the receive FIFO or packet metadata FIFO are full. This tells the application it must free up the oldest packets/data ASAP to reduce the chance of `RAIL_EVENT_RX_FIFO_OVERFLOW` (however, overflow may already have occurred). Note: This new event shifted the bit positions of some events in `RAIL_Events_t`.

3.3 Fixed Issues

Fixed in release 2.7.0.0

| ID # | Description |
|--------|---|
| 197573 | Suppressed extraneous <code>RAIL_EVENT_TX_START_CCA</code> events that might occur during long CCA durations. Now only one such event should occur per CCA try. |

| ID # | Description |
|--------|---|
| 411498 | RAIL_StartAverageRssi() now returns RAIL_STATUS_INVALID_STATE if called when the radio is not idle, enforcing its documented behavior. |
| 417340 | Fixed an issue where RAIL_RxPacketDetails_t::isAck would incorrectly be set true for non-ACK or unexpected ACK packets received successfully (e.g. when RAIL_IEEE802154_ACCEPT_ACK_FRAMES is enabled) or aborted while waiting for the expected ACK. Note that when RAIL_RX_OPTION_IGNORE_CRC_ERRORS is in effect, an expected ACK includes one that fails CRC, and will have isAck set true. |
| 418493 | RAIL_ConfigRadio will now return RAIL_STATUS_INVALID_STATE if called from the inactive config in dynamic multiprotocol instead of returning success but not applying the change. |
| 427934 | Fixed a race condition that could cause a device to not re-enable frame detection after an Rx overflow event if the overflow was processed and cleared very quickly. |
| 430081 | Fixed an issue where the first Clear Channel Assessment (CCA) of a CSMA/LBT transmit from radio idle state would consistently fail when the RAIL_CsmaConfig_t::ccaBackoff or RAIL_LbtConfig_t::lbtBackoff time is smaller than the RAIL_StateTiming_t::idleToRx time. |
| 436163 | Fixed a post-receive transition timing issue for received packets that were on the air longer than 32 milliseconds. AutoACK turnaround timing should now behave properly at low data rates. |
| 437054 | Fixed an issue with the pa_customer_curve_fits.py that caused values below -12 to not be considered when computing the fit. Re-generated default, Silicon Labs-provided curves to consume this fix, resulting in minor changes to the lowest-power segment in curve-fit based PA's. If using a custom power curve created using the documentation in AN1127 customers should re-run the script on the already collected output data to get slightly more accurate curves. |
| 441635 | Return the correct RAIL_TxPowerMode_t value of RAIL_TX_POWER_MODE_NONE from RAIL_GetTxPowerConfig if called before RAIL_ConfigTxPower. |
| 446289 | Fixed RAIL_IDLE_ABORT to idle the radio sooner when in RAIL_RF_STATE_RX, especially now that RAIL_RxChannelHoppingConfigEntry_t::delay can extend the time in that state. |
| 447578 | Fixed an issue where setting a transmit power over the maximum allowed for a given channel would result in no change in the output power instead of using the maximum allowed value. |
| 450187 | Fixed an issue where calling RAIL_Idle() with RAIL_IDLE_FORCE_SHUTDOWN while in receive with channel hopping enabled could corrupt some internal channel hopping state and trigger a bus fault or other radio problems. |

3.4 Known Issues in the Current Release

None

3.5 Deprecated Items

None

3.6 Removed Items

None

4 Using This Release

This release contains the following

- Radio Abstraction Interface Layer (RAIL) stack library
- Connect Stack Library
- RAIL and Connect Sample Applications
- RAIL and Connect Plugins and Application Framework

For more information about the Flex SDK see [UG103.13: RAIL Fundamentals](#) and [UG103.12: Silicon Labs Connect Fundamentals](#). If you are a first time user, see [QSG138: Getting Started with the Silicon Labs Flex Software Development Kit for the Wireless Gecko \(EFR32\) Portfolio](#).

4.1 Installation and Use

Stack installation instruction are covered in [QSG138: Getting Started with the Silicon Labs Flex Software Development Kit for the Wireless Gecko \(EFR32\) Portfolio](#).

Use the Flex SDK with the Silicon Labs Simplicity Studio V4 development platform. Simplicity Studio ensures that most software and tool compatibilities are managed correctly. Install software and board firmware updates promptly when you are notified.

Documentation specific to the SDK version is installed with the SDK. Additional information can often be found in the [knowledge base articles \(KBAs\)](#). API references and other information about this and earlier releases is available on <https://docs.silabs.com/>.

4.2 Support

Development Kit customers are eligible for training and technical support. You can use the [Silicon Labs Flex web page](#) to obtain information about all Silicon Labs Thread products and services, and to sign up for product support.

You can contact Silicon Laboratories support at <http://www.silabs.com/support>.

5 Legal

5.1 Disclaimer

Silicon Labs intends to provide customers with the latest, accurate, and in-depth documentation of all peripherals and modules available for system and software implementers using or intending to use the Silicon Labs products. Characterization data, available modules and peripherals, memory sizes and memory addresses refer to each specific device, and "Typical" parameters provided can and do vary in different applications.

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