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):

3.2.0.0 released June 16, 2021

Compatibility and Use Notices

For information about security updates and notices, see the Security chapter of the Gecko Platform Release notes installed with this SDK or on the Silicon Labs Release Notes page. Silicon Labs also strongly recommends that you subscribe to Security Advisories for up-to-date information. For instructions, or if you are new to the Silicon Labs Flex SDK, see Using This Release.

Compatible Compilers:

IAR Embedded Workbench for ARM (IAR-EWARM) version 8.50.91
- 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 10.2.0, provided with Simplicity Studio.
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1 Connect Applications

1.1 New Items

None

1.2 Improvements

Changed in release 3.2.0.0
BRD4183C support (EFR32MG22)

1.3 Fixed Issues

None

1.4 Known Issues in the Current Release

Issues in bold were added since the previous release. If you have missed a release, recent release notes are available on https://www.silabs.com/products/software.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Workaround</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>652925</td>
<td>EFR32XG21 is not supported for &quot;Flex (Connect) - SoC Light Example DMP&quot; and &quot;Flex (Connect) - SoC Switch Example&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.5 Deprecated Items

Connect NCP-Host applications are not supported.

1.6 Removed Items

None
2 Connect Stack

2.1 New Items
None

2.2 Improvements
None

2.3 Fixed Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID #</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>708489</td>
<td>Fixed an issue causing EFR32MG1 to fail to join any network.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.4 Known Issues in the Current Release
Issues in bold were added since the previous release. If you have missed a release, recent release notes are available on https://www.silabs.com/products/software.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID #</th>
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<th>Workaround</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>501561</td>
<td>In the Legacy HAL component, the PA configuration is hard-coded regardless of the user or board settings.</td>
<td>Until this is changed to properly pull from the configuration header, the file ember-phy.c in the user’s project will need to be modified by hand to reflect the desired PA mode, voltage, and ramp time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>711804</td>
<td>Connecting multiple devices simultaneously may fail with a timeout error.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.5 Deprecated Items
None

2.6 Removed Items
None
3 RAIL Applications

3.1 New Items

Added in release 3.2.0.0
- New Applications
- Os support (FreeRTOS / Micrium) for each application except:
  - Flex (RAIL) – RAILtest
  - Flex (RAIL) – Light
  - Flex (RAIL) – Switch
  - Flex (RAIL) – Light Standards

3.2 Improvements

Changed in release 3.2.0.0
- BRD4183C support (EFR32MG22)

3.3 Fixed Issues

None

3.4 Known Issues in the Current Release

None

3.5 Deprecated Items

None

3.6 Removed Items

None
4 RAIL Library

4.1 New Items

**Added in release 3.2.0.0**

- Added `RAIL_StartScheduledCcaCsmaTx` and `RAIL_StartScheduledCcaLbtTx` APIs to allow applications to schedule a CSMA/LBT transmit.
- Added support for a new `RAIL_EVENT_ZWAVE_LR_ACK_REQUEST_COMMAND`, triggered on the reception of a Z-Wave Long range packet with acknowledgement request bit set, following which the application must call `RAIL_ZWAVE_SetLrAckData` to populate the fields of the Z-Wave Long range acknowledgement packet.
- Added `RAIL_TX_OPTION_RESEND` to allow re-transmitting the packet most recently loaded into the Transmit FIFO. This can be used in combination with `RAIL_SetNextTxRepeat()` on supported platforms to repeatedly transmit the same packet.
- Added new `RAIL_SetNextTxRepeat()` API and `RAIL_TxRepeatConfig_t` to allow configuration of repeated transmits triggered by an initial transmit.
- Added ability to configure TxToTx state transition time via `RAIL_StateTiming_t::txToTx` and `RAIL_SetStateTiming()`. This time is generally used between an autoACK transmit and a user transmit that was pending. It is also used during repeated transmits by default, but can be overridden by the `RAIL_TxRepeatConfig_t::delayOrHop` or `RAIL_BLE_TxRepeatConfig_t::delayOrHop` configuration.
- Added ability to hop channels during repeated transmits in `RAIL_TxRepeatConfig_t` using `RAIL_TX_REPEAT_OPTION_HOP`.
- Added BLE-specific hooks for repeated transmits with channel hopping in `RAIL_BLE_SetNextTxRepeat()` and `RAIL_BLE_TxRepeatConfig_t`.
- The “RAIL Utility, Callbacks” component can now be configured to not provide the `RAILCb_AssertFailed()` function for situations where the application wants to provide its own implementation.

4.2 Improvements

**Changed in release 3.2.0.0**

- Added support for the `RAIL_TX_POWER_MODE_*_HIGHEST` options in the `RAIL_GetTxPowerCurve()` function.
- Changed when `RAIL_EVENT_IEEE802154_DATA_REQUEST_COMMAND` event is issued to better facilitate support for 802.15.4E-2012 Enhanced ACKing and reduce time spent in the event handler. The event is now issued “after” receiving the Auxiliary Security Header (if present) in the MAC Header of the incoming frame, and for MAC Command frames, after receiving the MAC Command byte (which may be encrypted). This change is “not” backwards-compatible with prior releases for Enhanced ACK requesting frames, but is for Immediate ACK requesting frames. Use of `RAIL_IEEE802154_EnableEarlyFramePending()` is no longer required to support Enhanced ACKing; the notion of early frame pending notification has also shifted to after the Auxiliary Security Header for Enhanced ACK requesting frames.
- Changed RAIL Timer Synchronization over sleep on the EFR32xG21 to use the RTCC instead of the PRORTC to reduce current consumption in EM2.
- The posting of `RAIL_EVENT_TX_ABORTED` now occurs before the PA ramps down, at the same time other transmit completion events get posted.
- Allow `RAIL_ZWAVE_ReceiveBeam` to be run on US LR regions instead of always returning an error.

4.3 Fixed Issues

**Fixed in release 3.2.0.0**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID #</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>456701</td>
<td>Fixed an issue on EFR32xG1x parts where calling <code>RAIL_Init()</code> with the MSC-&gt;CTRL.CLKDISFAULTEN bit set would cause a bus fault.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>654600</td>
<td>On EFR32XG21, a watchdog has been added to terminate an RSSI averaging operation in case the <code>RAIL_EVENT_RSSI_AVERAGE_DONE</code> event does not occur.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID #</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>655541</td>
<td>Fixed an issue on EFR32XG22 and later where packet filtering might be incomplete in FEC-enabled radio configurations causing good packets to be improperly dropped. Note that if packet filtering fails close to the end of an otherwise successfully received packet, the packet may be flagged RAIL_RX_PACKET_READY_CRC_ERROR rather than RAIL_RX_PACKET_ABORT_FILTERED. Note this issue is still present on earlier chips.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>665705</td>
<td>Fixed an issue where a transmit with RAIL_TX_OPTION_SYNC_WORD_ID 1 to use SYNC2 would improperly indicate SYNC1 was used in the packet trace appended information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>666275</td>
<td>Fixed potential delays when using RAIL's channel hopping or duty cycling features in EM1P mode on the EFR32xG22 and newer parts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>667103</td>
<td>Fixed RAIL_ReadRxFifo() to behave as documented when passed NULL dataPtr: the data is thrown away rather than copied out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>671817</td>
<td>Fixed an issue when switching between certain radio configurations (for example, Z-Wave) where use of RAIL_TX_OPTION_REMOVE_CRC can become permanently stuck.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>673333</td>
<td>Fixed an issue with RAIL_TX_OPTION_WAIT_FOR_ACK transmits where an RX overflow during the ACK wait period would silently abort the ACK timer resulting in no RAIL_EVENT_RX_ACK_TIMEOUT being generated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>682032</td>
<td>Fixed an issue where setting RAIL_SCHEDULED_TX_DURING_RX_ABORT_TX for a scheduled transmit could cause subsequent non-scheduled transmits to be blocked.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>696665</td>
<td>Fixed an issue in RAIL_ConvertRawToDbm for PAs that use piecewise-linear line segment fit, where the minimum raw power level was incorrectly compared to the minimum deci-dBm value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>697097</td>
<td>Fixed a rare situation where a premature RAIL_EVENT_TX_BLOCKED event might occur when auto-ACK is enabled and a scheduled transmit using RAIL_SCHEDULED_TX_DURING_RX_ABORT_TX is pending when an erroneous packet is received.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>699890</td>
<td>Fixed missing C++ compatibility in the “RAIL Utility, Init” component’s generated header file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>701604</td>
<td>Fixed an issue where using Rx_Channel_Hopping with channels in different frequency bands would cause RAIL to assert.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>703788</td>
<td>Fixed an issue on EFR32xG2x devices where RAIL would not allow you to initialize the radio with voltage scaling enabled even though this is supported on these devices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>705595</td>
<td>Fixed an issue where custom PA curves provided through the PA Module were not respected when building Silicon Labs Zigbee applications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>708511</td>
<td>Fixed possible RAIL_ASSERT_FAILED_UNEXPECTED_STATE_TX_FIFO when RAIL_SetTxFifo() is called after the transmit FIFO had been filled enough to cause its write offset to wrap.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4.4 Known Issues in the Current Release

None

### 4.5 Deprecated Items

None

### 4.6 Removed Items

None
5 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 Components and Application Framework

This SDK depends on Gecko Platform. The Gecko Platform code provides functionality that supports protocol plugins and APIs in the form of drivers and other lower layer features that interact directly with Silicon Labs chips and modules. Gecko Platform components include EMLIB, EMDRV, RAIL Library, NVM3, and mbedTLS. Gecko Platform release notes are available through Simplicity Studio’s Documentation tab.

For more information about the Flex SDK v3.x see UG103.13: RAIL Fundamentals and UG103.12: Silicon Labs Connect Fundamentals. If you are a first time user, see QSG168: Proprietary Flex SDK v3.x Quick Start Guide.

5.1 Installation and Use

Stack installation instruction are covered in the Simplicity Studio 5 online User’s Guide.

Use the Flex SDK v3.x with the Silicon Labs Simplicity Studio 5 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/.

5.2 Security Information

Secure Vault Integration

This version of the stack does not integrate Secure Vault Key Management.
Security Advisories

To subscribe to Security Advisories, log in to the Silicon Labs customer portal, then select **Account Home**. Click **HOME** to go to the portal home page and then click the **Manage Notifications** tile. Make sure that ‘Software/Security Advisory Notices & Product Change Notices (PCNs)’ is checked, and that you are subscribed at minimum for your platform and protocol. Click **Save** to save any changes.

5.3 Support

Development Kit customers are eligible for training and technical support. Use the [Silicon Labs Flex web page](http://www.silabs.com/support) 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](http://www.silabs.com/support).
Simplicity Studio

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