Proprietary Flex SDK 3.3.0.0 GA
Gecko SDK Suite 4.0
December 15, 2021

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

The first uses Silicon Labs RAIL (Radio Abstraction Interface Layer), an intuitive and eas-
ily-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 de-
dsigned for customizable broad-based proprietary wireless networking solutions that re-
quire 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 ex-
amples are provided in source code within the Flex SDK sample applications.

These release notes cover SDK version(s):
3.3.0.0 GA released December 15, 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 8.50.9
• 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 10.2.1, provided with Simplicity Studio.
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1 Connect Applications

1.1 New Items
EFR32XG23 Support
BRD4002A Support

1.2 Improvements
None

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 “Flex (Connect) - SoC Light Example DMP” and “Flex (Connect) - SoC Switch Example”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.5 Deprecated Items
None

1.6 Removed Items
None
2  Connect Stack

2.1  New Items
None

2.2  Improvements
None

2.3  Fixed Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>754930</td>
<td>Fixed an issue that was causing emberStopTxStream to fail when the parent support plugin is not installed.</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](https://www.silabs.com/products/software).

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<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
- EFR32XG23 Support
- BRD4002A Support
- PSM Support for EFR32XG23, demonstrated by *Flex (RAIL) - Long Preamble Duty Cycle*
- Wi-SUN FSK Support for:
  - *Flex (RAIL) - Range Test*
  - *Flex (RAIL) - Simple TRX*

3.2  Improvements
The *Range Test* Applications can be used purely via CLI (LCD and Buttons can be uninstalled)

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 4.0.0.0

- Added support for the ZGM230SA27HGN, ZGM230SA27HNN, and ZGM230SB27HGN modules.
- Added RAIL_GetTxPacketsRemaining() API for use when handling one of the RAIL_EVENTS_TX_COMPLETION to get a sense of how many transmits remain in a RAIL_SetNextTxRepeat() sequence.
- Added PA curves for HP, MP, LP and LLP modes on all EFR32xG23 radio boards.
- Added RAIL_PA_BAND_COUNT to count RAIL_PaBand_t.
- Added a new RAIL_RxDataSource_t to capture direct mode data on supported devices.
- Added a new RAIL_IEEE802154_Config2p4GHzRadioCustom1 API to configure an alternate IEEE 802.15.4 PHY with slightly different performance characteristics for the EFR32xG12 and EFR32xG13 parts. Use this API if instructed by Silicon Labs for your use case.

4.2 Improvements

Changed in release 4.0.0.0

- Added IEEE802.15.4 Coexistence and FEM PHYs to EFR32xG12 and EFR32xG13 based modules.
- Updated IEEE802.15.4 FEM PHYs on EFR32xG12 and EFR32xG13 based modules for improved performance.
- Updated all header files to have extern "C" when being built with C++ for compatibility.
- Made the RAIL_EnableRxDutyCycle() API safe to call in a multiprotocol application.
- To save both flash and RAM, moved information formerly contained in RAIL_Config_t::protocol, RAIL_Config_t::scheduler, and RAIL_Config_t::buffer internal to RAIL and sized appropriately for single vs. multiprotocol. RAIL multiprotocol now provides two internal state buffers for two protocols by default. An application that needs more must now call RAIL_AddStateBuffer3() or RAIL_AddStateBuffer4() to add a 3rd and 4th buffer, respectively. Otherwise RAIL_Init() will fail when trying to initialize a 3rd or 4th protocol.
- "RAIL Utility, Coexistence" component GPIO interrupt numbers are now chosen at runtime to avoid conflicts.
- A new RAIL API RAIL_GetSchedulerStatusAlt will now return more descriptive radio scheduler events as well as the RAIL_Status_t of the RAIL API invoked by the radio scheduler. As a part of the new API, new RAIL_SchedulerStatus_t events have been added while retaining the previous ones for backwards compatibility. Note that the underlying values of the existing RAIL_SchedulerStatus_t events may have changed.
- Updated the RAIL_IEEE802154_Config2p4GHzRadio*Fem PHYs on the EFR32xG12 and EFR32xG13 devices to improve performance.
- The example CSV files referred to in AN1127: Power Amplifier Power Conversion Functions in RAIL 2.x are updated with realistic values.

4.3 Fixed Issues

Fixed in release 4.0.0.0

<table>
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<tr>
<td>646980</td>
<td>An attempt to use an unsupported built-in radio channel configuration, e.g., on a module that does not support that protocol or configuration, will now trip RAIL_ASSERT_FAILED_INVALID_CHANNEL_CONFIG rather than returning success and ignoring the configuration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>671651</td>
<td>Fixed timing problems with certain State_Transitions or Rx_Channel_Hopping delay values on the EFR32xG22 and newer parts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>682739</td>
<td>Fixed an issue with the BLE coded PHY's modulation index on the EFR32xG21 parts that could cause deviation measurements to fail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>714271</td>
<td>Fixed an issue where RAIL_IEEE802154_Config2p4GHzRadio*() and RAIL_IEEE802154_ConfigGB*Radio() functions were improperly clearing or setting certain RAIL_IEEE802154_EOptions_t. Also documented that these functions still implicitly clear or set certain RAIL_IEEE802154_GOptions_t suitable for that configuration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID #</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>716369</td>
<td>Fixed an issue where incorrect radio transition times were being applied at higher temperatures when using the high power PA on EFR32xG22 parts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>723098</td>
<td>Fixed RAIL_SetFixedLength(handle, RAIL_SETFIXEDLENGTH_INVALID) to restore dynamic frame length operation if the current PHY was originally configured for that.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>738931</td>
<td>Fixed an issue with the BLE Coded PHYs on the EFR32xG22 device that could cause some packets to be improperly sent and not trigger a RAIL_EVENT_TX_PACKET_SENT event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>739594</td>
<td>Fix an issue with the RX_IQDATA_FILTLSB RAIL_RxDataSource_t on EFR32xG23 parts where the data did not properly saturate and was instead just the lower 16 bits of IQ sample data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>744323</td>
<td>Fixed an issue when using BLE AoX where non-AoX packets were transmitted on an undefined antenna. They will now always use the first antenna in the configured RAIL_BLE_AoxConfig_t::antArrayAddr pattern.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>745528</td>
<td>Fixed some incorrect RAIL_RxPacketInfo_t::filterMask values for 802.15.4 ACKs when promiscuous, or when the PanId coordinator received a packet with only source PanId and no destination address.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>753860</td>
<td>Fixed an issue when running IR Calibration on the EFR32xG23 (RAIL_CalibrateIrAlt) where we could compute a completely invalid IRCAL value for certain PHYs and chips.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>754219</td>
<td>Increase maximum BLE coex request window setting, SL_RAIL_UTIL_COEX_REQ_WINDOW, in &quot;RAIL Utility, Coexistence&quot; component from 255 to 5000.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4.4 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](https://www.silabs.com/products/software).

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<tr>
<td>641705</td>
<td>Infinite receive operations where the frame's fixed length is set to 0 are not working correctly on the EFR32xG23 series chips.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>732659</td>
<td>On EFR32xG23:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Wi-SUN FSK mode 1a exhibits a PER floor with frequency offsets around ± 8 to 10 KHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Wi-SUN FSK mode 1b exhibits a PER floor with frequency offsets around ± 18 to 20 KHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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

The Proprietary Flex SDK is provided as part of the Gecko SDK (GSDK), the suite of Silicon Labs SDKs. To quickly get started with the GSDK, install Simplicity Studio 5, which will set up your development environment and walk you through GSDK installation. Simplicity Studio 5 includes everything needed for IoT product development with Silicon Labs devices, including a resource and project launcher, software configuration tools, full IDE with GNU toolchain, and analysis tools. Installation instructions are provided in the online Simplicity Studio 5 User's Guide.

Alternatively, Gecko SDK may be installed manually by downloading or cloning the latest from GitHub. See https://github.com/SiliconLabs/gecko_sdk for more information.

Simplicity Studio installs the GSDK by default in:

- (Windows): C:\Users\<NAME>\SimplicityStudio\SDKs\gecko_sdk
- (MacOS): /Users/<NAME>/SimplicityStudio/SDKs/gecko_sdk

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 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.
Simplicity Studio

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