



Proprietary Flex SDK 3.5.0.0 GA

Gecko SDK Suite 4.2

December 14, 2022

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):

3.5.0.0 GA released December 14, 2022



RAIL APPS AND LIBRARY KEY FEATURES

- FG25 Flex-RAIL GA support
- New Long Range PHYs support for 490 MHz and 915 MHz
- xG12 dynamic mode switching support in RAIL
- xG22 extended band support

CONNECT APPS AND STACK KEY FEATURES

- xG24 Connect support

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 TECH DOCS tab on <https://www.silabs.com/developers/flex-sdk-connect-networking-stack>. 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 9.20.4

- 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 10.3-2021.10, provided with Simplicity Studio.

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1 Connect Applications

1.1 New Items

Added in release 3.5.0.0

- XG24 Support

1.2 Improvements

Changed in release 3.5.0.0

- OQPSK Long Range PHYs for XFG23

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 the TECH DOCS tab on <https://www.silabs.com/developers/flex-sdk-connect-networking-stack>.

ID #	Description	Workaround
652925	EFR32XG21 is not supported for "Flex (Connect) - SoC Light Example DMP" and "Flex (Connect) - SoC Switch Example"	

1.5 Deprecated Items

None

1.6 Removed Items

None

2 Connect Stack

2.1 New Items

Added in release 3.5.0.0

- XG24 Support

2.2 Improvements

None

2.3 Fixed Issues

None

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 the TECH DOCS tab on <https://www.silabs.com/developers/gecko-software-development-kit>.

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 known issue in the RAIL Multiprotocol Library. As result, there is an RX sensitivity loss in the order of 3 or 4 dBm.	
501561	In the Legacy HAL component, the PA configuration is hard-coded regardless of the user or board settings.	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.
711804	Connecting multiple devices simultaneously may fail with a timeout error.	

2.5 Deprecated Items

None

2.6 Removed Items

None

3 RAIL Applications

3.1 New Items

Added in release 3.5.0.0

- XG25 Support
- EFF01 + XG25 Support
- RAIL SoC Mode Switch Application

3.2 Improvements

Changed in release 3.5.0.0

- RAIL SoC Long Preamble Duty Cycle support for XG24
- OQPSK Long Range PHYs for XFG23

3.3 Fixed Issues

None

3.4 Known Issues in the Current Release

None

3.5 Deprecated Items

None

3.6 Removed Items

Removed in release 3.5.0.0

- RAIL SoC Long Preamble Duty Cycle (Legacy)
- RAIL SoC Light Standard
- RAIL SoC Switch Standard

4 RAIL Library

4.1 New Items

Added in release 3.5.0.0

- Added HFXO temperature compensation in RAIL on platforms that support RAIL_SUPPORTS_HFXO_COMPENSATION. This feature can be configured with the new `RAIL_ConfigHFXOCompensation()` API. The user will also need to be sure to handle the new `RAIL_EVENT_THERMISTOR_DONE` event to trigger a call to `RAIL_CalibrateHFXO` to perform the compensation.
- Added options in "RAIL Utility, Protocol" component to control whether Z-Wave, 802.15.4 2.4 GHz and Sub-GHz, and Bluetooth LE are enabled so that the user can save space in their application by disabling unused protocols.
- Added a new API `RAIL_ZWAVE_PerformIrcal` to help perform an IR calibration across all the different PHYs used by a Z-Wave device.
- Added 40 MHz crystal support on EFR32xG24 devices to the "RAIL Utility, Built-in PHYs Across HFXO Frequencies" component.
- Added support for IEEE 802.15.4 fast RX channel switching with the new `RAIL_IEEE802154_ConfigRxChannelSwitching` API on supported platforms (see `RAIL_IEEE802154_SupportsRxChannelSwitching`). This feature allows us to simultaneously detect packets on any two 2.4 GHz 802.15.4 channels with a slight reduction in overall sensitivity of the PHY.
- Added support for the BGM220SC23HNA2 module.
- Added a new Thermal Protection feature, on platforms that support RAIL_SUPPORTS_THERMAL_PROTECTION, to track temperature and prevent transmits when the chip is too hot.
- Added new table-based OFDM and FSK PAs for EFR32xG25 based devices. The output power of these can be modified through a new customer provided look-up table. Ask support or look for an updated app note on how to configure the values in this table for your board.
- Added support for the MGM240SA22VNA, BGM240SA22VNA, and BGM241SD22VNA modules and updated the configurations for the BGM240SB22VNA, MGM240SB22VNA, and the MGM240SD22VNA.

4.2 Improvements

Changed in release 3.5.0.0

- The `RAIL_ConfigRfSenseSelectiveOokWakeupPhy()` will now return an error when run on the EFR32xG21 platform because this device cannot support the wakeup PHY.
- Updated the `pa_customer_curve_fits.py` helper script to accept floating point value for the maximum power argument, similar to the increment argument.
- Added support in "RAIL Utility, Coexistence" component for configuring priority options when directional priority is enabled but no static priority GPIO is defined.
- Broke up some EFR32xG12 802.15.4 dynamic FEC code to save code size for Zigbee and Bluetooth LE, which never need this functionality.
- Remove "RAIL Utility, Coexistence" component dependency from the RAIL Utility, Coulomb Counter component.
- The `RAIL_PrepareChannel()` function has been made dynamic multiprotocol safe and will no longer return an error if called when your protocol is inactive.

4.3 Fixed Issues

Fixed in release 3.5.0.0

ID #	Description
843708	Moved function declarations from <code>rail_features.h</code> to <code>rail.h</code> to avoid a convoluted include dependency order.
844325	Fixed <code>RAIL_SetTxFifo()</code> to properly return 0 (error) rather than 4096 for an undersized FIFO.
845608	Fixed an issue with the <code>RAIL_ConfigSyncWords</code> API when using certain underlying demodulator hardware on EFR32xG2x parts.
851150	Fixed an issue on EFR32xG2 series devices where the radio would trigger <code>RAIL_ASSERT_SEQUENCER_FAULT</code> when PTI is used and GPIO configuration is locked. GPIO configuration can only be locked when PTI is disabled. See <code>RAIL_EnablePti()</code> for further information.

ID #	Description
857267	Fixed an issue when using the "RAIL Utility, Coexistence" component with TX abort, the signal identifier feature and DMP.
1015152	Fixed an issue on EFR32xG2x devices where RAIL_EVENT_RX_FIFO_ALMOST_FULL or RAIL_EVENT_TX_FIFO_ALMOST_EMPTY could trigger improperly when the event is enabled or the FIFO is reset.
1017609	Fixed an issue where PTI appended information could be corrupted when RAIL_RX_OPTION_TRACK_ABORTED_FRAMES is in effect when RAIL_IDLE_FORCE_SHUTDOWN or RAIL_IDLE_FORCE_SHUTDOWN_CLEAR_FLAGS is used. Also clarified that RAIL_RX_OPTION_TRACK_ABORTED_FRAMES is not useful with coded PHYs.
1019590	Fixed an issue when using the "RAIL Utility, Coexistence" component with BLE where the <code>sl_bt_system_get_counters()</code> function would always return 0 for GRANT denied counts.
1019794	Eliminated compiler warning in "RAIL Utility, Initialization" component when few of its features are enabled.
1023016	Fixed an issue on EFR32xG22 and newer chips where waits in between radio activity would consume slightly more power than necessary after the first 13 ms. This was especially noticeable when using <code>RAIL_ConfigRxDutyCycle</code> with large off time values.
1029740	Fixed issue where <code>RAIL_GetRssi()/RAIL_GetRssiAlt()</code> could return a "stale" RSSI value (the value was from previous RX state instead of the current one) if called quickly upon entering receive.
1040814	Added support to the "RAIL Utility, Coexistence" component for configuring the coexistence request priority on sync detect when using BLE.
1056207	Fixed an issue with IQ sampling when using the "RAIL Utility, AoX" component with only 0 or 1 antennas selected.
1062712	Fixed an issue where the "RAIL Utility, Coexistence" component would not always update request states correctly, which could lead to missed events triggered by new requests.
1062940	Prevented the "RAIL Utility, Coexistence" component from aborting BLE transmits when <code>SL_RAIL_UTIL_COEX_BLE_TX_ABORT</code> is disabled.
1063152	Fixed an issue where radio reception would not be fully cleaned up when a receive error occurred with receive state transitions set to idle on error but transmit on success, a configuration mostly associated with BLE. On the EFR32xG24 this could cause a SYNTH calibration to not be properly restored and eventually cause the radio to stop working.

4.4 Known Issues in the Current Release

Issues in bold were added since the previous release.

ID #	Description	Workaround
	Using direct mode (or IQ) functionality on EFR32xG23 requires a specifically set radio configuration that is not yet supported by the radio configurator. For these requirements, reach out to technical support who could provide that configuration based on your specification	
641705	Infinite receive operations where the frame's fixed length is set to 0 are not working correctly on the EFR32xG23 series chips.	
732659	On EFR32xG23: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wi-SUN FSK mode 1a exhibits a PER floor with frequency offsets around ± 8 to 10 KHz • Wi-SUN FSK mode 1b exhibits a PER floor with frequency offsets around ± 18 to 20 KHz 	

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

When deployed to Secure Vault High devices, sensitive keys are protected using the Secure Vault Key Management functionality. The following table shows the protected keys and their storage protection characteristics.

Wrapped Key	Exportable / Non-Exportable	Notes
Thread Master Key	Exportable	Must be exportable to form the TLVs
PSKc	Exportable	Must be exportable to form the TLVs
Key Encryption Key	Exportable	Must be exportable to form the TLVs
MLE Key	Non-Exportable	
Temporary MLE Key	Non-Exportable	
MAC Previous Key	Non-Exportable	
MAC Current Key	Non-Exportable	
MAC Next Key	Non-Exportable	

Wrapped keys that are marked as "Non-Exportable" can be used but cannot be viewed or shared at runtime.

Wrapped keys that are marked as "Exportable" can be used or shared at runtime but remain encrypted while stored in flash.

For more information on Secure Vault Key Management functionality, see [AN1271: Secure Key Storage](#).

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.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Buffers	<input type="checkbox"/> Z-Wave
<input type="checkbox"/> Oscillators	
<input type="checkbox"/> CDR and PHY	

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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