



Silicon Labs OpenThread SDK 2.1.0.0 GA

Gecko SDK Suite 4.1

June 8, 2022

Thread is a secure, reliable, scalable, and upgradeable wireless IPv6 mesh networking protocol. It provides low-cost bridging to other IP networks while optimized for low-power / battery-backed operation. The Thread stack is designed specifically for Connected Home applications where IP-based networking is desired and a variety of application layers may be required.

OpenThread released by Google is an open-source implementation of Thread. Google has released OpenThread in order to accelerate the development of products for the connected home and commercial buildings. With a narrow platform abstraction layer and a small memory footprint, OpenThread is highly portable. It supports system-on-chip (SoC), network co-processor (NCP), and radio co-processor (RCP) designs.

Silicon Labs has developed an OpenThread-based SDK tailored to work with Silicon Labs hardware. The Silicon Labs OpenThread SDK is a fully tested enhanced version of the GitHub source. It supports a broader range of hardware than does the GitHub version, and includes documentation and example applications not available on GitHub.

These release notes cover SDK version(s):

2.1.0.0 GA released on June 8, 2022



KEY FEATURES

- Alpha SPI support for OpenThread RCP without CPC
- Thread 1.2 and 1.3 support for OpenThread
- Updated GCC compiler version to 10.3.1
- Alpha Concurrent Multiprotocol Zigbee in NCP mode and OpenThread in RCP mode
- Alpha Dynamic Multiprotocol Bluetooth and multi-PAN 802.15.4 in RCP mode

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/thread>. 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 OpenThread SDK, see [Using This Release](#).

Compatible Compilers:

GCC (The GNU Compiler Collection) version 10.3-2021.10, provided with Simplicity Studio.

Contents

1	New Items	1
1.1	New Components.....	1
1.2	New Features.....	1
1.3	New Radio Board Support	1
2	Improvements.....	2
3	Fixed Issues	3
4	Known Issues in the Current Release	4
5	Deprecated Items	5
6	Removed Items	6
7	Multiprotocol Gateway and RCP.....	7
7.1	New Items.....	7
7.2	Improvements	7
7.3	Fixed Issues.....	7
7.4	Known Issues in the Current Release	7
7.5	Deprecated Items.....	8
7.6	Removed Items.....	8
8	Using This Release	9
8.1	Installation and Use.....	9
8.2	OpenThread GitHub Repository.....	9
8.3	OpenThread Border Router GitHub Repository	9
8.4	Using the Border Router	9
8.5	NCP/RCP Support.....	10
8.6	Security Information	10
8.7	Support.....	11

1 New Items

1.1 New Components

Added in release 2.1.0.0

NCP SPIDRV

This component provides SPIDRV (SPI) support for the OpenThread stack. It requires that the OpenThread NCP component be included with the project. Currently only the OpenThread RCP stack is supported.

1.2 New Features

Added in release 2.1.0.0

- The versions of OpenThread and the OpenThread Border Router have been updated. See sections 8.2 and 8.3.
- Support for Thread 1.3. This version of OpenThread includes low-power TCP support. This is not a mandatory Thread 1.3 component, so it is turned off by default in our sample apps.
 - Our OpenThread sample apps are built with the newly introduced protocol version `OT_THREAD_VERSION_1_3` as default. Note that 1.3.0 features should in theory work with `OT_THREAD_VERSION_1_2` or higher. However, we are changing the default version as mandated by the specification.
- Alpha SPI support for OTBR RCP.

1.3 New Radio Board Support

Added in release 2.1.0.0

Support has been added for the following radio boards:

- BRD4319 – MGM240L (MGM240L022RNF2)
- BRD4195 - EFR32MG21B010F1024IM32
- BRD4196 - EFR32MG21B020F1024IM32

2 Improvements

None

3 Fixed Issues

Fixed in release 2.1.0.0

ID #	Description
620720	The 'diag radio state' CLI command used with the Factory Diagnostics Module now operates correctly and no longer just returns 'invalid'.
757884	Addressed issues with failing Thread 1.2 certification tests. The ID listed is one of several IDs associated with Thread 1.2 certification issues. All SoC Thread 1.2 certification issues have been resolved in this release. One note: It is recommended customers use the OT_RCP_RESTORATION_MAX_COUNT option for OTBRs to enable RCP recovery for long-running OTBR use cases.
758932	Allow the Bluetooth GATT Configurator to be included when building DMP apps from scratch in Simplicity Studio.
764331	Addressed an issue for Raspberry Pi and Linux docker container users by requiring them to run "sudo modprobe ip6table_filter" for OTBR firewall support before starting the docker container. This allows OTBR scripts to create rules inside the docker container before otbr-agent starts.
816037	Fixed an issue where the ot-ble-dmp sample app would fail to compile in Simplicity Studio with the following: "error: 'SL_OPENTHREAD_RTOS_TASK_PRIORITY' undeclared here (not in a function); did you mean 'SL_OPENTHREAD_RTOS_TASK_PRIORITY_STARTUP'?"
818599	Addressed an issue where OpenThread-supported IC OPNs and radio boards associated with the EFR32MG24 family were not showing up in Simplicity Studio.
827315	Addressed an issue where a device would encounter an assert when first booting a PSA application.

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/developers/thread> in the Tech Docs tab.

ID #	Description	Workaround
482915 495241	A known limitation with the UART driver can cause characters to be lost on CLI input or output. This can happen during particularly long critical sections that may disable interrupts, so it can be alleviated by repeating the CLI or waiting long enough for state changes.	No known workaround
754514	Double ping reply observed for OTBR ALOC address.	No known workaround
815275	Ability to modify the Radio CCA Modes at compile-time using a configuration option in Simplicity Studio is currently not supported.	Use the SL_OPENTHREAD_RADIO_CCA_MODE configuration option defined in openthread-core-efr32-config.h header file included with your project.
821837	Compilation warnings when compiling with TCP.	Can be safely ignored.
829618	Sample apps should not define OPENTHREAD_CONFIG_REFERENCE_DEVICE_ENABLE.	Can be safely ignored or can be manually removed from the sample app.
830554	RAIL PA ramp time is hard-coded to 10.	Modify the following code and replace 10 with SL_RAIL_UTIL_PA_RAMP_TIME_US. <pre>RAIL_TxPowerConfig_t txPowerConfig = ... { SL_RAIL_UTIL_PA_SELECTION_2P4GHZ, SL_RAIL_UTIL_PA_VOLTAGE_MV, 10 } ... ;</pre>

5 Deprecated Items

Deprecated in release 2.1.0.0

Beacon Support

Per the Thread specification beacons support has been deprecated in this release. To enable support for deployed devices that may still require beacons support, two configuration macros are added to control the beacon payload generation and parsing.

- *OPENTHREAD_CONFIG_MAC_BEACON_PAYLOAD_PARSING_ENABLE* will enable the device to receive and parse any beacons that contain beacon payload.
- *OPENTHREAD_CONFIG_MAC_OUTGOING_BEACON_PAYLOAD_ENABLE* will enable the device to add Thread payload to outgoing beacons.

Our Platform Abstraction Layer enables *OPENTHREAD_CONFIG_MAC_BEACON_PAYLOAD_PARSING_ENABLE* by default but does not enable *OPENTHREAD_CONFIG_MAC_OUTGOING_BEACON_PAYLOAD_ENABLE* to prevent issues with certification.

Note: *OPENTHREAD_CONFIG_MAC_OUTGOING_BEACON_PAYLOAD_ENABLE* should be enabled if you are intending to deploy products that are backward-compatible with some 1.1 legacy devices

6 Removed Items

None

7 Multiprotocol Gateway and RCP

7.1 New Items

Added in release 2.1.0.0

A new concurrent multiprotocol configuration is available: Zigbee NCP and OpenThread RCP running concurrently on the EFR32, using the Co-Processor Communication (CPC) architecture. It is released as alpha quality. See *AN1333: Running Zigbee, OpenThread, and Bluetooth Concurrently on a Linux Host with a Multiprotocol RCP* for details.

7.2 Improvements

Changed in release 2.1.0.0

CPC security is now enabled by default in the `cpd.conf` file and in the SLCP project files. This means data sent over the serial line between the host and the EFR32 is encrypted. A security commissioning step is required to bind the host to the EFR32. See <https://github.com/SiliconLabs/cpc-daemon/blob/main/readme.md> for details.

For convenience, the `run.sh` script in `app/host/multiprotocol/zigbeed/multiprotocol-container/` includes a `-K` argument for commissioning `cpd` security when using the multiprotocol docker container.

The multiprotocol container has been upgraded to use ubuntu 22.04 and BlueZ 5.64.

The `zigbee_trust_center_backup` component now supports migrating from a Zigbee Host + NCP setup to a Zigbee Host + Zigbeed + RCP setup. See *AN1333: Running Zigbee, OpenThread, and Bluetooth Concurrently on a Linux Host with a Multiprotocol RCP* for details.

Zigbeed built from GSDK sources no longer requires the `/accept_silabs_msla_file` at runtime. Only the Zigbeed binary from the multiprotocol docker container requires it.

7.3 Fixed Issues

Fixed in release 2.1.0.0

ID #	Description
760596	Reduced the CPU consumption of Zigbeed when it is idle.
811566	Fixed an issue where Zigbee sleepy end devices failed to join to an RCP parent.
817698	Fixed a Zigbeed crash due to a null buffer in the lower mac layer.
822233	Fixed an issue that caused dropped CPC packets over VCOM, especially at higher baud rates.
829614	The multi-PAN/multiprotocol 802.15.4 RCP now sets the radio tx power to the maximum of the power levels requested by all 15.4 host applications. This avoids the problem of one application reducing the power and inadvertently causing network connectivity problems for the other application.
830596	Fixed an issue where joining a sleepy end device to the multiprotocol RCP caused Z3Gateway to crash in some circumstances.
831689	Fixed an issue in Zigbeed that resulted in a fixed pan id and other parameters being chosen when forming a network.

7.4 Known Issues in the Current Release

ID #	Description	Workaround
811732	Custom token support is not available when using Zigbeed.	Support is planned in a future release.
828785	There is a known issue with the <code>cpc-hci-bridge</code> that causes the second HCI packet to be dropped if BlueZ sends two HCI packets to the RCP in rapid succession.	A fix is targeted for the next patch release.

ID #	Description	Workaround
829675	Bi-directional Green Power Devices can't pair with Z3GatewayGPCombo + Zigbeed + RCP.	A fix is being worked on for the next patch release.
834191	There is a known issue with the cpc-hci-bridge consuming excessive CPU time.	A fix is targeted for the next patch release.
849438	There is a known issue that the Zigbee NCP / OpenThread RCP is not functioning properly over a SPI connection.	Use a UART link until this issue is resolved in the next patch release.

7.5 Deprecated Items

None

7.6 Removed Items

Removed in release 2.1.0.0

Pre-built ARM binaries for multiprotocol host applications are no longer distributed within the GSDK (cpd, otbr-agent, zigbeed, Z3Gateway, etc). These should be built from sources on the target platform using the instructions in *AN1333: Running Zigbee, OpenThread, and Bluetooth Concurrently on a Linux Host with a Multiprotocol RCP*.

A copy of sl_cpc.h that was being included in the OpenThread sources as a convenience has been removed. This header file is placed in the standard system location when cpd is installed.

8 Using This Release

This release contains the following

- Silicon Labs OpenThread stack
- Silicon Labs OpenThread sample applications
- Silicon Labs OpenThread border router

For more information about the OpenThread SDK see [QSG170: Silicon Labs OpenThread QuickStart Guide](#). If you are new to Thread see [UG103.11: Thread Fundamentals](#).

8.1 Installation and Use

The OpenThread SDK is part of the Gecko SDK (GSDK), the suite of Silicon Labs SDKs. To quickly get started with OpenThread and the GSDK, start by installing [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.

The GSDK default installation location has changed with Simplicity Studio 5.3, used with this release.

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

Documentation specific to the SDK version is installed with the SDK. API references and other information about this release are available on <https://docs.silabs.com/openthread/1.2/>.

8.2 OpenThread GitHub Repository

The Silicon Labs OpenThread SDK includes all changes from the OpenThread GitHub repo (<https://github.com/openthread/openthread>) up to and including commit **8f92d2dc8**. An enhanced version of the OpenThread repo can be found in the following Simplicity Studio 5 GSDK location:

```
<GSDK Installation Location>\util\third_party\openthread
```

8.3 OpenThread Border Router GitHub Repository

8.4 The Silicon Labs OpenThread SDK includes all changes from the OpenThread border router GitHub repo (<https://github.com/openthread/ot-br-posix>) up to and including commit **3a98779dc**. An enhanced version of the OpenThread border router repo can be found in the following Simplicity Studio 5 GSDK location:

```
<GSDK Installation Location>\util\third_party\ot-br-posix
```

8.5 Using the Border Router

For ease of use, Silicon Labs recommends the use of a Docker container for your OpenThread border router. Refer to [AN1256: Using the Silicon Labs RCP with the OpenThread Border Router](#) for details on how to set up the correct version of OpenThread border router Docker container. It is available at <https://hub.docker.com/r/siliconlabsinc/openthread-border-router>.

If you are manually installing a border router, using the copies provided with the Silicon Labs OpenThread SDK, refer to [AN1256: Using the Silicon Labs RCP with the OpenThread Border Router](#) for more details.

Although updating the border router environment to a later GitHub version is supported on the OpenThread website, it may make the border router incompatible with the OpenThread RCP stack in the SDK.

8.6 NCP/RCP Support

The OpenThread NCP support is included with OpenThread SDK but any use of this support should be considered experimental. The OpenThread RCP is fully implemented and supported.

8.7 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"/> ZigBee and Thread
<input type="checkbox"/> Oscillators	<input type="checkbox"/> Z-Wave
<input type="checkbox"/> CDR and PHY	

8.8 Support

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

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

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