

# UG118: Blue Gecko *Bluetooth*<sup>®</sup> Profile Toolkit Developer's Guide



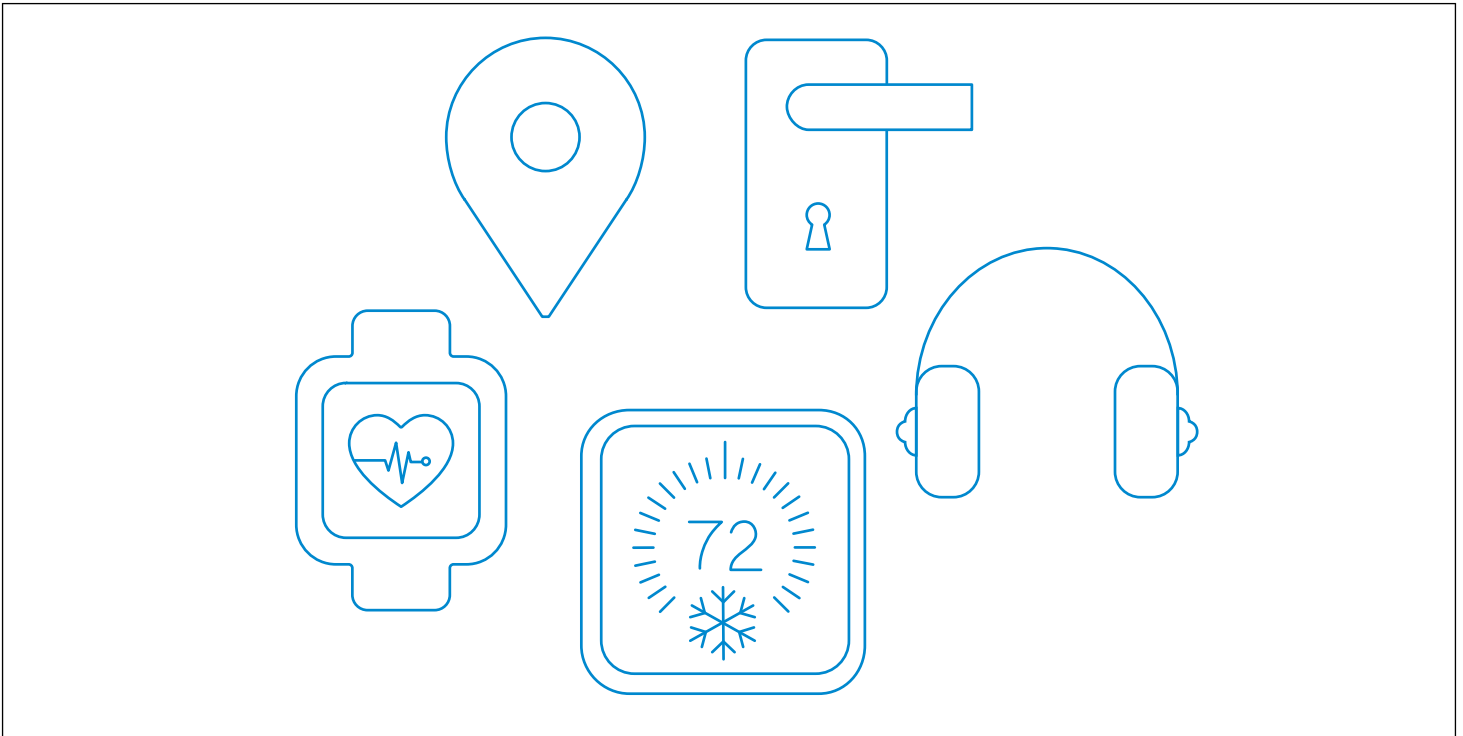
Bluetooth GATT services and characteristics are the basis of the Bluetooth data exchange. They are used to describe the structure, access type, and security properties of the data exposed by a device, such as a heart-rate monitor. Bluetooth services and characteristics have a well-defined and structured format, and they can be easily described using XML mark-up language.

The Profile Toolkit is an XML-based mark-up language for describing the Bluetooth services and characteristics, also known as the GATT database, in both easy human-readable and machine-readable formats. This guide walks you through the XML syntax used in the Profile Toolkit and instructs you how to easily describe your own Bluetooth services and characteristics, configure the access and security properties, and how to include the GATT database as a part of the firmware.

This guide also contains practical examples showing the use of both standardized Bluetooth and vendor-specific proprietary services. These examples provide a good starting point for your own development work.

## KEY POINTS

- Understanding Bluetooth GATT profiles, services, characteristics, attribute protocol
- Building the GATT database with the Profile Toolkit



## 1. Understanding Profiles, Services, Characteristics and the Attribute Protocol

This section gives a basic explanation of Bluetooth profiles, services and characteristics and also explains how the Attribute protocol is used in the data exchange between the GATT server and client. Links to further information regarding these subjects are also provided.

### 1.1 GATT-Based Bluetooth Profiles and Services

A *Bluetooth* profile specifies the structure in which data is exchanged. The profile defines elements, such as services and characteristics used in a profile, but it may also contain definitions for security and connection-establishment parameters. Typically a profile consists of one or more services which are needed to accomplish a high-level use case, such as heart-rate or cadence monitoring. Standardized profiles allow device and software vendors to build inter-operable devices and applications.

Bluetooth SIG standardized profiles are available at:

<https://developer.bluetooth.org/gatt/profiles/Pages/ProfilesHome.aspx>.

### 1.2 Services

A service is a collection of data composed of one or more characteristics used to accomplish a specific function of a device, such as battery monitoring or temperature data, rather than a complete use case.

Bluetooth SIG standardized service specifications are available at:

<https://developer.bluetooth.org/gatt/services/Pages/ServicesHome.aspx>.

### 1.3 Characteristics

A characteristic is a value used in a service, either to expose and/or exchange data and/or to control information. Characteristics have a well-defined known format. They also contain information about how the value can be accessed, what security requirements must be fulfilled, and, optionally, how the characteristic value is displayed or interpreted. Characteristics may also contain descriptors that describe the value or permit configuration of characteristic data indications or notifications.

Bluetooth SIG standardized characteristics are available at:

<https://developer.bluetooth.org/gatt/characteristics/Pages/CharacteristicsHome.aspx>.

### 1.4 The Attribute Protocol

The Attribute protocol enables data exchange between the GATT server and the GATT client. The protocol also provides a set of operations, namely how to query, write, indicate or notify the data and/or control information between the two GATT parties.

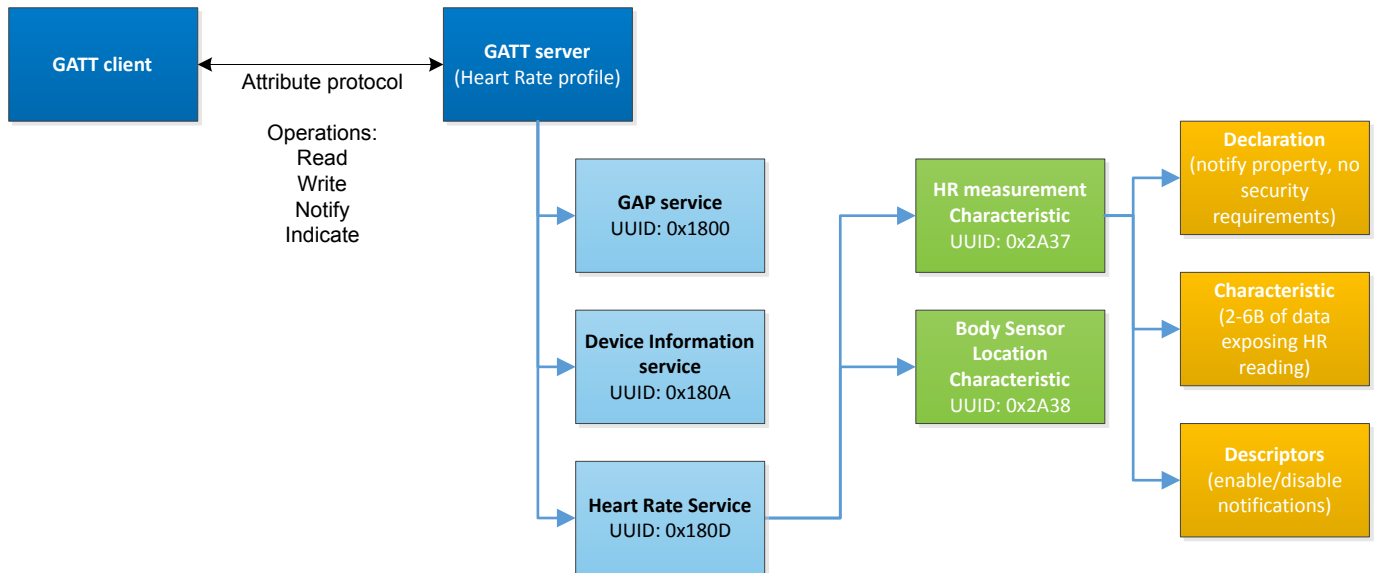


Figure 1.1. Profile, Service, and Characteristic Relationships

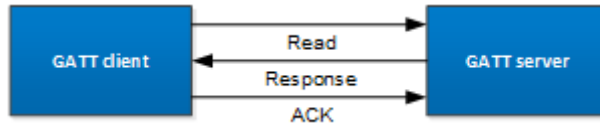


Figure 1.2. Attribute Read Operation

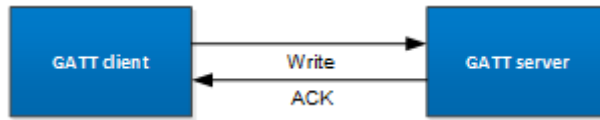


Figure 1.3. Attribute Write Operation

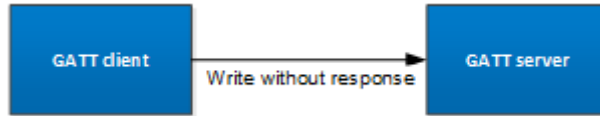


Figure 1.4. Attribute Write without Response Operation

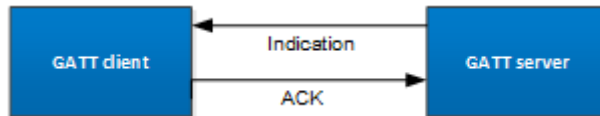


Figure 1.5. Attribute Indicate Operation



Figure 1.6. Attribute Notify Operation

## 2. Building the GATT Database with Profile Toolkit

This section of the document describes the XML syntax used in the Blue Gecko Bluetooth Profile Toolkit and walks you through the different options you can use when building Bluetooth services and characteristics.

A few practical GATT database examples are also shown.

### 2.1 General Limitations

The table below shows the limitations of the GATT database supported by the Blue Gecko devices.

Item	Limitation	Notes
Maximum number of characteristics	Not limited; practically restricted by the overall number of attributes in the database	All characteristics which do NOT have the property <b>const="true"</b> are included in this count.
Maximum length of a <b>type="user"</b> characteristic	512 bytes	These characteristics are handled by the application, which means that the amount of RAM available for the application will limit this.  If <b>type="user"</b> is not used, then the maximum length of a characteristic is 255 B.  <b>Note:</b> Limited by Bluetooth specification
Maximum length of a <b>const="true"</b> characteristic	255 bytes	The amount of free flash available on the device used defines this.
Maximum length of a <b>const="false"</b> characteristic	255 bytes	For every characteristic with the property <b>const="false"</b> RAM will be allocated from the Bluetooth device for storing the characteristic value.
Maximum number of attributes in a single GATT database	255	A single characteristic typically uses 3-5 attributes.
Maximum number of notifiable characteristics	64	
Maximum number of capabilities	16	The logic state of the capabilities will determine the visibility of each service/characteristic.

## 2.2 <gatt>

The GATT database along with the services and characteristics must be described inside the XML attribute <gatt>.

Parameter	Description
out	<p>Filename for the GATT C source file</p> <p><b>Value:</b> Any UTF-8 string. Must be valid as a filename and end with '.c'</p> <p><b>Default:</b> gatt_db.c</p>
header	<p>Filename for the GATT C header file</p> <p><b>Value:</b> Any UTF-8 string. Must be valid as a filename and end with '.h'</p> <p><b>Default:</b> gatt_db.h</p>
db_name	<p>GATT database structure name and the prefix for data structures in the GATT C source file.</p> <p><b>Value:</b> Any UTF-8 string; must be valid in C.</p> <p><b>Default:</b> bg_gattdb_data</p>
name	<p>Free text, not used by the database compiler</p> <p><b>Value:</b> Any UTF-8 string</p> <p><b>Default:</b> Nothing</p>
prefix	<p>Prefix to add to each 'id' name for defining the handle macro that can be referenced from the C application.</p> <p><b>Value:</b> Any UTF-8 string. Must be valid in C.</p> <p><b>Default:</b> Nothing</p> <p>E.g. If prefix="my_gatt_" and id="temp_measurement" for a particular characteristic, then the following will be generated in the GATT C header file:</p> <pre>#define my_gatt_temp_measurement X (where X is the handle number for the temp_measurement characteristic)</pre>
generic_attribute_service	<p>If it is set to true, Generic Attribute service and its service_changed characteristic will be added in the beginning of the database. The Bluetooth stack takes care of database structure change detection and will send service_changed notifications to clients when a change is detected. In addition, this will enable the GATT-caching feature introduced in Bluetooth 5.1.</p> <p><b>Values:</b></p> <p><b>true:</b> Generic Attribute service is automatically added to the GATT database and GATT caching is enabled.</p> <p><b>false:</b> Generic Attribute service is not automatically added to the GATT database and GATT caching is disabled.</p> <p><b>Default:</b> false</p>
gatt_caching	<p>The GATT caching feature is enabled by default if generic_attribute_service is set to true. However, it can be disabled by setting this attribute to false.</p>

**Example:** A GATT database definition.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>
<gatt out="my_gatt_db.c" header="my_gatt_db.h" db_name="my_gatt_db_" prefix="my_gatt_"
generic_attribute_service="true" name="My GATT database">
```

```
...
</gatt>
```

### 2.3 <capabilities\_declare>

The GATT database services and characteristics can be made visible/invisible by using **capabilities**. A capability must be declared in a <capability> element and all capabilities in a GATT database must be first declared in a <capabilities\_declare> element consisting of a sequence of <capability> elements. The maximum number of capabilities in a database is 16.

This new functionality does not affect legacy GATT XML databases (prior to Silicon Labs Bluetooth stack version 2.4.x). Because they don't have any capabilities explicitly declared, all services and characteristics will remain visible to a remote GATT client.

Parameter	Description
-	-

**Example:** Capabilities declaration

```
<capabilities_declare>
...
</capabilities_declare>
```

### 2.3.1 <capability>

Each capability must be declared individually within a <capabilities\_declare> element using the <capability> element. The <capability> element has one attribute named "enable" that indicates the capability's default state at database initialization.

The text value of the <capability> element will be the identifier name for that capability in the generated database C header. Thus, it must be valid in C.

#### Inheritance of Capabilities

Services and characteristics can declare the capabilities that they want to use. If no capabilities are declared, then the following inheritance rules apply:

1. A service that does not declare any capabilities will have all the capabilities from <capabilities\_declare> element.
2. A characteristic that does not declare any capabilities will have all the capabilities from the service that it belongs to. If the service declares a sub-set of the capabilities in <capabilities\_declare>, then only that subset will be inherited by the characteristic.
3. All attributes of a characteristic inherit the characteristic's capabilities.

#### Visibility

Capabilities can be enabled/disabled to make services and characteristics visible/invisible to a GATT client according with the following logic:

1. A service and all its characteristics are **visible** when **at least one** of its capabilities is **enabled**.
2. A service and all its characteristics are **invisible** when **all** of its capabilities are **disabled**.
3. A characteristic and all its attributes are **visible** when **at least one** of its capabilities is **enabled**.
4. A characteristic and all its attributes are **invisible** when **all** of its capabilities are **disabled**.

Parameter	Description
enable	Sets the default state of a capability at database initialization.  <b>Values:</b>  <b>true:</b> Capability is enabled.  <b>false:</b> Capability is disabled.  <b>Default:</b> true

#### Example: Capabilities declaration

```
<capabilities_declare>
  <!-- This capability is enabled by default and the identifier is cap_light -->
  <capability enable="true">cap_light</capability>
  <!-- This capability is disabled by default and the identifier is cap_color -->
  <capability enable="false">cap_color</capability>
</capabilities_declare>
```



## 2.4 <service>

The GATT service definition is done with the XML attribute <service> and its parameters.

The table below describes the parameters that can be used for defining the related values.

Parameter	Description
<b>uuid</b>	<p>Universally Unique Identifier. The UUID uniquely identifies a service. 16-bit values are used for the services defined by the Bluetooth SIG and 128-bit UUIDs can be used for vendor specific implementations.</p> <p><b>Range:</b></p> <p><b>0x0000 – 0xFFFF:</b> Reserved for Bluetooth SIG standardized services</p> <p><b>0x00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000 - 0xFFFFFFFF-FFFF-FFFF-FFFF-FFFFFFFFFFFFFF:</b> Reserved for vendor specific services.</p>
<b>id</b>	<p>The ID is used to identify a service within the service database and can be used as a reference from other services (include statement). Typically this does not need to be used.</p> <p><b>Value:</b></p> <p>Any UTF-8 string</p>
<b>type</b>	<p>The type field defines whether the service is a primary or a secondary service. Typically this does not need to be used.</p> <p><b>Values:</b></p> <p><b>primary:</b> a primary service</p> <p><b>secondary:</b> a secondary service</p> <p><b>Default:</b> primary</p>
<b>advertise</b>	<p>This field defines if the service UUID is included in the advertisement data.</p> <p>The advertisement data can contain up to 13 16-bit UUIDs or one (1) 128-bit UUID.</p> <p><b>Values:</b></p> <p><b>true:</b> UUID included in advertisement data</p> <p><b>false:</b> UUID not included in advertisement data</p> <p><b>Default:</b> false</p> <p><b>Note:</b> You can override the advertisement data with the GAP API, in which case this is not valid.</p>

**Example:** A Generic Access Profile (GAP) service definition.

```
<!-- Generic Access Service -->
<service uuid="1800">
  ...
</service>
```

**Example:** A vendor specific service definition.

```
<!-- A vendor specific service -->
<service uuid="25be6a60-2040-11e5-bd86-0002a5d5c51b">
  ...
</service>
```

**Example:** A Heart Rate service definition with UUID included in the advertisement data and ID "hrs".

```
<!-- Heart Rate Service -->
<service uuid="180D" id="hrs" advertise="true">
  ...
</service>
```

**Note:** You can generate your own 128-bit UUIDs at: <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/asn1/Pages/UUID/uuids.aspx>

### 2.4.1 <capabilities>

A service can declare the capabilities it has with a <capabilities> element. The element consists of a sequence of <capability> elements whose identifiers **must also be part** of the <capabilities\_declare> element. The attribute "enable" has no effect in the capabilities declared within this context so it can be excluded.

If a service does not declare any capabilities, it will have **all the capabilities** from <capabilities\_declare> per the **inheritance rules**.

A service and all its characteristics will be **visible** when **at least one** of its capabilities is **enabled** and **invisible** when **all its capabilities are disabled**.

Parameter	Description
-	-

**Example:** Capabilities declaration

```
<capabilities>
  <capability>cap_light</capability>
  <capability>cap_color</capability>
</capabilities>
```

### 2.4.2 <description>

The XML element <description> can be used for informative purposes (commenting) and is not exposed in the actual GATT database.

### 2.4.3 <include>

A service can be included within another service by using the XML attribute <include>.

Parameter	Description
<b>id</b>	ID of the included service  <b>Value:</b> ID of another service

**Example:** Including Heart Rate service within the GAP service.

```
<!-- Generic Access Service -->
<service uuid="1800">
  <!-- Include HR Service -->
  <include id="hrs" />
  ...
</service>
```

## 2.5 <characteristic>

All the characteristics exposed by a service are defined with the XML attribute **<characteristic>** and its parameters, which must be used inside the **<service>** XML attribute tags.

The table below describes the parameters that can be used for defining the related values.

Parameter	Description
<b>uuid</b>	<p>Universally Unique Identifier. The UUID uniquely identifies a characteristic.</p> <p>16-bit values are used for the services defined by the Bluetooth SIG and 128-bit UUIDs can be used for vendor specific implementations.</p> <p><b>Range:</b></p> <p><b>0x0000 – 0xFFFF:</b> Reserved for Bluetooth SIG standardized characteristics.</p> <p><b>0x00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000 to 0xFFFFFFFF-FFFF-FFFF-FFFF-FFFFFFFFFFFFFF :</b> Reserved for vendor specific characteristics.</p>
<b>id</b>	<p>The ID is used to identify a characteristic. The ID is used within a C application to read and write characteristic values or to detect if notifications or indications are enabled or disabled for a specific characteristic.</p> <p>When the project is built the generated GATT C header file contains a macro with the characteristic 'id' and corresponding handle value.</p> <p><b>Value:</b></p> <p>Any UTF-8 string</p>

**Example:** Adding Device name characteristic into GAP service.

```
<!-- Generic Access Service -->
<service uuid="1800">

    <!-- Device name -->
    <characteristic uuid="2a00">
        ...
    </characteristic>
    ...
</service>
```

**Example:** Adding a vendor-specific characteristic into a vendor-specific service with ID.

```
<!-- A vendor specific service -->
<service uuid="25be6a60-2040-11e5-bd86-0002a5d5c51b">

    <!-- My proprietary data -->
    <characteristic uuid="59cd69c0-2043-11e5-a717-0002a5d5c51b" id="mydata">
        ...
    </characteristic>
    ...
</service>
```

### 2.5.1 <capabilities>

A characteristic can declare the capabilities it has with a <capabilities> element. The element consists of a sequence of <capability> elements whose identifiers **must also be declared (or fully inherited)** by the parent service. The attribute "enable" has no effect in the capabilities declared within this context so it can be excluded.

If a characteristic does not declare any capabilities it will have **all the capabilities** from the **service** that it belongs to per the **inheritance rules**. All attributes of a characteristic inherit the characteristic's capabilities.

A characteristic and all its attributes will be **visible** when **at least one** of its capabilities is **enabled** and **invisible** when **all its capabilities** are **disabled**.

Parameter	Description
-	-

**Example:** Capabilities declaration

```
<capabilities>
  <capability>cap_light</capability>
  <capability>cap_color</capability>
</capabilities>
```

## 2.5.2 <properties>

The characteristics access and security properties are defined by the XML attribute **<properties>** and its parameters, which must be used inside the **<characteristic>** XML attribute tags. A characteristic can have multiple properties at the same time.

The table below describes the parameters that can be used for defining the related values.

Parameter	Description
<b>read</b>	<p>Characteristic can be read by a remote device.</p> <p><b>Values:</b></p> <p><b>true:</b> Characteristic can be read</p> <p><b>false:</b> Characteristic cannot be read</p> <p><b>Default:</b> false</p>
<b>const</b>	<p>Characteristic has a constant value, which cannot be modified after programming.</p> <p>The benefit of constant values is that no RAM is allocated for them leaving more RAM to the application.</p> <p><b>Value:</b></p> <p><b>true:</b> Characteristic value is constant</p> <p><b>false:</b> Characteristic value is not constant</p> <p><b>Default:</b> false</p>
<b>write</b>	<p>Characteristic can be written by a remote device</p> <p><b>Values:</b></p> <p><b>true:</b> Characteristic can be written</p> <p><b>false:</b> Characteristic cannot be written</p> <p><b>Default:</b> false</p>
<b>write_no_response</b>	<p>Characteristic can be written by a remote device. Write without response is not acknowledged over the Attribute Protocol.</p> <p><b>Values:</b></p> <p><b>true:</b> Characteristic can be written</p> <p><b>false:</b> Characteristic cannot be written</p> <p><b>Default:</b> false</p>
<b>notify</b>	<p>Characteristic has the notify property and characteristic value changes are notified over the Attribute Protocol. Notifications are not acknowledged over the Attribute Protocol.</p> <p><b>Values:</b></p> <p><b>true:</b> Characteristic has notify property.</p> <p><b>false:</b> Characteristic does not have notify property.</p> <p><b>Default:</b> false</p>
<b>indicate</b>	<p>Characteristic has the indicate property and characteristic value changes are indicated over the Attribute Protocol. Indications are acknowledged over the Attribute Protocol.</p> <p><b>Values:</b></p> <p><b>true:</b> Characteristic has indicate property.</p> <p><b>false:</b> Characteristic does not have indicate property.</p> <p><b>Default:</b> false</p>

Parameter	Description
<b><i>authenticated_read</i></b>	<p>Reading the characteristic value requires an authentication. In order to read the characteristic with this property the remote device has to be bonded using MITM protection and the connection must be also encrypted.</p> <p><b>Values:</b></p> <p><b>true:</b> Authentication is required</p> <p><b>false:</b> Authentication is not required</p> <p><b>Default:</b> false</p>
<b><i>encrypted_read</i></b>	<p>Reading the characteristic value requires an encrypted link. With iOS 9.1 and newer devices must also be bonded at least with Just Works pairing.</p> <p><b>Values:</b></p> <p><b>true:</b> Encryption is required</p> <p><b>false:</b> Encryption is not required</p> <p><b>Default:</b> false</p>
<b><i>bonded_read</i></b>	<p>Reading the characteristic value requires an encrypted link. Devices must also be bonded at least with Just Works pairing.</p> <p><b>Values:</b></p> <p><b>true:</b> Bonding and encryption are required</p> <p><b>false:</b> Bonding is not required</p> <p><b>Default:</b> false</p>
<b><i>authenticated_write</i></b>	<p>Writing the characteristic value requires an authentication. In order to write the characteristic with this property the remote device has to be bonded using MITM protection and the connection must be also encrypted.</p> <p><b>Values:</b></p> <p><b>true:</b> Authentication is required</p> <p><b>false:</b> Authentication is not required</p> <p><b>Default:</b> false</p>
<b><i>encrypted_write</i></b>	<p>Writing the characteristic value requires an encrypted link. With iOS 9.1 and newer devices must also be bonded at least with Just Works pairing.</p> <p><b>Values:</b></p> <p><b>true:</b> Encryption is required</p> <p><b>false:</b> Encryption is not required</p> <p><b>Default:</b> false</p>
<b><i>bonded_write</i></b>	<p>Writing the characteristic value requires an encrypted link. Devices must also be bonded at least with Just Works pairing.</p> <p><b>Values:</b></p> <p><b>true:</b> Bonding and encryption are required</p> <p><b>false:</b> Bonding is not required</p> <p><b>Default:</b> false</p>

Parameter	Description
<b>reliable_write</b>	<p>Allows using reliable write procedure to modify attribute, this is just a hint to GATT client. The Bluetooth stack always allows using reliable writes to be used to modify attributes.</p> <p><b>Values:</b></p> <p><b>true:</b> Reliable write enabled</p> <p><b>false:</b> Reliable write disabled</p> <p><b>Default:</b> false</p>
<b>authenticated_notify</b>	<p>Both enabling notifications/indications on this characteristic and sending out notifications/indications on this characteristic require authentication. In order to enable/disable notifications/indications and to be able to receive notifications/indications the remote device has to be bonded using MITM protection and the connection must be also encrypted. Use this property along with the <b>notify</b> or <b>indicate</b> property.</p> <p><b>Values:</b></p> <p><b>true:</b> Authentication is required</p> <p><b>false:</b> Authentication is not required</p> <p><b>Default:</b> false</p>
<b>encrypted_notify</b>	<p>Both enabling notifications/indications on this characteristic and sending out notifications/indications on this characteristic require an encrypted link. With iOS 9.1 and newer, devices must also be bonded at least with Just Works pairing. Use this property along with the <b>notify</b> or <b>indicate</b> property.</p> <p><b>Values:</b></p> <p><b>true:</b> Encryption is required</p> <p><b>false:</b> Encryption is not required</p> <p><b>Default:</b> false</p>
<b>bonded_notify</b>	<p>Both enabling notifications/indications on this characteristic and sending out notifications/indications on this characteristic require an encrypted link. Devices must also be bonded at least with Just Works pairing. Use this property along with the <b>notify</b> or <b>indicate</b> property.</p> <p><b>Values:</b></p> <p><b>true:</b> Encryption is required</p> <p><b>false:</b> Encryption is not required</p> <p><b>Default:</b> false</p>

**Example:** Device name characteristic with const and read properties.

```
<!-- Device Name-->
<characteristic uuid="2a00">
    <properties read="true" const="true" />
    ...
</characteristic>
```

**Example:** Device name characteristic with and read and write properties to allow the value to be modified by the remote device.

```
<!-- Device Name-->
<characteristic uuid="2a00">
    <properties read="true" write="true" />
    ...
</characteristic>
```

**Example:** Heart Rate Measurement characteristic with notify property.

```
<!-- Heart Rate Measurement -->
<characteristic uuid="180D">

  <properties notify="true" />
  ...
</characteristic>
```

**Example:** Characteristic with encrypted read property.

```
<!-- Device Name-->
<characteristic uuid="1234">

  <properties read="true" encrypted_read="true" />
  ...
</characteristic>
```

**Example:** Characteristic with authenticated write property.

```
<!-- Device Name-->
<characteristic uuid="1234">

  <properties write="true" authenticated_write="true" />
  ...
</characteristic>
```

**Example:** Characteristic with authenticated indicate property.

```
<!-- Descriptor value changed -->
<characteristic uuid="2A7D">

  <properties indicate="true" authenticated_notify="true" />
  ...
</characteristic>
```



### 2.5.3 <value>

The data type and length for a characteristic is defined with the XML attribute **<value>** and its parameters, which must be used inside the **<characteristic>** XML attribute tags.

The table below describes the parameters that can be used for defining the related values.

Parameter	Description
<b>length</b>	<p>Defines a fixed length for the characteristic or the maximum length if <b>variable_length</b> is true. If length is not defined and there is a value (e.g. data exists inside &lt;value&gt;&lt;/value&gt;), then the value length is used to define the length.</p> <p>If both <b>length</b> and value are defined, then the following rules apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If <b>variable_length</b> is false and <b>length</b> is bigger than the value's length, then the value will be padded with 0's at the end to match the attribute's <b>length</b>.</li> <li>2. If <b>length</b> is smaller than the value's length, then the value will be clipped to match <b>length</b>, regardless of whether <b>variable_length</b> is true or false.</li> </ol> <p><b>Range:</b></p> <p><b>0 – 255:</b> Length in bytes if <b>type</b> is 'hex' or 'utf-8'</p> <p><b>0 – 512:</b> Length in bytes if <b>type</b> is 'user'</p> <p><b>Default:</b> 0</p>
<b>variable_length</b>	<p>Defines that the value is of variable length. The maximum length must also be defined with the <b>length</b> attribute or by defining a value. If both <b>length</b> and value are defined, then the rules described in <b>length</b> apply.</p> <p><b>Values:</b></p> <p><b>true:</b> Value is of variable length</p> <p><b>false:</b> Value has a fixed length</p> <p><b>Default:</b> false</p>
<b>type</b>	<p>Defines the data type.</p> <p><b>Values:</b></p> <p><b>hex:</b> Value type is hex</p> <p><b>utf-8:</b> Value is a string</p> <p><b>user:</b> When the characteristic type is marked as type="user", the application is responsible for initializing the characteristic value and also providing it, for example, when read operation occurs. The Bluetooth stack does not initialize the value or automatically provide the value when it is being read. When this is set, the Bluetooth stack generates <b>gatt_server_user_read_request</b> or <b>gatt_server_user_write_request</b>, which must be handled by the application.</p> <p><b>Default:</b> utf-8</p>

**Example:** Heart Rate Measurement characteristic with notify property and fixed length of two (2) bytes.

```
<!-- Heart Rate Measurement -->
<characteristic uuid="180D">

    <properties notify="true" />
    <value length="2" type="hex" />
    ...
</characteristic>
```

**Example:** A variable length vendor specific characteristic with maximum length of 20 bytes.

```
<!-- My proprietary data -->
<characteristic uuid="59cd69c0-2043-11e5-a717-0002a5d5c51b" id="mydata">

    <properties notify="true" />
```

```

    <value variable_length="true" length="20" type="hex" />
    ...
</characteristic>

```

**Example:** The value and length of a characteristic can also be defined by typing the actual value inside the <value> tags.

```

<!-- Device name -->
<characteristic uuid="2a00">
  <properties read="true" const="true" />
  <value>Blue Gecko BGM111</value>
</characteristic>

```

In the example above, the value is “**Blue Gecko BGM111**” and the length is 17 bytes.

**Example:** Defining both length and value with length **bigger** than the value's length.

```

<!-- Device name -->
<characteristic uuid="2a00">
  <properties read="true" />
  <value type="hex" length="4">0102</value>
</characteristic>

```

In the example above, the value will be “**01020000**” because the **length** is bigger than the value's length and the value gets padded with 0's.

**Example:** Defining both length and value with length **smaller** than the value's length.

```

<!-- Device name -->
<characteristic uuid="2a00">
  <properties read="true" />
  <value type="hex" length="2">01020304</value>
</characteristic>

```

In the example above, the value will be “**0102**” because the **length** is smaller than the value's length, so the value gets clipped to match the **length**.

## 2.5.4 <descriptor>

The XML element <descriptor> can be used to define a generic characteristic descriptor.

Descriptor properties are defined by the <properties> element and only read and/or write access is allowed. Value is defined by <value> element the same way as for characteristics values.

**Example:** Adding a characteristic descriptor with type UUID 2908.

```

<characteristic uuid="2a4d" id="hid_input">
  <properties notify="true" read="true" />
  <value length="3" />
  <descriptor uuid="2908">
    <properties read="true" const="true" />
    <value type="hex">0001</value>
  </descriptor>
</characteristic>

```

### 2.5.5 <description>

Characteristic user description values are defined with the XML attribute <description>, which must be used inside the <characteristic> XML attribute tags.

Characteristic user description is an optional value. It is exposed to the remote device and can be used, for example, to provide a user-friendly description of the characteristic shown in the application's user interface.

**Example:** Constant string "Heart Rate Measurement"

```
<characteristic uuid="2a37">
  <properties notify="true" />
  <value length="2" />
  <description>Heart Rate Measurement</description>
</characteristic>
```

Properties element can be used to allow remote modification of an attribute.

**Example:** Allow remote reading but require bonding for writing

```
<characteristic uuid="2a37">
  <properties notify="true" />
  <value length="2" />
  <description>
    <properties read="true" write="true" authenticated_write="true" />
    <value variable_length="true" length="20" />
  </description>
</characteristic>
```

**Note:** If a description is writable then the GATT Parser automatically adds the extended properties attribute with *writable\_auxiliaries* bit set to be Bluetooth-compliant.

### 2.5.6 <aggregate>

The XML element <aggregate> enables the creation of an aggregated characteristic format descriptor by automatically converting IDs to attribute handles.

Attribute IDs should refer to characteristic presentation format descriptors.

**Example:** Adding a characteristic aggregate

```
<characteristic uuid="da8a80c0-829d-498f-b70b-e85c95e0f839">
  <properties notify="true" read="true"/>
  <value length="10" />
  <aggregate>
    <attribute id="format1" />
    <attribute id="format2" />
  </aggregate>
</characteristic>
```

## 2.6 GATT Examples

**Example:** A full GAP service with device name and appearance characteristics as constant values with read property.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>
<gatt>

  <!-- Generic Access Service -->
  <service uuid="1800">

    <!-- Device name -->
    <characteristic uuid="2a00">
      <properties read="true" const="true" />
      <value>Blue Gecko</value>
    </characteristic>

    <!-- Appearances -->
    <characteristic uuid="2a01">
      <properties read="true" const="true" />
      <value type="hex">0768</value>
    </characteristic>
  </service>
</gatt>
```

**Example:** Full Device Information, Immediate Alert, and Link Loss services.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>

<gatt>

  <!-- Device Information Service -->
  <service uuid="180A">

    <!-- Manufacturer name string -->
    <characteristic uuid="2A29">
      <properties read="true" const="true" />
      <value>Silicon Labs</value>
    </characteristic>

    <!-- Model number string -->
    <characteristic uuid="2A24">
      <properties read="true" const="true" />
      <value>BGM111</value>
    </characteristic>

    <!-- Serial number string -->
    <characteristic uuid="2A23">
      <properties read="true" const="true" />
      <value type="hex">000780000047</value>
    </characteristic>
  </service>

  <!-- Link Loss Service -->
  <service uuid="1803" advertise="true" >

    <!-- Alert Level -->
    <characteristic uuid="2a06" id="xgatt_lloss">
      <properties read="true" write="true" />
      <value length="1" />
    </characteristic>
  </service>

  <!-- Immediate Alert Service -->
  <service uuid="1802" advertise="true" >

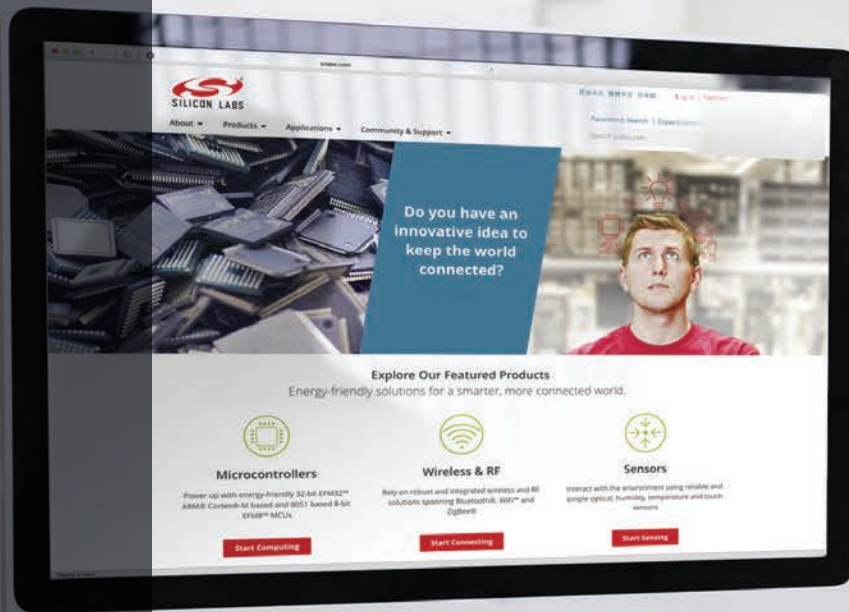
    <!-- Alert Level -->
    <characteristic uuid="2a06" id="xgatt_alert">
      <properties write_no_response="true" />
      <value length="1" />
    </characteristic>
  </service>
</gatt>
```

**Example: GATT database with capabilities**

```
<gatt db_name="light_gattdb" out="gatt_db.c" header="gatt_db.h" generic_attribute_service="true">
  <capabilities_declare>
    <capability enable="true">cap_light</capability> <!-- this capability is enabled by default -->
    <capability enable="false">cap_color</capability> <!-- this capability is disabled by default -->
  </capabilities_declare>

  <service uuid="ed15dbd1-7ed7-43ce-8746-26d31c0412a2" id="light_service">
    <capabilities>
      <capability>cap_light</capability>
      <capability>cap_color</capability>
    </capabilities>
    <characteristic uuid="1c8834b9-a69d-427b-b35f-308ba7b7a1d5" id="light_control">
      <capabilities>
        <capability>cap_light</capability>
      </capabilities>
      <properties read="true" write="true" />
      <value type="user"></value>
    </characteristic>
    <characteristic uuid="6d2dede5-91f8-4dd3-8276-dbd967a5ac39" id="color_control"> <!-- this
characteristic is invisible to remotes by default -->
      <capabilities>
        <capability>cap_color</capability>
      </capabilities>
      <properties read="true" write="true" />
      <value type="user"></value>
    </characteristic>
  </service>
</gatt>
```

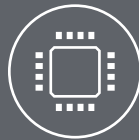
- If the capabilities cap\_light and cap\_color are enabled the entire light\_service will be visible
- If the capability cap\_light is disabled the characteristic light\_control will be invisible
- If the capability cap\_color is disabled the characteristic color\_control will be invisible



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Silicon Laboratories Inc.  
400 West Cesar Chavez  
Austin, TX 78701  
USA

<http://www.silabs.com>