# USART - BootLoader

SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM AN EXAMPLE PROGRAM

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# The bootloader via USART / UART interface

# How to enter the bootloader process

The STM32L47xxx/48xxx bootloader is activated by applying Pattern 7.

Pattern	Condition		
Pattern 1	Boot0(pin) = 1 and Boot1(pin) = 0		
Pattern 2	Boot0(pin) = 1 and nBoot1(bit) = 1		
	Boot0(pin) = 1, Boot1(pin) = 0 and BFB2(bit) = 1		
Pattern 3	Boot0(pin) = 0, BFB2(bit) = 0 and both banks do not contain valid code		
	Boot0(pin) = 1, Boot1(pin) = 0, BFB2(bit) = 0 and both banks do not contain valid code		
	Boot0(pin) = 1, Boot1(pin) = 0 and BFB2(bit) = 1		
Pattern 4	Boot0(pin) = 0, BFB2(bit) = 0 and both banks do not contain valid code		
	Boot0(pin) = 1, Boot1(pin) = 0 and BFB2(bit) = 0		
	Boot0(pin) = 1, Boot1(pin) = 0 and BFB2(bit) = 0		
Pattern 5	Boot0(pin) = 0, BFB2(bit) = 1 and both banks do not contain valid code		
	Boot0(pin) = 1, Boot1(pin) = 0 and BFB2 (bit) = 1		
	Boot0(pin) = 1, nBoot1(bit) = 1 and nBoot0_SW(bit) = 1		
Pattern 6	nBoot0(bit) = 0, nBoot1(bit) = 1 and nBoot0_SW(bit) = 0		
Patterno	Boot0(pin) = 0, nBoot0_SW(bit) = 1 and main Flash memory empty		
	nBoot0(bit) = 1, nBoot0_SW(bit)=0 and main Flash memory empty		
	Boot0(pin) = 1, nBoot1(bit) = 1 and BFB2(bit) = 0		
Pattern 7	Boot0(pin) = 0, BFB2(bit) = 1 and both banks do not contain valid code		
	Boot0(pin) = 1, nBoot1(bit) = 1 and BFB2(bit) = 1		
Pattern 8	Boot(pin) = 0 and BOOT_ADD0(optionbyte) = 0x0040		
rallelli 0	Boot(pin) = 1 and BOOT_ADD1(optionbyte) = 0x0040		

Figure 1 - BootLoader Activation Patterns - <u>Source</u>

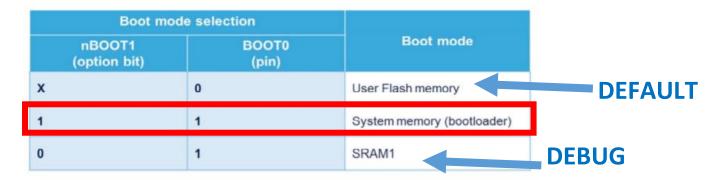
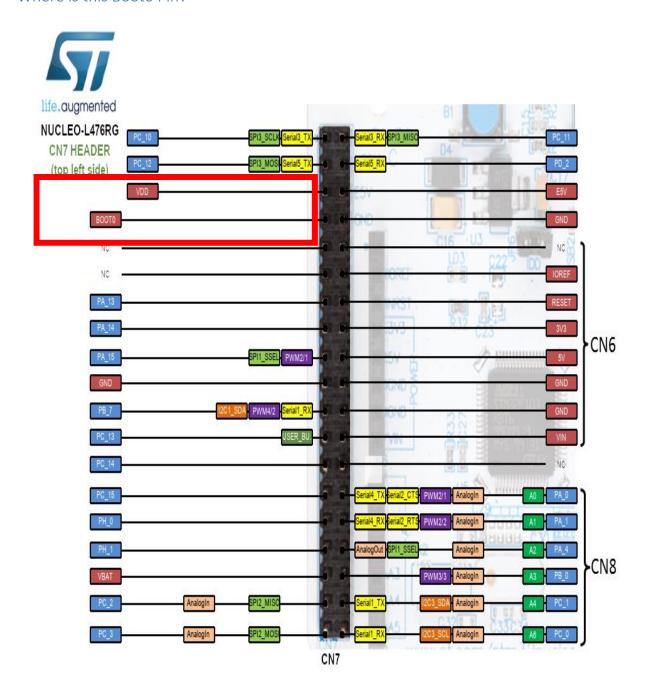


Figure 2 - Boot Modes - Source

#### Where is this Boot0 Pin?



For convention, pushing Boot0 pin to HIGH, then resetting results in BootLoader Mode.

#### Boot0 pin problem?

Since Boot0 pin should be pushed HIGH by physically, it requires at least one more pin accessed from outside world other than GND, RX, and TX, reserved UART pins. We needed to bypass this requirement to achieve jump to BootLoader @ System Memory (0x1FFF0000).

The constructed bypasser is using the method of "Cipher Check." The method is merely checking the value at the predefined memory location, whether it is the predetermined cipher, triggering the jump to BootLoader @ System Memory (0x1FFF0000) (See Memory Mapping). If it is not the case, Reset\_Handler @ startup.s file initiates the main program as default. However, when cipher is caught at the predefined memory location, then Reset\_Handler, mention above, executes the Reboot\_Loader routine in the startup.s file. And, the only way the cipher to be written to the specified location is triggering the RX Interrupt of reserved UART pins. Moreover, the following executions guarantee that cipher is invalidated to prevent repetitive executions of Reboot\_Loader, mentioned above. Let us examine the method elaborately.

#### First Step: UART RX Interrupt

When RX of the reserved accessible UART interface is triggered, it calls USARTx\_IRQHandler, which is executing the Reset2BootLoader function defined in main.c file:

```
Reset2BootLoader Function Definition
void Reset2BootLoader(void)
{
 FlashWrite(CIPHER ADDR , MAGIC CIPHER);
                                           // Write Special Code
"ATABERK" to End of the SRAM2 0x2000 0000
   HAL NVIC ClearPendingIRQ(USART1 IRQn);
                                               // USART1 Pending Bit RESET
                                                // Blocking The Program
   DSB();
until every memory instructions are done.
 NVIC SystemReset();
                                                // Soft-RESET -> startup.s
file -> RESET HANDLER + REBOOT LOADER
Flash Write Function Definition
void FlashWrite(uint32 t address, uint32 t data){
// WHEN ADDR IS @ SRAM1, IT IS SUFFICIENT
    *((volatile uint32 t*)(address)) = data;
// IF FLASH IS SELECTED, THE CODE BELOW
           FLASH WRITER START
    uint32 t PAGEError = 0;
    FLASH EraseInitTypeDef EraseInitStruct;
   EraseInitStruct.TypeErase = FLASH TYPEERASE PAGES;
   EraseInitStruct.Page = 255;
   EraseInitStruct.NbPages = 1;
   EraseInitStruct.Banks = FLASH BANK 1;
    HAL FLASH Unlock();
     HAL FLASH CLEAR FLAG(FLASH FLAG EOP | FLASH_FLAG_OPERR |
FLASH FLAG WRPERR | FLASH FLAG PGAERR | FLASH FLAG PGSERR );
    if (HAL FLASHEx Erase(&EraseInitStruct, &PAGEError) != HAL OK)
       HAL FLASH GetError();
    HAL FLASH Program (FLASH TYPEPROGRAM DOUBLEWORD, address, data);
   HAL FLASH Lock();
               FLASH WRITER END
}
```

#### Second Step: Soft-Reset Handling

When the device is reset, Reset\_Handler @ startup.s file runs:

```
; Reset Handler
Reset Handler
                 PROC
                 EXPORT Reset Handler
                                                      [WEAK]
        IMPORT
                SystemInit
                __main
        IMPORT
                          R0, =0x2000FFF0 ; CIPHER_ADDR @ END_OF_SRAM1 R1, =0xA7ABE12C ; ATABE R K - The MAGIC_CIPHER
                 LDR
                 LDR
                          R2, [R0]
                                               Take the value CIPHER ADDR
                 LDR
                                          ;
                                           ; Write itself onto itself
                  STR
                          R0, [R0]
                                            ; CHECKING PROCCESS
                          R2, R1
                  CMP
                          Reboot Loader
                 BEQ
                                           ; IF true: Execute Reboot Loader
                          RO, =SystemInit
                 LDR
                          R0
                 BLX
                          R0, = __main
                 LDR
                 BX
                          R0
                 ENDP
; Reboot Loader
Reboot Loader
                 PROC
                 EXPORT Reboot Loader
                 LDR
                          R0, = 0 \times 40021060; RCC APB2ENR
                          R1, =0x00000001 ; ENABLE SYSCFG CLOCK
                 LDR
                 STR
                          R1, [R0]
                          R0, =0x40010000 ; SYSCFG MEMRMP
                 LDR
                 LDR
                          R1, = 0 \times 00000001; MAP ROM AT ZERO
                 STR
                          R1, [R0]
                 LDR
                          RO, =0x1FFF0000 ; SYSTEM MEMORY STARTING ADDR
                          SP, [R0, #0]
                                           ; SP @ +0
                 LDR
                          RO, [RO, #4]
                                            ; PC @ +4 - RESET VECTOR
                 LDR
                          R0
                  BX
                  ENDP
```

Firstly, the cipher and the address are  $0 \times A7ABE12C$  and  $0 \times 2000 FFF0$ , respectively. The memory address is selected to be at the end of the SRAM1 portion of the STM32L476 MCU so that we can safely overwrite even there is a variable using this address. (See Memory Mapping).

In Reset\_Handler routine, we check if this address holds any but the cipher. In the case of the cipher existence, indicating that UART RX Interrupt has occurred, Reset\_Handler executes the Reboot\_Loader routine. In the Reboot\_Loader, we first enable RCC, Clock, and Memory Initiations then jump to <code>0x1FFF0000</code> address holding the BootLoader @ System Memory (See Memory Mapping), and goes its Reset\_Vector lying 4 bytes offset from the SP. Moreover, writing the cipher address into itself performs invalidation of the cipher at each reset, avoiding recursive occurrence.

On the other hand, not founding the cipher in the address means no UART RX Interrupt triggered, therefore, no need to jump to BootLoader. Then, hence the condition is not satisfied; Reset\_ Handler continues with loading SystemInit and jumps to the \_\_main vector – the main program vector.

#### **Memory Mapping**

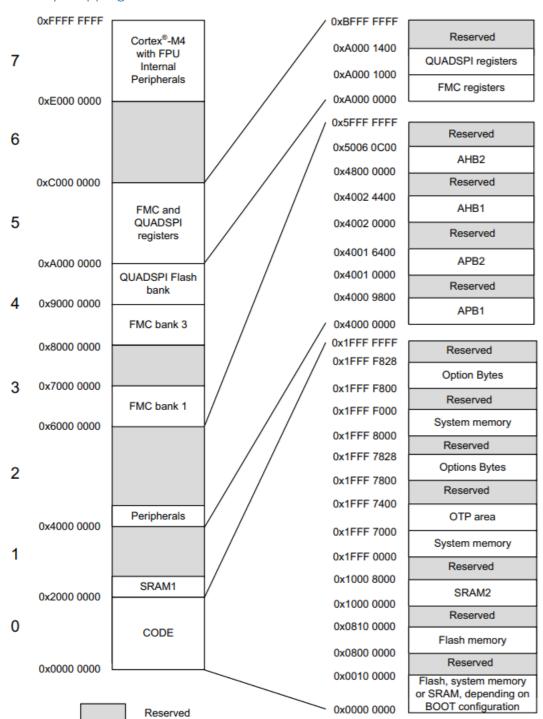


Figure 3 - Memory Map - <u>Source</u>

Addresses	Boot/remap in main Flash memory	Boot/remap in embedded SRAM 1	Boot/remap in system memory	Remap in FSMC	Remap in QUADSPI
0x2000 0000 - 0x2001 7FFF	SRAM1	SRAM1	SRAM1	SRAM1	SRAM1

Figure 4 - SRAM1 Memory Addresses in different boots - <u>Source 1</u> – <u>Source 2</u>

#### How to Connect Devices

# Hardware connection requirements

To use the USART bootloader, the host must be connected to the RX and TX pins of the desired USARTx interface via a serial cable.

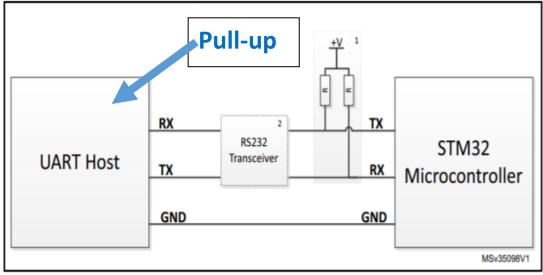


Figure 1. USART connection

- 1. A pull-up resistor must be added, if pull-up resistor are not connected in host side.
- An RS232 transceiver must be connected to adapt voltage level (3.3 to 12 V) between STM32 device and host.
- +V typically is 3.3 V and R typically 100 K $\Omega$ . These values depend upon the application and the used hardware.

To use the DFU, connect the microcontroller USB interface to a USB host (i.e. a PC).

For TTL connection from PC only RX, TX and GND connections are sufficient if you are using UART TTL Converter. If you are using the USB interface, no further connections are needed.

#### Which Port the device is using

If you are using your PC to connect to the device, by using either USB TLL converter or direct USB connection, the Port likely to be in the form of "COMx". To check to port COM number, you can use "Device Manager" on WindowsOS. Under "Connection Ports", you can see your device and port number listed here. If not the case, you may need to install the device driver. Here is the driver for the PL2303 USB TTL converter.

## What Happens in Bootloader Process

When we jump to BootLoader via our Reboot\_Loader routine, the device is searching all receiver channels to catch a communication request. The protocol list is given below:

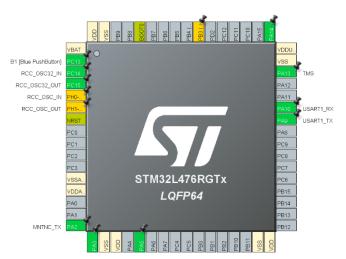
Protocol	I/Os and Comments	Comments	
USART1 on pins PA9/PA10 USART2 on pins PA2/PA3 USART3 on pins PC10/PC11			
USB	USB DFU interface on pins PA11/PA12	Bootloader checks if HSE present: USB clock is HSE If no Bootloader checks if LSE present: USB clock is MSI auto-trimmed with LSE	
CAN	CAN1 on pins PB8/PB9		
SPI	SPI1 on pins PA4/PA5/PA6/PA7 SPI2 on pins PB12/PB13/PB14/PB15		
12C	I2C1 on pins PB6/PB7 I2C2 on pins PB10/PB11 I2C3 on pins PC0/PC1	I <sup>2</sup> C slave address is 0x86	

 $\textit{Figure 5-BootLoader Communication Protocols-} \textbf{\underline{Source}}$ 

We focus on USART1 connection, for further information, please refer to the table and the source below:

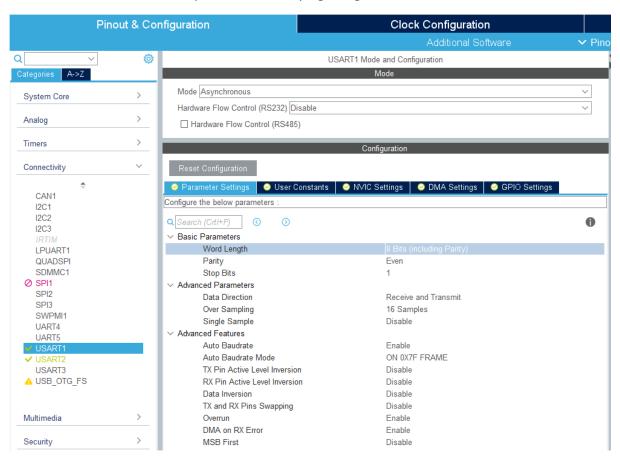
Bootloader	Feature/Peripheral	State	Comment	
Common to all bootloaders	RCC	HSI enabled	The system clock frequency is 72 MHz (using the PLL clocked by HSI)	
		-	The clock recovery system (CRS) is enabled for the DFU bootloader to allow USB to be clocked by HSI48 48 MHz	
	RAM	-	16 Kbyte starting from address 0x20000000 are used by the bootloader firmware	
	System memory	-	28 Kbyte starting from address 0x1FFF0000, contain the bootloader firmware	
	IWDG	-	The independent watchdog (IWDG) prescaler is configured to its maximum value. It is periodically refreshed to prevent watchdog reset (in case the hardware IWDG option was previously enabled by the user).	
Securable memory area	-	-	The address to jump to the exit securable memory area @0x1FFF6800	
USART1 bootloader	USART1	Enabled	Once initialized the USART1 configuration is: 8-bit, even parity and 1 Stop bit	
	USART1_RX pin	Input	PA10 pin: USART1 in reception mode	
	USART1_TX pin	Output	PA9 pin: USART1 in transmission mode	
11	USART2	Enabled	Once initialized the USART2 configuration is: 8-bit, even parity and 1 Stop bit	
USART2 bootloader	USART2_RX pin	Input	PA3 pin: USART2 in reception mode	
	USART2_TX pin	Output	PA2 pin: USART2 in transmission mode	
	USART3	Enabled	Once initialized the USART3 configuration is: 8-bit, even parity and 1 Stop bit	
USART3 bootloader	USART3_RX pin	Input	PC11 pin: USART3 in reception mode	
	USART3_TX pin	Output	PC10 pin: USART3 in transmission mode	

Figure 6 - Detailed Explanations For USART Connection - <u>Source</u>



As stated, first, we need to initialize our USART1 in proper settings. To do this, we facilitate an ST software called <a href="STM32CubeMX">STM32CubeMX</a>. By setting PA9 and PA10 pins, RX, and TX, respectively. The software offers much more convenience.

Then we define our USART1 parameters obeying the given rules above:



Since the BootLoader is going to use this port also for Auto Boudrate finding, you may need to set this parameter.

To actively communicate and use the commands of bootloader, we need to follow the flow below:

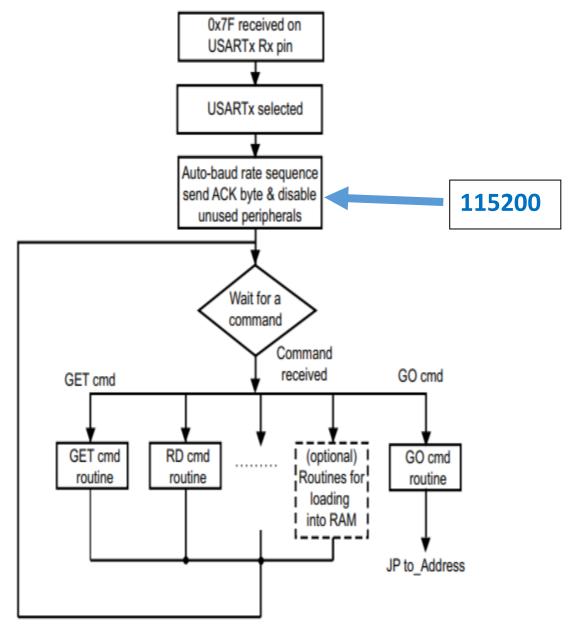


Figure 7 - BootLoader Protocol Selection - UART - Source

We activate the communication over USART1 by sending a 0x7F data frame, consisting of one start bit, 0x7F data, even parity bit, and one stop bit. According to the <u>Application Note – AN3155</u>, the returned message is either ACK or NACK, which are 0x79 and 0x1F, respectively.

#### How can we order a command

Command <sup>(1)</sup>	Command code	Command description
Get <sup>(2)</sup>	0x00	Gets the version and the allowed commands supported by the current version of the bootloader.
Get Version & Read Protection Status <sup>(2)</sup>	0x01	Gets the bootloader version and the Read Protection status of the Flash memory.
Get ID <sup>(2)</sup>	0x02	Gets the chip ID.
Read Memory <sup>(3)</sup>	0x11	Reads up to 256 bytes of memory starting from an address specified by the application.
Go <sup>(3)</sup>	0x21	Jumps to user application code located in the internal Flash memory or in the SRAM.
Write Memory <sup>(3)</sup>	0x31	Writes up to 256 bytes to the RAM or Flash memory starting from an address specified by the application.
Erase <sup>(3)(4)</sup>	0x43	Erases from one to all the Flash memory pages.
Extended Erase <sup>(3)(4)</sup>	0x44	Erases from one to all the Flash memory pages using two byte addressing mode (available only for v3.0 USART bootloader versions and above).
Write Protect	0x63	Enables the write protection for some sectors.
Write Unprotect	0x73	Disables the write protection for all Flash memory sectors.
Readout Protect	0x82	Enables the read protection.
Readout Unprotect <sup>(2)</sup>	0x92	Disables the read protection.

Figure 8 - Command List - <u>Souce</u>

#### Communication Safety

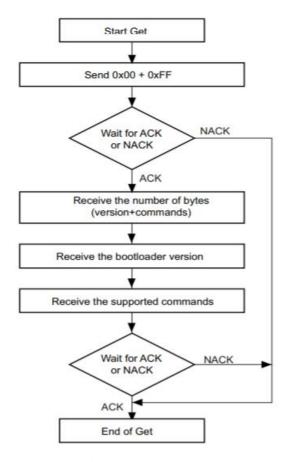
All communication from the programming tool (PC) to the device is verified by:

- Checksum: received blocks of data bytes are XOR-ed. A byte containing the computed XOR of all previous bytes is added to the end of each communication (checksum byte). By XOR-ing all received bytes, data plus checksum, the result at the end of the packet must be 0x00.
- 2. For each command the host sends a byte and its complement (XOR = 0x00).
- UART: parity check active (even parity).

Hence we send our command byte followed by its complementary byte. For example, the "GET" command 0x00 is sent with its complement 0xFF, so that we establish secure communication.

# Receiving Information via Bootloader

There is a flowchart for the "GET" Command showing how the communication is handled.



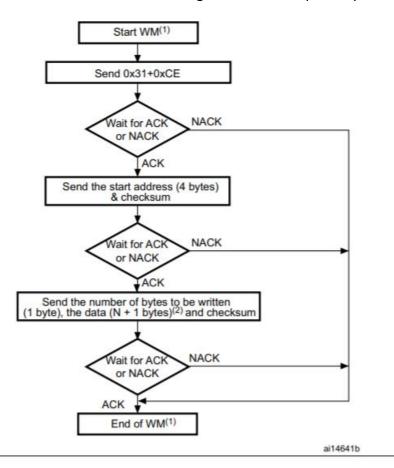
The STM32 sends the bytes as follows:

Byte 1:	ACK		
Byte 2:	N = 11 = the number of bytes to follow – 1 except current and ACKs.		
Byte 3:	Bootloader version (0 < version < 255), example: 0x10 = version 1.0		
Byte 4:	0x00	0x00 – Get command	
Byte 5:	0x01	<ul> <li>Get Version and Read Protection Status</li> </ul>	
Byte 6:	0x02	- Get ID	
Byte 7:	0x11	- Read Memory command	
Byte 8:	0x21	- Go command	
Byte 9:	0x31	- Write Memory command	
Byte 10:	0x43 or 0x44	<ul> <li>Erase command or Extended Erase command (exclusive commands)</li> </ul>	
Byte 11:	0x63	- Write Protect command	
Byte 12:	0x73	- Write Unprotect command	
Byte 13:	0x82	- Readout Protect command	
Byte 14:	0x92	- Readout Unprotect command	
Last byte (15)	: ACK		

#### How to Write our code - Write Memory command

The maximum length of the block to be written for the STM32 is 255 bytes, according to AN3115.

If the Write Memory command is issued to the option byte area, all bytes are erased before writing the new values, and at the end of the command, the bootloader generates a system reset to take into account the new configuration of the option bytes.



WM = Write Memory.

N+1 must be a multiple of 4.

The host sends the bytes to the STM32 as follows:

Byte 1: 0x31

Byte 2: 0xCE

Wait for ACK

Byte 3 to byte 6: Start address (byte 3: MSB, byte 6: LSB)

Byte 7: Checksum: XOR (byte3, byte4, byte5, byte6)

Wait for ACK

Byte 8: Number of bytes to be received (0 < N ≤255)

N +1 data bytes:(Max 256 bytes)

Checksum byte: XOR (N, N+1 data bytes)

#### Where to write our code

We cannot write the code directly to an arbitrary memory location. First, we need to compile and build the code to obtain HEX or BIN translation of the code. For codding IDE, I use  $\underline{\text{KEIL } \mu \text{VisionV5}}$  Software. After we built the code, we obtain the HEX file, ready to be written.

The program must be written starting from the beginning of the FLASH Memory @0x08000000 memory address (See Memory Mapping).

### Some constraints we need to obey

Table 7. Flash memory alignment constraints on STM32 products (continued)

Series	Alignment
STM32F2	4 bytes
STM32F3	4 bytes
STM32F4	4 bytes
STM32F7	8 bytes
STM32L0	8 bytes
STM32L1	8 bytes
STM32L4	8 bytes
STM32G0	4 bytes
STM32G4	4 bytes
STM32H7	8 bytes
STM32WB	8 bytes
STM32WL	8 bytes

#### Example of alignment:

- 4 bytes: 0x08000014 is aligned and passes, 0x08000012 is not aligned and fails
- 8 bytes: 0x08000010 is aligned and passes, 0x08000014 is not aligned and fails

#### Example Code to be Written

The code generated by KEIL uVision Software:

```
p:020000040800F2
    :10000000 98040020 9D010008 FB130008 21130008 3C
    :10001000F9130008B1020008C11B0008000000002D
    :10002000000000000000000000000000B116000801
    :10003000B302000800000000FD130008B31600081A
    :10004000B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008B0
    :10005000B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008A0
    :10006000B7010008B7010008B7010008B701000890
    :10007000B7010008B7010008B7010008B701000880
    :10008000B7010008B7010008B7010008B701000870
    :10009000B7010008B7010008B7010008B701000860
11
    :1000A000B7010008B7010008B7010008B701000850
13
    :1000B000B7010008B7010008B7010008B701000840
14
    :1000C000B7010008B7010008B7010008B701000830
15
    :1000D000B7010008B7010008B7010008B701000820
    :1000E000B5020008B7010008B7010008B701000811
16
    :1000F000B7010008B7010008B7010008B701000800
18
    :10010000B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008EF
    :10011000B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008DF
    :10012000B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008CF
    :10013000B7010008B7010008B7010008BF
    :10014000B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008AF
    :10015000B7010008B7010008B7010008B70100089F
23
    :10016000B7010008B7010008B7010008B70100088F
24
    :10017000B7010008B7010008B7010008000000003F
    :10018000B7010008B7010008DFF80CD000F07EF8D6
    :1001900000480047011C00089804002006488047DA
28
    :1001A00006480047FEE7FEE7FEE7FEE7FEE7FEE7FC
          ^^^mmn7mmn7mmn7mmn70F170A^^^A
                                                           length: 20.788 lines: 465
                                                                          Ln:2 Col:10
```

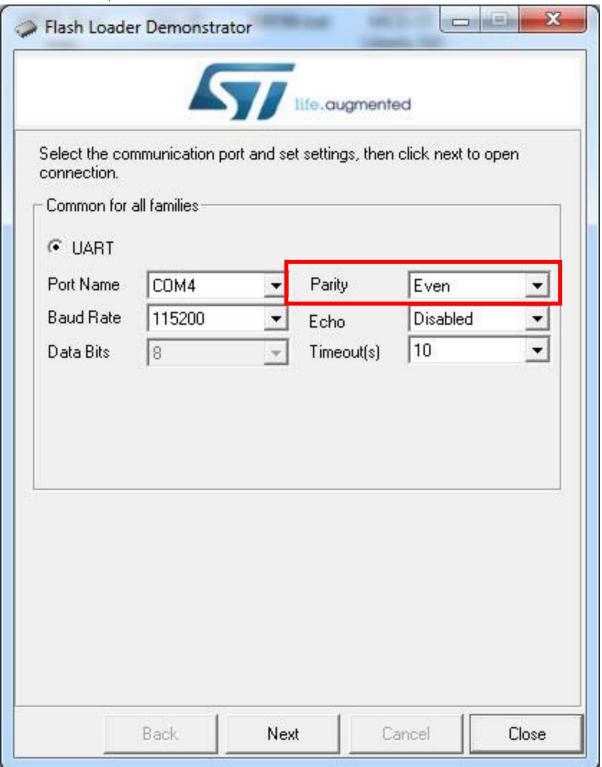
#### 32 HEX\_CODED FORM == 16 BYTES

This code is obtained via Flasher Program, which is going to be discussed next section. The whole flash memory, in the first boot run, dumbed into code.hex and code.bin file.

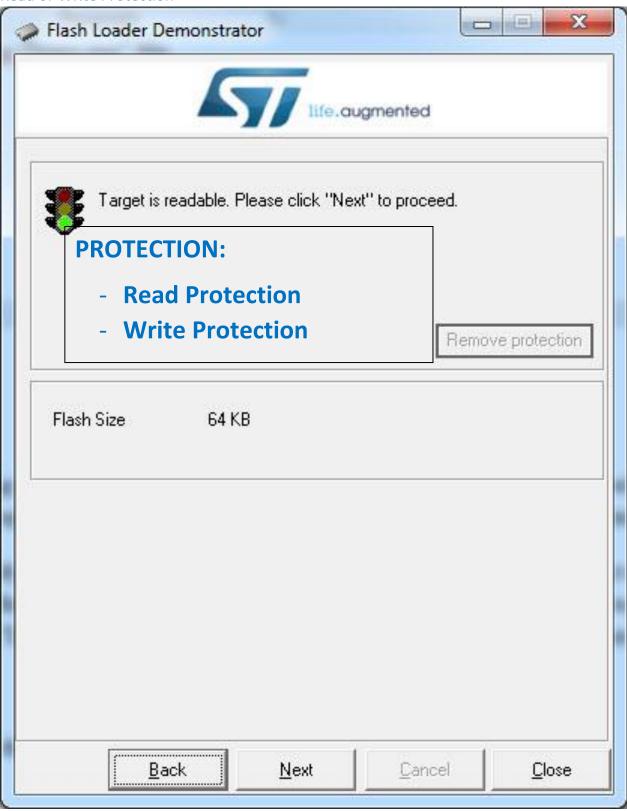
```
1:020000040800F2
       2 p:020000020000FC
                           :20000000E00400209D010008EB190008F7180008E9190008690500084D22000800000001C
                           {:}20004000 \\ B7010008 \\ B701008 \\ B7010
                           :20006000B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008B
                           8
                           :2000A000B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008
                           : 2000{\tt C}000{\tt B7}01{\tt 0}008{\tt 0}08{\tt 0}08{
                            : 2000 \\ E0000 \\ B7010008 \\ B701008 
                           :20010000B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008DF
                            : 20012000 \text{B7} 010008 \text{B7}
                           : 20014000 \\ B7010008 \\ B701008 \\ B70
 13
 14
                           : 20016000B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008B7010008000000003F
                           :20018000B7010008B7010008DFF80CD000F0DAF9004800471D240008E00400200648804778
 16
                           17
                           :2001C0002DE9F05F0546002092469B4688460646814640241BE0284641464746224600F07C
                           :2001E0000CF953465A46C01A914110D311461846224600F0F3F82D1A67EB01084F4622469B
  19
                            :2002200000B830BCBDE8C09FD2B201E000F8012B491EFBD270470022F6E710B513460A4635
                           :2002400004461946FFF7F0FF204610BD421C10F8011B0029FBD1801A7047034611F8012B97
                           :2002600000F8012B002AF9D1184670472DE9FE4F81EA030404F0004421F0004100944FF01F
                           :20028000000B23F0004350EA01045ED052EA03045BD0C3F30A54C1F30A552C44A4F2F334CE
 24
                           :2002A0000194A0FB0254C1F3130141F48011C3F3130343F4801301FB024400FB034E840A78
                           :2002C000970A44EA815447EA8357A4FB076802958D0A05FB07854FEA932C04FB0C54270524
                           :2002E000029D4FEA065847EA1637B5EB08056EEB070C870E920E47EA811742EA8312A7FBD0
 2.6
                           :200300000201B6EB0B0164EB00042B0D43EA0C335E1844EB1C50DA465146E7FB0201C5F3D1
                          :2003200013044FEA0B3343EA14534FEA0432019C43EA0603A4F10C040294009CCDE900B418
                                                           length: 2.540.824 lines: 33.801 Ln:11 Col:74
el HEX binary data
```

# An Example Program – STM32 Flasher

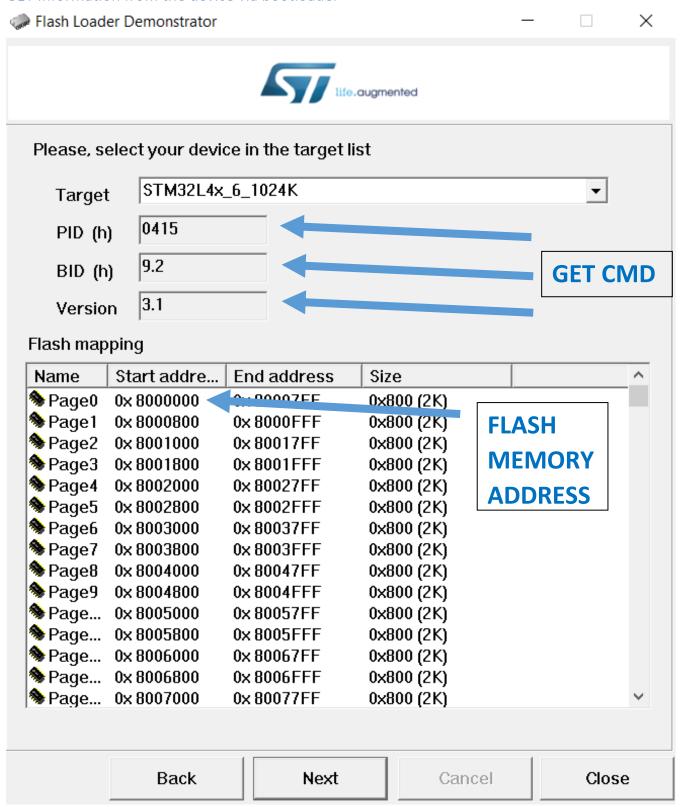
**Connection Properties** 



#### Read or Write Protection



#### GET Information from the device via bootloader



#### WRITE CMD

