

Chapter 4D: BLE Centrals

This chapter introduces you to the Central side of the BLE connection. By the end of this chapter you will be able to create a BLE Central that finds the right BLE Peripheral, connects to it, Reads, Writes and Enables/Handles notifications. It will also be able to perform the GATT Service Discovery Procedure to find the Handles of the Services, Characteristics and Descriptors on the GATT Server.

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4D.1 GAP Roles, the Observer and the Central

In the previous three chapters the focus has been on BLE Peripherals. Instead of dividing the world into Peripheral and Central, it would have been more technically correct to say that Bluetooth Low Energy has four GAP device roles:

• Broadcaster: A device that only advertises (e.g. Beacon)

• Peripheral: A device that can advertise and be connected to

Observer: A device that passively listens to advertisers (e.g. Beacon Scanner)

• Central: A device that can listen to advertisers and create a connection to a Peripheral

So, the previous chapters were really focused on Broadcasters and Peripherals. But what about the other side of the connection? The answer to that question is the focus of this chapter.

4D.2 Scanning

In the previous chapters I talked about how you create different Peripherals that Advertise their existence and some data. How does a Central find this information? And how does it use that information to get connected?

First, you must put the WICED BLE device into scanning mode. You do this with a simple call to wiced bt ble scan. This function takes three arguments.

1. The first argument is a wiced_bt_ble_scan_type_t which tells the controller to either turn off, scan fast (high duty) or scan slowly (low duty).

The actual parameters of scan high/low are configured in the wiced_bt_cfg_settings_t structure typically found in app bt cfg.c.

- 2. The next argument is a wiced_bool_t that tells the scanner to filter or not. If you enable the filter, the scanner will only call you back one time for each unique BD ADDR that it hears even if the advertising packet changes.
- 3. The final argument is a function pointer to a callback function that looks like this:

```
void myScanCallback(wiced_bt_ble_scan_results_t *p_scan_result, uint8_t *p_adv_data);
```

For example, you may start high duty cycle scanning with filtering like this:

```
wiced_bt_ble_scan( BTM_BLE_SCAN_TYPE_HIGH_DUTY, WICED_TRUE, myScanCallback );
```



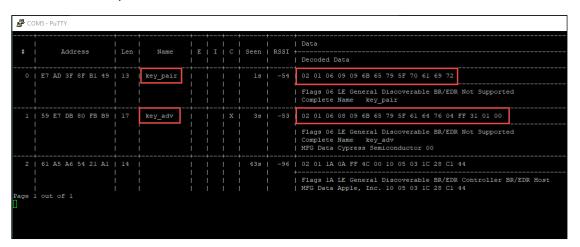
Each time that your Central hears an advertisement, it will call your callback with a pointer to a scan result structure with information about the device it just heard, and a pointer to the raw advertising data. The scan result structure simply has the Bluetooth Device Address, the address type, what type of advertisement packet, the RSSI and a flag like this:

In your advertising callback function you can then parse the advertising data to decide what to do next. The SDK provides you a function called wiced_bt_ble_check_advertising_data which can help you find information in the packet. Recall that every advertising packet is broken up into fields that each have a type. The wiced_bt_ble_check_advertising_data function will search the advertising packet looking for a field that you specify and then, if it finds that field, will return a pointer to the field and the length (via a pointer). For example, you might have this inside the callback function to search for a Service UUID:

```
uint8_t len;
uint8_t *findServiceUUID = wiced_bt_ble_check_advertising_data(p_adv_data,
BTM BLE ADVERT TYPE 128SRV COMPLETE, &len);
```

After making this call, findServiceUUID will either be 0 (it didn't find the field) or will be a pointer to the bytes that make up the Service UUID. In addition, len will either be 0 or it will be the number of bytes in that field. Remember that the enumeration wiced_bt_ble_advert_type_e in the file wiced_btsdk/dev-kit/baselib/20819A1/<version>/include/wiced_bt_ble.h has a list of the legal advertising field types.

So, now what? Well consider the two cases in the screenshot from the Advertising Scanner (exercise 4D.6 in this chapter). The results shown in the screenshot are from the devices created in Chapter 4B Exercise 02 and Chapter 4A Exercise 03. There are two different devices advertising, one named "key_pair" and one named "key_adv". You can see the raw bytes of the advertising packet and the decode of those bytes.









If you were looking for a device named key pair you could do something like this:

```
uint8 t len;
       uint8 t * p name = wiced bt ble check advertising data( p adv data,
       BTM BLE ADVERT TYPE NAME COMPLETE, &len );
if( p name && ( len == strlen("key pair") ) && ! memcmp( "key pair", p name, len ) )
   WICED BT TRACE ("Found Matching Device with BD Address: [%B]",
       p scan result->remote bd addr );
```

If you were looking for a device that was advertising the BT101 Service UUID you might do the following. Notice that the UUIDs are stored little endian in the advertising packet. This UUID is the one that the key application has – I just copied over the macro from the cycfg_gatt_db.h file. If you created your own application, it would have a different (random) UUID unless you manually enter this value in the configurator.

```
UUID SERVICE BT101 0x0Au, 0x71u, 0x06u, 0xCAu, 0x27u, 0x68u, 0x44u, 0x8Du, 0xECu,
0x47u, 0x76u, 0x07u, 0x6Eu, 0x82u, 0x91u, 0x79u
static const uint8 t serviceUUID[]={      UUID SERVICE BT101 };
uint8 t *findServiceUUID = wiced bt ble check advertising_data(p_adv_data,
                           BTM BLE ADVERT TYPE 128SRV COMPLETE, &len);
if(findServiceUUID && (memcmp(findServiceUUID, serviceUUID, len) == 0))
   WICED BT TRACE ("Host = %B Found Service UUID\r\n ", p scan result->remote bd addr);
```

Hint The first argument to the "if" function is there to make sure we have a valid (non-null) pointer returned from the advertising packet.

If you were looking for the Peripheral that was advertising the manufacturer's data with the Cypress manufacturer ID of 0x0131 (which is what "key_adv" is advertising) you might do the following. Again, notice the manufacturer ID is little endian in the advertising packet. Note that we only looked at the first 2 bytes of the manufacturer ID since the third byte changes each time the button is pressed:

```
uint8_t *mfgData = wiced_bt_ble_check_advertising data(p adv data,
           BTM BLE ADVERT TYPE MANUFACTURER, &len);
if( mfgData && (len > 1) && (mfgData[0] == 0x31) && (mfgData[1] == 0x01 ))
   WICED BT TRACE("Host = %B length=%d ", p scan result->remote bd addr, len);
```

There are several functions which can be useful in comparing data for when you want to identify a specific device such as (note that you must include *string.h* to get access to memcmp):

- 1. memcmp (unit8 t *p1, uint8 t *p2, int size) allows you to compare two blocks of memory. It returns 0 if the two blocks of memory are the same.
- 2. If you have two variables of type wiced bt unid t you can compare them with the wiced bt util uuid cmp function. Like the functions above, it returns 0 if the two UUIDs match.

```
int wiced bt util uuid cmp(wiced bt uuid t *p uuid1, wiced bt uuid t *p uuid2);
```



3. Remember from the Peripherals chapter that WICED_BT_TRACE_ARRAY can be used to print the UUID and mfgData arrays.

4D.3 Connecting, Pairing, and Encrypting

Now that you have found a device that you are interested in what next? First you need to register a GATT event callback. This looks exactly like it does on the peripheral side. Note that you don't need to initialize the GATT database because the Central doesn't contain the database – it's on the Peripheral.

```
wiced bt gatt register(app bt gatt callback);
```

To make a connection you just call wiced bt gatt le connect:

The bd_addr and bd_addr_type are passed in to the callback as part of the scan result. The conn_mode is an enumeration with three possible values which determines how fast the connection is established (and how much power is consumed to establish the connection):

The final argument should be set to WICED TRUE. That feature is going to be deprecated.

When the connection has been made, the GATT callback that you registered with wiced_bt_gatt_register will be called with the event GATT_CONNECTION_STATUS_EVT. The parameter passed to you will be of type wiced_bt_gatt_connection_status_t which contains a bunch of information about the connection.

Typically, you would save the <code>conn_id</code> so that you can perform Reads and Writes to the Peripheral. If you were going to support multiple connections, you might make a table of connection ID / Bluetooth Address tuples.







Once connected, the Central can initiate pairing (if the devices were not previously bonded). The function is wiced bt dev sec bond:

```
wiced_result_t wiced_bt_dev sec bond (wiced bt device address t bd addr,
                                      wiced bt ble address type t bd addr type,
                                      wiced bt transport t transport,
                                      uint8 t pin len,
                                      uint8_t *p pin);
```

The transport can be either BT TRANSPORT BR EDR (for Classic) or BT TRANSPORT LE (for BLE). The last two arguments are only for legacy pairing modes, so just use 0 for pin len and NULL for p pin.

Remember that some Characteristic values can only be read or written once the device is paired. This is determined by the GATT Characteristic Permissions (e.g. LEGATTDB PERM AUTH READABLE or LEGATTDB PERM AUTH WRITABLE).

If you previously saved bonding information on both the Peripheral and Client, then you don't need to initiate pairing on subsequent connections. In that case instead of wiced bt dev sec bond you just need to enable encryption by calling wiced bt dev set encryption:

```
wiced result t wiced bt dev set encryption (wiced bt device address t bd addr,
                                            wiced bt transport t transport,
                                            void *p ref data);
```

The transport is again either BT TRANSPORT BR EDR (for Classic) or BT TRANSPORT LE (for BLE). The last argument is a pointer to an enumeration of type wiced bt ble sec action type t which returns the encryption status. The enumeration is:

```
/** LE encryption method **/
enum
   BTM BLE SEC ENCRYPT,
    BTM BLE SEC NONE,
                                        /**< No encryption */
                                       /**< encrypt the link using current key */
    BTM_BLE_SEC_ENCRYPT_NO_MITM, /**< encryption without MITM */
BTM_BLE_SEC_ENCRYPT_MITM /**< encryption with MITM*/
typedef uint8 t wiced bt ble sec action type t;
```

To summarize, the Client would typically do something like this after making a connection:

```
#define VSID KEYS START
                                          (WICED NVRAM VSID START)
#define VSID NUM KEYS
#define VSID KEYS END
                                         (VSID KEYS START+VSID NUM KEYS)
wiced bt device link keys t temp keys;
wiced bt ble sec action type t encryption type = BTM BLE SEC ENCRYPT;
for ( i = VSID KEYS START; i < VSID KEYS END; i++ ) //Search NVRAM for keys</pre>
   bytes read = wiced hal read nvram(i, sizeof(temp keys), //Attempt to read NVRAM
                                       (uint8_t *)&temp_keys, &result );
   if ( result == WICED SUCCESS ) // NVRAM had something at this location
      if ( memcmp( temp keys.bd addr, bd address, BD ADDR LEN ) == 0 )
    isBonded = WICED TRUE; // We found keys for the Peripheral's BD Address
      }
if ( isBonded ) /* Device is bonded so just need to enable encryption */
```



When you want to disconnect, just call wiced_bt_gatt_disconnect with the connection ID as a parameter. Note that the connect function has "le" in the name but the disconnection function does not!

4D.4 Attribute Protocol & More GATT Procedures

In the previous chapters I introduced you to the Peripheral side of several GATT Procedures. Specifically, Read, Write and Notify. Moreover, in those chapters you learned how to create WICED firmware to respond to those requests. You will recall that each of those GATT Procedures are mapped into one or more Attribute requests. Here is a list of all the Attribute requests with the original request and the applicable response.

Note that the request can be initiated by either the Client or Server depending on the operation. For example, a Write is initiated by the GATT Client while a Notification is initiated by the GATT Server.

BT Spec * Chap Ref	Request	Request Data	BT Spec * Chap Ref	Response	Response Data
			3.4.1.1 N/A	Error Response	Request Op Code in Error Attribute Handle in Error Error Code
3.4.2.1 N/A	Exchange MTU	Client Rx MTU	3.4.2.2 N/A	Exchange MTU response	Server Rx MTU
3.4.3.1 4D.4.9	Find Information	Starting Handle Ending Handle	3.4.3.2 4D.4.9	Find Information Response	Handles Attribute Type UUIDs
3.4.3.3 4D.4.7	Find by Type Value	Starting Handle Ending Handle Attribute Type Attribute Value	3.4.3.4 4D.4.60	Find by Type Value Response	Start Handle End of Group Handle
3.4.4.1 0	Read by Type	Starting Handle Ending Handle Attribute Type UUID	3.4.4.2 0	Read by Type Response	Handle Value Pairs
3.4.4.3 4D.4.1	Read	Handle	3.4.4.4 4A	Read Response	Handle, Value
3.4.4.5 N/A	Read Blob	Handle, Offset	3.4.4.6 N/A	Read Blob Response	Handle, Data
3.4.4.7 N/A	Read Multiple	Handles	3.4.4.8 N/A	Read Multiple Response	One response with all values concatenated
3.4.4.9 4D.4.6	Read by Group Type	Starting Handle Ending Handle Attribute Group Type UUID	3.4.4.10 4D.4.6	Read by Group Type Response	For each match: Handle, Value Handle of last Attribute in Group
3.4.5.1 4D.4.3	Write	Handle, Value	There is no Serv	er response to a Write.	
3.4.5.3 4D.4.3	Write Command	Handle, Value	3.4.5.2 4A	Write Response	Response code 0x1E Or Error Response
3.4.5.4 N/A	Signed Write Command	Handle, Value, Signature	3.4.5.2 4A	Write Response	Response code 0x1E Or Error Response

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BT Spec * Chap Ref	Request	Request Data	BT Spec * Chap Ref	Response	Response Data
3.4.6.1	Prepare Write	Handle	3.4.6.2	Prepare Write Response	Handle
N/A		Offset	N/A		Offset
		Value			Value
3.4.6.3	Execute Write	Flags (0-cancel, 1-write)	3.4.6.4	Execute Write Response	Response code 0x19
N/A			N/A		Or
					Error Response
3.4.7.1	Notification	Handle, Value	There is no Client	response to a Notification,	but you can read about what
4B			happens on the C	Client side in 0	
3.4.7.2	Indication	Handle, Value	3.4.7.3	Handle Value	Response code 0x1E
4B			0	Confirmation	Or
					Error Response

^{*} BT Spec references are from Volume 3, Part F (Attribute Protocol). Additional details on the GATT procedures that use the ATT protocols can be found in Volume 3, Part G (Generic Attribute Profile).

This leads us to some obvious questions: What happens with Read, Write and Notify on the GATT Client side of a connection? And what about these other operations?

4D.4.1 GATT Library

There is a library of functions available to simplify setting up and performing various GATT operations such as Reading Characteristic Values, setting Characteristic Descriptor values and doing Service Discovery. To use these functions, you need to add the GATT utilities library to your application. The steps are:

- 1. In the library manager, add the Bluetooth Low Energy (btsdk-ble) library.
- 2. In the Makefile, add a component entry to include the GATT utilities portion of the library:

```
COMPONENTS += gatt utils lib
```

3. In the source code, include the header file:

```
#include "wiced bt gatt util.h"
```

4D.4.2 GATT Client Read

To initiate a read of the value of a Characteristic you need to know two things, the Handle of the Characteristic and the connection ID. To execute a read you just call:

```
wiced bt util send gatt read by handle ( conn id, handle );
```

This function call will cause the Stack to send a read request to the GATT Server. After some time, you will get a callback in your GATT event handler with the event code <code>GATT_OPERATION_CPLT_EVENT</code>. The callback parameter can then be cast into a <code>wiced_bt_gatt_operation_complete_t</code>. This structure has everything you need. Specifically:



This same event is used to handle many of the responses from a GATT Server. Exactly which response can be determined by the wiced_bt_gatt_optype_t which is just an enumeration of operations. For instance, 0x02 means you are getting the response from a read.

The wiced_bt_gatt_status_t is an enumeration of different error codes from the enumeration wiced_bt_gatt_status_e which was introduced in Chapter 4A. As a reminder, the first few values are:

The last piece is the response data, wiced_bt_gatt_operation_complete_rsp_t which contains the handle and an attribute value structure which contains the actual GATT data along with information about it.

The attribute value structure containing the GATT data looks like this:

These structures look a bit overwhelming, but you can easily use this information to find out what happened. Here is an example of how you might deal with this callback to print out the response and all the raw bytes of the data that were sent.

```
case GATT_OPERATION_CPLT_EVT:

// When you get something back from the peripheral... print it out.. the data
WICED_BT_TRACE("Event Complete Conn=%d Op=%d status=0x%X Handle=0x%X len=%d Data=",
```







```
p data->operation complete.conn id,
       p_data->operation_complete.op,
       p_data->operation_complete.status,
       p data->operation complete.response data.handle,
       p data->operation complete.response data.att value.len);
for(int i=0;ioperation complete.response data.att value.len;i++)
    WICED BT TRACE ("%02X ",
       p data->operation complete.response data.att value.p data[i]);
WICED BT TRACE ("\r\n");
break;
```

4D.4.3 GATT Client Write and Write Command

In order to send a GATT Write all you need to do is make a structure of type wiced bt gatt value t, setup the handle, offset, length, authorization and value; then call wiced bt gatt send write. Here is an example:

```
wiced bt gatt value t *p write = ( wiced bt gatt value t* )wiced bt get buffer( sizeof(
wiced_bt_gatt_value_t ) + sizeof(myData)-1);
   if ( p write )
        p write->handle = myHandle;
       p_write->offset = 0;
p_write->len = sizeof(myData);
        p write->auth req = GATT AUTH REQ NONE;
        memcpy(p_write->value, &myData, sizeof(myData));
        wiced bt gatt send write ( conn id, GATT WRITE, p write );
        wiced bt free buffer( p write );
```

The second argument to wiced bt gatt send write function can either be GATT WRITE or GATT WRITE NO RSP depending on whether you want a response from the server or not.

The one trick is that the length of the structure is variable with the length of the data. In the above example, you allocate a block big enough to hold the structure + the length of the data minus 1 using wiced bt get buffer. Then use a pointer to fill in the data. The buffer is freed up once the write is done.

Note that the wiced bt get buffer and wiced bt free buffer functions require that you include wiced_memory.h in the C file.

If you asked for a write with response (i.e. GATT WRITE), sometime after you call the wiced bt gatt send write you will get a GATT callback with the event code GATT OPERATION CPLT EVT. You can then figure out if the write was successful by checking to see if you got a Write Response or an Error Response (with the error code from the wiced_bt_gatt_status_e enumeration).

Don't forget the you can only issue one Read/Write at a time and that you cannot send the next Read/Write until the last one is finished.



4D.4.4 GATT Client Notify and Indicate

To register for Notifications and Indications, the Client just needs to write to the CCCD for the Characteristic of interest. There is a utility function that simplifies the process of writing the Descriptor called wiced_bt_util_set_gatt_client_config_descriptor. The function takes three arguments:

- 1. The connection ID
- 2. The handle of the Descriptor
- 3. The value to write

For a CCCD, the LSB (bit 0) is set to 1 for Notifications, and bit 1 is set to 1 for Indications. That is:

When the GATT Server initiates a Notify or an Indicate you will get a GATT callback with the event code set as <code>GATT_OPERATION_CPLT_EVT</code>. You will see that the Operation value is <code>GATTC_OPTYPE_NOTIFICATION</code> or <code>GATTC_OPTYPE_INDICATE</code> and the value is just like the Read Response. In the case of Indicate you can return <code>WICED_BT_GATT_SUCCESS</code> which means the Stack will return a Handle Value Confirmation to the Client, or you can return something other than <code>WICED_BT_GATT_SUCCESS</code> in which case the Stack sends an Error Response with the code that you choose from the <code>wiced_bt_gatt_status_e</code> enumeration. Remember from Chapter 4A that the (partial) list of available return values is:





4D.4.5 GATT Group

There is one last GATT concept that needs to be introduced to understand the next GATT Procedures. That is the Group. A Group is a range of handles starting at a Service, Service Include or a Characteristic and ending at the last Handle that is associated with the Group. To put it another way, a Group is all of the rows in the GATT database that logically belong together. For instance, in the GATT database below, the Service Group for <<Generic Access>> starts at Handle 0×0001 and ends at 0×0005 .

4D.4.6 GATT Client Read by Group Type

The GATT Client Read by Group Type request takes as input a search starting Handle, search ending Handle and Group type. It outputs a list of tuples with the Group start Handle, Group end Handle, and value. This request can only be used for a "Grouping Type" meaning, <<Service>>, <<Included Service>> and <<Characteristic>>.

Note that anything inside double angle brackets << >> indicates a Bluetooth SIG defined UUID. For example, << Primary Service>> is defined by the SIG to be 0x2800.

Consider this GATT database for a peripheral with a Service called BT101 that contains two characteristics; Counter and RGBLED (which happens to be the application you will control from your central device in this chapter's exercises).

Handle	Туре	Value
0x0001	< <primary service="">></primary>	< <generic access="">></generic>
0x0002	< <characteristic>></characteristic>	0x02, 0x0003, < <device name="">></device>
0x0003	< <device name="">></device>	key_p
0x0004	< <characteristic>></characteristic>	0x02, 0x0005, < <appearance>></appearance>
0x0005	< <appearance>></appearance>	0x0000
0x0006	< <primary service="">></primary>	< <generic attribute="">></generic>
0x0007	< <primary service="">></primary>	UUID_SERVICE_BT101
0x0008	< <characteristic>></characteristic>	0x0A, 0x0009,UUID_CHARACTERISTIC_BT101_RGBLED
0x0009	UUID_CHARACTERISTIC_BT101_RGBLED	RGB LED value
0x000A	< <characteristic>></characteristic>	0x1A, 0x000B,UUID_CHARACTERISTIC_BT101_COUNTER
0x000B	UUID_CHARACTERISTIC_BT101_COUNTER	Counter Value
0x000C	< <ccd>></ccd>	0x0000 (notify off) or 0x0001 (notify on)

Remember from chapter 4A that the type and values for different attributes are:

Attribute	Туре	Value
Service	< <primary service="">> or</primary>	Service UUID
	< <secondary service="">></secondary>	
Characteristic	< <characteristic>></characteristic>	Properties, Handle to the Value, Characteristic UUID
Characteristic Value	Characteristic UUID	Characteristic Value

In the database above if you input search start Handle= 0×0001 , search end Handle= $0 \times FFFF$ and Group Type = <<Service>> you would get as output:

Group Start Handle	Group End Handle	UUID
0x0001	0x0005	< <generic access="">></generic>
0x0006	0x0006	< <generic attribute="">></generic>
0x0007	0x000C	UUID_SERVICE_BT101

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In words, you receive a list of all the Service UUIDs with the start Handle and end Handle of each Service Group.

4D.4.7 GATT Client Find by Type Value

The GATT Client "Find by Type Value" request takes as input the search starting Handle, search ending Handle, Attribute Type and Attribute Value. It then searches the Attribute database and returns the starting and ending Handles of the Group that match that Attribute Type and Attribute Value. This function was put into GATT specifically to find the range of Handles for a specific Service.

Consider the example above. If your input to the "Find by Type Value" was starting handle 0x0001, ending handle 0xFFFF, Type <<Service>> and Value __UUID_SERVICE_BT101, the output would be:

Group Start Handle	Group End Handle	
0x0007	0x000C	

This function cannot be used to search for a specific Characteristic because the Attribute value of a Characteristic declaration cannot be known a-priori. This is because the Characteristic Properties and Characteristic Value Attribute Handle (which are part of the Attribute Value) are not known up front. As a reminder, here is the Characteristic declaration:

Attribute Handle	Attribute Types		Attribute Valu	le	Attribute Permissions
0xNNNN	0x2803–UUID for «Characteristic»	Charac- teristic Properties	Character- istic Value Attribute Handle	Character- istic UUID	Read Only, No Authentication, No Authorization

4D.4.8 GATT Client Read by Type

The GATT Client "Read by Type" request takes as input the search starting Handle, search ending Handle and Attribute Type. It outputs a list of Handle value pairs. In the example above if you entered the search starting Handle 0×0007 , search ending Handle $0 \times 000C$ and Type <<Characteristic>>, you would get as output:

Characteristic Handle	Value Handle	UUID	GATT Permission
0x08	0x09	UUID_CHARACTERISTIC_BT101_RGBLED	0x0A
0x0A	0x0B	UUID_CHARACTERISTIC_BT101_COUNTER	0x0A

In words, you get back a list of the Characteristic Handles, the Handles of the Values, the UUIDs, and the GATT Permissions.



4D.4.9 GATT Client Find Information

The input to the GATT Client "Find Information Request" is simply a search starting Handle and a search ending Handle. The GATT Server responds with a list of every Handle in that range, and the Attribute type of the handle. Notice that this is the only GATT procedure that returns the Attribute Type.

If you execute a GATT Client Find Information with the handle range set to $0 \times 0005 > 0 \times 0005$ you will get a response of:

Handle		Attribute Type
	0x0005	< <appearance>></appearance>

In words, the attribute type that is associated with the Characteristic handle 0x0005.

4D.5 **GATT Procedure: Service Discovery**

Given that all transactions between the GATT Client and GATT Server use the "Handle" instead of the UUID, one huge question left unanswered is how do you find the Handles for the different Services, Characteristics and Descriptors on the GATT Server? A very, very bad answer to that question is that you hardcode the handles into the GATT Client (although some devices with custom applications do just that). A much better answer is that you do Service Discovery. The phrase Service Discovery includes discovering all the Attributes of a device including Services, Characteristics and Descriptors. This is done using the GATT Procedures that were introduced in sections just above: Read by Group Type, Find by Type Value, Read by Type and Find Information.

4D.5.1 Service Discovery Algorithm

The steps in the Service discovery algorithm are:

- 1. Do one of the following:
 - a. Discover all the Services using Read by Group Type which gives you the UUID and Start and End Handles of all the Service Groups.
 - b. Discover one specific Service by using Find by Type Value which gives you the Start and End Handles of the specified Service Group.
- 2. For each Service Group discover all the Characteristics using Read by Type with the Handle range of the Service Group or Groups that you discovered in step (1). This gives you the you the Characteristic Handles, Characteristic Value Handles, UUIDs, and Permissions of each Characteristic.
- 3. Using the Characteristic Handles from (2) you can then calculate the start and end Handle ranges of each of the Descriptors for each Characteristic.
 - a. The range for a given Characteristic starts at the next handle after the Characteristic's Value Handle and ends either at the end of the Service group (if it's the last Characteristic in the Service group) or just before the next Characteristic Handle (if it isn't the last Characteristic in the Service group).
- 4. Using the ranges from (3) discover the Descriptors using the GATT Procedure Find Information. This gives you the Attribute type of each Descriptor.

Chapter 4D: BLE Centrals



4D.5.2 Service Discovery

The GATT utilities library that we introduced earlier has a Service discovery API that can discover Services, Characteristics and Descriptors:

The discovery type is an enumeration (note that GATT DISCOVER MAX is not a legal parameter):

The discovery parameter contains:

After you call this function, the stack will issue the correct GATT Procedure. Then, each time the GATT Server responds with some information you will get a GATT callback with the event type set to GATT_DISCOVERY_RESULT_EVT. The event parameter can then be decoded using a set of macros provided by the SDK.

```
* Macros for parsing results GATT discovery results
* (while handling GATT DISCOVERY RESULT EVT)
/* Discovery type: GATT DISCOVER SERVICES ALL or GATT DISCOVER SERVICES BY UUID */
#define GATT DISCOVERY RESULT SERVICE START HANDLE (p event data)
#define GATT DISCOVERY RESULT SERVICE END HANDLE (p event data)
#define GATT DISCOVERY RESULT SERVICE UUID LEN(p event data)
#define GATT DISCOVERY RESULT SERVICE UUID16 (p event data)
#define GATT DISCOVERY RESULT SERVICE UUID32 (p event data)
#define GATT DISCOVERY RESULT SERVICE UUID128(p event data)
/* Discovery type: GATT DISCOVER CHARACTERISTIC DESCRIPTORS */
#define GATT DISCOVERY RESULT CHARACTERISTIC DESCRIPTOR UUID LEN(p event data)
#define GATT DISCOVERY RESULT CHARACTERISTIC DESCRIPTOR UUID16(p event data)
#define GATT DISCOVERY RESULT CHARACTERISTIC DESCRIPTOR UUID32(p event data)
#define GATT DISCOVERY RESULT CHARACTERISTIC DESCRIPTOR UUID128(p event data)
#define GATT DISCOVERY RESULT CHARACTERISTIC DESCRIPTOR VALUE HANDLE (p event data)
/* Discovery type: GATT DISCOVER CHARACTERISTICS */
#define GATT DISCOVERY RESULT CHARACTERISTIC VALUE HANDLE(p event data)
#define GATT DISCOVERY RESULT CHARACTERISTIC UUID LEN(p event data)
#define GATT DISCOVERY RESULT CHARACTERISTIC UUID16(p event data)
#define GATT DISCOVERY RESULT CHARACTERISTIC UUID32(p event data)
#define GATT_DISCOVERY_RESULT_CHARACTERISTIC_UUID128(p_event_data)
```

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There really should be a macro called <code>GATT_DISCOVERY_RESULT_CHARACTERISTIC_HANDLE</code> but for some reason, it isn't in the API. Therefore, when you want to get a Characteristic's Handle during Characteristic Discovery in your callback, you will have to use something like this:

p data->discovery result.discovery data.characteristic declaration.handle

When the discovery is complete you will get one more GATT callbacks with the event type set to GATT DISCOVERY CPLT EVT.

Your firmware would typically be a state machine that would sequence through the Service, Characteristic and Descriptor discoveries as the GATT DISCOVERY CPLT EVT is completed.

4D.6 Running a GATT Server

Although somewhat uncommon, there is no reason why a BLE Central cannot run a GATT Server. In other words, all combinations of GAP Peripheral/Central and GATT Server/Client are legal. An example of this might be a TV that has a BLE remote control. Recall that the device that needs to save power is always the Peripheral, in this case the Remote Control. However, the TV is the thing being controlled, so it would have the GATT database remembering things like channel, volume, etc.

The firmware that you write on a Central to run a GATT database is EXACTLY the same as on a Peripheral.

4D.7 Exercises

The exercises in this chapter require two kits - a peripheral and a central. You can use another CYW920819EVB-02 kit (Arduino style) or CYBT-213043-MESH kit (custom form factor) for the PERIPHERAL device. Always use a CYW920819EVB-02 kit for the central.

The peripheral application is a combination of the exercises from previous chapters. It advertises the device name and a service UUID. Once connected there is an LED characteristic that can be read and written without authentication. Note that on the MESH kit the LED is an RGB LED that takes a value from 0 (off) to 7 (white), while the EVB kit only has a single-color LED and any non-zero value turns it on. A counter characteristic, which is incremented by pressing the button on the peripheral, requires pairing to be read and it supports notifications.

Exercise 4D.1 Make an Observer

	se you will build an observer that will listen to all the BLE devices that are broadcasting and the BD Address of each device that it finds. To create this application, follow these steps:
1.	Begin by programming your peripheral kit with the provided application.
	If you don't already have a 2 nd kit to use as the peripheral, get one from an instructor. It will either be a CYBT-213043-MESH kit or a second CYW920819EVB-02 kit.



- Make sure only the kit that you intend to use as a peripheral is plugged into your computer.
- b. Create a new application from the **ch4d_ex00_peripheral** template.

Hint Make sure you select the CYBT-213043-MESH BSP during new project creation if you are using the MESH kit for the peripheral.

- c. Use the Bluetooth Configurator to change the device name to <inits>_p.Hint build and program the kit.
- d. Use the PC version of CySmart to test the application.
 - i. Connect and open the GATT database browser.
 - ii. Write a number between 0 and 7 to control the RGB LED color.Hint If you are using a CYW920819EVB-02 for the peripheral, there is no RGB LED and numbers 1 through 7 just turn on the LED.
 - iii. Check that you can't enable notifications (not authenticated).
 - iv. Pair the device.
 - v. Enable notifications and check that the button changes the Counter.
- Unplug your Peripheral so that you don't accidentally re-program it with the Central application.
 Hint You should not need to re-program this kit again and so, if possible, plug it into a USB charger instead of your computer.

 Create a new application from the ch4d_ex01_observer template.
 In app.c, make a callback function to process the scanned advertising packets.
 This just prints out the BD Address of the devices that it finds. This function declaration should look like this.

should look like this:

void myScanCallback(wiced_bt_ble_scan_results_t *p_scan_result,
uint8_t *p_adv_data);

Hint Remember you can use the format code %B in WICED_BT_TRACE to print a BD Address.

5. Add a call to wiced_bt_ble_scan in the BTM_ENABLED event with a function pointer to the callback function you created in the previous step.

Enable filtering so that each new device only shows up once – otherwise you will see a LOT of packets from everyone's Peripheral.

- 6. Build and Program to your kit.
- 7. Open a terminal window.
- 8. If it is not already powered from a charger, plug in the kit programmed with your Peripheral application.





	9.	Open CySmart on your PC or Android Phone to find the BD Address of your Peripheral.
		You can also look at the UART terminal of the peripheral to find its address.
	10.	Look for the same BD Address in the list of devices printed by your Central.
Exer	cise 4D	.2 Read the Device Name to Show Only Your Peripheral Device's Info
		se you will extend the previous exercise so that it examines the advertising packet to find ame. It will only list your device instead of all devices.
	1.	If necessary, unplug your Peripheral so that you don't accidentally re-program it.
	2.	Create a new application using the template ch4d_ex02_observer_mydev or import from your previous exercise.
	3.	Change the scanner callback function so that it looks at the advertising packet. Find and print out the BD Address only of devices that match your Peripheral's Device Name.
		Hint You can use the function wiced_bt_ble_check_advertising_data to look at the advertising packet and find fields of type wiced_bt_ble_advert_type_t. If there is a field that matches it will return a pointer to those bytes and a length.
		Hint You can use memcmp to see if the fields match what you are looking for.
	4.	Program your application to your Central.
	5.	Plug in your Peripheral and check to see if it is found. It should print:
		a. Device Name of your Peripheral
		b. BD Address
	6.	Use CySmart on your PC or your Android phone to verify that the BD Address matches.

Exercise 4D.3 Update to Connect to Your Peripheral Device & Turn ON/OFF the LED

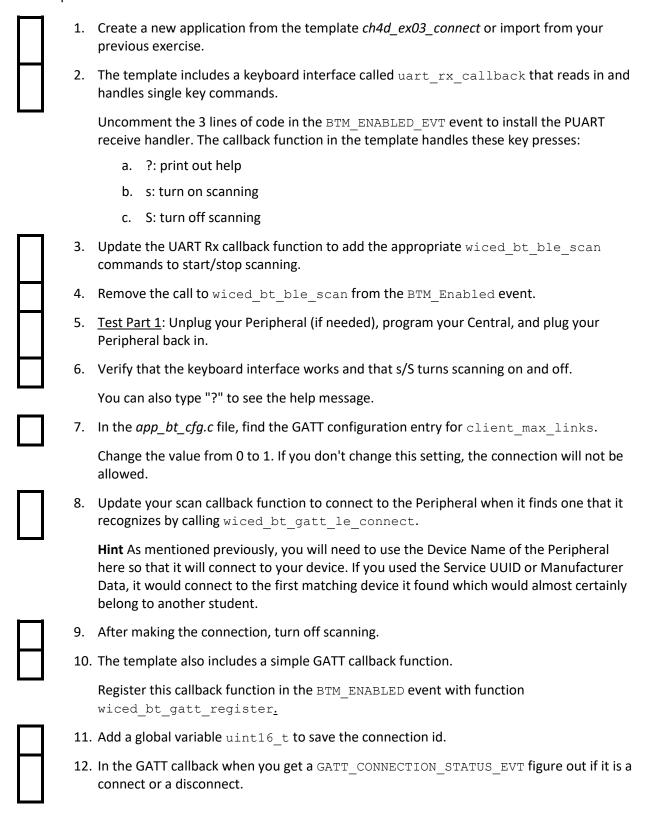
In this exercise, you will modify the previous exercise to connect to your Peripheral once it finds it. We will decide what to connect to, based on your Peripheral's Device Name. In real-world applications, it would be more common to search for a Service UUID or Manufacturer Data but during class you will need to use the Device Name since there will be a lot of devices with the same Service and Manufacturer Data.

Once connected, you will be able to send values to the LED Characteristic to turn the LED off/on.

To simplify the application, you will hardcode the handle, but in the upcoming exercises you will add Service discovery.

Since there are a lot of additions to be made, we will do them in 3 parts and will test each one along the way.

The steps are as follows:







	ive the connection id to your global variable on a connect and set it to 0 on a sconnect. Print out a message when a connect or disconnect happens.
13. Ad	dd a 'd' command to the UART interface to call the disconnect function.
Hi	nt Remember that the disconnect function does not have "le" in its name.
Hi	nt Don't forget to add the new command to the help message.
	the management callback add a case for <pre>rm_paired_device_Link_keys_request_evt.</pre>
Вє	ecause we are not pairing set the status variable to return <code>WICED_BT_ERROR</code> .
	est Part 2: Unplug your Peripheral (if needed), program your Central, and plug your eripheral back in.
16. Te	est the following:
	a. Start Scanning (s)
	b. Verify that it finds and then connects to your Peripheral
	c. Disconnect from your Peripheral (d)
17. Cr	reate a new global uint16_t variable called ledHandle.
Pe	ARDCODE its initial value to the Handle of the LED Characteristic's Value from the eripheral. You won't change the variable in this exercise, but in a future one you will and the handle via a Service Discovery.
	nt Make sure you use the Handle for the Characteristic's <u>Value</u> , not the Characteristic eclaration.
18. Cr	reate a new function to write the LED Characteristic Value with a uint8_t argument.
CY	his represents the state of the LED (on CYW920819EVB-02 this is either 0 or 1, while or $787-213043$ -MESH it is a value between 0 and 7). If there is no connection or the edHandle is 0 then you should just return. Then call the GATT write function.
	nt Don't forget to include <i>wiced_memory.h</i> to get access to the get and free buffer nctions.
19. In	the UART interface call write LED function when values from $0-7$ are entered.
Hi	nt Don't forget to add it to the help message.
	est Part 3: Unplug your Peripheral (if needed), program your Central, and plug your eripheral back in.
21. Te	est the following:
	a. Start Scanning (s)
	b. Verify that it finds and then connects to your Peripheral
	c. Change the LED color by entering values from 0 to 7.

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d. Disconnect from your Peripheral (d)

Exercise 4D.4 (Advanced) Add Commands to Turn the CCCD ON/OFF

In this application, you will set up the CCCD to turn on/off Notifications for the button Characteristic and print out messages when Notifications are received.

1.	Create a new application using the <i>ch4d_ex04_connect_notify</i> template or import from your previous exercise.			
2.	After the connection is made using wiced_bt_gatt_le_connect, initiate pairing by calling wiced_bt_dev_sec_bond.			
	This is necessary because the CCCD permissions for your Peripheral are set such that it cannot be read or written unless the devices are paired first (i.e. Authenticated).			
	Hint Do this in the GATT callback for the connected event, not right after calling wiced_bt_gatt_le_connect since you need to wait until the connection is up.			
3.	Add a new uint16_t global variable called cccdHandle to hold the handle of the CCCD			
	Set its initial value to <code>HDLD_BT101_COUNTER_CLIENT_CHAR_CONFIG</code> from your peripheral application (this is hardcoded for now, but we will fix that in the next exercise)			
4.	Create a new function to write the CDDD for the Button Characteristic with a ${\tt uint8_t}$ argument to turn Notifications off or on.			
	If there is no connection or the cccdHandle is 0 then you should return.			
	<pre>Hint You can use the function wiced_bt_util_set_gatt_client_config_descriptor.</pre>			
	Hint Add the GATT utilities from the <i>Bluetooth Low Energy (btsdk-ble)</i> library to your application (add with library manager, edit the COMPONENTS variable in the <i>makefile</i> , and add the header file to <i>app.c</i>)			
5.	Add cases 'n' and 'N' to set and unset the CCCD using the function you just created.			
6.	Add a case for <code>GATT_OPERATION_CPLT_EVT</code> into the GATT callback.			
	This case should print out the connection id, operation, status, handle, length and the raw bytes of data. This is how you will see the notification values sent back from the peripheral once notifications are enabled.			
	Hint These values are all under the <code>operation_complete</code> structure in the event data. Some of them are 2 levels down under <code>operation_complete.response_data</code> or 3 levels down under <code>operation_complete.response_data.att_value</code> .			
	Hint Use the function WICED BT TRACE ARRAY to print out the data array.			





7. Unplug your Peripheral (if needed), program your Central, and plug your Peripheral back in.
8. Test the following:
a. Start Scanning (s)

- b. Verify that the connection is made
- c. Press the button on the <u>peripheral</u>. Notifications are not enabled so you should not see a response.
- d. Enable Notifications (n)
- e. Press the button on the peripheral. You should see a response.
- f. Disable Notifications (N)
- g. Press the button on the peripheral. You should not see a response.
- h. Disconnect (d)

Exercise 4D.5 (Advanced) Make Your Central Do Service Discovery

In this exercise, instead of hardcoding the Handle for the LED and Button CCCD, we will modify our program to do a Service discovery. Instead of triggering the whole process with a state machine, we will use keyboard commands to launch the three stages.

The three stages are:

- 'q'= Service discovery with the UUID of the BT101 Service to get the start and end Handles for the Service Group.
- 'w'= Characteristic discovery with the range of Handles from step 1 to discover all Characteristic Handles and Characteristic Value Handles.
- 'e' = Descriptor discovery of the button Characteristic to find the CCCD Handle.

Create a new application from the ch4d_ex05_discover template or import from your previous exercise.
 The Bluetooth Low Energy (btsdk-ble) library has been already added to the deps

directory and gatt utils lib has already been added to the Makefile.

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	3.	Open the file <i>cycfg_gatt_db.h</i> from the <u>peripheral</u> application and copy over the macros for the following into the <i>app.c</i> file for use in this exercise:
		UUID_SERVICE_BT101UUID_CHARACTERISTIC_BT101_LEDUUID_CHARACTERISTIC_BT101_COUNTERUUID_DESCRIPTOR_CLIENT_CHARACTERISTIC_CONFIGURATION Hint This guarantees that the Central uses the same UUIDs that are used in the Peripheral.
	4.	Create variables to save the start and end Handle of the BT101 Service and create a variable to hold the $\verb BT101 $ Service UUID (if you don't already have one).
		<pre>static const uint8_t serviceUUID[] = {UUID_SERVICE_BT101}; static uint16_t serviceStartHandle = 0x0001; static uint16_t serviceEndHandle = 0xFFFF;</pre>
	5.	Make a new structure to manage the discovered handles of the Characteristics:
		<pre>typedef struct { uint16_t startHandle; uint16_t endHandle; uint16_t valHandle; uint16_t cccdHandle; } charHandle_t;</pre>
П	6.	Create a ${\tt charHandle_t}$ for the LED and the Counter as well as the Characteristic UUIDs to search for.
		<pre>static const uint8_t ledUUID[] = {</pre>
П	7.	Create an array of charHandle_t to temporarily hold the Characteristic Handles.
П	8.	When you discover the Characteristics, you won't know what order they will occur in, so you need to save the Handles temporarily to calculate the end of group Handles.
		<pre>#define MAX_CHARS_DISCOVERED (10) static charHandle_t charHandles[MAX_CHARS_DISCOVERED]; static uint32_t charHandleCount;</pre>
Service	<u>Dis</u>	covery
	9.	Add a function to launch the Service discovery called startServiceDiscovery.
		This function will be called when the user presses 'q'. Instead of finding all the UUIDs you will turn on the filter for just the BT101 Service UUID.
		a. Setup the wiced bt gatt discovery param t with the starting and ending

Handles set to 0×0001 & $0 \times FFFF$.

b. Setup the UUID to be the UUID of the BT101 Service.

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- c. Use memcpy to copy the Service UUID into the wiced bt gatt discovery param t.
- d. Set the discovery type to <code>GATT_DISCOVER_SERVICES_BY_UUID</code> and launch the wiced bt gatt send discover.

10. Add the case GATT	DISCOVERY	RESULT	EVT to your	GATT Event H	andler
-			_ '		

If the discovery type is <code>GATT_DISCOVER_SERVICES_BY_UUID</code> then update the <code>serviceStart</code> and <code>serviceEnd</code> <code>Handles</code> with the actual start and end Handles (remember <code>GATT_DISCOVERY_RESULT_SERVICE_START_HANDLE</code> and <code>GATT_DISCOVERY_RESULT_SERVICE_END_HANDLE</code>.

Characteristic Discovery

11. Add a function to launch the Characteristic discovery called startCharacteristicDiscovery when the user presses 'w'.

- a. Setup the wiced_bt_gatt_discovery_param_t start and end Handle to be the range you discovered in the previous step.
- b. Call wiced_bt_gatt_send_discover with the discovery type set to GATT DISCOVER CHARACTERISTICS.
- 12. In the <code>GATT_DISCOVERY_RESULT_EVT</code> of your GATT Event Handler add an "if" for the Characteristic result.

In the "if" you need to save the startHandle and valueHandle in your charHandles array. Set the endHandle to the end of the Service Group (assume that this Characteristic is the last one in the Service). If this is not the first Characteristic, then set the previous Characteristic end handle:

The point is to assume that the Characteristic ends at the end of the Service Group. But, if you find another Characteristic, then you know that the end of the previous Characteristic is the start of the new one minus 1.

Then you want to see if the Characteristic is the Counter or LED Characteristic. If it is one of those, then also save the start, end and value Handles.



Descriptor Discovery

13. Add a function to launch the Descriptor discovery called startDescriptorDiscovery when the user presses 'e'. The purpose of this function is to find the CCCD Handle for the counter Characteristic. a. It will need to search for all the Descriptors in the Characteristic Group. b. The start will be the Counter Value Handle + 1 to the end of the group handle. c. Once the parameters are setup, launch wiced bt gatt send discover with GATT DISCOVER CHARACTERISTIC DESCRIPTORS. 14. In the GATT DISCOVERY RESULT EVT of your GATT Event Handler add an "if" for the Descriptor result. If the Descriptor UUID is UUID DESCRIPTOR CLIENT CHARACTERISTIC CONFIGURATION then save the Button CCCD Handle. 15. The last change you need to make in the GATT callback is for the GATT DISCOVERY CPLT EVT. You should check to see if it is a Characteristic discovery. If it is, then you will be able figure out the endHandle for each of the LED and Button Characteristic by copying them from the charHandles array. Your code could look something like this: // Once all characteristics are discovered... you need to setup the end if(p event data->discovery complete.disc type == GATT DISCOVER CHARACTERISTICS) for(int i=0; i<charHandleCount; i++)</pre> if(charHandles[i].startHandle == ledChar.startHandle) ledChar.endHandle = charHandles[i].endHandle; if(charHandles[i].startHandle == counterChar.startHandle) counterChar.endHandle = charHandles[i].endHandle; 16. Add the function calls for 'q', 'w', and 'e'. Also add those keys to the help print out. 17. Unplug your Peripheral (if needed), program your Central, and plug your Peripheral back in. 18. Test the following: a. Start Scanning (s)

b. Discover the BT101 Service (q)

d. Discover the Button CCCD (e)

c. Discover the Counter and LED Characteristics (w)



- e. Turn on the LED (1...7)
- f. Turn off the LED (0)
- g. Turn on notification (n)
- h. Press the button on the peripheral and make sure it works
- i. Turn off notification (N)
- j. Press the button on the peripheral to make sure the notification is off
- k. Disconnect (d)

Exercise 4D.6 (Advanced) Run the Advertising Scanner

In this exercise you will experiment with a full-function advertising scanner application.

	1.	Create a new application from the ch4d_ex06_AdvScanner template.			
П	2.	Open a UART terminal window.			
	3.	Unplug your Peripheral (if needed), program your Central, and plug your Peripheral back in.			
П	4.	Once the application starts running press "?" to get a list of available commands.			
	5.	Use 's' and 'S' to enable/disable scanning			
П	6.	Use 't' to print a single line table of all devices that have been found			
		This table will show raw advertising data			
	7.	Use 'm' to print a multi-line table of all devices			
		a. This table will show both raw advertising data and decoded data			
		b. Use '?' to get a list of table commands			
П		c. Use '<' and '>' to change pages			
		d. Use 'ESC' to exit the table			
	8.	To filter on a specific device, enter its number from the table			
П	9.	Use 'r' to list recent packets from the filtered device			
		a. Use '?' to get a list of table commands			
		b. Use '<' and '>' to change pages			
		c. Use 'ESC' to exit the table			