Timers

rev1.0 24/03/2020

Blink the on-board LEDs using timers interrupts

PREREQUISITES

Software needed:

- STM32IDE

Hardware used in this example:

- **NUCLEO-F446ZE**

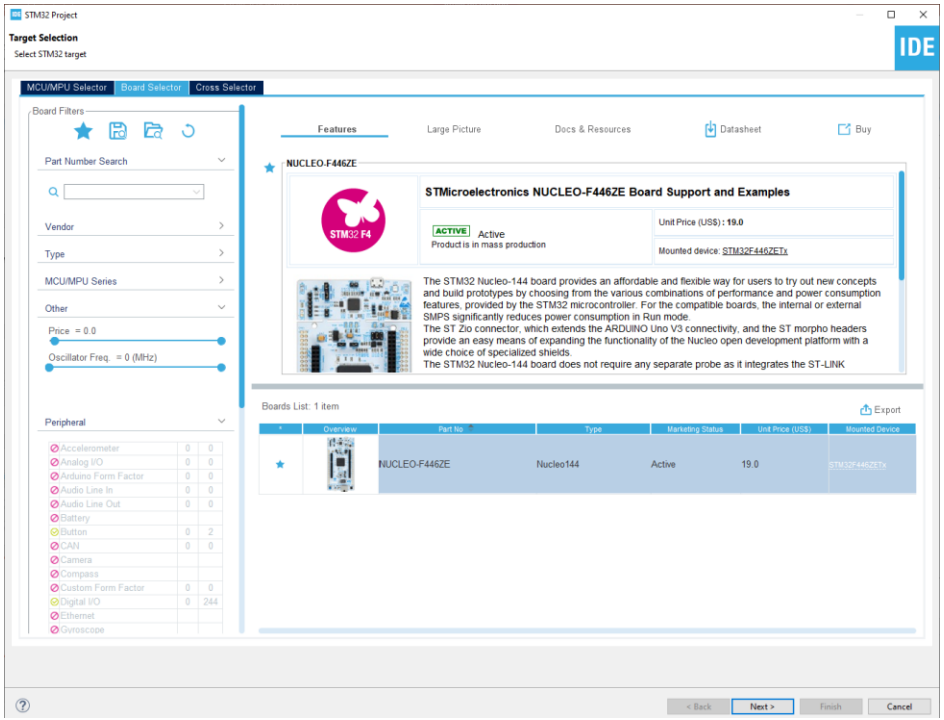
What is a Timer?

- The timer is a tool that allows the timing of some actions.
- They are very useful for having time references: it is important to note that they keep the date and time reference but only time intervals
- They can generate interrupts at regular time intervals
- Within the microcontroller there are several.

Start a new project

From the stm32IDE software click on File -> New -> STM32 Project.

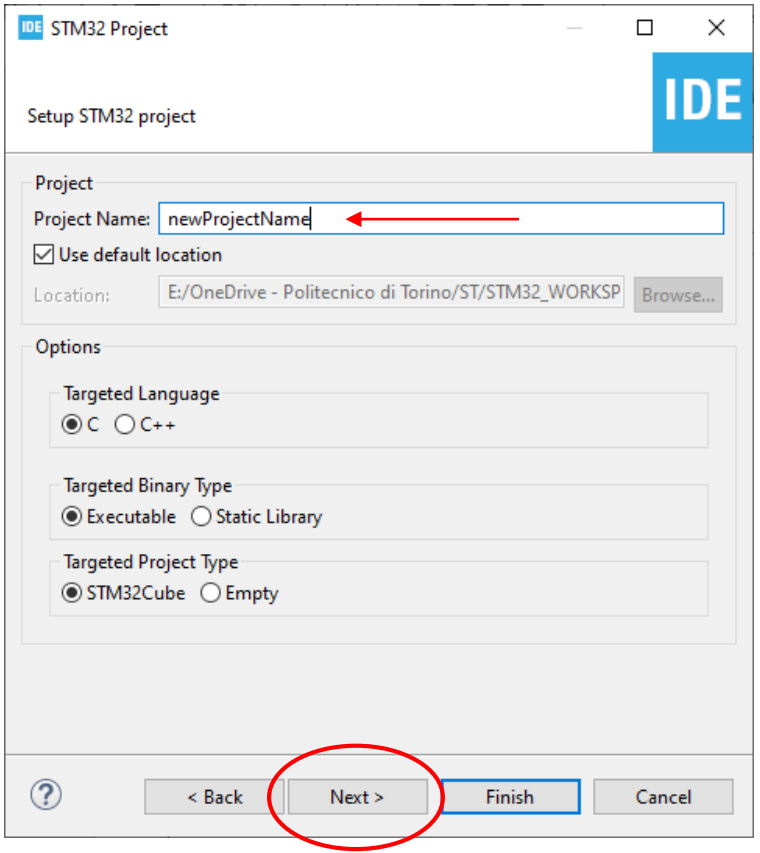
Select your board or your uC and click *next.*



Start a new project

Type the name of your project and click next.

By default the project will be created in the workspace folder.



Start a new project

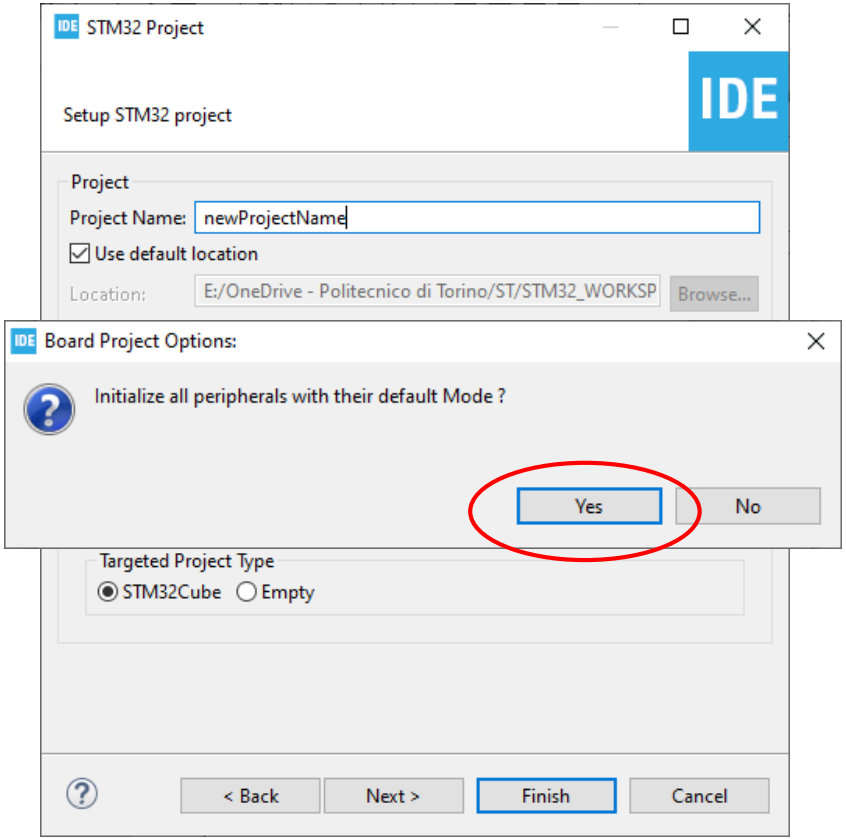
Type the name of your project and click next.

By default the project will be created in the *workspace* folder.

The *STM32IDE* has the option to initialize all the peripheral with their ***default*** mode:

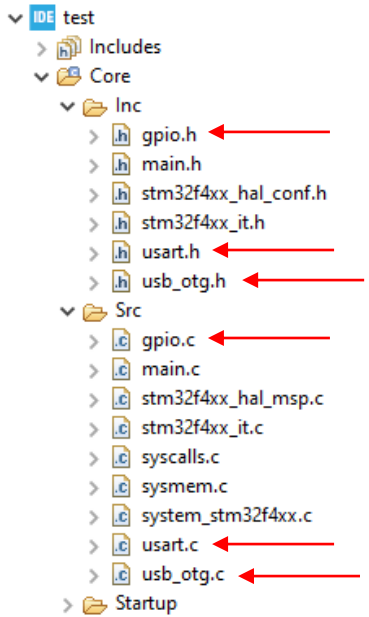
Clicking *Yes* the *USART3*, all the *LEDs* and the blue *UserButton* will be configured as default.

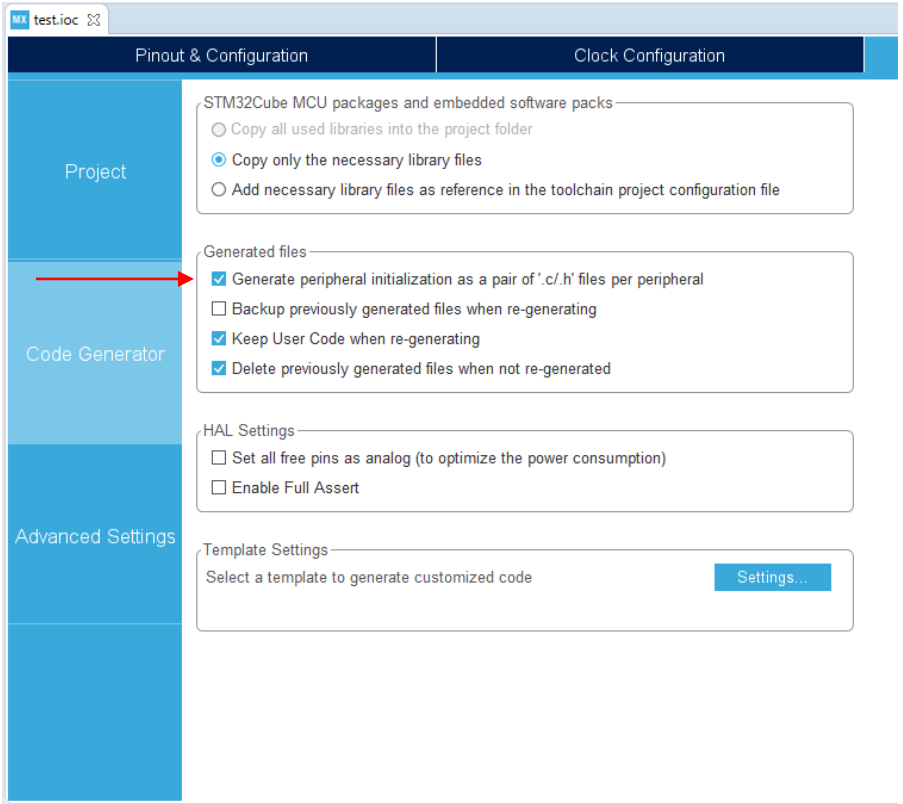
Click *Yes*.



Project Manager

In the Code Generator Tab check the ***Generate peripheral initialization […]*** box: each periperhal will have a disting *periph.c* and *periph.h* files.

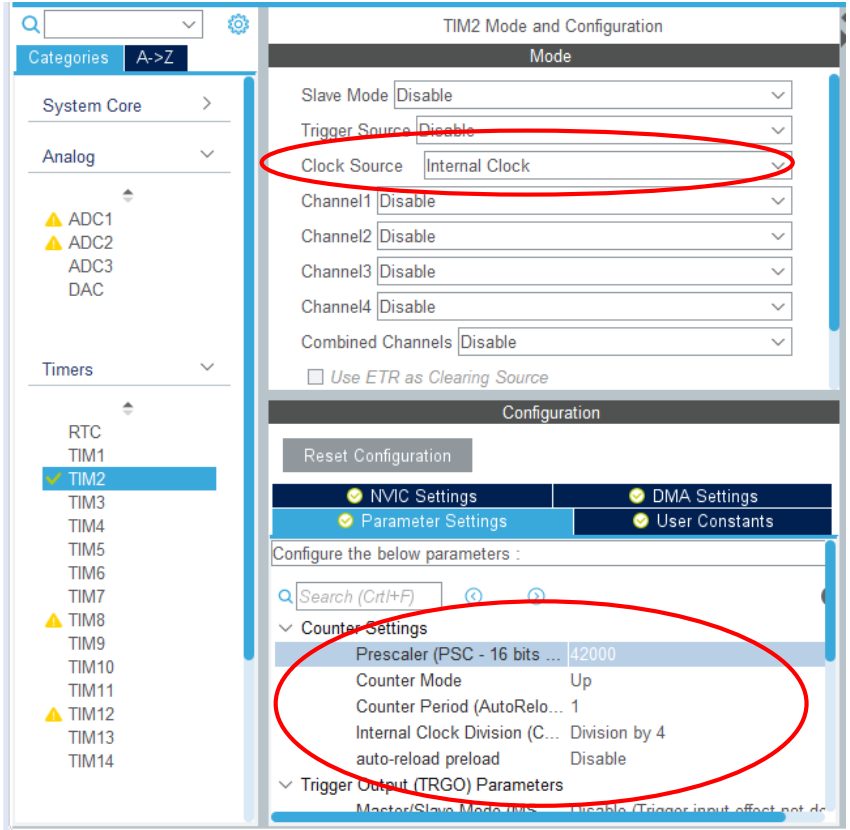




Timer Parameters

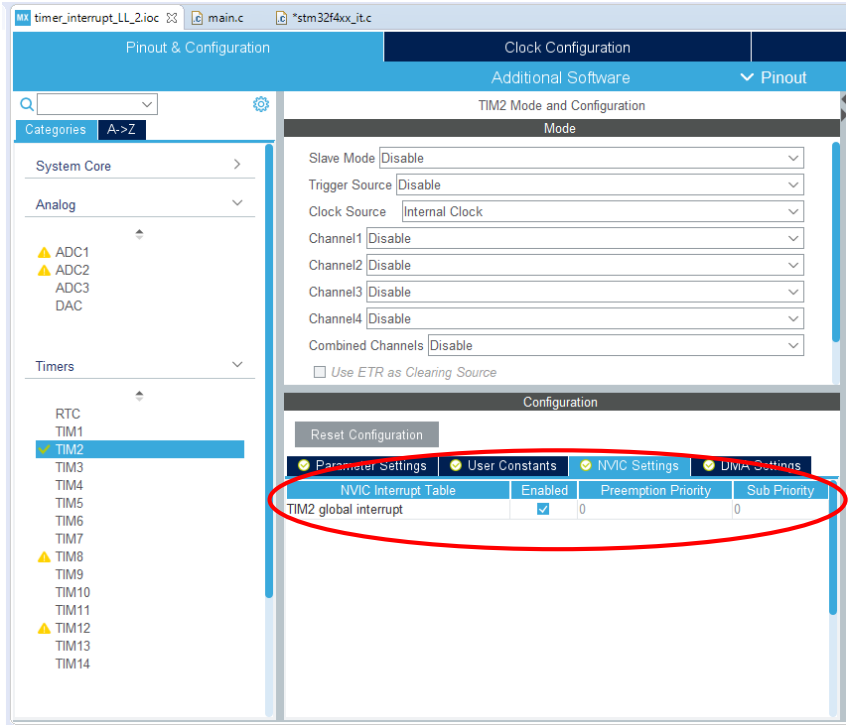
In this example we will use TIM2, the parameters to be set are as follows:

- *Clock Source*: is the clock reference of the timer
- *Prescaler (PSC):* is a divider of the timer activation frequency
- *Counter Period:* timer activation period



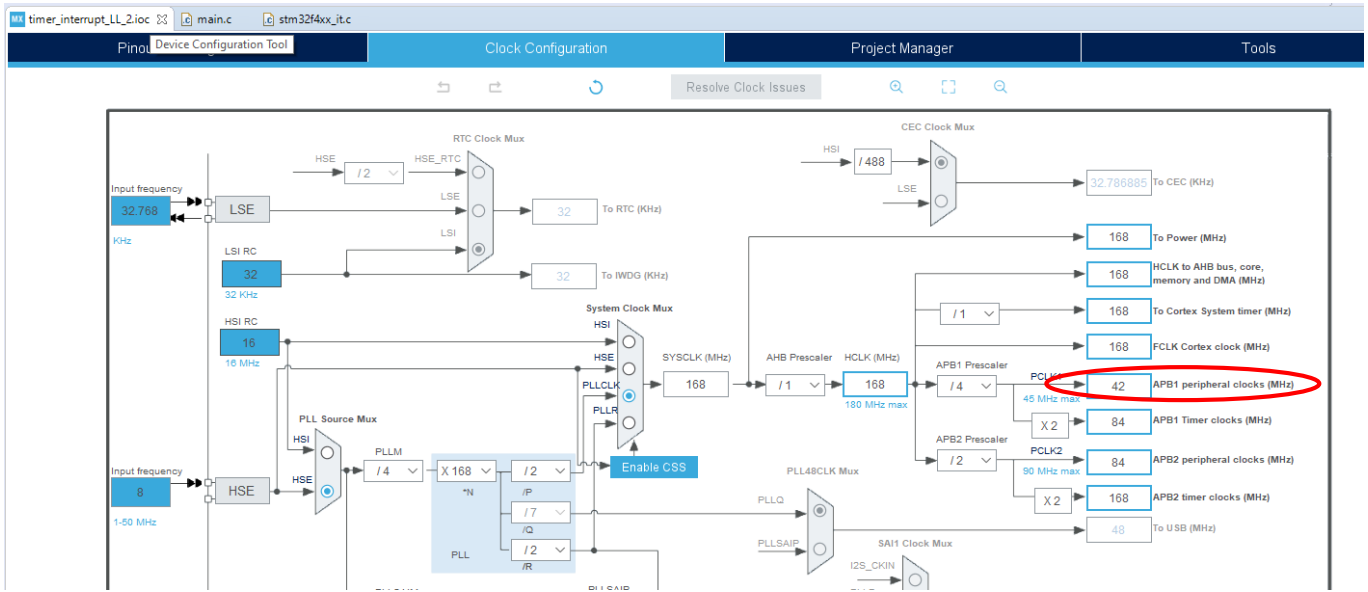
NVIC

- **NVIC** is fundamental for the generation of the interrupt to enable it and set its priority.
- Under the *NVIC tab* it is therefore necessary to tick the box for interrupt management



Prescaler

In our example the **Prescaler** has been set to *42000* as the **APB1** peripheral clock, to which **TIM2** also refers, is *42MHz*: in this way, having the Counter Period set to 1, the timer will be called every millisecond (42MHz / 42000 = 1000). At this point we just have to generate the code



Timer initialization

Before managing the interrupt, it must be enabled: for this reason, in the initialization of the timer it is necessary to use the ***HAL_TIM_Base_Start_IT()*** function. Otherwise no interrupt will be generated.

main.h | *main.c | *stm32f4xx_it.c

```
161 static void MX_TIM2_Init(void)
162 {
163
164   /* USER CODE BEGIN TIM2_Init 0 */
165
166   /* USER CODE END TIM2_Init 0 */
167
168   TIM_ClockConfigTypeDef sClockSourceConfig = {0};
169   TIM_MasterConfigTypeDef sMasterConfig = {0};
170
171   /* USER CODE BEGIN TIM2_Init 1 */
172
173   /* USER CODE END TIM2_Init 1 */
174   htim2.Instance = TIM2;
175   htim2.Init.Prescaler = 8000;
176   htim2.Init.CounterMode = TIM_COUNTERMODE_UP;
177   htim2.Init.Period = 1;
178   htim2.Init.ClockDivision = TIM_CLOCKDIVISION_DIV1;
179   htim2.Init.AutoReloadPreload = TIM_AUTORELOAD_PRELOAD_DISABLE;
180   if (HAL_TIM_Base_Init(&htim2) != HAL_OK)
181   {
182     Error_Handler();
183   }
184   sClockSourceConfig.ClockSource = TIM_CLOCKSOURCE_INTERNAL;
185   if (HAL_TIM_ConfigClockSource(&htim2, &sClockSourceConfig) != HAL_OK)
186   {
187     Error_Handler();
188   }
189   sMasterConfig.MasterOutputTrigger = TIM_TRGO_RESET;
190   sMasterConfig.MasterSlaveMode = TIM_MASTERSLAVEMODE_DISABLE;
191   if (HAL_TIMEx_MasterConfigSynchronization(&htim2, &sMasterConfig) != HAL_OK)
192   {
193     Error_Handler();
194   }
195   /* USER CODE BEGIN TIM2_Init 2 */
196   HAL_TIM_Base_Start_IT(&htim2);
197   /* USER CODE END TIM2_Init 2 */
198
199 }
200
```

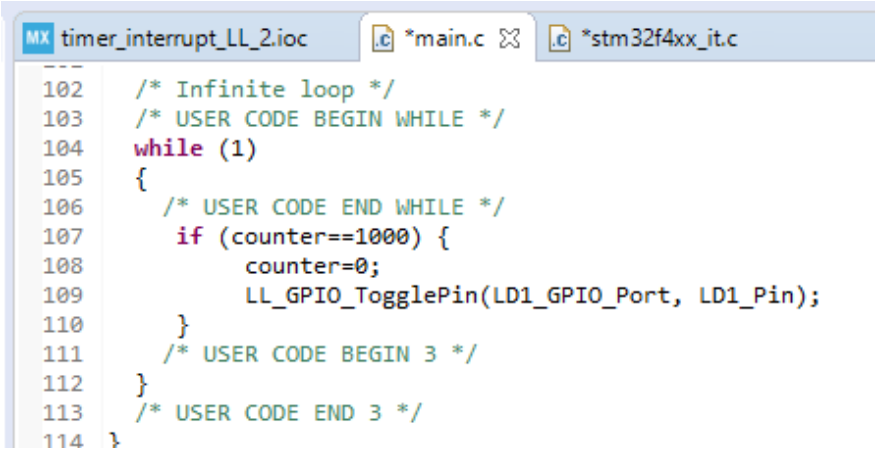
Handler

- The first step is to check what happens as soon as the interrupt is generated: we then go to the Handler management within the ***stm32f4xx_it.c*** file.
- Just as in the previous cases, *CubeMX* manages the handler, it is necessary to add the Callback function of the timer or if necessary, you can write the management of the interrupt within the Handler, as in this case.

main.h | main.c | *stm32f4xx_it.c

```
199
200 /**
201   * @brief This function handles TIM2 global interrupt.
202   */
203 void TIM2_IRQHandler(void)
204 {
205   /* USER CODE BEGIN TIM2_IRQn 0 */
206
207   /* USER CODE END TIM2_IRQn 0 */
208
209   HAL_TIM_IRQHandler(&htim2);
210
211   /* USER CODE BEGIN TIM2_IRQn 1 */
212   //HAL_GPIO_TogglePin(LD1_GPIO_Port,LD1_Pin);
213   counter++;
214   /* USER CODE END TIM2_IRQn 1 */
215 }
216
217 /* USER CODE BEGIN 1 */
```

Using the counter variable, it is possible to "count" how many interrupts have been generated: remember that we have set the timer parameters in order to generate an interrupt every millisecond. Therefore only 1 second will pass after 1000 interrupts.



Results

We load the program on the board and check that everything is working properly: Through the use of the oscilloscope we can note that exactly every second the LED changes its state, so we have a period of 2 seconds as we expected.