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KW38 Bootloader Release Notes

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1 Overview

The bootloader is an application programmed into the internal flash memory or RAM of device. The bootloader detects communication traffic on one of the supported peripherals (UART, SPI, I2C, and CAN), downloads a user application, and writes the application to internal flash. The bootloader stays resident on the flash along with the user application.

This release includes the PC-hosted application. This application a device application image and sends the image to the bootloader over UART.

2 Development tools

The MCU bootloader 2.7.0 is compiled and tested with the following development tools. The Kinetis KW38 bootloader is compiled and tested with the following development tools.

Firmware projects:

- MCUXpresso IDE v11.1
- MDK-Arm Microcontroller Development Kit (Keil)® 5.29 with corresponding packs
- IAR Embedded Workbench for ARM®
- Makefiles support with GCC v8-2019-q3-update from Arm Embedded

NOTE

Add IAR tool binary path to the system environment path. For example, C:\Program Files (x86)\IAR Systems \Embedded Workbench 8.40\arm\bin.

Host projects:

- Microsoft Visual Studio® Professional 2015 for Windows® OS Desktop
- Microsoft .NET Framework v4.5 (included in Windows OS 8)
- Microsoft Visual Studio C++ Redistributable for Visual Studio 2015 (vcredist_x86.exe)
- Python v2.7 (www.python.org)

NOTE

Add Python path to the system environment path. For example, C:\Python27.

- Apple Xcode® v9.2 (for tools)
- Linux® OS GNU Compiler (GCC) v5.4.0, GNU C Library(glibc) v2.23 (for tools), libraries like libstdc++6, libudev-dev, libc6, and libgcc1 may also need to be installed
- Linux OS tools have been tested on Ubuntu 16.04 LTS
- Apple Mac® OS host tools have been tested on Mac OS High Sierra 10.13.3

3 System requirements

The system requirements are based on the requirements for the development tools and the Kinetis Flash Tool application.

The recommended PC configuration is 2 GHz processor, 2 GB RAM, and 2 GB free disk space.

Windows OS applications require installation of Visual C++ redistributable 2013 or greater.

.Net framework 4.5

- JP version: www.microsoft.com/ja-JP/download/details.aspx?id=30653
- US version: www.microsoft.com/en-US/download/details.aspx?id=30653

VS++ redistributable 2013

- JP version: www.microsoft.com/ja-JP/download/details.aspx?id=40784
- US version: www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=40784

4 Target requirements

This release of the Kinetis KW37/38 bootloader supports the following platforms:

- FRDM-KW38 Freedom Development platform

There are no special requirements for the hardware other than what the board requires to operate.

5 Release contents

This table describes the release contents.

Table 1. Release contents

Deliverable	Location
Demo applications	<sdk_package>/middleware/mcu-boot/apps/...
Executables tools and utilities	<sdk_package>/middleware/mcu-boot/bin/Tools/...
Bootloader source code	<sdk_package>/middleware/mcu-boot/src/...
Tool chain build projects	<sdk_package>/boards/<board>/bootloader_examples/...
Tools build projects	<sdk_package>/middleware/mcu-boot/tools/tools/...
Documentation	<sdk_package>/middleware/mcu-boot/docs/...

6 Getting started

In order to use the MCU bootloader to load a user application on the Kinetis devices, see the *MCU Bootloader Demo Applications User's Guide* (document ID MBOOTDEMOUG).

For porting information, see Chapter 10, "MCU bootloader porting" in the *MCU Bootloader v2.7.0 Reference Manual* (document ID MCUBOOTRM).

For customization, see Chapter 11, "Create a custom flash-resident bootloader" in the *MCU Bootloader v2.7.0 Reference Manual* (document ID MCUBOOTRM).

7 Features

The bootloader release contains source code and toolchain projects for building flash-resident bootloaders and flashloaders for the supported platforms (see Section 4, “Target Requirements”). A flash-resident bootloader resides in flash along with the user application. The flash-resident bootloader downloads and then programs an initial application image into a blank area on the flash, and to later update the application. In contrast, a flashloader gets replaced in flash by the user application and therefore, is a one-time programming aid.

The bootloader supports the following communication interfaces for downloading an application:

- UART
- I2C
- SPI
- CAN
- LIN

NOTE

Each platform does not support all interfaces. See the individual platform reference manual for supported interfaces.

Typically, UART connects directly to a PC, whereas I2C, SPI, LIN, and CAN require additional hardware. The bootloader, running on the target platform, acts as a communication slave. The bootloader detects the peripheral which is being used to download the application. If the peripherals being used are UART and CAN, it detects the baud rate too.

The application image is downloaded to the target through a series of command and data packets sent from a host PC or embedded host platform.

8 Host tools

The bootloader release contains source code and build projects for the following PC-based host tools:

- blhost: command-line debug tool for sending individual commands to the bootloader.

9 New features

This release has the following new feature:

- Added support for ARMGCC
- Added support boot from LIN

10 Tool notes

- A new buspal build project has not been released. Use the previous release by downloading NXP_Kinetis_Bootloader_2_0_0 package from www.nxp.com/MCUBOOT.
- When changing an IAR project to generate additional output (Options->Output Converter->Generate additional output), the output filename extension (Linker->Output->Output filename) must be changed to '.out'.
- The blhost tool accepts any speed setting in the "--buspal" option for the SPI and I2C peripherals. However, the maximum effective speed settings when using the BusPal example are approximately 300 kHz for I2C and 8000 kHz for SPI.
- When running blhost on Mac and Linux OS, the tool may be required to run as super user in order to have access to the device ports, i.e., 'sudo blhost'.
- When running blhost on Linux OS, it may be necessary to press the reset button on the target platform after the CDC device has been enumerated by the OS. This restarts the UART autobaud operation of the bootloader.
- When running on Mac OS, open the "cu" device instead of the "tty" device. This prevents the OS from trying to initialize the target as a modem, i.e., 'blhost -p /dev/cu.usbmodem*'.
- When using MCUXpresso IDE, setting -flto can reduce compiled code size by about 10%. However, when -flto is set, no C source will show while debugging. Because size is critical to bootloader projects, -flto is turned on for some of bootloader projects. -flto can be set by checking Properties -> C/C++ Build -> Settings -> Tool Settings -> Optimization -> Enable Link-time optimization (-flto).

Each bootloader target supports one or more of the following project types:

- tower bootloader: bootloader that executes from target flash memory on the Tower platform.
- freedom bootloader: bootloader that executes from target flash memory on the Freedom platform.
- maps bootloader: bootloader that executes from target flash memory on the MAPS platform.
- flashloader: bootloader that executes from target RAM memory on either the Freedom, Tower, or MAPS platform.
- flashloader_loader: bootstrap loader that executes from flash memory on either the Freedom or Tower platform. This loader copies an image of the flashloader into RAM, then executes the flashloader from RAM.

The flashloader_loader project uses the output of the flashloader build to create the flashloader image to load into RAM. So, the flashloader project must be built before building the flashloader_loader project. Also, install Python27 for successful flashloader image generation.

When debugging flashloader with ARM Keil MDK compiler, there is no need to use the load button. The "Start/Stop Debug Session" button correctly downloads the flashloader image into the target RAM address and starts executing it. However, the flashloader_loader and flash-resident bootloader are required to use the load button to program the internal flash.

There is an intermittent issue with ARM Keil MDK when it uses J-Link to load the image. An error message pops up indicating flash download failed. The workaround to this issue is to load the Keil-built image separately, using J-Link, and not through Keil.

11 Revision history

The following table contains a history of changes made to this document.

Table 2. Revision history

Revision number	Date	Substantive changes
0	11/2018	Kinetis KW37/KW38 Bootloader v2.7.0 release

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