



# LAB: Introduction to the programming of STM32 boards



# Introduction



The world of embedded systems is complex but exciting, and **STM32** microcontrollers play a key role in today's electronics.

**STM32CubeIDE** is an important tool for developers who want to make the most of STM32 boards.

We'll explore STM32CubeIDE, a **development environment** that offers many powerful features while staying simple to use, making it great for both beginners and experienced developers.



# What is STM32?



STM32 is a family of 32-bit microcontroller chips made by STMicroelectronics. These STM32 chips are available in **different series**, designed for many types of applications.

Key families include STM32F0, STM32F1, STM32F4, STM32H7, and STM32L0.

- STM32F series: General-purpose microcontrollers offering a good balance of performance and efficiency.
  - STM32H series: High-performance models for demanding applications.
- STM32L series: Low-power devices designed for energy-efficient applications.

To easily prototype with STM32 MCUs, **Nucleo** boards are available. These development boards support various STM32 chips, making it simple to test and develop IoT applications such as wearables, industrial IoT systems, and smart home devices.



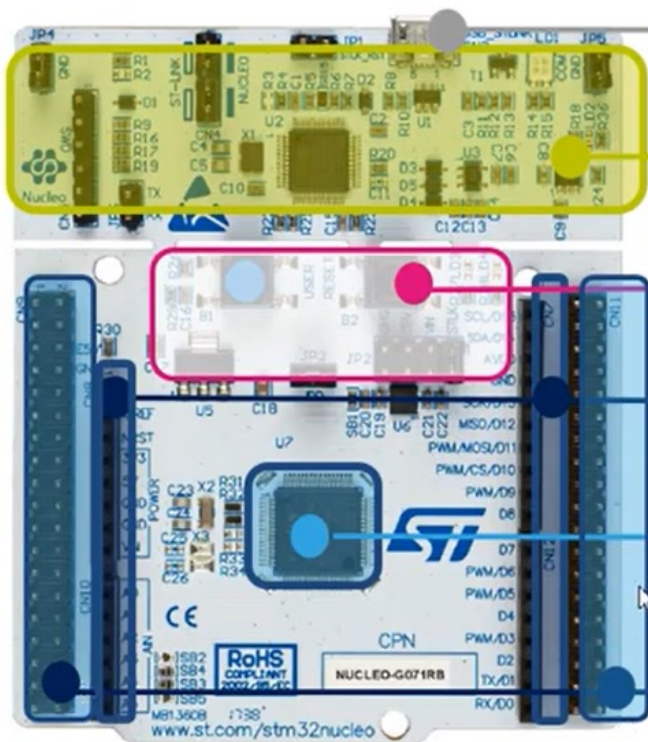
# STM32 Cube IDE



The STM32Cube ecosystem is a comprehensive set of tools and software designed to simplify the development process for STM32 microcontrollers (MCUs).

- **STM32CubeMX:** This tool allows users to configure microcontroller peripherals and automatically generate initialization code.
- **STM32CubeIDE:** This integrated development environment combines code editing, compiling, and debugging into one tool. It simplifies writing and testing code, making the entire development workflow smoother.
- **STM32Cube Firmware Libraries:** These libraries provide pre-built middleware solutions such as USB, Real-Time Operating Systems (RTOS), and file systems like FATFS. They save time by offering reusable components for various functionalities.

# Nucleo Board



Flexible board power supply :  
through USB or external source

Integrated ST-Link/V2-1:  
mass storage device flash programming

2 push buttons, 2 color Leds

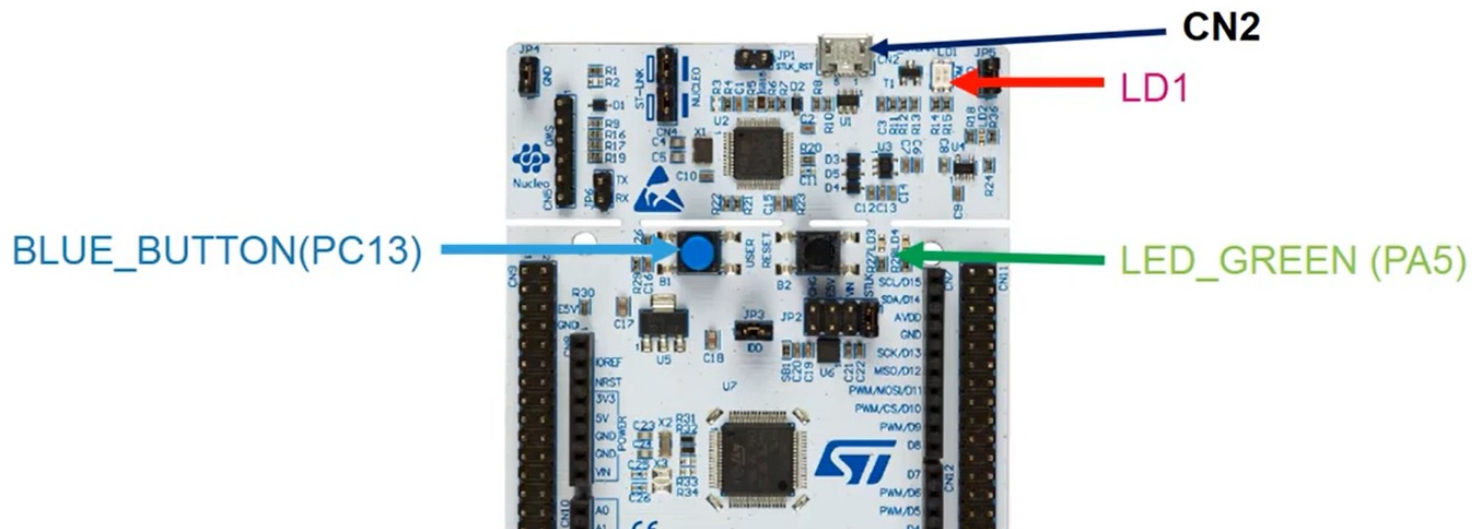
Arduino extension connectors :  
easy access to add-ons

One STM32 MCU flavor with 64 pins

Morpho extension headers :  
direct access to all MCU I/Os

# Nucleo Board

- Connect USB ST-LINK (**CN2**) to your PC
  - ST-LINK driver may be installed if this is the first time the board is plugged in.
- **LD1** should be **ON** and solid **RED** (indicating board power available and ST-Link is functional)



# Nucleo Board

## NUCLEO-F401RE

Affordable and flexible platform to ease prototyping using a STM32F401RET6 microcontroller.



### Overview

The STM32 Nucleo board provides an affordable and flexible way for users to try out new ideas and build prototypes with any STM32 microcontroller line, choosing from the various combinations of performance, power consumption and features.

#### Table of Contents

1. Overview
2. Microcontroller features
3. Board features

<https://os.mbed.com/platforms/ST-Nucleo-F401RE/>



# STM32 Cube IDE



STM32CubeIDE is an Integrated Development Environment (IDE) designed specifically for STM32 microcontrollers.

STM32CubeIDE combines various tools needed for programming STM32 microcontrollers, making it easier to manage projects and code.

Tools for debugging your code directly within the platform.

Cross-Platform Support, Windows, Linux, or macOS, STM32CubeIDE works seamlessly across all these operating systems, giving you flexibility in your development environment.





# STM32 Cube IDE



<https://www.st.com/en/development-tools/stm32cubeide.html>



# Creating a Project in STM32CubeIDE

1. Launch STM32CubeIDE and select File > New > STM32 Project.
2. The Target Selection window appears. Here, you can search for your STM32 microcontroller or STM32 board by part number or name. Once selected, click Next.
3. Configure your project settings, including project name and location. Configure GPIO PBO as output.
4. Ctr+S then generate the project/Code (click 'Yes') and write code following code.
5. Attached STM32 Board the Build project and click 'Run'.



# Understanding project structure



Upon creating a new project, STM32CubeIDE presents a structured view of your project's files and resources. Familiarizing yourself with this structure is crucial for efficient development.

1. **Inc** and **Src** folders contain your project's header and source files, respectively.
2. The Drivers folder houses the **HAL** (Hardware Abstraction Layer) and **LL** (Low Layer) drivers, facilitating hardware abstraction for easier coding.
3. **.cproject** and **.project** files are Eclipse-based configuration files used by STM32CubeIDE.
4. The MX Project (**.ioc**) file is where STM32CubeMX stores the configuration of your STM32 microcontroller or microprocessor.



# Adding user code



To add your code, navigate to the **Src/main.c** file.

STM32CubeIDE provides markers such as */\* USER CODE BEGIN \*/* and */\* USER CODE END \*/* to indicate safe areas where you can write your custom code without it being overwritten by the STM32CubeMX code generator.



# Build project



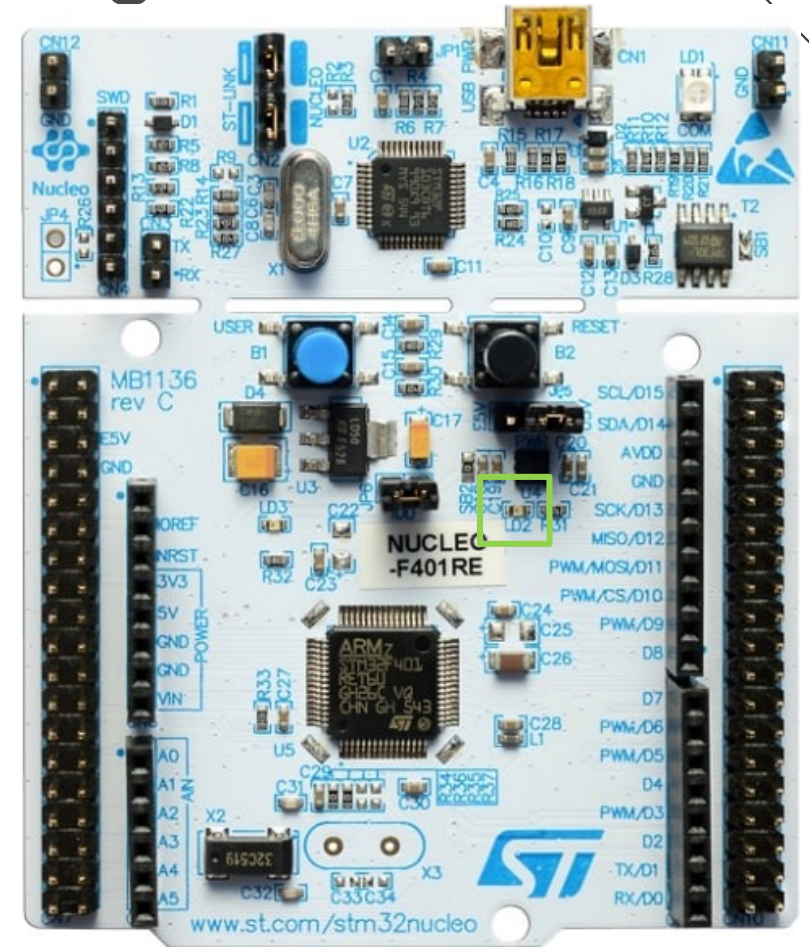
To build your project, click on the Build button (represented by a hammer icon) in the toolbar.

STM32CubeIDE compiles your project, and any errors or warnings will be displayed in the Problems view. Resolve any issues before proceeding.

Once the build is successful, you are ready to flash the program to your STM32 board.

# Led toggling using HAL library

Toggle green led -> LD2



# Create project

STM32 Project

IDE

Target Selection

Select STM32 target or STM32Cube example

MCU/MPU SelectorBoard SelectorExample SelectorCross Selector

Board Filters

Commercial Part Number

NUCLEO-F401RE

PRODUCT INFO

Type>

Supplier>

MCU / MPU Series>

Marketing Status>

Price>

MEMORY

Ext. Flash = 0 (MBit)

Ext. EEPROM = 0 (kBytes)

Ext. RAM = 0 (MBit)

Features

Large Picture

Docs & Resources

Datasheet

Buy

STM32F4 Series

NUCLEO-F401RE

ACTIVE

Product is in mass production


STM32 Nucleo-64 development board with STM32F401RE MCU, supports Arduino and ST morpho connectivity

Part Number : NUCLEO-F401RE

Commercial Part Number : NUCLEO-F401RE

Unit Price (US\$) : 13.0



Mounted Device : STM32F401RET6



The STM32 Nucleo-64 board provides an affordable and flexible way for users to try out new and build prototypes by choosing from the various combination of performance and power consumption features provided by the ST

Boards List: 1 item

Export

	Overview	Commerci...	Type	Marketing St...	Unit Price (U...	Mounted De...
		NUCLEO-F4...	Nucleo-64	Active	13.0	STM32F401RE...

?

< Back

Next >

Finish

Cancel

## Pinout & Configuration

## Clock Configuration

## Project Manager

Software Packs

Pinout



Categories

A->Z

System Core



Analog



Timers



Connectivity



Multimedia



Computing



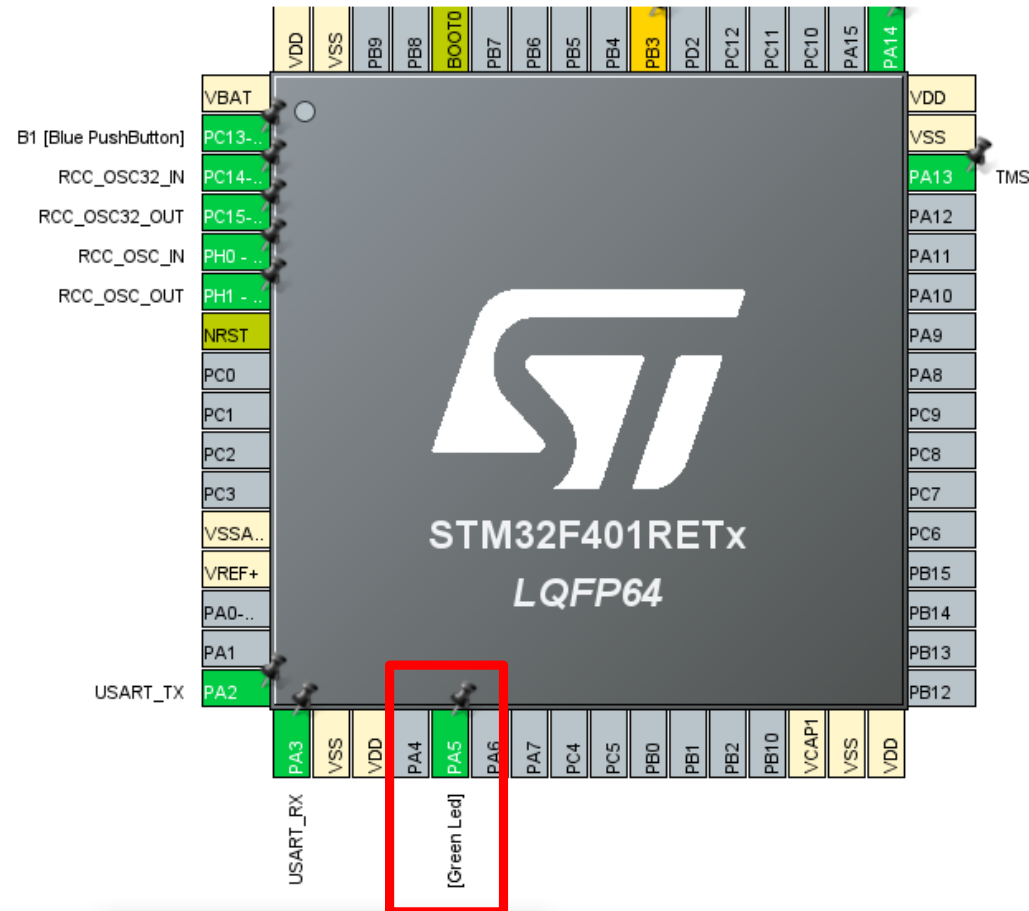
Middleware and Software Pac...



Pinout view



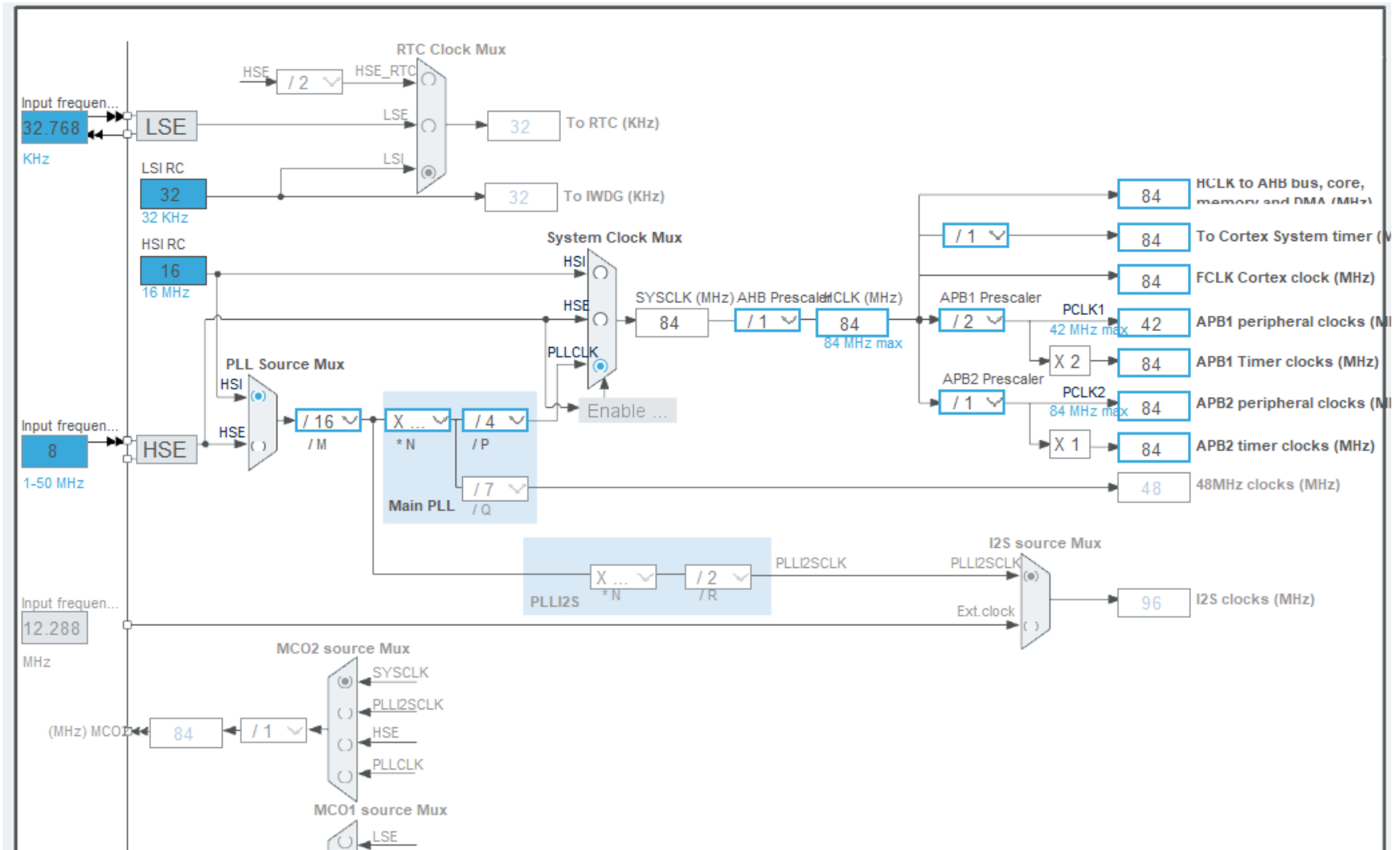
System view





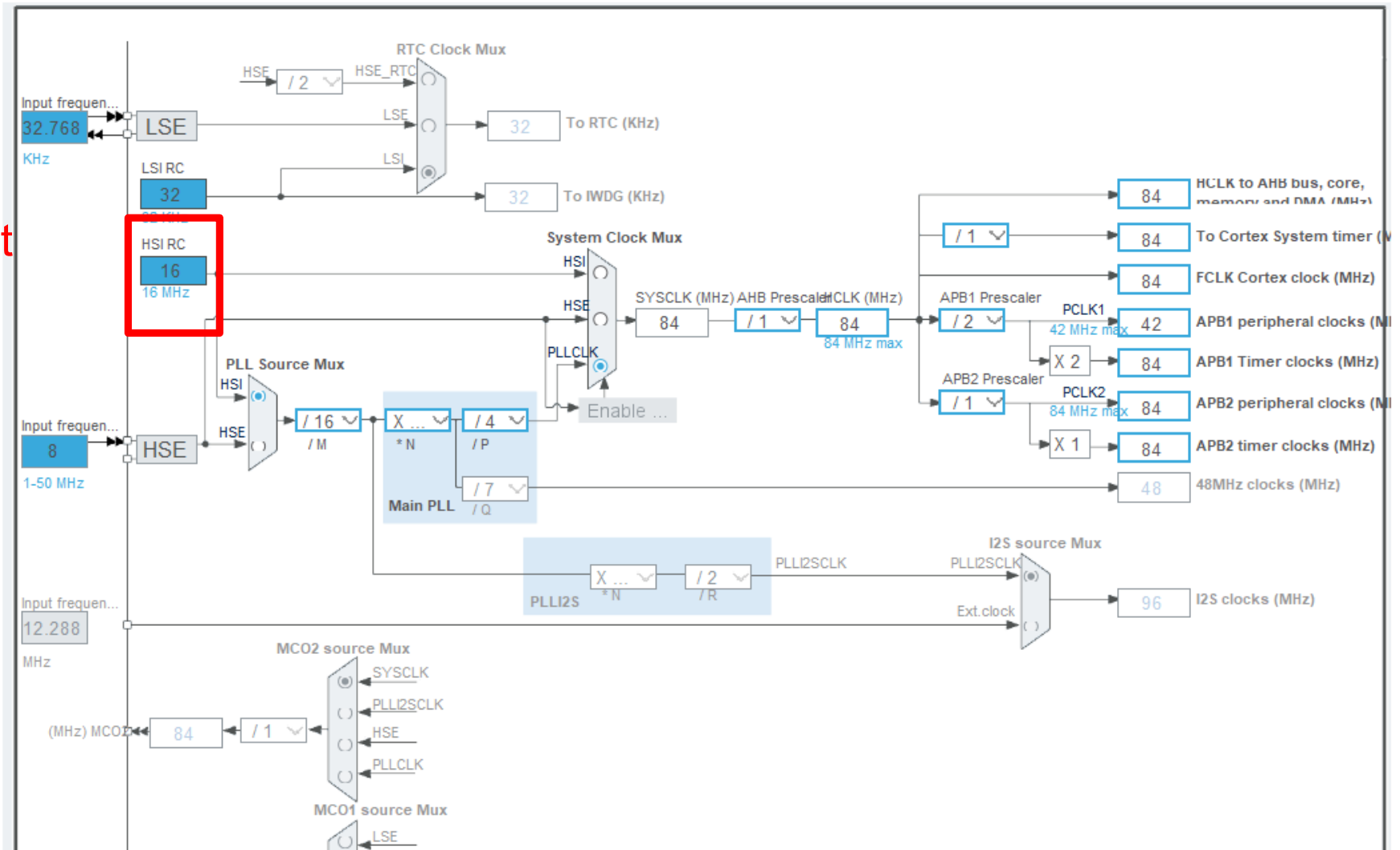


Resolve Clock Issues





Resolve Clock Issues

Default  
clock

## Pinout &amp; Configuration

## Clock Configuration

## Project Manager

## Project

## Project Settings

Project Name

t3

Project Location

C:\Users\Franco\STM32CubeIDE\workspace\_1.15.1

## Code Generator

Application Structure

Advanced

☐ Do not generate the main()

Toolchain Folder Location

C:\Users\Franco\STM32CubeIDE\workspace\_1.15.1\t3\

Toolchain / IDE

STM32CubeIDE

☒ Generate Under Root

## Advanced Settings

## Linker Settings

Minimum Heap Size

0x200

Minimum Stack Size

0x400

## Thread-safe Settings

Cortex-M4NS

☐ Enable multi-threaded support

Thread-safe Locking Strategy

Default – Mapping suitable strategy depending on RTOS selection.

## Mcu and Firmware Package

Mcu Reference

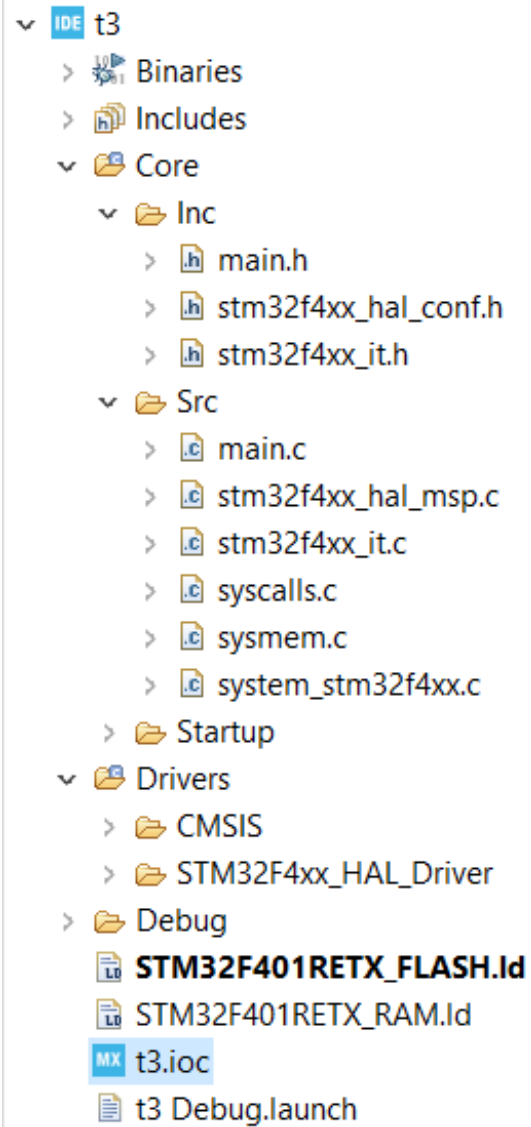
STM32F401RETx

Firmware Package Name and Version

STM32Cube FW\_F4 V1.28.1

☒ Use latest available version

# Project structure





# HAL Library



The **HAL** (Hardware Abstraction Layer) library is an official set of libraries provided by STMicroelectronics for STM32 microcontrollers. It simplifies the process of configuring and using the hardware peripherals by abstracting away the low-level register manipulations.

- **Hardware Abstraction:** It abstracts the hardware details and makes your code more portable across different STM32 microcontrollers.
- **Ease of Use:** It simplifies the development process by providing higher-level APIs to configure and control the hardware.
- **Modularity:** HAL is divided into modules, each representing a peripheral or subsystem (GPIO, SPI, I2C, UART, etc.).
- **Compatibility:** It supports all STM32 series (F0, F1, F2, F3, F4, F7, L0, L1, L4, H7, etc.), and once a project is written using HAL, migrating to a different STM32 family is easier.



# Key HAL Libraries/Modules



HAL is structured into different modules that handle various peripherals and functions:

Ex:

- GPIO (General Purpose Input/Output) Functions for configuring and controlling GPIO pins as inputs, outputs, or alternate function pins. Example: **HAL\_GPIO\_WritePin()**, **HAL\_GPIO\_ReadPin()**.
- UART (Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter) Functions for sending and receiving data over serial communication. Example: **HAL\_UART\_Transmit()**, **HAL\_UART\_Receive()**.
- SPI (Serial Peripheral Interface) Functions to configure and use the SPI peripheral for communication with other devices. Example: **HAL\_SPI\_Transmit()**, **HAL\_SPI\_Receive()**.



# Main



```
66 int main(void)
67 {
68
69     /* USER CODE BEGIN 1 */
70
71     /* USER CODE END 1 */
72
73     /* MCU Configuration-----*/
74
75     /* Reset of all peripherals, Initializes the Flash interface and the Systick. */
76     HAL_Init();
77
78     /* USER CODE BEGIN Init */
79
80     /* USER CODE END Init */
81
82     /* Configure the system clock */
83     SystemClock_Config();
84
85     /* USER CODE BEGIN SysInit */
86
87     /* USER CODE END SysInit */
88
89 }
```

```
88
89     /* Initialize all configured peripherals */
90     MX_GPIO_Init();
91     MX_USART2_UART_Init();
92     /* USER CODE BEGIN 2 */
93
94     /* USER CODE END 2 */
95
96     /* Infinite loop */
97     /* USER CODE BEGIN WHILE */
98     while (1)
99     {
100         /* USER CODE END WHILE */
101
102         /* USER CODE BEGIN 3 */
103     }
```



# Main

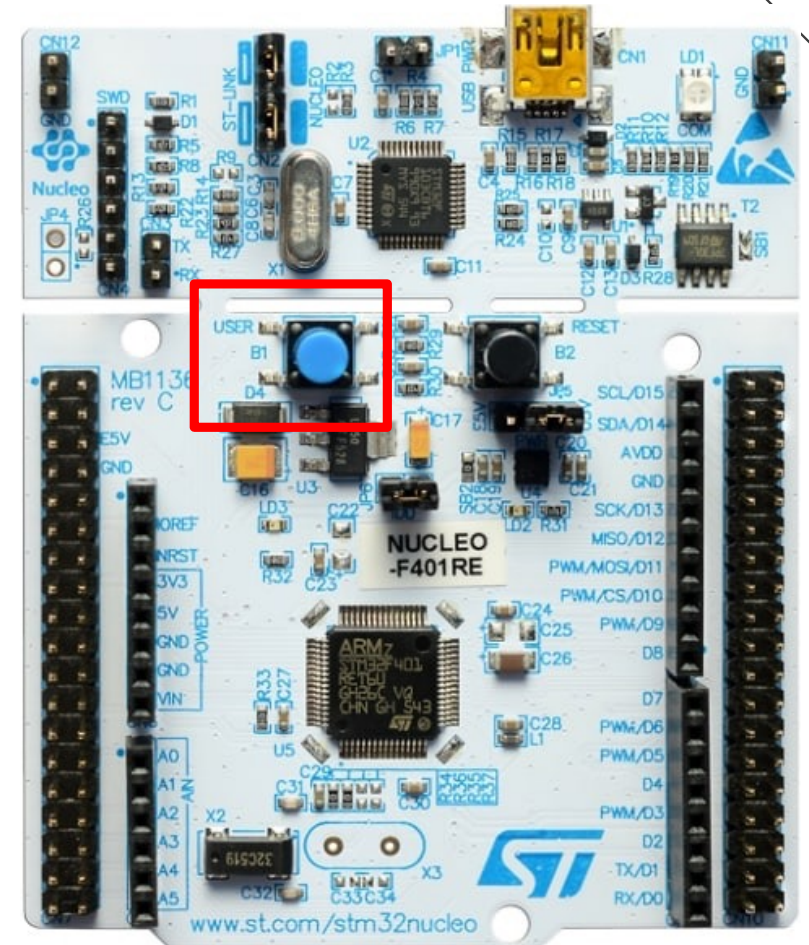


```
96  /* Infinite loop */
97  /* USER CODE BEGIN WHILE */
98  while (1)
99  {
100     HAL_GPIO_TogglePin (GPIOA, GPIO_PIN_5);
101     HAL_Delay (500);
102     /* USER CODE END WHILE */
103
104     /* USER CODE BEGIN 3 */
105 }
106 /* USER CODE END 3 */
---
```



# Edit: toggle button

Blue button-> User button





# Usart communication

USART2 Mode and Configuration

Categories A->Z

- System Core
- Analog
- Timers
- Connectivity
  - I2C1
  - I2C2
  - I2C3
  - SDIO
  - SPI1
  - SPI2
  - SPI3
  - USART1
  - USART2**
  - USART6
  - USB\_OTG\_FS
- Multimedia

Mode

Mode Asynchronous

Hardware Flow Control (RS232) Disable

Configuration

Reset Configuration

- DMA Settings
- GPIO Settings
- User Constants
- NVIC Settings
- Parameter Settings

Configure the below parameters :

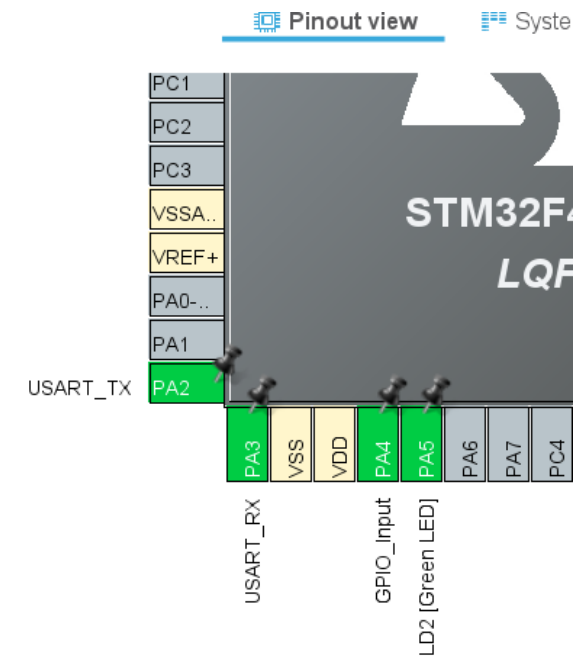
Search (Ctrl+F)

Basic Parameters

Baud Rate	115200 Bits/s
Word Length	8 Bits (including Parity)
Parity	None
Stop Bits	1

Advanced Parameters

Data Direction	Receive and Transmit
Over Sampling	16 Samples



# Edit: toggle button

```
41
42 /* Private variables -----
43
44 /* USER CODE BEGIN PV */
45 UART_HandleTypeDef huart2;
46 uint8_t flag=0;
47 /* USER CODE END PV */
```

```
/* Infinite loop */
/* USER CODE BEGIN WHILE */
while (1)
{
    if(flag==1){
        HAL_GPIO_TogglePin (GPIOA, GPIO_PIN_5);
        flag=0;
    }
    /* USER CODE END WHILE */

    /* USER CODE BEGIN 3 */
}
```

```
238
239 /* USER CODE BEGIN 4 */
240 void HAL_GPIO_EXTI_Callback(uint16_t GPIO_Pin){
241     flag=1;
242 }
243 /* USER CODE END 4 */
```

# Usart communication

