



USB standard class overview

What are USB standard classes?

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- Defined by USB-IF
- Classes (usually) supported by OS system drivers
 - No need to write your own drivers
- Compatibility between different USB hosts/devices
 - Some incompatibilities or unusual behavior introduced by Microsoft
- Wide range of different applications
- Not all standard classes are mentioned here

- MSC – Mass-Storage Class

- Transfer based on raw data
- Filesystem managed by the USB host
- Used by USB drives

- MTP – Multimedia transfer protocol

- Filesystem managed by the USB device
- Transfer is based on files
- Enables shared access to the filesystem
- Used mainly by smart phones, audio players
- Some incompatibilities to the USB standard
 - Most of the devices tested against Windows
 - Proprietary MTP recognition
 - More info:

<http://events.linuxfoundation.org/sites/events/files/slides/Media%20Transfer%20Protocol.pdf>



CDC class (Virtual COM port)

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- Used as USB-to-serial bridge
- Often used for data acquisition systems
 - Custom protocol over the serial line
- Requires driver for Windows 7/8.1
 - There is system driver in Windows, but it needs to be linked to PID/VID
 - Signed INF file is required
 - ST provides VCOM port driver for specific VID and PID
- Windows 10 don't require driver (system driver is used)
 - CDC class needs to be specified in device descriptor
 - No driver provided by ST (since it is not required)
- Usually bulk transfer (isochronous also possible)
 - Transfer is finished when packet smaller than maximum packet size is received
 - Otherwise the OS will not propagate the data to application (more in the Hands-On)



Human interface device (HID) class

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- HID devices:
 - Mouse
 - Keyboard
 - Gaming controllers (gamepads, joysticks, steering wheels etc.)
- Interrupt oriented communication
- HID specific descriptors
 - Describes the format and meaning of the data
- Custom HID
 - Custom communication with USB device without the need for vendor specific drivers
 - Low bandwidth



Device firmware update (DFU) class

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- DfuSe extension
 - Enables to update parts of the memory
- Downloads new firmware to the device
- Can upload the firmware from the device
- Supported as a part of the system bootloader on selected devices
- Demo application & drivers for Windows
 - Unofficial application (dfu-util) for Linux and MacOS
 - Third party Android app for OTG enabled tablets/smartphones



- Used for speakers and microphones
- Real-time audio transfer
 - Uses isochronous transfers – clock synchronization might be required
- Supports various data formats, sampling frequencies
- USB uses unaligned / packed format
 - This can be issue for 24-bit formats
 - STM32 peripherals expect 32-bit aligned data – Single 32-bit write to data register via DMA
 - Additional unpacking required by software
- ST library can not cover all features and data formats



- Version 1.0 supports only full-speed
 - Stereo 24-bit at 96kHz supported (max. 1023 bytes per ms)
 $(2 \times 3 \times 96 \text{ bytes} = 576 < 1023)$
 - Stereo 32-bit at 96kHz supported
 $(2 \times 4 \times 96 \text{ bytes} = 768 < 1023)$
 - Stereo 16-bit at 192kHz supported
 $(2 \times 2 \times 192 \text{ bytes} = 768 < 1023)$
 - Lower sample rates also supported
- Version 2.0 supports high-speed
 - Not straightforward porting from 1.0 (descriptors are different)
 - Useful for higher number of channels (5.1 or 7.1 audio)
 - Lower latency (data sent every 125µs instead of 1ms)
 - Higher sample rate (high frequency measurement)
 - Not supported natively by Windows OS (only new version of Windows 10)
 - Custom drivers required for older Windows



- Contains multiple interfaces for different USB classes
 - All classes can operate at the same time
 - Possible to use OS system drivers for standard interfaces
- Example ST-Link V2.1 contains
 - ST-Link debug interface (vendor specific)
 - Mass-storage for downloading the firmware
 - CDC class for communicating with the device through UART



USB class support in STM32 library

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USB Class	Device support	Host support	Windows driver support
MSC	Yes	Yes	Yes
MTP	No	Yes	Yes
CDC	Yes	Yes	From Windows 10 / with ST drivers
HID	Yes	Yes	Yes
AUDIO	Yes	Yes	Yes
DFU	Yes	No	With ST drivers