

NetX Duo Simple Mail Transfer Protocol for Clients (NetX Duo SMTP Client)

User Guide

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Part Number: 000-1054

Revision 5.2

Contents

Chapter 1	3
Introduction to NetX Duo SMTP Client	
NetX Duo SMTP Client Requirements	3
NetX Duo SMTP Client Constraints	
Commands Supported by NetX Duo SMTP Client	
Getting Started	
NetX Duo SMTP Authentication	
RFCs Supported by NetX Duo SMTP Client	7
Chapter 2 Installation and Use of NetX Duo SMTP Client	
NetX Duo SMTP Client Installation	8
Using NetX Duo SMTP Client	8
Small Example System	
Client Configuration Options	13
Chapter 3 Client Description of SMTP Client Services	
nxd_smtp_client_create	
nx_smtp_client_delete	19
nx_smtp_mail_send	
_ ·	

Chapter 1

Introduction to NetX Duo SMTP Client

The Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) is a protocol for transferring mail across networks and the Internet. It utilizes the reliable Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) services to perform its content transfer function.

NetX Duo SMTP Client Requirements

The NetX Duo SMTP Client requires creation of a NetX Duo IP instance and NetX Duo packet pool. The SMTP Client uses a TCP socket to connect to an SMTP Server on the well-known port 25. Therefore, TCP must first be enabled by calling the nx_tcp_enable service on a previously created IP instance.

The SMTP Client create call (nxd_smtp_client_create) requires a previously created packet pool for transmitting SMTP commands to the Server as well as for sending the actual mail message. Packet payload depends on the anticipated size of the mail contents and must allow for TCP, IP header, and MAC header. (Note that the IPv6 header is 40 bytes while the IPv4 header is 20 bytes.)

If the entire mail message cannot fit in one packet, the SMTP Client allocates additional packets to contain the rest of the message.

NetX Duo SMTP Client Constraints

While the NetX Duo SMTP protocol implements the RFC 2821 and 2554 standards, there are some constraints:

- 1. The NetX Duo SMTP Client supports only LOGIN and PLAIN authentication, but not CRAM-MD5 digest authentication.
- The NetX Duo SMTP Client messages are limited to one recipient per mail item, and only one mail message per TCP connection with the SMTP server.

- 3. VRFY, SEND, SOML, EXPN, SAML, ETRN, TURN and SIZE SMTP options are not supported.
- 4. The SMTP Client is not mail browser ("mail user agent") which is typically used for creating the mail message. It is a "mail transfer agent" only. It will provide the necessary processing of the mail message body for SMTP transport as specified in RFC 2821. It does not check the contents for correct syntax e.g. the recipient and reverse pathway. There is no restriction what is in the mail buffer e.g. MIME data or clear text messages. Mail message format, specified in RFC 2822 for including headers and message body is beyond the scope of the SMTP Client API.

Commands Supported by NetX Duo SMTP Client

The NetX Duo SMTP Client uses the following commands during a mail session with an SMTP Server.

Command	Meaning
EHLO	The Client would like to initiate a session that includes some or all extension protocol SMTP services available from the SMTP Server. This is the default.
HELO	The Client would like to initiate a session limited to basic SMTP services.
MAIL	The Client would like the Server to receive Client mail.
AUTH	The Client would like to initiate authentication by the Server.
RCPT	The Client would like to submit a mailbox of another host it would like the mail to be delivered to.
DATA	The Client would like to initiate sending mail message data to the Server.
QUIT	The Client would like to terminate the session.

Getting Started

The SMTP Client application creates an IP instance and an enables TCP on that IP instance. It then creates the SMTP Client using the following service:

The *client_packet_pool_ptr* is a pointer to a previously created packet pool the SMTP Client will use to send messages to the SMTP Server.

Note that an application must provide a *from_address* for the local device and a server IP address. All addresses must be fully qualified domain names. A fully qualified domain name contains a local-part and a domain name, separated by an '@' character. Note that the SMTP Client does not check the syntax of the *from_address* or the *recipient_address* in the nxd_smtp_mail_send service below.

After the SMTP Client is created, the SMTP Client application creates a mail item with a properly formatted SMTP mail message, and makes the mail item send request to the SMTP Client using the following API:

There is essentially no difference in running SMTP Client over IPv4 or IPv6 from user perspective. Differences between the two IP protocols are handled in the underlying NetX Duo layer.

Note that an application wishing to send mail must provide a recipient address in the *nxd_smtp_client_mail* call.

For authentication, usernames can either be fully qualified domain names, or display user names. This depends on how the Server performs authentication.

The demo in the Small Example section later in this User Guide shows how the message should be formatted. The status if the mail item was successfully sent will be NX_SUCCESS. If an error occurs, whether it is an internal error, a broken TCP connection or receiving a Server reply error code, <code>nxd_smtp_mail_send</code> will return a non-zero error status.

When sending a mail item, NetX Duo SMTP Client creates a new TCP connection with the SMTP server and begins an SMTP session. In this session, the Client sends a series of commands to the SMTP Server as part of the SMTP protocol, culminating in sending out the actual mail message. The TCP connection is then terminated, regardless of the outcome of the SMTP session.

After mail transmission, regardless of success or failure, the SMTP Client is returned to the 'initial' state, and can be used for another mail transfer session.

NetX Duo SMTP Authentication

Authentication is a way for SMTP Clients to prove their identity to the SMTP Server and have their mail delivered as trusted users. Most commercial SMTP Servers require that Clients be authenticated.

Typically, authentication data consists of the sender's username and password. During an authentication challenge, the Server prompts for this information and the Client responds by sending the requested data in encoded format. The Server decodes the data and attempts to find a match in its user database. If found, the Server indicates the authentication is successful. SMTP authentication is defined in RFC 2554.

There are two flavors of authentication, namely basic and digest. Digest is not supported in the current NetX Duo SMTP Client, and will not be discussed here. Basic authentication is equivalent to the name and password authentication described above. In SMTP basic authentication, the name and passwords are base64 encoded. The advantage of basic authentication is its ease of implementation and widespread use. The main disadvantage of basic authentication is name and password data is transmitted openly in the request.

Plain Authentication

The NetX Duo SMTP Client sends an AUTH command with the PLAIN parameter. If the NetX Duo SMTP Server supports this type of authentication, it will reply with a 334 reply code. The Client replies with a single base64 encoded username and password message to the Server. If the Server determines the Client authentication is successful, it responds with the 235 success code.

Login Authentication

The NetX Duo SMTP Client sends an AUTH command with the LOGIN parameter. If the NetX Duo SMTP Server supports this type of authentication, it will reply with a 334 reply code as the start of the authentication 'challenge'. It sends a base64 encoded prompt back to the Client which is typically "Username". The Client decodes the prompt, and replies with a base64 encoded username. If the Server accepts the Client username, it sends out a base64 encoded prompt for the Client password. The Client responds with a base64 encoded password. If the Server determines the Client authentication is successful, it responds with the 235 success code.

RFCs Supported by NetX Duo SMTP Client

NetX Duo SMTP Client API is compliant with RFC2821 "Simple Mail Transfer Protocol" and RFC 2554 "SMTP Service Extension for Authentication. "

Chapter 2 Installation and Use of NetX Duo SMTP Client

This chapter contains a description of various issues related to installation, setup, and usage of the NetX Duo SMTP Client component.

NetX Duo SMTP Client Installation

The NetX Duo SMTP Client is shipped on a single CD-ROM compatible disk. The package includes the following files:

nxd_smtp_client.c C Source file for NetX Duo SMTP Client API nxd_smtp_client.h C Header file for NetX Duo SMTP Client API demo_netxduo_smtp_client.c Demo for NetX Duo SMTP Client nxd_smtp_client.pdf User Guide for NetX Duo SMTP Client API

To use the NetX Duo SMTP Client API, the entire distribution mentioned previously may be copied to the same directory where NetX Duo is installed. For example, if NetX Duo is installed in the directory "c:\myproject" then the nxd_smtp_client.h, and nxd_smtp_client.c files should be copied into this directory.

Using NetX Duo SMTP Client

To create the NetX Duo SMTP Client application, it must first build the ThreadX and NetX Duo libraries and include them in the build project. The application must then include tx_api.h and nx_api.h in its application source code. This will enable ThreadX and NetX Duo services. It must also include nxd_smtp_client.c and nxd_smtp_client.h after tx_api.h and nx_api.h to use SMTP Client services.

These files must be compiled in the same manner as other application files and the object code must be linked along with the files of the application. This is all that is required to create a NetX Duo SMTP Client application.

Small Example System

An example of using the NetX Duo SMTP Client is described in Figure 1 that appears below. The packet pool for the IP instance is created using the nx_packet_pool_create service, on line 68 and has a very small packet payload. This is because the IP instance only sends control packets which don't require much payload. The SMTP Client packet pool created on line 84 and is used for transmitting SMTP Client messages to the server and message data. Its packet payload is much larger. The IP instance is created in line 118 using the same packet pool. TCP, required for the SMTP protocol, is enabled on the IP instance in line 130.

In the application thread, the SMTP Client is created using the <code>nxd_smtp_client_create</code> service, in line 170. The <code>nxd_smtp_client_create</code> service supports both IPv4 and IPv6 SMTP server connections although this example is limited to IPv4. Then the mail message is submitted to the SMTP Client for transmission on line 184 using the <code>nx_smtp_mail_send</code> service. Note that the subject line with the mail content header is created separately from the message body. Also note that the send mail request accepts only one recipient mail address which is assumed to be syntactically correct.

Then the application terminates the SMTP Client on line 200. The $nx_smtp_client_delete$ service checks that the socket connection is closed and the port is unbound. Note that it is up to the SMTP Client application to delete the packet pool if it no longer has use for it.

```
demo netxduo smtp client.c
3
       This is a small demo of the NetX Duo SMTP Client on the high-performance NetX
5
       Duo TCP/IP stack. This demo relies on Thread, NetX Duo and SMTP Client API to
       perform simple SMTP mail transfers in an SMTP client application to an SMTP mail
7
       server. */
8
    #include "nx_api.h"
9
10 #include "nx ip.h"
11
   #include "nxd smtp client.h"
12
13
14
    /\star Define the host user name and mail box parameters \star/
    #define USERNAME "myusername"
15
    #define PASSWORD "mypassword"

#define FROM_ADDRESS "my@mycompany.com"

#define RECIPIENT_ADDRESS "your@yourcompany.com"

#define LOCAL DOMAIN "mycompany.com"
                                   "mypassword"
16 #define PASSWORD
17
18
19
20
"implementation for embedded devices to send \r\n" \
                                   "email to SMTP servers. This feature is \r\n" \
2.3
```

```
24
                                     "intended to allow a device to send simple \r\ "
2.5
                                     "status reports using the most universal \r\" \
26
                                     "Internet application, email.\r\n"
27
28
     /* See the NetX Duo SMTP Client User Guide for how to set the authentication type.
29
        The most common authentication type is PLAIN. */
     #define CLIENT AUTHENTICATION TYPE 3
30
31
32
33
     #define CLIENT IP ADDRESS IP ADDRESS(1,2,3,5)
     #define SERVER IP ADDRESS IP ADDRESS(1,2,3,4)
34
35
     #define SERVER PORT
36
37
38
     /* Define the NetX Duo and ThreadX structures for the SMTP client applicaation. */
3.9
    NX PACKET POOL
                                      ip packet pool;
40
    NX PACKET POOL
                                      client packet pool;
                                      client_ip;
    NX IP
41
42
    TX THREAD
                                      demo client thread;
43
    static NX SMTP CLIENT
                                      demo client;
44
45
              _nx_ram_network_driver(struct NX_IP_DRIVER_STRUCT *driver_req);
46
    void
47
             demo client thread entry (ULONG info);
48
    /* Define main entry point. */
49
50
    int main()
51
52
         /* Enter the ThreadX kernel. */
53
         tx kernel enter();
54
55
56
     /* Define what the initial system looks like. */
57
             tx application define(void *first unused memory)
    void
58
59
    ULNLI
60
             status;
61
     CHAR
             *free memory pointer;
62
63
64
         /* Setup the pointer to unallocated memory. */
65
         free memory pointer = (CHAR *) first unused memory;
66
         /* Create IP default packet pool. */
67
         status = nx_packet_pool_create(&ip_packet_pool, "Default IP Packet Pool",
68
                                          128, free_memory_pointer, 2048);
69
70
71
         /* Update pointer to unallocated (free) memory. */
72
         free_memory_pointer = free_memory_pointer + 2048;
73
74
         /* Create SMTP Client packet pool. This is only for transmitting packets to the
75
            server. It need not be a separate packet pool than the IP default packet pool
76
            but for more efficient resource use, we use two different packet pools
77
            because the CLient SMTP messages generally require more payload than IP
78
            control packets.
79
80
            Packet payload depends on the SMTP Client application requirements. Size of
81
            packet payload must include IP and TCP headers. For IPv6 connections, IP and
82
            TCP header data is 60 bytes. For IPv4 IP and TCP header data is 40 bytes (not
83
            including TCP options). */
         status |= nx_packet_pool_create(&client packet pool, "SMTP Client Packet Pool",
84
85
                                           800, free memory pointer, (10*800));
86
87
         if (status != NX SUCCESS)
88
89
             return;
90
91
92
         /* Update pointer to unallocated (free) memory. */
93
         free memory pointer = free memory pointer + (10*800);
```

```
95
         /* Initialize the NetX system. */
96
         nx system initialize();
97
98
         /* Create the client thread */
         status = tx thread create(&demo client thread, "client thread",
99
                                    demo_client_thread_entry, 0, free_memory_pointer,
2048, 16, 16,
100
101
102
                                    TX NO TIME SLICE, TX DONT START);
103
104
         if (status != NX SUCCESS)
105
106
107
             printf("Error creating Client thread. Status 0x%x\r\n", status);
108
             return;
109
110
111
         /* Update pointer to unallocated (free) memory. */
         free_memory_pointer = free_memory_pointer + 4096;
112
113
114
115
         /* Create Client IP instance. Remember to replace the generic driver
            with a real ethernet driver to actually run this demo! */
116
117
118
         status = nx ip create(&client ip, "SMTP Client IP Instance", CLIENT IP ADDRESS,
                                0xFFFFFF00UL, &ip_packet_pool, _nx_ram_network_driver,
                                free memory pointer, 2048, 1);
119
120
121
         free memory pointer = free memory pointer + 2048;
122
123
         /* Enable ARP and supply ARP cache memory. */
124
         status = nx_arp_enable(&client_ip, (void **) free_memory_pointer, 1040);
125
126
         /* Update pointer to unallocated (free) memory. */
127
         free_memory_pointer = free_memory_pointer + 1040;
128
129
         /* Enable TCP for client. */
130
         status = nx tcp enable(&client ip);
131
132
         if (status != NX SUCCESS)
133
134
             return;
135
136
137
         /* Enable ICMP for client. */
138
         status = nx_icmp_enable(&client_ip);
139
140
         if (status != NX SUCCESS)
141
         {
142
             return:
143
         }
144
         /\!\!\!\!\!\!^{\star} Start the client thread. \!\!\!\!^{\star}/\!\!\!\!
145
146
         tx thread resume(&demo client thread);
147
148
         return;
149 }
150
151
152 /* Define the smtp application thread task.
153 void
           demo client thread entry(ULONG info)
154 {
155
156 UINT
                 status;
157 UINT
                 error counter = 0;
158 NXD ADDRESS server_ip_address;
159
160
161
         tx_thread_sleep(100);
162
163
         /* Set up the server IP address. */
```

```
164
         server ip address.nxd ip version = NX IP VERSION V4;
165
         server_ip_address.nxd_ip_address.v4 = SERVER_IP_ADDRESS;
166
167
         /* The demo client username and password is the authentication
168
            data used when the server attempts to authentication the client. */
169
170
         status = nxd_smtp_client_create(&demo_client, &client_ip, &client_packet_pool,
171
                                           USERNAME,
172
                                           PASSWORD,
173
                                           FROM ADDRESS,
174
                                           LOCAL DOMAIN, CLIENT AUTHENTICATION TYPE,
175
                                           &server_ip_address, SERVER_PORT);
176
177
         if (status != NX SUCCESS)
178
179
             printf("Error creating the client. Status: 0x%x.\n\r", status);
180
181
182
183
         /\star Create a mail instance with the above text message and recipient info. \star/
184
         status = nx_smtp_mail_send(&demo_client, RECIPIENT_ADDRESS,
                                      NX SMTP MAIL PRIORITY NORMAL,
185
                                      SUBJECT_LINE, MAIL_BODY, strlen(MAIL_BODY));
186
         /* Check for errors. */
187
188
        if (status != NX SUCCESS)
189
190
191
             /\star Mail item was not sent. Note that we need not delete the client. The
193
                error status may be a failed authentication check or a broken connection.
194
                We can simply call nx smtp mail send again. */
195
             error_counter++;
196
197
         /\star Release resources used by client. Note that the transmit packet
198
           pool must be deleted by the application if it no longer has use for it.*/
199
200
         status = nx smtp client delete(&demo client);
201
         /* Check for errors. */
2.02
203
         if (status != NX SUCCESS)
204
205
             error counter++;
206
         }
207
208
         return;
209 }
210
```

Figure 1. Example of SMTP Client use with NetX Duo

Client Configuration Options

There are several configuration options with the NetX Duo SMTP Client API. Following is a list of all options described in detail:

Define Meaning

NX_SMTP_CLIENT_TCP_WINDOW_SIZE

This option sets the size of the Client TCP receive window. This should be set to below the MTU size of the underlying Ethernet hardware and allow room for IP and TCP headers. The default NetX Duo SMTP Client TCP window size is 1460.

.

NX_SMTP_CLIENT_PACKET_TIMEOUT

This option sets the timeout on NetX packet allocation. The default NetX Duo SMTP Client packet timeout is 2 seconds.

NX_SMTP_CLIENT_CONNECTION_TIMEOUT

This option sets the Client TCP socket connect timeout. The default NetX Duo SMTP Client connect timeout is 10 seconds.

NX_SMTP_CLIENT_DISCONNECT_TIMEOUT

This option sets the Client TCP socket disconnect timeout. The default NetX Duo SMTP Client disconnect timeout is 5 seconds. Note that if the SMTP Client encounters an internal error such as a broken connection it may terminate the connection with a zero wait timeout.

NX_SMTP_GREETING_TIMEOUT

This option sets the timeout for the Client to receive the Server reply to its greeting. The default NetX Duo SMTP Client value is 10 seconds.

NX_SMTP_ENVELOPE_TIMEOUT

This option sets the timeout for the Client to receive the Server reply to a Client command. The default NetX Duo SMTP Client value is 10 seconds.

NX_SMTP_MESSAGE_TIMEOUT

This option sets the timeout for the Client to receive the Server reply to receiving the mail message data. The default NetX Duo SMTP Client value is 30 seconds.

NX_SMTP_CLIENT_SEND_TIMEOUT

This option defines the wait option of the buffer to store the user password during SMTP authentication with the Server. The default value is 20 bytes.

NX SMTP SERVER CHALLENGE MAX STRING

This option defines the size of the buffer for extracting the Server challenge during SMTP authentication. The default value is 200 bytes. For LOGIN and PLAIN authentication, the SMTP Client can probably use a smaller buffer.

NX_SMTP_CLIENT_MAX_PASSWORD

This option defines the size of the buffer to store the user password during SMTP authentication with the Server. The default value is 20 bytes.

NX_SMTP_CLIENT_MAX_USERNAME

This option defines the size of the buffer to store the host username during SMTP authentication with the Server. The default value is 40 bytes.

Chapter 3 Client Description of SMTP Client Services

This chapter contains a description of all NetX Duo SMTP Client services (listed below) in order of usage in a typical SMTP Client application.

In the "Return Values" section in the following API descriptions, values in **BOLD** are not affected by the *NX_DISABLE_ERROR_CHECKING* define that is used to disable API error checking, while non-bold values are completely disabled.

Services for Client Session and Mail Setup

nxd_smtp_client_create
Create an SMTP Client Instance

nx_smtp_client_delete

Delete an SMTP Client instance

nx_smtp_mail_send

Create and send an SMTP Mail item

nxd_smtp_client_create

Create an SMTP Client Instance

Prototype

Description

This service creates an SMTP Client instance on the specified IP instance.

Input Parameters

client_ptr ip_ptr packet_pool_ptr username password from_address client_domain authentication_type	Pointer to SMTP Client control block; Pointer to IP instance; Pointer to Client packet pool; NULL-terminated Username for uthentication; NULL-terminated password for authentication; NULL-terminated sender's address; NULL-terminated domain name; Client authentication type Supported types are: NX_SMTP_CLIENT_AUTH_LOGIN NX_SMTP_CLIENT_AUTH_PLAIN
server_address	Pointer to SMTP Server IP address
server_port	SMTP Server TCP port

Return Values

NX_SUCCESS	(0x00)	SMTP Client successfully created
		TCP socket creation status
NX_SMTP_INVALID	_PARAM	
	(0xA5)	Invalid non pointer input
NX_IP_ADDRES_EF	RRÒR	·
	(0x21)	Invalid IP address type
NX_PTR_ERROR	(0x07)	Invalid input pointer parameter

Allowed From

Application Code

Example

```
/* Create the SMTP Client instance. */
NX PACKET POOL
                                client packet pool;
NX IP
                                client ip;
NX SMTP CLIENT
                                demo client;
#define USERNAME "myusername"
#define PASSWORD "mypassword"
#define FROM ADDRESS "myname@mycompany.com"
#define LOCAL DOMAIN "mycompany.com"
#define SERVER PORT 25
/* Define client authentication type as LOGIN. If not specified or
   unknown the SMTP Client will set it to PLAIN. */
#define CLIENT AUTHENTICATION TYPE NX SMTP CLIENT AUTH LOGIN
NXD ADDRESS server ip address;
#ifdef USE IPV6
    /* Set up the Server IPv6 address. */
    server ip address.nxd ip version = NX IP VERSION V6;
    server ip address.nxd ip address.v6[0] = 0x20010db8;
    server ip address.nxd ip address.v6[1] = 0xf101;
    server_ip_address.nxd_ip_address.v6[2] = 0;
    server ip address.nxd ip address.v6[3] = 0x106;
#else
    server ip address.nxd ip version = NX IP VERSION V4;
    server ip address.nxd ip address.v4 = SERVER IP ADDRESS;
#endif
status = nxd_smtp_client_create(&demo client, &client ip,
                                 &client packet pool,
                                 USERNAME,
                                 PASSWORD,
                                 FROM ADDRESS,
                                 LOCAL DOMAIN,
                                 CLIENT AUTHENTICATION TYPE,
                                 &server ip address, SERVER PORT);
/* If an SMTP Client instance was successfully created, status =
NX SUCCESS. */
```

nx_smtp_client_delete

Delete an SMTP Client Instance

Prototype

```
UINT nx_smtp_client_delete(NX_SMTP_CLIENT *client_ptr)
```

Description

This service deletes a previously created SMTP Client instance.

Input Parameters

client_ptr Pointer to SMTP Client instance.

Return Values

NX_SUCCESS	(0x00)	Client successfully deleted
NX_PTR_ERROR	(0x07)	Invalid input pointer parameter

Allowed From

Threads

Example

```
/* Delete the SMTP Client instance "my_client." */
NX_SMTP_CLIENT demo_client;
status = nx_smtp_client_delete(&demo_client);
/* If an SMTP Client instance was successfully deleted, status = NX SUCCESS. */
```

nx_smtp_mail_send

Create and send an SMTP mail item

Prototype

```
nx smtp mail send(NX SMTP CLIENT *client ptr,
UINT
                          CHAR *recipient address,
                          UINT priority, CHAR *subject,
                          CHAR *mail body,
                          UINT mail body length)
```

Description

This service creates and sends an SMTP mail item. The SMTP Client establishes a TCP connection with the SMTP Server and sends a series of SMTP commands. If no errors are encountered, it will transmit the mail message to the Server. Regardless if the mail is sent successfully it will terminate the TCP connection and return a status indicating outcome of the mail transmission. The application may call this service for as many mail messages as it needs to send without limit.

Input Parameters

client_ptr	Pointer to SMTP Client
recipient_address	NULL-terminated recipient address.
subject	NULL-terminated subject line text;.
priority	Priority level at which mail is delivered
mail_body	Pointer to mail message
mail_body_length	Size of mail message

Return Values

NX_SUCCESS	(0x00)	Mail successfully sent	
NX_SMTP_CLIENT_NOT_	_INITIALIZED)	
	(0xB2)	SMTP Client instance not	
		initialized for SMTP session	
status		Outcome of SMTP session	
NX_PTR_ERROR	(0x07)	Invalid pointer parameter	
NX_SMTP_INVALID_PARAM			
	(0xA5)	Invalid non pointer input	
NX_CALLER_ERROR	(0x11)	Invalid caller of this service.	

Allowed From

Threads

Example