NFC Forum Tag Types

The NFC Forum defines several categories of NFC chips in addition to the ISO standards called NFC Forum Tag Types. The purpose of defining these NFC tag types is to create some amount of standardization for the NFC chips for how they work and what features they implement. For almost all Connected Things projects, Type 2 or Type 5 is used. While most NFC enabled phones can read all NFC tag types, desktop NFC devices often only implement one standard so they do not support all NFC tag types. More moden NFC desktop devices such as the CIR315A which use modern NFC controllers do support both standards so they support all tag types.

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NFC Tag Types

The NFC Forum defines 5 types of NFC tags:

NFC TAG TYPE	STANDARD	NOTES
Type 1	ISO 14443A	Not commonly used (Topaz)
Type 2	ISO 14443A	Very popular (Ultralight, NTAGX, ST25TN)
Type 3	ISO 14443A	Not commonly used (Sony FeliCa)
Type 4	ISO 14443A, ISO 14443B	Not commonly used (DESFire)
Type 5	ISO 15693	Commonly used (SLI, SLIX, ST25TV)

Non NFC Forum NFC Chips

Not all HF RFID NFC chips are a part of the NFC Forum defined tag types. The most common is the MIFARE Classic series, which is a popular HF

RFID chip. May NFC phones will not work with this family of NFC chips as they support only NFC Forum tag types.

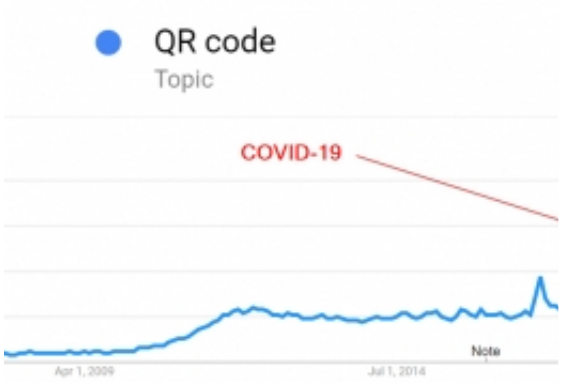
- MIFARE Classic 1k
- MIFARE Classic 4k

STMicroelectronics – Diversifying the NFC Chip Market

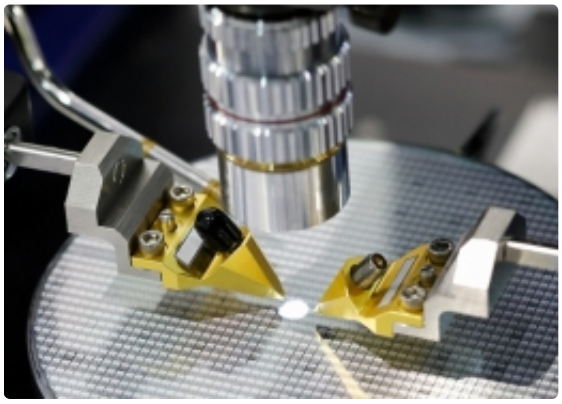
iPhone 14 – Updates to NFC and NFC Tags with iOS 16 in 2022

How Changing from Barcodes to NFC Tags Made the Security Services Industry More Trustworthy

iPhone 13 – Using NFC and NFC Tags with iOS 15 in 2021



How COVID Made QR Codes Cool



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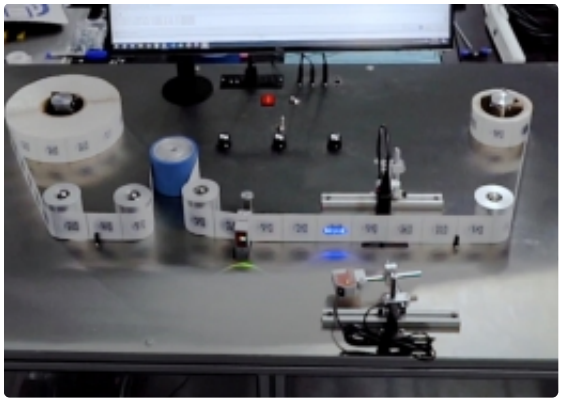

NFC Tag Encoding Table Preview (Video)

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