



# **Software Modem Shield Evaluation Kit: User Guide**

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## 2 Introduction

The Software Modem (referred to modem) is a software set running on a LoRa based module to provide an API for end node operation.

To facilitate the evaluation of the Modem, an application layer firmware was developed to run on a separate application processor.

The purpose of this document is to provide a quick start guide for users to get started with the evaluation of the Software Modem.

## 3 Evaluation Kit Information

### 3.1 Components

The evaluation kit of the Modem consists of 2 hardware pieces: the CMWX1ZZABZ mbed shield board and the Application Processor board.

- Modem board
- Currently the Software Modem firmware (MAC stack and Modem service) developed by Semtech is flashed into the MuRata LoRa module. This module is mounted on a CMWX1ZZABZ mbed shield.
- Application board  
A separate STM32L073RZ<sup>1</sup> microcontroller is used as the application processor. This processor resides on a NUCLEO L073RZ<sup>5</sup> evaluation board.

### 3.2 Connections

The communication of Request/Response between the Software Modem and the Application Processor is made through a UART link; the communication from the evaluation kit to the host PC is made through a Mini USB. This is necessary for command sending and response reading.

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<sup>1</sup> More information at: <https://www.st.com/en/microcontrollers-microprocessors/stm32l073rz.html>

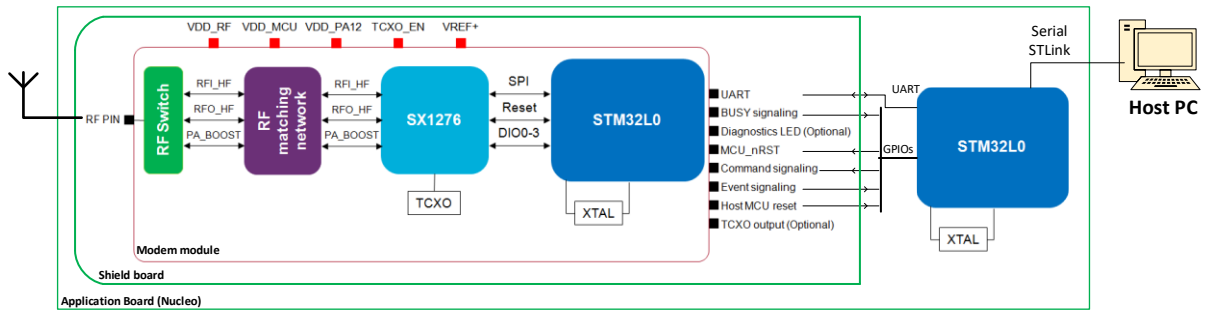


Figure 1 Block diagram illustrating the connections between the Software Modem evaluation kit, the Application Processor, and the Host PC

## 4 Quick Start Guide

### 4.1 Connecting Hardware

- 1 Plug the CMWX1ZZABZ mbed Shield board on top of the Nucleo-L073RZ as showed below:

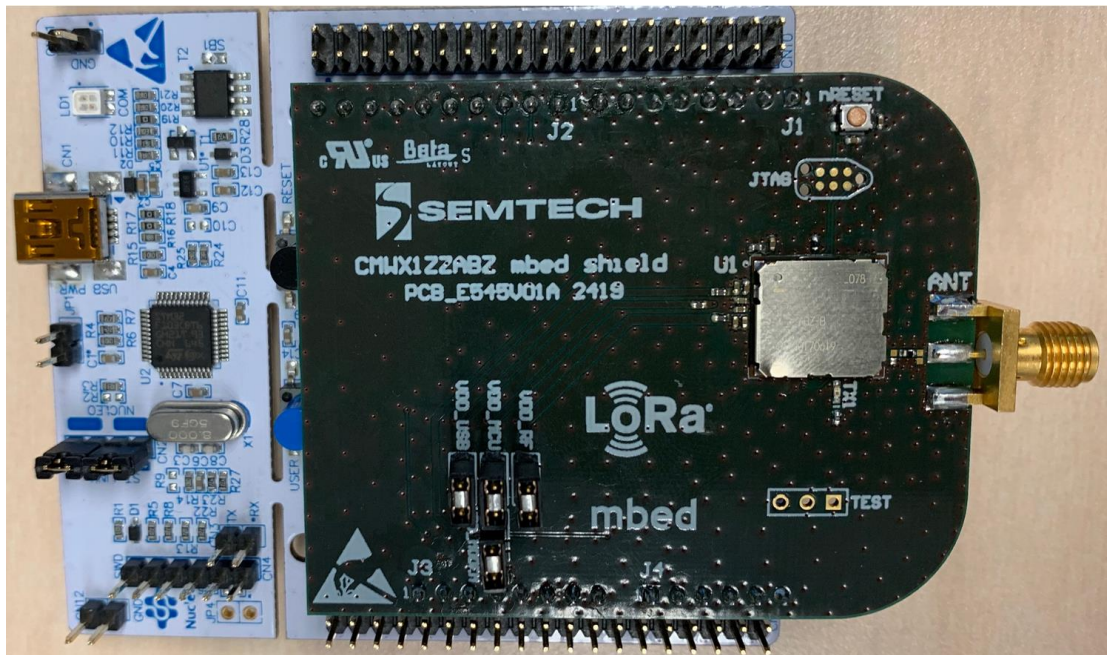


Figure 2 Connections between Software Modem board and Application board

- 2 Connect Mini USB cables from the host PC to the Nucleo-L073RZ board.

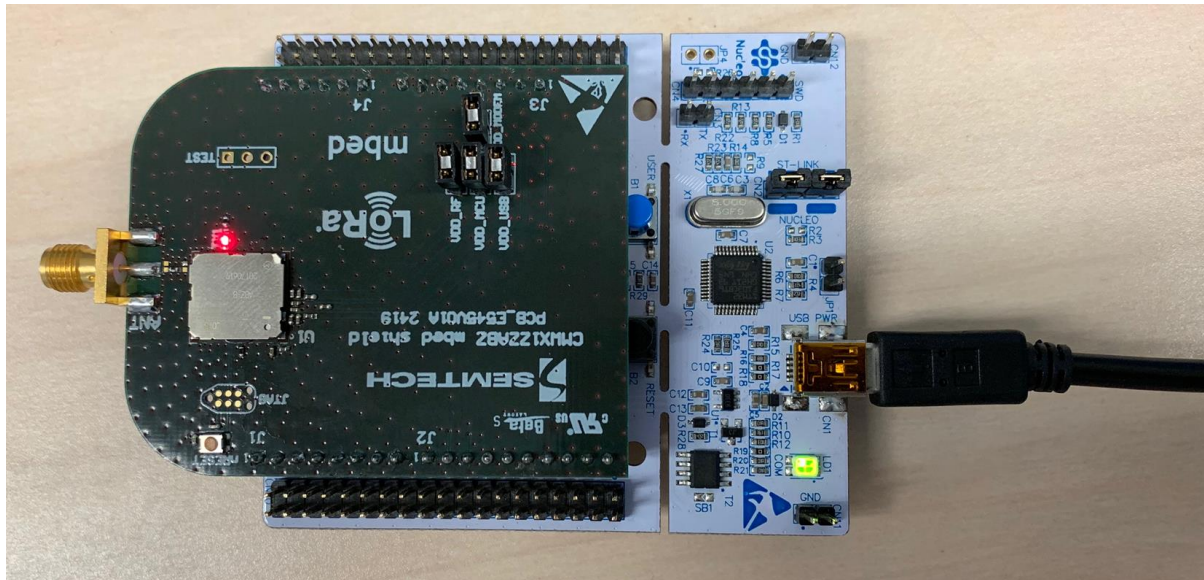
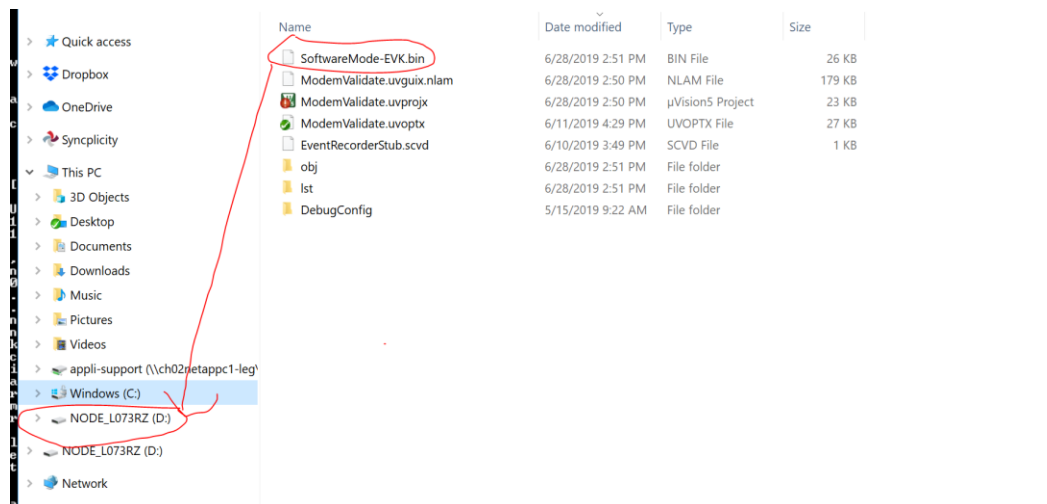


Figure 3 Fully operational Software Modem and Application evaluation kit

## 4.2 Flashing Firmware

There are 2 firmwares: Software Modem firmware in the CMWX1ZZABZ module and application firmware in the Nucloe-L073RZ

1. Software Modem firmware: Software Modem firmware pre-loaded into the CMWX1ZZABZ module.
2. Application firmware: an application firmware can be loaded into the Nucelo\_L073RZ by drag and drop a bin file to the Nucelo\_L073RZ



## 4.3 Getting the Host PC Ready

A COM terminal software can be used to send a command to the evaluation kit, and read the output from either application MCU or Modem MCU. Tera Term<sup>2</sup>, Putty<sup>3</sup> or MobaXterm<sup>4</sup> can be used as the terminal.

Configuration for the COM port connection:

- Baud rate: 115200
- Data bits: 8
- Stop bits: 1
- Parity: None
- Flow control: None

Configuration for the terminal:

- Implicit CR in every LF
- Local echo force on

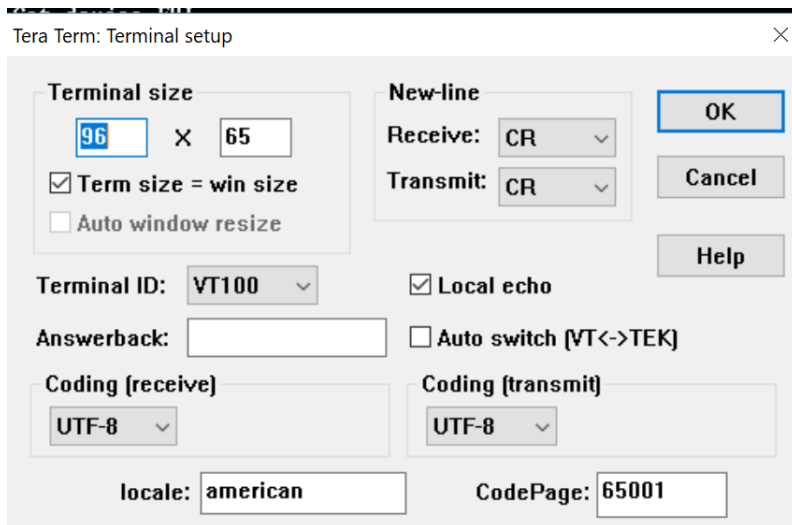


Figure 4 Terminal configuration example for TeraTerm

Connect a mini USB cable from host to application MCU board and open a serial terminal. After pressing RESET button on the Nucleo-L073RZ, the serial terminal should show the start-up information printed by the application MCU as below:

<sup>2</sup> Open source, more information available at: <https://ttssh2.osdn.jp/index.html.en>

<sup>3</sup> Open source, more information available at: <https://www.putty.org/>

<sup>4</sup> Free for personal use, more information available at: <https://mobaxterm.mobatek.net/>

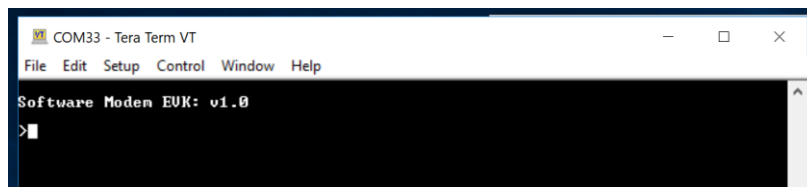


Figure 5 Application board start-up information

## 4.4 Using Commands to Operate Modem

On the application board terminal, using command “h” can list the supported commands.

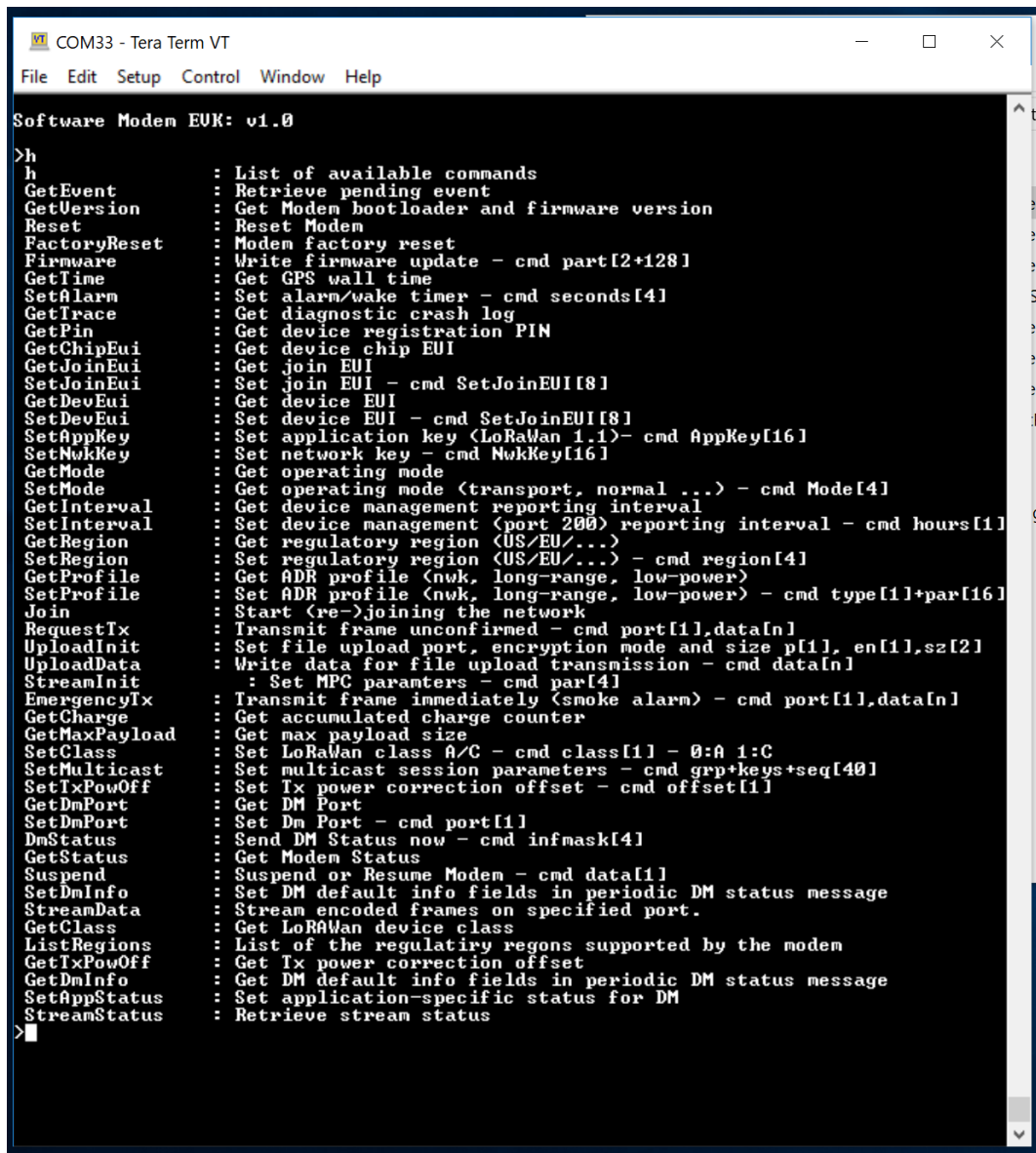


Figure 6 Supported commands



### 4.4.1 Sending Commands

We can type commands to generate corresponding opcode and parameters to the Modem board through UART.

The general command format is:

**“command” “parameters”**

- The “command” is the name of operations, for example, “join” or “requesttx”
- The “parameters” is a list of the parameters sent to the Modem. If it is a hex string, it is converted to an integer, with space in between.  
For example, we can use the command “tx 100 0 1 2 3 4” to send an uplink frame of 5 bytes using FPort 100.

Two types of commands are supported

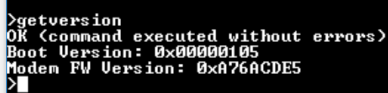
- Synchronous command: commands sent to the Modem with an instant response expected, the response time should be within 50 us.
- Asynchronous command: commands sent to the Modem with an additional non-instant response expected.

Proper network coverage is required so that the Modem can join the network, send uplink frames and receive downlink frames.

### 4.4.2 Reading Responses

On the console, if a response message is available, the application MCU will pull the data, validates the checksum, and display the response data and status.

A screenshot of a successful synchronous command sending and response pull is shown below.



```
>getversion
OK <command executed without errors>
Boot Version: 0x00000105
Modem FW Version: 0xA76ACDE5
>
```

**Figure 7 Screenshot of the message exchange for info command**

Sometimes the terminal displays “NO RESPONSE FROM MODEM”, which indicates the response is not ready by the predefined timeout (50 ms) after finished sending the commands.



## 5 Command Reference

List of commands supported is listed below.

More information:

- A multi-byte parameter should be converted to a list of bytes, which is input by decimal number 0-255.
- The input parameter is LSB first. For example: “alarm 10 0 0 0” is the command to set the alarm to 10 seconds.

**Table 1** List of synchronous commands and responses

Name	Code	Description	Input	Output
<b>GetEvent</b>	0x00	Retrieve pending events		type[1], count[1], eventdata[n]
<b>GetVersion</b>	0x01	Get bootloader + firmware version		bootversion[4], firmwareversion
<b>Reset</b>	0x02	Reset modem		
<b>FactoryReset</b>	0x03	Perform modem factory reset		
<b>Firmware</b>	0x04	Write firmware update	part[4+128]	
<b>GetTime</b>	0x05	Get GPS wall time		timestamp[4]
<b>SetAlarm</b>	0x06	Set alarm / wakeup timer	seconds[4]	
<b>GetTrace</b>	0x07	Get diagnostic crash log		backtrace log[n]
<b>GetPin</b>	0x08	Get device registration PIN		PIN[4]
<b>GetChipEui</b>	0x09	Get device chip EUI		ChipEUI[8]
<b>GetJoinEui</b>	0x0A	Get join EUI		JoinEUI[8]
<b>SetJoinEui</b>	0x0B	Set join EUI and derive keys	JoinEUI[8]	
<b>GetDevEui</b>	0x0C	Get device EUI		DeviceEUI[8]
<b>SetDevEui</b>	0x0D	Set device EUI and derive keys	DeviceEUI[8]	
<b>SetAppKey</b>	0x0E	Set application key	Appkey[16]	
<b>SetNwkKey</b>	0x0F	Set network key	NwkKey[16]	
<b>GetInterval</b>	0x12	Get DM reporting interval		interval[1]
<b>SetInterval</b>	0x13	Set DM reporting interval	interval[1]	
<b>GetRegion</b>	0x14	Get regulatory region		region[1]
<b>SetRegion</b>	0x15	Set regulatory region	region[1]	
<b>GetProfile</b>	0x16	Get ADR profile		type[1]

<b>SetProfile</b>	0x17	Set ADR profile and optional parameters	type[1]+list[16]*	
<b>Join</b>	0x18	Start (re-)joining the network		
<b>RequestTx</b>	0x19	Transmit frame unconfirmed	port[1], data[n]	
<b>UploadInit</b>	0x1A	Set file upload port, encryption mode, size	p[1],en[1],sz[2]	
<b>UploadData</b>	0x1B	Write data for file upload transmission	data[n]	
<b>StreamInit</b>	0x1C	Set data stream parameters	param[2-5]	
<b>EmergencyTx</b>	0x1D	Transmit frame immediately (smoke alarm)	port[1], data[n]	
<b>GetCharge</b>	0x1E	Get accumulated charge counter		charge[4]
<b>GetMaxPayload</b>	0x1F	Get max payload size		size[1]
<b>SetClass</b>	0x20	Set LoRaWAN class A/C	class[1]	
<b>SetMulticast</b>	0x21	Set multicast session parameters	param[40]	
<b>SetTxPowOff</b>	0x22	Set TX power correction offset	offset[1]	
<b>GetDmPort</b>	0x23	Get DM port		port[1]
<b>SetDmPort</b>	0x24	Set DM port	port[1]	
<b>DmStatus</b>	0x25	Send DM status now	inflight[n]	
<b>GetStatus</b>	0x26	Get modem status		status[1]
<b>Suspend</b>	0x27	Suspend/Resume radio operations	suspend[1]	
<b>SetDmInfo</b>	0x28	Set default info for DM status	inflight[n]	
<b>StreamData</b>	0x29	Send data stream record	port[1]+record[n]	
<b>GetClass</b>	0x2A	Get the LoRaWAN device class		class[1]
<b>ListRegions</b>	0x2B	List the supported regulatory regions		regions[1:5]
<b>GetTxPowOff</b>	0x2C	Get power correction offset		offset[1]
<b>GetDmInfo</b>	0x2D	Get default info fields for DM status		inflight[n]
<b>SetAppStatus</b>	0x2E	Set application-specific status for DM	appstatus[8]	
<b>StreamStatus</b>	0x2F	Retrieve stream status	port[1]	pending[2]+free[2]
<b>Test</b>	0x32	Radio test functions (Not Implement Yet)		

The Modem could send an asynchronous event to the application MCU, which is also displayed on the terminal.

**Table 2** List of the events

Event	Code	Description	Output
<b>Reset</b>	0x00	Modem has been reset	reset count[2]
<b>Alarm</b>	0x01	Alarm timer expired	
<b>Joined</b>	0x02	Network successfully joined	
<b>TxDone</b>	0x03	Frame transmitted	Status[1]
<b>DownData</b>	0x04	Downlink data received	port[1], downdata[n]
<b>UploadDone</b>	0x05	File upload completed	Status[1]
<b>SetConf</b>	0x06	Config has been changed by DM	Info tag[1]
<b>Mute</b>	0x07	Modem has been muted or unmuted by DM	Mute[1]
<b>StreamDone</b>	0x08	Data Stream Fragments Sent	



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