Rev. 0 — 02/2021 Application Note

by: NXP Semiconductors

1 Introduction

This document describes how the Secure JTAG on the i.MX RT1170 MCU family can be used.

The i.MX RT series JTAG Controller (JTAGC) provides a possibility to regulate the JTAG access. The three JTAG security modes are available in the i.MX RT series:

- No Debug mode—Maximum security is provided in this mode. All security-sensitive JTAG features are permanently blocked, preventing any debug.
- Secure JTAG mode—High security is provided in this mode. Secret key-based challenge/response authentication mechanism is used for JTAG access
- JTAG Enabled mode—Low security is provided in this mode. It is the default mode of operation for the JTAGC.

Moreover, you can also fully disable the JTAGC functionality. For configuration of these JTAG modes, One Time Programmable (OTP) eFuses are used and burned after packaging. The fuse burning process is irreversible. It is impossible to revert the fuse back to the unburned state. To explain, Secure JTAG mode is used in this document. The aim is to allow return/field testing. Authorized reactivation of the JTAG port is allowed in this mode.

There are several hardware modifications that must be made to fully enable the JTAG on an RT1170-EVK. The resistors R37, R41, R42, R43, and R44 must to be soldered on. The resistors R78, R187, R195, and R208 must be removed. See the hardware design manual and the EVKB schematic for more details.

Before the Secure JTAG can be enabled, enable also the HAB and set it to the HAB Closed mode. You can find the step-by-step guide for enabling HAB in the i.MX RT1170 security application note.

2 i.MX RT1170 Secure JTAG support

JTAG access is limited in the Secure JTAG mode by using a challenge/response-based authentication. Any access to JTAG port is internally checked. Only the devices authorized for debugging (with the right response) can access the JTAG port, otherwise JTAG access is denied. The external debugger tools (such as SEGGER J-Link, Lauterbach Trace32, Arm RVDS/DS5, etc.) supporting the challenge/response-based authentication mechanism can be used. The secure JTAG mode is typically enabled in the factory manufacturing and not used during the development.

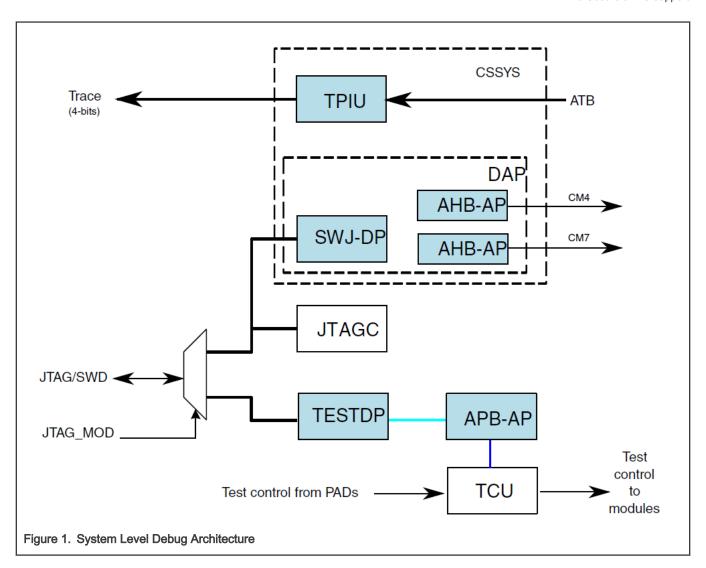
2.1 How to put the chip in Secure JTAG mode

There is only one JTAG interface on the chip with two JTAG modes. The modes can be switched via the JTAG_MOD signal (GPIO_LPSR_13 Alt0). When JTAG_MOD is in log. 0, the JTAG interface is in the debug mode and the DAP and JTAGC are enabled. When JTAG_MOD is in log. 1, the JTAG interface is in the test mode and only TESTDP is enabled. For more information, see the *Chip and Arm Platform Debug Architecture* chapter in the reference manual.



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2.2 i.MX RT JTAGC security modes

The i.MX RT1170 JTAG Controller (JTAGC) supports three different security modes. JTAG enabled is the default mode of operation for JTAGC. The user can select the Secure JTAG mode by programing a value 0x1 to the eFuse labeled JTAG_SMODE, described in Table 1. The eFuse has the default value 0x0, which means that the JTAG controller is unsecured by default. Further details on eFuses are available in the Fusemap and On-Chip OTP Controller (OCOTP_CTRL) chapters in the appropriate SRM_RT1170 Security Reference Manual for the i.MX RT1170 available at www.nxp.com upon a request.

To lock a specific fuse word and prevent further modifications to all the fuses inside the fuse word, set the WORDLOCK bit of the OCOTP register to 0x1 before writing into one of the fuses inside the chosen word. When the writing operation is completed, the whole word is prevented from changing forever.

For more information, see the *Bank redundancy vs ECC* and *Lock Bits* chapters of the *i.MX RT1170 Processor Reference Manual* (document IMXRT1170RM).

NOTE

Programming these fuses disables access to functions and JTAG Security Mode fuse bits. Users should ensure that it is programmed last, once the final fuse configuration has been decided.

Table 1. eFuses associated with the Secure JTAG feature

Addr[bits]	Fuse Name	Fuse Function	Settings
0x960[9]	JTAG_HEO	JTAG HAB Enable Override. Disallows HAB JTAG enabling. The HAB may normally enable JTAG debugging by means of the HAB_JDE-bit in the OCOTP SCS register. The JTAG_HEO-bit can override this behavior	0 - HAB may enable JTAG debug access 1 - HAB JTAG enable is overridden (HAB may not enable JTAG debug access)
0x960[1]	SEC_CONFIG[1]	Security Configuration Mode (together with SEC_CONFIG[0])	SEC_CONFIG[1:0]: 00 - FAB (Open) 01 - Open - allows any code to be flashed and executed, even if it has no valid signature. 1x - Closed (Security On) This is programmed during the HAB enablement phase (By setting the HAB Closed mode)
0x960[7:6]	JTAG_SMODE[1:0]	JTAG Security Mode. Controls the security mode of the JTAG debug interface	
0x960[11]	JTAG_DISABLE	Additional JTAG mode with the highest level of JTAG protection, thereby overriding the JTAG_SMODE eFuses. In this mode all JTAG features are disabled including Secure JTAG and Boundary Scan	0 - JTAG is enabled 1 - JTAG is disabled
0x880[14:11]	JTAG_RESP_RLOCK[3:0]	JTAG_RESP_RLOCK[0]: Read lock of JTAG_RESP[31:0] JTAG_RESP_RLOCK[1]: Read lock of JTAG_RESP[63:32] JTAG_RESP_RLOCK[2]: Read lock of JTAG_RESP[95:64] JTAG_RESP_RLOCK[3]: Read lock of JTAG_RESP[127:96]	Read Lock 0000 - Unlock (The controlled field can be read in the corresponded IIM register) 1111 - Lock (The controlled field can't be read in the corresponded IIM register) others - should not be set

Table continues on the next page...

Table 1. eFuses associated with the Secure JTAG feature (continued)

Addr[bits]	Fuse Name	Fuse Function	Settings
0xCB0-0xCE0	JTAG_RESP[127:0]	Response reference value for the secure JTAG controller	-

NOTE

The level of security cannot be reduced but only increased. Since debug modes are controlled by OTP (Hardware fuses), bits can only be blown once.

For example, following mode changes are possible:

- "JTAG Enabled" to "Secure JTAG"
- "Secure JTAG" to "No debug"

2.3 Secure JTAG eFuses

The challenge/response mechanism used to authenticate the JTAG accesses uses a challenge value and the associated secret response key. The keys are stored in eFuses inside the IC. The i.MX RT1170 series eFuses used to store the challenge value and the secret response key are listed below:

- The challenge value is the "Device Unique ID" which is programmed into the eFuses. This Device ID is unique for each IC and can be read from the OCOTP registers by their Fuse Row Index as follows: OCOTP->FUSE016 and OCOTP->FUSE017. The eFuses are programmed during manufacturing.
- The user program the secret response key (128 bits) into the eFuses marked JTAG_RESP.

After programming the secret response key, the user must disable the ability of software running on the Arm core to read or overwrite the response key. This is done by programming 0x1111 to the associated lock eFuse JTAG_RESP_RLOCK.

The definition of the response value is left to the user. The Arm core cannot read the value once the response fuse field is provisioned and locked.

2.4 SW Enabled JTAG

The Secure JTAG authentication may be bypassed in SW by writing '1' to HAB_JDE (HAB JTAG DEBUG ENABLE) bit in the e-fuse controller module. By this JTAG is opened, regardless of its security mode. The S/W JTAG enable allows JTAG enabling without activating the challenge-Response mechanism.

The platform initialization software should set the LOCK bit for JDE bit before transferring control to the application code to ensure that only the trusted SW can set the JDE bit.

The JTAG SW enable does not allow debug in case of boot or memory fault as it requires reset before entering debug.

The JTAG_JDE bit SW enable backdoor access can be permanently disabled by burning the JTAG_HEO fuse.

The S/W enabled JTAG feature reduces the overall security level of the system as it relies on S/W protections. If this feature is not required, it is strongly recommended to burn the JTAG_HEO e-fuse which disables this feature.

2.4.1 JDE bit control in HAB (High Assurance Boot)

The HAB JDE can be set to '1' by ROM boot SW after unlocking by the Authenticate CSF command.

Before generating of the signed program image, the user must edit the UNLOCK section in the .sb file and provide the device specific UID in the proper format as a sequence of 8-bytes, see the below example for UID = 0x63e1841b440b81d2, please:

```
section (SEC_UNLOCK;
Unlock_Engine = "OCOTP",
Unlock_features = "JTAG, SCS, SRK REVOKE",
Unlock_UID = "0xe1, 0x63, 0x1b, 0x84, 0x0b, 0x44, 0xd2, 0x81"
)
```

For more information about the HAB_JDE SW control by platform initialization SW in HAB (High Assurance Boot) refer to section **5.2.13 Unlock (HAB only)** in [5].

2.5 Secure JTAG debug authentication protocol

When the JTAGC is in the secure debug mode, the authentication process is as follows:

- 1. JTAG shifts the challenge key through the Test Data Output (TDO) chain.
- 2. On the host side, the debug tool takes the challenge key as an input and generates the expected response key.
- 3. The associated response key is shifted back through the Test Data Input (TDI) chain.
- 4. The JTAGC compares the expected internal fused response key with the one shifted in and enables the JTAG access only if it matches.

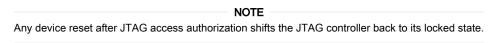
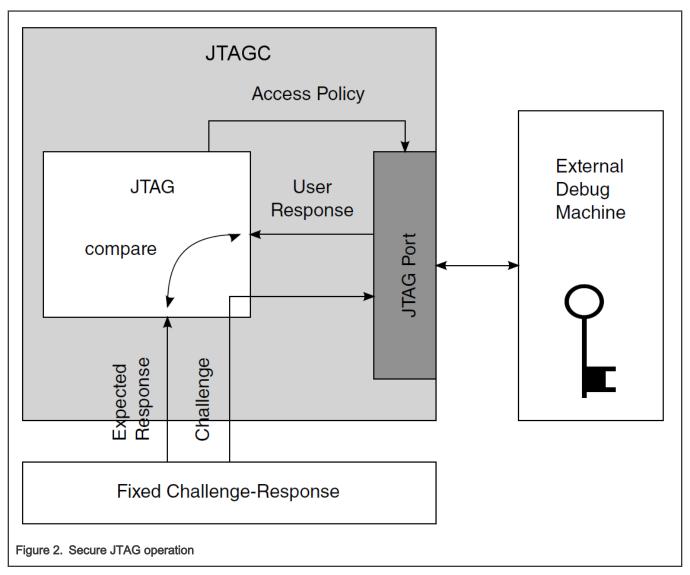


Figure 2 shows how the challenge/response mechanism works with the JTAG tools.



The JTAG debug tool passes the retrieved challenge key to the user's application and gets the associated response key in return. The management of the challenge/response pairs is user-dependent and not handled by NXP or the debug tool vendors. Key management is discussed further in Secret response key approaches.

2.6 JTAGC disable fuse

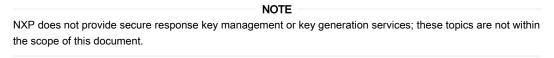
In addition to the various JTAG security modes implemented internally in the JTAGC, there is an option to disable the JTAGC functionality with the JTAG_DISABLE eFuse. This eFuse creates an additional JTAG mode, JTAG Disabled with the highest level of JTAG protection, overriding the JTAG_SMODE eFuses. In this mode all JTAG features are disabled, including Secure JTAG and Boundary Scan; users must ensure that this fuse is not blown if they wish to use the Secure JTAG functionality.

3 Secret response key approaches

For every challenge value ("Device Unique ID" in i.MX RT1170) that is retrieved with a JTAG instruction, there is an associated secret response key known only by the user. The JTAG tool vendor only handles the JTAG mechanism used by this authentication process, and does not know the secret response key value programmed into the eFuses. It is left to the user to determine the level of protection that is put in place.

The following are policies for secret response key management by the user application.

- Identical Response Keys —The same response key is used for each chip. The user can choose a response key that
 is fused in all chips. This is the simplest, but least sophisticated usage from a security point of view. If an unauthorized
 user gains access to the fused response key, all the products fused with this response key can be accessed through the
 JTAG port.
- 2. Database of Unique Response Keys—The user maintains a database of all generated response keys. The user application can look up the table based on the challenge value. It is possible to implement a secure server holding the challenge/response pairs authenticating the user but this requires an independent implementation effort. The challenge values for all ICs must be read and a database of matching challenge response pairs must be built. Storing and managing numerous response keys is not trivial, but advantageous from a security standpoint, as it does not rely on any breakable algorithms.
- 3. Algorithmically Generated Response Keys—Response keys are generated based on an algorithm. With this method, there is no large database to manage. For instance, the challenge value can be used by the algorithm to generate a response key. This response key is programmed into JTAG_RESP eFuses. Then, every time the challenge value is retrieved through JTAG, it can be processed by the user application and used to generate the expected response key for the JTAG debug tools. Once the algorithm is exposed or reverse engineered, this method is no longer secure.



3.1 Programming Secure JTAG eFuses using the NXP tool

To program the relevant eFuses needed for Secure JTAG on the chip, the user should first follow the steps below. Information on the On-Chip OTP Controller (OCOTP_CTRL) and the Fusemap can be found in the appropriate i.MX RT1170 series reference manual available at http://www.nxp.com.

- 1. Download the latest Secure Provisioning Tool from http://www.nxp.com.
- 2. Enable the HAB and set the security configuration mode to HAB closed (see the step-by-step guide in the i.MX RT1170 security application note).
- 3. The user should program the values below to the eFuses needed for secure JTAG:
 - Read and back-up the 64-bit "Challenge" value stored in the eFuse UUID[1,0], location (0x900, 0x910).
 - Program a 128-bit (16 Bytes) secret response key in the eFuse JTAG_RESP, location (0xcb0-0xce0). In the example below, value "0x12345678123456781234567812345678" is programmed.
 - Program 0x1 in the eFuse JTAG_SMODE (0x960[7:6]) to switch the JTAGC to Secure JTAG mode.
 - Finally, the user must program 0x1 in the eFuse to disable read/write access of the secret response key. After this operation, the secret response field "JTAG_RESP" becomes "invisible" in the fuse map.

To have the Secure JTAG enabled, follow the steps mentioned above in Programming Secure JTAG eFuses using the NXP tool and see Table 1 for more details about the appropriate eFuse bits.

4 Debugging with the Secure JTAG enabled

To use the Secure JTAG feature, the JTAG debugger must support it. The example provided in this section uses the SEGGER J-Link debug tool.

The following steps assume that users have experience working with the debug tools.

4.1 Steps to connect J-Link debugger via Secure JTAG

The following steps connect the SEGGER J-Link debug tool to the i.MX RT1170 when using Secure JTAG:

1. Download the SEGGER J-Link Software and documentation pack:

https://www.segger.com/downloads/jlink/#J-LinkSoftwareAndDocumentationPack

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If you wish to navigate to these scripts from SEGGER main page for reference, they are located under "Downloads" - "J-Link / J-Trace" - "J-Link Software and Documentation Pack".

2. Download and edit the file J-Link script file named "NXP_RT1170_SecureJTAG.JlinkScript". The script file can be received from NXP upon request. In this file, add the secret response key which was programmed into the JTAG_RESP eFuse. In the following example, the secret response key is "0x12345678123456781234567812345678", and matches the response key programmed in the eFuses in Programming Secure JTAG eFuses using the NXP tool.

// Secure response stored @ 0xcb0-0xce0 in eFUSE region (OTP memory)

Key0 = 0x12345678;

Key1 = 0x12345678;

Key2 = 0x12345678;

Key3 = 0x12345678;

- 3. Locate the SEGGER SW J-Link installation directory.
- 4. Run the "jlink.exe" with the mentioned script file as a parameter.

For instance:

jlink.exe -JLinkScriptFile NXP_RT1170_SecureJTAG.JlinkScript -device CORTEX-M7 -if JTAG -speed 4000 -autoconnect 1 -JTAGConf -1,-1

NOTE

The external IDE tool can call "JLinkGDBServer.exe" application with the same script file to unsecure the target.

The tool script should read the Challenge value from eFUSE UUID[1,0] location. And it provides the appropriate Response from for JTAGC for authentication match.

The debug tool should successfully attach to the i.MX RT1170 target over JTAG. The screen capture in Figure 3 shows a successful attach over Secure JTAG:

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```
Connecting to target via JTAG
InitTarget() start
TotalIRLen = 4, IRPrint = 0x01
JTAG chain detection found 1 devices:
#0 Id: 0x088C601D, IRLen: 04, JTAG-DP
Challenge UUID0:0x82967D6A
Challenge UUID1:0x3218080E
InitTarget() end
TotalIRLen = 4, IRPrint = 0x01
JTAG chain detection found 1 devices:
#0 Id: 0x088C601D, IRLen: 04, JTAG-DP
DPv0 detected
Scanning AP map to find all available APs
AP[3]: Stopped AP scan as end of AP map has been reached
AP[0]: AHB-AP (IDR: 0x84770001)
AP[1]: AHB-AP (IDR: 0x24770011)
AP[2]: APB-AP (IDR: 0x54770002)
Iterating through AP map to find AHB-AP to use
AP[0]: Core found
AP[0]: AHB-AP ROM base: 0xE00FD000
CPUID register: 0x411FC272. Implementer code: 0x41 (ARM)
Found Cortex-M7 r1p2, Little endian.
FPUnit: 8 code (BP) slots and 0 literal slots
CoreSight components:
ROMTb1[0] @ E00FD000
ROMTbl[0][0]: E00FE000, CID: B105100D, PID: 000BB4C8 ROM Table
ROMTbl[1] @ E00FE000
ROMTbl[1][0]: E00FF000, CID: B105100D, PID: 000BB4C7 ROM Table
ROMTb1[2] @ E00FF000
ROMTbl[2][0]: E000E000, CID: B105E00D, PID: 000BB00C SCS-M7
ROMTbl[2][1]: E0001000, CID: B105E00D, PID: 000BB002 DWT
ROMTbl[2][2]: E0002000, CID: B105E00D, PID: 000BB00E FPB-M7
ROMTbl[2][3]: E0000000, CID: B105E00D, PID: 000BB001 ITM
ROMTbl[1][1]: E0041000, CID: B105900D, PID: 001BB975 ETM-M7
ROMTbl[1][2]: E0042000, CID: B105900D, PID: 004BB906 CTI
ROMTbl[0][1]: E0043000, CID: B105900D, PID: 001BB908 CSTF
Cache: Separate I- and D-cache.
I-Cache L1: 32 KB, 512 Sets, 32 Bytes/Line, 2-Way
D-Cache L1: 32 KB, 256 Sets, 32 Bytes/Line, 4-Way
Cortex-M7 identified.
J-Link>
Figure 3. SEGGER J-Link successfully connected to Secured JTA
```

Users can now perform normal JTAG debugger operations, as the device has been authenticated using the Challenge-Response mechanism.

NOTE

Any reset after JTAG access authorization shifts the JTAG controller back to its lock state, requiring that this authentication process is repeated.

 To ensure, that i.MX RT series JTAGC is operating in secure mode, edit the "NXP_RT1170_SecureJTAG.JlinkScript" file, provide an incorrect response key, and rerun the script. The debug tool should fail to attach to the i.MX RT1170 target over JTAG.

4.2 Example of SEGGER J-link Secure JTAG unlock script

```
int InitTarget(void) {
 int v;
 int Key0;
 int Key1;
 int Key2;
 int Key3;
  // Secure response stored @ [0xcb0-0xce0] in eFUSE region (OTP memory)
  Key0 = 0x12345678;
  Key1 = 0x12345678;
  Key2 = 0x12345678;
 Key3 = 0x12345678;
  JLINK CORESIGHT Configure("IRPre=0;DRPre=0;IRPost=0;DRPost=0;IRLenDevice=4");
  CPU = CORTEX M7;
  JLINK SYS Sleep(100);
  {\tt JLINK\_JTAG\_WriteIR(0x9);} // Output Challenge instruction
  // Readback Challenge, Shift 64 dummy bits on TDI
  JLINK JTAG StartDR();
  JLINK SYS Report ("Reading Challenge ID....");
  // 32-bit dummy write on TDI / read 32 bits on TDO
  JLINK JTAG WriteDRCont(0xffffffff, 32);
  v = JLINK JTAG GetU32(0);
  JLINK SYS Report1("Challenge UUID0:", v);
 JLINK JTAG WriteDREnd(0xffffffff, 32);
  v = JLINK JTAG GetU32(0);
  JLINK SYS Report1("Challenge UUID1:", v);
  JLINK JTAG WriteIR(0x1); // Output Response instruction
  JLINK JTAG StartDR();
  JLINK JTAG WriteDRCont(Key0, 32);
 JLINK_JTAG_WriteDRCont(Key1, 32);
 JLINK JTAG WriteDRCont(Key2, 32);
 JLINK JTAG WriteDREnd(Key3, 32);
  return 0;
```

5 Conclusion

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This application note describes the eFuse configuration for Secure JTAG and the authentication process, which is validated and demonstrated using the SEGGER J-Link script. Support and examples for the other Debugging tools like Lauterbach Trace32 and Arm DS5 will be included in later versions.

6 References

- 1. Configuring Secure JTAG for the i.MX 6 Series Family of Application Processors (document AN4686)
- 2. Security Reference Manual for the i.MX RT1170 Processor (document IMXRT1170SRM), available upon a request at www.nxp.com
- 3. J-Link / J-Trace User Guide https://www.segger.com/downloads/jlink/UM08001>
- 4. Training JTAG Interface, Lauterbach TRACE32 http://www2.lauterbach.com/pdf/training_jtag.pdf
- HAB Code-Signing Tool User's Guide (Rev. 3.2.0, 04/2019), available at https://www.nxp.com/webapp/Download? colCode=IMX_CST3.2.0_TOOL&location=null

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