



Proprietary Flex SDK 3.8.1.0 GA

Simplicity SDK Suite 2024.6.1

July 24, 2024

The Proprietary Flex SDK is a complete software development suite for proprietary wireless applications. Per its namesake, Flex offers two implementation options.

The first uses Silicon Labs RAIL (Radio Abstraction Interface Layer), an intuitive and easily-customizable radio interface layer designed to support both proprietary and standards-based wireless protocols.

The second uses Silicon Labs Connect, an IEEE 802.15.4-based networking stack designed for customizable broad-based proprietary wireless networking solutions that require low power consumption and operates in either the sub-GHz or 2.4 GHz frequency bands. The solution is targeted towards simple network topologies.

The Flex SDK is supplied with extensive documentation and sample applications. All examples are provided in source code within the Flex SDK sample applications.

These release notes cover SDK version(s):

3.8.1.0 GA released July 24, 2024.

3.8.0.0 GA released June 5, 2024.

Compatibility and Use Notices

For information about security updates and notices, see the Security chapter of the Platform Release Notes installed with this SDK or on the TECH DOCS tab on <https://www.silabs.com/developers/flex-sdk-connect-net-working-stack>. Silicon Labs also strongly recommends that you subscribe to Security Advisories for up-to-date information. For instructions, or if you are new to the Silicon Labs Flex SDK, see [Using This Release](#).

Compatible Compilers:

IAR Embedded Workbench for ARM (IAR-EWARM) version 9.40.1

- Using wine to build with the IarBuild.exe command line utility or IAR Embedded Workbench GUI on macOS or Linux could result in incorrect files being used due to collisions in wine's hashing algorithm for generating short file names.
- Customers on macOS or Linux are advised not to build with IAR outside of Simplicity Studio. Customers who do should carefully verify that the correct files are being used.

GCC (The GNU Compiler Collection) version 12.2.1, provided with Simplicity Studio.



RAIL APPS AND LIBRARY KEY FEATURES

- Flex-RAIL SDK support for EFR32xG22E Devices
- LCD Display usage in WM-BUS Meter Sample Application on DK2600
- Collision Detection support in RAIL Library in concurrent mode on FG25
- Added support for additional Coex TX and RX metrics events to RAIL coexistence utility
- Updated some RAIL APIs to better prepare for future API changes while retaining backwards compile-time compatibility

CONNECT APPS AND STACK KEY FEATURES

- Flex-Connect SDK support for EFR32xG22E Devices
- Removed support for Series 0/1



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1 Connect Applications

Simplicity SDK is an embedded software development platform for building IoT products based on our Series 2 and Series 3 wireless and MCU devices. It integrates wireless protocol stacks, middleware, peripheral drivers, a bootloader, and application examples – a solid framework for building power-optimized and secure IoT devices.

The Simplicity SDK offers powerful features such as ultra-low power consumption, strong network reliability, support for a large number of nodes, and abstraction of complex requirements like multiprotocol and pre-certification. Additionally, Silicon Labs provides over-the-air (OTA) software and security updates to remotely update devices, minimize maintenance costs, and enhance the end-user product experience.

Simplicity SDK is a follow-on from our popular Gecko SDK, which will continue to be available providing long-term support for our Series 0 and Series 1 devices. For additional information on the Series 0 and Series 1 devices please reference: [Series 0 and Series 1 EFM32/EZR32/EFR32 device \(silabs.com\)](#).

1.1 New Items

Added in release 3.8.0.0

- Support for EFR32xG22E Devices

1.2 Improvements

Changed in release 3.8.0.0

None.

1.3 Fixed Issues

Fixed in release 3.8.0.0

None.

1.4 Known Issues in the Current Release

Issues in bold were added since the previous release. If you have missed a release, recent release notes are available on the TECH DOCS tab on <https://www.silabs.com/developers/flex-sdk-connect-networking-stack>.

ID #	Description	Workaround
652925	EFR32XG21 is not supported for "Flex (Connect) - SoC Light Example DMP" and "Flex (Connect) - SoC Switch Example"	
1139850	DMP instabilities with XG27	

1.5 Deprecated Items

Deprecated in release 3.8.0.0

Flex SDK Flex folder is deprecated and will be removed. It has been split into Rail folder for RAIL SDK and Connect folder for Connect SDK..

1.6 Removed Items

Removed in release 3.8.0.0

None.

2 Connect Stack

2.1 New Items

Added in release 3.8.0.0

- Added a new API `emberSetUnencryptedPacketsAcceptance()` that can be called to enable the filtering of unencrypted data packets. If enabled, all unencrypted data will be ignored by the stack and won't be visible from the application layer.

2.2 Improvements

Changed in release 3.8.0.0

None.

2.3 Fixed Issues

Fixed in release 3.8.1.0

ID #	Description
1301334	Fixed a memory leak when waking up from EM2. A buffer is allocated during the mac initialization and wake-up phases. It should only be allocated during initialization.

Fixed in release 3.8.0.0

ID #	Description
1294620	Called Silicon Labs thread-safe malloc wrapper instead of the standard malloc. Current dynamic memory allocation could cause memory corruption.

2.4 Known Issues in the Current Release

Issues in bold were added since the previous release. If you have missed a release, recent release notes are available on the TECH DOCS tab on <https://www.silabs.com/developers/gecko-software-development-kit>.

ID #	Description	Workaround
	When running the RAIL Multiprotocol Library (used for example when running DMP Connect+BLE), IR Calibration is not performed because of a known issue in the RAIL Multiprotocol Library. As result, there is an RX sensitivity loss in the order of 3 or 4 dBm.	
501561	In the Legacy HAL component, the PA configuration is hard-coded regardless of the user or board settings.	Until this is changed to properly pull from the configuration header, the file <code>ember-phy.c</code> in the user's project will need to be modified by hand to reflect the desired PA mode, voltage, and ramp time.
711804	Connecting multiple devices simultaneously may fail with a timeout error.	

2.5 Deprecated Items

Deprecated in release 3.8.0.0

None

2.6 Removed Items

Removed in release 3.8.0.0

None

3 RAIL Applications

3.1 New Items

Added in release 3.8.0.0

- Support for EFR32xG22E Devices
- RAIL - SoC Wireless M-bus Meter:
 - CLI support
 - Three different sensors can be used:
 - Wireless M-bus virtual water meter sensor
 - Wireless M-bus thermo meter sensor
 - Wireless M-bus button pulse counter
 - DK2600 7-segment LCD support

3.2 Improvements

Changed in release 3.8.0.0

- RAIL - SoC Range Test BLE and IEEE802.15.4: Channels number can be set real-time both for the BLE and the 15.4 PHYs according to standard.
- RAIL - SoC Mode Switch: Mode switch can be triggered by BTN1.
- RAIL - SoC Wireless M-bus Meter improved timing accuracy

3.3 Fixed Issues

Fixed in release 3.8.0.0

None.

3.4 Known Issues in the Current Release

ID #	Description	Workaround
1268208 1268301	The power consumption of <i>DK2600</i> can't be optimized if configuration time for EM2 if UART is being used, as the value of <code>SL_IOSTREAM_USART_{instance}_BAUDRATE</code> doesn't take effect. The default value used instead is 115200 bps. Typical use case is RAIL - SoC Wireless M-bus Meter with DK2600 board.	Update UART baud rate to 9600 bps at Simplicity Studio Admin Console. This is necessary for EM2.

3.5 Deprecated Items

Deprecated in release 3.8.0.0

Flex SDK Flex folder is deprecated and will be removed. It has been split into Rail folder for RAIL SDK and Connect folder for Connect SDK..

3.6 Removed Items

Removed in release 3.8.0.0

None.

4 RAIL Library

4.1 New Items

Added in release 3.8.1.0

- Added support of automatic LNA bypass on the EFR32xG25 parts.

Added in release 3.8.0.0

- Added support of collision detection for concurrent PHYs on the EFR32xG25 parts.
- Added support for additional Coex TX and RX metrics events to the "RAIL Utility, Coexistence" component.

4.2 Improvements

Changed in release 3.8.1.0

None.

Changed in release 3.8.0.0

- Updated a few APIs to return RAIL_Status_t which were previously returning void.
- Updated RAIL_IEEE802154_WriteEnhAck and RAIL_WriteAutoAckFifo() which formerly took uint8_t ackDataLen parameter now take uint16_t ackDataLen parameter.
- Added missing runtime equivalent API RAIL_SupportsPathDiversity() of RAIL_SUPPORTS_PATH_DIVERSITY.

4.3 Fixed Issues

Fixed in release 3.8.1.0

ID #	Description
1271542	Fixed an issue on EFR32xG21 where an inopportune-timed RAIL_StopTx() using RAIL_STOP_MODE_ACTIVE can hang a subsequent CSMA/LBT transmit during its clear-channel assessment (CCA).

Fixed in release 3.8.0.0

ID #	Description
1242662	Fixed incorrect default values for SL_RAIL_UTIL_PA_CALIBRATION_ENABLE on the EFR32xG24 and EFR32xG25 parts, along with an issue where Power Amplifier calibrations were not properly disabled when SL_RAIL_UTIL_PA_CALIBRATION_ENABLE was disabled.
1255524	Fixed a dynamic multiprotocol issue where RAIL_BLE_Init() was called (which implicitly establishes the BLE 1Mbps PHY), but after a protocol switch returns to BLE, its RAIL_BLE_ConfigChannelRadioParams() settings were not being properly reapplied.
1256045	Fixed an issue where Signal Identifier options were being errantly displayed in Simplicity Studio for the "RAIL Utility, Coexistence" component on platforms that don't support the Signal Identifier feature.
1265376	Fixed an issue in the UC components where the RAIL power manager support could be initialized after the radio was started in certain example applications. This would lead to radio state and power mode requirements being improperly tracked, as you must initialize power manager support before any radio operations.
1266003	Fixed an issue where RAIL_BLE_ConfigChannelRadioParams() was improperly overriding the BLE Quuppa PHY whitening configuration.

4.4 Known Issues in the Current Release

Issues in bold were added since the previous release.

ID #	Description	Workaround
	Using direct mode (or IQ) functionality on EFR32xG23 requires a specifically set radio configuration that is not yet supported by the radio configurator. For these requirements, reach out to technical support who could provide that configuration based on your specification	
641705	Infinite receive operations where the frame's fixed length is set to 0 are not working correctly on the EFR32xG23 series chips.	
732659	On EFR32xG23: Wi-SUN FSK mode 1a exhibits a PER floor with frequency offsets around ± 8 to 10 KHz Wi-SUN FSK mode 1b exhibits a PER floor with frequency offsets around ± 18 to 20 KHz	

4.5 Deprecated Items

- The RAIL 2.x API is planned for deprecation in the 24Q4-GA release (December 2024). At that time, the new RAIL 3.0 API will be released for all supported chips along with a RAIL 2.x compatibility layer and migration guide.
 - The goal of this new API is to get rid of some unused features, add better support for concurrent listening use cases, and to simplify channel and PA configurations.
 - The migration is intended to be straight forward and simple for the majority of customers. However, in some cases manual help might be required to ease this transition.

4.6 Removed Items

None.

5 Using This Release

This release contains the following:

- Radio Abstraction Interface Layer (RAIL) stack library
- Connect Stack Library
- RAIL and Connect Sample Applications
- RAIL and Connect Components and Application Framework

This SDK depends on the Simplicity Platform. The Simplicity Platform code provides functionality that supports protocol plugins and APIs in the form of drivers and other lower layer features that interact directly with Silicon Labs chips and modules. Simplicity Platform components include EMLIB, EMDRV, RAIL Library, NVM3, and mbedTLS. Simplicity Platform release notes are available through Simplicity Studio's Documentation tab.

For more information about the Flex SDK v3.x see [UG103.13: RAIL Fundamentals](#) and [UG103.12: Silicon Labs Connect Fundamentals](#). If you are a first time user, see [QSG168: Proprietary Flex SDK v3.x Quick Start Guide](#).

5.1 Installation and Use

The Proprietary Flex SDK is provided as part of the Simplicity SDK, the suite of Silicon Labs SDKs. To quickly get started with the Simplicity SDK, install [Simplicity Studio 5](#), which will set up your development environment and walk you through Simplicity SDK installation. Simplicity Studio 5 includes everything needed for IoT product development with Silicon Labs devices, including a resource and project launcher, software configuration tools, full IDE with GNU toolchain, and analysis tools. Installation instructions are provided in the online [Simplicity Studio 5 User's Guide](#).

Alternatively, Simplicity SDK may be installed manually by downloading or cloning the latest from GitHub. See https://github.com/SiliconLabs/simplicity_sdk for more information.

Simplicity Studio installs the GSDK by default in:

- (Windows): C:\Users\<NAME>\SimplicityStudio\SDKs\simplicity_sdk
- (MacOS): /Users/<NAME>/SimplicityStudio/SDKs/simplicity_sdk

Documentation specific to the SDK version is installed with the SDK. Additional information can often be found in the [knowledge base articles \(KBAs\)](#). API references and other information about this and earlier releases is available on <https://docs.silabs.com/>.

5.2 Security Information

Secure Vault Integration

When deployed to Secure Vault High devices, sensitive keys are protected using the Secure Vault Key Management functionality. The following table shows the protected keys and their storage protection characteristics.

Wrapped Key	Exportable / Non-Exportable	Notes
Thread Master Key	Exportable	Must be exportable to form the TLVs
PSKc	Exportable	Must be exportable to form the TLVs
Key Encryption Key	Exportable	Must be exportable to form the TLVs
MLE Key	Non-Exportable	
Temporary MLE Key	Non-Exportable	
MAC Previous Key	Non-Exportable	
MAC Current Key	Non-Exportable	
MAC Next Key	Non-Exportable	

Wrapped keys that are marked as "Non-Exportable" can be used but cannot be viewed or shared at runtime.

Wrapped keys that are marked as "Exportable" can be used or shared at runtime but remain encrypted while stored in flash.

For more information on Secure Vault Key Management functionality, see [AN1271: Secure Key Storage](#).

Security Advisories

To subscribe to Security Advisories, log in to the Silicon Labs customer portal, then select **Account Home**. Click **HOME** to go to the portal home page and then click the **Manage Notifications** tile. Make sure that 'Software/Security Advisory Notices & Product Change Notices (PCNs)' is checked, and that you are subscribed at minimum for your platform and protocol. Click **Save** to save any changes.

The following figure is an example:

The screenshot shows the 'Update Preference' form in the Silicon Labs customer portal. The form is titled 'Update Preference' and has a green pencil icon. It is divided into two main sections: 'WHAT EMAILS WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE?' and 'SELECT THE PRODUCTS TO RECEIVE UPDATES FOR'.

WHAT EMAILS WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE?

- Newsletters:**
 - ☐ Community Monthly Newsletter
 - ☐ Sales Newsletter
 - ☐ Micrium Newsletter
- Product Specific Notifications:**
 - ☐ Product Information and Newsletter
 - ☒ Software/Security Advisory Notices & Product Change Notices (PCNs)
 - ☐ Technical documents, updates, updates, news, info, press, etc.

SELECT THE PRODUCTS TO RECEIVE UPDATES FOR

☐ Select/Unselect All	☐ Power over Ethernet
☐ Audio and Radio	☐ Sensors
☐ Interface	☐ TV and Video
☐ Isolation	☐ Voice
☐ Modems and Data	☐ Wireless
☐ Microcontrollers	☐ Bluetooth Classic
☐ 8-bit MCUs	☐ Bluetooth Low Energy
☒ 32-bit MCUs	☒ Proprietary
☐ Timing	☐ WiFi
☐ Clocks	☐ ZigBee and Thread
☐ Buffers	☐ Z-Wave
☐ Oscillators	
☐ CDR and PHY	

5.3 Support

Development Kit customers are eligible for training and technical support. Use the [Silicon Labs Flex web page](#) to obtain information about all Silicon Labs Thread products and services, and to sign up for product support.

You can contact Silicon Laboratories support at <http://www.silabs.com/support>.

Simplicity Studio

One-click access to MCU and wireless tools, documentation, software, source code libraries & more. Available for Windows, Mac and Linux!



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