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FreeMASTER sensor tool user manual

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User manual

Document Information

Information	Content
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Abstract	FreeMASTER-Sensor-Tool User manual



Revision history

Rev	Date	Description
1.4	20230606	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document information: added keywords "Evaluation, Application Development". Section 3.4, revised the FreeMASTER sensor tool directory structure shown in Step 2 adding directories for fxls8961af, fxls8971cf, and nmh1000. Section 4.1, added five sensor evaluation boards to Step 1 and added new note after Step 2. Section 4.2, updated the directory structure in Step 1 and added a note with steps in Step 2. Section 4.3, Step 7: revised "FRDMK22F-A8974_FXLS8974CF_Demo" to "FRDM_STBI_A8974_FXLS8974CF_Demo" and updated the image in Figure 6.
1.3	20230601	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 3.3, revised "Download the installer file..." to "Download the latest installer file...." Section 6, revised the URL for reference [7] linking to the download area for the current set of Windows installers.
1.2	20220707	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 2, inserted new bullet "Real-Time sensor data logging...." Section 3, revised the section name from "FreeMASTER sensors tool bring-up" to "Installing Free MASTER sensor tool". Section 3.3, removed "3.1" from the first paragraph. Section 4.1, revised as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised the formatting for several unordered bulleted items into ordered list steps and a note. Under "The current release supports..." revised the first bullet from "FRDM-K22F-A896x (FXLS896xAF Demo)" to "FRDM-K22F-A896x (FXLS8964AF, FXLS8967AF Demo)". Revised "This document refers to FRDM-K64F-AGM01 (FXOS8700 Demo) for execution steps." to "This document refers to FRDM-K22F-A8974 (FXLS8974CF Demo) for execution steps." Revised "Connect FRDM-K64F-AGM01 evaluation kit..." to "Connect FRDM-K22F-A8974 evaluation kit...." Section 4.2, revised both steps including the FreeMASTER sensor tool directory structure shown in Step 1. Section 4.3, revised as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Step 4, Figure 3, updated the image. Step 7, revised the content of the step and updated the image in Figure 6, Step 8, revised the content of the step and updated the image in Figure 7. Step 9, revised the content of the step and updated the image in Figure 8. Step 10, Figure 9, updated the image. Section 5.1, Step 10, revised the evaluation kit name from "FRDM-K64F-AGM01" to "FRDM-K22F-A8974". Section 5.2, Step 3, revised the evaluation kit name from "FRDM-K64F-AGM01" to "FRDM-K22F-A8974". Section 6, updated "3.1" to "3.x" in reference 7.
1.1	20220111	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 3.4, revised the sensor tool directory structure below step 2 adding "fxls896xaf" and "fxls8974cf". Section 4.1, inserted "FRDM-K22F-A896x (FXLS896xAF Demo)" and "FRDM-K22F-A8974 (FXLS8974CF Demo)" to the list of supported sensor evaluation boards Revision history, relocated the revision history from the end to the start of the document to conform with NXP document content guidelines.
1	20210128	Initial release

1 Overview

FreeMASTER sensor tool is the evaluation and application development software based on NXP FreeMASTER framework for IoT, industrial, and medical sensors. It provides an out-of-box sensor demonstration GUI for quick sensor evaluation. It also provides a development framework for end users to extend/create their custom applications.

FreeMASTER^[1] is a real-time debug monitor and data visualization tool ideal for application development in support of IoT, industrial, and medical applications. FreeMASTER:

- supports non-intrusive monitoring of variables on a running system
- displays multiple variables on oscilloscope-like displays as standard widgets (gauges, sliders, and more)
- displays variable data in text form, offering simple-to-use data recorders.

FreeMASTER can link with custom HTML, MATLAB, or Excel to other scriptable frameworks to add MCU hardware into control loops.

The FreeMASTER sensor tool enables quick out of the box sensor demonstrations and provides flexibility for end users to rapidly prototype and create custom GUIs.

2 Features

- **Real-time sensor output monitoring:** Monitor multiple memory variables at individual sampling rates and chart up to eight streams in the oscilloscope/graph view.
- **Real-time sensor register control:** Modify memory variables and registers in real-time. Control hardware with real-time registers, and control the write capability of variables.
- **Data visualization:** Enables third-party instrumentation components inserted into the HTML code as embedded ActiveX objects. Allows for the creation of user-friendly displays of complex real-time data dashboards.
- **Sensor register page:** Provides a register map of the sensors and allows quick read and write of different register bits in real-time, allowing detailed sensor evaluation.
- **Out of the box sensor demonstration:** Provides quick visualization of sensor data and other sensor outputs based on the pre-configured sensor settings in the firmware.
- **Ease of use: Development platforms integration**
 - Integration with MCUXpresso^[2] SDK and ISSDK^[3] with multiple toolchain support (MCUXpresso IDE, IAR, KEIL, Arm GCC) for embedded application development.
 - JavaScript-powered HTML control forms can be extended. Users can provide an arbitrary collection of open source instrumentation gauges, dials, knobs, and sliders to create complex, elegant custom visual dashboards.
- **Real-time sensor data logging:** Supports real-time data logging using the "Pipes" feature at higher data rates (tested up to 400 Hz).

3 Installing FreeMASTER sensor tool

3.1 Prerequisite

This document assumes completion of the following prerequisites prior to attempting to run the FreeMASTER Sensors tool.

- Availability of supported Sensor evaluation board^[4].
- User understanding of the debug environment set up for the Freedom family of development boards using OpenSDA^[5] or third-party debugger with their IDE of choice
- Recommended toolchain/IDE (MCUXpresso IDE^[6]) is installed on the development PC.
- User familiarity with the MCUXpresso SDK and ISSDK.
- Windows drivers are installed on the development PC corresponding to the OpenSDA application selected.

3.2 System configuration

[Table 1](#) shows the system configuration required for the sensor evaluation tool.

Table 1. Recommended system configuration

Parameter	Recommended Configuration
Operating System	Microsoft Windows 7 or later
Communication to the target hardware	Serial RS-232 or USB port
Processor Speed	2.8 GHz
RAM	8 GB
Free hard disk space	20+ GB

3.3 Download and install FreeMASTER

The FreeMASTER application is distributed as a standalone, single-file, self-extracting, executable file.

Download the latest installer file from the FreeMASTER tool Windows installation page^[7], run it, and proceed according to the onscreen instructions. For more details, refer to the FreeMASTER for Embedded Applications user guide^[8].

The FreeMASTER installation comes with several plug-in modules, enabling it to access the target hardware over alternative communication interfaces.

- The BDM Communication plug-in enables FreeMASTER to perform basic memory access operations on the supported platforms without any target CPU intervention. The BDM plug-in supports the BDM and JTAG debugging probes like the PE Micro Multilink, SEGGER J-Link, and Arm CMSISDAP.
- The packet-driven BDM Communication plug-in can be used as an additional layer on top of the BDM plug-in to enable high-level protocol commands like Recorder, TSA, or memory protection. The BDM plug-in uses either the JTAG or BDM interface to exchange communication protocol frames with the target driver, rather than just accessing the data directly.
- The FreeMASTER-over-CAN plug-in enables using FreeMASTER services over a CAN interface.

For more details about the communication plug-in modules, see the "readme" documents installed together with the latest FreeMASTER application.

3.4 Download and install FreeMASTER sensor tool

The FreeMASTER sensor tool provides the following:

- Sensors FreeMASTER embedded application: an ISSDK-based sensor embedded application, integrated with FreeMASTER drivers, using a proprietary communication protocol to communicate to FreeMASTER host side.
- Sensors FreeMASTER Host GUI: FreeMASTER based host GUI application enabling direct read/write access mapping to sensor registers, variables along with control page, and register page implementation.

To download and install the FreeMASTER sensor tool, perform following steps:

1. Download the windows installer from the "Download" section on the [FreeMASTER sensor tool](#) webpage.
2. Run the installer and follow any onscreen instructions. By default, the installer app installs the package into c:\npx\FreeMASTER_Sensor_Tool folder and refer to it as "<FreeMASTER Sensor Tool directory>".

```
<FreeMASTER sensor tool directory>
.
├── css          <Folder containing CSS files>
├── docs        <Folder containing user manual document>
├── js          <Folder containing required JS packages>
├── resources  <Folder containing images>
├── sensors    <Folder containing sensor specific GUIs>
│   ├── fxls8471
│   ├── fxls8962
│   ├── fxls896xaf
│   ├── fxls8974cf
│   ├── fxls8961af
│   ├── fxls8971cf
│   ├── nmh1000
│   ├── fxos8700
│   └── mma865x
```

4 Running Out-of-box sensors demonstrations

4.1 Plug-in sensor evaluation board

1. Connect the sensor evaluation board to the PC via the USB cable between the OpenSDA USB port on the board and the USB connector on the PC.

The current release supports the following sensor evaluation boards:

- FRDM-K22F-A896x (FXLS8964AF, FXLS8967AF Demo)
- FRDM-STBA-A896x (FXLS8964AF, FXLS8967AF Demo using LPCXpresso55S16-EVK)
- FRDM-K22F-A8974 (FXLS8974CF Demo)
- FRDM-STBI-A8974 (FXLS8974CF Demo using LPCXpresso55S16-EVK)
- FRDM-STBI-A8971-A8971 (FXLS8971CF Demo using LPCXpresso55S16-EVK)
- FRDM-STBA-A8961 (FXLS8961AF Demo using LPCXpresso55S16-EVK)
- FRDMSTBI-NMH1000 (NMH1000 Demo using FRDM-KE15Z)
- FRDM-K64F-AGM01 (FXOS8700 Demo)
- FRDM-K64F-AGM04 (MMA8652 Demo)
- FRDMKL27Z-A8471 (FXLS8471 Demo)
- FRDM-K22F-AGMP03 (FXLS8962 Demo)

Note: This document refers to FRDM-K22F-A8974 (FXLS8974CF Demo) for execution steps. For other supported sensor demos, apply similar steps.

2. Connect FRDM-K22F-A8974 evaluation kit to the development PC via the USB cable between the OpenSDA USB port on the board and the USB connector on the PC.

Note: In order to run FXLS8974CF with LPCXpresso55S16-EVK, Connect USB cable from LINK2 port on LPC55S16-EVK to your test machine.

4.2 Download sensor demo firmware

1. Go to "<FreeMASTER sensor tool directory>/sensors/fxls8974cf" folder.

```
< FreeMASTER sensor tool directory >
├── sensors <Folder containing sensor specific GUIs>
│   └── fxls8974cf
│       ├── FRDM_STBI_A8974_FXLS8974CF_Demo.pmpx
│       ├── demo_details.htm
│       ├── frdmk22f_a89xx_i2c_project.bin
│       ├── frdmk22f_a89xx_spi_project.bin
│       ├── hardware_configuration.htm
│       ├── index.html
│       ├── lpcxpresso55s16_a89xx_i2c_project.bin
│       ├── lpcxpresso55s16_a89xx_spi_project.bin
│       └── reg.csv
```

2. Drag and drop "frdmk22f_a89xx_i2c_project.bin" firmware into "FRDM-K22FD" virtual mass drive on the Windows PC. When the file copy operation completes, unplug and replug the board into the Windows PC.

Note: In order to run FXLS8974CF demo with LPCXpresso55S16-EVK, follow these steps:

- Check your test machine "Device Manager", you should see LPC-Link| UCom Port (COMx) popping up.
- Go to "<FreeMASTER sensor tool directory>/sensors/fxls8974cf/lpc55s16_loader" folder.
- Open a command prompt to lpc55s16_loader folder.
- Run "lpc55s16_load.bat COMx ../<*.bin>" on command prompt.
 - COMx is the COM port identified under your test machine's "Device Manager".
 - *.bin is the bin file e.g. "lpcxpresso55s16_a89xx_i2c_project.bin" or "lpcxpresso55s16_a89xx_spi_project.bin".
- Follow the instructions when lpc55s16_load.bat is executed.

4.3 Run sensor demo

1. Launch FreeMASTER Windows application.
2. Click "Connection Wizard" and click "Next>".

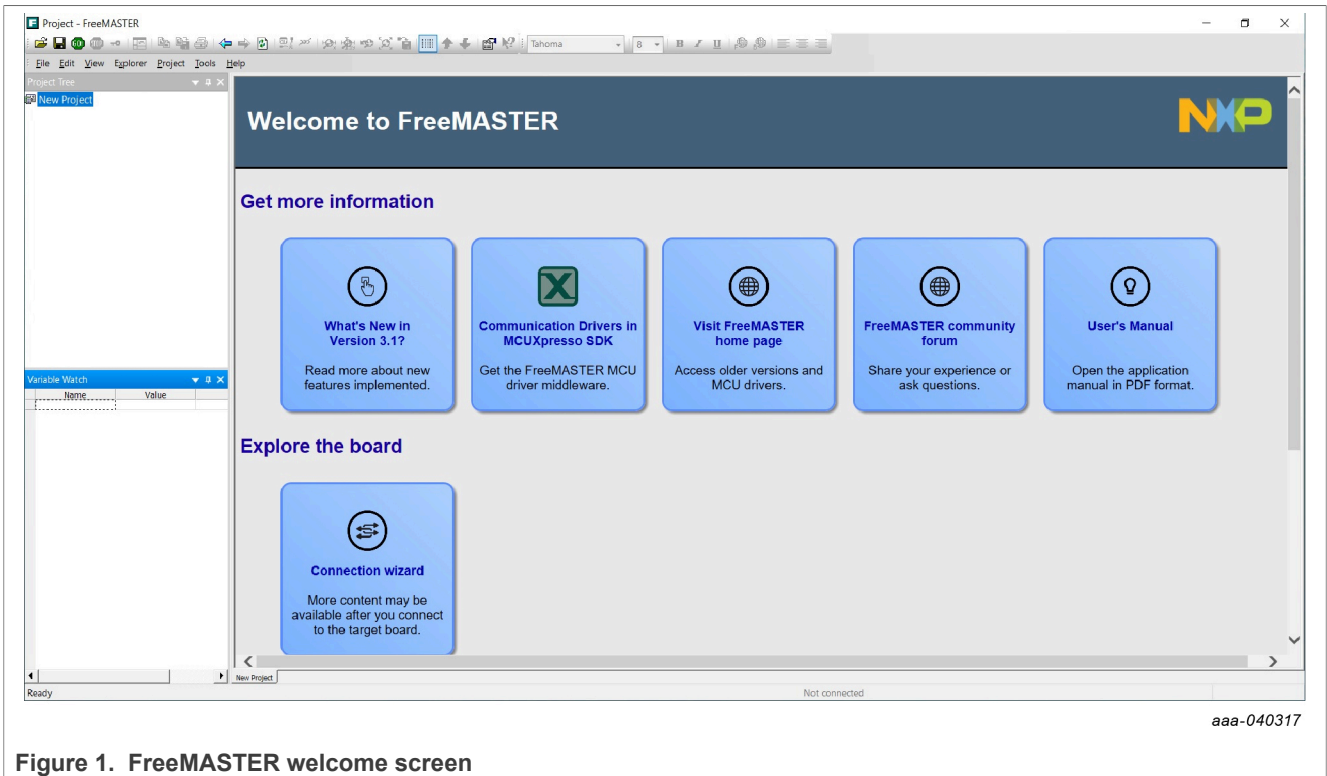


Figure 1. FreeMASTER welcome screen

3. Select “Use direct connection to on board USB port” and click “Next>”.

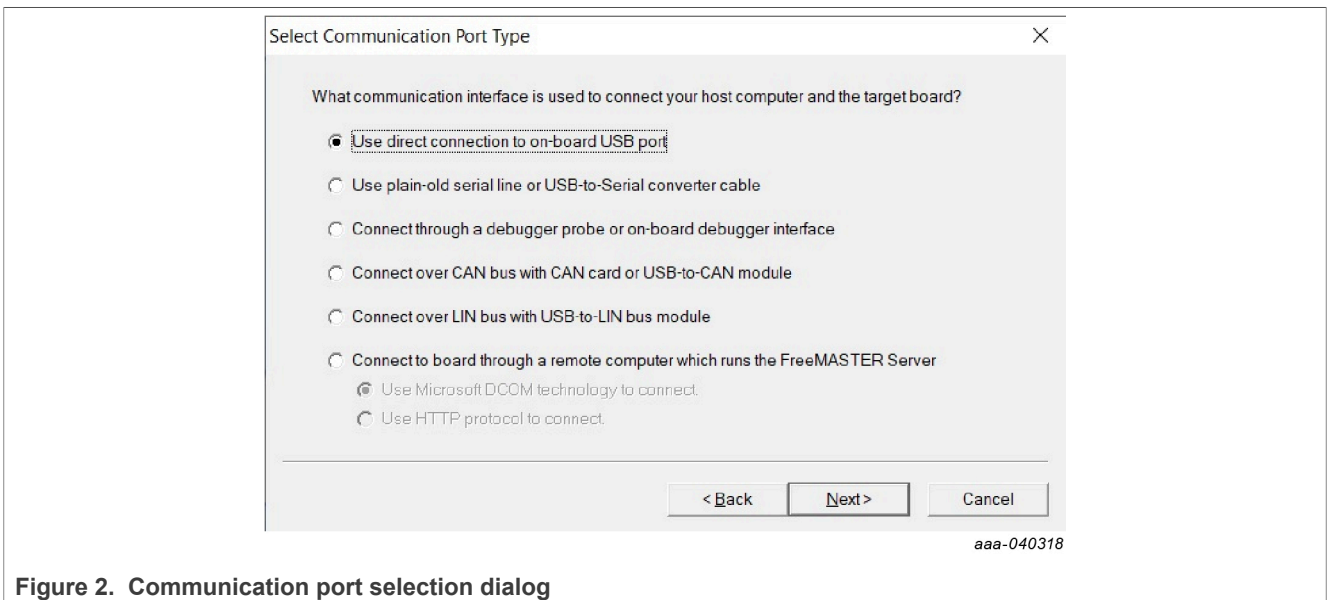


Figure 2. Communication port selection dialog

4. The FreeMASTER tool detects the COM port with the configured baud-rate automatically. Confirm the COM port and baud-rate, click “Next>”.

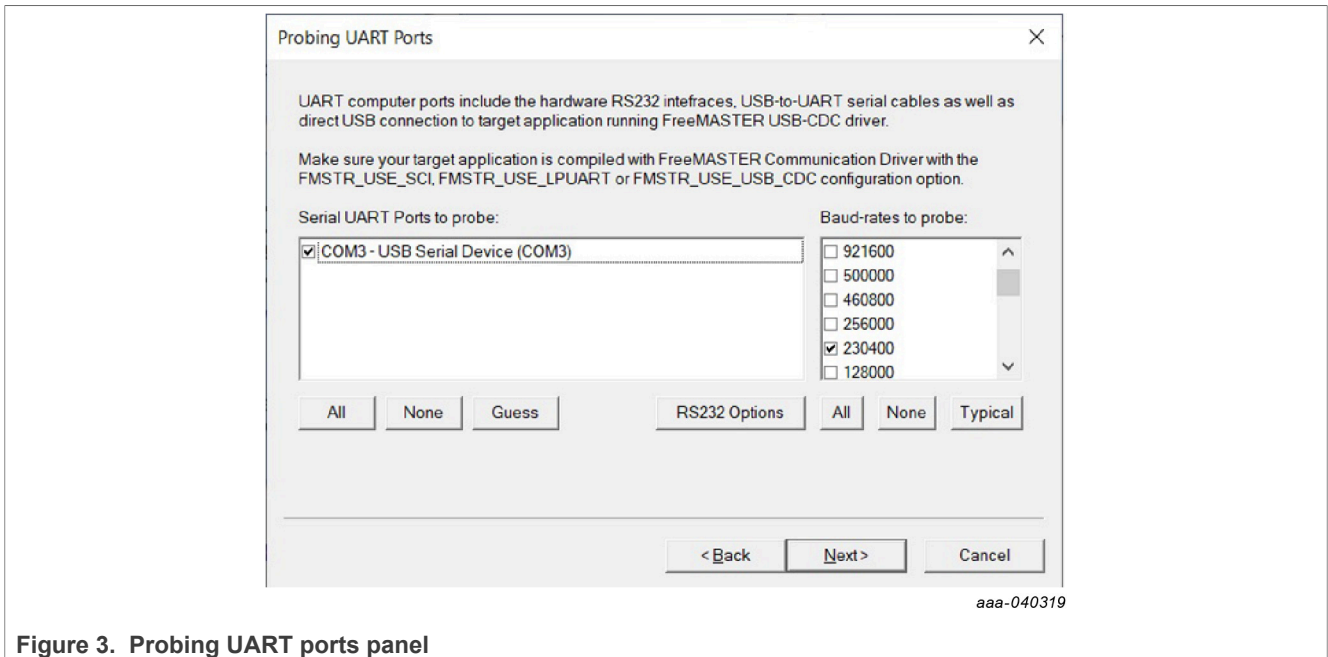


Figure 3. Probing UART ports panel

- FreeMASTER detects the board connection and asks to confirm the detected settings. Confirm by selecting “Yes” and click “Finish”.

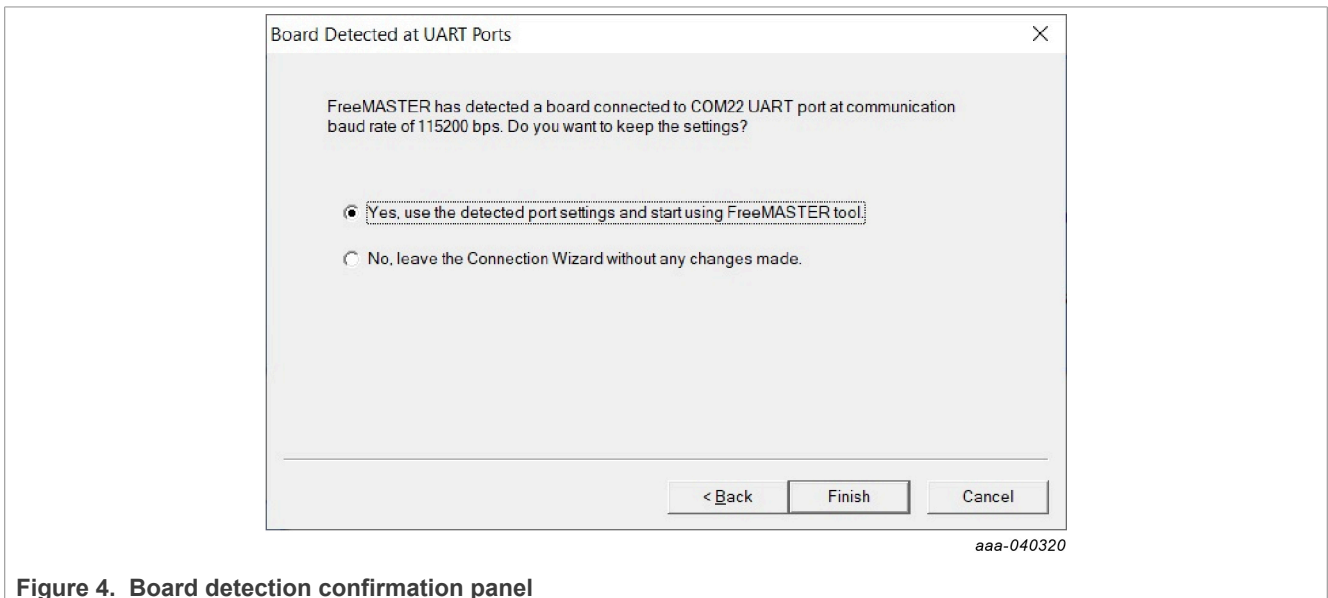
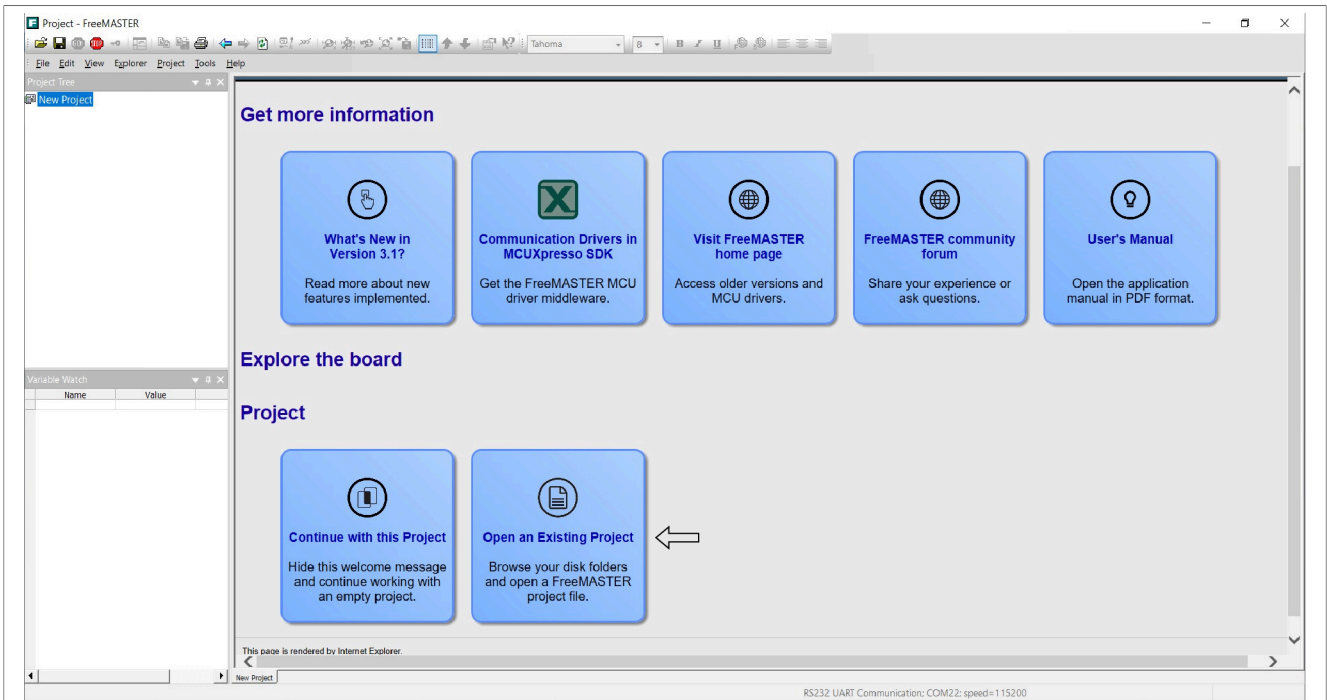


Figure 4. Board detection confirmation panel

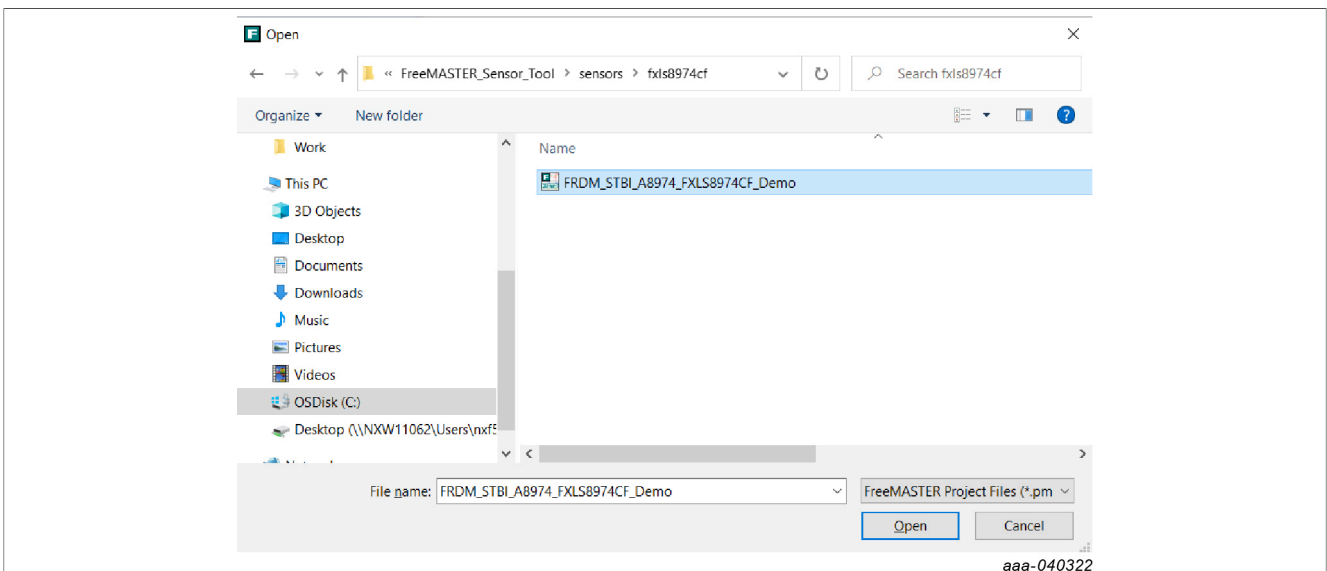
- FreeMASTER opens an option to “Open an Existing Project”. Select the option.



aaa-040321

Figure 5. Open existing project dialog

7. Browse to “<FreeMASTER sensor tool directory>/sensors/fxls8974cf” folder and select “FRDM_STBI_A8974_FXLS8974CF_Demo” Sensor demo project. Click “Open”.



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Figure 6. Open sensor demonstration project

8. FreeMASTER launches the FXLS8974CF sensor demo and opens the control page. On this page, the user views sensor power control selections, FS/ODR selections, Offset/Noise measurement selection, along with time-series charts for accelerometer samples.

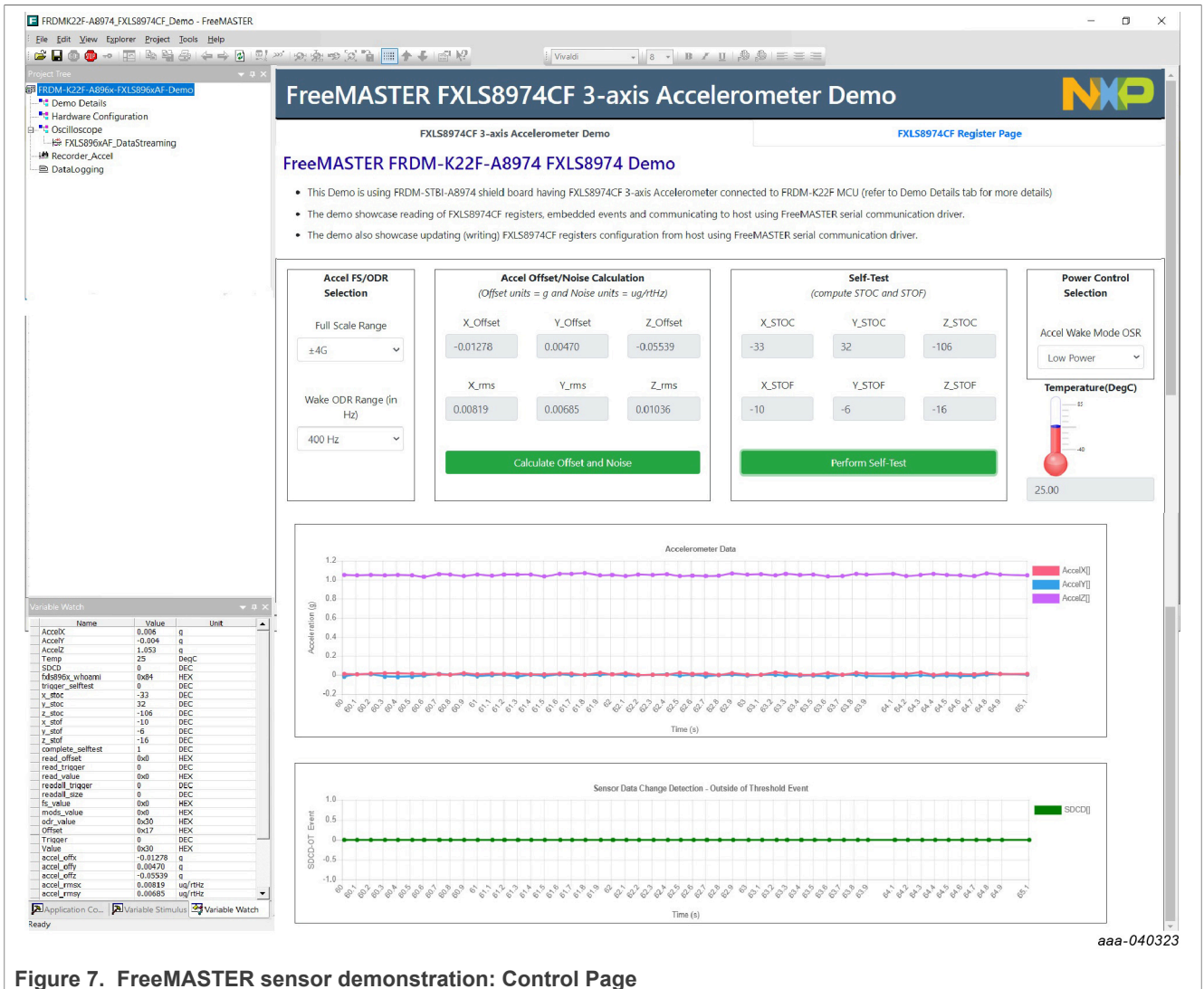
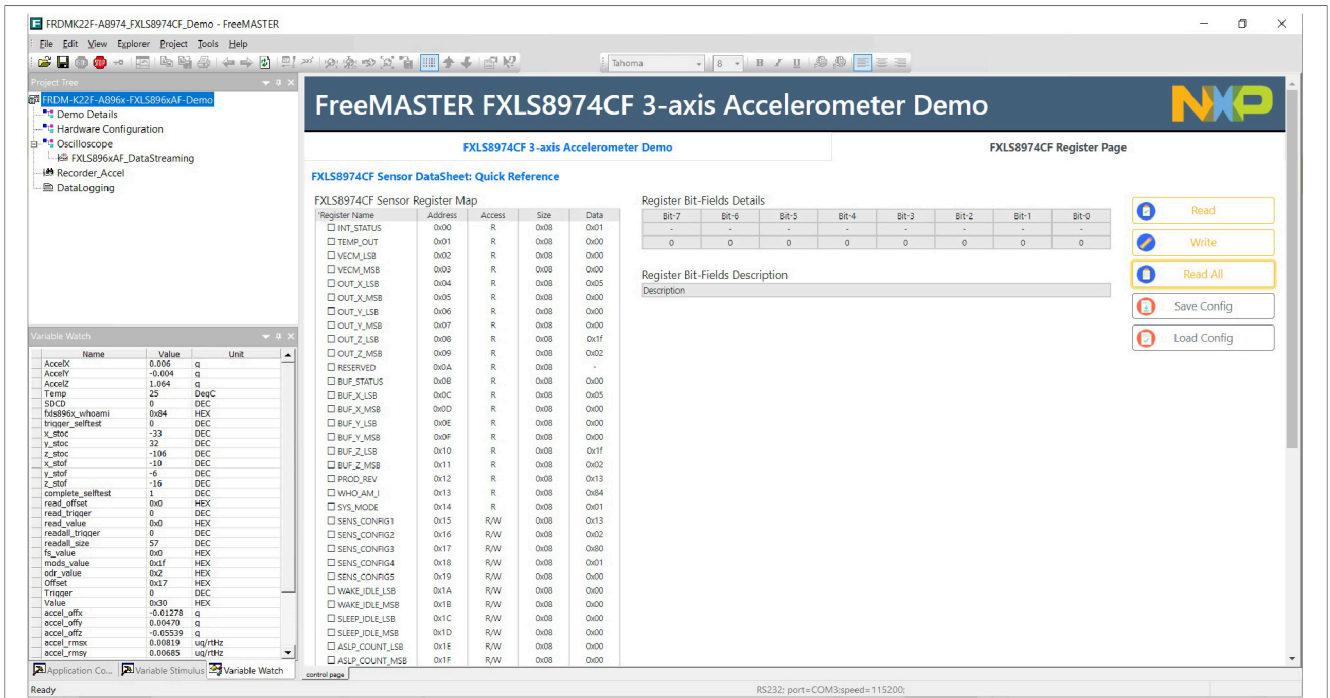


Figure 7. FreeMASTER sensor demonstration: Control Page

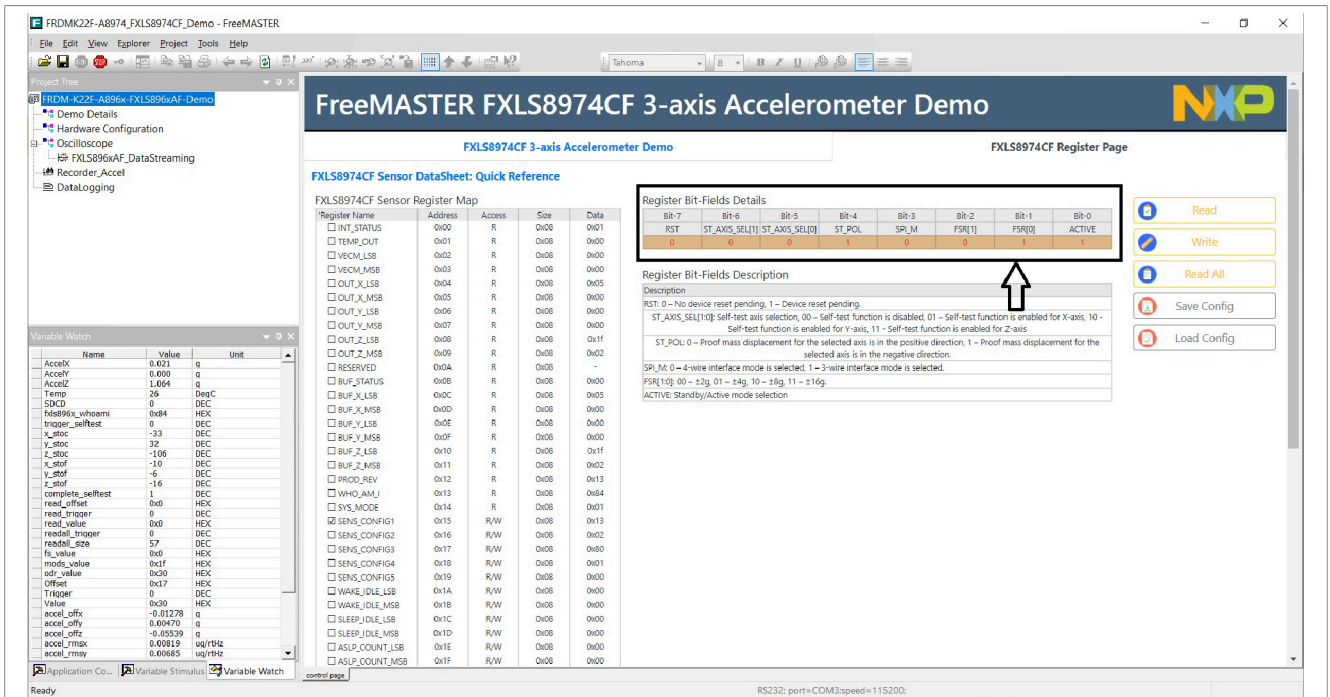
9. To access the FXLS8974CF register set click “FXLS8974CF Register Page” tab. Click “Read All” to view instantaneous values of the FXLS8974CF sensor registers in real-time.



aaa-040324

Figure 8. FreeMASTER sensor demonstration: Register Page

- Users can select specific registers and perform single register read or write actions in real-time. For a chosen sensor register with read/write access, users can toggle bit-fields to change the register value. Users can click “Write” to perform register write operation and/or perform register read by clicking “Read”.



aaa-040325

Figure 9. User controlled interactive register editing panel

5 FreeMASTER sensor tool development flow

5.1 Creating sensor embedded application

1. Migrate the ISSDK-based embedded application to use FreeMASTER drivers and FreeMASTER Proprietary Comm Protocol to communicate to host side.
2. [Figure 10](#) shows the sensor embedded application development flow:

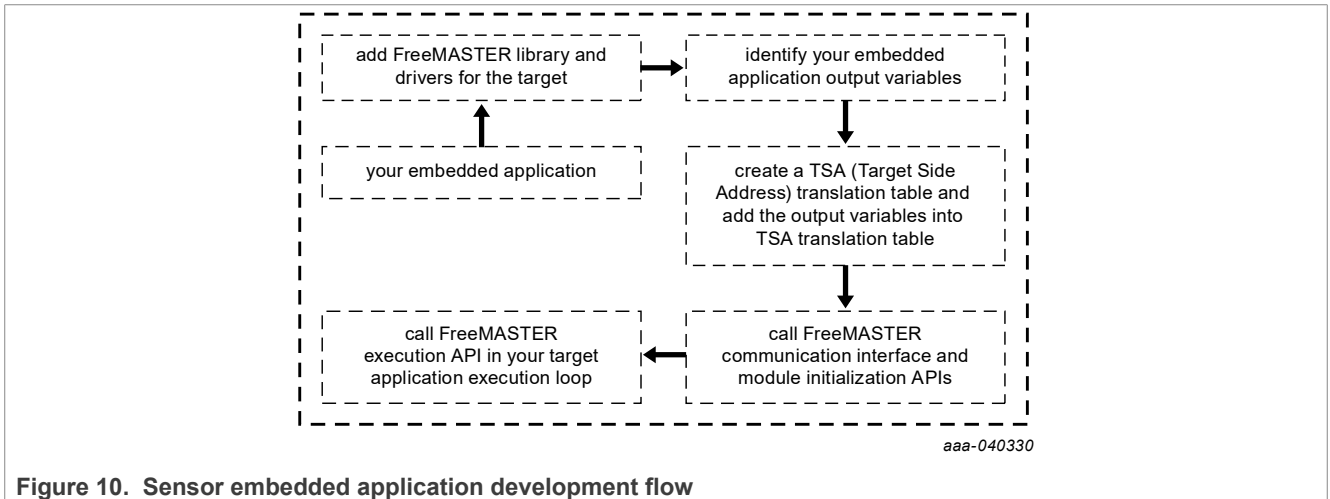


Figure 10. Sensor embedded application development flow

3. Start with the ISSDK out-of-box embedded application project for the supported sensor toolbox evaluation kit.
4. Add FreeMASTER drivers for the desired platform into the embedded project.
5. Identify the target output variables to control, monitor, and visualize using the sensor host application.
6. Create a TSA (Target Side Addressable) translation table using FreeMASTER macros and add user identified output variables into TSA.
7. Call FreeMASTER communication to initialize the API and module initialize the API as part of the application initializations.
8. Call the FreeMASTER execution API in the application execution loop.
9. With these changes completed in the embedded application, the FreeMASTER sensor embedded application is ready.
10. Rebuild the embedded project and program the FRDM-K22F-A8974 evaluation kit.

5.2 Creating sensor host gui application

1. Create the sensor host GUI application using out-of-box demo template.
2. [Figure 11](#) shows the sensor host GUI application development flow:

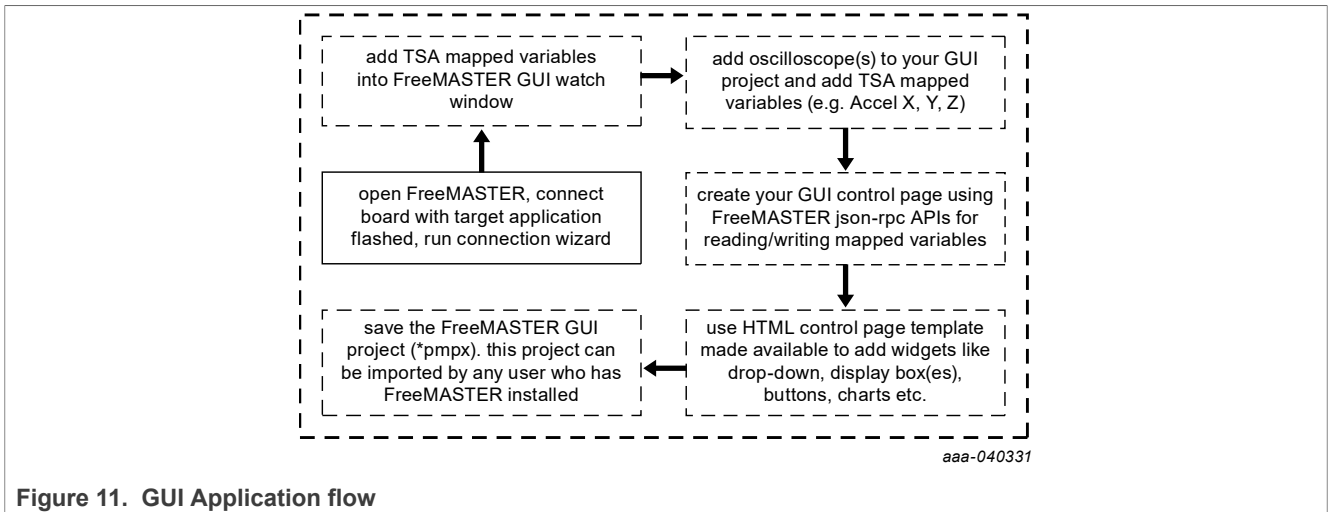


Figure 11. GUI Application flow

3. Launch the FreeMASTER Windows application. Connect the FRDM-K22F-A8974 evaluation kit to the development PC using a USB cable connected between the OpenSDA USB port on the board and a USB connector on the PC.
4. Run the connection wizard on the FreeMASTER application. The connection wizard detects the COM port and starts an empty project.

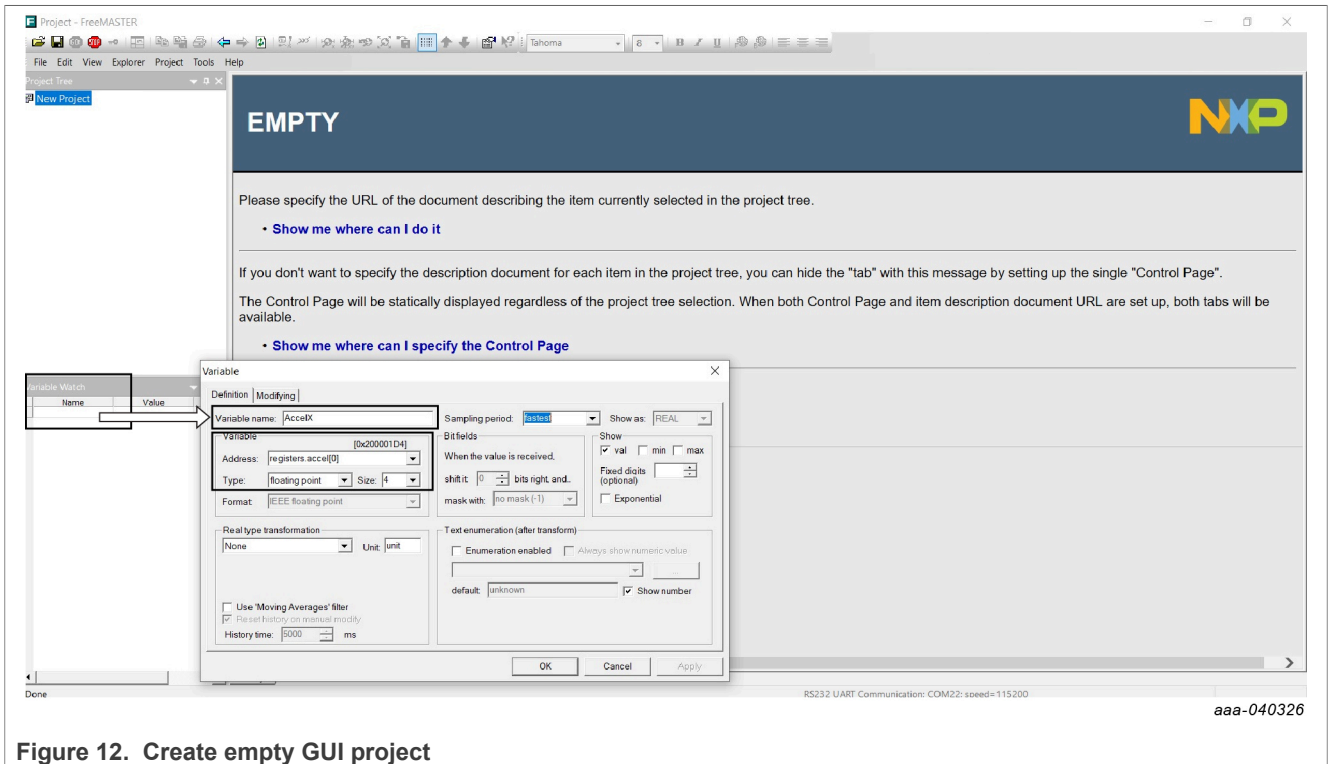


Figure 12. Create empty GUI project

5. Add TSA mapped variables into the FreeMASTER “Variable Watch” window.
 - Double-click in the “Variable Watch” window, select the variable address (TSA mapped variable in the embedded application) and assign a variable name for it.
 - Check the variable type and size.
 - Make the sampling period as “fastest”.

- Change the variable unit field, for example, G for acceleration output.
- 6. Go to the “Project Tree” and rename the project name by right-clicking on the “New Project” and selecting the properties settings.
- 7. Right-click the project name and select “Create Oscilloscope” to add one or more oscilloscopes to the project and add watch variables (for example, Accel X):
 - Add a name for the project oscilloscope in the “Main Settings”.
 - Go to “Variables” tab and add variable (AccelX)

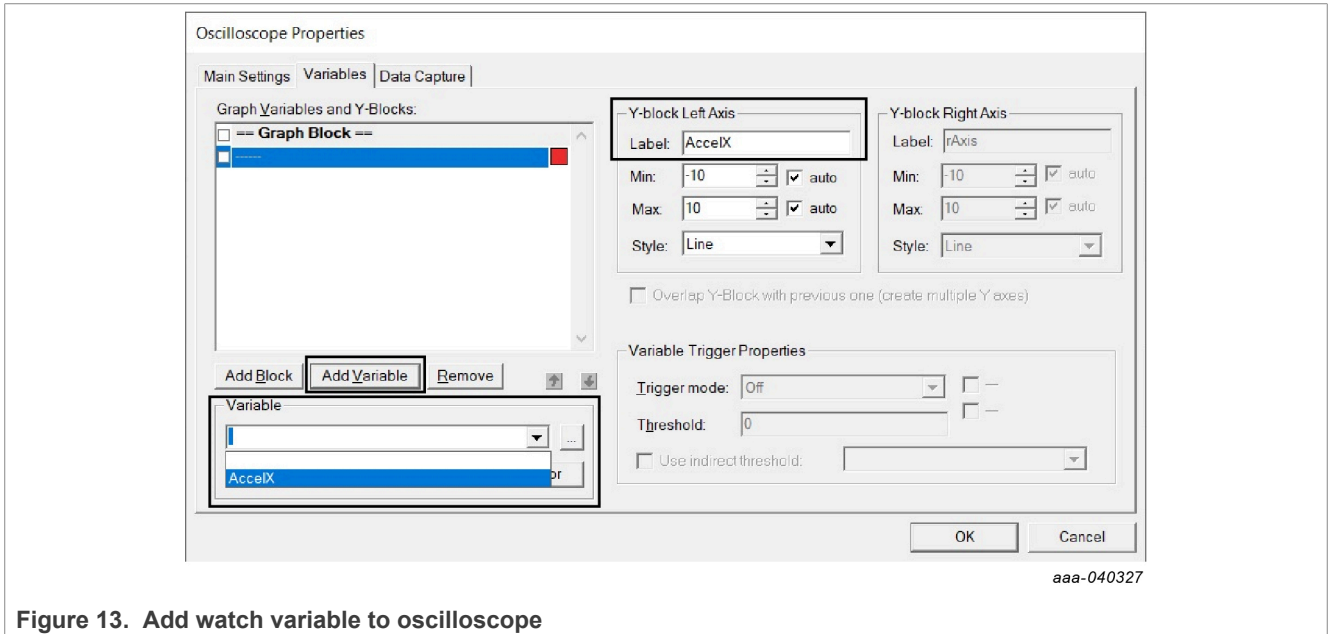


Figure 13. Add watch variable to oscilloscope

- 8. The watch variable is successfully added into the oscilloscope.

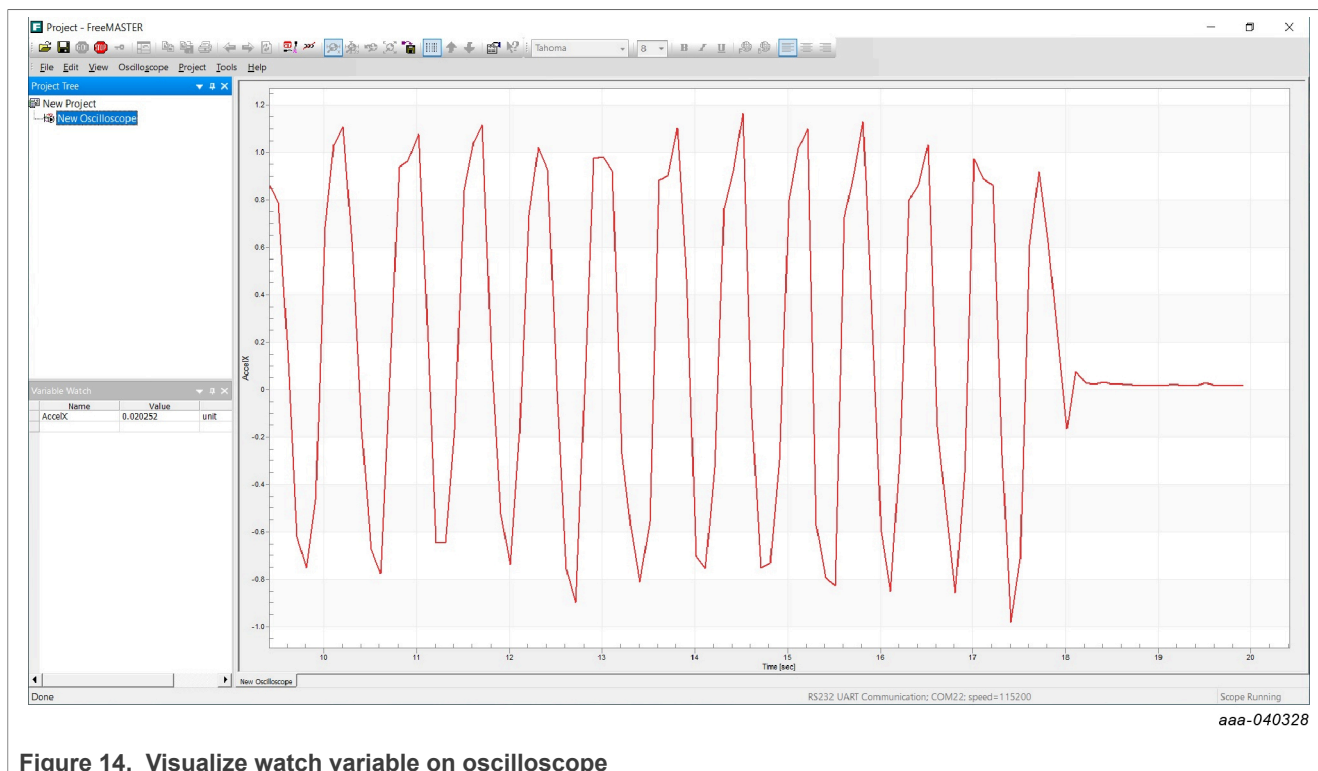


Figure 14. Visualize watch variable on oscilloscope

9. Create the GUI control page using FreeMASTER json-rpc APIs for reading/writing mapped variables.
10. Use the available, out-of-box example HTML control page template to add custom widgets such as drop-down, display boxes, buttons, and charts.
11. Save the FreeMASTER GUI project (*.pmpx).
12. After performing these steps, the sensor host application is ready for use. Any user with FreeMASTER installed can import this project (*.pmPx).

6 References

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