AN14393 Using Serial Downloader Option in i.MX RT1180 via LPSPI Rev. 1.0 — 4 September 2024

Application note

Document information

Information	Content
Keywords	AN14393, MIMXRT1180-EVK, i.MX RT1180, serial downloader, MCU-Link Pro, BusPal, USBSIO
Abstract	This document describes two methods for Serial Downloader via LPSPI on the i.MX RT1180.



1 Introduction

This document describes two methods for Serial Downloader via LPSPI on the i.MX RT1180 as follows:

- <u>Serial Downloader via LPSPI by BusPal and MIMXRT1010-EVK</u>: BusPal acts as a bus translator between UART and SPI. It is realized by the software and must run on one hardware platform. BusPal can receive a blhost command by UART and send it to the MIMXRT1180-EVK platform by SPI.
- <u>Serial Downloader via LPSPI by USBSIO and MCU-Link Pro</u>: USBSIO is the feature supported by MCU-Link Pro. It is a firmware based on LPC55S69 and can communicate with serial I/O devices. USBSIO can receive the blhost command by USB and send it to the MIMXRT1180-EVK platform by SPI.

1.1 Serial Downloader

i.MX RT1180 Serial Downloader (serial boot) helps download a boot image to the boot device and then the image can be run on these devices.

Table 1 lists Serial Downloader peripherals PinMux on i.MX RT1180.

Peripheral	Instance	Port (IO function)	PAD
LPUART	1	LPUART1_TX	GPIO_AON_08
		LPUART1_RX	GPIO_AON_09
LPSPI	1	LPSPI1_SCK	GPIO_AON_04
		LPSPI1_PCS0	GPIO_AON_05
		LPSPI1_SDO	GPIO_AON_06
		LPSPI1_SDI	GPIO_AON_07
USB	1	USB1_DN	USB1_DN
		USB1_DP	USB1_DP

Table 1. Serial Downloader peripherals PinMux

<u>Figure 1</u> shows the Serial Downloader diagram. The blhost on the PC can communicate with i.MX RT1180 via USB and LPUART directly. However, if the user wants to communicate with LPSPI, either USBSIO or BusPal are required. The MCU-Link Pro has the integrated USBSIO feature and BusPal can be customized with many platforms.



Figure 1. Serial Downloader diagram

1.2 MCU-Link Pro

NXP and Embedded Artists have developed the MCU-Link Pro. The MCU-Link Pro is a fully featured debug probe that can be used with MCUXpresso IDE and third-party IDEs that support CMSIS-DAP or J-Link protocols. Figure 2 shows the MCU-Link Pro.

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The MCU-Link Pro includes the following features:

- CMSIS-DAP firmware supports all NXP Arm Cortex-M-based MCUs with SWD debug interfaces
- SEGGER J-Link firmware option
- High-speed USB host interface
- Dual USB to target UART bridges (VCOM)
- · Simultaneous target supply and current measurement
- SWO profiling and I/O features
- CMSIS-SWO support
- USB SPI and I2C bridges for programming/provisioning and host-based application development
- Option to power target system up to 350 mA (at 1.8 V or 3.3 V)
- Analog signal trace input
- Onboard user-programmable LPC804 for peripheral emulation
- Multiple status LEDs for diagnosis of issues
- Target reset button

1.3 Blhost

The blhost application is used on a host computer to issue commands to an NXP platform running an implementation of the MCU bootloader. The blhost application with the MCU bootloader allows a user to program a firmware application onto the MCU device without a programming tool. Blhost can be download from the NXP official website.

The blhost application can connect with an MCU bootloader via IIC SPI UART and USB. The blhost also supports BusPal and USBSIO, because the IIC and SPI commands are only valid for the Arm-Linux blhost. If the host PC is used, BusPal and USBSIO are required.

1.4 BusPal

BusPal is an embedded software tool available as a companion to blhost. The tool functions as a bus translator, establishing a connection with the blhost over UART and with the target device over I2C and SPI. It assists the blhost in carrying out commands and responses from the target device.

The source code for BusPal is provided with the MCU bootloader release and can be customized to run on other platforms. <u>Figure 3</u> illustrates the role BusPal plays in blhost communication with the target device.



1.5 USBSIO

USBSIO, also named as LPC USB Serial I/O (LPCUSBSIO), is a firmware based on LPC55S69 and can communicate with serial I/O devices connected to MCU-Link Pro.

The USBSIO contains two parts:

- LPC USB Serial I/O Library: It is a generic API provided to PC applications. This part is built in the blhost.
- *LPC Serial I/O port*: It is the firmware that receives USB messages and transfers them to devices using I2C, SPI, and GPIO interfaces. This part is built in the MCU-Link Pro and MCU-Link does not support USBSIO.

2 Quick start

This chapter introduces a quick start for the MCU-Link Pro, MIMXRT1010-EVK board, MIMXRT1180-EVK board, and hardware preparation.

2.1 Prepare MCU-Link Pro

Ensure that the MCU-Link Pro firmware has been downloaded to the board. MCU-Link Pro firmware can be downloaded from <u>Getting Started with the MCU-Link Pro</u>.

Figure 4 shows the digital I/O connector (J19) on MCU-Link Pro.

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Figure 4. Digital I/O connector (J19) on MCU-Link Pro

Table 2 shows the connection pins for SPI on the digital I/O connector (J19).

Table 2.	Connection	pins	for	SPI on	digital	I/O	connector	(J19)
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J19 pin	Signal
1	GND
2	SPI PCS
3	SPI MOSI
4	SPI CLK
5	SPI MISO

2.2 Prepare MIMXRT1010-EVK board

In this document, the BusPal runs on the MIMXRT1010-EVK platform. Ensure that the BusPal code has been downloaded to the MIMXRT1010-EVK board.

Download the BusPal example code from <u>NXP_Kinetis_Bootloader_2.0.0 package</u>. It can also be ported to other customized platforms using the same link.

Note: MIMXRT1010-EVK is not included in this package, therefore, porting of BusPal is required.

Figure 5 shows the digital I/O connector J56, J57, and J60 on the MIMXRT1010-EVK.

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Figure 5. Digital I/O connector J56, J57, and J60 on MIMXRT1010-EVK

Table 3 shows the connection pins for UART on the J56.

Table 3. Connection pins for UART on J56

J56 pin	Signal
2	LPUART1_RXD
4	LPUART1_TXD

Table 4 shows the connection pins for SPI on the J57.

Table 4. Connection pins for SPI on J57

J57 pin	Signal
6	LPSPI1_PCS0
8	LPSPI1_MOSI
10	LPSPI1_MISO
12	LPSPI1_SCK

2.3 Prepare MIMXRT1180-EVK board

The MIMXRT1180-EVK board is a platform designed to show the commonly used features of the i.MX RT1180 processor. However, the LPSPI1 pins on EVK cannot be connected directly.

Figure 6 shows that the LPSPI1 pins can be reached on U13.

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Figure 6. U13 on MIMXRT1180-EVK

Table 5 shows the connection pins for LPSPI.

Table 5. Connection pins for LPSPI on U13

U13	Signal
1	LPSPI1_PCS0
2	LPSPI1_MISO
5	LPSPI1_MOSI
6	LPSPI1_SCK

Both flying wires on these pins can be used to connect LPSPI signals on this board.

2.4 Serial downloader via LPSPI and BusPal hardware preparation

Table 6 shows the pins connection between MIMXRT1180-EVK and MIMXRT1010-EVK when BusPal is used.

MIMXRT1180-EVK	Pin	MIMXRT1010-EVK	Pin
LPSPI1_PCS0	U13-1	LPSPI1_PCS0	J57-6
LPSPI1_MISO	U13-2	LPSPI1_MOSI	J57-8
LPSPI1_MOSI	U13-5	LPSPI1_MISO	J57-10
LPSPI1_SCK	U13-6	LPSPI1_SCK	J57-12
GND	J37-20	GND	J57-14

Table 6. Hardware connection between MIMXRT1180-EVK and MIMXRT1010-EVK

<u>Table 7</u> shows the pins connection between the MIMXRT1010-EVK and the host PC via the USB to UART connector.

 Table 7. Hardware connection between host PC and MIMXRT1010-EVK

MIMXRT1010-EVK board	Pin
LPUART1_RXD	J56-2
LPUART1_TXD	J56-4
GND	J60-14

2.5 Serial downloader via LPSPI and USBSIO hardware preparation

If using USBSIO for Serial Downloader, MCU-Link Pro is used. <u>Table 8</u> shows the pins connection between the MIMXRT1180-EVK and MCU-Link Pro.

MIMXRT1180-EVK	Pin	MCU-Link Pro	Pin
LPSPI1_PCS0	U13-1	LPSPI1_PCS0	J19-2
LPSPI1_MISO	U13-2	LPSPI1_MOSI	J19-3
LPSPI1_MOSI	U13-5	LPSPI1_MISO	J19-5
LPSPI1_SCK	U13-6	LPSPI1_SCK	J19-4
GND	J37-20	GND	J19-1

 Table 8. Hardware connection between MIMXRT1180-EVK and MCU-Link Pro

3 Serial Downloader via LPSPI by BusPal and MIMXRT1010-EVK

After hardware preparation is completed, to start the Serial Downloader via LPSPI by BusPal and MIMXRT1010-EVK, perform the following steps:

- 1. Switch the MIMXRT1180-EVK board to Serial Downloader mode.
- 2. Run the command-line tool and go to the blhost/bin/win directory as shown in Figure 7.

:\blhost_2.6.7\bin\win>_

Figure 7. Go to the blhost Window directory

3. Enter blhost.exe -p comi -b spi -- get-property 1. Check if the ROM can communicate successfully. See Figure 8.

```
C:\blhost_2.6.7\bin\win>blhost.exe -p com60 -b spi -- get-property 1
Entering bit bang mode...
Entered BB mode
Ping responded in 1 attempt(s)
Inject command 'get-property'
Response status = 0 (0x0) Success.
Response word 1 = 1258487809 (0x4b030001)
Current Version = K3.0.1
```

Figure 8. Communicate with ROM via BusPal

SPI default parameters are as follows:

- Port 0 (0)
- Pin 0 (0)
- 100 kbit/s (100)
- Active low polarity (1)
- Falling edge sampling (1)
- Command send = blhost.exe -p comi -b spi,0,0,100,1,1 -- get-property 1
- 4. Enter blhost.exe -p comi -b spi -- load-image <file>. This step downloads and runs the flashloader. Ensure to add the container to the flashloader. SDK generates the flashloader. See Figure 9.

C:\blhost_2.6.7\bin\win>blhost.exe -p com60 -b spi -- load-image ../../flashloader/flashloader_utility.bin Entering bit bang mode... Entered BB mode Ping responded in 1 attempt(s) Inject command 'load-image' Preparing to send 98868 (0x18234) bytes to the target. (1/1)100% Completed! Successful generic response to command 'load-image' Response status = 0 (0x0) Success. Response word 1 = 0 (0x0) Wrote 98868 of 98868 bytes. Figure 9. Download and run the flashloader via BusPal 5. Now, blhost can communicate with the flashloader. Enter blhost.exe -p comi -b spi -- getproperty 1 again. Check if the flashloader can communicate successfully. See Figure 10. C:\blhost_2.6.7\bin\win>blhost.exe -p com60 -b spi -- get-property 1 Entering bit bang mode... Entered BB mode Ping responded in 1 attempt(s) Inject command 'get-property' Response status = 0 (0x0) Success. Response word 1 = 1258424320 (0x4b020800) Current Version = K2.8.0 Figure 10. Communicate with flashloader via BusPal 6. Set FlexSPI instance in TCM and enter blhost.exe -p comi -b spi -- fill-memory 0x20000000 4 0xcf900001. See Figure 11. C:\blhost_2.6.7\bin\win>blhost.exe -p com60 -b spi -- fill-memory 0x20000000 4 0xcf900001 Entering bit bang mode... Entered BB mode Ping responded in 1 attempt(s) Inject command 'fill-memory' Successful generic response to command 'fill-memory' Response status = 0 (0x0) Success. Figure 11. Set FlexSPI instance in TCM via BusPal 7. Configure the memory and enter blhost.exe -p comi -b spi -- configure-memory 9 0x20000000. See Figure 12. C:\blhost_2.6.7\bin\win>blhost.exe -p com60 -b spi -- configure-memory 9 0x20000000 Entering bit bang mode... Entered BB mode Ping responded in 1 attempt(s) Inject command 'configure-memory' Successful generic response to command 'configure-memory' Response status = 0 (0x0) Success. Figure 12. Configure memory via BusPal 8. Set NOR flash configuration parameters in TCM and enter blhost.exe -p comi -b spi -- fillmemory 0x20000000 4 0xc0000006. See Figure 13.

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0xf000000f. **See <u>Figure 17</u>**.

C:\blhost_2.6.7\bin\win>blhost.exe -p com60 -b spi fill-memory 0x20000000 4 0xf000000f Entering bit bang mode Entered BB mode Ping responded in 1 attempt(s) Inject command 'fill-memory' Successful generic response to command 'fill-memory' Response status = 0 (0x0) Success.
Figure 17. Add FDCB XIP used via BusPal
 Configure the memory and enter blhost.exe -p comi -b spi configure-memory 9 0x20000000. See Figure 18.
C:\blhost_2.6.7\bin\win>blhost.exe -p com60 -b spi configure-memory 9 0x20000000 Entering bit bang mode Entered BB mode Ping responded in 1 attempt(s) Inject command 'configure-memory' Successful generic response to command 'configure-memory' Response status = 0 (0x0) Success.
Figure 18. Configure memory via BusPal
14. Write the image and enter blhost.exe -p comi -b spi write-memory <path>. See Figure 19.</path>
C:\blhost_2.6.7\bin\win>blhost.exe -p com60 -b spi write-memory 0x38001000//image/1180_quadflash_helloworld.bin Entering bit bang mode Entered BB mode Ping responded in 1 attempt(s) Inject command 'write-memory' Preparing to send 58236 (0xe37c) bytes to the target. Successful generic response to command 'write-memory' (1/1)100% Completed! Successful generic response to command 'write-memory' Response status = 0 (0x0) Success. Wrote 58236 of 58236 bytes. Figure 19. Write memory via BusPal
15. To confirm if the write is successful, read the image. Enter blhost, exe -p comi -b spi read-

15. Io confirm if the write is successful, read the image. Enter blhost.exe -p comi -b spi memory 0x38001000 0x400. See Figure 20.



 Switch the MIMXRT1180-EVK board to Internal boot mode. <u>Figure 21</u> shows the message displayed by UART.



4 Serial Downloader via LPSPI by USBSIO and MCU-Link Pro

After hardware preparation is completed, to start the Serial Downloader via LPSPI by USBSIO and MCU-Link Pro, perform the following steps:

1. Switch the MIMXRT1180-EVK board to Serial Downloader mode.

- 2. Run the command-line tool and go to the blhost/bin/win directory as shown in Figure 7.
- 3. Enter blhost.exe -u [<vid>, <pid>] -l spi -- get-property 1. Check if the ROM can communicate successfully. See Figure 22.

```
C:\blhost_2.6.7\bin\win>blhost.exe -u 0x1fc9,0x0143 -1 spi -- get-property 1
Ping responded in 1 attempt(s)
Inject command 'get-property'
Response status = 0 (0x0) Success.
Response word 1 = 1258487809 (0x4b030001)
Current Version = K3.0.1
```

Figure 22. Communicate with ROM via USBSIO

4. Enter blhost.exe -u [<vid>, <pid>] -l spi -- load-image <file>. This step downloads and runs the flashloader. Ensure to add the container to the flashloader. SDK generates the flashloader. See Figure 23.



Figure 23. Download and run the flashloader via USBSIO

5. Now, blhost can communicate with the flashloader. Enter blhost.exe -u [<vid>, <pid>] -l spi -- get-property 1 again. Check if the flashloader can communicate successfully. See Figure 24.

```
C:\blhost_2.6.7\bin\win>blhost.exe -u 0x1fc9,0x0143 -1 spi -- get-property 1
Ping responded in 1 attempt(s)
Inject command 'get-property'
Response status = 0 (0x0) Success.
Response word 1 = 1258424320 (0x4b020800)
Current Version = K2.8.0
```

Figure 24. Communicate with flashloader via USBSIO

6. Set FlexSPI instance in TCM and enter blhost.exe -u [<vid>,<pid>] -l spi -- fill-memory 0x20000000 4 0xcf900001. See Figure 25

C:\blhost_2.6.7\bin\win>blhost.exe -u 0x1fc9,0x0143 -1 spi -- fi11-memory 0x20000000 4 0xcf900001 Ping responded in 1 attempt(s) Inject command 'fi11-memory' Successful generic response to command 'fi11-memory' Response status = 0 (0x0) Success.

Figure 25. Set FlexSPI instance in TCM via USBSIO

7. Configure the memory and enter blhost.exe -u [<vid>, <pid>] -l spi -- configure-memory 9 0x20000000. See Figure 26.

C:\blhost_2.6.7\bin\win>blhost.exe -u 0x1fc9,0x0143 -1 spi -- configure-memory 9 0x20000000 Ping responded in 1 attempt(s) Inject command 'configure-memory' Successful generic response to command 'configure-memory' Response status = 0 (0x0) Success. Figure 26. Configure memory via USBSIO 8. Set NOR flash configuration parameters in TCM and enter blhost.exe -u [<vid>, <pid>] -l spi -- fill-memory 0x20000000 4 0xc0000006. See Figure 27. C:\b1host_2.6.7\bin\win>b1host.exe -u 0x1fc9,0x0143 -1 spi -- fi11-memory 0x20000000 4 0xc0000006 Ping responded in 1 attempt(s) Inject command 'fill-memory' Successful generic response to command 'fill-memory' Response status = 0 (0x0) Success. Figure 27. Set NOR flash configuration parameters via USBSIO 9. Configure the memory and enter blhost.exe -u [<vid>, <pid>] -l spi -- configure-memory 9 0x20000000. See Figure 28. C:\blhost_2.6.7\bin\win>blhost.exe -u 0x1fc9,0x0143 -1 spi -- configure-memory 9 0x20000000 Ping responded in 1 attempt(s) Inject command 'configure-memory' Successful generic response to command 'configure-memory' Response status = 0 (0x0) Success. Figure 28. Configure memory via USBSIO 10. Erase flash region and enter blhost.exe -u [<vid>,<pid>] -1 spi -- flash-erase-region 0x38000000 0x40000. See Figure 29. C:\blhost_2.6.7\bin\win>blhost.exe -u 0x1fc9,0x0143 -1 spi -- flash-erase-region 0x38000000 0x40000 Ping responded in 1 attempt(s) Inject command 'flash-erase-region' Successful generic response to command 'flash-erase-region' Response status = 0 (0x0) Success.

Figure 29. Erase flash region via USBSIO

11. To confirm flash have been erased, read flash memory. Enter blhost.exe -u [<vid>, <pid>] -l spi -- read-memory 0x38000000 16. See Figure 30. If successful, the result is similar to the one shown in Figure 29.

Figure 30. Read flash via USBSIO

12. Add FDCB XIP used and enter blhost.exe -u [<vid>, <pid>] -l spi -- fill-memory 0x20000000 4 0xf000000f. See Figure 31. If successful, the result is similar to the one shown in Figure 30.

C:\blhost_2.6.7\bin\win>blhost.exe -u 0x1fc9,0x0143 -1 spi -- fill-memory 0x20000000 4 0xf000000f Ping responded in 1 attempt(s) Inject command 'fill-memory' Successful generic response to command 'fill-memory' Response status = 0 (0x0) Success.

Figure 31. Add FDCB via USBSIO

C:\blhost_2.6.7\bin\win>blhost.exe -u 0x1fc9,0x0143 -1 spi -- configure-memory 9 0x20000000 Ping responded in 1 attempt(s) Inject command 'configure-memory' Successful generic response to command 'configure-memory' Response status = 0 (0x0) Success.

Figure 32. Configure memory via USBSIO

14. Write the image and enter blhost.exe -u [<vid>,<pid>] -l spi -- write-memory <path>. See Figure 33.



Figure 33. Write image via USBSIO

15. To confirm if the write is successful, read the image. Enter blhost.exe -u [<vid>,<pid>] -l spi -- read-memory 0x38001000 0x100. See Figure 34.

Figure 34. Read image via USBSIO

16. Switch MIMXRT1180-EVK board to Internal boot mode. Figure 35 shows the message displayed by UART.

Using Serial Downloader Option in i.MX RT1180 via LPSPI



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6 Revision history

<u>Table 9</u> summarizes the revisions to this document.

Table 9. Revision history

Document ID	Release date	Description
AN14393 v.1.0	4 September 2024	Initial public release

Using Serial Downloader Option in i.MX RT1180 via LPSPI

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Using Serial Downloader Option in i.MX RT1180 via LPSPI

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