

s140_nrf52840 release notes

Introduction to the s140_nrf52840 release notes

These release notes describe the changes in the s140_nrf52840 from version to version.

The release notes are intended to list all relevant changes in a given version. They are kept brief, to make it easy to get the overview. More details regarding changes and new features may be found in the s140_nrf52840 migration document (normally available for major releases only).

Issue numbers in parentheses are for internal use, and should be disregarded by the customer.

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s140_nrf52840_5.0.0-2.alpha

The s140 is a SoftDevice for the nRF52840 chip.

The main changes of this version compared to the previous alpha is that the features and API of s132 4.0.0 have been integrated. This includes application control of the Data Length Update Procedure, SoftDevice configuration API extensions, support for multiple peripheral connections, support for up to 20 connections in total, and configuration of individual links including per link ATT_MTU configuration. The API is now the same as for S132 4.0.0 with some additions for s140-specific features.

Notes:

- This release has changed the API from the previous s140 alpha. This requires applications to be recompiled.
- The memory requirements of the SoftDevice have changed.

SoftDevice properties

- This version of the SoftDevice contains the Master Boot Record (MBR) version 2.1.0 (DRGN-8507).
 - The changes from the previous version are header file modifications only.
- The combined MBR and SoftDevice memory requirements for this version are as follows:
 - Flash: **133 kB** (0x21400 bytes).
 - RAM: **5.10 kB** (0x1468 bytes) This is the minimum required memory. The actual requirements depend on the configuration chosen at `sd_ble_enable()` time.

New functionality

- SoftDevice
 - Support for sleep clock accuracy values less than 20 ppm as a peripheral (DRGN-8158).
- BLE
 - Support for 20 links in total with freely selectable role (Central/Peripheral) for each link (DRGN-7102, DRGN-7152, DRGN-7848).
 - The BLE bandwidth configuration and application packet concept has been replaced with per link configurable:
 - Event length (DRGN-7858)
 - Write without response queue size (DRGN-7488, DRGN-7858)
 - Handle Value Notification queue size (DRGN-7487, DRGN-7858)
 - The GPIO pin to toggle can now be the same for PA and LNA (DRGN-8354).
- GAP
 - The event length (i.e. the time set aside on every connection interval) can now be configured per link by the application (DRGN-7858).
 - The application is given control of the Data Length Update Procedure. The application can initiate the Data Length Update Procedure and has to respond when initiated by the peer (DRGN-8297).
- GATT
 - The maximum ATT_MTU can now be configured per link by the application (DRGN-7858).
- GATT_C
 - The application packet concept has been replaced with a dedicated transmission queue for Write without responses. Also, the `BLE_EVT_TX_COMPLETE` event has been replaced with `BLE_GATT_C_EVT_WRITE_CMD_TX_COMPLETE`. Write without response queue size can now be configured per link by the application (DRGN-7488, DRGN-7858).
- GATT_S
 - The application packet concept has been replaced with a dedicated transmission queue for Handle Value Notifications. Also, the `BLE_EVT_TX_COMPLETE` event has been replaced with `BLE_GATT_S_EVT_HVN_TX_COMPLETE`. Handle Value Notification queue size can now be configured per link by the application (DRGN-7487, DRGN-7858).
- LL
 - The SoftDevice can be configured to disable and enable slave latency (DRGN-8305). This allows the application to override the slave latency set by the master.
 - The SoftDevice can be configured to not disconnect if the peer initiates parallel version and feature exchange procedures (DRGN-8306).

Changes

- SoftDevice
 - The `sd_power_ramon_set()`, `sd_power_ramon_clr()`, and `sd_power_ramon_get()` SoftDevice APIs have been replaced with `sd_power_ram_power_set()`, `sd_power_ram_power_clr()`, and `sd_power_ram_power_get()`. The

application therefore now has access to the registers `RAM[x].POWER` instead of the deprecated `RAMON/RAMONB` (DRGN-8117).

- SWI3 is no longer reserved for use by the SoftDevice and is available for the application (DRGN-8367).
- BLE
 - More pointers have been defined as `const` in the BLE API, allowing the application to put more data into flash instead of RAM, if desired (DRGN-6133).
 - Configuration parameters passed to `sd_ble_enable()` have been moved to the SoftDevice configuration API (DRGN-8107).

Bug fixes

- SoftDevice
 - `sd_softdevice_enable()` now returns an error code if called with `fault_handler` set to `NULL` or to an invalid function pointer. If the application returns from the `fault_handler` function, the SoftDevice will do an `NVIC_SystemReset()` (DRGN-7122).
 - It is no longer required to clear `INTENSET` for `TIMER0` before the timeslot ends if the application uses `TIMER0` inside a timeslot scheduled with the Radio Timeslot API (DRGN-7776).
 - The `SVCALL` macro can now be used also with the GCC C++ compiler (DRGN-8028).
 - The `sd_power_pof_threshold_set` API has been fixed to support all the new levels that were introduced in nRF52 (DRGN-8348).
 - Fixed an issue where nRF52840 was not supported in `nrf_nvic.h` and `nrf_soc.h` headers (DRGN-8407).
 - Fixed an issue where scanning or advertising with timeout greater than 256 seconds and having two host protocol timers running at the same time might lead to delayed timeouts (DRGN-7804).
- BLE
 - Several documentation errors have been corrected (DRGN-7386, DRGN-7853, DRGN-8136).
- GATTC
 - It is no longer possible to issue a write command if the write command queue size is set to 0 on the config API (DRGN-8353).
- GATTS
 - It is no longer possible to issue an HVN if the HVN queue size is set to 0 on the config API (DRGN-8353).
- GAP
 - Two missing Advertising Data Types have been added: `BLE_GAP_AD_TYPE_LESC_CONFIRMATION_VALUE` (0x22) and `BLE_GAP_AD_TYPE_LESC_RANDOM_VALUE` (0x23) (DRGN-8101).
 - `sd_ble_gap_connect()` now always stops the scanner (DRGN-7679).
 - Fixed an issue where `sd_ble_gap_conn_param_update()` called in peripheral role in some cases may return `NRF_ERROR_BUSY` for 30 seconds after the previous procedure initiated by that call was completed (DRGN-8577).
- LL
 - Fixed an issue where the controller completed a procedure when it received an `LL_UNKNOWN_RSP` without checking if it was the expected procedure that returned the error opcode (DRGN-7999).
 - The SoftDevice no longer rejects `LL_LENGTH_REQ` and `LL_LENGTH_RSP` with parameters which are out of range according to Bluetooth 4.2 specification (DRGN-7872).
 - Fixed an issue where bit errors in the length field of an encrypted packet caused the packet to be interpreted as longer than was sent by the peer (DRGN-7898). This issue could have manifested in the following ways:
 - SoftDevice memory buffer corruption which could lead to an assert or incorrect behavior.
 - SoftDevice may send a packet with an incorrect MIC field leading to a disconnect from the peer.
 - Fixed an issue where a connection parameter update from a short connection interval to a longer connection interval when using long ATT MTUs could lead to reduced bandwidth (DRGN-8427).
 - Fixed an issue where using encryption on multiple master links at the same time could cause an assert (DRGN-8532).

Limitations

- SoftDevice
 - If Radio Notifications are enabled, flash write and flash erase operations initiated through the SoftDevice API will be notified to the application as Radio Events (FORT-809).
 - Synthesized low frequency clock source is not tested or intended for use with the BLE stack.
 - Applications must not modify the `SEVONPEND` flag in the `SCR` register when running in priority levels higher than 6 (priority level numerical values lower than 6) as this can lead to undefined behavior.
 - The SV-calls `sd_mbr_command_vector_table_base_set()` and `sd_mbr_command_copy_bl()` are not supported (DRGN-8197). Using these calls leads to undefined behavior.
 - The SV-calls `sd_flash_write()` and `sd_flash_page_erase()` do not check whether the flash pages being written or erased are write protected by ACL. Calling these functions on protected flash memory leads to undefined behavior (DRGN-8307, DRGN-8308).
- LL
 - For LE Coded PHY and 2 Mbps, see the section "Using LE Coded PHY and 2 Mbps" below.
 - PA/LNA is not supported for LE Coded PHY and 2Mbps (DRGN-8166).

- GATTS
 - To conform to the Bluetooth specification, there shall not be a secondary service that is not referenced somehow by a primary service. The SoftDevice does not enforce this (DRGN-906, DRGN-2260).

Using LE Coded PHY and 2 Mbps

This alpha version of the SoftDevice supports connection establishment using the 1 Mbps PHY and changing to use the other PHY options (2 Mbps and 125 kbps, also known as Coded S=8). It does not support connection with other PHY configurations. The link must be established first in 1 Mbps PHY and then the PHY can be changed using the above mentioned SV call.

The following table shows the supported PHY combinations of this alpha version of the SoftDevice when using LE Coded PHY and 2 Mbps. Encrypted links are not supported in all combinations as indicated in the table. Where encryption is not supported, the link must be established with 1 Mbps PHY and not encrypted before changing PHY.

PHY		Max PDU payload size		Encryption support
TX	RX	TX	RX	
1 Mbps	1 Mbps	up to 251	up to 251	Yes
1 Mbps	2 Mbps	up to 251	up to 251	Yes
1 Mbps	2 Mbps	27	27	Yes
1 Mbps	Coded (S=8)	27	27	Yes
2 Mbps	1 Mbps	up to 251	up to 251	No
2 Mbps	1 Mbps	27	27	Yes
2 Mbps	2 Mbps	up to 251	up to 251	No
2 Mbps	2 Mbps	27	27	Yes
2 Mbps	Coded (S=8)	27	27	Yes
Coded (S=8)	1 Mbps	27	27	Yes
Coded (S=8)	2 Mbps	27	27	Yes
Coded (S=8)	Coded (S=8)	27	27	Yes

Note: This alpha version of the SoftDevice does not support the 500 kbps bit rate (S=2 encoding scheme).

Known issues

- SoftDevice
 - If Connection Event Length Extension is enabled, the Radio Notification may be suppressed between connection events (DRGN-7687).
- GAP
 - **Update 1:** The `conn_handle` parameter in the event `BLE_GAP_EVT_DATA_LENGTH_UPDATE_REQUEST` is not populated correctly (DRGN-8749).
 - **Update 1:** The `BLE_GAP_DATA_LENGTH_AUTO` value for `p_dl_params->max_tx_octets` and `p_dl_params->max_rx_octets` in `sd_ble_gap_data_length_update()` does not work as expected on connections using a configuration with configured event length of 2, 3 or 4, when maximum ATT_MTU in the same connection configuration is more than 69, 147 or 225 octets respectively. In these cases `sd_ble_gap_data_length_update()` will return error code `NRF_ERROR_RESOURCES`, and not have an effect (DRGN-8779).
- LL
 - Encryption of long link layer packets (payload length greater than 27 bytes) over 2 Mbps PHY leads to MIC failures and causes the peer to disconnect (DRGN-8356).
- GATTS
 - When `BLE_EVT_USER_MEM_REQUEST` event is pulled by the application, incoming packet processing may be delayed in some cases until the application replies with the `sd_ble_user_mem_reply()` call (DRGN-8595).
 - The value of the attribute in `BLE_GATTS_EVT_RW_AUTHORIZE_REQUEST` event corresponding to the first Prepare Write Request on a link with heavy traffic may get corrupted if application delays the pulling of SoftDevice events (DRGN-8595).
 - The SoftDevice is incorrectly identified as s132 in the SoftDevice information structure (DRGN-8363).
- Documentation
 - The documentation for `sd_ble_gap_addr_set()` and `sd_ble_gap_privacy_set()` states that these functions cannot

be called while BLE roles are running. This is wrong. These functions can be called while in connection, but not while advertising, scanning, or creating a connection (DRGN-8624).

- The documentation for `sd_ble_adv_start()` states that a connectable advertiser cannot be started after the `BLE_GAP_EVT_CONNECTED` event is received. This is wrong. A connectable advertiser can be started as long as no other advertiser is running and there are fewer active Peripheral connections than configured (DRGN-8624).

s140_nrf52840_5.0.0-1.alpha

The s140 is a SoftDevice for the nRF52840 chip. This release, s140_nrf52840_5.0.0-1.alpha, is the first alpha release of the s140.

The s140 is based upon Nordic Semiconductor's s132 SoftDevice. These release notes list the changes and differences from **s132_nrf52_3.0.0**.

Notes:

- This is a major release which has changed the Application Programmer Interface (API) from the s132, requiring applications to be recompiled.

SoftDevice properties

The combined MBR and SoftDevice memory requirements for this version are as follows:

- Flash: **132 kB** (0x21000 bytes).
- RAM: **6.43 kB** (0x19C0 bytes) (minimum required memory - actual requirements are dependent upon the configuration chosen at `sd_ble_enable()` time).

New functionality

- LL
 - Support for transmitting and receiving on the 2 Mbps PHY has been added (DRGN-7552).
 - Support for transmitting and receiving on LE Coded PHY (Long Range) using the 125 kbps bit rate (S=8 encoding scheme) has been added (DRGN-5702).

Using LE Coded PHY and 2 Mbps

The SoftDevice provides a new GAP option `BLE_GAP_OPT_PREFERRED_PHYS_SET`, a new SV call `sd_ble_gap_phy_request()`, and a new event, `BLE_GAP_EVT_PHY_UPDATE` to support the new PHYs. Please read the API documentation for more details about these.

This alpha version of the SoftDevice supports connection establishment using the 1 Mbps PHY and changing to use the other PHY options (2 Mbps and 125 kbps (Coded S=8)). It does not support connection with other PHY configurations. The link must be established first in 1 Mbps PHY and then the PHY can be changed using the above mentioned SV call.

The following table shows the supported PHY combinations of this alpha version of the SoftDevice when using LE Coded PHY and 2 Mbps. Encrypted links are not supported in all combinations as indicated in the Table. Where encryption is not supported, the link must be established with 1 Mbps PHY and not encrypted before changing PHY.

PHY		Max PDU payload size		Encryption support
TX	RX	TX	RX	
1 Mbps	1 Mbps	up to 251	up to 251	Yes
1 Mbps	2 Mbps	up to 251	up to 251	Yes
1 Mbps	2 Mbps	27	27	Yes
1 Mbps	Coded (S=8)	27	27	Yes
2 Mbps	1 Mbps	up to 251	up to 251	No
2 Mbps	1 Mbps	27	27	Yes
2 Mbps	2 Mbps	up to 251	up to 251	No
2 Mbps	2 Mbps	27	27	Yes
2 Mbps	Coded (S=8)	27	27	Yes
Coded (S=8)	1 Mbps	27	27	Yes
Coded (S=8)	2 Mbps	27	27	Yes

Coded (S=8)	Coded (S=8)	27	27	Yes
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Note: This alpha version of the SoftDevice does not support the 500 kbps bit rate (S=2 encoding scheme).

Changes

- GAP
 - The SV-call `sd_ble_gap_tx_power_set()` is extended to support higher TX power (up to +9dBm) (DRGN-8310).

Bug fixes

There are no bug fixes in this release.

Limitations

- SoftDevice
 - If Radio Notifications are enabled, flash write and flash erase operations initiated through the SoftDevice API will be notified to the application as Radio Events (FORT-809).
 - Synthesized low frequency clock source is not tested or intended for use with the BLE stack.
 - Applications must not modify the `SEVONPEND` flag in the `SCR` register when running in priority level 1 as this can lead to undefined behavior.
 - If the application uses `TIMER0` inside a timeslot (scheduled with the Radio Timeslot API), `INTENSET` for `TIMER0` must be cleared before the timeslot ends (DRGN-7776).
 - The SV-calls `sd_mbr_command_vector_table_base_set()` and `sd_mbr_command_copy_bl()` are not supported (DRGN-8197). Using these calls leads to undefined behavior.
 - The SV calls `sd_flash_write()` and `sd_flash_page_erase()` do not check whether the flash pages being written or erased are write protected by ACL. Calling these functions on protected flash memory leads to undefined behavior (DRGN-8307).
- LL
 - The peripheral role has priority over the central role when it comes to keeping the links alive.
 - For LE Coded PHY and 2 Mbps, see the section "Using LE Coded PHY and 2 Mbps" above.
- GAP
 - A broadcaster **and** a scanner cannot both be active if there are 8 connections established (DRGN-6543).
- GATTS
 - To conform to the Bluetooth specification there shall not be a secondary service that is not referenced somehow by a primary service. The SoftDevice does not enforce this (DRGN-906, DRGN-2260).

Known Issues

- If `sd_softdevice_enable()` is called with `fault_handler` set to `NULL`, an invalid function pointer, or a pointer to a returning function, the behavior will be undefined (DRGN-7122).
- If Connection Event Length Extension is enabled, the Radio Notification may be suppressed between connection events (DRGN-7687).
- When `sd_ble_gap_connect()` returns an error code, the scanner may be stopped (DRGN-7679). To ensure the scanner is in a known state, `sd_ble_gap_scan_stop()` should be used to stop the scanner when `sd_ble_gap_connect()` returns an error code.
- Encryption of long link layer packets (payload length > 27 bytes) over 2 Mbps PHY leads to MIC failures and causes the peer to disconnect (DRGN-8356).
- The SoftDevice is incorrectly identified as `s132` in the SoftDevice information structure (DRGN-8363).

