

# Microchip Debugger (MDB) User's Guide

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ISBN: 978-1-5224-3562-4



# **MDB USER'S GUIDE**

# **Table of Contents**

Preface	5
Chapter 1. How to Use Microchip Debugger	
1.1 Introduction	g
1.2 Installation and Documentation	10
1.3 Getting Started	10
1.4 Debugging Methods	12
1.5 Running a Command File Method	
1.6 Using Multiple Instances of the MDB	
Chapter 2. MDB Reference	
2.1 Help Commands	
2.2 Classes of Commands	17
2.3 List of Commands within Classes	18
Appendix A. Revision History	
Index	35
Worldwide Sales and Service	39





# MDB USER'S GUIDE

# **Preface**

#### **NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS**

All documentation becomes dated, and this manual is no exception. Microchip tools and documentation are constantly evolving to meet customer needs, so some actual dialogs and/ or tool descriptions may differ from those in this document. Please refer to our web site (www.microchip.com) to obtain the latest documentation available.

Documents are identified with a "DS" number. This number is located on the bottom of each page, in front of the page number. The numbering convention for the DS number is "DSXXXXXXXXA", where "XXXXXXXX" is the document number and "A" is the revision level of the document.

For the most up-to-date information on development tools, see the MPLAB® X IDE help. Select the Help menu, and then Topics to open a list of available help files.

#### INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains general information that will be helpful to know before using the Microchip Debugger (PIC18F1220/1320). Items that are discussed include:

- Document Layout
- Conventions Used in This Guide
- Recommended Reading

#### **DOCUMENT LAYOUT**

This document is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1. How to Use Microchip Debugger describes how to get started with the MDB, invoking the MDB, and the debugging methods that are available.
- Chapter 2. MDB Reference details the classes of commands and describes the available lists of commands.
- Appendix A. Revision History identifies the changes that have been made to the document.

## **CONVENTIONS USED IN THIS GUIDE**

The following conventions may appear in this documentation:

**TABLE 1: DOCUMENTATION CONVENTIONS** 

Description	Represents	Examples
Arial font:		
Italic	Referenced books	MPLAB® X IDE User's Guide
	Emphasized text	is the only compiler
Initial caps	A window	the Output window
	A dialog	the Settings dialog
	A menu selection	select Enable Programmer
Quotes	A field name in a window or dialog	"Save project before build"
Underlined, italic text with right angle bracket	A menu path	File>Save
Bold	A dialog button	Click <b>OK</b>
	A tab	Click the <b>Power</b> tab
Text in angle brackets < >	A key on the keyboard	Press <enter>, <f1></f1></enter>
Courier font:		
Plain	Sample source code	#define START
	Filenames	autoexec.bat
	File paths	c:\mcc18\h
	Keywords	_asm, _endasm, static
	Command-line options	-Opa+, -Opa-
	Bit values	0, 1
	Constants	0xFF, 'A'
Italic	A variable argument	file.o, where file can be any valid filename
Square brackets [ ]	Optional arguments	mpasmwin [options] file [options]
Curly brackets and pipe character: {   }	Choice of mutually exclusive arguments; an OR selection	errorlevel {0 1}
Ellipses	Replaces repeated text	<pre>var_name [, var_name]</pre>
	Represents code supplied by user	<pre>void main (void) { }</pre>

#### RECOMMENDED READING

This document describes how to use the PIC18F1220/1320. Other useful documents are listed below. The following Microchip presentation and documents are available and recommended as supplemental reference resources.

#### Microchip Command-line Debugger Webinar

This webinar gives an introduction to the command-line debugger and provides useful examples. The webinar is available on Microchip's web site:

www.microchip.com/webinars.microchip.com/WebinarDetails.aspx?dDocName=en565588

#### Multi-Tool Design Advisory (DS51764)

This small document presents guidelines and implementation considerations to ensure proper interfacing to the various development tools.

#### Processor Extension Pak and Header Specification (DS50001292)

This booklet describes how to install and use Processor Extension Paks (PEPs) and related debug headers to better debug selected devices without the loss of pins or resources. See also the PEP and Header online help file.

#### Transition Socket Specification (DS51194)

Consult this document for information on the transition sockets that are available for use with headers.

#### Release Notes for MDB

For the latest information on using the MDB, go to the MPLAB X IDE Learn & Discover tab, click the Users Guide & Release Notes icon, and locate the Readme for MDB. The release notes (readme) contain updated information and known issues that may not be included in this user's guide.

#### MDB Online Help File

A comprehensive help file for the MDB is included with MPLAB X IDE. This help file may be more up-to-date than the printed documentation.

#### **Release Notes for MPLAB IPE**

For the latest information on using the MPLAB® Integrated Programming Environment (IPE), go to the MPLAB X IDE Learn & Discover tab and click the Users Guide & Release Notes icon, and locate the Readme for MPLAB IPE. The release notes (readme) contain updated information and known issues that may not be included in the user's guide.

#### **MPLAB IPE Online Help File**

A comprehensive help file is included with MPLAB IPE under the Help menu. This help file may be more up-to-date than the printed documentation.

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# MDB USER'S GUIDE

# Chapter 1. How to Use Microchip Debugger

#### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Microchip Debugger (MDB) is a command-line debugger interface to Microchip's hardware and software development tools. As an alternative to using the Microchip MPLAB® X IDE (Integrated Development Environment) graphical interface, the MDB facilitates debugging devices through a Command Prompt interface and can program a production image for testing purposes.

The MDB is designed for engineers who prefer to use the Command Prompt. The command-line interface to the debugger is faster and allows more extensive testing to be performed. This is especially helpful when a task is repetitive, such as debugging an issue that is difficult to resolve, or when there is automation of a testing procedure.

The MDB can be used with a script or batch file. The MDB can be used with these tools:

- MPLAB ICD 3 In-Circuit Debugger
- MPLAB ICD 4 In-Circuit Debugger
- PICkit™ 3 In-Circuit Debugger/Programmer
- MPLAB PICkit<sup>™</sup> 4 In-Circuit Debugger
- MPLAB Snap In-Circuit Debugger
- MPLAB REAL ICE™ In-Circuit Emulator
- MPLAB PM3 Device Programmer
- MPLAB SIM Software Simulator
- · Licensed third party programmers and debuggers

#### 1.2 INSTALLATION AND DOCUMENTATION

#### 1.2.1 Install MPLAB X IDE

The MDB is automatically installed with the MPLAB X IDE. To download the latest version, go to the Microchip web site (www.microchip.com).

Generate a .cof or .elf file for debugging. (If simply programming a device, a hex file is sufficient.) The project can be built with MPLAB X IDE or using third-party compilers, as long as a .cof or .elf file is generated. The .cof/.elf file is a linked executable file that contains symbolic debugging information.

#### 1.2.2 Find MDB Documentation

The MDB supporting documentation are automatically installed with the MPLAB X IDE. There are several ways to access MDB documentation: (1) through the MDB utility, (2) through the MPLAB X IDE, and (3) through the installation directory on your computer.

- After invoking the MDB (see Section 1.3.2 "Invoking the MDB"), type help doc.
   This command displays the instructions on where to locate MDB documentation.
- 2. After launching MPLAB X IDE, click the Learn & Discover tab, then in the Getting Started area, the icon labeled Users Guide & Release Notes. A new window opens with a list of User's Guides, Release Notes and Support Documentation. Locate the links to the MDB User's Guide, MDB Help and Readme for MDB.
- To find documentation on your computer, the MDB User's Guide (filename MDBUserGuide.pdf) can be found in the default location where the MPLAB X IDE was installed:

Program Files (x86)\Microchip\MPLABX\vx.xx\docs
The online help is located in the same location in a folder MDB\_Help, filename
MDBX\_SA.jar. Double-click the filename to open the online help.
The Readme for MDB.htm contains the latest release notes.

#### 1.3 GETTING STARTED

Typically, you can use the defaults when invoking the MDB. More detailed information is available in Section 1.4 "Debugging Methods".

#### 1.3.1 Command Line Parameters

Before invoking the MDB, you may want to set certain command line options and arguments.

To view the options, type mdb --help in the Command Prompt. This only displays help information (refer to Table 1-1 "Command Line Parameters Help") for the command line parameters (options and arguments) and then exits MDB. To find documentation about the MDB, such as online help, user's guide (PDF) or the Readme for MDB, type help doc (see Table 1-1 "Command Line Parameters Help"). This command displays the instructions on where to locate MDB documentation.

To set any parameters, use the following format in the Command Prompt (put a space between the entries as shown):

mdb [options] [commandFile]

You can use these commands to pass a command file to the MDB.

TABLE 1-1: COMMAND LINE PARAMETERS HELP

Option	Meaning	Examples
-h,help	Show the list of classes of commands	mdb -h
		or
		mdbhelp

Argument	Meaning	Example
commandFile	Run specified file with MDB commands for scripting. Also see Section 1.5 "Running a Command File Method"	mdb MyScriptingFile.txt

#### 1.3.2 Invoking the MDB

Use the Command Prompt to invoke MDB.

In Windows 7, the Command Prompt must be opened in Administrator mode: <u>Start>All Programs>Accessories>Command Prompt</u>, right click and select "Run as Administrator." This opens the Administrator: Command Prompt.

The path to the MDB may vary depending on where the MPLAB X IDE is installed and which operating system is installed. See the following table for the various operating systems and paths. The  ${\rm vn.nn}$  in the path represents the version number, for example v3.00. These paths are long so you may want to add them to your path variable.

#### TABLE 1-2: PATHS TO THE MDB BY OPERATING SYSTEM

# Windows 32-bit Operating System

c:\Program Files\Microchip\MPLABX\vn.nn\mplab\_platform\bin>mdb.bat

#### Windows 64-bit Operating System

c:\Program Files (x86)\Microchip\MPLABX\vn.nn\mplab\_platform\bin>mdb.bat

#### **Linux Operating System**

/opt/microchip/mplabx/vn.nn/mplab\_platform/bin/mdb.sh

#### Apple OS X

/Applications/microchip/mplabx/vn.nn/mplab\_ide.app/Contents/Resources/mplab\_platform/bin/mdb.sh

**Note:** The mdb.bat and mdb.sh scripts do not need to be run from the directory where they were installed. If the directory where these scripts are installed is added to the system path, then mdb.bat and msb.sh may run from any directory.

#### 1.4 DEBUGGING METHODS

You can run a test using either of the following methods:

- Entering Commands Method
- Running a Command File Method

Entering commands is the preferred method to run a test with MDB. It allows you to interact with the target application as it executes in simulation or on actual hardware. The result of each command is displayed one at a time, so that mistakes are more easily understood and corrected (see "Entering Commands Method").

The Running a Command File method cannot be used after the MDB has been invoked. The command file is included as a parameter in the command line when invoking the MDB (see "Running a Command File Method").

### 1.4.1 Entering Commands Method

**Note:** Although the MPLAB X IDE can run multiple tools simultaneously, the MDB will run only one tool at a time. However, you can have multiple instances of the MDB running.

Refer to Section 1.6 "Using Multiple Instances of the MDB" for details.

Entering commands is a step-by-step method to run a test with MDB. Once the MDB is running, you can start entering commands. Note that while the MDB commands are not case-sensitive, the property options and file names <u>are</u> case-sensitive.

Type help for a list of classes of commands in MDB. Refer to Chapter 2. "MDB Reference", Table 2-1 "MDB Classes of Commands".

For other commands available, see Chapter 2. "MDB Reference", Table 2-2 through Table 2-10.

The following sections describe these topics:

- Programming a Production Image for Testing Purposes
- · Debugging a Device

#### 1.4.2 Programming a Production Image for Testing Purposes

The MDB can be used to program a production image for testing purposes.

#### Note: The MDB should be used for debugging purposes.

For programming devices, use the IPECMD tool or the IPECMDBoost (for improved speed). Refer to the Release Notes for IPE Command Line Interface (Readme for IPECMD) located in the MPLABX install folder, for example, \Microchip\MPLABX\vx.xx\docs, where vx.xx represents the version of MPLAB X IDE.

The file or hardware tool you need to use for MDB cannot be active or open simultaneously in the MPLAB X IDE, IPE, or a third party program. Make sure you close (or make inactive) the file or hardware tool before you attempt to use it with the MDB.

**Note:** When programming a device, you must select a device first.

1. Select the device by entering the command:

```
Device [device name]
```

For example: Device PIC18F66K22

- Use the set command to select any options you want to use (see Table 2-6
  "Tool-Property-Name Options Used with the Set Command" or Table 2-7 "Simulator Options Used With the Set Command").
- 3. Select the hardware tool. To verify the supported tools, type:

```
Help Hwtool
```

The MPLAB ICD 3, MPLAB REAL ICE, PICkit 3 and Simulator are for programming and debugging, while the MPLAB PM3 is for programming only. To select the hardware tool, type the command:

```
Hwtool [tool name]
For example: Hwtool SIM
```

4. If the project was already built, a cof or elf file was generated. To program the device with the cof, elf or hex file, enter the command:

```
Program "[location of the cof or elf or hex file]".
```

#### For example:

```
Program "C:\MDBTestExample\Build\test\preprocess\files\dist\
  test_IO_Button.cof".
```

If you are using SIM (Simulator) as the hardware tool and the project needs an scl file, it can be set up by using the command:

```
Stim "[location of the scl file]"
```

For more information, use the command Help Stim. You can use Stimulus to set pin injection and/or register injection.

A "Program succeeded" message displays after programming is complete. A verify is automatically performed during a programming sequence.

## 1.4.3 Debugging a Device

Use the following commands to debug a device.

• Reset – refer to the device data sheet for Reset information. If a Reset is needed for debugging purposes: first, halt the target; then, enter the command:

Reset

- Set Breakpoint there are two ways to set a breakpoint for debugging:
  - Set a breakpoint by source-line-number using the command:

```
Break filename: linenumber For example: Break main.c:53
```

- Set a breakpoint at an absolute address using command:

```
Break *address
For example: Break *0x108
```

- Set Watchpoint to set a watchpoint for debugging:
  - Set a watchpoint by specifying an address and the type of watch using the command:

```
Watch address breakontype
For example: Watch 0xa0007ff0 R

or
Watch address breakontype[:value] [passcount]
For example: Watch 0xa0007ff0 R:0xf 1
```

• Delete Breakpoint – to delete a breakpoint, use the command:

```
Delete [breakpoint number]
```

If no argument is specified in this command, it will delete all breakpoints.

- Run Program the Run command can be used to run the program until it reaches a breakpoint.
- Step Through to step through the program, use the Step command or Next command.
- See Variable Value a Print [variable] command can be used to see the value of a variable or an SFR.
- Exit use the Quit command to exit the MDB.

#### 1.5 RUNNING A COMMAND FILE METHOD

**Note:** Although the MPLAB X IDE can run multiple tools simultaneously, the MDB will run only one tool at a time. However, you can have multiple instances of the MDB running.

Refer to Section 1.6 "Using Multiple Instances of the MDB" for details.

If programming and debugging needs to be done frequently or multiple times, run the test by running a command file. This is more efficient than entering the commands repeatedly. Put all the commands in a file and run the MDB using this command file in the Command Prompt, for example:

C:\Program Files\Microchip\MPLABX\vn.nn\mplab\_ide\bin>mdb.bat
<commandfile.txt>

The following is an example of a command file:

C:\MDB-SIMCommand\_Target.txt

A line starting with # means that it is a comment. A Sleep command should be added to make sure the MDB has enough time to finish the previous command before it executes the next command. The MDB will run all the commands in the command file sequentially.

#### FIGURE 1-1: EXAMPLE OF RUNNING A COMMAND FILE

MDB-SIMCommand\_Target.txt - Notepad

File Edit Format View Help

Device PIC18F66K22

Hwtool SIM

Program "C:\MDBTestExample\Build\test\preprocess\files\dist\test\_IO\_Button.cof"

Reset MCLR

Sleep 1500

# set breakpoint at 0x108

#Break simulator.c:53

Break \*0x108

Run

Wait 600000

#Sleep 6000

Print PROD

Quit

#### **Creating a Printable Log File**

Redirecting output to a file is a general option that can be executed from the command prompt and is not specific to the MDB batch file. Redirecting output to a printable text file can be more useful for examining errors than looking at the Command Prompt window.

To create a printable file, open the MDB.bat file, and modify it by adding >>%mplabx\_dir%\bin\mdblog.txt at the end of the batch file. This instructs the batch file to create the mdblog.txt file, which can be printed.

# MDB User's Guide

#### 1.6 USING MULTIPLE INSTANCES OF THE MDB

Using multiple instances of the MDB is similar to using multiple instances of the MPLAB X IDE. Some set up is required before using hardware tools (PICkit 3, etc.) with an instance of the MDB. Refer to the MPLAB X IDE online help "Before You Begin", and "Launch Multiple Instances of the IDE" for instructions on setting up the hardware tools and formatting the MCHPDEFPORT file. After any hardware tool setup is complete (to assign the appropriate driver for the tool), an instance of the MDB may be invoked from the bin directory of the installation.

# MDB USER'S GUIDE

# Chapter 2. MDB Reference

#### 2.1 HELP COMMANDS

There are help commands available in MDB.

Type help followed by a class name for a list of commands in that class (see Section 2.2 "Classes of Commands").

Type help followed by a command name for full documentation (see Section 2.3 "List of Commands within Classes").

Type help doc to see how to access MDB documentation. There are three ways to access documentation for the MDB:

1. The MDB Help file provides the most *up-to-date* information and is located in the same *docs* folder:

```
...>docs>MDB_Help>MDBX_SA.jar
```

2. The *Microchip Debugger (MDB) User's Guide* is located in the default location where the MPLAB X IDE was installed:

Program Files>Microchip>MPLABX>vx.xx>docs>MDBUserGuide.pdf Where vx.xx represents the MPLAB X IDE version.

3. The MDB User's Guide (.pdf) and MDB Help (.jar) can also be accessed by launching the MPLAB X IDE, clicking the Learn & Discover tab, then clicking on User's Guide & Release Notes in the Getting Started area. A new window opens showing a list of User's Guides, Release Notes and Support Documentation where you can find links to the MDB User's Guide and MDB Help.

#### 2.2 CLASSES OF COMMANDS

Type help for a list of classes of commands in MDB.

TABLE 2-1: MDB CLASSES OF COMMANDS

Class	Description
breakpoints	Making program stop at certain points
data	Examining/changing data
deviceandtool	Selecting debug tool and device
others	Miscellaneous commands
programming	Programming device and its relative functions
running	Running the program
stack	Examining stack

#### 2.3 LIST OF COMMANDS WITHIN CLASSES

**Note:** MDB commands are not case-sensitive. However, when using the SET command, where tool option properties are passed as parameters, the parameter portion of the command line entered is case-sensitive.

For a list of all commands within a particular class, type help followed by the class name. The help command can also be abbreviated to h. See the following tables for information about each class of commands.

For documentation on a particular command, type help [command or class of commands] to display information about the command. For example, if you type:

help breakpoints or h Breakpoints

the MDB displays information about the break, watch, delete and halt commands.

The following tables provide information on these commands:

- · Breakpoints Commands
- Data Commands
- Device and Tool Commands
- Others Commands
- Tool Property Options Used with the Set Command
- Simulator Options Used with the Set Command
- Programming Commands
- Running Commands
- Stack Commands

# 2.3.1 Breakpoints Commands

To display information about the breakpoints commands available in MDB, type  $help\ breakpoints$ . Table 2-2 provides additional information for this command.

TABLE 2-2: BREAKPOINTS COMMANDS

Description
Sets a breakpoint at the specified source line number  Command format:  break filename:linenumber [passCount]  Example:  break newmain.c:142 4
Sets a breakpoint at an absolute address  Command format:  break *address [passCount]  • address - the address of the program memory to break on – use the command: 'print /a' to get a symbol address.  • passCount - the parameter is optional Indicates the number of times the break 'on condition' is met before the program halts.  Example:  break *0x9d0000cc 5  MDB assigns a breakpoint number and returns:  Breakpoint 0 at 0x9d0000cc: file newmain.c, line 16.
Sets a breakpoint at the beginning of the function  Command format:  break function_name [passCount]  Example:  break function_foo 5
Deletes a breakpoint – if no argument is specified, this deletes all breakpoints You can abbreviate this command as d.  Command format:  delete [breakpoint number]  d [breakpoint number]  The breakpoint number is generated by MDB for the Break and/or Watch commands.  Examples:  delete or D  delete 1 or d 1
Stops the debugged program
Sets a data breakpoint at the specified memory address, variable name, or an SFR (special function register)  Command format:  Watch address breakonType[:value] [passCount]  • address – the name of a global variable, SFR, or data memory address to be watched Use command 'print /a' to get a variable address.  • breakonType: R - Read. W - Write. RW Read or Write.  • value – this parameter is optional If it is specified, the program will break only when the value held in the data memory matches the specified value.  • passCount – this parameter is optional The number of times the breakon condition is met before the program breaks.  Examples:  watch 0xa0007ff0 R:0xf 1 watch 0xa0007ff0 R:10 1 watch my_Variable W 4  MDB will assign and return the watchpoint number, for example: Watchpoint 1.

#### 2.3.2 Data Commands

To display information about the data commands available in the MDB, type help data. Table 2-3 provides additional information for this command.

TABLE 2-3: DATA COMMANDS

Command	Description
Print	Prints a variable with optional formatting  Command format:  print [/f] [/datasize:value] variable  • f - Optional format letter  The format letters supported are:  x - Print as integer in signed hexadecimal  d - Print as integer in signed decimal  a - Print the address of a symbol  • datasize:value – optional data size  Variable in assembly code might not have data size information. The user can specify the data size if the .cof or .elf file does not have the size information.  The values supported are:  1 - The data size is 1 byte.  2 - The data size is 2 bytes.  4 - The data size is 4 byte.  Use this command (not case sensitive) to display the pin information.  Command format:  print pin pinName
	Example:     print pin RA0  This command will print Pin, Mode, Value, and Owner or Mapping:     For Pin, it displays the name of the signal that the user types to find the pin     For Mode, it displays the A/D state and I/O state     For Value, it displays HIGH/LOW for Digital mode or the HIGH/LOW nominal voltage for Analog mode     For Owner or Mapping, it displays the pin owner and all the signals in this pin     The owner of the pin is the signal with parentheses.
Stim	Specifies a simulator SCL stimulus file to use This loads the specified SCL stimulus file into the simulator, or if no path to the file is specified, it clears a loaded file. (Note: if the path or filename has spaces in it, you must use the quotation marks, as shown below. If there are no spaces in the path of filename, the quotation marks are not needed.)  Command format:  Stim "[path to file]" Stim

# TABLE 2-3: DATA COMMANDS (CONTINUED)

Command	Description
Write	Use this command to write to memory.  Command format:  write [/t] addr word1 word2 wordn  • t - the type of memory The type of memory is any of the following:  r - File Registers (RAM) memory This is the initial default.  p - Program (flash) memory e - EE Data memory  Each time you specify a memory type with write, that type becomes the default memory the next time you use write.  • addr - the starting address where you want MDB to begin writing to memory • word - the following values will be written to successive words of memory Use this command to set a pin high or low when the simulator is used as a debug tool.  Command format:  write pin pinName pinState  Example: write pin RAO high Use this command to set a the voltage of a pin when the simulator is used as a debug tool.  Command format: write pin pinName pinVoltage  Example: write pin pinName pinVoltage
x	Examine memory You can use the command x (for examine) to examine memory in any of several formats, independent of your program's data types.  Command format:  x [/tnfu] [addr]  • t - the type of memory Each time you specify a memory type with x, that type becomes the default memory the next time you use x. The type of memory is any of the following:  r - File Registers (RAM) memory. This is the initial default.  p - Program (flash) memory.  m - Memory-mapped control registers (PIC32 peripheral memory)  e - EE Data memory.  • n - the repeat count The repeat count is a decimal integer; the default is 1. It specifies how much memory (counting by units u) to display.  • f - the display format. The display format is one of the formats used by print (x, d, o, f, s), and in addition "i" (for machine instructions). The default is 'x' (hexadecimal) initially. The default changes each time you use x.  • u - the unit size Each time you specify a unit size with x, that size becomes the default unit the next time you use x. (For the 's' and 'i' formats, the unit size is ignored and is normally not written.) The unit size is any of following: b - Bytes. h - Halfwords (two bytes). w - Words (four bytes). This is the initial default.  • addr - the starting display address where you want MDB to begin displaying memory The addr can be a literal or a symbol name. The default for addr, if not specified, is taken as the value just after the last address examined. However, several other commands also set the default address: info breakpoints (to the address of the last breakpoint listed); info line (to the starting address of a line); and print (if you use it to display a value from memory).

#### 2.3.3 Device and Tool Commands

To display information about the device and tool commands available in MDB, type help device, help hwtool or help deviceandtool. Table 2-4 provides additional information about these commands.

TABLE 2-4: DEVICE AND TOOL COMMANDS

Command	Description
Device	Sets the name of the target device  Command format:  Device devicename  Example:  Device PIC32MX795F512L
Hwtool	Sets the debug tool or list all the available hardware tools on the system (The device must be set with the <code>pevice</code> command before a tool can be used/set.)  Command format:  Hwtool [toolType] [-p] [index]  Following are the supported tool names (not case-sensitive):  • ICD3 - MPLAB ICD 3 In-Circuit Debugger  • ICD4 - MPLAB ICD 1 In-Circuit Debugger  • RealICE - MPLAB REAL ICE In-Circuit Emulator  • PICkit3 - PICkit 3 In-Circuit Debugger  • PICkit4 - MPLAB PKAL ICE In-Circuit Debugger  • PICkit4 - MPLAB PRAL ICE In-Circuit Debugger  • PICkit4 - MPLAB PM3 Programmer  • IcleensedDebugger - third party debugger  • LicensedDebugger - third party debugger  • LicensedProgrammer - third party programmer  • SK - Microchip Starter Kit (PICkit On Board - PKOB)  • SNAP - MPLAB Snap In-Circuit Debugger  To set the tool for programming only, a space must precede the -p option.  Command format:  Hwtool [toolType] -p  Example:  Hwtool ICD3 -p  Use the index option to select the tool if there are more than one instance of a tool type. If you have two MPLAB ICD 3 units connected to the PC, use the hwtool command to find the assigned index number of the tool.  Example:  - hwtool  index Description  0 MPLAB ICD 3 tm (MRK100000000)  1 MPLAB ICD 3 tm (MRK1000000111)  Example:  Hwtool ICD3 -p 1  Note: By default, when a hardware tool is selected, it is loaded as a debugger. This means that it always programs the device and adds the necessary debug requirements to enable the image to be debugged.
Davida a su elta e l	To use a tool for programming only, use the -p option when setting the hardware tool.
Deviceandtool	Displays both the Device and Hwtool command information

#### 2.3.4 Others Commands

To display information about the others commands available in MDB, type  $\mathtt{help}$  others. Table 2-5 provides additional information for this command.

TABLE 2-5: OTHERS COMMANDS

Command	Description
Echo	Echo is a command typically used in command files and batch files to output status text to the screen or a file. The echo command will print text surrounded by /* */. Use \n in the text to print a new line.  Command format:     echo text  Example:     echo Hello World  Result:     /*Hello World*/  This command prints text only. To print variables or other information, use commands such as print, info, list, etc.
Help	help others - Prints a list of commands
Quit	quit - Exits the debugger
Set	The tool property name and value are from the project properties that are selected when creating the project in MPLAB X IDE.  IMPORTANT: The Set command, including the tool property options, must be executed before the program command is issued, otherwise the changes to the tool properties will be ignored.  Command format:  Set tool-property-name value  Example:  Set programoptions.eraseb4program true  Refer to Table 2-6 for other tool properties options that can used with the Set command.  Refer to Table 2-7 for simulator options that can be used with the Set command.
Sleep	Makes the current script processor sleep until specified milliseconds have elapsed  Command format:  Sleep milliseconds  Example:  Sleep 10
Wait	The Wait command makes the current script processor wait until the debugger halts before processing the next command.  Command format:  Wait  Wait Milliseconds makes the processor process the next command if the debugger does not halt and milliseconds have elapsed.  Command format:  Wait [milliseconds]
cd	This command changes the directory that you are currently working in to the directory you designate.  Command format:  cd [directory]

## TABLE 2-5: OTHERS COMMANDS (CONTINUED)

Command	Description
info	Prints a table of all breakpoints that have been set and not deleted Optional argument n means "print information only" about the specified breakpoint.  For each breakpoint the following columns are printed:  Breakpoint Numbers  Enabled or Disabled Enabled breakpoints are marked with 'y' Disabled breakpoints are marked with 'n'  Address Where the breakpoint is in your program, as a memory address.  What Where the breakpoint is in the source for your program: as a file and line number.  Command format: info breakpoints [n] info break [n]
list\	The list command prints (displays) the source code for the current PC location, or a different file, if specified.  The list command displays lines from a source file.  By default, 10 lines are displayed.  list     displays 10 lines (5 above, 5 below) around the current line  list linenum     displays 10 lines around a given line  list first,     displays 10 lines from first line specified  list ,last     displays 10 lines up to last line specified  list first,last     displays all lines from the first to the last line specified  list -     displays 10 previous lines from the last output  list +     displays 10 more lines from the last output  list function     displays 10 lines around the given function  list file:linenum     displays 10 lines around the given line in a given file  list file:function     displays 10 lines around the given function in a given file  set system.listsize count     changes the number of lines shown.  Using 0 or -1 means unlimited list size
pwd	The pwd command displays the current working directory.  Command format:  pwd

#### 2.3.4.1 TOOL PROPERTY OPTIONS USED WITH THE SET COMMAND

Table 2-6 provides additional information for tool property options used with the Set command.

IMPORTANT: The Set command, including the tool property options, must be executed before the program command is issued, otherwise the changes to the tool properties will be ignored.

- **Note 1:** MDB commands are not case-sensitive. However, when using the set command, where tool option properties are passed as parameters, the parameter portion of the command line entered is case-sensitive.
  - 2: Tool property options that you want to use with the set command must be selected before using the hwtool command.

TABLE 2-6: TOOL-PROPERTY-NAME OPTIONS USED WITH THE SET COMMAND

Tool Property Name	Value	Tool
AutoSelectMemRanges  Determines whether the debugger will automatically select the areas of memory and program memory ranges to program  If set to auto, the debugger will automatically select the memory and ranges. Manual means the memories and ranges will be determined by the memories properties below.  Example:  set AutoSelectMemRanges auto	auto Or manual	MPLAB ICD3, MPLAB ICD4, MPLAB REAL ICE, PICkit 3, MPLAB PICkit 4, MPLAB PM3, MPLAB Snap
debugoptions.useswbreakpoints  True indicates that software breakpoints will be used for program address breakpoints, false indicates that hardware breakpoints will be used (does not apply to PICkit 3).  Example: set debugoptions.useswbreakpoints true	true <b>Or</b> false	MPLAB ICD3, MPLAB ICD4, MPLAB REAL ICE, MPLAB PICkit 4, MPLAB Snap
memories.programmemory  If true, the program memory will be programmed; if false, it will not.  Example: set memories.programmemory true	true Or false	MPLAB ICD3, MPLAB ICD4, MPLAB REAL ICE, PICkit 3, MPLAB PICkit 4, MPLAB PM3, MPLAB Snap
memories.programmemory.start  The value represents the starting program memory address that the debug tool will begin programming.  Example: set memories.programmemory.start 0x0000	a string representing a long value	MPLAB ICD3, MPLAB ICD4, MPLAB REAL ICE, PICkit 3, MPLAB PICkit 4, MPLAB PM3, MPLAB Snap
memories.programmemory.end  The value represents the ending program memory address that the debug tool will end programming.  Example:  set memories.programmemory.end 0xFFFF	a string representing a long value	MPLAB ICD3, MPLAB ICD4, MPLAB REAL ICE, PICkit 3, MPLAB PICkit 4, MPLAB PM3, MPLAB Snap
memories.eeprom  If true, the EEPROM memory will be programmed; if false, it will not.  Example: set memories.eeprom true	true Or false	MPLAB ICD3, MPLAB ICD4, MPLAB REAL ICE, PICkit 3, MPLAB PICkit 4, MPLAB PM3, MPLAB Snap

TABLE 2-6: TOOL-PROPERTY-NAME OPTIONS USED WITH THE SET COMMAND (CONTINUED)

Tool Property Name	Value	Tool
· •	10000	
memories.id  If true, the user ID memory will be programmed; if false, it will not.  Example:  set memories.id true	true Of false	MPLAB ICD3, MPLAB ICD4, MPLAB REAL ICE, PICkit 3, MPLAB PICkit 4, MPLAB PM3, MPLAB Snap
memories.bootflash  If true, the boot flash (PIC32 only) memory will be programmed; if false, it will not.  Example: set memories.bootflash true	true Of false	MPLAB ICD3, MPLAB ICD4, MPLAB REAL ICE, PICkit 3, MPLAB PICkit 4, MPLAB PM3, MPLAB Snap
memories.aux  If true, the auxiliary program memory (dsPIC/PIC24 EP parts only) will be programmed; if false, it will not.  Example: set memories.aux true	true Or false	MPLAB ICD3, MPLAB ICD4, MPLAB REAL ICE, PICkit 3, MPLAB PICkit 4, MPLAB PM3, MPLAB Snap
programoptions.eraseb4program  If true, the device will be erased before it is programmed; if false it will not.  Example: set programoptions.eraseb4program true	true <b>or</b> false	MPLAB ICD3, MPLAB ICD4, MPLAB REAL ICE, PICkit 3, MPLAB PICkit 4, MPLAB PM3, MPLAB Snap
programoptions.ledbrightness  Sets the brightness of the LEDs on the MPLAB ICD 4. Setting 1 is darkest and 10 is the brightest. The default is 5.  Example:  set programoptions.ledbrightness 7	1 to 10	MPLAB ICD4, MPLAB PICkit 4
programoptions.pgcconfig  Sets the type of resistance to be applied to the PGC line. The default is pull down. The value of the resistance is set by the PGC resistor option.  Example:  set programoptions.pgcconfig pullup	none Or pull up Or pull down	MPLAB ICD4, MPLAB PICkit 4
programoptions.pgcresistor.value  Sets the value of the resistance on the PGC line. Maximum value is 50 kohms. If PGC configuration is set to none, this value is ignored.  Example:  set programoptions.pgcresistor.value 4.7	0.1 to 50.0	MPLAB ICD4, MPLAB PICkit 4
programoptions.pgdconfig  Sets the type of resistance to be applied to the PGD line. The default is pull down.  The value of the resistance is set by the PGD resistor option.  Example:  set programoptions.pgdconfig pullup	none Or pull up Or pull down	MPLAB ICD4, MPLAB PICkit 4
programoptions.pgdresistor.value  Sets the value of the resistance on the PGD line. Maximum value is 50 kohms. If PGD configuration is set to none, this value is ignored.	0.1 to 50.0	MPLAB ICD4, MPLAB PICkit 4

TABLE 2-6: TOOL-PROPERTY-NAME OPTIONS USED WITH THE SET COMMAND (CONTINUED)

TABLE 2-6: TOOL-PROPERTY-NAME OPTIONS USED WITH THE SET		ì
Tool Property Name	Value	Tool
Programoptions.pgmentry.voltage  Sets the method the MPLAB ICD 4 will use to put the target device in programming mode. For the low voltage method, VPP will not exceed the VDD supply voltage. Instead, a test pattern will be used on VPP. For the high voltage method, a voltage in excess of 9 volts will be placed on VPP.  Example:  set programoptions.pgmentry.voltage low	Low Or High	MPLAB ICD4, MPLAB PICkit 4 MPLAB Snap
programoptions.pgmspeed  Sets the speed that the MPLAB ICD 4 will use to program the target. If programming fails, try a slower speed. The default is Med.  Example:  set programoptions.pgmspeed Min	Min or Med or Max	MPLAB ICD4, MPLAB PICkit 4 MPLAB Snap
poweroptions.powerenable  If true, the debug tool will supply target power at the default voltage for the tool. If false it will not supply target power.  Note: This property does not apply to MPLAB REAL ICE.  To set a non-default voltage for the target power, first set the poweroptions.powerenable to true, then set the voltage value where n.n represents the desired voltage:  set voltagevalue n.n  Example:  set poweroptions.powerenable true set voltagevalue 3.3	true Or false	MPLAB ICD3, MPLAB ICD4, PICkit 3, MPLAB PICkit 4, MPLAB PM3
SecureSegment.SegmentProgramming SegmentProgrammingAll  If true, it permits programming to "Program Over Secure and Protected FLASH." This property must be set prior to using the program operation on the MDB. Use the -p option to set the tool as a programmer if it's for a production final image and not just a debug image.  Example:  set SecureSegment.SegmentProgramming SegmentProgrammingAll true	true <b>Or</b> false	MPLAB ICD3, MPLAB ICD4, MPLAB REAL ICE, PICkit 3, MPLAB PICkit 4
system.disableerrormsg  Note: This option has been deprecated as of v3.15 but will still function with existing projects. For new projects, use the system.disableoutput and system.yestoalldialog options.  If true, the system will disable warnings and error messages and answer "yes" to all dialogs; if false the system will enable warning and error messages (this is the default).  Example:  set system.disableerrormsg true	true Or false	Not tool dependent
system.disableoutput  If true, the system will disable warnings and error message outputs but not disable dialogs; if false the system will enable warning and error message outputs and dialogs (this is the default).  Example:  set system.disableoutput true	true Or false	Not tool dependent
system.yestoalldialog  If true, the system will disable dialogs and answer "yes" to all of them; if false the system will enable dialogs (this is the default).  Example:  set system.yestoalldialog true	true Of false	Not tool dependent

#### 2.3.4.2 SIMULATOR OPTIONS USED WITH THE SET COMMAND

Table 2-7 provides additional information for simulator options used with the set command.

IMPORTANT: The Set command, including the tool property options, must be executed before the program command is issued, otherwise the changes to the tool properties will be ignored.

**Note:** For the following table, the break options allow you to set the conditions that will cause program execution to halt. In general, the program will either break on option, ignore the option, or report the option.

TABLE 2-7: SIMULATOR OPTIONS USED WITH THE SET COMMAND

Simulator Options	Values	Device or Runtime Dependent
breakoptions.coreerrors Sets the condition if core errors occur  Example: set breakoptions.coreerrors Break	Break, Ignore, Report	No
breakoptions.corewarnings Sets the condition if core warnings occur  Example: set breakoptions.corewarnings Ignore	Break, Ignore, Report	No
breakoptions.peripheralerrors Sets the condition if peripheral errors occur  Example: set breakoptions.peripheralerrors Report	Break, Ignore, Report	No
breakoptions.peripheralwarnings Sets the condition if peripheral warnings occur  Example: set breakoptions.peripheralwarnings Break	Break, Ignore, Report	No
breakoptions.stimulusmessages.notes Sets the condition if stimulus notes occur  Example: set breakoptions.stimulusmessages.notes Ignore	Break, Ignore, Report	No
breakoptions.stimulusmessags.errors Sets the condition if stimulus errors occur  Example: set breakoptions.stimulusmessages.errors Report	Break, Ignore, Report	No
breakoptions.stimulusmessags.warnings Sets the condition if stimulus warnings occur  Example: set breakoptions.stimulusmessages.warnings Ignore	Break, Ignore, Report	No
breakoptions.wdtwarnings Sets the condition if watchdog timer warnings occur  Example: set breakoptions.wdtwarnings Ignore	Break, Ignore, Report	No
codecoverage.enabled Enables or disables code coverage Example: set codecoverage.enabled Disable	Disable, Enabled_Reset_on_POR Enabled_Reset_on_Run	No
codecoverage.enableoutputtofile Enables write to file Example: set codecoverage.enableoutputtofile true	true, false	No

TABLE 2-7: SIMULATOR OPTIONS USED WITH THE SET COMMAND (CONTINUED)

Simulator Options	Values	Device or Runtime Dependent
<pre>codecoverage.outputtofile Absolute path to output file Example:   set codecoverage.outputtofile "c:\path\to\file.txt"</pre>	String path	No
oscillator.auxfrequency Auxiliary PLL Frequency, used by PWM and ADC  Example: set oscillator.auxfrequency 4400	Numeric	Yes
oscillator.auxfrequencyunit Auxiliary PLL Frequency Units Example: set oscillator.auxfrequencyunit None	Mega, Kilo, None	Yes
oscillator.frequency Instruction Execution Frequency Example: set oscillator.frequency 4700	numeric	No
oscillator.frequencyunit Instruction Frequency Units Example: set oscillator.frequencyunit Kilo	Mega, Kilo, None	No
oscillator.rcfrequency RC Oscillator Frequency Example: set oscillator.rcfrequency 4500	Numeric	No
oscillator.rcfrequencyunit RC Oscillator Frequency Units Example: set oscillator.rcfrequencyunit None	Mega, Kilo, None	No
periphADC1.altscl Use MPLAB 8 style ADC  Example: set periphADC1.altscl true	true, false	Yes
periphADC1.minTacq Specifies minimum acquisition time (Tacq) in seconds  Example: set periphADC1.minTacq 10	Numeric	Yes
periphADC1.tacqunits Units for minimum acquisition time (Tacq)  Example: set periphADC1.tacqunits nanoseconds	milliseconds, micro- seconds, nanoseconds	Yes
periphADC2.altscl Use MPLAB 8 style ADC  Example: set periphADC2.altscl true	true, false	Yes
periphADC2.minTacq Specifies minimum acquisition time (Tacq) in seconds  Example: set periphADC2.minTacq 20	Numeric	Yes
periphADC2.tacqunits Units for minimum acquisition time (Tacq)  Example: set periphADC2.tacqunits milliseconds	milliseconds, micro- seconds, nanoseconds	Yes

# **MDB** User's Guide

## TABLE 2-7: SIMULATOR OPTIONS USED WITH THE SET COMMAND (CONTINUED)

Simulator Options	Values	Device or Runtime Dependent
uartNio.output Specifies location of UART output N represents the UART number 1 through 6 Example: set uartlio.output file	file, window	Yes
uartNio.uartioenabled  If true, the system will enable the UART I/O; if false the system will disable it  N represents the UART number 1 through 6  Example:  set uartlio.uartioenabled false	true, false	Yes
uartNio.outputfile Passes in a string containing the root (absolute path) of the file system to the file used for UART output N represents the UART number 1 through 6  Example: set uartlio.outputfile "c:\path\to\outputfile.txt"	Absolute path to file	Yes

#### 2.3.5 Programming Commands

To display information about the programming commands available in the MDB, type help [programming option]. Table 2-8 provides additional information for these commands.

IMPORTANT: The Set command, including the tool property options, must be executed before the program command is issued, otherwise the changes to the tool properties will be ignored.

TABLE 2-8: PROGRAMMING COMMANDS

Command	Description
Program	Programs device memory with the image specified by the file  Note: if the path or filename has spaces in it, you must use the quotation marks. If there are no spaces in the path of filename, the quotation marks are not needed, as shown below.  Command format:  Program executableImageFile
Upload	Uploads the executable image to MDB memory  The source of the instructions to be loaded is the contents of the memory of an attached PIC device through the programmer or debugger.  Command format:  Upload
Dump	Writes the device memory to a hex file  Command format:  Dump [-m] filename  The m is an optional argument that specifies which memories to write to the hex file. It can be any combination of the following:  p - Program Memory (Flash)  e - EE Data  c - Configuration Bits  u - User ID memory  b - Boot Memory  f - Flash Data  The filename is the full path and name to the hex file.

#### 2.3.6 Running Commands

To display information about the running commands available in the MDB, type help running. Table 2-9 provides additional information for these commands.

TABLE 2-9: RUNNING COMMANDS

Command	Description
Continue	Resumes program being debugged, after breakpoint  Command format:  Continue
Halt	Stops the debugged program  Command format:  Halt
Next	Step program, proceeding through subroutine calls Like the "step" command as long as subroutine calls do not happen; when they do, the call is treated as one instruction.  Command format:  Next
Run	Start the debugged program  Command format:  Run

TABLE 2-9: RUNNING COMMANDS

Command	Description					
Step	Step program until it reaches a different source line The step command only enters a function if there is a line number information for the function.  Command format: Step					
Stepi	Execute one machine instruction, then stop and return to the debugger The optional argument count is a repeat count.  Command format: Stepi [count]					

#### 2.3.7 Stack Commands

To display information about the stack commands available in MDB, type help backtrace. Table 2-10 provides additional information for these commands.

**TABLE 2-10: STACK COMMANDS** 

Command	Description
Backtrace	Print a backtrace of the entire stack, one line per frame for all frames in the stack  Command format:  Backtrace [full] [ <n, -n="">]  full - prints the values of local variables  n - prints the innermost n frames  -n - prints the outermost n frames</n,>

## MDB USER'S GUIDE

# Appendix A. Revision History

#### REVISION HISTORY

#### Revision A (November 2012) - initial release of this document.

#### **Revision B (April 2013)**

- added note in Invoking the MDB section
- added Tool Property Name Options for the Set command
- · added Simulator Options for the Set command
- added -p option
- · added note on running multiple tools
- · removed example of using commands to debug a project
- · added section on creating a printable log file

#### **Revision C (March 2014)**

- · relocated Revision History from Preface to it's own appendix.
- added a Document Layout section to the Preface.
- added new Section 1.6 "Using Multiple Instances of the MDB".
- moved reference tables to Chapter 2. "MDB Reference".
- added notes about case-sensitivity for commands in Chapter 2. "MDB Reference".
- added tool column to Table 2-6: "Tool-Property-Name Options Used with the Set Command"
- added new Table 2-7: "Simulator Options Used With the Set Command".

#### **Revision D (February 2017)**

- added more documents to the Recommended Reading section in Preface.
- revised the title of Chapter 1 to "How to Use Microchip Debugger", revised the description of the MDB and added a note to the revised Programming a Production Image for Testing Purposes section.
- revised Section 1.3 "Getting Started" to add information on Command Line Parameters.
- added information in the Help Commands section.
- revised multiple tables in the MDB Reference chapter.

#### **Revision E (October 2018)**

- added information for the MPLAB PICkit 4 and MPLAB Snap In-Circuit Debuggers in Section 1.1 "Introduction".
- renamed, reorganized and added information in Section 1.2 "Installation and Documentation" and Section 1.3 "Getting Started".
- updated paths in Table 1-2: "Paths to the MDB by Operating System"
- updated tools in Table 2-4: "Device and tool Commands" and Table 2-6: "Tool-Property-Name Options Used with the Set Command"

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# **MDB USER'S GUIDE**

# Index

A	Creating a Printable Log File	15
AutoSelectMemRanges	D	
В	Data	
Backtrace	Print	20
Break	Stim	20
breakoptions.coreerrors	Write	21
breakoptions.corewarnings	X	21
breakoptions.peripheralerrors	data	17
breakoptions.peripheralwarnings	Debugging a Device	14
breakoptions.stimulusmessages.notes	debugoptions.useswbreakpoints	
breakoptions.stimulusmessags.errors	Delete	
breakoptions.stimulusmessags.warnings	Delete Breakpoint	
breakoptions.wdtwarnings	Device	22
Breakpoints	Device and Tool	
Break	Device	22
Delete	Deviceandtool	22
Halt	Hwtool	
Watch	Deviceandtool	22
breakpoints	deviceandtool	17
breakpoints 17	Documentation	
C	Conventions	6
cd23	Dump	
Classes of Commands		
breakpoints 17	E	
data17	Echo	
deviceandtool17	elf file	
others17	Entering Commands Method	
programming17	Exit	14
running 17	н	
stack 17		40.04
codecoverage.enabled	Halt	
codecoverage.enableoutputtofile28	Header Specification	
codecoverage.outputtofile29	Help	
cof file	Help Commands	
Command	Hwtool	22
Delete 14	M	
Device	MDB	c
list24	mdbhelp	
Print 14	MDB.bat file	
Program 13	mdblog.txt file	
Quit 14	memories.aux	
Reset MCLR14	memories.bootflash	
Run14	memories.eeprom	
Sleep	memories.id	
Step	memories.programmemory	
Stim	memories.programmemory.end	
help	memories.programmemory.start	
Command Line Parameters 10	Microchip Debugger	
Command Prompt11	Mariotolip Debuggel	
Continue 31		

# **MDB User's Guide**

Set	N		Next	31
Stepi	Next	31	Run	31
oscillator.auxfrequency	0		•	
oscillator auxfrequency upint.         29         Running a Command File Method.         15           oscillator frequency oscillator frequency unit.         29         Scape Secure Segment Segment Programming.         27           oscillator refrequency unit.         29         Scape Variable Value.         14           Others         23         Tool Property Name Options.         25           Echo.         23         Tool Property Name Options.         25           Help.         23         Set Breakpoint.         14           pwd         24         Simulator Options         28           Set.         23         Simulator Options.         28           Set.         23         breakoptions.coreerors         28           Sicep.         23         breakoptions.coreerors         28           Sicep.         23         breakoptions.coreerors         28           breakoptions.coreerors         28         breakoptions.coreerors         28           periphADC1 allscl.         29         breakoptions.coreerors         28           breakoptions.coreerors         28         breakoptions.coreerors         28           breakoptions.coreerors         28         breakoptions.coreerors         28           breakoptions.coreero		00		
oscillator, frequency (unit)         29         scillator, frequency (unit)         29         scillator, refrequency (unit)         39         scillator, refrequency (unit)         39         scellator, refrequency (unit)         39         scellator, refrequency (unit)         39         scellator, refrequency (unit)         39         scellator, refrequency (unit)         31         Scellator, and (unit)         31         Scellator, and (unit)         32         Tool Property Name Options         25         28         42         Autor, and (unit)         44         Stell (unit)         23         Set Breakpoint         44         31         32         32         42				
oscillator frequencyunit.         29         sci file	• •		Running a Command File Method	15
oscillator.rdrequencyunit.         29         scl file			S	
Secure Segment Journal Segment Programming   27			sol file	13
Others         3         See Variable Value         14           od         23         Fetho         23           Echo         23         Tool Property Name Options         25           Help         23         Set Breakpoint         14           List         24         Set Warchpoint         14           pwd         24         Simulator Options         13           Set.         23         breakoptions.coreerrors         28           Set.         23         breakoptions.coreerrors         28           Wait         23         breakoptions.coreerrors         28           Wait         23         breakoptions.coreerrors         28           Wait         23         breakoptions.coreerrors         28           periphADC1.minTacq         29         breakoptions.stimulusmessags.moles         28           periphADC1.altscl         29         breakoptions.stimulusmessags.anoles         28           periphADC2.altscl         29         breakoptions.stimulusmessags.anoles         28           periphADC2.altscl         29         breakoptions.stimulusmessags.anoles         28           periphADC2.altscl         29         periphADC3.minTacquentintintintintintintintintintintintintin				
Set		29		
Tool Property Name Options   25   Help   23				
Help				
List				
Dwd				
Quit         23         Simulator Options         28           Set         23         breakoptions.coreerrors         28           Sleep         23         breakoptions.corewarnings         28           Wait         23         breakoptions.peripheralerrors         28           Wait         23         breakoptions.peripheralerrors         28           P         breakoptions.peripheralerrors         28           periphADC1.altscl         29         breakoptions.stimulusmessages.notes         28           periphADC1.altscl         29         breakoptions.stimulusmessages.notes         28           periphADC2.altscl         29         breakoptions.stimulusmessages.notes         28           periphADC2.altscl         29         breakoptions.stimulusmessages.motes         28           periphADC2.altscl         29         breakoptions.stimulusmessages.motes         28           periphADC2.altscl         29         breakoptions.witmulusmessages.motes         28           periphADC2.altscl         29         breakoptions.witmulusmessages.motes         28           periphADC2.altscl         29         codecoverage.enabled         28           periphADC2.altscl         29         codecoverage.enabled         28           program				
Set.         23         breakoptions.coreerors         28           Sleep.         23         breakoptions.corewarnings         28           Wait         23         breakoptions.peripheralerors         28           others         17         breakoptions.peripheralerors         28           periphADC1.altscl         29         breakoptions.stimulusmessages.notes         28           periphADC1.altscl         29         breakoptions.stimulusmessags.errors         28           periphADC1.tacqunits         29         breakoptions.stimulusmessags.errors         28           periphADC1.tacqunits         29         codecoverage.enabled         28           periphADC2.tacqunits         29         codecoverage.enableduptoffile         28           periphADC2.tacqunits         29         oscillator.auxfrequency         29           periphADC2.tacqunits         29         oscillator.auxfrequency         29           periphADC2.tacqunits         29         oscillator.frequency         29           Priot         20         oscillator.frequency         29           Program         31         periphADC1.minTacq         29           Programming         31         periphADC1.minTacq         29           Programming	•			13
Sieep				20
Wait         23         breakoptions, peripheralerrors         2.8           others         17         breakoptions, peripheralwarnings         2.8           periphADC1. altscl.         29         breakoptions, stimulusmessage, errors         2.8           periphADC1. latscl.         29         breakoptions, stimulusmessage, errors         2.8           periphADC2. latiscl.         29         breakoptions, widwarnings         2.8           periphADC2. altscl.         29         codecoverage, enabled         2.8           periphADC2. altscl.         29         codecoverage, enabled         2.8           periphADC2. minTacq         29         codecoverage, enabled         2.8           periphADC2. minTacq         29         codecoverage, enabled         2.8           periphADC2. minTacq         29         codecoverage, enabled on the code code code code code code code cod				
Dump				
P         breakoptions.stimulusmessages.notes         28           periphADC1.altscl.         29         breakoptions.stimulusmessags.errors         28           periphADC1.minTacq         29         breakoptions.stimulusmessags.wamings         28           periphADC1.tacqunits         29         breakoptions.wdtwarnings         28           periphADC2.altscl.         29         codecoverage.enabled uputtofile         28           periphADC2.altscl.         29         codecoverage.enabled uputtofile         28           periphADC2.tacqunits         29         codecoverage.enabled uputtofile         29           periphADC2.tacqunits         29         codecoverage.enabled uputtofile         29           poweroptions.powerenable         27         oscillator.auxfrequency         29           Processor Extension Pak Specification         7         oscillator.auxfrequency         29           Program         31         periphADC1.altscl         29           Programming         31         periphADC1.altscl         29           Programming         31         periphADC1 altscl         29           Programming         31         periphADC1 altscl         29           Programming         17         periphADC2 altscl         29	Wait	23		
P	others	17		
District   District	D			
periphADC1.minTacq         29         breakoptions wdtwarnings         28           periphADC2.altscl         29         codecoverage enableoutputtofile         28           periphADC2.altscl         29         codecoverage enableoutputtofile         28           periphADC2.minTacq         29         codecoverage outputtofile         29           periphADC2.tacqunits         29         oscillator auxfrequency         29           poweroptions, powerenable         27         oscillator auxfrequency unit         29           Print         20         oscillator auxfrequency         29           Print         20         oscillator auxfrequency         29           Processor Extension Pak Specification         7         oscillator auxfrequency         29           Program         31         oscillator auxfrequency         29           Programming         31         periphADC1 altscl         29           Programming         31         periphADC1 altscl         29           Upload         31         periphADC1 altscl         29           Upogramming         17         periphADC1 altscl         29           Uprogramming a Device         13         periphADC2 altscl         29           programoptions.eraseb4program </td <td></td> <td></td> <td>•</td> <td></td>			•	
PeriphADC1.tacqunits   29	• •			
periphADC2.altscl.         29         codecoverage.enableoutputtofile         28           periphADC2.minTacq         29         codecoverage.outputtofile         29           periphADC2.tacqunits         29         oscillator.auxfrequency         29           poweroptions.powerenable         27         oscillator.auxfrequencyunit         29           Print         20         oscillator.frequency         29           Processor Extension Pak Specification         7         oscillator.frequencyunit         29           Program         31         oscillator.rcfrequencyunit         29           Programming         31         periphADC1.altscl         29           Programming         31         periphADC1.minTacq         29           Upload         31         periphADC1.tacqunits         29           Programming a Device         13         periphADC2.altscl         29           Programming a Device         13         periphADC2.minTacq         29           programoptions.eraseb4program         26         uart1io.outputile         30           programoptions.pgconfig         26         uart1io.outputfile         30           programoptions.pgdresistor value         26         Sleep         23           programoptio				
PeriphADC2.minTacq				
periphADC2.tacqunits         29         oscillator.auxfrequency.         29           poweroptions.powerenable         27         oscillator.auxfrequency.unit.         29           Priot.         20         oscillator.frequency.         29           Processor Extension Pak Specification.         7         oscillator.frequency.unit.         29           Program         31         oscillator.rcfrequency.         29           Programming         0scillator.rcfrequency.unit.         29           Programming         31         periphADC1.altscl         29           Program         31         periphADC1.altscl         29           Programming         17         periphADC1.tacqunits         29           Programming a Device         13         periphADC1.tacqunits         29           Programming a Device         13         periphADC2.altscl         29           programoptions.eraseb4program         26         uart1 io.output         30           programoptions.eldobrightness         26         uart1 io.outputfile         30           programoptions.pgcresistor.value         26         Stack         30           programoptions.pgdresistor.value         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgmspeed	• •		·	
poweroptions.powerenable         27         oscillator.auxfrequencyunit.         29           Print         20         oscillator frequency         29           Processor Extension Pak Specification         7         oscillator.frequencyunit         29           Program         31         oscillator.rcfrequencyunit         29           Dump         31         periphADC1.altscl         29           Program         31         periphADC1.minTacq         29           Upload         31         periphADC2.altscl         29           Programming a Device         13         periphADC2.altscl         29           programoptions.eraseb4program         26         uart1io.output         30           programoptions.eraseb4program         26         uart1io.output         30           programoptions.pgcconfig         26         uart1io.outputfile         30           programoptions.pgcconfig         26         uart1io.outputfile         30           programoptions.pgdresistor value         26         Sleep         23           programoptions.pgdresistor value         26         Sleep         32           programoptions.pgdresistor value         26         Stack         32           programoptions.pgdresistor.value			- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Print         20         oscillator frequency         29           Processor Extension Pak Specification         7         oscillator frequencyunit         29           Program         31         oscillator refrequency         29           Programming         oscillator refrequencyunit         29           Dump         31         periphADC1 altscl         29           Program         31         periphADC1 minTacq         29           Upload         31         periphADC2 altscl         29           programming         17         periphADC2 ininTacq         29           programoptions eraseb4program         26         uart1io.output         30           programoptions eraseb4program         26         uart1io.output         30           programoptions pecconfig         26         uart1io.outputfile         30           programoptions pgcconfig         26         stack         20           programoptions pgdconfig         26         stack         23           programoptions pgdresistor value         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions pgmebtry         27         step         32           pwd         24         Step Through         14           T <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>				
Processor Extension Pak Specification         7         oscillator.frequencyunit         29           Program         31         oscillator.rcfrequency         29           Programming         oscillator.rcfrequencyunit         29           Program         31         periphADC1.altscl         29           Program         31         periphADC1.minTacq         29           Upload         31         periphADC2.minTacq         29           Programming a Device         13         periphADC2.altscl         29           Programoptions.eraseb4program         26         uart1io.output         30           programoptions.ledbrightness         26         uart1io.outputfile         30           programoptions.pgcconfig         26         uart1io.uartioenabled         30           programoptions.pgcconfig         26         Sleep         23           programoptions.pgdconfig         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgdconfig         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgdresistor.value         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgmebtry         27         Step         32           pwd         32         Step         32				
Program         31         oscillator.rcfrequencyunit         29           Programming         oscillator.rcfrequencyunit         29           Dump         31         periphADC1.altscl         29           Program         31         periphADC1.minTacq         29           Upload         31         periphADC1.tacqunits         29           Programming a Device         13         periphADC2.altscl         29           Programoptions.eraseb4program         26         uart1io.output         30           programoptions.edbrightness         26         uart1io.output         30           programoptions.pgcconfig         26         uart1io.outputfile         30           programoptions.pgcresistor.value         26         Stack           programoptions.pgdconfig         26         Stack           programoptions.pgdresistor.value         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgmebtry         27         stack         17           programoptions.pgmebtry         27         Step         32           pwd         24         Step Through         14           Q         Stimulus         33           Reading, Recommended         7         system.disableoutput         <				
Programming Dump         31         periphADC1.altscl         29           Program         31         periphADC1.altscl         29           Program         31         periphADC1.minTacq         29           Upload         31         periphADC1.tacqunits         29           programming         17         periphADC2.altscl         29           Programming a Device         13         periphADC2.altscl         29           programoptions.pedcons.padcordig         26         uart1io.output         30           programoptions.pdcroshig         26         uart1io.uurtioenabled         30           programoptions.pgcresistor.value         26         Stack         30           programoptions.pgdresistor.value         26         Stack         32           programoptions.pgdresistor.value         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgdresistor.value         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgmebtry         27         stack         17           programoptions.pgmebtry         27         step         32           pwd         24         Step Through         14           Q         Stimulus         3           Reading, Recommended	the contract of the contract o			
Dump         31         periphADC1.altscl         29           Program         31         periphADC1.minTacq         29           Upload         31         periphADC1.tacqunits         29           programming         17         periphADC2.altscl         29           Programming a Device         13         periphADC2.altscl         29           programoptions.eraseb4program         26         uart1io.output         30           programoptions.ledbrightness         26         uart1io.output         30           programoptions.pecconfig         26         uart1io.uartioenabled         30           programoptions.pgdconfig         26         stack         30           programoptions.pgdconfig         26         Stack         23           programoptions.pgdconfig         26         Stack         23           programoptions.pgdconfig         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgdconfig         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgdresistor.value         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgdresistor.value         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgmebtry         27         step         32     <	•	31		
Program         31         periphADC1.minTacq         29           Upload         31         periphADC1.minTacq         29           programming         17         periphADC2.altscl         29           Programming a Device         13         periphADC2.altscl         29           programoptions.eraseb4program         26         uart1io.output         30           programoptions.ledbrightness         26         uart1io.output         30           programoptions.ledbrightness         26         uart1io.outputfile         30           programoptions.pgcoroffig         26         uart1io.uartioenabled         30           programoptions.pgcresistor.value         26         Sleep         23           programoptions.pgdresistor.value         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgmebtry         27         stack         17           programoptions.pgmebtry         27         step         32           pwd         24         Step         32           Q         Stepi         32           Quit         23         Stimulus         13           Reading, Recommended         7         system.disableoutput         27           Reset         14	Programming			
Upload         31         periphADC1.tacqunits         29           programming         17         periphADC2.altscl         29           Programming a Device         13         periphADC2.minTacq         29           programoptions.eraseb4program         26         uart1io.output         30           programoptions.ledbrightness         26         uart1io.outputfile         30           programoptions.pgcconfig         26         uart1io.outputfile         30           programoptions.pgcconfig         26         step         23           programoptions.pgcconfig         26         Steep         23           programoptions.pdconfig         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgdconfig         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgdconfig         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgmebtry         27         stack         17           programoptions.pgmebtry         27         Step         32           pwd         24         Step Through         14           Q         Stepi         32           Quit         23         Stimulus         13           Reading, Recommended         7				
programming         17         periphADC2.altscl         29           Programming a Device         13         periphADC2.minTacq         29           programoptions.eraseb4program         26         uart1io.output         30           programoptions.ledbrightness         26         uart1io.outputfile         30           programoptions.pgcconfig         26         uart1io.uartioenabled         30           programoptions.pgcresistor.value         26         Sleep         23           programoptions.pgdconfig         26         Stack         26           programoptions.pgdresistor.value         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgmebtry         27         stack         17           programoptions.pgmspeed         27         Step         32           pwd         24         Step Through         14           Q         Stepi         32           Quit         23         Stimulus         13           Reading, Recommended         7         system.disableerrormsg         27           system.disableoutput         27         system.yestoalldialog         27           Reset         14         T         T           Run         70				
Programming a Device         13         periphADC2.minTacq         29           programoptions.eraseb4program         26         uart1io.output         30           programoptions.ledbrightness         26         uart1io.outputfile         30           programoptions.pgcconfig         26         uart1io.uartioenabled         30           programoptions.pgcconfig         26         Sleep         23           programoptions.pgdconfig         26         Stack           programoptions.pgdresistor.value         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgmebtry         27         stack         17           programoptions.pgmspeed         27         Step         32           pwd         24         Step Through         14           Q         Stim         20           Quit         23         Stimulus         13           Reading, Recommended         7         system.disableoutput         27           Readme         7         system.disableoutput         27           Reset         14         T           Run         31         Target Device Reset         14           Run Program         14         Tool Property Name Options         25	Upload	31		
programoptions.eraseb4program         26         uart1io.output         30           programoptions.ledbrightness         26         uart1io.outputfile         30           programoptions.pgcconfig         26         uart1io.uartioenabled         30           programoptions.pgcresistor.value         26         Sleep         23           programoptions.pgdconfig         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgdresistor.value         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgmebtry         27         stack         17           programoptions.pgmspeed         27         Step         32           pwd         24         Step Through         14           Q         Stim         20           Quit         23         Stimulus         13           Reading, Recommended         7         system.disableoutput         27           Readme         7         T         T           Reset         14         T           Run         31         Target Device Reset         14           Run Program         14         Tool Property Name Options         25           AutoSelectMemRanges         25           debugoptions.useswbreakpoi	programming	17		
programoptions.ledbrightness         26         uart1io.outputfile         30           programoptions.pgcconfig         26         uart1io.uartioenabled         30           programoptions.pgcresistor.value         26         Sleep         23           programoptions.pgdresistor.value         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgdresistor.value         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgmebtry         27         stack         17           programoptions.pgmspeed         27         Step         32           pwd         24         Step Through         14           Q         Stim         20           Quit         23         Stimulus         13           Reading, Recommended         7         system.disableorrormsg         27           Readme         7         system.yestoalldialog         27           Reset         14         T           Run         31         Target Device Reset         14           Run Program         14         Tool Property Name Options         25           AutoSelectMemRanges         25           debugoptions.useswbreakpoints         25	Programming a Device	13	periphADC2.minTacq	29
programoptions.pgcconfig         26         uart1io.uartioenabled         30           programoptions.pgcresistor.value         26         Sleep         23           programoptions.pgdconfig         26         Stack         25           programoptions.pgdresistor.value         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgmebtry         27         stack         17           programoptions.pgmspeed         27         Step         32           pwd         24         Step Through         14           Q         Stimulus         32           Quit         23         Stimulus         13           X         Stimulus         13           ystem.disableerrormsg         27         system.disableoutput         27           Reading, Recommended         7         xystem.yestoalldialog         27           Reset         14         T           Run         31         Target Device Reset         14           Tool Property Name Options         25           AutoSelectMemRanges         25           debugoptions.useswbreakpoints         25	programoptions.eraseb4program	26		
programoptions.pgcresistor.value         26         Sleep         23           programoptions.pgdconfig         26         Stack         32           programoptions.pgdresistor.value         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgmebtry         27         stack         17           programoptions.pgmspeed         27         Step         32           pwd         24         Step Through         14           Q         Stim         20           Quit         23         Stimulus         13           R         system.disableerrormsg         27           Reading, Recommended         7         system.disableoutput         27           Reset         14         T           Run         31         Target Device Reset         14           Tool Property Name Options         25           AutoSelectMemRanges         25           debugoptions.useswbreakpoints         25	programoptions.ledbrightness	26	uart1io.outputfile	30
programoptions.pgdconfig.         26         Stack           programoptions.pgdresistor.value         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgmebtry         27         stack         17           programoptions.pgmspeed         27         Step         32           pwd         24         Step Through         14           Q         Stim         20           Quit         23         Stimulus         13           Reading, Recommended         7         system.disableoutput         27           Readme         7         system.yestoalldialog         27           Reset         14         T           Run         31         Target Device Reset         14           Run Program         14         Tool Property Name Options         25           AutoSelectMemRanges         25           debugoptions.useswbreakpoints         25	programoptions.pgcconfig	26	uart1io.uartioenabled	30
programoptions.pgdresistor.value         26         Backtrace         32           programoptions.pgmebtry         27         stack         17           programoptions.pgmspeed         27         Step         32           pwd         24         Step Through         14           Q         Stim         20           Quit         23         Stimulus         13           R         system.disableerrormsg         27           Reading, Recommended         7         system.disableoutput         27           Reset         14         T           Run         31         Target Device Reset         14           Run Program         14         Tool Property Name Options         25           AutoSelectMemRanges         25           debugoptions.useswbreakpoints         25	programoptions.pgcresistor.value	26	Sleep	23
programoptions.pgmebtry         27         stack         17           programoptions.pgmspeed         27         Step         32           pwd         24         Step Through         14           Q         Stim         20           Quit         23         Stimulus         13           R         system.disableerrormsg         27           Reading, Recommended         7         system.disableoutput         27           Readme         7         system.yestoalldialog         27           Reset         14         T           Run         31         Target Device Reset         14           Run Program         14         Tool Property Name Options         25           AutoSelectMemRanges         25           debugoptions.useswbreakpoints         25	programoptions.pgdconfig	26	Stack	
programoptions.pgmspeed.       27       Step       32         pwd       24       Step Through       14         Q       Stim       20         Quit       23       Stimulus       13         Reading, Recommended       7       system.disableerrormsg       27         Readme       7       system.disableoutput       27         system.yestoalldialog       27         Reset       14       T         Run       31       Target Device Reset       14         Run Program       14       Tool Property Name Options       25         AutoSelectMemRanges       25         debugoptions.useswbreakpoints       25	programoptions.pgdresistor.value	26	Backtrace	32
pwd       24       Step Through       14         Q       Stepi       32         Quit       23       Stimulus       13         R       system.disableerrormsg       27         Reading, Recommended       7       system.disableoutput       27         Readme       7       system.yestoalldialog       27         Reset       14       T         Run       31       Target Device Reset       14         Run Program       14       Tool Property Name Options       25         AutoSelectMemRanges       25         Gontinue       31       debugoptions.useswbreakpoints       25	programoptions.pgmebtry	27	stack	17
pwd       24       Step Through       14         Q       Stim       20         Quit       23       Stimulus       13         R       system.disableerrormsg       27         Reading, Recommended       7       system.disableoutput       27         Readme       7       system.yestoalldialog       27         Reset       14       T         Run       31       Target Device Reset       14         Run Program       14       Tool Property Name Options       25         AutoSelectMemRanges       25         debugoptions.useswbreakpoints       25			Step	32
Q       Stepi       32         Quit       23       Stim       20         R       System.disableerrormsg       27         Reading, Recommended       7       system.disableoutput       27         Readme       7       system.yestoalldialog       27         Reset       14       T         Run       31       Target Device Reset       14         Run Program       14       Tool Property Name Options       25         AutoSelectMemRanges       25         debugoptions.useswbreakpoints       25	pwd	24		
Quit       23       Stim       20         R       Stimulus       13         Reading, Recommended       7       system.disableerrormsg       27         Readme       7       system.disableoutput       27         Reset       14       T         Run       31       Target Device Reset       14         Run Program       14       Tool Property Name Options       25         Running       AutoSelectMemRanges       25         Continue       31       debugoptions.useswbreakpoints       25				
R       system.disableerrormsg       27         Reading, Recommended       7       system.disableoutput       27         Readme       7       system.yestoalldialog       27         Reset       14       T         Run       31       Target Device Reset       14         Run Program       14       Tool Property Name Options       25         Running       AutoSelectMemRanges       25         Continue       31       debugoptions.useswbreakpoints       25			Stim	20
Reading, Recommended.       7       system.disableoutput.       27         Readme.       7       system.yestoalldialog.       27         Reset.       14       T         Run.       31       Target Device Reset.       14         Run Program.       14       Tool Property Name Options.       25         Running.       AutoSelectMemRanges.       25         Continue.       31       debugoptions.useswbreakpoints.       25	Quit	23	Stimulus	13
Reading, Recommended       7       system.disableoutput       27         Readme       7       system.yestoalldialog       27         Reset       14       T         Run       31       Target Device Reset       14         Run Program       14       Tool Property Name Options       25         Running       AutoSelectMemRanges       25         Continue       31       debugoptions.useswbreakpoints       25	R		system.disableerrormsg	27
Reading, Recommended       7       system.yestoalldialog       27         Readme       7       system.yestoalldialog       27         Reset       14       T         Run       31       Target Device Reset       14         Run Program       14       Tool Property Name Options       25         Running       AutoSelectMemRanges       25         Continue       31       debugoptions.useswbreakpoints       25		7	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Readine       7         Reset       14         Run       31         Run Program       14         Running       Tool Property Name Options       25         AutoSelectMemRanges       25         Continue       31         Light       24				
Run       31       Target Device Reset       14         Run Program       14       Tool Property Name Options       25         Running       AutoSelectMemRanges       25         Continue       31       debugoptions.useswbreakpoints       25				
Run Program			•	
Running AutoSelectMemRanges				
Continue		14		
debugoptions.usesworeakpoints	•	0.4		
Halt		-	debugoptions.useswbreakpoints	25
	nait	31	memories.aux	26

memories.bootflash	26
memories.eeprom	25
memories.id	26
memories.programmemory	25
memories.programmemory.end	25
memories.programmemory.start	25
poweroptions.powerenable	27
programoptions.eraseb4program	26
programoptions.ledbrightness	26
programoptions.pgcconfig	26
programoptions.pgcresistor.value	26
programoptions.pgdconfig	26
programoptions.pgdresistor.value	26
programoptions.pgmentry	27
programoptions.pgmspeed	
SecureSegment.SegmentProgramming	27
system.disableerrormsg	27
system.disableoutput	27
system.yestoalldialog	
voltagevalue	27
Transition Socket	
Specification	7
U	
uart1io.output	30
uart1io.outputfile	
uart1io.uartioenabled	
Upload	
V	• .
·	
voltagevalue	27
W	
Wait	23
Watch	
Write	
X	





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