

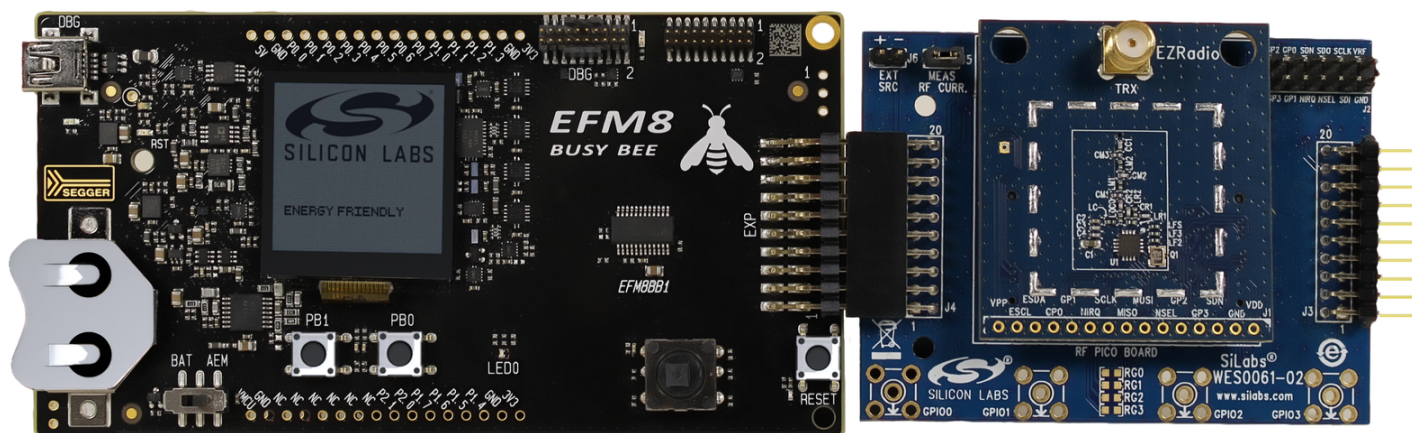
AN954: Programming Guide for EFM8 and EZRadio®

This document is intended to serve as a guide for application development with EZRadio® Si4x55 ICs. It introduces the major parts of the hardware platform, such as the RF Pico board, which contains the radio and the necessary RF components required to operate the device according to a desired regulatory standard.

It introduces the energy friendly microcontroller 8-bit (EFM8) which is required to control the radio, evaluate the RF parameters, and develop custom application programs. Besides the hardware, this document also describes the application programming interface (API) that makes it possible for the EFM8 and RF Pico board to communicate with each other. Using the software tools provided by Silicon Labs and following this programming guide will make software development as easy as possible, as these items will assist in configuring the radio effectively.

KEY POINTS

- EFM8 along with an EZRadio is an ultra-low cost two-chip wireless solution.
- The EZRadio is a sub-GHz wireless communication platform that can be a receiver, transmitter, or transceiver.
- Configuration of the EZRadio can be done with a simple GUI within a free tool provided by Silicon Labs.
- Configuration of peripherals and pinouts on the EFM8 is performed using an intuitive GUI.



1. Hardware

This section will introduce the hardware needed for this reference design and demo. Using an EFM8 along with an EZRadio is a two chip low cost wireless solution. This section will also discuss the connections between the radio, the MCU, and the expansion board used to connect the two.

1.1 Kits

In order to run the software demos and get started with developing, 3 boards are required. [EFM8BB1](#), [Expansion Board](#), and [Si4455](#)

1.2 Busy Bee Starter Kit

The EFM8BB1 Starter Kit (STK) is a platform that allows the user to demonstrate, evaluate, and develop solutions. This kit includes the EFM8BB1 8-bit MCU. It has vast functionality and utilizes an LCD, buttons, joystick, debug interface, and much more to allow rapid evaluation of both the MCU itself and any add-on hardware using the expansion (EXP) header.

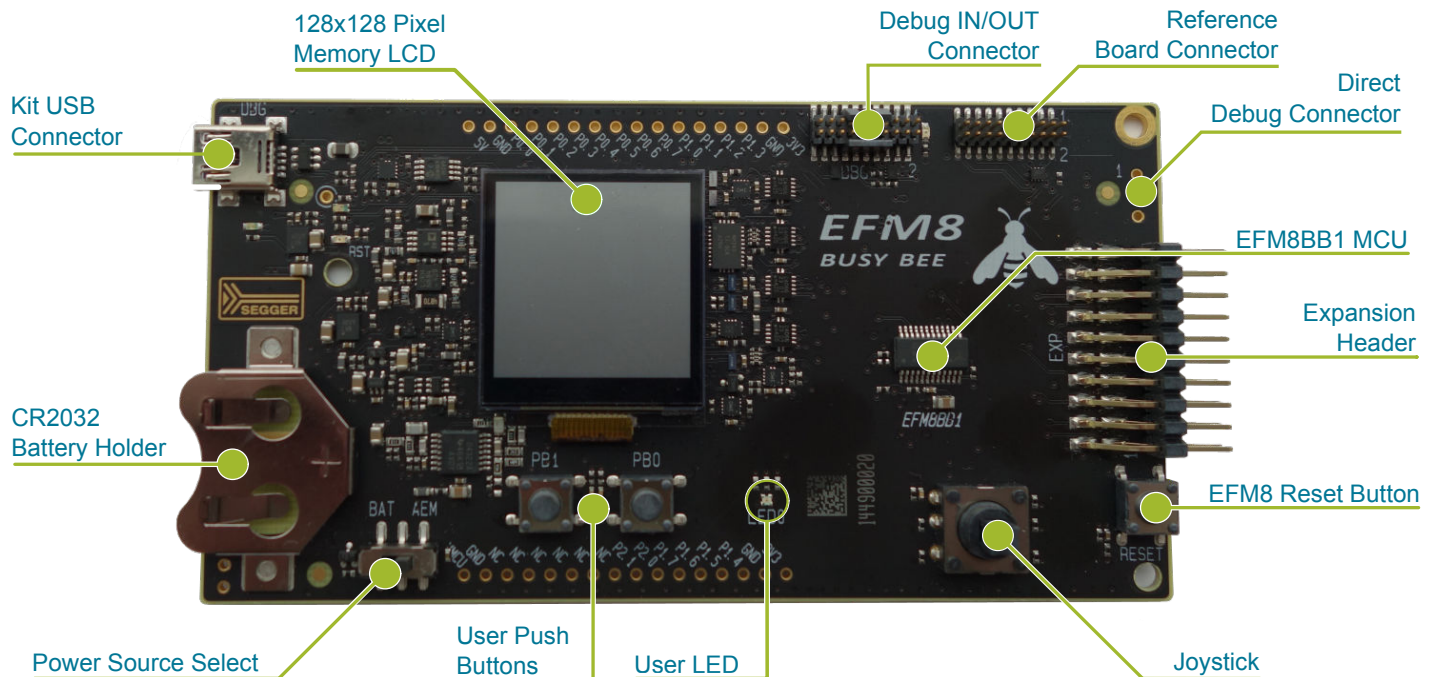


Figure 1.1. Busy Bee Starter Kit

1.3 RF Pico Card

The RF pico board is a radio module that contains an EZRadio IC, a matching network, and an SMA connector on the top side. Other than the antenna connector, these components are covered by a metal shield for noise reduction. The digital signals of the radio (SCLK, SDI, SDO, NSEL, SCL, SDA, VDD and GND) can be accessed on test points at the edge of the board. The boards also have a factory-loaded board identification memory (EBID) on the bottom side that contains data that describes the board properties. Via the unified RF pico connector pair on the bottom side of the board, any RF Pico board can be connected to the EXP board explained next. The Pico card comes with an antenna which is screwed into the SMA connector on the top of the card.

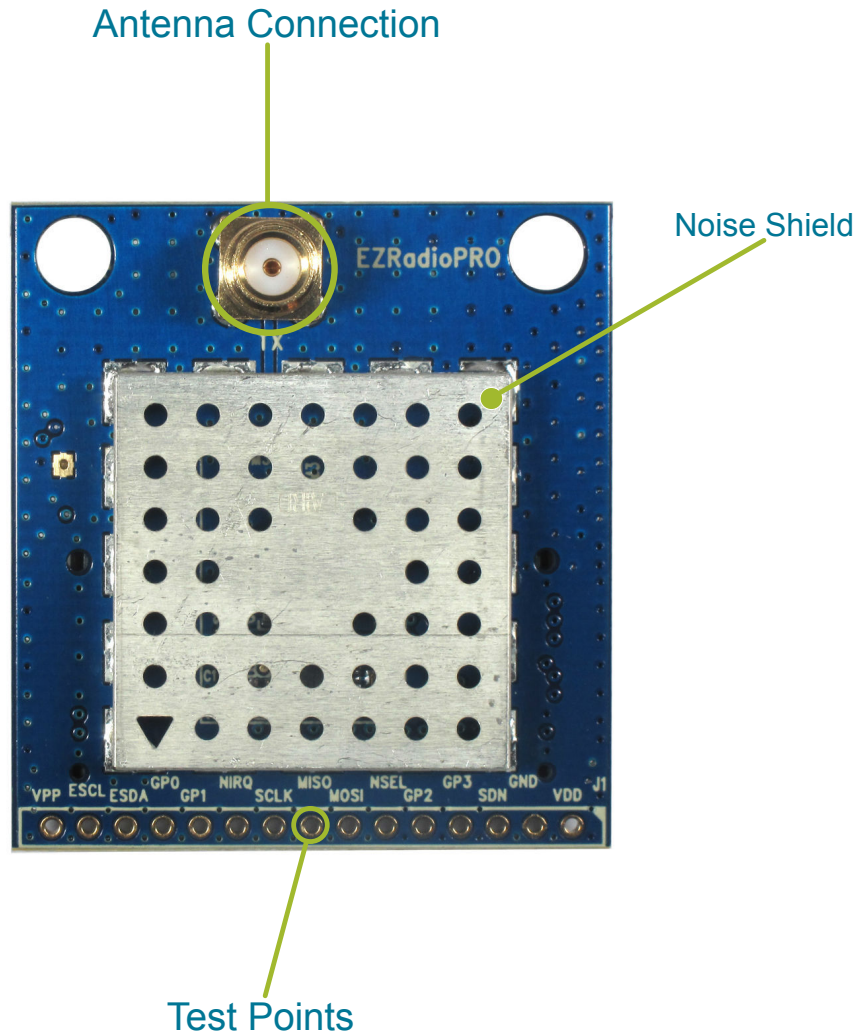


Figure 1.2. RF Pico Card

1.4 Expansion Board

The expansion (EXP) board is used to connect the EFM8 Starter Kit to the RF Pico board. It has two sets of headers on each side, one male, and one female. These are both mirrors of each other and can be used to transfer SPI, GPIOs, power, and ground. The RF Pico card sits on top of this EXP board via the RFP1/2 ports located in the middle of the EXP board. A further layout of all the ports and connections are outlined in the following figures and tables.

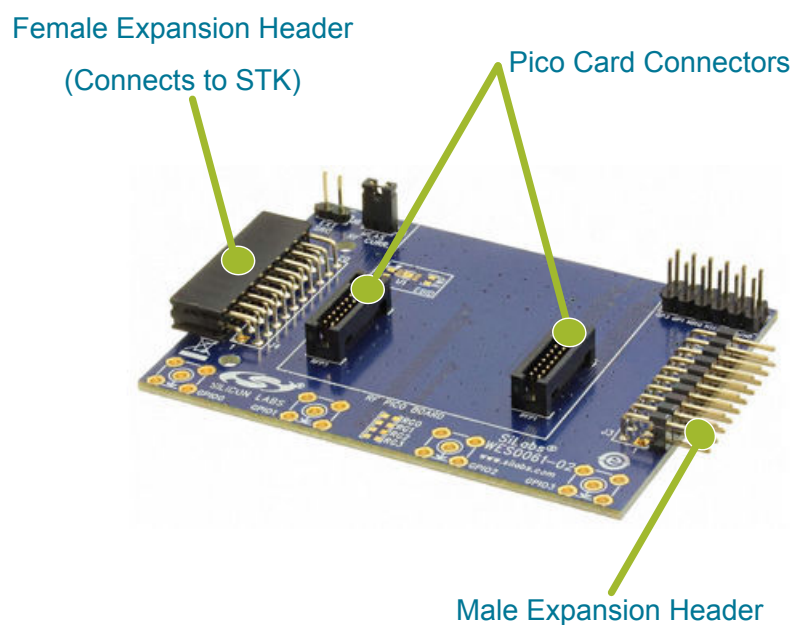


Figure 1.3. Expansion Board

Expansion Header Pins					
GND	1	☐	☐	2	VMCU
RF_NIRQ	3	☐	☐	4	MOSI
RF_SDN	5	☐	☐	6	MISO
P1.5	7	☐	☐	8	SCLK
P1.6	9	☐	☐	10	RF_NSEL
NC	11	☐	☐	12	P0.4
P0.5	13	☐	☐	14	P0.5
P1.3	15	☐	☐	16	P1.2
EBID_SCL	17	☐	☐	18	5V
EBID_SDA	19	☐	☐	20	3V

Figure 1.4. Expansion Board 20-pin Header

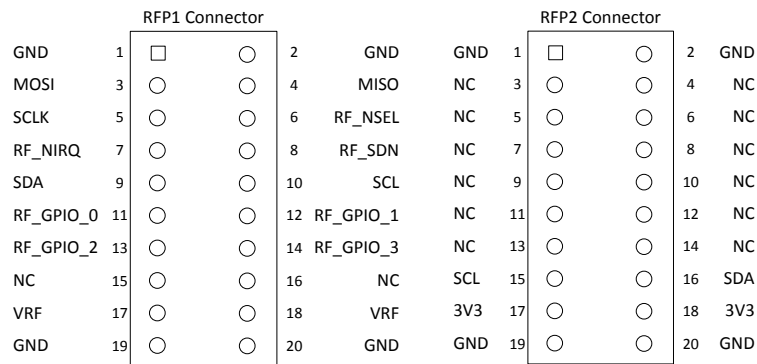


Figure 1.5. RFP1 and RFP2 Connectors

Table 1.1. EZRadio to EFM8 Connections

Pin Name	Pin Function	BB1 STK Pin
GND	Ground	GND
VDD	Voltage Supply	VDD
NIRQ	Interrupt output, active low	P0.0
SDN	Shutdown input, active high	P1.5
NSEL	SPI select input	P1.1
SCLK	SPI clock	P1.0
SDI	SPI data input	P0.6
SDO	SPI data output	P0.7

1.5 Radio Hardware Interface

The EZRadio devices can be controlled by the host MCU over a SPI bus and six additional signals. The user has access to the radio's API via the SPI bus.

Table 1.2. SPI Signals

Signal	Description
SCLK	Serial clock, output from master
SDI	Master output, slave input(MOSI)
SDO	Master input, slave output(MISO)
NSEL	Slave select, active low

The high state of the shutdown (SDN) pin is used to completely disable the radio and put the device into the lowest power consumption state. The radio has an interrupt output pin (NIRQ) that can be used to promptly notify the host MCU of multiple events. The NIRQ pin is active low and goes back to high if the pending interrupt flag is cleared by reading the appropriate interrupt pending registers.

1.6 Setting Up the Hardware

1. Connect an RF Pico Board to the expansion board via the RFP1/2 connectors.
2. Connect the antenna to the SMA connector on the RF Pico Board.
3. Connect the BB1 starter kit to the expansion board via the 20 pin header.
4. Provide power to the board by connecting the DBG USB connector to the PC using the provided USB cable.
5. Move the switch to the AEM position.
6. Wait for Windows to install the driver of the debug interface, if necessary.

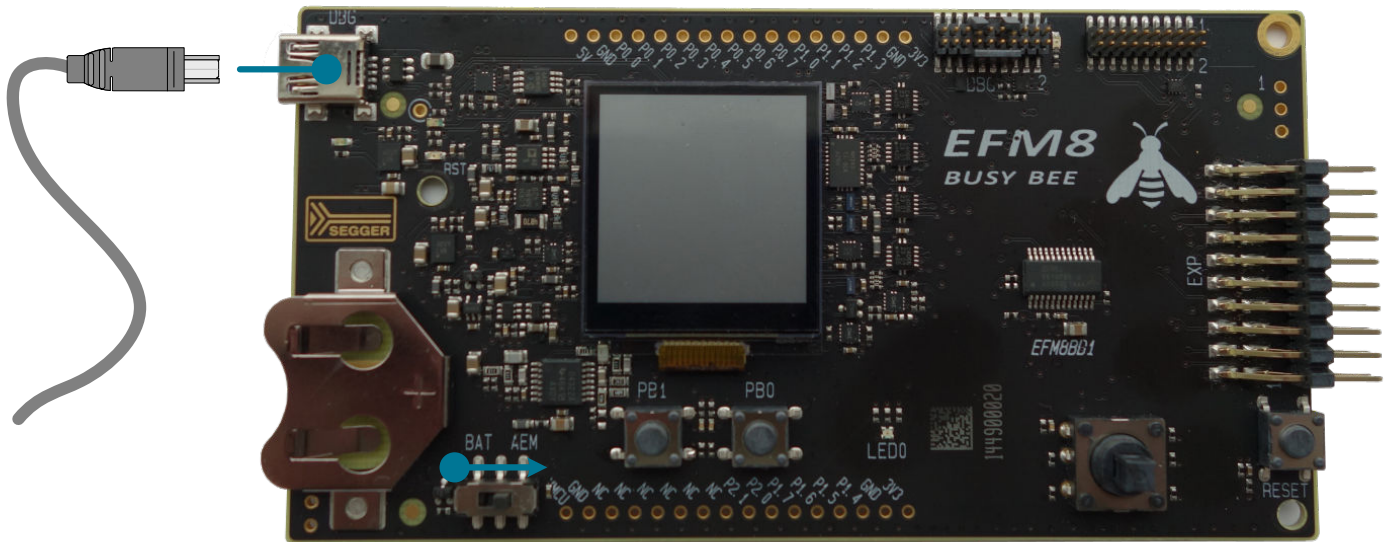


Figure 1.6. Setting up the BB1 STK

2. Software

The first step to getting started with the EFM8BB1 is download Simplicity Studio from the Silicon Labs website (<http://www.silabs.com/simplicity-studio>). Follow the installation wizard for a complete install. More information on specific tools included in Simplicity Studio and their usage can be found at <http://www.silabs.com/products/mcu/Pages/simplicity-studio.aspx>.

The second software tool needed is Wireless Development Suite or WDS. This tool allows complete customization to radio parameters. It can be downloaded at <https://www.silabs.com/products/wireless/EZRadio/Pages/WirelessDevelopmentSuite.aspx>. For more information on WDS please refer to AN796 found at <http://www.silabs.com/Support%20Documents/TechnicalDocs/AN796.pdf>.

2.1 Simplicity Studio

Simplicity Studio is a free tool offered by Silicon Labs that includes an IDE and many other tools to speed up development. This is the main tool for developing on Silicon Labs' MCUs and running demos with the kit. Be sure that Simplicity Studio is installed and updated, and the BB1 Starter Kit is connected. Once launched, Simplicity Studio will automatically detect any connected devices that it recognizes. After connecting the BB1 kit, the device will appear in the [Detected Hardware] area of the main Simplicity Studio launcher.

Note: There may be a delay after connecting the kit before it appears in Simplicity Studio. If the kit does not appear, ensure the switch is in the AEM position and that the J-Link drivers are installed.

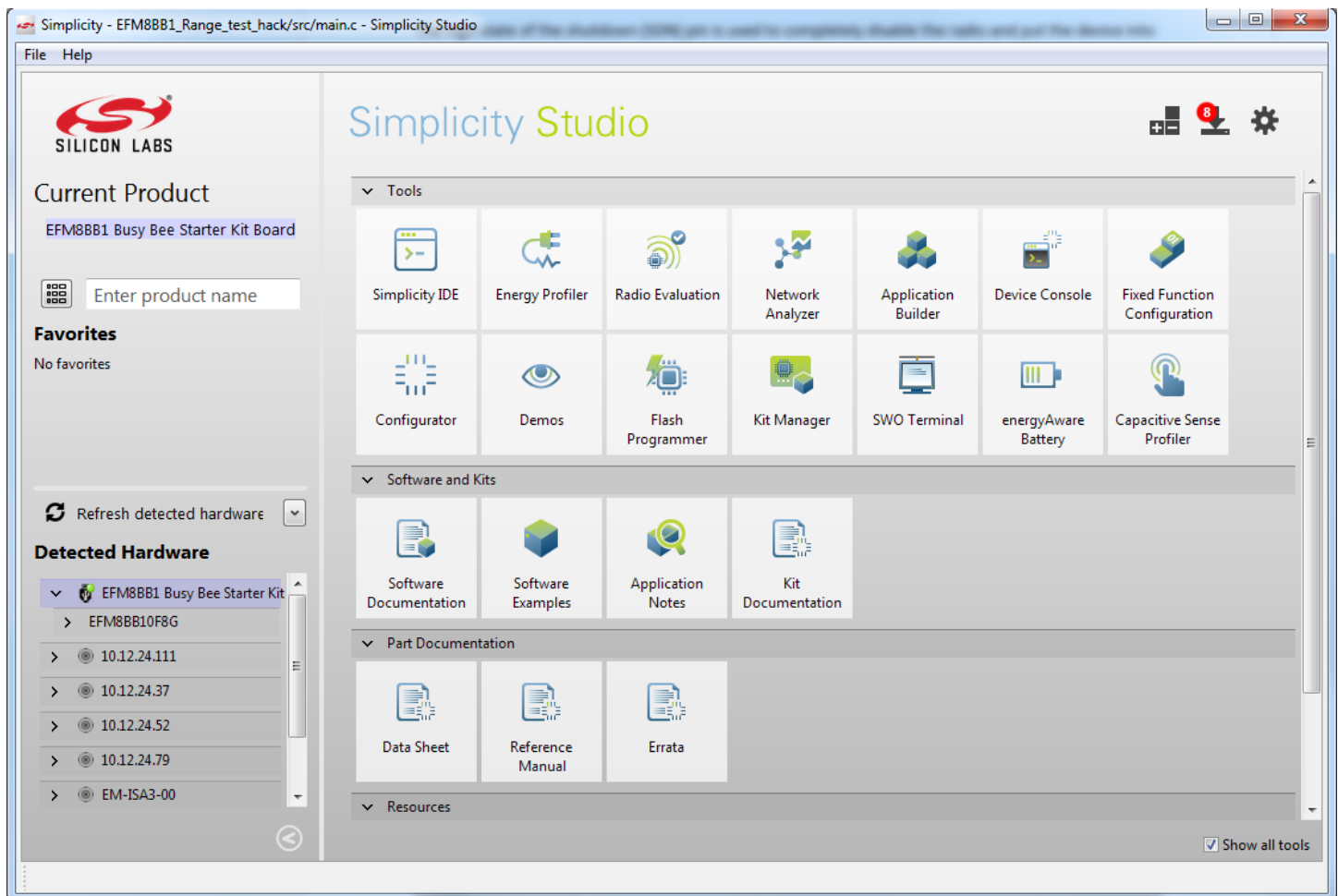


Figure 2.1. Simplicity Studio Main Page

2.2 Wireless Development Suite

Silicon Labs provides a powerful tool to help with EZRadio/PRO software development, the Wireless Development Suite (WDS). It is available at <https://www.silabs.com/products/wireless/EZRadio/Pages/WirelessDevelopmentSuite.aspx>. WDS allows the user to virtually select a radio and use the EZConfigPRO Setup GUI. This setup interface provides an easy path to quickly select and load the desired configuration for the EZRadio/PRO devices. The EZConfigPRO Setup allows four different methods for device setup.

After the desired configuration is selected, the program gives the option to generate a header file which will contain all of the options selected in the GUI. This file can then be used in a Simplicity Studio project to configure the radio and communicate with an MCU. Using the header file generated by the WDS is highly recommended. Manual editing in the header file may cause problems and prevent the radio from working correctly. For more complete information on WDS and EZConfigPRO usage, refer to the WDS User's Guide.

The following figures will be a guide to generating a customized header file. The reference design provided by Silicon Labs has a configuration file already included in the project. However, to make changes to the radio configurations it is recommended to generate a new one.

Note: WDS is not necessary for getting the software demos running; however WDS is needed to customize the radio configuration.



Figure 2.2. WDS Introduction

WDS can be used without connecting the physical HW to the PC to obtain configuration parameters. After running the WDS, the user needs to start simulation mode by clicking on the [Simulate radio button.]

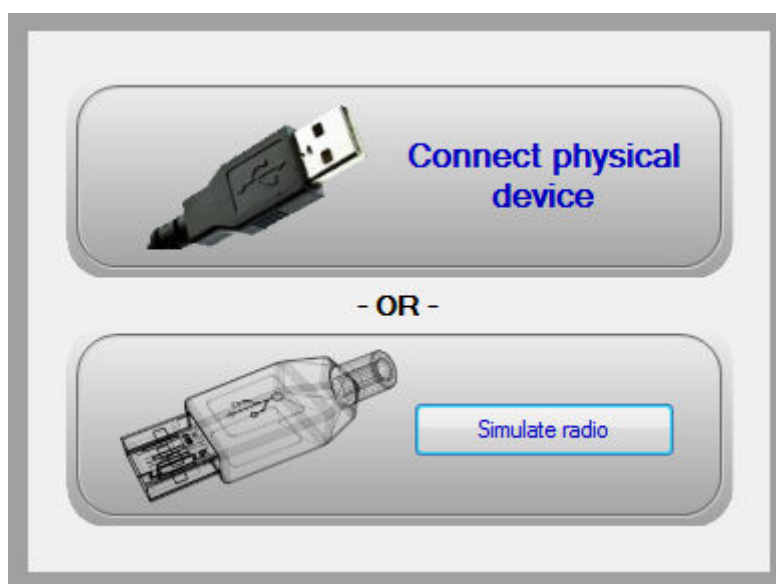


Figure 2.3. WDS Simulate Device

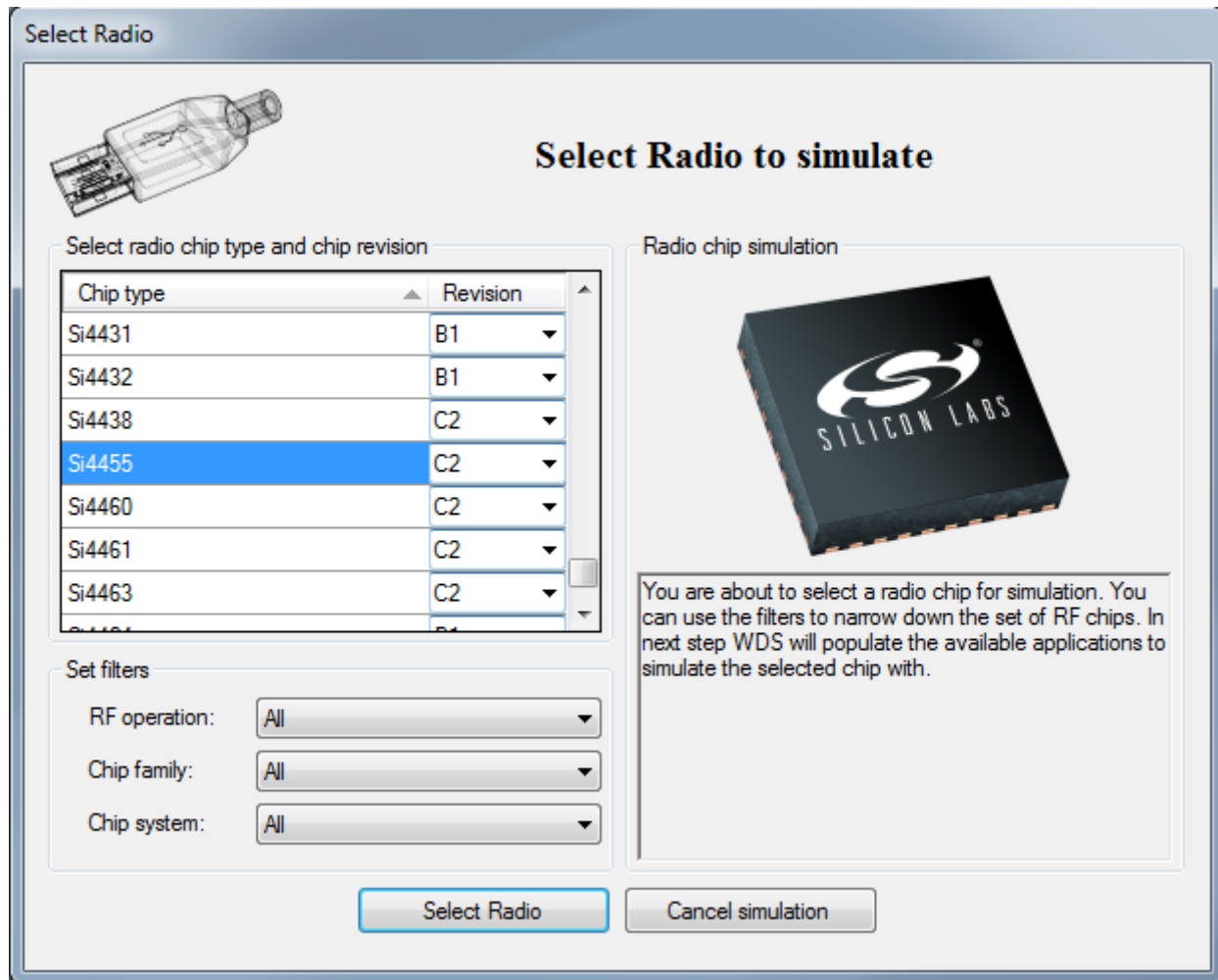


Figure 2.4. WDS Device Selection

Once the Radio is selected, the radio configurations screen will appear. This is the main page used to generate a configuration file that can be used in a custom project. Preset configurations like Standard Packet TX and Unmodulated Carrier are available to quickly set up a radio project. The Empty Framework project can be used as a blank template. Once the configurations are set, the **[Generate Source]** button can be used to create the header file.

Note: WDS does not support EFM8 products. There are options to generate an entire project with MCU source code, however these projects and code will most likely not work on EFM8 MCUs. When working with EFM8 and EZRadio/PRO, WDS is only used to generate the header file.

Radio Configuration Application

1. Select project

Name	C	D	G
Empty framework	-	-	+
Unmodulated carrier	-	-	+
PN9	-	-	+
Standard packet TX	-	-	+
Standard packet RX	-	-	+

Description:
The main purpose of this Project is to generate a source code that contains the radio_config.h file with all the necessary API and property settings for the desired radio and packet related settings. It does not contain... [more](#)

2. Configure project

Frequency and power | RF parameters | Packet | Interrupts | GPIO and FRR

Frequency

Base frequency: 915.00000 MHz Channel spacing: 250.00 kHz
Center frequency: **915 MHz** Channel number: 0
= Base frequency + Channel spacing * Channel number

Crystal

Crystal Frequency: 30.000 MHz Crystal tolerance RX: 30.0 ppm
Crystal freq. tuning: 0x52 ? Crystal tolerance TX: 30.0 ppm
☐ Use external TCXO/Ref Source ☐ Si4010 as TX

Power amplifier (PA)

PA power level: 0x4F

☐ Enable divided system clock output ?

Clock output: System clock divic 32 kHz clock: Disabled

3. Deploy project

Configure & evaluate ? Download project ? Generate source ?

Device: Si4455 Simulation Chip Revision: C2 Ready for deployment

Figure 2.5. WDS Configuration

The generated header file can be used in a new or existing project within Simplicity Studio, or used with any other IDE.

3. Software Demos

This document covers two demos, which run on combination of EFM8BB1 and a Si4455. The Range Test is used to evaluate the two-chip solution of an EZRadio and an EFM8. The Bidirectional demo is used as a development platform.

The `radio_config.h` file holds the radio configurations and is a great learning tool for understanding how the radio is set up. The radio API is located in the `radio.c/h` files. These functions are used to communicate to the radio and they will be further explained later in this document.

3.1 Range Test

The Range test demo is an evaluation tool that allows the user to evaluate the combination of EFM8 and a sub-GHz radio. It has configurable settings that the user can alter and measure to know how this combination will perform in a specific application.

The menu screen of the demo has the user set a few parameters before entering into transmit mode or receive mode. The first configurable parameter is the self identification (ID) and destination ID. These are used to communicate with specific boards. To send a packet between two kits the destination ID of the transmitter and self ID of the receiver must match and the self ID of the transmitter must match the destination ID of the receiver. North and south on the joystick set the ID, and center of the joystick specifies which ID is being altered.

The packet size is fixed at a size of seven but the number of packets to send can be altered. Once all of the parameters are set to the desired values, the west and east positions of the joystick can be used to set the demo into transmit or receive mode.

In transmit mode, the screen will indicate the ID of the board, the ID to be sent to, the max number of packets to be sent, and the number that has been sent. West on the joystick can be used to go back to the menu screen and change parameters. Center on the joystick controls the transmission of packets. Pushing it begins the transmission which will continue until the max number of packets has been sent. Center again can be used to stop and reset the number of packets sent.

In receive mode, the screen will show the IDs, percent of packets correctly received (PER), receive sensitivity (RSSI), number of packets received, and number of packets sent. When a packet is received the packets received, packets sent, RSSI, and PER will update. Again, west can be used to go back to the menu screen.

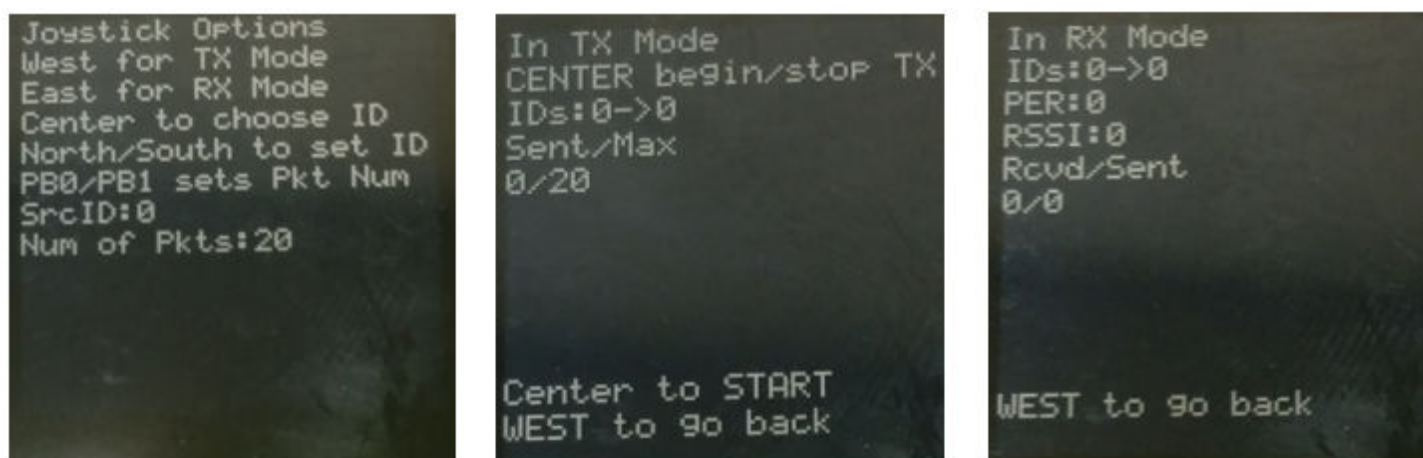


Figure 3.1. Range Test Menu, Transmit, and Receive Screens

3.2 Bidirectional Packet

The Bidirectional Packet demo is a simple example of the Si4455 wireless radios along with an EFM8 BB1 starter kit. It is controlled via the two push buttons on the starter kits. The tri-colored LED indicates either a button press or when a packet is received. At first, the LED is green and the push buttons cycle through the colors and transmit the state. The receiver will match the state of the sender such that the two boards, when configured correctly and within range, will have the same color LEDs illuminated. The packet is 7 bytes, and the last byte indicates the state of the transmitting board. This project is intended to be a starting point for developing an application utilizing the sub-GHz radio and an EFM8 MCU.

3.3 Running the Demos

To get the software demos running, follow the steps for installing Simplicity Studio, putting the kit together, and connecting the kit to the host or PC as shown in the figure.

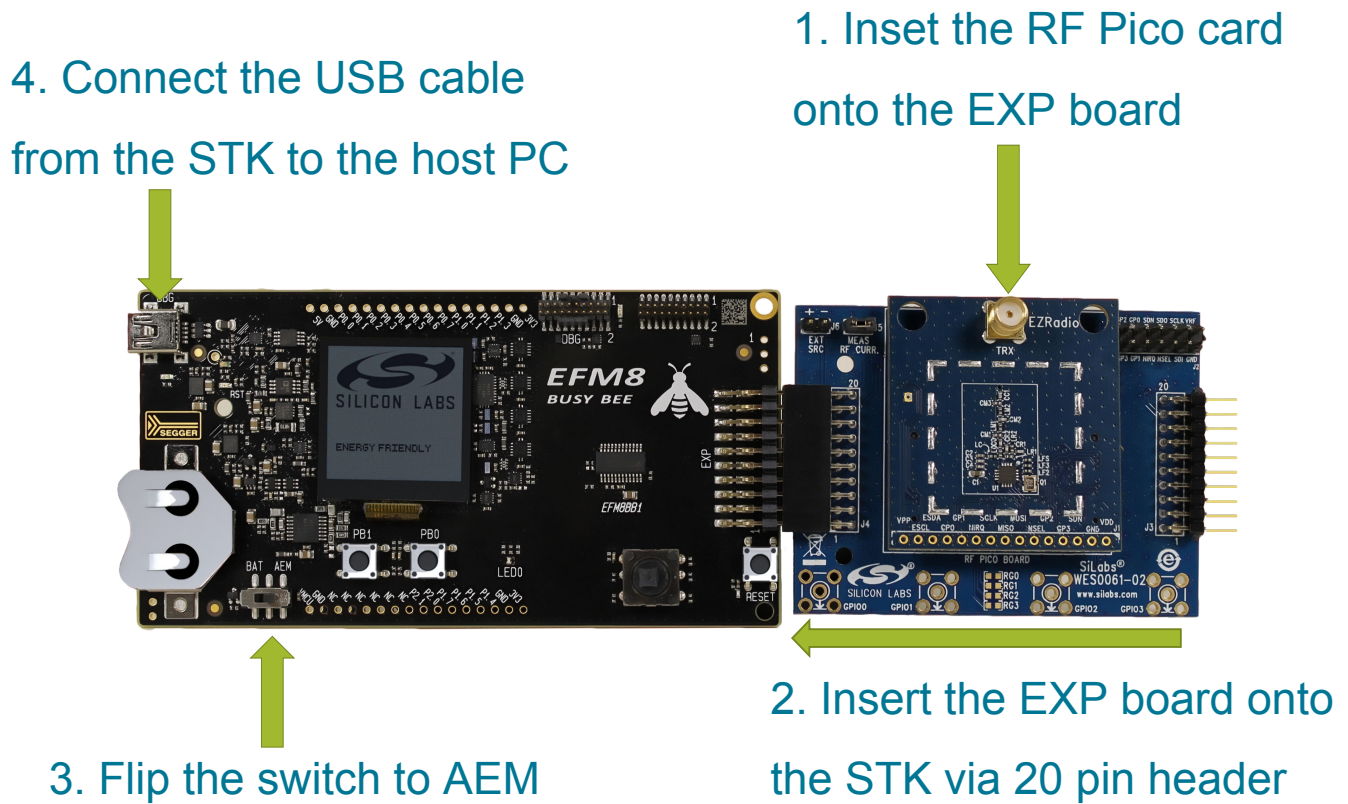


Figure 3.2. Assembling the Kit

With Simplicity Studio launched and the BB1 kit recognized, select **[Software Demos]**. Navigate to find the **[Wireless]** folder and choose a demo. Select the Range Test demo by selecting the **[EFM8BB1_Range_Test_Si4455]**. Once the demo is deployed the menu screen should appear on the starter kit.

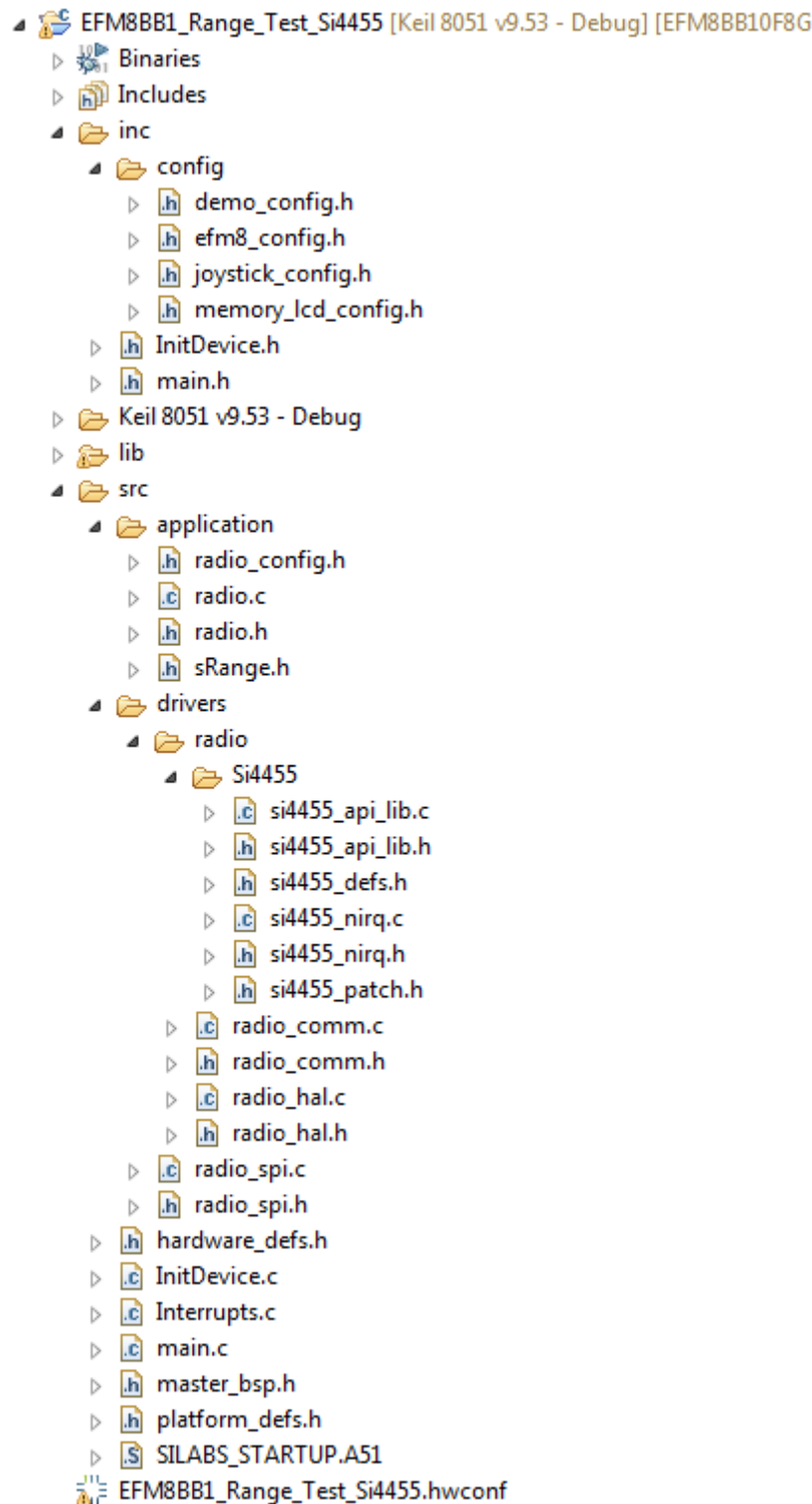


Figure 3.3. Example Project Tree — Range Test

Some of the important files within the demo are described below.

File Name: `main.c`

Description: Contains all the logic for the demo, state controls, and API calls to the radio. Contains the screen outputs.

File Name: `master_bsp.h`

Description: Serves as glue for the entire project. It links all the libraries and files needed for the radio, SPI, screen, etc

Description: Contains hardware configurations of the 8-bit MCU including pin states, clocks, interrupts, SPI configuration, and more.

File Name: `radio.c/h`

Description: Contains the API functions, defines, and variables for the EZRadio. These functions add an abstraction layer for the user and allow higher level calls. Some of the functions are explained later in this document.

File Name: `radio_config.h`

Description: Contains all of the configurations for the radio. The radio properties are set here, including frequency, packet size, data rate, modulation, etc., as well as the GPIO configuration.

With the demo up and running the next part of this document will begin to go into detail about the radio. Understanding the radio in depth will better enable customization for building a specific radio application.

4. Application Programming Interface

The programming interface allows the user to do the following:

- Send commands to the radio.
- Read status information.
- Set and read radio parameters.
- Handle the transmit and receive FIFOs.

The API commands are listed in the table below. The following sections describe the SPI transactions of sending commands and getting information from the chip.

Table 4.1. EZRadio/Pro API Commands

Command ID	Name	Description
BOOT_COMMANDS		
0x02	POWER_UP	Command to power-up the device and select the operational mode and functionality.
COMMON_COMMANDS		
0x00	NOP	No operation command.
0x01	PART_INFO	Reports basic information about the device.
0x10	FUNC_INFO	Returns the Function revision information of the device.
0x11	SET_PROPERTY	Sets the value of one or more properties.
0x12	GET_PROPERTY	Retrieves the value of one or more properties.
0x13	GPIO_PIN_CFG	Configures the GPIO pins.
0x15	FIFO_INFO	Access the current byte counts in the TX and RX FIFOs and provide for resetting the FIFOs.
0x20	GET_INT_STATUS	Returns the interrupt status of ALL the possible interrupt events (both STATUS and PENDING). Optionally, it may be used to clear latched (PENDING) interrupt events.
0x33	REQUEST_DEVICE_STATE	Request current device state and channel.
0x34	CHANGE_STATE	Manually switch the chip to a desired operating state.
0x38	OFFLINE_RECAL	Recalibrates due to temperature change.
0x44	READ_CMD_BUFF	Used to read CTS and the command response.
0x50	FRR_A_READ	Reads the fast response registers (FRR) starting with FRR_A.
0x51	FRR_B_READ	Reads the fast response registers (FRR) starting with FRR_B.
0x53	FRR_C_READ	Reads the fast response registers (FRR) starting with FRR_C.
0x57	FRR_D_READ	Reads the fast response registers (FRR) starting with FRR_D.
IR_CAL_COMMANDS		
0x17	IRCAL	Image rejection calibration.

Command ID	Name	Description
0x19	IRCAL_MANUAL	Image rejection calibration.
TX_COMMANDS		
0x31	START_TX	Switches to TX state and starts transmission of a packet.
0x37	TX_HOP	Hop to a new frequency while in TX.
0x66	WRITE_TX_FIFO	Writes data byte(s) to the TX FIFO.
RX_COMMANDS		
0x16	PACKET_INFO	Returns information about the length of the variable field in the last packet received and (optionally) overrides field length.
0x22	GET_MODEM_STATUS	Returns the interrupt status of the Modem Interrupt Group (both STATUS and PENDING). Optionally, it may be used to clear latched (PENDING) interrupt events.
0x32	START_RX	Switches to RX state and starts reception of a packet.
0x36	RX_HOP	Manually hop to a new frequency while in RX mode.
0x77	READ_RX_INFO	Reads data byte(s) from the RX FIFO.
ADVANCED_COMMANDS		
0x14	GET_ADC_READING	Performs conversions using the Auxiliary ADC and returns the results of those conversions.
0x21	GET_PH_STATUS	Returns the interrupt status of the Packet Handler Interrupt Group (both STATUS and PENDING). Optionally, it may be used to clear latched (PENDING) interrupt events.
0x23	GET_CHIP_STATUS	Returns the interrupt status of the Chip Interrupt Group (both STATUS and PENDING). Optionally, it may be used to clear latched (PENDING) interrupt events.

4.1 API Functions

The provided software examples heavily utilizes the radio API to communicate and successfully transmit packets. Some of the important API functions are defined and elaborated on below.

Function Name: `void si4455_reset(void)`

Description: This function is used to reset the Si446x radio by applying shutdown and releasing it. After this function `si4455_boot` should be called. You can check if power-on reset has completed by waiting 4ms or by polling GPIO0, 2, or 3. When these GPIOs are high, it is safe to call `si4455_boot`.

Return Value: None

Function Name: `void si4455_power_up(U8 BOOT_OPTIONS, U8 XTAL_OPTIONS, U32 XO_FREQ)`

Description: This function is used to initialize the radio after power-up.

Input Parameter(s): `BOOT_OPTIONS`: Patch mode selector.

`XTAL_OPTIONS`: Select if TCXO is in use.

`XO_FREQ`: Frequency of TCXO or external crystal oscillator in Hz.

Return Value: None

Note: Before this function `si4455_reset` should be called.

Function Name: `U8 si4455_configuration_init(const U8*pSetPropCmd)`

Description: This function is used to load all properties with a list of NULL terminated set property commands.

Input Parameter(s): `*pSetPropCmd`: First element of the list to be loaded.

Return Value: `SI4455_COMMAND_ERROR`: the list of commands is wrong.

`SI4455_CTS_TIMEOUT`: If a CTS error occurs.

`SI4455_SUCCESS`: If loading is successful.

Note: Before this function `si4455_reset` should be called.

Function Name: `void si4455_start_tx(U8 CHANNEL, U8 CONDITION, U16 TX_LEN)`

Description: Sends `START_TX` command to the radio.

Input Parameter(s): `CHANNEL`: Channel number.

`CONDITION`: Start TX condition.

`TX_LEN`: Payload length (exclude the PH generated CRC).

Return Value: None

Function Name: `void si4455_start_rx(U8 CHANNEL, U8 CONDITION, U16 RX_LEN, U8 NEXT_STATE1, U8 NEXT_STATE2, U8 NEXT_STATE3)`

Description: Sends `START_RX` command to the radio.

Input Parameter(s): `CHANNEL`: Channel number.

`CONDITION`: Start RX condition.

`RX_LEN`: Payload length (exclude the PH generated CRC).

`NEXT_STATE1`: Next state when Preamble Timeout occurs.

`NEXT_STATE2`: Next state when a valid packet received.

`NEXT_STATE3`: Next state when invalid packet received (e.g., CRC error).

Return Value: None

Function Name: `void si4455_get_int_status(U8 PH_CLR_PEND, U8 MODEM_CLR_PEND, U8 CHIP_CLR_PEND)`

Description: Get the Interrupt status/pending flags from the radio and clear flags if requested.

Input Parameter(s): `PH_CLR_PEND`: Packet Handler pending flags clear.

`MODEM_CLR_PEND`: Modem Status pending flags clear.

`CHIP_CLR_PEND`: Chip State pending flags clear.

Return Value: None

Function Name: `void si4455_write_tx_fifo(U8 numBytes, U8* pTxData)`

Description: The function can be used to load data into TX FIFO.

Input Parameter(s): `numBytes`: Data length to be loaded.

`pTxData`: Pointer to the data (`U8*`).

Return Value: None

Function Name: `void si4455_read_rx_fifo(U8 numBytes, U8* pRxData)`

Description: Reads the RX FIFO content from the radio.

Input Parameter(s): numBytes: Data length to be read.

pRxData: Pointer to the buffer location.

Return Value: None

Function Name: `void si4455_frr_d_read(U8 respByteCount)`

Description: Reads the Fast Response Registers starting with D register into Si4455Cmd union.

Input Parameter(s): respByteCount: Number of Fast Response Registers to be read.

Return Value: None

4.2 Sending Commands to the Radio

The behavior of the radio can be changed by sending API commands to the radio. The radio can be configured through several properties that hold radio configuration settings, such as interrupt settings, modem parameters, packet handler settings, etc. For most of the commands, the host MCU does not expect any response from the radio chip. Instead, other commands are used to read back a property from the chip, such as checking the interrupt status flags, reading the transmit/receive FIFOs.

The radio processes the request after receiving a command. During this time, the radio is not capable of receiving a new command. The host MCU has to poll the radio and identify when the next command can be sent. The clear to send (CTS) signal shows the actual status of the command buffer of the radio. It can be monitored over the SPI or on GPIOs, or the chip can generate an interrupt if it is ready to receive the next command.

4.3 Checking that the Radio is Ready

4.3.1 Software Polling Method

To ensure the radio is ready to receive the next command, the host MCU has to pull down the select (NSEL) pin to monitor the status of clear to send (CTS) over the SPI port. The 0x44 command ID has to be sent and eight clock pulses have to be generated on the SCLK pin. During the additional eight clock cycles, the radio clocks out the CTS as a byte on the SDO pin. When completed, NSEL should be pulled back to high. If the CTS byte is 0xFF, it means that the radio processed the last command successfully and is ready to receive the next command; in any other case, the CTS read procedure has to be repeated from the beginning as long as the CTS byte is not 0xFF.

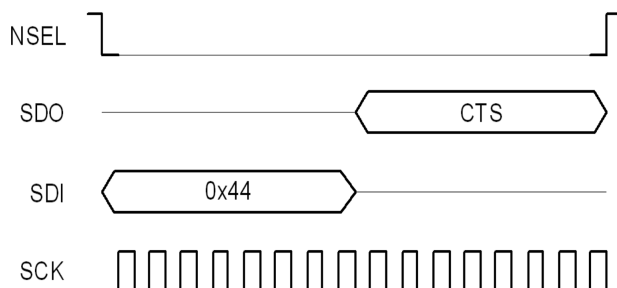


Figure 4.1. Software Polling

4.3.2 GPIO Checking Method

Any GPIO can be configured for monitoring CTS. GPIOs can be configured to go either high or low when the chip has completed the command. The function of the GPIOs can be changed by the GPIO_PIN_CFG command. By default, GPIO1 is set as "High when command completed, low otherwise" after power-on reset. Therefore, this pin can be used for monitoring CTS right after power-on reset to know when the chip is ready to boot up.

4.3.3 NIRQ Interrupt Checking Method

The radio asserts the CHIP_READY interrupt flag if a command is completed. The interrupt flag can be monitored by either the GET_CHIP_STATUS or the GET_INT_STATUS command. Apart from monitoring the interrupt flags, the radio may pull down the NIRQ pin if this feature is enabled. If a new command is sent while the CTS is asserted, then the radio ignores the new command. The radio can generate an interrupt to communicate this error to the MCU by the CMD_ERROR interrupt flag in the CHIP_STATUS group. The interrupt flag has to be read (by issuing a GET_CHIP_STATUS or GET_INTERRUPT_STATUS command) to clear the pending interrupt and release the NIRQ pin. No other action is needed to reset the command buffer of the radio, but, after a CMD_ERROR, the host MCU should repeat the new command after the radio has processed the previous one.

All the commands that are sent to the radio have the same structure. After pulling down the NSEL pin of the radio, the command ID should be sent first. The commands may have up to 15 input parameters.

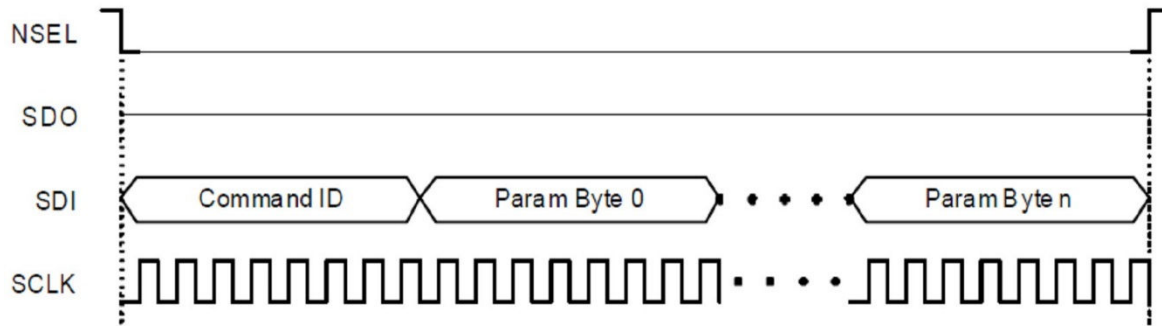


Figure 4.2. NIRQ Method

4.4 Getting Response from the Radio

Reading from the radio requires several steps to be followed. The host MCU should send a command with the address it requests to read. The radio holds the CTS at a non-0xFF value while it retrieves the requested information. Once the CTS is set (0xFF), the host MCU can read the answer from the radio.

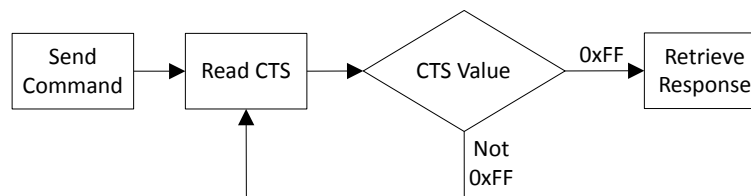


Figure 4.3. Read Procedure

If CTS is polled on the GPIOs, or the radio is configured to provide an interrupt if the answer is available, then the response can be read out from the radio with the following SPI transaction.

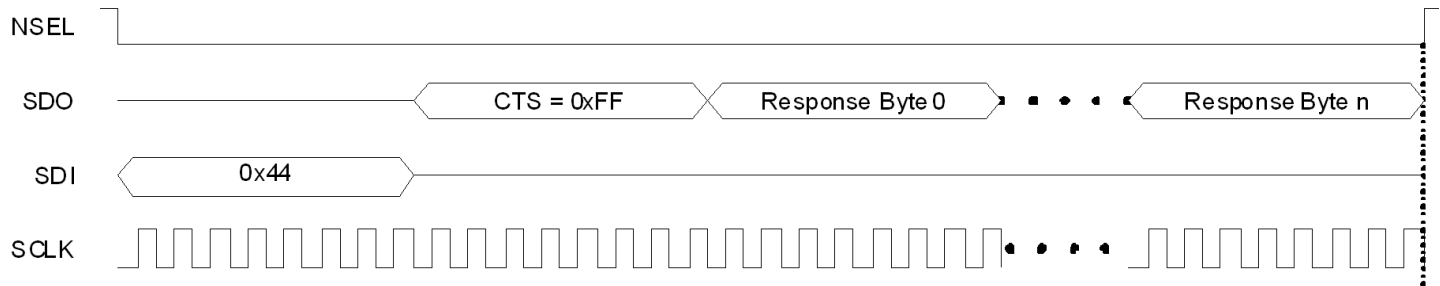


Figure 4.4. Read Response From Radio

If CTS is polled over the SPI bus, first the host MCU should pull the NSEL pin low. This action should be followed by sending out the 0x44 Read command ID and providing an additional eight clock pulses on the SCLK pin. The radio will provide the CTS byte on its SDO pin during the additional clock pulses. If the CTS byte is 0x00, then the response is not yet ready and the host MCU should pull up the NSEL pin and repeat the procedure from the beginning until CTS becomes 0xFF. If CTS is 0xFF, then the host MCU should keep the NSEL pin low and provide clock cycles on the SCLK pin, as many as the data to be read out requires. The radio will clock out the requested data on its SDO pin during the additional clock pulses.

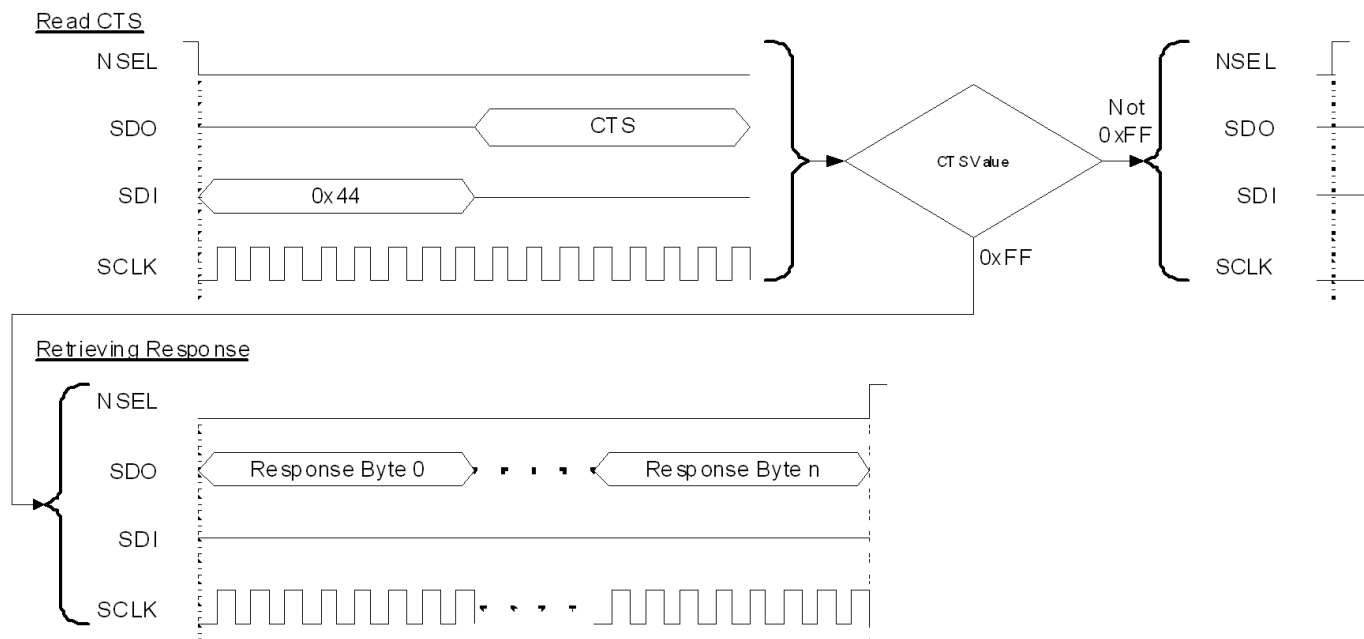


Figure 4.5. Monitor CTS and Read the Response

Reading the response from the radio can be interrupted earlier. For example, if the host MCU asked for five bytes of response, it may read fewer bytes in one SPI transaction. As long as a new command is sent, the radio keeps the response for the last request in the command buffer. The host MCU can read the response several times in a new SPI transaction. In such a case, the response is always provided from the first byte.

Notes:

- Up to 16 bytes of response can be read from the radio in one SPI transaction. If more bytes are read, the radio will provide the same 16 bytes of response in a circular manner.
- If the command says that the host MCU expects N bytes of response, but during the read sequence, the host MCU provides less than N bytes of clock pulses, it causes no issue for the radio. The response buffer is reset if a new command is issued.
- If the command says that the host MCU expects N bytes of response, but during the read sequence, the host MCU provides more than N bytes of clock pulses, the radio will provide unpredictable bytes after the first N bytes. The host MCU does not need to reset the SPI interface; it happens automatically if NSEL is pulled low before the next command is sent.

4.5 Using Fast Response Registers

There are several types of status information that can be read out from the radio faster. The FRR_CTL_x_MODE (where x can be A, B, C, or D) properties define what status information is assigned to a given fast response register (FRR). The actual value of the registers can be read by pulling down the NSEL pin, issuing the proper command ID, and providing an additional eight clock pulses on the SCLK pin. During these clock pulses, the radio provides the value of the addressed FRR. The NSEL pin has to be pulled high after finishing the register read.

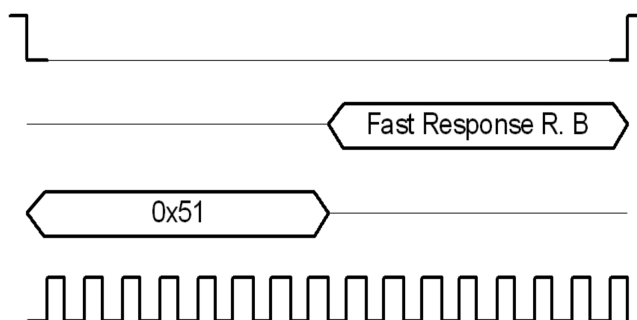


Figure 4.6. Reading a Single Fast Response Register

It is also possible to read out multiple FRRs in a single SPI transaction. The NSEL pin has to be pulled low, and one of the FRRs has to be addressed with the proper command ID. Providing an additional 8 x N clock cycles will clock out an additional N number of FRRs. After the fourth byte is read, the radio will provide the value of the registers in a circular manner. The reading stops by pulling the NSEL pin high.

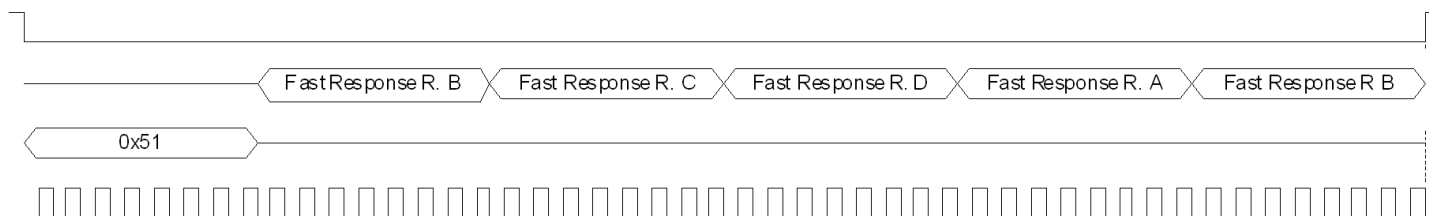


Figure 4.7. Reading More Fast Response Registers

Note: If the pending interrupt status register is read through the FRR, the NIRQ pin does not go back to high. The pending interrupt registers have to be read by a get response to a command sequence in order to release the NIRQ pin.

4.6 Write and Read the FIFOs

There are two 64-byte FIFOs for RX and TX data in the Si4x5x.

To fill data into the transmit FIFO, the host MCU should pull the NSEL pin low and send the 0x66 Transmit FIFO Write command ID followed by the bytes to be filled into the FIFO. Finally, the host MCU should pull the NSEL pin high. Up to 64 bytes can be filled into the FIFO during one SPI transaction.

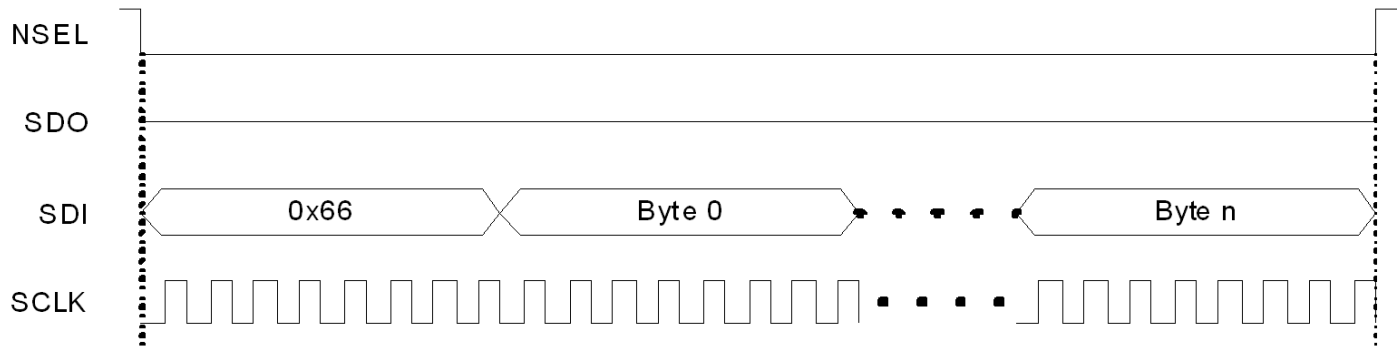


Figure 4.8. Transmit FIFO Write

If the host MCU needs to read the receive FIFO, it has to pull the NSEL pin low and send the 0x77 Receive FIFO Read command ID. The MCU should provide as many clock pulses on the SCLK pin as necessary for the radio to clock out the requested amount of bytes from the FIFO on the SDO pin. Finally, the host MCU should pull up the NSEL pin.

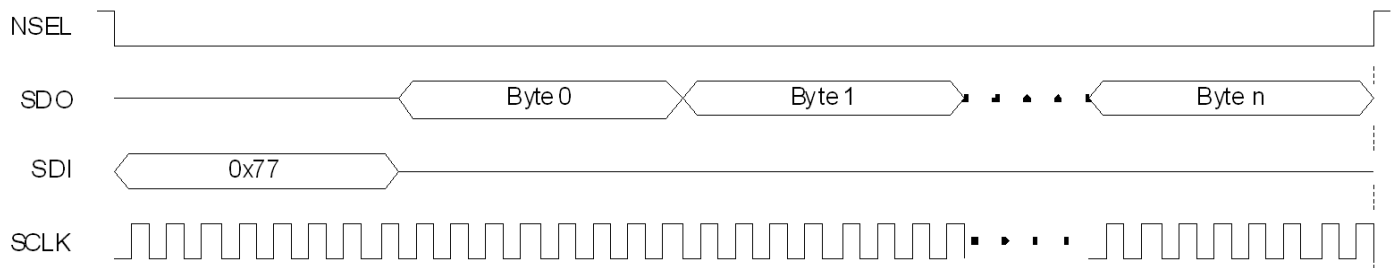


Figure 4.9. Receive FIFO Read

If more than 64 bytes are written into the Transmit FIFO, then a FIFO overflow occurs. If more bytes are read from the Receive FIFO than it holds, then FIFO underflow occurs. In either of these cases, the FIFO_UNDERFLOW_OVERFLOW_ERROR interrupt flag will be set. The radio can also generate an interrupt on the NIRQ pin if this flag is enabled. The interrupt flag has to be read, issuing a GET_CHIP_STATUS or GET_INTERRUPT_STATUS command, to clear the pending interrupt and release the NIRQ pin.

5. Radio Initialization

5.1 Radio Chip Wake Up

First, the radio is in the off state. After the SDN pin is pulled low, the radio wakes up and performs a Power on Reset which takes a maximum of 5 ms until the chip is ready to receive commands on the SPI bus. The GPIO1 pin goes high when the radio is ready for receiving SPI commands. During the reset period, the radio cannot accept any SPI commands. There are two ways to determine if the chip is ready to receive SPI commands after a reset event. Either use a timer in the host microcontroller to wait or connect the GPIO1 pin of the radio to the host MCU and poll the status of this pin. During power on reset, it remains low. Once the reset is finished, the radio sets the GPIO1 to the high state.

Next, the radio device has to be sent to active mode by issuing a `POWER_UP` command via the SPI interface which takes approximately 5 ms to be completed. It can be monitored in three ways. If the command is completed either the GPIO1 pin of the radio goes low by issuing the command and the radio sets it to high state or the NIRQ pin is asserted or the host MCU can monitor CTS over the SPI.

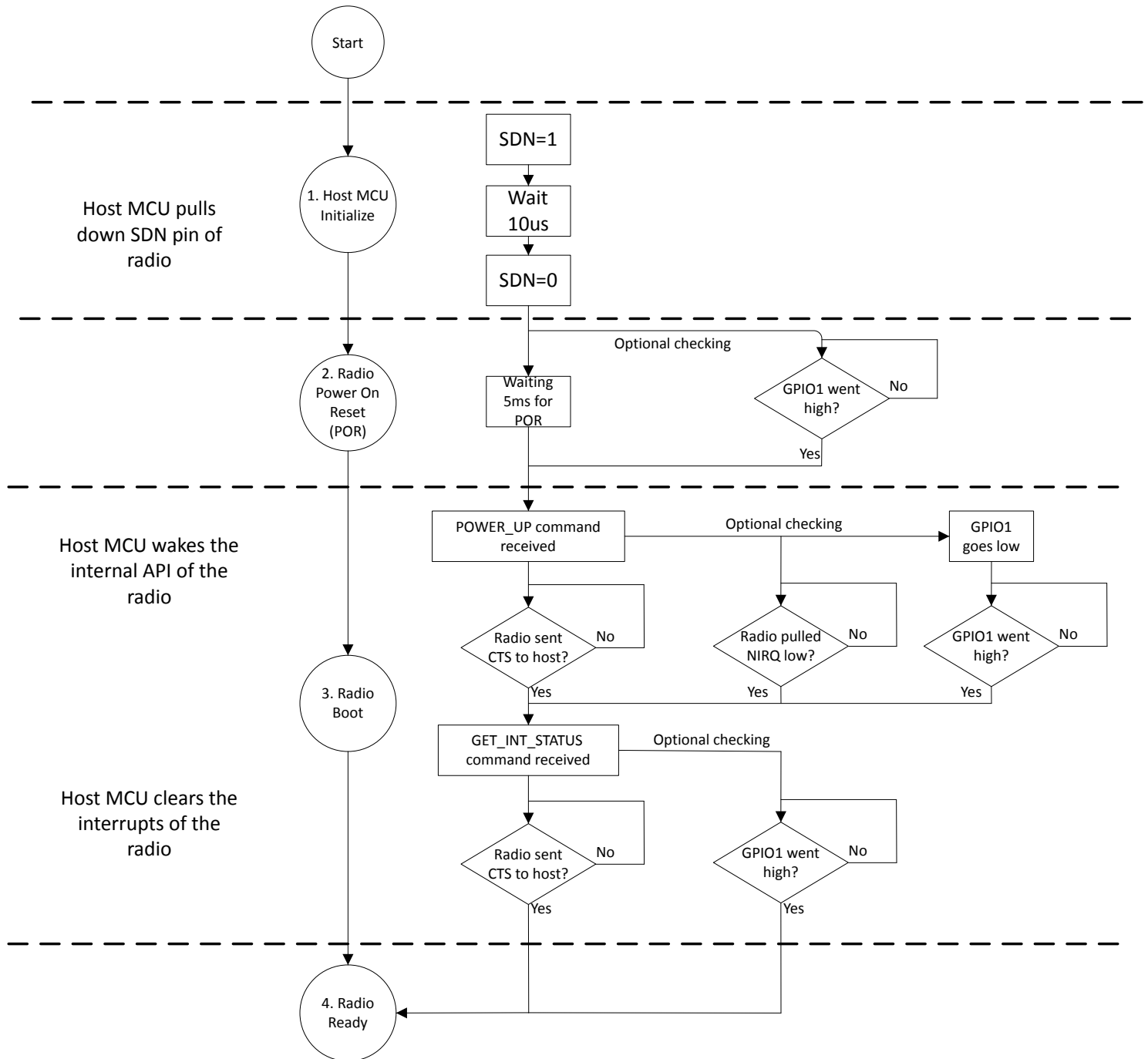


Figure 5.1. Radio Wake Up Process

5.2 State Transitions of the EZRadioPRO Devices

Ready state is designed to give a fast transition time to TX or RX state with reasonable current consumption. The crystal oscillator remains enabled in this mode, reducing the time required to switch to TX or RX mode by eliminating the crystal start-up time. An automatic sequencer will put the chip into RX or TX from any state. It is not necessary to manually step through the states. Although it is not shown in the diagram, any of the lower power states can be returned to automatically after RX or TX.

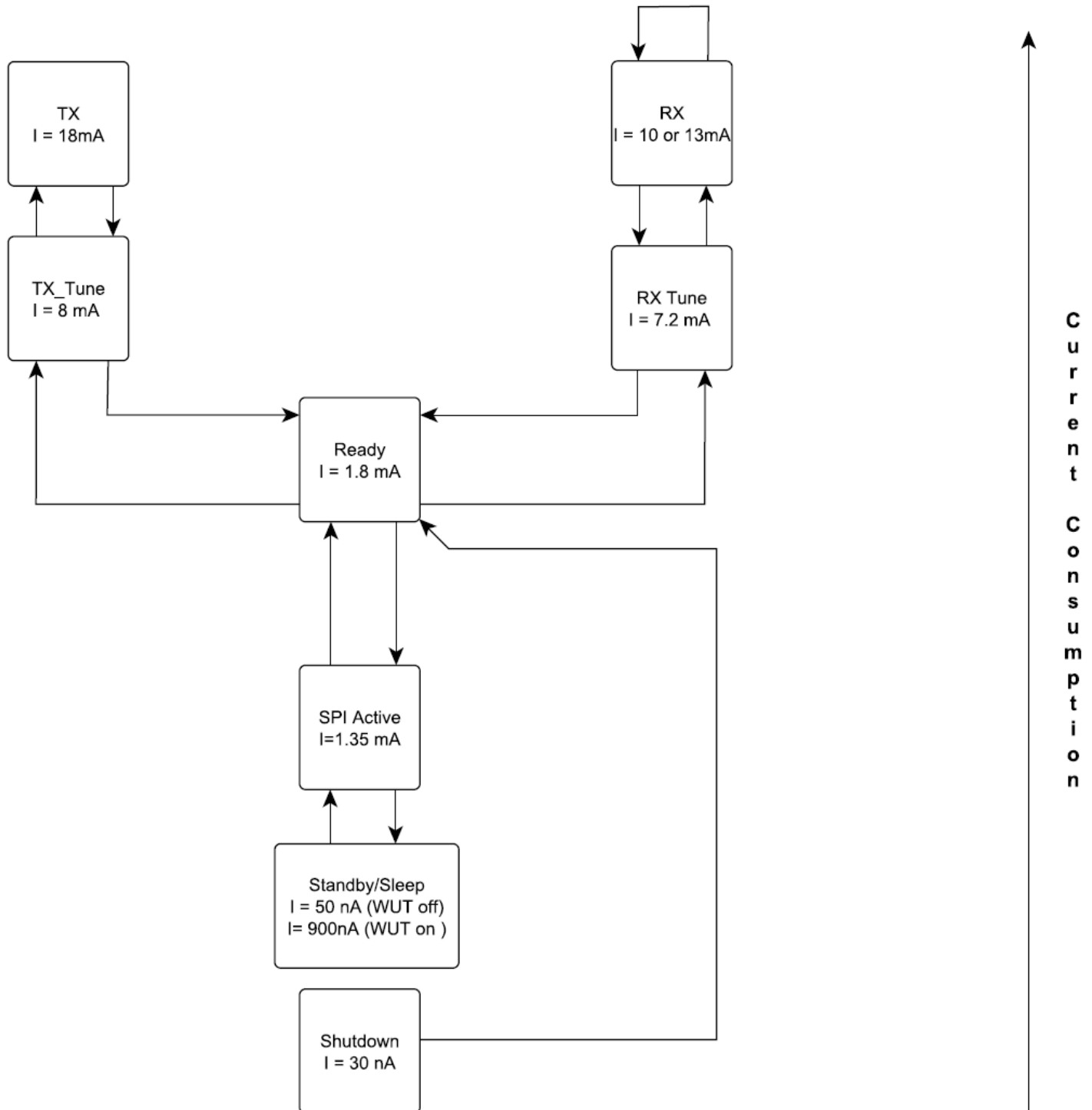
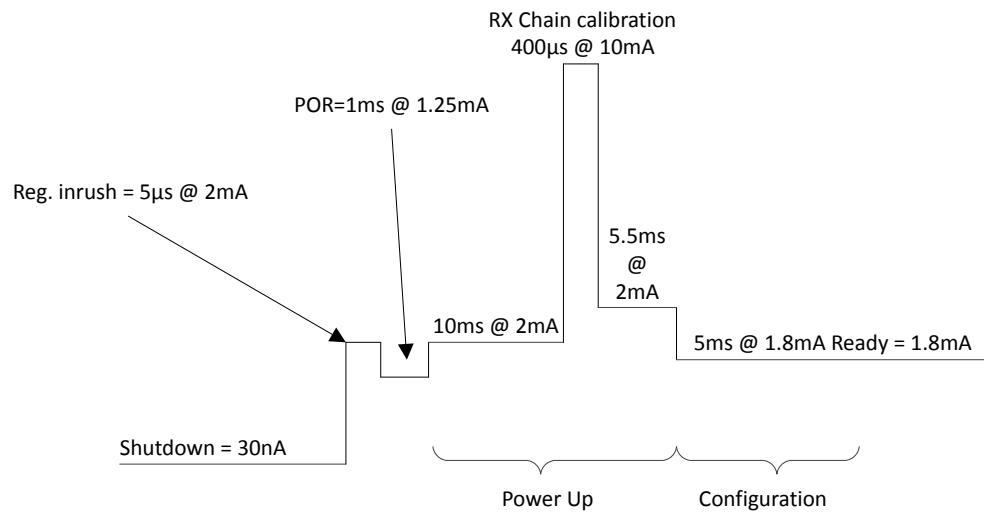


Figure 5.2. Radio States

Table 5.1. Radio States

State/Mode	Response Time	
	TX	RX
Shutdown	15 ms	15 ms
Sleep	500 μ s	500 μ s
SPI Active	340 μ s	340 μ s
Ready	110 μ s	120 μ s
TX Tune	60 μ s	125 μ s
RX Tune	120 μ s	84 μ s
TX	N/A	132 μ s
RX	120 μ s	N/A

Note: While the chip is in sleep state, the NSEL pin has to stay in high state. If the host processor is not able to provide this during sleep, a pull-up resistor can be necessary on the NSEL pin.


Figure 5.3. Supply Current versus Time Diagram from Shutdown to RF Initialized Ready State

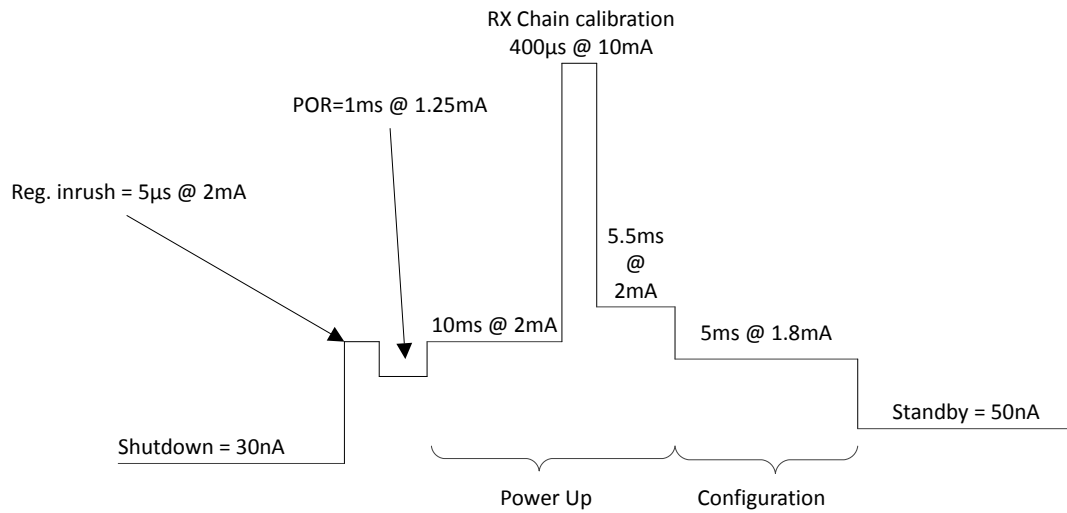


Figure 5.4. Supply Current versus Time Diagram from Shutdown to Standby State

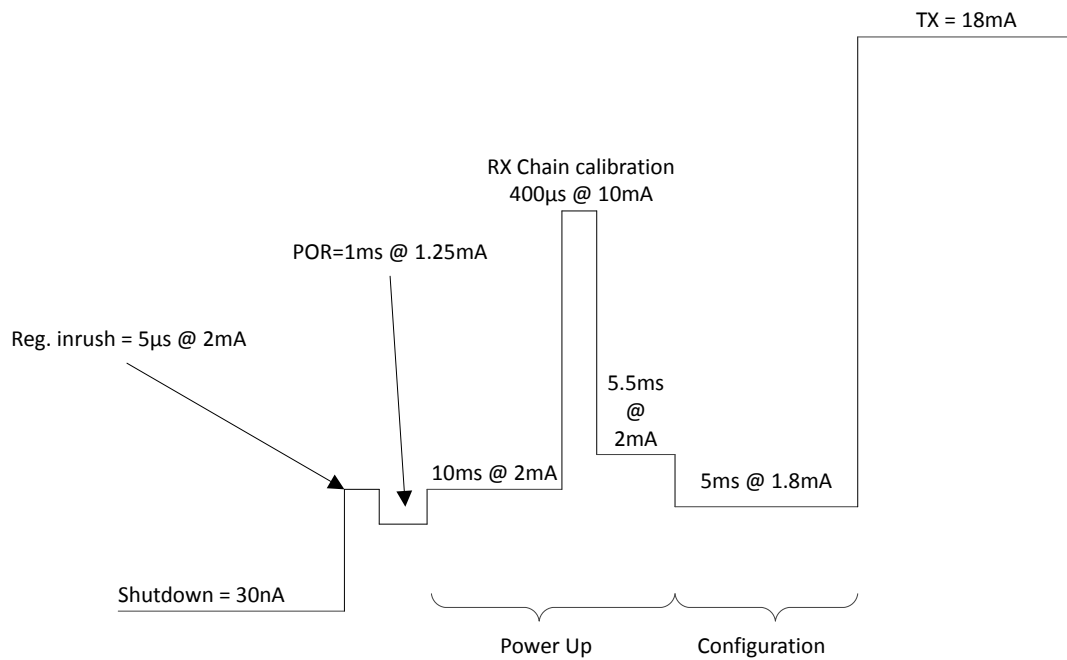


Figure 5.5. Supply Current versus Time Diagram from Shutdown to TX State

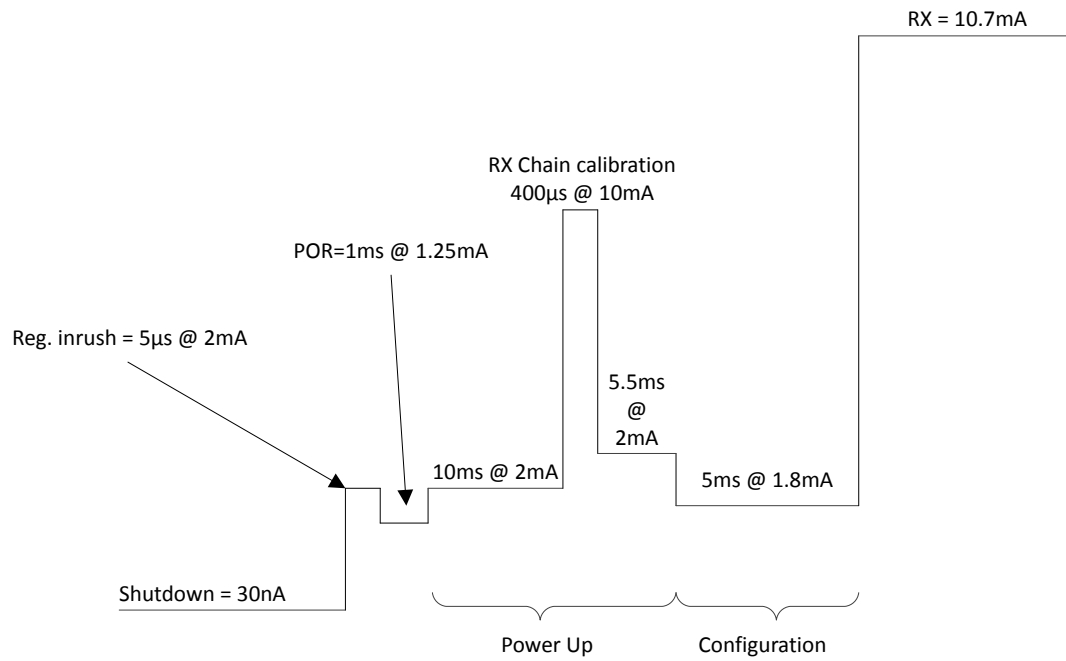


Figure 5.6. Supply Current versus Time Diagram from Shutdown to RX State

5.3 Radio Configuration File

5.3.1 Radio Initialization with RF Parameters

The radio parameter configuration process can be accomplished by using the Wireless Development Studio (WDS). After the required parameters are given to the radio configuration application, WDS creates the configuration data based on these parameters. If the Launch IDE option is selected, WDS generates a `radio_config.h` header file that contains the configuration data. This header file contains all the information needed by the application to configure the radio properly. This information includes the parameters of the RF link such as the modulation type, channel bandwidth, data rate, center frequency, crystal tolerance, crystal capacitor bank value, modulation source, CRC calculation, and sync word setting. For more complete information on WDS and EZConfigPRO usage, refer to the WDS User's Guide.

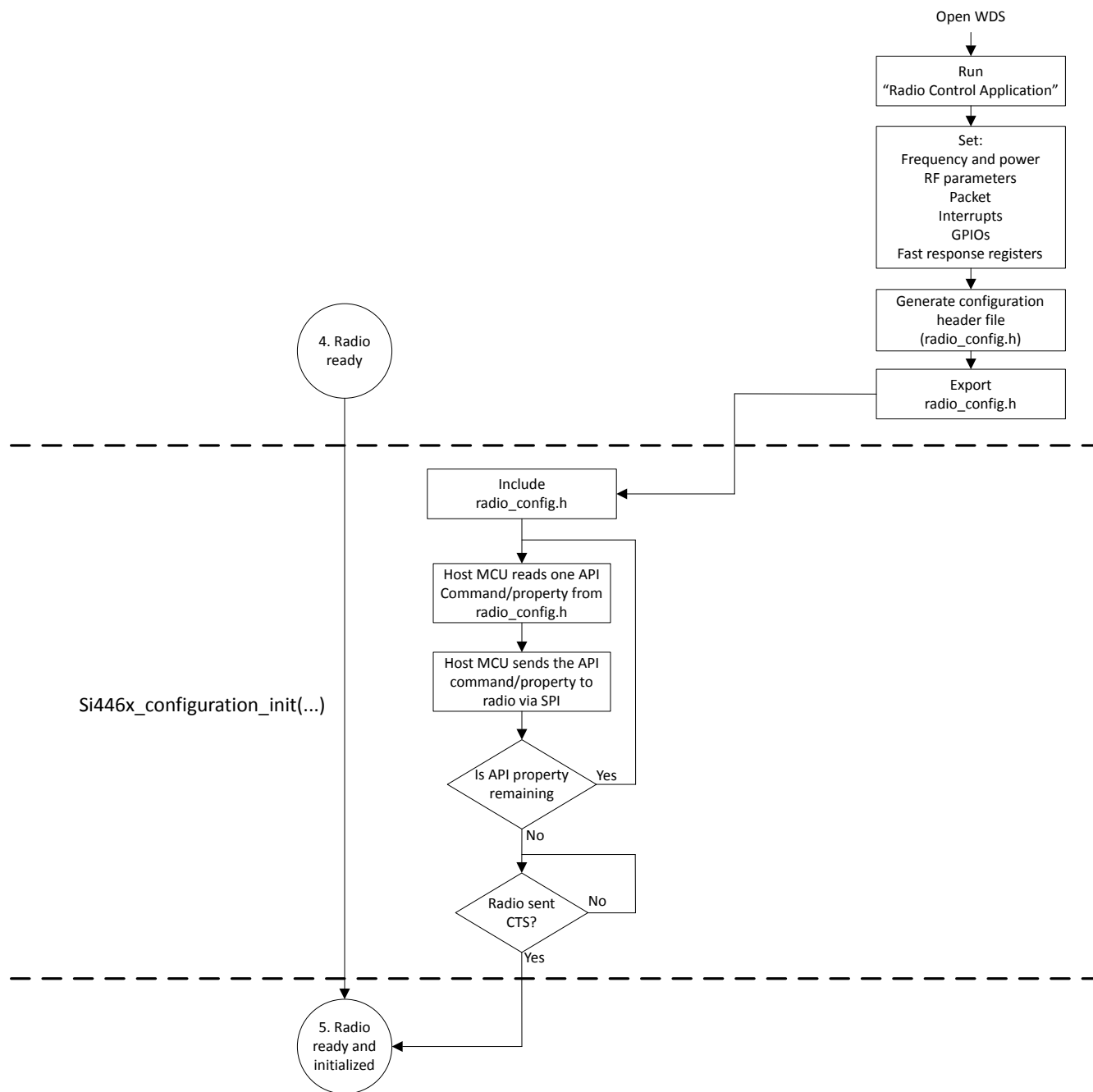


Figure 5.7. Radio RF Initialization Process

5.3.2 Generated Radio Configuration File

The configuration file is automatically generated by the "Radio Control Application" tool. It is interpreted as a C- header file called `radio_config.h` and it has four sections. The first two sections are intended for the users and allow them to see the exact values of the API properties. The last two sections are specifically intended for the example projects.

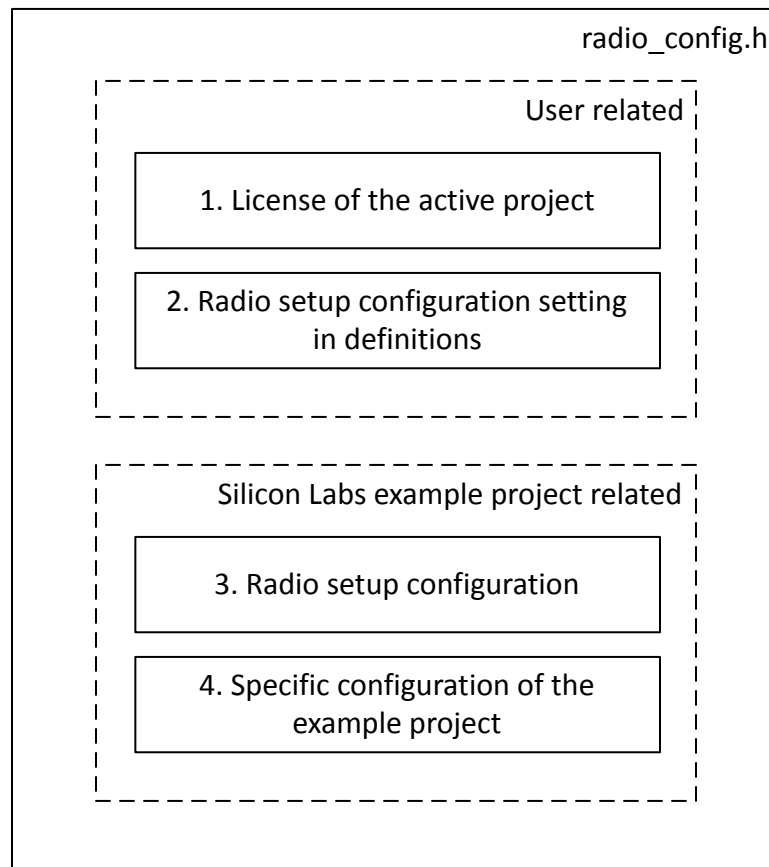


Figure 5.8. Radio_config.h File Structure

Below is an example `radio_config.h` file.

```
The "License of the Active Project" section consists of numerous commented lines about the license.
/**
 * Copyright 2012 Silicon Laboratories, Inc.
 * http://www.silabs.com
 *
 * @file radio_config.h
 *
 * H File Description:
 * @brief Radio configuration macros and definitions.
 *
 * Project Name: EZRPRO_Examples
 *
 * THE SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED "AS IS", WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED,
 * INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A
 * PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND NONINFRINGEMENT. IN NO EVENT SHALL THE AUTHORS OR COPYRIGHT
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 * CONTRACT, TORT OR OTHERWISE, ARISING FROM, OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE
 * SOFTWARE OR THE USE OR OTHER DEALINGS IN THE SOFTWARE.
 *
 * This software must be used in accordance with the End User License Agreement.
```

The Radio Setup Configuration in Definitions section is the list of initialization commands that are sent to the radio over the SPI interface. The structure of one element of the list is shown below. The comment lines describe how the C definition configures the dedicated API properties. The C define line stands for the initialization command.

```
/* Set Multiple Properties starting with MODEM_MOD_TYPE
 * Starting Location: 0x2000
 * Number of properties: 3
 * Defaults: 0x02 0x80 0x07
 * Descriptions:
 * MODEM_MOD_TYPE - Modulation Type.
 * Bit[7] : TX_DIRECT_MODE_TYPE : 0
 * Bit[6:5] : TX_DIRECT_MODE_GPIO [1:0] : 0
 * Bit[4:3] : MOD_SOURCE[1:0] : 0
 * Bit[2:0] : MOD_TYPE[2:0]: 3
 * MODEM_MAP_CONTROL - Controls bit mapping.
 * Bit[7] : enmanch : 0
 * Bit[6] : eninv_rxbit : 0
 * Bit[5] : envinv_txbit : 0
 * Bit[4] : envinv_fd : 0
 * Bit[3] : envinv_adcq : 0
 * MODEM_DSM_CTRL - DSM control.
 * Bit[7] : dsmclk_sel : 0
 * Bit[6] : dsm_mode : 0
 * Bit[5] : dsmdt_en : 0
 * Bit[4] : dsmdttp : 0
 * Bit[3] : dsm_rst : 0
 * Bit[2] : dsm_lsb : 1
 * Bit[1:0] : dsm_order : 3
 */
#define RADIO_CONFIGURATION_SET_PROPERTIES_MODEM_MOD_TYPE 0x11, 0x20, 0x03, 0x00, 0x03,
0x00, 0x07
```

The commented lines explain which API property/properties will be overwritten with new value(s). For example, this definition is responsible for initializing three API properties of the radio at one time, MODEM_MOD_TYPE, MODEM_MAP_CONTROL, and MODEM_DSM_CTRL. The format of the definition is as follows:

- The first byte is the command ID of the SET_PROPERTY API command.
- The next three bytes are the requirements of the command:
 - MSB of the starting location of the API property
 - Number of the immediate adjacent API properties
 - LSB of the starting location of the API property
- Finally, the values of the properties set by the command.

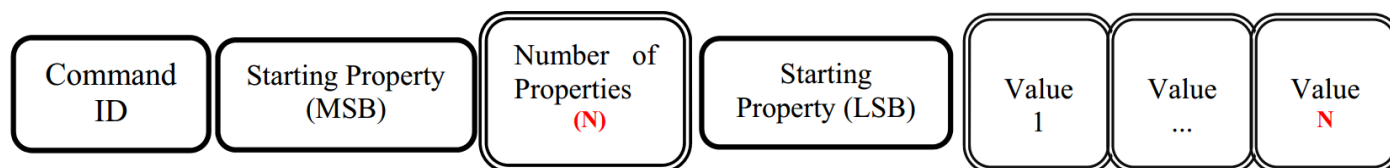


Figure 5.9. Command Structure

The Radio Setup Configuration section is intended only for the example project. This part only has a C-like structure, called `Radio_Setup_Configuration_Array`, that contains the previously mentioned definitions with the modification that the first element is the length of the API command. The format of the definition remains almost the same but the length field is added. The importance of the extended structure is to build the appropriate format of the input parameter for the `Si4455_configuration_init(...)` function. The format of a line from the array is as follows:

The Specific Configuration of the Example Project section is intended for the example project. It contains some specific definitions for the example application such as which channel is selected either for the transmission or for the reception. The content of the custom packet is initialized in this section. It also contains WDS calculator-related information in the commented lines.

```
/**
 * #define CUSTOM_PACKET_TX_CONTENT {SiliconLabs}
 * #define CUSTOM_PACKET_RX_CONTENT {SiliconLabs}
 * #define CUSTOM_CHANNEL_NUMBER_TX 0
```

```
#define CUSTOM_CHANNEL_NUMBER_RX 0
```

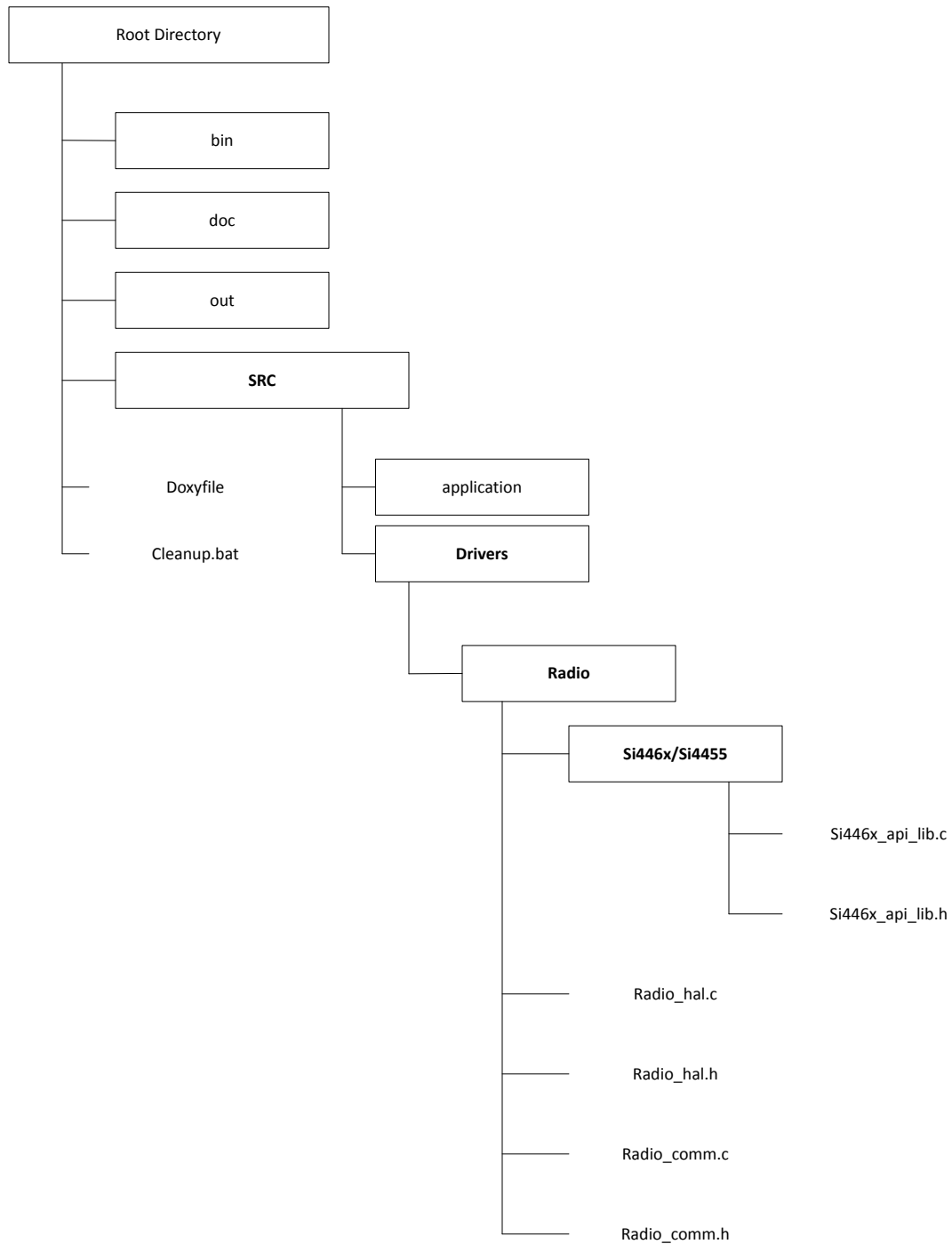


Figure 5.10. Radio Driver File Location

6. Patching the Radio

A Radio patch is a piece of software provided by Silicon Labs to change the operation of the radio chip. The patch runs on the internal MCU of the radio chip and fixes bugs or adds/improves features of the firmware in the internal ROM. It is distributed in binary form and has to be loaded in the RAM of the radio chip by the host MCU through the SPI interface. Since the RAM is volatile memory, the information stored in it gets lost when the power of the chip is removed. Consequently, the content of the firmware patch has to be downloaded into the radio chip each time after performing a power on reset.

6.1 Patch Usage

To apply a patch, the patch content has to be sent to the radio chip after POR but before issuing the POWER_UP command.

In the software demos the patch file is located at `<radio>_patch.h`. Following several lines of comments that identify the patch, it contains the patch data lines, eight bytes in a line. Each line has to be sent to the chip as an eight byte long command. A CTS reply has to be read from the chip after each line.

After all lines are sent, the POWER_UP command has to be issued with the PATCH bit of the BOOT_OPTIONS argument set to 1.

Table 6.1. PATCH bit in POWER_UP

POWER_UP command	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
CMD	0x02							
BOOT_OPTIONS	PATCH	0	FUNC[5:0]					
XTAL_OPTIONS	0000000							TXCO
X0_FREQ	X0_FREQ[31:24]							
X0_FREQ	X0_FREQ[23:16]							
X0_FREQ	X0_FREQ[15:8]							
X0_FREQ	X0_FREQ[7:0]							

6.2 Patching Support

If a patch is necessary for a selected radio chip version, WDS will apply it automatically without any user interaction.

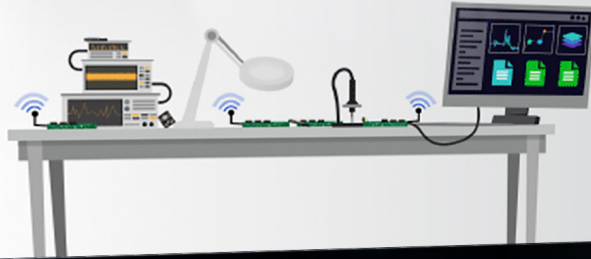
When deploying an example project from WDS, it includes the necessary patch commands (Si446X_PATCH_CMDS) in the RADIO_CONFIGURATION_DATA_ARRAY automatically according to the selected chip version. The patch commands themselves are defined in the `<radio>_patch.h` file that is also included in the project automatically. This way the patch will be applied as part of the radio initialization process.

7. Additional Resources

- AN796: *Wireless Development Suite General Description* — This document describes the WDS, its features and general usage: <http://www.silabs.com/Support%20Documents/TechnicalDocs/an0822.pdf>.
- AN632: *WDS User's Guide for EZRadioPRO® Devices* — This document describes how to combine the EZRadio/Pro with WDS: <https://www.silabs.com/Support%20Documents/TechnicalDocs/AN632.pdf>.
- AN633: *Programming Guide for EZRadioPro* — This application note goes into deep detail about programming and customizing the radios, Refer to this for advanced usage of the radios: <https://www.silabs.com/Support%20Documents/TechnicalDocs/AN633.pdf>.
- Si4455 Data Sheet — Information on the specific radio: <https://www.silabs.com/Support%20Documents/TechnicalDocs/Si4455.pdf>
- AN0822 *Simplicity Studio User Guide* — Introduction to using Simplicity Studio: <http://www.silabs.com/Support%20Documents/TechnicalDocs/an0822.pdf>.

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Simplicity Studio™4



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