AN14224

How to use PN722x in Dual-Host mode

Rev. 3.0 — 7 February 2025 **Application note**

1 Introduction

This document describes how to use the PN722x in Dual-Host mode. Before getting started with operation in Dual-Host mode, it is important to gain basic knowledge about the PN722x (see [1]). The following sections describe the basic PN722x Dual-Host architecture, provide step-by-step instructions on how to prepare the MCUXpresso environment, and explain how to import and run prebuild examples available on the PN722x webpage (see [2]).

To follow the instructions in this document, the PNEV7220BP2 evaluation board is required. Any custom board can require different procedure (different Secure MCU, different protocol between Android host and Secure MCU, etc.).

2 Hardware

Dual-Host functionality can only be used with the PNEV722xBP2. The PNEV722xBP2 must be connected to the Android host.

The Kinetis K82, which is used as a Secure MCU, is part of the PNEV722xBP2 board. The K82 can be flashed with an external debugger like J-Link or any similar tool. The external debugger must be connected to the J35.

For detailed information on connections and where to connect the external debugger, refer to [1], specifically the section related to the PNEV722xBP2 HW.

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3 Architecture

The PN722x Dual-Host architecture consists of three parts:

1. Android host
2. PN722x (part of the PNEV722xBP2)
3. Secure MCU (as part of the PNEV722xBP2 board: Kinetis K82 [3])

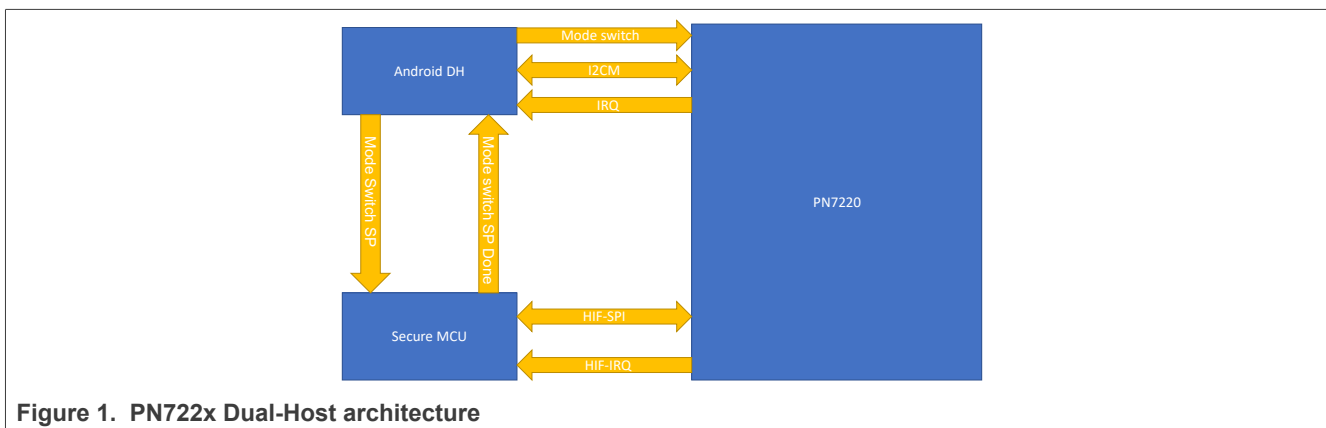Figure 1 shows the PN722x Dual-Host architecture.

Figure 1. PN722x Dual-Host architecture

The Android host is the main device host (DH) andis responsible for driving the NFC Forum communication. It is connected to the PN722x with HIF2-I2C interface. Using Dual-Host architecture provides strict separation between operating in NFC Forum mode and EMVCo mode. The NFC Forum mode is executed on the Android DH, EMVCo mode is executed on the Secure MCU. The Secure MCU functions as the second DH and uses the HIF-SPI interface to communicate with the PN722x.

In this architecture, PN722x FW updates are only possible through the Secure MCU.

Note: Standard PN722x FW updates through the Android DH as in Single-Host architecture are not possible in Dual-Host architecture.

To switch between the Android DH and Secure MCU, the Mode Switch GPIO is used. By default, Mode Switch is set to low and the Android host communicates with the PN722x. When the Mode Switch GPIO is set to high,the PN722x is reset using the commands `CORE_RESET_CMD` and `CORE_INIT_CMD`. This reset is mandatory to clear all buffers and to prevent any unwanted data transfer between the Secure MCU and Android host. The Secure MCU is now responsible for communication with the PN722x.

The IRQ pin is used to inform the host when the PN722x wants to send responses to the DH. The IRQ line is the same for both the Android DH and Secure MCU.

But the connections mentioned above are not enough. As no library or stack support between Android host and Secure MCU is provided by NXP, a handshake mechanism is required. This handshake is performed with two GPIOs (see Table 1).

Table 1. Signal overview for handshake in Dual-Host architecture

GPIO	Android host	Secure MCU
Mode Switch SP	output	input
Mode Switch SP Done	input	output

Note: Mode Switch SP Done is used only in case of the FW update example.

The connections mentioned above are only examples. Users can define any protocol between Android host and Secure MCU.

While using PN722x in Dual-Host mode, the HIF2-I2C is connected to the Android DH. Unlike HIF1-I2C in Single-Host mode system which can act as wake-up source to PN722x, HIF2-I2C cannot wake-up PN722X from stand-by. In Dual-Host mode, the I2C2_WAKEUP pin will act as a wake-up source which needs to be used with the HIF2-I2C. By the connecting I2C2_WAKEUP pin to one of the HIF2-I2C pins we can wake-up PN722X due to any activity on HIF2-I2C pins.

4 Environment preparation

To set up the environment, the following resources must be downloaded:

- MCUXpresso Integrated Development Environment (IDE) [4]
- FRDM-K82 SDK [5]
- NCIRdLib examples [6]

For instructions on how to import source code examples into the MCUXpresso, refer to the following subsections.

If only prebuild examples will be used, then a tool like J-Flash is needed to flash the Kinetis K82 directly with a debugger (J-Link, MCU-Link) connected to J35 on the PNEV722xBP2 board.

4.1 MCUXpresso installation

To download the necessary files for the installation:

1. Go to [4]
2. Scroll down to the section shown in Figure 2 and click the "DOWNLOAD" button
   Note: The image below serves an example. The presentation on the webpage can change over time.
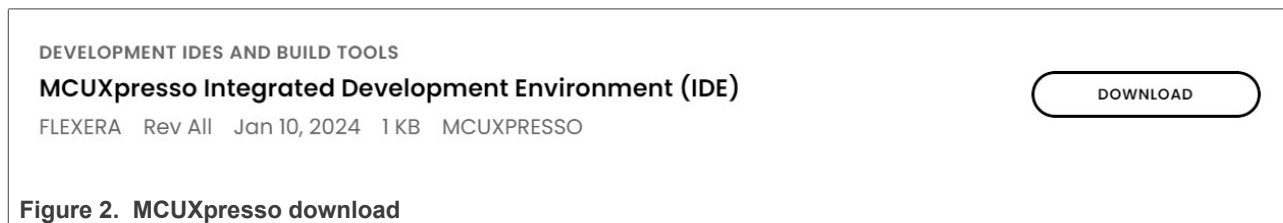

DEVELOPMENT IDES AND BUILD TOOLS

MCUXpresso Integrated Development Environment (IDE)

FLEXERA   Rev All   Jan 10, 2024   1 KB   MCUXPRESSO

DOWNLOAD

Figure 2. MCUXpresso download

3. Log in to your NXP account to access the installation files.
4. After the successful login, select the desired version of the MCUXpresso and download it.
5. Run the installer and follow the instructions in Section 4.2.

Additional information can be found in the following material:

- MCUXpresso IDE – user guide [7]
- MCUXpresso IDE – installation guide [8]

4.2 SDK installation

The PNEV722xBP2 board uses the FRDM-K82 as the Secure MCU. As all examples are based on K82, the FRDM-K82F SDK is needed to run the examples. The following instructions show how to acquire the SDK resources and install it in the MCUXpresso IDE.

1. Go to the MCUXpresso SDK Builder Webpage and select "Select Development Board".

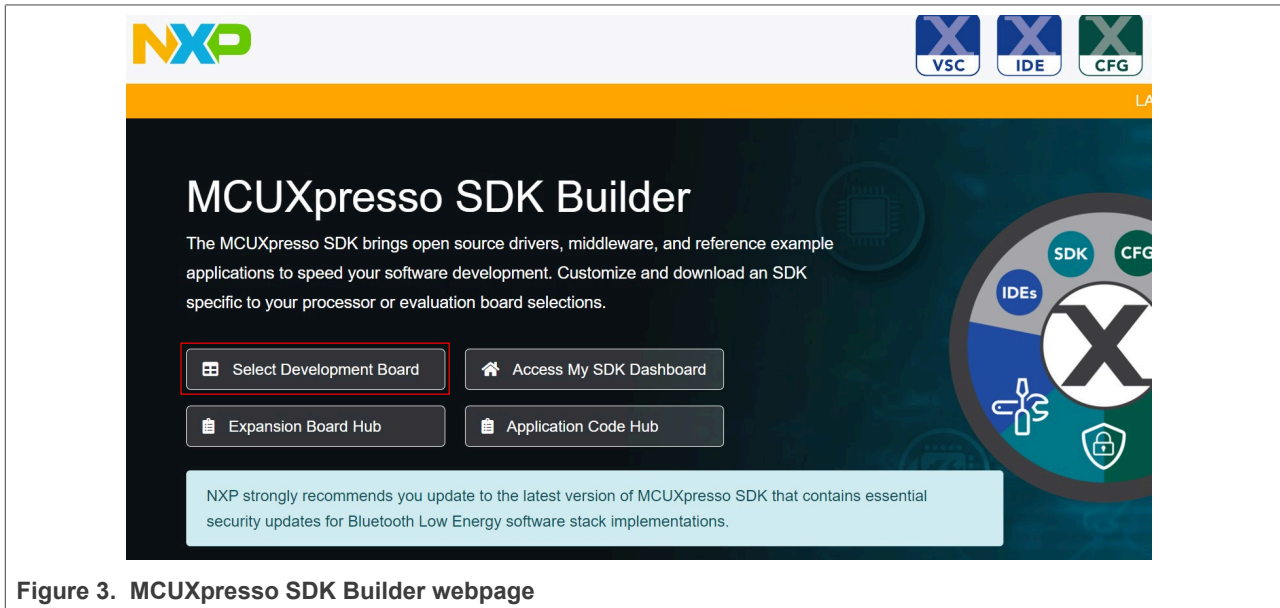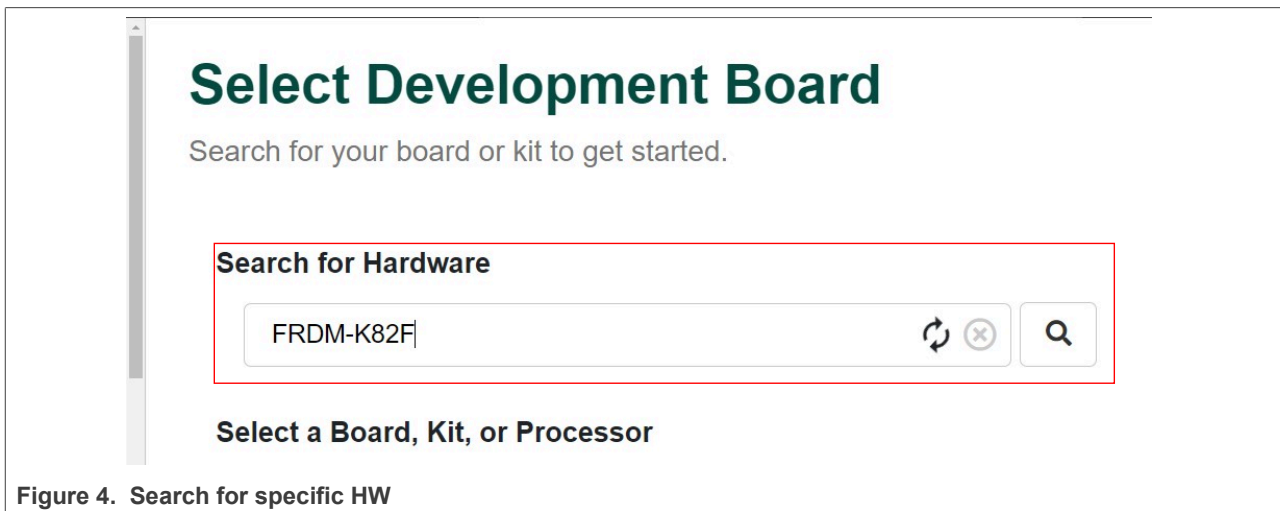**Figure 3. MCUXpresso SDK Builder webpage**

2. Search for "FRDM-K82F".

Figure 4. Search for specific HW

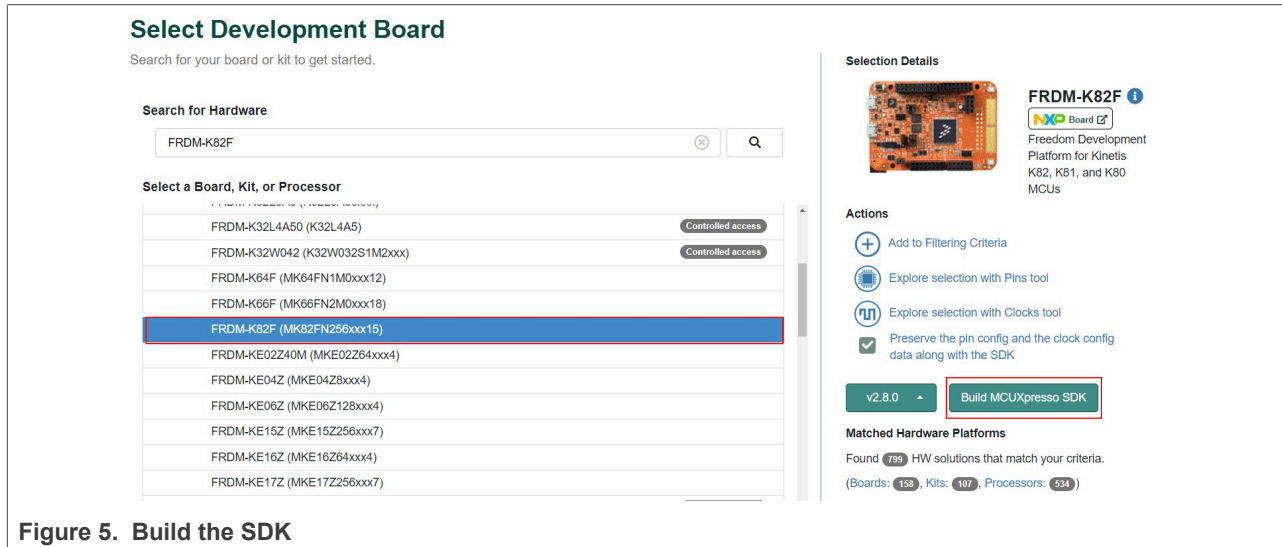3. Select "FRDM-K82F" and click "Build MCUXpresso SDK".

Figure 5. Build the SDK

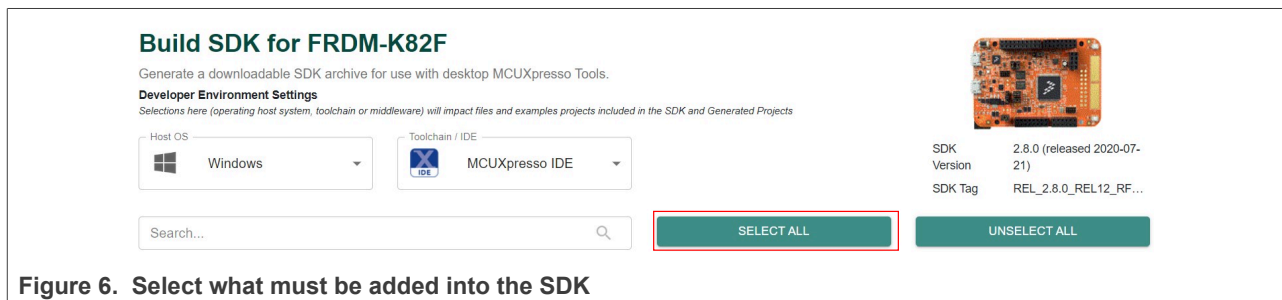4. Select the necessary resources for the build.

Figure 6. Select what must be added into the SDK

Note: *It is recommended to use the option "SELECT ALL".*
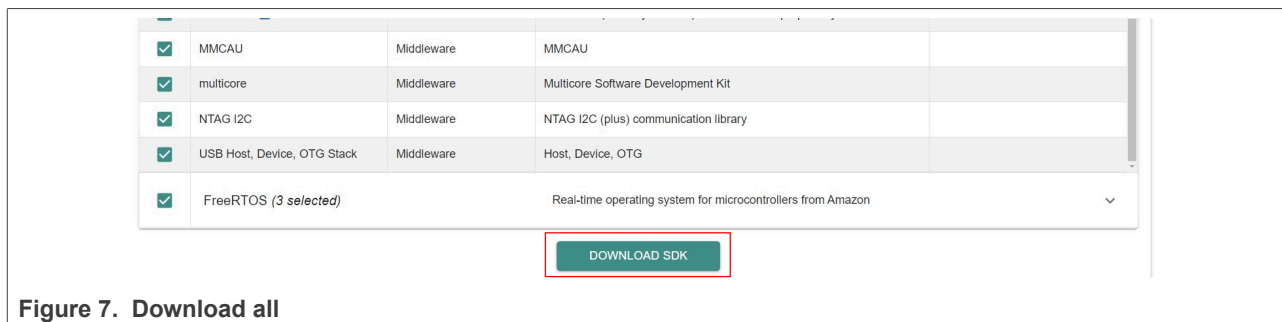
5. Click "DOWNLOAD SDK".

Figure 7. Download all

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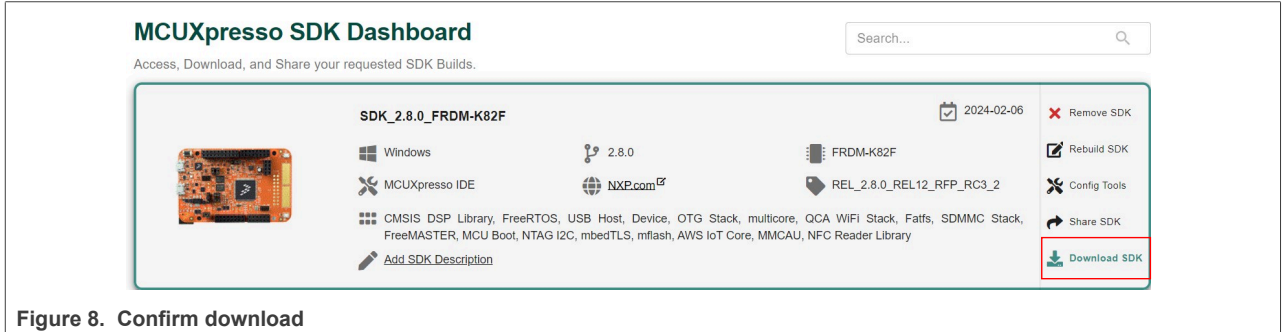6. Check the requested SDK build and click "Download SDK".

Figure 8. Confirm download

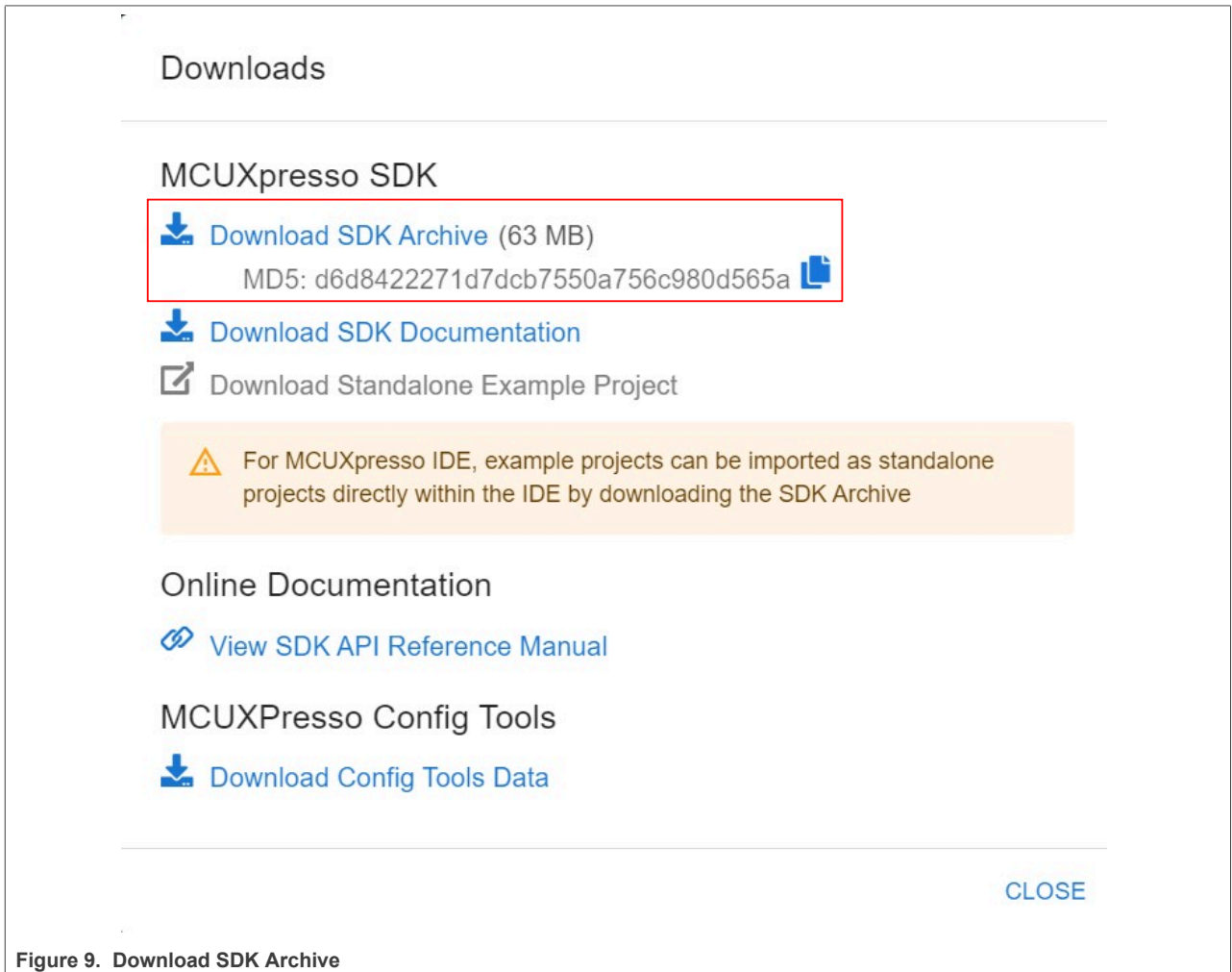7. A window pops up. Click to "Download SDK Archive".

Figure 9. Download SDK Archive

The next step is to import the SDK into the MCUXpresso IDE.

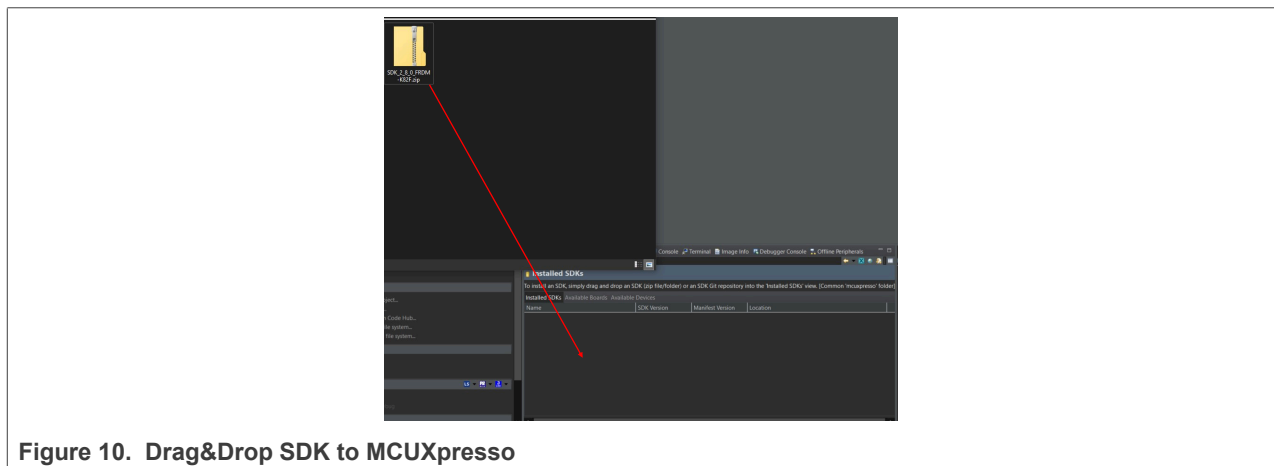1. Drag the archived file into the MCUXpresso "Installed SDK's" section.

Figure 10. Drag&Drop SDK to MCUXpresso
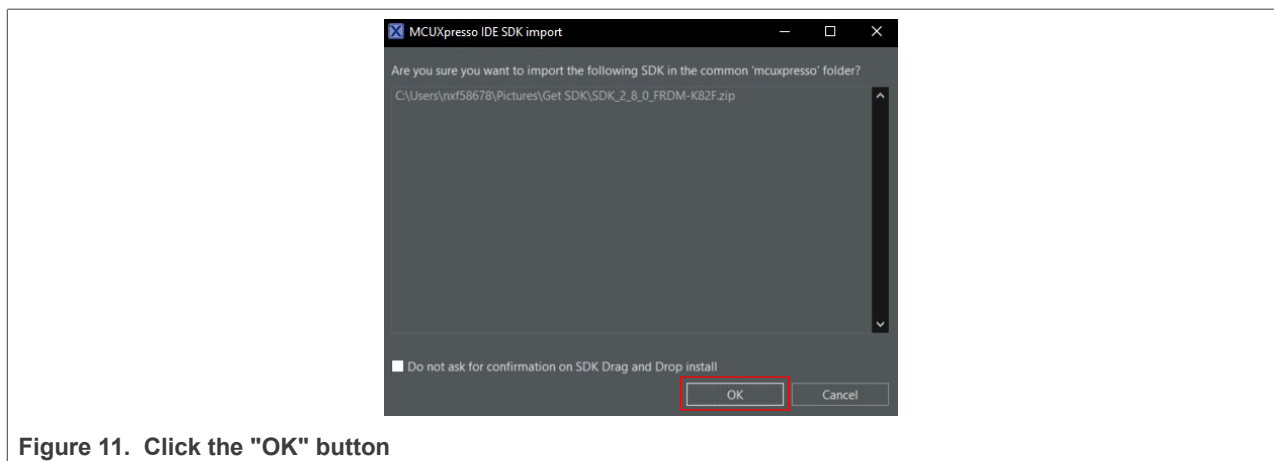
2. Confirm by clicking the "OK" button.

Figure 11. Click the "OK" button

This is only one way of installing the SDK. Refer to Importing and SDK package into MCUXpresso IDE for other options.

4.3 Import examples into MCUXpresso

Source code examples provided by NXP can be found in [6]. In the "*Design Resources*" section and "*Software*" subsection, download "*NciLib_PUB*". After downloading, unzip the package.

Follow the steps below to import them into the MCUXpresso IDE:

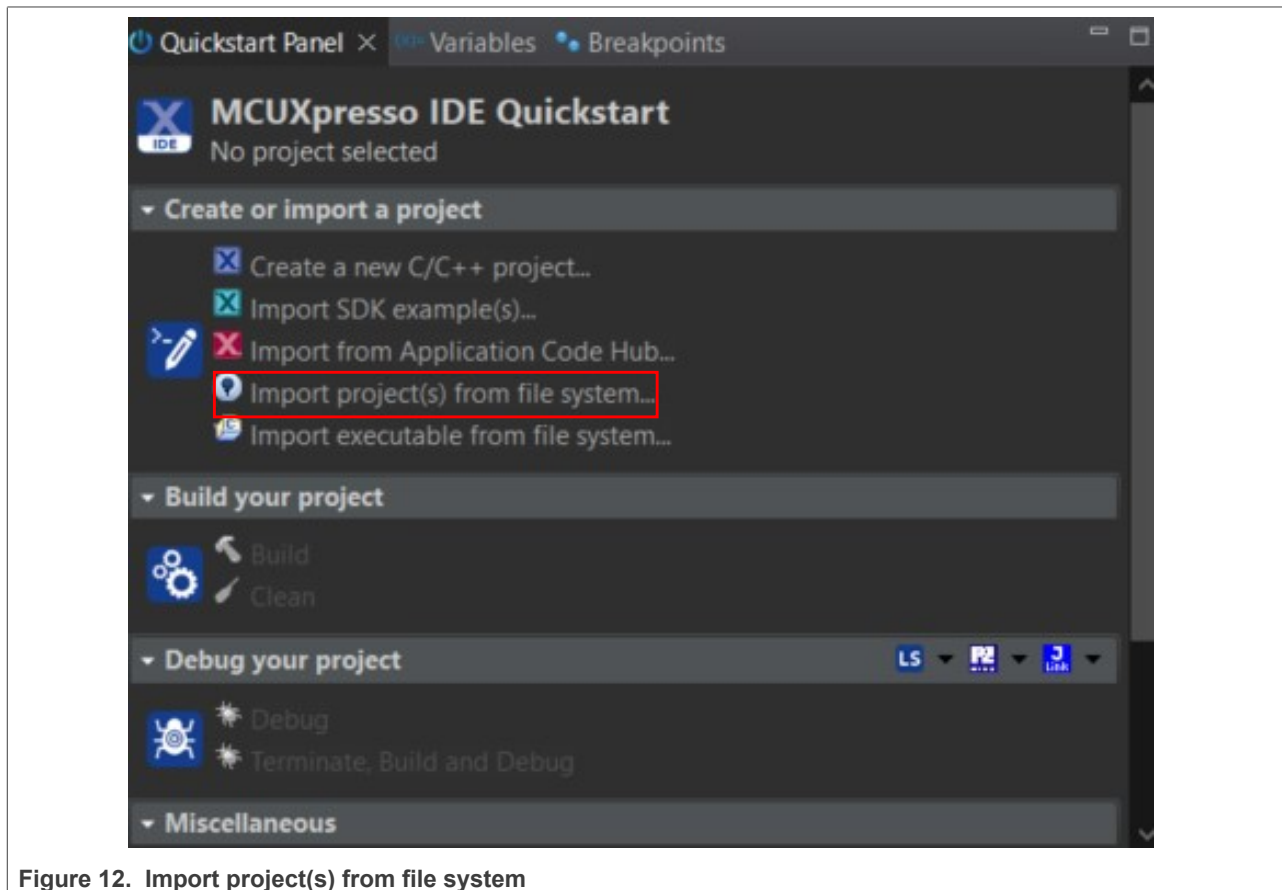1. Click "Import project(s) from file system...".

Figure 12. Import project(s) from file system
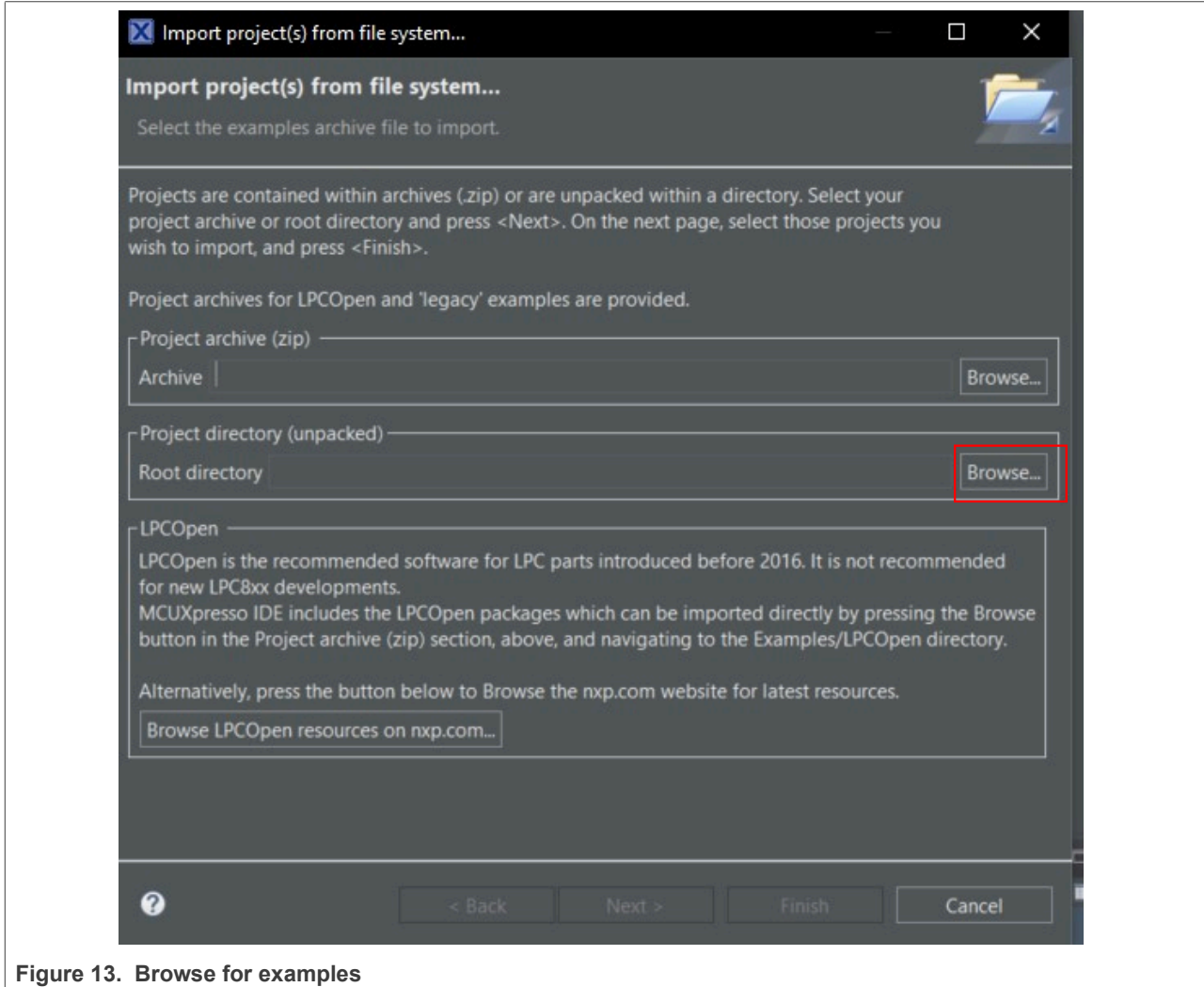
2. Click "Browse" in "Project directory (unpacked)".

Figure 13. Browse for examples

3. Search for the unzipped directory and select it.

Figure 14. Select an unzipped directory
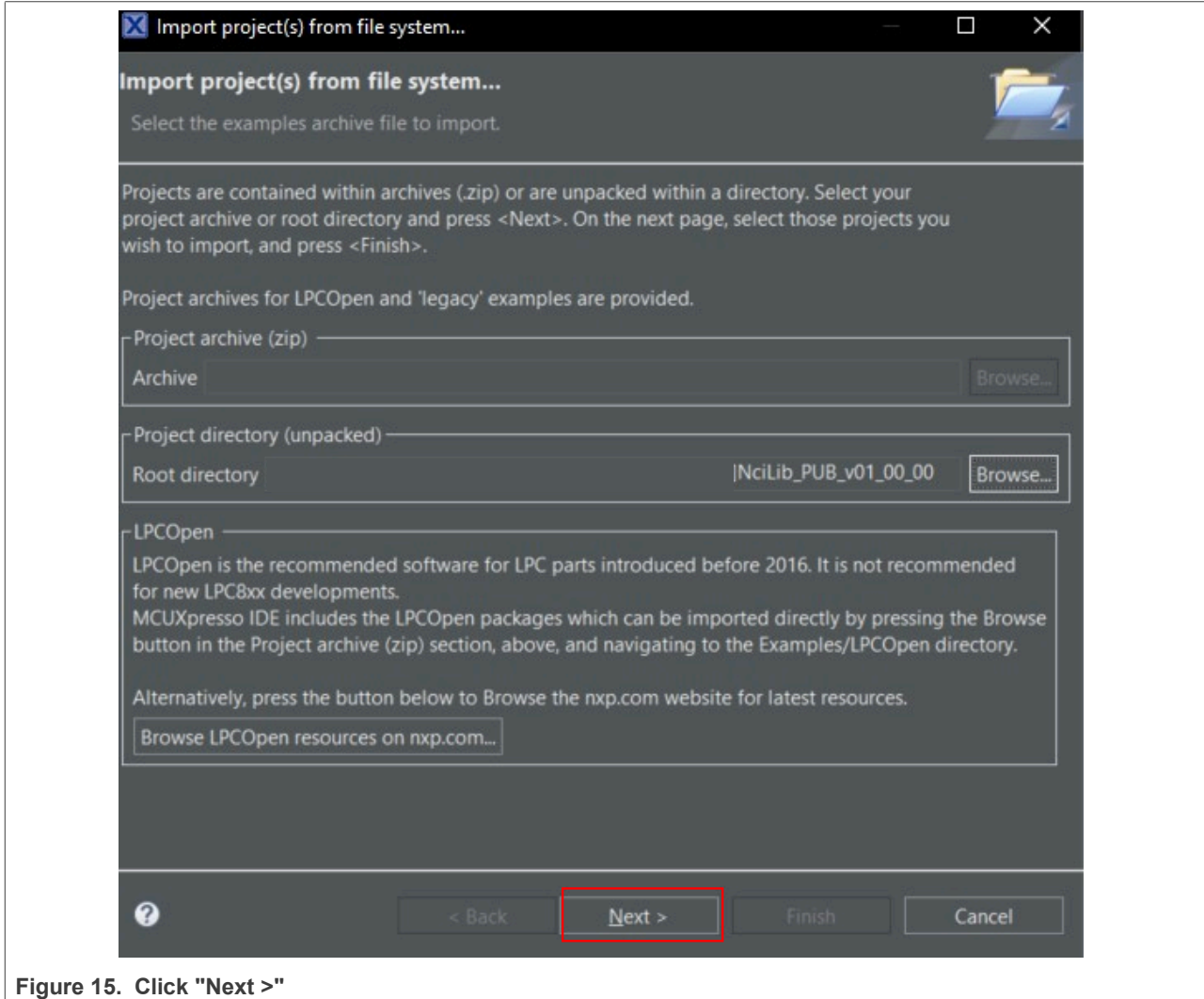
4. Click "Next >".

Figure 15. Click "Next >"

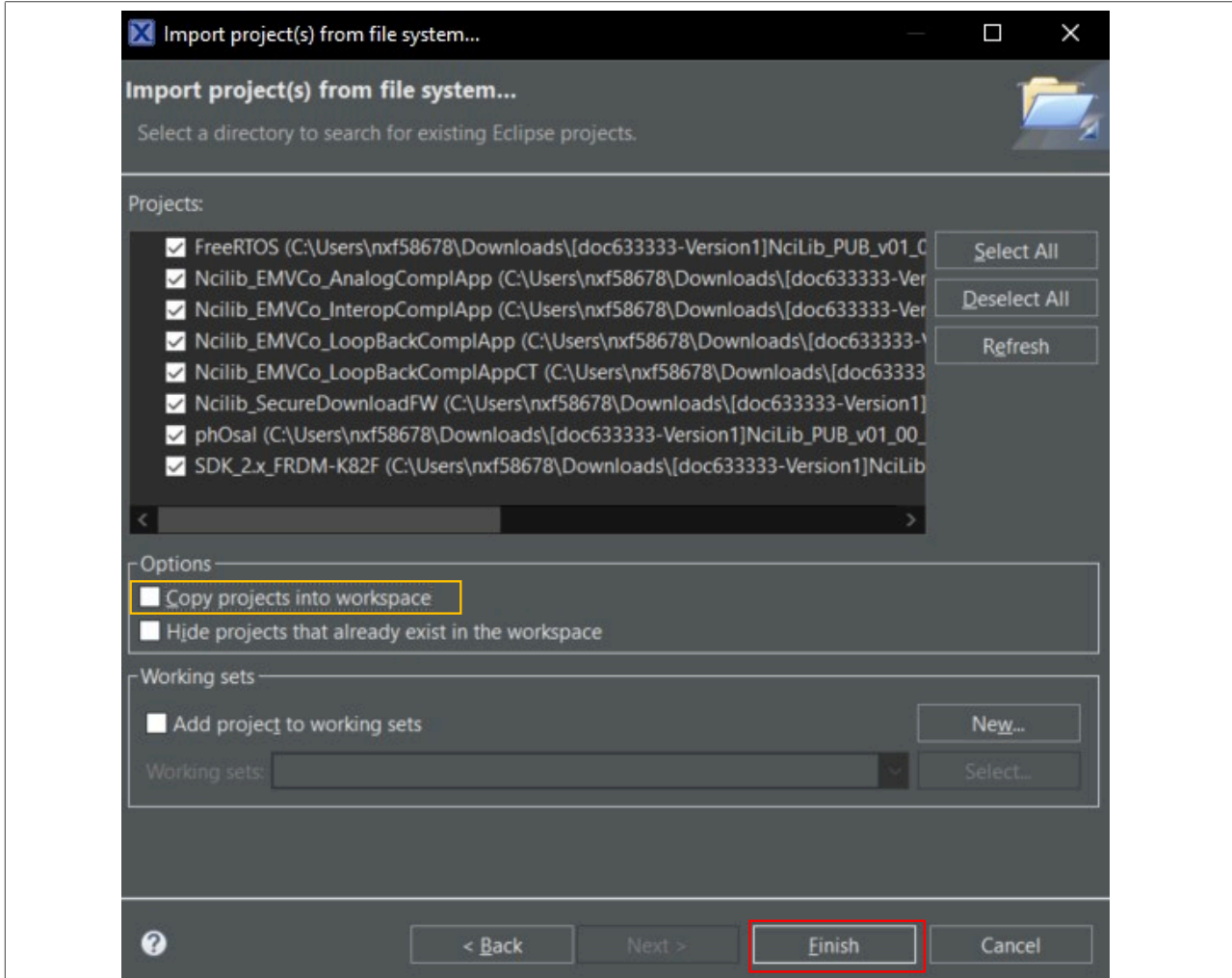5. Deselect "Copy projects into workspace" and click "Finish".

Figure 16. Unclick "Copy project into workspace" and click "Finish"

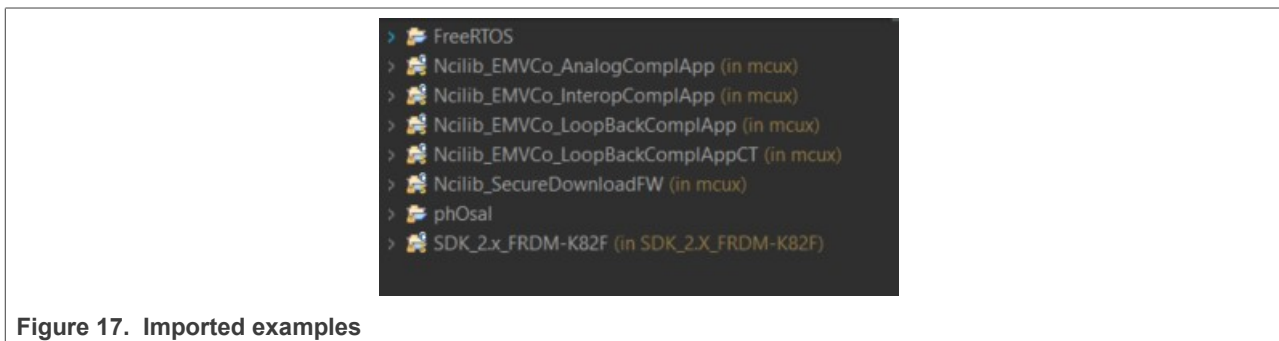6. Examples are now imported and ready to use.

Figure 17. Imported examples

All examples except Ncilib_SecureDownloadFW can be built in Debug and Release mode. Ncilib_SecureDownloadFW requires input from the PC (.*esfwu* file) and can therefore be built only in Debug mode.

5 Explanation of applications

- **Secure MCU mode switch application**: Installation instructions can be found in [1]. This application is responsible for toggling the Mode switch pin. It is an important application, since all examples in NCIRdLib are waiting for the mode switch to toggle. This application exists on the Android host.
- **Ncilib_EMVCo_AnalogComplApp**: This application is used to perform EMVCo3.0(L1) Analog compliance validation.
- **Ncilib_EMVCo_InteropComplApp:** This example is an interoperability loopback application, which is used to perform EMVCo IOP(L1) with add-on (TTA Bulletin No.195) compliance validation.
- **Ncilib_EMVCo_LoopBackComplApp:** For the EMVCo profile, this example provides a full EMVCo digital demonstration along with to SELECT PPSE Commands. This application is used to perform EMVCo CLIF compliance validation.
- **Ncilib_EMVCo_LoopBackComplAppCT:** This application is used to perform EMVCo CT compliance validation. This application will automatically open and close the TDA connection as soon as a contact card is inserted or removed from the TDA slot.
- **Ncilib_SecureDownloadFW:** This application is used to perform secure firmware download. For information on how to execute this example, refer to Section 6.1.

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6   Running the examples

Users have two options to execute the examples:

1. Flash prebuild examples directly to K82
2. Use MCUXpresso to build the example and flash it directly to K82

This section describes how to run the examples. As mentioned earlier, the main host is the Android device. Therefore, it is necessary to use the "Secure MCU Mode Switch application" (refer to the PN7220 Quick start guide). With this application, the "Mode switch" pin toggles based on the selected setting. This is required to inform PN722x that Secure MCU is taking over the communication.

- **Option 1: Flash prebuild examples directly to K82**
  It is faster and MCUXpresso is not required. It can flash the K82 via J35 with tool like J-Flash. Prebuild examples are avaiable in [1] under "*Design resources*" section and "*Software*" subsection named as "*NciLib_PUB_Prebuild*". Since prebuild examples are built in Release mode, there are no output logs where user can see what is happening.
  The steps for using Secure MCU Mode Switch application are the same as in option 2. The GPIO toggle is also the same for both options.
  User can see what is happening on the board through the LEDs on the PNEV722xBP2 board:
  – D16 (yellow LED) is ON → NFC Forum mode is active
  – D11 (green LED) is ON → EMVCo mode is active

Figure 18 shows the location of the LEDs. More information on the LED can be found in schematics found on [2].
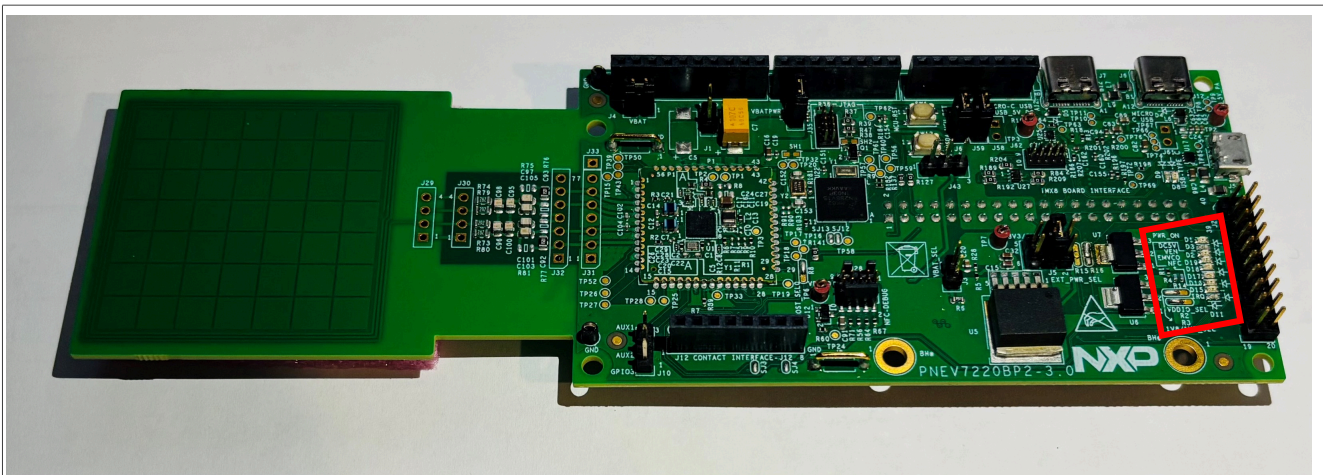

Figure 18. LED location on PNEV722xBP2 board

- **Option 2: Use MCUXpresso to build the example and flash it directly to K82**
  It is a bit slower in comparison to option 1 as setup of the environment and porting of the examples is required. However, the benefit is that users can adapt the code of the example to their needs and observe functionality through the available debug logs. Find step-by-step instruction on how to run examples with option 2 below.

The following sections show how to run an EMVCo loopback example:

1. Flash the K82 with *Ncilib_EMVCo_LoopBackComplApp*. To flash the K82, connect the debugger (J-Link, MCU-Link) to the J35 on the PNEV722xBP2 board.
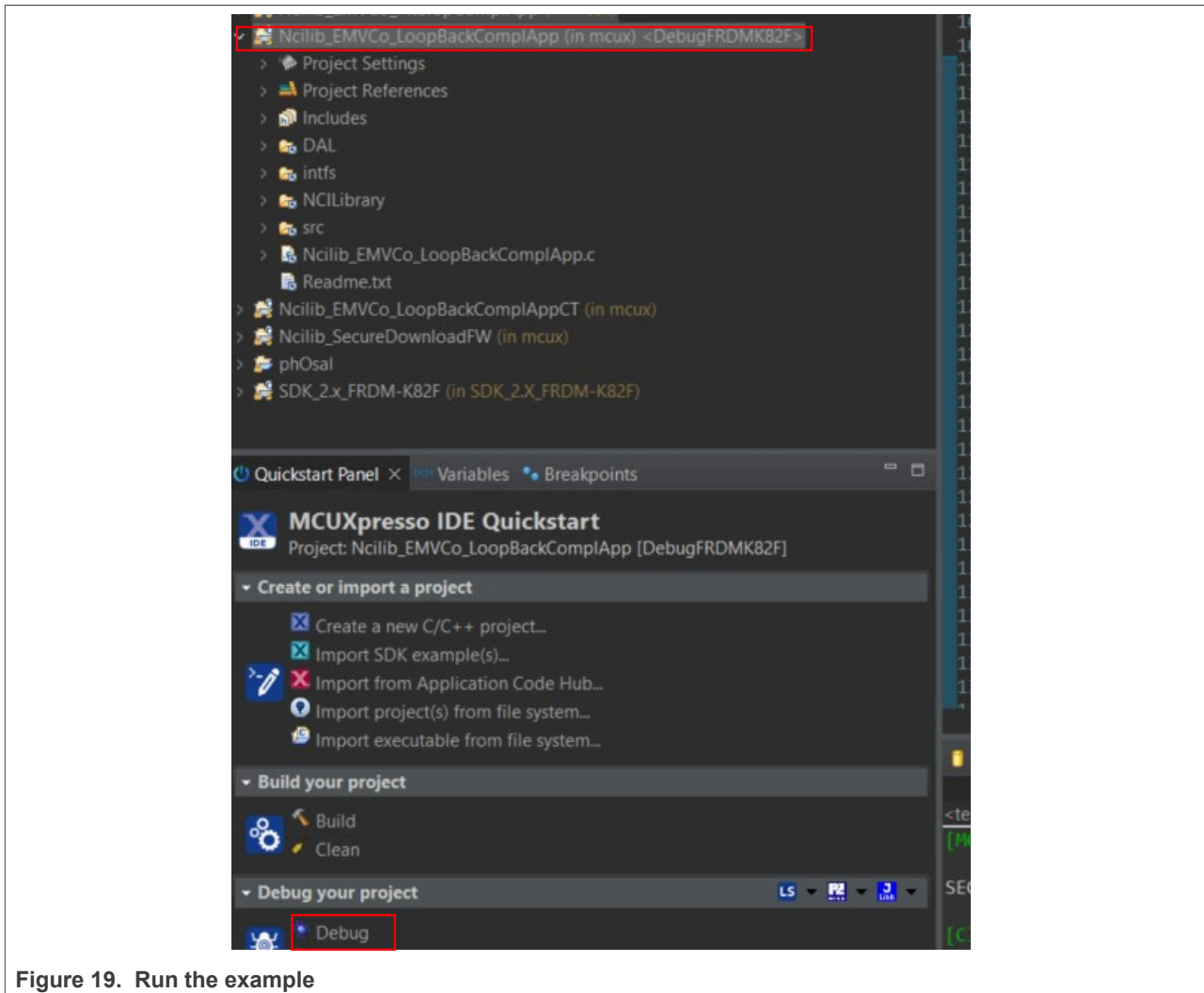
Figure 19. Run the example

2. After running the example, it waits for the Mode switch to toggle high (the same for all applications).

Figure 20. Application wait Mode switch to toggle high

3. Now, run the Secure MCU Mode Switch application on tge Android host

Figure 21. Run Secure MCU Mode Switch application

- If 1 is selected, the Mode Switch pin goes high and the Secure MCU runs the EMVCo profile.
- If 2 is selected, the Mode Switch pin goes low and the Android host runs the NFC Forum profile.
- If 3 is selected, the Mode Switch pin goes high and Secure MCU starts with FW update.

4. Select 1 and press enter.
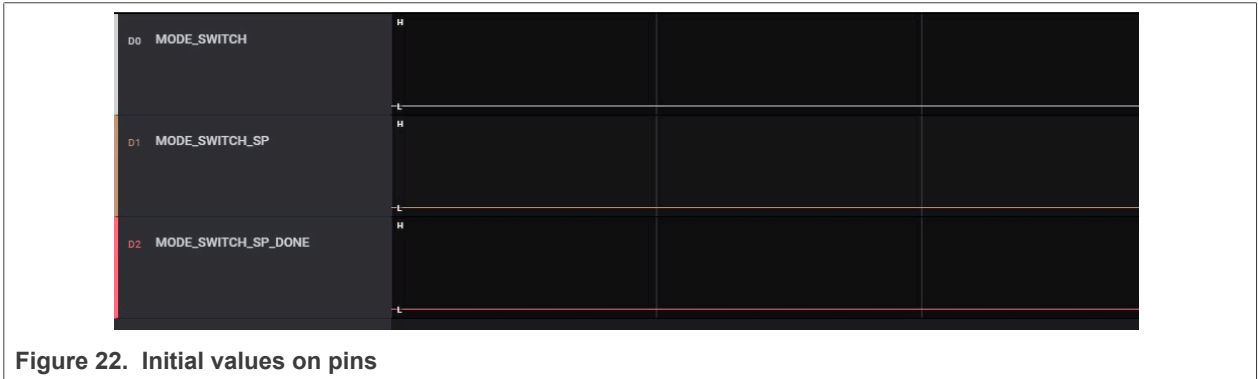   • Initially, all three pins (MODE_SWITCH, MODE_SWITCH_SP and MODE_SWITCH_SP_DONE) are low.

Figure 22. Initial values on pins

   • When 1 is selected, MODE_SWITCH and MODE_SWITCH_SP will toggle high.

Figure 23. Pins change value to high

   • Now, the Secure MCU has taken over and PN722x is running in EMVCo mode. PN722x can now detect a card in EMVCo mode. There is communication between the PN722x and the Secure MCU.


```
Running the NXP-NCI Example (SPI interface)
pProductVer       : 0
pMajor            : 1
pMinor            : 0
pPatch_Dev        : 0
pVersionString    : NciLib_01.00.00_20240131
pVersionStringLen : 24

Waiting for Mode Switch to go HIGH from Android HOST

Waiting to Detect Contactless Card Tapping
```

Figure 24. PN722x can detect card in EMVCo mode

5. • If 2 is selected, the pins toggle to low and Android takes over the communication (NFC Forum).

Figure 25. Changing back to Android host (NFC Forum)

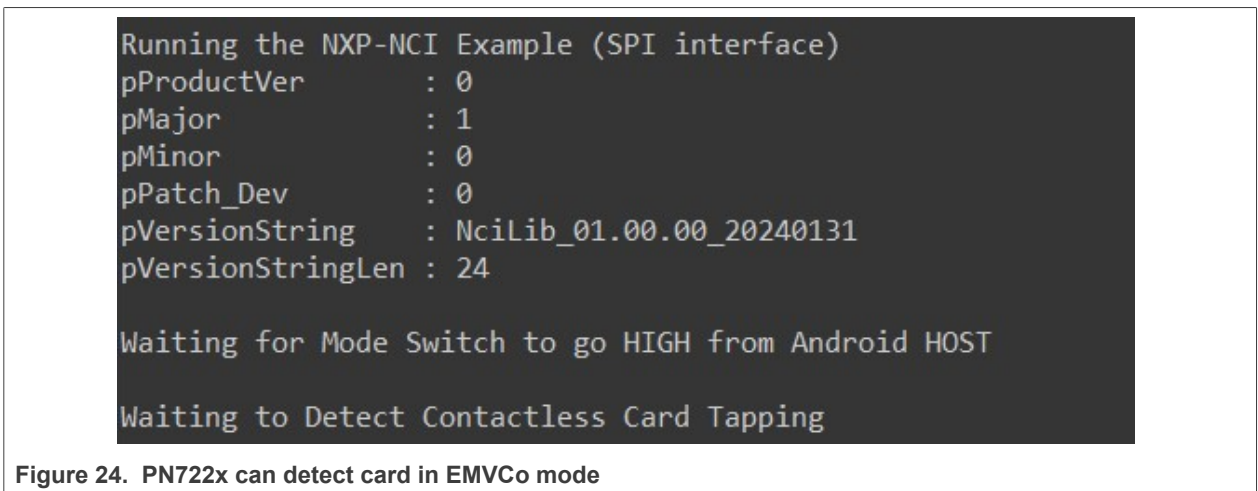Based on the choices in the Secure MCU Mode Switch application, the values of three pins change, and the selected host is responsible for communication.

The steps described above are common to all examples, except for the FW update, where a different option is enabled in "Secure MCU Mode Switch" (option 3). However, this does not affect the execution of the examples. To see how the FW update procedure can be executed, see Section 6.1.

6.1 Secure FW update

As mentioned in Section 3, the only way to execute the FW update example in Dual-Host mode is to set up the environment (see Section 4) since the example can only be built in Debug mode.

This chapter explains the step-by-step procedure how to perform the FW update. The environment needs to be prepared and the source code examples need to be imported into the MCUXpresso before following the steps below.

To execute this example the *.esfwu* file is needed. To acquire the FW, follow the steps below:

1. Go to [10] and select the FW version and click the *.esfwu* file.

Figure 26. Select FW file

2. Click on **Download raw frame** and save the file.

Figure 27. Click on download button

Figure 28. Save file

3. In *Ncilib_SecureDownloadFW.c*, change the *NXP_FIRMWARE_FILE_PATH* variable to indicate the location of the *.esfwu* file.

Figure 29. Change NXP_FIRMWARE_FILE_PATH to indicate the location of FW

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4. Run the example.

Figure 30. Run example

5. On the Android host, run the Secure MCU Mode Switch application and select option 3:

Figure 31. Secure MCU Mode Switch application

6. The FW update procedure will now start.

Figure 32. Output from MCUXpresso before/during/after FW update procedure

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7. The Secure MCU Mode Switch application will finish:

```
evk_8mn:/system/lib64 $ ./SmcuSwitchV2_0
[==========] Running 1 test from 1 test suite.
[----------] Global test environment set-up.
[----------] 1 test from NxpNfc_DualCpuTest
[ RUN      ] NxpNfc_DualCpuTest.NxpNfc_DualCpu_modeSwitch
Select the option
 1. Switch to EMVCo Mode (Host: SMCU)
 2. Switch to NFC Mode  (Host: Android)
 3. Switch to Secure FW Dnld  (Host: SMCU)
Please Select : 3
You selected : 3
**** Switch to SMCU Host for FW DNLD. Wait for Download to be Completed ****

**** FW DNLD Completed. Restarting the NFC stack ****

[       OK ] NxpNfc_DualCpuTest.NxpNfc_DualCpu_modeSwitch (32172 ms)
[----------] 1 test from NxpNfc_DualCpuTest (32172 ms total)

[----------] Global test environment tear-down
[==========] 1 test from 1 test suite ran. (32173 ms total)
[  PASSED  ] 1 test.
evk_8mn:/system/lib64 $
```

Figure 33. Secure MCU Mode Switch application output

The FW update has now been completed.

7 Abbreviations and acronyms

Table 2. Abbreviations

Acronym	Description
APDU	Application Protocol Data Unit
AOSP	Android open source project
DH	Device host
HAL	Hardware abstraction layer
FW	Firmware
I^{2}C	Inter-Integrated Circuit
LPCD	Lower powered card detection
NCI	NFC controller interface
NFC	Near-field communication
MW	Middleware
PLL	Phase-locked loop
P2P	Peer-to-peer
RF	Radio frequency
SDA	Serial data
SMCU	Secure microcontroller
SW	Software

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8 References

[1]   User guide – UG10068 – PN7220 – Quick start guide (link)

[2]   Webpage – PN7220 – EMV L1 Compliant NFC Controller with NCI Interface Supporting EMV and NFC Forum Applications (link)

[3]   Kinetis® K82-150 MHz HW Cryptographic Co-Processor and QuadSPI Microcontrollers (MCUs) Based on Arm® Cortex®-M4 Core (link)

[4]   Webpage – MCUXpresso Integrated Development Environment (IDE) (link)

[5]   Webpage – MCUXpresso SDK Builder (link)

[6]   Design resource – NciLib_PUB (link)

[7]   User guide – UG10055 – MCUXpresso IDE 24.12 User Guide (link)

[8]   Installation Guide – UG10060 – MCUXpresso IDE 24.12 Installation Guide (link)

[9]   Webpage – MCU Tech Minutes | Importing an SDK Package into MCUXpresso IDE (link)

[10]   Git repository – PN7220 FW GitHub (link)

9 Note about the source code in the document

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10 Revision history

Table 3. Revision history

Document ID	Release date	Description
AN14224 v.3.0	7 February 2025	Editorial changes. • Section 1 "Introduction" updated • Section 3 "Architecture" updated • Section 4 "Environment preparation" updated • Section 4.2 "SDK installation" updated • Section 4.3 "Import examples into MCUXpresso" updated • Section 5 "Explanation of applications" updated • Section 6 "Running the examples" updated • Section 6.1 "Secure FW update" added • Section 9 "Note about the source code in the document " updated
AN14224 v.2.0	28 May 2024	• Section 5 "Explanation of applications" updated
AN14224 v.1.0	8 April 2024	• Initial version

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