

# AN14285

## PN7150 to PN7160 Migration Guidelines

Rev. 1.0 — 11 April 2024

Application note

### Document information

Information	Content
Keywords	PN7150 NFC Controller, PN7160 NFC Controller, Migration Guidelines, Linux, Android, MCU bare metal
Abstract	This application note describes the guidelines to migrate from the PN7150 NFC Controller to the PN7160 NFC Controller.



## 1 Introduction

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### 1.1 Purpose

This document provides guidelines for the migration from PN7150 NFC Controller to PN7160 NFC Controller. It aims to describe key differences and new features of PN7160 NFC Controller compared to PN7150 NFC Controller from both a hardware and software perspective.

### 1.2 Scope

PN7160 NFC Controller is not pin-to-pin compatible with the PN7150 NFC Controller. This migration guide explains how to meet compatibility between PN7150 NFC Controller and PN7160 NFC Controller.

### 1.3 Audience

This document is intended for customers:

- who have developed their products based on PN7150 NFC Controller and have decided to migrate to the PN7160 NFC Controller.
- who are familiar with PN7150 NFC Controller and want to start their new products based on PN7160 NFC Controller .

## 2 High-level comparison between PN7150 and PN7160

The PN7150 NFC Controller and PN7160 NFC Controller are NFC controllers designed for a quick integration into a wide range of NFC applications, such as home automation devices or mobile devices. They have been designed for a quick integration for a wide range of systems compliant with NFC standards (NFC Forum, NCI). The software package released by NXP Semiconductors includes drivers for Android and Linux, and supports RTOS and no OS applications.

Full product details, including but not limited to the hardware, reference software and documentation (brochure, data sheet, user manual and application notes), refer to [\[1\]](#) and [\[2\]](#).

PN7150 NFC Controller and PN7160 NFC Controller are similar in terms of features. [Table 1](#) compares the features of both products.

**Table 1. Features comparison**

Feature	PN7150 NFC Controller	PN7160 NFC Controller
Arm Cortex-M0 core	Yes	Yes
Integrated nonvolatile memory	Yes	Yes
Supported Host Interfaces	I <sup>2</sup> C	I <sup>2</sup> C and SPI
Host Interface supply voltage	1.8V to 3.3V	1.8V to 3.3V
TX output max current	180mA	250mA
Integrated RF level detector	Yes	Yes
Integrated Polling Loop for automatic device discovery	Yes	Yes
Apple Enhanced Contactless Polling	ECP 1.0*	ECP 1.0 / ECP 2.0**
NFC Standard	NCI 1.0	NCI 2.0
Direct connection to a battery voltage range	(2.3V to 5.5V)	(2.5V to 5.5V)
DPC function	No	Yes
Low power states	No	Yes
Firmware download	No	Yes

\* Only for PN7150X version

\*\* Only on PN7161

NFC Forum NFC-IP and Reader modes match for PN7150 NFC Controller and PN7160 NFC Controller, while for card emulation mode there are some differences. See [Table 2](#).

**Table 2. Card Emulation Protocol differences**

Protocol	PN7150 NFC Controller	PN7160 NFC Controller
T4T - ISO/IEC 14443 A	Yes	Yes
T4T - ISO/IEC 14443 B	Yes	Yes
NFC Forum T3T (FeliCa)	Yes	No

### 3 Hardware considerations

#### 3.1 Pin-to-pin compatibility

The PN7160 NFC Controller is not pin-to-pin compatible with the PN7150 NFC Controller. When migrating from PN7150 NFC Controller to PN7160 NFC Controller, the next pin configurations that appear on [Table 3](#) must be considered:

**Table 3. Pins considerations.**

Highlight	PIN	PN7150 NFC Controller	PN7160 NFC Controller	Description
New feature	2	i.c. to ground	DWL_REQ	PN7160 supports NFC controller firmware download using host interface commands. DWL_REQ PIN shall be pulled to VDD(PAD) before reset via VEN pin is done to enter this mode
New feature	3	I2C_ADDR1	I2C_ADDR1/SPI_MOSI	PN7160 supports SPI interface in addition to I2C
New feature	5	I2C_SDA	I2C_SDA/SPI_MISO	PN7160 supports SPI interface in addition to I2C
New feature	7	I2C_SDL	I2C_SDL/SPI_SCK	PN7160 supports SPI interface in addition to I2C
Renamed and range changed	13	VBAT1	VDD(UP)	VBAT1 is the power supply of the LDO for the PN7150. It can be in the range of 2.8V to 5.0V VDD(UP) is the power supply that allows the PN7160 to generate TXLDO for the PN7160. It can be in the range 2.8V to 5.8V
Added PIN (before VDD(TX_IN)) now TVDD_IN and TVDD_IN2	18	TX2	TVDD_IN	TVDD_IN must be connected to VDD(TX) and TVDD_IN2
Relocated	19	VSS(TX)	TX2	Shifted from PIN 18 to 19
Relocated	20	n.c	VSS(TX)	Shifted from PIN 19 to 20
Renamed	22	VDD(TX_IN)	TVDD_IN2	This pin must be connected to VDD(TX) in PN7150. In PN7160 this PIN must be connected to VDD(TX) and TVDD_IN.
New feature	23	i.c	ANT_1	PN7160 implements a very-low power RF detector. To activate this function the antenna has to be connected to pins ANT1 and ANT2
New feature	24	i.c	ANT_2	PN7160 implements a very-low power RF detector. To activate this function the antenna has to be connected to pins ANT1 and ANT2
New feature	25	i.c	VDD_HF	VDD(HF) monitors the rectifier output for the very-low power RF detector feature
Relocated	26	VBAT	VDD(A)	VDD(A) is the analog supply voltage. Changed from pin 28 to pin 26. Must be connected to VDD(D)
Relocated	27	VSS	VDD	VDD changed from pin 29 to pin 26. Must be connected to AVDD and DVDD

Table 3. Pins considerations....continued

Highlight	PIN	PN7150 NFC Controller	PN7160 NFC Controller	Description
Relocated	28	VDD(A)	VBAT	VBAT changes from pin 26 to pin 28. It is the battery supply voltage and must be connected to VBAT2 in the PN7160
Relocated	29	VDD	XTAL2	Oscillator output. Changed from pin 37 to pin 29
Relocated	30	VDD(D)	NFC_CLK_XTAL_1	NFC_CLK_XTAL1 is the PLL input. Changed from pin 36 to pin 30
Relocated	31	n.c.	VDD(D)	VDD(D) is the digital supply voltage. Must be connected to VDD and VDD(A). It changes from pin 30 to pin 31
Relocated	36	NFC_CLK_XTAL_1	n.c.	This was the PLL input. Now, it must be left unconnected
New feature	37	NFC_CLK_XTAL_2	DCDC_EN	External DC-DC enable request on VDD(PAD)
New feature	39	i.c.	WUP_REQ	It allows the PN7160 to wake-up from standby through a host using this pin

\* *i.c.*: internally connected; leave open.

\* *n.c.*: not connected.

### 3.2 Packaging information

PN7160 NFC Controller is available in two packaging configurations: VFBGA64 and HVQFN40, while PN7150 NFC Controller is only available in HVQFN40.

PN7150 NFC Controller and PN7160 NFC Controller are not pin-to-pin compatible in HVQFN40 package version. To see the differences check [Section 3.1](#).

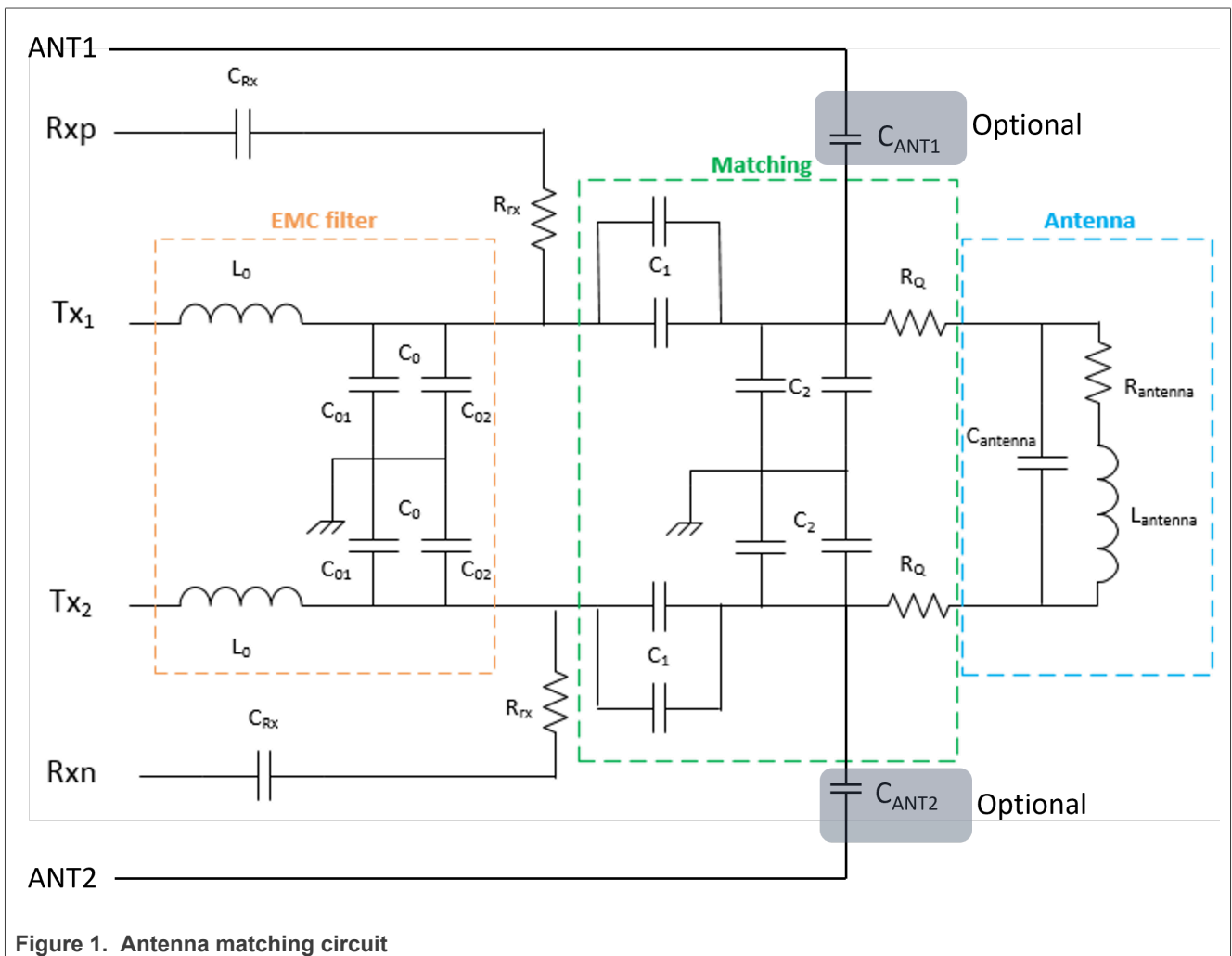
For more information about package specifications, please refer to the datasheets ([\[3\]](#), [\[4\]](#)) and hardware design guides ([\[5\]](#), [\[6\]](#)) of PN7150 NFC Controller and PN7160 NFC Controller, respectively.

### 3.3 NFC antenna matching

The NFC matching circuit architecture of the PN7150 NFC Controller and the PN7160 NFC Controller are the same; however, two things have to be considered:

1. As the PN7160 NFC Controller allows higher TX output current than the PN7150, the matching impedance value to be targeted can be lower for the PN7160 compared to the PN7150.
2. Two capacitors can be optionally connected to the ANT pins of the PN7160 NFC Controller for low power RF field detector. The PN7150 does not implement this feature.

Figure 1 below shows the way to connect the differential antenna for the PN7160 NFC Controller.



The schematic above shows the architecture for the PN7160 NFC Controller with the ANT1 and ANT2 pins.

Find all the information about the new antenna matching circuit for the PN7160 NFC Controller on the [PN7160 antenna design and matching guide](#)

## 4 Software considerations

This section details how to migrate software projects that integrate support for the PN7150 NFC Controller to support the PN7160 NFC Controller. MCU BareMetal, Linux, and Android software projects are considered in this document.

Figure 2 shows the connection diagram for both PN7150 NFC Controller and PN7160 NFC Controller. As can be observed, the application processor relies on the host interface to transmit NCI commands to the NFC controller. The NFC controller firmware running on the device is responsible for communicating with the contactless products through the NFC antenna. This means that the hardware differences detailed in Section 3.1, such as the different PINs for TX2, NFC\_CLK\_XTAL1 and NFC\_CLK\_XTAL2 symbols, are transparent to the software projects. The NFC controller firmware itself will be responsible to manage the NFC antenna on its corresponding PINs.

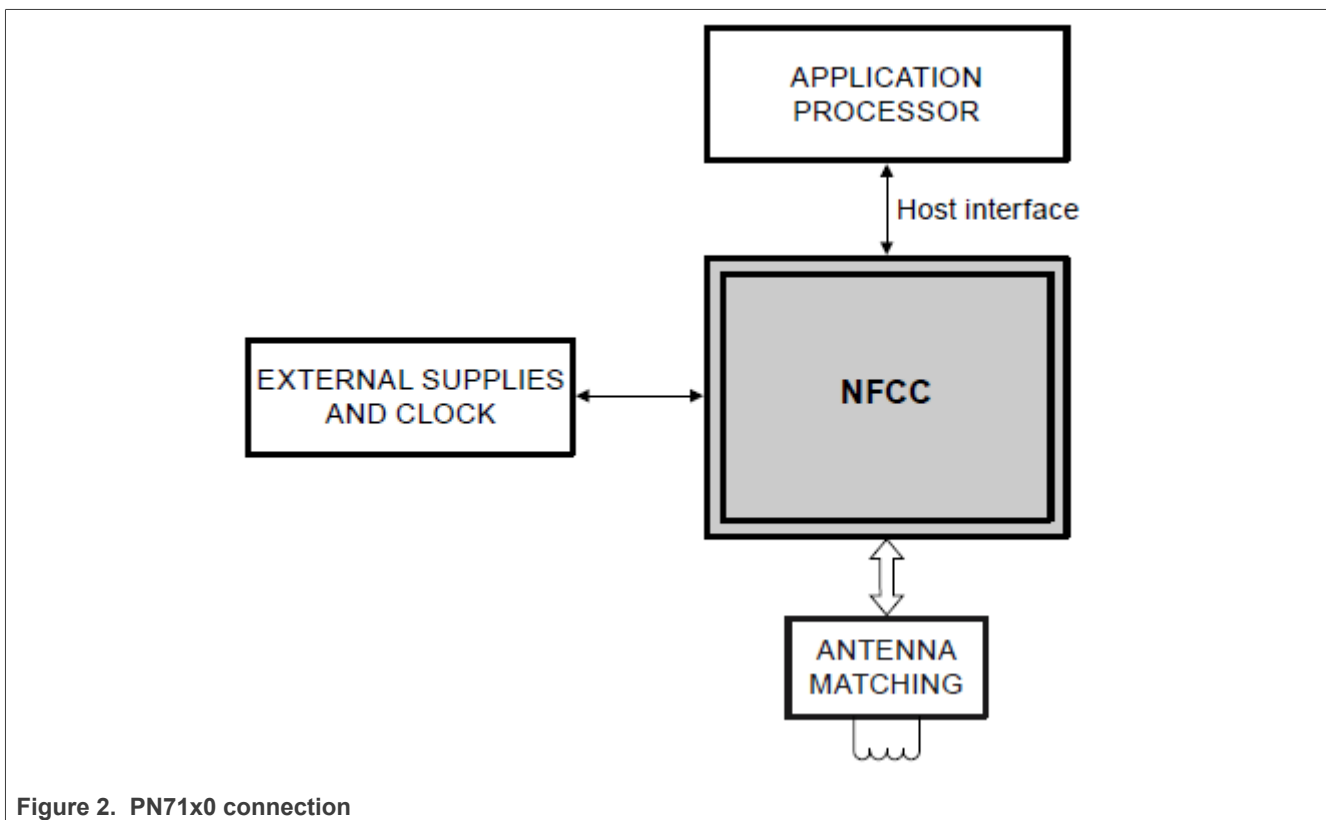


Figure 2. PN71x0 connection

As explained in Section 2, PN7150 NFC Controller supports NCI 1.0 while PN7160 NFC Controller supports NCI 2.0, which is not fully backward compatible.

### 4.1 MCU BareMetal software considerations

This section describes the steps required to migrate NXP's reference MCU BareMetal software [SW4325 - PN7150 NXP-NCI MCUXpresso example Project](#) available for PN7150 NFC Controller to support PN7160 NFC Controller. The reference [SW6705 - PN7160 NXP-NCI MCUXpresso Example Project](#) provides reference source code for PN7160 NFC Controller.

Reference MCU BareMetal software projects used to validate the NFC controller migration are used [NXP's LPC55S6x MCU family](#) as the host device, but the migration steps detailed here are agnostic of the MCU used by the NFC Reader manufacturer.

The [SW4325 - PN7150 NXP-NCI MCUXpresso example Project](#) taken as the reference MCU BareMetal software project for the PN7150 NFC Controller integrates NXP's NfcLibrary folder, which provides NCI 1.0 implementation (see [Figure 3](#)).

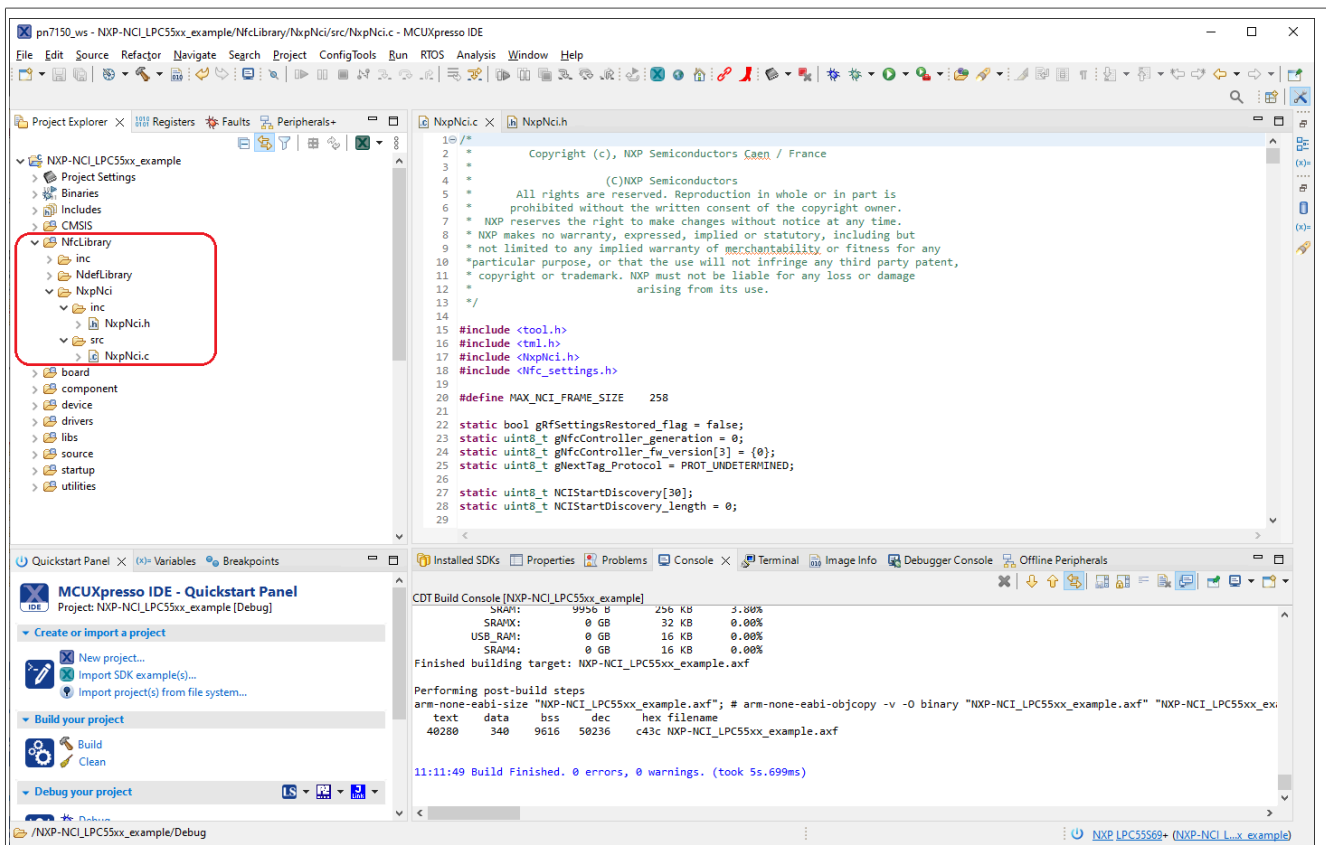


Figure 3. PN7150 SW - NFC NCI Library 1.0



As explained previously, the PN7160 NFC Controller supports NCI 2.0, which is not fully backward compatible with NCI 1.0. Therefore, to support the PN7160 NFC Controller, the content of the NfcLibrary folder must be replaced with the content of the NfcLibrary folder available in [SW6705 - PN7160 NXP-NCI MCUXpresso Example Project](#), which provides NCI 2.0 implementation (see [Figure 4](#)).

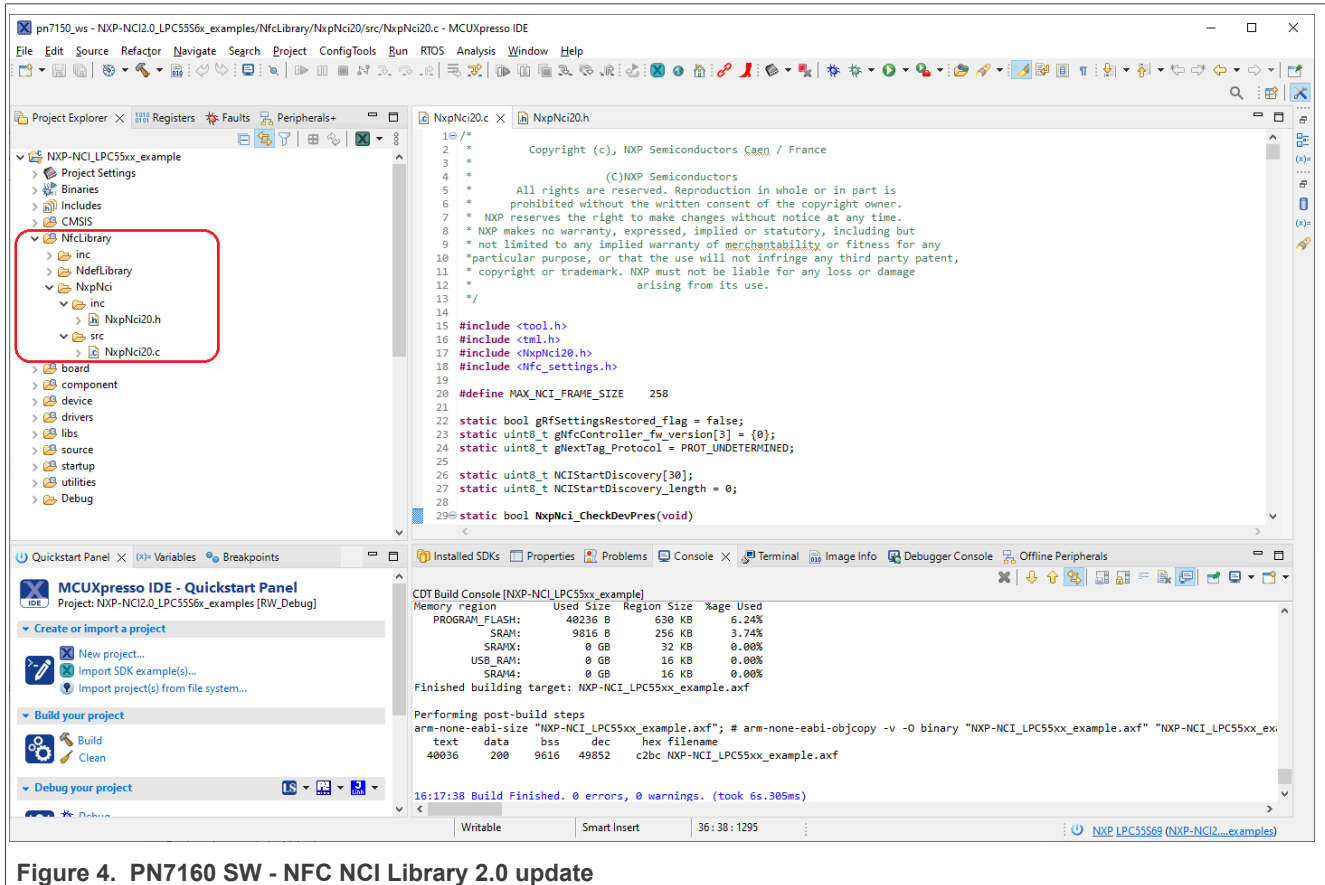


Figure 4. PN7160 SW - NFC NCI Library 2.0 update

It is required to update MCUXpresso software project properties to set the path to the new NxpNci20 folder in the NfclLibrary folder (see [Figure 5](#)).

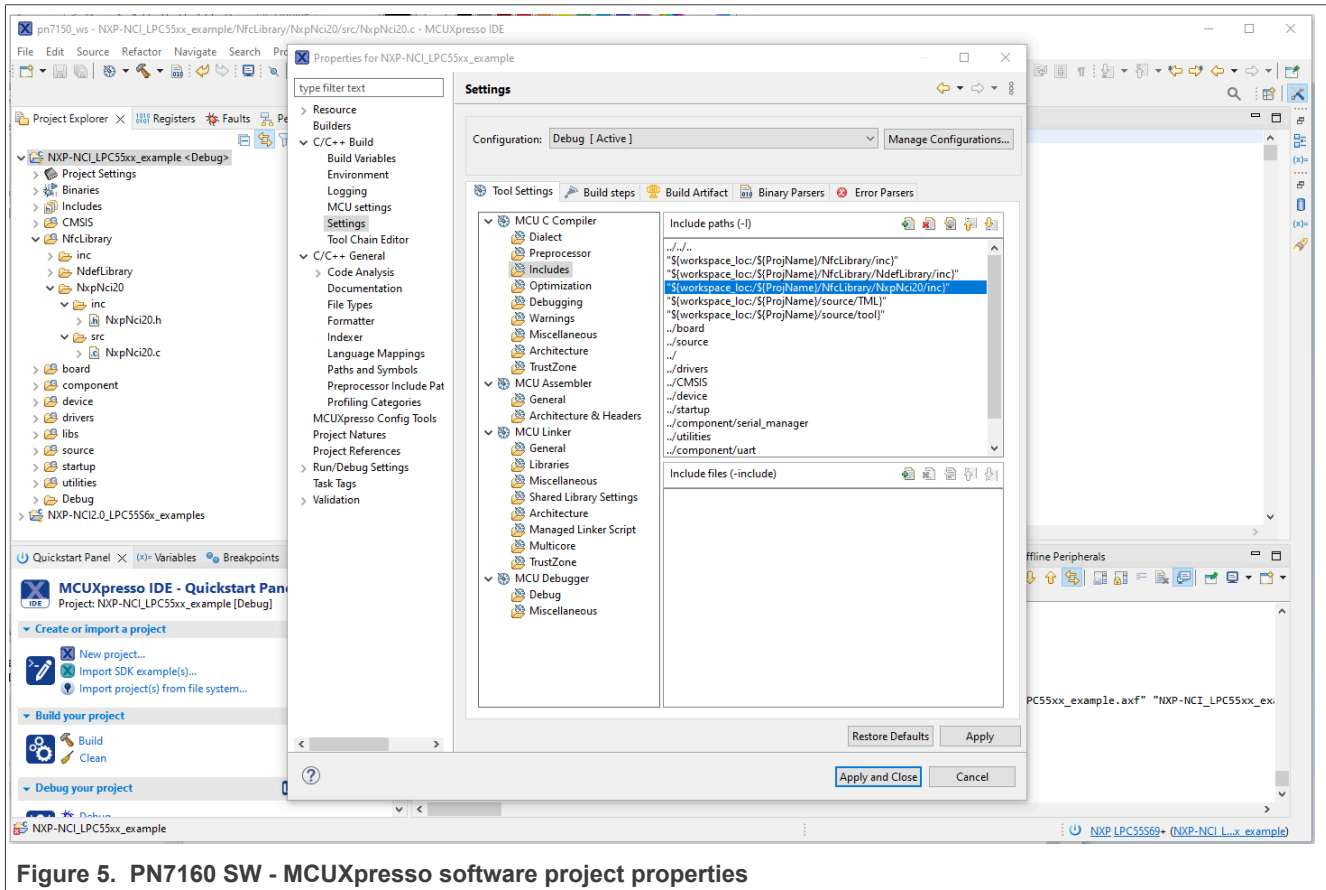


Figure 5. PN7160 SW - MCUXpresso software project properties

If your PN7150 MCU software project supports NFC Forum T3T (FeliCa) Card Emulation, this needs to be removed because, as explained in [Section 2](#), PN7160 NFC Controller does not support this mode.

In addition to the steps described previously, which ensure that a legacy PN7150 NFC Controller MCU BareMetal software project can be executed on a PN7160 NFC Controller, it is highly recommended to integrate the new features supported by PN7160 NFC Controller that are available in [SW6705 - PN7160 NXP-NCI MCUXpresso Example Project](#). These features include, among others, the SPI host interface support, which can be found in drivers folder and TML implementation files; the firmware download support, which can be found in a dedicated folder; and the integration of the new for low-power mode supported at NCI level (see [Figure 6](#)). [PN7160 card emulation](#) document provides full details and software examples on how to properly set Card Emulation (CE) for specific CE scenario in an MCUXpresso project.

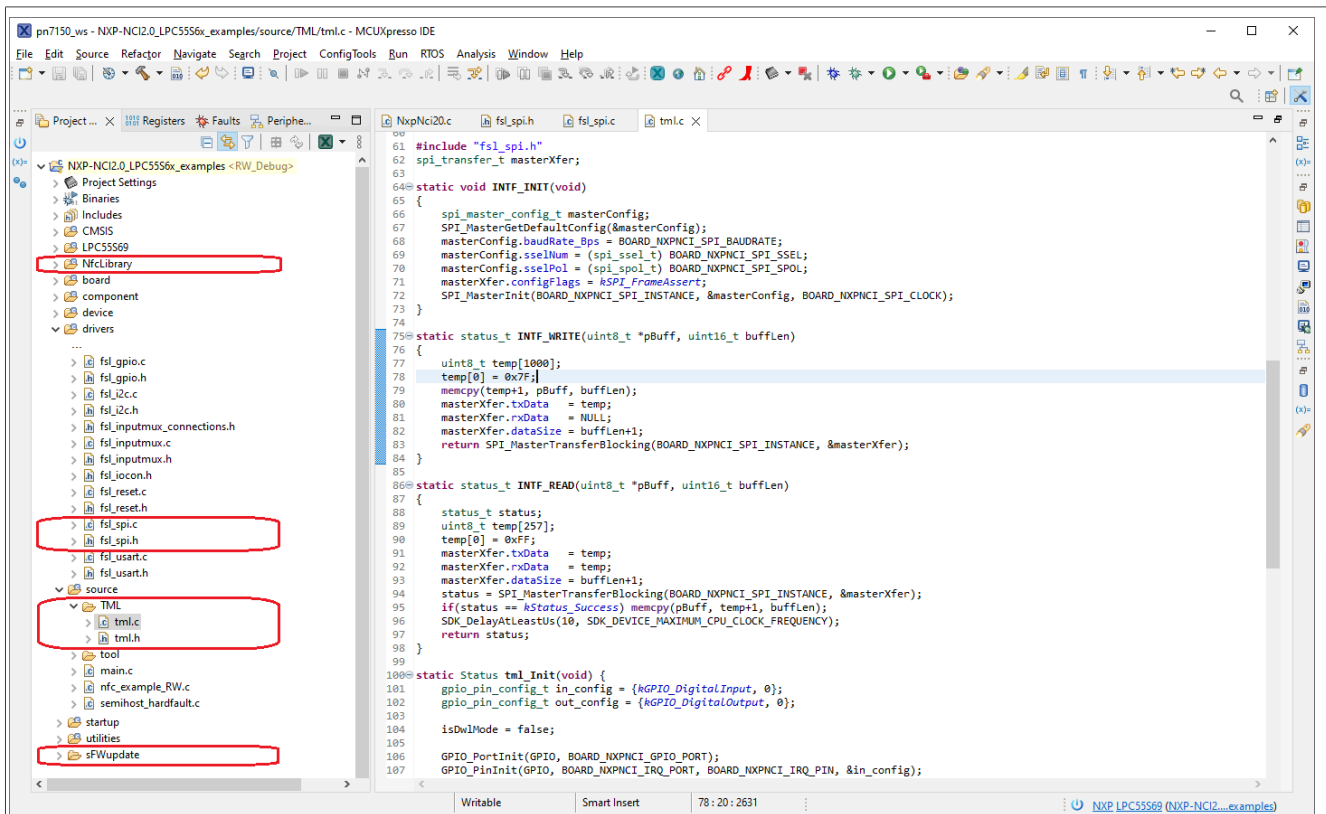


Figure 6. PN7160 SW - New features support

Finally, and once the MCUXpresso software project is successfully built, the image binary can be flashed into the PN7160 NFC Controller and debugged by clicking the Debug button of the MCUXpresso IDE (see [Figure 7](#)).

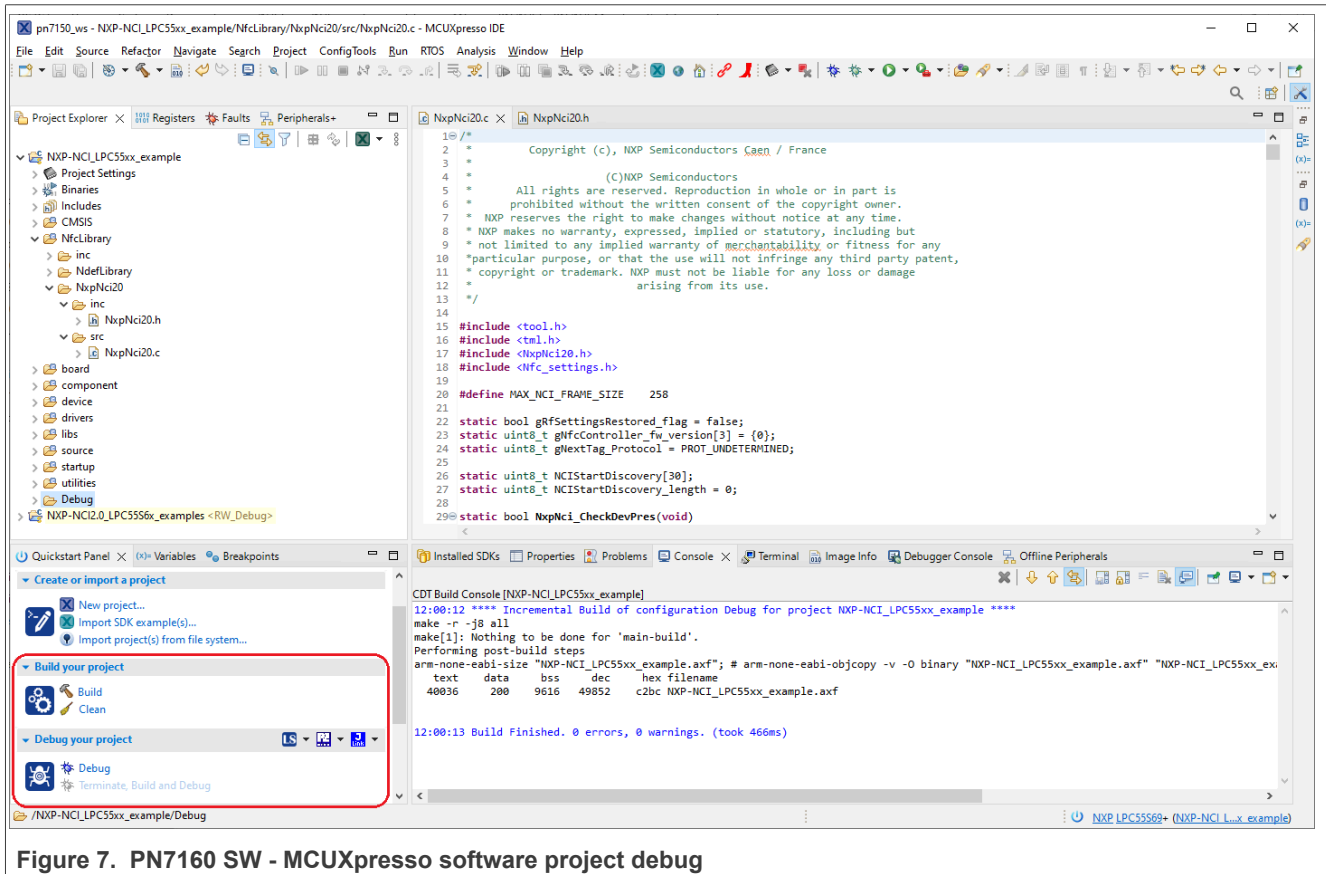


Figure 7. PN7160 SW - MCUXpresso software project debug

### 4.2 Linux software considerations

This section details how to migrate a Linux platform project that integrates support for the PN7150 NFC Controller to the PN7160 NFC Controller. [7] and [8] provide full guidelines for the integration of PN7150 and PN7160 NXP NCI-based NFC controllers to a Linux platform and, therefore, these details will not be covered in this document. It is assumed that the reader has already cloned the Linux project, added NFC support for PN7150 NFC Controller and built image successfully.

The process described in this document is not distribution dependent and should progress as what follows. The reference library and firmware that will be used in this document can be found in these two GitHub repositories for [PN7150 NFC Controller](#) and [PN7160 NFC Controller](#).

[Figure 8](#) (to be found in [8]) shows the library in the Linux NFC stack that will be updated in the following section of this document to migrate the Linux platform to support the PN7160 NFC Controller.

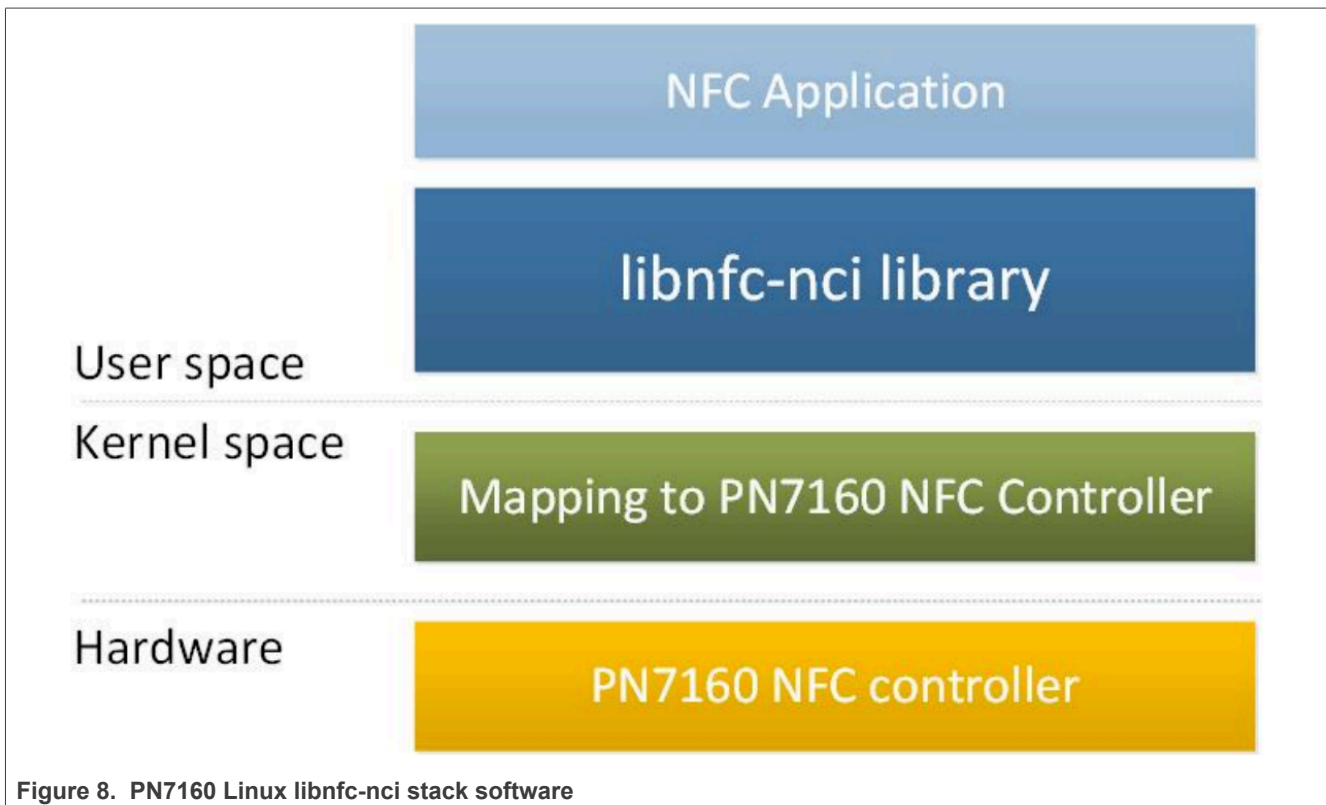


Figure 8. PN7160 Linux libnfc-nci stack software

## 4.2.1 Kernel driver

### 4.2.1.1 Kernel driver nxpnfc

The Linux NFC stack can use NXP's kernel driver to communicate with NCI-based NFC controllers made by NXP.

While the legacy PN7150 NFC Controller I<sup>2</sup>C kernel driver should function with the PN7160 NFC Controller, it is recommended to update the kernel driver to integrate the newer kernel driver version to allow support for SPI interface. The PN7160 NFC open source kernel driver supporting both I2C and SPI can be found [here](#). [8] explains how to download, integrate, and build the NFC kernel driver into the Linux platform.

### 4.2.1.2 Alternative to nxpnfc kernel driver

An alternative is possible if the GPIO and I2C & SPI resources can be accessed through the user space. [8] explains how to enable the rights for the application.

## 4.2.2 NFC library

As already introduced in [Section 4.2](#), the original NCI 1.0-based Linux NFC stack must be modified with the new source code to fully support NCI 2.0-based NFC controllers. The PN7160 NFC Controller supports NFC controller firmware update, which is not supported by the PN7150 NFC Controller, and, therefore, will also need to be added.

The folders to be downloaded are found in this [repository](#).

The folders to be replaced are:

- *conf*
- *src*

The new folder to be added is:

- *firmware*

There are minor API changes that must be considered by the NFC Reader manufacturer when replacing the *src* folder that includes the NCI 2.0-based Linux NFC stack that targets the PN7160 NFC Controller.

The API changes are:

- *nfcManager\_dolnitialize()* becomes *dolnitialize()*
- *nfcManager\_enableDiscovery(...)* becomes *doEnableDiscovery(...)*
- *nfcManager\_disableDiscovery()* becomes *disableDiscovery()*
- *nfcManager\_getNumTags()* becomes *getNumTags()*
- *nfcManager\_selectNextTag()* becomes *selectNextTag()*
- *nfcManager\_registerTagCallback(...)* becomes *registerTagCallback(...)*
- *nfcManager\_deregisterTagCallback()* becomes *deregisterTagCallback()*

## 4.2.3 Build and install

Once all the steps detailed in this section have been completed, the user shall proceed to build the updated library with full support for the PN7160 NFC Controller and install it in the targeted devices. The user needs to adapt paths in the following files to ensure the success of this step. The files to be modified are as follows:

- *Makefile.am*
- *configure.ac*

[8] explains the build and install process for the library.

#### 4.2.4 Verify the NFC functionality

The last step to finalize the migration is to verify the correct functioning of the NFC technology in the Linux device now integrating the PN7160 NFC Controller.

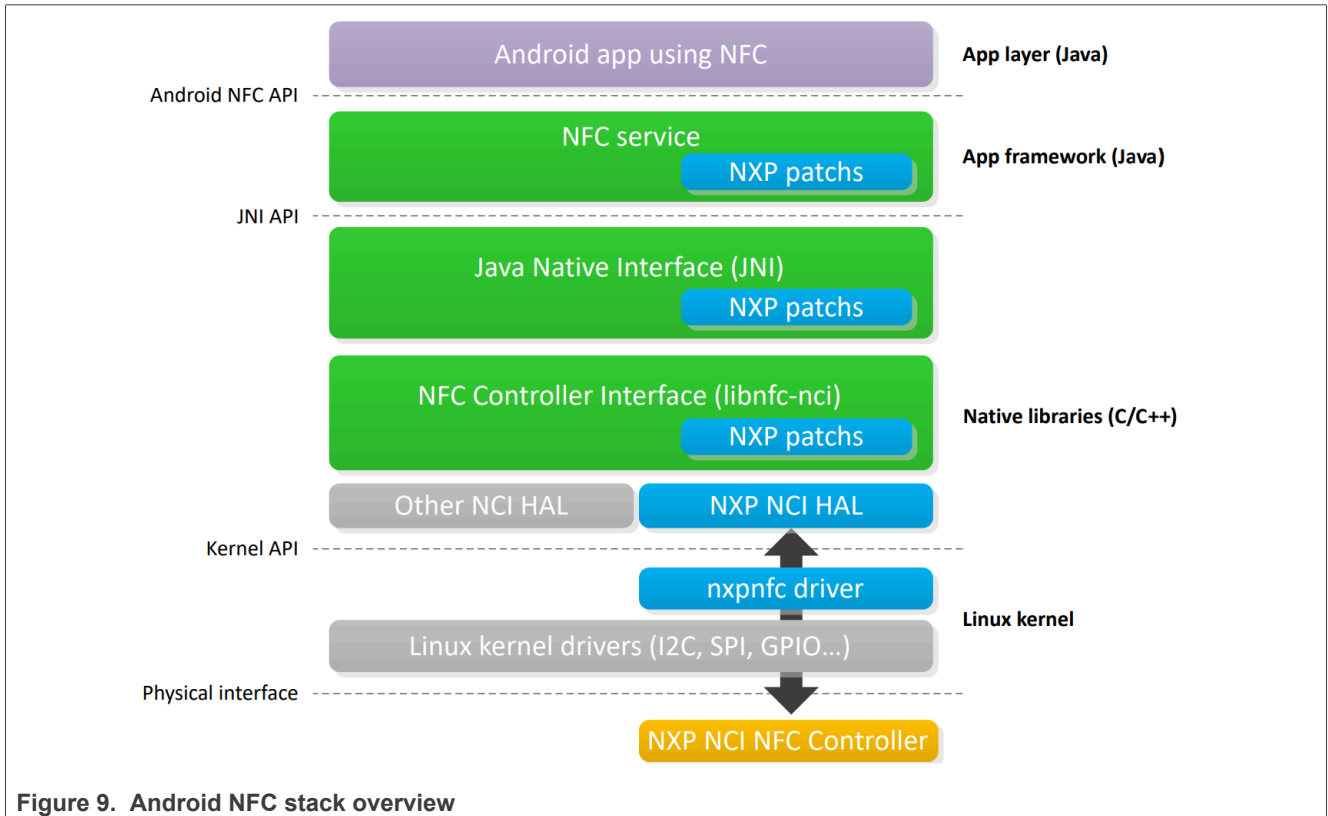
The PN7160 Linux libnfc-nci stack provides an Example application, which can be downloaded from [repository](#), demonstrates the use of the library to run NFC features such as polling or writing NFC tags. [\[8\]](#) explains how to use it.

### 4.3 Android software considerations

This section details how to migrate an Android platform project that integrates support for the PN7150 NFC Controller to the PN7160 NFC Controller. [\[9\]](#) and [\[10\]](#) provide full guidelines for the integration of PN7150 and PN7160 NXP NCI-based NFC controllers to an Android platform and, therefore, these details will not be covered in this document. It is assumed that the reader has already cloned the Android AOSP project, added NFC support for PN7150 NFC Controller and built the image successfully.

This document focuses on the Android AOSP 11.0 version as this is the latest Android AOSP version supported for PN7150 NFC Controller. Porting to another Android version may require minor adaptation. The reference firmware, configuration files and patches that are used in this document can be found in these two GitHub repositories for [PN7150 NFC Controller](#) and [PN7160 NFC Controller](#). When the migration to PN7160 NFC Controller is completed, the NFC Reader manufacturer might consider moving to a higher Android AOSP version.

[Figure 9](#) (to be found in [\[10\]](#)) shows the components in the Android NFC stack that will be updated in the following sections of this document to migrate the Android platform to support the PN7160 NFC Controller.



### 4.3.1 Kernel driver

The Android NFC stack uses NFC kernel driver to communicate with the NCI-based NFC controller.

Legacy PN7150 NFC Controller I2C kernel driver should be valid to communicate with the PN7160 NFC Controller; however it is highly recommended to update the full NFC kernel driver to integrate the latest available I2C kernel driver version and to support the SPI interface. The PN7160 NFC open source kernel driver supporting both I2C and SPI can be found [here](#). [10] explains how to download, integrate, and build the NFC kernel driver into the Android AOSP platform.

### 4.3.2 NXP-NCI library

As already introduced in [Section 4.3](#), the original Android AOSP NFC stack must be modified with extensions to fully support NCI-based NFC controllers. NXP provides the necessary patches that must be applied to the corresponding Android AOSP versions to perform this update.

The patches for the PN7160 NFC Controller can be found in this [repository](#).

In this document it is considered that the NFC Reader manufacturer has already applied to the original Android AOSP NFC stack the corresponding patches to support the PN7150 NFC Controller. Therefore, the patches to be used to support the PN7160 NFC Controller will not work out of the box. It is recommended to replace the previously modified folders with the original Android AOSP NFC stack and then apply the new patches for the PN7160 NFC Controller. The list of folders that were modified and that must be restored are:

- *hardware/nxp/nfc*
- *packages/apps/Nfc*
- *frameworks/base*
- *frameworks/native*
- *vendor/nxp*
- *system/nfc*

If the full restoration of the original Android AOSP NFC stack is not possible, the NFC Reader manufacturer is responsible to process the referenced patches one by one and to perform the required changes, which include not only updating those files that were already modified, but also creating those files that are specific to the PN7160 NFC Controller and that did not exist before.

### 4.3.3 Configuration files

Both *libnfc-nci.conf* and *libnfc-nxp.conf* configuration files in the *vendor/nxp/nfc/hw/* folder must be updated to support the PN7160 NFC Controller.

The reference configuration file for the PN7160 NFC Controller can be found in this [repository](#). It is the responsibility of the NFC Reader manufacturer to fine-tune the configuration files with the integration specifics such as RF settings for the NFC antenna, the clock configuration, etc. Full details regarding the configuration file definition for the PN7160 NFC Controller can be found in Section 6 of [\[10\]](#).

### 4.3.4 Firmware library

The PN7160 NFC Controller supports NFC controller firmware update, which is not supported by the PN7150 NFC Controller.

The latest PN7160 NFC Controller firmware library, available for both 32 bits and 64-bits platforms, can be downloaded from this [repository](#). The binaries shall be copied to */vendor/nxp/pn7160/firmware* folder for the Android NFC stack to proceed to update the PN7160 NFC Controller firmware at boot-up.



#### 4.3.5 Build and install

Once all the steps detailed in this section have been completed, the user shall proceed to build the updated Android image with full support for the PN7160 NFC Controller and install it in the targeted devices.

#### 4.3.6 Verify the NFC functionality

The last step to finalize the migration is to verify the correct functioning of the NFC technology in the Android device now integrating the PN7160 NFC Controller.

***NFC TagInfo by NXP*** and ***NFC TagWriter by NXP*** are two applications available for free in Google Play that can be used to verify. Read and Write operations with NFC tags.

## 5 References

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- [1] Webpage - PN7150: High-Performance NFC Controller with Integrated Firmware for Smart Devices ([link](#))
- [2] Webpage - PN7160: NFC Plug and Play Controller with Integrated Firmware and NCI Interface ([link](#))
- [3] Data sheet - PN7150: High performance NFC controller with integrated firmware, supporting all NFC Forum modes ([link](#))
- [4] Data sheet - PN7160\_PN7161: Near Field Communication (NFC) controller ([link](#))
- [5] Application note - AN11756: PN7150 Hardware Design Guide ([link](#))
- [6] Application note - AN12988: PN7160 hardware design guide ([link](#))
- [7] Application note - AN11697: PN71xx Linux Software Stack Integration Guidelines ([link](#))
- [8] Application note - AN13287: PN7160 Linux porting guide ([link](#))
- [9] Application note - AN11690: NXP NCI Android Porting Guidelines ([link](#))
- [10] Application note - AN13189: PN7160 Android porting guide ([link](#))

## 6 Revision history

Table 4. Revision history

Document ID	Release date	Description
AN14285 v.1.0	11 April 2024	• Initial version

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