

# Hardware Debugging Using the CodeWarrior™ IDE

By Freescale FAE Team

This application note provides a practical guide to using Freescale's CodeWarrior IDE to debug hardware. Focusing on PowerQUICC processors, this document covers many of the key features available in the IDE to assist in bring-up and troubleshooting of a new board.

Some of the topics covered are:

- Setting up a CodeWarrior project
- Hardware connection options
- Understanding the .cfg file
- Displaying memory and registers
- Using the Command window
- Capturing data

This guide is not a substitute for the extensive documentation available in your CodeWarrior installation or from the help menu. Rather, this document is meant to be a practical user's guide, describing the main features needed when debugging hardware and highlighting common errors. Also note that this document refers to CodeWarrior for Power Architecture Processors 8.x in its descriptions.

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# 1 Getting Started: Creating a Project

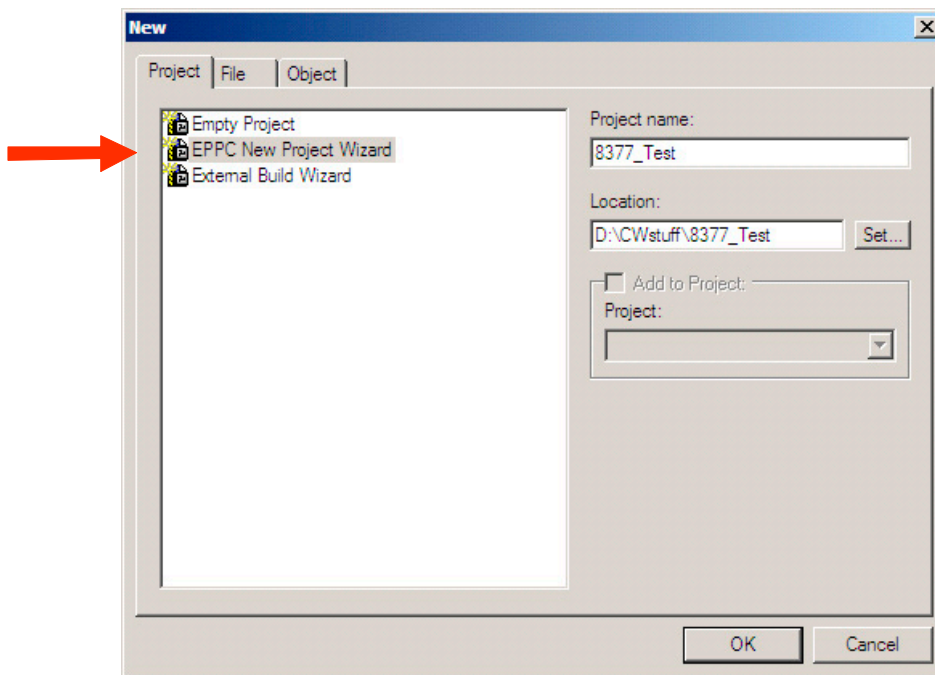
Before you can debug a board, you must provide the CodeWarrior IDE with information about the target processor, debug environment, and programming environment. The IDE stores this information in a CodeWarrior project. Before performing most functions with the IDE, you must create a project specific to the board you are debugging.

## 1.1 Using the EPPC New Project Wizard

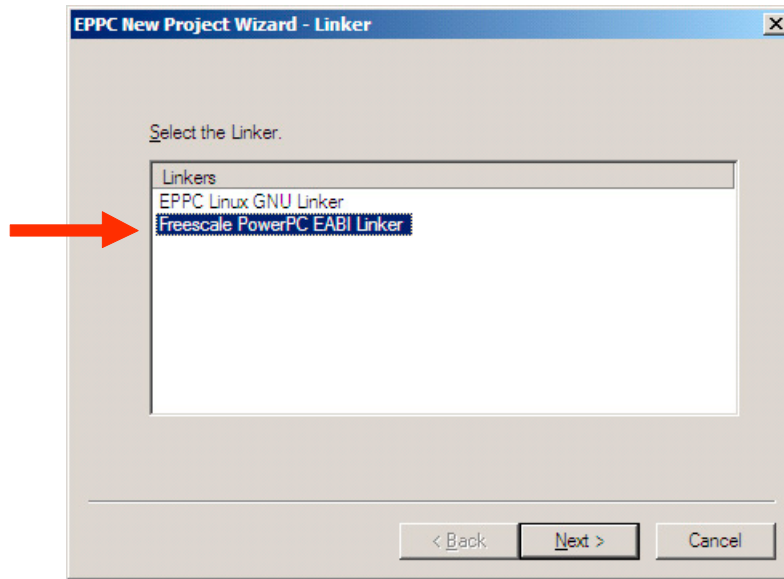
Use the steps below to create a simple CodeWarrior project.

First, select **File > New** from the IDE’s menu bar to display the **New** dialog box. (See [Figure 1.](#))

**Figure 1. The New Dialog Box**

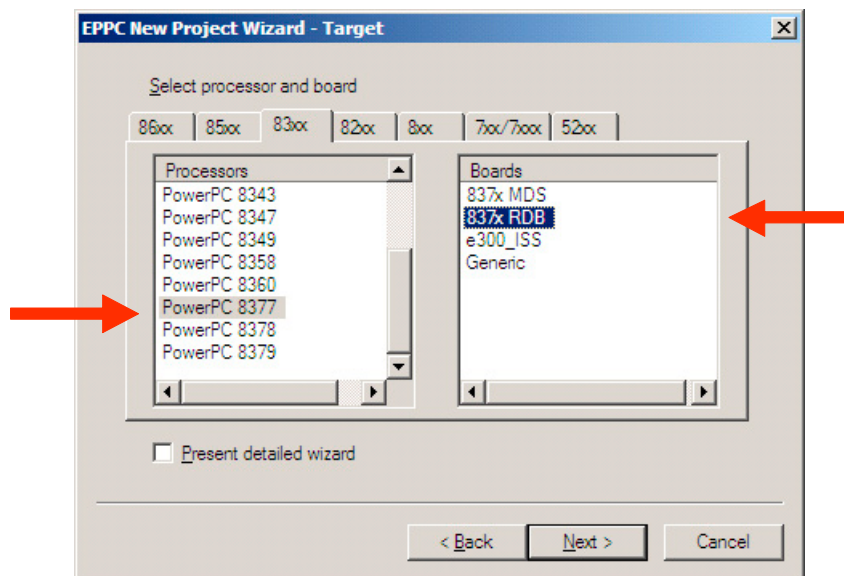


In this dialog box, select **EPPC New Project Wizard**, enter a name and file location for your project, and click **OK**. The **EPPC New Project Wizard** starts and displays its first page. (See [Figure 2.](#))

**Figure 2. New Project Wizard – Linker Page**


On this page, you must select the **Freescale PowerPC EABI Linker** to perform hardware debugging. If you select the EPPC Linux GNU Linker instead, the next wizard page does not present the option to select the Power Architecture device you are using. This is a common mistake because the wizard's default linker selection is the EPPC Linux GNU Linker. The EPPC Linux GNU Linker is only used to generate Linux applications and kernel loadable modules.

The next wizard page (Figure 3) lets you select the processor being debugged. In this example, we selected the MPC8377 processor. Under the column for boards, you can either select one of the Freescale development boards listed or select **Generic** if you are attaching to a custom board, such as a new customer design. If you select a Freescale development board, the new project automatically points to the appropriate target initialization file (.cfg file). Section 2.1 discusses the .cfg file.

**Figure 3. New Project Wizard – Target Page**


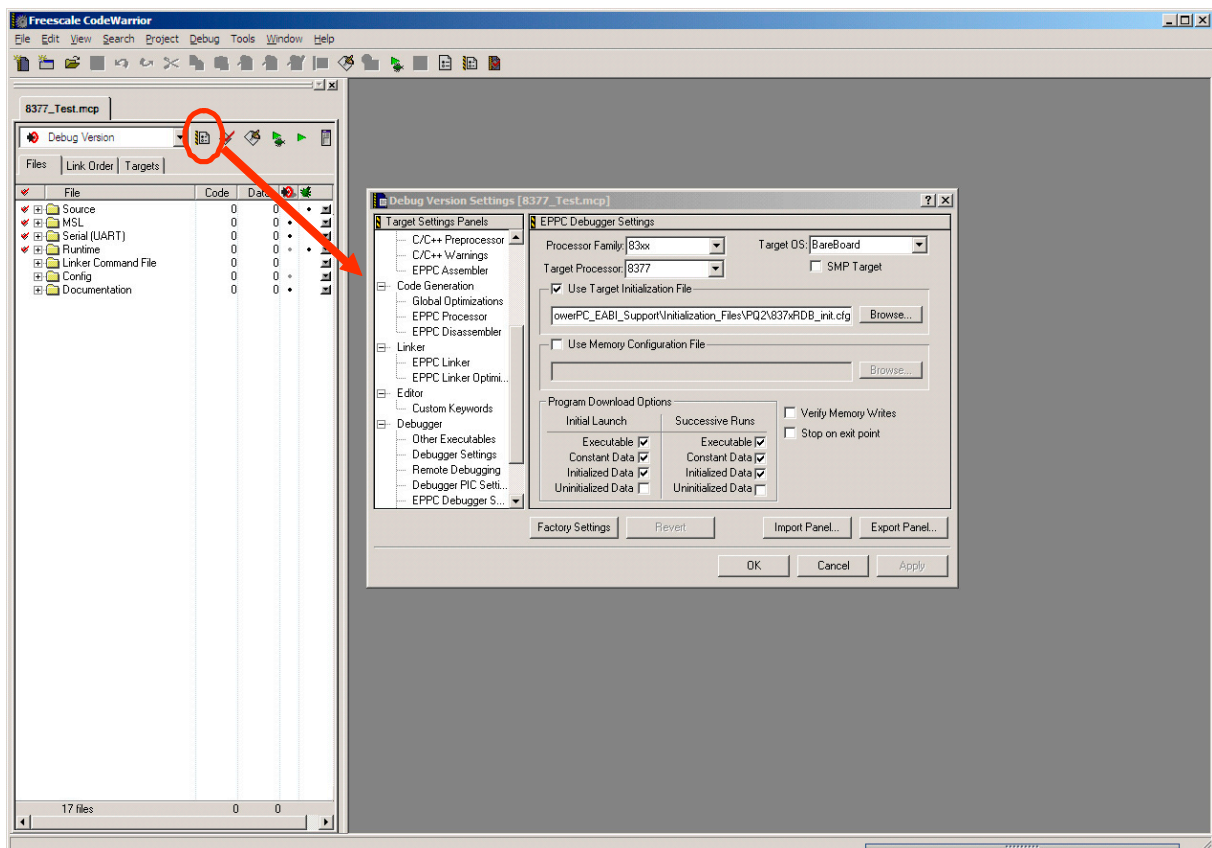
The last two wizard pages let you select the C or C++ programming language and the debug probe you will use to attach to your board. In this example, we use the USB TAP debug probe, which is provided with many of the PowerQUICC development boards.

At this point, you have created your project and are ready to start debugging.

## 1.2 Project Settings

Your project should now be displayed on the left side of the CodeWarrior IDE's main window. The actual project information is stored in an .mcp file in the location specified in the New Project Wizard. You can see detailed project settings by selecting the leftmost icon (see below) in the project window. Subsequent sections of this guide discuss key settings required for hardware debugging.

**Figure 4. The Project Window and the Target Settings Window**

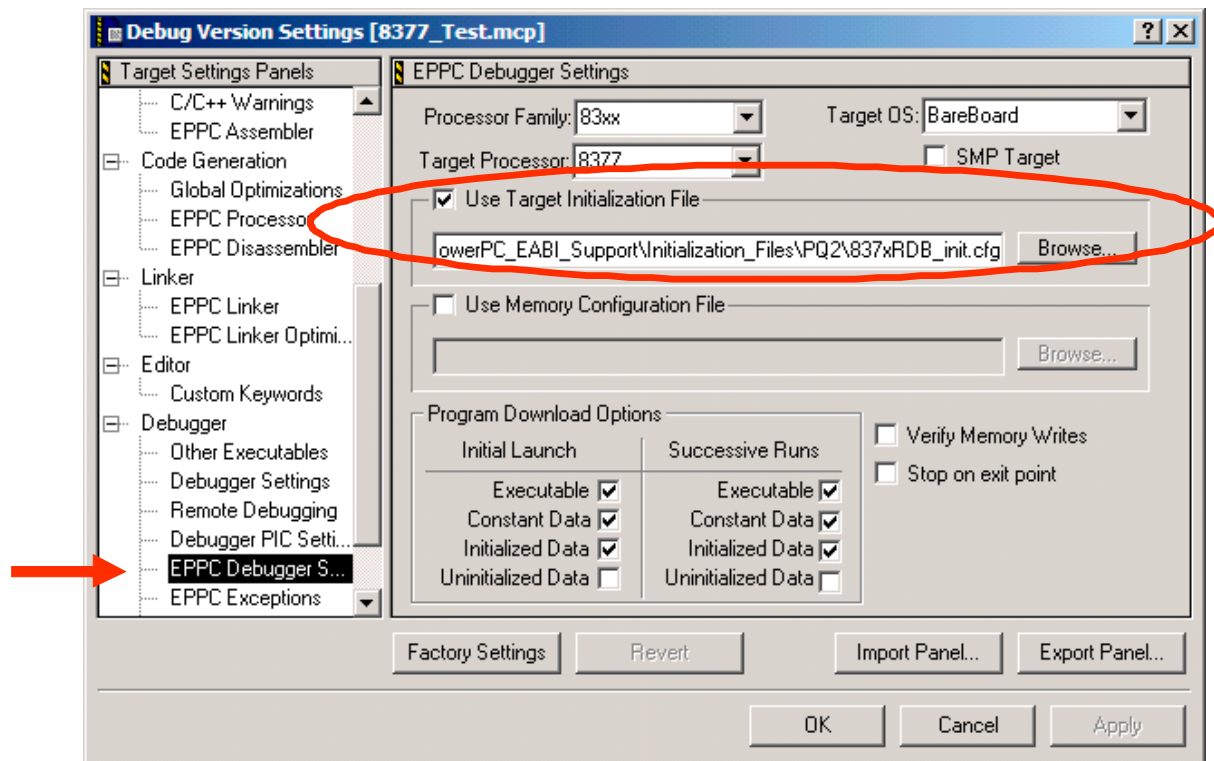


## 2 Using Target Initialization Files

### 2.1 Understanding the Target Initialization File (.cfg) File

One important setting in your project's configuration is the target initialization file, also known as the `.cfg` file. When connecting to a board via a USB TAP or similar JTAG-based COP interface, you have the option to download an initialization file containing commands that perform basic target device configuration. To use a `.cfg` file, you make settings in the EPPC Debugger Settings target settings panel. To display this panel, select EPPC Debugger Settings from the list of panels on the left side of the Target Settings window. (See [Figure 5](#).)

Figure 5. The EPPC Debugger Settings Panel of the Target Settings Window



In the EPPC Debugger Settings panel, you can select whether to use a target initialization file, and also define the particular `.cfg` file to use. If you selected one of the Freescale development boards when you created your project, as we did with the 8377RDB, the correct `.cfg` file is automatically selected. Your CodeWarrior product includes a variety of `.cfg` files created for Freescale development and evaluation boards.

You can also modify an existing `.cfg` file or create one of your own that is customized for your board's settings. The `.cfg` file is a plain text file, which can set up basic device interfaces like the base address of the memory map, local access windows, and the DDR and local bus memory controller settings. [Figure 6](#) shows a portion of the `.cfg` file for an 8377RDB board.

Figure 6. Example Target Initialization (.cfg) File for the 8377RDB Board

```

#setMMRBaseAddr 0xFF400000
# CFG_RST_SRC_0000
writereg MBAR 0xFF400000
# CFG_RST_SRC_1101
#writereg MBAR 0xFFFF0000

# change internal MMR base from 0xff400000 (reset value) to 0xe0000000
# CFG_RST_SRC_0000
writemem.l 0xff400000 0xe0000000 # IMMRBAR = 0xe0000000
# CFG_RST_SRC_1101
#writemem.l 0xffff0000 0xe0000000 # IMMRBAR = 0xe0000000

#setMMRBaseAddr 0xe0000000
writereg MBAR 0xe0000000

#####
# System Configuration - Local Access Windows
#####

# Local Bus Local Access Windows
#####
# WINDOW 0 - FLASH
writemem.l 0xe0000020 0xff800000 # LBLAWBAR0 - beginning at 0xff000000
writemem.l 0xe0000024 0x80000016 # LBLAWAR0 - enable, size = 8MB

# WINDOW 1 - NAND
writemem.l 0xe0000028 0xf9000000 # LBLAWBAR1 - beginning at 0xf0000000
writemem.l 0xe000002c 0x80000018 # LBLAWAR1 - enable, size = 32MB

# PCI Local Access Windows
#####
# WINDOW 0
writemem.l 0xe0000060 0x80000000 # PCILAWBAR0 - beginning at 0x80000000
writemem.l 0xe0000064 0x8000001c # PCILAWAR0 - enable, size = 512MB

# DDR Local Access Windows
#####
# WINDOW 0 - 1st DDR SODIMM
writemem.l 0xe00000a0 0x00000000 # DDRLAWBAR0 - beginning at 0x00000000
#writemem.l 0xe00000a4 0x8000001a # DDRLAWAR0 - enable, size = 128MB
### MPC8379E-RDB
writemem.l 0xe00000a4 0x8000001b # DDRLAWAR0 - enable, size = 256MB

#####
# DDR Controller Configuration
#####

### MPC8379E-RDB
#DDRCDR
writemem.l 0xE0000128 0x80080001

#CLK_CNTL
# bit 0 = 1 - SS_EN address and command sent to the DDR source synchronously
# bit 5-7 = 2 - CLK_ADJST
#writemem.l 0xE0002130 0x02000000
### MPC8379E-RDB
writemem.l 0xE0002130 0x03000000

```

**Important:** If you are connecting to a board that is already running and do not want to overwrite its configuration and setup, uncheck the “Use Target Initialization File” option. Otherwise, the existing board’s device configuration will be overwritten by the commands in the .cfg file.

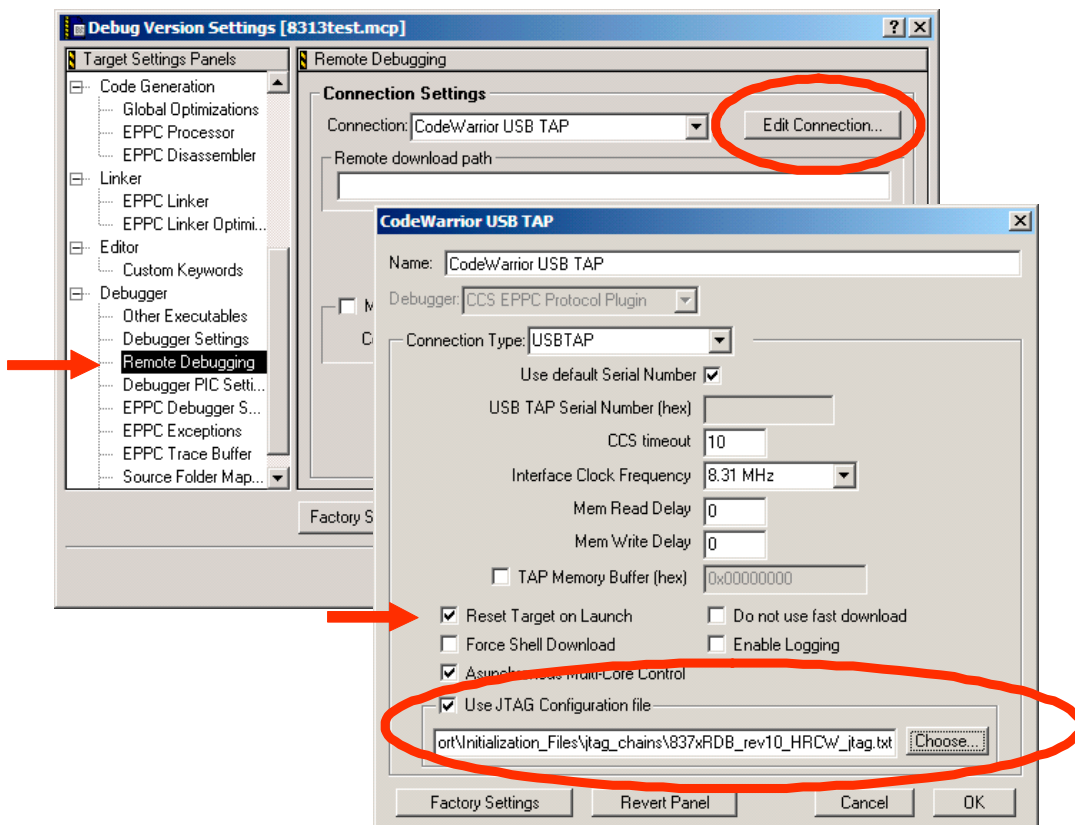
The `.cfg` file is useful in the initial stages of debugging a new board. This file provides an easy way to set up the memory controllers and ensure that accesses to DDR and flash memory are working properly. However, if you are debugging a problem with a board that is running software, you should probably disable the `.cfg` file, so you can view the issue using the actual software settings made by the board's BSP.

## 2.2 Configuring the Reset Configuration Word for the PQ2Pro

The PowerQUICC II Pro (MPC83xx) device reads a reset configuration word to initialize many important device settings. In many cases, this reset configuration word is stored in flash or some other non-volatile memory on the customer's board. However, you can also use your CodeWarrior tools to provide the reset configuration word information over the JTAG interface via a USB TAP. This feature is enabled via a JTAG initialization file and is especially useful for initial hardware debugging.

To select a JTAG initialization file, first display the Remote Debugging panel of the Target Settings window. (See [Figure 7](#).) Next, click the Edit Connection button to display the CodeWarrior USB TAP dialog box. You must click "OK" when asked if you would like to continue in order to open this dialog box. As shown below, you can check the box next to "Use JTAG Configuration file", and then select the appropriate configuration file. Freescale provides JTAG configuration files for most of its PQ2 and PQ2Pro development boards as part of the CodeWarrior installation. You can also edit this text file to change the reset configuration word settings if necessary.

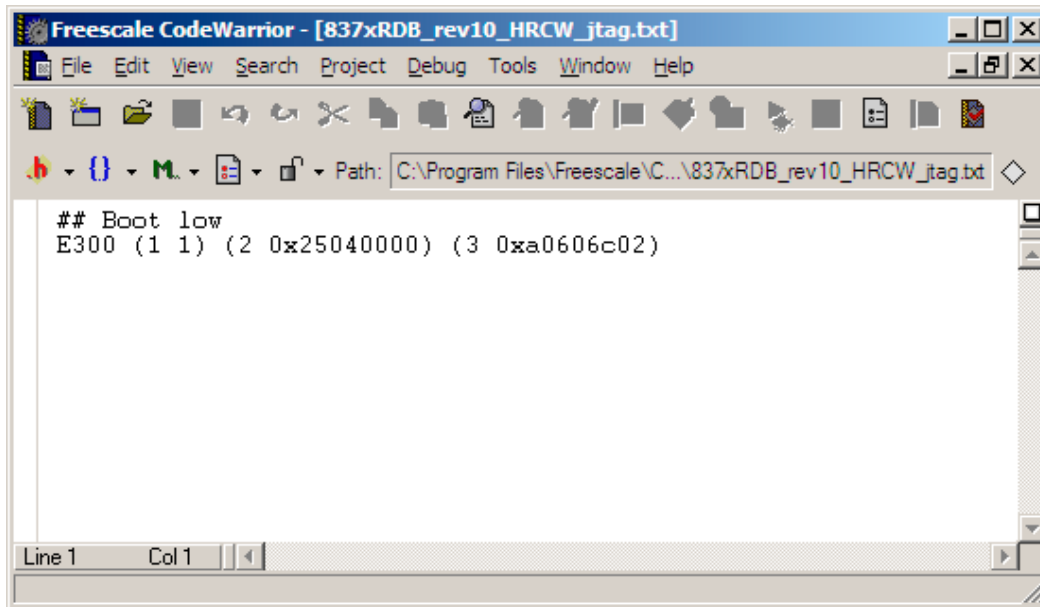
**Figure 7. Remote Debugging Panel and CodeWarrior USB TAP Dialog Box**



Note that you should also make sure that the box beside “Reset Target on Launch” is checked, so that the device is reset when you connect to the board. This is necessary to ensure that the reset configuration settings from the specified JTAG configuration file are applied.

You can modify the reset configuration word file as desired to test different reset configuration options. The file is a text file (Figure 8) with the values for the high and low reset configuration word included in parenthesis.

**Figure 8. Example JTAG Configuration File**





## 3 CodeWarrior Board Connection Options

The CodeWarrior IDE offers multiple options for connecting to a board via a JTAG debug probe. Choosing the correct option is critical because you can easily overwrite settings on the board that you wish to maintain. Three of the most common connection options are covered below, along with the main actions the debugger takes when started under each option.

### 3.1 Project > Debug

To use this option, either select “Debug” from the IDE’s “Project” menu or click the green triangle with a bug icon under it in the project window. This option is the most intrusive to the system and causes the debugger to perform these tasks:

- Reset the target
- Load ELF / DWARF symbols
- Load the target initialization file (.cfg)
- Download project code
- Halt the target

If you want to attach to a board that is already running software in order to debug and observe, this is not the best connection option. You can disable the “Reset Target on Launch” option and/or the Target Initialization File option by modifying your projects debugger settings; however, even with both these options disabled, the debugger still downloads program code to the board.

### 3.2 Debug > Connect

To use this option, select “Connect” from the IDE’s “Debug” menu. This option is similar to the option discussed above, except that project code is *not* downloaded to the board. This option causes the debugger to perform these tasks:

- Reset the target
- Load the target initialization file (.cfg)
- Halt the target

Once again, you can disable “Reset Target on Launch” and/or the use of a target initialization file by modifying your project’s debugger settings.

### 3.3 Debug > Attach to Process

To use this option, select “Attach to Process” from the IDE’s “Debug” menu. Use this option if you want to attach to a running board with minimal interruption. This option causes the debugger to perform these tasks:

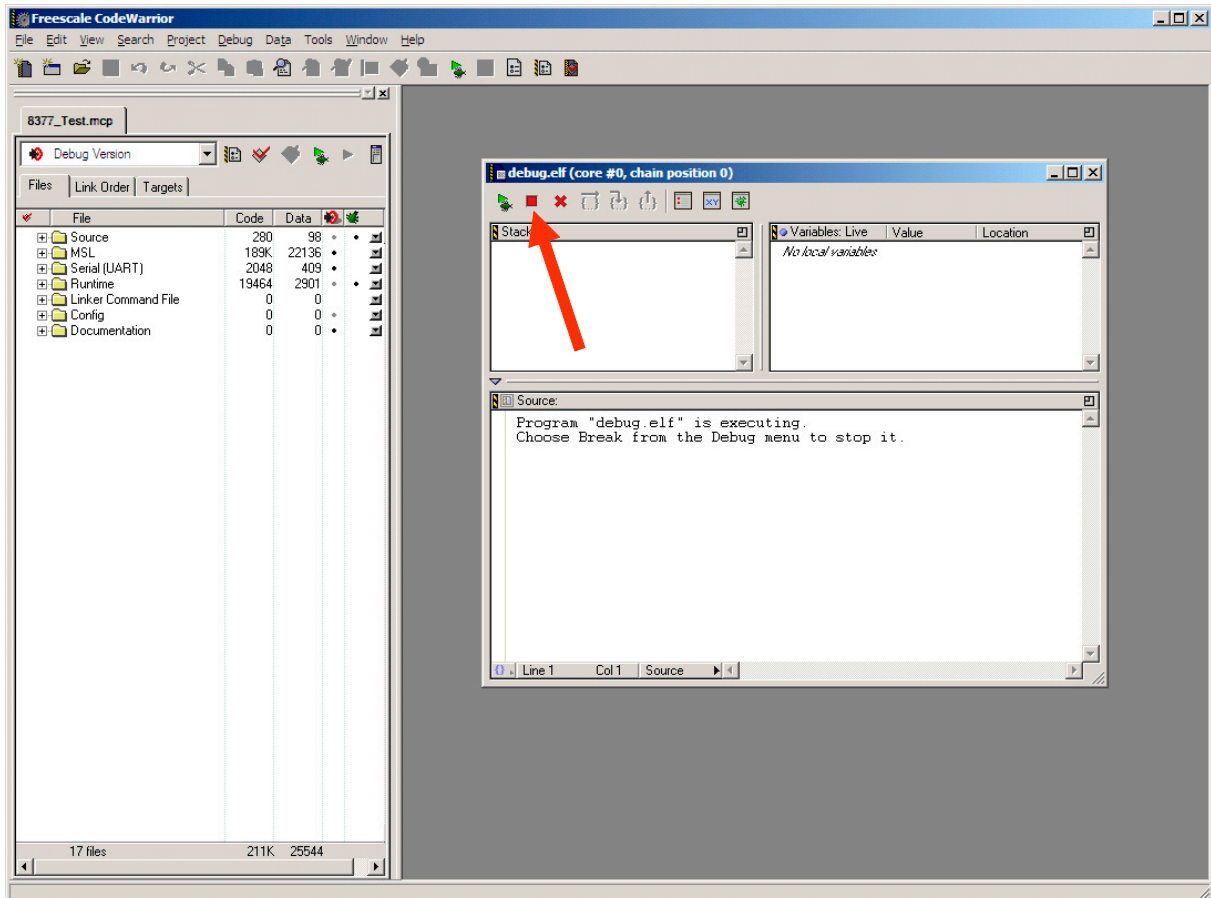
- Load ELF / DWARF symbols
- Leave the target running

Note that once the debugger is attached, you must halt the target before the debugger can access memory locations or registers.

## 4 Displaying Memory and Registers

Once you are connected to the target, most debugging involves displaying internal register settings or memory locations in the memory map of the processor. Before the debugger can display memory, the processor must be halted. If the processor is running, click the red box in the Debugger window (Figure 9) to break and halt execution. Do not click the red “X” because this button kills the thread and disconnects the debugger from the target.

Figure 9. The Break Button of the Debugger Window

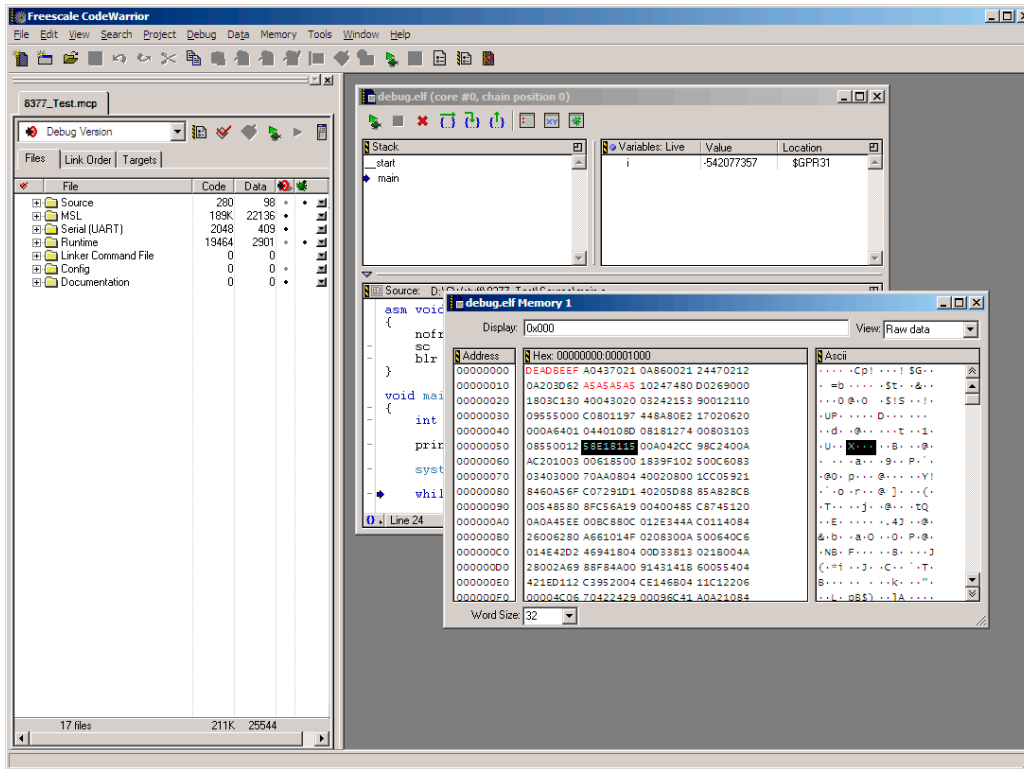


### 4.1 Displaying Memory

Once the processor is halted, the easiest way to display memory is by selecting “View Memory” from the IDE’s “Data” menu. The Memory window opens. This window can display a range of addresses along with the contents of these addresses. You can type any starting address into the text box labeled “Display” to change the range of addresses shown. Also, you can write a new value to any memory location displayed by typing over the value shown. Changed memory values are highlighted in red. (See Figure 10.)

Also note that your CodeWarrior project must have the same memory offsets defined as the software on the board being debugged. If the CSSRBAR or IMMR values are not set correctly between the .cfg file and the board under test, the register display will not show correct values.

Figure 10. The Memory Window



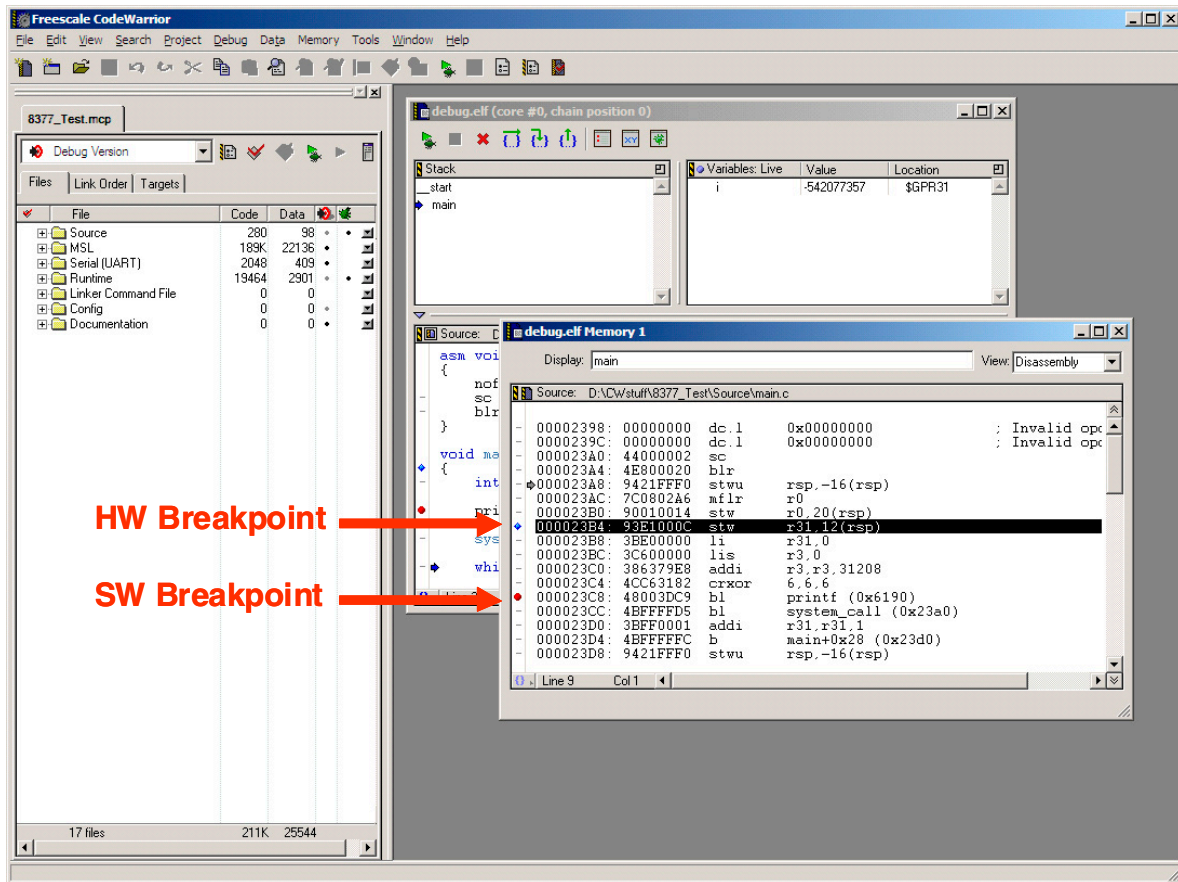
## 4.2 Setting Breakpoints and Watchpoints

You can also use the Memory window to set breakpoints and watchpoints. To set a breakpoint from this window, change the “View” selection to “Disassembly,” “Source” or “Mixed.” In these views, the Memory window displays the assembly language, C language, or mixed assembly/C language statements at the specified address range. Just as you can set breakpoints in the Debugger window, you can set breakpoints in the Memory window by right-clicking on a statement and selecting “Set Breakpoint” from the context menu that appears.

Note that there are two types of breakpoints: hardware and software. There are a limited number of hardware breakpoints available — the number varies depends on the processor you are using. Software breakpoints modify the code at the location of the breakpoint, while hardware breakpoints use built-in debug functions of the processor core and therefore do not modify the code. If you are setting a breakpoint in flash memory, the CodeWarrior debugger automatically uses a hardware breakpoint because code in flash memory cannot be easily modified.

The debugger shows a hardware breakpoint as a blue diamond, while software breakpoints (which are the default if you select “Set Breakpoint”) are shown as a red circle. (See [Figure 11.](#))

Figure 11. Display of Hardware and Software Breakpoints



You can also set watchpoints from the Memory window. Watchpoints stop execution if the value of any of the memory locations selected changes. To set a watchpoint, highlight the values in the Memory window that you want to monitor, then right-click and select “Set Watchpoint” from the context menu that appears. Alternatively, you can select “Set Watchpoint” from the IDE’s “Debug” menu.

### 4.3 Displaying Registers

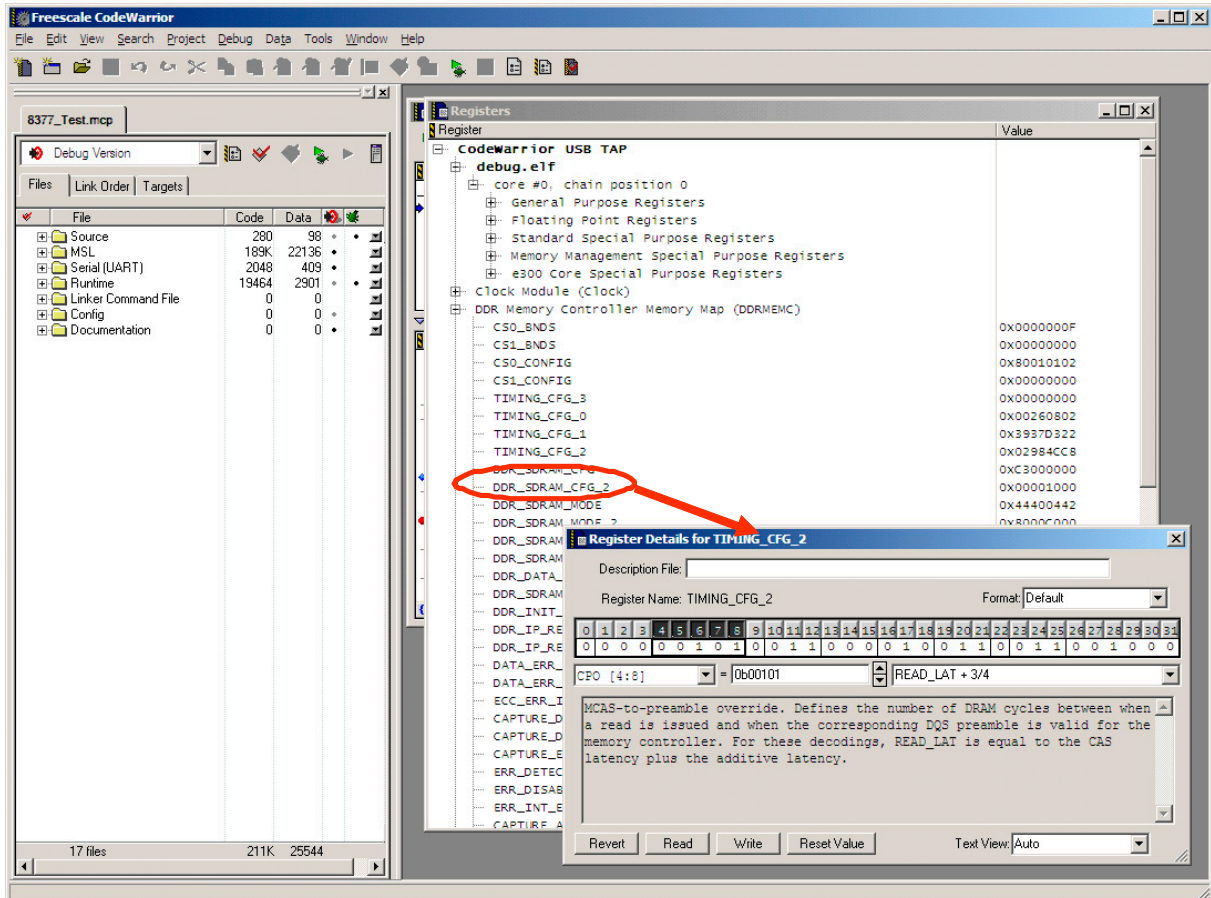
The CodeWarrior debugger has several useful features for displaying the target processor’s internal registers. Although the Memory window can display many of the memory-mapped registers, the Register window includes register names and breaks them into categories. To display the Register window, select “Registers” from the IDE’s “View” menu. Once open, this window displays all of the processor’s internal registers, organized by category. (See [Figure 12.](#))

For example, you can find the settings for the DDR memory controller by expanding the “DDR Memory Controller Memory Map” heading. All of the associated DDR registers are shown along with their current values. As with the Memory window, you can change the displayed register values by selecting and overwriting the values shown. Any changed values are highlighted in red.

Another useful feature is the “Register Details” window, which provides a detailed description of each of the bit fields of the selected register. To display this window, right-click on a register and select “Register Details” from the context menu that appears. Once the Register Details window is open, you can select

individual fields to display a more complete explanation. You can also use this window to change values in a register.

**Figure 12. The Register Window and the Register Details Window**

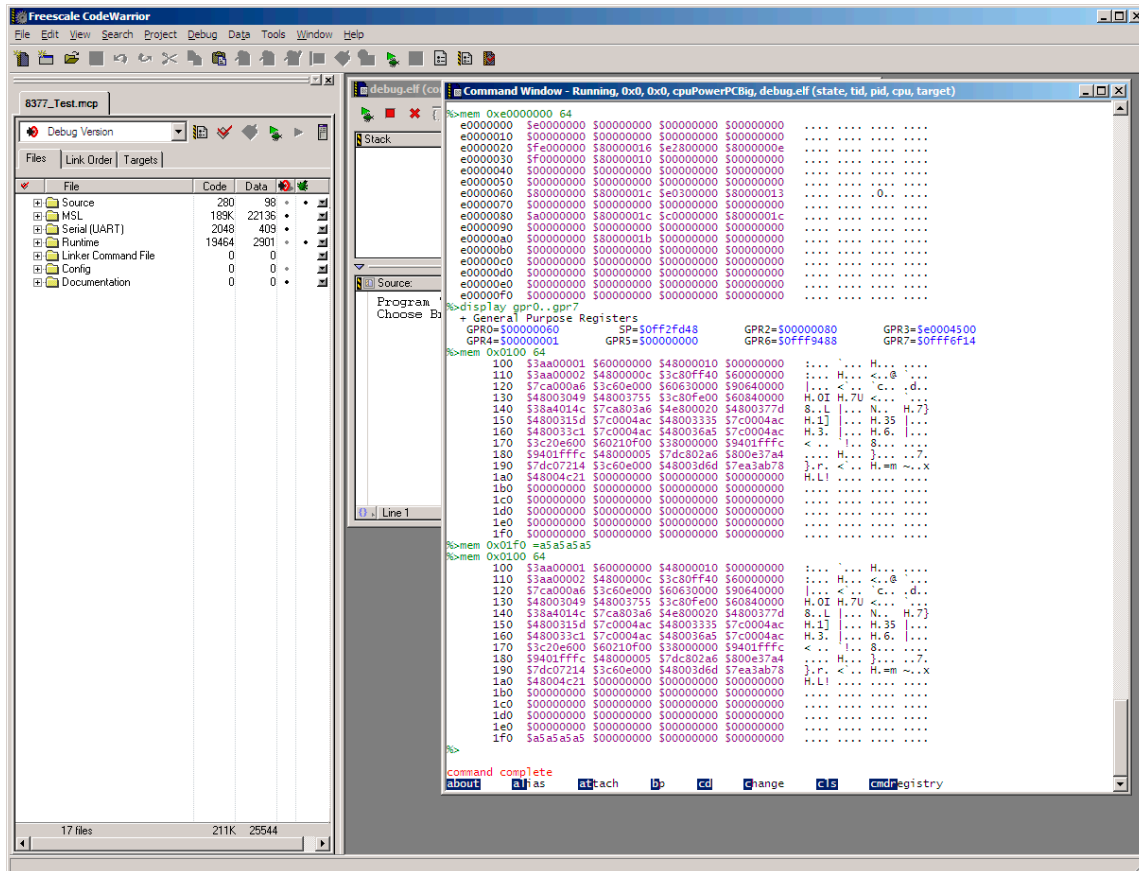


## 5 Using the Command Window

The Command window provides another useful method for communicating with a target device. To display this window, select “Command Window” from the IDE’s “View” menu. (See Figure 13.) The debugger must be connected to the target before you can use the Command window to access the target.

From the Command window, you can enter a variety of commands at the prompt. Type “help” to display a complete list of commands and usage options. “Mem” is a commonly used command for reading and writing memory. You can also use the “Display” command to display register and memory contents.

Figure 13. The Command Window



There are several advantages to using the Command window in a debug session:

- If you use the Command window to read and write memory, the target does not have to be halted. Instead, the debugger briefly halts the target to perform a memory access, and then immediately resumes execution of the target. In contrast, if you use the Memory window or the Register window, the target must be halted by clicking the break button.
- The Command window displays a history of the commands you issue and their results. Further, you can capture this history in a log file using the “log” command, thereby preserving the results for analysis. This feature is extremely useful for capturing memory dumps that reflect the state of a device while debugging. You can then send these dumps to others for discussion and analysis.

- You can perform a simple access to the target via the Command window, which is a good way to ensure that the board is still alive and that the JTAG connection is still in place. With the CodeWarrior IDE alone, sometimes the target gets reset, but the open thread in the IDE is not aware that the JTAG connection has been lost until you attempt to communicate with the board. You may be waiting for a breakpoint to be hit, while the connection to the target has actually been lost. Trying a simple access via the Command window lets you verify that the connection is still valid.
- With the Command window, you can specify and perform memory reads and writes as 8-, 16-, or 32-bit accesses.

## 6 An Example Debug Session

Let's use an example to show how your CodeWarrior tools can be used to debug a customer board.

**Problem:** A production MPC8347-based board is randomly resetting at certain temperatures in the customer system. After the problem occurs, the COP port cannot be used to reliably access the processor. Attempts to reproduce the problem on a standalone board, outside of the production shelf, have been unsuccessful.

**Strategy:** We need to have the CodeWarrior debugger attached to the board via the USB TAP when the problem occurs. The hypothesis is that a machine check condition is occurring on the board, which is causing the MPC8347 to enter a checkstop condition and reset. To trigger on the occurrence of the machine check, we must change the settings so that a machine check condition causes an interrupt rather than resetting the board. Then, we can set a breakpoint within the machine check interrupt routine at offset 0x200. Once we hit the breakpoint, we can display memory and register settings to determine the cause of the error. In our setup, the MPC8347-based board is plugged into the customer shelf with the USB TAP attached. The shelf must be in a temperature chamber to recreate the issue, while the computer running the CodeWarrior IDE is outside of the chamber, but communicates with the board via the USB TAP.

### Debug Steps

1. Use the EPPC New Project Wizard to create a simple MPC8347 project.
2. Ensure that the USB TAP is properly connected to the customer board.
3. Ensure that the customer board is running properly.
4. Attach to the MPC8347 device using the "Attach to Process" option.  
A Debugger window opens, but code continues to execute on the customer board.
5. Click the red square in the Debugger window.  
The processor halts.
6. Select Data > View Memory to display the Memory window.
7. Display the memory at location 0x200 (the machine check interrupt service routine).
8. Select "Disassembly" in the Memory window so you can see the assembly language code.
9. Set a breakpoint in the interrupt service routine at a point **after** SRR0 and SRR1 have been saved.  
Because the breakpoint itself causes an interrupt, interrupting before the return address and context are saved is not recoverable.
10. Click "Run" (the green triangle) to resume execution.  
At this point, everything is set to capture the machine check interrupt if it occurs.
11. In the IDE, open the Command window and read a memory location periodically to ensure that you are still connected and that the processor is still alive.  
With this type of problem, it is possible that the board could reset without any indication to the CodeWarrior debugger that the connection was lost.  
Assuming the hypothesis regarding the machine check is correct, the breakpoint will eventually be hit and the processor will halt.



12. Once halted, examine register settings and memory to identify the cause of the problem.
13. If needed, use the Command window along with the "log" command to capture a memory or register dump for later analysis.

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Technical Information Center  
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