

UG10219

LinkServer Integration with MCUXpresso IDE

Rev. 1 — 8 April 2025

User guide



Document information

Information	Content
Keywords	MCUXpresso, MCUXpresso IDE, LinkServer
Abstract	This document explains how to configure the MCUXpresso IDE to use a new LinkServer version.



1 Introduction

[LinkServer](#) is a debug solution supporting different IDE's, including the [MCUXpresso IDE](#).

LinkServer contains all the necessary device data, scripts, drivers, and supporting software to allow debug and flash operations through CMSIS-DAP debug probes like MCU-Link, LPC-Link2, DAPLink, OpenSDA, and also other NXP legacy probes.

Recent MCUXpresso IDE versions integrate LinkServer as a stand-alone product installed in a folder located at the same level as the IDE product, rather than being a built-in component of the IDE. This makes it possible to release new versions of LinkServer to be used in conjunction with existing IDE installations, without requiring a full MCUXpresso IDE release. Going forward, it is expected to release stand-alone LinkServer versions to incorporate support for new devices and bug fixes, while new MCUXpresso IDE releases will be less frequent and intended for broader changes like adopting a new Eclipse version or including a new GNU toolchain.

2 Using a new LinkServer version with existing MCUXpresso IDE installations

When installing a new LinkServer package, the installer offers the possibility to detect and automatically associate with existing MCUXpresso IDE products (versions 24.9 or newer).

The installer presents the compatible MCUXpresso IDE installations detected on the system, and can automatically configure them to use the LinkServer version being installed.

Windows and macOS

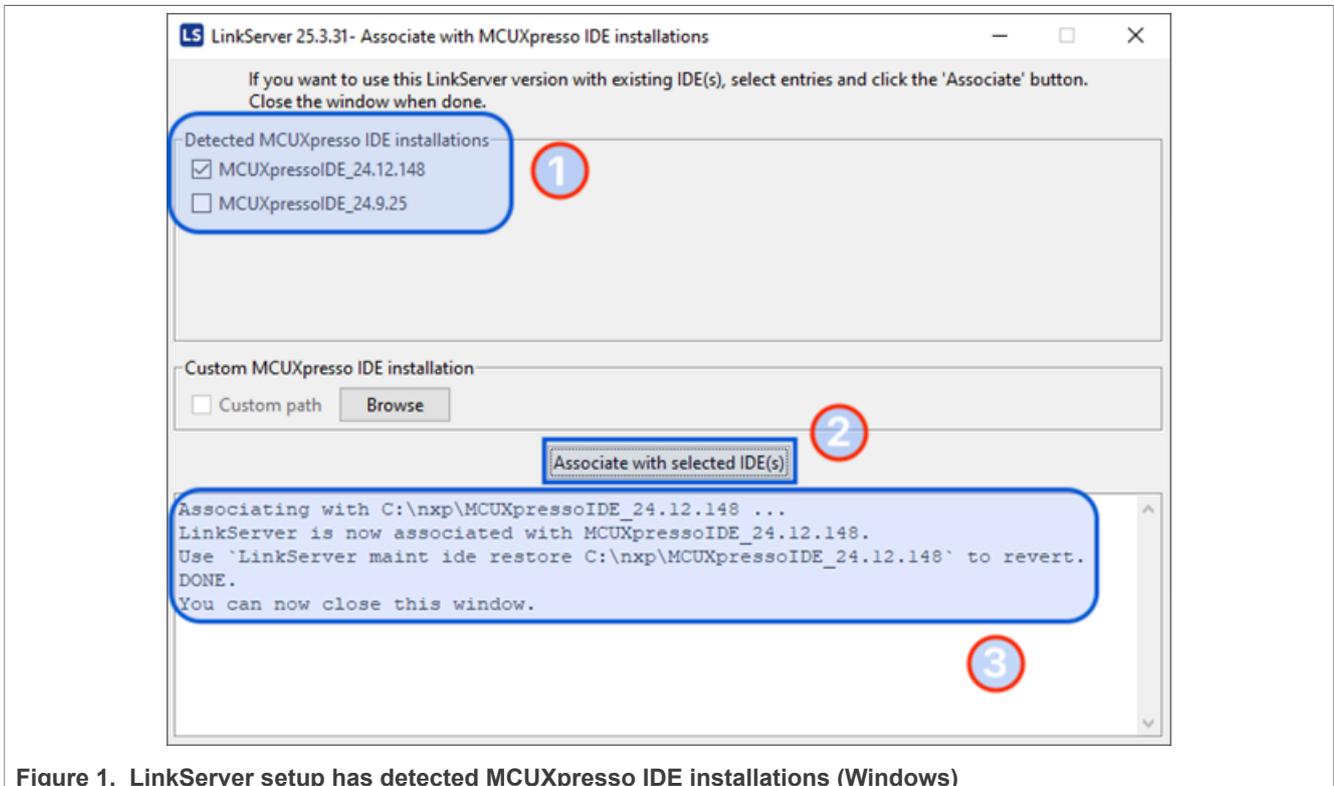


Figure 1. LinkServer setup has detected MCUXpresso IDE installations (Windows)

1. Detected MCUXpresso IDE Installations: select the desired version(s) from the list of compatible MCUXpresso IDE products detected on the system

2. Click **Associate with selected IDE(s)** button and wait for the operation to complete. This might take several seconds the first time.
3. The log section shows details of the association operation. Wait until “DONE” message appears and close the dialog to finish LinkServer installation.

Ubuntu Linux

The same functionality is offered by the command line mode LinkServer installer under Ubuntu Linux.

```
Associating with MCUXpresso IDEs...
Detected MCUXpresso IDE installations:
1) mcuxpressoide-24.9.25
2) Custom installation path
q) Quit
If you want to use this LinkServer version with one of the existing IDEs select
its corresponding number, or 'q' to exit
: 
```

Figure 2. LinkServer setup has detected MCUXpresso IDE installations (Linux)

3 Reverting MCUXpresso IDE installations to use the original LinkServer version

In case you ever need to restore an MCUXpresso IDE installation to use the original LinkServer version that was shipped with the IDE (thus reverting an association with a newer LinkServer version configured as in the above section) follow the procedure as below:

1. Open a terminal window (Command Prompt / Terminal) and navigate to the folder where the new LinkServer is installed
2. Execute command:

```
./LinkServer maint ide restore <path_to_MCUXpressoIDE_installation_folder>
```

where `path_to_MCUXpressoIDE_installation_folder` is the folder where the MCUXpresso IDE is installed.

Example:

```
C:\nxp\LinkServer_25.3.31>LinkServer maint ide restore C:\nxp\MCUXpressoIDE_24.12.148
INFO: MCUXpressoIDE_24.12.148 restored to default LinkServer_24.12.21
```

Figure 3. LinkServer restore MCUXpresso IDE association

4 Overriding LinkServer setting in MCUXpresso IDE for the current workspace only

The instructions in the sections above configure the default LinkServer path.

The MCUXpresso IDE has a workspace-level user preference which can be used to override the default LinkServer version by pointing to a custom installation path.

Note: This preference needs to be configured for any new workspace.

1. Open the MCUXpresso IDE.
2. Go to
 - *MCUXpresso IDE -> Window -> Preferences...* for Windows/Linux
 - *MCUXpresso IDE -> Settings...* for macOS
3. Expand MCUXpresso IDE -> Debug Options -> **LinkServer Options** category.
4. Enable **Custom Path** inside the **LinkServer path configuration** section.
5. Browse to the new/specific LinkServer installation folder.

Example (Windows):

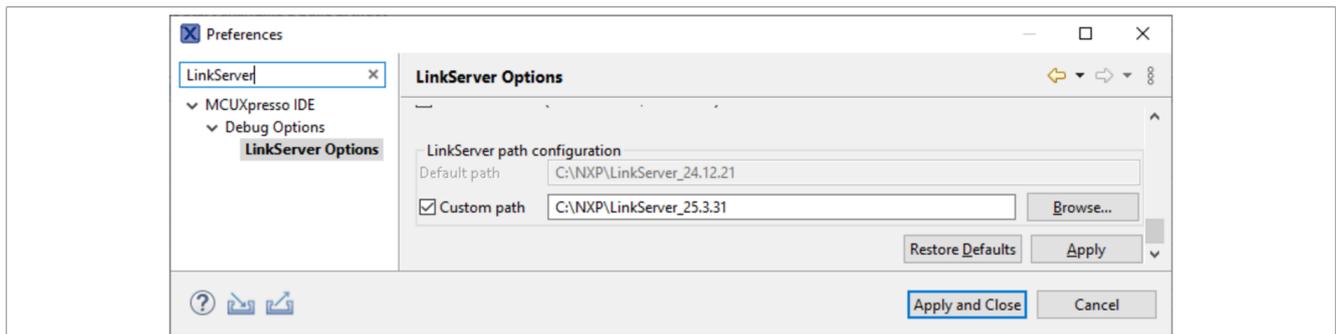


Figure 4. IDE preference - LinkServer custom path

5 Revision history

Table 1. Revision history

Document ID	Release date	Description
UG10219 v.1	8 April 2025	Initial version.

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