Within this application note it is shown how to use the internally stored keys, in the PN7642 secure key store, with the mbedTLS APIs.
Revision history

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rev</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>v.1.0</td>
<td>20230914</td>
<td>Initial version</td>
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</table>
1 Introduction

This document shows how to use the PN7642 cryptographic features, particularly AES, by using the provided SDK examples.

Within this document, only keys from the PN76s key store are used. The mbedTLS can also be used without using the internal keys of the key store, but this is considered to be straight-forward and not covered in here. Make sure to have the key store provisioned with at least one APP_MASTER_KEY or APP_FIXED_KEY, as the APP_ROOT_KEY cannot be used for cryptographic operations.

How to provision the key store is not covered in this document, and explained in another application note: [1] AN13720

The PN7642s cryptographic features are abstracted by ROM APIs (mbedTLS nsc API). All these APIs are described in the [2] PN7642 NFC Controller User API Documentation. On top of these APIs, NXP has created an abstraction layer (mbedTLS Crypto) which wraps these APIs to make them MbedTLS compatible.

![ PN7642 system software architecture ](image)

Figure 1. PN7642 system software architecture
Where to find the crypto interfaces in the [2] PN7642 NFC Controller User API Documentation:

![PN7642 NFC Controller User API Documentation](image)

**SYS Crypto Interfaces**

- **SYS AES Interface**
  - System Service AES API's.

- **SYS CMAC Interface**
  - System Service CMAC API's.

- **SYS CRYPTO Interface**
  - System Service Crypto generic API's.

- **SYS DES Interface**
  - System Service DES API's.

- **SYS SHA Interface**
  - System Service SHA API's.

- **SYS ECC Interface**
  - System Service ECC API's.

- **SYS EDDSA Interface**
  - System Service EDDSA API's.

- **SYS RSA Interface**
  - System Service RSA API's.

**Figure 2. PN7642 User API documentation crypto interfaces**
2 General usage

2.1 Initialization of modules

Before the crypto modules and the key store can be used, they have to be initialized. Initialization is done by the following APIs. The codeblocks show a snip of the "pn_mbedtls_demo" example.

Both methods calls must be successful for further operation.

API: phmbedcrypto_Init()

```c
/*Initialize the crypto modules */
InitStatus = (PN76_Status_t)phmbedcrypto_Init();
if (InitStatus != PN76_STATUS_SUCCESS) {
    PRINTF("Crypto initialization failure\r\n");
    while (1)
};
```

API: PN76_Sys_KeyStore_Init(&bKeyStoreStatus)

```c
eKeyStoreStatus = PN76_Sys_KeyStore_Init(&bKeyStoreStatus);
/* bKeyStoreStatus 6th bit means fatal error. */
if (((eKeyStoreStatus != PN76_STATUS_SUCCESS) || ((bKeyStoreStatus & 0x40U) != 0U)) {
    PRINTF("Crypto initialization error\r\n");
    while (1)
    ; /* if Failed Do not go further */
}
```

2.2 Context initialization

Before any crypto operation can be used, the context has to be initialized.

```c
/**
 * @brief This function initializes the specified AES context.
 * @param ctx The AES context to initialize. This must not be \0.
 * @return NULL on success, or a non-NULL AES context.
 */
void mbedtls_aes_init( mbedtls_aes_context *ctx );
```

Figure 3. mbedTLS AES Init

The aes context as a member "key_index", which is very important, if a key of the key store shall be used. This variable, key_index, has to be set to the "KeyIndex" of the key to be used.
The member "key_index" of the context can be accessed and set by referencing to it by "ctx.key_index". Where "ctx" represents the name used by the declaration of the "mbedtls_aes_context" variable.

The same concept has to be applied wherever a key from the KeyStore shall be used. For using GCM, the context has to be initialized using the GCM init function:

```c
mbedtls_gcm_init(&ctx);
ctx.key_index = AES128_KEY_POS;
```
2.3 Set keys

To prepare the crypto modules for operation, the key has to be set. For this, the according API has to be used.

```c
int mbedtls_aes_setkey_enc( mbedtls_aes_context *ctx, const unsigned char *key,
                            unsigned int keybits );
```

To highlight is the second parameter "key". It shall be set to "NULL" if we want to use a key from the key store. The key to be used is determined by the variable "key_index" of the AES context.

The parameter "keybits" is set to the length of the key.

For encryption and decryption different keys can be used and a different "setkey" API must be used.

In the 'pn_mbedtls_demo' example the key input must be changed to NULL as showing in the following figures:

```c
if (mode == MBEDTLS_AES_ENCRYPT) {
    result = mbedtls_aes_setkey_enc(&ctx, NULL, keySize);
    refOutput = s_AesEcDecEncRef[i];
} else {
    result = mbedtls_aes_setkey_dec(&ctx, NULL, keySize);
    refOutput = s_AesEcDecDecRef[i];
}
```

```
result = mbedtls_gcm_setkey(&ctx, MBEDTLS_CIPHER_ID_AES, NULL, keySize);
```
2.4 AES encryption and decryption

After the context has been initialized, see Section 2.2, and the keys have been set, see Section 2.3, the encryption and decryption method is ready to be used.

```c
/* *
 * @brief This function performs an AES single-block encryption or decryption operation.
 * *
 * It performs the operation defined in the \p mode parameter (encrypt or decrypt), on the input data buffer defined in the \p input parameter.
 * *
 * mbedtls_aes_init(), and either mbedtls_aes_setkey_enc() or mbedtls_aes_setkey_dec() must be called before the first call to this API with the same context.
 * *
 * \param ctx The AES context to use for encryption or decryption.
 * \param mode The AES operation:MBEDTLS_AES_ENCRYPT or MBEDTLS_AES_DECRYPT.
 * \param input The buffer holding the input data.
 * \param output The buffer where the output data will be written.
 * \param *return \c 0 on success.
 */
int mbedtls_aes_crypt_ecb(mbedtls_aes_context *ctx, int mode,
const unsigned char input[16],
unsigned char output[16]);
```

Figure 11. mbedTLS AES encryption or decryption

In the "pn_mbedtls_demo" example, the method "mbedtls_aes_crypt_ecb" is called first for encryption and after for decryption.

```c
result = mbedtls_aes_crypt_ecb(&ctx, mode, src, output);
if ((result != 0) || (0 != memcmp(output, refOutput, sizeof(output))))
{
  PRINTF("Failed\n");
  APP_DumpArray("Reference result", refOutput, sizeof(output));
  APP_DumpArray("Actual result", output, sizeof(output));
  break;
} else
{
  PRINTF("Pass\n");
  result = 0;
}
```

Figure 12. mbedTLS AES ECB
The "memcmp" in the if-else statement is comparing the output against the previously set reference data. If it is matching, "Pass" will be printed. Else the reference value and an actual result is printed for comparison.

2.5 GCM encrypt, tag, and decrypt

For GCM, the same concept is applied. After initializing the context, see Section 2.2 "Context initialization", and setting the keys, see Section 2.3, the functions mbedtls_gcm_crypt_and_tag(…) and mbedtls_gcm_auth_decrypt(…) can be used with the keys from the key store:

```c
/* Encrypt and Tag */
result = mbedtls_gcm_crypt_and_tag(&ctx, MBEDTLS_GCM_ENCRYPT, sizeof(plainData), iv, sizeof(iv), add,
   sizeof(add), plainData, cipherData, sizeof(tag), tag);
```

Figure 13. GCM encryption and tagging

```c
/* GCM Auth and Decrypt */
result = mbedtls_gcm_auth_decrypt(&ctx, sizeof(plainData), iv, sizeof(iv), add, sizeof(add), tag, sizeof(tag),
   cipherData, decryptPlainData);
```

Figure 14. GCM authenticate and decrypt
3 Preparing 'pn_mbedtls_demo' example

This chapter explains how to work with the mbedTLS example "pn_mbedtls_demo" and using the PN76 key store.

The prerequisites to work with the AES module by using keys from the KeyStore are:
• mbedTLS initialized
• KeyStore initialized
• KeyStore provisioned with an APP_MASTER_KEY or APP_FIXED_KEY.

Per default the example is executing a lot of crypto operations, in this application note only the AES operation is shown. Other methods are not executed.

```c
/*
   * @brief Main function
   */
int main(void)
{
    int errors = 0;
    /* Board pin init */
    BOARD_InitBootPins();
    BOARD_InitBootClocks();
    BOARD_InitDebugConsole();

    PRINTF("\nPN mbedtls example started\n\n");
    APP_InitMbedCrypto();

    errors += APP_AES_ECB(MBEDTLS_AES_ENCRYPT);
    errors += APP_AES_ECB(MBEDTLS_AES_DECRYPT);

    return errors;
}
```

Figure 15. Example main(void)

In the method APP_AES_ECB(...) the reference data has to be changed. The default key is all '0'. The key of the reference data has to be changed to the actual provisioned key within the key store. The CT (cipher text) and PT (plain text) can be left to all '0'. But, the array has to be changed to the actual new encrypted/decrypted message. See Section 4 how to generate new reference data.
In Figure 16, the reference data has been newly encrypted and decrypted with the key that shall be used. Not only the reference data has to be updated. Also, the key to be used has to be set. After the context initialization (see Section 2.2), the keys have to be set according to their length.

After these small modifications, the example uses the key from the PN76 KeyStore. The defined "AES128_KEY_POS" and "AES256_KEY_POS" represent the index of the keys in the key store.

After these modifications, the example is ready and using the keys of the KeyStore. Let the example run, if everything has been set correct it should pass:
Figure 18. AES example pass

```
PN mbedtlscrypto example started
AES-ECB-128 ENC: Pass
AES-ECB-256 ENC: Pass
AES-ECB-128 DEC: Pass
AES-ECB-256 DEC: Pass

Project success
```
4 Annex A: Python code for new reference data

The 'pn_mbedtls_demo' does not use keys from the key store. It passes plain keys directly. Those are all zero. By using keys from the key store, which are not all zero, the reference data has to be updated to match.

Online calculators can be of great help, but a very short python script can do the same. In this chapter, a short python script to generate those reference data is shown.

In the below codeblock the generation of the reference data for ECB 128-bit keys is shown:

```python
def mbedtls_aes_ecb():
    print("AES ECB 128")
    bKey = bytes.fromhex('9AA0255E371836EE0BD2C3CEDACB9542')
    bIv = bytes.fromhex('00000000000000000000000000000000')
    bPlainText = bytes.fromhex('00000000000000000000000000000000')
    bCipherText = bytes.fromhex('00000000000000000000000000000000')
    c = cipher.AES.new(bKey, cipher.MODE_ECB, bIv)
    enc = c.encrypt(bPlainText)
    print("ECB encrypt:", bArrayToHex(enc))
    dec = c.decrypt(bCipherText)
    print("ECB decrypt:", bArrayToHex(dec))
```

To generate reference data with a 256-bit key, the variable "bKey" has to be changed accordingly to the 256-bit key.

In the below codeblock the generation of the reference data for GCM with a 128bit key is shown:

```python
def mbedtls_gcm_128():
    print("AES GCM 128")
    bKey = bytes.fromhex('9AA0255E371836EE0BD2C3CEDACB9542')
    bIv = bytes.fromhex('00000000000000000000000000000000')
    bAd = bytes.fromhex('0000000000000000000000000000000000000000')
    bMsg = bytes.fromhex('0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000')
    c = cipher.AES.new(bKey, cipher.MODE_GCM, bIv, bAd)
    enc = c.encrypt(bMsg)
    print("GCM Cipher Text Reference:", bArrayToHex(enc[0]))
    print("GCM Tag Reference:", bArrayToHex(enc[1]))
```

The method "bArrayToHex" is to beautify the output and make it more readable and easier to copy:

```python
def bArrayToHex(list_val):
    result = ''.join(' 0x{:02x}'.format(x) for x in list_val)
    return (result)
5 Annex B: FAQ

Q: What key is used if in the context a key index is set (ctx.keyIndex = 0x01), but the key parameter is not NULL?
A: The given key in the parameter is taken. To use a key from the key store, the key-index in the context has to be valid and the parameter must be NULL. Both conditions have to be met.

Q: Can I use APP_ROOT_KEYs for cryptographic operations?
A: No, the APP_ROOT_KEY cannot be used for cryptographic operations. Any other key can be used. The APP_ROOT_KEY is purely for authentication at the secure key store and deriving keys from it.

Q: Can the key store be used also for asymmetric keys?
A: Yes, the key store can store asymmetric keys from index 27 onwards. These keys can be used for cryptographic operations the same way symmetric keys are used.
6 Abbreviations

Table 1. Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>AES</td>
<td>Advanced Encryption Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>API</td>
<td>application programming interface</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>cipher text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECB</td>
<td>electronic code book mode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCM</td>
<td>Galois/Counter Mode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT</td>
<td>plain text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDK</td>
<td>software development kit</td>
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7 References

[1] AN13720 PN7642 Secure Key Mode demo application
[2] PN7642 NFC Controller User API Documentation
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