MCUXpresso IDE Installation Guide

Rev. 11.4.1 — 15 September, 2021 User guide

15 September, 2021

1. Installation

MCUXpresso IDE will install with a base set of drivers and built-in support for a large range of LPC MCUs and native debug connections via LinkServer (CMSIS-DAP). Additional part (MCU) support can be added at any time by downloading and installing the required SDK packages.

Support for SEGGER J-Link Debug probes and PEmicro Debug probes is also installed by default.

Note: From MCUXpresso IDE version 10.2.0, only one product variant is available, replacing the previous Free and Pro Editions. MCUXpresso IDE now includes *out-of-the-box* all features previously restricted to the Pro Edition. It does not require any activation procedure and contains no limitations on build or debug code sizes.

1.1 Host Computer Requirements

Before installing MCUXpresso IDE, you should make sure your development host computer meets the following requirements:

- A standard x64 host with 8GB RAM minimum, 4GB of available disk space (although more may be required dependent on the number of SDKs installed), a recommended screen resolution of 1080p or better and running one of the operating systems specified below.

An Internet connection is required for the downloading of SDKs, product updates and for the use the Config Tools.

Important Note To ensure that debug probe drivers can be installed correctly, please ensure that USB debug probes are removed before an MCUXpresso IDE installation is performed.

1.2 Windows

- Microsoft® Windows 7 and Windows 10

Note: **From MCUXpresso IDE version 11.0.0, only 64-bit Windows is supported**

MCUXpresso IDE is installed into a single directory, of your choice. Unlike many software packages, MCUXpresso IDE does not install or use any keys in the Windows Registry, or use or modify any environment variables (including PATH), resulting in a very clean installation that does not interfere with anything else on your PC. However, third party debug probe support code may make such modifications.

During the installation, you will be prompted to install a variety of drivers. These are required for correct operation, and include:

- Philips (NXP) Universal Serial Bus
  - This can take some time to complete
- Jungo Connectivity and Jungo Ltd
  - These are installed by the PEmicro debug plugin
- PEmicro
- Ashling/NXP

The installer will also silently install drivers for:

- SEGGER
- LPC-Link
- RedProbe+

- RDB-Link

After the installation has completed, in order to use some Kinetis boards with OpenSDA mbed CMSIS-DAP debug connection and LPCXpresso Max boards, an mbed Serial Port driver is required. This can be downloaded via the IDE link at:

```
Help -> Additional Resources -> MBED Serial Port Driver Website
```

Without this driver, the mbed based debug probe will not be found.

1.2.1 Command line use

Should you wish to use the command-line tools, a command file *MCUXpressoPath.cmd* is provided to set up the path for the local command window. This file is located within the installation directory.

Note: the low level component within MCUXpresso IDE are located inside plugins installed within the IDE's directory structure. Updates to MCUXpresso IDE may install new plugins but these will be correctly located by this script. Since this file makes relative path assumptions it can only be used from its location within the IDE's installation directory.

To use this file from within a terminal session or from within another script, the file must be sourced, for example:

```
C:\Windows\System32>C:\nxp\MCUXpressoIDE_11.2.0_4069\MCUXpressoPath.cmd

Configuring command line environment for MCUXpresso IDE installed at C:\nxp\MCUXpressoIDE_11.2.\
0_4069
C:\nxp\MCUXpressoIDE_11.2.0_4069\ide\plugins\com.nxp.mcuxpresso.tools.win32_11.2.0.20200\
1021529\tools\bin;C:\nxp\MCUXpressoIDE_11.2.0_4069\ide\plugins\com.nxp.mcuxpresso.tools.bin.win\
32_11.2.0.202004241823\binaries;C:\nxp\MCUXpressoIDE_11.2.0_4069\ide\plugins\com.nxp.mcuxpresso\
.tools.win32_11.2.0.202001021529\buildtools\bin;...

C:\Windows\System32>arm-none-eabi-gcc --version

arm-none-eabi-gcc (GNU Tools for Arm Embedded Processors 9-2020-q2-update) 9.3.1 20200408 (release)
Copyright (C) 2019 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
...
```

Additionally supplied is a Bash version of this script. Should this be used it must be sourced within a users command file in order for the paths to be updated correctly.

1.3 macOS

- macOS supported versions
  - Version 10.14: "Mojave"
  - Version 10.15: "Catalina"
  - Version 11: "Big Sur"

The MCUXpresso IDE installer is supplied as a macOS *.pkg* installer file. Double-click on the installer to install MCUXpresso IDE into a subfolder of your Applications folder.

To start MCUXpresso IDE, use the macOS Launchpad. Alternatively, click the **Open MCUXpresso IDE** icon in the */Applications/MCUXpresso IDE_version* folder or run **MCUXpresso IDE.app**, which can be found in the *MCUXpresso IDE* subfolder of the main MCUXpresso IDE installation directory within */Applications*.

1.3.1 Command line use

Should you wish to use the command-line tools, a bash script file *MCUXpressoPath.sh* is provided to set up the path for local shell. This file is located within the installation directory.

Note: the low level component within MCUXpresso IDE are located inside plugins installed within the IDE's directory structure. Updates to MCUXpresso IDE may install new plugins but these will be correctly located by this script. Since this file makes relative path assumptions it can only be used from its location within the IDE's installation directory.

To use this file from within a terminal session or from within another script, the file must be sourced, for example:

```
~$ source /Applications/MCUXpressoIDE/MCUXpressoPath.sh

Set PATH to /Applications/MCUXpressoIDE_11.3.0/ide/plugins/com.nxp.mcuxpresso.tools.bin.\
macosx_11.3.0.202012111825/binaries:/Applications/MCUXpressoIDE_11.3.0/ide/plugins/com.n\
xp.mcuxpresso.tools.macosx_11.3.0.202012111825/tools/bin:/
...

~$ arm-none-eabi-gcc --version
arm-none-eabi-gcc (GNU Tools for Arm Embedded Processors 9-2020-q2-update) 9.3.1 20200408 (release)
Copyright (C) 2019 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
...
```

1.4 Linux

- Linux – Ubuntu 18.04 LTS and 20.04 LTS
  - Only 64-bit versions of Linux are supported.

MCUXpresso IDE for Linux is a 64-bit application, so it will not run on 32-bit systems. It is supported and tested only on the Linux distribution Ubuntu 18.04 LTS and 20.04 LTS releases.

The installer is supplied as an executable that installs the MCUXpresso IDE components. The installer requires root privileges, although, once it is installed, no special privileges are required to run the MCUXpresso IDE. The installer will request a super-user password when it is started. Once installation has completed, we strongly recommend that your system is restarted – if you do not do this, then some areas of the tools may not function correctly.

For further details, please see Appendix A – Linux Installation [6]

1.4.1 Command line use

Should you wish to use the command-line tools, a bash script file *MCUXpressoPath.sh* is provided to set up the path for local shell. This file is located within the installation directory.

Note: the low level component within MCUXpresso IDE are located inside plugins installed within the IDE's directory structure. Updates to MCUXpresso IDE may install new plugins but these will be correctly located by this script. Since this file makes relative path assumptions it can only be used from its location within the IDE's installation directory.

To use this file from within a terminal session or from within another script, the file must be sourced, for example:

```
~$ . '/usr/local/mcuxpressoide-11.3.0/MCUXpressoPath.sh'
```

```
Set PATH to /usr/local/mcuxpressoide-11.3.0/ide/plugins/com.nxp.mcuxpresso.tools.bin.linux\
_11.3.0.202012111825/binaries:/usr/local/mcuxpressoide-11.3.0/ide/plugins/com.nxp.mcuxpres\
so.tools.linux_11.3.0.202012111825/tools/bin:/
```

1.4.2 Other Linux Distros

Due to the huge variation in capabilities of different Linux distributions and versions, MCUXpresso IDE **may** work on other distributions / versions but we cannot provide support if it does not.

In such circumstances, the MCUXpresso IDE forum is a good place to search for information or to post questions, as other users may be able to assist you.

1.5 Installation Notes

1.5.1 High-Resolution Displays

When using high-resolution displays, high-dpi icons can be selected by adding an extra argument *-Dswt.autoScale=200* to the end of the mcuxpressoide.ini file.

This can be found, for example, at:

```
Windows: C:\nxp\<install_dir>\ide\mcuxpressoide.ini
Mac: /Applications/<install_dir>/ide/MCUXpressoIDE.app/Contents/MacOS/mcuxpressoide.ini
```

Note: This may cause the startup splash screen to be cropped, but it will not affect the product's usability.

1.5.2 Running under Virtual Machines

It is possible to install the MCUXpresso IDE within a virtual machine (VM) environment. Generally such installations cause few issues. Due to the nature of VMs, the most likely problems relate to sharing of resources (USB, memory).

In the unlikely event that you experience issues, we welcome reports, but due to the nature of VM operation we can offer no guarantee of resolution.

1.5.3 Help us improve MCUXpresso IDE

MCUXpresso IDE can send anonymous information to NXP on how you use the IDE, including the built-in Config Tools, and with which MCUs. This information can help us to improve the functionality of the tools as well as to resolve problems. You can turn this information collection off at any time by unticking the workspace option:

Win/Linux **Window -> Preferences -> MCUXpresso IDE -> General -> Help us improve the tool** Mac **MCUXpresso IDE -> Preferences -> MCUXpresso IDE -> General -> Help us improve the tool**

2. Migrating from an earlier version of MCUXpresso IDE

MCUXpresso IDE functions and features are under continuous development, it is strongly recommended for user to read both the ReadMe and KnownIssues files inside the product installation directory.

We would generally recommend the following flow when a new IDE release becomes available....

Install the new release in parallel with the original version. This allows you to evaluate the new release before committing to using it for your main product development work.

When using the new version, use a new workspace – to keep your new “evaluation” world separate from your old “development” world. You can very easily copy your projects from your existing workspace to your new workspace – for example by checking them out of version control again, or simply using the IDE’s Quickstart Panel option to “Import project(s) from file system...” and pointing at the root directory of your existing workspace.

Note: MCUXpresso IDE v11.2.x (or later) projects are not backward compatible with earlier versions of MCUXpresso IDE. Also, if an existing project is edited with MCUXpresso IDE v11.2.x, it may no longer be usable with an earlier version of MCUXpresso IDE.

Preferences can also be imported from your existing workspace to your new workspace. To do this run your old IDE installation, and use **File -> Export -> General -> Preferences** to export. Then in your new IDE installation use **File -> Import -> General -> Preferences** to pull your preferences in.

If you have installed additional plugins into your original IDE installation, then you can also import these. To do this, from your new installation select **File -> Import -> Install -> From Existing Installation** and point at the *ide* directory within your original IDE’s installation directory. **Note**: that on macOS / Linux – this option will effectively run automatically the first time you run the new version of the IDE.

Tip

MCUXpresso IDE version 10.2.0 (or later) allows projects to be imported by simply dragging a project folder (or zip archive of projects) directly into the IDE’s Project Explorer view. In addition, it is possible to drag from the Project Explorer view of an older IDE, directly into Project Explorer view of MCUXpresso IDE version 10.2.0. This provides a very simple way of transferring projects into the new IDE. However, it is recommended that build configuration and launch configuration folders are deleted before (or after) copying. **Note**: Due to enhancements from MCUXpresso IDE version 10.2, older launch configurations are no longer compatible with this version, failure to delete them will lead to a warning and the launch configuration will then be deleted automatically on the next debug attempt.

3. Appendix A – Linux Installation

3.1 Ubuntu

The product is distributed as a file called `mcuxpressoide-<build>.x86_64.deb.bin`, which is a binary file that when run will create a Debian package and install it.

To install this file, it must be made executable and then run as root. For example, if the file is in the current working directory:

```
chmod +x mcuxpressoide-<build>.x86_64.deb.bin
sudo ./mcuxpressoide-<build>.x86_64.deb.bin
```

Once you have agreed to the license terms (use the keyboard arrow keys) the Debian package will be installed along with any packages that it requires.

3.1.1 Creating a Backup

To create a backup of an older version during installation, use `-b` or `--backup`. This needs to be passed to the underlying script of the `.run` package by calling:

```
<install_package>.deb.bin -- -b or
<install_package>.deb.bin -- --backup
```

3.2 Other Linux Distributions

Other distributions are not supported or tested. The Debian package lists other package names as dependencies, and these may not be among the packages provided by all distributions. Nonetheless, it may run on other Linux distributions.

- For distributions based on Debian (with a Debian-based package manager), try the `.x86_64.deb.bin` installation image.

3.3 Running the MCUXpresso IDE

3.3.1 From the Desktop

To run from the desktop, search for a program containing “MCUXpresso” in its name and run it as normal for your desktop. It is usually found in the “Development” application category. (This should work in most Linux Desktop environments.)

Note: The installation script now creates a softlink at `/usr/local/mcuxpressoide` pointing to the real installation directory.

3.3.2 From bash

The product is installed in the directory `/usr/local/mcuxpressoide-<build>` and can be run using the command `mcuxpressoide` if `/usr/local/mcuxpressoide-<build>/ide` is placed on your path, for example using:

```
export PATH="/usr/local/mcuxpressoide-<build>/ide:$PATH"
```

Depending on the desktop manager you use you may need to set some environment variables. It is safe to use these settings for any desktop, however, and you can always run using the following command line.

```
SWT_GTK3=0 UBUNTU_MENUPROXY=0 mcuxpressoide &
```

3.3.3 Further Information

- `SWT_GTK3` controls the use of your distribution's GTK libraries that are used in Gnome-based desktops (including Ubuntu Unity and Gnome Desktop). The setting above stops GTK3 from being used in the IDE. The version of Eclipse underlying MCUXpresso IDE will show small errors that will make normal working impossible in these desktops unless this setting is used.
- `UBUNTU_MENUPROXY` controls the way in which the menu bar of an application can appear at the top of the screen even when an application is not used in full-screen mode. Some users have reported issues in Eclipse in some window managers when the setting above is not used (although we have not observed them ourselves).

3.3.4 Known Issues

On (at least) Ubuntu 16.10 the names of the boards underneath their photos do not appear.

Note: The install directory must be writeable by the user intending to run MCUXpresso IDE

4. Appendix B – Migrating from LPCXpresso IDE version 8.2.x – Hints and Tips

4.1 Introduction

MCUXpresso IDE incorporates core technology from LPCXpresso IDE 8.2.2.

Migrating code from LPCXpresso IDE to MCUXpresso IDE should be straightforward, though you should always browse the release notes, the supplied documentation and the online FAQ material.

Below are some hints and suggestions of things that you should do or consider when migrating.

4.1.1 Parallel Installations

A new version of the MCUXpresso IDE may be installed in parallel with existing installations and also in parallel with LPCXpresso IDE. This allows a newly released version to be tried alongside a version currently installed.

Furthermore, there is no need to take any special care with licenses (activation codes), since any installed code will automatically be picked up by the new MCUXpresso IDE installation.

4.1.2 Installing Eclipse Plugins

If you install a new version of MCUXpresso IDE on Mac OS X or Linux, then the first time you run the new product you will be offered the opportunity to reinstall previously used plugins (for example, those for version control). However, this does not happen on Windows, and manually installing your favorite plugins may take considerable time to complete.

An alternative approach is to import the plugins from an earlier LPCXpresso IDE installation. To do this, follow:

```
File->Import->Install->From Existing Installation
```

Then browse to the `lpcxpresso` directory within an existing LPCXpresso IDE application's installation.

4.1.3 Managing Workspaces

Whilst a new MCUXpresso IDE version can open workspaces created by an earlier release, a workspace (and the projects it contains) that have been used by a new MCUXpresso IDE version may not correctly load into an earlier version. Thus we would strongly recommend that you back up your projects before commencing any migration.

The simplest way to do this is to create a new workspace in the new MCUXpresso IDE version, and then import any projects into this new workspace. How to import projects into a new workspace is detailed in the FAQ

https://community.nxp.com/message/630625

Alternatively, if you have your projects checked into a version control system (for example, using Subversion and the Subclipe Eclipse plugin), then you can simply check your projects out into the new workspace.

You should also ensure that you do a full, clean build after switching to the new version.

4.1.4 Launch Configurations

Sometimes the contents of, or options specified in, the debug launch configurations used by MCUXpresso IDE can change between versions. Thus, when moving to a new version of the MCUXpresso IDE, we would recommend deleting any debug launch configurations within your project that were created by an earlier version. These files are typically named

```
<projectname> Debug.launch and <projectname> Release.launch.
```

The easiest way to do this is to right-click on the project in Project Explorer and select **Launch Configurations -> Delete Launch Configurations**. The IDE will then automatically create a fresh set of launch configurations the next time you start a debug session. Note that you may need to reapply any modifications you made to your launch configurations in your previous version of MCUXpresso IDE.

For more information on launch configurations, please see the FAQ Launch Configuration Menu at

https://community.nxp.com/message/630714

4.1.5 Startup Code

The startup code generated by MCUXpresso IDE can sometimes be updated between releases, often to support new tool features. We would thus strongly recommend that you consider updating your startup code to match the latest generated by the project wizard for the part that you are using.

4.1.6 Linker Scripting

In LPCXpresso IDE V7.9.0 and later, the linker script template mechanism was overhauled to provide a much more flexible and powerful means for the user to change the content of the linker script generated by the managed linker script mechanism.

If you are moving a project that uses a modified linker script from a version of LPCXpresso IDE prior to version 7.9.0, then please read the detailed FAQ on Freemarker Linker Script Templates at

https://community.nxp.com/message/630611

4.1.7 Compiler Symbols

LPCXpresso IDE projects generally would define the compiler symbol __**CODE_RED**. This could then be used in source code to determine if the LPCXpresso IDE was being used to build the code, and conditionally compile sections of code in (or out) of the image being built.

When building under MCUXpresso IDE, the __**CODE_RED** symbol will not be removed from existing LPCXpresso IDE generated projects (for instance LPCOpen examples), either already in your workspace or in projects that you import into a new workspace. Also, if you create new projects for the preinstalled (LPC) MCUs, then, again, the symbol will be set up by the preinstalled MCU's new project wizards.

However, if you create projects for SDK installed MCUs, then the symbol __**CODE_RED** will not be set up for the compiler; the symbol __**MCUXPRESSO** is defined instead.

Thus, if you are porting existing code from LPCXpresso IDE into a new project created for an SDK installed MCU, then you need to check whether it is appropriate to change any instances of __**CODE_RED** to __**MCUXPRESSO**.

4.1.8 SPIFI Flash Drivers for LPC18xx and LPC43xx

Legacy SPIFI flash drivers, for example the `LPC18_43_SPIFI_1MB_64KB.cfx` or `LPC18_43_S25FL032P.cfx`, etc. have been removed from MCUXpresso IDE. In the last few releases of LPCXpresso IDE these drivers were in fact just copies of the `LPC18_43_SPIFI_GENERIC.cfx` driver, and were included to maintain compatability with certain older pre-built examples.

If you import a project for the LPC18xx or LPC43xx and experience an error because the SPIFI flash driver is not present, simply edit the project memory configuration and replace the missing driver with the `LPC18_43_SPIFI_GENERIC.cfx` driver.

4.1.9 License Compatibility with LPCXpresso IDE

MCUXpresso IDE requires no activation procedure and uses no licenses. Free or Pro Edition license from an LPCXpresso IDE install will have no impact on an MCUXpresso IDE installation.

5. Legal information

Information in this document is provided solely to enable system and software implementers to use NXP products. There are no express or implied copyright licenses granted hereunder to design or fabricate any integrated circuits or integrated circuits based on the information in this document.

NXP makes no warranty, representation, or guarantee regarding the suitability of its products for any particular purpose, nor does NXP assume any liability arising out of the application or use of any product or circuit, and specifically disclaims any and all liability, including without limitation consequential or incidental damages. “Typical” parameters that may be provided in NXP data sheets and/or specifications can and do vary in different applications, and actual performance may vary over time. All operating parameters, including “Typicals”, must be validated for each customer application by customer’s technical experts. NXP does not convey any license under its patent rights nor the rights of others. NXP sells products pursuant to standard terms and conditions of sale, which can be found at the following address: http://www.nxp.com/SalesTermsandCondition.

While NXP has implemented advanced security features, all products may be subject to unidentified vulnerabilities. Customers are responsible for the design and operation of their applications and products to reduce the effect of these vulnerabilities on customer’s applications and products, and NXP accepts no liability for any vulnerability that is discovered. Customers should implement appropriate design and operating safeguards to minimize the risks associated with their applications and products.

NXP, the NXP logo, Freescale, the Freescale logo, Kinetis and Tower are trademarks of NXP B.V.

Arm, Cortex, Thumb, TrustZone, Mbed, Keil, Coresight are registered trademarks of Arm Limited (or its subsidiaries) in the US and/or elsewhere. Microsoft, Azure ThreadX are trademarks of the Microsoft group of companies. FreeRTOSTM and FreeRTOS.orgTM are trade marks of Amazon Web Services, Inc. SEGGER Embedded Studio is a trademark of SEGGER Microcontroller GmbH. J-Link is a trademark of SEGGER MICROCONTROLLER GMBH & CO. KG IAR trademark is owned by IAR Systems AB. Java and all Java-based trademarks are trademarks of Oracle Corporation in the United States, other countries, or both. Linux is the registered trademark of Linus Torvalds in the U.S. and other countries. UNIX is a registered trademark of The Open Group in the United States and other countries. Eclipse, CDT are trademarks of Eclipse Foundation, Inc.

How To Reach Us:

Home Page: http://www.nxp.com

Web Support: http://www.nxp.com/support