

# UG10155

## Debian Linux SDK User Guide

Rev. LDLSDK\_25.12 — 26 December 2025

User guide

### Document information

Information	Content
Keywords	UG10155, Debian, Linux, SDK, Flexbuild
Abstract	The Debian Linux SDK Distribution is a Debian-based Linux enablement software for NXP series processors that are based on Arm cores to provide quick evaluation for customers.



# 1 Overview

Debian is a free Operating System (OS), also known as Debian GNU/Linux. It provides a wide range of application software, and comes with a total of over 118,000 packages, precompiled software bundled up in a nice format for easy installation for various machines or embedded devices.

The Debian Linux SDK distribution composes of NXP-specific custom components and open source software developed by the community-supported Debian Project. It aims to provide an easy-to-use and convenient development solution for users' quick evaluation with widely available deb packages on the ARM64 platforms of NXP.

The Debian Linux SDK distribution uses Flexbuild (a flexible and easy-to-use build system developed by NXP) to generate the BSP composite firmware (including ATF, U-Boot, OP-TEE, kernel, DTB, peripheral firmware, `initramfs`) and Debian images. It compiles NXP-specific hardware-accelerated components for various hardware blocks and peripherals (such as GPU, NPU, VPU, ISP, SEC, Wi-Fi/Bluetooth, and Audio) based on Debian runtime dependencies.

Users can use Flexbuild to easily build Debian-based RootFS, Linux kernel, BSP components, and miscellaneous Userspace applications for various use cases (like graphics, multimedia, networking, connectivity, security, and AI/ML) to streamline the system build with flexible customization and efficient CI/CD. Flexbuild Git repository is available at [GitHub](#).

Users can also use the `flex-installer` tool to easily install various Distros to the target storage device (SD/eMMC card or USB/SATA/NVMe disk). For details, see [Section 3](#).

NXP provides Debian-based SDK source and prebuilt demo images as Linux offering for MPU platforms. The following table provides an overview of the Debian Linux SDK distribution.

**Table 1. Overview of Debian Linux SDK**

Distro Variant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Debian Base (basic packages)</li> </ul>
Deployment of the prebuilt Debian distro images	<p>NXP provides a script tool <code>flex-installer</code> to automatically download and install the prebuilt BSP image and Debian RootFS image with customizable partitions of the target storage device. The entire disk space of the SD/eMMC card or USB/SATA disk is accessible with the formatted EXT4 partition. <code>flex-installer</code> can also convert the tarball images to a single <code>.wic</code> image. Optionally, you can use the balena Etcher tool to flash the BSP composite firmware into the SD card on the Windows host machine if the Linux host is not available.</p>
Supported boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i.MX 8M Plus EVK</li> <li>i.MX 8M Plus FRDM</li> <li>i.MX 8M Mini EVK</li> <li>i.MX 8QuadMax MEK</li> <li>i.MX 95 15x15 EVK</li> <li>i.MX 95 15x15 FRDM</li> <li>i.MX 93 11x11 EVK</li> <li>i.MX 93 11x11 FRDM</li> <li>i.MX 91 11x11 EVK</li> <li>i.MX 91 11x11 FRDM</li> <li>i.MX 91S 11x11 FRDM</li> <li>Layerscape LS1028ARDB</li> <li>Layerscape LS1043ARDB</li> <li>Layerscape LS1046ARDB</li> <li>Layerscape LX2160ARDB</li> </ul>
Host Requirement to build Debian Linux SDK with Flexbuild	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Debian 12 or 13.</li> <li>Build in Docker hosted on Ubuntu 22.04 LTS or Ubuntu 24.04 LTS.</li> </ul>

**Table 1. Overview of Debian Linux SDK ...continued**

Duration of build	30 minutes - 3 hours.
Consumed disk space	30 GB - 50 GB.
Installing a new package	Installing a package is as simple as running <code>apt install &lt;package&gt;</code> since there is a deb package manager for Debian.
Patching source of component	It is easy to patch board-specific components in Flexbuild, but inconvenient to patch the upstream Debian package because they are installed as deb packages.

## 2 Release Notes

### 2.1 What is new in this release

The Debian Linux SDK 25.12 release has the following new features:

- Flexbuild upgraded to LSDK2512.
- Debian 13 RootFS with update.
- Linux kernel upgraded to LTS 6.12.20.
- All downloaded source code is now cached for faster builds and improved reproducibility.
- Replaced generic Desktop and Server RootFS with dedicated RootFS tailored for each board, ensuring optimized performance and compatibility.
- Board-specific packages are bundled into a Debian package, enabling direct installation and simplifying deployment.
- Supports PREEMPT-RT patch on all platforms.
- Supports SECURE boot on the Layerscape platform.
- Supports OP-TEE on all platforms.
- Supports new boards: i.MX 8QuadMax MEK, i.MX 95 15x15 FRDM, and i.MX 95 15x15 EVK.

### 2.2 Supported board features

#### 2.2.1 Supported features on i.MX 8 series and i.MX 95 series

- Debian 13 Desktop by default, Weston Desktop supported alternatively
- HDMI monitor display
- DSI MIPI Touchscreen display
- Desktop GUI with GPU acceleration
- Multimedia video playback with VPU codec
- MIPI CSI Camera OS08A20 with ISP (only on i.MX 8M Plus EVK)
- MIPI CSI Camera OV5640
- Web browsers (Chromium)
- Qt6 application support
- Wi-Fi + Bluetooth
- eIQ TensorFlow Lite support
- Gstreamer support
- DPDK for networking acceleration
- GoPoint Demos support in both GUI and TUI mode

**2.2.2 Supported features on i.MX 93 series**

- Debian 13 Weston Desktop
- HDMI monitor display
- LVDS Touchscreen display (only on i.MX 93 EVK)
- CSI MIPI Camera AP1302 with ISP
- Wi-Fi + Bluetooth
- eIQ TensorFlow Lite support
- Gstreamer support
- DPDK for networking acceleration
- GoPoint Demo support in both GUI and TUI mode

**2.2.3 Supported features on i.MX 91 series**

- Debian 13 Weston Desktop by default, Gnome Desktop supported alternatively (no acceleration)
- Wi-Fi + Bluetooth

**2.2.4 Supported feature matrix on Layerscape platforms**

The following table shows the features that are supported in the Layerscape Debian Linux SDK v25.12 release.

**Note:** Refer to the legend below to decipher the entries:

- **Y:** Feature is supported by the software.
- **/:** Feature is not supported by the software.
- **NA:** Hardware feature is not available.

**Table 2. Key features matrix on Layerscape platforms**

Feature	LS1028A	LS1043A	LS1046A	LX2160A
64-bit User space, LE	Y	Y	Y	Y
40b phys mem	Y	Y	Y	Y
Data Plane Development Kit (DPDK)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hugetlbfs	Y	Y	Y	Y
Management Complex	NA	NA	NA	Y
Open Portable Trust Execution Environment (OP-TEE)	Y	Y	Y	Y
SEC engine	Y	Y	Y	Y
Time Sensitive Network (TSN)	Y	NA	NA	NA
USDPAAs Applications	NA	/	/	NA
Trusted Firmware-A (TF-A)	Y	Y	Y	Y
GUI Desktop	Y	N	N	N

**2.3 Known issues/limitations**

The following table lists some key known issues of Debian Linux on the boards.

Table 3. Known issues and workarounds

ID	Description	Workaround
DEDI-143	i.MX 8M Mini: Failed to open <b>Setting</b> in the GUI .	None.
DEDI-142	Wi-Fi: Connection is not stable when the board works as STA from the GUI.	None.

### 3 Quick Start with Debian

To deploy the prebuilt Debian Distro demo images flexibly with less duplication for various platforms, Flexbuild compiles and assembles the distro images as three parts: BSP composite firmware (board-specific), boot image, and RootFS image (arch-specific for reuse on multiple platforms).

- BSP firmware image**  
 The board-specific BSP composite firmware image ( such as `firmware_imx8mpevk_sdboot.img`) consists of the ATF, U-Boot, OP-TEE OS, kernel, dtb, peripheral firmware, and `initramfs`. It provides an entire tiny Linux environment, in which users can run `flex-installer` to deploy Debian Distro or run any Linux tool to diagnose or repair the system if the Debian Distro is not bootable on the target board.  
 If an x86 Linux host is available, use the `flex-installer` or `dd` command to install the tiny BSP firmware image to the SD card. Otherwise, if there is only a Windows host, use the Etcher tool to install this image.
- Boot image**  
 This boot image tarball (such as `boot_IMX_arm64_lts_6.12.20.tar.zst`) consists of the kernel, dtb, Linux modules, and Distro boot script for reuse on all the ARM64 boards.
- RootFS image**  
 The Debian RootFS (`rootfs_lsdk2512_debian_base_arm64.tar.zst` and `rootfs_lsdk2512_debian_<machine>.tar.zst`) consists of the standard Debian `.deb` packages and board-specific driver components with custom configurations for various hardware blocks.  
**Note:** Only the prebuilt `rootfs_lsdk2512_debian_base_arm64.tar.zst` is downloadable directly. Users need to install the Debian base rootfs by `flex-installer` first, and then run the `debian-post-install-pkg` command (already included in debian base RootFS) to install the NXP-specific packages and extra `deb` packages to upgrade to board-specific Debian RootFS.

Table 4. Unified 64 MB layout of i.MX BSP composite firmware image generated by Flexbuild

Firmware definition		Max. size	Offset
Boot loader <code>flash.bin</code>		4 MB	32 kB or 33 kB
U-Boot Env		512 kB	0x400000
Reserved 1		512 kB	0x480000
Reserved 2		1 MB	0x500000
Kernel+dtb	<code>lsdk2512_poky_tiny_IMX_arm64.itb</code>	16 MB	0x800000
Initramfs		42 MB	0x1800000

Table 5. Unified 64 MB layout of Layerscape BSP composite image on SD/NOR/QSPI/XSPI media

Firmware definition	Max. size	Flash Offset	SD Start Block#
RCW + PBI + BL2 ( <code>bl2.pbl</code> )	1 MB	0x00000000	0x00008
ATF FIP Image ( <code>fip.bin</code> ) BL31 + BL32 + BL33	4 MB	0x00100000	0x00800
Bootloader environment	1 MB	0x00500000	0x02800
Secure boot headers	2 MB	0x00600000	0x03000
DDR PHY FW or reserved	512 kB	0x00800000	0x04000
Fuse provisioning header	512 kB	0x00880000	0x04400
DPAA1 FMAN ucode	256 kB	0x00900000	0x04800
QE firmware or DP firmware	256 kB	0x00940000	0x04A00

Table 5. Unified 64 MB layout of Layerscape BSP composite image on SD/NOR/QSPI/XSPI media...continued

Firmware definition		Max. size	Flash Offset	SD Start Block#
Ethernet PHY firmware		256 kB	0x00980000	0x04C00
Script for flashing image		256 kB	0x009C0000	0x04E00
DPAA2-MC or PFE firmware		3 MB	0x00A00000	0x05000
DPAA2 DPL		1 MB	0x00D00000	0x06800
DPAA2 DPC		1 MB	0x00E00000	0x07000
Device tree(needed by uefi)		1 MB	0x00F00000	0x07800
Kernel+dtb	lsdk2512_poky_tiny_	16 MB	0x01000000	0x08000
Initramfs	LS_arm64.itb	30 MB	0x02000000	0x10000
CA or other uses		2 MB	0x03e00000	0x1F000

Table 6. Default partitions of the SD/USB/SATA storage media installed by flex-installer

Region 1 Partition Table 32K/33K	Region 2 Raw 64 - 256 MiB Composite firmware	Region 3 EXT4 512 MiB Boot Partition-1	Region 4 EXT4 8 GiB Backup Partition-2	Region 5 EXT4 Remaining RootFS Partition-3
MBR or GPT	Bootloader env Firmware	kernel & dtb distro boot.scr modules & firmware	Backup partition or Second distro	Debian RootFS

To customize the partitions of the target storage device, use the `flex-installer -i pf -p <partition_list> -d <device>` command.

For examples:

```
$ flex-installer -i pf -d /dev/sdx
(default 3 partitions as 3P=512M:8G:-1)
$ flex-installer -i pf -d /dev/mmcbk0 -p 2P=2G:-1
(customize 2 partitions)
$ flex-installer -i pf -d /dev/mmcbk1 -p 4P=800M:6G:10G:-1
(customize 4 partitions)
```

**Note:** *-1* indicates the remaining space of the target storage device.

### 3.1 Hardware setup

The following hardware is required:

- Micro-SD card Reader
- Micro-SD card (32 GB or larger recommended)
- USB Micro-B or Type-C cable for UART serial communication
- HDMI monitor and HDMI cable for display
- USB mouse and Keyboard (for controlling the UI)
- Ethernet cable (for network access)

### 3.2 Creating an SD card on the Linux host

The following table lists and describes the options used in the `flex-installer` commands.

Table 7. flex-installer command options

Command option	Description	Supported value
-i <instruction>	Carries out some operational commands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>auto</b>: Automatically downloads and installs distro images to the storage device.</li> <li>• <b>pf</b>: Partitions and formats storage device.</li> <li>• <b>download</b>: Only downloads distro images without installation.</li> <li>• <b>mkwic</b>: Creates all-in-one sdcard. wic image including composite BSP firmware, boot image, and rootfs.</li> </ul>
-m <machine>	Refers to the board name.	imx8mpevk, ls1043ardb, etc.
-f <firmware>	Refers to the firmware image.	firmware_<machine>_<boottype>.img, for example, firmware_imx93frdm_sdboot.img.
-b <boot_partition>	Refers to the bootpartition image. There is a set of bootpartition images for each of the Linux kernel versions and platform (64-bit) supported by Debian.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• boot_LS_arm64_&lt;lts_version&gt;.tar.zst (as compressed tarball for Layerscape platforms).</li> <li>• boot_LS_arm64_lts_6.6.52 (as a directory).</li> <li>• boot_IMX_arm64_&lt;lts_version&gt;.tar.zst for i.MX platforms.</li> </ul>
-B, --bootpart	Specifies the boot partition number to override the default (default boot partition is the first partition).	For example, -B 2 or --bootpart=2.
-r <rootfs>	Refers to the NXP Debian RootFS image.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rootfs_lsdk2512_debian_&lt;machine&gt;.tar.zst (compressed tarball).</li> <li>• rootfs_lsdk2512_debian_&lt;machine&gt; (as a directory).</li> </ul>
-R, --rootpart	Specifies the root partition number to override the default (default root partition is the third partition).	For example, specify the second partition as the root partition: -R 2 or -rootpart=2.
-d <device>	Refers to the storage device (SD, USB, or SATA). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the command <code>cat /proc/partitions</code> to see a list of devices and their sizes to ensure that the correct device names are chosen.</li> <li>• The SD/USB/SATA storage drive in the Linux PC is detected as <code>/dev/sdX</code>. Where, X is a letter, such as a, b, c. Ensure to choose the correct device name, because the data on this device will be replaced.</li> <li>• If the Linux host machine supports read/write SD card directly without an extra SD card reader device, the device name of the SD card is typically <code>mmcblk0</code>.</li> </ul>	/dev/<device_name>.
-u <url>	Specifies the URL of the distro web server to override the default one for automatically downloading distro.	URL of the distro web server.

To install the prebuilt NXP Debian Distro images by flex-installer, perform the following steps:

### 1. Download flex-installer.

```
$ wget http://www.nxp.com/lgfiles/sdk/lsdk2512/flex-installer
$ chmod +x flex-installer; sudo mv flex-installer /usr/bin
```

### 2. Plug the SD card into the Linux host and install the images as follows.

```
$ flex-installer -i pf -d /dev/mmcblk1
(format SD card)

$ flex-installer -i auto -d /dev/mmcblk1 -m imx8mpevk
(automatically download and install images for the i.MX 8M Plus EVK board)
```

It takes several minutes to install the i.MX BSP composite firmware and Debian-base RootFS image onto the SD card.

### 3. Plug the SD card into the i.MX board and install the extra packages as follows.

Optionally, set the HTTP proxy for apt in `/etc/apt/apt.conf.d/proxy.conf` if required in your network environment.

```
$ dhclient -i end0
(setup network interface by DHCP or setting it manually)

$ date -s "30 JUN 2025 15:00:00"
(setting correct system time is required)

$ debian-post-install-pkg
(install NXP-specific driver packages and extra deb packages for GNOME GUI
Desktop version or Weston Desktop)
```

This step installs the prebuilt NXP-specific hardware driver components and extra deb packages in half an hour.

After finishing the installation, run the reboot command to boot up the Debian system. Then, log in with the username `debian` or `root` (no password required by default).

#### Note:

- Only the prebuilt Debian-base RootFS is downloadable from the [nxp.com](http://nxp.com) website.
- Sometimes, the downloaded images (`firmware_<board>_sdboot.img`, `boot_IMX_arm64_lts_6.12.20.tar.zst`, or `rootfs_<board>_debian_base_arm64.tar.zst`) may be damaged and incompleted since the unstable network break. Remove the incompleted images locally and re-download the images by reruning the flex-installer and ensure that the network is reliable.
- If the upgrade fails, it is usually caused by poor network, so try again.

## 3.3 Creating an SD card on the Windows host

To create an SD card on the Windows host, perform the following steps:

1. Download the balenaEtcher flasher tool (<https://github.com/balena-io/etcher/releases/tag/v1.18.13>) and install it on the Windows host.
2. Download the prebuilt BSP composite firmware.

You can create a folder (e.g., `C:/Debian`) and download the following board-specific image to this folder.

```
http://www.nxp.com/lgfiles/sdk/lsdk2512/firmware_imx8mpevk_sdboot.img
http://www.nxp.com/lgfiles/sdk/lsdk2512/firmware_imx93frdm_sdboot.img
http://www.nxp.com/lgfiles/sdk/lsdk2512/firmware_lx2160ardb_sdboot.img
http://www.nxp.com/lgfiles/sdk/lsdk2512/sd_pt_32k.img
(or sd_pt_33k.img for i.MX 8M Mini and i.MX 8M Quad, and sd_pt_4k.img for
Layerscape platforms)
```

- Combine the partition table image with the BSP composite firmware under the cmd prompt as follows.

```
C:\Windows\System32> cd C:/Debian
C:\Debian> dir
C:\Debian> copy /b sd_pt_32k.img + firmware_imx8mpevk_sdboot.img
firmware_imx8mpevk_sdboot.wic
```

The new image `firmware_imx8mpevk_sdboot.wic` is generated.

- Run the balenaEtcher tool, choose the generated `.wic` file and SD card, and then start flashing the image.

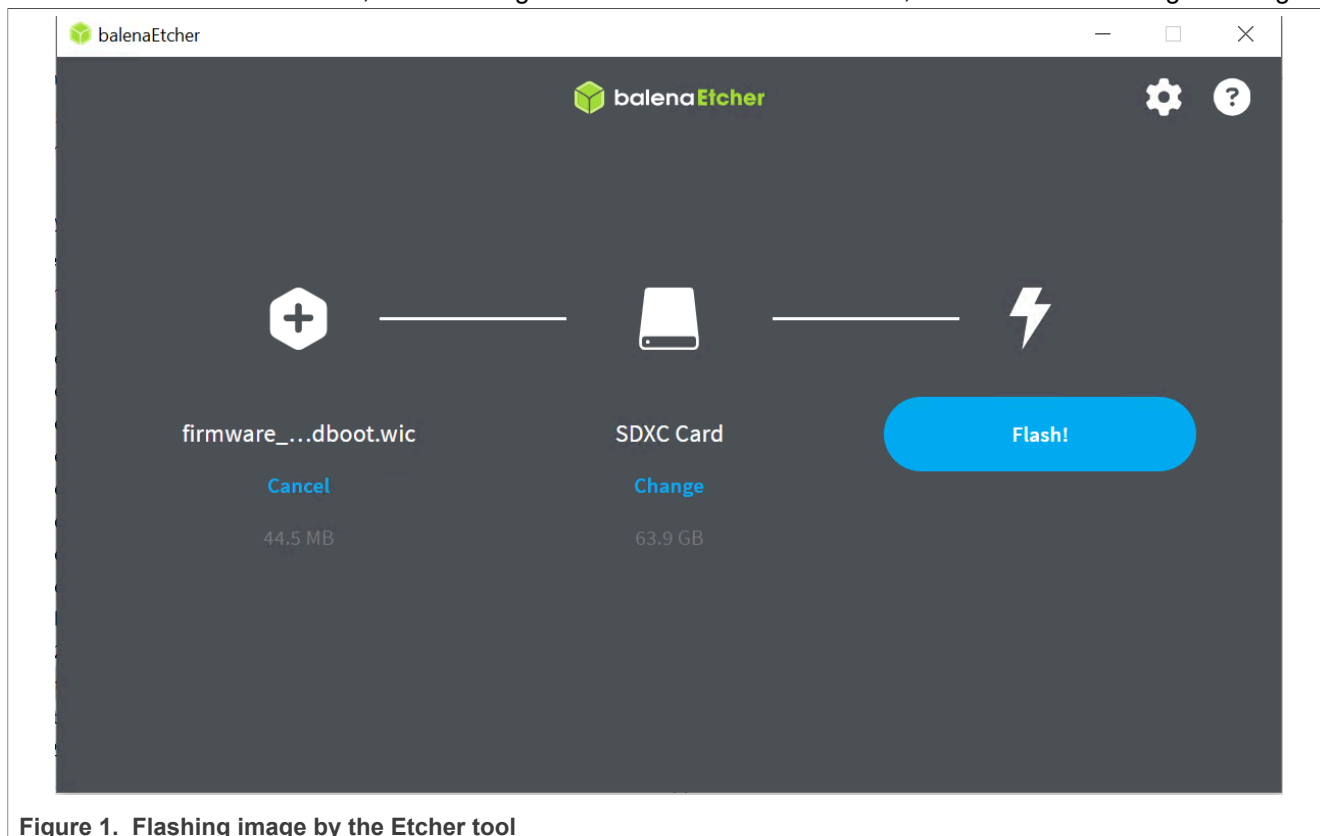


Figure 1. Flashing image by the Etcher tool

- Boot up TinyLinux and install the Debian Distro by `flex-installer` as follows.
  - Unplug the SD card from the Windows host and plug it into the target board. Then, set the DIP switch for SD boot if needed.
  - After powering on the target board, run the following commands under the U-Boot prompt to boot TinyLinux.

```
For i.MX board:
=> setenv tinylinux 'mmc read 0xa0000000 0x4000 0x1f000 && bootm
a0000000#imx8mpevk'
=> saveenv; run tinylinux

For Layerscape board:
=> run sd_bootcmd
or
=> mmc read a0000000 0x8000 0x1f000 && bootm a0000000#<board_name>
e.g.,
=> setenv tinylinux 'mmc read a0000000 0x8000 0x1f000 && bootm
a0000000#lx2160ardb'
=> saveenv; run tinylinux
```

- c. Log into the TinyLinux with the username `root`, set up the network on the board, and install the Debian Distro by the following commands:

```
root@TinyLinux:~# udhcpc -i eth0
(DHCP dynamic IP or manually set static IP)

root@TinyLinux:~# flex-installer -i pf -d /dev/mmcblk1
(format SD card)

root@TinyLinux:~# flex-installer -i auto -d /dev/mmcblk1 -m imx8mpevk
(automatically download and install Debian-base, boot, and firmware
images.)
```

This takes several minutes to download and install the i.MX Debian base RootFS image, boot tarball image, and BSP firmware image onto the SD card.

After finishing the installation in TinyLinux, run the reboot command to reset the system to log into the Debian base system.

- d. Once logging into the Debian base system with the username `debian` or `root`, run the following commands to install extra packages (Optionally, set the HTTP proxy for apt in `/etc/apt/apt.conf.d/proxy.conf` if needed in your network environment).

```
$ dhclient -i end0
(setup Ethernet network interface by DHCP or setting it manually)

$ sudo date -s "12 DEC 2024 15:00:00"
(setting correct system time is required)

$ debian-post-install-pkg
(install NXP-specific desktop packages and extra deb packages for GNOME
GUI or Weston Desktop version)
```

This step installs the prebuilt board-specific hardware driver components and extra deb packages in about half an hour.

After finishing the installation, run the reboot command to boot up the Debian system.

### 3.4 Debian applications on the i.MX platforms

Connect the HDMI or DSI MIPI Display, Mouse, Keyboard, and the Ethernet cable to the i.MX evaluation board. Insert the SD card in the board and power on the board. After approximately 20 seconds, the board should boot to the Debian GNOME Desktop home screen after login with the username `debian`.

Click the **Settings** icon at the top right corner shown as follows.

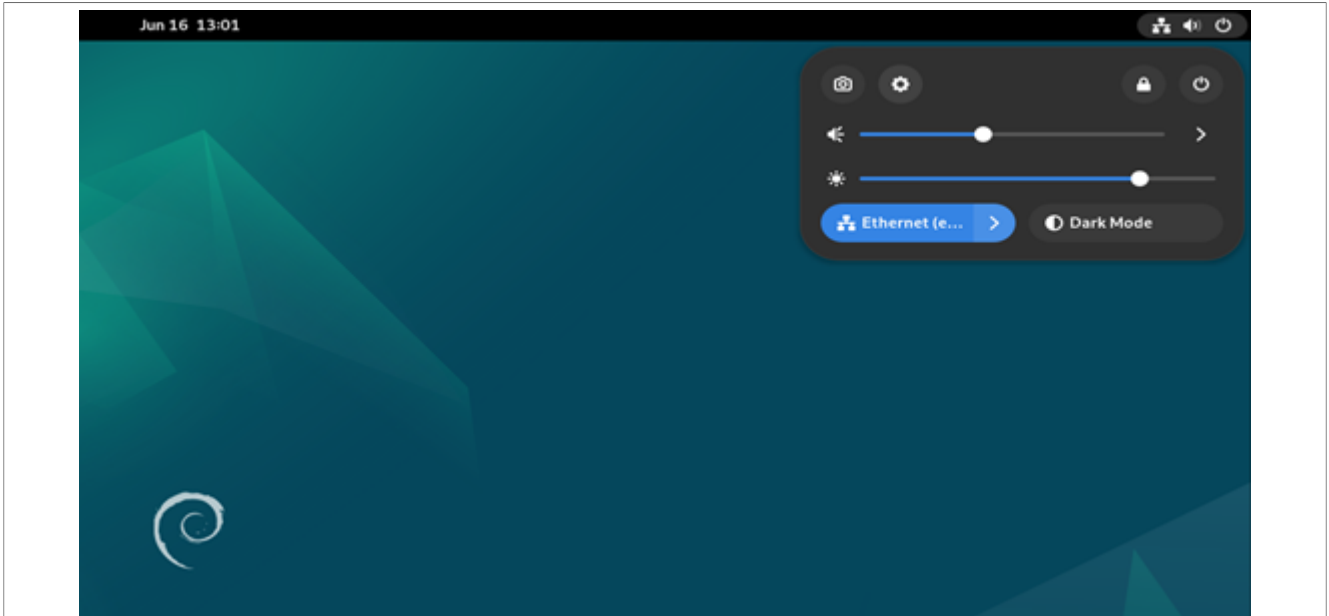


Figure 2. Click the Settings icon

Then, you can see the **Settings** configuration UI shown as follows.

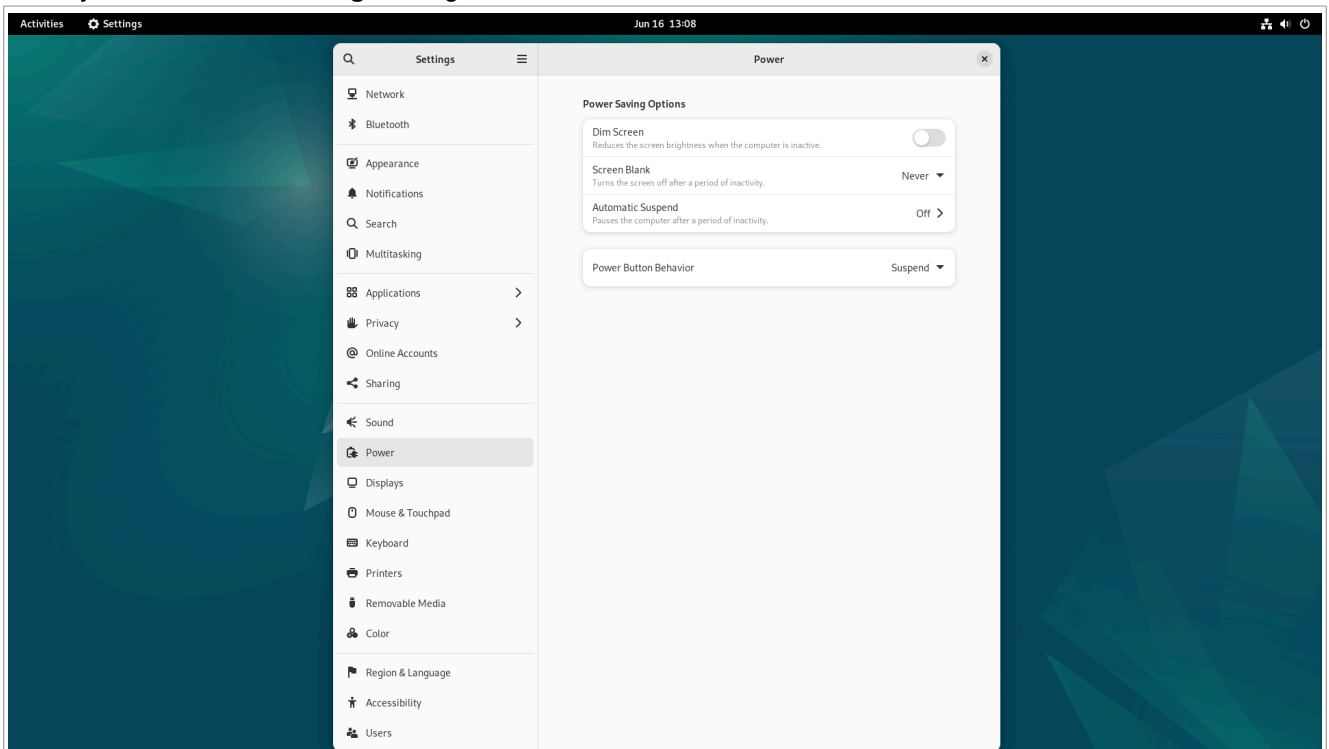


Figure 3. Configuration UI for Debian system Settings

To prevent the Debian system from automatically suspending or dim screen, set **Automatic Suspend** to **Off**, disable **Dim Screen**, and set **Screen Blank** to **Never** if needed.

### 3.4.1 Camera with Cheese

On the i.MX 8M Plus EVK board, the default dtb file `imx8mp-evk.dtb` is used for camera OV5640. To use Camera OS08A20, change the default dtb file as follows:

```
U-Boot=> setenv fdtfile imx8mp-evk-os08a20.dtb
U-Boot=> saveenv;boot
```

- To capture a photo:  
Click the **Cheese** icon, click the **Photo** button, and then click the **Camera** icon. It then takes a photo using the webcam.
- To record a video:  
Click the **Cheese** icon, click the **Video** button, and then click the **Camera** icon. It then records a video using the webcam.

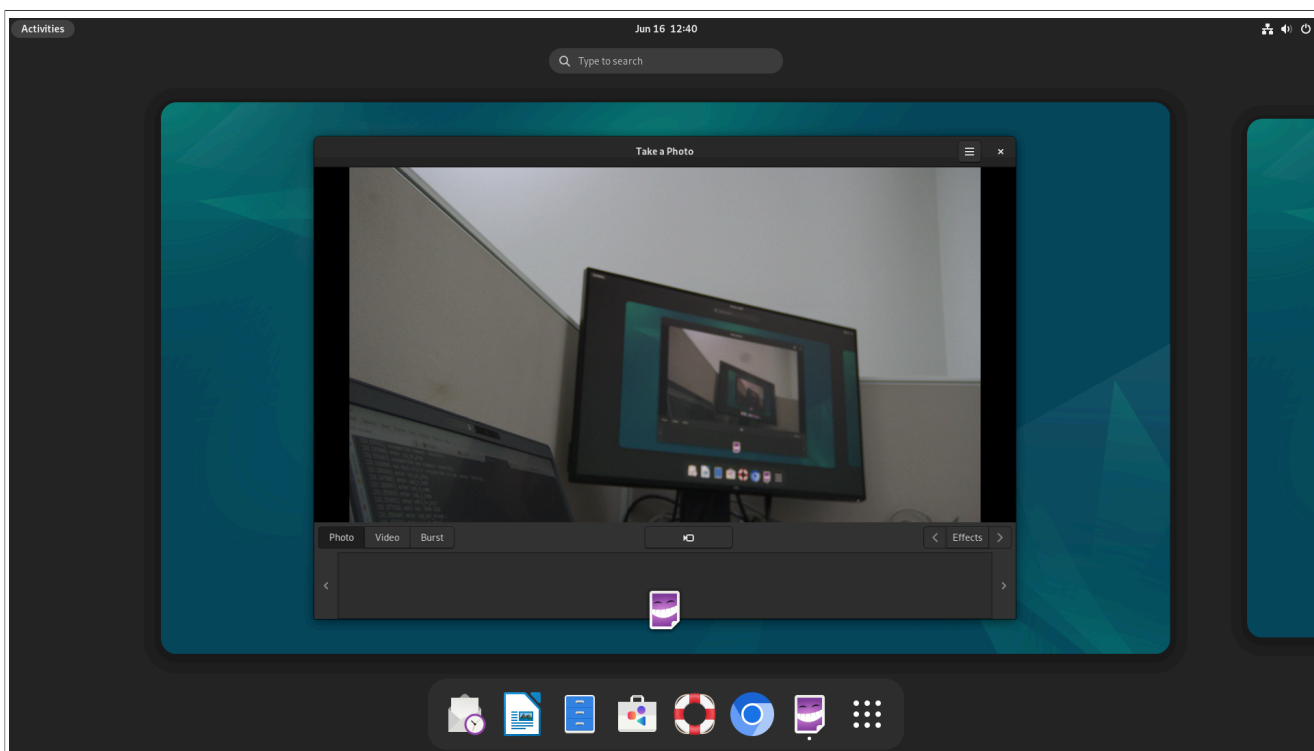


Figure 4. Screenshot of the camera with Cheese on Debian

### 3.4.2 OpenCL

Run the `clinfo` command to check the OpenCL information as follows.



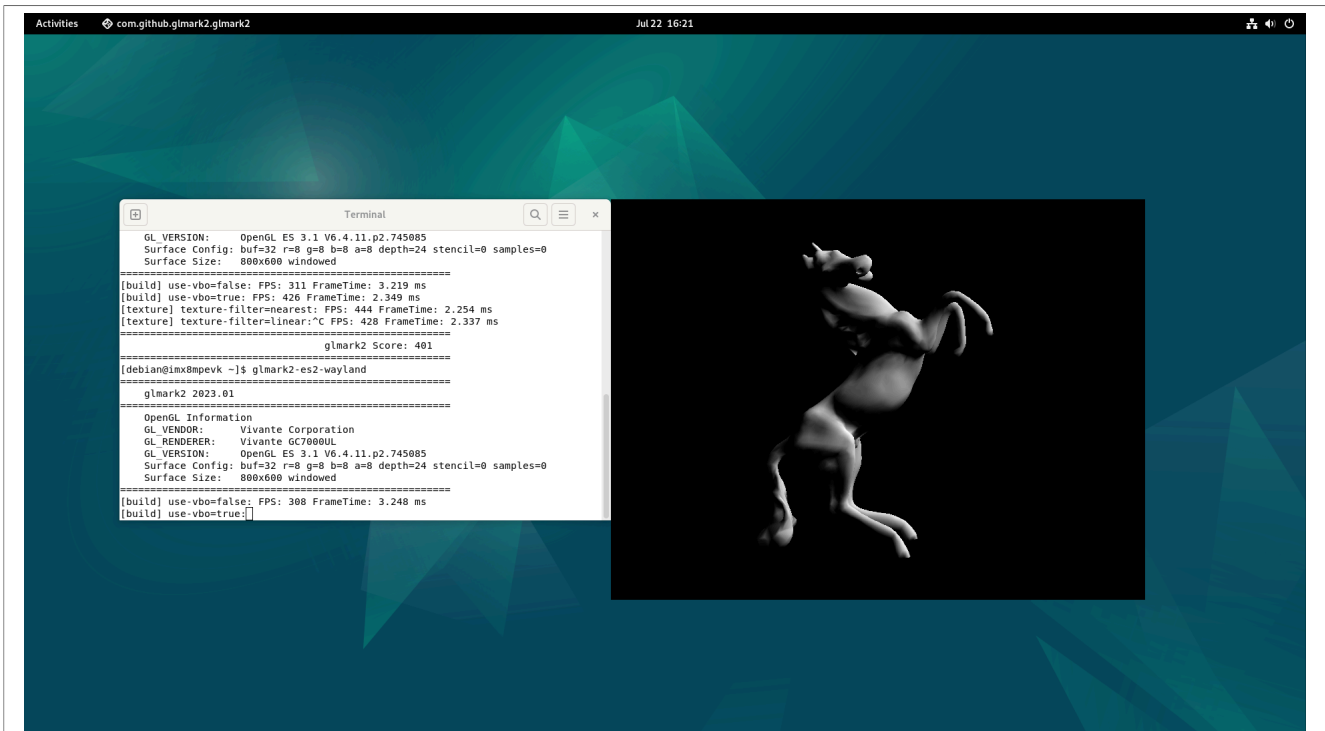


Figure 6. Screenshot of glmark2-es2-wayland for the OpenGLES demo

### 3.4.4 Video playback and web browser

Users can download a sample of video to the i.MX board and play it by the default Totem video player.

Click the **Chromium web browser** icon to launch the browser to surf the Internet.

The following picture shows a screenshot of running the Totem video playback, Chromium browser, and Terminal window on the Debian system on the NXP i.MX 8M Plus EVK board.

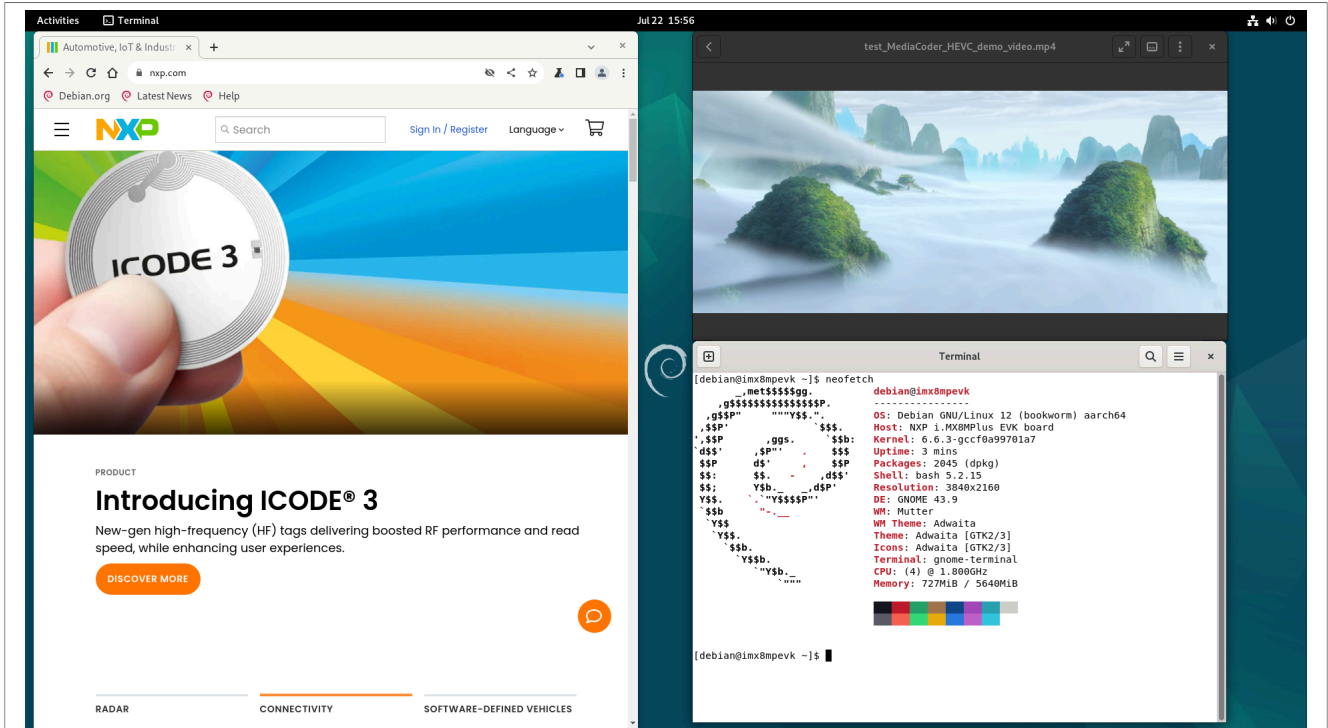


Figure 7. Screenshot of Debian desktop on i.MX

**Note:**

- If there is no sound with Headphone audio on the board, click **Settings** -> **Sound**, select the proper **Input Device**, and change **Output Device** to **Headphones - Built-in Audio** if needed.
- Sometimes if the cheese application **video record** cannot be stopped normally on i.MX 8M Plus EVK, check **Settings** -> **Sound**, select the proper **Input Device**, and change **Output Device** to **Headphones - Built-in Audio** to ensure that the current `pulseaudio` device is `alsa_input.platform-sound-wm8960.stereo-fallback` instead of `alsa_input.platform-sound-xcvr.iec958-stereo`.

**3.4.5 GoPoint demos**

To run GoPoint demos, perform the following steps:

1. Switch to the Weston Desktop (if GNOME Desktop is used currently).

```
$ systemctl stop gdm && systemctl start weston
```

2. There are two ways to start the GoPoint demo:

- Run the following command:

```
$ gopoint          (GUI mode by default)
or
$ gopoint tui      (for TUI mode)
```

- Click the GoPoint icon in the top-left corner to enter the demo, as shown in the following figure.



Figure 8. GoPoint for i.MX Applications Processors logo

3. After the GoPoint demo is launched, you can click to run the corresponding demo, as shown in the following figure.

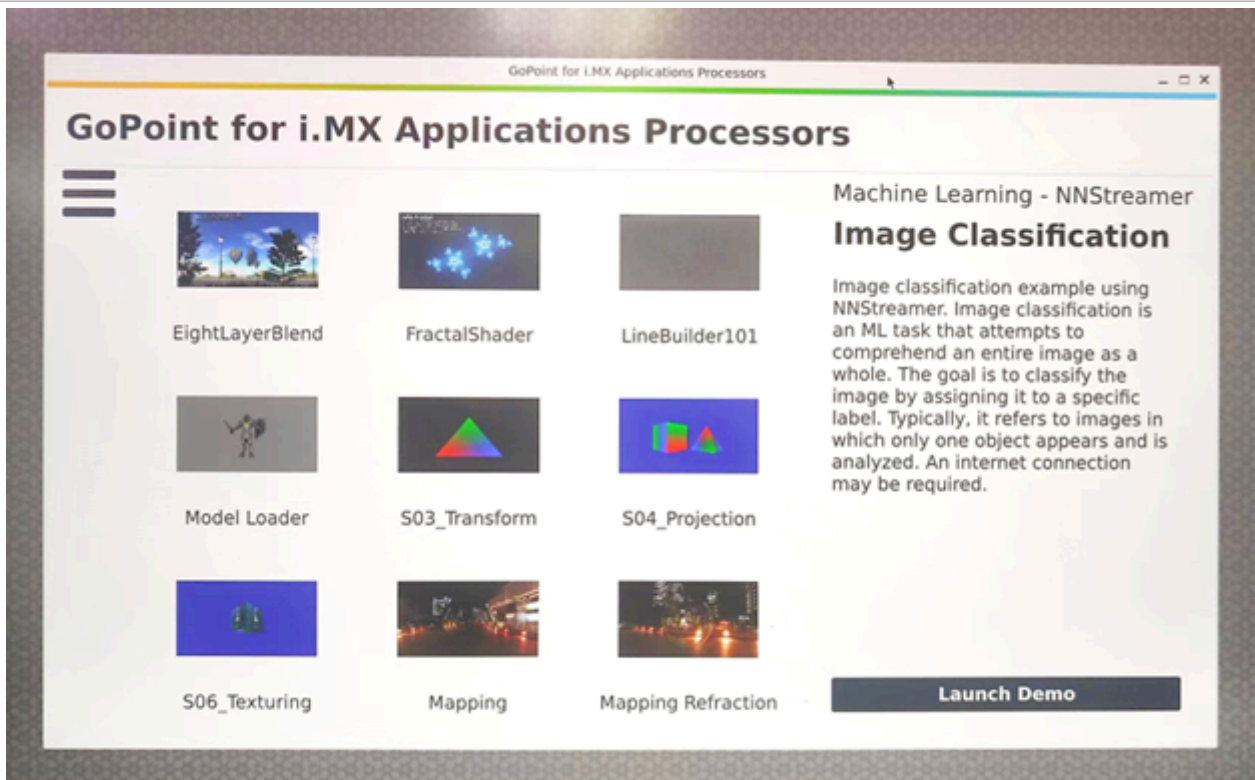


Figure 9. GoPoint demo examples

**Note:**

- Demos may vary across different platforms.

- The detailed information about each demo and the usage can be found at [GoPoint for i.MX Applications Processors User Guide](#). You can also see <https://github.com/nxp-imx-support/nxp-demo-experience-demos-list> to learn about the functions of the corresponding demo.
- The GoPoint demo is designed for the Weston desktop. Switch to the Weston desktop before running the demo.
- Some demos require downloading data. Ensure that the network is available before running the demo. If the network is interrupted during the download, delete any partially downloaded files and try downloading again.
- Occasionally, some demos may encounter a segmentation fault. If this happens, try running the demo again.
- Some demos need to install the software at the beginning of execution. If the program does not start immediately, be patient and wait for a few minutes.

### 3.4.6 Enabling the Wi-Fi module on the i.MX platform

Run the following commands to set up the Wi-Fi connection.

```
$ modprobe moal mod_para=nxp/wifi_mod_para.conf
(This step loads the Wi-Fi/BT module firmware and it shows the log "wlan: Driver
loaded successfully")
$ wpa_passphrase <SSID_name> <password> >> /etc/wpa_supplicant.conf
$ wpa_supplicant -d -B -i wlan0 -c /etc/wpa_supplicant.conf -Dnl80211
$ dhclient -i wlan0
```

The detailed usage can be found in the *Feature Configuration Guide for NXP-based Wireless Modules on i.MX 8M Quad EVK* (document [UM11490](#)).

Steps to configure STA mode using the GNOME GUI:

1. Run `systemctl unmask wpa_supplicant`.
2. Run `reboot`.
3. Run `apt update; apt install dnsmasq; systemctl disable dnsmasq --now`.
4. Run `modprobe moal mod_para=nxp/wifi_mod_para.conf`.
5. Choose **Settings** -> **Wi-Fi**, and then select the SSID to be connected.

Steps to configure AP mode using the GNOME GUI:

1. Run `systemctl unmask wpa_supplicant`.
2. Run `apt update; apt install dnsmasq; systemctl disable dnsmasq --now`.
3. Run `modprobe moal mod_para=nxp/wifi_mod_para.conf`.
4. Run `echo drv_mode=1 > /proc/mwlan/adapter0/config`.
5. Run `iw reg set US; iw reg reload; iw reg get`.
6. Choose **Settings** -> **Wi-Fi** -> **Turn On Wi-Fi Hotspot**.

**Note:** If using command line mode, both AP and STA modes can be used simultaneously. However, if using Wi-Fi through the GNOME Desktop GUI, AP and STA modes cannot be used at the same time.

### 3.4.7 Qt 6 application on Debian Desktop

To support Qt 6 applications, the dependent packages `libqt6core6`, `qt6-base-dev`, and `qt6-wayland` are preinstalled in the i.MX Debian Desktop RootFS by default. Users can build a custom Qt 6 application and put it into Debian Desktop on the target i.MX board. The following picture is a screenshot of the Qt 6 demo application on the i.MX 8M Plus EVK board.

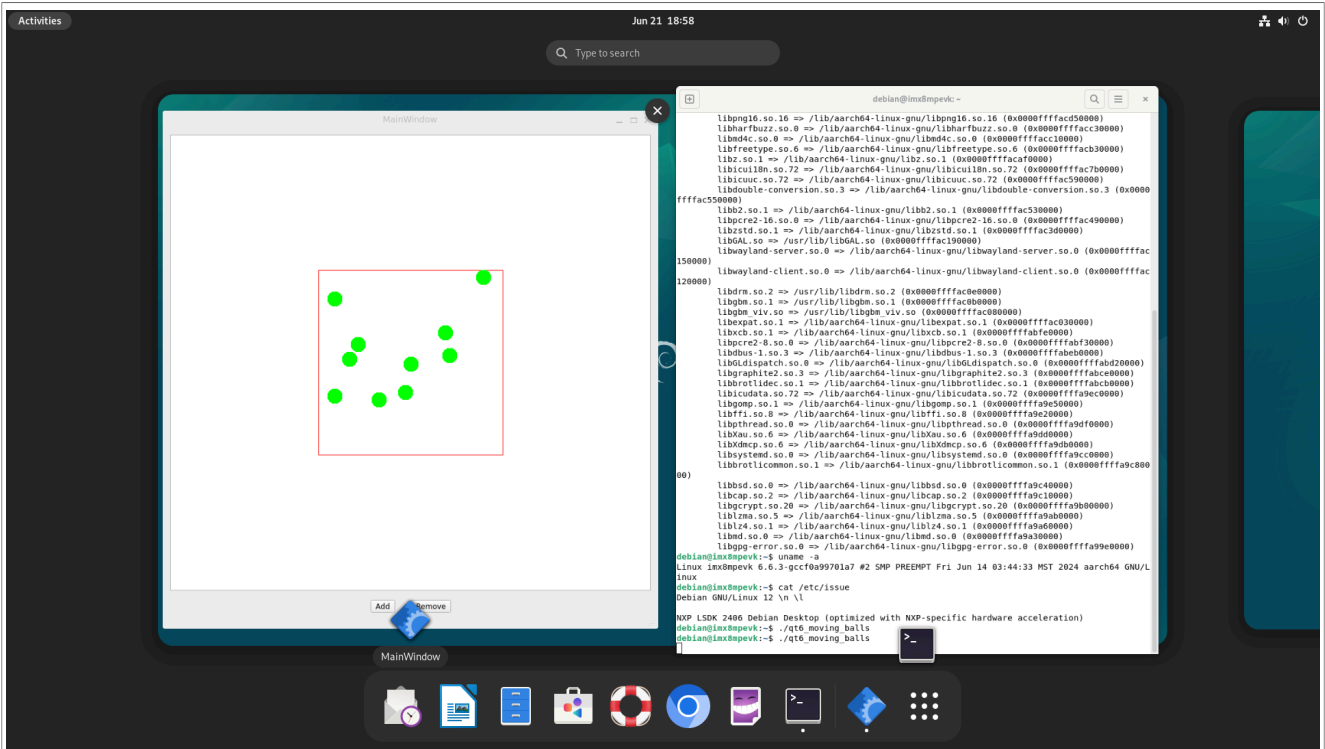


Figure 10. Screenshot of the Qt 6 demo application based on Debian on the i.MX platform

## 4 Building Debian Images with Flexbuild

### 4.1 Introduction

Flexbuild is a component-oriented lightweight build system and integration platform with capabilities of flexible, ease-to-use, scalable system building, and Distro deployment, developed by NXP.

Flexbuild provides a set of scripts, tools, and make files to compile NXP board-specific driver components, create board-specific BSP composite firmware, boot image, and Debian RootFS image. It provides an easy way to create a full-fledged Debian Distro with hardware-accelerated components for NXP platforms, using a single command. Once the image is built, users can directly deploy it onto an SD card.

### 4.2 Build environment

Host prerequisites to build the Debian Distro:

Debian 13, Ubuntu 22.04, or Ubuntu 24.04 with Docker installed.

Perform the following steps to install the Docker:

1. Run the following command.

```
sudo apt install docker.io
```

2. Users must have the `sudo` permission for Docker commands or be added to the Docker group as follows. Change the current group to "docker", and add the account to it and restart the Docker service.

```
$ sudo newgrp - docker
$ sudo usermod -aG docker <accountname>
$ sudo gpasswd -a <accountname> docker
$ sudo service docker restart
```

3. Verify that the Docker installation is successful by running the hello-world image.

```
$ docker run hello-world
$ docker ps -a
```

#### Note:

*Linux host machine should be able to access the external Internet in your network environment.*

*If the Linux host machine is under a subnet that needs the HTTP proxy to access the external Internet, set the HTTP proxy as follows in `/etc/profile.d/proxy.sh` and source it.*

```
export http_proxy="http://<domain>:<port>"
export https_proxy="https://<domain>:<port>"
export no_proxy="localhost"
source /etc/profile.d/proxy.sh
```

### 4.3 Flexbuild usages

#### 4.3.1 Getting Flexbuild

The Flexbuild repository is hosted at <https://github.com/nxp/flexbuild>.

Run the following command to clone the repository:

```
$ git clone https://github.com/nxp/flexbuild
```

### 4.3.2 Building Debian images in Flexbuild

Run the following commands for the first time to set up the build environment.

```
$ cd flexbuild
$ . setup.env (in host environment)
$ bld docker (create or attach to docker)
$ . setup.env (in docker environment)
$ bld host-dep (optional, install host dependent packages)
$ export LOG_LEVEL=0 (Optional, enable detailed log. The default value is 2,
which means "mute all possible log".)
```

Flexbuild usage:

```
$ bld -m <machine>
or
$ bld <target> [ <option> ]
```

Most used examples with automated build:

```
// automatically build BSP composite firmware + kernel + iMX-specific driver
components + Debian RootFS
$ bld -m imx8mpevk
$ bld -m imx93evk
$ bld -m ls1028ardb
```

When the building is successfully completed, the generated image is located in the directory `build_ksdk2512/images/`.

Taking the i.MX 8M Plus EVK as an example, the following is an explanation of the functions of the compiled output files:

```
$ ls build_ksdk2512/images
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 47 Nov 28 13:06 build_ksdk2512/images/
boot_IMX_arm64_lts_6.12.20.tar.zst ->
boot_IMX_arm64_lts_6.12.20_202511281306.tar.zst
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 47681979 Nov 28 10:06 build_ksdk2512/images/
firmware_imx8mpevk_sdboot.img
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 29776 Nov 28 13:06 build_ksdk2512/images/flex-
installer
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 53 Nov 27 19:13 build_ksdk2512/
images/rootfs_ksdk2512_debian_imx8mpevk.tar.zst ->
rootfs_ksdk2512_debian_imx8mpevk_202511271913.tar.zst
```

Some of these files are symbolic links pointing to the actual files.

- `boot_IMX_arm64_lts_6.12.20.tar.zst` is the boot partition image, typically used for the first partition. It contains the device tree blobs (DTBs), kernel image, and kernel modules.
- `firmware_imx8mpevk_sdboot.img` is the boot firmware image for SD boot, which includes `flash.bin` along with a small embedded kernel, DTB, and root filesystem.
- `rootfs_ksdk2512_debian_imx8mpevk.tar.zst` is the root filesystem (rootfs) image specifically built for the i.MX 8M Plus EVK board.

Use the following command to flash the SD card (taking i.MX 93 EVK as an example, the device is SDC):

```
$ cd build_ksdk2512/images
$ ./flex-installer -i pf -d /dev/sdc (Format the SD card)
/dev/sdc: 62 GB
```

```

Partitioning /dev/sdc ...
Formatting partitions ...
/dev/sdc1 contains a ext4 file system labelled 'boot'
    last mounted on /boot on Thu Mar  6 22:56:16 2025
/dev/sdc2 contains a ext4 file system labelled 'data2'
    last mounted on Thu Mar  6 22:56:32 2025
/dev/sdc3 contains a ext4 file system labelled 'data3'
    last mounted on / on Thu Jan  1 08:09:59 1970
Model: Generic MassStorageClass (scsi)
Disk /dev/sdc: 63.9GB
Sector size (logical/physical): 512B/512B
Partition Table: msdos
Disk Flags:

Number  Start   End     Size    Type    File system  Flags
  1      273MB   810MB   537MB   primary ext4
  2      811MB   9400MB  8590MB  primary ext4
  3      9402MB  63.9GB  54.5GB  primary ext4

partition and format /dev/sdc      [Done]

$ ./flex-installer -b boot_IMX_arm64_lts_6.12.20.tar.zst -f
  firmware_imx93evk_sdboot.img -r rootfs_lsdk2512_debian_imx93evk.tar.zst -m
  imx93evk -d /dev/sdc (flash sd card)
45815+1 records in
45815+1 records out
46914771 bytes (47 MB, 45 MiB) copied, 9.49428 s, 4.9 MB/s
Program firmware_imx93evk_sdboot.img to /dev/sdc with offset 32K      [Done]
Installing boot_IMX_arm64_lts_6.12.20.tar.zst to /dev/sdc1 ...
boot_IMX_arm64_lts_6.12.20.tar.zst: 337479680 bytes
Install boot_IMX_arm64_lts_6.12.20.tar.zst in /dev/sdc1      [Done]
Installing rootfs_lsdk2512_debian_imx93evk.tar.zst to /dev/sdc3 ...
rootfs_lsdk2512_debian_imx93evk.tar.zst: 6561495040 bytes
Install rootfs_lsdk2512_debian_imx93evk.tar.zst in /dev/sdc3      [Done]
setting UUID 38f80f07-0842-4353-a148-212f1c258158 for boot partition /dev/
sdc1 ...
syncing data ...
Installation completed successfully

```

#### Most used example with separate build:

```

$ bld uboot -m imx8mpevk
(compile u-boot image for imx8mpevk)

$ bld atf -m imx8mpevk -b sd
(compile ATF image for SD boot on imx8mpevk)

$ bld linux -m imx8mpevk
(compile linux kernel for all arm64 i.MX machines)

$ bld linux:menuconfig -m imx8mpevk
(customize kernel config options in menu)

$ bld -o -m <machine>
(Enable OPTEE support on <MACHINE>)

$ bld -s -m <machine>
(Enable SECURE BOOT on <MACHINE>, building secure boot image is only supported
on layerscape platform. For IMX platform, need to add SECURE BOOT support
manually)

```

```
$ CONFIG_FUSE_PROVISIONING=y bld -m <machine>
(Enable fuse provisioning on <MACHINE>, Warning: Ensure that enabling this
feature is absolutely necessary before proceeding)

$ bld boot -m imx8mpevk
(generate boot partition tarball including kernel, dtb, modules, distro
bootscript)

$ bld bsp -m imx8mpevk
(generate BSP firmware including atf, u-boot, optee_os, kernel, dtb, peripheral-
firmware, initramfs)

$ bld rfs -m imx8mpevk
(generate Debian desktop rootfs with more graphics and multimedia packages)

$ bld apps -m imx8mpevk
(compile iMX-specific apps against runtime dependencies of Debian RootFS)

$ bld merge-apps -m imx8mpevk
(merge iMX-specific apps into target Debian desktop RootFS)

$ bld packrfs -m imx8mpevk
(pack and compress target rootfs as rootfs_lsdk_2512_debian_imx8mpevk.tar.zst)

$ bld packapps -m imx8mpevk
(pack and compress target app components as apps_arm64_debian_imx8mpevk.deb)

$ bld list
(list enabled machines and supported components)

$ bld docker
(create or attach docker container to build in docker)

$ bld clean
(clean all obsolete firmware/linux/apps images except rootfs image)

$ bld clean-apps -m imx8mpevk
(clean obsolete apps images based on debian desktop)

$ bld clean-rfs -m imx8mpevk
(clean target debian RootFS)

$ bld clean-bsp -m imx8mpevk
(clean obsolete bsp image)

$ bld clean-linux -m imx8mpevk
(clean obsolete linux image)

$ bld dpdk -m imx8mpevk
(build DPDK component)
```

### 4.3.3 Where is the source code stored?

**Note:** You must have successfully compiled a complete machine previously. Otherwise, the source directories do not exist. This means that you should have run a command similar to: `$ bld -m <machine>`.

- Kernel and kernel modules related source code is located in: `<flexbuild dir>/components_lsdk2512/linux/`.

- BSP (including U-Boot, ATF, RCW, etc.) related code is located in: `<flexbuild dir>/components_lsdk2512/bsp`.
- Applications related code is categorized into graphics, multimedia, machine learning, and other relevant categories, and is stored in their respective subdirectories within: `<flexbuild dir>/components_lsdk2512/apps/`.

#### 4.3.4 How to modify and recompile the source code

- To modify the Linux or Device Tree Blob (DTB):

1. Navigate to the Linux source directory:

```
$ cd components_lsdk2512/linux/
```

2. Update your source code or DTB files.
3. Go back to the previous directory:

```
$ cd -
```

4. Compile the Linux kernel (using the i.MX platform as an example):

```
$ LOG_LEVEL=0 bld linux -m imx8mpevk
```

5. The compiled output is in the `build_lsdk2512/linux/linux/arm64/IMX` directory. Copy the necessary image or DTB files to your target board for use.

**Note:** To use the *flex-installer* tool to flash the newly generated kernel image or DTB, run the following command to generate the boot image `boot_IMX_arm64_lts_6.6.52.tar.zst`:

```
$ LOG_LEVEL=0 bld boot -m imx8mpevk
```

- To modify the U-Boot or ATF Code:

1. Navigate to the U-Boot or ATF source directory:

```
$ cd components_lsdk2512/bsp/uboot/ or components_lsdk2512/bsp/atf/
```

2. Update the source code.
3. Compile U-Boot (replacing with your specific machine name):

```
$ LOG_LEVEL=0 bld uboot -m <machine>
```

4. The compiled results is in `build_lsdk2512/bsp/u-boot/`.

**Note:** Typically, U-Boot or ATF files alone cannot be used independently. You need to generate a boot image using the following command:

```
$ bld bsp -m <machine>
```

The result is located at `build_lsdk2512/images/firmware_<machine>_<boot_type>.img`. This file can be installed using *flex-installer*.

- To modify and Use the Application Source Code:

1. Navigate to the application module's directory (using `imx_lib` as an example):

```
$ cd components_lsdk2512/apps/multimedia/imx_lib/
```

2. Modify the relevant code. Go back to the previous directory:

```
$ cd -
```

3. Compile the application module (replacing `<machine>` with your specific machine name):

```
$ bld imx_lib -m <machine>
```

4. The compiled code is located under `build_lsdk2512/apps/apps_debian_<machine>/`. Usually, the compiled output of a single component consists of multiple files, making them inconvenient for standalone use. In such cases, perform the following steps:
  - a. Merge applications into the target root filesystem:

```
$ bld merge-apps -m <machine>
```

- b. Repackage to generate a new root filesystem:

```
$ bld packrfs -m <machine>
```

The new root filesystem is located at `build_lsdk2512/images/rootfs_lsdk2512_debian_<machine>.tar.zst`, which can then be installed using `flex-installer`.

### 4.3.5 How to modify code using patches

Follow the steps below to apply patches.

1. Create the corresponding directory (if the patch directory is not created yet).
  2. Place your new patch:  
Copy your generated patch file into the `patch/<components>` directory, alongside with any existing patches.
  3. Clean the old code of component:  
This ensures that during your recompilation, the system applies all patches, including the new one. Take `imx_lib` as an example:
- ```
$ bld clean imx_lib -m <machine>
```
4. Recompile the source code:  
See [Section 4.3.4](#) for recompilation instructions.  
The new patch is then automatically applied during this process.

### 4.3.6 How to add or remove a deb package in Flexbuild

Besides adding or removing a deb package by `sudo apt install <package>` or `sudo apt remove <package>` directly on the Debian system on the target board, users can also add or remove a deb package in/ from Flexbuild during the build stage for customization.

If there is already an existing Debian RootFS on the host machine, run the following commands to install a new deb package or remove a deb package:

```
$ sudo chroot build_lsdk2512/rfs/rootfs_lsdk2512_debian_<machine> apt install <package>
$ sudo chroot build_lsdk2512/rfs/rootfs_lsdk2512_debian_<machine> apt remove <package>
$ bld packrfs -m <machine>
(pack the target Debian RootFS as .tar.zst if needed)
```

### 4.3.7 How to add a new custom component in Flexbuild

To add a new component called `hello_world`, perform the following steps:

1. Set the relevant URL and tag/commit information for the new component.

You can edit `configs/repo.yml` to set the repository URL with a tag or commit for the `hello_world` Git tree if needed.

2. Create a makefile `src/apps/<subsystem>/hello_world.mk` to add the build object for this component.

According to the various types of the build system (e.g., `make`, `cmake`, `meson`) in the new component, refer to the following examples to add the `hello_world.mk` file.

- For building with `make`, refer to `src/apps/utils/imx_test.mk`.
- For building with `cmake`, refer to `src/apps/graphics/gputop.mk`.
- For building with `meson`, refer to `src/apps/multimedia/cheese.mk`.

3. Build the new component based on the target ARM64 Debian RootFS.

```
$ bld <component> -m <machine>
e.g.
$ bld hello_world -m <machine>
```

4. Merger the new component into the target Debian RootFS.

```
$ bld merge-apps -m <machine>
```

5. Pack the target Debian RootFS.

```
$ bld packrfs -m <machine>
```

### 4.3.8 How to add a new board in Flexbuild

To add a custom board called `imx8mpabc`, perform the following steps:

**Note:** The new board name must start with the platform name. For example, if the new board is based on *i.MX 8M Plus*, the board name must be referenced as `imx8mpxyz`.

1. Fetch the source Git repositories of various components in Flexbuild for the first time.

```
$ git clone https://github.com/nxp/flexbuild
$ cd flexbuild
$ . setup.env (in host environment)
$ bld docker (create or attach to docker)
$ . setup.env (in docker environment)
$ bld host-dep (install host dependent packages)
```

2. (Optional) Add the board-specific BSP related patches for the custom board if needed.

See [Section 4.3.5](#) for how to apply patches.

3. Add configurations for a custom board in Flexbuild.

- Add a configuration file in `configs/board/<board>.conf`.  
Copy an existing configuration file of a similar board and make necessary changes in the new `.conf` file.
- (Optional) Add a node for the new board in `configs/linux/linux_arm64_IMX.its` to generate the `.itb` image.

4. Build the BSP composite firmware image for the new board.

```
$ bld clean-bsp
(optionally, to clean the obsolete bsp images)
$ bld atf -m imx8mpabc -b sd
$ bld uboot -m imx8mpabc -b sd
$ bld linux -m imx8mpabc
$ bld bsp -m imx8mpabc
$ bld boot -m imx8mpabc
```

This generates the `firmware_imx8mpabc_sdboot.img` and `boot_IMX_arm64_lts.tar.zst` images for the new board.

5. Build application components based on Debian RootFS if needed.

```
$ bld rfs -m imx8mpabc
$ bld apps -m imx8mpabc
$ bld merge-apps -m imx8mpabc
$ bld packrfs -m imx8mpabc
```

6. Deploy the Distro image on the SD card.

- To install the BSP composite firmware image only onto the SD card, run the following command:

```
$ sudo dd if=firmware_imx8mpabc_sdboot.img of=/dev/mmcblkX bs=1k seek=32
```

- To install the custom Debian Distro images onto the SD card, run the following commands:

```
$ flex-installer -i pf -d <device>
(partition and format SD card)
$ flex-installer -d <device> -m <machine> -f <firmware> -b <boot> -r
<rootfs>
```

e.g.

```
$ cd build_lsdk2512/images
$ flex-installer -i pf -d /dev/mmcblkX
$ flex-installer -d /dev/mmcblk1 -m imx8mpabc \
-f firmware_imx8mpabc_sdboot.img \
-b boot_IMX_arm64_lts_6.12.20 \
-r rootfs_lsdk2512_debian_imx8mpabc.tar.zst
```

(The path of image can be directory or .tar.zst or .tar.gz format.)

7. Boot up Debian on the board.

Plug the SD card in the target board and power it on. It automatically boots the Debian system. Under U-Boot, if the automated Distro boot is not supported on the board, boot it manually by setting the appropriate U-Boot environment.

## 5 FAQs

### 5.1 How to burn i.MX Debian Linux SDK images generated by Flexbuild to SD card or eMMC device by UUU tool?

1. Build Debian images by Flexbuild.

```
$ bld -m imx8mpevk
```

2. Generate the sdcard.wic image by flex-installer as follows:

```
$ flex-installer -i mkwic -m imx8mpevk \
-f build_<version>/images/firmware_imx8mpevk_sdboot.img \
-b build_<version>/images/boot_IMX_arm64_<lts_version>.tar.zst \
-r build_<version>/rfs/rootfs_<lsdk_version>_debian_<machine>
```

3. Set the DIP switch to USB serial download mode and burn images by UUU.

```
$ uuu -b emmc_all build_lsdk2512/bsp/imx-mkimage/imx8mpevk/flash.bin
sdcard.wic (uncompressed format, or '-b sd_all' for SD)
or
$ uuu -b emmc_all build_lsdk2512/bsp/imx-mkimage/imx8mpevk/flash.bin
sdcard.wic.zstd (compressed format, or '-b sd_all' for SD)
```

## 5.2 How to fix the build issue with log `"/usr/bin/apt-key: cannot create /dev/null: Permission denied"` when running `bld rfs` in Flexbuild on certain Linux host?

This issue might be caused by the settings of disk access permission. You can change `nodev` to `dev`, `noexec` to `exec`, `nosuid` to `suid` in `/etc/fstab` on the host machine and reboot the host. Then run the following commands:

```
$ bld clean-rfs -m <machine>
$ bld rfs -m <machine>
```

## 5.3 How to install the Chinese input method package on board?

1. Set the local Locale.

```
$ dpkg-reconfigure locales
```

Choose **en\_US.UTF-8** and **zh\_CN.UTF-8**.

Press the **Tab** key to choose **OK** for confirmation, and then choose **en\_US.UTF-8** locale.

2. Install the Chinese fonts.

```
$ sudo apt-get update
$ sudo apt-get install xfonts-intl-chinese wqy*
```

3. Install the Chinese input method package.

```
$ sudo apt-get install ibus ibus-gtk ibus-pinyin ibus-libpinyin
```

4. Reboot the Debian system. Choose **Settings -> Keyboard**. Click **+** in **Input Source**. Add an input source, and choose **Chinese** (Intelligent Pinyin).
5. Run the `gnome-tweaks` command to enable the buttons of minimization and maximization on the left title bar of the window.

## 6 Related Documentation

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For more information about productions, see the following documentations:

**Note:** Obtain the documents UG10163, UG10166, RM00293, UG10159, and UG10165 from the webpage [Embedded Linux for i.MX Applications Processors](#).

- *i.MX Linux User's Guide* (UG10163)  
Provides information on installing U-Boot and Linux OS and using i.MX-specific features.
- *i.MX Machine Learning User's Guide* (UG10166)  
Provides the machine learning information.
- *i.MX Linux Reference Manual* (RM00293)  
Provides information on Linux drivers for i.MX.
- *i.MX Graphics User's Guide* (UG10159)  
Describes the graphics features.
- *i.MX Porting Guide* (UG10165)  
Provides the instructions on porting the BSP to a new board.
- *i.MX 8M Plus EVK Quick Start Guide* ([8MPLUSEVKQSG](#))
- *i.MX 8M Mini EVK Quick Start Guide* ([8MMINIEVKQSG](#))
- *i.MX 93 EVK Quick Start Guide* ([IMX93EVKQSG](#))
- *Layerscape Debian Linux SDK User Guide* ([UG10143](#))

## 7 Note About the Source Code in the Document

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## 8 Revision History

The following table provides the revision history for this document.

### Revision history

| Document ID            | Release date     | Description                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| UG10155 v.LDLSDK_25.12 | 26 December 2025 | Updated the Linux information to be compatible with LF6.12.20_2.0.0.                                                                                                                     |
| UG10155 v.LDLSDK_25.06 | 14 July 2025     | Added an example of flashing an SD card in <a href="#">Section 4.3.2</a> , and added <a href="#">Section 4.3.3</a> , <a href="#">Section 4.3.4</a> , and <a href="#">Section 4.3.5</a> . |
| UG10155 v.LDLSDK_25.06 | 27 June 2025     | Release for Debian Linux SDK v25.06.                                                                                                                                                     |
| UG10155 v.LDLSDK_24.12 | 19 May 2025      | Corrected the typo of the revision number from "IDLSDK_24.12" to "LDLSDK_24.12".                                                                                                         |
| UG10155 v.IDLSDK_24.12 | 30 December 2024 | Release for Debian Linux SDK v24.12.                                                                                                                                                     |
| UG10155 v.IDLSDK_24.06 | 16 August 2024   | Initial release for Debian Linux SDK v24.06.                                                                                                                                             |

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