

UM11675

How to Download and Build NXP Wi-Fi Drivers

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User manual

Document information

Information	Content
Keywords	NXP Wi-Fi driver source, Git tool, Windows OS, Linux OS, firmware binaries
Abstract	Guidelines to install Git on Linux/Windows systems, and download NXP Wi-Fi driver source files and firmware binaries from Git tool



1 Overview

This document describes how to download NXP Wi-Fi driver source and firmware binaries from GitHub. The user must first install the Git tool running on Linux and Windows PCs.

Note: *The URL to download the Wi-Fi driver source has changed from CodeAurora to GitHub in September 2022.*

2 Installing Git

This section describes the steps for Git installation. Before you start using Git, it should be installed on the system. If Git is already installed, make sure to use the latest version.

2.1 Installing Git on Linux

Use following command to install Git on the Debian-based distribution.

```
# sudo apt-get install git
```

2.2 Installing Git on Windows

- Download Git application using [ref.\[4\]](#).
- Double-click the executable file (.exe).
- Keep the default options and click **Next** to initiate the installation.

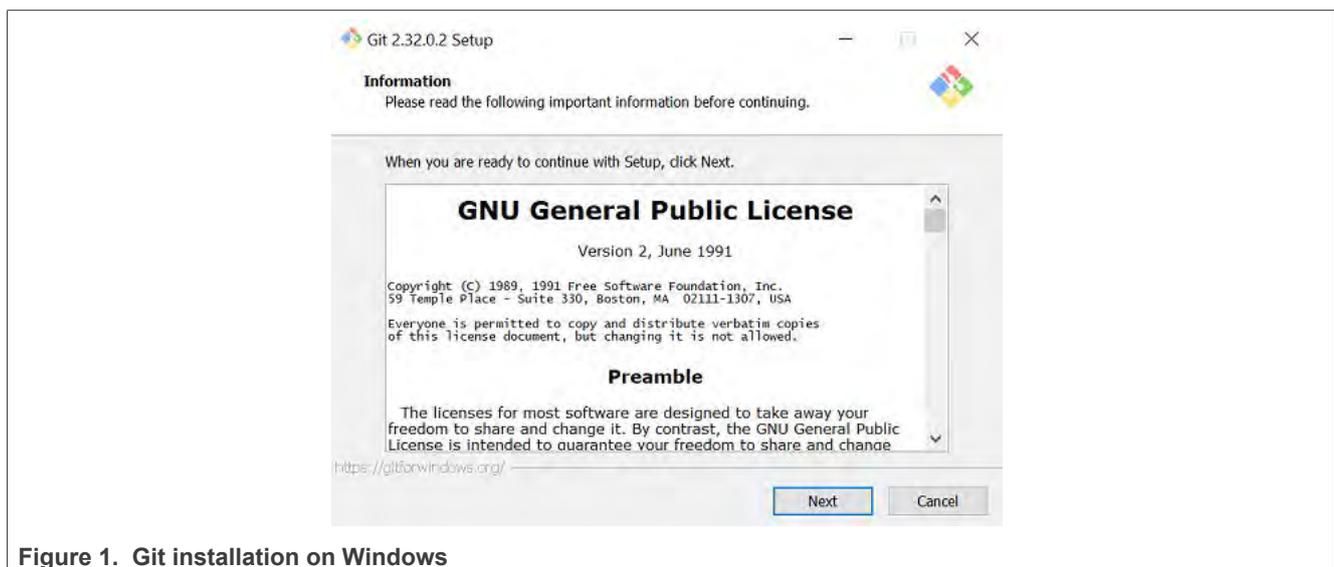


Figure 1. Git installation on Windows

When the installation is complete, Git CMD and Git GUI are available in Windows Explorer.

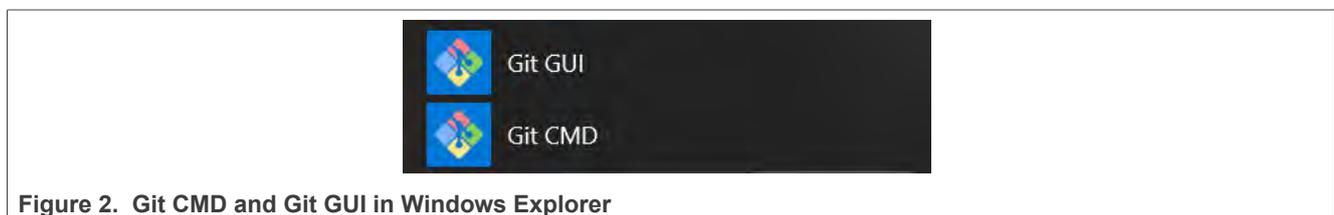


Figure 2. Git CMD and Git GUI in Windows Explorer

3 Download of NXP Wi-Fi driver source

This section shows how to use the Git tool to download NXP Wi-Fi driver source on your Windows or Linux Ubuntu system.

Note: HCI Bluetooth UART driver is open source and available in the Linux kernel source. The Bluetooth features are validated with the BlueZ version 5.56.

3.1 Using Git GUI on Windows

- Launch Git GUI.
- Click **Clone Existing Repository**.

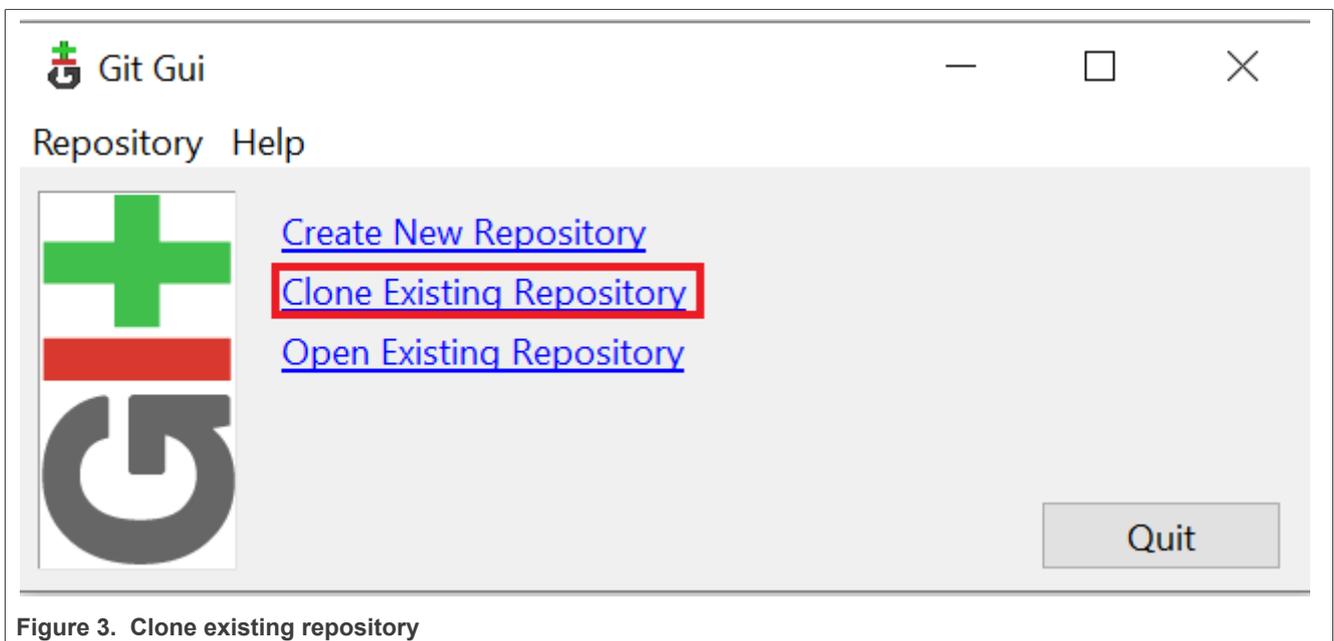


Figure 3. Clone existing repository

- Capture the address to the **source location** (ref.[3]).
- Define the **target directory** for NXP Wi-Fi driver source to download.

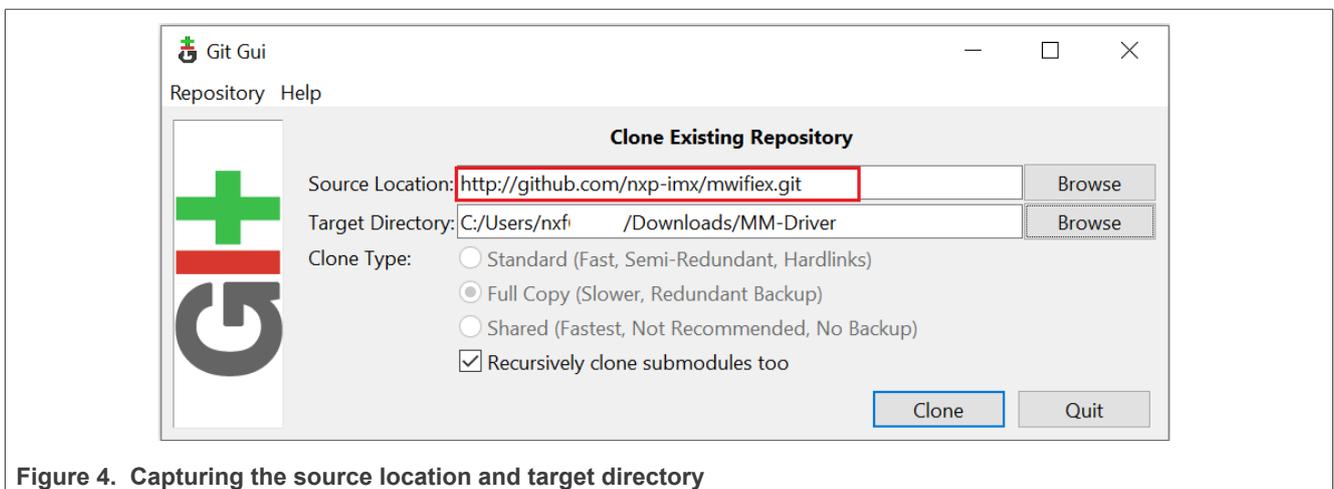


Figure 4. Capturing the source location and target directory

- To initiate the download of NXP Wi-Fi driver source, click the **Clone** button.

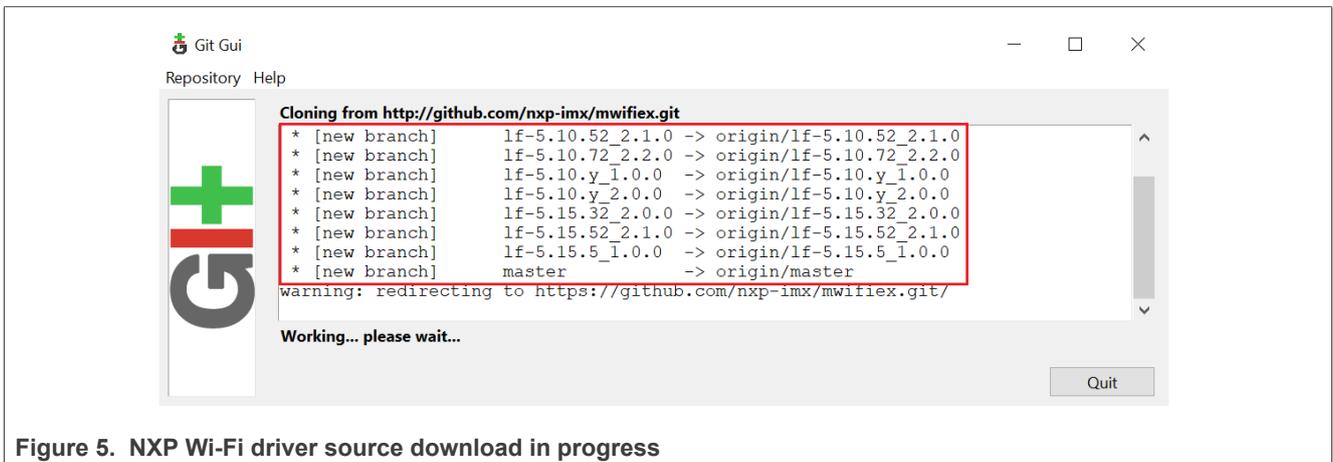


Figure 5. NXP Wi-Fi driver source download in progress

Once the download is complete, the driver source is available in the target directory.

3.2 Using Git CMD on Windows

- Launch Git CMD from Windows Explorer
- Go your Windows home directory
- Use `mkdir` command to create the *source* directory to store NXP Wi-Fi driver source
- Use `cd` command to go to *source* directory

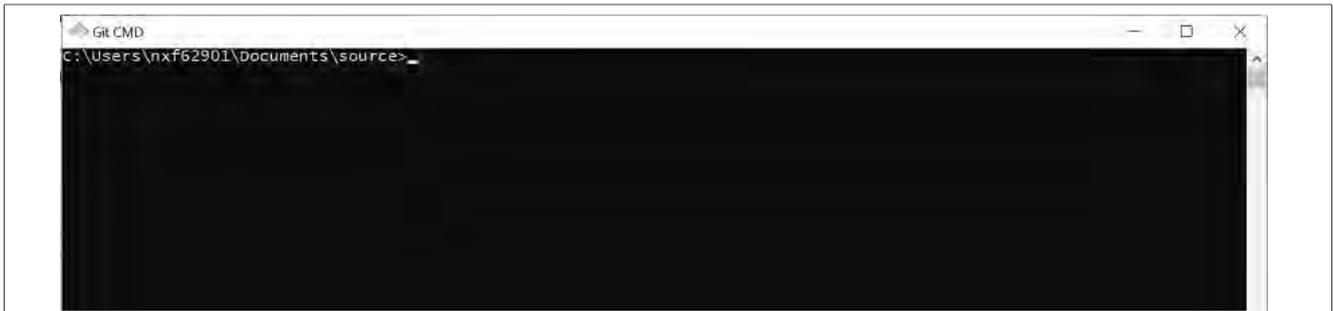


Figure 6. User home directory in Git CMD

- Use the `git clone` command to download NXP Wi-Fi driver source

```
git clone http://github.com/nxp-imx/mwifiex.git
```

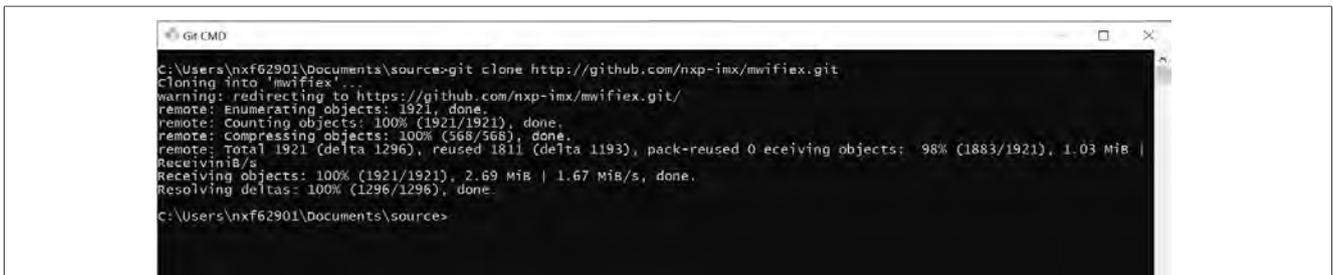


Figure 7. `git clone` command output

Once the download completed, NXP Wi-Fi driver source is available in the (*source*) directory.

3.3 Using Git CMD on Linux

- Launch the Linux terminal (CTRL+ALT+T)

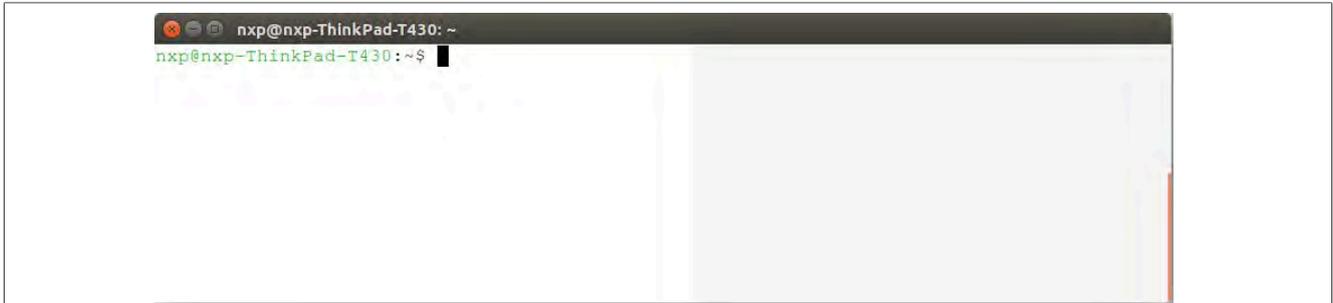


Figure 8. Git CMD prompt on Linux

- Go your Linux home directory
- Use `mkdir` command to create the *source* directory to store NXP Wi-Fi driver source
- Use `cd` command to go to *source* directory
- Use `git clone` command to download the Wi-Fi driver source

```
$ git clone http://github.com/nxp-imx/mwifiex.git
```



Figure 9. git-clone command output in Linux

Once the download completed, NXP Wi-Fi driver source is available in the *source* directory.

4 Download of firmware binaries

The firmware binary is available for download in GitHub. You can use either the command line or GitHub website to download the binaries.

4.1 Download using command line

- Follow the steps in [Section 3.1](#) or [Section 3.2](#) for Windows and [Section 3.3](#) for Linux to open the Git tool.
- Issue the `git clone` command to transfer the firmware binaries, and go to the directory with the new content:

```
# git clone https://github.com/NXP/imx-firmware.git
# cd imx-firmware/nxp/
```

4.2 Download using GitHub website

- Open a web browser and access *NXP/imx-firmware* page from [ref.\[2\]](#).

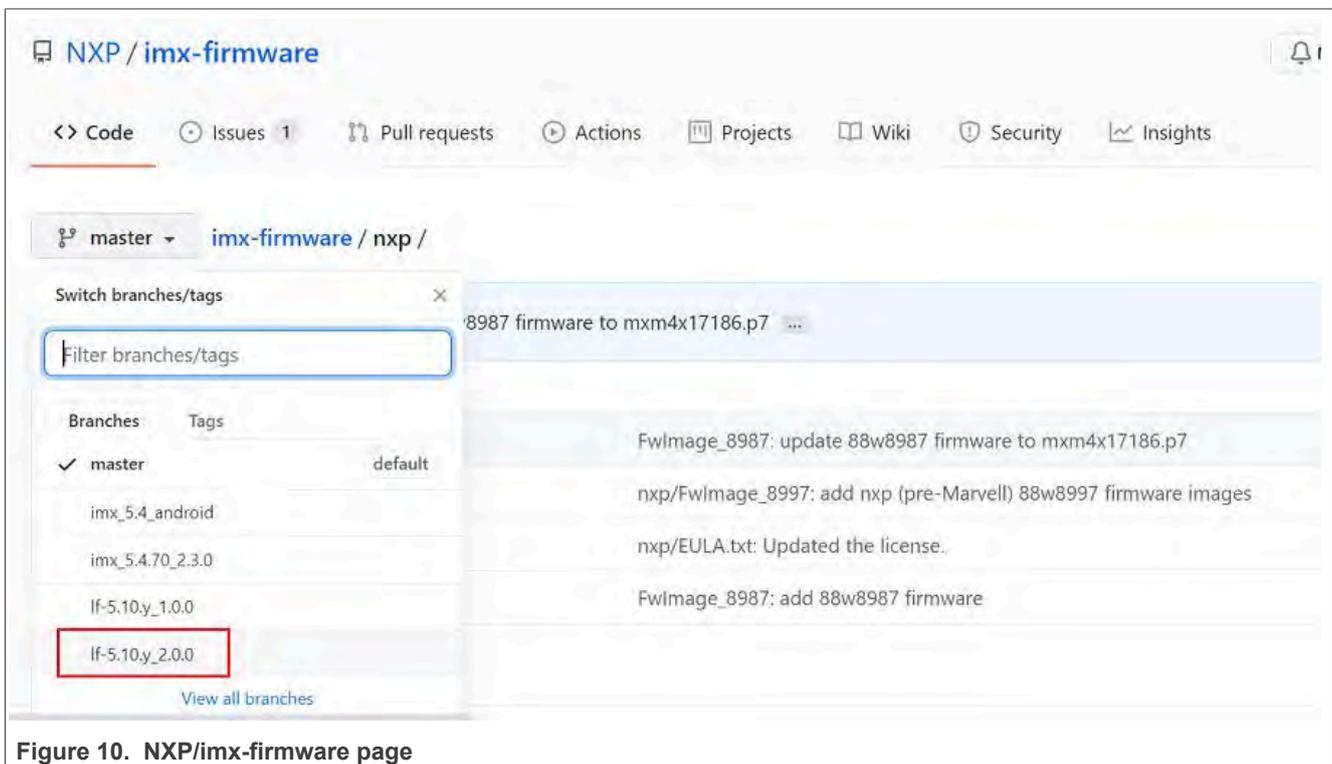


Figure 10. NXP/imx-firmware page

- Select the branch

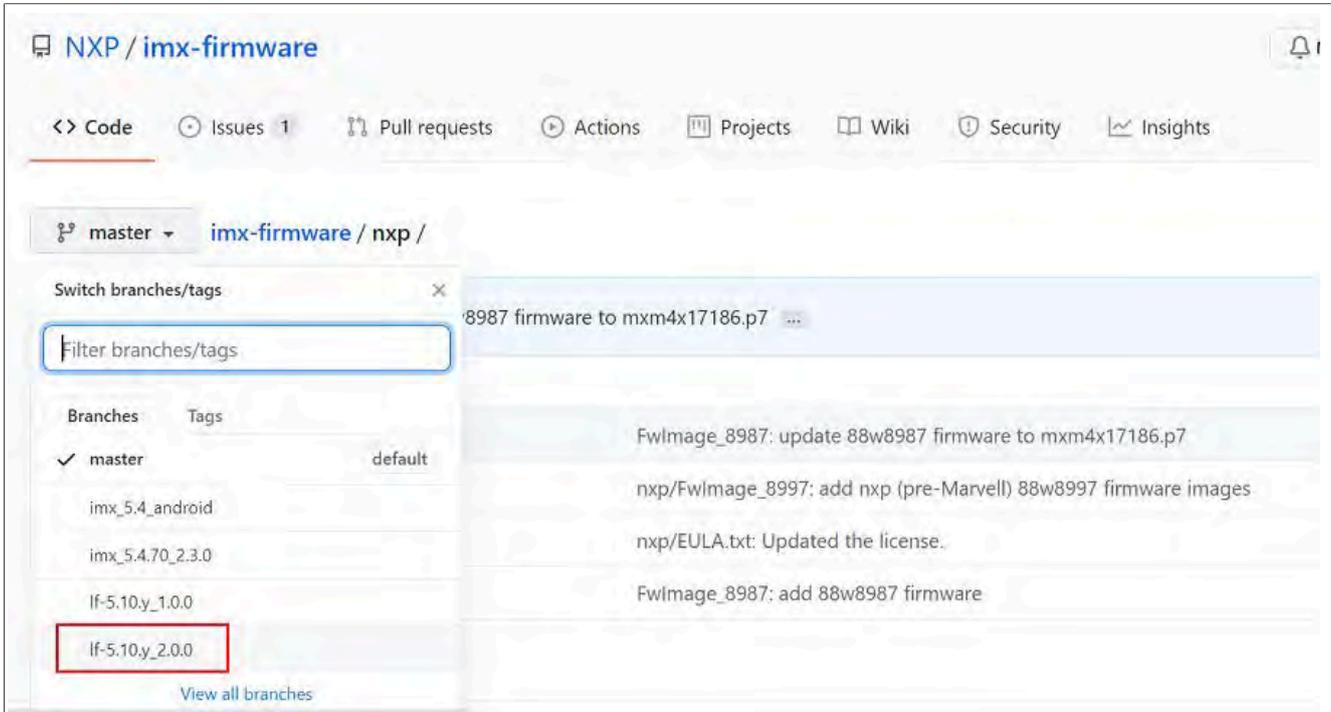


Figure 11. Selecting the branch

- Select the product for the firmware binary. [Figure 12](#) shows the example of 88W8997.



Figure 12. Selecting the product

- Click the **Download** button to initiate the firmware download



Figure 13. Initiating the firmware download

5 Build the driver for ARM64 platforms

This section describes the steps to build the driver package including the utility for ARM64 platforms.

The examples include building the driver for the following platforms:

- i.MX 8M evaluation platform (EVK) with Yocto build system
- Generic ARM64 platform

5.1 i.MX 8M evaluation platform with Yocto

This section shows how to generate a development SDK, build the toolchain, the driver, and utils binary.

Step 1 – Generate the development SDK

- Issue the command to generate an SDK from the Yocto Project build Yocto Project build environment

```
$ DISTRO=<distro name> MACHINE=<machine name> source  
imx-setup-release.sh -b <build dir>
```

- To set up the Yocto Project build environment, see [ref.\[1\]](#).
- For valid DISTRO options, see the section *Build configurations* in i.MX Yocto Project User's Guide (IMXLXOCTOUG).

Step 2 – Build the toolchain.

- Issue the command to build the toolchain from the *build* directory.

```
$ bitbake meta-toolchain-qt6
```

Step 3 – Install the toolchain and tools.

- Stay in the *build* directory.
- Execute the script located in *tmp/deploy/sdk/* directory.

```
$ sudo tmp/deploy/sdk/fsl-imx-wayland-glibc-x86_64-meta-toolchain-qt6-armv8a-imx8mqevk-  
toolchain-6.6-scarthgap.sh
```

Note: The name of the toolchain and/or script depends on your build machine and on the bitbake image.

- When prompted about the directory to install the toolchain, accept the default options.

The following message confirms the installation completion:

```
SDK has been successfully set up and is ready to be used
```

Step 4 – Set up the toolchain environment on the host terminal window.

- Issue the command to set up the toolchain environment on the host terminal window.

```
$ source <toolchain installed directory>/environment-setup-<toolchain script>
```

Example for i.MX 8M EVK:

```
$ source /opt/fsl-imx-wayland/6.6-scarthgap/environment-setup-armv8a-poky-linux
```

- Check that new environment variables are correctly set for the target i.MX 8 EVK.

```
$ echo $ARCH
arm64
$ echo $CROSS_COMPILE
aarch64-poky-linux
```

- Export *KERNELDIR* directory to build the compatible driver modules.
- Check that the Linux kernel version in *KERNELDIR* directory matches the Linux kernel version on the target i.MX 8M EVK.

```
$ export KERNELDIR=/<absolute directory path to yocto build>/tmp/work/imx8mqevk-poky-
linux/linux-imx/6.6.52+git/build/
```

Step 5 – Build the driver and utils.

- Issue the `cd` command to go to the directory with the driver source file.

```
$ cd <driver source wlan_src directory>
```

- Issue the `make` command to build the driver.

```
$ make clean
$ make build
```

The *bin_wlan* directory is created outside *wlan_src*. *bin_wlan* includes the driver and utils binary.

5.2 Build for ARM64 generic platforms

To build drivers for generic ARM64 platforms, first set up the toolchain for the generic ARM64 platform.

Refer to your platform BSP build environment setup guide for the steps and procedure.

Once the toolchain installation and setup are complete, follow the steps below to build the driver and utils.

Step 1 – Export *KERNELDIR* directory

- Export *KERNELDIR* directory to build the compatible driver modules.
- Check that the Linux kernel version in *KERNELDIR* directory path matches the Linux kernel version on your ARM64 platform

```
$ export KERNELDIR=/absolute path to kernel build directory/
```

Step 2 – Build the driver and utils binary

- Issue the `cd` command to go to the directory with the driver source file

```
$ cd <driver source wlan_src directory>
```

- Issue the `make` command to build the driver

```
$ make clean  
$ make build
```

The *bin_wlan* directory is created outside *wlan_src* directory. *bin_wlan* directory includes the driver and utils binary.

6 References

- [1] User guide – IMXLXYOCTOUG: i.MX Yocto Project User's Guide ([link](#))
- [2] NXP GitHub – *nxp* directory with firmware images ([link](#))
- [3] NXP GitHub – MXM Wi-Fi Driver ([link](#))
- [4] Webpage – Git – Download for Windows ([link](#))

7 Note about the source code in the document

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8 Revision history

Revision history

Document ID	Date	Description
UM11675 v.4.0	30 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section 5.1 "i.MX 8M evaluation platform with Yocto":<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Updated the command to build the toolchain (step 2).– Updated the command to install the toolchain (step 3).– Updated the example of command for i.MX 8M EVK in step 4.– Updated the command to export <code>KERNELDIR</code> directory in step 4.• Section 6 "References": added.
UM11675 v.3.0	12 October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section 1 "Overview": updated• Section 3.1 "Using Git GUI on Windows": replaced the URL of the source location, Figure 4, and Figure 5• Section 3.2 "Using Git CMD on Windows": updated the <code>git clone</code> command to download NXP Wi-Fi driver source, and replaced Figure 7• Section 3.3 "Using Git CMD on Linux": replaced the URL in the <code>git-clone</code> command to download the Wi-Fi driver source and replaced the two figures
UM11675 v.2.0	29 March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated the document title• Section 5 "Build the driver for ARM64 platforms": added
UM11675 v.1.0	21 September 2021	Initial version

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