

Build Instructions for neard (Linux NFC) for AM335x + TRF7970A

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this document is to describe the steps / process required to correctly build and test Linux NFC (neard) on AM335x (Cortex-A8) based BeagleBone + BeagleBone RF Cape + TRF7970ATB connected platform, using the Texas Instruments Sitara Software Development Kit (SDK) v07.00 and associated TI SDK file system in conjunction with the neard NFC stack.

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1 Scope

This document describes how to build the necessary components for NFC using the Sitar Software Development Kit (SDK) 07.00. It also covers the adding of a Linux-based NFC driver to TI's Software Development Kit (SDK) 07.00, the building of the neard stack, installing or placing onto a target file system, and installing the associated tools (Python) that are needed to test NFC functions on that target file system and associated hardware.

URL for accessing the AM335x collateral:

http://software-dl.ti.com/sitara_linux/esd/AM335xSDK/latest/index_FDS.html

SDK Product Download URL:

http://software-dl.ti.com/sitara_linux/esd/AM335xSDK/latest/exports/ti-sdk-am335x-evm-07.00.00.00-Linux-x86-Install.bin

Code Composer Studio for Sitar ARM (choose Linux):

http://processors.wiki.ti.com/index.php/Download_CCS#Code_Composer_Studio_Version_6_Downloads

The building of the kernel, the associated driver modules, neard, and Python tools is done on a host machine (Linux PC) and the resulting output is copied to the respective directories on the target file system (SD Card).

NOTE: This build was performed and tested on a Linux PC with Ubuntu 12.04. Problems were encountered when building the neard stack with Ubuntu 10.04, because certain v10.04 libraries are out of date. Future releases of AM335x SDKs from Texas Instruments will require Ubuntu 12.04.

2 Hardware

Figure 1 through Figure 3 show the hardware that is used with the provided software.

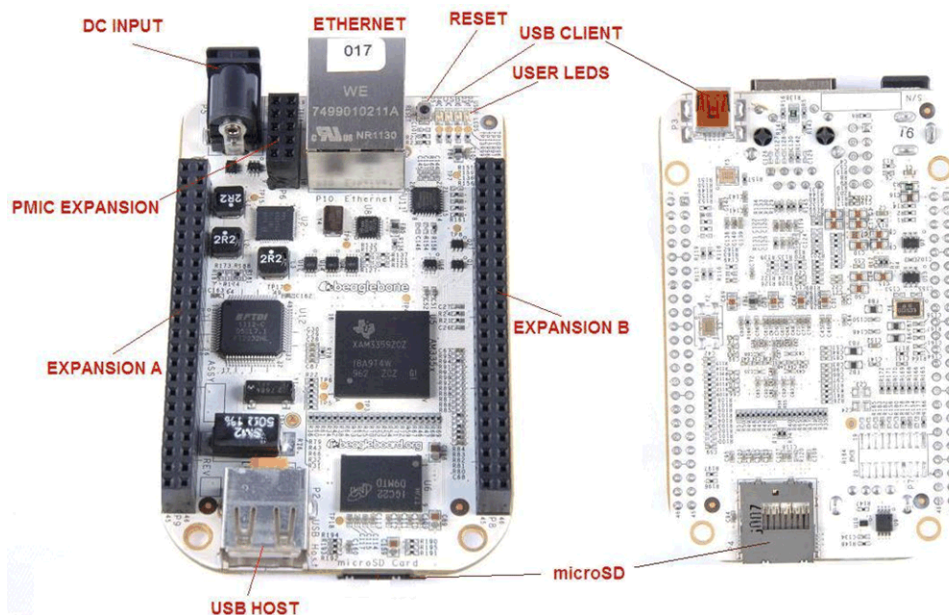


Figure 1. BeagleBone White Development Board

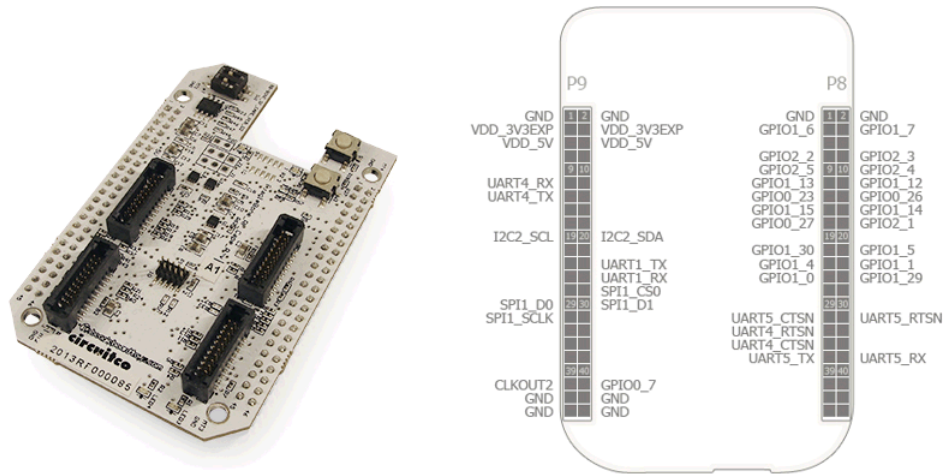


Figure 2. BeagleBone RF Cape Board and Pinout

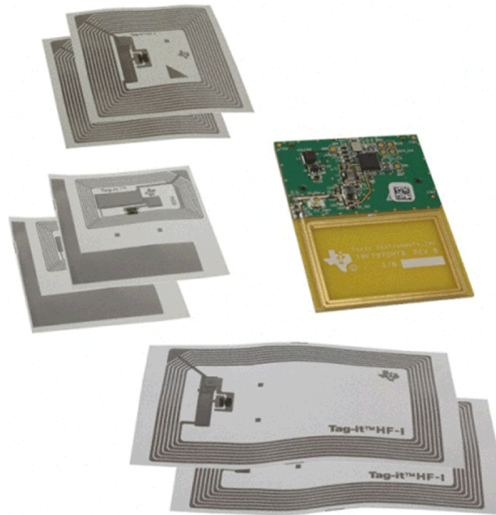


Figure 3. TRF7970ATB NFC/RFID Transceiver Module (With NFC/RFID Inlays)

Figure 4 shows the boards stacked together to create the complete hardware platform.

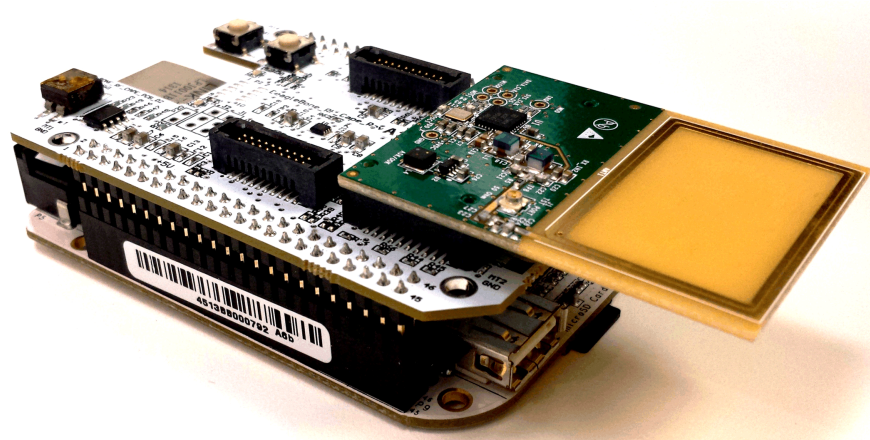


Figure 4. Connected Hardware Stack-Up

3 Adding NFC to the Linux Kernel

Create a working directory and download the latest NFC code base from this link:

http://software-dl.ti.com/dsp/forums/self_cert_export.html?prod_no=trf7970a_support.tar.bz2&ref_url=http://software-dl.ti.com/msp430/msp430_public_sw/mcu/msp430/Linux-NFC-TRF7970A

Perform the following steps (assuming you have git installed on your Ubuntu v12.04 PC):

1. \$ cd **<SDK Root Directory>**/board-support
2. \$ tar -xjf trf7970a_support.tar.bz2 (these are the kernel patches)
3. \$ cd linux-3.12.10-ti2013.12.01
4. \$ git checkout -b ti/master (makes new branch with name ti/master)
5. \$ git add . (this stages any files that may have not been previously committed)
6. \$ git commit (this commits the files that have been staged)
7. \$ git checkout -b nfc-patches (makes new branch and checks it out, this is for adding the patches from the tarball)
8. \$ git am .. /trf7970a_support/* (this applies the patches from the tarball)

4 Building the Modified Linux Kernel

Perform the following steps to create a new kernel image with supporting modules:

1. export PATH=**<SDK Root Directory>**/linux-devkit/sysroots/i686-arago-linux/usr/bin:\$PATH
2. make ARCH=arm CROSS_COMPILE=arm-linux-gnueabi-hf- distclean
3. make ARCH=arm CROSS_COMPILE=arm-linux-gnueabi-hf- tisd_k_am335x-evm_defconfig
4. make ARCH=arm CROSS_COMPILE=arm-linux-gnueabi-hf- menuconfig
 - [*]Networking Support --->
 - <*>NFC subsystem support --->
 - <*> NFC Digital Protocol stack support
 - Near Field Communication (NFC) devices --->
 - <M> Texas Instruments TRF7970a NFC driver
5. make ARCH=arm CROSS_COMPILE=arm-linux-gnueabi-hf- zImage
6. make ARCH=arm CROSS_COMPILE=arm-linux-gnueabi-hf- modules
7. make ARCH=arm INSTALL_MOD_PATH=**<Target File System>** modules_install (where **Target File System** equals the SD card path)
8. make ARCH=arm CROSS_COMPILE=arm-linux-gnueabi-hf- am335x-bone.dtb
9. cp **<SDK Root Directory>**/arch/arm/boot/zImage **<Target File System>**/boot
10. cp **<SDK Root Directory>**/arch/arm/boot/dts/am335x-bone.dtb **<Target File System>**/boot

NOTE: Step 7, 9, and 10 may require root access to complete.

5 Building the neard Stack

To build the neard stack, follow the steps below:

1. Clone the latest neard code base with the following command:
git clone locations:
 - [git://git.kernel.org/pub/scm/network/nfc/neard.git](http://git.kernel.org/pub/scm/network/nfc/neard.git)
 - <https://git.kernel.org/pub/scm/network/nfc/neard.git>
 - <https://kernel.googlesource.com/pub/scm/network/nfc/neard.git>
2. \$ cd neard

The latest version of neard has known issues; therefore a known working version should be used at this time. The command below checks out this known working version.

3. \$ git checkout -b working 647F2705
4. Edit the file "bootstrap-configure" and replace:


```
--prefix=/usr \
--sysconfdir=/etc \
```

 with the following:


```
$CONFIGURE_FLAGS \
```
5. Run the environment setup script:


```
$ source <SDK Root Directory>/linux-devkit/environment-setup
```

NOTE: Make sure that libtool is installed (that is, sudo apt-get install libtool).

6. \$./bootstrap-configure (this sets up the make files)
7. \$ make CFLAGS+="-Wno-cast-align" (this builds neard)
8. Copy the following files to the target file system:
 - (a) "src/org.neard.conf" to the target file system "/etc/dbus-1/system.d/"
 - (b) "src/neard" to the target file system "<create your own NFC directory>/neard"
 - (c) "tools/nfctool/nfctool" to the target file system "<create your own NFC directory>/nfctool"
 - (d) All the files in the test directory "test/*" to the target file system "<create your own NFC directory>/test/*"

6 Building Python

From the host PC, ensure you have not performed source <SDK Root Directory>/linux-devkit/environment-setup in the shell window to be used for the instructions below:

1. Download "Python-2.7.3.tgz" tarball from the following location:

<http://www.python.org/download/releases/2.7.3/>
2. Download the cross compile patch for 2.7.3 "Python-2.7.3-xcompile.patch" from this location:

<http://randomsplat.com/id5-cross-compiling-python-for-embedded-linux.html>
3. Untar the tarball image with the following command:


```
$ tar -zxvf Python-2.7.3.tgz
```
4. Then go to the new created directory with the following command:


```
$ cd Python-2.7.3
```
5. Build with the following set of commands:
 - (a) \$./configure
 - (b) \$ make python Parser/pgen
 - (c) \$ mv python hostpython
 - (d) \$ mv Parser/pgen Parser/hostpgen
 - (e) \$ make distclean
6. Now apply the patch with the following command:


```
$ patch -p1 < ../Python-2.7.3-xcompile.patch
```
7. Now change the environment to the target build:
 - (a) \$ source < SDK Root Directory >/linux-devkit/environment-setup
 - (b) \$./configure --host=arm-linux --build=i686-linux-gnu --prefix=`pwd`
 - (c) \$ make HOSTPYTHON=./hostpython HOSTPGEN=./Parser/hostpgen BLDSHARED="arm-linux-gnueabi-gcc -shared" CROSS_COMPILE=arm-linux-gnueabi- CROSS_COMPILE_TARGET=yes HOSTARCH=arm-linux BUILDARCH=i686-linux-gnu

NOTE: You may encounter a message about modules not found at the end of the build. In this case, these can be ignored as they are not needed.

(d) \$ make install HOSTPYTHON=./hostpython BLDSHARED="arm-linux-gnueabi-gcc -shared"
 CROSS_COMPILE=arm-linux-gnueabi-gcc CROSS_COMPILE_TARGET=yes prefix=<full path of
 temp staging directory>

8. Copy the files that are stored in <temp staging directory> to the target file system.

For example:

```
$ sudo cp -R <temp staging directory> /* <target file system>/usr
```

NOTE: Make sure that the files just copied to the target file system are owned by root.

7 Building Python Dbus Libraries

From the host PC, ensure you have not performed source <SDK Root Directory>/linux-devkit/environment-setup in the shell window to be used for the instructions below:

1. Download the Dbus tarball from the following location: <http://dbus.freedesktop.org/releases/dbus-python/dbus-python-1.1.1.tar.gz>
2. Untar the Dbus image with:

```
$ tar -zxvf dbus-python-1.1.1.tar.gz
```
3. Export the Python executable:

```
$ export PYTHON=<directory where Python was built>/hostpython
```
4. Copy three files: "python-config, python2-config, and python2.7-config" from <temp staging directory> to the directory where Python-2.7.3 was built (make sure that you are the owner of these files).
5. While in Python-2.7.3, copy python-config to hostpython-config
6. Change the first line of hostpython-config to match the full path of the Python-2.7.3 directory
 For example:

```
#!/home/user/ti-sdk-am335x-evm_7_00/example-applications/Python-2.7.3/hostpython
```
7. From the dbus-python-1.1.1 directory, perform the following steps:
 - (a) \$ source < SDK Root Directory >/linux-devkit/environment-setup
 - (b) \$./configure \$CONFIGURE_FLAGS

NOTE: You can ignore any warning here about unrecognized options

(c) \$ make

(d) \$ make install prefix=<full path of temp staging directory>

(e) Copy the files that are in <temp staging directory> to the <target file system>/usr

For example: sudo cp -R <python directory>/dbus_target/* <target file system>/usr

NOTE: Make sure the files just copied to the target file system are owned by root.

8 Testing NFC/RFID Tag Functionality Using *neard*

To interact (read or write) with NFC tag platforms from the target file system, place or present an NFC tag platform to the antenna on the TRF7970ATB board.

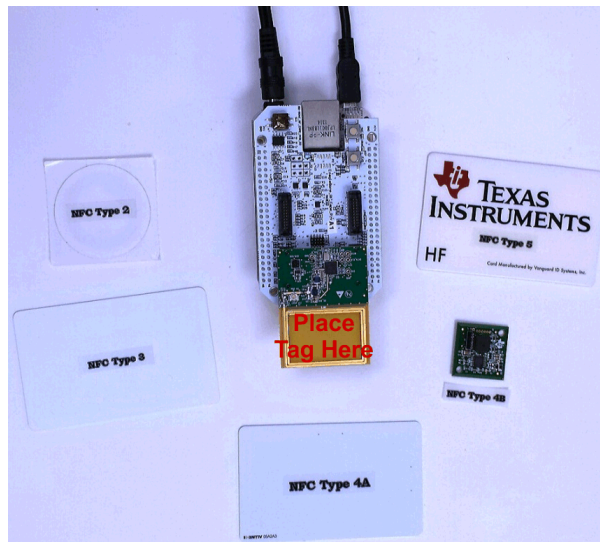


Figure 5. Supported NFC Forum Tag Platforms with Target Hardware

Go to the location on the target file system where the *neard* files reside and start *neard*.

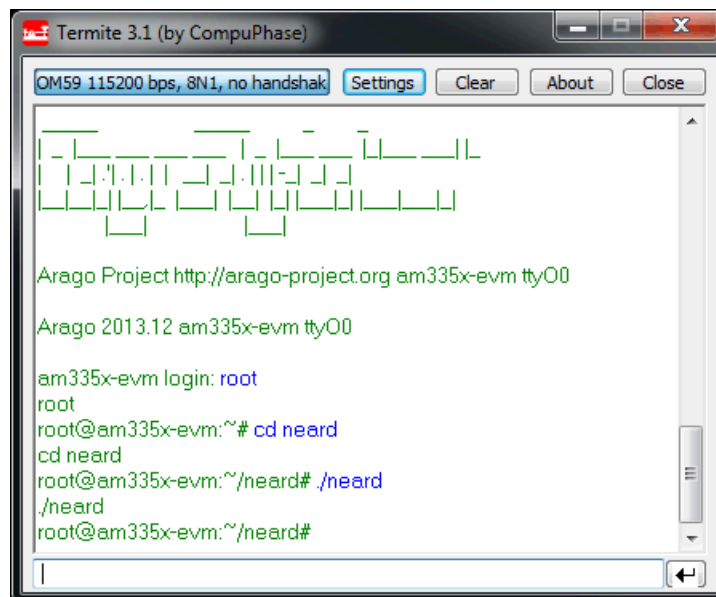


Figure 6. Logging in, Navigating to, and Starting *neard*

In the *neard* directory on the target file system, the following commands are to be done in the order listed. Each time a tag is presented, step 2 must precede the list or dump commands. Otherwise, the transmitter will not be on to power the passive tag.

1. test/test-adapter powered nfc0 on
2. test/test-adapter poll nfc0 on Initiator
3. test/test-tag list
4. test/test-tag dump

NOTE: Make sure that you leave the NFC card over the NFC antenna on the TRF7970ATB during these steps. Otherwise you will only get a command prompt back after typing each of the "test/test-tag" attempts.

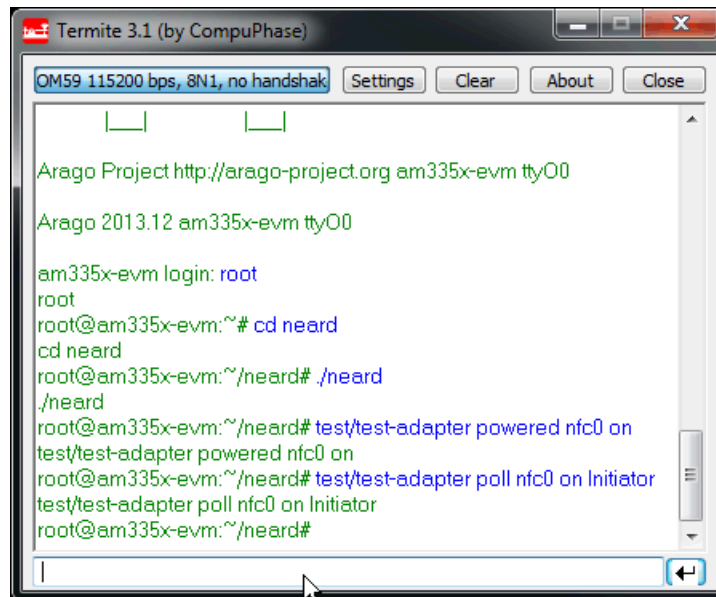


Figure 7. Configuring TRF7970A and Entering Polling Loop for NFC Tags

8.1 Testing NFC/RFID Tag Reading Using *neard*

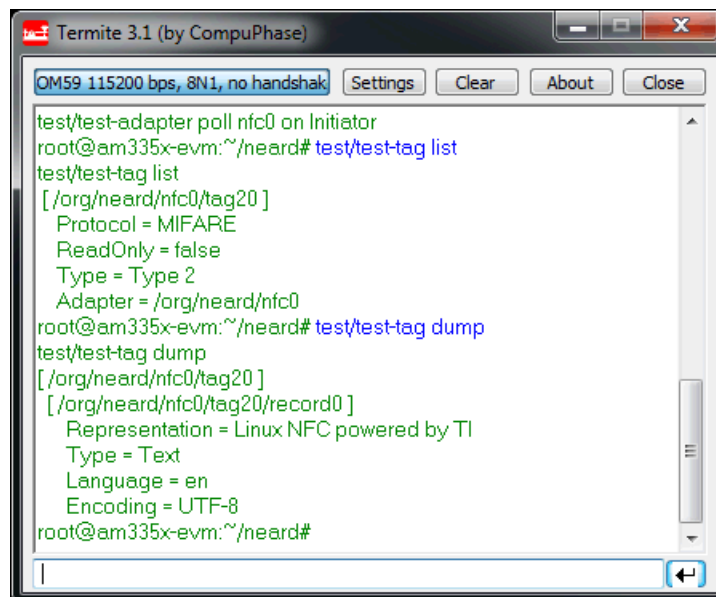


Figure 8. Reading NFC Type 2 Tag Platform (List and Dump)


```

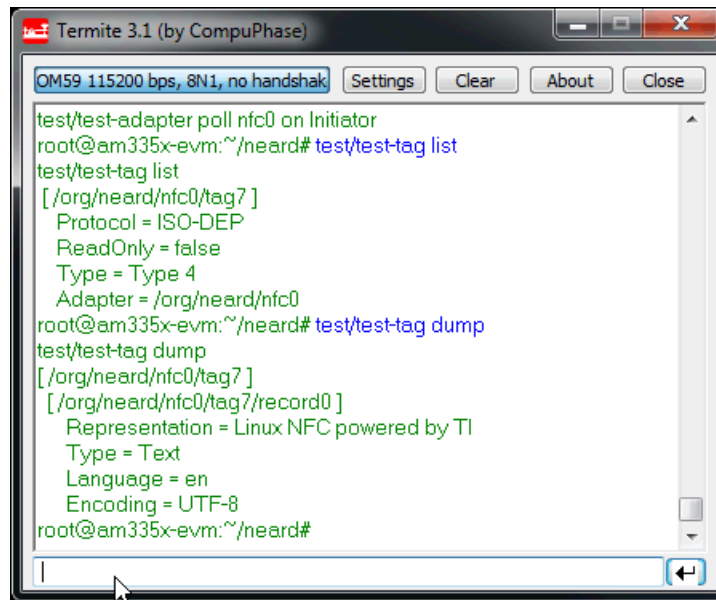
Termitte 3.1 (by CompuPhase)
OM59 115200 bps, 8N1, no handshak Settings Clear About Close
test/test-adapter poll nfc0 on Initiator
root@am335x-evm:~/neard# test/test-tag list
test/test-tag list
[ /org/neard/nfc0/tag10 ]
  Protocol = Felica
  ReadOnly = false
  Type = Type 3
  Adapter = /org/neard/nfc0
root@am335x-evm:~/neard# test/test-tag dump
test/test-tag dump
[ /org/neard/nfc0/tag10 ]
[ /org/neard/nfc0/tag10/record0 ]
  Representation = Linux NFC powered by TI
  Type = Text
  Language = en
  Encoding = UTF-8
root@am335x-evm:~/neard#
  
```

Figure 9. Reading NFC Type 3 Tag Platform (List and Dump)

```

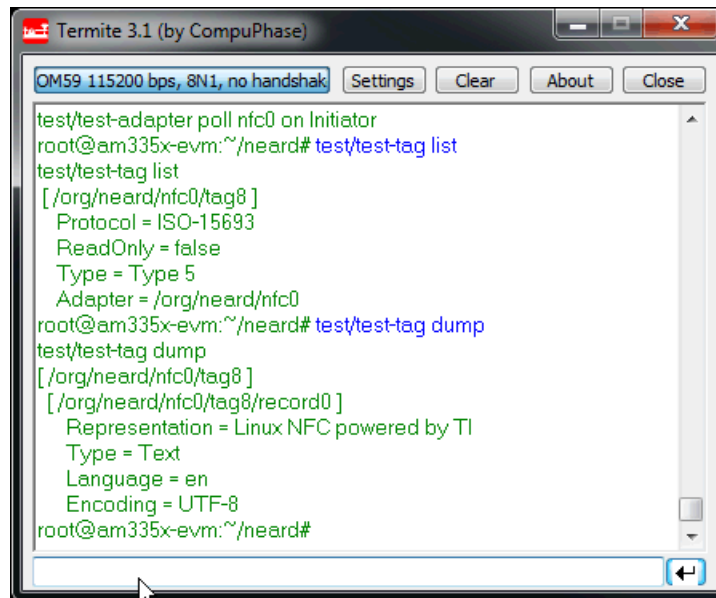
Termitte 3.1 (by CompuPhase)
OM59 115200 bps, 8N1, no handshak Settings Clear About Close
test/test-adapter poll nfc0 on Initiator
root@am335x-evm:~/neard# test/test-tag list
test/test-tag list
[ /org/neard/nfc0/tag5 ]
  Protocol = ISO-DEP
  ReadOnly = false
  Type = Type 4
  Adapter = /org/neard/nfc0
root@am335x-evm:~/neard# test/test-tag dump
test/test-tag dump
[ /org/neard/nfc0/tag5 ]
[ /org/neard/nfc0/tag5/record0 ]
  Representation = Linux NFC powered by TI
  Type = Text
  Language = en
  Encoding = UTF-8
root@am335x-evm:~/neard#
  
```

Figure 10. Reading NFC Type 4A Tag Platform (List and Dump)



```

Termitte 3.1 (by CompuPhase)
OM59 115200 bps, 8N1, no handshak Settings Clear About Close
test/test-adapter poll nfc0 on Initiator
root@am335x-evm:~/neard# test/test-tag list
test/test-tag list
[ /org/heard/nfc0/tag7 ]
  Protocol = ISO-DEP
  ReadOnly = false
  Type = Type 4
  Adapter = /org/heard/nfc0
root@am335x-evm:~/neard# test/test-tag dump
test/test-tag dump
[ /org/heard/nfc0/tag7 ]
[ /org/heard/nfc0/tag7/record0 ]
  Representation = Linux NFC powered by TI
  Type = Text
  Language = en
  Encoding = UTF-8
root@am335x-evm:~/neard#
    
```

Figure 11. Reading NFC Type 4B Tag Platform (List and Dump)


```

Termitte 3.1 (by CompuPhase)
OM59 115200 bps, 8N1, no handshak Settings Clear About Close
test/test-adapter poll nfc0 on Initiator
root@am335x-evm:~/neard# test/test-tag list
test/test-tag list
[ /org/heard/nfc0/tag8 ]
  Protocol = ISO-15693
  ReadOnly = false
  Type = Type 5
  Adapter = /org/heard/nfc0
root@am335x-evm:~/neard# test/test-tag dump
test/test-tag dump
[ /org/heard/nfc0/tag8 ]
[ /org/heard/nfc0/tag8/record0 ]
  Representation = Linux NFC powered by TI
  Type = Text
  Language = en
  Encoding = UTF-8
root@am335x-evm:~/neard#
    
```

Figure 12. Reading NFC Type 5 Tag Platform (List and Dump)

8.2 Testing NFC/RFID Tag Writing Using *neard*

When writing tags, the format shown in [Figure 13](#) must be followed. This menu is always available for reference by typing "test/test-tag"

```

Termitte 3.1 (by CompuPhase)
COM59 115200 bps, 8N1, no handshake  Settings  Clear  About  Close

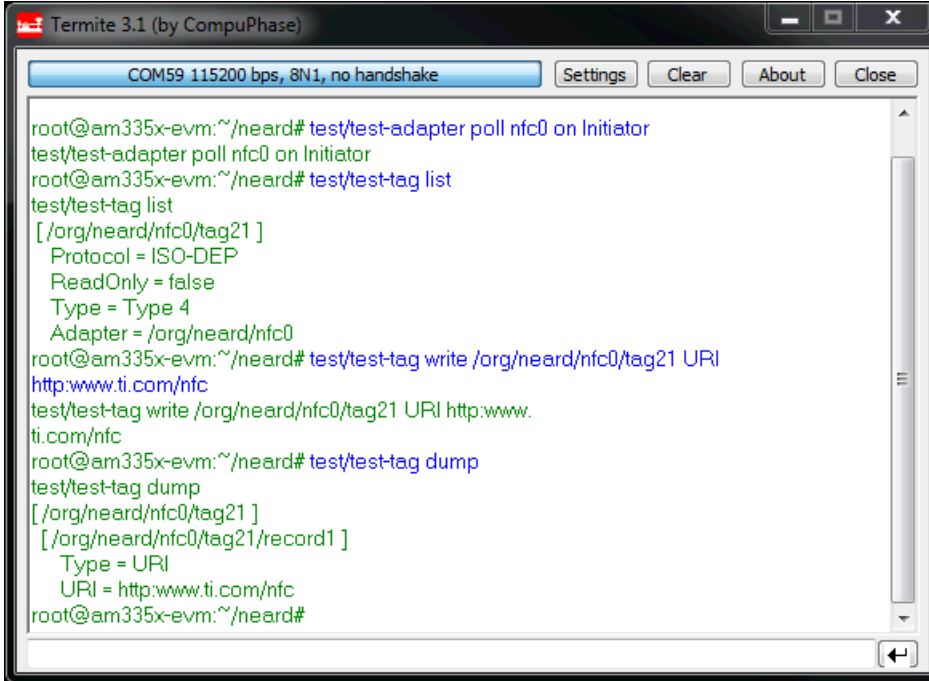
root@am335x-evm:~/neard# test/test-tag
test/test-tag
Usage: test/test-tag <command>

list
dump <tag>
write <tag> <type> <...>
    If type is Text, parameters are <encoding> <language> <representation>
    If type is URI, parameters are <uri>
    If type is SmartPoster, parameters are <uri>
    If type is SMS, parameters are <phone number> <text>
    If type is E-Mail, parameters are <e-mail address>
    If type is MIME, and WiFi AP is passphrase protected
        Type is MIME, parameters are wifi_wsc <ssid> <passphrase>
    If type is MIME, and WiFi AP is open network
        Type is MIME, parameters are wifi_wsc <ssid>
e.g. < test/test-tag /org/heard/nfc0/tag0 Text UTF-8 en-US hello,NFC! >
e.g. < test/test-tag /org/heard/nfc0/tag0 URI http://www.nfc-forum.com >
e.g. < test/test-tag /org/heard/nfc0/tag0 SmartPoster http://www.nfc-forum.com >
e.g. < test/test-tag /org/heard/nfc0/tag0 SMS 0102030405 YourSMSMessage >
e.g. < test/test-tag /org/heard/nfc0/tag0 E-Mail test@test.com >
e.g. < test/test-tag /org/heard/nfc0/tag0 MIME wifi_wsc YourAPname passphrase >
e.g. < test/test-tag /org/heard/nfc0/tag0 MIME wifi_wsc YourAPname >
root@am335x-evm:~/neard#

```

Figure 13. test/test-tag Help Screen

[Figure 14](#) shows process of writing a URI RTD. Note that polling loop was started and a tag dump was done to get the tag number (in this case tag21) which is needed by the tag write command.



```

Termite 3.1 (by CompuPhase)
COM59 115200 bps, 8N1, no handshake  Settings  Clear  About  Close

root@am335x-evm:~/neard# test/test-adapter poll nfc0 on Initiator
test/test-adapter poll nfc0 on Initiator
root@am335x-evm:~/neard# test/test-tag list
test/test-tag list
[ /org/neard/nfc0/tag21 ]
  Protocol = ISO-DEP
  ReadOnly = false
  Type = Type 4
  Adapter = /org/neard/nfc0
root@am335x-evm:~/neard# test/test-tag write /org/neard/nfc0/tag21 URI
http:www.ti.com/nfc
test/test-tag write /org/neard/nfc0/tag21 URI http:www.
ti.com/nfc
root@am335x-evm:~/neard# test/test-tag dump
test/test-tag dump
[ /org/neard/nfc0/tag21 ]
  [ /org/neard/nfc0/tag21/record1 ]
    Type = URI
    URI = http:www.ti.com/nfc
root@am335x-evm:~/neard#

```

Figure 14. Writing a URI RTD to Tag and Reading Back

9 Peer-to-Peer Modes

In addition to reading and writing tags, NFC Peer-to-Peer Initiator and Target modes are supported. To put the system into target mode and wait for an initiator, pass "Target" instead of "Initiator" to the test/test-adapter script.

When operating as a peer, the format below must be followed. This menu is always available for reference by typing "test/test-device"



Figure 15. Presenting a Handset to Hardware for P2P Operations

```

Termit 3.1 (by CompuPhase)
COM59 115200 bps, 8N1, no handshake  Settings Clear About Close
test/test-device
test/test-device
Usage: test/test-device <command>

list
dump <device>
push <device> <type> <...>
    If type is Text, parameters are <encoding> <language> <representation>
    If type is URI, parameters are <uri>
    If type is SmartPoster, parameters are <uri>
    If type is Handover, parameters are <carrier>
    If type is StaticHandover, parameters are <carrier>
    If type is MIME, parameters are <mime_type> (only wifi_wsc and raw)
    raw is for sending raw payload, parameters are <mime_type> <payload>
e.g. < test/test-device push /org/nearest/nfc0/device0 Text UTF-8 en-US hello.Type2! >
e.g. < test/test-device push /org/nearest/nfc0/device0 URI http://www.nfc-forum.com >
e.g. < test/test-device push /org/nearest/nfc0/device0 SmartPoster http://www.nfc-forum.com >
>
e.g. < test/test-device push /org/nearest/nfc0/device0 Handover bluetooth,wifi >
e.g. < test/test-device push /org/nearest/nfc0/device0 StaticHandover bluetooth,wifi >
e.g. < test/test-device push /org/nearest/nfc0/device0 MIME wifi_wsc >
e.g. < test/test-device push /org/nearest/nfc0/device0 MIME raw application/xml '<your><xml tags></your>' >
root@am335x-evm:~/nearest#
    
```

Figure 16. P2P Help Screen (Using test/test-device Command)

NOTE: Due to Initial RF collision handling, the user may need to issue the poll command multiple times when in Initiator mode.

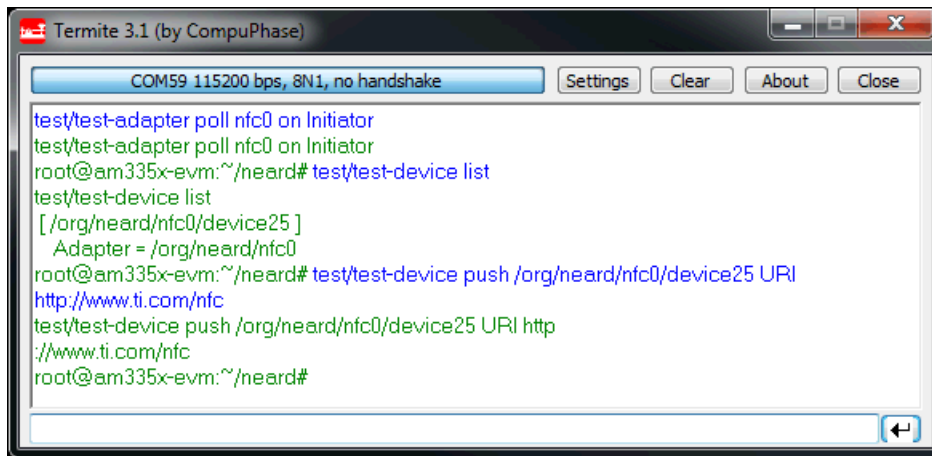


Figure 17. P2P Initiator Mode Example (Sending)

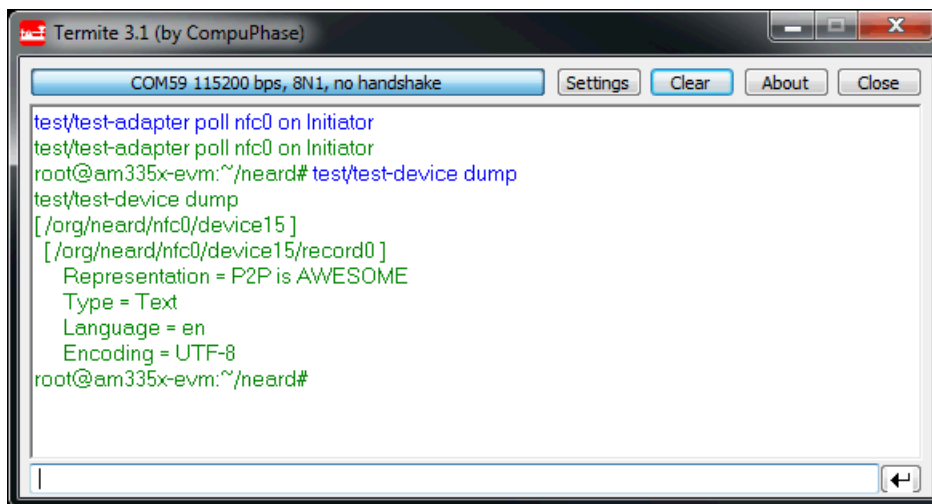


Figure 18. P2P Initiator Mode Example (Receiving)

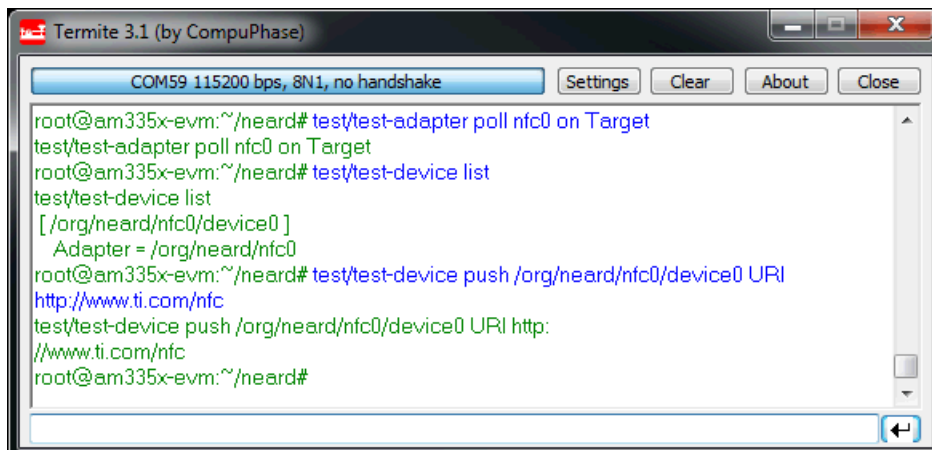
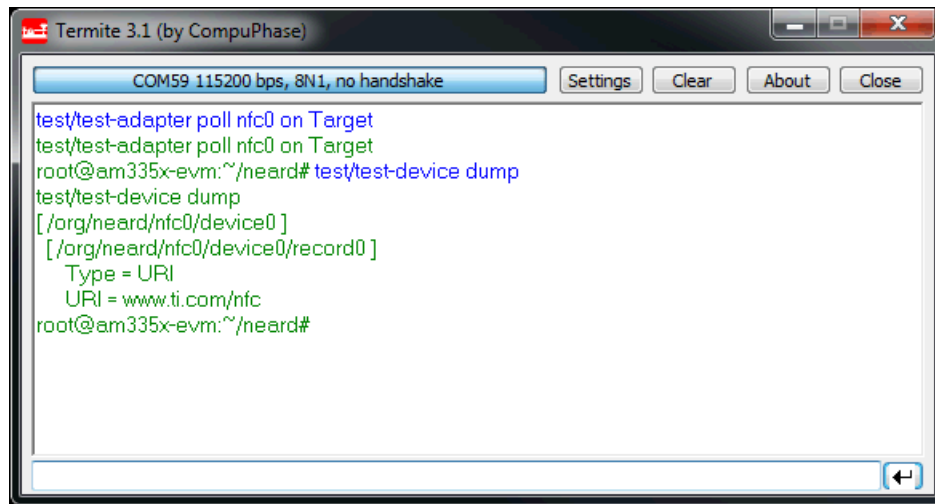


Figure 19. P2P Target Mode Example (Sending)



```

Termit 3.1 (by CompuPhase)
COM59 115200 bps, 8N1, no handshake
Settings Clear About Close
test/test-adapter poll nfc0 on Target
test/test-adapter poll nfc0 on Target
root@am335x-evm:~/neard# test/test-device dump
test/test-device dump
[/org/neard/nfc0/device0]
[/org/neard/nfc0/device0/record0]
Type = URI
URI = www.ti.com/nfc
root@am335x-evm:~/neard#
    
```

Figure 20. P2P Target Mode Example (Receiving)

10 Porting Notes

The TRF7970A driver has been tested on an AM335x based [BeagleBone White](#) board + an [RF Cape](#) + a [TRF7970ATB](#). Here are some notes to help you get the [TRF7970A](#) working on a different set of hardware.

The processor side communicates with the TRF7970A using SPI with Slave Select, so to be able to communicate with the device; your hardware must have an SPI interface and a working SPI driver. Be sure that the SPI and TRF7970A CONFIG_ options are enabled before building the kernel.

The TRF7970A driver uses Device Tree (DT) properties to get the information it needs to function. There is some documentation in Documentation/devicetree/bindings/net/nfc/trf7970a.txt (in the kernel source) to help you set it up.

This snippet example is used for the BeagleBone platform:

```

&spi1 {
    status = "okay";
    trf7970a@0 {
        compatible = "ti,trf7970a";
        reg = <0>;
        pinctrl-names = "default";
        pinctrl-0 = <&trf7970a_default>;
        spi-max-frequency = <2000000>;
        interrupt-parent = <&gpio0>;
        interrupts = <31 0>;
        ti,enable-gpios = <&gpio2 3 GPIO_ACTIVE_LOW>,
        <&gpio2 4 GPIO_ACTIVE_LOW>;
        vin-supply = <&ldo3_reg>;
        vin-voltage-override = <5000000>;
        irq-status-read-quirk;
        en2-rf-quirk;
        status = "okay";
    };
};
    
```

The vin-voltage-override property allows you to override the voltage determined by the regulator subsystem. This could be used when the voltage to the TRF7970A has been stepped up (for example, on the TRF7970ATB board). Until there is a new revision of the TRF7970A, you should specify both irq-status-read-quirk and en2-rf-quirk. The TRF7970A's driver expects your platform's interrupt and regulator information to be set up correctly. If your platform has a pin multiplexer (pinmux), then it must be set up correctly, too.

11 References

1. *AM3358 Sitara™ ARM® Cortex-A8 Microprocessor* ([AM3358](#))
2. *Linux EZ Software Development (EZSDK) for Sitara™ ARM® Processors* ([AM335x SDK](#))
3. *BeagleBone Evaluation Module* ([BeagleBone EVM](#))
4. *BeagleBone RF Cape Module* ([BeagleBone RF Cape](#))
5. *TRF7970A NFC/RFID Transceiver Data Sheet* ([SLOS743](#))
6. *TRF7970ATB Evaluation Module* ([TRF7970ATB](#))
7. *Linux NFC Project* ([neard](#))
8. *NFC Forum* (<http://nfc-forum.org/>)

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