

Hands-On Workshop: Optimizing FreeRTOS

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SW and Tools Product Marketer

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SECURE CONNECTIONS
FOR A SMARTER WORLD

Agenda

- MCUXpresso SW & Tools Overview
- Hands-on Lab
 - Basic Debugging
 - FreeRTOS Task Aware Debugging
 - FreeRTOS Optimization
 - FreeRTOS with SystemView
 - Compiler and Linker Optimization
- Summary

MCUXpresso SW & Tools Overview



MCUXpresso Software and Tools

UNIFIED SUITE OF
TOOLS FOR EASY
DEVELOPMENT
WITH NXP MCUs



LEARN MORE >



MCUXpresso Software and Tools

for LPC & Kinetis MCUs and i.MX RT crossover processors



MCUXpresso IDE

Edit, compile, debug and optimize in an intuitive and powerful IDE



MCUXpresso SDK

Runtime software including peripheral drivers, middleware, RTOS, demos and more




MCUXpresso Config Tools

Online and desktop tool suite for system configuration and optimization

NXP Microcontroller Enablement Consolidation



2015 – 2016




MCUXpresso
Software and Tools

- IDE
- SDK
- Config Tools

For NXP Cortex-M controllers

- Kinetis MCUs
- LPC Microcontrollers
- i.MX RT Crossover Processors



The image shows a large rounded rectangle containing the 'MCUXpresso Software and Tools' logo, a list of features (IDE, SDK, Config Tools), a list of supported hardware (Kinetis MCUs, LPC Microcontrollers, i.MX RT Crossover Processors), and three smaller icons labeled 'IDE', 'SDK', and 'CFG'.

2017-2018



MCUXpresso IDE

Eclipse Framework for C/C++, extendible with many plug-ins

Integrated MCUXpresso Config Tools – Pins, Clocks, Peripherals

Quickstart Panel

Support for SDK and LPCOpen for ARM® Cortex®-M Cores

Combined Development Perspective

Peripheral View

Power Measurement

Advanced Build Steps

Instruction Trace

SWO Trace / Profiling

New Project Wizard

Linker and Memory Configuration

Data Watching

FreeRTOS Kernel Awareness

ARM GCC

ARM GDB

newlib

newlib-nano

RedLib

CMSIS-DAP

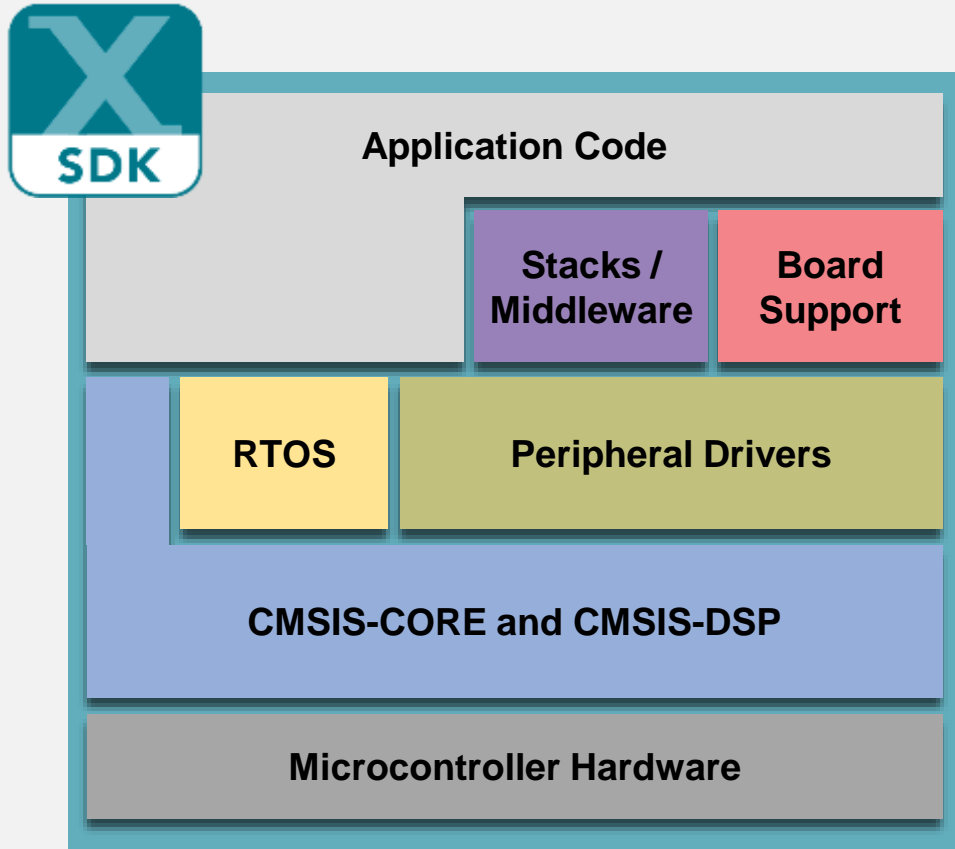
P&E

SEGGER

MCUXpresso IDE

Free Eclipse / GCC-based development

- **Feature-rich, unlimited code size**, optimized for ease-of-use, based on industry standard Eclipse framework for NXP's **Kinetis** and **LPC** MCUs and **i.MX RT** crossover processors
- Application development with Eclipse and GCC-based IDE for advanced editing, compiling and debugging
- Supports custom development boards, Freedom, Tower and LPCXpresso boards with debug probes from NXP, P&E and Segger
- **Free:** Full Featured, unlimited Code Size, no special activation needed, community based support, advanced trace capabilities, MTB and ETB instruction trace
- Works in conjunction with **MCUXpresso Config Tools** and **MCUXpresso SDK** to provide complete development environment



MCUXpresso SDK

Software framework and drivers

Architecture:

- CMSIS-CORE compatible
- Single driver for each peripheral
- Transactional APIs w/ optional DMA support for communication peripherals

Reference Software:

- Peripheral driver usage examples
- Application demos
- FreeRTOS usage demos
- AWS WiFi and lwIP examples

License:

- Clear BSD 3-clause for startup, drivers, USB stack

Integrated RTOS:

- Amazon FreeRTOS
- RTOS-native driver wrappers

Toolchains:

- MCUXpresso IDE
- IAR®, ARM® Keil®, GCC w/ Cmake

Integrated Stacks and Middleware:

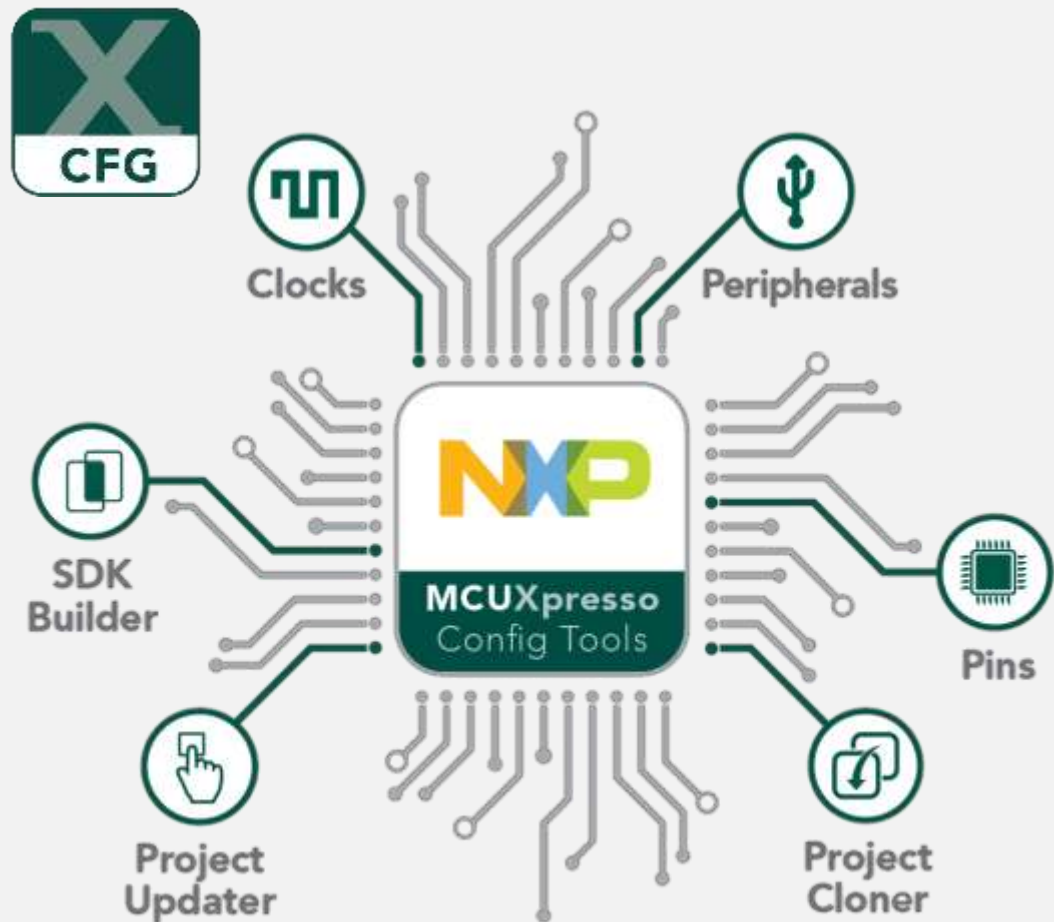
- USB Host, Device and OTG
- lwIP, FatFS, LittleFS
- Crypto acceleration plus wolfSSL & mbedTLS
- SD and eMMC card support

Quality:

- Production-grade software
- MISRA 2004 compliance
- Checked with Coverity® static analysis tools



Open Source Initiative



MCUXpresso Config Tools

Configuration and Code Generation



SDK Builder packages custom SDKs based on user selections of MCU, evaluation board, and optional software components.



Pins, Clocks, and Peripheral tools generate initialization C code for custom board support. Features validation of inputs and cross-tool conflict resolution.

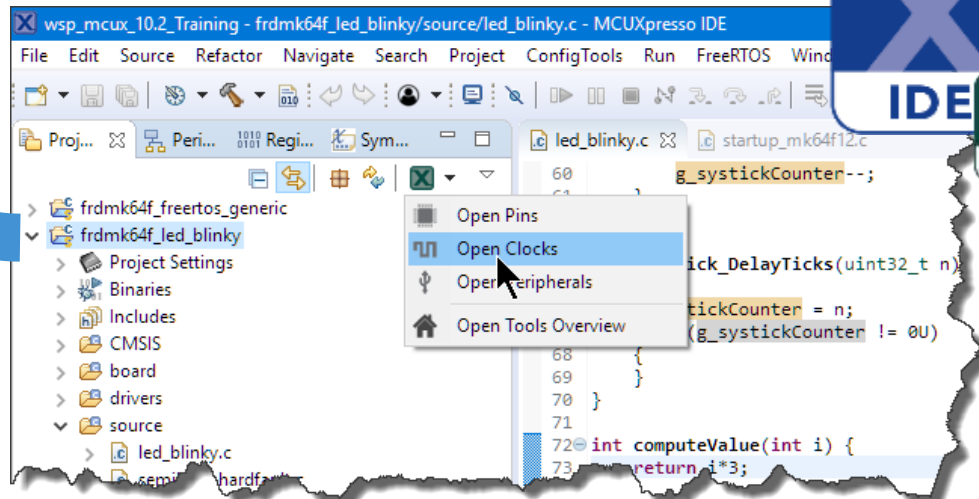
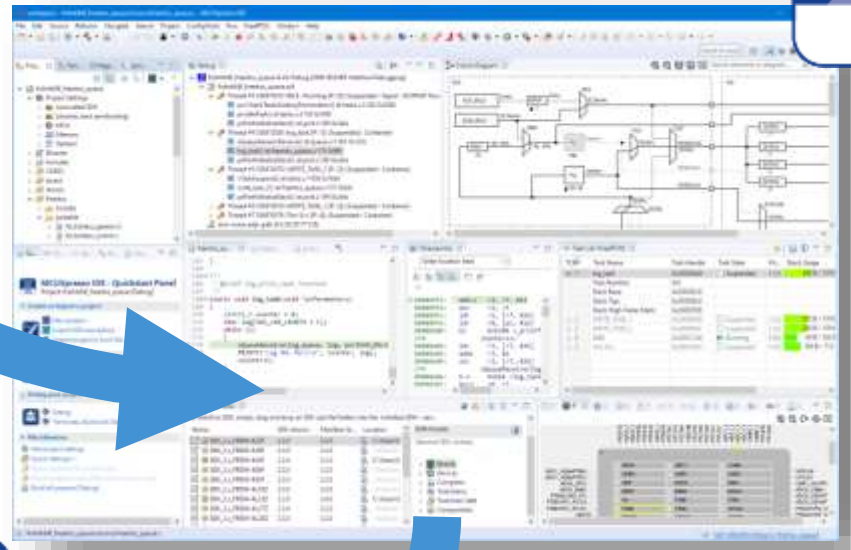


Project Update works directly with existing SDK-based IDE projects with generated Pins, Clocks, and Peripheral source files.



Project Cloning creates a standalone SDK project based on an example application available within SDK release.

Development Flow



Examples,
Demo Apps

Hands-On Lab



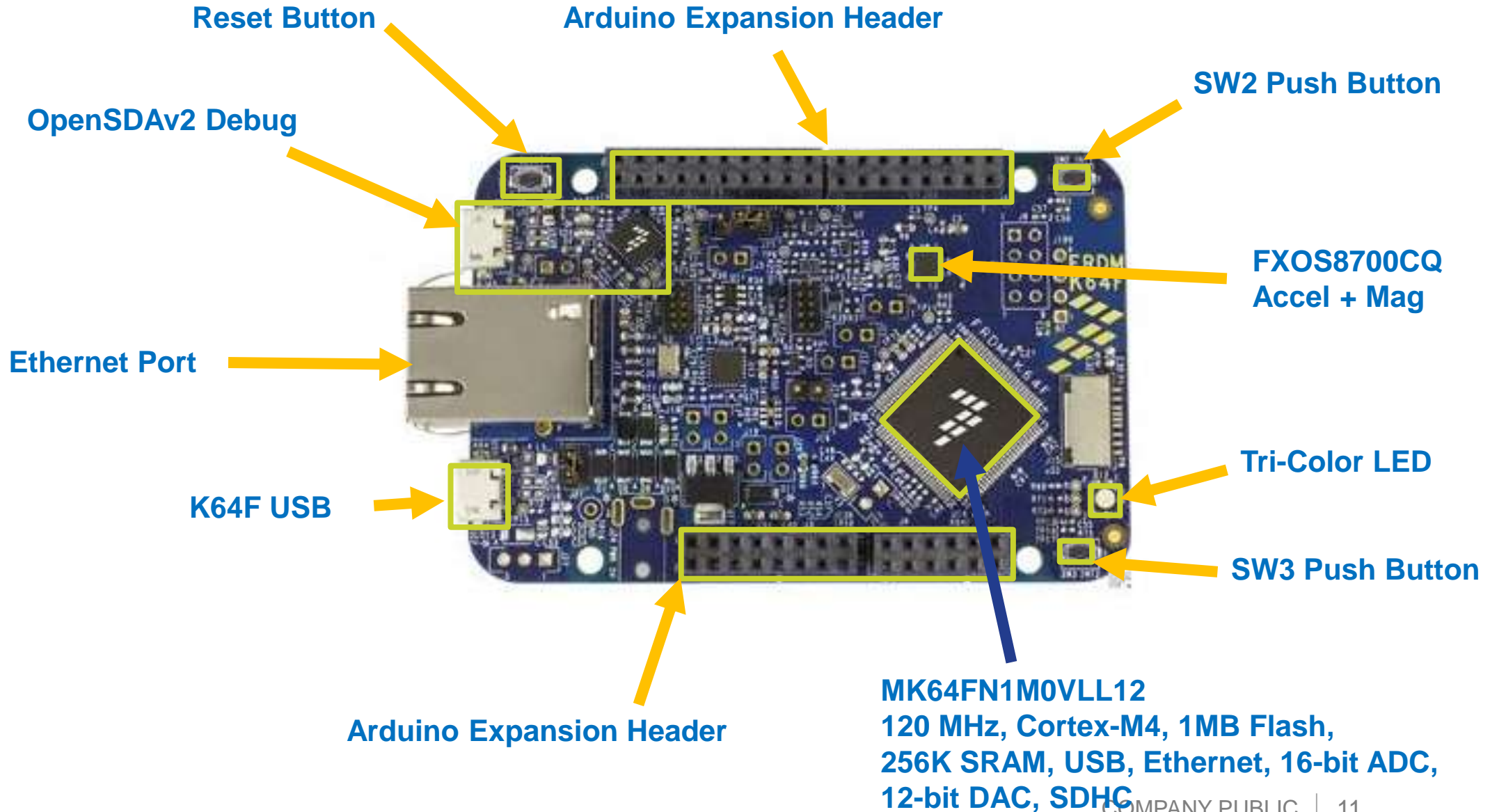
Lab Overview

1. Creating/Cloning MCUXpresso SDK Projects in the IDE
2. Building, Basic Debugging
3. Overview FreeRTOS TAD
 - FreeRTOS Configuration settings
 - Optimization Settings
 - Static code/data size impact
 - Segger SystemView
 - Dynamic system improvements





FRDM-K64F Hardware Overview



Lab Setup/Prerequisites

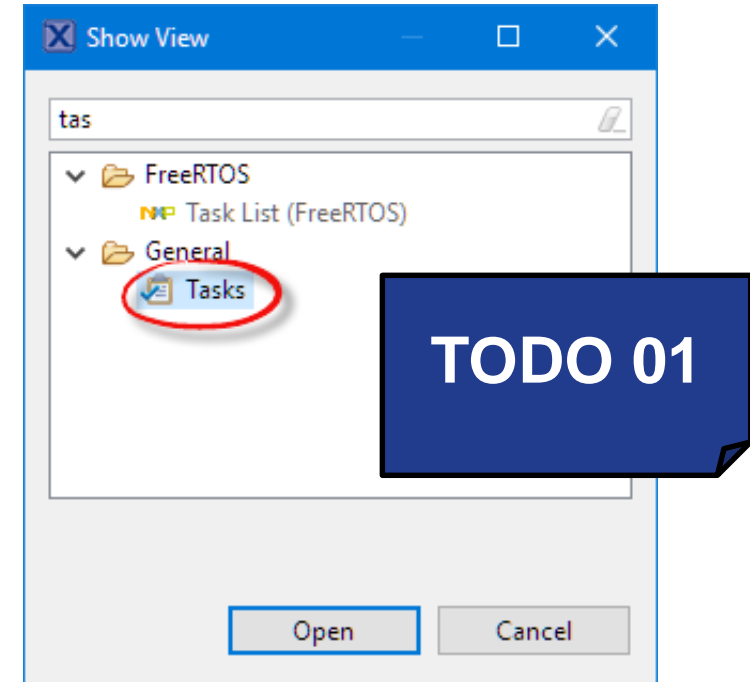
- MCUXpresso IDE 10.2.0 build 759
 - <https://www.nxp.com/mcuxpresso/ide>
- FRDM-K64 SDK V2.4.0
 - <http://mcuxpresso.nxp.com/>
- FRDM-K64F Board with micro-USB Cable
 - <https://www.nxp.com/freedom>
- FRDM-K64F Board with DAPLink/CMSIS-DAP Firmware
 - Bootloader rev0244 OpenSDA v2.2
 - DAPLink reve0244 Firmware
 - <https://www.nxp.com/opensda>



```
DETAILS.TXT - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
# DAPLink Firmware - see https://mbed.com/daplink
Unique ID: 0240000028884e450007700f6bf000278021000097969900
HIC ID: 97969900
Auto Reset: 0
Automation allowed: 0
Overflow detection: 0
Daplink Mode: Interface
Interface Version: 0244
Bootloader Version: 0244
Git SHA: 5f9092d41cfd6601fef7b3b467fe8f8767b01f84
Local Mods: 1
USB Interfaces: MSD, CDC, HID
Bootloader CRC: 0x251003d3
Interface CRC: 0x0676bc5d
Remount count: 0
```

Lab Work Guidance

- Text in **orange** indicate actions/work to do
- TODO notes reference 'Tasks/todo' items
 - Markers in source files `/* \todo */`
 - **Open Tasks View**
 - Menu **Window > Show View > General > Tasks**
 - **Double-Click** on items to jump to source location



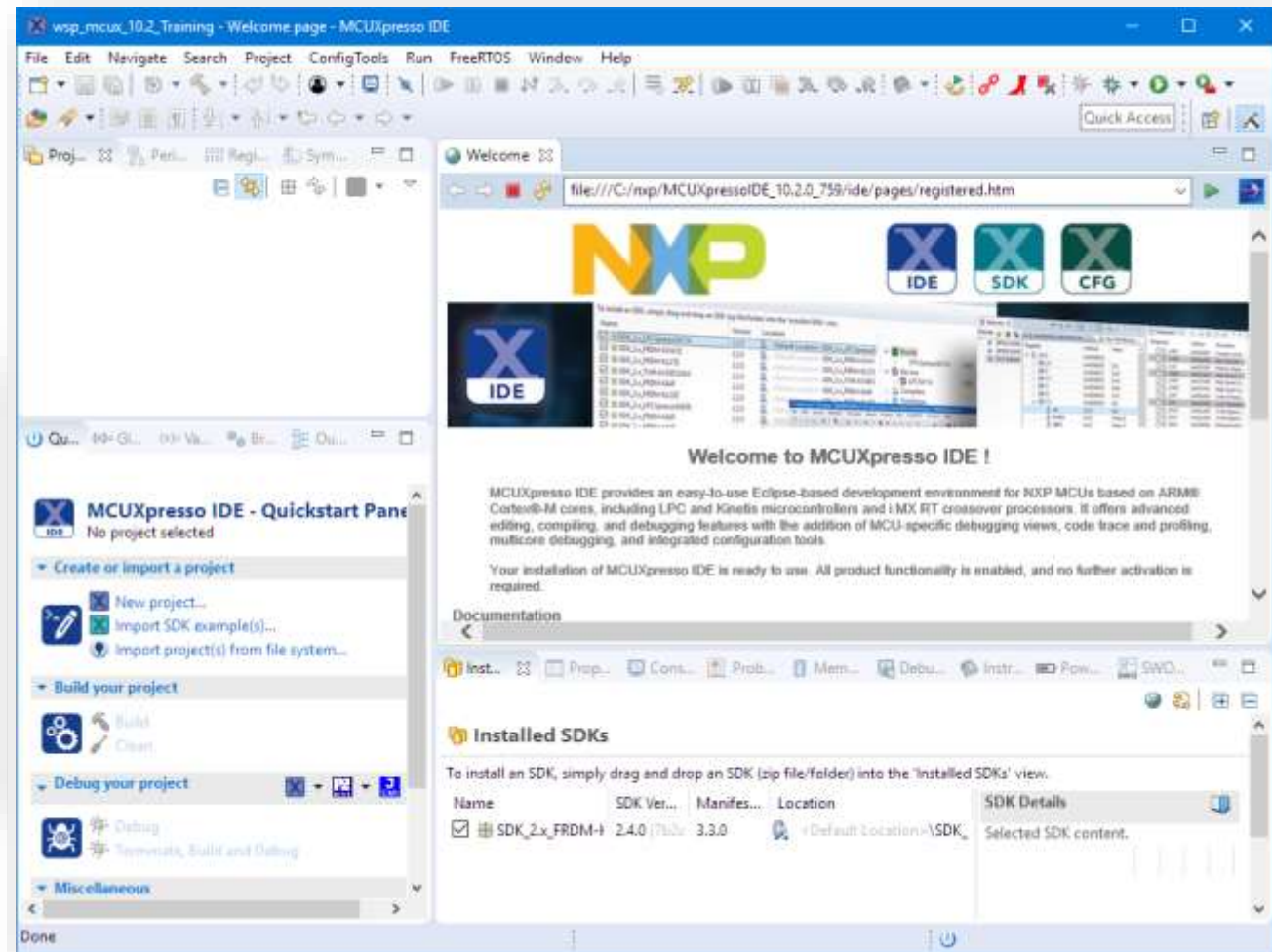
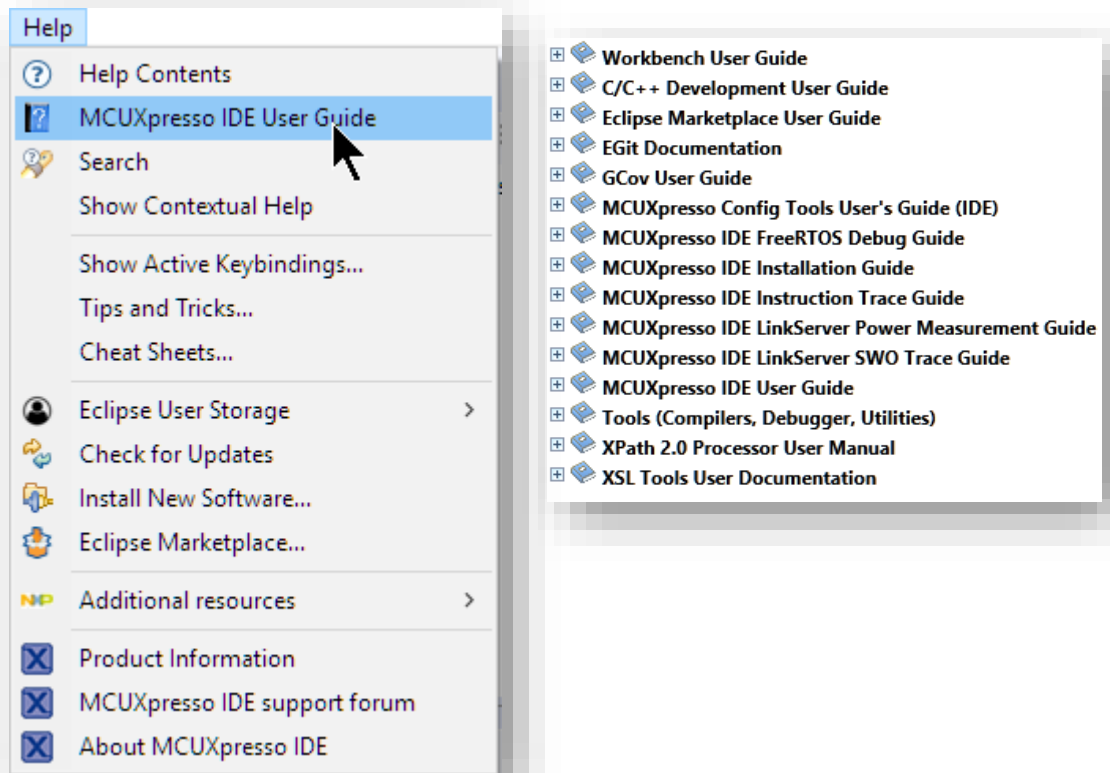
Overview: FreeRTOS and Tools

- <http://www.freertos.org>
 - Acquired by Amazon (29. Nov. 2017) → MIT License
- Open Source, free-of-charge, royalty free
- >35 architectures, >154,000 downloads (2016)
- Portable, simple to learn and use
- Ecosystem
 - **OpenRTOS/SafeRTOS**: commercial supported versions
 - **Amazon FreeRTOS**: adds AWS and IoT use cases
 - **SEGGER SystemView**: System Visibility with Segger RTT
 - **PERCEPIO Tracealyzer**: Powerful Analysis Views
 - **NXP MCUXpresso SDK** with FreeRTOS v10
 - **NXP MCUXpresso IDE** with advanced FreeRTOS views



MCUXpresso IDE

- Start the IDE with Shortcut
- Select workspace
- Open MCUXpresso IDE User Guide



Create FreeRTOS Example Project

- Prerequisite:
 - SDK_2.x_FRDM-K64F installed in IDE
- Use Quickstart Panel with “Import SDK example(s)...”
 - Select frdmk64f board image
 - Click “Next”
 - Select “rtos_examples > freertos_generic”
 - Click “Finish”

The image displays three sequential screenshots from an IDE's project creation wizard:

- Top Screenshot:** "Create or import a project" dialog. The "Import SDK example(s)..." option is highlighted with a red box.
- Middle Screenshot:** "Board and/or Device selection page". Under "SDK MCUs", "K6x" is expanded and "MK64FN1M0xxx12" is selected. On the right, the "Available boards" section shows the "frdmk64f" board image.
- Bottom Screenshot:** "Examples" list. The "freertos_generic" example is selected with a checkmark and highlighted by a red box.

At the bottom of the screenshots, the text "COMMUNITY PUBLIC" and the page number "16" are visible.

Build and Debug

- **Connect FRDM-K64F board**
(micro USB to OpenSDA)

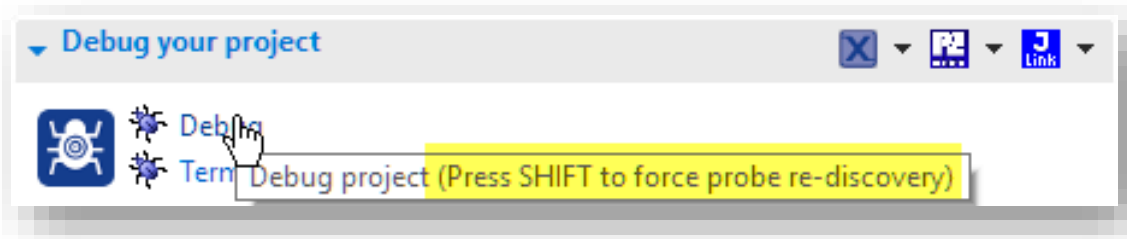
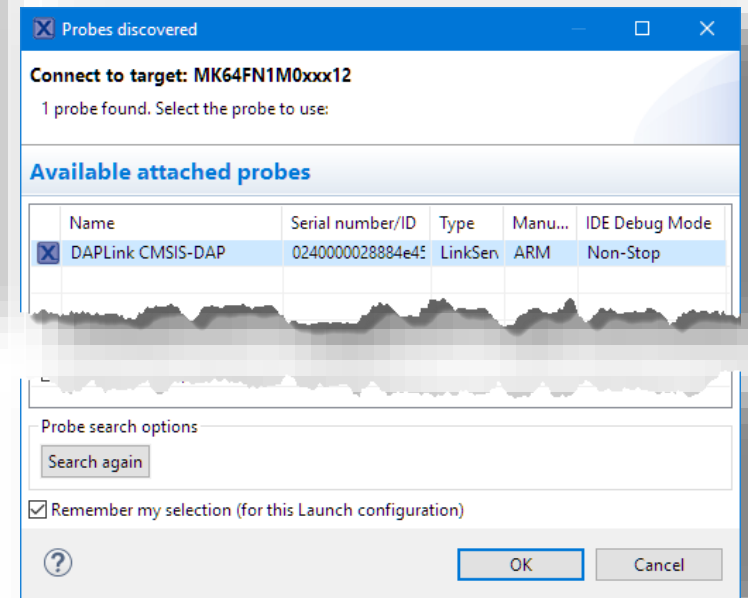
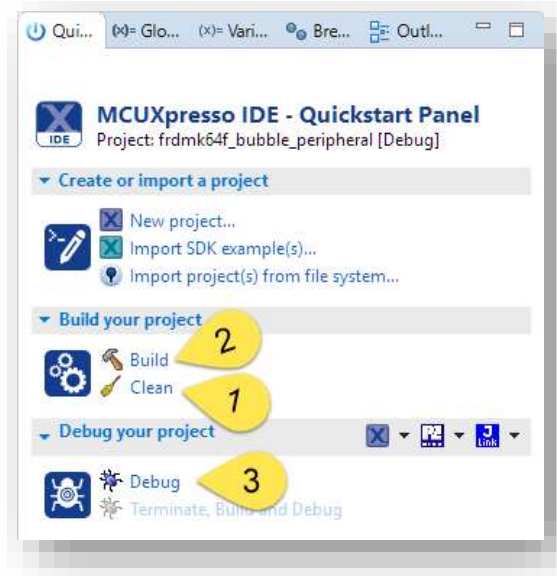
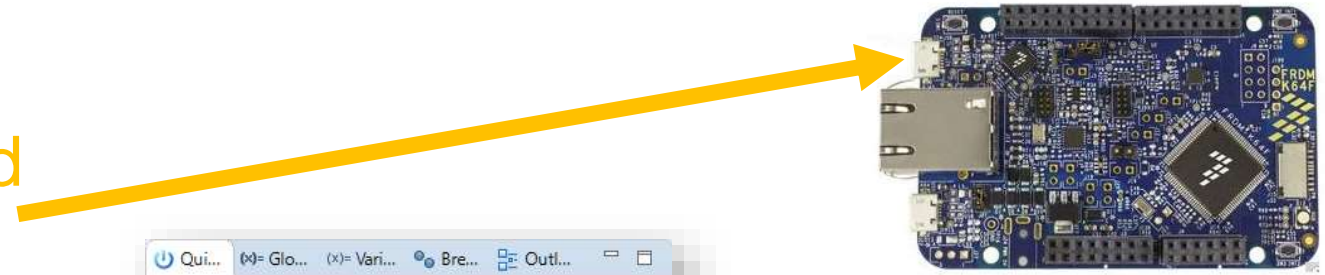
- Windows may need to enumerate USB connection

- **Use IDE Quickstart Panel to:**

- **Clean**
- **Build**
- **Debug**

- **Debugger discovers probe**

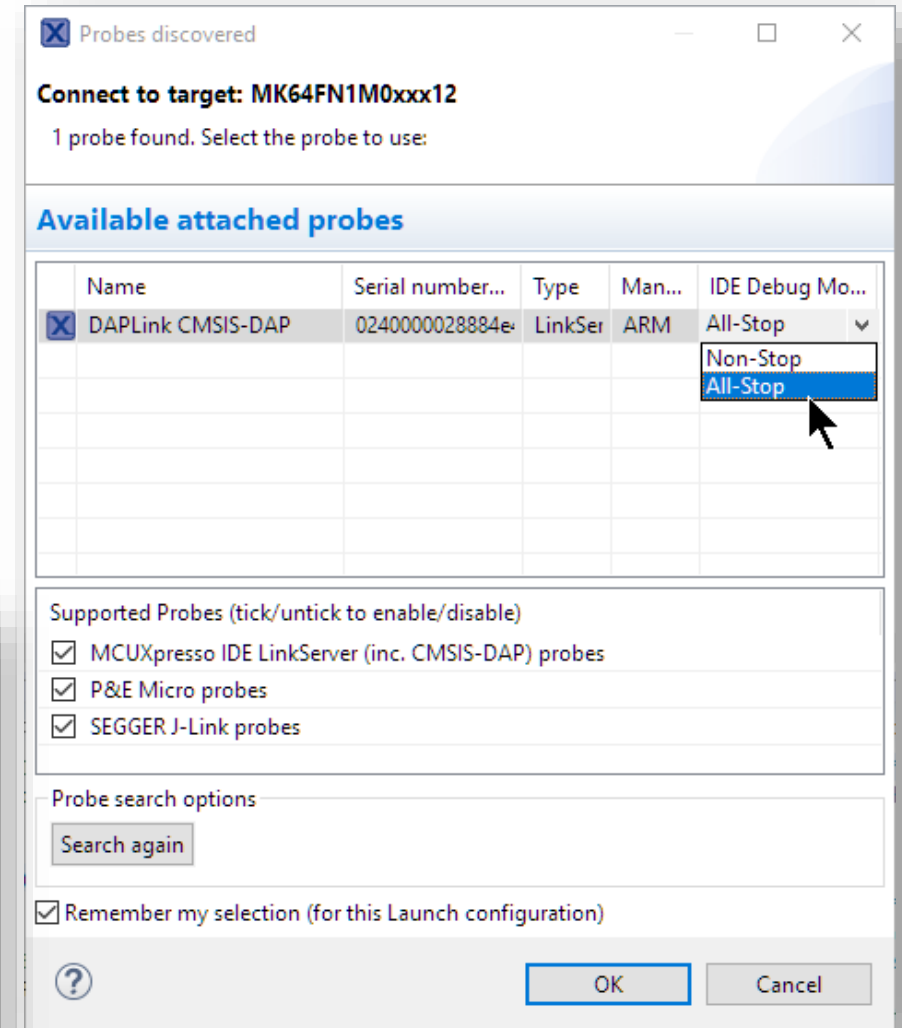
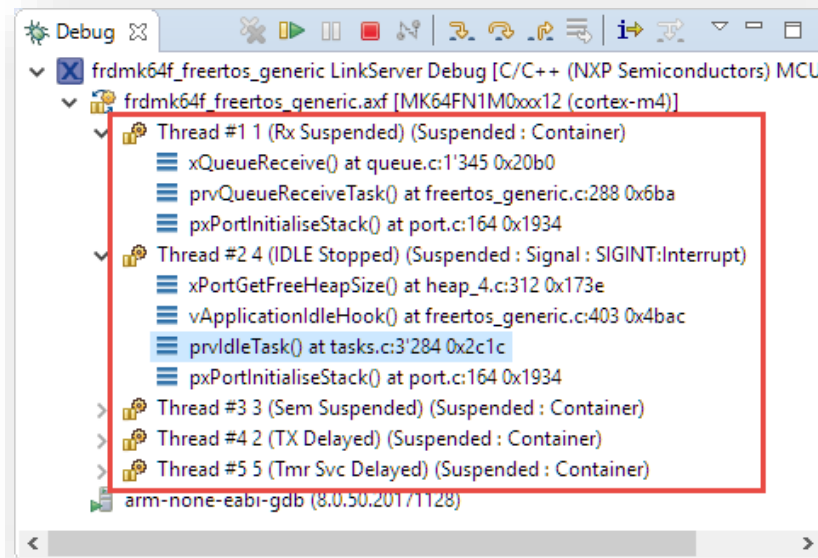
- Use SHIFT to force probe re-discovery



Debug Probe Connection

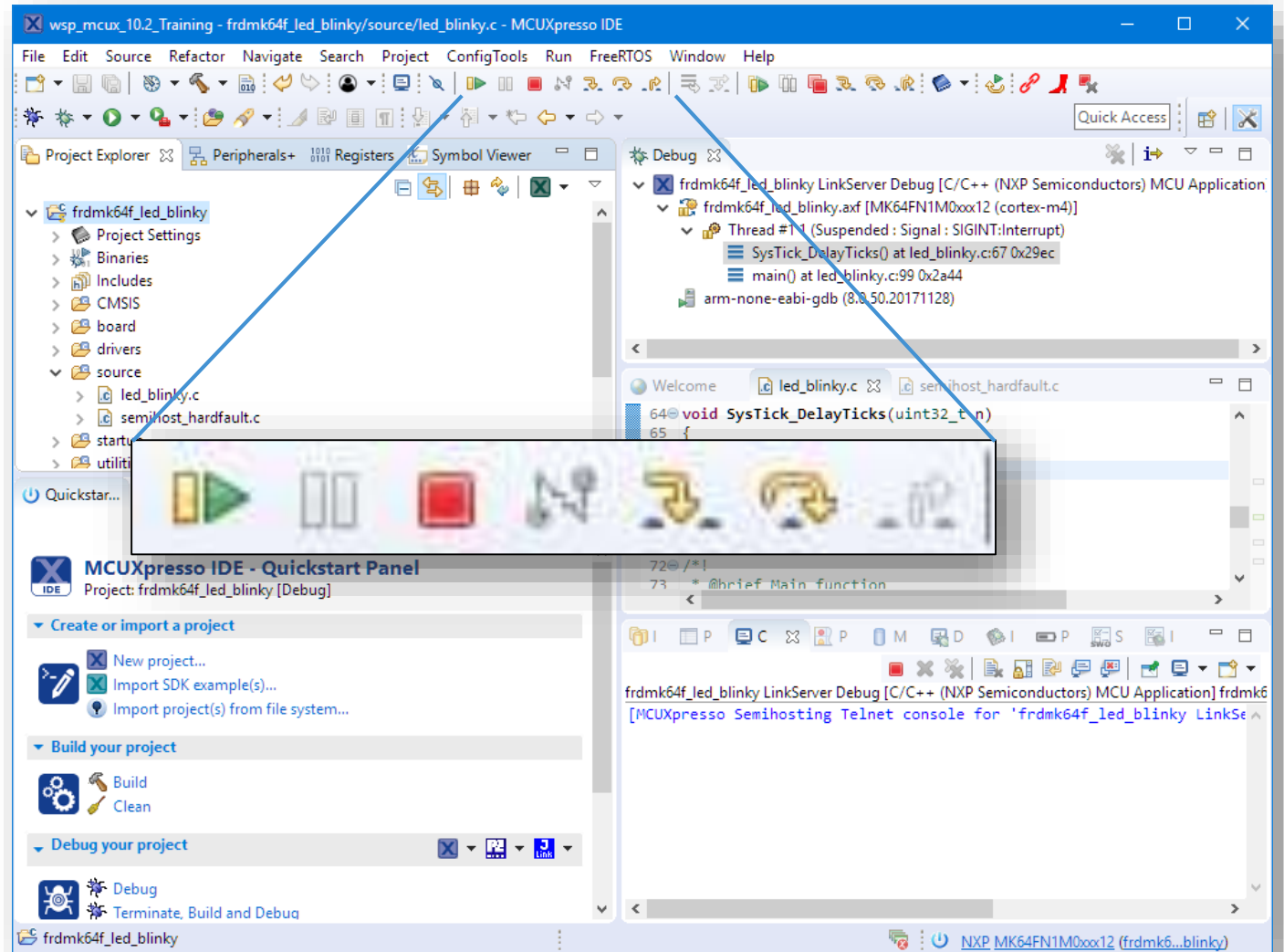
- Configure to use **All-Stop**
 - Allows thread aware debug view
 - Otherwise only current thread is shown
 - Note: 'Live Variables' not possible in All-Stop mode
- **Resume**, then **Pause**
- Application writes message counter to console

```
Receive message counter: 1.  
Receive message counter: 2.  
Receive message counter: 3.  
Receive message counter: 4.  
Receive message counter: 5.  
Receive message counter: 6.  
Receive message counter: 7.  
Receive message counter: 8.
```



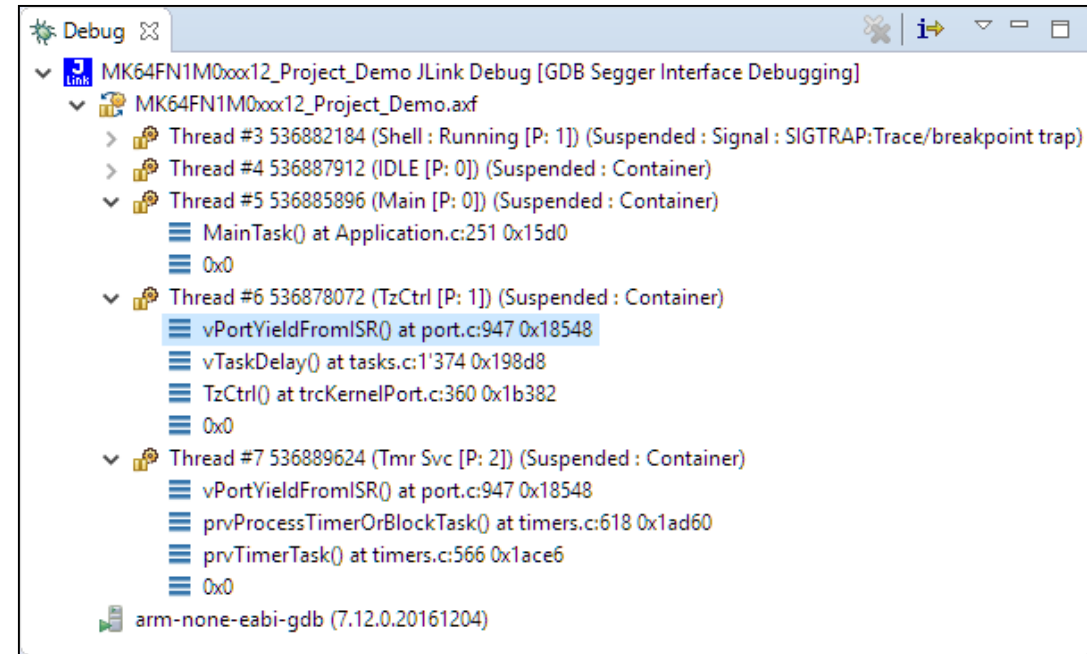
Debugger Run Control

- Resume/Run
- Suspend/Pause
- Terminate/Stop
- (Disconnect)
- Step Into
- Step Over
- Step Out
- Step through the code



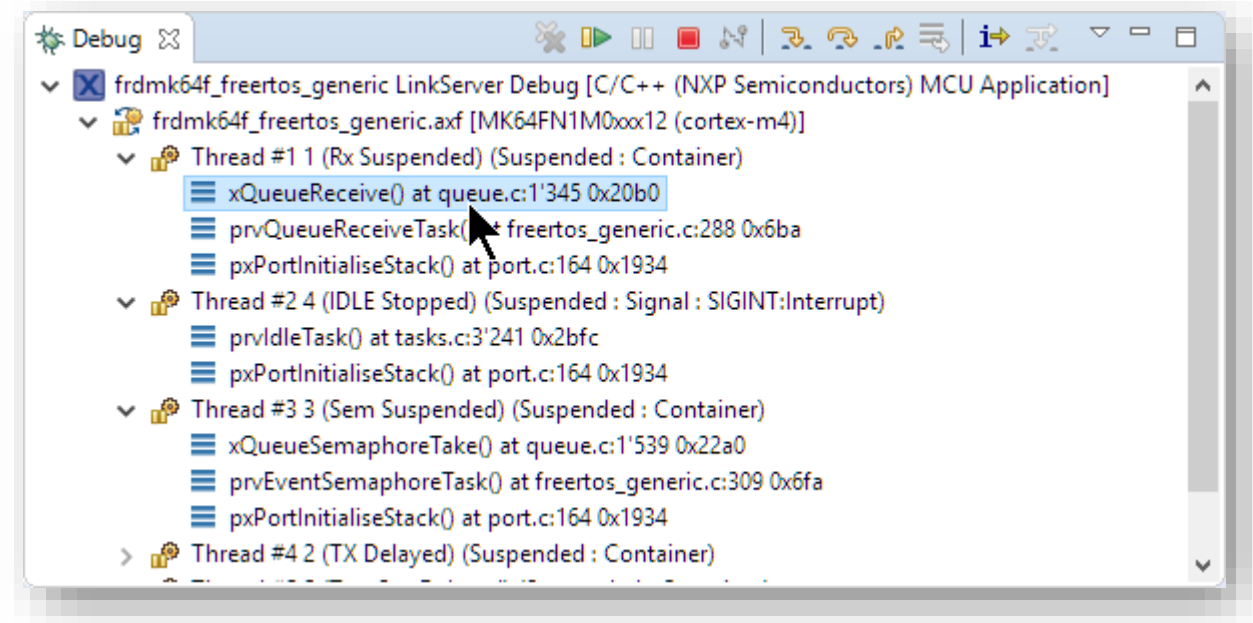
FreeRTOS Thread Aware Debugging

- Part of MCUXpresso IDE
- Show and debug FreeRTOS Tasks/Threads
- **LinkServer** (LPC-Link, LPC-Link2, CMSIS-DAP)
 - Uses 'freertos_tasks_c_additions.h'
 - Uses GDB '**all-stop mode**'
 - See 'FreeRTOS_Thread_Aware_Setup.pdf'
- **P&E** (Multilink, OpenSDA)
 - automatically supported/enabled
- **Segger** (J-Link, OpenSDA)
 - Uses GDB server option:
-rtos GDBServer/RTOSPlugin_FreeRTOS



Thread Aware Debug View

- Lists all FreeRTOS **tasks** with stacks
 - LinkServer: Requires 'All-Stop' mode!
 - Switch debug context to thread
 - Context, registers, stack
- **Click on function** (top) of a thread
- Debug it (**step out, step over**)
- **Switch** to another thread

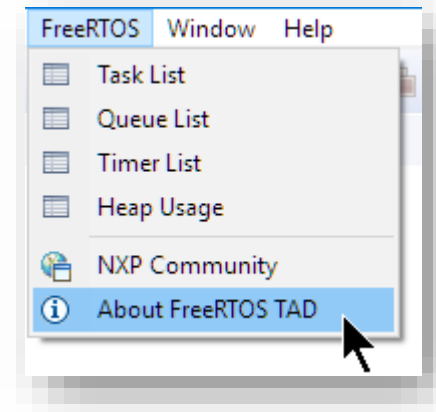


FreeRTOS TAD



FreeRTOS TAD

- Thread Aware Debugging
 - Show and switch between threads in Debug View
 - Views to inspect status of the RTOS
- Views read RTOS data structures while target is halted
- Debugger needs extra information:
 - <IDE Installation Path>\MCUXpresso_IDE_FreeRTOS_Debug_Guide.pdf
 - SDK projects should be updated for this

A screenshot of the FreeRTOS TAD interface. It shows three overlapping windows: 'Task List (FreeRTOS)', 'Heap Usage (FreeRTOS)', and 'Queue List (FreeRTOS)'.

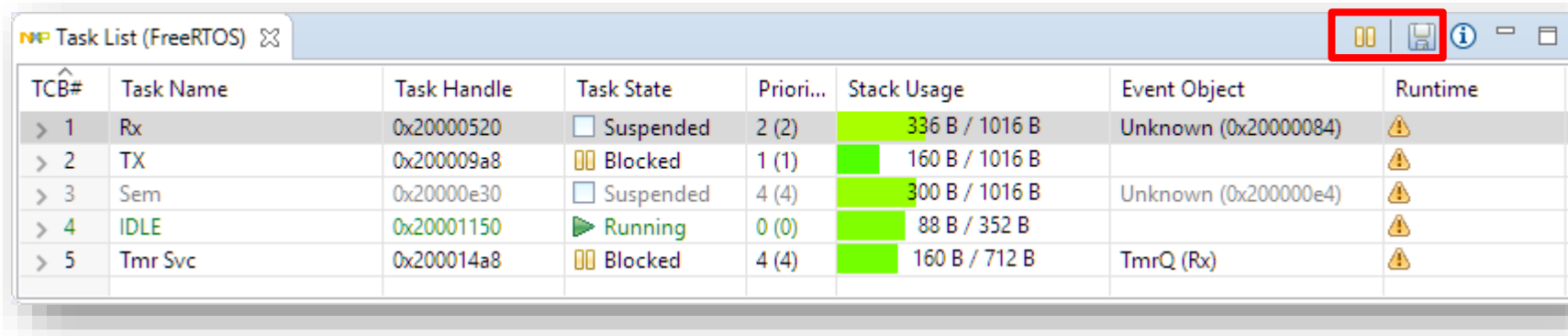
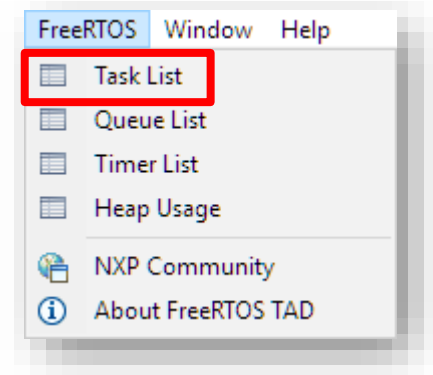
TCB#	Task Name	Task Handle	Task State	Prior...	Stack Usage	Ever...
> 1	Rx	0x20000520	Suspended	2 (2)	336 B / 1016 B	Unk
> 2	TX	0x200009a8	Blocked	1 (1)	160 B / 1016 B	
> 3	Sem	0x20000e30	Suspended	4 (4)	300 B / 1016 B	Unk
> 4	IDLE	0x20001150	Running	0 (0)		
> 5	Tmr Svc	0x200014a8	Blocked	4 (4)		

Type	Heap Base	Heap End	Heap Usage	Free Space	Heap Usage Graph
4	0x20000054	0x20002854	5.21 kB / 10 kB	47.89% (4.79 kB)	52.11% Used

#	Queue Name	Address	Length	Item Size	# Tx Wai...	# Rx Wai...	Queue Type
1	TmrQ	0x20000ee8	0/10	0xffffffff (-1 B)	0	1	Queue

Task List

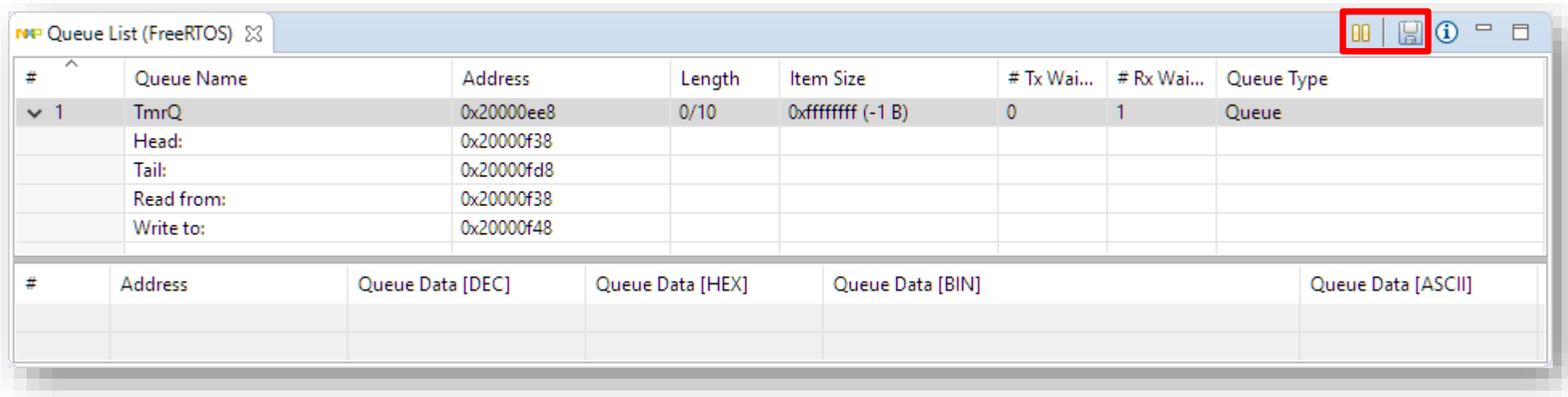
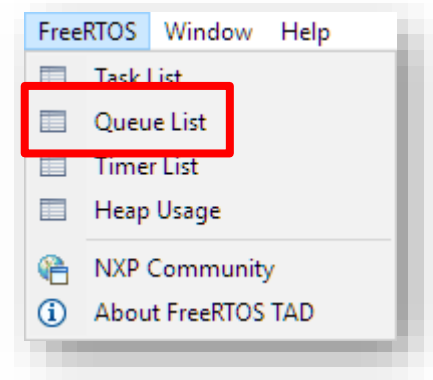
- Start debugging your FreeRTOS application
- Lists FreeRTOS Tasks in the System
- Menu **FreeRTOS > Task List**
- **Pause** Button: do not update data when target is stopped
- **Save** Button: Store information as .csv file



TCB#	Task Name	Task Handle	Task State	Priori...	Stack Usage	Event Object	Runtime
> 1	Rx	0x20000520	<input type="checkbox"/> Suspended	2 (2)	<div style="width: 33%; background-color: #90EE90;">336 B / 1016 B</div>	Unknown (0x20000084)	
> 2	TX	0x200009a8	<input type="checkbox"/> Blocked	1 (1)	<div style="width: 16%; background-color: #90EE90;">160 B / 1016 B</div>		
> 3	Sem	0x20000e30	<input type="checkbox"/> Suspended	4 (4)	<div style="width: 30%; background-color: #90EE90;">300 B / 1016 B</div>	Unknown (0x200000e4)	
> 4	IDLE	0x20001150	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Running	0 (0)	<div style="width: 8%; background-color: #90EE90;">88 B / 352 B</div>		
> 5	Tmr Svc	0x200014a8	<input type="checkbox"/> Blocked	4 (4)	<div style="width: 16%; background-color: #90EE90;">160 B / 712 B</div>	TmrQ (Rx)	

Queue List

- Lists all FreeRTOS Queues
- Menu **FreeRTOS > Queue List**
- **Pause** Button: do not update data when target is stopped
- **Save** Button: Store information as .csv file

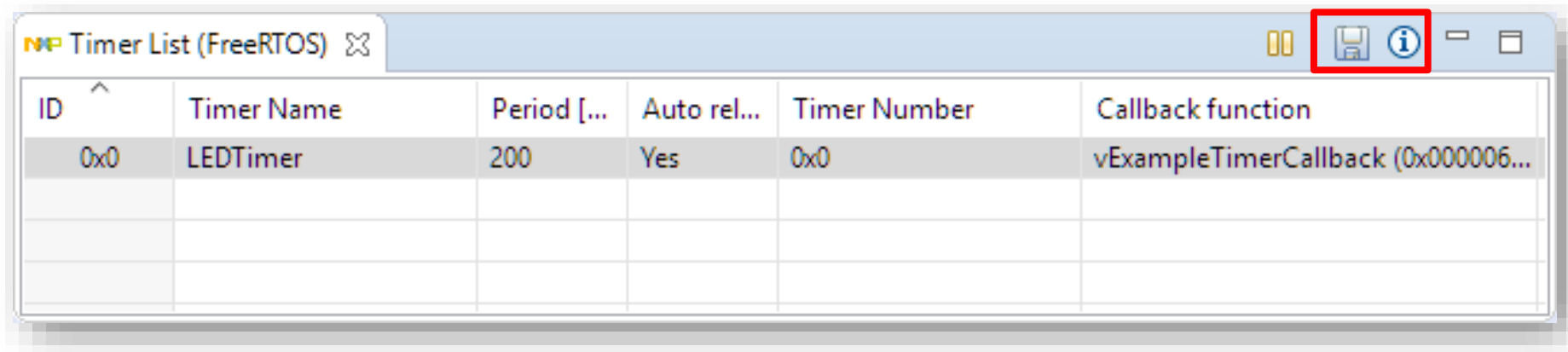
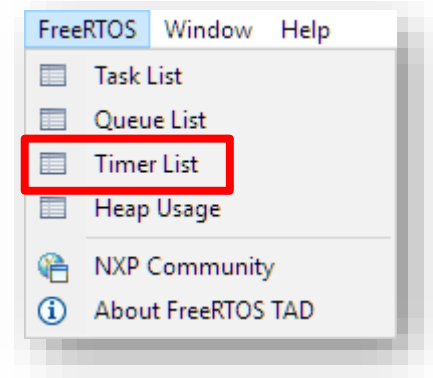
A screenshot of the 'Queue List (FreeRTOS)' window. The window title bar includes a 'Pause' button (two vertical bars) and a 'Save' button (floppy disk), both highlighted with a red box. The main content is a table with the following data:

#	Queue Name	Address	Length	Item Size	# Tx Wai...	# Rx Wai...	Queue Type
1	TmrQ	0x20000ee8	0/10	0xffffffff (-1 B)	0	1	Queue
	Head:	0x20000f38					
	Tail:	0x20000fd8					
	Read from:	0x20000f38					
	Write to:	0x20000f48					

#	Address	Queue Data [DEC]	Queue Data [HEX]	Queue Data [BIN]	Queue Data [ASCII]

Queue Timer

- Lists all FreeRTOS **Software Timer**
- Menu **FreeRTOS > Queue List**
- **Pause** Button: do not update data when target is stopped
- **Save** Button: Store information as .csv file

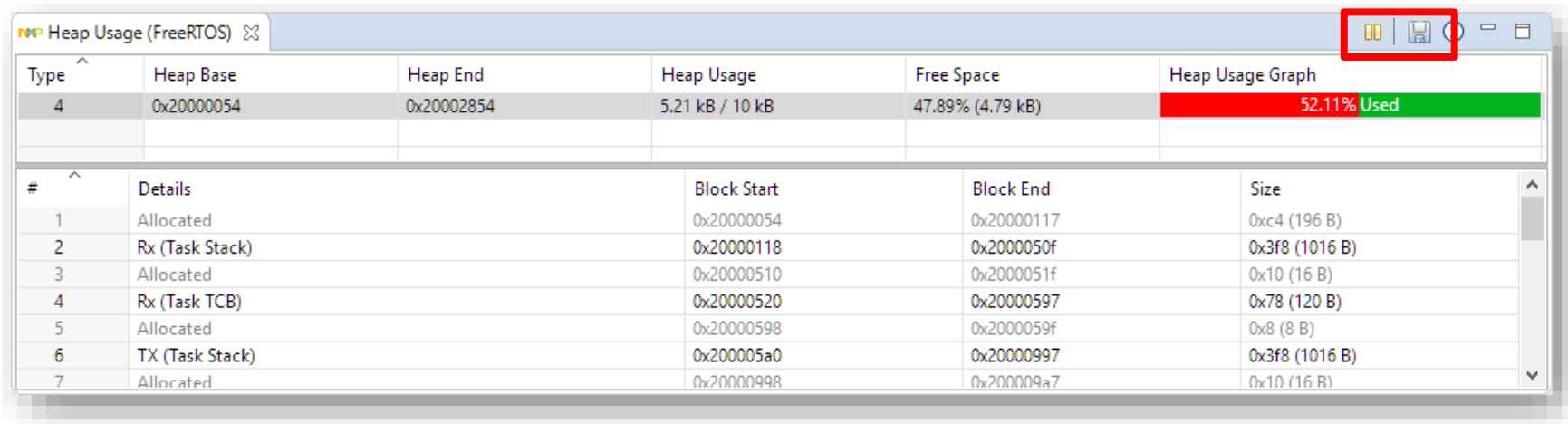
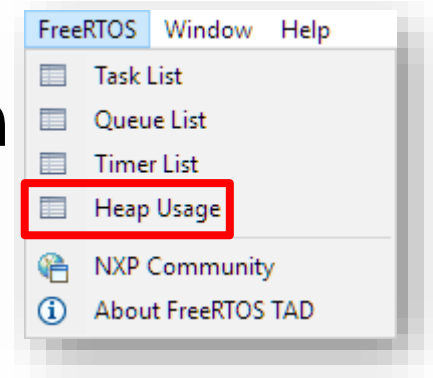


A screenshot of the 'Timer List (FreeRTOS)' window. The window title bar includes a save icon and an information icon, both highlighted with a red box. The main content is a table with the following data:

ID	Timer Name	Period [...]	Auto rel...	Timer Number	Callback function
0x0	LEDTimer	200	Yes	0x0	vExampleTimerCallback (0x000006...

Heap Usage

- Status of FreeRTOS **Heap** and **Memory Allocation**
- Menu **FreeRTOS > Heap Usage**
- **Pause** Button: do not update data when target is stopped
- **Save** Button: Store information as .csv file



The screenshot shows the 'Heap Usage (FreeRTOS)' window. The top bar includes a 'Pause' button (two vertical bars) and a 'Save' button (floppy disk icon), both highlighted with a red box. The main content is a table with the following data:

Type	Heap Base	Heap End	Heap Usage	Free Space	Heap Usage Graph
4	0x20000054	0x20002854	5.21 kB / 10 kB	47.89% (4.79 kB)	52.11% Used

#	Details	Block Start	Block End	Size
1	Allocated	0x20000054	0x20000117	0xc4 (196 B)
2	Rx (Task Stack)	0x20000118	0x2000050f	0x3f8 (1016 B)
3	Allocated	0x20000510	0x2000051f	0x10 (16 B)
4	Rx (Task TCB)	0x20000520	0x20000597	0x78 (120 B)
5	Allocated	0x20000598	0x2000059f	0x8 (8 B)
6	TX (Task Stack)	0x200005a0	0x20000997	0x3f8 (1016 B)
7	Allocated	0x20000998	0x200009a7	0x10 (16 B)

FreeRTOS Optimization



FreeRTOS Application Optimization Approach

- Static

- FreeRTOS Configuration

- Only enable what is necessary

- Compiler/Linker

- Enable higher level of optimizations (-O3, -flto)
 - Use optimized libraries (no semihosting/no-host, RedLib, newlib-nano)

- Dynamic

- FreeRTOS Runtime Statistics

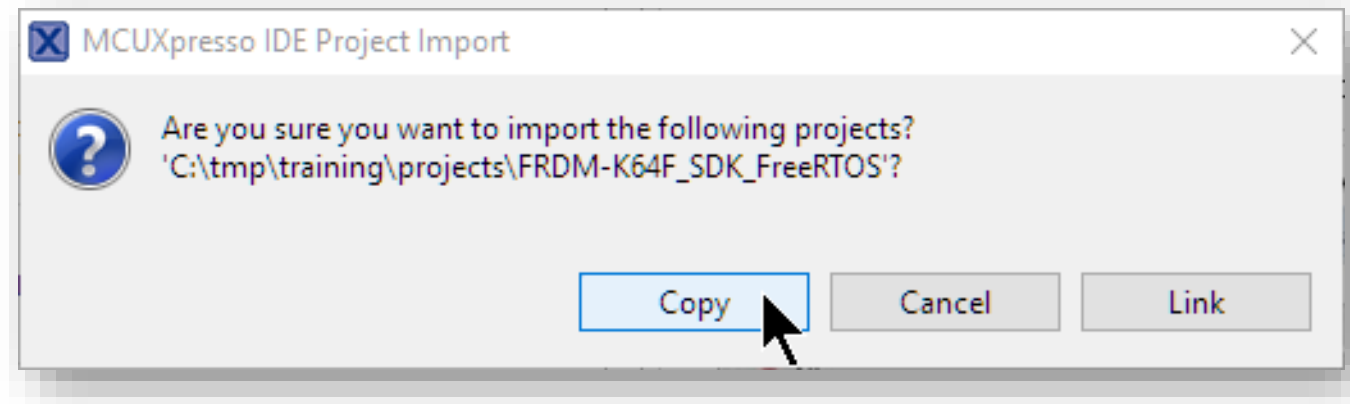
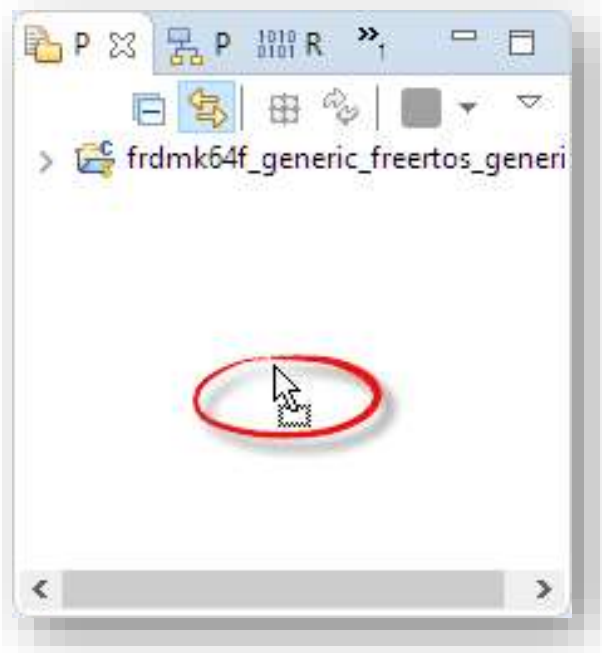
- Segger SystemView

- *Percepio Tracealyzer (not covered in this lab, see backup slides)*



FRDM-K64F_SDK_FreeRTOS

- Import '**FRDM-K64F_SDK_FreeRTOS**' project
 - Drag Folder into 'Project Explorer' view
 - Drage into 'empty' space on bottom of view
 - Use 'Copy'
- Project uses FreeRTOS features with SEGGER RTT/SystemView



Base Code and Data Size

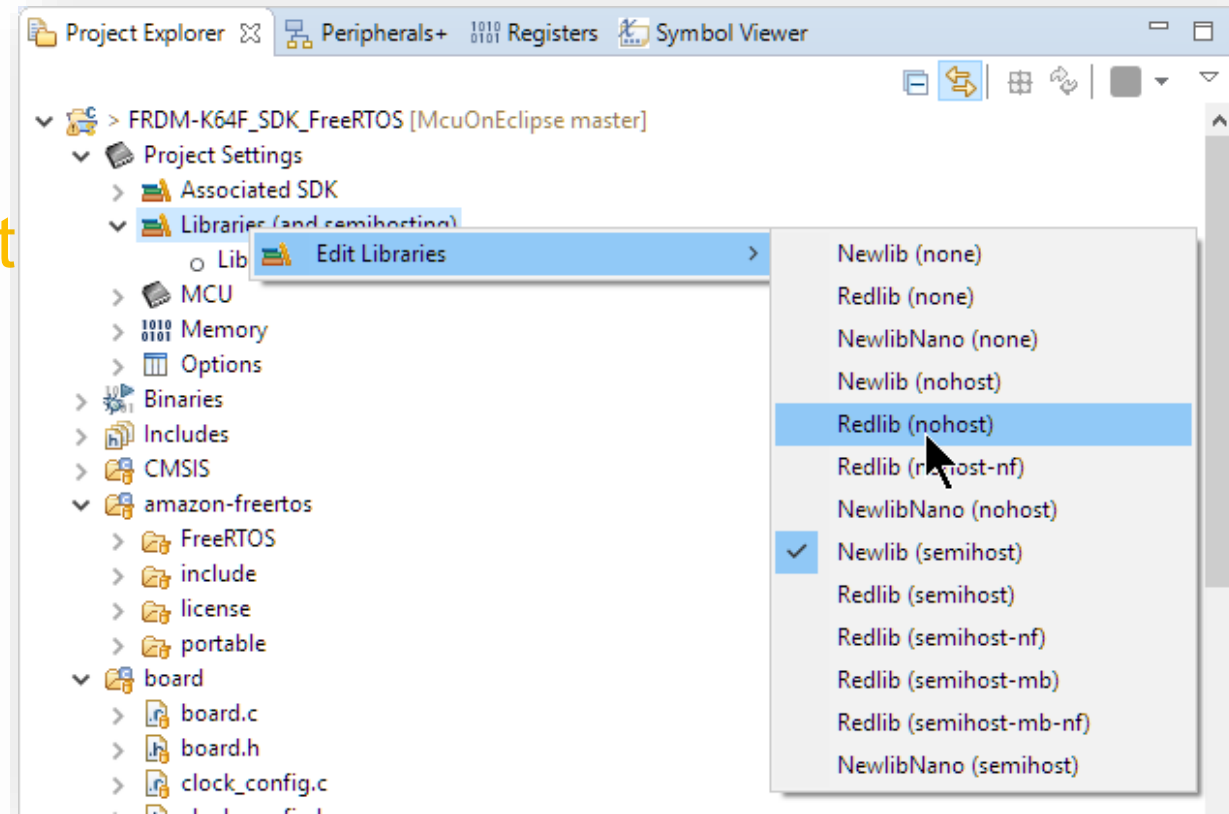
- Build Project
- Inspect Console view
- Note the initial code and data size needed

Memory region	Used Size	Region Size	%age Used
PROGRAM_FLASH:	56840 B	1 MB	5.42%
SRAM_UPPER:	46800 B	192 KB	23.80%
SRAM_LOWER:	0 GB	64 KB	0.00%
FLEX_RAM:	0 GB	4 KB	0.00%

Note your sizes

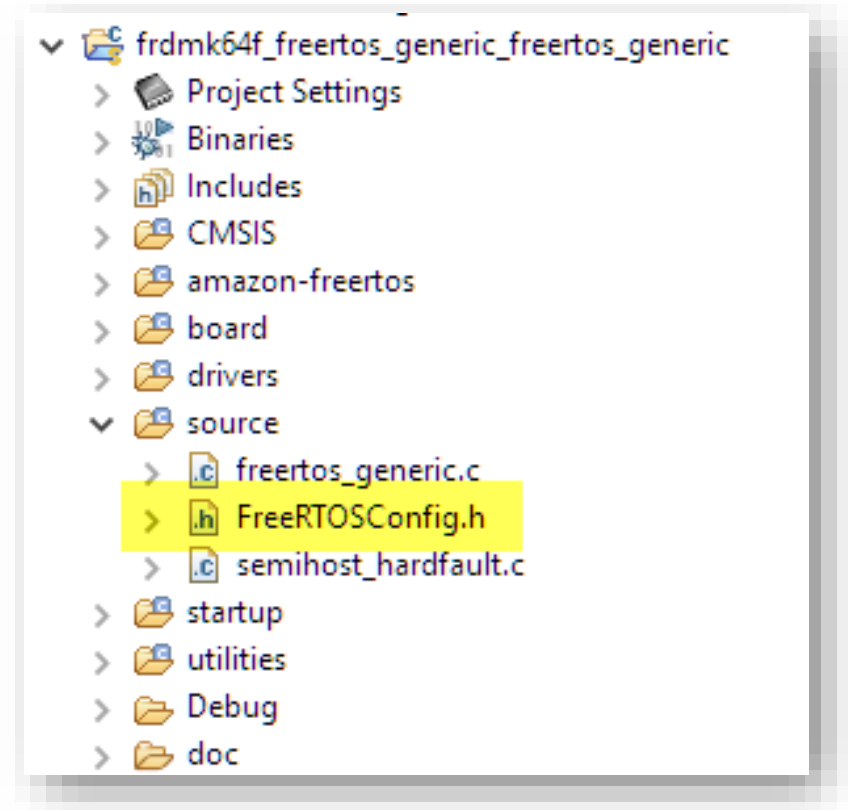
Libraries and Printf()/semihosting

- Avoid semihosting/printf (→ nohost)
- Use smaller library
→ newlib-nano → RedLib (nohost)
 - 'nohost' maps printf to empty functions
- Rebuild
- Check code size impact



FreeRTOS Configuration File

- **FreeRTOSConfig.h**
- Header file configuring the RTOS
 - Features
 - API functionality
 - Diagnostics
 - Performance analysis
 - Hardware configuration and interrupts
- *Recommendation*
 - *Only enable what is needed!*
 - *Requires knowledge of application and RTOS functionality (will cover in next sections)*



Assertions

```
#define configASSERT(x) if((x) == 0) \  
    {taskDISABLE_INTERRUPTS(); for (;;);}}
```

TODO 01

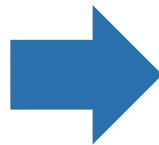
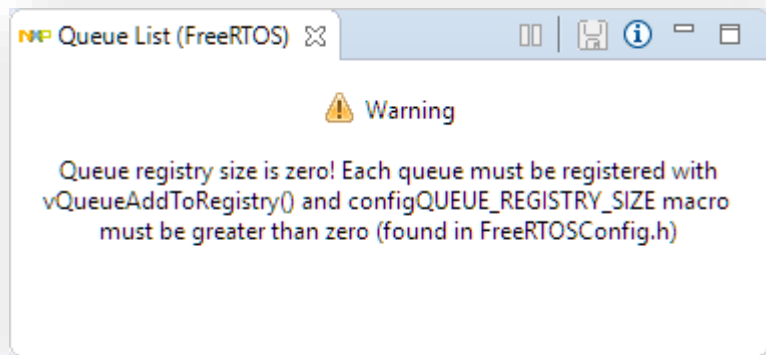
- *Recommendation*
 - Turn on during development
 - Disable for 'release' version (define as 'empty')
 - Impact: reduced code size
- Rebuild
- Check code size impact

Queue Registry

```
#define configQUEUE_REGISTRY_SIZE 0
```

- Registry to store names for queues, semaphore and mutex
- *Recommendation*
 - As small as possible, or 0 to disable
 - Impact: reduced RAM size, reduced code size, no names for queues/semaphore/mutex
- Set queue registry size to 2 (better 3) and verify in the debugger

TODO 02



#	Queue Name	Address	Len...	Item Size	# T...	# R...	Queue Type
> 1	TmrQ	0x20001f78	0/10	0x10 (16 B)	0	1	Queue
> 2	IPC_Sem	0x200029a8	0/1	Empty	0	1	Binary Semaphore

#	Address	Queue Data [...]	Queue Data [...]	Queue Data [BIN]	Queue Data [...]

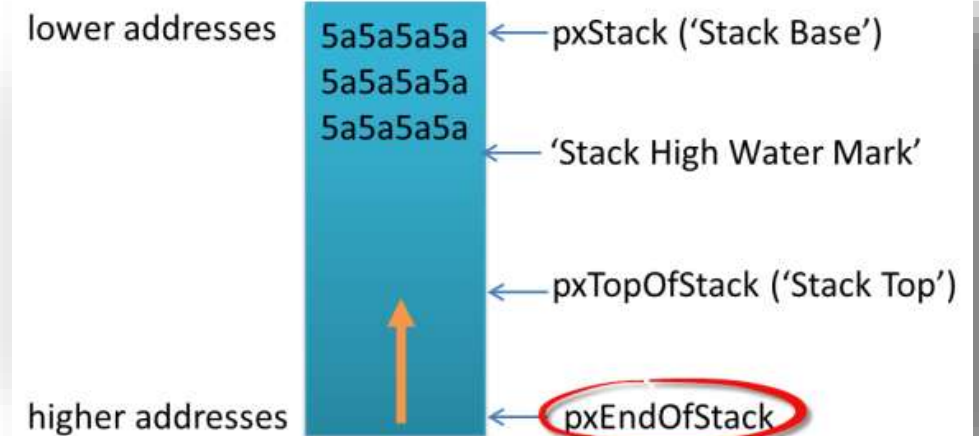
Stack High Address

```
#define configRECORD_STACK_HIGH_ADDRESS 0
```

- Stores stack end address in task control block (TCB)
- *Recommendation*
 - Enable for debugging, disable for release
 - Impact: better stack size debugging, less RAM usage
 - Details see [this article](#)
- Enable recording of stack end address

TODO 03

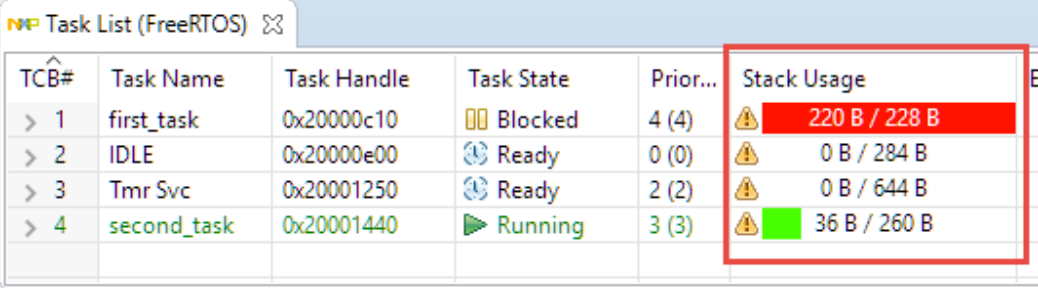
Stack Usage	Event Object	Runtime
168 B / 372 B		
200 B / 372 B		
0 B / 260 B		
Enable "configRECORD_STACK_HIGH_ADDRESS" macro in FreeRTOSconfig.h to see "Stack usage".		
16 B / 380 B		



Task Stack Size

```
#define configMINIMAL_STACK_SIZE      ((unsigned short)200)
```

- Stack units on ARM: 32bits!
 - Used by IDLE task, dedicated macro for timer task
 - Often used for task stacks
- *Recommendation*
 - Use *configMINIMAL_STACK_SIZE* for IDLE task only
 - Timer Task: use dedicated size
 - Value as small as possible (use Stack Usage)
 - Impact: reduced RAM and Heap



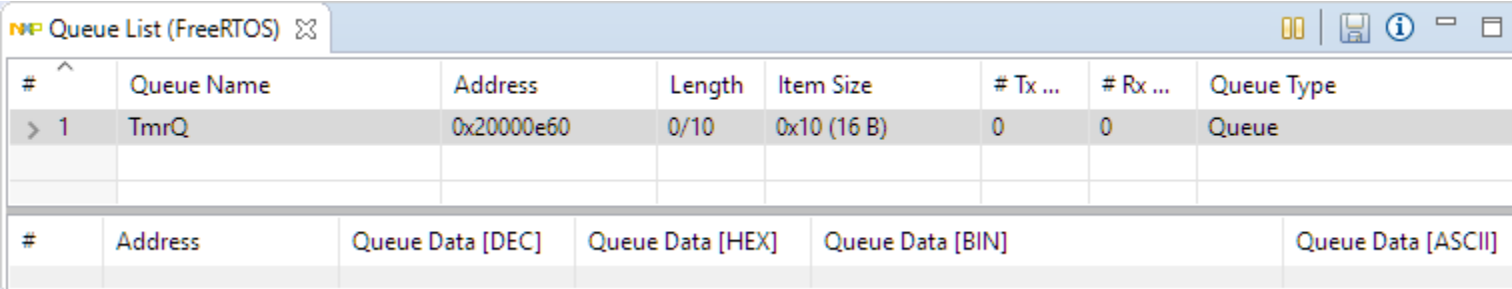
The screenshot shows a window titled "Task List (FreeRTOS)" with a table of task information. The table has columns for TCB#, Task Name, Task Handle, Task State, Prior..., and Stack Usage. The Stack Usage column shows the current stack usage and the total stack size for each task. A red box highlights the Stack Usage column, and a red bar highlights the first row (first_task) which shows 220 B / 228 B.

TCB#	Task Name	Task Handle	Task State	Prior...	Stack Usage
> 1	first_task	0x20000c10	Blocked	4 (4)	220 B / 228 B
> 2	IDLE	0x20000e00	Ready	0 (0)	0 B / 284 B
> 3	Tmr Svc	0x20001250	Ready	2 (2)	0 B / 644 B
> 4	second_task	0x20001440	Running	3 (3)	36 B / 260 B

RTOS Timers

```
#define configUSE_TIMERS 1
#define configTIMER_TASK_PRIORITY 2
#define configTIMER_QUEUE_LENGTH 10
#define configTIMER_TASK_STACK_DEPTH (configMINIMAL_STACK_SIZE * 2)
```

- Software timer, implemented with Daemon task and message queue
- *Recommendation*
 - *Disable if not used, or use values as small as possible*
 - *Use FreeRTOS timers for low power applications instead of HW timers*
 - *Use reduced command queue length*
 - *Impact: reduced RAM size, reduced code size*



The screenshot shows a window titled "Queue List (FreeRTOS)". It contains a table with the following data:

#	Queue Name	Address	Length	Item Size	# Tx ...	# Rx ...	Queue Type
> 1	TmrQ	0x20000e60	0/10	0x10 (16 B)	0	0	Queue

Below the table, there are tabs for "Queue Data [DEC]", "Queue Data [HEX]", "Queue Data [BIN]", and "Queue Data [ASCII]".

Timer and IDLE Stack Size

- Check current stack usage
- Reduce stack size needed for IDLE task
 - Hint: Number is for 32bit entities
- Reduce stack size needed for TmrSvc task
 - Hint: Should be more than for IDLE task
 - Hint: queue operations
- Reduce Timer Queue Length
 - Hint: number of timer commands (3 should be ok)

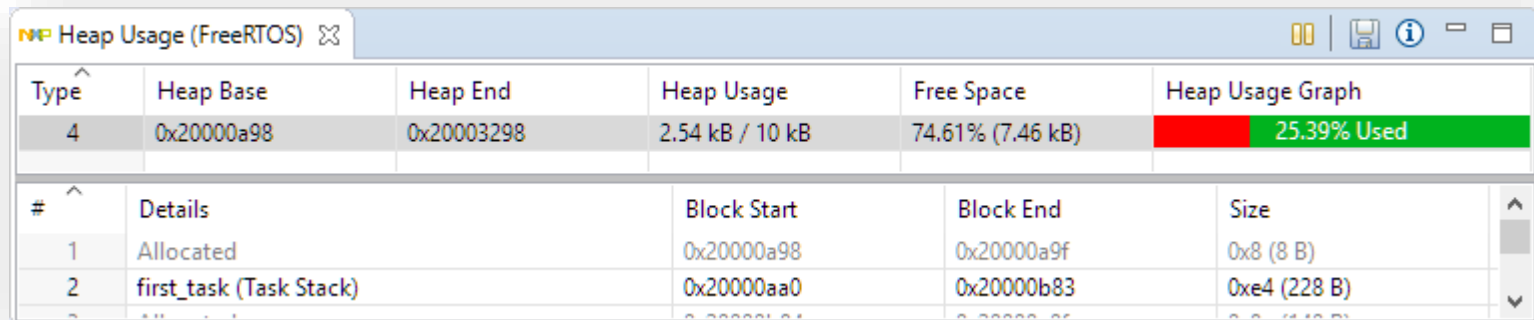
TODO 04
TODO 05
TODO 06

TÇ...	Task Name	Task Han...	Task State	Pri...	Stack Usage
> 1	Timers	0x20001268	Blocked	0 (0)	292 B / 496 B
> 2	Master	0x200014f0	Blocked	1 (1)	324 B / 496 B
> 3	first_task	0x20001778	Blocked	4 (4)	324 B / 496 B
> 4	IDLE	0x20001b28	Running	0 (0)	88 B / 792 B
> 5	Tmr Svc	0x200022f0	Blocked	9 (9)	300 B / 1.55 kB
> 6	second_task	0x20002578	Blocked	3 (3)	168 B / 496 B
> 7	Slave	0x20002858	Suspen...	1 (1)	244 B / 496 B

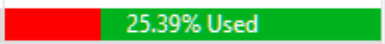
Heap Scheme

```
#define configFRTOS_MEMORY_SCHEME 4
```

- 1: allocate only, 2: no block merge, 3: malloc()/free(), 4: merges blocks, 5: multiple memory areas
- *Recommendation*
 - Use scheme 1, 3 if middleware uses malloc()/free(), otherwise 4
 - Use static allocation (configSUPPORT_STATIC_ALLOCATION 1) with no dynamic allocation (configSUPPORT_DYNAMIC_ALLOCATION 0)
 - Impact: reduced RAM size, reduced code size



The screenshot shows the NXP Heap Usage (FreeRTOS) tool interface. It displays a summary table and a detailed view of heap blocks.

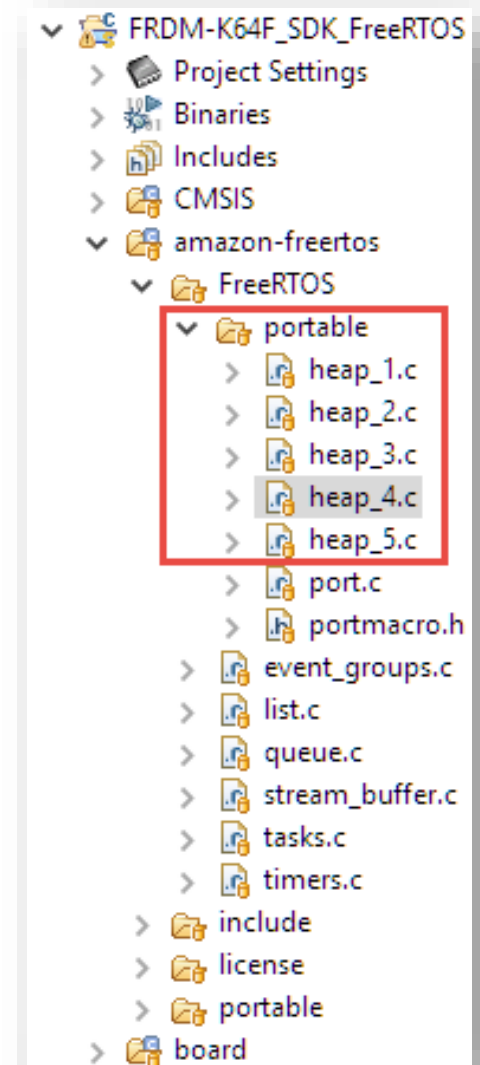
Type	Heap Base	Heap End	Heap Usage	Free Space	Heap Usage Graph
4	0x20000a98	0x20003298	2.54 kB / 10 kB	74.61% (7.46 kB)	 25.39% Used

#	Details	Block Start	Block End	Size
1	Allocated	0x20000a98	0x20000a9f	0x8 (8 B)
2	first_task (Task Stack)	0x20000aa0	0x20000b83	0xe4 (228 B)

Heap Scheme

- Change `configFRTOS_MEMORY_SCHEME` to 1 (alloc only)
- Build
- Observe code/data size change
- Note
 - macro selects which heap file is used (heap_1.c, ... heap_5.c)

TODO 07



Runtime Statistics

```
#define configGENERATE_RUN_TIME_STATS 0
#define configUSE_TRACE_FACILITY 1
#define configUSE_STATS_FORMATTING_FUNCTIONS 0
```

- Collects runtime statistics
- *Recommendation*
 - Turn off for release
 - Impact: reduced RAM size, reduced code size, improved performance, no statistics

TCB#	Task Name	Task Handle	Task State	Prior...	Stack Usage	Event Object	Runtime
> 1	Shell	0x20011490	Blocked	1 (1)	172 B / 4.88 kB		0x0 (0.0%)
> 3	App	0x200139c0	Running	1 (1)	1.79 kB / 7.8 kB		0x1190 (100.0%)
> 2	Accel	0x20011940	Ready	1 (1)	372 B / 992 B		0x0 (0.0%)
> 4	IDLE	0x20013bc0	Ready	0 (0)	36 B / 392 B		0x0 (0.0%)

Task Runtime

TODO 08

- Enable config `GENERATE_RUN_TIME_STATS`
 - Application has setup a 0.1 ms timer to measure task execution time
- Build and Debug
- Can you spot (and fix) a performance problem in your application?
 - Hint: Press SW3 and keep it pressed

TCB#	Task Name	Task Handle	Task State	Priori...	Stack Usage	Event Object	Runtime
> 1	Timers	0x20001678	Blocked	0 (0)	292 B / 496 B		0x10 (0.0%)
> 2	Master	0x200018f8	Blocked	0 (1)	360 B / 496 B		0x1 (0.0%)
> 3	first_task	0x20001b78	Blocked	0 (4)	324 B / 496 B		0x15 (0.0%)
> 4	IDLE	0x20001f20	Running	0 (0)	88 B / 792 B		0xc127 (99.7%)
> 5	Tmr Svc	0x200026e0	Blocked	0 (9)	373 B / 1.55 kB	TmrQ (Rx)	0x3 (0.0%)
> 6	second_task	0x20002960	Blocked	0 (3)	168 B / 496 B		0x81 (0.3%)
> 7	Slave	0x20002c38	Suspended	0 (1)	236 B / 496 B	IPC_Sem (Rx)	0x2 (0.0%)

FreeRTOS with SystemView



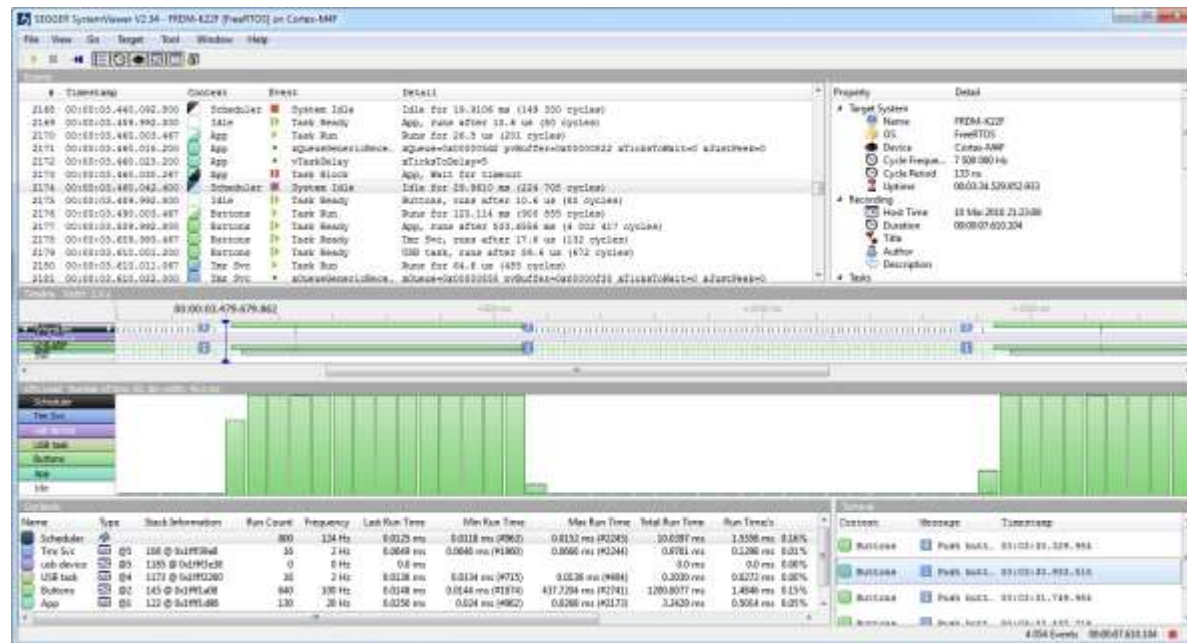
FreeRTOS Trace Hooks

```
#ifndef traceTASK_SWITCHED_OUT
/* Called before a task has been selected to run.  pxCurrentTCB holds a pointer
to the task control block of the task being switched out. */
#define traceTASK_SWITCHED_OUT()
#endif
```

- Instruments Kernel with additional trace hooks
- Macros provided by user or trace library
 - Percepio Tracalyzer
 - Segger SystemView
- *Recommendation*
 - *Disable for release version, use for application tuning and debugging*
 - *Impact: improved application performance*

Segger SystemView

- Free-of-Charge, requires Segger debug interface
- Uses Segger RTT (Real Time Transfer)
- Realtime data recording and time measurement
- **Continuous**, Single-Shot and Post-Mortem recording
- Uses Cortex M4 Cycle count register, SysTick on M0+
- <http://mcuoneclipse.com/2015/11/16/segger-systemview>



Segger SystemView

- <https://www.segger.com/jlink-software.html>
- <https://www.segger.com/systemview.html>



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SystemView

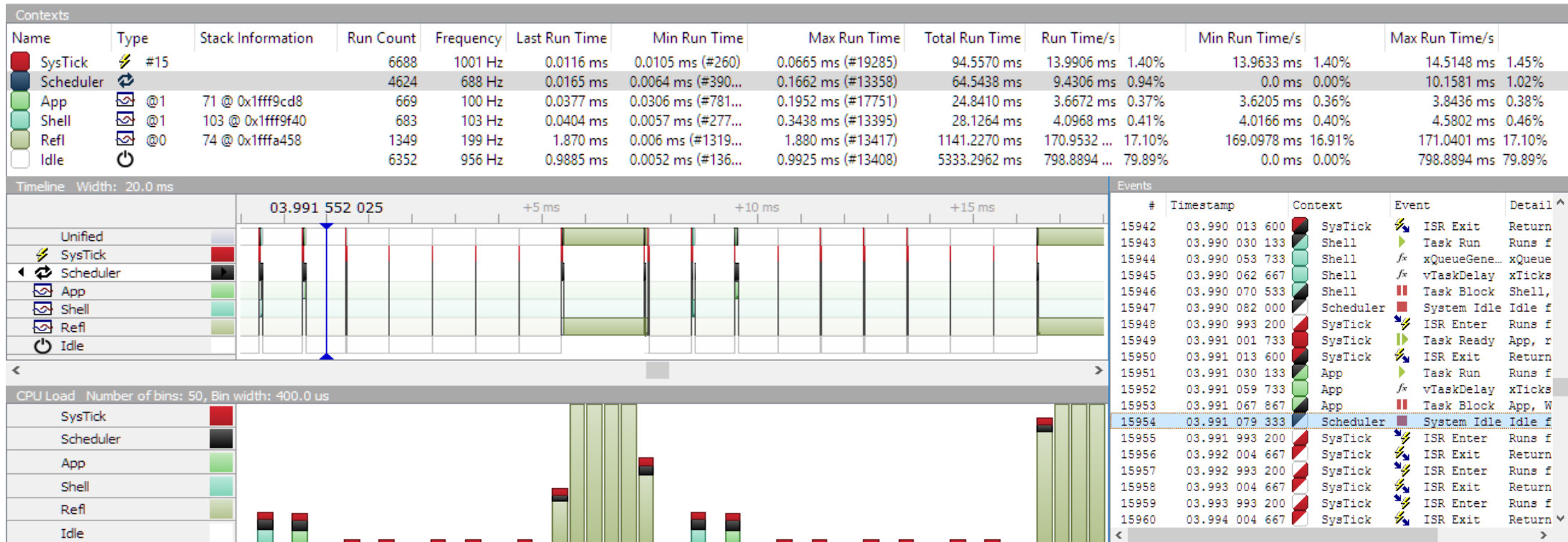
SEGGER — SystemView

- Minimally system intrusive
- Free tool. No license cost, no hidden fees
- RTOS task, resource, and API tracing
- Interrupt tracing for bare metal systems without an RTOS
- Continuous real-time recording and live analysis with J-Link and SEGGER RTT technology
- Live analysis of captured data - view responses to stimuli in real time without stopping the target
- SEGGER embOS, embOS/IP, and emFile API call tracing as standard
- uC/OS-III, Micrium OS Kernel, and FreeRTOS instrumentation included
- Can be adapted to other RTOS using a fully documented API
- Works on any CPU
- Tracking of unlimited number of events (SystemView PRO only)

SEGGER SystemView

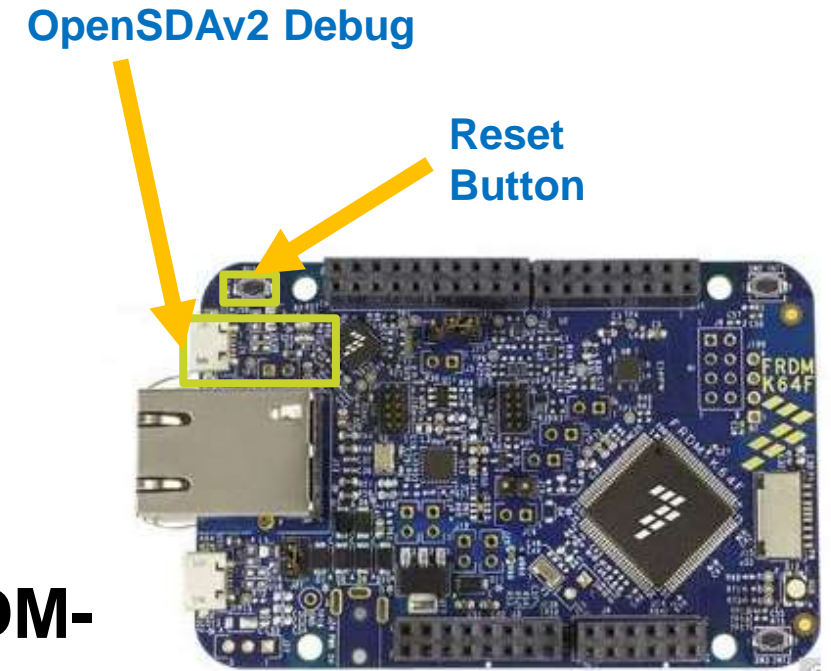
- Install SystemView

- SEGGER\Setup_SystemView_V240.exe



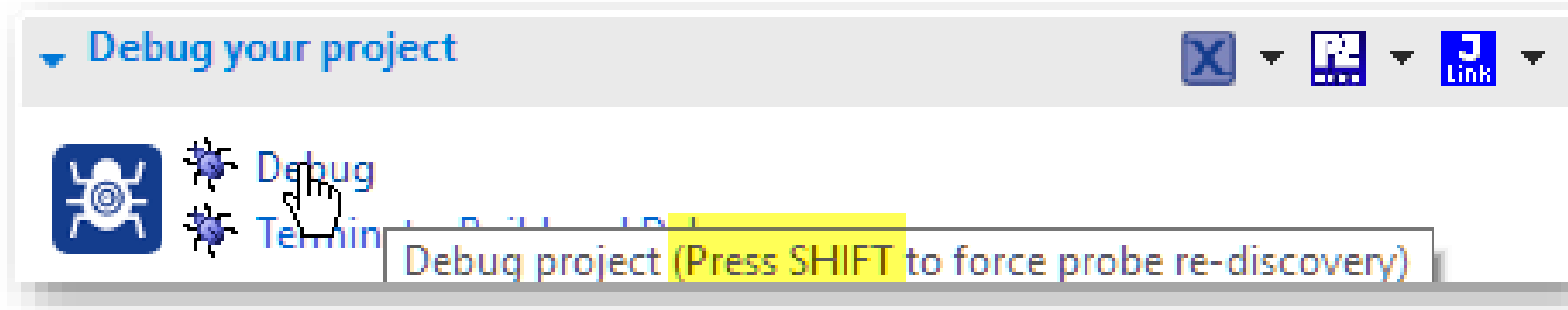
OpenSDA with Segger J-Link Firmware

- SystemView uses SEGGER RTT
 - Install SEGGER OpenSDA firmware on board
- Press (and hold) Reset Button
- Power board with OpenSDAv2 Debug USB connector
- Board enumerates as MAINTENANCE drive
- Copy **OpenSDA\SEGGER_02_OpenSDA_FRDM-K64F.bin** to drive
- Unplug USB cable
- Power/plug the USB cable



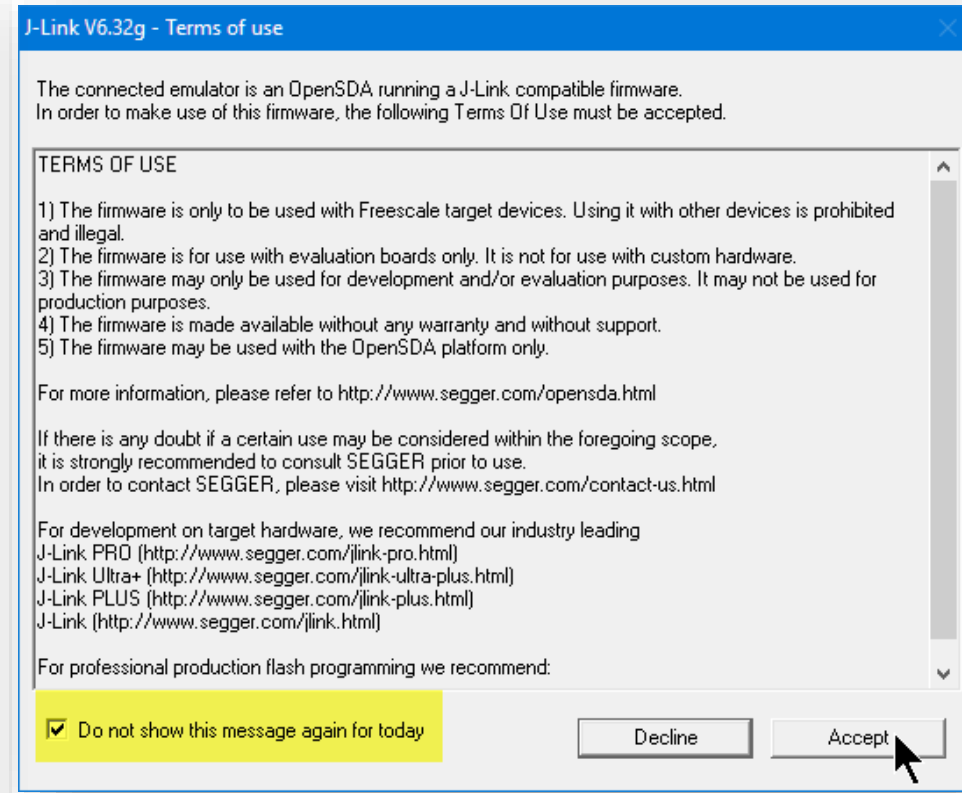
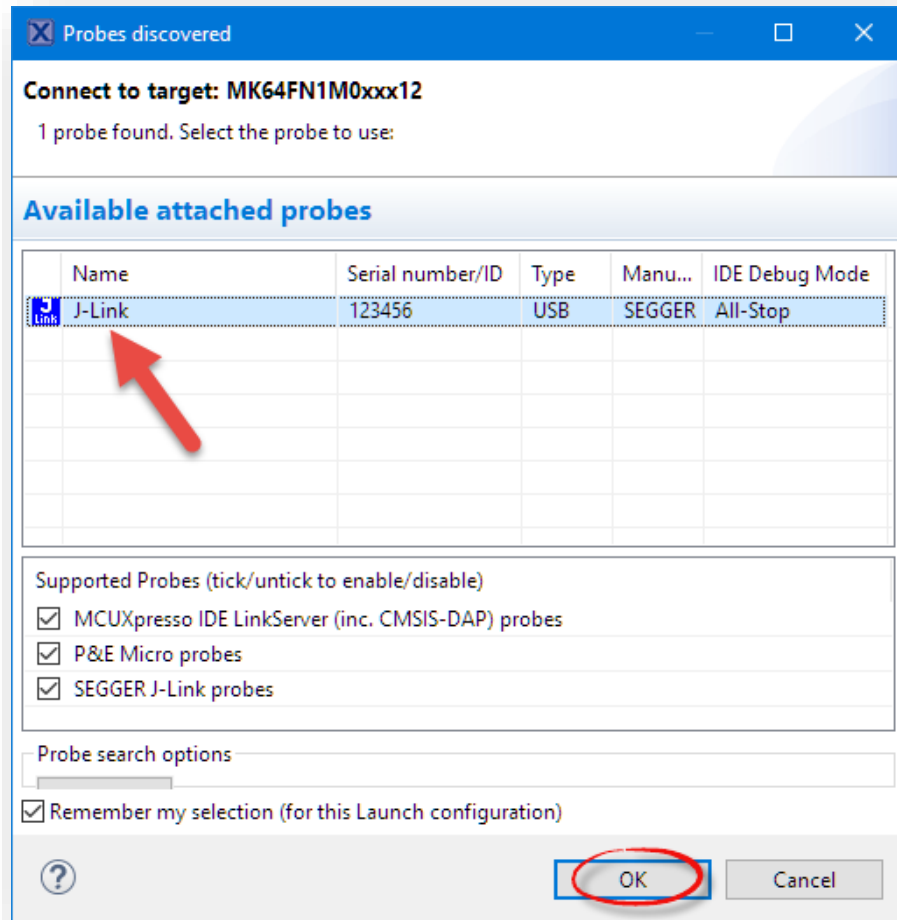
Force Probe Re-Discovery

- To debug board with different probe connection → force re-discovery
- Press SHIFT while using Quickstart Debug icon



J-Link Probe Discovery

- Discovers attached debug probes
- **Accept Terms of use** (check for only once a day)



FreeRTOS Thread Awareness with J-Link

- Menu Run > Debug Configurations
- Enable Select RTOS plugin

Additional Options

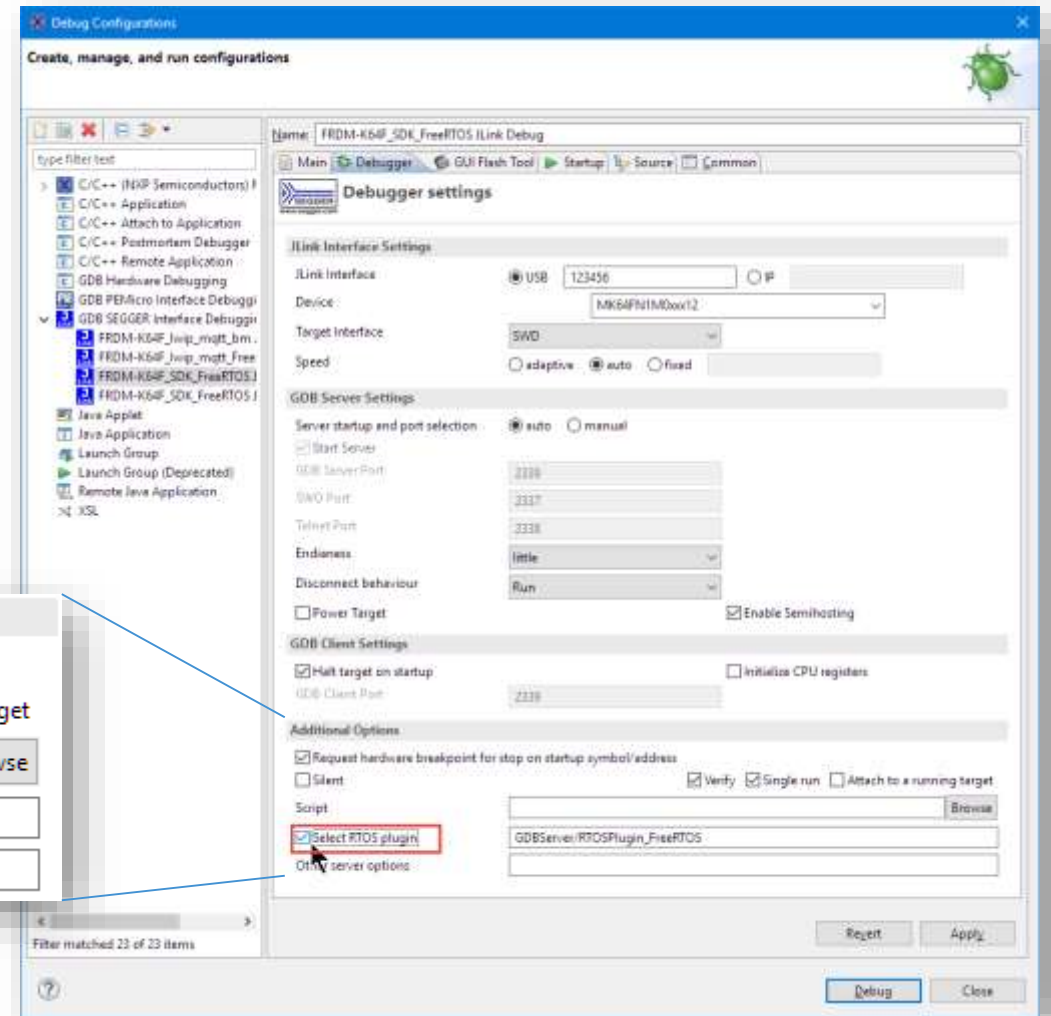
Request hardware breakpoint for stop on startup symbol/address

Silent Verify Single run Attach to a running target

Script

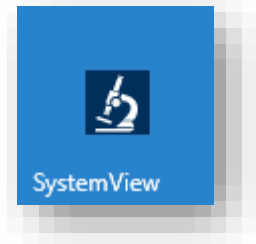
Select RTOS plugin

Other server options



Running SystemView

- Launch SystemView (Shortcut)
- Click OK on System Information Dialog



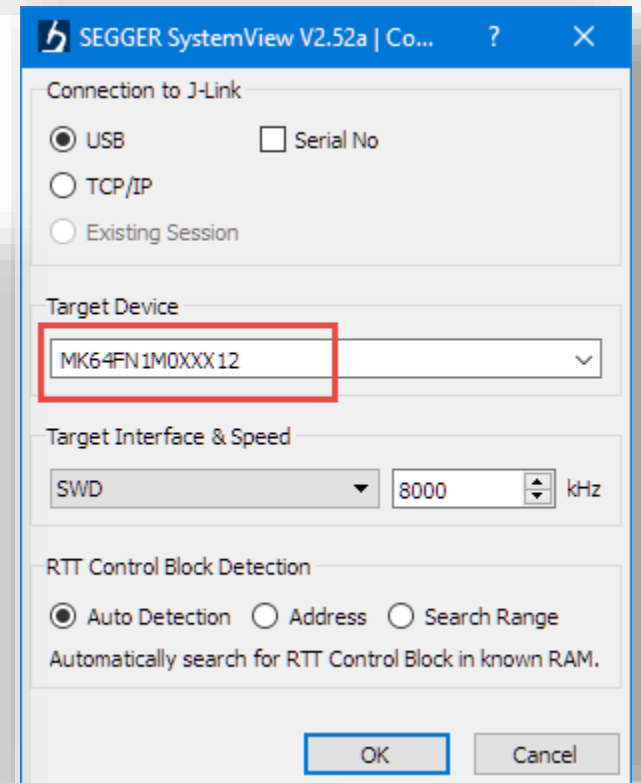
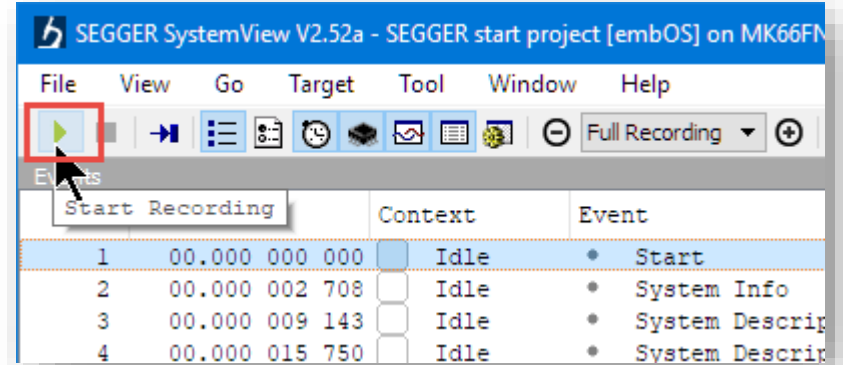
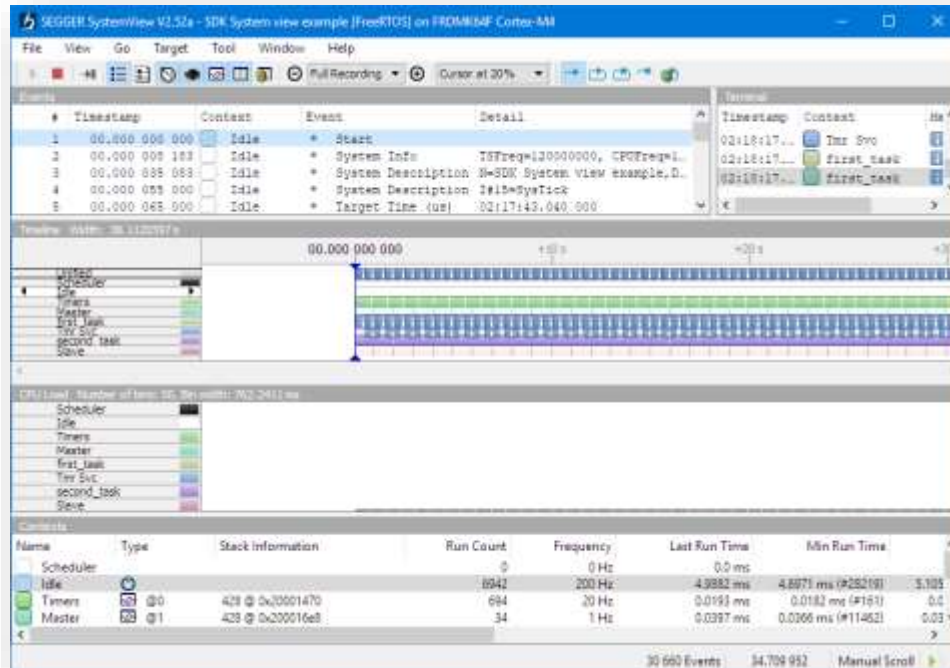
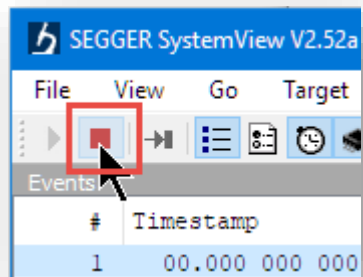
The screenshot shows the SEGGER SystemView V2.52a interface. A "System Information" dialog box is open, displaying the following details:

- Target System**
 - Name: SEGGER start project
 - OS: embOS
 - Modules: embOSIP
 - Device: MK66FN2M0xxx18
 - Cycle Freq...: 168 000 000 Hz
 - Cycle Period: 6 ns
 - Uptime: 12.882 997
- Recording**
 - Host Time: 06 Jul 2016 17:24:53
 - Duration: 10.529 972
 - Title: embOS/IP Webserver
 - Author: Johannes
 - Description:
- Tasks**
 - Switch Cou...: 1 529
 - Frequency: 110 Hz
- ISRs**
 - Load: 0.51%
 - Frequency: 1 007 Hz

The background interface shows an "Events" table with columns for #, Timestamp, Context, Event, and Detail. A "Terminal" window is also visible on the right. The "System Information" dialog box has an "OK" button highlighted with a mouse cursor.

Collecting Data

- Run FreeRTOS application with Debugger
- Press 'Start Recording'
- Specify target device
 - MK64FN1M0XXX12
- Records data
- Press 'Stop Recording'



Events

- List of Events recorded
- Click to show in Timeline

#	Timestamp	Context	Event	Detail
5697	06.445 010 142	second_t...	<i>/s</i> vTaskDelay	xTicksToDelay=1
5698	06.445 022 458	second_t...	System Idle	Idle for 4.9811 ms (597 735 c...
5699	06.449 993 375	Idle	Task Ready	second_task, runs after 10.2 ...
5700	06.450 003 583	second_t...	Task Run	
5701	06.450 010 142	second_t...	<i>/s</i> vTaskDelay	xTicksToDelay=1
5702	06.450 022 458	second_t...	System Idle	Idle for 4.9811 ms (597 735 c...
5703	06.454 993 375	Idle	Task Ready	second task. runs after 10.2

Terminal

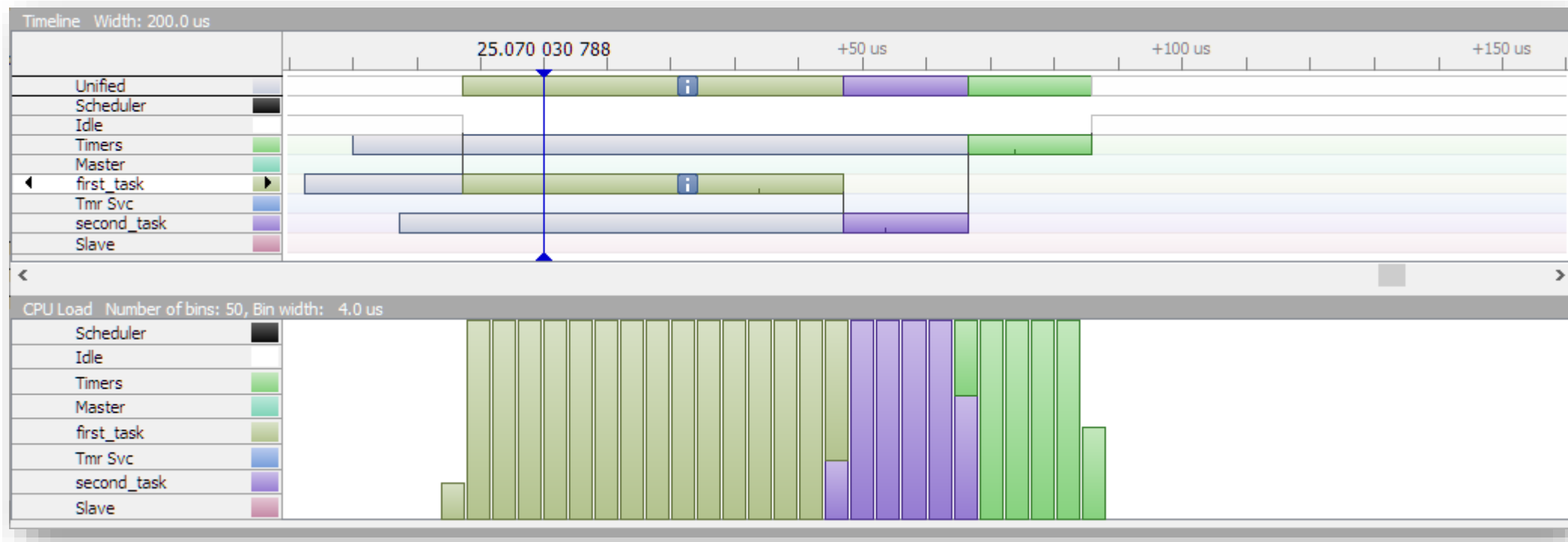
- Messages produced by application
- Click to show in Timeline

```
static void first_task(void *pvParameters) {  
    if (xTaskCreate(second_task, "second_task", 500/sizeof(StackType_t), NULL, 3, NULL) != pdPASS) {  
        PRINTF("Task creation failed!\r\n");  
        vTaskSuspend(NULL);  
    }  
    /* dummy code, print counter and delay */  
    for (int counter = 0;; counter++) {  
#if APP_CONFIG_USE_SEGGER_SYSTEMVIEW  
        SEGGER_SYSVIEW_PrintfTarget("first task counter: %d ", counter++);  
#endif  
        vTaskDelay(pdMS_TO_TICKS(100));  
    }  
}
```

Timestamp	Context	Message
02:19:50...	first_task	first task counter: 33562
02:19:51...	Tmr Svc	1 Sec Timer (ID 0) expired
02:19:51...	first_task	first task counter: 33564
02:19:51...	first_task	first task counter: 33566
02:19:52...	Tmr Svc	1 Sec Timer (ID 0) expired
02:19:52...	first_task	first task counter: 33568

Timeline & CPU Load

- Shows task sequence and CPU load
- Use mouse wheel to zoom in/out
- Use mouse to move



Contexts

- List of Tasks with priorities
- Run count, stack size, task frequency, runtime statistics

Contexts													
Name	Type	Stack Information	Run Count	Frequency	Last Run Time	Min Run Time	Max Run Time	Total Run Time	Run Time/s		Min Run Time/s		Max Run Time/s
...			0	0 Hz	0.0 ms			0.0 ms	0.0 ms	0.00%	0.0 ms	0.00%	0.00%
...	⏻		5539	200 Hz	4.9811 ms	4.6973 ms (#3179)	5.0405 ms (#8420)	27571.0325 ...	995.531 ms	99.55%	0.0 ms	0.00%	995.5542 ms 99.56%
...	@0	428 @ 0x20001470	554	20 Hz	0.0193 ms	0.0182 ms (#534)	0.0197 ms (#474)	10.7033 ms	0.3869 ms	0.04%	0.3674 ms	0.04%	0.3880 ms 0.04%
...	@1	428 @ 0x200016e8	28	1 Hz	0.0397 ms	0.0366 ms (#5820)	0.0397 ms (#1411)	1.0577 ms	0.0397 ms	0.00%	0.0 ms	0.00%	0.0397 ms 0.00%
...	@4	428 @ 0x20001960	56	2 Hz	0.0593 ms	0.0527 ms (#13751)	0.0595 ms (#1845)	3.2304 ms	0.1188 ms	0.01%	0.0593 ms	0.01%	0.1188 ms 0.01%
...	@9	1524 @ 0x20002070	28	1 Hz	0.0974 ms	0.0880 ms (#13748)	0.0974 ms (#1402)	2.6046 ms	0.0974 ms	0.01%	0.0 ms	0.00%	0.0974 ms 0.01%
...	@3	428 @ 0x20002730	5540	200 Hz	0.0188 ms	0.0177 ms (#25)	0.0197 ms (#4494)	104.9371 ms	3.7882 ms	0.38%	3.7705 ms	0.38%	3.7917 ms 0.38%
...	@1	428 @ 0x20002a00	28	1 Hz	0.0377 ms	0.0343 ms (#11112)	0.0377 ms (#1413)	1.0036 ms	0.0377 ms	0.00%	0.0 ms	0.00%	0.0377 ms 0.00%

Tick Rate

```
#define configTICK_RATE_HZ      ((TickType_t)1000)
```

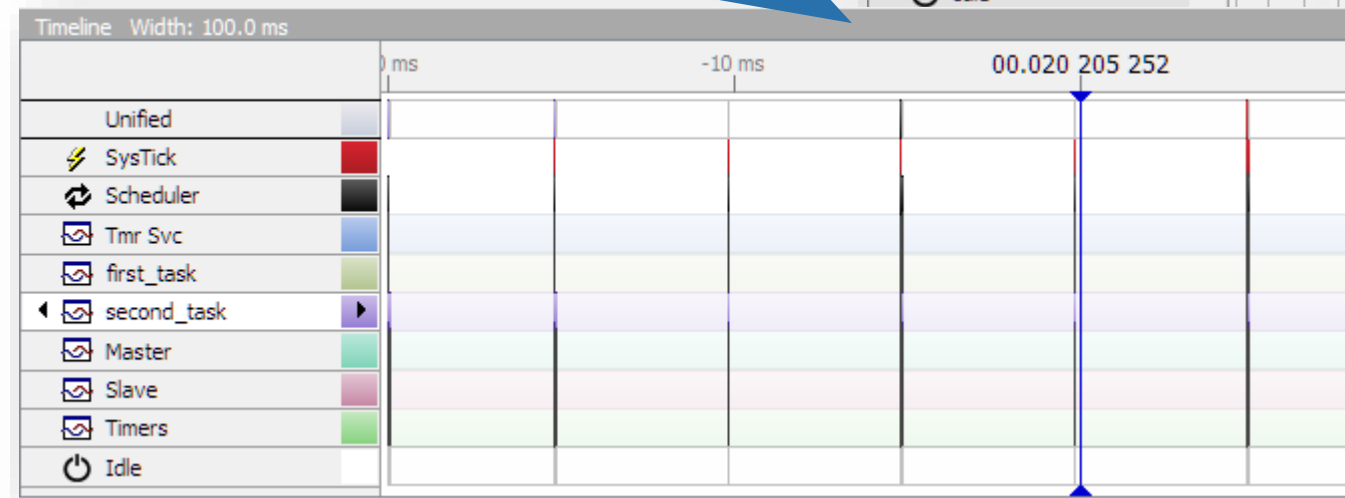
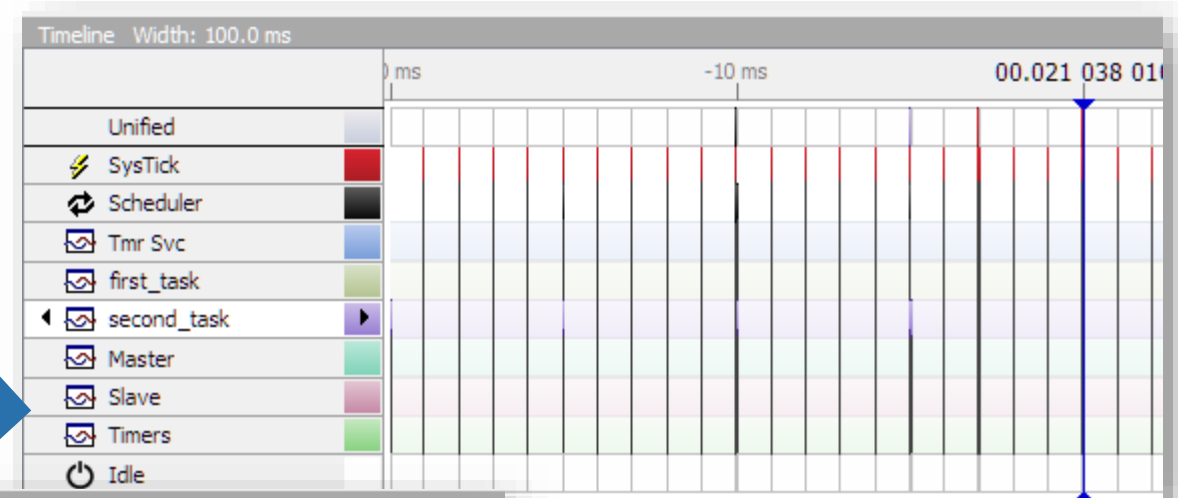
- Typical tick rates of 100 Hz, 50 Hz or 1 kHz
- All RTOS timing depends on it
- Too high: higher interrupt load
- Too low: bigger timing granularity

- *Recommendation*
 - *Tick rate as low as possible*
 - *Impact: System interrupt load*

Tick Rate

TODO 09

- Inspect SysTick in SystemView → every 1 ms
- Application waits for 5, 50, 100 and 1000 ms
 - Can reduce tick period to 5 ms (200 Hz)
- Reduce tick rate/frequency
- Build and debug
- Check reduced tick frequency



Tickless IDLE Mode

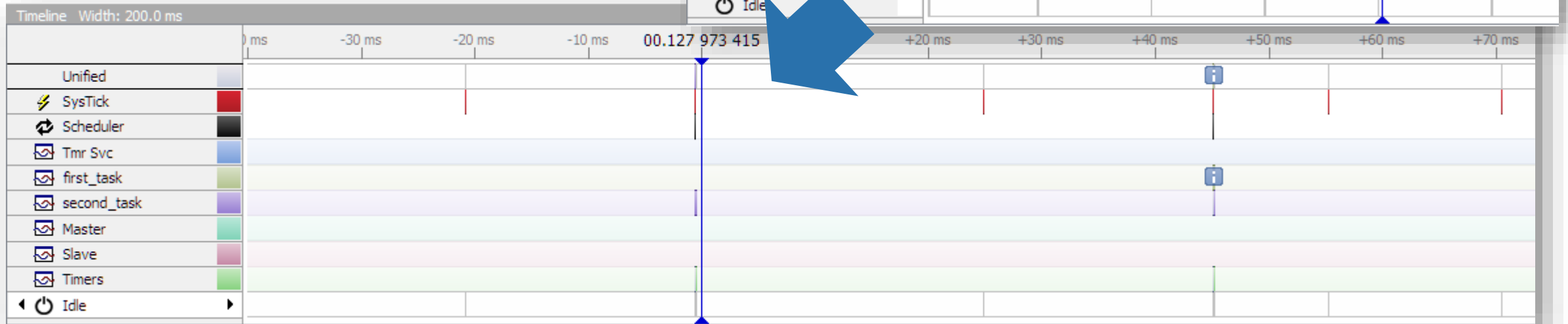
```
#define configUSE_TICKLESS_IDLE 0
```

- SysTick wakes up CPU from low power mode (timing, preemption)
- Extends interrupt periods to reduce interrupts for low-power applications
- *Recommendation*
 - *Enable for low power applications*
 - *Impact: reduced power consumption, reduced interrupt load, time slippage*
- Details: [Low Power with FreeRTOS: Tickless Idle Mode](#)

Tickless Idle Mode

- Enable `configUSE_TICKLESS_IDLE`
- Build and debug
- SystemView
 - Verify reduced tick interrupts

TODO 10

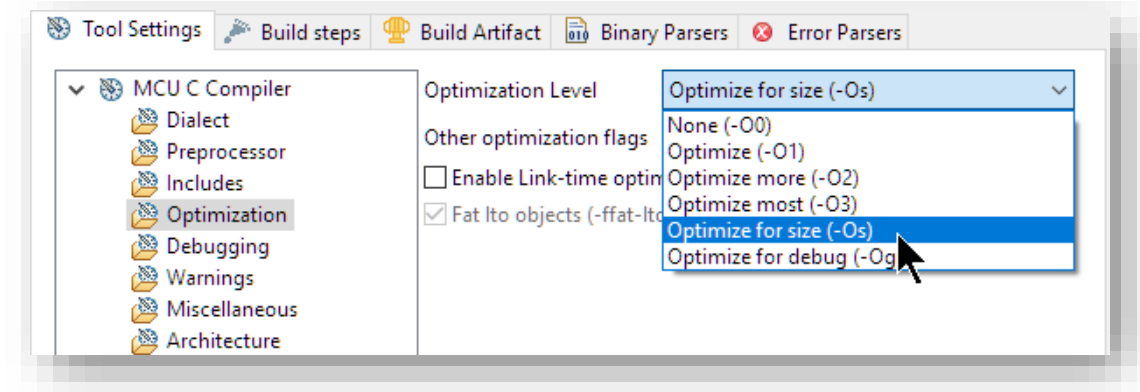
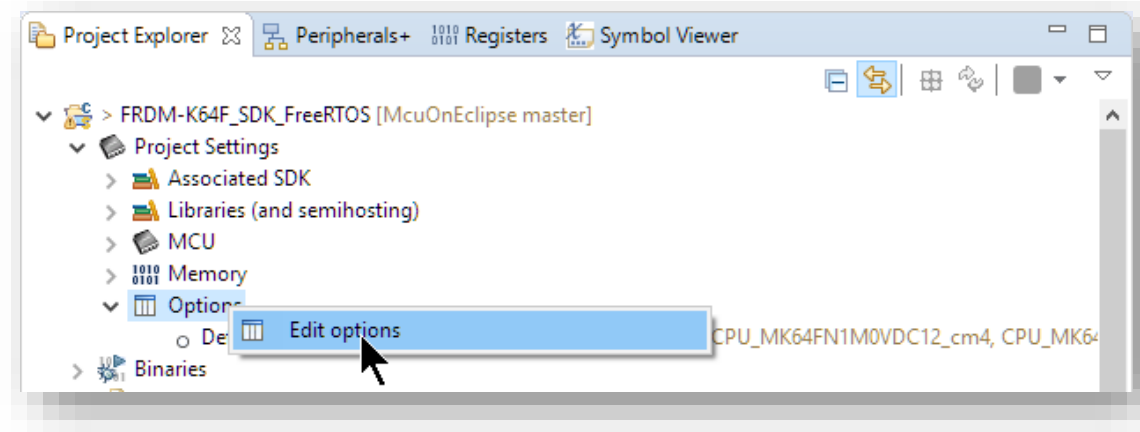


Compiler & Linker Optimizations



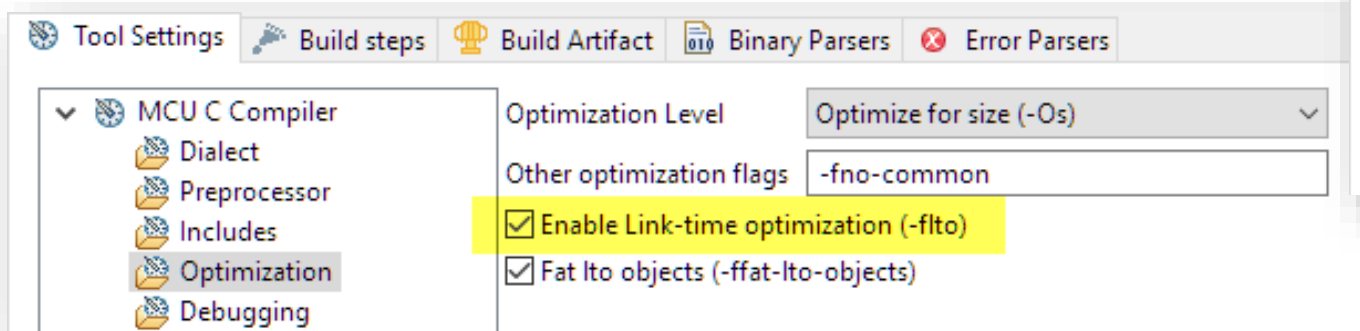
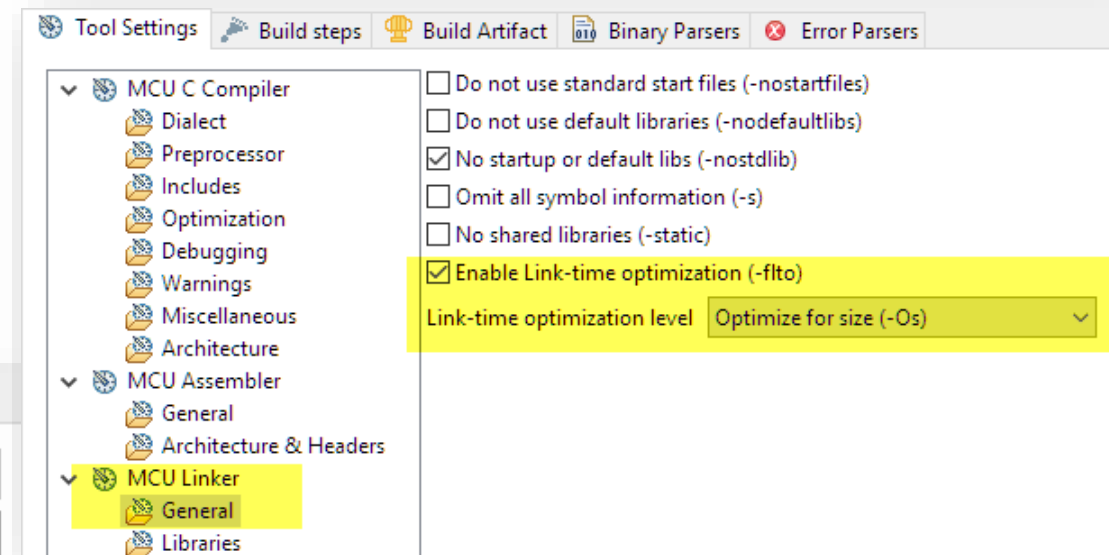
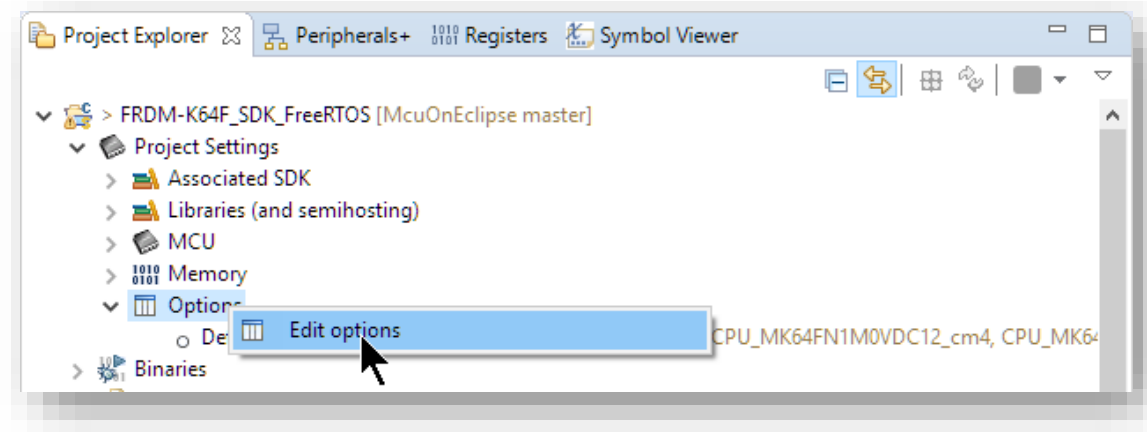
Compiler Optimizations

- By default, projects are typically using **-O0**
 - no optimization, easy debugging
- More aggressive optimization with **-Os**
 - Keeps variables in registers
 - Does branch tail merging
 - Might impact debugging
- **Set optimization level to -Os and check code size impact**



Link-Time Optimization

- Linker can optimize across multiple modules
 - Inlining, constant propagation
 - Parameter propagation
 - Might affect debugging
- Turn on **-flto** and check code size impact
 - Linker & Compiler setting
- Note: might affect debugging



Summary



Summary

- NXP FreeRTOS Enablement
 - MCUXpresso IDE
 - MCUXpresso SDK
 - MCUXpresso Config Tools
- Optimizing FreeRTOS
 - FreeRTOS Configuration
 - Segger RTT and SystemView
 - NXP Kernel and Thread Awareness
 - Compiler and Linker Optimizations





MCUXpresso
Software and Tools

COMMON TOOLKIT
FOR THOUSANDS
OF KINETIS® & LPC
MICROCONTROLLERS



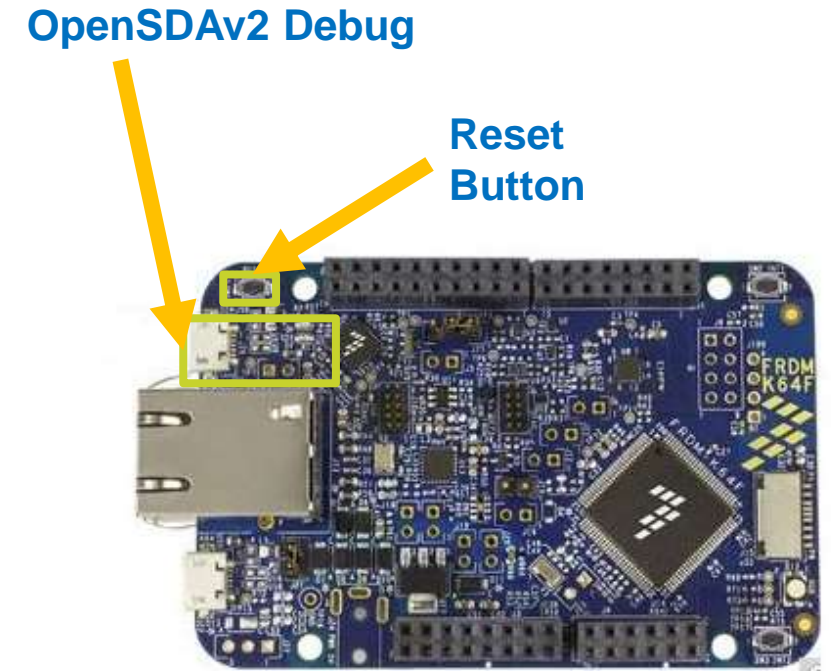
www.nxp.com/mcuxpresso

Additional Resources

- Web pages
 - MCUXpresso Software and Tools – www.nxp.com/mcuxpresso
 - MCUXpresso SDK – www.nxp.com/mcuxpresso/sdk
 - MCUXpresso IDE – www.nxp.com/mcuxpresso/ide
 - MCUXpresso Config Tools – www.nxp.com/mcuxpresso/config
 - [Supported Devices Table \(Community Doc\)](#)
- Communities
 - MCUXpresso Software and Tools - <https://community.nxp.com/community/mcuxpresso>
 - MCUXpresso SDK - <https://community.nxp.com/community/mcuxpresso/mcuxpresso-sdk>
 - MCUXpresso IDE – <http://www.nxp.com/mcuxpresso/ide/forum>
 - MCUXpresso Config Tools - <https://community.nxp.com/community/mcuxpresso/mcuxpresso-config>

Restore LinkServer/CMSIS-DAP OpenSDA Firmware

- Press (and hold) Reset Button
- Power board with OpenSDAv2 Debug USB connector
- Board enumerates as MAINTENANCE drive
- Copy **DAPLINK_k20dx_frdmk64f_if_crc_legacy_0x5000.bin** to drive
- Unplug USB cable
- Power/plug the USB cable



Backup



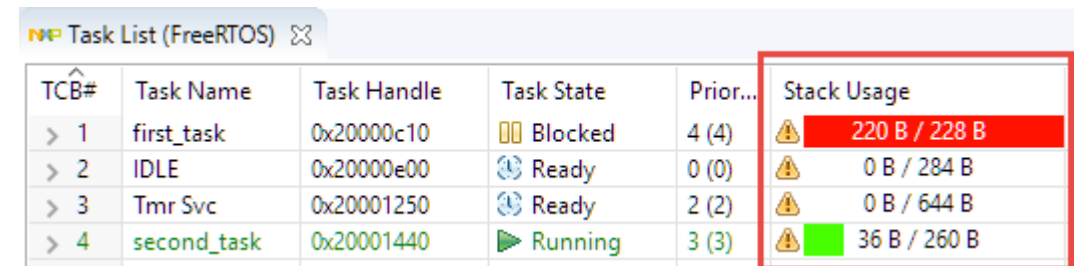
Error Hooks

```
#define configCHECK_FOR_STACK_OVERFLOW 1
#define configUSE_MALLOC_FAILED_HOOK 1
```

- Trap errors stack overflows
 - disabled (0), Method1 (1) and Method2 (2)
- Trap for 'out of heap'

- *Recommendation*

- Turn on during development
- Disable for 'release' version
- Impact: reduced code size, improved context switch time



The screenshot shows the 'Task List (FreeRTOS)' window with a table of tasks. The 'Stack Usage' column is highlighted with a red box, showing the following values:

TCB#	Task Name	Task Handle	Task State	Prior...	Stack Usage
> 1	first_task	0x20000c10	Blocked	4 (4)	220 B / 228 B
> 2	IDLE	0x20000e00	Ready	0 (0)	0 B / 284 B
> 3	Tmr Svc	0x20001250	Ready	2 (2)	0 B / 644 B
> 4	second_task	0x20001440	Running	3 (3)	36 B / 260 B

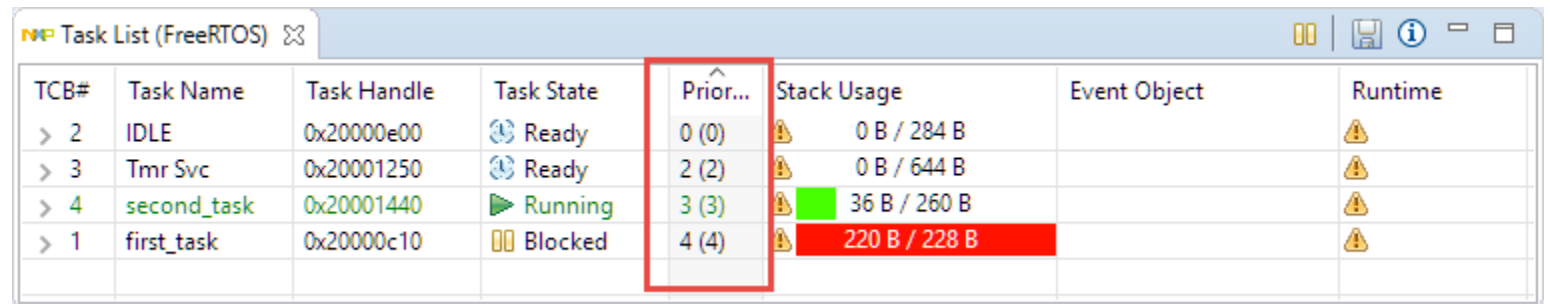
Maximum Task Priorities

```
#define configMAX_PRIORITIES
```

5

- Task priorities from 0 up to N-1
- Kernel maintains a list for each priority

- *Recommendation*
 - *As small as possible*
 - *No gaps in task priorities*
 - *Share priorities*
 - *Impact: reduced RAM size*



TCB#	Task Name	Task Handle	Task State	Prior...	Stack Usage	Event Object	Runtime
> 2	IDLE	0x20000e00	Ready	0 (0)	0 B / 284 B		
> 3	Tmr Svc	0x20001250	Ready	2 (2)	0 B / 644 B		
> 4	second_task	0x20001440	Running	3 (3)	36 B / 260 B		
> 1	first_task	0x20000c10	Blocked	4 (4)	220 B / 228 B		

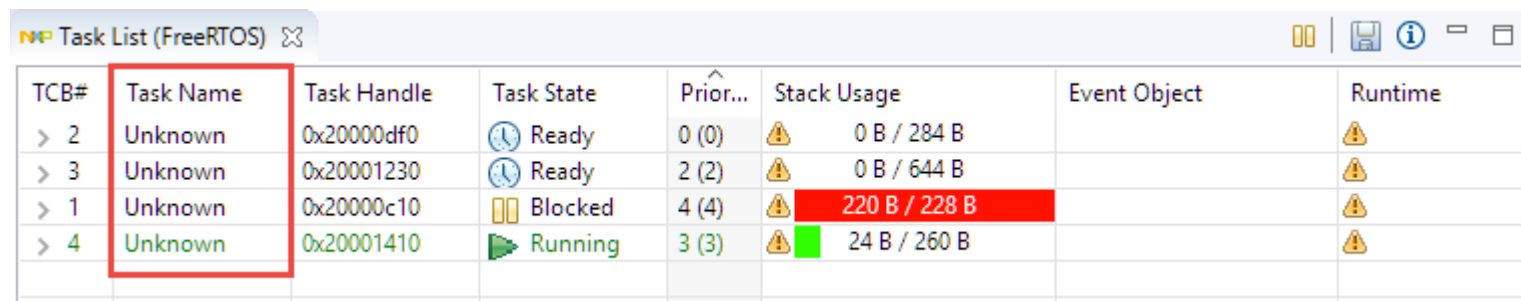
Task Name Length

```
#define configMAX_TASK_NAME_LEN 20
```

- Used as name for tasks at creation time
- Name stored in task descriptor

- *Recommendation*

- *As small as possible, or 1 to disable*
- *Impact: reduced RAM size*
Limited or no task name in Task List

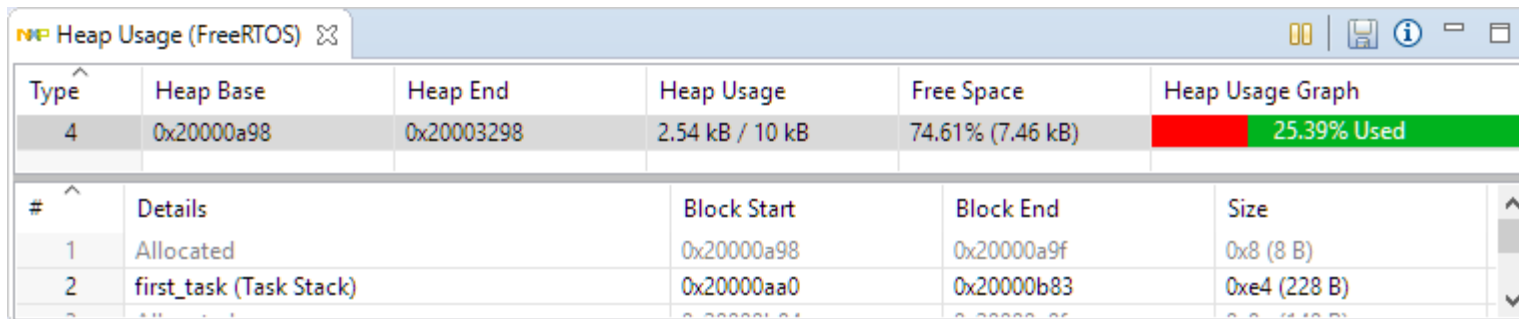


TCB#	Task Name	Task Handle	Task State	Prior...	Stack Usage	Event Object	Runtime
> 2	Unknown	0x20000df0	Ready	0 (0)	0 B / 284 B		
> 3	Unknown	0x20001230	Ready	2 (2)	0 B / 644 B		
> 1	Unknown	0x20000c10	Blocked	4 (4)	220 B / 228 B		
> 4	Unknown	0x20001410	Running	3 (3)	24 B / 260 B		

Heap Size

```
#define configSUPPORT_STATIC_ALLOCATION      0
#define configSUPPORT_DYNAMIC_ALLOCATION    1
#define configTOTAL_HEAP_SIZE              ((size_t)(10 * 1024))
```

- Dynamic memory for task stack, queues, semaphore, ...
- *Recommendation*
 - *As small as possible, static allocation (configSUPPORT_STATIC_ALLOCATION 1) with no dynamic allocation (configSUPPORT_DYNAMIC_ALLOCATION 0)*
 - *Impact: reduced RAM size, reduced code size*



The screenshot shows the NXP Heap Usage (FreeRTOS) tool interface. The main window displays a summary table with the following data:

Type	Heap Base	Heap End	Heap Usage	Free Space	Heap Usage Graph
4	0x20000a98	0x20003298	2.54 kB / 10 kB	74.61% (7.46 kB)	25.39% Used

Below the summary table, there is a detailed view of heap blocks:

#	Details	Block Start	Block End	Size
1	Allocated	0x20000a98	0x20000a9f	0x8 (8 B)
2	first_task (Task Stack)	0x20000aa0	0x20000b83	0xe4 (228 B)

Cortex-M Interrupts

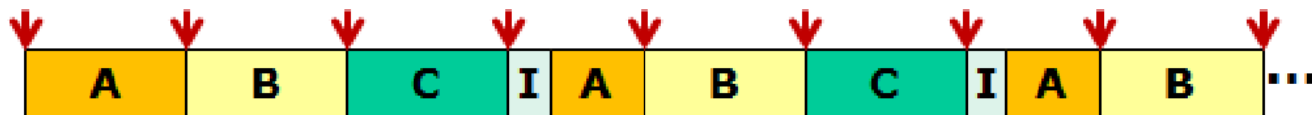
```
#define configUSE_PORT_OPTIMISED_TASK_SELECTION 1
```

- Optimized task selection using bit instructions
- Supports up to 32 task priorities
- *Recommendation*
 - *Enable for Cortex-M4/M7*
 - *Impact: improved application performance (~1%)*

Idle Yielding

```
#define configIDLE_SHOULD_YIELD 1
```

- In preemptive mode allows IDLE task to give back time to tasks
- *Recommendation*
 - *Enable IDLE yielding*
 - *Impact: improved application performance*



Application Hooks

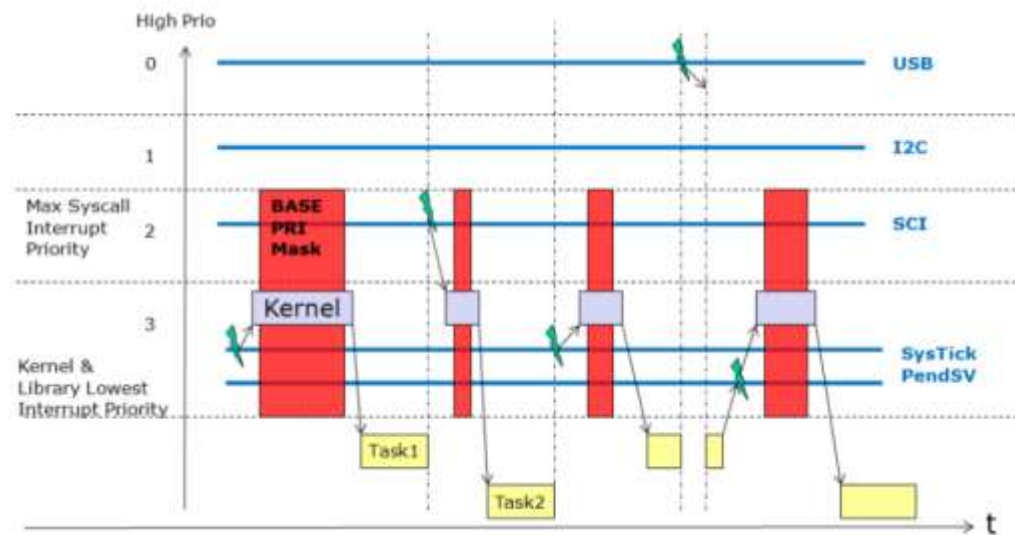
```
#define configUSE_IDLE_HOOK          1
#define configUSE_TICK_HOOK         1
#define configUSE_DAEMON_TASK_STARTUP_HOOK 0
```

- Application hooks for IDLE, tick interrupt or timer daemon startup
- *Recommendation*
 - *Use IDLE hook to enter low power mode*
 - *Use tick hook instead of periodic timer interrupt*
 - *Disable Daemon hook if not used*
 - *Impact: reduced code size, reduced hardware timer usage*

Cortex-M Interrupts

```
#define configLIBRARY_MAX_SYSCALL_INTERRUPT_PRIORITY 2
```

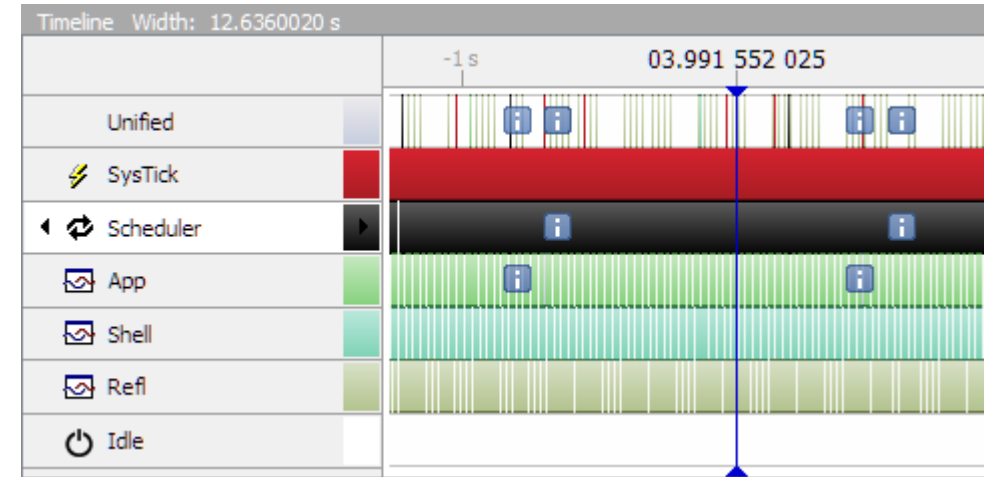
- Cortex-M0+: Scheduler masks all interrupts; Cortex-M4(F): only SYSCALL and below (less urgent)
- *Recommendation*
 - Put interrupts which do **not** use RTOS API above SYSCALL level
 - Impact: improved application performance, less interrupt latency



User SystemViewer Events

```
SEGGER_SYSVIEW_RecordEnterISR();  
...  
SEGGER_SYSVIEW_RecordExitISR();
```

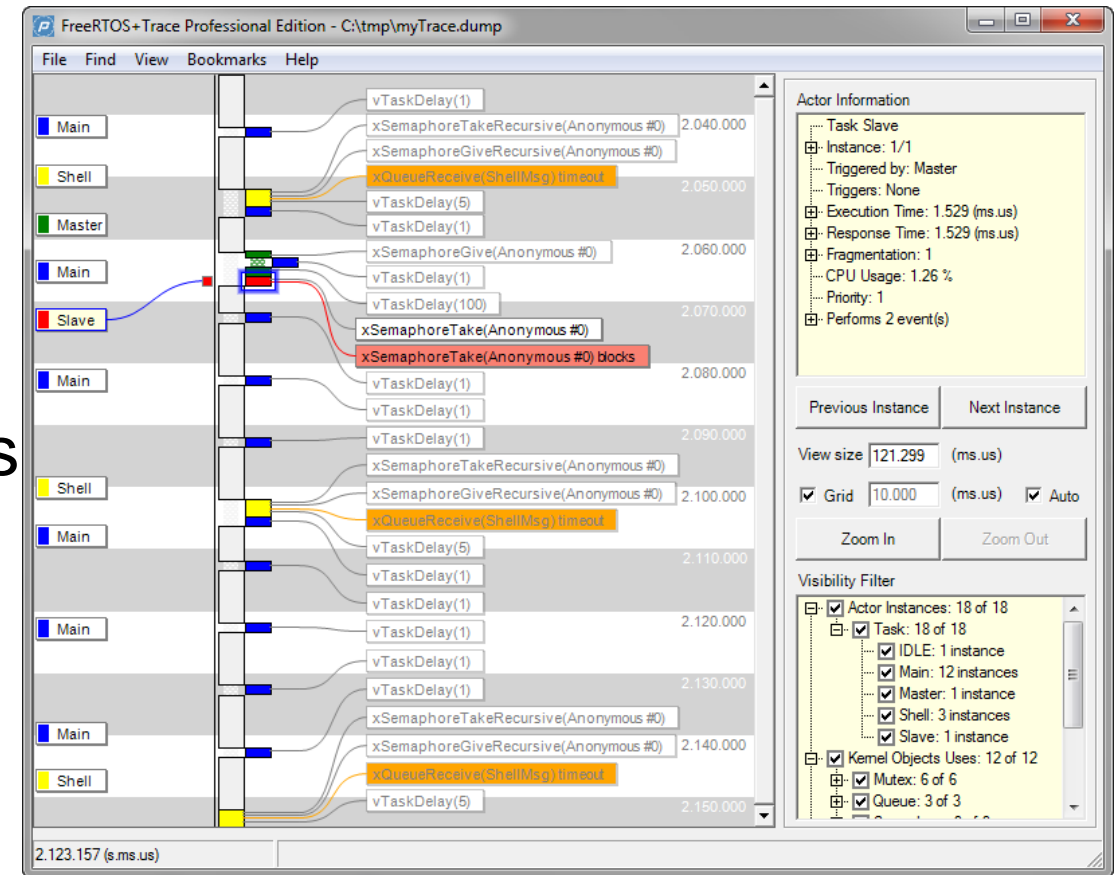
- Ability to instrument application and interrupts
- Log messages and event markers
- *Recommendation*
 - Use for measurement and debugging
 - Turn off for release
 - Impact: improved application



Timestamp	Context	Message
19.119 032	App	KEYDBNC
19.269 011	Scheduler	KEYDBNC
19.269 087	Scheduler	KEYDBNC
20.369 032	App	KEYDBNC
20.519 011	Scheduler	KEYDBNC
20.519 087	Scheduler	KEYDBNC

Percepio Tracealyzer

- Percepio (<http://www.percepio.com>)
- Free/Professional (Paid) edition
- Hosts: Windows, Linux
- Over 20 graphical views
- Tasks, System Calls and User Events
- CPU Load
- Timing Variations
- Communication Flow
- Kernel Object History
- User Events, Signal Plots
- Eclipse launcher plugin



FreeRTOS+Trace Tracealyzer from Percepio

- Tracealyzer for FreeRTOS: <http://percepio.com/download/>
- Free version (task scheduling only)
- 30 day evaluation (Professional Edition) license



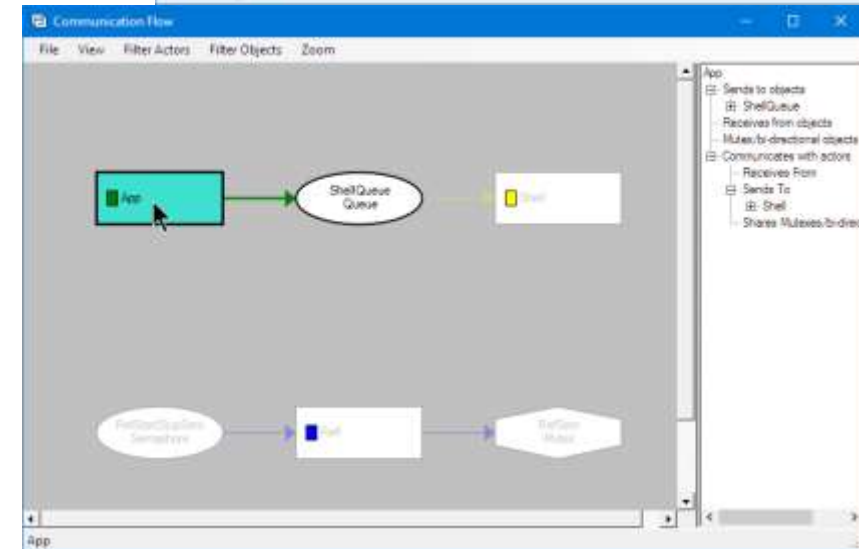
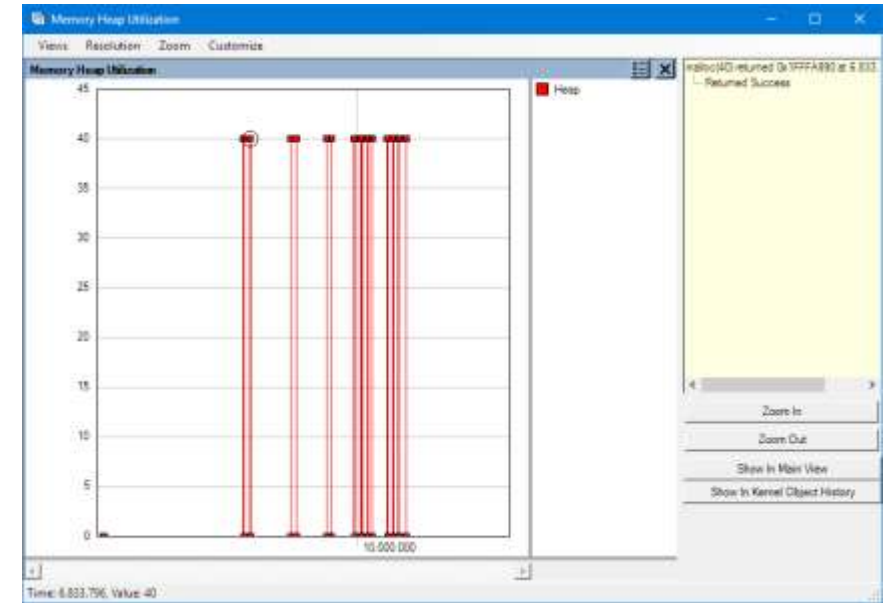
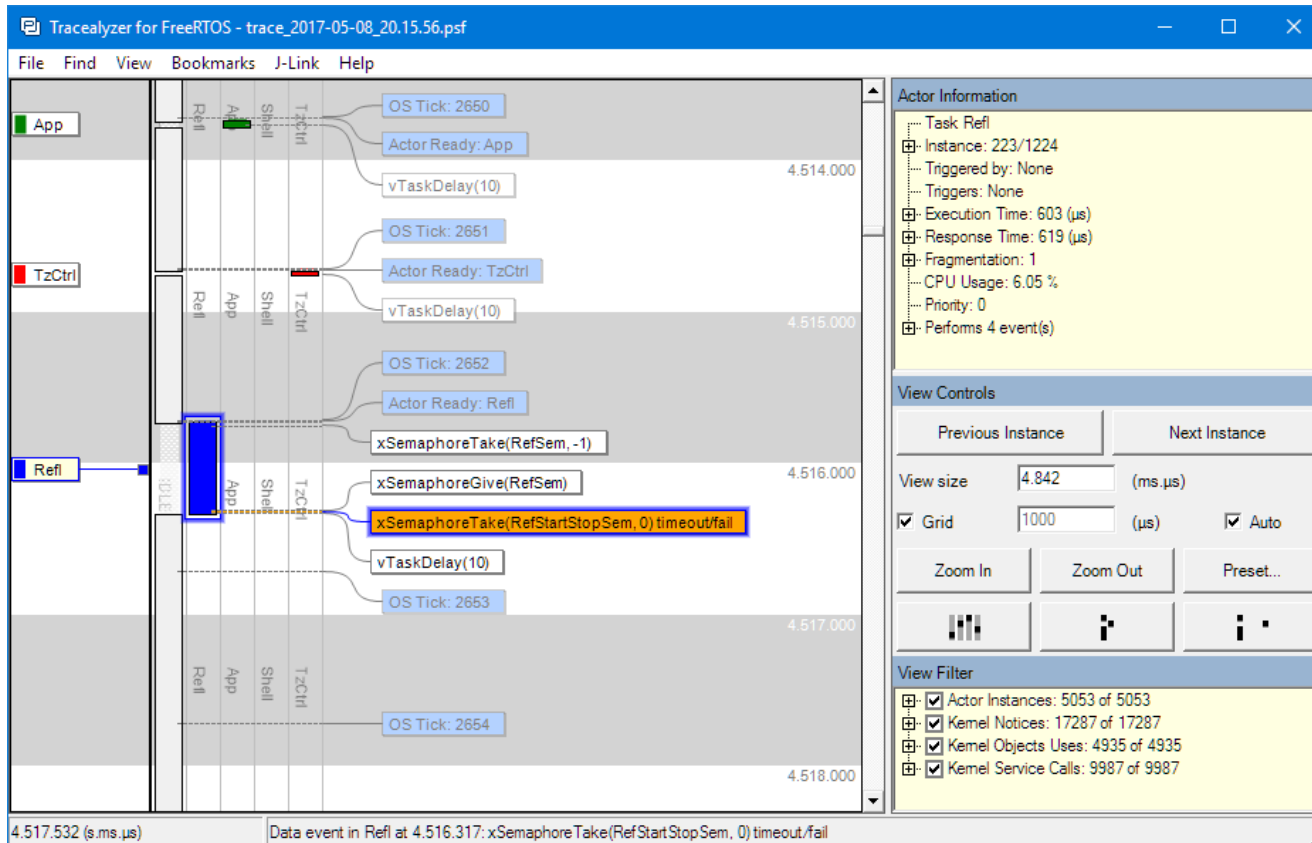
Download Tracealyzer and get started within a minute!

Tracealyzer is provided in a single installer for demo, evaluation and commercial use. The evaluation mode is enabled by registering in the application and allows for **10 days evaluation** usage. If you need more time, you may [request an extension](#). There is also a **demo** mode that allows you to start exploring the visualization right away, using an example trace. If using Linux, download the .tgz archive, extract and run the application using [Mono](#).

	Windows installer (.exe)	Other OS (.tgz)
Tracealyzer for FreeRTOS	Download	Download

Tracealyzer Views

- Memory Heap Utilization (memory leaks)
- Communication Flow (usage of queues)
- Timeouts





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