



AN11664

QN902x Quick Start Guide

Rev. 3 — 17 April 2018

Application note

Document information

Info	Content
Keywords	mini DK, SDK, installation, working mode, download, NVDS configuration, connect, GPIO configuration
Abstract	This application note discusses the use of QN9020 mini Development Kit (DK) for evaluating and developing Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) solutions based on QN902x.



Revision history

Rev	Date	Description
3	20180417	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated figures.
2	20160615	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added "IAR" in Section 1.2.2.• Updated Section 2.2, Section 4.2.4, Section 5.1.1.3, Section 5.4.2,• In Section 3.3.1 added Figure 5.• In Section 4.2 updated title "QBlue SDK GUI".• In Section 5.1.1.2 updated Figure 13.• In Section 6.2.1.1 added Figure 34.• In Section 6.2.1.2 updated Figure 35 and in Section 6.2.1.3 updated Figure 36.• Added figure title for Figure 35, Figure 36, and Figure 37.
1	20150605	Initial release

Contact information

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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

The QN9020 mini Development Kit (DK) is designed for evaluating and developing Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) solutions based on QN902x. The purpose of this document is to give an overview of hardware and software included in the QN9020 mini DK. For more detailed information on BLE technology and software platform for QN9020, refer to “*QN9020 software developers guide*”.

1.2 System requirements

1.2.1 System requirements

The QN9020 mini DK has the following system requirements:

- a computer running with Windows XP, Windows 7 or Windows 8
- a computer with a minimum of 2 USB ports

Note: OS X (Mac) is not supported.

1.2.2 External resources

- Keil MDK-ARM
- J-Link software
- IAR

2. Contents of kit

2.1 Hardware

The QN9020 mini DK contains the following hardware components:

- mini DK board
- BLE dongle
- USB cable

The hardware components are shown in [Figure 1](#).



Note: mini DK can also be used for software development for QN9021. There is a difference between the GPIO for QN9021 and QN9020. For details, refer to the data sheet at https://www.nxp.com/documents/data_sheet/QN902X.pdf.

2.2 Software

The Software Development Kit (SDK) is named as QN902x_SDK_xxx.zip. Latest SDK version can be downloaded from NXP web http://www.nxp.com/products/microcontrollers-and-processors/more-processors/applications-on-specific-mcus-mpus/bluetooth-low-energy-ble/ultra-low-power-ble-system-on-chip-solution:QN9020?fp=1&tab=Design_Tools_Tab.

3. Getting started

3.1 System overview

The system consists of three parts; see [Figure 2](#):

- mini DK board: It is used for developing Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) applications based on QN9020. It comprises of onboard RF matching circuit and antenna, power supply, GPIO connector, buttons, and LEDs. The J-Link On-Board (OB) debugger is used to bridge QN9020 SWD and UART interface to PC, download program and debug from PC.
- BLE dongle: It is a Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) device controlled by the QTool running on a PC. It works with the mini DK as a pair for evaluation and debugging. It is connected to a PC via USB.
- QN902xStudio: It is a software tool chain to work with the mini DK and BLE dongle.

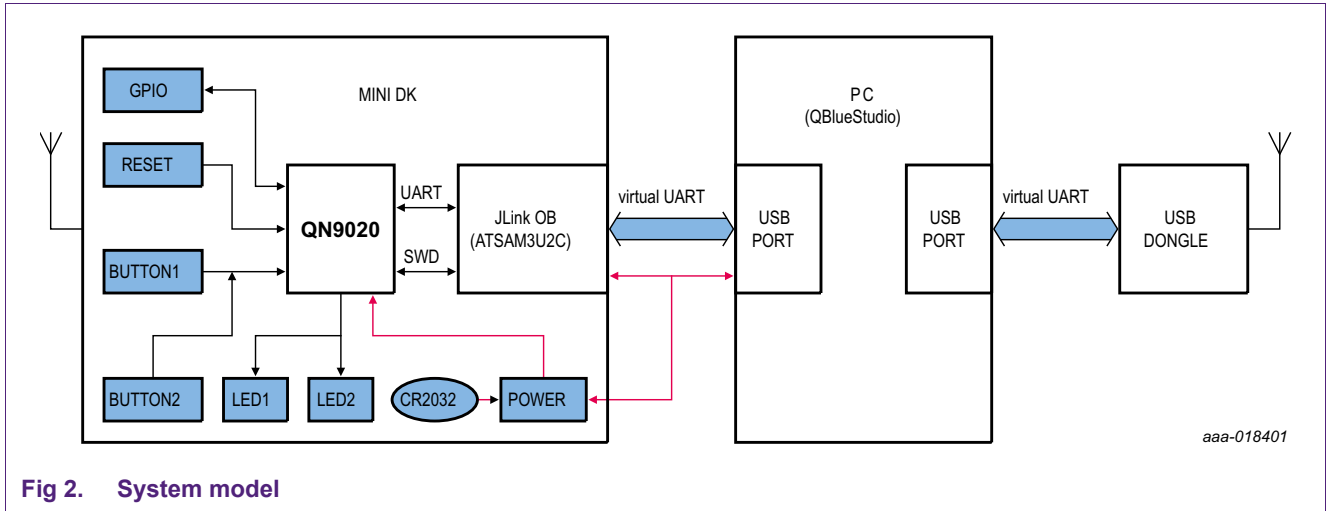


Fig 2. System model

3.2 Software installation

Before connecting the mini DK board to the computer, install Keil MDK-ARM or IAR, QN902x_SDK_xxx.exe and Setup_JLink_Vxxx.exe. Keil is used in this document to show the instructions.

3.2.1 Keil MDK-ARM

Keil MDK-ARM can be downloaded and installed from the URL: <https://www.keil.com/download/product/>; see Figure 3. Version 4.5 or newer is recommended.



Fig 3. Download Keil MDK-ARM

3.2.2 QN902x_SDK_xxx.exe

Install released SDK package QN902x_SDK_xxx.exe.

3.2.3 J-Link software

Download and install Setup_JLink_Vxxx.exe (Version 4.6.6 or newer is recommended) from www.segger.com based on the development environment; see [Figure 4](#)). All mini DK boards have their individual SEGGER ID (serial number) labeled at the back.

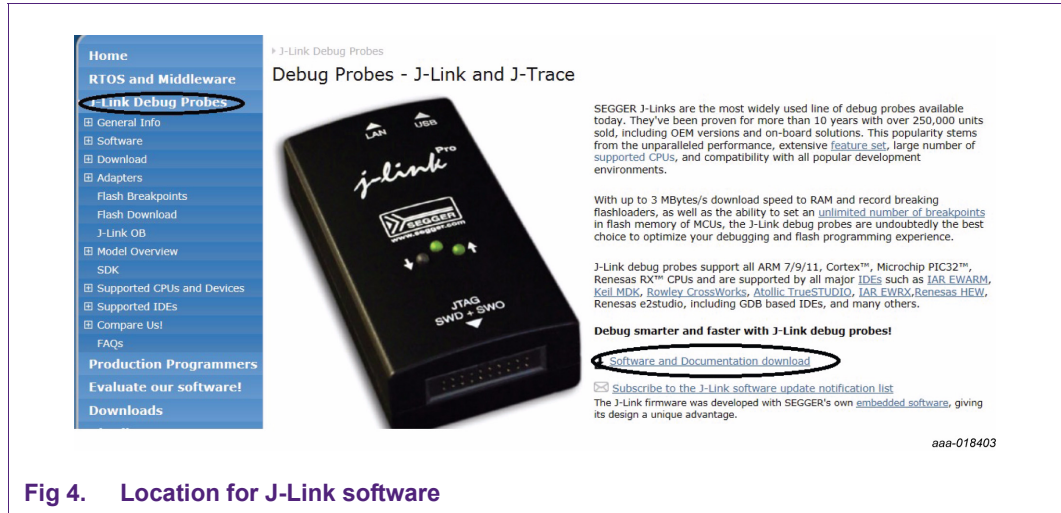


Fig 4. Location for J-Link software

Note: The J-Link software also contains a USB driver for J-Link-OB.

3.3 Hardware setup

3.3.1 Hardware connection

Refer “QN9020 mini DK User Guide” for instructions to use the mini DK board.

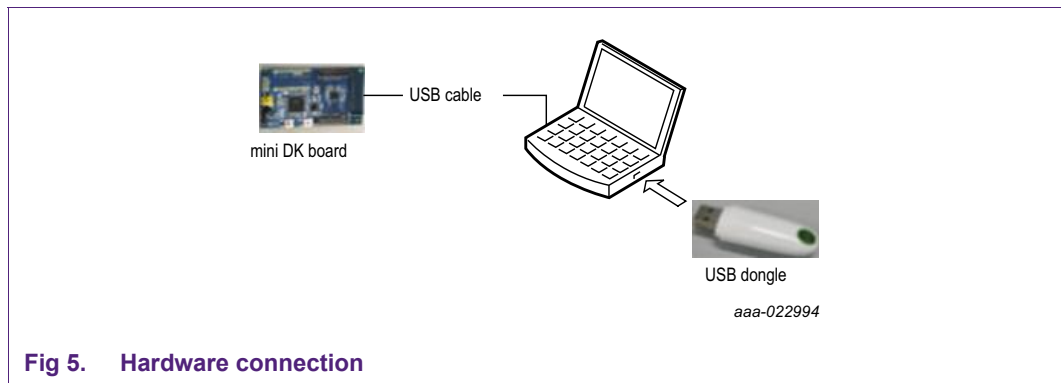


Fig 5. Hardware connection

3.3.2 Driver installation

Virtual COM Port (VCP) drivers make the USB device appear as an additional COM port on the PC. Application software accesses the USB device in the same way as it would access a standard COM port.

3.3.2.1 Driver for J-Link-OB

Driver for J-Link-OB is included in J-Link software; see [Section 3.2.3](#). It is installed automatically while installing the J-Link software.

3.3.2.2 Driver for BLE dongle

Refer to “Application Note AN-104” for detailed installation. It can be downloaded from FTDI website <https://www.ftdichip.com/Support/Documents/AppNotes.htm>

This guide helps with the installation of the Combined Driver Model (CDM) driver from FTDI for the Microsoft windows operating system.

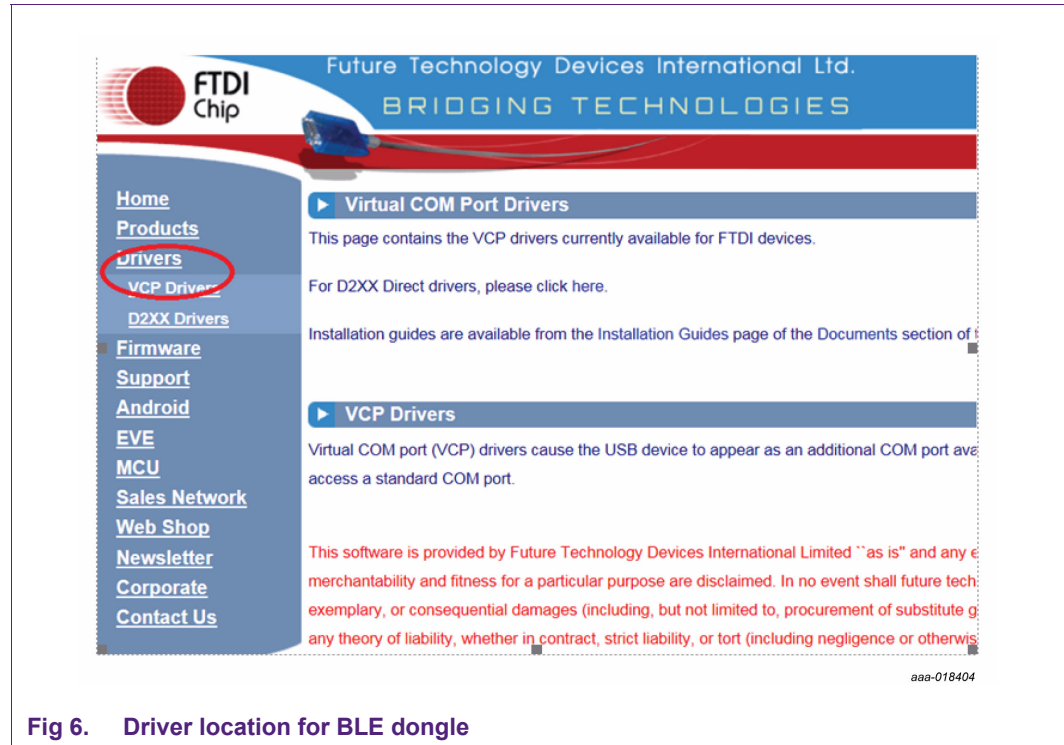
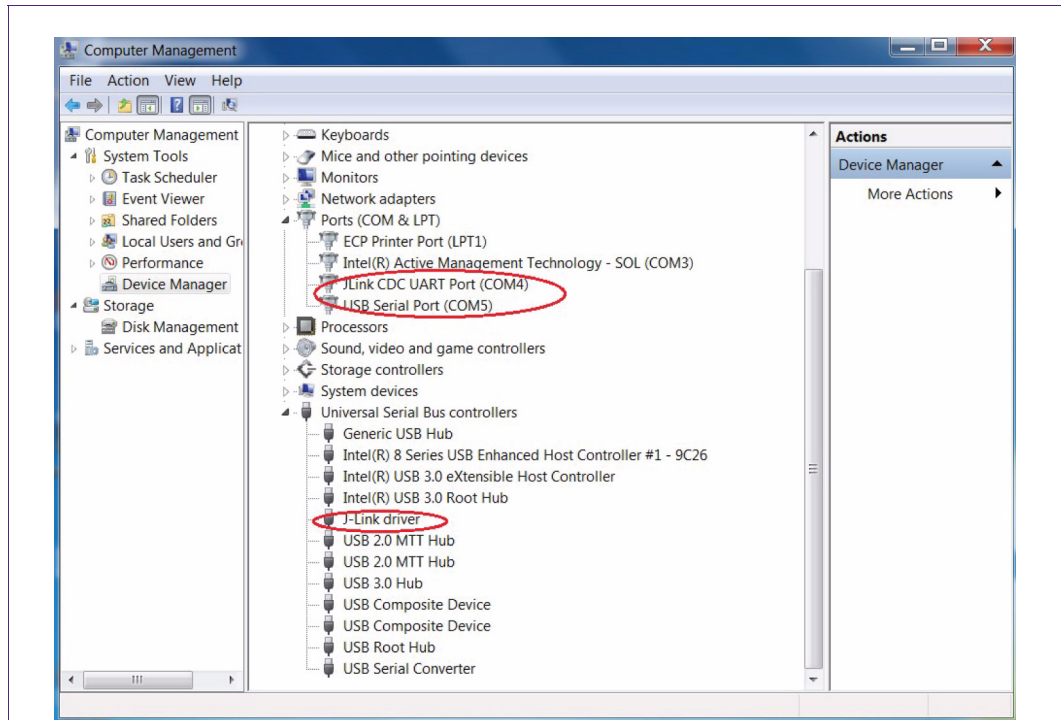


Fig 6. Driver location for BLE dongle

Installed drivers can be verified by checking the device manager in windows OS; see [Figure 7](#). Two COM ports are added to the list. One is the USB serial port (COM5) indicating the BLE dongle. The other is a J-Link CDC UART port (COM4) for the J-Link-OB on mini DK board. The COM port number can be different for each computer. Therefore, it is always a good practice to check the ports with regards to the hardware connected.

Note: Ensure that correct COM port number is used when downloading the code and during evaluation using QTool. COM port assignments can be checked in the device manager.



aaa-018405

Fig 7. COM port of BLE dongle and J-Link-OB

3.4 Working mode

QN9020 provides a flexible platform for wireless applications. It supports two working modes, wireless SoC mode and network processor mode. For detailed information related to the working modes, refer to “QN9020 software developers guide”.

3.4.1 Wireless SoC mode

In wireless SoC mode, link layer, host protocol, profiles and application run on QN9020. [Figure 8](#) shows how QN9020 is used in SoC mode. Application examples use SoC mode.

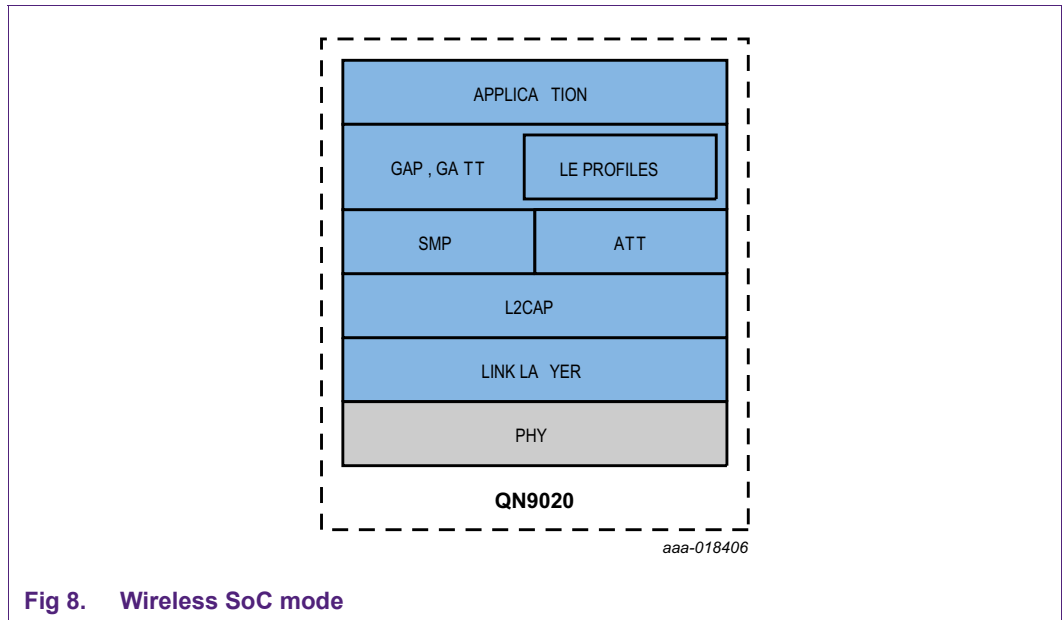


Fig 8. Wireless SoC mode

3.4.2 Network processor mode

In network processor mode, the link layer, host protocols and profiles run on QN9020 whereas the application runs on external processor. The two components communicate via Easy ACI (Easy Application Controller Interface) over UART, provided in QN9020 SDK. For details, refer to the “QN9020 easy ACI programming guide”.

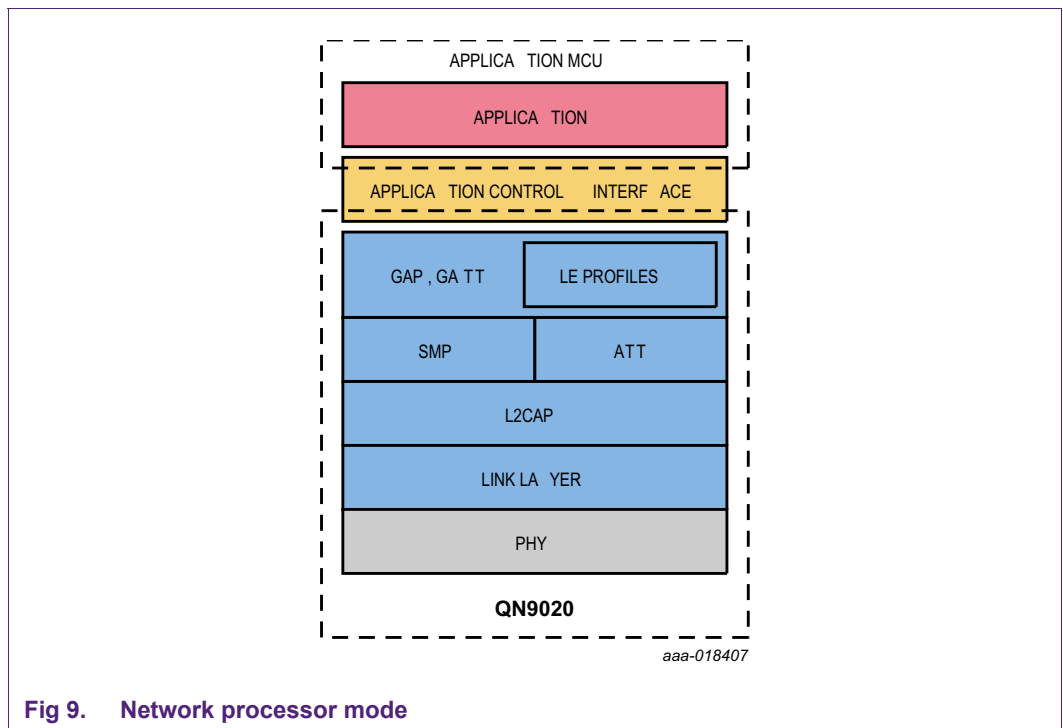
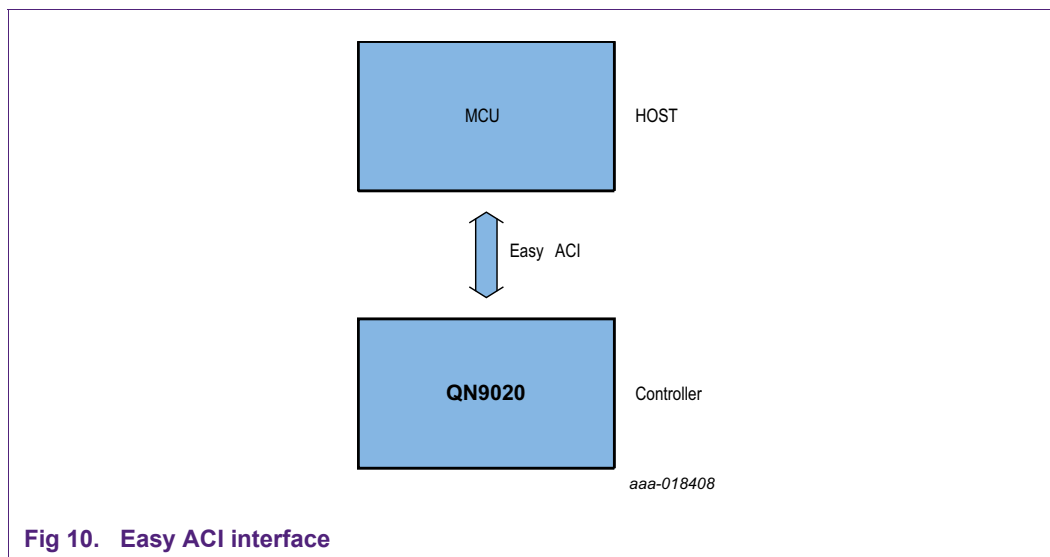


Fig 9. Network processor mode



4. Components of QN902x SDK

When QN902x SDK is installed and executed, it opens a GUI referred to as QN902xStudio; see [Figure 12](#). The GUI has links to various tools, BLE example codes, driver codes and detailed software/hardware guides.

4.1 SDK folder structure

Once installed, a folder is created in the main directory. The installation folder contains various subfolders; see [Figure 11](#).

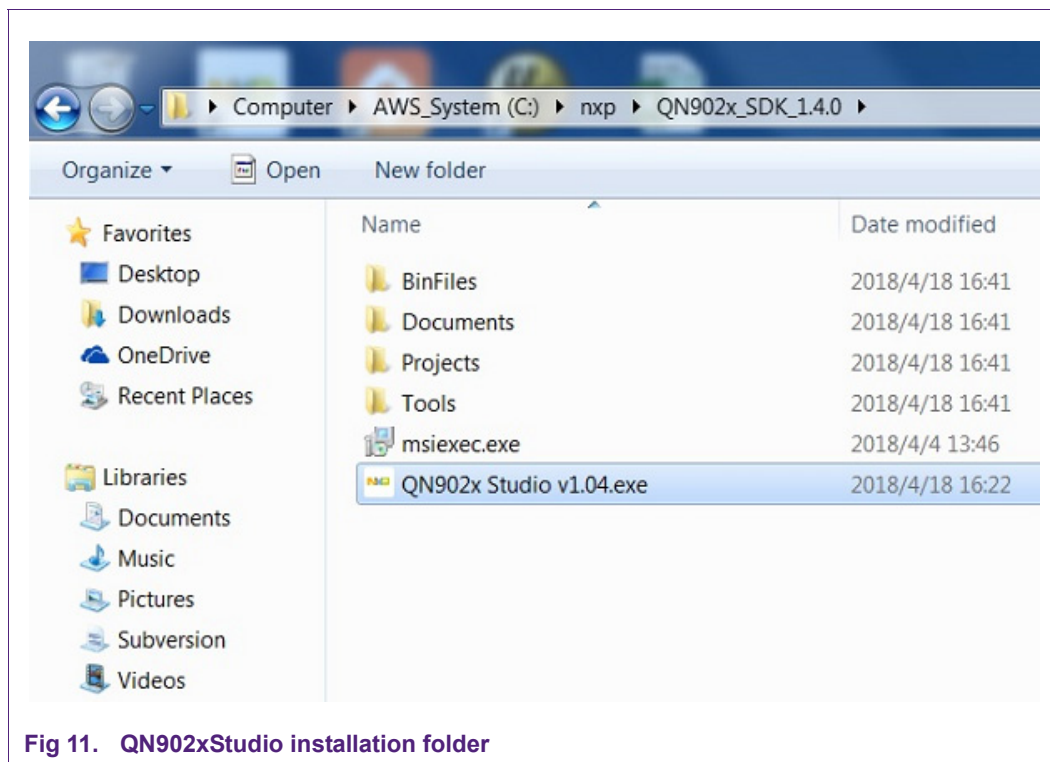


Fig 11. QN902xStudio installation folder

4.1.1 BinFiles

This folder contains all binary files for sample applications provided in SDK.

4.1.2 Documents

Documents related to QN9020 SDK are found here.

4.1.3 Projects

This folder contains source code and project file in Keil and IAR for various BLE example applications.

4.1.4 Tools

This folder contains all tools with GUI in SDK to support application development.

4.2 QN902x SDK GUI

QN902x SDK provides a GUI for users. [Figure 12](#) shows the start page after launching QN902x Studio.

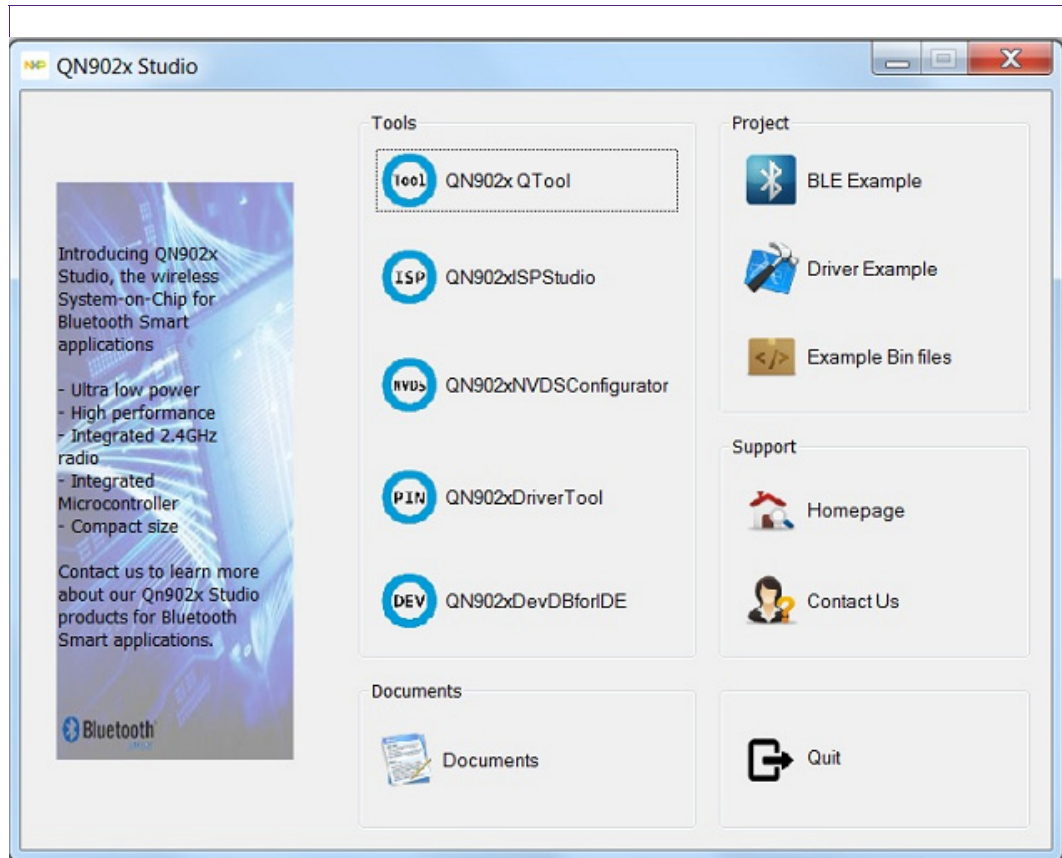


Fig 12. QN902x Studio start page

4.2.1 Tools

- QTool: QTool is a PC tool that controls the BLE dongle. It allows the user to set up a connection between the BLE USB dongle and the other BLE device. A detailed user manual for the QTool can be found in the software documentation ("*QTool User Manual*").
- QN902xISPStudio: QN902xISPStudio is a tool to download application binary file, data file or NVDS configuration file into QN90xx series of BLE devices. Refer to "*QN902x ISP Studio Manual*" for more information.
- QN902xNVDSConfigurator: It is a tool to add, edit and delete NVDS configuration data for BLE application development based on QN9020 platform. Refer to "*QN902x NVDS Configurator Manual*" for details.
- QN902xDriverTool: It is a PC tool to make it easier to write peripheral driver code for BLE application development based on the QN9020 platform. Refer to "*QN902x Driver Tools Manual*" for further details.
- Qn9020DevDBforIDE: This tool is used to add device database for QN9020 series chip into IDE, including ARM Keil MDK-ARM and IAR. Refer to "*QN9020DevDBforIDE User Manual*".

4.2.2 Documents

Software Doc in the documents area leads directly to a software document folder described in [Section 4.1.2](#).

4.2.3 Project

Project area consists of three parts namely:

- BLE example: linked to the BLE folder under the projects folder; see [Section 4.1.3](#).
- Driver example: linked to the driver folder under the projects folder; see [Section 4.1.3](#).
- Example bin files: linked to the BinFiles folder; see [Section 4.1.1](#).

4.2.4 Support

It consists of links to get more information about QN902x and support page.

- Homepage: <http://www.nxp.com/>
- Contact us: <http://www.nxp.com/support/communities:COMMUNITIES>

5. Quick start with demo

The QN9020 mini DK board can be shipped with some pre-loaded profile. A proximity profile is used here as an example to demonstrate how to start with QN902x Studio quickly. The proximity demo enables an interactive connection with the BLE dongle acting as a BLE master and mini DK board as a slave.

Note: All mini DK boards are in a deep sleep mode when powered-up. It means that the debug ports do not respond. To debug or start advertising and eventually connect, press BUTTON1 on the mini DK.

5.1 Download file

5.1.1 Steps to download file with QN902xISPStudio

5.1.1.1 Step 1:

Start QN902x Studio.

5.1.1.2 Step 2:

Click 'QN902xISPStudio' on QN902x Studio start page; see menu in [Figure 13](#).

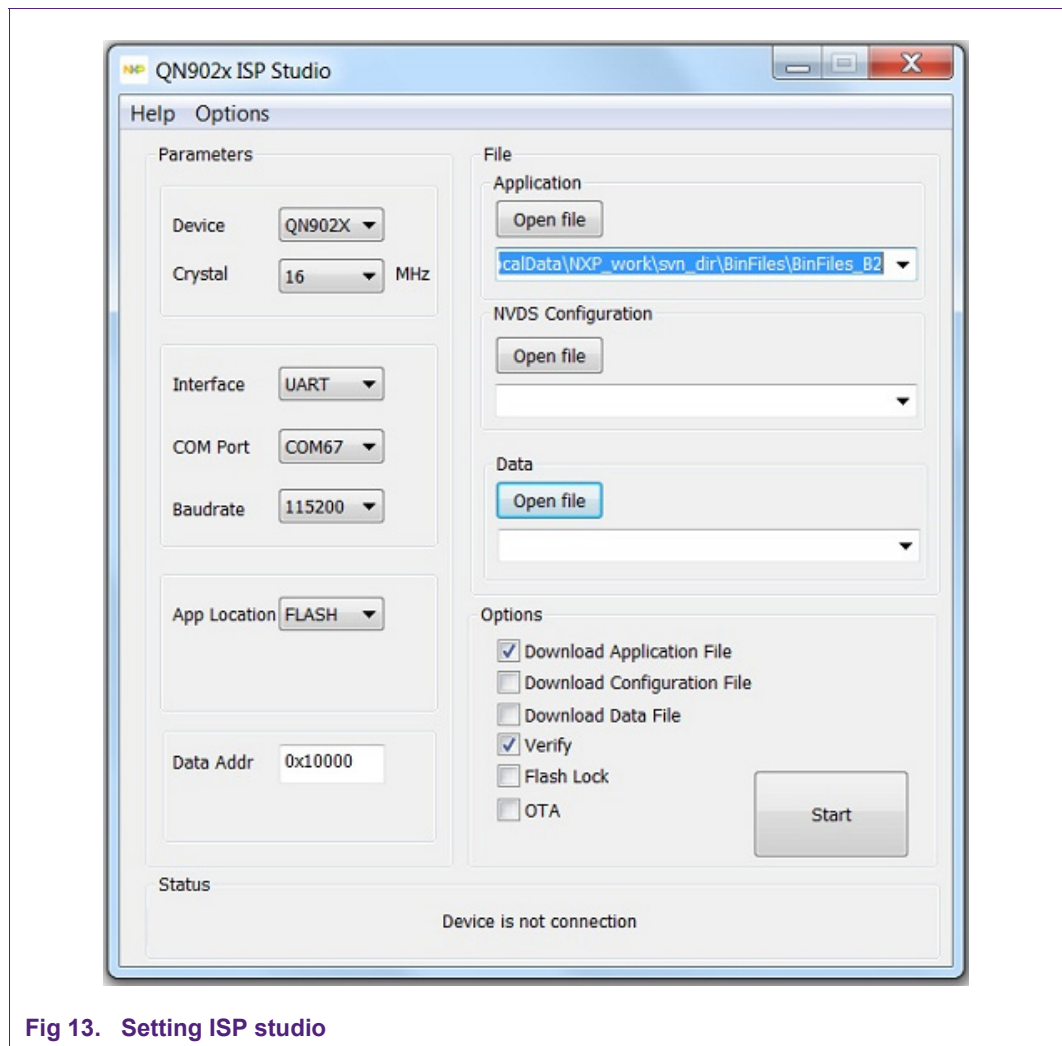


Fig 13. Setting ISP studio

5.1.1.3 Step 3:

Select UART interface, correct COM port and baudrate. Generally, the baud rate is 115200. Use the COM port for J-Link CDC UART port.

5.1.1.4 Step 4:

To locate the bin file, click "Open file" under application, and choose "proxr.bin". The demo bin files provided in QN902x SDK are located in C:\NXP\QN902x_SDK_1.4.0\Projects\BLE\prj_proxr\keil\bin.

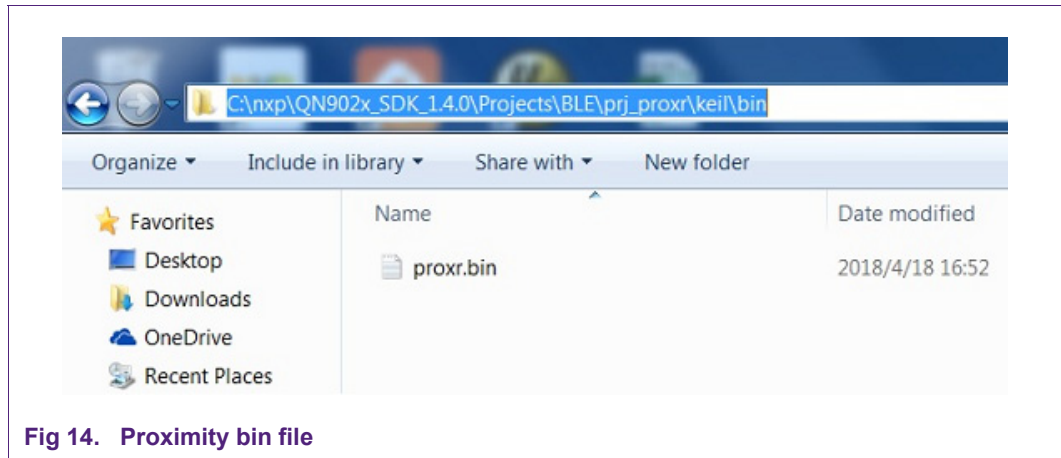


Fig 14. Proximity bin file

5.1.1.5 Step 5:

Click the “Start” button on QN902xISPStudio and then press the “QN_RST” button on the board; see [Figure 15](#). The bin file is downloaded to board automatically, once the “QN_RST” button is released. If the download is successful, a message pops up; see [Figure 16](#).

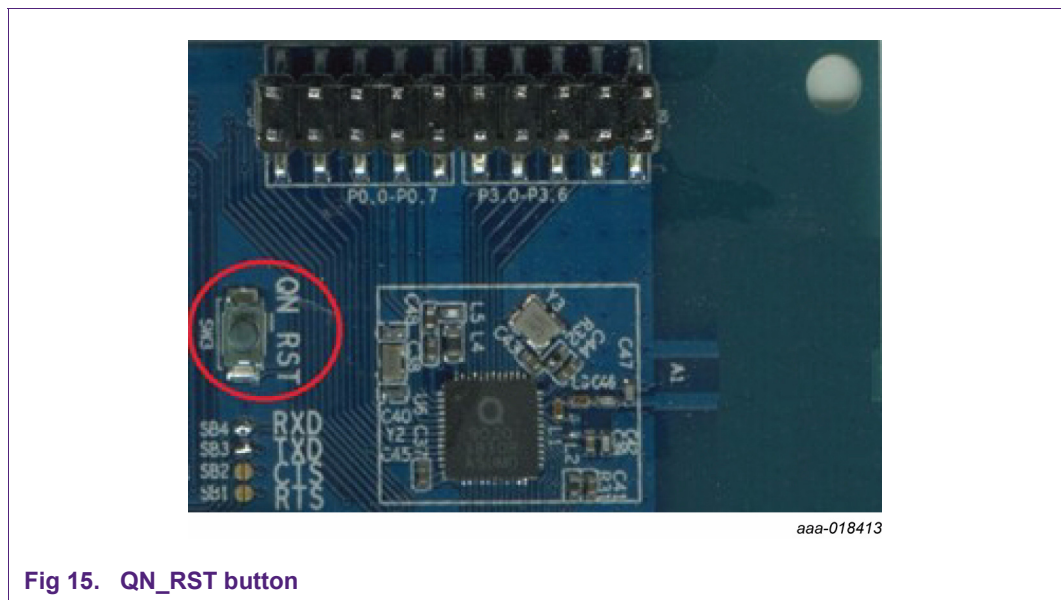


Fig 15. QN_RST button

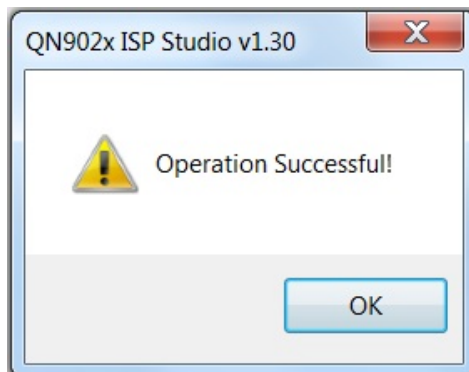


Fig 16. Download successful

If the bin file download fails, a message pops up; see [Figure 17](#). If it occurs, perform the following:

1. Check the USB connection and whether LED1 and LED2 are ON.
2. Whenever the Start button is used to download files, press and release the QN_RST button on mini DK board to switch the board into boot mode.
3. Make sure that the COM port setting is correct on the system. The setting can be found in device manager; see [Figure 7](#).

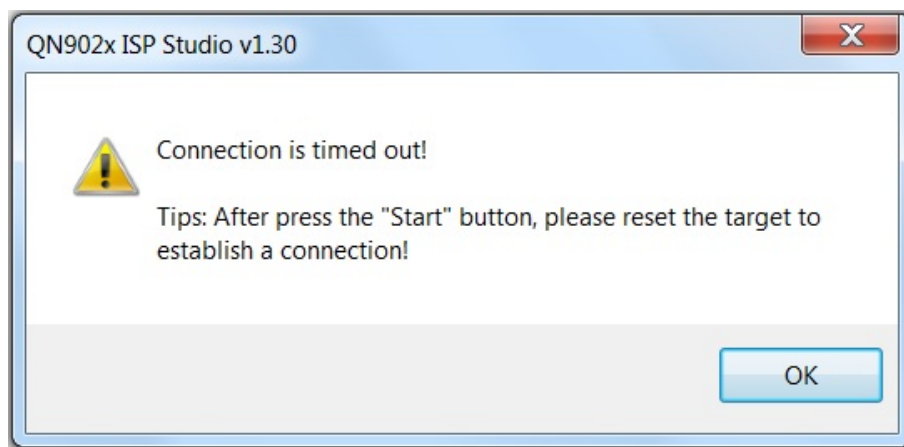


Fig 17. Failure message

For QN920E, bootloader support Fast boot mode which may be needed in some special application. If you want to enable fast boot mode, please config the ISP Studio before downloading. See [Figure 18](#).

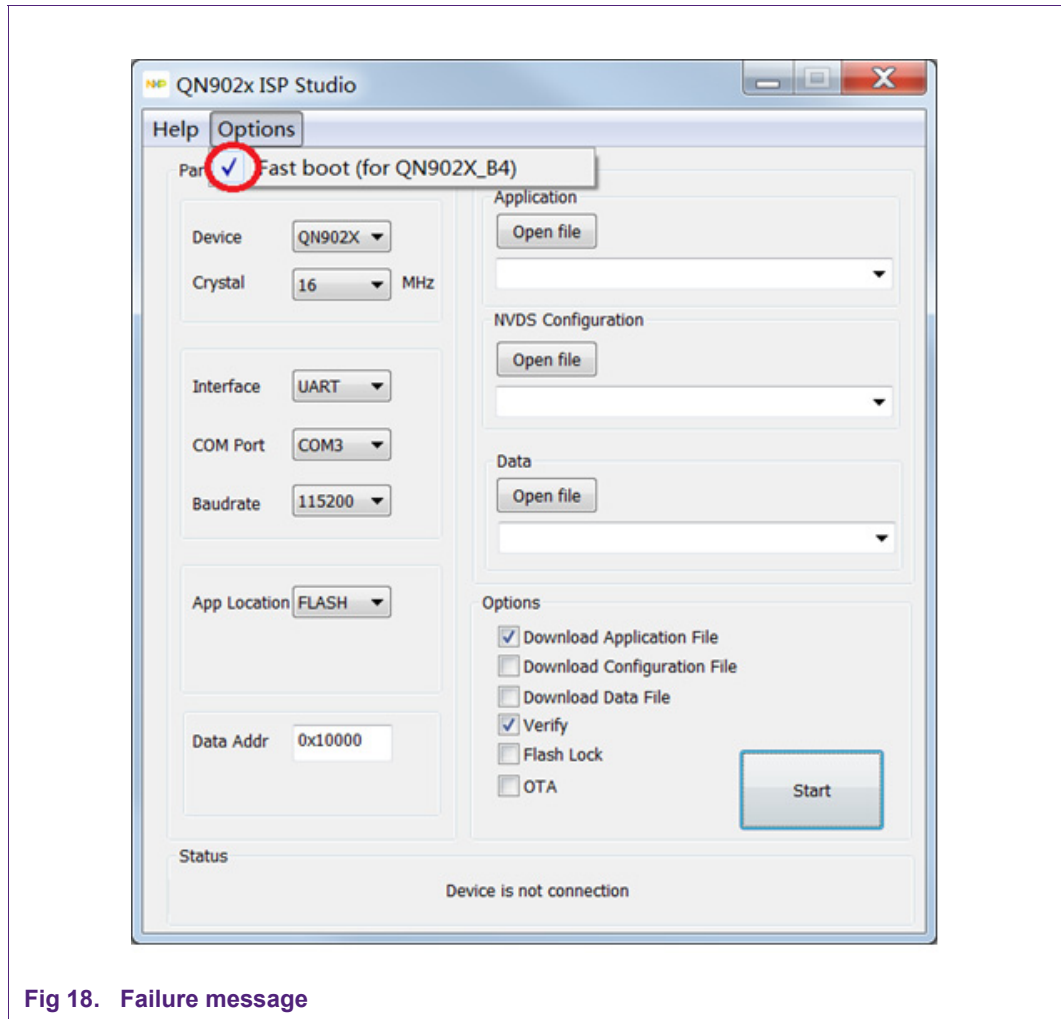


Fig 18. Failure message

For more information about the QN902xISPStudio tool, refer to the “QN902x ISP Studio Manual”.

5.1.2 Download file in Keil

Keil can also be used to download the compiled bin file. If QN9020 is in sleep mode while programming, press BUTTON1 or BUTTON2 to wake up the mini DK. [Figure 19](#) and [Figure 20](#) show the error messages that pop up when QN9020 is in sleep mode and the user is trying to program through Keil.



Fig 19. Failure note

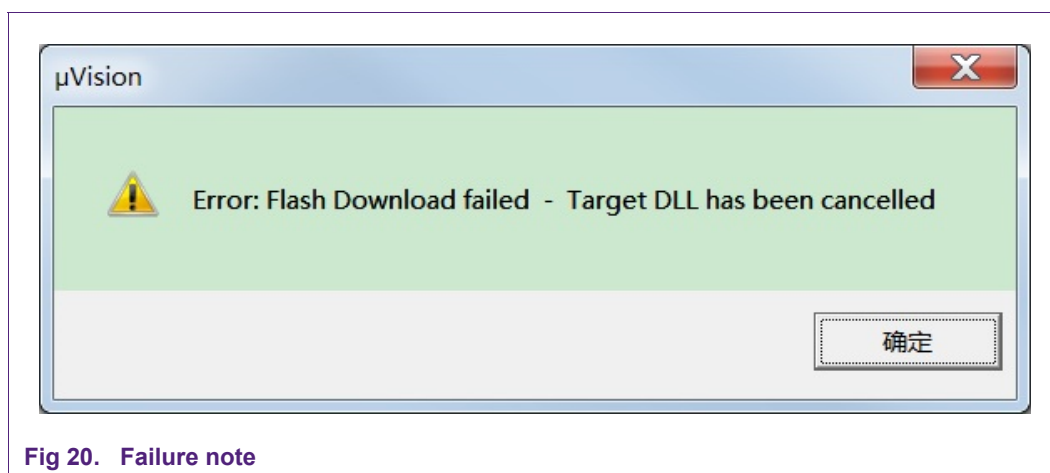


Fig 20. Failure note

5.2 Configure BLE device

Use NVDS configurator tool and configure the BLE device address, name, etc. This configuration data is stored in the NVDS area of flash. The NVDS configurator makes it easier to add, edit and delete the configuration data. The tool is also used to burn the configuration data to target chip, or dump it from the chip. For more information on this tool, refer to the “QN902x NVDS Configurator Manual”.

5.2.1 Steps to configure BLE device

5.2.1.1 Step 1:

To start NVDS configurator, Click QN902xNVDSConfigurator button on QN902x Studio start page; see [Figure 21](#).

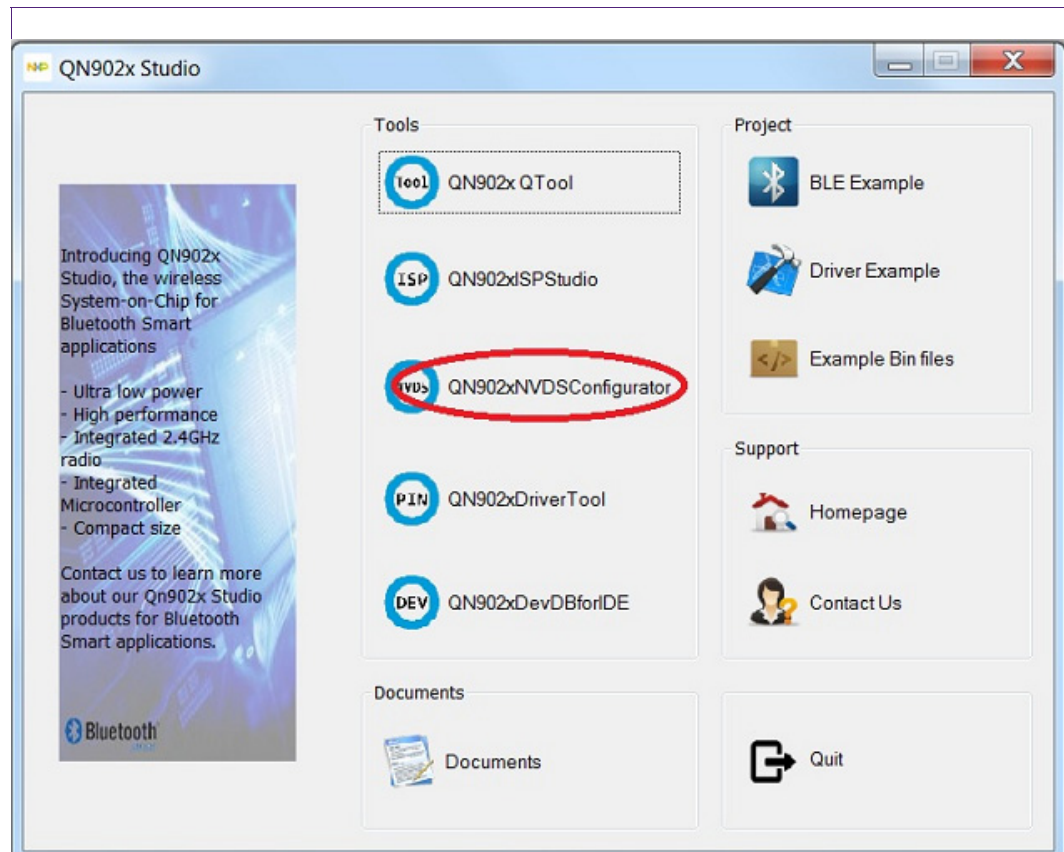


Fig 21. Start NVDS configurator

5.2.1.2 Step 2:

Choose the corresponding UART COM port and click connect button on the “Connect” dialog; see [Figure 22](#).

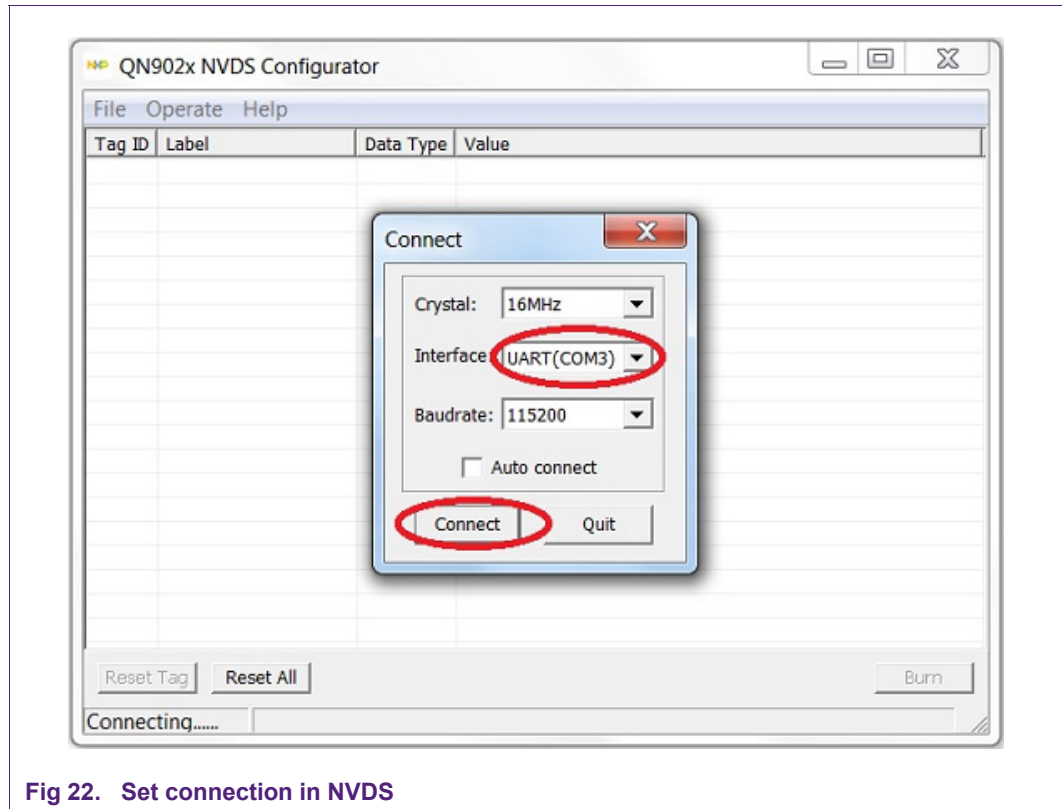


Fig 22. Set connection in NVDS

5.2.1.3 Step 3:

Press “QN_RST” button on the mini DK board and then release it to connect the board; see [Figure 15](#). Once connected, it shows configurable items; see [Figure 23](#).

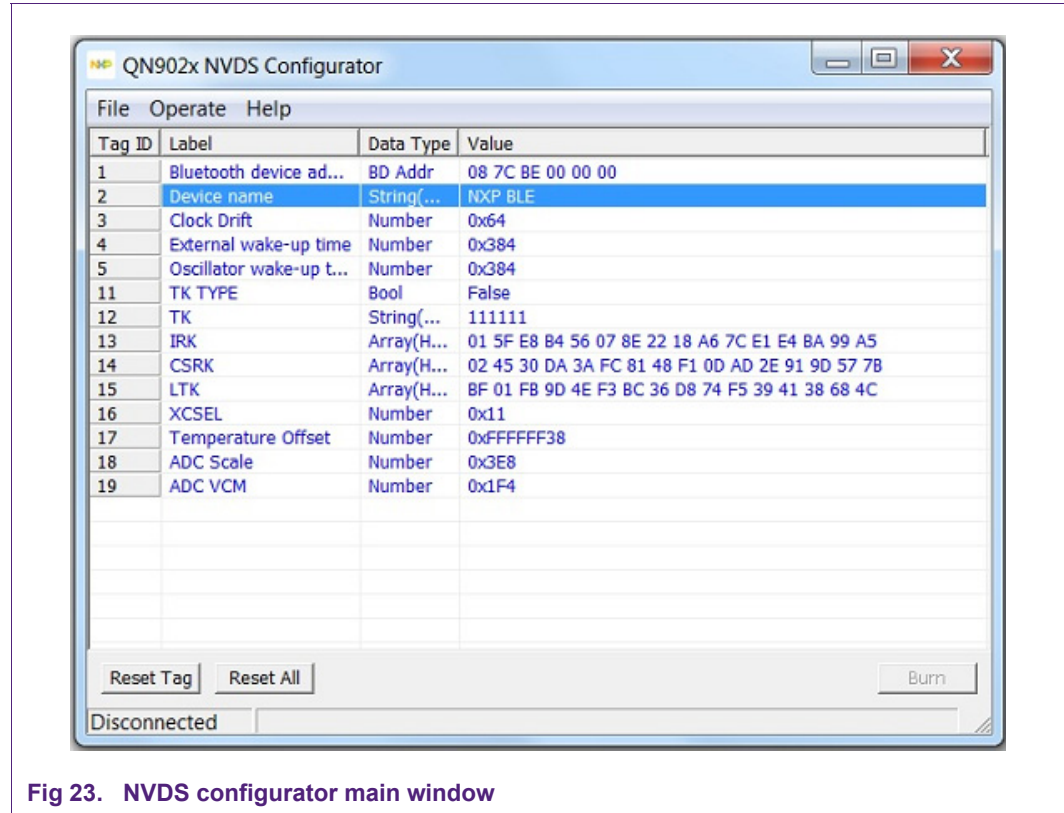


Fig 23. NVDS configurator main window

The values can be changed according to specific requirement. However, the default value is recommended.

Table 1. Important labels

Labels	Description
Bluetooth device address	48-bit Bluetooth device address.
Device name	name of the BLE device to differentiate from other Bluetooth devices.
Clock drift	while using 32.768 kHz crystal oscillator, set it according to the specification of crystal used; recommended value is 100 ppm, to have margin for load variation and temperature change; while using 32 kHz RC oscillator, set it to 500 ppm.
External wake-up time/Oscillator wake-up time	900 μs (0x384) is recommended by default; while using 32 K low-power mode, it should be set as 3000 μs (0xBB8).
XCSEL	cap load of 16 MHz crystal oscillator; default value is 0x11; adjust according to the specific PCB design and crystal used in real applications.
ADC scale/ADC VCM	both parameters are for ADC and their values may be different for each chip; values are tested and calibrated while manufacturing.

5.2.1.4 Step 4:

Click value field of device name record and change the device name; see [Figure 24](#).

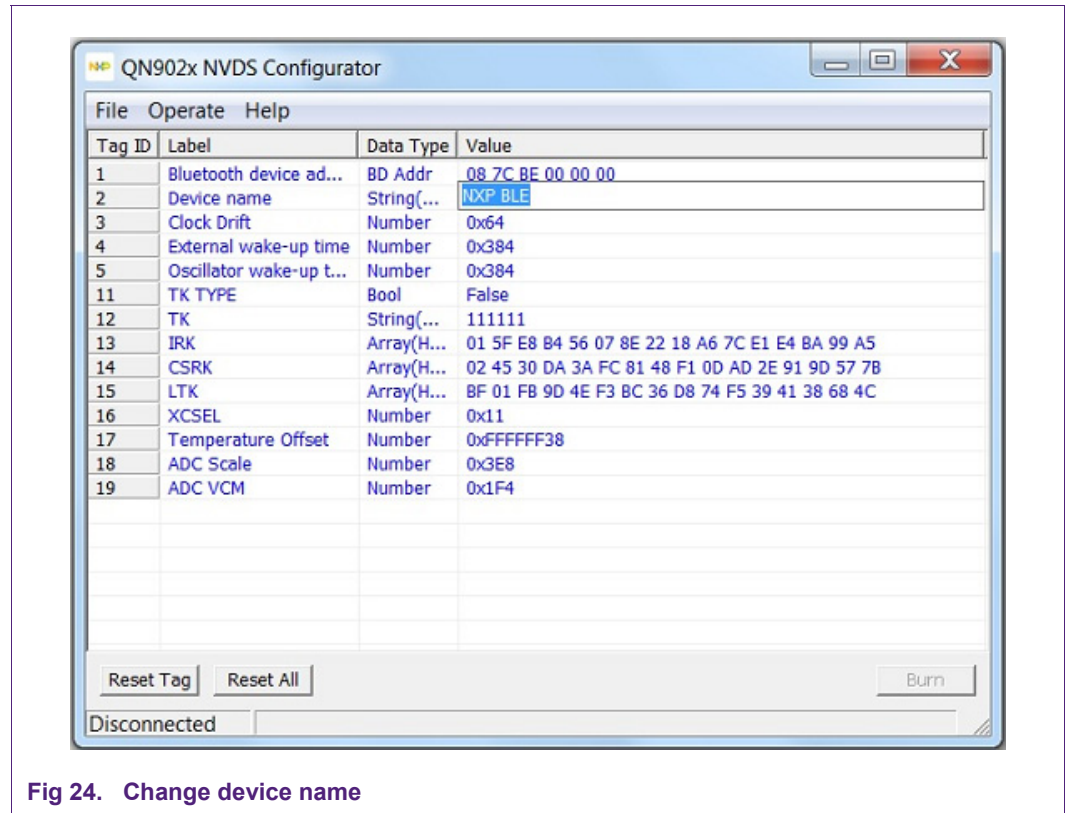


Fig 24. Change device name

5.2.1.5 Step 5:

Click Burn button and write parameters back to QN9020; see [Figure 25](#).

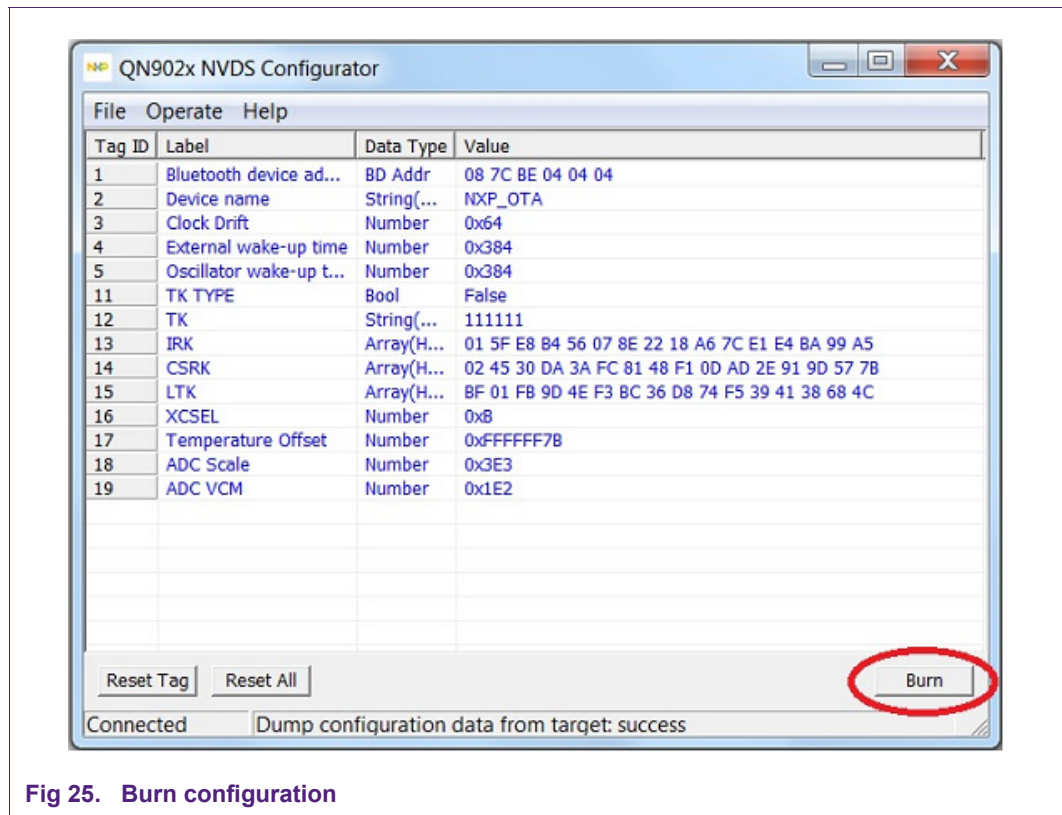


Fig 25. Burn configuration

5.3 Connection

When the mini DK board is powered-on or reset, it is in deep sleep mode. In this mode, LED2 is ON. The following are the LED indications:

- LED1 ON: It indicates that the application is connected. If it is flickering, it means that it is advertising.
- LED2 ON: It indicates that QN9020 is in the deep sleep state.

5.3.1 Steps to set up the connection between the mini DK board and BLE dongle

5.3.1.1 Step 1:

To switch the board into advertising mode and make it discoverable, press BUTTON1 as shown in [Figure 26](#). The LED1 now starts flickering. The flashing frequency depends on the advertising interval. For the first 30 seconds, the application uses a short advertising interval. After 30 seconds, LED1 flashing frequency will be lower as the advertising interval has increased to around 1 sec. If BUTTON1 is pressed again, the application stops advertising and LED1 stops flashing. The application is back to deep sleep state.

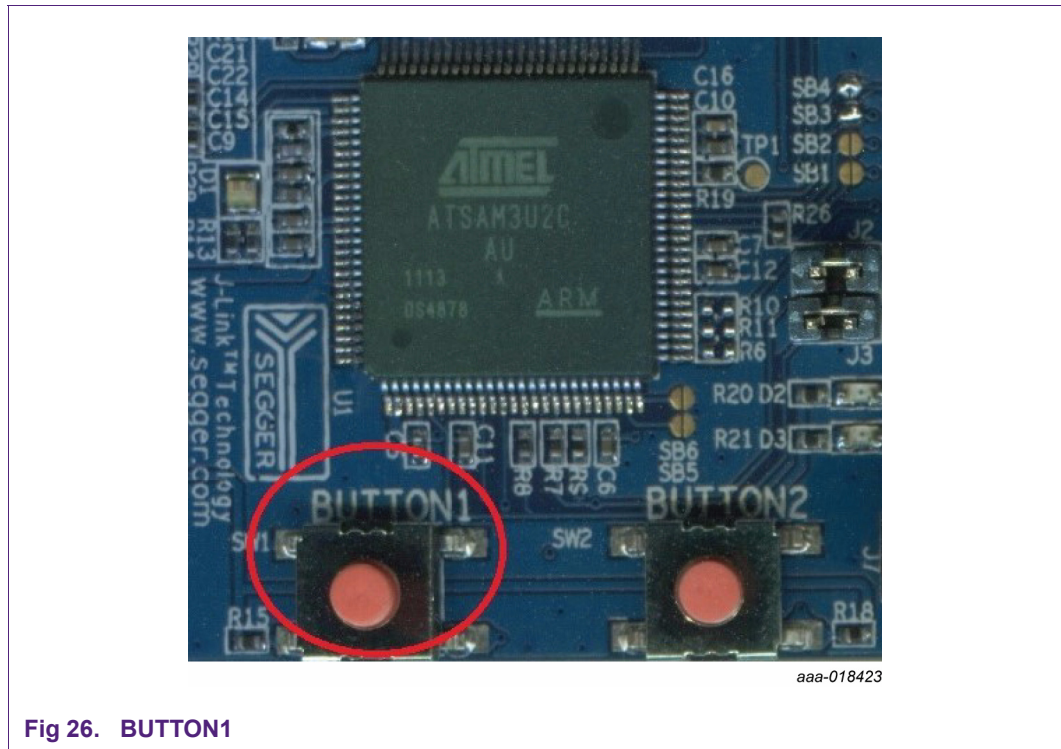


Fig 26. BUTTON1

5.3.1.2 Step 2:

Step 2: Start QTool from QN902x Studio start page. [Figure 27](#) shows the message that pops up for communication setting.

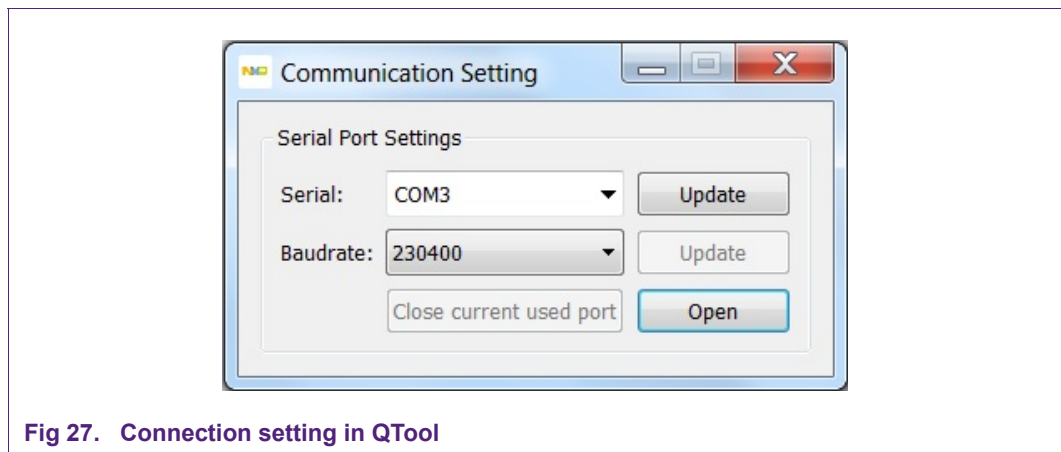


Fig 27. Connection setting in QTool

5.3.1.3 Step 3:

Select the correct COM port for BLE dongle. It can be checked with the device manager. Press “Open” button in the dialog box. [Figure 28](#) shows the resultant window. The device representing BLE dongle would be in idle state by default.

5.3.1.4 Step 4:

Select the item in “Devices”. It shows the “Settings” area.

5.3.1.5 Step 5:

To switch to advertising mode, press BUTTON1 on mini DK board and press scan button shown in [Figure 28](#). The discovered devices are now shown in “Devices” area.

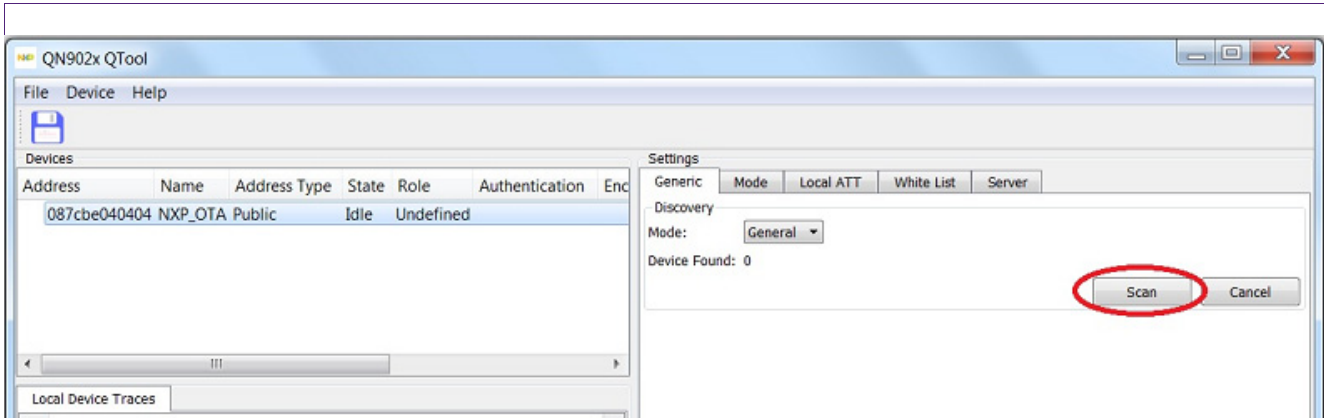


Fig 28. QTool opened

5.3.1.6 Step 6:

To initiate a connection, select the mini DK from the scan result and click the “Connect” button in settings block (see [Figure 29](#)).

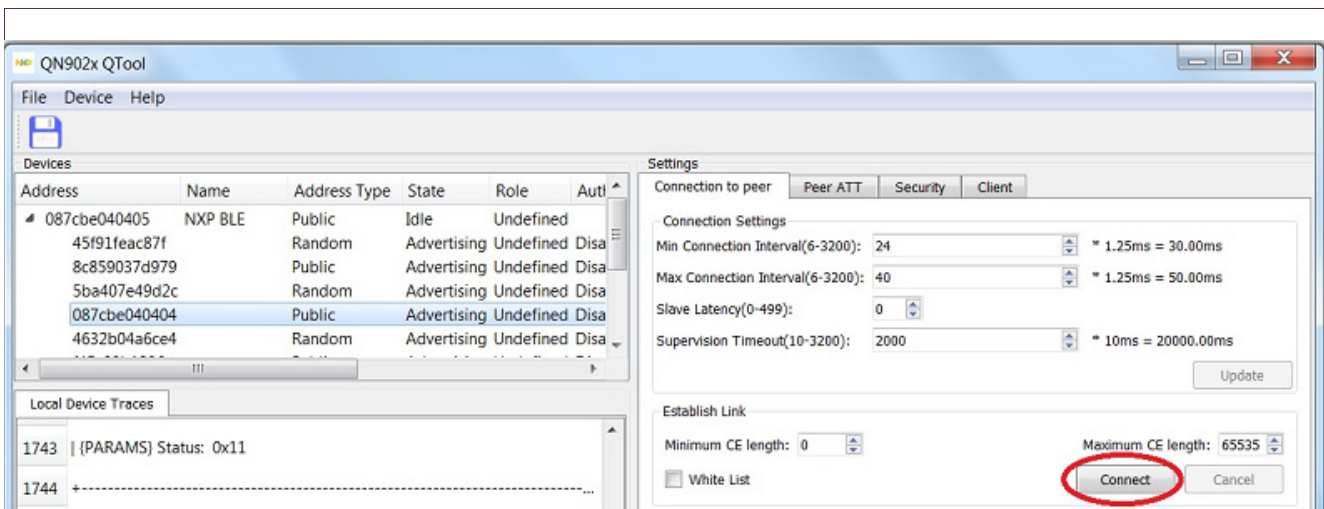


Fig 29. Connection in QTool

The role of BLE dongle changes to master and the mini DK board acts as slave. The state of both devices is connected as shown in [Figure 30](#).

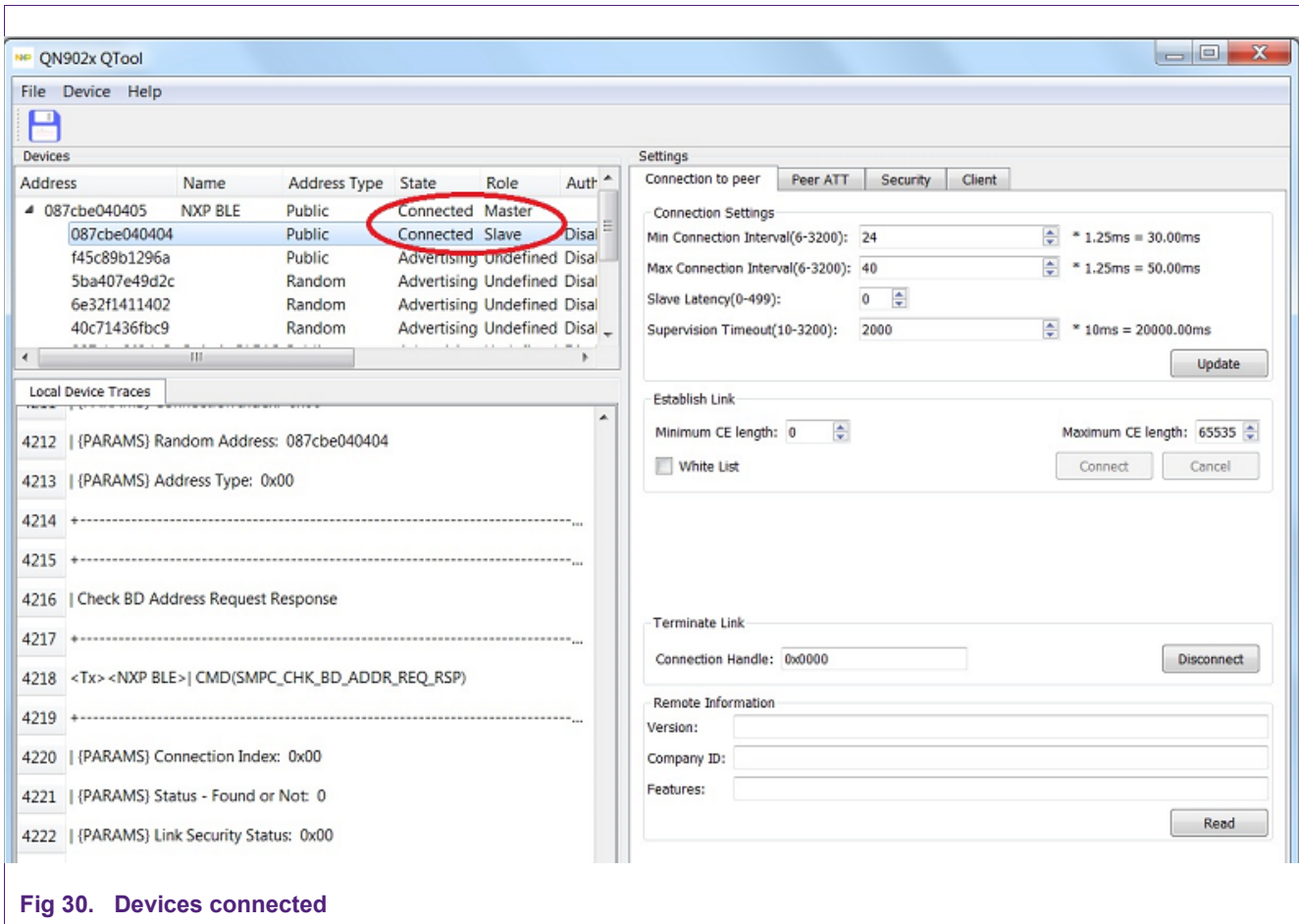


Fig 30. Devices connected

5.4 Function operation

Various interactions between mini DK board and BLE dongle can be performed when connected.

5.4.1 Find me

Steps to simulate “to find the mini DK board” are discussed below.

5.4.1.1 Step 1:

Click “Client” tab and “PROXM” tab in settings area (see [Figure 31](#)).

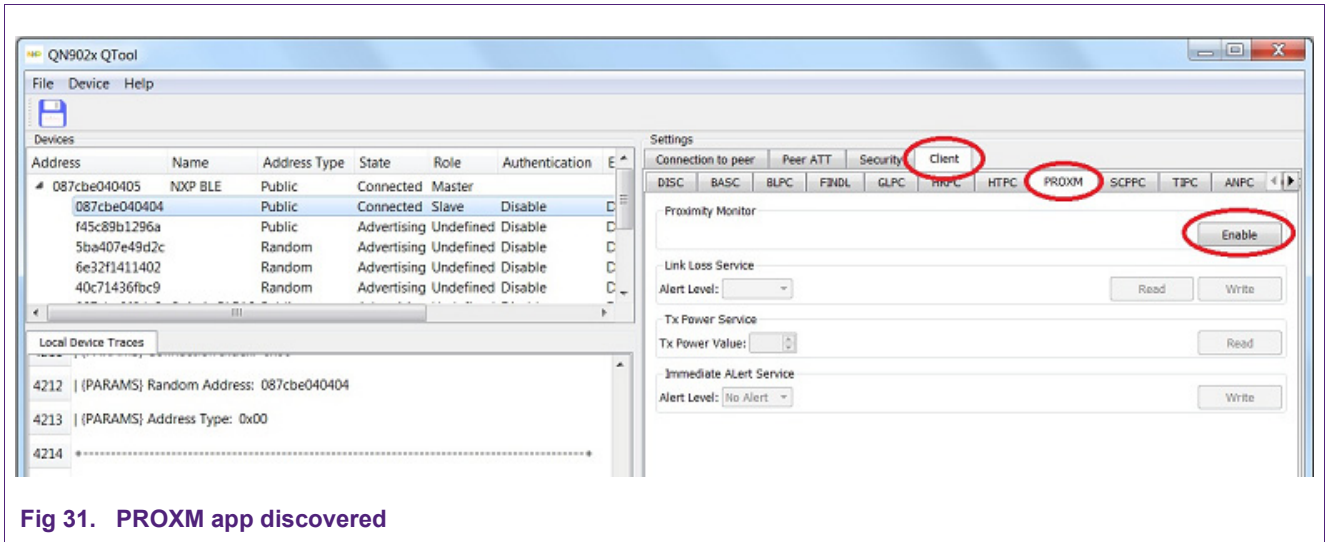


Fig 31. PROXM app discovered

5.4.1.2 Step 2:

To make discovered services editable, click the “Enable” button.

5.4.1.3 Step 3:

Set the alert level in the “Immediate Alert Service” area to medium or high.

5.4.1.4 Step 4:

Click “Write” button. The mini DK board sounds an alert with the help of a buzzer. Proximity alerts are indicated using the buzzer. The volume of the buzzer indicates the type of alert.

5.4.2 Disconnect

There are two options to disconnect the RF link between two devices.

1. Click “disconnect” button in “Connection to peer” tab; see [Figure 30](#). The device disconnects with no response.
2. If the two devices are moved away from each other, the RF link may break. In such a case, the mini DK board responds with an alert.

5.4.3 Others

When buzzer is ON, press BUTTON2 to turn-off the buzzer.

6. Advanced application development

According to specific requirement, it may be necessary to add some peripheral functions such as button, LED, and buzzer. Useful tools are provided to help with implementation. It is easier to implement specific functions observing the sample codes in QN902x SDK.

6.1 Add driver file

Suppose that it is required to implement button control, which needs GPIO definition. It is easy to implement it by using the Keil development tool. By default, there is a folder named “driver” at `C:\NXP\QN902x_SDK_x.x.x\Projects\BLE\src`. All peripheral function source codes are included here. The relevant driver files can be added to the project in Keil, as shown in [Figure 32](#).

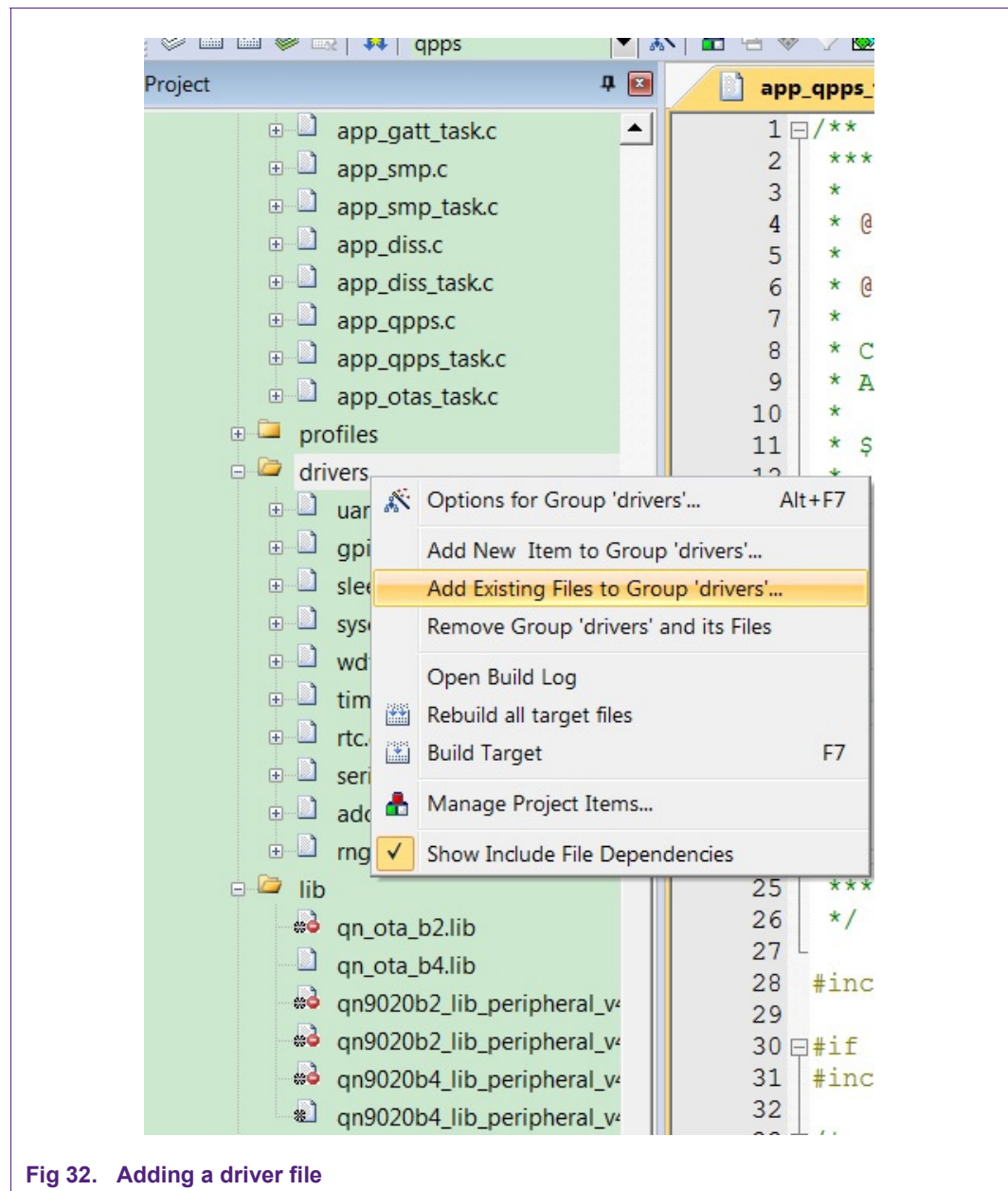


Fig 32. Adding a driver file

To study how to use the peripheral functions, open the dedicated peripheral driver files, typically located in “C:\NXP\QN902x_SDK_x.x.x\Projects\Driver”. Open the required project and directly download to the mini DK board. Modify it according to the specific requirements.

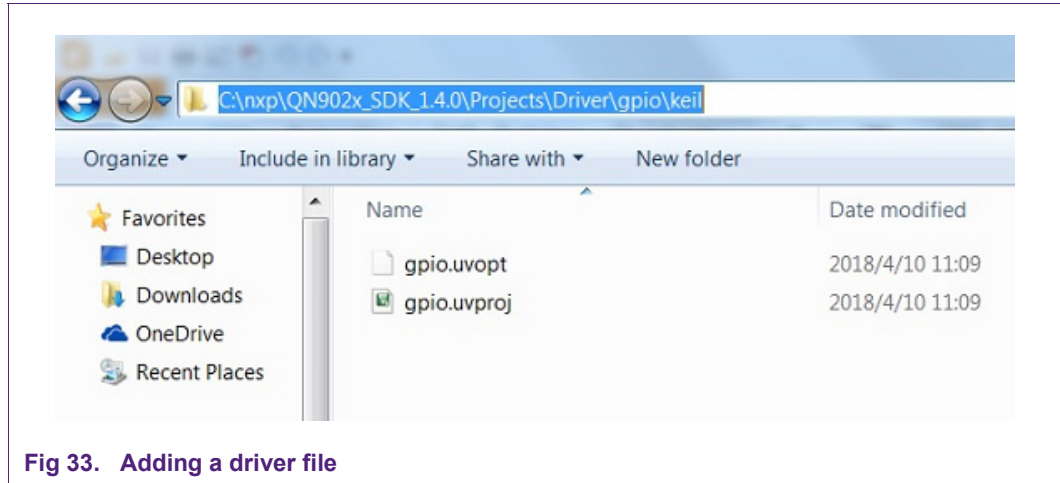


Fig 33. Adding a driver file

Double-click “gpio.uvproj” and open it using Keil; see [Figure 34](#).

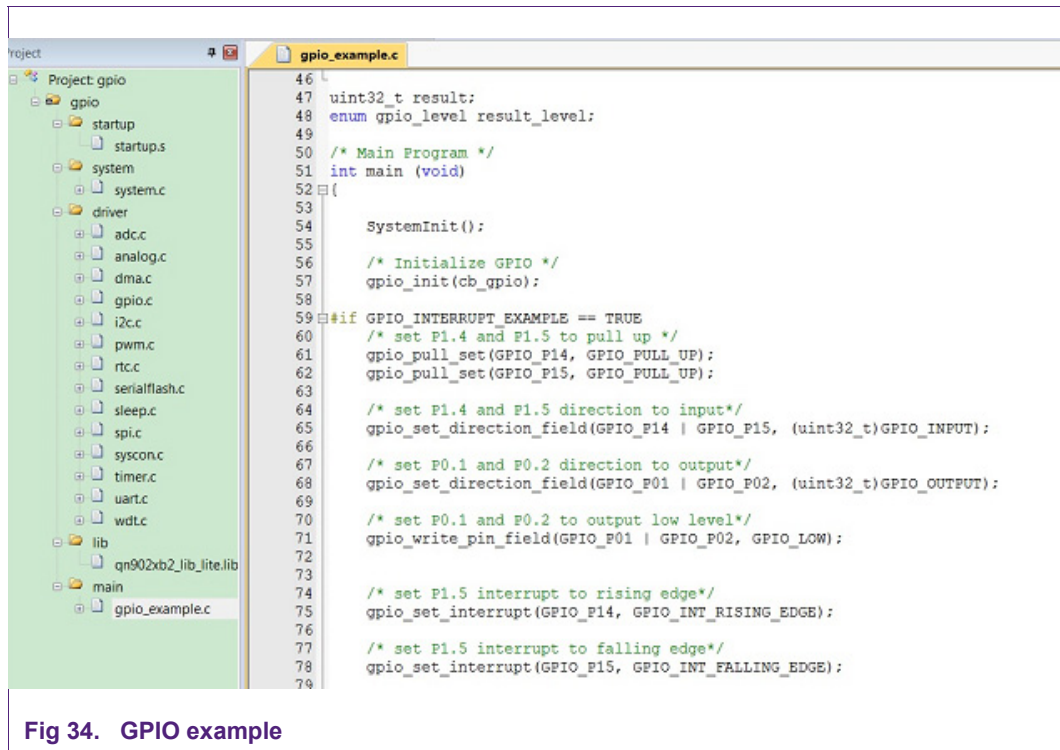


Fig 34. GPIO example

The main function is in gpio_example.c.

6.2 GPIO MUX configuration

The GPIO pins are shared with digital or analog peripherals such as SPI, UART, I²C, and ADC. The function of IO can be configured in QN902xDriverTool, which generates the source code for the specific assignment of GPIO pins.

6.2.1 Change GPIO function

6.2.1.1 Step 1:

Open “QN902xDriverTool” and select the right device; see [Figure 35](#).

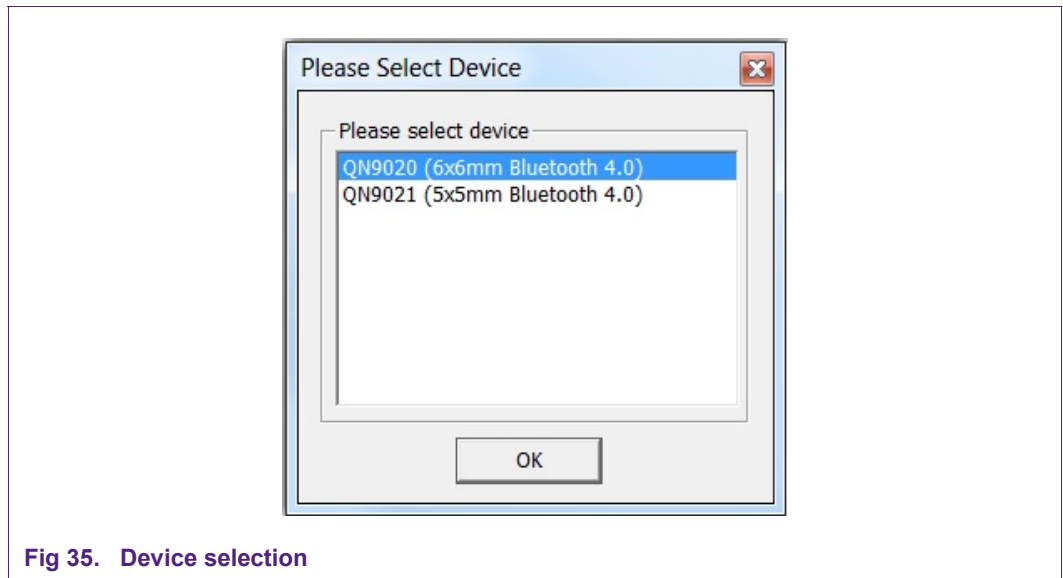


Fig 35. Device selection

6.2.1.2 Step 2:

Choose IO icon; see [Figure 36](#).

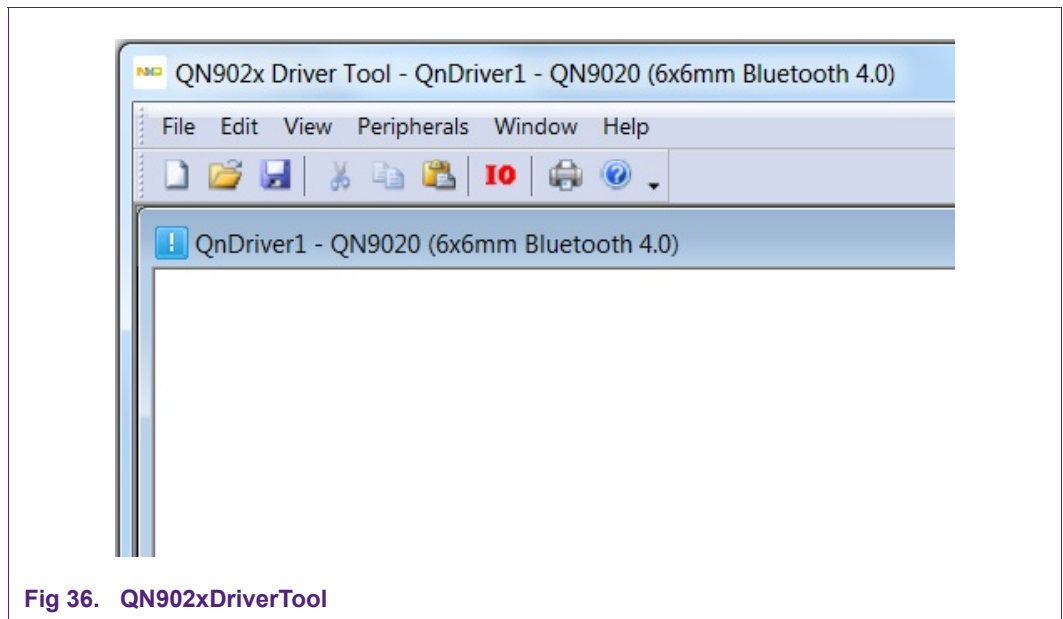


Fig 36. QN902xDriverTool

6.2.1.3 Step 3:

Select P2.6 and P2.6 as PWM function. To switch to P2.6, check the box at the left of pwml and click the refresh icon.

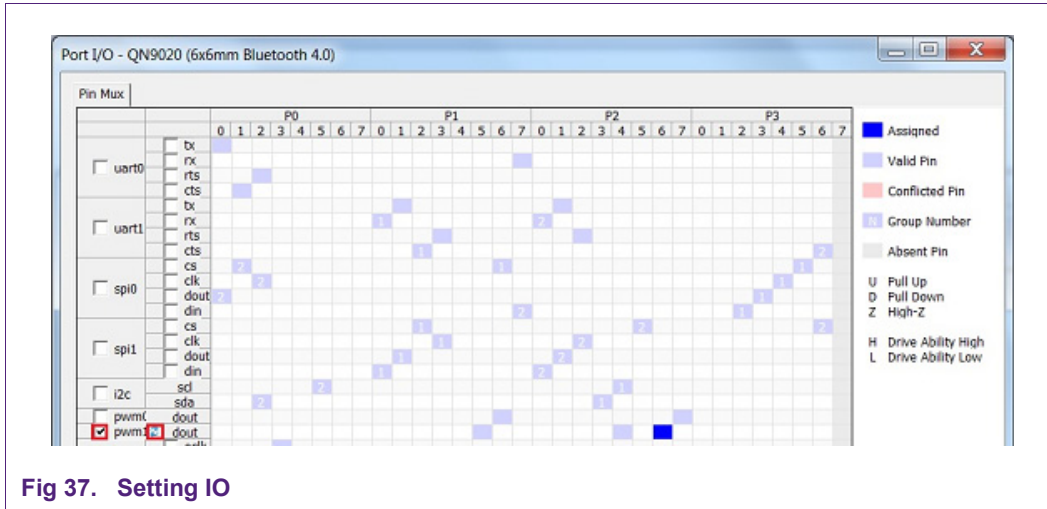


Fig 37. Setting IO

6.2.1.4 Step 4:

After the setting is completed, click OK button at the bottom right of the “QN902xDriverTools” window. The source code is generated automatically; see [Figure 38](#).

```

//Pin Mux Control Register
syscon_SetPMCR0(QN_SYSCON, P00_GPIO_3_PIN_CTRL
| P03_GPIO_2_PIN_CTRL
| P05_GPIO_15_PIN_CTRL
| P06_SW_DAT_PIN_CTRL
| P07_SW_CLK_PIN_CTRL
| P10_GPIO_8_PIN_CTRL
| P11_GPIO_7_PIN_CTRL
| P12_GPIO_6_PIN_CTRL
| P13_GPIO_5_PIN_CTRL
| P17_GPIO_4_PIN_CTRL
| P23_GPIO_12_PIN_CTRL
| P24_GPIO_11_PIN_CTRL
| P26_PWM1_PIN_CTRL
| P27_GPIO_9_PIN_CTRL
| P31_GPIO_14_PIN_CTRL
| P32_GPIO_13_PIN_CTRL);

//Pin Mux Control Register
syscon_SetPMCR1(QN_SYSCON, P01_GPIO_18_PIN_CTRL
| P02_GPIO_17_PIN_CTRL);

aaa-018439
    
```

Fig 38. Created code for IO configure

6.2.2 Add PWM function to project

Open “system.c” which is at “C:\NXP\QN902x_SDK_x.x.x\Projects\BLE\prj_proxr\src” by default.

Find “P26_GPIO_22_PIN_CTRL” in function “SystemIOCfg” and replace it with “P26_PWM1_PIN_CTRL”. Save this file.

After adding above code to current project, compile the project, and download it to mini DK board to confirm the functionality.

Note:

1. For more information about how to enable related module, refer to example code at “C:\NXP\QN902x_SDK_1.4.0\Projects\Driver\adc\keil”.
2. For more information on “QBlueDriverTools”, refer to “QN902x Driver Tools Manual”.

7. Trouble shooting

1. Bin file download failed while using QN902xISPStudio; see [Section 5.1.1.5](#).
2. Bin file download failed while using Keil: Set the board in active mode and download again; see [Section 5.1.2](#).
3. Error messages pop up while downloading application to mini DK board: To wake up the board and download again, press BUTTON1 or BUTTON2; see [Section 5.1.2](#).

8. Abbreviations

Table 2. Abbreviations

Acronym	Description
ACI	Application Control Interface
BLE	Bluetooth Low Energy
DK	Development Kit
EACI	Easy Application Control Interface
GPIO	General Purpose Input Output
ISP	In System Programming
SDK	Software Development Kit
SMP	Security Management Protocol
SoC	System-on-Chip
SPI	Serial Port Interface
SWD	Serial Wire Debug
UART	Universal Asynchronous Receiver Transmitter
USB	Universal Serial Bus

9. References

- [1] **QN9020 Easy ACI Programming Guide** — Programming guide
- [2] **QN902x QTool User Manual** — User manual
- [3] **QN902x ISP Studio Manual** — Manual
- [4] **QN902x NVDS Configuration Manual** — Configuration manual
- [5] **QN902x Driver Tools Manual** — Tools manual
- [6] **QN902xDevDBforIDE User Manual** — User manual
- [7] **QN902x Software Developers Guide** — Developers guide
- [8] **QN9020_mini_DK_User_Guide** — User guide
- [9] <http://www.keil.com/uvision/debug.asp> — Keil website
- [10] <http://www.segger.com> — Segger website
- [11] <http://www.keil.com> — Keil website

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