Development with GCC and Eclipse

Troubleshooting guide

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Introduction

This is a brief guide on how to troubleshoot some of the common problems related to Eclipse and GCC setup with the Nordic SDK. I recommend doing a quick search on the forum and in the comment section if you experience a problem not mentioned in this guide, you may find others who have encountered the exact same problem, but do not hesitate to post a new question on the forum if not.

Build errors

The *CDT Build Console* window in Eclipse will show errors or warnings reported by the build process if there are any. It is important to note the difference between errors reported here, and errors that are only shown in the code editor; Eclipse may show errors in the source code despite there being no build errors. If this is the case it likely means that there is a problem with the *auto discovery* configuration mentioned in the *"Enable auto discovery of symbols, include paths and compiler settings"* section of the tutorial. Please skip to the next chapter if this is the symptom.

Below image illustrates an actual build error caused by undeclared variable in the source code. In this case, Eclipse is correctly identifying this coding mistake based on the feedback from the build process (build output).



Figure 1: Build error: referencing an undeclared variable.

Figure 2 on the other hand shows an example where the project is built without errors, but unable to resolve the macros and variables because of missing include paths and pre-processor definitions, which indicates a problem with the *auto discovery* configuration.



Figure 2: Successful build without errors.

Wrong search paths

A common cause of build errors is that Eclipse fails to invoke the build tools (GNU make, mkdir or rm) or that GNU Make fails to invoke the toolchain because of wrong search paths. To troubleshoot these kinds of errors we need to analyze the output in the CDT Build Console.

Toolchain path

The GNU_INSTALL_ROOT variable declared in Makefile.windows/posix must point to the install directory for the GCC toolchain. Please refer to the *"before we begin"* section for more details.

Figure 3 and 4 shows the build output when the GNU_INSTALL_ROOT variable is pointing to a nonexistent directory. Edit the Makefile.windows or Makefile.posix file (depending on OS) in \$(SDK_ROOT)/components/toolchain/gcc so that GNU_INSTALL_ROOT corresponds with the version you have installed if you are seeing this.

```
CDT Build Console [blinky_pca10028]

13:23:22 **** Incremental Build of configuration Default for project blinky_pca10028 ****

make VERBOSE=1 all

process_begin: CreateProcess(NULL, "C:/Program Files (x86)/GNU Tools ARM Embedded/5.6 2016q3/bin/arm-none-eabi-gcc" --version, ...) failed.

Cannot find: 'C:/Program Files (x86)/GNU Tools ARM Embedded/5.6 2016q3/bin/arm-none-eabi-gcc'.

Please set values in: "C:/eclipse_neon/nordic/nRF5_SDK_12.1.0/components/toolchain/gcc/Makefile.windows"

according to the actual configuration of your system.

make: ./../../../.components/toolchain/gcc/Makefile.common:26: pipe: No error

../../.../.components/toolchain/gcc/Makefile.common:26: *** Cannot continue. Stop.
```

13:23:22 Build Finished (took 114ms)

Figure 3: console ouput with SDK version 12 and later where the toolchain path is not set correctly. Should have been C:/Program Files (x86)/GNU Tools ARM/**5.4** 2016q3/bin/arm-none-eabi-gcc to correspond with this particular setup.



Figure 4: same as shown figure 3, but with SDK releases prior to version 12.

Path to build tools

Errors such as "*Cannot run program "make*", *Cannot run program "mkdir"*, etc. typically means that Eclipse is not finding the executable in provided search paths.



Figure 5: GNU Make is found in path

First, make sure that GNU make is installed on the system as explained in the *«before we begin»* section, then verify that the *Build tools folder* field contains the correct path in Eclipse preferences.

Preferences			
type filter text		Global Tools Paths	$(\neg \bullet \bullet) \bullet \bullet \bullet$
Global Tools Paths Logging Make Targets Makefile Editor Settings Workspace Tools Paths Code Analysis Code Style Debug Editor File Types Indexer Language Mappings New C/C++ Project Wizard Profiling Property Pages Settings Task Tags Template Default Values ChangeLog	E	The locations where various GNU ARM Eclipse tools are installed. Unless defined more specific used for all projects in all workspaces. Build tools folder: C:\Program Files\GNU ARM Eclipse\Build Tools\2.7-201610281058\bin Default toolchain: GNU Tools for ARM Embedded Processors Toolchain name: GNU Tools for ARM Embedded Processors Toolchain folder: C:\Program Files (x86)\GNU Tools ARM Embedded\4.9 2015q3\bin Restore Defaults	Browse Browse Apply
? (OK	Cancel

Figure 6: Add path to build tools folder.

Cannot run program "": Launching failed

This error may occur if the build command is not set, or contains an empty variable (e.g., if \${cross_make} is not set).

Make sure to set the Build command to *make VERBOSE=1* in project properties.

ype filter text	C/C++ Build ⇔ ▼ ⇔
> Resource Builders > C/C++ Build 4 C/C++ General > Code Analysis	Configuration: Default [Active]
Documentation File Types Formatter Indexer Language Mappins Paths and Symbols	Builder Settings Behavior Refresh Policy Builder Builder type: External builder Use default build command Build command: make VERBOSE=1 Variables.
Preprocessor Inclus Profiling Categorie Linux Tools Path Project References Run/Debug Settings	Makefile generation Generate Makefiles automatically V Expand Env. Variable Refs in Makefiles Build location Build directory: \$(workspace_loc:/blinky)/
VikiText	Workspace File system Variables
?	OK Cancel

Figure 7: Set build command.

Auto discovery of symbols, include paths and compiler settings

Eclipse's built-in <u>build output parser</u> enables auto discovery of symbols and include paths for Makefile managed projects so you do not have to add them manually when creating new or modifying existing projects. Unfortunately, it does not provide much feedback when configured incorrectly, besides failing to collect information from the build output.

Screenshot below shows an example where *Auto discovery* has not been enabled properly. Notice how the project built successfully according to the *CDT Build Console* yet there are multiple errors shown in the code view.



Figure 8: Build output is not parsed.

Verbose build logging not enabled

The build output parser relies on verbose build log to extract relevant information. Check if build log contains enough information to retrieve necessary information about the project. The SDK makefile have an option for producing verbose build output, which is enabled by setting the 'VERBOSE' makefile variable to '1'. Screenshots below illustrates the difference.

```
CDT Build Console [ble_app_hrs_pca10040_s132]

15:36:09 **** Build of configuration Default for project ble_app_hrs_pca10040_s132 ****

make all

Compiling file: nrf_drv_clock.c

Compiling file: nrf_drv_common.c

Compiling file: nrf_drv_uart.c

Compiling file: bsp.c

Compiling file: bsp_btn_ble.c

Compiling file: bsp_nfc.c

Compiling file: main.c
```

Figure 9: verbose build log not enabled.

CDT Build Console [ble_app_hrs_pca10040_s132]								
15:34:57 **** Build of configuration Default for project ble_app_hrs_pca10040_s132 ****								
make VERBOSE=1 all								
mkdir _build								
Compiling file: nrf_log_backend_serial.c								
'C:/Program Files (x86)/GNU Tools ARM Embedded/4.9 2015q3/bin/arm-none-eabi-gcc' -MP -MD -std=c99 -DNRF52_PAN_36 -DNRF52_PAN_64 -DSOFTDEVICE_PRESENT -DBOARD_PCA10								
Compiling file: nrf_log_frontend.c								
'C:/Program Files (x86)/GNU Tools ARM Embedded/4.9 2015q3/bin/arm-none-eabi-gcc' -MP -MD -std=c99 -DNRF52_PAN_36 -DNRF52_PAN_64 -DSOFTDEVICE_PRESENT -DBOARD_PCA16								
Compiling file: app_button.c								
'C:/Program Files (x86)/GNU Tools ARM Embedded/4.9 2015q3/bin/arm-none-eabi-gcc' -MP -MD -std=c99 -DNRF52 -DNRF52_PAN_36 -DNRF52_PAN_64 -DSOFTDEVICE_PRESENT -DBOARD_PCA10								
Compiling file: app_error.c								
'C:/Program Files (x86)/GNU Tools ARM Embedded/4.9 2015q3/bin/arm-none-eabi-gcc' -MP -MD -std=c99 -DNRF52_PAN_36 -DNRF52_PAN_64 -DSOFTDEVICE_PRESENT -DBOARD_PCA1@								
Compiling file: app_error_weak.c								
'C:/Program Files (x86)/GNU Tools ARM Embedded/4.9 2015q3/bin/arm-none-eabi-gcc' -MP -MD -std=c99 -DNRF52_PAN_36 -DNRF52_PAN_64 -DSOFTDEVICE_PRESENT -DBOARD_PCA10								
Compiling file: app_timer.c								
'C:/Program Files (x86)/GNU Tools ARM Embedded/4.9 2015q3/bin/arm-none-eabi-gcc' -MP -MD -std=c99 -DNRF52_PAN_36 -DNRF52_PAN_64 -DSOFTDEVICE_PRESENT -DBOARD_PCA1@								
Compiling file: app_util_platform.c								
'C:/Program Files (x86)/GNU Tools ARM Embedded/4.9 2015q3/bin/arm-none-eabi-gcc' -MP -MD -std=c99 -DNRF52 -DNRF52 _PAN_36 -DNRF52_PAN_64 -DSOFTDEVICE_PRESENT -DBOARD_PCA16								

Figure 10: verbose build output enabled.

Change the build command as shown in Figure 7 if verbose build output is not enabled. Assuming everything else related to the discovery feature is configured correctly, it should be sufficient to do a clean build followed by a rebuild of the index (right click on project and click index->rebuild) to resolve the errors.

Note, with SDK version 12 or newer it is necessary to use the patched Makefile.common file included in the tutorial to work around what looks to be a limitation with the build output parser.

Partial discovery

The output parser may in some cases discover the include paths, but not the preprocessor symbols. This will also lead to unresolved errors in Eclipse. Verify that the build is using the patched Makefile.common file attached at the end of the tutorial.

It is possible to inspect the include paths and symbols that where added by the build output parser as shown in Figure 11 (select properties for one of the source files. This can be compared against the Makefile to determine what is missing.



Figure 11: Inspect include paths and symbols added by output parser.

Cannot open debug session

Below are some screenshots showing the debug configuration for the nRF52 series, but it would be the same for an nrf51 device expect from the device name. Please go through the configurations shown here, and make sure they correspond with your configuration.

Debug Configurations					×			
Create, manage, and run configurat	ions				Ť			
🗋 🗈 🗶 🗈 🔹 🗕	Name: ble app hrs pca10040 s132 Default							
type filter text	Main * Debugger Statuu							
C/C++ Application								
C/C++ Attach to Application	ble app brs pca10040 s132				Browse			
C/C++ Postmortem Debugger	C/C++ Application:				browse			
GDB Hardware Debugging	build/prf52832 yyaa out							
GDB OpenOCD Debugging	_54114(11152052_A44.04(Variables	Conrol Devices	Province			
GDB QEMU Debugging	Duild (if a suized) is free lowerhing		Variables	Search Project	browse			
ble_app_hrs_pca10040_s132 Defi	Build (if required) before launching							
Launch Group	Build configuration: Default				-			
	Enable auto build	Disable	auto build					
	Ose workspace settings	Configure 1	Workspace Settings	<u></u>				
				Revert	Apply			
-liter matched 10 of 23 items					,			
(?)				Debug	Close			
				Debug	ciose			

Figure 12: Main tab - check that *.out file is set in C/C++ Application field

Debug Configurations		×
Create, manage, and run configurat	IS T	2
Ype filter text € C/C++ Application € C/C++ Application € C/C++ Postmortem Debugger € C/C++ Remote Application € GDB Hardware Debugging € GDB OpenOCD Debugging € GDB SEGGER J-Link Debugging € ble_app_hrs_pca10040_s132 Def. ▶ Launch Group	ime: ble_app_hrs_pca10040_s132 Default Main Specify arm-none-eabi-gdb to Start the J-Link GDB server locally Connect to running target Executable: Silink_gdbserver)/\$(jink_gdbserver) Confirm that variables are pointing to JLinkGDBServerClsupported device names Device name: nRF52 Device name: Device name: NRF52 Device name: On your setup Connection: USB UP (USB serial or IP name/address) Interface: SWD JTAG Initial speed: Auto Adaptiv Fixed 1000 kHz CDB port: 2331 SWO port: 2332 Verify downloads Initialize registers on start Telefacet console for the GDB server Allocate console for the GDB server Specify arm-none-eabi-gdb to Executable: arm-none-eabi-gdb	
III Filter matched 10 of 23 items	Revert Apply	
0	Debug Close	

Figure 13: Debugger configuration

Debug Configurations		6
eate, manage, and run configura	tions	S.
` 🗈 🗙 🖻 🔅 ▼	Name: ble_app_hrs_pca10040_s132 Default	
/pe filter text	🗎 Main 🎋 Debugger 🕨 Startup 👍 Source 🔲 Common	
C/C++ Application	Initialization Commands	
C/C++ Attach to Application	Initial Reset and Halt. Type: Low speed: 1000 kHz	
C/C++ Remote Application	JTAG/SWD Speed: Auto Adaptive Fixed kHz	
GDB Hardware Debugging	Inable flash breakpoints.	
GDB OpenOCD Debugging GDB OEMU Debugging	Enable semihosting. Console routed to: 🗸 Telnet 📝 GDB client	
GDB SEGGER J-Link Debugging	Enable SWO, CPU freq: 0 Hz, SWO freq: 0 Hz, Port mask 0x1	
ble_app_hrs_pca10040_s132 Def	·	
Launch Group	·	
	Load Symbols and Executable	
	✓ Load symbols	
	Use project binary: nrf52832_xxaa.out	
	Ouse file: Workspace File System	
	Symbols offset (hex):	
	V Load executable	
	Use project binary: nrf52832_xxaa.out	
	O Use file: Workspace File System	
	Executable offset (hex):	
	Runtime Options	
	RAM application (reload after each reset/restart)	
	Run/Restart Commands	
	Pre-run/Restart reset. Type: (always executed at Restart)	
	A	
	Set program counter at (hex):	
	Set breakpoint at: main	
	Continue	
	Restore default	ts

Figure 14: Startup configuration - semihosting and SWO are enabled by default, but not implemented in code examples.

Please post a new question on the forum that includes the error message(s) if does not work with the settings shown above.

Application will not run

Project builds without errors, but the FW does not work as expected after being loaded to the chip.

Error in linker configuration (memory layout)

nRF5x series ICs comes in several different memory variants while the SDK examples are only configured for those used on the development kits. Typical symptom of incorrect memory layout is that a hardfault exception occurs before the program reaches *main*. An overview of the different variants can be found on the infocenter.

Verify that RAM and ROM settings in the. Id file invoked by the makefile are in accordance to the IC variant used on target board.

Example of a typical memory layout for the nRF51x22_xxAC (256/32) variant:

MEMORY

{

/*FLASH and RAM ORIGIN depends on softdevice series and version. Check SD release notes for appropriate values. Set ORIGIN to 0x0 and 0x20000000 for examples that do not run on top of softdevice stack or similar */

FLASH (rx) : ORIGIN = 0x1B000, LENGTH = 0x25000

RAM (rwx) : ORIGIN = 0x20002000, LENGTH = 0x6000

}

And the same for nRF51x22_xx**AA** (256/16):

MEMORY

{

```
FLASH (rx) : ORIGIN = 0x1B000, LENGTH = 0x25000
```

RAM (rwx) : ORIGIN = 0x20002000, LENGTH = 0x2000

}

As a side note, development kits includes the optional LF crystal, which is enabled by default in the SDK examples. This is often not the case with custom boards and modules due to cost/size constraints. Remember to use the internal LF oscillator if this is the case, otherwise the program will get stuck in an endless loop waiting for the crystal to start.

Code assertions

The SDK examples uses code assertions to catch error conditions at runtime (i.e., unexpected return values from function calls), please refer to the SDK documentation for more details (<u>link</u>). Assertions will by default lead to a system reset unless –DDEBUG is added to the list of preprocessor symbols (CFLAGS variable in Makefile).

Example:

Assert condition when starting an application timer instance.

The interrupt interval is set to zero in the function call above, which is an illegal value. Thus, the function will return NRF_ERROR_INVALID_PARAM:

🕞 Maket	ile 🛛 🖻 main.c 🛛 🖻 ble	_hrs.c 🚯 boards.h	softdevice_h	🛅 ble.h	app_timer.c	🛅 app_timer.h	© 0x0	le_advertis	🚯 ble_advertis	
552 [©]	/**@brief Function fo	or starting applic	ation timers.							
553	*/									
5540	static void applicat:	ion_timers_start(\	oid)							
555	{									
556	uint32_t err_cod	e;								
557										
558	// Start applica	tion timers.								
559	err_code = app_t	imer_start(m_batte	ry_timer_id, 0,	NULL); /	/BATTERY_LEVEL	_MEAS_INTERVAL				
30 560	Expression	Туре			Value					
501	(%)= err_code	uint3	2_t		7					
562			-							8
564										
565										
566										
567	Name of some sector									
568	Name : err_code						ÂULL);			
569	Default:7						=			
570	} Decimal:7									
571	Hex:0x7									
572	Binary:111						-			
573 [©]	/**@					Þ				-
F74	*						_			•

Figure 15: NRF_ERROR_INVALID_PARAM error. Error codes are listed in nrf_error.h header.

Hardfault exception

The default handler for the hardfault exception is an infinite loop, so the program will be stuck if the program triggers this exception. One quick way to determine if this has happened is to read out the interrupt status register and check if the ISR number is set '3'.

C:\Use	ers\vibe>nrfjprog	readregs	-f	nrf52
R0 :	0x000252B8			
R1 :	0x0001FD0D			
R2 :	0x0001F000			
R3 :	0x0002CBCB			
R4 :	0x20000093			
R5 :	0×00000000			
R6 :	0×E000E000			
R7:	0x2000FF30			
R8 :	0×00000000			
R9 :	0×00000000			
R10:	0x20000000			
R11:	0x00000000			
R12:	0×00000000			
SP :	0x2000FF10			
LR:	0xFFFFFFF1			
PC:	0x0002CBCA			
×PSR :	0x21000003			
MSP :	0x2000FF10			
PSP :	0×00000000			

Figure 16: Check interrupt status register

Hardfault exceptions are often caused by incorrect memory layout, but can also be caused by errors in the application code such as illegal memory access. Please post a question on the forum if help is needed to debug the hardfault.