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Renesas Synergy[™] Platform

Block Media RAM Framework Module Guide Rev.1.011 Dec 13, 2018

Introduction

This module guide will enable you to effectively use a module in your own design. Upon completion of this guide, you will be able to add this module to your own design, configure it correctly for the target application, and write code using the included application project code as a reference and efficient starting point. References to more detailed API descriptions and suggestions of other application projects that illustrate more advanced uses of the module are available on the Renesas Synergy Knowledge Base (as described in the References section at the end of this document) and should be valuable resources for creating more complex designs.

The Block Media Framework Module implements a file system on RAM for read, write, and control of the read/write region of RAM memory. The framework has all the functionality needed to interface with a file system through a block media interface.

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1. Block Media RAM Framework Module Features

- Enables FileX[®] to run on linear memory-mapped devices
- Temporary and fast storage of data in RAM





2. Block Media RAM Framework Module APIs Overview

The Block Media RAM Framework module defines APIs to open, read, write, and close the module. A complete list of the available APIs, an example API call, and a short description of each can be found in the following table. A table of status return values follows the API summary table.

	Table 1	Block Media RAM Framework Module API Summary
--	---------	--

Function Name	me Example API Call and Description	
.open	g_sf_block_media_ram0.p_api->open	
	(g_sf_block_media_ram0.p_ctrl,	
	<pre>g_sf_block_media_ram0.p_cfg);</pre>	
	Open device for read, write and control.	
.read	g_sf_block_media_ram0.p_api->read	
	<pre>(g_sf_block_media_ram0.p_ctrl, p_dest, start_block,</pre>	
	<pre>block_count);</pre>	
	Read data from RAM buffer.	
.write	g_sf_block_media_ram0.p_api->write	
	<pre>(g_sf_block_media_ram0.p_ctrl, p_source, start_block,</pre>	
	<pre>block_count);</pre>	
	Write data to RAM buffer.	
.ioctl	g_sf_block_media_ram0.p_api->ioctl	
	<pre>(g_sf_block_media_ram0.p_ctrl, command, p_data);</pre>	
	Send control commands to and receive status of RAM buffer.	
.close	g_sf_block_media_ram0.p_api->close	
	(g_sf_block_media_ram0.p_ctrl);	
	Close the framework.	
.versionGet	<pre>g_sf_block_media_ram0.p_api->versionGet(&version);</pre>	
	Retrieve the API version with the version pointer.	

Note: For details on operation and definitions for function data structures, typedefs, defines, API data, API structures and function variables, review the *SSP User's Manual* API References for the associated module.



Table 2 Status Return Values

Name	Description	
SSP_SUCCESS	API Call Successful	
SSP_ERR_UNSUPPORTED	Command not supported.	
SSP_ERR_NOT_OPEN	Unit is not open	
SSP_ERR_ASSERTION	A parameter is NULL.	
SSP_ERR_IN_USE	Framework is already open.	
SSP_ERR_INVALID_BLOCKS	Invalid block passed.	

Note: Lower-level drivers may return common error codes. Refer to the *SSP User's Manual* API References for the associated module for a definition of all relevant status-return values.

3. Block Media RAM Framework Module Operational Overview

The Block Media Framework Interface is simply an abstract interface using function pointers instead of direct function calls. Functions are called between FileX and the SSP block media drivers, such as SDMMC, SPI Flash and SDRAM/RAM. The interface remains the same for any media driver so that all media drivers appear functionally identical at file I/O layer and can be interchanged with one another without changing code. Device adaptation drivers, such as sf_block_media_ram, are accessed through the Block Media Framework Interface and provide device specific code needed to perform media I/O operations. Configuration and control structures passed through block media function calls are generally device specific as well.

3.1 Block Media RAM Framework Module Important Operational Notes and Limitations

3.1.1 Block Media RAM Framework Module Operational Notes

The media must be formatted before you can open the media and begin creating, writing, and reading files.

The memory area used must be directly readable and writable by the core. Internal SRAM or SDRAM size should be sufficient for the block media RAM and there will be no persistence of data across the power cycles.

Block count must be assigned by considering the boot record, FAT area, root directory and directory sector. If the File System is used on RAM then the minimum block count must be 4, as the first 3 sectors are reserved for boot record, FAT area and root directory and the 4th sector is used for data sector.

The "Format media during initialization" property needs to be enabled in order to use RAM for FileX.

The "File System is on block media" property needs to be true in order to configure the block count and block size from the block media RAM.

3.1.2 Block Media RAM Framework Module Limitations

Refer to the most recent SSP Release Notes for any additional operational limitations for this module.

4. Including the Block Media RAM Framework Module in an Application

This section describes how to include the Block Media RAM Framework module in an application using the SSP configurator.

Note: It is assumed you are familiar with creating a project, adding threads, adding a stack to a thread, and configuring a block within the stack. If you are unfamiliar with any of these items, refer to the first few chapters of the *SSP User's Manual* to learn how to manage each of these important steps in creating SSP-based applications.

To add the Block Media RAM Framework module to an application, simply add it to a HAL /Common thread using the stacks selection sequence given in the following table. (The default name for the Block Media RAM Framework module is g_sf_block_media_ram0. This name can be changed in the associated Properties window.)



Table 3 Block Media RAM Framework Module Selection Sequence

Resource	ISDE Tab	Stacks Selection Sequence
g_sf_block_media_ram0 Block Media	Threads	New Stack> Framework> File System> Block
Framework on sf_block_media_ram		Media Framework on sf_block_media_ram

When the Block Media RAM Framework module on sf_block_media_ram is added to the thread stack, the configurator automatically adds any lower-level drivers that are required. Any drivers needing additional configuration information are box-text highlighted in Red. Modules with a Gray band are individual modules that stand alone. Modules with a blue band are shared or common and added only once to be used by multiple stacks. Modules with a pink band can require the selection of lower-level drivers; sometimes these are optional or recommended as text in the block indicates. If additional lower-level drivers are required, the module description includes "Add" in the text. Click any pink-banded modules to display the "New" icon and show possible choices.





5. Configuring the Block Media RAM Framework Module

The user configures the Block Media RAM Framework module for the desired operation. The SSP configuration window automatically identifies (by highlighting the block in red) the selections required for successful operation, configuration selections, such as interrupts or operating modes for lower-level modules. Only non-conflicting properties are available for change. Unavailable properties are 'locked' with a lock icon in the ISDE Properties window. This approach simplifies the configuration process and makes it much less error-prone than previous 'manual' approaches. The SSP Configurator Properties tab shows available configuration settings and defaults for all the user-accessible properties. They are also listed in the following tables for easy reference.

Interrupt properties are often identified as a property requiring a change and these configuration settings are available within the Properties window of the associated module. Simply select the indicated module and then view the Properties window; the interrupt settings are toward the bottom of the properties list, so scroll down until they become available. Also, note that the interrupt priorities listed in the ISDE Properties window indicates the setting's validity based on the targeted MCU (CM4 or CM0+). These details are not in the following tables, but are easily visible within the ISDE when configuring interrupt-priority levels.

Note: You may want to open your ISDE, create the module, and explore the property settings in parallel with reviewing the following configuration table settings. Reviewing the settings helps orient you and can be a useful 'hands-on' approach to learning the ins and outs of developing with the SSP.

ISDE Property	Value	Description
Parameter	BSP, Enabled, Disabled	If selected code for parameter checking is included in
Checking	Default: Enabled	the build.
Name	g_sf_block_media_ram0	Module name
Block size of media	512	Specify the size of the block used on the target
in bytes		media

Table 4 Configuration Settings for the Block Media RAM Framework Module on sf_block_media_ram



ISDE Property	Value	Description
Number of blocks to allocate	16	Specify the number of blocks to allocate on the target media. The target must have sufficient storage to support the total number of bytes specified.
Enter the valid section for RAM buffer allocation	noint	Specify the section of RAM to be used as the target media.

Note: The example values and defaults are for a project using the Synergy S7G2. Other MCUs may have different default values and available configuration settings.

5.1 Block Media RAM Framework Module Clock Configuration

The Block Media RAM Framework module uses the ICLK as the source for the internal RAM.

5.2 Block Media RAM Framework Module Pin Configuration

The Block Media RAM Framework module uses internal RAM so no external pins are required.

6. Using the Block Media RAM Framework Module in an Application

The "Format media during initialization" property needs to be enabled to use RAM for FileX.

The "File System is on block media" property needs to be true in order to configure the block count and block size from the block media RAM.

The typical steps for sf_block_media_ram framework in an application are:

- 1. Initialize media using the open API
- 2. Read media as required using the read API
- 3. Write media as required using the write API
- 4. Operate on data as required.
- 5. Close media as required using the close API

The following operational flow diagram outlines these common steps:



Figure 3 Typical Block Media RAM Framework Module application operational flow



The typical steps for sf_block_media_ram using sf_el_fx, in an application are:

- 1. Initialize media using the FileX API fx_system_initialize (Synergy generated code calls it automatically)
- 2. Format media using FileX API fx_media_format (Synergy generated code calls it automatically if "Format media during initialization" property is set to Enabled)
- 3. Open the media using FileX API fx_media_open (Synergy generated code opens the media automatically if "Auto Initialization" property is set to Enable)
- 4. Read media as required using the read API (Block Media Framework) or one of the FileX APIs, such as fx_media_read(), fx_file_read(). Write to media as required using the write API (Block Media Framework) or one of the FileX APIs, such as

fx_media_write(), or fx_file_write().

Note: After a successful fx_media_open call, all FileX APIs can be used, not only the FileX read and FileX write.

The following typical operational flow outlines these common steps:



Figure 4 Typical Block Media RAM Framework Module Application for FileX operational flow

7. The Block Media RAM Framework Module Application Project

The application project associated with this module guide demonstrates typical steps in a full design. The project can be found using the link provided in the References section at the end of this document. You may want to import and open the application project within the ISDE and view the configuration settings for the FileX Port Block Media Framework Module. You can also read over the code (in ram_thread_entry.c), which is used to illustrate the FileX on Block Media APIs in a complete design.

The application project demonstrates the typical use of the FileX on Block Media Framework APIs. The application project auto-generated code initializes FileX framework using the FileX Port Block Media Framework. It is a driver that aims to implement FileX-specific accesses using the Block Media Framework. The underlying implementation of the Block Media Framework uses the Block Media on RAM Framework. The following table identifies the target versions for the associated software and hardware used by the application project.



Resource	Revision	Description
e ² studio	6.2.1 or later	Integrated Solution Development Environment
SSP	1.5.0 or later	Synergy Software Platform
IAR EW for Renesas	8.23.1 or later	IAR Embedded Workbench [®] for Renesas
Synergy	0.23.1 01 18161	Synergy™
SSC	6.2.1 or later	Synergy Standalone Configurator
SK-S7G2	v3.0 to v3.1	Starter Kit

Table 5 Software and Hardware Resources Used by the Application Project

The following flow diagram shows steps in the application project:



Figure 5 Block Media RAM Framework Module application project flow diagram

The complete application project can be found using the link provided in the References section at the end of this document. The ram_thread_entry.c file is located in the project once it has been imported into the ISDE. You can open this file within the ISDE and follow along with the description provided to help identify key uses of APIs.

The first section of ram_thread_entry.c has the header files which reference the FileX Media structure and a code section which allows semi-hosting to display results using printf(). The next section contains macro constants and variable definitions. Then, there are function prototypes. The first function generates a pseudo-random number. Then, two functions for two-way conversion between integers and strings are defined. There is also simple code section for error handling. If the semi-hosting is enabled, it displays the error code. The next function is used for writing a number to a file. At first, the number is converted into a string. Then it accesses FileX APIs in order to open, clear, write, close the file, and flush data to physical media. The last step is necessary because the FileX operations are buffered, and not all recent changes might be reflected after reset. Alternatively, FileX flushes data when fx_media_close is called. The following function is very similar to the previous one, except that it is used for reading a number from given file instead of performing a write.

The last section is the thread entry function section. At the beginning, pseudo-random number generator is initialized using a predefined number. If the semi-hosting is enabled, the available space is displayed. Then, the application needs to create a file, but a directory is created first. Then the software enters the 'forever' while loop, and it starts with generating a number. This number is then written to the previously created file. Afterwards, the number is read and verified with the generated one. In case of an error, the message is provided. Then, a thread sleep function pauses execution for several ThreadX timer ticks and the while loop functions are repeated.



Note: This description assumes that you are familiar with using printf() the Debug Console in the Synergy Software Package. If you are unfamiliar with printf(), refer to, *How do I Use Printf() with the Debug Console in the Synergy Software Package*, listed in the Reference Section at the end of this document. Alternatively, the user can see results using the watch variables in the debug mode.

A few key properties are configured in this Application Project to support the required operations and the physical properties of the target board and MCU. Following are the properties with the values set for this specific project. You can also open the application project and view these settings in the property window as a hands-on exercise.

Table 6 Block Media Framework Module Configuration Settings for the Application Project

ISDE Property	Value Set
Name	g_fx_media
Format media during initialization	Enabled
File System in on block media	True
Formatting Options	
Volume Name	Volume 1
Number of FATs	1
Directory Entries	256
Hidden Sectors	0
Total Sectors	3751936
Bytes per Sector	512
Sectors per Cluster	1
Working media memory size	512
Name of generated initialization function	fx_media_init0
Auto Initialization	Enable

 Table 7
 Block Media RAM Framework Module Configuration Settings for the Application Project

ISDE Property	Value Set
Name	g_sf_block_media_ram0
Block size of media in bytes	512
Number of blocks to allocate	16
Enter the valid section for RAM buffer allocation	noinit

8. Customizing the Block Media RAM Framework Module for a Target Application

Some configuration settings are normally changed from those shown in the application project, by the developer. For example, the user can easily change the configuration settings for the FileX instance, especially the formatting options.

9. Running the Block Media RAM Framework Module Application Project

To run the Block Media RAM Framework application project and to see it executed on a target kit, you can simply import it into your ISDE, compile, and run debug.

- Note: The following steps are described in sufficient detail for someone experienced with the basic flow through the Synergy development process. If these steps are not familiar, review the first few Chapters in the *SSP User's Manual*, as described in the Reference Section at the end of this document. To create and run the Block Media RAM Framework application project, simply follow these steps:
- 1. Import and build the example project included with this module guide according to the *Renesas Synergy Project Import Guide* (r11an0023eu0121-synergy-ssp-import-guide.pdf).
- 2. Connect to the host PC using the USB cable (J19 DEBUG_USB connector)
- 3. Start to debug the application.

The output can be viewed in the Renesas Debug Console.



To implement the Block Media RAM Framework application in a new project, use the following steps to define, configure, auto-generate files, add code, compile, and debug the framework on the target kit. Following these steps is a hands-on approach that can help make the development process with SSP more practical, while just reading over this guide tends to be more theoretical.

Note: The following steps are described in sufficient detail for someone experienced with the basic flow through the Synergy development process. If these steps are not familiar, refer to the first few Chapters in the *SSP User's Manual*, as described in the Reference Section at the end of this document.

To create and run the FileX Port Block Media Framework application project, simply follow these steps:

- 1. Create a new Renesas Synergy project for the SK-S7G2 board called RAM_HAL_FRWK_FX_MG_AP.
- 2. Select the **Threads** tab.
- 3. Add a new thread as follows:

– Symbol ram_thread

- Name RAM Thread
- 4. Add **g_fx_media FileX** on Block Media to the RAM Thread.
- 5. Add g_sf_block_media_ram0 Block Media Driver as Block Media Framework on sf_block_media_ram.
- 6. Copy the files **ram_thread_entry.c** and **semihosting_cfg.h** to the src folder. (Refer the package for the sample project).
- 7. Connect to the host PC using the USB cable (J19 DEBUG_USB connector)
- 8. Start to debug the application. The output can be viewed in the Renesas Debug Console.

```
Available space: 6144 bytes
Creating directory test_dir
Creating file test_dir/abc.txt
Trying to write 47450393...
Read 47450393
Trying to write 1260351735...
Read 1260351735
```



10. Block Media RAM Framework Module Conclusion

This module guide has provided all the background information needed to select, add, configure, and use the module in an example project. Many of these steps were time consuming and error-prone activities in previous generations of embedded systems. The Renesas Synergy Platform makes these steps much less time consuming and removes the common errors like conflicting configuration settings or the incorrect selection of lower-level modules. The use of high-level APIs (as demonstrated in the application project) illustrates additional development time savings by allowing work to begin at a high level and avoiding the time required in older development environments to use, or, in some cases, create, lower-level drivers.

11. Block Media RAM Framework Module Next Steps

After you have mastered a simple FileX Block Media RAM Framework project, you may want to review a more complex example. You may find that the USBX Device Class Mass Storage is a better fit for your target application. The USBX Device Class Mass Storage Module Guide illustrates the use of the mass storage device and can be easily adopted to work with FileX. This guide is available at the link shown in the References section at the end of this document.

12. Block Media RAM Framework Module Reference Information

SSP User Manual: Available in html format in the SSP distribution package and as a pdf from the Synergy Gallery.

Links to all the most up-to-date Block Media RAM Framework module reference materials and resources are available on the Synergy Knowledge Base: <u>https://en-</u>support.renesas.com/search/sf block media ram%20Module%20Guide%20Resources



Website and Support

Visit the following vanity URLs to learn about key elements of the Synergy Platform, download components and related documentation, and get support.

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MCU glossary	www.renesas.com/synergy/mcuglossary
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Revision History

		Description	
Rev.	Date	Page	Summary
1.00	Jun 11, 2018	—	Initial Release
1.01	Dec 13, 2018	7–9	Updated to SSP v1.5.0

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