

Renesas RA Family

RA Arm® TrustZone® Tooling Primer

Introduction

This application note will introduce the user to the tools supporting Arm® TrustZone® configuration for the RA Family of microcontrollers. It is intended to be read by development engineers implementing RA TrustZone projects for the first time. It will introduce basic concepts followed by workflow and tooling functions designed to simplify and accelerate their first TrustZone development. A background knowledge of e² studio and RA device hardware is expected.

Target Device

RA Arm® Cortex®-M33 devices with TrustZone security extension.

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1. Renesas Implementation of Arm® TrustZone® Technology

For brevity, TrustZone will be abbreviated to TZ in this document.

The following section is supplied for reference only. For full details of TZ implementation, please refer to Arm documentation (<https://developer.arm.com/ip-products/security-ip/trustzone>) or the RA6M4 device manual.

Arm TZ technology divides the MCU and therefore the application into Secure and Non-Secure partitions. Secure applications can access both Secure and Non-Secure memory and resources. Non-Secure code can access Non-Secure memory and resources as well as Secure resources through a set of so-called veneers located in the Non-Secure Callable (NSC) region. This ensures a single access point for Secure code when called from the Non-Secure partition. The MCU starts up in the Secure partition by default. The security state of the CPU can be either Secure or Non-Secure.

The MCU code flash, data flash, and SRAM are divided into Secure (S) and Non-Secure (NS) regions. Code flash and SRAM include a further region known as Non-Secure Callable (NSC). These memory security attributes are set into the non-volatile memory via SCI or USB boot mode commands when the device lifecycle is Secure Software Debug (SSD) state. The memory security attributes are loaded into the Implementation Defined Attribution Unit (IDAU) peripheral and the memory controller before application execution and cannot be updated by application code.

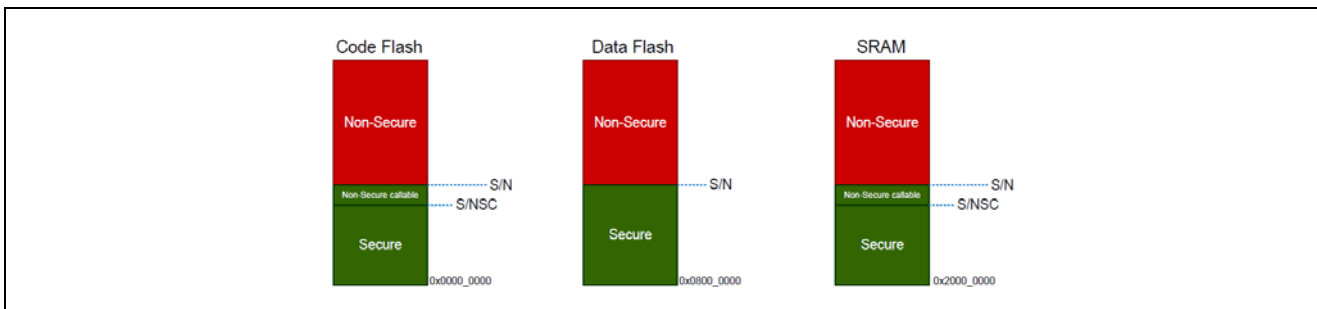


Figure 1. Secure and Non-Secure Regions

Note: All external memory accesses are considered to be Non-Secure.

Code Flash and SRAM can be divided into Secure, Non-Secure, and Non-Secure Callable. All secure memory accesses from the Non-Secure region MUST go through the Non-Secure Callable gateway and target a specific Secure Gateway (SG) assembler instruction. This forces access to Secure APIs at a fixed location and prevents calls to sub-functions and so on. Failing to target an SG instruction will generate a TZ exception.

TZ enabled compilers will manage generation of the NSC veneer automatically using CMSE extensions.

1.1 Calling from Non-Secure to Secure

A new instruction SG (Secure Gateway) has been added to the Armv8-M architecture. This MUST be the destination instruction for any branch within the Non-Secure Callable region. If an attempt is made to branch to any other instruction from the Non-Secure partition, a TZ exception will be thrown.

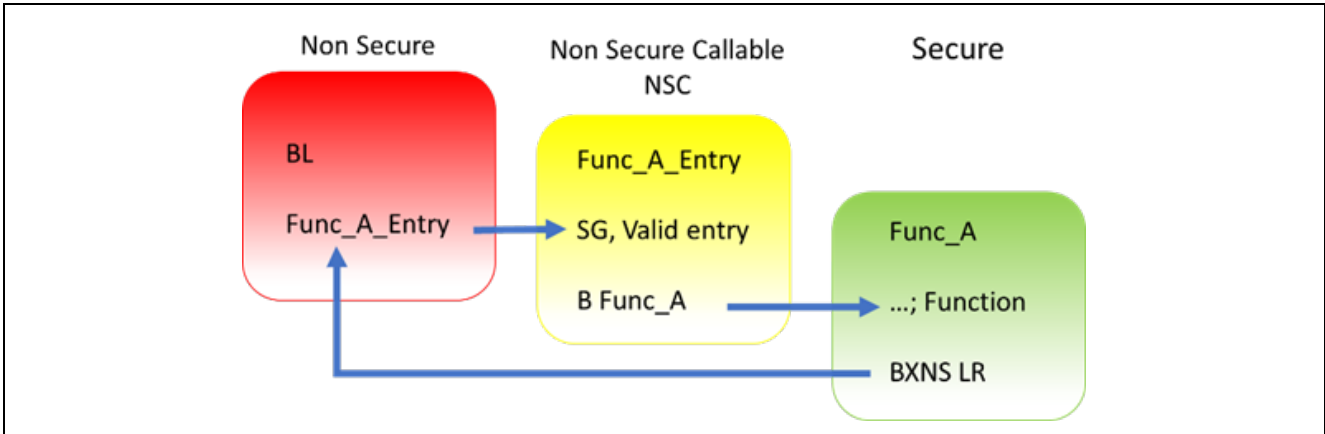


Figure 2. Calling from Non-Secure to Secure Functions

1.2 Calling from Secure to Non-Secure

Secure code uses B(L)XNS instructions to make direct calls to Non-Secure functions. While this is certainly possible, it can create a security vulnerability in the application. It is also challenging for the Secure application to determine the address of the non-secure function during build phase. From the RA Tools and FSP point view, calling directly from Secure to Non-Secure via FSP API is not supported.

Preference is for the Secure code to initialise as necessary from reset, pass control to the Non-Secure partition and manage any data transfers and so forth via FSP call-backs. Security checks, for example, copying Secure data to Non-secure RAM can be performed as necessary as part of the Secure call-back. See the FSP documentation for more details.

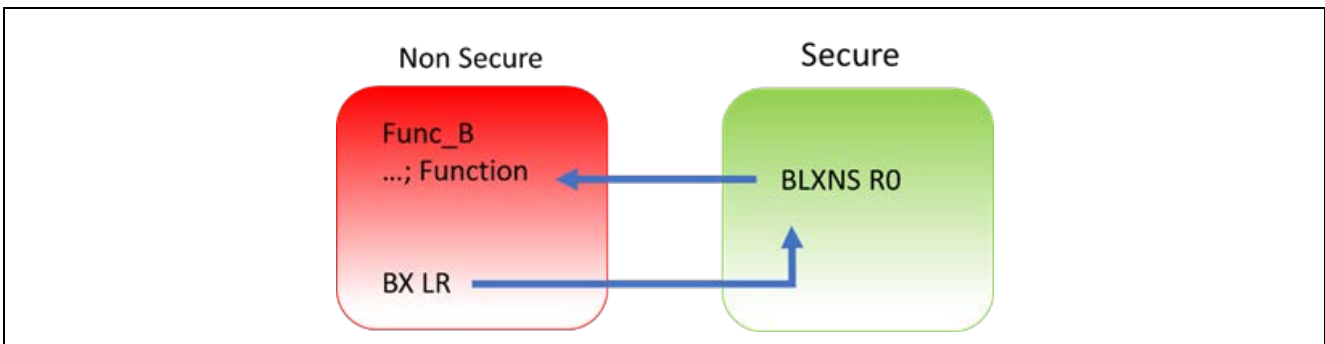


Figure 3. Calling from Secure to Non-Secure Functions

2. Workflow

Arm® TrustZone® MCU development normally consists of two projects within a workspace, Secure and Non-Secure. General project workflows are described in the following sections. The Renesas project generator also supports development with “Flat project” model with no TrustZone awareness.

2.1 Secure Project

1. Start a new Secure project in e² studio.
2. Select and configure pins and drivers/stacks that need to be initialized and used in Secure mode. This should be kept to a minimum to reduce the security attack surface.
3. Expose top of stacks as Non-Secure Callable (NSC) *if* they need to be accessed from Non-Secure partition. Again, this should be kept to a minimum.
4. Generate project content and write Secure code such as key handling and opening drives as needed.
5. Modify/remove any unnecessary “Guard” functions as needed to control access via NSC.
6. Build project.
7. A Non-Secure project will be needed before debugging. If necessary, prepare a “dummy” Non-Secure project or replace `R_BSP_NonSecureEnter();` with `while(1);` in `hal_entry.c`.

2.2 Non-Secure Project

1. Start a new Non-Secure project.
2. If you have access to the Secure project, choose this option. However, if you only have access to a device with pre-programmed Secure code (commonly referred to as provisioned device) choose “Secure Bundle”.
3. Select and configure pins and drivers/stacks that need to be initialized and used in Non-Secure mode.
4. Note that you can add NSC drivers and stacks as needed.
5. Generate project content and write Non-Secure code as needed
6. Access NSC drivers and Stacks via Guard functions.
7. Build and debug project.

2.3 Flat Project

A flat project does not technically use TrustZone as the developer has made a decision to place the entire application in Secure partition from restart.

Notes:

- Any code placed in external memory (such as OSPI or QSPI) will be Non-Secure.
- The Ethernet EDMAC is designed to be a Non-Secure bus master so associated Ethernet RAM buffers will be placed in Non-Secure RAM. The tooling will automatically manage this.

The workflow is as follows:

1. Start a new Flat project.
2. Select and configure pins and drivers/stacks as needed.
3. Generate project content and write code as needed.
4. Build and debug project.

3. RA Project Generator (PG)

The RA project generators have been created to help users through setting up new TZ enabled projects. User will be prompted for project settings such as Project Type (Secure, Non-Secure, or Flat), compiler, RTOS and debugger. Care is needed when setting up a TZ project to ensure that the connection between Secure and Non-Secure partitions are managed correctly.

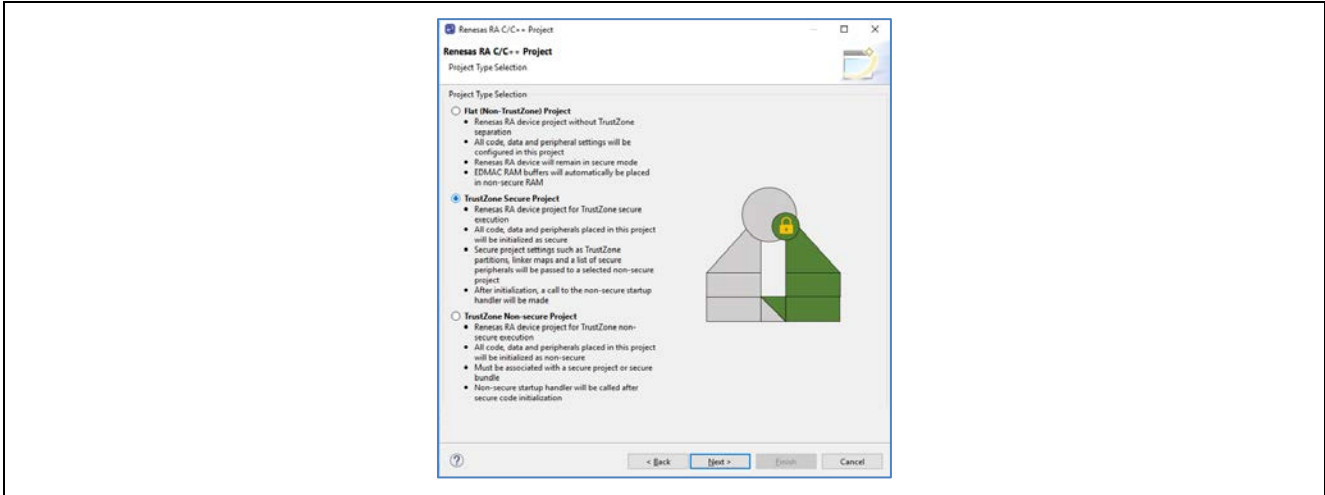


Figure 4. Secure Project (following Arm notation as green)

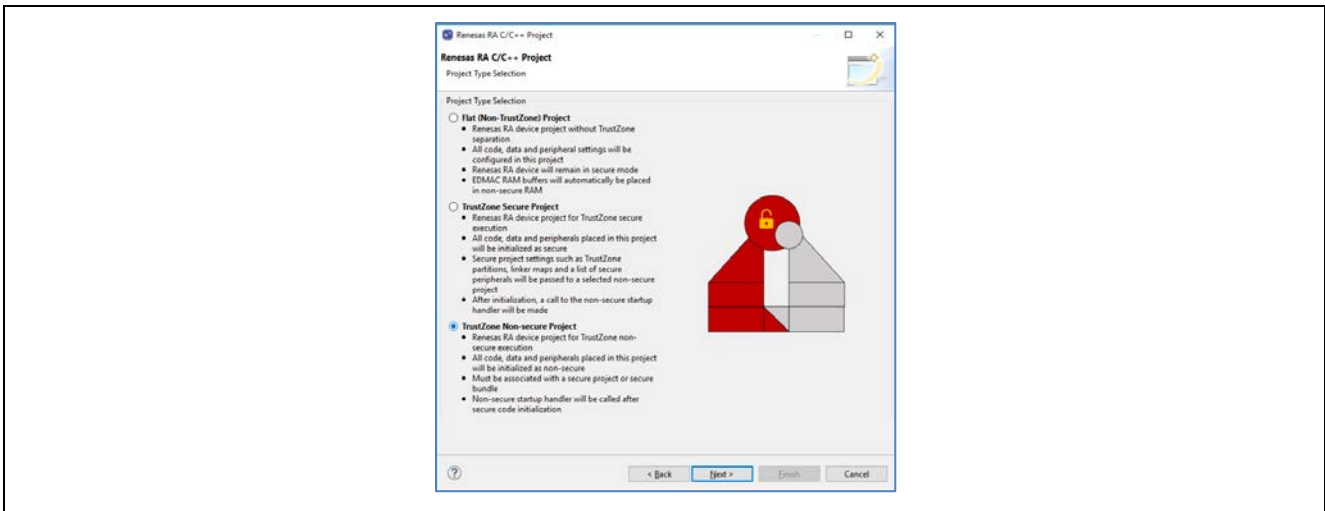


Figure 5. Non-Secure Project (following Arm notation as red)

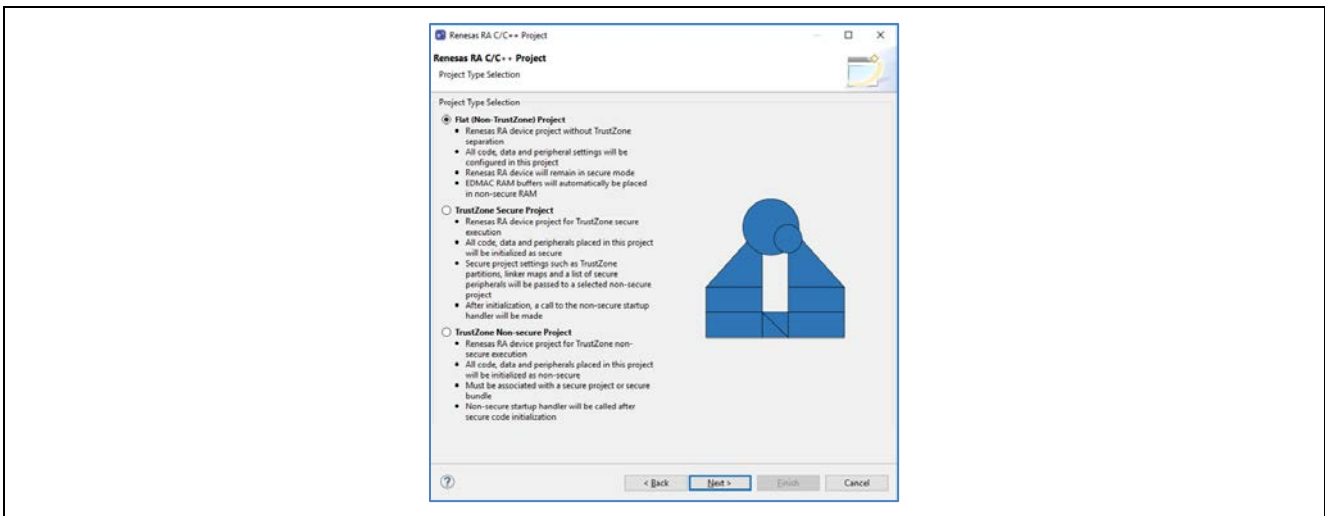


Figure 6. Flat Project

3.1 Secure Project Set Up

All code, data, and peripherals in this project will be configured as Secure using the device Peripheral Security Attribution (PSA) registers. Although it is very application specific, we recommend keeping the Secure project code as small as possible to reduce the attack surface. For example, secure key handling may be the only application code in the secure project.

Necessary values to set up the TZ memory partition (IDAU registers) will be automatically calculated after the project is built to ensure they match the code and data size, keeping the attack surface as small as possible.

Typically, ANSI C start up code (clearing of RAM, variable initialisation, etc) , clock, and secure peripheral initialisation will occur in this project.

At the end of the Secure code, a call will be made to `R_BSP_NonSecureEnter()` ; to pass control to the Non-Secure partition.

Non-Secure Callable (NSC) “Guard” functions are added to the project and expose selected modules to Non-Secure projects. User can add application-specific access checks as needed in these functions.

Output of this project type will be an elf file that must be either pre-programmed (provisioned) into a device or referenced by a Non-Secure project (via Secure bundle *.SBD) to build a final image.

This project type will NOT typically be debugged in isolation and will normally require a Non-Secure project such as a call to a `R_BSP_NonSecureEnter()` to be made. This can be replaced with `while(1);` if needed.

3.2 RTOS Support in TZ Project

Although the RTOS kernel and user tasks will reside in the Non-Secure partition, the Secure partition needs to allocate stack space and so on. It is essential when starting a new RTOS project that the Arm® TrustZone® Secure RTOS-Minimal template is selected. This will add the Arm TrustZone Context RA Port as below.

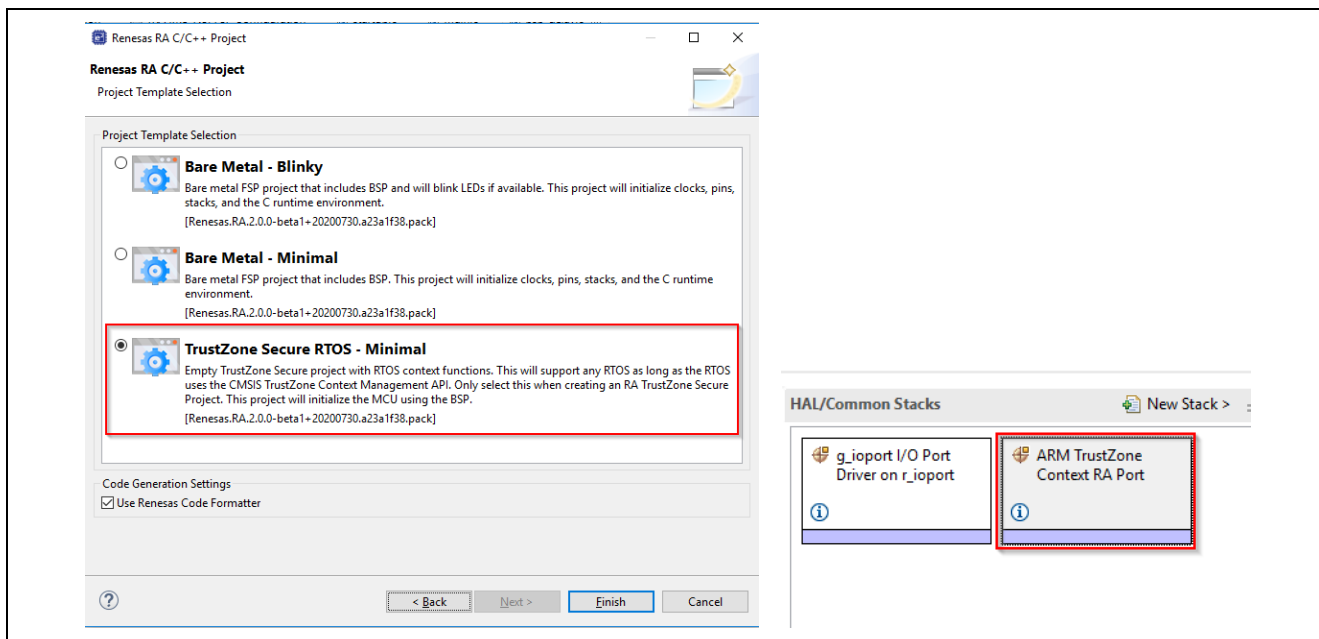


Figure 7. Secure RTOS-Minimal Template

3.3 Peripheral Security Attribution

Each peripheral can be configured to be Secure or Non-Secure. Peripherals are divided into two types.

Type-1 peripherals have one security attribute. Access to all registers is controlled by one security attribute. The Type-1 peripheral security attribute is set in the PSARx (x = B to E) register by the secure application.

Type-2 peripherals have the security attribute for each register or for each bit. Access to each register or bit field is controlled according to these security attributes. The Type-2 peripheral security attribute is set in the Security Attribution register in each module by the Secure application. For more information about the Security Attribution register, see sections in the Appropriate MCU’s User’s Manual for each peripheral.

Table 1. Secure and Non-Secure Peripherals

Type	Peripheral
Type 1	SCI, SPI, USBFS, CAN, IIC, SCE9, DOC, SDHI, SSIE, CTSU, CRC, CAC, TSN, ADC12, DAC12, POEG, AGT, GPT, RTC, IWDI, WDT
Type 2	System control (Resets, LVD, Clock Generation Circuit, Low Power Modes, Battery Backup Function), FLASH CACHE, SRAM controller, CPU CACHE, DMAC, DTC, ICU, MPU, BUS, Security setting, ELC, I/O ports
Always Non-Secure	CS Area Controller, QSPI, OSPI, ETHERC, EDMAC

FSP will initialise the arbitration registers during Secure project BSP start up. User code may also be written to set or clear further arbitration. However, care must be taken not to undermine FSP.

3.4 Non-Secure

All code, data, and peripherals in this project will be configured as Non-Secure. This project type must be associated with a Secure project to enable access to secure code, peripherals, linker scripts and others.

3.5 Flat Project Type

All code, data, and peripherals are configured in a Secure single partition except for the EDMAC RAM buffers that will remain in the Non-Secure partition. Effectively, TZ is disabled.

3.6 Secure Connection to Non-Secure Project

When starting a new Non-Secure Project, the user will be prompted for either a Secure Project or Secure Bundle. In each case, details of the linker settings, Non-Secure Callable functions, and Secure peripherals will be read to enable the Non-Secure project setup.

Should the Secure project or bundle be rebuilt, the Non-Secure editor will detect this and prompt user to regenerate the Non-Secure project configuration.

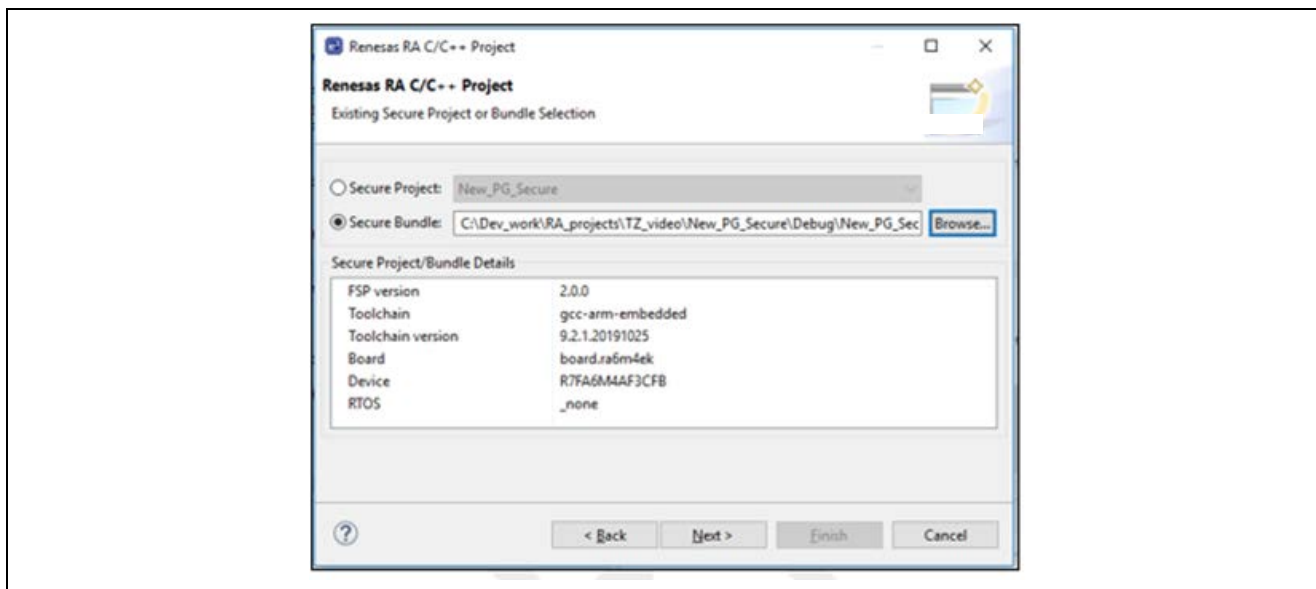


Figure 8. Secure Project or Bundle Selection

3.6.1 Secure Project (Combined)

A Secure project must reside in the same Workspace as the Non-Secure project and will typically be used when a design engineer has access to both the Secure and Non-Secure project sources. This is sometimes known as "Combined model".

A Secure .elf file will be referenced and included in the debug configuration for download to the target device. The development engineer will have visibility of Secure and Non-Secure project source code and configuration.

3.6.2 Secure Bundle (Split)

A Secure Bundle will ONLY include linker memory ranges, symbol references, and details of locked Secure peripheral configuration settings but no access to Secure source code (API header files will be included as necessary).

The Secure bundle file (*.SBD) must be supplied to the Non-Secure developer by the Secure project developer.

The development engineer will typically not have access to the Secure project or .elf file which MUST be pre-programmed or provisioned into the target MCU.

The DLM state of target device should then be switched to NSECSD (see section 6.2) before the device is provided to the non-secure developer.

This is often referred to as “Split model” where a basic security set up is developed by a Secure team and then passed to the Non-Secure team in the same facility or at a third party. The Non-Secure team has no access to the Secure source code and cannot directly access Secure peripherals, data, or APIs.

3.7 Debug Configurations

After each project type has been selected, a suitable debug configuration will be generated.

3.7.1 Non-Secure with Secure Project (Combined)

Both Secure and Non-Secure .elf files will be downloaded.

A debug configuration called <project name>_SSD will be generated.

3.7.2 Non-Secure with Secure Bundle (Split)

Only a Non-Secure elf will be downloaded. This configuration must be used with a pre-provisioned device (Secure project pre-programmed into MCU Flash).

A debug configuration called <project name>_NSECSD will be generated.

3.7.3 Flat Debug

A single .elf file will be downloaded.

A debug configuration called <project name>_FLAT will be generated.

4. Secure Projects

As mentioned, Secure code will be called immediately after device reset and run ANSI C start up, clock, interrupt vector table, and secure peripheral initialization before starting user code. All selected peripheral configuration settings will be automatically initialised as Secure.

4.1 Secure Clock

Device clock settings are the possible exception in that they will be initialised in the Secure project (to enable faster start up from reset) but can be set as Secure or Non-Secure as user application may need to change settings during execution (for low-power mode and so on). The Secure and Non-Secure FSP BSPs can both change the clock settings.

However, clock settings can be locked as Secure should the developer choose to do so.

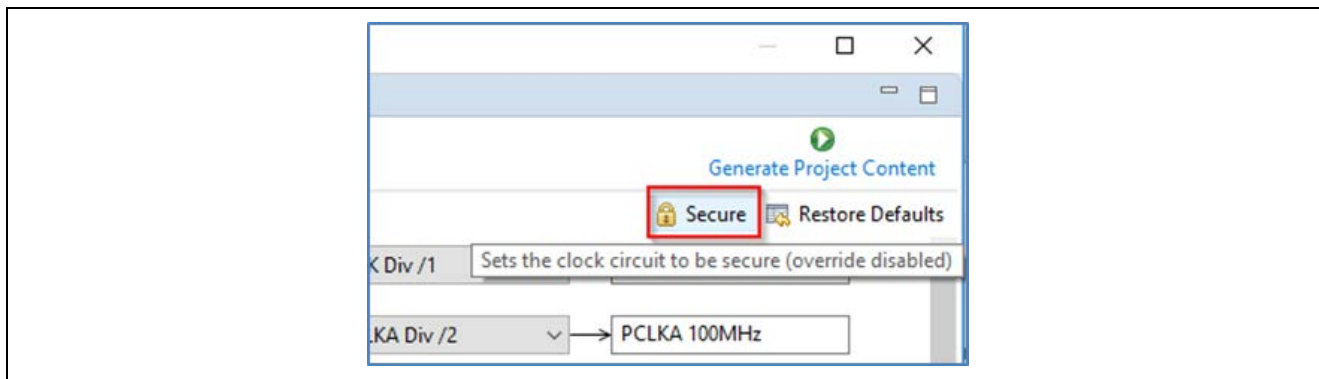


Figure 9. Secure Clock Setting

4.2 Setting Drivers as NSC

Some driver and middleware stacks in the Secure project may need to be accessed by the Non-Secure partition. To enable generation of NSC veneers, set “Non-Secure Callable” from the right-click context menu for the selected modules in the Configurator.

Note: It is only possible to “expose” top of stacks as NSC.

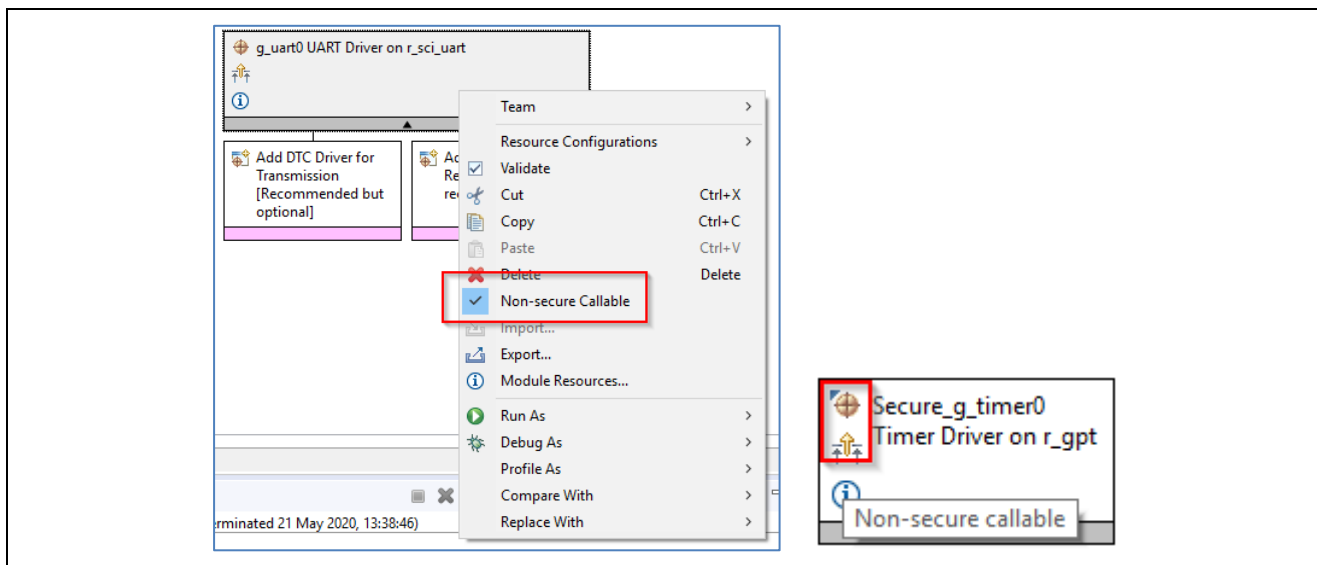


Figure 10. Generate NSC Veneers

The top of the stack will be marked with a new icon and tool tip to signify NSC access.

4.3 Guard Functions

Access to NSC drivers from a Non-Secure project is possible through the Guard APIs. FSP will automatically generate Guard functions for all the top of stack/driver APIs added to the project as Non-Secure Callable.

User can choose to add further levels of access control or delete guard function if they wish to only expose a limited range of APIs to a Non-Secure developer.

```
BSP_CMSE_NONSECURE_ENTRY fsp_err_t g_uart0_open_guard(
    uart_ctrl_t *const p_api_ctrl, uart_cfg_t const *const p_cfg) {
    /* TODO: add your own security checks here */

    FSP_PARAMETER_NOT_USED(p_api_ctrl);
    FSP_PARAMETER_NOT_USED(p_cfg);

    return R_SCI_UART_Open(&g_uart0_ctrl, &g_uart0_cfg);
}
```

For example, an SCI channel may be opened and configured for a desired baud rate by the Secure developer, but only enable the Write API to the Non-Secure developer. In which case, all but `g_uart0_write_guard()` could be deleted. CTRL structures are not required as they will be added on the Secure side.

For example, the call from the Non-Secure partition would be as follows:

```
err = g_uart0_open_guard(0,0);
```

See FSP documentation for more details.

5. Non-Secure projects

Configuration of the project can continue as for other RA devices, but certain resources will be locked if they have been previously set up as Secure.

The Non-Secure project will be called from the Secure project via

```
R_BSP_NonSecureEnter();
```

5.1 Clock Set Up

You may recall that clocks can be set as Secure or Non-Secure. If they are set as Secure, settings will only be available to view, and user will not be able to change them. The Override button will be greyed. This is useful to preserve CGC sync with secure project by not overriding unless necessary. If it is NOT set as Secure, user can choose to override the initial Secure settings

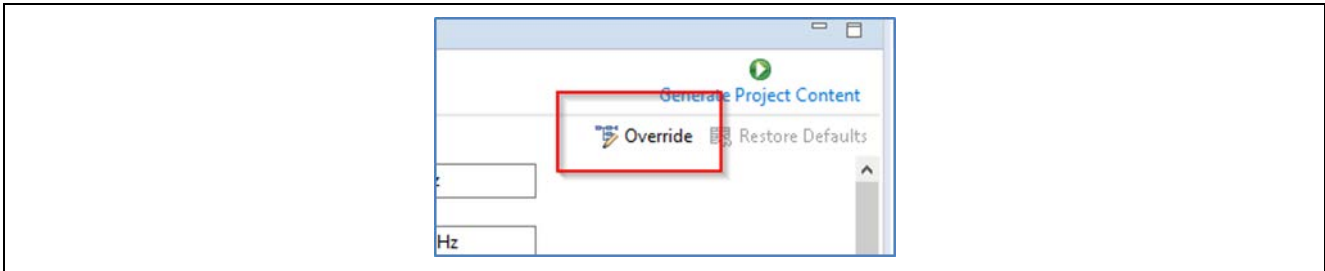


Figure 11. Clock Setting as Non-Secure

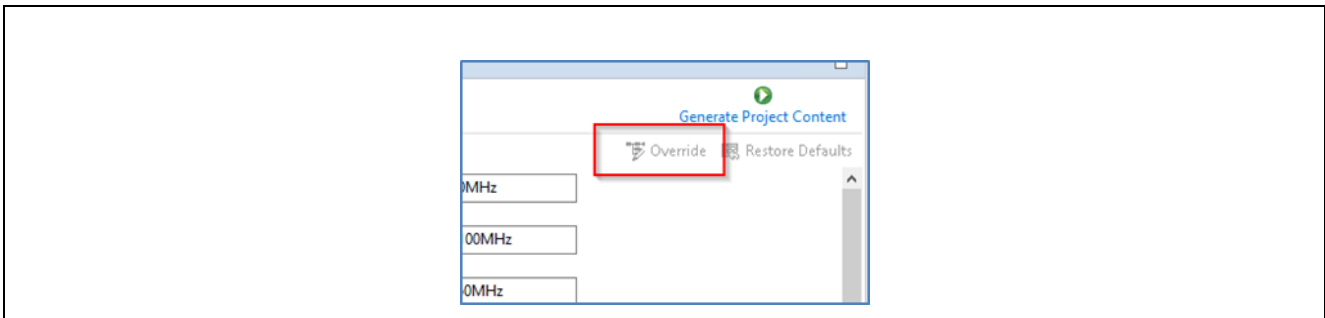


Figure 12. Clock Setting as Secure

5.2 Selecting NSC Drivers

Drivers declared as NSC in a Secure project can be selected and added to Non-Secure project and will be decorated as before.

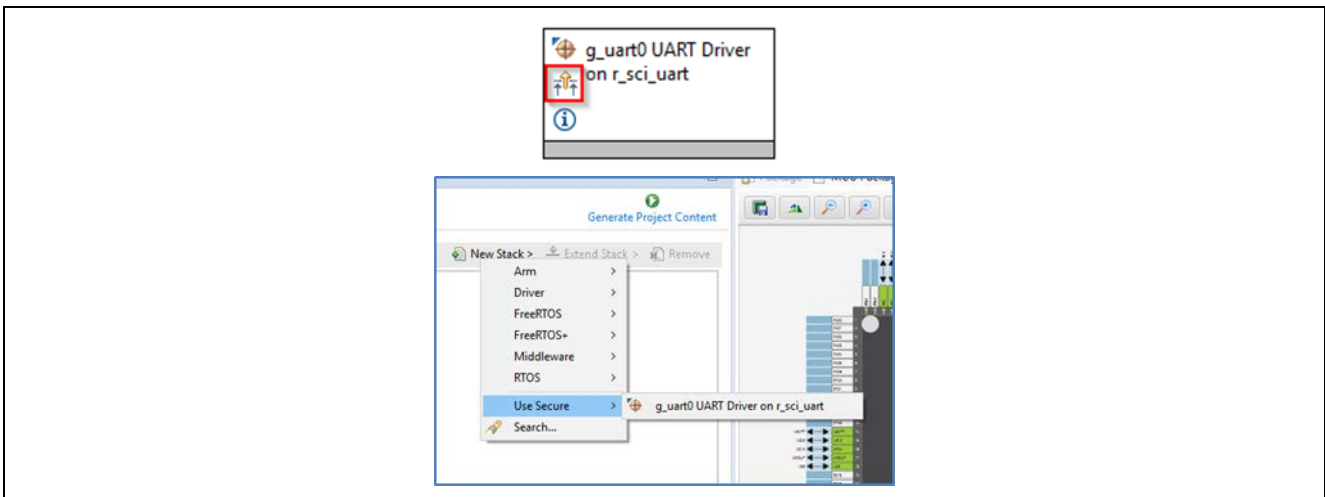


Figure 13. Selecting NSC Drivers

5.3 Locked Resources

When a NSC Secure driver is added to a Non-Secure project, the configuration settings are locked and are available for information only. A padlock is added for indication.

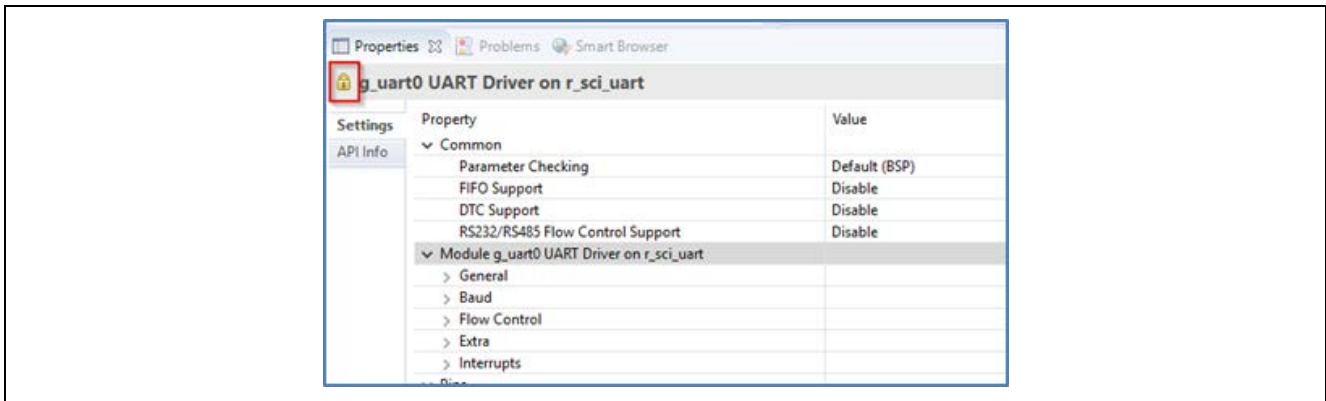


Figure 14. Locked Resources

5.4 Locked Channels

In a peripheral with multiple channels, for example, DMA, if a Non-Secure developer tries to select a channel that has already been defined as Secure, the following error message type will be displayed.

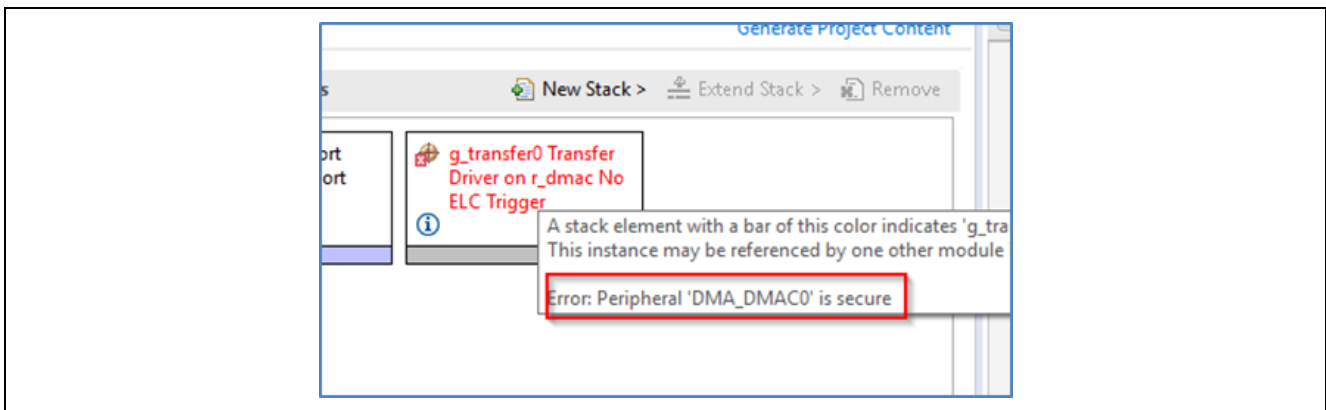


Figure 15. Error Message when Selecting a Secure Channel

6. IDAU registers

Renesas RA TZ-enabled devices include a set of registers known as Implementation Defined Attribution Unit (IDAU) that are used to set up partitions between Secure, Non-Secure Callable, and Non-Secure regions. The IDAU registers can only be programmed during MCU **boot mode** and NOT through the debug interfaces. Because of this, special debugger firmware has been developed to manage bringing the device up in SCI boot mode to set up the IDAU registers (automatically drives MD pin) and then switch back to debug mode as needed.

Note: Please be aware of the extra signal connection (MD pin) needed on the debug interface connector. The Renesas Evaluation Kit (EK) for your selected device is a good reference.

Pin No.	SWD	JTAG	Serial Programming using SCI
1	VCC	VCC	VCC
2	P108/SWDIO	P108/TMS	NC
4	P300/SWCLK Wired OR with MD	P300/TCK Wired OR with MD	P201/MD
6	P109/SWO/TXD9	P109/TDO/TXD9	P109/TXD9
8	P110/RXD9	P110/TDI/RXD9	P110/RXD9
9	GNDdetect	GNDdetect	GNDdetect
10	nRESET	nRESET	nRESET
12	P214/TRACECLK	P214/TRACECLK	NC
14	P211/TRACEDATA[0]	P211/TRACEDATA[0]	NC
16	P210/TRACEDATA[1]	P210/TRACEDATA[1]	NC
18	P209/TRACEDATA[2]	P209/TRACEDATA[2]	NC
20	P208/TRACEDATA[3]	P208/TRACEDATA[3]	NC
3, 5, 15, 17, 19	GND	GND	GND
7	NC	NC	NC
11, 13	NC	NC	NC

The e² studio build phase automatically extracts the IDAU partition register settings from the Secure .elf file and programs them into the device during debug connection, which can be observed in the console.

This is an important phase of TZ development as the Secure partitions should be set as small as possible to ensure that the security attack surface is as small as possible.

However, should the developer wish to make these partitions larger to accommodate, for example during field firmware updates, const or data arrays should be placed in the Secure project as needed.

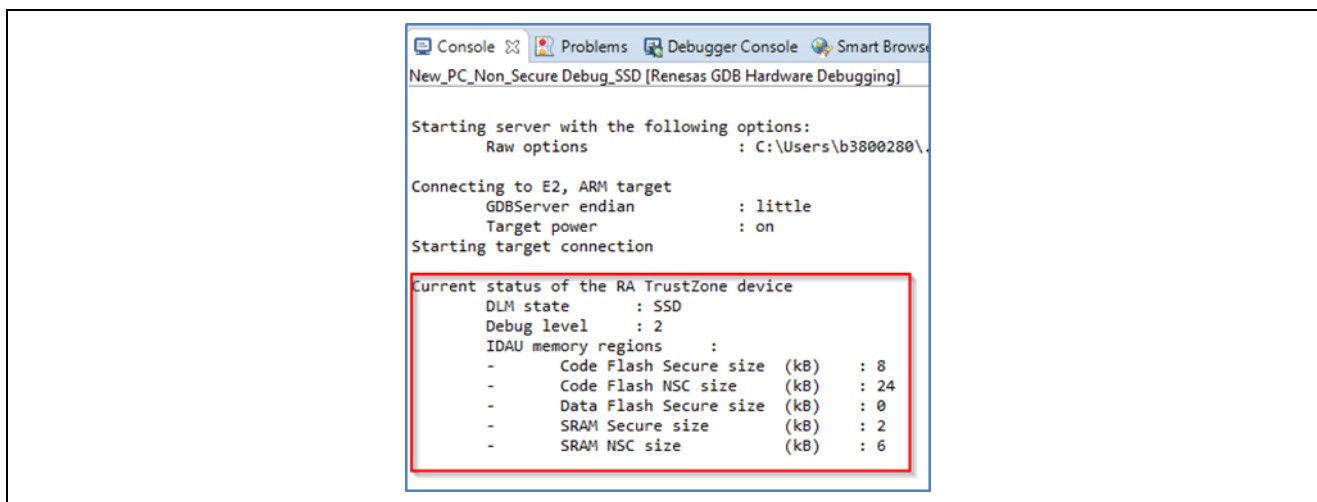


Figure 16. RA TrustZone Device Current Status

It is also possible to manually set up the partition registers through the **Renesas Device Partition Manager**.

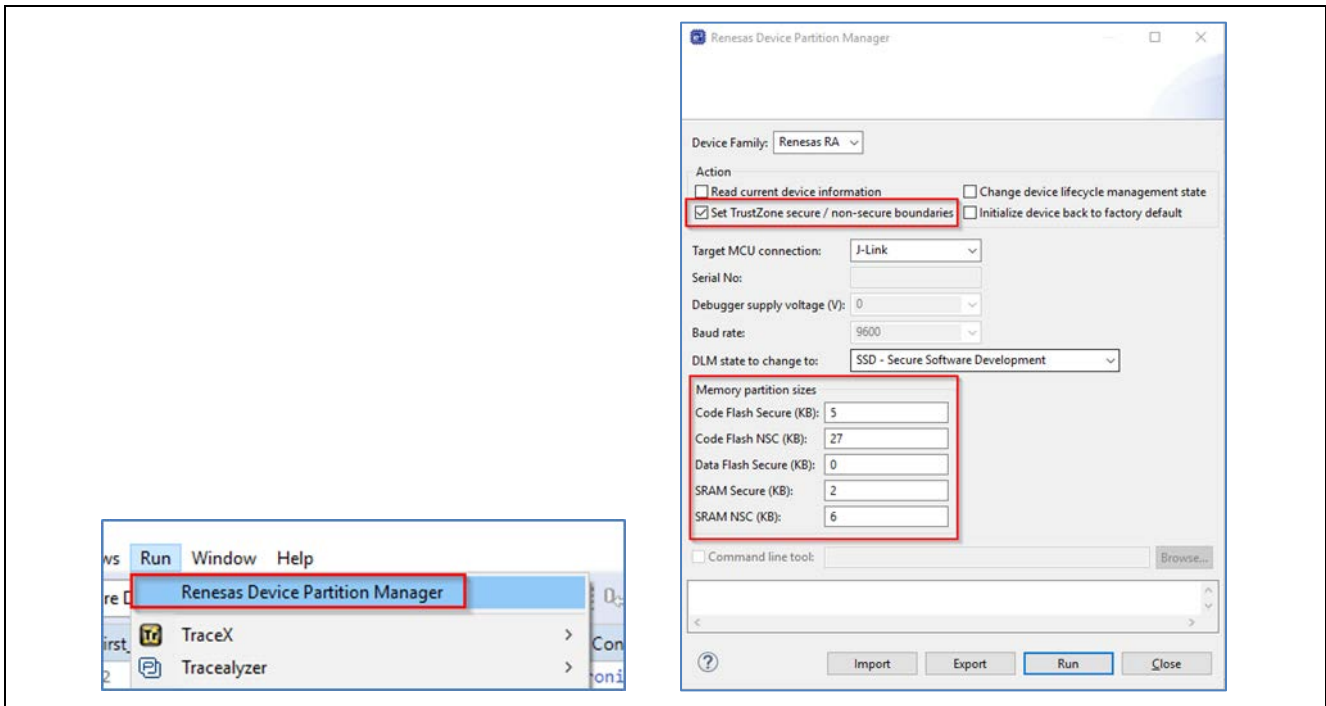


Figure 17. Renesas Device Partition Manager

6.1 SCI Boot Mode

Example of MD mode pin connection to debugger connector (from EK schematic).

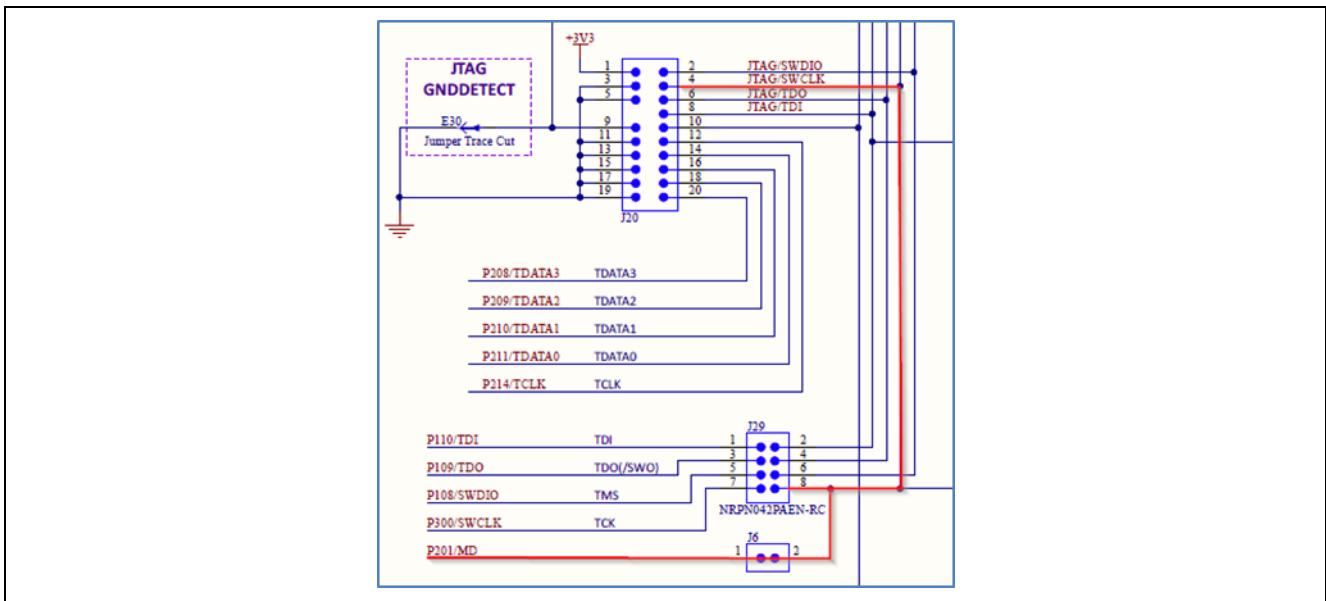


Figure 18. Example of MD Mode Pin Connection to Debugger Connector (from EK schematic)

6.2 DLM States

Device lifecycle defines the current phase of the device and controls the capabilities of the debug interface, the serial programming interface and Renesas test mode. The following illustration shows the lifecycle definitions and capability in each lifecycle.

Note: All authentication key exchange and transitioning to LCK_DBG, LCK_BOOT, RMA_REQ is only managed by Renesas Flash Programmer (RFP) and NOT within e² studio.

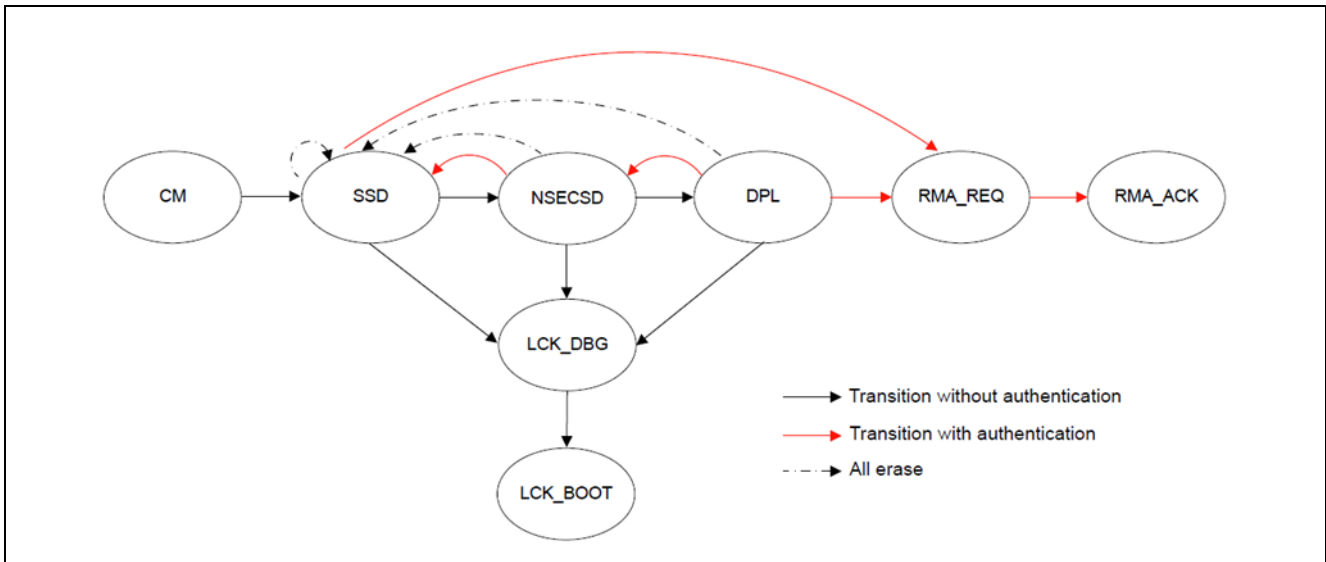


Figure 19. Lifecycle Stages

Lifecycle	Definition	Debug level	Serial programming	Test mode
CM	“Chip Manufacturing” The state when the customer received the device.	DBG2	Available, cannot access code/data flash	Not available
SSD	“Secure Software Development” The secure part of application is being developed.	DBG2	Available can program/erase/read all code/data flash area	Not available
NSECS	“Non-SECure Software Development” The non-secure part of application is being developed.	DBG1	Available can program/erase/read all code/data flash area	Not available
DPL	“DePloyed” The device is in-field.	DBG0	Available cannot access code/data flash area	Not available
LCK_DBG	“LoCKed DeBuG” The debug interface is permanently disabled.	DBG0	Available cannot access code/data flash area	Not available
LCK_BOOT	“LoCKed BOOT interface” The debug interface and the serial programming interface are permanently disabled.	DBG0	Not available	Not available
RMA_REQ	“Return Material Authorization REQuest” Request for RMA. The customer must send the device to Renesas in this state.	DBG0	Available cannot access code/data flash area	Not available
RMA_ACK	“Return Material Authorization ACKnowledged” Failure analysis in Renesas	DBG2	Available cannot access code/data flash area	Available

Figure 20. Lifecycle Stages and Debug Levels

There are three debug access levels. The debug access level changes according to the lifecycle state.

- DBG2: The debugger connection is allowed, and no restriction to access memories and peripherals
- DBG1: The debugger connection is allowed, and restricted to access only Non-Secure memory regions and peripherals
- DBG0: The debugger connection is not allowed

Transitions for one state to another can be performed using the Renesas Flash Programmer (RFP, see section below) or using the Renesas Device Partition Manager (limited number of states possible). It is possible to secure transitions between states using authentication keys. For more information on DLM states and transitions (device specific), please refer to device user manual.

7. Debug

By default, the device will be in SSD mode and so allow access to Secure and Non-Secure partitions. In this mode both Secure and Non-Secure .elf files will be downloaded.

The current debugger status is displayed in the lower left corner and includes the DLM state (SSD or NSECSD) and current partition (Secure, Non-Secure, or Non-Secure Callable) when the debugger is stopped, for example.



Figure 21. Current Debugger Status

7.1 Non-Secure Debug

Once the device is transitioned to NSECSD mode, only Non-Secure Flash, RAM and Peripherals can be accessed. In this mode, a Secure .elf must be pre-programmed (provisioned) into the device, and only a Non-Secure .elf file will be downloaded.

When in NSECSD mode access to Secure elements will be blocked and data displayed as ????????

In NSECSD mode, it is not possible to set breakpoints on Secure code or data.

It is not possible to step into Secure code; the debugger will perform a step-over of any Secure function calls. Should the user press the Suspend button during execution, the debugger will stop at the next Non-Secure code access.

Assuming Secure memory region finishes at 32K (0x8000) in NSECSD debug mode (colour coding added for indication only), memory will be displayed as shown in the following figure.

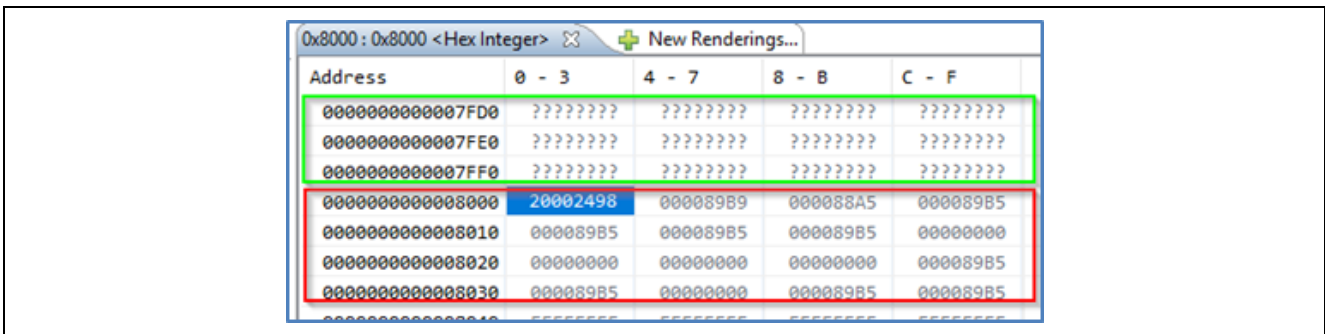


Figure 22. Memory Display in NSECSD Debug Mode

Disassembly will be displayed as shown in the following figure.

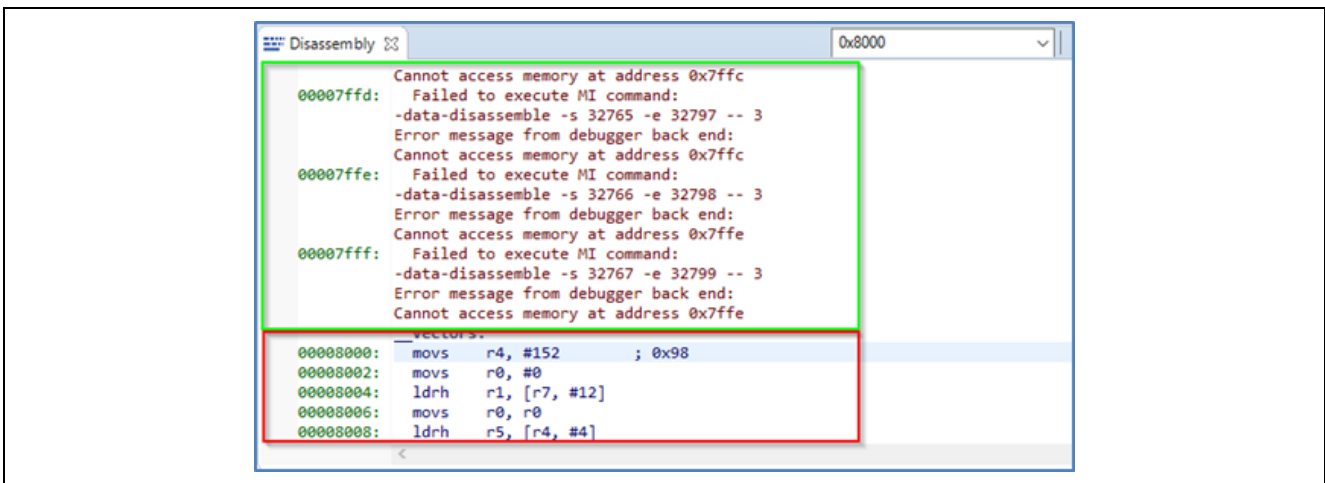


Figure 23. Disassembly Display in NSECSD Debug Mode

8. Debugger support

Renesas E2, E2 Lite, and SEGGER J-Link are supported in e² studio for TZ projects.

Table 1. Debugger Support for TZ Projects

Feature	E2 Lite	E2	J-Link	J-Link OB	ULINK	IAR i-Jet
JTAG	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
SWD	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
ETB trace	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
ETM trace	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
TZ partition programming	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Non secure debug	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
e ² studio	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	TBC
IAR EW Arm	Under consideration		Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Keil MDK			Yes	Yes	Yes	No

9. Third-Party IDEs

Third-party IDEs such as IAR Systems EWARM and Keil MDK (uVision) are supported by the RA Smart Configurator (RA SC).

In general, RA SC offers the same configurator functionality as e² studio documented above. Project generators are available to initialise workspaces in the target IDEs as well as setting up debug configurations and so forth. However, there are some limitations that need to be noted especially with regards to IDAU TZ partition register programming. See the specific RA SC documentation for usage details.

10. Renesas Flash Programmer (RFP)

Updated versions of Renesas Flash Programmer (RFP) are available to support setting of partitions, DLM state and Authentication keys.

RFP can be downloaded free of charge on the Renesas web site.

A new mode has been added to Program Flash Options as shown in the following graphics.

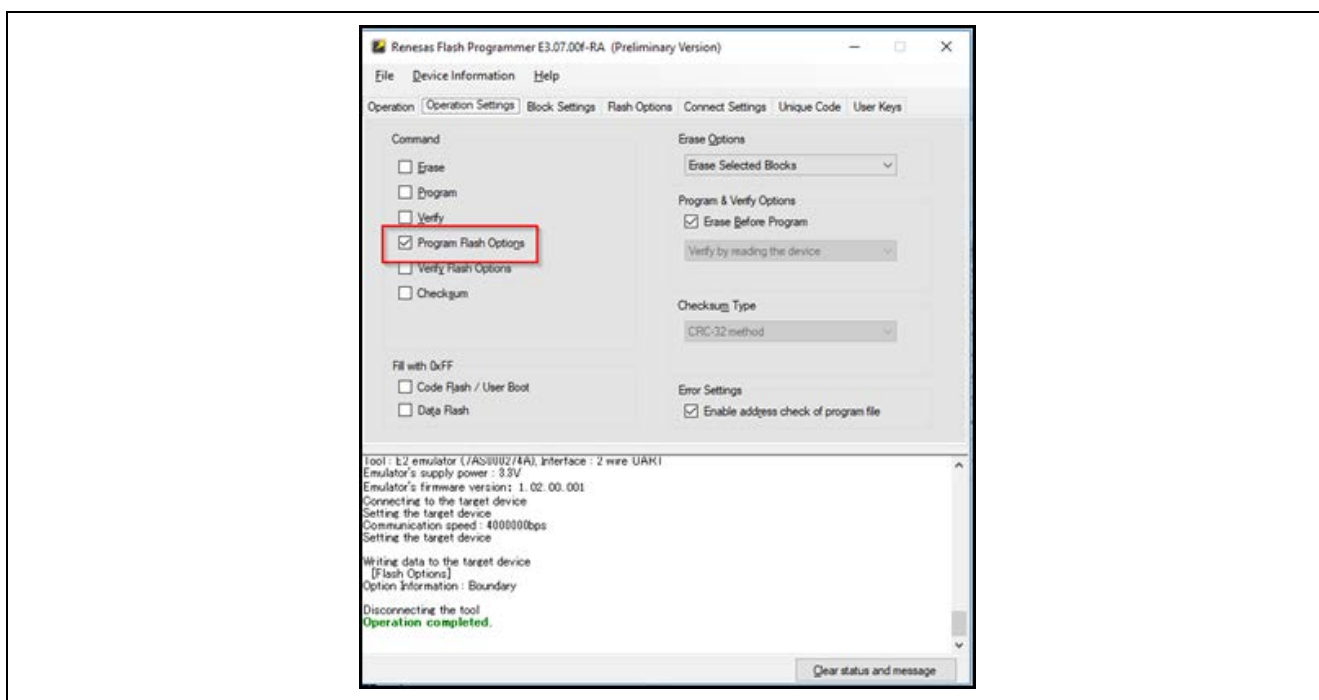


Figure 24. RFP Program Flash Options

Options to set partition boundaries are shown in the following figure.

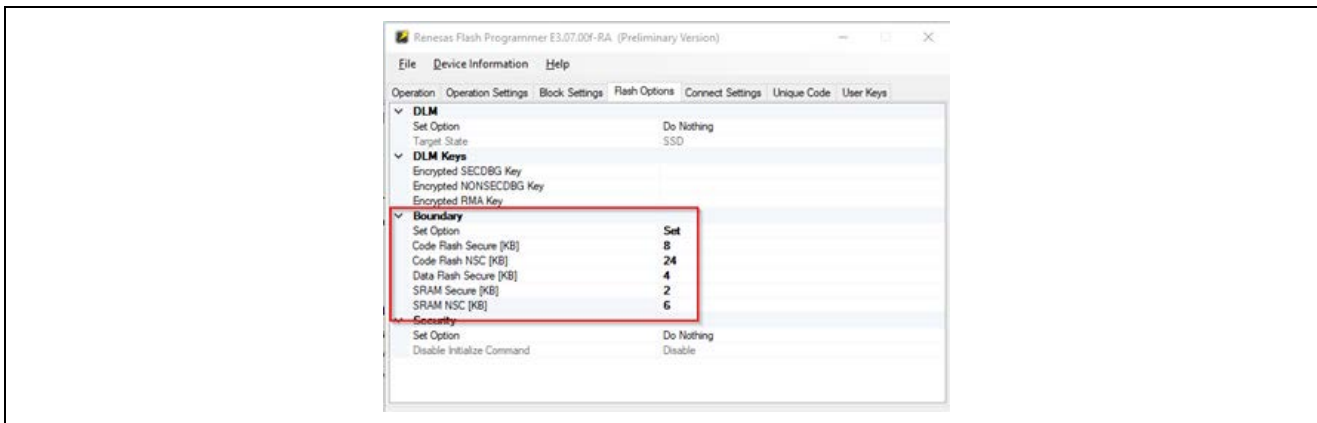


Figure 25. RFP Partition Boundaries

Options to set DLM state, Authentication keys, and Security settings are shown in the following figure.

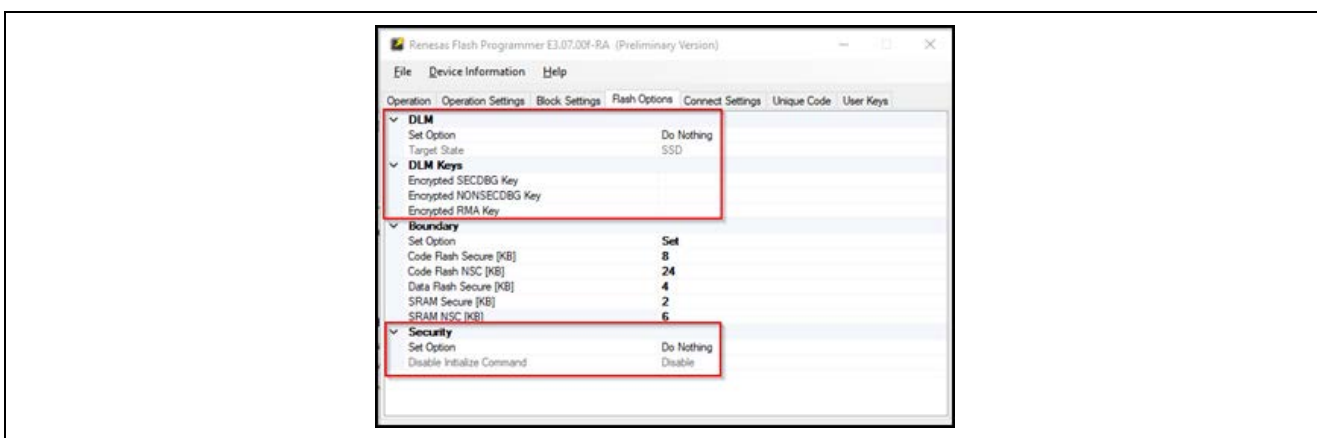


Figure 26. RFP DLM State, Authentication Keys, and Security Settings

Great care is needed here as some DLM states can **permanently** turn off debug and boot mode on the devices. Equally programming a security access authentication key can lead to permanently locked devices if the key is lost.

11. Glossary

Term	Definition
IDAU	Implementation Defined Attribute Unit. Used to program TZ partitions in SCI book mode.
NSECSD	Non-Secure Software Development mode
SSD	Secure Software Development mode
NSC	Non-Secure Callable. Special Secure memory region used for Veneer to allow access to Secure APIs from Non-Secure code.
Provisioned	Device with Secure code pre-programmed and DLM state set to NSECSD
Flat project	All code, data and peripherals are configured as secure with the exception of the EDMAC RAM buffer which are placed in Non-Secure RAM due to the configuration of the internal bus masters.
Veneer	Code that resides in Non-Secure Callable region
Combined model	Development engineer has access to both Secure and Non-Secure project and source code
Split model	Development Engineer has access to only the Non-Secure partition. No visibility of Secure source code. Secure code will be provisioned into device.

11.1 Configurator Icon Glossary

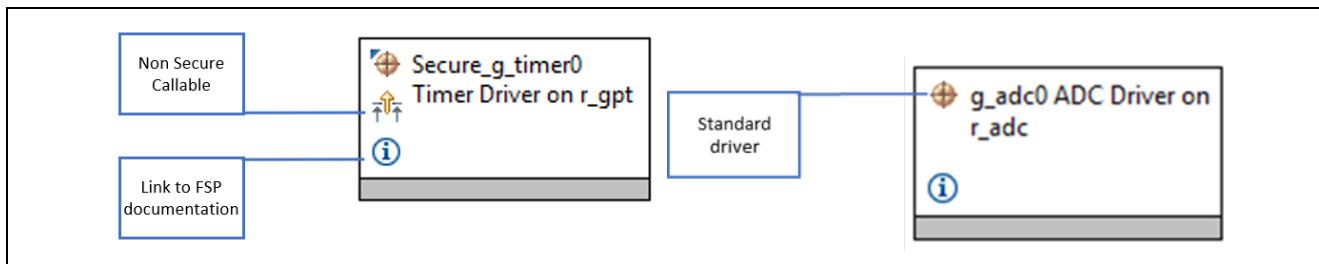


Figure 27. Configurator Icons

12. Next Steps

1. Read the RA FSP User’s Manual for details of guard functions and general Arm® TrustZone® support.
2. Read the RA Device Hardware Manual for detailed Arm® TrustZone® security information.
3. Read the *Renesas e² studio Getting Started Guide*.

Website and Support

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

RA Product Information	www.renesas.com/ra
RA Product Support Forum	www.renesas.com/ra/forum
RA Flexible Software Package	www.renesas.com/FSP
Renesas Support	www.renesas.com/support

Revision History

Rev.	Date	Description	
		Page	Summary
1.00	Aug.20.20	—	First release document
1.01	Oct. 01.20	—	Updated trademark and target device information

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