



SARA-R4 / N4 series

Firmware update with uFOTA, FOAT and EasyFlash Application Note



Abstract

u-blox cellular modules offer firmware update flexibility by offering multiple options to achieve Firmware Over The Air update (FOTA), either directly with u-blox's uFOTA server with the LWM2M client, via FTP, or via Firmware Over AT command (FOAT). In addition, the module can be flashed directly via the USB interface with u-blox's EasyFlash tool. This application note will cover all these available options.

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SARA-N4 series	

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1 Introduction

The device firmware (FW) management is a key feature for devices integrating a cellular module. u-blox cellular modules provide Over-the-Air (**FOTA**) and tethered (**FOAT**) techniques to update their firmware. Over-the-Air updates are downloaded over cellular technology using the LwM2M protocol via the u-blox uFOTA service or via FTP. Tethered updates are downloaded over the USB/UART interfaces from a host processor.

This document describes u-blox implementation of both FOTA and FOAT methods and provides design-in details and recommendations. In addition, guidelines about EasyFlash tool are provided.

	uFOTA	Change Lifetime Timer	FTP	FOAT
SARA-R410M-02B	•	•	•	•
SARA-R410M-52B	•	•	•	•
SARA-R412M-02B	•	•	•	•
SARA-N410-02B	•	•	•	•

Table 1: FOTA and FOAT methods compatibility matrix

 The document does not apply to SARA-R4 "00B" and "01B" product versions.

The following symbols are used to highlight important information within the document:

 An index finger points out key information pertaining to integration and performance.

 A warning symbol indicates actions that could negatively impact or damage the module.

2 uFOTA

uFOTA is u-blox's solution to a managed and automated FOTA service based on the LwM2M protocol. This service uses “campaigns” to manage the upgrading of multiple modules from one firmware version to another one. Section 2.7 describes the process to start an upgrade campaign.

The embedded LwM2M client offers these LwM2M features:

- Device management
- Secure communication with server over the DTLS protocol
- Full control of the application logic that includes firmware upgrades.

2.1 Functional overview

When the module powers up for the very first time (factory-programmed condition) after the module is attached to a cellular network, the LwM2M client starts and registers to the uFOTA server. The LwM2M client will then subsequently check the uFOTA server upon the expiration of the Server Registration Life Timer (SRLT).

Registration with the uFOTA server is performed for the following reasons:

1. Extend the lifetime of a registration.
2. Notify the uFOTA server of a parameter change.
3. Indicate that objects and/or object instances have been added or removed.

Just prior to lifetime expiration, the LwM2M client performs a registration update to extend the lifetime of the registration. By default, the lifetime value is 86400 s (1 day). If there are no changes to the lifetime, binding mode, SMS number, or objects and object instances, then there is no communication with the server during the remainder of the period.

If, during a registration update, the uFOTA server finds an active campaign for the module and a firmware update package is available, then the server will initiate an observation request on the Firmware Update Object's State and Update Result resources and will write the URL of the firmware update package to the package URI resource. This will trigger the LwM2M client to start the download at the next practical opportunity.

The LwM2M client will send Unsolicited Response Codes (URCs) to indicate download start, progress, and result. The LwM2M client notifies the uFOTA server of changes to the Firmware Object's State and Update Result resources.

The package download is transferred using the HTTP protocol. Do note, the packages are signed.

The uFOTA server will send an Execute command on the Firmware Object's Update resource when the Firmware Object's State transitions to Downloaded. As a result, the module will reset and attempt to install the update package.

When the installation is complete, the module will restart. At the next registration update, the uFOTA server will initiate observation requests for the Firmware Update Object's State and Update Result resources. The LwM2M client will notify the server of the State and Update Result.

The server URL address is always configured (see the +UMNOPROF AT command in SARA-R4 series AT Commands Manual [1]).

The approximate data payload size of the LwM2M server registration procedure varies between 2 kB and 3 kB (uplink).

 SARA-R410M-02B-00 does not support the +UFOTACONF AT command to configure the uFOTA server check-in Life Timer. Please contact u-blox support on how to change the LifeTimer for SARA-R410M-02B-00. See the section [2.5](#) on details on how to change the Life Timer for other modules.

 If FOAT download and FTP download commands are issued while the u-blox LwM2M client is in the process of downloading a firmware package an error result code will be returned. For more details, see the section [6](#).

2.2 Unsolicited result codes management

The +ULWM2MSTAT AT command enables/disables the Unsolicited result codes (URC) events which are reported back to the host. This URC is enabled by default. For a detailed description of the command syntax, see the SARA-R4 series AT Commands Manual [\[1\]](#).

 It is not recommended to disable URCs for uFOTA download.

2.2.1 Download success example

When a FOTA download is successful, a URC is displayed to indicate the status.

Command	Response	Description
	+ULWM2MSTAT: 2,100	100% downloaded

2.2.2 Download resume example

The FOTA download can be resumed if it was interrupted for any of the following reasons:

- Signal fade/lost
- Power loss
- Unsolicited device reset.

When the device is active, a pending FOTA update will trigger the download to be resumed from the last flash image page written on the module. During the FOTA resume some URCs will be issued to indicate the resuming status and the percentage of FOTA update.

Command	Response	Description
...		... download resume....
	+ULWM2MSTAT: 1,63	63% downloaded

2.3 Download cancellation

While an LwM2M session is in progress and the firmware is being downloaded to the device, the download can be cancelled by issuing the +ULWM2M=0 AT command. The +ULWM2M: 3,100 URC will be given once the download has been cancelled.

Command	Response	Description
AT+ULWM2M=0	OK	Cancel the download.
...	sometime later....
	+ULWM2MSTAT: 3,100	The uFOTA download is cancelled

 Create another uFOTA “Campaign” (section [2.7](#)) to start the uFOTA download process again if the current one was cancelled.

2.4 Firmware package update

A firmware package (or referred to as FOTA package) can consist of the following combinations:

1. Firmware update only
2. Carrier profile update only
3. Firmware and carrier profile update

After a FOTA package is successfully downloaded, the uFOTA server shall command the device to reboot and automatically complete the Firmware Update process which can take up to 20 minutes. The AT interface is not available during the firmware upgrade.

 It is not possible to cancel a firmware update once in progress.

Delta package size	Estimated OTA download times	FW installation / update time
2 kB – 6 MB ¹ (dependent on magnitude of image difference)	LTE Cat NB1: up to 100 minutes LTE Cat M1: up to 10 minutes (dependent on package size and signal strength)	Up to 20 minutes

Table 2: Delta FOTA package update estimates

2.5 Server Registration Life Timer (SRLT)

The Server Registration Life Timer is the time the module waits before checking in to the u-blox uFOTA server to see if there is any new firmware to download and upgrade to. The factory-programmed value is 24 hours.

The SRLT value can be potentially changed by the LwM2M server when the module registers and checks in with LwM2M server. During this check-in the uFOTA server has an opportunity to push an updated value to change the timer value.

The host can also change the SRLT value using the +UFOTACONF AT command, and there is the option of disabling it completely.

 The +UFOTACONF AT command is not supported by SARA-R410M-02B-00.

 Setting +UFOTACONF to any value less than the factory-programmed value is only intended for testing and demonstrations purposes.

For production devices DO NOT set an enabled static timer to anything less than the factory-programmed value, because that will result in continuous high frequency of check-ins with the uFOTA server.

For testing, it is recommended to keep the timer value above 1200 s (20 minutes).

 To disable the timer use the `AT+UFOTACONF=2,-1` command and not `AT+UFOTACONF=1,0`.

As mandated by the LwM2M specification, a change to the lifetime value will trigger a registration update. Frequent changes to the lifetime value are not recommended and may result in higher than expected data usage.

See below examples.

¹ Values are just guidelines and are fixed expected limits

Example 1: Setting SRLT triggers a check-in with uFOTA server

Command	Response	Description
AT+UFOTACONF=2	+UFOTACONF: 2,86400	Reads the present timer value, which is 86400 s.
AT+UFOTACONF=2,86400	OK	Set the timer value to the same previous 86400 s. The module will now immediately attempt to check in with LwM2M server and again when the timer expires after 86400 s. The key point is in this example, is that issuing this command triggers an immediate check to the uFOTA server.

Example 2: Setting SRLT with same value as previous triggers a check-in with uFOTA server

Command	Response	Description
AT+UFOTACONF=2	+UFOTACONF: 2,86400	Reads the present timer value, which is 86400 s.
AT+UFOTACONF=2,31536000	OK	The new timer value is set to 31536000 s (1 year). The module will now immediately attempt to check in with LwM2M server, and again when the timer expires after 31536000 s.

2.6 Application design

The host needs to behave correctly when the uFOTA process has started, as it might disturb the download or installation process. This section describes what the application must do and not do for a correct uFOTA operation.

2.6.1 Enable the +ULWM2MSTAT URC

The +ULWM2MSTAT URC informs the host how the LwM2M client is handling the uFOTA operation. Enabling this URC will allow the host to know if there is new firmware that the module will start to download. The host can cancel the download at this point if required.

When the module has finished the download, the URC will inform the host that it is about to reset the module and start the installation process. The host cannot cancel the installation at this point.

Command	Response	Description
AT+ULWM2MSTAT=1	OK	Enable the LwM2M FOTA URC.
...sometime later....	
	+ULWM2MSTAT: 0,0	The uFOTA download is triggered
	+ULWM2MSTAT: 1,5	5% downloaded
	+ULWM2MSTAT: 1,35	35% downloaded
	+ULWM2MSTAT: 1,78	78% downloaded
	+ULWM2MSTAT: 1,98	98% downloaded
	+ULWM2MSTAT: 2,100	100% downloaded
	...	
	...	The uFOTA server sends a command to the module to reboot and install.
<Module reboot>		
<wait up to 20 minutes>		New firmware installation
<Module reboot>		
AT	OK	Send "AT" to see if the module is ready yet. The final result code is returned: the module has rebooted.

2.6.2 Firmware downloading

Depending on the delta package file size, the download of new firmware can be quite intensive with the amount of data being transferred, the module will block the operation of other download commands. See section 6 for a list of commands that are blocked.

2.6.3 Firmware installation

 Ensure that the host application closes all open sockets when or before the download complete URC (+ULWM2MSTAT: 2,100) is received.

When the host device receives the download complete URC (+ULWM2MSTAT: 2,100), it should store that state in memory. When the LwM2M client receives the execute command on the update resource the module will reset to apply the update.

At this stage the host cannot cancel the upgrade.

During the update process a GPIO pin configured for “Module Status Indication” (GPIO pins 1 to 6 are available) can be utilized as an indicator when the device is in update mode (low), and when the device has completed its update (returns high after boot-up). This method would be combined with observation of receiving the URC (+ULWM2MSTAT: 2,100) to track the update states. Alternatively, the other pin that can be monitored is the module’s UART RX pin, which is low when AT interface is unavailable during the update and returns high when booting up after the update.

If the host cannot monitor a GPIO pin then the host needs to understand a firmware upgrade is in progress and should be patient for the AT interface to come back after it has upgraded. Without HW indication, after the host receives the +ULWM2MSTAT:2,100 URC, it should then move into an AT interface check loop which regularly checks for when it is available again.

2.6.3.1 Do not reboot module when installing

Depending on the size of the update package, the installation may take a significant amount of time. The host device should use the state information to avoid resetting the module unnecessarily while the update is being applied.

 If the firmware update includes a boot code update, then there is a relatively small window during the update process of this code section during which an interruption can lead to image corruption of the module that is not recoverable. Types of interruptions include:

- Removing or loss of power supply to the module
- Unstable supply to the module
- Host application applies an external reset to module
- Turning off the module with PWR_ON or RESET_N pin

2.6.3.2 Do reboot module if the installation does not start after download

If the module does not reset within 180 s from the time is received the download complete URC (+ULWM2MSTAT: 2,100) the host device may reset the module to trigger the installation. This manual trigger of the installation by reset is to provide a failsafe to cover the unlikelihood of the server / network not being able to deliver the execute command to initiate the firmware installation.

2.6.4 Cancelling the uFOTA process

The host can only cancel the uFOTA download of the new firmware while it is receiving the +ULWM2MSTAT:1,xx URCS. The host cannot cancel the upgrade process once the module has downloaded the firmware.

2.6.5 After firmware has been installed

Once the new firmware has been installed, the module will reboot and re-register with the network. It is good practice for the host to send a message to the application cloud service to state the upgrade has been a success. It should include the new firmware version.

To read the updated firmware or carrier profile version, wait for the device to fully boot up, then the host application can query the module for the update version as shown the following examples.

Example of two methods to read firmware version

Command	Response	Description
ATI	ATI Manufacturer: u-blox Model: SARA-R410M-02B Revision: L0.0.00.00.05.06 SVN: 02 IMEI: 357591080029488	Check for modem version with ATI.
AT+CGMR	L0.0.00.00.05.06	Alternatively, check for modem version with +CGMR

Example sequence to read carrier profile version

Command	Response	Description
AT+UMNOPROF=, 1	OK	Issue the test command to read out carrier profile version.
AT+UMNOPROF=?	+UMNOPROF: 0: SW default 1: SIM ICCID select 6: CT 5.0 4: Telstra 5.0 21: TELUS 5.1 5: TMO 5.2 3: Verizon 5.0 2: ATT 5.0 OK	Read out carrier profile versions

2.7 uFOTA campaign

To start the uFOTA upgrade process, a “campaign” must be requested for the modules to be updated. Send the request to the nearest u-blox office or sales representative.

2.7.1 Requirements

To specify a campaign the following information is required:

- The product type
- The starting and destination FW version (modem and application)
- The IMEI list of the devices participating to the campaign
- The MNO provider
- The location area
- The requested schedule (date, time, duration) for the campaign

2.7.2 Approval

The campaign request will need to be approved by u-blox before the campaign starts. The module’s host should be approved to make sure it is able to cope with the LwM2M upgrade process and a test campaign should be executed before the final campaign happens.

2.7.3 Application design review

Before starting the campaign a design review of the application shall be performed by u-blox support:

- The application shall not reset the module during the FOTA process
- The application shall have the ultimate decision on performing the FOTA update
- The application shall be aware of the duration of FOTA process
- The application shall disable eDRX during the FOTA process
- At least from one device it should be possible to get an AT log and/or trace log for debugging

2.7.4 Test campaign

Before all the modules in the campaign will be updated via uFOTA, it is strongly suggested to perform a test campaign first. This small trial run would involve a few of the modules, up to 5, from the full list of modules.

This test campaign will verify the host is working for uFOTA and that the network/deployment is adequate for the uFOTA download & update.

2.7.5 Final campaign

If the test campaign is successful, u-blox will provide a report back to the customer. If the user is satisfied with the test campaign, the final campaign can start.

The u-blox service team will monitor the uFOTA progress and provide a report once finished.

3 Firmware download via FTP

Firmware for the SARA-R4 series modules can be downloaded using standard FTP. This section goes through the AT commands required to download a firmware update from an FTP server.

The host needs to first configure a FTP profile with the server parameters in order to start the FW download.

After the firmware update has been downloaded, install the new firmware using the +UFWINSTALL AT command; for more details, see section 5.

-  If FTP download commands are issued while the u-blox LwM2M client is in the process of downloading a firmware package, then an error result code will be returned. For more details, see the section 6.

3.1 +UFTP AT command

Before starting a firmware download via FTP the host needs to first configure the FTP profile with the FTP server and other parameters.

The +UFTP AT command sets up a parameter for the FTP service, or resets a parameter to its factory-programmed value. The set/reset command needs to be executed for each single `<op_code>`. The read command returns the current setting of all the FTP parameters, one per line (i.e. the FTP profile). The FTP parameter values set with this command are all volatile (not stored in non-volatile memory).

-  If the set command is issued without `<param1>` parameter, the corresponding `<op_code>` parameter is reset to the default value.

3.1.1 Syntax

Type	Syntax	Response	Example
Generic syntax			
	AT+UFTP=<op_code>[,<param1>[,<param2>]]	OK	AT+UFTP=7,21
FTP server IP address			
	AT+UFTP=0,<ip address>	OK	AT+UFTP=0,"192.168.1.0"
FTP server name			
	AT+UFTP=1,<server name>	OK	AT+UFTP=1,"ftp.server.com"
Username			
	AT+UFTP=2,<username>	OK	AT+UFTP=2,"username"
Password			
	AT+UFTP=3,<password>	OK	AT+UFTP=3,"password"

For a complete description of the FTP profile configuration, see the SARA-R4 series AT Commands Manual [1].

3.2 +UFTPC AT command

The AT+UFTPC=100 command is used to trigger, cancel or resume a firmware package download from an FTP server. The host must be properly configured as an FTP client and needs to have logged in successfully before starting the download. Once the host cancels a download session, it cannot be resumed and the host shall need to start a new download session.

The resume download feature enables the host to continue a firmware package download near the point at which it was stopped (even if due to a power cycle). At the time of the interruption, all of the downloaded data may not have yet been stored. Therefore, when the resume download starts, the resume point (the `<stored_byte>` in the status URC) may be smaller than displayed in the last known status URC of the previously uncompleted session.

- When the start download command is issued, it takes about 16 s to get ready and display the “OK” final result code.
- When the cancel download command is issued, it may take ~20/50 s depending on the network condition.
- The `<remote_file_name>` parameter must match in all commands and it is case sensitive even when compared against the file name on server.
- The FTP mode setting is dependent on the Mobile Network Operators.

 If the host cancels a download session, the host should wait for the `+UUFTPCR: 100,0` URC before it starts a new download session.

3.2.1 Syntax

Type	Syntax	Response	Example
Start download			
	<code>AT+UFTPC=100,<remote_file_name></code>	OK	<code>AT+UFTPC=100,"/ublox-ftp/fota/R410_L0.0.02_M.bin"</code>
Cancel download			
	<code>AT+UFTPC=100,<remote_file_name></code>	OK ,0	<code>AT+UFTPC=100,"/ublox-ftp/fota/R410_L0.0.02_M.bin",0</code>
Resume download			
	<code>AT+UFTPC=100,<remote_file_name></code>	OK ,1	<code>AT+UFTPC=100,"/ublox-ftp/fota/R410_L0.0.02_M.bin",1</code>

3.3 Unsolicited Result Codes (URC)

While the firmware object is being downloaded from the FTP server, URCs provide the status and the result of the file transfer.

The status URC will be displayed during the firmware package download and the result URC will be displayed upon the completion of the transfer. `" +UUFTPCR:100,1 "` indicates that the `<total_byte>` are stored completely and successfully.

3.3.1 Syntax

Type	Syntax	Response	Example
Status		+UUFTPCR: 100, <stored_byte> / <total_byte>	+UUFTPCR: 100, 202752 / 1103692
Result		+UUFTPCR: 100,<ftp_result>	+UUFTPCR: 100,1

3.3.2 Defined values

Parameter	Type	Description
<ftp_result>	number	Operation result: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0: fail • 1: success
<stored_byte>	number	Positive number and it represents stored byte in byte
<total_byte>	number	Positive number and it represents total byte of the binary in byte

3.4 Example

Command	Response	Description
AT+UFTP=1,"ftp.firmware.com"	OK	Configure server name
AT+UFTP=2,"username"	OK	Set username
AT+UFTP=3,"password"	OK	Set password
AT+UFTP=4,"FOTA-account"	OK	Set account
AT+UFTP=6,1	OK	
AT+UFTPC=1	+UUFTPCR: 1,1	FTP login
AT+UFTPC=100,"/ublox-ftp/fota/R410_I0.0.02_M.bin"	OK	Start FTP download
	+UUFTPCR: 100, 2048 / 1103692	URC file transfer status update
	+UUFTPCR: 100, 102400 / 1103692	
	...	
	+UUFTPCR: 100, 1009664 / 1103692	
	+UUFTPCR: 100, 1	URC file transfer complete

3.5 Error result codes

If a download session returns "+UUFTPCR: 100,0", the host can retrieve the error reason using the +UFTPER AT command. It retrieves the last +UFTPC operation result. See the definition of the <error_close> and <error_code> parameters in the "FTP class error codes" section of the SARA-R4 series AT Commands Manual [\[1\]](#).

Type	Syntax	Response	Example
Action	AT+UFTPER	+UFTPER:<error_class>,<error_code> OK	+UFTPER: 8,40 OK

In the example above, the host canceled a download session.

4 Firmware download via AT (FOAT)

FOAT download provides tethered data transfer methods to perform firmware download over USB/UART connectivity with a host processor.

FOAT download does not support the resume feature. Therefore, the download will need to be re-started after any type of failure, external interrupt or timeout.

After the firmware update has been downloaded, install the new firmware using the +UFWINSTALL AT command; for more details, see section 5.

Two different AT commands can be used to download the firmware package:

- +UFWUPD, which uses the Xmodem protocol,
- +UDWNFILE, which is used to manage the module file system.

 If FOAT download commands are issued while the u-blox LwM2M client is in the process of downloading a firmware package and an error result code will be returned. For more details, see the section 6.

4.1 +UFWUPD AT command

This command triggers the firmware update using the Xmodem or Xmodem-1k protocol.

4.1.1 Syntax

Type	Syntax	Response	Example
Set	AT+UFWUPD=<option>	+UFWUPD: ONGOING OK	AT+UFWUPD=3 +UFWUPD: ONGOING OK
Test	AT+UFWUPD=?	OK	+UFWUPD: (3) OK

4.1.2 Defined values

Parameter	Type	Description
<option>	Number	Indicates download type: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: Firmware package download

-  It takes approximately 16 s to prepare the FOAT command to download binary data. The following will be displayed for the following commands.
 - +UFWUPD displays “+UFWUPD: ONGOING”
-  Once the +UFWUPD command is ready to transfer binary data, it will not accept any AT commands for approximately 2 minutes.
-  When the file transfer is complete, there is no response, URC or other indication that the file transfer is complete. Upon completion, the module will accept and respond to AT commands.

4.2 +UDWNFILE AT command

4.2.1 Syntax

To download a firmware delta package:

Type	Syntax	Response	Example for FW download
Set	AT+UDWNFILE=,<delta file size>,<tag> >	OK	AT+UDWNFILE=,12300,"FOAT" >

Firmware delta packages can contain just a carrier profile update.

To download a carrier profiles file (.mbn file) that has not been packaged in a delta file and have it automatically install afterwards:

Type	Syntax	Response	Example for carrier profile download
Set	AT+UDWNFILE=,<carrier profile>,<file size>,<tag> >	OK	AT+UDWNFILE="PROFILE",12000,"PROFILE" >

4.2.2 Defined values

Parameter	Type	Description
<size>	Number	Firmware package binary size in bytes
<tag>	String	Defines file tag: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory parameter for firmware package transfer. The tag must be given as "FOAT" for FW download, and "PROFILE" for carrier profile • Case-sensitive string

 It takes approximately 16 s to prepare the FOAT command to download binary data. The following will be displayed for the following commands.

- +UDWNFILE displays ">"

 "CCC" characters are displayed as an indication of time-out.

5 Firmware installation +UFWINSTALL

 This command is not applicable if LwM2M was used to download the Firmware Update Package.

 Once the +UFWINSTALL AT command has been issued, the FW installation process shall begin. If the firmware update includes a boot code update, then there is a relatively small window during the update process of this code section during which an interruption can lead to image corruption of the module that is not recoverable. Types of interruptions include:

- Removing or loss of power supply to the module
- Unstable supply to the module
- Host application applies an external reset to module
- Turning off the module with PWR_ON or RESET_N pin

The +UFWINSTALL AT command triggers the firmware installation procedure once the firmware package has been downloaded successfully to the device via AT command or FTP. This command provides an error result code if it is issued under other circumstances (including a successful firmware download via LwM2M).

If +UFWINSTALL returns an “OK” final result code, the device will automatically reset and boot back up in boot loader mode, at which point it will process the firmware update.

Once the firmware installation completes, the device will reset again and enter a normal mode of operation.

The result of the firmware update can be confirmed via the ATI command where the “Revision” string shall indicate the new modem version.

Type	Syntax	Response	Example
Set	AT+UFWINSTALL	OK	AT+UFWINSTALL OK
Test	AT+UFWINSTALL=?	OK	OK
Test	ATI	<device info>	ATI Manufacturer: u-blox Model: SARA-R410M-02B Revision: L0.0.00.00.05.06 SVN: 02 IMEI: 357591080029488

Once the command has been sent correctly, the FW resets and at the next boot-up, the FW installation will start. After the FW update, the device shall reset on its own, and resume normal operation mode. There are no URC to indicate the FW installation is complete. See [Table 2](#) for FW installation time guidelines.

During the update / installation process, the module is not available for communication via USB or UART interfaces. With the EVK on a Windows based PC, there will be no USB ports enumerated.

If a firmware package is not found, the "+CME ERROR: operation not allowed" error result code is displayed.

There is a warning about disrupting the module during FW installation (see warning in this section). If a power loss should happen during the installation phase, at the next module wake-up a fault is detected and the module remains in Firmware Install Mode until the end of the procedure (installation terminated).

6 AT commands blocked during uFOTA download

Only one download method can be active at a time. [Table 3](#) presents the AT commands and firmware download methods that have a dependency upon one another. Some AT commands will be blocked while an active download method is in progress.

Active download method	Blocked AT commands	Note
LwM2M client FOTA download	AT+UFTPC=100, AT+UFWUPD=3, AT+UDWNFILE=,, "FOAT", AT+USODL=<socket>, AT+UFTPC=6, AT+UFTPC=7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When a FOTA download is in progress by LwM2M client, the blocked AT commands will return "+CME ERROR: FOTA memory is in use". +UDWNFILE with FOAT tag will be blocked. All Direct Link mode commands will be blocked.
AT+UFTPC=100	AT+UFWUPD=3, AT+UDWNFILE, AT+URDFILE, AT+USODL=<socket>, FOTA download via LwM2M client	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When +UFTPC=100 in progress, FOTA download via LwM2M client will return an error result code. All +UDWNFILE file download commands will be blocked. All +URDFILE commands will be blocked. All +USODL Direct Link mode commands will be blocked. All other +UFTPC commands are not allowed.
AT+UFWUPD=3	AT+UFTPC=100, AT+UDWNFILE, AT+URDFILE, AT+USODL=<socket>, FOTA download via LwM2M client	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When +UFWUPD in progress, FOTA download via LwM2M client will return an error result code. All +UDWNFILE file download commands will be blocked. All +URDFILE commands will be blocked. All Direct Link mode commands will be blocked.
AT+UDWNFILE="FOAT"	AT+UFTPC=100, AT+UFWUPD=3, AT+URDFILE, AT+USODL=<socket>, FOTA download via LwM2M client	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When +UDWNFILE with "FOAT" tag in progress, FOTA download via LwM2M client will return an error result code. All +UDWNFILE file download commands will be blocked. All +URDFILE commands will be blocked. All Direct Link mode commands will be blocked. When +UDWNFILE of regular file download in progress, FOTA download via LwM2M client operation will not be interfered.

Table 3: Firmware download methods

 During a FOTA/FOAT download, the PSM is disabled before a download is started and is enabled again once the download has succeeded, failed or been cancelled.

7 Power Save Mode (PSM)

eDRX (Enhanced Discontinuous Reception)

Before uFOTA/FOAT FW update or when a download is detected, eDRX should be disabled by the host until the download and update is complete. This is done to ensure smooth and timely communication between the server and the device.

PSM

During a FOTA/FOAT download, the PSM is held off from entering the low power state, if the T3324 activity timer has expired, but a FOTA download session has begun. PSM is able to enter the low power state after the download has: succeeded, failed or been cancelled.

8 EasyFlash

EasyFlash is a Windows based application tool that allows SARA-R4 series modules to be flashed via the USB interface.

OS requirements

EasyFlash requires a computer with either Windows 7 or 10.

Flashing steps

1. Copy FW .dof flash file into the same directory as where EasyFlash .exe is installed.
2. If there are any tools related to the module running on the computer, then close them. To ensure they are closed it may require checking and terminating them in Windows Task Manager.
3. Open EasyFlash (run / open it as "Administrator" in Windows).
4. Select in pull down (see [Figure 2](#))
 - a. Product: SARA-R4
 - b. Port: USB
 - c. Baud rate: leave blank
5. Right click and enable trace (see [Figure 2](#)). This will create a log per flash attempt. It is useful if something goes wrong and it is needed to report the issue.
6. Click "Start" button (see [Figure 2](#)).
7. Power up the module.
8. Flash will start, wait for flash to complete (see [Figure 3](#) and [Figure 4](#))
9. Close EasyFlash.

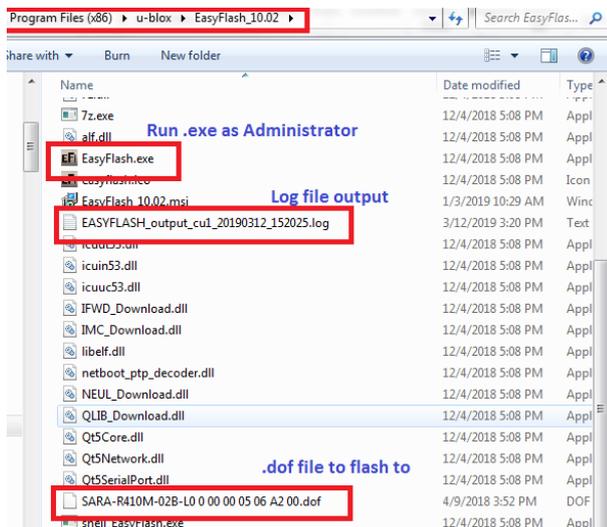


Figure 1: EasyFlash directory and file details

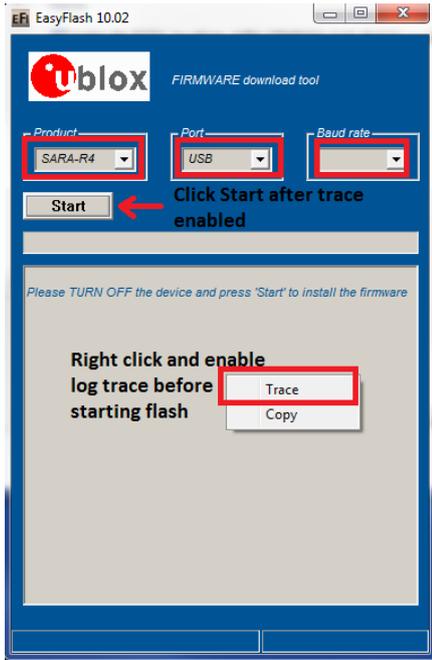


Figure 2: Setting up EasyFlash and start the FW installation

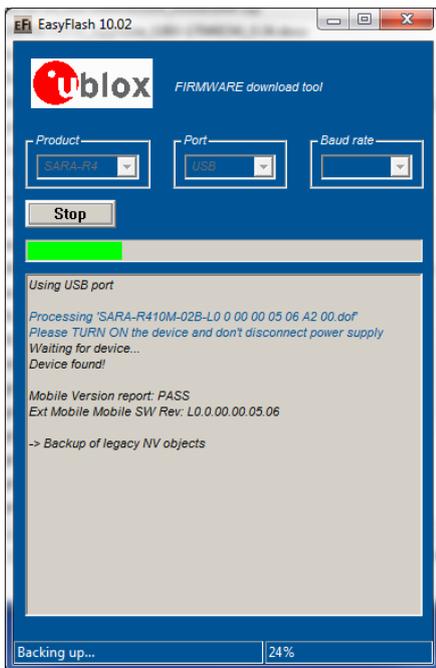


Figure 3: Flash process in progress

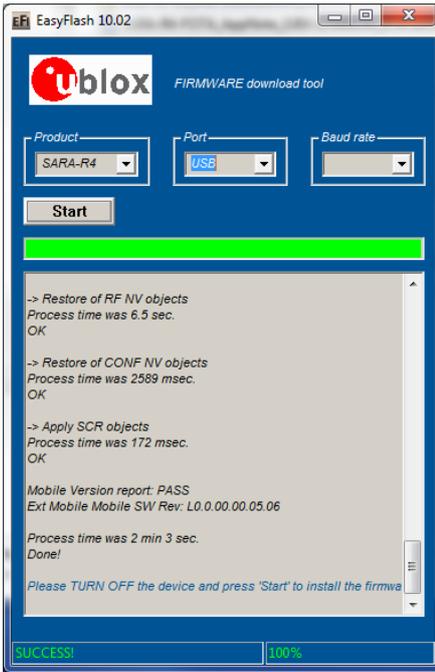


Figure 4: Flash process complete and successful

EasyFlash tips

- Do not use a USB hub.
- Remove any other drivers for other chipset/products on the computer.
- If the flash process fails, try again. EasyFlash version 10 and higher backs up the RF calibration data, and if the flash process should fail when the device does not have RF calibration, EasyFlash will restore it in subsequent attempt that is successful.
 - This backup file is located in the EasyFlash folder and has the IMEI as part of the filename.
 - EasyFlash will only restore the backup file to the module that it extracted from and will not restore it to any other module.
- Try rebooting the PC computer if a flash fails a few times, and try again after reboot.

Appendix

A Glossary

Abbreviation	Definition
AT	AT Command Interpreter Software Subsystem, or attention
DTLS	Datagram Transport Layer Security
eDRX	Enhanced Discontinuous Reception
EVK	Evaluation Kit
FOAT	Firmware update AT command
FOTA	Firmware Over-The-Air
FTP	File Transfer Protocol
FW	Firmware
GPIO	General Purpose Input/Output
HTTP	HyperText Transfer Protocol
HW	Hardware
IMEI	International Mobile Equipment Identity
LTE	Long Term Evolution
LwM2M	Light weight Machine to Machine
MNO	Mobile Network Operator
OTA	Over The Air
PSM	Power save mode
RF	Radio Frequency
SMS	Short Message Service
SRLT	Server Registration Life Timer
UART	Universal Asynchronous Receiver-Transmitter
uFOTA	u-blox FOTA
URC	Unsolicited Result Code
URI	Uniform Resource Identifier
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
USB	Universal Serial Bus

Table 4: Explanation of the abbreviations and terms used

B MNO certification notes

B.1 Verizon

At the time of this application note's publication, Verizon requires customers (including u-blox, and u-blox's end customers) to demonstrate that the device under test is capable of having its FW updated over-the-air. This capability may be demonstrated through screen shots before and after a successful FW upgrade. Currently, this upgrade may be tested in the customer's own lab without direct involvement from Verizon.

If LwM2M is to be used to perform the firmware updates, here are the steps that should be followed for a device.

1. Obtain the required FW update package (Provided by u-blox. Contact u-blox FAE to obtain appropriate Update Packages)
 - For example, if updating from L0.0.00.00.05.06, a package is needed to allow for the following transitions:
 - L0.0.00.00.05.06 -> L0.0.00.99.05.06
2. Prepare campaign on uFOTA server for first FW update, specifying the IMEI of the device under test, and the date/time the update should occur. (Contact u-blox FAE to arrange this.)
3. Setup the device under test as follows:

Abbreviation	Definition
AT+CPSMS=0	Disable PSM mode.
AT+ULWM2MCFG=120,5	Set the LifeTime on the device to a small value to communicate quickly with server. Lifetimer set to 300 s.
AT+CGDCONT?	To check on status of LwM2M, check if the Profile2 is connected using this command. Profile2 VZWADMIN should be connected with IP address.
AT+ULWM2MSTAT: <Download_state>,<Download_value>	To check URC's during FOTA download

4. Capture screenshot of FW version (use ATI command) before a FW update.
5. Execute campaign on u-blox's uFOTA server to upgrade device.
6. Capture screenshot of FW version after FW upgrade.

Related documents

- [1] u-blox SARA-R4 AT Commands Manual, Doc. No. [UBX-17003787](#)
- [2] u-blox SARA-R4 series Data Sheet, u-blox, Doc. No. [UBX-16024152](#)
- [3] u-blox SARA-R4 series System Integration Manual, Doc. No. [UBX-16029218](#)
- [4] OMA Technical Specification Lightweight M2M, V1_0-20170208-A

 For regular updates to u-blox documentation and to receive product change notifications, register on our homepage (www.u-blox.com).

Revision history

Revision	Date	Name	Comments
R01	31-Aug-2018	pwar / clee	Initial draft
R02	26-Jun-2019	clee / pwar	Initial release

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