

## C8051F912 DEVELOPMENT KIT USER'S GUIDE

### 1. Relevant Devices

The C8051F912 Development Kit is intended as a development platform for the microcontrollers in the C8051F91x-C8051F90x MCU family. The members of this MCU family are C8051F912, C8051F911, C8051F902, and C8051F901.

#### Notes:

1. The target board included in this kit is provided with a pre-soldered C8051F912 MCU (QSOP24 package).
2. Code developed on the C8051F912 can be easily ported to the other members of this MCU family.
3. Refer to the C8051F91x-C8051F90x data sheet for the differences between the members of this MCU family.

### 2. Kit Contents

The C8051F912 Development Kit contains the following items:

- C8051F912 Target Board
- C8051Fxxx Development Kit Quick-Start Guide
- AC to DC Power Adapter
- USB Debug Adapter (USB to Debug Interface)
- 2 USB Cables
- 2 AAA Batteries
- CD-ROM

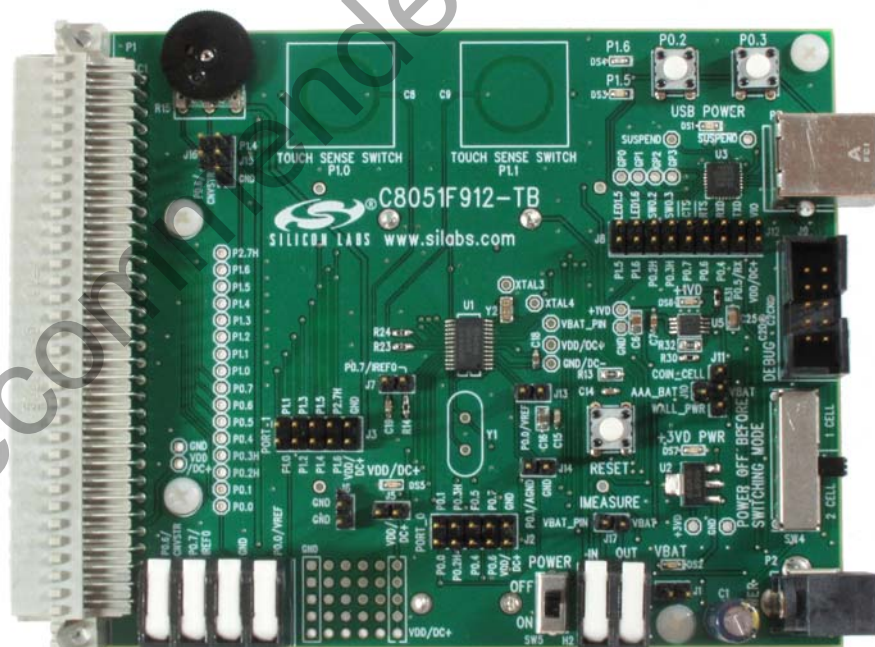


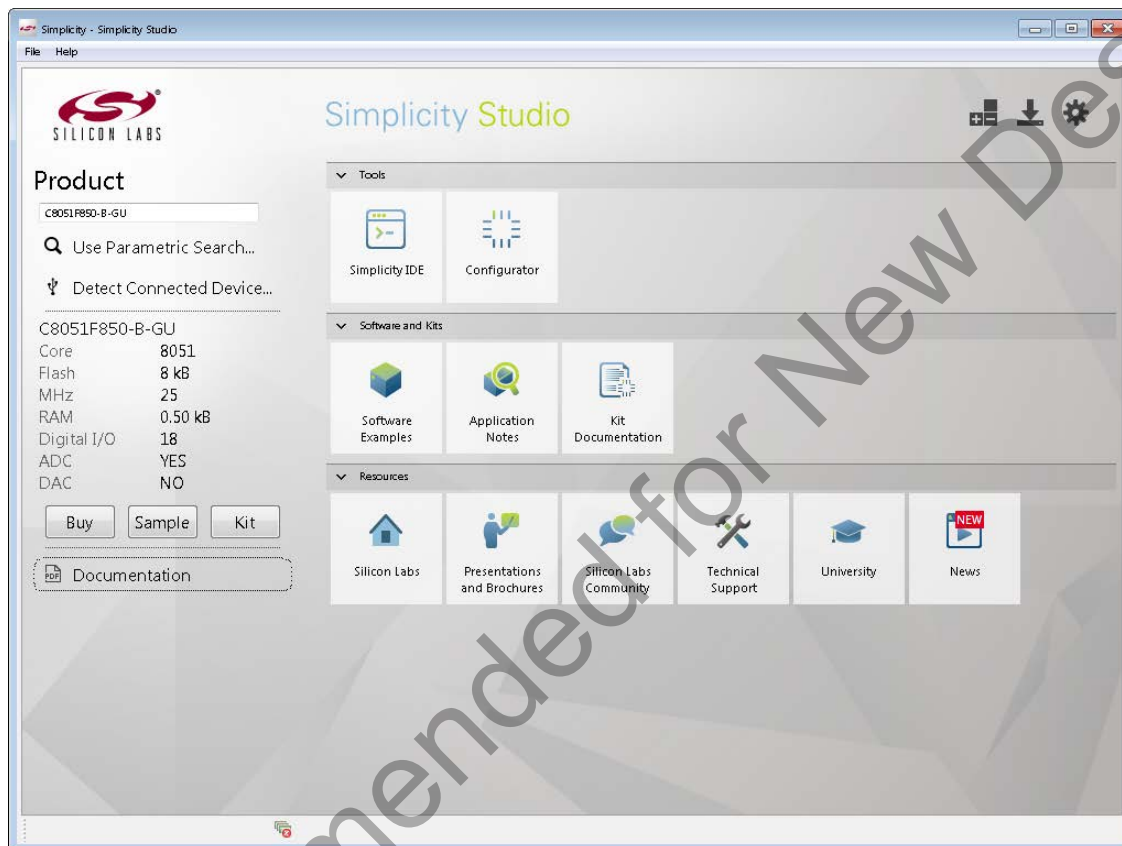
Figure 1. C8051F912 Target Board



## 4. Software Setup

Simplicity Studio greatly reduces development time and complexity with Silicon Labs EFM32 and 8051 MCU products by providing a high-powered IDE, tools for hardware configuration, and links to helpful resources, all in one place.

Once Simplicity Studio is installed, the application itself can be used to install additional software and documentation components to aid in the development and evaluation process.



**Figure 3. Simplicity Studio**

The following Simplicity Studio components are required for the C8051F912 Development Kit:

- 8051 Products Part Support
- Simplicity Developer Platform

Download and install Simplicity Studio from [www.silabs.com/8bit-software](http://www.silabs.com/8bit-software) or [www.silabs.com/simplicity-studio](http://www.silabs.com/simplicity-studio). Once installed, run Simplicity Studio by selecting **Start**→**Silicon Labs**→**Simplicity Studio**→**Simplicity Studio** from the start menu or clicking the **Simplicity Studio** shortcut on the desktop. Follow the instructions to install the software and click **Simplicity IDE** to launch the IDE.

The first time the project creation wizard runs, the **Setup Environment** wizard will guide the user through the process of configuring the build tools and SDK selection.

In the **Part Selection** step of the wizard, select from the list of installed parts only the parts to use during development. Choosing parts and families in this step affects the displayed or filtered parts in the later device selection menus. Choose the C8051F91x family by checking the **C8051F91x/90x** check box. Modify the part selection at any time by accessing the **Part Management** dialog from the **Window**→**Preferences**→**Simplicity Studio**→**Part Management** menu item.

Simplicity Studio can detect if certain toolchains are not activated. If the **Licensing Helper** is displayed after completing the **Setup Environment** wizard, follow the instructions to activate the toolchain.

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## 4.1. Running Blinky

Each project has its own source files, target configuration, SDK configuration, and build configurations such as the **Debug** and **Release** build configurations. The IDE can be used to manage multiple projects in a collection called a workspace. Workspace settings are applied globally to all projects within the workspace. This can include settings such as key bindings, window preferences, and code style and formatting options. Project actions, such as build and debug are context sensitive. For example, the user must select a project in the **Project Explorer** view in order to build that project.

To create a project based on the Blinky example:

1. Click the **Simplicity IDE** tile from the Simplicity Studio home screen.
2. Click the **Create new project** link from the welcome screen or go to **File**→**New**→**Silicon Labs MCU Project**.
3. In the **Kit** drop-down, select **C8051F912 Development Kit**, in the **Part** drop-down, select **C8051F912**, and in the **SDK** drop-down, select the desired SDK. Click **Next**.
4. Select **Example** and click **Next**.
5. Under **C8051F912 Development Kit** in the **Blinky** folder, select **F912-902 Blinky** and click **Finish**.
6. Click on the project in the **Project Explorer** and click **Build**, the hammer icon in the top bar. Alternatively, go to **Project**→**Build Project**.
7. Click **Debug** to download the project to the hardware and start a debug session.
8. Press the **Resume** button to start the code running. The LED should blink.



9. Press the **Suspend** button to stop the code.



10. Press the **Reset the device** button to reset the target MCU.



11. Press the **Disconnect** button to return to the development perspective.



## 4.2. Simplicity Studio Help

Simplicity Studio includes detailed help information and device documentation within the tool. The help contains descriptions for each dialog window. To view the documentation for a dialog, click the question mark icon in the window:



This will open a pane specific to the dialog with additional details.

The documentation within the tool can also be viewed by going to **Help**→**Help Contents** or **Help**→**Search**.

### 4.3. Legacy 8-bit IDE

**Note:** Using the Simplicity Studio tools with the C8051F912 Development Kit is recommended. See section 4. "Software Setup," on page 3 for more information.

Download the 8-bit software from the website ([www.silabs.com/8bit-software](http://www.silabs.com/8bit-software)) or use the provided installer on the CD-ROM to install the software tools for the C8051F91x/90x devices. After installation, examples can be found in ...\\Examples\\C8051F91x\_90x in the installation directory. At a minimum, the C8051F912 DK requires:

- **Silicon Labs IDE**—Software enabling initial evaluation, development, and debugging.
- **Configuration Wizard 2**—Initialization code generation software for the C8051F91x/90x devices.
- **Keil C51 Tools**—Keil 8051 Compiler/Assembler/Linker toolchain.
- **CP210x Drivers**—Virtual COM Port (VCP) drivers for the CP210x COM interface. More information on this installation process can be found in Section 4.4.

Other software available includes:

- **Keil  $\mu$ Vision Driver**—Driver for the Keil  $\mu$ Vision IDE that enables development and debugging on C8051Fxxx MCUs.
- **Flash Programming Utilities and MCU Production Programmer**—Programming utilities for the production line. More information on the available programming options can be found on the website: <http://www.silabs.com/products/mcu/Pages/ProgrammingOptions.aspx>.
- **ToolStick Development Tools**—Software and examples for the ToolStick development platform. More information on this platform can be found at [www.silabs.com/toolstick](http://www.silabs.com/toolstick).

Also available on the 8-bit software webpage is the Battery Life Estimator, which gives designers a quick and easy way to understand the discharge characteristics of different system configurations to help optimize low-power applications.

The development kit includes the latest version of the C51 Keil 8051 toolset. This toolset is initially limited to a code size of 2 kB and programs start at code address 0x0800. After registration, the code size limit is removed entirely and programs will start at code address 0x0000.

To register the Keil toolset:

1. Find the **Product Serial Number** printed on the CD-ROM. If you no longer have this serial number, register on the Silicon Labs website ([www.silabs.com/8bit-software](http://www.silabs.com/8bit-software)) to obtain the serial number.
2. Open the Keil  $\mu$ Vision4 IDE from the installation directory with administrative privileges.
3. Select **File**→**License Management** to open the License Management window.

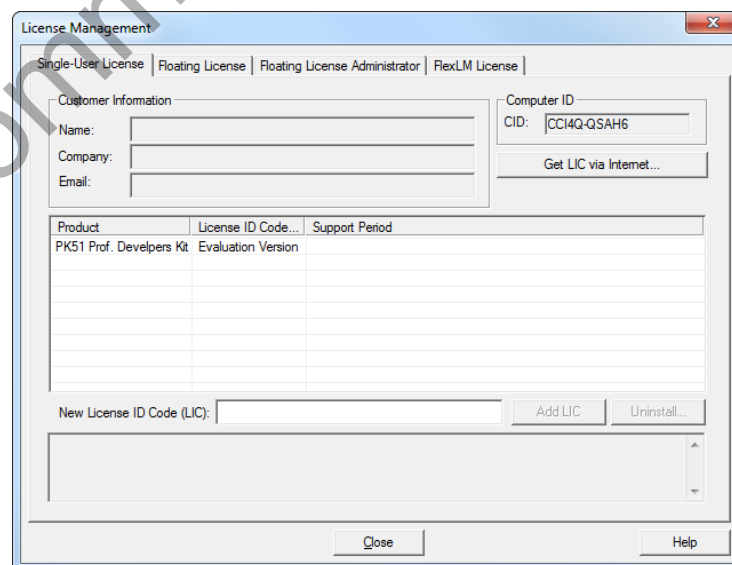


Figure 4. Keil  $\mu$ Vision4 IDE License Management Window

4. Click on the **Get LIC via Internet...** button to open the Obtaining a License IDE Code (LIC) window.
5. Press **OK** to open a browser window to the Keil website. If the window doesn't open, navigate to [www.keil.com/license/install.htm](http://www.keil.com/license/install.htm).
6. Enter the Silicon Labs **Product Serial Number** printed on the CD-ROM, along with any additional required information.
7. Once the form is complete, click the **Submit** button. An email will be sent to the provided email address with the license activation code.
8. Copy the License ID Code (LIC) from the email.
9. Paste the LIC into the **New License ID Code (LIC)** text box at the bottom of the License Management window in  $\mu$ Vision4.
10. Press the **Add LIC** button. The window should now list the **PK51 Prof. Developers Kit for Silabs** as a licensed product.
11. Click the **Close** button.

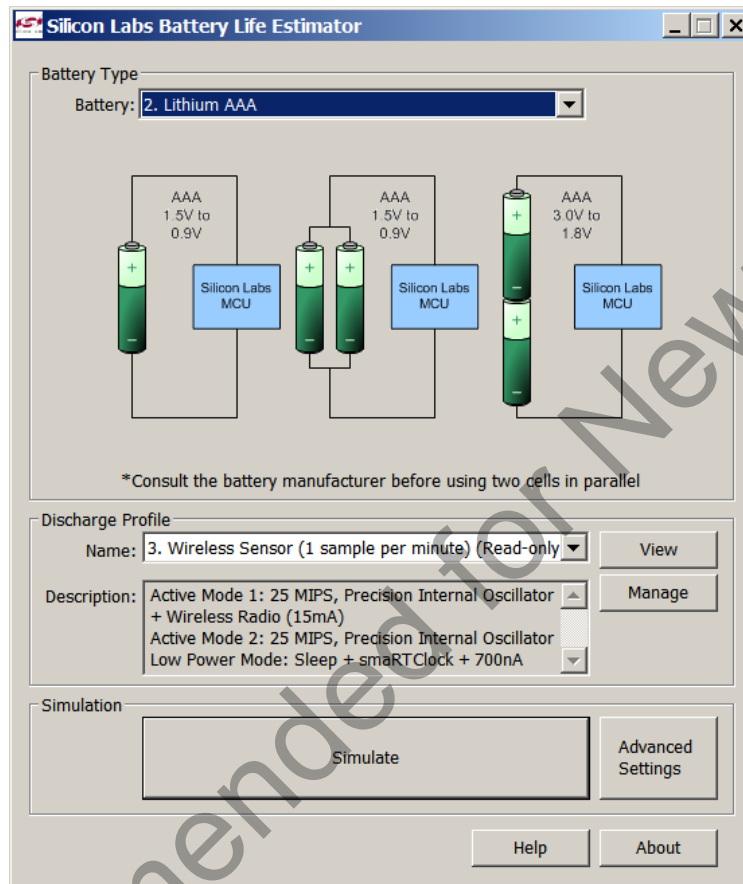
#### 4.4. CP210x USB to UART VCP Driver Installation

The MCU Card includes a Silicon Labs CP210x USB-to-UART Bridge Controller. Device drivers for the CP210x need to be installed before the PC software can communicate with the MCU through the UART interface. Use the drivers included CD-ROM or download the latest drivers from the website ([www.silabs.com/interface-software](http://www.silabs.com/interface-software)).

1. If using the CD-ROM, the **CP210x Drivers** option will launch the appropriate driver installer. If downloading the driver package from the website, unzip the files to a location and run the appropriate installer for the system (x86 or x64).
2. Accept the license agreement and follow the steps to install the driver on the system. The installer will let you know when your system is up to date. The driver files included in this installation have been certified by Microsoft.
3. To complete the installation process, connect the included USB cable between the host computer and the **COM PORT** USB connector (J5) on the MCU Card. Windows will automatically finish the driver installation. Information windows will pop up from the taskbar to show the installation progress.
4. If needed, the driver files can be uninstalled by selecting **Windows Driver Package—Silicon Laboratories...** option in the **Programs and Features** window.

#### 4.5. Silicon Labs Battery Life Estimator

The Battery Life Estimator is a system design tool for battery operated devices. It allows the user to select the type of battery they are using in the system and enter the supply current profile of their application. Using this information, it performs a simulation and provides an estimated system operating time. The Battery Life Estimator is shown in Figure 5.



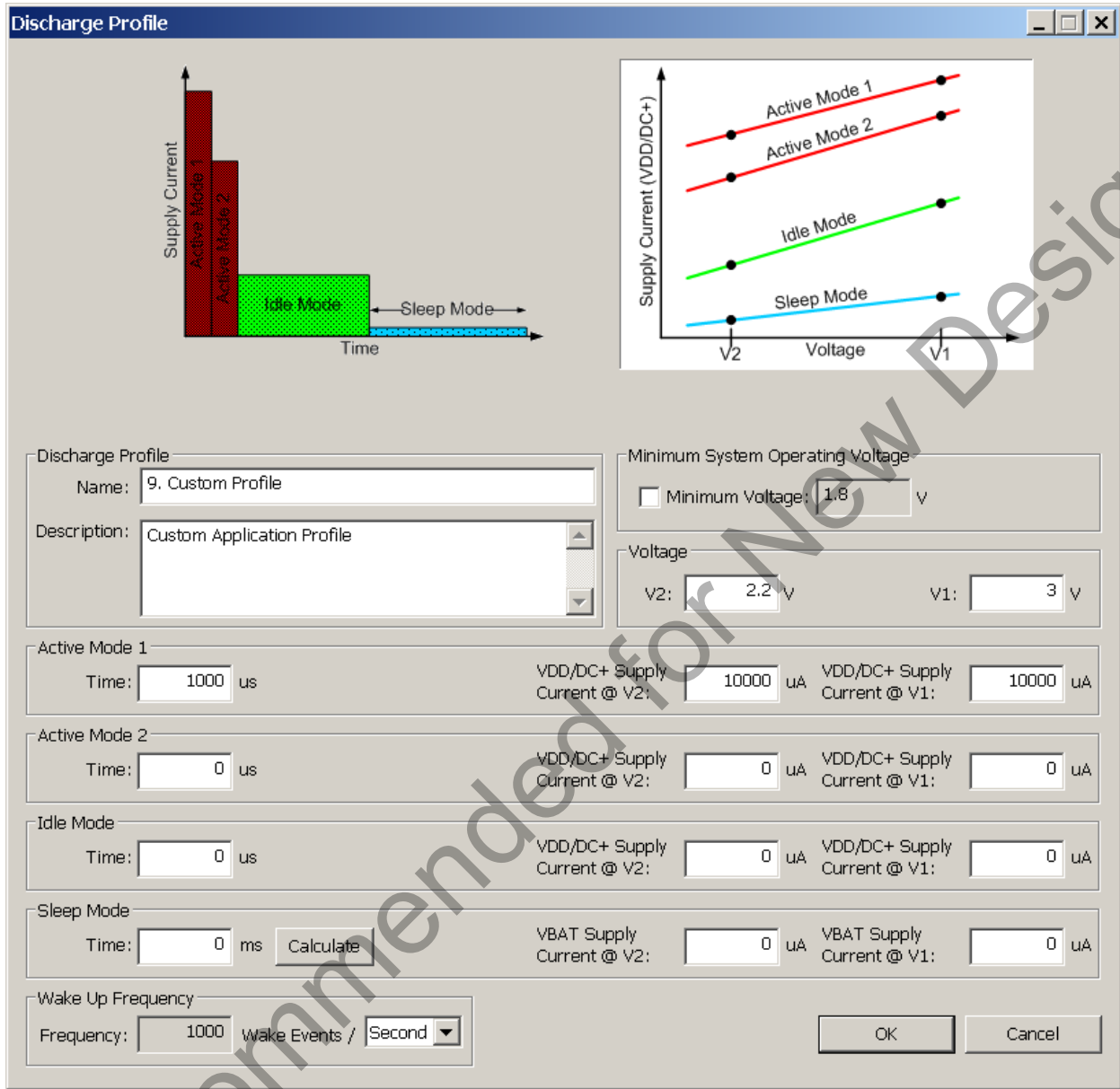
**Figure 5. Battery Life Estimator Utility**

From Figure 5, the two inputs to the Battery Life Estimator are battery type and discharge profile. The utility includes battery profiles for common battery types such as AAA, AA, A76 Button Cell, and CR2032 coin cell. The discharge profile is application-specific and describes the supply current requirements of the system under various supply voltages and battery configurations. The discharge profile is independent of the selected power source. Several read-only discharge profiles for common applications are included in the pulldown menu. The user may also create a new profile for their own applications.

To create a new profile:

1. Select the profile that most closely matches the target application or choose the "Custom Profile".
2. Click Manage
3. Click Duplicate
4. Click Edit

Profiles may be edited with the easy-to-use GUI (shown in Figure 6).



**Figure 6. Battery Life Estimator Discharge Profile Editor**

The Discharge Profile Editor allows the user to modify the profile name and description. The four text entry boxes on the left hand side of the form allow the user to specify the amount of time the system spends in each power mode. On the right hand side, the user may specify the supply current of the system in each power mode.

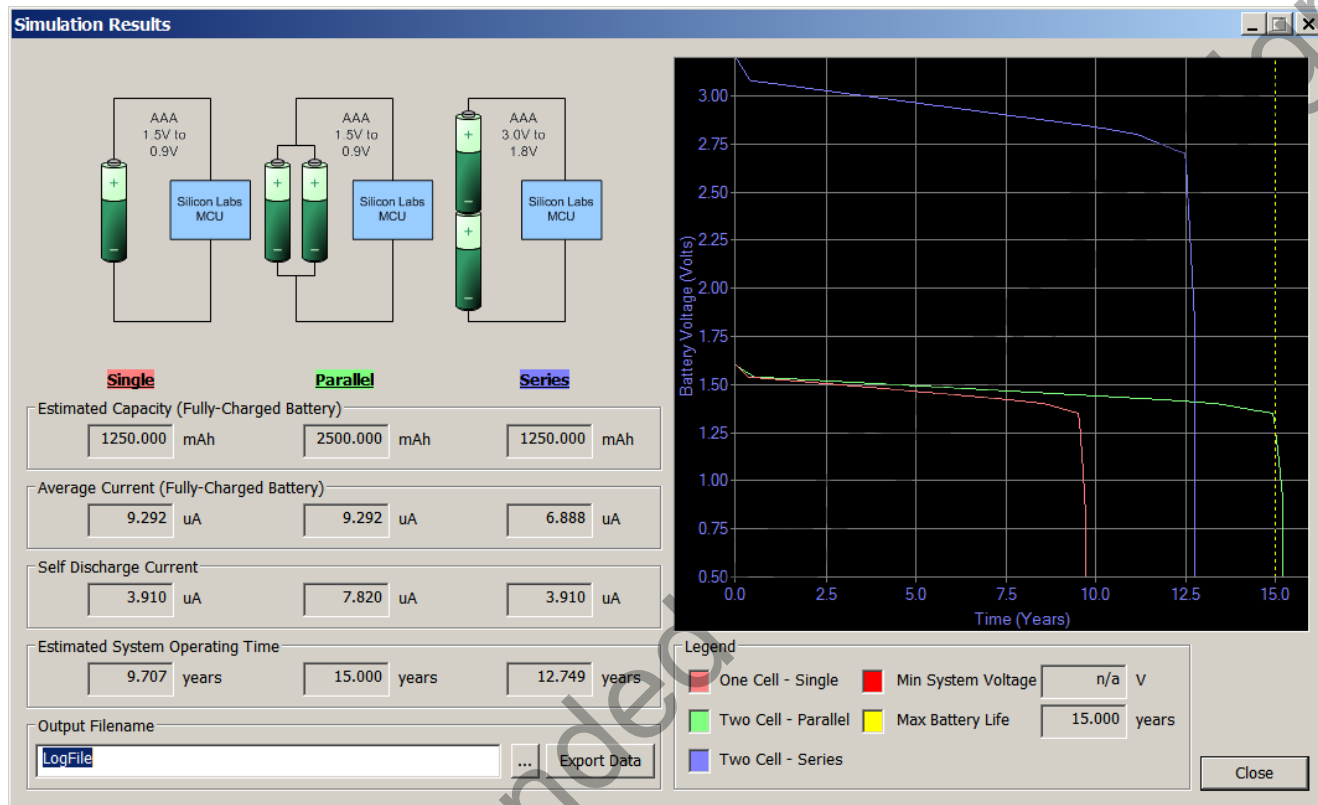
Since supply current is typically dependent on supply voltage, the discharge profile editor provides two columns for supply current. The V2 and V1 voltages at the top of the two columns specify the voltages at which the current measurements were taken. The Battery Life Estimator creates a linear approximation based on the input data and is able to feed the simulation engine with an approximate supply current demand for every input voltage.

The minimum system operating voltage input field allows the system operating time to stop increasing when the simulated battery voltage drops below a certain threshold. This is primarily to allow operating time estimates for systems that cannot operate down to 1.8 V, which is the voltage of two fully drained single-cell batteries placed in series.



The wakeup frequency box calculates the period of a single iteration through the four power modes and displays the system wake up frequency. This is typically the "sample rate" in low power analog sensors.

Once the battery type and discharge profile is specified, the user can click the "Simulate" button to start a new simulation. The simulation engine calculates the estimated battery life when using one single-cell battery, two single-cell batteries in series, and two single-cell batteries in parallel. Figure 7 shows the simulation output window.



**Figure 7. Battery Life Estimator Utility Simulation Results Form**

The primary outputs of the Battery Life Estimator are an estimated system operating time and a simulated graph of battery voltage vs. time. Additional outputs include estimated battery capacity, average current, self-discharge current, and the ability to export graph data to a comma delimited text file for plotting in an external graphing application.

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## 5. Target Board

The C8051F912 Development Kit includes a target board with a C8051F912 device pre-installed for evaluation and preliminary software development. Numerous input/output (I/O) connections are provided to facilitate prototyping using the target board. Refer to Figure 8 for the locations of the various I/O connectors. Figure 10 on page 12 shows the factory default shorting block positions.

- P1 Expansion connector (96-pin)
- P2 Power connector (accepts input from 7 to 15 VDC unregulated power adapter)
- P3 USB connector (connects to PC for serial communication)
- J1 Enable/Disable VBAT Power LED
- J2, J3 Port I/O headers (provide access to Port I/O pins)
- J5 Enable/Disable VDD/DC+ Power LED
- J6 Provides an easily accessible ground clip
- J7 Connects pin P0.7 (IREF0 Output) to resistor R14 and capacitor C19
- J8 Connects P0.2 and P0.3 to switches and P1.5 and P1.6 to LEDs
- J9 DEBUG connector for Debug Adapter interface
- J10, J11 Selects the power supply source (Wall Power, AAA Battery, or Coin Cell)
- J12 Connects Port I/O to UART0 interface
- J13 Connects external VREF capacitor to the P0.0/VREF
- J14 Connects the PCB ground plane to P0.1/AGND
- J15 Connects negative potentiometer (R14) terminal to pin P1.4 or to GND
- J16 Connects the potentiometer (R14) wiper to P0.6/CNVSTR
- J17 Creates an open in the power supply path to allow supply current measurement
- H1 Analog I/O terminal block
- H2 Provides terminal block access to the input and output nodes of J17
- SW4 Switches the device between one-cell (0.9–1.8 V supply) or two-cell (1.8–3.6 V) mode
- SW5 Turns power to the MCU on or off

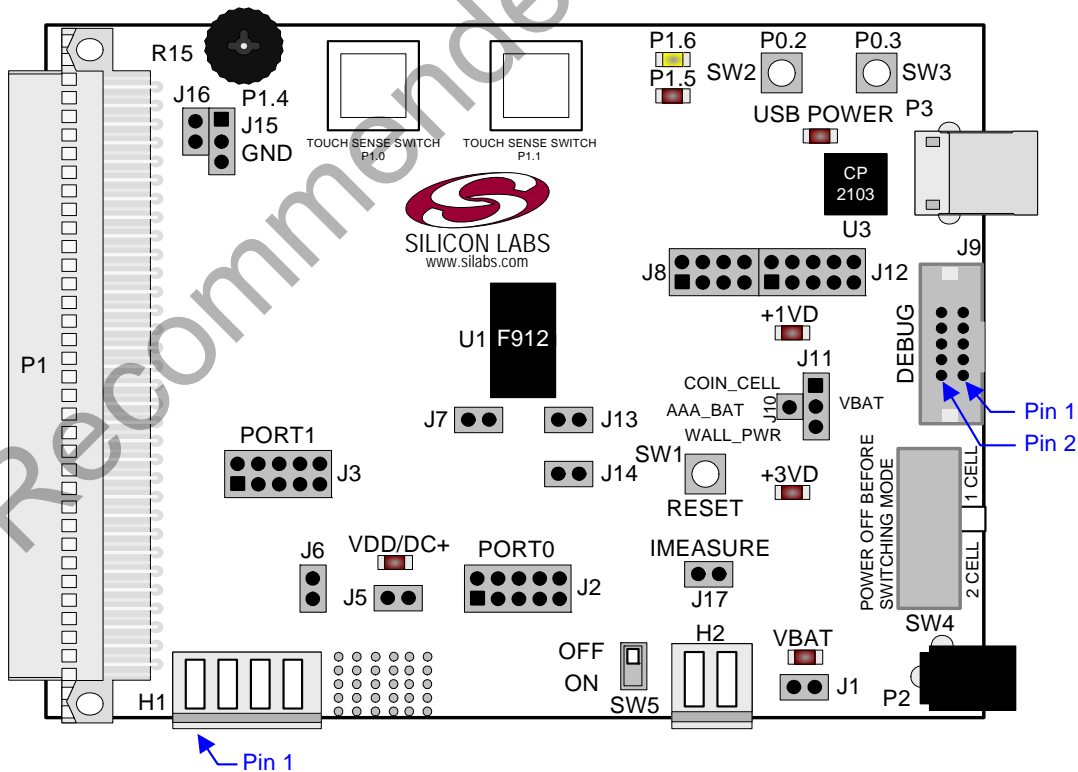


Figure 8. C8051F912 Target Board

The following items are located on the bottom side of the board. See Figure 9.

BT1 Battery Holder for 1.5 V AAA. Use for one-cell or two-cell mode.

BT2 Battery Holder for 1.5 V AAA. Use for two-cell mode only.

BT3 Battery Holder for 3 V Coin Cell (CR2032).

BT4 Battery Holder for 1.5 V Button Cell (A76 or 357).

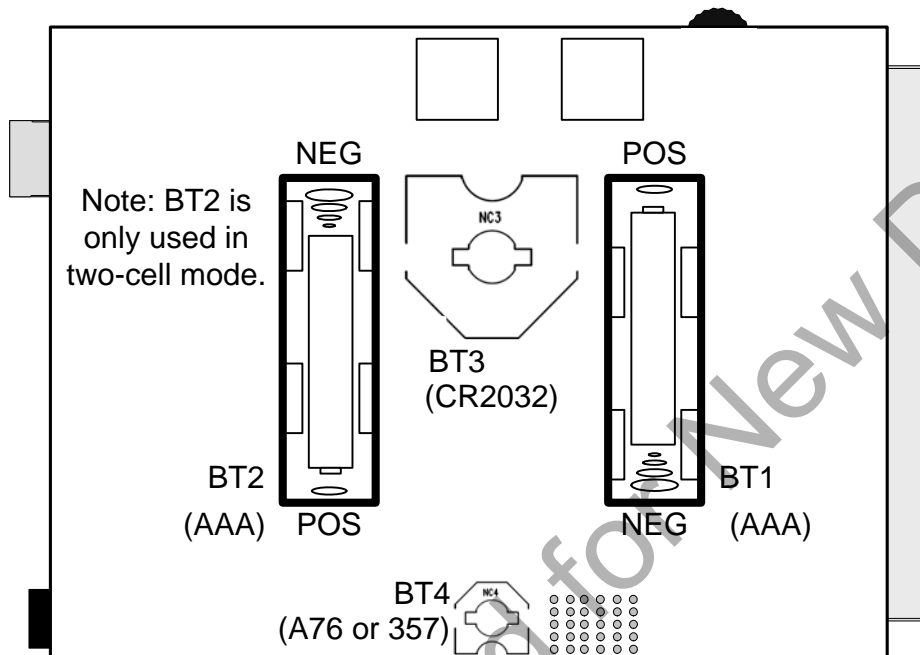


Figure 9. Bottom of C8051F912 Target Board

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## 5.1. Target Board Shorting Blocks: Factory Defaults

The C8051F912 Target Board comes from the factory with pre-installed shorting blocks on many headers. Figure 10 shows the positions of the factory default shorting blocks.

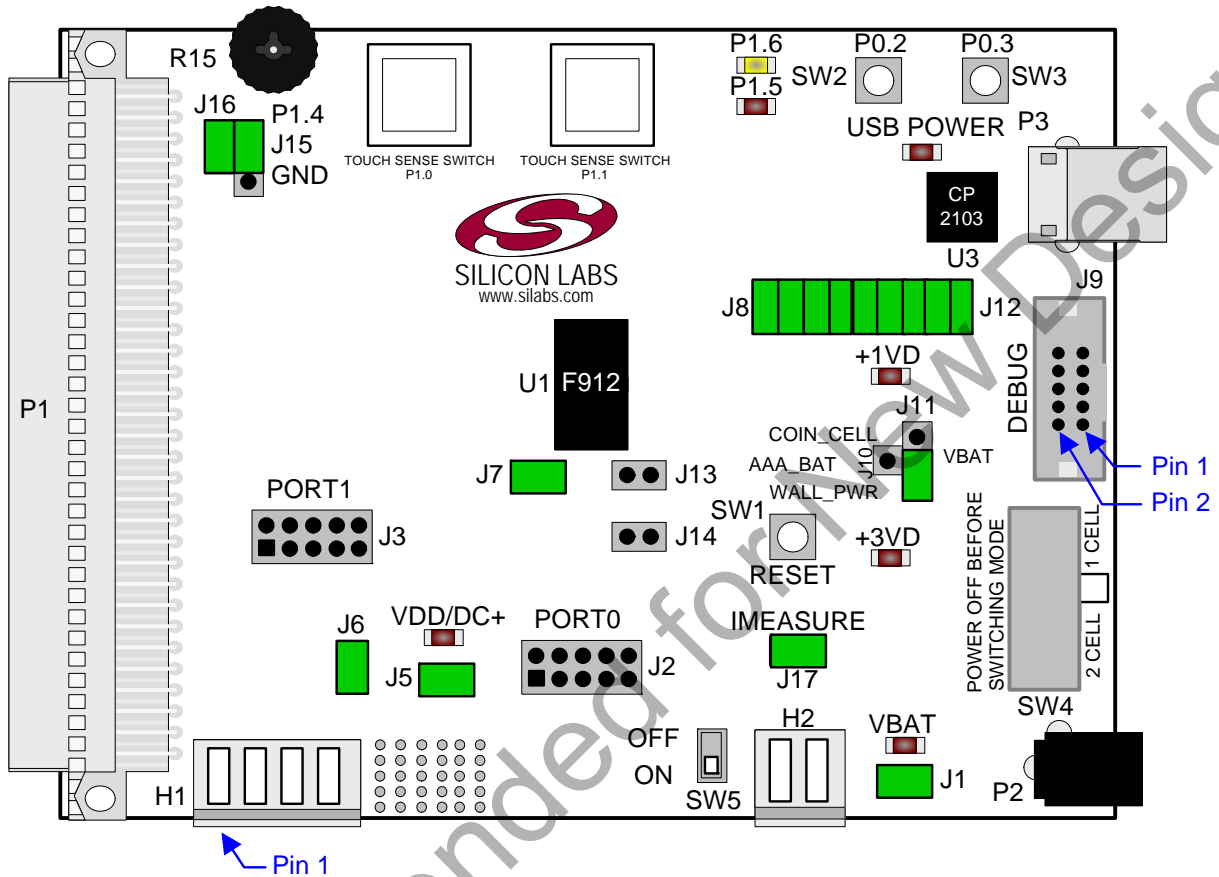


Figure 10. C8051F912 Target Board Shorting Blocks: Factory Defaults

## 5.2. Target Board Power Options and Current Measurement (J10, J11, J17, H2, P2, P3, SW4, SW5)

The C8051F912 Target Board supports three power options, selectable by the three-way header (J10/J11). The power options vary based on the configuration (one-cell or two-cell mode) selected by SW4. Power to the MCU may be switched on/off using the power switch (SW5). **Important Note: The power switch (SW5) must be in the OFF position prior to switching between one-cell and two-cell mode using SW4.** The power options are described in the paragraphs below.

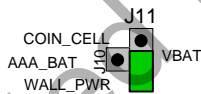
### 5.2.1. Wall Power

When the J10/J11 three-way header is set to WALL\_PWR, the C8051F912 Target Board may be powered from the following power sources:

- 9 VDC power using the ac to dc power adapter (P2)
- 5 VDC USB VBUS power from PC via the USB Debug Adapter (J9)
- 5 VDC USB VBUS power from PC via the CP2103 USB connector (P3)

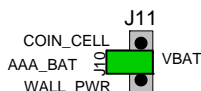
All the three power sources are ORed together using reverse-biased diodes (D1, D2, D3), eliminating the need for headers to choose between the sources. The target board will operate as long as any one of the power sources is present. The ORed power is regulated to a 3.3 V dc voltage using a LDO regulator (U2). The output of the regulator powers the +3 VD net on the target board.

If SW4 is configured to select two-cell mode, the VBAT supply net on the target board is powered directly from the +3 VD net. If SW4 is configured to select one-cell mode, the VBAT supply net is powered directly from the +1 VD. This power supply net takes +3 VD and passes it through a 1.65 V LDO. The LDO's output voltage is variable and can be set by changing the value of resistor R32.



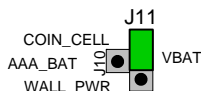
### 5.2.2. AAA Battery

When the J10/J11 three-way header is set to AAA\_BAT, the C8051F912 Target Board may be powered from a single AAA battery inserted in BT1 or from the series combination of the AAA batteries inserted in BT1 and BT2. A single battery is selected when SW4 is configured to one-cell mode. The two AAA batteries configured in series to provide a voltage of ~3 V are selected when SW4 is configured to two-cell mode.



### 5.2.3. Coin Cell Battery

When the J10/J11 three-way header is set to COIN\_CELL, the C8051F912 Target Board may be powered from a single 1.5 V Alkaline (A76) or Silver Oxide (357) button cell inserted in BT4 or from a single 3 V Lithium (CR2032) coin cell inserted in BT3. The button cell (BT4) is selected when SW4 is configured to one-cell mode, and the coin cell (BT3) is selected when SW4 is configured to two-cell mode.



### 5.2.4. Measuring Current

The header (J17) and terminal block (H2) provide a way to measure the total supply current flowing from the power supply source to the MCU. The measured current does not include any current from the VBAT LED (DS2), the address latch (U4) or the quiescent current from the power supply; however, it does include the current used by any LEDs powered from the VDD/DC+ supply net or sourced through a GPIO pin. See the target board schematic

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in Figure 11 through Figure 13 for additional information.

## 5.3. System Clock Sources

### 5.3.1. Internal Oscillators

The C8051F912 device installed on the target board features a factory calibrated programmable high-frequency internal oscillator (24.5 MHz base frequency,  $\pm 2\%$ ) and a low power internal oscillator (20 MHz  $\pm 10\%$ ). After each reset, the low power oscillator divided by 8 results in a default system clock frequency of 2.5 MHz ( $\pm 10\%$ ). The selected system clock and the system clock divider may be configured by software for operation at other frequencies. For low-frequency operation, the C8051F912 features a smaRTClock real time clock. A 32.768 kHz Watch crystal (Y2) is included on the target board. If you wish to operate the C8051F912 device at a frequency not available with the internal oscillators, an external crystal may be used. Refer to the C8051F91x-C8051F90x data sheet for more information on configuring the system clock source.

### 5.3.2. External Oscillator Options

The target board is designed to facilitate the installation of an external crystal (Y1). Install a 10 M $\Omega$  resistor at R9 and install capacitors at C20 and C21 using values appropriate for the crystal you select. If you wish to operate the external oscillator in capacitor or RC mode, options to install a capacitor or an RC network are also available on the target board. Populate C21 for capacitor mode, and populate R16 and C21 for RC mode. Refer to the C8051F91x-C8051F90x data sheet for more information on the use of external oscillators.

## 5.4. Port I/O Headers (J2, J3, J6)

Access to all Port I/O on the C8051F912 is provided through the headers J2 and J3. The header J6 provides access to the ground plane for easy clipping of oscilloscope probes.

## 5.5. Switches and LEDs (J1, J5, J8, J15, J16)

Three push-button switches are provided on the target board. Switch SW1 (RESET) is connected to the reset pin of the C8051F912. Pressing SW1 puts the device into its hardware-reset state. Switches SW2 (P0.2) and SW3 (P0.3) are connected to the C8051F912's general purpose I/O (GPIO) pins through headers. Pressing SW2 or SW3 generates a logic low signal on the port pin. Remove the shorting block from the header (J8) to disconnect the switches from the port pins. The port pin signal is also routed to pins on the J2 and P1 I/O connectors. See Table 1 for the port pins and headers corresponding to each switch.

Two touch sensitive (contactless) switches are provided on the target board. The operation of these switches require appropriate firmware running on the C8051F912 MCU that can sense the state of the switch.

Five power LEDs are provided on the target board to serve as indicators. Each of the two regulators has a red LED used to indicate the presence of power at the output of the regulator. A red USB Power LED turns on when a USB cable is plugged into the USB connector P3. One power LED is also added to each of the two primary supply nets powering the MCU (VDD/DC+ and VBAT). The LEDs connected to the supply nets may be disabled by removing the shorting blocks from J1 and J5.

Two LEDs are connected to GPIO pins P1.5 and P1.6 for use by application software. See Table 1 for the port pins and headers corresponding to each LED.

A potentiometer (R15) is also provided on the target board for generating analog signals. Place a shorting block on J16 to connect the wiper to P0.6/CNVSTR. The header J15 allows the negative terminal of the potentiometer to be tied to GND or to P1.4. When tied to GND, the potentiometer is always enabled and will draw a measurable amount of supply current. When tied to P1.4, it only draws current when P1.4 is driving a logic 0 and draws no current when P1.4 is driving a logic 1.

**Table 1. Target Board I/O Descriptions**

Description	I/O	Header(s)
SW1	Reset	none
SW2	P0.2	J8[5–6]
SW3	P0.3	J8[7–8]
P1.0 (Touch Sense Switch)	P1.0	none
P1.1 (Touch Sense Switch)	P1.1	none
Red LED (P1.5)	P1.5	J8[1–2]
Yellow LED (P1.6)	P1.6	J8[3–4]
Red LED (VDD/DC+)	VDD/DC+ Supply Net	J5
Red LED (VBAT)	VBAT Supply Net	J1
Red LED (USB Power)	USB VBUS	none
Red LED (+1 VD Power)	+1 VD Regulator Output	none
Red LED (+3 VD Power)	+3 VD Regulator Output	none
Potentiometer (R15)	P0.6/P1.4	J15, J16

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## 5.6. Expansion I/O Connector (P1)

The 96-pin Expansion I/O connector P1 provides access to all signal pins of the C8051F912 device (except the C2 debug interface signals). In addition, power supply and ground pins are included. A small through-hole prototyping area is also provided. See Table 2 for a list of pin descriptions for P1.

**Table 2. P1 Pin Descriptions**

Row A Pin #	Description	Row B Pin #	Description	Row C Pin #	Description
1	+3 VD	1	GND	1	nc
2	nc	2	nc	2	nc
3	nc	3	nc	3	nc
4	nc	4	nc	4	nc
5	nc	5	nc	5	nc
6	nc	6	nc	6	nc
7	nc	7	nc	7	nc
8	nc	8	nc	8	nc
9	nc	9	nc	9	nc
10	nc	10	P0.7/IREF0	10	P0.6/CNVSTR
11	P0.5/RX	11	P0.4/TX	11	P0.3H
12	P0.2H	12	P0.1/AGND	12	P0.0/VREF
13	P2.7H	13	P1.6	13	P1.5
14	P1.4	14	P1.3	14	P1.2
15	P1.1	15	P1.0	15	nc
16	nc	16	nc	16	nc
17	nc	17	nc	17	nc
18	nc	18	nc	18	nc
19	nc	19	nc	19	nc
20	nc	20	nc	20	nc
21	nc	21	nc	21	nc
22	nc	22	nc	22	nc
23	nc	23	nc	23	nc
24	nc	24	nc	24	nc
25	nc	25	GND	25	nc
26	GND	26	nc	26	nc
27	nc	27	nc	27	nc
28	nc	28	VDD/DC+	28	VBAT
29	nc	29	nc	29	nc
30	nc	30	nc	30	nc
31	nc	31	nc	31	nc
32	nc	32	GND	32	nc



## 5.7. Target Board DEBUG Interface (J9)

The DEBUG connector J9 provides access to the DEBUG (C2) pins of the C8051F912. It is used to connect the Serial Adapter or the USB Debug Adapter to the target board for in-circuit debugging and Flash programming. Table 3 shows the DEBUG pin definitions.

**Table 3. DEBUG Connector Pin Descriptions**

Pin #	Description
1	+3 VD (+3.3 VDC)
2, 3, 9	GND (Ground)
4	P2.7/C2D
5	$\overline{\text{RST}}$ (Reset)
6	P2.7
7	$\overline{\text{RST}}/\text{C2CK}$
8	Not Connected
10	USB Power (+5 VDC from J9)

## 5.8. Serial Interface (J12)

A USB-to-UART bridge circuit (U3) and USB connector (P3) are provided on the target board to facilitate serial connections to UART0 of the C8051F912. The Silicon Labs CP2103 (U3) USB-to-UART bridge provides data connectivity between the C8051F912 and the PC via a USB port. The VIO power supply and TX, RX, RTS and CTS signals of UART0 may be connected to the CP2103 by installing shorting blocks on header J12. The shorting block positions for connecting each of these signals to the CP2103 are listed in Table 4. To use this interface, the USB-to-UART device drivers should be installed as described in Section 4.4. "CP210x USB to UART VCP Driver Installation," on page 6.

**Table 4. Serial Interface Header (J12) Description**

Header Pins	UART0 Pin Description
J12[9–10]	CP2103_VIO (VDD/DC+)
J12[7–8]	TX_MCU (P0.5)
J12[5–6]	RX_MCU (P0.4)
J12[3–4]	RTS (P0.6)
J12[1–2]	CTS (P0.7)

## 5.9. Analog I/O (H1)

Several of the C8051F912 target device's port pins are connected to the H1 terminal block. Refer to Table 5 for the H1 terminal block connections.

**Table 5. H1 Terminal Block Pin Descriptions**

Pin #	Description
1	P0.6/CNVSTR
2	P0.7/IREF0
3	GND (Ground)
4	P0.0/ $V_{\text{REF}}$ (Voltage Reference)

# C8051F91x/90x

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## 5.10. IREF Connector (J7)

The C8051F912 Target Board also features a current-to-voltage 1 k $\Omega$  load resistor that may be connected to the current reference (IREF0) output that can be enabled on port pin (P0.7). Install a shorting block on J7 to connect port pin P0.7 of the target device to the load resistor. If enabled by software, the IREF0 signal is then routed to the J2[8] and H1[2] connectors.

## 5.11. VREF and AGND Connector (J13, J14)

The C8051F912 Target Board also features 4.7  $\mu$ F capacitor in parallel with a 0.1  $\mu$ F that can be connected to P0.0/VREF when using the Precision Voltage Reference. The capacitors are connected to P0.0/VREF when a shorting block is installed on J13. Using the Precision Voltage Reference is optional since 'F91x-'F90x devices have an on-chip High-Speed Voltage Reference.

The shorting block J14 allows P0.1/AGND to be connected to ground. This provides a noise-free ground reference to the analog-to-digital Converter. The use of this dedicated analog ground is optional.

## 5.12. C2 Pin Sharing

On the C8051F912, the debug pins C2CK and C2D are shared with the pins  $\overline{\text{RST}}$  and P2.7, respectively. The target board includes the resistors necessary to enable pin sharing which allow the  $\overline{\text{RST}}$  and P2.7 pins to be used normally while simultaneously debugging the device. See Application Note "AN124: Pin Sharing Techniques for the C2 Interface" at [www.silabs.com](http://www.silabs.com) for more information regarding pin sharing.

## 6. Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Should power be turned off when switching between one-cell and two-cell mode?

Yes, power must be turned off by placing SW5 in the OFF position when switching between one-cell and two-cell mode. Switching between modes while power is on may result in increased power consumption and possible damage to low voltage transistors.

### 2. I have placed the MCU in Sleep Mode. Why is the supply current greater than 1 $\mu\text{A}$ ?

This can be caused by a number of factors. Check the following:

- Verify that the USB Debug Adapter is not connected to the device. When connected, it can draw approximately 2–5  $\mu\text{A}$  from the VDD/DC+ supply net.
- Verify that the P1.5 and P1.6 LEDs are turned off in software (P1.5 and P1.6 set to logic HIGH). Alternatively, the P1.5 and P1.6 LEDs can be disabled by removing the corresponding shorting blocks from J8.
- Verify that the VDD/DC+ Power LED is disabled (remove shorting block from J5).
- Verify that the shorting block on J15 does not connect the potentiometer negative terminal to GND, since this would result in continuous current of  $\sim 300 \mu\text{A}$ . The shorting block may be removed, or configured to enable the potentiometer when P1.4 is set to logic LOW. When the potentiometer enable is under software control, be sure to set P1.4 to logic HIGH prior to placing the device in Sleep Mode.
- Verify that J7, J13, and J14 do not have shorting blocks installed.

### 3. I have been measuring the sleep mode current using the “ $\mu\text{A}$ ” setting on my multimeter. Why am I no longer able to connect to the IDE?

When most multimeters are placed in “ $\mu\text{A}$ ” mode, a large resistance is placed in series with the power supply. This “current limiting” resistor prevents the MCU from starting up. To measure current during startup, make sure that the multimeter is configured to its “mA” setting.

Alternatively, a shorting block can be placed on J17 to ensure that the multimeter does not limit current during startup.

### 4. Where can I find a schematic of the C8051F912 Target Board?

A target board schematic can be found in the C8051F912-DK User's Guide which is available on the Development Tools CD and is installed in the following folder (by default):

C:\SiLabs\MCU\Documentation\UsersGuides

### 5. Which power LED should I use to determine if the MCU is powered?

The VDD/DC+ LED (DS5) should be used to determine if the MCU is powered. If you have applied power to the board, but the VDD/DC+ LED is not turning on, check the following:

- Verify that the correct power source (J10, J11) is selected.
- Verify that J17 has a shorting block.
- Verify that SW5 is in the ON position.
- Verify that J5 has a shorting block installed.

## 6. What can I do to reduce active supply current?

Below are some suggestions for reducing the active supply current:

- a. Clear all wake-up sources in the PCU0CF register. This will allow the low power oscillator to be disabled when it is not being used as the system clock. This optimization can reduce the supply current by up to 30  $\mu$ A.
- b. When operating at system clock frequencies above 10 MHz, minimize supply current by setting the BYPASS bit (FLSCL.6) to 1. If the system clock needs to decrease below 10 MHz, clear the BYPASS bit to 0.
- c. If the precision oscillator is not being used, turn off the precision oscillator bias by setting the OSCBIAS bit (REG0CN.4) to 0.

## 7. Why does P0.7/IREF0 have a voltage of 200 mV when IREF0CN is set to 0x00?

When IREF0CN is set to 0x00, the current reference is completely turned off. When a shorting block is installed on J7, the voltage at P0.7/IREF0 should be 0 V unless one of the following conditions is present:

- a. The P0.7/IREF0 pin is not configured for analog I/O (weak pull-up enabled).
- b. The P0.7/IREF0 pin is being used as  $\overline{\text{CTS}}$  (a shorting block is installed on J12).

## 8. I have configured a Port pin as an analog input. Why is it still shorted to ground?

On C8051F91x-C8051F90x devices, configuring a Port pin to analog mode (using PnMDIN) disables the digital input path and the weak pull-up. It does not explicitly disable the output drivers.

Software can ensure that the output drivers are disabled by configuring the Port pin to open-drain output mode (using PnMDOUT) and writing 1 to the port latch.

## 9. Why does power consumption increase when an analog signal (hovering around mid-supply) is connected to a digital input?

This phenomenon is called the “crowbar” effect and is present in all CMOS circuitry. If the input of a CMOS structure is not a strong 1 or 0, then both the PMOS and NMOS devices are partially turned on causing current flow from VDD to GND.

To prevent the “crowbar” effect, ensure that pins with analog voltage levels are configured for analog I/O.

## 10. Why does the dc/dc converter stop regulating when the load current exceeds 10 mA?

The default register settings for the dc/dc converter are optimized for low power applications requiring less than 10 mA of supply current. If the application requires additional supply current, the default values may be overridden to provide up to 65 mW of output power.

To configure the dc/dc converter to high power mode, perform the following steps prior to enabling any high power device:

- a. Set DC0CN = 0x01. This selects the high-current switches.
- b. Set DC0CF = 0x04. This sets the peak inductor current limit to 500 mA.

11. **When the missing clock detector is enabled, why does the MCU reset if I switch from the default system clock (Low Power Oscillator divided by 8) to smRTClock divided by 1?**

Background:

- The missing clock detector will trigger a reset if the system clock period exceeds 100  $\mu$ s.
- Switchover between clock sources occurs in 1 clock cycle of the slowest clock.
- Changing the clock divide value requires up to 128 cycles of the undivided clock source.

Since the **clock source** change occurs in a single cycle and the **clock divide** change can take up to 128 cycles, the system clock will be set to the **new clock source divided by the old divide value** for a brief period of time. In this example, the actual system clock will be 4.096 kHz for up to 128 cycles of the undivided clock source. This causes the missing clock detector to time out and reset the MCU.

The proper way of changing the system clock when both the **clock source** and the **clock divide** value are being changed is as follows:

If switching from a fast “undivided” clock to a slower “undivided” clock:

- a. Change the **clock divide** value.
- b. Poll for  $\text{CLKRDY} \geq 1$ .
- c. Change the **clock source**.

If switching from a fast “undivided” clock to a slower “undivided” clock:

- d. Change the **clock source**.
- e. Change the **clock divide** value.
- f. Poll for  $\text{CLKRDY} \geq 1$ .

12. **Why is the MCU pre-maturely released from reset when using a wall supply with a slow rise time?**

The maximum VDD Ramp Time is specified at 3 ms. If the power supply ramp takes longer than 3 ms to reach 0.9 V, then the device may be released from reset before the supply has reached the minimum operating voltage. The slow ramp time (>3 ms) can occur when using a bench power supply that does not have an output enable switch.



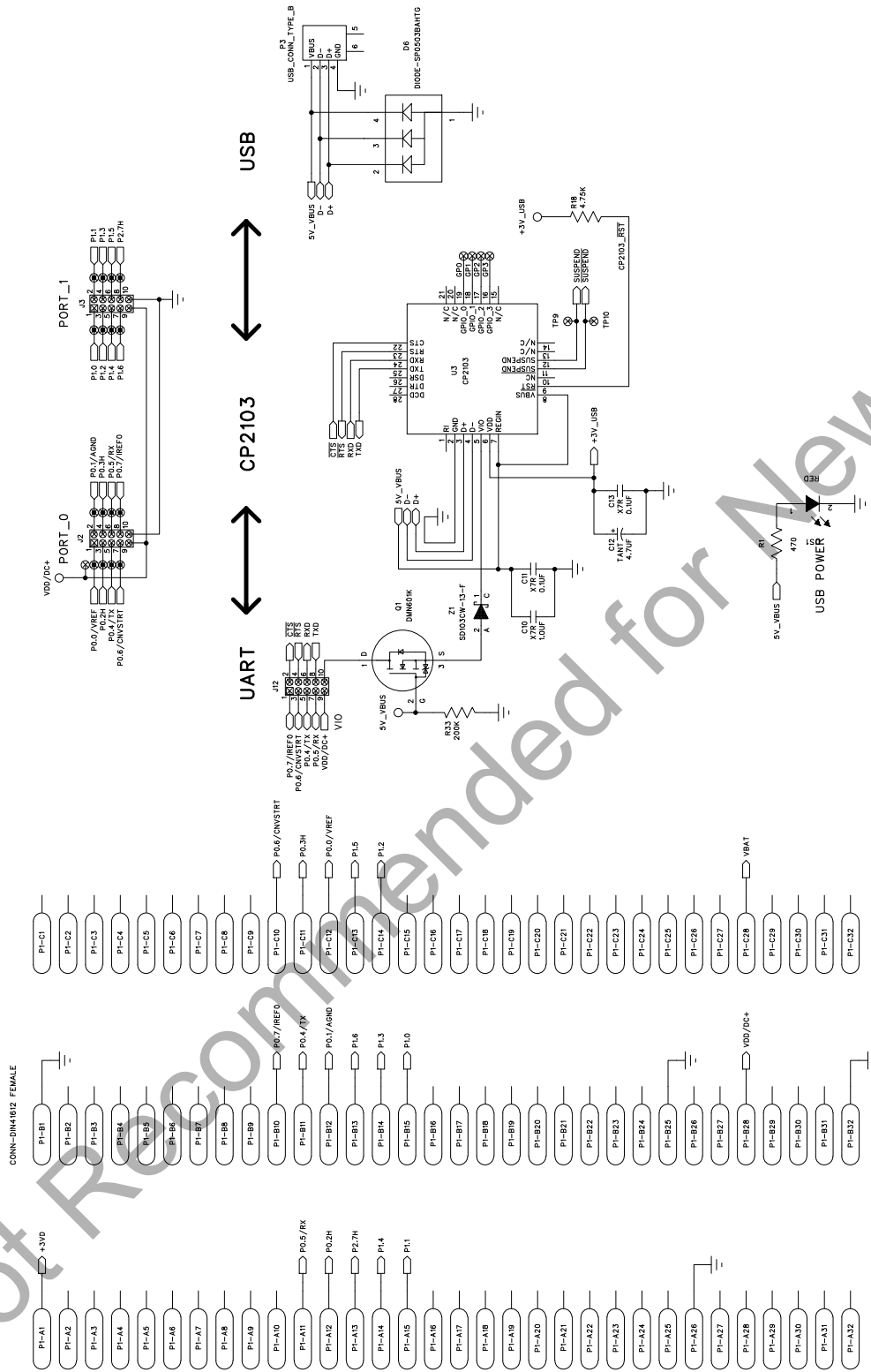


Figure 12. C8051F912 Target Board Schematic (Page 2 of 3)

Not Recommended for New Designs

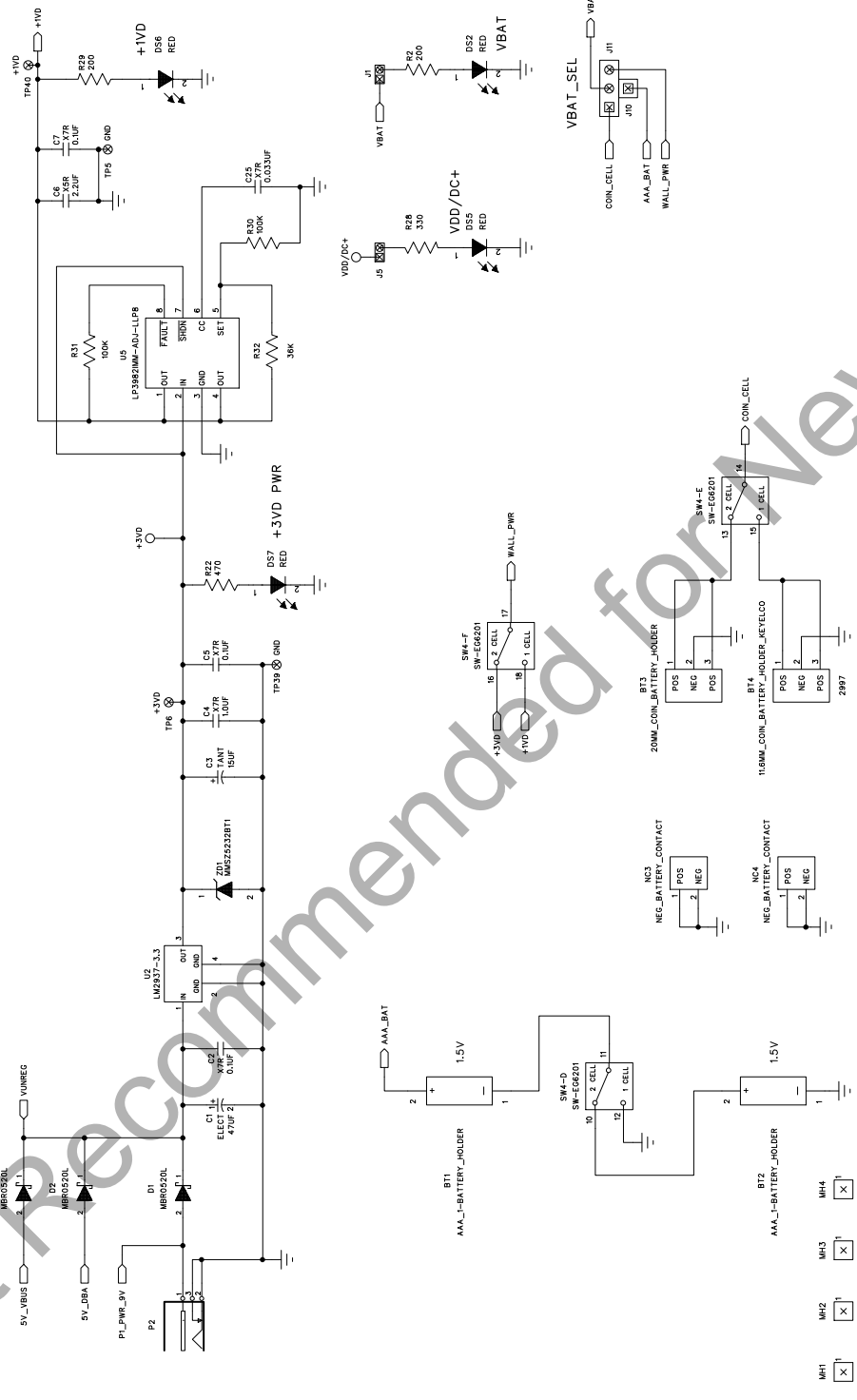
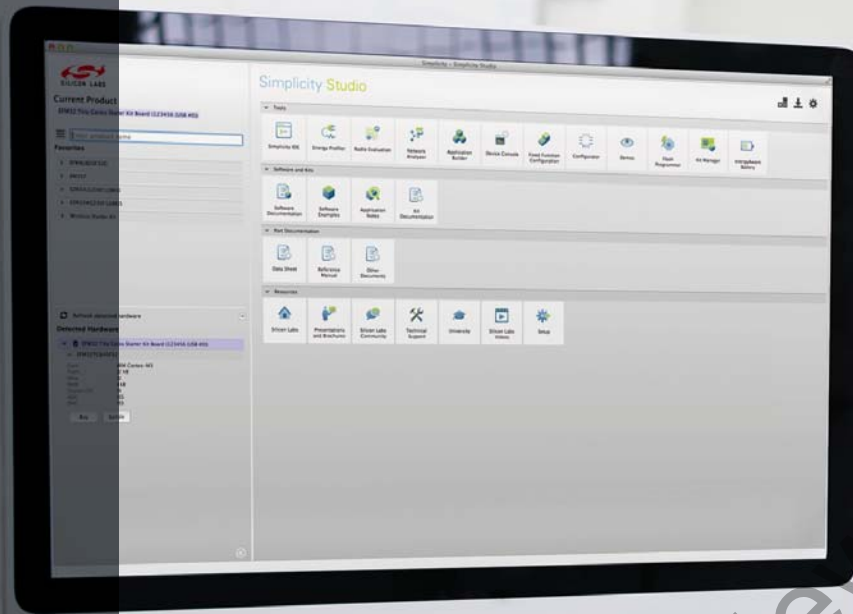


Figure 13. C8051F912 Target Board Schematic (Page 3 of 3)





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