



ANR026 PROTEUS BEACONS

ALL ABOUT BEACONS OF PROTEUS-I,-II AND -III

VERSION 1.1

JANUARY 27, 2022

Revision history

| Manual version | Notes | Date |
|----------------|--|--------------|
| 1.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initial version | August 2021 |
| 1.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added introduction chapter | January 2022 |

Contents

| | | |
|----------|---|-----------|
| 1 | Introduction | 3 |
| 2 | Beacons - What is it? | 4 |
| 2.1 | Beacon format | 4 |
| 3 | Examples | 6 |
| 3.1 | Transmitting beacons with a Proteus radio module | 6 |
| 3.2 | Receiving beacons with a Proteus radio module | 6 |
| 3.3 | Receiving beacons with the Nordic "nRF Connect for Mobile" app | 7 |
| 4 | References | 9 |
| 5 | Important notes | 10 |
| 5.1 | General customer responsibility | 10 |
| 5.2 | Customer responsibility related to specific, in particular safety-relevant applications | 10 |
| 5.3 | Best care and attention | 10 |
| 5.4 | Customer support for product specifications | 10 |
| 5.5 | Product improvements | 11 |
| 5.6 | Product life cycle | 11 |
| 5.7 | Property rights | 11 |
| 5.8 | General terms and conditions | 11 |
| 6 | Legal notice | 12 |
| 6.1 | Exclusion of liability | 12 |
| 6.2 | Suitability in customer applications | 12 |
| 6.3 | Trademarks | 12 |
| 6.4 | Usage restriction | 12 |
| 7 | License terms | 14 |
| 7.1 | Limited license | 14 |
| 7.2 | Usage and obligations | 14 |
| 7.3 | Ownership | 15 |
| 7.4 | Firmware update(s) | 15 |
| 7.5 | Disclaimer of warranty | 15 |
| 7.6 | Limitation of liability | 15 |
| 7.7 | Applicable law and jurisdiction | 16 |
| 7.8 | Severability clause | 16 |
| 7.9 | Miscellaneous | 16 |

1 Introduction

Bluetooth® LE is a connection oriented radio standard that allows data transmission between several entities in a client server architecture. Besides this common way of data transmission, so called Bluetooth® LE beacons can be used for connectionless broadcast data transmission.

This document answers the questions what Bluetooth® LE beacons are, and how a Proteus-I, -II and -III radio module can be used to transmit and receive Würth Elektronik eiSos specific beacons.

2 Beacons - What is it?

One of the main states of a Bluetooth® LE peripheral device is the so called advertising, where it periodically transmits its advertising information on three different advertising radio channels to offer a Bluetooth® LE connection to a central device.

This advertising information is inserted into two radio packets. First the advertising packet, that is sent each advertising interval, and the scan response packet, that is only sent if a central device reacts on the advertising packet with a scan request. The advertising interval can be chosen between 20 ms and 10.24 s.

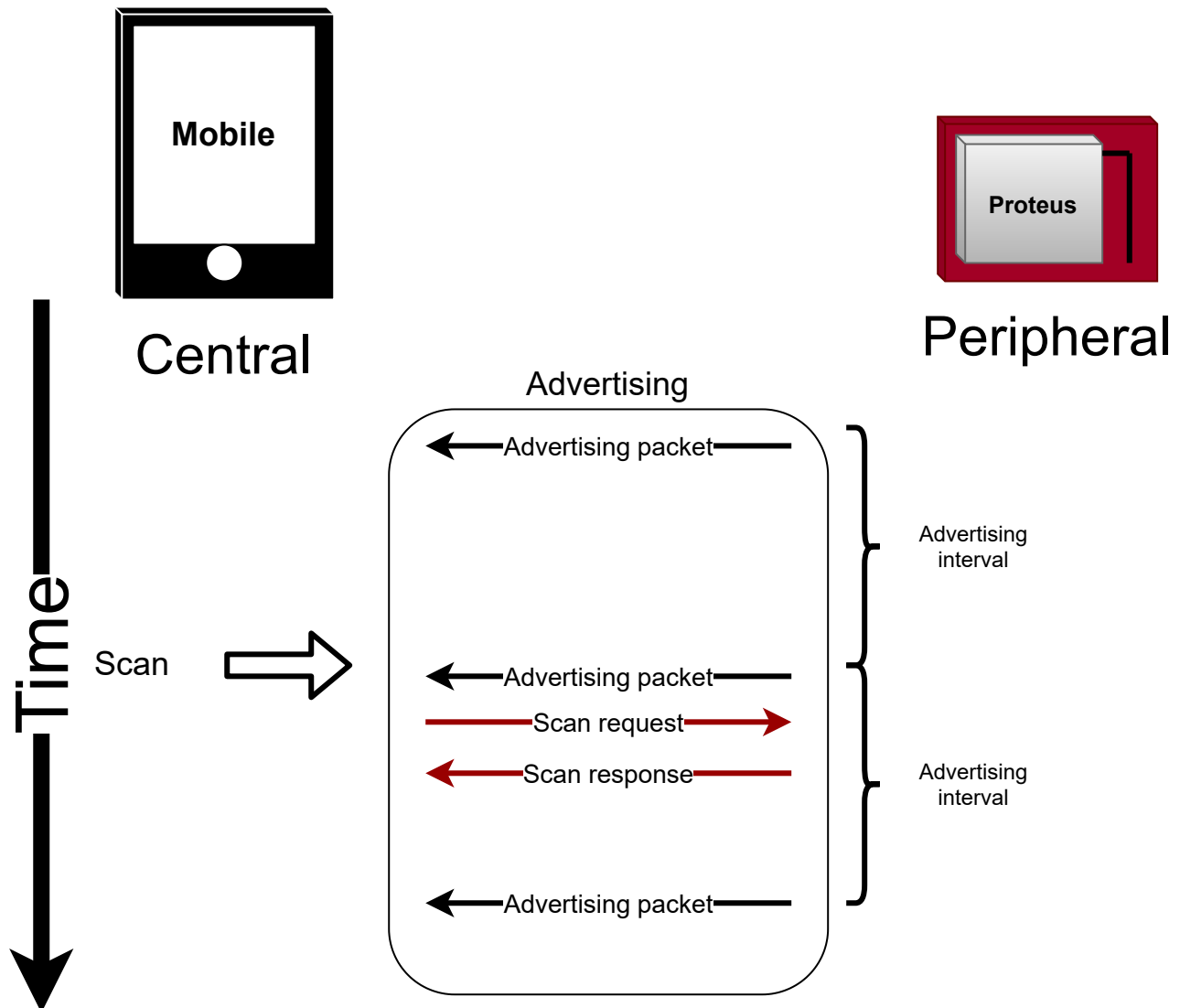


Figure 1: Advertising

In case a peripheral device is sending beacons with custom data, this data is placed in the advertising and/or scan response packet, and thus sent periodically to all scanning Bluetooth® LE devices in range.

2.1 Beacon format

The format of beacon data can be distinguished between standard beacon formats, like Ed-dystone (Google [1]) or iBeacon (Apple [2]), and custom beacon formats.

The Proteus series uses a custom format, that allows to use the beacon function and the remaining radio functions, like connection oriented data transmission, at the same time. The data of the Proteus beacons is placed in the "manufacturer data" field of the scan response packet. This data is prepended by the header byte 0x01, that identifies the data as payload data, and the company identifier 0x031A of Würth Elektronik eiSos.

| Length | ID | Company identifier (LSB first) | Header | Payload (MSB first) |
|--------|------|--------------------------------|--------|---------------------|
| 1 Byte | 0xFF | 0x1A 0x03 | 0x01 | up to 19 Bytes |

Table 1: Raw Proteus beacon format in scan response packet

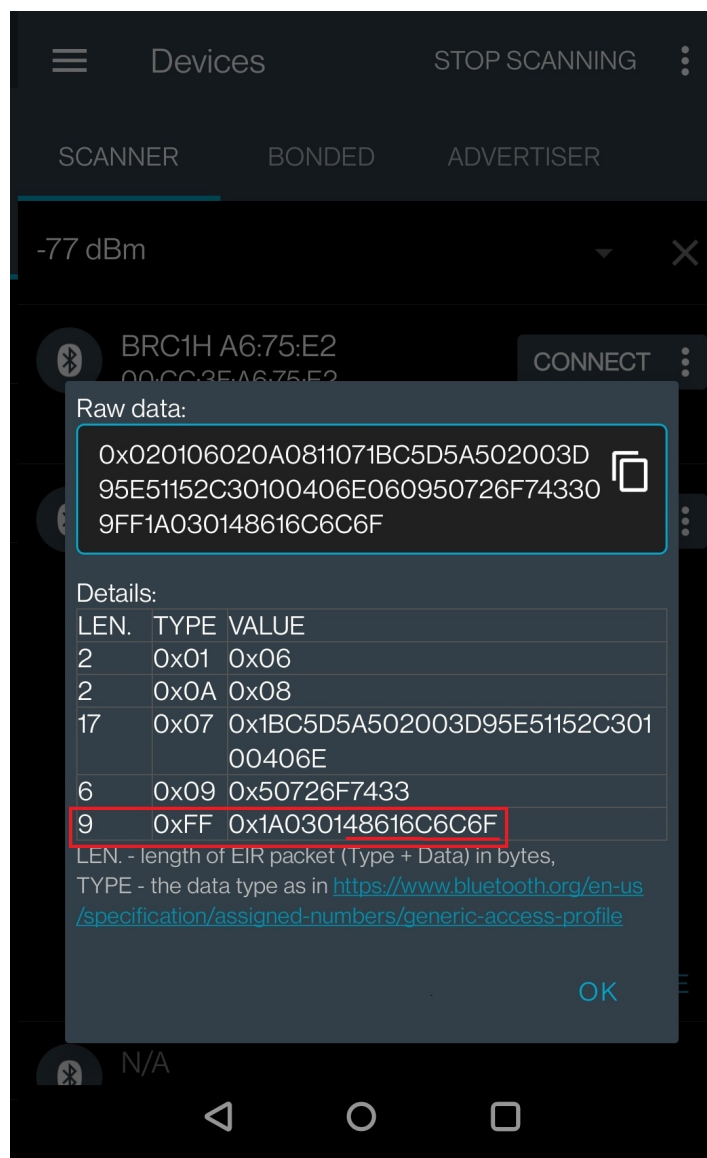


Figure 2: Example: The payload is "Hallo" (0x48616C6C6F)

3 Examples

3.1 Transmitting beacons with a Proteus radio module

To transmit beacons using a Proteus radio module, the command `CMD_SETBEACON_REQ` can be used. The user data of up to 19 bytes must be placed in the Payload field of the `CMD_SETBEACON_REQ` command.

Format:

| Start signal | Command | Length | Payload | CS |
|--------------|---------|---------|--------------|--------|
| 0x02 | 0x0C | 2 Bytes | Length Bytes | 1 Byte |

Response (`CMD_SETBEACON_CNF`):

| Start signal | Command 0x40 | Length | Status | CS |
|--------------|----------------|-----------|--------|--------|
| 0x02 | 0x4C | 0x01 0x00 | 1 Byte | 1 Byte |

Status:

0x00: Request received, will place data now

0x01: Operation failed

0xFF: Operation not permitted



The below commands are in hexadecimal notation. The arrow in the left column describes, whether it's a message from host to radio module, or vice versa. A request command is always sent from host to module (\Rightarrow). An indication, confirmation or response message is always sent from module to host (\Leftarrow).

Example:

| Info | Module |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| \Leftarrow Reset the module using <i>/RESET</i> pin, <code>CMD_GETSTATE_CNF</code> | 02 41 02 00 01 01 41 |
| \Rightarrow <code>CMD_SETBEACON_REQ</code> , content " Hallo " | 02 0C 05 00 48 61 6C 6C 6F 4D |
| \Leftarrow <code>CMD_SETBEACON_CNF</code> , status success | 02 4C 01 00 00 4F |

3.2 Receiving beacons with a Proteus radio module

To receive beacons with the Proteus radio module, the user setting `RF_BeaconFlags` must be modified first to enable this feature. Then a scan must be done to receive the beacons via radio (see example below).



Please note, that in general only beacon data is received, that matches the beacon format of the Proteus radio module. Other beacons, like Eddystone or iBeacons are rejected. Proteus-III has the option to receive all kind of beacons, if the user setting `RF_BeaconFlags` has been set to `0x02`.



The below commands are in hexadecimal notation. The arrow in the left column describes, whether it's a message from host to radio module, or vice versa. A request command is always sent from host to module (\Rightarrow). An indication, confirmation or response message is always sent from module to host (\Leftarrow).

Example:

| Info | Module |
|---|---|
| \Leftarrow Reset the module using <code>/RESET</code> pin, <code>CMD_GETSTATE_CNF</code> | 02 41 02 00 01 01 41 |
| \Rightarrow Configure <code>RF_BeaconFlags</code> using <code>CMD_SET_REQ</code> to "beacon rx enabled, no filter" | 02 11 02 00 0E 01 1E |
| \Leftarrow <code>CMD_SET_CNF</code> , status success | 02 51 01 00 00 52 |
| \Leftarrow Module reset such that the change in the user setting takes effect (<code>CMD_GETSTATE_CNF</code>) | 02 41 02 00 01 01 41 |
| \Rightarrow Activate scanning on module | 02 09 00 00 0B |
| \Leftarrow Response <code>CMD_SCANSTART_CNF</code> | 02 49 01 00 00 4A |
| \Leftarrow receiving multiple <code>CMD_BEACON_IND</code> , in case another device is transmitting beacons of the right format. In this example the payload is "Hallo" (0x48616C6C6F) | 02 8C 0C 00 02 00 00 DA 18 00 B5 48 61 6C 6C 6F B1 02 8C 0C 00 02 00 00 DA 18 00 B1 48 61 6C 6C 6F B5 |
| \vdots | \vdots |
| \Rightarrow Deactivate scanning on module, <code>CMD_SCANSTOP_REQ</code> | 02 0A 00 00 08 |
| \Leftarrow Response <code>CMD_SCANSTOP_CNF</code> | 02 4A 01 00 00 49 |

3.3 Receiving beacons with the Nordic "nRF Connect for Mobile" app

To receive the Proteus beacons with the nRF Connect [3] [4] app perform the following steps:

1. Enable the Bluetooth® LE feature and location services on the smart phone.

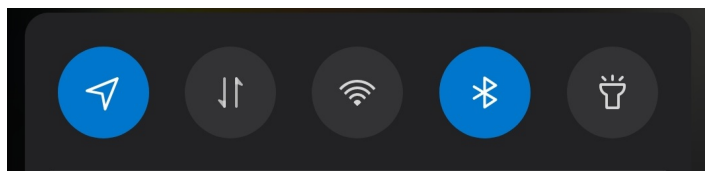


Figure 3: Enable Bluetooth and the location services

2. Open the nRFConnect app and press "SCAN".
3. As soon as the Proteus appears in the scan list, unfold that entry by selecting it. Be sure that you do not press "CONNECT".
4. In case the Proteus sends beacon data, find it in the "Manufacturer data" field.

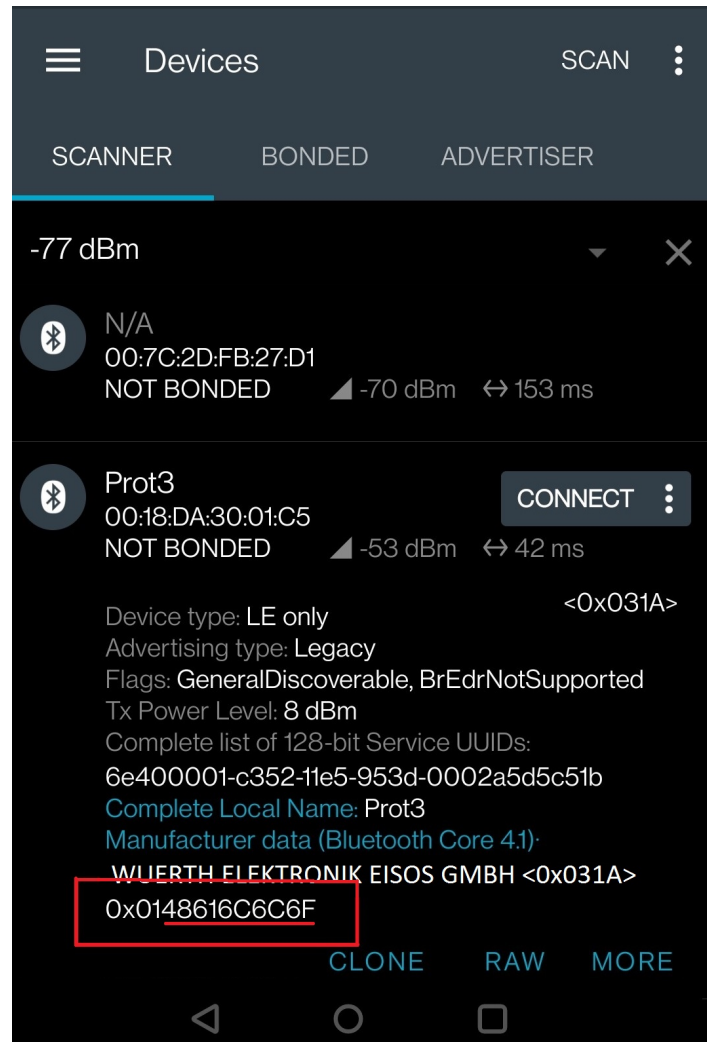


Figure 4: Example: The payload is "Hallo" (0x48616C6C6F)

4 References

- [1] Eddystone Beacon. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eddystone_\(Google\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eddystone_(Google)).
- [2] iBeacon. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IBeacon>.
- [3] Nordic Semiconductor. nRF Connect app for Android. <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=no.nordicsemi.android.mcp>.
- [4] Nordic Semiconductor. nRF Connect app for iOS. <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/nrf-connect-for-mobile/id1054362403>.

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By ordering a wireless connectivity product, you accept this license terms in all terms.

List of Figures

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Advertising | 4 |
| 2 | Example: The payload is "Hallo" (0x48616C6C6F) | 5 |
| 3 | Enable Bluetooth and the location services | 7 |
| 4 | Example: The payload is "Hallo" (0x48616C6C6F) | 8 |

List of Tables

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Raw Proteus beacon format in scan response packet | 5 |
|---|---|---|



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