Mesh Network

The following directions are for a windows instillation of the Nordic Semiconductor Mesh SDK.

Download nRF5 SDK and nRF5 SDK for Mesh

1- Go to Nordic Semiconductor Website. Click here

2- Click on **Software and tools**.

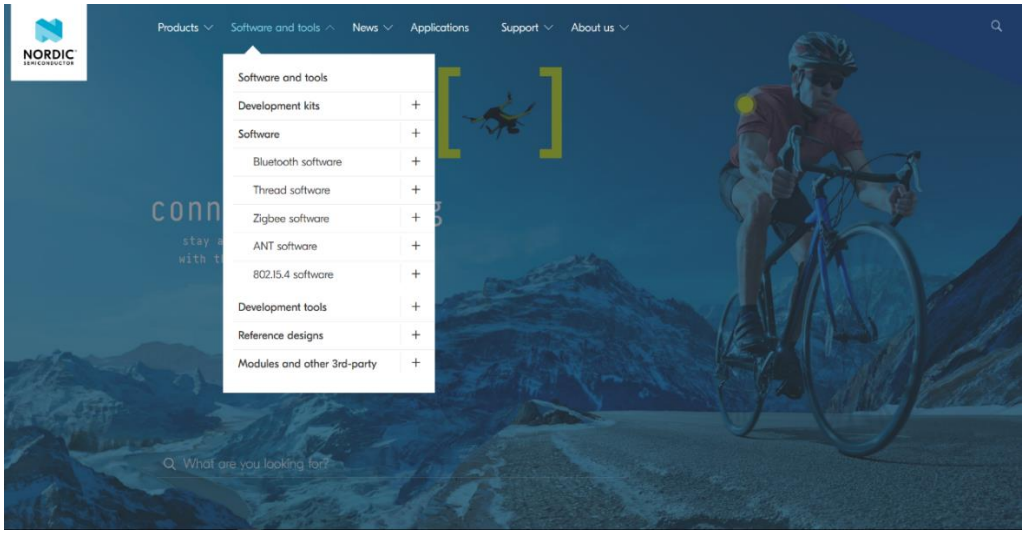


Fig 1.1: Software and Tools

3- Click on **Bluetooth software** and choose **nRF SDK**.

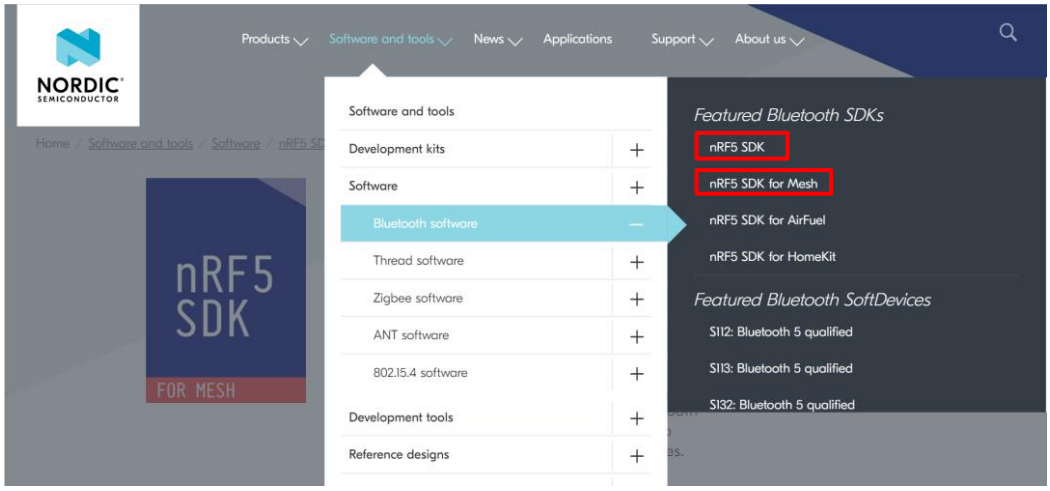


Fig 1.2: Bluetooth software

4- Once the two files have been downloaded create a directory for instillation of the SDKs such as **c:\Nordic Semi**.
5- Extract the files of **DeviceDownload.zip** into the **c:\NordicSemi** directory.

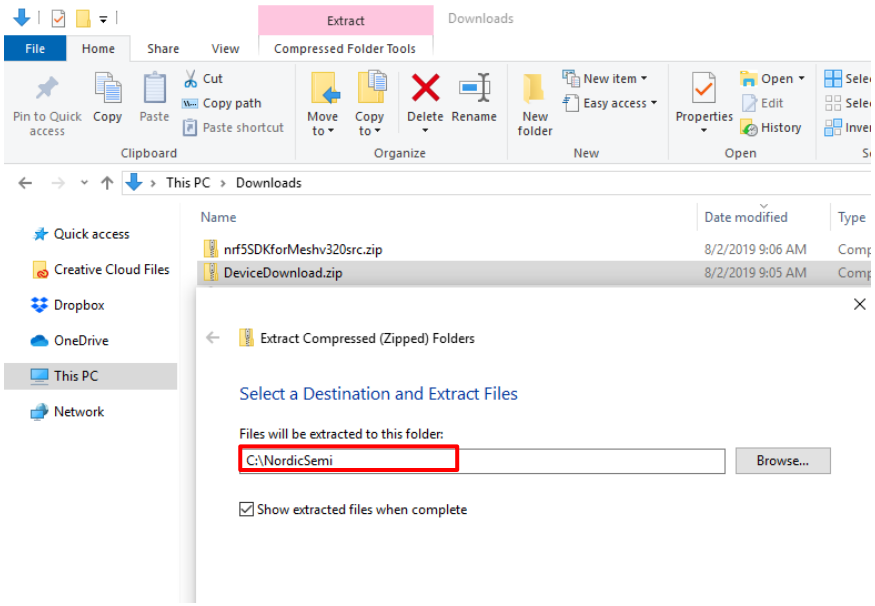


Fig 1.3: DeviceDownload.zip Extracting

6- In the **c:\NordicSemi** directory create a directory called **nRF5_sdk_for_mesh**.
7- Extract the contents of **nRF5SDKforMeshv310src.zip** into the **nRF5_sdk_for_mesh** directory.

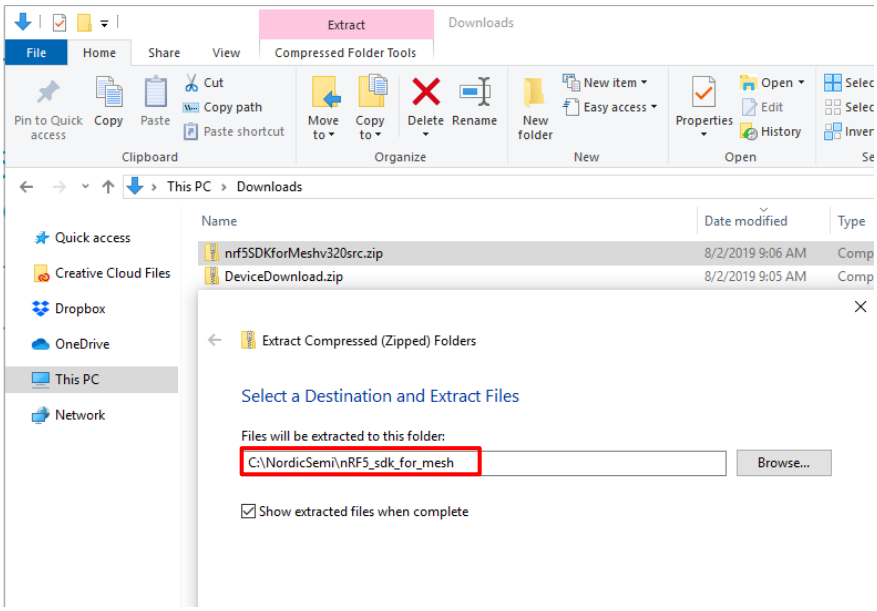


Fig 1.4: nRF5SDKforMeshv310src.zip Extracting

8- Go to **c:\NordicSemi** >> **DeviceDownload,** extract the contents of **nrf5SDK153059ac345.zip** into the **c:\NordicSemi** directory.

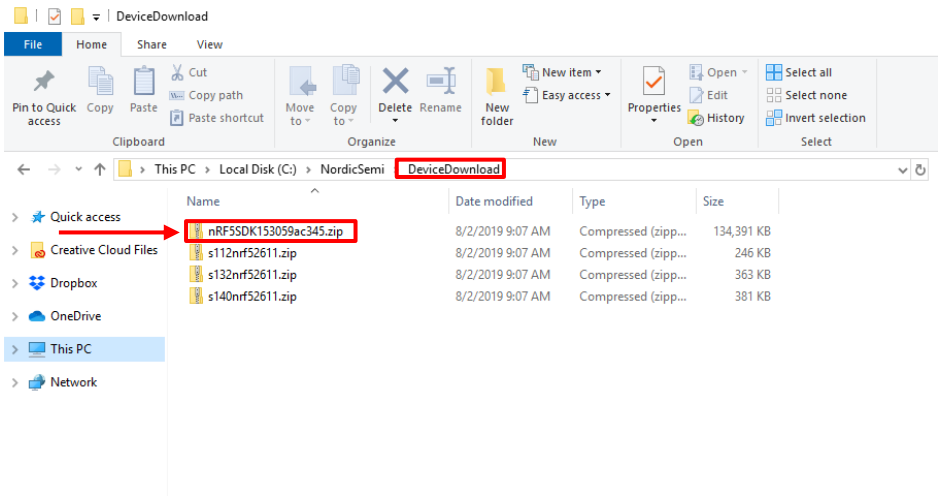


Fig 1.5: nrf5SDK153059ac345.zip Extracting

Your directory structure should now look similar to this

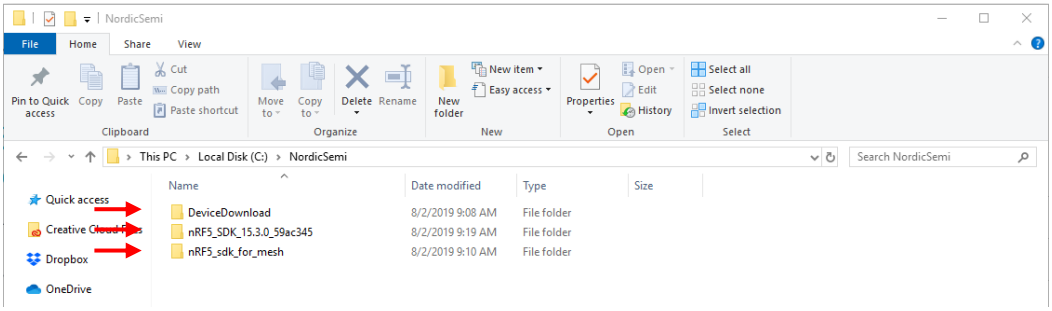


Fig 1.6: directory structure

Install Segger Studio

Since we are using Nordic Semiconductor Chips, we can get a free version of Segger Embedded Studio for this project.

1- To download Segger Embedded Studio go back to **Nordic Semiconductor** website, select **Software and tools** >>**Development tools**, or click here.

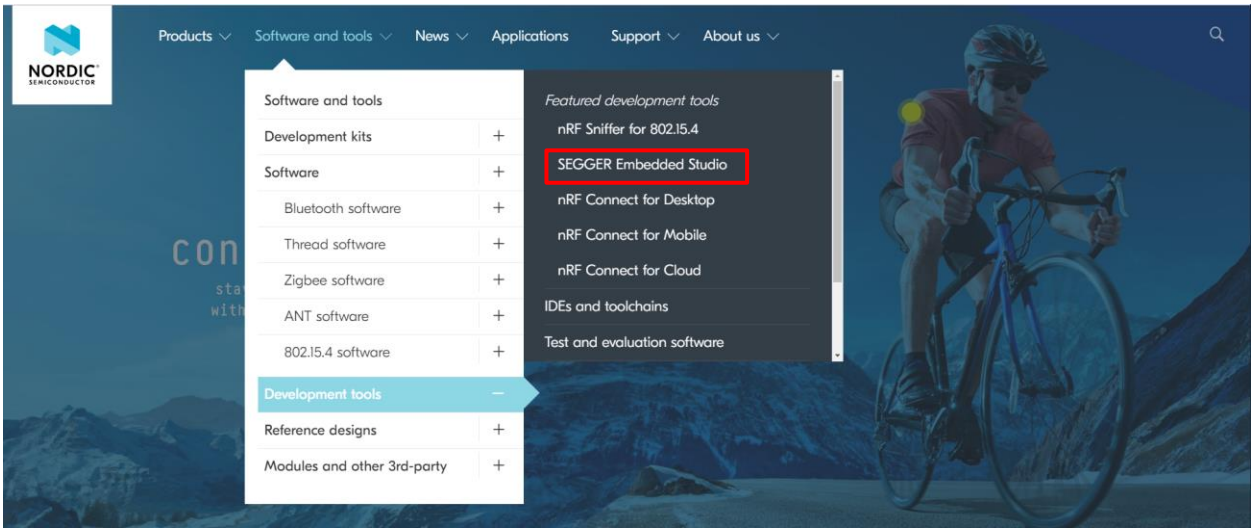


Fig 2.1: Development tools

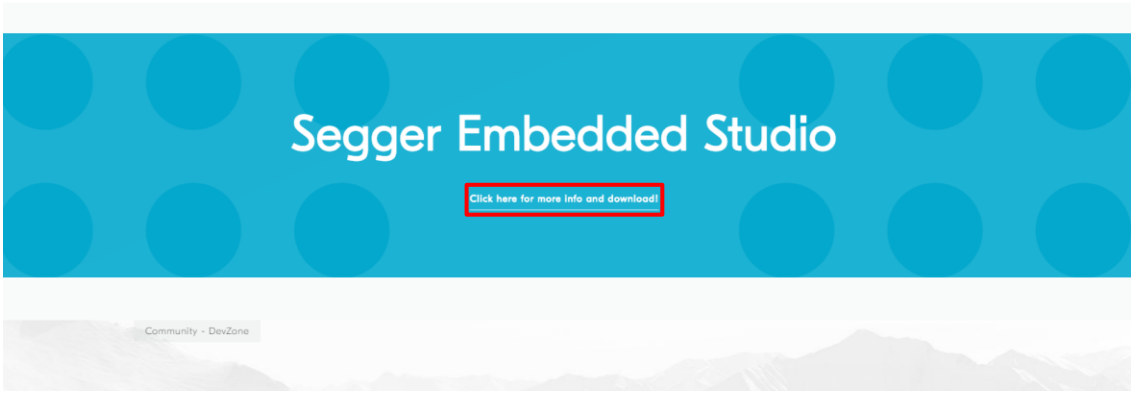


Fig 2.2: Segger Embedded Studio Download

2- On the Segger web site click the Segger Embedded Studio Downloads box and select the Embedded Studio for ARM version for your operating system

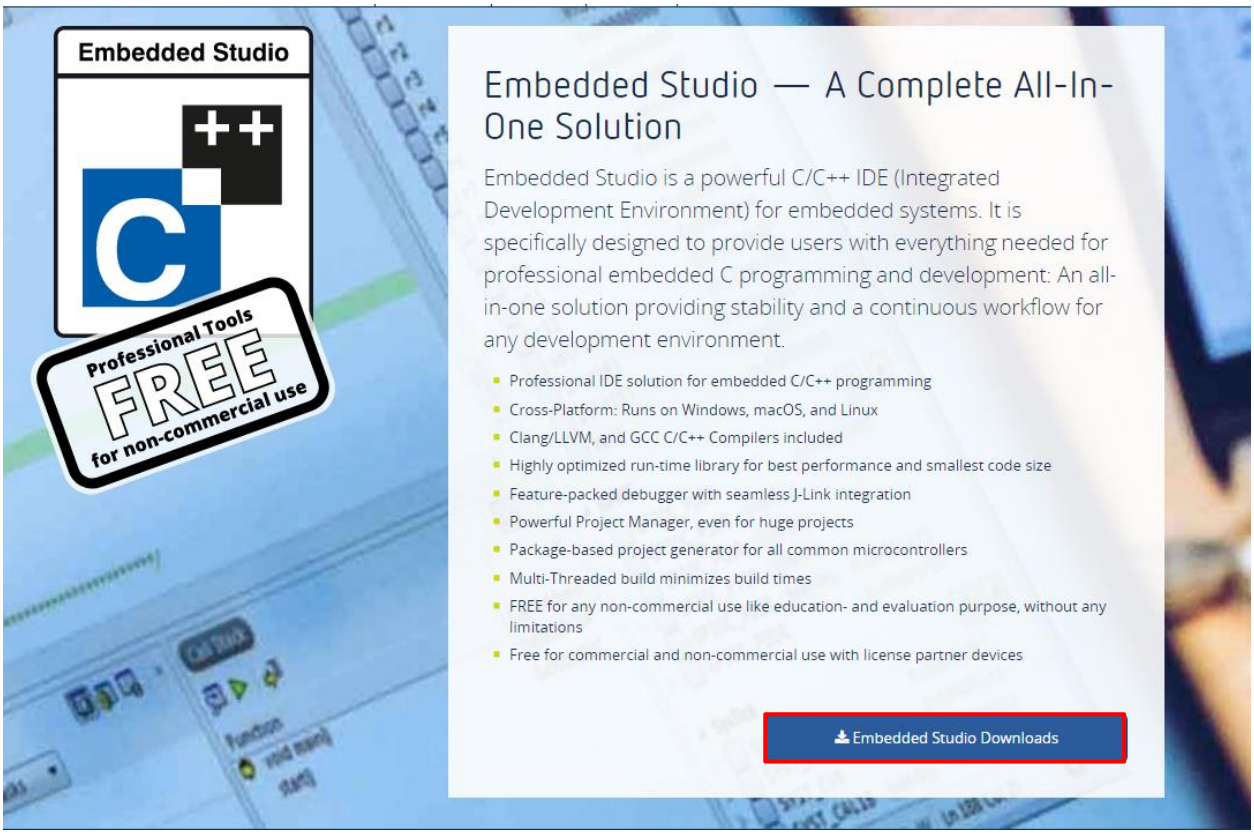


Fig 2.3: Segger Embedded Studio Downloads box

3- Run the Setup_EmbeddedStudio file Just accept all the default choices.

On the first run of Segger Studio you will see **Activate your License Dialog Box**. If you are using this for yourself, you may select the **non-commercial license** or **activate a free Nordic License**. If you are developing for a **Commercial application**, you will need to register for a free **Nordic License**

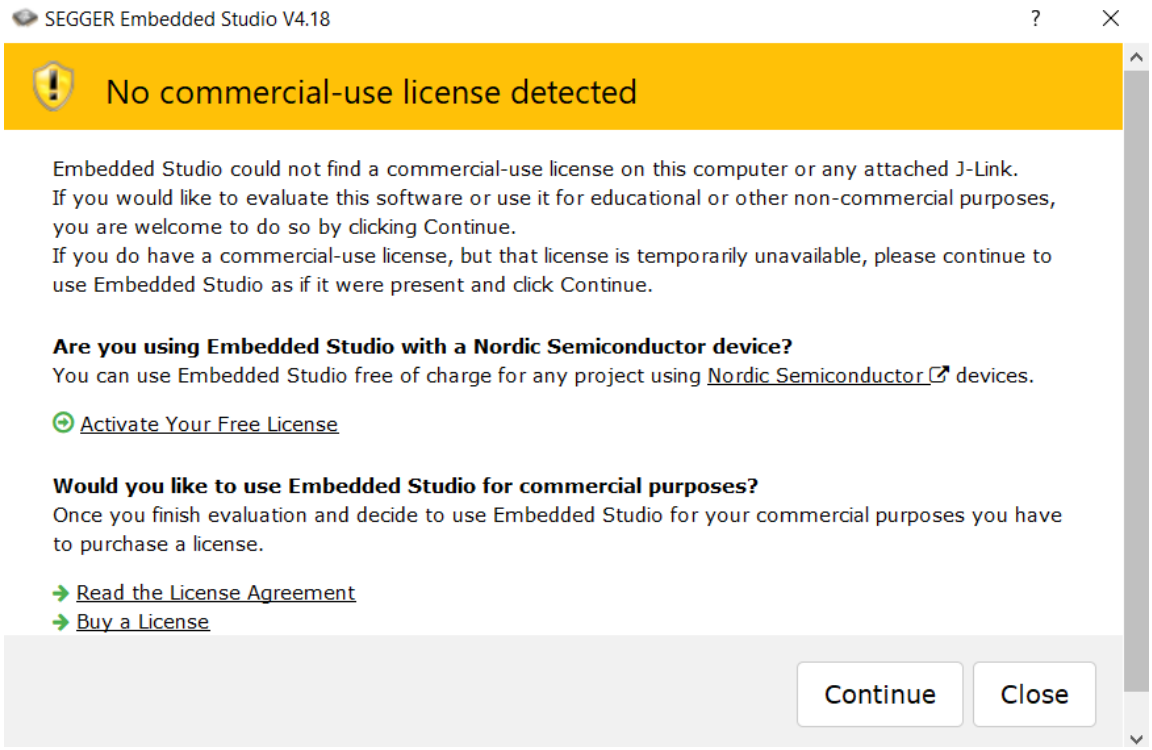


Fig 2.3: License detected box

Setting up the first Mesh Demo

1- Go to Segger Embedded Studio.

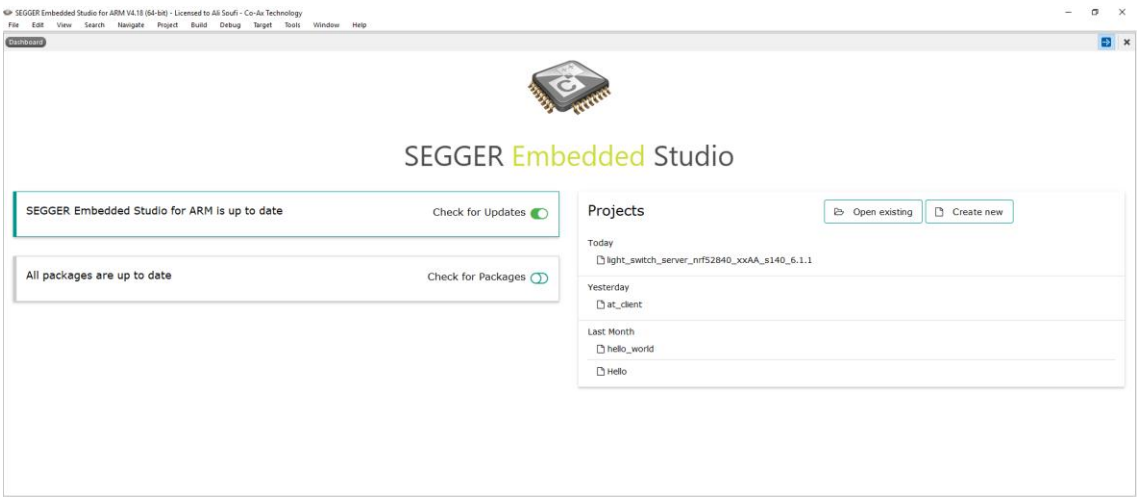


Fig 3.1: Segger Embedded Studio Dashboard

2- Select **File**>> **Open Solution,** C:\NordicSemi\nRF5_sdk_for_mesh\examples\light_switch\server\ **light_switch_server_nrf52840_xxAA_s140_6_1_1.emProject.**

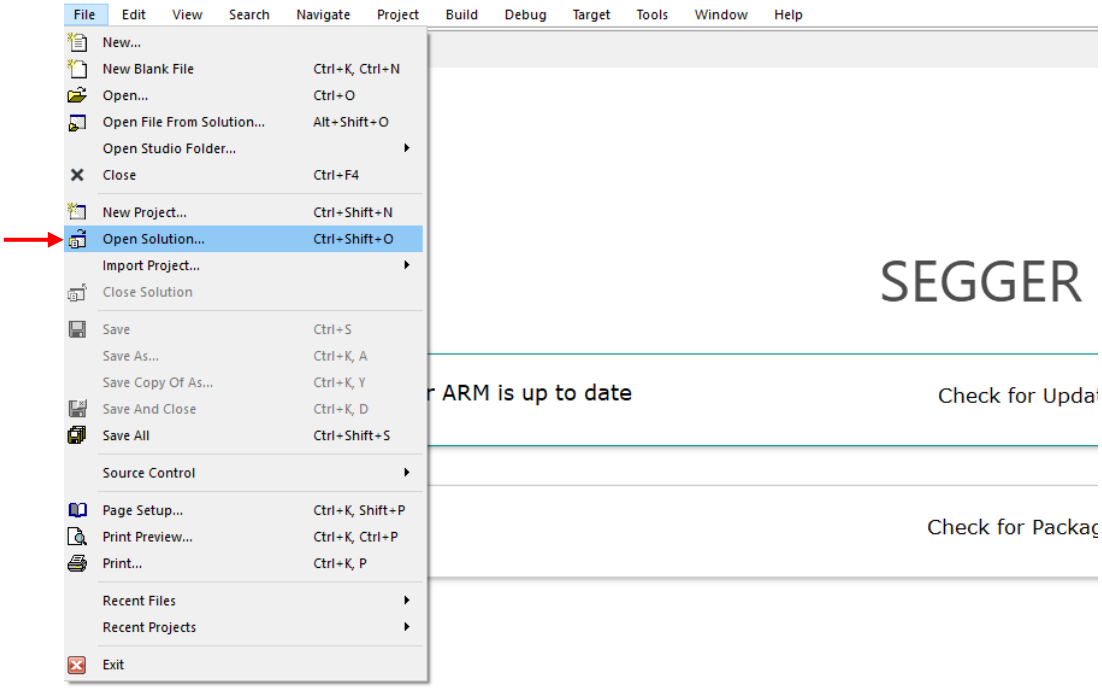


Fig 3.2: Open Solution

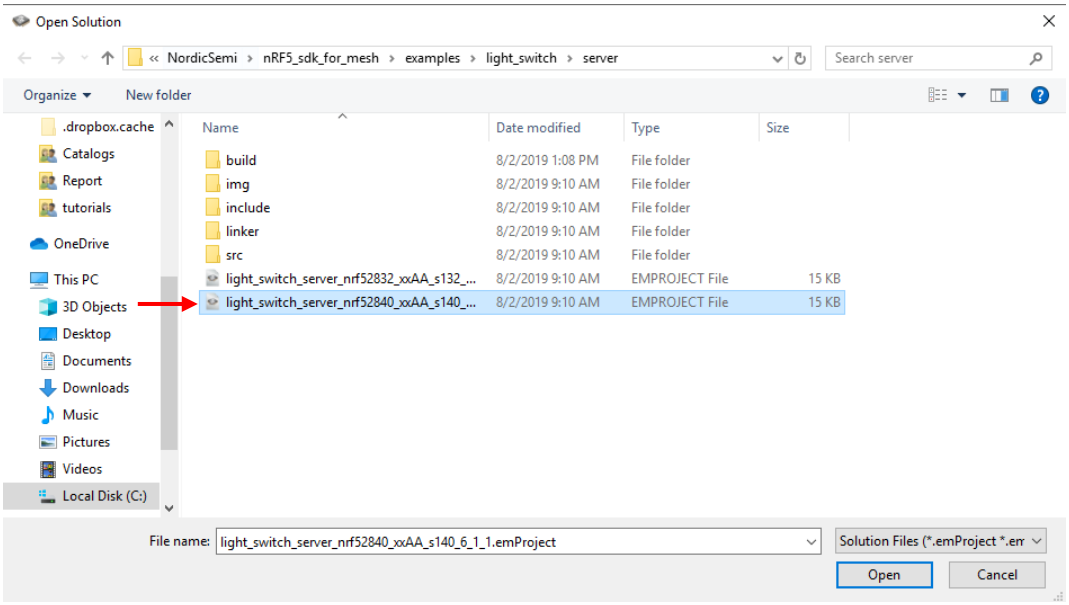


Fig 3.3: Example Directory

3- Go to **main.c** to open the program.

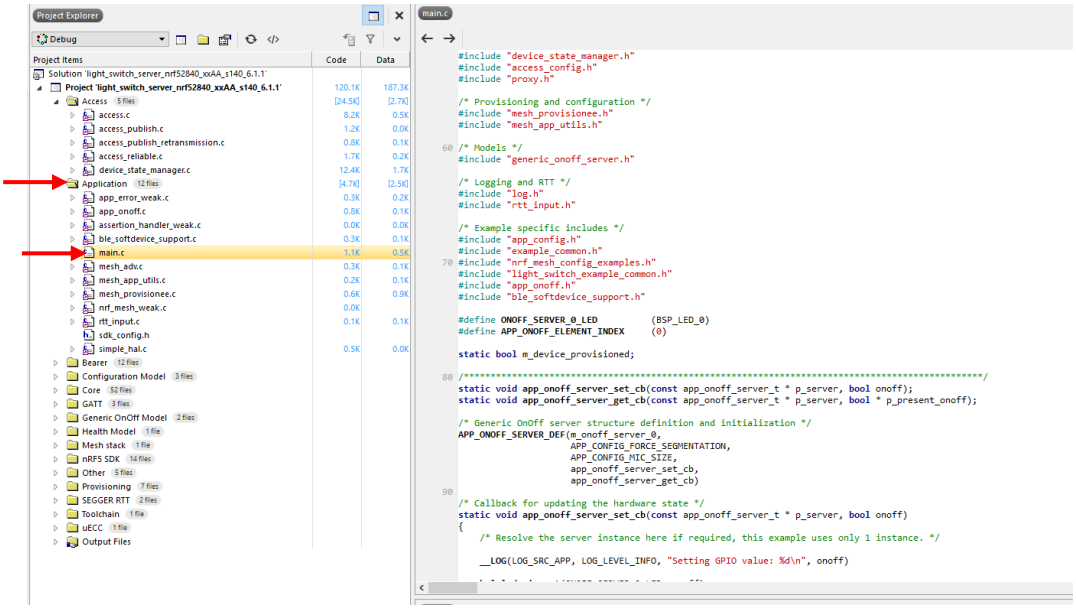


Fig 3.4: main.c

4- Select **Build**>>**Build solution**.

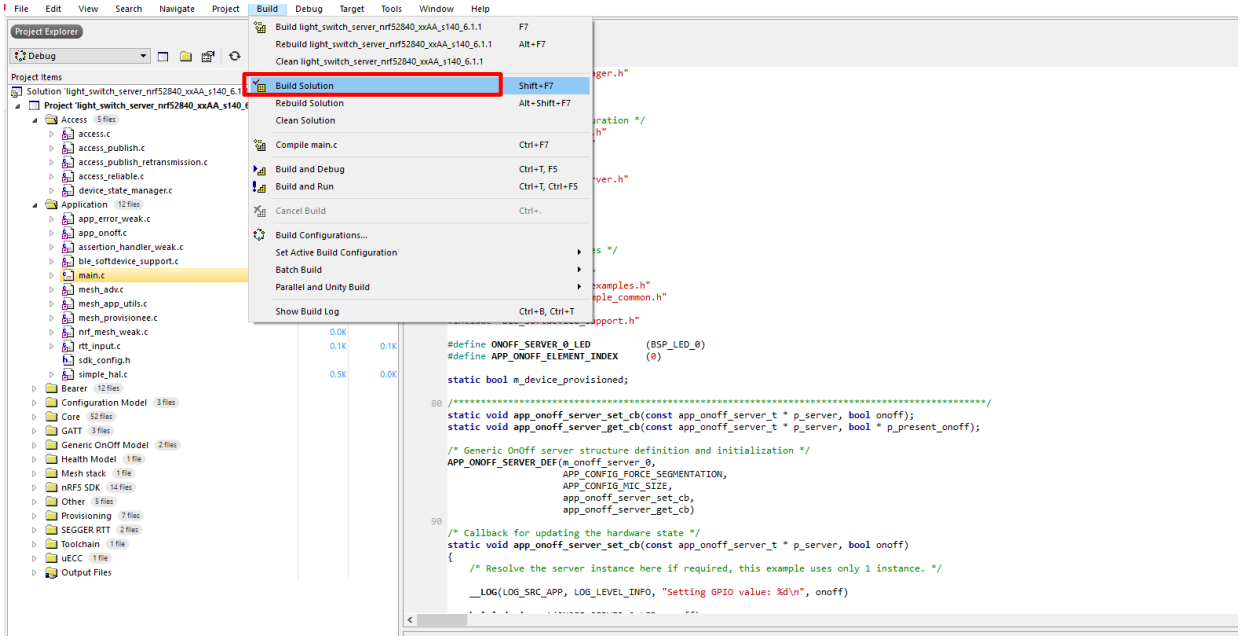


Fig 3.5: Build solution

5- Connect your board to the computer you are using and select **Target**>>**Connect J-Link.**

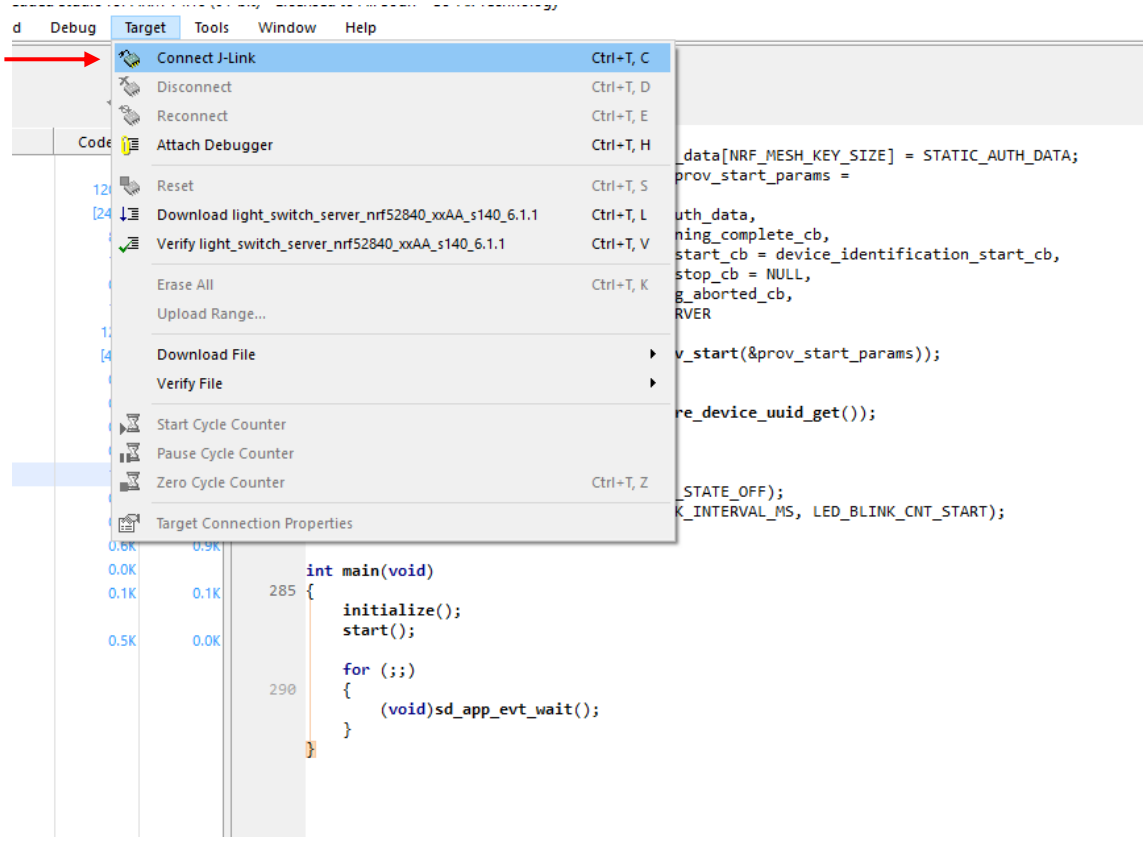


Fig 3.6: Connect J-Link

6- Click on the green arrow to program .

7- After the board programs press it again to run the program .

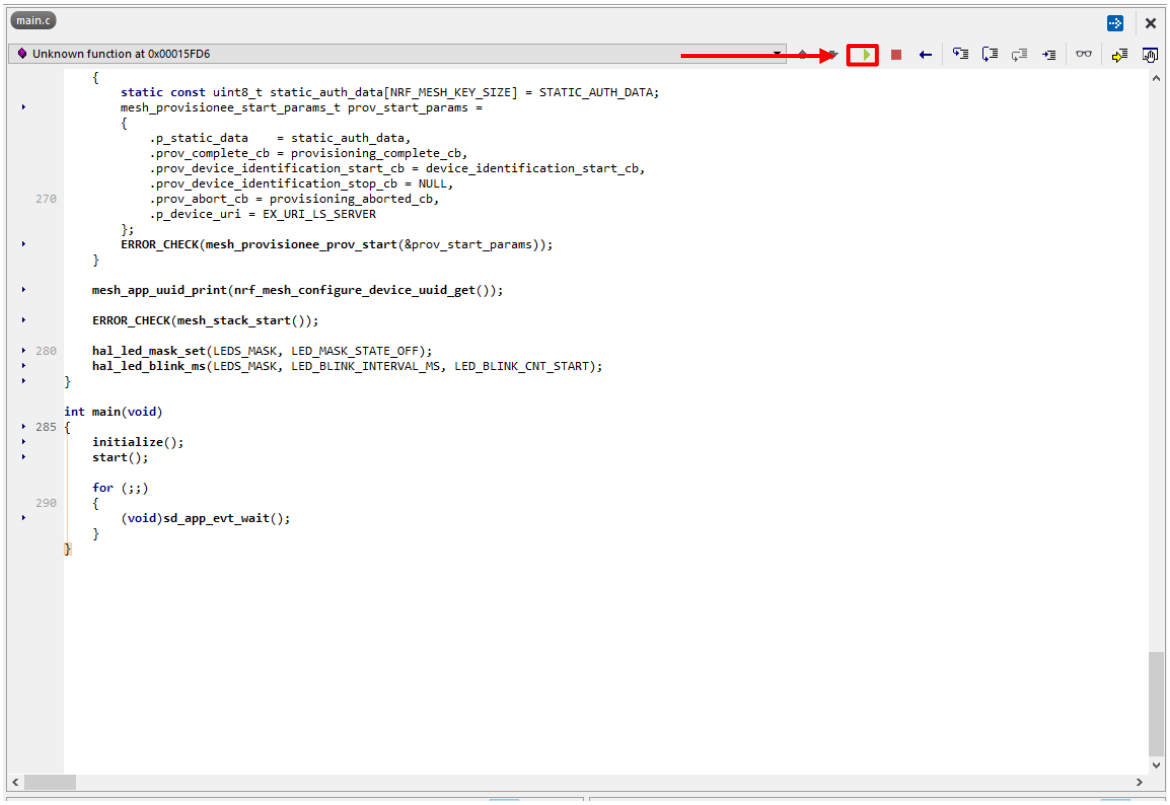


Fig 3.7: Program

For an Android Phone

1- Go to your Play Store, Search for Nordic Semiconductor and Install nRF Mesh.

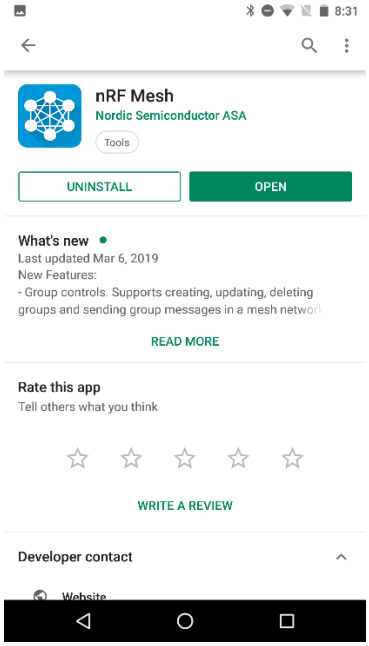


Fig 4.1: nRF Mesh Android App

2- Open nRF Mesh and press on the plus sign to scan for unprovisioned nodes.

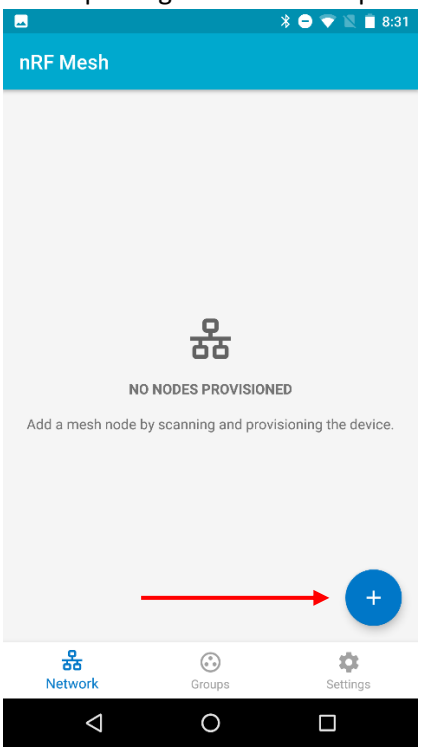


Fig 4.2: nRF Mesh

3- You will see nRF5x Mesh Light in the list touch it to select.

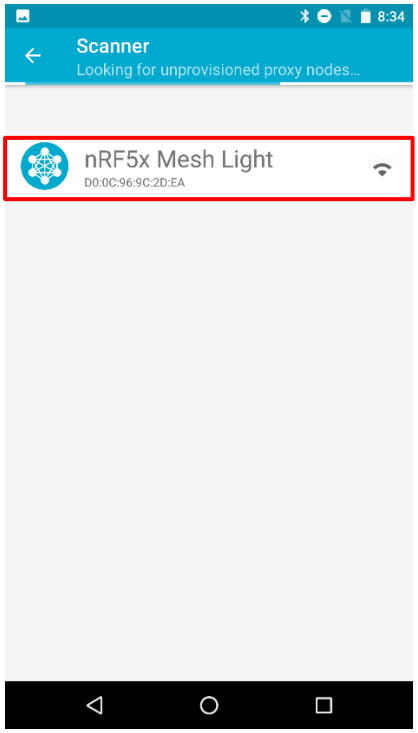


Fig 4.3: nRF5x Mesh Light

4- Press **IDENTIFY** the board will flash the LEDS and change to the Provision Option.

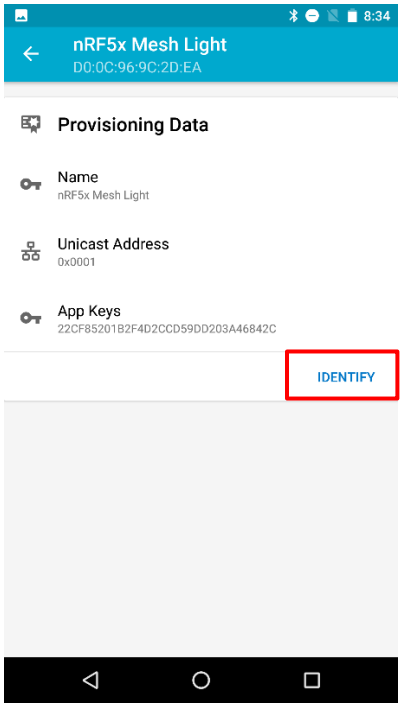


Fig 4.4: nRF Mesh IDENTIFY

5- Press provision.

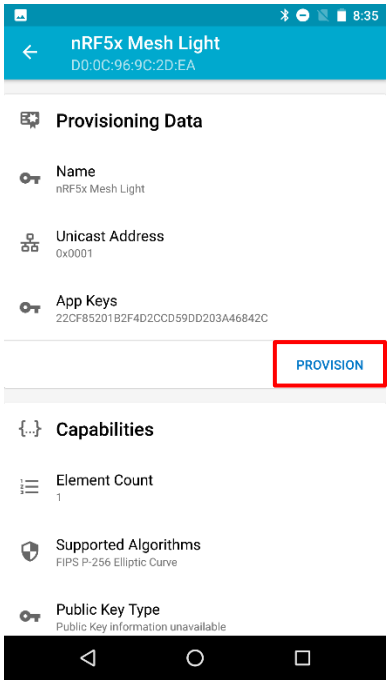
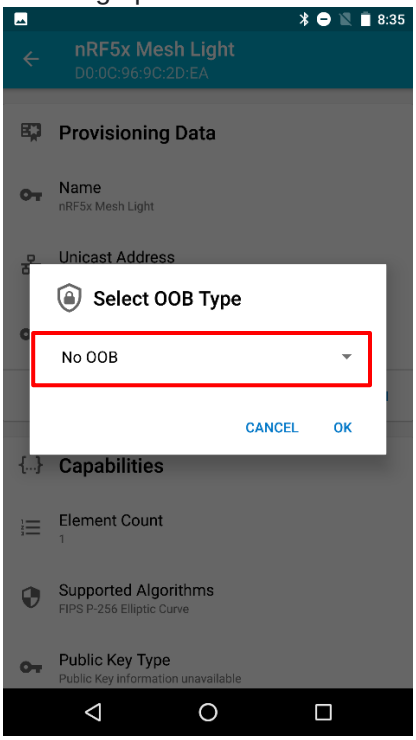


Fig 4.5: nRF Mesh PROVISION

6- Select no OOB for the provisioning option and observe the steps on the screen.



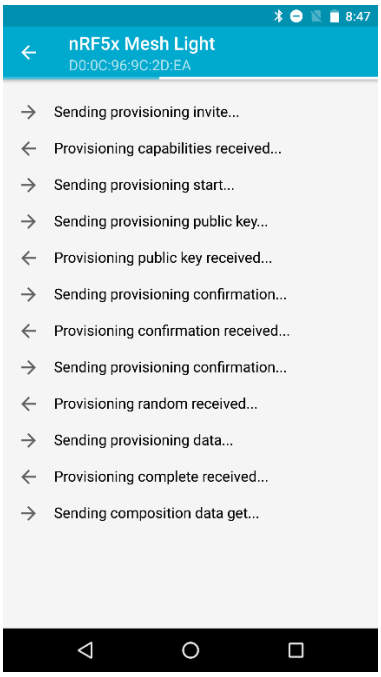


Fig 4.7: nRF Mesh provision options

Fig 4.6: nRF Mesh No OOB

7- Once the node has been provisioned connect to the node by touching gear in the nRf52x Mesh Light.

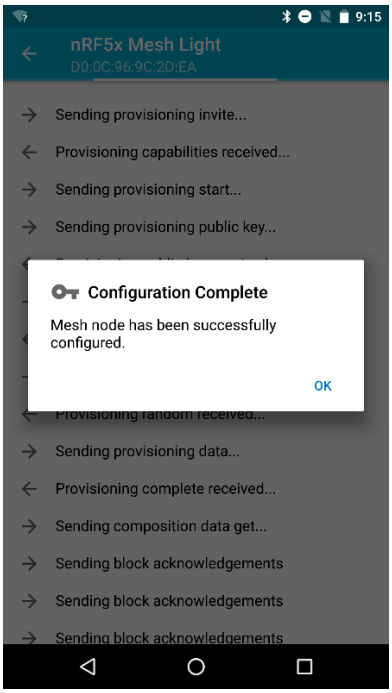


Fig 4.8: nRF Mesh Configuration

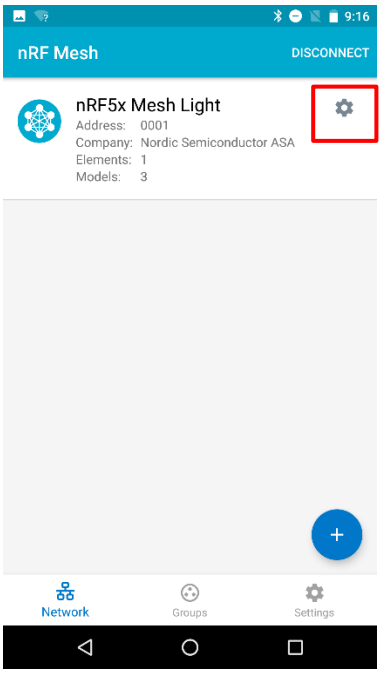


Fig 4.9: nRF Mesh node connecting

8- Press the down arrow in the Elements.

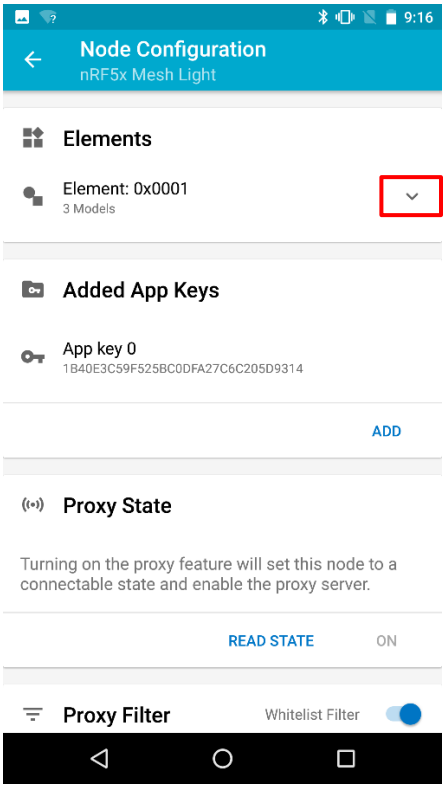


Fig 4.10: nRF Mesh Elements

9- Three elements will be displayed the Configuration Server, the Health Server and the Generic On Off Server. Touch the Generic On Off Server.

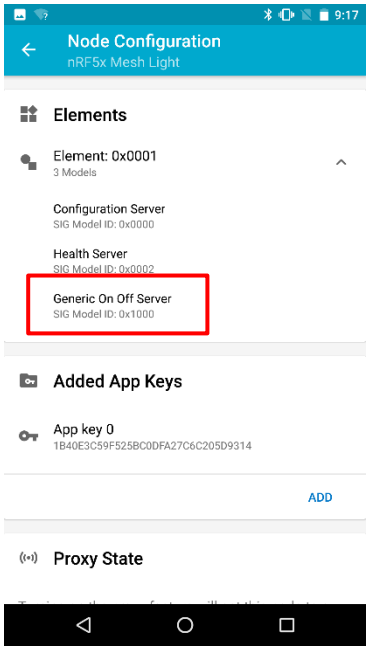


Fig 4.11: Generic On Off Server

10- On the top of the screen will be the Bound App Keys. Press the Bind Key and select App Key 0.

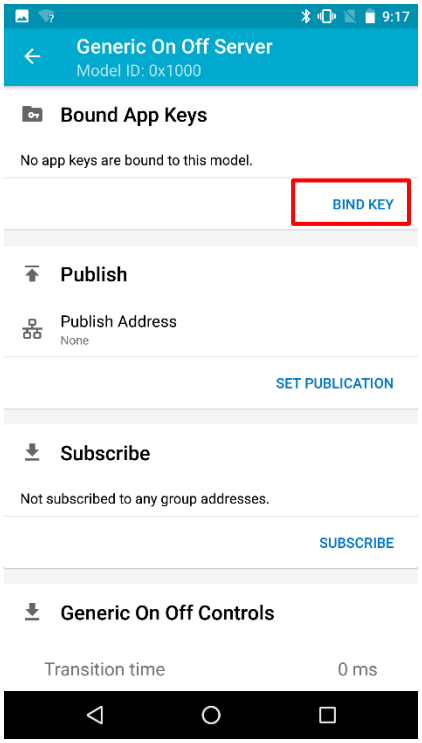


Fig 4.12: nRF Mesh Bind Key

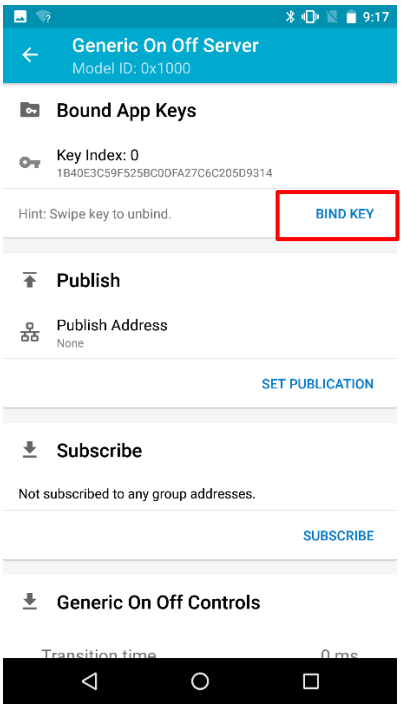


Fig 4.13: App Key 0

11- The Bounded keys will now display the value of Key Index 0. Scroll down to the Generic On Off Controls. You can now experiment with the controls and observe the behavior of the node.

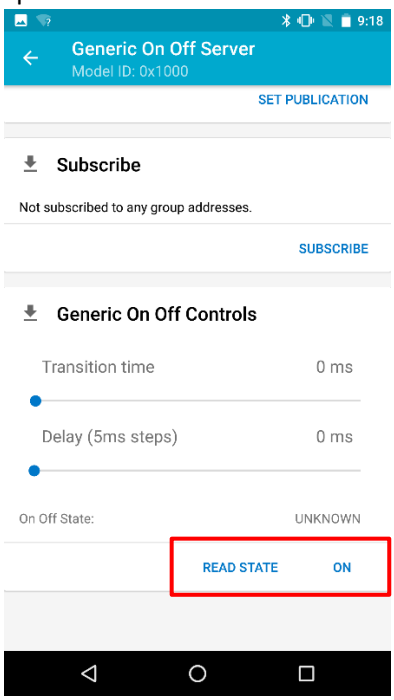


Fig 4.14: Generic On Off Controls

The Nodes provisdioning information may be cleared by pressing button 4 on the board, the four LEDS will blink several times and the provisioning information will be cleared. You will then need to go in to the settings on the phone and reset the mesh network to reprovision the device.

If you are using an iPhone, you will need to view the provisioning log

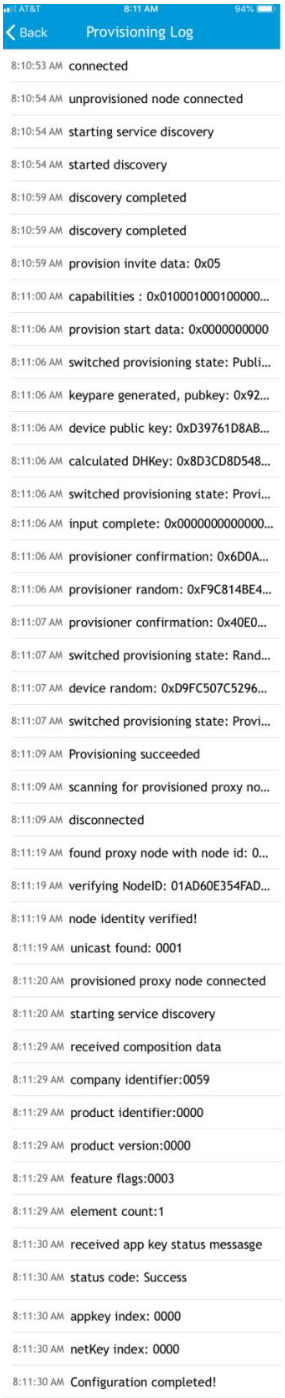


Fig 4.15: provisioning log

Programming a Client Board

To program another board as a client, follow the directions.

1- Open Segger Embedded studio again.
2- Close the first solution by selecting **File>>Close solution**.
3- After closing the first solution Select **File>>Open solution**, C:\NordicSemi1\nRF5_sdk_for_mesh\examples\light_switch**client\light_switch_client_nrf52840_xxAA_s140_6_1_1.emProject**

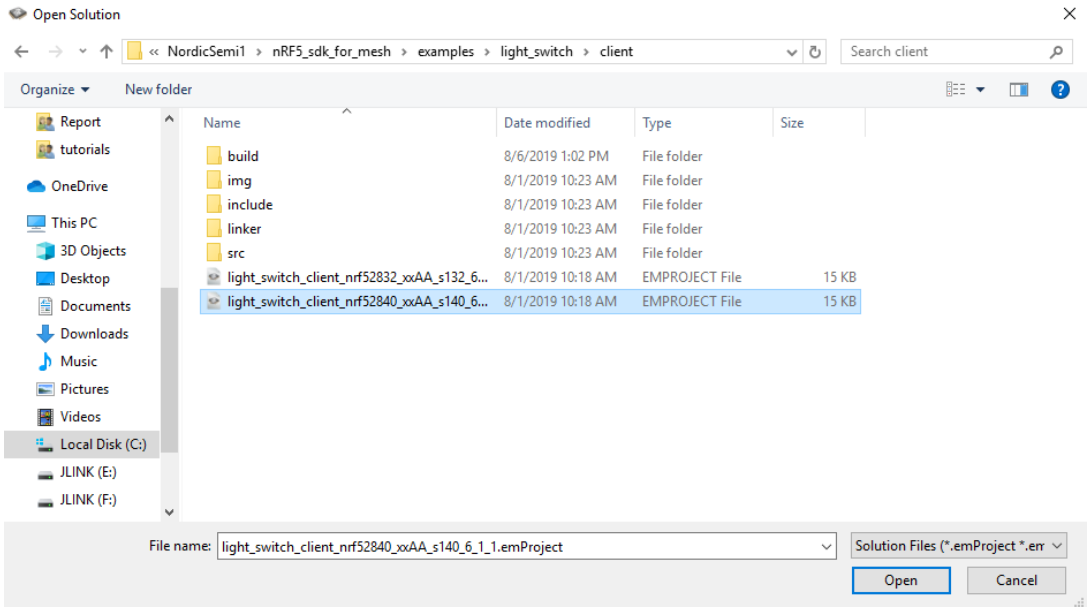


Fig 5.1: Client Example Directory

4- Connect the second board (Client), then build and program the example just like the server example.
5- To provision the client board, go to the nRF mesh app on your phone and click on the plus sign to scan for unprovisioned node.

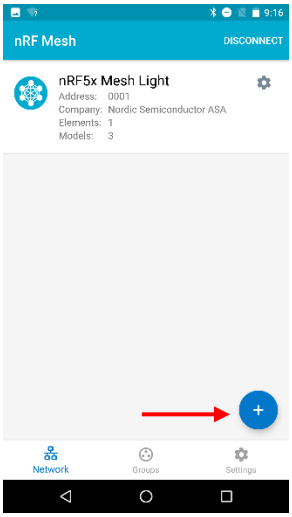


Fig 5.2: Screening for unprovisioned node

6- You will see nRF5x Mesh switch in the list touch it to select.

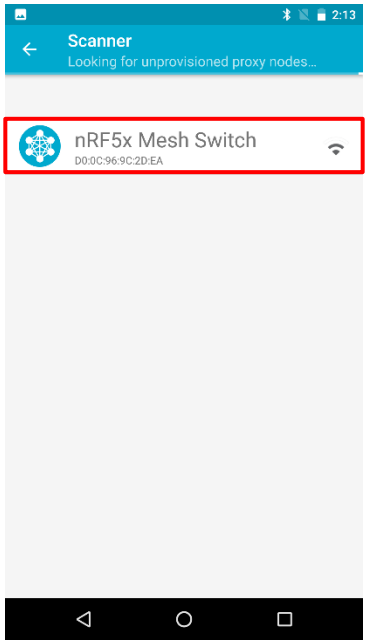


Fig 5.3: Selecting nRF5 mesh switch

7- Press **IDENTIFY** the board will flash the LEDS and change to the Provision Option.
8- Press provision.
9- Select no OOB for the provisioning option and observe the steps on the screen.

10- Once the node has been provisioned connect to the node by touching gear in the nRf52x Mesh Switch.

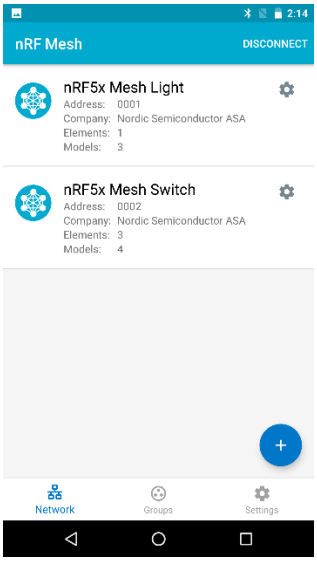


Fig 5.4: nRF5 mesh

11- Press the down arrow in the Elements.

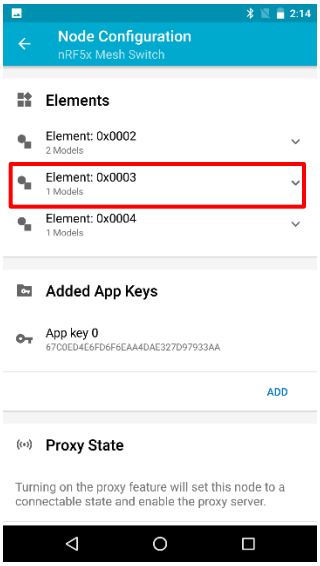


Fig 5.5: nRF5 mesh Elements

12- Three elements will be displayed press on element 3 and touch the Generic on Off Client.

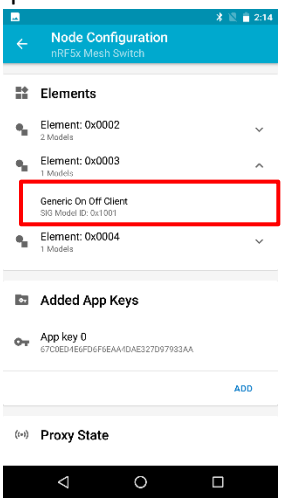


Fig 5.6: Generic on Off Client

13- On the top of the screen will be the Bound App Keys. Press the Bind Key and select App Key 0.

14- Select Publish to add a Publish Address, which is the nRF5 Mesh Light Address (0001) in our case and **Apply**.

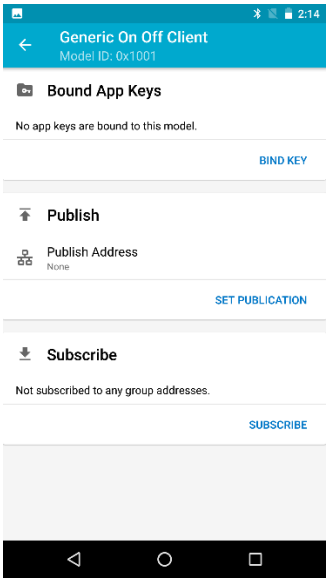


Fig 5.7: Publish, Subscribe settings

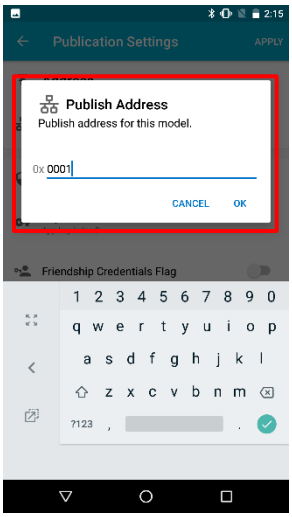


Fig 5.6: Publish Address

Now you should be able to control your Client board through your Server board.

Long Range mesh network

A long-range Bluetooth mesh networks is the ability of transferring more data with a longer distance between the transmitter and the receiver.

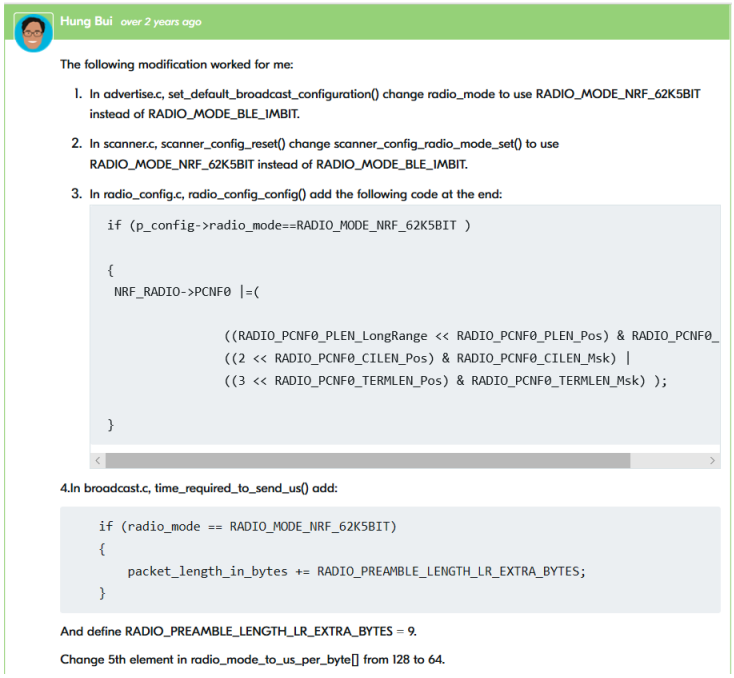
How?

As radio waves propagates over a distance the power density (Signal strength) gets reduced. Theoretically, when the antenna dimensions are very small compared to distance, doubling the distance results in ¼ th the energy density at the receiving point. To maintain the minimum energy density for a successful reception over a long distance, range can be increased by adding output power.

Bluetooth 5 long range feature provides a way to increase range without affecting output power, by reducing the baud rate. Which makes your device compatible with normal mesh devices and operating outside of the Bluetooth mesh specifications.

The following directions explain how to apply the previous example with a long range.

1- The modifications need to be made to the Nordic Mesh SDK are curtesy of Hung Bui of Nordic Semiconductor posted to the Nordic DevZone. [https://devzone.nordicsemi.com/f/nordic-q-a/29813/change-phy-in-mesh.](https://devzone.nordicsemi.com/f/nordic-q-a/29813/change-phy-in-mesh)



Hung Bui *over 2 years ago*

The following modification worked for me:

1. In advertise.c, set_default_broadcast_configuration() change radio_mode to use RADIO_MODE_NRF_62K5BIT instead of RADIO_MODE_BLE_1MBIT.
2. In scanner.c, scanner_config_reset() change scanner_config_radio_mode_set() to use RADIO_MODE_NRF_62K5BIT instead of RADIO_MODE_BLE_1MBIT.
3. In radio_config.c, radio_config_config() add the following code at the end:

```
if (p_config->radio_mode==RADIO_MODE_NRF_62K5BIT )

{
 NRF_RADIO->PCNF0 |=(

                ((RADIO_PCNF0_PLEN_LongRange << RADIO_PCNF0_PLEN_Pos) & RADIO_PCNF0_
                ((2 << RADIO_PCNF0_CILEN_Pos) & RADIO_PCNF0_CILEN_Msk) |
                ((3 << RADIO_PCNF0_TERMLEN_Pos) & RADIO_PCNF0_TERMLEN_Msk) );

}
```

4.In broadcast.c, time_required_to_send_us() add:

```
if (radio_mode == RADIO_MODE_NRF_62K5BIT)
{
    packet_length_in_bytes += RADIO_PREAMBLE_LENGTH_LR_EXTRA_BYTES;
}
```

And define RADIO_PREAMBLE_LENGTH_LR_EXTRA_BYTES = 9.

Change 5th element in radio_mode_to_us_per_byte[] from 128 to 64.

Fig 6.1: Modifications

Notice that in the first step the file to be modified is **advertiser.c**

2- Make a copy of nRF5_sdk_for_mesh and rename it to be nRF5_sdk_for_mesh_long_range
3- Open Segger Embedded Studio.
4- Select File>>Open solution>> **nRF5_sdk_for_mesh_long_range**\examples\light_switch\server\ **light_switch_server_nrf52840_xxAA_s140_6_1_1.emProject**

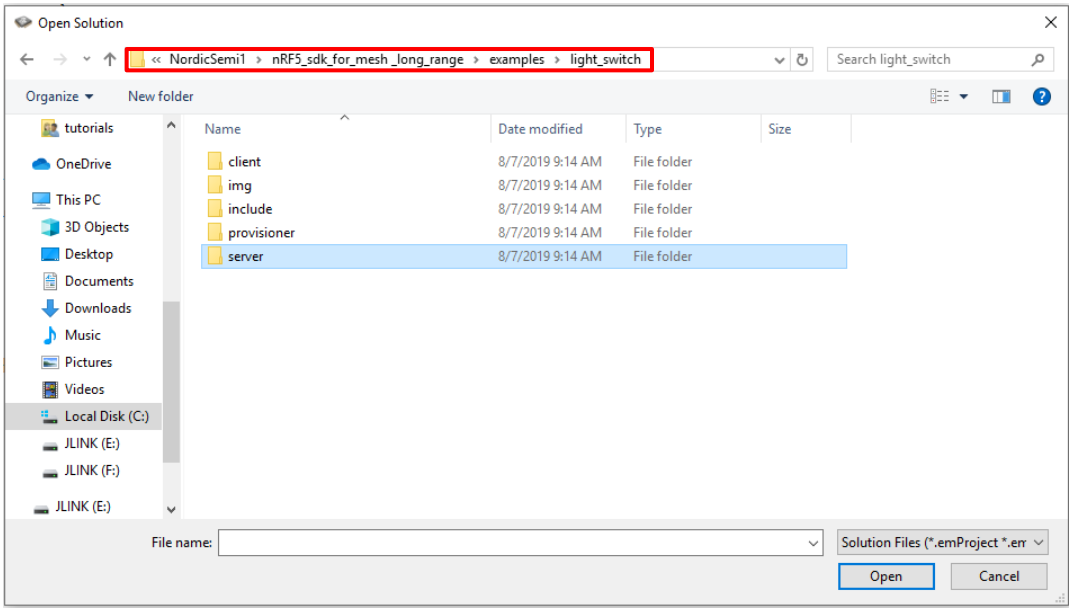


Fig 6.2: Long range example directory

5- Find the mentioned files and modify them based on the directions.

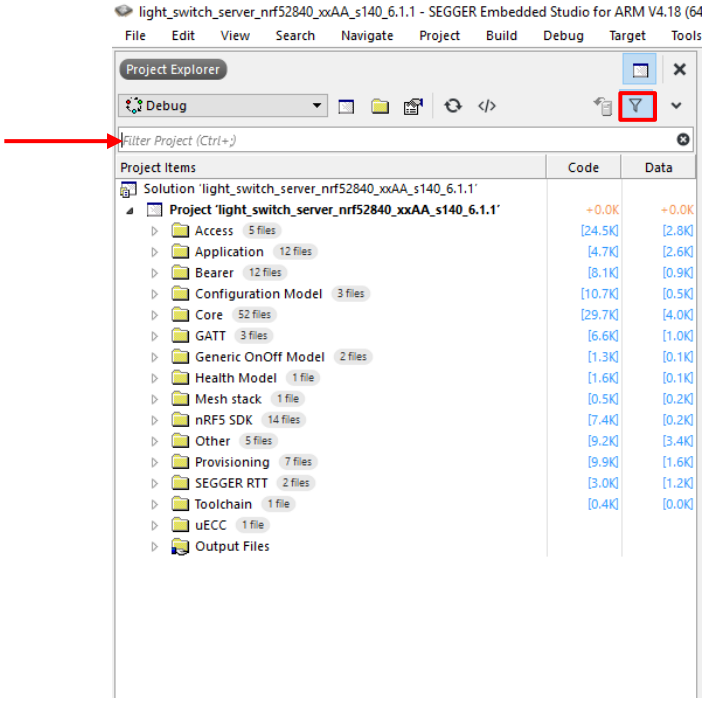


Fig 6.3: Find files

6- Go back to the **Nordic** Website and download a new copy of the **nRF5 SDK** and extract **nRF5_SDK_15.3.0_59ac345** in your **NordicSemi** file.

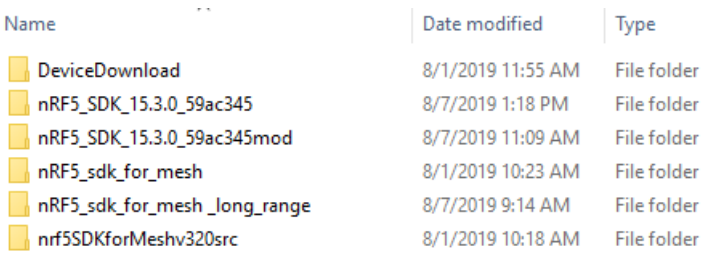


Fig 6.4: The new directory

7- Connect the board you will use as a server to the computer and program it using the server example in the long range file.
8- Connect the board you will use as a client and program it using the client example in the long rage file.
9- Use the nRF mesh app on your phone to provision the two nodes, jus like the example in page 20.
After provisioning nodes, you will be able to control the LED in the client board using the switch in the server board.

Long Range Test with Different Antenna Patterns:

To see the difference the antenna patterns make on the overall performance and the difference between long range and normal mesh behavior we in CTi smart systems have done the following test, using 2 Rigado BMD-340 Evaluation Kits , referred to as Rigado units and 2 Nordic nRF52840-Preview-DK, referred to as Nordic units.

Many people are aware that the Long Range PHY is not a part of the BLE Mesh standard but as we only need to communicate with our devices range and penetration are the main concerns.

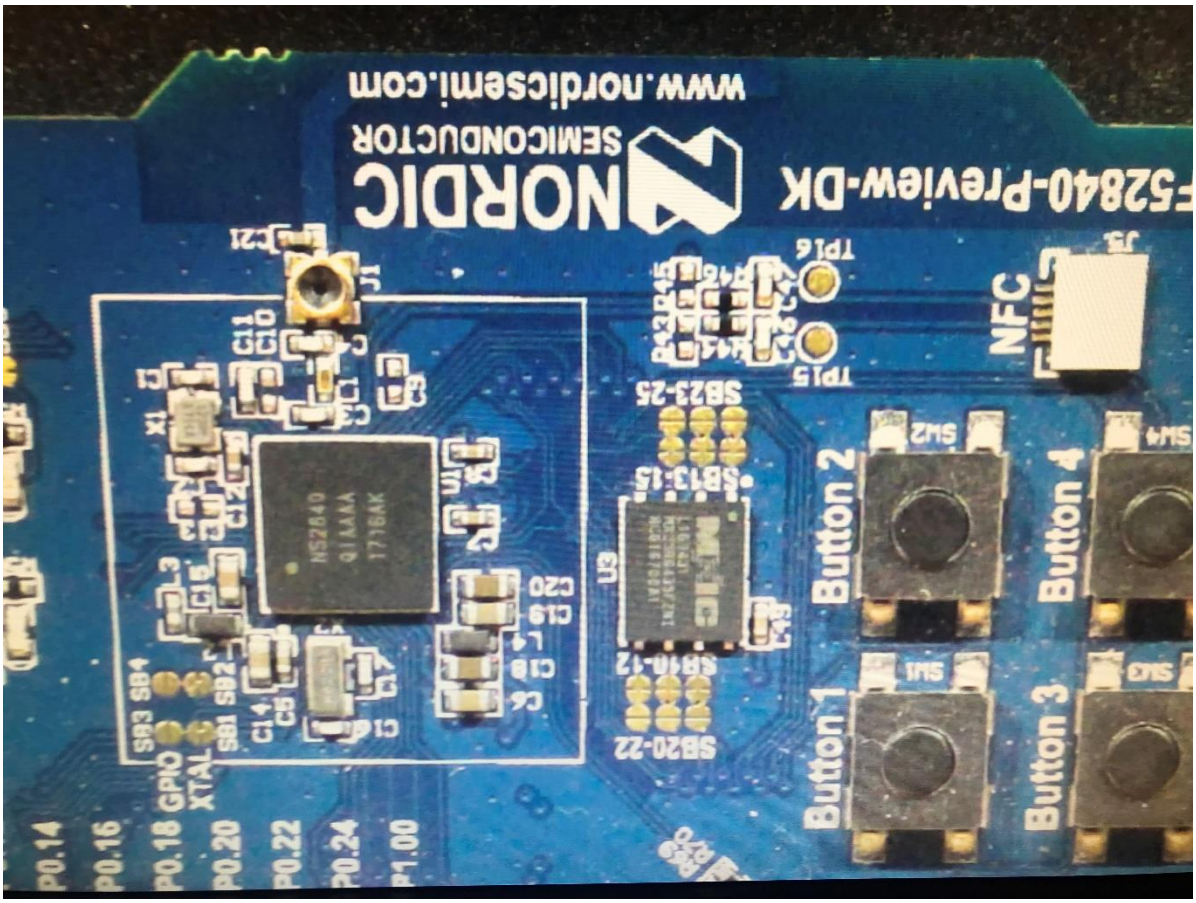


Fig 7.1: Nordic unit antenna

Looking closely at the Phone it can be seen that the Nordic nRF52840-Preview-DK uses a quarter wave monopole Antenna running under the www.nordicsemi.com

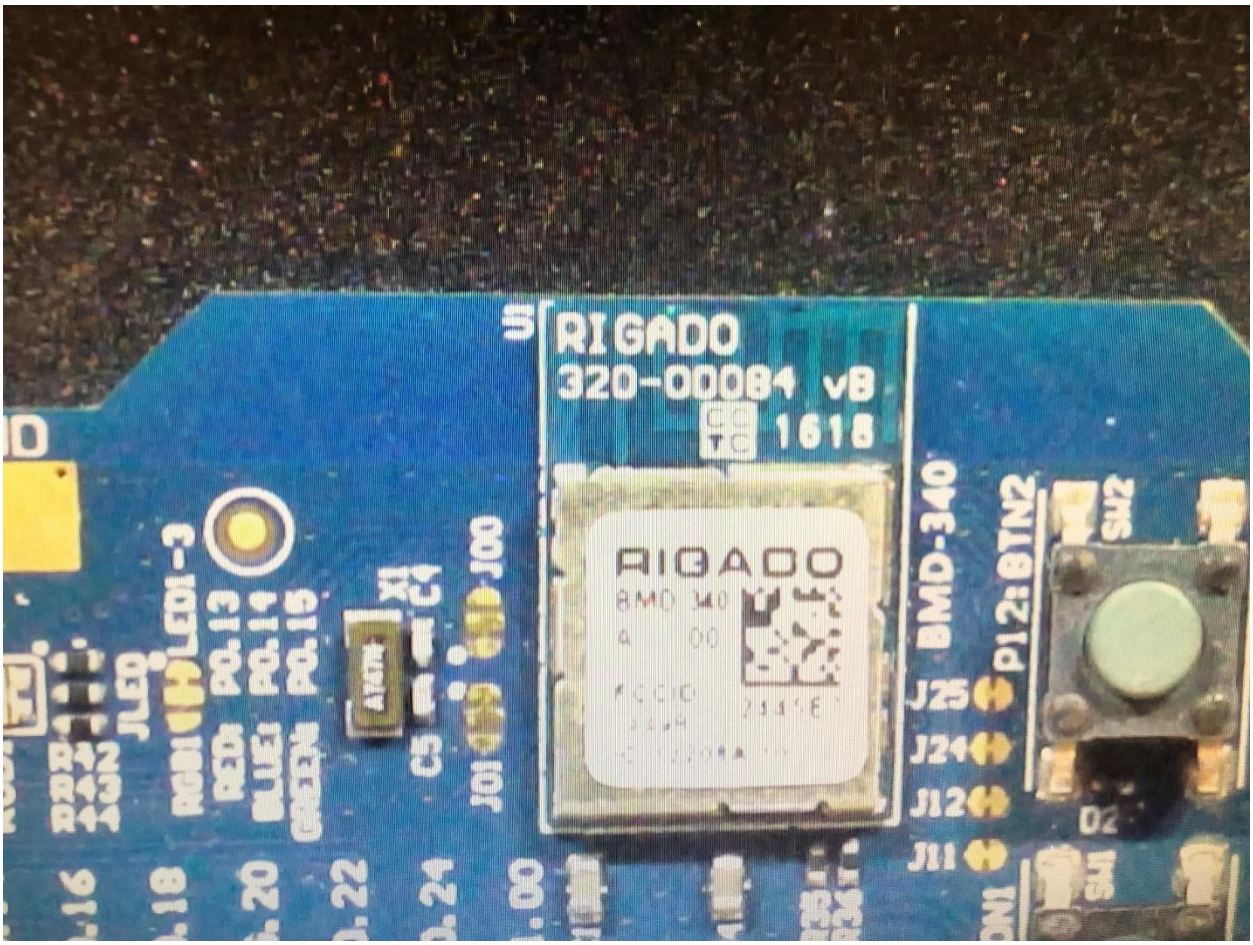


Fig 7.2: Rigado unit antenna

While the Antenna on the Rigado is bent into a Meandering design as seen under the RIGADO id.

Rigado Units Range Test:

The two **Rigado** units were programed for Long Range with the Mesh set to 62K5BIT for the physical layer and transmitting at 0dBm we configured them using nRF Mesh as the provisioner. First, we ran the test achieving a distance of **560 feet**.

The **Rigado** units were then reprogramed with the with the Mesh set to 1MBIT for the physical layer and transmitting at 0dBm for Normal Mesh Operation. Repeating the range test, we achieved **260 feet**.

Nordic Units Range Test:

Next the **Nordic** units were programed for Long Range with the Mesh set to 62K5BIT for the physical layer and transmitting at 0dBm we configured them using nRF Mesh as the provisioner. The range test provided **700 feet**.

The **Nordic** units were then reprogramed with the Mesh set to 1MBIT for the physical layer and transmitting at 0dBm for Normal Mesh Operation. The range test we achieved **560 feet**, however there is a rise where we were conducting the test, and this may have attributed to the range being less than the expected doubling.