

IQRF® Technical Guide



IQRF overview

IQRF provides a complete platform for **wireless** connectivity. It includes **hardware** (transceivers, gateways, repeaters, accessories, development tools, ...), **software**, **protocols**, **standards**, **alliance**, **support**, and **services**. IQRF core values are **Industrial reliability**, True low power, Ultimate security, **Simple integration** and **Interoperability**.

Technology characteristic

IQRF is a wireless (**RF**) technology for the license-free **ISM** bands (currently mainly **868 MHz** and **916 MHz**). It requires **no infrastructure by external providers**, **no license** and **no carrier fees**.

It is focused on **low speed** (20 kb/s), **low power** (battery operated), and **low data** volume **packet-oriented** bidirectional communication (with packets up to 64 B).

RF range

- In buildings Tens of meters
- In open space Hundreds of meters
- In networks Up to several kilometers

Generic usage

IQRF can **make any device wireless**. It can be used **with any electronic equipment**, whenever there is a need for wireless transfer, e.g. remote control or monitoring of remotely acquired data. Typical IQRF usage is **IoT**, e.g. telemetry, industrial control and automation of buildings and cities (lighting, parking, etc.). It excels in street lighting.



IQRF is based on the RF **transceiver** (**TR**) which allows any devices to communicate wirelessly with each other. The functionality is quite **generic** and depends only on the **software uploaded** in the TR.

Two SW layers are provided with TRs:

- **OS** (Operating System): **lower layer**, providing powerful support for all **TR resources**.
- DPA (Direct Peripheral Access): optional higher layer with enhanced network functionality.

Specific functionality can be achieved by extending with additional software that can be written in C language by the user's application engineer.

Communication topologies

Point-to-point

Communication can be simple (**point-to-point**, bidirectional) between **two** or **more** devices at the same level (**peer-to-peer**) and within **direct RF range** of each other. However, such a simple IQRF application often means cracking nuts with a steam hammer. IQRF's greatest strength lies in "real" **networks**.

Mesh network

The most powerful and reliable network type is **mesh**. It enables packet deliveries even between devices **out of the direct RF range**. In mesh, packets are propagated (**routed**) to their destination by **hopping** over other network devices that are in range of each other. The more possible hops between nodes, the more **redundant paths** are available. This allows to bypass obstacles and unpassable areas which makes mesh communication **robust** and **reliable**.

IQMESH network

The IQRF **mesh** routing protocol is called **IQMESH**[®]. It is a completely unique approach using sophisticated **routing techniques** including directional flooding algorithm as well as numerous unique and often **patented features**. This ensures an outstandingly **efficient**, **deterministic**, **collision free** and **extremely reliable** traffic.

Routing capability can be provided in two ways:

- In addition to normal operation, any Node device can concurrently route packets (in background) for other Nodes.
- Moreover, single-purpose routing devices (so called dedicated repeaters) are available.





Gateway

Typically, the IQMESH **Coordinator** is hosted inside a gateway (**GW**). It is a central wireless network device designed as an **interface** between the IQRF network and the rest of the world. It **manages all devices** in the entire IQMESH and provides **communication from/to outside**. It supports various connectivity standards, enabling **Internet** connection and access to any existing **cloud**.

GW is mostly based on a small single-board computer and Linux open-source IQRF GW Daemon. Most IQMESH applications use a ready-made gateway, but your application engineer can create your own specific one.

GW Daemon

IQRF Gateway Daemon is a powerful open source SW package allowing to easily create an IQRF gateway with Internet and cloud connectivity from a Linux machine (typically Raspberry Pi, Linux PlugPC, BeagleBone or similar). It can be connected to a TR via SPI, UART, or USB CDC. The TR implements an IQMESH network Coordinator under the DPA layer. The Daemon utilizes multiple communication channels UDP, MQTT and WebSocket and can be managed through the IQRF Gateway Webapp.

Cloud

The easiest but powerful IQRF to Internet connection is a **cloud**. The cloud server provides a transparent bidirectional encrypted channel between end devices in IQRF network and worldwide users. **Any existing third party cloud** (e.g. AWS, IBM Cloud, Azure or InteliGlue) can be used.

IQRF network application example



Development tools

Hardware

- Generic modular kits for rapid development and solderless prototyping. The two fundamental ones are CK-USB-04A (programmer and multifunctional kit) and DK-EVAL-04A (end node kit).
- Tools for easy installation, service and mainenance, either as dedicated HW devices (e.g. IQuip) or implemented by CK-USB-04A (e.g. IQuip).

Software

IQRF IDE is a **fundamental** SW for all development and service work on IQRF applications.

Application support

Free application support and a lot of services are available. Examples, reference designs, video tutorials, training, FAE, consultancy, development support, troubleshooting, ...

IQRF Alliance

An association of entities involving in products with IQRF inside. It defines standards for **interoperability** of **different products from different manufacturers**, enables **synergies** between its members and operates a common IQRF Market Place.

Open IQRF Standard

After two decades on the market, the **IQRF gets standardized**, allowing everyone to use and implement all technical achievements and reliable protocols protected by **dozens of patents** under one **royalty-free license**.

This allows each manufacturer to develop and produce IQRF-compatible transmitters themselves.







Networks

IQMESH

The IQMESH network contains a **Coordinator** and a number of **Nodes** (other network devices equipped with TR). Each Node may (or may not) also perform routing.

There are different types of Nodes:

- Regular end device non-routing Node
- Regular Node intended for primary end device function but additionally routing in the background
- **Node** primarily **dedicated** only **to routing** (called a **repeater**).



Routing Nodes (together with the Coordinator) form a **routing structure** (routing backbone, shown in orange and green in the diagram above). It is automatically created by invoking a process called Discovery.

IQMESH is primarily intended for more or less **static** systems where neither routing Nodes nor obstacles move. After possible significant changes in topology (adding, removing, or relocating **routing** Nodes, changes in obstacles, etc.), the network must "**relearn**" the routing paths (by reinvoking Discovery). **Non-routing** Nodes can move **unrestrictedly**, but must stay in direct range with at least one (but preferably more for redundancy) repeater.

Beaming

In order to operate end devices (typically sensors) with extremely low power consumption, IQRF supports so-called **Beaming** Nodes.

A Beaming sensor (e.g. IQD-SE02-04A) is always in **sleep** mode, except for brief moments when it periodically or upon some event measures and asynchronously unidirectionally sends data to all aggregation repeaters in direct RF range.

An Aggregating repeater (e.g. IQD-REP04) is a routing device (either background routing or a dedicated repeater) that not only provides functions as a conventional routing Node, but also serves as an interface for **collecting data from Beaming sensors**. The aggregated data is then forwarded from it to the Coordinator in the standard synchronous way. Each beaming sensor must be in direct range with at least one (but preferably more for redundancy) aggregating repeater.





Aggregating repeater

Routing Node (non-aggregating):

- Either an end device additionally routing in the background
- or a dedicated repeater
- (N) Non-routing end device Node
- **B** Beaming Node

IQMESH routing

Performance and **reliability** of any wireless mesh network especially depend on **routing algorithms**. IQMESH supports **various routing techniques**, numerous unique and often **patented features** and selectable parameters to fit the functionality according to the project-specific needs. The **DPA framework** solves the routing transparently. **Routing structure** is discovered fully **automatically**.

Pure IQMESH (except Beaming and Local FRC) is strictly **synchronous**. A routed packet is then propagated through the network according to the TDMA (Time Division Multiple Access) rule. Specifically, in IQMESH, **each routing Node routes in the time slot corresponding to its VRN** address. IQMESH packets are propagated through the whole network natively by the directional flooding algorithm.

There is great efficiency in simplicity. All results of bonding and Discovery (including the table of VRNs) are stored in only a few internal data arrays in the Coordinator. No vectors or tables are stored in routers, nor are they delivered in packets. Each router knows only its position in the network and thus its dedicated time slot. **Self-healing** (finding an alternative path in case of some broken links) is provided directly (by itself), **all possible paths are routeded at once**, not on subsequent requests after the first attempt failed. This ensures an outstandingly efficient, deterministic, collision free and extremely reliable traffic with high robustness and high throughput. IQRF is reliable by definition.

Discovery (creating the routing structure)

During the inclusion of the Node in the network (so called bonding), the Node gets assigned a **Logical address**. It is intended for **identification** and **addressing** the given Node **by the user**. In all subsequent communication, the user only needs to specify the Logical addresses of the recipients and the packets are delivered automatically.

However, for internal routing algorithms, Logical addresses are not suitable, but a different internal arrangement is appropriate. The **routing structure** reflecting the topology of Nodes with routing capability is created automatically (in real time and even in low power mode, if needed) by the Discovery process. Its goal is to find and virtually **re-address** all **routing Nodes** in **ascending order** according to the accessibility ("distance" in hops) from the Coordinator. The resulting addresses are called **VRN**s (Virtual Routing Numbers).

During the Discovery, the discovered Nodes are divided into routing **Zones** (groups of Nodes in the same "distance" (number of **routing hops** to reach the Node) from the Coordinator. Zone 0 contains all the discovered Nodes in direct RF range with the Coordinator (0 routing hops), etc.

Information about Zones is not needed for common users, but can be useful for installation of end devices or network maintenance to learn about possibilities to improve network performance. E.g., it is convenient to have a sufficient number of routing Nodes in Zone 0. IQRF technology provides tools to vizualize the Zones:



Packet propagation

A packet is typically propagated from the Coordinator to the Node for control purposes or back for a response or data collection. The forward routing (from the Coordinator to the Node N3 (either routing or not) supported by routing Nodes N1, N5, N4 and N2) using the **directional flooding** algorithm works as follows:



In this example, Node N3 (in Zone 2) received the packet from both routing Nodes (N4 and N2) in Zone 1. **Video animations** (including self-healing when bypassing obstacles): » Unicast » Broadcast

FRC – Fast response command

Besides of other sophisticated networking features, IQRF transceivers have implemented the powerful FRC (Fast response command) routines. They allow the **fastest** network **control**, management and **data collection** (even in low power mode, if needed). It is a patented method how to **send a command** from the Coordinator **to all or selected Nodes** and **receive responses** including **small data** collected by individual Nodes in outstandingly short time (e.g., from all **239 Nodes** in **less than 40 s**). FRC is **much faster** (even by orders of magnitude) than **polling** individual Nodes one by one:



» Video animation

FRC types

FRC

FRC synchronously sent from the Coordinator to all or selected Nodes.

Typical usage:

- **Control:** Fast sending a command to multiple Nodes and checking the results (e.g. an **acknowledged broadcast**).
- **Telemetry:** Fast collecting of small data from multiple Nodes (sensors, etc.).

Local FRC

Local FRC is an FRC **asynchronously** invoked **from a Node** to **control other Nodes** in **direct RF range**. Quickly, without lengthy propagation of the packet through the entire network. Thus, e.g., controllers (pushbuttons, switches, motion sensors, ...) can control and monitor actuators (lights, blinds, ...) with no significant delay.

Offline FRC

Offline FRC is intended for collection data from Beaming sensors by Aggregating repeaters. It enables to operate sensors with outstandingly low power.

Network creation

User-friendliness and security when creating a network is one of the key challenges of wireless technologies.

Bonding

It is possible to include (**bond**) a Node in IQRF network (even in low power mode, if needed) by four methods.

Bonding via IQuip

The most user-friendly way of bonding an end Node device equipped with the NFC communication is via IQuip, the **IQRF NFC tool** IQD-NFC-01.

- The Node to be bonded need not be in direct RF range with any other network device.
- No action is needed on the Node side. The Node will obtain all the necessary information from the IQuip (paired with the Coordinator).
- Afterwards, bonding must be finalized by Autonetwork.

Smart connect

- For Smart connect, **no action** is needed on the Node side.
- Based on IBK (Individual Bonding Key) and MID (Module ID) codes, which are unique, fixed, and stored in each TR from the factory.
- IBK and MID must be imported into the Coordinator in advance (in the IQRF Smart connect code format). It is open and can easily be generated (e.g. in IQRF IDE).
- The easiest way to transfer this into the Coordinator is via the QR code using the freely available mobile application IQRF Network Manager for Android.

Local bonding

- For Local bonding, the Node to be bonded must have the Access password (the same as it is used by the Coordinator) specified in TR configuration.
- The Node to be bonded must be in direct RF range with the Coordinator. After the bonding, the Node can be relocated to its final location. If the Node has routing enabled, then the Discovery must be invoked.
- An action (bond request selected from the DPA menu) is required on the Node side.

Autonetwork

IQRF network can even be created (bonding, Discovery) fully automatically by the Autonetwork. It can be launched from IQRF GW Daemon or IQRF IDE.

- **No action** is needed on the Nodes side.
- All Nodes to be bonded must have the Access password (the same as it is used by the Coordinator) specified in TR configuration.

Operating system

IQRF **OS** is the **lower system SW layer** that manages all **TR resources** and provides powerful services for applications.

OS is directly **built in the transceivers**, unlike other wireless platforms where a SW solution stack (in the order of 10 thousand of lines) has to be compiled with the user program. This (and many other advantages) make IQRF outstandingly easy to use. **Peer-to-peer (non-mesh)** applications can be easily programmed **directly above the OS** (without DPA) in **C language** by a user's software engineer. For example, the code sending a 10 B long RF packet (when the user payload data is already pre-prepared in the buffer dedicated to RF communication (buffer COM, see the diagram below)) to all TRs in RF range is simple and intuitive:



PIN = 0; // Peer-to-peer
DLEN = 10; // 10 B of payload data will be sent
RFTXpacket(); // Transmit the packet
pulseLEDG(); // Green LED flash indication after transmission

In this approach (fully programmed above OS) it is possible to write the whole peer-to-peer application.

Crucial features

- Versatile RF communication
- Light but efficient license free IQMESH protocol
- Considerable flexibility. RF and other parameters are configurable or programmable.
- Powerful routines for network creation and maintenance (Bonding, Discovery, ...)
- Low power modes: RF (STD, LP, XLP), Deep sleep, Sleep, ...
- Buffer-oriented communication including serial (SPI) connectivity running in OS background
- Access to RAM and EEPROM memories (byte, block and buffer support)
- Industrial standard AES-128 encryption
- Debug: Break, watch and continue

...

- Efficient development tools are available.
- IQRF transceivers allow upgrading to a higher OS version (typically done by the user).
- Application SW or a plug-in can be uploaded in TR even wirelessly (RFPGM). Thus, all Nodes of a given type in the entire network can be programmed in one stroke.

AES-128 RF IQMESH encryption **RF** circuitry Security Networking Packets buffer RF Debug User data buffer COM Debug Appl. info data buffer INFO user data 4 Dedicated SPI SPI Dedicated to OS to OS Packets slave RAM Communication EEPROM Delays Timing User data Ticks OS Timebase Dedicated OS plug-ins to OS Pulse/pulsing Serial EEPROM LEDs Application Temperature Battery OK Thermometer Flash prog. memory Power supply check

These features are supported by a comprehensive set of optimized functions.

DPA

IQRF DPA (Direct Peripheral Access) is the higher system SW layer that provides massive support for networks. It is optional (but mandatory for IQMESH). The DPA framework implements the simple byte-oriented DPA protocol above the IQMESH protocol which supports network communication and allows to control services and peripherals of network devices (Coordinator and Nodes). The network is controlled by sending requests and receiving responses via the control interface (using standard wired SPI or UART).

DPA protocol

SPI or UART

Request to N
 Confirmation from C
 Response from N

Control

system



DPA commands use a fixed, simple and intuitive format with 4 mandatory parameters (so-called **DPA Foursome**) and an optional data block.

IQMESH network

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DPA is distributed in the form of a ready-to-use **plug-in** to be uploaded in TR instead of an application program. The user-specific functionality can than be achieved by an extension called **Custom DPA Handler**. It can be written in **C** (similarly as above the OS without DPA) by a user's application engineer. For this, IQRF framework also provides an additional support with the DPA API functions. Development above the DPA is thus simple and rapid. Moreover, many handlers implementing various standard tasks for the respective HW circuitry (so-called **hardware profiles**, **HWP**) are available ready-made, so some applications can be implemented even **without programming**.

DPA also offers a number of additional features for installation and maintenance. **DPA menu** provides uniform and simple control of Node devices. **Backup** and **Restore** enables seamless replacement of a broken Node and restoration a complete network in case of broken Coordinator. Other useful features are Enumeration, several SW service and test tools, firmware upgrade, etc.

DPA enables worldwide **interoperability** of products with IQRF inside. This is ensured by IQRF Alliance. The IQRF Interoperability Standard specifies standard DPA commands, so the compliant devices are not only compatible (working in **one network**) but also **interoperable** (controlled by the **same commands** and understanding the **same data formats**). Thus, products from different producers can plug-and-play work together. Each interoperable product is identified via its HWPID on IQRF Repository.

Example using UART

UART peripheral is typically used to control an external device connected to the Node device via the HW UART interface. The following diagram shows an example where the Coordinator writes a text "Hello" by UART Write & Read DPA request to the UART peripheral at Node. There is a terminal (external device) connected using UART to the Node. Text "Hello" is then displayed at the terminal and text "Hi" (in this example the terminal automatically answers "Hi" to "Hello") is read back to the Coordinator.



Control interface SPI or UART										
Coordinator										
DPA command parameters										
NADR (HWPID (PNUM) PCMD (DATA)										
Ŭ Â										
Node NADR										
MCU software										
os										
DPA										
Custom DPA handler										
TR peripherals PNUM										
Standard Custom Commands Data Commands Data PCMD DATA										
Per. 0 Cmd 0 : Cmd N Per. 32 Cmd 0 : Cmd N										
Per. 31 Cmd 0 Per. 111 Cmd 0 . Cmd N Per. 111 Cmd N										

IQRF features

RF parameters

- Selectable RF parameters
 - RF bands: mainly 868 MHz and 916 MHz
 - RF channels: 62 for 868 MHz and 189 for 916 MHz
 - RF output power: up to 10 mW, selectable in 8 steps
 - Adjustable receive sensitivity. Incoming signal level and quality check and filter, for noise immunity, finding a free channel (e.g. for LBT or FHSS), etc.
- RF bit rate: 19.8 kb/s
- RF range: Tens of meters in buildings, hundreds of meters in open space, kilometers in networks

RF communication

Bidirectional, payload: up to 64 B

- Unicast Packet sent to a single Node, with response.
- Broadcast Packet sent to all Nodes, without responses.
- Beaming Data sent from sensors with outstandingly low power (enabling battery lifetime for years).
- **FRC** Sending a command to Nodes and receive responses with data collected from them in outstandingly short time.
 - **FRC** Synchronously sent from the Coordinator to all or selected Nodes.
 - Local FRC Asynchronously sent from a Node to control selected Nodes in direct RF range
 - Offline FRC Collection data from Beaming sensors by Aggregating repeaters

IQMESH features

- Up to 240 devices in the network (1 Coordinator + 239 Nodes)
- Up to 240 hops
- Every TR can work either peer-to-peer or in mesh network as a Coordinator, Node (common or beaming), background router, or repeater (common or aggregating)
- Every Node can additionally route packets in background
- Routing in real time:
 - Max. 60 ms per hop for STD network, based on the payload
 - Max. 100 ms per hop for LP network, based on the payload
- Various routing algorithms (Full mesh, Optimized mash, Star, ...) to tune throughput, response time, consumption, etc.
- Dynamic timing (selectable number of hops and time slot duration according to needs specific for given application, to increase throughput and reduce power consumption and noise)
- Low latency (STD) as well as low power (STD+LP) network types supported
- Three independent encryptions by AES-128: Bonding, Networking, and User. All network communication is automatically encrypted.
- Autonetwork automated network build-up
- Discovery functionality to discover/rediscover topology (paths for hopping) in real time

Other features

- Unique transceiver architecture with built-in operating system and DPA framework.
- **Robust routing** algorithm for really working and **reliable mesh**.
- True low power. Receive modes STD, LP, and XLP. Bonding, Discovery and FRC also in LP.
- Powerful IQRF IDE and IQRF GW Daemon for efficient development and network management.
- Wireless upload / upgrade of all SW (OS, TR configuration, HWP, Custom handler, application code as well as the content of both EEPROM memories) simultaneously for all devices in a network, remotely over the air (OTA).
- IQRF is a generic technology. The user has control over all TR resources and the application. DPA protocol is free and documented. No license and carrier fees.
- Custom modifications of TR functionality are possible on request. For example, modified TR-7xDA-IL transceivers have been developed to adapt tightened laws in Israel.

IQRF Open standard

The **IQRF gets standardized**, allowing everyone to use and implement all technical achievements and reliable protocols protected by **dozens of patents** under one **royalty-free license**.

Transceivers

IQRF transceiver (**TR**) is a tiny intelligent electronic board with the complete circuitry needed to implement a wireless **RF** connectivity. It is a key communication component of IQRF technology. The specific functionality is given by an application software inside the MCU.

Features

- Compact highly integrated design, no external components needed.
- **OS** (Operating System): lower SW layer, providing powerful support for all TR resources.
- **DPA** (Direct Peripheral Access): optional higher SW layer with enhanced network functionality.
- Programmable in C language.
- License-free sub-GHz ISM bands, worldwide (currently 868, 916, and 433 MHz).
- RF output power up to **10 mW**, programmable.
- Range per hop: tens of meters in buildings, hundreds of meters in open space, up to several kilometers in networks (up to 240 hops per packet).
- **Extremely low power**: Standby < 300 nA, **receive 13 μA** (XLP).

Peripherals

- Up to 12 I/O pins and 1 input only pin
- SPI, I²C, UART, and other interfaces
- A/D and D/A converters, analog comparator
- Multiple PWM output, programmable HW timer
- Extended MCU memories
- EEPROM 256 B inside MCU, serial EEPROM 256 Kb
- Extended MCU resources (interrupt capability and programmable internal pull-ups on all I/O pins, remappable digital peripherals, ...)
- Temperature sensor
- Voltage regulator (LDO), battery monitoring



3.0 – 3.4V General illustrations. For individual TR types see respective datasheets.

* Optional.







Transceiver options



A – PCB antenna

C - U.FL connector (mini coax)

TR cross table

		Series		TR-77D	TR-72G	TR-75G	TR-76G	
Mo	unting			SMT	SIM	Vertical	SMT	
Pins				18	8	12	18	
I/O				12	6	10	13	
MC	J			PIC16LF1938	F	PIC16LF18877		
-	Flash me	emory		16 K × 14 b		32 K × 14 b		
MCI	RAM			1024 B	4096 B 256 B 32 KB \$2-LP 868/916 10 mW			
-	EEPROM			256 B				
Seri	al EEPRO	M			32	KB		
RF I	С			Spirit 1		S2-LP		
RF k	ands			868		868/916		
RF p	ower (m	ax.)		4 mW		10 mW		
RF r	ange (in	open spa	ace)	230 m		500 m		
SAV	/ filter			Yes		_		
LDC	voltage	regulato	or	_	Yes		-	
Sup	ply volta	ge		3.0-3.4 V	3.1-5.3 V	3.0 -	3.4 V	
Deep sleep		56 nA	< 2 µA	< 300 nA				
ply	Sleep)		610 nA	2.3 μΑ	< 1	μΑ	
Sup	Pacai	ving	LP	250 μΑ	190 µA	190	190 µA	
0, (hecei	ving	XLP	16.3 μA	13 µA	13 µA		
Temperature sensor (optional)			(optional)	-	Yes	_		
LEDs					2		_	
A/D	inputs			3	2	3	3	
Extended MCU resources			irces	-		Yes		
Dim	ensions	withou	t antenna	25.1 × 14.9	25.1 × 14.9	_	15.2 × 14.9	
[mm]		with ar	ntenna	31.8 × 14.9	31.8 × 14.9	27.4 × 14.9	23.3×14.9	

All parameters specified here are for guidance only, may depend on conditions and are subject to change. For exact parameters refer to IQRF datasheets.

Antenna options







Mounting options







Soldering pad-hole

U.FL connector

Built-in PCB

SIM connector

SMT

Vertical soldering

Transceiver types

TR-7xG is a family of new IQRF transceivers. It is the successor (in black) to the mature TR-7xD family (in red), with much larger memories and other improvements. To some extent it can be combined with older TR series in one network.

TR-72G



TR interfaces

Simple interfaces are available directly on TR transceivers.

Standard communication

- Full duplex SPI Slave is the basic IQRF wired interface. It is directly supported not only by MCU HW module but even by IQRF OS via a set of powerful functions and runs in OS background.
- UART, SPI Master and I²C Master/Slave are supported by MCU HW modules running in MCU background. Readyto-use examples are available.
- Other simple standards (e.g. Dallas 1-wire) can be implemented in application SW. Ready-to-use examples are available.
- **USB** is available using a special type of **dongle-like** transceiver GW-USB-06.
- **Proprietary communication** is also possible. **Any** simple wired **protocol** can be implemented in application SW.
- HW peripherals

Several HW peripherals are supported by MCU HW modules running in MCU background: PWM, A/D and D/A converters, analog comparator, HW timer, etc. Digital pins of all MCU peripherals are remappable.

For **DPA** approach:

- The IQMESH Coordinator is managed by local Control interface via SPI or UART.
- Other (common) TR resources are accessible as embedded Peripherals with DPA framework support.
- User-specific peripherals and non-standard behavior of embedded peripherals can be handled by Custom DPA handler.
- IQRF Interoperability Standard specifies the rules for unified handling with peripherals for all IQRF Alliance interoperable products.



Example: one of interfacing possibilities of standalone TR-72GAT plugged in SIM connector



Example: one of a lot of interfacing possibilities of standalone TR-76G

Complex standards (Ethernet, WiFi, LTE, ...) can be accessed via IQRF gateways. Additionally, they are easily connectable to any cloud.

Routers and repeaters

Routing means sending packets to addresses out of the sender's range using "**hops**" via Nodes that are in the range of each other. Network **topology** stands for the placement of devices with respect to mutual RF accessibility. For effective IQMESH, the topology should be designed in a **redundant** way. Every Node should have a sufficient number of routing Nodes in range. Routing allows **higher range**, more ways to deliver packets, higher noise immunity, resistance against failures and dropouts (self-healing) and flexibility with respect to dynamic changes in range between devices (movement of persons, obstacles or devices themselves) resulting in **higher throughput** and **reliability**.

TR as a background router

In addition to normal operation, **any Node** device can **concurrently route** packets for other Nodes. This routing **in background** is transparent from the user's point of view, just by enabling routing in the TR configuration.

E.g., TRs controlling lights, wireless switches, and so on can route packets for all devices (other lights and switches, radiators, blinders, etc.) in the whole building. Dedicated repeaters are not necessary (but possible).



Dedicated repeater is a specialized ready-to-use device for routing only purpose, often with various additional fetures.

Aggregating repeater

An aggregating repeater is a repeater providing not only a common routing but additionally concurrently serves as an interface to collect data from Beaming sensors and forward it to the Coordinator. It can be either **dedicated** (e.g. IQD-REP04 repeater) or implemented as an additional feature in an end device (e.g. IQD-LCZH02 lighting controller) routing in the **background**.

IQD-REP04

Dedicated aggregating repeater IQD-REP04.

- Aggregating data from Beaming sensors
- TR-72G compatible
- Configurable, no programming needed
- NFC for contactless bonding via IQuip or a mobile phone
- Internal antenna
- Supplied from mains
- Battery backup (optional)
- Wall plug and ceiling mount versions



Wall plug IQD-REP04-01A or IQD-REP04-02B



Ceiling mount IQD-REP04-03A or IQD-REP04-04B



Gateways

Typically, the IQMESH Coordinator is hosted inside a gateway (GW). It is a central wireless network device designed as an **interface** between the IQRF network and the rest of the world. It manages all devices in the entire IQMESH and provides communication from/to outside. It supports various connectivity standards, either **local** (USB, ...) but especially **remote**, wired (Ethernet, ...), or wireless (WiFi, LTE, ...), enabling **Internet** connectivity and access to any existing **cloud**. A **datalogger** can also be implemented in GW. Such features are ideal for **IoT** applications.



GW is mostly based on a small single-board computer and Linux open source IQRF GW Daemon.

Typical IQRF Gateway = TR with DPA + Linux machine + IQRF GW Daemon

Gateway types

- Standard Daemon-based ready-made gateways (e.g. IQD-GW04) are available. This is the easiest and the most common way to get a gateway.
- Alternatively, GW Daemon enables to construct a user-specific gateway from a Linux machine by a user's application engineer.
- And even more alternatively, construction of a non-Daemon IQRF GW is also possible. IQRF SDK library package enables to develop a user-specific gateway from Linux or even from a non-Linux machine (with Windows or without an operating system at all) by a user's application engineer.

GW application example



IQUBE (IQD-GW-02)

- Economical gateway IQD-GW-02, especially for low cost development, evaluation and samples
- Based on the Orange Pi Zero single-board computer with Linux (Armbian or Yocto), IQRF Daemon, and TR-76D transceiver with internal or external antenna
- Ethernet connectivity, connectable to Internet and optionally to any existing cloud servers
- Multiple communication channels UDP, MQTT, and WebSocket
- HW watchdog to recover the gateway from unexpected events (optional)
- Aggregating data from Beaming sensors
- Management through IQRF Gateway Webapp



IQD-GW-02W



IQD-GW-02EW

IQD-GW04

- Industrial GW
- Based on the Raspberry Pi single-board computer with Linux (Armbian or Yocto), IQRF Daemon, and TR-76G transceiver
- Pre-configured **eMMC** flash memory
- Ethernet, WiFi, and (optional) LTE connectivity, connectable to Internet and optionally to any existing cloud servers
- Multiple communication channels UDP, MQTT, and WebSocket
- HW watchdog to recover the gateway from unexpected events (optional)
- RTCC with power backup for years (optional)
- Aggregating data from Beaming sensors
- Management through IQRF Gateway Webapp

Gateways by IQRF Alliance members

Ready compact devices suitable to serve as gateways to IQRF are available from some 3rd parties (IQRF Alliance members). E.g., **Unipi Iris IQRF** by UniPi technology is a fully customizable modular solution for automation, control, regulation, and monitoring.

Support for user's gateways

Shields

Adapters, sometimes with additional supportive features are available to connect the TR to a single board computer (Raspberry Pi or many others with a compatible interface connector). In this way, you can easily create your own gateway, especially based on Linux open source IQRF GW Daemon.

KON-RASP-01

Simple shield KON-RASP-01 for Raspberry Pi and lots of compatibles:



KON-RASP-01

KONA-RASP04-10B

Shield KONA-RASP04-10B for Raspberry Pi and lots of compatibles, with various connectivity options and capability to aggregate data from Beaming sensors.



Breakout boards

The simplest adapters are also available to allow universal connection of the TR to any 3rd party device regardless of connector type. For solderless development and prototyping.

IQRF-BB-02

IQRF-BB-02 is a development adapter for connecting an IQRF TR transceiver to any device with 3 V or 3.3 V logic. It enables easy development with platforms like chipKIT, Arduino, Gemalto, Raspberry Pi and many others.

IQRF-BB-02



Arduino with IQRF-BB-02 and TR







Raspberry Pi with KON-RASP-01 and TR

IQRF wireless is extremely low power

IQRF is outstandingly suitable for **battery operated** devices. To optimize the consumption in the most crucial case (**RX**) for various needs, three RX/TX modes are available: **STD** (Standard), **LP** (Low Power) and **XLP** (Extra Low Power, not for IQMESH). For IQMESH, various advanced SW methods for further power consumption lowering are available: **FRC and sleep**, **LP** combined with **sub-µA precisely timed sleeping**, etc. The most power-saving operational mode for sensors is Beaming. A Beaming sensor is always sleeping, except for brief moments when it periodically or upon some event measures and asynchronously unidirectionally sends data.

For many IQRF applications, battery life is determined primarily by its self-discharge.

Mode	Operation	Time spent	Requirements	Importance
Transmit (TX)	TR is transmitting an RF packet	Very short periods	As low as possible, but given mostly by RF output power	Important
Receive (RX)	TR is receiving or attempting to detect incoming RF packet	Majority of the non-sleeping time	As low as possible	Crucial
Run	TR is operating (either with or without RF circuitry sleeping) but no RX or TX is in progress	Negligible	Not critical	Negligible
Sleep	No operation (including incoming RF signal detection) is possible until TR wakes up	Majority of time	1 μA order of magnitude for battery life of years	Necessary
Deep sleep	No operation (including incoming RF signal detection) is possible. Complete initialization of RF circuitry must be performed after TR awakening.	Very long periods (if applicable)	< 300 nA. Extremely low power in very long periods of inactivity. In special applications only.	Either not critical or crucial
Beaming	Data sent from sensors periodically or upon some events	Permanently	As low as possible	Crucial

TR-76G power consumption example

- Deep sleep mode: < 300 nA
- Sleep mode: < 1 μA
- Run mode
 - RF sleep: 1.8 mA
 - RF ready: 3.3 mA
- TX mode: 8 25 mA
- RX mode STD: 12.5 mA (Standard)
- Power saving:
- 📕 LP: **190 μA**
- XLP: 13 μA

Look at other RF platforms boasting ultra/extra low power.

IQRF lifetime * for 1 Ah, 3.6 V, ½ AA sized battery:

- 1000 years in Deep sleep
- **7 years** continually **receiving** in XLP **
- 300 MB data received
- **200 MB** data transmitted (at highest RF output power)
- * Theoretical values
- ** Without an incoming RF signal including a noise



Time (not proportional)

Security

Every wireless system is exposed to potential over-the-air (OTA) attacks. Unlike wired systems, there is no physical protection and any eavesdropper can listen to RF communication and try to fake RF packets. Thus, the security concept should consider more threats. Firstly, the communication must be protected when the network is created. During this bonding procedure, devices exchange sensitive information (e.g. network password and addresses). However, the bonding is typically launched only once within the installation process, whereas the subsequent communication runs continuously, so it is more vulnerable and must always be secured properly. IQRF brings ultimate security based on industrial standards ensuring authorized access to OTA-flowing data. IQRF utilizes **AES-128 encryption**, an **industrial standard** for wireless communication. Moreover, some supplemental extension layers are added. Besides hiding sensitive data, the encryption brings another contribution to IQRF multilevel consistency protection and prevents packets forging.

Three different protections based on AES-128 are applied:

Networking encryption

All networking communication is encrypted.

Access encryption

Another independent encryption is always applied while **bonding** and all other network **maintenance**.

User encryption

Moreover, payload data (for networking as well as non-networking packets) can optionally be encrypted and/or decrypted **end-to-end** by a user-specific key to hide the information content.

Features

IQRF minimizes and protects also manipulation with **keys**. Network and access keys are not known during physical manipulation as they are generated from respective **passwords**. Network password is generated randomly with high entropy and delivered encrypted to devices that are joining the network during bonding. This approach offers the following significant advantages:

- The user should take care of the passwords only but never handle with keys.
- The management and distribution of keys are completely handled by OS.
- The keys depend not on the passwords only but are modified by embedded hash functions.
- These two separated layers (with no simple direct relationship between passwords and keys) additionally increase the security.
- The keys are generated dynamically, varying in time, which is significantly more immune against attacks.
- The relationship between passwords and keys are different in different networks.
- Network encryption is forced (not optional), the encryption is done automatically by OS, fully transparently from the user's point of view. This prevents an incorrect implementation.
- Breaking the keys in one network has no impact on other networks at all.
- In the future, new vulnerabilities (even e.g. in AES) may be found and existing systems should be patched. All IQRF software is fully upgradeable (even wirelessly), which (among others) allows to completely upgrade the security functionality.



User and networking encryption



Development

This chapter applies to **generic** products (designed to implement a **user-specific** functionality), as opposed to off-the-shelf systems like IQAROS that require only simple installation (Place & Play) but no user development.

TR transceivers are delivered with the following SW from the factory:

- **IQRF OS.** It is fixed and can only be replaced (**upgraded**) by another existing OS version released for the given TR type.
- **RF link** demo application example, peer-to-peer (directly above the OS). It is primarily intended for RF connection **demonstration** just after unpacking two TRs and connecting them to a power supply.

To implement a specific functionality, the user's application engineer must replace the demo with the required SW in three steps:

- Programming: writing the application code in C language. Lots of source code examples solving typical tasks are available.
 - **Peer-to-peer** application can be written in **C** directly above the OS.
 - If DPA is to be used (i.e. for IQMESH), the appropriate DPA plug-in (which is a special case of the application) must be uploaded first. Then, the specific functionality is achieved by a Custom DPA handler, also written in C similarly as above the OS. There are lots of examples of source code handlers that solve typical tasks. Particularly simple applications can therefore be implemented using some of these ready-made handlers even without programming.
- Compiling the SW from C to executable (HEX) format.
- **Uploading** the HEX code into TR.

So in any case it is necessary to compile the application from C and upload it into TR. All of the above operations can be performed very efficiently in IQRF IDE.

What is needed to start?

Hardware

All hardware needed to start IQRF application designs is available as the DS-START-05 or DS-DPA-03 development set.



Software

All software needed to effectively start IQRF application designs is free.

- IQRF IDE is a comprehensive specialized software that provides all the necessary design functions (including the free version of C compiler) with many additional gadgets integrated in a single development environment.
- IQRF Repository is a public online storage and database containing all files and relevant information for IQRF design.

How to start?



Programming and uploading process



Programmers/debuggers

CK-USB-04A



GW-USB-06



End Node kit

DK-EVAL-04A



- One of the two main IQRF development tools. Optimized to work with IQRF IDE.
- **Programmer** to upload codes into TR transceivers
- **Debug** kit to **test** user applications
- Host for TR
- Works also as a USB converter (USB ↔ SPI and USB ↔ UART)
- USB modes: Custom device, CDC IQRF, CDC SPI and CDC UART
- It can be used to create other development tools, e.g. CATS including a programmer for wireless upload.
- Interface connector to access all TR pins
- Powered from USB (micro-USB connector)
- 2 LEDs, 2 pushbuttons
- Plastic SIM connector holder supports also SMT transceivers
- USB transceiver suitable also for CATS
- See chapter USB transceiver GW-USB-06.
- Universal evaluation kit for IQRF
- One of the two main IQRF development tools
- **Host for TR module**, plugged in **SIM** connector
- Ideal for network applications development
- LiPol accumulator, charged via microUSB connector
- Portable, space saving (48 x 27 x 11 mm)
- **Connector** for TR interfacing
- Compatible with other IQRF DDC kits, see below

The simplest usage of two DK-EVAL-04A kits:



Development sets

- Optimized combinations of IQRF devices
- Ready-to-use SW examples fitting to typical tasks
- Documentation, demo SW, and support
- Affordable prices and favorable training





Development set for immediate start with IQRF To operate 3 wireless devices, peer-to-peer or in a small network

- TR-72GAT 3 pcs
- CK-USB-04A 1 pc
- DK-EVAL-04A 2 pcs
- Micro USB cable 1 pc

DS-DPA-03

The best choice for starting with IQRF **DPA** To operate a network with 6 wireless devices

This set consists of two identical sets DS-START-05 with affordable price.





Upload

Uploading = programming (writing) the application program into the TR memories.

Wired upload





TR is plugged in a programmer (via SIM connector) or populated in an end equipment and connected with the programmer by wires.

IQRF IDE

Free integrated development environment for **creation**, **service** and **maintenance** of IQRF applications. It is **project-oriented** and drawing data from IQRF Repository. IDE is a fundamental SW tool for general work with IQRF. Most of the IDE functions are also implemented in IQRF Daemon.

IQRF IDE is available also in limited (TR uploader only) **command line** version. It is primarily intended to **speed up** and **secure** the **production** (even for less skilled workers).

Programming

Edit and compile the application and upload the code in TR.

Debug

Break, watch and continue.

Internal variables can be inspected after every break.

Communication test tool

- Rich terminal offering hints for packet construction, supporting macros
- Terminal log: Raw/DPA packets, bookmarks, notes
- Packet inspector decoding and interpreting packets

IQMESH network manager

Tools for IQMESH network management, visualization and testing.

CATS – IQRF service tools

RF programmer, DPA service tool and RF scanner

Project wizard

Easy guided way to create a project.

Python scripting

A tool for Python script creation (typically for testing purposes) using the IQRFPY library to communicate with the IQMESH Coordinator via USB or MQTT.



Upgrades

Upgrade (even over-the-air) OS and DPA in TR transceivers or firmware in auxiliary MCU inside IQRF devices.

Many other features

TR configuration, Autonetwork, access to IQRF Repository, ...



TR is populated in an end equipment. For **mass upload** (into all nodes in one stroke) it is a must.

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IQRF Repository

IQRF Repository is a public documented online storage and database containing the following:

- All files (DPA plug-ins, source code headers, application examples, and documentation) needed for creation of IQRF IDE Project.
- Information regarding all IQRF interoperable products. It provides information about and relations between IQRF ecosystem objects such as companies, products, DPA handlers, standards, OS, DPA, etc.

The Repository is developed in **REST API** with **JSON**. It is utilized by **gateways**, **clouds**, **IQRF IDE**, the **mobile application**, and so on, helpful not only for network creation and maintenance.

DDC – Development Daisy Chain kits



Application support and services

Design support

Free application support and a lot of design services are available. Examples, video tutorials, consultancy, development support, troubleshooting, ...

Training

To speed up the startup, a one-day training is recommended. It can be arranged with respect to your specific needs.

Consultancy

Before starting your commercial project, you can contact our technical support to consult how to proceed in the most effective way.

FAE

IQRF FAE (Field Application Engineering) provides massive customer-facing help with applications (from an **assistance** with system-level design to complete **turn-key** solutions).

Speed up your first commercial design with our FAE. Then you can follow-up to your next designs yourself.

End devices – lighting

In the End devices chapters, only a small part of the available products is listed so far. Follow the IQRF product pages for complete portfolio.

Controllers and bridges for wireless lighting control.

IQD-LCZH02

Wireless controller IQD-LCZH02 for street LED lights with Zhaga socket. Outdoor, to be mounted on the cover of the lamp

It works as a bidirectional data tunnel (bridge) to transfer data frames between the IQRF wireless network and the standard **digitally controlled lighting bus IEC 62386**. Alternatively, **analog** control (**0 - 10 V**) is possible.

Additionally, the unit serves also as an aggregating repeater.

- NFC is equipped for easy contactless installation and maintenance using a mobile phone or IQuip.
- Interoperable, observing IQRF Standard
- RF range 450 m in free space
- 24 V DC powered from the lamp
- Optional:
 - **RTCC** (real-time clock/calendar) with power backup
 - GPS
 - Thermometer

IQD-LCNE02

Wireless control unit IQD-LCNE02 for street LED lights with NEMA socket. Outdoor, to be mounted on the cover of the lamp.

It works as a bidirectional data tunnel (bridge) to transfer data frames between the IQRF wireless network and the standard **digitally controlled lighting bus IEC 62386**. **Analog** control (**0 - 10 V**) is also possible.

Additionally, the unit serves also as an aggregating repeater.

- Bistable relay switching of LED driver power source
- Relay load up to 200 VA, switching on zero crossing
- **NFC** is equipped for easy **contactless** installation and maintenance using a mobile phone or IQuip.
- Interoperable, observing IQRF Standard
- Powered from mains
- RF range 400 m in free space
- Optional:
 - Measurement of current drawn by the appliance (approximate)
 - **RTCC** (real-time clock/calendar) with power backup
 - GPS
 - Thermometer

IQD-DB1M-01A

Wireless control unit IQD-DB1M-01A for LED luminaires. Indoor, for ceiling mounting. Connectable via wires.

It works as a bidirectional data tunnel (bridge) to transfer data frames between the IQRF wireless network and the standard **digitally controlled lighting bus IEC 62386**.

- Connection to a luminaire by wires and clamp connectors
- NFC is equipped for easy contactless installation and maintenance using a mobile phone or IQuip.
- Interoperable, observing IQRF Standard
- Powered from mains
- RF range 300 m in free space
- Small dimensions, 22 mm height







IQAROS is a **wireless** indoor environmental **monitoring system**, especially for **automated collection** of **temperature** and relative **humidity**. It is intended to measure conditions in the interior of buildings, e.g. warehouses, shops, factories, offices, archives, and other indoor areas, even at different heights in the room.

In addition to the normal meters, particularly robust sensors are available for outdoor or other harsh environments, either with a sensor in a stainless steel housing connected by a cable, e.g. for refrigerators, swimming pools, etc., or a sensor in a stainless steel rod (1.5 m) for measuring temperature in hay, straw, grain, etc.

IQAROS is available in various pre-prepared variants, or in a customized set. It is fully ready to use, pre-configured for immediate start-up and requires only basic parameter settings.

Sensors beam the measured values every minute.

» More info on IQAROS product page.

IQAROS sets are combined from the following parts:





IQAROS











IQRF Alliance



www.iqrfalliance.org











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