



Customer Information Notification

202305010I : Linux Kernel GPLv2 License Breach Introduced in
Q4'2022 Linux Factory Release LF 5.15.71_2.2.0

Note: This notice is NXP Company
Proprietary.

Issue Date: May 26, 2023 **Effective date:** May 27, 2023

Management summary

Linux Kernel GPLv2 license breach introduced in Q4'2022 Linux factory release LF 5.15.71_2.2.0

Change Category

- | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wafer
Fab
Process | <input type="checkbox"/> Assembly
Process | <input type="checkbox"/> Product Marking | <input type="checkbox"/> Test
Process | <input type="checkbox"/> Design |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wafer
Fab
Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Assembly
Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical
Specification | <input type="checkbox"/> Test
Equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Errata |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wafer
Fab
Location | <input type="checkbox"/> Assembly
Location | <input type="checkbox"/> Packing/Shipping/Labeling | <input type="checkbox"/> Test
Location | <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical
spec./Test
coverage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Firmware | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Software Licensing Compliance | | | |

PCN Overview

Description

Who is this intended for?

- All customers who are either evaluating or designing a system based on i.MX or Layerscape family of application processors using NXP's Linux 5.15.71_2.2.0 BSP release
- All customers who have i.MX or Layerscape application processor designs in production and are planning to migrate their software base to 5.15.71_2.2.0 BSP release

NXP released "5.15.71_2.2.0" release on 19th Dec 2022 with some of the kernel files license marked

as “GPL v3 only” which is in Breach of Linux Kernel long standing “GPL v2 only” license. Furthermore, the same files also have code comments with the author’s name deemed to be confidential information published with the source code.

The impact of the breach is limited to the specific Linux Factory release and does not affect NXP’s other prior or post BSP releases including Android release based on the same kernel version. The following kernel file’s license were marked as “GPL v3 only”

1. include/keys/trusted_dcp.h
2. security/keys/trusted-keys/trusted_dcp.c
3. include/soc/fsl/dcp-blob.h

Reason

Identification of Affected Products

i.MX 8 Family - i.MX 8ULP, i.MX 8M Plus, i.MX 8DXL, i.MX 8QuadXPlus, i.MX 8QuadMax, i.MX 8M Quad, i.MX 8M Mini, i.MX 8M Nano.

i.MX 7 Family - i.MX 7Dual, i.MX 7ULP

i.MX 6 Family - i.MX 6QuadPlus, i.MX 6Quad, i.MX 6DualLite, i.MX 6SoloX, i.MX 6UltraLite, i.MX 6ULL, i.MX 6ULZ, i.MX 6SLL

Identification of Affected Products

Product identification does not change

Anticipated Impact on Form, Fit, Function, Reliability or Quality

The license breach introduced terminates the “right to use” code licensed under the Linux GPLv2

Data Sheet Revision

No impact to existing datasheet

Remarks

NXP has released two patches on Feb 9th 2023 on NXP’s GitHub repository “nxp-imx/linux-imx” to fix the problem. These patches will roll back the license to “GPL v2.0 only” for all affected source files and make them compliant with Linux kernel licensing scheme. The patches also remove author’s email ID from the code comments. The following are the patches accessible by customers on GitHub to remedy the problem.

1. LF-8313-1: Update License to GPL-2.0
2. LF-8313-2: Update License to GPL-2.0

NEXT STEPS FOR ALL AFFECTED CUSTOMERS

NXP urges all affected customers to immediately apply the patches to their respective repos based on “5.15.71_2.2.0” BSP release and rebuild images for their specific systems to ensure the license contamination is remedied. NXP has already published new prebuilt images/binary demo files based on “5.15.71_2.2.0” release for all supported NXP EVKs. Customers using EVKs for evaluation can download the new images/binaries from the following link and continue to their evaluation.

<https://www.nxp.com/design/software/embedded-software/i-mx-software/embedded-linux-for-i-mx-applications-processors:IMXLINUX>

Contact and Support

For all inquiries regarding the ePCN tool application or access issues, please contact NXP "Global Quality Support Team".

For all Quality Notification content inquiries, please contact your local NXP Sales Support team.

For specific questions on this notice or the products affected please contact our specialist directly:

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NXP Quality Management Team.

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