

# **SAM Boot Assistant (SAM-BA)**

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## **User Guide**







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# Section 1

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## Overview

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### 1.1 Overview

The SAM Boot Assistant (SAM-BA™) software provides a means of easily programming various Atmel® AT91 ARM® Thumb®-based devices. It runs under Windows® 2000 and XP.

SAM-BA 2.0 is based on AT91Boot\_DLL dll.

Communicating with the target device may be done through an RS232, a USB link or a JTAG link.

This guide gives step-by-step instructions for using the software:

- Section 1 provides an overview.
- Section 2 describes software installation.
- Section 3 details the steps necessary to program an AT91 device with SAM-BA.

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### 1.2 SAM-BA Features

Key features of the SAM-BA software are:

- Performs in-system programming through JTAG, RS232 or USB interfaces
- May be used via a Graphical User Interface or started from a DOS window
- Runs under Windows 2000 and XP
- Memory and peripheral display content
- Target device memory control: read, write, erase, configure, verify, etc.
- User scripts available
- User scripts executable from SAM-BA Graphical User Interface or a shell





## Section 2

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# Installing SAM-BA 2.x

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### 2.1 SAM-BA Installation

To install SAM-BA 2.0 (or higher) on a PC:

1. Uninstall the previous version of SAM-BA if already installed.
2. Uninstall the previous version of AT91-ISP if already installed.

SAM-BA 2.0 (or higher) is part of AT91-ISP installation program.

3. Run the **Install AT91-ISP.exe** program.
4. Follow the installation program instructions.
5. When prompted for an installation directory, specify your AT91-ISP installation directory.

SAM-BA 2.0 is installed in the following directory:

`YOUR_AT91-ISP_INSTALL_DIRECTORY\SAM-BA v2.x`





## Section 3

# Working with SAM-BA

### 3.1 Running SAM-BA

It is now possible for SAM-BA to execute TCL script files directly from a shell without using the Graphical User Interface.

Connect your board to your communication interface (either the host serial port or the USB device port).

**Warning:** The USB cable must NOT be connected to the board for an RS232 use, otherwise the USB interface is chosen by default.

There are two different ways to start SAM-BA:

1. Click on the different SAM-BA icons

or

2. Type in a shell:

```
> [Install Directory]/SAM-BA.exe [Communication Interface] [Board] [Script_File] [Script_File Args]
```

where:

- [Communication Interface]: “usb\ARM0” for USB, “\jlink\ARM0” for JTAG, “COMx” for RS232 where x is the COM port number
- [Board]: the name of the board accessible through the Choose Protocol window (see [Figure 3-1](#))
- [Script\_File] (Optional): Path to the TCL Script File to execute
- [Script\_File Args] (Optional): TCL Script File Arguments

For example: > C:\SAM-BA.exe \usb\ARM0 AT91SAM7S64-EK lib/historyCommand.tcl AT91C\_DBGU\_THR

**Note:** If you enter fewer than three arguments in the command line, SAM-BA opens the Choose Protocol window.

**Note:** If you enter bad arguments in the command line or if there are communication problems, SAM-BA is not able to start.

### 3.2 Connecting the Board

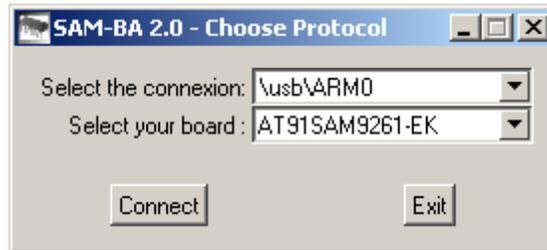
As SAM-BA uses AT91Boot\_DLL Scan function to determine all devices connected to the PC, it is recommended to connect the target to the PC before launching SAM-BA.

### 3.3 Selecting a Board

When SAM-BA starts, a pop-up window (see [Figure 3-1](#)) appears that allows you to choose the board. Once SAM-BA's main window is displayed, the name of the board is shown at the top of the **Memory display** area and on the right side of the status bar (see [Figure 3-2](#)).

**Note:** If you want to change boards, SAM-BA must be restarted.

**Figure 3-1.** Choose Protocol Window



### 3.4 Selecting a Communication Interface

When SAM-BA starts, the communication interface to be used is chosen. All connected devices are listed in the “Select the connection” list. Connections are described by the following strings in the list:

- “\usb\ARMX” for USB connected devices
- “\jlink\ARMX” for SAM-ICE/JLink connected devices
- “COMX” for available COM ports

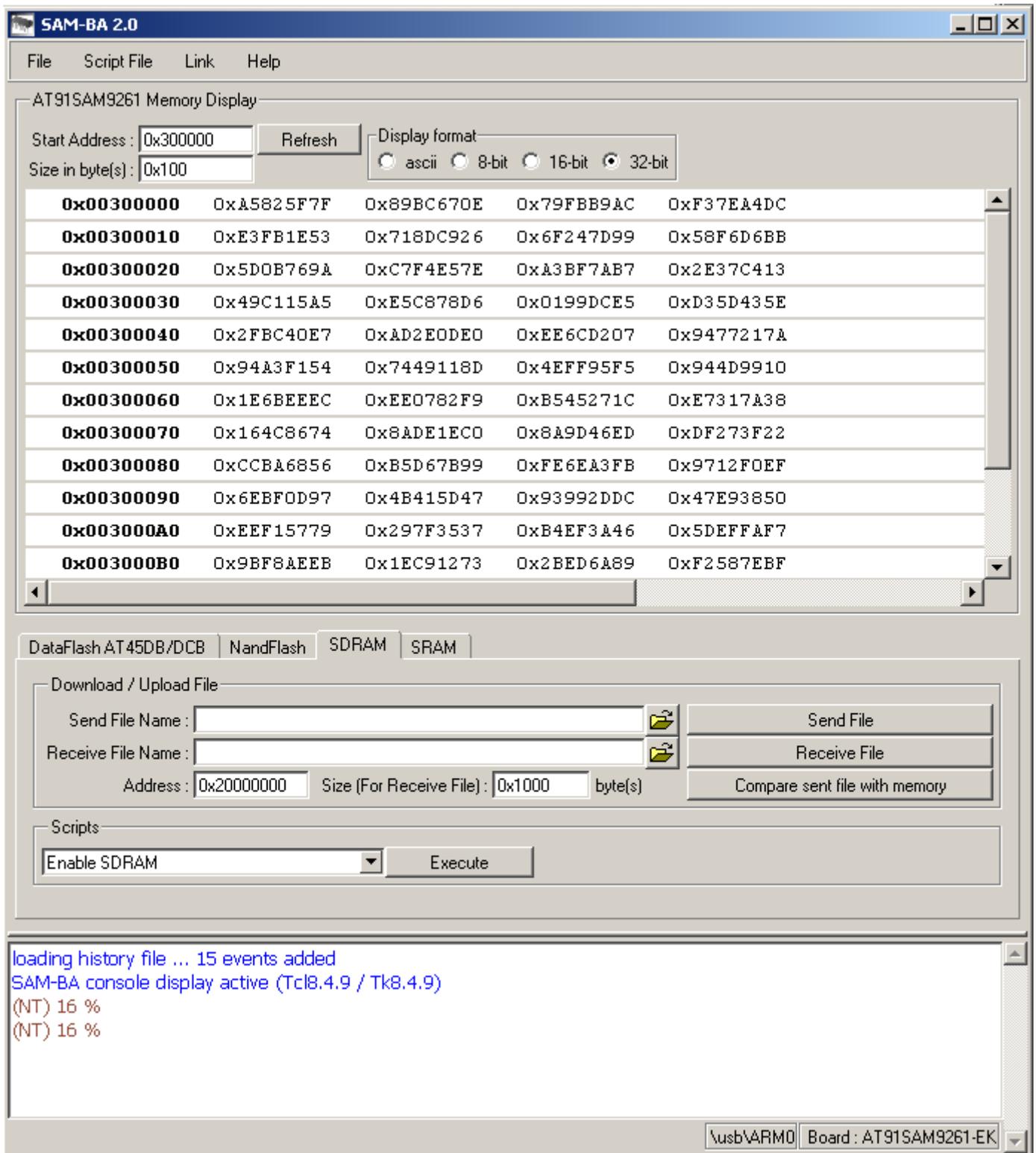
**Warning:** The USB cable must NOT be connected to the board for an RS232 use, otherwise the USB interface is chosen by default.

**Note:** If the type of connection (RS232/USB/JTAG) is changed, the target must be rebooted and SAM-BA must be restarted.

Click on the Connect button. The main window appears (see [Figure 3-2](#)). It contains three different areas. From top to bottom, they are:

- **Memory display** area
- **Memory download** area
- **TCL Shell** area

Figure 3-2. SAM-BA Main Window

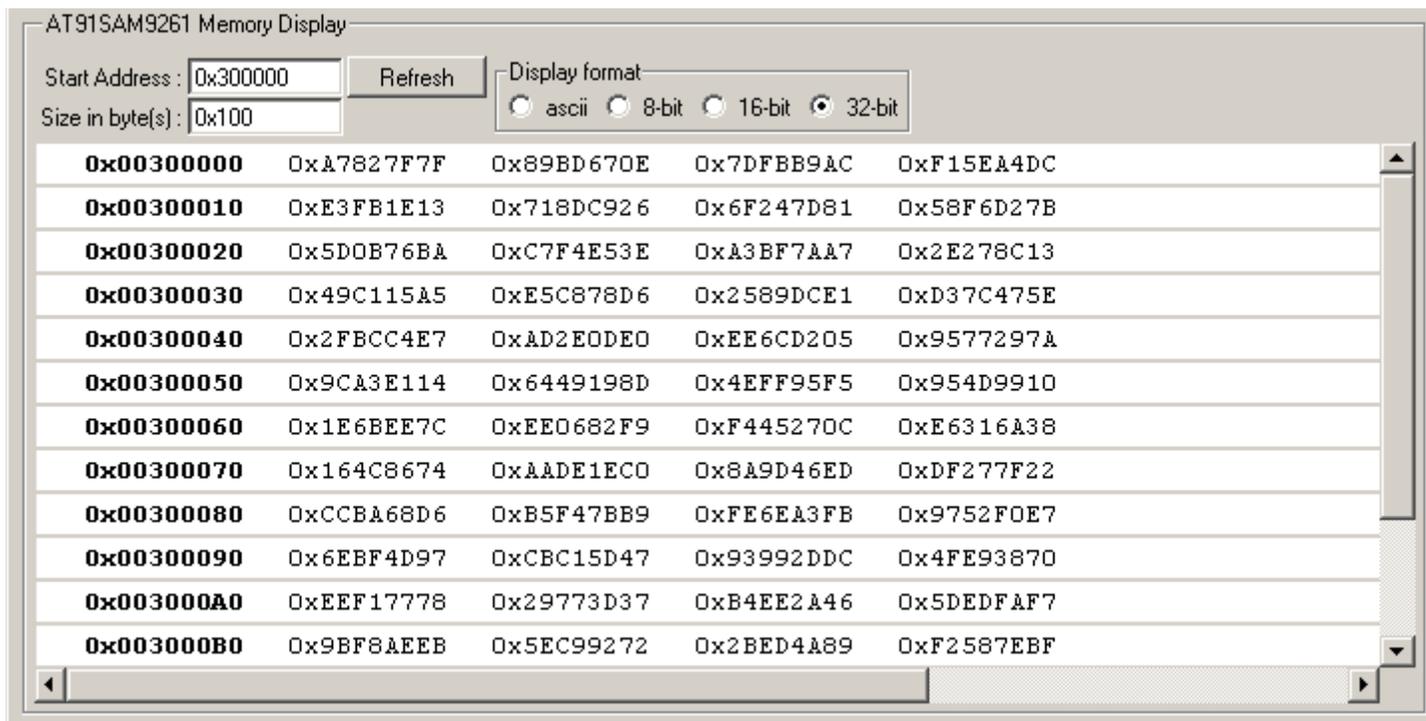


### 3.5 Memory Display Area

In this area you can display a part of the microcontroller memory content. Three different display formats can be used: 32-bit word, 16-bit half-word or 8-bit byte, with a maximum display of 1024-byte long memory area. Values can also be edited by double-clicking on them (see Section 3.5.2).

**Note:** Only valid memory areas or system/user peripheral areas are displayed. An error message is written in the TCL Shell area (see Section 3.7) if a forbidden address is supplied or if a memory overrun occurs.

**Figure 3-3.** Memory Display Area



#### 3.5.1 Read Memory Content

1. Enter the address of the area you want to read in the *Starting Address* field.

**Note:** If a wrong address value is entered, an error message is displayed in the TCL Shell area.

2. Enter the size of the area to display.

**Note:** If a wrong size is entered, an error message is displayed in the TCL Shell area.

3. Choose display format: 32-bit word, 16-bit half-word or 8-bit byte. This automatically refreshes the memory contents.

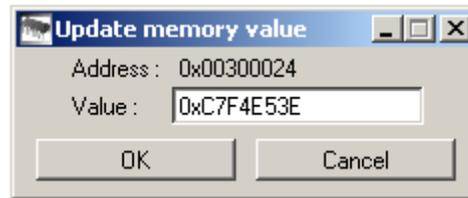
4. Press the *Refresh* button.

#### 3.5.2 Edit Memory Content

Some memories and/or embedded peripherals can be edited:

1. Double-click on the value you want to update. An editable pop-up window appears (see [Figure 3-4](#)).

**Note:** Only some memories can be updated this way, e.g., static RAM or SDRAM (if previously initialized). If you try to write the other memory types, nothing happens.

**Figure 3-4.** Update Memory Value Window

- Press OK to update the value in the **Memory display** area. The corresponding TCL command is displayed in the TCL Shell area.

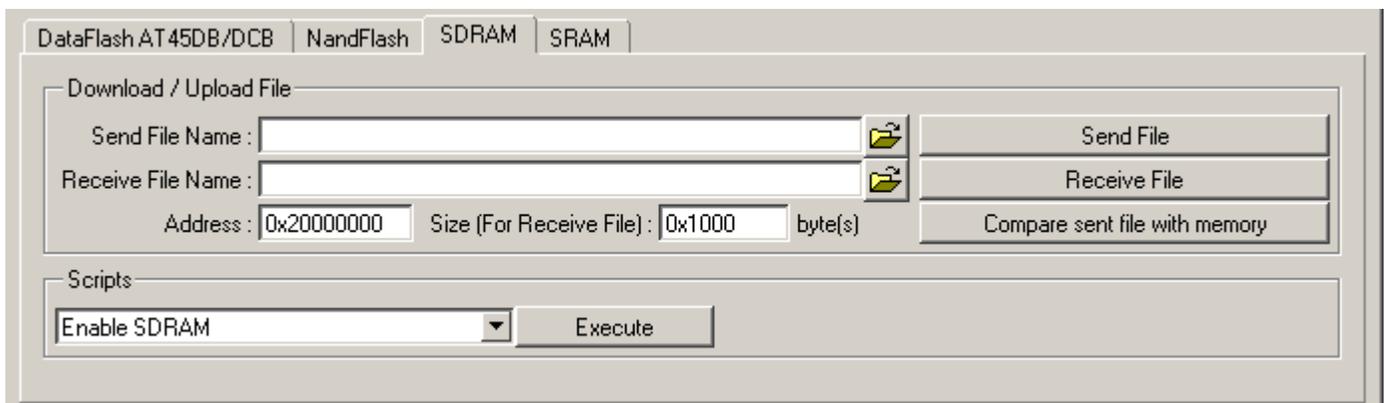
**Note:** Only the lowest bits of the value are taken into account if the format of the value entered is higher than the display format.

### 3.6 Memory Download Area

The **Memory download** area provides a simple way to upload and download data.

For each memory, files can be sent and received and the target's memory content can be compared with a file on your computer (see [Figure 3-5](#)).

This area also gives access to some specific scripts for the different embedded memories (SRAM, SDRAM, Flash, DataFlash, etc.).

**Figure 3-5.** Memory Download Area

#### 3.6.1 Upload a File

- First, select the memory by clicking on its corresponding tab.
- Enter the file name location in the *Send File name* field or open the file browser by clicking on the Open Folder button and select it.

If you enter a wrong file name, an error message will be displayed in the TCL Shell (see [Section 3.7](#)).

- Enter the destination address in the selected memory where the file should be written.

If you enter a forbidden address, or if your file overruns the memory size, an error message is displayed in the TCL Shell.

**Note:** A forbidden address corresponds to an address outside the selected memory range address.

- Send the file using *the Send File* button. Make sure that the memory is correctly initialized before sending any data.

### 3.6.2 Download Data to a File

- First, select the memory by clicking on its corresponding tab.
- Enter the file name location in the *Receive File name* field or open the file browser by clicking on the Open Folder button and select it.

If you enter a wrong file name, an error message is displayed in the TCL Shell (see Section 3.7).

- Enter the address of the first data to read in the *Address* field.
- Enter the data size to read in the *Size* field.

If you enter a forbidden address, or if your file size overruns the memory size, an error message is displayed in the TCL Shell.

**Note:** A forbidden address corresponds to an address outside the selected memory range address.

- Get data using *Receive File* button. Make sure that your memory is correctly initialized before getting any data.

### 3.6.3 Compare Memory with a File

Usually, this feature allows to check if a sent file was correctly written into the memory, but you can compare any files with your memory content. The comparison is made on the size of the selected file.

- First, select the concerned memory by clicking on its corresponding tab.
- Enter the file name location in the *Send File name* field or open the file browser by clicking on the Open Folder button and select it.

If you enter a wrong file name, an error message will be displayed in the TCL Shell (see Section 3.7).

- Enter the address of the first data to compare with the selected file in the *Address* field.

If you enter a forbidden address, or if your file size overruns the memory size, an error message is displayed in the TCL Shell.

**Note:** A forbidden address corresponds to an address outside the selected memory range address.

- Compare the selected file with the memory content using the *Compare sent file with memory* button. A message box is displayed if the file matches or not with the memory content of the file size. Make sure that your memory is correctly initialized before comparing any data.

**Figure 3-6.** Comparison Result Successful



Figure 3-7. Comparison Result Failed



### 3.6.4 Memory Scripts

For each memory some scripts may be supplied. Usually, these scripts allow you to configure and initialize quickly the corresponding memories (SDRAM initialization, erase all Flash, etc).

- To execute a script, select the memory by clicking on its tab.
- Select the script to launch in the list box.
- Click on the *Execute* button.

**Note:** Messages which inform of the correct execution of the script are displayed in the TCL Shell (see Section 3.7) and/or through a message box.

### 3.6.5 NAND Flash Memory Algorithms

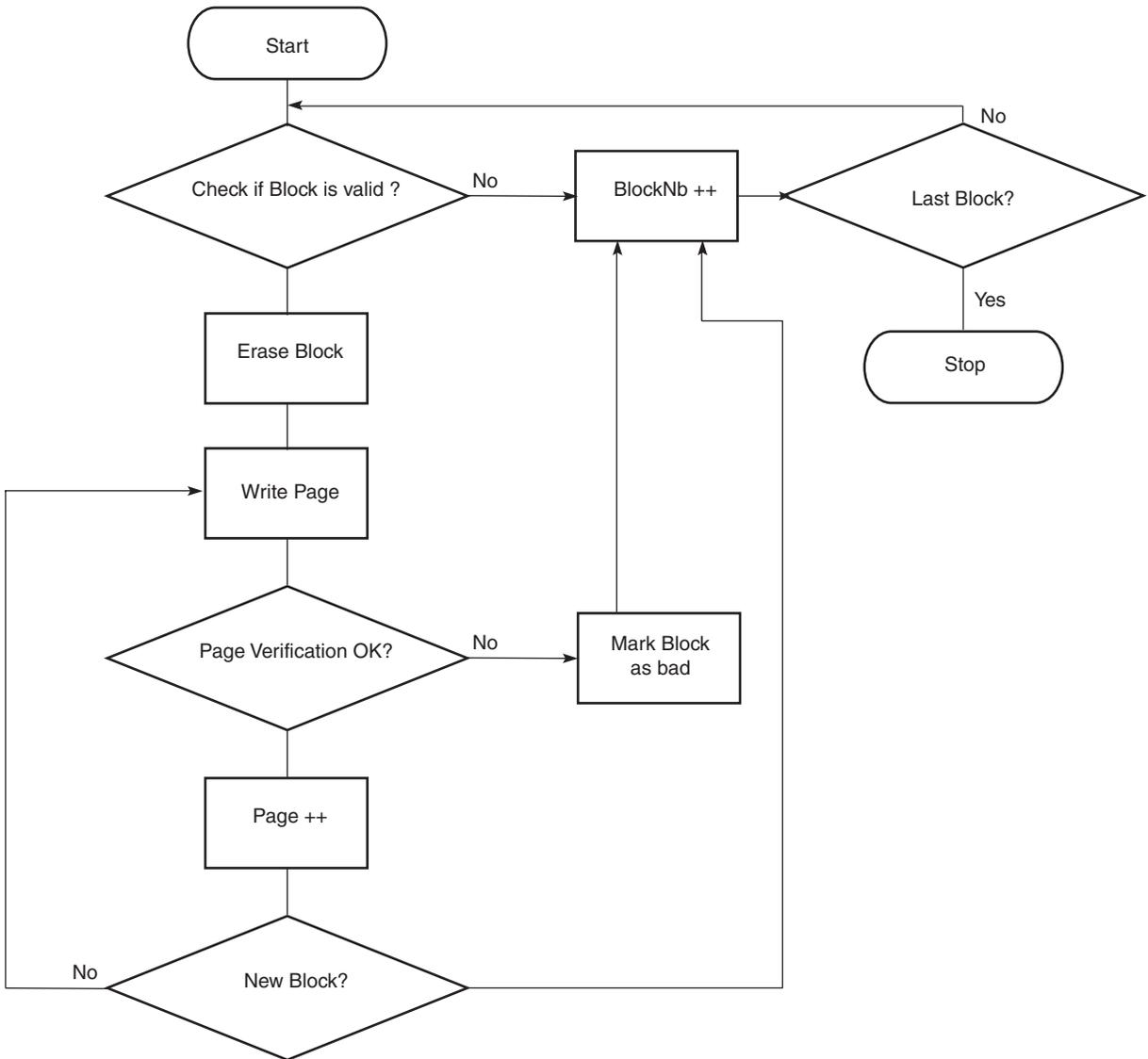
The following information concerns only AT91 parts that contain an External Bus Interface.

As a NAND Flash memory may contain invalid blocks, an Invalid Block Management algorithm has to be implemented.

If an invalid block is detected, it is skipped and data are written in the next block. The same principle has to be implemented in a user application in order to read data from a NAND Flash memory written by SAM-BA application.

### 3.6.5.1 SAM-BA NAND Flash Writing Algorithm

Figure 3-8. SAM-BA NandFlash Writing Algorithm



**3.6.5.2 Invalid Block Management**

The SAM-BA application marks a NandFlash block as invalid by setting the “BadBlock Info” byte in the 8-byte Invalid Block Information structure (see [Figure 3-9](#)) to a value different from 0xFF. This is performed for the first two pages of each bad block.

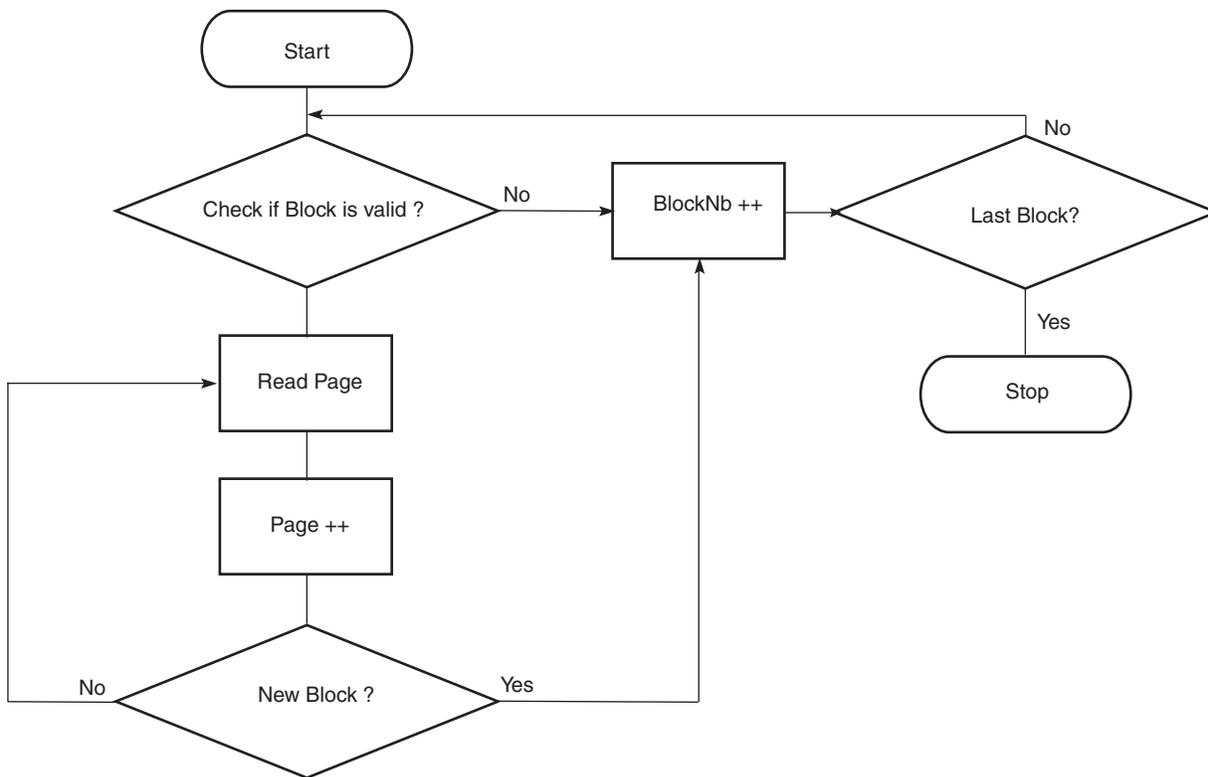
**Figure 3-9.** 8-byte Invalid Block Information structure located at the beginning of the spare location of the first two pages of a block

0	3	4	5	6	7
Reserved		Reserved	BadBlock Info	Reserved	

**3.6.5.3 Reading NAND Flash from a User Application**

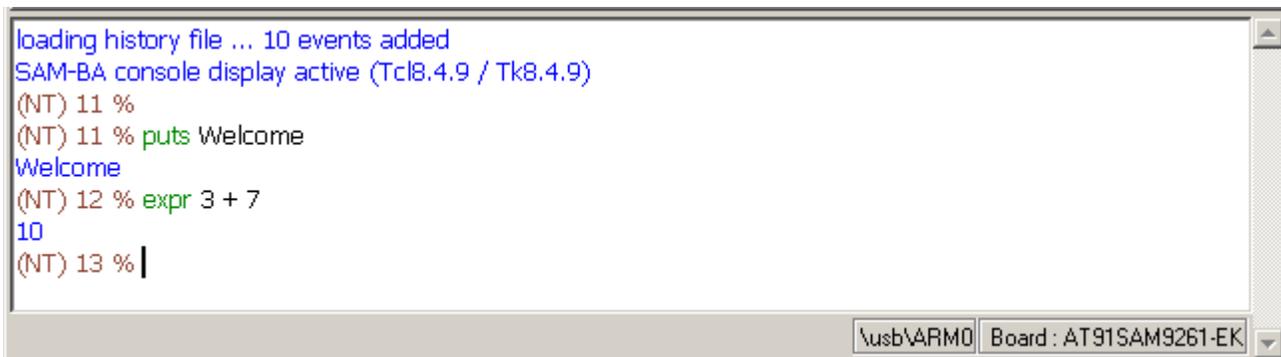
To read data from a NandFlash memory written by a SAM-BA application, a user application must implement the algorithm represented on [Figure 3-10](#).

**Figure 3-10.** SAM-BA NandFlash Writing Algorithm



- 3.7 TCL Shell Area** This is a standard TCL shell. Everything you type in the shell is interpreted by a TCL interpreter. This area gives you access to standard TCL commands. Type “*puts Welcome*” and you will get the result “*Welcome*”, type “*expr 3 + 7*” and you will get the result “*10*” (see [Figure 3-12](#)).

**Figure 3-11.** TCL Shell Window



```
loading history file ... 10 events added
SAM-BA console display active (Tcl8.4.9 / Tk8.4.9)
(NT) 11 %
(NT) 11 % puts Welcome
Welcome
(NT) 12 % expr 3 + 7
10
(NT) 13 % |
```

\usb\ARM0 Board : AT91SAM9261-EK

- 3.7.1 SAM-BA Built-in Commands** TCL is a commonly used scripting language for automation. This interpreted language offers a standard set of commands which can be extended by application specific commands written in C or other languages. Tutorials and a manual can be downloaded here: <http://www.tcl.tk/doc/>.

Specific commands have been added to the SAM-BA TCL interpreter to interface with AT91SAM devices. These basic commands can be used to easily build more complex routines. Please refer to the AT91 In-system Programmer (ISP) User Guide, Atmel Literature number 6224, Section 4, “AT91Boot\_TCL Interface” for a complete description of all available functions.

When SAM-BA starts, a structure containing board and connection information is set. This global variable name is `target`, and the `global target` statement must be declared in any procedure using an API function.

Target structure contents are:

- `handle`: identifier of the link used to communicate with the target
- `board`: a string containing the board name (i.e.: “AT91SAM9261-EK”)
- `connection`: connection type. Can be : “\usb\ARMx” for a USB link, “\jlink\ARMx” for a JTAG link, or “COMx” for a serial link (with x indicating the COM port used)
- `comType`: 1 for serial; 0 for other (USB or JTAG)

These commands are mainly used to send and receive data from the device:

**Table 3-1.** Commands Available through the TCL Shell

Commands	Argument(s)	Example
TCL_Write_Byte	Handle Value Address err_code	<b>TCL_Write_Byte</b> \$target(handle) 0xCA 0x200001 <i>err_code</i>
TCL_Write_Short	Handle Value Address err_code	<b>TCL_Write_Short</b> \$target(handle) 0xCAFE 0x200002 <i>err_code</i>
TCL_Write_Int	Handle Value Address err_code	<b>TCL_Write_Int</b> \$target(handle) 0xCAFEBECCA 0x200000 <i>err_code</i>
TCL_Read_Byte	Handle Address err_code	<b>TCL_Read_Byte</b> \$target(handle) 0x200003 <i>err_code</i>
TCL_Read_Short	Handle Address err_code	<b>TCL_Read_Short</b> \$target(handle) 0x200002 <i>err_code</i>
TCL_Read_Int	Handle Address err_code	<b>TCL_Read_Int</b> \$target(handle) 0x200000 <i>err_code</i>
TCL_Compare	"fileName1" "fileName2"	<b>TCL_Compare</b> "C:/temp/file1.bin" "C:/temp/file2.bin"
TCL_Go	Handle Address err_code	<b>TCL_Go</b> \$target(handle) 0x20008000 <i>err_code</i>
send_file	Memory Name Address	<b>send_file</b> {SDRAM} "C:/temp/file1.bin" 0x20000000
receive_file	Memory Name Address Size	<b>receive_file</b> {SDRAM} "C:/temp/file1.bin" 0x10000
compare_file	Memory Name Address	<b>compare_file</b> {SDRAM} "C:/temp/file1.bin" 0x20000000

**Example:**

```
# dummy_err needs to be defined !!!
set dummy_err 0
TCL_Go $target(handle) 0x300000 dummy_err
```

■ **Write commands:** Write a byte (**TCL\_Write\_Byte**), a halfword (**TCL\_Write\_Short**) or a word (**TCL\_Write\_Int**) to the target.

- *Handle:* handler number of the communication link established with the board.
- *Value:* byte, halfword or word to write in decimal or hexadecimal.
- *Address:* address in decimal or hexadecimal.
- *Output:* nothing.

■ **Read commands:** Read a byte (**TCL\_Read\_Byte**), a halfword (**TCL\_Read\_Short**) or a word (**TCL\_Read\_Int**) from the target.

- *Handle:* handler number of the communication link established with the board.
- *Address:* address in decimal or hexadecimal.
- *Output:* the byte, halfword or word read in decimal.

**Notes:** 1. **TCL\_Read\_Int** returns a signed integer in decimal. For example, reading with **TCL\_Read\_Int** \$target(handle) 0xFFFFFFFF command returns -1 whereas reading 0xFF with **TCL\_Read\_Byte** command returns 255.

2. To obtain the result in hexadecimal format, use the TCL "format" command:

```
puts [format "%x" [TCL_Read_Int $target(handle) 0x300000 err_code]]
```

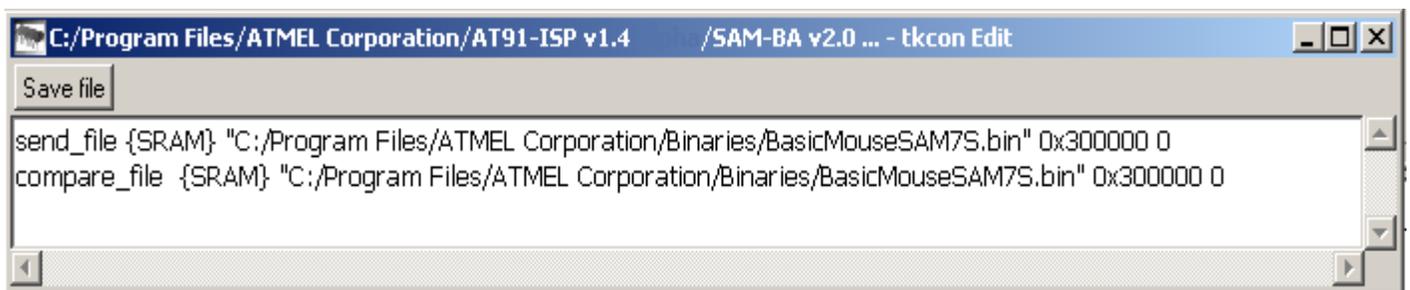
- **send\_file** : Send a file in a specified memory.
    - *Memory*: memory tag.
    - *Name*: absolute path file name (in quotes) or relative path from the current directory (in quotes).
    - *Address*: address in decimal or hexadecimal (in quotes).
    - *Output*: information about the corresponding command on the TCL Shell.
  - **receive\_file**: Receive data into a file from a specified memory.
    - *Memory*: memory tag.
    - *Name*: absolute path file name in quotes or relative path (from the current directory) file name in quotes.
    - *Address*: address in decimal or hexadecimal (in quotes).
    - *Size*: size in decimal or hexadecimal (in quotes).
    - *Output*: information about the corresponding command on the TCL Shell.
  - **compare\_file** : Compare a file with memory data.
    - *Memory*: memory tag.
    - *Name*: absolute path file name (in quotes) or relative path from the current directory (in quotes).
    - *Address*: address of the first data to compare with the file in decimal or hexadecimal (in quotes).
    - *Output*: information about the command progress on the TCL Shell.
  - **TCL\_Compare** : Binary comparison of two files.
    - *fileName1*: absolute path file name (in quotes) or relative path from the current directory (in quotes) of the first file to compare.
    - *fileName2*: absolute path file name (in quotes) or relative path from the current directory (in quotes) of the second file to compare with the first.
    - *Output*: return 1 in case of error, 0 if files are identical.
  - **TCL\_Go** : Jump to a specified address and execute the code.
    - *Handle*: handler number of the communication link established with the board.
    - *Address*: address to jump to in decimal or hexadecimal.
- Note:** If you do not want to exit SAM-BA, the code must include lines that enable a return to the SAM-BA application. Otherwise, SAM-BA does not recover correctly.

The memory tag (in curly brackets) is the name of the memory module defined in the memoryAlgo array in the board description file. For example: {DataFlash AT45DB/DCB}

**Warning:** If you leave SAM-BA, be sure to reboot your board before launching it the next time.

- 3.8 Script File Functionality** SAM-BA allows you to create, edit and execute script files. A script file configures your device easily or automatically runs significant scripts.
- The *Script File* menu supplies commands to start and stop recording, to execute, reset, edit and save the recording file.
- The name of the generate file is *historyCommand.tcl*.
- 3.8.1 Start / Stop / Reset Recording** In the *Script File* menu, select *Start Recording* to begin the record. Now, all the commands that are to be executed in the different blocks of the software are recorded in a specific file called ***historyCommand.tcl***. This file is located in the *usr* directory.
- Note:** Only this file can be written through the Start / Stop / Reset Recording commands.
- If the recording file is not reset, the new recorded commands are added at the end of the ***historyCommand.tcl*** file.
- When you want to stop recording, select *Stop Recording* in the menu.
- If you want to erase the ***historyCommand.tcl*** content, select *Reset Recording*.
- 3.8.2 Editing the Script File** You have the possibility to edit the ***historyCommand.tcl*** recording file. Use the command *Edit Script File* in the *Script File* menu. A new window appears in which you can edit and save the content. You can save your modified script in another file through the Save file button. Thus several configuration scripts for specific use are available.

**Figure 3-12.** Script File Edition View



- 3.8.3 Execute the Script File** As it is now possible for SAM-BA to execute TCL script files directly from a shell without using the GUI. There are two possibilities to execute a script file.
- See [Section 3.1 "Running SAM-BA"](#) for more information on how to execute TCL script files from a shell.
  - Use the command *Execute Script File* in the GUI *Script File* menu and enter the TCL file to execute. Messages that inform of the correct execution of the script are displayed in the TCL Shell and/or through message boxes.
- Note:** All TCL commands can be executed through script files.
- 3.9 Disconnection** It is possible to close the current connection if necessary by clicking on the corresponding *Link/Disconnect* menu (see [Figure 3-13](#)).

Figure 3-13. Link Menu





## Section 4

# Revision History

### 4.1 Revision History

Document Ref.	Comments	Change Request Ref.
6132A	First issue	
6132B	New feature: TCL scripts now executable directly from a shell: <a href="#">Section 1.2 "SAM-BA Features"</a> , <a href="#">Section 3.1 "Running SAM-BA"</a> , <a href="#">Section 3.8.3 "Execute the Script File"</a> . New sections on NandFlash memory management: <a href="#">Section 3.6.5 "NAND Flash Memory Algorithms"</a> , <a href="#">Section 3.6.5.1 "SAM-BA NAND Flash Writing Algorithm"</a> , <a href="#">Section 3.6.5.2 "Invalid Block Management"</a> and <a href="#">Section 3.6.5.3 "Reading NAND Flash from a User Application"</a> .	
6132C	Major update to document, SAM-BA 2.0 provides new functions. All sections updated.	





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## Literature Requests

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6132C-ATARM-09-Oct-06