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New Bluetooth® Core Specification 4.2 Makes Major Leap Forward with Advancements for the Internet of Things; also adds Privacy, Security, and Speed Enhancements

Advanced Ellisys Technology Enables Developers with Early Support of New Features

Geneva, Switzerland — December 17, 2014 — Last week, the Bluetooth Special Interest Group (SIG) announced the release of Bluetooth Core Specification 4.2, introducing important new features for Bluetooth Smart, the ultra-power efficient, application-friendly version of Bluetooth. These features include much-anticipated support for the key role for Bluetooth in the Internet of Things (IoT), as well as updates for privacy, throughput, and security. Ellisys, a worldwide leader in protocol test and analysis solutions, and provider of the industry's most advanced Bluetooth protocol analyzer, is pleased to officially announce that support for new 4.2 features is installed on its Bluetooth Explorer™ 400 All-in-One Protocol Analyzer, and in fact has been available for nearly a year, free of charge to its customers. Such early feature support enables test and verification projects for leading-edge developers and greatly speeds the overall development cycle. The Bluetooth Explorer uniquely features an advanced, instrument-grade proprietary radio that is routinely software-reconfigured to support such changes.

"Before the introduction of our Bluetooth analyzer, developers struggled to test radio and stack changes, as legacy protocol analysis tools essentially relied on finished radio silicon as their core component. It was simply an inefficient chicken and egg predicament. Since we introduced this analyzer four years ago, developers have been able to test and characterize changes to the specification almost immediately, even as such changes were just in the proposal or conceptual stages," stated Mario Pasquali, Ellisys president and CEO. "This approach means that new Bluetooth devices are validated faster and therefore get to market much quicker, providing significant development cycle cost savings and with higher reliability and quality."

Smarter and Faster

The Core Specification 4.2 update provides both new features as well as extensions to certain existing features for Bluetooth Smart, the low energy (LE) version of Bluetooth first introduced as the hallmark feature of the December 2010 release of Core Specification 4.0. These updates include extended length data packets for increased throughput up to 2.5x (LE Data Length Extension), privacy updates aimed at preventing tracking and increasing power efficiency (LE Privacy 1.2), and more robust pairing security using FIPS-compliant encryption (LE Secure Connections).

"Ellisys Bluetooth test equipment plays a key role in our product development and validation", said Miles Louis Smith, Senior R&D Engineer, Test Group, Nordic Semiconductor. "Getting up to date testing capabilities early in our development cycle is crucial for our engineers to maximize productivity. We are glad that Ellisys provides us with cutting-edge features, even before the specification is released, which is important to stay competitive in a quickly developing market like the Internet of Things."

Flexible Internet Connectivity

Various industry analysts predict more than 25 billion devices will reside on the IoT by 2020. Associative with this Core Specification update, the Bluetooth SIG announced the near-term availability of features that enable Bluetooth Smart sensors to access the Internet through a gateway device, which will provide IoT accessibility for Bluetooth devices. These features include Low Power IP (IPV6/6LoWPAN) through the Internet Protocol Support Profile (IPSP), and Bluetooth Smart Internet Gateways over the existing Generic Attribute Profile (GATT) through the HTTP Proxy Service (HPS).

For the latest Bluetooth 4.2 technical details, please visit: https://www.bluetooth.org/en-us/specification/adopted-specifications

Revolutionary Digital Radio Enables Immediate Updates as Bluetooth Technology Evolves

Thanks to its revolutionary and proprietary whole-band digital radio, the highly extensible Bluetooth Explorer 400 is able to support test and development of specification updates as they are brought up in developer labs or at industry testing events organized by the Bluetooth Special Interest Group (www.bluetooth.org). This is done with just a simple software update, and importantly, no need (or long wait) for an expensive hardware upgrade. Best of all, this update is free of charge for Ellisys customers - absolutely no annual maintenance charges.

Bluetooth Explorer 400 Major Features

The Bluetooth Explorer 400 uniquely supports one-click concurrent, synchronous capture of:

- Classic Bluetooth BR/EDR
- Bluetooth Smart (Bluetooth Low Energy)
- 2.4 GHz Raw Spectrum Energy
- USB HCI (1 port), UART HCI (2 ports) and SPI HCI (2 ports)
- Logic signals
- Audio I2S
- Wireless Coexistence Interface 2 (WCI-2)
- Encrypted Traffic

Bluetooth Explorer 400 Availability, Product Photos, and Information

The Bluetooth Explorer 400 is available in various configurations in order to meet specific customer requirements. For more information, including software downloads, please contact sales@ellisys.com or visit www.ellisys.com/products/bex400.

A high-resolution photo can be downloaded from: www.ellisys.com/archive/images/bex400.png

About Ellisys

Ellisys is a Test and Measurement company committed to the design and timely introduction of advanced protocol analysis solutions for USB and Bluetooth technologies. More information is available on www.ellisys.com.

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