

# AT Interface - Pairing (vSP & non-vSP Mode)

BL65x smartBASIC modules

Application Note v1.0

## 1 Introduction

The goal of this document is to demonstrate the use of the smartBASIC *AT.Interface.BL65x.sb* application to pair two devices (encrypt the connection between the devices) and enable MITM protection (if required), using a few simple AT commands and S-Register configurations. Once the devices have paired, the encryption keys will be stored in the Bonded Device Database for future connections.

## 2 OVERVIEW

AT Interface supports two modes of operation: **vSP** (Virtual Serial Port) Mode (default), which enables Laird's custom Virtual Serial Port service and **non-vSP** mode for setting up or connecting to other Bluetooth LE services. For more information on these two modes see section 3.1 of the User Guide - BL65x AT Interface Application.

It is recommended that users reference the User Guide - BL65x AT Interface Application along with this user guide. All commands mentioned in this application note are fully defined in the User Guide - BL65x AT Interface Application. Section two of the User Guide also contains instructions for loading the AT.Interface.bl65x.sb smartBASIC application to the module.

### 2.1 Contents

- Requirements
- Preparation
- Set Up Central Role Device
- Set Up Peripheral Role Device
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- non-vSP mode Pairing (Encryption only No MITM)
- vSP & non-vSP mode Pairing (Encryption with MITM)
- Checking Bonded Device Database Options

## **3 REQUIREMENTS**

- Two BL65x Development Kits (BL652, BL653, BL654, BL654PA), or two smartBASIC-BL654 dongles [451-00003]), each loaded with \$autorun\$.AT.interface.BL65x.sb. (v5.04 or later)
  - One to act as Central Role Device (GATT Client)
  - One to act as Peripheral Role Device (GATT Server)
- UwTerminalX
- User Guide BL65x AT Interface Application

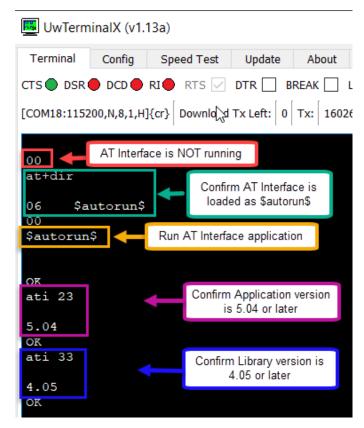


## 4 PREPARATION

This application note assumes you have already loaded the most current version of the at.interface.bl65x.sb sample application available from the BL65x GitHub repository to both the Central Role and Peripheral Role devices and are getting the OK response in UwTerminalX after pressing **Enter.** For instructions on how to load the application to the module please reference section 2 of User Guide - BL65x AT Interface Application.

Connect both DVKs (or USB dongles) to the PC via the UART Interface and verify the COM ports. Connect each device to a separate instance of UwTerminalX. Press **Enter** to confirm the AT Interface application is running – you should receive an OK response. If you receive 00 as a response, the AT Interface application is not running; to run the AT Interface application enter \$autorun\$ and press **Enter**. Verify the version of the AT Interface application is 5.04 or later, and the AT Interface Library version is 4.05 or later using the following commands:

- ATI 23 // Calls the version number of the AT Interface Application
- ATI 33 // Calls the version number of the AT Interface Library





# 5 SET UP CENTRAL ROLE DEVICE

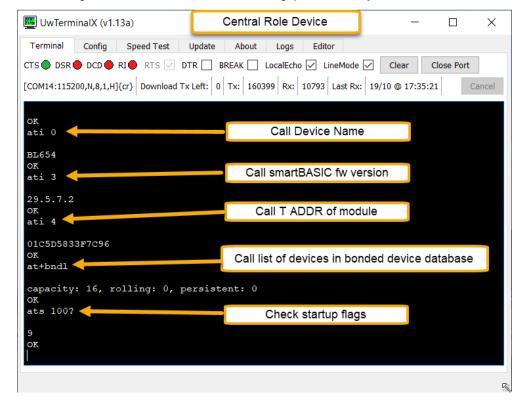
On the device acting in the Central role, send the following commands:

```
    ati 0  // Calls device name
    ati 3  // Calls smartBASIC firmware version
    ati 4  // Calls the BT ADDR of the module
    at+bndl  // Calls list of devices in the bonded device database
    ats 100?  // Check Start-up Flags (see Figure 1)
```

100 Start-up Flags  Bit 0: Set to VSPConnectable - hence populates GATT table and starts adverts  Bit 1: Ignored if bi t0 is 1 otherwise start advertising with no timeout  Bit 2: Ignored if bit 0 is 1 otherwise start scanning with no timeout  Bit 3: Set for max bidirectional throughput of about 127kbps, otherwise half that.  Bit 4: Use Data Length Extension (#define DLE_ATTRIBUTE_SIZE) in smartBASIC application  Bit 5: Phy Rate  00 – 1MPHY 01 – Long Range – 125kbps	Register	Description
10 – RFU : will set 1 MPHY 11 – 2MPHY	100	Bit 0: Set to VSPConnectable - hence populates GATT table and starts adverts  Bit 1: Ignored if bit 0 is 1 otherwise start advertising with no timeout  Bit 2: Ignored if bit 0 is 1 otherwise start scanning with no timeout  Bit 3: Set for max bidirectional throughput of about 127kbps, otherwise half that.  Bit 4: Use Data Length Extension (#define DLE_ATTRIBUTE_SIZE) in smartBASIC application  Bit 5: Phy Rate  00 - 1MPHY 01 - Long Range - 125kbps 10 - RFU: will set 1 MPHY

Figure 1: Start up flags (S-Register 100)

Start-up flags by default have bits 0 and 3 set, which means the device will advertise for a vSP connection on startup/reset and will be configured for maximum bidirectional throughput, which only allows one connection.



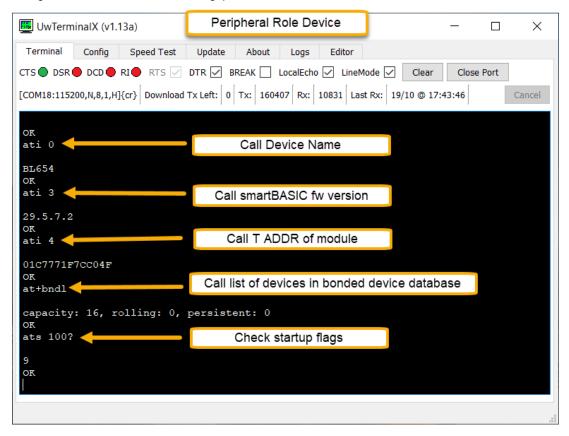


## 6 SET UP PERIPHERAL ROLE DEVICE

On the Device acting in the Peripheral role, ensure the AT Interface application is loaded and running on the module by pressing **Enter** and looking for the OK response. Then send the following commands:

- ATI 0 // Calls device name
   ATI 3 // Calls the firmware version on the module
- ATI 4 // Calls the BT ADDR of the module
- AT+BNDL // Calls list of devices in the bonded device database (EMPTY)
- ATS 100? // Check Start-up flags

Start-up flags by default have bits 0 and 3 set which means the device will advertise for a vSP connection on startup and is configured for Max bidirectional throughput.





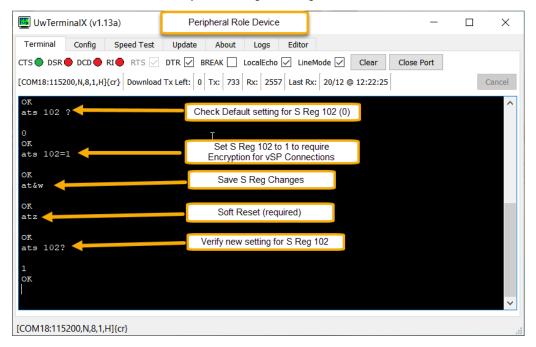
# 7 VSP PAIRING (ENCRYPTION ONLY - NO MITM)

# 7.1 Step 1: Configure S Registers

In the AT Interface Application, S Register 102 is used to set the Encryption Requirement for incoming vSP connections. When set to 1, encryption is required for vSP connections. To configure the **Peripheral device** to require encrypted vSP Connections enter the following commands to set S Register 102 and save the changes:

#### **Peripheral Role Device:**

- ATS 102=1 // Set S Register 102 to 1 to require encryption.
- AT&W // Save the S Register setting.
- ATZ // Soft Reset.
- ATS 102? // Verify new setting for S Reg 102.

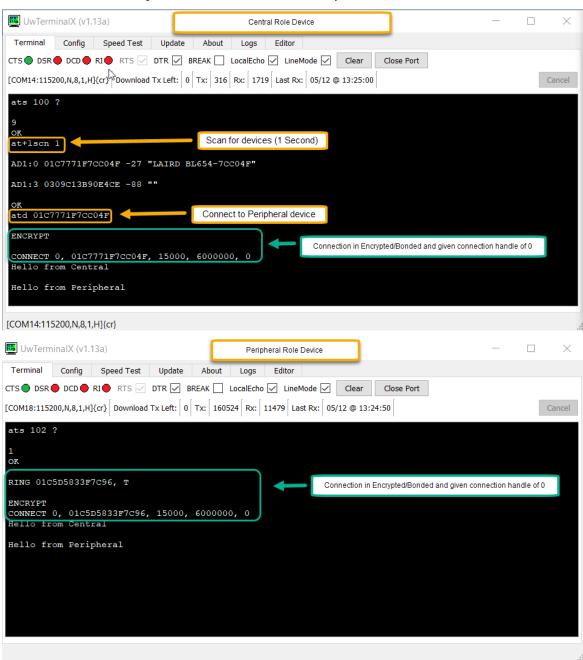




## 7.2 Step 2: Connect from Central Device

Enter the following commands to connect from the Central device:

- // Scan for 1 second (scan time can be adjusted) AT+LSCN 1
- // Connect to Peripheral device in vSP mode ATD [BTADDR-Peripheral]

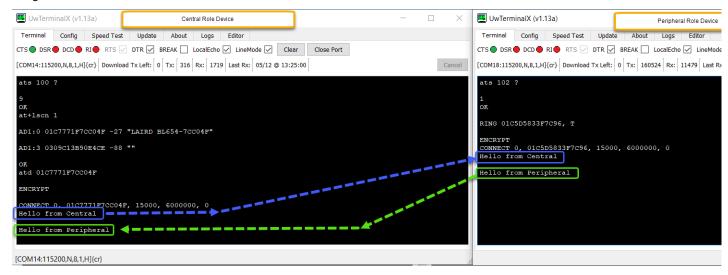


Note: For an explanation of the connection response see section 3.4.1.1 of the AT Interface User Guide. The number following "CONNECT" is the connection handle.



## 7.3 Step 3: Send Data over vSP Connection

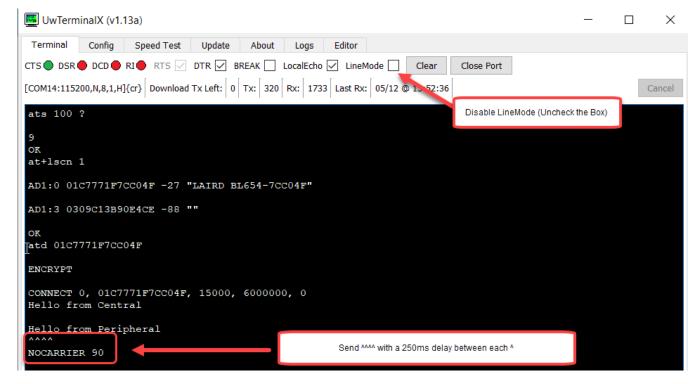
The devices are now connected in vSP bridge mode with an encrypted connection and any data sent over the UART will be bridged via the vSP connection and sent to the connected device.



## 7.4 Step 4: Exit vSP Bridge Mode

To exit vSP bridge mode, complete the following:

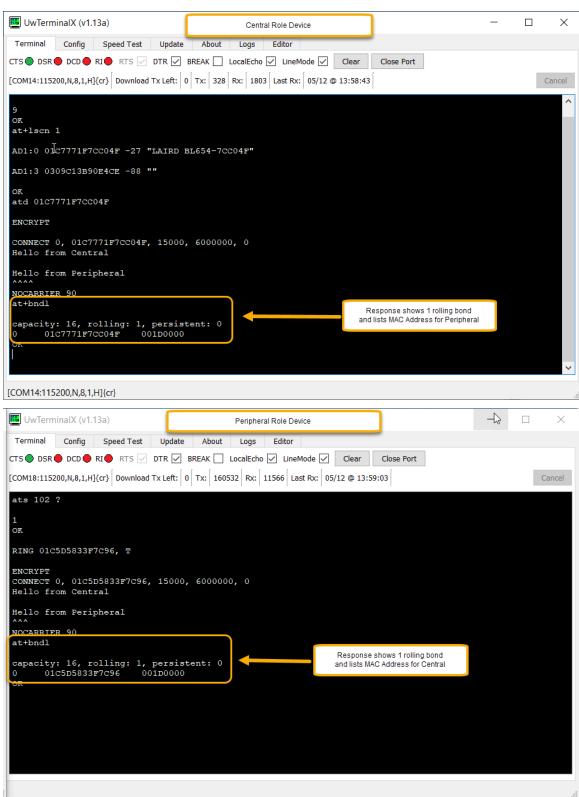
- Disable LineMode in UwTerminalX on either Device.
- Send the escape characters ^^^ with a 250ms delay between each character.
- The connection will terminate.





## 7.5 Check Bonded Device Database

Once the vSP connection is terminated, re-enable LineMode and then verify the devices are bonded by entering the command to check the Bonded Device Database: AT+BNDL



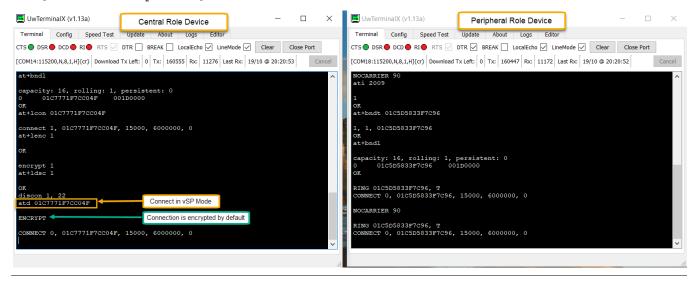


# 7.6 Reconnect in vSP Mode (Encrypted by default)

When reconnecting in vSP mode using the ATD command, after the devices have been paired & bonded, future connections will automatically be encrypted.

#### **Central Role Device:**

ATD[BTADDR-Peripheral]



Note: When encryption with MITM protection (ATS 102 =3) is required between two devices for vSP mode, it is necessary to initially use non-vSP mode to connect and pair the devices as explained in 9 vSP & non-vSP mode Pairing (Encryption with MITM). Once the devices are paired, the encryption keys will be stored in the bonded

device database, and subsequent connections whether in vSP mode or non-VSP mode will be encrypted.



# 8 NON-VSP MODE PAIRING (ENCRYPTION ONLY NO MITM)

# 8.1 Restore Default Settings and Clear Bonded Device Database

If the devices have been paired previously, it is recommended to restore the default settings and clear the Bonded Device Databases on BOTH devices using AT&F to restore default settings and AT+BNDX to clear the Bonded Device Database:

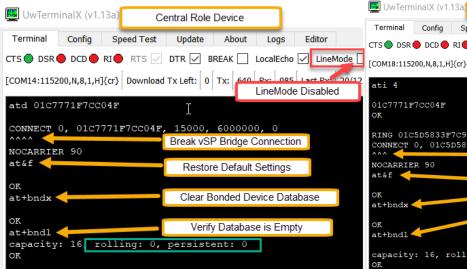
- 1. Break any existing vSP Bride connection using the escape characters ^^^^ as explained in 7.4 Step 4: Exit vSP Bridge Mode on either device.
- Enter AT&F on each device to restore default settings.
- 3. Enter AT+BNDX to clear the bonded device database.
- 4. Verify the database has been cleared using AT+BNDL command.

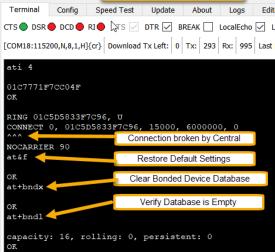
#### **Central Role Device**

```
    AT&F // Reset Default Settings
    AT+BNDX // Clear Bonded Device Database
    AT+BNDL // Verify Database is empty
```

#### **Peripheral Role Device**

AT&F // Reset Default Settings
 AT+BNDX // Clear Bonded Device Database
 AT+BNDL // Verify Database is empty





Peripheral Role Device

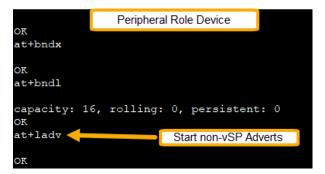


# 8.2 Configure Peripheral Device to use non-vSP Advert

On the Peripheral Role Device enter AT+LADV to start non-vSP adverts.

#### **Peripheral Role Device**

■ AT+LADV //Start non-vSP Adverts



CONNECT 0, 01C5D5833F7C96, 15000, 6000000, 0

# 8.3 Scan for Devices (Optional) & Connect:

On Central role device enter the following commands to scan (optional) for Peripheral devices and then connect:

#### **Central Role Device:**

```
AT+LSCN 1
                                                         // Scan for 1 second (scan time can be adjusted)
                                                         // Connect in non-vSP mode to peripheral device
     AT+LCON [BTADDR-Peripheral]
[COM14:115200,N,8,1,H]{cr} | Download Tx Left: | 0 | Tx: | 470 | Rx: | 1325 | Last Rx: | 15/12 @ 15:57:29
at+bndl
                                Central Role Device
capacity: 16, rolling: 0, persistent: 0
                                          Scan for 1 second
AD1:0 01C7771F7CC04F -22 "LAIRD BL654-7CC04F"
AD1:0 01C7771F7CC04F -22 "LAIRD BL654-7CC04F"
                                                     BTADDR-Peripheral
AD1:0 01C7771F7CC04F -22 "LAIRD BL654-7CC04F"
at+1con 01C7771F7CC04F
                                         Connect to BTADDR-Peripheral
 connect 1, 01C7771F7CC04F, 15000, 6000000, 0
                      Peripheral Role Device
                                     Connection Made from Central
RING 01C5D5833F7C96, U
```

For an explanation of the connection response see section 3.4.1.1 of the AT Interface User Guide. The number following "CONNECT" is the connection handle.



## 8.4 Pair and Bond Devices

Once connected send the AT+PAIR[hIdx] command to pair and bond with the connection handle returned in the connection response:

#### **Central Role Device**

AT+PAIR 1 // Pair with device – connection handle 1



Note: For explanation of response to pairing see section 3.4.3.30 of the AT Interface User Guide.

## 8.5 Read GATT Server Table Map

Confirm connection by reading GATT Server Table Map using AT+GCTM [Hdlx] command.

#### **Central Role Device (GATT Client)**

AT+GCTM 1 // Read GATT Svr

#### Table Map - Connection Handle 1

```
Central Role Device
OK
AT+GCTM 1
                         Read GATT Svr Table Map
TM:S:1, (9), FE011800
TM: C:3, 00000002, FE012A00, 0
TM: C:5, 00000002, FE012A01, 0
TM: C:7, 00000002, FE012A04, 0
TM: C:9, 00000002, FE012AA6, 0
TM:S:10, (13), FE011801
TM: C:12, 00000020, FE012A05, 0
TM: D:13, FE012902
TM:S:14, (65535), FD021101
TM: C:16, 00000010, FD022000, 0
TM: D:17, FE012902
TM: C:19, 0000000C, FD022001, 0
TM: C:21, 00000010, FD022002, 0
TM: D:22, FE012902
TM: C:24, 0000000C, FD022003, 0
```



## 8.6 Check Bonded Device Databases on both devices

After Pairing check the Bonded Device Database using AT+BNDL command:

■ AT+BNDL // Check Bonded Devices Database

```
encrypt 1
                                 Central Role Device
PI:1, 0, 0, 5, 3
at+bndl
capacity: 16. rolling:
                              persistent:
      01C7771F7CC04F
                            001D0000
                                                1 Rolling Device
                                          BT Addr of Peripheral Listed
OK
encrypt 1
                             Peripheral Role Device
PI:1, 0, 0, 5, 3
at+bndl
capacity: 16, rolling: 1
                            persistent
      01C5D5833F7C96
                          001D0000
                                              1 Rolling Device
                                           BT Addr of Central Listed
OK
```

# 8.7 Reconnect with Encryption - Non-vSP Mode

When reconnecting in non-vSP mode, even though the devices have been previously paired/bonded, the future connections will not automatically be encrypted. This is because characteristics can have different levels of security, therefore, to encrypt the connection using the stored keys it is necessary to send the AT+LENC hdlx command following the connection command as shown below:

#### **Either Device**

AT+LDSC 1 // Disconnect from connection handle 1

#### **Peripheral Role Device**

■ AT+LADV // Restart non-vSP Adverts

#### **Central Role Device**

AT+LCON [BTADDR-Peripheral] // Reconnect with peripheral device
 AT+LENC 1 // Encrypt connection handle 1

```
OK
discon 1, 22
at+lcon 01c7771F7cc04F, 15000, 6000000, 0
at+lenc 1

OK

Connect 1, 01c7771F7cc04F, 15000, 6000000, 0
at+lenc 1

OK
```

```
encrypt 1
PI:1, 0, 0, 5, 3

discon 1, 19
at+lady

Re-start non-vSP Adverts

OK

connect 1, 01c5D5833F7c96, 15000, 6000000, 0

encrypt 1

Connection is now Encrypted
```



# 9 VSP & NON-VSP MODE PAIRING (ENCRYPTION WITH MITM)

# 9.1 Restore Default Settings and Clear Bonded Device Database

If the devices have been paired previously, it is recommended you restore the default settings and clear the Bonded Device Databases on BOTH devices:

```
// Disconnect from Handle 1 (from either Device)
    AT+LDSC 1
                        // Restore Default Settings (both devices)
    AT&F
                        // Clear Bonded Device Database (both devices)
    AT+BNDX
                        // Verify Database is empty (both devices)
    AT+BNDL
[COM14:115200,N,8,1,H]{c
                                                        2789 Last Rx: 20/1
                            Central Role Device
                        Peripheral issued Disconnect Cmd
discon 1, 19
at&f
                             Restore Default Settings
OK
                          Clear Bonded Device Database
at+bndx
at+bndl
                           Verify Database is Empty
capacity: 16, rolling:
                                persistent:
[COM18:115200,N,8,1,H]{cr}
                               Peripheral Role Device
                                                            Last Rx: 20/12
at+ldsc 1
                            Disconnect cmd issued
discon 1, 22
at&f
                                Restore Default Settings
                             Clear Bonded Device Database
at+bndx
                             Verify Database is Empty
at+bndl •
capacity: 16, rolling: 0,
```



# 9.2 Configure S Registers on Central Role Device

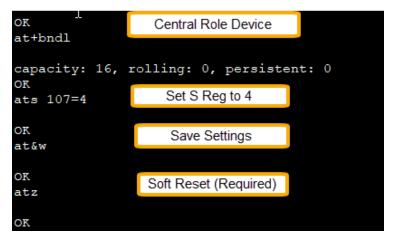
S Regiser 107 is used to set the I/O Capability used during the initial negotiation when pairing. This specifies the user interface that is available to expedite a pairing. 'Just Works' pairing implies there is no user interface therefore, the resulting encryption key will not be authenticated and so not immune to MITM (man-in-the-middle) attack. Valid values are as follows:

- 0 = Just Works
- 1 = Display with Y/N
- 2 = Keyboard only
- 3 = Display Only
- 4 = Keyboard + Display

For the purposes of this demonstration, we will be setting S Reg 107 on both devices to 4.

#### **Central Role Device**

```
    ATS 107=4 // Configure S Reg 107 to 4
    AT&W // Save the changes
    ATZ // Soft Reset
```





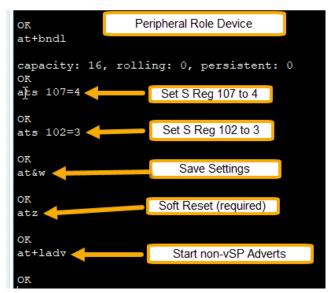
# 9.3 Configure S Registers on Peripheral Role Device and start nonvSP Adverts

On the Peripheral Role Device, in addition to setting the I/O Cap setting via S Reg 107 to 4, we will also be setting the Encryption Requirements for vSP connections via S Reg 102 to 3, which will require both Encryption and MITM (Authentication) for incoming vSP Connections. This will have no impact on non-vSP connections; however, it will require making the initial vSP connection in non-vSP mode to allow for authentication to occur. After pairing/authenticating in non-vSP Modes subsequent vSP connections will meet these requirements.

**Note:** If you will not be using vSP mode, setting S Reg 102 is optional.

#### **Peripheral Role Device**

```
    ATS 107=4  // Set S Reg 107 to 4
    ATS 102=3  // Set S Reg 102 to 3 (Optional – Only required for vSP)
    AT&W  // Save Settings
    ATZ  // Soft Reset (required)
    AT+LADV  // Start non-vSP Adverts
```





## 9.4 Connect, Pair & Authenticate Connection in non-vSP Mode

Issue the following commands to connect, pair and authenticate the connection.

#### **Central Role Device:**

AT+LCON [BTADDR-Peripheral] // Initiate Connection
 AT+PAIR 1 // Initiate Pairing connect handle 1
 AT+PRSP 1, Y // Respond to authentication comparecode request – connect handle 1

#### **Peripheral Role Device:**

AT+PRSP 1, Y
 // Respond to authentication comparecode request

Connection is now encrypted and authenticated.

Enter AT+GCTM [Hdlx] on the Central Role device/GATT Client to read the GATT Table map of the Peripheral role device/GATT Server.

#### **Central Role Device:**

AT+GCTM 1 // Confirm connection by reading GATT Server

#### **Table Map - Connection 1:**

```
Central Role Deice
at+1con 01C7771F7CC04F <
                                Connect Devices
connect 1, 01C7771F7CC04F, 15000, 6000000,
at+pair 1 🗸
                            Pair and Bond Devices
OK
                                Confirm codes on
comparecode 1, 708599
                               both devices match
at+prsp 1, Y
                              Send Pair Response
OK
encrypt 1
PI:1, 0, 0, 5, F
                                Read GATT Table
at+gctm 1 <
TM:S:1, (9), FE011800
TM: C:3, 00000002, FE012A00, 0
TM: C:5, 00000002, FE012A01, 0
TM: C:7, 00000002, FE012A04, 0
TM: C:9, 00000002, FE012AA6, 0
TM:S:10, (13), FE011801
TM: C:12, 00000020, FE012A05, 0
TM: D:13, FE012902
TM:S:14, (65535), FD021101
TM: C:16, 00000010, FD022000, 0
TM: D:17, FE012902
TM: C:19, 0000000C, FD022001, 0
TM: C:21, 00000010, FD022002, 0
    D:22, FE012902
TM:
TM: C:24, 0000000C, FD022003, 0
OK
```

```
Peripheral Role Device

at+ladv

Start non-vSP Adverts

OK

connect 1, 01c5p5833f7c96, 15000, 6000000, 0

comparecode 1, 708599

at+prsp 1, Y

Send Pair Response

OK

encrypt 1

PI:1, 0, 0, 5, F

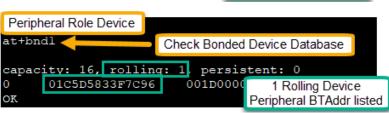
Connection is now Encrypted
```



## 9.5 Check Bonded Device Database on Both Devices

// Check Bonded Devices Database

After pairing, check the bonded device database using AT+BNDL command:



# 9.6 Verify vSP Connections meet Encryption Requirements Setting by S Reg 102 (Optional)

Disconnect the devices by issuing AT+LDSC [Hdlx] command from either device:

AT+LDSC [Hdlx] // Disconnect Devices

Now that the devices have been paired and bonded with MITM protection all subsequent vSP connections will use the keys stored in the Bonded Device Database to encrypt future connections. To verify send the ATD [Peripheral-BTAddr] command to connect in vSP Bridge Mode.

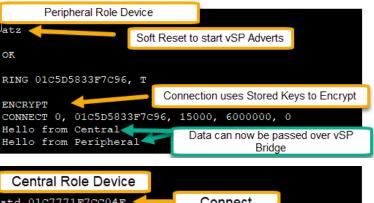
#### **Peripheral Role Device:**

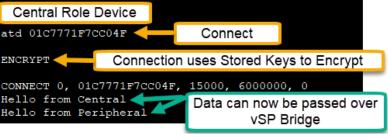
AT+BNDL

ATZ // Soft Reset to start vSP Adverts again (required)

#### **Central Role Device:**

■ ATD [Peripheral-BTAddr] // Connect in vSP Bridge Mode







## 10 CHECKING BONDED DEVICE DATABASE OPTIONS

There are a few commands which can be entered to check the status of bonded devices:

- // Returns the # of devices in bonded device database ATI 2009
- // Checks if specific BTADDR is listed in bonded device database AT+BNDT [BTADDR-Peripheral]
- // Lists ALL devices in the bonded device database AT+BNDL

Note: See sections 3.3.14 and 3.3.15 of AT Interface User Guide for explanations of these command responses.

```
Central Role Device
ati 2009
at+bndt 01C7771F7CC04F
  1, 01C7771F7CC04F
at+bndl
capacity: 16, rolling: 1, persistent: 0
     01C7771F7CC04F
                       001D0000
                         Peripheral Role Device
ati 2009
at+bndt 01C5D5833F7C96
1, 1, 01C5D5833F7C96
at+bndl
capacity: 16, rolling: 1, persistent: 0
       01C5D5833F7C96
```

Note::

If the bonded device is removed from the Bonded Device Database from either the Central or Peripheral device, it must also be removed from the other device, or the devices will not be able to connect. Once both sides have been deleted their keys from the database, a new connection and pairing can be completed.



# 11 REVISION HISTORY

Version	Date	Notes	Contributors	Approver
1.0	9 Jan 2023	Initial Release	Rikki Horrigan	Jonathan Kaye