

Microchip Introduces Accessory Development Kits for Android



Microchip Technology, a leading provider of microcontroller, analog and Flash-IP solutions, today announced its Accessory Development Starter Kits for Android, which enable accessory development for Google's Android platform. Specifically, Android versions 2.3.4 and 3.1 and later include a new framework that allows apps to communicate directly with an accessory connected to a smartphone or tablet, via USB. The kits consist of a development board and a software library, available via free download from <http://www.microchip.com/get/522D>, which enable the fast and easy development of Android smartphone and tablet accessories based on Microchip's large portfolio of 16-bit and 32-bit PIC® microcontrollers. These microcontrollers feature industry-leading performance, integrated connectivity and eXtreme Low Power technology for the industry's lowest power consumption in both sleep and active modes.

According to the Nielson Company, Android smartphones comprised 40.8% of all smartphone purchases from June to November 2010. This represents a huge potential market for hardware accessories, including automotive, home, fitness/health and business applications. Microchip's starter kits make it easy for designers to quickly design, develop and debug electronics accessories for this large and growing market. In addition to providing the schematics and gerber files for the development boards, the free software library includes a sample application protocol and an abstraction layer, which enables designers to focus on creating the application. The development boards feature a USB connector, an on-board debugger, a programming user interface and standard Arduino connectors, for use with a host of third-party "Shield" expansion daughter cards.

"These ground-breaking starter kits help Android accessory designers bring innovative products to market faster", said Mitch Obolsky, vice president of Microchip's Advanced Microcontroller Architecture Division. "With thousands of potential applications for Android phones and tablets, these kits simplify the entire

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Published on Wireless Design & Development (<http://www.wirelessdesignmag.com>)

process for developers to create unique and diverse accessories using our large portfolio of 16- and 32-bit PIC microcontrollers.

Example accessory applications include: automotive (car kits, audio, GPS); home (audio docks, remote controls, data backup); fitness/health (glucose meters, fitness equipment); business (credit-card terminals, projectors).

Pricing & Availability

Microchip's PIC24F Accessory Development Starter Kit for Android (part # DM240415) is available today for \$79.99 at <http://www.microchip.com/get/2Q3F>. The PIC32 Accessory Development Starter Kit for Android (part # DM320412) is expected to be available in the third quarter of 2011 for \$79.99. The software library, which works with both kits, is also available today, via a free download from <http://www.microchip.com/get/522D>.

For additional information, contact any Microchip sales representative or authorized worldwide distributor, or visit Microchip's Web site at <http://www.microchip.com/get/522D>.

Source URL (retrieved on 01/26/2015 - 3:33pm):

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