

Cellocator OTA Firmware Upgrade Overview



Cellocator Division
Pointer Telocation Ltd.

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POINTER



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1 Introduction

1.1 Scope and Purpose

The purpose of this document is to describe the features and capabilities of the OTA firmware upgrade process. It includes the process description, CSF file structure and required protocol messages.

The document is intended for TSP or IT integrators who want to implement FW upgrade within their Telematics applications.

1.2 Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
CSF	Cellocator Script File
OTA	Over The Air
Chunk	Group of bytes which are a portion of a file

1.3 References

All the reference documents listed in the following table can be downloaded from the [Knowledge Base](#) section of the [Cellocator website](#).

#	Reference	Description
1.	Evaluation Suite Manual	Provides information required to run an initial appraisal and testing process of Cellocator units, without requiring connection to an actual vehicle during testing.
2.	Cellocator Wireless Communication Protocol	Describes the unit's wireless communication structure, including every byte of the incoming / outgoing packets.
3.	Cellocator Serial Communication Protocol	Describes the direct serial interface specifications for interconnection between Cellocator devices and external units.

1.4 Revision History

Version	Date	Description
1.0	14/5/2006	First draft.
1.1	15/5/2013	Improving look and feel Aligning with updated products
1.2	23/11/2015	add introduction chapter Note that during the FW update process the unit



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Version	Date	Description
		does not log events



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2 FW Update (Reflash) Description

2.1 Overview

This section describes the OTA firmware upgrade process, which includes the following capabilities:

- ◆ The FW update (Reflash) ability of the Cellocator unit allows the updating the FW section of the unit's memory without any external equipment.
- ◆ The firmware upgrade can be used via a wire connection (to the unit's serial interface) or via the wireless channel of the unit (OTA).
- ◆ The firmware upgrade allows updating installed units without necessitating the removal of the units for the updating process.
- ◆ This upgrade is based on a lightweight scripting engine which allows for both minor and major patching of the firmware. This makes this ability cost-efficient, allowing for small patches of firmware to be made with minimal traffic and time.

2.2 FW Update (Reflash) Process overview

1. A CSF file is provided by Cellocator.
2. The file is downloaded to the required end-units using the Cellocator or customer's software.
3. Upon termination of download and verification of the file by the unit, the unit resets itself, performs the re-flashing and resets itself again with the updated firmware.

NOTE: During the FW update process the unit does not log events.

2.3 CSF File Structure

2.3.1 File headers:

1. 4 bytes of text header, values – ASCII for "FCSR".
2. 2 bytes of file type (1 byte major, 1 byte minor).

2.3.2 Target platform identifiers:

1. This part is a list of identifier records for appropriate target platforms which are suitable for updating with this file.
2. The first byte of this part is the "count byte". It contains the amount of records in the list.
3. Immediately following the count byte are the actual target platform records. The records are saved successively with no padding or any data between the records. The amount of records is as defined in the count byte.



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4. A compatible target platform record is a record whose identifiers match those in the platform manifest of the target unit. Some identifiers of the target record may also be zero, in which case they represent "don't-care" fields, that is, fields which should not be tested for matching the target unit's manifest.
5. Target Platform Identifiers Record structure:
 - 1 byte target processor family identifier.
 - 1 byte - target hardware interface and peripherals identifier.
 - 2 bytes - minimal size of program memory (in 1024 words or 2048 bytes units).
 - 2 bytes - maximal size of program memory (in 1024 words or 2048 bytes units).
 - 2 bytes - minimal size of volatile memory (amount of actually available general-purpose bytes), divided by 128 bytes and rounded up/down to closest integer.
 - 2 bytes - maximal size of volatile memory (amount of actually available general-purpose bytes), divided by 128 bytes and rounded up/down to closest integer.
 - 2 bytes - minimal size of internal (on processor) non-volatile memory (e.g. Flash or EEPROM), divided by 128 bytes and rounded up/down to closest integer.
 - 2 bytes - maximal size of internal (on processor) non-volatile memory (e.g. Flash or EEPROM), divided by 128 bytes and rounded up/down to closest integer.
 - 2 bytes - minimal size of external (on board) non-volatile memory (in 1024 words or 2048 bytes units).
 - 2 bytes - maximal size of (on board) external non-volatile memory (in 1024 words or 2048 bytes units).
 - 1 byte - external non-volatile memory type.
 - 1 byte - hardware version.
 - 2 bytes - reprogramming facility identifier.
 - 2 bytes - script language version.

2.3.3 *The Firmware (encoded):*

1. 4 bytes - length of this part (the Reflash script), excluding this length field.
2. A variable - amount of bytes (as specified in the previous length field) containing the actual script commands and data to be updated. This part is the data that should be transmitted to the end unit being updated.

2.3.4 *Meta data:*

1. CRC32 of the firmware part only.
2. File number.
3. New firmware identifier (2 bytes, unique value for each firmware).

2.3.5 *File authentication hash (MD5)*

It contains the MD5 hash of the whole file.



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2.4 CSF File Detailed Download Process

1. The end units provide the following facilities via the communication interfaces (wireless and wire):
 - a) Manifestation of their firmware platform.
 - b) Establishment of file download mode.
 - c) File portion (chunk) reception and acknowledgement.
 - d) Completion (or abortion) of file download.
2. The download of the CSF file takes place in the following manner:
 - a) The updating host begins communicating with the end-unit by inquiring for its firmware platform information.
 - b) The end-unit manifests its firmware and hardware platform.
 - c) The host examines the platform identifications and its own database, and accordingly decides whether to proceed with the operation or to abort.
 - d) The host selects an appropriate target platform identifiers record (as there may be more than one in a file) from an appropriate CSF file in its database and attempts to establish file download mode with the unit, sending the file's target platform identifiers record.
 - e) The unit examines the target platform identifiers. If they are compatible with its own then the unit ACKs and enters file download mode. Otherwise, it NACKs.
 - f) The host sends the file's Reflash script part in chunks, while keeping track of which chunks have been ACKed and which chunks have not.
 - g) The unit ACKs the received file chunks.
 - h) After all chunks have been sent and ACKed, the host notifies the completion of file download and transmits the file meta-data.
 - i) The unit processes the file and the meta-data to authenticate the data. If everything is in order, the unit ACKs and proceeds to reflash the file.



3 Wireless Protocol Appendix for FW Updating

3.1 Inbound Messages

1. Firmware Platform Manifest Request:
 - The request causes the unit to transmit in return the "Firmware Platform Manifest" message.
 - This request is sent via the "modular request" message (code 9), with sub-data type code 0x01.
2. File Download Control:
 - The command is used to establish, complete or abort file download mode, as well as actually transfer file chunks.
 - This command uses message type ID 0x0A, structured as follows:
 1. 14 bytes standard incoming messages header (system code, message type=0x0A, target unit ID, numerator, auth code).
 2. 1 byte - total byte length of message-specific data (applying to all of the following bytes).
 3. 1 byte - desired download action: value "0" for abortion of any process underway; value "1" for establishing file download process; value "2" for completion of file download process; value "3" for transfer of file chunk.
 4. Associated data:
 - Process abortion (0) – no further data.
 - Process establishing (1) – 24 bytes of target platform identifiers – a simple verbatim transfer of the relevant target platform IDs record from the file.
 - Process completion (2) – file meta-data, all of which is contained in the file from which the downloaded data originated:
 - ✓ Total length of the reflashing script (4 bytes)
 - ✓ Reprogramming script hash (CRC32)
 - ✓ File number (16 bytes)
 - ✓ New firmware ID (2 bytes)
 - File chunk transfer (3) – 3 bytes of the chunk's base offset, followed by a chunk of the file's data. The actual amount of data bytes is derived from the total length of the message (message's data length minus 4).

3.2 Outbound Messages

1. Master ACK/NACK message:
 - This message notifies the proper/improper execution of a command.
 - This command is a new message type with ID 0x0A, structured as follows:
 - 12 bytes - standard header (system code, message type = 0x0A, target unit ID, comm. control, numerator)
 - 1 byte - announcement type ("1"=ACK, "2"=NACK)
 - 1 byte - process-specific error/success code



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- 6 bytes - spare

Process-specific error/success code description:

Description	Value
No errors, read/program/verify/everything OK.	0
Download commands received but download mode isn't established.	2
Download commands received after completion was already performed.	3
Incompatible scripting/reflashing version.	0x10
Establishment failed due to incompatible platform.	0x20
CRC-32 test failed.	0x40
External EEPROM verify fail -- either after chunk save command or after trying to save some parameters.	0xE0
Internal EEPROM programming error (auto-verify fail).	0xF0
Busy, cannot perform the action at the moment.	0xF1

2. Firmware Platform Manifest:

- This message presents the firmware platform manifest of the unit.
- The message is sent via the "modular data" message (code 9), with the following data:
 - 1 byte data type, value 0x01.
 - 1 byte data length, value 0x10.
 - 1 byte processor family identifier.
 - 1 byte hardware interface and peripherals identifier.
 - 2 bytes size of program memory (in 1024 words units).
 - 2 bytes size of volatile memory (divided by 128 bytes and rounded up/down to closest integer).
 - 2 bytes size of internal non-volatile memory (divided by 128 bytes and rounded up/down to closest integer).
 - 2 bytes size of external non-volatile memory (in 1024 words units).
 - 1 byte external non-volatile memory type.
 - 1 byte hardware version (same as in status message).
 - 2 bytes reprogramming facility identifier. This document defines facility type 1 (one). First byte is therefore 0x01, the second is zero.
 - 2 bytes script language version – the version of script language supported by the unit (1 byte major, 1 byte minor).
 - 2 bytes current firmware ID. Note that this is in fact not a descriptor of the firmware platform per se, but rather a descriptor of the actual firmware running on the platform. However, it is a valuable field when a Reflash is considered.



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3.3 Reflashing Event

After the end of the Reflashing process the unit generates and stores a Reflash Confirmation event with the transmission reasons described in the table below:

Reason	Description
0xF7	Self Programming Success
0xD0	Self Programming Aborted - illegal firmware file header detected
0xD1	Self Programming Aborted - unsupported self programming scenario
0xD2	Self Programming Aborted - unsupported command detected
0xD3	Self Programming Aborted - illegal data detected in one of the commands
0xF8	Self Programming Aborted - communication with external memory failed

The event will be delivered after re-establishing communication with the server.