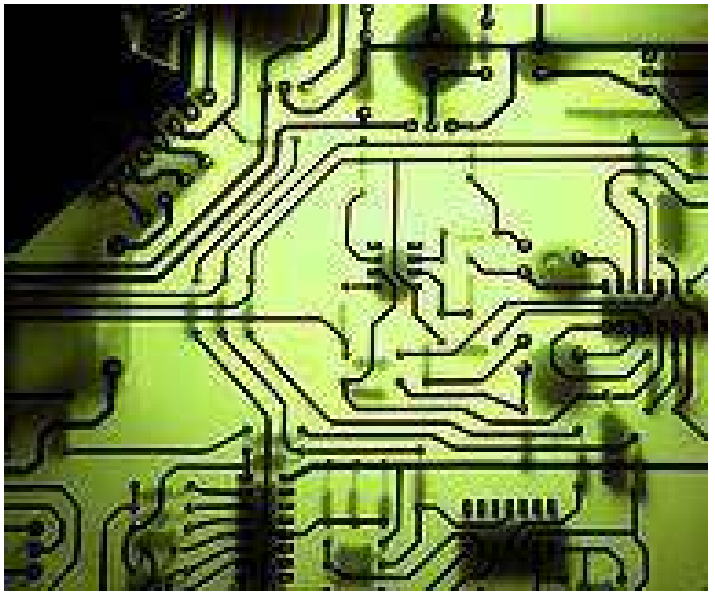
Serial Bus Decode Made Easy Webinar

CARL WONG

EVENT NUMBER: **980 0648 0374**

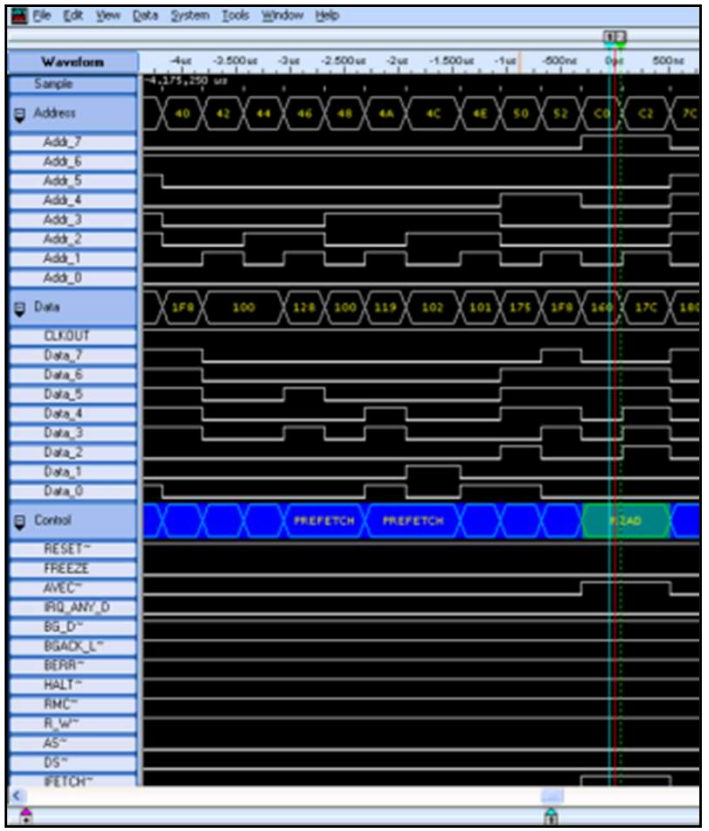
Agenda

- Introduction
- Serial Data Buses
  - I^2C
  - SPI
  - USB
  - Ethernet
  - RS-232
- Troubleshooting Your Device
- Summary



Transition from Parallel to Serial Buses

- Traditional way to connect digital devices used parallel buses
- Advantages
  - Simple point-to-point connections
  - All signals are transmitted in parallel
- Disadvantages
  - Occupies a lot of circuit board space
  - All connections must be the same length
  - Many connections limit reliability
  - Connectors may be very large
  - SSN and crosstalk (NEXT & FEXT) issues.
- With serial buses, these disadvantages are minimized



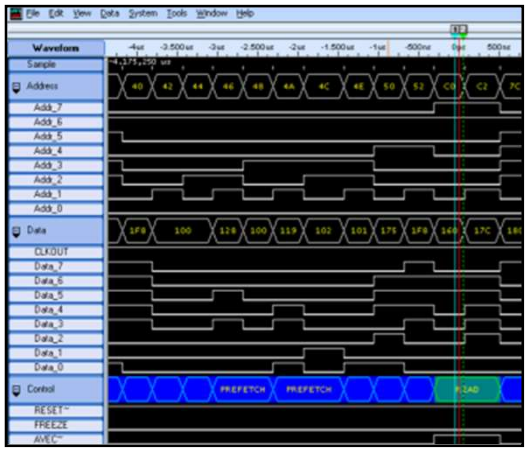
Design Implications of Serial Communication

- Product Design
  - Integrated into many processors, ASICs, and FPGAs
  - Easier signal routing
  - Less space, less weight, less power
  - Higher manufacturing yields and reliability
  - ***Improves circuit board designs, lowers cost and reduces form factor***

- System Design
  - SPI and I^2C buses enable connection of many ICs without external components.
  - CAN enables connection of sub-assemblies in automotive applications, and industrial controls in factory automation applications.
  - ***Simplifies designs of complex systems***.

Debug Challenges of Serial Data

- Parallel Buses
  - Each line has its own signal path
  - Clock is generally a separate line
  - Easy to decode
  - State and Pattern triggering and decoding are straightforward with a logic analyzer or mixed signal oscilloscope



- Serial Buses
  - Signals are spread over time
  - Clock is sometimes embedded
  - Decode is tedious
  - Must decode first to trigger on packet
  - Analysis solutions available on some oscilloscopes

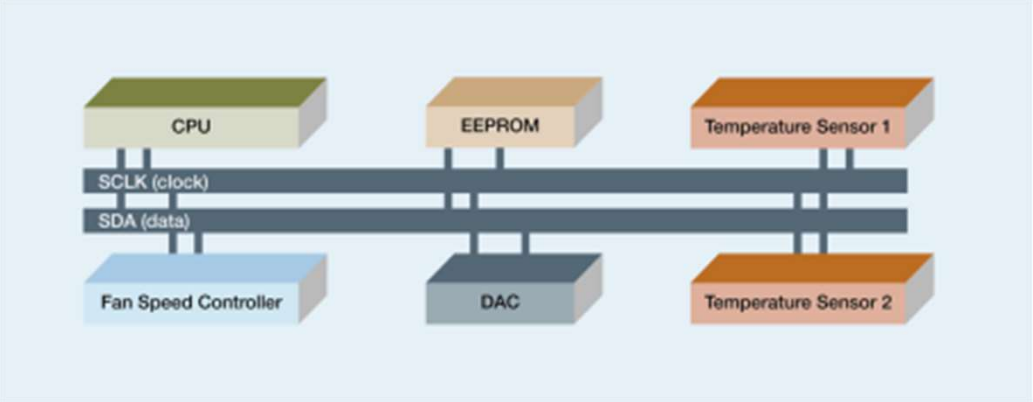
Serial data complicates bus troubleshooting

Serial Bus Review

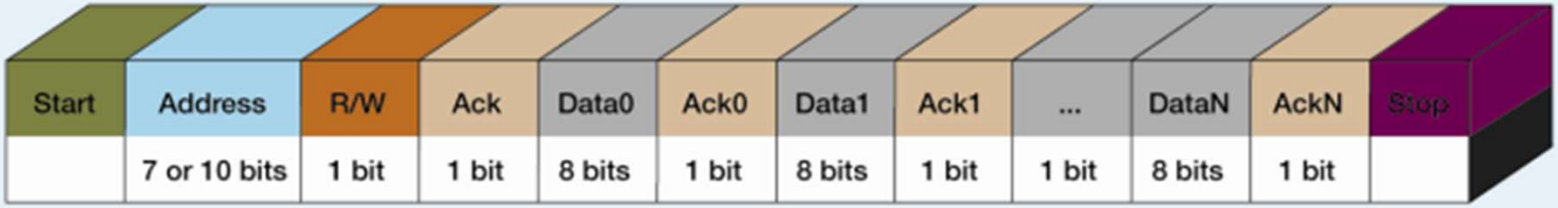
- I2C
- SPI
- USB
- Ethernet
- RS-232
- CAN
- MIL-STD-1553
- Audio

I²C (Inter-Integrated Circuit)

- Used for chip-to-chip communication between microcontrollers and A/Ds, D/As, FPGAs, sensors, etc.
- Uses two single-ended, bi-directional signals: clock and data
- Any I²C device can be attached to the bus
- Multiple masters and slaves on the bus
- Data rates:
  - Standard Mode (100 kbps)
  - Fast Mode (400 kbps)
  - High Speed Mode (3.4 Mbps)



I²C Message Structure



- Start: Indicates the device is taking control of the bus and a message will follow
- Address: 7-bit or 10-bit number representing the slave device address to read or write with MSB first.
- R/W: Read(0), write(1).
- Data: Integer number of bytes read from or written to the device with MSB first.
- Acknowledge: 1-bit from the slave device acknowledging the master's actions
- Stop: Indicating the message is complete and the master has released the bus

SPI (System Peripheral Interface)

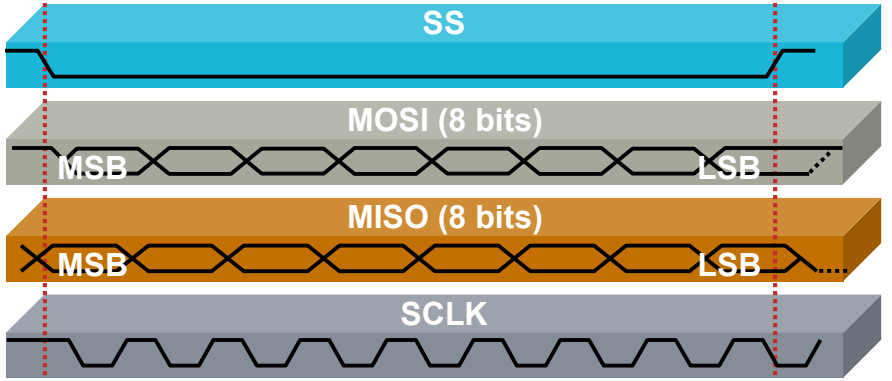
- Used primarily to communicate between microcontrollers and their immediate peripheral devices
- Typical configuration has four signals: SCLK, MOSI, MISO, SS
  - Data is simultaneously transmitted and received
  - SS line used to specify slave device
  - Each unique device on bus has its own SS signal from master
- Multiple bus configurations are allowed
  - Network can use 2-, 3-, or 4-wire bus topology
- Data rates up to 10 Mbps

SS – enables slave device to accept data

MOSI – data from the master to a slave

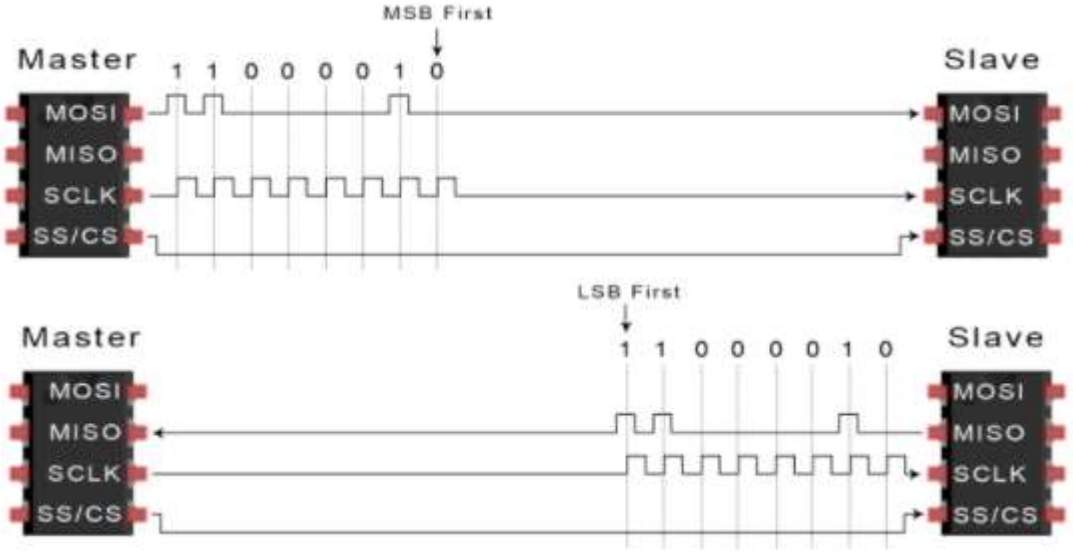
MISO – data from a slave to the master

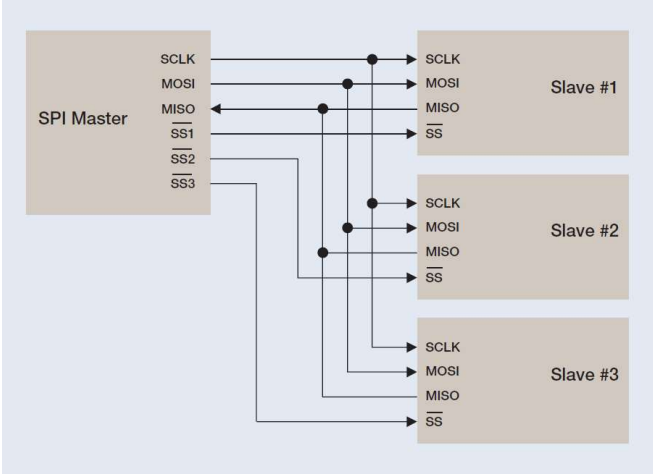
SCLK – serial clock driven by Master

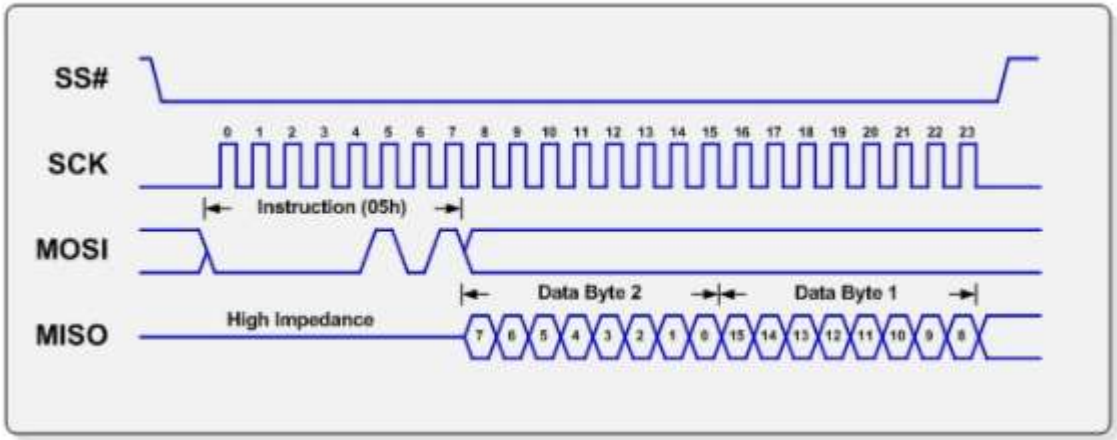


SPI (Serial Peripheral Interface)

- Step of SPI data transmission







SS – enables slave device to accept data

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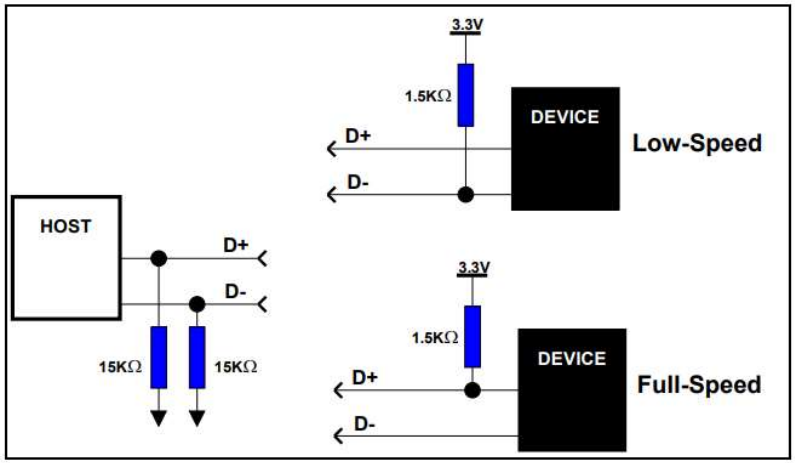
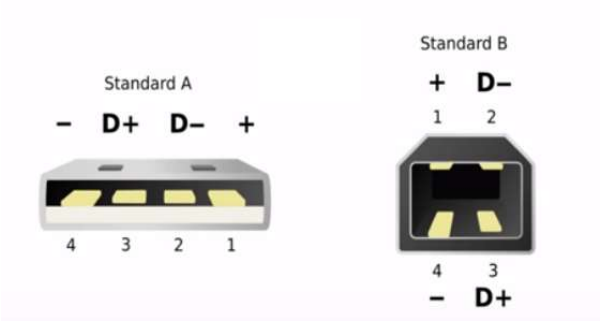
SCLK – serial clock driven by Master

USB (Universal Serial Bus)

- Used for system-to-system communication between subsystems, peripherals and other devices

- Data rates:
  - Low Speed (1.5 Mbps)
  - Full Speed (12 Mbps)
  - High Speed (480 Mbps)
  - Super Speed (5 Gbps)
  - Super Speed+ (10 Gbps)



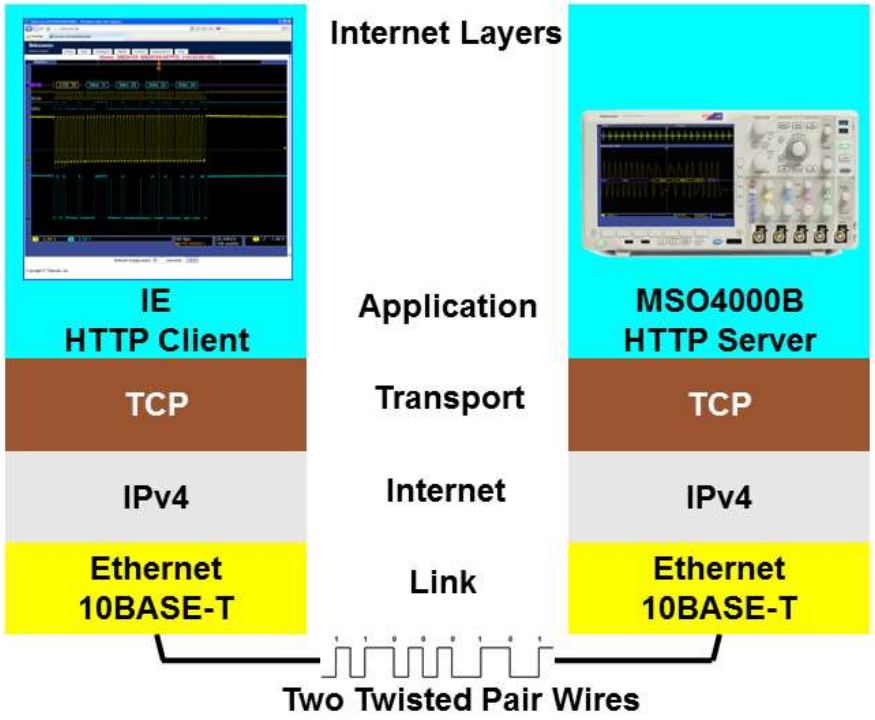


USB 2.0 Data Packet Structure

- Sync: The sync field is 8 bits long at low and full speed or 32 bits long for high speed and is used to synchronize the clock of the receiver with that of the transmitter. The last two bits indicate where the PID fields starts.
- Packet Identifier (PID): Identifies the type of packet being sent (DATA0, DATA1), TOKEN. DATA, Handshake, Special. 4bits and another 4bits are complemented and repeated.
- Data: Maximum data payload of 8, 1023, and 1024 bytes for low, full and high speed devices respectively
- Cyclic Redundancy Check (CRC): 16-bit code used for error-detection
- End of Packet: Indicates the packet is complete

Ethernet

- Used for system-to-system communication between subsystems, peripherals and other devices within a local area network (LAN).
- Uses unshielded twisted-pair cabling (UTP)
- Data rates:
  - 10BASE-T(10 Mbps)
  - 100BASE-T (100 Mbps)
  - 1000BASE-T (1000 Mbps)
  - 10GBASE-T (10 Gbps)

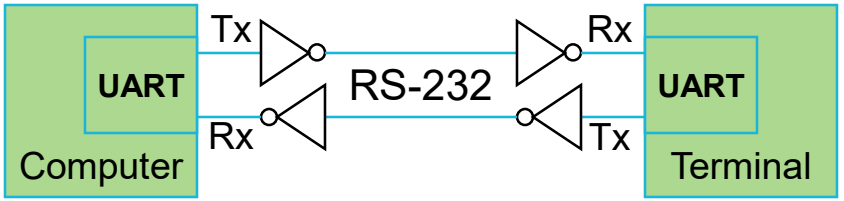


Ethernet Frame Format

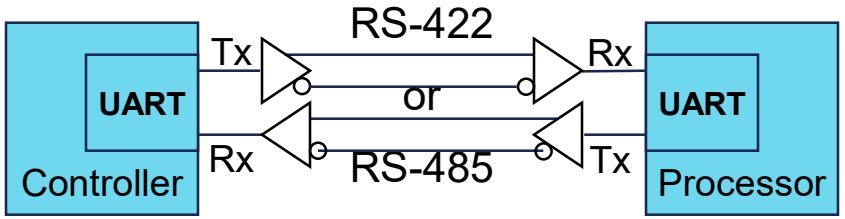
Header Offset in Bytes	Field Name	Field Length in Bytes
0 - 6	Preamble (PRE)	7
7	Start-of-frame Delimiter (SFD)	1
8 - 13	Destination Address (DA)	6
14 - 19	Source Address (SA)	6
20 - 21	Length/Type	2
22 - 67 to 1521	Data + Pad	46-1500
At end of data	Frame check sequence (FCS)	4

RS-232/422/485/UART

- Point-to-point communication at slow speeds over short distances
- Two single-ended signals provide point-to-point, full-duplex communication
- Standard does not specify character encoding, data framing, or protocols
- Transmission systems:
  - Managed by Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitters (UARTs)
  - Pre-determined bit rate
  - RS-232 is an inverting, single-ended high-voltage interface
  - RS-422 or RS-485 are differential interfaces
  - Or ICs can be connected directly



RS-232 Application Example



Audio and Video Application Example

Embedded Communication Application Example

RS-232 Byte Structure

- Each character begins with a Start bit, a logic “0”
- Character is comprised of 7 or 8 data bits
- Optional Parity bit is next
- Terminated in 1, 1.5, or 2 stop bits

POLL QUESTION 1

Which of the following serial buses do you commonly dealt with?

a. Embedded Design (I2C, SPI)

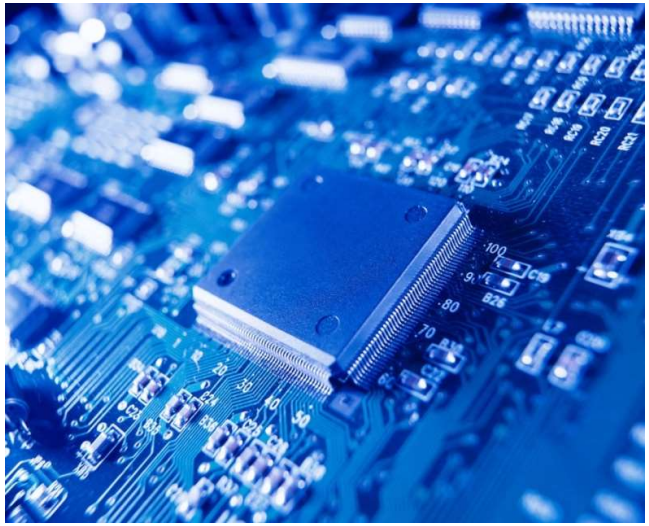
b. Automotive (CAN, LIN, FlexRay, Ethernet)

c. USB

d. Others… Please name it..

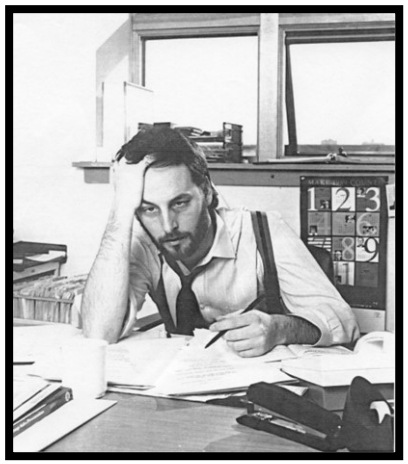
Troubleshooting Your Device

- **Decode of Serial Data**
- Capture and Search for Specific Messages
- Characterize System Timing
- Trace Data Flow Through a Network
- In-Depth Analysis of Network Performance



Decode of Serial Data

- ***Hardware Engineers:*** verify connections and adequate signal integrity for the bus to transmit data.
  - Monitor waveforms and decoded bus data values



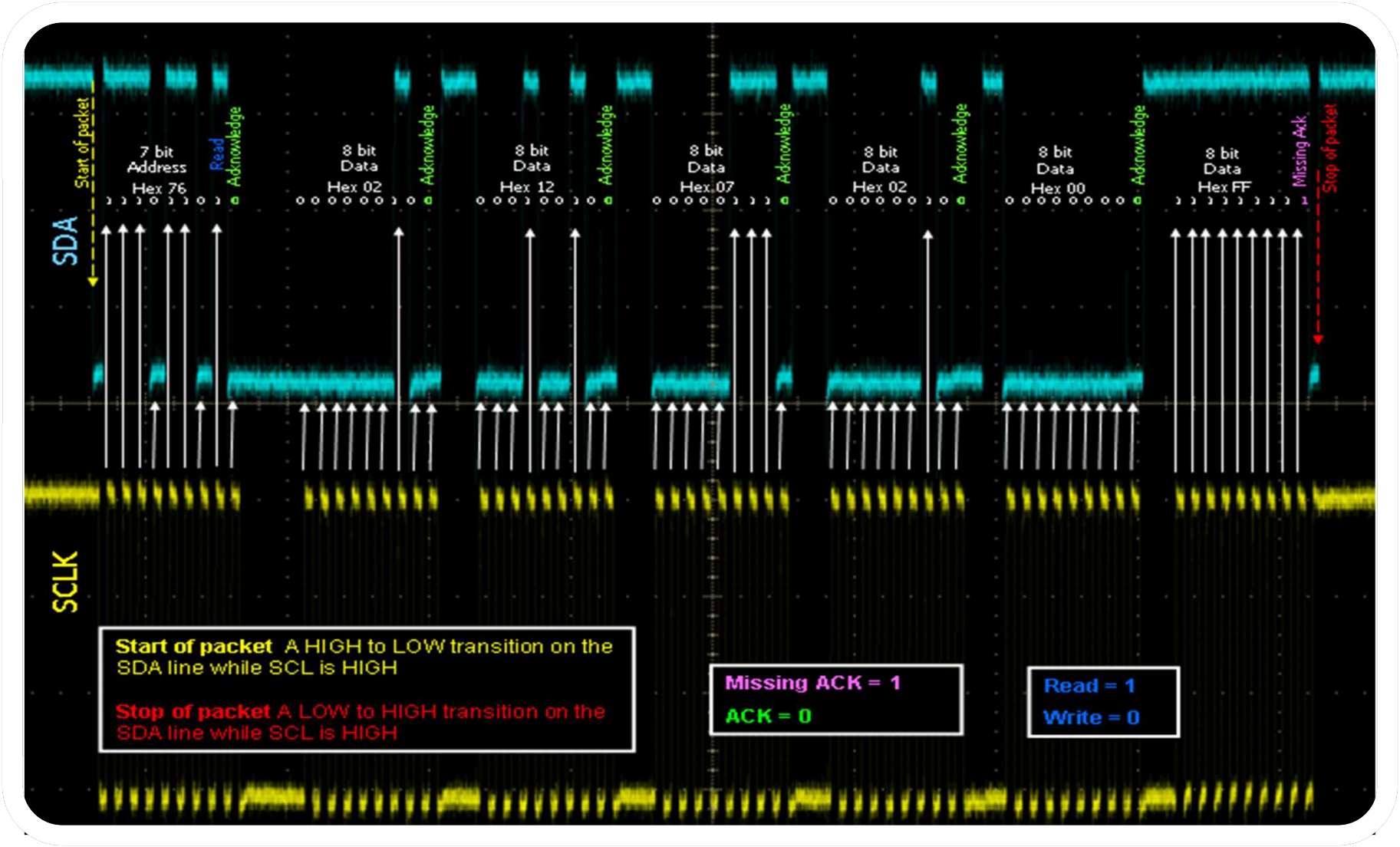
- ***Software/Firmware Engineers:*** verify bus messages are being sent as expected.
  - Waveform displays are not the preferred format.

- ***System Engineers:*** verify system components are working together as designed.
  - Again, waveform displays are not the preferred format.

Bus waveforms can be manually decoded…

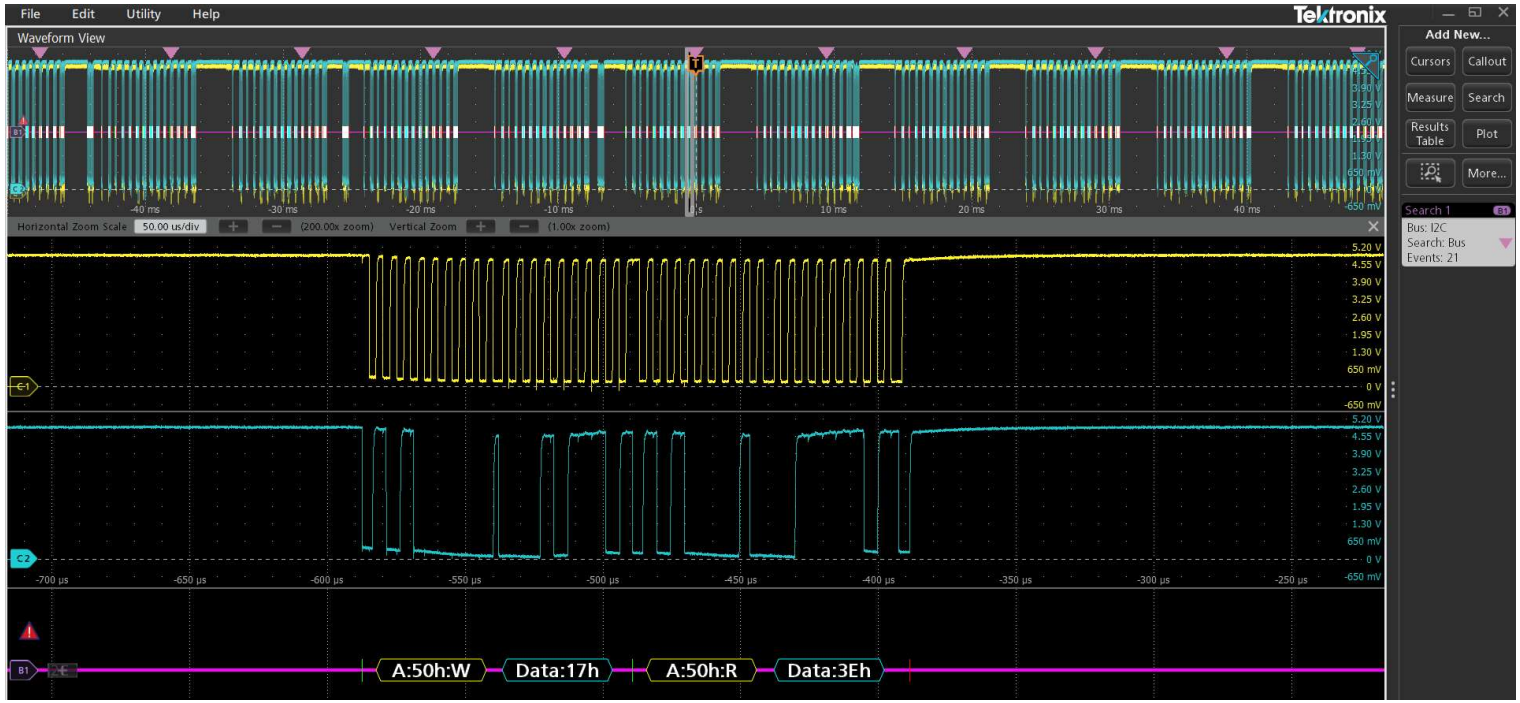
But it is tedious and error-prone.

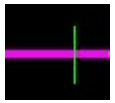
Example - I²C Manual Decoding



Automated Decode with Tektronix' Oscilloscopes

Tektronix MSO4 Series Automated Decode





Start

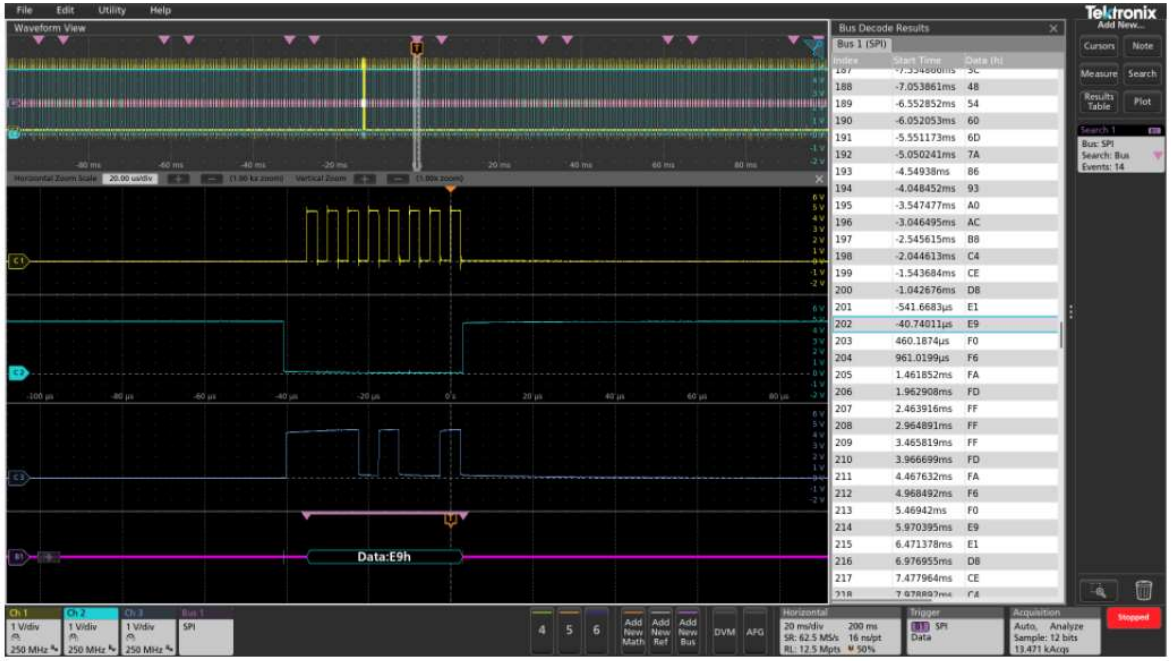
Address
[W] for Write, [R] for Read
Displayed in hex or binary

Data
Displayed in hex or binary

Stop

Event Table for Viewing Bus Traffic

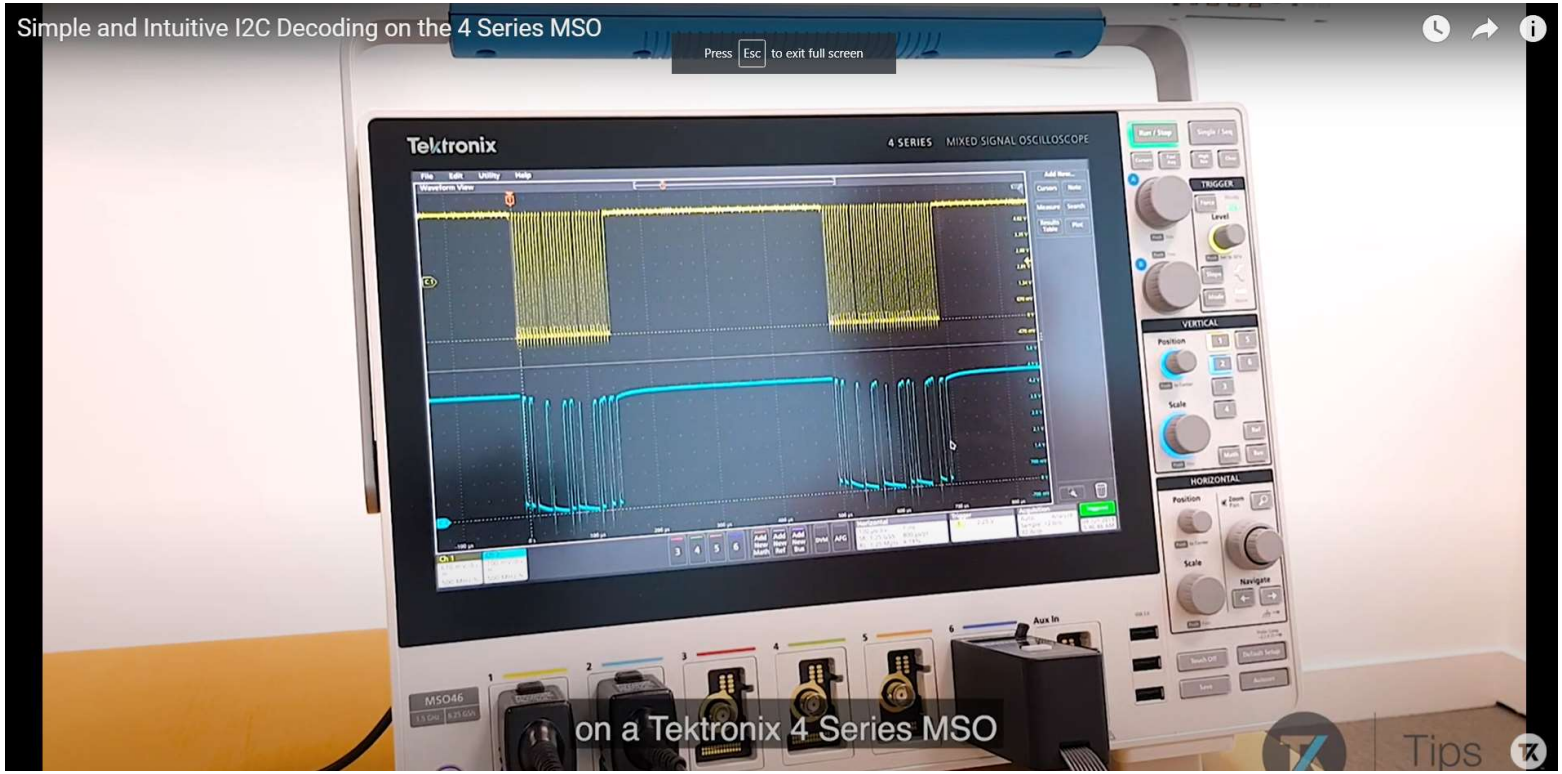
- Shows decoded message content with time stamps
- View bus traffic in tabular format
- Compare with software listings
- Easy timing measurements



Tektronix MSO4 Series Event Table

Simple and Intuitive I2C Decoding on the 4 Series MSO

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByksjkE6wUE&t=24s



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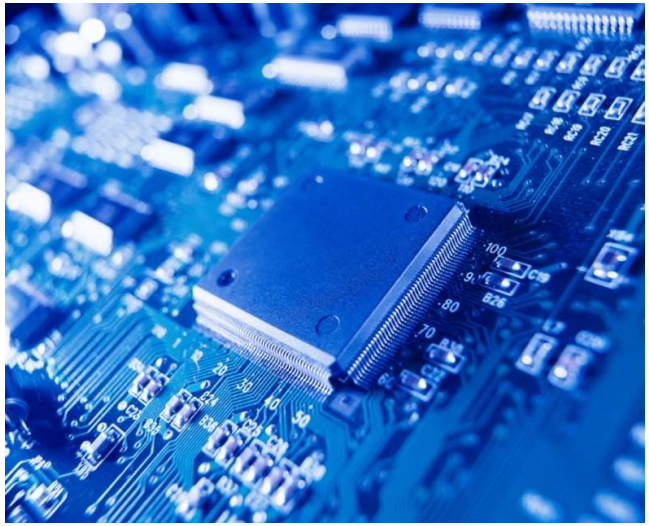
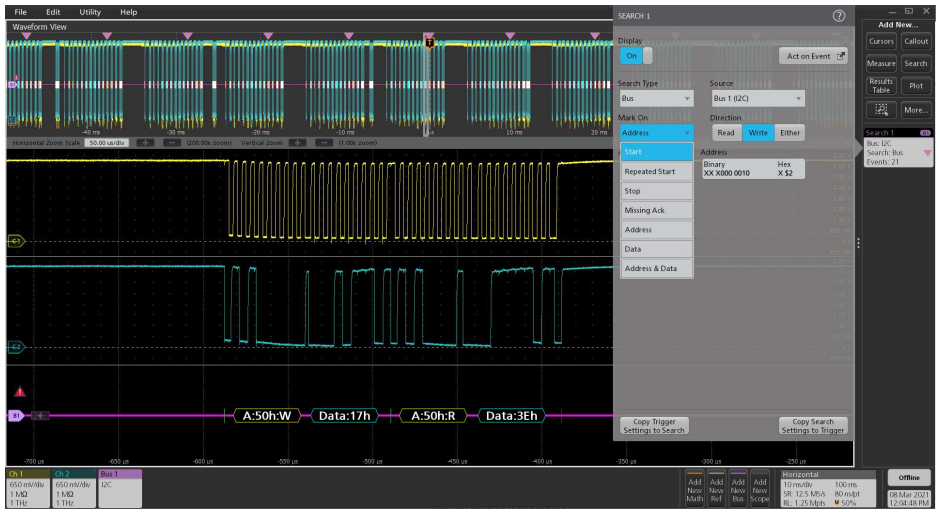


Capture a Specific Message

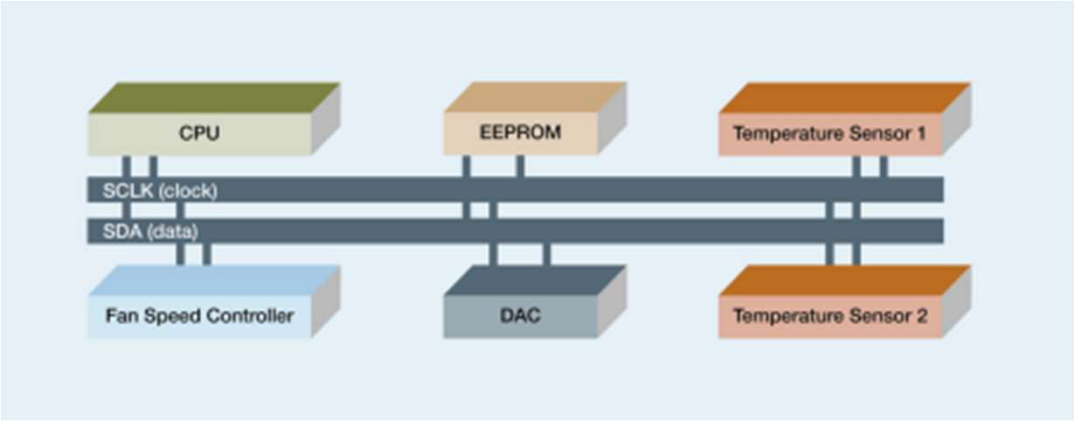
- Even if you can easily decode messages, the message of interest probably wasn't captured
- Need to specify messages to ***capture***:
  - In the language of the serial bus standard
  - On all critical elements of the serial message
  - With full or partial specification
- Tektronix' oscilloscopes offer serial data triggers

I2C Trigger on MSO4 Series



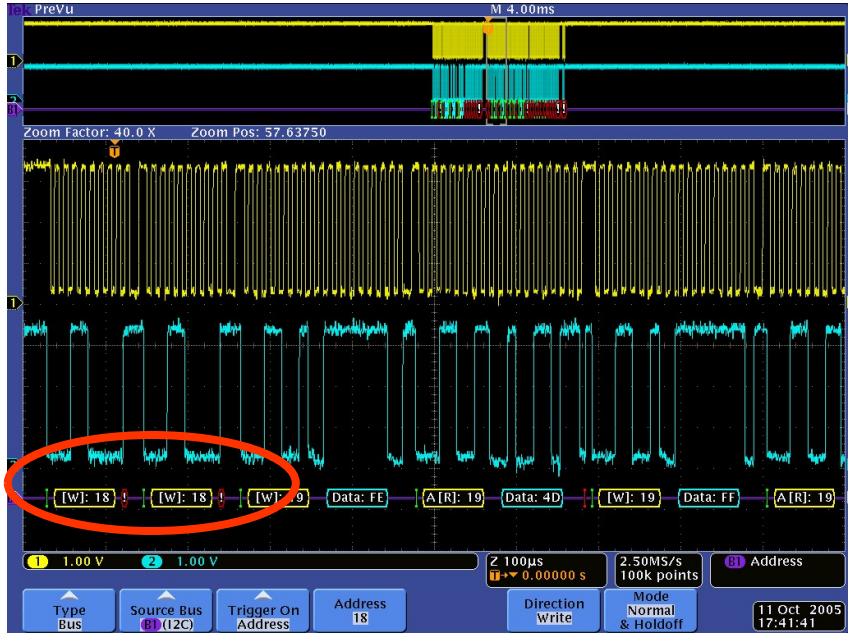
An Example: Faulty Thermal Management System

- The product is overheating and shutting off.
- Microprocessor-controlled thermal management system should sense the product's internal temperature and adjust the fan speed.
  - All of the circuits appear to have the correct power applied.
  - The processor is running and appears to be communicating with the sensors and the fan control module.
  - The software team is sure that the software is running as designed.
- Yet, the product is getting hot and the fan is not turning on.



Trigger on Packet Content

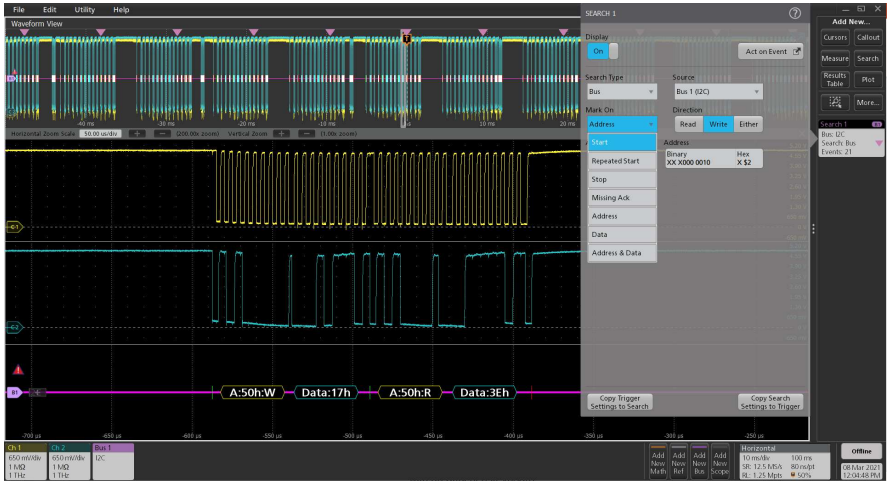
- Trigger on address 18 (sensor).
- Software tries to communicate with the sensor – twice!
- No response.
- Moves to the next address, as designed.
- Upon close inspection of the board, a cold solder joint was found on the fan controller IC.



Search for a Specific Message

- Even if you capture the message of interest, now you have to find it!
- Need to specify messages to ***search*** for:
  - In the language of the serial bus standard
  - On all critical elements of the serial message
  - With full or partial specification
  - Same conditions as needed for ***capture***
- Tektronix' oscilloscopes provide automatic search and mark capabilities

Search & Mark Function on MSO4 Series



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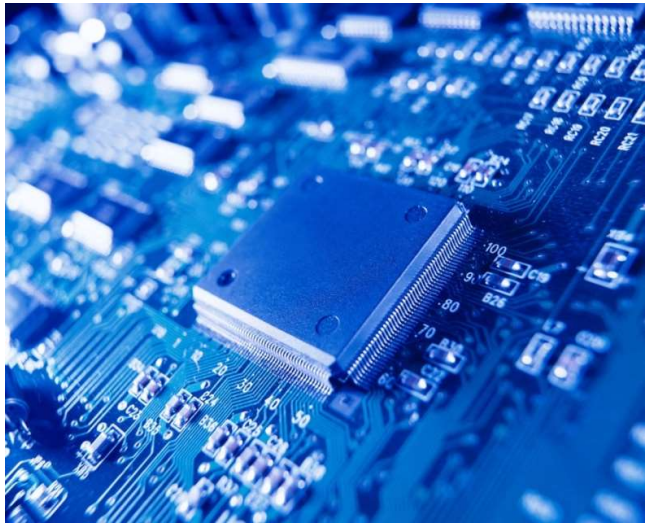
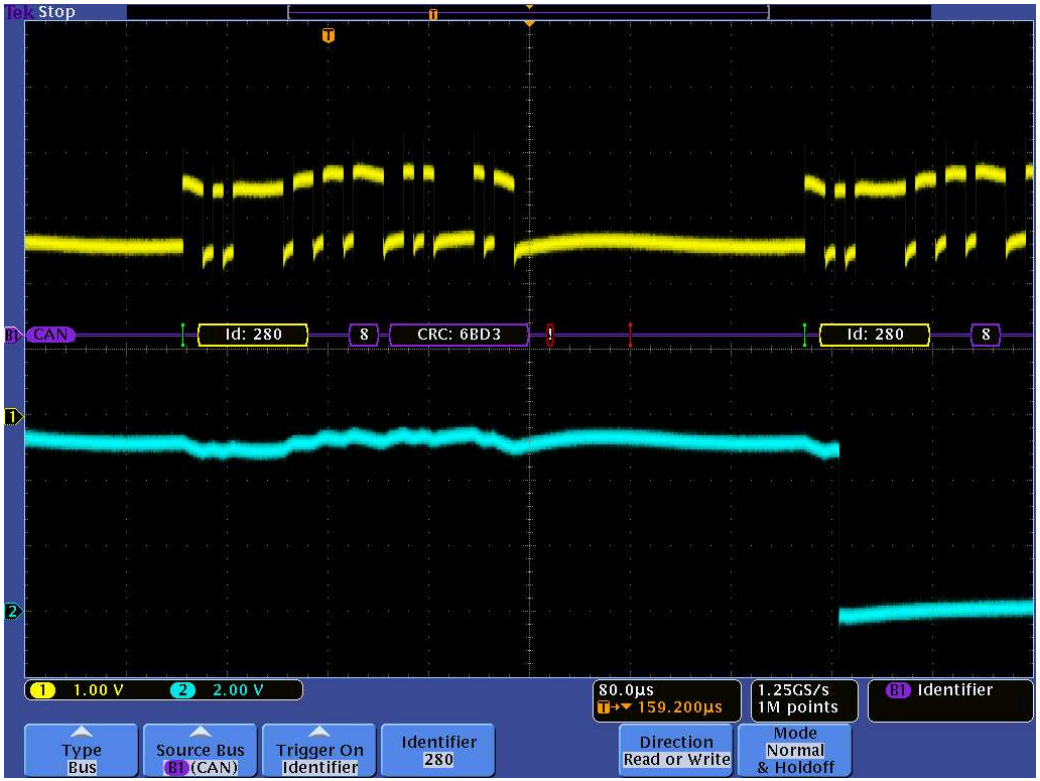


Characterize System Timing

- Characterize timing between bus messages and system operation
  - Requires waveform displays time-correlated with decoded messages
- Characterize timing differences which occur when adding a new network node to an existing network
- Automotive application example:
  - Measure worst-case time from crash sensor output to airbag activation
  - Measure variations in timing of airbag activation with varying levels of CAN bus traffic

Characterizing System Timing with Tektronix' Oscilloscopes

- Tektronix' oscilloscopes provide integrated tools for characterizing timing between bus messages and system operation:
  - Time-correlated waveform displays and decoded bus messages
  - Intensity-graded infinite persistence displays to show variations in timing



Tektronix MDO4000C Series

Troubleshooting Your Device

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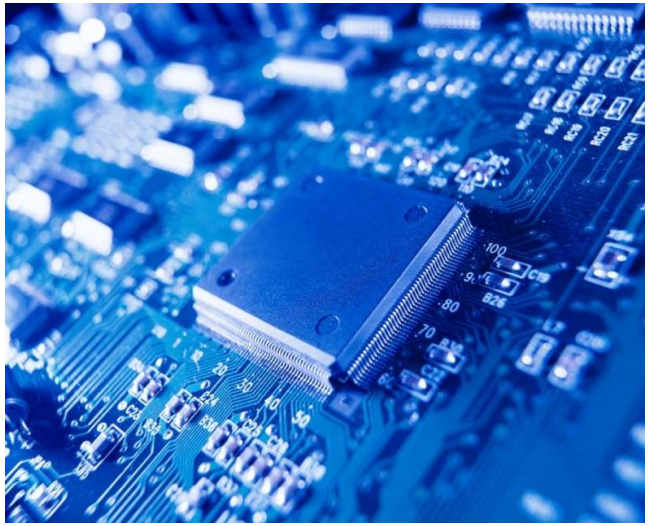
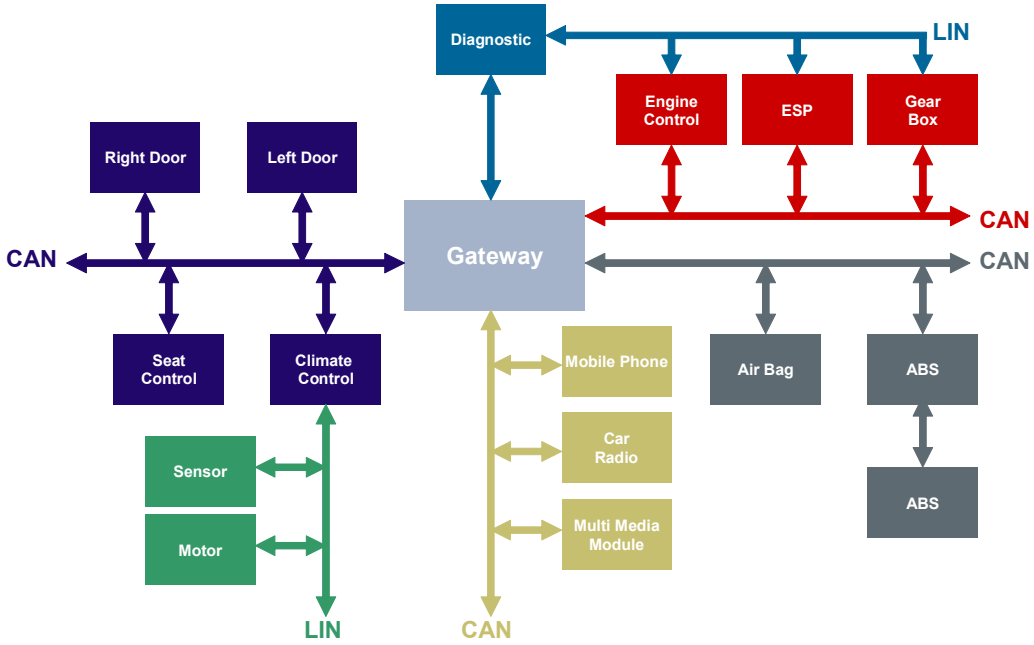
- **Trace Data Flow Through a Network**
- In-Depth Analysis of Network Performance



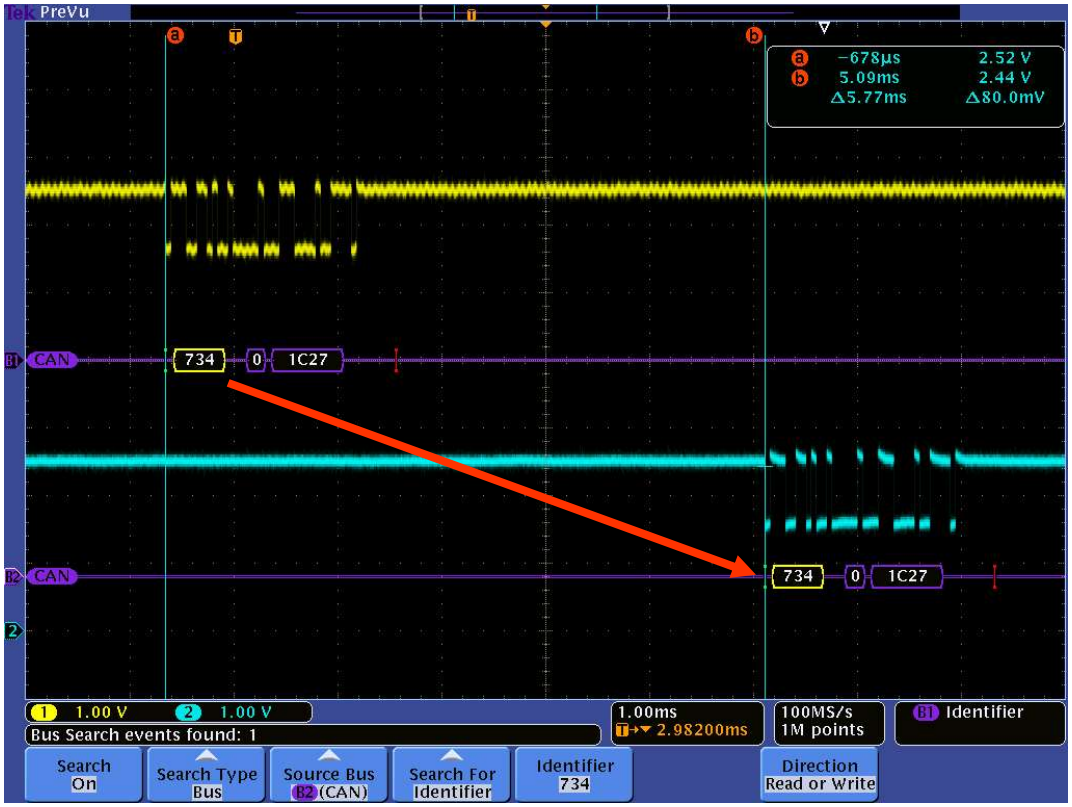
Trace Data Flow Through a Network

- Trace serial data flow between nodes through a network
  - Simultaneously display messages at transmitter and receiver to verify continuity and propagation delays
- Trace serial data flow between network segments separated by a gateway
  - Simultaneously display messages from multiple buses, at different speeds, or even different bus standards



Tracing Data Flow with Tektronix' Oscilloscopes

- Tektronix' oscilloscopes simultaneously display messages at different points in the network
  - Verify continuity and propagation delays on up to 3 buses
  - Validate network gateway operation by decoding different bus speeds & protocols



Tektronix MDO4000C Series

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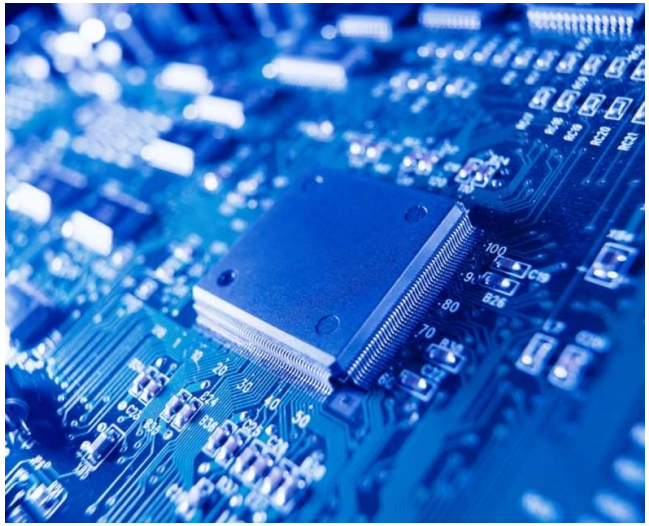
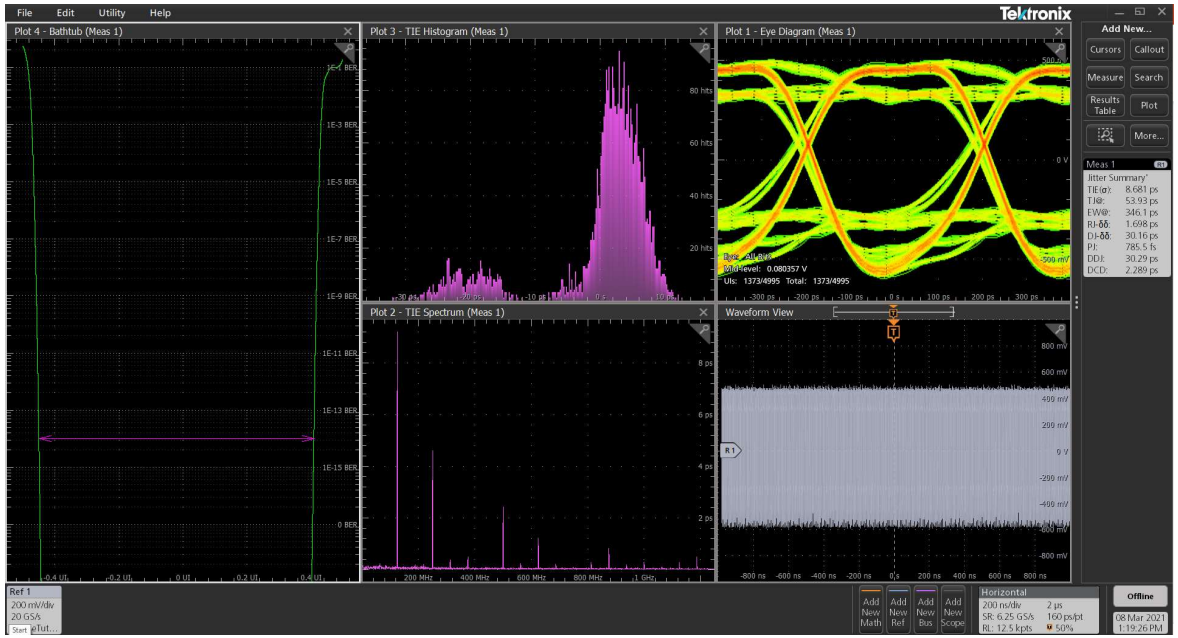


Eye Diagram Analysis with Tektronix' Oscilloscopes

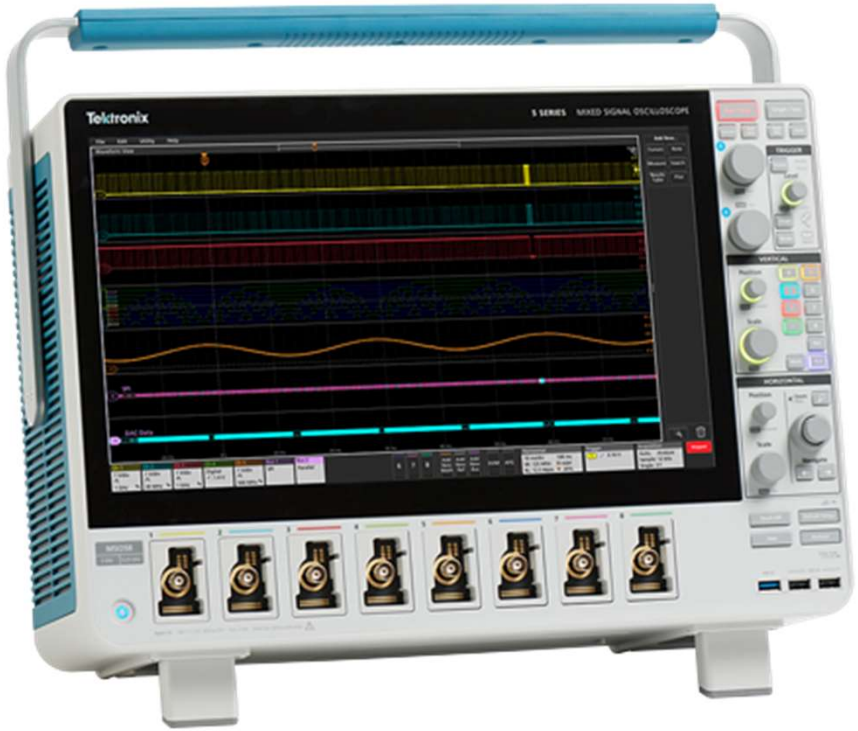
- Quickly locate noise caused by jitter, amplitude aberrations, spikes and glitches
  - Eye diagram shows changes in amplitude and jitter in the CAN bus signal
  - Measure amplitude and jitter with cursors



Jitter Analysis with MSO5 Series

Debug Serial Buses with the 5 Series MSO

THE LARGEST DISPLAY. THE MOST CHANNELS. THE GREATEST EXPERIENCE



Five Industry Firsts

1. Reconfigurable scope inputs (FlexChannel™ inputs)
2. 4, 6, and 8 channel product family
3. 15.6” HD (1,920 x 1,080) display with capacitive touch
4. User interface actually designed for touch
5. Optional Windows 10 operating system

4 Series MSO

EXTREME VISIBILITY, VERSATILITY, AND USABILITY FOR ANY BENCH

Bandwidths from 200 MHz to 1.5 GHz
4 or 6 FlexChannel inputs

- 13.3” High Definition (1920 x 1080) capacitive touch display
- Award-winning intuitive user interface
- Up to 6 FlexChannel inputs
- 12-bit A/Ds behind all channels
- Serial bus decode, trigger and search
- Optional built-in arbitrary / function generator
- Fully upgradeable

POLL QUESTION 2

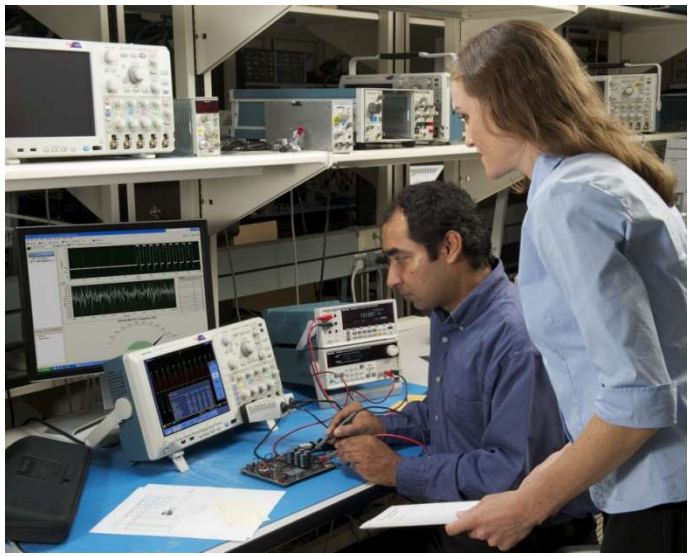
In your experience, which equipment do you prefer to use for serial bus decoding and analysis?

a. Oscilloscope with Protocol Decoding capability

b. Standalone Protocol Analyzer

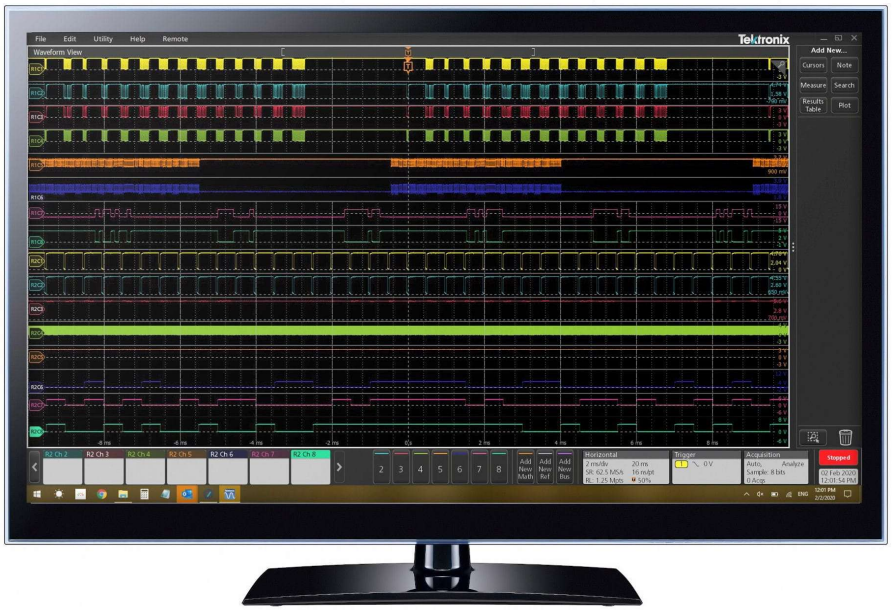
Summary

- Serial buses are pervasive, creating a unique set of measurement and analysis needs
- Making measurements needs to be easier, faster, and more accurate
- Requires an oscilloscope with triggering, decoding, and analysis tools for serial protocols



Tektronix' MSO oscilloscopes offer automated decode, trigger, search and analysis for serial buses

DEMO: TekScope PC Analysis Software



- Offline Analysis
  - ✓ Any Tektronix scope
  - ✓ Most Keysight scope
  - ✓ Most LeCroy scope
- Online / Remote Scope Analysis
  - ✓ 4 / 5 / 6 Series MSO
  - ✓ 5 Series Low Profile
  - ✓ 6 Series Low Profile
- Serial Bus Decoding
- Base version is free

More info:
https://scope.tekcloud.com/#/