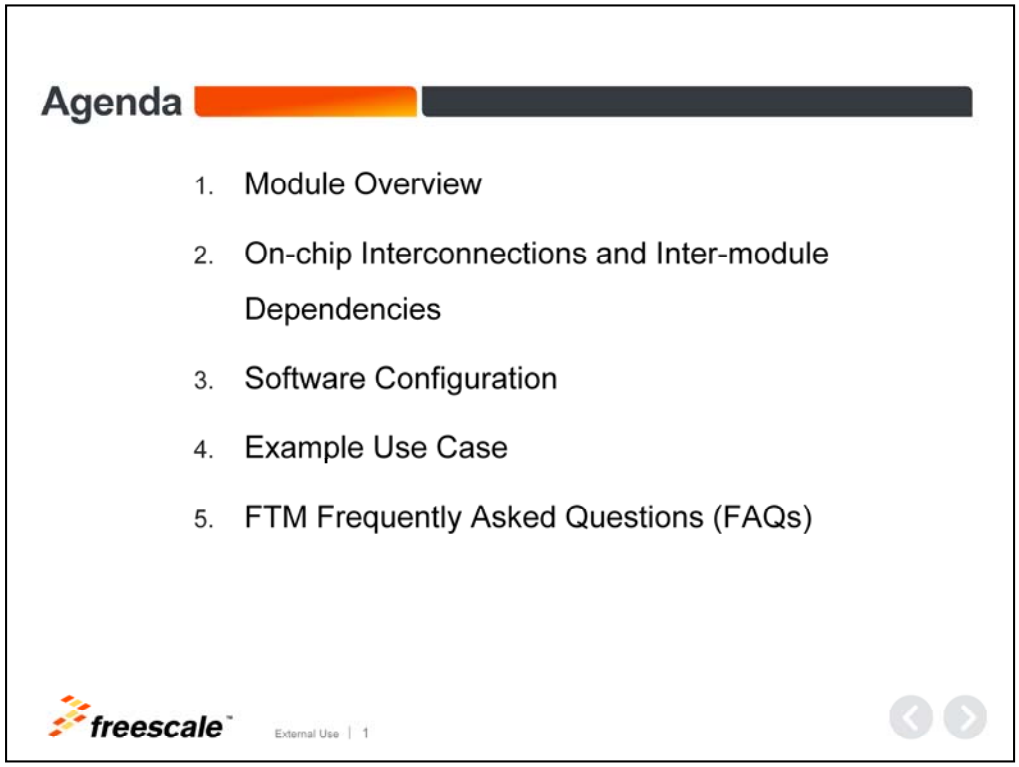
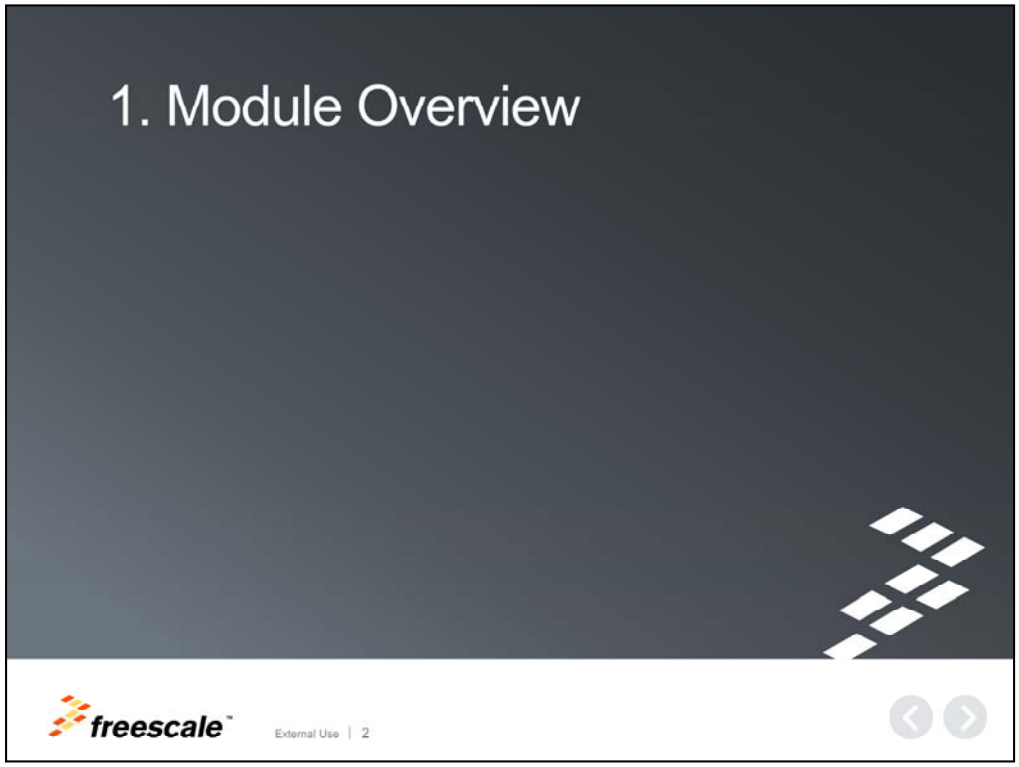
Hello, and welcome to this presentation of the FlexTimer – or FTM – module for Kinetis K series MCUs. In this session, you'll learn about the FTM, its main features and the application benefits of leveraging this function.

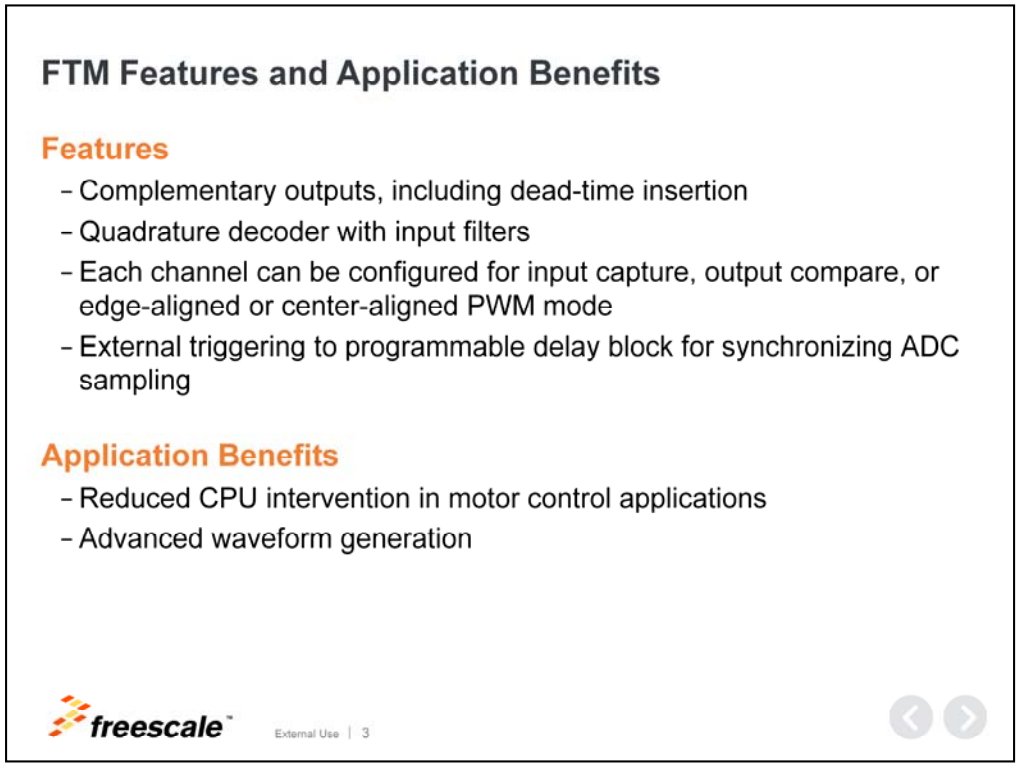


In this presentation we'll cover:

- An overview of the FTM module itself
- The on-chip interconnections and inter-module dependencies
- Software configurations
- An example use case
- And some frequently asked questions



First, let’s start with an overview of the module.



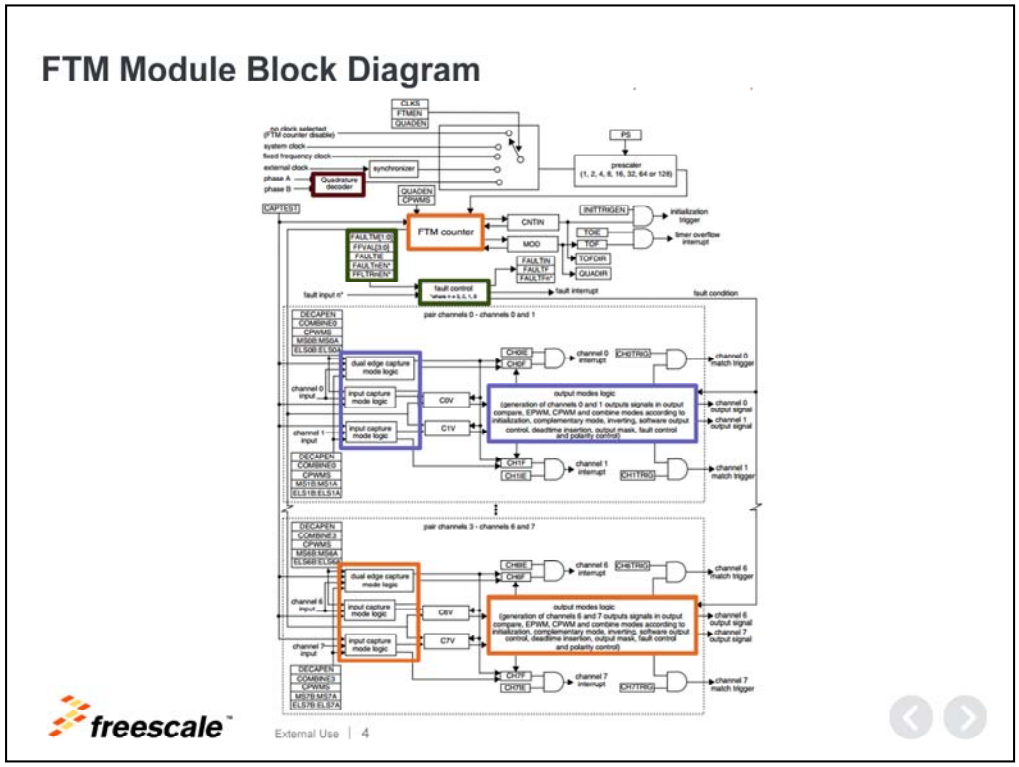
FTM Features and Application Benefits

The FTM module features include:

- Complementary pulse width modulation (or PWM) outputs with dead-time insertion
- Quadrature decoder (Please refer to the device reference manual for the decoder availability)
- Multiple channels with input capture, output compare and PWM capabilities
- And the FTM module provides external triggering to some peripherals, like the programmable delay block or PDB to synchronize ADC sampling

Application benefits include:

- Reduced CPU intervention in handling PWM for motor control applications
- Advanced waveform generation for motor control and external sensors



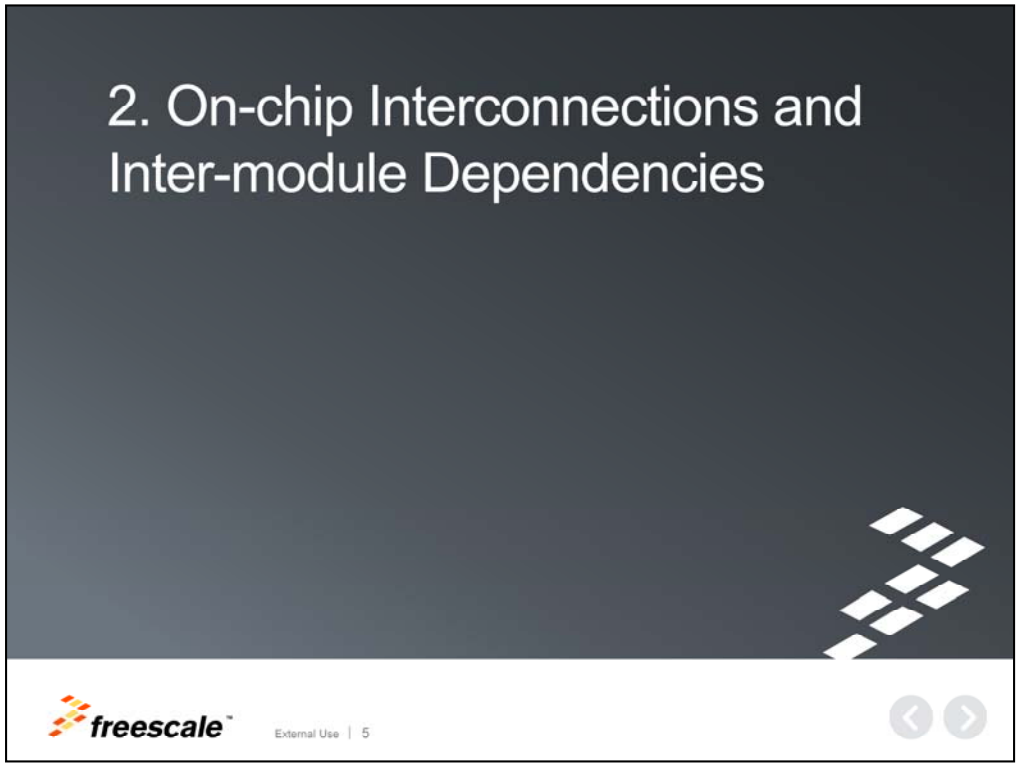
FTM Module Block Diagram

The 16-bit FTM counter outlined at the top of the block diagram in orange has multiple clock sources. The FTM module can be nested with other FTM modules to create a 32-bit counter.

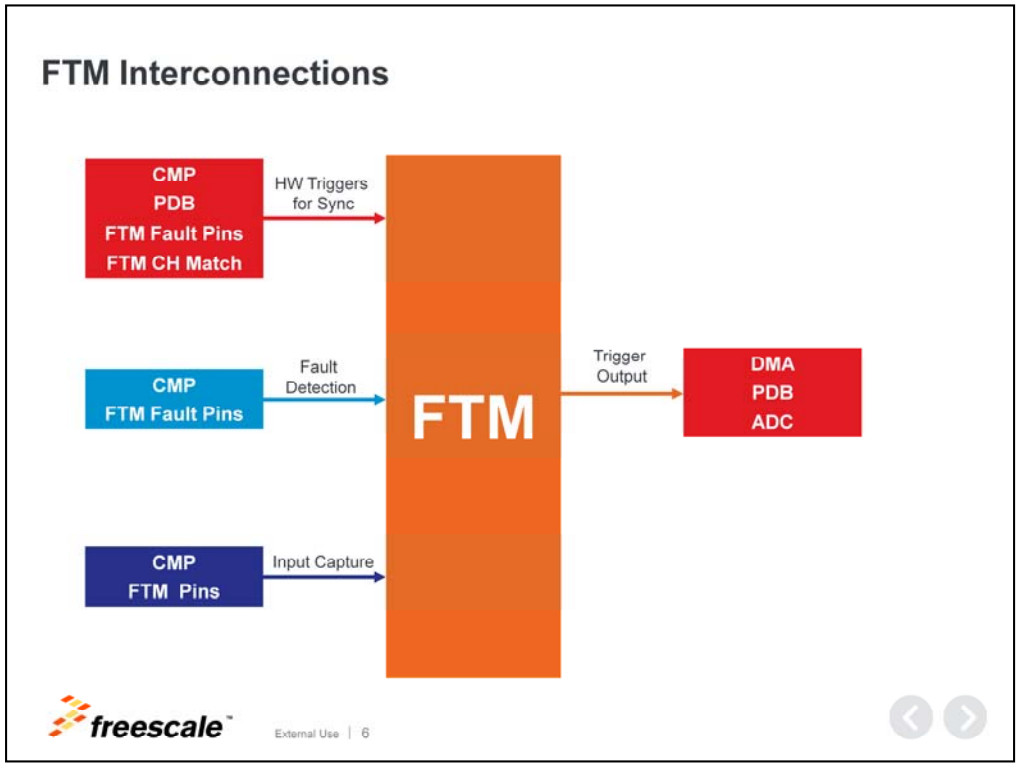
Outlined in green are the fault inputs and control with programmable polarity that allow the halting of PWM outputs whenever a fault is detected.

Outlined in brown is the quadrature decoder, which is present for speed and position measurement in motor control applications.

Outlined in purple are all PWM channels that are input capture or output compare capable. Please refer to the device reference manual for the exact number of channels.



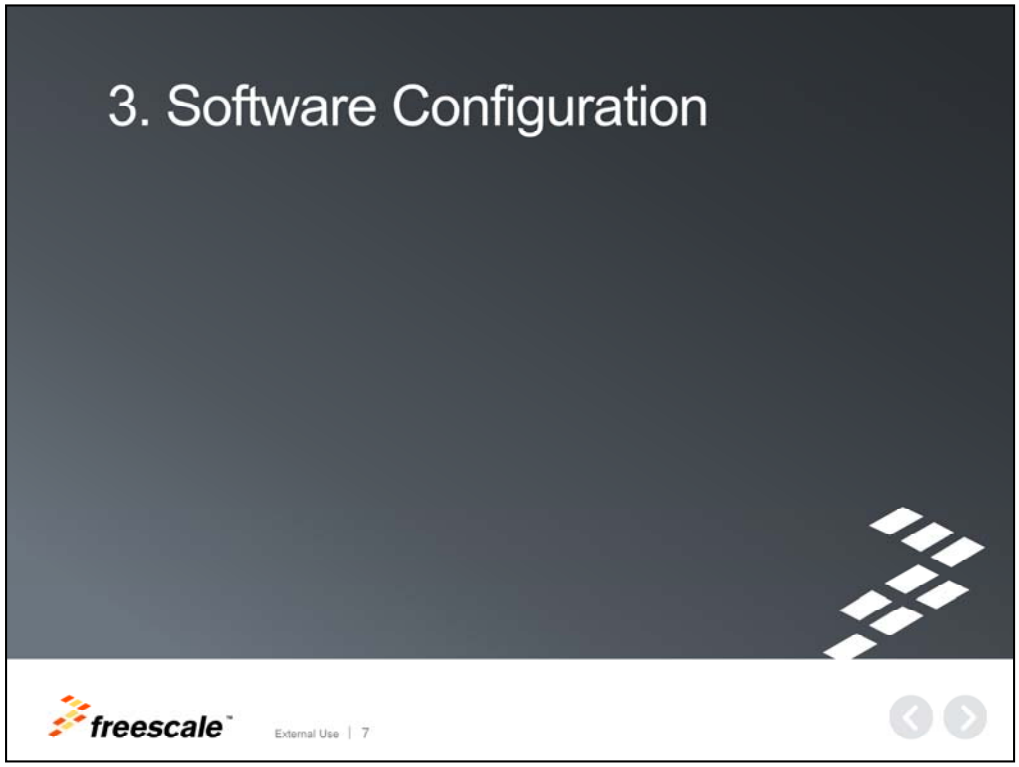
Now, let’s talk about on-chip interconnection and inter-module dependencies.



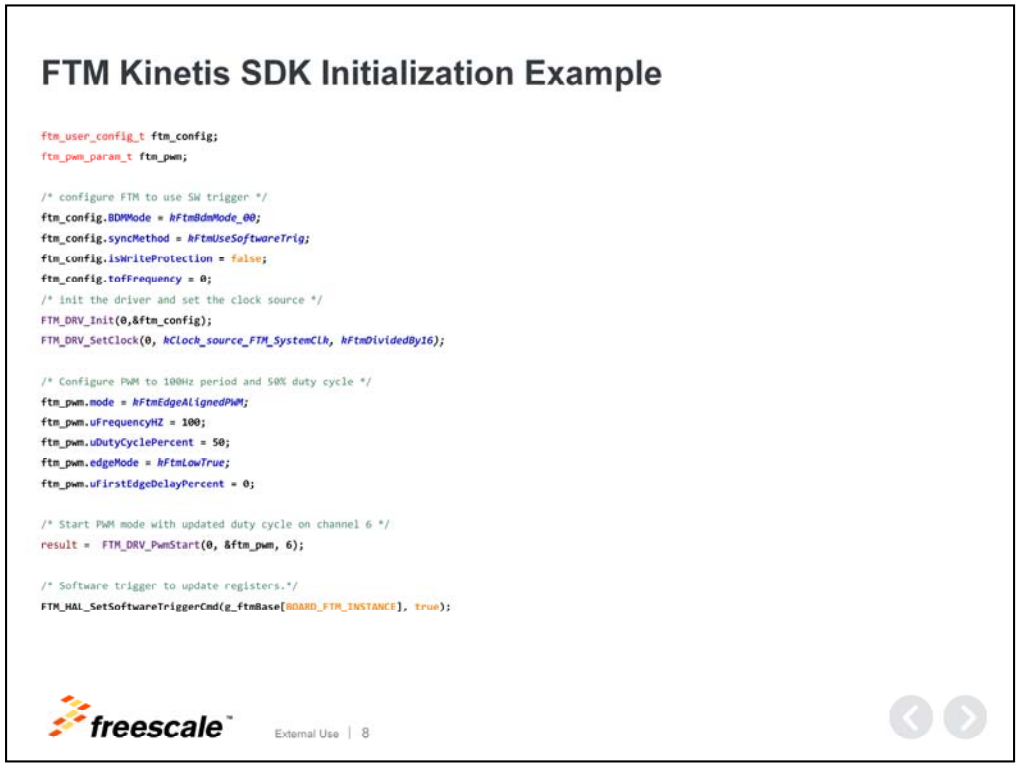
FTM Interconnections

The following diagram displays the FTM and it's relationship with other peripherals:

- The FTM module allows synchronization hardware triggers from different modules like the comparator, the programmable delay block, or from other FTM modules.
- The analog comparator and FTM pins can be used for fault detection.
- The comparator or FTM dedicated pins can be used for input capture functionality.
- The FTM module can trigger a DMA transaction or a PDB timer for ADC sampling. This is useful for the feedback loop of motor control algorithms.



In this next section we'll discuss software configuration.



FTM Kinetis SDK Initialization Example

The Kinetis SDK integrates a FTM peripheral driver that can be used to enable PWM output.

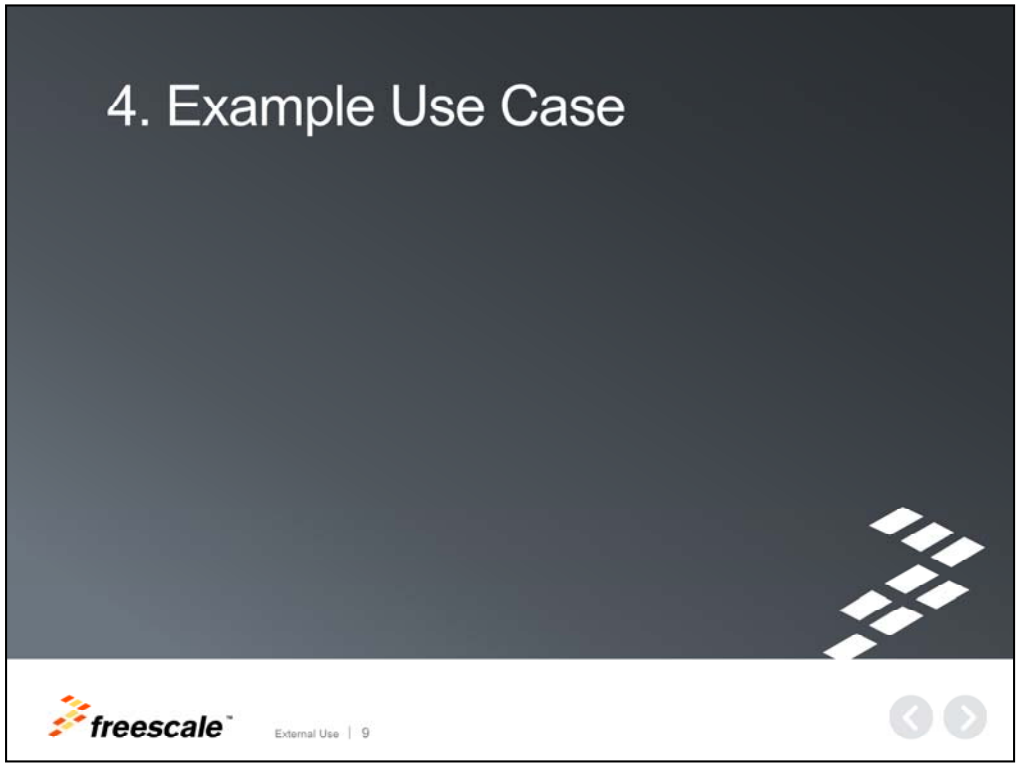
First, a configuration structure must be filled with:

- The FTM behavior when the MCU is in debug mode
- The sync method used for writing the registers, and
- The write protected registers which can be modified after initial configuration

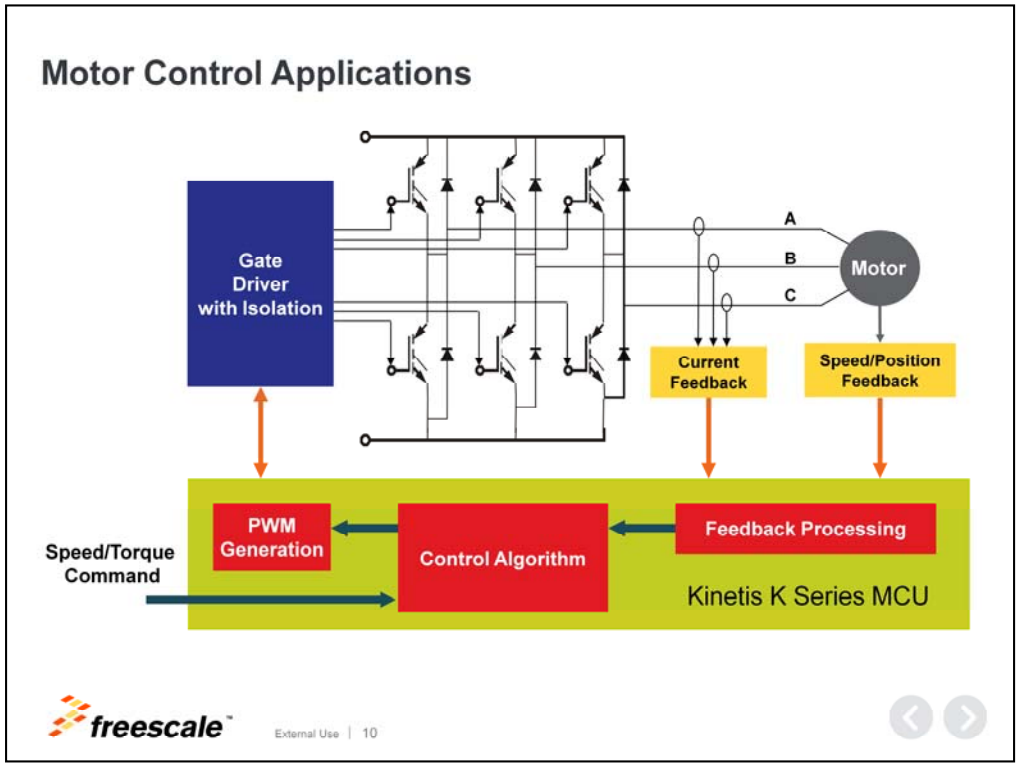
Once the structure is filled, the API should be called to initialize the module and set the FTM clock with the desired prescaler.

In this FTM initialization example, the structure is configured for PWM generation with a 100Hz period and 50% duty cycle. Next, the API should be called to configure the PWM channel – in this case, we use channel 6.

A trigger is required to get the previous configuration loaded into the FTM registers. In this example, we use a software trigger.



Let’s review an example use case.



Motor Control Applications

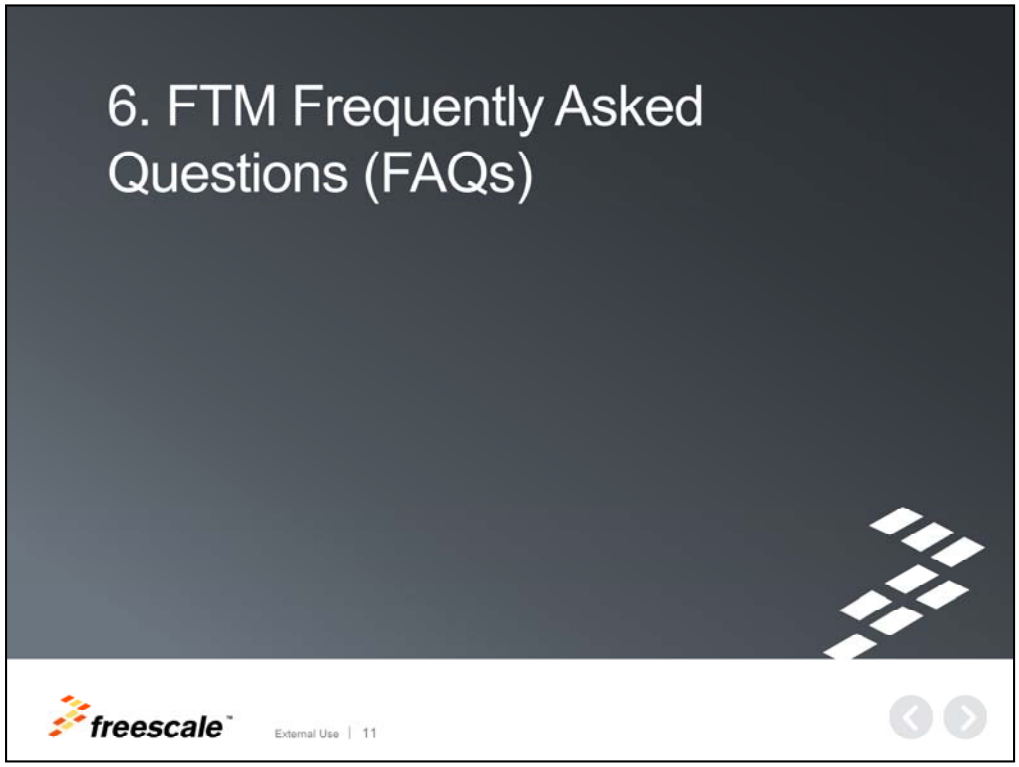
The FTM module eases the development of motor control applications.

The control algorithm updates the different PWM channels to match the speed and torque requirements. These PWM channels are connected to external analog circuitry that controls the motor.

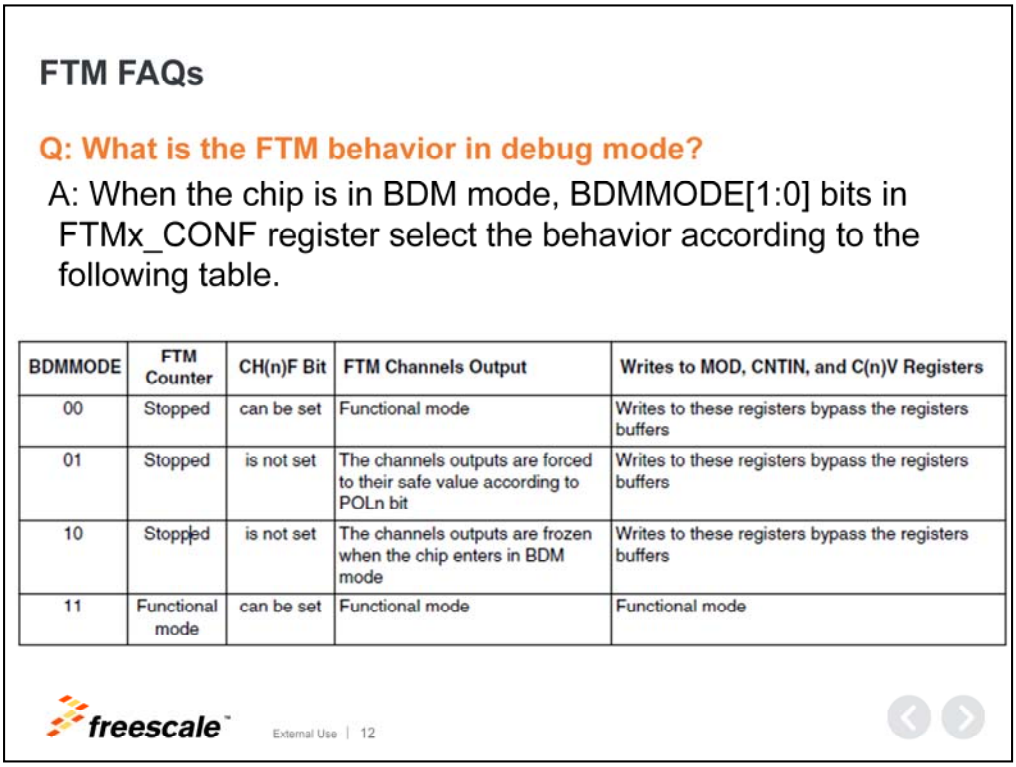
The FTM and PDB with ADC synchronization can be used to measure the current used by the motor.

For certain motor control applications, position feedback is required. The quadrature decoder on the FTM module can provide this information.

This information is processed and then sent to the control algorithm to adjust the PWM.



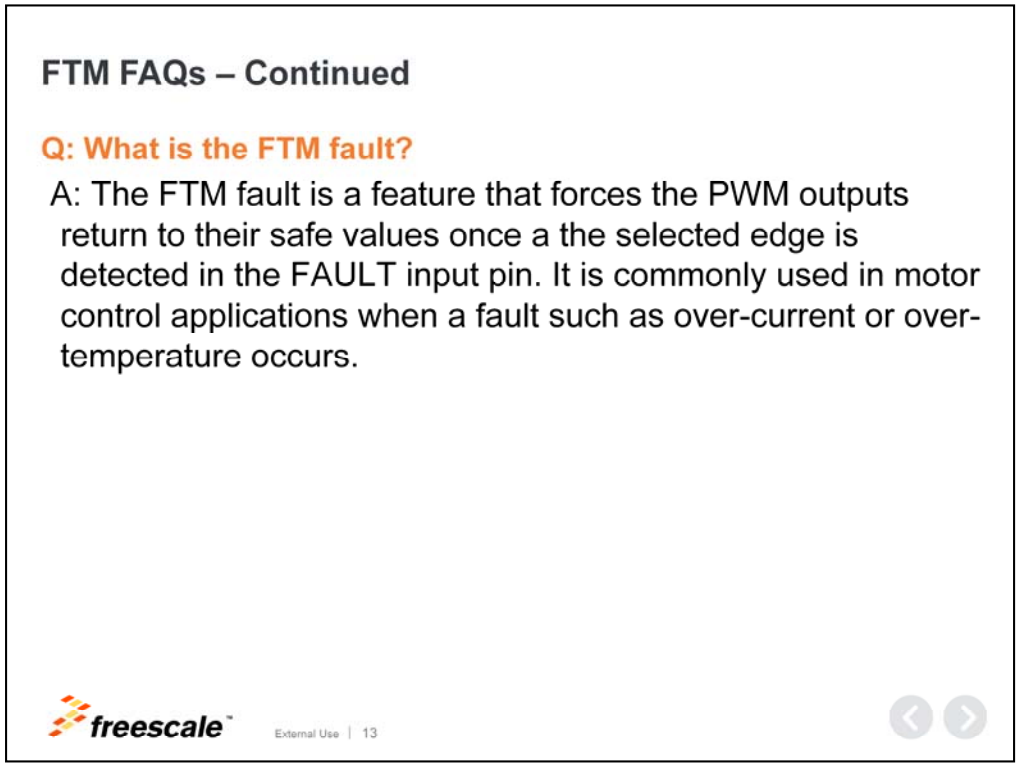
Finally, let’s discuss some frequently asked questions.



FTM FAQs

Question: What is the FTM behavior in debug mode?

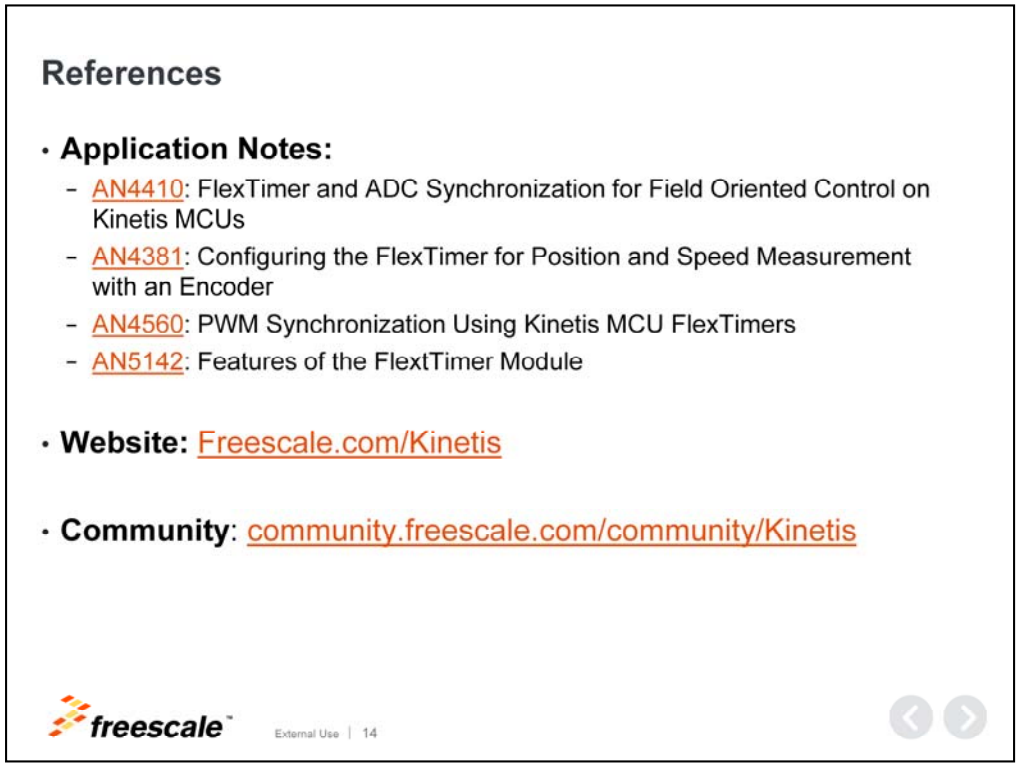
Answer: The FTM module behavior during BDM mode or debug mode is configurable as specified in this table.



FTM FAQs – Continued

What is the FTM Fault?

The FTM fault is a feature on the FTM module that will automatically shutdown PWM outputs when the fault pins are asserted, based on the configured polarity. This feature is important in control applications such as motor control where in the case of over current, the outputs can be automatically and quickly disabled to avoid hardware damage.



References

For more information, please visit the FTM application notes listed here.

We also invite you to visit us on the web at Freescale.com/Kinetis and check out our community page.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