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GETTING STARTED GUIDE

Controller for FlexRIO[™]

This document describes how to begin using the NI-7931R.

Figure 1. NI-7931R



Related Information

For information about the device specifications, refer to the NI-7931R Specifications at ni.com/manuals.

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FlexRIO Documentation

Document	Location	Description
Getting started guide for your controller for FlexRIO	Available from the Start menu and at <i>ni.com/manuals</i> .	Contains installation instructions for your FlexRIO system.
Specifications document for your controller for FlexRIO	Available from the Start menu and at <i>ni.com/manuals</i> .	Contains specifications for your controller for FlexRIO.
Getting started guide for your adapter module	Available from the Start menu and at <i>ni.com/manuals</i> .	Contains signal information, examples, and CLIP details for your adapter module.
Specifications document for your adapter module	Available from the Start menu and at <i>ni.com/manuals</i> .	Contains specifications for your adapter module.
LabVIEW FPGA Module Help	Embedded in <i>LabVIEW Help</i> and at <i>ni.com/manuals</i> .	Contains information about the basic functionality of the LabVIEW FPGA Module.

Table 1. FlexRIO Documentation Locations and Descriptions

Document	Location	Description
Real-Time Module Help	Embedded in <i>LabVIEW Help</i> and at <i>ni.com/manuals</i> .	Contains information about real- time programming concepts, step- by-step instructions for using LabVIEW with the Real-Time Module, reference information about Real-Time Module VIs and functions, and information about LabVIEW features on real-time operating systems.
FlexRIO Help	Available from the Start menu and at <i>ni.com/manuals</i> .	Contains information about the FPGA module front panel connectors and I/O, controller for FlexRIO front panel connectors and I/O, programming instructions, and adapter module component-level IP (CLIP).
FlexRIO Adapter Module Development Kit User Manual	Available from the Start menu at Start»All Programs»National Instruments»NI FlexRIO»NI FlexRIO Adapter Module Development Kit» Documentation.	Contains information about how to create custom adapter modules for use with FlexRIO FPGA modules.
LabVIEW Examples	Available in NI Example Finder. In LabVIEW, click Help»Find Examples»Hardware Input and Output»FlexRIO.	Contains examples of how to run FPGA VIs and Host VIs on your device.
IPNet	Located at <i>ni.com/ipnet</i> .	Contains LabVIEW FPGA functions and intellectual property to share.
FlexRIO product page	Located at <i>ni.com/flexrio</i> .	Contains product information and data sheets for FlexRIO devices.

Table 1. FlexRIO Documentation Locations and Descriptions (Continued)

Related Information

Programming with LabVIEW on page 11

Safety Guidelines

Caution You can impair the protection provided by the NI-7931R if you use it in a manner not described in this document.

Electromagnetic Compatibility Guidelines

This product was tested and complies with the regulatory requirements and limits for electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) stated in the product specifications. These requirements and limits provide reasonable protection against harmful interference when the product is operated in the intended operational electromagnetic environment.

This product is intended for use in industrial locations. However, harmful interference may occur in some installations, when the product is connected to a peripheral device or test object, or if the product is used in residential or commercial areas. To minimize interference with radio and television reception and prevent unacceptable performance degradation, install and use this product in strict accordance with the instructions in the product documentation.

Furthermore, any changes or modifications to the product not expressly approved by National Instruments could void your authority to operate it under your local regulatory rules.



Note To ensure the specified EMC performance, operate this product only with shielded cables and accessories. The DC power input cables may be unshielded.



Note To ensure the specified EMC performance, the length of any cable connected to the USB host ports must be no longer than 5 m (16 ft).



Note The USB device port is intended only for use in device configuration, application deployment, debug, and maintenance.



Note To ensure the specified EMC performance, product installation requires either special considerations or user-installed, add-on devices. Refer to the following sections for more information.

Related Information

Wiring Power to the NI-7931R on page 7

Special Guidelines for Marine Locations

Some products are Lloyd's Register (LR) Type Approved for marine (shipboard) applications. To verify Lloyd's Register certification for a product, visit *ni.com/certification* and search for the LR certificate, or look for the Lloyd's Register mark on the product.



Caution In order to meet the EMC requirements for marine applications, install the product in a shielded enclosure with shielded and/or filtered power and input/output ports. In addition, take precautions when designing, selecting, and installing

measurement probes and cables to ensure that the desired EMC performance is attained.

Verifying the System Requirements

To use the NI-7931R, your system must meet certain requirements. For more information about minimum system requirements, recommended system, and supported application development environments (ADEs), refer to the readme, which is available on the software media or online at *ni.com/updates*.

What You Need to Get Started

- The NI-7931R shipping kit, which includes the following components:
 - The NI-7931R device
 - FlexRIO Support DVD



Note FlexRIO Support 15.1 is the earliest supported driver for the NI-7931R.

- Power screw terminal connector plug
- A to Mini-B device port USB cable
- A host computer running Windows, with NI software installed in the following order:



Note Visit *ni.com/info* and enter the Info Code rdsoftwareversion to determine which software versions you need to use the NI-7931R and supported FlexRIO adapter modules.

- LabVIEW
- LabVIEW Real-Time
- LabVIEW FPGA
- FlexRIO Support¹
- A DC power supply as described in the NI-7931R Specifications
- A FlexRIO adapter module or custom adapter module (optional)
- A number 2 Phillips screwdriver
- A number 1 Phillips screwdriver
- A small flat-blade screwdriver
- Straight through Ethernet cable (if connecting to a network) or crossover Ethernet cable (if connecting directly to a PC)

¹ LabVIEW 2015, FlexRIO Support 2015, LabVIEW Real-Time 2015, and LabVIEW FPGA 2015 are the earliest versions of software that support the NI-7931R.

Unpacking the Kit



Caution To prevent electrostatic discharge (ESD) from damaging the device, ground yourself using a grounding strap or by holding a grounded object, such as your computer chassis.

- 1. Touch the antistatic package to a metal part of the computer chassis.
- 2. Remove the device from the package and inspect the device for loose components or any other sign of damage.



Caution Never touch the exposed pins of connectors.



Note Do not install a device if it appears damaged in any way.

3. Unpack any other items and documentation from the kit.

Store the device in the antistatic package when the device is not in use.

Preparing the Environment

Ensure that the environment you are using the NI-7931R in meets the following specifications.

Operating temperature (IEC 60068-2-1, IEC 60068-2-2)	0 °C to 55 °C
Operating humidity (IEC 60068-2-56)	10% to 90% RH, noncondensing
Pollution Degree	2
Maximum altitude	2,000 m at 25 °C ambient temperature

Indoor use only.



Note Refer to the *NI-7931R Specifications* at *ni.com/manuals* for complete specifications.



Caution Clean the hardware with a soft, nonmetallic brush. Make sure that the hardware is completely dry and free from contaminants before returning it to service.

Wiring Power to the NI-7931R

The NI-7931R requires a 9 V to 30 V external power supply that meets the specifications in the *NI-7931R Specifications*. The NI-7931R filters and regulates the supplied power and provides power for the I/O modules.



Note You can latch the power plug to the NI-7931R using two screws tightened to 0.20 to $0.25 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}$ (1.8 to 2.2 lb $\cdot \text{in.}$) of torque.

The maximum wire gage accepted by the power connector plug is 16 AWG. You must use a stripped wire length of 10 mm (.394 in).

When the POWER LED on the front panel is lit green, the device is powered.

The NI-7931R has reverse-voltage protection.

Complete the following steps to connect a power supply to the NI-7931R.

- 1. Ensure the power source is turned off.
- 2. Connect a positive wire to the positive terminal of the power connector plug, and connect a negative wire to the negative terminal of the power connector plug.



- 1. Positive terminal
- 2. Negative terminal
- 3. No connect
- 3. Install the power connector on the front panel of the NI-7931R.
- 4. Turn on the external power source(s).

Related Information

Electromagnetic Compatibility Guidelines on page 4

Powering on the NI-7931R

When you apply power for the first time to the NI-7931R, the controller boots into safe mode. The POWER LED illuminates, the STATUS LED illuminates briefly, and then the STATUS LED blinks twice every few seconds.

After you install software on the controller, subsequent reboots will boot the controller into the NI Linux Real-Time operating system.

You can optionally configure the NI-7931R to launch an embedded stand-alone LabVIEW Real-Time application each time you boot the controller.

Connecting the NI-7931R to the Host Computer

Complete the following steps to connect the NI-7931R to the host computer using the USB device port.

- 1. Power on the host computer.
- 2. Connect the NI-7931R to the host computer using the USB A-to-B cable.



Note Alternatively, you can use the RJ-45 Ethernet port to connect the NI-7931R to the host computer.

The device driver software automatically detects the NI-7931R. If the device driver software does not detect the NI-7931R, verify that you installed the appropriate NI software in the correct order on the host computer.



Tip You can also use the Ethernet port to connect directly to the host computer or network. Refer to the *NI-7931R/7932R/7935R User Manual* on *ni.com/manuals* for more information about Ethernet connections.

Related Information

Troubleshooting the NI-7931R on page 12

Installing the FlexRIO Adapter Module

Skip this section if you are not using a FlexRIO adapter module.

1. Gently insert the guide pins and the high-density card edge of the FlexRIO adapter module into the corresponding connectors of the NI-7931R.

The connection may be tight, but do not force the adapter module into place.

2. Tighten the captive screws on the FlexRIO adapter module to secure it to the NI-7931R.

The following figure shows the NI-7931R with the FlexRIO adapter module connected.



Refer to the getting started guide for your adapter module for more information about your adapter module, including programming information.

Configuring the System in Measurement & Automation Explorer (MAX)

After connecting the NI-7931R to the host computer, complete the following steps to configure the system for the first time in MAX.

- 1. Launch MAX on the host computer.
- Expand Remote Systems in the MAX configuration tree and select the system. MAX lists the system as the model name followed by the serial number, such as NI-7931R-030521C9.

Related Information

Why Doesn't the Device Appear in MAX? on page 13

Setting a System Password

Complete the following steps to set a system password.



Note Setting a system password is optional.



Note The default username for the NI-7931R is admin. There is no default password for the NI-7931R, so you must leave the password field blank when logging in until you set a system password.

1. Right-click your system and select Web Configuration.

The NI Web-based Configuration and Monitoring utility opens in your default browser and is where you set the password. If you have not installed Microsoft Silverlight, NI Web-based Configuration & Monitoring prompts you to do so.

- 2. Enter a unique name for your system in the Hostname field.
- 3. Click the Security Configuration icon.
- 4. Click Login.
- 5. In the Login dialog box, enter the username admin and leave the password field blank.
- 6. Click OK.
- 7. Click Change Password.
- 8. Enter and re-enter a new password.
- 9. Click OK.
- 10. Click Save.

11. Click **OK** to confirm you are changing the password.



Caution NI cannot recover lost system passwords. If you forget the password, you must contact NI and reformat the controller.

Installing Software on the NI-7931R

- 1. Open Measurement & Automation Explorer (MAX).
- 2. Expand the system under **Remote Systems** by clicking the arrow beside it.
- 3. Select Software.
- 4. Click **Add/Remove Software** at the top of the **Software** tab to launch the LabVIEW Real-Time Software Wizard.



Note A login window appears if you set a system password.

- 5. Select a recommended software set to install.
- 6. Click Next.
- 7. The recommended software set is preselected from the list of software add-ons. Check any additional software add-ons you want. The System State Publisher, for example, makes monitoring system performance simple.



Note You can use the LabVIEW Real-Time Software Wizard to install more software add-ons later. The FlexRIO 15.0 Recommended Software Set is enough to get started.

- 8. Click Next.
- 9. Review the summary of software to install. Click Next to begin the update.

10. Wait for the installation to finish, and then click Finish.

Adding the NI-7931R to a LabVIEW Project

- 1. Launch LabVIEW. The LabVIEW Getting Started window appears.
- 2. Click Create Project or open an existing project.
- 3. Right-click the project root in the **Project Explorer** window and select **New**»**Targets and Devices** from the shortcut menu to display the **Add Targets and Devices** dialog box.
 - a) If the hardware is connected to the host, select **Existing target or device**. Select the NI-7931R under **Real-Time FlexRIO** and click **OK**.
 - b) If the hardware is not connected to the host, select **New target or device**. Select the NI-7931R under **Real-Time FlexRIO** and click **OK**.
- 4. Right-click the target and select New»FPGA Target.

The FPGA target appears in the project under the Real-Time target.

Adding a FlexRIO Adapter Module to the Target

Skip this section if you are not using an adapter module.

- 1. Expand the FPGA target by clicking the + button, then right-click **IO Module** and select **Properties**.
- 2. Select the General category and check the Enable IO Module box.
- 3. Select your I/O module from the **IO Modules** list, and select the CLIP you want to use from the **Component Level IP** box.
- 4. Click OK.

Programming Options

Refer to the following table for information about how to program the NI-7931R.

Component	Programming Option(s)
Real-Time controller	LabVIEW Real-Time or C/C++ Development Tools for NI Linux Real-Time, Eclipse Edition.
FPGA	LabVIEW FPGA

Programming with LabVIEW

The Controller for FlexRIO examples provide a starting point for programming with LabVIEW. To access these examples, open LabVIEW and select **Help»Find Examples» Hardware Input and Output»Controller for FlexRIO**.

For more detailed instructions about programming the NI-7931R with LabVIEW, refer to the *NI-7931R/7932R/7935R User Manual*.

Related Information

FlexRIO Documentation on page 2

Text-based Programming

You can target the NI-7931R Linux Real-Time operating system from text-based development environments such as C and C++.

Related Information

For more information about text-based programming, refer to the Getting Started with C/C++ Development Tools for NI Linux Real-Time, Eclipse Edition tutorial.

Removing the Adapter Module

Complete the following steps to remove an adapter module from the NI-7931R.

- 1. Disconnect all cables to the adapter module.
- 2. Power off the NI-7931R.²
- 3. Unscrew the adapter module.
- 4. Remove the adapter module.

Troubleshooting the NI-7931R

Related Information

Connecting the NI-7931R to the Host Computer on page 8

Why Can't the NI-7931R Communicate with the Network?

- 1. Connect cables from your device to the host computer.
 - a) If you are using the USB port, use a USB cable to connect the NI-7931R USB device port to a host computer.

The USB driver creates a virtual network interface and assigns an IP address to the NI-7931R in the format of 172.22.11.x.

- b) If you are using the ethernet port, use an ethernet to connect the ethernet port to the host computer.
- 2. In MAX, expand your system under Remote Systems.
- 3. Select the Network Settings tab to configure the IP and other network settings.

² If you cannot power down the NI-7931R, use the System Configuration application programming interface (API) to disable power to the adapter module.

4. (Optional) Use the RJ-45 Ethernet port 1 to reconnect the NI-7931R to the host computer. The NI-7931R attempts to initiate a DHCP network connection at powerup.

If the NI-7931R cannot contain an IP address, it connects to the network with a link-local IP address with the form 169.254.*x*.*x*. The host computer communicates with the NI-7931R over a standard Ethernet connection.

Why Doesn't the Device Appear in MAX?

If you cannot find the NI-7931R in MAX, complete the following steps.

- Ensure you have the correct version of FlexRIO Support installed on the host computer.
- Check the USB cable connections at the NI-7931R and host computer. Check the Ethernet cable connections at the host computer and router.
- If you have network firewalls or other security software enabled, try temporarily turning them off. You may also need to add an exception for MAX. In Windows 7, select Start» Control Panel»System and Security»Windows Firewall»Allow a program through Windows Firewall. Click Allow another program, select Measurement & Automation, click Add, then click OK.
- Ensure that UDP port 44525 is open to communication on the host computer. If you are using an intelligent switch on the network, ensure that it is not disabling UDP port 44525.
- Hold down the RESET button for 5 seconds to reboot the target into safe mode. This prevents a real-time app from running. Sometimes a malfunctioning real-time app prevents network communication.
- Check the Device Manager to ensure the National Instruments USBLAN adapter is recognized. In Windows 7, select Start»Control Panel»Device Manager»Network adapters»National Instruments»USBLAN adapter. If the USBLAN adapter is not recognized, you must reinstall FlexRIO Support.
- Ensure that the Ethernet cable is connected correctly.

Related Information

Configuring the System in Measurement & Automation Explorer (MAX) on page 9

Appendix: Front Panel

NI-7931R Front Panel

The following figure shows the NI-7931R front panel connectors, buttons, and LEDs.

Figure 3. NI-7931R



Related Information

For more information about the NI-7931R front panel connectors, buttons, and LEDs, refer to the FlexRIO Help.

LED Indicators

The following figure shows the NI-7931R LEDs in more detail.





NI-7931R Module Signals

The following figure shows the available signals on the NI-7931R.

PCB Secondary Sid	e	PCB Prim	ary Side			PCB Secondary Si	le		PCB Primary Side	
+3.3V	P1 II	P1 +3.3	,		Г	GND	621	621	GND	-
SDA	\$74 S	S148 SCL				GPIO CC 38 n	S40	S114	GPIO CC 14 n	
TB_Power_Good	S73 5	S147 TB_F	resent			GPIO_CC_38	S39	S113	GPIO_CC_14	
+12V	P2	P2 +12V				GND	G20	G20	GND	
Vcco	S72 3	S146 Vcco				GPIO_39_n	S38	S112	GPIO_15_n	
Veeprom	S71 3	S145 RSVI)			GPIO_39	S37	S111	GPIO_15	
GND	G37	G37 GND				GND	G19	G19	GND	
TDC_Assert_CLK_	570 S	S144 IOMo	dSyncClk_n			GPIO_40_n	S36	S110	GPIO_16_n	
TDC_Assert_CLK	S69 5	S143 IOM	odSyncClk			GPIO_40	S35	S109	GPIO_16	
GND	G36	G36 GND		_		GND	G18	G18	GND	
GPIO_24_n	S68 \$	S142 GPIC	_0_n	1		GPIO_41_n	S34	S108	GPIO_17_n	
GPIO_24	S67	S141 GPIC	_0			GPIO_41	S33	S107	GPIO_17	
GND	G35	G35 GND				GND	G17	G17	GND	
GPIO_25_n	S66 \$	S140 GPIC	L1_n		0	GPIO_42_n	S32	S106	GPIO_18_n	
GPIO_25	S65 3	S139 GPIC	_1		ž_	GPIO_42	S31	S105	GPIO_18	
GND	G34	G34 GND		1	ä	GND	G16	G16	GND	
GPIO_CC_26_n	S64 3	S138 GPIC	_CC_2_n		-	GPIO_43_n	\$30	S104	GPIO_19_n	
GPIO_CC_26	S63	S137 GPIC	_CC_2			GPIO_43	S29	S103	GPIO_19	
GND	G33	G33 GND				GND	G15	G15	GND	
GPIO_27_n	\$62 S	S136 GPIC	_3_n	1		GPIO_44_n	S28	S102	GPIO_20_n	
GPIO_27	S61 3	S135 GPIC	_3			GPIO_44	S27	S101	GPIO_20	
GND on -	G32	G32 GND		1		GND 45 -	G14	G14	GND of a	
GPIO_28_n	S60 3	S134 GPIC	_4_n			GPIO_45_n	S26	S100	GPIO_21_n	
GPIO_28	\$59	5133 GPIC	_4			GPIO_45	\$25	599	GPIO_21	
and an -	G31	G31 GND				GND 40 -	G13	G13	GND co -	
GPI0_29_11	007	5132 GPIC	n			GPI0_46_fi	524	590	GPI0_22_1	
GPIO_29	630	G20 GND	_5			GPIO_46	0.12	612	GND CAND	
GPIO 30 n	\$56	\$130 GPIC	6.0			GPIO 47 n	\$22	596	GPIO 23 n	
3PIO_30_11	\$55	S120 GPIC	6	-		GPIO_47_11	S21	595	GPIO 23	
GND	G29	G29 GND		L ž	L	GND	G11	G11	GND	-
GPIO 31 n	\$54 s	S128 GPIC	7 0	Ba	Г	GPIO 48 n	S20	S94	GPIO 58 n	17
GPIO 31	\$53 S	S127 GPIC	7	1		GPIO 48	S19	S93	GPIO 58	
GND	G28	G28 GND	-	1		GND	G10	G10	GND	
GPIO_32_n	S52 3	S126 GPIC	_8_n			GPIO_49_n	S18	S92	GPIO_59_n	
GPIO_32	S51 3	S125 GPIC	_8			GPIO_49	S17	S91	GPIO_59	
GND	G27	G27 GND		1		GND	G9	G9	GND	
GPIO_33_n	S50 \$	S124 GPIC	_9_n	1		GPIO_CC_50_n	S16	S90	GPIO_CC_60_n	
GPIO_33	S49 5	S123 GPIC	_9	1		GPIO_CC_50	S15	S89	GPIO_CC_60	
GND	G26	G26 GND				GND	G8	G8	GND	
GPIO_34_n	S48 3	S122 GPIC	_10_n	1		GPIO_51_n	S14	S88	GPIO_61_n	
GPIO_34	S47 \$	S121 GPIC	_10			GPIO_51	S13	S87	GPIO_61	
GND	G25	G25 GND				GND	G7	G7	GND	
GPIO_35_n	S46 \$	S120 GPIC	_11_n	1	~	GPIO_52_n	S12	S86	GPIO_62_n	
GPIO_35	S45	S119 GPIC	_11		χJ	GPIO_52	S11	S85	GPIO_62	
GND	G24	G24 GND		1	_ a	GND	G6	G6	GND	
GPIO_36_n	S44 3	S118 GPIC	_12_n		۳ I	GPIO_53_n	S10	S84	GPIO_63_n	
GPIO_36	S43 3	5117 GPIC	_12	1		GPIO_53	S9	S83	GPIO_63	
GND 07 -	640	G23 GND	40 -			GND F4 -	65	65	GND C1 -	
GPI0_3/_N	S42 3	S115 GPIC	_13_n			GPIO_54_0	07	001	GPI0_64_0	
GND	622	0115 GPIC	_13 _	1		GPI0_54	04	04	GF10_04	
and	322	GZZ GND				GPIO 55 p	S6	580	GPIO 65 n	
						GPIO_55	30	\$70	GPIO 65	
						GND	63	63	GND	
						GPIO 56 p	S4	\$78	GPIO 66 n	
						GPIO 56	53	\$77	GPIO 66	
						GND	62	62	GND	
						GPIO 57 n	S2	\$76	GPIO 67 n	
						GPIO 57	S1	\$75	GPIO 67	
							1	10.0		-

Worldwide Support and Services

The National Instruments website is your complete resource for technical support. At *ni.com/support*, you have access to everything from troubleshooting and application development self-help resources to email and phone assistance from NI Application Engineers.

Visit *ni.com/services* for NI Factory Installation Services, repairs, extended warranty, and other services.

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Where to Go Next

Refer to the following figure for information about other product tasks and associated resources for those tasks.



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