

Calibration and Data Flash Programming the bq33100 Supercapacitor Manager

PMP - Battery Monitoring Solutions

ABSTRACT

This application report presents a strategy for high-speed, economical calibration and data flash programming of the bq33100 advanced gas gauge. VB6 code examples are provided.

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1 Introduction

The methods in this document are presented as VB6 (Visual Basic 6) functions. These functions were copied directly from working code. In order to read from and write to the data flash, they use four types of SMBus read and write functions. These may be duplicated in any software environment that has SMBus communication capabilities. As used in this document, each read/write function is designed for communication with a battery device, so the device address (0x16) is omitted for clarity.

1. WriteSMBusInteger() has two arguments – the SMBus command and a signed integer. Internally, this function separates the integer into two bytes for transmission by the SMBus write-word protocol.
2. WriteSMBusByteArray() has three arguments – the SMBus command, the array of bytes, and an integer specifying the length of the byte array. Internally, this function separates the byte array into separate bytes for transmission by the SMBus write-block protocol.
3. WriteSMBusCommand() has only one argument – the SMBus command.
4. ReadSMBusByteArray() has three arguments– the SMBus command, the returned array of bytes, and the returned length of the byte array. It is internally implemented with the SMBus read-block protocol.

Also used in these functions is a simple delay routine called DoDelay. VB6 code for this procedure is provided in [Section 4](#).

Error handling is not implemented in this sample code because requirements are unique and varied. Also, constants are hard-coded into the functions to improve clarity rather than documenting them in code elsewhere, as in typical coding practice.

A good strategy for bq33100 production is an eight-step process flow:

1. Power the device with a cell simulator.
2. Write the Data Flash Image to the device. This file can be built per [Section 2.2](#)
3. Update any individual flash locations, such as serial number, lot code, and date.
4. Perform any desired protection tests.
5. Connect the cells.
6. Perform additional desired protection tests.
7. Send 0x0021 to Manufacturer Access 0x00 command, enabling Lifetime and Permanent Fail functions.
8. Seal the pack.

In this document, the second and third steps are examined in detail.

2 Writing the Data Flash Image to Each Target Device

2.1 Preparing the Data Flash Image Pack

The bq33100 ICs are shipped preprogrammed with default parameter values. Create the data flash image used for every production pack by assembling a supercapacitor pack with the default firmware, and set the data flash constants for the application using the evaluation software. This includes the number of serial cells, design capacity, and charging parameters, to name a few. Using the available application notes and datasheet, insure the device is working correctly for your application. For low volume production, program additional packs by simply replacing the .gg file from within the evaluation software. The following procedure is useful only for mass production, where programming speed is important.

2.2 Reading and Saving the Data Flash Image

Note that this step only needs to be done once for a given project.

Function SaveDataFlashImageToFile(sFileName As String) As Long

```

Dim iNumberOfRows As Integer
Dim lError As Long
Dim yRowData(32) As Byte
Dim yDataFlashImage(&H400) As Byte
Dim iRow As Integer
Dim iIndex As Integer
Dim iLen As Integer
Dim iFileNumber As Integer

'// FOR CLARITY, WITHOUT USING CONSTANTS
'// 0x400 is the data flash size.
'0x400 \ 32 = 32 rows
iNumberOfRows = &H400 \ 32

'// PUT DEVICE INTO ROM MODE
lError = WriteSMBusInteger(&H0, &HF00)
DoDelay 0.01

'// READ THE DATA FLASH, ROW BY ROW
For iRow = 0 To iNumberOfRows -1

    '// Set the address for the row. &H9 (0x09) is the ROM mode command.
    '// 0x200 is the row number where data flash starts.
    '// Multiplication by 32 gives the actual physical address where each row starts
    lError = WriteSMBusInteger(&H9, (&H200 + iRow) * 32)

    '// Read the row. &HC (0x0c) is the ROM mode command.
    lError = ReadSMBusByteArray(&HC, yRowData, iLen)

    '//Copy this row into its place in a big byte array
    For iIndex = 0 To 32 -1
        yDataFlashImage((iRow * 32) + iIndex) = yRowData(iIndex)
    Next iIndex
Next iRow

'// WRITE DATA FLASH IMAGE TO FILE
iFileNumber = FreeFile
Open sFileName For Binary Access Write As #iFileNumber
Put #iFileNumber, , yDataFlashImage
Close #iFileNumber

'// EXECUTE GAS GAUGE PROGRAM
lError = WriteSMBusCommand(&H8)
End Function

```

2.3 Writing the Data Flash Image to Each Target Device

The following method takes about 2 seconds to write the entire data flash:

CAUTION

If power is interrupted during this process, the device may become unusable.

```

Function WriteDataFlashImageFromFile(sFileName As String) As Long Dim lError As Long
    Dim iFileNumber As Integer
    Dim iNumberOfRows As Integer
    Dim iRow As Integer
    Dim iIndex As Integer
    Dim yRowData(32) As Byte
    Dim yDataFlashImage(&H400) As Byte

    '// READ THE FLASH IMAGE FROM THE FILE INTO A GLOBAL BYTE ARRAY
    iFileNumber = FreeFile
    Open sFileName For Binary Access Read As #iFileNumber
    Get #iFileNumber, , yDataFlashImage
    Close #iFileNumber

    '// FOR CLARITY, WITHOUT USING CONSTANTS
    iNumberOfRows = &H400 \ 32 '32 Rows

    '// PUT DEVICE INTO ROM MODE
    lError = WriteSMBusInteger(&H0, &HF00)
    DoDelay 0.01

    '// ERASE DATA FLASH, ROWS ARE ERASED IN PAIRS
    For iRow = 0 To iNumberOfRows -1 Step 2
        lError = WriteSMBusInteger(&H11, iRow)
        DoDelay 0.04
    Next iRow

    '// WRITE EACH ROW
    For iRow = 0 To iNumberOfRows -1
        '// Set the row to program into the first element of the 33 byte array
        yRowData(0) = iRow

        '// Copy data from the full array to the row array
        For iIndex = 0 To 31
            yRowData(iIndex + 1) = yDataFlashImage((iRow * 32) + iIndex)
        Next iIndex

        '// Write the row. Length is 33 because first byte is row number
        lError = WriteSMBusByteArray(&H10, yRowData, 32 + 1)
        DoDelay 0.02
    Next iRow

    '// EXECUTE GAS GAUGE PROGRAM
    lError = WriteSMBusCommand(&H8)
End Function

```

3 Calibrating the bq33100

Individual calibration for each bq33100-based supercapacitor pack is not recommended. The preferred technique is to manually calibrate ten units using the Evaluation Software calibration screen, then find average values for mass production calibration constants.

4 Writing Pack-Specific Data Flash Locations

The third step is to fine tune the data flash for each pack, giving it a unique identity. In the following example, the pack Serial Number is written using subclass and offset information found in the bq33100 data sheet. Modifications to single data flash locations normally require a block read of the 32-byte data flash page, updating the desired element of the block, and then writing it back to the device. The procedure is documented in the product data sheet.

```
Function WritePackSerialNumber(iSerialNumber As Integer) As Long
    Dim lError As Long
    Dim yData(32) As Byte
    Dim iLen As Integer

    '// SET THE SUBCLASS TO 48 (FOUND IN PRODUCT Technical Reference)
    lError = WriteSMBusInteger(&H77, 48)

    '// READ THE PAGE
    lError = ReadSMBusByteArray(&H78, yData(), iLen)

    '// REPLACE THE TWO BYTES AT OFFSET 4 (FOUND IN product Data Sheet) WITH NEW S/N
    yData(4) = (iSerialNumber And &HFF00) \ 256 '// modify MS byte
    yData(5) = iSerialNumber And &HFF '// modify LS byte

    '// WRITE THE PAGE BACK TO FLASH
    lError = WriteSMBusByteArray(&H78, yData(), iLen)

    '// FLASH WRITES ARE SLOW
    DoDelay 0.1
End Function
```

```
Sub DoDelay(fWaitTime As Single)
    Dim vTime As Variant
    vTime = Timer
    While Timer < (vTime + fWaitTime)
        '// fix midnight problem
        If Timer < vTime Then Exit Sub
        '// Yield to various Windows events while the delay is in progress
        DoEvents
    Wend
End Sub
```

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