

Introduction to PIC Programming

Programming Baseline PICs in C

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Lesson 3: Sleep Mode and the Watchdog Timer

Continuing the series on C programming, this lesson revisits material from [baseline lesson 7](#), which examined the baseline PIC architecture's power-saving sleep mode, its ability to wake from sleep when an input changes and the watchdog timer – generally used to automatically restart a crashed program, but also useful for periodically waking the PIC from sleep, for low-power operation. As before, selected examples from that lesson are re-implemented using the “free” C compilers bundled with Microchip's MPLAB: HI-TECH C¹ (in “Lite” mode), PICC-Lite and CCS PCB, which were introduced in [lesson 1](#).

[Baseline lesson 7](#) also described the various clock, or oscillator, configurations available for the PIC12F508/509 – a topic which does not really need a separate treatment for C, since the programming techniques needed to implement the examples from that lesson have already been covered in lessons [1](#) and [2](#). Only the PIC configuration is different, so this lesson includes a table listing the corresponding configuration word settings between MPASM, HI-TECH C and CCS PCB.

In summary, this lesson covers:

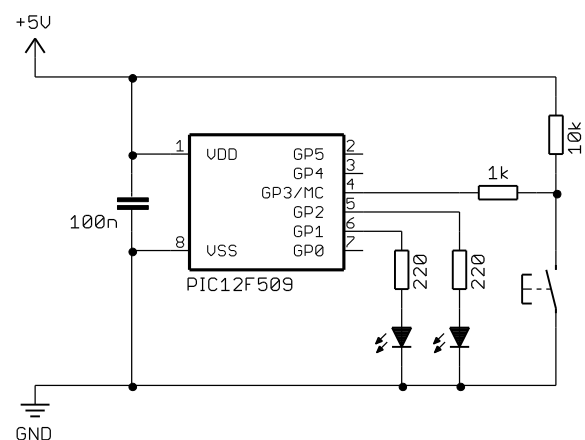
- Sleep mode (power down)
- Wake-up on change (power up on input change)
- The watchdog timer
- Periodic wake from sleep
- Configuration word settings

with examples for HI-TECH C, PICC-Lite and CCS PCB.

Circuit Diagram

The examples in this lesson use the circuit shown on the right, consisting of a PIC12F509 and 100 nF bypass capacitor, with LEDs on GP1 and GP2, and a pushbutton switch on GP3.

Baseline lessons [1](#), [4](#) and [5](#) showed how this circuit could be implemented using Microchip's LPC Demo Board. However, if you want to be able to measure the current consumption, to see how it is reduced when the PIC is placed into sleep mode, you will need to either power the demo board independently from the PICkit



¹ PICC-Lite was bundled with versions of MPLAB up to 8.10. HI-TECH C (earlier known as “HI-TECH C PRO”) was bundled with MPLAB 8.15 and later, although you should download the latest version from www.htsoft.com.

2, or else build the circuit separately, perhaps on prototyping breadboard.

Sleep Mode

As explained in [baseline lesson 7](#), the assembler instruction for placing the PIC into sleep mode is ‘sleep’.

This was demonstrated by the following code, which turns on a LED, waits for a pushbutton press, and then turns off the LED (saving power) before placing the PIC permanently into sleep mode (effectively shutting it down):

```

        movlw    ~(1<<nLED)      ; configure LED pin (only) as an output
        tris    GPIO

        bsf     LED              ; turn on LED

waitlo  btfsc   BUTTON          ; wait for button press (low)
        goto   waitlo

        bcf     LED              ; turn off LED

        sleep                    ; enter sleep mode

        goto   $                ; (this instruction should never run)

```

HI-TECH C or PICC-Lite

To place the PIC into sleep mode, HI-TECH C provides a ‘SLEEP()’ macro.

It is defined in the “pic.h” header file (called from the “htc.h” file we’ve included at the start of each PICC program), as:

```
#define SLEEP() asm("sleep")
```

‘asm()’ is a HI-TECH C statement which embeds a single assembler instruction, in-line, in the C source code. But since ‘SLEEP()’ is provided as a standard macro, it makes sense to use it, instead of the ‘asm()’ statement.

Complete program

The following program shows how the HI-TECH C ‘SLEEP()’ macro is used:

```

/*****
*
* Description: Lesson 3, example 1
*
* Demonstrates sleep mode
*
* Turn on LED, wait for button pressed, turn off LED, then sleep
*
*****/

#include <htc.h>

/***** CONFIGURATION *****/
// Pin assignments
#define LED GP1 // Indicator LED on GP1
#define nLED 1 // (port bit 1)
#define BUTTON GP3 // Pushbutton (active low)

// Config: int reset, no code protect, no watchdog, 4MHz int clock
__CONFIG(MCLRDIS & UNPROTECT & WDTDIS & INTRC);

```

```

/***** MAIN PROGRAM *****/
void main()
{
    TRIS = ~(1<<nLED);           // configure LED pin (only) as an output

    LED = 1;                     // turn on LED

    while (BUTTON == 1)         // wait for button press (low)
        ;

    LED = 0;                     // turn off LED

    SLEEP();                     // enter sleep mode

    for (;;)                     // (this loop should never execute)
        ;
}

```

CCS PCB

Consistent with CCS' stated approach of allowing most tasks to be performed through built-in functions, the PCB compiler provides a function for entering sleep mode: 'sleep()'.

Unlike the HI-TECH version, this is a built-in function, not a macro. But it's used the same way.

Complete program

Here is the CCS PCB version of the "sleep after pushbutton press" program:

```

*****
*   Description:    Lesson 3, example 1                               *
*                                                         *
*   Demonstrates  sleep mode                                       *
*                                                         *
*   Turn on LED,  wait for button pressed, turn off LED, then sleep *
*                                                         *
*****
*   Pin assignments:                                             *
*       GP1 - indicator LED                                       *
*       GP3 - pushbutton (active low)                             *
*                                                         *
*****/

#include <12F509.h>
#define GP0 PIN_B0           // define GP pins
#define GP1 PIN_B1
#define GP2 PIN_B2
#define GP3 PIN_B3
#define GP4 PIN_B4
#define GP5 PIN_B5

/***** CONFIGURATION *****/

// Pin assignments
#define LED      GP1         // Indicator LED
#define BUTTON  GP3         // Pushbutton (active low)

// Config: int reset, no code protect, no watchdog, 4MHz int clock
#fuses NOMCLR,NOPROTECT,NOWDT,INTRC

```

```

/***** MAIN PROGRAM *****/
void main()
{
    output_high(LED);           // turn on LED
    while (input(BUTTON) == 1) // wait for button press (low)
        ;

    output_low(LED);           // turn off LED

    sleep();                   // enter sleep mode

    while (TRUE)               // (this loop should never execute)
        ;
}

```

Comparisons

Continuing the comparison of memory use (“resource efficiency”) and source code length (a rough indicator of “programmer efficiency”) between the compilers, here is the resource usage summary for the “sleep after pushbutton press” programs:

Sleep_LED_off

Assembler / Compiler	Source code (lines)	Program memory (words)	Data memory (bytes)
Microchip MPASM	18	12	0
HI-TECH PICC-Lite	12	13	4
HI-TECH C PRO Lite	12	18	2
CCS PCB	10	22	4

The CCS version uses significantly more program memory than the PICC-Lite version, and even more than the non-optimised HI-TECH C PRO version, in this case.

Wake-up on Change

We saw in [baseline lesson 7](#) that, if the $\overline{\text{GPWU}}$ bit in the OPTION register is cleared, the PIC12F508/509 will come out of sleep (“wake-up”), if any of the inputs on GP0, GP1 or GP3 change.

Note that, in the baseline PIC architecture, wake-up on change can only be enabled on certain pins, and that either it is enabled for all of these pins or for none of them; it is not individually selectable.

This feature can be used in low-power applications, where the PIC spends most of the time sleeping (saving power), waking only to respond to external events which lead to an input change. It’s also useful when designing devices with a “soft” on/off feature, such as the [Gooligum Electronics “Hangman”](#) project, which is based on a baseline PIC (the 16F505).

Note also that it’s important to read any input pins configured for wake on change, and to ensure that they are stable (by debouncing any switches) just prior to entering sleep mode, to avoid the PIC immediately waking up.

Baseline PICs restart when they wake from sleep, recommencing execution at the reset vector (0x000), in the same way they do when first powered on (power-on reset) or following an external reset on $\overline{\text{MCLR}}$.

If the reset was due to a wake on change, it may be necessary to debounce whichever input changed, to avoid the program responding to spurious input transitions from the switch bounce. You could perform this debounce “just in case”, regardless of why the PIC (re)started.

But in some cases you’ll want your program to behave differently if it was restarted by a wake on change, can be done by testing the GPWUF flag in the STATUS register. GPWUF is set to ‘1’ only if a wake on change reset has occurred.

These concepts were demonstrated in [baseline lesson 7](#), through an example similar to that in the sleep mode section, above, and using the same circuit. One of the LEDs is turned on and then, when the pushbutton is pressed, it is turned off and the PIC is put into sleep mode. But in this example, wake on change is enabled, so that when the pushbutton is pressed again (changing the input on GP3), the program restarts and the LED is turned on again. If GPWUF is set, a second LED is lit, to indicate that a wake on change happened.

This was implemented in assembler as:

```

        bsf      LED                ; turn on LED

        btfss   STATUS,GPWUF       ; if wake-up on change has occurred,
        goto    waitlo
        bsf     WAKE                ; turn on wake-up indicator
        DbnceHi BUTTON            ; wait for stable button high

waitlo  btfsc   BUTTON             ; wait for button press (low)
        goto    waitlo

        clrf   GPIO                ; turn off LEDs

        DbnceHi BUTTON            ; wait for stable button release

        sleep                       ; enter sleep mode

```

HI-TECH C PRO or PICC-Lite

To enable wake-up on change using HI-TECH C, simply ensure that the $\overline{\text{GPWU}}$ bit in the OPTION register is cleared, for example:

```

OPTION = 0b01000111;           // configure wake-up on change and Timer0:
    //0-----                // enable wake-up on change (NOT_GPWU = 0)
    //--0-----                // timer mode (T0CS = 0)
    //----0---                // prescaler assigned to Timer0 (PSA = 0)
    //-----111                // prescale = 256 (PS = 111)
    //                          // -> increment every 256 us

```

Testing the GPWUF flag is simple; like most register bits, it is defined in the header files provided with the compiler, and can be accessed directly:

```

if (GPWUF) {                   // if wake on change has occurred,
    WAKE = 1;                   // turn on wake indicator
    DbnceHi (BUTTON);          // wait for stable button high
}

```

The test could instead be written more explicitly as:

```

if (GPWUF == 1) { ... }       // if wake on change has occurred...

```

But it’s considered quite acceptable, and perfectly clear, to leave out the ‘== 1’ when testing a flag bit.

Complete program

The following listing shows how the above fragments fit into the program:

```

/*****
*   Description:      Lesson 3, example 2
*
*   Demonstrates wake-up on change
*                   plus differentiation from POR reset
*
*   Turn on LED after each reset
*   Turn on WAKE LED only if reset was due to wake on change
*   then wait for button press, turn off LEDs, debounce, then sleep
*****/

#include <htc.h>

#include "dbmacros-PCL.h"    // DbnceHi() - debounce switch, wait for high
                           // Requires: TMR0 at 256us/tick

// Pin assignments
#define LED      GP1        // LED to turn on/off
#define nLED     1          // (port bit 1)
#define WAKE     GP2        // indicates wake on change condition
#define nWAKE    2          // (port bit 2)
#define BUTTON   GP3        // Pushbutton (active low)

// Config: int reset, no code protect, no watchdog, 4MHz int clock
__CONFIG(MCLRDIS & UNPROTECT & WDTDIS & INTRC);

/***** MAIN PROGRAM *****/
void main()
{
    // Initialisation
    TRIS = ~(1<<nLED|1<<nWAKE); // configure LED pins as outputs
    GPIO = 0;                  // start with both LEDs off
    OPTION = 0b01000111;       // configure wake-up on change and Timer0:
        //0----- enable wake-up on change (NOT_GPWU = 0)
        //--0----- timer mode (T0CS = 0)
        //----0--- prescaler assigned to Timer0 (PSA = 0)
        //-----111 prescale = 256 (PS = 111)
        //          -> increment every 256 us

    // Main code
    LED = 1;                   // turn on LED

    if (GPWUF) {               // if wake on change has occurred,
        WAKE = 1;              // turn on wake indicator
        DbnceHi(BUTTON);       // wait for stable button high
    }

    while (BUTTON == 1)        // wait for button press (low)
        ;

    GPIO = 0;                  // turn off both LEDs

    DbnceHi(BUTTON);           // wait for stable button release

    SLEEP();                   // enter sleep mode
}

```

CCS PCB

Although the CCS PCB compiler provides built-in functions to perform most tasks, *there are no built-in functions for explicitly enabling wake on change, or for detecting a wake on change reset.*

We saw in [lesson 1](#) that weak pull-ups are enabled implicitly whenever Timer0 is configured, and that the only way to disable weak pull-ups is to use the `setup_counters()` function with an additional 'DISABLE_PULLUPS' symbol.

Similarly, wake-up on change is enabled implicitly whenever Timer0 is configured, whether you use `setup_timer_0()` or `setup_counters()`.

To setup the timer without enabling wake-up on change, you must use the `setup_counters()` function with the 'DISABLE_WAKEUP_ON_CHANGE' symbol ORed with the second parameter.

For example:

```
setup_counters(RTCC_INTERNAL, RTCC_DIV_1 | DISABLE_WAKEUP_ON_CHANGE);
```

CCS PCB does not provide any built-in function which can be used to detect that a wake-up on change reset has occurred. Although the compiler does provide a 'restart_cause()' function, which returns a value indicating the cause of the last reset, this does not encompass wake on change resets on the baseline PICs. The "12F509.h" header file does define the symbol 'PIN_CHANGE_FROM_SLEEP', which is presumably intended to be used in detecting a wake-up on pin change, but it is not a valid return code from the 'restart_cause()' function.

So to detect a wake on change reset, we need to use the `#bit` directive, introduced in [lesson 2](#), to allow access to the GPWUF flag, as follows:

```
#bit GPWUF = 0x03.7 // GPWUF flag in STATUS register
```

This flag can then be tested directly, in the same way as we did with HI-TECH C:

```
if (GPWUF) { // if wake on change has occurred,
    output_high(WAKE); // turn on wake indicator
    DbncHi(BUTTON); // wait for stable button high
}
```

Complete program

The following listing shows how these fragments fit into the "wake-up on change demo" program:

```

/*****
*
* Description: Lesson 3, example 2
*
* Demonstrates wake-up on change
* plus differentiation from POR reset
*
* Turn on LED after each reset
* Turn on WAKE LED only if reset was due to wake on change
* then wait for button press, turn off LEDs, debounce, then sleep
*
*****
*
* Pin assignments:
* GP1 - on/off indicator LED
* GP2 - wake indicator LED
* GP3 - pushbutton (active low)
*
*****/

```

```

#include <12F509.h>
#define GP0 PIN_B0           // define GP pins
#define GP1 PIN_B1
#define GP2 PIN_B2
#define GP3 PIN_B3
#define GP4 PIN_B4
#define GP5 PIN_B5

#bit GPWUF = 0x03.7        // GPWUF flag in STATUS register

#include "dbmacros-CCS.h"   // DbnceHi() - debounce switch, wait for high
                           // Requires: TMR0 at 256us/tick

/***** CONFIGURATION *****/

// Pin assignments
#define LED      GP1        // LED to turn on/off
#define WAKE     GP2        // indicates wake on change condition
#define BUTTON   GP3        // Pushbutton (active low)

// Config: int reset, no code protect, no watchdog, 4MHz int clock
#fuses NOMCLR,NOPROTECT,NOWDT,INTRC

/***** MAIN PROGRAM *****/
void main()
{
    // Initialisation
    output_b(0);           // start with both LEDs off
    // enable wake-up on change (and weak pull-ups) and
    // configure Timer0: timer mode, prescale = 256 (increment every 256us)
    setup_timer_0(RTCC_INTERNAL|RTCC_DIV_256);

    // Main code
    output_high(LED);     // turn on LED

    if (GPWUF) {         // if wake on change has occurred,
        output_high(WAKE); // turn on wake indicator
        DbnceHi(BUTTON);  // wait for stable button high
    }

    while (input(BUTTON) == 1) // wait for button press (low)
        ;

    output_b(0);         // turn off both LEDs

    DbnceHi(BUTTON);    // wait for stable button release

    sleep();            // enter sleep mode
}

```

Comparisons

Here is the resource usage summary for the “wake-up on change demo” programs:

Wakeup+LED

Assembler / Compiler	Source code (lines)	Program memory (words)	Data memory (bytes)
Microchip MPASM	28	33	0
HI-TECH PICC-Lite	20	37	4
HI-TECH C PRO Lite	20	75	2
CCS PCB	18	63	4

Once again, the CCS version uses significantly more program memory than the PICC-Lite version, which in this example is nearly as efficient in program memory use as hand-written assembler.

Watchdog Timer

As described in [baseline lesson 7](#), the watchdog timer is free-running counter which, if enabled, operates independently of any program running on the PIC. It is typically used to avoid program crashes, where your application enters a state it will never return from, such as a loop waiting for a condition that will never occur. If the watchdog timer overflows, the PIC is reset, restarting your program – hopefully allowing it to recover and operate normally. To avoid this “WDT reset” from occurring, your program must periodically reset, or clear, the watchdog timer before it overflows. This watchdog time-out period on the baseline PICs is nominally 18 ms, but can be extended to a maximum of 2.3 seconds by assigning the prescaler to the watchdog timer (in which case the prescaler is no longer available for use with Timer0).

The watchdog timer is also commonly used to regularly wake the PIC from sleep mode, perhaps to sample and log an environmental input (say a temperature sensor), for low power operation.

The examples in this section illustrate these concepts.

Enabling the watchdog timer and detecting WDT resets

We saw in [baseline lesson 7](#) that the watchdog timer is controlled by the WDTE bit in the processor configuration word: setting WDTE to ‘1’ enables the watchdog timer.

The assembler examples in that lesson included the following construct, to make it easy to select whether the watchdog timer is enabled or disabled when the code is built:

```
#define WATCHDOG ; define to enable watchdog timer

IFDEF WATCHDOG
    ; ext reset, no code protect, watchdog, 4MHz int clock
    __CONFIG _MCLRE_ON & _CP_OFF & _WDT_ON & _IntRC_OSC
ELSE
    ; ext reset, no code protect, no watchdog, 4MHz int clock
    __CONFIG _MCLRE_ON & _CP_OFF & _WDT_OFF & _IntRC_OSC
ENDIF
```

To select the maximum watchdog time-out period of 2.3 seconds, the prescaler was assigned to the watchdog timer (by setting the PSA bit in OPTION), with a prescale ratio of 128:1 (18 ms × 128 = 2.3 s), by:

```
movlw 1<<PSA | b'111' ; set WDT prescale = 128
option
```

To demonstrate the effect of the watchdog timer, an LED is turned on for 1 second, and then turned off, before the program enters an endless loop. Without the watchdog timer, the LED would remain off, until the power is cycled. But if the watchdog timer is enabled, a WDT reset will occur after 2.3 seconds, restarting the program, lighting the LED again. The LED will be seen to flash – on for 1 s, with a period of 2.3 s.

If you want your program to behave differently when restarted by a watchdog time-out, test the \overline{TO} flag in the STATUS register: it is cleared to '0' only when a WDT reset has occurred.

The example in [baseline lesson 7](#) used this approach to turn on an “error” LED, to indicate if a restart was due to a WDT reset:

```

;***** Initialisation
    movlw    1<<PSA | b'111'      ; configure watchdog timer:
                                ;   prescaler assigned to WDT (PSA = 1)
                                ;   prescale = 128 (PS = 111)
    option                                     ;   -> WDT period = 2.3 s

    movlw    ~(1<<nLED|1<<nWDT)   ; configure LED pins as outputs
    tris     GPIO
    clrf     GPIO                 ; start with all LEDs off

;***** Main code
    btfss    STATUS,NOT_TO       ; if WDT timeout has occurred,
    bsf      WDT                 ;   turn on "error" LED

    bsf      LED                 ; turn on "flash" LED
    DelayMS  1000                ; delay 1s
    bcf      LED                 ; turn off "flash" LED

    goto     $                   ; wait forever

```

HI-TECH PICC-Lite

Since the watchdog timer is controlled by a configuration bit, the only change we need to make to enable it is to use a different `__CONFIG()` statement, with the symbol 'WDTEN' replacing 'WDTDIS'.

A construct very similar to that in the assembler example can be used to select between processor configurations:

```

#define     WATCHDOG             // define to enable watchdog timer

#ifndef WATCHDOG
    // Config: ext reset, no code protect, watchdog, 4MHz int clock
    __CONFIG(MCLREN & UNPROTECT & WDTEN & INTRC);
#else
    // Config: ext reset, no code protect, no watchdog, 4MHz int clock
    __CONFIG(MCLREN & UNPROTECT & WDTDIS & INTRC);
#endif

```

Assigning the prescaler to the watchdog timer and selecting a prescale ratio of 128:1 is done by:

```

OPTION = PSA | 0b111;           // configure watchdog timer:
                                //   prescaler assigned to WDT (PSA = 1)
                                //   prescale = 128 (PS = 111)
                                //   -> WDT period = 2.3 s

```

The symbol 'PSA' is defined in the header files provided with PICC-Lite.

To check for a WDT timeout reset, the \overline{TO} flag can be tested directly, using:

```
if (!TO) {                                     // if WDT timeout has occurred,
    WDT = 1;                                   // turn on "error" LED
}
```

Note that the test condition is inverted, using ‘!’, since this flag is “active” when clear.

However, if you try this code, using the default build options for PICC-Lite in MPLAB², it won’t work!

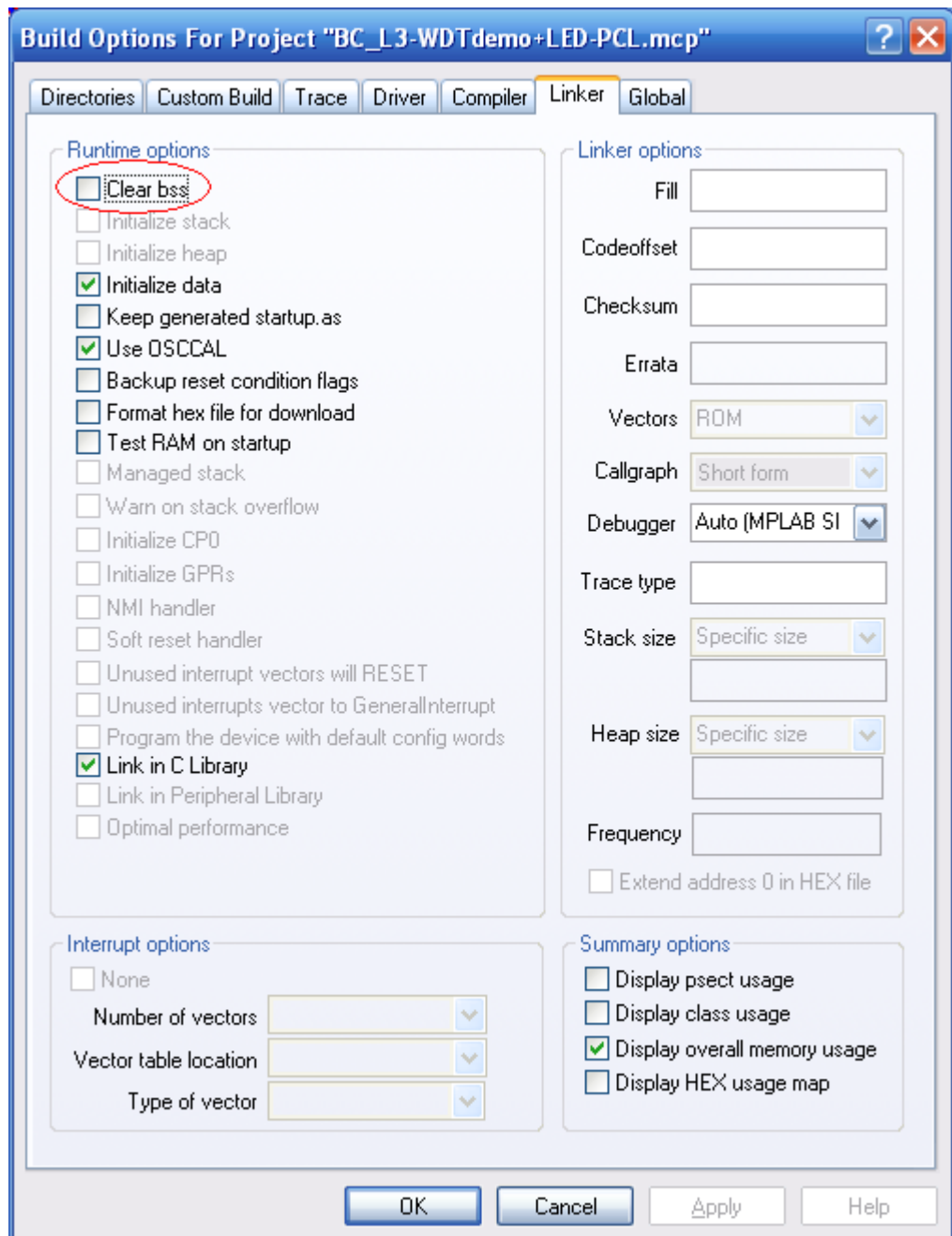
This highlights a general problem with programming microcontrollers in ‘C’ – you may not know all the details of what the compiler is doing.

In this case, the problem lies with the routine in the default PICC-Lite runtime start-up code which clears uninitialised variables held in the “bss” (*Block Started by Symbol*) memory segment.

The ANSI ‘C’ standard requires that all uninitialised variables be cleared (set to zero) before they are used, so, by default, the PICC-Lite compiler does this.

An unintended side-effect of this memory clearing routine is that the \overline{TO} flag is reset to ‘1’, whether a WDT timeout has occurred or not – meaning that the above test will always fail.

To avoid this problem, you need to disable the “Clear bss” option in the “Linker” tab in the project build options window (Project → Build Options... → Project), as shown above.



² Tested using PICC-Lite v9.60PL2 with the HI-TECH universal plug-in V1.31 in MPLAB 8.20

If your code requires specific compiler or linker options, as in this example, you should document that in a comment, such as:

```
*   Compiler:          HI-TECH PICC-Lite v9.60PL2          *
*   "Clear BSS" linker option must be disabled            *
```

Complete program

Here is the complete program, showing how the above code fragments are used:

```

/*****
*   Description:      Lesson 3, example 3
*
*   Demonstrates watchdog timer
*       plus differentiation from POR reset
*
*   Turn on LED for 1s, turn off, then enter endless loop
*   If enabled, WDT timer restarts after 2.3s
*   Turns on WDT LED to indicate WDT reset
*
*****/
*
*   Pin assignments:
*       GP1 - on/off indicator LED
*       GP2 - WDT reset indicator LED
*
*****/
#include <htc.h>

#include "stdmacros-PCL.h" // DelayS() - delay in seconds

/***** CONFIGURATION *****/
#define WATCHDOG // define to enable watchdog timer

#ifndef WATCHDOG
    // Config: ext reset, no code protect, watchdog, 4MHz int clock
    __CONFIG(MCLREN & UNPROTECT & WDTEN & INTRC);
#else
    // Config: ext reset, no code protect, no watchdog, 4MHz int clock
    __CONFIG(MCLREN & UNPROTECT & WDTDIS & INTRC);
#endif

// Pin assignments
#define LED GP1 // LED to turn on/off
#define nLED 1 // (port bit 1)
#define WDT GP2 // indicates watchdog timer reset
#define nWDT 2 // (port bit 2)

/***** MAIN PROGRAM *****/
void main()
{
    // Initialisation
    TRIS = ~(1<<nLED|1<<nWDT); // configure LED pins as outputs
    GPIO = 0; // start with both LEDs off
    OPTION = PSA | 0b111; // configure watchdog timer:
    // prescaler assigned to WDT (PSA = 1)
    // prescale = 128 (PS = 111)
    // -> WDT period = 2.3 s

```

```

// Main code
if (!TO) {                                // if WDT timeout has occurred,
    WDT = 1;                               //   turn on "error" LED
}

LED = 1;                                  // turn on "flash" LED

DelayS(1);                                // delay 1s

LED = 0;                                  // turn off "flash" LED

for (;;)                                  // wait forever
    ;
}

```

HI-TECH C PRO Lite

Because HI-TECH C PRO handles memory allocation (or placement) of variables differently, it does not exhibit the runtime start-up code side-effect (or bug) described above for PICC-Lite. So there is no need to disable “Clear bss” when using HI-TECH C PRO in this example.

Although HI-TECH C PRO provides a `__delay_ms()` library function, which is instead of the delay routines provided with PICC-Lite, this difference is hidden by the `DelayS()` macro, introduced in [lesson 2](#) and used in the PICC-Lite example above.

However, to use the `__delay_ms()` library function, we must define the oscillator frequency, and include the correct macro definition, toward the start of the program:

```

#define _XTAL_FREQ 4000000                // oscillator frequency for __delay_ms()

#include "stdmacros-HTC.h"                // DelayS() - delay in seconds

```

CCS PCB

To enable the watchdog timer, simply replace the symbol ‘NOWDT’ with ‘WDT’ in the `#fuses` statement.

Once again, we can use a conditional compilation construct to allow the watchdog to be enabled or disabled when building the code:

```

#define WATCHDOG                          // define to enable watchdog timer

#ifndef WATCHDOG
    // Config: ext reset, no code protect, watchdog, 4MHz int clock
    #fuses MCLR,NOPROTECT,WDT,INTRC
#else
    // Config: ext reset, no code protect, no watchdog, 4MHz int clock
    #fuses MCLR,NOPROTECT,NOWDT,INTRC
#endif

```

Unlike the situation for enabling and detecting wake-up on change, the CCS PCB compiler provides built-in functions for setting up the watchdog timer and detecting that a WDT reset has occurred.

Although it is possible to use the ‘`setup_counters()`’ function to setup the watchdog timer, CCS has de-emphasised its use, in favour of the more specific ‘`setup_wdt()`’.

The `setup_wdt()` function takes a single parameter, which on the baseline PICs specifies the watchdog timeout period, from ‘WDT_18MS’ (18 ms), ‘WDT_36MS’ (36 ms), ‘WDT_72MS’ (72 ms), etc., through to ‘WDT_2304MS’ (2.3 s).

So in this example we have:

```

setup_wdt(WDT_2304MS);                    // set WDT = 2.3s (prescale = 128)

```

As mentioned above, one of the available built-in functions is `restart_cause()`, which returns a value indicating why the PIC was (re)started. Although it doesn't accommodate wake-up on change resets, it does correctly detect WDT resets, in which case it returns the value corresponding to `WDT_TIMEOUT` (a symbol defined in the "12F509.h" header file). For example:

```
if (restart_cause() == WDT_TIMEOUT)    // if WDT timeout has occurred,
    output_high(WDT);                 // turn on "error" LED
```

There is, however, one complicating factor: `setup_wdt()` has the side effect of resetting the \overline{TO} flag, which the `restart_cause()` function relies on to determine whether a WDT timeout had occurred.

That is, if `setup_wdt()` is called before `restart_cause()`, the information about why the restart had happened is lost. Therefore, it is important to call `restart_cause()` before `setup_wdt()`, as in the following program.

Complete program

Here is how the code fits together, when using CCS PCB:

```

/*****
 * Description: Lesson 3, example 3
 *
 * Demonstrates watchdog timer
 * plus differentiation from POR reset
 *
 * Turn on LED for 1s, turn off, then enter endless loop
 * If enabled, WDT timer restarts after 2.3s
 * Turns on WDT LED to indicate WDT reset
 *
 *****/

 * Pin assignments:
 * GP1 - on/off indicator LED
 * GP2 - WDT reset indicator LED
 *
 *****/

#include <12F509.h>
#define GP0 PIN_B0           // define GP pins
#define GP1 PIN_B1
#define GP2 PIN_B2
#define GP3 PIN_B3
#define GP4 PIN_B4
#define GP5 PIN_B5

#define delay (clock=4000000) // oscillator frequency for delay_ms()

/***** CONFIGURATION *****/
#define WATCHDOG           // define to enable watchdog timer

#ifdef WATCHDOG
    // Config: ext reset, no code protect, watchdog, 4MHz int clock
    #fuses MCLR,NOPROTECT,WDT,INTRC
#else
    // Config: ext reset, no code protect, no watchdog, 4MHz int clock
    #fuses MCLR,NOPROTECT,NOWDT,INTRC
#endif

// Pin assignments
#define LED GP1             // LED to turn on/off
#define WDT GP2            // indicates watchdog timer reset

```

```

/***** MAIN PROGRAM *****/
void main()
{
    // Initialisation
    output_b(0);                // start with both LEDs off

    // check restart cause before initialising watchdog timer
    if (restart_cause() == WDT_TIMEOUT) { // if WDT timeout has occurred,
        output_high(WDT);           // turn on "error" LED
    }
    setup_wdt(WDT_2304MS);      // set WDT = 2.3s (prescale = 128)

    // Main code
    output_high(LED);           // turn on "flash" LED

    delay_ms(1000);            // delay 1s

    output_low(LED);           // turn off "flash" LED

    while (TRUE)                // wait forever
        ;
}

```

Comparisons

Here is the resource usage summary for the “watchdog timer demo” programs:

WDTdemo+LED

Assembler / Compiler	Source code (lines)	Program memory (words)	Data memory (bytes)
Microchip MPASM	34	35	3
HI-TECH PICC-Lite	22	48	10
HI-TECH C PRO Lite	23	50	4
CCS PCB	19	69	5

Once again, the CCS version uses significantly more program memory than the PICC-Lite version (but only half the data memory). In this case, the HI-TECH C PRO compiler generates reasonably efficient code (better than the CCS compiler), even when running in non-optimised “Lite” mode, because of the use of its built-in delay function.

Clearing the watchdog timer

The previous example demonstrates what happens when the watchdog timer overflows, but of course most of the time, during “normal” program operation, we want to prevent that from happening; a WDT reset should only happen when something has gone wrong.

As mentioned above, to avoid overflows, the watchdog timer has to be regularly cleared. This is typically done by inserting a ‘clrwdt’ instruction within the program’s “main loop”, and within any subroutine which may, in normal operation, not complete within the watchdog timer period.

To demonstrate the effect of clearing the watchdog timer, a 'clrwdt' instruction was added into the endless loop in the example in [baseline lesson 7](#):

```

;***** Main code
    bsf      LED                ; turn on LED

    DelayMS 1000                ; delay 1s

    bcf      LED                ; turn off LED

loop   clrwdt                    ; clear watchdog timer
       goto  loop                ; repeat forever

```

With the 'clrwdt' instruction in place, the watchdog timer never overflows, so the PIC is never restarted by a WDT reset, and the LED remains turned off until the power is cycled, whether the watchdog timer is enabled or not.

HI-TECH C PRO or PICC-Lite

Similar to the 'SLEEP()' macro we saw earlier, HI-TECH C provides a 'CLRWDT()' macro, defined in the "pic.h" header file as:

```
#define CLRWDT() asm("clrwdt")
```

That is, the 'CLRWDT()' macro simply inserts a 'clrwdt' instruction into the code.

Using this macro, the assembler example above can be implemented with HI-TECH C as follows:

```

// Main code
LED = 1;                // turn on LED

DelayS(1);              // delay 1s

LED = 0;                // turn off "flash" LED

for (;;)                // repeat forever
{
    CLRWDT();           // clear watchdog timer
}

```

CCS PCB

Instead of a macro, the CCS PCB compiler provides a built-in function for clearing the watchdog timer:

```
restart_wdt();
```

Here is the CCS PCB code, equivalent to the above example, using the restart_wdt() function:

```

// Main code
output_high(LED);      // turn on LED

delay_ms(1000);        // delay 1s

output_low(LED);       // turn off LED

while (TRUE)           // repeat forever
{
    restart_wdt();     // clear watchdog timer
}

```

Periodic wake from sleep

As explained in [baseline lesson 7](#), the watchdog timer is also commonly used to periodically wake the PIC from sleep mode, typically to check or log some inputs, take some action and then return to sleep mode, saving power. This can be combined with wake-up on pin change, allowing immediate response to some inputs, such as a button press, while periodically checking others.

To illustrate this, the example in [baseline lesson 7](#) replaced the endless loop with a 'sleep' instruction:

```

;***** Main code
    bsf      LED                ; turn on LED

    DelayMS 1000                ; delay 1s

    bcf      LED                ; turn off LED

    sleep                    ; enter sleep mode

```

With the watchdog timer enabled, with a period of 2.3 s, the LED is on for 1 s, and then off for 1.3 s, as in the earlier example. But this time the PIC is in sleep mode while the LED is off, conserving power.

HI-TECH C PRO or PICC-Lite

There are no new instructions or concepts needed for this example; the main code is simply:

```

// Main code
LED = 1;                // turn on LED

DelayS(1);              // delay 1s

LED = 0;                // turn off LED

SLEEP();                // enter sleep mode

```

CCS PCB

Again, there are no new statements needed; the main code is much the same as we have seen before:

```

// Main code
output_high(LED);      // turn on LED

delay_ms(1000);        // delay 1s

output_low(LED);       // turn off LED

sleep();                // enter sleep mode

```

Clock Options

[Baseline lesson 7](#) also discussed the various clock, or oscillator, configurations available on the PIC12F508/509.

A number of examples were used to demonstrate the various options. Since the only new features in these examples were the configuration word settings, and no other new concepts were introduced, there would be little point in reproducing C versions of those examples here.

However, for reference, here is a summary of the oscillator configuration options for the HI-TECH and CCS compilers, with the corresponding MPASM symbols:

FOSC<1:0>	Oscillator configuration	MPASM	HI-TECH C	CCS PCB
00	LP oscillator	_LP_OSC	LP	LP
01	XT oscillator	_XT_OSC	XT	XT
10	Internal RC oscillator	_IntRC_OSC	INTRC	INTRC
11	External RC oscillator	_ExtRC_OSC	EXTRC	RC

For example, to configure the processor for use with a LP crystal using HI-TECH C, you could use:

```
// Config: ext reset, no code protect, watchdog, LP crystal
__CONFIG(MCLREN & UNPROTECT & WDTEN & LP);
```

Or to set the processor configuration for an external RC oscillator using CCS PCB, you could use:

```
// Config: ext reset, no code protect, watchdog, ext RC oscillator
#fuses MCLR,NOPROTECT,WDT,RC
```

Summary

Overall, we have seen that the sleep mode, wake-up on change, and watchdog timer features of the baseline PIC architecture can be accessed effectively in C programs, using either of the HI-TECH or CCS compilers. However, CCS PCB lacks support for detecting wake-on-change resets, and its watchdog timer setup function has a side effect which meant that we had to rearrange one example. On the other hand, HI-TECH PICC-Lite exhibited a bug in the default runtime start-up code which prevented the detection of watchdog timer resets, unless the “Clear bss” option was disabled.

Despite this, the examples could all be expressed quite succinctly in C, using any of the compilers, as illustrated by the code length comparisons:

Source code (lines)

Assembler / Compiler	Sleep_LED_off	Wakeup+LED	WDTdemo+LED
Microchip MPASM	18	28	34
HI-TECH PICC-Lite	12	20	22
HI-TECH C PRO Lite	12	20	23
CCS PCB	10	18	19

As in the previous lessons, the C source code is significantly shorter than the corresponding assembler source, and the CCS source code is slightly shorter than that for HI-TECH C, reflecting the availability of built-in functions in CCS PCB.

The C programs, do, however, require more resources than their assembler equivalents:

Program memory (words)

Assembler / Compiler	Sleep_LED_off	Wakeup+LED	WDTdemo+LED
Microchip MPASM	12	33	35
HI-TECH PICC-Lite	13	37	48
HI-TECH C PRO Lite	18	75	50
CCS PCB	22	63	69

Data memory (bytes)

Assembler / Compiler	Sleep_LED_off	Wakeup+LED	WDTdemo+LED
Microchip MPASM	0	0	3
HI-TECH PICC-Lite	4	4	10
HI-TECH C PRO Lite	2	2	4
CCS PCB	4	4	5

In the examples in this lesson, the HI-TECH PICC-Lite compiler has generated remarkably efficient code; much smaller than the code generated by CCS PCB, in every example.

The [next lesson](#) will focus on driving 7-segment displays (revisiting the material from [baseline lesson 8](#)), showing how lookup tables and multiplexing can be implemented using C.

And to do that, we'll introduce the 14-pin PIC16F505.