

# AN14587

## PN722x – Direct access to Secure Element

Rev. 1.0 — 13 June 2025

Application note

### Document information

Information	Content
Keywords	PN722x, Secure Element
Abstract	This document describes how to use PN722x in combination with Secure Element (SE).



## 1 Introduction

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This document describes how to use PN722x in combination with a Secure Element (SE).

It covers the basic architecture, the required AOSP stack and config file changes, and provides a practical example using the PNEV722xBPx board, i.MX 8M Nano/Mini, and an SE051.

To use this document, users must be capable of building an Android Open Source Project (AOSP) with all necessary changes. For information on building an AOSP, refer to [ref.\[1\]](#).

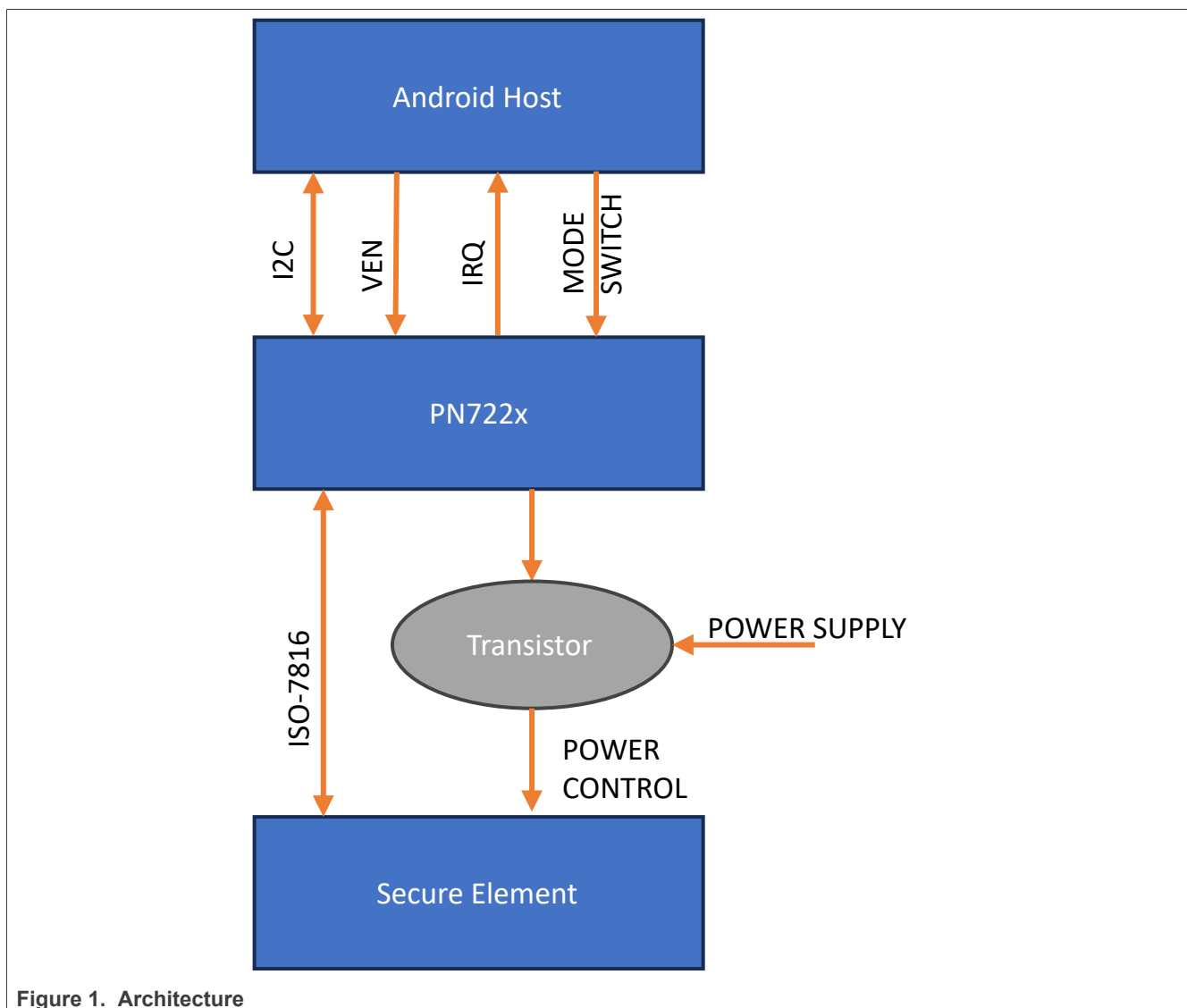
Direct access to an SE is supported from PN722x FW version 03.02.04 onwards (for PN722x FW, refer to [ref.\[2\]](#)).

## 2 Hardware architecture

This chapter explains the hardware architecture required for direct access to SE. [Figure 1](#) shows basic architecture. PN722x is connected to Device Host (DH) with I2C for data communication, VEN as reset pin, IRQ as interrupt pin and MODE SWITCH as pin to switch between NFC Forum and EMVCo mode. For more information on those connection, refer to [ref.\[3\]](#). This document focuses on the connection PN722x and the SE.

The communication between PN722x and the SE is performed with the ISO-7816 protocol. Since PN722x is not capable of directly powering the SE, a power supply needs to be provided as follows to minimize power consumption on the end device:

As shown in [Figure 1](#), a transistor is added to between PN722x and the SE to control the power supply to the SE. The transistor is driven by a PN722x GPIO.



[Table 1](#) shows one possible configuration for connecting SE051 with PN722x. GPIO5 functions as the power control pin.

Table 1. SE051 connections to PN722x

SE051 pins	PN722x pins
ENA	GPIO5
ISO_7816_CLK	ISO_CLK_AUX
ISO_7816_IO	ISO_IO_AUX
GND	GND
ISO_7816_RST	GPIO4

For more informations about pins, refer to the respective datasheet (SE051 [ref.\[4\]](#), PN722x [ref.\[5\]](#)).

### 3 Software architecture

This chapter explains the software architecture required for direct access to SE. The PN722x is controlled via an NCI protocol, which is used to communicate with the SE.

The SE connected to PN722x uses the NCI terminology called NFCEE (NFC Execution Environment). The following actions need to be performed before communication can start. This section covers the theoretical background, [Section 6 "Practical approach"](#) presents a practical example.

NFCEE\_DISCOVER\_CMD needs to be send to check if any NFCEE is connected to the PN722x. On the NXP Android stack, this is done automatically during every NFC Stack bringup. Other commands need to be implemented by the user.

To communicate with the SE:

- Send NFCEE\_MODE\_SET\_CMD to enable the connected NFCEE (SE)
- Send CORE\_CONN\_CREATE\_CMD to create the connection to the NFCEE (SE). This is called Dynamical Logical connection. For all Dynamical Logical connections, the user must also close them.

At this point, the user can send data messages to the NFCEE (SE) using the NCI format. The PN722x FW removes NCI headers and sends only APDU to the NFCEE (SE) via an ISO-7816 interface. When it receives a response, the PN722x FW adds the NCI header to the received APDU and sends it back to the host.

When transactions are done, the user must close the Dynamical Logical connection:

- Send CORE\_CONN\_CLOSE\_CMD to close the Dynamical Logical connection.
- Send NFCEE\_MODE\_SET\_CMD to disable the connected NFCEE (SE)

The explanation mentioned above is theory on how the communication can start with SE. For Android hosts, NXP provides APIs that handle the steps mentioned above. See [Section 5](#).

4 Changes in the Android stack

**Note:** The section below shows the minimal changes needed to have enable communication with the SE. **It is not production-ready code.** Customers need to check the code, make the necessary changes to their Android build, and perform full testing to ensure proper function.

The PN722x is mainly used with an Android DH. The main idea was to have up to three TDAs connected to the PN722x, one for EMVCo and two for ISO mode. Each TDA has its own ID (0x20 for EMVCo, 0x21 and 0x22 for ISO mode).

With the PN722x FW release 03.02.04, support for direct access to SE was added. In this case, the only possibility is to have one connected SE and this slot is considered as an ISO slot with the ID 0x20.

In the main Android stack after sending the NFCEE\_DISCOVER\_CMD, the PN722x returns a response with the number of connected NFCEE devices (three for TDA, one for direct access to SE). After that for each connected NFCEE, the notification with ID and status follows.

Since the ID 0x20 in TDA is used for EMVCo mode, NXP is blocks notifications to the upper layers. The reason for that is that NFC Forum execution must not be aware of any EMVCo related activities. For direct access to the SE, notifications need to be seen by the upper layers, therefore the following changes in the *phNxpNciHal\_ext.cc* must be made. [Table 2](#) and [Figure 2](#) show the changes, the left site is original file and right site is updated one.

Table 2. *phNxpNciHal\_ext.cc* changes and additions for direct access

Standard	Code changes and additions
Following the line:  NFCSTATUS status = NFCSTATUS_SUCCESS;	Add:  unsigned long isTdapresent = 0; int isTdaConfFound = 0;
Before the line:  if ((p_ntf[0] == 0x62) && (p_ntf[1] == 0x00) && (p_ntf[3] == 0x20)) {	Add:  isTdaConfFound = GetNxpNumValue(NAME_NXP_IS_TDA_CHIP_PRESENT, &isTdaPresent, sizeof(isTdaPresent));
  if ((p_ntf[0] == 0x62) && (p_ntf[1] == 0x00) && (p_ntf[3] == 0x20)) {	Change to:  if (((p_ntf[0] == 0x62) && (p_ntf[1] == 0x00) && (p_ntf[3] == 0x20)) && isTdaPresent == 0x00 {

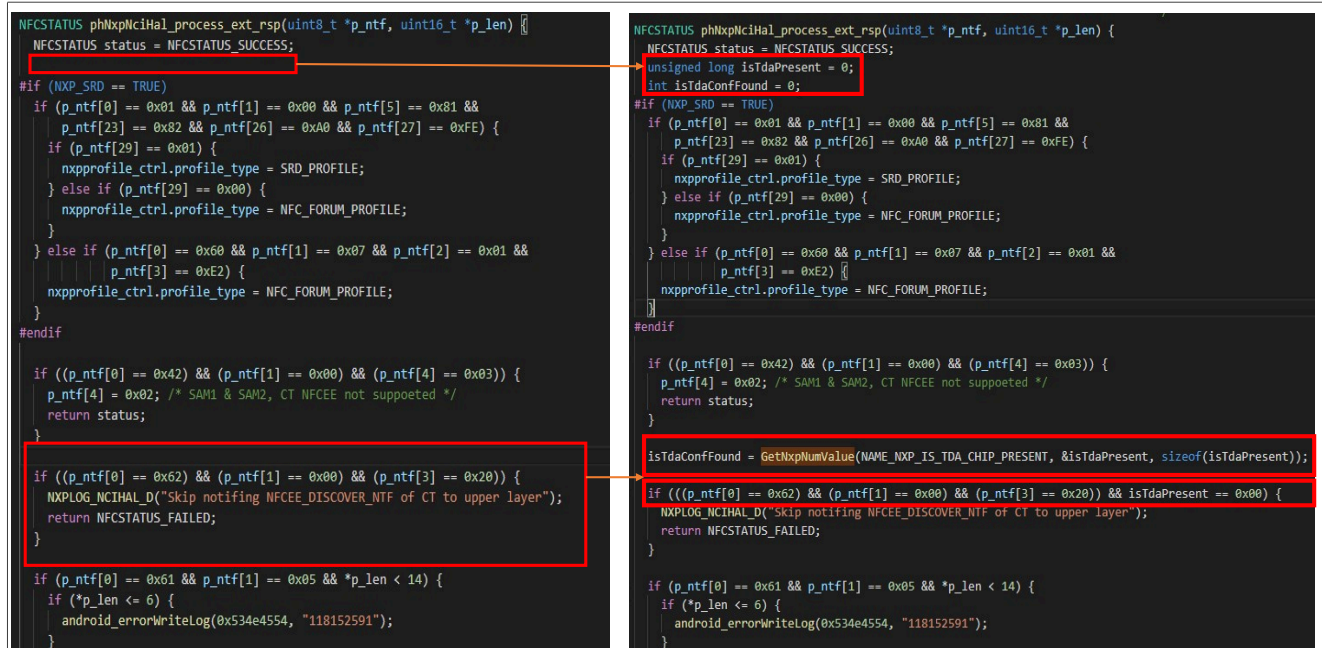


Figure 2. Code location and code difference before and after change

Since in the Android stack, APIs are used to open and close the connection, the following changes need to be made in *NfcService.java*. [Table 3](#), [Figure 3](#) and [Figure 4](#) show the code changes in the functions *closeTDA* and *openTDA* in *NfcService.java*.

**Note:** ([Figure 3](#) is taken from an Android 14 stack, but the same changes are applicable for other MW versions..

Table 3. *closeTDA* and *openTDA* code changes in *NfcService.java* for direct access

Standard	Code changes and additions
<pre> if ((mState != NfcAdapter.STATE_ON)        (tdaID == CT_NFCEE_ID)) { /* CT NFCEE not supported     */     Log.d(TAG, "Not in NFC mode. Failed to call the     closeTDA API")     tdaResult.setStatus(TdaResult.RESULT_FAILURE);     return; } </pre>	<pre> if ((mState != NfcAdapter.STATE_ON) {     Log.d(TAG, "Not in NFC mode. Failed to call the     closeTDA API")     tdaResult.setStatus(TdaResult.RESULT_FAILURE);     return; } </pre>



```
@Override
public void closeTDA(byte tdaID, boolean standBy, TdaResult tdaResult) {
    NfcPermissions.enforceUserPermissions(mContext);

    try {
        if ((mState != NfcAdapter.STATE_ON) ||
            (tdaID == CT_NFCEE_ID)) { /* CT NFCEE not supported */
            Log.d(TAG, "Not in NFC mode. Failed to call the closeTDA API");
            tdaResult.setStatus(TdaResult.RESULT_FAILURE);
            return;
        }
        Bundle tdaBundle = new Bundle();
        tdaBundle.putByte("tdaID", tdaID);
        tdaBundle.putBoolean("standBy", standBy);
        sendMessage(NfcService.MSG_CLOSE_TDA, tdaBundle);
        synchronized (mCloseTdaObj) { mCloseTdaObj.wait(1000); }
    } catch (Exception e) {
        e.printStackTrace();
    }

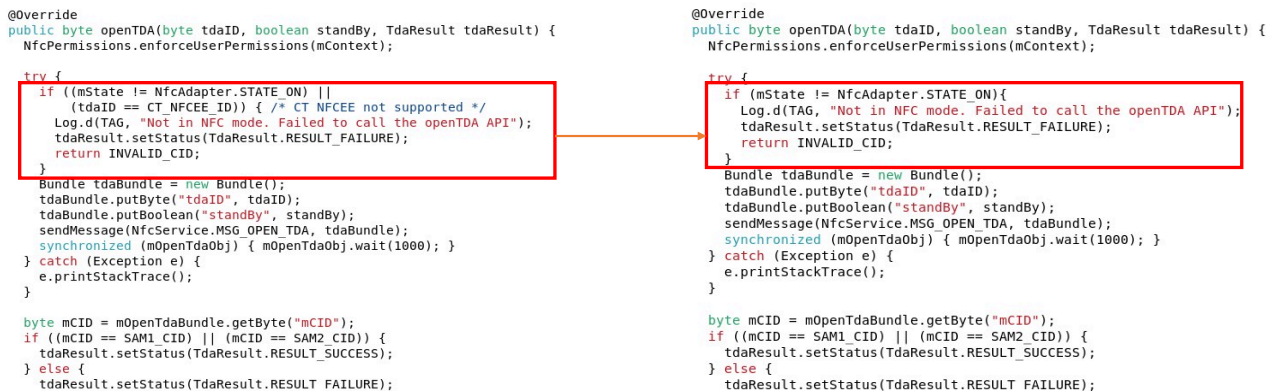
    byte st = mCloseTdaBundle.getByte("status");
    if (st == 0x00) {
        tdaResult.setStatus(TdaResult.RESULT_SUCCESS);
    } else {
        tdaResult.setStatus(TdaResult.RESULT_FAILURE);
    }
}

@Override
public void closeTDA(byte tdaID, boolean standBy, TdaResult tdaResult) {
    NfcPermissions.enforceUserPermissions(mContext);

    try {
        if (mState != NfcAdapter.STATE_ON){
            Log.d(TAG, "Not in NFC mode. Failed to call the closeTDA API");
            tdaResult.setStatus(TdaResult.RESULT_FAILURE);
            return;
        }
        Bundle tdaBundle = new Bundle();
        tdaBundle.putByte("tdaID", tdaID);
        tdaBundle.putBoolean("standBy", standBy);
        sendMessage(NfcService.MSG_CLOSE_TDA, tdaBundle);
        synchronized (mCloseTdaObj) { mCloseTdaObj.wait(1000); }
    } catch (Exception e) {
        e.printStackTrace();
    }

    byte st = mCloseTdaBundle.getByte("status");
    if (st == 0x00) {
        tdaResult.setStatus(TdaResult.RESULT_SUCCESS);
    } else {
        tdaResult.setStatus(TdaResult.RESULT_FAILURE);
    }
}
```

Figure 3. Code location and code difference before and after change for closeTDA



```
@Override
public byte openTDA(byte tdaID, boolean standBy, TdaResult tdaResult) {
    NfcPermissions.enforceUserPermissions(mContext);

    try {
        if ((mState != NfcAdapter.STATE_ON) ||
            (tdaID == CT_NFCEE_ID)) { /* CT NFCEE not supported */
            Log.d(TAG, "Not in NFC mode. Failed to call the openTDA API");
            tdaResult.setStatus(TdaResult.RESULT_FAILURE);
            return INVALID_CID;
        }
        Bundle tdaBundle = new Bundle();
        tdaBundle.putByte("tdaID", tdaID);
        tdaBundle.putBoolean("standBy", standBy);
        sendMessage(NfcService.MSG_OPEN_TDA, tdaBundle);
        synchronized (mOpenTdaObj) { mOpenTdaObj.wait(1000); }
    } catch (Exception e) {
        e.printStackTrace();
    }

    byte mCID = mOpenTdaBundle.getByte("mCID");
    if ((mCID == SAM1_CID) || (mCID == SAM2_CID)) {
        tdaResult.setStatus(TdaResult.RESULT_SUCCESS);
    } else {
        tdaResult.setStatus(TdaResult.RESULT_FAILURE);
    }
}

@Override
public byte openTDA(byte tdaID, boolean standBy, TdaResult tdaResult) {
    NfcPermissions.enforceUserPermissions(mContext);

    try {
        if (mState != NfcAdapter.STATE_ON){
            Log.d(TAG, "Not in NFC mode. Failed to call the openTDA API");
            tdaResult.setStatus(TdaResult.RESULT_FAILURE);
            return INVALID_CID;
        }
        Bundle tdaBundle = new Bundle();
        tdaBundle.putByte("tdaID", tdaID);
        tdaBundle.putBoolean("standBy", standBy);
        sendMessage(NfcService.MSG_OPEN_TDA, tdaBundle);
        synchronized (mOpenTdaObj) { mOpenTdaObj.wait(1000); }
    } catch (Exception e) {
        e.printStackTrace();
    }

    byte mCID = mOpenTdaBundle.getByte("mCID");
    if ((mCID == SAM1_CID) || (mCID == SAM2_CID)) {
        tdaResult.setStatus(TdaResult.RESULT_SUCCESS);
    } else {
        tdaResult.setStatus(TdaResult.RESULT_FAILURE);
    }
}
```

Figure 4. Code location and code difference before and after change for openTDA

In the first code, the flag (NXP\_IS\_TDA\_CHIP\_PRESENT) that exist in *libnfc-nxp-EEPROM.conf* is used. If users want direct connection to SE, this flag need to be set to 0x01 in the configuration file. [Figure 5](#) shows the configuration file flag.

```
#####
# Enabling the bit shows TDA IC is not connected on board and only single slot
# is directly interfaced with PN722x IC.
# 0 : TDA chip present (Default)
# 1 : TDA chip absent
NXP_IS_TDA_CHIP_PRESENT=0x00
#####
```

Figure 5. NXP\_IS\_TDA\_CHIP\_PRESENT setting

Following these changes, the user can now directly access the SE while also using the TDA APIs to open/close/communicate with the SE.



## 5 API explanation

As mentioned in [Section 3](#), if the user is using an Android host with an NXP Android build, the APIs are exposed to the application layer and can be used for the TDA and also for direct access to the SE. Below is a list of APIs that need to be used to create the channel and communicate with the SE. The APIs are located in *com.nxp.nfc*. The APIs need to be called in right following order:

1. 

```
NfcTDAInfo[] discoverTDA(TdaResult var1)
```

This API discovers the SE/TDA.

2. 

```
byte openTDA(byte tdaID, boolean standBy, TdaResult var3)
```

This API opens the connection to SE/TDA.

3. 

```
byte[] transceive(byte[] var1, TdaResult var2)
```

This API sends the APDU to SE/TDA.

**Note:** The Byte array in the transceive API needs to be in the NCI data message format.

4. 

```
void closeTDA(byte tdaID, boolean standBy, TdaResult var3)
```

This API closes the connection to SE/TDA.

In case of direct access to SE, the tdaID is **0x20**.

Examples of the TDA application can be found in [ref.\[7\]](#). Users can reuse these examples to develop new ones with communication to the SE.

## 6 Practical approach

This section provides an example serving as a proof of concept for direct access to the SE using the following boards:

- PNEV722xBP1 ([ref.\[8\]](#))
- SE051 Development Kit (EVK) ([ref.\[9\]](#))
- i.MX 8M Nano/Mini ([ref.\[10\]](#)/[ref.\[11\]](#))

The hardware connections between SE051 and PNEV722xBP1 are the same as shown in [Table 1](#) with one small deviation from the hardware architecture example shown in [Section 2 "Hardware architecture"](#) to enable the connection without the use of a transistor. Connect the VIN of the SE051 to 3\_3\_VDD (VDDIO) of the PN7220. The ENA pin of SE051 is connected directly to GPIO5. To simulate the enabling/disabling of the SE051, the user can connect the ENA pin to GND and then back to GPIO5.

**Note:** The setup described above is only valid for testing purposes.

[Table 4](#) shows the connections between the SE051 EVK and the PNEV722xBP1 board:

**Table 4. Pin connections between SE051 EVK and PNEV7220BP1**

SE051 EVK	PNEV7220BP1
J11 - 10 (SE_ENA)	J13 - 2 (GPIO5)
J11 - 6 (SE_CLK)	J15 - 5 (ISO_CLK_AUX)
J11 - 9 (SE_IO1)	J15 - 3 (ISO_IO_AUX)
J11 - 7 (GND)	J13 - 4 (GND)
J11 - 2 (VIN)	J12 - 4 (VDDIO)
J11 - 3 (SE_RST)	J14 - 2 (GPIO4)

[Table 5](#) shows the pin configuration on PNEV7220BP1:

**Table 5. PNEV7220BP1 pin configuration**

Pin name	Status
J4	Shorted
J1	Open
J2	Shorted
J47	Open
J3	Open
J5	3-4 Shorted
J65	Open

[Table 6](#) shows the pin configuration on the SE051 Development Kit (EVK) board:

**Table 6. SE051 EVK pin configuration**

Pin name	Status
J13	2-3 Shorted
J15	3-4 Shorted
J17	3-4 Shorted
J38	Open

Table 6. SE051 EVK pin configuration...continued

Pin name	Status
J37	Open
J10	Open
J9	Open
J7	Open
J6	Open
J14	3-4 Shorted
J24	1-2 Shorted
J18	1-2 Shorted
J12	1-2 Shorted
J16	1-2 Shorted
J19	2-3 Shorted

Users can develop the Android application with the APIs explained in [Section 5 "API explanation"](#). [Figure 6](#) shows the NCI communication when users call discoverTDA. The same commands need to be sent if the PN7220 is not connected to the Android device host.

```
2201022001  --(NFCEE_MODE_SET_CMD)-- enabled 20
42010100
62010100  <<NFCEE_MODE_SET_NTF>>
6200162000010001010F3BD518FF8191FE1FC38073C8211000  <<NFCEE_DISCOVER_NTF>> 20 enabled:APDU
ATR:3BD518FF8191FE1FC38073C8211000
200406030101022000  --(CORE_CONN_CREATE_CMD)-- NFCEE
20 APDU
40040400FF010A
```

Figure 6. NCI commands while calling discoverTDA and openTDA

After the connection is opened, the users can start sending APDU with the transceive API (see [Section 5](#)). [Figure 7](#) shows the APDU exchange with the SE. CORE\_CONN\_CREDIT\_NTF is received from the controller. Refer to [ref.\[6\]](#) to for information on credit notifications.

```
8A000780CA00FE02DF20
600603010A01  <<CORE_CONN_CREDITS_NTF>>
8A0049FE45DF2842010C0005A4A6145E7CCC169A7BC5020800000000000000103184A33523335313032394234313130304C0954E73E773C6E05010007010008082E5AD88409C9BADB9000
```

Figure 7. NCI communication when calling transceive API

[Figure 8](#) shows NCI communication while closeTDA API is called.

```
2005010A  --(CORE_CONN_CLOSE_CMD)--
40050100
2201022000  --(NFCEE_MODE_SET_CMD)-- disabled 20
42010100
62010100  <<NFCEE_MODE_SET_NTF>>
```

Figure 8. NCI communication when calling closeTDA API

## 7 Important considerations and design recommendations

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It is recommended to place the SE as close as possible to the PN722x on the PCB to keep connections as short as possible. Cross talk between the data lines must be minimized during the PCB design.

Supply spikes during Activation/Deactivation might be caused by secure element and need to be considered during the power supply design.

The following features provided by TDA8035 are not available in case of direct connection to the secure element:

- Contact Card class selection
- ESD protection offered by TDA
- Card overload protection
- CT EMVCo compliance
- Card detection logic

8 Abbreviations and acronyms

Table 7. Abbreviations

Acronym	Description
AOSP	Android Open Source Project
DH	Device Host
HW	Hardware
I2C	Inter-Integrated Circuit
NCI	NFC Controller Interface
NFCEE	NFC Execution Environment
SE	Secure Element
SW	Software

## 9 References

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- [1] Application note – AN14430 – PN7160/PN7220 – Android 14 porting guide ([link](#))
- [2] Web page – GitHub PN7220 FW ([link](#))
- [3] User manual – UM1180 – PN722X NFC controller ([link](#))
- [4] Datasheet – SE051 – Plug & Trust Secure Element ([link](#))
- [5] Datasheet – PN7220 – NFC controller with NCI interface supporting EMV and NFC Forum applications ([link](#))
- [6] Web page – Controller Interface (NCI) Technical Specification ([link](#))
- [7] Web page – NFC TDA Test Application ([link](#))
- [8] Web page – PNEV7220BP1 – Development Board for PN7220 NFC Controller for EMVCo and NFC Forum Operation ([link](#))
- [9] Web page – OM-SEO51ARD – EdgeLock® SE051 Development Kit ([link](#))
- [10] Web page – 8MNANOD4-EVK – Evaluation Kit for the i.MX 8M Nano Applications Processor ([link](#))
- [11] Web page – 8MMINILPD4-EVK – Evaluation Kit for the i.MX 8M Mini Applications Processor ([link](#))

## 10 Note about the source code in the document

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## 11 Revision history

Table 8. Revision history

Document ID	Release date	Description
AN14587 v.1.0	13 June 2025	• Initial version



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