TWL-SDK TWL-SDK Migration Guide

Precautions When Switching from the NITRO-SDK

2009/07/24

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Revision History

| Date | Description |
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| 2009/07/24 | Standardized terms; deleted blank pages |
| 2009/07/17 | Added section 2.12 Migrating to CodeWarrior for NINTENDO DSi. Revised the increase in memory consumption in sections 3.1 and 5.1; added tables of increased memory consumption. Added information previously not described for changes from TWL-SDK 5.0 or later in sections 2.13-2.20. |
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1 Introduction

This document is intended for developers who have been using the NITRO-SDK. It covers topics that require attention when migrating to the TWL-SDK.

The purpose of this document is to describe how to take an existing NITRO-SDK project and rebuild it for the TWL-SDK so that it runs. Because the goal is just to get applications running, no new features are introduced. Only topics where changes are required to migrate to the TWL-SDK are discussed.

This document also provides notes on various available ROM types, referred to as NITRO, hybrid, and limited. For details on ROM types, see the *TWL-SDK Application Development Guide*.

2 Notes Applicable to All Applications

This section covers common points to be noted when migrating to any of the NITRO, hybrid, and limited ROM types.

2.1 Revision to the NITROSDK_ROOT Environment Variable

The NITROSDK_ROOT environment variable used under the NITRO-SDK has been changed to TWLSDK_ROOT under the TWL-SDK. The platform must be newly set to TWLSDK_PLATFORM. For details, see the *Quick Start Guide*.

2.2 Added OS_CONSOLE_TWL to the Return Values of OS_GetConsoleType

OS_CONSOLE_TWL has been added to the return values of the OS_GetConsoleType function under the TWL-SDK. OS_CONSOLE_TWL returns for applications running in TWL mode on actual TWL hardware. For applications running in NITRO mode on actual TWL hardware, OS_CONSOLE_TWL returns only when in DEBUG or RELEASE mode, but OS CONSOLE NITRO returns for FINALROM builds.

2.3 Execution Stops on OS_Panic When Going into Sleep Without Stopping Wireless Communications

Heretofore, applications used to run under the NITRO-SDK when entering sleep mode without stopping wireless operations. Now, under the TWL-SDK, execution is stopped by an <code>os_Panic</code> function call. This was done to support guidelines that prohibited wireless operations when transitioning to sleep mode.

2.4 Increase in Amount of Memory Required to Link the Debugger Library

If both the IS-TWL-DEBUGGER software and the IS-NITRO-DEBUGGER software have been installed, the debugger libraries for both will be linked, leaving less memory available for use by the application.

2.5 Increase in Processing Time of Debug Output

The time required to output debug information with functions such as os_Printf when using IS-TWL-DEBUGGER is approximately double that compared to using IS-NITRO-DEBUGGER.

2.6 Deletion of the WC Sample Library

The entire WC library used in sample demos for the WM, MB, and WBT libraries has been changed to the WH library. Along with this move, the WC library has been deleted.

2.7 Increased Speed of STD Functions

The execution speed of the STD_GetStringLength, STD_CopyLString, STD_CompareString, and STD CompareNString functions has been increased.

2.8 Elimination of Support for %n Format with STD_TSPrintf

Due to a security problem, support for the %n format used by the STD_TSNPrintf, STD_TSPrintf, STD_TSPrintf, and STD TVSNPrintf functions has been eliminated.

2.9 Bug Fix for MATH_FFTReal and MATH_IFFTRead

Although there were problems under the NITRO-SDK with the MATH_FFTRead and MATH_IFFTRead functions, these problems have been corrected under the TWL-SDK.

2.10 Deletion of SVC_IsMmemExpanded

The SVC_IsMmemExpanded function included with the NITRO-SDK has been deleted under the TWL-SDK. To get the size of main memory, use the OS GetConsoleType function.

2.11 MATH MD5 Function Not Recommended

Of the MATH hash functions included in the NITRO-SDK, MD5 is now not recommended because it is not secure. For this reason, it has been deleted from the TWL-SDK function reference. If a hash function is required, use SHA-1. See **MATH (Numerical Computations)** \rightarrow **Overview** \rightarrow **Hash Message Digest** in the *Function Reference Manual* for details. The MD5 header and function are retained for compatibility.

2.12 Migrating to CodeWarrior for Nintendo DSi

Operation is not guaranteed if you are running TWL-SDK with CodeWarrior for Nintendo DS starting with TWL-SDK 5.3. Use CodeWarrior for Nintendo DSi.

2.13 Revised the STD_CompareLString Function

The STD_CompareLString function has been revised to the same specifications as the strlcmp function. Be aware that the API definition has also been changed.

2.14 Changed Inline Functions in TWL-SDK to Static_Inline Functions

All inline functions in TWL-SDK have been changed to static_inline functions because a problem occurs when running a HYBRID application on NITRO. Note that this change may result in the increased use of memory by the libraries.

2.15 Added FS_RESULT_NO_ENTRY to FS Errors

Previously, FS_RESULT_ERROR was returned as an error if a non-existent path was specified. However, this was changed to return a new error code (FS RESULT NO ENTRY) to make the determination clearer.

2.16 Restricted the File Size that FS Can Handle to 2 GB

Added a restriction so that the process fails and returns FS_RESULT_PERMISSION_DENIED when you try to open a file of 2 GB or larger that is not supported by file operation functions in the FS library.

2.17 Changed the Specifications of the FS_SeekFile Function

When a position past the end of a file was specified for the FS_SeekFile function, it used to seek to the end of the file and return FS_RESULT_SUCCESS. Specifications have been changed for each archive so that the function now returns FS_RESULT_INVALID_PARAMETER and fails without doing anything else.

2.18 Changed the PAD_Read Function to Support Prohibited Input on the +Control Pad

Revised the PAD_Read function to only read a value of UP or LEFT when either UP and DOWN, or LEFT and RIGHT, respectively, are pressed together on the +Control Pad.

2.19 Added Processing to Prevent Unintentional Use of Functions to Set Date and Time for RTC

Use of the API to set the date and time, for example with the RTC_SetDate function, is prohibited except for debugging. In order to prevent unintentional use, the internal specifications of the API have been changed so that it always fails when building in FINALROM mode.

2.20 Revised Operation of the OS_TPrintfEx Function Output Format %b

Fixed a bug in the behavior of the extended format %b, which can be specified by the <code>os_TPrintfEx</code> function. Previously, a newline character was inserted only the first time the specified byte precision was reached, but this has been fixed to start a new line each time the specified byte precision is displayed.

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3 Notes When Porting to NITRO ROM

The notes in this section apply only to when creating a NITRO ROM build under the TWL-SDK.

3.1 Increase in Amount of Memory Used by the Library

The memory consumed by the TWL-SDK libraries has increased in comparison to the NITRO-SDK due to feature additions and bug fixes. For this reason, when an application is ported from the NITRO-SDK, the memory region that the application can use decreases. For example, when past Nintendo DS projects are ported using TWL-SDK 5.2 on CodeWarrior for Nintendo DS, the memory consumed by the library increased by roughly 9 KB.

If a ported application has all NITRO-SDK functions linked, library memory consumption will increase. See Table 3-1 for details on increases in memory use.

Table 3-1 Increases in Memory Use When Migrating from NITRO-SDK to TWL-SDK NITRO ROM

| TWL-SDK to Migrate to | Code Generation | Amount of Increase |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| TWL-SDK 5.2 or earlier | Arm | Approximately 11 KB |
| TWL-SDK 5.2 or earlier | Thumb | Approximately 7 KB |
| TWL-SDK 5.3 or later | Arm | Approximately 6 KB |
| TWL-SDK 5.3 or later | Thumb | Approximately 7 KB |

With NITRO-SDK and TWL-SDK 5.2, CodeWarrior for Nintendo DS version 2.0 SP2 was used.

With TWL-SDK 5.3, CodeWarrior for Nintendo DSi version 1.1 was used.

However, in cases where the amount of memory used by inline functions in the library has increased, the actual amount of memory consumed may be larger than these figures because the memory used increases as the number of duplicate calls increases.

4 Notes on Hybrid and Limited ROM Commonalities

This section covers common points when porting to hybrid or limited ROM when using the TWL-SDK.

4.1 Reduced ROM Access Speed in TWL Mode (Card Applications)

With card applications, the ROM access speed in TWL mode is reduced as compared to ROM access speed in NITRO mode. Note that, particularly in the case of hybrid applications, this can lead to different application behavior when running under TWL mode as compared to NITRO mode. For details, see **FS** (File System) \rightarrow Overview \rightarrow ROM Archives in the Function Reference Manual.

4.2 Necessity of Calling OS_EnableIrq Before FS_Init

When running in TWL mode, the <code>os_EnableIrq</code> function must be called before the <code>Fs_Init</code> function. If it is not called, the <code>os_TPanic</code> function stops execution inside <code>Fs_Init</code>. <code>os_EnableIrq</code> does not need to be called first when running a NITRO ROM or hybrid ROM application in NITRO mode.

4.3 Addition of libsyscall.twl.a and rom_header.LTD.sbin

Nintendo distributes <code>libsyscall.a</code> and <code>rom_header.template.sbin</code> for each NITRO application, and this same support is provided for TWL applications. You must add <code>libsyscall.twl.a</code> and <code>rom_header.LTD.sbin</code> to your TWL applications. For these files, use <code>\$TwlsDK/lib/ARM9-TS/etc/libsyscall.twl.a</code> and <code>\$TwlsDK/tools/bin/rom_header.LTD.sbin</code>, included in the TWL-SDK.

4.4 Revised Start Address of the Static Module

The start address of the static module has been changed to 0×02004000 . Because this first 16-KB area of memory is used as a system parameter area, developers cannot use it. Developers should note that the amount of available arena memory is reduced by 16 KB in the same way when running hybrid applications in NITRO mode. The LSF files of some sample demos in the NITRO-SDK are set at a static address 0×02000000 , so if you are going to use these files, you need to revise the address to 0×02004000 or \$ (ADDRESS_STATIC) when porting them over.

4.5 Change from NTR Banners to TWL Banners

The banners used under NITRO are called NTR banners, and these banners must be recreated as TWL banners for use with TWL-compatible applications. Specifically, these banners must be remade with the makebanner. TWL tool rather than the makebanner tool. Banners do not necessarily need to be animated. For details, see **Tools** \rightarrow **Overview** \rightarrow **Banners** in the *Function Reference Manual*.

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4.6 About DS Download Play Child Devices

Only NITRO ROM applications can be run as DS Download Play children. Hybrid ROM and limited ROM versions cannot boot as children. Any ROM running in any mode can be used for a DS Download Play parent device.

4.7 Getting the Wireless Communications ON/OFF Setting

The TWL system's wireless communications feature can be turned off. When this is done, applications that run the WM_Initialize function return WM_ERRCODE_WM_DISABLE and fail. Inside the WM_Initialize function, WM_Init returns WM_ERRCODE_WM_DISABLE and fails. If you want the user to change the wireless setting, get the Wireless Communications setting of the system with the OS_IsAvailableWireless function and then transit to the Wireless Communications option from the System Settings with the OS_JumpToWirelessSetting function. Note, however, that this mode transition cannot be made in the case of a hybrid application running in NITRO mode. If the Wireless Communications setting is turned off and the TWL system is running in NITRO mode, WM_Initialize and other wireless library functions will not return errors, but because the wireless communications feature would not run, the system will not be able to find communications partners.

4.8 Change to ARM7 Component ichneumon

For limited applications, nothing is provided that is equivalent to the <code>ichneumon</code> component (which is for NITRO applications and has wireless code in VRAM), so use the <code>racoon.TWL</code> component. For hybrid applications, you can use the <code>ichneumon.TWL</code> component; however, if you use this component, you cannot use the camera, SD Card, or AES features. If you want these features to be available, use the <code>mongoose.TWL</code> component.

4.9 Notes on Using OS_SpinWait

The clock runs twice as fast in TWL mode as in NITRO mode when using the $os_spinWait$ function. The time required to return from functions differs depending on which mode is running, especially for hybrid applications. If you want to wait the same amount of time in both modes, use the $os_spinWaitSysCycles$ function.

4.10 Parental Controls Settings

To create a master ROM, you must set Parental Controls in the SRL file using MasterEditorTWL. For details, see the *TWL Master Editor* manual.

4.11 About the CTRDG and VIB Libraries

As for Game Pak (CTRDG) and Rumble Pak (VIB) functions that do not work with TWL systems, they may be linked by hybrid and limited applications without any problem. On a TWL system, these functions behave as if the Game Pak is not inserted.

4.12 RSF File Revisions

For card applications, make RSF file settings for <code>TitleName</code>, <code>MakerCode</code>, <code>RemasterVersion</code>, <code>RomSize</code>, <code>RomFootPadding</code>, <code>RomHeaderTemplate</code>, and <code>BannerFile</code> based on <code>\$TwlSDK/include/twl/specfiles/ROM-TS.rsf</code>. Only relevant points are covered here. For details, see <code>Tools</code> \rightarrow <code>Tools</code> Related to ROM Images \rightarrow makerom.TWL in the <code>Function</code> Reference Manual.

4.12.1 Revision to RomSpeedType (Card Applications)

When a mask ROM (MROM) has been used for <code>RomSpeedType</code> with an existing project, change it to a one-time PROM (1TROM) because MROM cannot be used with hybrid or limited applications. Pay close attention to application operations because ROM access speed will be reduced due to this change.

4.12.2 WramMapping Setting

WramMapping must be set to MAP2_TS_HYB for hybrid applications and to MAP2_TS_LTD for limited applications.

4.12.3 Codec Mode Setting

The TWL system has built-in CODEC hardware to control microphone input, speaker output, touchscreen input, and so on. Configure the RSF file with CODEC for operating in TWL mode. If set to NTR (CODEC-DS mode), the CODEC is compatible with NITRO, but the cameras become unusable. To use the cameras, you must configure the setting to TWL (CODEC-TWL mode), but in doing so, you lose compatibility with NITRO ROM and may need to revise the program.

For details on CODEC-TWL mode, see **Sound** → **Overview** → **TWL Extended Sound Features** (**Overview**) in the *Function Reference Manual*.

4.12.4 CardRegion Setting (Card Applications)

This specifies the application's region. The application will not be recognized by the launcher if the application's region is not the same as the TWL system region. Also note that the ALL specification in the sample demos is a setting available only for the demos and cannot be in your master ROM submission.

5 Notes on Porting to a Hybrid ROM

This section gives notes on porting to a hybrid ROM when using the TWL-SDK.

5.1 Increase in Amount of Memory Used by the Library

As described in section 3.1 Increase in Amount of Memory Used by the Library, the memory consumed by the TWL-SDK libraries has increased in comparison to the NITRO-SDK due to feature additions and bug fixes. Hybrid ROM applications use even more memory because of processes added to operate in TWL mode. For this reason, when an application is ported from the NITRO-SDK to a hybrid ROM application, the memory region that the application can use decreases. As an example, when past Nintendo DS projects were ported to TWL-SDK 5.2 used with CodeWarrior for NINTENDO DS, the memory consumed by the library increased by roughly 15 KB.

If a ported application has all NITRO-SDK functions linked, library memory consumption increases. See Table 5-1 for details on increases in memory use.

Table 5-1 Increases in Memory Use When Migrating from NITRO-SDK to TWL-SDK HYBRID ROM

| TWL-SDK to Migrate to | Code Generation | Amount of Increase |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| TWL-SDK 5.2 or earlier | Arm | Approximately 19 KB |
| TWL-SDK 5.2 or earlier | Thumb | Approximately 13 KB |
| TWL-SDK 5.3 or later | Arm | Approximately 13 KB |
| TWL-SDK 5.3 or later | Thumb | Approximately 10 KB |

With NITRO-SDK and TWL-SDK 5.2, CodeWarrior for Nintendo DS version 2.0 SP2 was used.

With TWL-SDK 5.3, CodeWarrior for Nintendo DSi version 1.1 was used.

However, in cases where the number of inline functions in the library has increased, the actual amount of memory consumed may be larger than these figures because the memory used increases as the number of duplicate calls increases.

As described in section 4.4 Revised Start Address of the Static Module, with hybrid ROM the first 16 KB of memory are reserved for the system. For this reason, the memory region that the application can use is reduced by a total of 16 KB from the beginning of the region due to the above increase in the library and for system use.

The following sections describe methods to cope with insufficient memory.

5.1.1 Disabling the Cartridge Library (CTRDG)

CTRDG_Init, which initializes the Cartridge library, is always called from the OS_Init function, and that amount of memory is consumed. If the Cartridge library is not always used, by redefining the weak

function, CTRDG_Init, which calls the CTRDG_DummyInit function internally, that memory use can be reduced by about 3 KB. For details, see **Cartridge Module (CTRDG)** \rightarrow **Initialization** \rightarrow **CTRDG_DummyInit** in the *Function Reference Manual*.

5.1.2 Using the Beginning Memory Region

Because this region, for which the first 16 KB is reserved for the system, is used only in TWL mode, the application can use this region in NITRO mode. Specifically, the region from 0x02000000 to 0x02004000 can be used only when (OS IsRunOnTw1() == FALSE).

Use the os_CreateExtraHeap function to create a heap from this region and the os_AddExtraAreaToHeap function to add this region to an existing heap. For details, see Operating System (OS) \rightarrow Overview \rightarrow Memory Allocation: Overview in the Function Reference Manual.

6 Notes on Porting to a Limited ROM

This section gives notes on porting to limited ROM when using the TWL-SDK.

6.1 No Support for Clone Boots

Limited ROM applications do not support clone boot. Select hybrid ROM if you want to use clone boot.

7 Notes on Porting to a NAND Application

The notes in this section are for porting to a NAND application when using the TWL-SDK. NAND applications are essentially created as limited ROM applications because they can run only on a TWL system. They can also be created as hybrid ROM applications for the purpose of clone boot support.

For details on NAND application development, see the *TWL-SDK NAND Application Development Manual* (NandAppManual.pdf).

7.1 Linking the NA Library

To make a NAND application, you must link the NA library. Link the file lib/ARM9-TS/*/libna.TWL*.a.

7.2 Using OS_RebootSystem in Place of OS_ResetSystem

To use software reset with a NAND application, use the <code>OS_RebootSystem</code> function rather than the <code>OS_ResetSystem</code> function.

7.3 Return Value of OS_GetConsoleType

With NAND applications, the logical sum of <code>os_console_dev_mask</code> and the return value of the <code>os_GetConsoleType</code> function is passed as <code>os_console_dev_nand</code>.

7.4 Provision of an Electronic Manual

Because NAND applications do not include a printed operation manual, you must include an electronic manual. This manual should be available from the title screen or soon after that. For details, see the *Nintendo DS/TWL Programming Guidelines* or the TWL Manual Tools library.

7.5 About Save Data

In the case of card applications, save data is saved to a Game Card backup device. However, with NAND applications, save data is saved in system NAND memory. Notes on porting to a NAND application are given below.

7.5.1 Deleting CARD Functions

Because NAND applications do not use a Game Card backup device, delete all CARD functions.

7.5.2 Use of FS Functions

Use the FS functions on NAND application save data to access the dataPub and dataPrv archives. For details, see section 7.1 Using the Save Data Region in the *TWL-SDK NAND Application*Development Manual (NandAppManual.pdf).

7.5.3 User Initialization of Private Save Data

Although it is possible to copy data to an SD Card with NAND applications, private save data is not included. Private save data is therefore cleared when writing a copied NAND application back from an SD Card. Applications must therefore always anticipate private save data to be cleared.

7.5.4 About the Size Specified for Save Data

The size of save data is specified in the RSF file. (See section 7.6.2 Size Specification for Private Save Data and Public Save Data.) Because memory for managing the file system and other purposes is included in the save data region, the memory available for applications is actually smaller than the value specified. For information on the amount of memory actually available for each save data region, see **Tools** \rightarrow **Tools Related to ROM Images** \rightarrow **Save Data Size List** in the *Function Reference Manual*.

7.5.5 Improved Access Speed Compared to Flash Memory

The speed of reading and writing NAND memory is faster compared to the flash memory used with card applications. For details, see Chapter 23 NAND Flash Memory in the *TWL Programming Manual*.

7.5.6 Power Shutoff During Save

If the Power button is pressed during the writing of save data, the FS function aborts writing and returns <code>FS_RESULT_CANCELED</code>. The data that had been written up until that point will be accurately reflected in the save data. There is no concern about the file table being destroyed.

7.5.7 Considering the NAND Write Lifetime

Although it used to be necessary to consider the rewritable lifetime of the Game Card backup memory, this consideration is not really necessary with system NAND memory. However, avoid excessive deletions and writes (such as saving every second or saving every time a character takes a step). When performing automatic saves, save the data at a frequency of 128 KB or less every 3 minutes. As an alternative, you can manage data in main memory during normal operations and save it at time of shutdown using the PM_AppendPreExitCallback function or equivalent when power is shut off. However, even in such cases, because the shutdown process must complete within 3 seconds, ensure that data can be saved quickly enough to allow shutdown within this time limit.

For details, see the Nintendo DS/TWL Programming Guidelines.

7.5.8 New FS Errors Requiring Handling

Unlike ROM archives, when NAND archives are accessed with FS functions, the following errors must be handled.

7.5.8.1 FS_RESULT_MEDIA_FATAL

This error is issued in cases such as when a fatal device abnormality has been detected. Because continuing to process this archive would be difficult, you must prompt the user to send their unit in for repair.

7.5.8.2 FS_RESULT_BAD_FORMAT

This error is issued in cases such as when damage to the file system is detected. Because continuing to process this archive would be difficult, you must reformat this archive using the NA FormatTitleArchive function.

7.6 RSF File Revisions

For NAND applications, make the settings for TitleName, MakerCode, RemasterVersion, RomHeaderTemplate, and BannerFile based on \$TwlSDK/include/twl/specfiles/ROM-TS nand.rsf.

This section covers only the points you need to be careful about. For more details, see **Tools** \rightarrow **ROM** image tools → makerom.TWL in the Function Reference Manual.

7.6.1 InitialCode Setting

Set the four-character ASCII game code assigned to each application under InitialCode in the AppendProperty section of the RSF.

7.6.2 Size Specification for Private Save Data and Public Save Data

Specify the save data size to be used for private and public data in PrivateSaveDataSize and PublicSaveDataSize, respectively.

7.6.3 Revising RomSize and RomFootPadding

In NAND applications the RomSize specification is ignored, and instead the optimal value is selected automatically. Specify FALSE for RomFootPadding.

7.7 Notes on Using FS Functions to Access ROM Archives

Because the physical media and format differ between conventional card applications and NAND applications, there are several points to note regarding the use of FS functions to access ROM archives.

7.7.1 Addition of Random Delay to NAND Read Times

The access speed for system NAND memory is undefined due to reduced performance caused by individual hardware differences and degradation over time. A random delay time has been added to the read access time in the case of DEBUG and RELEASE builds for the purpose of virtually simulating this "undefined access speed." Use a FINALROM build in cases where there may be obstacles to measuring performance.

7.7.2 Higher Speed Access of NAND Application ROM Archives

The read access speed for NAND application ROM archives is nearly twice as fast as a Card application using one-time PROM. The problem described in section 7.7.1 Addition of Random Delay

© 2009 Nintendo 19 TWL-06-0051-001-C Released: September 9, 2009 to NAND Read Times is a factor that sometimes causes lengthy delays, but access speed will still never be as slow as the access speed of Card applications.

7.7.3 Inability to Set a DMA Channel with FS_Init

Although a DMA channel can be set for card applications using the FS_Init function, one cannot be set for NAND applications. This is due to the fact that use of DMA transfers is not possible for NAND.

7.7.4 Delayed RTC, SNDEX, and Wireless Processing

When accessing NAND memory using FS functions (including NA functions), RTC, SNDEX, and wireless processing is delayed until execution of the FS function completes. If a synchronous function such as RTC_GetTime is executed by another thread, execution is blocked until execution of the FS function finishes. To avoid this problem, use an asynchronous function such as RTC_GetTimeAsync. There are also plans to correct this problem in the future revision of the SDK.

7.7.5 Reduced File Access Speed Using MP Communications

When accessing a ROM archive with a card application, MP communications carried out by the ARM7 are not affected because ROM archive access is performed by the ARM9. However, MP communications are easily affected with NAND applications because NAND archives are accessed using the same ARM7 used for MP communications. File access speed is slower during MP communications compared to when MP communications are not being performed.

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