

# A Brief Introduction to RTL8192C driver Power Saving

## 1.) RTL8192C consists of two power modes:

### A). Minimum Power Saving mode.

In this PS mode, RTL8192C wakes up every beacon interval. Figure 1 shows the RTL8192C power consumption under Minimum Power Saving mode.

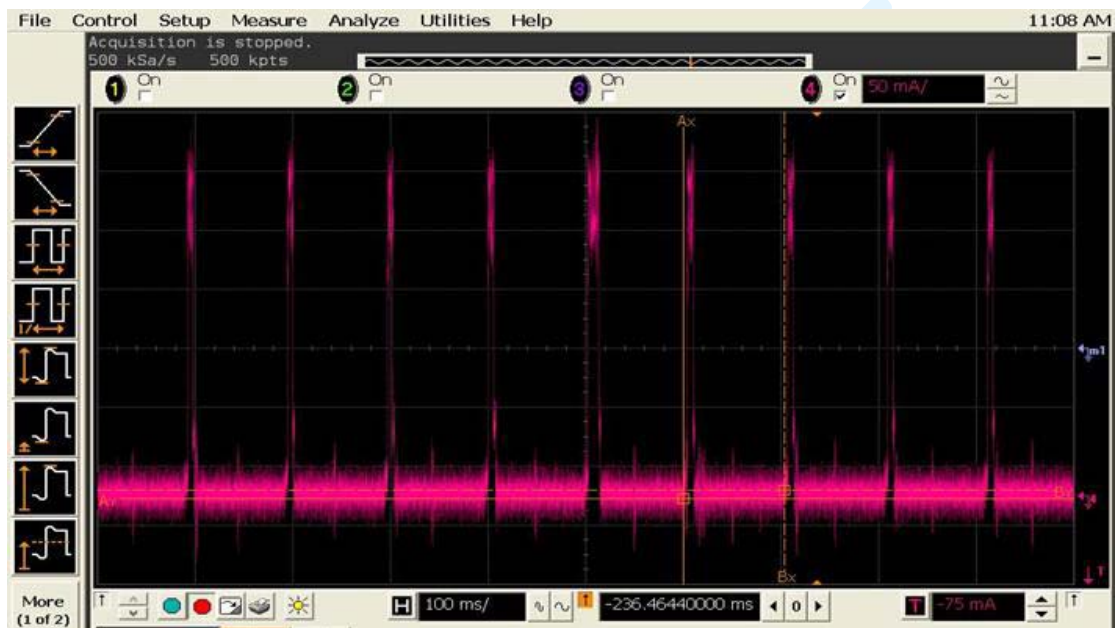


Figure 1. Minimum Power Saving mode (Associated idle)

### B). Maximum Power Saving mode:

When driver be set to maximum power saving mode, which means RTL8192C wake up to receive beacon when DTIM count of beacon is zero.

If DTIM period of beacon is **3** RTL8192C would wake up every **3** beacon interval. Figure 2 illustrates RTL8192C power consumption under Maximum Power Saving mode:

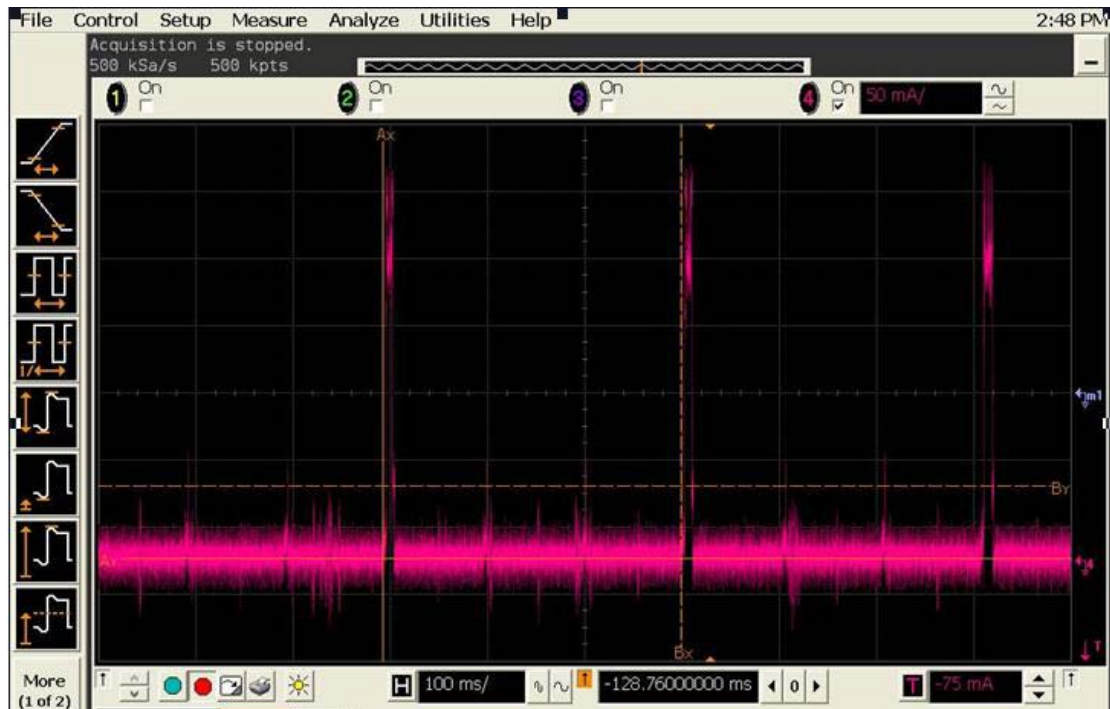


Figure 2. Maximum Power Saving mode (Associated idle)

**2.) The following document will describe the way to let this driver to enable the power saving functionality.**

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**A-1.) Power Saving Mode – by modify Makefile**

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You can easy set the power saving to **Min-PS** (rtw\_power\_mgnt=1) by modify the **CONFIG\_POWER\_SAVING** to **y**, at the line 20 of Makefile file.

Ex:

**CONFIG\_POWER\_SAVING = y**

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**A-2.) Power Saving Mode – by change load-time parameters**

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(1) In order to enter PS Mode, you need to add the parameter of "rtw\_power\_mgnt=1" when executing "insmod 8192cu.ko" :

\$>insmod 8192cu.ko rtw\_power\_mgnt=1

or

\$>insmod 8192cu.ko rtw\_power\_mgnt=2

(2)Parameter Notes:

rtw\_power\_mgnt=1 ;//enable PS, MIN\_PS Mode

rtw\_power\_mgnt=2 ;//enable PS, MAX\_PS Mode

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**B-1.) USB Autosuspend - by modify Makefile**

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You can turn on USB autosuspend function by modify the **CONFIG\_USB\_AUTOSUSPEND** to **y**, at the line 21 of Makefile file.

Ex:

**CONFIG\_USB\_AUTOSUSPEND = y**

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**B-1.) USB Autosuspend - by change load-time parameters**

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(1) In PS mode, you can turn on or turn off the USB autosuspend functionality by adding the following parameter.

\$>insmod 8192cu.ko rtw\_power\_mgnt=1 rtw\_enusbss = 1

or

```
$>insmod 8192cu.ko rtw_power_mgnt=1 rtw_enusbss = 0
or
$>insmod 8192cu.ko rtw_power_mgnt=2 rtw_enusbss = 1
or
$>insmod 8192cu.ko rtw_power_mgnt=2 rtw_enusbss = 0
```

(2)Parameter Notes:

rtw\_enusbss = 1; // enable USB autosuspend  
rtw\_enusbss = 0; // **default**, disable USB autosuspend

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C-1.) RF on/off detection – by modify Makefile

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You can turn on this function by modify the  
**CONFIG\_HW\_PWRP\_DETECTION** to **y**, at the line 22 of Makefile file.

Ex:

**CONFIG\_HW\_PWRP\_DETECTION = y**

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C-2.) RF on/off detection – by change load-time parameters

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(1) If you want turn on this function in load time, you need to add the parameter  
of " hwpwrp\_detect =1" when executing "insmod 8192cu.ko" :

```
$>insmod 8192cu.ko rtw_hwpwrp_detect =1
```

(2)Parameter Notes:

rtw\_hwpwrp\_detect =1 ;//enable hw power pin detection  
rtw\_hwpwrp\_detect =0 ;//disable hw power pin detection

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D.) Two Levels of Unassociated Idle

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In unassociated idle state, we can choose 2 levels of power saving as the  
default setting: IPS\_NORMAL and IPS\_LEVEL\_2. IPS\_NORMAL has lower  
power consumption, but needs to take more time than IPS\_LEVEL\_2 to wake  
up, while the power consumption of IPS\_LEVEL\_2 is higher than  
IPS\_NORMAL about 10 mA but is faster to be woken up. IPS\_LEVEL\_2 is  
suitable for users who care the transition speed more than power consumption

especially when using wifi on low speed IO interface such as USB1.1.

By default, the unassociated idle is IPS\_NORMAL, You can change the default setting to IPS\_LEVEL\_2 with two ways:

1. Compilation time:

Enabling flag "CONFIG\_IPS\_LEVEL2" in Include/autoconf.h

```
#ifndef CONFIG_IPS
#define CONFIG_IPS_LEVEL2
#endif
```

2. Driver module insertion time: insmod

Insert module with "rtw\_ips\_mode=1"

```
$>insmod 8192cu.ko rtw_power_mgnt=1 rtw_ips_mode=1
```

### 3.) Power consumption example

| Scenario (unit: mA) @5V                             | RTL8188CUS |
|---|------------|
| Associated Idle                                     | 85.6       |
| Unassociated Idle                                   | 80.2       |
| Associated Idle (enable power save) - LPS           | 34.5       |
| Unassociated Idle (enable power save) – IPS-NORMAL  | 18.9       |
| Unassociated Idle (enable power save) – IPS-LEVEL_2 | 29         |
| Unassociated Idle (enable selective suspend)        | 0.72       |