



Solving "Memory not assigned" Errors

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CoverageMaster: Solving "Memory not assigned" Errors

1. About Memory Assignment

Before running a simulation with GAIO's MPU Simulator System-G, the memory of the simulated target must be assigned, with access permissions set like in the real MPU. This allows the simulation to detect memory related errors like unauthorized or unexpected access to certain areas.

To "assign" memory means to define areas (=range of addresses) and set the access permissions for each of these areas. The 3 possible access levels are READ, WRITE and EXEC (=Execute). The permissions are set with the "ASSIGN" command in a command file or directly from the console in the Simulator window.



2. Using the *assign* command

assign[/read][/write][/exec] start_address:end_address

Grants the following permission to the memory space between *start_address* and *end_address*:

/read: Grant Read Access permission /write: Grant Write Access permission /exec: Grant Execution Access permission

Parameters in brackets [] are optional. When no parameter is specified, "/read/write" is assumed.

Example:

In this example, we assume that we want to assign the Memory Map below:

Data area: 0x00000 - 0x0ffff ROM 0x20000 - 0x2ffff RAM

Program area: 0x10000 - 0x1ffff ROM 0x30000 - 0x3ffff RAM

In this case the following commands are used:

Memory Area	Memory Type	Command
0x00000 - 0x0ffff	ROM	assign/read 0:0ffffh
0x10000 - 0x1ffff	ROM	assign/read/exec 10000h:1ffffh
0x20000 - 0x2ffff	RAM	assign 20000h:2ffffh
0x30000 - 0x3ffff	RAM	assign/read/write/exec 30000h:3ffffh

3. When to use the *assign* command

In a standard program, memory areas for constants, variables and program instructions are automatically assigned during the linking of the object file. Manually assigning areas is only required when a "Memory is not assigned" error occurs because an area not defined in the code is accessed (ex: Stack, I/O Registers, etc...) or because of an error in the code.

When an unauthorized access happens, an error message will be displayed in the System Simulator console, and the simulation will stop. The error message depends on the MPU, two examples are show below.

Ex1: SH Series

Invalid address found [code = 18] (pc=*******) %SYSTEMG-E-SEM, stopped simulation (status code = 12h) `MEM::********

Explanation: An unauthorized access occurred when executing the instruction at the address

Ex2: Generic Example

%SYSTEMG-E-SEM, memory is not assigned on the address `MEM::*******'

Explanation: An unauthorized access occurred on the address ********, which has not been assigned.

In the error message, either the address that is being accessed or the address of the instruction performing the unauthorized access is displayed. Using the "Register" and "Memory" views of the System Simulator interface, confirm that the address being accessed is the intended one.

If the address is correct, then the Memory not being properly assigned is the issue. In this case the solution is to assign the related area with the correct permissions using an *assign* command in the Startup Command File.

If the address is incorrect, then the problem is in the code, and the program must be corrected using the debugger features of the System Simulator (step-by-step execution, breakpoints, etc...) to locate the cause.

4. How to check the Memory Mapping

The current status of memory allocation can be checked in the "Assign memory" screen of the Simulator's (Debugger) Option menu. To access it, select the [Program] menu and click on [Memory Allocation].

In the "Attribute" column, the permissions for Read, Write and Execute are displayed: [R], [W] or [E] if corresponding access is allowed, and [-] if it is not.

Example:

Option							
Environment	-Memory assign	Memory assign					
Assign memory Set directory Clock Disassemble Upload Execution contorol Trace Display Source window	Memory Name	MEM					
	Free area	Assign area					
	Attribute -	Start address 🛛 🕁	End address 🛛 🕁	Size +			
	RWE	0000000	000008FF	900 (2304)			
	RW-	00000900	00000A00	101(257)			
	R	00000A01	FFFFFFFF	FFFF5FF(4294964735)			
	Memory setting -						
	Start address	Enda	address	Release			
	Read	V Write Exec Assign		Assign			
			Application	Cancel Close			

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