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Understanding Embedded - FPGAs (Field Programmable Gate Array)

Embedded - FPGAs, or Field Programmable Gate Arrays, are advanced integrated circuits that offer unparalleled flexibility and performance for digital systems. Unlike traditional fixed-function logic devices, FPGAs can be programmed and reprogrammed to execute a wide array of logical operations, enabling customized functionality tailored to specific applications. This reprogrammability allows developers to iterate designs quickly and implement complex functions without the need for custom hardware.

Applications of Embedded - FPGAs

The versatility of Embedded - FPGAs makes them indispensable in numerous fields. In telecommunications.

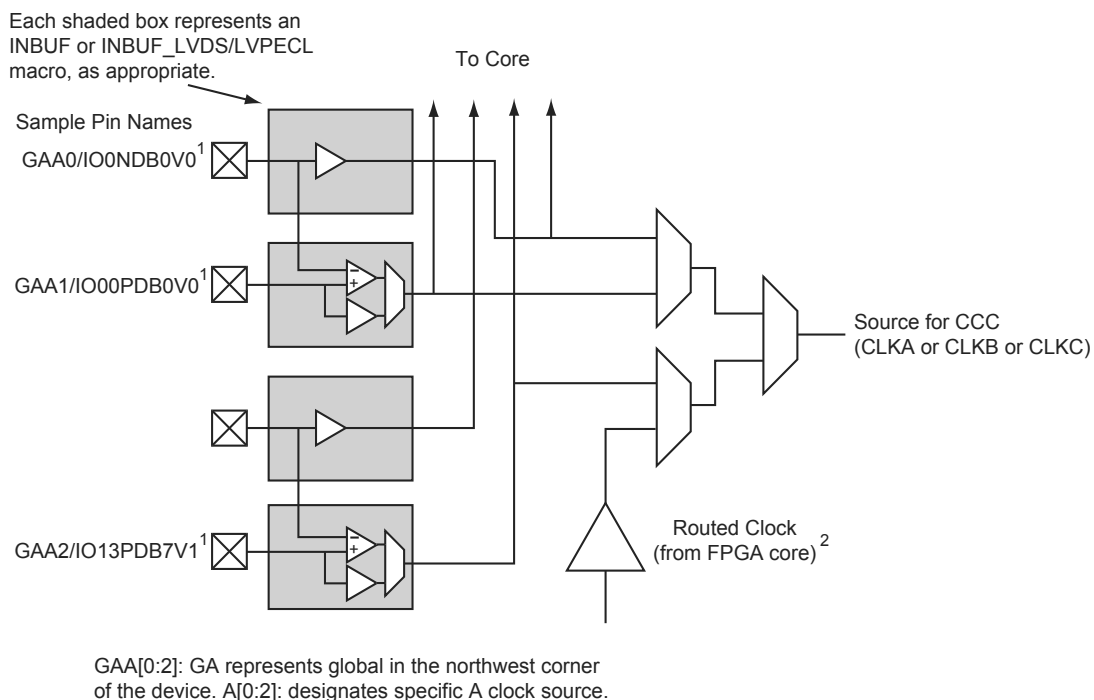
Details

Product Status	Obsolete
Number of LABs/CLBs	-
Number of Logic Elements/Cells	-
Total RAM Bits	-
Number of I/O	77
Number of Gates	30000
Voltage - Supply	1.425V ~ 1.575V
Mounting Type	Surface Mount
Operating Temperature	-20°C ~ 85°C (TJ)
Package / Case	100-TQFP
Supplier Device Package	100-VQFP (14x14)
Purchase URL	https://www.e-xfl.com/product-detail/microchip-technology/a3pn030-z2vq100

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Figure 3-5 shows more detailed global input connections. It shows the global input pins connection to the northwest quadrant global networks. Each global buffer, as well as the PLL reference clock, can be driven from one of the following:

- 3 dedicated single-ended I/Os using a hardwired connection
- 2 dedicated differential I/Os using a hardwired connection (not supported for IGLOO nano or ProASIC3 nano devices)
- The FPGA core



Note: Differential inputs are not supported for IGLOO nano or ProASIC3 nano devices.

Figure 3-5 • Global I/O Overview

Clock Aggregation Architecture

This clock aggregation feature allows a balanced clock tree, which improves clock skew. The physical regions for clock aggregation are defined from left to right and shift by one spine. For chip global networks, there are three types of clock aggregation available, as shown in Figure 3-10:

- Long lines that can drive up to four adjacent spines (A)
- Long lines that can drive up to two adjacent spines (B)
- Long lines that can drive one spine (C)

There are three types of clock aggregation available for the quadrant spines, as shown in Figure 3-10:

- I/Os or local resources that can drive up to four adjacent spines
- I/Os or local resources that can drive up to two adjacent spines
- I/Os or local resources that can drive one spine

As an example, A3PE600 and AFS600 devices have twelve spine locations: T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, and B6. Table 3-7 shows the clock aggregation you can have in A3PE600 and AFS600.

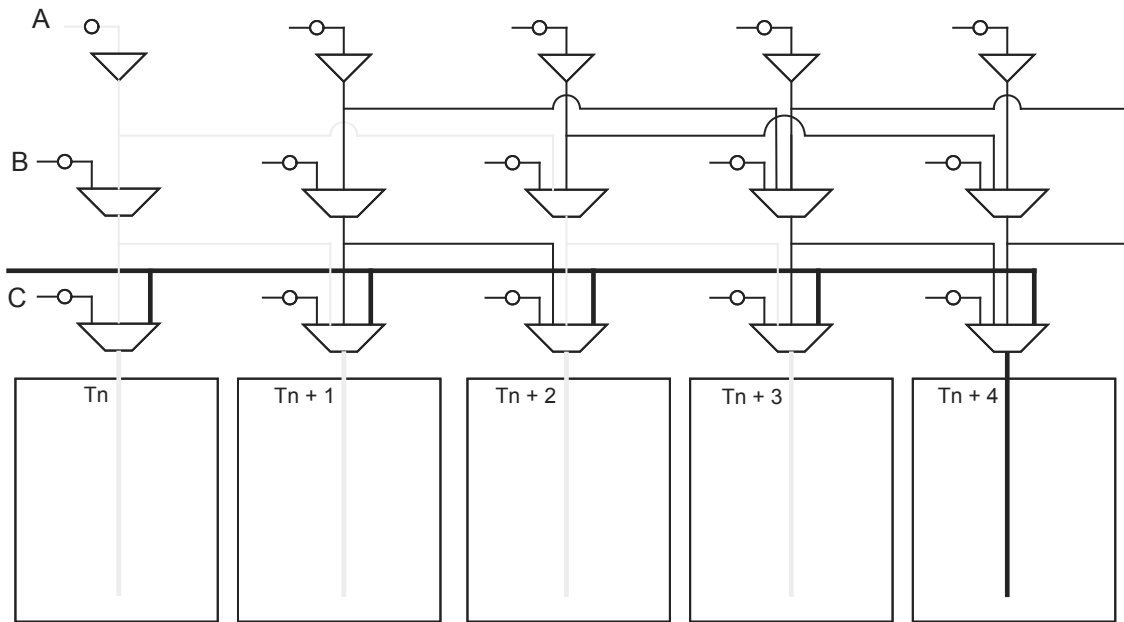


Figure 3-10 • Four Spines Aggregation

Table 3-7 • Spine Aggregation in A3PE600 or AFS600

Clock Aggregation	Spine
1 spine	T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6
2 spines	T1:T2, T2:T3, T3:T4, T4:T5, T5:T6, B1:B2, B2:B3, B3:B4, B4:B5, B5:B6
4 spines	B1:B4, B2:B5, B3:B6, T1:T4, T2:T5, T3:T6

The clock aggregation for the quadrant spines can cross over from the left to right quadrant, but not from top to bottom. The quadrant spine assignment T1:T4 is legal, but the quadrant spine assignment T1:B1 is not legal. Note that this clock aggregation is hardwired. You can always assign signals to spine T1 and B2 by instantiating a buffer, but this may add skew in the signal.

Software Configuration

SmartGen automatically generates the desired CCC functional block by configuring the control bits, and allows the user to select two CCC modes: Static PLL and Delayed Clock (CLKDLY).

Static PLL Configuration

The newly implemented Visual PLL Configuration Wizard feature provides the user a quick and easy way to configure the PLL with the desired settings (Figure 4-23). The user can invoke SmartGen to set the parameters and generate the netlist file with the appropriate flash configuration bits set for the CCCs. As mentioned in "PLL Macro Block Diagram" on page 69, the input reference clock CLKA can be configured to be driven by Hardwired I/O, External I/O, or Core Logic. The user enters the desired settings for all the parameters (output frequency, output selection, output phase adjustment, clock delay, feedback delay, and system delay). Notice that the actual values (divider values, output frequency, delay values, and phase) are shown to aid the user in reaching the desired design frequency in real time. These values are typical-case data. Best- and worst-case data can be observed through static timing analysis in SmartTime within Designer.

For dynamic configuration, the CCC parameters are defined using either the external JTAG port or an internally defined serial interface via the built-in dynamic shift register. This feature provides the ability to compensate for changes in the external environment.

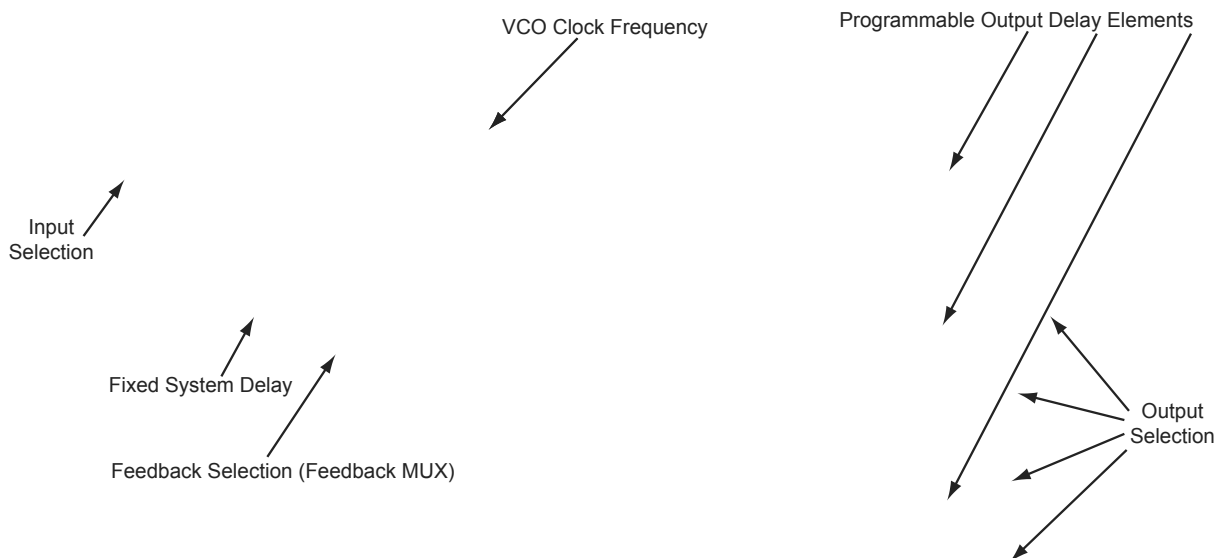


Figure 4-23 • Visual PLL Configuration Wizard

Dynamic PLL Configuration

To generate a dynamically reconfigurable CCC, the user should select **Dynamic CCC** in the configuration section of the SmartGen GUI (Figure 4-26). This will generate both the CCC core and the configuration shift register / control bit MUX.

Figure 4-26 • SmartGen GUI

Even if dynamic configuration is selected in SmartGen, the user must still specify the static configuration data for the CCC (Figure 4-27). The specified static configuration is used whenever the MODE signal is set to LOW and the CCC is required to function in the static mode. The static configuration data can be used as the default behavior of the CCC where required.

Figure 4-27 • Dynamic CCC Configuration in SmartGen

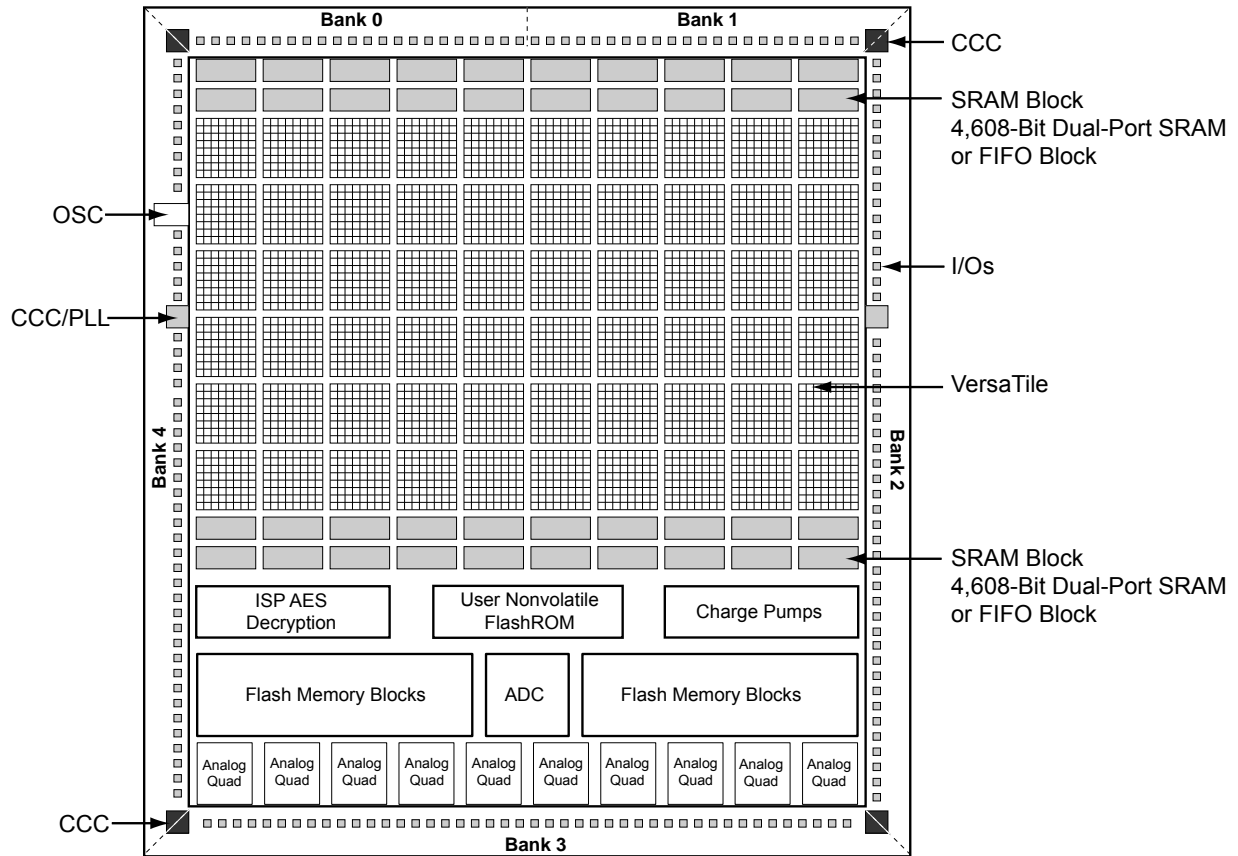


Figure 5-2 • Fusion Device Architecture Overview (AFS600)

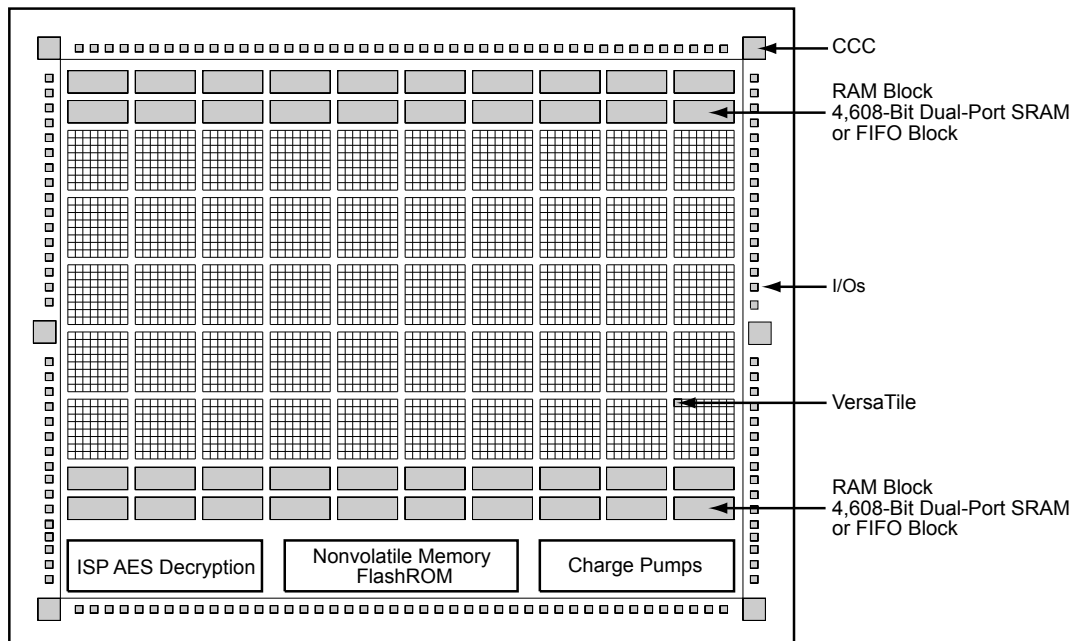


Figure 5-3 • ProASIC3 and IGLOO Device Architecture

FlashROM Design Flow

The Microsemi Libero System-on-Chip (SoC) software has extensive FlashROM support, including FlashROM generation, instantiation, simulation, and programming. Figure 5-9 shows the user flow diagram. In the design flow, there are three main steps:

1. FlashROM generation and instantiation in the design
2. Simulation of FlashROM design
3. Programming file generation for FlashROM design

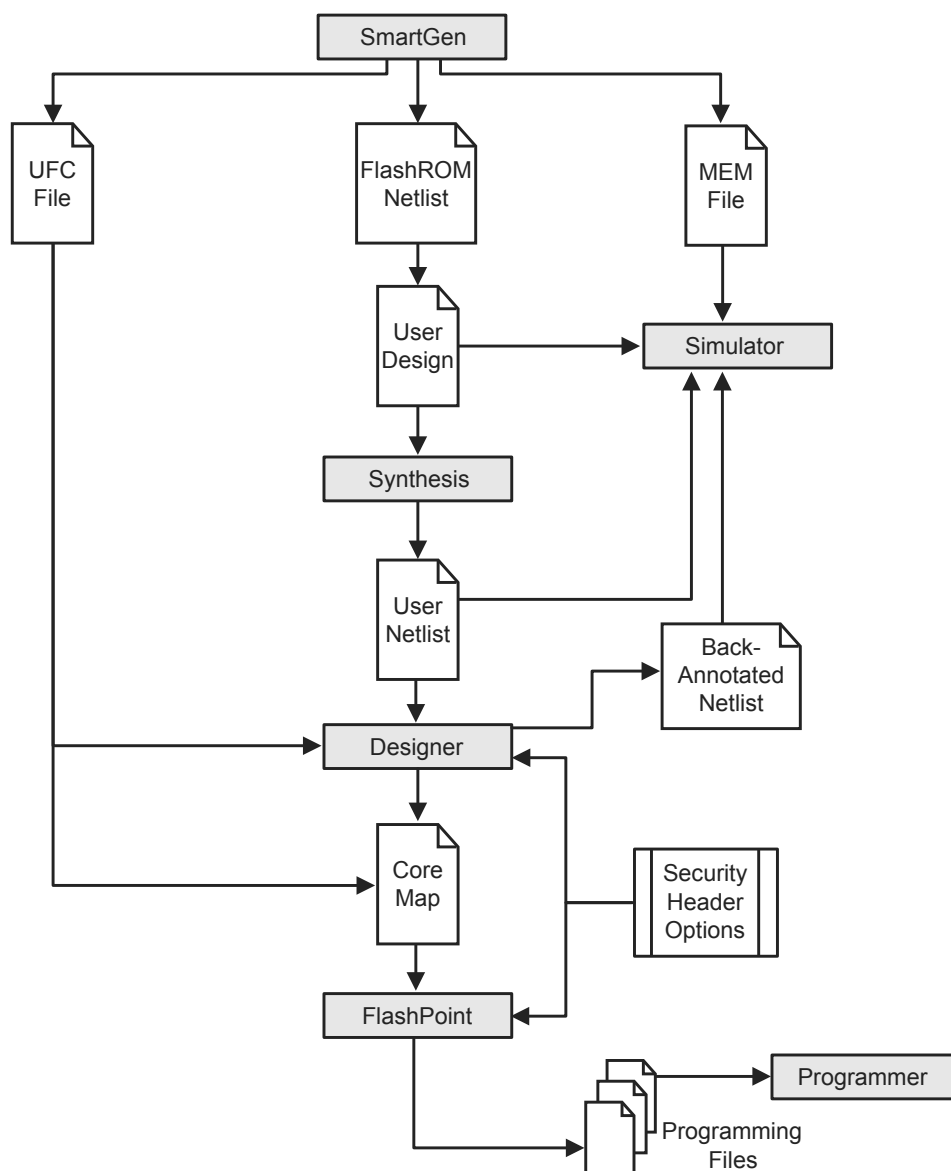
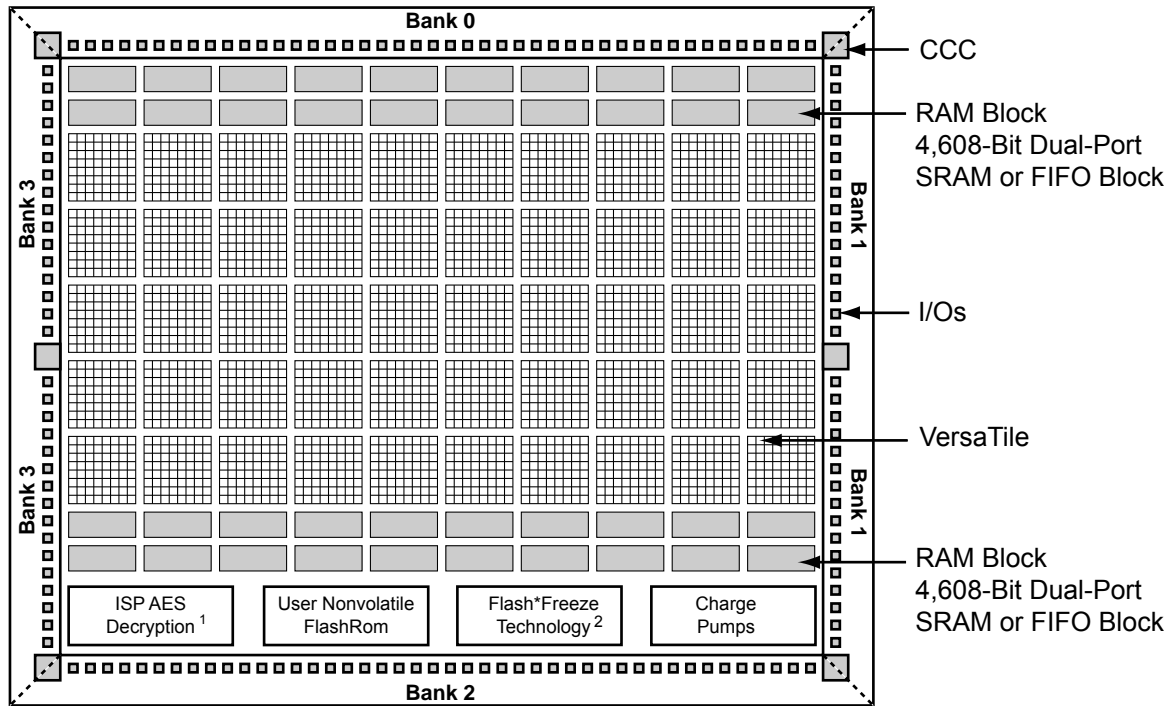


Figure 5-9 • FlashROM Design Flow



Notes:

1. AES decryption not supported in 30 k gate devices and smaller.
2. Flash*Freeze is supported in all IGLOO devices and the ProASIC3L devices.

Figure 6-1 • IGLOO and ProASIC3 Device Architecture Overview

Initializing the RAM/FIFO

The SRAM blocks can be initialized with data to use as a lookup table (LUT). Data initialization can be accomplished either by loading the data through the design logic or through the UJTAG interface. The UJTAG macro is used to allow access from the JTAG port to the internal logic in the device. By sending the appropriate initialization string to the JTAG Test Access Port (TAP) Controller, the designer can put the JTAG circuitry into a mode that allows the user to shift data into the array logic through the JTAG port using the UJTAG macro. For a more detailed explanation of the UJTAG macro, refer to the "FlashROM in Microsemi's Low Power Flash Devices" section on page 117.

A user interface is required to receive the user command, initialization data, and clock from the UJTAG macro. The interface must synchronize and load the data into the correct RAM block of the design. The main outputs of the user interface block are the following:

- Memory block chip select: Selects a memory block for initialization. The chip selects signals for each memory block that can be generated from different user-defined pockets or simple logic, such as a ring counter (see below).
- Memory block write address: Identifies the address of the memory cell that needs to be initialized.
- Memory block write data: The interface block receives the data serially from the UTDI port of the UJTAG macro and loads it in parallel into the write data ports of the memory blocks.
- Memory block write clock: Drives the WCLK of the memory block and synchronizes the write data, write address, and chip select signals.

Figure 6-8 shows the user interface between UJTAG and the memory blocks.

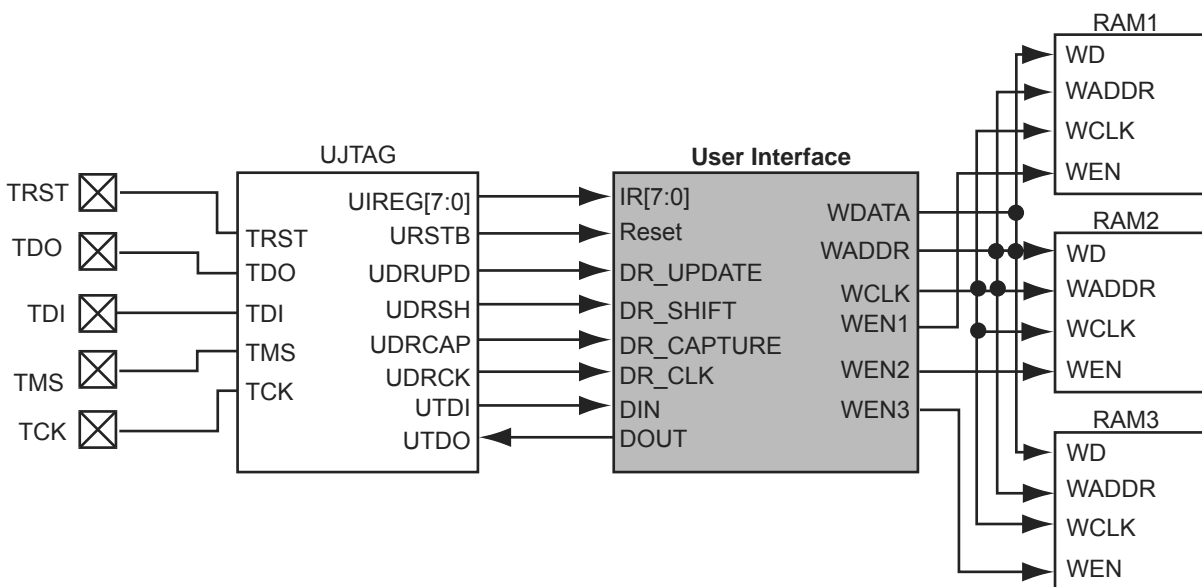


Figure 6-8 • Interfacing TAP Ports and SRAM Blocks

An important component of the interface between the UJTAG macro and the RAM blocks is a serial-in/parallel-out shift register. The width of the shift register should equal the data width of the RAM blocks. The RAM data arrives serially from the UTDI output of the UJTAG macro. The data must be shifted into a shift register clocked by the JTAG clock (provided at the UDRCK output of the UJTAG macro).

Then, after the shift register is fully loaded, the data must be transferred to the write data port of the RAM block. To synchronize the loading of the write data with the write address and write clock, the output of the shift register can be pipelined before driving the RAM block.

The write address can be generated in different ways. It can be imported through the TAP using a different instruction opcode and another shift register, or generated internally using a simple counter. Using a counter to generate the address bits and sweep through the address range of the RAM blocks is

Low Power Flash Device I/O Support

The low power flash families listed in Table 7-1 support I/Os and the functions described in this document.

Table 7-1 • Flash-Based FPGAs

Series	Family*	Description
IGLOO	IGLOO nano	Lowest power 1.2 V to 1.5 V FPGAs with Flash*Freeze technology
ProASIC3	ProASIC3 nano	Lowest cost 1.5 V FPGAs with balanced performance

Note: *The device name links to the appropriate datasheet, including product brief, DC and switching characteristics, and packaging information.

IGLOO Terminology

In documentation, the terms IGLOO series and IGLOO devices refer to all of the IGLOO devices as listed in Table 7-1. Where the information applies to only one product line or limited devices, these exclusions will be explicitly stated.

ProASIC3 Terminology

In documentation, the terms ProASIC3 series and ProASIC3 devices refer to all of the ProASIC3 devices as listed in Table 7-1. Where the information applies to only one product line or limited devices, these exclusions will be explicitly stated.

To further understand the differences between the IGLOO and ProASIC3 devices, refer to the *Industry's Lowest Power FPGAs Portfolio*.

DDR Input Register

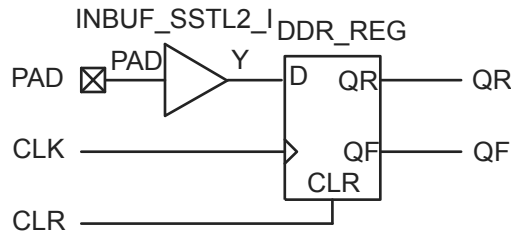


Figure 9-5 • DDR Input Register (SSTL2 Class I)

The corresponding structural representations, as generated by SmartGen, are shown below:

Verilog

```

module DDR_InBuf_SSTL2_I (PAD, CLR, CLK, QR, QF);

input  PAD, CLR, CLK;
output QR, QF;

wire Y;

    INBUF_SSTL2_I INBUF_SSTL2_I_0_inst(.PAD(PAD),.Y(Y));
    DDR_REG DDR_REG_0_inst(.D(Y),.CLK(CLK),.CLR(CLR),.QR(QR),.QF(QF));

endmodule
  
```

VHDL

```

library ieee;
use ieee.std_logic_1164.all;
--The correct library will be inserted automatically by SmartGen
library proasic3; use proasic3.all;
--library fusion; use fusion.all;
--library igloo; use igloo.all;

entity DDR_InBuf_SSTL2_I is
    port(PAD, CLR, CLK : in std_logic;  QR, QF : out std_logic) ;
end DDR_InBuf_SSTL2_I;

architecture DEF_ARCH of  DDR_InBuf_SSTL2_I is

    component INBUF_SSTL2_I
        port(PAD : in std_logic := 'U'; Y : out std_logic) ;
    end component;

    component DDR_REG
        port(D, CLK, CLR : in std_logic := 'U'; QR, QF : out std_logic) ;
    end component;

    signal Y : std_logic ;

begin

    INBUF_SSTL2_I_0_inst : INBUF_SSTL2_I
    port map(PAD => PAD, Y => Y);
    DDR_REG_0_inst : DDR_REG
    port map(D => Y, CLK => CLK, CLR => CLR, QR => QR, QF => QF);

end DEF_ARCH;
  
```


Related Documents

Below is a list of related documents, their location on the Microsemi SoC Products Group website, and a brief summary of each document.

Application Notes

Programming Antifuse Devices

http://www.microsemi.com/soc/documents/AntifuseProgram_AN.pdf

Implementation of Security in Actel's ProASIC and ProASIC^{PLUS} Flash-Based FPGAs

http://www.microsemi.com/soc/documents/Flash_Security_AN.pdf

User's Guides

FlashPro Programmers

FlashPro4,¹ FlashPro3, FlashPro Lite, and FlashPro²

http://www.microsemi.com/soc/products/hardware/program_debug/flashpro/default.aspx

FlashPro User's Guide

http://www.microsemi.com/soc/documents/FlashPro_UG.pdf

The FlashPro User's Guide includes hardware and software setup, self-test instructions, use instructions, and a troubleshooting / error message guide.

Silicon Sculptor 3 and Silicon Sculptor II

http://www.microsemi.com/soc/products/hardware/program_debug/ss/default.aspx

Other Documents

<http://www.microsemi.com/soc/products/solutions/security/default.aspx#flashlock>

The security resource center describes security in Microsemi Flash FPGAs.

Quality and Reliability Guide

<http://www.microsemi.com/soc/documents/RelGuide.pdf>

Programming and Functional Failure Guidelines

http://www.microsemi.com/soc/documents/FA_Policies_Guidelines_5-06-00002.pdf

1. FlashPro4 replaced FlashPro3 in Q1 2010.
2. FlashPro is no longer available.

Application 3: Nontrusted Environment—Field Updates/Upgrades

Programming or reprogramming of devices may occur at remote locations. Reconfiguration of devices in consumer products/equipment through public networks is one example. Typically, the remote system is already programmed with particular design contents. When design update (FPGA array contents update) and/or data upgrade (FlashROM and/or FB contents upgrade) is necessary, an updated programming file with AES encryption can be generated, sent across public networks, and transmitted to the remote system. Reprogramming can then be done using this AES-encrypted programming file, providing easy and secure field upgrades. Low power flash devices support this secure ISP using AES. The detailed flow for this application is shown in Figure 11-8. Refer to the "Microprocessor Programming of Microsemi's Low Power Flash Devices" chapter of an appropriate FPGA fabric user's guide for more information.

To prepare devices for this scenario, the user can initially generate a programming file with the available security setting options. This programming file is programmed into the devices before shipment. During the programming file generation step, the user has the option of making the security settings permanent or not. In situations where no changes to the security settings are necessary, the user can select this feature in the software to generate the programming file with permanent security settings. Microsemi recommends that the programming file use encryption with an AES key, especially when ISP is done via public domain.

For example, if the designer wants to use an AES key for the FPGA array and the FlashROM, **Permanent** needs to be chosen for this setting. At first, the user chooses the options to use an AES key for the FPGA array and the FlashROM, and then chooses **Permanently lock the security settings**. A unique AES key is chosen. Once this programming file is generated and programmed to the devices, the AES key is permanently stored in the on-chip memory, where it is secured safely. The devices are sent to distant locations for the intended application. When an update is needed, a new programming file must be generated. The programming file must use the same AES key for encryption; otherwise, the authentication will fail and the file will not be programmed in the device.

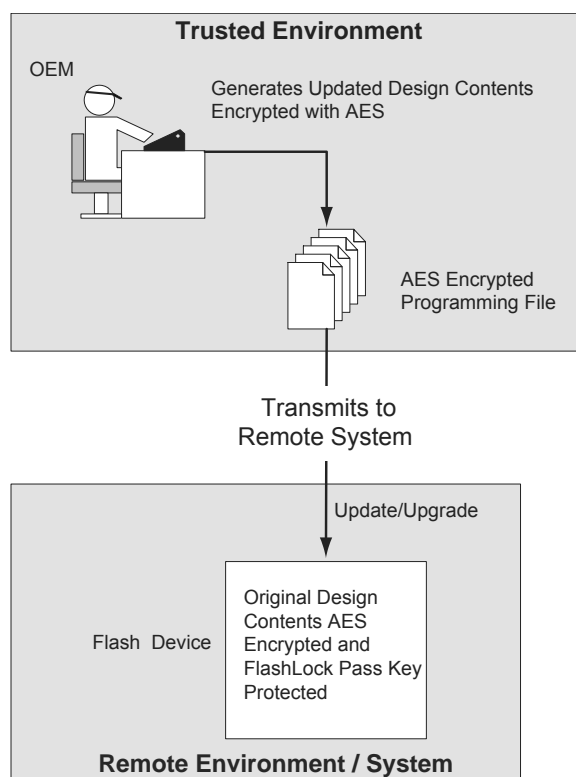


Figure 11-8 • Application 3: Nontrusted Environment—Field Updates/Upgrades

Table 11-5 • FlashLock Security Options for Fusion

Security Option	FlashROM Only	FPGA Core Only	FB Core Only	All
No AES / no FlashLock	–	–	–	–
FlashLock	✓	✓	✓	✓
AES and FlashLock	✓	✓	✓	✓

For this scenario, generate the programming file as follows:

1. Select only the **Security settings** option, as indicated in Figure 11-14 and Figure 11-15 on page 252. Click **Next**.
-

Figure 11-14 • Programming IGLOO and ProASIC3 Security Settings Only

Microprocessor Programming Support in Flash Devices

The flash-based FPGAs listed in Table 14-1 support programming with a microprocessor and the functions described in this document.

Table 14-1 • Flash-Based FPGAs

Series	Family*	Description
IGLOO	IGLOO	Ultra-low power 1.2 V to 1.5 V FPGAs with Flash*Freeze technology
	IGLOOe	Higher density IGLOO FPGAs with six PLLs and additional I/O standards
	IGLOO nano	The industry's lowest-power, smallest-size solution
	IGLOO PLUS	IGLOO FPGAs with enhanced I/O capabilities
ProASIC3	ProASIC3	Low power, high-performance 1.5 V FPGAs
	ProASIC3E	Higher density ProASIC3 FPGAs with six PLLs and additional I/O standards
	ProASIC3 nano	Lowest-cost solution with enhanced I/O capabilities
	ProASIC3L	ProASIC3 FPGAs supporting 1.2 V to 1.5 V with Flash*Freeze technology
	RT ProASIC3	Radiation-tolerant RT3PE600L and RT3PE3000L
	Military ProASIC3/EL	Military temperature A3PE600L, A3P1000, and A3PE3000L
	Automotive ProASIC3	ProASIC3 FPGAs qualified for automotive applications
Fusion	Fusion	Mixed signal FPGA integrating ProASIC3 FPGA fabric, programmable analog block, support for ARM® Cortex™-M1 soft processors, and flash memory into a monolithic device

Note: *The device names link to the appropriate datasheet, including product brief, DC and switching characteristics, and packaging information.

IGLOO Terminology

In documentation, the terms IGLOO series and IGLOO devices refer to all of the IGLOO devices as listed in Table 14-1. Where the information applies to only one device or limited devices, these exclusions will be explicitly stated.

ProASIC3 Terminology

In documentation, the terms ProASIC3 series and ProASIC3 devices refer to all of the ProASIC3 devices as listed in Table 14-1. Where the information applies to only one device or limited devices, these exclusions will be explicitly stated.

To further understand the differences between the IGLOO and ProASIC3 devices, refer to the *Industry's Lowest Power FPGAs Portfolio*.

Remote Upgrade via TCP/IP

Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) provides a reliable bitstream transfer service between two endpoints on a network. TCP depends on Internet Protocol (IP) to move packets around the network on its behalf. TCP protects against data loss, data corruption, packet reordering, and data duplication by adding checksums and sequence numbers to transmitted data and, on the receiving side, sending back packets and acknowledging the receipt of data.

The system containing the low power flash device can be assigned an IP address when deployed in the field. When the device requires an update (core or FlashROM), the programming instructions along with the new programming data (AES-encrypted cipher text) can be sent over the Internet to the target system via the TCP/IP protocol. Once the MCU receives the instruction and data, it can proceed with the FPGA update. Low power flash devices support Message Authentication Code (MAC), which can be used to validate data for the target device. More details are given in the "Message Authentication Code (MAC) Validation/Authentication" section.

Hardware Requirement

To facilitate the programming of the low power flash families, the system must have a microprocessor (with access to the device JTAG pins) to process the programming algorithm, memory to store the programming algorithm, programming data, and the necessary programming voltage. Refer to the relevant datasheet for programming voltages.

Security

Encrypted Programming

As an additional security measure, the devices are equipped with AES decryption. AES works in two steps. The first step is to program a key into the devices in a secure or trusted programming center (such as Microsemi SoC Products Group In-House Programming (IHP) center). The second step is to encrypt any programming files with the same encryption key. The encrypted programming file will only work with the devices that have the same key. The AES used in the low power flash families is the 128-bit AES decryption engine (Rijndael algorithm).

Message Authentication Code (MAC) Validation/Authentication

As part of the AES decryption flow, the devices are equipped with a MAC validation/authentication system. MAC is an authentication tag, also called a checksum, derived by applying an on-chip authentication scheme to a STAPL file as it is loaded into the FPGA. MACs are computed and verified with the same key so they can only be verified by the intended recipient. When the MCU system receives the AES-encrypted programming data (cipher text), it can validate the data by loading it into the FPGA and performing a MAC verification prior to loading the data, via a second programming pass, into the FPGA core cells. This prevents erroneous or corrupt data from getting into the FPGA.

Low power flash devices with AES and MAC are superior to devices with only DES or 3DES encryption. Because the MAC verifies the correctness of the data, the FPGA is protected from erroneous loading of invalid programming data that could damage a device (Figure 14-5 on page 289).

The AES with MAC enables field updates over public networks without fear of having the design stolen. An encrypted programming file can only work on devices with the correct key, rendering any stolen files

UJTAG Macro

The UJTAG tiles can be instantiated in a design using the UJTAG macro from the Fusion, IGLOO, or ProASIC3 macro library. Note that "UJTAG" is a reserved name and cannot be used for any other user-defined blocks. A block symbol of the UJTAG tile macro is presented in Figure 16-2. In this figure, the ports on the left side of the block are connected to the JTAG TAP Controller, and the right-side ports are accessible by the FPGA core VersaTiles. The TDI, TMS, TDO, TCK, and TRST ports of UJTAG are only provided for design simulation purposes and should be treated as external signals in the design netlist. However, these ports must NOT be connected to any I/O buffer in the netlist. Figure 16-3 on page 300 illustrates the correct connection of the UJTAG macro to the user design netlist. Microsemi Designer software will automatically connect these ports to the TAP during place-and-route. Table 16-2 gives the port descriptions for the rest of the UJTAG ports:

Table 16-2 • UJTAG Port Descriptions

Port	Description
UIREG [7:0]	This 8-bit bus carries the contents of the JTAG Instruction Register of each device. Instruction Register values 16 to 127 are not reserved and can be employed as user-defined instructions.
URSTB	URSTB is an active-low signal and will be asserted when the TAP Controller is in Test-Logic-Reset mode. URSTB is asserted at power-up, and a power-on reset signal resets the TAP Controller. URSTB will stay asserted until an external TAP access changes the TAP Controller state.
UTDI	This port is directly connected to the TAP's TDI signal.
UTDO	This port is the user TDO output. Inputs to the UTDO port are sent to the TAP TDO output MUX when the IR address is in user range.
UDRSH	Active-high signal enabled in the ShiftDR TAP state
UDRCAP	Active-high signal enabled in the CaptureDR TAP state
UDRCK	This port is directly connected to the TAP's TCK signal.
UDRUPD	Active-high signal enabled in the UpdateDR TAP state

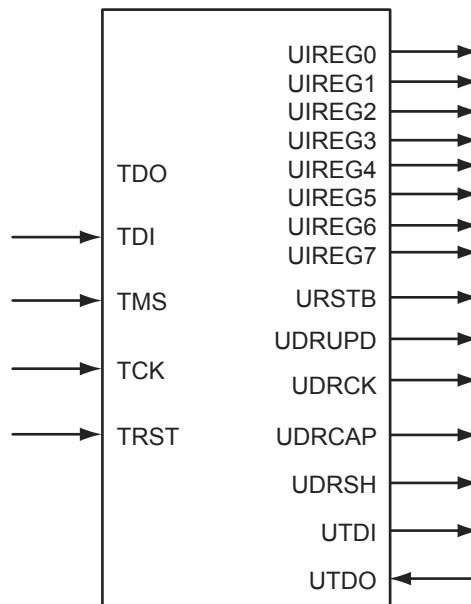


Figure 16-2 • UJTAG Tile Block Symbol

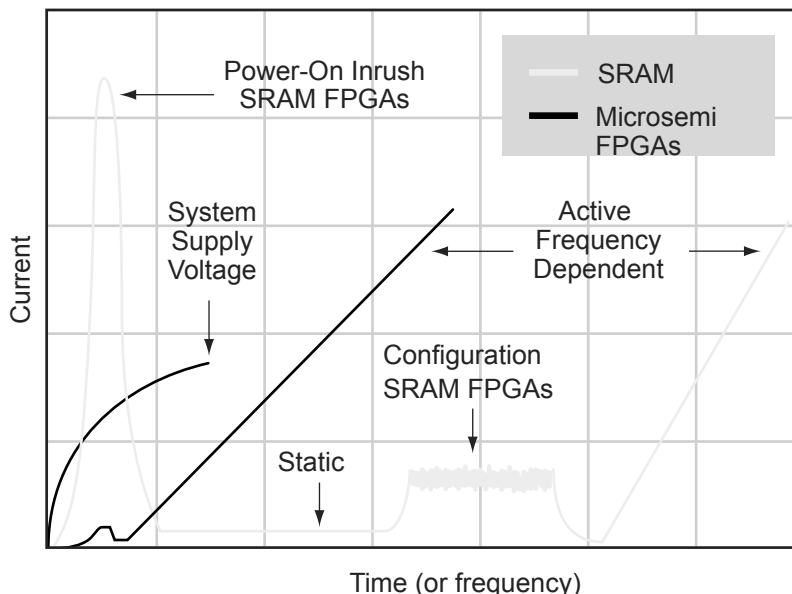


Figure 17-1 • Types of Power Consumption in SRAM FPGAs and Microsemi Nonvolatile FPGAs

Transient Current on VCC

The characterization of the transient current on VCC is performed on nearly all devices within the IGLOO, ProASIC3L, and ProASIC3 families. A sample size of five units is used from each device family member. All the device I/Os are internally pulled down while the transient current measurements are performed. For ProASIC3 devices, the measurements at typical conditions show that the maximum transient current on VCC, when the power supply is powered at ramp-rates ranging from 15 V/ms to 0.15 V/ms, does not exceed the maximum standby current specified in the device datasheets. Refer to the DC and Switching Characteristics chapters of the *ProASIC3 Flash Family FPGAS* datasheet and *ProASIC3E Flash Family FPGAs* datasheet for more information.

Similarly, IGLOO, IGLOO nano, IGLOO PLUS, and ProASIC3L devices exhibit very low transient current on VCC. The transient current does not exceed the typical operating current of the device while in active mode. For example, the characterization of AGL600-FG256 V2 and V5 devices has shown that the transient current on VCC is typically in the range of 1–5 mA.

Transient Current on VCCI

The characterization of the transient current on VCCI is performed on devices within the IGLOO, IGLOO nano, IGLOO PLUS, ProASIC3, ProASIC3 nano, and ProASIC3L groups of devices, similarly to VCC transient current measurements. For ProASIC3 devices, the measurements at typical conditions show that the maximum transient current on VCCI, when the power supply is powered at ramp-rates ranging from 33 V/ms to 0.33 V/ms, does not exceed the maximum standby current specified in the device datasheet. Refer to the DC and Switching Characteristics chapters of the *ProASIC3 Flash Family FPGAS* datasheet and *ProASIC3E Flash Family FPGAs* datasheet for more information.

Similarly, IGLOO, IGLOO PLUS, and ProASIC3L devices exhibit very low transient current on VCCI. The transient current does not exceed the typical operating current of the device while in active mode. For example, the characterization of AGL600-FG256 V2 and V5 devices has shown that the transient current on VCCI is typically in the range of 1–2 mA.

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