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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	36864
Number of I/O	68
Number of Gates	250000
Voltage - Supply	1.14V ~ 1.575V
Mounting Type	Surface Mount
Operating Temperature	-40°C ~ 100°C (TJ)
Package / Case	100-TQFP
Supplier Device Package	100-VQFP (14x14)
Purchase URL	https://www.e-xfl.com/product-detail/microsemi/a3p250l-1vqg100i

Flash*Freeze Mode Device Behavior

*Entering Flash*Freeze Mode*

- IGLOO, IGLOO nano, IGLOO PLUS, ProASCI3L, and RT ProASIC3 devices are designed and optimized to enter Flash*Freeze mode only when power supplies are stable. If the device is being powered up while the FF pin is asserted (Flash*Freeze mode type 1), or while both FF pin and LSICC signal are asserted (Flash*Freeze mode type 2), the device is expected to enter Flash*Freeze mode within 5 µs after the I/Os and FPGA core have reached their activation levels.

- If the device is already powered up when the FF pin is asserted, the device will enter Flash*Freeze mode within 1 µs (type 1). In Flash*Freeze mode type 2 operation, entering Flash*Freeze mode is completed within 1 µs after both FF pin and LSICC signal are asserted. Exiting Flash*Freeze mode is completed within 1 µs after deasserting the FF pin only.

PLLs

- If an embedded PLL is used, entering Flash*Freeze mode will automatically power down the PLL.

- The PLL output clocks will stop toggling within 1 µs after the assertion of the FF pin in type 1, or after both FF pin and LSICC signal are asserted in type 2. At the same time, I/Os will transition into the state specified in Table 2-6 on page 29. The user design must ensure it is safe to enter Flash*Freeze mode.

I/Os and Globals

- While entering Flash*Freeze mode, inputs, globals, and PLLs will enter their Flash*Freeze state asynchronously to each other. As a result, clock and data glitches and narrow pulses may be generated while entering Flash*Freeze mode, as shown in Figure 2-5.
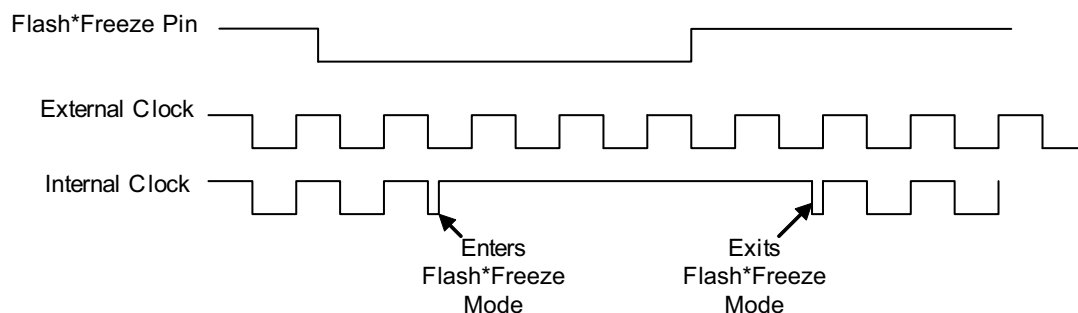

Figure 2-5 • **Narrow Clock Pulses During Flash*Freeze Entrance and Exit**

- I/O banks are not all deactivated simultaneously when entering Flash*Freeze mode. This can cause clocks and inputs to become disabled at different times, resulting in unexpected data being captured.

- Upon entering Flash*Freeze mode, all inputs and globals become tied High internally (except when an input hold state is used on IGLOO nano or IGLOO PLUS devices). If any of these signals are driven Low or tied Low externally, they will experience a Low to High transition internally when entering Flash*Freeze mode.

- Upon entering type 2 Flash*Freeze mode, ensure the LSICC signal (active High) does not de-assert. This can prevent the device from entering Flash*Freeze mode.

- Asynchronous input to output paths may experience output glitches. For example, on a direct in-to-out path, if the current state is '0' and the input bank turns off first, the input and then the output will transition to '1' before the output enters its Flash*Freeze state. This can be prevented by using latches in asynchronous in-to-out paths.

- The above situations can cause glitches or invalid data to be clocked into and preserved in the device. Refer to the "Flash*Freeze Design Guide" section on page 34 for solutions.

- The device is reset upon exiting Flash*Freeze mode or internal state saving is not required.
- State saving is required, but data and clock management is performed external to the FPGA. In other words, incoming data is externally guaranteed and held valid prior to entering Flash*Freeze mode.

Type 2 Flash*Freeze mode is ideally suited for applications with the following design criteria:

- Entering Flash*Freeze mode is dependent on an internal or external signal in addition to the external FF pin.
- State saving is required and incoming data is not externally guaranteed valid.
- The designer wants to use his/her own Flash*Freeze management IP for clock and data management.
- The designer wants to use his/her own Flash*Freeze management logic for clock and data management.
- Internal housekeeping is required prior to entering Flash*Freeze mode. Housekeeping activities may include loading data to SRAM, system shutdown, completion of current task, or ensuring valid Flash*Freeze pin assertion.

There is no downside to type 2 mode, and Microsemi's Flash*Freeze management IP offers a very low tile count clock and data management solution. Microsemi's recommendation for most designs is to use type 2 Flash*Freeze mode with Flash*Freeze management IP.

Design Solutions

Clocks

- Microsemi recommends using a completely synchronous design in Type 2 mode with Flash*Freeze management IP cleanly gating all internal and external clocks. This will prevent narrow pulses upon entrance and exit from Flash*Freeze mode (Figure 2-5 on page 30).
- Upon entering Flash*Freeze mode, external clocks become tied off High, internal to the clock pin (unless hold state is used on IGLOO nano or IGLOO PLUS), and PLLs are turned off. Any clock that is externally Low will realize a Low to High transition internal to the device while entering Flash*Freeze. If clocks will float during Flash*Freeze mode, Microsemi recommends using the weak pull-up feature. If clocks will continue to drive the device during Flash*Freeze mode, the clock gating (filter) available in Flash*Freeze management IP can help to filter unwanted narrow clock pulses upon Flash*Freeze mode entry and exit.
- Clocks may continue to drive FPGA pins while the device is in Flash*Freeze mode, with virtually no power consumption. The weak pull-up/-down configuration will result in unnecessary power consumption if used in this scenario.
- Floating clocks can cause totem pole currents on the input I/O circuitry when the device is in active mode. If clocks are externally gated prior to entering Flash*Freeze mode, Microsemi recommends gating them to a known value (preferably '1', to avoid a possible narrow pulse upon Flash*Freeze mode exit), and not leaving them floating. However, during Flash*Freeze mode, all inputs and clocks are internally tied off to prevent totem pole currents, so they can be left floating.
- Upon exiting Flash*Freeze mode, the design must allow maximum acquisition time for the PLL to acquire the lock signal, and for a PLL clock to become active. If a PLL output clock is used as the primary clock for Flash*Freeze management IP, it is important to note that the clock gating circuit will only release other clocks after the primary PLL output clock becomes available.

- The INBUF_FF must be driven by a top-level input port of the design.
- The INBUF_FF AND the ULSICC macro must be used to enable type 2 Flash*Freeze mode.
- For type 2 Flash*Freeze mode, the INBUF_FF MUST drive some logic in the design.
- For type 1 Flash*Freeze mode, the INBUF_FF may drive some logic in the design, but it may also be left floating.
- Only one INBUF_FF may be instantiated in a device.
- The FF pin threshold voltages are defined by VCCI and the supported single-ended I/O standard in the corresponding I/O bank.
- The FF pin Schmitt trigger option may be configured in the I/O attribute editor in Microsemi's Designer software. The Schmitt trigger option is only available for IGLOOe, IGLOO nano, IGLOO PLUS, ProASIC3EL, and RT ProASIC3 devices.
- A 2 ns glitch filter resides in the Flash*Freeze Technology block to filter unwanted glitches on the FF pin.

ULSICC

The User Low Static ICC (ULSICC) macro allows the FPGA core to access the Flash*Freeze Technology block so that entering and exiting Flash*Freeze mode can be controlled by the user's design. The ULSICC macro enables a hard block with an available LSICC input port, as shown in Figure 2-3 on page 27 and Figure 2-10 on page 37. Design rules for the ULSICC macro are as follows:

- The ULSICC macro by itself cannot enable Flash*Freeze mode. The INBUF_FF AND the ULSICC macro must both be used to enable type 2 Flash*Freeze mode.
- The ULSICC controls entering the Flash*Freeze mode by asserting the LSICC input (logic '1') of the ULSICC macro. The FF pin must also be asserted (logic '0') to enter Flash*Freeze mode.
- When the LSICC signal is '0', the device cannot enter Flash*Freeze mode; and if already in Flash*Freeze mode, it will exit.
- When the ULSICC macro is not instantiated in the user's design, the LSICC port will be tied High.

Flash*Freeze Management IP

The Flash*Freeze management IP can be configured with the Libero (or SmartGen) core generator in a simple, intuitive interface. With the core configuration tool, users can select the number of clocks to be gated, and select whether or not to implement housekeeping. All port names on the Flash*Freeze management IP block can be renamed by the user.

- The clock gating (filter) blocks include CLKINT buffers for each gated clock output (version 8.3).
- When housekeeping is NOT used, the WAIT_HOUSEKEEPING signal will be automatically fed back into DONE_HOUSEKEEPING inside the core, and the ports will not be available at the IP core interface.
- The INBUF_FF macro is automatically instantiated within the IP core.
- The INBUF_FF port (default name is "Flash_Freeze_N") must be connected to a top-level input port of the design.
- The ULSICC macro is automatically instantiated within the IP core, and the LSICC signal is driven by the FSM.
- Timing analysis can be performed on the clock domain of the source clock (i.e., input to the clock gating filters). For example, if CLKin becomes CLKin_gated, the timing can be performed on the CLKin domain in SmartTime.
- The gated clocks can be added to the clock list if the user wishes to analyze these clocks specifically. The user can locate the gated clocks by looking for instance names such as those below:

```
Top/ff1/ff_1_wrapper_inst/user_ff_1_wrapper/Primary_Filter_Instance/
Latch_For_Clock_Gating:Q
Top/ff1/ff_1_wrapper_inst/user_ff_1_wrapper/genblk1.genblk2.secondary_filter[0].
seconday_filter_instance/Latch_For_Clock_Gating:Q
Top/ff1/ff_1_wrapper_inst/user_ff_1_wrapper/genblk1.genblk2.secondary_filter[1].
seconday_filter_instance/Latch_For_Clock_Gating:Q
```

Date	Changes	Page
v2.1 (October 2008)	The title changed from "Flash*Freeze Technology and Low Power Modes in IGLOO, IGLOO PLUS, and ProASIC3L Devices" to Actel's Flash*Freeze Technology and Low Power Modes."	N/A
	The "Flash Families Support the Flash*Freeze Feature" section was updated.	22
	Significant changes were made to this document to support Libero IDE v8.4 and later functionality. RT ProASIC3 device support information is new. In addition to the other major changes, the following tables and figures were updated or are new: Figure 2-3 • Flash*Freeze Mode Type 2 – Controlled by Flash*Freeze Pin and Internal Logic (LSICC signal) – updated Figure 2-5 • Narrow Clock Pulses During Flash*Freeze Entrance and Exit – new Figure 2-10 • Flash*Freeze Management IP Block Diagram – new Figure 2-11 • FSM State Diagram – new Table 2-6 • IGLOO nano and IGLOO PLUS Flash*Freeze Mode (type 1 and type 2)—I/O Pad State – updated Please review the entire document carefully.	27 30 37 38 29
v1.3 (June 2008)	The family description for ProASIC3L in Table 2-1 • Flash-Based FPGAs was updated to include 1.5 V.	22
v1.2 (March 2008)	The part number for this document was changed from 51700094-003-1 to 51700094-004-2.	N/A
	The title of the document was changed to "Flash*Freeze Technology and Low Power Modes in IGLOO, IGLOO PLUS, and ProASIC3L Devices."	N/A
	The "Flash*Freeze Technology and Low Power Modes" section was updated to remove the parenthetical phrase, "from 25 µW," in the second paragraph. The following sentence was added to the third paragraph: "IGLOO PLUS has an additional feature when operating in Flash*Freeze mode, allowing it to retain I/O states as well as SRAM and register states."	21
	The "Power Conservation Techniques" section was updated to add V_{JTAG} to the parenthetical list of power supplies that should be tied to the ground plane if unused. Additional information was added regarding how the software configures unused I/Os.	2-1
	Table 2-1 • Flash-Based FPGAs and the accompanying text was updated to include the IGLOO PLUS family. The "IGLOO Terminology" section and "ProASIC3 Terminology" section are new.	22
	The "Flash*Freeze Mode" section was revised to include that I/O states are preserved in Flash*Freeze mode for IGLOO PLUS devices. The last sentence in the second paragraph was changed to, "If the FF pin is not used, it can be used as a regular I/O." The following sentence was added for Flash*Freeze mode type 2: "Exiting the mode is controlled by either the FF pin OR the user-defined LSICC signal."	24
	The "Flash*Freeze Type 1: Control by Dedicated Flash*Freeze Pin" section was revised to change instructions for implementing this mode, including instructions for implementation with Libero IDE v8.3.	24
	Figure 2-1 • Flash*Freeze Mode Type 1 – Controlled by the Flash*Freeze Pin was updated.	25
	The "Flash*Freeze Type 2: Control by Dedicated Flash*Freeze Pin and Internal Logic" section was renamed from "Type 2 Software Implementation."	26
	The "Type 2 Software Implementation for Libero IDE v8.3" section is new.	2-6

Spine Architecture

The low power flash device architecture allows the VersaNet global networks to be segmented. Each of these networks contains spines (the vertical branches of the global network tree) and ribs that can reach all the VersaTiles inside its region. The nine spines available in a vertical column reside in global networks with two separate regions of scope: the quadrant global network, which has three spines, and the chip (main) global network, which has six spines. Note that the number of quadrant globals and globals/spines per tree varies depending on the specific device. Refer to Table 3-4 for the clocking resources available for each device. The spines are the vertical branches of the global network tree, shown in Figure 3-3 on page 50. Each spine in a vertical column of a chip (main) global network is further divided into two spine segments of equal lengths: one in the top and one in the bottom half of the die (except in 10 k through 30 k gate devices).

Top and bottom spine segments radiating from the center of a device have the same height. However, just as in the ProASIC^PLUS® family, signals assigned only to the top and bottom spine cannot access the middle two rows of the die. The spines for quadrant clock networks do not cross the middle of the die and cannot access the middle two rows of the architecture.

Each spine and its associated ribs cover a certain area of the device (the "scope" of the spine; see Figure 3-3 on page 50). Each spine is accessed by the dedicated global network MUX tree architecture, which defines how a particular spine is driven—either by the signal on the global network from a CCC, for example, or by another net defined by the user. Details of the chip (main) global network spine-selection MUX are presented in Figure 3-8 on page 60. The spine drivers for each spine are located in the middle of the die.

Quadrant spines can be driven from user I/Os or an internal signal from the north and south sides of the die. The ability to drive spines in the quadrant global networks can have a significant effect on system performance for high-fanout inputs to a design. Access to the top quadrant spine regions is from the top of the die, and access to the bottom quadrant spine regions is from the bottom of the die. The A3PE3000 device has 28 clock trees and each tree has nine spines; this flexible global network architecture enables users to map up to 252 different internal/external clocks in an A3PE3000 device.

Table 3-4 • **Globals/Spines/Rows for IGLOO and ProASIC3 Devices**

ProASIC3/ ProASIC3L Devices	IGLOO Devices	Chip Globals	Quadrant Globals (4×3)	Clock Trees	Globals/ Spines per Tree	Total Spines per Device	VersaTiles in Each Tree	Total VersaTiles	Rows in Each Spine
A3PN010	AGLN010	4	0	1	0	0	260	260	4
A3PN015	AGLN015	4	0	1	0	0	384	384	6
A3PN020	AGLN020	4	0	1	0	0	520	520	6
A3PN060	AGLN060	6	12	4	9	36	384	1,536	12
A3PN125	AGLN125	6	12	8	9	72	384	3,072	12
A3PN250	AGLN250	6	12	8	9	72	768	6,144	24
A3P015	AGL015	6	0	1	9	9	384	384	12
A3P030	AGL030	6	0	2	9	18	384	768	12
A3P060	AGL060	6	12	4	9	36	384	1,536	12
A3P125	AGL125	6	12	8	9	72	384	3,072	12
A3P250/L	AGL250	6	12	8	9	72	768	6,144	24
A3P400	AGL400	6	12	12	9	108	768	9,216	24
A3P600/L	AGL600	6	12	12	9	108	1,152	13,824	36
A3P1000/L	AGL1000	6	12	16	9	144	1,536	24,576	48
A3PE600/L	AGLE600	6	12	12	9	108	1,120	13,440	35
A3PE1500		6	12	20	9	180	1,888	37,760	59
A3PE3000/L	AGLE3000	6	12	28	9	252	2,656	74,368	83

SmartGen also allows the user to select the various delays and phase shift values necessary to adjust the phases between the reference clock (CLKA) and the derived clocks (GLA, GLB, GLC, YB, and YC). SmartGen allows the user to select the input clock source. SmartGen automatically instantiates the special macro, PLLINT, when needed.
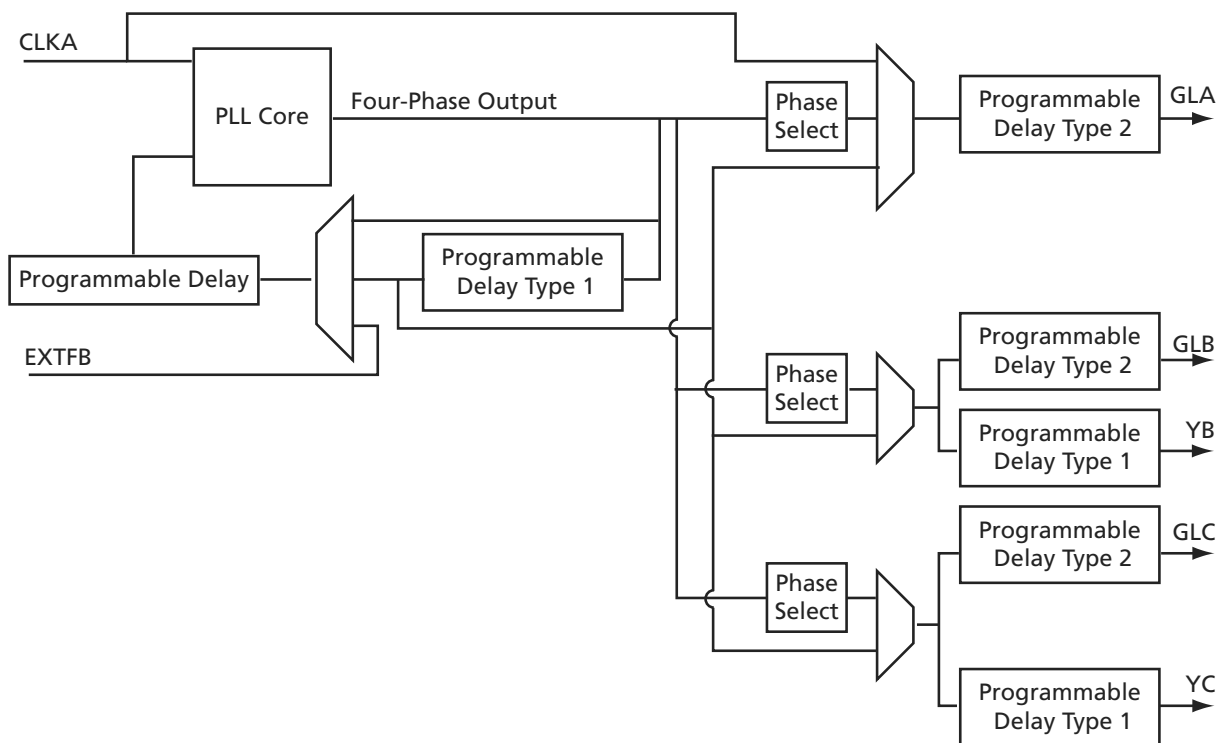
Note: Clock divider and clock multiplier blocks are not shown in this figure or in SmartGen. They are automatically configured based on the user's required frequencies.

Figure 4-6 • **CCC with PLL Block**

Global Input Selections

Low power flash devices provide the flexibility of choosing one of the three global input pad locations available to connect to a CCC functional block or to a global / quadrant global network. Figure 4-7 on page 88 and Figure 4-8 on page 88 show the detailed architecture of each global input structure for 30 k gate devices and below, as well as 60 k gate devices and above, respectively. For 60 k gate devices and above (Figure 4-7 on page 88), if the single-ended I/O standard is chosen, there is flexibility to choose one of the global input pads (the first, second, and fourth input). Once chosen, the other I/O locations are used as regular I/Os. If the differential I/O standard is chosen (not applicable for IGLOO nano and ProASIC3 nano devices), the first and second inputs are considered as paired, and the third input is paired with a regular I/O.

The user then has the choice of selecting one of the two sets to be used as the clock input source to the CCC functional block. There is also the option to allow an internal clock signal to feed the global network or the CCC functional block. A multiplexer tree selects the appropriate global input for routing to the desired location. Note that the global I/O pads do not need to feed the global network; they can also be used as regular I/O pads.

External I/O Clock Source

External I/O refers to regular I/O pins. The clock source is instantiated with one of the various INBUF options and accesses the CCCs via internal routing. The user has the option of assigning this input to any of the I/Os labeled with the I/O convention *IOuxwByVz*. Refer to the "User I/O Naming Conventions in I/O Structures" chapter of the appropriate device user's guide, and for Fusion, refer to the *Fusion Family of Mixed Signal FPGAs* datasheet for more information. Figure 4-11 gives a brief explanation of external I/O usage. Choosing this option provides the freedom of selecting any user I/O location but introduces additional delay because the signal connects to the routed clock input through internal routing before connecting to the CCC reference clock input.

For the External I/O option, the routed signal would be instantiated with a PLLINT macro before connecting to the CCC reference clock input. This instantiation is conveniently done automatically by SmartGen when this option is selected. Microsemi recommends using the SmartGen tool to generate the CCC macro. The instantiation of the PLLINT macro results in the use of the routed clock input of the I/O to connect to the PLL clock input. If not using SmartGen, manually instantiate a PLLINT macro before the PLL reference clock to indicate that the regular I/O driving the PLL reference clock should be used (see Figure 4-11 for an example illustration of the connections, shown in red).

In the above two options, the clock source must be instantiated with one of the various INBUF macros. The reference clock pins of the CCC functional block core macros must be driven by regular input macros (INBUFs), not clock input macros.
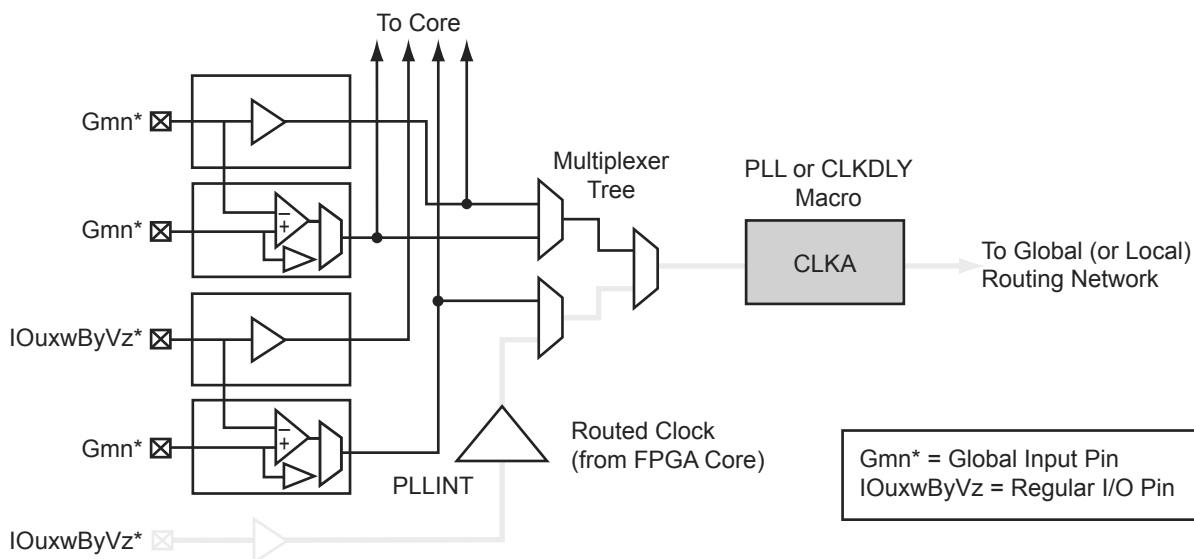

Figure 4-11 • **Illustration of External I/O Usage**

For Fusion devices, the input reference clock can also be from the embedded RC oscillator and crystal oscillator. In this case, the CCC configuration is the same as the hardwired I/O clock source, and users are required to instantiate the RC oscillator or crystal oscillator macro and connect its output to the input reference clock of the CCC block.

The following is an example of a PLL configuration utilizing the clock frequency synthesis and clock delay adjustment features. The steps include generating the PLL core with SmartGen, performing simulation for verification with Model*Sim*, and performing static timing analysis with SmartTime in Designer.

Parameters of the example PLL configuration:

   Input Frequency – 20 MHz

   Primary Output Requirement – 20 MHz with clock advancement of 3.02 ns

   Secondary 1 Output Requirement – 40 MHz with clock delay of 2.515 ns

Figure 4-29 shows the SmartGen settings. Notice that the overall delays are calculated automatically, allowing the user to adjust the delay elements appropriately to obtain the desired delays.

Figure 4-29 • **SmartGen Settings**

After confirming the correct settings, generate a structural netlist of the PLL and verify PLL core settings by checking the log file:

```
Name                          : test_pll_delays
Family                        : ProASIC3E
Output Format                 : VHDL
Type                          : Static PLL
Input Freq(MHz)               : 20.000
CLKA Source                   : Hardwired I/O
Feedback Delay Value Index    : 21
Feedback Mux Select           : 2
XDLY Mux Select               : No
Primary Freq(MHz)             : 20.000
Primary PhaseShift            : 0
Primary Delay Value Index     : 1
Primary Mux Select            : 4
Secondary1 Freq(MHz)          : 40.000
Use GLB                       : YES
Use YB                        : NO
…
…
…
Primary Clock frequency 20.000
Primary Clock Phase Shift 0.000
```

Figure 4-36 • **Second-Stage PLL Showing Input of 256 MHz from First Stage and Final Output of 280 MHz**

Figure 4-37 shows the simulation results, where the first PLL's output period is 3.9 ns (~256 MHz), and the stage 2 (final) output period is 3.56 ns (~280 MHz).
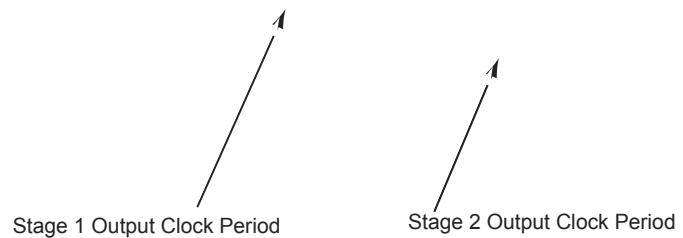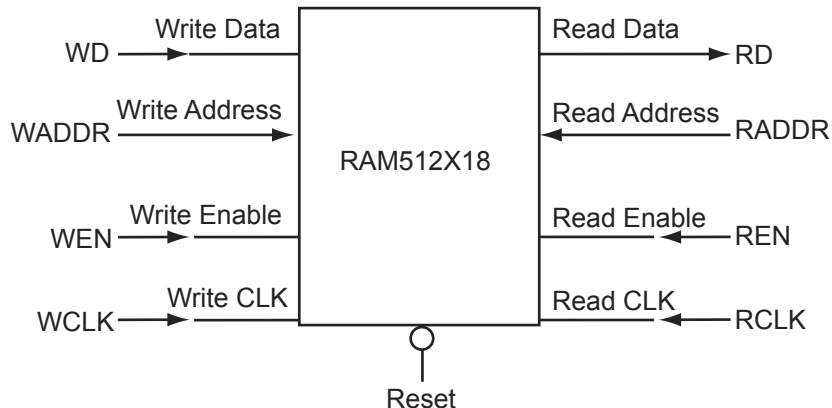
Stage 1 Output Clock Period

Stage 2 Output Clock Period

Figure 4-37 • **Model*Sim* Simulation Results**

Note: For timing diagrams of the RAM signals, refer to the appropriate family datasheet.

Figure 6-5 • 512X18 Two-Port RAM Block Diagram

Signal Descriptions for RAM512X18

RAM512X18 has slightly different behavior from RAM4K9, as it has dedicated read and write ports.

WW and RW

These signals enable the RAM to be configured in one of the two allowable aspect ratios (Table 6-5).

Table 6-5 • Aspect Ratio Settings for WW[1:0]

WW[1:0]	RW[1:0]	D×W
01	01	512×9
10	10	256×18
00, 11	00, 11	Reserved

WD and RD

These are the input and output data signals, and they are 18 bits wide. When a 512×9 aspect ratio is used for write, WD[17:9] are unused and must be grounded. If this aspect ratio is used for read, RD[17:9] are undefined.

WADDR and RADDR

These are read and write addresses, and they are nine bits wide. When the 256×18 aspect ratio is used for write or read, WADDR[8] and RADDR[8] are unused and must be grounded.

WCLK and RCLK

These signals are the write and read clocks, respectively. They can be clocked on the rising or falling edge of WCLK and RCLK.

WEN and REN

These signals are the write and read enables, respectively. They are both active-low by default. These signals can be configured as active-high.

RESET

This active-low signal resets the control logic, forces the output hold state registers to zero, disables reads and writes from the SRAM block, and clears the data hold registers when asserted. It does not reset the contents of the memory array.

While the RESET signal is active, read and write operations are disabled. As with any asynchronous reset signal, care must be taken not to assert it too close to the edges of active read and write clocks.

PIPE

This signal is used to specify pipelined read on the output. A LOW on PIPE indicates a nonpipelined read, and the data appears on the output in the same clock cycle. A HIGH indicates a pipelined read, and data appears on the output in the next clock cycle.

Low Power Flash Device I/O Support

The low power flash FPGAs listed in Table 8-1 support I/Os and the functions described in this document.

Table 8-1 • **Flash-Based FPGAs**

Series	Family*	Description
IGLOO	IGLOOe	Higher density IGLOO FPGAs with six PLLs and additional I/O standards
ProASIC3	ProASIC3E	Higher density ProASIC3 FPGAs with six PLLs and additional I/O standards
	ProASIC3L	ProASIC3 FPGAs supporting 1.2 V to 1.5 V with Flash*Freeze technology
	Military ProASIC3/EL	Military temperature A3PE600L, A3P1000, and A3PE3000L
	RT ProASIC3	Radiation-tolerant RT3PE600L and RT3PE3000L

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 8-1. 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 8-1. 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*.

Table 8-11 • **Hot-Swap Level 3**

Description	Hot-swap while bus idle
Power Applied to Device	Yes
Bus State	Held idle (no ongoing I/O processes during insertion/removal)
Card Ground Connection	Reset must be maintained for 1 ms before, during, and after insertion/removal.
Device Circuitry Connected to Bus Pins	Must remain glitch-free during power-up or power-down
Example Application	Board bus shared with card bus is "frozen," and there is no toggling activity on the bus. It is critical that the logic states set on the bus signal not be disturbed during card insertion/removal.
Compliance of IGLOO and ProASIC3 Devices	30 k gate devices, all IGLOOe/ProASIC3E devices: Compliant with two levels of staging (first: GND; second: all other pins) Other IGLOO/ProASIC3 devices: Compliant: Option A – Two levels of staging (first: GND; second: all other pins) together with bus switch on the I/Os Option B – Three levels of staging (first: GND; second: supplies; third: all other pins)

Table 8-12 • **Hot-Swap Level 4**

Description	Hot-swap on an active bus
Power Applied to Device	Yes
Bus State	Bus may have active I/O processes ongoing, but device being inserted or removed must be idle.
Card Ground Connection	Reset must be maintained for 1 ms before, during, and after insertion/removal.
Device Circuitry Connected to Bus Pins	Must remain glitch-free during power-up or power-down
Example Application	There is activity on the system bus, and it is critical that the logic states set on the bus signal not be disturbed during card insertion/removal.
Compliance of IGLOO and ProASIC3 Devices	30 k gate devices, all IGLOOe/ProASIC3E devices: Compliant with two levels of staging (first: GND; second: all other pins) Other IGLOO/ProASIC3 devices: Compliant: Option A – Two levels of staging (first: GND; second: all other pins) together with bus switch on the I/Os Option B – Three levels of staging (first: GND; second: supplies; third: all other pins)

Implementing I/Os in Microsemi Software

Microsemi Libero SoC software is integrated with design entry tools such as the SmartGen macro builder, the ViewDraw schematic entry tool, and an HDL editor. It is also integrated with the synthesis and Designer tools. In this section, all necessary steps to implement the I/Os are discussed.

Design Entry

There are three ways to implement I/Os in a design:

1. Use the SmartGen macro builder to configure I/Os by generating specific I/O library macros and then instantiating them in top-level code. This is especially useful when creating I/O bus structures.

2. Use an I/O buffer cell in a schematic design.

3. Manually instantiate specific I/O macros in the top-level code.

If technology-specific macros, such as INBUF_LVCMOS33 and OUTBUF_PCI, are used in the HDL code or schematic, the user will not be able to change the I/O standard later on in Designer. If generic I/O macros are used, such as INBUF, OUTBUF, TRIBUF, CLKBUF, and BIBUF, the user can change the I/O standard using the Designer I/O Attribute Editor tool.

Using SmartGen for I/O Configuration

The SmartGen tool in Libero SoC provides a GUI-based method of configuring the I/O attributes. The user can select certain I/O attributes while configuring the I/O macro in SmartGen. The steps to configure an I/O macro with specific I/O attributes are as follows:

1. Open Libero SoC.

2. On the left-hand side of the Catalog View, select **I/O**, as shown in Figure 9-2.

Figure 9-2 • **SmartGen Catalog**

STAPL vs. DirectC

Programming the low power flash devices is performed using DirectC or the STAPL player. Both tools use the STAPL file as an input. DirectC is a compiled language, whereas STAPL is an interpreted language. Microprocessors will be able to load the FPGA using DirectC much more quickly than STAPL. This speed advantage becomes more apparent when lower clock speeds of 8- or 16-bit microprocessors are used. DirectC also requires less memory than STAPL, since the programming algorithm is directly implemented. STAPL does have one advantage over DirectC—the ability to upgrade. When a new programming algorithm is required, the STAPL user simply needs to regenerate a STAPL file using the latest version of the Designer software and download it to the system. The DirectC user must download the latest version of DirectC from Microsemi, compile everything, and download the result into the system (Figure 15-4).

STAPL Flow

DirectC Flow

```
Generate the
New STAPL File          DirectC Source Code          Input STAPL File
        |                       |
        v                       v
Download to System       Microprocessor
                          Compiler
        |                       |
        v                       v
Program Device            BIN File
                                |
                                v
                          Download to System
                                |
                                v
                          Program Device
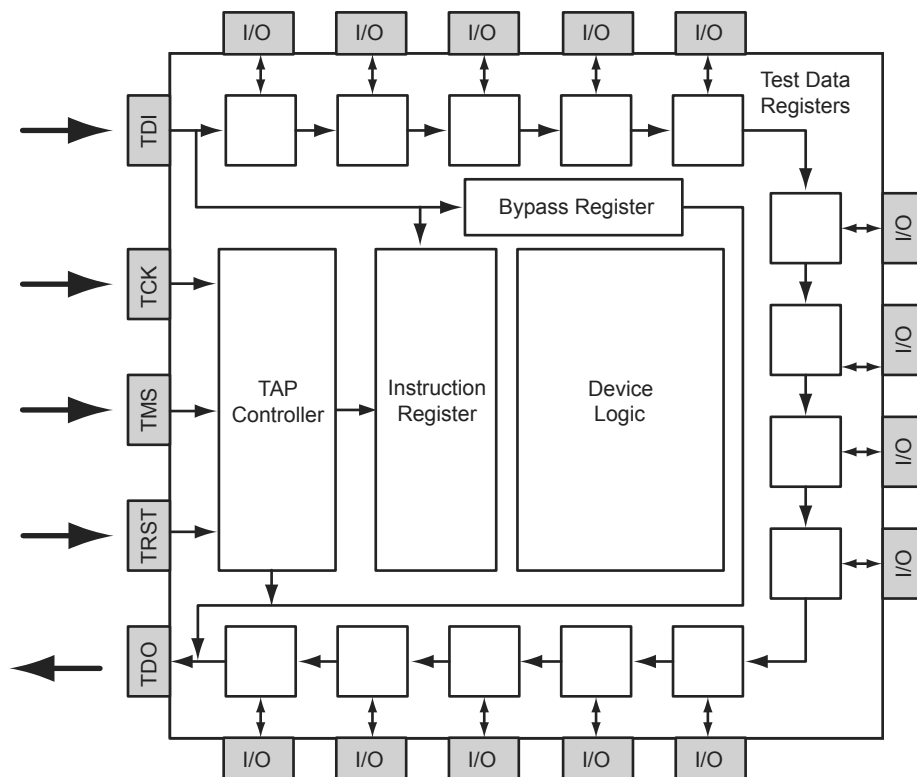```
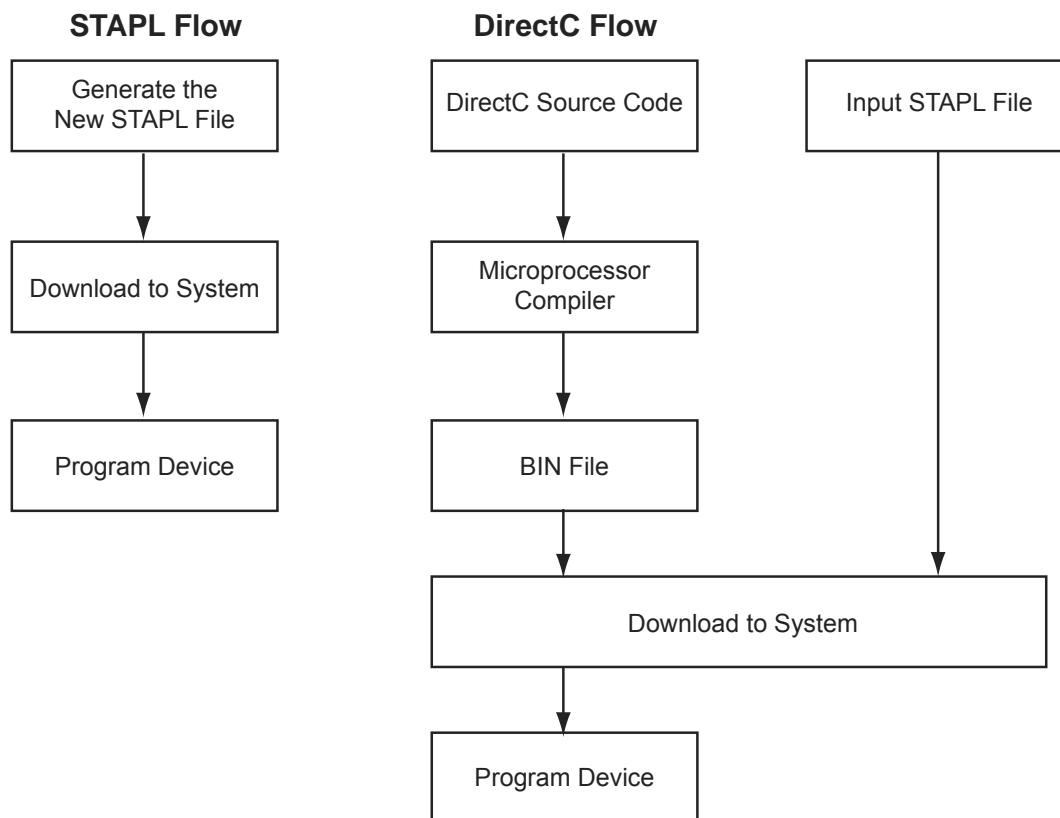
*Figure 15-4* • **STAPL vs. DirectC**

***Figure 16-2 •*** **Boundary Scan Chain**

# Board-Level Recommendations

Table 16-3 gives pull-down recommendations for the TRST and TCK pins.

***Table 16-3 •*** **TRST and TCK Pull-Down Recommendations**

| VJTAG | Tie-Off Resistance* |
|---|---|
| VJTAG at 3.3 V | 200 Ω to 1 kΩ |
| VJTAG at 2.5 V | 200 Ω to 1 kΩ |
| VJTAG at 1.8 V | 500 Ω to 1 kΩ |
| VJTAG at 1.5 V | 500 Ω to 1 kΩ |
| VJTAG at 1.2 V | TBD |

*Note: Equivalent parallel resistance if more than one device is on JTAG chain (Figure 16-3)*

# Conclusion

Microsemi low power flash FPGAs offer many unique advantages, such as security, nonvolatility, reprogrammablity, and low power—all in a single chip. In addition, Fusion, IGLOO, and ProASIC3 devices provide access to the JTAG port from core VersaTiles while the device is in normal operating mode. A wide range of available user-defined JTAG opcodes allows users to implement various types of applications, exploiting this feature of these devices. The connection between the JTAG port and core tiles is implemented through an embedded and hardwired UJTAG tile. A UJTAG tile can be instantiated in designs using the UJTAG library cell. This document presents multiple examples of UJTAG applications, such as dynamic reconfiguration, silicon test and debug, fine-tuning of the design, and RAM initialization. Each of these applications offers many useful advantages.

# Related Documents

## Application Notes

*RAM Initialization and ROM Emulation in ProASIC$^{PLUS}$ Devices*

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

# List of Changes

The following table lists critical changes that were made in each revision of the chapter.

| Date | Changes | Page |
|---|---|---|
| December 2011 | Information on the drive strength and slew rate of TDO pins was added to the "Silicon Testing and Debugging" section (SAR 31749). | 370 |
| July 2010 | This chapter is no longer published separately with its own part number and version but is now part of several FPGA fabric user's guides. | N/A |
| v1.4 (December 2008) | IGLOO nano and ProASIC3 nano devices were added to Table 17-1 • Flash-Based FPGAs. | 364 |
| v1.3 (October 2008) | The "UJTAG Support in Flash-Based Devices" section was revised to include new families and make the information more concise. | 364 |
| | The title of Table 17-3 • Configuration Bits of Fusion, IGLOO, and ProASIC3 CCC Blocks was revised to include Fusion. | 368 |
| v1.2 (June 2008) | The following changes were made to the family descriptions in Table 17-1 • Flash-Based FPGAs:<br>• ProASIC3L was updated to include 1.5 V.<br>• The number of PLLs for ProASIC3E was changed from five to six. | 364 |
| v1.1 (March 2008) | The chapter was updated to include the IGLOO PLUS family and information regarding 15 k gate devices. | N/A |
| | The "IGLOO Terminology" section and "ProASIC3 Terminology" section are new. | 364 |

# Microsemi

# 18 – Power-Up/-Down Behavior of Low Power Flash Devices

## Introduction

Microsemi's low power flash devices are flash-based FPGAs manufactured on a 0.13 µm process node. These devices offer a single-chip, reprogrammable solution and support Level 0 live at power-up (LAPU) due to their nonvolatile architecture.

Microsemi's low power flash FPGA families are optimized for logic area, I/O features, and performance. IGLOO® devices are optimized for power, making them the industry's lowest power programmable solution. IGLOO PLUS FPGAs offer enhanced I/O features beyond those of the IGLOO ultra-low power solution for I/O-intensive low power applications. IGLOO nano devices are the industry's lowest-power cost-effective solution. ProASIC3®L FPGAs balance low power with high performance. The ProASIC3 family is Microsemi's high-performance flash FPGA solution. ProASIC3 nano devices offer the lowest-cost solution with enhanced I/O capabilities.

Microsemi's low power flash devices exhibit very low transient current on each power supply during power-up. The peak value of the transient current depends on the device size, temperature, voltage levels, and power-up sequence.

The following devices can have inputs driven in while the device is not powered:

- IGLOO (AGL015 and AGL030)
- IGLOO nano (all devices)
- IGLOO PLUS (AGLP030, AGLP060, AGLP125)
- IGLOOe (AGLE600, AGLE3000)
- ProASIC3L (A3PE3000L)
- ProASIC3 (A3P015, A3P030)
- ProASIC3 nano (all devices)
- ProASIC3E (A3PE600, A3PE1500, A3PE3000)
- Military ProASIC3EL (A3PE600L, A3PE3000L, but not A3P1000)
- RT ProASIC3 (RT3PE600L, RT3PE3000L)

The driven I/Os do not pull up power planes, and the current draw is limited to very small leakage current, making them suitable for applications that require cold-sparing. These devices are hot-swappable, meaning they can be inserted in a live power system.[1]

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1. For more details on the levels of hot-swap compatibility in Microsemi's low power flash devices, refer to the "Hot-Swap Support" section in the I/O Structures chapter of the FPGA fabric user's guide for the device you are using.

# Power-Up/-Down Sequence and Transient Current

Microsemi's low power flash devices use the following main voltage pins during normal operation:[2]

- VCCPLX
- VJTAG
- VCC: Voltage supply to the FPGA core
    - VCC is 1.5 V ± 0.075 V for IGLOO, IGLOO nano, IGLOO PLUS, and ProASIC3 devices operating at 1.5 V.
    - VCC is 1.2 V ± 0.06 V for IGLOO, IGLOO nano, IGLOO PLUS, and ProASIC3L devices operating at 1.2 V.
    - V5 devices will require a 1.5 V VCC supply, whereas V2 devices can utilize either a 1.2 V or 1.5 V VCC.
- VCCIBx: Supply voltage to the bank's I/O output buffers and I/O logic. Bx is the I/O bank number.
- VMVx: Quiet supply voltage to the input buffers of each I/O bank. x is the bank number. (Note: IGLOO nano, IGLOO PLUS, and ProASIC3 nano devices do not have VMVx supply pins.)

The I/O bank VMV pin must be tied to the VCCI pin within the same bank. Therefore, the supplies that need to be powered up/down during normal operation are VCC and VCCI. These power supplies can be powered up/down in any sequence during normal operation of IGLOO, IGLOO nano, IGLOO PLUS, ProASIC3L, ProASIC3, and ProASIC3 nano FPGAs. During power-up, I/Os in each bank will remain tristated until the last supply (either VCCIBx or VCC) reaches its functional activation voltage. Similarly, during power-down, I/Os of each bank are tristated once the first supply reaches its brownout deactivation voltage.

Although Microsemi's low power flash devices have no power-up or power-down sequencing requirements, Microsemi identifies the following power conditions that will result in higher than normal transient current. Use this information to help maximize power savings:

Microsemi recommends tying VCCPLX to VCC and using proper filtering circuits to decouple VCC noise from the PLL.

a. If VCCPLX is powered up before VCC, a static current of up to 5 mA (typical) per PLL may be measured on VCCPLX.

The current vanishes as soon as VCC reaches the VCCPLX voltage level.

The same current is observed at power-down (VCC before VCCPLX).

b. If VCCPLX is powered up simultaneously or after VCC:

i. Microsemi's low power flash devices exhibit very low transient current on VCC. For ProASIC3 devices, the maximum transient current on $V_{CC}$ does not exceed the maximum standby current specified in the device datasheet.

The source of transient current, also known as inrush current, varies depending on the FPGA technology. Due to their volatile technology, the internal registers in SRAM FPGAs must be initialized before configuration can start. This initialization is the source of significant inrush current in SRAM FPGAs during power-up. Due to the nonvolatile nature of flash technology, low power flash devices do not require any initialization at power-up, and there is very little or no crossbar current through PMOS and NMOS devices. Therefore, the transient current at power-up is significantly less than for SRAM FPGAs. Figure 18-1 on page 376 illustrates the types of power consumption by SRAM FPGAs compared to Microsemi's antifuse and flash FPGAs.

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2. *For more information on Microsemi FPGA voltage supplies, refer to the appropriate datasheet located at http://www.microsemi.com/soc/techdocs/ds.*

# Microsemi

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