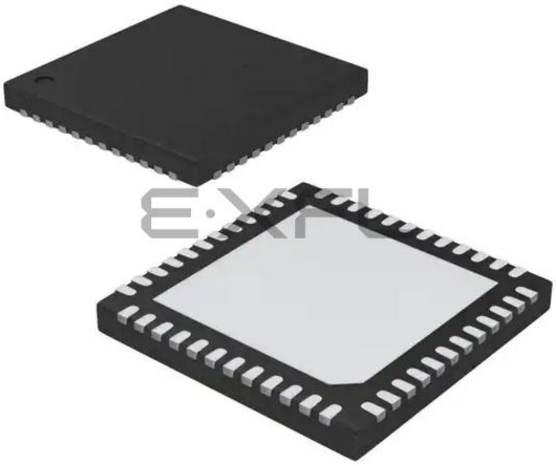


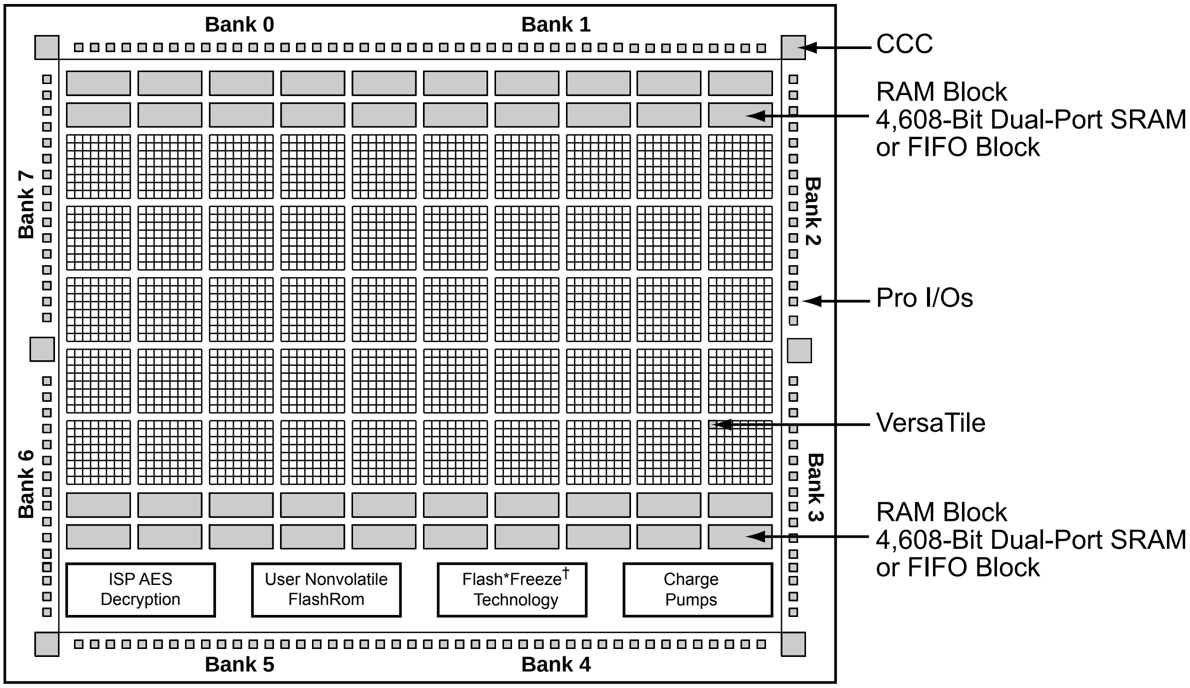
Understanding Embedded - FPGAs (Field Programmable Gate Array)

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	Active
Number of LABs/CLBs	-
Number of Logic Elements/Cells	-
Total RAM Bits	-
Number of I/O	34
Number of Gates	10000
Voltage - Supply	1.425V ~ 1.575V
Mounting Type	Surface Mount
Operating Temperature	-40°C ~ 100°C (TJ)
Package / Case	48-VFQFN Exposed Pad
Supplier Device Package	48-QFN (6x6)
Purchase URL	https://www.e-xfl.com/product-detail/microchip-technology/a3pn010-qng48i



*Note: Flash*Freeze technology only applies to IGLOOe devices.*

Figure 1-7 • **IGLOOe and ProASIC3E Device Architecture Overview (AGLE600 device is shown)**

I/O State of Newly Shipped Devices

Devices are shipped from the factory with a test design in the device. The power-on switch for VCC is OFF by default in this test design, so I/Os are tristated by default. Tristated means the I/O is not actively driven and floats. The exact value cannot be guaranteed when it is floating. Even in simulation software, a tristate value is marked as unknown. Due to process variations and shifts, tristated I/Os may float toward High or Low, depending on the particular device and leakage level.

If there is concern regarding the exact state of unused I/Os, weak pull-up/pull-down should be added to the floating I/Os so their state is controlled and stabilized.

Routing Architecture

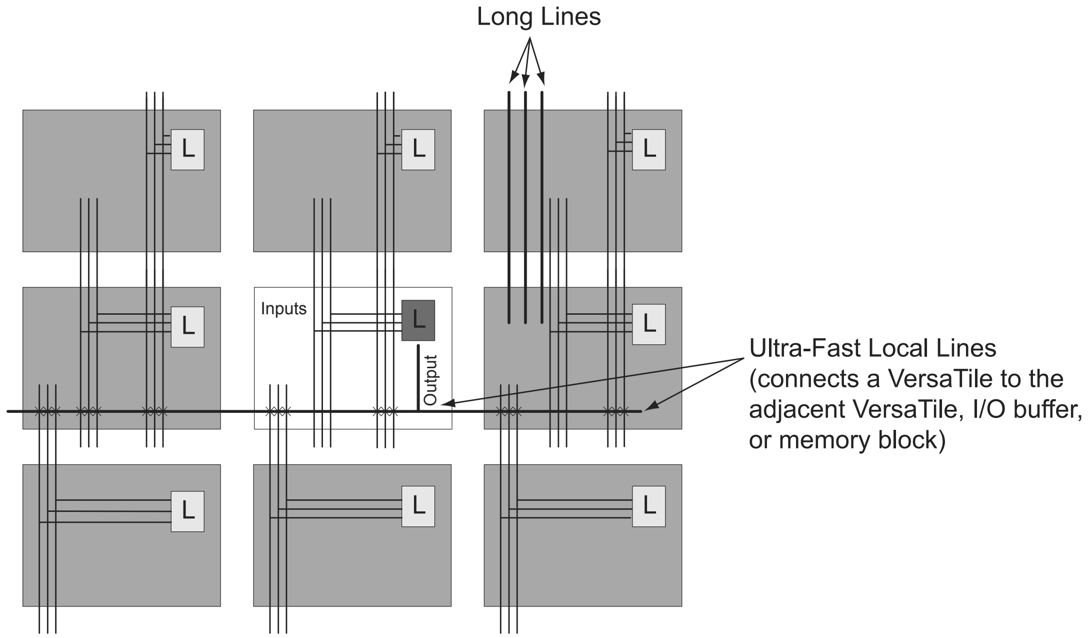
The routing structure of low power flash devices is designed to provide high performance through a flexible four-level hierarchy of routing resources: ultra-fast local resources; efficient long-line resources; high-speed, very-long-line resources; and the high-performance VersaNet networks.

The ultra-fast local resources are dedicated lines that allow the output of each VersaTile to connect directly to every input of the eight surrounding VersaTiles (Figure 1-10). The exception to this is that the SET/CLR input of a VersaTile configured as a D-flip-flop is driven only by the VersaTile global network.

The efficient long-line resources provide routing for longer distances and higher-fanout connections. These resources vary in length (spanning one, two, or four VersaTiles), run both vertically and horizontally, and cover the entire device (Figure 1-11 on page 19). Each VersaTile can drive signals onto the efficient long-line resources, which can access every input of every VersaTile. Routing software automatically inserts active buffers to limit loading effects.

The high-speed, very-long-line resources, which span the entire device with minimal delay, are used to route very long or high-fanout nets: length ±12 VersaTiles in the vertical direction and length ±16 in the horizontal direction from a given core VersaTile (Figure 1-12 on page 19). Very long lines in low power flash devices have been enhanced over those in previous ProASIC families. This provides a significant performance boost for long-reach signals.

The high-performance VersaNet global networks are low-skew, high-fanout nets that are accessible from external pins or internal logic. These nets are typically used to distribute clocks, resets, and other high-fanout nets requiring minimum skew. The VersaNet networks are implemented as clock trees, and signals can be introduced at any junction. These can be employed hierarchically, with signals accessing every input of every VersaTile. For more details on VersaNets, refer to the "Global Resources in Low Power Flash Devices" section on page 31.



Note: Input to the core cell for the D-flip-flop set and reset is only available via the VersaNet global network connection.

Figure 1-10 **• Ultra-Fast Local Lines Connected to the Eight Nearest Neighbors**

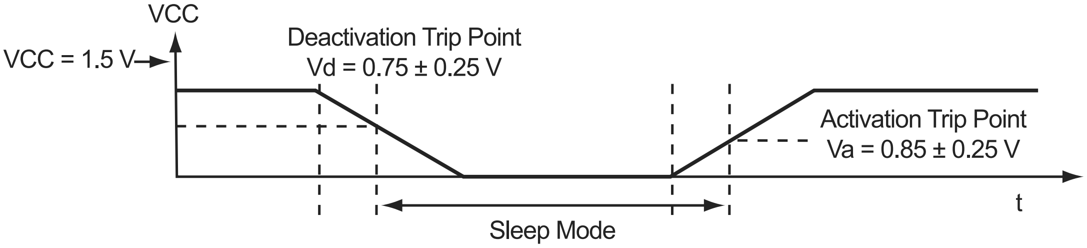


Figure 2-5 **• Entering and Exiting Sleep Mode—Typical Timing Diagram**

Shutdown Mode

For all ProASIC3/E and ProASIC3 nano devices, shutdown mode can be entered by turning off all power supplies when device functionality is not needed. Cold-sparing and hot-insertion features in ProASIC3 nano devices enable the device to be powered down without turning off the entire system. When power returns, the live at power-up feature enables immediate operation of the device.

Using Sleep Mode or Shutdown Mode in the System

Depending on the power supply and components used in an application, there are many ways to turn the power supplies connected to the device on or off. For example, Figure 2-6 shows how a microprocessor is used to control a power FET. It is recommended that power FETs with low on resistance be used to perform the switching action.

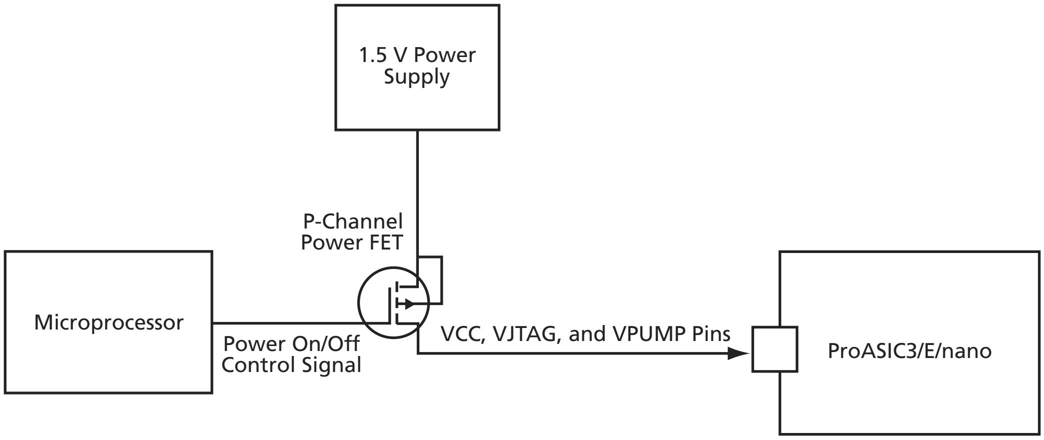


Figure 2-6 **• Controlling Power On/Off State Using Microprocessor and Power FET**

Alternatively, Figure 2-7 shows how a microprocessor can be used with a voltage regulator's shutdown pin to turn the power supplies connected to the device on or off.

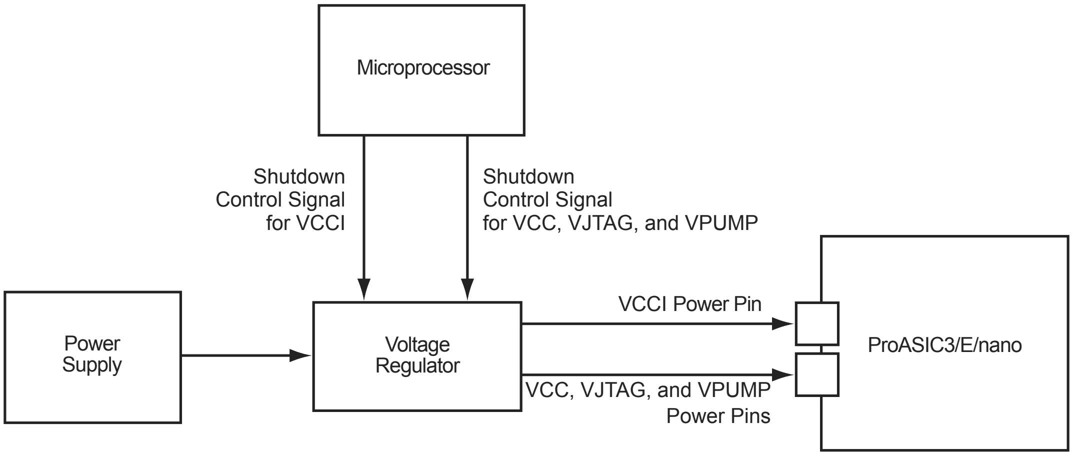


Figure 2-7 • **Controlling Power On/Off State Using Microprocessor and Voltage Regulator**

Though Sleep mode or Shutdown mode can be used to save power, the content of the SRAM and the state of the registers is lost when power is turned off if no other measure is taken. To keep the original contents of the device, a low-cost external serial EEPROM can be used to save and restore the device contents when entering and exiting Sleep mode. In the *Embedded SRAM Initialization Using External Serial EEPROM* application note, detailed information and a reference design are provided to initialize the embedded SRAM using an external serial EEPROM. The user can easily customize the reference design to save and restore the FPGA state when entering and exiting Sleep mode. The microcontroller will need to manage this activity, so before powering down VCC, the data must be read from the FPGA and stored externally. Similarly, after the FPGA is powered up, the microcontroller must allow the FPGA to load the data from external memory and restore its original state.

Conclusion

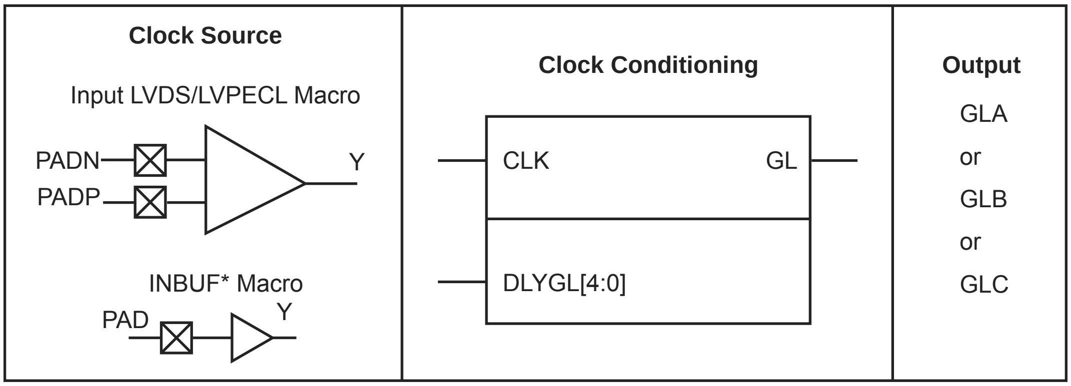
Microsemi ProASIC3/E and ProASIC3 nano FPGAs inherit low power consumption capability from their nonvolatile and live-at-power-up flash-based technology. Power consumption can be reduced further using the Static (Idle), User Low Static (Idle), Sleep, or Shutdown power modes. All these features result in a low-power, cost-effective, single-chip solution designed specifically for power-sensitive electronics applications.

Related Documents

Application Notes

Embedded SRAM Initialization Using External Serial EEPROM

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



Notes:

1. *For INBUF* driving a PLL macro or CLKDLY macro, the I/O will be hard-routed to the CCC; i.e., will be placed by software to a dedicated Global I/O.*
2. *IGLOO nano and ProASIC3 nano devices do not support differential inputs.*

***Figure 4-3* • CCC Options: Global Buffers with Programmable Delay**

The CLKDLY macro is a pass-through clock source that does not use the PLL, but provides the ability to delay the clock input using a programmable delay. The CLKDLY macro takes the selected clock input and adds a user-defined delay element. This macro generates an output clock phase shift from the input clock.

The CLKDLY macro can be driven by an INBUF* macro to create a composite macro, where the I/O macro drives the global buffer (with programmable delay) using a hardwired connection. In this case, the software will automatically place the dedicated global I/O in the appropriate locations. Many specific INBUF macros support the wide variety of single-ended and differential I/O standards supported by the low power flash family. The available INBUF macros are described in the *IGLOO, ProASIC3, SmartFusion, and Fusion Macro Library Guide.*

The CLKDLY macro can be driven directly from the FPGA core. The CLKDLY macro can also be driven from an I/O that is routed through the FPGA regular routing fabric. In this case, users must instantiate a special macro, PLLINT, to differentiate the clock input driven by the hardwired I/O connection.

The visual CLKDLY configuration in the SmartGen area of the Microsemi Libero System-on-Chip (SoC) and Designer tools allows the user to select the desired amount of delay and configures the delay elements appropriately. SmartGen also allows the user to select the input clock source. SmartGen will automatically instantiate the special macro, PLLINT, when needed.

CLKDLY Macro Signal Descriptions

The CLKDLY macro supports one input and one output. Each signal is described in Table 4-2.

***Table 4-2* • Input and Output Description of the CLKDLY Macro**

Signal	Name	I/O	Description
CLK	Reference Clock	Input	Reference clock input
GL	Global Output	Output	Primary output clock to respective global/quadrant clock networks

IGLOOe and ProASIC3E CCC Locations

IGLOOe and ProASIC3E devices have six CCCs—one in each of the four corners and one each in the middle of the east and west sides of the device (Figure 4-15).

All six CCCs are integrated with PLLs, except in PQFP-208 package devices. PQFP-208 package devices also have six CCCs, of which two include PLLs and four are simplified CCCs. The CCCs with PLLs are implemented in the middle of the east and west sides of the device (middle right and middle left). The simplified CCCs without PLLs are located in the four corners of the device (Figure 4-16).

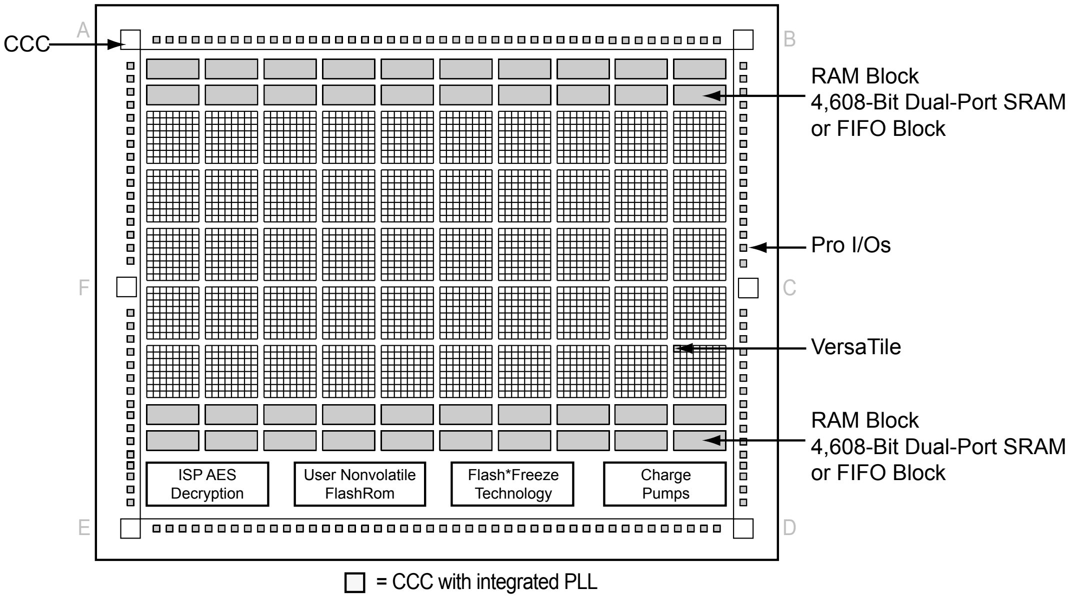


Figure 4-15 • **CCC Locations in IGLOOe and ProASIC3E Family Devices (except PQFP-208 package)**

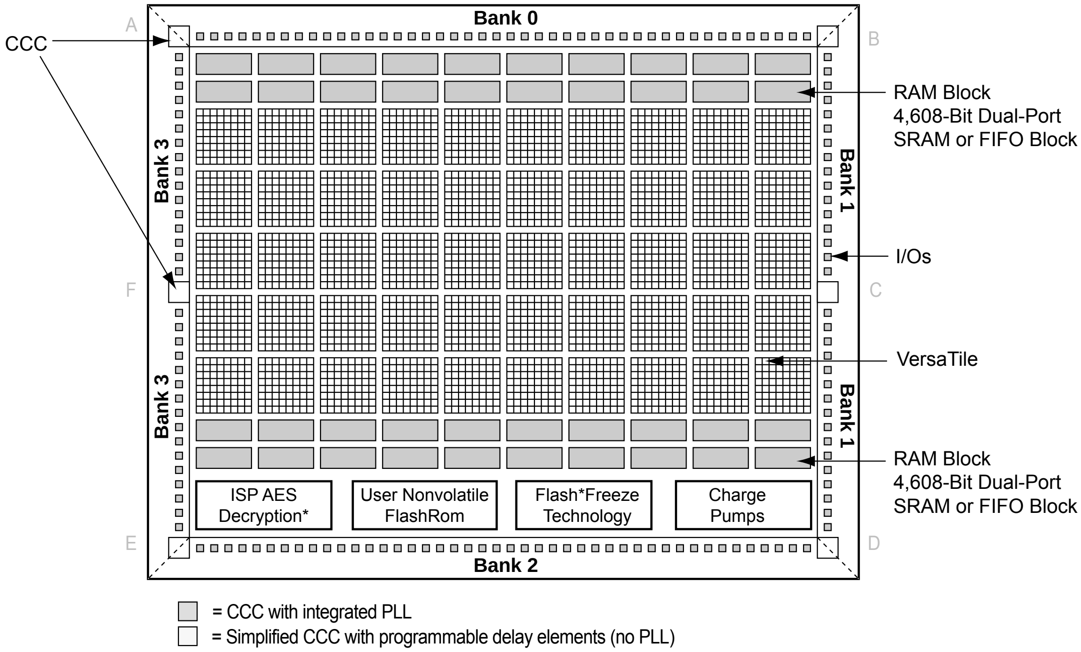


Figure 4-16 • **CCC Locations in ProASIC3E Family Devices (PQFP-208 package)**

difference will cause the VCO to increase its frequency until the output signal is phase-identical to the input after undergoing division. In other words, lock in both frequency and phase is achieved when the output frequency is M times the input. Thus, clock division in the feedback path results in multiplication at the output.

A similar argument can be made when the delay element is inserted into the feedback path. To achieve steady-state lock, the VCO output signal will be delayed by the input period *less* the feedback delay. For periodic signals, this is equivalent to time-advancing the output clock by the feedback delay.

Another key parameter of a PLL system is the acquisition time. Acquisition time is the amount of time it takes for the PLL to achieve lock (i.e., phase-align the feedback signal with the input reference clock). For example, suppose there is no voltage applied to the VCO, allowing it to operate at its free-running frequency. Should an input reference clock suddenly appear, a lock would be established within the maximum acquisition time.

Functional Description

This section provides detailed descriptions of PLL block functionality: clock dividers and multipliers, clock delay adjustment, phase adjustment, and dynamic PLL configuration.

Clock Dividers and Multipliers

The PLL block contains five programmable dividers. Figure 4-20 shows a simplified PLL block.

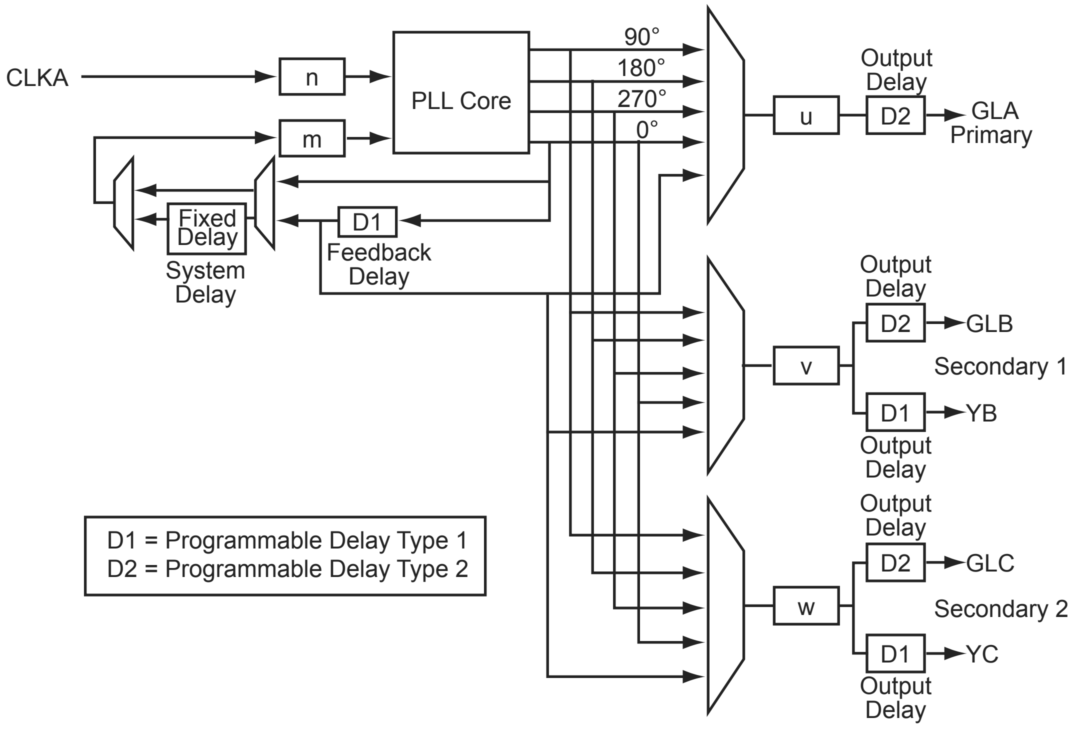


Figure 4-20 • **PLL Block Diagram**

When SmartGen is used to define the configuration that will be shifted in via the serial interface, SmartGen prints out the values of the 81 configuration bits. For ease of use, several configuration bits are automatically inferred by SmartGen when the dynamic PLL core is generated; however, <71:73> (STATASEL, STATBSEL, STATCSEL) and <77:79> (DYNASEL, DYNBSEL, DYNCSEL) depend on the input clock source of the corresponding CCC. Users must first run Layout in Designer to determine the exact setting for these ports. After Layout is complete, generate the "CCC_Configuration" report by choosing **Tools** > **Reports** > **CCC_Configuration** in the Designer software. Refer to "PLL Configuration Bits Description" on page 90 for descriptions of the PLL configuration bits. For simulation purposes, bits <71:73> and <78:80> are "don't care." Therefore, it is strongly suggested that SmartGen be used to generate the correct configuration bit settings for the dynamic PLL core.

After setting all the required parameters, users can generate one or more PLL configurations with HDL or EDIF descriptions by clicking the **Generate** button. SmartGen gives the option of saving session results and messages in a log file:

```
****************
Macro Parameters
****************

Name                            : dyn_pll_hardio
Family                          : ProASIC3E
Output Format                   : VERILOG
Type                            : Dynamic CCC
Input Freq(MHz)                 : 30.000
CLKA Source                     : Hardwired I/O
Feedback Delay Value Index      : 1
Feedback Mux Select             : 1
XDLY Mux Select                 : No
Primary Freq(MHz)               : 33.000
Primary PhaseShift              : 0
Primary Delay Value Index       : 1
Primary Mux Select              : 4
Secondary1 Freq(MHz)            : 40.000
Use GLB                         : YES
Use YB                          : NO
GLB Delay Value Index           : 1
YB Delay Value Index            : 1
Secondary1 PhaseShift           : 0
Secondary1 Mux Select           : 0
Secondary1 Input Freq(MHz)      : 40.000
CLKB Source                     : Hardwired I/O
Secondary2 Freq(MHz)            : 50.000
Use GLC                         : YES
Use YC                          : NO
GLC Delay Value Index           : 1
YC Delay Value Index            : 1
Secondary2 PhaseShift           : 0
Secondary2 Mux Select           : 0
Secondary2 Input Freq(MHz)      : 50.000
CLKC Source                     : Hardwired I/O

Configuration Bits:
FINDIV[6:0]     0000101
FBDIV[6:0]      0100000
OADIV[4:0]      00100
OBDIV[4:0]      00000
OCDIV[4:0]      00000
OAMUX[2:0]      100
OBMUX[2:0]      000
OCMUX[2:0]      000
FBSEL[1:0]      01
FBDLY[4:0]      00000
XDLYSEL         0
DLYGLA[4:0]     00000
DLYGLB[4:0]     00000
```

Refer to Table 7-10 on page 169 for more information about the slew rate and drive strength specification for LVTTL/LVCMOS 3.3 V, LVCMOS 2.5 V, LVCMOS 1.8 V, LVCMOS 1.5 V, and LVCMOS 1.2 V output buffers.

Table 7-14 **• nano Output Drive and Slew**

I/O Standards	2 mA	4 mA	6 mA	8 mA	Slew	
LVTTL / LVCMOS 3.3 V	✓	✓	✓	✓	High	Low
LVCMOS 2.5 V	✓	✓	✓	✓	High	Low
LVCMOS 1.8 V	✓	✓	–	–	High	Low
LVCMOS 1.5 V	✓	–	–	–	High	Low
LVCMOS 1.2 V	✓	–	–	–	High	Low

Simultaneously Switching Outputs (SSOs) and Printed Circuit Board Layout

Each I/O voltage bank has a separate ground and power plane for input and output circuits. This isolation is necessary to minimize simultaneous switching noise from the input and output (SSI and SSO). The switching noise (ground bounce and power bounce) is generated by the output buffers and transferred into input buffer circuits, and vice versa.

SSOs can cause signal integrity problems on adjacent signals that are not part of the SSO bus. Both inductive and capacitive coupling parasitics of bond wires inside packages and of traces on PCBs will transfer noise from SSO busses onto signals adjacent to those busses. Additionally, SSOs can produce ground bounce noise and VCCI dip noise. These two noise types are caused by rapidly changing currents through GND and VCCI package pin inductances during switching activities (EQ 1 and EQ 2).

$$\text{Ground bounce noise voltage} = L(\text{GND}) \times di/dt \tag{EQ 1}$$

$$\text{VCCI dip noise voltage} = L(\text{VCCI}) \times di/dt \tag{EQ 2}$$

Any group of four or more input pins switching on the same clock edge is considered an SSO bus. The shielding should be done both on the board and inside the package unless otherwise described.

In-package shielding can be achieved in several ways; the required shielding will vary depending on whether pins next to the SSO bus are LVTTL/LVCMOS inputs or LVTTL/LVCMOS outputs. Board traces in the vicinity of the SSO bus have to be adequately shielded from mutual coupling and inductive noise that can be generated by the SSO bus. Also, noise generated by the SSO bus needs to be reduced inside the package.

PCBs perform an important function in feeding stable supply voltages to the IC and, at the same time, maintaining signal integrity between devices.

Key issues that need to be considered are as follows:

- Power and ground plane design and decoupling network design
- Transmission line reflections and terminations

For extensive data per package on the SSO and PCB issues, refer to the "ProASIC3/E SSO and Pin Placement and Guidelines" chapter of the *ProASIC3 Device Family User's Guide*.

Instantiating in HDL code

All the supported I/O macros can be instantiated in the top-level HDL code (refer to the *IGLOO, ProASIC3, SmartFusion, and Fusion Macro Library Guide* for a detailed list of all I/O macros). The following is an example:

```
library ieee;
use ieee.std_logic_1164.all;
library proasic3e;

entity TOP is
  port(IN2, IN1 : in std_logic; OUT1 : out std_logic);
end TOP;

architecture DEF_ARCH of TOP is

  component INBUF_LVCMOS5U
    port(PAD : in std_logic := 'U'; Y : out std_logic);
  end component;

  component INBUF_LVCMOS5
    port(PAD : in std_logic := 'U'; Y : out std_logic);
  end component;

  component OUTBUF_SSTL3_II
    port(D : in std_logic := 'U'; PAD : out std_logic);
  end component;

  Other component …..

signal x, y, z…….other signals : std_logic;

begin

  I1 : INBUF_LVCMOS5U
    port map(PAD => IN1, Y =>x);
  I2 : INBUF_LVCMOS5
    port map(PAD => IN2, Y => y);
  I3 : OUTBUF_SSTL3_II
    port map(D => z, PAD => OUT1);

  other port mapping…

end DEF_ARCH;
```

Synthesizing the Design

Libero SoC integrates with the Synplify® synthesis tool. Other synthesis tools can also be used with Libero SoC. Refer to the *Libero SoC User's Guide* or Libero online help for details on how to set up the Libero tool profile with synthesis tools from other vendors.

During synthesis, the following rules apply:

- Generic macros:
  - Users can instantiate generic INBUF, OUTBUF, TRIBUF, and BIBUF macros.
  - Synthesis will automatically infer generic I/O macros.
  - The default I/O technology for these macros is LVTTL.
  - Users will need to use the I/O Attribute Editor in Designer to change the default I/O standard if needed (see Figure 8-6 on page 193).
- Technology-specific I/O macros:
  - Technology-specific I/O macros, such as INBUF_LVCMO25 and OUTBUF_GTL25, can be instantiated in the design. Synthesis will infer these I/O macros in the netlist.

```
module ddr_test(DIN, CLK, CLR, DOUT);

input  DIN, CLK, CLR;
output DOUT;

  Inbuf_ddr Inbuf_ddr (.PAD(DIN), .CLR(clr), .CLK(clk), .QR(qr), .QF(qf));
  Outbuf_ddr Outbuf_ddr (.DataR(qr),.DataF(qf), .CLR(clr), .CLK(clk),.PAD(DOUT));

  INBUF INBUF_CLR (.PAD(CLR), .Y(clr));
  INBUF INBUF_CLK (.PAD(CLK), .Y(clk));

endmodule
```

Simulation Consideration

Microsemi DDR simulation models use inertial delay modeling by default (versus transport delay modeling). As such, pulses that are shorter than the actual gate delays should be avoided, as they will not be seen by the simulator and may be an issue in post-routed simulations. The user must be aware of the default delay modeling and must set the correct delay model in the simulator as needed.

Conclusion

Fusion, IGLOO, and ProASIC3 devices support a wide range of DDR applications with different I/O standards and include built-in DDR macros. The powerful capabilities provided by SmartGen and its GUI can simplify the process of including DDR macros in designs and minimize design errors. Additional considerations should be taken into account by the designer in design floorplanning and placement of I/O flip-flops to minimize datapath skew and to help improve system timing margins. Other system-related issues to consider include PLL and clock partitioning.

General Flash Programming Information

Programming Basics

When choosing a programming solution, there are a number of options available. This section provides a brief overview of those options. The next sections provide more detail on those options as they apply to Microsemi FPGAs.

Reprogrammable or One-Time-Programmable (OTP)

Depending on the technology chosen, devices may be reprogrammable or one-time-programmable. As the name implies, a reprogrammable device can be programmed many times. Generally, the contents of such a device will be completely overwritten when it is reprogrammed. All Microsemi flash devices are reprogrammable.

An OTP device is programmable one time only. Once programmed, no more changes can be made to the contents. Microsemi flash devices provide the option of disabling the reprogrammability for security purposes. This combines the convenience of reprogrammability during design verification with the security of an OTP technology for highly sensitive designs.

Device Programmer or In-System Programming

There are two fundamental ways to program an FPGA: using a device programmer or, if the technology permits, using in-system programming. A device programmer is a piece of equipment in a lab or on the production floor that is used for programming FPGA devices. The devices are placed into a socket mounted in a programming adapter module, and the appropriate electrical interface is applied. The programmed device can then be placed on the board. A typical programmer, used during development, programs a single device at a time and is referred to as a single-site engineering programmer.

With ISP, the device is already mounted onto the system printed circuit board when programming occurs. Typically, ISD programming is performed via a JTAG interface on the FPGA. The JTAG pins can be controlled either by an on-board resource, such as a microprocessor, or by an off-board programmer through a header connection. Once mounted, it can be programmed repeatedly and erased. If the application requires it, the system can be designed to reprogram itself using a microprocessor, without the use of any external programmer.

If multiple devices need to be programmed with the same program, various multi-site programming hardware is available in order to program many devices in parallel. Microsemi In House Programming is also available for this purpose.

Programming Features for Microsemi Devices

Flash Devices

The flash devices supplied by Microsemi are reprogrammable by either a generic device programmer or ISP. Microsemi supports ISP using JTAG, which is supported by the FlashPro4 and FlashPro3, FlashPro Lite, Silicon Sculptor 3, and Silicon Sculptor II programmers.

Levels of ISP support vary depending on the device chosen:

- All SmartFusion, Fusion, IGLOO, and ProASIC3 devices support ISP.
- IGLOO, IGLOOe, IGLOO nano V5, and IGLOO PLUS devices can be programmed in-system when the device is using a 1.5 V supply voltage to the FPGA core.
- IGLOO nano V2 devices can be programmed at 1.2 V core voltage (when using FlashPro4 only) or 1.5 V. IGLOO nano V5 devices are programmed with a VCC core voltage of 1.5 V.

Note: *The settings in this figure are used to show the generation of an AES-encrypted programming file for the FPGA array, FlashROM, and FB contents. One or all locations may be selected for encryption.*

***Figure 11-17* • Settings to Program a Device Secured with FlashLock and using AES Encryption**

Choose the **High** security level to reprogram devices using both the FlashLock Pass Key and AES key protection (Figure 11-18 on page 255). Enter the AES key and click **Next**.

A device that has already been secured with FlashLock and has an AES key loaded must recognize the AES key to program the device and generate a valid bitstream in authentication. The FlashLock Key is only required to unlock the device and change the security settings.

This is what makes it possible to program in an untrusted environment. The AES key is protected inside the device by the FlashLock Key, so you can only program if you have the correct AES key. In fact, the AES key is not in the programming file either. It is the key used to encrypt the data in the file. The same key previously programmed with the FlashLock Key matches to decrypt the file.

An AES-encrypted file programmed to a device without FlashLock would not be secure, since without FlashLock to protect the AES key, someone could simply reprogram the AES key first, then program with any AES key desired or no AES key at all. This option is therefore not available in the software.

Programming File Header Definition

In each STAPL programming file generated, there will be information about how the AES key and FlashLock Pass Key are configured. Table 11-8 shows the header definitions in STAPL programming files for different security levels.

***Table 11-8* • STAPL Programming File Header Definitions by Security Level**

Security Level	STAPL File Header Definition
No security (no FlashLock Pass Key or AES key)	`NOTE "SECURITY" "Disable";`
FlashLock Pass Key with no AES key	`NOTE "SECURITY" "KEYED ";`
FlashLock Pass Key with AES key	`NOTE "SECURITY" "KEYED ENCRYPT ";`
Permanent Security Settings option enabled	`NOTE "SECURITY" "PERMLOCK ENCRYPT ";`
AES-encrypted FPGA array (for programming updates)	`NOTE "SECURITY" "ENCRYPT CORE ";`
AES-encrypted FlashROM (for programming updates)	`NOTE "SECURITY" "ENCRYPT FROM ";`
AES-encrypted FPGA array and FlashROM (for programming updates)	`NOTE "SECURITY" "ENCRYPT FROM CORE ";`

Example File Headers

STAPL Files Generated with FlashLock Key and AES Key Containing Key Information

- FlashLock Key / AES key indicated in STAPL file header definition
- Intended ONLY for secured/trusted environment programming applications

```
=============================================
NOTE "CREATOR" "Designer Version: 6.1.1.108";
NOTE "DEVICE" "A3PE600";
NOTE "PACKAGE" "208 PQFP";
NOTE "DATE" "2005/04/08";
NOTE "STAPL_VERSION" "JESD71";
NOTE "IDCODE" "$123261CF";
NOTE "DESIGN" "counter32";
NOTE "CHECKSUM" "$EDB9";
NOTE "SAVE_DATA" "FRomStream";
NOTE "SECURITY" "KEYED ENCRYPT ";
NOTE "ALG_VERSION" "1";
NOTE "MAX_FREQ" "20000000";
NOTE "SILSIG" "$00000000";
NOTE "PASS_KEY" "$00123456789012345678901234567890";
NOTE "AES_KEY" "$ABCDEFABCDEFABCDEFABCDEFABCDEFAB";
==============================================
```

3. A single STAPL file or multiple STAPL files with multiple FlashROM contents. A single STAPL file will be generated if the device serialization feature is not used. You can program the whole FlashROM or selectively program individual pages.
4. A single STAPL file to configure the security settings for the device, such as the AES Key and/or Pass Key.

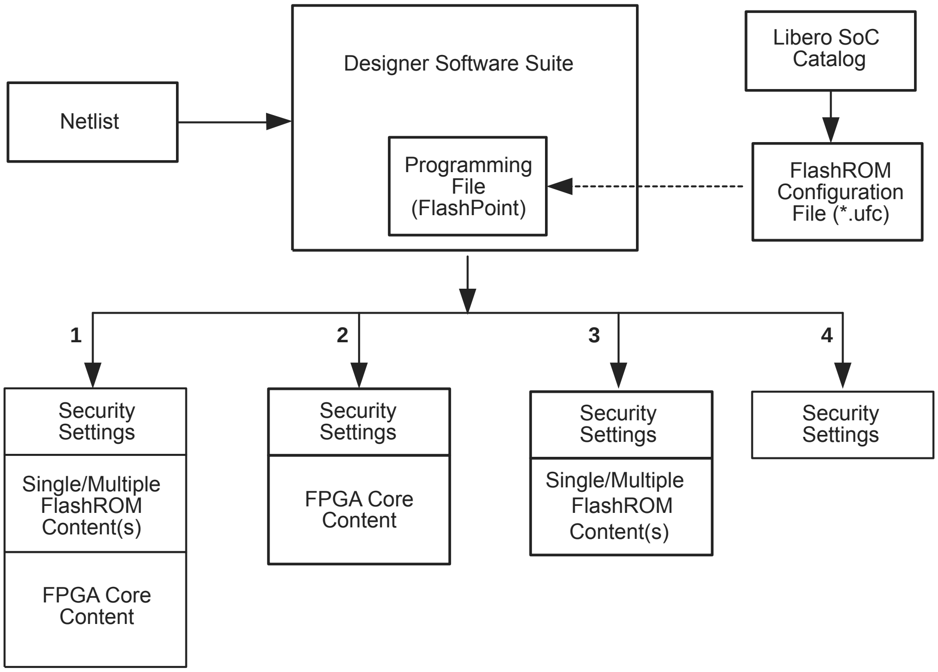


Figure 12-4 **• Flexible Programming File Generation for Different Applications**

Programming Solution

For device programming, any IEEE 1532–compliant programmer can be used; however, the FlashPro4/3/3X programmer must be used to control the low power flash device's rich security features and FlashROM programming options. The FlashPro4/3/3X programmer is a low-cost portable programmer for the Microsemi flash families. It can also be used with a powered USB hub for parallel programming. General specifications for the FlashPro4/3/3X programmer are as follows:

- Programming clock – TCK is used with a maximum frequency of 20 MHz, and the default frequency is 4 MHz.
- Programming file – STAPL
- Daisy chain – Supported. You can use the ChainBuilder software to build the programming file for the chain.
- Parallel programming – Supported. Multiple FlashPro4/3/3X programmers can be connected together using a powered USB hub or through the multiple USB ports on the PC.
- Power supply – The target board must provide VCC, VCCI, VPUMP, and VJTAG during programming. However, if there is only one device on the target board, the FlashPro4/3/3X programmer can generate the required VPUMP voltage from the USB port.

2. VCC rises to 1.5 V before programming begins.

Figure 13-3 • **Programming Algorithm**

The oscilloscope plot in Figure 13-3 shows a wider time interval for the programming algorithm and includes the TDI and TMS signals from the FlashPro3. These signals carry the programming information that is programmed into the device and should only start toggling after the V_{CC} core voltage reaches 1.5 V. Again, TRST from FlashPro3 and the V_{CC} core voltage of the IGLOO device are labeled. As shown in Figure 13-3, TDI and TMS are floating initially, and the core voltage is 1.2 V. When a programming command on the FlashPro3 is executed, TRST is driven HIGH and TDI is momentarily driven to ground. In response to the HIGH TRST signal, the circuit responds and pulls the core voltage to 1.5 V. After 100 ms, TRST is briefly driven LOW by the FlashPro software. This is expected behavior that ensures the device JTAG state machine is in Reset prior to programming. TRST remains HIGH for the duration of the programming. It can be seen in Figure 13-3 that the VCC core voltage signal remains at 1.5 V for approximately 50 ms before information starts passing through on TDI and TMS. This confirms that the voltage switching circuit drives the VCC core supply voltage to 1.5 V prior to programming.

14 – Microprocessor Programming of Microsemi's Low Power Flash Devices

Introduction

The Fusion, IGLOO, and ProASIC3 families of flash FPGAs support in-system programming (ISP) with the use of a microprocessor. Flash-based FPGAs store their configuration information in the actual cells within the FPGA fabric. SRAM-based devices need an external configuration memory, and hybrid nonvolatile devices store the configuration in a flash memory inside the same package as the SRAM FPGA. Since the programming of a true flash FPGA is simpler, requiring only one stage, it makes sense that programming with a microprocessor in-system should be simpler than with other SRAM FPGAs. This reduces bill-of-materials costs and printed circuit board (PCB) area, and increases system reliability.

Nonvolatile flash technology also gives the low power flash devices the advantage of a secure, low power, live-at-power-up, and single-chip solution. Low power flash devices are reprogrammable and offer time-to-market benefits at an ASIC-level unit cost. These features enable engineers to create high-density systems using existing ASIC or FPGA design flows and tools.

This document is an introduction to microprocessor programming only. To explain the difference between the options available, user's guides for DirectC and STAPL provide more detail on implementing each style.

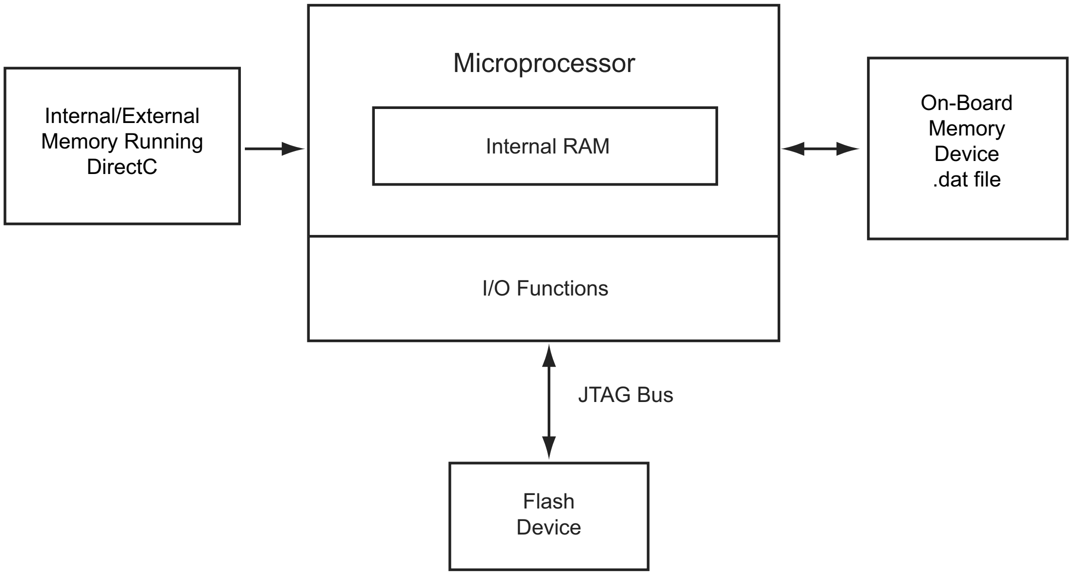


Figure 14-1 • **ISP Using Microprocessor**

Typical UJTAG Applications

Bidirectional access to the JTAG port from VersaTiles—without putting the device into test mode—creates flexibility to implement many different applications. This section describes a few of these. All are based on importing/exporting data through the UJTAG tiles.

Clock Conditioning Circuitry—Dynamic Reconfiguration

In low power flash devices, CCCs, which include PLLs, can be configured dynamically through either an 81-bit embedded shift register or static flash programming switches. These 81 bits control all the characteristics of the CCC: routing MUX architectures, delay values, divider values, etc. Table 16-3 lists the 81 configuration bits in the CCC.

***Table 16-3* • Configuration Bits of Fusion, IGLOO, and ProASIC3 CCC Blocks**

Bit Number(s)	Control Function
80	RESET ENABLE
79	DYNCSEL
78	DYNBSEL
77	DYNASEL
<76:74>	VCOSEL [2:0]
73	STATCSEL
72	STATBSEL
71	STATASEL
<70:66>	DLYC [4:0]
<65:61>	DLYB {4:0]
<60:56>	DLYGLC [4:0]
<55:51>	DLYGLB [4:0]
<50:46>	DLYGLA [4:0]
45	XDLYSEL
<44:40>	FBDLY [4:0]
<39:38>	FBSEL
<37:35>	OCMUX [2:0]
<34:32>	OBMUX [2:0]
<31:29>	OAMUX [2:0]
<28:24>	OCDIV [4:0]
<23:19>	OBDIV [4:0]
<18:14>	OADIV [4:0]
<13:7>	FBDIV [6:0]
<6:0>	FINDIV [6:0]

The embedded 81-bit shift register (for the dynamic configuration of the CCC) is accessible to the VersaTiles, which, in turn, have access to the UJTAG tiles. Therefore, the CCC configuration shift register can receive and load the new configuration data stream from JTAG.

Dynamic reconfiguration eliminates the need to reprogram the device when reconfiguration of the CCC functional blocks is needed. The CCC configuration can be modified while the device continues to operate. Employing the UJTAG core requires the user to design a module to provide the configuration data and control the CCC configuration shift register. In essence, this is a user-designed TAP Controller requiring chip resources.

Similar reconfiguration capability exists in the ProASIC<u>PLUS</u>® family. The only difference is the number of shift register bits controlling the CCC (27 in ProASIC<u>PLUS</u> and 81 in IGLOO, ProASIC3, and Fusion).

Fine Tuning

In some applications, design constants or parameters need to be modified after programming the original design. The tuning process can be done using the UJTAG tile without reprogramming the device with new values. If the parameters or constants of a design are stored in distributed registers or embedded SRAM blocks, the new values can be shifted onto the JTAG TAP Controller pins, replacing the old values. The UJTAG tile is used as the "bridge" for data transfer between the JTAG pins and the FPGA VersaTiles or SRAM logic. Figure 16-5 shows a flow chart example for fine-tuning application steps using the UJTAG tile.

In Figure 16-5, the TMS signal sets the TAP Controller state machine to the appropriate states. The flow mainly consists of two steps: a) shifting the defined instruction and b) shifting the new data. If the target parameter is constantly used in the design, the new data can be shifted into a temporary shift register from UTDI. The UDRSH output of UJTAG can be used as a shift-enable signal, and UDRCK is the shift clock to the shift register. Once the shift process is completed and the TAP Controller state is moved to the Update_DR state, the UDRUPD output of the UJTAG can latch the new parameter value from the temporary register into a permanent location. This avoids any interruption or malfunctioning during the serial shift of the new value.

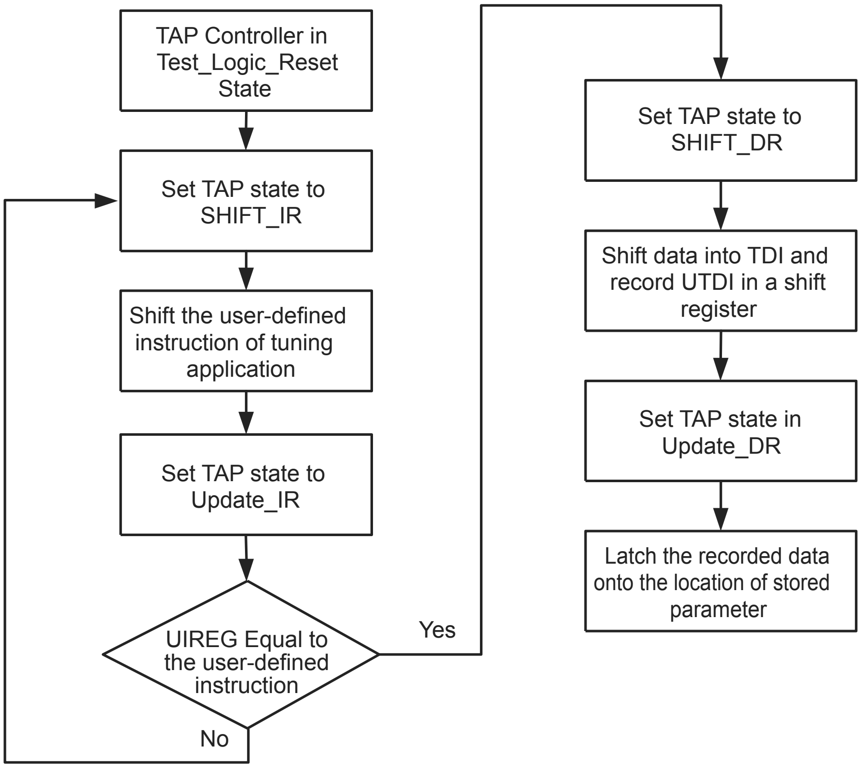


Figure 16-5 • **Flow Chart Example of Fine-Tuning an Application Using UJTAG**