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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	Active
Number of LABs/CLBs	-
Number of Logic Elements/Cells	-
Total RAM Bits	36864
Number of I/O	68
Number of Gates	250000
Voltage - Supply	1.425V ~ 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/microchip-technology/a3pn250-2vqg100i

Spine Access

The physical location of each spine is identified by the letter T (top) or B (bottom) and an accompanying number (Tn or Bn). The number n indicates the horizontal location of the spine; 1 refers to the first spine on the left side of the die. Since there are six chip spines in each spine tree, there are up to six spines available for each combination of T (or B) and n (for example, six T1 spines). Similarly, there are three quadrant spines available for each combination of T (or B) and n (for example, four T1 spines), as shown in Figure 3-7.

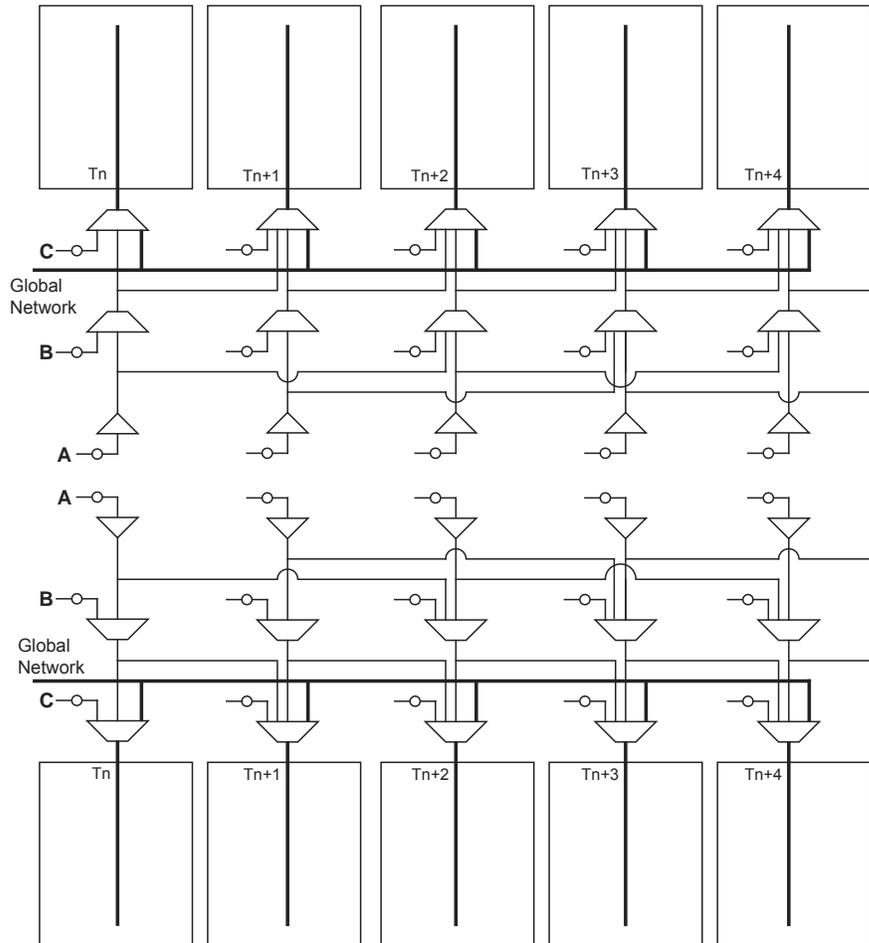


Figure 3-7 • Chip Global Aggregation

A spine is also called a local clock network, and is accessed by the dedicated global MUX architecture. These MUXes define how a particular spine is driven. Refer to Figure 3-8 on page 44 for the global MUX architecture. The MUXes for each chip global spine are located in the middle of the die. Access to the top and bottom chip global spine is available from the middle of the die. There is no control dependency between the top and bottom spines. If a top spine, T1, of a chip global network is assigned to a net, B1 is not wasted and can be used by the global clock network. The signal assigned only to the top or bottom spine cannot access the middle two rows of the architecture. However, if a spine is using the top and bottom at the same time (T1 and B1, for instance), the previous restriction is lifted.

The MUXes for each quadrant global spine are located in the north and south sides of the die. Access to the top and bottom quadrant global spines is available from the north and south sides of the die. Since the MUXes for quadrant spines are located in the north and south sides of the die, you should not try to drive T1 and B1 quadrant spines from the same signal.

You can control the maximum number of shared instances allowed for the legalization to take place using the Compile Option dialog box shown in Figure 3-17. Refer to Libero SoC / Designer online help for details on the Compile Option dialog box. A large number of shared instances most likely indicates a floorplanning problem that you should address.

Figure 3-17 • Shared Instances in the Compile Option Dialog Box

Designer Flow for Global Assignment

To achieve the desired result, pay special attention to global management during synthesis and place-and-route. The current Synplify tool does not insert more than six global buffers in the netlist by default. Thus, the default flow will not assign any signal to the quadrant global network. However, you can use attributes in Synplify and increase the default global macro assignment in the netlist. Designer v6.2 supports automatic quadrant global assignment, which was not available in Designer v6.1. Layout will make the choice to assign the correct signals to global. However, you can also utilize PDC and perform manual global assignment to overwrite any automatic assignment. The following step-by-step suggestions guide you in the layout of your design and help you improve timing in Designer:

1. Run Compile and check the Compile report. The Compile report has global information in the "Device Utilization" section that describes the number of chip and quadrant signals in the design. A "Net Report" section describes chip global nets, quadrant global nets, local clock nets, a list of nets listed by fanout, and net candidates for local clock assignment. Review this information. Note that YB or YC are counted as global only when they are used in isolation; if you use YB only and not GLB, this net is not shown in the global/quadrant nets report. Instead, it appears in the Global Utilization report.
2. If some signals have a very high fanout and are candidates for global promotion, promote those signals to global using the compile options or PDC commands. Figure 3-18 on page 54 shows the Globals Management section of the compile options. Select **Promote regular nets whose fanout is greater than** and enter a reasonable value for fanouts.

Global Buffers with No Programmable Delays

Access to the global / quadrant global networks can be configured directly from the global I/O buffer, bypassing the CCC functional block (as indicated by the dotted lines in Figure 4-1 on page 61). Internal signals driven by the FPGA core can use the global / quadrant global networks by connecting via the routed clock input of the multiplexer tree.

There are many specific CLKBUF macros supporting the wide variety of single-ended I/O inputs (CLKBUF) and differential I/O standards (CLKBUF_LVDS/LVPECL) in the low power flash families. They are used when connecting global I/Os directly to the global/quadrant networks.

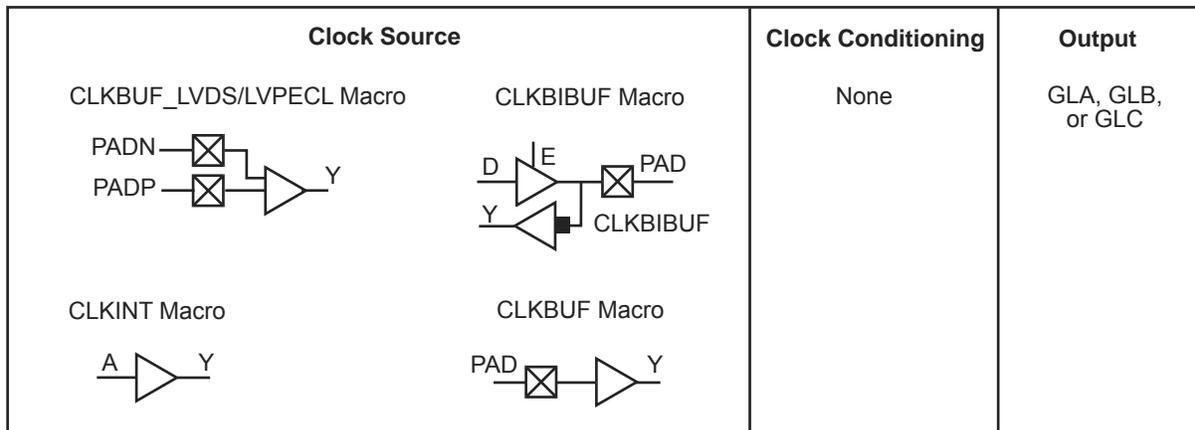
Note: IGLOO nano and ProASIC nano devices do not support differential inputs.

When an internal signal needs to be connected to the global/quadrant network, the CLKINT macro is used to connect the signal to the routed clock input of the network's MUX tree.

To utilize direct connection from global I/Os or from internal signals to the global/quadrant networks, CLKBUF, CLKBUF_LVPECL/LVDS, and CLKINT macros are used (Figure 4-2).

- The CLKBUF and CLKBUF_LVPECL/LVDS¹ macros are composite macros that include an I/O macro driving a global buffer, which uses a hardwired connection.
- The CLKBUF, CLKBUF_LVPECL/LVDS¹ and CLKINT macros are pass-through clock sources and do not use the PLL or provide any programmable delay functionality.
- The CLKINT macro provides a global buffer function driven internally by the FPGA core.

The available CLKBUF macros are described in the *IGLOO, ProASIC3, SmartFusion, and Fusion Macro Library Guide*.



Note: IGLOO nano and ProASIC nano devices do not support differential inputs.

Figure 4-2 • CCC Options: Global Buffers with No Programmable Delay

Global Buffer with Programmable Delay

Clocks requiring clock adjustments can utilize the programmable delay cores before connecting to the global / quadrant global networks. A maximum of 18 CCC global buffers can be instantiated in a device—three per CCC and up to six CCCs per device.

Each CCC functional block contains a programmable delay element for each of the global networks (up to three), and users can utilize these features by using the corresponding macro (Figure 4-3 on page 65).

1. B-LVDS and M-LVDS are supported with the LVDS macro.

CCC Locations

CCCs located in the middle of the east and west sides of the device access the three VersaNet global networks on each side (six total networks), while the four CCCs located in the four corners access three quadrant global networks (twelve total networks). See Figure 4-13.

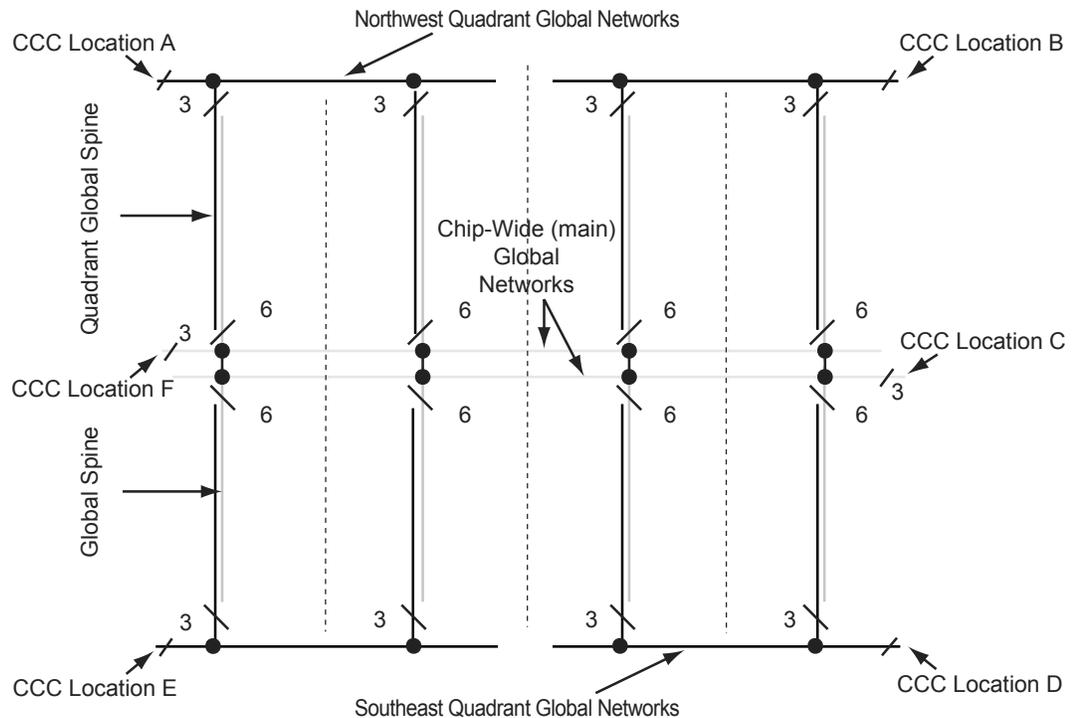


Figure 4-13 • Global Network Architecture for 60 k Gate Devices and Above

The following explains the locations of the CCCs in IGLOO and ProASIC3 devices:

In Figure 4-15 on page 82 through Figure 4-16 on page 82, CCCs with integrated PLLs are indicated in red, and simplified CCCs are indicated in yellow. There is a letter associated with each location of the CCC, in clockwise order. The upper left corner CCC is named "A," the upper right is named "B," and so on. These names finish up at the middle left with letter "F."

IGLOO and ProASIC3 CCC Locations

In all IGLOO and ProASIC3 devices (except 10 k through 30 k gate devices, which do not contain PLLs), six CCCs are located in the same positions as the IGLOOe and ProASIC3E CCCs. Only one of the CCCs has an integrated PLL and is located in the middle of the west (middle left) side of the device. The other five CCCs are simplified CCCs and are located in the four corners and the middle of the east side of the device (Figure 4-14).

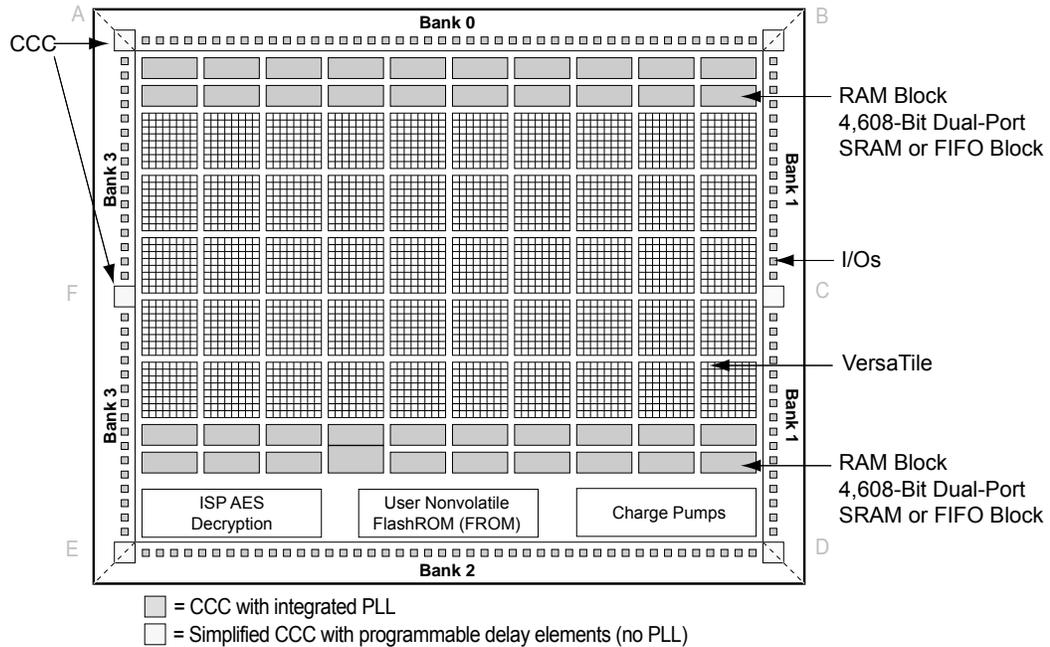


Figure 4-14 • CCC Locations in IGLOO and ProASIC3 Family Devices (except 10 k through 30 k gate devices)

Note: The number and architecture of the banks are different for some devices.

10 k through 30 k gate devices do not support PLL features. In these devices, there are two CCC-GLs at the lower corners (one at the lower right, and one at the lower left). These CCC-GLs do not have programmable delays.

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).

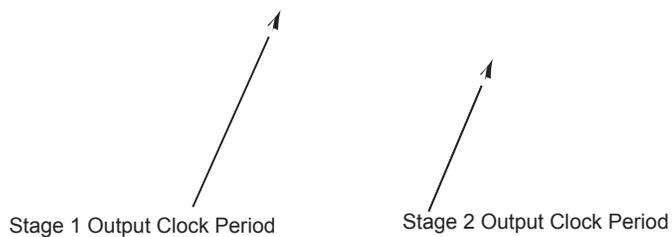


Figure 4-37 • ModelSim Simulation Results

FlashROM Applications

The SmartGen core generator is used to configure FlashROM content. You can configure each page independently. SmartGen enables you to create and modify regions within a page; these regions can be 1 to 16 bytes long (Figure 5-4).

		Byte Number in Page															
		15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Page Number	7																
	6																
	5																
	4																
	3																
	2																
	1																
	0																

Figure 5-4 • FlashROM Configuration

The FlashROM content can be changed independently of the FPGA core content. It can be easily accessed and programmed via JTAG, depending on the security settings of the device. The SmartGen core generator enables each region to be independently updated (described in the "Programming and Accessing FlashROM" section on page 122). This enables you to change the FlashROM content on a per-part basis while keeping some regions "constant" for all parts. These features allow the FlashROM to be used in diverse system applications. Consider the following possible uses of FlashROM:

- Internet protocol (IP) addressing (wireless or fixed)
- System calibration settings
- Restoring configuration after unpredictable system power-down
- Device serialization and/or inventory control
- Subscription-based business models (e.g., set-top boxes)
- Secure key storage
- Asset management tracking
- Date stamping
- Version management

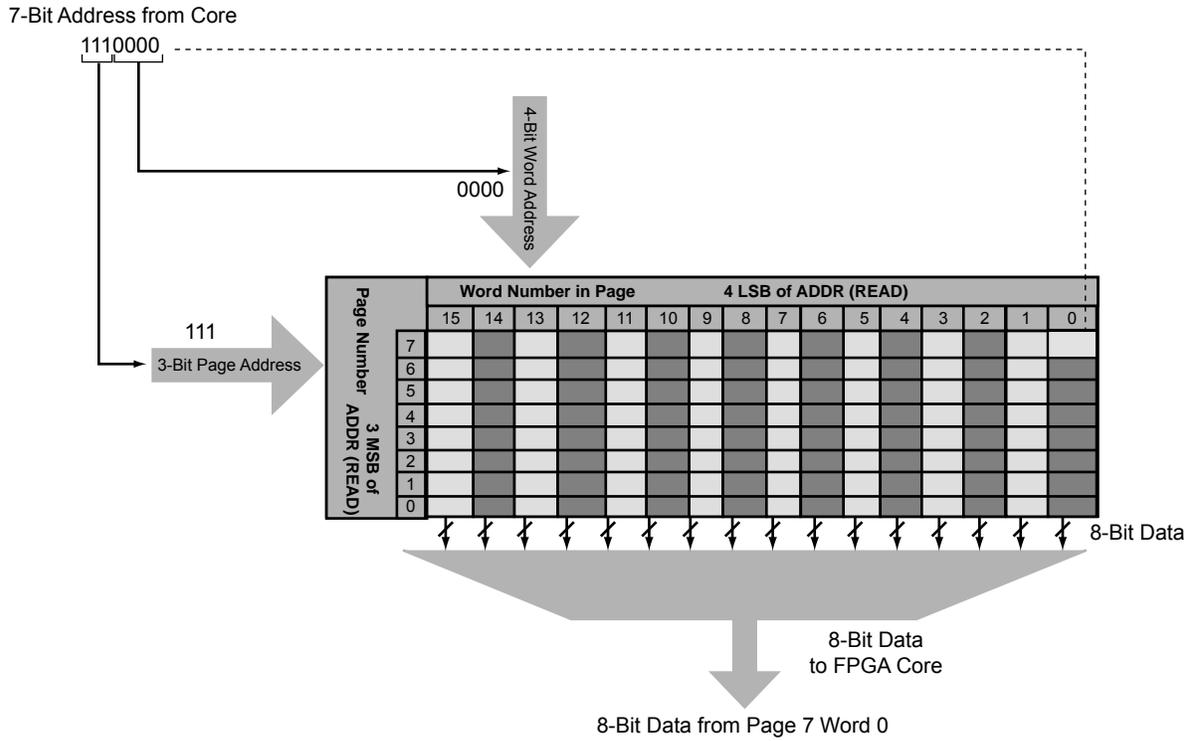


Figure 5-7 • Accessing FlashROM Using FPGA Core

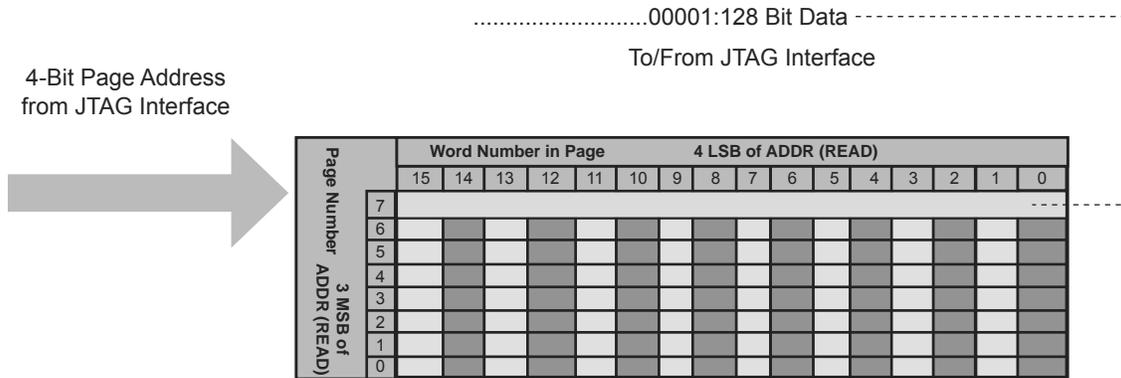


Figure 5-8 • Accessing FlashROM Using JTAG Port

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

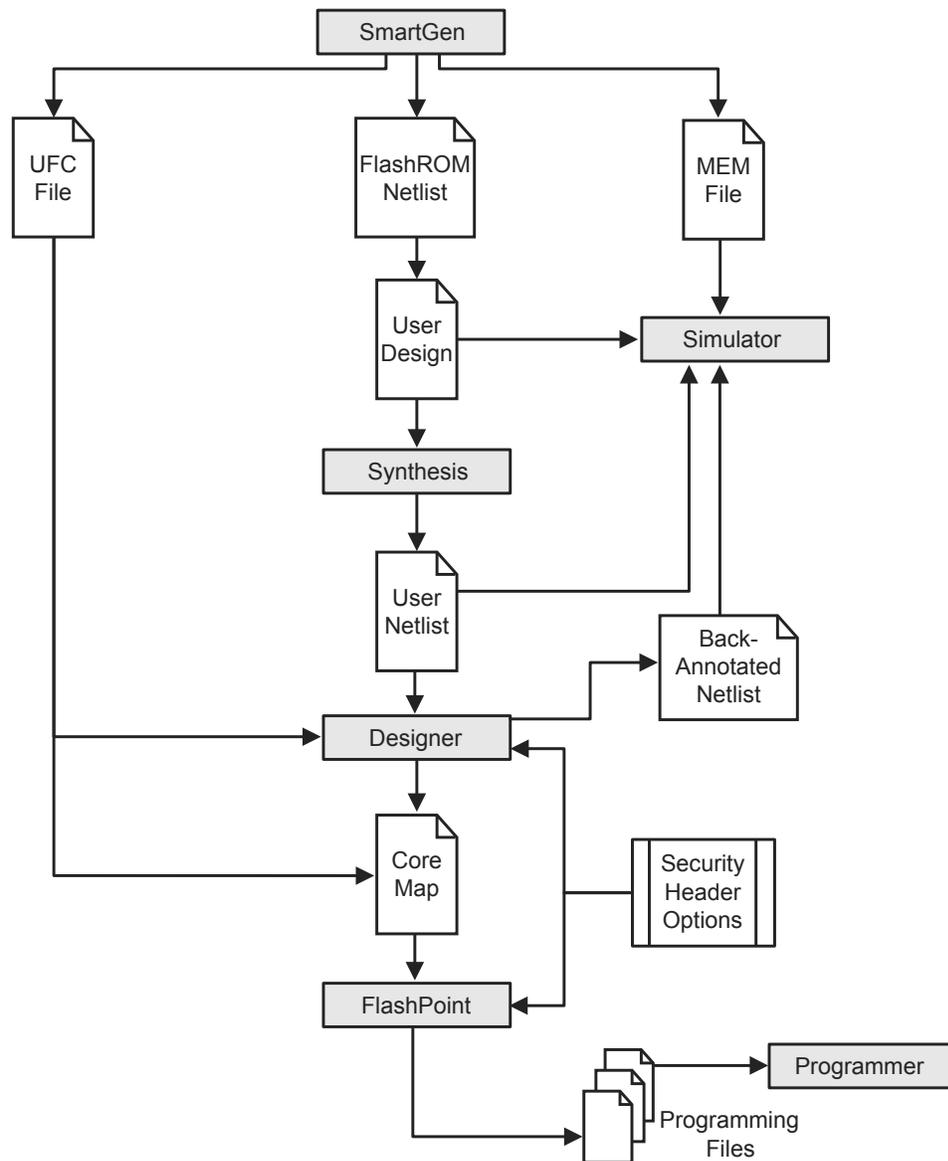


Figure 5-9 • FlashROM Design Flow

SmartGen allows you to generate the FlashROM netlist in VHDL, Verilog, or EDIF format. After the FlashROM netlist is generated, the core can be instantiated in the main design like other SmartGen cores. Note that the macro library name for FlashROM is UFROM. The following is a sample FlashROM VHDL netlist that can be instantiated in the main design:

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

entity FROM_a is
  port( ADDR : in std_logic_vector(6 downto 0); DOUT : out std_logic_vector(7 downto 0));
end FROM_a;

architecture DEF_ARCH of FROM_a is

  component UFROM
    generic (MEMORYFILE:string);
    port(DO0, DO1, DO2, DO3, DO4, DO5, DO6, DO7 : out std_logic;
        ADDR0, ADDR1, ADDR2, ADDR3, ADDR4, ADDR5, ADDR6 : in std_logic := 'U') ;
  end component;

  component GND
    port( Y : out std_logic);
  end component;

  signal U_7_PIN2 : std_logic ;

begin

  GND_1_net : GND port map(Y => U_7_PIN2);
  UFROM0 : UFROM
  generic map(MEMORYFILE => "FROM_a.mem")
  port map(DO0 => DOUT(0), DO1 => DOUT(1), DO2 => DOUT(2), DO3 => DOUT(3), DO4 => DOUT(4),
    DO5 => DOUT(5), DO6 => DOUT(6), DO7 => DOUT(7), ADDR0 => ADDR(0), ADDR1 => ADDR(1),
    ADDR2 => ADDR(2), ADDR3 => ADDR(3), ADDR4 => ADDR(4), ADDR5 => ADDR(5),
    ADDR6 => ADDR(6));

end DEF_ARCH;
```

SmartGen generates the following files along with the netlist. These are located in the SmartGen folder for the Libero SoC project.

1. MEM (Memory Initialization) file
2. UFC (User Flash Configuration) file
3. Log file

The MEM file is used for simulation, as explained in the "Simulation of FlashROM Design" section on page 127. The UFC file, generated by SmartGen, has the FlashROM configuration for single or multiple devices and is used during STAPL generation. It contains the region properties and simulation values. Note that any changes in the MEM file will not be reflected in the UFC file. Do not modify the UFC to change FlashROM content. Instead, use the SmartGen GUI to modify the FlashROM content. See the "Programming File Generation for FlashROM Design" section on page 127 for a description of how the UFC file is used during the programming file generation. The log file has information regarding the file type and file location.

```
//
addr_counter counter_1 (.Clock(data_update), .Q(wr_addr), .Aset(rst_n),
    .Enable(enable));
addr_counter counter_2 (.Clock(test_clk), .Q(rd_addr), .Aset(rst_n),
    .Enable( test_active));

endmodule
```

Interface Block / UJTAG Wrapper

This example is a sample wrapper, which connects the interface block to the UJTAG and the memory blocks.

```
// WRAPPER
module top_init (TDI, TRSTB, TMS, TCK, TDO, test, test_clk, test_out);

input TDI, TRSTB, TMS, TCK;
output TDO;
input test, test_clk;
output [3:0] test_out;

wire [7:0] IR;
wire reset, DR_shift, DR_cap, init_clk, DR_update, data_in, data_out;
wire clk_out, wen, ren;
wire [3:0] word_in, word_out;
wire [1:0] write_addr, read_addr;

UJTAG UJTAG_U1 (.UIREG0(IR[0]), .UIREG1(IR[1]), .UIREG2(IR[2]), .UIREG3(IR[3]),
    .UIREG4(IR[4]), .UIREG5(IR[5]), .UIREG6(IR[6]), .UIREG7(IR[7]), .URSTB(reset),
    .UDRSH(DR_shift), .UDRCAP(DR_cap), .UDRCK(init_clk), .UDRUPD(DR_update),
    .UT-DI(data_in), .TDI(TDI), .TMS(TMS), .TCK(TCK), .TRSTB(TRSTB), .TDO(TDO),
    .UT-DO(data_out));
mem_block RAM_block (.DO(word_out), .RCLOCK(clk_out), .WCLOCK(clk_out), .DI(word_in),
    .WRB(wen), .RDB(ren), .WAD-DR(write_addr), .RADDR(read_addr));
interface init_block (.IR(IR), .rst_n(reset), .data_shift(DR_shift), .clk_in(init_clk),
    .data_update(DR_update), .din_ser(data_in), .dout_ser(data_out), .test(test),
    .test_out(test_out), .test_clk(test_clk), .clk_out(clk_out), .wr_en(wen),
    .rd_en(ren), .write_word(word_in), .read_word(word_out), .rd_addr(read_addr),
    .wr_addr(write_addr));

endmodule
```

Address Counter

```
module addr_counter (Clock, Q, Aset, Enable);

input Clock;
output [1:0] Q;
input Aset;
input Enable;

reg [1:0] Qaux;

always @(posedge Clock or negedge Aset)
begin
    if (!Aset) Qaux <= 2'b11;
    else if (Enable) Qaux <= Qaux + 1;
end

assign Q = Qaux;

endmodule
```


List of Changes

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

Date	Changes	Page
July 2010	FlashPro4 is a replacement for FlashPro3 and has been added to this chapter. FlashPro is no longer available.	N/A
	The chapter was updated to include SmartFusion devices.	N/A
	The following were deleted: "Live at Power-Up (LAPU) or Boot PROM" section "Design Security" section Table 14-2 • Programming Features for Actel Devices and much of the text in the "Programming Features for Microsemi Devices" section "Programming Flash FPGAs" section "Return Material Authorization (RMA) Policies" section	N/A
	The "Device Programmers" section was revised.	225
	The Independent Programming Centers information was removed from the "Volume Programming Services" section.	226
	Table 10-3 • Programming Solutions was revised to add FlashPro4 and note that FlashPro is discontinued. A note was added for FlashPro Lite regarding power supply requirements.	227
	Most items were removed from Table 10-4 • Programming Ordering Codes, including FlashPro3 and FlashPro.	228
	The "Programmer Device Support" section was deleted and replaced with a reference to the Microsemi SoC Products Group website for the latest information.	228
	The "Certified Programming Solutions" section was revised to add FlashPro4 and remove Silicon Sculptor I and Silicon Sculptor 6X. Reference to <i>Programming and Functional Failure Guidelines</i> was added.	228
	The file type *.pdb was added to the "Use the Latest Version of the Designer Software to Generate Your Programming File (recommended)" section.	229
	Instructions on cleaning and careful insertion were added to the "Perform Routine Hardware Self-Diagnostic Test" section. Information was added regarding testing Silicon Sculptor programmers with an adapter module installed before every programming session verifying their calibration annually.	229
	The "Signal Integrity While Using ISP" section is new.	230
	The "Programming Failure Allowances" section was revised.	230

Figure 11-15 • Programming Fusion Security Settings Only

2. Choose the desired security level setting and enter the key(s).
 - The **High** security level employs FlashLock Pass Key with AES Key protection.
 - The **Medium** security level employs FlashLock Pass Key protection only.
-

Figure 11-16 • High Security Level to Implement FlashLock Pass Key and AES Key Protection

STAPL File with AES Encryption

- Does not contain AES key / FlashLock Key information
- Intended for transmission through web or service to unsecured locations for programming

```
=====
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" "$123261CF";
NOTE "DESIGN" "counter32";
NOTE "CHECKSUM" "$EF57";
NOTE "SAVE_DATA" "FFromStream";
NOTE "SECURITY" "ENCRYPT FROM CORE ";
NOTE "ALG_VERSION" "1";
NOTE "MAX_FREQ" "20000000";
NOTE "SILSIG" "$00000000";
```

Conclusion

The new and enhanced security features offered in Fusion, IGLOO, and ProASIC3 devices provide state-of-the-art security to designs programmed into these flash-based devices. Microsemi low power flash devices employ the encryption standard used by NIST and the U.S. government—AES using the 128-bit Rijndael algorithm.

The combination of an on-chip AES decryption engine and FlashLock technology provides the highest level of security against invasive attacks and design theft, implementing the most robust and secure ISP solution. These security features protect IP within the FPGA and protect the system from cloning, wholesale “black box” copying of a design, invasive attacks, and explicit IP or data theft.

Glossary

Term	Explanation
Security Header programming file	Programming file used to program the FlashLock Pass Key and/or AES key into the device to secure the FPGA, FlashROM, and/or FBs.
AES (encryption) key	128-bit key defined by the user when the AES encryption option is set in the Microsemi Designer software when generating the programming file.
FlashLock Pass Key	128-bit key defined by the user when the FlashLock option is set in the Microsemi Designer software when generating the programming file. The FlashLock Key protects the security settings programmed to the device. Once a device is programmed with FlashLock, whatever settings were chosen at that time are secure.
FlashLock	The combined security features that protect the device content from attacks. These features are the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flash technology that does not require an external bitstream to program the device • FlashLock Pass Key that secures device content by locking the security settings and preventing access to the device as defined by the user • AES key that allows secure, encrypted device reprogrammability

References

National Institute of Standards and Technology. “ADVANCED ENCRYPTION STANDARD (AES) Questions and Answers.” 28 January 2002 (10 January 2005).
See <http://csrc.nist.gov/archive/aes/index1.html> for more information.

Security in ARM-Enabled Low Power Flash Devices

There are slight differences between the regular flash device and the ARM-enabled flash devices, which have the M1 prefix.

The AES key is used by Microsemi and preprogrammed into the device to protect the ARM IP. As a result, the design will be encrypted along with the ARM IP, according to the details below.

Cortex-M1 and Cortex-M3 Device Security

Cortex-M1-enabled and Cortex-M3 devices are shipped with the following security features:

- FPGA array enabled for AES-encrypted programming and verification
- FlashROM enabled for AES-encrypted write and verify
- Embedded Flash Memory enabled for AES encrypted write

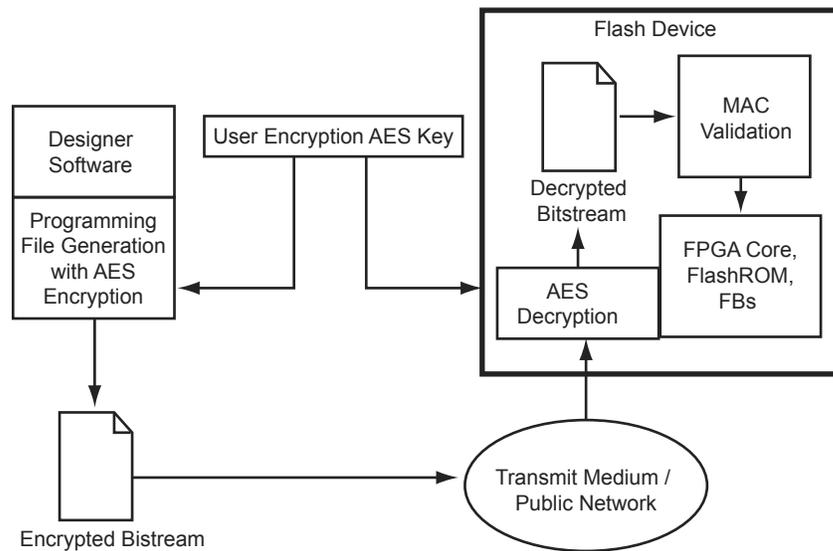


Figure 12-1 • AES-128 Security Features

15 – Boundary Scan in Low Power Flash Devices

Boundary Scan

Low power flash devices are compatible with IEEE Standard 1149.1, which defines a hardware architecture and the set of mechanisms for boundary scan testing. JTAG operations are used during boundary scan testing.

The basic boundary scan logic circuit is composed of the TAP controller, test data registers, and instruction register (Figure 15-2 on page 294).

Low power flash devices support three types of test data registers: bypass, device identification, and boundary scan. The bypass register is selected when no other register needs to be accessed in a device. This speeds up test data transfer to other devices in a test data path. The 32-bit device identification register is a shift register with four fields (LSB, ID number, part number, and version). The boundary scan register observes and controls the state of each I/O pin. Each I/O cell has three boundary scan register cells, each with serial-in, serial-out, parallel-in, and parallel-out pins.

TAP Controller State Machine

The TAP controller is a 4-bit state machine (16 states) that operates as shown in Figure 15-1.

The 1s and 0s represent the values that must be present on TMS at a rising edge of TCK for the given state transition to occur. IR and DR indicate that the instruction register or the data register is operating in that state.

The TAP controller receives two control inputs (TMS and TCK) and generates control and clock signals for the rest of the test logic architecture. On power-up, the TAP controller enters the Test-Logic-Reset state. To guarantee a reset of the controller from any of the possible states, TMS must remain HIGH for five TCK cycles. The TRST pin can also be used to asynchronously place the TAP controller in the Test-Logic-Reset state.

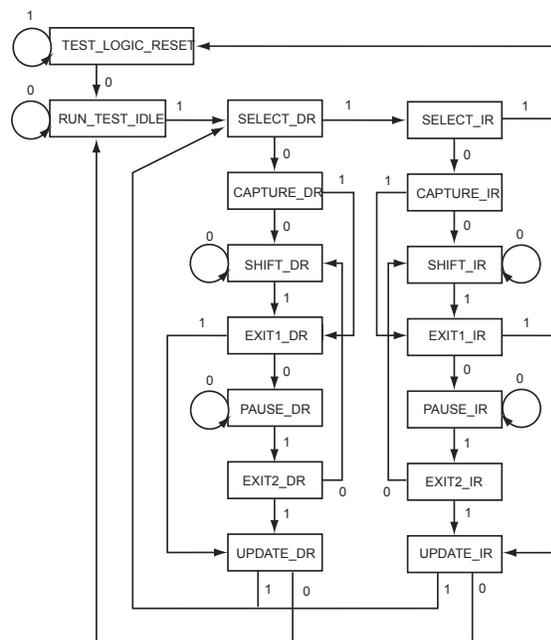


Figure 15-1 • TAP Controller State Machine

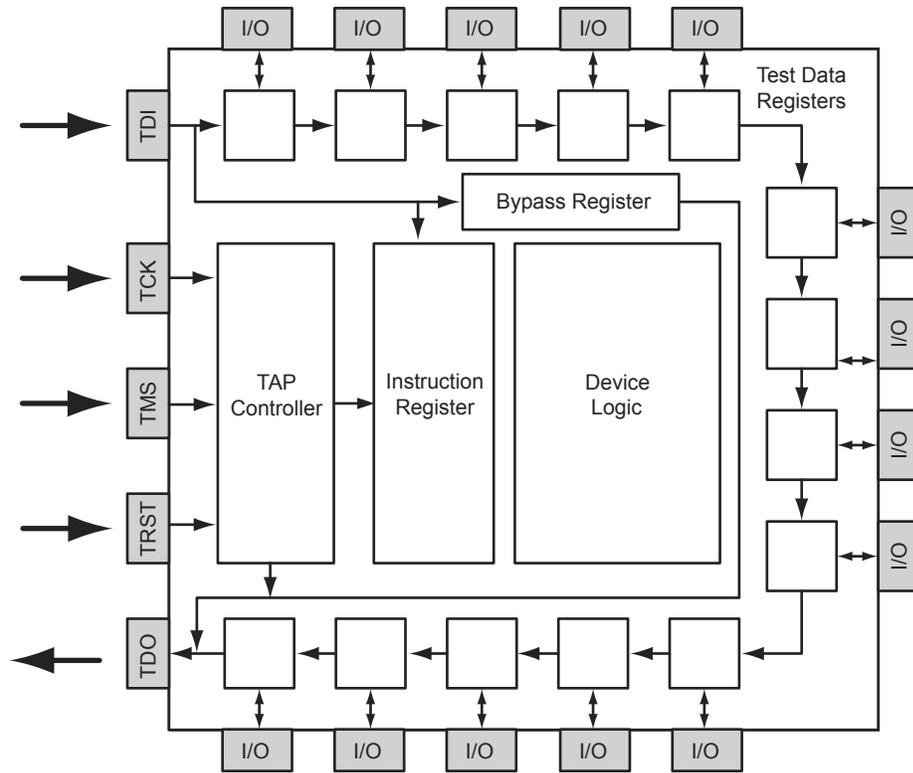


Figure 15-2 • Boundary Scan Chain

Board-Level Recommendations

Table 15-3 gives pull-down recommendations for the TRST and TCK pins.

Table 15-3 • TRST and TCK Pull-Down Recommendations

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

Note: Equivalent parallel resistance if more than one device is on JTAG chain (Figure 15-3)

Conclusion

Microsemi low power flash FPGAs offer many unique advantages, such as security, nonvolatility, reprogrammability, 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).	304
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 16-1 • Flash-Based FPGAs.	298
v1.3 (October 2008)	The "UJTAG Support in Flash-Based Devices" section was revised to include new families and make the information more concise.	298
	The title of Table 16-3 • Configuration Bits of Fusion, IGLOO, and ProASIC3 CCC Blocks was revised to include Fusion.	302
v1.2 (June 2008)	The following changes were made to the family descriptions in Table 16-1 • Flash-Based FPGAs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ProASIC3L was updated to include 1.5 V. • The number of PLLs for ProASIC3E was changed from five to six. 	298
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.	298