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Understanding <u>Embedded - FPGAs (Field</u> <u>Programmable Gate Array)</u>

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	516096
Number of I/O	221
Number of Gates	300000
Voltage - Supply	1.14V ~ 1.575V
Mounting Type	Surface Mount
Operating Temperature	0°C ~ 85°C (TJ)
Package / Case	324-BGA
Supplier Device Package	324-FBGA (19x19)
Purchase URL	https://www.e-xfl.com/product-detail/microchip-technology/a3pe3000l-1fgg324

Email: info@E-XFL.COM

Address: Room A, 16/F, Full Win Commercial Centre, 573 Nathan Road, Mongkok, Hong Kong

Core Architecture

VersaTile

The proprietary IGLOO and ProASIC3 device architectures provide granularity comparable to gate arrays. The device core consists of a sea-of-VersaTiles architecture.

As illustrated in Figure 1-8, there are four inputs in a logic VersaTile cell, and each VersaTile can be configured using the appropriate flash switch connections:

- Any 3-input logic function
- Latch with clear or set
- D-flip-flop with clear or set
- Enable D-flip-flop with clear or set (on a 4th input)

VersaTiles can flexibly map the logic and sequential gates of a design. The inputs of the VersaTile can be inverted (allowing bubble pushing), and the output of the tile can connect to high-speed, very-long-line routing resources. VersaTiles and larger functions can be connected with any of the four levels of routing hierarchy.

When the VersaTile is used as an enable D-flip-flop, SET/CLR is supported by a fourth input. The SET/CLR signal can only be routed to this fourth input over the VersaNet (global) network. However, if, in the user's design, the SET/CLR signal is not routed over the VersaNet network, a compile warning message will be given, and the intended logic function will be implemented by two VersaTiles instead of one.

The output of the VersaTile is F2 when the connection is to the ultra-fast local lines, or YL when the connection is to the efficient long-line or very-long-line resources.



Figure 1-8 • Low Power Flash Device Core VersaTile

ProASIC3L FPGA Fabric User's Guide



Figure 1-11 • Efficient Long-Line Resources



Figure 1-12 • Very-Long-Line Resources

Flash*Freeze Technology and Low Power Modes

Sleep and Shutdown Modes

Sleep Mode

IGLOO, IGLOO nano, IGLOO PLUS, ProASIC3L, and RT ProASIC3 FPGAs support Sleep mode when device functionality is not required. In Sleep mode, V_{CC} (core voltage), V_{JTAG} (JTAG DC voltage), and VPUMP (programming voltage) are grounded, resulting in the FPGA core being turned off to reduce power consumption. While the device is in Sleep mode, the rest of the system can still be operating and driving the input buffers of the device. The driven inputs do not pull up the internal power planes, and the current draw is limited to minimal leakage current.

Table 2-7 shows the power supply status in Sleep mode.

Table 2-7 • Sleep Mode—Power Supply Requirement for IGLOO, IGLOO nano, IGLOO PLUS, ProASIC3L, and RT ProASIC3 Devices

Power Supplies	Power Supply State
VCC	Powered off
VCCI = VMV	Powered on
VJTAG	Powered off
VPUMP	Powered off

Refer to the "Power-Up/-Down Behavior" section on page 33 for more information about I/O states during Sleep mode and the timing diagram for entering and exiting Sleep mode.

Shutdown Mode

Shutdown mode is supported for all IGLOO nano and IGLOO PLUS devices as well the following IGLOO/e devices: AGL015, AGL030, AGLE600, AGLE3000, and A3PE3000L. Shutdown mode can be used by turning off all power supplies when the device function is not needed. Cold-sparing and hot-insertion features enable these devices to be powered down without turning off the entire system. When power returns, the live-at-power-up feature enables operation of the device after reaching the voltage activation point.

Flash*Freeze Technology and Low Power Modes

Date	Changes	Page
v1.2 (continued)	Figure 2-3 • Flash*Freeze Mode Type 2 – Controlled by Flash*Freeze Pin and Internal Logic (LSICC signal) was updated.	27
	Figure 2-4 • Flash*Freeze Mode Type 2 – Timing Diagram was revised to show deasserting LSICC after the device has exited Flash*Freeze mode.	27
	The "IGLOO nano and IGLOO PLUS I/O State in Flash*Freeze Mode" section was added to include information for IGLOO PLUS devices. Table 2-6 • IGLOO nano and IGLOO PLUS Flash*Freeze Mode (type 1 and type 2)—I/O Pad State is new.	28, 29
	The "During Flash*Freeze Mode" section was revised to include a new bullet pertaining to output behavior for IGLOO PLUS. The bullet on JTAG operation was revised to provide more detail.	31
	Figure 2-6 • Controlling Power-On/-Off State Using Microprocessor and Power FET and Figure 2-7 • Controlling Power-On/-Off State Using Microprocessor and Voltage Regulator were updated to include IGLOO PLUS.	33, 33
	The first sentence of the "Shutdown Mode" section was updated to list the devices for which it is supported.	32
	The first paragraph of the "Power-Up/-Down Behavior" section was revised. The second sentence was changed to, "The I/Os remain tristated until the last voltage supply (V_{CC} or V_{CCI}) is powered to its activation level." The word "activation" replaced the word "functional." The sentence, "During power-down, device I/Os become tristated once the first power supply (V_{CC} or V_{CCI}) drops below its deactivation voltage level" was revised. The word "deactivation" replaced the word "functional."	33
	The "Prototyping for IGLOO and ProASIC3L Devices Using ProASIC3" section was revised to state that prototyping in ProASIC3 does not apply for the IGLOO PLUS family.	2-21
	Table 2-8 • Prototyping/Migration Solutions, Table 2-9 • Device Migration—IGLOO Supported Packages in ProASIC3 Devices, and Table 2-10 • Device Migration— ProASIC3L Supported Packages in ProASIC3 Devices were updated with a table note stating that device migration is not supported for IGLOO PLUS devices.	2-21, 2-23
	The text following Table 2-10 • Device Migration—ProASIC3L Supported Packages in ProASIC3 Devices was moved to a new section: the "Flash*Freeze Design Guide" section.	34
v1.1 (February 2008)	Table 2-1 • Flash-Based FPGAs was updated to remove the ProASIC3, ProASIC3E, and Automotive ProASIC3 families, which were incorrectly included.	22
v1.0 (January 2008)	Detailed descriptions of low power modes are described in the advanced datasheets. This application note was updated to describe how to use the features in an IGLOO/e application.	N/A
	Figure 2-1 • Flash*Freeze Mode Type 1 – Controlled by the Flash*Freeze Pin was updated.	25
	Figure 2-2 • Flash*Freeze Mode Type 1 – Timing Diagram is new.	25
	Steps 4 and 5 are new in the "Flash*Freeze Type 2: Control by Dedicated Flash*Freeze Pin and Internal Logic" section.	26

Available I/O Standards

Table 4-4 • Available I/O	Standards within	CLKBUF and CLKBUF	LVDS/LVPECL Macros

CLKBUF_LVCMOS5
CLKBUF_LVCMOS33 ¹
CLKBUF_LVCMOS25 ²
CLKBUF_LVCMOS18
CLKBUF_LVCMOS15
CLKBUF_PCI
CLKBUF_PCIX ³
CLKBUF_GTL25 ^{2,3}
CLKBUF_GTL33 ^{2,3}
CLKBUF_GTLP25 ^{2,3}
CLKBUF_GTLP33 ^{2,3}
CLKBUF_HSTL_I ^{2,3}
CLKBUF_HSTL_II ^{2,3}
CLKBUF_SSTL3_I ^{2,3}
CLKBUF_SSTL3_II ^{2,3}
CLKBUF_SSTL2_I ^{2,3}
CLKBUF_SSTL2_II ^{2,3}
CLKBUF_LVDS ^{4,5}
CLKBUF_LVPECL ⁵

Notes:

- 1. By default, the CLKBUF macro uses 3.3 V LVTTL I/O technology. For more details, refer to the IGLOO, ProASIC3, SmartFusion, and Fusion Macro Library Guide.
- 2. I/O standards only supported in ProASIC3E and IGLOOe families.
- 3. I/O standards only supported in the following Fusion devices: AFS600 and AFS1500.
- 4. B-LVDS and M-LVDS standards are supported by CLKBUF_LVDS.
- 5. Not supported for IGLOO nano and ProASIC3 nano devices.

Global Synthesis Constraints

The Synplify[®] synthesis tool, by default, allows six clocks in a design for Fusion, IGLOO, and ProASIC3. When more than six clocks are needed in the design, a user synthesis constraint attribute, syn_global_buffers, can be used to control the maximum number of clocks (up to 18) that can be inferred by the synthesis engine.

High-fanout nets will be inferred with clock buffers and/or internal clock buffers. If the design consists of CCC global buffers, they are included in the count of clocks in the design.

The subsections below discuss the clock input source (global buffers with no programmable delays) and the clock conditioning functional block (global buffers with programmable delays and/or PLL function) in detail.

Clock Conditioning Circuits in Low Power Flash Devices and Mixed Signal FPGAs

Software Configuration

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

Static PLL Configuration

The newly implemented Visual PLL Configuration Wizard feature provides the user a quick and easy way to configure the PLL with the desired settings (Figure 4-23). The user can invoke SmartGen to set the parameters and generate the netlist file with the appropriate flash configuration bits set for the CCCs. As mentioned in "PLL Macro Block Diagram" on page 85, the input reference clock CLKA can be configured to be driven by Hardwired I/O, External I/O, or Core Logic. The user enters the desired settings for all the parameters (output frequency, output selection, output phase adjustment, clock delay, feedback delay, and system delay). Notice that the actual values (divider values, output frequency, delay values, and phase) are shown to aid the user in reaching the desired design frequency in real time. These values are typical-case data. Best- and worst-case data can be observed through static timing analysis in SmartTime within Designer.

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



Figure 4-23 • Visual PLL Configuration Wizard

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 2 Output Clock Period Stage 1 Output Clock Period

Figure 4-37 • Model Sim Simulation Results

SRAM Usage

The following descriptions refer to the usage of both RAM4K9 and RAM512X18.

Clocking

The dual-port SRAM blocks are only clocked on the rising edge. SmartGen allows falling-edge-triggered clocks by adding inverters to the netlist, hence achieving dual-port SRAM blocks that are clocked on either edge (rising or falling). For dual-port SRAM, each port can be clocked on either edge and by separate clocks by port. Note that for Automotive ProASIC3, the same clock, with an inversion between the two clock pins of the macro, should be used in design to prevent errors during compile.

Low power flash devices support inversion (bubble-pushing) throughout the FPGA architecture, including the clock input to the SRAM modules. Inversions added to the SRAM clock pin on the design schematic or in the HDL code will be automatically accounted for during design compile without incurring additional delay in the clock path.

The two-port SRAM can be clocked on the rising or falling edge of WCLK and RCLK.

If negative-edge RAM and FIFO clocking is selected for memory macros, clock edge inversion management (bubble-pushing) is automatically used within the development tools, without performance penalty.

Modes of Operation

There are two read modes and one write mode:

- Read Nonpipelined (synchronous—1 clock edge): In the standard read mode, new data is driven
 onto the RD bus in the same clock cycle following RA and REN valid. The read address is
 registered on the read port clock active edge, and data appears at RD after the RAM access time.
 Setting PIPE to OFF enables this mode.
- Read Pipelined (synchronous—2 clock edges): The pipelined mode incurs an additional clock delay from address to data but enables operation at a much higher frequency. The read address is registered on the read port active clock edge, and the read data is registered and appears at RD after the second read clock edge. Setting PIPE to ON enables this mode.
- Write (synchronous—1 clock edge): On the write clock active edge, the write data is written into the SRAM at the write address when WEN is HIGH. The setup times of the write address, write enables, and write data are minimal with respect to the write clock.

RAM Initialization

Each SRAM block can be individually initialized on power-up by means of the JTAG port using the UJTAG mechanism. The shift register for a target block can be selected and loaded with the proper bit configuration to enable serial loading. The 4,608 bits of data can be loaded in a single operation.

FIFO Features

The FIFO4KX18 macro is created by merging the RAM block with dedicated FIFO logic (Figure 6-6 on page 158). Since the FIFO logic can only be used in conjunction with the memory block, there is no separate FIFO controller macro. As with the RAM blocks, the FIFO4KX18 nomenclature does not refer to a possible aspect ratio, but rather to the deepest possible data depth and the widest possible data width. FIFO4KX18 can be configured into the following aspect ratios: 4,096×1, 2,048×2, 1,024×4, 512×9, and 256×18. In addition to being fully synchronous, the FIFO4KX18 also has the following features:

- Four FIFO flags: Empty, Full, Almost-Empty, and Almost-Full
- Empty flag is synchronized to the read clock
- Full flag is synchronized to the write clock
- Both Almost-Empty and Almost-Full flags have programmable thresholds
- · Active-low asynchronous reset
- Active-low block enable
- Active-low write enable
- Active-high read enable
- Ability to configure the FIFO to either stop counting after the empty or full states are reached or to allow the FIFO counters to continue



I/O Structures in IGLOO and ProASIC3 Devices

I/O Bank Structure

Low power flash device I/Os are divided into multiple technology banks. The number of banks is devicedependent. The IGLOOe, ProASIC3EL, and ProASIC3E devices have eight banks (two per side); and IGLOO, ProASIC3L, and ProASIC3 devices have two to four banks. Each bank has its own V**CCI** power supply pin. Multiple I/O standards can co-exist within a single I/O bank.

In IGLOOe, ProASIC3EL, and ProASIC3E devices, each I/O bank is subdivided into VREF minibanks. These are used by voltage-referenced I/Os. VREF minibanks contain 8 to 18 I/Os. All I/Os in a given minibank share a common VREF line (only one VREF pin is needed per VREF minibank). Therefore, if an I/O in a VREF minibank is configured as a VREF pin, the remaining I/Os in that minibank will be able to use the voltage assigned to that pin. If the location of the VREF pin is selected manually in the software, the user must satisfy VREF rules (refer to the "I/O Software Control in Low Power Flash Devices" section on page 251). If the user does not pick the VREF pin manually, the software automatically assigns it.

Figure 7-3 is a snapshot of a section of the I/O ring, showing the basic elements of an I/O tile, as viewed from the Designer place-and-route tool's MultiView Navigator (MVN).



Figure 7-3 • Snapshot of an I/O Tile

Low power flash device I/Os are implemented using two tile types: I/O and differential I/O (diffio).

The diffio tile is built up using two I/O tiles, which form an I/O pair (P side and N side). These I/O pairs are used according to differential I/O standards. Both the P and N sides of the diffio tile include an I/O buffer and two I/O logic blocks (auxiliary and main logic).

Every minibank (E devices only) is built up from multiple diffio tiles. The number of the minibank depends on the different-size dies. Refer to the "I/O Architecture" section on page 181 for an illustration of the minibank structure.

Figure 7-4 on page 183 shows a simplified diagram of the I/O buffer circuitry. The Output Enable signal (OE) enables the output buffer to pass the signal from the core logic to the pin. The output buffer contains ESD protection circuitry, an n-channel transistor that shunts all ESD surges (up to the limit of the device ESD specification) to GND. This transistor also serves as an output pull-down resistor.

Each output buffer also contains programmable slew rate, drive strength, programmable power-up state (pull-up/-down resistor), hot-swap, 5 V tolerance, and clamp diode control circuitry. Multiple flash switches (not shown in Figure 7-4 on page 183) are programmed by user selections in the software to activate different I/O features.

I/O Structures in IGLOO and ProASIC3 Devices

I/O Features

Low power flash devices support multiple I/O features that make board design easier. For example, an I/O feature like Schmitt Trigger in the ProASIC3E input buffer saves the board space that would be used by an external Schmitt trigger for a slow or noisy input signal. These features are also programmable for each I/O, which in turn gives flexibility in interfacing with other components. The following is a detailed description of all available features in low power flash devices.

I/O Programmable Features

Low power flash devices offer many flexible I/O features to support a wide variety of board designs. Some of the features are programmable, with a range for selection. Table 7-7 lists programmable I/O features and their ranges.

Feature ¹	Description	Range			
Slew Control	Output slew rate	HIGH, LOW			
Output Drive (mA)	Output drive strength	2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 16, 24			
Skew Control	Output tristate enable delay option	ON, OFF			
Resistor Pull	Resistor pull circuit	Up, Down, None			
Input Delay ²	Input delay	OFF, 0–7			
Schmitt Trigger	Schmitt trigger for input only	ON, OFF			

Table 7-7 • Programmable I/O Features	(user control via I/O Attribute Editor)
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Notes:

- 1. Limitations of these features with respect to different devices are discussed in later sections.
- 2. Programmable input delay is applicable only to ProASIC3EL and RT ProASIC3 devices.

Hot-Swap Support

A pull-up clamp diode must not be present in the I/O circuitry if the hot-swap feature is used. The 3.3 V PCI standard requires a pull-up clamp diode on the I/O, so it cannot be selected if hot-swap capability is required. The A3P030 device does not support 3.3 V PCI, so it is the only device in the ProASIC3 family that supports the hot-swap feature. All devices in the ProASIC3E family are hot-swappable. All standards except LVCMOS 2.5/5.0 V and 3.3 V PCI/PCI-X support the hot-swap feature.

The hot-swap feature appears as a read-only check box in the I/O Attribute Editor that shows whether an I/O is hot-swappable or not. Refer to the *"Power-Up/-Down Behavior of Low Power Flash Devices"* section on page 373 for details on hot-swapping.

Hot-swapping (also called hot-plugging) is the operation of hot insertion or hot removal of a card in a powered-up system. The levels of hot-swap support and examples of related applications are described in Table 7-8 on page 189 to Table 7-11 on page 190. The I/Os also need to be configured in hot-insertion mode if hot-plugging compliance is required. The AGL030 and A3P030 devices have an I/O structure that allows the support of Level 3 and Level 4 hot-swap with only two levels of staging.

Rules for the DDR I/O Function

- The fanout between an I/O pin (D or Y) and a DDR (DDR_REG or DDR_OUT) macro must be equal to one for the combining to happen on that pin.
- If a DDR_REG macro and a DDR_OUT macro are combined on the same bidirectional I/O, they must share the same clear signal.
- Registers will not be combined in an I/O in the presence of DDR combining on the same I/O.

Using the I/O Buffer Schematic Cell

Libero SoC software includes the ViewDraw schematic entry tool. Using ViewDraw, the user can insert any supported I/O buffer cell in the top-level schematic. Figure 9-5 shows a top-level schematic with different I/O buffer cells. When synthesized, the netlist will contain the same I/O macro.

Figure 9-5 • I/O Buffer Schematic Cell Usage

List of Changes

Date	Changes	Page	
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	
	Notes were added where appropriate to point out that IGLOO nano and ProASIC3 nano devices do not support differential inputs (SAR 21449).	N/A	
v1.4 (December 2008)	IGLOO nano and ProASIC3 nano devices were added to Table 10-1 • Flash-Based FPGAs.	272	
	The "I/O Cell Architecture" section was updated with information applicable to nano devices.	273	
	The output buffer (OUTBUF_SSTL3_I) input was changed to D, instead of Q, in Figure 10-1 • DDR Support in Low Power Flash Devices, Figure 10-3 • DDR Output Register (SSTL3 Class I), Figure 10-6 • DDR Output Register (SSTL3 Class I), Figure 10-7 • DDR Tristate Output Register, LOW Enable, 8 mA, Pull-Up (LVTTL), and the output from the DDR_OUT macro was connected to the input of the TRIBUFF macro in Figure 10-7 • DDR Tristate Output Register, LOW Enable, 8 mA, Pull-Up (LVTTL).	271, 275, 278, 279	
v1.3 (October 2008)	The "Double Data Rate (DDR) Architecture" section was updated to include mention of the AFS600 and AFS1500 devices.	271	
	The "DDR Support in Flash-Based Devices" section was revised to include new families and make the information more concise.	272	
v1.2 (June 2008)	 The following changes were made to the family descriptions in Table 10-1 • Flash-Based FPGAs: ProASIC3L was updated to include 1.5 V. The number of PLLs for ProASIC3E was changed from five to six. 	272	
v1.1 (March 2008)	The "IGLOO Terminology" section and "ProASIC3 Terminology" section are new.	272	

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



Programming Support in Flash Devices

The flash FPGAs listed in Table 11-1 support flash in-system programming and the functions described in this document.

Series	Family [*]	Description
IGLOO	IGLOO	Ultra-low power 1.2 V to 1.5 V FPGAs with Flash*Freeze technology
	IGLOOe	Higher density IGLOO FPGAs with six PLLs and additional I/O standards
	IGLOO nano	The industry's lowest-power, smallest-size solution, supporting 1.2 V to 1.5 V core voltage with Flash*Freeze technology
	IGLOO PLUS	IGLOO FPGAs with enhanced I/O capabilities
ProASIC3	ProASIC3	Low power, high-performance 1.5 V FPGAs
	ProASIC3E	Higher density ProASIC3 FPGAs with six PLLs and additional I/O standards
	ProASIC3 nano	Lowest-cost solution with enhanced I/O capabilities
	ProASIC3L	ProASIC3 FPGAs supporting 1.2 V to 1.5 V core voltage with Flash*Freeze technology
	RT ProASIC3	Radiation-tolerant RT3PE600L and RT3PE3000L
	Military ProASIC3/EL	Military temperature A3PE600L, A3P1000, and A3PE3000L
	Automotive ProASIC3	ProASIC3 FPGAs qualified for automotive applications
SmartFusion	SmartFusion	Mixed-signal FPGA integrating FPGA fabric, programmable microcontroller subsystem (MSS), including programmable analog and ARM [®] Cortex™-M3 hard processor and flash memory in a monolithic device
Fusion	Fusion	Mixed signal FPGA integrating ProASIC3 FPGA fabric, programmable analog block, support for ARM [®] Cortex™-M1 soft processors, and flash memory into a monolithic device
ProASIC	ProASIC	First generation ProASIC devices
	ProASIC ^{PLUS}	Second generation ProASIC devices

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 11-1. 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 11-1. 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.*



Types of Programming for Flash Devices

The number of devices to be programmed will influence the optimal programming methodology. Those available are listed below:

- In-system programming
 - Using a programmer
 - Using a microprocessor or microcontroller
- Device programmers
 - Single-site programmers
 - Multi-site programmers, batch programmers, or gang programmers
 - Automated production (robotic) programmers
- Volume programming services
 - Microsemi in-house programming
 - Programming centers

In-System Programming

Device Type Supported: Flash

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ISP refers to programming the FPGA after it has been mounted on the system printed circuit board. The FPGA may be preprogrammed and later reprogrammed using ISP.

The advantage of using ISP is the ability to update the FPGA design many times without any changes to the board. This eliminates the requirement of using a socket for the FPGA, saving cost and improving reliability. It also reduces programming hardware expenses, as the ISP methodology is die-/package-independent.

There are two methods of in-system programming: external and internal.

Programmer ISP—Refer to the "In-System Programming (ISP) of Microsemi's Low Power Flash Devices Using FlashPro4/3/3X" section on page 327 for more information.

Using an external programmer and a cable, the device can be programmed through a header on the system board. In Microsemi SoC Products Group documentation, this is referred to as external ISP. Microsemi provides FlashPro4, FlashPro3, FlashPro Lite, or Silicon Sculptor 3 to perform external ISP. Note that Silicon Sculptor II and Silicon Sculptor 3 can only provide ISP for ProASIC and ProASIC^{PLUS®} families, not for SmartFusion, Fusion, IGLOO, or ProASIC3. Silicon Sculptor II and Silicon Sculptor 3 can be used for programming ProASIC and ProASIC^{PLUS®} devices by using an adapter module (part number SMPA-ISP-ACTEL-3).

- Advantages: Allows local control of programming and data files for maximum security. The programming algorithms and hardware are available from Microsemi. The only hardware required on the board is a programming header.
- Limitations: A negligible board space requirement for the programming header and JTAG signal routing
- Microprocessor ISP—Refer to the "Microprocessor Programming of Microsemi's Low Power Flash Devices" chapter of an appropriate FPGA fabric user's guide for more information.

Using a microprocessor and an external or internal memory, you can store the program in memory and use the microprocessor to perform the programming. In Microsemi documentation, this is referred to as internal ISP. Both the code for the programming algorithm and the FPGA programming file must be stored in memory on the board. Programming voltages must also be generated on the board.

- Advantages: The programming code is stored in the system memory. An external programmer is not required during programming.
- Limitations: This is the approach that requires the most design work, since some way of getting and/or storing the data is needed; a system interface to the device must be designed; and the low-level API to the programming firmware must be written and linked into the code provided by Microsemi. While there are benefits to this methodology, serious thought and planning should go into the decision.

Programming Solutions

Details for the available programmers can be found in the programmer user's guides listed in the "Related Documents" section on page 297.

All the programmers except FlashPro4, FlashPro3, FlashPro Lite, and FlashPro require adapter modules, which are designed to support device packages. All modules are listed on the Microsemi SoC Products Group website at

http://www.microsemi.com/soc/products/hardware/program_debug/ss/modules.aspx. They are not listed in this document, since this list is updated frequently with new package options and any upgrades required to improve programming yield or support new families.

Programmer	Vendor	ISP	Single Device	Multi-Device	Availability		
FlashPro4	Microsemi	Only	Yes	Yes ¹	Available		
FlashPro3	Microsemi	Only	Yes	Yes ¹	Available		
FlashPro Lite ²	Microsemi	Only	Yes	Yes ¹	Available		
FlashPro	Microsemi	Only	Yes	Yes ¹	Discontinued		
Silicon Sculptor 3	Microsemi	Yes ³	Yes	Cascade option (up to two)	Available		
Silicon Sculptor II	Microsemi	Yes ³	Yes	Cascade option (up to two)	Available		
Silicon Sculptor	Microsemi	Yes	Yes	Cascade option (up to four)	Discontinued		
Sculptor 6X	Microsemi	No	Yes	Yes	Discontinued		
BP MicroProgrammers	BP Microsystems	No	Yes	Yes	Contact BP Microsystems at www.bpmicro.com		

Table 11-3 • Programming Solutions

Notes:

1. Multiple devices can be connected in the same JTAG chain for programming.

2. If FlashPro Lite is used for programming, the programmer derives all of its power from the target pc board's VDD supply. The FlashPro Lite's VPP and VPN power supplies use the target pc board's VDD as a power source. The target pc board must supply power to both the VDDP and VDD power pins of the ProASIC^{PLUS} device in addition to supplying VDD to the FlashPro Lite. The target pc board needs to provide at least 500 mA of current to the FlashPro Lite VDD connection for programming.

3. Silicon Sculptor II and Silicon Sculptor 3 can only provide ISP for ProASIC and ProASIC^{PLUS} families, not for Fusion, IGLOO, or ProASIC3 devices.

FlashROM and Programming Files

Each low power flash device has 1 kbit of on-chip, nonvolatile flash memory that can be accessed from the FPGA core. This nonvolatile FlashROM is arranged in eight pages of 128 bits (Figure 13-3). Each page can be programmed independently, with or without the 128-bit AES encryption. The FlashROM can only be programmed via the IEEE 1532 JTAG port and cannot be programmed from the FPGA core. In addition, during programming of the FlashROM, the FPGA core is powered down automatically by the on-chip programming control logic.

			Byte Number in Page														
		15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
	7																
	6																
be	5																
L m	4																
Z Ø	3																
ag	2																
₽.	1																
	0																

Figure 13-3 • FlashROM Architecture

When using FlashROM combined with AES, many subscription-based applications or device serialization applications are possible. The FROM configurator found in the Libero SoC Catalog supports easy management of the FlashROM contents, even over large numbers of devices. The FROM configurator can support FlashROM contents that contain the following:

- Static values
- Random numbers
- Values read from a file
- Independent updates of each page

In addition, auto-incrementing of fields is possible. In applications where the FlashROM content is different for each device, you have the option to generate a single STAPL file for all the devices or individual serialization files for each device. For more information on how to generate the FlashROM content for device serialization, refer to the "FlashROM in Microsemi's Low Power Flash Devices" section on page 133.

Libero SoC includes a unique tool to support the generation and management of FlashROM and FPGA programming files. This tool is called FlashPoint.

Depending on the applications, designers can use the FlashPoint software to generate a STAPL file with different contents. In each case, optional AES encryption and/or different security settings can be set.

In Designer, when you click the Programming File icon, FlashPoint launches, and you can generate STAPL file(s) with four different cases (Figure 13-4 on page 334). When the serialization feature is used during the configuration of FlashROM, you can generate a single STAPL file that will program all the devices or an individual STAPL file for each device.

The following cases present the FPGA core and FlashROM programming file combinations that can be used for different applications. In each case, you can set the optional security settings (FlashLock Pass Key and/or AES Key) depending on the application.

- 1. A single STAPL file or multiple STAPL files with multiple FlashROM contents and the FPGA core content. 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.
- 2. A single STAPL file for the FPGA core content

Power-Up/-Down Behavior of Low Power Flash Devices

Related Documents

Datasheets

ProASIC3 Flash Family FPGAs http://www.microsemi.com/soc/documents/PA3_DS.pdf ProASIC3E Flash Family FPGAs http://www.microsemi.com/soc/documents/PA3E_DS.pdf

List of Changes

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

Date	Changes	Page
v1.2 (December 2008)	IGLOO nano and ProASIC3 nano devices were added to the document as supported device types.	
v1.1 (October 2008)	The "Introduction" section was updated to add Military ProASIC3EL and RT ProASIC3 devices to the list of devices that can have inputs driven in while the device is not powered.	373
	The "Flash Devices Support Power-Up Behavior" section was revised to include new families and make the information more concise.	374
	The "Cold-Sparing" section was revised to add Military ProASIC3/EL and RT ProASIC3 devices to the lists of devices with and without cold-sparing support.	382
	The "Hot-Swapping" section was revised to add Military ProASIC3/EL and RT ProASIC3 devices to the lists of devices with and without hot-swap support. AGL400 was added to the list of devices that do not support hot-swapping.	383
v1.0 (August 2008)	This document was revised, renamed, and assigned a new part number. It now includes data for the IGLOO and ProASIC3L families.	N/A
v1.3 (March 2008)	The "List of Changes" section was updated to include the three different I/O Structure handbook chapters.	384
v1.2 (February 2008)	The first sentence of the "PLL Behavior at Brownout Condition" section was updated to read, "When PLL power supply voltage and/or V _{CC} levels drop below the VCC brownout levels (0.75 V \pm 0.25 V), the PLL output lock signal goes low and/or the output clock is lost."	381
v1.1 (January 2008)	The "PLL Behavior at Brownout Condition" section was added.	381

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