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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	516096
Number of I/O	221
Number of Gates	3000000
Voltage - Supply	1.14V ~ 1.575V
Mounting Type	Surface Mount
Operating Temperature	-40°C ~ 100°C (TJ)
Package / Case	324-BGA
Supplier Device Package	324-FBGA (19x19)
Purchase URL	https://www.e-xfl.com/product-detail/microchip-technology/a3pe3000l-1fgg324i

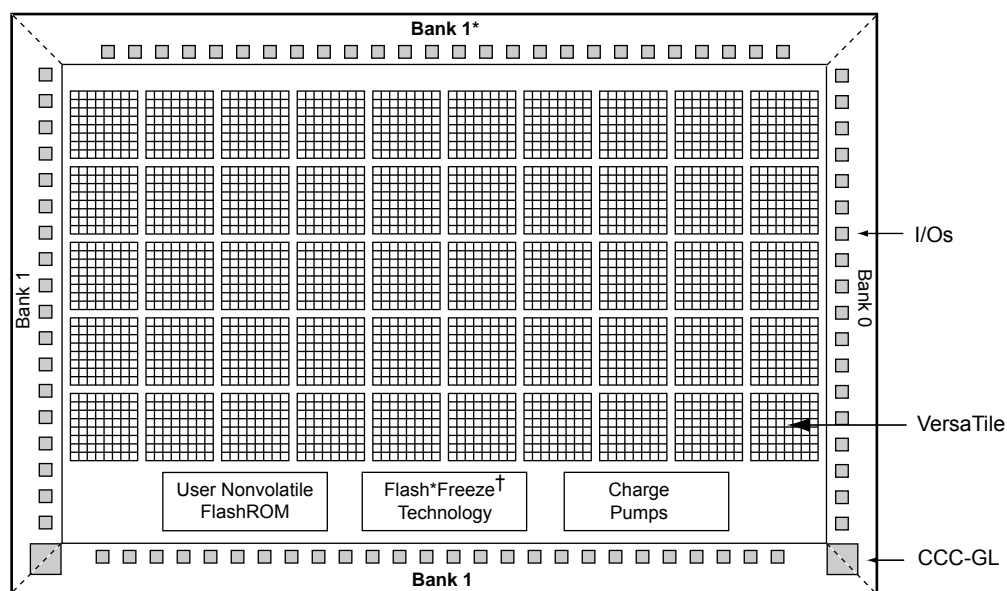
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Device Overview

Low power flash devices consist of multiple distinct programmable architectural features (Figure 1-5 on page 13 through Figure 1-7 on page 14):

- FPGA fabric/core (VersaTiles)
- Routing and clock resources (VersaNets)
- FlashROM
- Dedicated SRAM and/or FIFO
 - 30 k gate and smaller device densities do not support SRAM or FIFO.
 - Automotive devices do not support FIFO operation.
- I/O structures
- Flash*Freeze technology and low power modes



Notes: * Bank 0 for the 30 k devices

† Flash*Freeze mode is supported on IGLOO devices.

Figure 1-2 • IGLOO and ProASIC3 nano Device Architecture Overview with Two I/O Banks (applies to 10 k and 30 k device densities, excluding IGLOO PLUS devices)

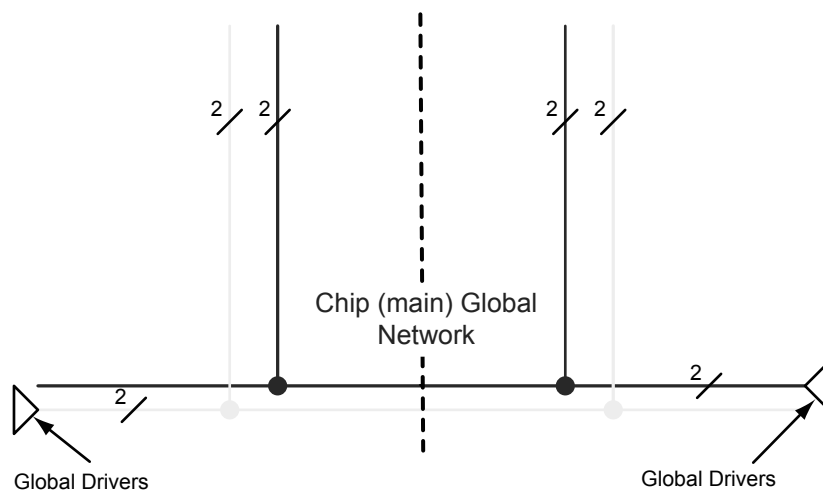


Figure 3-2 • Simplified VersaNet Global Network (30 k gates and below)

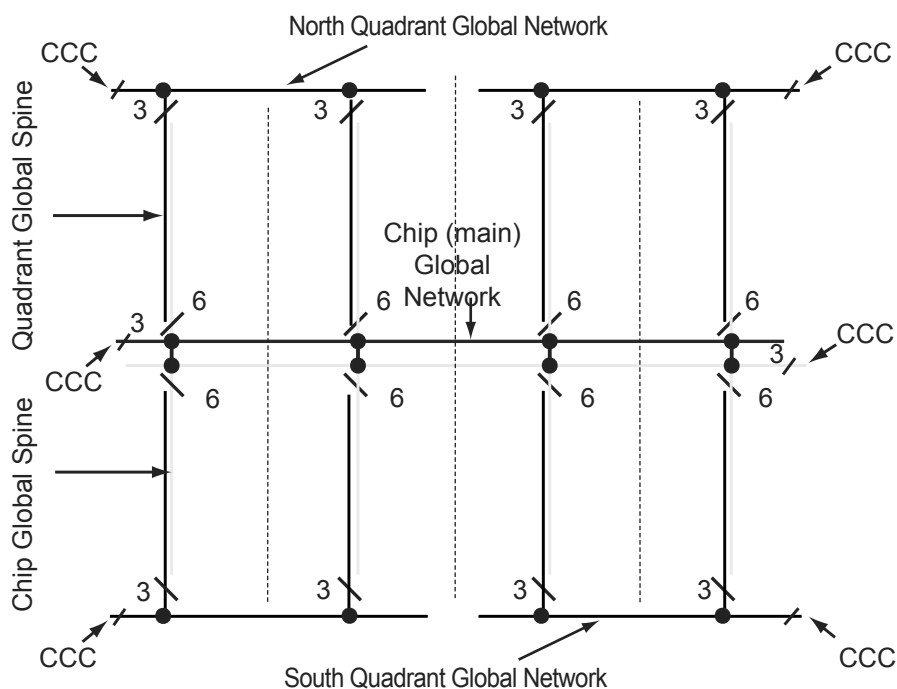


Figure 3-3 • Simplified VersaNet Global Network (60 k gates and above)

PLL Core Specifications

PLL core specifications can be found in the DC and Switching Characteristics chapter of the appropriate family datasheet.

Loop Bandwidth

Common design practice for systems with a low-noise input clock is to have PLLs with small loop bandwidths to reduce the effects of noise sources at the output. Table 4-6 shows the PLL loop bandwidth, providing a measure of the PLL's ability to track the input clock and jitter.

Table 4-6 • –3 dB Frequency of the PLL

	Minimum ($T_a = +125^\circ\text{C}$, $V_{CCA} = 1.4\text{ V}$)	Typical ($T_a = +25^\circ\text{C}$, $V_{CCA} = 1.5\text{ V}$)	Maximum ($T_a = -55^\circ\text{C}$, $V_{CCA} = 1.6\text{ V}$)
–3 dB Frequency	15 kHz	25 kHz	45 kHz

PLL Core Operating Principles

This section briefly describes the basic principles of PLL operation. The PLL core is composed of a phase detector (PD), a low-pass filter (LPF), and a four-phase voltage-controlled oscillator (VCO). Figure 4-19 illustrates a basic single-phase PLL core with a divider and delay in the feedback path.

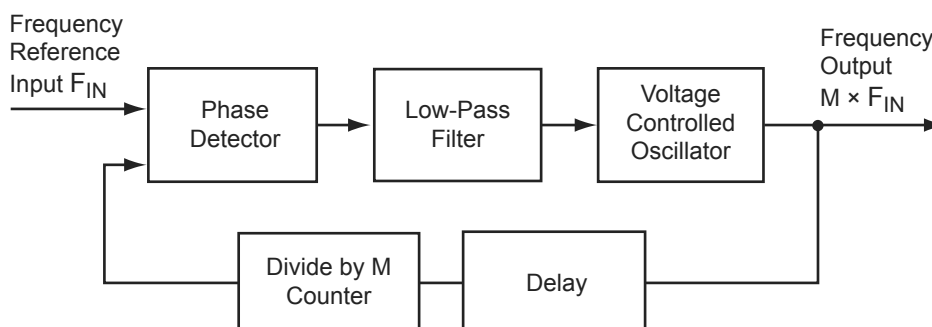


Figure 4-19 • Simplified PLL Core with Feedback Divider and Delay

The PLL is an electronic servo loop that phase-aligns the PD feedback signal with the reference input. To achieve this, the PLL dynamically adjusts the VCO output signal according to the average phase difference between the input and feedback signals.

The first element is the PD, which produces a voltage proportional to the phase difference between its inputs. A simple example of a digital phase detector is an Exclusive-OR gate. The second element, the LPF, extracts the average voltage from the phase detector and applies it to the VCO. This applied voltage alters the resonant frequency of the VCO, thus adjusting its output frequency.

Consider Figure 4-19 with the feedback path bypassing the divider and delay elements. If the LPF steadily applies a voltage to the VCO such that the output frequency is identical to the input frequency, this steady-state condition is known as lock. Note that the input and output phases are also identical. The PLL core sets a LOCK output signal HIGH to indicate this condition.

Should the input frequency increase slightly, the PD detects the frequency/phase difference between its reference and feedback input signals. Since the PD output is proportional to the phase difference, the change causes the output from the LPF to increase. This voltage change increases the resonant frequency of the VCO and increases the feedback frequency as a result. The PLL dynamically adjusts in this manner until the PD senses two phase-identical signals and steady-state lock is achieved. The opposite (decreasing PD output signal) occurs when the input frequency decreases.

Now suppose the feedback divider is inserted in the feedback path. As the division factor M (shown in Figure 4-20 on page 101) is increased, the average phase difference increases. The average phase

Feedback Configuration

The PLL provides both internal and external feedback delays. Depending on the configuration, various combinations of feedback delays can be achieved.

Internal Feedback Configuration

This configuration essentially sets the feedback multiplexer to route the VCO output of the PLL core as the input to the feedback of the PLL. The feedback signal can be processed with the fixed system and the adjustable feedback delay, as shown in Figure 4-24. The dividers are automatically configured by SmartGen based on the user input.

Indicated below is the System Delay pull-down menu. The System Delay can be bypassed by setting it to 0. When set, it adds a 2 ns delay to the feedback path (which results in delay advancement of the output clock by 2 ns).

Figure 4-24 • Internal Feedback with Selectable System Delay

Figure 4-25 shows the controllable Feedback Delay. If set properly in conjunction with the fixed System Delay, the total output delay can be advanced significantly.

Figure 4-25 • Internal Feedback with Selectable Feedback Delay

Conclusion

The advanced CCCs of the IGLOO and ProASIC3 devices are ideal for applications requiring precise clock management. They integrate easily with the internal low-skew clock networks and provide flexible frequency synthesis, clock deskewing, and/or time-shifting operations.

Related Documents

Application Notes

Board-Level Considerations

http://www.microsemi.com/soc/documents/ALL_AC276_AN.pdf

Datasheets

Fusion Family of Mixed Signal FPGAs

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

User's Guides

IGLOO, ProASIC3, SmartFusion, and Fusion Macro Library Guide

http://www.microsemi.com/soc/documents/pa3_libguide_ug.pdf

List of Changes

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

Date	Changes	Page
August 2012	The "Implementing EXTFB in ProASIC3/E Devices" section is new (SAR 36647).	86
	Table 4-7 • Delay Values in Libero SoC Software per Device Family was added to the "Clock Delay Adjustment" section (SAR 22709).	102
	The "Phase Adjustment" section was rewritten to explain better why the visual CCC shows both the actual phase and the actual delay that is equivalent to this phase shift (SAR 29647).	103
	The hyperlink for the <i>Board-Level Considerations</i> application note was corrected (SAR 36663)	128, 129
December 2011	Figure 4-20 • PLL Block Diagram, Figure 4-22 • CCC Block Control Bits – Graphical Representation of Assignments, and Table 4-12 • MUXA, MUXB, MUXC were revised to change the phase shift assignments for PLLs 4 through 7 (SAR 33791).	101, 105, 109
June 2011	The description for RESETEN in Table 4-8 • Configuration Bit Descriptions for the CCC Blocks was revised. The phrase "and should not be modified via dynamic configuration" was deleted because RESETEN is read only (SAR 25949).	106
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

RD

This is the output data bus and is 18 bits wide. Not all 18 bits are valid in all configurations. Like the WD bus, high-order bits become unusable if the data width is less than 18. The output data on unused pins is undefined (Table 6-7).

Table 6-7 • Input Data Signal Usage for Different Aspect Ratios

D×W	WD/RD Unused
4k×1	WD[17:1], RD[17:1]
2k×2	WD[17:2], RD[17:2]
1k×4	WD[17:4], RD[17:4]
512×9	WD[17:9], RD[17:9]
256×18	—

ESTOP, FSTOP

ESTOP is used to stop the FIFO read counter from further counting once the FIFO is empty (i.e., the EMPTY flag goes HIGH). A HIGH on this signal inhibits the counting.

FSTOP is used to stop the FIFO write counter from further counting once the FIFO is full (i.e., the FULL flag goes HIGH). A HIGH on this signal inhibits the counting.

For more information on these signals, refer to the "ESTOP and FSTOP Usage" section.

FULL, EMPTY

When the FIFO is full and no more data can be written, the FULL flag asserts HIGH. The FULL flag is synchronous to WCLK to inhibit writing immediately upon detection of a full condition and to prevent overflows. Since the write address is compared to a resynchronized (and thus time-delayed) version of the read address, the FULL flag will remain asserted until two WCLK active edges after a read operation eliminates the full condition.

When the FIFO is empty and no more data can be read, the EMPTY flag asserts HIGH. The EMPTY flag is synchronous to RCLK to inhibit reading immediately upon detection of an empty condition and to prevent underflows. Since the read address is compared to a resynchronized (and thus time-delayed) version of the write address, the EMPTY flag will remain asserted until two RCLK active edges after a write operation removes the empty condition.

For more information on these signals, refer to the "FIFO Flag Usage Considerations" section on page 161.

AFULL, AEMPTY

These are programmable flags and will be asserted on the threshold specified by AFVAL and AEVAL, respectively.

When the number of words stored in the FIFO reaches the amount specified by AEVAL while reading, the AEMPTY output will go HIGH. Likewise, when the number of words stored in the FIFO reaches the amount specified by AFVAL while writing, the AFULL output will go HIGH.

AFVAL, AEVAL

The AEVAL and AFVAL pins are used to specify the almost-empty and almost-full threshold values. They are 12-bit signals. For more information on these signals, refer to the "FIFO Flag Usage Considerations" section on page 161.

FIFO Usage

ESTOP and FSTOP Usage

The ESTOP pin is used to stop the read counter from counting any further once the FIFO is empty (i.e., the EMPTY flag goes HIGH). Likewise, the FSTOP pin is used to stop the write counter from counting any further once the FIFO is full (i.e., the FULL flag goes HIGH).

The FIFO counters in the device start the count at zero, reach the maximum depth for the configuration (e.g., 511 for a 512×9 configuration), and then restart at zero. An example application for ESTOP, where the read counter keeps counting, would be writing to the FIFO once and reading the same content over and over without doing another write.

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.

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

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

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.

Table 7-10 • Hot-Swap Level 3

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

Table 7-11 • Hot-Swap Level 4

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

Low Power Flash Device I/O Support

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

Table 8-1 • Flash-Based FPGAs

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

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

IGLOO Terminology

In documentation, the terms IGLOO series and IGLOO devices refer to all of the IGLOO devices as listed in Table 8-1. Where the information applies to only one product line or limited devices, these exclusions will be explicitly stated.

ProASIC3 Terminology

In documentation, the terms ProASIC3 series and ProASIC3 devices refer to all of the ProASIC3 devices as listed in Table 8-1. Where the information applies to only one product line or limited devices, these exclusions will be explicitly stated.

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

This current draw can occur in the following cases:

- In Active and Static modes:
 - Input buffers with pull-up, driven Low
 - Input buffers with pull-down, driven High
 - Bidirectional buffers with pull-up, driven Low
 - Bidirectional buffers with pull-down, driven High
 - Output buffers with pull-up, driven Low
 - Output buffers with pull-down, driven High
 - Tristate buffers with pull-up, driven Low
 - Tristate buffers with pull-down, driven High
- In Flash*Freeze mode:
 - Input buffers with pull-up, driven Low
 - Input buffers with pull-down, driven High
 - Bidirectional buffers with pull-up, driven Low
 - Bidirectional buffers with pull-down, driven High

Electrostatic Discharge Protection

Low power flash devices are tested per JEDEC Standard JESD22-A114-B.

These devices contain clamp diodes at every I/O, global, and power pad. Clamp diodes protect all device pads against damage from ESD as well as from excessive voltage transients.

All IGLOO and ProASIC3 devices are tested to the Human Body Model (HBM) and the Charged Device Model (CDM).

Each I/O has two clamp diodes. One diode has its positive (P) side connected to the pad and its negative (N) side connected to VCCI. The second diode has its P side connected to GND and its N side connected to the pad. During operation, these diodes are normally biased in the off state, except when transient voltage is significantly above VCCI or below GND levels.

In 30 k gate devices, the first diode is always off. In other devices, the clamp diode is always on and cannot be switched off.

By selecting the appropriate I/O configuration, the diode is turned on or off. Refer to Table 8-13 for more information about the I/O standards and the clamp diode.

The second diode is always connected to the pad, regardless of the I/O configuration selected.

Table 8-13 • I/O Hot-Swap and 5 V Input Tolerance Capabilities in IGLOOe and ProASIC3E Devices

I/O Assignment	Clamp Diode	Hot Insertion	5 V Input Tolerance	Input Buffer	Output Buffer
3.3 V LVTTTL/LVCMOS	No	Yes	Yes ¹	Enabled/Disabled	
3.3 V PCI, 3.3 V PCI-X	Yes	No	Yes ¹	Enabled/Disabled	
LVCMOS 2.5 V ²	No	Yes	No	Enabled/Disabled	
LVCMOS 2.5 V / 5.0 V ²	Yes	No	Yes ³	Enabled/Disabled	
LVCMOS 1.8 V	No	Yes	No	Enabled/Disabled	
LVCMOS 1.5 V	No	Yes	No	Enabled/Disabled	
Voltage-Referenced Input Buffer	No	Yes	No	Enabled/Disabled	
Differential, LVDS/B-LVDS/M-LVDS/LVPECL	No	Yes	No	Enabled/Disabled	

Notes:

1. Can be implemented with an external IDT bus switch, resistor divider, or Zener with resistor.
2. In the SmartGen Core Reference Guide, select the LVCMOS5 macro for the LVCMOS 2.5 V / 5.0 V I/O standard or the LVCMOS25 macro for the LVCMOS 2.5 V I/O standard.
3. Can be implemented with an external resistor and an internal clamp diode.

User I/O Naming Convention

IGLOOe and ProASIC3E

Due to the comprehensive and flexible nature of IGLOOe and ProASIC3E device user I/Os, a naming scheme is used to show the details of each I/O (Figure 8-20 on page 246). The name identifies to which I/O bank it belongs, as well as the pairing and pin polarity for differential I/Os.

I/O Nomenclature = FF/Gmn/IOuxwByVz

Gmn is only used for I/Os that also have CCC access—i.e., global pins.

FF = Indicates the I/O dedicated for the Flash*Freeze mode activation pin in IGLOOe only

G = Global

m = Global pin location associated with each CCC on the device: A (northwest corner), B (northeast corner), C (east middle), D (southeast corner), E (southwest corner), and F (west middle)

n = Global input MUX and pin number of the associated Global location m, either A0, A1, A2, B0, B1, B2, C0, C1, or C2. Refer to the "Global Resources in Low Power Flash Devices" section on page 47 for information about the three input pins per clock source MUX at CCC location m.

u = I/O pair number in the bank, starting at 00 from the northwest I/O bank and proceeding in a clockwise direction

x = P (Positive) or N (Negative) for differential pairs, or R (Regular—single-ended) for the I/Os that support single-ended and voltage-referenced I/O standards only

w = D (Differential Pair), P (Pair), or S (Single-Ended). D (Differential Pair) if both members of the pair are bonded out to adjacent pins or are separated only by one GND or NC pin; P (Pair) if both members of the pair are bonded out but do not meet the adjacency requirement; or S (Single-Ended) if the I/O pair is not bonded out. For Differential (D) pairs, adjacency for ball grid packages means only vertical or horizontal. Diagonal adjacency does not meet the requirements for a true differential pair.

B = Bank

y = Bank number (0–7). The bank number starts at 0 from the northwest I/O bank and proceeds in a clockwise direction.

V = V_{REF}

z = V_{REF} minibank number (0–4). A given voltage-referenced signal spans 16 pins (typically) in an I/O bank. Voltage banks may have multiple V_{REF} minibanks.

10 – DDR for Microsemi’s Low Power Flash Devices

Introduction

The I/Os in Fusion, IGLOO, and ProASIC3 devices support Double Data Rate (DDR) mode. In this mode, new data is present on every transition (or clock edge) of the clock signal. This mode doubles the data transfer rate compared with Single Data Rate (SDR) mode, where new data is present on one transition (or clock edge) of the clock signal. Low power flash devices have DDR circuitry built into the I/O tiles. I/Os are configured to be DDR receivers or transmitters by instantiating the appropriate special macros (examples shown in Figure 10-4 on page 276 and Figure 10-5 on page 277) and buffers (DDR_OUT or DDR_REG) in the RTL design. This document discusses the options the user can choose to configure the I/Os in this mode and how to instantiate them in the design.

Double Data Rate (DDR) Architecture

Low power flash devices support 350 MHz DDR inputs and outputs. In DDR mode, new data is present on every transition of the clock signal. Clock and data lines have identical bandwidths and signal integrity requirements, making them very efficient for implementing very high-speed systems. High-speed DDR interfaces can be implemented using LVDS (not applicable for IGLOO nano and ProASIC3 nano devices). In IGLOOe, ProASIC3E, AFS600, and AFS1500 devices, DDR interfaces can also be implemented using the HSTL, SSTL, and LVPECL I/O standards. The DDR feature is primarily implemented in the FPGA core periphery and is not tied to a specific I/O technology or limited to any I/O standard.

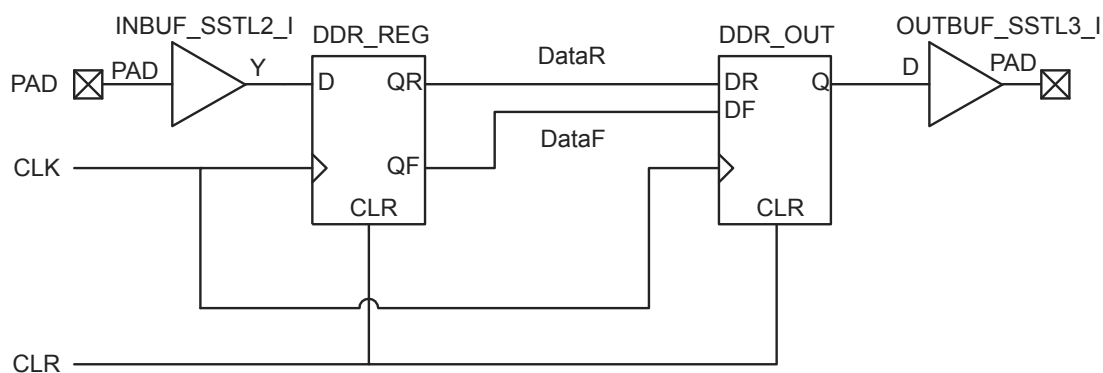


Figure 10-1 • DDR Support in Low Power Flash Devices

```

DDR_OUT_0_inst : DDR_OUT
port map(DR => DataR, DF => DataF, CLK => CLK, CLR => CLR, Q => Q);
TRIBUFF_F_8U_0_inst : TRIBUFF_F_8U
port map(D => Q, E => TrienAux, PAD => PAD);

end DEF_ARCH;

```

DDR Bidirectional Buffer

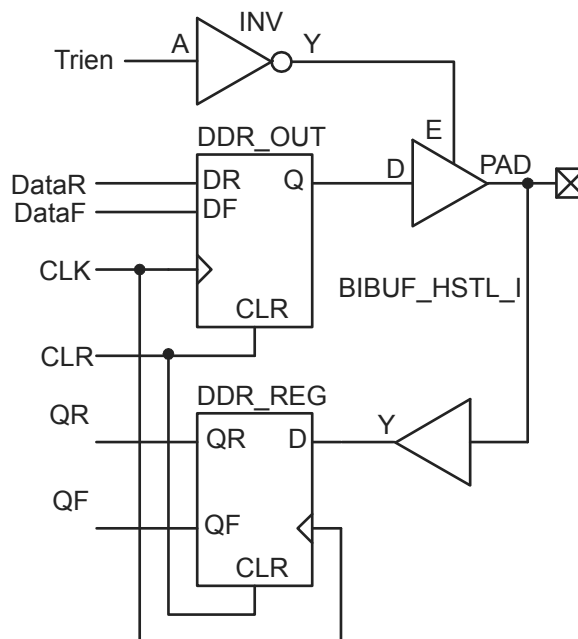


Figure 10-8 • DDR Bidirectional Buffer, LOW Output Enable (HSTL Class II)

Verilog

```

module DDR_BiDir_HSTL_I_LowEnb(DataR,DataF,CLR,CLK,Trien,QR,QF,PAD);

input  DataR, DataF, CLR, CLK, Trien;
output QR, QF;
inout  PAD;

wire TrienAux, D, Q;

    INV Inv_Tri(.A(Trien), .Y(TrienAux));
    DDR_OUT DDR_OUT_0_inst(.DR(DataR),.DF(DataF),.CLK(CLK),.CLR(CLR),.Q(Q));
    DDR_REG DDR_REG_0_inst(.D(D),.CLK(CLK),.CLR(CLR),.QR(QR),.QF(QF));
    BIBUF_HSTL_I BIBUF_HSTL_I_0_inst(.PAD(PAD),.D(Q),.E(TrienAux),.Y(D));

endmodule

```

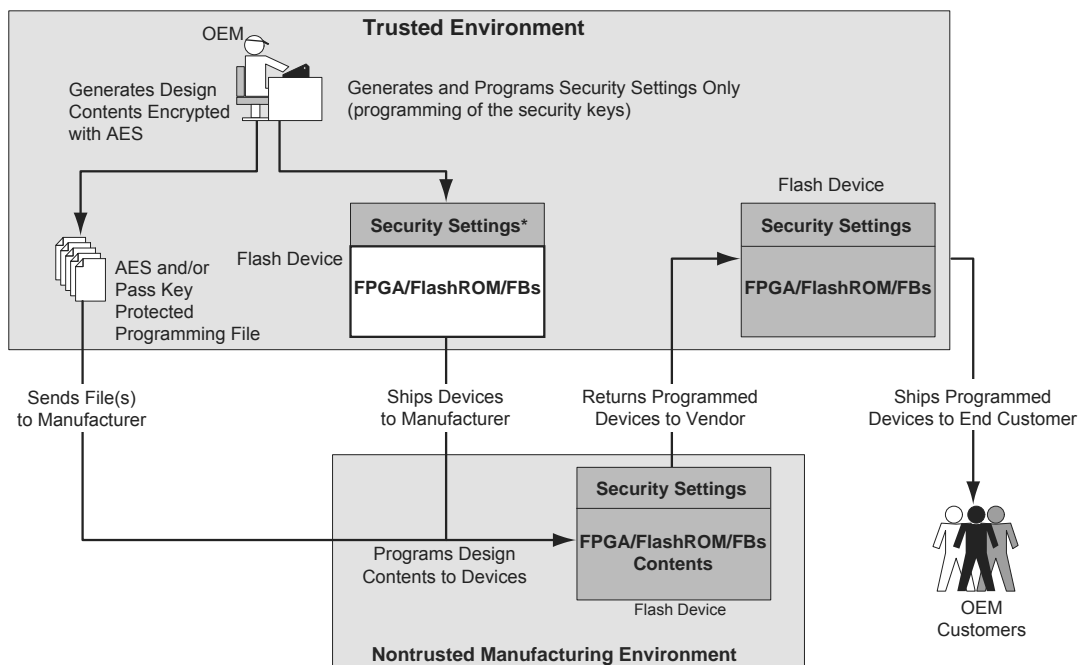
Application 1: Trusted Environment

As illustrated in Figure 12-7, this application allows the programming of devices at design locations where research and development take place. Therefore, encryption is not necessary and is optional to the user. This is often a secure way to protect the design, since the design program files are not sent elsewhere. In situations where production programming is not available at the design location, programming centers (such as Microsemi In-House Programming) provide a way of programming designs at an alternative, secure, and trusted location. In this scenario, the user generates a STAPL programming file from the Designer software in plaintext format, containing information on the entire design or the portion of the design to be programmed. The user can choose to employ the FlashLock Pass Key feature with the design. Once the design is programmed to unprogrammed devices, the design is protected by this FlashLock Pass Key. If no future programming is needed, the user can consider permanently securing the IGLOO and ProASIC3 device, as discussed in the "Permanent FlashLock" section on page 307.

Application 2: Nontrusted Environment—Unsecured Location

Often, programming of devices is not performed in the same location as actual design implementation, to reduce manufacturing cost. Overseas programming centers and contract manufacturers are examples of this scenario.

To achieve security in this case, the AES key and the FlashLock Pass Key can be initially programmed in-house (trusted environment). This is done by generating a programming file with only the security settings and no design contents. The design FPGA core, FlashROM, and (for Fusion) FB contents are generated in a separate programming file. This programming file must be set with the same AES key that was used to program to the device previously so the device will correctly decrypt this encrypted programming file. As a result, the encrypted design content programming file can be safely sent off-site to nontrusted programming locations for design programming. Figure 12-7 shows a more detailed flow for this application.



Notes:

1. Programmed portion indicated with dark gray.
2. Programming of FBs applies to Fusion only.

Figure 12-7 • Application 2: Device Programming in a Nontrusted Environment

Figure 13-2 shows different applications for ISP programming.

1. In a trusted programming environment, you can program the device using the unencrypted (plaintext) programming file.
2. You can program the AES Key in a trusted programming environment and finish the final programming in an untrusted environment using the AES-encrypted (cipher text) programming file.
3. For the remote ISP updating/reprogramming, the AES Key stored in the device enables the encrypted programming bitstream to be transmitted through the untrusted network connection.

Microsemi low power flash devices also provide the unique Microsemi FlashLock feature, which protects the Pass Key and AES Key. Unless the original FlashLock Pass Key is used to unlock the device, security settings cannot be modified. Microsemi does not support read-back of FPGA core-programmed data; however, the FlashROM contents can selectively be read back (or disabled) via the JTAG port based on the security settings established by the Microsemi Designer software. Refer to the "Security in Low Power Flash Devices" section on page 301 for more information.

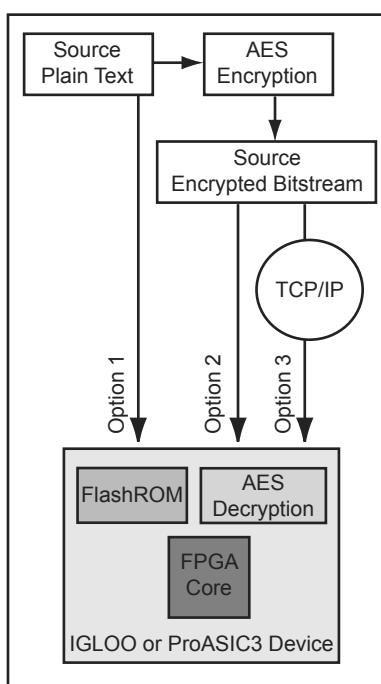
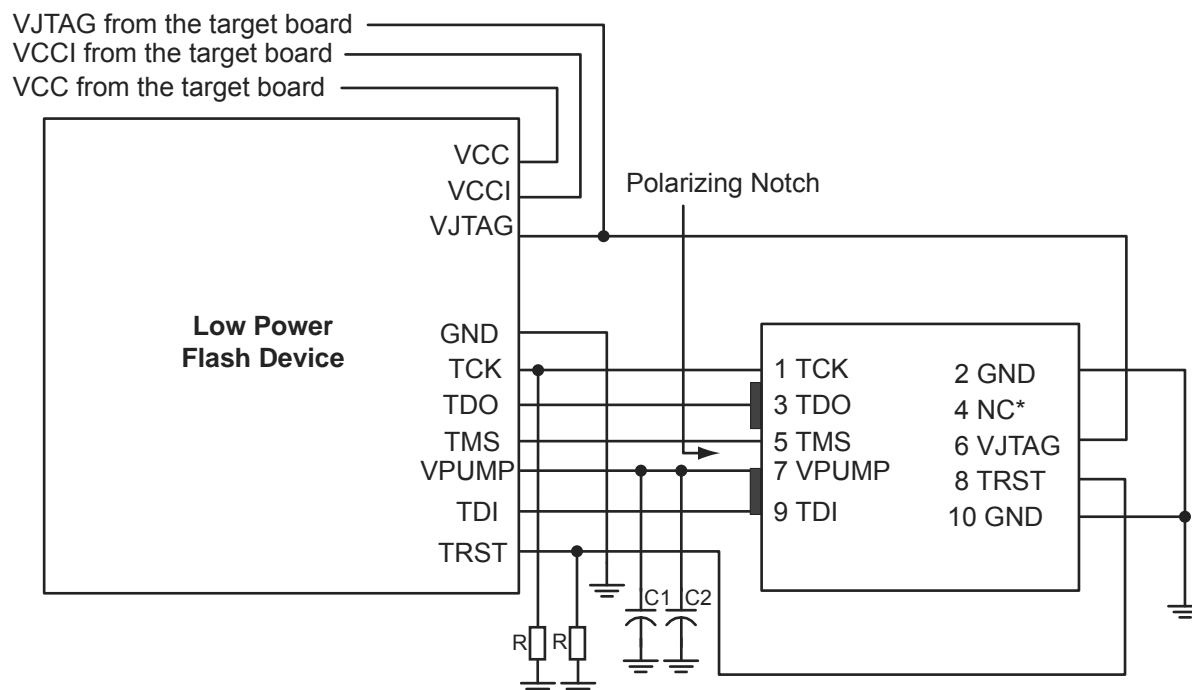


Figure 13-2 • Different ISP Use Models

Board-Level Considerations

A bypass capacitor is required from VPUMP to GND for all low power flash devices during programming. This bypass capacitor protects the devices from voltage spikes that may occur on the VPUMP supplies during the erase and programming cycles. Refer to the "Pin Descriptions and Packaging" chapter of the appropriate device datasheet for specific recommendations. For proper programming, 0.01 μF and 0.33 μF capacitors (both rated at 16 V) are to be connected in parallel across VPUMP and GND, and positioned as close to the FPGA pins as possible. The bypass capacitor must be placed within 2.5 cm of the device pins.



Note: *NC (FlashPro3/3X); Prog_Mode (FlashPro4). Prog_Mode on FlashPro4 is an output signal that goes High during device programming and returns to Low when programming is complete. This signal can be used to drive a system to provide a 1.5 V programming signal to IGLOO nano, ProASIC3L, and RT ProASIC3 devices that can run with 1.2 V core voltage but require 1.5 V for programming. IGLOO nano V2 devices can be programmed at 1.2 V core voltage (when using FlashPro4 only), but IGLOO nano V5 devices are programmed with a VCC core voltage of 1.5 V.

Figure 13-6 • Board Layout and Programming Header Top View

Troubleshooting Signal Integrity

Symptoms of a Signal Integrity Problem

A signal integrity problem can manifest itself in many ways. The problem may show up as extra or dropped bits during serial communication, changing the meaning of the communication. There is a normal variation of threshold voltage and frequency response between parts even from the same lot. Because of this, the effects of signal integrity may not always affect different devices on the same board in the same way. Sometimes, replacing a device appears to make signal integrity problems go away, but this is just masking the problem. Different parts on identical boards will exhibit the same problem sooner or later. It is important to fix signal integrity problems early. Unless the signal integrity problems are severe enough to completely block all communication between the device and the programmer, they may show up as subtle problems. Some of the FlashPro4/3/3X exit codes that are caused by signal integrity problems are listed below. Signal integrity problems are not the only possible cause of these

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).	370
July 2010	This chapter is no longer published separately with its own part number and version but is now part of several FPGA fabric user's guides.	N/A
v1.4 (December 2008)	IGLOO nano and ProASIC3 nano devices were added to Table 17-1 • Flash-Based FPGAs.	364
v1.3 (October 2008)	The "UJTAG Support in Flash-Based Devices" section was revised to include new families and make the information more concise.	364
	The title of Table 17-3 • Configuration Bits of Fusion, IGLOO, and ProASIC3 CCC Blocks was revised to include Fusion.	368
v1.2 (June 2008)	The following changes were made to the family descriptions in Table 17-1 • Flash-Based FPGAs: <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. 	364
v1.1 (March 2008)	The chapter was updated to include the IGLOO PLUS family and information regarding 15 k gate devices.	N/A
	The "IGLOO Terminology" section and "ProASIC3 Terminology" section are new.	364

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 ($0.75\text{ V} \pm 0.25\text{ V}$), 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

Revision (month/year)	Chapter Affected	List of Changes (page number)
Revision 0 (continued)	"DDR for Microsemi's Low Power Flash Devices" was revised.	285
	"Programming Flash Devices" was revised.	298
	"In-System Programming (ISP) of Microsemi's Low Power Flash Devices Using FlashPro4/3/3X" was revised.	339
	"Core Voltage Switching Circuit for IGLOO and ProASIC3L In-System Programming" was revised.	347
	"Boundary Scan in Low Power Flash Devices" was revised.	362