

10 Gb Ethernet MAC and PCS

Reference Design

FPGA-RD-02248-1.2

March 2024



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This document was created consistent with Lattice Semiconductor's inclusive language policy. In some cases, the language in underlying tools and other items may not yet have been updated. Please refer to Lattice's inclusive language FAQ 6878 for a cross reference of terms. Note in some cases such as register names and state names it has been necessary to continue to utilize older terminology for compatibility.



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Acronyms in This Document

A list of acronyms used in this document.

Acronym	Definition
GPLL	General Purpose PLL
1/0	Input/Output
LED	Light Emitting Diode
LSE	Lattice Synthesis Engine
MAC	Media Access Controller
PCS	Physical Coding Layer
PLL	Phase-Locked Loop
RTL	Register Transfer Language
RX	Receiver
SFP	Small Form-Factor Pluggable
TX	Transmitter



1. Introduction

The Lattice Semiconductor 10 Gb Ethernet MAC IP core supports the ability to transmit and receive data between a host processor and an Ethernet network. The main function of the 10 Gb Ethernet MAC is to ensure that the media access rules specified in the IEEE 802.3 standards are met while transmitting a frame of data over the Ethernet. On the receive side, the Ethernet MAC extracts the different components of a frame and transfers them to higher applications through an AXI4-Stream interface.

The 10 Gb Ethernet PCS IP core provides XGMII interface to MAC and follows IEEE 802.3 10GBASE-R standard. It supports 64-bit data and 8-bit control signals for both transmit and receive paths.

This reference design demonstrates an example of a 10GBASE-R application using a 10 Gb Ethernet MAC IP core with a 10 Gb Ethernet PCS IP core in loopback mode. A simple Ethernet packet generator is included to generate Ethernet packets to be transmitted on the transmitter (TX) and compare them with the received packets from the receiver (RX).

2. Features

The following lists the features for the 10 Gb Ethernet MAC IP core and the 10 Gb Ethernet PCS IP core:

- Ethernet packet generator to generate and compare packets
- Supports internal loopback (Near PMA Loopback) and external loopback mode

For more information on the features of the 10 Gb Ethernet MAC IP core, refer to the 10 Gb Ethernet MAC IP Core User Guide (FPGA-IPUG-02162).

For more information on the features of the 10 Gb Ethernet PCS IP core, refer to the 10 Gb Ethernet PCS IP Core User Guide (FPGA-IPUG-02163).

3. Functional Description

This reference design instantiates and connects a 10 Gb Ethernet MAC IP core to a 10 Gb Ethernet PCS IP core through an XGMII interface. The Ethernet PCS IP is configured to take in a clock source of 161.1328 MHz from dedicated reference clocks (pad_refclkp/n_i). The TX clock output from the Ethernet PCS is fed to a GPLL to generate 156.25 MHz clock for the data path. Note that the Fractional-N Divider option of the GPLL must be disabled. The serial interface is loop backed externally.

A packet generator is included in the design to generate Ethernet packets to be sent to the Ethernet MAC IP core through the AXI4-Stream interface on the TX path. Another packet generator will generate the same packets to compare with the Ethernet packets received from the Ethernet MAC IP core RX path. Figure 3.1 shows the basic block diagram and connections of the reference design.



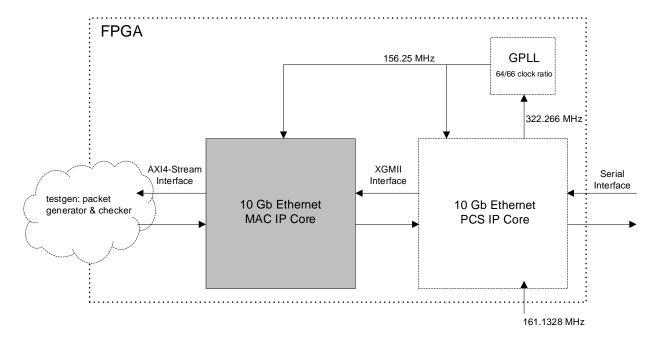


Figure 3.1. Reference Design Basic Diagram

Table 3.1 lists the top-level signal descriptions.

Table 3.1. Signal Descriptions

Signal Name	I/O Type	I/O Width	Function/Connection Description
pad_refclkn_i	1	1	Dedicated 161.1328 MHz refclk input for PCS.
pad_refclkp_i	1	1	Dedicated 161.1328 MHz refclk input for PCS.
pad_rxn_i	1	1	RX- differential signal.
pad_rxp_i	1	1	RX- differential signal.
pad_txn_o	0	1	TX- differential signal .
pad_txp_o	0	1	TX- differential signal .
led[7:0]	0	8	LED outputs: Refer to Table 7.1.
rstn	1	1	Active low reset for the reference design.
pll_lock	0	1	GPLL locked signal.
pcs_rxval	0	1	PCS RX valid – To indicate that the PCS is sending out a valid XGMII data.
patgen_done_o	0	1	To indicate that NUM_PKT of packets have been generated and transmitted. Applicable when parameter CONTINUOUS_TRAFFIC=0.
cmpFail_o	0	1	To indicate a data mismatch in the received packet(s).
sfp_tx_disable_o	0	1	To drive the TX Disable (pin 3) in the SFP+ module.
start_patgen_i	I	1	To start generating packets.



4. Waveforms

The design has been verified through RTL function simulation. Figure 4.1 shows the timing waveform of the MAC TX and RX. For detailed timing waveforms, download the design and run the RTL function simulation.

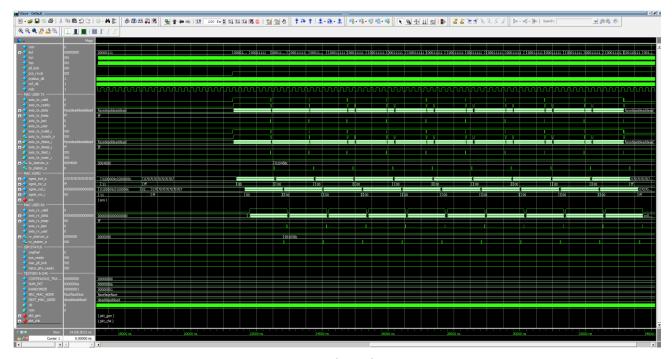


Figure 4.1. Timing Waveforms for MAC TX and RX



5. Implementation

This design is implemented in Verilog. When using this design in a different device, density, speed or grade, performance and utilization may vary. Default settings are used during the fitting of the design.

Table 5.1. Performance and Resource Utilization

Device Family	Language	Speed Grade	Utilization (LUTs)	f _{MAX} (MHz)	1/0	Architecture Resources
CertusPro™-NX¹	Verilog	-8	4690	>156.25	22	1 PLL, 1 PCS

Notes:

- Performance and utilization characteristics are generated using LFCPNX-100-8LFG672C, with the Lattice Radiant™ 3.1 design software with Lattice Synthesis Engine (LSE).
- 2. The Maximum Clock Frequency is obtained by running the timing analysis with the Lattice design software. Timing simulation should be run after any changes are made and the reference design is merged with the overall design.



6. Reference Design Simulation

To run the reference design simulation, follow these steps:

- Unzip the reference design zip file into a directory.
- 2. Open reference design project file (eth.rdf) from the Lattice Radiant software.
- 3. Click the Button located on the **Toolbar** to initiate the **Simulation Wizard**.

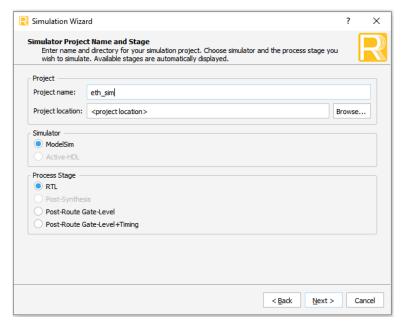


Figure 6.1. Simulation Wizard

4. Click Next to open the Add and Reorder Source window.

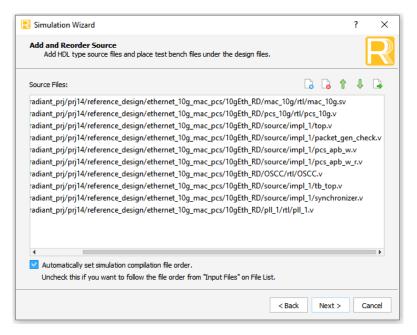


Figure 6.2. Adding and Reordering Source

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5. Click **Next**. The **Summary** window is shown. Uncheck **Add top-level signals to waveform display** check box. The **Run simulation** check box will be greyed out when you do that. Click **Finish**.

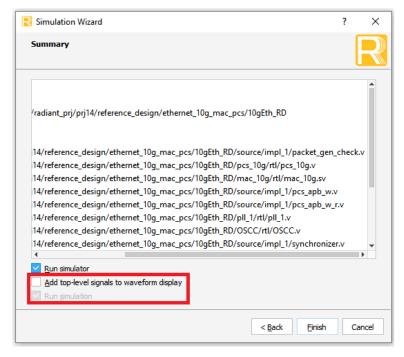


Figure 6.3. Summary

- 6. Wait until the ModelSim Lattice FPGA Edition has finished loading.
- 7. In the ModelSim Lattice FPGA Edition, go to Tools -> Tcl -> Execute Macro...

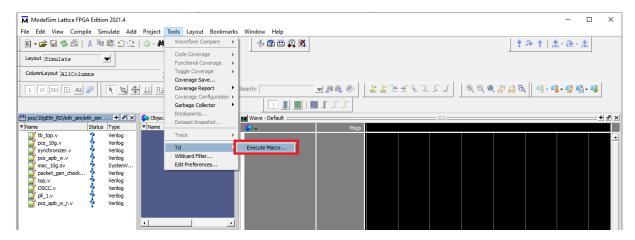


Figure 6.4. Execute Macro in ModelSim Lattice FPGA Edition

8. Go to the reference design directory and select the **eth_sim.do** file. Click **Open** to run the .do file.



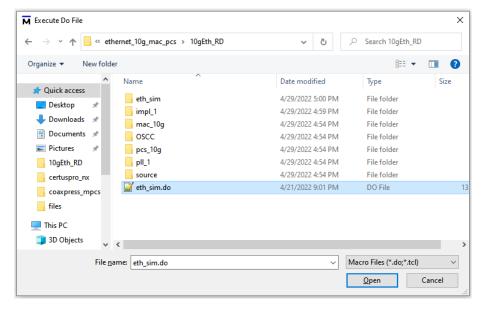


Figure 6.5. eth_sim.do in reference design directory

9. Wait for the simulation to complete to see the waveforms.

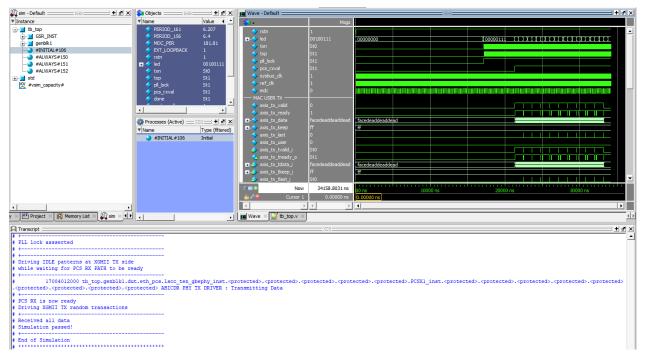


Figure 6.6. Simulation Waveform

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10. Type **quit** -sim in the ModelSim console to terminate the simulation. To re-run the simulation, invoke the **eth sim.do** file in the console.

Figure 6.7. Unload the reference design and re-invoke eth_sim.do to re-run the simulation

6.1. Customization for Reference Design

6.1.1. Number of Packets and Packet Length

To change the **USR_DATA_BYTE** parameter in packet_gen_check.v for generating different length of packets, refer to Figure 6.8.

To specify the number of packets **NUM_PKT** parameter to be generated in the **tb_top.v file**, refer to Figure 6.9. The **NUM_PKT** is default to 10.

```
Start Page
                              Reports
                                                           packet_gen_check.v
                                                     Original
   O module packet_gen_check (
           clk, rstn,
inReady, outData, outValid, outKeep, outUser, outLast,
outReady, inData, inValid, inKeep, inUser, inLast,
            compareFail, inStart_patgen
           parameter CONTINUOUS TRAFFIC
                                                                             // From top level: Generate packets continously
           parameter NUM PKT
                                                   = 1002
                                                                             // From top level: Number of packets to generate when CONTINUOUS TRAFFIC = 0
           parameter MANDOMINE
                                                                             // 1 - Generate some junk data for user data bytes. 0 - user data bytes counting
                                                   = 1;
= 16'b05_5C;
           parameter USR DATA BYTE
                                                                             // Mamber of user data bytes
           parameter SRC_MAC_ADDR
parameter DEST MAC_ADDR
                                                   - 48'h0000 8000 1234;
- 48'h0000 8000 5678;
           perameter ETHERTYPE
                                                   - 16'h0800;
           //UDP Seader
parameter UDP SRC PORT
parameter UDP DST PORT
parameter UDP LENGTH
                                                    - USR_DATA_BYTE . 16'h0008;
```

Figure 6.8. Modify Packet Contents in packet_gen_check.v

```
module tb_top:
                          PERIOD_161
PERIOD_186
 Darameter
                                                  = 6.207:
 parameter
                                                               // 5.5 Mhs
// 1 - select external interface connection. 0 - internal loopback - near PMA loopback.
  DATABATAT
                          MDC PER
                                                   = 181.81/
                          EXT_CONNECTION_EN
                                                   = 1'b1;
 parameter
                                                               // Note: PCS need to be generated with the corresponding setting
                          CONTINOUS_TRAFFIC
 parameter
                                                  = 10;
                          NUM_PRIT
                                                               // From top level: Number of packets to generate when CONTINUOUS_TRAFFIC = 0
```

Figure 6.9. NUM_PKT Parameter in Testbench file tb_top.v

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6.1.2. Loopback Mode Configuration

In the reference design, the following two modes are in the PCS IP module for you to select depending on the test case:

- Near PMA Loopback mode
- Disabled Loopback mode

There are two settings that need to be configured for each mode before compiling the design.

6.1.2.1. Internal Loopback (near PMA Loopback) Mode

To configure the settings in this mode, follow these steps:

 Make sure the 10 Gb Ethernet PCS IP instance (pcs_10g.ipx) is configured and generated for internal loopback (Loopback Mode: near PMA Loopback).

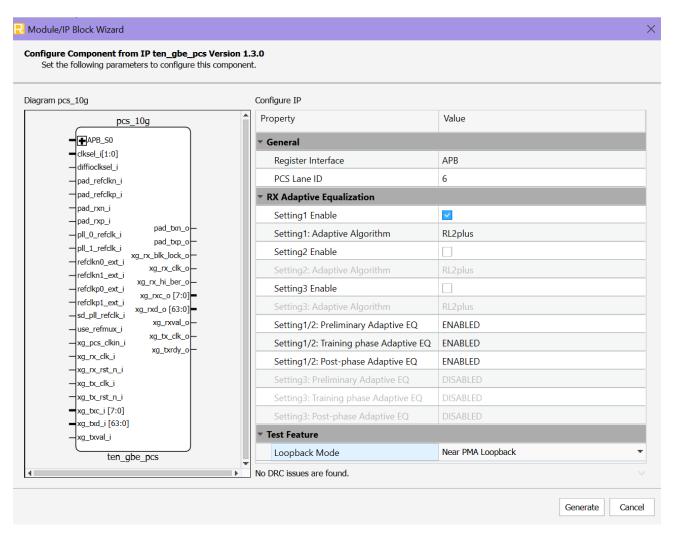


Figure 6.10. 10 Gb Ethernet PCS IP with Loopback Mode = Near PMA Loopback

In the testbench file (tb_top.v), set the EXT_CONNECTION_EN parameter to 1'b0.



```
) nodule tb_top;
  parameter
                          PERIOD_161
                                                  = 6.207;
                                                  = 6.4;
= 181.81;
  parameter
                          PERIOD 156
                                                              // 5.5 Mhz
  parameter
                          MDC PER
                                                             // 1 - select external interface connection. 0 - internal loopback - near
 parameter
                                                  = 1'b0;
                                                              // Note: PCS need to be generated with the corresponding setting.
                         CONTINOUS_TRAFFIC
  parameter
                                                    0:
                                                            // From top level: Number of packets to generate when CONTINUOUS TRAFFIC =
  parameter
                          NUM PKT
```

Figure 6.11. EXT_CONNECTION_EN Parameter for Internal Loopback in Testbench File tb_top.v

3. Re-run the simulation.

6.1.2.2. Disabled Loopback Mode

To configure the settings in this mode, follow these steps:

1. Make sure the 10 Gb Ethernet PCS IP instance (pcs_10g.ipx) is configured and generated for the external loopback (Loopback Mode: Disabled).

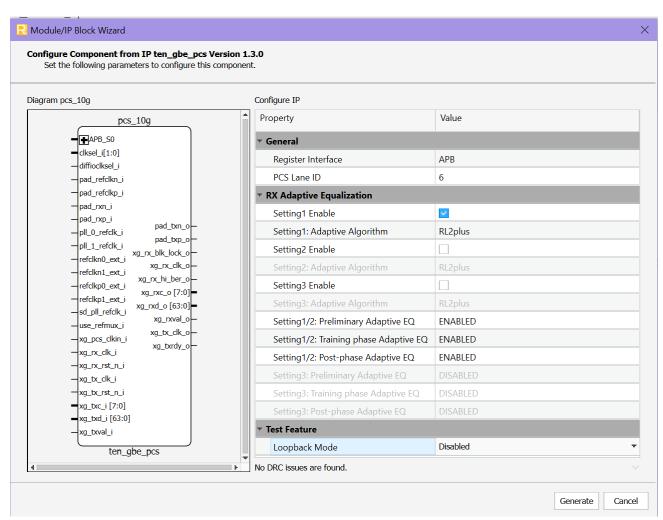


Figure 6.12. 10 Gb Ethernet PCS IP with Loopback Mode = Disabled

In testbench file (tb_top.v), set the EXT_CONNECTION_EN parameter to 1'b1.



```
    module tb_top;

                                  PERIOD_161
                                                                = 6.207;
     parameter
                                  PERIOD_156
MDC_PER
                                                                = 6.4;
= 181.81;
                                                                                // 5.5 Mhz
     parameter
                                                                               // 1 - select external interface connection. 0 - internal loopback - near // Note: PCS need to be generated with the corresponding setting.
   parameter
                                  CONTINOUS_TRAFFIC
                                                                = 0;
     parameter
     parameter
                                                                = 10;
                                                                             // From top level: Number of packets to generate when CONTINUOUS_TRAFFIC =
```

Figure 6.13. EXT_CONNECTION_EN Parameter for external interface connection in Testbench File tb_top.v

- 3. Re-run the simulation.
- 4. Select disabled loopback mode for board testing with SFP+ module. The setup is shown in section 7 Reference Design Implementation On Board.



7. Reference Design Implementation On Board

To use the external SFP module on board, select disabled loopback mode and configure the settings for the external path.

7.1. Requirements

The following lists the requirements for the reference design implementation on board:

- Two CertusPro™-NX Versa Boards
- At least 1 USB cable for programming
- Two sets of power supply
- Optic fiber cables
- Two sets of 10Gb small form-factor pluggable (SFP) module

7.2. CertusPro-NX Versa Board

For more information on CertusPro-NX Versa Board and schematics, refer to the CertusPro-NX Versa Board web page.

Caution: The CertusPro-NX Versa Board contains ESD-sensitive components. ESD safe practices should be followed while handling and using the development board.

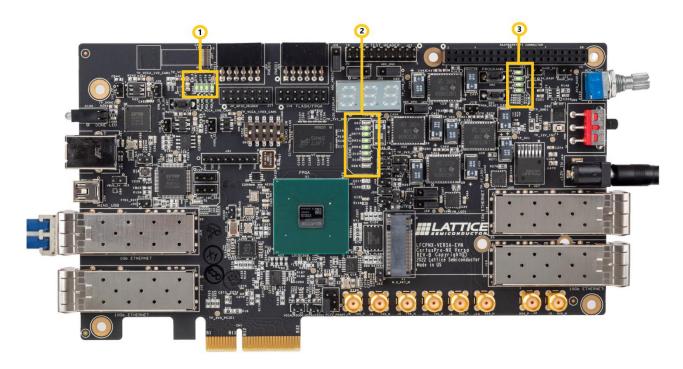


Figure 7.1. LEDs on the CertusPro-NX Versa Board



Table 7.1. Board LED Descriptions

SI. No.	LEDs	Signal Name	Color	Purpose	
	D81	PWRGD 1V	Green	Lights up if voltage is present.	
1	D83	PWRGD 1V8	Green	Lights up if voltage is present.	
1	D84	PWRGD 1V1	Green	Lights up if voltage is present.	
	D85	PWRGD 3V3	Green	Lights up if voltage is present.	
	D63	MAC PLL Lock	Green	Lights up when GPLL locked signal.	
	D64	MPCS PHY Ready	Green	Lights up when PCS Tx ready signal. When high, indicates that XGMII PCS is ready to accept user data.	
	D67	Sys Ready	Green	Lights up when PLL lock and mpcs_phy_ready.	
2	D65	AXI TX Valid	Green	Lights up when MAC TX AXI4-Stream interface bit for data valid. To show transmit in progress.	
2	D66	AXI RX Valid	Green	Lights up when MAC RX AXI4-Stream interface bit for data valid. To show receive in progress.	
	D104	Pattern Generator Done	Green	Lights up indicates that all the packets specified by NUM_PKT parameter have been generated by the pattern generator.	
	D105	Compare Fail	Green	Lights up when packet compare status failed. 1'b1 = mismatch. 1'b0 = match.	
	D68	MPCS RX Hi BER	Green	Lights up when PCS high bit error rate (BER) indicator.	
	D78	1.05 V	Green	Lights up if voltage is present.	
3	D76	1.2 V	Green	Lights up if voltage is present.	
3	D77	1.8 V	Green	Lights up if voltage is present.	
	D75	2.8 V	Green	Lights up if voltage is present.	

Note:

7.3. Board-to-Board Testing

This section provides the details of the reference design hardware testing on board and guides you through the process of setting up IP configuration and uploading the .bit file.

7.3.1. Design Setup

In the PCS IP configuration, choose **Disabled** in the loopback mode category and change the **EXT_CONNECTION_EN** to bit 1 in the top.v file. After completing these two settings, compile the reference design project in the Lattice Radiant^{\mathbf{m}} software to produce the .bit file to download into the board.

^{1.} These eight demo LEDs are mapped to corresponding signals in the design file top_module.v. The LEDs are only meaningful after bit file programming.



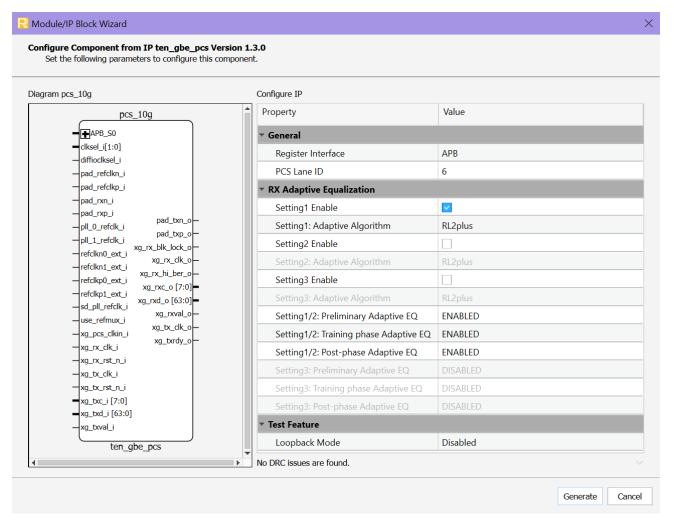


Figure 7.2. PCS IP Loopback Mode

Figure 7.3. Change the EXT_CONNECTION_EN Parameter to 1 in Top File top.v





Figure 7.4. CertusPro-NX Versa Board-to-Board Connection

There are two flows of data when connecting board to board. In Figure 7.5, Board A TX1 sends data out from the SFP TX1 through the optic fiber cable to Board B SFP RX2 and data is received by Board B RX2, vice versa when Board B sends data out to Board A.

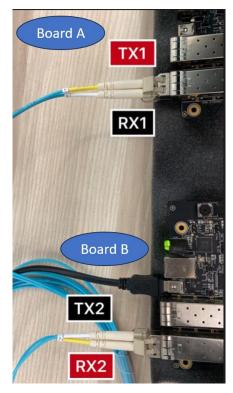


Figure 7.5. Optic Fiber Cables Connection to Boards

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7.3.2. Bitstream Programming

Make sure the board is connected to the PC with the Mini USB Type A cable as shown in Figure 7.4. After you have programmed Board A, repeat the same for Board B so that both boards have the same program.

To run the reference design simulation, follow these steps:

1. Click on the Radiant Programmer icon if the project has already opened inside the Radiant software.

Otherwise, open the standalone Radiant Programmer. Select the Project Name, Project Location, and click **OK**.

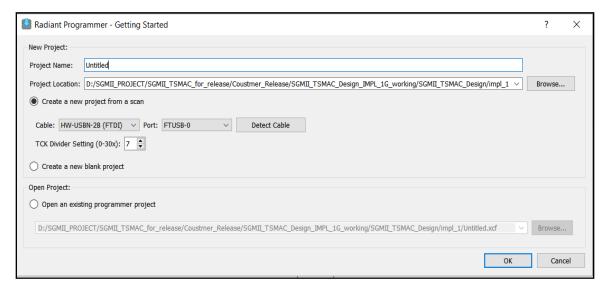


Figure 7.6. Standalone Radiant Programmer

The Radiant Programmer window is shown in Figure 7.7.

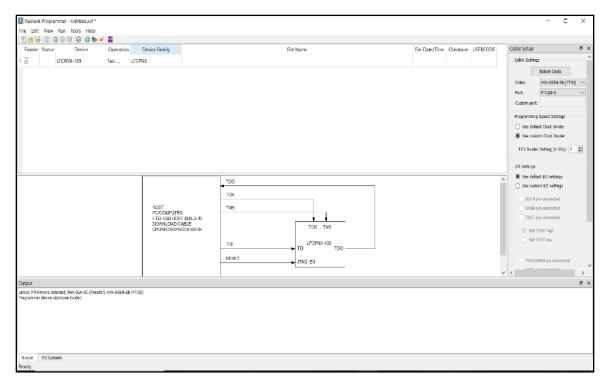


Figure 7.7. Radiant Programmer Window

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2. Configure the Device Family, Device, and the bit file fields.



Figure 7.8. Radiant Programmer: Configure the Settings

3. Click on the program device toolbar icon as shown in Figure 7.9.



Figure 7.9. Program Device Toolbar Icon

4. Check on the output window, where the status of the program device should be *Operation: successful,* as shown in Figure 7.10.

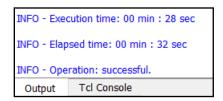


Figure 7.10. Message on Successful Programming

- 5. After programming, restart the board and check the status of the done LED. It indicates that the .bit file has booted successfully into the FPGA.
- 6. Connect the optic fiber cables (TX-RX) as shown in Figure 7.5.
- 7. Upon board-to-board connection, press the reset switch (SW3) and the MAC PLL Lock (D63), MPCS PHY Ready (D64) and Sys Ready (D67) will light up the green LED.
- 8. Toggle switch 5 in SW1 to start the pattern generator (highlighted in Figure 7.11.)

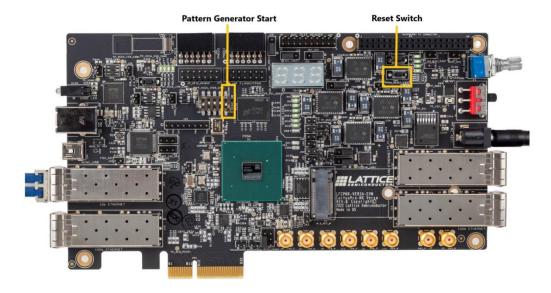


Figure 7.11. Toggle Switch 5 in SW1 to Initiate Pattern Generation for CertusPro-NX Versa Board

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7.4. Waveforms Captured Using the Reveal Tool

You can monitor the value of the signals in real-time mode by inserting signals to capture in the Reveal Inserter and observe the signals in the Reveal Analyzer.

7.4.1. Reveal Inserter

The Reveal Inserter enables you to select which design signals to use for debug tracing or triggering, then generate a core based on these signals and their use. After generating the required core, it generates a modified design with the necessary debug connections and links it to the signals. After the design has been modified for debug, it is mapped, placed, and routed with the normal design flow in the Radiant software.

The Reveal Inserter handles the task of inserting the debug logic into the design. Before using the Reveal Analyzer, you must use the Reveal Inserter to allow debug access.

To add the Reveal Inserter into the design, follow these steps:

1. Click on the Reveal Inserter icon in the toolbar to create a new Reveal Inserter project or open an existing Reveal Inserter project with pre-added signals (eth.rvl) .rvl, which is shown in the file list. If you open an existing file, you can skip this step and proceed to step 5.



Figure 7.12. Reveal Inserter File in the File List

2. Click on the Add core on the top left of the Reveal Inserter file and select Add Logic Analyzer.

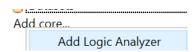


Figure 7.13. Add Logic Analyzer into the Debug File

3. In the debug file, set up the trace signals by dragging the signals into the Trace Signal Setup Tab, as shown in Figure 7.14. Remember to put in the Sample Clock based on the clock driving the trace signals. However, in designs with multiple clock regions, it may be necessary to sample different clock regions at the same time. For those types of designs, it is recommended that you create multiple cores, one for each clock region where the clock is used as the sample clock for the core.



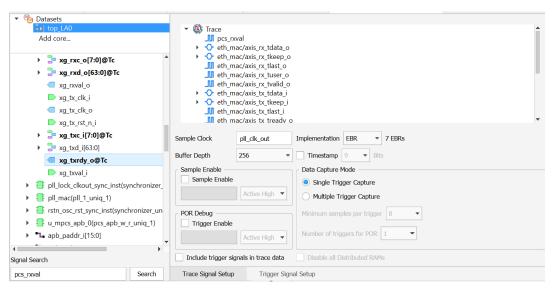


Figure 7.14. Trace Signal Setup

4. After adding the signals, set up the trigger signals in the **Trigger Signal Setup Tab** as shown in Figure 7.15. Click on the top left icon with a magnifying glass to check if the design rule is passing and click on the icon to insert the debug logic. This process generates and synthesizes the necessary debug logic. The generated .rvl is automatically imported into the Radiant software.

It builds a version of the design that contains the necessary connections for the debug logic to the signals that you are tracing or triggering.

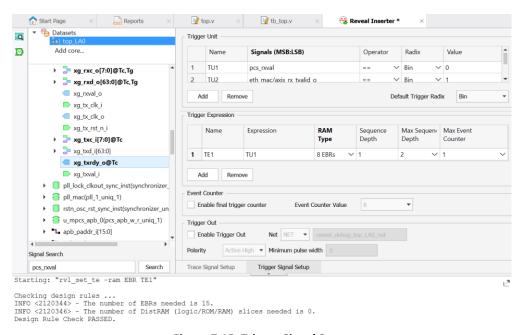


Figure 7.15. Trigger Signal Setup

- 5. Resynthesize, map, place and route the design.
- 6. Generate the bitstream data to perform logic analysis with the Reveal Analyzer.
- 7. Set up the cable connection with the Programmer.
- 8. Download the design into the device.
- 9. Start the Reveal Analyzer and perform logic analysis with it.

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7.4.2. Reveal Analyzer

The Reveal Analyzer enables you to configure trigger settings and extract information from a programmed device through the JTAG ports. It interfaces directly to the Reveal cores in the design. You can set up triggers, select capture modes, and run or stop the triggers. The Reveal Analyzer displays the data captured on the silicon according to the settings that has been specified in the Reveal Inserter.

To launch the Reveal Analyzer, follow these steps:

- 1. Click on the Reveal Analyzer icon in the toolbar and create a new Reveal Analyzer file or open an existing file (eth_analyzer.rva).
- 2. Select Create a new file option. Configure the new file settings as shown in Figure 7.16.
- 3. Click **Detect** to detect the micro-USB that has been connected to the board after downloading the bitstream that has been programmed with the Reveal Inserter.
- 4. Click Scan to detect the debug device.
- 5. Click **OK** to proceed.

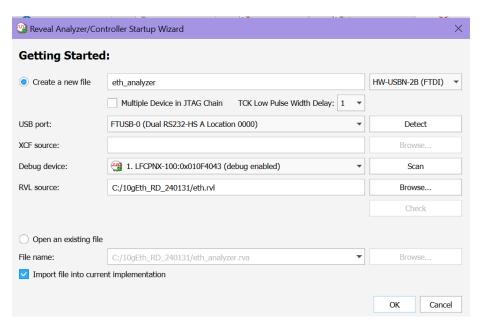


Figure 7.16. Create a New Reveal Analyzer File

6. Configure the trigger settings in the **LA Trigger** tab for each core in each device as shown in Figure 7.17 to perform logic analysis of the design.



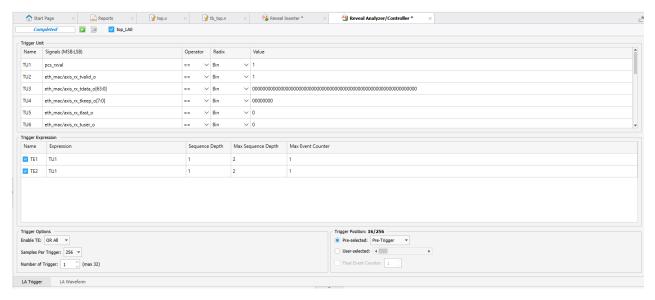


Figure 7.17. LA Trigger Tab

- 7. Click the Run button logic analysis and wait for the design to trigger and download the trace information from the board into the Reveal Analyzer.
- 8. The real-time packets transaction captured from the board-to-board connection are provided in the following sections. The Pattern Generator Module output to the MAC IP through the AXI-Stream interface.

Figure 7.18 shows the waveform for 10 packets transaction from Board A to Board B.

- a. The eth_mac/axis_rx_tvalid_o signal is asserted to indicate the starting of the frame.
- b. The eth_mac/axis_rx_tlast_o is asserted to indicate the last packet transfer.
- c. The eth_mac/axis_rx_tvalid_o is deasserted to indicate the end of active packets.

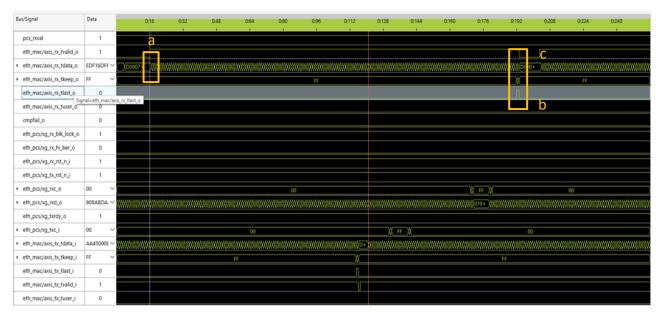


Figure 7.18. CertusPro-NX Versa Board Disabled Loopback Mode Overview

Figure 7.19 and Figure 7.20 show that the data packets that are received from the packet generator matches the data packets that are transferred out. Therefore, there is no packet corruption in this transaction.

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Figure 7.19. MAC axis_rx_tdata_o packets



Figure 7.20. MAC axis_tx_data_i packets



Technical Support Assistance

Submit a technical support case through www.latticesemi.com/techsupport. For frequently asked questions, refer to the Lattice Answer Database at www.latticesemi.com/Support/AnswerDatabase.



Revision History

Revision 1.2, March 2024

Section	Change Summary	
Acronyms in This Document	Added the following acronyms:	
	• LSE	
	• SFP	
	• TX	
	• RX	
Features	Re-organized the content in this section.	
Functional Description	Updated the description for the <i>led[7:0]</i> signal in Table 3.1. Signal Descriptions.	
Reference Design Simulation	Removed step 11 and 12.	
	Added section 6.1 Customization for Reference Design.	
Reference Design	Added this section.	
Implementation On Board		

Revision 1.1, May 2023

, - <u>,</u> - <u>,</u>			
Section	Change Summary		
All	Minor adjustments in formatting across the document.		
Acronyms in This Document	Added this section.		
Functional Description	Updated Tx clock output statement to specify GPLL used to generate 156.25 MHz clock must not enable Fractional-N Divider.		
Technical Support Assistance	Added reference to the Lattice Answer Database on the Lattice website.		

Revision 1.0, July 2022

Section	Change Summary	
All	Initial release. Verified in hardware using CertusPro-NX 10GbE Mini Board.	

Revision 0.80, Feb 2022

Section	Change Summary
All	Preliminary revision.



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