

Partially Reconfiguring a Design on Arria 10 SoC Development Board

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1 Partially Reconfiguring a Design on Arria 10 SoC Development Board

This application note demonstrates transforming a simple design into a partially reconfigurable design, and implementing the design on the Arria® 10 SoC development board.

Partial reconfiguration (PR) feature allows you to reconfigure a portion of the FPGA dynamically, while the remaining FPGA design continues to function. Create multiple personas for a particular region in your design, without impacting operation in areas outside this region. This methodology is effective in systems where multiple functions time-share the same FPGA device resources.

Partial reconfiguration provides the following advancements to a flat design:

- Allows run-time design reconfiguration
- Increases scalability of the design
- · Reduces system down-time
- Supports dynamic time-multiplexing functions in the design
- Lowers cost and power consumption through efficient use of board space

Note:

 Implementation of this reference design requires basic familiarity with the Quartus[®] Prime FPGA implementation flow and knowledge of the primary Quartus Prime project files.

Related Links

- Arria 10 SoC Development Kit User Guide
- Partial Reconfiguration Concepts
- Partial Reconfiguration Design Flow
- Partial Reconfiguration Design Recommendations
- Partial Reconfiguration Design Considerations

1.1 Reference Design Requirements

This reference design requires the following:

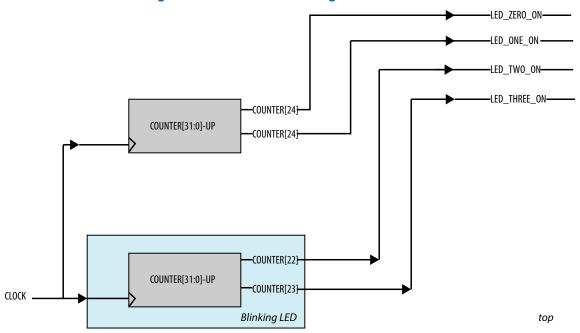
- Quartus Prime Pro Edition software version 16.1 for the design implementation.
- Arria 10 SoC development kit for the FPGA implementation.



1.2 Reference Design Overview

This reference design consists of two 32-bit counters. At the board level, the design connects the clock to a 50MHz source, and connects the output to USER_LED_FPGA[3:0]. Selecting the output from the counter bits in a specific sequence causes the LEDs to blink at a specific frequency.

Figure 1. Flat Reference Design without PR Partitioning



1.3 Reference Design Files

The partial reconfiguration tutorial is available in the following location:

https://github.com/01org/fpga-partial-reconfig

To download the tutorial:

- 1. Click Clone or download.
- 2. Click **Download ZIP**. Unzip the fpga-partial-reconfig-master.zip file.
- 3. Navigate to the tutorials/al0_soc_devkit_blinking_led sub-folder to access the reference design.

The flat folder consists of the following files:



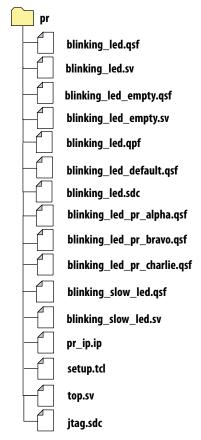
Table 1. Reference Design Files

File Name	Description
top.sv	Top-level file containing the flat implementation of the design. This module instantiates the blinking_led sub-partition. The counter at the top-level controls LED[0] and LED[1].
blinking_led.sdc	Defines the timing constraints for the project.
blinking_led.sv	SystemVerilog file that causes the LEDs to blink using a 32-bit counter. The counter controls LED[2] and LED[3]. This module acts as the PR partition.
blinking_led.qpf	Quartus Prime project file containing the base revision information.
blinking_led.qsf	Quartus Prime settings file containing the assignments and settings for the project.

Note:

The pr folder contains the complete set of files you create using this application note. Reference these files at any point during the walkthrough.

Figure 2. Reference Files



1.4 Reference Design Walkthrough

The following steps describe the application of partial reconfiguration to a flat design. The tutorial uses the Quartus Prime Pro Edition software for the Arria 10 SoC development board:



- Step 1: Getting Started on page 6
- Step 2: Creating a Design Partition on page 6
- Step 3: Allocating Placement and Routing Region for a PR Partition on page 7
- Step 4: Adding the Partial Reconfiguration IP Core on page 8
- Step 5: Defining Personas on page 11
- Step 6: Creating Revisions on page 13
- Step 7: Generating the Partial Reconfiguration Flow Script on page 16
- Step 8: Running the Partial Reconfiguration Flow Script on page 16
- Step 9: Programming the Board on page 17

1.4.1 Step 1: Getting Started

To copy the reference design files to your working environment and compile the blinking_led flat design:

- 1. Create a directory in your working environment, a10_soc_devkit_blinking_led_pr.
- 2. Copy the downloaded tutorials/a10_soc_devkit_blinking_led/flat subfolder to the directory, a10_soc_devkit_blinking_led_pr.
- 3. In the Quartus Prime Pro Edition software, click **File ➤ Open Project** and select blinking_led.qpf.
- 4. To compile the flat design, click **Processing** ➤ **Start Compilation**.

1.4.2 Step 2: Creating a Design Partition

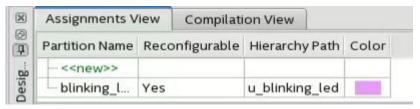
You must create design partitions for each PR region that you want to partially reconfigure. You can create any number of independent partitions or PR regions in your design. This tutorial creates a design partition for the u_blinking_led instance.

To create design partition for partial reconfiguration:

1. Right-click the u_blinking_led instance in the **Project Navigator** and click **Design Partition** ➤ **Set as Reconfigurable Design Partition**.

The design partition appears on the **Assignments View** tab of the Design Partitions Window.

Figure 3. Design Partitions Window



2. Edit the partition name in the Design Partitions Window by double-clicking the name. For this reference design, rename the partition name to pr_partition.



Note: When you create a partition, the Quartus Prime software automatically generates a partition name, based on the instance name and hierarchy path. This default partition name can vary with each instance.

Verify that the blinking_led.qsf contains the following assignments, corresponding to your reconfigurable design partition:

```
set_instance_assignment -name PARTITION pr_partition -to u_blinking_led set_instance_assignment -name PARTIAL_RECONFIGURATION_PARTITION ON -to u_blinking_led
```

Related Links

Create Design Partitions for Partial Reconfiguration

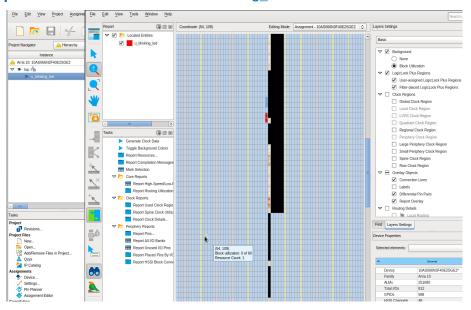
1.4.3 Step 3: Allocating Placement and Routing Region for a PR Partition

For every base revision you create, the PR design flow uses your PR partition region allocation to place the corresponding persona core in the reserved region. To locate and assign the PR region in the device floorplan for your base revision:

- Right-click the u_blinking_led instance in the Project Navigator and click LogicLock® Plus Region ➤ Create New LogicLock Plus Region. The region appears on the LogicLock Plus Regions Window.
- Your placement region must enclose the blinking_led logic. Select the
 placement region by locating the node in Chip Planner. Right-click the
 u_blinking_led region name in the LogicLock Plus Regions Window and click
 Locate Node > Locate in Chip Planner.

The u blinking led region is color-coded.

Figure 4. Chip Planner Node Location for blinking led



3. Specify the placement region co-ordinates in the **Origin** column. The origin corresponds to the lower-left corner of the region. For example, to set a placement region with (X1 Y1) co-ordinates as (69 10), specify the **Origin** as



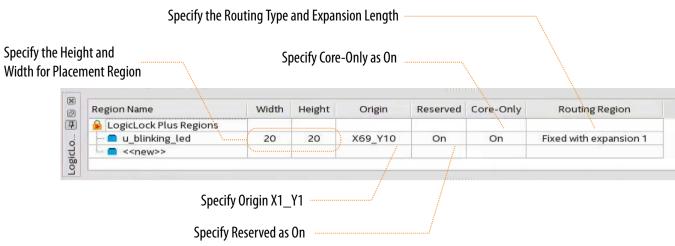
 $X69_Y10$. The Quartus Prime software automatically calculates the ($X2\ Y2$) coordinates (top-right) for the placement region, based on the height and width you specify.

Note: This tutorial uses the (X1 Y1) co-ordinates - (69 10), and a height and width of 20 for the placement region. Define any value for the placement region, as long as the region covers the blinking_led logic.

- 4. Enable the **Reserved** and **Core-Only** options.
- Double-click the Routing Region option. The LogicLock Plus Routing Region Settings dialog box appears.
- 6. Select **Fixed with expansion** for the **Routing type**. Selecting this option automatically assigns an expansion length of 1.

Note: The routing region must be larger than the placement region, to provide extra flexibility for the routing engine when the engine routes different personas.

Figure 5. LogicLock Plus Regions Window



Verify that the blinking_led.qsf contains the following assignments, corresponding to your floorplanning:

```
set_instance_assignment -name PLACE_REGION "69 10 88 29" -to u_blinking_led set_instance_assignment -name RESERVE_PLACE_REGION ON -to u_blinking_led set_instance_assignment -name CORE_ONLY_PLACE_REGION ON -to u_blinking_led set_instance_assignment -name ROUTE_REGION "68 9 89 30" -to u_blinking_led
```

Related Links

- Floorplan the Partial Reconfiguration Design
- Incrementally Implementing Partial Reconfiguration

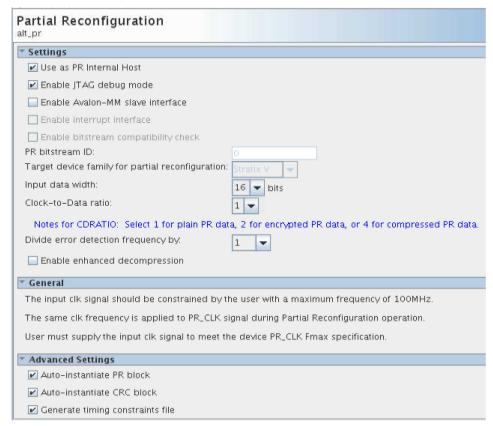
1.4.4 Step 4: Adding the Partial Reconfiguration IP Core

Use the Partial Reconfiguration IP core to reconfigure the PR partition. This IP core uses JTAG to reconfigure the PR partition. To add the Partial Reconfiguration IP core to your Quartus Prime project:



- 1. Type Partial Reconfiguration in the IP catalog.
- 2. To launch the IP Parameter Editor Pro window, select the Partial Reconfiguration IP core from the IP library, and click the **Add** button.
- 3. In the New IP Variation dialog box, type pr_ip as the Entity name and click OK. Use the default parameterization for pr_ip. Ensure that the Enable JTAG debug mode option is turned on.

Figure 6. Partial Reconfiguration IP Core Parameters



4. Click **Finish**, and exit the parameter editor without generating the system. Quartus Prime software creates the pr_ip.ip IP variation file, and adds the file to the blinking_led project.

Notes:

1. If you are copying the pr_ip.ip file from the al0_soc_devkit_blinking_led_pr.zip folder, manually edit the blinking_led.qsf file to include the following line:

```
set_global_assignment -name IP_FILE pr_ip.ip
```

2. Place the IP_FILE assignment after the SDC_FILE assignments (jtag.sdc and blinking_led.sdc) in your blinking_led.qsf file. This ordering ensures appropriate constraining of the Partial Reconfiguration IP core.



Related Links

Partial Reconfiguration IP Core User Guide

1.4.4.1 Updating the Top-Level Design

To update the top.sv file with the PR_IP instance:

1. To add the PR_IP instance to the top-level design, uncomment the following code block in top.sv file:

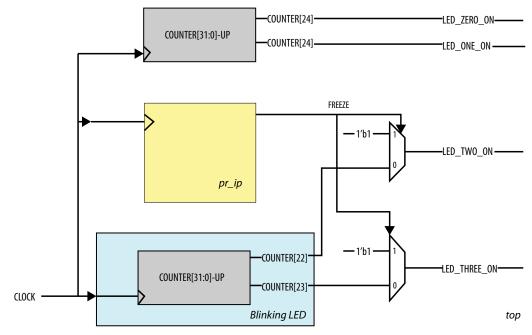
2. To force the output ports to logic 1 during reconfiguration, use the freeze control signal output from PR_IP. Uncomment the following lines of code:

```
assign led_two_on = freeze ? 1'b1 : pr_led_two_on;
assign led_three_on = freeze ? 1'b1 : pr_led_three_on;
```

3. To assign an instance of the default persona (blinking_led), update the top.sv file with the following block of code:



Figure 7. Partial Reconfiguration IP Core Integration



1.4.5 Step 5: Defining Personas

This reference design defines three separate personas for the single PR partition. To define and include the personas in your project:

1. Create three SystemVerilog files, blinking_led.sv, blinking_slow_led.sv, and blinking_led_empty.sv in your working directory for the three personas.

Note: If you create the SystemVerilog files from the Quartus Prime Text Editor, disable the **Add file to current project** option, when saving the files.

Table 2. Reference Design Personas

Default persona with same design as the flat implementation 'timescale 1 ps / 1 ps 'default_nettype none module blinking_led (// Control signals for the LEDs led_two_on, led_three_on, // clock clock); // assuming single bit control signal to turn LED 'on' output wire led_two_on; output wire led_three_on; // clock input wire clock; // the 32-bit counter reg [31:0] count; localparam COUNTER_TAP = 23;	File Name	Description	Code
continued	blinking_led.sv	same design as the	<pre>`default_nettype none module blinking_led (// Control signals for the LEDs led_two_on, led_three_on, // clock clock); // assuming single bit control signal to turn LED 'on' output wire led_two_on; output wire led_three_on; // clock input wire clock; // the 32-bit counter reg [31:0] count; localparam COUNTER_TAP = 23;</pre>



File Name	Description	Code
		<pre>// The counter: always_ff @(posedge clock) begin count <= count + 1; end assign led_two_on = count[COUNTER_TAP]; assign led_three_on = ~count[COUNTER_TAP]; endmodule</pre>
blinking_slow_le d.sv	LEDs blink slower	<pre>`timescale 1 ps / 1 ps `default_nettype none module blinking_slow_led (</pre>
		endmodule
blinking_led_emp ty.sv	LEDs stay ON	<pre>`timescale 1 ps / 1 ps `default_nettype none module blinking_led_empty (// Control signals for the LEDs led_two_on, led_three_on, // clock clock); // Control signal to turn LED 'on' output wire led_two_on; output wire led_three_on; // clock input wire clock; // LED is active low assign led_two_on = 1'b0; assign led_three_on = 1'b0; endmodule</pre>



1.4.6 Step 6: Creating Revisions

To compile a PR design, you must create a PR implementation revision and synthesis revision for each persona. In this reference design, the three personas contain a base revision, three separate synthesis revisions, and three separate implementation revisions:

Table 3. Revisions for the Three Personas

Synthesis Revision	Implementation Revision
blinking_led_default	blinking_led_pr_alpha
blinking_slow_led	blinking_led_pr_bravo
blinking_led_empty	blinking_led_pr_charlie

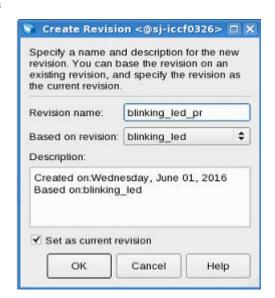
1.4.6.1 Creating Implementation Revisions

To create the PR implementation revisions:

- 1. To open the **Revisions** dialog box, click **Project** ➤ **Revisions**.
- 2. To create a new revision, double-click << new revision>>.
- 3. Specify the **Revision name** as blinking_led_pr_alpha and select blinking_led for **Based on Revision**.
- 4. Similarly, create blinking_led_pr_bravo and blinking_led_pr_charlie revisions, based on the blinking_led revision.

Note: Do not set the above three revisions as current revision.

Figure 8. Creating Revisions



1.4.6.2 Creating Synthesis-Only Revisions

To create synthesis-only revisions for the personas, you must assign the top-level entity and corresponding SystemVerilog file for each of the personas:



- 1. In the Quartus Prime software, click **Project ➤ Revisions**.
- 2. Create blinking_led_default revision based on blinking_led revision. Do not set this revision as current revision.
- 3. Modify blinking led default.gsf file to include the following assignments:

```
set_global_assignment -name TOP_LEVEL_ENTITY blinking_led set_global_assignment -name SYSTEMVERILOG_FILE blinking_led.sv
```

- 4. Similarly, create blinking_led_empty and blinking_slow_led revisions based on blinking_led revision. Do not set these revisions as current revision.
- 5. Update the blinking_slow_led.qsf and blinking_led_empty.qsf files with their corresponding TOP_LEVEL_ENTITY and SYSTEMVERILOG_FILE assignments:

```
##blinking_slow_led.qsf
set_global_assignment -name TOP_LEVEL_ENTITY blinking_slow_led
set_global_assignment -name SYSTEMVERILOG_FILE blinking_slow_led.sv
```

```
##blinking_led_empty.qsf
set_global_assignment -name TOP_LEVEL_ENTITY blinking_led_empty
set_global_assignment -name SYSTEMVERILOG_FILE blinking_led_empty.sv
```

6. To avoid synthesis errors, ensure that the synthesis revision files do not contain any design partition or LogicLock Plus region assignments. Comment out these assignments, if any, in the blinking_led_default.qsf, blinking slow led.qsf, and blinking led empty.qsf files:

```
#set_instance_assignment -name PARTITION pr_partition -to u_blinking_led

#set_instance_assignment -name PARTITION_COLOUR 4294935709 -to u_blinking_led

#set_instance_assignment -name PARTIAL_RECONFIGURATION_PARTITION ON -to

u_blinking_led

#set_instance_assignment -name PLACE_REGION "69 10 88 29" -to u_blinking_led

#set_instance_assignment -name RESERVE_PLACE_REGION ON -to u_blinking_led

#set_instance_assignment -name PARTITION_COLOUR 4288610222 -to top

#set_instance_assignment -name ROUTE_REGION "68 9 89 30" -to u_blinking_led
```

7. Verify that the blinking_led.qpf file contains the following revisions, in no particular order:

```
PROJECT_REVISION = "blinking_led"
PROJECT_REVISION = "blinking_led_pr_alpha"
PROJECT_REVISION = "blinking_led_pr_bravo"
PROJECT_REVISION = "blinking_led_pr_charlie"
PROJECT_REVISION = "blinking_led_default"
PROJECT_REVISION = "blinking_slow_led"
PROJECT_REVISION = "blinking_led_empty"
```

Note: If you are copying the revision files from

alo_soc_devkit_blinking_led.zip folder, manually update the blinking_led.qpf file with the above lines of code.



1.4.6.3 Specifying Revision Type

You must assign revision type for each of your revisions. There are three revision types:

- Partial Reconfiguration Base
- Partial Reconfiguration Persona Synthesis
- Partial Reconfiguration Persona Implementation

The following table lists the revision type assignments for each of the revisions:

Table 4. Revision Types

Revision Name	Revision Type
blinking_led.qsf	Partial Reconfiguration - Base
blinking_led_default.qsf	Partial Reconfiguration - Persona Synthesis
blinking_led_empty.qsf	Partial Reconfiguration - Persona Synthesis
blinking_slow_led.qsf	Partial Reconfiguration - Persona Synthesis
blinking_led_pr_alpha.qsf	Partial Reconfiguration - Persona Implementation
blinking_led_pr_bravo.qsf	Partial Reconfiguration - Persona Implementation
blinking_led_pr_charlie.qsf	Partial Reconfiguration - Persona Implementation

To specify the revision type:

- 1. Click **Project** ➤ **Revisions**. The **Revisions** dialog box appears.
- 2. Select blinking_led in the Revision Name column, and click **Set Current**.
- 3. Click **Apply**. The blinking_led revision opens.
- 4. To set the revision type for blinking_led, click **Assignments** ➤ **Settings**.
- 5. Select the Revision Type as Partial Reconfiguration Base.
- 6. Similarly, set the revision types for the other six revisions, as listed in the above table.

Note: You must set each revision as the current revision before assigning the revision type.

Verify that the .qsf file for each of the revisions contains the following assignment:

```
##blinking_led.qsf
set_global_assignment -name REVISION_TYPE PR_BASE

##blinking_led_default.qsf
set_global_assignment -name REVISION_TYPE PR_SYN

##blinking_slow_led.qsf
set_global_assignment -name REVISION_TYPE PR_SYN

##blinking_led_empty.qsf
set_global_assignment -name REVISION_TYPE PR_SYN

##blinking_led_pr_alpha.qsf
set_global_assignment -name REVISION_TYPE PR_IMPL

##blinking_led_pr_bravo.qsf
set_global_assignment -name REVISION_TYPE PR_IMPL
```



```
##blinking_led_pr_charlie.qsf
set_global_assignment -name REVISION_TYPE PR_IMPL
```

Note:

Add any Fitter specific settings that you wish to use in the PR implementation compile to the persona implementation revisions. The Fitter specific settings affect the fit of the persona, but do not affect the imported static region. You can also add any synthesis specific settings to individual persona synthesis revisions.

Related Links

Create Revisions for Personas

1.4.7 Step 7: Generating the Partial Reconfiguration Flow Script

To generate the partial reconfiguration flow script:

1. From the Quartus Prime command shell, create a flow template by running the following command:

```
quartus_sh --write_flow_template -flow a10_partial_reconfig
```

Quartus Prime generates the alo_partial_reconfig/flow.tcl file.

- 2. Rename the generated a10_partial_reconfig/setup.tcl.example to a10_partial_reconfig/setup.tcl, and modify the script to specify your partial reconfiguration project details:
 - a. To define the name of the project, update the following line:

```
define_project blinking_led
```

b. To define the base revision, update the following line:

```
define_base_revision blinking_led
```

c. To define each of the partial reconfiguration implementation revisions, along with the PR partition names and the synthesis revision that implements the revisions, update the following lines:

```
define_pr_impl_partition -impl_rev_name blinking_led_pr_alpha \
    -partition_name pr_partition\
    -source_rev_name blinking_led_default

define_pr_impl_partition -impl_rev_name blinking_led_pr_charlie \
    -partition_name pr_partition\
    -source_rev_name blinking_led_empty

define_pr_impl_partition -impl_rev_name blinking_led_pr_bravo \
    -partition_name pr_partition\
    -source_rev_name blinking_slow_led
```

1.4.8 Step 8: Running the Partial Reconfiguration Flow Script

To run the partial reconfiguration flow script:



- 1. Click **Tools** ➤ **Tcl Scripts**. The **Tcl Scripts** dialog box appears.
- Click Add to Project, browse and select the a10_partial_reconfig/ flow.tcl.
- Select the alo_partial_reconfig/flow.tcl in the Libraries pane, and click Run

This script runs the synthesis for the three personas. Quartus Prime generates a SRAM Object File (.sof), a Partial-Masked SRAM Object File (.pmsf), and a Raw Binary File (.rbf) for each of the personas.

Note: To run the script from the Quartus Prime command shell, type the following command:

quartus_sh -t al0_partial_reconfig/flow.tcl -setup_script al0_partial_reconfig/ setup.tcl

Related Links

- Compile the Partial Reconfiguration Design
- Using the Partial Reconfiguration Flow Script
- Configuring the Partial Reconfiguration Flow Script
- Generate Programming Files

1.4.9 Step 9: Programming the Board

- 1. Connect the power supply to the Arria 10 SoC development board.
- 2. Connect the USB Blaster cable between your PC USB port and the USB Blaster port on the development board.

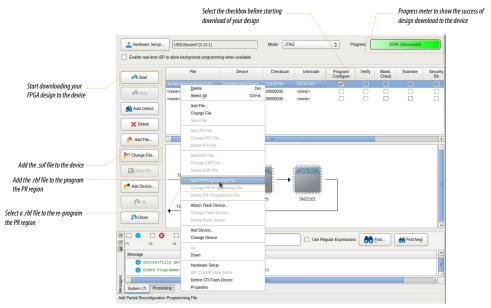
To run the design on the Arria 10 SoC development board:

- 1. Open the Quartus Prime software and click **Tools** ➤ **Programmer**.
- 2. In the Programmer, click **Hardware Setup** and select **USB-Blaster**.
- 3. Click Auto Detect and select the device, 10AS066N3.
- 4. Click **OK**. The Quartus Prime software detects and updates the Programmer with the three FPGA chips on the board.
- 5. Select the 10AS066N3 device, click **Change File** and load the blinking_led_pr_alpha.sof file.
- 6. Enable **Program/Configure** for blinking_led_pr_alpha.sof file.
- 7. Click **Start** and wait for the progress bar to reach 100%.
- 8. Observe the LEDs on the board blinking at the same frequency as the original flat design.
- 9. To program only the PR region, right-click the blinking_led_pr_alpha.sof file in the Programmer and click **Add PR Programming File**.
- 10. Select the blinking_led_pr_bravo.rbf file.
- 11. Disable **Program/Configure** for blinking_led_pr_alpha.sof file.



- 12. Enable **Program/Configure** for blinking_led_pr_bravo.rbf file and click **Start**. On the board, observe LED[0] and LED[1] continuing to blink. When the progress bar reaches 100%, LED[2] and LED[3] blink slower.
- 13. To re-program the PR region, right-click the .rbf file in the Programmer and click **Change PR Programing File**.
- 14. Select the .rbf files for the other two personas to observe the behavior on the board. Loading the blinking_led_pr_alpha.rbf file causes the LEDs to blink at a specific frequency, and loading the blinking_led_pr_charlie.rbf file causes the LEDs to stay ON.

Figure 9. Programming the Arria 10 SoC development board



1.4.10 Modifying an Existing Persona

You can change an existing persona, even after fully compiling the base revision.

For example, to cause the blinking_slow_led persona to blink even slower:

- 1. In the blinking_slow_led.sv file, modify the COUNTER_TAP parameter from 27 to 28.
- 2. To re-synthesize and re-implement just this persona, run the following command:

```
quartus_sh -t al0_partial_reconfig/flow.tcl -setup_script
al0_partial_reconfig/setup.tcl -impl blinking_led_pr_bravo
```

This command re-synthesizes the blinking_slow_led synthesis revision, and then runs the PR implementation compile using blinking_led_pr_bravo. Follow the steps in Step 9: Programming the Board on page 17 to program the resulting RBF file into the FPGA.

Note: This command does not recompile the base revision.



1.4.11 Adding a New Persona to the Design

After fully compiling your base revisions, you can still add new personas and individually compile these personas.

For example, to define a new persona that keeps one LED on and the other LED off:

- 1. Copy blinking_led_empty.sv to blinking_led_wink.sv.
- 2. In the blinking_led_wink.sv file, modify the assignment, assign led_three_on = 1'b0; to assign led_three_on = 1'b1;.
- 3. Create a new synthesis revision, blinking_led_wink, by following the steps in Creating Synthesis-Only Revisions on page 13.

Note: The blinking_led_wink revision must use the blinking_led_wink.sv file.

- 4. Create a new implementation revision, blinking_led_pr_delta, by following the steps in Specifying Revision Type on page 15.
- Update the a10_partial_reconfig/setup.tcl file to define the new PR implementation:

```
define_pr_impl_partition -impl_rev_name blinking_led_pr_delta \
    -partition_name pr_partition \
    -source_rev_name blinking_led_wink
```

6. Compile just this new revision by running the following command:

```
quartus_sh -t a10_partial_reconfig/flow.tcl -setup_script
a10_partial_reconfig/setup.tcl -impl blinking_led_pr_delta
```

For complete information on partially reconfiguring your design for Arria 10 devices, refer to *Creating a Partial Reconfiguration Design* in Volume 1 of the *Quartus Prime Pro Edition Handbook*.

Related Links

- Creating a Partial Reconfiguration Design
- Partial Reconfiguration Online Training

1.5 Document Revision History

Table 5. Document Revision History

Date	Version	Changes
2016.10.31	16.1.0	Updated flow with 16.1 PR specific GUI features: Design Partitions Window updates LogicLock Plus region updates Revision and Revision Types updates New topic added for modifying an existing persona New topic added for including a persona in the design
2016.07.07	16.0.0	Initial release of the document