

# AN 841: Signal Tap Tutorial for Intel<sup>®</sup> Stratix<sup>®</sup> 10 Partial Reconfiguration Design

Updated for Intel® Quartus® Prime Design Suite: 18.0



AN-841 | 2018.05.07 Latest document on the web: PDF | HTML



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# 1. Tutorial Overview

This document demonstrates how to debug a Intel<sup>®</sup> Stratix<sup>®</sup> 10 Partial Reconfiguration design with the Signal Tap Logic Analyzer. This application note extends the PR work presented on AN 825: Partially Reconfiguring a Design on Intel Stratix 10 GX FPGA Development Board to a verification environment.

The Signal Tap Logic Analyzer captures and displays real-time signal behavior in an FPGA design, allowing to examine the behavior of internal signals during normal device operation without the need for extra I/O pins or external lab equipment.

Partial Reconfiguration is an advanced design flow that allows you to reconfigure a portion of the FPGA dynamically, while the remaining FPGA design continues to function. You can define multiple personas to occupy a particular design region, without impacting operation in other regions.

The PR support in the Signal Tap Logic Analyzer includes data acquisition in static and PR regions. Moreover, you can debug multiple personas present in a PR region and multiple PR regions.

#### **Related Information**

- Design Debugging with the Signal Tap Logic Analyzer
   In Debug Tools User Guide: Intel Quartus® Prime Pro Edition
- Creating a Partial Reconfiguration Design
   In Partial Reconfiguration User Guide: Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition
- AN 825: Partially Reconfiguring a Design on Intel Stratix 10 GX FPGA Development Board

# 1.1. PR Debug Considerations

Debugging a PR design requires planning. Before compiling, you must decide whether you want to tap signals in the static region, which PR region you want to debug, and which personas in the PR region you want to debug.

To ensure visibility, the debugging fabric must extend to all the regions that you want to tap. The Intel Quartus Prime software performs this extension with debug bridge components: the SLD JTAG Bridge Agent Intel FPGA IP and the SLD JTAG Bridge Host Intel FPGA IP.

To incorporate these components to the design, for each PR region in the design that you want to debug:

- 1. Instantiate the SLD JTAG Bridge Agent in the static region.
- 2. Instantiate the SLD JTAG Bridge Host in the PR region of the default persona.
- 3. Instantiate the SLD JTAG Bridge Host on the implementation revisions that you want to debug.

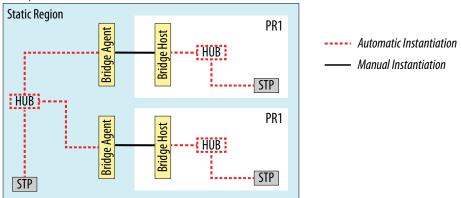
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## Figure 1. Debug Fabric in PR Design with Signal Tap

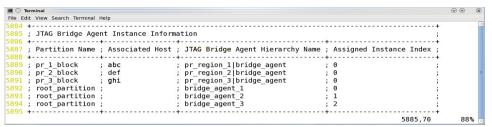
The figure shows in solid outline the entities that you instantiate manually, and in dashed outline the entities that the Compiler instantiates.



## **SLD JTAG Bridge Index**

The index is an attribute of the SLD JTAG Bridge Agent that uniquely identifies bridge agents present in the design. You can find information regarding the bridge index in the synthesis report (<br/>base revision>.syn.rpt), by looking under JTAG Bridge Agent Instance Information. The bridge index for the root partition is always None.

## Figure 2. JTAG Bridge Agent Instance Information in Synthesis Report



#### **Related Information**

Debugging Partial Reconfiguration Designs Using Signal Tap Logic Analyzer In Debug Tools User Guide: Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition

# 1.2. Tutorial Software and Hardware Requirements

To perform this tutorial, you need the following software and hardware:

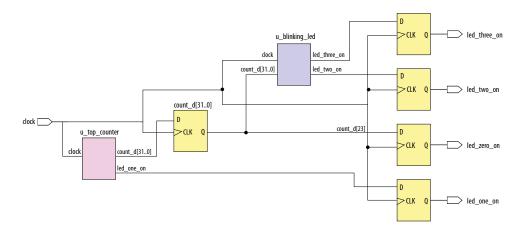
- The Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition software version 18.0 or later. The software includes the Signal Tap Logic Analyzer and the Programmer.
- Intel Stratix 10 GX FPGA development kit, or a design board with JTAG connection to the device under test.
- Intel FPGA Download Cable, for communication between the device and the Intel Quartus Prime software.



## 1.3. Tutorial Design Description

The design for this tutorial consists of one 32-bit counter. At the board level, the design connects the clock to a 50MHz source, and connects the output to four LEDs on the FPGA. Selecting the output from the counter bits in a specific sequence causes the LEDs to blink at a specific frequency.

Figure 3. Flat Reference Design without PR Partitioning



# 1.4. Downloading the Tutorial Design

The partial reconfiguration tutorial files are available in:

https://github.com/intel/fpga-partial-reconfig

To download the tutorial:

- 1. In the web page, click Clone or download, and then click Download ZIP.
- 2. Unzip the fpga-partial-reconfig-master.zip file.
- 3. Navigate to the tutorials/s10\_pcie\_devkit\_blinking\_led\_stp sub-folder to access the design.

## 1.4.1. Tutorial Design Files

The design folder contains two subfolders: The start folder contains the files that you need to follow this tutorial, and the finish folder contains the complete set of files you create using this application note. Reference these files at any point during the walkthrough.

Table 1. Description of Tutorial Design Files in start Folder

File Name	Description
top.sv	Top-level file. Contains the flat implementation of the design. This module instantiates the blinking_led sub-partition and the top_counter module.
	continued



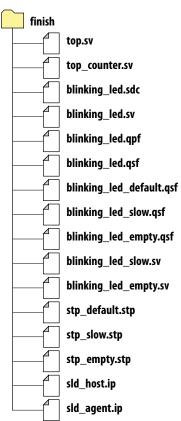
File Name	Description
	This module also instantiates the SLD JTAG Bridge Agent for debugging purposes.
top_counter.sv	Top-level 32-bit counter that controls $\mbox{LED[1]}$ directly. The registered output of the counter controls $\mbox{LED[0]}$ , and also powers $\mbox{LED[2]}$ and $\mbox{LED[3]}$ via the blinking_led module.
blinking_led.sdc	Defines the timing constraints for the project.
blinking_led.sv	This module acts as the PR partition. The module receives the registered output of top_counter module, which controls LED[2] and LED[3]. This module also instantiates the SLD JTAG Bridge Agent for debugging the default persona.
blinking_led.qpf	Intel Quartus Prime project file that contains a list of all the revisions in the project.
blinking_led.qsf	Intel Quartus Prime settings file that contains assignments and settings for the base revision of the project.
blinking_led_default.qsf	Contains assignments and settings for the blinking_led_default implementation revision of the project.
blinking_led_slow.qsf	Contains assignments and settings for the blinking_led_slow implementation revision of the project.
blinking_led_empty.qsf	Contains assignments and settings for the blinking led empty of the project.
blinking_led_slow.sv	Slower version of the PR logic. On this version, the led blinks at a slower rate than the default PR persona.  The module receives the registered output of top_counter module, which controls LED[2] and LED[3]. This module also instantiates the SLD JTAG Bridge Agent for debugging the default persona.
blinking_led_empty.sv	Empty version of the PR logic. This module holds the outputs at a constant. The module receives the registered output of top_counter module, which controls LED[2] and LED[3]. This module also instantiates the SLD JTAG Bridge Agent for debugging the default persona.

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The following Figure shows the list of files in the finish folder:

Figure 4. Tutorial Design Files in finish Folder





# 2. Tutorial Walkthrough

This tutorial describes preparing the blinking\_led design for debug with the Signal Tap Logic Analyzer.

Note:

This Application Note only covers adding Signal Tap debugging capabilities to a PR design. For information about turning a non-PR design to PR, refer to AN 825: Partially Reconfiguring a Design on Intel Stratix 10 GX FPGA Development Board.

## **Process Description**

To tap signals in a PR design, you extend the debug fabric to the PR regions when creating the base revision, and then define debug components for the implementation revisions.

## **Tutorial Steps**

This tutorial includes the following steps:

- Step 1: Getting Started on page 9
- Step 2: Preparing the Base Revision on page 9
- Step 3: Preparing the Implementation Revisions for Debug on page 13
- Step 4: Tapping Signals in the Implementation Persona on page 14
- Step 5: Configuring Data Acquisition on page 16
- Step 6: Setting Trigger Conditions on page 18
- Step 7: Generating Programming Files on page 18
- Step 8: Programming the Board on page 19
- Step 9: Performing Data Acquisition on page 20

## **Related Information**

AN 825: Partially Reconfiguring a Design on Intel Stratix 10 GX FPGA Development Board



## 2.1. Step 1: Getting Started

To copy the reference design files to your working environment and compile the initial design for this tutorial:

- 1. Before you begin, download the tutorial files.
- In your working environment, create a directory named s10\_pcie\_devkit\_blinking\_led\_stp.
- Copy the downloaded tutorials/s10\_pcie\_devkit\_blinking\_led\_stp/ start sub-folder to your working directory.
- 4. In the Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition software, click **File ➤ Open Project** and select blinking\_led.qpf.
- 5. Click Processing ➤ Start ➤ Start Analysis and Synthesis.

#### **Related Information**

Downloading the Tutorial Design on page 5

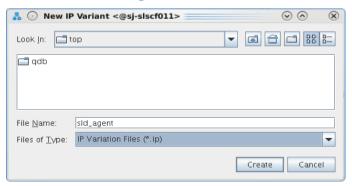
# 2.2. Step 2: Preparing the Base Revision

This step extends the debug fabric to the PR regions that you want to debug. To accomplish this goal, you must instantiate the SLD JTAG Bridge Agent in the static region and the SLD JTAG Bridge Host in the default persona of the PR region.

# 2.2.1. Preparing the Static Region

- In the IP Catalog (Tools ➤ IP Catalog), type SLD JTAG Bridge Agent, and double-click the SLD JTAG Bridge Agent Intel FPGA IP.
- In the Create IP Variant dialog box, type sld\_agent as the file name, and then click Create.

## Figure 5. Create IP Variant Dialog Box



3. In the parameter editor, use the default parameterization for sld\_agent. Click **Generate HDL...**, and then click **Generate**.



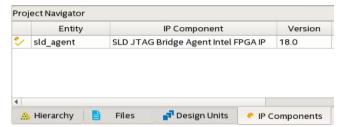
## Figure 6. SLD JTAG Bridge Agent Intel FPGA IP Parameters



The parameter editor generates the  $sld\_agent.ip$  IP variation file and adds the file to the  $blinking\_led$  project.

- 4. Close the parameter editor.
- 5. Verify whether the sld\_agent IP variant appears in the **IP Components** tab of the Project Navigator.

## Figure 7. sld\_agent IP Variant in Project Navigator



If the IP variant does not appear in he Project Navigator, click **Project** > Add/ Remove Files in Project, find the sld\_agent.ip file, and add to the project.

6. In the top.sv file, instantiate the sld\_agent IP in the base revision by uncommenting the following lines:

```
//========
//Enable Signal Tap
wire tck;
wire tms;
wire tdi;
wire vir_tdi;
wire ena;
wire tdo;
sld_agent u_sld_agent (
    .tck
             (tck), // output, width = 1, connect_to_bridge_host.tck (tms), // output, width = 1, .tms
    .tms
                       // output, width = 1,
    .tdi
             (tdi),
                                                                           .tdi
    .vir_tdi(vir_tdi),
                            //output, width = 1,
                                                                       .vir_tdi
    ena (ena), // output, width = 1,
.tdo (tdo) // input, width = 1,
                                                                           .ena
                                                                           .tdo
//========
```

## **Related Information**

Instantiating the SLD JTAG Bridge Agent

In Debug Tools User Guide: Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition

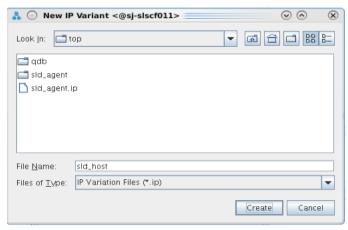


# 2.2.2. Preparing the Default PR Persona

In this phase you instantiate the SLD JTAG Bridge Host in the PR region that you want to debug.

- In the IP Catalog (Tools ➤ IP Catalog), type SLD JTAG Bridge Host, and double-click the SLD JTAG Bridge Host Intel FPGA IP.
- In the Create IP Variant dialog box, type sld\_host as the file name, and then click Create.

## Figure 8. Create IP Variant Dialog Box



3. In the parameter editor, use the default parameterization for sld\_host. Click **Generate HDL...**, and then click **Generate**.

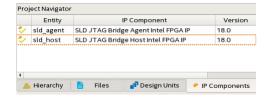
## Figure 9. SLD JTAG Bridge Host Intel FPGA IP Parameters



The parameter editor generates the sld\_host.ip IP variation file and adds the file to the blinking led project.

- 4. Close the parameter editor.
- 5. Verify whether the sld\_host IP variant appears in the **IP Components** tab of the Project Navigator.

Figure 10. sld\_host IP Variant in Project Navigator





If the IP variant does not appear in he Project Navigator, click **Project ➤ Add/ Remove Files in Project**, find the sld\_host.ip file, and add it to the project.

6. Instantiate the sld\_host IP in the default persona by uncommenting the following blocks of code from blinking\_led.sv:

7. Change the instantiation of the persona in top.sv to include the sld\_host ports.

8. Update the port definition of the default PR persona to include the following ports by uncommenting this block of code in the blinking\_led.sv file:

```
module blinking_led (
   // clock
   input wire clock,
   input wire [31:0] counter,
   //=========
    //Uncomment this block to enable Signal Tap
   input wire tck,
   input wire tms.
   input wire tdi,
    input wire vir_tdi,
   input wire ena,
   output wire tdo,
    //=========
   // Control signals for the LEDs
   output wire led_two_on,
   output wire led_three_on
);
```

### **Related Information**

Instantiating the SLD JTAG Bridge Host

In Debug Tools User Guide: Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition



# 2.3. Step 3: Preparing the Implementation Revisions for Debug

In this step you instantiate the SLD JTAG Bridge Host and then add a .stp file to the implementation revisions that you want to debug.

- 1. In the Intel Quartus Prime GUI, set blinking\_led\_slow as the current revision.
- Include sld\_host.ip as a project file in the blinking\_led\_slow implementation revision.
- 3. Uncomment the following blocks of code from blinking\_led\_slow.sv:

```
//==========
// Uncomment this block to enable Signal Tap
input wire tck,
input wire tms,
input wire tdi,
input wire vir_tdi,
input wire ena,
output wire tdo,
//========
//=========
// Uncomment this block to enable Signal Tap
sld_host u_sld_hostled_two_on (
     _nost u_sid_nostled_two_on (
.tck (tck), // input, width = 1, connect_to_bridge_host.tck
.tms (tms), // input, width = 1, .tms
.tdi (tdi), // input, width = 1, .tdi
.vir_tdi(vir_tdi), // input, width = 1, .vir_tdi
.ena (ena), // input, width = 1, .ena
.tdo (tdo) // output, width = 1, .tdo
                                                                                                .vir_tdi
);
//========
```

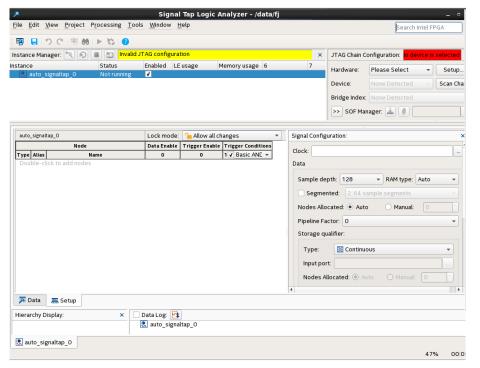
4. Update the port definition for the PR personas to include the following ports, by uncommenting this block of code in blinking\_led\_slow.sv and blinking\_led\_empty.sv files:

```
module blinking_led_slow (
    // clock
   input wire clock,
   input wire [31:0] counter,
    //========
    //Uncomment this block to enable Signal Tap
   input wire tck,
   input wire tms,
   input wire tdi,
    input wire vir_tdi,
   input wire ena,
   output wire tdo,
    //=========
    // Control signals for the LEDs
    output wire led_two_on,
   output wire led_three_on
```

 Click Tools ➤ Signal Tap Logic Analyzer to open the Signal Tap Logic Analyzer Window.



Figure 11. Signal Tap Logic Analyzer Window



Click File ➤ Save As..., and save the file as stp\_slow.stp.
 A dialog box appears prompting you to enable Signal Tap file stp\_slow.stp for the current project.

## Figure 12. Enable stp\_slow.stp for the Current Project



7. Click Yes.

Repeat these steps for the blinking\_led\_default and the blinking\_led\_empty personas. Use stp\_default.stp and stp\_empty.stp for the Signal Tap files.

You can disable Signal Tap in the project by clicking **Assignments** ➤ **Settings**. In the **Category** pane select Signal Tap Logic Analyzer. Then, turn off **Enable Signal Tap Logic Analyzer**.

## **Related Information**

Tutorial Design Description on page 5

# 2.4. Step 4: Tapping Signals in the Implementation Persona

To add signals from the implementation persona to the Signal Tap logic analyzer:

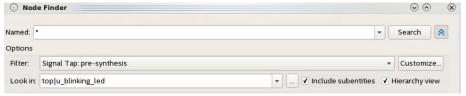
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- 1. Set blinking\_led\_slow as the current revision in the Intel Quartus Prime GUI.
- Open the stp\_slow.stp file.
- 3. Double-click the **Setup** tab to open the Node Finder.
- 4. Set the following search fields, and then click **Search**

Field	Value
Named	*
Filter	Signal Tap: pre-synthesis
Look in	top u_blinking_led

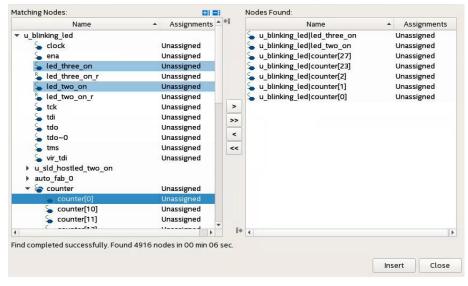
Figure 13. Search Parameters to Find Signals



This action displays all the nodes that you can probe in this revision.

5. From the **Matching Nodes** list, select led\_three\_on, led\_two\_on, and counter[2:0], counter[27], and counter[23], and then click >. This action adds the signals to the **Nodes Found** list.

Figure 14. Signals in Nodes Found List



6. Click Insert.

The signals now appear in the **Instance Manager** pane of the Signal Tap GUI.

## **Related Information**

Adding Signals to the Signal Tap File

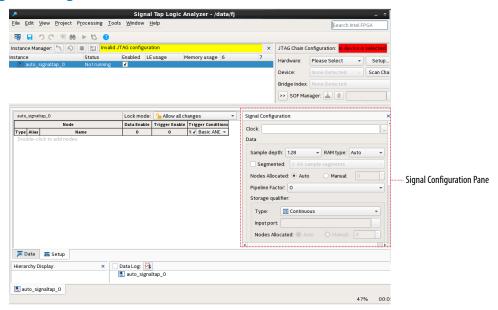
In Debug Tools User Guide: Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition



# 2.5. Step 5: Configuring Data Acquisition

You specify the acquisition parameters in the **Signal Configuration** pane of the Signal Tap Logic Analyzer.

Figure 15. Signal Configuration Pane



## 2.5.1. Add Acquisition Clock

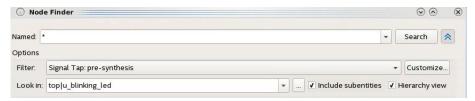
Specify the reference clock that Signal Tap uses during acquisition.

Perform the following steps in the **Signal Configuration** pane:

- 1. Next to Clock, click ... to open the Node Finder.
- 2. Set the following search parameters:



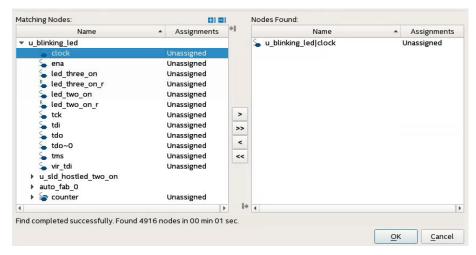
Figure 16. Search Parameters to Find the Clock



3. Click Search.



Figure 17. Select Clock in Node Finder



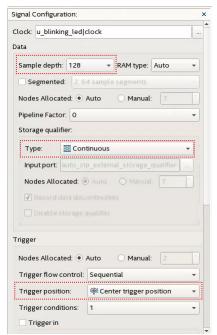
4. Select clock, click >, and then click **OK**.

## 2.5.2. Add Storage Parameters

These parameters define the number of samples the Signal Tap Logic Analyzer captures and stores, how to organize this samples, and the location of the sample with respect to the trigger activation.

- 1. In Sample Depth, select 128.
- 2. In Storage Qualifier, set Type as Continuous.
- 3. In Trigger Position, select Center Trigger Position.

Figure 18. Acquisition Settings for Tutorial



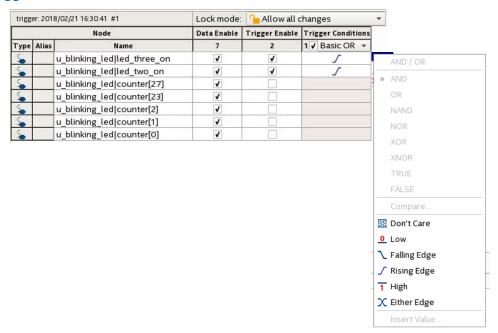


# 2.6. Step 6: Setting Trigger Conditions

These steps direct the Signal Tap Logic Analyzer to record data only after u\_blinking\_led|led\_three\_on or u\_blinking\_led|led\_two\_on does a rising edge transition.

- 1. In the **Setup** tab of the Signal Tap Logic Analyzer window, turn on the box under the **Trigger Condition** column
- 2. Open the drop-down menu, and select **Basic OR**.
- 3. For u\_blinking\_led|led\_three\_on and u\_blinking\_led|led\_two\_on, turn on Trigger Enable and select Rising Edge as the trigger type.
- 4. For all the other signals, turn off **Trigger Enable**.

Figure 19. Trigger Conditions



# 2.7. Step 7: Generating Programming Files

To generate the .sof and .rbf files:

 In the Intel Quartus Prime GUI, click Processing ➤ Start Compilation to compile the base revision. Alternatively, use the following command:

```
quartus_sh --flow compile blinking_led -c blinking_led
```

2. Export the static region by clicking **Project** ➤ **Export Design Partition**.

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## Alternatively, use the following command:

3. Compile the implementation revision in the GUI or command line:

```
quartus_sh --flow compile blinking_led -c blinking_led_slow quartus_sh --flow compile blinking_led -c blinking_led_default quartus_sh --flow compile blinking_led -c blinking_led_empty
```

## **Related Information**

Compiling the Base Revision and Exporting the Static Region

In AN 825: Partially Reconfiguring a Design on Intel Stratix 10 GX FPGA Development Board

# 2.8. Step 8: Programming the Board

## Before you begin:

- 1. Connect the power supply to the Intel Stratix 10 GX FPGA development board.
- 2. Connect the USB Blaster cable between your PC USB port and the USB Blaster port on the development board.

Note: This tutorial utilizes the Intel Stratix 10 GX FPGA development board on the bench, outside of the PCIe\* slot in your host machine.

To program the design on the board:

- 1. In the Intel Quartus Prime software, click **Tools** ➤ **Programmer**.
- 2. In the Programmer, click **Hardware Setup** and select **USB-Blaster**.
- Click Auto Detect and select the device, 1SG280LU5S1.
- 4. Click **OK**. The Intel Quartus Prime software detects and updates the Programmer with the three FPGA chips on the board.
- 5. Select the 1SG280LU5S1 device, click **Change File** and load the blinking led.sof file.
- 6. Enable Program/Configure for blinking\_led.sof file.
- 7. Click **Start** and wait for the progress bar to reach 100%.
- To program the PR persona that you want to debug, right-click the blinking\_led.sof file in the Programmer, and click Add PR Programming File
- 9. Select the blinking\_led\_slow.pr\_partition.rbf file.
- 10. Disable **Program/Configure** for blinking\_led.sof file.
- 11. Enable **Program/Configure** for blinking\_led\_slow.pr\_partition.rbf file and click **Start**.
- 12. On the board, verify that two of the LEDs are blinking slower than the other two.



#### **Related Information**

## Troubleshooting PR Programming Errors

In Partial Reconfiguration User Guide: Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition

# 2.9. Step 9: Performing Data Acquisition

After loading the appropriate .rbf onto the board, you can start data acquisition on the Signal Tap logic analyzer.

To perform data acquisition:

- 1. Make sure that the Signal Tap Logic Analyzer loads the .stp file in the current active revision.
- 2. In the top right corner of the Signal Tap window, set up the JTAG connection to the board with the following options:

Option	Description	
Hardware	USB-BlasterII	
Device	1SG280L	
Bridge Index	0	

## Figure 20. JTAG Configuration



3. On the Signal Tap toolbar, click **Run Analysis** .

The analysis may take a few minutes.

When the analysis finishes, the Signal Tap Logic Analyzer loads the waveforms to the window.

The following section displays the resultant waveforms for all PR configurations.



# 3. Tutorial Results

By looking at the data acquisition waveform, you can verify whether the signals behave consistently with your expectations. As a reference, the waveforms include counter[2:0] signals.

## **Related Information**

Tutorial Design Description on page 5

# 3.1. Waveforms for Slow Implementation

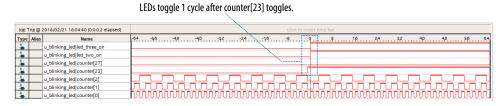
In the Figure, signals led\_three\_on and led\_two\_on show a rising edge one clock cycle after counter[27] has a rising edge.

Figure 21. Slow Implementation



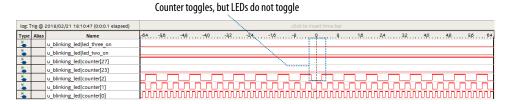
# 3.2. Waveforms for Default Implementation

Figure 22. Default Implementation



# 3.3. Waveforms for Empty Implementation

Figure 23. Empty Implementation



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# 4. Document Revision History for AN 841: Signal Tap Tutorial for Intel Stratix 10 Partial Reconfiguration Design

This document has the following revision history:

## **Table 2.** Document Revision History

Document Version	Intel Quartus Prime Version	Changes
2018.05.07	18.0.0	Initial release.