

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

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Contents

Partially Reconfiguring a Design on Intel® Stratix® 10 GX FPGA Development E	3oard 3
Reference Design Requirements	3
Reference Design Overview	4
Reference Design Files	
Reference Design Walkthrough	
Step 1: Getting Started	6
Step 2: Creating a Design Partition	6
Step 3: Allocating Placement and Routing Region for a PR Partition	
Step 4: Defining Personas	
Step 5: Creating Revisions	11
Step 6: Generating the Partial Reconfiguration Flow Script	
Step 7: Running the Partial Reconfiguration Flow Script	15
Step 8: Programming the Board	16
Modifying an Existing Persona	17
Adding a New Persona to the Design	17
Document Revision History	



Partially Reconfiguring a Design on Intel® Stratix® 10 GX FPGA Development Board

This application note demonstrates transforming a simple design into a partially reconfigurable design, and implementing the design on the $Intel^{\circledR}$ Stratix $^{\circledR}$ 10 GX FPGA 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 Intel Quartus® Prime FPGA implementation flow and knowledge of the primary Intel Quartus Prime project files.
- This tutorial uses the Intel Stratix 10 GX FPGA development board on the bench, outside of the PCIe* slot in your workstation.

Related Links

- Intel Stratix 10 FPGA Development Kit User Guide
- Partial Reconfiguration Concepts
- Partial Reconfiguration Design Flow
- Partial Reconfiguration Design Recommendations
- Partial Reconfiguration Design Considerations

Reference Design Requirements

This reference design requires the following:

- Installation and basic familiarity with the Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition version 17.1 design flow and project files for the design implementation.
- Connection with the Intel Stratix 10 GX FPGA development board on the bench.

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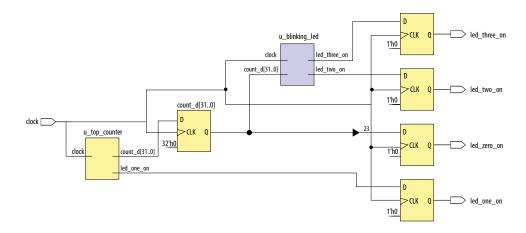
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Reference Design Overview

This reference design 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 1. Flat Reference Design without PR Partitioning



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/s10_pcie_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 and the top_counter module.
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.
	continued

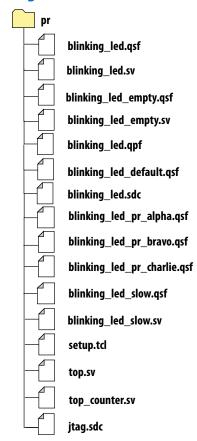


File Name	Description
blinking_led.sv	This module acts as the PR partition. The module receives the registered output of top_counter module, which controls LED[2] and LED[3].
blinking_led.qpf	Intel Quartus Prime project file containing the list of all the revisions in the project.
blinking_led.qsf	Intel 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 Design Files



Reference Design Walkthrough

The following steps describe the application of partial reconfiguration to a flat design. The tutorial uses the Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition software for the Intel Stratix 10 GX FPGA 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: Defining Personas on page 9
- Step 5: Creating Revisions on page 11
- Step 6: Generating the Partial Reconfiguration Flow Script on page 15
- Step 7: Running the Partial Reconfiguration Flow Script on page 15
- Step 8: Programming the Board on page 16

Note:

This tutorial does not require addition of a Partial Reconfiguration Controller IP core, in contrast with AN 797: Partially Reconfiguring a Design on Intel Arria® 10 GX FPGA Development Board.

Related Links

AN 797: Partially Reconfiguring a Design on Intel Arria 10 GX FPGA Development Board

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, s10_pcie_devkit_blinking_led_pr.
- 2. Copy the downloaded tutorials/s10_pcie_devkit_blinking_led/flat sub-folder to the directory, s10 pcie devkit blinking led pr.
- 3. In the Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition software, click **File ➤ Open Project** and select blinking_led.qpf.
- 4. To compile the flat design, click **Processing** ➤ **Start Compilation**.

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.

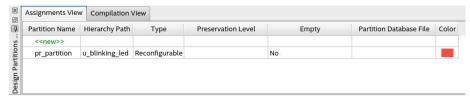
To create design partition for partial reconfiguration:

 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 Intel 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

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:

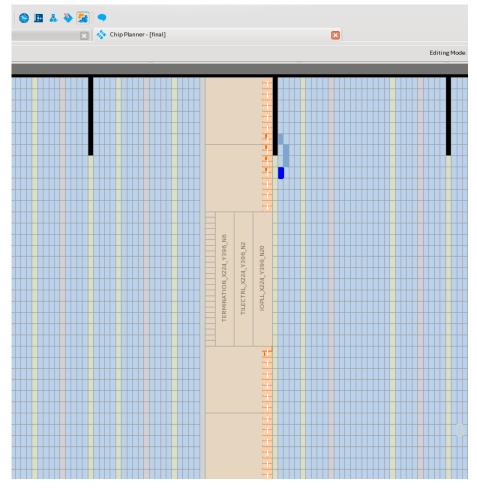
- Right-click the u_blinking_led instance in the Project Navigator and click Logic Lock Region ➤ Create New Logic Lock Region. The region appears on the Logic Lock Regions Window.
- Your placement region must enclose the blinking_led logic. Select the placement region by locating the node in Chip Planner. Right-click the u_blinking_led region name in the Logic Lock 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. In the Logic Lock Regions window, 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 (169 410), specify the **Origin** as X169_Y410. The Intel Quartus Prime software automatically calculates the (X2 Y2) co-ordinates (top-right) for the placement region, based on the height and width you specify.

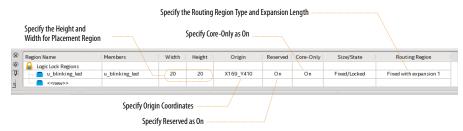
Note: This tutorial uses the (X1 Y1) co-ordinates - (169 410), and a height and width of 20 for the placement region. Define any value for the placement region, as long as the region covers the blinking led logic.

- 4. Enable the Reserved and Core-Only options.
- 5. Double-click the Routing Region option. The Logic Lock 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 Fitter when the engine routes different personas.



Figure 5. Logic Lock Regions Window



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

Related Links

- Floorplan the Partial Reconfiguration Design
- Incrementally Implementing Partial Reconfiguration

Step 4: 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_led_slow.sv, and blinking_led_empty.sv in your working directory for the three personas.

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



Table 2. **Reference Design Personas**

File Name	Description	Code
blinking_led.sv	Default persona with same design as the flat implementation	<pre>`timescale 1 ps / 1 ps `default_nettype none module blinking_led (</pre>
blinking_led_slow.sv	LEDs blink slower	<pre>`timescale 1 ps / 1 ps `default_nettype none module blinking_led_slow (// clock input wire clock, input wire [31:0] counter, // Control signals for the LEDs output wire led_two_on, output wire led_three_on); localparam COUNTER_TAP = 27; reg led_two_on_r; reg led_three_on_r; assign led_three_on_r; assign led_three_on = led_two_on_r; assign led_three_on = led_three_on_r; always_ff @(posedge clock) begin led_two_on_r <= counter[COUNTER_TAP]; led_three_on_r <= counter[COUNTER_TAP]; end endmodule</pre>
blinking_led_empty.sv	LEDs stay ON	<pre>`timescale 1 ps / 1 ps `default_nettype none module blinking_led_empty(// clock input wire clock, input wire [31:0] counter, // Control signals for the LEDs output wire led_two_on, output wire led_three_on); // LED is active low assign led_two_on = 1'b0; assign led_three_on = 1'b0; endmodule</pre>



Related Links

Step 2: Creating a Design Partition on page 6

Step 5: Creating Revisions

The PR design flow uses the project revisions feature in the Intel Quartus Prime software. Your initial design is the base revision, where you define the static region boundaries and reconfigurable regions on the FPGA. From the base revision, you create multiple revisions. These revisions contain the different implementations for the PR regions. However, all PR implementation revisions use the same top-level placement and routing results from the base revision.

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_led_slow	blinking_led_pr_bravo
blinking_led_empty	blinking_led_pr_charlie

Creating Implementation Revisions

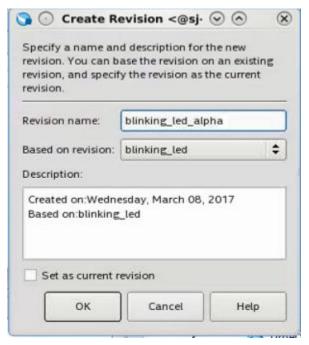
To create the PR implementation revisions:

- 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. Disable the **Set as current revision** option and click **OK**.
- 5. Similarly, create blinking_led_pr_bravo and blinking_led_pr_charlie revisions, based on the blinking_led revision.

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



Figure 6. Creating Revisions



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 Intel 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.qsf 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_led_slow revisions based on blinking_led revision. Do not set these revisions as current revision.



Update the blinking_led_slow.qsf and blinking_led_empty.qsf files with their corresponding TOP_LEVEL_ENTITY and SYSTEMVERILOG_FILE assignments:

```
##blinking_led_slow.qsf
set_global_assignment -name TOP_LEVEL_ENTITY blinking_led_slow
set_global_assignment -name SYSTEMVERILOG_FILE blinking_led_slow.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, Logic Lock region assignments, or pin assignments. Remove these assignments, if any, in the blinking_led_default.qsf, blinking_led_slow.qsf, and blinking_led_empty.qsf files:

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_led_slow"

PROJECT_REVISION = "blinking_led_empty"
```

Note: If you are copying the revision files from pr folder, manually update the blinking led.qpf file with the above lines of code.

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
	continued





Revision Name	Revision Type
blinking_led_empty.qsf	Partial Reconfiguration - Persona Synthesis
blinking_led_slow.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.
- 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 each .qsf file 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_led_slow.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



Step 6: Generating the Partial Reconfiguration Flow Script

To generate the partial reconfiguration flow script:

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

```
quartus_sh --write_flow_template -flow s10_partial_reconfig

Intel Quartus Prime generates the s10 partial reconfig/flow.tcl file.
```

- 2. Rename the generated s10_partial_reconfig/setup.tcl.example to s10_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_led_slow
```

Note: All the revision projects must be in the same directory as blinking_led.qpf. Otherwise, update the flow script accordingly.

Step 7: 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 s10_partial_reconfig/ flow.tcl.
- Select the s10_partial_reconfig/flow.tcl in the Libraries pane, and click Run.

This script runs the synthesis for the three personas. Intel 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 Intel Quartus Prime command shell, type the following command:



Related Links

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

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.

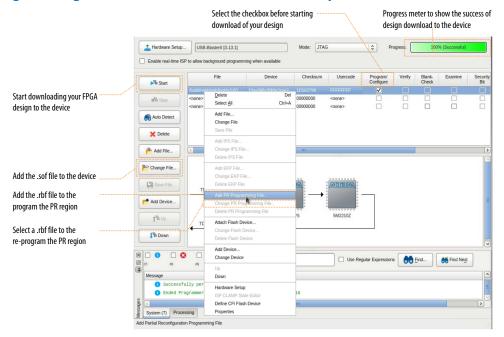
Note: This tutorial utilizes the Intel Stratix 10 GX FPGA development board on the bench, outside of the PCIe slot in your host machine.

To run the design on the Intel Stratix 10 GX FPGA development board:

- 1. Open the Intel 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, 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_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 7. Programming the Intel Stratix 10 GX FPGA Development Board



Modifying an Existing Persona

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

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

- In the blinking_led_slow.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 s10_partial_reconfig/flow.tcl -setup_script \
    s10_partial_reconfig/setup.tcl -impl blinking_led_pr_bravo
```

This command re-synthesizes the blinking_led_slow synthesis revision, and then runs the PR implementation compile using blinking_led_pr_bravo. Follow the steps in Step 8: Programming the Board on page 16 to program the resulting RBF file into the FPGA.

Note: This command does not recompile the base revision.

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 12.

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 13.
- 5. Update the s10_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 s10_partial_reconfig/flow.tcl -setup_script \
     s10_partial_reconfig/setup.tcl -impl blinking_led_pr_delta
```

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

Related Links

- Creating a Partial Reconfiguration Design
- Partial Reconfiguration Online Training

Document Revision History

Table 5. Document Revision History

Document Version	Software Version	Changes
2017.11.06	17.1.0	Initial release of the document.