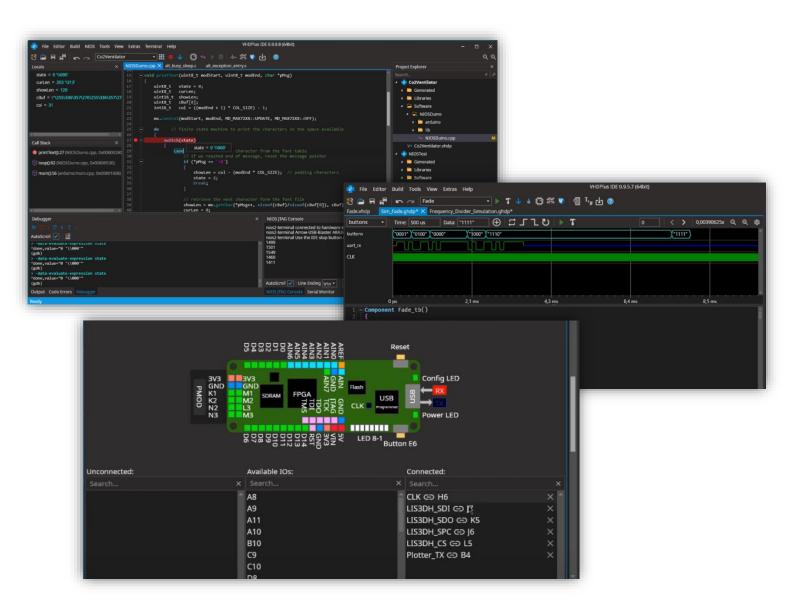


# MAX1000

# VHDPlus Overview Lab



Software and hardware requirements to complete all exercises

**Software Requirements:** Quartus® Prime Lite or Standard Edition version 18.0 or 18.1 & <u>VHDPlus IDE</u> **Hardware Requirements:** ARROW MAX1000 Board

# 1. Introduction

This tutorial provides comprehensive information to help you understand how to use the VHDPlus IDE to accelerate and simplify your FPGA development. You will learn how to create a working program for your hardware with a few clicks, visualize your received data, program with VHDL and our language VHDP, simulate the code with our assistant and you will learn how to add a customized NIOS processor to your design and program it inside the VHDPlus IDE.

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# 2. Getting Started

The first objective is to ensure that you have all the necessary hardware items and software installed so that the lab can be completed successfully. Below is a list of items required to complete this lab:

- MAX1000 Board (10M08SAU169C8G)
- USB Cable
- Quartus Prime 18.0 Lite was used for this lab. Previous/newer versions should work (If no Quartus Prime is installed, refer to MAX1000 User Guide for instructions)
- Installed Arrow USB Drivers (If not, refer to MAX1000 User Guide for instructions)
- Personal computer or laptop running 64-bit Linux / Windows 7 or later with at least an Intel i3 core (or equivalent), 4GB RAM and 12 GB of free hard disk space

Finally, the most important part is the VHDPlus IDE. In the following you learn how to download, install and setup the IDE.

## 2.1 Install the VHDPlus IDE

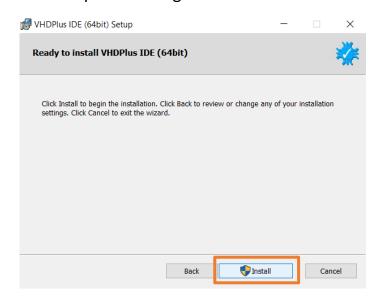
2.1.1 Open the Website "vhdp.de" and click on "Download"



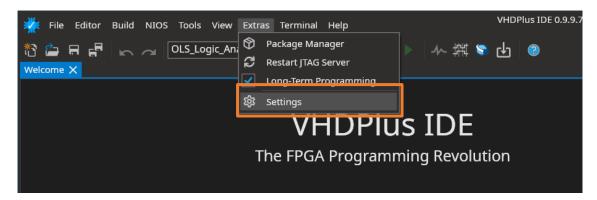
2.1.2 Download the Installer for Windows or click on "Linux" to see how to install the IDE on your distribution



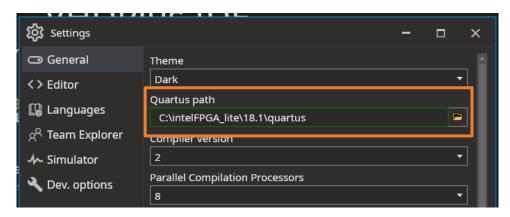
2.1.3 Install the IDE and open the Program



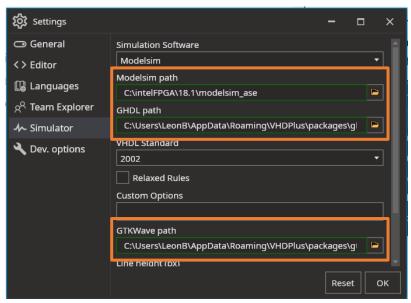
#### 2.1.4 Open settings



2.1.5 Connect the IDE with Quartus. You must select the "quartus" folder in that you find the application. When the boundary is green of the "Quartus path" text box, the correct path is selected

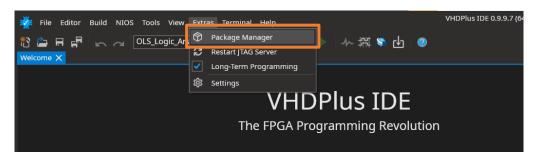


2.1.6 (Optional) Connect your simulation tool. You can either use Modelsim or GHDL

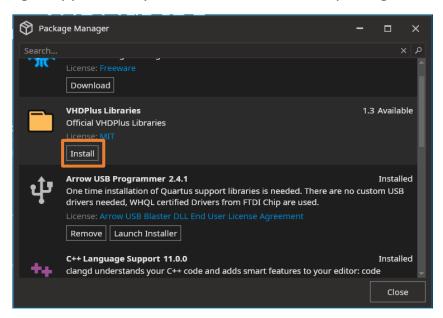


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2.1.7 Install the needed packages with the Package Manager



2.1.8 For this lab you need the VHDPlus Libraries, GHDL, GTKWave and the VHDL Language Support, but you can also install other packages



## 3. Accelerometer

In this part you learn how to use the Accelerometer of your MAX1000 board. You learn how to create a project in the VHDPlus IDE, use the built-in libraries and visualize the received data with the Serial Plotter.

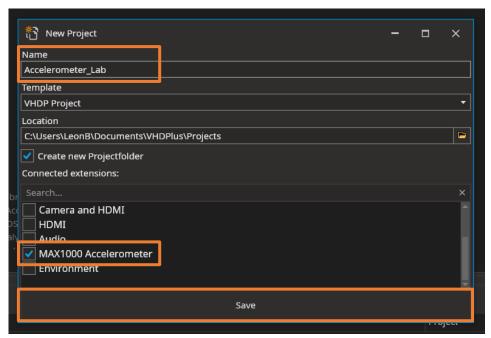
Alternatively to this part 3 you can watch and follow this Video Tutorial!

# 3.1 Create the project

#### 3.1.1 Create a new project



3.1.2 Name the project, select the accelerometer as hardware and create the project

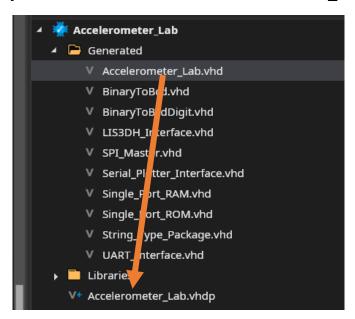


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#### 3.1.3 You can look at the code and see what is created:

The code is written in our language VHDP that is based on VHDL but simplifies a lot of aspects. You can find more information <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>.

(Optional) When you don't want to use VHDP, you can click on *Build > Create VHDP Code* and drag the "Accelerometer\_Lab.vhd" file from the "Generated" folder to your project folder and delete the "Accelerometer\_Lab.vhdp" file



# 3.1.3.1 The UART TX output for plotting the data and the SPI interface pins are declared

# 3.1.3.2 You can set the UART baud rate and the chars for the data name and unit

3.1.3.3 The current value and data name are set and sent with the plotter interface

3.1.3.4 The accelerometer interface is configured with a 400Hz data rate and the ADC input is enabled. But the ADC is not used in this example

```
SIGNAL LIS3DH_X_Val
SIGNAL LIS3DH_Y_Val
                                                              range -2048 to 2047 := 0;
                                                              range -2048 to 2047 := 0;
                                             : INTEGER
SIGNAL LIS3DH_Z_Val
SIGNAL LIS3DH_ADC_Val
                                                             range -2048 to 2047 := 0;
range -512 to 511 := 0;

    TNTFGFR

NewComponent LIS3DH_Interface
                             => 7,
=> '1',
=> '0',
     Data Rate
     Use ADC
     Use_Temp
     X_Val
Y_Val
Z_Val
                             => LIS3DH_X_Val,
=> LIS3DH_Y_Val,
=> LIS3DH_Z_Val,
=> LIS3DH_ADC_Val,
      ADC_Val
      SDI
                             => LIS3DH_SDI,
                             => LIS3DH_SDO,
      SPC
                             => LIS3DH_SPC,
      cs
                              => LIS3DH_CS,
```

3.1.3.5 The serial plotter interface is used without time or unit input. In the created code only the graph name and the value are set

```
SIGNAL Plotter_Value : INTEGER := 0;

SIGNAL Plotter_Graph_Name : STD_LOGIC_VECTOR (Plotter_NameChars*8-1 downto 0) := (others => '0');

SIGNAL Plotter_ValueUnit : STD_LOGIC_VECTOR (Plotter_UnitChars*8-1 downto 0) := (others => '0');

SIGNAL Plotter_Send : STD_LOGIC := '0';

SIGNAL Plotter_Busy : STD_LOGIC := '0';

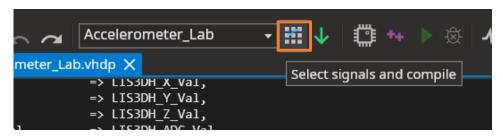
NewComponent Serial_Plotter_Interface (

UseTime => false,
NameChars => Plotter_NameChars,
UnitChars => Plotter_UnitChars,
Baud_Rate => Plotter_Bud_Rate,

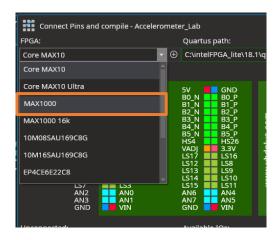
Value => Plotter_Value,
Graph_Name => Plotter_ValueUnit,
Send => Plotter_Send,
Busy => Plotter_Send,
Busy => Plotter_TX,

TX => Plotter_TX,
```

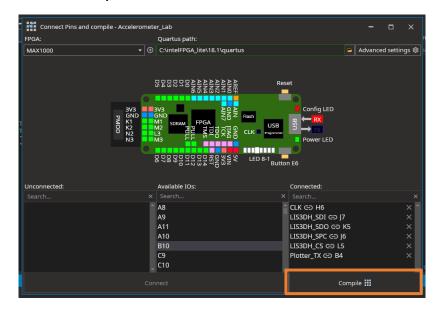
3.1.4 Click on the create button to convert the VHDP code to VHDL and select the pins



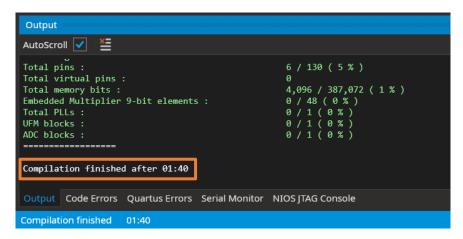
3.1.5 Select the MAX1000 as hardware



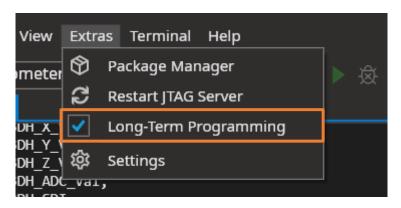
3.1.6 Click on create. The pins of the accelerometer were already assigned in the accelerometer library



3.1.7 Wait until the compilation is finished



3.1.8 Select long term programming if you want to save the configuration on the FPGA

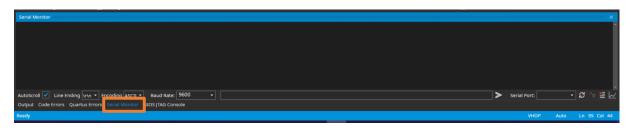


3.1.9 Connect the MAX1000 with an USB cable to your PC and click on the program button

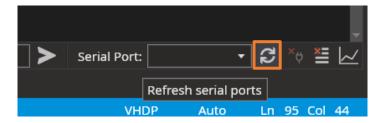


## 3.2 Try your program

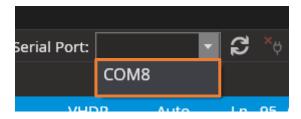
### 3.2.1 Open the Serial Monitor



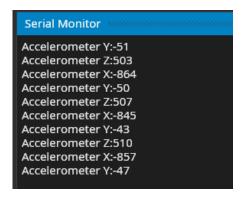
3.2.2 Make sure the baud rate is set to 9600 and refresh the connected devices



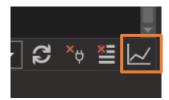
3.2.3 Select you MAX1000 that should appear in the dropdown menu



3.2.4 You should already see the data in the serial monitor



# 3.2.5 Click on the serial plotter button on the right



# 3.2.6 When you move the MAX100, you should see the values changing



## 4. VHDL + Simulation

In this part you learn to program with VHDL in the VHDPlus IDE, how to use the simulation assistant and how to use VHDP libraries together with VHDL code. You will use the UART and random number generator library to program a simple random number generator that could be used as dices or a coin flip.

Alternatively to this part 4 you can watch and follow this Video Tutorial!

## 4.1 Create the project

#### 4.1.1 Create a new project

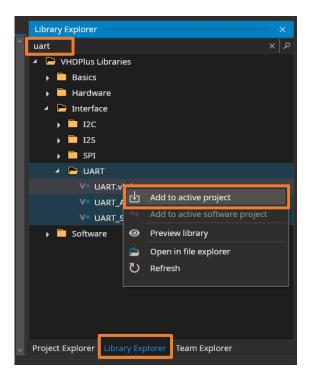


4.1.2 Name the project, select as template a VHDL project and create the project



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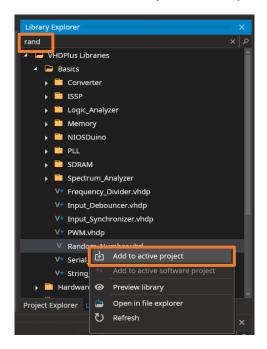
4.1.3 Go to the Library Explorer, search for "UART", right click the library and add it to your project



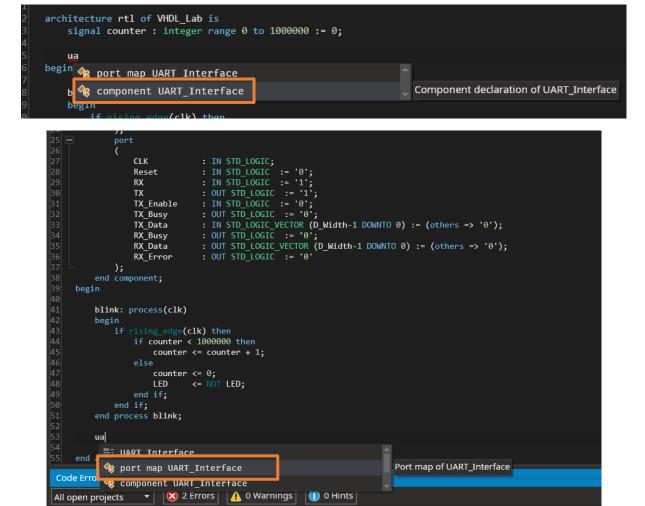
4.1.4 Because we do not use the VHDP string libraries, you get some warnings in the Code Errors tab. Double click one warning and delete the read and printString function in the Libraries/UART.vhdp file

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### 4.1.5 Search for the random number library and it to your project



#### 4.1.6 Add the UART component to your VHDL code



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4.1.7 Create and connect the signals

```
RX : IN STD_LOGIC := '1';

TX : OUT STD_LOGIC := '1'

; end entity VHDL_Lab;

architecture rtl of VHDL_Lab is
 signal counter : integer range 0 to 10000000 := 0;

signal Reset : STD_LOGIC := '0';
signal TX_Enable : STD_LOGIC := '0';
signal TX_Busy : STD_LOGIC := '0';
signal TX_Data : STD_LOGIC := '0';
signal RX_Busy : STD_LOGIC := '0';
signal RX_Busy : STD_LOGIC := '0';
signal RX_Busy : STD_LOGIC := '0';
signal RX_Data : STD_LOGIC := '0';
```

```
uart: UART_Interface
generic map
   CLK_Frequency => 12000000,
               => 19200,
=> 16,
   Baud_Rate
   OS_Rate
                 => 8,
   D_Width
                  => 0,
   Parity
   Parity_E0
port map
                  => CLK,
   CLK
                  => Reset,
   Reset
   RX
                  => RX,
                  => TX,
   ΤX
   TX_Enable
TX_Busy
                  => TX_Enable,
                  => TX_Busy,
   TX Data
                 => TX_Data,
                  => RX_Busy,
   RX Busy
                  => RX_Data
   RX_Data
);
```

4.1.8 Do the same for the random number generator. But you only need the out\_data output

For your Info: When using VHDP, this process only consists of 2 steps:

- 1. You add the component
- 2. You right click the component to create and connect the signals

4.1.9 Create a process for our code that receives and sends the UART data

```
pr process testbench

g process

process sync rst

process async rst

process async rst

D_Nidth => 8,

Parity => 0,
```

4.1.10 Create a variable for the current state

```
process(clk)

VARIABLE state : NATURAL range 0 to 6 := 0;

begin

if rising_edge(clk) then

if state = 0 then

else

end if;
end if;
end if;
end process;

end process;
```

4.1.11 When the UART interface starts receiving something, go to the next state

4.1.12 When the interface finished receiving, save the range for the random number. Create a variable for that and you must convert the STD\_LOGIC\_VECTOR to a NATURAL

```
VARIABLE state : NATUKAL range 0 to 6 := 0;
VARIABLE number_range : NATURAL range 1 to 10:= 0;
     if rising_edge(clk) then
   if state = 0 then
      if RX_Busy = '1' then
                  state := 1:
         end if;
elsif state = 1 then
             if RX_Busy = '0' then
number_range := STD

std_logic_1164

                                          🖣 std logic vector range
end process;
                                       □ resize (STD_LOGIC_VECTOR)
                                       STD_LOGIC_VECTOR (BIT_VECTOR)
uart: UART_Interface
                                       SIGNED (STD_LOGIC_VECTOR)
     CLK_Frequency => 12000000,  BIT (STD_LOGIC)
     Baud_Rate => 19200,

OS_Rate => 16,

D_Width => 8,
                                   BIT_VECTOR (STD_LOGIC_VECTOR)
                    => 8,
=> 0,
=> '0'
     Parity
Parity_E0
                                                                                                                 STD_LOGIC_VECTOR -> NATURAL
                                       UNSIGNED (STD_LOGIC_VECTOR)
```

4.1.13 When you subtract 47 from the ASCII value for 0-9, you get a number from 1-10. Then you create a variable for the random number, convert 8 bits from the random\_data vector to a number and get the remainder of the division with the number range using mod. Now you have a random number from 0 to your number range - 1.

```
process(clk)

VARIABLE state : NATURAL range 0 to 6 := 0;

VARIABLE number_range : NATURAL range 1 to 10 := 1;

VARIABLE random_number : NATURAL range 0 to 9 := 0;

begin

if rising_edge(clk) then

if state = 0 then

if RX_Busy = '1' then

state := 1;

end if;

elsif state = 1 then

if RX_Busy = '0' then

number_range := TO_INTEGER(UNSIGNED(RX_Data)) - 47;

random_number := TO_INTEGER(UNSIGNED(random_data(7 downto 0))) mod number_range;

end if;

end if;

end if;

end if;

end process;
```

4.1.14 Set the data to transmit to your random number. Add 48 so you get the ASCII value and convert the NATURAL to a STD\_LOGIC\_VECTOR. Now set TX\_Enable to '1', so the transmission can start and go to the next state

```
number_range := TO_INTEGER(UNSIGNED(RX_Data)) - 47;
random_number := TO_INTEGER(UNSIGNED(random_data(7 downto 0))) mod number_range;

TX_Data <= STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(TO_UNSIGNED(random_number + 48, TX_Data'LENGTH));

TX_Enable <= '1';
state := 2;
end if:
```

4.1.15 Wait until the transmission starts, go in the next state and wait until the transmission is finished. Then go to the first state

# 4.2 Program the FPGA

4.2.1 Click on the create button to convert the VHDP code to VHDL and select the pins

```
VHDL_Lab

Select signals and compile

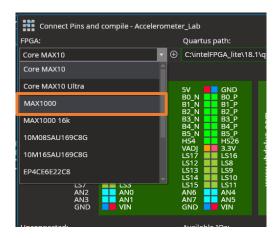
Select signals and compile

NATURAL range 0 to 6 := 0;

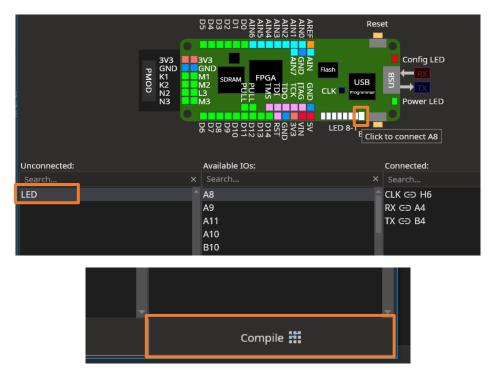
mber_range : NATURAL range 1 to 10 := 1;

ndom_number : NATURAL range 0 to 9 := 0;
```

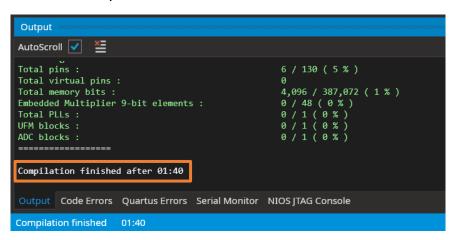
4.2.2 Select the MAX1000 as hardware



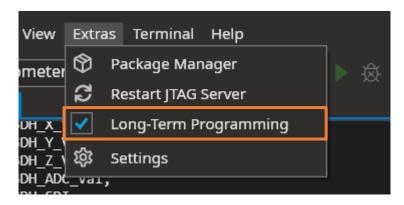
4.2.3 The RX and TX pins are already connected. You can then connect the blinking LED from the default program with one user LED on the MAX1000 board. Just click on the LED on the model and press enter. Then click on compile on the bottom



## 4.2.4 Wait until the compilation is finished



4.2.5 Select long term programming if you want to save the configuration on the FPGA

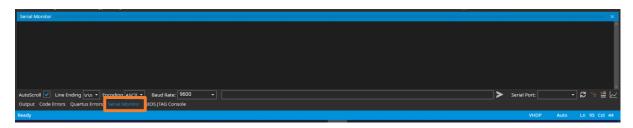


4.2.6 Connect the MAX1000 with an USB cable to your PC and click on the program button

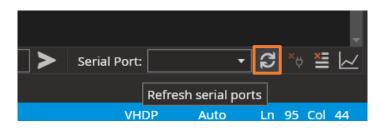


# 4.3 Try your program

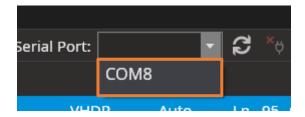
#### 4.3.1 Open the Serial Monitor



4.3.2 Make sure the baud rate is set to 19200 and refresh the connected devices



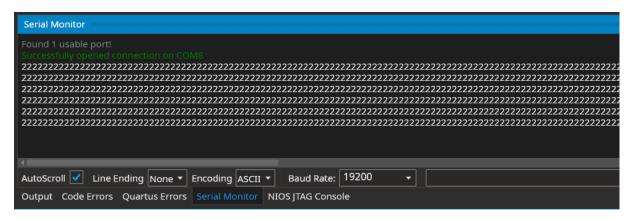
4.3.3 Select you MAX1000 that should appear in the dropdown menu



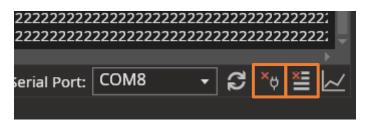
4.3.4 To get a number between 0 and 6, send "6" to the MAX1000. But first you should set the line ending to "None", so only the char '6' is sent.



4.3.5 You see the random number printed in the console, but something isn't working correctly, because we only wanted one number as return



4.3.6 Disconnect the USB connection and clean the console

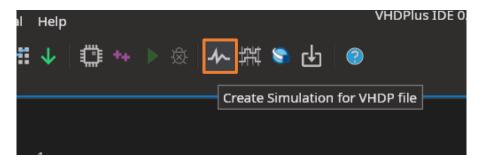


## 4.4 Simulate your program

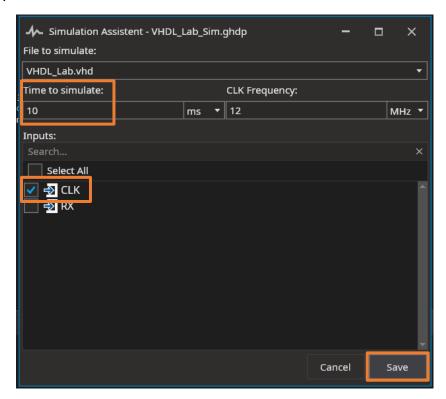
In the following steps you will learn how to find a problem in your code with a simulation. With this you see how the signals change and can find the problem.

For this you first use the VHDP version of a simulation with our simulation assistant. Then you see how to run a simulation with a VHDL testbench

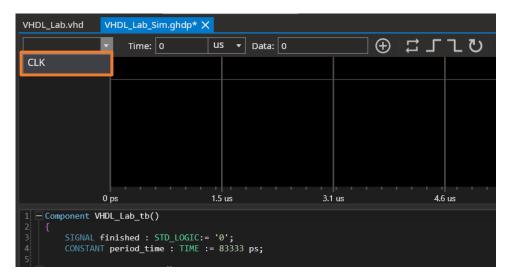
4.4.1 Click on the simulation button to create the simulation file



4.4.2 Set the time to simulate to 10ms and select the CLK input to simulate. Do not select the RX pin, you will learn a different type of simulation with this pin. Then click on save.



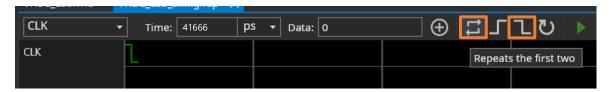
4.4.3 Now simulate the CLK pin. First select the signal



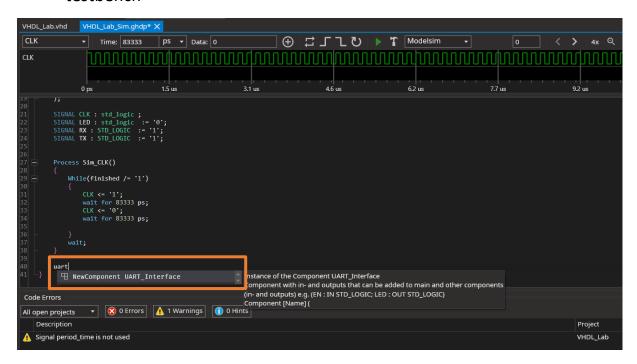
4.4.4 Set the time to 41666 pico seconds to simulate the 12MHz clock of the MAX1000 and press the high button. When using VHDP, the clock signal would be simulated automatically



4.4.5 Click on the low button and then on the repeat button



4.4.6 Now you simulate the RX signal. For this, add a UART interface to the testbench



4.4.7 Delete the RX signals, connect TX with the RX signal and right click the component to create the signals

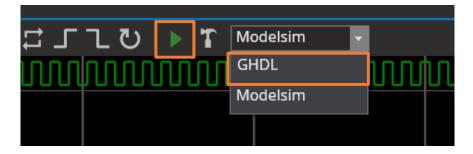
```
NewComponent UART_Interfac
                            <>
                                Go To Implementation
    CLK_Frequency => 12000
                            4
                                Create Signals
    Baud_Rate
                  => 19200
    OS_Rate
                  => 16,
                                Cut
    D_Width
                  => 8,
                  => 0,
=> '0',
    Parity
                            ð
                                Сору
    Parity_E0
                            G
                                Paste
    Reset
                                Comment
                  ⇒ RX,
    ΤX
    TX_Enable
                                Uncomment
    TX_Busy
    TX Data
```

4.4.8 Create a process and a thread for your RX simulation. In the thread you can just use the write function of the UART interface

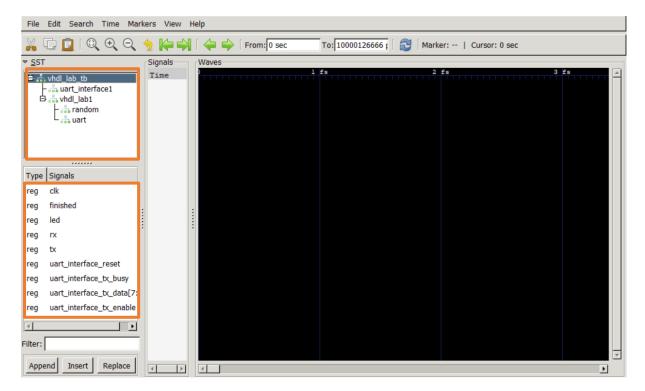
```
Process ()
               Thread
44
                    wr
                     NewFunction write
                                                                                     Adds opera
                                                                                      Area in that
                                                                                     In brackets
          SIGNAL UART Interface Reset
                                                     : STD LOGIC := '0';
                                                                                     SegFunctio
                                                     : STD_LOGIC := '0';
          SIGNAL UART_Interface_TX_Enable
          SIGNAL UART_Interface_TX_Busy
SIGNAL UART_Interface_TX_Data
                                                    : STD_LOGIC := '0';
: STD_LOGIC_VECTOR (8-1 DOWNTO 0) :=
          NewComponent UART_Interface
```

4.4.9 For the simulation you first must wait until the CLK rising edge, so the process runs every clock cycle. Set the char to the ascii value of 6 and connect the signals of your UART interface. At the end, you end this transmission with the statement "wait"

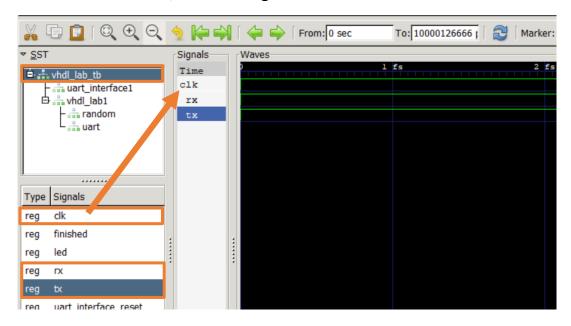
4.4.10 Now select GHDL as simulation program and click on run



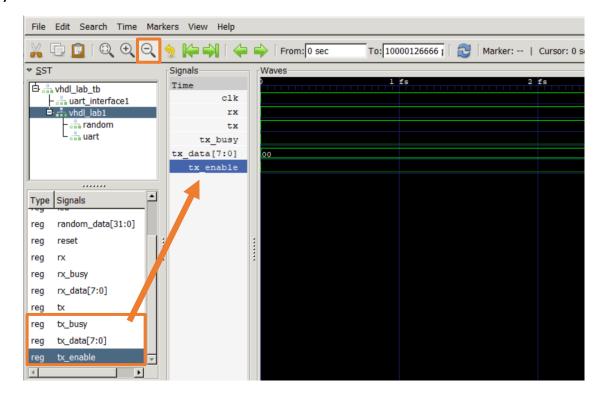
4.4.11 You can see all components in the simulation and see the signals from these



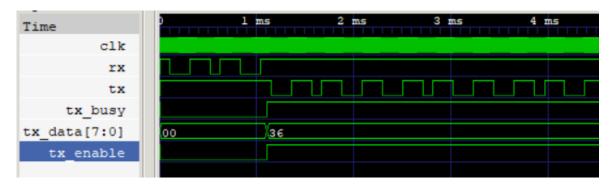
4.4.12 First move the clk, rx and tx signals of the testbench file to the wave



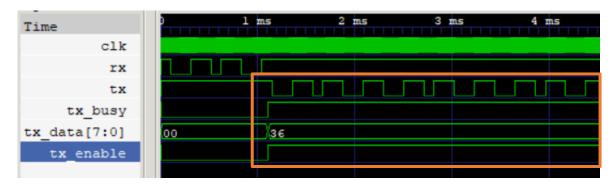
4.4.13 Go to the vhdl\_lab1 component to simulate the signals of your code you wrote previously. Add the signals for transmitting with the UART interface to your wave and then zoom out to see more of the simulation



4.4.14 You can see how first your testbench sends the char '6' with the RX signal and then with TX, data is returned

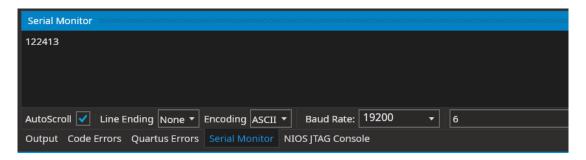


4.4.15 You see that the tx\_busy and tx\_enable signals stay '1' and the TX data keeps sending. Now you see that the problem is that you don't set tx\_enable back to '0'.

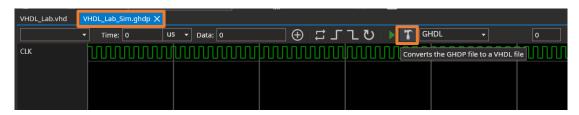


4.4.16 Go back to your code and fix the problem. Just set tx\_enable to '0' after the UART Interface starts sending

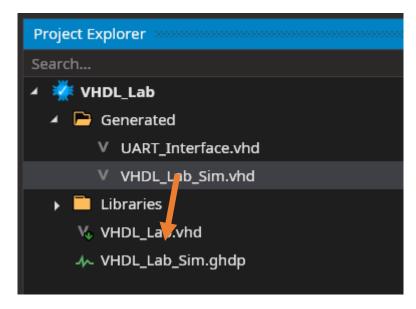
4.4.17 Now follow the steps 3.2.1 to 3.3.4 again to see if your code is now working. Now every time you click on the send button, a random number between 0 and 6 should be printed in the monitor. You can do this with every number between 0 and 9



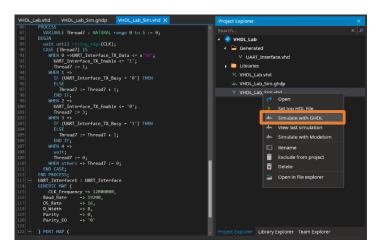
4.4.18 Finally, you can check the simulation again, but now using a VHDL testbench. To use you testbench of the first simulation, go to the VHDL\_Lab\_Sim.ghdp file and click on the build button



4.4.19 Drag the "VHDL\_Lab\_Sim.vhd" file from the "Generated" folder to your project folder and delete the VHDL\_Lab\_Sim.ghdp file



4.4.20 Right click the VHDL testbench and click on "Simulate with GHDL"



4.4.21 Repeat the steps 3.5.11 to 3.5.13 and this time your simulation should look like this

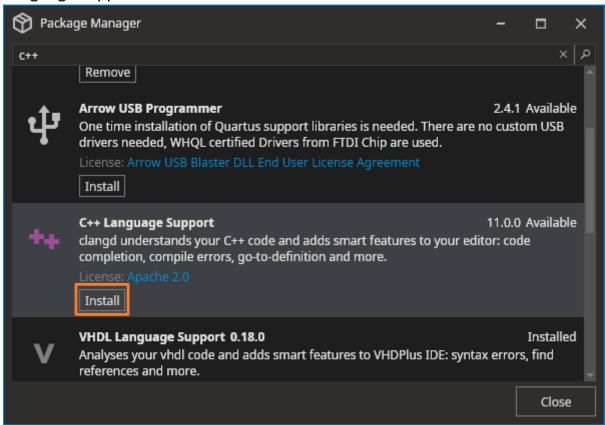


### 5. NIOS II

In this part you learn how to add and program the NIOS II Softcore processor using VHDPlus IDE.

## 5.1 Install C++ Support

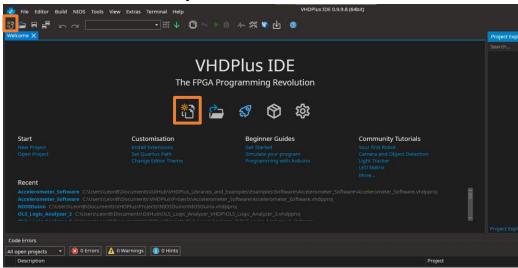
5.1.1 Open the Package Manager (Extras -> Package Manager) and install C++ Language support



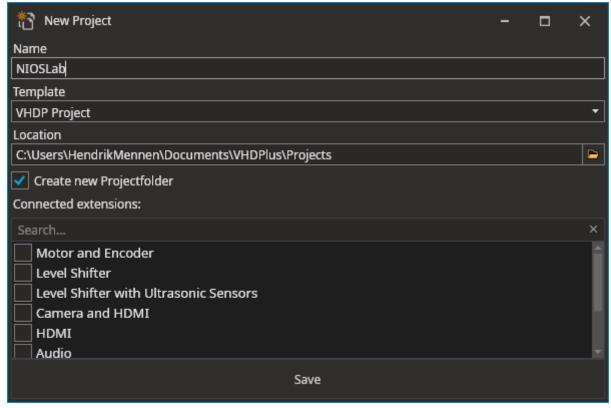
Alternatively to the steps 5.2 to 5.4.6 you can watch and follow this <u>Video</u> <u>Tutorial!</u>

# 5.2 Create the project

#### 5.2.1 Create a VHDP Project



5.2.2 Name the Project, chose VHDP Project as template as click on save.

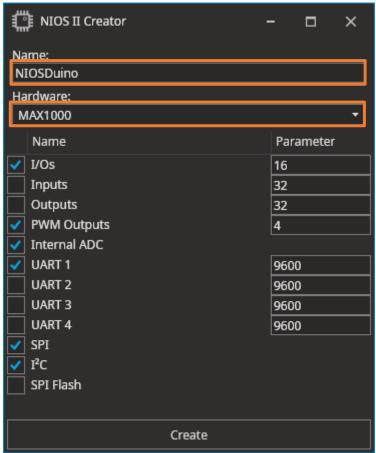


## 5.3 Create a processor.

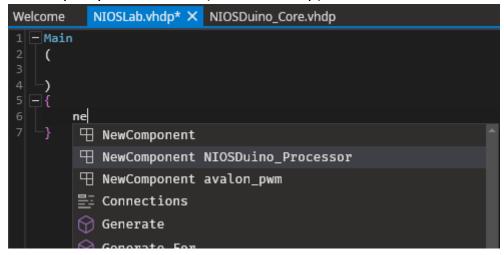
#### 5.3.1 Open the NIOS II Creator



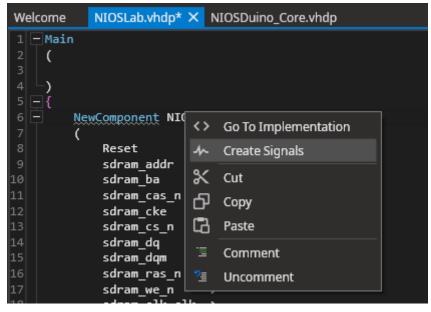
5.3.2 Set a name for your NIOS II Processor, select your hardware, and configure it to your needs. For this example, you don't need any peripherals, so you could unselect all to speed up the compilation.



5.3.3 Open your main file (NIOSLab.vhdp) and add the Processor to your code.



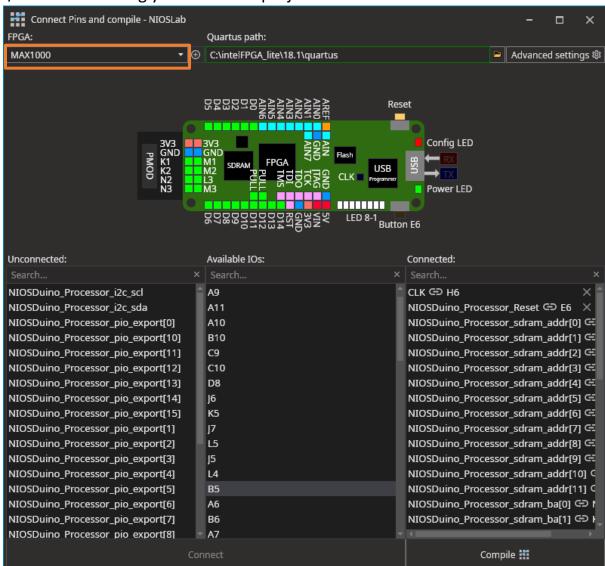
#### 5.3.4 Create the required Signals



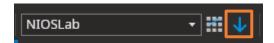
5.3.5 Compile and select the MAX1000.



All required Signals are connected automatically. You can now connect optional I/Os to use withing your software project



5.3.6 Wait for the compilation to finish, connect the MAX1000 with an USB cable to your PC and program the design to your MAX1000



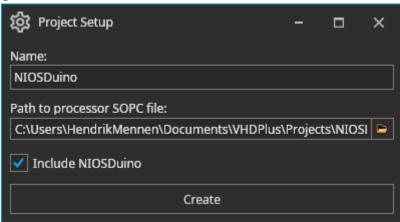
## 5.4 Create a software project

#### 5.4.1 Open the NIOS II Software creator



5.4.2 Set a name for the software project and target it to the .SOPCINFO file that got generated during compilation inside your project root folder. Select "Include NIOSDuino" to start with an Arduino like template and libraries.

Continue by clicking on "Create" and wait a few seconds for the BSP to generate.



5.4.3 The automatically generated "Hello World" program should look like this:

```
NIOSDuino.cpp X

#include <Arduino.h>

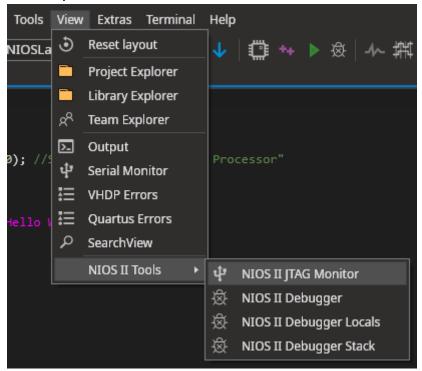
void setup() {
    Serial.begin(9600); //Set Baudrate with "New Processor"

| Found | Serial.println("Hello World");
| delay(1000);
| Serial.println("Hello World");
```

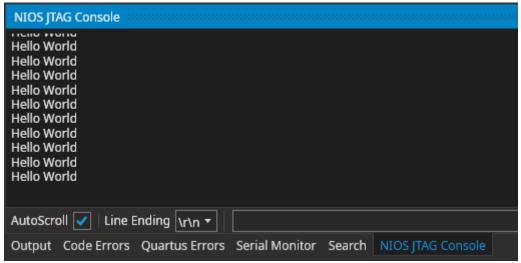
5.4.4 Compile and download the program.



#### 5.4.5 Open the NIOS II JTAG monitor.



## 5.4.6 Check if the program works.



## 5.5 Debug

**Warning**: As of VHDPlus IDE 0.9.9.9, the integrated NIOS Debugger is an VHDPlus IDE feature we are still working on. Some features are missing, and bugs are likely.

5.5.1 Set breakpoints by simply clicking on the side next to the line number

```
NIOSDuino.cpp X

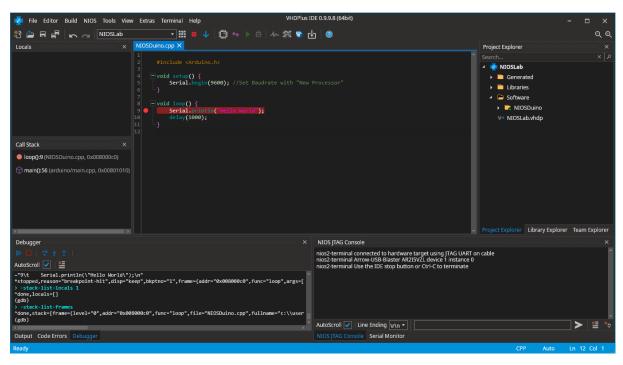
#include <Arduino.h>

pvoid setup() {
    Serial.begin(9600); //Set Baudrate with "New Processor"
}

void loop() {
    Serial.println("Hello World");
    delay(1000);
}
```

5.5.2 Start the Debugger. This will compile your code, start the debug server, and automatically connects it to your NIOS processor. The program will start executing until it reaches the breakpoint.

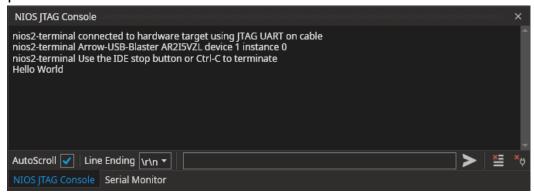




5.5.3 You can control the program execution using the debugger buttons. Click on the "Continue" button to start executing the program until it hits the breakpoint again. Make sure to select the NIOS JTAG Console window to see if the program is still working



5.5.4 You should see "Hello World" in the NIOS JTAG console every time you press on continue.



5.5.5 Examine variables live by hovering over them.



5.5.6 Stop the debugger and disconnect the JTAG Console





CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE VHDPLUS OVERVIEW LAB!

# 6 Legal Disclaimer

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