

# Article Guidelines

## 1 Content focus

- Articles should focus on innovative applications, advances, and trends in FPGA technology.
- Submissions should be original, well-researched, and provide value to professionals in the field.

## 2 Outline & structure

- **Title:** Be clear, concise and descriptive of the topic you're writing about, and try to limit the title to a maximum of 10 words..
- **Introduction:** Introduce the problem or challenge that will be talked about, its relevance, and what the article will cover.
- **Body:** Describe how the challenge can be overcome or resolved, and the methodology and steps to do so, including the tools and techniques as well as the technology. If possible, include examples, case studies, or real-world applications.
- **Conclusion:** Summarise your key takeaways, including the benefits that can be expected, and suggest next steps.
- **Synopsis:** Provide a short synopsis of the article that can be used to promote its content.
- **Layout:**
  - Use subheads to break down your article, which may be complex, into digestible sections.
  - Use bullet points and numbered lists only where appropriate, and not throughout.
  - Provide step-by-step instructions for technical guides.
- **References** (if needed): Cite credible sources.

## 3 Writing style

- Aim for **clear and concise** language.
- Use an **active rather than a passive voice** to make your writing clearer and shorter. The passive voice is often used in academic writing where a more formal approach is preferred, while magazines articles are more conversational and engaging. When using active voice, the subject *performs* the action of the verb, rather than *receives* the action of the verb. So you'd write "Our lead engineer then updated the code", for example, rather than "The code was then updated by our lead engineer".

## Article Guidelines continued...

### Writing style continued...

- In terms of tone, keep it **informal and engaging**, preferably writing in the first person to demonstrate your own knowledge, insights and experience. Talk about “We found the best way to ...”, for example. Writing in the second person, referring to the reader, is also a good approach, where you might say “*You may have been tempted to explore high-level HDLs ...*”. Also, don't be afraid of using contractions like 'don't'. The article should be a reflection of your own voice rather than sound like a formal paper.
- When using acronyms, spell out the full term when first used, with the acronym in parentheses immediately afterwards. The acronym can then be used in subsequent references.

## 4 Technical accuracy

- Ensure all facts, figures, and technical details are correct.
- Use diagrams, screenshots, and code snippets when applicable.
- Provide references for technical claims.

## 5 Code and examples

- Include code snippets or command line prompts within your copy as text, in Courier font, and keep them to a reasonable size. For example:

```
The command line is simple: smartexplorer.edn-p xc5v1x110t - 1ff1136.
```

- If you're writing an article that instructs readers to use particular commands in tools, please make the instructions bold. For example:

```
Once you have created a project, choose File → Import Placement and select OK.
```

- Ensure the code is correct, tested, and well-commented.
- Include explanations for complex code.

## 6 Submission guidelines - copy

- Preferred file formats: DOCX.
- Include author name, job title, a 2-3 sentence bio and a headshot.
- Include company name and website.

Article Guidelines continued...

## 7 Submission guidelines - screenshots & images

Screenshots are not designed for print. To help keep their quality as crisp and legible as possible, don't use them where you don't need to and, when you do:

### a. Preserve size and quality

- Take screenshots on as large a scale as your screen will allow and supply them at their maximum size. Don't size screenshots down or compress them.
- Ensure everything included in your screenshot is relevant/important (if we don't need to see most of an interface, for instance, don't include it)
- If screenshots need to sit within the flow of your article, don't make them too wide as they may become hard to read, ie



### b. Supply all images as high resolution as possible

- Images embedded in Word documents tend to be very poor quality when exported. So if images need to sit within the flow of your article, embed them in your Word document so we know where they should be placed AND supply them as separate files. For all other supporting images, supply as separate files.
- Supply screenshots as PNGs (not JPGs)
- Supply any non-screenshot supporting images as high resolution (250-300 dpi) JPG or TIFF for photos, and as SVG, PNG or EPS for graphics.

## 8 Word counts and images

Keep images and graphics to a minimum to ensure the graphics you do include have impact and can be clearly seen. The number of images needed will vary on an article-by-article basis but this table is a handy guide to word count vs image ratios.

article length	images/graphics	approx word count
1 page	no graphics	500
2 pages	1 graphic	800 - 1400
2 pages	2 graphics	700 - 1000 max
4 pages	3 graphics	1800 - 2800
4 pages	4 graphics	1800 - 2500

Article Guidelines continued...

## 9 Editing and revision

- Articles may undergo editing for clarity, grammar, and style.
- Any significant changes will be discussed with the author prior to publication.

## 10 Copyright and Publishing Rights

- FPGA Horizons Journal retains exclusive publishing rights for the first 60 days after publication.
- After this period, authors are free to publish their articles elsewhere.
- The copyright of the article remains with the author, with FPGA Horizons Journal having the exclusive right to use the article during the initial 60-day window, and the ongoing non-exclusive right to use the article in the edition of FPGA Horizons Journal it was originally published in.

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