# **Xilinx Design Constraints**

### Introduction

In this lab you will use the uart\_led design that was introduced in the previous labs. You will start the project with I/O Planning type, enter pin locations, and export it to RTL. You will then create the timing constraints and perform the timing analysis.

## **Objectives**

After completing this lab, you will be able to:

- Create a I/O Planning project
- Enter the pin locations and IO standards via Device view, Package Pins tab, and Tcl commands
- Create Period, Input Setup, and Output Setup delays
- Perform timing analysis

### **Procedure**

This lab is broken into steps that consist of general overview statements providing information on the detailed instructions that follow. Follow these detailed instructions to progress through the lab.

# **Design Description**

The design consists of a UART receiver receiving the input typed on a keyboard and displaying the binary equivalent of the typed character on the LEDs. Depending on the target board, when a push button is pressed, the lower and upper nibbles are displayed on the lower-half and/or upper-half of the LED array. The block diagram is as shown in **Figure 1**.

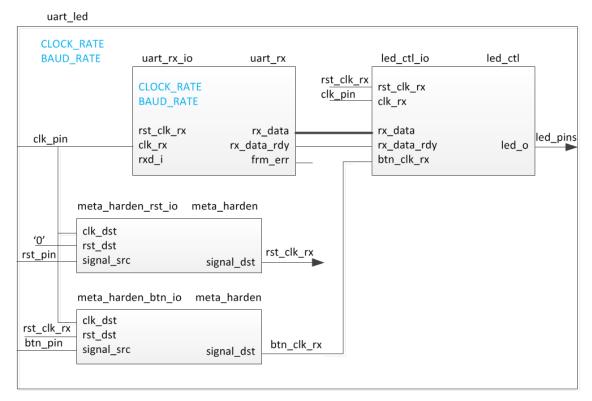
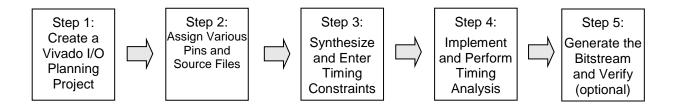


Figure 1. The design



### **General Flow**



# Create a Vivado I/O Planning Project

Step 1

1-1. Launch Vivado and create a I/O Planning project targeting either the XC7Z010CLG400-1 or XC7Z020CLG484-1 device, depending on the target board.

References to <2014\_2\_zynq\_labs> is a placeholder for the c:\xup\fpga\_flow\2014\_2\_zynq\_labs directory and <2014\_2\_zynq\_sources> is a placeholder for the c:\xup\fpga\_flow\2014\_2\_zynq\_sources directory.

Reference to **<board>** means either the **ZedBoard** or the **Zybo**.

- 1-1-1. Open Vivado by selecting Start > All Programs > Xilinx Design Tools > Vivado 2014.2 > Vivado 2014.2
- **1-1-2.** Click **Create New Project** to start the wizard. You will see *Create A New Vivado Project* dialog box. Click **Next**.
- **1-1-3.** Click the Browse button of the *Project location* field of the **New Project** form, browse to **<2014\_2\_zynq\_labs>**, and click **Select**.
- **1-1-4.** Enter **lab5** in the *Project name* field. Make sure that the *Create Project Subdirectory* box is checked. Click **Next**.
- **1-1-5.** Select **I/O Planning Project** option in the *Project Type* form, and click **Next**.
- 1-1-6. Select Do not import I/O ports at this time, and click Next.
- **1-1-7.** In the *Default Part* form, using the **Parts** option and various drop-down fields of the **Filter** section, select the **XC7Z020CLG484-1** part for the ZedBoard or the **ZC7Z010CLG400-1** part for the Zybo. Click **Next**.
- **1-1-8.** Click **Finish** to create the Vivado project.

The device view window and package pins tab will be displayed.



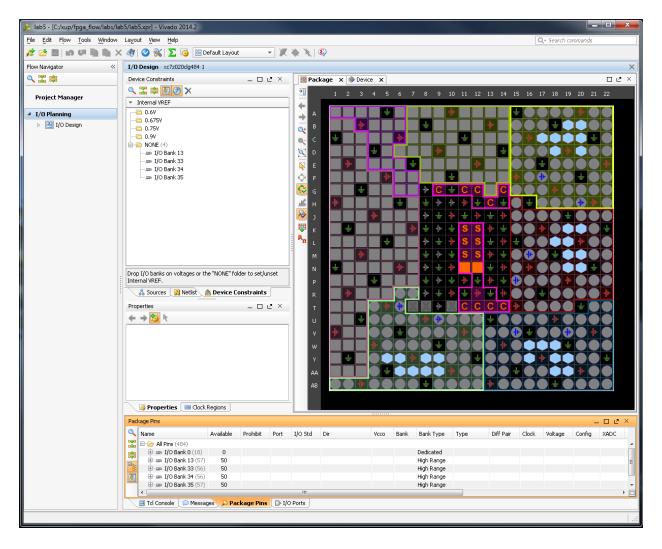


Figure 2. I/O Planning project's default windows for the ZedBoard's XC7Z020CLG484-1



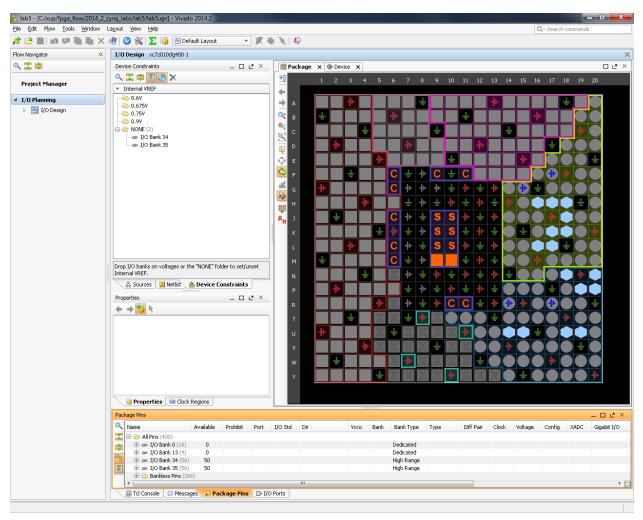


Figure 2. I/O Planning project's default windows for the Zybo's XC7Z010CLG400-1

# **Assign Various Pins and Add Source Files**

Step 2

2-1. Assign input pin locations using the Device view and package pins. For the ZedBoard, pins clk\_pin, btn\_pin, rxd\_pin, and rst\_pin to Y9, T18, Y10, and P16.

For the Zybo, pins clk\_pin, btn\_pin, rxd\_pin, and rst\_pin to L16, R18, J15, and P16.

**2-1-1.** Move mouse over the Device view window and hover over it on the **Y9** location for the ZedBoard. For the Zybo, place the cursor over location **L16**.



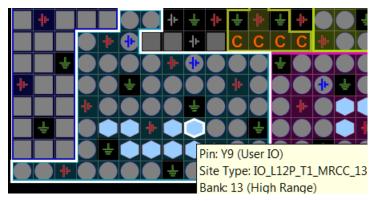


Figure 3. Locating a pin in the Device view for the XC7Z020CLG484-1



Figure 3. Locating a pin in the Device view for the XC7Z010CLG400-1

- 2-1-2. When located, click on it. The Y9 (or L16) entry will be displayed in the Package Pins tab.
- **2-1-3.** In the *Package* Pins pane, click in the Port column of Y9 pin's row, enter **clk\_pin.** For the Zybo, do the same except for the Port column in L16's row.
- 2-1-4. Click in the next column, I/O Std.

Notice that LVCMOS18 may be displayed in Red due to an IO standard mismatch.

- **2-1-5.** Click on the *LVCMOS18* entry to see a pop-up window. Scroll down and select **LVCMOS33** and then hit **Enter**. The LVCMOS33 is displayed in black. Keep the direction as input since clk\_pin is an input port.
- **2-1-6.** Similarly, add the **btn\_pin** input port at **T18** with *LVCMOS33* standard. For the Zybo, the port is at **R18**.
- **2-1-7.** Select **Edit > Find** or Ctrl-F to open the Find form. Select **Package Pins** in the *Find* drop-down field, type **\*Y10** in the match criteria field. For the Zybo, search for "**J15**".

Click OK.



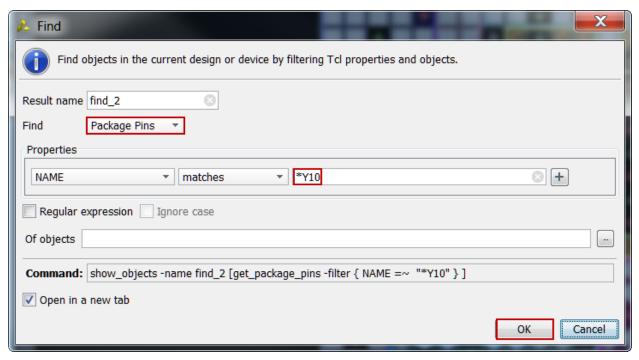


Figure 4. Finding a package pin on the ZedBoard's XC7Z020CLG484-1

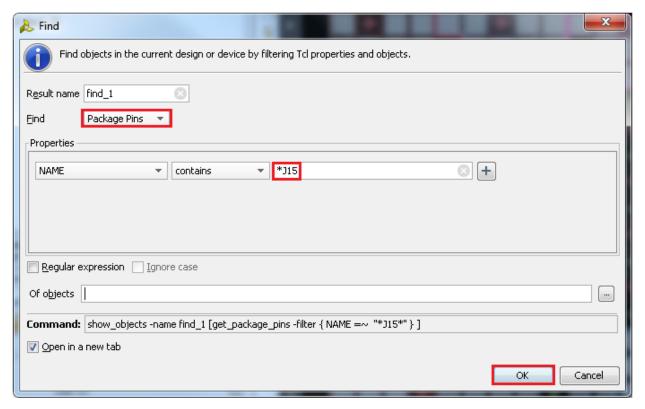


Figure 4. Finding a package pin on the Zybo's XC7Z010CLG400-1

Notice that the pin is highlighted in the Device view and the corresponding entry is displayed in the Package Pins tab.



- **2-1-8.** Assign **rxd\_pin** to Y10 or J15 with *LVCMOS33* standard.
- **2-1-9.** Similarly add the **rst\_pin** input assigning it to **P16** location with *LVCMOS33* standard. For the Zybo, search for the same pin **P16**.
- **2-1-10.** Add the **zed\_pin** input assigning it to **M15** location with *LVCMOS33* standard. For the Zybo, search for the same pin **Y18**.
- 2-2. For the ZedBoard, ssign output pins led\_pins[7] to led\_pins[0] to U14, U19, W22, V22, U21, U22, T21, and T22 locations.

For the Zybo, assign output pins led\_pins[3] to led\_pins[0] to D18, G14, M15, and M14 locations.

Create them as a vector and assign them using Tcl command set propoerty. They all will be LVCMOS33.

**2-2-1.** In the I/O Ports tab, click on the create I/O port button on the left vertical ribbon.



Figure 5. Create I/O Ports button

The Create I/O Ports form will be displayed.

**2-2-2.** Type **led\_pins** in the *Name* field, select *Output* direction, click on the check-box of **Create bus**, set the msb to **7** for the ZedBoard, and select **LVCMOS33** I/O standard. For the Zybo, set the msb to **3** and everything else stays the same. Click **OK**.



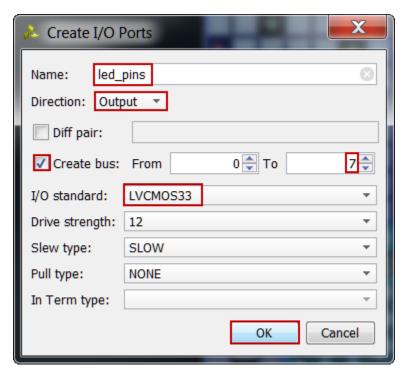


Figure 6. Creating I/O ports for the led\_pins output for the ZedBoard

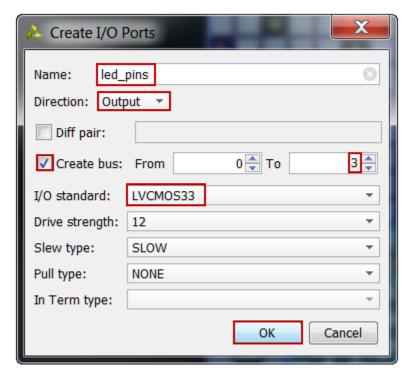


Figure 6. Creating I/O ports for the led\_pins output for the Zybo

The led\_pins entries will be created and displayed in the I/O Ports tab. Notice that the I/O standard and directions are already set, leaving only the pin locations to be assigned.

**2-2-3.** In the Tcl console, type the following commands to assign the pin locations for the ZedBoard:

```
set_property PACKAGE_PIN T22 [get_ports led_pins[0]] set_property PACKAGE_PIN T21 [get_ports led_pins[1]] set_property PACKAGE_PIN U22 [get_ports led_pins[2]] set_property PACKAGE_PIN U21 [get_ports led_pins[3]] set_property PACKAGE_PIN V22 [get_ports led_pins[4]] set_property PACKAGE_PIN W22 [get_ports led_pins[5]] set_property PACKAGE_PIN U19 [get_ports led_pins[6]] set_property PACKAGE_PIN U14 [get_ports led_pins[7]]
```

For the Zybo type the following commands:

```
set_property PACKAGE_PIN M14 [get_ports led_pins[0]] set_property PACKAGE_PIN M15 [get_ports led_pins[1]] set_property PACKAGE_PIN G14 [get_ports led_pins[2]] set_property PACKAGE_PIN D18 [get_ports led_pins[3]]
```

#### 2-2-4. Select File > Save Constraints.

The Save Constraints form will be displayed.

**2-2-5.** Enter **uart led** in the *File name* field, and click **OK**.

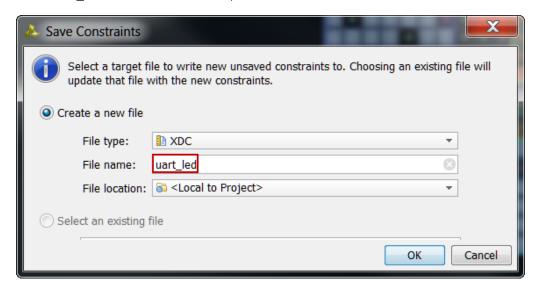


Figure 7. Accessing clocking wizard

The uart\_led.xdc file will be created and added to the Sources tab.

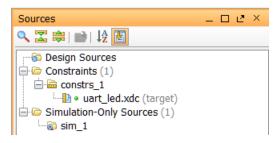


Figure 8. The uart\_led.xdc file added to the source tree

**2-2-6.** Expand the **I/O Planning > I/O Design** in the *Flow Navigator* pane.



- **2-2-7.** Click on **Report DRC** and click **OK**. Notice the design rules checker is run and some warnings are reported. Ignore these warnings.
- **2-2-8.** Click on **Report Noise** and click **OK**. Notice the noise analysis is done on the output pins only (led\_pins) and the results are displayed.
- 2-2-9. Click on Migrate to RTL.

The Migrate to RTL form will be displayed with Top RTL file field showing c:/xup/fpga\_flow/labs/lab5/io\_1.v entry.

**2-2-10.** Change *io\_1.v* to **uart\_led.v**. Select the target language as Verilog and click **OK** 

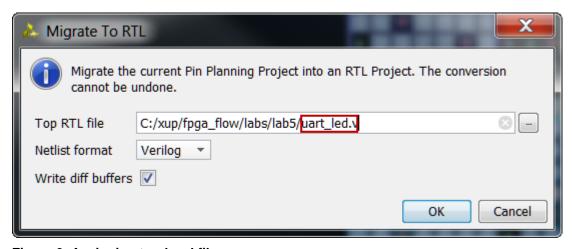


Figure 9. Assigning top-level file name

- **2-2-11.** Select the **Hierarchy** tab in the Sources pane and notice that the *uart\_led.v* file has been added to the project with top-level module name as **ios**. If you double-click the entry, you will see the module name with the ports listing. Rename the module to **uart\_led**.
- 2-2-12. Open the XDC file under constrains and comment out these lines with a hash mark #:

```
For the ZedBoard:
```

```
set_property direction IN [get_ports {clk_pin}]
set_property direction IN [get_ports {btn_pin}]
set_property direction IN [get_ports {rxd_pin}]
```

set\_property direction IN [get\_ports {rst\_pin}]

set\_property direction OUT [get\_ports {led\_pins[0]}]

set\_property direction OUT [get\_ports {led\_pins[1]}]

set\_property direction OUT [get\_ports {led\_pins[2]}]

set\_property direction OUT [get\_ports {led\_pins[3]}]
set\_property direction OUT [get\_ports {led\_pins[4]}]

set\_property direction OUT [get\_ports {led\_pins[4]]]

set\_property direction OUT [get\_ports {led\_pins[5]}] set\_property direction OUT [get\_ports {led\_pins[6]}]

set\_property direction OUT [get\_ports {led\_pins[7]}]

### For the Zybo:

set property direction IN [get ports {clk pin}]

set property direction IN [get ports {btn pin}]

set\_property direction IN [get\_ports {rxd\_pin}]

set\_property direction IN [get\_ports {rst\_pin}]



```
set_property direction OUT [get_ports {led_pins[0]}]
set_property direction OUT [get_ports {led_pins[1]}]
set_property direction OUT [get_ports {led_pins[2]}]
set_property direction OUT [get_ports {led_pins[3]}]
```

```
10 // DOVICE . AC/2010C19400 1
13 // This empty module with port declaration file causes synthesis too
14 // Please paste the declaration into a Verilog source file or add th
15 module uart led(led pins, clk pin, btn pin, rxd pin, rst pin);
16 output [7:0] led pins;
17 input clk pin;
18 input btn pin;
19 input rxd pin;
20 input rst_pin;
21
22 // internal wires associated with differential buffers
```

Figure 10. The top-level module pin declaration after migrating to RTL for the ZedBoard

```
10 // Device . Ac/Adidety400 i
13 // This empty module with port declaration file causes synthesis tool
14 // Please paste the declaration into a Verilog source file or add the
15 module wart led(led pins, clk pin, btn pin, rxd pin, rst pin);
16 output [3:0] led_pins;
17 input clk pin;
18 input btn_pin;
19 input rxd pin;
20 input rst_pin;
21
22 // internal wires associated with differential buffers
```

Figure 10. The top-level module pin declaration after migrating to RTL for the Zybo

- 2-3. Add the provided source files (from <2014 2 zyng sources>\<boxboard>\lab5) to the project. Copy the uart\_led.txt (located in the <2014 2 zyng sources>\<board>\lab5) content into the top-level source file.
- **2-3-1.** Click on **Add Sources** in the *Flow Navigator*.
- 2-3-2. In the Add Sources form, select Add or Create Design Sources, and click Next.
- 2-3-3. Click Add Files...



- **2-3-4.** Browse to **<2014\_2\_zynq\_sources>\<board>\lab5** and select all .v files (led\_ctrl, uart\_rx, meta harden, uart baud gen, uart rx ctl), and click **OK**.
- **2-3-5.** Make sure the source files are copied into the project with the correct check-box. Click **Finish**.
- **2-3-6.** Using Windows Explorer, browse to **<2014\_2\_zynq\_sources>\<box{board>\lab5}** and open uart\_led.txt using any text editor. Copy the content of it and paste it in uart\_led.v (around line 21) in the Vivado project.Select **File > Save File.**

# **Synthesize and Enter Timing Constraints**

Step 3

- 3-1. Synthesize the design.
- **3-1-1.** Click on the **Run Synthesis** in the *Flow Navigator* pane.

When synthesis is completed a form with three options will be displayed.

- **3-1-2.** Select *Open Synthesized Design* and click **OK**.
- **3-1-3.** In the *Flow Navigator* pane (under Synthesized Design), click on the **Constraints Wizard** button. This will open up the Constraints Wizard.
- **3-1-4.** Read the Identify and Recommend Missing Timing Constraints screen of the wizard to understand what the wizard does and click **Next**.
- **3-1-5.** Specify the frequency of the object "clk\_pin" to be **100 MHz** for the ZedBoard or **125 MHz** for the Zybo. notice the Period, Rise At and Fall At are automatically populated. Also notice the Tcl command that can be previewed at the bottom of the wizard. Click **Next** to proceed.



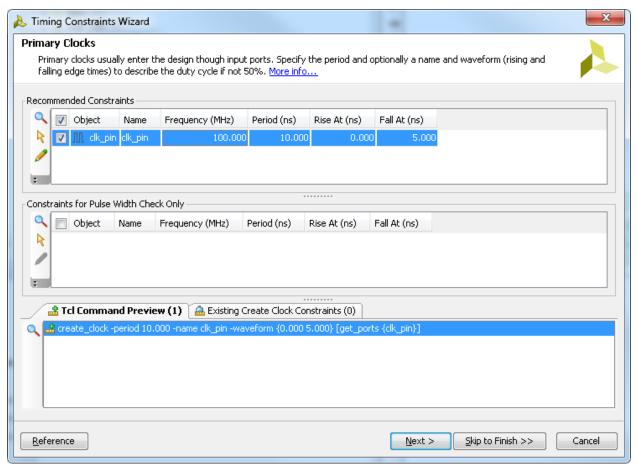


Figure 11. Constraints Wizard *clk\_pin* parameters and Tcl command for the ZedBoard (100 MHz)



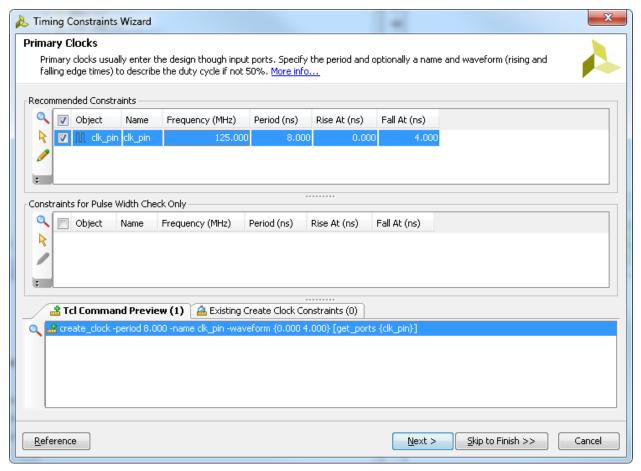


Figure 11. Constraints Wizard *clk\_pin* parameters and Tcl command for the Zybo (125 MHz)

- 3-1-6. The wizard informs you there are no missing Generated Clocks, click Next to proceed.
- **3-1-7.** There are no missing Forwarded Clocks, click **Next** to proceed.
- **3-1-8.** There are no missing External Feedback Delays, click **Next** to proceed.
- **3-1-9.** The wizard identifies Input Delays needed for the pins: btn\_pin, rst\_pin and rxd\_pin. Do the following:
  - (1) Press Ctrl and select all three rows.
  - (2) Enter the tco\_min value to be -0.5 ns and everything else as 0 ns. Click Apply.
  - (3) Notice that under the Tcl Command Preview tab, 6 Tcl commands have been generated.
  - (4) Click Next.



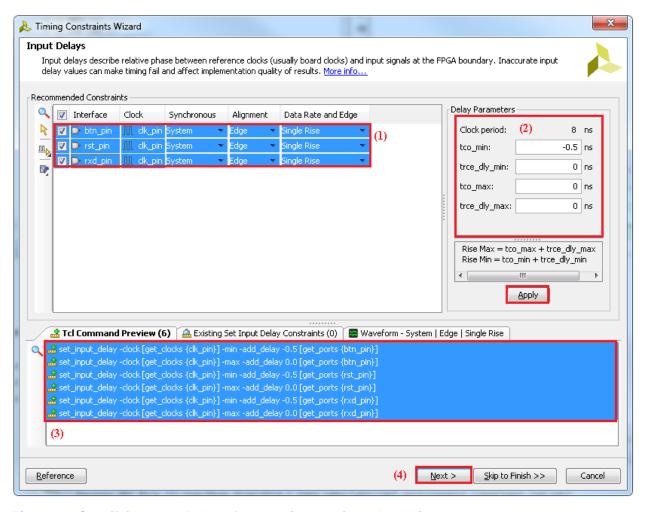


Figure 12. Specifying Input Delays for btn\_pin, rst\_pin and rxt\_pin

- 3-1-10. For Output Delays, specify all values (tsu, trce\_dly\_max, thd, trce\_dly\_min) to be 0 ns. Click Apply and then click Next.
- **3-1-11.** There are no Combinatorial Delays identified, click **Next** to proceed.
- 3-1-12. Click Next for the next few screens until the final Constraints Summary page. Read the description of each page.
- 3-1-13. Check On Finish View Timing Constraints and click Finish to close the wizard. The option will open the XDC file to show you the generated timing constraint.





Figure 13, selecting View Timing constraints

**3-1-14.** Note the wizard generated the clk\_pin constraint for a 10 ns period (or 100 MHz) for the ZedBoard or 8 ns (125 MHz) for the Zybo. Notice in the All Constraints window, 9 constraints will be created.

There is no need to click Apply since the constraints have already been applied in the Constraints Wizard.



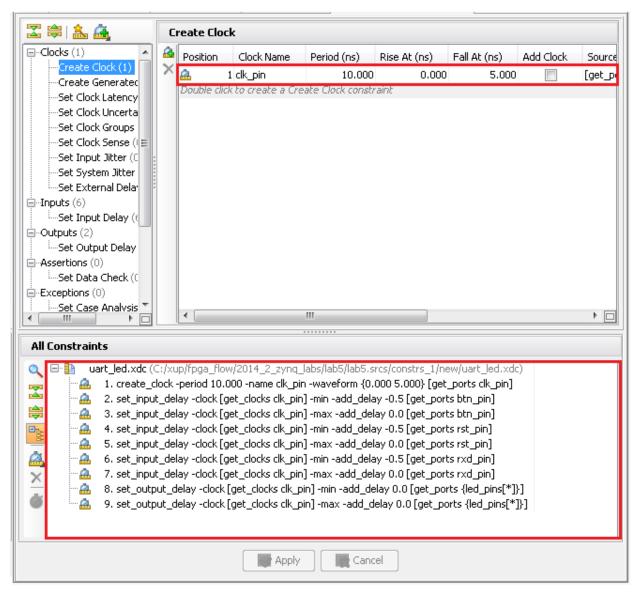


Figure 14. The constraints added for the ZedBoard

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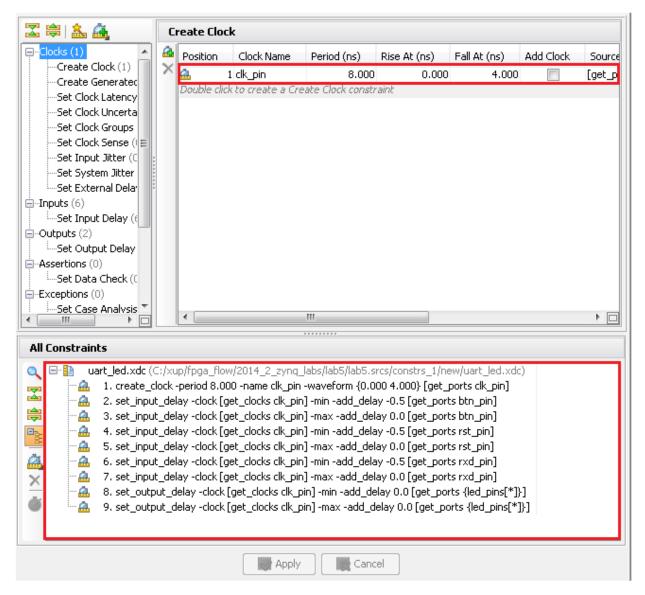


Figure 14. The constraints added for the Zybo

- **3-1-15.** Select **File > Save Constraints** to save the changes to the target XDC. Click **Ok** at the warning about synthesis going out of date and then click **Yes** to apply the constraints.
- **3-1-16.** Open uart\_led.xdc (if it was already opened, click Reload in the yellow status bar) and notice additional constraints were added to the last line of the file.
- 3-2. Generate an estimated Timing Report showing both the setup and hold paths in the design.
- **3-2-1.** In the Flow Navigator, select **Synthesized Design > Report Timing Summary.**
- **3-2-2.** In the Options tab, select min max from the Path delay type drop-down list.



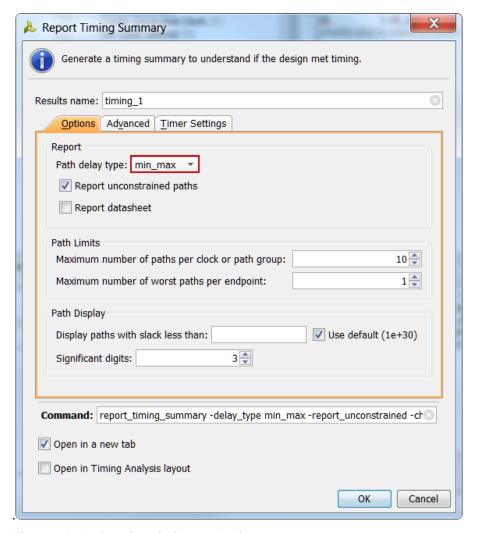


Figure 15. Performing timing analysis

### 3-2-3. Click OK to run the analysis.

The Timing Results view opens at the bottom of the Vivado IDE.



Figure 16. Timing summary for the ZedBoard





Figure 16. Timing summary for the Zybo

The *Design Timing Summary* report provides a brief worst Setup and Hold slack information and Number of failing endpoints to indicate whether the design has met timing or not.

For the ZedBoard that there are 8 failures under the setup check and 3 timing failures under the hold check. For the Zybo, there are 4 failures under the setup check and 3 timing failures under the hold check.

3-2-4. Click on the link next to Worst Hold Slack (WHS) to see the list of failing paths.

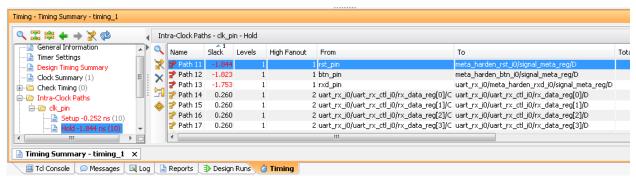


Figure 17. The list of paths showing hold violations for the ZedBoard

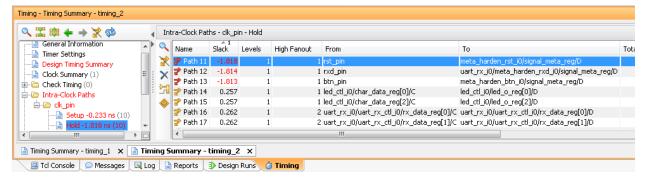


Figure 17. The list of paths showing hold violations for the Zybo

**3-2-5.** Double-click on the Path 11 to see the actual path detail.



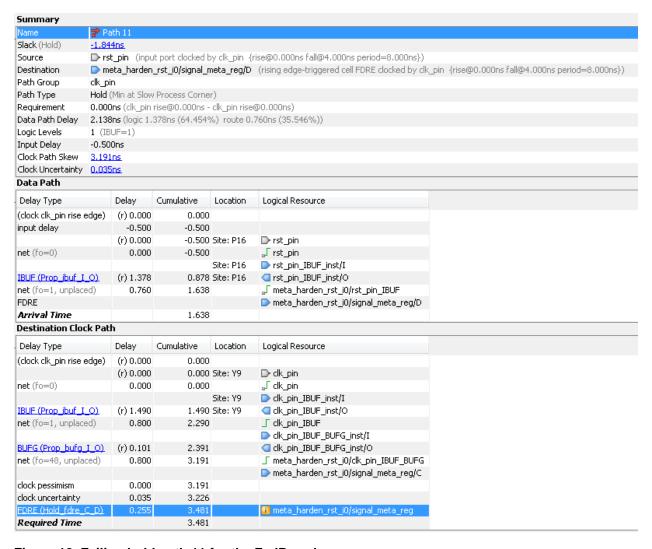


Figure 18. Failing hold path 11 for the ZedBoard



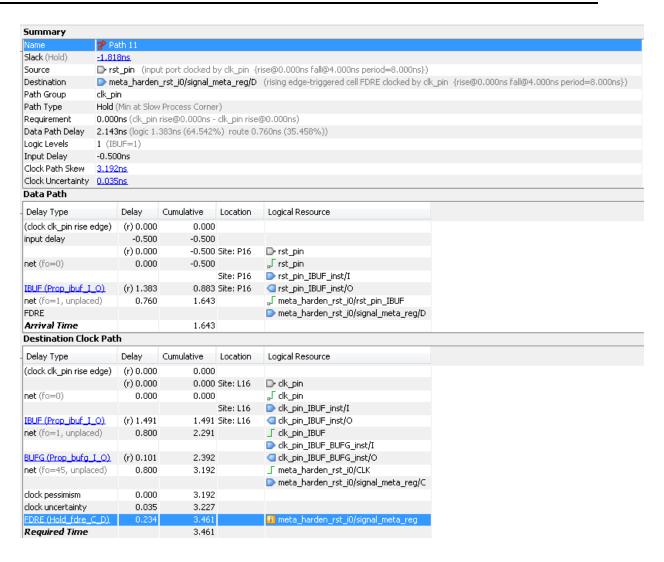


Figure 18. Failing hold path 11 for the Zybo

#### **3-2-6.** Select Path11, right-click and select Schematic.

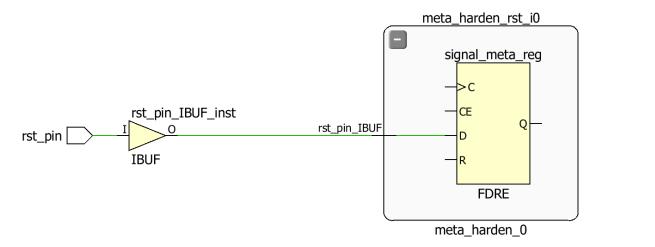


Figure 19. The schematic of the failing path



You can see that the failing path is at the input of rst\_pin. Similarly, Path 12 and Path 13 are of btn\_pin and rxd\_pin.

### Implement and Analyze Timing Summary

Step 4

- 4-1. Implement the design.
- **4-1-1.** Click on the **Run Implementation** in the *Flow Navigator* pane.
- **4-1-2.** Click **Yes** and run the synthesis first before running the implementation process. When the implementation is completed, a dialog box will appear with three options.
- **4-1-3.** Select the *Open Implemented Design* option and click **OK**.
- **4-1-4.** Click **Yes** if you are prompted to close the synthesized design.
- 4-2. Generate a timing summary report.
- In the Flow Navigator, under Implementation > Implemented Design, click Report Timing Summary.
- **4-2-2.** Click **OK** to generate the report using the default settings.

The Design Timing Summary window opens at the bottom in the Timing tab.

Note that failing timing paths are indicated in red.

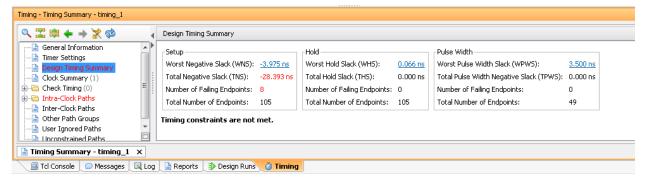


Figure 20. Failing setup paths for the ZedBoard





Figure 20. Failing setup paths for the Zybo

- **4-2-3.** Click on the WNS to see the failing paths. The output path delay can be reduced by placing the register in IOB.
- **4-2-4.** Apply the constraint by typing the following command in the Tcl console.

set\_property IOB TRUE [get\_ports led\_pins[\*]]

- **4-2-5.** Select **File > Save Constraints**. Click **OK** at the warning.
- 4-2-6. Click on Run Implementation.
- **4-2-7.** Click **Yes** to reset the synthesis run, perform synthesis first and then run implementation.
- **4-2-8.** Open the implemented design. Open the Timing Summary.

For the ZedBoard, 8 failing WNS endpoints are reported. For the Zybo, 4 failing WNS endpoints are still reported. However, these paths are related to the LEDs and will not impact the functionality of the design. As such, they can be ignored.

# Generate the Bitstream and Verify the Functionality (Optional) Step 5

- 5-1. Generate the bitstream.
- 5-1-1. In the Flow Navigator, under Program and Debug, click Generate Bitstream.
- **5-1-2.** The write\_bitstream command will be executed (you can verify it by looking in the Tcl console).
- **5-1-3.** Click **Cancel** when the bitstream generation is completed.
- 5-2. Plug-in the PmodUSBUart module into the top-row of the JA PMOD connector for the ZedBoard or the JE PMOD connector for the Zybo. Connect the module to the host machine using a micro-USB cable. Connect the board and power it ON. Open a Hardware Manager, and program the FPGA.



- 5-2-1. Connect the micro-USB cable between the PmodUSBUart module and the host USB port.
- 5-2-2. Plug-in the PmodUSBUart module into the top-row of the JA PMOD connector. For the Zybo, plug the PmodUSBUart module into the top-row of the JE PMOD connector.
- 5-2-3. Make sure that the Micro-USB cable is connected to the JTAG PROG connector (next to the power supply connector). If using the ZedBoard, connect the power jack.

Turn **ON** the power.

**5-2-4.** Select the Open Hardware Manager option and click **OK**.

The Hardware Manager window will open indicating "unconnected" status.

5-2-5. Click on the Open New Hardware Target link.

You can also click on the Open Recent Hardware Target link if the board was already targeted before. In this case skip to step 5-2-9.

- **5-2-6.** Click **Next** to see the Vivado Hardware Server Settings form.
- **5-2-7.** Click **Next** with the frequency of 15000000 selected.

The JTAG cable should be detected and identified as a hardware target. It will also show the hardware devices detected in the chain.

- 5-2-8. Click **Next** and then **Finish**.
- 5-2-9. The Hardware Manager status changes from Unconnected to the server name and the device is highlighted. Also notice that the Status indicates that it is not programmed.
- 5-2-10. Select the device and verify that the uart\_led.bit is selected as the programming file in the General tab. It may also appear as ios.bit in case you forgot to change the module name to uart led earlier.
- 5-3. Start a terminal emulator program such as TeraTerm or HyperTerminal. Select an appropriate COM port (you can find the correct COM number using the Control Panel). Set the COM port for 115200 baud rate communication. Program the FPGA and verify the functionality.
- **5-3-1.** Start a terminal emulator program such as TeraTerm or HyperTerminal.
- **5-3-2.** Select an appropriate COM port (you can find the correct COM number using the Control Panel).
- **5-3-3.** Set the COM port for 115200 baud rate communication.
- **5-3-4.** Right-click on the FPGA entry in the Hardware window and select **Program Device...**



**5-3-5.** Click on the **Program** button.

The programming bit file be downloaded and the DONE light will be turned ON indicating the FPGA has been programmed.

**5-3-6.** Verify the functionality as you did in the previous lab, by typing some characters into the terminal. For the ZedBoard, all eight bits of will be displayed on the LEDs, press BTNU to swap the position of the four bits on the LEDs.

For the Zybo, only the lower four bits will be displayed, press BTN0 to display the upper four bits.

- **5-3-7.** When satisfied, close the terminal emulator program and power OFF the board.
- 5-3-8. Select File > Close Hardware Manager. Click OK to close it.
- **5-3-9.** When done, close the **Vivado** program by selecting **File > Exit** and click **OK**.

### Conclusion

In this lab, you learned how to create an I/O Planning project and assign the pins via the Device view, Package Pins tab, and the Tcl commands. You then exported to the rtl project where you added the provided source files. Next you created timing constraints and performed post-synthesis and post-implementation timing analysis.

