

# Xilinx Design Constraints

#### **Objectives**

- After completing this module, you will be able to:
  - Assign pin locations using the I/O Planner
  - Describe static timing paths
  - Create real and virtual clocks
  - Create appropriate input and output delays
  - Use virtual clocks for input and output delays
  - Use the Constraints Wizard



#### **Outline**

- ▶ Pin Constraints
- ▶ Timing Constraints
  - Period
  - Input Delay
  - Output Delay
  - Virtual Clocks
- Constraints Wizard
- Summary



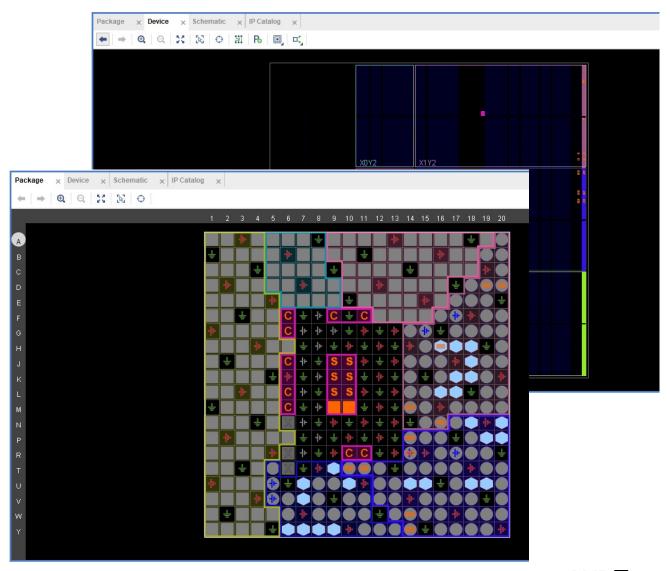
### Pin and Clock Planning

- ▶ Pin and clock planning often happens early in the project
  - Decisions here can have significant effects throughout the design
    - Excessive clock skew
    - Poor I/O timing
    - Timing-hazardous clock domain crossing
    - Less flexible design placement
    - Fewer clocking resource choices
    - Poor logic placement
    - Excessive routing delays
    - Reduced device utilization
- Pin and clock planning should be considered together
  - Choices made for clock pins affect clocking timing and resources choices
  - Choices made for data pins affect clock pin placement decisions



### **Design View Layouts**

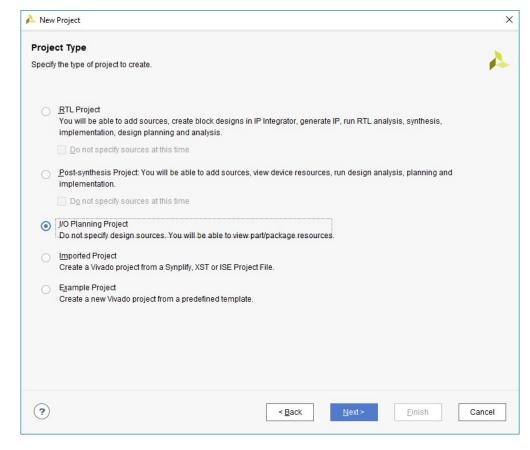
- Several default view layouts available
  - Toolbar pull-down (I/O Planning, Clock Planning, Floorplanning, etc)
- Designs load with "Design Analysis" view by default
- Use "I/O Planning" for easy access to I/O planning functions
  - Adds Package view, clock resources, I/O ports, package pins





# I/O Planning Project

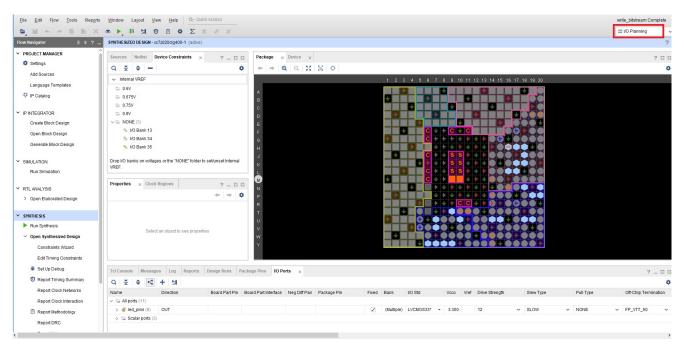
- When creating a new project from the Getting Started page you have the option to create an I/O planning project without RTL
  - This allows testing of pin assignments
    - I/O banking rules
    - Avoid ground bounce
    - The I/O Planner performs error checking for your pinout
  - However, it is recommended that you have RTL associated
    - Error checking is better





#### Launching I/O Planner with RTL

- This flow is used if you already have a RTL project created
  - Synthesize the design
    - Open synthesized design by clicking Open Synthesized Design
    - Open the I/O Planner by selecting the I/O Planning view from the drop-down box on the horizontal toolbar
      - This allows you to view and/or enter the I/O locations and properties





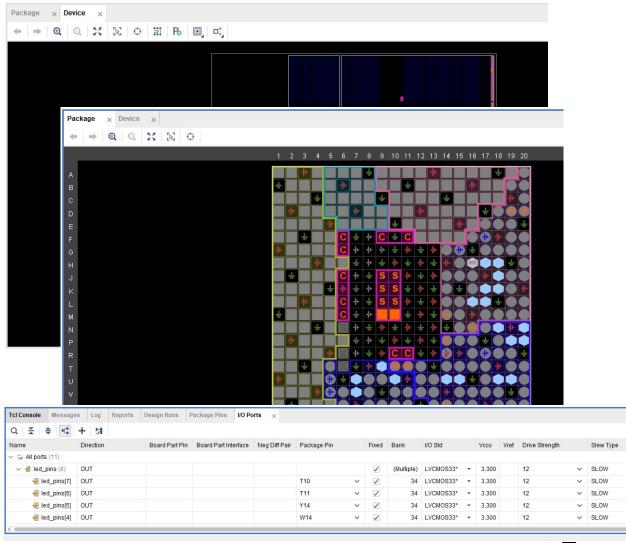
#### I/O Planner

- ▶ I/O Planner performs error checking on the design pin layout
  - This requires rules-based I/O assignments
    - DRC provides guidance for pin assignments connecting to dedicated FPGA logic (microprocessor, MGT, or differential pairs, for example)
    - Noise analysis (to avoid ground bounce)
    - Verify I/O banking rules
  - Semi or fully automatic pin assignment capabilities
    - Xilinx recommends that you place timing-critical ports before allowing automatic pin assignment of the remaining pins
  - Supports grouping-related pins to simplify I/O interface management



### I/O Planner Layout View

- I/O Planner allows you to view both the Die and Package views so that you can understand the I/O bank relationship with your logic
- Package and Device views
  - Graphically displays package pins, die pads, and I/O banks
  - I/O ports can be assigned within either of these two views
- Package Pins view
  - Displays I/O package specifications and assignment status
    - Allows you to see the Trace delays, pin type, voltage standard, and differential pair partners
  - Can display pins as a group, in an I/O bank, or as a list
  - As you drag across the display, icons show pin and I/O bank placement status





### **Package View**

▶ The colored areas between the pins display

the I/O banks

Show differential pairs

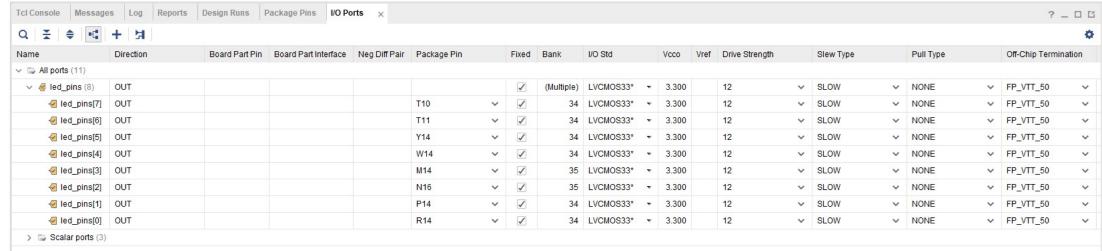
Clock-capable pins (□),
 VCC (□), GND (□),
 no connection (□),
 XADC (⑤),
 Temperature Sensor (□)





#### **I/O Ports View**

- Displays all I/O ports defined in the project
- Groups buses into expandable folders
- Can be displayed as groups of buses and interfaces or as a list
- Most I/O port assignment is initiated from this view
- Icons indicate I/O port direction and status





#### set\_property command

- ▶ Use set property command
  - set property PACKAGE PIN T22 [get ports led pins[0]]
  - set\_property IOSTANDARD LVCMOS33 [get\_ports led\_pins[0]]Or
  - set\_property -dict {PACKAGE\_PIN H17 IOSTANDARD LVCMOS33} [get\_ports { led pins[0] }]

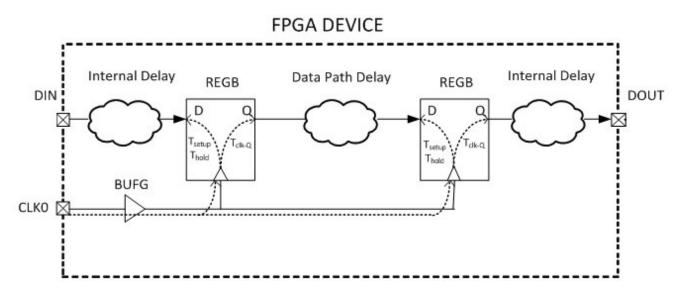


# **Timing Constraints**



### **Static Timing Paths and I/O**

- Static timing paths start at clocked elements and end at clocked elements
  - Paths from internal flip-flop to internal flip-flop are constrained by clock
- ▶ Inputs and outputs of the FPGA are not start-points/end-points of static timing paths
  - By default, any logic between a primary I/O and an internal clocked element are not part of a complete static timing path
  - Without additional commands, no setup/hold checks are done on logic associated with I/O



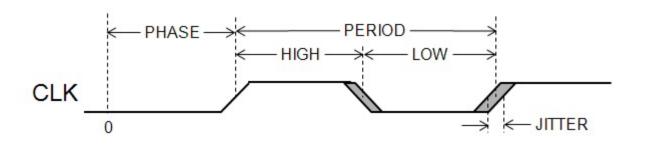


# Timing Constraints - Period



#### **Clocks**

- Clocks are periodic signals
- Clocks have certain attributes
  - Period
    - Nominal time from rising edge of the clock to the next rising edge of the clock
  - Duty cycle
    - Ratio of the high time to the low time of the clock
  - Jitter
    - Variation of the period from its nominal value
  - Phase
    - Position of the rising edge





#### Clocks as Objects

- ▶ In XDC clocks are primary objects
- Clocks have properties
  - NAME is the name of the clock
    - Will be user assigned or auto generated depending on the clock
  - PERIOD is the period of the clock
  - WAVEFORM describes the position of the edges of the clock
  - IS\_GENERATED, IS\_VIRTUAL are flags that describe how the clock was created
  - SOURCE\_PINS are the pins/ports/nets which the clock is attached to



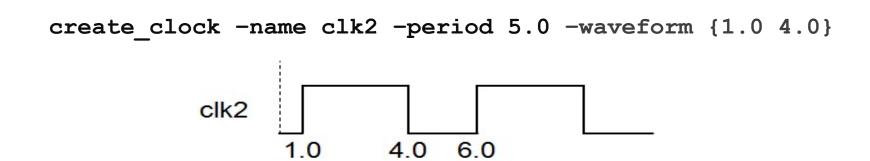
### **Creating Clocks**

- ▶ Clocks are created with the create clock Tcl command
  - create clock -name <name> -period <period> <objects>
  - <period> is the period of the clock
  - <name> is the user assigned name for the clock
  - <objects> are the list of pins, ports, or nets to which to attach the clock
  - If <objects> is not present (or is a null list), the clock will not be attached to any objects, and will be
    a virtual clock



#### **Clock Waveform**

- Clocks can be created with edges at different positions
  - Allows for the description of clocks with phase offsets and clocks with different duty cycles
  - Uses the -waveform <edges> option
    - <edges> is a list of numbers representing the times of successive edges
      - The first number is the time of the first rising edge
    - Default is 0.00 for the rising edge and PERIOD/2 for the falling edge





### **Setting Jitter**

- ▶ The Vivado Design Suite timing engine allows for two sources of jitter
  - System Jitter: Jitter introduced by the clocking network inside the FPGA
    - A single value for all clocks in the system
    - Set with the set system jitter command
    - set system jitter <value>
      - <value> is the jitter in time units (nanoseconds)
  - Input Jitter: Jitter that exists on the input clock
    - Set independently for each clock source
    - Set with the set input jitter command
    - set input jitter <clock name> <value>
      - <clock\_name> is the name of a clock (not the clock object)
      - <value> is the jitter in time units
- Both sources of jitter will be combined appropriately in STA calculations



### **Clock Latency**

- ▶ The latency of the clock can be controlled with the set clock latency Tcl command
  - set clock latency -source <latency> <objects>
  - <latency> is the latency to apply
  - <objects> is the list of clocks, ports or pins to which to apply the latency
- The latency is an additional clock delay that is added between the clock object and the pin, port, or net to which the clock is attached
  - If the set\_clock\_latency specifies a clock object, the latency is added to all destinations of the clock
  - If the set\_clock\_latency specifies a port or pin, it applies to all clocks that go through that port or pin
    - If the port or pin has more than one clock associated with it, the -clock <clocks> option can be used to specify which clocks to apply the latency to



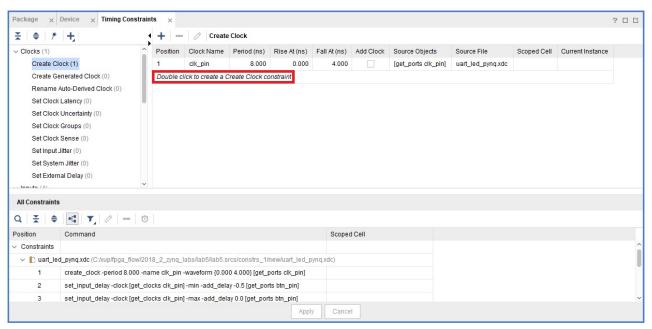
### Options of the set\_clock\_latency Command

- ▶ The set clock latency command has several options
  - rise: The specified latency applies only to the rising edge of the clock
  - fall: The specified latency applies only to the falling edge of the clock
  - -min: Specifies the latency to apply when the shortest path is used
  - max: Specifies the latency to apply when the longest path is used
- ▶ If the -min/-max are not specified, the latency applies to both min and max
- ▶ If the -rise/-fall are not specified the latency applies to both rise and fall



# **Creating Clocks using the GUI**

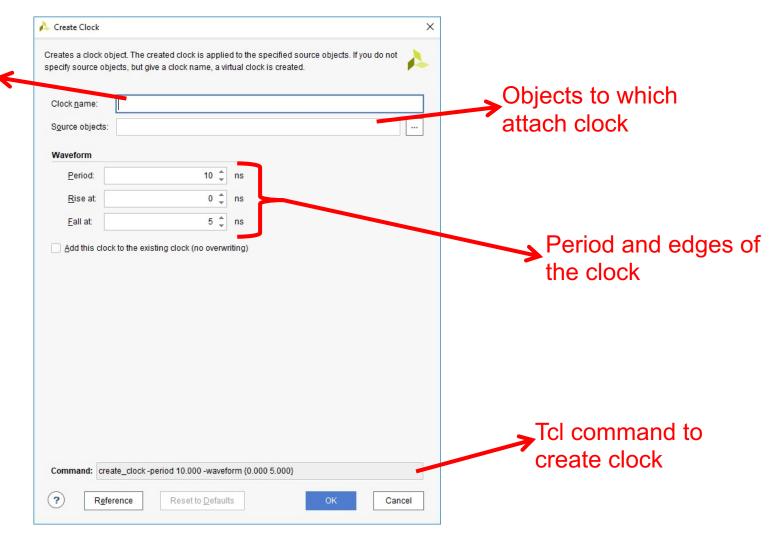
- ▶ The Timing Constraint window can be opened using the menu Window > Timing Constraints
  - A clock can be created by double clicking on the Create Clock, or a new row in the Create Clock table
- Alternatively, can be set via the Constraints Wizard
  - Covered later in this presentation





#### **The Create Clock Wizard**

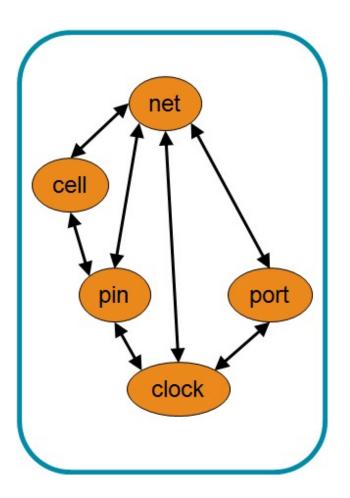
Name of clock to be created





# **Handling Clock Objects**

- Clocks can be attached to pins, ports, and nets
  - Specify the list of pins, ports, or nets which are to be attached to the clock when the clock is created
- Once created, clock objects can be gotten using the get clocks command
  - get\_clocks <name>
    - Returns list of clocks that match <name>
    - <name> may include wildcards
  - Has similar options as the other get\_\* commands
    - regexp
    - -filter <expression>
    - -of objects <object>





# Timing Constraints – Input Delay



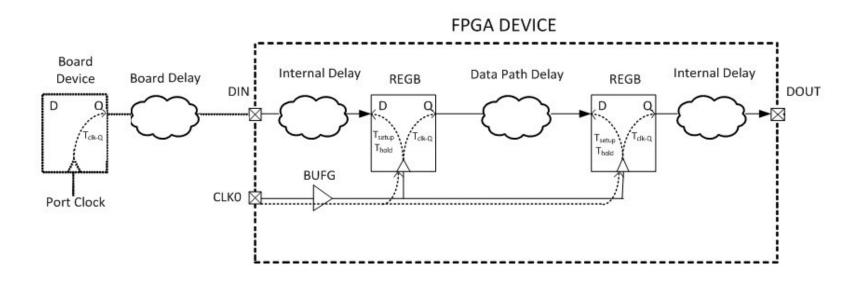
### **Synchronous Input Interfaces**

- Most interfaces to an FPGA use synchronous communication
  - FPGA and the device driving the FPGA have some shared timing reference
    - This is usually a common clock or a related clock
- Complete static timing path through an input
  - Starts at a clocked element in the driving device
    - Referenced to a clock provided to the driving device
  - Ends at a clocked element in the FPGA
    - Referenced to the clock that propagates to the destination clocked element in the FPGA
  - Propagates through the elements between them
    - CLK > Q of the external device
    - Board propagation time
    - Port of the FPGA
    - Combinatorial elements in the FPGA before the destination clocked element



#### Completing the Static Timing Input Path

- ▶ To complete the static timing path, you need to describe the external elements to the Vivado static timing engine
  - What clock is used by the external device
  - Delay between the external device's clock and the arrival at the input port of the FPGA
    - Includes the CLK > Q time of the external device and the board delay





#### set\_input\_delay Command

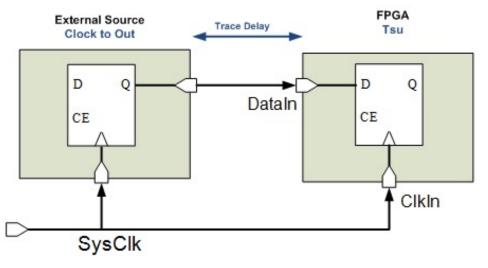
- set\_input\_delay command supplies the information required to complete the static timing path
  - set input delay -clock <clock name> <delay> <objects>
    - <clock name> is the name of the clock used by the external device
      - Can be a real or virtual clock
      - Can be the *name* of a clock; does not need to be a clock object
        - Can use a clock object if desired
    - <objects> is the list of objects to which to attach the set\_input\_delay
      - Usually a set of input and/or inout ports
      - Usually uses the get\_ports command or the all\_inputs command
    - <delay> is the delay from <clock\_name> to the attached <objects>
      - Includes the external device and board delay



#### **Using a Common Clock**

- ▶ A set input delay can be related to an already existing clock
  - Can be the clock attached to the FPGA clock pin
- Value used for the set input delay is the sum of
  - Clock to out of the external source
  - Trace delay on the board

create\_clock -name SysClk -period 10 [get\_ports ClkIn]
set\_input\_delay -clock SysClk 4 [get\_ports DataIn]





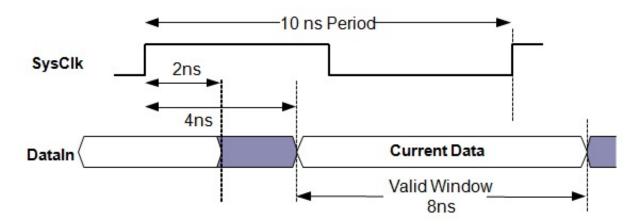
#### set\_input\_delay example

-10 ns Periodcreate\_clock -name SysClk -period 10 [get\_ports ClkIn] ClkIn set input delay -clock SysClk 4 [get ports DataIn] 4ns **Current Data** Datain Board Data Path Delay **Board Delay** Device p\_0\_out\_inferredi\_0 DataIn\_IBUF[0]\_inst DataIn[7:0] clk\_core\_i0 Destination Source Clock Clock Delay cliknetwork\_int Delay clkf\_buf mmcm\_adv\_inst CLAFBOUTB CLAFBIN CLAFBSTOPPED SysClk CLK\_IN1 CLK\_IN1 CLK\_OUT1 Clkin CLKOUTOB CLKIN2 CLKDUT1 CLKOUT18 CLKOUT2 CLKOUT2B CLKOUTSB CLKDUT4 CLKDUT5 CLKOUTS DO[15:0] LOCKED PSDONE

#### Minimum and Maximum Delays

- ▶ By default, each input port can have one maximum delay and one minimum delay
  - Maximum delay is used for the setup check
  - Minimum delay is used for the hold check
- ▶ Without the -max or -min option, the value supplied is used for both

```
create_clock -name SysClk -period 10 [get_ports ClkIn]
set_input_delay -clock SysClk 4 [get_ports DataIn]
set_input_delay -clock SysClk -min 2 [get_ports DataIn]
```

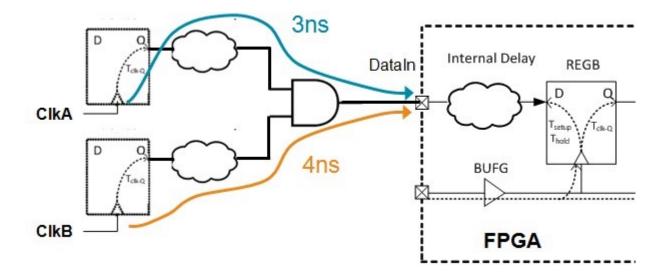




#### Multiple Input Delays on the Same Port

- ▶ An input can have multiple set input delay commands associated with it
  - Use the -add delay option
  - Results in multiple static timing paths to check

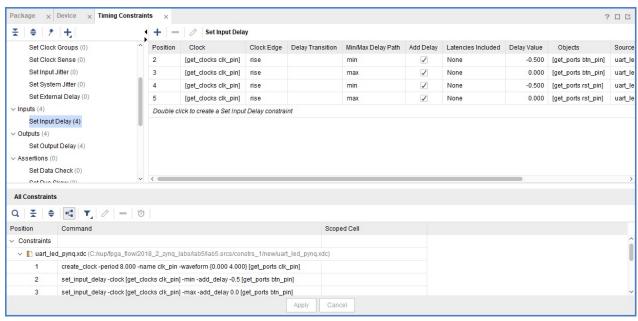
```
set_input_delay -clock ClkA 3 [get_ports DataIn]
set_input_delay -clock ClkB 4 [get_ports DataIn] -add_delay
```





#### **Creating Input Delays Using the GUI**

- ▶ Timing Constraint window can be opened by selecting Window > Timing Constraints
  - Clock can be created by double-clicking Set Input Delay, or a new row in the Set Input Delay table
- Alternatively, can be set via the Constraints Wizard
  - More details to follow in this presentation





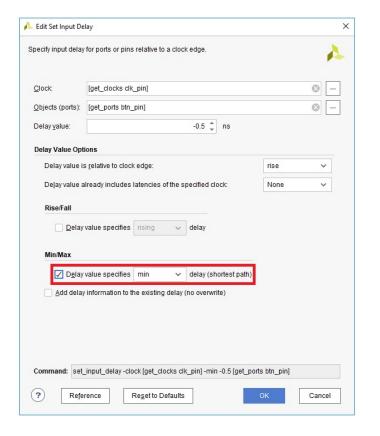
# **Set Input Delay Wizard**

Separate constraint is required for the maximum and minimum

Wizard retains its options between invocations, making it easy to specify the minimum after the

maximum has been specified





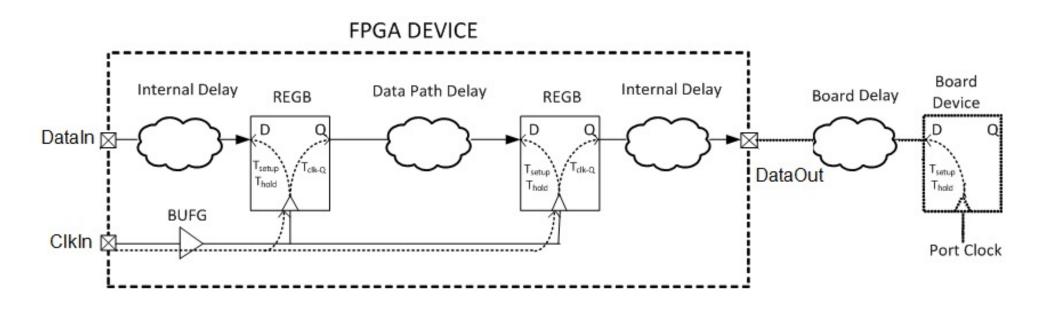


# Timing Constraints - Output Delay



### Completing the Static Timing Output Path

- To complete the static timing path, you need to describe the external elements to the Vivado Design Suite static timing engine
  - What clock is used by the external device
  - Delay between the output port of the FPGA and the external device's clock
    - Includes the required time of the external device and the board delay





#### set\_output\_delay Command

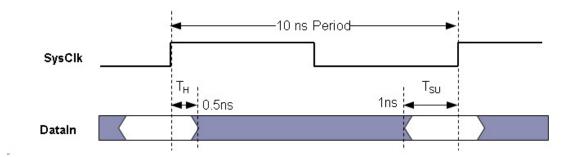
- set\_output\_delay command supplies the information required to complete the static timing path
  - set output delay -clock <clock name> <delay> <objects>
    - <clock name> is the name of the clock used by the external device
      - Can be a real or virtual clock
      - Can be the *name* of a clock; does not need to be a clock object
        - Can use a clock object if desired
    - <objects> is the list of objects to which to attach the set\_output\_delay
      - Usually a set of output and/or inout ports
      - Usually uses the get\_ports command or the all\_outputs command
    - <delay> is the delay from the attached <objects> to the external device's clock
      - Includes the external device's requirements and board delay



#### **External Setup and Hold Requirements**

- ▶ External devices need a setup and hold time around the clock
  - set output delay -max specifies the required setup time
  - set\_output\_delay -min specifies the negative of the required hold time

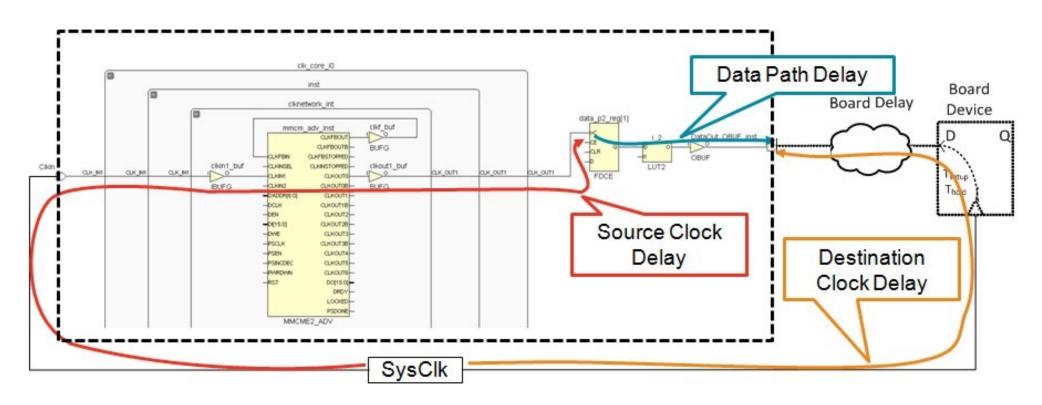
```
create_clock -name SysClk -period 10 [get_ports ClkIn]
set_output_delay -clock SysClk 1 [get_ports DataIn]
set_output_delay -clock SysClk -min -0.5 [get_ports DataIn]
```





### **Complete Output Static Timing Path**

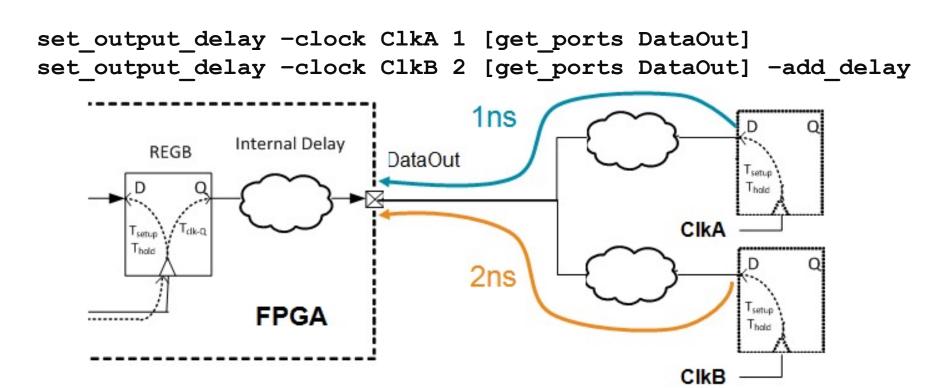
- Output static timing path is segmented slightly differently
  - Data path delay ends at the port of the FPGA
  - Destination clock path traces back through the board device to the port of the FPGA





### Multiple Output Delays on the Same Port

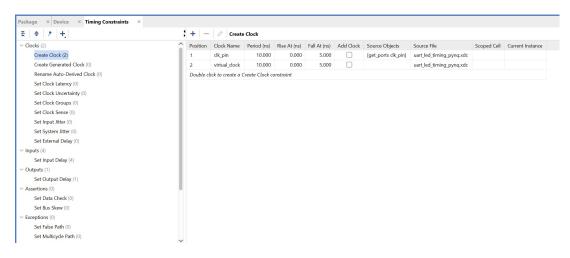
- ▶ An output can have multiple set output delay commands associated with it
  - Use the -add delay option
  - Results in multiple static timing paths to check





#### **Creating Output Delays Using the GUI**

- Timing Constraint window can be opened by selecting Window > Timing Constraints
  - Clock can be created by double-clicking Set Output Delay, or a new row in the Set Output Delay table
- Alternatively, can be set via Constraints Wizard
  - To be covered later in this presentation

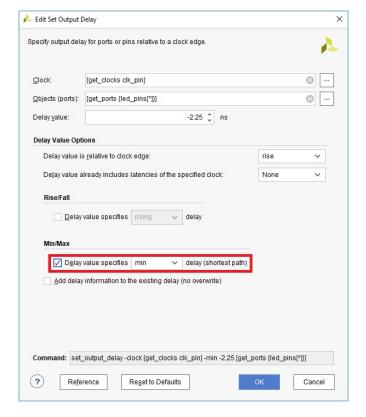




## **Set Output Delay Wizard**

- Separate constraint is required for the maximum and minimum
  - Wizard retains its options between invocations, making it easy to specify the minimum after the maximum has been specified







# Timing Constraints - Virtual Clocks



#### **Clocks for Input and Output Delay**

- Clock specified by the set\_input\_delay and set\_output\_delay can be any clock from the clock database
  - Manually created clock attached to a clock input port of the FPGA
  - Derived clock generated inside the FPGA
    - This is legal, but rarely useful
- Sometimes the proper clock to use does not already exist
  - Virtual clocks can be created solely for the purpose of specifying input and output delays



#### **Reasons for Virtual Clocks**

- ▶ There are many reasons for using virtual clocks for clocking I/O
  - Device external to the FPGA uses a different clock than the FPGA
    - Runs at a different frequency
    - Maybe a multiple/division of the FPGA clock
    - Maybe the frequency of an internal FPGA clock generated by an MMCM/PLL
  - Has a different delay path on the board
    - Maybe has a clock buffer chip on the board
- XDC provides powerful mechanisms for describing clocks
  - Remember, all clocks in XDC are related by default



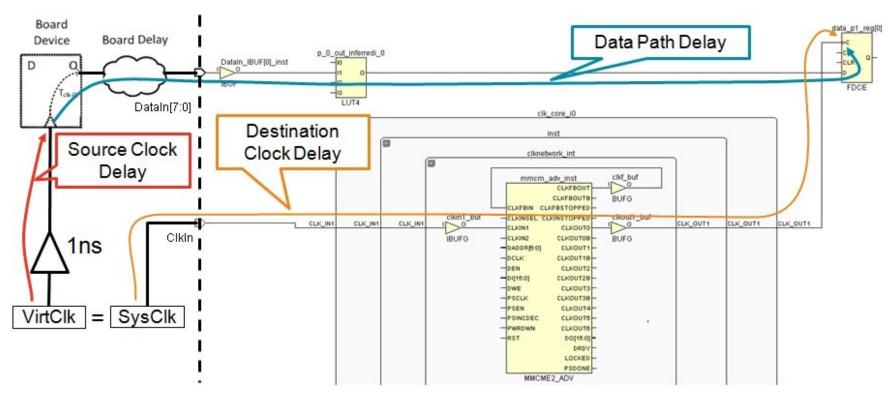
#### **Creating Virtual Clocks**

- Virtual clocks are created with create clock
  - Created clock is not attached to any design objects
  - create clock -name <name> -period <period>
    - <period> is the period of the clock
    - <name> is the user assigned name for the clock
  - Can use the -waveform option
- Can specify jitter with the set input jitter command
- ▶ Can set clock latency with the set clock latency —source command
- Virtual clocks are placed in the design database and can be accessed like other clocks
  - Can be seen via the report clocks command
  - Can be accessed by the get clocks command



#### Input Static Timing Path with External Buffer

```
create_clock -name SysClk -period 10 [get_ports ClkIn]
create_clock -name VirtClk -period 10
set_clock_latency -source 1 [get_clocks VirtClk]
set_input_delay -clock VirtClk 4 [get_ports DataIn]
```



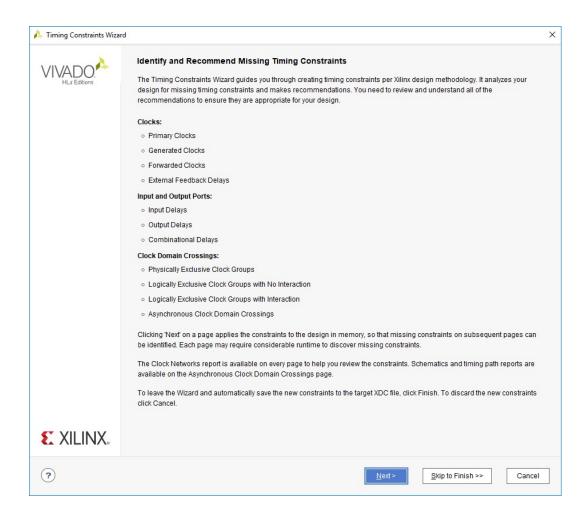


# **Constraints Wizard**



#### The Constraints Wizard

- Can only be launched after either Synthesis or Implementation
  - Allows Vivado to identify and suggest timing constraints
  - Writes the constraints into the XDC file via the Timing Constraints Editor
  - Not mandatory but HIGHLY recommended
- User flexibility
  - The user has the choice to ignore the selected constraints
  - The wizard can be launched even if timing constraints have already been entered into the XDC file

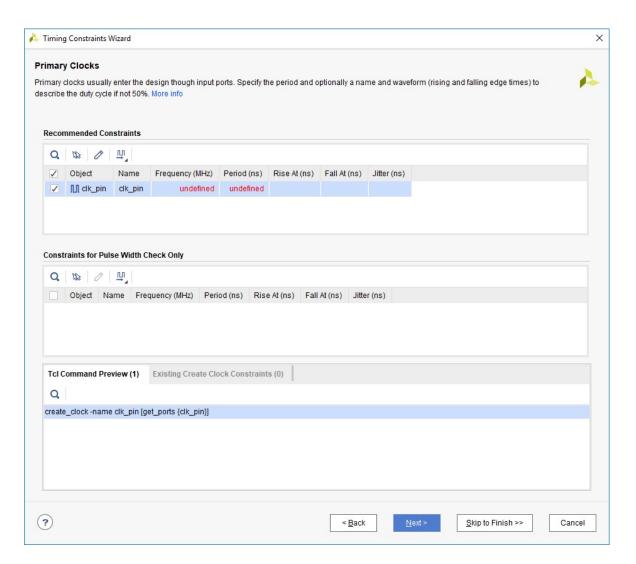




## The Constraints Wizard, Primary Clock

- Defines the input clock waveform
  - Object
  - Name
  - Frequency (MHz)
  - Period (ns)
  - Rise At (ns)
  - Fall At (ns)
- The resultant Tcl command can be previewed at the bottom of the wizard

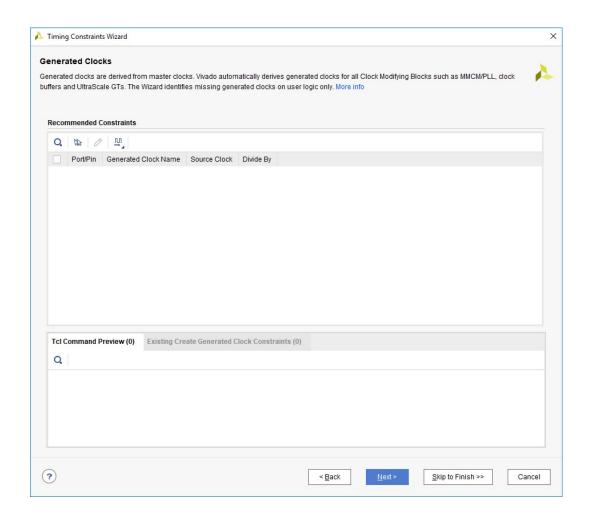






#### The Constraints Wizard, Generated Clocks

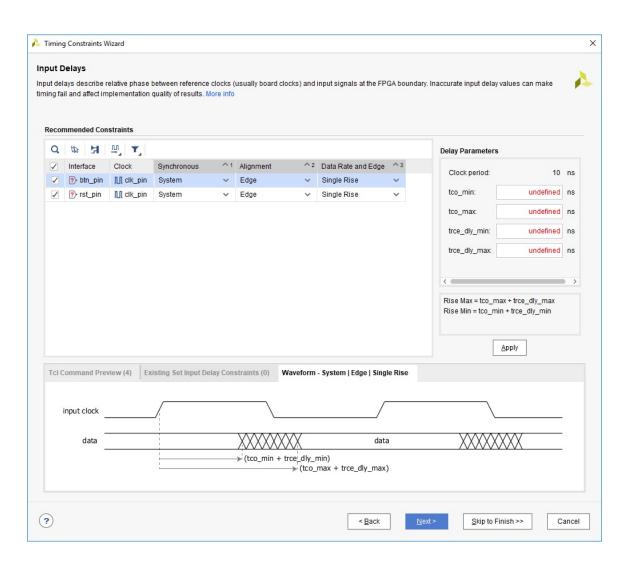
- Vivado analyzes design to locate clocks derived from the master clock
- Covers derived clocks from a main clock source
  - MMCM/PLL
  - Clock buffers
  - GTs (UltraScale)





### The Constraints Wizard, Input Delays

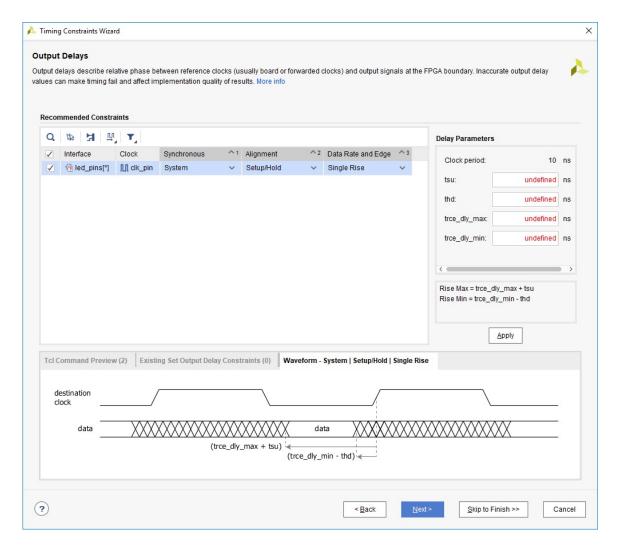
- Another way to specify Input Delays
  - Identifies input signals/interfaces going into the FPGA
- Defines delay parameters
  - tco\_min
  - trce\_dly\_min
  - tco\_max
  - trce\_dly\_max





### The Constraints Wizard, Output Delays

- Another way to specify Output Delays
  - Identifies output signals/interfaces from the FPGA
- Defines delay parameters
  - tsu
  - trce\_dly\_min
  - thd
  - trce\_dly\_max





#### The Constraints Wizard: Other Constraints

- Forwarded Clocks
  - The Forwarded Clocks constraint covers clock reference for output signals associated with "downstream" devices clocked by an FPGA output pin
- External Feedback Delays
  - Pertinent if the MMCM/PLL feedback loops used in the design is routed out of the FPGA and back into the device via input and output ports
- Combinatorial Delay
  - Cover paths that traverse the FPGA without being captured by any sequential elements
- Physically Exclusive Clock Groups
  - Define clocks that do not exist in the design at the same time



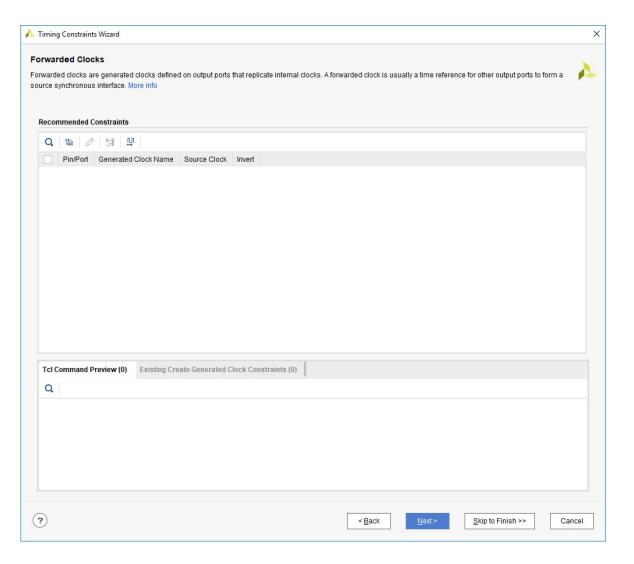
#### The Constraints Wizard: Other Constraints

- Logically Exclusive Clock Groups with No Interaction
  - Define logically exclusive clocks that do not have paths between each other outside of shared sections (such as clock trees)
- Logically Exclusive Clock Groups with Interaction
  - Define logically exclusive clocks that have paths between each other, only clocks limited to the shared clock tree sections are logically exclusive
- Asynchronous Clock Domain Crossings
  - Define paths that transfer data between two clocks without a known phase relationship



## The Constraints Wizard: Non-Applicable Constraints

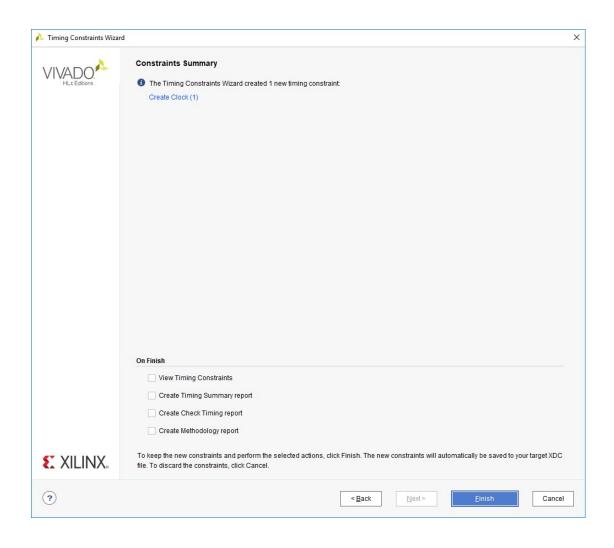
 Constraints that are not applicable to the design do not have any options shown in the wizard (blank grey screen)





## The Constraints Wizard: Constraints Summary

- The final screen of the wizard summarizes all the constraints selected for insertion into the XDC file
  - Generated constraints are not immediately applied to the target XDC
  - On Finish options allow for follow-up operations
    - View Timing Constraints
    - Create Timing Summary Report
    - Create Check Timing Report
    - Create DRC report using only timing checks





# Summary



#### **Summary**

- ▶ The I/O Planner view in the Vivado IDE provides an easy-to-use interface for assigning pin locations
- Use I/O Planning project for pin planning early in the design analysis
  - DRC checking
  - SSO analysis
  - Verify I/O banking rules
- Static timing paths start at clocked elements and end at clocked elements
- Static timing paths are analyzed for setup and hold violations at both fastest and slowest process corners
- Clocks are objects
- Clocks can be created with the create\_clock command



#### **Summary**

- set\_input\_delay and set\_output\_delay commands provide the details to complete the static timing path
- set\_input\_delay specifies the clock of the driving component and the delay to the port
- ▶ set output delay specifies the clock of the receiving component and the delay to the port
  - -max is the required setup time
  - -min is the negative of the required hold time
- ▶ Port can have one -min and one -max by default
- ▶ Additional delays can be specified with the -add\_delay option
- ▶ I/O delays can be specified with respect to virtual clocks
- ▶ The Constraints Wizard is a powerful tool for creating constraints pertinent to the design



# AMDA XILINX

# Thank You

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