

Implementation and STA

Objectives

After completing this module, you will be able to:

- Implement a design to completion
- Generate useful implementation reports
- Describe static timing analysis and static timing paths
- Describe setup and hold checks
- Understand the relationship between clocks and setup and hold checks
- Generate a custom timing report to perform basic static timing analysis
- Use the timing summary report to verify your timing constraints were met
- Generate a bitstream and verify the functionality in hardware



Outline

- Implementation
- Reports
- Basic Static Timing Analysis
- Bitstream Generation and Verification in Hardware
- Summary



Vivado Implementation Phases

Vivado Tools Implementation Flow: Tcl Commands					
link_design*	Translate design, apply constraints				
opt_design*	Logic Optimization				
power_opt_design*	Power Optimization				
place_design	Placement				
phys_opt_design*	Physical Synthesis				
route_design	Routing				
report_timing_summary	Timing Analysis				
write_bitstream	Bitstream Generation				

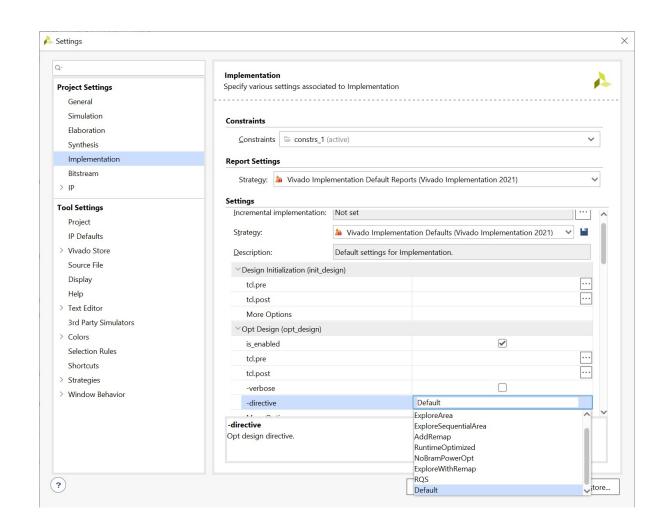
^{*} Optional Command



opt_design: Logic Optimization

Ensures optimal netlist for placement

- Further logic optimization on fully-assembled netlist built from synthesized RTL, IP blocks
 - Performs logic trimming on incoming netlist
 - Constant propagation remove unnecessary static logic
 - LUT equation remapping
- Optional in non-project batch flow (but recommended)
 - Example: needed to trim unused bank cells in MIG IP (phaser/iodelay/....)
- Automatically enabled in the projectbased flow





opt_design Options

Non-project batch flow

- Can specify which optimizations to perform from a script

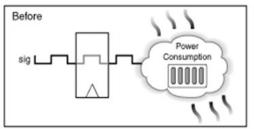
```
opt design
Description:
Optimize the current netlist. This will perform the retarget, proposnst, sweep and bram power opt optimizations by default.
Syntax:
opt_design [-retarget] [-propconst] [-sweep] [-bram_power_opt] [-remap]
            [-resynth_area] [-resynth_seq_area] [-directive <arg>] [-quiet]
            [-verbose]
Usage:
  Name
                       Description
  [-retarget]
                       Retarget
  [-propconst]
                       Propagate constants across leaf-level instances
  [-sweep]
                       Remove unconnected leaf-level instances
  [-bram_power_opt]
                       Perform Block RAM power optimizations
                       Remap logic optimally in LUTs
  [-remap]
  [-resynth area]
                       Resynthesis
  [-resynth_seq_area]
                      Resynthesis (with Sequential optimizations)
  [-directive]
                       Mode of behavior (directive) for this command. Please
                       refer to Arguments section of this help for values for
                       this option
                       Default: Default
  [-quiet]
                       Ignore command errors
  [-verbose]
                       Suspend message limits during command execution
```

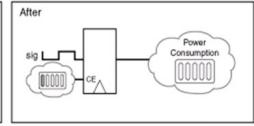


power_opt: Power Optimization

- Power optimization includes a fine-grained clock gating solution that can reduce dynamic power by up to 30%
- Intelligent clock gating optimizations are automatically performed on the entire design and will generate no changes to the existing logic or clocks
- Algorithm performs analysis on all portions of the design
 - Legacy and third-party IP blocks







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Power Optimization Commands

Automatic power reduction

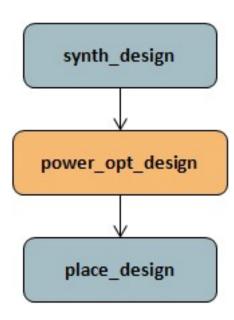
- Automatically turns off unused portions of the design
- Does not require deep system level knowledge

Vivado IDE provides optimization control at global and object level

 Global command for optimizing the design: power opt design

Local level control through SDC command:

- Instance level: Include/exclude instances for power opt
- Clock domain: Optimize instances clocked by the specified clock
- Cell-type level: Block RAM, registers, SRL



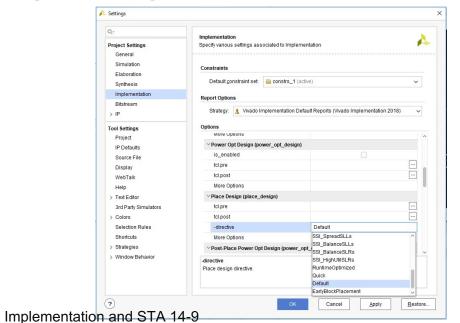


place_design: placer

- Project-based flow
 - Included in implementation stage
- Non-project batch flow

place_design

Can use an input XDEF as a starting point for placement



place design

Description:

Automatically place ports and leaf-level instances

Syntax:

[-ultrathreads] [-quiet] [-verbose]

Usage:

Name	Description
[-directive]	Mode of behavior (directive) for this command. Please refer to Arguments section of this help for values for this option. Default: Default
[-no_timing_driven]	Do not run in timing driven mode
[-timing_summary]	Enable accurate post-placement timing summary.
[-unplace]	Unplace all the instances which are not locked by
	Constraints.
[-post_place_opt]	Run only the post commit optimizer
[-no_psip]	Disable PSIP (Physical Synthesis In Placer)
	optimization during placement.
[-no_bufg_opt]	Disable global buffer insertion during placement
[-ultrathreads]	Enable ultra-threads mode to speed up place_design
[-quiet]	Ignore command errors
[-verbose]	Suspend message limits during command execution



Placement

Phases of a complete placement

- Pre-placement DRC
 - Check for unroutable connections, valid physical constraints, overutilization
- Placement
 - I/O and clock placement

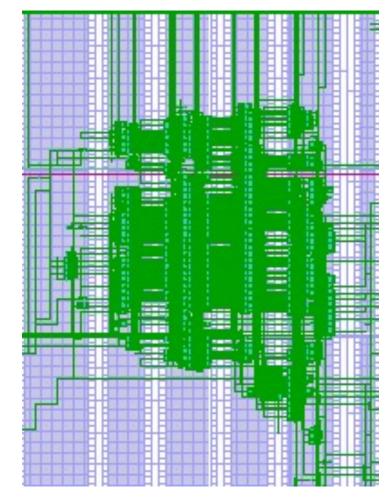
Macro and primitive placement

- Timing-driven and wire length-driven
- Congestion-aware

Detailed placement

- Refine locations of small "shapes," flip-flops, LUTs
- Commit to location sites pack into slices

Post-commit optimizations





phys_opt_design: Physical Synthesis

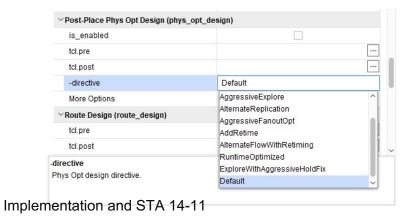
Post-placement timing-driven optimization

- Replicates and places drivers of high fanout nets with negative slack
 - Replication only performed if it improves timing
 - Slack must be within critical range
 - Approximately 10% of worst negative slack (WNS)

Available in all flows and can be de-activated in the GUI

phys_opt_design

Run between place_design and route_design





Name	Description
[-fanout_opt]	Do cell-duplication based optimization on
	high-fanout timing critical nets
[-placement_opt]	Do placement based optimization on timing
	critical nets
[-routing_opt]	Do routing based optimization on timing
	critical nets
[-slr_crossing_opt]	Do placement optimization of SLR-crossing
	timing critical nets
[-rewire]	Do rewiring optimization
[-insert_negative_edge_ffs]	Insert negative edge triggered FFs for hold
	optimization
[-critical_cell_opt]	Do cell-duplication based optimization on
	timing critical nets
[-dsp_register_opt]	Do DSP register optimization
-bram_register_opt]	Do BRAM register optimization
[-uram_register_opt]	Do UltraRAM register optimization
[-bram_enable_opt]	Do BRAM enable optimization
-shift_register_opt]	Do Shift register optimization
-hold_fix]	Attempt to improve slack of high hold
	violators
[-aggressive_hold_fix]	Attempt to aggressively improve slack of high
	hold violators
[-retime]	Do retiming optimization
[-force_replication_on_nets]	Force replication optimization on nets
[-directive]	Mode of behavior (directive) for this
	command. Please refer to Arguments section of
	this help for values for this option
	Default: Default
[-critical_pin_opt]	Do pin-swapping based optimization on timing
	critical nets
[-clock_opt]	Do clock skew optimization in post-route
	optimization
[-path_groups]	Work only on specified path groups
[-tns_cleanup]	Work on all nets in the design that meet
	criteria for the specified optimizations to
	improve design tns
[-sll_reg_hold_fix]	Do hold fixing on SLL Tx-Rx paths
[-quiet]	Ignore command errors
[-verbose]	Suspend message limits during command
	execution



route_design: Router

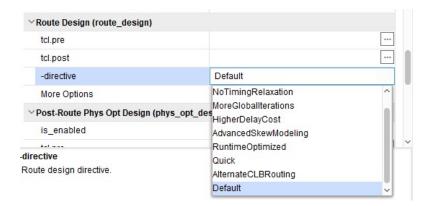
- Project-based flow
 - Included in implementation stage
- Non-project batch flow

route design

Router reporting

report route status command

- Check route status of individual nets
 - Fully routed: lists routing resources
 - Failed routes



route_design

Description:

Route the current design

Syntax

route_design [-unroute] [-release_memory] [-nets <args>] [-physical_nets]

[-pins <arg>] [-directive <arg>] [-tns_cleanup]

[-no_timing_driven] [-preserve] [-delay] [-auto_delay]

-max_delay <arg> -min_delay <arg> [-timing_summary] [-finalize]

[-ultrathreads] [-eco] [-quiet] [-verbose]

Description

Usage:

Name	Description
[-unroute]	Unroute whole design or the given nets/pins if used
	with -nets or -pins.
[-release_memory]	Release Router memory. Not compatible with any other options.
[-nets]	Operate on the given nets.
[-physical_nets]	Operate on all physical nets.
[-pins]	Operate on the given pins.
[-directive]	Mode of behavior (directive) for this command. Please
	refer to Arguments section of this help for values for
	this option.
	Default: Default
[-tns_cleanup]	Do optional TNS clean up.
[-no_timing_driven]	Do not run in timing driven mode.
[-preserve]	Preserve existing routing.
[-delay]	Use with -nets or -pins option to route in delay
	driven mode.
[-auto_delay]	Use with -nets or -pins option to route in constraint
	driven mode.
-max_delay	Use with -pins option to specify the max_delay
	constraint on the pins. When specified -delay is
	implicit.
-min_delay	Use with -pins option to specify the max_delay
	constraint on the pins. When specified -delay is
	implicit.
[-timing_summary]	Enable post-router signoff timing summary.
[-finalize]	finalize route_design in interactive mode.
[-ultrathreads]	Enable Turbo mode routing.
[-eco]	runs incremental router if there was eco modification
	on routed netlist.
[-quiet]	Ignore command errors
[-verbose]	Suspend message limits during command execution



Router

Phases of a complete route

- Special net and clock routing
- Timing-driven routing
 - Prioritized by setup/hold path criticality
 - Swap LUT inputs pin to improve critical paths
 - Fix reasonable hold time violations

Two modes

- Normal (default): Router starts with a placed design and attempts to route all nets
- Re-Entrant (non-project batch only): Router can route/unroute as well as lock/unlock specific nets

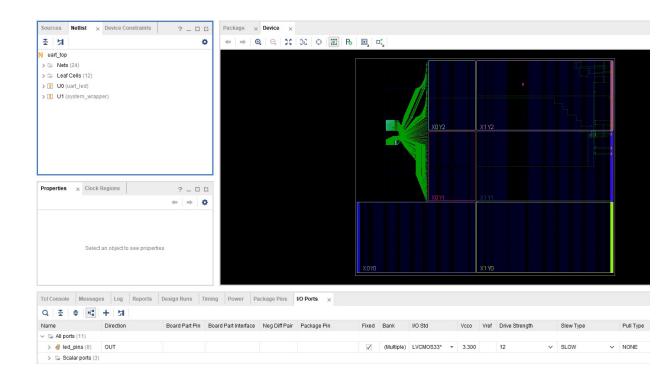


Reports



After Implementation

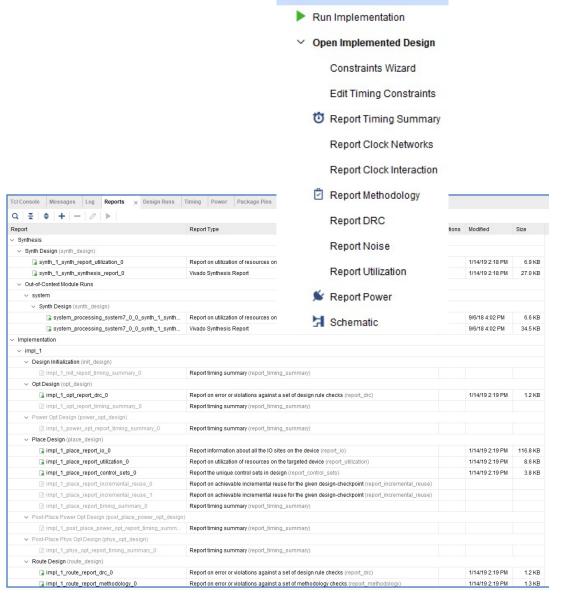
- Sources and Netlist tabs do not change
 - As each resources is selected, it will show the exact placement of the resource on the die
- Timing results have to be generated with the Report Timing Summary
- As each path is selected, the placement of the logic and its connections is shown in the Device view
 - This is the cross-probing feature that helps with static timing analysis





Implementation Reports

- While the Flow Navigator points to the most important reports, the Reports tab contains several other useful reports
 - Post Optimization DRC Report: Lists the I/O DRC checks that were completed
 - Post Power Optimization DRC Report: Lists the power DRC checks that were completed
 - Place and Route Log: Describes the implementation process and any issues it encountered
 - IO Report: Lists the final pinout for your design
 - Clock Utilization Report: Describes the clock resources used and the clock utilization resource on a region-by-region basis
 - Utilization Report: Describes the amount of FPGA resources used in a text format
 - Control Sets Report: describes how your control signals were grouped

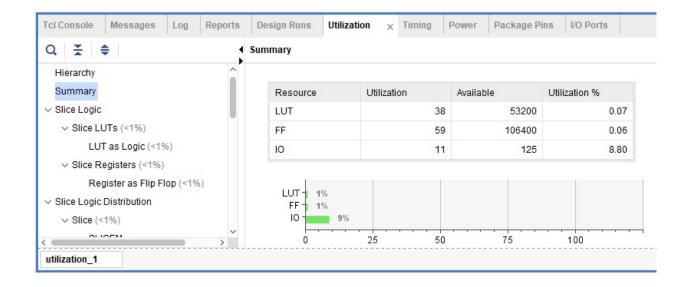


IMPLEMENTATION



Utilization Reports

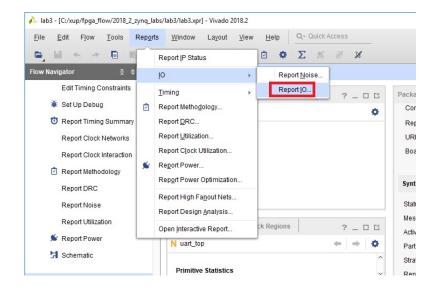
- Double-click in the Reports tab to view in text form
- Click on Report Utilization under Implementation Result in the Flow Navigator pane to view in chart and table format

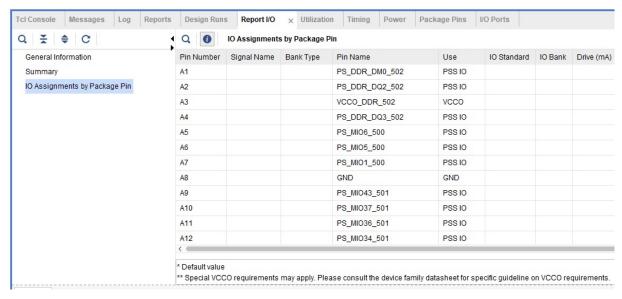




I/O Report

- This report provides a table that lists every signal, its attributes, and its final location
 - It is always important to double-check pin assignments before implementing because the tools can move any pin that is unassigned

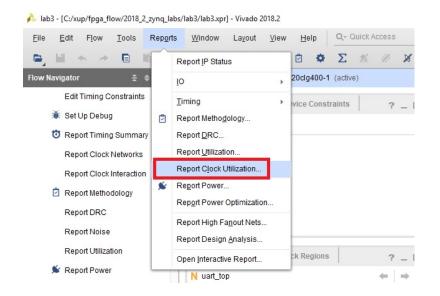


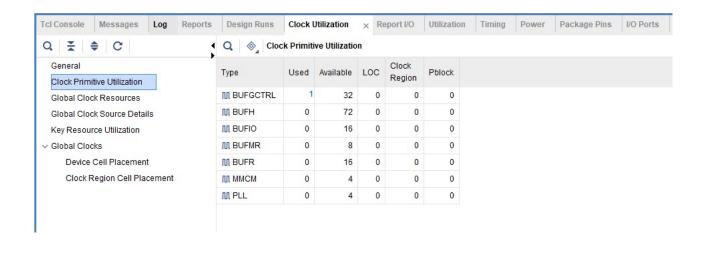




Clock Utilization Report

- ▶ This report describes the clocking resources used in the design
 - BUFG, BUFH, BUFHCE, MMCM, and a clock region analysis

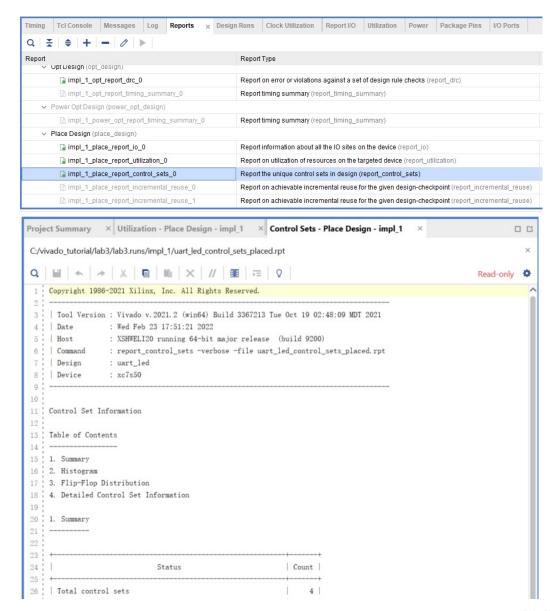






Control Sets Report

- This report describes the number of unique control sets in the design (ideally this will be as small as possible)
- Number of control sets describes how control signals were grouped
 - This determines the ability of the tools to reach high device utilization
 - Number of controls signals in the design is determined by the designer's inference of sets, resets, and clock enable signals
 - Number of control signals can be reduced if the designer attempts to share controls signals throughout the design as much as possible





power_opt: Report

- report_power_opt command details the gating performed on the design by the power_opt program
 - Can be run before power optimization to create a report detailing all the user-gated logic in the design for a before and after picture of your design



Basic Static Timing Analysis



Static Timing Analysis (STA)

- ▶ A design is an interconnected set of cells and nets
- ▶ The functionality of a design is determined by the RTL design sources
 - The functionality can be verified by a simulation tool
- The performance of a device is determined by the delays of the cells that comprise the design
 - This is verified by static timing analysis
- In STA the functionality of the components of the design are not important
 - Only the performance of the components
 - Cells need only be classified as combinatorial or sequential



Component Delays

Each component takes time to perform its function

- A LUT has propagation delay from its inputs to its outputs
- A net has propagation delay from the driver to the receiver(s)
- A flip-flop requires stable data for a required time around its sample point

These delays are dependent on a several factors

- Some are determined by the composition of the FPGA and the implementation of the design
 - The physical characteristics of the element (how it is constructed)
 - The location of the object (where it is placed with respect to other objects)
- Some are determined by environmental factors (PVT)
 - The process variation of the device
 - The voltage applied to the cells
 - The temperature of the cells



Delays

- Component and net delays are provided by Xilinx, and are extracted by careful characterization of production devices
 - Timing is extracted over the allowed operating range of the device
 - Process is within a specific range
 - Different ranges are used for different speed grades (-1, -2, -3)
 - Voltage is between the minimum and maximum allowed for the device
 - Different speed grades may allow different voltages (i.e. -1L)
 - Temperature is between the maximum and minimum specified
 - Commercial and industrial parts allow different temperature ranges
 - These characterized delays may be extracted at various process corners
 - Fastest PVT, slowest PVT
 - The characterized delays at the appropriate corner are used by the tools during STA



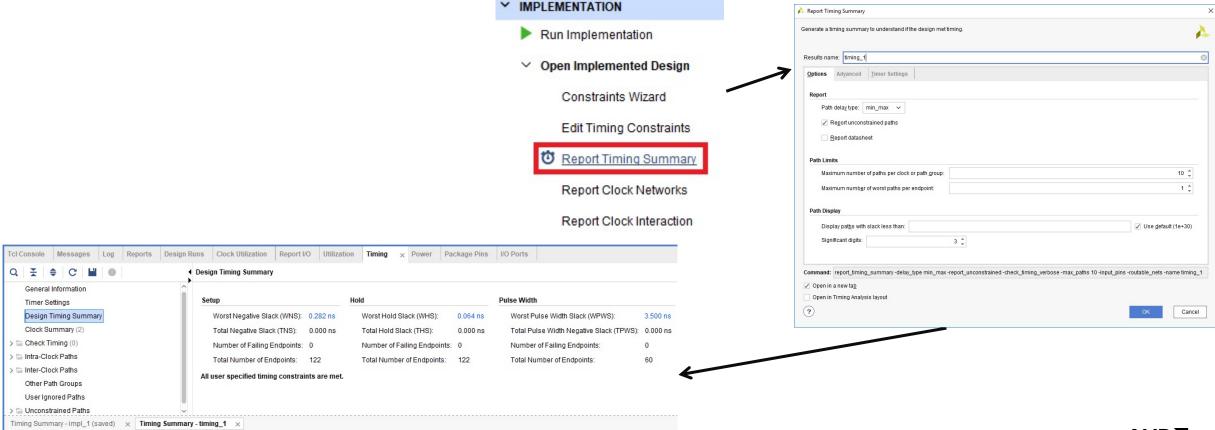
Why Do We Need STA?

- Many of the processes in FPGA implementation are timing driven
 - Synthesis for circuit construction
 - Placer for optimal cell locations
 - Router for choosing routing elements
- Tools must have constraints to determine the desired performance goals
- STA is used during the processes, and afterwards for generating reports
- Ultimately, STA determines if a design will provide the desired performance



report_timing_summary: Timing Report Summary

 Timing reports with true timing information can be generated from the Flow Navigator after implementation has been completed



Timing Summary

Summary reports Setup, Hold, and Pulse Width related results

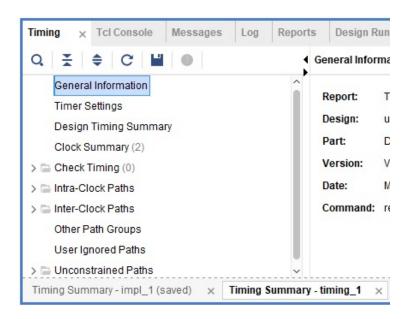
- Setup
 - Worst Negative Slack (WNS): The worst slack of all the timing paths for max delay analysis. It can be positive or negative; positive means no violation
 - Total Negative Slack (TNS): The sum of all WNS violations, when considering only the worst violation of each timing path endpoint- 0ns when all timing constraints are met, Negative when there are some violations
 - Number of Failing Endpoints: The total number of endpoints with a violation (WNS<0ns)
- Hold
 - Worst Hold Slack (WHS): Corresponds to the worst slack of all the timing paths for min delay analysis. It can be
 positive or negative
- Pulse Width
 - Worst Pulse Width Slack (WPWS): Corresponds to the worst slack of all the timing checks listed above when using both min and max delays



The Timing Summary Table

The Timing Summary table shows

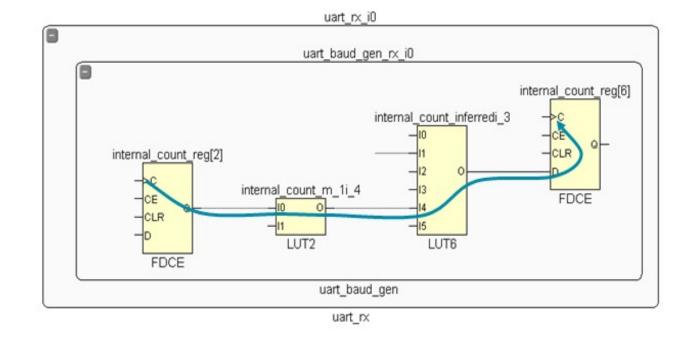
- General Information provides design name, device, package, speed grades etc.
- Timer Settings provides timing analysis engine settings
- Design Timing Summary provides a summary of all the timing reports
- Clock Summary includes information similar to that produced by report_clocks
- Check Timing includes information about missing timing constraints or paths with constraints issues that need to be reviewed
- Intra-Clock Paths includes summary of the worst slack and total violations of the timing paths with the same source and destination clocks
- Inter-Clock Paths includes summary of the worst slack and total violations of timing paths with different source and destination clocks
- Other Path Groups displays paths not covered above, including userdefined path groups
- User Ignored Paths are paths that are ignored during timing analysis
- Unconstrained Paths contain paths that were not covered by the XDC constraints
- Violations are displayed in red





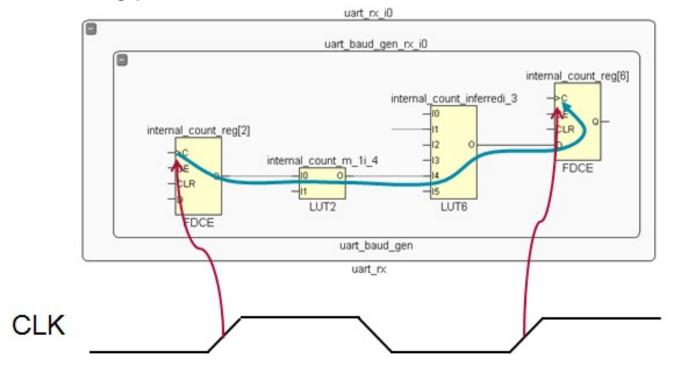
Static Timing Paths

- ▶ A static timing path is a path that
 - Starts at a clocked element
 - Propagates through any number of combinatorial elements and the nets that interconnect them
 - Ends at a clocked element
- Clocked elements include flip-flops, block RAMs, DSP cells, ...
- Combinatorial elements include LUTs, wide MUXes, carry chains, ...



Setup Check

- Checks that a change in a clocked element has time to propagate to other clocked elements before the next clock event
 - That is, from the rising edge of the clock to the next rising edge of the clock
 - Checked for all static timing paths

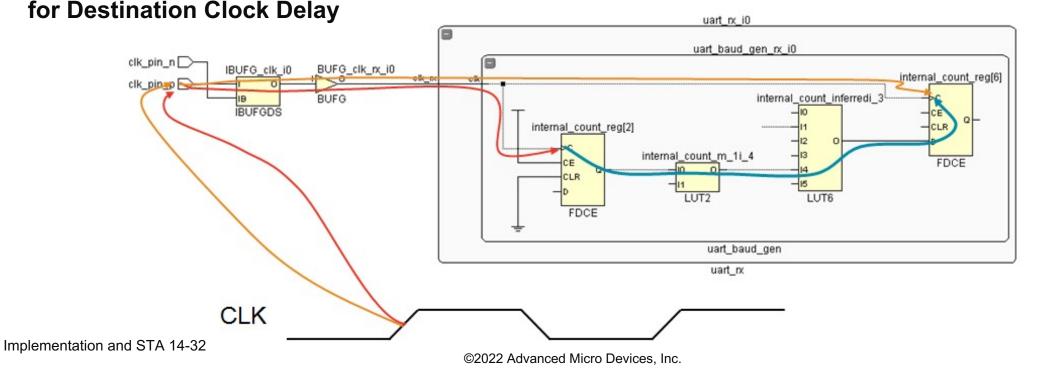




Hold Check

- Checks that a change in a clocked element caused by a clock event does not propagate to a destination clocked element before the same clock event arrives at the destination element
 - Usually from the rising edge of the clock to the same edge of the clock
 - Checked for all static timing paths

The shortest delay is used for Source Clock and Data Path Delay, and the longest delay is used for Destination Clock Delay.



XILINX

report_timing_summary: TRCE Like Report

- report_timing_summary command produces a comprehensive TRCE-like timing report
- This report contains these sections

Timer Settings

check timing report

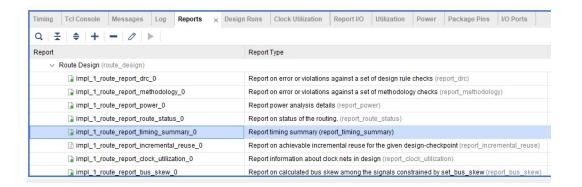
Design Timing Summary

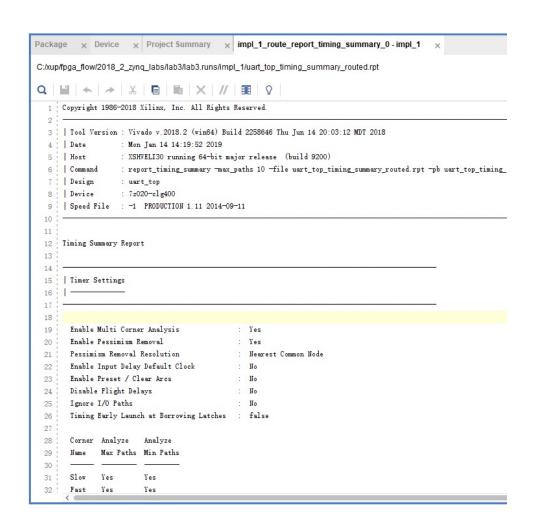
Clock Definitions

Intra Clock table

Inter Clock table

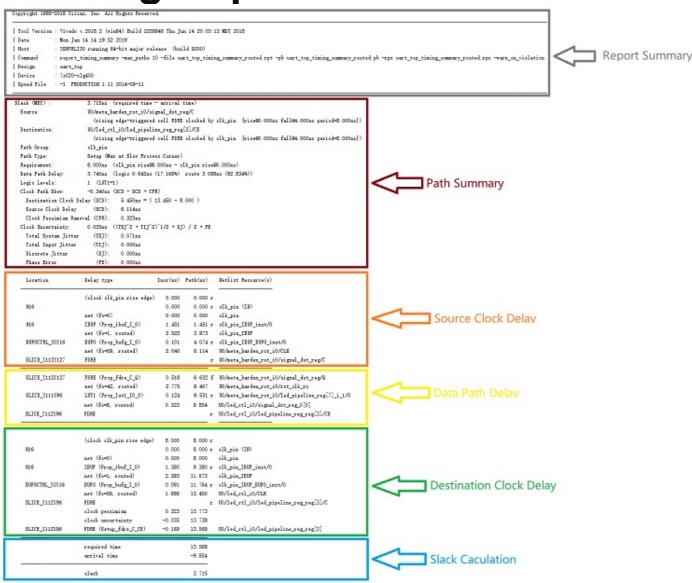
Path Group table







Anatomy of Timing Report





Report Sections

Report summary

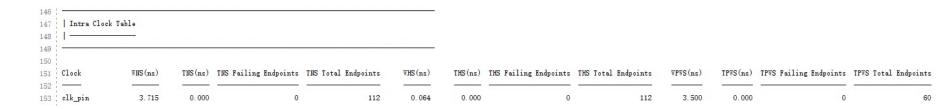
Design timing summary

Clock summary

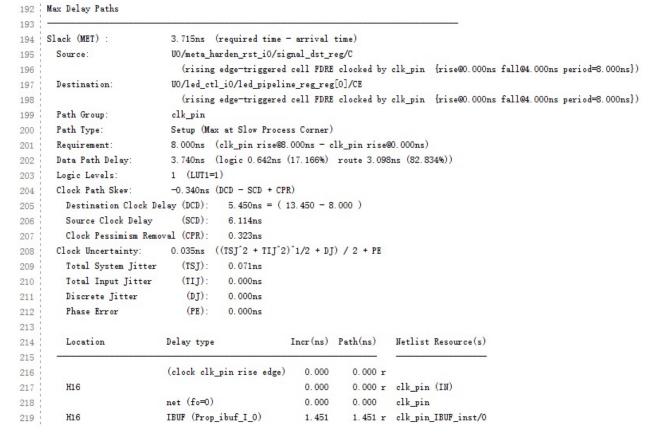


Report Sections

Intra clock table



Maximum delay path





Report Sections

Delay path

Location	Delay type	Incr(ns)	Path(ns)	Netlist Resource(s)
	(clock clk_pin rise edge)	0.000	0.000 1	
Н16		0.000	0.000 1	clk_pin (IN)
	net (fo=0)	0.000	0.000	clk_pin
H16	IBUF (Prop_ibuf_I_0)	1.451	1.451 1	clk_pin_IBUF_inst/0
	net (fo=1, routed)	routed) 2.522	3.973	clk_pin_IBUF
BUFGCTRL_XOY16	BUFG (Prop_bufg_I_0)	0.101	4.074 1	clk_pin_IBUF_BUFG_inst/0
	net (fo=59, routed)	2.057	6.131	UO/led_ctl_iO/CLK
SLICE_X113Y104	FDRE		2	r UO/led_ctl_iO/led_o_reg[3]/
SLICE_X113Y104	FDRE (Prop_fdre_C_Q)	0.456	6. 587	U0/led_ctl_i0/led_o_reg[3]/0
	net (fo=1, routed)	1.526	8.112	led_pins_OBUF[3]
M14 OBUF (Prop_obuf_I_0) net (fo=0)	3.581	11.693	r led_pins_OBUF[3]_inst/0	
	net (fo=0)	0.000	11.693	led_pins[3]
M14		27,5027,5027	1	r led_pins[3] (OUT)
	(clock virtual_clock rise	edge)		
		8.000	8.000 1	r .
	ideal clock network latency			
		0.000	8.000	
	clock pessimism	0.000	8.000	
	clock uncertainty	-0.025	7.975	
	output delay	4.000	11.975	
	required time		11.975	
	arrival time		-11.693	
	slack		0. 282	



Bitstream Generation and Verification in Hardware



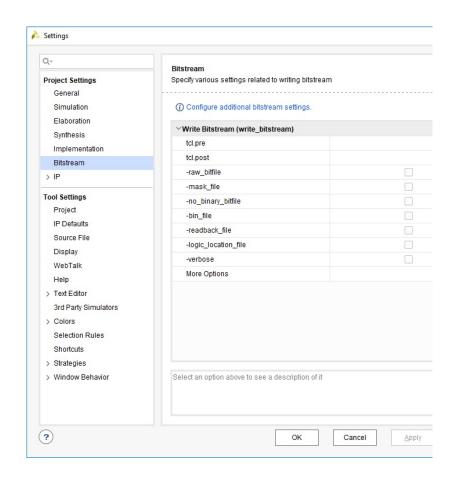
Bitstream Generation

- Generates bitstream for the device chosen for the current project
- Runs on an implemented design
- ▶ Uses the pull model to regenerate implemented design if design is out of date
- Project-based flow
 - IDE: Generate bitstream
 - Tcl: launch runs impl_1 -to_step write_bitstream
 - ✓ PROGRAM AND DEBUG
 - ↓ Generate Bitstream
 - > Open Hardware Manager



Bitstream Generation Settings

- By default, binary bitstream format is used
- -raw_bitfile: Causes write_bitstream to write a raw bit file (.rbt) containing the same information in ASCII format
- -mask_file: Generates a mask file that masks out dynamic bits in the device fabric
- ▶ -no binary bitfile: Do not write the binary bitstream file (.bit)
 - Use this command to generate the ASCII bitstream or mask file, or to generate a bitstream report, without generating the binary bitstream file
- -bin_file: Creates a binary file (.bin) containing only device programming data, without the header information
- -logic_location_file: Generates a (.II) file that contains the location of LUTs, BRAM, flip-flops, latches, I/O block inputs and outputs





Hardware Manager

▶ The steps to connect to hardware and programing the target FPGA device

- Open a hardware manager
 - Uses Target Communication Framework (TCF) Agent, hw_server
- Open a hardware target that is managed by a hardware server running on a host computer
- Associate the bitstream data programming file with the appropriate FPGA device
- Program or download the programming file into the hardware device
- Opens the hardware analyzer view for debugging





Summary



Summary

- Implementation is made up of the programs link, opt_design, power_opt, place_design, phys_opt_design, and route_design
- There are several implementation reports available to help designers better manage their FPGA designs
- 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
- Setup and hold checks include the analysis of the clock propagation paths
- report_timing_summary is used as post-implementation sign-off
- report_timing is used for interactive and detailed timing analysis after synthesis or implementation



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Thank You

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