

Table of Contents

Rtc Index

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APB RTC Specification - Table of Contents

Component: APB Real-Time Clock (RTC) Controller **Version:** 1.0 **Last Updated:** 2025-12-01 **Status:** Production Ready

Document Organization

This specification is organized into five chapters covering all aspects of the APB RTC component:

Chapter 1: Overview

Location: ch01_overview/

- [01_overview.md](#) - Component overview, features, applications
- [02_architecture.md](#) - High-level architecture
- [03_clocks_and_reset.md](#) - Clock domains and reset
- [04_acronyms.md](#) - Acronyms and terminology
- [05_references.md](#) - External references

Chapter 2: Blocks

Location: ch02_blocks/

- [00_overview.md](#) - Block hierarchy overview
- [01_apb_interface.md](#) - APB interface block
- [02_time_counter.md](#) - Time keeping logic
- [03_alarm.md](#) - Alarm comparison
- [04_interrupt.md](#) - Interrupt generation

Chapter 3: Interfaces

Location: ch03_interfaces/

- [00_overview.md](#) - Interface summary
- [01_apb_slave.md](#) - APB protocol specification
- [02_interrupt.md](#) - Interrupt output
- [03_system.md](#) - Clock and reset interface

Chapter 4: Programming Model

Location: ch04_programming/

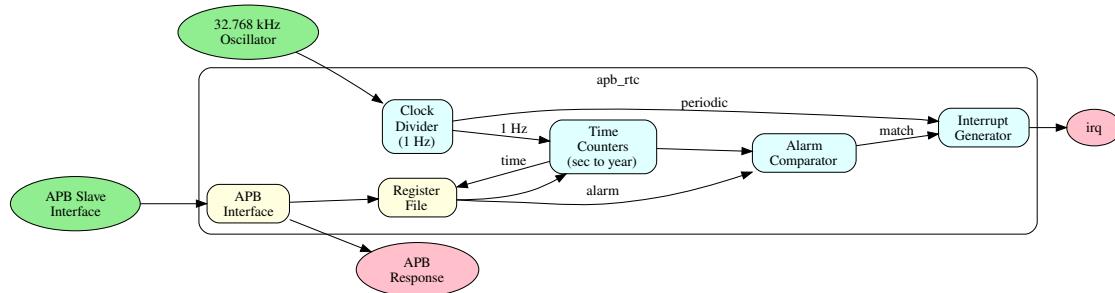
- [00_overview.md](#) - Programming overview
- [01_initialization.md](#) - RTC initialization
- [02_time_operations.md](#) - Reading/setting time
- [03_alarm.md](#) - Alarm configuration
- [04_examples.md](#) - Programming examples

Chapter 5: Registers

Location: ch05_registers/

- [01_register_map.md](#) - Complete register map
-

Block Diagram



APB RTC Block Diagram

Quick Navigation

For Software Developers

- Start with Chapter 4: Programming Model

- Reference Chapter 5: Registers

For Hardware Integrators

- Start with Chapter 1: Overview
 - Reference Chapter 3: Interfaces
-

Version History

| Version | Date | Author | Changes |
|---------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.0 | 2025-12-01 | RTL Design Sherpa | Initial specification |

Related Documentation: - [PRD.md](#) - Product Requirements Document

APB RTC - Overview

Introduction

The APB RTC is a Real-Time Clock controller with an APB slave interface. It maintains time and date with battery backup support and provides alarm and periodic interrupt capabilities.

Key Features

Time Keeping

- Seconds, minutes, hours (12/24-hour mode)
- Day of week, date, month, year
- Century support (2000-2099)
- Leap year calculation
- BCD format storage

Alarm Function

- Configurable alarm time
- Second, minute, hour, date match
- Daily or specific date alarm

Interrupt Support

- Alarm match interrupt

- Periodic interrupt (1 Hz)
- Update-ended interrupt

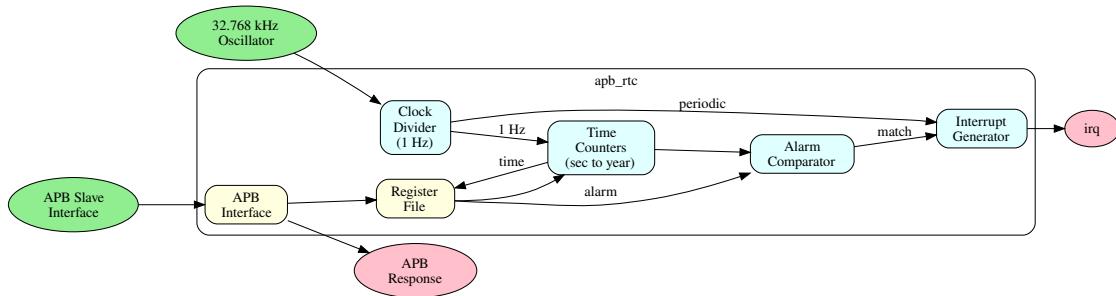
Power Management

- Low-power 32.768 kHz oscillator
- Battery backup domain support
- RAM retention (optional)

Applications

- System timekeeping
- Scheduled wake-up
- Event timestamping
- Calendar functions
- Alarm clock

Block Diagram



RTC Block Diagram

Register Summary

| Offset | Name | Access | Description |
|--------|-------------|--------|----------------------|
| 0x00 | RTC_SECONDS | RW | Seconds (0-59) |
| 0x04 | RTC_MINUTES | RW | Minutes (0-59) |
| 0x08 | RTC_HOURS | RW | Hours (0-23 or 1-12) |
| 0x0C | RTC_DAY | RW | Day of week (1-7) |
| 0x10 | RTC_DATE | RW | Day of month (1-31) |
| 0x14 | RTC_MONTH | RW | Month (1-12) |
| 0x18 | RTC_YEAR | RW | Year (0-99) |

| Offset | Name | Access | Description |
|--------|--------------------|--------|------------------|
| 0x1C | RTC_CENTURY | RW | Century (20-29) |
| 0x20 | RTC_ALARM_S EC | RW | Alarm seconds |
| 0x24 | RTC_ALARM_ MIN | RW | Alarm minutes |
| 0x28 | RTC_ALARM_H OUR | RW | Alarm hours |
| 0x2C | RTC_ALARM_D ATE | RW | Alarm date |
| 0x30 | RTC_CONTROL | RW | Control register |
| 0x34 | RTC_STATUS | RO/W1C | Status register |

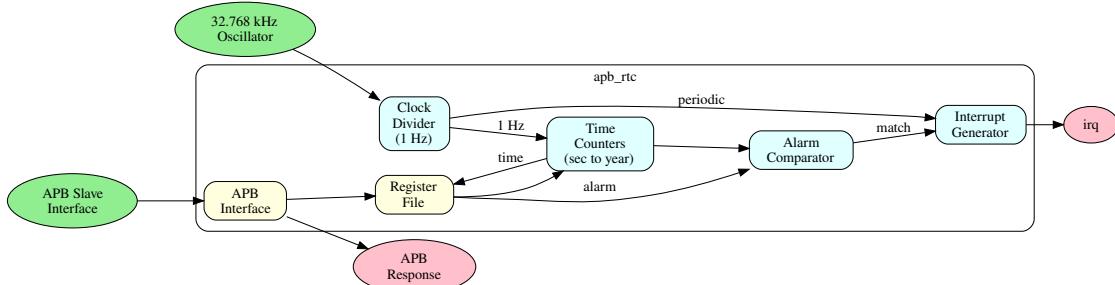
Parameters

| Parameter | Default | Description |
|------------|---------|-----------------------|
| CDC_ENABLE | 0 | Clock domain crossing |

Next: [02_architecture.md](#) - Architecture details

APB RTC - Architecture

High-Level Block Diagram



RTC Architecture

Module Hierarchy

apb_rtc (Top Level)
+-- apb_slave

```

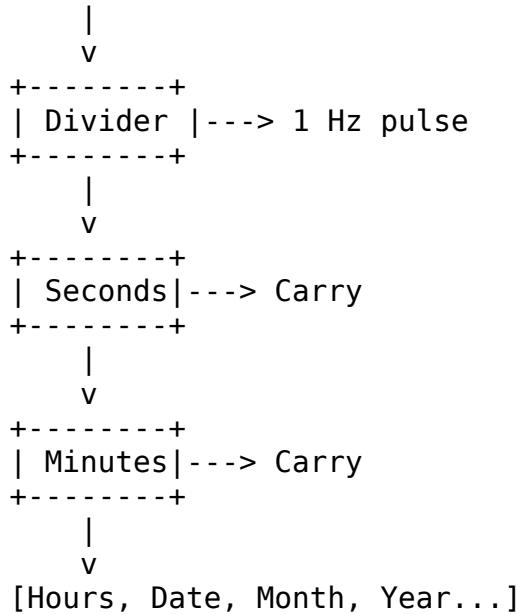
+-- rtc_config_regs (Register Wrapper)
|   +-- rtc_regs (PeakRDL Generated)
|
+-- rtc_core
    +-- Time Counter (seconds to century)
    +-- Alarm Comparator
    +-- Interrupt Generator
    +-- BCD Logic

```

Data Flow

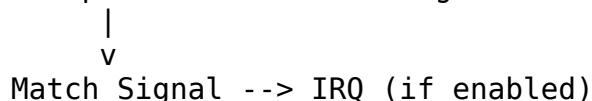
Time Update Flow

32.768 kHz Clock



Alarm Match Flow

Time Registers --> Comparator <-- Alarm Registers



Clock Domains

- APB domain (pclk): Register access
 - RTC domain (32.768 kHz): Time counting
 - CDC when clocks are asynchronous
-

Next: [03_clocks_and_reset.md](#)

APB RTC - Register Map

Register Summary

| Offset | Name | Access | Reset | Description |
|--------|------------------|--------|-------|-------------------------------|
| 0x00 | RTC_SECON DS | RW | 0x00 | Seconds (BCD 0-59) |
| 0x04 | RTC_MINU TES | RW | 0x00 | Minutes (BCD 0-59) |
| 0x08 | RTC_HOUR S | RW | 0x00 | Hours (BCD 0-23/1-12) |
| 0x0C | RTC_DAY | RW | 0x01 | Day of week (1-7) |
| 0x10 | RTC_DATE | RW | 0x01 | Day of month (BCD 1-31) |
| 0x14 | RTC_MONT H | RW | 0x01 | Month (BCD 1-12) |
| 0x18 | RTC_YEAR | RW | 0x00 | Year (BCD 0-99) |
| 0x1C | RTC_CENTU RY | RW | 0x20 | Century (BCD 20-29) |
| 0x20 | RTC_ALM_S EC | RW | 0x00 | Alarm seconds |
| 0x24 | RTC_ALM_ MIN | RW | 0x00 | Alarm minutes |
| 0x28 | RTC_ALM_ HOUR | RW | 0x00 | Alarm hours |
| 0x2C | RTC_ALM_ DATE | RW | 0x00 | Alarm date |
| 0x30 | RTC_CONT ROL | RW | 0x00 | Control |
| 0x34 | RTC_STATU S | RO/W1C | 0x00 | Status |

RTC_CONTROL (0x30)

| Bit | Name | Access | Description |
|-----|----------|--------|-------------------------------|
| 0 | RTC_EN | RW | RTC enable |
| 1 | ALM_EN | RW | Alarm enable |
| 2 | PIE | RW | Periodic interrupt enable |
| 3 | AIE | RW | Alarm interrupt enable |
| 4 | UIE | RW | Update interrupt enable |
| 5 | HR24 | RW | 24-hour mode (0=12hr, 1=24hr) |
| 7:6 | Reserved | RO | Reserved |

RTC_STATUS (0x34)

| Bit | Name | Access | Description |
|-----|----------|--------|--------------------|
| 0 | UIP | RO | Update in progress |
| 1 | PF | W1C | Periodic flag |
| 2 | AF | W1C | Alarm flag |
| 3 | UF | W1C | Update flag |
| 4 | IRQF | RO | IRQ flag (PF) |
| 7:5 | Reserved | RO | Reserved |

BCD Format

Time/date values stored in BCD: - Seconds: 0x00-0x59 - Minutes: 0x00-0x59 - Hours (24hr): 0x00-0x23 - Hours (12hr): 0x01-0x12 + bit 7 for PM - Date: 0x01-0x31 - Month: 0x01-0x12 - Year: 0x00-0x99

[Back to: RTC Specification Index](#)

Retro Legacy Blocks - Product Requirements Document

Component: Retro Legacy Blocks (RLB) - Production-Quality Legacy Peripherals

Version: 1.0 **Status:**  Active Development - HPET Production Ready Last

Updated: 2025-10-29

1. Overview

1.1 Purpose

The Retro Legacy Blocks (RLB) component provides production-quality implementations of legacy peripheral blocks based on proven peripheral designs. These blocks are designed to be reusable, well-tested, and suitable for both FPGA and ASIC implementation.

1.2 Design Philosophy

“Retro” - Proven Architectures: - Implements time-tested peripheral designs from successful platforms - Focuses on simplicity, reliability, and well-understood behavior - Prioritizes production-readiness over experimental features

“Legacy” - Time-Tested Interfaces: - Based on proven peripheral interface specifications - Suitable for systems requiring retro-compatible peripheral compatibility - APB-based interface for easy integration

“Blocks” - Modular Collection: - Each peripheral is independent and self-contained - Clear separation between different blocks (rtl/hpet/, rtl/gpio/, etc.) - Can be used individually or wrapped into integrated subsystem

1.3 Target Applications

- Retro-compatible platform compatibility layers
 - Embedded systems requiring legacy peripheral interfaces
 - FPGA-based system emulation
 - Educational platforms demonstrating classic peripheral designs
 - Mixed-vintage SoC integration (modern + legacy interfaces)
-

2. Implemented Blocks

2.1 HPET - High Precision Event Timer

Status: ✓ Production Ready (5/6 configurations 100% passing) **RTL Location:**

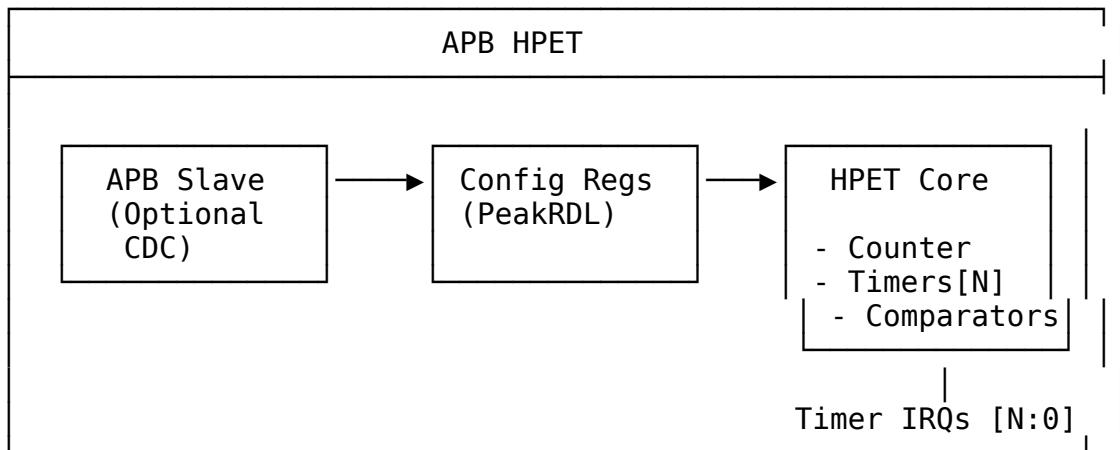
[rtl/hpet/](#) **Documentation:** [docs/hpet_spec/](#)

Key Features: - Configurable timer count: 2, 3, or 8 independent timers - 64-bit main counter for high-resolution timestamps - 64-bit comparators per timer - Operating modes: One-shot and periodic - Clock domain crossing: Optional CDC for timer/APB clock independence - APB4 interface: Standard AMBA APB protocol - PeakRDL integration: Register map generated from SystemRDL specification

Applications: - System tick generation - Real-time OS scheduling - Precise event timing - Performance profiling - Watchdog timers - Multi-rate timing domains

Test Coverage: - 6 configurations tested (2/3/8 timers, CDC on/off) - 5/6 configurations at 100% pass rate - 1 configuration at 92% (minor stress test timeout) - 12 test cases per configuration (basic/medium/full)

Architecture:



Design Highlights: - Reset macro standardization (FPGA-friendly) - Per-timer data buses prevent corruption - Edge-triggered register write strobes (not level) - W1C status register for interrupt clearing - Optional asynchronous clock domains with handshake CDC

See: [docs/hpet_spec/hpet_index.md](#) for complete HPET specification

3. Planned Blocks

3.1 8259 - Programmable Interrupt Controller (PIC)

Status: **Planned Priority:** High **Effort:** 6-8 weeks **Address:** 0x4000_1000 - 0x4000_1FFF (4KB window)

Planned Features: - Intel 8259A-compatible register interface - 8 interrupt request (IRQ) inputs - Cascadable (master/slave configuration) - Priority resolver (fixed and rotating priority) - Edge and level triggered modes - Interrupt mask register - End-of-Interrupt (EOI) handling - APB register interface

Applications: - Legacy interrupt management - PC-compatible systems - Hardware interrupt aggregation - Priority-based interrupt handling - Cascaded multi-level interrupt systems

3.2 8254 - Programmable Interval Timer (PIT)

Status: **Planned Priority:** High **Effort:** 4-5 weeks **Address:** 0x4000_2000 - 0x4000_2FFF (4KB window)

Planned Features: - Intel 8254-compatible register interface - 3 independent 16-bit counters - 6 programmable counter modes - Binary and BCD counting - Read-back command - Configurable clock input - Interrupt/output generation per counter - APB register interface

Counter Modes: - Mode 0: Interrupt on terminal count - Mode 1: Hardware retriggerable one-shot - Mode 2: Rate generator - Mode 3: Square wave mode - Mode 4: Software triggered strobe - Mode 5: Hardware triggered strobe

Applications: - System tick generation - Periodic timer interrupts - Square wave generation - Event counting - Legacy PC timer compatibility

3.3 GPIO - General Purpose I/O

Status: **Planned Priority:** Medium **Effort:** 4-6 weeks **Address:** TBD (not in primary ILB address map)

Planned Features: - Configurable pin count (8, 16, 32 pins) - Per-pin direction control (input/output/bidirectional) - Input debouncing logic - Interrupt generation (rising/falling/both edges, level) - Output drive strength configuration - Pull-up/pull-down control - APB register interface

Applications: - LED control - Button inputs - Hardware control signals - Chip-select generation - Status monitoring

3.4 RTC - Real-Time Clock

Status: **Planned Priority:** Medium **Effort:** 3-4 weeks **Address:** 0x4000_3000 - 0x4000_3FFF (4KB window)

Planned Features: - 32.768 kHz clock input (typical RTC crystal frequency) - Seconds, minutes, hours, day, month, year tracking - Alarm functionality - Battery backup support (power domain considerations) - 24-hour or 12-hour (AM/PM) mode - Leap year handling - APB register interface

Applications: - System time-of-day tracking - Wake-on-alarm functionality - Timestamp generation - Power-aware applications

3.5 SMBus Controller

Status: **Planned Priority:** Medium **Effort:** 6-8 weeks **Address:** 0x4000_4000 - 0x4000_4FFF (4KB window)

Planned Features: - SMBus 2.0 compliance - Master and slave modes - Clock stretching support - Packet Error Checking (PEC) - Alert response address - Configurable clock speed - APB register interface

Applications: - System management bus communication - Sensor interfaces (temperature, voltage) - EEPROM access - Battery management - Fan control

3.6 UART - Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter

Status: **Planned Priority:** Medium **Effort:** 4-5 weeks **Address:** TBD (not in primary ILB address map)

Planned Features: - 16550-compatible register interface - Configurable baud rate generation - 5/6/7/8 data bits - Parity: none, even, odd, mark, space - Stop bits: 1, 1.5, 2 - Hardware flow control (RTS/CTS) - FIFO buffers (16-byte TX/RX) - Interrupt generation

Applications: - Debug console - Serial communication - Modem interfaces - Legacy peripheral communication

3.7 SPI Controller

Status: **Planned Priority:** Low **Effort:** 5-6 weeks **Address:** TBD (not in primary ILB address map)

Planned Features: - Master mode (initially; slave mode future) - Configurable clock polarity and phase (CPOL/CPHA) - Multiple chip selects - Configurable word size (8/16/32 bits) - TX/RX FIFOs - DMA support (future) - APB register interface

Applications: - Flash memory access - ADC/DAC interfaces - Display controllers - SD card communication

3.8 I2C Controller

Status: Planned **Priority:** Low **Effort:** 5-7 weeks **Address:** TBD (not in primary ILB address map)

Planned Features: - I2C standard (100 kHz), fast (400 kHz), fast-plus (1 MHz) modes - Multi-master arbitration - 7-bit and 10-bit addressing - Clock stretching - General call support - APB register interface

Applications: - Sensor interfaces - EEPROM access - Multi-chip communication - System configuration

3.9 Watchdog Timer

Status: Planned **Priority:** Low **Effort:** 2-3 weeks **Address:** TBD (not in primary ILB address map)

Planned Features: - Configurable timeout period - Countdown counter with reload - Reset generation on timeout - Lock mechanism to prevent accidental disable - Interrupt before reset (optional warning) - APB register interface

Applications: - System fault recovery - Software hang detection - Periodic system reset - Safety-critical applications

3.10 Power Management / ACPI Controller

Status: Planned **Priority:** Medium **Effort:** 8-10 weeks **Address:** 0x4000_5000 - 0x4000_5FFF (4KB window)

Planned Features: - Clock gating control per block - Power domain sequencing - Reset generation and distribution - Wake event handling - Sleep/idle mode control - ACPI-compatible registers - APB register interface

Applications: - Low-power system design - Battery-powered devices - Dynamic power management - Thermal management - OS power management interface

3.11 IOAPIC - I/O Advanced Programmable Interrupt Controller

Status: **Planned Priority:** Medium **Effort:** 6-8 weeks **Address:** 0x4000_6000 - 0x4000_6FFF (4KB window)

Planned Features: - I/O APIC CSR model (register-based interface) - Multiple interrupt inputs (24+) - Programmable interrupt routing - Edge and level triggered modes - Priority-based arbitration - Interrupt masking per input - APB register interface for configuration

Applications: - Advanced interrupt routing - Multi-processor interrupt distribution - Flexible interrupt mapping - Legacy IRQ redirection - PC-compatible systems

3.12 Interconnect ID / Version Registers

Status: **Planned Priority:** Low **Effort:** 1-2 weeks **Address:** 0x4000_F000 - 0x4000_FFFF (4KB window)

Planned Features: - Vendor ID register - Device ID register - Revision ID register - Block presence/capability bits - Configuration status registers - Debug/diagnostic registers - APB register interface

Applications: - Software block discovery - Version checking - Feature detection - Debug and diagnostics - Platform identification

4. Integration and Wrapper Goals

4.1 Individual Block Integration

Each block is designed to be used standalone:

Example - HPET Integration:

```
apb_hpet #(
    .NUM_TIMERS(3),
    .VENDOR_ID(16'h8086),
    .REVISION_ID(16'h0001),
    .CDC_ENABLE(0)
) u_hpet (
    .pclk          (apb_clk),
    .presetn      (apb_rst_n),
    // APB interface
    .paddr        (paddr),
    .psel         (psel_hpet),
```

```

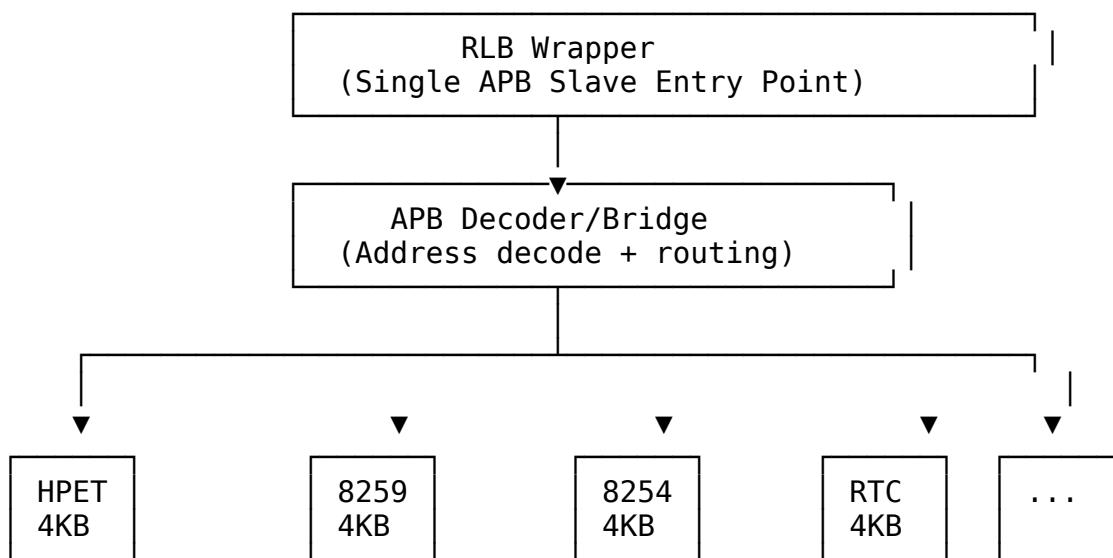
    .penable      (penable),
    .pwrite       (pwrite),
    .pwdata       (pwdata),
    .prdata       (prdata_hpet),
    .pready       (pready_hpet),
    .pslverr     (pslverr_hpet),
// HPET-specific
    .hpet_clk    (timer_clk),
    .hpet_rst_n  (timer_rst_n),
    .timer_irq   (timer_irq[2:0])
};


```

4.2 RLB Wrapper Architecture

Goal: Create top-level wrapper combining multiple legacy blocks into unified retro-compatible subsystem.

System Architecture:



Address Map:

Base address: 0x4000_0000 (1GB region in typical 32-bit system) Window size: 4KB per block (clean power-of-2 decode)

| Address Range | Block | Size | Function |
|---------------------------|-------|------|---|
| 0x4000_0000 - 0x4000_0FFF | HPET | 4KB | High Precision Event Timer |
| 0x4000_1000 - 0x4000_1FFF | 8259 | 4KB | Programmable Interrupt Controller (PIC) |

| Address Range | Block | Size | Function |
|---------------------------|--------------|------|-----------------------------------|
| 0x4000_2000 - 0x4000_2FFF | 8254 | 4KB | Programmable Interval Timer (PIT) |
| 0x4000_3000 - 0x4000_3FFF | RTC | 4KB | Real-Time Clock |
| 0x4000_4000 - 0x4000_4FFF | SMBus | 4KB | SMBus Host Controller |
| 0x4000_5000 - 0x4000_5FFF | PM/ACPI | 4KB | Power Management / ACPI Registers |
| 0x4000_6000 - 0x4000_6FFF | IOAPIC | 4KB | I/O Advanced PIC (CSR model) |
| 0x4000_7000 - 0x4000_EFFF | Reserved | 32KB | Future expansion |
| 0x4000_F000 - 0x4000_FFFF | Interconnect | 4KB | ID/Version/Control registers |
| All other addresses | Error Slave | - | Returns DECERR/SLVERR |

Decoder Implementation:

```

// Address decode logic (simplified)
localparam BASE_ADDR = 32'h4000_0000;
localparam BLOCK_SIZE = 12; // 4KB = 2^12

logic [3:0] block_sel;
assign block_sel = paddr[15:12]; // Extract window number

always_comb begin
    psel_hpet      = (block_sel == 4'h0) & psel; // 0x4000_0xxx
    psel_pic8259   = (block_sel == 4'h1) & psel; // 0x4000_1xxx
    psel_pit8254   = (block_sel == 4'h2) & psel; // 0x4000_2xxx
    psel_RTC       = (block_sel == 4'h3) & psel; // 0x4000_3xxx
    psel_smbus     = (block_sel == 4'h4) & psel; // 0x4000_4xxx
    psel_pm        = (block_sel == 4'h5) & psel; // 0x4000_5xxx
    psel_ioapic    = (block_sel == 4'h6) & psel; // 0x4000_6xxx
    psel_id        = (block_sel == 4'hF) & psel; // 0x4000_Fxxx
    psel_error     = !(|{psel_hpet, psel_pic8259, psel_pit8254,
                           psel_RTC, psel_smbus, psel_pm,
                           psel_ioapic, psel_id}) & psel;
end

```

Interface: - Single APB slave port at base address 0x4000_0000 - Aggregated interrupt output combining all block IRQs - Per-block clock/reset control for power management - External I/O signals (GPIO, UART, I2C/SMBus, etc.) - Error slave returns SLVERR for unmapped addresses

Benefits: - Simplified system integration (single APB slave) - Consistent 4KB window addressing - Clean power-of-2 address decode - Easy expansion (32KB reserved space) - Single verification target - Drop-in retro-compatible peripheral subsystem

5. Design Standards

5.1 Reset Handling

MANDATORY: All blocks must use standardized reset macros from rtl/amba/includes/reset_defs.svh

Pattern:

```
`include "reset_defs.svh"

`ALWAYS_FF_RST(clk, rst_n,
    if (`RST_ASSERTED(rst_n)) begin
        r_state <= IDLE;
        r_counter <= '0;
    end else begin
        r_state <= w_next_state;
        r_counter <= r_counter + 1'b1;
    end
)
```

Why: - FPGA-friendly reset inference - Consistent synthesis behavior - Single-point reset polarity control - Better timing closure

5.2 Register Generation

Preferred: Use PeakRDL for register map generation

Process: 1. Define registers in SystemRDL (.rdl file) 2. Generate RTL using PeakRDL regblock 3. Create wrapper module connecting registers to core logic 4. Use edge detection for write strobes (not level)

Benefits: - Consistent register interface - Auto-generated documentation - Reduced manual RTL errors - Easy register map changes

5.3 Testbench Architecture

MANDATORY: Follow project testbench organization pattern

Structure:

```
dv/
└── tbclasses/{block}/           # Block-specific TB classes
    ├── {block}_tb.py            # Main testbench
    ├── {block}_tests_basic.py   # Basic test suite
    ├── {block}_tests_medium.py # Medium test suite
    └── {block}_tests_full.py   # Full test suite
└── tests/{block}/              # Test runners
    └── test_app_{block}.py      # Pytest wrapper
        └── conftest.py          # Pytest configuration
```

Import Pattern:

```
# Always import from PROJECT AREA
from projects.components.retro_legacy_blocks.dv.tbclasses.{block}.
{block}_tb import {Block}TB
```

Test Levels: - **Basic:** Core functionality (register access, basic operation) -

Medium: Extended features (modes, configurations, edge cases) - **Full:** Stress testing, CDC variants, corner cases

Target: 100% pass rate at all levels

5.4 FPGA Synthesis Attributes

MANDATORY: Add FPGA synthesis hints for memory arrays

```
`ifdef XILINX
  (* ram_style = "auto" *)
`elsif INTEL
  /* synthesis ramstyle = "AUTO" */
`endif
logic [DATA_WIDTH-1:0] mem [DEPTH];
```

5.5 Documentation Requirements

Each block must have: - RTL comments (inline) - Register map specification - Block-level specification in docs/{block}_spec/ - Integration guide - Test plan and results

6. Quality Metrics

6.1 Production Readiness Criteria

A block is considered “Production Ready” when:

- ✓ All basic tests pass 100%
- ✓ All medium tests pass 100%
- ✓ All full tests pass ≥95%
- ✓ Complete register map specification
- ✓ RTL lint clean (Verilator)
- ✓ Reset macros used throughout
- ✓ FPGA synthesis attributes applied
- ✓ Integration guide written
- ✓ Known issues documented

6.2 Current Status

| Block | Priority | Status | Test Pass Rate | n | Documentation | Production Ready |
|-------|----------|-----------|-------------------------|------------|---------------|------------------|
| HPET | High | ✓ Compled | 5/6 at 100%, 1/6 at 92% | ✓ Complete | ✓ Yes | |
| 8259 | High | | N/A | N/A | | No |
| PIC | | Planned | | | | |
| 8254 | High | | N/A | N/A | | No |
| PIT | | Planned | | | | |
| GPIO | Medium | | N/A | N/A | | No |
| | | Planned | | | | |
| RTC | Medium | | N/A | N/A | | No |
| | | Planned | | | | |
| SMBus | Medium | | N/A | N/A | | No |
| s | | Planned | | | | |
| PM/ | Medium | | N/A | N/A | | No |

| Block | Priority | Status | Test Pass Rate | Documentation | Production Ready |
|----------------------|----------|---------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| ACPI | | Planned | | | |
| IOAPI C | Medium | Planned | N/A | N/A | No |
| UART | Medium | Planned | N/A | N/A | No |
| SPI | Low | Planned | N/A | N/A | No |
| I2C | Low | Planned | N/A | N/A | No |
| Watchdog | Low | Planned | N/A | N/A | No |
| Interrupt controller | Low | Planned | N/A | N/A | No |

7. Development Roadmap

7.1 Phase 1: Foundation (Complete ✓)

- ✓ HPET implementation
- ✓ Directory structure for multiple blocks
- ✓ Testbench architecture established
- ✓ Documentation templates
- ✓ Build and test infrastructure

7.2 Phase 2: Core Peripherals (Next 6-9 Months)

Q1 2026 (High Priority): - 8259 PIC (6-8 weeks) - Interrupt controller - 8254 PIT (4-5 weeks) - Interval timer - RTC (3-4 weeks) - Real-time clock

Q2 2026 (Medium Priority): - GPIO Controller (4-6 weeks) - SMBus Controller (6-8 weeks) - PM/ACPI Controller (8-10 weeks)

Q3 2026: - UART (4-5 weeks) - IOAPIC (6-8 weeks)

7.3 Phase 3: Advanced Peripherals (9-15 Months)

Q4 2026: - SPI Controller (5-6 weeks) - I2C Controller (5-7 weeks) - Watchdog Timer (2-3 weeks)

Q1 2027: - Interconnect ID/Version Registers (1-2 weeks) - ILB Wrapper integration starts

7.4 Phase 4: System Integration (15+ Months)

Q2-Q4 2027: - Complete ILB wrapper with all blocks - System-level integration examples - Performance characterization - FPGA reference designs - Application notes - Software driver examples

8. References

8.1 External Standards

Peripheral Specifications: - ACPI HPET Specification 1.0a - SMBus Specification Version 2.0 - 16550 UART Datasheet - I2C Specification (NXP) - SPI Protocol Specification

Bus Protocols: - AMBA APB Protocol Specification (ARM) - AMBA 3 APB Protocol v1.0

8.2 Internal Documentation

- /CLAUDE.md - Repository AI guide
- /PRD.md - Master repository requirements
- projects/components/retro_legacy_blocks/CLAUDE.md - Component AI guide
- projects/components/retro_legacy_blocks/README.md - Component overview
- projects/components/retro_legacy_blocks/TASKS.md - Task tracking

8.3 Block-Specific Documentation

HPET: - docs/hpet_spec/hpet_index.md - HPET specification -
docs/IMPLEMENTATION_STATUS.md - HPET test results - known_issues/ - HPET
issue tracking

9. Success Criteria

9.1 Individual Block Success

Each block must:

- Pass all basic/medium tests at 100%
- Pass full tests at $\geq 95\%$
- Have complete register map specification
- Include integration guide with examples
- Be lint-clean (Verilator)
- Use reset macros throughout
- Include FPGA synthesis attributes

9.2 Collection Success

The retro_legacy_blocks component is successful when:

- At least 6 blocks production-ready (HPET + 5 high/medium priority blocks)
- All blocks follow consistent architecture (reset macros, PeakRDL, APB interface)
- RLB wrapper integrates all blocks seamlessly with clean 4KB addressing
- System-level integration example provided
- Complete documentation for all blocks
- FPGA reference design available
- Address map covers all essential retro-compatible peripherals

9.3 Long-Term Vision

Ultimate goal:

- Production-quality retro-compatible peripheral subsystem
- Complete peripheral coverage for legacy platform requirements
- Used in production FPGA designs
- Educational resource for classic peripheral design
- Foundation for mixed-vintage SoC designs

Version: 1.0 **Last Review:** 2025-10-29 **Next Review:** After each new block completion **Maintained By:** RTL Design Sherpa Project