

Version for EDK 10.1.03 as of January 7, 2009

Acknowledgement

This lab is derived from a Xilinx lab given at the University of Toronto EDK workshop in November 2003. Many thanks to Xilinx for allowing us to use and modify their material.

Goals

- Use Xilinx tools to add to the basic MicroBlaze system that was built in Module m01. A primary goal of this lab is to understand more details about adding IP into the system without the Base System Builder and using device drivers.
- Use the General Purpose I/O (GPIO) IP core together with the associated device driver. The GPIO will be added to the project and used to turn on and off User LED 0 on the board. You will manipulate the state of the LED from XMD and by using a program.
- Get an introduction to the use and structure of driver code.

Prerequisites

Module m01: Building a MicroBlaze System in XPS

Preparation

- The GPIO is a simple parallel I/O port that has similar functions to the PIT used on the GIZMO board. You can have from 1 to 32 input/output ports, which corresponds to the processor having a 32-bit bus. If you use fewer than 32 ports, the advantage of working in the FPGA synthesis environment is that you will only instantiate logic for the number of ports that you require.
If you are on an installed system, find the overview of the XPS GPIO in the Processor IP Reference Guide. The Guide is provided in the EDK Online Documentation. The location of the documentation was described in Module m01. In the Guide you will find a link to the datasheet. Familiarize yourself with how this block works.
- Also, the Device Driver Programmer Guide is only available via the documentation tree of an installed system. Xilinx provides device drivers so that the user may create applications quickly and easily. The Device Driver Programmer Guide documents many details of the device drivers and software infrastructure. You should get familiar with this section as you may eventually need to write your own drivers. In this lab you will be required to modify some code to properly use the existing drivers.
- You will start modifying code in this lab. If you are not familiar with any source code control system, you can quickly learn one by doing `man rcsintro` on any Unix system. Using such a system is highly recommended and just plain good software engineering practice. You will need to run the commands from a window connected to one of the UGSPARCs. There is an SSH terminal program in the Courseware folder.
- You will need another 15MB of disk space. You can clean the files created in Module m01 via the Hardware and Software menus to save some space.

Background

Processor IP is an integral part of a System-On-Chip (SOC) system. Xilinx provides a variety of processor IP cores that can quickly and easily be integrated into a system using XPS.

This module builds from Module m01 and assumes that the user has completed Module m01. A basic understanding of the EDK tools should have been gained from Module m01.

Setup

1. Copy the XPS project directory (`lab1` folder) of the previous lab and rename the copy to `lab2`. This will be the working project directory for this lab. Extract `m02.zip` from the into the directory containing `lab2` to add the source files required for this module to the `lab2/code/` directory. If you like, you can delete the existing `lab2/code/` directory before extracting `m02.zip` to clean up the files from Module m01.
2. Start XPS by going to `Start` → `Programs` → `Xilinx ISE Design Suite 10.1` → `EDK` → `Xilinx Platform Studio`.
3. From the initial startup screen, select `Open a Recent Project` and click `OK`. Browse to the `system.xmp` file of in the `lab2` directory. Click `Open` to open the project. This is the project you completed in Module m01.

Adding A GPIO With User LED 0

4. Examine all the options in the `System Assembly View` to look at the various aspects of the system that you have already built. Think about how hard it would have been to do this from scratch! Having validated (tested) ready-to-use function blocks can significantly improve your design cycle.
5. From the `IP Catalog` tab on the left, expand the `General Purpose IO` tab. Double click `XPS General Purpose IO 1.00.a` to add it to the project.
6. In the `System Assembly View`, select `Addresses` from the `Filters` panel. Set the base address of the `xps_gpio_0` to `0x80040000`. The base address is the first address that will be decoded by the peripheral on the On-chip Peripheral Bus (XPS here).

Set the `Size` to be `512`. This will automatically set the `High Address` of the device to `0x800401ff`, which uses the minimum amount of memory space as displayed for the device.

What do you expect the tool to be doing with this information?

7. Select `Bus Interface` from the `Filters` panel. The lines on the left show the peripheral bus interfaces in the design and how the peripherals interfaces are attached to the buses. To understand what the boxes and circles are, place cursor over desired item. A filled shape means that the interface is connected, and a shape outline means that the interface is unconnected. Clicking a shape allows the interface to toggle its status between connected and unconnected. Click on the open circle next to the `xps_gpio_0` instance to make it a slave on the `mb_plb` PLB instance.
8. Right click on the `xps_gpio_0` instance and select `Configure IP...`. Clicking the `Datasheet` button opens the specification for the IP. Review the parameters that can be set and the signals that constitute the hardware interface for this IP.

Parameters are implemented in the IP using VHDL generics. This feature of VHDL is a large advantage for IP that must fit many different applications.

9. Select the `GPIO Data Channel Width` parameter and change its value from `32` to `1` such that there is only 1 bit of general purpose I/O. The general purpose I/O will be an output to control an LED on the board. Click `OK`.

10. **Select Ports.** Depending on the filters you have set, this view can be very lengthy. Right click the row containing the column headers and ensure **Flat View** is not selected. Scroll to find the `xps_gpio_` instance, expand its subtree, and select the `GPIO_IO` signal. In the **Net** dropdown box, select **Make External**. This adds the `GPIO_IO` signal to the list of **External Ports**, assigning the name `xps_gpio_0_GPIO_IO` to the external port by default.

What do you expect the tool to do with this information?

Notice that the `GPIO` signal is external such that it will be pinned out of the design and connected to a pin of the FPGA. In order to control **User LED 0** via the `GPIO`, the designer must ensure that the LED is connected to the same FPGA pin as the synthesized `GPIO` hardware.

Building The System With GPIO

11. Select the **Project** menu and the **Project Options...** submenu. Select the **HDL** and **Simulation** tab and ensure that **Verilog** is selected as the HDL type in the HDL panel.
12. Select the **Hardware** menu and the **Generate Netlist** submenu. This will take a few minutes to complete. This step is updating the system and resynthesizing it, this time with the `GPIO` IP included. When the synthesis completes, the design is not yet ready to be programmed into the FPGA — recall that the netlist must be mapped, placed, routed, and converted into a bitstream first.

Generating the netlist can be considered the “logical implementation” step of the synthesis flow, whereas the mapping, placement, and routing can be considered the “physical implementation” steps. In this step, we perform only the logical implementation step so that we can constrain our design prior to the physical implementation step — recall that the `GPIO` IP must be connected to the same physical pin on the FPGA as **User LED 0**.

13. In the **Project** tab on the left, expand the **Project Files** tree and double click on **UCF File: data/system.ucf**. This opens the file in an editor window. This file contains the design inputs and outputs to specific pins of the FPGA. Edit the UCF file to connect bit 0 of the `GPIO_IO` signal to **User LED 0** by adding the line:

```
Net xps_gpio_0_GPIO_IO<0> LOC=***;  
Net xps_gpio_0_GPIO_IO<0> IOSTANDARD=LVTTL;
```

where ******* is **B27** using the **XUPV2P** board. Save this file once you’ve made your changes.

*Hint: if you’re using the **XUPV2P** board, the necessary additions to the UCF are provided in the **User Guide**, on the **XUPV2P website**, and on the **CD** that came with the board — you can copy and paste them from there.*

The net name is the same as the signal **XPS** added to the **External Ports** section when you selected **Make External** from the **Net** drop-down in the `xps_gpio_0` section. The net is a bus and the `<0>` suffix specifies bit 0 of that bus. For more information on the UCF file and constraints in general, consult the **Constraints Guide** included in the **ISE Software Manuals** documentation set.

The FPGA pin specified in the `LOC` constraint is physically connected to **User LED 0** by a trace on the development board’s PCB. The pins of the FPGA are described in the **User Guides** for the **XUPV2P** boards. For the **XUPV2P** board, you can find pin **AC4** on page 43. Find the pin on the schematics for your board (**XUPV2P**). You will observe that the schematics are quite large. Use the find feature in Acrobat to look for the string `LED_0` (for the **XUPV2P** board). You should find that string on two pages, the first of which shows the pins of the FPGA and the second of which shows the connection to the LEDs. Remember how the LEDs are driven as a later step will ask you about this.

The `IOSTANDARD` constraint is only required on the **XUPV2P** board and is necessary only because **User LED 0** and the system reset pin share an IO bank. The system reset pin is already constrained in the UCF file to adhere to a `LVTTL` standard (*i.e.*, 3.3V IO). If the `GPIO` pin is not similarly constrained, a placer error will occur since two incompatible IO standards will be locked into the same IO bank. Consult the **Virtex-II Pro** datasheet for more information on IO banking.

14. Right click on Project: `mb0_default` in the Applications tab and select the Set Compiler Options submenu. A dialog box is displayed. Verify that the `XmdStub` mode of operation is selected. This will build the ROM monitor stub, called `XmdStub`, into the software and hardware so that debugging can be done. Executable mode assumes that the software has already been debugged and executes it on reset.
15. If you deleted the `code` directory when you copied your design from Module m01, remove `lab1.c` from the Sources node of the Project: `mb0_default` tree in the Applications tab. Select the Device Configuration menu followed by the Download Bitstream submenu. This will run the `NGDBUILD`, `MAP`, `PAR`, `TRCE`, and `BITGEN` tools from ISE to create a bitstream. `GCC` will not be used to build an executable, not because you removed the `lab1.c` source file but because the old `executable.elf` from Module m01 was copied and is still present. The old `executable.elf` will be inserted into the bitstream to initialize the BRAM and then the bitstream will be downloaded to the target board. This entire process will take a few minutes.

Testing The GPIO In Hardware

16. After the hardware and software have successfully downloaded, use XMD to test the system to ensure that the GPIO is working. Reads and writes of the GPIO registers can be done using the read (`mrd`) and write (`mwr`) memory commands of the XMD because the registers are memory mapped. The GPIO datasheet states that the `GPIO_DATA` register is at offset `0x00` and the `GPIO_TRI` register is at `0x04`. Previously, you set the base address of the GPIO to `0x80040000`. Add these numbers to determine the register addresses.

The tri-state register for the GPIO must be loaded with a value to configure the LSB of the register as an output as described in the GPIO datasheet. There's a way to specify the value that the tri-state register takes at power-up; did you notice it when configuring the GPIO peripheral? A zero must be written to the `GPIO_DATA` register to turn on the User LED. Can you explain this? Recall what you saw on the schematics.

The XUPV2P seems to require that you read from the `GPIO_DATA` register after writing to it for the write to actually affect the GPIO pin.

Adding Software To Use GPIO

17. Layer 1 drivers are high-level drivers. Their interfaces are defined in `<driver>.h` files. Each file includes the low-level (layer 0) driver interface defined in `<driver>_l.h`. The layer 1 driver has a larger memory footprint and more robust error checking that is not part of the layer 0 driver. The high level driver also supports more device features and interrupt driven I/O. Each function of the layer 0 driver takes the base address of the device as the first argument. Each function of the layer 1 driver takes an instance pointer as the first argument.
18. Remove the `lab1.c` source file from the previous lab if you haven't already done so by selecting it under Sources in the Applications tab and pressing delete.

Add the source file `lab2.c` by right clicking on Sources in the Applications tab, selecting Add File, and navigating to the `code` directory of your project. Before making changes to the file, a good practice is to use a source code control system to help you archive the multiple versions of your code as you change it. Use RCS, or another system, to archive the original file before you change it.

Reference the device driver documentation in the Driver Reference Guide to determine the names of the device driver header files. The Driver Reference Guide is available in the EDK Online documentation. You can also browse to the drivers included in the XPS project by looking in the `microblaze_0/include` subdirectory of the project. The source files for the libraries are copied there when you select Software → Generate Libraries and BSPs from the menus.

Make the appropriate changes to the source file such that it will compile. There are a number of places marked with `<TO BE DONE, ...>` that need to be modified. Some of the values can be found

by referencing the `xparameters.h` file for system-wide constant definitions. This header file is accessible by double clicking on Project: `mb0_default` → Processor: `microblaze_0` → Generated Header: `microblaze_0/include/xparameters.h` in the Applications tab.

This source code uses the GPIO driver to turn on and off the LED on the board at a visible rate. Note that the delay loop is written assuming compiler optimizations are disabled — if you haven't disabled compiler optimizations via the dialog you access by double-clicking on Project: `mb0_default` in the Applications tab, you won't be able to see the LED blinking even though it is. Save and compile the program. Note that XPS won't automatically save a changed file before compiling, so don't forget to save your changes before you compile... always! Connect to XmdStub with XMD. Open XILINXPORT and use the Software Debugger to verify that the code works correctly.

Other Things To Consider

- What version of the MicroBlaze processor IP is being used?
- What is the base address of the UartLite peripheral (*hint: its instance name is RS232*)?
- What is the instance name of the `xps_mdm` peripheral?
- What is the net name used for the system clock in the design?
- What is the name of the UartLite receive data signal? Is the external reset signal active high or active low (*hint: look at the parameters for the LMB bus controllers*)?

Look At Next

Module m03: Adding IP and Device Drivers — Timers and Interrupts