

MAX1000 Simple Nios Lab



Software and hardware requirements to complete all exercises

Software Requirements: Quartus® Prime Lite or Standard Edition version 18.0 or 18.1

Hardware Requirements: ARROW MAX1000 Board



1. Introduction

This tutorial provides comprehensive information to help you understand how to create a simple Nios soft processor system in an Intel FPGA and run it on your MAX1000 board. The Nios II processor is a soft intellectual property (IP) processor that you download (along with other hardware components that comprise the Nios II system) onto an Intel FPGA. At the end, you will understand basic concepts about Quartus Platform Designer (formerly Qsys), Software Build Tool and the basic development flow for the Nios II design flow.

Lab Notes:

Many of the names that the lab asks you to choose for files, components, and other objects in this exercise must be spelled exactly as directed. This nomenclature is necessary because the pre-written software application includes variables that use the names of the hardware peripherals. Naming the components differently can cause the software application to fail. There are also other similar dependencies within the project that require you to enter the correct names.

2. Getting Started

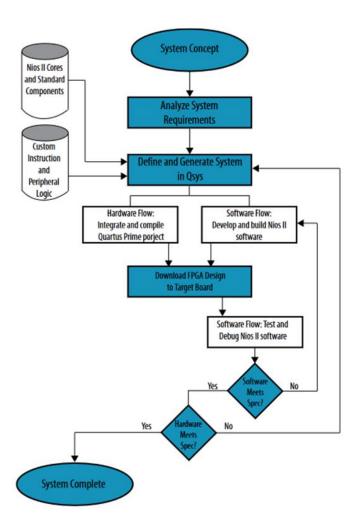
The first objective is to ensure that you have all the necessary hardware items and software installed so that the lab can be completed successfully. Below is a list of items required to complete this lab:

- MAX1000 Board (10M08SAU169C8G)
- USB Cable
- Quartus Prime 18.0 Lite was used for this lab. Previous/newer versions should work (If no Quartus Prime is installed, refer to MAX1000 User Guide for instructions)
- Installed Arrow USB Drivers (If not, refer to MAX1000 User Guide for instructions)
- Personal computer or laptop running 64-bit Linux / Windows 7 or later with at least an Intel i3 core (or equivalent), 4GB RAM and 12 GB of free hard disk space
- A desire to learn!



3. Design Flow

Developing software for an embedded system on a programmable chip requires an understanding of the design flow between the Platform Designer (formerly Qsys) system integration tool and the Nios II Embedded Development Suite (EDS). Typically, designs begin with requirements and become inputs to system definitions. System definition is the first step in the design flow process. For this workshop, the design will be built and then the FPGA image will be downloaded into the board. The objective of the module is to review the development tools that will be used.



The above diagram shows the typical design flow for the system design. The system definition is done with Platform Designer. The Nios II IDE uses the system description to create a new project for the software application. The output of the FPGA design is a FPGA image that is used to configure the FPGA. The output of the software flow is an executable which runs on the Nios II processor.

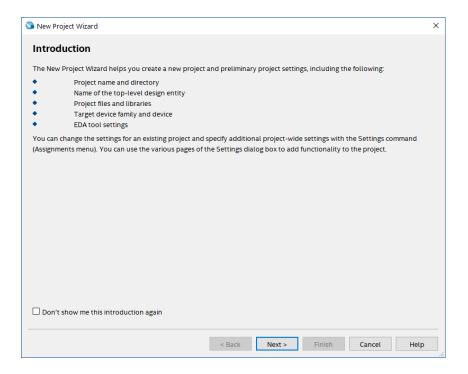


4. Project with MAX1000

4.1 Quartus Prime project

4.1.1 Create a new Quartus Prime project

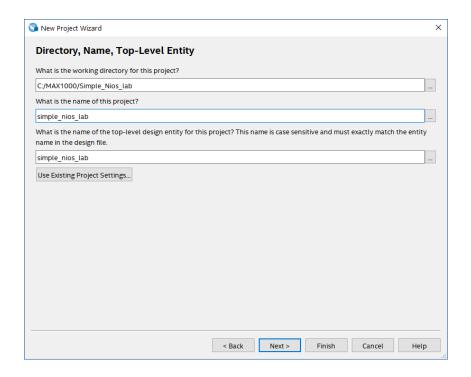
- 4.1.1.1 If not already open, from the Start menu or the Desktop, open the Quartus Prime 18.0 Lite software.
- 4.1.1.2 Create a new project using the New Project Wizard: File → New Project Wizard.



4.1.1.3 Click Next.

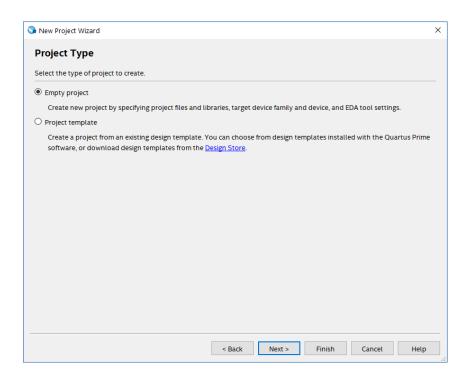
- 4.1.1.4 Configure the New Project Wizard directory, name and top-level entity information:
 - Enter a directory in which you will store your Quartus project files for this design, for example, C:\MAX1000\Simple_Nios_lab
 - Specify the name of the project: simple_nios_lab
 - Specify the name of the top-level entity: simple_nios_lab





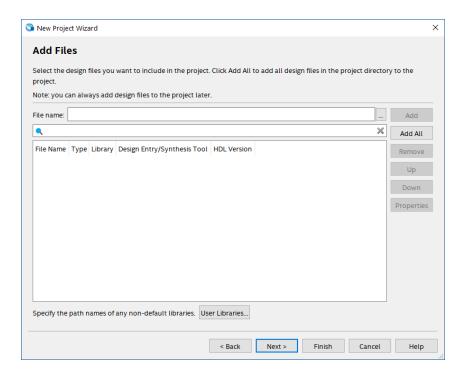
4.1.1.5 Click Next.

4.1.1.6 On the Project Type page, select "Empty project" and click Next.

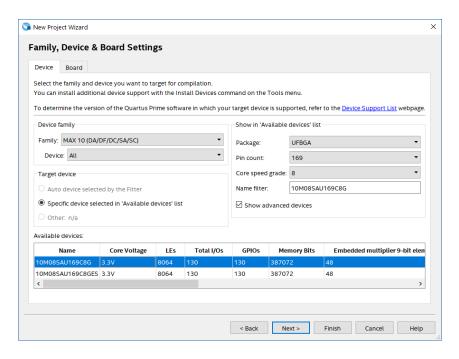




4.1.1.7 On the Add Files page, click Next.



4.1.1.8 Specify Family and Device Settings. Use pull-down menus to select MAX10 family or enter the part number in the Name Filter text box. The part number is **10M08SAU169C8G**.



4.1.1.9 Click Finish.



4.2 Design entry

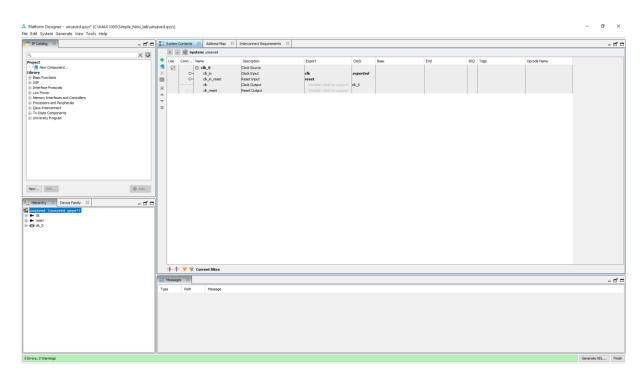
Overview: In this module you will use Platform Designer to create hardware for the processor system. You will add standard and custom components, make interface connections and assign clocks.

4.2.1 Add components to Platform Designer

Platform Designer is a high-level system integration tool that allows you to quickly build a system using Intel IP block as well as custom components. The tool automatically creates interconnect logic between the components for easy design use.

Platform Designer is made up of several components and automatically generates high performance interconnect between them. It allows you to connect components on an interface level, rather by signal by signal level. The tool understands the different types of interfaces and will only allow connections between interfaces of same type (i.e. a data master connects to a data slave, clock source to clock sink, etc.).

- 4.2.1.1 Open Platform Designer from the **Tools** → **Platform Designer** or clicking on the toolbar.
- 4.2.1.2 In the new window, you should see a single clock source component, named clk_0 in the System Components tab. This tab shows all the components currently in your system.

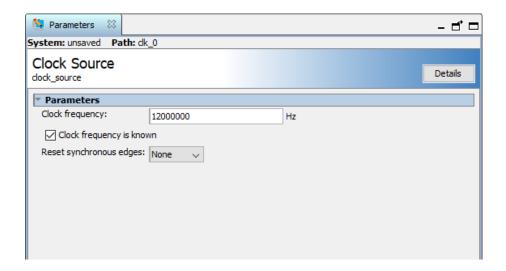


4.2.1.3 Double click on clk_0.

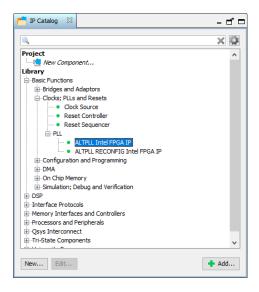


4.2.1.4 Set the Clock frequency to **12 MHz** (12000000 Hz).

Ensure that 'Clock frequency is known' parameter is enabled.

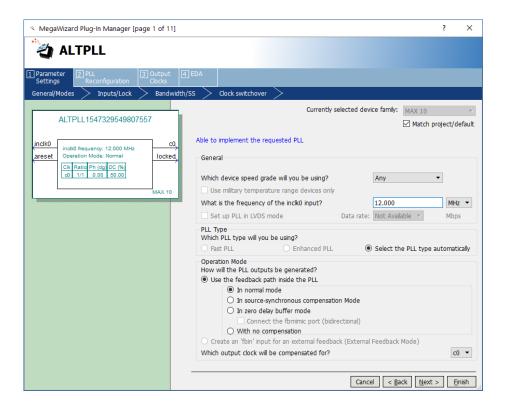


- 4.2.1.5 Click on **X** on the parameter tab to close the parameter window.
- 4.2.1.6 Right click on the clk_0 and select **Rename**. Rename the clock source to **clk12mhz** and press Enter.
- 4.2.1.7 From the IP Catalog panel on the left side, expand the menus for the Basic Functions → Clocks; PLLs and Resets → PLL and double click on ALTPLL Intel FPGA IP.

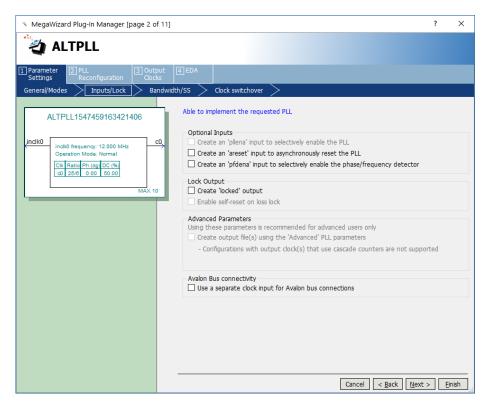




4.2.1.8 Under General/Modes tab (page 1 of 11) of PLL MegaWizard change the frequency of clock input to **12 MHz.** This source is provided by the internal oscillator in the MAX10 FPGA.

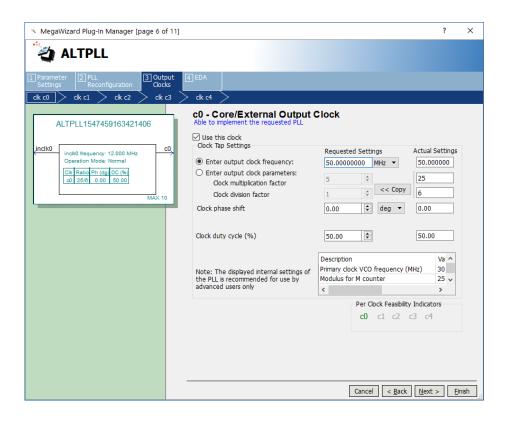


- 4.2.1.9 Click **Next**.
- 4.2.1.10 In Input/Lock tab (page 2 of 11) uncheck 'areset' input and locked output option.

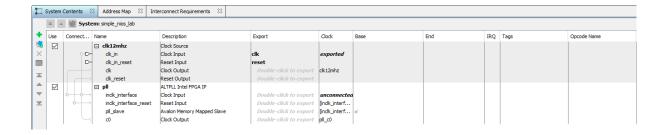




- 4.2.1.11 Click Next until you reach the Output Clocks tab (page 6 of 11).
- 4.2.1.12 Under the clk c0 tab (page 6 of 11) select "Enter output clock frequency" and enter **50** MHz.

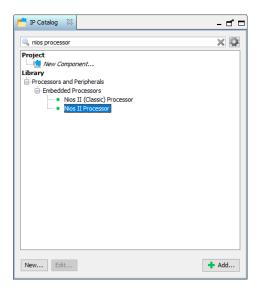


- 4.2.1.13 Click **Finish**. This will take you to the EDA tab (page 11 of 11). Click **Finish** again to close ALTPLL MegaWizard Manager.
- 4.2.1.14 A component entitled altpll_0 should appear under Module Name. Rename this component to **pll**.

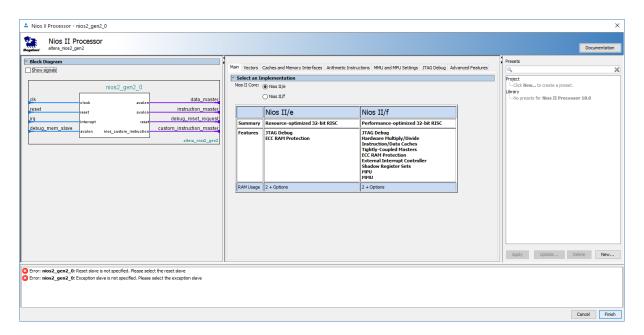




4.2.1.15 In the search bar of the IP Catalog, type "nios processor", and double click on **Nios II Processor**.



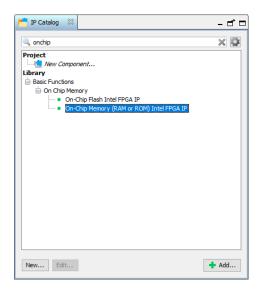
4.2.1.16 In the Main tab, ensure that the **Nios II /e** option is selected, and press **Finish**.



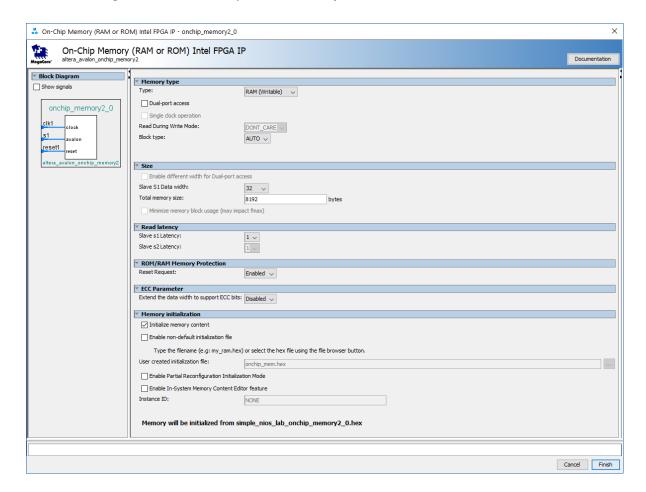
4.2.1.17 Rename nios2_gen2_0 to nios.



4.2.1.18 In the search bar of the IP Catalog, type "onchip", and add **On-Chip Memory (RAM or ROM) Intel FPGA IP**.



4.2.1.19 Change the Total memory size to **8192 bytes**.

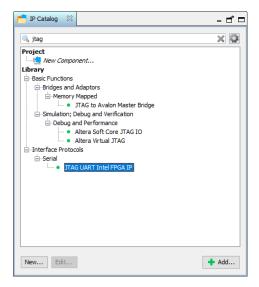


- 4.2.1.20 Accept the defaults for the remaining fields and press Finish.
- 4.2.1.21 Rename onchip_memory2_0 to **onchip**.

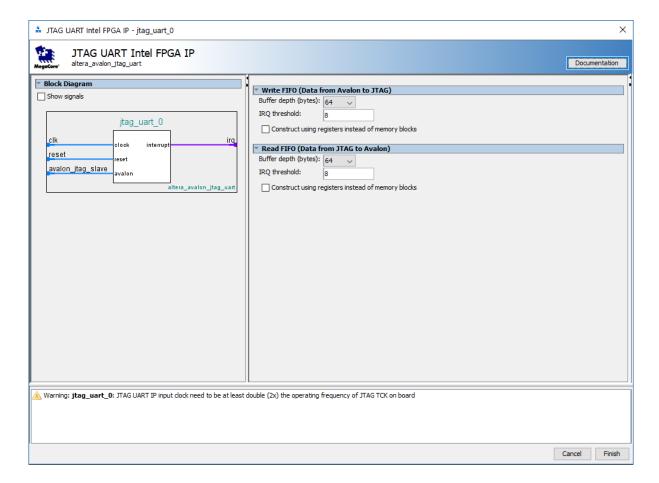
WDW



4.2.1.22 In the search bar of the IP Catalog, type "jtag", and add JTAG UART Intel FPGA IP.



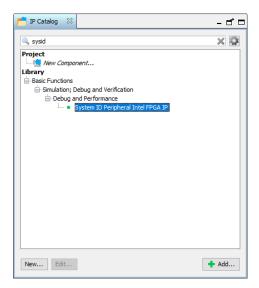
4.2.1.23 Accept all defaults and press Finish.



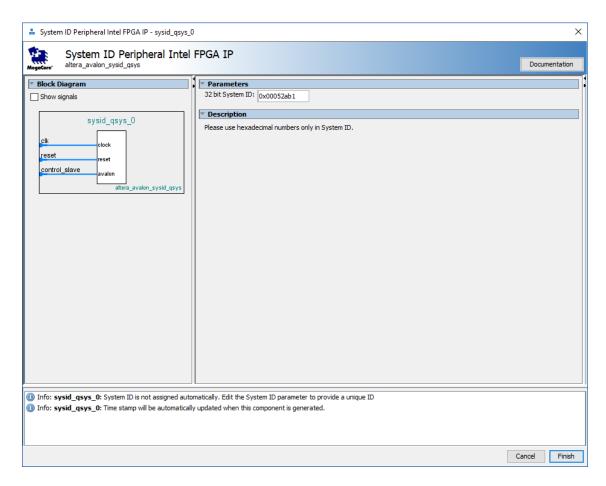
4.2.1.24 Rename jtag_uart_0 to jtag_uart.



4.2.1.25 In the search bar of the IP Catalog, type "sysid", and add **System ID Peripheral Intel FPGA**IP.



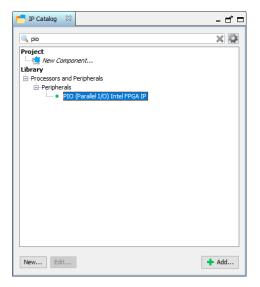
4.2.1.26 Edit the 32 bit System ID to any acceptable value you like, or just accept the default ID and press **Finish**.



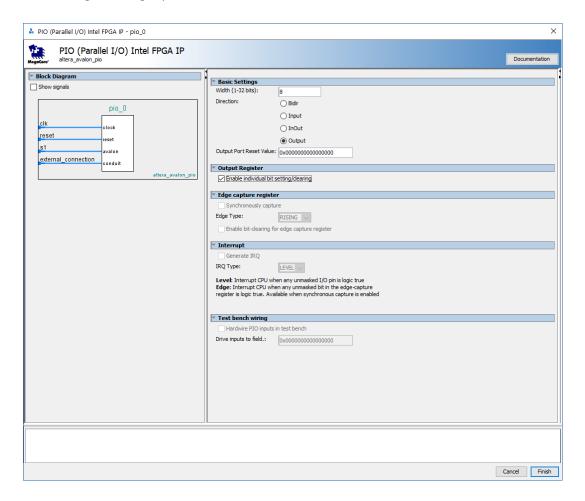
4.2.1.27 Rename sysid_qsys_0 to sysid.



4.2.1.28 In the search bar of the IP Catalog, type "pio", and add PIO (Parallel I/O) Intel FPGA IP.



4.2.1.29 Verify that the width is **8 bits** and the direction is **output**. Check 'Enable individual bit setting/clearing' option.

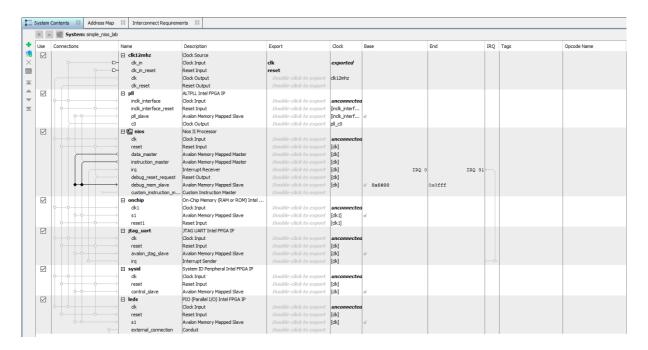


4.2.1.30 Click Finish.



There are multiple errors and warning in the bottom console indication that various ports are not connected, and the memory addresses are not correct. Ignore these for now, as we will address these connections and setups in the following steps.

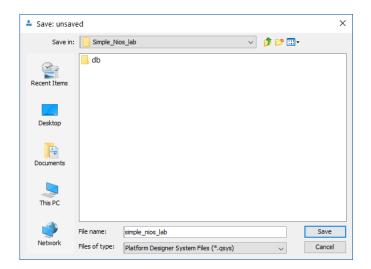
At this point, there are 7 components in the system and should look as follows:



4.2.1.32 Save your design **File** → **Save** and enter the following information.

■ File name: simple_nios_lab

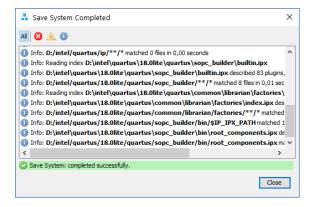
Files of type: Platform Designer System Files (*.qsys)



4.2.1.33 Click Save.



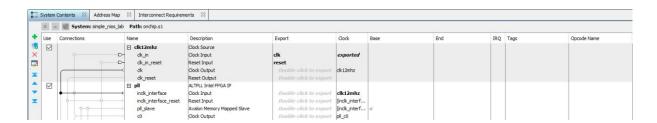
4.2.1.34 When the Save System Completed, then click Close.



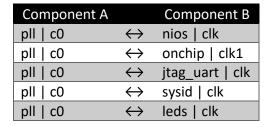
4.2.2 Connections

- 4.2.2.1 In the Connections column, hover over the connections and you will then be able to fill in dots to make the connections by clicking them.
- 4.2.2.2 Create the following connection: clk12mhz | clk ↔ pll | inclk_interface

The connection should look as follow:

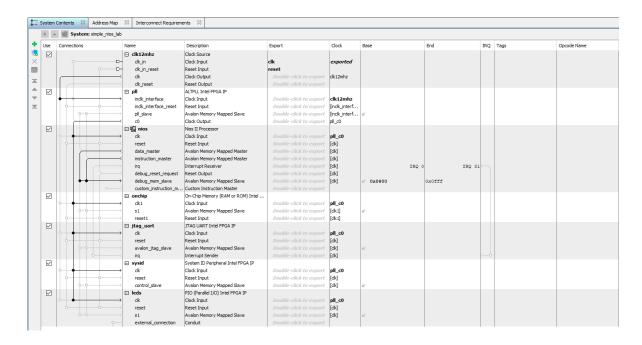


4.2.2.3 As in the previous step, make the following connections for the clock signal:





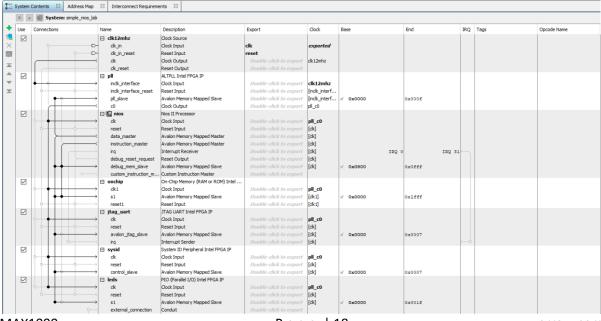
The connections should look as the follows:



4.2.2.4 Make the following connections for the data and instruction bus:

Component A		Component B
nios data_master	\leftrightarrow	pll pll_slave
nios instruction_master	\leftrightarrow	onchip s1
nios data_master	\leftrightarrow	onchip s1
nios data_master	\leftrightarrow	jtag_uart avalon_jtag_slave
nios data_master	\leftrightarrow	sysid control_slave
nios data_master	\leftrightarrow	leds s1

The connections should look as the follows:



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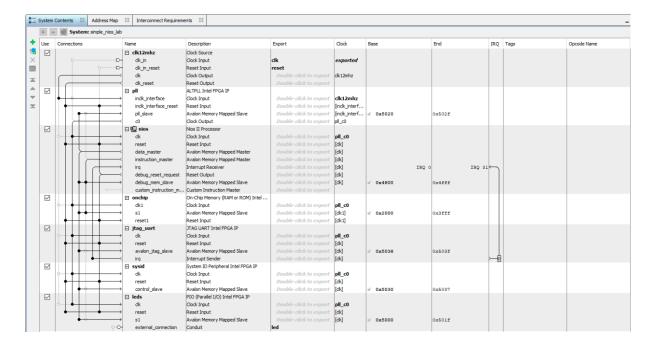
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- 4.2.2.5 Create the following connection for interrupt request:

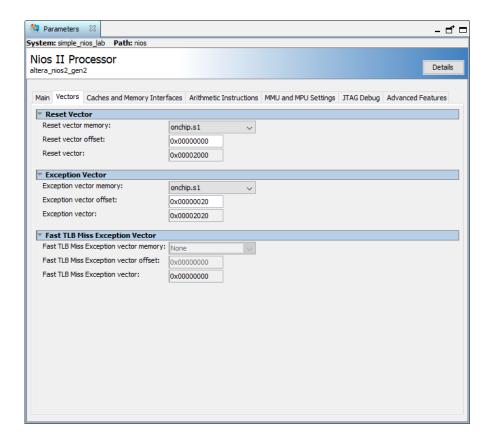
 nios | irq ← jtag_uart | irq
- 4.2.2.6 Double click on the Export field next to the external_connection of leds and name it **led**.
- 4.2.2.7 Automatically create global reset by selecting **System** → **Create Global Reset Network** from the menu.
- 4.2.2.8 Automatically assign base addresses for the peripherals by selecting **System** → **Assign Base Addresses** from the menu.
- 4.2.2.9 Verify that your system is the same as below:



4.2.2.10 Until these settings are applied, only 2 errors should be in the Platform Designer window, because the reset and exception vector are not set previously. To set these vectors, double click on the Nios II component **nios**. The Nios II Processor parameter editor will reopen.



4.2.2.11 Click on Vectors tab and set Reset Vector and Exception Vector to onchip.s1.



4.2.2.12 Review message window for remains errors.

At this point should be no remaining errors in the message window. If there are, please refer again to the previous steps to resolve them.

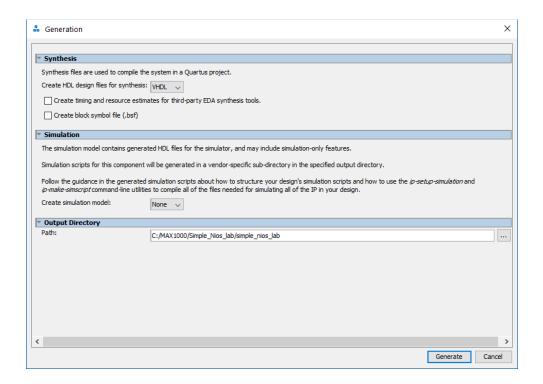
4.2.2.13 Save your design.

4.2.3 Generate the Platform Designer System

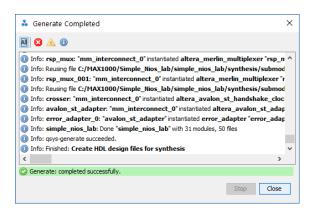
4.2.3.1 Select **Generate** → **Generate HDL...** from the menu or alternately click **Generate HDL...** button on the bottom right of the Platform Designer window.



- 4.2.3.2 On the Generation window, enter the following information.
 - Create HDL design files for synthesis: VHDL
 - Uncheck Create timing and resource estimates for third-party EDA synthesis tools.
 - Uncheck Create block symbol file (.bsf)
 - Create simulation model: None



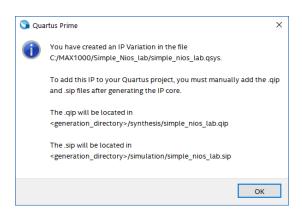
- 4.2.3.3 Click Generate.
- 4.2.3.4 When the generate process completed, click **Close**.



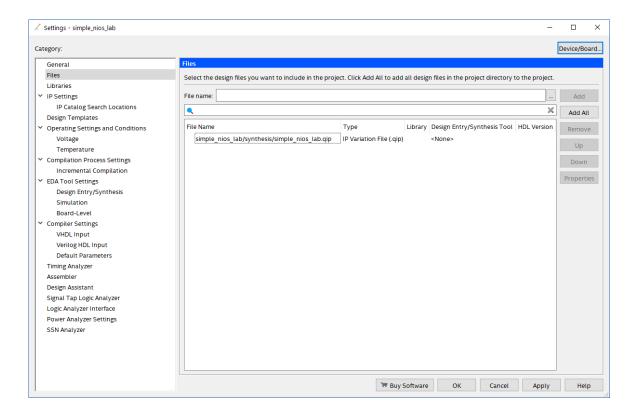
4.2.3.5 Click **Finish** button on the bottom right of the Platform Designer window.



4.2.3.6 It generates IP pointer files for both synthesis (.qip) and simulation (.sip) that will point Quartus to all the necessary design files needed to synthesize or simulate the Platform Designer system. Press **OK** to close as the .qip file will be added to the project in the following steps. Simulation will not be discussed in this lab, so no need to add the .sip file.



- 4.2.3.7 Choose **Project** → **Add/Remove Files in Project...** from the Quartus Prime menu.



4.2.3.9 Click Apply and OK.

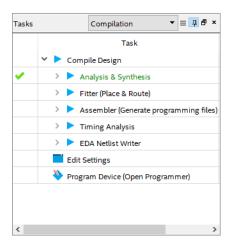


4.3 Compile design

4.3.1 Analysis and Synthesis

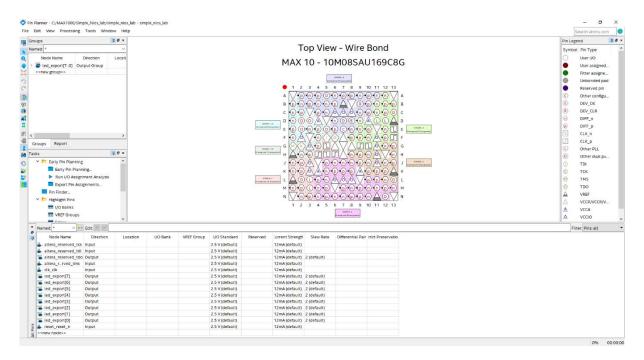
4.3.1.1 Run Analysis and Synthesis by clicking on button on the toolbars, or **Processing** → **Start** → **Analysis and Synthesis**.

There should be no errors. If there are errors, they should be fixed before continuing. If there are no errors the compilation task windows should look like this:



4.3.2 Pin Assignments

4.3.2.1 Open Pin Planner by clicking on button on the toolbars, or Assignments → Pin Planner.





4.3.2.2 In the bottom table, type **PIN_H6** in Location column of the clk_clk.

Node Name	Direction	Location	I/O Bank	VREF Group	I/O Standard	Reserved	Jurrent Strength	Slew Rate	Differential Pair	trict Preservation
altera_reserved_tck	Input	П			2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)			
altera_reserved_tdi	Input				2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)			
altera_reserved_tdo	Output				2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)	2 (default)		
altera_rrved_tms	Input				2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)			
L clk_clk	Input	PIN_H6	2	B2_N0	2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)			
ut led_export[7]	Output				2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)	2 (default)		
ut led_export[6]	Output				2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)	2 (default)		
ut led_export[5]	Output				2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)	2 (default)		
led_export[4]	Output				2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)	2 (default)		
ut led_export[3]	Output				2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)	2 (default)		
ut led_export[2]	Output				2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)	2 (default)		
ut led_export[1]	Output				2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)	2 (default)		
ut led_export[0]	Output				2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)	2 (default)		
reset_reset_n	Input				2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)			
< <new node="">></new>										

4.3.2.3 Repeat the previous step with the following assignments:

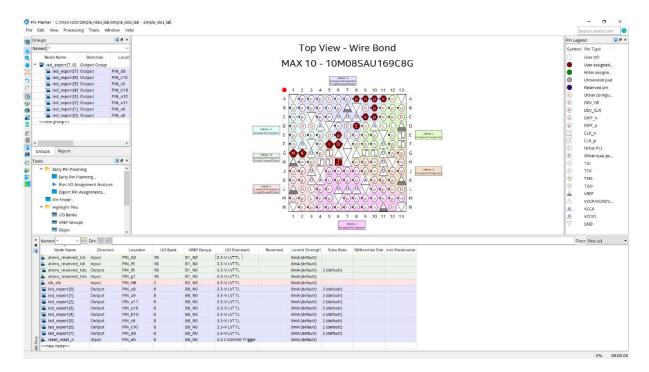
Node Name	Pin Location		
altera_reserved_tck	PIN_G2		
altera_reserved_tdi	PIN_F5		
altera_reserved_tdo	PIN_F6		
altera_reserved_tms	PIN_G1		
led_export[0]	PIN_A8		
led_export[1]	PIN_A9		
led_export[2]	PIN_A11		
led_export[3]	PIN_A10		
led_export[4]	PIN_B10		
led_export[5]	PIN_C9		
led_export[6]	PIN_C10		
led_export[7]	PIN_D8		
reset_reset_n	PIN_E6		

Node Name	Direction	Location	I/O Bank	VREF Group	I/O Standard	Reserved	Jurrent Strength	Slew Rate	Differential Pair	trict Preservati
altera_reserved_tck	Input	PIN_g2	1B	B1_N0	2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)			
altera_reserved_tdi	Input	PIN_f5	1B	B1_N0	2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)			
altera_reserved_tdo	Output	PIN_f6	1B	B1_N0	2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)	2 (default)		
altera_reserved_tms	Input	PIN_g1	1B	B1_N0	2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)			
L clk_clk	Input	PIN_H6	2	B2_N0	2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)			
ut led_export[0]	Output	PIN_a8	8	B8_N0	2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)	2 (default)		
ulli led_export[1]	Output	PIN_a9	8	B8_N0	2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)	2 (default)		
led_export[2]	Output	PIN_a11	8	B8_N0	2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)	2 (default)		
ut led_export[3]	Output	PIN_a10	8	B8_N0	2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)	2 (default)		
ut led_export[4]	Output	PIN_b10	8	B8_N0	2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)	2 (default)		
ut_led_export[5]	Output	PIN_c9	8	B8_N0	2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)	2 (default)		
ultiled_export[6]	Output	PIN_c10	8	B8_N0	2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)	2 (default)		
ut led_export[7]	Output	PIN_d8	8	B8_N0	2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)	2 (default)		
reset_reset_n	Input	PIN_e6	8	B8_N0	2.5 V (default)		12mA (default)			
< <new node="">></new>										



4.3.2.4 Double click in the I/O Standard column for any pins to open a drop-down list and change the 2.5V (default) to the specific I/O standard.

Node Name	Pin I/O Standard			
altera_reserved_tck	3.3-V LVTTL			
altera_reserved_tdi	3.3-V LVTTL			
altera_reserved_tdo	3.3-V LVTTL			
altera_reserved_tms	3.3-V LVTTL			
clk_clk	3.3-V LVTTL			
led_export[0]	3.3-V LVTTL			
led_export[1]	3.3-V LVTTL			
led_export[2]	3.3-V LVTTL			
led_export[3]	3.3-V LVTTL			
led_export[4]	3.3-V LVTTL			
led_export[5]	3.3-V LVTTL			
led_export[6]	3.3-V LVTTL			
led_export[7]	3.3-V LVTTL			
reset_reset_n	3.3-V Schmitt Trigger			

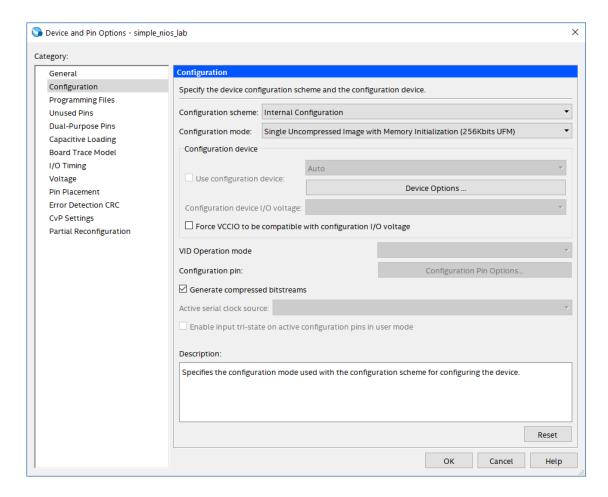


4.3.2.5 Close the Pin Planner, the settings are automatically saved.



4.3.3 Compiling the Design

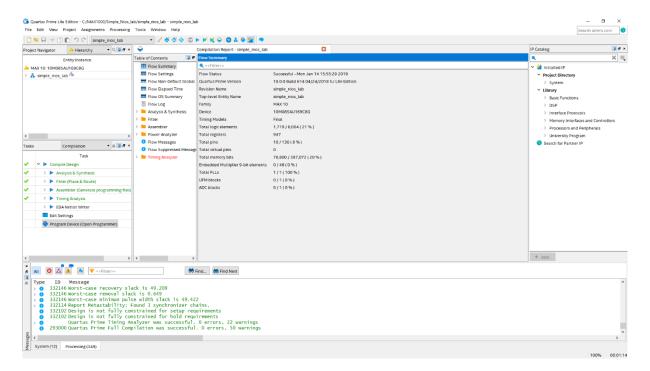
- 4.3.3.1 Open the device settings window from **Assignments** → **Device...** and click **Device and Pin Options**.
- 4.3.3.2 Click to the **Configuration** category.
- 4.3.3.3 Set configuration mode to **Single Uncompressed Image with Memory Initialization** (256kbits UFM).



- 4.3.3.4 Press **OK** to close Device and Pin Options window. Press again **OK** to close Device window.
- 4.3.3.5 Start Compilation by clicking on ▶ button on the toolbars, or **Processing** → **Start Compilation**.



There should be no errors. If there are errors, they should be fixed before re-compilating. The 100% in the lower right corner or a green checkmark next to the Compile Design in the Compilation task window indicates that the compilation was successful.



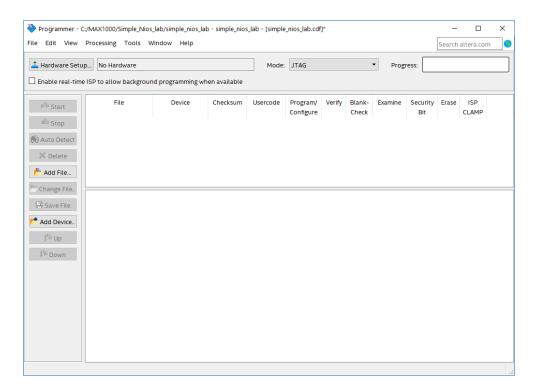
4.3.4 Configuration

4.3.4.1 Connect your MAX1000 board to your PC using an USB cable. Since the Arrow USB Blaster should be already installed, the Window's Device Manager should display the following entries are highlighted in red (port number may differ depending on your PC):

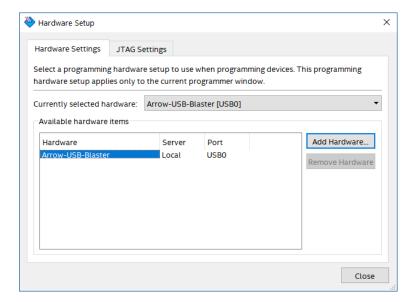




4.3.4.2 Open the Quartus Prime Programmer from **Tools** → **Programmer** or double click on Program Device (Open Programmer) from the Task window.



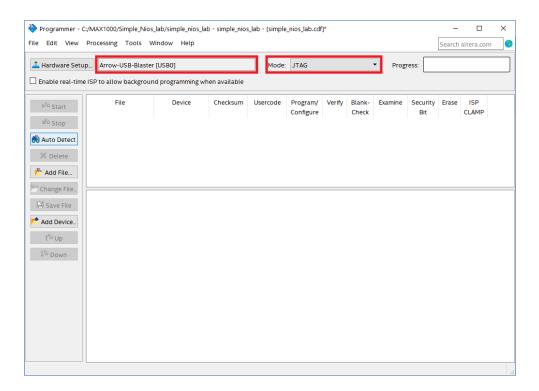
4.3.4.3 Click **Hardware Setup...** and double click **Arrow-USB-Blaster** entry in the Hardware Setup tab. The Currently selected hardware should now show Arrow-USB-Blaster [USB0] (depending on your PC, the USB port number may variant).



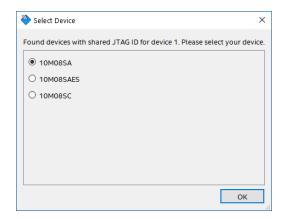
4.3.4.4 Click Close.



4.3.4.5 Make sure the hardware setup is Arrow-USB-Blaster [USB0] and the mode is JTAG. Click **Auto Detect**.



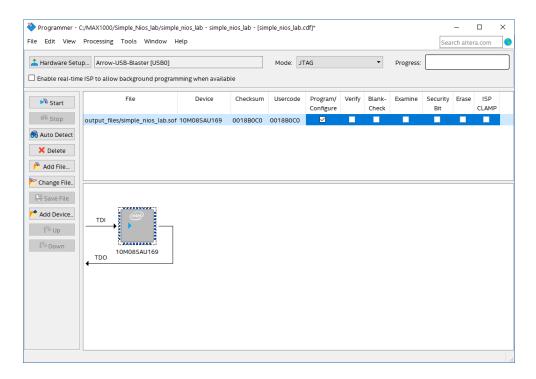
- 4.3.4.6 If the configuration has been added by default, you can skip the following steps and continue with the 4.3.4.11 point.
- 4.3.4.7 Select **10M08SA** device and click **OK** in the pop-up window.



- 4.3.4.8 Click **Change File...** or double click <none> to choose the programming file.
- 4.3.4.9 Navigate to ct_directory>/output_files/ and select the simple_nios_lab.sof file.
- 4.3.4.10 Click Open.



4.3.4.11 Make sure the Programmer shows the correct file and the correct part in the JTAG chain and check the Program/Configure checkbox.



4.3.4.12 Click **Start** to program the board. When the configuration is complete, the Progress bar should show 100% (Successful).



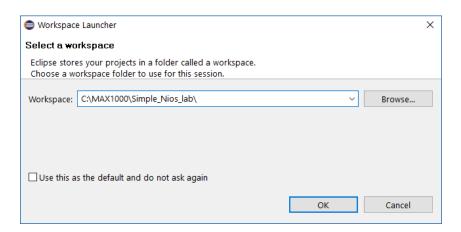


4.4 Software Design

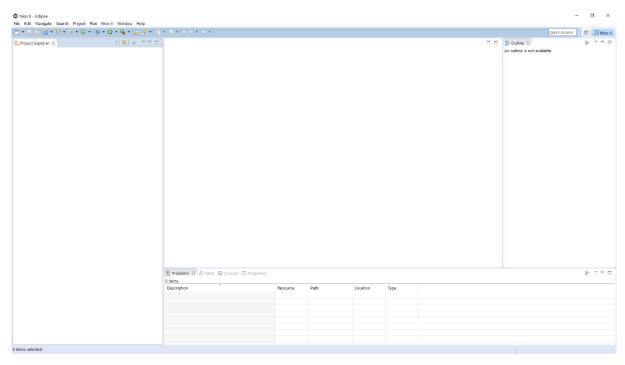
Overview: In this section, you will use the Nios II Software Build Tools (SBT) for Eclipse to quickly create a board support package (BSP) and a C software application to run on the Nios II processor.

4.4.1 Create a new software project

- 4.4.1.1 From the main Quartus Prime window, start STB from **Tools** → **Nios II Software Build Tools for Eclipse**.
- 4.4.1.2 The Eclipse Workspace Launcher will open. Click **Browse...** and choose the directory of your project. In this case it was C:\MAX1000\Simple_Nios_lab\.

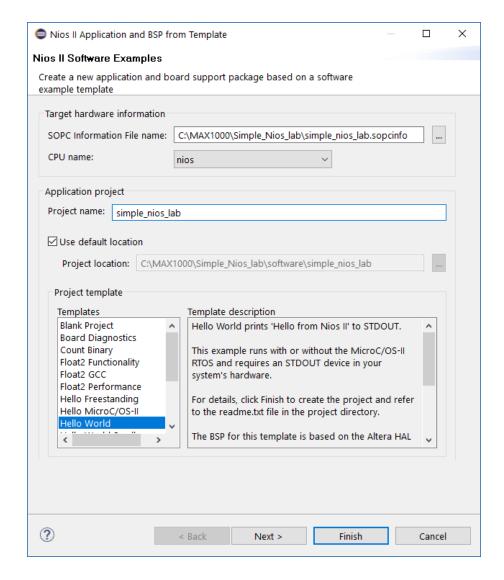


4.4.1.3 Click **OK** and the Eclipse will open.





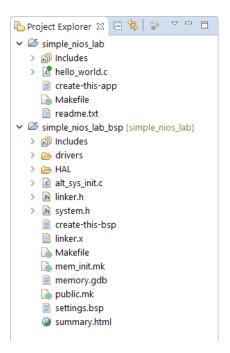
- 4.4.1.4 Select File → New → Nios II Application and BSP from Template.
- 4.4.1.5 Click to select the **simple_nios_lab.sopcinfo** from your project directory and name the project **simple_nios_lab**. Make sure you select **Hello World** from the Templates.



4.4.1.6 Click Finish.



4.4.1.7 Eclipse will create two directories in the workspace, one for the application project and one for the BSP. The application directory (simple_nios_lab) contains a hello_world.c file while the BSP directory (simple_nios_lab_bsp) contains software drivers, a system.h, header file and other software infrastructure.



4.4.1.8 Open **hello_world.c** file and read the code.

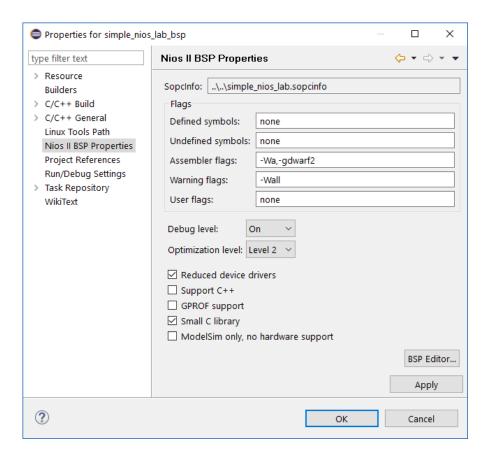
This print 'Hello from Nios II!' to the display.

4.4.2 Build the software

- 4.4.2.1 Right click on the simple_nios_lab_bsp project and select **Properties** from the pop-up menu.
- 4.4.2.2 In the Properties window select the **Nios II BSP Properties** tab. It may take a moment to load the settings.



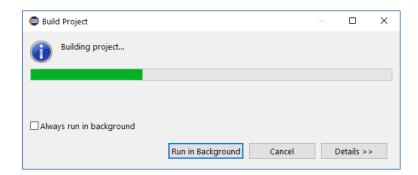
4.4.2.3 To keep the software footprint small so it fits our device, open the drop-down menu for Optimization level and change it to Level 2. Enable Reduced device drivers and Small C library options. As there is no C++ code, uncheck the Support C++ option.



4.4.2.4 Click **Apply**, and when it finished with Applying BSP Settings click **OK** to close Properties window.



4.4.2.5 Right click on the simple_nios_lab_bsp project and select **Build Project** from the pop-up menu.





4.4.2.6 When it finished, repeat the previous step for the simple_nios_lab application project.

```
Problems Tasks Console Console Properties

CDT Build Console [simple_nios_lab_bsp]

nios2-elf-gcc -xc -MP -MMD -c -I./HAL/inc -I. -I./drivers/inc -pipe -D_

Compiling altera_avalon_jtag_uart_write.c...

nios2-elf-gcc -xc -MP -MMD -c -I./HAL/inc -I. -I./drivers/inc -pipe -D_

Compiling altera_avalon_sysid_gsys.c...

nios2-elf-gcc -xc -MP -MMD -c -I./HAL/inc -I. -I./drivers/inc -pipe -D_

Creating libhal_bsp.a...

rm -f -f libhal_bsp.a

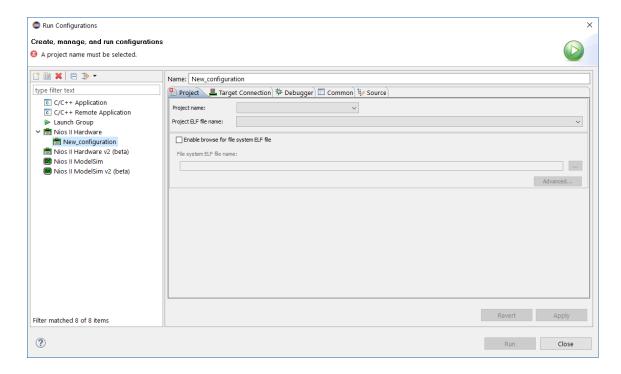
nios2-elf-ar -src libhal_bsp.a obj/HAL/src/alt_alarm_start.o obj/HAL/src/

[BSP build complete]

15:10:26 Build Finished (took 15s.967ms)
```

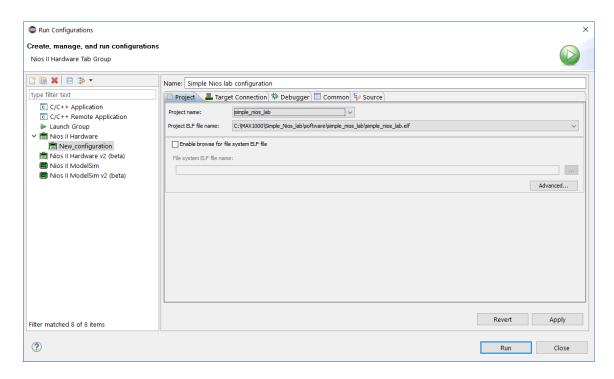
4.4.3 Run the application

4.4.3.1 Select simple_nios_lab and go to Run → Run Configurations... and double click to Nios II Hardware to add a new configuration.

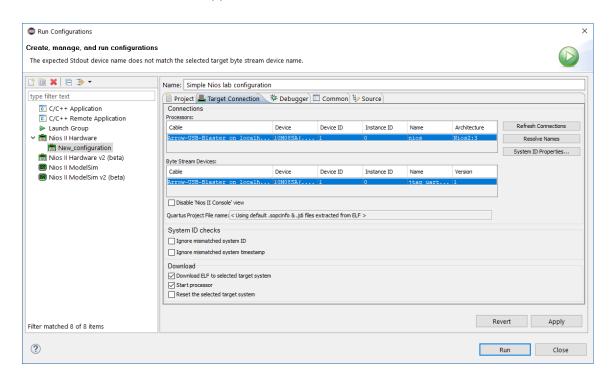




4.4.3.2 Rename it to **Simple Nios lab configuration** and on the Project tab select **simple_nios_lab** from the drop-down menu for the Project name.



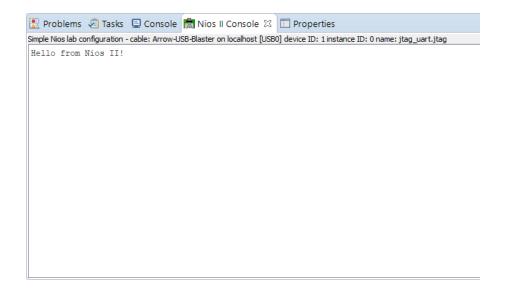
4.4.3.3 Click on the **Target Connection** tab and click **Refresh Connections** button. The configured MAX1000 board should appear.



4.4.3.4 Click Apply and Run.



4.4.3.5 After a few second, the Nios II Console should open at the bottom of the Eclipse



4.4.4 Edit and Rerun the program

4.4.4.1 Stop the program running by clicking on button on the top right corner of the Nios II Console window.





4.4.4.2 In the **hello_world.c** file replace the existing code with the following code:

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include "system.h"
#include "altera_avalon_pio_regs.h"
int main()
     int count = 1;
     int delay;
     printf("Hello from Nios II!\n");
     while (1)
           IOWR ALTERA AVALON PIO DATA(LEDS BASE, count);
           for (delay=0; delay<65000; delay++);</pre>
           if (count<512)
                 count=count<<1;
           }
           else
           {
                 count = 1;
    return 0;
```

4.4.4.3 **Save** the file.

4.4.4.4 Click on button on the toolbar to run it on your board.

You do not need to build the project manually, the Nios II SBT for Eclipse automatically rebuilds the program before downloading it to the FPGA.

4.4.4.5 Observe the LEDs are running on your board.

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE SIMPLE NIOS LAB!



5 Revision History

Version	Change Log	Date of Change
V1.0	Initial Version	14/01/2019



6 Legal Disclaimer

ARROW ELECTRONICS

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