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Asynchronous Data Capture Using the High Speed SelectIO Wizard

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Summary

This application note and associated reference design show how to use the High Speed SelectIO™ Wizard to generate an asynchronous receiver using the native mode I/O in UltraScale™ and UltraScale+™ devices.

A three-channel transmitter and receiver design can be implemented on a board such as the KCU105 board [Ref 1]. The reference design has been modified to provide easier pinout changes by using the High Speed SelectIO Wizard. The reference design targets the KCU105 board, but the design can be modified for other boards by following the guidelines described in this application note.

Download the [reference design files](#) for this application note from the Xilinx website. For detailed information about the design files, see [Asynchronous Reference Design](#).

Introduction

Asynchronous data capture allows data to be captured when using differential inputs like LVDS without a forwarded clock as commonly used in synchronous interfaces. Instead, a state machine uses a reference clock and the variable delays within the RX_BITSLICE to recapture the clock from the data stream. The clock recovery algorithm requires the RX_BITSLICE to be directly controlled, which requires the High Speed SelectIO Wizard to be configured and connected to the clock recovery algorithms.

These are the restrictions in asynchronous data capture:

- 1300 Mb/s (-2 and 3 speed grades) or 1250 Mb/s (-1 speed grade)
- Inputs must use differential inputs

These are the restrictions in the reference design:

- For porting purposes, the receiver (RX) and transmitter (TX) must be placed in different byte groups
- The receiver must use ASYNC mode DATA_WIDTH = 4
- The transmitter must use DATA_WIDTH = 8
- Changes to pins might require changes to VHDL

- A differential 125 MHz clock is used to control the virtual I/O (VIO) interface for general-purpose I/Os



RECOMMENDED: Drive clocks directly from global clock inputs that connect to the Quad byte clock strobe pins. The pin name contains the text string "GC_QBC." Directly connect global clock inputs to the PLL within the bank. Using the PLL with a cascaded MMCM clock source or sharing clocks across multiple banks might limit the performance.

This application note is organized by the following topics:

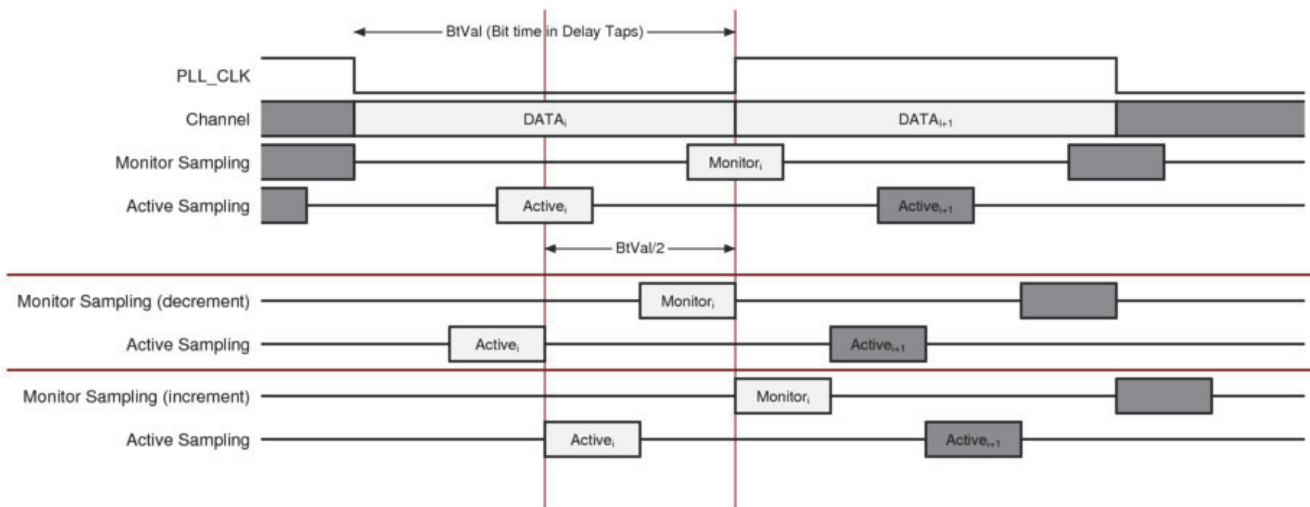
- [Asynchronous Data Capture](#)
- [Asynchronous Reference Design](#)
- [Simulation](#)
- [Hardware Operation](#)

Asynchronous Data Capture

Synchronous interfaces transfer data with a clock that has a known phase and frequency related to the data being transferred. For example in a DDR interface, the clock is normally phase-aligned with data being captured on both the rising and falling edges of the clock.

For asynchronous interfaces, sometimes only data is transmitted. In other cases, a clock is transmitted with data, but the exact clock/data phase relationship is unknown. To recapture the asynchronous data in these cases, the receiver's reference clock must match the frequency of the data within ± 100 ppm. For example, if the transmitter transmits data at 1250 Mb/s and the receiver requires a clock of 625 MHz, the reference clock can vary by ± 0.125 MHz. For this reference design, the receiver's circuitry uses the RX_BITSLICE (native mode) along with control circuitry to track the phase alignment of the asynchronous data. This data recovery method is called phase tracking.

The phase tracking is loosely based on the Alexander Bang-Bang Phase Detector. As shown in [Figure 1](#), a monitor is adjusted to be aligned to the edge of the data transitions based on using the active and monitor data. When monitor is at the edge of data, active is centered due to the separation of half a bit time ($BtVal/2$).

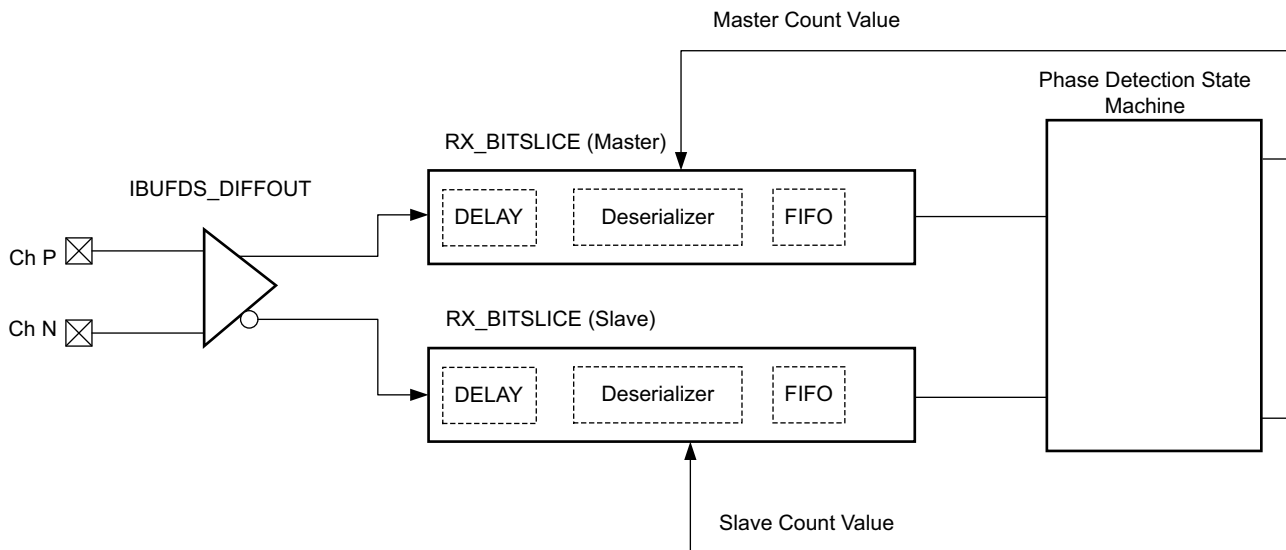


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Figure 1: Monitor Phase Tracking Adjustments (Active Delay > Monitor Delay)

For this phase tracking to work, the delay tap value for a single bit time must be read from the BITSlice_CONTROL. For a design operating at 1250 Mb/s, the bit time is 800 ps. A register interface unit (RIU) state machine records this delay value as BtVal, which is then used by the phase tracking algorithm. For example, if the average tap delay is 5 [ps/tap], then BtVal = 160 for this example calculation.

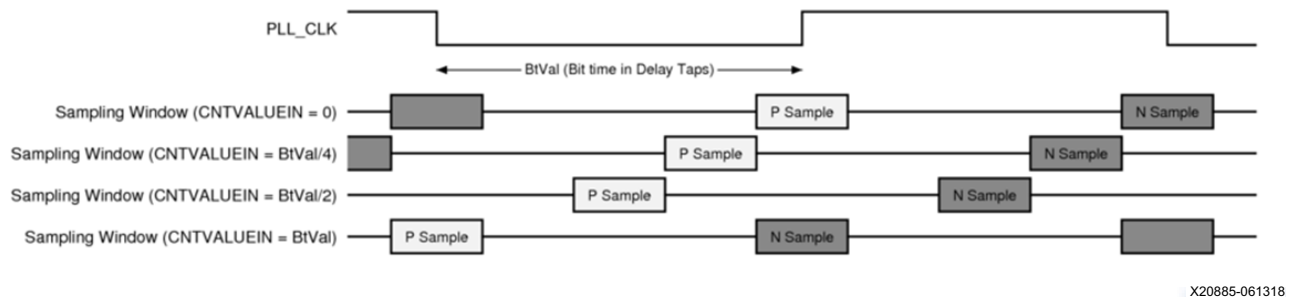
In UltraScale and UltraScale+ devices, differential pairs can use both RX_BITSLICES, as shown in Figure 2. A state machine is used to control the delays for both the master and slave RX_BITSLICES so that one of the bitslices samples the data at the center of a bit time (active) while the other bitslice samples data at the edge of the bit time (monitor).



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Figure 2: Differential Channel For Asynchronous Phase Tracking

In UltraScale devices, the phases are controlled by adjusting the CNTVALUEIN for the different RX_BITSLICES, which inserts the delays into the datapath. Increasing the delay value has the effect of moving the sampling window negatively, as shown in Figure 3.



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Figure 3: Data Sampling Window With RX_BITSLICE Delays

Communication protocols use 8B/10B encoding to transmit data requiring a gearbox to convert the 4-bit patterns to 10-bit patterns. The state machine uses the 4-bit to 10-bit gearbox to additionally ensure data is not lost due to the phase tracking.

This gearbox also provides the additional purpose of compensating up to the 200 ppm difference between the data rate and reference clock. The gearbox is implemented as a 15-bit shift register and can gradually insert or remove an extra bit of data using oversampling and consequently ensuring no data is lost. For the gearbox, both the write and read side are clocked by a fabric clock running at the frequency of the parallel data ($1250 \text{ Mb/s} \div 4 = 312.5 \text{ MHz}$).

Asynchronous Reference Design

Download the [reference design files](#) for this application note from the Xilinx website.

Table 1 shows the reference design matrix.

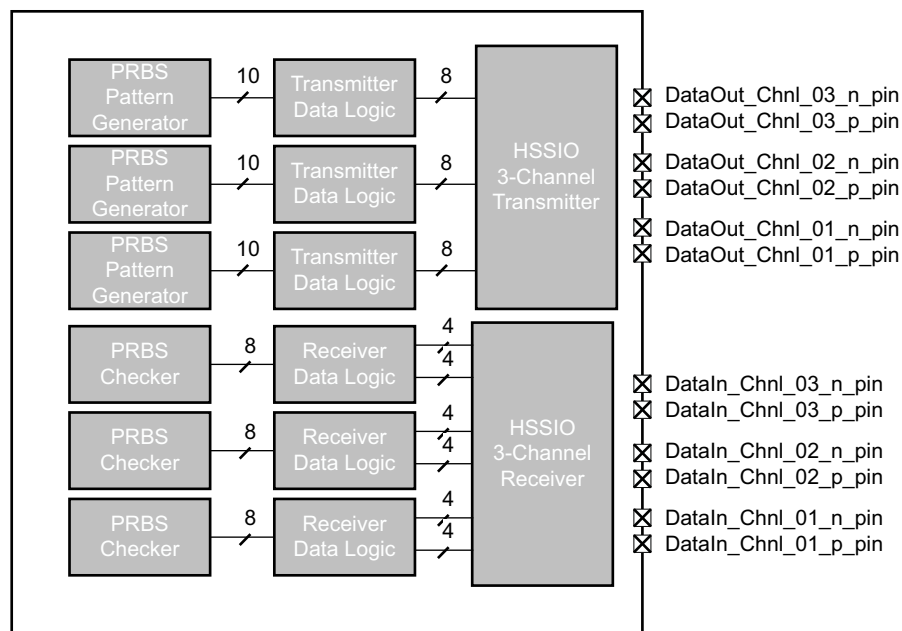
Table 1: Reference Design Matrix

Parameter	Description
General	
Developer name	Jim Tatsukawa and Marc Defossez
Target devices	UltraScale FPGAs
Source code provided	Yes
Source code format	VHDL and Verilog
Design uses code and IP from existing Xilinx application note and reference designs or third party	Yes
Simulation	
Functional simulation performed	Yes
Timing simulation performed	Yes
Test bench used for functional and timing simulations	Yes

Table 1: Reference Design Matrix (Cont'd)

Parameter	Description
Test bench format	Verilog
Simulator software/version used	Vivado® simulator
SPICE/IBIS simulations	No
Implementation	
Synthesis software tools/versions used	Vivado tools 2017.4 and later
Implementation software tools/versions used	Vivado tools 2017.4 and later
Static timing analysis performed	Yes
Hardware Verification	
Hardware verified	Yes
Hardware platform used for verification	KCU105 board

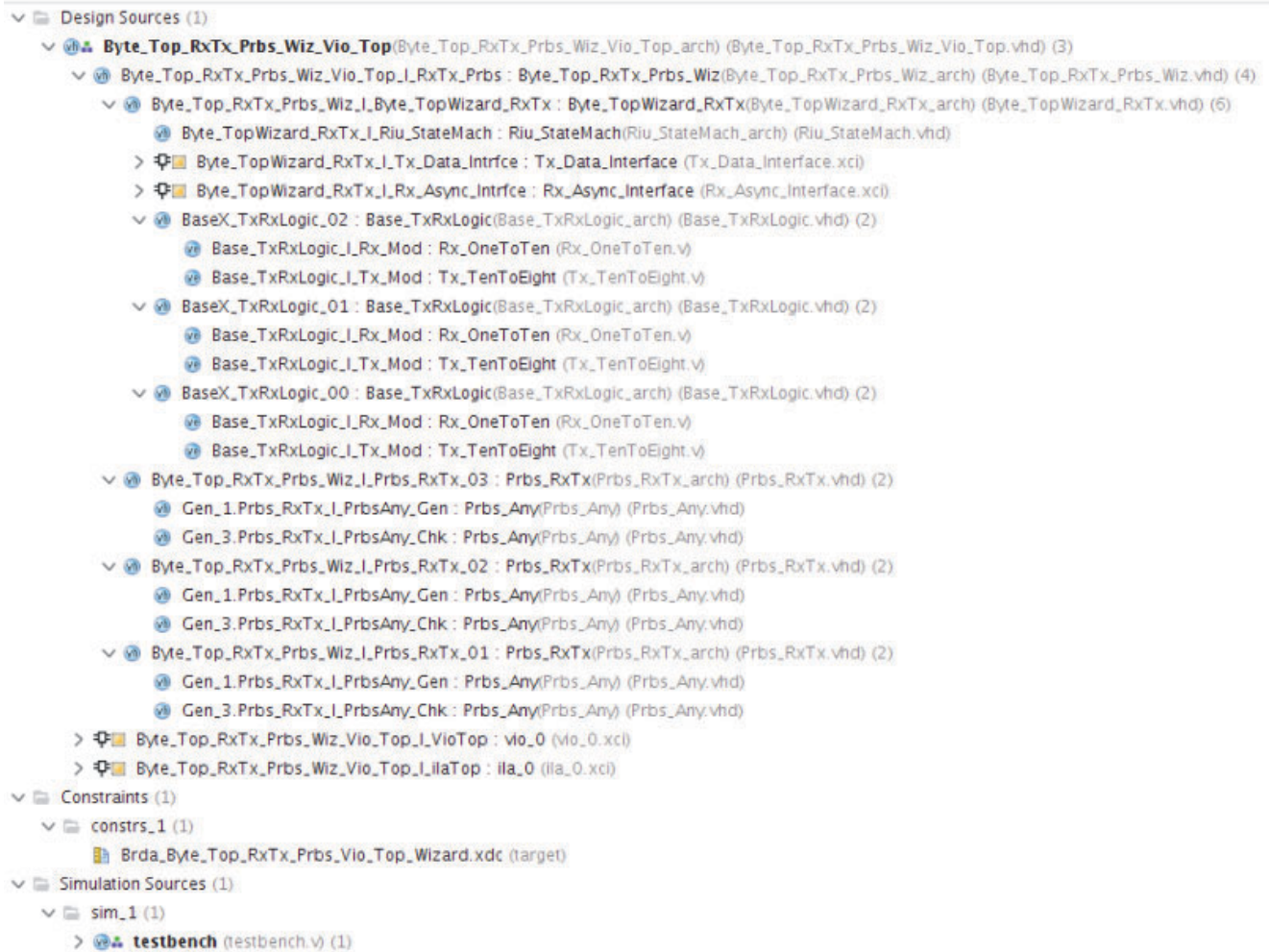
The reference design accompanying this application note uses the High Speed SelectIO Wizard to generate the native mode interfaces for the TX and RX as shown in [Figure 4](#).



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Figure 4: Asynchronous Block Diagram

The design files are organized as shown in [Figure 5](#). In the download files, a TCL script (`top.tcl`) has been added to rebuild the project.



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Figure 5: Design Files

The reference design uses four cores:

- Tx_Data_Interface - High Speed SelectIO Wizard for transmitter setup of TX_BITSLICE
- Rx_Async_Interface - High Speed SelectIO Wizard for receiver setup of RX_BITSLICE
- vio_0 - Hardware interface to control resets and for getting status of reference design
- ila_0 - Hardware debug interface for capturing data during operation

The constraint file has additional settings for the specific demonstration board being targeted and might not be needed for all boards. The High Speed SelectIO Wizard provides additional constraints such as placement and select I/O settings.

The phase alignment algorithm requires RIU access to the BITSlice_CONTROL, which is why the RX and TX interfaces must be kept in different byte groups and the design can be used without any changes. For designs that must place the RX and TX interfaces within the same byte group, the RIU_OR must be used within the Byte_TopWizard_RxTx.vhd design file. The RIU_OR has been commented out in the Byte_TopWizard_RxTx.vhd design file. Because the RIU_OR has been removed, the transmitter and receiver can be placed in different banks.

While changing pinouts for any device is simplified by using the wizard and using the same signal names for the ports, a number of interface signals need to be updated based on the instantiation template. The port names can be seen in the instantiation template for the given IP source. For VHDL, the component definition and the instantiation need to be updated.

These are the RX port names based on byte group:

```
riu_addr_bg<#>          => IntRiu_Addr,           -- in [5:0]
riu_wr_data_bg<#>      => IntRiu_WrData,         -- in [15:0]
riu_rd_data_bg<#>      => IntBase_Riu_Rd_Data_Rx, -- out [15:0]
riu_valid_bg<#>        => IntBase_Riu_Valid_Rx,  -- out
riu_wr_en_bg<#>        => IntRiu_Wr_En,         -- in
riu_nibble_sel_bg<#>   => IntRiu_Nibble_Sel,     -- in [1:0]
```

These are the RX port names based on nibble (bitslice control):

```
dly_rdy_bsc<#>          => IntBase_Rx_Dly_Rdy,     -- out
```

These are the RX port names based on bitslice:

```
rx_en_vtc<#>           => IntBase_Rx_Bs_En_Vtc,    -- in
fifo_rd_clk<#>         => IntBase_Rx_Fifo_Rd_Clk,  -- in
fifo_rd_en<#>          => IntBase_Rx_Fifo_Rd_En_0(1), -- in
fifo_empty<#>         => IntBase_Rx_Fifo_Empty_0(1), -- out
rx_ce<#>               => Low,                    -- in
rx_inc<#>              => Low,                    -- in
rx_load<#>            => IntBase_Idly_Load_0(1),   -- in
rx_cntvaluein<#>      => IntBase_Idly_CntValueIn_0(17 downto 9), -- in [8:0]
rx_cntvalueout<#>     => IntBase_Idly_CntValueOut_0(17 downto 9), -- out [8:0]
```

These are the TX port names based on nibble (bitslice control)

```
vtc_rdy_bsc<#>        => open,                    --: OUT STD_LOGIC;
en_vtc_bsc<#>         => IntBase_Tx_Bsc_En_Vtc,    --: IN STD_LOGIC;
dly_rdy_bsc<#>        => IntBase_Tx_Dly_Rdy_bsc4,  --: OUT STD_LOGIC;
```

For the TX ports, if the design spans multiple nibbles, the `dly_rdy_bsc<#>` for each of the nibbles should be combined using the `Stat_Tx_Dly_Rdy` (`Byte_TopWizard_RxTx.vhd`). For example, if the TX interface spans nibble 0 and nibble 1, the `Tx_Data_Interface` should be adjusted as follows for `dly_rdy_bsc#` connections:

```
Stat_Tx_Dly_Rdy      <= IntBase_Tx_Dly_Rdy_bsc0 and IntBase_Tx_Dly_Rdy_bsc1;
Byte_TopWizard_RxTx_I_Tx_Data_Intrfce : Tx_Data_Interface
  port map (
    Tx_dly_rdy_bsc0 => IntBase_Tx_Dly_Rdy_bsc0,
    Tx_dly_rdy_bsc1 => IntBase_Tx_Dly_Rdy_bsc1,
    ...
  )
```

The following lists pin selection guidelines for simplifying RX and TX designs:

- Each byte group must be either RX or TX.
- Empty byte groups are allowed. For example, an interface can use byte group 0 and 2.
- Byte groups spanning each interface must be either RX or TX. If byte groups 0 and 2 are used for the RX, byte group 1 must either be an RX or left empty.

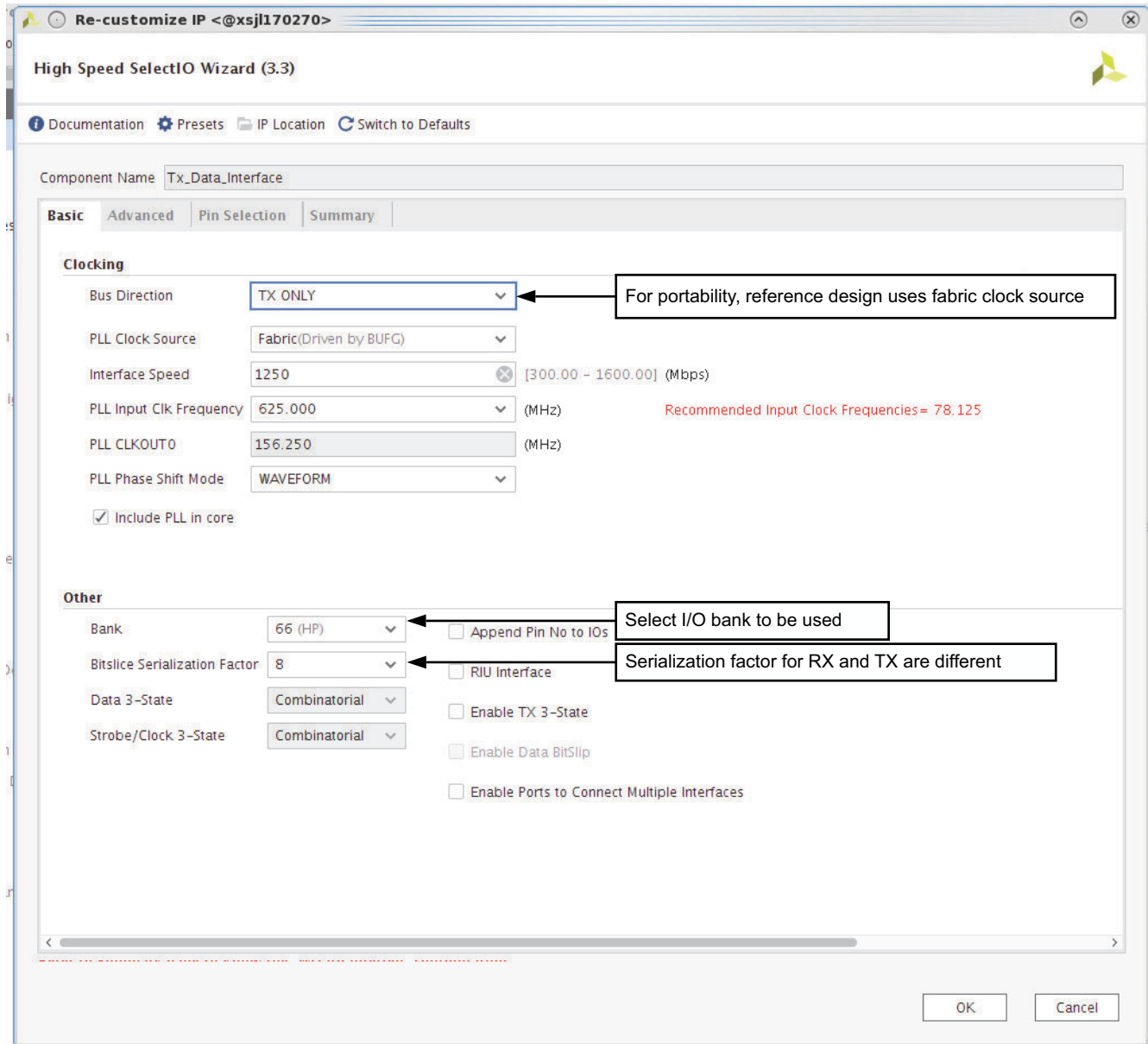
Figure 6 shows how the bitslices are organized within a bank.

Bitslice	Nibble (Bitslice Control)	Byte Group
51	7	3
...		
45		
44	6	
...		
39		
38	5	2
...		
32		
31	4	
...		
26		
25	3	1
...		
19		
18	2	
...		
13		
12	1	0
...		
6		
5	0	
...		
0		

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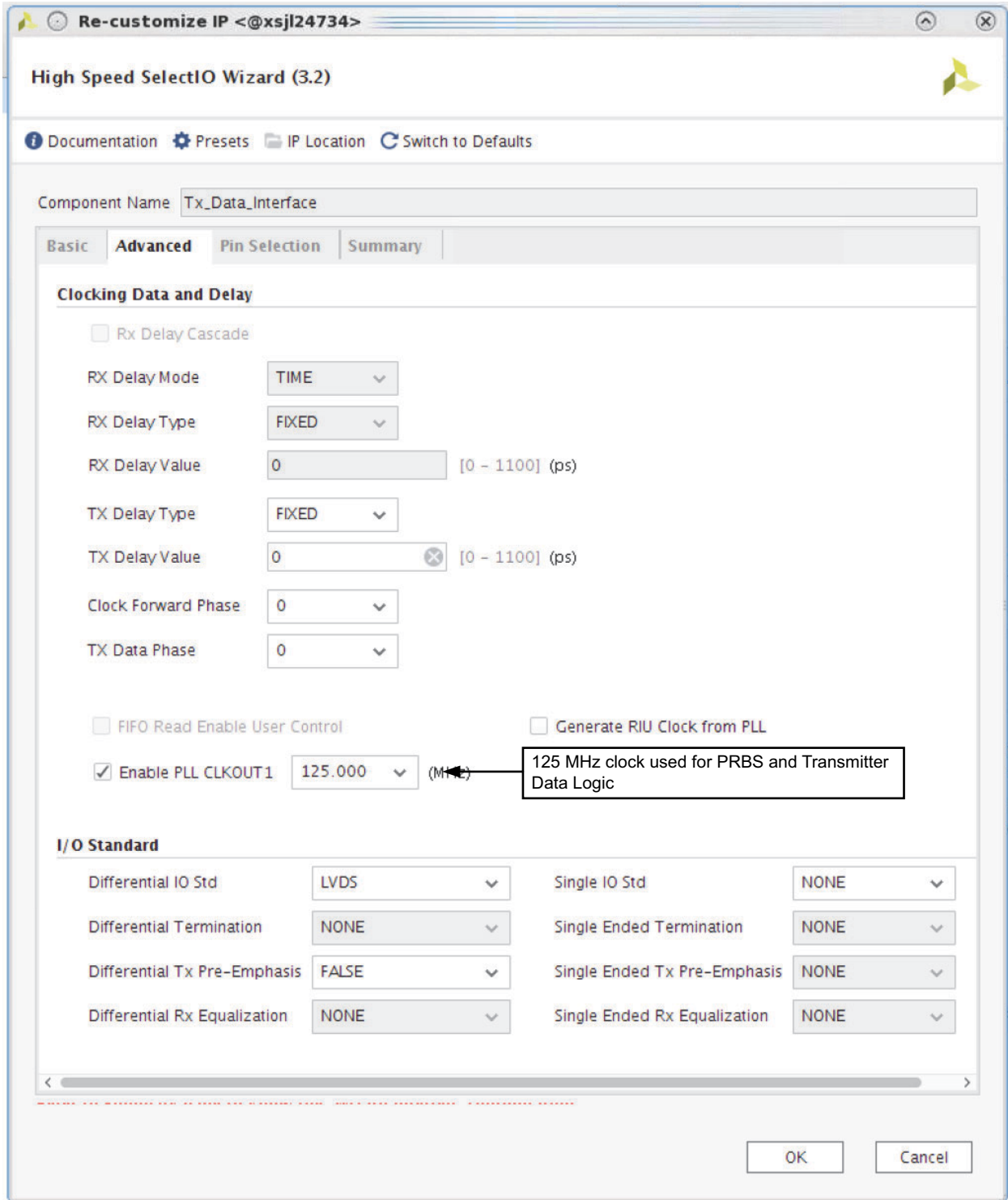
Figure 6: Bitslice, Nibble, and Byte Group Number within a Bank

For the reference design to work, the TX and RX wizard settings are shown in [Figure 7](#) to [Figure 11](#).



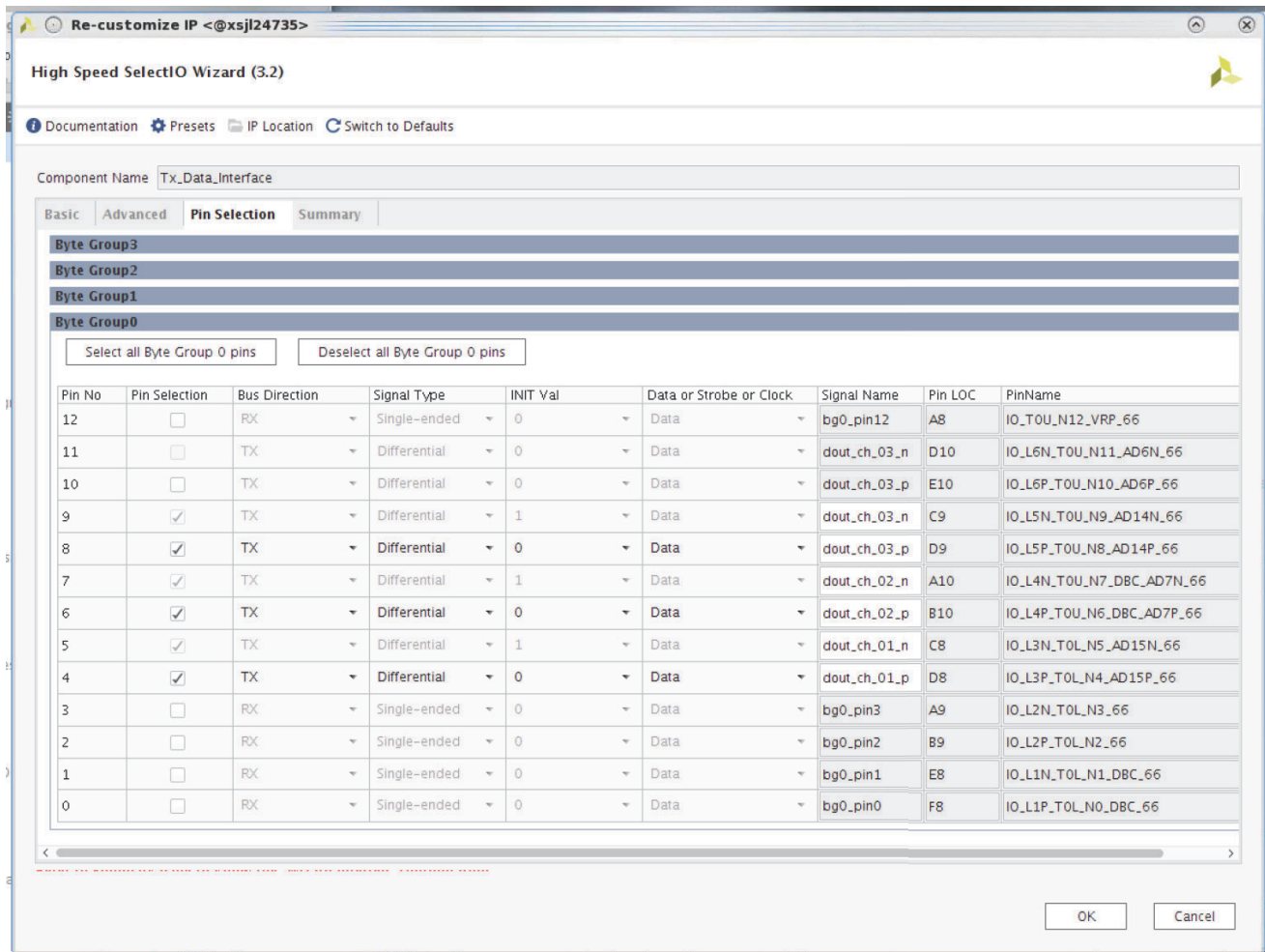
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Figure 7: High Speed SelectIO Wizard TX Setup - Basic Tab



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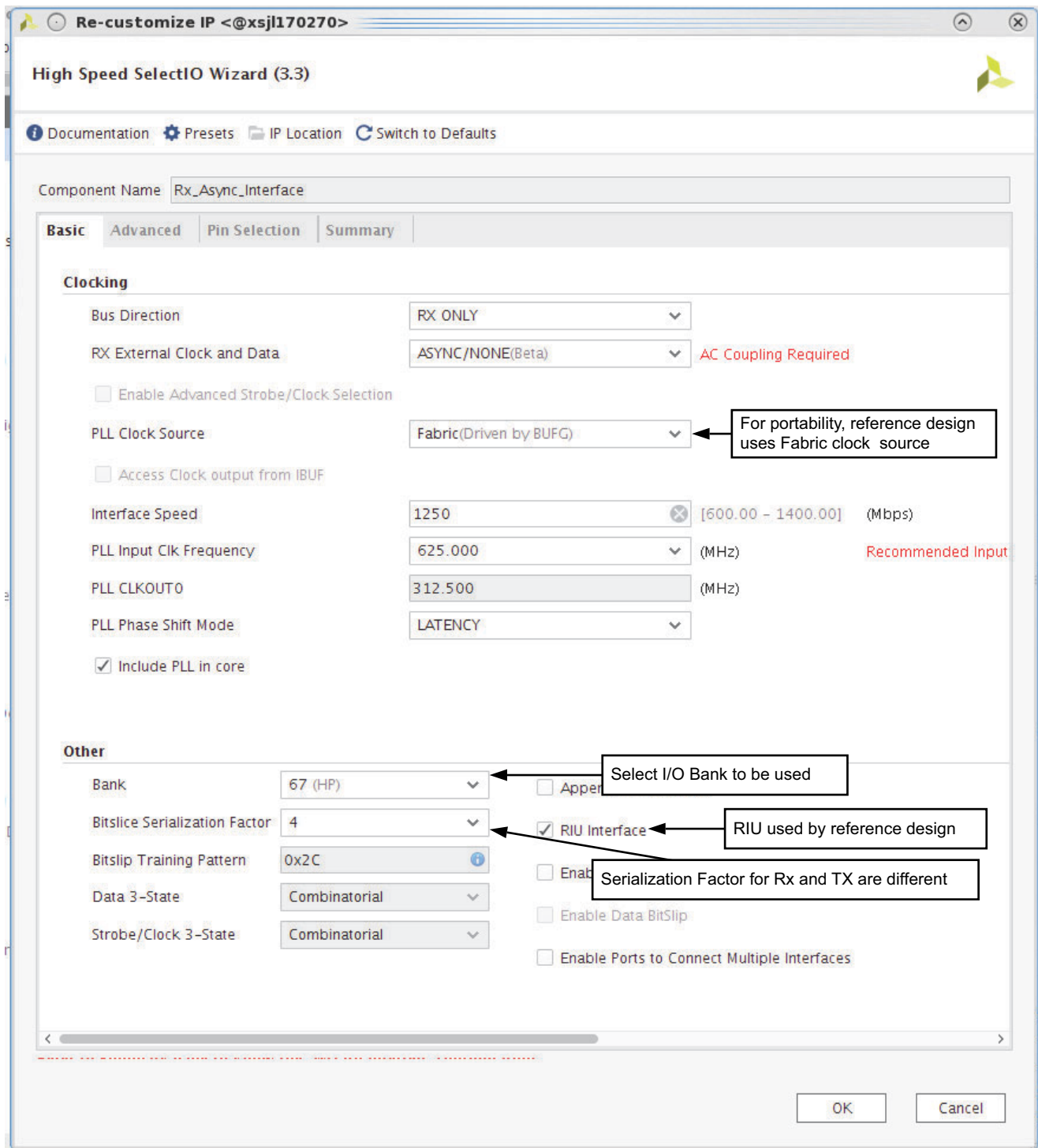
Figure 8: High Speed SelectIO Wizard TX Setup - Advanced Tab



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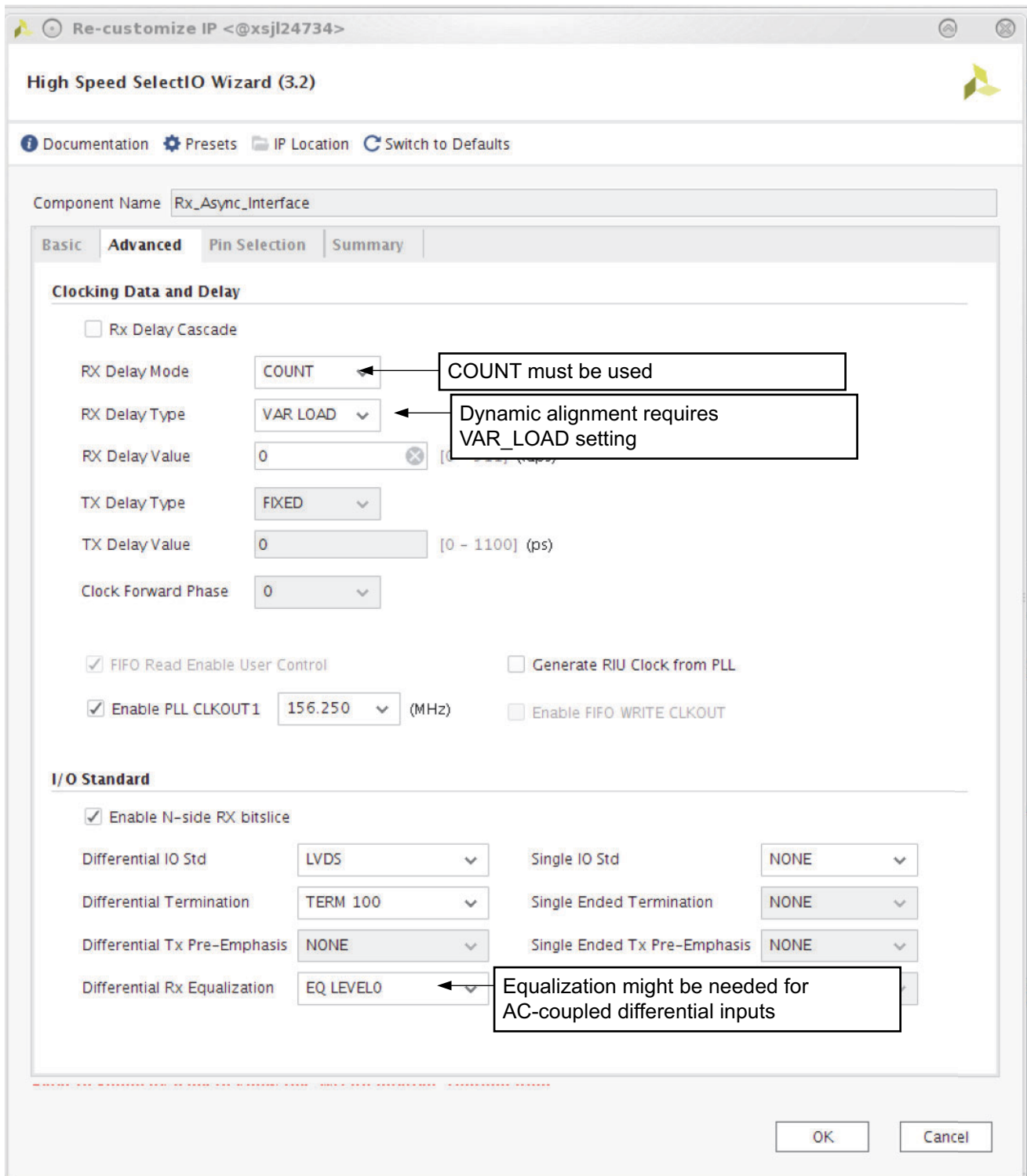
Figure 9: High Speed SelectIO Wizard TX Setup - Pin Selection Tab

The settings shown in [Figure 10](#), [Figure 11](#), and [Figure 12](#) should be used for the RX.



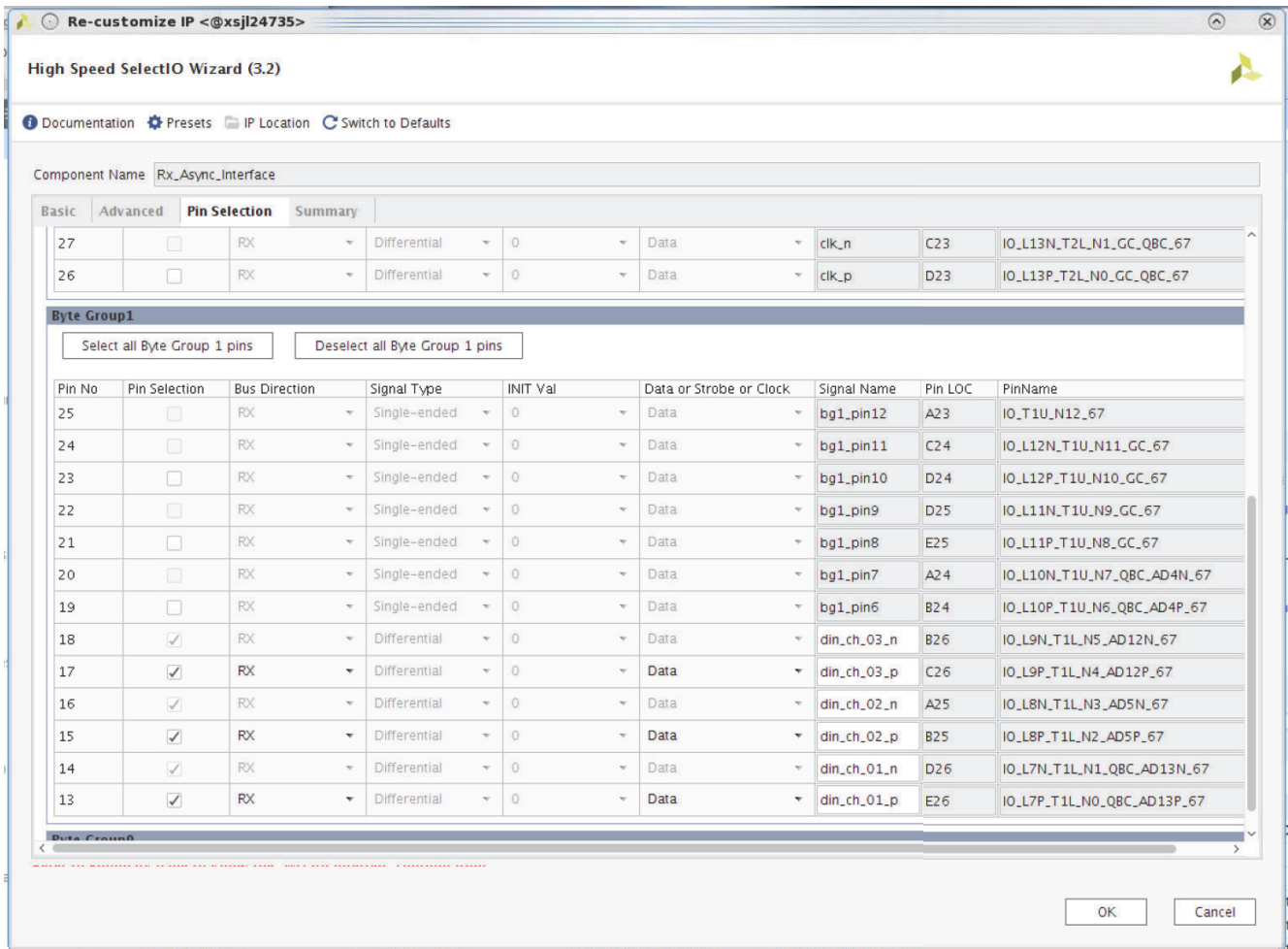
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Figure 10: High Speed SelectIO Wizard RX Setup - Basic Tab



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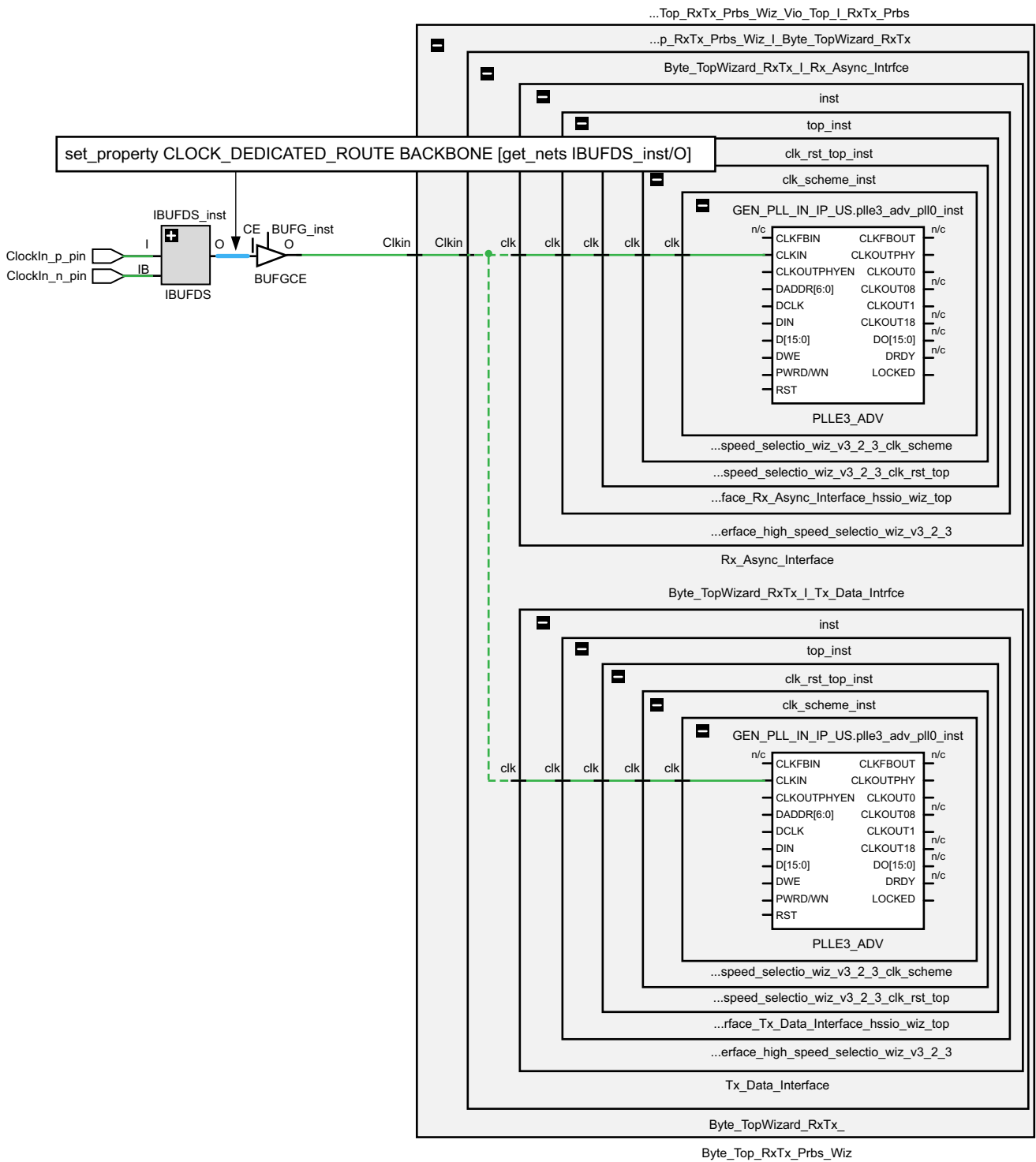
Figure 11: High Speed SelectIO Wizard RX Setup - Advanced Tab



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Figure 12: High Speed SelectIO Wizard RX Setup - Pin Selection Tab

To allow the reference clock to be moved to different banks, an extra clock buffer (BUFGCE) has been added as shown in [Figure 13](#). To free up the clock routes, the CLOCK_DEDICATED_ROUTE has been added. In this specific case, the clock is only routed to the PLLs and a divided clock, which is used as a control clock that does not require any phase relationship to the input pins.



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Figure 13: Reference Clock Connections to PLLs

Simulation

A simple testbench has been provided. The reference design uses registers that are not supported by simulation. For proper simulation, set `C_InSimulation = "true"` in the top-level design file `Byte_Top_RxTx_Prbs_Wiz_Vio_Top.vhd`.

```
Byte_Top_RxTx_Prbs_Wiz_Vio_Top_I_RxTx_Prbs : entity
xil_defaultlib.Byte_Top_RxTx_Prbs_Wiz
generic map (
    C_InSimulation          => "true",
    C_SimDevice             => "ULTRASCALE"
)
```

The reference design accesses a reserved `BITSLICE_CONTROL` RIU that is not supported in simulation. In `Riu_StateMach.vhd`, when `C_InSimulation = "true"`, `Rx_BtVal` is set to 160 (0xA0). `C_InSimulation = "true"` fixes the `Rx_BtVal` in post-synthesis and post-implementation simulations.

After simulation is complete, set `C_InSimulation = "false"` to ensure the `Rx_BtVal` is being read from the `BITSLICE_CONTROL`. The design needs to be re-synthesized afterwards so that the `Rx_BtVal` is read from the `Rx_RdData` connected to the `BITSLICE_CONTROL`.

To simplify the RIU state machine and allow for more portability, the bit time for `Rx_BtVal` is used as the bit time for all of the receivers, because each receiver should be running at the same data rate. In `Byte_TopWizard_RxTx.vhd`, `Int_Base_Rx_BtVal` is used for each `BaseX_TxRxLogic` instantiation.

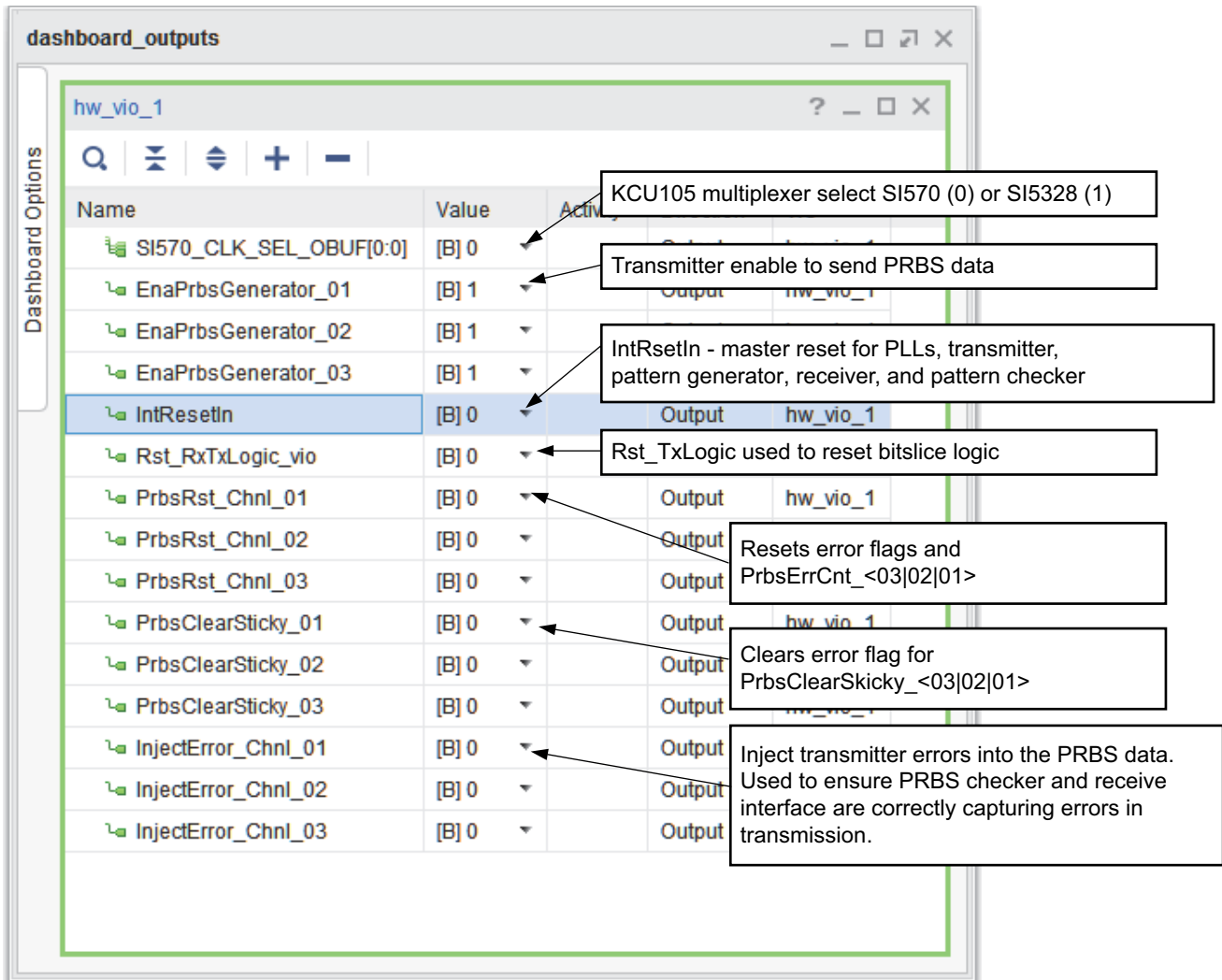
Hardware Operation

The reference design has been set up for the KCU105 board using the FMC HPC connector. Attach the XM107 FMC loopback card to the J22 FMC connector. The XM107 connects LA[16:0] to LA[33:17]. See the *FMC XM107 Loopback Card User Guide* (UG539) [Ref 2].

The design requires two clock sources. The VIO interface is directly connected to the 100 MHz clock to control the VIO interface and generate the input/output signals for controlling the design.

The transmitter and receiver channels require a 625 MHz clock which is connected to the Si570 when `SI570_CLK_SEL = 1`. To control the clocks, use the serial port as described in the *KCU105 Board User Guide* (UG197) [Ref 1] using the system controller. By using the serial port, the system controller can set the KCU105 Si570 user clock frequency to 625 MHz.

For some systems the FMC might also need to be powered using the serial port. Follow the instructions in the board user guide, for example, *KCU105 Board User Guide* (UG917). Hardware operation should follow the reset sequence using the VIO outputs, as shown in [Figure 14](#).



Name	Value	Active	Output
SI570_CLK_SEL_OBUF[0:0]	[B] 0		
EnaPrbsGenerator_01	[B] 1		Output hw_vio_1
EnaPrbsGenerator_02	[B] 1		
EnaPrbsGenerator_03	[B] 1		
IntResetIn	[B] 0		Output hw_vio_1
Rst_RxTxLogic_vio	[B] 0		
PrbsRst_Chnl_01	[B] 0		Output hw_vio_1
PrbsRst_Chnl_02	[B] 0		Output
PrbsRst_Chnl_03	[B] 0		Output
PrbsClearSticky_01	[B] 0		Output hw_vio_1
PrbsClearSticky_02	[B] 0		Output
PrbsClearSticky_03	[B] 0		Output
InjectError_Chnl_01	[B] 0		Output
InjectError_Chnl_02	[B] 0		Output
InjectError_Chnl_03	[B] 0		Output

Callout boxes:

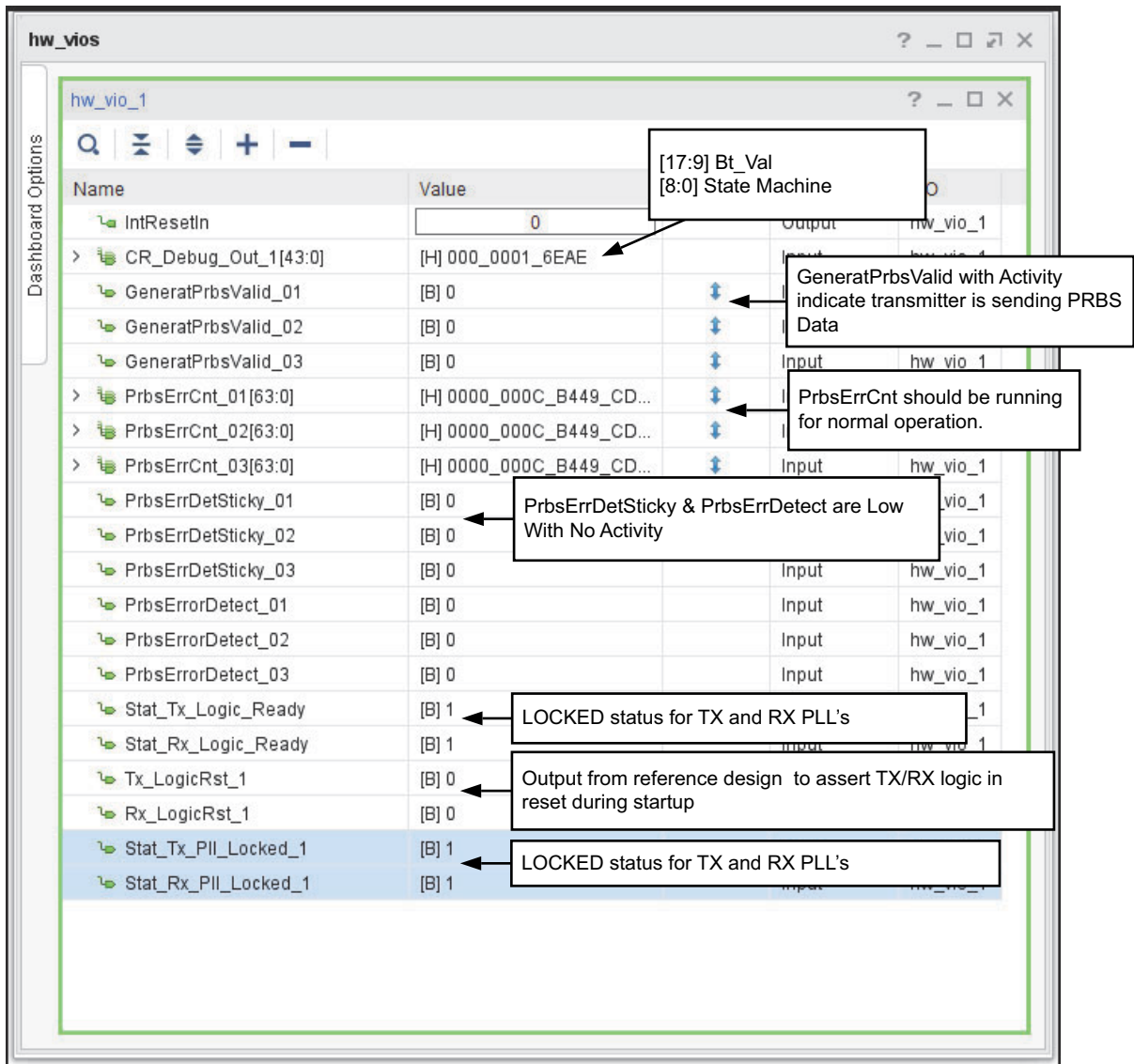
- KCU105 multiplexer select SI570 (0) or SI5328 (1)
- Transmitter enable to send PRBS data
- IntResetIn - master reset for PLLs, transmitter, pattern generator, receiver, and pattern checker
- Rst_TxLogic used to reset bitslice logic
- Resets error flags and PrbsErrCnt_<03|02|01>
- Clears error flag for PrbsClearSkicky_<03|02|01>
- Inject transmitter errors into the PRBS data. Used to ensure PRBS checker and receive interface are correctly capturing errors in transmission.

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Figure 14: Virtual I/O (VIO) Outputs

The reset sequence has been simplified to reset when IntResetIn has been asserted High. The reset and enable controls are still available, as shown in [Figure 14](#).

When operating correctly, GernatePrbsValid_<03|02|01> and PrbsErrorDetec<03|02|01> continue to toggle, indicating the interface is running.



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Figure 15: Virtual I/O (VIO) Inputs

Check PrbsErrDetSticky_<03|02|01> and PrbsErrCnt_<03|02|01> for errors.

To make sure the interface is working, use the InjectError_Chnl_<03|02|01> to inject an error on the given channel. As shown in Figure 16, PrbsErrDetSticky remains High if any errors occur. In the example, InjectError_Chnl_02 has been asserted High. When the error occurs, PrbsErrorDetect_02 momentarily goes High with the activity also indicating a change in values. When enough errors occur, PrbsErrCnt terminates with the activity stopping.

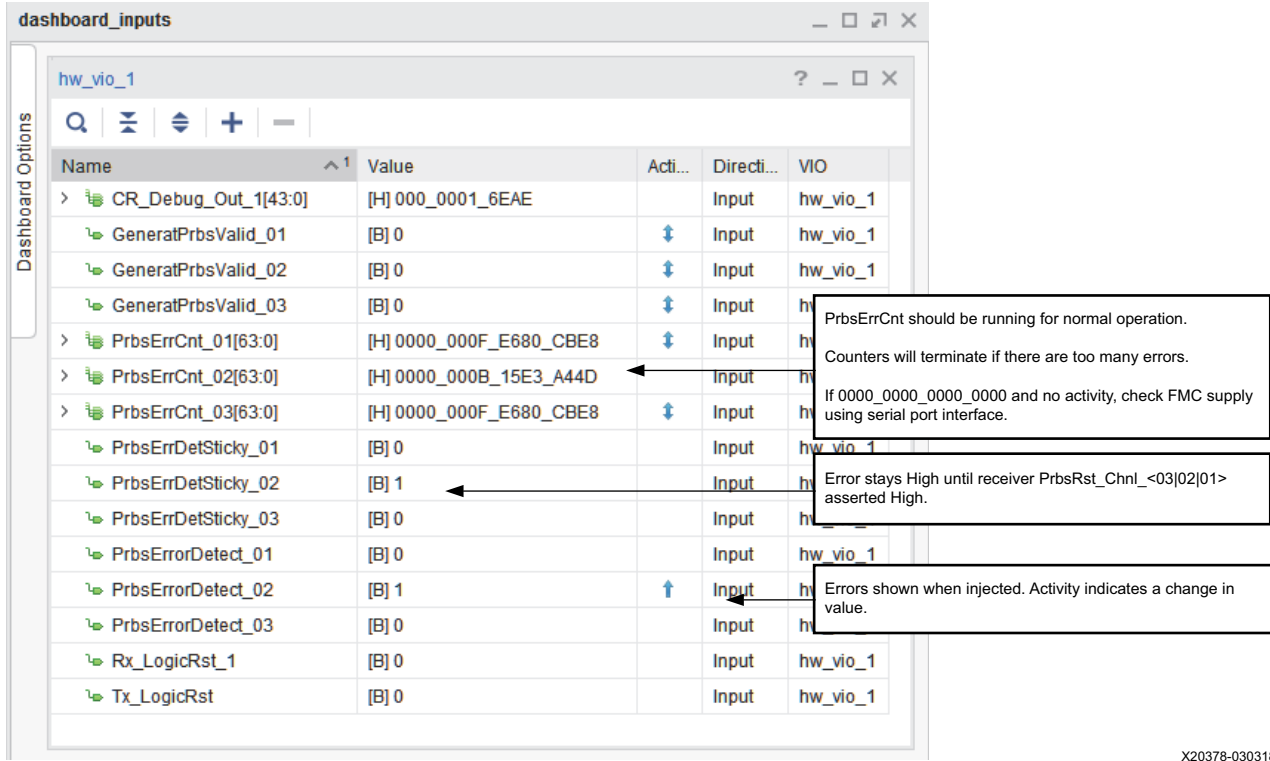


Figure 16: Virtual I/O (VIO) Inputs After Injected Errors

After the error has occurred, follow the reset sequence. PrbsClearSticky_<03|02|01> and PrbsRst_Chnl_<03|02|01> will clear the error flags and error counter.

Note: If PrbsErrCnt_<03|02|01> does not have any activity and is [H]0000_0000_0000_0000, check to make sure the FMC supplies are set. Check the user guide for the given board on how to set the FMC supply.

Conclusion

The asynchronous reference design works with the native primitives to control the RX_BITSLICE and BITSLICE_CONTROL primitives. As a result, when the pins are modified in the High Speed SelectIO Wizard, the port connections need to be updated. By following the guidelines in this application note, the reference design pinouts can be modified. Additional instructions on using the design have also been provided.

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- From the Vivado IDE, select **Help > Documentation and Tutorials**.
- On Windows, select **Start > All Programs > Xilinx Design Tools > DocNav**.
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- On the Xilinx website, see the [Design Hubs](#) page.

Note: For more information on Documentation Navigator, see the [Documentation Navigator](#) page on the Xilinx website.

References

1. *KCU105 Board User Guide* ([UG917](#))
2. *FMC XM107 Loopback Card User Guide* ([UG539](#))
3. *LogiCORE IP High Speed SelectIO Wizard Product Guide* ([PG188](#))
4. *UltraScale Architecture SelectIO Resources* ([UG571](#))

Revision History

The following table shows the revision history for this document.

Date	Version	Revision
03/29/2018	1.0	Initial Xilinx release.
08/03/2018	1.1	Removed all references to <i>Native High-Speed I/O Interfaces</i> (XAPP1274). Added Asynchronous Data Capture . Updated description of phase alignment algorithm and first bullet of pin selection guidelines in Asynchronous Reference Design . Updated description of clocks before Figure 13 . Updated Figure 4 , Figure 7 , Figure 8 , Figure 10 , Figure 12 , and Figure 15 .

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