Embedded Memory (RAM: 1-PORT, RAM: 2-PORT, ROM: 1-PORT, and ROM: 2-PORT) User Guide

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About RAM: 1-PORT, RAM: 2-PORT, ROM: 1-PORT, and ROM: 2-PORT IP Cores

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The Quartus® II software automatically selects one of megafunction IP cores to implement memory modes. The selection depends on the target device, memory modes, and features of the RAM and ROM.

Table 1-1: IP Cores for Embedded Memory Blocks

This table lists the IP cores for embedded memory blocks.

IP Core	Memory Mode
RAM: 1-PORT	Single-port RAM
RAM: 2-PORT	Dual-port RAM
ROM: 1-PORT	Single-port ROM
ROM: 2-PORT	Dual-port ROM

Embedded Memory Features

The embedded memory blocks provide the following features:

- Memory Modes Configuration
- Memory Block Types
- Write and Read Operations Triggering
- Port Width Configuration
- Mixed-width Port Configuration
- Maximum Block Depth Configuration
- Clocking Modes and Clock Enable
- Address Clock Enable
- Byte Enable
- Asynchronous Clear
- Read Enable
- Read-During-Write
- Power-Up Conditions and Memory Initialization
- Error Correction Code

Supported Memory Operation Modes

This table lists the supported memory operation mode and the related IP core for each operation mode.

Table 1-2: Supported Memory Operation Modes

Memory Operation Mode	Related IP Core	Description
Single-port RAM	RAM: 1-PORT IP Core	Single-port mode supports non-simultaneous read and write operations from a single address. Use the read enable port to control the RAM output ports behavior during a write operation: • To show either the new data being written or the old data at that address, activate the read enable during a write operation. • To retain the previous values that are held during the most recent active read enable, perform the write operation with the read enable port deasserted.
Simple dual-port RAM	RAM: 2-PORT IP Core	You can simultaneously perform one read and one write operations to different locations where the write operation happens on port A and the read operation happens on port B.
True dual-port RAM	RAM: 2-PORT IP Core	You can perform any combination of two port operations: • two reads, two writes, or, • one read and one write at two different clock frequencies.
Single-port ROM	ROM: 1-PORT IP Core	Only one address port is available for read operation. You can use the memory blocks as a ROM. • Initialize the ROM contents of the memory blocks using a **.mif** or **.hex** file. • The address lines of the ROM are registered. • The outputs can be registered or unregistered. • The ROM read operation is identical to the read operation in the single-port RAM configuration.
Dual-port ROM	ROM: 2-PORT IP Core	The dual-port ROM has almost similar functional ports as single-port ROM. The difference is dual-port ROM has an additional address port for read operation. You can use the memory blocks as a ROM. • Initialize the ROM contents of the memory blocks using a **.mif** or **.hex** file. • The address lines of the ROM are registered. • The outputs can be registered or unregistered. • The ROM read operation is identical to the read operation in the single-port RAM configuration.

Customizing Embedded Memory IP Cores 2

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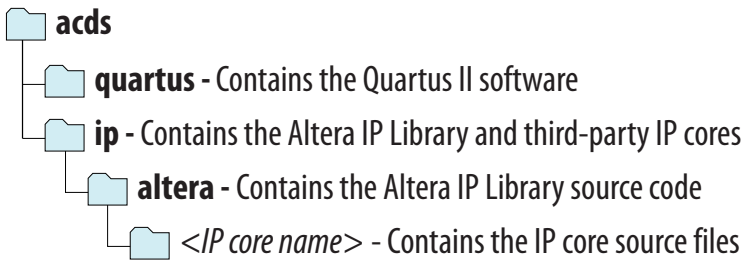
Installing and Licensing IP Cores

The Altera IP Library provides many useful IP core functions for production use without purchasing an additional license. You can evaluate any Altera® IP core in simulation and compilation in the Quartus® II software using the OpenCore® evaluation feature. Some Altera IP cores, such as MegaCore® functions, require that you purchase a separate license for production use. You can use the OpenCore Plus feature to evaluate IP that requires purchase of an additional license until you are satisfied with the functionality and performance. After you purchase a license, visit the Self Service Licensing Center to obtain a license number for any Altera product.

Figure 2-1: IP Core Installation Path



Note: The default IP installation directory on Windows is **<*drive*>:\altera**<*version number*>; on Linux it is <*home directory*>**/altera/** <*version number*>.

Related Information

- Altera Licensing Site
- Altera Software Installation and Licensing Manual

IP Catalog and Parameter Editor

The Qsys IP Catalog (**Tools** > **IP Catalog**) and parameter editor help you easily customize and integrate IP cores into your project. You can use the IP Catalog and parameter editor to select, customize, and generate files representing your custom IP variation.

The Virtual Processing Image Suite is available only through the Qsys IP Catalog (**View** > **IP Catalog**). Double-click any IP core name to launch the parameter editor and generate files representing your IP variation. The parameter editor prompts you to specify your IP variation name, optional ports, architecture features, and output file generation options. The parameter editor generates a top-level **.qsys** file representing the IP core in your project. Alternatively, you can define an IP variation without an open Quartus II project. When no project is open, select the **Device Family** directly in IP Catalog to filter IP cores by device.

Use the following features to help you quickly locate and select an IP core:

- Filter IP Catalog to **Show IP for active device family** or **Show IP for all device families**.
- Search to locate any full or partial IP core name in IP Catalog. Click **Search for Partner IP**, to access partner IP information on the Altera website.
- Right-click an IP core name in IP Catalog to display details about supported devices, installation location, and links to documentation.

Note: The IP Catalog and parameter editor replace the MegaWizard™ Plug-In Manager in the Quartus II software. The Quartus II software may generate messages that refer to the MegaWizard Plug-In Manager. Substitute "IP Catalog and parameter editor" for "MegaWizard Plug-In Manager" in these messages.

Upgrading VIP Designs in 14.0

In Quartus, if you open a design from a 13.1 or previous version that contains VIP components in a Qsys system, Quartus will show a warning message with the title "Upgrade IP Components". This message is just letting you know that VIP components within your Qsys system need to be updated to their latest versions, and to do this the Qsys system must be regenerated before the design can be compiled within Quartus. The recommended way of doing this with a VIP system is to close the warning message and open the design in Qsys so that it is easier to spot any errors or potential errors that have arisen because of the design being upgraded.

Related Information

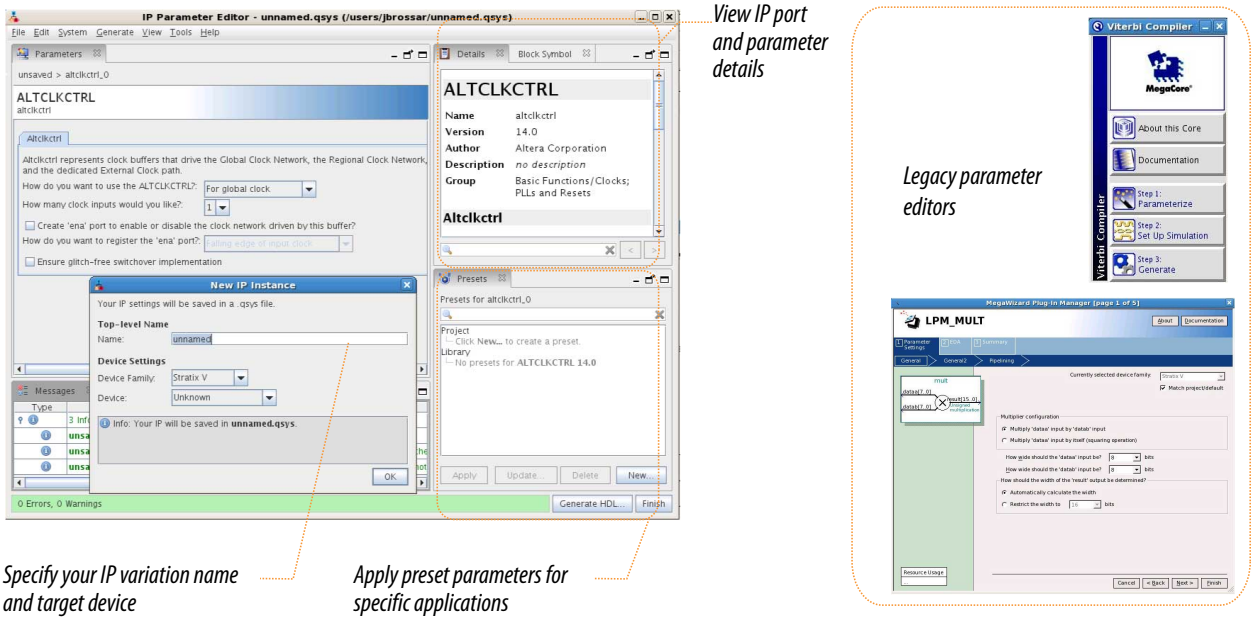
Creating a System With Qsys
For more information on how to simulate Qsys designs.

Using the Parameter Editor

The parameter editor helps you to configure IP core ports, parameters, and output file generation options.

- Use preset settings in the parameter editor (where provided) to instantly apply preset parameter values for specific applications.
- View port and parameter descriptions, and links to documentation.
- Generate testbench systems or example designs (where provided).

Figure 2-2: IP Parameter Editors



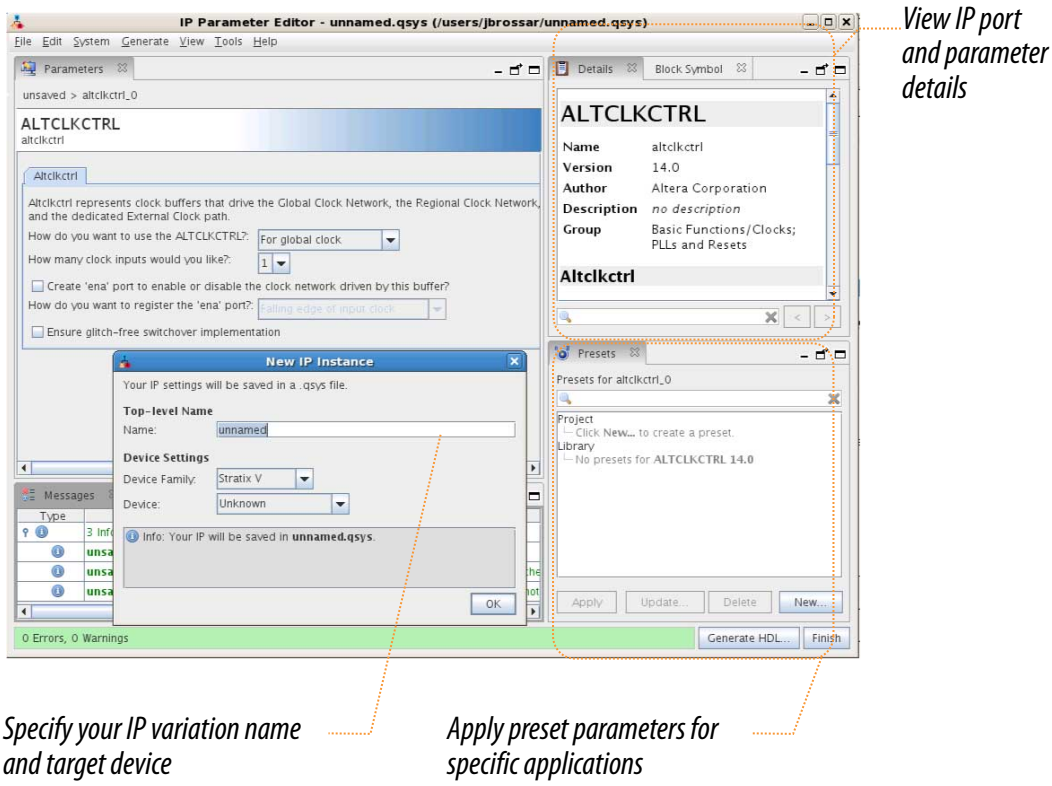
Specifying IP Core Parameters and Options

The parameter editor GUI allows you to quickly configure your custom IP variation. You specify IP core options and parameters in the Quartus II software.

1. In the IP Catalog (**Tools** > **IP Catalog**), locate and double-click the name of the IP core to customize. The parameter editor appears.
2. Specify a top-level name for your custom IP variation. The parameter editor saves the IP variation settings in a file named <*your_ip*>**.qsys**. Click **OK**.
3. Specify the parameters and options for your IP variation in the parameter editor, including one or more of the following. Refer to your IP core user guide for information about specific IP core parameters.
   - Optionally select preset parameter values if provided for your IP core. Presets specify initial parameter values for specific applications.
   - Specify parameters defining the IP core functionality, port configurations, and device-specific features.
   - Specify options for processing the IP core files in other EDA tools.
4. Click **Generate HDL**, the **Generation** dialog box appears.
5. Specify output file generation options, and then click **Generate**. The IP variation files generate according to your specifications.
6. To generate a simulation testbench, click **Generate** > **Generate Testbench System**.

7. To generate an HDL instantiation template that you can copy and paste into your text editor, click **Generate** > **HDL Example**.
8. Click **Finish**. The parameter editor adds the top-level **.qsys** file to the current project automatically. If you are prompted to manually add the **.qsys** file to the project, click **Project** > **Add/Remove Files in Project** to add the file.
9. After generating and instantiating your IP variation, make appropriate pin assignments to connect ports.

Figure 2-3: IP Parameter Editor



Migrating IP Cores to a Different Device

IP migration allows you to target the latest device families with IP originally generated for a different device. Some Altera IP cores require individual migration to upgrade. The **Upgrade IP Components** dialog box prompts you to double-click IP cores that require individual migration.

1. To display IP cores requiring migration, click **Project** > **Upgrade IP Components**. The **Description** field prompts you to double-click IP cores that require individual migration.
2. Double-click the IP core name, and then click **OK** after reading the information panel. The parameter editor appears showing the original IP core parameters.
3. In the parameter editor, click **Generate**, and then click **OK** if prompted to overwrite IP files.

The new parameter editor appears when the generation is complete.

4. Click **Generate HDL**, and then confirm the **Synthesis** and **Simulation** file options. Verilog is the parameter editor default HDL for synthesis files. If your original IP core was generated for VHDL, select **VHDL** to retain the original output HDL format.
5. To regenerate the new IP variation for the new target device, click **Generate**. When generation is complete, click **Close**.
6. Click **Finish** to complete migration of the IP core. Click **OK** if you are prompted to overwrite IP core files. The **Device Family** column displays the migrated device support. The migration process replaces <*my_ip*>**.qip** with the <*my_ip*>**.qsys** top-level IP file in your project.

   Note: If migration does not replace <*my_ip*>**.qip** with <*my_ip*>**.qsys**, click **Project > Add/Remove Files in Project** to replace the file in your project.
7. Review the latest parameters in the parameter editor or generated HDL for correctness. IP migration may change ports, parameters, or functionality of the IP core. During migration, the IP core's HDL generates into a library that is different from the original output location of the IP core. Update any assignments that reference outdated locations. If your upgraded IP core is represented by a symbol in a supporting Block Design File schematic, replace the symbol with the newly generated <*my_ip*>**.bsf** after migration.

   Note: The migration process may change the IP variation interface, parameters, and functionality. This may require you to change your design or to re-parameterize your variant after the **Upgrade IP Components** dialog box indicates that migration is complete. The **Description** field identifies IP cores that require design or parameter changes.

Related Information

Altera IP Release Notes

Embedded Memory Functional Description 3

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Describes the features and functionality of the embedded memory blocks and the ports of the RAM: 1-PORT, RAM: 2-PORT, ROM: 1-PORT, and ROM: 2-PORT IP cores.

Memory Block Types

Altera provides various sizes of embedded memory blocks for various devices.

The parameter editor allows you to implement your memory in the following ways:

- Select the type of memory blocks available based on your target device. To select the appropriate memory block type for your device, obtain more information about the features of your selected embedded memory block in your target device, such as the maximum performance, supported configurations (depth × width), byte enable, power-up condition, and the write and read operation triggering.
- Use logic cells. As compared to embedded memory resources, using logic cells to create memory reduces the design performance and utilizes more area. This implementation is normally used when you have used up all the embedded memory resources. When logic cells are used, the parameter editor provides you with the following two types of logic cell implementations:
  - Default logic cell style—the write operation triggers (internally) on the rising edge of the write clock and have continuous read. This implementation uses less logic cells and is faster, but it is not fully compatible with the Stratix M512 emulation style.
  - Stratix M512 emulation logic cell style—the write operation triggers (internally) on the falling edge of the write clock and performs read only on the rising edge of the read clock.
- Select the **Auto** option, which allows the software to automatically select the appropriate embedded memory resource. When you set the memory block type to **Auto**, the compiler favors larger block types that can support the memory capacity you require in a single embedded memory block. This setting gives the best performance and requires no logic elements (LEs) for glue logic. When you create the memory with specific embedded memory blocks, such as M9K, the compiler is still able to emulate wider and deeper memories than the block type supported natively. The compiler spans multiple embedded memory blocks (only of the same type) with glue logic added in the LEs as needed.

Note: To obtain proper implementation based on the memory configuration you set, allow the Quartus II software to automatically choose the memory type. This gives the compiler the flexibility to place the memory function in any available memory resources based on the functionality and size.

Table 3-1: Embedded Memory Blocks in Altera Devices

Device Family	Memory Block Type								
	M512 (512 bits)(1)	M4K (4 Kbits)	M-RAM (512 Kbits) (2)	MLAB (640 bits) (3)	M9K (9 Kbits)	M144K (144 Kbits)	M10K (10 Kbits)	M20K (20 Kbits)	Logic Cell (LC)
Arria II GX	—	—	—	Yes	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Arria II GZ	—	—	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	—	—	Yes
Arria V	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	Yes	—	Yes
Cyclone IV	—	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Cyclone V	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	Yes	—	Yes
Max II	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Yes
Stratix IV	—	—	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	—	—	Yes
Stratix V	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	Yes

Note: To identify the type of memory block that the software selects to create your memory, refer to the Fitter report after compilation.

Write and Read Operations Triggering

The embedded memory blocks vary slightly in its supported features and behaviors. One important variation is the difference in the write and read operations triggering.

Table 3-2: Write and Read Operations Triggering for Embedded Memory Blocks

This table lists the write and read operations triggering for various embedded memory blocks.

Embedded Memory Blocks	Write Operation (4)	Read Operation
M10K	Rising clock edges	Rising clock edges
M20K	Rising clock edges	Rising clock edges
M144K	Rising clock edges	Rising clock edges
M9K	Rising clock edges	Rising clock edges

(1) M512 blocks are not supported in true dual-port RAM mode, and dual-port ROM mode.
(2) M-RAM blocks are not supported in ROM mode.
(3) MLAB blocks are not supported in simple dual-port RAM mode with mixed-width port feature, true dual-port RAM mode, and dual-port ROM mode.
(4) Write operation triggering is not applicable to ROMs.

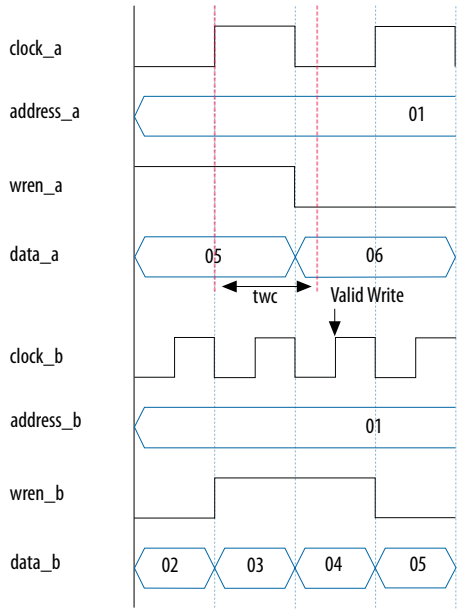
Embedded Memory Blocks	Write Operation [4]	Read Operation
MLAB	Falling clock edges Rising clock edges (in Arria V, Cyclone V, and Stratix V devices only)	Rising clock edges [5]
M-RAM	Rising clock edges	Rising clock edges
M4K	Falling clock edges	Rising clock edges
M512	Falling clock edges	Rising clock edges

It is important that you understand the write operation triggering to avoid potential write contentions that can result in unknown data storage at that location.

These figures show the valid write operation that triggers at the rising and falling clock edge, respectively.

Figure 3-1: Valid Write Operation that Triggers at Rising Clock Edges

This figure assumes that t_{wc} is the maximum write cycle time interval. Write operation of data 03 through port B does not meet the criteria and causes write contention with the write operation at port A, which result in unknown data at address 01. The write operation at the next rising edge is valid because it meets the criteria and data 04 replaces the unknown data.

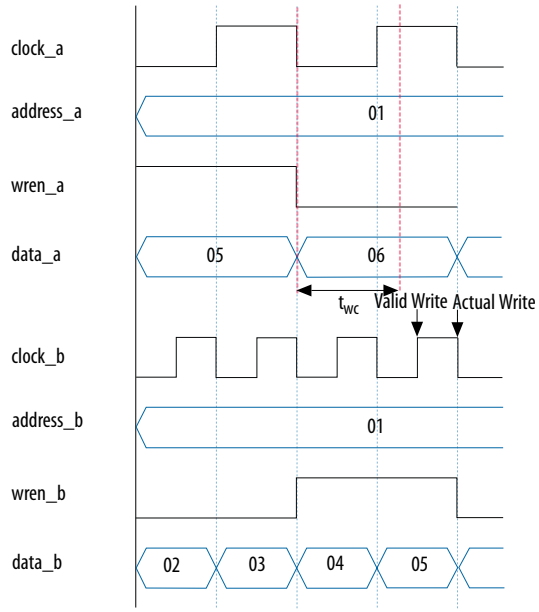


[4] Write operation triggering is not applicable to ROMs.

[5] MLAB supports continuos reads. For example, when you write a data at the write clock rising edge and after the write operation is complete, you see the written data at the output port without the need for a read clock rising edge.

Figure 3-2: Valid Write Operation that Triggers at Falling Clock Edges

This figure assumes that t_{wc} is the maximum write cycle time interval. Write operation of data 04 through port B does not meet the criteria and therefore causes write contention with the write operation at port A that result in unknown data at address 01. The next data (05) is latched at the next rising clock edge that meets the criteria and is written into the memory block at the falling clock edge.



Note: Data and addresses are latched at the rising edge of the write clock regardless of the different write operation triggering.

Port Width Configurations

The following equation defines the port width configuration: Memory depth (number of words) × Width of the data input bus.

- If your port width configuration (either the depth or the width) is more than the amount an internal memory block can support, additional memory blocks (of the same type) are used. For example, if you configure your M9K as 512 × 36, which exceeds the supported port width of 512 × 18, two M9Ks are used to implement your RAM.
- In addition to the supported configuration provided, you can set the memory depth to a non-power of two, but the actual memory depth allocated can vary. The variation depends on the type of resource implemented.
- If the memory is implemented in dedicated memory blocks, setting a non-power of two for the memory depth reflects the actual memory depth.
- When you implement your memory using dedicated memory blocks, refer to the Fitter report to check the actual memory depth.

Mixed-width Port Configuration

Only dual-port RAM and dual-port ROM support mixed-width port configuration for all memory block types except when they are implemented with LEs. The support for mixed-width port depends on the width ratio between port A and port B. In addition, the supporting ratio varies for various memory modes, memory blocks, and target devices.

Note: MLABs do not have native support for mixed-width operation, thus the option to select MLABs is disabled in the parameter editor. However, the Quartus II software can implement mixed-width memories in MLABs by using more than one MLAB. Therefore, if you select **AUTO** for your memory block type, it is possible to implement mixed-width port memory using multiple MLABs.

Memory depth of 1 word is not supported in simple dual-port and true dual-port RAMs with mixed-width port. The parameter editor prompts an error message when the memory depth is less than 2 words. For example, if the width for port A is 4 bits and the width for port B is 8 bits, the smallest depth supported by the RAM is 4 words. This configuration results in memory size of 16 bits (4 × 4) and can be represented by memory depth of 2 words for port B. If you set the memory depth to 2 words that results in memory size of 8 bits (2 × 4), it can only be represented by memory depth of 1 word for port B, and therefore the width of the port is not supported.

Maximum Block Depth Configuration

You can limit the maximum block depth of the dedicated memory block you use.

The memory block can be sliced to your desired maximum block depth. For example, the capacity of an M9K block is 9,216 bits, and the default memory depth is 8K, in which each address is capable of storing 1 bit (8K × 1). If you set the maximum block depth to 512, the M9K block is sliced to a depth of 512 and each address is capable of storing up to 18 bits (512 × 18).

You can use this option to save power usage in your devices. However, this parameter might increase the number of LEs and affects the design performance.

When the RAM is sliced shallower, the dynamic power usage decreases. However, for a RAM block with a depth of 256, the power used by the extra LEs starts to outweigh the power gain achieved by shallower slices.

You can also use this option to reduce the total number of memory blocks used (but at the expense of LEs). The 8K × 36 RAM uses 36 M9K RAM blocks with a default slicing of 8K × 1. By setting the maximum block depth to 1K, the 8K × 36 RAM can fit into 32 M9K blocks.

The maximum block depth must be in a power of two, and the valid values vary among different dedicated memory blocks.

Table 3-3: Valid Range of Maximum Block Depth for Various Embedded Memory Blocks

Embedded Memory Blocks	Valid Range (6)
M10K	256–8K
M20K	512–16K

(6) The maximum block depth must be in a power of two.

Embedded Memory Blocks	Valid Range [6]
M144K	2K–16K
M9K	256–8K
MLAB	32–64 [7]
M512	32–512
M4K	128–4K
M-RAM	4K–64K

The parameter editor prompts an error message if you enter an invalid value for the maximum block depth. Altera recommends that you set the value to **Auto** if you are not sure of the appropriate maximum block depth to set or the setting is not important for your design. This setting enables the compiler to select the maximum block depth with the appropriate port width configuration for the type of embedded memory block of your memory.

Clocking Modes and Clock Enable

The embedded memory block supports various types of clocking modes depending on the memory mode you select.

Table 3-4: Clocking Modes

Clocking Modes	Description
Single Clock Mode	In the single clock mode, a single clock, together with a clock enable, controls all registers of the memory block.
Read/Write Clock Mode	In the read/write clock mode, a separate clock is available for each read and write port. A read clock controls the data-output, read-address, and read-enable registers. A write clock controls the data-input, write-address, write-enable, and byte enable registers.
Input/Output Clock Mode	In input/output clock mode, a separate clock is available for each input and output port. An input clock controls all registers related to the data input to the memory block including data, address, byte enables, read enables, and write enables. An output clock controls the data output registers.
Independent Clock Mode	In the independent clock mode, a separate clock is available for each port (A and B). Clock A controls all registers on the port A side; clock B controls all registers on the port B side. **Note:** You can create independent clock enable for different input and output registers to control the shut down of a particular register for power saving purposes. From the parameter editor, click More Options (beside the clock enable option) to set the available independent clock enable that you prefer.

[6] The maximum block depth must be in a power of two.
[7] The maximum block depth setting (64) for MLAB is not available for Arria V and Cyclone V devices.

Table 3-5: Clocking Modes

This table lists the embedded memory clocking modes.

Clocking Modes	Single-port RAM	Simple Dual-port RAM	True Dual-port RAM	Single-port ROM	Dual-port ROM
Single clock	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported
Read/Write	—	Supported	—	—	—
Input/Output	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported
Independent	—	—	Supported	—	Supported

Note: Asynchronous clock mode is only supported in MAX series of devices, and not supported in Stratix and newer devices. However, Stratix III and newer devices support asynchronous read memory for simple dual-port RAM mode if you choose MLAB memory block with unregistered `rdaddress` port.

Note: The clock enable signals are not supported for write address, byte enable, and data input registers on Arria V, Cyclone V, and Stratix V MLAB blocks.

Memory Blocks Address Clock Enable Support

The embedded memory blocks support address clock enable, which holds the previous address value for as long as the signal is enabled (`addressstall = 1`). When the memory blocks are configured in dual-port mode, each port has its own independent address clock enable. The default value for the address clock enable signal is low (disabled).

Figure 3-3: Address Clock Enable

This figure shows an address clock enable block diagram. The address clock enable is referred to by the port name `addressstall`.

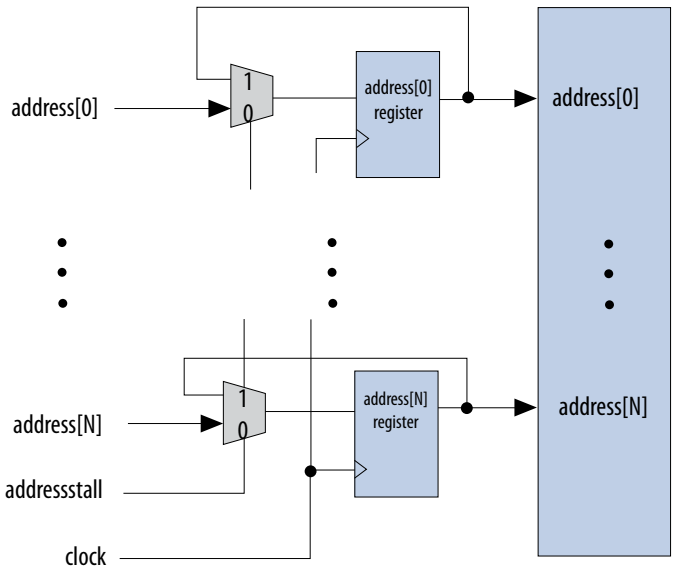


Figure 3-4: Address Clock Enable During Read Cycle Waveform

This figure shows the address clock enable waveform during the read cycle.

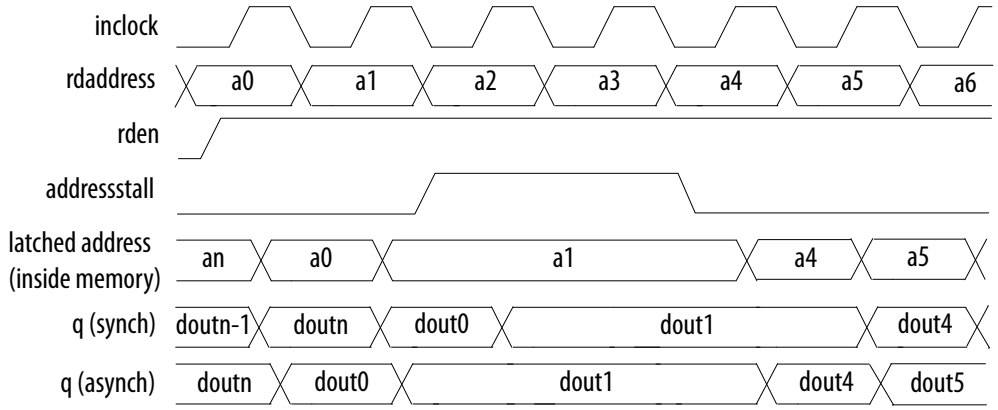
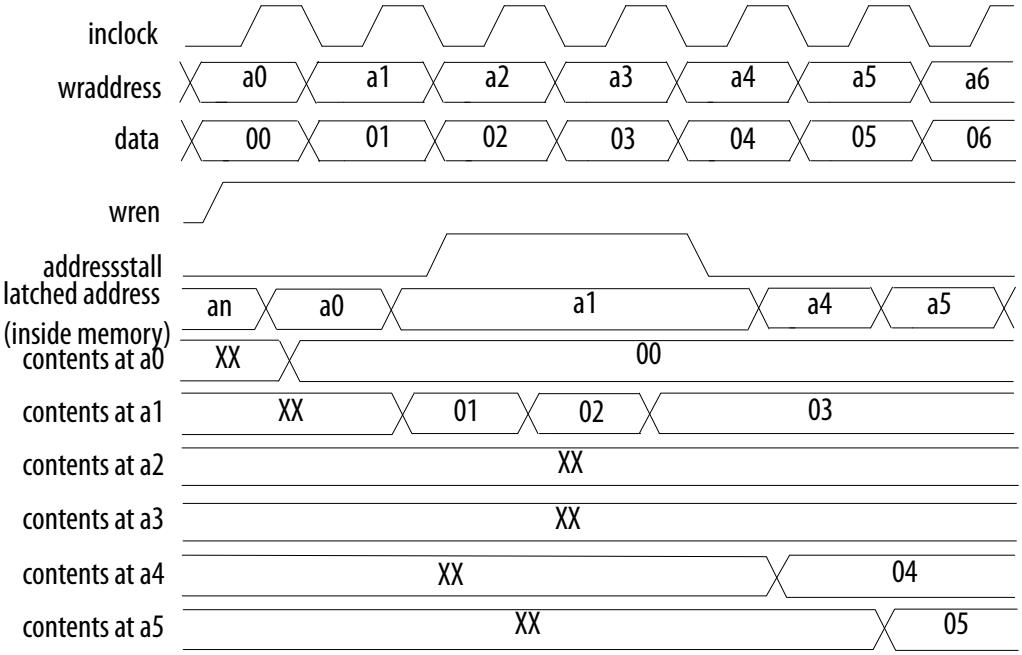


Figure 3-5: Address Clock Enable During the Write Cycle Waveform

This figure shows the address clock enable waveform during the write cycle.



Byte Enable

All embedded memory blocks that are implemented as RAMs support byte enables that mask the input data so that only specific bytes, nibbles, or bits of data are written. The unwritten bytes or bits retain the previously written value.

The LSB of the byte-enable port corresponds to the LSB of the data bus. For example, if you use a RAM block in x18 mode and the byte-enable port is 01, **data [8..0]** is enabled and **data [17..9]** is disabled. Similarly, if the byte-enable port is 11, both data bytes are enabled.

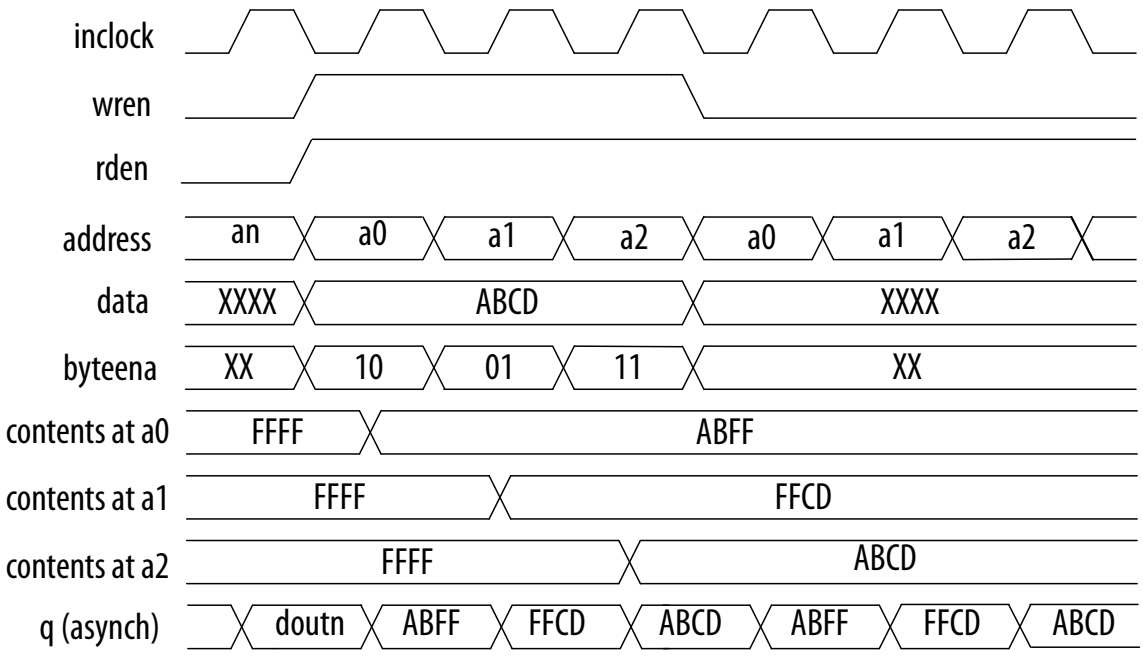
You can specifically define and set the size of a byte for the byte-enable port. The valid values are 5, 8, 9, and 10, depending on the type of embedded memory blocks. The values of 5 and 10 are only supported by MLAB. To enable byte enable for port A and port B, the data width ratio has to be 1 or 2 for the RAM: 1-PORT and RAM: 2-PORT IP cores.

Note: To enable byte enable for port A and port B, the data width ratio has to be 1 or 2 for the RAM: 1-PORT and RAM: 2-PORT IP cores.

To create a byte-enable port, the width of the data input port must be a multiple of the size of a byte for the byte-enable port. For example, if you use an MLAB memory block, the byte enable is only supported if your data bits are multiples of 5, 8, 9 or 10, that is 10, 15, 16, 18, 20, 24, 25, 27, 30, and so on. If the width of the data input port is 10, you can only define the size of a byte as 5. In this case, you get a 2-bit byte-enable port, each bit controls 5 bits of data input written. If the width of the data input port is 20, then you can define the size of a byte as either 5 or 10. If you define 5 bits of input data as a byte, you get a 4-bit byte-enable port, each bit controls 5 bits of data input written. If you define 10 bits of input data as a byte, you get a 2-bit byte-enable port, each bit controls 10 bits of data input written.

Figure 3-6: Byte Enable Functional Waveform

This figure shows the results of the byte enable on the data that is written into the memory, and the data that is read from the memory.



For this functional waveform, New Data Mode is selected.

When a byte-enable bit is deasserted during a write cycle, the corresponding masked byte of the q output can appear as a “Don't Care” value or the current data at that location. This selection is only available if you set the read-during-write output behavior to New Data.

Asynchronous Clear

The embedded memory blocks in the Arria II GX, Arria II GZ, Stratix IV, Stratix V, and newer device families support the asynchronous clear feature used on the output latches and output registers. Therefore, if your RAM does not use output registers, clear the RAM outputs using the output latch asynchronous clear. The asynchronous clear feature allows you to clear the outputs even if the q output port is not registered. However, this feature is not supported in MLAB memory blocks.

The outputs stay cleared until the next clock. However, in Arria V, Cyclone V, and Stratix V devices, the outputs stay cleared until the next read.

Note: You cannot use the asynchronous clear port to clear the contents of the embedded memory. Use the asynchronous clear port to clear the contents of the input and output register stages only.

Table 3-6: Asynchronous Clear Effects on the Input Ports for Various Devices in Various Memory Settings

This table lists the asynchronous clear effects on the input ports for various devices in various memory settings.

Memory Mode	Arria II GX, Arria II GZ, Arria V, Cyclone V, Stratix IV, Stratix V, and newer devices
Single-port RAM	All registered input ports are not affected. (8)
Single dual-port RAM and True dual-port RAM	Only registered input read address port can be affected.
Single-port ROM	Registered input address port can be affected.
Dual-port ROM	All registered input ports are not affected.

Note: During a read operation, clearing the input read address asynchronously corrupts the memory contents. The same effect applies to a write operation if the write address is cleared.

Note: Beginning from Arria V, Cyclone V, and Stratix V devices onwards, an output clock signal is needed to successfully recover the output latch from an asynchronous clear signal. This implies that in a single clock mode true dual-port RAM, setting clock enabled on the registered output may affect the recovery of the unregistered output because they share the same output clock signal. To avoid this, provide an output clock signal (with clock enabled) to the output latch to deassert an asynchronous clear signal from the output latch.

Read Enable

Support for the read enable feature depends on the target device, memory block type, and the memory mode you select.

Table 3-7: Read-Enable Support in Various Device Families

This table lists the memory configurations for various device families that support the read enable feature.

Memory Modes	M9K, M144K, M10K, M20K	MLAB
Single-port RAM	Supported	—

(8) When LCs are implemented in this memory mode, registered output port is not affected.

Memory Modes	M9K, M144K, M10K, M20K	MLAB
Simple dual-port RAM	Supported	—
True dual-port RAM	Supported	—
Tri-port RAM	Supported	—
Single-port ROM	Supported	—
Dual-port ROM	Supported	—

If you create the read-enable port and perform a write operation (with the read enable port deasserted), the data output port retains the previous values that are held during the most recent active read enable. If you activate the read enable during a write operation, or if you do not create a read-enable signal, the output port shows the new data being written, the old data at that address, or a “Don't Care” value when read-during-write occurs at the same address location.

Read-During-Write

The read-during-write (RDW) occurs when a read and a write target the same memory location at the same time.

Table 3-8: RDW Operation

This table lists the RDW operations.

RDW Operation	Description
Same-Port RDW	The same-port RDW occurs when the input and output of the same port access the same address location with the same clock. The same-port RDW has the following output choices: • New Data—New data is available on the rising edge of the same clock cycle on which it was written. • Old Data—The RAM outputs reflect the old data at that address before the write operation proceeds. Old Data is not supported for M10K and M20K memory blocks in single-port RAM and true dual-port RAM. • Don't Care—The RAM outputs “don't care” values for the RDW operation.

RDW Operation	Description
Mixed-Port RDW	The mixed-port RDW occurs when one port reads and another port writes to the same address location with the same clock. The mixed-port RDW has the following output choices: • Old Data—The RAM outputs reflect the old data at that address before the write operation proceeds. Old Data is supported for single clock configuration only. • Don't Care—The RAM outputs "don't care" or "unknown" values for RDW operation without analyzing the timing path. For LUTRAM, this option functions differently whereby when you enable this option, the RAM outputs "don't care" or "unknown" values for RDW operation but analyzes the timing path to prevent metastability. Therefore, if you want the RAM to output "don't care" values without analyzing the timing path, you have to turn on the **Do not analyze the timing between write and read operation. Metastability issues are prevented by never writing and reading at the same address at the same time** option.

Selecting RDW Output Choices for Various Memory Blocks

The available output choices for the RDW behavior vary, depending on the types of RDW and embedded memory block in use.

Table 3-9: Output Choices for the Same-Port and Mixed-Port Read-During-Write

This table lists ists the available output choices for the same-port, and mixed-port RDW for various embedded memory blocks.

<table>
<tr><th rowspan="2">Memory Block Types</th><th>Single-port RAM (9)</th><th>Simple dual-port RAM (10)</th><th colspan="2">True dual-port RAM</th></tr>
<tr><th>Same port RDW</th><th>Mixed-port RDW</th><th>Same port RDW (11)</th><th>Mixed-port RDW (12)</th></tr>
<tr><td>M512</td><td rowspan="3">No parameter editor (13)</td><td rowspan="2">Old Data
Don't Care</td><td colspan="2">N/A</td></tr>
<tr><td>M4K</td><td rowspan="2">No parameter editor (13)</td><td>Old Data
Don't Care</td></tr>
<tr><td>M-RAM</td><td>Don't Care</td><td>Don't Care</td></tr>
</table>

(9) Single-port RAM only supports same-port RDW, and the clocking mode must be either single clock mode, or input/output clock mode.
(10) Simple dual-port RAM only supports mixed-port RDW, and the clocking mode must be either single clock mode, or input/output clock mode.
(11) The clocking mode must be either single clock mode, input/output clock mode, or independent clock mode.
(12) The clocking mode must be either single clock mode, or input/output clock mode.
(13) There is no option page available from the parameter editor in this mode. By default, the new data flows through to the output.

Memory Block Types	Single-port RAM (9)	Simple dual-port RAM (10)	True dual-port RAM	
	Same port RDW	Mixed-port RDW	Same port RDW (11)	Mixed-port RDW (12)
MLAB	Don't Care New Data (14)	New Data (15) Old Data Don't Care	N/A MLAB is not supported in true dual-port RAM	
M9K	Don't Care New Data (16) Old Data	Old Data Don't Care	New Data (16) Old Data	Old Data Don't Care
M144K		Old Data Don't Care	New Data (14)	Old Data Don't Care
M10K	Don't Care New Data (14)	Old Data Don't Care	New Data (14)	Old Data Don't Care
M20K	Old Data Don't Care	Old Data Don't Care	New Data (14)	Old Data Don't Care
LCs	No parameter editor (13)	Old Data Don't Care	N/A	

Note: The RDW old data mode is not supported when the Error Correction Code (ECC) is engaged.

Note: If you are not concerned about the output when RDW occurs and would like to improve performance, you can select **Don't Care**. Selecting **Don't Care** increases the flexibility in the type of

(9) Single-port RAM only supports same-port RDW, and the clocking mode must be either single clock mode, or input/output clock mode.
(10) Simple dual-port RAM only supports mixed-port RDW, and the clocking mode must be either single clock mode, or input/output clock mode.
(11) The clocking mode must be either single clock mode, input/output clock mode, or independent clock mode.
(12) The clocking mode must be either single clock mode, or input/output clock mode.
(14) The new data behavior for same-port RDW support NEW_DATA_NO_NBE_READ for x on masked byte only when the byte enable applies.
(15) Only supported in single clock mode with new data behavior of NEW_DATA_NO_NBE_READ.
(16) There are two types of new data behavior for same-port RDW that you can choose from the parameter editor. When byte enable is applied, you can choose to read old data, or 'X' on the masked byte. The respective parameter values are:

- **NEW_DATA_WITH_NBE_READ** for old data on masked byte.
- **NEW_DATA_NO_NBE_READ** for x on masked byte.

memory block being used, provided you do not assign block type when you instantiate the memory block.

Power-Up Conditions and Memory Initialization

Power-up conditions depend on the type of embedded memory blocks in use and whether or not the output port is registered.

Table 3-10: Power-Up Conditions for Various Embedded Memory Blocks

This table lists the power-up conditions in the various types of embedded memory blocks.

Embedded Memory Blocks	Power-Up Conditions
M512	Outputs cleared
M4K	Outputs cleared
M-RAM	Outputs cleared if registered, otherwise unknown
MLAB	Outputs cleared if registered, otherwise reads memory contents
M9K	Outputs cleared
M144K	Outputs cleared
M10K	Outputs cleared
M20K	Outputs cleared

The outputs of M512, M4K, M9K, M144K, M10K, and M20K blocks always power-up to zero, regardless of whether the output registers are used or bypassed. Even if a memory initialization file is used to pre-load the contents of the memory block, the output is still cleared.

MLAB and M-RAM blocks power-up to zero only if output registers are used. If output registers are not used, MLAB blocks power-up to read the memory contents while M-RAM blocks power-up to an unknown state.

Note: When the memory block type is set to Auto in the parameter editor, the compiler is free to choose any memory block type, in which the power-up value depends on the chosen memory block type. To identify the type of memory block the software selects to implement your memory, refer to the fitter report after compilation.

All memory blocks (excluding M-RAM) support memory initialization via the Memory Initialization File (.mif) or Hexadecimal (Intel-format) file (.hex). You can include the files using the parameter editor when you configure and build your RAM. For RAM, besides using the .mif file or the .hex file, you can initialize the memory to zero or 'X'. To initialize the memory to zero, select No, leave it blank. To initialize the content to 'X', turn on Initialize memory content data to XX..X on power-up in simulation. Turning on this option does not change the power-up behavior of the RAM but initializes the content to 'X'. For example, if your target memory block is M4K, the output is cleared during power-up (based on Table 4–8). The content that is initialized to 'X' is shown only when you perform the read operation.

Note: The Quartus II software searches for the altsyncram init_file in the project directory, the project db directory, user libraries, and the current source file location.

Error Correction Code

Error correction code (ECC) allows you to detect and correct data errors at the output of the memory.

The Stratix III and Stratix IV M144K memory blocks have built-in ECC support of up to x64-wide simple dual-port mode while the Stratix V M20K memory blocks have built-in ECC support of x32-wide simple dual-port mode. The ECC in Stratix III and IV can perform single-error-correction double-error detection (SECDED), in which it can detect and fix a single-bit error or detect two-bit errors (without fixing). The Stratix V ECC feature can perform single error correction, double adjacent error correction, and triple adjacent error detection, in which it can detect and fix a single bit error event or a double adjacent error event, or detect three adjacent errors without fixing the errors. However, the Stratix V ECC feature cannot detect four or more errors.

The ECC feature is not supported in the following conditions:

- mixed-width port feature is used
- byte-enable feature is engaged

Note: The Mixed-port RDW for old data mode is not supported when the ECC feature is engaged. The result for RDW is Don't Care.

The M144K ECC status is communicated via a three-bit status flag eccstatus[2..0]. while the M20K ECC status is communicated with a two-bit ECC status flag eccstatus[1..0] where eccstatus[1] corresponds to the signal e (error) and eccstatus[0] corresponds to the signal ue (uncorrectable error).

Status	M144K	M20K	
	eccstatus[2..0]	eccstatus[1..0]	
		eccstatus[1] e	eccstatus[0] ue
No error	000	0	0
Single error and fixed	011	—	—
Double error and no fix	101	—	—
Illegal	001	0	1
	010	0	1
Illegal	100	0	1
	11X	0	1
A correctable error occurred and the error has been corrected at the outputs; however, the memory array has not been updated.	—	1	0
An uncorrectable error occurred and uncorrectable data appears at the output.	—	1	1

Embedded Memory Signals and Parameters

4

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Describes the signals and parameters of the RAM: 1-PORT, RAM: 2-PORT, ROM: 1-PORT, and ROM: 2-PORT IP cores.

Signals

This table lists the signals for RAM:1-PORT, RAM: 2-PORT, ROM:1-PORT, and ROM:2-PORT IP cores.

Table 4-1: RAM:1-PORT, RAM: 2-PORT, ROM:1-PORT, and ROM:2-PORT IP Cores

Signal	Type	Required	Description
data_a	Input	Optional	Data input to port A of the memory. The data_a port is required if you set the **operation_mode** parameter to any of the following values: • SINGLE_PORT • DUAL_PORT • BIDIR_DUAL_PORT
address_a	Input	Yes	Address input to port A of the memory. The address_a signal is required for all operation modes.
wren_a	Input	Optional	Write enable input for address_a port. The wren_a signal is required if you set the **operation_mode** to any of the following values: • **SINGLE_PORT** • **DUAL_PORT** • **BIDIR_DUAL_PORT**
rden_a	Input	Optional	Read enable input for address_a port. The rden_a signal is supported depending on your selected memory mode and memory block.

Signal	Type	Required	Description
byteena_a	Input	Optional	Byte enable input to mask the data_a port so that only specific bytes, nibbles, or bits of the data are written. The byteena_a port is not supported in the following conditions: • If implement_in_les parameter is set to ON • If operation_mode parameter is set to ROM
addressstall_a	Input	Optional	Address clock enable input to hold the previous address of address_a port for as long as the addressstall_a port is high.
q_a	Output	Yes	Data output from port A of the memory. The q_a port is required if the operation_mode parameter is set to any of the following values: • SINGLE_PORT • BIDIR_DUAL_PORT • ROM The width of q_a port must be equal to the width of data_a port.
data_b	Input	Optional	Data input to port B of the memory. The data_b port is required if the operation_mode parameter is set to BIDIR_DUAL_PORT.
address_b	Input	Optional	Address input to port B of the memory. The address_b port is required if the operation_mode parameter is set to the following values: • DUAL_PORT • BIDIR_DUAL_PORT
wren_b	Input	Yes	Write enable input for address_b port. The wren_b port is required if operation_mode is set to BIDIR_DUAL_PORT.
rden_b	Input	Optional	Read enable input for address_b port. The rden_b port is supported depending on your selected memory mode and memory block
byteena_b	Input	Optional	Byte enable input to mask the data_b port so that only specific bytes, nibbles, or bits of the data are written. The byteena_b port is not supported in the following conditions: • If implement_in_les parameter is set to ON • If operation_mode parameter is set to SINGLE_PORT, DUAL_PORT, or ROM

Signal	Type	Required	Description
addressstall_b	Input	Optional	Address clock enable input to hold the previous address of address_b port for as long as the addressstall_b port is high.
q_b	Output	Yes	Data output from port B of the memory. The q_b port is required if the operation_mode is set to the following values: • DUAL_PORT • BIDIR_DUAL_PORT The width of q_b port must be equal to the width of data_b port.
clock0	Input	Yes	The following describes which of your memory clock must be connected to the clock0 port, and port synchronization in different clocking modes: • Single clock: Connect your single source clock to clock0 port. All registered ports are synchronized by the same source clock. • Read/Write: Connect your write clock to clock0 port. All registered ports related to write operation, such as data_a port, address_a port, wren_a port, and byteena_a port are synchronized by the write clock. • Input Output: Connect your input clock to clock0 port. All registered input ports are synchronized by the input clock. • Independent clock: Connect your port A clock to clock0 port. All registered input and output ports of port A are synchronized by the port A clock.
clock1	Input	Optional	The following describes which of your memory clock must be connected to the clock1 port, and port synchronization in different clocking modes: • Single clock: Not applicable. All registered ports are synchronized by clock0 port. • Read/Write: Connect your read clock to clock1 port. All registered ports related to read operation, such as address_b port, rden_b port, and q_b port are synchronized by the read clock. • Input Output: Connect your output clock to clock1 port. All the registered output ports are synchronized by the output clock. • Independent clock: Connect your port B clock to clock1 port. All registered input and output ports of port B are synchronized by the port B clock.
clocken0	Input	Optional	Clock enable input for clock0 port.
clocken1	Input	Optional	Clock enable input for clock1 port.
clocken2	Input	Optional	Clock enable input for clock0 port.

Signal	Type	Required	Description
clocken3	Input	Optional	Clock enable input for clock1 port.
aclr0 aclr1	Input	Optional	Asynchronously clear the registered input and output ports. The aclr0 port affects the registered ports that are clocked by clock0 clock, while the aclr1 port affects the registered ports that are clocked by clock1 clock. The asynchronous clear effect on the registered ports can be controlled through their corresponding asynchronous clear parameter, such as outdata_aclr_a,address_aclr_a, and so on.
eccstatus	Output	Optional	A 3-bit wide error correction status port. Indicate whether the data that is read from the memory has an error in single-bit with correction, fatal error with no correction, or no error bit occurs. In Stratix V devices, the M20K ECC status is communicated with two-bit wide error correction status port. The M20K ECC detects and fixes a single bit error event or a double adjacent error event, or detects three adjacent errors without fixing the errors. The eccstatus port is supported if all the following conditions are met: • operation_mode parameter is set to DUAL_PORT • ram_block_type parameter is set to M144K or M20K • width_a and width_b parameter have the same value • Byte enable is not used
data	Input	Yes	Data input to the memory. The data port is required and the width must be equal to the width of the q port.
wraddress	Input	Yes	Write address input to the memory. The wraddress port is required and must be equal to the width of the raddress port.
wren	Input	Yes	Write enable input for wraddress port. The wren port is required.
rdaddress	Input	Yes	Read address input to the memory. The rdaddress port is required and must be equal to the width of wraddress port.
rden	Input	Optional	Read enable input for rdaddress port. The rden port is supported when the use_eab parameter is set to OFF. The rden port is not supported when the ram_block_type parameter is set to MLAB. Instantiate the ALTSYNCRAM IP core if you want to use read enable feature with other memory blocks.

Signal	Type	Required	Description
byteena	Input	Optional	Byte enable input to mask the data port so that only specific bytes, nibbles, or bits of data are written. The byteena port is not supported when use_eab parameter is set to OFF. It is supported in Arria II GX, Stratix III, Cyclone III, and newer devices with the ram_block_type parameter set to MLAB.
wraddressstall	Input	Optional	Write address clock enable input to hold the previous write address of wraddress port for as long as the wraddressstall port is high.
rdaddressstall	Input	Optional	Read address clock enable input to hold the previous read address of rdaddress port for as long as the wraddress-stall port is high. The rdaddressstall port is only supported in Stratix II, Cyclone II, Arria GX, and newer devices except when the rdaddress_reg parameter is set to UNREGISTERED.
q	Output	Yes	Data output from the memory. The q port is required, and must be equal to the width data port.
inclock	Input	Yes	The following describes which of your memory clock must be connected to the inclock port, and port synchroniza-tion in different clocking modes: • Single clock: Connect your single source clock to inclock port and outclock port. All registered ports are synchronized by the same source clock. • Read/Write: Connect your write clock to inclock port. All registered ports related to write operation, such as data port, wraddress port, wren port, and byteena port are synchronized by the write clock. • Input/Output: Connect your input clock to inclock port. All registered input ports are synchronized by the input clock.
outclock	Input	Yes	The following describes which of your memory clock must be connected to the outclock port, and port synchroniza-tion in different clocking modes: • Single clock: Connect your single source clock to inclock port and outclock port. All registered ports are synchronized by the same source clock. • Read/Write: Connect your read clock to outclock port. All registered ports related to read operation, such as rdaddress port, rdren port, and q port are synchronized by the read clock. • Input/Output: Connect your output clock to outclock port. The registered q port is synchronized by the output clock.
inclocken	Input	Optional	Clock enable input for inclock port.
outclocken	Input	Optional	Clock enable input for outclock port.

Signal	Type	Required	Description
aclr	Input	Optional	Asynchronously clear the registered input and output ports. The asynchronous clear effect on the registered ports can be controlled through their corresponding asynchronous clear parameter, such as indata_aclr, wraddress_aclr, and so on.

RAM:1-Port IP Core Parameters

This table lists the parameters for the RAM:1-Port IP Core

Table 4-2: RAM: 1-Port IP Core Parameters

Parameter	Legal Values	Description
Parameter Settings: Widths/Blk Type/Clks		
How wide should the 'q' output bus be?	—	Specifies the width of the 'q' output bus.
How many <X>-bit words of memory?	—	Specifies the number of <X>-bit words.
What should the memory block type be?	Auto, M-RAM, M4K, M512, M9K, M10K, M144K, MLAB, M20K, LCs	Specifies the memory block type. The types of memory block that are available for selection depends on your target device.
Set the maximum block depth to	Auto, 32, 64, 128, 256, 512, 1024, 2048, 4096, 8192,16384, 32768, 65536	Specifies the maximum block depth in words.
What clocking method would you like to use?	• Single clock • Dual clock: use separate 'input' and 'output' clocks	Specifies the clocking method to use. • **Single clock**—A single clock and a clock enable controls all registers of the memory block. • **Dual clock: use separate 'input' and 'output' clocks**—An input and an output clock controls all registers related to the data input and output to/from the memory block including data, address, byte enables, read enables, and write enables.
Parameter Settings: Regs/Clken/Byte Enable/Aclrs		

Parameter		Legal Values	Description
Which ports should be registered? The following options are available: • 'data' and 'wren' input ports • 'address' input port • 'q' output port		On/Off	Specifies whether to register the input and output ports.
Create one clock enable signal for each clock signal. Note: All registered ports are controlled by the enable signal(s)		On/Off	Specifies whether to turn on the option to create one clock enable signal for each clock signal.
More Options	Use clock enable for port A input registers	On/Off	Specifies whether to use clock enable for port A input registers.
	Use clock enable for port A output registers	On/Off	Specifies whether to use clock enable for port A output registers.
	Create an 'addressstall_a' input port.	On/Off	Specifies whether to create a addressstall_a input port. You can create this port to act as an extra active low clock enable input for the address registers.
Create byte enable for port A		On/Off	Specifies whether to create a byte enable for port A. Turn on this option if you want to mask the input data so that only specific bytes, nibbles, or bits of data are written. To enable byte enable for port A and port B, the data width ratio has to be 1 or 2 for the RAM: 1-PORT and RAM: 2-PORT IP cores.
What is the width of a byte for byte enables?		• MLAB: 5 or 10 • Other memory block types: 8 or 9 • M10K and M20K: 8, 9, or 10	Specifies the byte width of the byte enable port. The width of the data input port must be divisible by the byte size.
Create an 'aclr' asynchronous clear for the registered ports.		On/Off	Specifies whether to create an asynchronous clear port for the registered data, wren, address, q, and byteena_a ports.

Parameter		Legal Values	Description
More Options	'q' port	On/Off	Turn on this option for the 'q' port to be affected by the asynchronous clear signal. The disabled ports are not affected by the asynchronous clear signal.
Create a 'rden' read enable signal		On/Off	Specifies whether to create a read enable signal.
Parameter Settings: Read During Write Option			
What should the q output be when reading from a memory location being written to?		New data, Don't Care	Specifies the output behavior when read-during-write occurs. **New Data**—New data is available on the rising edge of the same clock cycle on which it was written. **Don't Care**—The RAM outputs "don't care" or "unknown" values for read-during-write operation.
Get x's for write masked bytes instead of old data when byte enable is used		On/Off	Turn on this option to obtain 'X' on the masked byte. For M10K and M20K memory block, this option is not available if you specify **New Data** as the output behavior when RDW occurs.
Parameter Settings: Mem Init			
Do you want to specify the initial content of the memory?		• No, leave it blank • Yes, use this file for the memory content data	Specifies the initial content of the memory. To initialize the memory to zero, select **No, leave it blank**. To use a memory initialization file (.mif) or a hexadecimal (Intel-format) file (.hex), select **Yes, use this file for the memory content data.**
Allow In-System Memory Content Editor to capture and update content independ-ently of the system clock		On/Off	Specifies whether to allow In-System Memory Content Editor to capture and update content independently of the system clock.
The 'Instance ID' of this RAM is		None	Specifies the RAM ID.

RAM: 2-Port IP Core Parameters

This table lists the parameters for the RAM: 2-Port IP Core

Table 4-3: RAM: 2-Port Parameter Settings

Parameter	Legal Values	Description
Parameter Settings: General		
How will you be using the dual port RAM?	• With one read port and one write port • With two read / write ports	Specifies how you use the dual port RAM.
How do you want to specify the memory size?	• As a number of words • As a number of bits	Determines whether to specify the memory size in words or bits.
Parameter Settings: Widths/ Blk Type		
How many <X>-bit words of memory?	—	Specifies the number of <X>-bit words.
Use different data widths on different ports	On/Off	Specifies whether to use different data widths on different ports.
When you select **With one read port and one write port**, the following options are available: • How wide should the 'q_a' output bus be? • How wide should the 'data_a' input bus be? • How wide should the 'q' output bus be?	—	Specifies the width of the input and output ports.
When you select **With two read/write ports**, the following options are available: • How wide should the 'q_a' output bus be? • How wide should the 'q_b' output bus be?		
What should the memory block type be?	Auto, M-RAM, M4K, M512, M9K, M10K, M144K, MLAB, M20K, LCs	Specifies the memory block type. The types of memory block that are available for selection depends on your target device.
How should the memory be implemented?	• Use default logic cell style • Use Stratix M512 emulation logic cell style	Specifies the logic cell implementation options. This option is enabled only when you choose LCs memory type.

Parameter	Legal Values	Description
Set the maximum block depth to	Auto, 32, 64, 128, 256, 512, 1024, 2048, 4096	Specifies the maximum block depth in words. This option is enabled only when you set the memory block type to **Auto.**
Parameter Settings: Clks/Rd, Byte En		
What clocking method would you like to use?	When you select **With one read port and one write port**, the following values are available: • Single clock • Dual clock: use separate 'input' and 'output' clocks • Dual clock: use separate 'read' and 'write' clock When you select **With two read/write ports**, the following options are available: • Single clock • Dual clock: use separate 'input' and 'output' clocks • Dual clock: use separate clocks for A and B ports	Specifies the clocking method to use. • **Single clock**—A single clock and a clock enable controls all registers of the memory block. • **Dual Clock: use separate 'input' and 'output' clocks**—An input and an output clock controls all registers related to the data input and output to/from the memory block including data, address, byte enables, read enables, and write enables. • **Dual clock: use separate 'read' and 'write' clock**—A write clock controls the data-input, write-address, and write-enable registers while the read clock controls the data-output, read-address, and read-enable registers. • **Dual clock: use separate clocks for A and B ports**—Clock A controls all registers on the port A side; clock B controls all registers on the port B side. Each port also supports independent clock enables for both port A and port B registers, respectively.

Parameter	Legal Values	Description
When you select **With one read port and one write port**, the following option is available: Create a 'rden' read enable signal	—	Specifies whether to create a read enable signal for port B.
When you select **With two read/write ports**, the following option is available: Create a 'rden_a' and 'rden_b' read enable signal		Specifies whether to create a read enable signal for port A and B.
Create byte enable for port A	—	Specifies whether to create a byte enable for port A and B. Turn on these options if you want to mask the input data so that only specific bytes, nibbles, or bits of data are written. To enable byte enable for port A and port B, the data width ratio has to be 1 or 2 for the RAM: 1-PORT and RAM: 2-PORT IP cores. The option to create a byte enable for port B is only available when you select the **With two read/write ports** option.
Create byte enable for port B	—	
Enable error checking and correcting (ECC) to check and correct single bit errors and detect double errors	On/Off	Specifies whether to enable the ECC feature that corrects single bit errors and detects double errors at the output of the memory. This option is only available in devices that support M144K memory block type.
Enable error checking and correcting (ECC) to check and correct single bit errors, double adjacent bit errors, and detect triple adjacent bit errors	On/Off	Specifies whether to enable the ECC feature that corrects single bit errors, double adjacent bit errors, and detects triple adjacent bit errors at the output of the memory. This option is only available in devices that support M20K memory block type.
Parameter Settings: Regs/Clkens/Aclrs		

Parameter		Legal Values	Description
Which ports should be registered? When you select **With one read port and one write port**, the following options are available: • 'data', 'wraddress', and 'wren' write input ports • 'raddress' and 'rden' read input port • Read output port(s) 'q' When you select **With two read/write ports**, the following options are available: • 'data_a', 'wraddress_a', and 'wren_a' write input ports • Read output port(s) 'q'_a and 'q_b'		On/Off	Specifies whether to register the read or write input and output ports.
More Options	When you select **With one read port and one write port**, the following options are available: • 'data' port • 'wraddress' port • 'wren' port • 'raddress' port • 'q_b' port When you select **With two read / write ports**, the following options are available: • 'data_a' port • 'data_b' port • 'wraddress_a' port • 'wraddress_b' port • 'wren_a' port • 'wren_b' port • 'q_a' port • 'q_b' port	On/Off	The read and write input ports are turned on by default. You only need to specify whether to register the Q output ports.
Create one clock enable signal for each clock signal.		On/Off	Specifies whether to turn on the option to create one clock enable signal for each clock signal.

Parameter		Legal Values	Description
More Options	When you select **With one read port and one write port**, the following option is available: • Use clock enable for write input registers When you select **With two read / write ports**, the following options are available: • Use clock enable for port A input registers • Use clock enable for port B input registers • Use clock enable for port A output registers • Use clock enable for port B output register	On/Off	Clock enable for port B input and output registers are turned on by default. You only need to specify whether to use clock enable for port A input and output registers.

Parameter		Legal Values	Description
More Options	When you select **With one read port and one write port**, the following options are available: • Create an 'wr_ addressstall' input port. • Create an 'rd_ addressstall' input port. When you select **With two read / write ports**, the following options are available: • Create an 'addressstall_a' input port. • Create an 'addressstall_b' input port.	On/Off	Specifies whether to create clock enables for address registers. You can create these ports to act as an extra active low clock enable input for the address registers.
Create an 'aclr' asynchronous clear for the registered ports.		On/Off	Specifies whether to create an asynchronous clear port for the registered ports.
More Options	When you select With one read port and one write port, the following options are available: • 'q_b' port • 'rdaddress' port When you select With two read /write ports, the following options are available: • 'q_a' port • 'q_b' port	On/Off	Specifies whether the 'raddress', 'q_a', and 'q_b' ports are cleared by the aclr port.
Parameter Settings: Output 1			

Parameter	Legal Values	Description

When you select **With one read port and one write port**, the following option is available:
• How should the q output behave when reading a memory location that is being written from the other port?
When you select **With two read /write ports**, the following option is available:
• How should the q_a and q_b outputs behave when reading a memory location that is being written from the other port?
	• Old memory contents appear
	• I do not care
		Specifies the output behavior when read-during-write occurs.
		• **Old memory contents appear**— The RAM outputs reflect the old data at that address before the write operation proceeds.
		• **I do not care**—This option functions differently when you turn it on depending on the following memory block type you select:
		  • When you set the memory block type to **Auto**, **M144K**, **M512**, **M4K**, **M9K**, **M10K**, **M20K** or any other block RAM, the RAM outputs 'don't care' or "unknown" values for read-during-write operation without analyzing the timing path.
		  • When you set the memory block type to **MLAB** (for LUTRAM) , the RAM outputs 'dont care' or 'unknown' values for read-during-write operation but analyzes the timing path to prevent metastability.

Do not analyze the timing between write and read operation. Metastability issues are prevented by never writing and reading at the same address at the same time.	On/Off	Turn on this option when you want the RAM to output 'don't care' or unknown values for read-during-write operation without analyzing the timing path. This option is only available for LUTRAM and is enabled when you set memory block type to **MLAB.**
Parameter Settings: Output 2 (This tab is only available when you select two read/ write ports)		

Parameter	Legal Values	Description
What should the 'q_a' output be when reading from a memory location being written to? What should the 'q_b' output be when reading from a memory location being written to?	• New data • Old Data	Specifies the output behavior when read-during-write occurs. • **New Data**—New data is available on the rising edge of the same clock cycle on which it was written. • **Old Data**—The RAM outputs reflect the old data at that address before the write operation proceeds.
Get x's for write masked bytes instead of old data when byte enable is used	On/Off	Turn on this option to obtain 'X' on the masked byte.
Parameter Settings: Mem Init		
Do you want to specify the initial content of the memory?	• No, leave it blank • Yes, use this file for the memory content data	Specifies the initial content of the memory. To initialize the memory to zero, select **No, leave it blank.** To use a memory initialization file (**.mif**) or a hexadecimal (Intel-format) file (**.hex**), select **Yes, use this file for the memory content data**.

ROM: 1-PORT IP Core Parameters

This table lists the parameters for the ROM: 1-PORT IP Core.

Table 4-4: ROM: 1-PORT IP Core Parameters

Parameter	Legal Values	Description
Parameter Settings: General Page		
How wide should the 'q' output bus be?	—	Specifies the width of the 'q' output bus.
How many <X>-bit words of memory?	—	Specifies the number of <X>-bit words.

Parameter		Legal Values	Description
What should the memory block type be?		Auto, M4K, M9K, M144K, M10K, M20K	Specifies the memory block type. The types of memory block that are available for selection depends on your target device.
Set the maximum block depth to		Auto, 32, 64, 128, 256, 512, 1024, 2048, 4096	Specifies the maximum block depth in words.
What clocking method would you like to use?		• Single clock • Dual clock: use separate 'input' and 'output' clocks	Specifies the clocking method to use. • **Single clock**—A single clock and a clock enable controls all registers of the memory block • **Dual clock (Input and Output clock)**—The input clock controls the address registers and the output clock controls the data-out registers. There are no write-enable, byte-enable, or data-in registers in ROM mode.
Parameter Settings: Regs/Clken/Aclrs			
Which ports should be registered? 'q' output port		On/Off	Specifies whether to register the 'q' output port.
Create one clock enable signal for each clock signal. Note: All registered ports are controlled by the enable signal(s)		On/Off	Specifies whether to turn on the option to create one clock enable signal for each clock signal.
More Options	Use clock enable for port A input registers	On/Off	Specifies whether to use clock enable for port A input registers.
	Use clock enable for port A output registers	On/Off	Specifies whether to use clock enable for port A output registers.
	Create an 'addressstall_a' input port.	On/Off	Specifies whether to create a addressstall_a input port. You can create this port to act as an extra active low clock enable input for the address registers.
Create an 'aclr' asynchronous clear for the registered ports.		On/Off	Specifies whether to create an asynchronous clear port for the registered ports.

Parameter		Legal Values	Description
More Options	'address' port	On/Off	Specifies whether the 'address' port should be affected by the 'aclr' port.
	'q' port	On/Off	Specifies whether the 'q' port should be affected by the 'aclr' port.
Create a 'rden' read enable signal		On/Off	Specifies whether to create a read enable signal.
Parameter Settings: Mem Init			
Do you want to specify the initial content of the memory?		Yes, use this file for the memory content data	Specifies the initial content of the memory. In ROM mode you must specify a memory initialization file (**.mif**) or a hexadecimal (Intel-format) file (**.hex**). The **Yes, use this file for the memory content data** option is turned on by default.
Allow In-System Memory Content Editor to capture and update content independently of the system clock		On/Off	Specifies whether to allow In-System Memory Content Editor to capture and update content independently of the system clock
The 'Instance ID' of this ROM is		—	Specifies the ROM ID.

ROM: 2-PORT IP Core Parameters

This table lists the ROM: 2-PORT IP Core parameters.

Table 4-5: ROM: 2-PORT IP Core Parameters

Parameter	Legal Values	Description
Parameter Settings: Widths/Blk Type		
How do you want to specify the memory size?	• As a number of words • As a number of bits	Determines whether to specify the memory size in words or bits.
How many <X>-bit words of memory?	32, 64, 128, 256, 512, 1024, 2048, 4096, 8192, 16384, 32768, 65536	Specifies the number of <X>-bit words.

Parameter	Legal Values	Description
Use different data widths on different ports	On/Off	Specifies whether to use different data widths on different ports.
How wide should the 'q_a' output bus be?	—	Specifies the width of the 'q_a' and 'q_b' output ports.
How wide should the 'q_b' output bus be?		
What should the memory block type be?	Auto, M4K, M9K, M144K, M10K, M20K, MLAB	Specifies the memory block type. The types of memory block that are available for selection depends on your target device
Set the maximum block depth to	Auto, 128, 256, 512, 1024, 2048, 4096	Specifies the maximum block depth in words. This option is enabled only when you choose **Auto** as the memory block type.
Parameter Settings: Clks/Rd, Byte En		

Parameter		Legal Values	Description
What clocking method would you like to use?		• Single clock • Dual clock: use separate 'input' and 'output' clocks • Dual clock: use separate clocks for A and B ports	Specifies the clocking method to use. • **Single clock**—A single clock and a clock enable controls all registers of the memory block • **Dual clock: use separate 'input' and 'output' clocks**—The input clock controls the address registers and the output clock controls the data-out registers. There are no write-enable, byte-enable, or data-in registers in ROM mode. • **Dual clock: use separate clocks for A and B ports**—Clock A controls all registers on the port A side; clock B controls all registers on the port B side. Each port also supports independent clock enables for both port A and port B registers, respectively.
Create a 'rden_a' and 'rden_b' read enable signals		—	Specifies whether to create read enable signals.
Parameter Settings: Regs/Clkens/Aclrs			
Read output port(s) 'q_a' and 'q_b'		On/Off	Specifies whether to register the 'q_a' and 'q_b' output ports.
More Options	'q_a' port	On/Off	Specifies whether to register the 'q_a' output port.
	'q_b' port	On/Off	Specifies whether to register the 'q_b' output port.
Create one clock enable signal for each clock signal.		On/Off	Specifies whether to turn on the option to create one clock enable signal for each clock signal.

Parameter		Legal Values	Description
More Options	Use clock enable for port A input registers	On/Off	Specifies whether to use clock enable for port A input registers.
	Use clock enable for port A output registers	On/Off	Specifies whether to use clock enable for port A output registers.
	Create an 'addressstall_a' input port.	On/Off	Specifies whether to create addressstall_a and address-stall_b input ports. You can create these ports to act as an extra active low clock enable input for the address registers.
	Create an 'addressstall_b' input port.	On/Off	Specifies whether to create an asynchronous clear port for the registered ports.
Create an 'aclr' asynchronous clear for the registered ports.		On/Off	Specifies whether to create an asynchronous clear port for the registered ports.
More Options	'q_a' port	On/Off	Specifies whether the 'q_a' port should be cleared by the aclr port.
	'q_b' port	On/Off	Specifies whether the 'q_b' port should be cleared by the aclr port.
Parameter Settings: Mem Init			
Do you want to specify the initial content of the memory?		Yes, use this file for the memory content data	Specifies the initial content of the memory. In ROM mode you must specify a memory initialization file (**.mif**) or a hexadecimal (Intel-format) file (**.hex**). The **Yes, use this file for the memory content data** option is turned on by default.
The initial content file should conform to which port's dimensions?		• PORT_A • PORT_B	Specifies whether the initial content file conforms to port A or port B.

Design Example 5

2014.12.17

UG-01068

Simulate the designs using the ModelSim®-Altera software to generate a waveform display of the device behavior.

The following design files in **Internal_Memory_DesignExample.zip**:

- ecc_encoder.v
- ecc_decoder.v
- true_dp_ram.v
- top_dpram.v
- true_dp_ram.vt
- true_dp.do
- true_dp.qar (Quartus II design file)

Related Information

- **Internal_Memory_DesignExample.zip**
  Provides the design examples for this user guide
- **ModelSim-Altera Software Support**
  The support page includes links to such topics as installation, usage, and troubleshooting for the ModelSim-Altera software

External ECC Implementation with True-Dual-Port RAM

The ECC features are only supported internally in simple dual-port RAM by Stratix IV devices when the M144K is implemented or by Stratix V when the M20K is implemented. Therefore, this design example describes how ECC features can be implemented in other RAM modes, regardless of the type of device memory block you use. It also demonstrates the features of the same-port and mixed-port read-during-write behaviors.

This design example uses a true dual-port RAM and illustrates how the ECC feature can be implemented external to the RAM. The ALTECC_ENCODER and ALTECC_DECODER IP cores are required as the ALTECC_ENCODER IP core encodes the data input before writing the data into the RAM, while the ALTECC_DECODER IP core decodes the data output from the RAM before transferring the data out to other parts of the logic.

In this design example, the raw data width is 8 bits and is encoded by the ALTECC_ENCODER IP core block to produce a 13-bit width data that is written into the true dual-port RAM when write-enable signal

is asserted. Because the RAM mode has two dedicated write ports, another encoder is implemented for the other RAM input port.

Two ALTECC_DECODER blocks are also implemented at each of the data output ports of the RAM. When the read-enable signal is asserted, the encoded data is read from the RAM address and decoded by the ALTECC_DECODER blocks, respectively. The decoder shows the status of the data as no error detected, single-bit error detected and corrected, or fatal error (more than 1-bit error).

This example also includes a "corrupt zero bit" control signal at port A of the RAM. When the signal is asserted, it changes the state of the zero-bit (LSB) encoded data before it is written into the RAM. This signal is used to corrupt the zero-bit data storing through port A, and examines the effect of the ECC features.

This design example describes how ECC features can be implemented with the RAM for cases in which the ECC is not supported internally by the RAM. However, the design examples might not represent the optimized design or implementation.

Generating the ALTECC_ENCODER and ALTECC_DECODER with the RAM: 2-PORT IP Core

To generate the ALTECC_ENCODER and ALTECC_DECODER with the RAM: 2-PORT IP core, follow these steps:

1. Open the **Internal_Memory_DesignExample.zip** file and extract **true_dp.qar**.
2. In the Quartus II software, open the **true_dp.qar** file and restore the archive file into your working directory.
3. In the IP Catalog (**Tools** > **IP Catalog**), locate and double-click the ALTECC IP core. The parameter editor appears.
4. Specify the following parameters:

Table 5-1: Configuration Settings for ALTECC_ENCODER

Option	Value
How do you want to configure this module?	Configure this module as an ECC encoder
How wide should the data be?	8 bits
Do you want to pipeline the functions?	Yes, I want an output latency of 1 clock cycle
Create an 'aclr' asynchronous clear port	Not selected
Create a 'clocken' clock enable clock	Not selected

5. Click Finish. The **ecc_encoder.v** module is built.
6. In the IP Catalog double-click the ALTECC IP core. The parameter editor appears.
7. Specify the following parameters:

Table 5-2: Configuration Settings for ALTECC_DECODER

Option	Value
How do you want to configure this module?	Configure this module as an ECC decoder

Option	Value
How wide should the data be?	13 bits
Do you want to pipeline the functions?	Yes, I want an output latency of 1 clock cycle
Create an 'aclr' asynchronous clear port	Not selected
Create a 'clocken' clock enable clock	Not selected

8. Click Finish. The **ecc_decoder.v** module is built.
9. In the IP Catalog double-click the ALTECC IP core. The parameter editor appears.
10. Specify the following parameters:

Table 5-3: Configuration Settings for RAM: 2-Port IP Core

Option	Value
Which type of output file do you want to create?	Verilog HDL
What name do you want for the output file?	true_dp_ram
Return to this page for another create operation	Turned off
Currently selected device family:	Stratix III
How will you be using the dual port ram?	With two read/write ports
How do you want to specify the memory size?	As a number of words
How many 8-bit words of memory?	16
Use different data widths on different ports	Not selected
How wide should the 'q_a' output bus be?	13
What should the memory block type be?	M9K
Set the maximum block depth to	Auto
Which clocking method do you want to use?	Single clock
Create 'rden_a' and 'rden_b' read enable signals	Not selected
Byte Enable Ports	Not selected
Which ports should be registered?	All write input ports and read output ports
Create one clock enable signal for each signal	Not selected
Create an 'aclr' asynchronous clear for the registered ports	Not selected
Mixed Port Read-During-Write for Single Input Clock RAM	Old memory contents appear
Port A Read-During-Write Option	New Data
Port B Read-During-Write Option	Old Data
Do you want to specify the initial content of the memory?	Not selected

Option	Value
Generate netlist	Turned off
Variation file (.vhd)	Turned on
AHDL Include file (.inc)	Turned off
VHDL component declaration file (.cmp)	Turned on
Quartus II symbol file (.bsf)	Turned off
Instantiation template file(.vhd)	Turned off

11. Click Finish. The **true_dp_ram.v** module is built.

The **top_dpram.v** is a design variation file that contains the top level file that instantiates two encoders, a true dual-port RAM, and two decoders. To simulate the design, a testbench, **true_dp_ram.vt**, is created for you to run in the ModelSim-Altera software.

Simulating the Design

To simulate the design in the ModelSim-Altera software, follow these steps:

1. Unzip the **Internal_Memory_DesignExample.zip** file to any working directory on your PC.
2. Start the ModelSim-Altera software.
3. On the File menu, click **Change Directory**.
4. Select the folder in which you unzipped the files.
5. Click **OK**.
6. On the Tools menu, point to **TCL** and click **Execute Macro**. The **Execute Do File** dialog box appears.
7. Select the **true_dp.do** file and click **Open**. The **true_dp.do** file is a script file that automates all the necessary settings, compiles and simulates the design files, and displays the simulation waveform.
8. Verify the result shown in the Waveform Viewer window.

You can rearrange signals, remove signals, add signals, and change the radix by modifying the script in **true_dp.do** accordingly.

Simulation Results

This table lists the top-level block contains the input and output ports.

Table 5-4: Top-level Input and Output Ports Representations

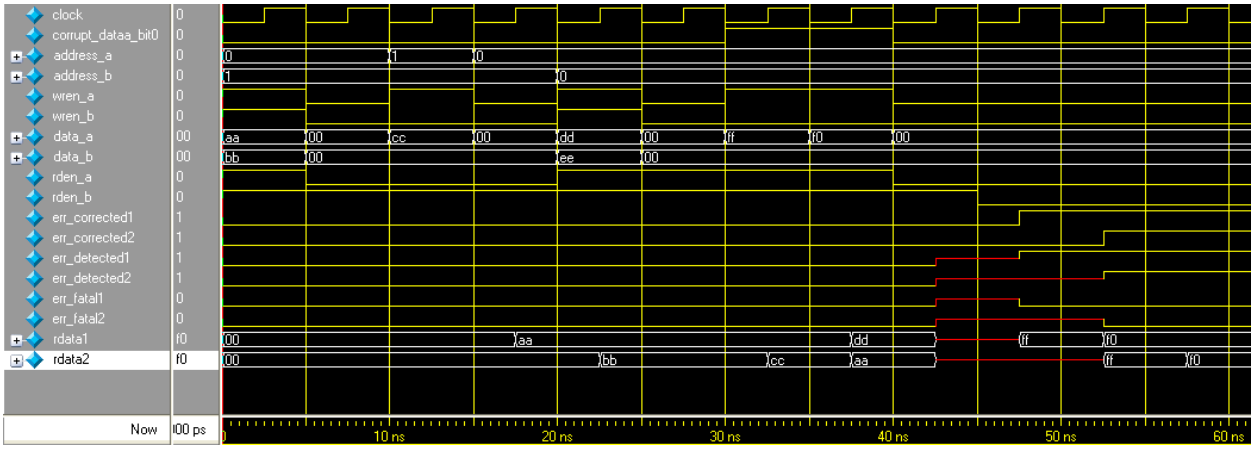
Ports Name	Ports Type	Descriptions
`clock`	Input	System Clock for the encoders, RAM, and decoders.
`corrupt_dataa_bit0`	Input	Registered active high control signal that 'twist' the zero bit (LSB) of input encoded data at port A before writing into the RAM. (17)

(17) For input ports, only data signal goes through the encoder; others bypass the encoder and go directly to the RAM block. Because the encoder uses one pipeline, signals that bypass the encoder require additional pipelines before going to the RAM. This has been implemented in the top level.

Ports Name	Ports Type	Descriptions
address_a data_a wren_a rden_a	Input	Address input, data input, write enable, and read enable to port A of the RAM. (17)
address_b data_b wren_b rden_b	Input	Address input, data input, write enable, and read enable to port B of the RAM. (17)
rdata1 err_corrected1 err_detected1 err_fatal1	Output	Output data read from port A of the RAM, and the ECC-status signals reflecting the data read. (18)
rdata2 err_corrected2 err_detected2 err_fatal2	Output	Output data read from port B of the RAM, and the ECC-status signals reflecting the data read. (18)

Figure 5-1: Simulation Results

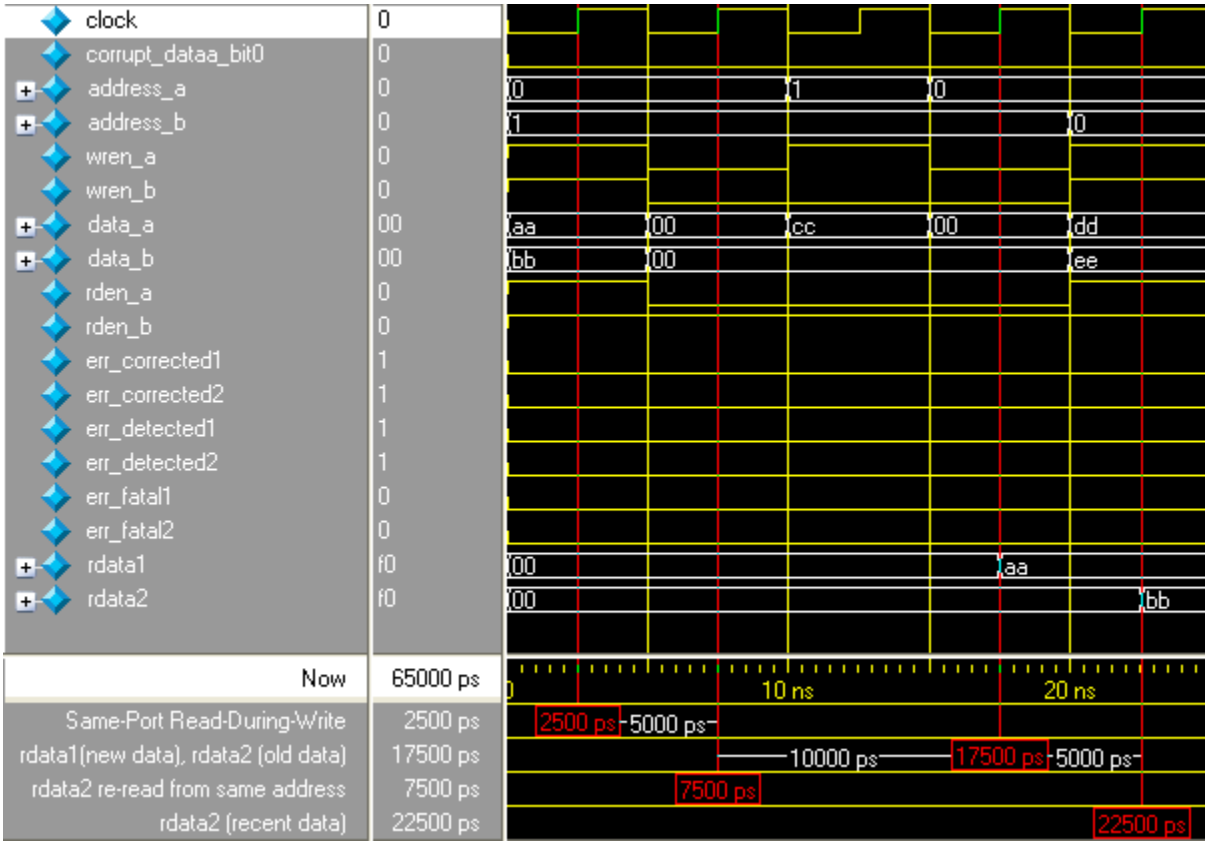
This figure shows the expected simulation waveform results in the ModelSim-Altera software.



(18) The encoder and decoder each use one pipeline while the RAM uses two pipelines, making the total pipeline equal to four. Therefore, read data is only shown at output ports four clock cycles after the read enable is initiated.

Figure 5-2: Same-Port Read-During-Write

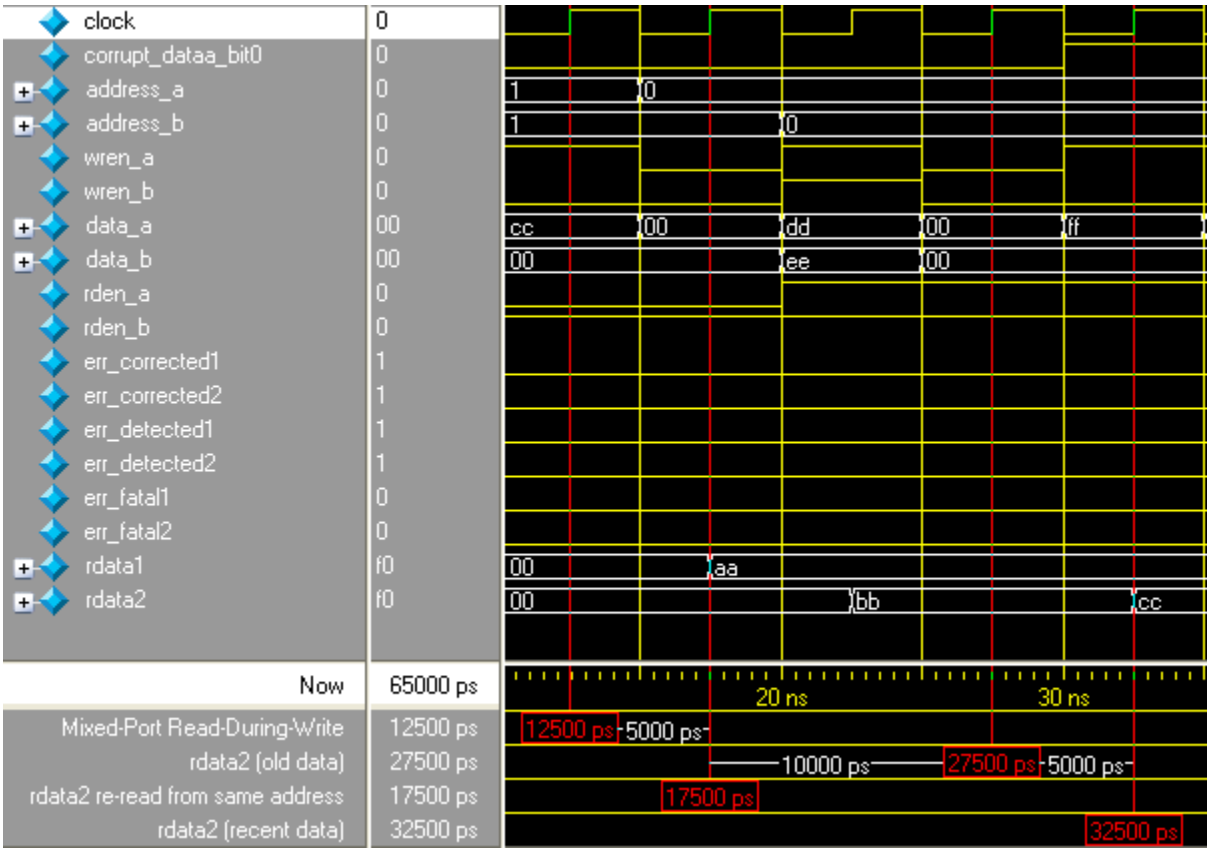
This figure shows the timing diagram of when the same-port read-during-write occurs for each port A and port B of the RAM.



At 2500 ps, same-port read-during-write occurs for each port A and port B. Because the true dual-port RAM configured to port A is reading the new data and port B is reading the old data when the same-port read-during-write occurs, the `rdata1` port shows the new data `aa` and the `rdata2` port shows the old data `00` after four clock cycles at 17500 ps. When the data is read again from the same address at the next rising clock edge at 7500 ps, the `rdata2` port shows the recent data `bb` at 22500 ps.

Figure 5-3: Mixed-Port Read-During-Write

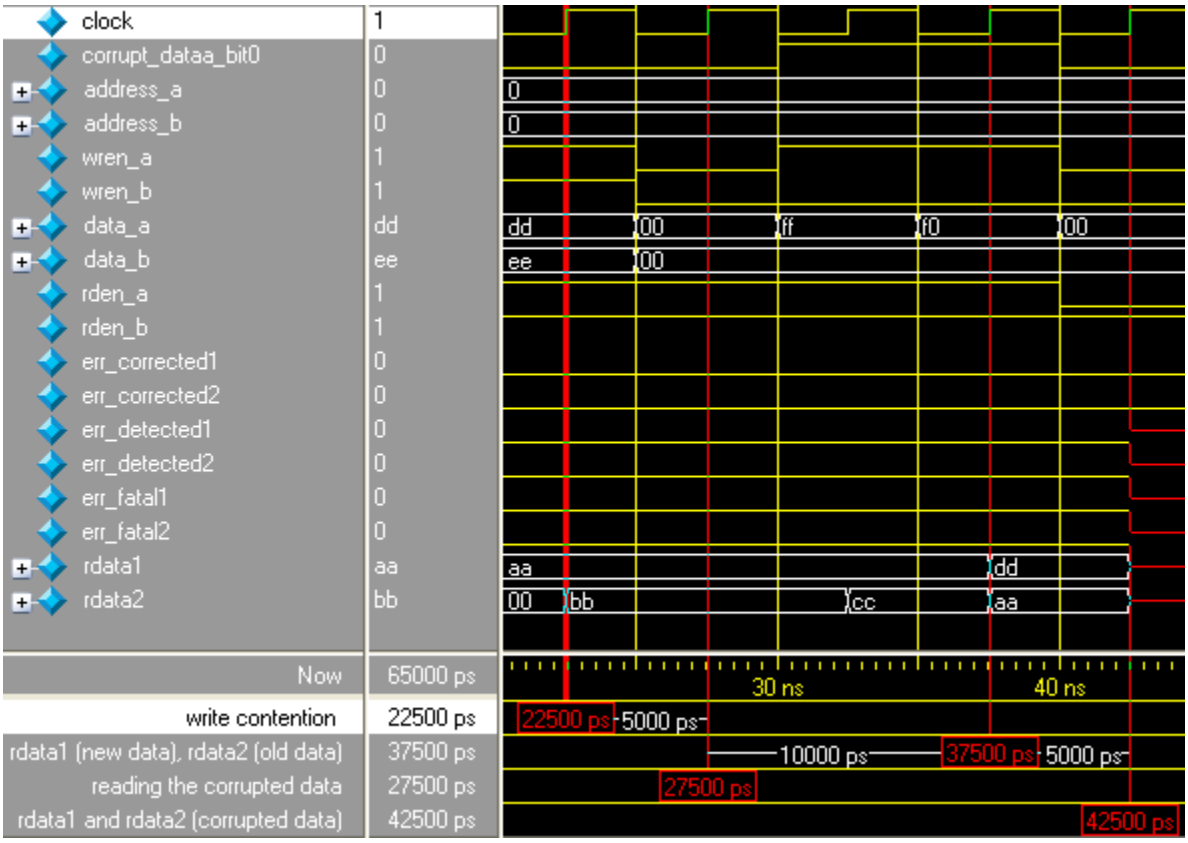
This figure shows the timing diagram of when the mixed-port read-during-write occurs.



At 12500 ps, mixed-port read-during-write occurs when data cc is both written to port A, and is reading from port B, simultaneously targeting the same address 1. Because the true dual-port RAM that is configured to mixed-port read-during-write is showing the old data, the `rdata2` port shows the old data bb after four clock cycles at 27500 ps. When the data is read again from the same address at the next rising clock edge at 17500 ps, the `rdata2` port shows the recent data cc at 32500 ps.

Figure 5-4: Write Contention

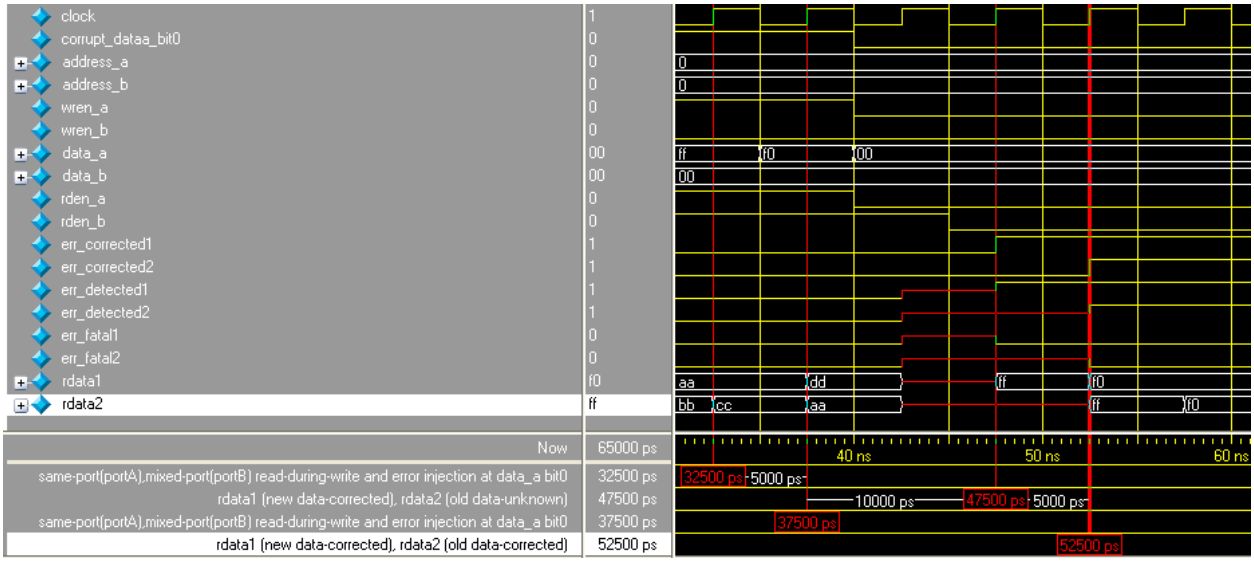
This figure shows the timing diagram of when the write contention occurs.



At 22500 ps, the write contention occurs when data `dd` and `ee` are written to address 0 simultaneously. Besides that, the same-port read-during-write also occurs for port A and port B. The setting for port A and port B for same-port read-during-write takes effect when the `rdata1` port shows the new data `dd` and the `rdata2` port shows the old data `aa` after four clock cycles at 37500 ps. When the data is read again from the same address at the next rising clock edge at 27500 ps, `rdata1` and `rdata2` ports show unknown values at 42500 ps. Apart from that, the unknown data input to the decoder also results in an unknown ECC status.

Figure 5-5: Error Injection– Asserting corrupt_dataa_bit0

This figure shows the timing diagram of the effect when an error is injected to twist the LSB of the encoded data at port A by asserting `corrupt_dataa_bit0`.



At 32500 ps, same-port read-during-write occurs at port A while mixed-port read-during-write occurs at port B. The `corrupt_dataa_bit0` is also asserted to corrupt the LSB of encoded data at port A; therefore, the storing data has the LSB corrupted, in which the intended data `ff` is corrupted, becomes `fe`, and stored at address 0. After four clock cycles at 47500 ps, the `rdata1` port shows the new data `ff` that has been corrected by the decoder, and the ECC status signals, `err_corrected1` and `err_detected1`, are asserted. For `rdata2` port, old data (which is unknown) is shown and the ECC-status signal remains unknown.

Note: The decoders correct the single-bit error of the data shown at `rdata1` and `rdata2` ports only. The actual data stored at address 0 in the RAM remains corrupted, until new data is written.

At 37500 ps, the same condition happens to port A and port B. The difference is port B reads the corrupted old data `fe` from address 0. After four clock cycles at 52500 ps, the `rdata2` port shows the old data ff that has been corrected by the decoder and the ECC status signals, `err_corrected2` and `err_detected2`, are asserted to show the data has been corrected.

Document Revision History

A

2014.12.17

UG-01068 Subscribe Send Feedback

Document Revision History

This table lists the document revision history for the user guide.

Table A-1: Document Revision History

Date	Version	Changes
December 2014	2014.12.17	• Specified that to enable byte enable for port A and port B, the data width ratio has to be 1 or 2 for the RAM: 1-PORT and RAM: 2-PORT IP cores. • Updated document template.
2014.06.30	5.0	• Replaced MegaWizard Plug-In Manager information with IP Catalog. • Added standard information about upgrading IP cores. • Added standard installation and licensing information. • Removed outdated device support level information. IP core device support is now available in IP Catalog and parameter editor. • Removed all references to obsolete SOPC Builder tool.
May 2014	4.4	Editorial fix to Table 4–1 on page 4–5.
November 2013	4.3	Updated Table 3–8 on page 3–18 to update M20K block information.
May 2013	4.2	Updated Table 3–4 on page 3–11 to fix a typographical error.

Date	Version	Changes
November 2012	4.1	• Added a note to the "Asynchronous Clear" on page 3–15 to state that internal contents cannot be cleared with the asynchronous clear signal. • Updated note in "Clocking Modes and Clock Enable" on page 3–11 to include Stratix V devices. • Added a note to the "Asynchronous Clear" on page 3–15 to clarify that clear deassertion on output latch is dependent on output clock.
January 2012	4.0	Added a note to "Power-Up Conditions and Memory Initialization" section.
November 2011	3.0	• Updated the RAM2:Port parameter settings. • Updated the Read-During-Write section. Added M10K memory block information. • Added support information for Arria V and Cyclone V.
March 2011	2.0	Added new features for M20K memory block.
November 2009	1.0	Initial release