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alt_gen

Linux Device Driver Documentation

Revision A
Corresponding Hardware: Revision H
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Corresponding Firmware: N/A works with any Altera Firmware

alt_gen
Linux Device Driver for a
Generic PCI-Altera-485/LVDS
Altera design.

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Introduction

The alt_gen driver is a Linux device driver for a generic Altera design from Dynamic Engineering. This design is for the Altera EP20K400EBC652 FPGA on the PCI-Altera board. The Altera is programmed over the PCI interface with a configuration file from the host file system. The eight-bit Altera design ID field is then read from offset 0, bits 31-24 and the appropriate driver is loaded. If no dedicated Altera driver exists for the loaded configuration, but the Altera loads successfully, this Altera driver will be loaded. The alt_gen driver allows the Rx FIFO reset and almost-full levels, LEDs, PLLs, and interrupts to be specifically controlled, but requires all other write accesses to use a generic data structure that contains two unsigned long integer fields: an address offset and a data value field.

The Altera controls 40 RS-485 or LVDS transceivers and 12 TTL I/O lines. There are also eight programmable PLLs with three clock outputs each that are programmed by the Altera and drive input pins on the Altera. Eight transmit FIFOs and eight receive FIFOs are connected between the Xilinx and the Altera to buffer data transfers for eight independent I/O channels.

An Altera design is treated as a hot-swappable child of the pci_alt parent. This means that different Altera configurations can be loaded at any time without powering down. A new Altera driver will be loaded automatically provided the design ID matches a known value. As stated above, if the ID is not known, but the Altera loads successfully, this generic Altera driver will be loaded.

A handle to the current Altera driver can be obtained using the open() function call and passing in the appropriate device name (see below). IO Control calls (IOCTLs) are used to configure the Altera and read status.

Note

This documentation will provide information about all calls made to the driver, and how the driver interacts with the device for each of these calls. For more detailed information on the hardware implementation, refer to the PCI-Altera-user manual (also referred to as the hardware manual). The alt_gen driver was developed on Linux kernel version 2.6.35. If you are using a different version, some modification of the source code may be required.

Driver Installation

The source files and makefiles for the drivers and test applications are supplied in the driver archive file pci_altera.tar.bz2. Extract the directory structure to the computer where the driver is to be built.

From the top-level directory type “KBUILD_NOPEDANTIC=1 make” (necessary to suppress errors related to changing CFLAGS in Makefile). This will build the driver and test application object files. Next type “(sudo) make install” to copy the files to the target locations (/lib/modules/$(VERSION)/kernel/drivers/char/pci_alt/ for the drivers, /usr/local/bin/ for the test applications, /usr/lib/hotplug/firmware/ for the Altera configuration files, /sbin/hotplug/ for the firmware loader, and /etc/udev/rules.d/ for the configuration rule files) (you must be root for this to succeed). If so desired, type “make clean” to remove executable, object and interim files after installation.

Driver Startup

Install the hardware and boot the computer. Handles can be opened to a specific board by using the open() function call and passing in the appropriate device name.

Below is example code for opening a handle for device `dev_num`.

```
#typedef long HANDLE
#define       INPUT_SIZE 80

HANDLE   halt_gen;

char  Name[INPUT_SIZE];
int   dev_num;

do
{
   printf("\nEnter target board number (starting with zero): \n");
   scanf("%d", &dev_num);
   if(dev_num < 0 || dev_num > NUM_PCI_ALT_DEVICES)
      printf("\nTarget board number %d out of range!\n", dev_num);
}
while(dev_num < 0 || dev_num > NUM_PCI_ALT_DEVICES);

sprintf(Name, "/dev/alt_gen_%d", dev_num);
halt_gen = open(Name , O_RDWR);
if(halt_gen < 2)
{
   printf("\n%s FAILED to open!\n", Name);
   return 1;
}
```

IO Controls

The driver uses ioctl() calls to configure the device and obtain status. The parameters passed to the ioctl() function include the handle obtained from the open() call, an integer command that is defined in the API header file and an optional parameter used to pass data in and/or out of the device. If both input and output parameters are needed, a union of the two is used for the I/O parameter. The ioctl commands defined for the alt_gen driver are described below.

IOCTL_ALT_GEN_GET_INFO

Function: Returns the Driver Version and PLL device IDs.
Input: None
Output: ALT_GEN_DRIVER_DEVICE_INFO structure
Notes: The PLL device IDs are dynamically detected when the driver starts up. They are most likely 0x69, but could be the alternate ID value 0x6A.

IOCTL_ALT_GEN_SET_LEDS

Function: Controls the state of the four LEDs – A_Led0-3 on the upper right-hand corner of the board.
Input: Unsigned character
Output: None
Notes: A value of zero turns off all four LEDs. A one in a bit position 0..3 turns on the corresponding LED.

IOCTL_ALT_GEN_READ_PLL_DATA

Function: Returns the contents of a PLL's internal registers.
Input: Unsigned character
Output: PLL_READ structure
Notes: The channel number of the PLL to write to is passed in to this call and the register data is output in the PLL_READ structure in an array or 40 bytes. If channel is greater than seven, the first byte of the data array will return the value of the S2 bits from the eight PLLs.

IOCTL_ALT_GEN_LOAD_PLL_DATA

Function: Loads the internal registers of a PLL.
Input: PLL_LOAD structure
Output: None
Notes: The PLL_LOAD structure has two fields: Channel – the number of the PLL to write to, and Data – an array of 40 bytes containing the data to write. If channel is greater than seven, the first byte of data is written to the S2 bits for the eight PLLs.

IOCTL_ALT_GEN_PUT_DATA

Function: Writes one long word to the Altera memory space.
Input: ALT_DATA_LOAD structure
Output: None
Notes: The ALT_DATA_LOAD structure has two unsigned long integer fields:
Address: the address offset value from the Altera base address.
Data: the data value to write to the above address.

IOCTL_ALT_GEN_GET_DATA

Function: Reads one long word from the Altera memory space.
Input: Unsigned long integer
Output: Unsigned long integer
Notes: As in the previous call the address offset value is passed into this call, but in this case the data value read from that address is returned.

IOCTL_ALT_GEN_RESET_RX_FIFOS

Function: Resets the Rx FIFOs.
Input: None
Output: None
Notes: Resets all eight receive FIFOs.

IOCTL_ALT_GEN_SET_RX_LEVEL

Function: Sets an Rx FIFO almost full level.
Input: RX_LEVEL_LOAD structure
Output: None
Notes: The RX_DATA_LOAD structure has two fields:
Channel – the 8-bit number of the single receive FIFO to write to
Data – the 16-bit almost full level to write.

IOCTL_ALT_GEN_WAIT_ON_INTERRUPT

Function: Inserts the calling process into a wait queue until an interrupt occurs.
Input: Time-out value in jiffies (unsigned long integer)
Output: None
Notes: This call is made in the user interrupt service routine to allow user-specified interrupt handlers for enabled interrupt conditions. The input parameter is a time-out value that causes the call to abort if the interrupt doesn't occur within the specified time. If the timeout is zero, the call will wait indefinitely.

IOCTL_ALT_GEN_ENABLE_INTERRUPT

Function: Enables the master interrupt.
Input: None
Output: None
Notes: This command must be run to allow the board to respond to interrupts. The master interrupt enable is disabled in the driver interrupt service routine. This command must then be run again to re-enable it.

IOCTL_ALT_GEN_DISABLE_INTERRUPT

Function: Disables the master interrupt.
Input: None
Output: None
Notes: Used when interrupt processing is no longer desired.

IOCTL_ALT_GEN_FORCE_INTERRUPT

Function: Causes a system interrupt to occur.
Input: None
Output: None
Notes: Causes an interrupt to be asserted on the PCI bus as long as the master interrupt is enabled. This IOCTL is used for development, to test interrupt processing.

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Out of Warranty Repairs

Out of warranty support will be billed. The current minimum repair charge is $125. An open PO will be required.

For Service Contact:

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