

## FPGA, CPLD, CSSP NEWSLETTER

Dear Clive

Hi there and welcome to this first-ever issue of the TechBites FPGA newsletter. Basically, this community is interested with everything and anything pertaining to programmable logic in any of its incarnations.

Things are really humming along at the moment, and we're seeing all sorts of interesting Blogs, Articles, Reviews, and Tech-Tips. Remember that when you read an article, it's a really good idea to give it a quick review (even if only a few words) and rating, because your feedback is of interest to other members. Also, if you haven't already done so, please do start thinking about adding your own content (go to the TB-Articles page and search for "How to add content" to find a step-by-step guide).

Below are just a few of the more interesting (and/or controversial) items that have appeared on our community page in the last couple of days.

Enjoy! Clive "Max" Maxfield – [www.TechBites.com/Max-Maxfield](http://www.TechBites.com/Max-Maxfield)

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### What Were Cadence Thinking?

I don't know about you, but I'm extremely worried. Do the folks at [Cadence](http://www.cadence.com) have any idea what they are doing? I mean, if you were one of the biggest EDA companies on the planet, would you ask ME to present the keynote address for your forthcoming [Virtual PCB Conference](http://www.cadence.com)? But that's what they've gone and done...

[Read more...](#)

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## Going Behind the Beyond in Compiler Tools Development

Who amongst us could hear the name of a company called "Beyond Semiconductor" without thinking of Star Trek: *"Going behind the beyond, behind which no man has boldly gone behind, beyond, before"*? Well, such a person is certainly not your humble narrator...

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## Synfora bags a big gun

It is often said that you can tell the health of a company by looking at who they manage to attract in terms of their talent. If this is true, [Synfora](#) must be in good health as they have just managed to get Andrew Haines to become their VP of Marketing. Synfora is a company that produces high-level synthesis tools and thus is in a huge battle with the 3 big EDA companies as well as Forte.

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## Lattice FPGA Tools Support High-Performance DDR I/Fs

The folks at [Lattice Semiconductor](#) have just announced Version 8.0 of their ispLEVER FPGA design tool suite. This new release includes many enhancements for the design of high speed double data rate (DDR) interfaces for the LatticeECP3 FPGA family.

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## Mentor says I'm the leader!

[Thomas Bollaert from Mentor](#) wants the world to know who is number one in high-level synthesis and he is using data from [Gary Smith's](#) ESL Market Trends report to prove it.

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## FPGA Transceivers: 100 Gbps Simulations in Minutes Instead of Hours

The folks at [Xilinx](#) have just told me about the availability of what they say are the industry's first IBIS-AMI models for FPGA transceivers. Xilinx and Signal Integrity Software, Inc. (SiSoft) will hold a [FREE WEBINAR](#) on Thursday, Nov. 12 to outline the advantages of using IBIS-AMI models for transceiver simulation.

[Read more...](#)

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## Improved Hot-Swap Capabilities for Programmable Power Chips

The folks at [Lattice Semiconductor](#) have just announced the addition of two new higher performance devices to their second generation Power Manager II product family.

[Read more...](#)

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## Altera's Quartus II Web Edition v9.1 – It's Here, It's Now, and It's FREE!

The folks at [Altera](#) are jumping up and down with excitement, telling anyone who will listen that they can upgrade to the new Quartus II Web Edition Software v9.1. It's free, you can download it now, and you don't even require a license.

[Read more...](#)

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## 5000X Acceleration for Bioinformatics App with FPGA Cluster

The folks at [Pico Computing](#) today announced that it has achieved greater than 5000X acceleration of a bioinformatics sequence analysis and dot plot algorithm using a cluster of 112 commodity FPGA devices.

[Read more...](#)

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## Do NOT Over-Engineer Things!

As I pen these words, I am deep in the murky mire. I've done what I usually do, which is to over-engineer something, and now I'm very, very sorry. I should always remember to adhere to the KISS principle ("Keep It Simple, Stupid!")

[Read more...](#)

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Well, I'm afraid that's all we have time for this week. Please remember that the items highlighted here reflect only a sampling of what is available on the FPGA Community at [www.TechBites.com/groups/fpgas-cplds-cssps.html](http://www.TechBites.com/groups/fpgas-cplds-cssps.html)

[Xilinx Spartan-6 FPGA SP605 Evaluation Kit - Accelerate Your Designs – Right Out of the Box - Download free tools and more...](#)

[FPGA selection can help designers reduce power. Find out how with the LatticeECP3 Low Power White Paper.](#)

[Actel's IGLOO low-power FPGAs are the ideal solution for all your handheld, portable applications. Learn more.](#)

[Xilinx Virtex-6 FPGA ML605 Evaluation Kit Accelerate Your Designs – Right Out of the Box Download free tools and more...](#)