



# **Virtex™-4**

## **Source Synchronous**

## **Interface Advantage**

High-Performance  
Source-Synchronous Interfaces  
Made Easy



# We Asked Our Customers:

## *What are your challenges?*

- Shorter design time, faster obsolescence
- More competition, increasing cost pressure
- Demanding complexity and performance
- Power consumption and thermal issues
- Signal integrity problems caused by faster I/O
- Implementing source-synchronous and memory interfaces
  
- Today's seminar addresses ***Source Synchronous I/Fs***

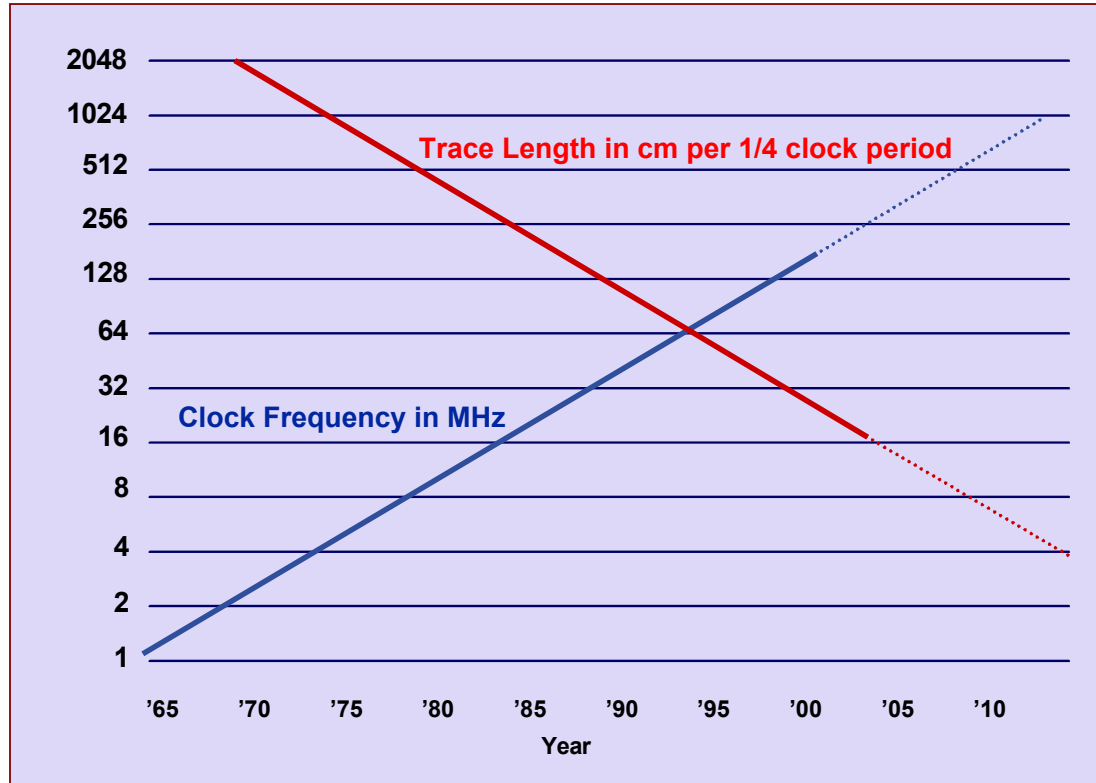
# Agenda

- Background
- Source Synchronous Design Challenges & Solutions
- Building SFI-4.1/ SPI-4.2 applications
- Summary

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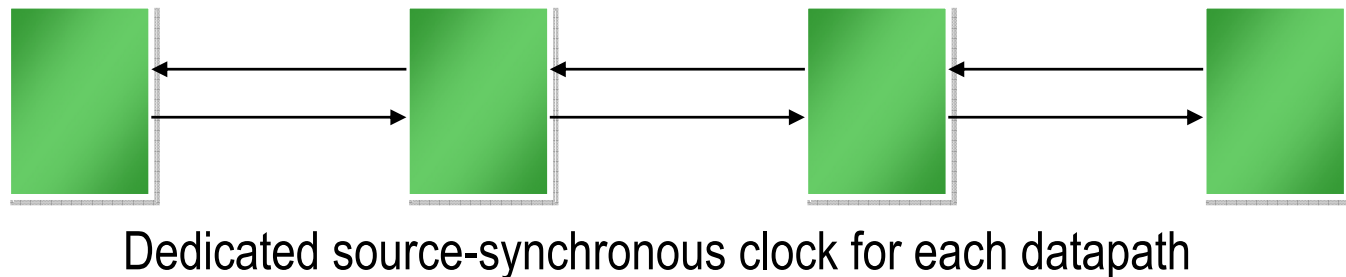
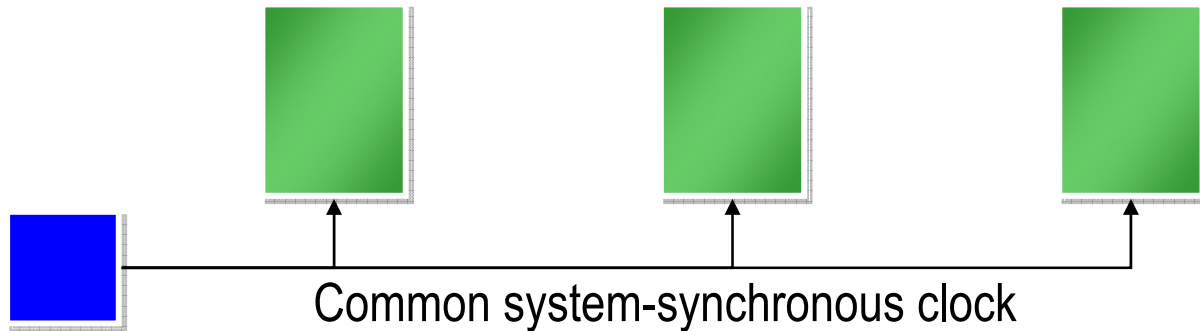
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# Moore Meets Einstein

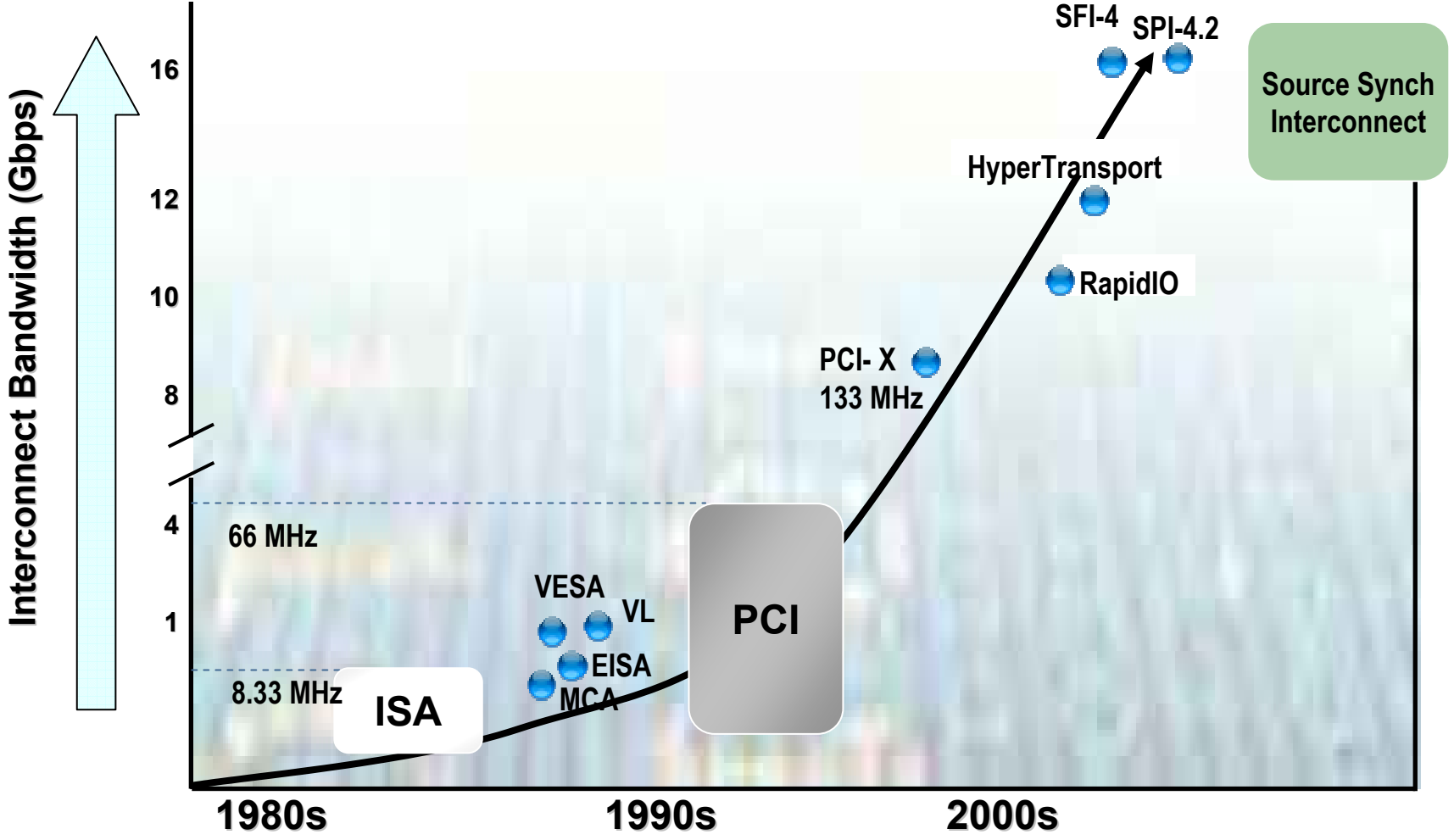


- Speed doubles every 5 years...  
...but the speed of light never changes

# System Synchronous vs. Source Synchronous



# System Interconnect Trends



Note: Interconnect bandwidth = #of data lines \* signaling rate per line



# Source-Synchronous Interfaces

## Key Characteristics

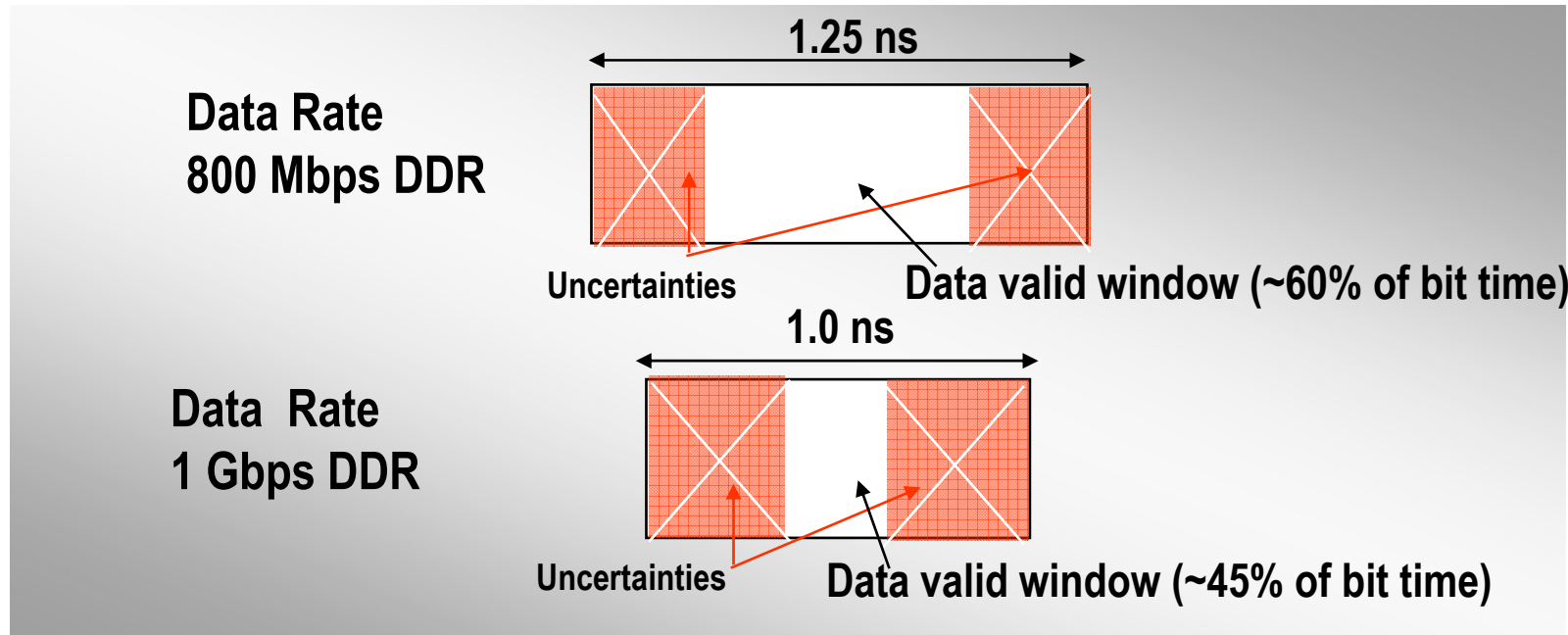
- Point to point connection instead of buses
- Higher chip-to-chip speed
  - SDR: 700 MHz clock
  - DDR: 500 MHz clock
    - 1Gbps data rate
- Higher reliability
  - Minimizes problems of skew and jitter

## Applications

- Networking/Telecom
  - SPI-4.2 / SFI-4 / XSBI
  - RapidIO™
  - NPSI (CSIX)
  - Utopia IV
- Memory
  - DDR SDRAM
  - DDR 2 SDRAM
  - QDR II SRAM
  - RLDRAM II
  - FCRAM II



# Increasing Bandwidth Reduces System Timing Margin



***Effective Data Valid Window Shrinks Faster than the Bit Period***

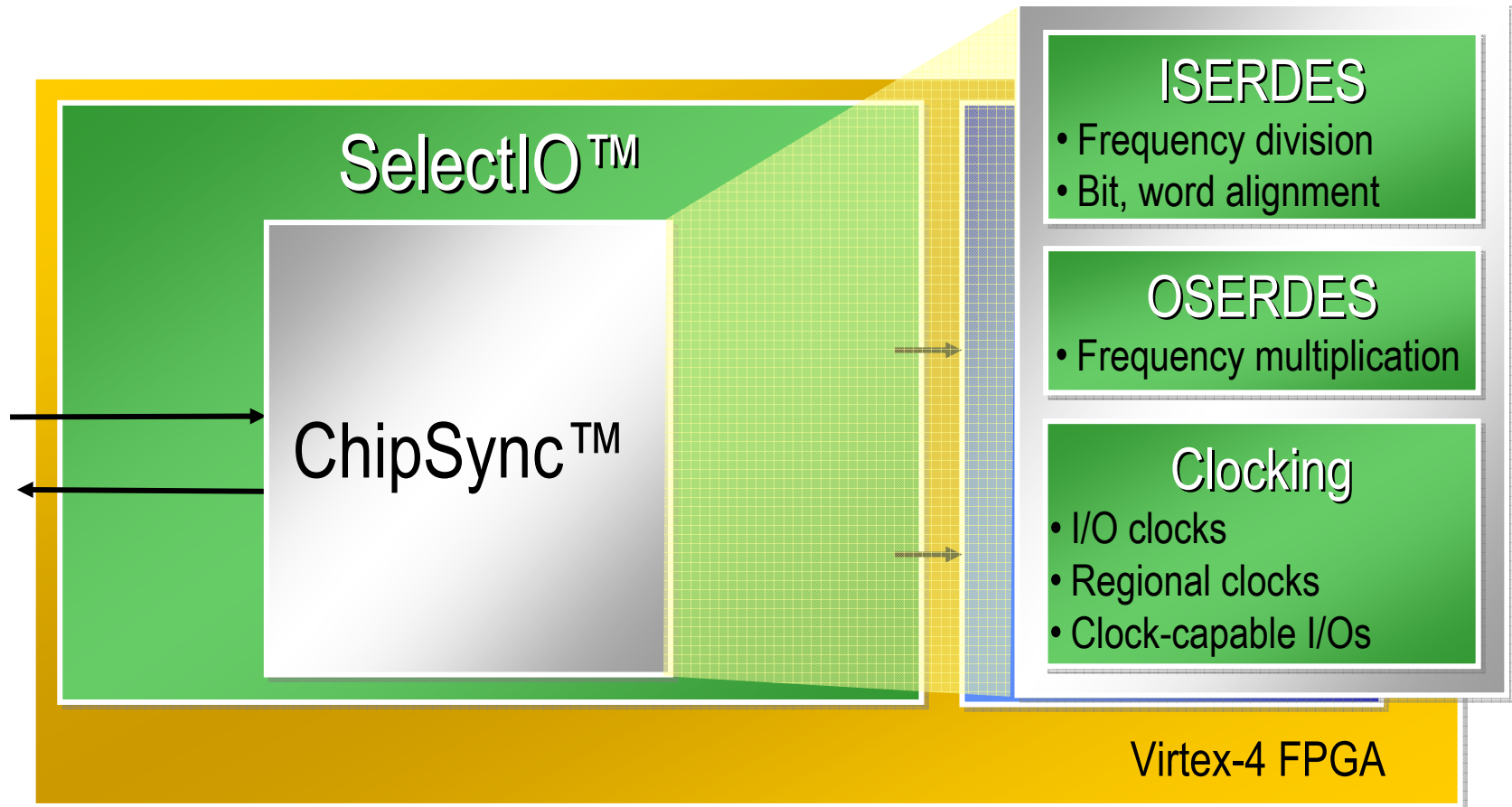
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# Challenges

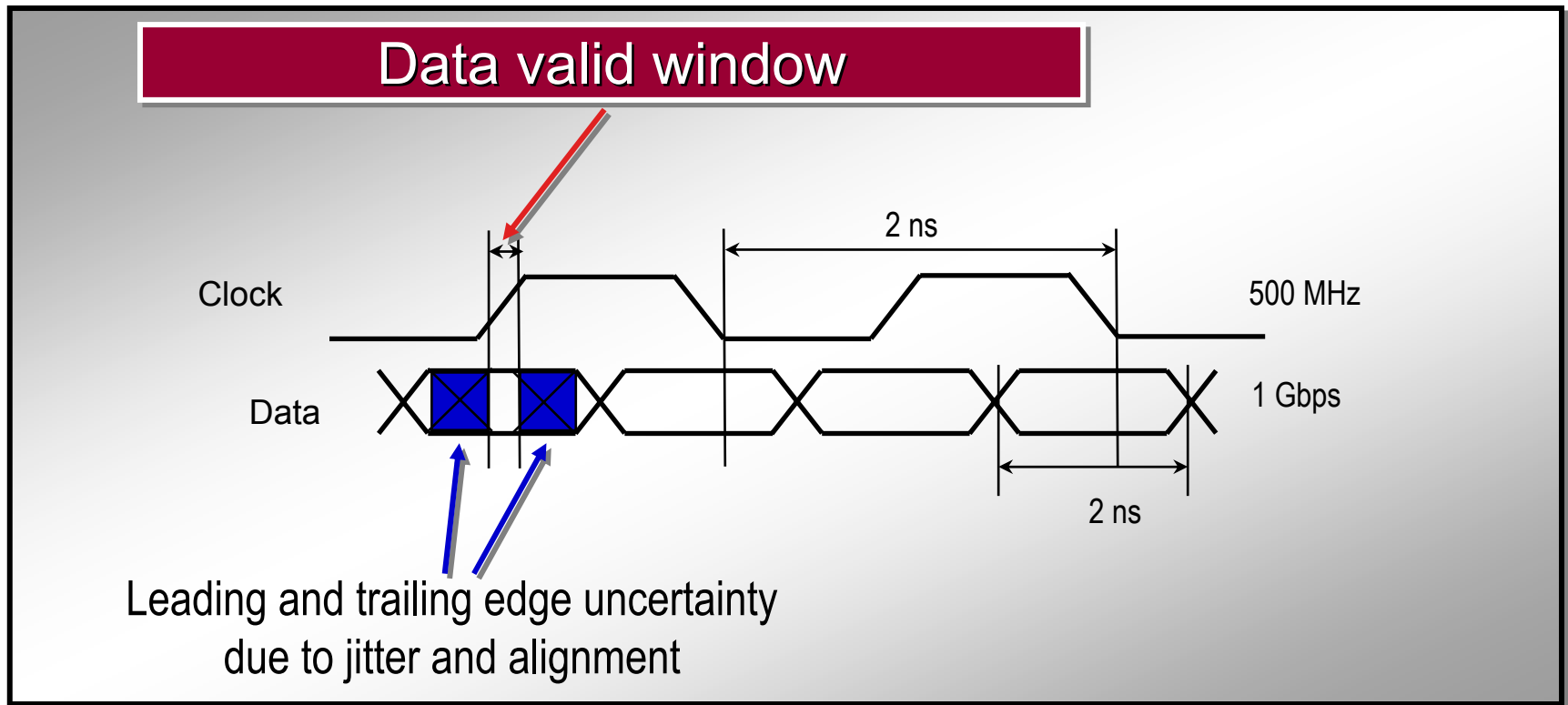
1. Data capture at high speeds
2. Managing clock speeds up to 700 MHz
3. PCB layout challenge
  1. I/O placement flexibility
  2. Channel to channel skew
4. Implementing multiple interfaces

# Virtex-4 I/Os Simplify Design With Built-In Critical Circuits



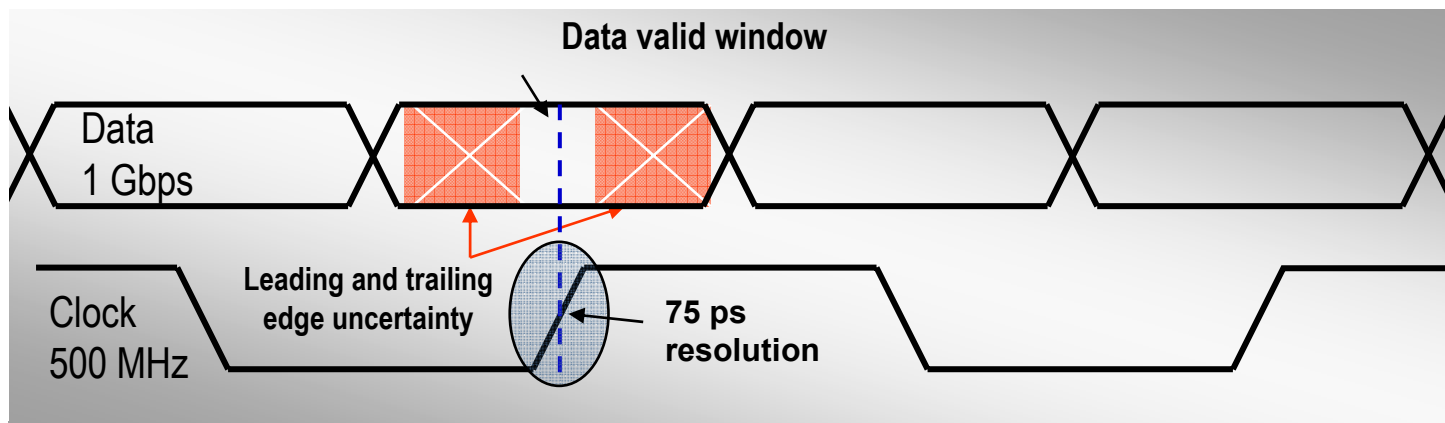
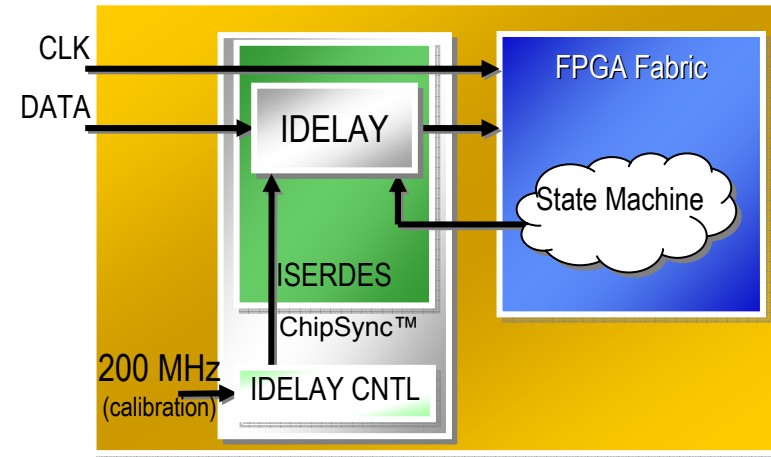
***ChipSync Circuitry in Every I/O!***

# #1: Data Capture at High Speeds



# Precise Clock to Data Centering

- **Virtex-4 FPGA solution with ChipSync™ IDELAY**
  - “Run time” centering of data to clock during initialization
  - 64 tap delays with 75 ps resolution
  - Maximizing design margins for higher system reliability



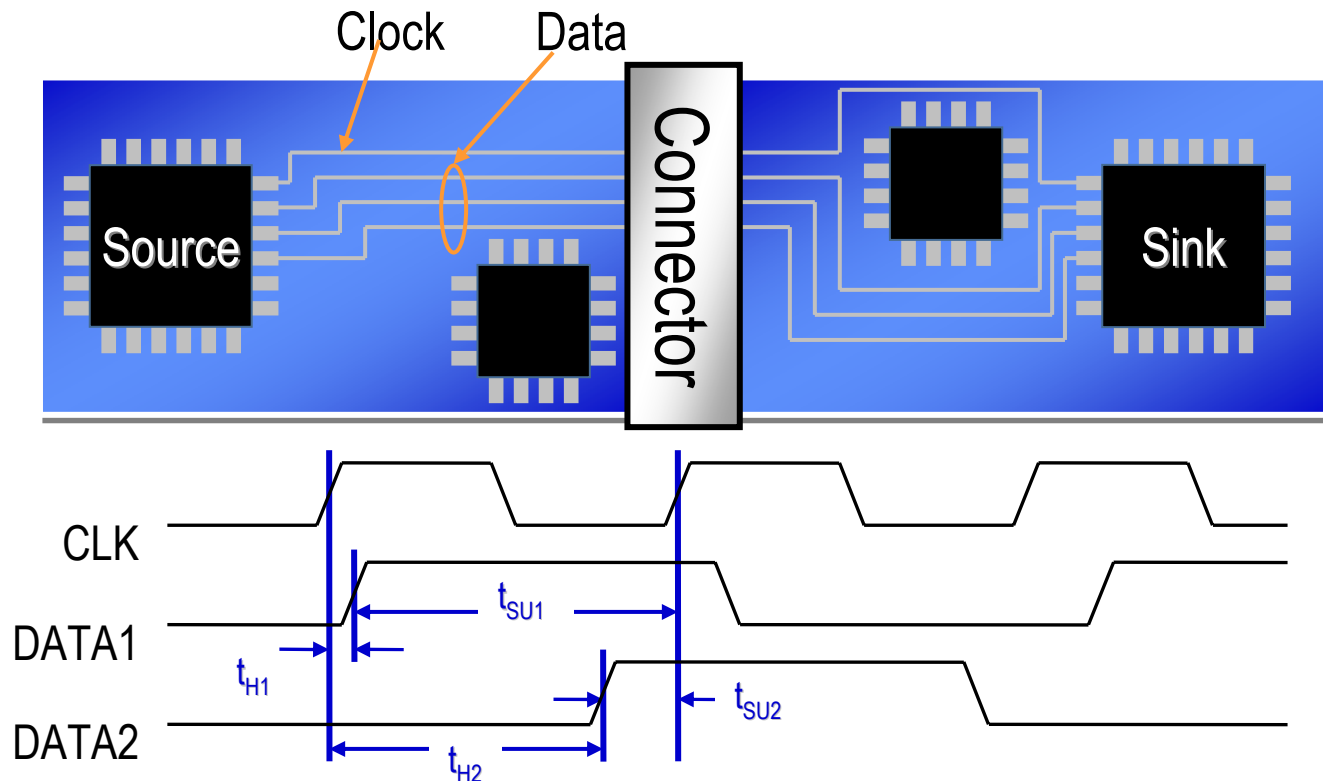
***Not available in any other FPGA, ASIC or ASSP***

# #2: Managing Clock Speeds Up to 700 MHz

- Clock distribution with minimal skew & duty cycle distortion
  - Up to 32 fully differential Global clock distribution networks
  - 4 fully differential IO clock distribution networks per bank
- Ability to forward clocks
  - FPGA can serve as a precision-aligned clock distributor:
    - One 500MHz clock in, 32 500MHz (LVDS) clocks out with less than 50ps of skew

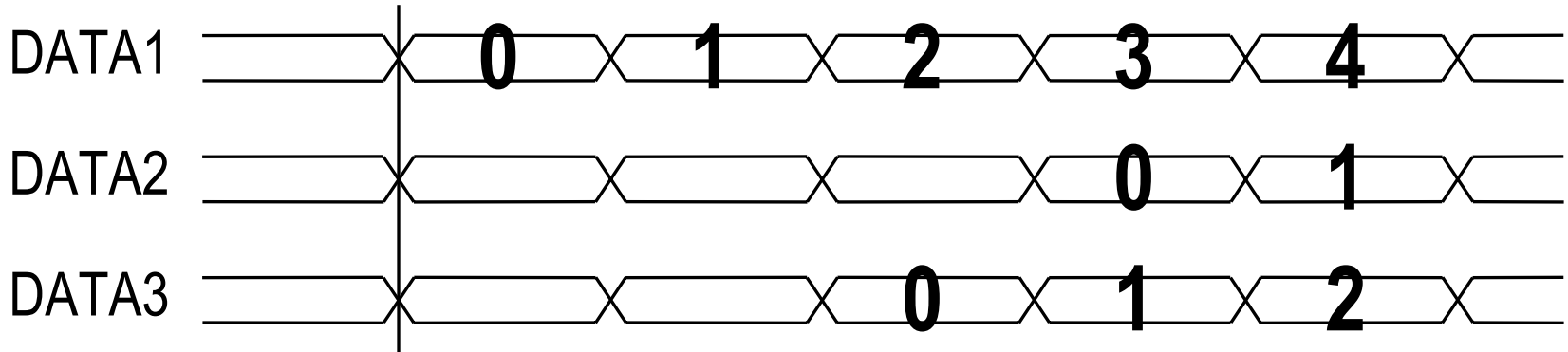
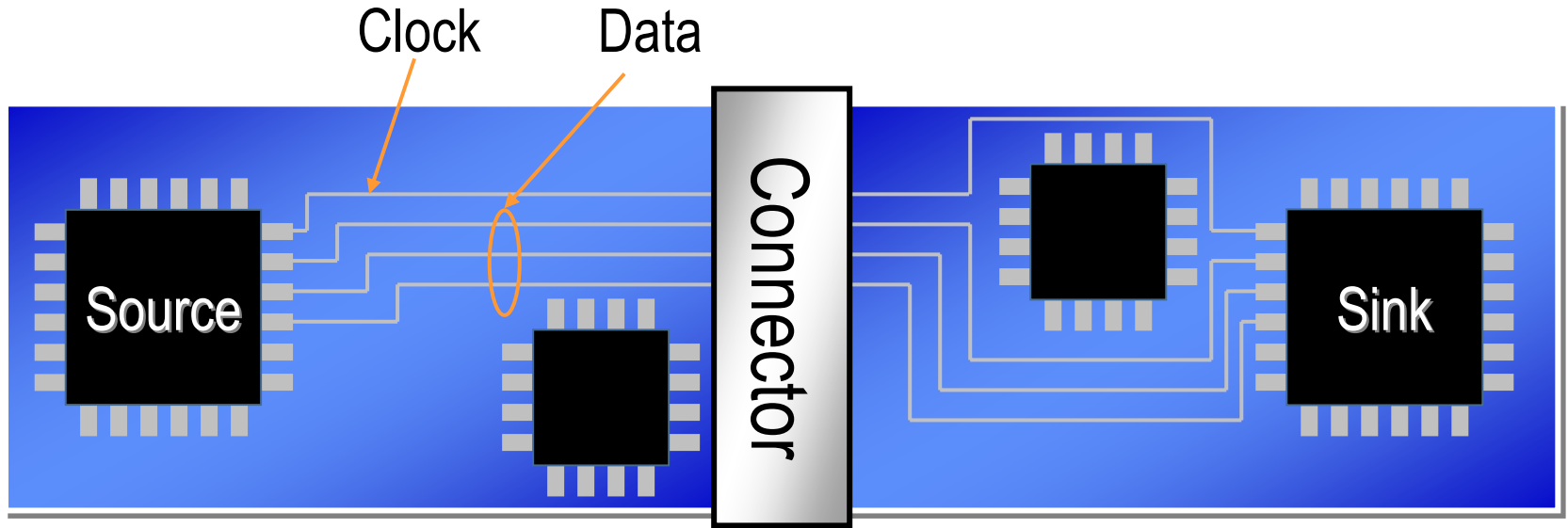
# #3: PCB Layout Challenges

- Layout constraints can result in trace length differences
- Propagation delays for connectors may not be available

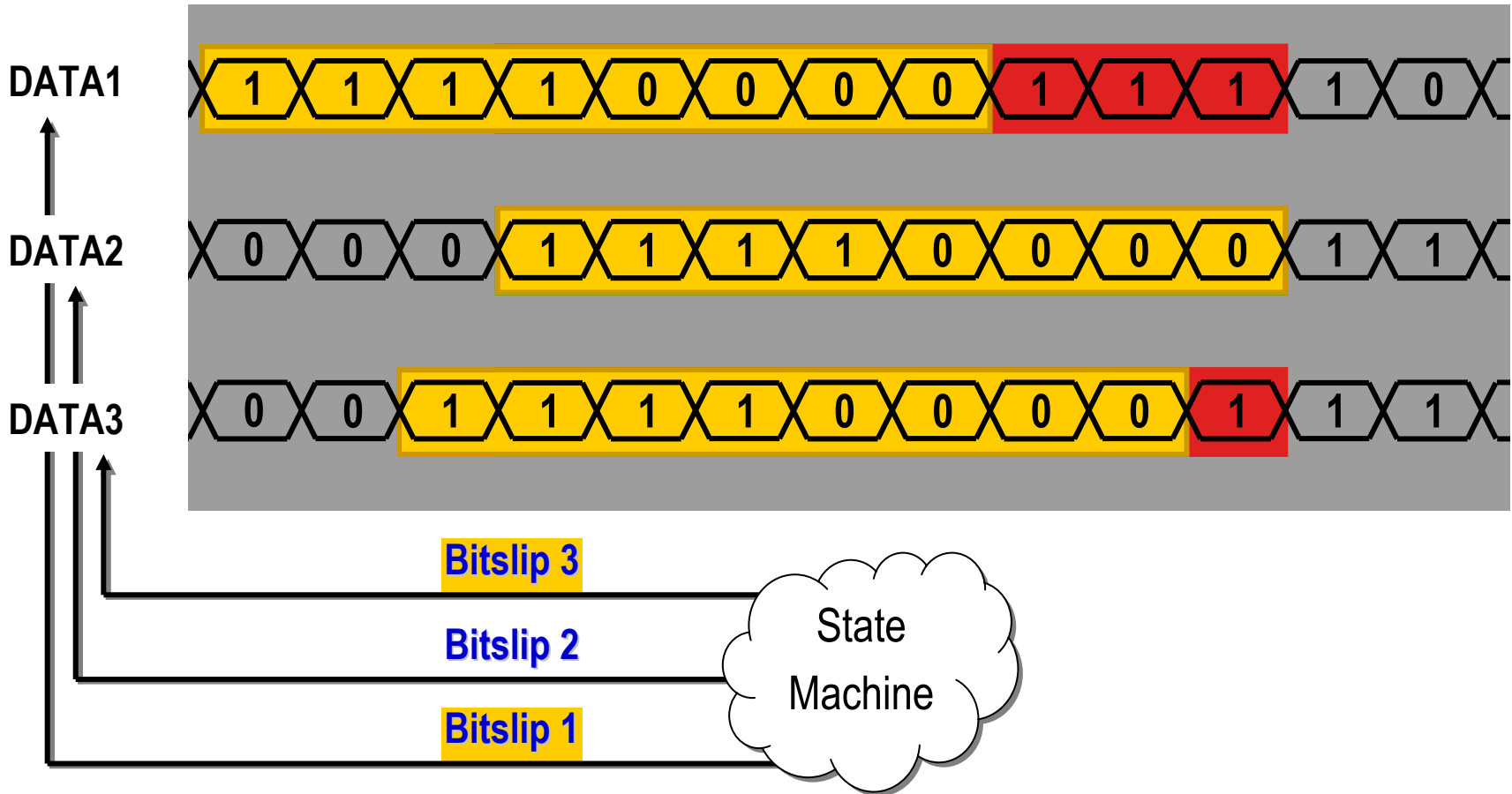




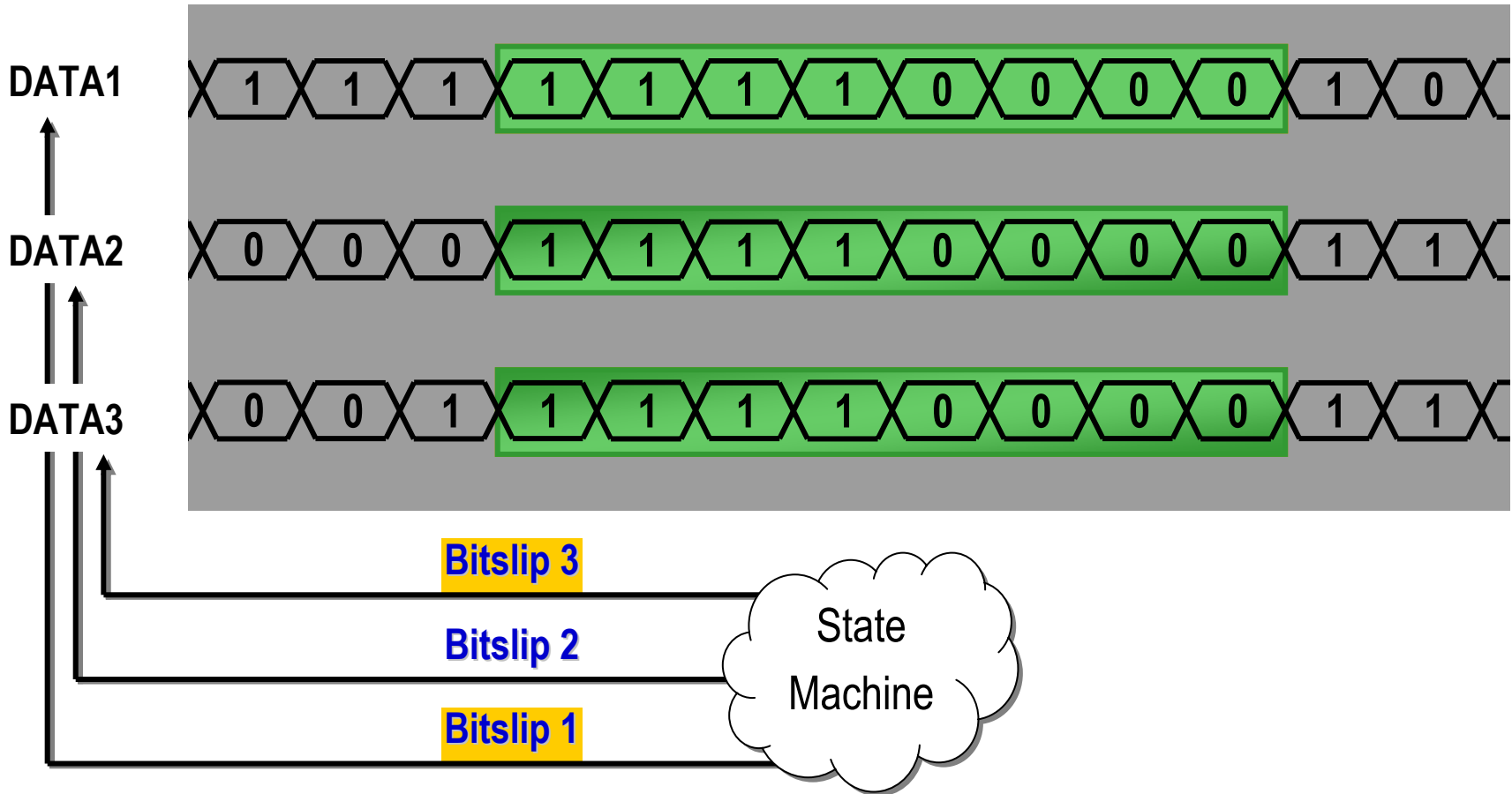
# Too Much Skew Means Words Misaligned After Bits Aligned



# Easy Word Alignment with Bitslip



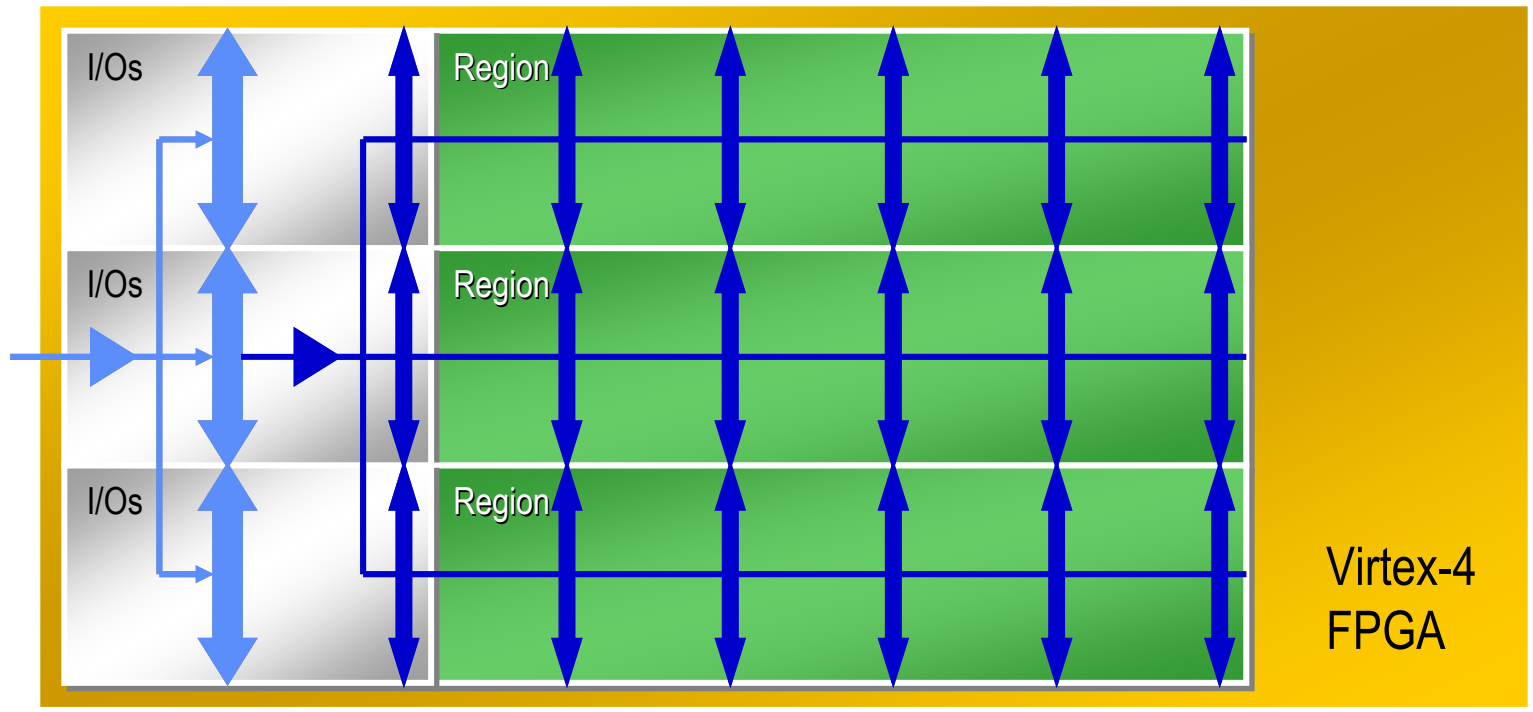
# Easy Word Alignment with Bitslip



# #4: Implementing Multiple Interfaces

- Multiple Unique clock domains
- Clock management
  - Synthesis, distribution
- IO Placement
  - Breakout
  - Board floorplan

# Abundant Clock Resources Support Multiple Clock Domains



- Two Regional Clock nets per region
- 8-24 clock regions per device
- Up to 4 Clock-Capable I/Os per bank
- I/O Clock nets or general interconnect can drive Regional Clock nets
- Regional Buffer can divide I/O Clock rate

# 2X The Resources for Flexible Clock Management

Feature	Stratix-II	Virtex-4
Clock inputs: Differential	16	32
Clock inputs: Single-ended	16	32
Clock regions	4 quadrants	8 – 24 regions
Clock circuits	4 EPLLs, 8 FPLLs	20 DCMs + 8 PMCDs
Global clocks	16 total, 16 per quadrant	32 total, 8 per region
Regional Clocks	32 total, 8 per quadrant	16 – 48 total, 2 per region
I/O clocks	0	36 – 68, 4 per I/O bank
Total dedicated clocks	48	48 - 80
I/O Banks	8 general banks and up to 4 smaller banks, restricted	8 – 16 full featured

- Enables much easier implementation of multiple interfaces within the same chip

# Simpler PCB Design With Flexible I/O & Banking Rules

ChipSync in Every I/O

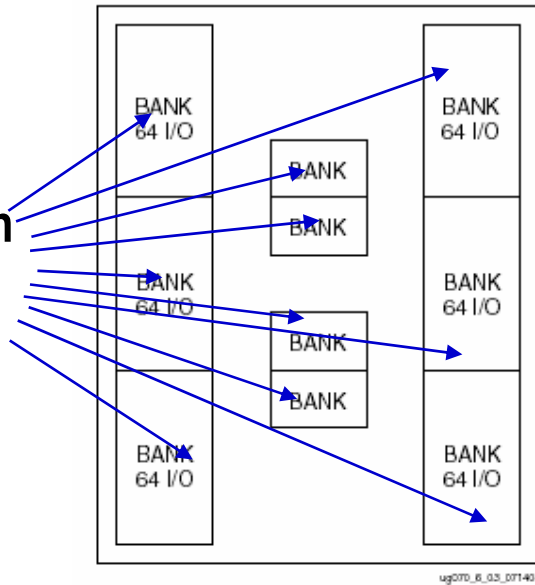
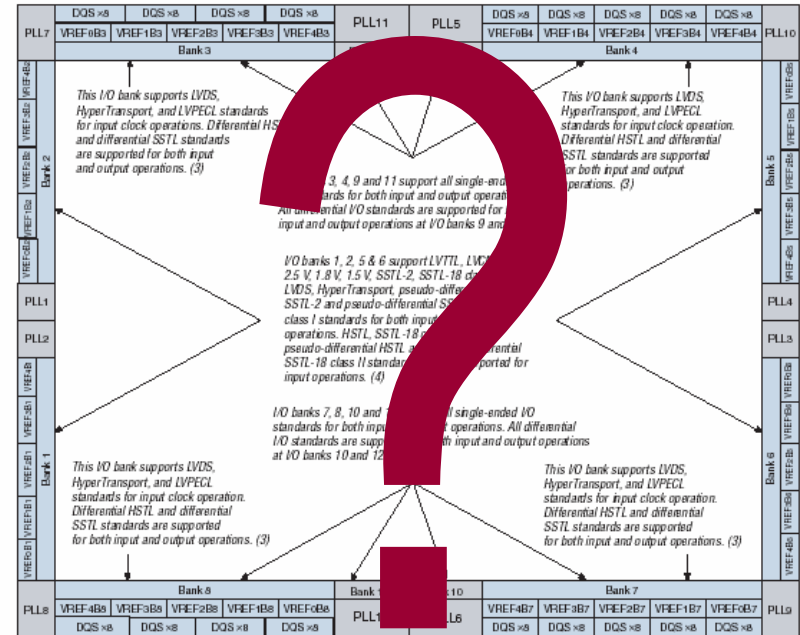


Figure 6-3: Virtex-4 XC4VLX25 I/O Banks



- All Virtex-4 I/Os can be used for source synchronous design
- 9 – 17 I/O banks per device

- Stratix-II offers a restrictive choice of banks and standards for source synchronous design

# Virtex-4 Source-Synchronous Resource Summary

Resource	Quantity
ChipSync blocks	One per I/O
Clock Regions	8-24
I/O Banks	9-17
SelectIO pins	240-960
Clock-Capable I/Os	18-68
Regional Clocks	16-48 (2 per Clock Region)
I/Os accessible by I/O Clock	95
Max Channels aligned	95



# Highest Performance, Precision & Flexibility

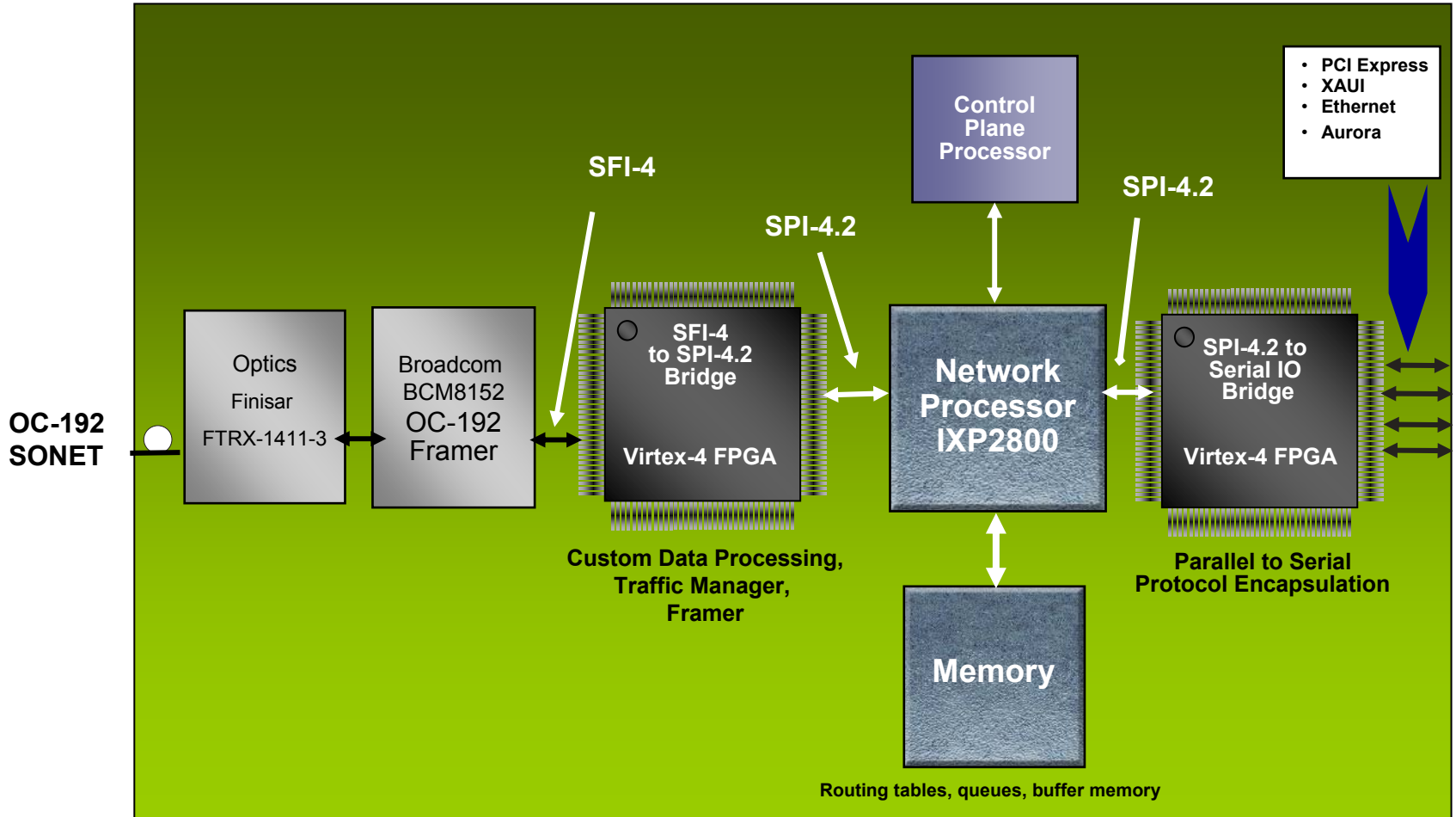
Feature	Stratix-II	Virtex-4
I/O clock & data alignment	45° steps, clock only	75 ps, 64 taps for both data & clock
Parallel I/O SERDES	Left & right banks only	All I/Os
Maximum I/O speed (by speed grade)	622 Mbps/ 844 Mbps/ 1 Gbps (input), 1 Gbps output	800 Mbps/ 900 Mbps/ 1 Gbps for all inputs and outputs

- Finer delay tap resolution independent of process, voltage and temperature
- Allows precision clock and data alignment
- Relaxes PCB design and improves design margin
- Higher performance in slowest parts cuts system cost

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# Application Example

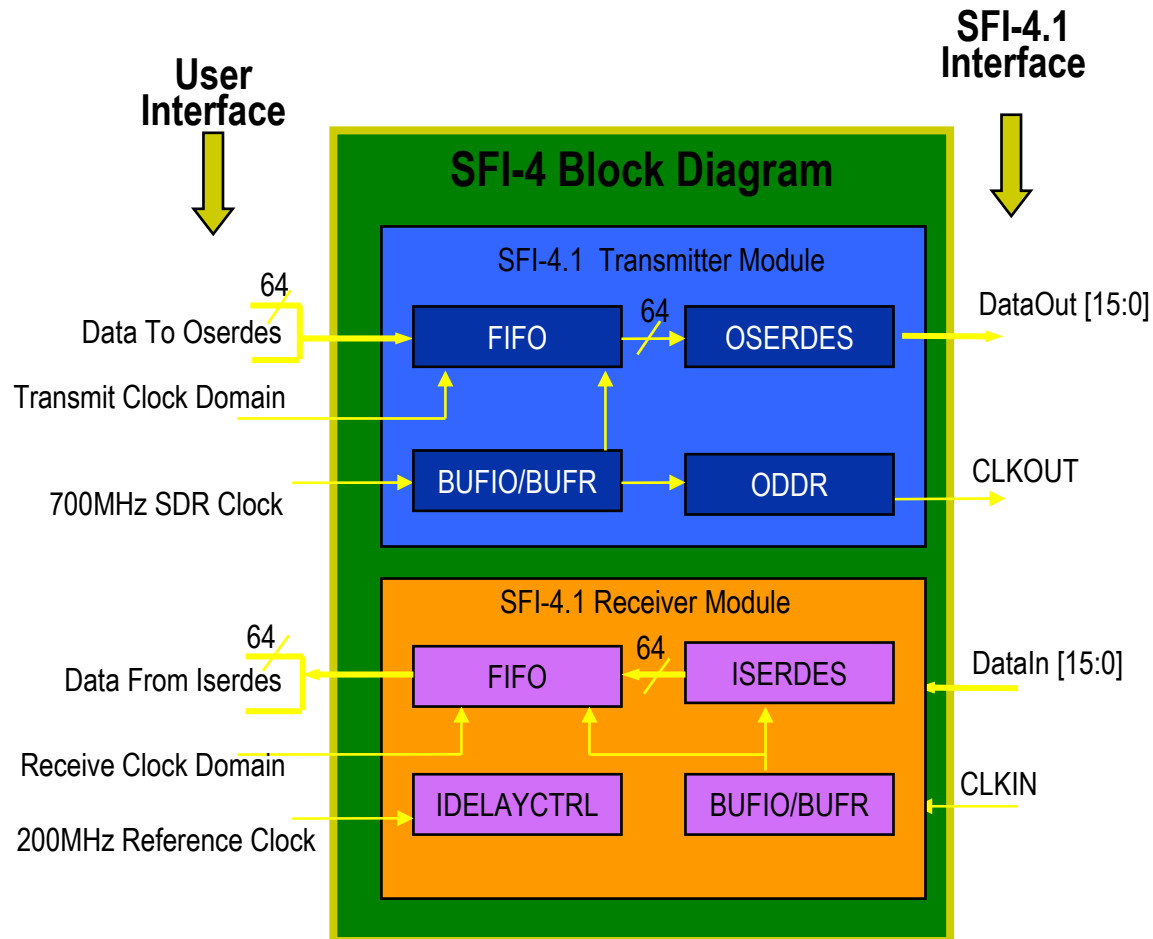


**A 10 Gigabit OC-192 Line Card**

# SFI-4 Design Made Easier With Virtex-4

- New I/O clock resources (BUFIO & BUFR) for receiver clock network
  - Easier to recover the forwarded clock for data sampling
- Dedicated ChipSync™ circuitry to achieve 700MHz SDR
  - ISERDES/OSERDES- help make serial to parallel data conversion easier
  - IDELAY- precise clock to data alignment to accurately capture data within a small data-valid window
- FIFO16 for clock domain changing

# Implementing SFI-4.1 in Virtex-4™



## SFI-4.1 Specification:

- Clock Frequency: 622.08MHz
- Clock Duty Cycle: 45/55
- 20-80% rise, Fall Times: 100-300ps
- Data Valid Window: 600ps

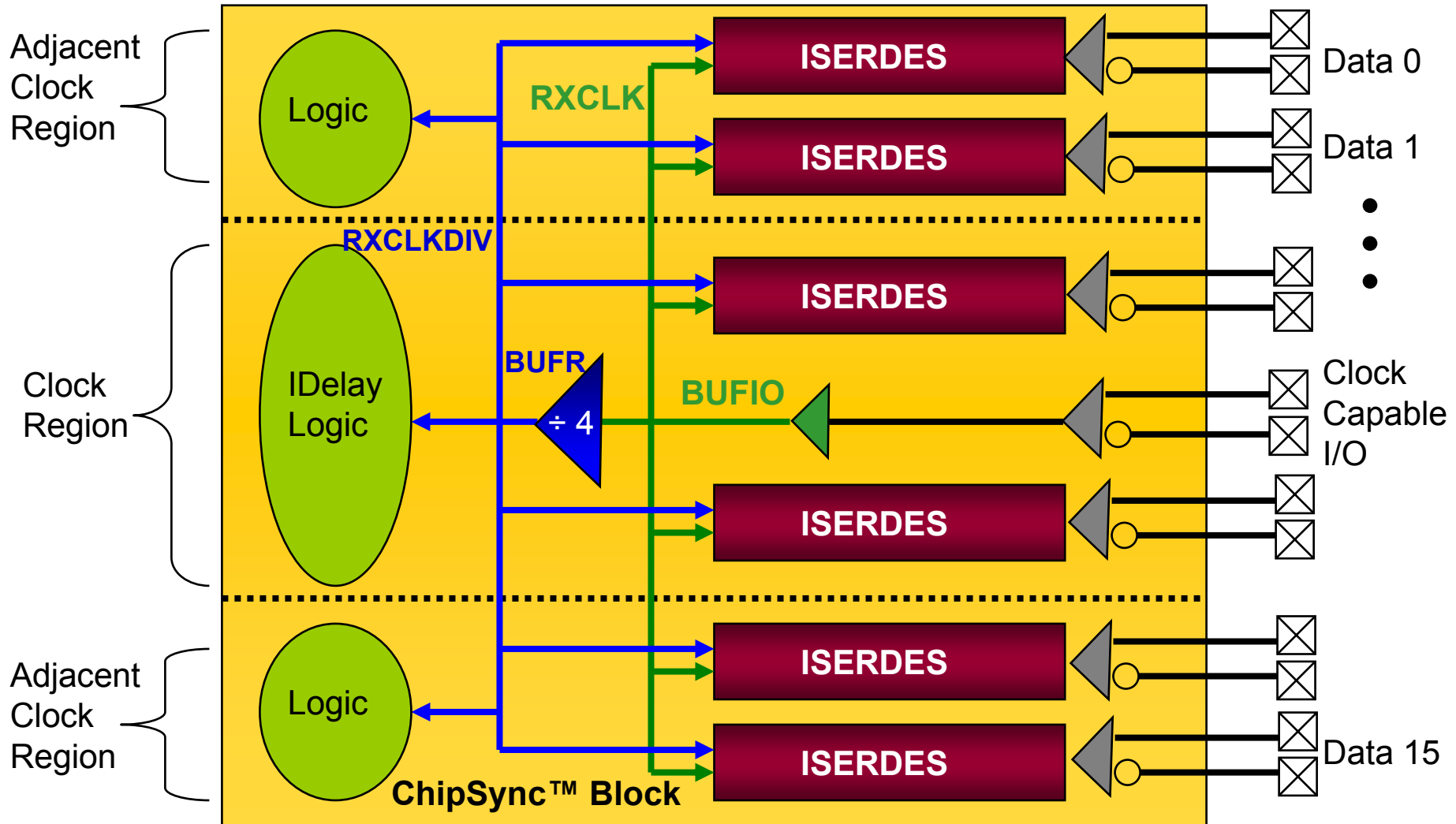
## Utilization

- 63 slices / 4 BlockRAMs
- 34 LVDS I/O pairs
- 3 Global Clock Buffers / 2 BUFIO /BUFR Pairs

# Implementing SFI-4 Receiver in Virtex-4

- Blocks used for receive:
  - Recovered clock and its network
    - BUFIO – High Speed Clock distribution (serial-side)
    - BUFR – Lower Speed Clock distribution (parallel-side, fabric)
  - Recovered data
    - ISERDES
  - ISERDES\_ALIGNMENT\_PROCESS
    - Clock-data training algorithm state machine
  - Interface-to-Core Synchronization
    - FIFO16

# SFI-4 Receiver Interface



Note: Clock Regions are not to scale



# Virtex-4 SFI-4 Design Features

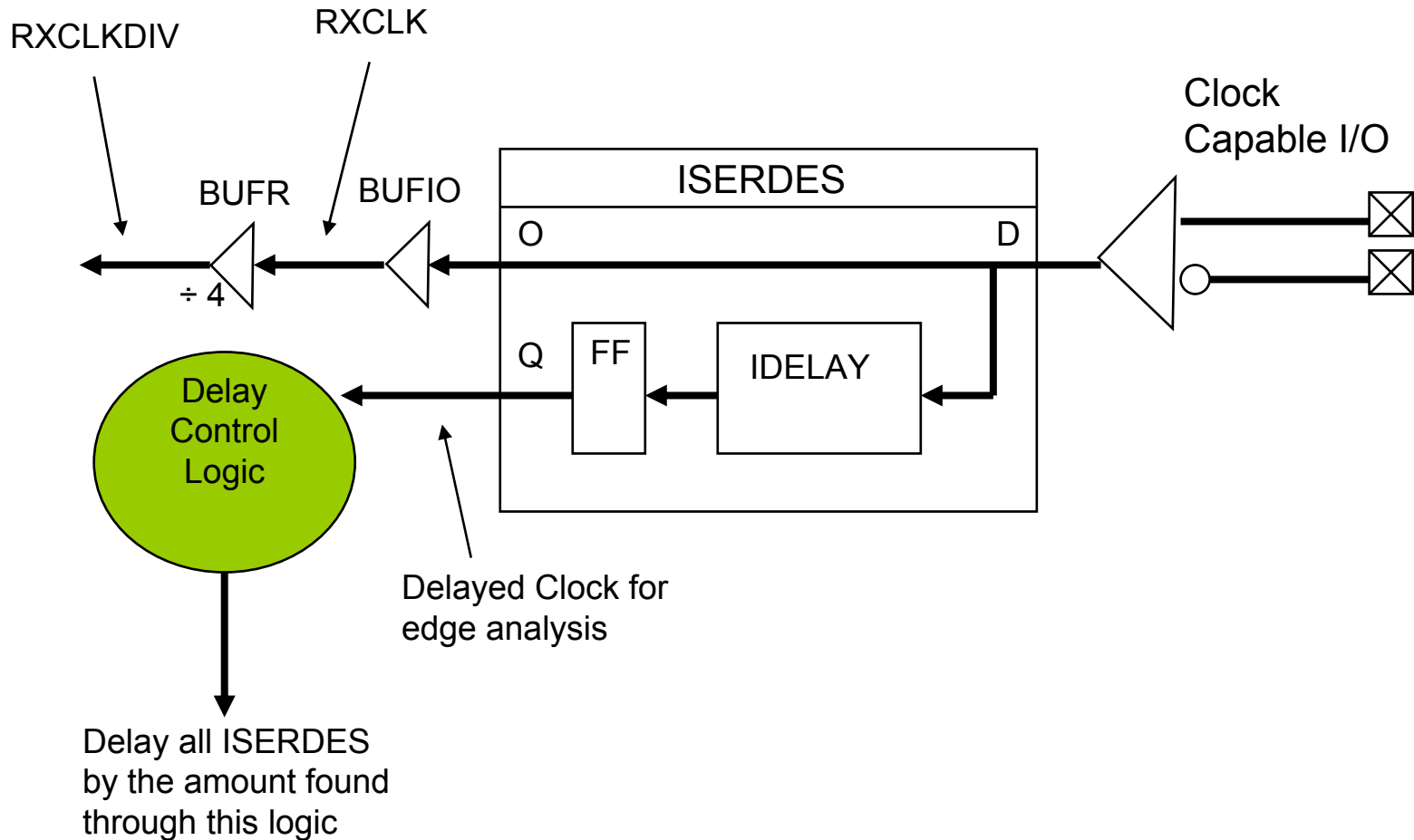
- 700MHz SDR LVDS Transmit/Receive
- 1 clock pair, 16 data channels
- 4 to 1 Serialization / 1 to 4 De-serialization
- Clock-Data Alignment
  - Bus alignment: no training pattern required
- Can also be used for XSBI and other high-speed single-data-rate LVDS applications



# ISERDES\_ALIGNMENT\_PROCESS

- SFI-4 uses Bus-Alignment
  - Align clock and data using IDELAY on each data lane
  - Data-agnostic, non-destructive training technique:
    - Assumptions:
      - Clock and data are edge-aligned at the pins of the FPGA
      - Clock toggling at startup for several milliseconds before data is sent
    - Train to clock (1,0 pattern)
      - Find center of sampling window for the ISERDES in the clock IOB
      - Move data to optimal location (determined for Clock ISERDES)
- Implementation fully characterized and verified

# Bus Alignment: Clock Training Circuit



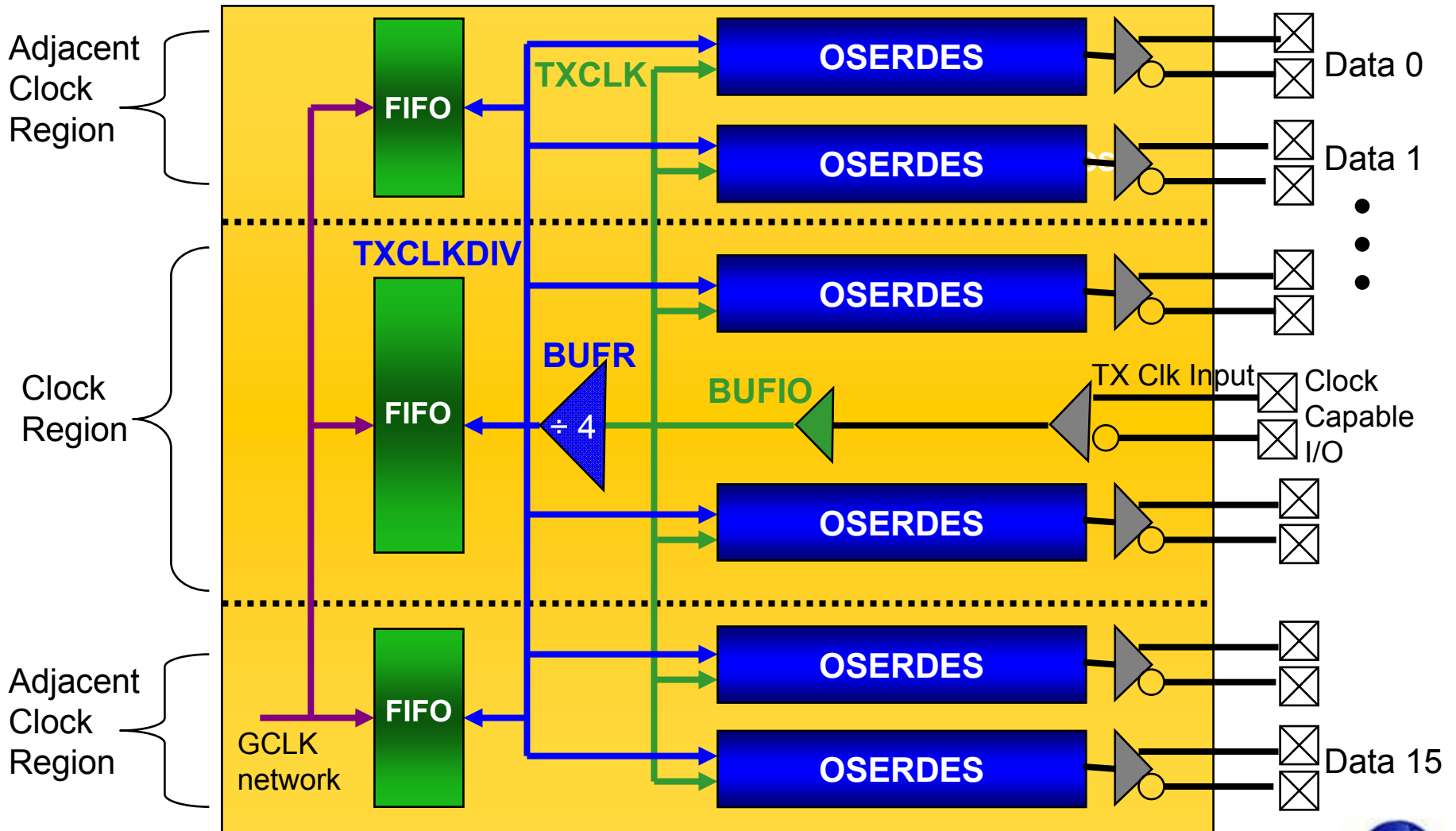
# Bus Alignment Algorithm

- Begin incrementing delay on the clock until a 1 to 0 change is detected at Q output
- Begin counting the number of tap-delays and continue incrementing until another 1 to 0 change is detected at Q1 output. This gives the data valid window width in terms of number tap-delays
- Subtract the final tap-delay value by half the number of taps determined to equal the data valid window width
- Increment all data channels by that amount
- Data to clock alignment is complete

# Implementing SFI-4 Transmitter in Virtex-4

- Blocks used for transmit:
  - Transmit clock and its network
    - BUFIO – High Speed Clock distribution (serial-side)
      - This clock must come from an external reference (high quality) at full rate and be connected to a “clock-capable I/O”
      - The clock-capable I/O has a dedicated connection to the BUFIO
    - BUFR – Lower Speed Clock distribution (parallel-side, fabric)
  - Transmit data
    - OSERDES
  - Interface-to-Core Synchronization
    - FIFO16: Moves data from Core clock domain (Global Clock buffer) to the interface clock domain (BUFR)

# SFI-4 Transmitter Interface



Note: Clock Regions are not to scale

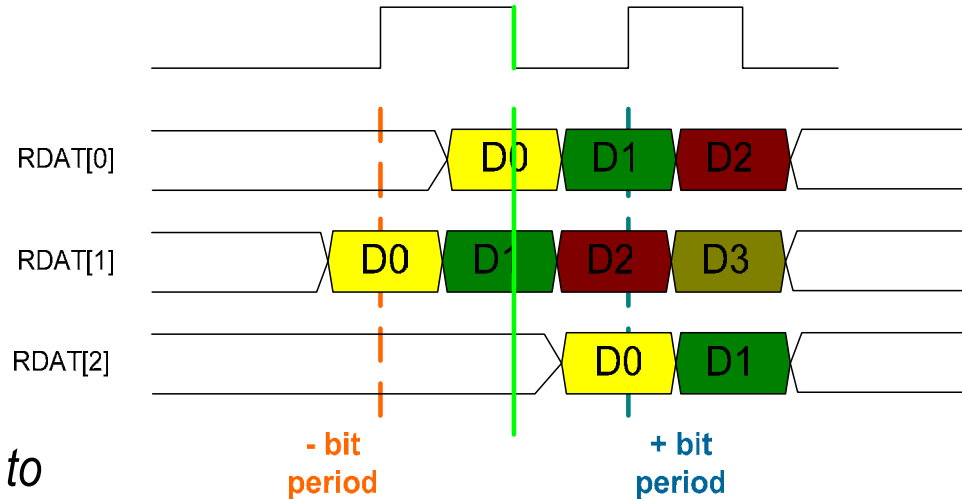
# SPI-4.2 in Virtex-4

# Xilinx SPI-4.2 Core Overview

- Fully compliant with OIF-SPI4-02.1 specification
- Ideal solution for POS, ATM, and Ethernet apps
  - Supports OC-192 line speeds - 10-Gbps and beyond
  - Supports static and dynamic alignment
  - Point-to-point interface, symmetrical operation
  - 16-bit data bus using DDR / LVDS pin pairs
  - Common FIFO interface
    - Enables easy bridging
- Supports all Virtex-4 devices

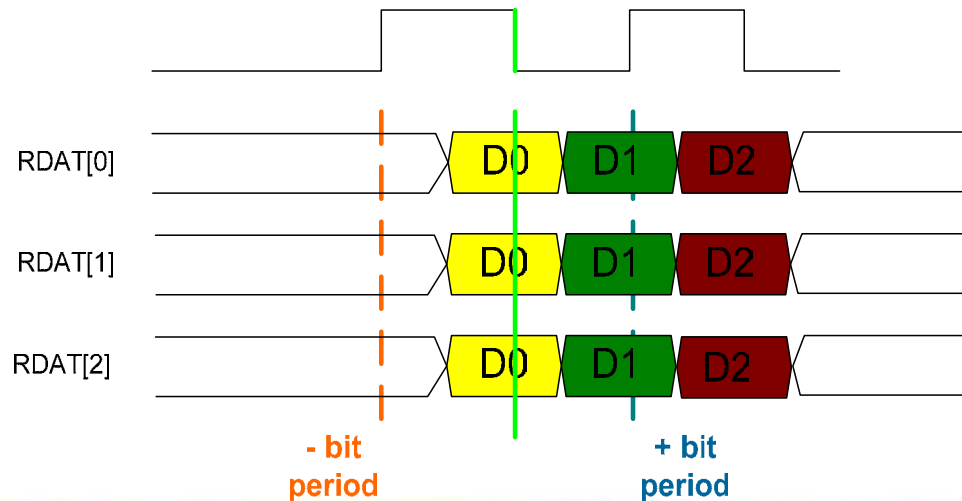
# Source Synchronous Clocking

With skewed data bus



*DPA can compensate up to  
+/- one bit period of skew*

Corrected with DPA

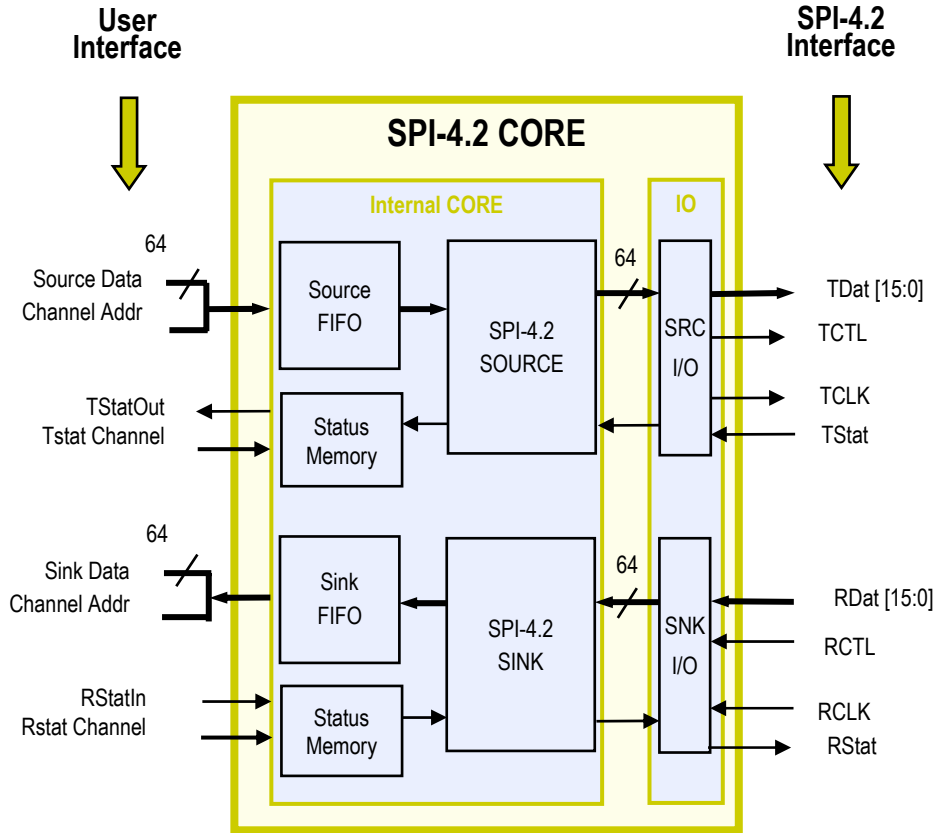




# Dynamic Phase Alignment (DPA) Advantages

- Independent sample point determination for each bit
  - Bit to Bit skew & Clock distribution skew removed from timing budget, improved system timing margin
  - Supports higher speed interfaces > 700Mbps/pin pair
  - Removes need for rigorous trace length matching on PCB
- Recovered data re-aligned to reform the data bus
  - Removes skew or sampling induced bus misalignment
  - SPI-4.2 training pattern used as a reference pattern
- Virtex-4 DPA function only requires ~360 slices
  - Less than 50% of Virtex-II/Virtex-II Pro DPA solution size

# SPI-4.2 Core Implementation



## SPI-4.2 Performance:

-10/11/12	622-700 Mbps Static
-10	622-800 Mbps Dynamic
-11	622-900 Mbps Dynamic
-12	622-1+ Gbps Dynamic

## Resources:

-10/11/12	2700 Slices / 12 BlockRAMs
-10	3050 Slices / 12 BlockRAMs
-11	3650 Slices / 12 BlockRAMs
-12	3650 Slices / 12 BlockRAMs

## 4VLX25 Utilization Example:

- 25% of slices for Static
- 34% of slices for Dynamic

# SPI-4.2 DPA Major Components

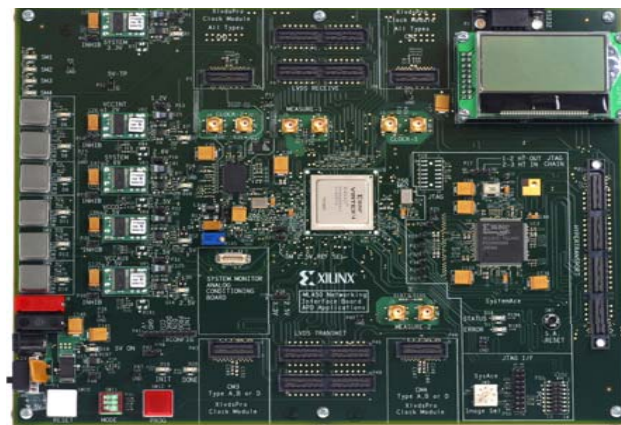
- ISERDES
  - Delay chain
  - Bitslip module
  - Serial to Parallel Converter (1:4)
- Data recovery (IDELAY chain) state machine
  - Moves center of data eye for each bit separately to align with the clock edge using SPI-4.2 training pattern
- Bus de-skew (Bitslip/word alignment) state machine
  - Aligns channels using SPI-4.2 training patterns

# SPI-4.2 Design Made Easier With Virtex-4

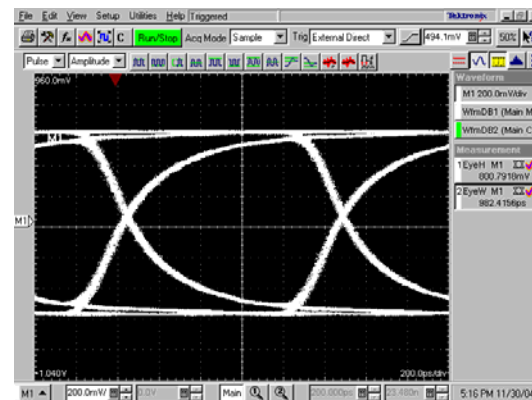
- 1 Gbps/pin data rates ⇒ Virtex-4 embedded SERDES
- Reduce FPGA resources 35% smaller ⇒ Embedded DPA  
New Sink core, 64-bit UI
- Flexible pin-outs ⇒ Not pin-locked  
Complete pin-out freedom
- Low power ⇒ Uses dedicated circuitry
- 4+ cores in a single device ⇒ Abundant clock resources
- Accurate data capture ⇒ 200 MHz IDELAYCTRL clock  
Calibrated 75 ps taps  
Independent of PVT variations

# Virtex-4 ML450 FPGA Source-Synchronous Interfaces Toolkit

- Supports all major differential I/O standards
  - SPI-4.2, SFI-4/XSBI, RapidIO™, HyperTransport™, NPSI (CSIX), Utopia IV
- 1 Gbps Double Data Rate (DDR) and 700 MHz Single Data Rate (SDR) performance
- Includes tools for debugging and fine tuning of SSIO designs
  - Bit error rate tester pinpoints problem channel(s) on LVDS bus
  - Link diagnostics for troubleshooting



**ML450 Development Board**



**1 Gbps DDR transmitter**

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# Virtex-4 Solves SSIO Challenges

- Ensuring reliable data capture at high speeds
  - ChipSync built into every I/O: Clock-to-data centering at “run time”
- Managing clock speeds up to 700 MHz
  - Multiple differential clock distribution networks
  - Clock forwarding with minimal skew and duty cycle distortion
- Simplifying PCB layout
  - IDELAY and BITSLIP in every I/O as part of ChipSync
  - Data agnostic bus alignment and intrusive bit alignment
- Implementing multiple interfaces
  - Abundant clock resources
  - Flexible I/O and banking rules

***Source Synchronous Interfaces Made Easy***



# How to Get Started

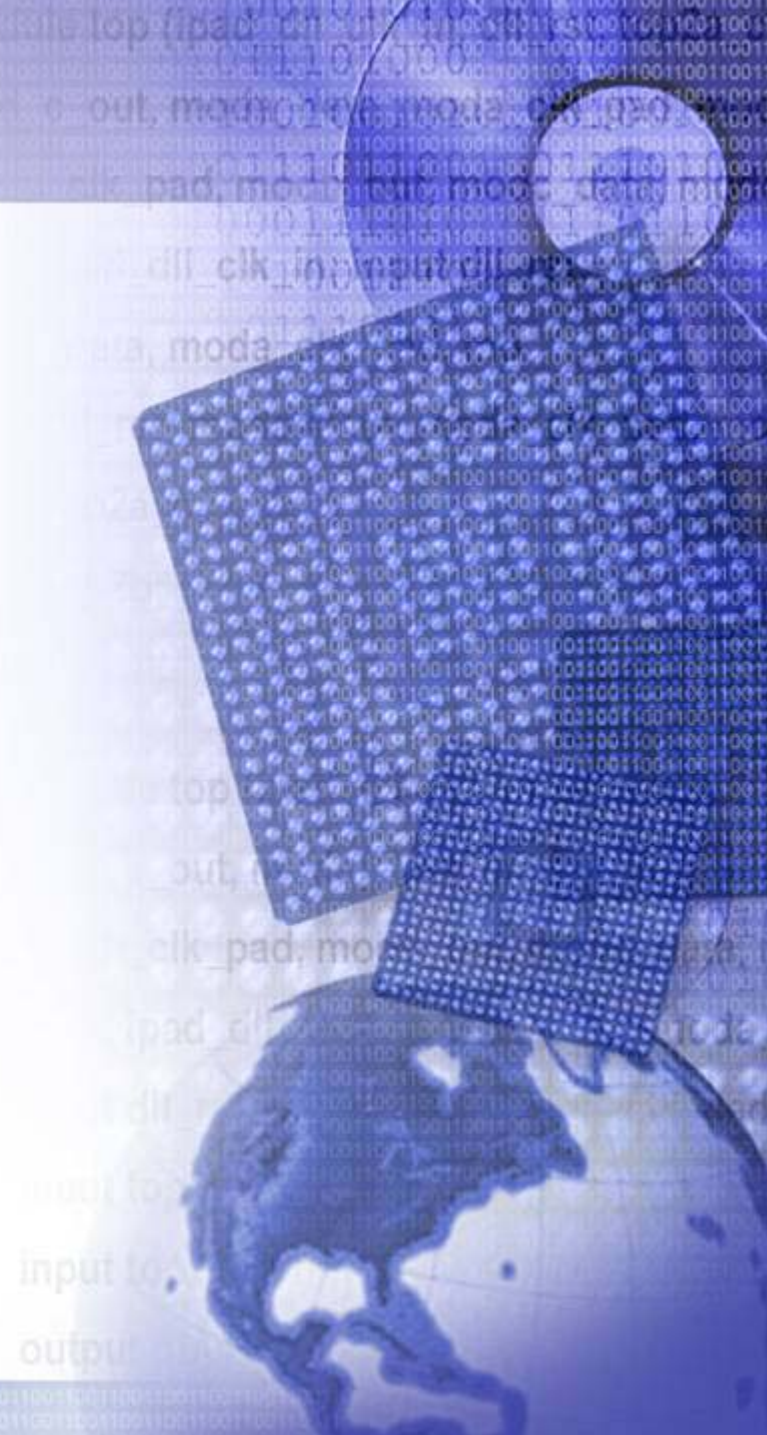
- Access latest Virtex-4 source synchronous design solutions on [www.xilinx.com/connectivity](http://www.xilinx.com/connectivity)
  - IP Cores: SPI-4.2, RapidIO
  - Application Notes: SFI-4, XSBI
  - ML450 - Source Synchronous Interfaces Toolkit
    - Board level solution including: reference designs, schematic & gerber files
- Contact your local FAE for an on-site demo

***Accelerate Your Design Cycle***

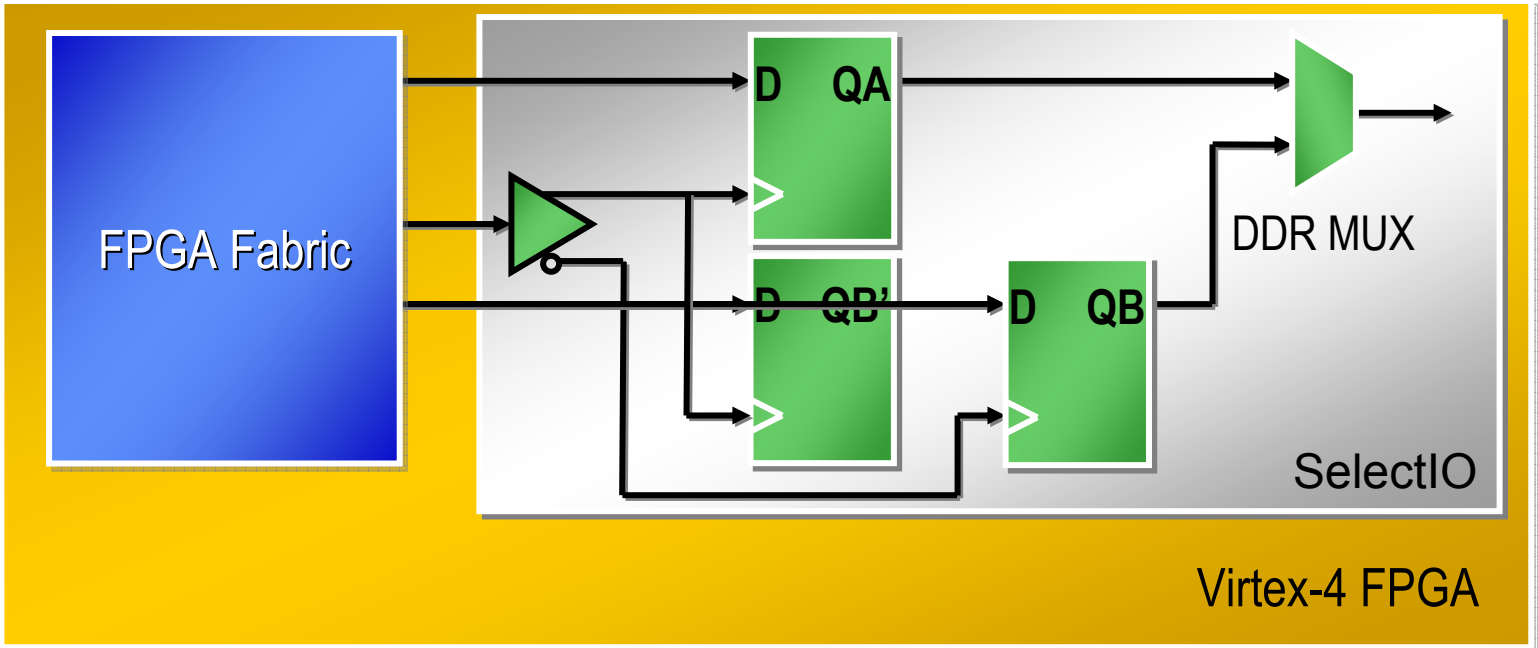




# Backup



# Can Drive DDR Output Data With One Clock



## SAME\_EDGE

- Simplifies setup and hold requirements
- Higher performance
- Faster time-to-performance

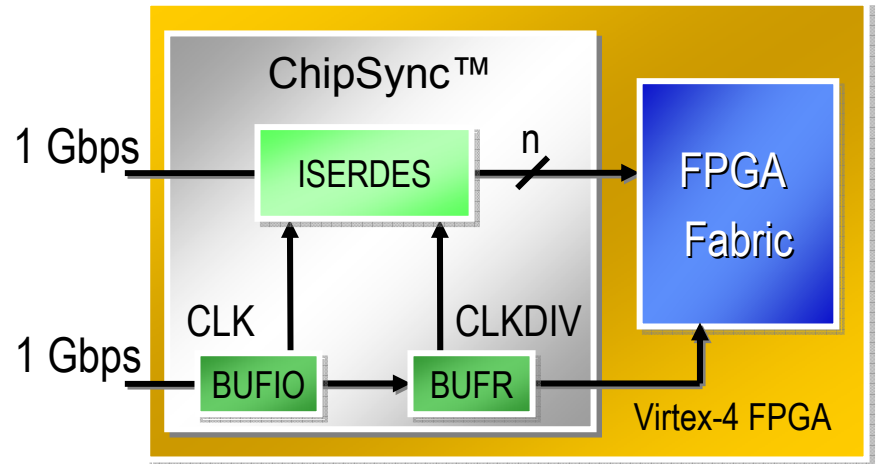
# Versatile SelectIO™

- Every I/O is Homogeneous
  - Input & output are specified at the same frequency
- Supports 32 I/O standards including:
  - LVCMOS (3.3-V, 2.5-V, 1.8-V, 1.5-V)
  - LVPECL
  - PCI, PCI-X
  - GTL, GTL+
  - HSTL (1.8 V, 1.5 V; Classes I, II, III, IV)
    - Supports differential HSTL
  - SSTL (2.5 V, 1.8 V; Classes I, II)
    - Supports differential SSTL
  - LVDS, Bus LVDS, Extended LVDS
  - HyperTransport™ (LDT)

**Easier  
and  
More  
Flexible  
I/O Design!**

# ISERDES Manages Incoming Data

- Frequency division
  - Data width to 10 bits
- Dynamic signal alignment
  - Bit alignment
  - Word alignment
  - Clock alignment
  - Supports Dynamic Phase Alignment (DPA)



# OSERDES Simplifies Frequency Multiplication

- Two separate SERDES included
  - Data SERDES: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 bits
  - Three-state SERDES: 1, 2, 4 bits
    - Ideal for memories

