



Nios® II and Embedded IP Release Notes

Updated for Intel® Quartus® Prime Design Suite: **21.3**



Online Version



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1. About this Document

This document provides information about the following in context to the Intel® Quartus® Prime software version:

- Nios® II Embedded Design Suite (EDS)
- Nios II Processor IP
- Embedded IP cores

This document covers Nios II release information for the Intel Quartus Prime software version 16.1 and later. For any previous release information, refer to the [Nios II Embedded Design Suite Release Notes \(Archived\)](#).

2. Nios II Embedded Design Suite (EDS)

Table 1. Release Information for Nios II EDS

Intel Quartus Prime Software Version	Intel Quartus Prime Variant	Updates
20.4	Pro Edition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nios II Toolchain upgrades for Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> gcc mpfr Commercial version of MicroC/OS-II is under Apache 2.0 Open-Source Licensing, for more information refer to the Micrium Licensing Webpage.
20.1.1	Standard Edition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nios II Toolchain upgrades for Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> gcc gdb gmp mpfr ncurses newlib
20.3	Pro Edition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nios II Toolchain upgrades for Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> binutils gcc gdb
20.2	Pro Edition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nios II Toolchain upgrades for Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> gcc gmp ncurses newlib
20.1	Pro and Standard Edition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nios II Toolchain upgrades for Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> binutils expat gcc gdb mpfr Nios II Toolchain upgrades for Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> binutils expat gcc gdb mpfr
19.4	Pro Edition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nios II Toolchain upgrades for Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> expat
19.3	Pro Edition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nios II Toolchain upgrades for Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> expat The cloog library is removed from toolchain for the Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition.
continued...		

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*Other names and brands may be claimed as the property of others.

Intel Quartus Prime Software Version	Intel Quartus Prime Variant	Updates
19.2	Pro Edition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition, the Windows* version of Nios II EDS, Cygwin has been removed and replaced with Windows Subsystem for Linux* (WSL). For installation instructions, refer to the <i>Installing Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) on Windows</i> sections in the <i>Nios II Software Developer Handbook</i>. Known Issue: wslpath: <Nios II EDS installation directory or Nios II project directory> No such file or directory Nios II Toolchain upgrades for Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> binutils expat gcc gdb isl mpc mpfr ncurses newlib
19.1	Pro and Standard Edition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must manually install Eclipse from the Eclipse download page to get the Nios II development environment running. <i>Note:</i> Nios II Eclipse plug-ins are delivered in Intel Quartus Prime with the necessary installer and readme files. For installation instructions, refer to the <i>Installing Eclipse IDE into Nios II EDS</i> section in the <i>Nios II Software Developer Handbook</i>. Nios II Toolchain upgrades for Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> binutils expat gcc gdb gmp isl mpc mpfr ncurses newlib The cloog library is removed from toolchain for the Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition. In the Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition, the Windows version of Nios II EDS, Cygwin has been removed and replaced with Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL). For installation instructions, refer to the <i>Installing Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) on Windows</i> sections in the <i>Nios II Software Developer Handbook</i>. Known issue: nios2-elf-gcc.exe: error: CreateProcess: No such file or directory
18.1	Pro and Standard Edition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nios II Toolchain upgrades for Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> gcc
continued...		

Intel Quartus Prime Software Version	Intel Quartus Prime Variant	Updates
18.0	Pro and Standard Edition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nios II Toolchain upgrades for Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> binutils gcc gdb gmp isl mpfr newlib
17.1	Pro and Standard Edition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nios II Software Build Tools (SBT): Upgrade of Eclipse to v4.5 for Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition and Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition New driver for Intel XWAY PHY11G PEF7071 Ethernet PHY for Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition and Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition Nios II Software Build Tools (SBT): Windows 10 host support in Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition and Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition software Nios II Toolchain upgrades for Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> binutils expat gcc gdb gmp mpfr newlib Bug fix: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue causing locale to be broken on newlib 2.4.0 when using smallc lib is fixed.
17.0	Pro and Standard Edition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nios II Software Build Tools (SBT)—Windows 10 support added in Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition.
16.1	Pro and Standard Edition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nios II Toolchain upgrades: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> gcc isl mpc mpfr Bug fixes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The handling of the <code>-mgpopt=option</code> setting has been changed. It is now under the full control of the BSP editor and there is a flag for it in the <code>public.mk</code> file. <code>nios2-app-compile</code> no longer fails when <code>-mgpopt</code> is set to "global" and <code>loglevel</code> is set to "-1". <p>For more information about the GCC releases, refer to the GCC, the GNU Compiler Collection website.</p>

2.1. Nios II Toolchain Versions

Table 2. Nios II Toolchain Versions for the Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition

Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition	Nios II Toolchain Versions										
	binutils	cloog	expat	gcc	gdb	gmp	isl	mpc	mpfr	ncurses	newlib
20.4	2.33.50	-	2.2.9	10.2.1	9.2.90	6.2.0	0.20	1.1.0	4.1.0	6.2	3.3.0
20.3	2.33.50	-	2.2.9	10.1.1	9.2.90	6.2.0	0.20	1.1.0	4.0.2	6.2	3.3.0
20.2	2.32.51	-	2.2.9	9.3.1	8.3.1	6.2.0	0.20	1.1.0	4.0.2	6.2	3.3.0
20.1	2.32.51	-	2.2.9	9.2.1	8.3.1	6.1.2	0.20	1.1.0	4.0.2	6.1	3.1.0
19.4	2.31.51	-	2.2.6	8.3.1	8.2.1	6.1.2	0.20	1.1.0	4.0.1	6.1	3.1.0
19.3	2.31.51	-	2.2.7	8.3.1	8.2.1	6.1.2	0.20	1.1.0	4.0.1	6.1	3.1.0
19.2	2.31.51	0.18.1	2.2.6	8.3.1	8.2.1	6.1.2	0.20	1.1.0	4.0.1	6.1	3.1.0
19.1	2.28.51	0.18.1	2.2.4	7.3.1	8.0.1	6.1.2	0.16.1	1.0.3	3.1.6	5.9	2.5.0
18.1	2.28.51	0.18.1	2.2.4	7.3.1	8.0.1	6.1.2	0.16.1	1.0.3	3.1.6	5.9	2.5.0
18.0	2.28.51	0.18.1	2.2.4	7.2.1	8.0.1	6.1.2	0.16.1	1.0.3	3.1.6	5.9	2.5.0
17.1	2.26.51	0.18.1	2.2.0	6.3.0	7.11.1	6.1.1	0.14	1.0.3	3.1.4	5.9	2.4.0
17.0	2.25	0.18.1	2.1.0	5.3	7.10	6.0.0	0.14	1.0.3	3.1.3	5.9	2.2
16.1	2.25	0.18.1	2.1.0	5.3	7.10	6.0.0	0.14	1.0.3	3.1.3	5.9	2.2
16.0	2.25	0.18.1	2.1.0	5.2	7.10	6.0.0	0.12.2	1.0.2	3.1.2	5.9	2.2

Table 3. Nios II Toolchain Versions for the Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition

Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition	Nios II Toolchain Versions										
	binutils	cloog	expat	gcc	gdb	gmp	isl	mpc	mpfr	ncurses	newlib
20.1.1	2.33.50	-	2.2.9	10.1.1	9.2.90	6.2.0	0.20	1.1.0	4.0.2	6.2	3.3.0
20.1	2.32.51	-	2.2.9	9.2.1	8.3.1	6.1.2	0.20	1.1.0	4.0.2	6.1	3.1.0
19.1	2.31.51	-	2.2.7	8.3.1	8.2.1	6.1.2	0.20	1.1.0	4.0.1	6.1	3.1.0
18.1	2.25	0.18.1	2.1.0	5.3	7.10	6.0.0	0.14	1.0.3	3.1.3	5.9	2.2
18.0	2.25	0.18.1	2.1.0	5.3	7.10	6.0.0	0.14	1.0.3	3.1.3	5.9	2.2
17.1	2.25	0.18.1	2.1.0	5.3	7.10	6.0.0	0.14	1.0.3	3.1.3	5.9	2.2
17.0	2.25	0.18.1	2.1.0	5.3	7.10	6.0.0	0.14	1.0.3	3.1.3	5.9	2.2
16.1	2.25	0.18.1	2.1.0	5.3	7.10	6.0.0	0.14	1.0.3	3.1.3	5.9	2.2
16.0	2.25	0.18.1	2.1.0	5.2	7.10	6.0.0	0.12.2	1.0.2	3.1.2	5.9	2.2

3. Nios II Processor IP Core

Table 4. Release Information for Nios II Processor IP Core

Intel Quartus Prime Software Version	Key Updates
20.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change.
20.3	
20.2	
20.1	
19.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change.
19.3	
19.2	
19.1	
18.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change.
18.0	
17.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added support for Intel Stratix® 10 and Intel Cyclone® 10 LP devices.
17.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added support for the Nios II processor in Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition, and Platform Designer.
16.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Nios II Processor is supported as a pre-release (beta) version in Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition because of the changes required to support IP components in Platform Designer. Nios II Classic is no longer supported in Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition.

For more information about the Nios II Processor core, refer to the [Nios II Processor Reference Guide](#).

4. Embedded IP Cores

Table 5. Release Information for Embedded IP Cores

Intel Quartus Prime Software Version	Key Updates
21.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added support for new IP core in Intel Quartus Prime: <i>On-Chip Memory II (RAM or ROM)</i>. Added Nios V Processor support except for the following IP cores: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDRAM Controller Core Tri-State SDRAM Core Compact Flash Core EPCS Serial Flash Controller Core 16207 LCD Controller Core Scatter-Gather DMA Controller Core Video Sync Generator and Pixel Converter Cores Avalon®-ST Test Pattern Generator and Checker Cores Avalon-MM DDR Memory Half Rate Bridge Core Modular ADC Core Modular Dual ADC Core Intel FPGA Avalon Mutex Core Vectored Interrupt Controller Core
20.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change.
20.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change.
20.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added a new parameter for <i>eSPI to LPC Bridge Core</i>.
20.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added support for new IP core in Intel Quartus Prime: <i>Intel FPGA MII to RMIIC Converter Core</i>.
19.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change.
19.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change.
19.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change.
19.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added support for new IP core in Intel Quartus Prime: <i>Intel FPGA HPS EMAC to Multi-rate PHY GMII Adapter Core</i>.
18.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added support for new IP core in Intel Quartus Prime: <i>eSPI to LPC Bridge IP Core</i>.
18.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added support for new IP core in Intel Quartus Prime: <i>Intel eSPI Slave IP Core</i>. Added a new parameter for <i>Modular Scatter-Gather DMA Core</i>.
17.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mSGDMA optimizations for Intel Stratix 10 devices in Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition software version 17.1. CMSIS support for embedded IP in Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition software version 17.1. EPCQA device support for EPCQ Controller and Generic QSPI Controller IP in Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition software version 17.1.
continued...	

Intel Quartus Prime Software Version	Key Updates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bug Fix: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intel Avalon FIFO IP —Incorrect back pressure behavior during reset state and data loss when FIFO is almost full issue is fixed. Triple-Speed Ethernet (TSE) iniche driver to support mSGDMA updated. Redundant software example <code>simple_socket_server_rgmii</code> removed
17.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added new Streaming (Avalon-ST) Freeze Bridges for Partial Reconfiguration (PR) support. New improved data performance Serial flash controller II and Generic Quad SPI controller II IP cores. Added Avalon-ST Freeze Bridges as PR solution IP. All Embedded IP cores now support Intel Cyclone 10 device compilation. Bug fixes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I²C Slave to Avalon-MM Master—MM master write data corruption due to overrun of internal I²C slave RX shifting logic issue fixed Intel FPGA Avalon FIFO IP —Incorrect back pressure behavior during reset state and data loss when FIFO is almost full issue fixed EPCQ Controller—Incorrect back pressure behavior during reset state issue fixed Generic QSPI Controller IP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modified to enable support for multiple instances in one Platform Designer design. N25Q016 flash device now supported. Serial Flash Controller IP—EPCS4 flash device is now supported. The following IP cores (from Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition) are not present in the Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intel FPGA Avalon New SDRAM Controller Intel FPGA SDRAM Tristate Controller Intel FPGA Avalon EPCS Flash Controller Intel FPGA Avalon Compact Flash Controller Intel FPGA Avalon Half Rate Bridge Intel FPGA Avalon Pixel Converter Intel FPGA Avalon Video Sync Generator Intel FPGA Avalon LCD 16207 Intel FPGA Avalon SGDMA Intel FPGA Avalon DMA Intel FPGA Modular ADC Intel FPGA SM Bus Controller
16.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new IP core named Avalon I²C Master has been added to the Platform Designer (Standard) library. The 16550 UART IP has been enhanced to support a user-defined TX FIFO level trigger. Freeze controller and bridges IPs have been added to the IP library.

For more information about the respective IP cores, refer to the [Embedded Peripherals IP User Guide](#).

For information about Nios V, refer to the *Nios V Processor Intel FPGA IP Release Notes*.

Related Information

[Nios V Processor Intel FPGA IP Release Notes](#)

5. Document Revision History for Nios II and Embedded IP Release Notes

Document Version	Changes
2021.10.18	Added information for the Intel Quartus Prime software version 21.3.
2020.12.14	Added information for the Intel Quartus Prime software version 20.4.
2020.10.30	Added information for the Intel Quartus Prime software version 19.3 to 20.3.
2019.07.01	Added information for the Intel Quartus Prime software version 19.2.
2019.04.10	Added information for the Intel Quartus Prime software version 19.1.
2018.09.24	Added information for the Intel Quartus Prime software version 18.1.
2018.05.07	Added information for the Intel Quartus Prime software version 18.0.
2017.12.05	Added information for the Intel Quartus Prime software version 17.1.
2017.05.08	Added information for the Intel Quartus Prime software version 17.0.
2016.11.07	Added information for the Intel Quartus Prime software version 16.1.

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