Lattice Bulletin Board Systems

Introduction

Lattice maintains two Bulletin Board Systems (BBSs) to communicate with customers. One BBS is located in Milpitas, California at Lattice's Silicon Valley Design Center. This BBS provides primary ispLSI and pLSI support. The second BBS is located in Hillsboro, Oregon at Lattice's headquarters. This BBS provides primary GAL support and secondary ispLSI and pLSI support. The following two sections explain in detail how to connect to each of these BBSs and how to transfer information.

Using the Lattice Silicon Valley BBS

The Silicon Valley BBS is for ispLSI and pLSI customers, distributors and FAEs who are requesting technical support on our ispLSI and pLSI families of HDPLDs. You can use the Silicon Valley BBS to:

·   Transfer designs to and from Lattice Application Engineers

·   Join conferences to share and exchange information with Lattice Application Engineers and other users

Telephone number and Communication Software Setup

The telephone number for the Silicon Valley BBS is (408) 428 - 6417. The BBS supports modem speeds from 300-28,800 Baud, and supports the typical default communication parameters of eight data bits, one stop bit, and no parity (8-N-1).
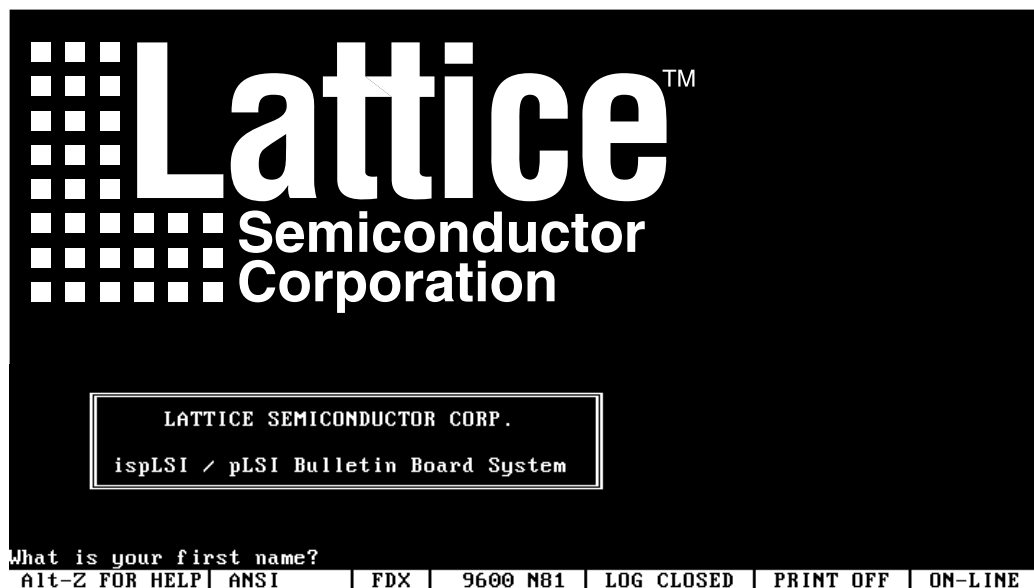
New User

If you have not used the Silicon Valley BBS before, the system will first ask if you want the graphics mode. This mode will help a first time user by displaying different options by either blinking or displaying a different color text, if you have a color display.

You will then be asked for your first name, your last name and password (see Figure 1). The user name must be your name; do not use your company name as a user name. The password can be up to 12 alphanumeric characters long. You will also be prompted to fill out a short script. You should be prepared with information about the Lattice software you are using and the 10 digit serial number from the Lattice security block(s).

After you complete the questionnaire, the system will display the main menu. As a first time user of the BBS, you have no rights to upload or download files. Your security level must be upgraded. This is done by calling 1-800-LATTICE, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. except on holidays. All times are Pacific Standard Time (PST) or Pacific Daylight Savings Time (PDT). If you have further questions, either call the phone number above or send e-mail to applications@latticesemi.com.   All mail and message functions on this BBS are disabled including comments to the Sysop.

Figure 1. Silicon Valley BBS Initial Screen

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The Main Menu

From this point, you'll be at the Main menu, with access to all other menus. Note that the Join option only allows access to the Public area until your security level has been upgraded.

Listed below is a brief description of the options available to a new user

· G - Hang up

· H - Help menu - Command options and description

· J - Join conference - None are available

· C - Leave a message to the System Administrator (SYSOP) is listed but not available

For users who have been upgraded and have previously joined a conference, the Figure 3 menu will be seen. This menu has seven additional commands that are accessible. When you login to the BBS and have previously joined a conference, the menu in Figure 3 will be the main menu. The conference you are in is the location you will be placed during your next successful login. Your options will be:

· F - List available files for download

· D - Download a file from the BBS (Instruct the BBS computer to go into send mode

· J - Join conference - Change to conference 1 - 3

· S - Required questionnaire about design, before Up load is started

· T - Transfer protocol - user specified type of file transfer method

· U - Upload a file - Instruct the BBS computer to go into receive mode

To Upload files to the BBS

If you need to upload (send) a file to the Lattice BBS, the file should be zipped up, and a readme file should be added to the zip file. The zip utilities compress the file size and help to eliminate file transmission errors. The readme file should have a description of the questions, comments and/or problem you have.

To upload a file to the BBS, do the following:

1. Type J)oin 1 or 2 <enter> - This puts you into conference 1 or 2.

2. Type T)ransfer protocol <enter>.

3. Select which file transfer method you want - (X , Y, or Z protocol).

4. Type S)cript <enter> and fill out the questionnaire about your design and the design tools used.

5. Type U)pload *filename* <enter>. *Filename* is the name it will be called on the BBS.

6. Select the send file utility on your software package. If you are using a Procomm like software package, you press the "Page Up" key.

Figure 2. Silicon Valley BBS Main Menu

```
System Operations        Message Operations       File Operations
G)oodbye (Hang Up)       C)omments to SYSOP        Join a conference before
H)elp Functions                                    Uploading or Downloading
J)oin a Conference                                 a File
                                                   New Users cannot Upload or
                                                   Download Files
```

Figure 3. Silicon Valley BBS Menu Selections available in conference 1 and 2

```
System Operations        File Operations
F)ile Directories        D)ownload a File
G)oodbye (Hang Up)       To Upload a File:
H)elp Functions          S)cript #1 then U)pload
J)oin a Conference
T)rans. Protocol
```

To Download files from the BBS

To download a file to the BBS, do the following:

1. Type J)oin 1 or 2 <enter> - This puts you into conference 1 or 2.

2. Type T)ransfer protocol <enter>.

3. Select which file transfer method you want - (X , Y, or Z protocol).

4. Type D)ownload *filename* <enter>. *Filename* is name it will be called on the BBS.

5. Select the receive file utility on your software package. If you are using a Procomm like software package, you press the "Page Down" key.

Electronic Mail

Lattice Semiconductor does support the use of e-mail. Communications regarding ispLSI or pLSI products can be sent to "applications@latticesemi.com". Please include details as well as a voice telephone number.

Using the Hillsboro BBS

The Hillsboro BBS is accessible by any user with a modem and communication package. You can use the Hillsboro BBS to:

1. Transfer designs to and from Lattice Applications Engineers

2. Access the latest utilities

3. Join conferences to share and exchange information with Lattice Applications Engineers and other users

4. Send mail to and from Lattice Applications Engineers. However, e-mail to gal@latticesemi.com receives higher priority.

Telephone Number and Communication Software Setup

The telephone number for the Hillsboro BBS is (503) 693-0215. The BBS supports modem speeds from 300-9600 Baud, and supports the typical default communication parameters of eight data bits, one stop bit, and no parity (8-N-1).

If You Are A New User

If you have not used the BBS before, the system will ask you a short set of questions. These questions are used to maintain statistics about our callers, and will not take long to answer.

You will be asked for a user name and password. For the user name, simply enter your name. You will also be prompted to enter a password. It is important to remember the password you enter. You will need it whenever you log on to the system, and if you forget it, you may have to have your account information deleted, and you will have to log on again as a new user.

After you complete the questionnaire, the system will display the main menu. From this point on, you will see the main menu after you log on and give the system your name and password.

The Main Menu

The Main Menu is the top level menu, meaning that you can access all other menus from this point. The options you are most likely to use are:

Figure 4. Hillsboro BBS Main Menu

```
    MAIN MENU:

    [M].............Message menu          [F]...............File menu
    [C]....Comments to the sysop          [P]..........Page the sysop
    [I]...Initial welcome screen          [Y]............Your settings
    [G]........Goodbye & Logoff            [H]...............Help level
    [?].............Command help           [J].........Join conference

    Conf: "[0] - Lattice Technical Support", time on 0, with 60 remaining.

    MAIN MENU: [M F C P I Y G H ? J] ? [ ]
```

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f-   file menu
j-   join conference
m-   message menu

Use the file menu when you want to upload or download files. Use the join conference menu when you want to join a conference on a particular topic. Use the message menu when you want to leave a message, either as part of a conference, or to a specific individual.

The File Menu

When you choose the File menu from the Main menu, you will be presented with a list of options for uploading, listing, or downloading files on the BBS.

If you need to download a file, and you know the name of the file you want to download, choose option D and download the file. You don't have to be in a particular conference to download the file.

If you don't know the exact name of the file, then you can choose one of the options in Figure 6 to locate the file.

Searching for interesting files is easy because the files are grouped into logical file areas. Figure 7 is a an example session where files in a particular area are listed. In this example, when "L" was entered for the file area, a list of all the file areas was displayed. From this list of areas, you can choose the specific area you are interested in listing.

Transferring Files

Once you identify the file that you want to download, choose the D option from the Download menu. You will be prompted for the file name. Alternatively, you can initiate a download after listing the files in an area. Note that one of the options in the menu listed above is D for download.

File Protocols

The BBS supports a number of different file protocols for downloading and uploading files. Which one to choose depends on your communication software. Zmodem is one of the most popular protocols, and your communication software is likely to support it.

You can display the file transfer protocol you've chosen by selecting the Y option from the main menu (see Figure 8).

When you choose the Y option, all configuration parameters are displayed. Number 14 is the file transfer protocol. By entering 14 as the setting to change, you can change to a different file transfer protocol. Note that you can choose to select the file transfer protocol each time you start a download by selecting S as the default protocol option.

Figure 5. Hillsboro BBS File Menu

```
    MAIN MENU: [M F C P I Y G H ? J] ? [F]
    FILE MENU:

    [D].......Download a file(s)        [U].........Upload a file(s)
    [L].....List available files        [Q]........Quit to main menu
    [N]......New files since [N]         [I]....Information on a file
    [T]..............Text search         [F].......File transfer info
    [G].........Goodbye & logoff         [H]..............Help level
    [?]............Command help          [M]............Message menu
    [V]...View a compressed file         [R].........Read a text file
    [J]..........Join conference         [E].........Edit marked list

    Conf: "[0] - Lattice Technical Support", time on 2, with 58 remaining.

    FILE MENU: [D U L Q N I T F G H ? M V R J E] ? [ ]
```

Figure 6. Finding a File Without Knowing the Specific Name

If You Want to List Files	Then Choose Option	And Enter
Uploaded after a certain date	N	The starting date for the search
Containing a specific word in their name or description	T	The word to search for
Within an area category	L	The area to list

Conferences

The Hillsboro BBS also provides a conference facility for you to share information with Lattice Application Engineers, and other users of Lattice Products. Conferences are simply a way to organize messages left by users so that they are grouped by a common subject. When you join a conference, messages that you read or leave will then be left in that conference area.

You can join a conference from the Main menu by entering the J command (see Figure 9). After entering this command, you can either enter the number of a conference you want to join, or enter an L to list the available conferences.

Once the conference is joined, you can enter the Message menu from the Main menu (see Figure 10), and read new messages in the conference by entering the R command, or you can enter the S command to scan for new messages.

The Scan command can be an easy way to locate topics of interest. The Scan menu will list a variety of options to search through messages. For example, you can specify a word to search for anywhere in the body of a message by selecting the B option. Any messages that contain this text will be displayed (see Figure 11).

Figure 7. Example Session Showing Files Listed in a Particular Area

```
FILE MENU: [D U L Q N I T F G H ? M V R J E] ? [L]
Areas (1..8) [#, #-#], [A]ll, [L]ist, [S|D|F], [H]elp)?  1

Scanning file area - GAL Applications Info
[ 1] 20VP8.ABL         988   01/13/93 | ABEL example of setting output type
     DwnLds: 26    DL Time   00:00:05 | for GAL20VP8

[ 2] CHKSUM.EXE       4,992  11/13/91 | Simple JEDEC Fuse Checksum Utility
     DwnLds: 73    DL Time   00:00:26 |                             *Info*

[ 3] PALTOGAL.EXE    33,012  12/09/92 | Ver. 3.12, util to convert PAL JEDEC
     DwnLds: 277   DL Time   00:02:51 | files to GAL files

[ 4] PHY               836  01/13/93 | ABEL example of setting output type on
     DwnLds: 27    DL Time   00:00:04 | GAL16VP8

[ 5] XSUM.EXE        14,069  01/18/89 | Simple JEDEC Transmission Calculation
     DwnLds: 52    DL Time   00:01:13 | Utility                      *Info*

End of list
-Pause- [C]ont, [H]elp, [N]onstop, [M]ark, [D]wnld, [I]nfo, [V]iew, [S]top? [C]
```

Figure 8. Selecting the Y Option from the Main Menu

```
MAIN MENU: [M F C P I Y G H ? J] ? [Y]

Present setting for  : NEW USER

[ 1] Password          : *******        Msgs written  : 0
[ 2] Computer type      : 8088 based syst  No. of calls  : 3
[ 3] Phone number       :                High message  : 0
[ 4] Birth date         : /  /           User since    : 04/01/94
[ 5] Screen length      : 23             Last call     : 04/05/94 11:12am
[ 6] Color menus        : NO             Last new files : 01/01/80 12:00am
[ 7] Erase prompt       : NO             Downloads     : 0 Files, 0K
[ 8] Hot keys           : NO             Uploads       : 0 Files, 0K
[ 9] Quote on Reply     : NO             Security level : NEWUSER
[10] Msg Clear Screen   : NO             Acct balance  : 0
[11] Default editor     : No default     Netmail balance: 0
[12] File display mode: Double line
[13] Help level         : Novice
[14] Default protocol   : All
[15] Calling from        :
[16] Chat status         : Unavailable

Setting to change [1..16], [H]elp ? [  ]
```

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Figure 9. Joining a Conference

```
MAIN MENU:

[M].............Message menu        [F]................File menu
[C]....Comments to the sysop        [P]...........Page the sysop
[I]...Initial welcome screen        [Y]............Your settings
[G].........Goodbye & Logoff        [H]...............Help level
[?].............Command help        [J].........Join conference

Conf: "[0] - Lattice Technical Support", time on 19, with 40 remaining.

MAIN MENU: [M F C P I Y G H ? J] ? [J]

Join conference [0-3], [L]ist, [H]elp? [L  ]
Conferences available:

  0) Lattice Technical Support    1) Private E-Mail
  3) Utilities
Join conference [0-3], [L]ist, [H]elp? [    ]
```

Figure 10. Message Menu

```
MESSAGE MENU:

[Q]....Quit to the main menu        [J]..........Join conference
[R]............Read messages         [S]............Scan messages
[E]......Enter a new message         [K]...........Kill a message
[G].........Goodbye & logoff         [H]...............Help level
[?].............Command help         [F]...............File menu

Conf: "[0] - Lattice Technical Support", time on 14, with 44 remaining.

MESSAGE MENU: [Q J R S E K G H ? F] ? [ ]
```

Figure 11. The Scan Command

```
MESSAGE MENU: [Q J R S E K G H ? F] ? [S]

[F]rom       : <ALL>
[T]o         : <ALL>
S[u]bject    : <ALL>
Msg [B]ody   : <ALL>
[N]umber     : <ALL>
[D]irection  : Forward
[C]onference : Current

Search command [F T U N D B C], [H]elp, [S]tart, [ENTER] to Quit? [B]
Search text? [paltogal              ]

[F]rom       : <ALL>
[T]o         : <ALL>
S[u]bject    : <ALL>
Msg [B]ody   : PALTOGAL
[N]umber     : <ALL>
[D]irection  : Forward
[C]onference : Current

Search command [F T U N D B C], [H]elp, [S]tart, [ENTER] to Quit? [ ]
```

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