

AN2721

Getting Started with Dual Core

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DUAL CORE OVERVIEW

The dsPIC33C family is the first dual core device from Microchip. The dsPIC33C devices contain extensive Digital Signal Processor (DSP) functionality with a high-performance 16-bit MCU architecture.

The Master core and Slave core can operate independently, and can be programmed and debugged separately during the application development. Both processor (Master core and Slave core) subsystems have their own interrupt controllers, clock generators, Debug support, port logic, I/O MUXes and PPS. The device is equivalent to having two complete $dsPIC^{\textcircled{R}}$ DSCs on a single die.

This application note assumes that the user is familiar with developing code on a single core dsPIC device. The discussion here will be pertaining to how to develop and debug code in a dual core environment using the Microchip MPLAB[®] X IDE. This document will discuss different debugging features and how to use the tool to get into those Debugging modes.

Figure 1 shows how the dual core is implemented and how each core has its own peripherals, RAM and program memory, etc.



FIGURE 1: DUAL CORE ARCHITECTURE

Program Memory

The Master core and Slave core each have their own program memory. On the dsPIC33CH device implementation, the Master program memory is Flash and the Slave program memory is PRAM. In the application, the code for Master core and Slave core is stored as a single hex file. This single hex file resides in the Master Flash.

Note:	The use of Master and Slave terminolog	ју
	throughout this document relates t	to
	Master core and Slave core, respectively	v.

On a POR, the Master must transfer the Slave code from Flash to the Slave PRAM. On a power loss, the Slave PRAM will be lost, so on each power-up, the Master must repeat this process of transferring the Slave code from Master Flash to Slave PRAM. The Reset behavior of the cores is dependent on the Configuration bits, S1MSRE and S1SSRE. Please refer to the device data sheet for more details.

The process of transferring the Slave code from the Flash to the PRAM is done by software, so the Master core has full control of when to start the transfer. Once the Master core has completed the code transfer to the Slave, the Master core has control of when to enable the Slave core. This is also a part of the Master software, so the Master software can decide when to enable the Slave core (SLVEN = 1).

FIGURE 2: MASTER CORE TO SLAVE CORE CODE TRANSFER

Data RAM

The Master core and Slave core each have their own data RAM; RAM size is dependent on the device. Please check the specific device data sheet for the available RAM on each core.

FIGURE 3: OSCILLATOR RESOURCE ALLOCATION IN DUAL CORE

Oscillator

the two cores.

Each core has its own clock multiplexers, dividers, PLL and APLL modules. There are multiple options for clock selection, and the Master core and Slave core can run independently on different clock sources and different frequencies as needed.

Configuration Bits

The Configuration bits are a part of the Master Flash. Both Master core and Slave core Configuration bits are in the Master Flash, so on a POR, the Configuration bits are loaded from the Master Flash.

MSI Module

The Master Slave Interface (MSI) is an integral part of the dual core architecture. Using the MSI module, the Master core and the Slave core can transfer data between the two cores. The MSI module can work with DMA, so the data transfer between the two cores can take place with minimal CPU intervention. The MSI module also has some features that can be used to interrupt the other core, as well as monitor the Reset state of the other cores. The feature for the Master core to start the Slave core is also a part of the MSI.

The oscillator has shared and individual modules

across the two cores. FRC, BFRC (Backup FRC),

LPRC and the Primary Oscillator are shared between

I/O Ports and PPS

I/O ports are shared between the Master core and Slave core; the input function of the I/O ports goes to both Master core and Slave core. The output can be controlled by giving the pin ownership to either Master core or Slave core. The output pin ownership is controlled by the Configuration bits. By assigning the Configuration bits correctly, the user has full control of deciding which I/O port output is assigned to which core.

The Master core and Slave core have their own Peripheral Pin Select (PPS) module, so through software, the Master core and Slave core can control which pins are assigned to their respective peripherals.

PROGRAMMING AND DEBUGGING ON THE DUAL CORE

During code development, the dual core has multiple features to help program and debug the silicon. All the different modes of programming, as well as debugging, are discussed in this section.

The various modes of debugging and programming options are:

- 1. Master Core Only Modes: Programming and debugging.
- 2. Slave Core Only Modes: Programming and debugging.

- 3. Dual Debugging: Both cores are debugged simultaneously.
- 4. Normal Mode: Master core programs the Slave core (final production code).

All of these modes for operation provide a lot of flexibility for the user in the development phase. The main advantage is the ability to develop projects on each core independently. This provides the edge for the user to have totally independent teams working on the Master project and the Slave project (Table 1).

Modoo	Master Core	Slove Core	MC	LR Pins	PGC/	PGD Pins	# of
wodes	Master Core	Slave Core	Master	Slave	Master	Slave	Tools
Master Core Only ⁽¹⁾	Program/Debug	N/A	MCLR	N/A	PGC1/PGD1 or PGC2/PGD2 or PGC3/PGD3	N/A	1
Slave Core Only ⁽¹⁾	Program the Stub ⁽²⁾	Program/ Debug	MCLR	MCLR	PGC1/PGD1 or PGC2/PGD2 or PGC3/PGD3	PGC1/PGD1 or PGC2/PGD2 or PGC3/PGD3	1
Dual Debug	Debug	Debug	MCLR	S1MCLR1 or S1MCLR2 or S1MCLR3	PGC1/PGD1 or PGC2/PGD2 or PGC3/PGD3	S1PGC1/S1PGD1 or S1PGC2/S1PGD2 or S1PGC3/S1PGD3 ⁽³⁾	2
Normal Mode	Program/Debug ⁽⁴⁾	Program Only	MCLR		PGC1/PGD1 or PGC2/PGD2 or PGC3/PGD3		1

TABLE 1: MODES OF DEBUG/PROGRAM OPERATION

Note 1: Programming or debugging.

2: Master stub can be a small code or a full Master project. The main reason for requiring a stub for the Master core is to have Configuration bits programmed. The Slave core and Master core Configuration bits reside in Master Flash.

3: The only time S1MCLRx and S1PGCx/S1PGDx pins are used is when both the Master core and Slave core are debugged simultaneously (Dual Debug mode).

4: In Final Production mode, the Slave hex code resides in the Master Flash and the Master code loads the Slave code. The Master starts the Slave core after the Slave is programmed.

MASTER CORE ONLY MODE

Master Core Only Programming and Debugging

This mode is the same as programming single core dsPIC devices. The project can be created and debugged, ignoring the Slave code. Assign the I/O ports ownership and other Configuration bits that are required for the Master code to run. A Slave project or code is not required to run the Master Core Only mode.

The device is programmed using the (ICSPTM) MCLR pin and the PGCx/PGDx pins are selected using the Configuration bits.

Select the device variant, for example, the dsPIC33CH128MP508 device and create a new project. The project can be compiled, programmed or debugged like any other existing Microchip single core device.

SLAVE ONLY MODES

These modes use the dual core features. In these modes, the Master core has to be programmed. The Master code can be full Master code or small Master code with a "while(1)" (called Master stub).

The idea of the Master code or a Master stub is to program the Master core with a small code, which has the code to enable the Slave core. The Slave core is enabled with the code, SLVEN = 1. There is also an unlock sequence required to enable the Slave core. Please refer to the specific device data sheet for more information.

The XC16 provides a function which includes the unlock sequence. It is recommended to include, "#include <libpic30.h>", and use function, "_start_slave();", to start the Slave core.

The Master stub also has the Configuration bits for the Master and Slave core, since Configuration bits are stored in Master Flash.

FIGURE 4: SLAVE ONLY PROGRAMMING/DEBUGGING

Slave Only Programming

Create the Master project like a single core device and perform the following steps:

1. Create a project for the Master stub selecting the Master device.

Select Device		
Family:	All Families 🗸 🗸	
Device:	dsPIC33CH128MP508	

2. Navigate to the Slave folder and right click to open the Project Property window.

- 3. Uncheck the Debug check box (since the Slave core is not being debugged).
- 4. Program the Master code with the Master stub code.

Creating the Slave Project

Once the Master project is programmed, start a new project for the Slave. Then, perform the following steps:

 Select the Slave device (the Slave project should be the Slave device of the Master project. For example, if the Master project selected is dsPIC33CH128MP508, the Slave project selected should be dsPIC33CH128MP508S1. If the Master stub project is dsPIC33CH64MP508, then the Slave project selected should be dsPIC33CH64MP508S1.

Select Device	
Family:	16-bit DSCs (dsPIC33) 👻
Device:	dsPIC33CH128MP508S1

For example, if a new Slave project, **SlaveOnlyP**, is selected as shown below, right click the Slave and set the Slave as the **Main Project**.

2. Start programming the Slave directly.

Note: The Master stub must be programmed prior to programming the Slave project. Without programming the Master stub, the Slave should not be programmed. The Master and Slave can be programmed using the same ICSPTM pins (PGCx/PGDx).

Slave Only Debugging

In this mode, the Master stub has to be programmed first, as explained in **"Slave Only Programming"**. The main difference is the Debug check box selection option.

In the Master stub, go to the Slave folder and right click to open the window below.

Project Properties - MasterStub Categories:							22
General General General General General General	Slave Projects	Configuration	Image Name	Address	Build	Ad	d Slave Project
Conf: [default] Starter Kit (PKOB)							Duplicate
···· O Loading ···· O Slaves							Remove
Libraries Building X015 (Clobal Options)							Down
······································						Ŧ	
vc16-ar	Slave Cores					_	
	Core	P50851			Debug	_	New
							Duplicate Rename Remove Up Down
Manage Configurations							Set Active
			C	ОК Са	ncel Ap	oly U	Inlock Help

Once the window is open, click the Debug check box to enable the Debug bit. This makes the Slave core ready for debugging.

In the Master code, there are two options:

- Enable the Slave, SLVEN = 1 ("_start_slave();"). This ensures the Slave core is enabled and ready.
- Isolate the Slave from the Master code using the Configuration bit, S1ISOLAT (S1ISOLAT = ON). This will isolate the Slave from Master code and the Slave can start, irrespective of the SLVEN = 1 or 0. The S1ISOLAT bit is available only when the Slave is being debugged.

Creating the Slave Project

Once the Master stub project is programmed, start a new project for the Slave core. Select the Slave device. The Slave project should be the Slave device of the Master project.

Select Device	2	
Family:	16-bit DSCs (dsPIC33)	•
Device:	dsPIC33CH128MP508S1	•

The same ICSP pins (MCLR and PGCx/PGDx) will be used for programming the Master stub project as well the Slave project. <u>Depending</u> on the project, the tool will use the ICSP/MCLR pins to switch between the Master and Slave core.

Once the project is created and the Slave code is compiled, the Slave project can be debugged like any other project by clicking the **Debug** \mathbb{R} - button.

DUAL DEBUG MODE

In this mode, both the Master and the Slave core are in Debug mode. The Master and Slave are debugged at the same time and two debug tools are required (Figure 5).

S1MCLRx/S1PGCx/S1PGDx are only used in Dual Debug mode to debug the Slave project.

FIGURE 5: DUAL DEBUG

There are two distinct ways of debugging the Master and Slave simultaneously:

- Using a single MPLAB X IDE window.
- Using two MPLAB X IDE windows, one for Master and one for Slave.

Dual Debug with Single Window

Create a Master project by performing the following steps:

1. Right click the Slaves subfolder.

1 1		
E E	Important Files	
Þ	Linker Files	
Ū.	Cource Files	
Ū.	- 🕞 Libraries	
Ð	- 🗁 Loadables	
æ	- 🗁 Slaves	

2. Select the Slave Debug check box to enable the debug bit.

Core	Debug
deptC33CH128MP50851	

- 3. Make sure neither the Slave nor Master is set as the main project. If the Master or Slave project is selected as a main project, right click the specific project and click **Unset as the Main Project**.
- 4. Highlight the Master project.

- 5. Press the **Debug** button to debug the Master project.
- Once the Master is debugging, go to Windows, Debugging and select Sessions. This opens a Sessions window with the Master shown as Running.

Note: The Master code should have the code enable the Slave for the Slave to run (SLVEN = 1). If not, the S1ISOLAT bit should be ON.

- 7. Now for the Slave core, create a Slave project and click the Slave project to highlight the project.
- Select the project properties and select the second tool for debugging the Slave (in the example shown below, the ICD 3 is for the Master core and REAL ICE[™] is for the Slave core).

Hardware Tools	
FN: ICD 3 -	
@ ICD 4	
@ PICkit 4	
@@ PICkit3	
@ PM3	
🚊 🐵 Real ICE	
SN: JIT081396133	
Simulator	
Alternate Tools	
a prolato	

- 9. Apply and click the Debug I button.
- Once the Slave core is debugging, go to Windows, Debugging and click on Sessions. This opens a Sessions window with the Master core and Slave core shown as Running.

Variables	Call Stack	Breakpoints	Sessions %	Output	
Name					State
Haster	ebug.X.debug.el	f			Running
SlaveDe	bug.X.debug.elf				Running

11. Double click the Master or Slave session to highlight the window above the selection. All tool buttons on the window that are relevant to the session are highlighted.

	0	0	0	8	d	61	-1	-	 418.3/1096MB	6

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Dual Debug with Multiple MPLAB X IDE Windows

The hardware connection is the same as before with the single window. The only difference is the Master core will be in one MPLAB X IDE window, while the Slave core will be in another MPLAB X IDE window.

Create a dual debug project in multiple MPLAB X IDE windows by performing the following steps:

- 1. Create a Master core debug project. Make sure to enable the Slave core debug.
- 2. Right click the MPLAB X IDE icon and select **Properties**.
- 3. Go to Target location and add
 - '< -userdir> < Slave project path>' after the "...\mplab_ide_.exe". This provides the path to where the Slave project needs to be created.

Security	Details	Previous Versions							
General	Shortcut	Compatibility							
N	PLAB X IDE v4.15								
Target type:	Application								
Target location:	bin								
Target:	>\MPLABX\v4.15\mplab_ide\bin\mplab_ide.exe"								
Start in:	"C:\Program Files (x86)\Microchip\MPLABX\v4.1								
Shortcut key:	None								
Run:	Normal window								
Comment:	Launch MPLAB X IDE								
Open File L	ocation Change lo	con Advanced							

4. Double-click the MPLAB icon and create a new Slave project. This opens a new MPLAB X IDE window for the Slave project. Using the second debug tool, the Slave core can be debugged.

Breakpoints in Dual Debug Mode

One of the key features of the Debug modes in the dual core is to create cross core breakpoints and interrupts. There are multiple features related to cross core breakpoints in the dual core device.

On a breakpoint, the user can opt for:

- · Break other cores
- · Interrupt other cores
- Break and interrupt the other core

Set a cross core breakpoint by performing the following steps:

- 1. Select the **Debug** menu and click **New Breakpoint**.
- 2. The New Breakpoint window opens.

Settings		
Project: MasterDeb	ug	•
Address:	Hex (0x0 - 0x15eff)	
Breaks on: Program M	lemory Execution	•
	Cross Core Options: None	•
Pass count		
Condition: Always	Break	•

- 3. Select the Address breakpoint and select which project the breakpoint is going to be. The decision to break the Master project or the Slave project can be done here.
- 4. Select the address where the code needs to break. In this example, the Master project is set to break at address, "0x360", and then decide which cross core option is required.

Project: M	asterDebug	•	
Address:	Hex (0x0 - 0x1	5eff)	
Breaks on:	rogram Memory Execution	•	
	Cross Core Options:	None	
		None	
Pass count		Break other cores	
Condition:	Always Break	Interrupt other cores Break and Interrupt other cor	•]

Since the main project is Master debug, the cross core which will break or interrupt will be the Slave.

Select what will appear in the **Cross Core Options** by selecting one of the following:

- Break other cores: When the Master reaches address 0x360, the Slave will also stop.
- Interrupt other cores: When the Master code reaches 0x360 and stops, the Slave will receive an interrupt (MSTBRKIF).
- Break and interrupt the other core: When the Master reaches address 0x360 and stops, the Slave will stop as well (MSTBRKIF interrupt flag will also get set).

For example, if the **Break other cores** is selected, when the Master stops at 0x360, the Slave will also stop.

NORMAL MODE (MASTER CORE PROGRAMS THE SLAVE CORE – FINAL PRODUCTION CODE)

This Normal mode is the final production code. The Slave code resides in the Master core. During power-up, the Master core has to transfer the code to the Slave core. The Slave project is linked to the Master project, and when the Master project is built, the Slave project is also built at the same time. The Slave code is then placed in the Master Flash along with the Master code. When the Master code is running, the Master transfers the Slave code from Master Flash to the Slave PRAM (Figure 7).

FIGURE 7: NORMAL MODE (MASTER AND SLAVE IN A SINGLE HEX FILE)

Create a Normal mode project:

- 1. Create a Master project (Master) and a Slave Project (Slav).
- 2. Right click the **Slaves** folder under the Master.

3. Add the Slave project as shown below.

e.	Look in: 🌲	Example4	•	p 🗈		
Recent Items	Maste	r.X		Project Name:		
	- 3 387.5			Configurations:	_	
Desktop						
My Documents						 Auto
						 Relative Absolute
Computer						
(
100	File name:	C: Users/c12829/Des	ktop (Examples (Ex	ample 4		Add

4. Once the Slave project is added to the Master project, right click and open **Properties**. Once the Slave code is added and lined to the Master project, there will be only one active project. When the Master project is compiled, the Slave project will also be compiled.

Each time when the project is built, any changes made to the Master or Slave source code will be compiled to get a hex file. Only one hex file is generated and is placed in the Master Flash when the device is programmed.

Note: In the MPLAB X IDE project properties, make sure to leave the Debug check box unchecked. In this project, once the Master project is built, the Slave and the Master will get built and there will be only one single hex file that needs to be programmed in the Master Flash.
 In this mode of operation, the Master can run in Debug mode and the Slave cannot run in Debug mode. When the Master core is stopped or single-stepped, the Slave core will continue to run as long as the Slave code is transferred and the Slave is enabled.

Slave Image Option

SLAVE IMAGE LOCATION

While linking the Slave project to the Master project, MPLAB X IDE provides the option for the user to assign the address for the Slave image. This is required only when the user needs to place the Slave code in any specific address location in the Master Flash. If the address location is left blank, the compiler will decide where to place the Slave image in the Master Flash.

The following shows an example of how the Slave image is assigned at address 0x1000.

Slave Projects				
Item	Configuration	Image Name	Address	Build
📰 Slav.X (dist	t/ default	Slav	0x1000	

By adding address 0x1000, the Slave image will be kept at location 0x1000 in the Master core (if available and free).

Multiple Slave Images

KEEPING MULTIPLE IMAGES OF THE SLAVE IN MASTER FLASH

The Slave image location feature can be used to store multiple Slave code images if needed. This allows the user to change the Slave code by loading the desired Slave image.

In the Slave folder, multiple images of the Slave project can be added. For example, there are two Slave projects shown below.

Configuration	Image Name	Address	Build	
default	Slav	0x4000		
. default	Slav1	0x5000	V	
. deraurt	31411	0,000	×	
	Configuration default default	Configuration Image Name default Slav default Slav1	Configuration Image Name Address default Slav 0x4000 default Slav1 0x5000	Configuration Image Name Address Build default Slav 0x4000 V default Slav1 0x5000 V

It is possible to build both projects while building the Master project.

In the Master project, the user has the flexibility to choose which project image to load to the Slave.

#include "Slav.h"	
#include "Slav1.h"	
<pre>int main(void) {</pre>	
if (condition1)	
{	
_program_slave(1,0,Slav);	// load image Slav
}	
else	
{	
_program_slave(1,0,Slav1);	// load image Slav1
}	
_start_slave();	
while(1)	
}	
-	

Depending on Condition 1, the Master can load the Slave PRAM (Slav image or Slav1 image).

Note the following details of the code protection feature on Microchip devices:

- Microchip products meet the specification contained in their particular Microchip Data Sheet.
- Microchip believes that its family of products is one of the most secure families of its kind on the market today, when used in the intended manner and under normal conditions.
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China - Hong Kong SAR Tel: 852-2943-5100

China - Nanjing Tel: 86-25-8473-2460

China - Qingdao Tel: 86-532-8502-7355

China - Shanghai Tel: 86-21-3326-8000

China - Shenyang Tel: 86-24-2334-2829

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