OpenCPI - Open Component Portability Infrastructure

An Open Source Infrastructure for Heterogeneous/Embedded Component-Based Systems and Applications

HDL Application Workers

HDL Application Workers

- HDL Worker Overview
- HDL Application Workers

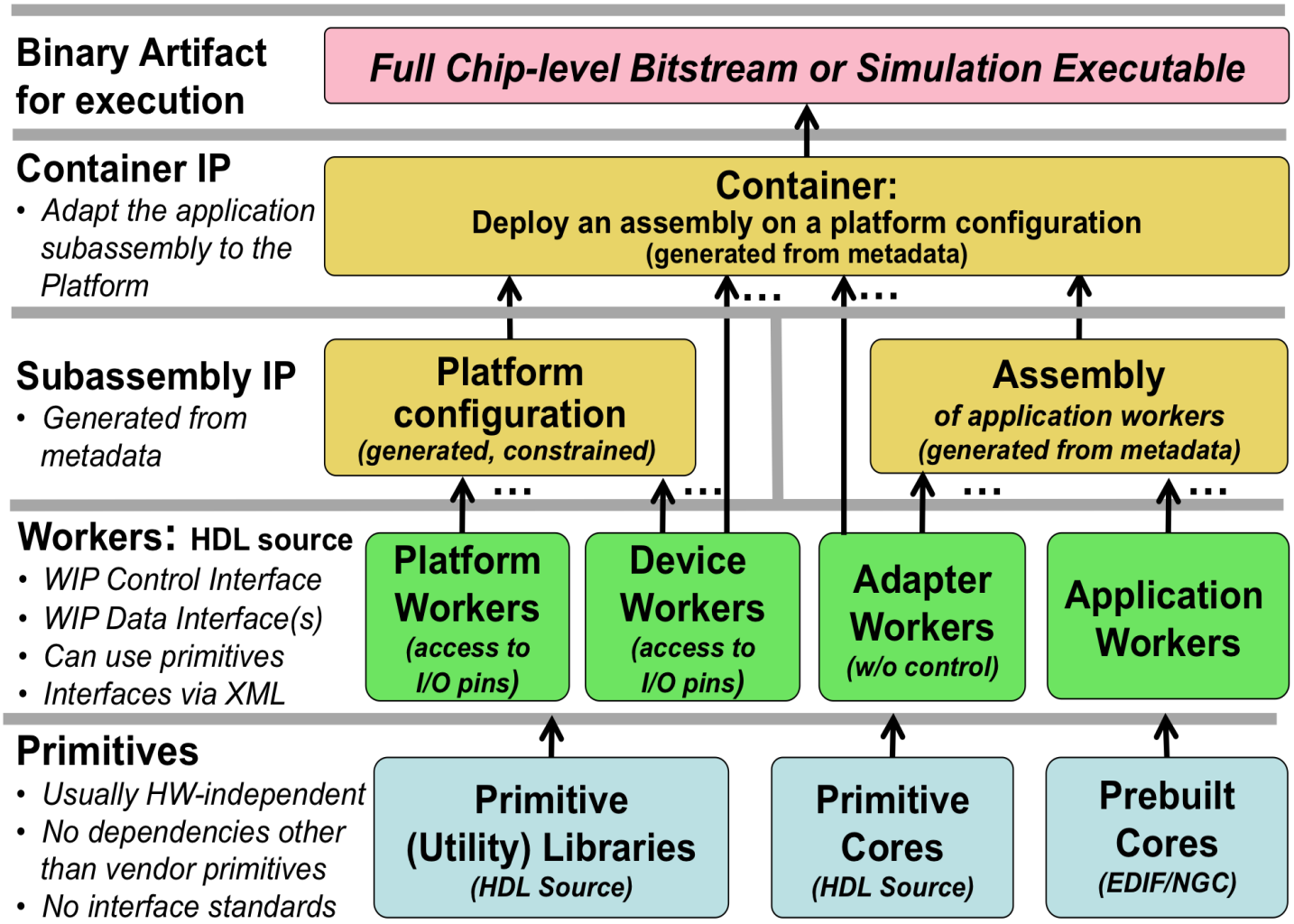
HDL Worker Types

- Application Workers
  - Ideally portable and hardware independent
- Adapter Workers
  - Connect workers with incompatible data ports (*e.g.*, protocols), as defined in OCS/OWD
  - No control plane access when OCS/NoControl="true" (*i.e.*, Configuration Properties)
  - Only *wci_clk* and *wci_reset* are provided by control interface
- Device Workers (Subdevices, Emulators)
  - Used to connect to the I/O pins of external hardware
- Platform Workers
  - Special type of device worker that performs platform-wide functions

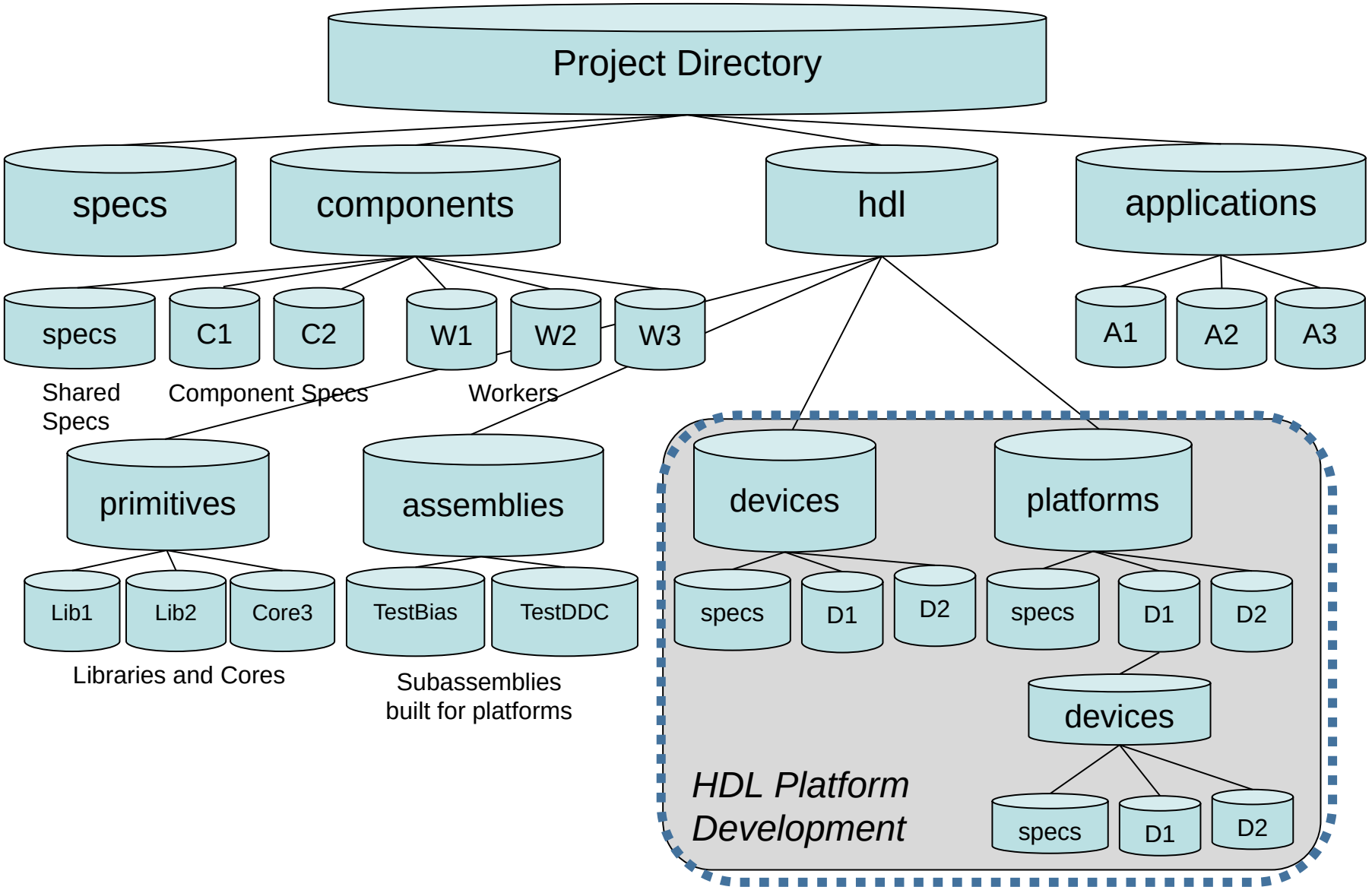
HDL Build Flow Hierarchy

Generated above this point

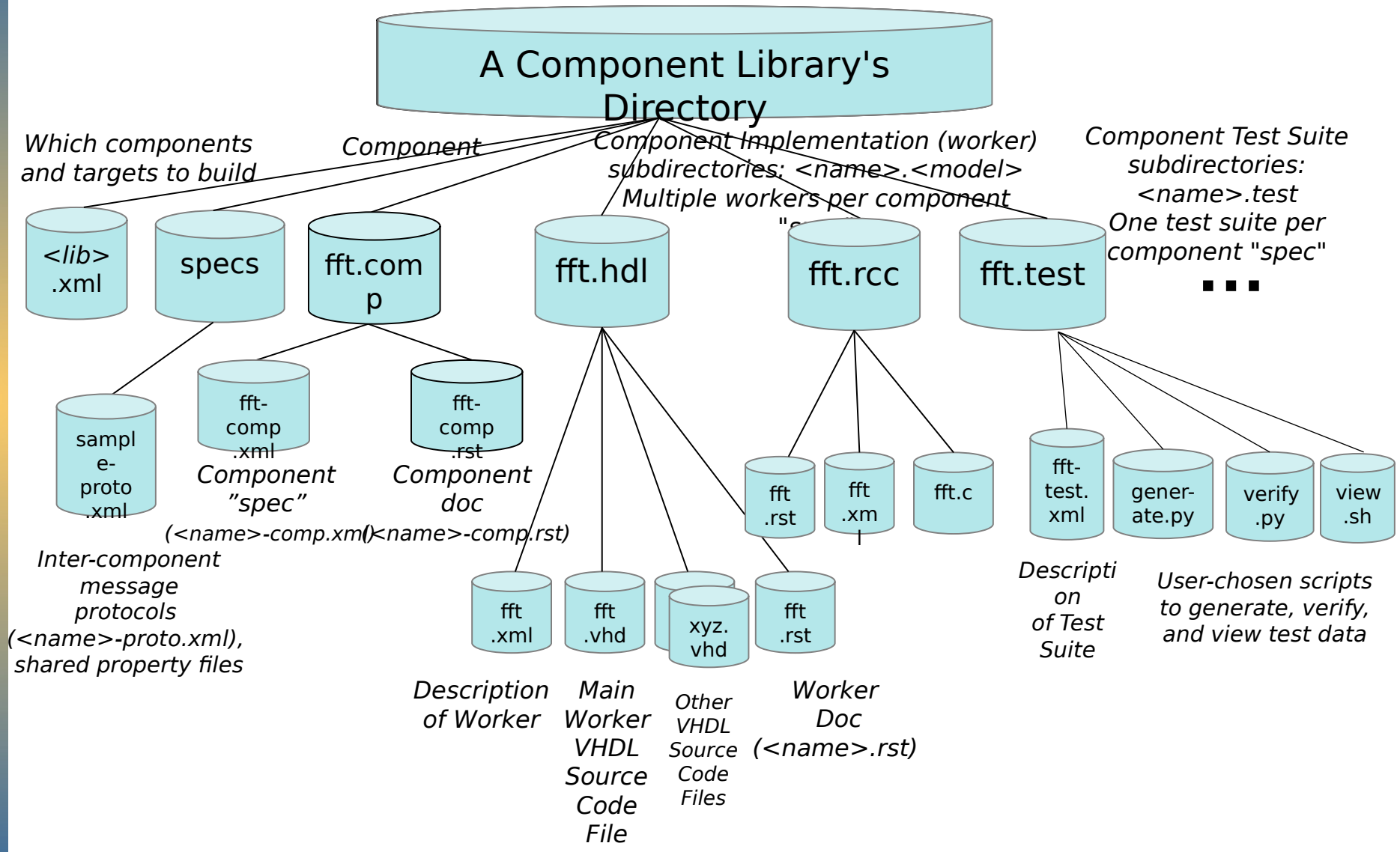
No user VHDL above this point



Project Directory Layout



Component Directory Layout



Vendor Tools and Environment Variables

- The tables in “Supported Systems and Platforms” in the *OpenCPI Installation Guide* describe the vendor tools supported by OpenCPI for HDL development, including supported versions, dependencies, and license requirements
- The file “<ocpi-install-path>/tools/scripts/default_user_env.sh” describes the OpenCPI environment variables defined for supported vendor tools

HDL Application Workers

- HDL Worker Overview
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HDL Application Workers

- Implement an OCS
  - Declare properties (parameters) and ports
- Described by an OWD, written in VHDL
  - Ability to add-to accessibility of OCS Properties
  - Declare unique worker properties
  - Modify structure of ports
- Ideally hardware/platform agnostic
  - Wrap vendor-specific IP to achieve vendor-neutral code
  - Build-time configurations (module feature support, vector size o input/output ports)
- Can be built for multiple FPGA/simulation targets (i.e., Xilinx, Inte FPGA family, toolset/version)
- Typically organized in a component library
- Cannot instantiate other workers (no circular dependencies)
- Connected together in an OHAD to form an HDL assembly

App Worker Development Flow

1. Protocol (OPS): Use pre-existing or create new
2. Component (OCS): Use pre-existing or create new
3. Create new application worker (Modify OWD and source HDL/RCC code)
4. Build the application worker for the target device(s)
5. Create unit test (<component>-test.xml, generate, verify and view scripts)
6. Build unit test – Assembly/Container is generated/built here
7. Run unit test

Creating HDL Application Workers

With ocpidev:

```
ocpidev create worker peak_detector.hdl
```

Files created:

```
peak_detector.hdl/
|-- gen
|   |-- peak_detector-build.xml
|   |-- peak_detector-defs.vhd
|   |-- peak_detector-defs.vhd.deps
|   |-- peak_detector-impl.vhd
|   |-- peak_detector-impl.vhd.deps
|   |-- peak_detector-skel.vhd
|-- peak_detector.vhd
|-- peak_detector.xml
```

Files of interest:

peak_detector-build.xml: Initial build configuration
peak_detector-defs.vhd: VHDL package definitions
peak_detector-impl.vhd: Generated shell and entity
peak_detector-skel.vhd: “Skeleton” source code file
peak_detector-vhd: worker architecture (user code here)
peak_detector.xml: OpenCPI Worker Description (OWD)

HDL Worker's Generated VHDL

- Shell, Entity, and Package of records: *worker.hdl/gen/worker-impl.vhd*
  - Generated by framework based on OCS and OWD (Ports and Properties/Parameters)
  - Outward-facing interfaces (subset of Open Core Protocol (OCP)) are "Normalized" to connect easily to other workers in an HDL assembly
  - Inward-facing interfaces are available as VHDL records
    - Control Ports: *ctl_in.*, ctl_out.**
    - Configuration Properties: *props_in.*, props_out.**
    - Data Ports (I/O): *in_in.*, out_out.**
    - Service Ports (time): *time_in.*, time_out.**

    Port names above are the **defaults**, framework does supports ability to rename all ports
- Architecture: *worker.hdl/worker.vhd*
  - Upon initial creation of HDL workers, worker.hdl/gen/*worker-skel.vhd* is automatically copied and renamed worker.hdl/*worker.vhd*
  - "Business Logic" goes here

HDL Worker OWD

- Primary reasons to modify the OWD (Properties and Ports):
  - ADD implementation-specific configuration properties with the **<Property>** element
  - Increase accessibility to existing OCS properties
    - Use the **<SpecProperty>** element to ADD Readback, Writable, Volatile, Initial
      - **MUST** follow configuration property rules
      - ***CANNOT*** REMOVE accessibility defined in the OCS. **CANNOT BREAK THE OCS "CONTRACT"!**
  - Designate SpecProperty/Property as limited to **build-time,** by applying the **Parameter="true"** attribute
    - May set a default value for Parameter by:
      - Property attribute "Default={value}", or
      - <worker>-build.xml (generics/constants for HDL; const for RCC)
    - Specify an OCS property (**<SpecProperty>**) is a Parameter for a Worker
      - Relevant only to OCS *Initial* properties (using **<SpecProperty>**) or OWD properties
  - Specify interface style and implementation attributes for Ports
    - stream interface, data path width, message abort support, etc.

HDL OWD Top-level Attributes

- Specify which ControlOperations that worker will implement
  - *none* are required for HDL workers
- In addition to those attributes defined for all OWDs, an HDL worker's OWD may configure multiple additional attributes

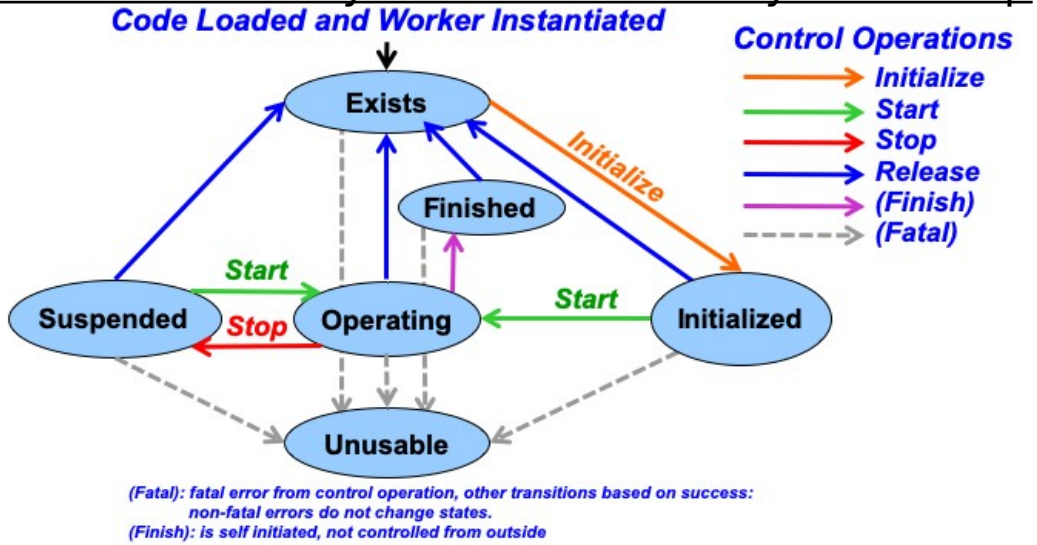
HDL OWD Attribute	Data Type	
DataWidth	unsigned	Default physical width of **ALL** data ports of worker. Otherwise, based on protocol of the port.
RawProperties	boolean	Indicates if worker will use raw property interface.
FirstRawProperty	string	Indicates the name of the first property that requires the raw property interface.
Cores	list	List of HDL primitive cores required by this worker.

HDL Worker Control Interfaces

- Conveys life-cycle like **initialize**, **start**, or **stop**
  - Required when top-level **ControlOperations="initialize, start, stop"** in OWD
- Provides a control clock *ctl_in.clk* and associated synchronous reset *ctl_in.reset*
  - Reset will be asserted synchronously for *at least* 16 clock cycles
  - Available to all types of Workers (including Adapters: OCS/NoControl="true")
- VHDL uses record ports *ctl_in* and *ctl_out* (default names)
  - Input: clk, reset, control_op, state, is_operating, abort_control_op, is_big_endian
  - Output: done, error, finished
- Optionally use *ctl_out.done* and *ctl_out.error* when control operations or property accesses take more than one clock cycle, where done is an indication to change state
- Optionally set *ctl_out.finished* if the worker has some semantic of being finished, *i.e.,* transition the worker to the finished life-cycle state

HDL Worker Control Interfaces

- Typically, HDL workers have no need to implement any of the Control Operations
- Enters ***Exists*** State upon deassert of Worker's *ctl_in.reset*
- If ***Initialize*** Control Operation not implemented, then Worker is in ***Initialized*** State
- **MUST NOT** perform any data transactions with data ports unless *ctl_in.is_operating* is asserted
  - Indicates worker has been started and provides control software ability to suspend or resume all of parts of an application
  - ***Operating State***
- ***Unusable*** state entered when Control Ops fail
- ***Finished*** state declared by worker without any Control Op



HDL Worker Property Interfaces

- VHDL records props_in and props_out
- Types defined in package ocpi.types
  - uchar_t, char_t, ushort_t, short_t, ulong_t, long_t, ulonglong_t, longlong_t
  - float_t, double_t, string_t, bool_t, enum foo_t
- Available signals depend on type of properties declared in OCS and OWD
  - Scalar vs SequenceLength

Property Access Options	VHDL signal names	Accessible when
props_in.	foo	Initial or Writable
	foo_length	Initial or Writable when SequenceLength is defined
	foo_written	Writable
	foo_any_written	Writable and SequenceLength is defined
	foo_read	Volatile
props_out.	foo	Volatile
	foo_length	Volatile when SequenceLength is defined

HDL Worker Property Behavior

- Writable Properties
  - Registered in the shell
  - Available on "props_in" port record
  - If not **Initial**, then **Writable** at run-time and given "props_in.<prop>_written" pulse
- Writable Arrays/Sequences
  - "props_in.<prop>_written" pulse only happens when value is *completely* updated
  - "props_in.<prop>_any_written" is pulsed when any part is written
- Readable Properties
  - If not **Volatile**, shell handles read-back
  - If **Volatile**, "props_out.<prop>" must be driven by "Business Logic" worker code

HDL Worker Raw Property Interfaces

- Raw Property Interface
  - Normally only used in HDL device workers for accessing hardware registers, or in special cases where the worker needs more customized storage for property values
  - Used when the worker manages storage and addressing of property values
  - May avoid register duplication in both the outer shell and inner worker
  - Typically enabled by setting the **`raw`** attribute to **`true`** in **`Property`** or **`SpecProperty`** elements in the OWD (**`rawProperties`** and **`firstRawProperty`** attributes in the OWD are also supported)
  - Often used when interfacing FPGA-external devices with memory-mapped interfaces
  - See the section “Raw Access to Properties” in the *OpenCPI HDL Development Guide* for details

HDL Worker Data Interfaces

- Convey message with an associated **opcode** which indicates message types that are defined in the **protocol**
  - Exception: When **protocol** contains ONE message type, NO **opcode** is used
- Convey message boundaries between messages
  - Opcode, Start-of-Message, End-of-Message, Length
- Implement flow control
  - Input data is explicitly accepted when offered from upstream
  - Output data cannot be produced unless permission is granted from downstream
- Special use case is when message is zero width
  - ALL messages in protocol have no arguments, thus are ALL zero length
  - Therefore, message **opcodes** are all that is conveyed. Essentially a "pulse" or "event" interface.

HDL Worker Data Interfaces

- Streaming Data Interfaces
  - FIFO-like interface with extra meta-bits for message boundaries and byte enables
    - Metadata includes **SOM, EOM, Valid, Abort** (optional)**, Byte_Enable** (optional)
  - Buffers consist of 1 or 2 pipeline registers with flow control
  - Output cannot be produced (**give**) unless permission is granted (output is **ready**; not full)
  - Worker explicitly accepts (**take**) data at input interfaces only when input is **ready** (not empty)

StreamInterface Attribute	Data Type	Description
DataWidth	unsigned	The width of the data path for this interface. The default is the smallest element in the message protocol indicated in the OCS, unless overridden by a default **datawidth** attribute at the top level of this OWD (**HdlWorker**)

- **HDL workers must:**
  - **Respect backpressure**
  - **Convey message boundaries**

Message Payload vs. Physical Data Width

- Each Message Payload has a serialized format as a sequence of bytes that, when used in software, are laid out in byte-addressed memory
- HDL Worker Data Interfaces have a Physical Width
  - Indicates number of physical wires over which the message is conveyed
  - Overridden by **DataWidth** attribute in the top-level of HDL OWD or per Port
  - **MUST** be a multiple of the smallest data value in the protocol **(DEFAULT is 1x)**
- If the Operation element in a protocol contains:
  <Argument Name="a1" Type="uchar"/> <!-- **SMALLEST DATA VALUE** -->
  <Argument Name="a2" Type="uShort" ArrayDimensions="2"/>
  <Argument Name="a3" Type="ulongLong"/>
- And the values of this payload are:
  a1: 1, *a2*: {0x2345,0x6789}, *a3*: 0xfedcba9876543210

Message Payload vs. Physical Data Width

HDL Worker Data Interfaces: Message Payload vs Physical Data Width

Then the byte sequence, with proper alignment and encoded little-endian, is shown below ("x" values are padding for alignment)

DataWidth=8 (DEFAULT because *a1* is of type "uchar")

Sequence # ⇨	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Contents (hex)	01	x	45	23	89	67	x	x	10	32	54	76	98	ba	dc	fe
Arguments	a1		a2[0]		a2[1]				a3							
Contents	1		0x2345		0x6789				0xfedcba9876543210							

Message Payload vs. Physical Data Width

HDL Worker Data Interfaces: Message Payload vs Physical Data Width

Then the byte sequence, with proper alignment and encoded little-endian, is shown below ("x" values are padding for alignment)

DataWidth=16

Sequence # ⇨	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15 downto 8	x	23	67	x	32	76	ba	fe
7 downto 0	01	45	89	x	10	54	98	dc

Message Payload vs. Physical Data Width

HDL Worker Data Interfaces: Message Payload vs Physical Data Width

Then the byte sequence, with proper alignment and encoded little-endian, is shown below ("x" values are padding for alignment)

DataWidth=32

Sequence # ⇨	0	1	2	3
31 downto 24	23	x	76	fe
23 downto 16	45	x	54	dc
15 downto 8	x	67	32	ba
7 downto 0	01	89	10	98

HDL Worker Data Interfaces: byte_enable

- Byte enables on data interfaces are only present when needed
  - Determined by combination of protocol (smallest data value) and DataWidth
- Two values are inferred (can be overridden) from protocol
  - **DataValueWidth**: smallest data value in protocol
  - **DataValueGranularity**: least common multiple of data values among all messages in protocol; all message lengths are a multiple of this number of data values
- Therefore, the physical data width of the interface (DataWidth) must be a multiple of DataValueWidth
  - **DataWidth > DataValueWidth * DataValueGranularity**
    - Byte enables are provided in the interface, because data words at the **end** of a message may be **partially** valid

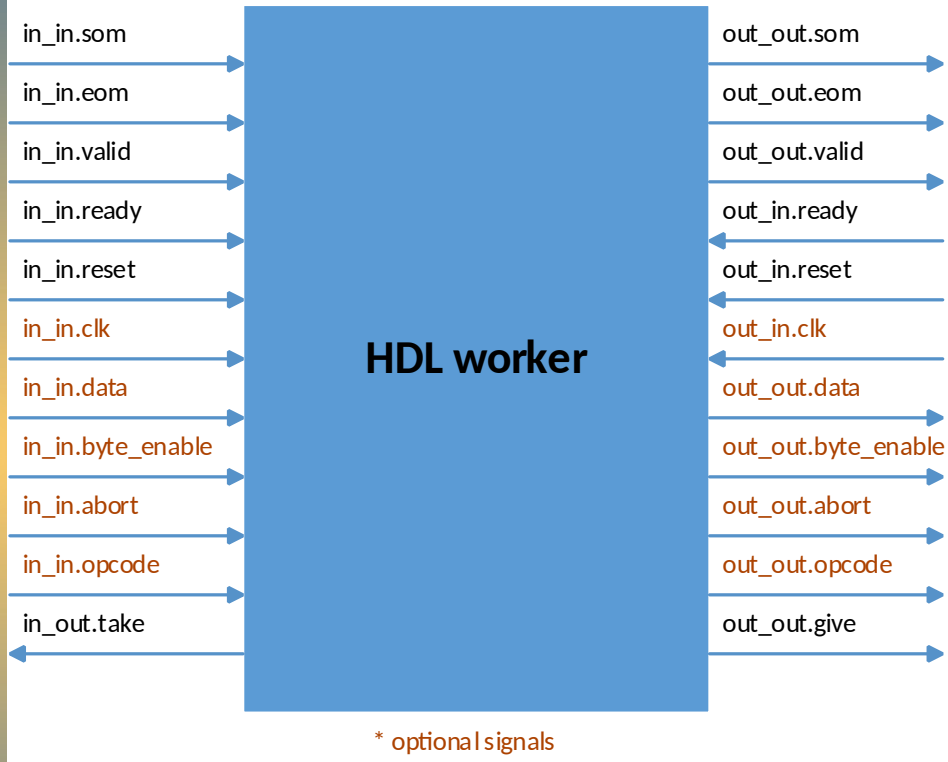
HDL Worker Data Interfaces: byte_enable

- Message is a sequence of short (16 bit) values, DataWidth is 16
  - DataValueWidth = 16
  - DataValueGranularity = 1
  - No byte enables required
- Message is a sequence of short (16 bit) values, DataWidth is 32
  - DataValueWidth = 16
  - DataValueGranularity = 1
  - Byte enables (2) are required since sequences might be an odd number of shorts
- Message is a sequence of pairs of short (16 bit) values, DataWidth is 32
  - DataValueWidth = 16
  - DataValueGranularity = 2
  - Byte enables not required since sequences are always a multiple of two shorts

HDL Streaming Data Signals

- **som**: Start of message: indicates first word in message, *regardless of data present*
- **eom**: End of message: indicates last word in message, *regardless of data present*
- **valid**: indicates the validity of data in a message
- **abort** (optional): indicates this word is the end of an abort message
- **byte_enable** (optional): combined with **valid=true**, indicates which bytes in a data word are valid
  - All 1s except on the last **valid** word of a message

HDL Streaming Data Signals



SOM	Valid	EOM	Signal Description
1	0	0	The start of a message, without any associated data
1	1	0	The start of a message, coincident with data
1	0	1	A zero-length message, with no data, in a single word
1	1	1	A single word message
0	0	0	*Reserved*
0	0	1	A trailing end of message, with no data
0	1	0	A data value in the middle of a message
0	1	1	A data value, coincident with the end of the message

***When "abort" is not used, table is valid**

HDL Streaming Data Signals

- Rules for input interfaces:
  - **ready** indicates that metadata and perhaps the data signals are valid
  - If **ready** not asserted, *none of the metadata signals are valid or meaningful*
  - Worker *takes* input data when **ready** is asserted by asserting **take**
  - It is invalid to assert **take** if the **ready** input signal is not asserted
- Rules for output interfaces:
  - **ready** indicates that metadata and perhaps data can be produced
  - If **ready** not asserted, none of the metadata or data output are considered valid
  - Worker *gives* data when **ready** is asserted by asserting **give**
  - It is invalid to assert **give** if the **ready** input signal is not asserted

Ready (I/O), **take**, **give** control the flow of data and metadata words through an interface

HDL Streaming Data Signals

- Data flows according to FIFO semantics
- Table of signal terminology comparison

Meaning	OpenCPI	Classic FIFO	AXI	Xilinx FIFO
Data is available to consume	ready	not_empty	valid	!empty
Consume Data	take	dequeue	ready	rd_en
Data can be produced	ready	not_full	ready	!full
Produce Data	give	enqueue	valid	wr_en

  - In AXI interfaces, either signal (**valid** or **ready**) may be asserted early. The handshake (**ready**) can in fact be asserted early even when **valid** is not yet asserted.
  - With OpenCPI it is invalid to assert **take** or **give** without **ready** being asserted.
  - In Xilinx FIFO, **rd_en** and **wr_en** are ignored if the fifo is **empty** (input) or **full** (output).

HDL Application Worker Example

Example:
- No **opcode** or **byte_enable** is used since the protocol has a single operation
- ctl_in.is_operating reflects the reset condition
- Combinatorial logic: computation takes place in a single clock cycle: Simply adds a constant to every data value from input to output

```
library IEEE; use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all; use ieee.numeric_std.all;
library ocpi; use ocpi.types.all; -- remove this to avoid all ocpi name collisions
architecture rtl of my_vhdl_worker is
  signal doit : bool_t;
begin

  doit      <= ctl_in.is_operating and in_in.ready and out_in.ready;
  in_out.take   <= doit;
  out_out.give  <= doit;
  out_out.data  <= std_logic_vector(unsigned(in_in.data) + 3);
  out_out.som   <= in_in.som;
  out_out.eom   <= in_in.eom;
  out_out.valid <= in_in.valid;

   -- loop-back property example
   props_out.my_prop <= props_in.my_prop;

end rtl;
```

HDL Worker Service Interfaces

- Time Service Interface
  - "time of day" provided to the precision of the OWD attributes within the TimeInterface element, in GPS time
    - SecondsWidth – 0 to 32 bits for reporting seconds field in time-of-day (**Optional**)
      - = 32 bits, absolute time
      - < 32bits, relative time truncated preserving the LSB, to that value and wraps.
    - FractionWidth – 0 to 32 bits for reporting fractions field in time-of-day (**Optional**)
      - = 32 bits, 2^-32 or ~233 ps.
      - < 32bits, MSB are preserved, such that MSB is always ½ second
    - AllowUnavailable – Indicates when time-of-day is valid (**Optional**)
  - VHDL uses record port time_in.*
    - Input: seconds, fraction, valid
    - Ex: time_now <= std_logic_vector(time_in.seconds) & std_logic_vector(time_in.fraction);

HDL Build Targets: Targets vs. Platforms

Targets

- Chips or chip families, and simulators
- Used to build HDL primitives, workers, and assemblies
- OnlyTargets/ExcludeTargets
- Smallest part in family chosen by default – to override, use the **HdlExactPart** OWD attribute
- Ex: xsim, modelsim, isim, zynq, zynq_ise, zynq_ultra

Platforms

- Actual FPGAs on specific boards, and simulators
- Used to build HDL containers (final bitstreams)
- OnlyPlatforms/ExcludePlatforms
- HdlTarget(s) implied (family and part) at all levels except final bitstream
- Ex: xsim, modelsim, isim, zed, zed_ise, plutosdr, e31x