Imperas Newsletter – March 2022

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The leader in RISC-V simulation solutions

News



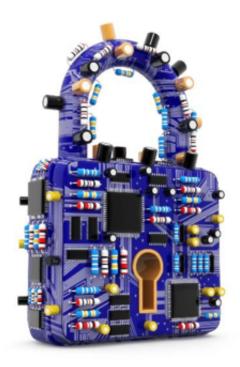
Imperas unifies new RISC-V verification ecosystem with RVVI New open standard RISC-V Verification Interface (RVVI)

The new open standard RISC-V Verification Interface (RVVI), developed by Imperas with guidance and support from lead customers and users, offers adaptability and verification IP reuse for the expanding community of developers undertaking processor verification.

"OpenHW membership growth over the past three years is expanding the roadmap of IP core projects dramatically, with projects addressing the needs for application class devices supporting Linux, embedded security, and compute-intensive applications with custom instructions," says Rick O'Connor,

President & CEO OpenHW Group. "The RVVI open standard and flexible methodology significantly help the OpenHW Verification Task Group members and contributors with efficient and quality verification for the full range of CORE-V IP projects."

Click on the link to find out more details about the <u>RVVI open standard</u> or watch the DVCon technical tutorial on <u>YouTube</u>.





Imperas announces RISC-V
Physical Memory Protection (PMP)
Architectural Validation test suite
for high quality security applications

The RISC-V Privileged Specification includes Physical Memory Protection (PMP) as a fundamental approach to memory protection that is essential in security applications that depend on Trusted Execution Environments (TEE) such as Keystone, OpenTitan, and many other leading techniques for security protection. Thus, functional verification of PMP is essential for any RISC-V processor targeted at security applications. The latest ImperasDV architectural validation test suite for PMP covers the full envelope of configuration options.

"A key part of the RISC-V privilege specification that is fundamental for OS and application security is the PMP feature," said <u>Allen Baum of Esperanto</u>

<u>Technologies, Inc., and Chair of the RISC-V International Architecture Test SIG</u>. "Enabling its correct operation is essential for security applications, and the Imperas PMP test suite is a valuable contribution to the RISC-V compatibility and verification community."

Click on the link to find out more details about the <u>ImperasDV test suite for PMP</u> or contact Imperas directly.

DVCon 2022 - Now Available On-Demand



During the DVCon 2022 virtual event, Imperas delivered an in-depth tutorial on the latest simulation-based RISC-V processor verification techniques, as well as two presentations on RISC-V Design Verification.

<u>Tutorial: Introduction to the 5 levels of RISC-V Processor Verification</u>

This tutorial covers some of the options and latest trends in simulation-based RISC-V processor verification based on industry standards with UVM and SystemVerilog test benches. It includes an in-depth review of the new open standard RVVI (RISC-V Verification Interface), plus examples based on some popular open-source cores, and a comparison of the different DV methods and options.

Co-author: Simon Davidmann, Imperas Software

Co-author: Lee Moore, Imperas Software

The video of this presentation is available at this link on <u>YouTube</u> and <u>click here</u> to download the slides.

Introduction to RISC-V CPU design verification

With all the design flexibility and innovations supported by the open standard ISA of RISC-V, quality processor verification is now another flexible option. This talk gives an introduction and overview of the Imperas presentations and announcements at DVCon 2022.

Speaker: Kevin McDermott, Imperas Software

The video of this presentation is available at this link on <u>YouTube</u> and <u>click here</u> to download the slides.

Imperas RISC-V Design Verification solutions

With a history based in EDA tools and background of SystemVerilog, the

Imperas technology is now at the forefront of RISC-V processor verification. This talk gives an overview of the Imperas solutions for RISC-V verification including examples of the methods used by customers and users on some current projects.

Speaker: Larry Lapides, Imperas Software

The video of this presentation is available at this link on **YouTube** and **click here** to download the slides.

For more information, please contact info@imperas.com.

Upcoming Events





Imperas RISC-V simulation technology with eSol Trinity and NSITEXE

Imperas Software will host a webinar with eSol Trinity on RISC-V reference models and simulation technology for the growing adoption of RISC-V in Japan. Our guest speaker - Mr. Kei Marume of NSITEXE Co., Ltd., a group company of the DENSO Corporation that develops and sells high-performance semiconductor IPs, will introduce an example of using the Imperas RISC-V reference model and simulator.

March 30th 2022 When:

Where: 2:00-2:30pm (JST) Live streaming (Zoom)

For more information about the webinar, follow this <u>link</u>, and to register <u>click</u> here.

SemIsrael Tech Webinar

Why wait for hardware to start RISC-V software development?

Imperas with present an overview of RISC-V processor models for software

development and design optimization with custom instructions. The online virtual event will feature presentations on the latest updates for the design and development of semiconductor ICs and SoCs.

Speaker: Larry Lapides – Imperas Software **When:** April 5, 2022 – TBD (Tel Aviv, Israel)

For more information about the SemIsrael Tech Webinar, follow this <u>link</u>, and to register <u>click here</u>.



Imperas is participating at the Design & Reuse IP-SoC event with a RISC-V keynote on the state of the ecosystem support and a presentation highlighting the use of RISC-V Reference Models for Verification, Software Development and Architectural Exploration.

Keynote: The RISC-V Ecosystem: Fragmentation or Convergence?

Speaker: Larry Lapides – Imperas Software

When: April 26, 2022 – TBD (Mountain View, California)

This Keynote reviews the current state of the RISC-V ecosystem, noting successes as well as areas needing improvement, and attempts to provide attendees with information to answer the question: Can the ecosystem accommodate the unique flexibility and design opportunity of RISC-V with the efficiency that is normally associated with mass adoption?

Presentation: RISC-V Models for Verification, Software Development and Architectural Exploration

Speaker: Larry Lapides – Imperas Software **Co-author:** Lee Moore – Imperas Software

When: April 27, 2022 – TBD (Mountain View, California)

This presentation will discuss how the availability of high-quality models of RISC-V processors impacts the design process, including design verification (DV), software development and architecture exploration. It will include

examples of industry uses of these models, including step-and-compare DV flows, software and operating system porting and bring up, and analysis and optimization of custom instructions.

For more information, <u>click here</u>, and to request a meeting or 1-1 demo with Imperas staff during IP SoC Silicon Valley 2022 please contact <u>info@imperas.com</u>.

Latest Articles



Why RISC-V Is Succeeding

There is no disputing the excitement surrounding the introduction of the RISC-V processor architecture. Yet while many have called it a harbinger of a much broader open-source hardware movement, the reasons behind its success are not obvious, and the implications for an expansion of more open-source cores are far from certain...

To read the full **Semiconductor Engineering** article by **Brian Bailey**, <u>click</u> <u>here</u>.

Spreadsheets: Still Valuable, But More Limited

Spreadsheets have been an invaluable engineering tool for many aspects of semiconductor design and verification, but their inability to handle complexity is squeezing them out of an increasing number of applications...

To read the full **Semiconductor Engineering** article by **Brian Bailey**, <u>click</u> <u>here</u>.



OpenHW Industrial-Grade Verification for Open-Source CORE-V IP Cores

This article gives an overview of the open methodology and standards-based environment for the verification of the RISC-V based open-source CV32E40P core.

To read the full article published by the **OpenHW Group**, <u>click here</u>.

Release Information

riscvOVPsim and riscvOVPsimPlus - LATEST NEWS

The latest Imperas and OVP release at the <u>Open Virtual Platforms</u> website.



For an introduction to RISC-V the free single-core envelope model, called **riscvOVPsim**, is an excellent starting point, which can be configured for all the ratified ISA features and includes support of the latest ratified specifications including Bit Manipulation, Crypto (scalar) and Vectors.

The latest version is available via GitHub here.

The free enhanced **riscvOVPsimPlus**, including many more features including full configurable instruction trace, GDB/Eclipse debug, and memory configuration options, plus the RISC-V Vector and other test suites, is now available on the OVP website here.

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