IJTAG vs JTAG vs IEEE 1500 ECT | Technical Tutorial – 2nd Edition

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Executive Summary

Engineers working with embedded instrumentation – which is defined as intellectual property (IP) embedded within chips to support test and measurement applications – may find themselves using the capabilities of several IEEE standards, including IEEE 1687-2014 Internal JTAG (IJTAG), IEEE 1149.1 Boundary Scan (often simply referred to as JTAG) and the IEEE 1500-2005 Embedded Core Test (ECT) standard. Contrary to any confusion in the industry, each of these three standards was developed for distinct and specific purposes. In fact, each standard has capabilities that the others do not, even though some of their capabilities may be similar. (Figure 1)

Moreover, standards change over time. Since its first ratification in 1990, the oldest of these three standards, IEEE 1149.1 JTAG, has evolved to include features that are far removed from its original purpose of non-intrusive (probe-less) structural circuit board test. Since the 1990s, embedded instrumentation has exploded, bringing with it many requirements that were totally
unforeseen when the original IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standard was developed. Several standards, including IEEE 1687 IJTAG, IEEE 1500 ECT and several others have used the JTAG standard’s Test Access Port (TAP) and controller because these have been widely deployed in chips and they provide non-intrusive physical access to the internal operations of semiconductors. Generally speaking, IEEE 1687 IJTAG is able to manage, coordinate and schedule embedded instruments while IEEE 1500 is able to access and manipulate complex embedded cores through the access provided by IEEE 1149.1 JTAG’s TAP and controller.

Recent changes in the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standard (IEEE 1149.1-2013) seem to suggest that it is evolving away from its original purpose in circuit board test and migrating toward other applications, such as chip test. This may or may not be a good thing for circuit board test. One can question whether the original intent of a standard such as IEEE 1149.1 JTAG is being compromised when it evolves into areas that have very different requirements from those that led to its development in the first place.

This eBook compares and contrasts the capabilities of these three standards to illustrate how the unique capabilities of each can be applied to achieve engineering goals in development, manufacturing and field support. In particular, some of the confusion that has arisen around the IJTAG and JTAG standards will be dispelled by explaining how the seminal objectives upon which these standards were developed actually limit their growth and applicability to new use cases and that these new use cases are beyond the scope of the standards’ original objectives as well as applications. In addition, the strengths of each standard will also be described. In fact, understanding where each standard should not be used is as important as understanding where they should be applied. In addition, it should be noted that any one chip or circuit board may require the capabilities of all three standards because each one has certain capabilities not found in the others. In addition, the adoption of any one standard may be driven by the IP provider since the standards supported by any IP may be limited. Moreover, the ease of integrating IP may require the support for all three standards at the IC level.
Introduction

A cursory understanding of the objectives that drove the original development of the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG, IEEE 1500 ECT and IEEE 1687 IJTAG standards will indicate the use cases, strengths and weaknesses of each.

When the development of the IEEE 1149.1 Boundary-Scan Standard (JTAG) began in the late 1980s followed by its first IEEE ratification in 1990 (IEEE 1149.1-1990), its goal was to provide a more effective circuit board test methodology that would verify the connectivity of chips to boards. At the time, new chip packaging technologies, such as surface mount ball grid arrays (BGA), were making the pins on chips inaccessible to probe-based validation, test and debug methods because the pins were hidden under the silicon die. Test and measurement equipment such as oscilloscopes, in-circuit testers (ICT) and others have traditionally relied on probe-based access to chips and circuit boards. In essence, surface mount chips began to erode the economical probe access that the industry previously had available. In reaction to this situation, chips conforming to the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standard added limited logic to support the boundary-scan test methodology, which eliminated the need for probe access. The IEEE 1149.1 standard has been updated several times since it was first ratified. The last such update in 2013 (IEEE 1149.1-2013) introduced several features that overlap certain functionalities included within the IEEE 1687 and IEEE 1500 standards. For additional background information on the IEEE 1149.1 Boundary-Scan Standard, see the Appendix.

The IEEE 1500 Embedded Core Test (ECT) standard was ratified in 2005. Prior to IEEE 1500’s ratification, multiple IP cores were being integrated on-chip, but these cores typically numbered in the tens of cores. These cores could be hard cores (physical layout macros) or soft cores (synthesizable HDL or RTL). IEEE 1500 ECT provided a methodology for validating that the cores embedded in a chip could interact as specified by including self-contained tests and by supporting a core boundary wrapper. Today, IP cores in a typical system-on-a-chip.
chip (SoC) may number well over 100. For additional background information on the IEEE 1500 Embedded Core Test Standard, see the Appendix.

Development of the IEEE 1687 Embedded Instrumentation (IJTAG) Standard began in 2005 when the number and types of embedded instruments inside chips began to proliferate dramatically. Chip designers had discovered that embedded instrumentation was one of the most cost-effective and efficient means of testing, validating, characterizing and debugging their ICs. (It was more cost-effective to use features on-silicon instead of using external equipment such as a multi-million-dollar ATE system.) Additionally, the capabilities of the embedded instruments within chips were being applied to additional applications, including the debug, validation and test of circuit boards. An example of these wider applications would be applying a SerDes built-in-self-test (BIST) instrument to verify the high-speed low-voltage differential signaling (LVDS) traces on a circuit board.

There was little or no consistency among embedded instruments with regards to management and coordination procedures, access ports and usage protocols, on-chip access architectures and other aspects of their operations. For instance, certain types of instruments were used in different environments and, therefore, supported different access mechanisms. Wafer probe, for example, accessed embedded process monitors (ring oscillators) through probe pads; chip test accessed manufacturing scan and scan compression through a custom pin interface; and debug/yield-analysis accessed debug and trace logic through the JTAG port. IEEE 1687 IJTAG was developed to ensure the inherent portability of embedded instruments and to make the application of embedded instruments more effective and efficient without disturbing the purposes of other standards, such as IEEE 1149.1 JTAG. For additional background information on the IEEE 1687 Embedded Instrumentation Standard, see the Appendix.

Differences among the three standards

On the surface, these three standards may seem somewhat similar, but in reality there are significant differences among them. Since IEEE 1149.1 JTAG is the oldest and most established of these standards (IEEE 1149.1-1990), it established the definition of the register configurations and the state machine-based protocol that were adopted as a foundation for the other two
standards. As a result, one could easily believe that all three standards have similar hardware architecture. However, since the use cases for each standard are quite different, the nature of their hardware architectures is also different. The biggest differences, however, are in their methods of documentation; that is, their architectures and vector descriptions. Therefore, the differences among the three standard can be found in both the hardware architectures and their description languages.

As mentioned previously, since its first ratification in 1990, IEEE 1149.1 JTAG has been deployed in circuit board test and validation applications, and its on-chip Test Access Port (TAP) and TAP Controller have become *de facto* methods for accessing embedded on-chip resources. IEEE 1149.1 JTAG’s original use case was to provide on-chip logic to support board interconnect testing. The JTAG TAP, which is defined as four mandatory (TCK, TMS, TDI, TDO) and one optional (TRST*) package pins for accessing JTAG’s internal functionality, is simply referred to as the JTAG port and IEEE 1149.1’s mandatory and optional data registers are the vehicles for accessing or implementing the standard’s functionality.

JTAG’s board test purposes are executed through a centralized instruction register that is operated by a dedicated portion of the JTAG state machine. This results in the separation of instruction selection from data operations. The original intent of the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standard was to define and describe registers that had operational purposes narrowly defined by the standard so that the selection of an instruction mapped onto a known test operation. Here are a few examples: 1) updating an EXTEST instruction (encoding) into the JTAG Instruction Register (IR) results in the Boundary Scan Register (BSR) taking on a particular configuration to statically set the output logic values of the output pins of the chip; 2) the use of the IDCODE instruction results in the access and reading of a 32-bit register that contains a defined value established by the chip provider, the chip family and a JEDEC standard; and 3) the use of the BYPASS instruction resolves the entire chip’s contribution to the board’s overall scan path to a single bit.

The IEEE 1500 ECT standard has a similar use case and functionality to IEEE 1149.1 JTAG but IEEE 1500 ECT specifies a means for wrapping embedded cores so they can contain test modes for validating the core’s operations and for conducting an interconnect test when the core is
embedded on a particular chip. An IEEE 1500 core wrapper is similar to an IEEE 1149.1 JTAG register architecture, but the IEEE 1500 standard does not specify that a state machine must be part of the architecture. The IEEE 1500 architecture is meant to be operated and synchronized at the test controller level of the SoC by the IEEE 1149.1 TAP Controller state machine. An IEEE 1500 core might house multiple test and debug functions that parrot how IEEE 1149.1 provides test functions for a chip, but these functions are applied to the embedded core. In this respect, one could think of an IEEE 1500 wrapper as IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and boundary scan for a core. In this sense, the core might represent a “virtual chip.” (That is, a core is a design unit without the chip package pins. In other words, a core is to a SoC as a chip is to a circuit board.) The test functions or instruments housed inside an IEEE 1500 core wrapper are accessed by an IEEE 1500 Core Data Register (CDR) or Wrapper Data Register (WDR), which are equivalent to an IEEE 1149.1 TDR. The IEEE 1500 Wrapper Architecture allows a wrapped core to be delivered with tests already included, thereby adding a measure of portability to core test. It must be noted that a core provider has the option of delivering the core with an IEEE 1500 wrapper and predefined tests or just the core itself. If only a core is delivered, the chip integrator will have to wrap the core and add tests that meet the needs and purposes of the specific SoC.

IEEE 1687 IJTAG’s use case has always been to provide access to embedded instruments so they could be operated for test, debug, environmental monitoring, process monitoring, and functional configuration, thereby bringing multiple use environments under one standard access mechanism. The stated purpose of the IJTAG standard is to “facilitate vector retargeting” from embedded instruments to the chip or board level. Retargeting is accomplished by providing instrument vectors written at the instrument interface and by providing a minimal description of the access architecture that delivers the vectors, thereby making embedded instruments portable and independent of the access architecture.

Since IEEE 1687 IJTAG was the last of these three standards to be developed, one can better understand what its strengths and use cases are by examining those of the other two, IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and IEEE 1500 ECT. Although IEEE 1687 IJTAG was developed so that it would not overtly duplicate the capabilities of IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and IEEE 1500 ECT, the IEEE 1687
IJTAG working group had no control over the working groups overseeing the further development of these other two standards.

The IEEE 1687 IJTAG working group started with the belief that there were shortcomings with both IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and IEEE 1500 ECT. For example, IEEE 1149.1 JTAG’s centralized instruction register architecture was seen as a physical hindrance to scalability as the number of embedded instruments grew. In addition, the fixed and somewhat rigid aspects of the JTAG architecture, such as selected instructions accessing only a fixed-length TDR, limited an engineer’s ability to design access networks with engineering tradeoffs in mind, like power, area, routing, non-centralized decode and others. In addition, the operational tradeoffs engineers could incorporate, such as flexible instrument scheduling, instrument concurrence of operation and scan path length management, were also limited under the JTAG standard. The IEEE 1687 IJTAG working group believed JTAG or ECT involved too much overhead for individual simple instruments. (Compliance to the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standard requires support of the boundary register, bypass register, IDCode register, instruction register and some mandatory instructions.) Also, the JTAG standard could not efficiently handle concurrent and flexible instrument scheduling. The IEEE 1687 IJTAG working group concluded that something simpler than IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and IEEE 1500 ECT was needed.

Some of the other objectives of the IEEE 1687 IJTAG working group were to avoid affecting the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and IEEE 1500 ECT standards to the extent that their use cases would be compromised or that using them would be made more difficult. This meant that the board test community, which expected to use the defined IEEE 1149.1 JTAG instructions of EXTEST, BYPASS, IDCODE, and a handful of other defined instructions, should not be burdened with the hundreds or thousands of instructions that might be associated with IC test and their documentation within JTAG’s Boundary-Scan Description Language (BSDL) file. The IEEE 1687 IJTAG working group concluded that the content accessed for IC test should somehow be accessed by just a few instructions and that the documentation of these instructions should not bloat a chip’s BSDL file. (Similar considerations were made for the IEEE 1500 Wrapper-IR (WIR) and CTL files.) This led to the development of a different description language for the IEEE 1687 IJTAG architecture. In addition, the purpose of IEEE 1687 IJTAG was to allow
portable instruments to be delivered with their vectors and for those vectors to be reused or retargeted with automation tools instead of manually modifying vectors followed by chip-level re-simulation. So, a vector language with an application focus different from IEEE 1149.1 JTAG’s, which is restricted to its TAP and access network, was needed. This language would be focused on the internal embedded instrument, not the IC or an SoC’s TAP package pins.

In short, the three standards, IEEE 1149.1 JTAG, IEEE 1500 ECT and IEEE 1687 IJTAG may all be based on the same basic operations (Reset - Shift – Capture – Update), but their particular use cases result in significant applied differences as well as different sets of pros and cons for each standard.

Table 1: Prominent capabilities of IEEE 1687, IEEE 1149.1-2013 and IEEE 1500

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>IEEE 1687 IJTAG</th>
<th>IEEE 1149.1-2013 JTAG</th>
<th>IEEE 1500 ECT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Includes Hardware FSM Controller</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes an Instruction Register</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes Mandated Defined Instructions</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supports Persistent Instructions</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separation of Instruction and Data</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes Defined Connection to Controller</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data-based operations only</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandates a Boundary Register</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandates a Bypass Register</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandates an ID Register</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support of a Test Data Register (TDR)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support of Network Instruction Bits</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support of Network Configuration Bits</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portable instruments supported</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes^2</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embedded TAP Controller supported</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture description language</td>
<td>ICL</td>
<td>BSDL</td>
<td>CTL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test Data Register based vectors</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portable instrument vectors supported</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vector description language</td>
<td>PDL</td>
<td>SVF, PDL</td>
<td>STIL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. An IEEE 1500 Wrapper may be operated from only the DR-side of the IEEE 1149.1 state machine, but the wrapper itself still separates instruction operations from data operations.
2. IEEE 1149.1 JTAG supports instruments if they are designed and delivered with a Test Data Register attached and the vectors are written to the TDR. IEEE 1687 IJTAG allows and supports true portable instruments and vectors with no required TDR.
3. IEEE 1687 IJTAG has embedded instruction bits in the data scan path that are used mainly to configure the scan path, conduct local resets, and apply action limitations such as “deny capture.” These instructions are written on each DR-Scan and are not persistent through reset.
Table 1 above summarizes some of the more prominent capabilities of the three standards. It shows that both IEEE 1500 ECT and IEEE 1687 IJTAG are controller-less standards, which rely on IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and its TAP Controller to provide operational signals and sequences. Of the three standards, only IEEE 1149.1 JTAG specifies a controller. Both IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and IEEE 1500 ECT mandate a register architecture that includes boundary registers, ID registers, bypass registers and a formal instruction register. In contrast, IEEE 1687 IJTAG only mandates TDR registers and optionally allows embedded instruction and configuration bits in the data-side scan path. IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and IEEE 1500 ECT both define instructions such as BYPASS and IDCODE since each of these standards set aside a fixed portion of their architectures to support these instruction-based features. Only the most recent revision of the JTAG standard, IEEE 1149.1-2013, supports reset-independent persistent instructions. IEEE 1687 IJTAG is the only standard to support multiple embedded TAPs and TAP Controllers. IEEE 1149.1-2013 JTAG and IEEE 1687 IJTAG support variable-length scan paths by allowing the inclusion of Segment-Select or Segment-Insertion Bits. And each of the three standards mandates different description languages.

**Creeping Overlap**

The confusion over the respective functionality of IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and IEEE 1687 IJTAG began in 2011 when the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG working group opened an IEEE Project Authorization Request (PAR) to update the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standard. The IEEE 1687 IJTAG working group had begun developing its standard in 2005. IEEE 1149.1-2013 JTAG was ratified in 2013, while IEEE 1687 IJTAG passed ballot in 2014. Some companies and individuals participated on both committees.

IEEE 1149.1-2013 JTAG added several new features to the standard but it steadfastly maintained a dual register separation architecture which separated data and instruction operations and was made up of centralized instructions and multiple parallel data registers. Although some of the new features of IEEE 1149.1 JTAG by definition overlap the features of both IEEE 1687 IJTAG and IEEE 1500 ECT on a purely functional level, in real-world implementations some of these same capabilities could be accomplished more effectively and efficiently with either IEEE 1687
IJTAG or IEEE 1500 ECT. In addition, both IEEE 1687 IJTAG and IEEE 1500 ECT include capabilities not found in IEEE 1149.1-2013 JTAG at all.

Understanding and Comparing Hardware Architectures

The hardware architectures specified by IEEE 1149.1 JTAG, IEEE 1500 ECT and IEEE 1687 IJTAG (Figure 2) have a major effect on the scalability, portability and use cases for each standard.

As mentioned previously, IEEE 1149.1 JTAG defines a controller. This controller consists of a four-bit finite state machine (FSM), which generates 16 states that control the operating sequences defined in the standard. The inputs to the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG FSM (Figure 3) are two of the four signals defined in the standard, the Test Mode Select (TMS) and Test Clock (TCK). The states in the FSM that are used to generate the key operational signals are: Test-Logic-Reset (TLR), which may generate the Reset Signal; Shift-IR/DR, which may generate the Shift-Enable signals; Capture-IR/DR, which may generate the Capture-Enable signals; and Update-IR/DR,
which may generate the Update-Enable signals. The definition of the controller and its operations is unique to the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standard. For the IEEE 1687 IJTAG standard, only the data-side operations of the controller are important. IEEE 1500 ECT may be connected to the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG TAP Controller in such a way that it may be operated with only data-side operations or it may require both data-side and instruction-side operations.

Figure 3: The IEEE 1149.1 JTAG Finite State Machine (FSM)

No physical controller is specified in the IEEE 1687 IJTAG or IEEE 1500 ECT standards. IEEE 1500 and IEEE 1687 have been designed with a separable (plug-and-play) signal interface that makes use of the signals generated and the protocol established by the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG controller. IEEE 1500 ECT may connect to an IEEE 1149.1 JTAG FSM on both the data-side and instruction-side because both IEEE 1149.1 and IEEE 1500 have formal instruction registers. Alternatively, IEEE 1500 may connect to only the data-side operations of the state machine. In contrast, IEEE 1687 IJTAG only makes use of the data-side of the JTAG FSM since IEEE 1687 IJTAG supports no formalized instruction register, but does allow data-side embedded instruction or embedded configuration bits.
One of the development goals of IEEE 1687 IJTAG was to maintain flexibility and reconfigurability. As a result, IEEE 1687 could utilize other controllers in the future if warranted by industry demand. This could be accomplished by connecting the IEEE 1687 separable interface to a different controller that would generate the Shift-Enable, Capture-Enable, Update-Enable, and Reset signals. At the time of this writing, the IEEE 1687 IJTAG standard specifies and includes only the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG Controller as the preferred implementation, but the standard also provides a generic description of an AccessLink, which shows how alternative controllers could be associated with an IEEE 1687 IJTAG serial network. A formal IEEE P1687.1 effort will update and define alternate controller access for 1687 networks in the future.

To a certain extent, the hardware architectures defined by IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and IEEE 1500 ECT share many characteristics. In general, the IEEE 1149.1/1500 architecture is comprised of a collection of fixed-length registers that are included in an active scan path through the placement of an instruction in an associated instruction register. This differs decidedly from the flexible hardware architecture of an IEEE 1687 IJTAG on-chip network of embedded instruments. A single IEEE 1687 AccessLink instruction selects the network. Then, single-bit in-line embedded instructions configure the network. In a sense, these single-bit instructions act as switches or traffic lights to direct traffic over the various segments of the on-chip network of embedded instruments. One of the changes in IEEE 1149.1-2013 JTAG is the addition of “segment-select bits,” which incorporate some of this functionality into the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standard. IEEE 1687 IJTAG, unlike the IEEE 1149.1/1500 hardware architectures, makes no distinction between data and instructions in its network.

IEEE 1500 ECT also has its own unique capabilities that are not supported in IEEE 1149.1 JTAG or IEEE 1687 IJTAG. These include the Wrapper Parallel Port (WPP) and the Transfer operation. These are defined hardware configurations that are optimized for core-based test and the reuse of functional interface or boundary registers in the boundary wrapper.

Another unique characteristic of IEEE 1687 IJTAG is the inclusion of embedded Network Instruction Bits (NIBs). In general, NIBs are in-line data bits in the scan path that can modify other portions of the scan path, which comprises the IEEE 1687 IJTAG on-chip network of embedded instruments. These bits may be used to gate the Capture-Enable, Update-Enable and
Reset signals to provide a Deny-Capture, Deny-Update, and Deny-Reset functionality. In addition, these bits may enable a capability known as Local-Reset, which resets a TDR or scan path segment and which is initiated by a NIB in the scan path. These capabilities are very useful during scan chain debug when, for example, a hold-time violation through a scan path flip-flop must be debugged or diagnosed.

Perhaps one of the most significant capabilities of IEEE 1687 IJTAG that is not supported by IEEE 1149.1 JTAG or IEEE 1500 ECT is multiple embedded TAP Controllers. This became a problem when IEEE 1500 ECT adoption began in the industry. Some IP providers would deliver a core with an IEEE 1500 wrapper that also included the IEEE 1149.1 TAP state machine. Instead of the 1500 plug-and-play interface defined in the standard, the delivered IP would instead support an IEEE 1149.1 TAP signal interface. In effect, such a core would include a complete IEEE 1149.1 architecture that would function as a secondary JTAG architecture to the primary JTAG architecture of an IC or SoC. The question of how to incorporate multiple cores each with its own TAP and TAP Controller into one SoC is not dealt with in a cost-effective manner in the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG or IEEE 1500 ECT standards. So, IEEE 1687 IJTAG took on the task of defining how multiple embedded JTAG TAPs could be incorporated within an IEEE 1687 IJTAG network and how these multiple TAPs would be described. However, an embedded TAP should more properly be viewed as either an instrument or a scan path reconfiguration element within the IJTAG network.

It must be noted that all three standards support fixed-length TDRs, but each standard has a different method of documenting these registers.

**Comparing the IEEE 1149.1 and IEEE 1500 Hardware Architectures**

The two following graphics (Figure 4 and Figure 5) point out the similarities between the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and IEEE 1500 ECT hardware architectures.

Figure 4 shows the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG architecture with its parallel set of Data Registers, Instruction Register (1149.1-IR), the FSM and the instruction decode for generating Register Control Signals. Several of the registers are required (mandated) functions, including the bypass register (BYP), the ID code register (IDCode) and the Boundary Scan Register (BSR). (Note that
the BSR can only be constructed from cells defined in the IEEE 1149.1 and 1149.6 JTAG standards.) One or more generic Test Data Registers (TDR) are optional for accessing embedded instruments.

![Figure 4: The IEEE 1149.1 TAP (left) with register architecture and protocol FSM](image)

When the FSM is on the data-side (Figure 3), the active instruction in the Instruction Register selects which register is active and, as a result, it is included in the active scan path. However, when the FSM is on the instruction-side (Figure 3), only the Instruction Register is included in the active scan path. This architecture is documented with the IEEE 1149.1 standard’s BSDL.

![Figure 5: The IEEE 1500 Wrapper Serial Port (right) and register architecture](image)

The IEEE 1500 ECT architecture shown in Figure 5 is extremely similar to the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG architecture in Figure 4. The register structure is practically identical except the registers are renamed as wrappers. The IEEE 1500 Wrapper Bypass Register (WBY) performs the
function of IEEE 1149.1’s BYP; IEEE 1500’s Wrapper ID Code (WID) register corresponds to IEEE 1149.1’s IDCode; and IEEE 1500’s Wrapper Boundary-Scan Register (WBR) mirrors IEEE 1149.1’s BSR; and IEEE 1500’s Wrapper Instruction Register (WIR) represents the same function as IEEE 1149.1’s IR. In IEEE 1500, one or more generic Core Data Registers (CDR) or Wrapper Data Registers (WDR) are optional for accessing embedded instruments in a manner similar to the IEEE 1149.1 TDR.

The main difference between the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and IEEE 1500 ECT architectures is not that the registers have been renamed, but that the IEEE 1149.1 FSM is not included as part of the IEEE 1500 architecture. As a result, the IEEE 1149.1 TMS signal that operates the FSM is replaced in IEEE 1500 by the control signals that are normally produced by the IEEE 1149.1 FSM: ShiftWR, CaptureWR, UpdateWR, and ResetN (where the WR represents the word Wrapper on signals normally named ShiftDR or ShiftEn, for example). These signals must be included as inputs to the wrapper architecture instead of the IEEE 1149.1 TAP TMS signal. The IEEE 1149.1 TDI, TDO and TCK signals are included and are represented in IEEE 1500 as WSI, WSO and WRCK, respectively. In addition, a separate IEEE 1500 signal, SelectWIR, selects the Wrapper Instruction Register (WIR) to make the wrapped core part of an active scan path when instructions need to be installed or changed. The SelectWIR signal may be generated when the IEEE 1149.1 FSM is on the instruction-side (as the Select-IR signal is created for IEEE 1149.1) or this signal may be generated on the data-side when a SelectWIR type of instruction is installed in the IEEE 1149.1 IR. Where SelectWIR is generated depends on how the IEEE 1500 wrapper unit is connected to the 1149.1 TAP controller. The entire IEEE 1500 architecture is documented in that standard’s Core Test Language (CTL), which is its own standard, IEEE 1450.6.

The IEEE 1500 ECT standard does not specify a connection to the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG TAP. Some implementations can connect one or more IEEE 1500 wrappers to the IEEE 1149.1 TAP with a single instruction. The WIR is operated in concatenation to the IR when the FSM is on the instruction-side and the IEEE 1500 Instruction is installed. (Essentially, this means that the IR can change length depending on the active instruction.) More often though, the favored implementation requires two instructions per IEEE 1500 wrapper unit: one IEEE 1149.1 instruction selects the IEEE 1500 wrapper WIR as the active scan path and the second IEEE
1149.1 instruction selects the IEEE 1500 Data Registers as the active scan path. The specific active IEEE 1500 Data Register depends on the IEEE 1500 instruction contained within the WIR. In this case, all IEEE 1500 operations are on the DR-Side of the IEEE 1149.1 FSM. This type of connection is shown in Figure 6 where a complete IEEE 1500 Wrapper is subsumed within the TDR-space of an IEEE 1149.1 JTAG architecture. Note that multiple IEEE 1500 wrappers may be selected by individual instructions or the wrappers may be daisy-chained (Figure 7) and treated similarly to a board test architecture. (Those wrappers not active may be placed in bypass to reduce the length added to the daisy-chain scan path to one bit for that particular bypassed IEEE 1500 wrapper.)

![Diagram](image-url)

Figure 6: Where IEEE 1500 fits within IEEE 1149.1
In summary, the intent of the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and IEEE 1500 ECT hardware architectures is to provide well defined test operations while maintaining a separation between the instructions that configure the architecture as well as activate the test operations and the data that can be used for test and debug purposes.

It should be noted that IEEE 1500 wrapper units sometimes cause malfunctions in 1149.1 JTAG/boundary-scan board test tools because the IEEE 1500 WIR instructions are invisible to JTAG’s BSDL description of the 1149.1 architecture.

**Scalability Problems with IEEE 1149.1 and IEEE 1500 Instruction-Based Architectures**

The differences in hardware architectures between IEEE 1149.1/1500 and IEEE 1687 IJTAG are critical with regards to issues of scalability. Over the upcoming decades as more and more instruments are embedded on-chip or in multiple levels on complex multi-die packages, it will be essential that the network connecting them must be extremely scalable and flexible so that it will allow for engineering and operational tradeoffs, and take into consideration clock and power domains as well as security instruments. The hardware architecture defined in the IEEE 1687...
IJAG standard enables a scalable on-chip environment while the IEEE 1149.1/1500 architecture is limited in scalability because the IEEE 1149.1/1500 architecture is based on centralized instructions.

While the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG FSM that drives the IEEE 1149.1/1500 hardware architecture has a dual instruction/data structure, the IEEE 1149.1/1500 hardware architecture itself is instruction-based insofar as instructions configure the scan path and activate the operations of any associated embedded instruments. This exclusive instruction orientation of the IEEE 1149.1/1500 architecture has inherent failings involving efficiency of operations and management of resources.

The Daisy-Chained TDR Configuration

When instructions select or activate the scan paths for embedded instruments, one implementation can result in a lengthy single TDR architecture. Referred to as a daisy-chain configuration, the embedded instrument TDRs on the long active scan path will be daisy-chained together (Figure 8). When a long scan path such as this is selected, everything on the scan path, including all of the embedded instruments are active and consuming power. And, because of the length of the scan path, access times for any given embedded instrument interface will be relatively long.

Consider this example: 10 embedded instruments each with a 32-bit interface comprise the scan path. To access all 10 instruments, the single daisy-chained scan path would be 320 bits long. An access to any single embedded instrument would require the entire 320 bits to be shifted into the register chain and subsequently updated. In addition, all 320 scan flip-flops would be turned on, active and using power even though only one 32-bit instrument interface was being accessed.

This architecture also features high risk. If only one bit is broken (stuck-at, open, hold-time problems, slow clock, slow data etc.), the entire scan path will not shift correctly, possibly disabling all of the embedded instruments on the chain. And lastly, there is no way to document

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deficiencies of daisy-chained scan path in the IEEE 1149.1/1500 architecture:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long instruction lengths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive power consumption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High risk of failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absence of instrument documentation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
in IEEE 1149.1 JTAG’s BSDL all of the separate instruments on the path because features connected to the access TDR are not officially part of the BSDL description. Generally, an embedded instrument scan path is listed as private in IEEE 1149.1 and only the length of the selected TDR is required to be documented in the BSDL.

This daisy-chained type of architecture is also not scalable because adding more embedded instruments just makes matters worse. A scan path of 100 32-bit instruments results in a scan path 3,200 bits long and 1,000 instruments resolves to a scan path 32,000 bits long. And, of course, more power is consumed, access times get longer and the risk increases since a longer scan path will include a greater number of possible points of potential failure.

The Single-Instruction Per Instrument Configuration

Another IEEE 1149.1 JTAG architecture would be to include a TDR for each embedded instrument (Figure 9). In this structure, each instrument could be selected by its own unique instruction. This type of configuration is sometimes referred to as a one-at-a-time access architecture.
This configuration mitigates the risk of failure somewhat since a broken data scan chain only
disables access to one instrument. The power problem is
mitigated because instruments could be selected and activated
individually through each instrument’s TDR while other non-active instructions may have quiescent TDRs by not receiving
clocks or active control signals. Unfortunately, this
individualization may result in routing congestion since each
separate TDR will require uniquely selected control signals.
Lengthy access times can be avoided since the scan path could
contain only the instrument or instruments that are required.

In addition, this one-at-a-time architecture also has efficiency
and scalability problems. Each instrument must have its own unique access instruction. Adding
more embedded instruments quickly escalates the number of instructions. Moreover, it is
impossible to effectively schedule and operate multiple instruments simultaneously. In addition,
this is essentially a centralized decode structure since all instructions are decoded in the chip’s
IEEE 1149.1 JTAG TAP Controller. Thousands of unique instructions could be routed from the
TAP to all of the embedded instruments located throughout the chip. This could lead to long
instruction registers, long test execution cycle times and possibly routing congestion problems.
(Routing congestion is one of the more significant scalability problems.) Furthermore, the BSDL
file describing the device could become bloated with all of the required unique instruction
descriptions for each instrument.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deficiencies of one-at-a-time scan path configuration:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Potentially many unique instructions (one for each instrument)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Poor efficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Multiple instruments cannot be scheduled and operated at same time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Central decode leads to long instruction registers, test execution times and on-chip route congestion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bloated BSDL file with many unique instructions (one per instrument)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The two methods explained above could be combined in an architecture featuring unique instructions for groups of instruments so that each instrument would not need its own individual instruction. The drawback for this configuration is it lacks flexibility. It would be hardened in the chip during design and could only be altered through a re-design, a time-consuming and expensive process. To overcome this deficiency and ensure a flexible configuration, many multiplexors could be inserted into the architecture, but this would require massive amounts of decode within the TAP Controller and lead to excessive on-chip logic processing and routing congestion. Ultimately, the operating frequency of the IEEE 1149.1 architecture would be slowed down.

The following example illustrates the difficulties with this type of architecture. The architecture is a fully selectable centralized instruction architecture with just 50 instruments. Allowing any six instruments to be combined would require decoding and multiplexing to create 15 million instructions. The problem is not that 15 million instructions would require a large instruction register. In fact, only a 24-bit Instruction Register would be needed to store all 15 million instructions. However, a chip designer or test engineer would need to manually examine and select the one instruction from among the 15 million possible instructions that would operate the configuration he wanted to deploy. Clearly, this would not be feasible. A more flexible architecture would allow 50 instruments to be represented as 50 items and a selection of each
item would include it within the scan path. This is what the IEEE 1687 IJTAG architecture accomplishes.

**Comparing the IEEE 1149.1/1500 and IEEE 1687 Hardware Architectures**

The IEEE 1687 IJTAG architecture does not rely on several hardware architecture and operational aspects that are essential in both IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and IEEE 1500; namely, a centralized instruction architecture and a separation of data and instructions. The IEEE 1687 IJTAG architecture does not include its own controller or its own centralized instruction register, and it does not mandate any defined instructions. The IJTAG hardware architecture is based on a signal interface designed to be plug-and-play portable and to be operated by a controller that is external to the IEEE 1687 IJTAG architecture itself. The separable interface and external controller is very similar to the IEEE 1500 ECT standard, but without the mandated multiple register architecture with Bypass, Boundary, ID, and other features, for example. Currently, the IEEE 1687 IJTAG standard describes only the IEEE 1149.1 TAP Controller as the default generator of the operational protocol to the IEEE 1687 IJTAG plug-and-play signal interface, but the standard does allow for different chip interfaces and controllers and describes a generic AccessLink instruction. Note that a formal effort to investigate other interfaces and controllers is under way as IEEE P1687.1.

Because the IEEE 1687 IJTAG architecture does not feature one centralized instruction register, it allows a greater degree of flexibility by supporting data-side scan path bits that may be viewed as Network-Instruction-Bits (NIBs). That is, the concept of a NIB allows bits in the data scan path to act as instruction bits when they are written and asserted. For example, the update cells associated with scan shift cells in the scan path become a distributed instruction register mingled with scan path data bits and are operated on the DR-side of the IEEE 1149.1 FSM. These embedded instructions can reconfigure the scan path or modify the behavior of the scan path on any Update-DR assertion. One of IEEE 1687 IJTAG’s primary configuration NIBs is the Segment Insertion Bit (SIB), which is a normal IEEE 1149.1 JTAG-type scan path TDR cell with a shift-side and an update-side. However, the SIB’s update-cell holds a value that operates a ScanMux multiplexor, which can reconfigure the scan path. In other words, whereas the IEEE 1149.1/1500 architecture performs a register-swap, the IEEE 1687 IJTAG SIB add or subtract a
segment (Figure 10). This means that the SIB itself can be viewed as an embedded scan path bypass register. IEEE 1687 supports the IEEE 1500 scan path configuration mechanism as well. This is similar to the SIB. It uses a construct known as a Segment Swap Bit (SSB) that swaps one mutually-exclusive scan path segment for another (Figure 11) instead of adding or subtracting a scan path segment to/from the active scan path as an IJTAG SIB would.

Figure 10: The Segment Insertion Bit (SIB) adds a scan path

Figure 11: The Segment Swap Bit (SSB) selects a mutually-exclusive active scan segment

Figure 10 shows a SIB that can add a scan path (SP) segment (SP #1) to an existing scan path (SP #3) and can expand the active scan path from 13 bits (SP #3’s 12 bits plus the SIB’s 1 bit) to 45 bits (Scan Path #1’s 32 bits plus the existing 13 bits). On any given DR-Scan, the SIB can be opened to add SP #3 or include the segment, or the SIB can be closed to subtract or dis-include the segment. When the SIB is closed, the TDR segment is no longer in the active scan path, but by IEEE 1687 IJTAG’s rules of operation, the TDR segment is frozen (holds state) and does not process any ShiftEn/CaptureEn/UpdateEn when the Select generated by the SIB is de-asserted.
Figure 11 shows an example of the IEEE 1500 type of scan path configuration mechanism and its IEEE 1687 architecture method. Instead of having the register selection coming from a formalized centralized instruction register such as the IEEE 1500 WIR, a single in-line NIB can be used to generate a Select signal as a SIB would. This type of NIB could be called a Segment Swap Bit (SSB). In the example in figure 11, the constant scan path segment would be the 12-bit SP #3 plus the 1-bit SSB. The variable portion would be one of either the 32-bit Scan Path #1 or the 40-bit Scan Path #2. As with the SIB, the IEEE 1687 rules would be that the de-selected scan path would freeze and hold state.

Freezing and holding state the de-selected segments of the scan path allows for the flexible scheduling of embedded instruments. A scan segment can be activated and written to, which will configure and start an instrument on the scan segment. Then, the scan segment can be de-selected, but the instrument will continue to operate. This allows the rest of the scan path to continue to be used without disturbing the embedded instrument, which eliminates the need for the common IEEE 1149.1 method of forcing the state machine to stay in the Run-Test-Idle (RTI) state until the instrument has completed its operations.

Figure 12 shows how any single SIB, which represents a scan path of just one bit, can add a scan path (TDR) that accesses an embedded instrument or multiple instruments on the same daisy-chain scan sub-path. However, a more efficient architecture would be to have a daisy-chain of multiple SIBs. For example, the path might contain 10 SIBs. The overall normal scan path would only be the number of SIBs or 10 in this hypothetical example. Each SIB can then be opened one at a time or concurrently, as needed. The resulting scan path becomes only the basic SIB architecture plus the scan path segment(s) behind each opened SIB. For example, a SIB for an instrument with a 32-bit interface would represent itself (1 bit) and the 32 TDR bits of the instrument as a 33-bit scan path when the SIB was opened. When closed, the SIB would represent a scan path of 1 bit. Simultaneously opening 10 SIBs each with a 32-bit TDR instrument interface would create a scan path of 330 bits. When all SIBs are closed, the scan path would be only 10 bits long. Opening just one of these 10 SIBs results in a scan path of 42 bits. Figure 12 shows this concept with three SIBs. Note the IEEE 1687 IJTAG network interface is very similar to the IEEE 1500 wrapper interface. The only difference is a Select signal, which
1687 uses to activate the Shift/Capture/Update enable signals) instead of a SelectWIR signal, which is used by 1500 to select a centralized instruction register.

In addition, the IJTAG standard specifies that when a SIB is open, it must further propagate or provide a Select signal that enables the operation of the segment elements (such as TDRs or hierarchical SIBs) on the segment of the scan path added by the SIB. This Select signal further enables the ShiftEn, CaptureEn, and UpdateEn signals or may enable the TCK to the target scan path. Either method is allowed. Conversely, when a SIB is closed, the IJTAG standard states that the Select signal must be de-asserted, which may gate-off the aforementioned ShiftEn, CaptureEn, UpdateEn, or TCK, rendering the scan path elements behind the SIB inaccessible since it will be off of the active scan path and frozen in its current state. This means that if an embedded instrument is operating and it doesn’t require repeated inputs of data to operate, it will simply continue operating. If an embedded instrument is not operating, it will maintain its quiescent state. The Select signal is used to enable or disable the TDR, not the embedded instrument itself. This freezing of the de-selected segment, while allowing the SIB portion of the scan path to operate, eliminates the Run-Test-Idle (RTI) requirement of most embedded instruments. For example, instead of a Memory BIST sitting in the RTI state for hundreds of thousands of TCK cycles until it is completed, the IJTAG scan paths can continue to be actively used while the Memory BIST simultaneously operates behind a closed SIB.
The state of the scan and update path behind a closed SIB can only be changed by either opening the SIB and shifting new data into the scan path followed by an UpdateDR or by asserting the global (TAP-based) or the local (NIB-based) reset signal known as Local-Reset.

Furthermore, multiple SIBs may be nested in a hierarchical arrangement (Figure 13). In the previous example of an IEEE 1687 IJTAG architecture with 10 SIBs, one of the 10 SIBs may open a 32-bit register made up of 32 SIBs and each of those SIBs may open into a 32-bit instrument interface. This provides many different mathematical possibilities for creating an access architecture that can be adjusted to meet engineering budgets in terms of area, gates and power, and operating budgets in terms of access times, instrument scheduling and instrument concurrence.

![Hierarchical IJTAG architecture; SIBs and nested SIBs opening multiple scan paths](image)

As stated previously, the Select signal allows a segment of the network to be operated. A Select may be provided from the IEEE 1149.1 TAP Controller through an AccessLink instruction, which would select the IEEE 1687 network, or the Select may be passed along or propagated by a SIB or NIB. The Select signal can then gate the ShiftEn, CaptureEn or UpdateEn signals to allow a portion of the scan path to operate. However, embedded NIBs may also generate signals that can be used to gate the CaptureEn or UpdateEn signals associated with the active scan path to provide what is known as a Deny-Capture, Deny-Update or Deny-Reset. These types of
functions are especially helpful for debug and diagnosis of scan path problems such as hold times or blocked (stuck-at) scan path bits.

Another type of NIB is the Local Reset function that allows a bit in the scan path to apply a reset to a portion of the scan path. The basic rule is that the Local Reset (LR bit) is applied on the falling edge of TCK in the UpdateDR state (while the UpdateEn signal to the network is asserted) and that the LR bit must self-clear itself before the CaptureEn signal is asserted, which is at least 1.5 TCK cycles in the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG TAP FSM. In addition, a NIB may also generate a blocking function of either a Global Reset or Local Reset. This is known as a Deny-Reset function. Figure 14 shows NIBs used for configuration (SIBs), the deny functions (NIB) and Local Reset (LR). See Table 2 for a description of scan path objects.

Figure 14: IJTAG architecture with SIBs and NIBs configuring the scan path configuration

Table 2: A summary of IEEE 1687 Scan Path Elements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1687 Network Scan Path Element</th>
<th>Purpose or Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test Data Register (TDR)</td>
<td>Scan Path bits that interface to instrument signals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shift-Update</td>
<td>Write-only cell that interfaces to an instrument input signal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shift-Capture</td>
<td>Read-only cell that interfaces to an instrument output signal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shift-Capture-Update</td>
<td>Read-Write cell that interfaces to both an instrument input &amp; output</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shift-Only</td>
<td>Dummy bit used for timing purposes or neg-edge adjustment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network-Instruction-Bit (NIB)</td>
<td>Scan Path bits that generate network control signals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disable-NIB</td>
<td>Generates disable signals (e.g. deny-update, deny-reset, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enable-NIB</td>
<td>Generates enable signals (e.g. Select for a ScanMux)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local-Reset</td>
<td>Generates a reset pulse to set targeted scan cells to a default value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIB</td>
<td>Self-contained cell and ScanMux to add-subtract scan segments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSB</td>
<td>Self-contained cell and ScanMux to select between scan segments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScanMux</td>
<td>A multiplexor that allows Scan Segment configuration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In summary, Section 2 of this eBook showed that the IEEE 1687 IJTAG hardware architecture is made up of the data scan path known as the network and that this network may include both data bits that may be organized into test data registers (TDRs) as well as embedded instruction bits (NIBs) that may configure the network or manage the operations of the network with both deny and enable functions. Because the IEEE 1687 IJTAG network interface like the IEEE 1500 ECT interface is defined separately from the network itself, the network may be assembled from plug-and-play portable network sub-sections. Moreover, the IEEE 1687 IJTAG network will reside within a selected TDR space in the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG TAP Controller (Figure 15) just as the IEEE 1500 ECT wrapper does.

Figure 15: Where IEEE 1687 IJTAG fits within an IEEE 1149.1 JTAG architecture

**Key Differences supported by IEEE 1687 IJTAG Hardware Architecture**

As noted previously, IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and IEEE 1500 ECT both share a defined register structure that includes mandated registers, an instruction register and mandated instructions.
These two standards concern themselves with how to create a hardware architecture that is compliant to the standards. That means that IEEE 1149.1/1500 compliance addresses questions such as: does the architecture have a boundary scan register, a bypass register, an instruction register, an EXTEST instruction etc.? In contrast, IEEE 1687 IJTAG does not define or mandate a multi-register structure or a formal instruction register. The IEEE 1687 IJTAG standard is more concerned with providing options, embedded configuration capabilities and operations management for the scan path network. These IJTAG capabilities allow more flexibility and engineering tradeoffs. This eBook also explained that both the IEEE 1500 ECT and IEEE 1687 IJTAG architectures were defined to be included within a TDR space of an IEEE 1149.1 TAP Register Architecture, since neither the IEEE 1687 IJTAG nor the IEEE 1500 ECT standard define their own controllers.

Fundamentally, the different architectures implemented by IEEE 1687 IJTAG and IEEE 1149.1 JTAG provide physical hardware differences, which represent design tradeoffs. When the IEEE 1687 AccessLink instruction is selected, the rest of the IEEE 1149.1 architecture becomes irrelevant and all IEEE 1687 IJTAG actions can be accomplished only with DR-Scans. This method of only one AccessLink Instruction for accessing one or more instruments by way of a network of NIBs and SIBs is more efficient in terms of IC physical placement and routing. The ShiftEn, CaptureEn, UpdateEn, and Reset can be distributed as a tree, grid or system bus, which may be generated only once and directly sourced from the JTAG state machine with no further decode within the TAP Controller. This enables a higher operating frequency and reduces routing congestion. The SIBs (labeled “S” in Figure 16) can be daisy-chained to provide one TDI-TDO scan chain. In the example illustrated below, the top-level scan chain selected by the AccessLink would be 10 bits long. When a SIB is opened (UpdateDR with a logic-1), the associated TDR is added to the scan path and enabled when a locally generated Select signal gates the ShiftEn, CaptureEn, UpdateEn distributed to the target TDR. The decoding of the control signals is done local to the physical location of the SIB. In addition, local resets can be generated from NIB bits in the scan path. This means that instruction decode for scan path configuration happens locally near the TDR and only one single decode operation (the first Select signal generated by the AccessLink instruction) is performed within the TAP Controller.
When IEEE 1149.1 JTAG provides individual instructions to access individual instruments (Figure 17), then all of the decode to generate unique ShiftEn, CaptureEn, UpdateEn, Reset, and to provide a TDI-TDO pathway is accomplished within the TAP Controller. As a result, all of the unique signals for each instrument must pass through the TAP Controller boundary. The IEEE 1500 hardware architecture may alleviate this problem somewhat because instructions relating to an IEEE 1500 WIR can be grouped together so that only one or two instructions from the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG TAP Controller are needed to select the IEEE 1500 wrapper and the wrapper and its WIR can be physically located with a core. A side-by-side comparison of IEEE 1149.1 JTAG’s method of one-instruction-per-instrument vs IEEE 1687 IJTAG’s single AccessLink method is shown below in Figure 17.
It is important to note that IEEE 1687 IJTAG’s ability to configure and manage the network from inside the network by providing control functions like Deny-Capture, Deny-Update, Deny-Reset and Local-Reset further allow the distribution of operations and decode to points physically near the instrument, as opposed to supporting multiple TAP controller IR encodings that select the same scan path, but configure the operations and actions differently. The IJTAG method contrasts significantly with that of IEEE 1149.1 JTAG where all of this functionality is contained within one centralized area, the JTAG TAP Controller. Figure 17 highlights the fact that the IEEE 1149.1 ‘instruction(s)-per-instrument’ method requires extensive TAP controller decode operations and dense routing, whereas the IEEE 1687 ‘instrument network’ method reduces both the routing and decode in the TAP controller, by moving much of the selection decode to the SIBs that are physically located close to the target TDR.

**Separating Hardware Control from Instrument Interface**

Like the IEEE 1500 ECT standard, IEEE 1687 IJTAG does not specify a hardware controller; instead, IEEE 1687 defines a signal interface for operating the network. As a result, compliance to the IJTAG standard is measured by being interface-able and operable by an IEEE 1149.1 state machine, which may or may not be within a IEEE 1149.1-compliant TAP controller. This means that an entire IJTAG on-chip network may be delivered as intellectual property (IP) that can be...
integrated with other IEEE 1687 IJTAG network components in a plug-and-play manner. The IJTAG network interface is the ShiftEn, CaptureEn, UpdateEn, ResetN, TCK, TDI, TDO and Select signals. A distinct interface allows the IJTAG network to be operated directly by a piece of test equipment, such as an IC ATE tester, and it allows controllers other than the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG TAP Controller to be designed and used with IJTAG network components. For example, SPI, I2C or a CPU memory mapped bus could be designed to operate an IJTAG network by creating the correct sequence of ShiftEn, CaptureEn, UpdateEn, and ResetN signals. It must be noted that the current draft of the IEEE 1687 IJTAG standard does not describe controllers defined in any other standards besides the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standard, but this is an option that can be investigated in future extensions of the IJTAG standard.

**One Chip: One TAP Controller**

Another major difference between all versions of the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standard (1990, 2001 and 2013) and the IEEE 1687 IJTAG standard is the restriction that IEEE 1149.1 JTAG mandates by limiting to only one the number of TAPs and TAP Controllers which can be implemented on any one chip. However, many ICs now have architectures with multiple TAPs and/or TAP controllers. This happens because many IP cores are delivered with either IEEE 1500 Wrappers and, at a minimum, the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG FSM, which is needed to generate the distinct IEEE 1500 ShiftWR, CaptureWR, UpdateWR, ResetN and SelectWIR interface signals; or the IP core features a full IEEE 1149.1 architecture. Including the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG FSM with an IEEE 1500-wrapped instrument IP produces a self-contained virtual component with its own JTAG-like interface that can be integrated directly into an IC. When this is done, the most popular connection schemes for accessing all of the embedded TAPs (eTAPs) involve treating the IC as if it were a circuit board with either a star or daisy-chain architecture for the on-chip IEEE 1500 instruments or 1149.1 embedded architectures. However, this is not sanctioned in the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standard and produces an architecture that is not power-domain friendly. The sanctioned method is to use IEEE 1149.1-defined compliance enable package pins to map different TAP controllers to the same TAP pins and to activate these individually one at a time.
(Note: More than one TAP controller is allowed and is handled in the 1149.1 standard by the use of compliance enable package pins that allow only one TAP controller to be mapped to the JTAG TAP pins and to be active and in control of the chip for any given encoding on the compliance enable pins. Adding package pins to a device is not cost effective or scalable.)

The IEEE 1687 IJTAG standard was developed to support this sort of multiple TAP and embedded TAP (eTAP) architecture (Figure 18). So, IEEE 1687 IJTAG does accommodate the notion of eTAPs. In fact, several possible methods are supported by the standard for deploying multiple eTAPs. To accomplish this, the IEEE 1687 IJTAG rules were kept to a minimum while properly documenting the architecture so it will be understood.

The first of the following three diagrams (Figure 18) shows an eTAP with an in-line ScanMux select register. The important aspect of this architecture is that the TMS signal from the primary TAP on the chip must be brought into the chip to operate embedded TAPs inside the chip and to maintain synchronization with the primary TAP. Once inside the chip, the signal is referred to as eTMS (embedded TMS). It can be gated so that eTAP Controllers (eTAPCs) can be put to sleep to conserve power. When asleep, an eTAP is removed from the active scan path. Similar to the definition of an IEEE 1687 Scan Segment, the eTAP must not process ShiftEn, CaptureEn, or UpdateEn operations when it is not selected.

Figure 18: IJTAG architecture with multiple eTAPs
A second possible IJTAG architecture (Figure 19) deploys IEEE 1149.1 JTAG instructions as the selection method for a single eTAP or a group of eTAPs. The JTAG instruction selects the appropriate ScanMuxes and gates the eTMS signal to place non-active eTAPs into a parking state such as the run-test-idle or RTI states of the IEEE 1149.1 FSM that does not drive any access network items (TDRs) with Capture, Shift or Update. The basic IEEE 1687 IJTAG rule is that a non-selected item where its select signal has been de-asserted will freeze, which the IEEE 1687 IJTAG standard defines as a 'hold state' wherein the state of the TDR remains unchanged until a select signal is asserted or a reset is conducted. This requires that the eTAPs’ TAP controllers are placed in a parking state. If there has been an assertion of Reset, such as a TLR from a main TAP, a TRST* or a Local-Reset, then the eTAP state should resolve to eTLR, the embedded TAP controller FSM’s TLR state.

Yet another allowed architecture (Figure 20) could use a configuration register.
Plug-and-Play Interface for Portability

As noted previously, one of the main differentiators between IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and IEEE 1687 IJTAG (and IEEE 1500 ECT in this case) is the signal interface. In general, most of today’s complex chips are not designed entirely by any one organization. Design of a complex chip may begin in one organization, but later the design will be integrated with intellectual property (IP) from other sources such as EDA tools, third-party IP suppliers or previous generations of the same or a similar design. To this end, an embedded instrument might come in several forms, including as a single reusable standalone IP, as a soft component within a larger IP core or as one of many embedded instruments. Additionally, an access network could be included within an IP core. In each of these cases, the IP should be reusable without requiring manual modifications by an engineer. This would imply that if a portion of an IEEE 1687 IJTAG network has already been designed, it should be easily integrated with or into another IEEE 1687 network. Work should not be required to remove a TAP controller or to modify the network for inclusion in another network.

IEEE 1687 IJTAG accommodates this scenario by defining a network interface distinct from the instrument interface. This separable interface is very similar to the interface defined by IEEE 1500 ECT. Essentially, the interface definition specifies all of the signals necessary to operate a
network that does not have its own controller. In the case of IEEE 1687 IJTAG, this interface is composed of the following signals:

- TCK (the serial clock)
- ScanIn (the TDI or serial test data input)
- ScanOut (the TDO or serial test data output)
- ShiftEn (the shift enable for the serial Test Data Registers [TDR])
- CaptureEn (the capture enable for the serial TDRs)
- UpdateEn (the update enable for the serial TDRs)
- Reset (the reset signal that puts a default value in update cells of the TDRs)
- Select (a signal that enables the Shift, Capture, Update operations of the TDRs)

Any IEEE 1687 IJTAG network, no matter how simple or complex, should be terminated with this interface. This allows any standalone network, sub-network or completely contained network within an IP core to be easily integrated into another IJTAG network by simply connecting one network’s ScanIn with the second network’s ScanOut to the serial scan path directly or through a SIB and to deliver the clock and control signals.

![Figure 21: A portion of an IEEE 1687 network with IEEE 1687 interface](image)
Figure 21 shows a portable portion of an IEEE 1687 IJTAG network that can be considered plug-and-play in that it can be connected either to an IEEE 1149.1 JTAG TAP Controller or to another IEEE 1687 network by serially connecting one network’s TDI to the other’s TDO, and connecting the control signals. An alternate connection is to place a SIB in front of the TDI-TDO connection and to allow the SIB to generate the select signal. The remainder of the control signals may be sourced from the signals that drive the other network as well.

Portability is critical for reducing a design’s time-to-market and for reusing IP without modification to avoid design mistakes. The IEEE 1687 IJTAG standard ensures this level of portability. For example, if the embedded instruments in Figure 21 already have vectors defined by IEEE 1687 IJTAG’s Procedure Description Language (PDL) associated with them, then these vectors should be reusable without modification whenever the IEEE 1687 IJTAG network shown in Figure 21 is integrated into another design.

Note that in contrast to the IEEE 1687 method, if the IP were an IEEE 1149.1 network to be merged with an existing IEEE 1149.1 network and if the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG TAP Controller had defined instructions to access embedded instrument, but the IP JTAG TAP Controller is removed during integration and the instructions or embedded instruments are merged into a different chip with a different IEEE 1149.1 JTAG network and different chip-level TAP Controller, then the architecture, vectors and access mechanism to the instruments will have changed and the vectors will need to be re-simulated, re-worked or regenerated to be used. In contrast to this, IEEE 1687 IJTAG allows multiple embedded TAPs, so the IJTAG plug-and-play interface can be expanded to include the optional TMS signal, which would allow the entire IEEE 1149.1 JTAG access mechanism to be reused without any rework.

The most basic item in an IEEE 1687 IJTAG network is the embedded instrument (Figure 22). A particular instrument does not have the IJTAG separable interface. Rather, it has an interface that represents its functional interface. The IEEE 1687 IJTAG working group did not require any specific type of interface or protocol for instrument developers or providers. The working group wanted to allow the instrument to drive whatever protocol and signals were required to make the instrument optimal. (Note that the instrument may not be exclusively accessed by the IEEE 1687 network, but may also have shared access with other controllers.) This would allow the
integrator, EDA tool or access network creator to include the correct configuration of the TDR to address the instrument’s specific needs. For example, the instrument might require a slave protocol, a master handshake protocol or full-duplex handshake protocol. (For more information on this issue, please see ASSET’s IJTAG Tutorial. It can be downloaded for free here.

![Figure 22: Embedded memory BIST instrument with targeted memory array](image)

Engineers will expect that embedded instruments will be delivered with operation vectors or, in the terms of the IEEE 1687 IJTAG standard, with Procedure Description Language (PDL) files (Figure 23). The embedded instrument and its vectors are portable because they can be placed anywhere in the network and retargeted since the location of the instrument is described in IEEE 1687 IJTAG’s Instrument Connectivity Language (ICL). ICL has two main parts: Instrument ICL (IICL), which describes the instrument signal interface, and Network ICL (NICL), which describes the location and operations of the TDR or TDRs that interface to the instrument’s signal interface.
In summary, there are several key differences between the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and IEEE 1687 IJTAG methodologies. Most notably, IEEE 1149.1 contains a centralized instruction register that requires individual selection of various test features as well as individual control lines if power consumption and activity management is important. In contrast, IEEE 1687 IJTAG specifies portable on-chip networks and embedded instruments, both with a separable interface that accepts control signals.

Modifying a IEEE 1149.1 JTAG architecture requires the development of new or different instructions, which means rework and re-documentation. IEEE 1687 IJTAG is meant to accommodate bare instruments, sub-networks and even whole networks within IP cores. These entities can contain just the IJTAG control interface or JTAG TAPs. In both cases, the instrument or network segment can be portably incorporated into another IEEE 1687 IJTAG network and reused just by including the ICL file. The only alterations required are additions to the target’s ICL, which will identify where the newly added embedded instrument or network segment is within the target network. (The added ICL will define the new connections when networks are merged.) Note that this portability aspect of IJTAG instruments also provides physical tradeoffs with JTAG insofar as the decode logic associated with each JTAG instruction takes place only within the TAP controller and this can create route congestion and growth in the logic required within the TAP controller. Conversely, IEEE 1687 IJTAG allows decode or
selection of the instrument to be local to the instrument, avoiding the centralized decode, routing congestion and logic growth associated with adherence to the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standard.

**Description Language and Operational Protocols for JTAG and IJTAG**

Although the IEEE 1687 IJTAG standard currently follows the operational protocols of the JTAG finite state machine (FSM) defined in the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standard, other protocols can be integrated into the IEEE 1687 standard in the future. The IEEE 1149.1 protocol established by the FSM employs both a data-side and an instruction-side to operate IEEE 1149.1 Data Registers and Instruction Registers separately. Ultimately, both the IEEE 1500 ECT and IEEE 1687 IJTAG access networks can be operated by applying vectors to the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG TAP pins. When the correct instructions are installed after an IR-Scan, the serial scan access to instruments is enabled and, in a very similar manner to IEEE 1149.1 operations, data is captured in TDRs when the FSM is in the CaptureDR state. Likewise, data is shifted through the TDRs while the FSM remains in the ShiftDR state and data is applied to the network configuration bits and/or to the embedded instruments when the FSM is in the UpdateDR state. Depending on the method of operation, the point-of-application source for the generation of the vectors will be different. IEEE 1149.1 vectors are generated at the TAP pins; IEEE 1500 vectors are generated at the wrapper interface (Wrapper Serial Port (WSP) or the Wrapper Parallel Port (WPP)); and IEEE 1687 vectors are generated at the embedded instrument interface. As a result, each of the three IEEE standards has its own different language(s) to: 1) describe the serial scan network and 2) to represent the vectors. Table 3 lists the description and vector languages associated with each standard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deliverable</th>
<th>IEEE 1687 IJTAG</th>
<th>IEEE 1149.1-2013 JTAG</th>
<th>IEEE 1500 ECT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test Data Register-based vectors</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portable instrument vectors supported</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture description language</td>
<td>ICL</td>
<td>BSDL</td>
<td>CTL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vector description language</td>
<td>PDL</td>
<td>SVF, PDL</td>
<td>STIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where are vectors applied?</td>
<td>At instrument</td>
<td>At TAP Pins or in TDR</td>
<td>At WSP or WPP pins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 shows that each access standard supports a different description language (ICL, BSDL, and CTL) and a different vector language (PDL, SVF/PDL, and STIL). The reasons for this mostly stem from the fact that each of these three standards were developed for different use
cases which required different description languages. Consider the following differences in the standards:

- The prevailing perception in the industry is that IEEE 1149.1 JTAG adds logic to an IC to assist with circuit board test procedures. For example, boundary scan (JTAG) performs board-level interconnect testing and reads the chip’s ID Code to ensure that the correct chip has been placed on the board and it is connected to other chips in a correct manner with no shorts or opens in the chip-to-chip connections.

- IEEE 1500 ECT is perceived to involve the addition of logic to a portable IP core to assist with core test. For example, this might involve integrating portable test features into a core and mapping these as instructions in the IEEE 1500 Wrapper Instruction Register (WIR). A specific example of this would be to include a wrapper boundary register and configuring instructions to enable simple core interconnect testing without involving the functional operations of the entire internal core logic.

- The perception of IEEE 1687 IJTAG is that it specifies a scalable access network to assist with managing, operating and reusing embedded instruments within chips or IP cores. For example, IJTAG will allow multiple different embedded instruments, such as those dedicated to debug and trace, test, configuration and environmental monitoring, to be added into or subtracted from the active on-chip scan path without the use of an instruction register (only DR-Scans). In addition, IJTAG is able to configure and modify the size and operations of portions of a scan path with bits that represent the source for active inclusion, deny-capture, deny-update, deny-reset and local-reset.

In conclusion, each standard was developed to perform a different job and those jobs were problems that were not addressed prior to the development of each standard. That is to say that each standard was developed to address its specific set of problems. These different use cases resulted in the different languages being defined by each standard.
IEEE 1687 ICL/PDL versus IEEE 1149.1 BSDL/SVF versus IEEE 1500 CTL/STIL

Clearly, the main drivers of the various languages defined by these three standards were the use cases that were driving the development of the standards. The IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standard was conceived as a board test standard; IEEE 1500 ECT was conceived as a core test standard; and IEEE 1687 IJTAG was conceived as a scalable solution for managing, operating and reusing embedded instruments, which can be portable IP. These different use cases required different user environments and tasks. Therefore, the use cases drove the development of the different languages so that each language was applied at the appropriate level or interfaced with the correct hardware test equipment. There was never any intention for all three standards to have the same language simply because all three standards dealt with ‘test.’ Instead, each standard was applied at a different location in association with a chip. So, the various support languages for each standard were more driven by ‘where’ they were applied.

IEEE 1149.1 JTAG (Boundary Scan)

Because the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG or Boundary-Scan Standard specified its own controller, chip test port and an architecture made up of internal registers with specific functions such as Instruction, Bypass, ID Code and Boundary, the IEEE 1149.1 working group decided that BSDL (Boundary Scan Description Language) was needed to fulfill the purposes of the standard. Note that BSDL was not defined in the first ratified version of the standard. It was only added in a subsequent version. BSDL was based on VHDL because of the influence of the defense industry and European members of the working group. The language basically describes the TAP pins, the instruction encodings (instructions) included within the Instruction Register, the length of each defined public register or TDR, and a complete description of the cells that make up the boundary scan register and their connection order.

At the time of IEEE 1149.1 JTAG’s development, the working group decided that the easiest method for operating the IEEE 1149.1 architecture was to operate the TAP Controller at the TAP pins since the protocol was so well defined and implemented in hardware as a finite state machine. As a result, Serial Vector Format (SVF) was defined by Texas Instruments as a simple method for telling a TAP Controller to conduct either a Data-Register Scan operation (DR-Scan)
or an Instruction-Register Scan operation (IR-Scan) and to provide the serial data as a stream definition to be applied in the Shift-DR/IR states. Note that SVF is not a formal standardized language directly associated with IEEE 1149.1, but rather a de facto standard adopted throughout the industry. It is maintained by ASSET InterTech and can be downloaded here.

**IEEE 1500 Embedded Core Test**

The IEEE 1500 ECT standard had similar needs to those of IEEE 1149.1 JTAG, but IEEE 1500 needed to describe operating signal ports at the edge of an IP core, not at the pins of a part. So, instead of IEEE 1149.1 JTAG’s TMS, TCK, TDI, TDO, and optional TRST*, the IEEE 1500 standard describes the operation signals ShiftWR, CaptureWR, UpdateWR, SelectWIR, and ResetN, as well as WRCK, WSI, and WSO, which effectively correspond to the IEEE 1149.1 standard’s TCK, TDI, and TDO, respectively. However, one of the major differences between IEEE 1500 and IEEE 1149.1 was IEEE 1500 did not include defined boundary-scan cells, such as a BC_1, BC_2, etc. Instead, IEEE 1500 created a description language for the operation of any number of boundary register configurations, because IEEE 1500 allowed functional interface registers to be used as boundary scan cells in addition to more JTAG-like configurations. In addition, IEEE 1500 also supported a new Transfer operation to move the captured data from a functional register to the scan shift register associated with the serial scan path. This fact drove some of the requirements for a more descriptive language and hence, the IEEE 1500’s Core Test Language (CTL) was created.

The IEEE 1500 standard also defined a parallel port (WPP) to allow manufacturing scan vectors to be applied to the internal functional registers of an IP Core. Since manufacturing scan vectors are usually created by EDA tools and printed in an IEEE 1450 (STIL) format, a parallel port vector format was a natural choice.

**IEEE 1687 IJTAG (Embedded Instrumentation)**

The objectives of IEEE 1687 IJTAG are unique and quite different from IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and IEEE 1500 ECT. Specifically, IEEE 1687 IJTAG was developed to access and manage portable embedded instruments that may come with vectors. Relative to embedded instruments, the IEEE 1687 IJTAG standard only defines the operation of the interface of the embedded instrument and
the operation of the control interface to the IEEE 1687 network, not any controller or controller protocol. At the time of IEEE 1687 IJTAG’s creation, however, the BSDL description language, which was defined to support the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standards, did not include the ability to describe items which are essential to IJTAG, such as SIBs, variable-length scan paths that changed on UpdateDR as opposed to UpdateIR; embedded network bits that could change scan path operations such as Deny-Capture, Deny-Update, Deny-Reset, and Local-Reset; entire embedded TAPs, which may be connected to entire IEEE 1149.1-compliant TAPs and TAP controllers, or partial non-compliant TAP Controllers; and the interface to embedded instruments.

Instead of BSDL, the Verilog design language was briefly considered for the IEEE 1687 IJTAG standard, but it is a very large language and the developers of the IJTAG standard feared that embedded instruments would simply be delivered as the RTL models that were used for design. This would provide too much information and an RTL model could not protect proprietary IP.

Also at the time of IEEE 1687 IJTAG’s development, the IEEE 1500 ECT standard’s CTL was considered for the IEEE 1687 IJTAG standard, but it too was considered overkill since all that was required in the IJTAG standard was the ability to describe the scan path (TDRs), multiplexors in the scan path (Table 2) and any logic between the TDR and the embedded instrument, not the entire predefined register architecture. A simpler language that was descriptive of only the scan path and the instrument interface was envisioned by the IEEE 1687 IJTAG working group.

Because one of the goals for IEEE 1687 IJTAG was to describe the connections and pathways between the controller, which was the source of the AccessLink instruction, and the embedded instruments, ICL (Instrument Connectivity Language) was developed. ICL can be viewed as being composed of two segments: instrument ICL and network ICL. Instrument ICL describes the wrapped or unwrapped signal interface of an instrument. Instrument ICL would be the portable embedded instrument information delivered with a bare or unwrapped (no TDR) embedded instrument. Not all IJTAG instrument signals are necessarily solely connected to an IJTAG network. Some functional signals may be connected to other logic or left unconnected.
Network ICL describes the scan paths, multiplexors and control signals associated with the connections to the access network that links the controller and embedded instruments.

As for the vectors associated with an IEEE 1687 IJTAG instrument, the basic task of the working group was to describe the operations associated with an instrument. The resulting language was the Procedure Description Language (PDL). Instrument vectors are typically developed in Verilog during the design of a chip to support simulation. Verilog, however, is a huge language. Describing an instrument in Verilog would include a lot of information about the instrument, its connections and even its operations. To provide some protection of proprietary interests, a simpler language was developed that viewed the instrument interface as a port that needed to be read from and written to. In addition, some embedded instruments will already have a TDR and be considered secret or private. These types of instruments are generally known as black box instruments. Only scan vector data can be provided with them in a scan-to and scan-from set of operations. All of this went into the development of IEEE 1687 IJTAG’s PDL.

In summary, the working groups for each of these three standards developed a language, or languages in the case of IEEE 1687 IJTAG, that was needed to serve the particular use case of the standard at the time of its development. The languages are clearly the limiting factors for the use cases of each standard. For example, using IEEE 1149.1 JTAG to describe an embedded IP core such as a microprocessor would require that the core boundary be designed and described with only BC_# cells. By limiting the choice of the processor core’s interface register, this might limit the core’s targeted performance. This would also create a problem with the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standard, since the preferred configuration would be to support a TAP Controller in the core architecture. Essentially, each core would look like a true virtual chip because it would support the entire IEEE 1149.1 JTAG architecture. However, since the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standard stipulates that any one chip should only contain one TAP Controller, there would be five TAPs on a four-core chip where each core had its own TAP. This would be in conflict with the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standard.

Similarly, using BSDL or CTL for IEEE 1687 would require IEEE 1687 to support centralized instructions and defined controller registers such as Instruction, Bypass, ID Code, Boundary and others. This would have limited the IJTAG standard’s ability to describe the scan path.
management functions. In short, BSDL or CTL would only have allowed architectures that could be described by IEEE 1149.1 JTAG or IEEE 1500 ECT. Furthermore, PDL for embedded instruments would only have been allowed if the PDL vectors had been re-written to the TAP or the TDR, because neither BSDL nor CTL formally support descriptions of embedded instruments.

**IEEE 1687 IJTAG’s PDL versus IEEE 1149.1-2013 JTAG’s PDL**

The newest update to the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standard (1149.1-2013) added several features that overlap with IEEE 1687 IJTAG. For example, IEEE 1149.1 JTAG now includes its own PDL, although JTAG’s PDL stands for Procedural Description Language and IEEE 1687 IJTAG’s PDL stands for Procedure Description Language. In addition to its own PDL, IEEE 1149.1-2013 now is able to incorporate variable length scan paths with the SegSelect concept. (Table 3) Also, some instructions are now ‘sticky,’ meaning their configuration or actions remain in place even when other instructions are selected. In other words, IEEE 1149.1-2013 added instruction persistence to the standard. For example, a persistent EXTEST instruction can be applied to force the output pins on the chip to assume a default safe state, but then a different instruction that selects a Memory BIST or an IEEE 1500 Wrapper, for example, can be installed while the safe state remains on the chip pins. In effect, this allows a CLAMP function to select a different register than Bypass. This new functionality required additions to BSDL. One of the tasks undertaken by the IEEE 1149.1-2013 JTAG working group was to incorporate an initialization procedure associated with the power-on and power-off domains that impacted the boundary scan register. A sequence of events is required to apply power-on to quiescent chip pins before using them in a test. Similarly, a graceful power-down sequence is required as well. This power-on and power-off sequence was known as init-setup and it required certain procedural functions associated with portions of the boundary scan register. Therefore, an IEEE 1149.1 version of PDL was required to describe this sequence.

Once the concept of a PDL language was introduced into the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standard during the 2013 update cycle, many of IEEE 1687 IJTAG’s PDL functions (commands) were adopted by the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG working group since IJTAG’s PDL had already been developed. However, the hardware differences between IEEE 1149.1-2013 JTAG and IEEE 1687 IJTAG
required several PDL commands that were supported by one standard but not the other. This led to the two PDLs diverging.

Table 4: Comparison of IEEE 1687 vs IEEE 1149.1-2013 PDL Commands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IEEE 1687 PDL Command</th>
<th>IEEE 1149.1-2013 PDL Command</th>
<th>PDL Command Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>iSource</td>
<td>iPDLLevel</td>
<td>All PDL procedures must be defined before they are called</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iPDLLevel</td>
<td>iPDLLevel</td>
<td>Identify PDL level and version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iPRefx</td>
<td>iPRefx</td>
<td>Specify hierarchical prefix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iReset</td>
<td>iRead</td>
<td>Reset the 1687 Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iRead</td>
<td>iWrite</td>
<td>Queue data to be compared with what is read</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iWrite</td>
<td>iScan</td>
<td>Queue data to be written</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iScan</td>
<td>iOverrideScanInterface</td>
<td>Queue data to be scanned for a Black-Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iOverrideScanInterface</td>
<td></td>
<td>Indicate the capture, update, and broadcast behavior to be imposed on a list of scan interfaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iApply</td>
<td>iApply</td>
<td>Execute queued operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iClock</td>
<td>iClock</td>
<td>Define the System Clock (not the serial TCK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iClockOverride</td>
<td>iClockOverride</td>
<td>Override definition of system clock when it is generated on-chip: Define on-chip clock multipliers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iRunLoop</td>
<td>iRunLoop</td>
<td>Issue a number of clocks: or wait an absolute time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iProc</td>
<td>iProc</td>
<td>Wrapper for a PDL procedure: a PDL procedure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iProcsForModule</td>
<td>iProcsForModule</td>
<td>Identify the module in the ICL with which subsequent iPcprocs are associated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iProcGroup</td>
<td>iProcGroup</td>
<td>Identify the object or instance with which the following PDL iPcprocs procedures are associated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iUseProcNameSpace</td>
<td>Use namespace for subsequent iPcalls</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iCall</td>
<td>iCall</td>
<td>Invoke a PDL procedure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iNote</td>
<td>iNote</td>
<td>Send text to runtime; Creates a tool identifiable comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iMerge</td>
<td>iMerge</td>
<td>Allow merging (concurrent evaluation) of iPcalls; Provides guidance on where tools can optimize multiple PDL procedures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iTake</td>
<td>iTake</td>
<td>Disallow other merge threads from modifying a model resource: Tag an object to be ‘in-use’ to provide guidance where tools can optimize PDL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iRelease</td>
<td>iRelease</td>
<td>Re-allow other merge threads to modify a model resource: Release an object from ‘in-use’ to provide guidance where tools can optimize PDL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iState</td>
<td>iState</td>
<td>Document the current state of the network (e.g. change HW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iSetInstruction</td>
<td>iSetInstruction</td>
<td>Select instruction for a register accessed by multiple instructions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iLoop</td>
<td>iLoop</td>
<td>Mark the beginning of a conditional loop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iUntil</td>
<td>iUntil</td>
<td>Loop until any iPcall -nofail in the loop meets the specified condition or the maximum loop count is reached.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ifTrue</td>
<td>ifTrue</td>
<td>Execute commands based on last iPcall –nofail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ifFalse</td>
<td>ifFalse</td>
<td>Execute commands based on last iPcall –nofail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iEnd</td>
<td>iEnd</td>
<td>End of conditional execution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iSetFail</td>
<td>iSetFail</td>
<td>Set the status to “FAIL”; stop the test if the -quit parameter is specified, and output the &lt;text&gt;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iTRSS</td>
<td>iTRSS</td>
<td>Assert or de-assert the TAP TRST* pin, and remain in TLR state after TRST* is off. Only executed at the top level of the current unit under test.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iTMSSreset</td>
<td>iTMSSreset</td>
<td>Enter TLR state via TMS. Only executed at the top level of the current unit under test.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iTMSidle</td>
<td>iTMSidle</td>
<td>Enter RTI state via TMS.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It might be easier to designate JTAG’s PDL as JPDL, since it uses the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG TAP controller and is based on JTAG instructions and some specific JTAG test features such as EXTEST and BYPASS. Then, IEEE 1687 IJTAG’s PDL might be designated IPDL, since it operates IEEE 1687 IJTAG networks of embedded instruments. The two PDLs are overlapping.
but different languages. In fact, each is engaged at different times. In general, when IEEE 1149.1 JTAG is conducting IEEE 1149.1 JTAG functions, IEEE 1687 IJTAG is not active, but when IEEE 1687 IJTAG is active, it requires that the IEEE 1149.1 controller service the IEEE 1687 IJTAG network and not IEEE 1149.1 JTAG functions.

One can see from the above table that each standard’s basic or Level-0 PDL has several unique commands, indicated by a red empty space in the other standard’s column. IEEE 1149.1-2013 JTAG’s PDL (JPDL) has 12 unique commands, several of which are related to the JTAG hardware architecture, TAP and IR since IEEE 1149.1 JTAG defines a controller but IEEE 1687 IJTAG does not. Unique IEEE 1149.1 JTAG commands are: iTMSidle, iTMSreset, iTRST, and iSetInstruction. Several other unique IEEE 1149.1 JTAG PDL commands came about because the IEEE 1149.1-2013 JTAG working group wanted the updated standard to support flow-control in its base-level or Level-0 language. So, the following commands were added: iLoop, iUntil, ifTrue, ifFalse, ifEnd. The two remaining unique JTAG commands are: iProcGroup and iSource. These organize and apply PDL commands as a software language associated with the IEEE 1149.1-2013 standard.

There are only five unique commands in IEEE 1687 IJTAG’s PDL. Two of these involve unique features of the IEEE 1687 IJTAG scan architecture: iReset and iOverrideScanInterface. These commands represent the global and local resets, and the Deny-Capture/Update/Reset functions. Two other PDL commands address how to organize PDL commands: iProcForModule and iUseProcNameSpace. The remaining unique IEEE 1687 PDL command, iState, addresses the situation where multiple different external hardware controllers are operating on the same network during test, debug, characterization and initialization operations. When this is the case, information about the IEEE 1687 network must be passed from one controller to the others after a physical hardware swap. When a hot-swap occurs, iState logs the current state of the network.

Another 15 PDL base level commands in the two different standards are identical in name and are very similar in function. In use, these commands that seem to overlap won’t interfere with each other or create conflicts because the IEEE 1149.1-2013 JTAG PDL commands are typically active when JTAG operations like EXTEST, INTEST, BYPASS, HIGHZ, SAMPLE, PRELOAD, IDCODE, etc. are active, while IEEE 1687 IJTAG PDL commands are only
operational when its AccessLink instruction is active. In essence, the two PDLs could be treated as two distinct languages. As mentioned previously, they could be designated differently as iPDL for IJTAG PDL and jPDL for JTAG PDL to clearly distinguish between them.

Any hardware system or software tools that must operate a chip that includes features, operations, and embedded instruments that span all three IEEE test standards should take each of the various delivered files (BSDL, CTL, ICL, SVF, STIL, PDL) and should apply them when applicable. The effort to try to normalize the files to some minimum common denominator by processing the various files is not an efficient process and does not represent the use case for the various standards. For example, attempting to convert CTL and STIL to BSDL and SVF to minimize deliverables does not maintain the intent and efficiency of the IEEE 1500 standard.

The Practical Usage of IEEE 1149.1, IEEE 1500, and IEEE 1687

In reality, the integrator that assembles the overall chip will most probably use all three of these IEEE test standards. IEEE 1149.1 will still be needed to implement the boundary scan and ID code portion of the chip as IEEE 1687 and IEEE 1500 are not specifically suited for this purpose; and the IEEE 1149.1 will be needed to provide the chip interface and controller signals for IEEE 1500 and IEEE 1687. The 1149.1 portion of the design may come from design-ware from a previous design, from an EDA tool that generates HDL/RTL, or may be a modifiable IP core.

If complex cores are delivered, such as embedded microprocessor cores or complex memory architectures, then to ensure the portability of the IP, its provider must also include self-contained test and debug capabilities and routines, as well as core-based boundary scan. This functionality must be specified or delivered with an IEEE 1500 architecture and documentation. The core can then be tested and verified in a standalone manner, multiple cores in an architecture can also be verified through wrapper-to-wrapper interconnect tests.

In addition, any embedded instruments or groups of embedded instruments or even whole complete architectures with embedded TAPs and TAP controllers may be delivered as IP with IEEE 1687 documentation and possibly IEEE 1687 network segments. These test, debug, monitoring and configuration instruments and instrument architectures may be integrated within a chip or included within IEEE 1500 architectures.
The integrator of the chip has the task of taking what has been delivered and making it into a complete architecture. From a basic point of view, the integrator is at the mercy of the deliverables. For instance, if three different pieces of the delivered IP are IEEE 1500 wrapped, IEEE 1687 compliant and IEEE 1149.1-2013 compliant, then the task at hand is to correctly integrate these pieces together. On the surface, this means traversing the landscape of different architecture components, functions and documentation. If an integrator wants to normalize or simplify the integration task, then two basic methods are available. First, the integrator could define or mandate the deliverables from the IP provider. So, for example, the integrator might require that all embedded instruments must be IEEE 1687 compatible and must have IEEE 1687 ICL and PDL; or, that all embedded instruments must be IEEE 1149.1-2013 compliant and must have IEEE 1149.1-2013 BSDL and PDL; or, that all monitor instruments must be delivered with IEEE 1687 ICL and PDL. The second alternative would be for the integrator to perform development or conversion functions from one standard’s documentation to another. For example, he might convert IEEE 1500 CTL and STIL vectors to IEEE 1687 ICL and PDL.
Conclusions

This eBook has shown that the IEEE 1687 IJTAG, IEEE 1500 ECT and IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standards are in fact different, even though this eBook has not covered every difference between the standards, but just the major ones. For the most part, IEEE 1149.1 JTAG specifies the controller, which generates the signals necessary to operate both IEEE 1500 and IEEE 1687. Both IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and IEEE 1500 ECT are instruction-based standards that support a formal instruction register. They are largely focused on the TDR and how to build a compliant network, not on the portable embedded instrument. A great portion of the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standard describes instruction features, such as EXTEST, HIGHZ, CLAMP, IDCODE, SAMPLE, PRELOAD, etc. This approach has met the requirements of the use space of IEEE 1149.1, which is providing a controller within the IC to implement board test features to be operated by engineers. The IEEE 1500 ECT standard took this same concept and applied it to complex embedded cores that could be viewed as virtual chips to be embedded within FPGAs, ASICs and SoCs. The virtual chip concept provided the same sorts of capabilities as IEEE 1149.1 JTAG, such as IDCODE, EXTEST, INTEST, etc., but IEEE 1500 ECT is specific to entire, portable and complex cores within chips.

The basic purpose of IEEE 1687 IJTAG is to add scalability to the growing adoption of embedded instruments and to enable the retargeting of delivered embedded instrument vectors. IEEE 1687 IJTAG was developed with several optimizations in mind and it was created to solve several perceived weaknesses in the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and IEEE 1500 ECT paradigms. Among these weaknesses are an absence of scalability and tradeoff-driven design options. IEEE 1687 IJTAG is focused solely on the portable embedded instrument and provides for embedded instrument documentation. Furthermore, it provides a simpler interface that would not require an entire formal Instruction Register and other related registers for just one instrument. Another objective of IEEE 1687 IJTAG was to enable engineering, scheduling and budget tradeoffs during development and operation by moving the logic decode and selection of embedded instruments to be physically within close proximity of the embedded instrument interface. In addition, IEEE 1687 IJTAG also sought to focus on instruments and instrument vectors without diminishing or complicating the role of IEEE 1149.1 JTAG or IEEE 1500 ECT. In effect, IEEE 1687 IJTAG was developed in such a way so that it would not add complexity to the BSDL used.
by board test organizations, not increase the size of the Instruction Register, and not include delivered functions with no value to board test organizations. This effort led to the development of IEEE 1687 IJTAG’s AccessLink instruction for accessing an IEEE 1687 network and a new documentation system comprised of the ICL and PDL languages.

All three of these standards were meant to work together. Since the user space has clearly become segmented, no single standard should be expected to address the whole user space. In fact, it would not be efficient for any one standard to address the whole space. Each user space has unique requirements and so each standard has associated solutions for those unique issues. The IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standard, even with the additions of new features in IEEE 1149.1-2013, is still the best solution for board integration and test capabilities. IEEE 1500 ECT is still the best solution for embedding whole complex cores that need similar core integration capabilities. And IEEE 1687 IJTAG is the best solution for managing and operating a chip’s embedded instruments, which can be subsumed as part of both IEEE 1149.1 TDR and IEEE 1500 WDR/CDR architectures.

**Learn More**

*If IJTAG is of interest to you, you might also want to download our IJTAG Tutorial, an eBook written by the vice-chairman of the working group that developed the standard.*

**Download Today!**
Appendix

Introduction to IEEE 1149.1

The IEEE 1149.1 Boundary-Scan Standard, which is also referred to as JTAG for the Joint Test Action Group that initiated its development, was first developed in the 1980s and became a ratified standard in 1990. (A tutorial on the IEEE 1149.1 Boundary-Scan Standard can be downloaded [here](#)). The standard’s documentation language, Boundary-Scan Description Language (BSDL), was added when the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG standard was updated in 1994. This standard provided the definition of a port (package pins), a controller with a finite state machine (FSM), a parallel register architecture that was extensible and selectable by instructions, and a method for accessing on-chip logic.

The motivation for the JTAG standard’s development was mainly to solve board test problems. The industry was struggling with its inability to use probes on external leads of a packaged die since cutting-edge chips at that time were surface mount packages with solder balls hidden underneath the silicon die in a semiconductor package. IEEE 1149.1 JTAG solved this problem by creating an on-chip boundary scan register along with various features and modes. However, IEEE 1149.1 JTAG also defined other functions or test operations based on instructions to assist with board test.

Scanning the boundary scan registers and other features were standardized as instructions that selected JTAG’s Test Data Registers (TDRs). Some of the other instructions in the standard are:

- **BYPASS** – converts a chip’s scan path into a single shift bit so multiple chips on a board could be represented by a minimal scan path;
- **IDCODE** – provides a register that includes an identifier for the chip during test or after it has been placed on a board;
- **HIGHZ** – places all bidirectional and three-state package pins in a high-impedance state;
- **EXTEST** – allows the boundary scan register to take over the output or drive pins of a chip’s package to effectively freeze a chip’s output pin values so that internal chip activity would not disturb other chips on the board and also so that an interconnect test could be done by just scanning data values into a boundary scan register;
INTEST – allows input chip pins to be driven from the boundary scan register and to ignore the data on the normal functional input pins and a handful of other pins.

PRELOAD – allows a known value to be shifted into the boundary scan register prior to applying an EXTEST or INTEST instruction.

SAMPLE – allows the boundary scan register to capture data and shift the captured data out for viewing.

As can be seen, these instructions and capabilities can be viewed, and are perceived by many, to carry a board or system test purpose. All of the boundary scan instructions deal with the data driven or sampled on the package signal pins so that interconnect testing or safe configurations can be established when the chip is on a printed circuit board. The BYPASS instruction represents an efficiency and safety configuration when the chip is placed in a board-level scan chain. IDCODE can be used to identify if the correct chip is in the correct socket on the board.

The IEEE 1149.1 Boundary-Scan (JTAG) standard was re-opened, updated and ratified in 2001 and again in 2013. The 2013 update added significant capability to the original purpose of the standard and generated some of the overlap with the other standards, such as IEEE 1687 Internal JTAG (IJTAG). Some of the new capabilities in IEEE 1149.1-2013 are:

**Persistence**: A Test Mode Persistence (TMP) controller state machine allows instructions that have been identified as persistent, such as INTEST and EXTEST, to remain ‘sticky;’ that is, their configuration or actions remain in place when other instructions are selected and even when the IEEE 1149.1 FSM parks into or passes through the Test Logic Reset (TLR) state. TMP was meant to enable a CLAMP instruction without requiring that a bypass register function as the selected active scan path.

**Init-Setup**: This method or procedure deals with the particular sequence of events needed to energize or ‘wake up’ a boundary scan register that includes or crosses power-off domains. This capability includes the addition of a vector/procedure language (Procedural Description Language or PDL) and selectable segmentation of the boundary scan register. (NOTE: the procedure language defined by IEEE 1687 IJTAG is Procedure Description Language or PDL as well.)
**SegSelect**: Enables the segmentation of TDRs, including the boundary scan register, so that different portions may be active at any given time.

These features can be viewed as helpful to board test, but, at the same time, they enable IC Test capabilities that are similar to the capabilities provided by IEEE 1687.

**Introduction to IEEE 1500**

The IEEE 1500 Embedded Core Test (ECT) Standard was ratified in 2005. (Download it [here](#)). It was created to deal with problems associated with third-party portable embedded cores, consisting of either ‘hard’ layouts of cores or ‘soft’ HDL/RTL models. Prior to the development of the IEEE 1500 standard, these types of cores were increasingly being incorporated into new types of ASICs (application specific integrated circuits) known as systems-on-a-chip (SoC). The goal of the standard’s development was to enable a situation where cores could be delivered by an intellectual property (IP) provider, either a group inside the company or an independent external IP provider, and that these cores could be integrated into a chip with other logic units, glue-logic and other IP cores. A 1500-compliant core would represent a virtual component. This trend toward embedded cores meant that IC layouts could be treated as if they were a virtual circuit board or system design. An IP core could then be treated as a component on this virtual chip-level circuit board, which could represent a SoC. If a core were to be treated as a portable self-contained single unit and tested like a virtual component, then the IP provider could design and build the IP core in such a way as to provide those tests or test modes. In addition, the core provider might include some sort of boundary-scan register so the core could actually represent a complete testable component (Figure 24). The problem with this was that the IEEE 1149.1 Boundary-Scan Standard (JTAG) standard stipulates that only one JTAG TAP controller may be present on a chip. If each core included a TAP, integrating multiple cores into one chip would violate the JTAG standard.
The limitation of single TAP Controller per physical chip led IP core designers to incorporate a JTAG-like architecture with each core. Such an architecture would be similar to a component with JTAG insofar as the core would need to support its own ID Register, Bypass Register, Boundary Register and even its own Instruction Register, but not a JTAG TAP or a JTAG finite state machine (FSM), since the host IC would have its own TAP and TAP Controller.

All of this meant that an IEEE 1500 core wrapper and test architecture would need to be integrated into the chip as an instruction under the chip-level TAP Controller, but the IEEE 1500 wrapper would also need to include and support its own instructions. This led to the development of something very similar to the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG register architecture and included a number of defined registers and IEEE 1500’s own Wrapper Instruction Register (WIR). The industry’s perception of the IEEE 1500 ECT standard at the time of its ratification was that it was the IEEE 1149.1 Boundary-Scan Standard (JTAG) without the TAP controller’s FSM.

However, the IEEE 1500 ECT standard does not define the actual connection between an embedded core and the IEEE 1149.1 TAP Controller. This has led to many different connection architectures. One method is to integrate all IEEE 1500 wrappers as direct extensions of the single TAP Controller on the chip by including one IEEE 1149.1 JTAG IR instruction that would select which IEEE 1500 wrapper data registers to connect to the JTAG scan path. This method
would automatically concatenate the IEEE 1500 WIR to the IEEE 1149.1 IR scan path when the JTAG FSM is on the IR-side.

Another popular architecture would be to create two independent IEEE 1149.1 IR instructions. The first IEEE 1149.1 instruction would select the WIR and put it into the active scan path so an IEEE 1500 instruction encoding can be scanned into the WIR and updated. The second IEEE 1149.1 instruction would select the data register side of an IEEE 1500 wrapper architecture and place the active and selected IEEE 1500 data register into the active scan path. However, these two instructions enable the operation of both the IEEE 1500 data registers and the IEEE 1500 WIR as DR-side IEEE 1149.1 operations, not as separate DR-Side and IR-Side operations respectively.

Other architectures might involve single IP cores with full IEEE 1500 ECT feature sets that could be accessed individually by IEEE 1149.1 instructions or multiple IEEE 1500 wrapped IP cores daisy-chained together and selected by just one set of IEEE 1149.1 instructions.

Because a core can be thought of as a virtual portable device, the developers of the IEEE 1500 ECT standard included a few non-IEEE 1149.1 JTAG features such as a Wrapper Parallel Port (WPP) to allow manufacturing scan testing, since this is usually based on the system clock, not IEEE 1149.1 JTAG’s test clock (TCK). IEEE 1500 manufacturing scan testing could be done using a Scan Enable (SE) signal rather than JTAG’s Capture/Shift/Update protocol. Other IEEE 1500 features not found in IEEE 1149.1 included several types of boundary cells, which required a different architecture documentation language and the inclusion of portable vectors for manufacturing test that use signals other than the IEEE 1149.1 TAP. This led to the creation of IEEE 1500 ECT’s Core Test Language (CTL), which migrated later into the IEEE 1450 standard. CTL’s vectors were also represented in IEEE 1450.1, the Standard Test Interface Language (STIL). These languages differ from IEEE 1149.1 JTAG’s BSDL and the original de facto standard vector language associated with IEEE 1149.1 JTAG, Serial Vector Format (SVF).

**Introduction to IEEE 1687 Internal JTAG (IJTAG)**

Development of the most recent of these three standards, the IEEE 1687 Embedded Instrumentation Standard (Internal JTAG or IJTAG), started in 2005 and passed ballot in 2014.
(Download an introductory tutorial on IEEE 1687 IJTAG [here](#)). IEEE 1687 IJTAG was developed by a group of industry experts representing the silicon design-for-test (DFT), IC test, IC ATE and board test communities who had come together at the International Test Conference to discuss the shortcomings of current standards. Each of these experts brought different issues and perspectives to the discussion.

The IEEE 1687 IJTAG working group quickly focused its work on providing support and documentation for embedded instruments. In addition, the standard that was developed focused on the retargeting of vectors associated with embedded instruments. This was a different starting point than IEEE 1149.1 JTAG had adopted, which was aimed at fully describing and documenting an on-chip controller and test access features by defining registers and instructions. The approach of IEEE 1687 IJTAG also differed from IEEE 1500 ECT, which had used a description language to assist or drive the access mechanism synthesis process.

The initial thinking of the IEEE 1687 IJTAG working group was that the board test and system test community neither needed nor cared about embedded instruments for chip test. Moreover, the working group believed that board test engineers wanted a simple instruction register and not thousands of instructions. In addition, the working group believed that board test engineers were interested in keeping IEEE 1149.1 JTAG’s BSDL files as simple as possible, avoiding the possibility that BSDL files could become bloated with information on possibly thousands of embedded instruments.

So, the IEEE 1687 IJTAG working group defined an instrument access and operational network that had minimal impact on board/system test organizations and would allow tradeoffs, budgets, and design engineering issues to be addressed during the development of the access network and later during its use. Achieving these objectives meant limiting to one or a few the IEEE 1687 IJTAG instructions placed in the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG TAP Controller and restricting IJTAG’s input to the JTAG BSDL file to little or nothing by defining a separate documentation file for the embedded instruments and their related access network. In addition, the focus of the IEEE 1687 IJTAG working group was more on how to facilitate the use and re-use of portable embedded instruments and not as much on how to configure and operate the access network. One of the working group’s objectives was that the embedded instrument network should almost be
invisible to end users so that all that would be required would be for the user to select an embedded instrument, hit run on the operational tool and then simply monitor the instrument, its operation and the collected data. Manually monitoring the access network by the user would not be necessary. Hence, IJTAG was developed as a loose set of rules for making an access network and a way to describe that network. This is to say that IJTAG is more descriptive than it is prescriptive. IJTAG tools would manage the defined operations of the portable instruments through vectors applied to the instruments’ signal pins. These vectors would be retargeted to the TAP pin on the edge of the chip (Figure 25).

With these goals in mind, IEEE 1687 IJTAG was developed as a serial network or a collection of daisy-chained TDRs and embedded TAP Controllers similar to IEEE 1149.1 and IEEE 1500 serial scan paths, but with network management and plug-and-play options.

For example, the IJTAG standard addressed how embedded instruments and complete sub-networks could be treated as portable bolt-together items (Figure 26). But, the main purpose of IJTAG was to define an access method for embedded instruments. The purposes of such access could be IC test/debug/diagnosis or board/system test. In other words, the focus of the standard was more on providing ease-of-re-use of portable instruments than it was on the creation of a new infrastructure with all of the overhead within which those instruments would reside.

![Diagram](image-url)

**Figure 25**: An IJTAG architecture showing network, instrument interface and vectors
To make embedded instruments portable would require that their command and data interfaces, as well as the operations and data applied to their interfaces must be fully described. Embedded instruments could then be attached to simple TDRs (Figure 27), as opposed to being wrapped in a complete register architecture including instruction registers as defined by IEEE 1149.1 JTAG or IEEE 1500 ECT. The operation of these TDRs requires only DR-Scans using the data side of the IEEE 1149.1 JTAG FSM (Figure 28). All embedded instrument operations and the configuration of the network can be fully utilized without repeatedly installing instructions in the IEEE 1149.1 instruction register.
The portable IJTAG instrument, once associated with a TDR, can be incorporated into an overall IEEE 1687 IJTAG network through a daisy-chain connection with other TDRs and the plug-and-play network interface. To support plug-and-play, the TDR must support a data and control interface of the following signals: ShiftEn, CaptureEn, UpdateEn, ResetN, Select, TCK, TDI and TDO.
However, the TDRs don’t necessarily need to be connected in an ever-lengthening daisy-chain, but can be connected through special network instruction bits (NIBs) known as segment insertion bits (SIBs), which allow an in-line bypass of the portable instrument TDR with an associated SIB. In addition, modifications to the access network itself may be incorporated in or near a TDR associated with an instrument by incorporating other NIBs that would allow the reset, capture and update operations to be enabled or blocked locally. These network management capabilities and the configuration of the network are described in IEEE 1687 IJTAG’s Instrument Connectivity Language (ICL). ICL also allows the description of legacy architectures such as a plain TDR or even a whole and complete IEEE 1149.1 JTAG or IEEE 1500 ECT architecture. IJTAG instrument operations would be described in the standard’s Procedure Description Language (PDL).

Ultimately, this IJTAG access network would be very flexible so that it might incorporate legacy methods such as IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and IEEE 1500 ECT, as well as newly defined IEEE 1687 IJTAG efficiencies. The IEEE 1687 IJTAG standard allows many different access network configurations while describing the embedded instrumentation operations in PDL and the network connections to access the embedded instruments in ICL. This solves one of the main concerns with IEEE 1149.1 JTAG and IEEE 1500 ECT; namely, the need for scalability to accommodate the growing number of embedded instruments on ASICs and SoCs.