Ultra-Low Jitter Clocking Enables 10G Ethernet Performance

Data Centers | Timing

Customer’s Needs
Tight jitter requirements & many clock domains and frequencies

Results
Optimized system performance 80% margin against key jitter spec

Products
Si5341 Any-Frequency Clock Generator

Silicon Labs Clock Generator Packs More Functionality in a Smaller Space

Situation:
A market-leading enterprise switch manufacturer needed to migrate from GbE to 10GbE on an enterprise switch design.

Solution:
Since 10GbE has more stringent jitter requirements than GbE, the customer designed in the ultra-low jitter Si5341 clock generator. This single device provides all PHY, switch and CPU clocks, simplifying design while providing 80% margin to system-level jitter specifications.
Benefit:

Silicon Labs' patented technology enables a single clock generator to synthesize any combination of clocks, enabling a single-chip clock tree for most applications. Industry-leading jitter performance of 100 fs RMS helps ensure first pass design success and minimized error rates in high-speed data communication systems.
Timing Fundamentals:

- **Clock Tree**: The combination of devices, including clock generators, oscillators and buffers that generate, distribute and synchronize the clock signal(s) in a system
- **Jitter**: Timing variation of a clock signal from its ideal value
- **Jitter Margin (aka jitter budget)**: Jitter margin is the difference between the actual system jitter and the allowable jitter which still supports a given data rate