



16-Channel, 12-Bit PWM Fm+ I²C-Bus LED Controller

PCA9685

Last Updated: Sep 5, 2022

The PCA9685 is an I²C-bus controlled 16-channel LED controller optimized for Red/Green/Blue/Amber (RGBA) color backlighting applications. Each LED output has its own 12-bit resolution (4096 steps) fixed frequency individual PWM controller that operates at a programmable frequency from a typical of 24 Hz to 1526 Hz with a duty cycle that is adjustable from 0 % to 100 % to allow the LED to be set to a specific brightness value. All outputs are set to the same PWM frequency.

Each LED output can be off or on (no PWM control) or set at its individual PWM controller value. The LED output driver is programmed to be either open-drain with a 25 mA current sink capability at 5 V or totem pole with a 25 mA sink, 10 mA source capability at 5 V. The PCA9685 operates with a supply voltage range of 2.3 V to 5.5 V and the inputs and outputs are 5.5 V tolerant. LEDs can be directly connected to the LED output (up to 25 mA, 5.5 V) or controlled with external drivers and a minimum amount of discrete components for larger current or higher voltage LEDs.

The PCA9685 is in the new Fast-mode Plus (Fm+) family. Fm+ devices offer higher frequency (up to 1 MHz) and more densely populated bus operation (up to 4000 pF).

Although the PCA9635 and PCA9685 have many similar features, the PCA9685 has features that make it more suitable for applications such as LCD or LED backlighting and Ambilight:

- The PCA9685 allows staggered LED output on and off times to minimize current surges. The on and off time delay is independently programmable for each of the 16 channels. This feature is not available in PCA9635
- The PCA9685 has 4096 steps (12-bit PWM) of individual LED brightness control. The PCA9635 has only 256 steps (8-bit PWM)
- When multiple LED controllers are incorporated in a system, the PWM pulse widths between multiple devices may differ if PCA9635s are used. The PCA9685 has a programmable prescaler to adjust the PWM pulse widths of multiple devices
- The PCA9685 has an external clock input pin that will accept user-supplied clock (50 MHz max.) in place of the internal 25 MHz oscillators. This feature allows synchronization of multiple devices. The PCA9635 does not have an external clock input feature

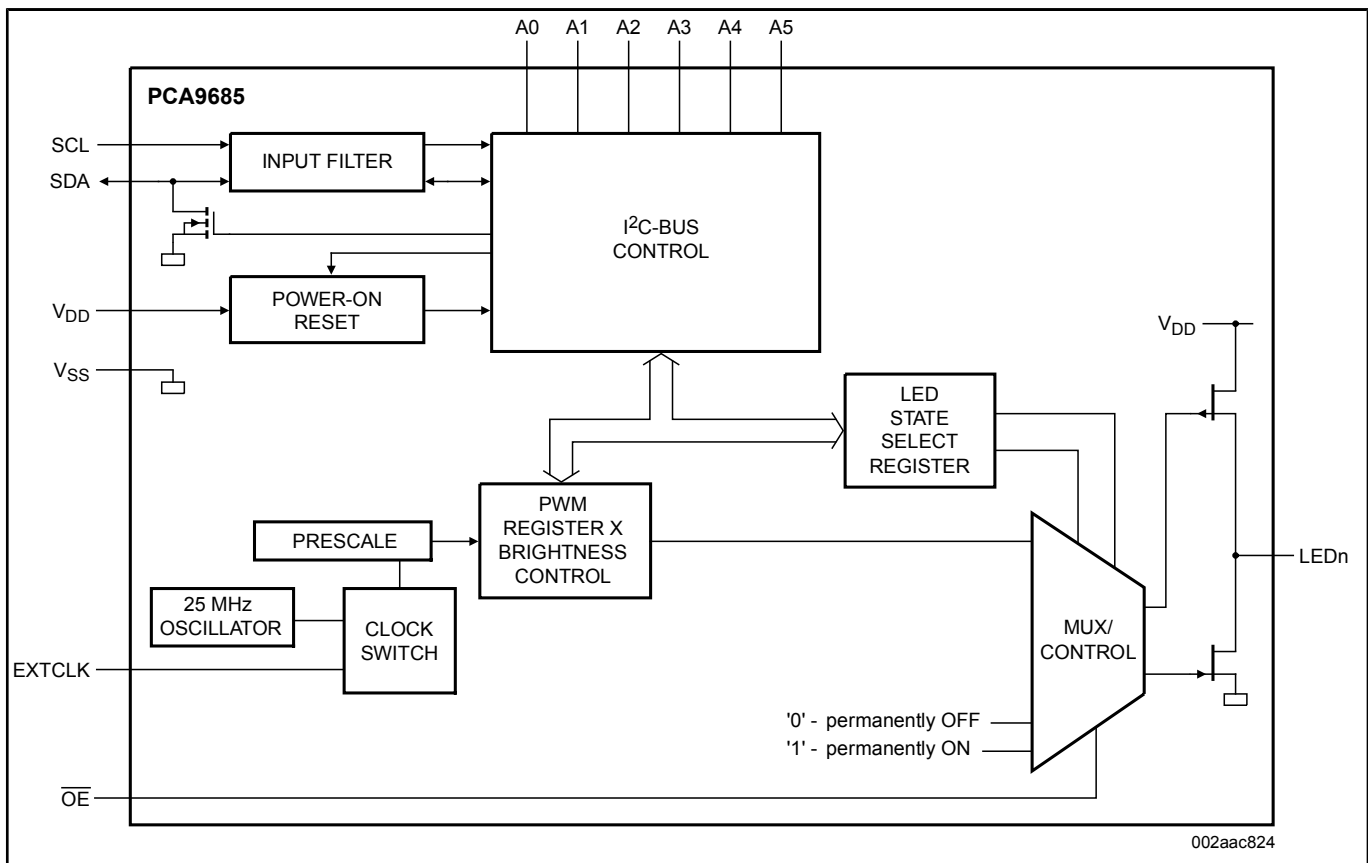
- Like the PCA9635, PCA9685 also has a built-in oscillator for the PWM control. However, the frequency used for PWM control in the PCA9685 is adjustable from about 24 Hz to 1526 Hz as compared to the typical 97.6 kHz frequency of the PCA9635. This allows the use of PCA9685 with external power supply controllers. All bits are set at the same frequency
- The Power-On Reset (POR) default state of LEDn output pins is LOW in the case of PCA9685. It is HIGH for PCA9635

The active LOW Output Enable input pin (OE) allows asynchronous control of the LED outputs and can be used to set all the outputs to a defined I²C-bus programmable logic state. The OE can also be used to externally 'pulse width modulate' the outputs, which is useful when multiple devices need to be dimmed or blinked together using software control.

Software programmable LED All Call and three Sub Call I²C-bus addresses allow all or defined groups of PCA9685 devices to respond to a common I²C-bus address, allowing, for example, all red LEDs to be turned on or off at the same time or marquee chasing effect, thus minimizing I²C-bus commands. Six hardware address pins allow up to 62 devices on the same bus.

The Software Reset (SWRST) General Call allows the controller to perform a reset of the PCA9685 through the I²C-bus, identical to the Power-On Reset (POR) that initializes the registers to their default state causing the outputs to be set LOW. This allows an easy and quick way to reconfigure all device registers to the same condition via software.

PCA9685 BLOCK DIAGRAM Block Diagram



View additional information for [16-Channel, 12-Bit PWM Fm+ I²C-Bus LED Controller](#).

Note: The information on this document is subject to change without notice.

www.nxp.com

NXP and the NXP logo are trademarks of NXP B.V. All other product or service names are the property of their respective owners. The related technology may be protected by any or all of patents, copyrights, designs and trade secrets. All rights reserved. © 2024 NXP B.V.