OrCAD to Provide Support for OrCAD-Xilinx Interface

For several years, Xilinx has developed, distributed and supported products that allowed OrCAD users to seamlessly interface their schematic designs with Xilinx devices. Due to OrCAD's growing reputation for offering quality programmable logic solutions, it has become evident that OrCAD is in the best position to offer support for designers wishing to use OrCAD products with Xilinx devices. As always, OrCAD and Xilinx will continue to work together so that designers can take advantage of the powerful features of OrCAD's solutions and the latest advancements in Xilinx devices.

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With our users' best interests in mind, Xilinx and OrCAD have jointly agreed to the following:

- The new recommended OrCAD/Xilinx solution consists of OrCAD FPGA Designer Pack (including OrCAD Capture and Simulate for Windows) for schematic entry, functional simulation, and timing simulation. All Xilinx schematic libraries, simulation models and the XNF interface are included in the FPGA Designer Pack. Only the "back-end" implementation (place and route) tools need to be acquired from Xilinx. The new design flow is very straightforward: from OrCAD Capture, generate an XNF file that is input into the XACT*step*™ tools for physical implementation; the post-routed XNF file is then input to OrCAD Simulate for post-route timing simulation.
- Starting with the next XACT*step* release, Xilinx will transfer development and support to OrCAD for the OrCAD/Xilinx Kit (DS-35), the Base System with OrCAD Interface package (DS-OR-BAS-PCI-C), and the Standard System with OrCAD Interface package (DS-OR-STD-PCI-C). (These packages include OrCAD's SDT386+ schematic capture tool and VST386+ simulation tool. SDT386+ and VST386+ have been replaced by Capture and Simulate for Windows, respectively.) Xilinx will no longer provide direct support for the OrCAD products.

We anticipate a very smooth transition. However, if you need any assistance, please contact your account manager or call OrCAD at 800-671-9505. ◆

COMING SOON: *DSP Module Generator*

The key to high-performance, FPGA-based digital signal processing is to craft the DSP algorithm for efficient implementation in the target FPGA architecture. Ironically, many DSP designers, while well-versed in the algorithmic approaches suitable for programming commercially-available digital signal processors, are not familiar with distributed arithmetic and similar techniques applicable to the hardware structures of FPGA devices.

To aid designers in implementing optimized DSP designs, Xilinx is developing a library of module generators for DSP functions, targeted for the XC4000 FPGA architecture. The production version of the Xilinx DSP Module Generator will be available in July. The first release includes modules to generate customized implementations of FIR filters, comb filters, integrators, multipliers, square root functions and various basic DSP building blocks. The tool outputs logic implementations compatible with the Xilinx implementation tools, behavioral models for simulation, instantiation code and schematic capture symbols. Additional modules will be available as plug-ins on an on-going basis.

For further information, see WebLINX (www.xilinx.com). ◆