New XACT*step* M1 Software for High-Density Design

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Xilinx has begun shipments of the first version of its new XACT*step*™ M1 software, geared for high-density XC4000EX/XL applications. This software solution delivers unprecedented speed, utilization, and run-time performance for high-density FPGA designs.

XACT*step* M1.1 includes a new generation of core implementation applications, including mapping, optimization, timing-driven placement and routing, and timing analysis programs. This state-of-the-art software environment builds on technology from the Xilinx XACT™ and NeoCAD FPGA Foundry™ design systems to deliver high-performance with intuitive, easy-to-use design tools. Key features of this system include:

➤ Multi-level design support, with automatic netlist translation and integration

➤ A comprehensive timing-constraint language (Timespecs), with automatic links to synthesis tools

➤ Advanced, timing driven-placement and routing, with both push-button flows and auto-interactive capabilities

➤ Superior pin-locking and incremental design capabilities

➤ 100% back-annotation, with EDIF, VITAL and Verilog/SDF back-annotation interfaces

Designer feedback on this software has been very positive. One user who targeted a 90%-utilized XC4028EX device stated, "The M1 software is very easy to use with very little tweaking and no hand assist. The power of Timespecs made the timing constraints very simple to meet and verify."

XACT*step* M1.1, available for Solaris, SunOS, and HP UNIX platforms, includes libraries and interfaces for Synopsys, Mentor Graphics, and Viewlogic design environments. Future releases will provide EDA interface and Windows NT/95 support, as well as integrated solutions for the XC9500 and XC7300 CPLD families, the XC4000 and XC5200 FPGA series, and the XC3000A family.

XACT*step* M1.1 is being provided now to selected users known to have high-density FPGA designs in progress. All XACT*step* users with active maintenance contracts will be upgraded to this new version around mid-year. ***Please contact customer service to renew or check the status of your software maintenance agreement.*** ◆