Foundation ISE – What's In a Name?

Xilinx Integrated Synthesis Environment stirs Design Automation Conference debate.

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The new 3.1i Foundation™ ISE software from Xilinx made its debut at this year's Design Automation Conference (DAC), leaving many with the question "What should ISE stand for?" Xilinx thought the name would speak for itself–Foundation ISE is an Integrated Synthesis Environment. But designers viewing the product for the first time at the DAC show excitedly came up with other ideas of what "ISE" should mean.

- "I" is for Ingenious, Intelligent, Internet-Enabled, Incremental, Innovative, Intriguing, Inspiring, Inventive, Imaginative, Insightful, Intuitive, and Interoperable.
- "S" is for Simple, Speedy, Sensible, State-of-the-art, Smart, Savvy, and Sexy.
- "E" is for Engineered, Easy, Efficient, Empowering (EDA partners), Expedient, Easy-to-Use, Extra-Special, Essential, and Eloquent.

What is ISE?

To understand the basis for the differing opinions, it's necessary to look at the current state of the design process.

Integrated design, synthesis, and implementation tools automatically handle all of the file dependency issues that any designer faces, by answering questions like "What tool do I need to run next," and "Have I re-synthesized all of the modified HDL blocks?" But time and time again, designers are synthesizing their designs with two or more synthesis tools–trying to create the most optimal design implementation from all of the variables.

To simplify this approach, Xilinx has built-in the HDL optimization using Xilinx Synthesis Technology and the FPGA Express HDL synthesis tools from Synopsis. This ensures that every engineer using Xilinx Foundation ISE will have access to at least two HDL synthesis tools that are highly compatible and tightly integrated.

Furthermore, a design "environment" is distinguished by its ability to address all of your needs as a designer, not just a few specific design functions. Foundation ISE provides an environment that ensures a comprehensive, integrated design flow for any programmable logic designer looking for an integrated solution that is capable of delivering world-class results with push-button flows.

Conclusion

The Xilinx 3.1i Foundation ISE software is already being heralded as the industry's best programmable logic design tool. By integrating the HDL design flow, synthesis, and optimization, Xilinx Foundation ISE enables you to spend more time on the creative aspects of programmable logic design. This helps you focus your resources and increase your productivity so you can get to market faster and deliver a more robust product to your customers. Xilinx 3.1i development systems deliver superior push-button, interactive, state-of-the-art design methods.

The 3.1i release will begin shipping to all registered, in-maintenance customers this Spring. To learn more, please visit the Xilinx website at: www.xilinx.com.