



OrCAD users consider the future of electronic design

Summary

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Recent changes in the OrCAD® product lineup mean that current OrCAD® users can now consider what electronic design system will meet their future needs in a rapidly-evolving industry.

Successfully moving on from OrCAD® means considering a number of key questions. These represent important issues that need to be resolved before tackling the future of electronic product design, and are comprehensively addressed by Altium Designer.

Is a design system truly unified, or just an assembled set of disconnected point tools?

As design systems have evolved in response to new technology and industry needs, most toolsets attempt to link increasingly complex applications together to form a complete product design solution. The fundamental separation and functional differences between these applications creates a complex and often cumbersome design flow, involves a variety of inconsistent user interfaces, and relies on costly add-ons to complete the toolset.

Altium Designer has been built from the ground-up as a unified electronic product development system that allows engineers to take a design from concept to completion in a single application. The system delivers a consistent user interface through each stage of the design process with menus, hotkeys, keystroke sequences and procedures common across all editors.

Altium Designer also eliminates the need to purchase add-ons at extra cost or integrate legacy applications to improve functionality or make up a complete solution. You receive a complete, powerful design system where there are no hidden initial or ongoing costs in making the design system fully productive.

Does a design product include everything you need for working with the latest technology?

Electronic technology trends such as high-speed design, shrinking device packaging and the emergence of design in the reprogrammable realm mean a design system needs to bridge today's design needs and those of the future. As the design of products evolve, the electronic development tools capabilities need to be available, without the need to upgrade or purchase expensive add-ons.

Altium Designer future-proofs your organization by providing all the tools required for the latest design technology and techniques, plus those needed into the future. It is a complete system that delivers advanced tools for all aspects of modern design including advanced PCB routing tools, full differential pair support, net-length tuning, impedance controlled routing, PSpice simulation, platform-level support for FPGA integration, plus much more – all available in a single, unified application with no hidden costs.

Is a design product developed through regular updates?

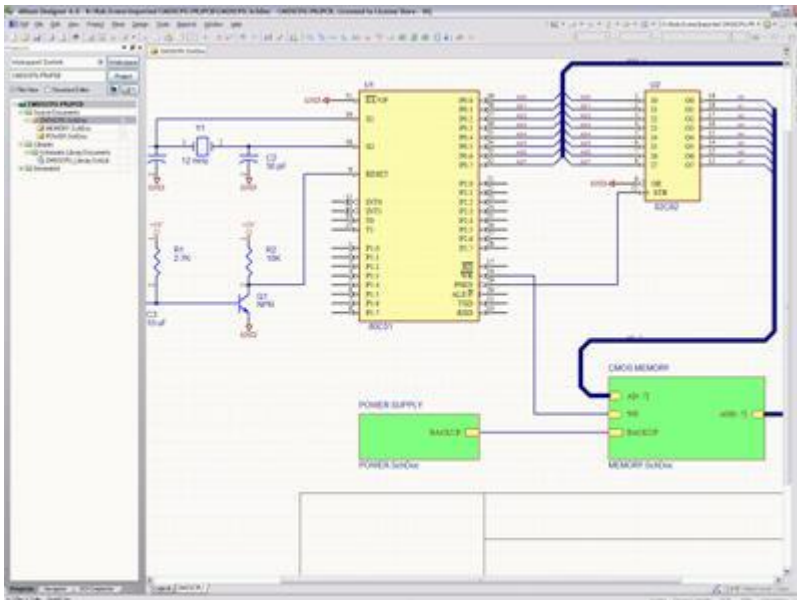
Product updates are an essential part of keeping a design system productive and relevant. Updates need to be regular and provide new design capabilities while resolving any product issues – upgrades should go beyond bug fixes.

Altium maximizes your return on investment by giving you free access to regularly-released product updates that continually enhance Altium Designer with new technologies, innovative features and device support. Updates are frequent and significant, which keeps the design system competitive and productive.

Does a design product offer flexible, cost effective support options?

The right levels of product maintenance and support are essential to keeping a design system productive while constraining costs. A product that requires mandatory, fixed maintenance contracts is only suits a proportion of users and represents a poor return on investment for many.

With Altium, the level of paid maintenance and support is entirely by choice, which provides the freedom to tailor the degree of support to suit a company's current needs and budget. There are independent choices of Maintenance, Software Assurance, or the software releases can be simply purchased as they become available.



Project in Altium Designer

“I looked at OrCAD® and PADS® and found each one to be lacking in its capabilities in one area of design or another. Altium Designer was the first package I worked with that had strong capabilities in both schematic capture and board layout. While all vendors offered an integrated solution, Altium Designer was the only one to truly unify the design process.”

Carter Moursand, VP Engineering, eSolar.

“We moved from OrCAD® because long-standing instability problems were not being resolved. After evaluating several design systems we chose Altium Designer because of its ease of use, consistent user interface, customizability and the ease of importing OrCAD® designs.”

Clint Cook, Electrical Engineer, Idaho Technologies.