

# Easy, Modern and even more Powerful

# FEATURES AND BENEFITS

- Natural (intuitive) UI, with modern powerful schematic capture.
- Fast Integrated Component Search and Placement.
- Flexible and simple automated annotation options.
- Connectivity and electrical rule checking verify and validate your design.
- Easier schematic design style more suitable for engineers.
- Hierarchical design to better manage large, complex projects.
- Multi-Channel and Device Sheets provide a designfor-reuse platform.
- Templates accelerate and automate schematic styles.



# **"STRESS FREE" SCHEMATIC CAPTURE**

Every PCB design depends on accurate schematics. Whether they are starting from scratch or working on existing designs, schematic capture is fast and intuitive with our modern user interface. A two way connection is maintained between schematics and PCB through a user-approved and controlled synchronization process to provide a unified interface throughout the design process, improving productivity and enabling cross-referencing between schematic and PCB layout.





# **Design Importers**

Users can leverage previous designs, saving time in re-creating schematics, PCB documents, and associated design data with a robust importation of project files from P-CAD®, EAGLE®, OrCAD®, PADS®, Xpedition® xDX Designer, Xpedition® Enterprise, CADSTAR®, and Allegro®. <sup>1234</sup>

Users don't have to start from scratch facilitating migration, enabling them to learn about Altium Designer with a familiar project, and allowing switching tools during any stage of a project to Altium Designer.

# **Unified Schematic and PCB layout**

With cross-probing, when users select an object on schematic that same object is selected on the PCB and vice versa. Cross probing automatically cross-references every net, pin, and component on the PCB to give the clearest insight into the implementation of schematics.

Users can place related circuitry quickly and make better decisions on placement, making it easier to get a successful layout on the first try. Finding specific design aspects from schematic to PCB is simplified reducing time to track down errors decreasing time to market.

# **Mixed Simulation**

Altium Designer allows users to easily create and manage multiple simulation profiles. Separate profiles allow designers to run different types of analyses with different simulation engines (SPICE3F5/XSPICE, SIMetrix, SIMPLIS). This allows multiple runs of the same simulation type (e.g., AC analysis) with different parameters and options (e.g., different frequency ranges). Active profiles can easily add, remove, edit, run, and/or generate netlists. The Profile Manager organizes profiles and uses probes or active nets to select waveforms to display.

All simulation results can be saved with other manufacturing outputs for conveyance to manufacturing. Users can convey design intent to the contact manufacturer reducing time to market and minimizing errors.

#### **Hierarchical & Multi-channel Design**

Electronic devices are generally complicated systems within systems. It's a natural desire to break up the design into pieces like blocks or modules, to "divide and conquer" the design. Also, it is often desirable to re-use specific circuit blocks in different designs, or as multiple channels within the same design. Having a Hierarchical Design Environment (Like Altium Designer's) facilitates the creation of designs at a block diagram top-level, and allowing design projects to be split into manageable logical chunks (ie. Power Supply, Analog Front-End, Processor, IO, Sensors etc.) Hierarchical design also allows engineers to instantiate multiple copies of the same block when they need multiple channels of an identical circuit (e.g. audio-visual mixing equipment).

Users save time on the PCB side by allowing the circuit layout and routing to be automatically duplicated for identical circuits. When a change is made, it can be made to the base logical block and the results will propagate through the design. Overall, users minimize work and potential rework and increase design integrity by reusing blocks, reducing time to market and minimizing errors.

<sup>2</sup> **EAGLE**<sup>®</sup> a registered trademark of Autodesk Inc. and Altium claims no rights therein.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Xpedition<sup>®</sup> and PADS<sup>®</sup> are registered trademarks of Mentor Graphics Corporation and Altium claims no rights therein.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> OrCAD\* and Allegro\* are registered trademarks of Cadence Design Systems, Inc. and Altium claims no rights therein.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> CADSTAR<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of Zuken and Altium claims no rights therein.





Hierarchical Design - Break Your Design Into any Depth Logical Modules, to Design More Efficiently

# **Design Designator Annotation**

Every component in any design must be uniquely identified in order to purchase, assemble and test the product. Traditional approaches lack unification between schematic and PCB, and rely solely on each component reference designator for component identification. Altium Designer on the other hand is truly unified, in that each and every component instance is known by a unique identifier and the link between the schematic symbol, PCB footprint, and simulation models.

As a result, annotation and re-annotation in Altium Designer is able to be driven automatically from schematic, with autoincrement during parts placement, or can be driven from the PCB side, and back-annotated to schematic, to allow geometrybased ordering of reference designators.

Annotation can be left automatic, or can be user controlled, to allow for annotation based on schematic page, location, and subpart, or channels and any combination, giving ultimate flexibility when needed.



Schematic Annotation Configuration					Proposed Change List				
Order of Processing	ssing Matching Options				Current		Proposed		Location of Part
1					B Designator	🔒   Sub	Designator	Sub	Schematic Sheet
Across Then Down 👻	Complete Existing	omplete Existing Packages None 🔹			C1	~	C1		2.5V_and_1.8V_Switches.SchDoc
					C2	~	C2		2.5V_and_1.8V_Switches.SchDoc
° R1 R2 °	Component Parameter			Strictly	C3	~	C3		2.5V_and_1.8V_Switches.SchDoc
	Capacitance	Capacitance			Q1	$\sim$	Q1		2.5V_and_1.8V_Switches.SchDoc
	Case Code (In	Case Code (Imperial)			Q2		Q2		2.5V_and_1.8V_Switches.SchDoc
<sup>8</sup> R3 R4 <sup>8</sup>	Case Code (M	Case Code (Metric)			Q3	~	Q3		2.5V_and_1.8V_Switches.SchDoc
	Case/Package	Case/Package			Q4	~	Q4		2.5V_and_1.8V_Switches.SchDoc
Richard A	Case\/Packag	Case\/Package			Q5	~	Q5		2.5V_and_1.8V_Switches.SchDoc
	Category	Category			Q6	~	Q6		2.5V_and_1.8V_Switches.SchDoc
Process Location of	ClassName			$\leq$	Q7	~	Q7		2.5V_and_1.8V_Switches.SchDoc
	Code_IPC			$\leq$	R1	~	R1		2.5V_and_1.8V_Switches.SchDoc
Designator 👻	Code_JEDEC	Code_JEDEC			R2	~	R2		2.5V_and_1.8V_Switches.SchDoc
	Color			<u> </u>	R3	~	R3		2.5V_and_1.8V_Switches.SchDoc
	Comment			× *	R4	$\sim$	R4		2.5V_and_1.8V_Switches.SchDoc
Schematic Sheets To Annotate			Designator Index Cont	Add Suffix 🚊	R5	~	R5		2.5V_and_1.8V_Switches.SchDoc
Schematic Sheet	Annotation 9	Scope Order	Start Index	Suffix	R6	~	R6		2.5V_and_1.8V_Switches.SchDoc
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🔚 🗹 3.3V_and_1.8V_Load.SchDoc	All				R9	~	R9		2.5V_and_1.8V_Switches.SchDoc
🔚 🗹 3.3V_to_0.9V.SchDoc	All				R10	~	R10		2.5V_and_1.8V_Switches.SchDoc
🔚 🗹 3.3V_to_1.0V.SchDoc	All				R11		R11		2.5V_and_1.8V_Switches.SchDoc
🔜 🗹 3.3V_to_DDR4_VDD.SchDoc	All				U1	✓ 15	U1		2XSFP_Arria10.SchDoc
📃 🗹 3.3V_to_VADJ.SchDoc	All				<b>—</b> 114	16			OVCED Arris10 CobDac
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📃 🗹 12V_3V3_1V8_Swiches.SchDoc	All				have the same par	have the same parameters and parameter values, with respect to the matching criteria. Disabling this			
I2V_POWER.SchDoc All					matched together.) Existing packages will not be completed. All new parts will be put into new				
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Simple Design Annotation

# Aesthetic, Natural, and WYSIWYG

DESIGNER19

Most schematic editors give users a headache from squinting all the time. Concentration for engineers is a key part of the job, but having to stare at a screen of pixel-width poorly colored lines on a pure white or black background just hurts. Altium Designer uses higher contrast colors and line scaling so you don't suffer from eye fatigue when engineering your circuits, unlike most other schematic capture tools.

Couple that with Altium Designer's elegant and intuitive contextual UI. Unlike our "big" competitors, Altium Designer doesn't distract you with dozens of buttons and toolbars of cryptic glyphs which needlessly take up screen real-estate. What you need is right there by your cursor, when you need it.

# **Schematic Design Rules**

Engineers can add design rule "Directives" to the schematic - nets, wires, busses, harnesses, any component or sheet or document parameter. These are used to drive rules for correctly laying out the PCB to help the PCB designer get the board design right the first time.

Examples of this are differential pair definitions and length matching rules for DDR memory routing. Created design rules drive the routing and layout, saving time and also providing guidance for the PCB designer from the schematic (ie. the engineer). Users benefit by reducing the number of possible errors and helping identify existing errors, for example, collision errors with an enclosure. Users will experience fewer errors and find them quicker leading to a reduction in time to market and reducing manufacturing and respin costs.





# **Electrical Rule Checks**

The Electrical Rule Checks (ERC) in schematic alert the engineer to problems in the design. While Design Rule Checks help the PCB designer correctly layout the board and meet manufacturing requirements, the Electrical Rule Check helps prevent the engineer from making design mistakes at engineering level.

For instance, connecting two output driving sources together will cause a rule violation and associated error message in the Messages Panel, so the engineer knows they've made an error that would cause an electrical fault in the finally assembled circuit. Users will experience fewer electrical errors and find them quicker leading to a reduction in time to market and reducing manufacturing and respin costs. ERC also reinforce the design will function correctly once manufactured.



Electrical Check Validation Report

# Design Reuse with Uniform, Defined Design Materials

Templates create uniform design units to keep design information organized. The design units range from primitives as small as pads, to full project types to act as a common baseline for all new design materials.

Snippets are saved pieces of circuitry on a schematic and PCB level that can be used on any design to leverage common circuitry.

Device sheets allow users to create known-good circuitry blocks for reuse across designs. They differ from snippets by increased complexity and predefined interconnection to other parts of the design. For example, a power supply system that has a defined output of 5 Volts to power another circuit on the design.

Users save time on the Schematic and PCB side by allowing the circuit layout and routing to be reused. When a change is made, it can be made to the base logical chunk and the results will propagate through the design. Overall users minimizes work and potential rework and increase design integrity by reusing blocks reducing time to market and minimizing errors.



