



OrCAD Engineering Data Management (EDM)

Managing design data for the OrCAD workgroup

OrCAD® Engineering Data Management (EDM) is a comprehensive collaboration and management environment for the OrCAD Capture PCB schematic design solution. Fully integrated within the OrCAD Capture environment, OrCAD EDM lets your engineering design team take advantage of the time-to-market benefits gained from effective design data management. The solution also eliminates the challenges associated with managing design files across multiple users.

Overview

A collaborative design environment encourages design reuse, promotes best practices, and, most importantly, reduces development time by eliminating errors and keeping all stakeholders on the same page throughout the design process. However, there are many challenges to collaborative design. Tracking updates and status across multiple projects to determine who made what changes, where, and when, often devolves into a tangled mess of email chains and disparate meeting notes leading to confusion, miscommunication, and errors.

Data integrity also becomes a significant challenge as multiple engineers begin accessing, editing, and commenting on the same files. Files are accidentally overwritten or users begin managing multiple, separate versions of files on their local machines without any communication as to who is changing what, leading to even more errors and unexpected design changes downstream.

OrCAD EDM provides a full set of capabilities to ensure that data integrity and project status is managed throughout the schematic design process. It combines an easy-to-use, intuitive interface with robust data management capabilities that allow engineers to work efficiently as a group, ensuring that data integrity is always maintained.

Highlights

- Includes a fully integrated project dashboard, which significantly reduces time to market and eliminates risks associated with managing multiple projects concurrently
- Allows users to build a fully traceable audit trail as an inherent part of the design process to avoid errors and duplication of effort
- Facilitates IP reuse by providing access and controlled views into current and previous design projects

Key Features

Project dashboard

OrCAD EDM delivers a powerful dashboard into all projects occurring within the team or larger organization. Users can see what projects are being worked on and who is working on them, all from within the OrCAD Capture canvas. OrCAD EDM makes it easy to stay up to date and to avoid costly communication errors.

Real-time traceability and communication

Every page download, update, or name change is tagged and stored, giving the design team full visibility into what changed, who changed it, and why. At any time, managers, users, or other interested parties can get a real-time snapshot into the status of a project.

Full version history

OrCAD EDM maintains a complete version history of each uploaded change on a page and project level. These previous versions are stored and are easily accessible in the OrCAD EDM

project tree. Maintaining this complete version history makes it very easy to roll back to a previous version or compare changes should the need arise.

Controlled release management

Coupled with all the powerful work-in-progress management capabilities, OrCAD EDM also provides mechanisms to freeze designs when they reach a finished state. This maintains the design as a single file going forward, and ensures that any changes or updates will be made on the entire project.

Project coordination

OrCAD EDM provides a centralized location to view, manage, and assign schematic pages and projects to your engineers. Project leads can assign content at the individual page level. They can also assign based on functional sections, so users can add pages as needed. All updates and changes are tracked and managed through the intuitive OrCAD EDM interface, integrated directly inside OrCAD Capture.

Page locking

Along with assigning pages for specific user access, OrCAD EDM will automatically lock out pages that are currently being edited by a user. Other users can still access those pages in "read-only" mode, which ensures that data integrity is maintained. Once a user checks a page back in, the lock is removed and other users can then access the latest iteration of the page for editing. Project administrators can also force a page unlock at any time should a user forget to check a page back in.

Library management

Along with tracking changes to projects and schematic pages, OrCAD EDM also enables editing and tracking of individual schematic symbols within your OrCAD Capture libraries. This makes it easy for design teams to ensure they are using the latest symbols in their designs.

Facilitate IP reuse

OrCAD EDM stores all your projects, active or archived, making it easy for engineers to search for and reuse IP from previous designs on their current one. Since the files in OrCAD EDM are fully managed, engineers can grab IP with confidence, knowing they are reusing fully tested and approved design elements

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