



# **PADS 9.3.1 Release Highlights**

June 2011

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## Introduction

Once again, the PADS® user community has been very active submitting product improvement suggestions on the Mentor® Ideas website. Several enhancements for PADS 9.3.1 came directly from these suggestions. Many thanks to all those who posted ideas, voted on others' ideas, and added comments or suggestions to help other users. Your feedback gave the PADS team a clear idea of what was important to you.

## New Features

The following new features are available in this release:

- **Archive Navigator**

This new utility provides a quick and easy method of automatically creating and restoring archives of the PADS projects, including DxDesigner® and PADS Layout.

Archives will be stored in a local vault and properties such as archive name, when and who created the archive, along with a user defined name and description will assist when using integrated searching capabilities to identify and restore the required archive.

- **Allegro to PADS Layout Import**

PADS Layout can now import Cadence Allegro boards after initial preparation in Allegro. Once a Skill script is run in Allegro, the design can be brought seamlessly into PADS

- **Updated Altium Design to PADS Layout Import**

PADS Layout import of Altium Designer now supports Summer 08 files (v7.1) and older.

- **Modeless Properties Dialogs in PADS Logic (Mentor Idea D113, D239)**

Additional Property dialog boxes (Part, Net, Net Name, Bus, Bus Name, and Pin) are now modeless. These dialog boxes can now remain open, and you can select other objects in the design. When the object is selected, the dialog box will automatically update.

- **Join, Close and Break Commands for 2D Lines and Copper (Mentor Idea D329)**

New commands were added to PADS Layout in the popup menu for selected 2D Lines and Copper shapes.

Join – creates an opened polyline (path) from selected lines.

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Close – create closed shape (polygon) from selected lines.

Break – splits selected closed drawings into set of opened lines.

Note: There are several conditions when these commands cannot succeed – for example, the selection contains reuse members or shapes located on different layers or the command result is ambiguous from geometrical point of view. In such cases an appropriate message with details is displayed in the Status Window.

- **Synchronize Library List Between PADS Logic and PADS Layout (Mentor Idea D149)**

A new checkbox “Synchronize with PADS Layout” was added to Library List dialog box in PADS Logic. A similar “Synchronize with PADS Logic” was added to Library List dialog in PADS Layout. When this checkbox is selected, all changes made to Library List in one application are immediately written to the other application’s settings. Library List settings are stored separately in .ini files for both applications as previously, so you can easily decide if and when you want to have them synchronized.

- **Autohatch Copper on File Load (Mentor Idea D424)**

The new checkbox “Autohatch on file load” was added to “Hatch and Flood” options in PADS Layout. When this checkbox is selected every design is automatically hatched when opened. The result is the same as the Hatch All command from Pour Manager.

- **Options Dialog Box Redesign**

The Options dialogs in PADS Layout, Logic and Router were redesigned to use trees instead of tabs. In PADS Layout and Router, the tree is organized in categories for better orientation and options grouping. Content of tabs which were overloaded in previous versions of PADS was divided into fewer elements on the new option tree.

- **Visual Style Selection in Customization**

A new option, “Visual Style” was added to the Options tab in Customize dialog in PADS Layout, Logic and Router. This option allows the selection of a visual style (color and menus style) for the main application window from a list of several available styles.

- **PADS Applications Are Now DPI Aware**

With increased text size in system settings, all fonts and dialog boxes are correctly scaled and displayed according to system settings.

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## Authorization Codes

No changes to authorization codes (license file) are required for this release. However, the exact access date has increased to 2011.05. For more information about the exact access date, please see the following SupportNet page:

[http://supportnet.mentor.com/about/other-info/exact\\_access.cfm](http://supportnet.mentor.com/about/other-info/exact_access.cfm)

You can download a current copy of your authorization codes from the following SupportNet page:

<http://supportnet.mentor.com/myaccount/index.cfm?fa=user.authCodeForm>

You may request your existing or updated authorization codes by opening a non-technical Service Request on SupportNet:

<http://supportnet.mentor.com/>

For additional information on licensing, refer to the *Licensing Mentor Graphics Software* manual.

## Installation Information

PADS 9.3.1 is a completely separate installation from previous PADS releases and uses new installation methods to create an easier installation experience. Database and ASCII formats for Layout and Router designs have not changed. The PADS library format has not changed. PADS Logic ASCII and database format are the same as PADS 9.x. The Installation path for PADS 9.3.1 is still C:\MentorGraphics, but installs using a new folder to prevent overwriting an existing software installation. While PADS 9.3.1 installs the unique C:\MentorGraphics\9.3.1PADS folder and does not overwrite previous PADS installations, you should back up your existing PADS installation, designs and libraries prior to installing PADS 9.3.1. If you have been part of the PADS 9.3.1 beta program uninstall beta software before installing the released version of PADS 9.3.1.

For additional information on installation, refer to:

- *PADS Installation Instructions* (PADS\_9.3.1\_install.pdf), available from the release\_documents directory at the top level of the DVD or download image.
- *Managing Mentor Graphics Systems Software* (manage\_sw\_pads.pdf) manual, available from the release\_documents directory at the top level of the DVD or download image.
- Help system within the installation software.

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## Support Information

If you have questions about this software release, please log in to SupportNet. You may search thousands of technical solutions, view documentation, or open a Service Request online at:

<http://supportnet.mentor.com/>

If your site is under current support and you do not have a SupportNet login, you may easily register for SupportNet by filling out the short form at:

<http://supportnet.mentor.com/user/register.cfm>

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