



PADS 9.3 Release Highlights

January 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 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:

- **LP Wizard**

Modified courtyard round off to the “Place Round” value unless that value is greater than 0.1 mm if units are millimeters or microns, or 4 mils if units are mils or inches.

- **ECAD/MCAD Collaborator**

Collaboration between Electronic CAD and Mechanical CAD is greatly simplified by sharing XML data between the two systems while allowing ECAD and MCAD users to view data in their own tool environment. Changes suggested by engineers on either system can be viewed and either approved or rejected in both systems.

Using the ECAD-MCAD Collaborator not only makes information sharing much easier, but also ensures more accurate communication and quicker product development.

The ECAD/MCAD Collaborator uses the new ProSTEP standard to allow a new level of collaboration between the mechanical and electrical CAD groups. Currently, ProEngineer also supports this standard.

ECAD/MCAD Collaborator is an additional option, contact your sales person for more information.

- **Improved 3D Viewer**

The 3D Viewer is enhanced to support the ECAD/MCAD Collaborator. Operations on components are shown dynamically in both PADS Layout and the Collaborator. You now also have the option to see more detail (traces, vias, coppers) in static mode.

- **Create Arcs for Differential Pairs**

The ability to add arcs to differential pairs during interactive routing is added to PADS Router. This is supported when the diff pair is routed in “join” mode, and in “route separately”. The behavior is similar to the Add Arc functionality of the single net interactive routing.

- **Import Expedition Databases into PADS Layout**

The Import feature within PADS Layout is updated to support Expedition PCB databases.

- **LP Wizard and Associated Libraries Included on PADS Installation**

The PADS Installation media now includes the LP Wizard (separately licensed product). In addition over 11,500 decals created by the LP Wizard are now available in PADS format.

Note: LP Wizard requires .NET 2.0 to be installed to allow proper operation. If you install LP Wizard and it does not start correctly install the .NET 2.0 framework from the Microsoft website: <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/en/details.aspx?FamilyID=0856each-4362-4b0d-8edd-aab15c5e04f5&displaylang=en>

The components from EE7.9.1 such as DxDesigner are included in the PADS 9.3 release.

For a detailed list of new features, see the *PADS 9.3 Release Notes* on the SupportNet download page.

Authorization Codes

No changes to authorization codes (license file) are required for this release. However, the exact access date has increased to 2010.12. For more information about the exact access date, please see the following SupportNet page:

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 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 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 is still C:\MentorGraphics, but installs using a new folder to prevent overwriting an existing software installation. While PADS 9.3 installs the unique C:\MentorGraphics\9.3PADS 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. If you have been part of the PADS 9.3 beta program uninstall beta software before installing the released version of PADS 9.3.

For additional information on installation, refer to:

- *PADS Installation Instructions* (PADS_9.3_install.pdf), available from the Readme in the installer or at the top level of the DVD.
- *Managing Mentor Graphics PCB Systems Software* (manage_sw_pads.pdf) manual, available from the Readme in the installer or at the top level of the DVD.
- Help system within the installation software.

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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