

Vivado Design Suite

Logic Simulation

UG900 (v2013.3) October 23, 2013



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Revision History

The following table shows the revision history for this document.

Date	Version	Revision
10/23/2013	2013.3	<p>Corrected description of Using Xilinx Simulation Libraries, page 13.</p> <p>Added Encrypted Component Files, page 15 Added table of UNISIM Component Files in Table 2-4, page 15.</p> <p>Added content to XILINXCORELIB Library, page 17.</p> <p>Removed Cadence from Special Considerations for Using SECUREIP Libraries, page 18.</p> <p>Changed <code>compile_simlib</code> description.</p> <p>Added Compiling Simulation Libraries, page 23.</p> <p>In Chapter 2, added section Understanding the Simulator Language Option, page 24.</p> <p>Added Querying Third Party Library Information, page 24.</p> <p>Added Querying Third Party Library Information, page 24 and Recommended Simulation Resolution, page 27.</p> <p>Added Recommended Simulation Resolution, page 27.</p> <p>Expanded the content of Creating and Using Multiple Waveform Configurations, page 54 to contain references to other information regarding waveform windows.</p> <p>Added Viewing Simulation Messages, page 62.</p> <p>Expanded content in Adding Conditions and Outputting Diagnostic Messages for Debugging, page 114 to Chapter 6, Debugging a Design with Vivado Simulator.</p> <p>Added note that log all signals slows simulation and increases the size of waveform database under descriptions after Figure 7-5, page 126.</p> <p>Made corrections and added enhancements to Chapter 8, Simulating with Cadence Incisive Enterprise Simulator (IES) and Chapter 9, Simulating with Synopsys VCS.</p> <p>Added Using A Customized do File during Modelsim Run, page 130.</p> <p>Changed Important note in Running Timing Simulation QuestaSim/ModelSim, page 132.</p> <p>Added Appendix C, Vivado Simulator Quick Reference Guide.</p>

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Logic Simulation Overview

Introduction

Simulation is a process of emulating the real design behavior in a software environment. Simulation helps verify the functionality of a design by injecting stimulus and observing the design outputs.

This chapter provides an overview of the simulation process, and the simulation options in the Vivado® Design Suite. The Vivado® Integrated Design Environment (IDE) provides an integrated simulation environment when using the Vivado simulator.

For more information about the Vivado IDE and the Vivado Design Suite flow, see:

- *Vivado Design Suite User Guide: Using the Vivado IDE* (UG893) [[Ref 2](#)]
 - *Vivado Design Suite User Guide: Design Flows Overview* (UG892) [[Ref 9](#)]
-

Simulation Flow

Simulation can be applied at several points in the design flow. It is one of the first steps after design entry and one of the last steps after implementation as part of the verifying the end functionality and performance of the design.

Simulation is an iterative process and is typically repeated until both the design functionality and timing requirements are satisfied.

The following figure illustrates the simulation flow for a typical design:

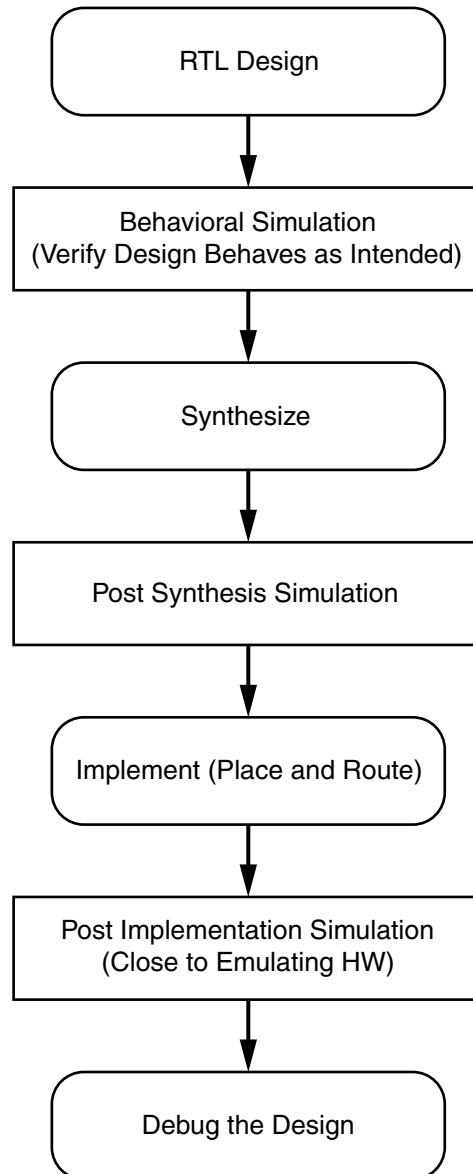


Figure 1-1: Simulation Flow

Behavioral Simulation at the Register Transfer Level

Register Transfer Level (RTL), behavioral simulation can include:

- RTL Code
- Instantiated UNISIM library components
- Instantiated UNIMACRO components
- UNISIM gate-level model (for the Vivado logic analyzer)
- SECUREIP Library

RTL-level simulation lets you simulate and verify your design prior to any translation made by synthesis or implementation tools. You can verify your designs as a module or an entity, a block, a device, or at system level.

RTL simulation is typically performed to verify code syntax, and to confirm that the code is functioning as intended. In this step the design is primarily described in RTL and, consequently, no timing information is required.

RTL simulation is not architecture-specific unless the design contains an instantiated library component. To support instantiation, Xilinx provides the `UNISIM` and `XILINXCORELIB` libraries.

When you verify your design at the behavioral RTL you can fix design issues earlier and save design cycles.



TIP: You might find it necessary to instantiate components if the RTL is described in where the Vivado synthesis cannot infer a library component.

Keeping the initial design creation limited to behavioral code allows for:

- More readable code
- Faster and simpler simulation
- Code portability (the ability to migrate to different device families)
- Code reuse (the ability to use the same code in future designs)

Post-Synthesis Simulation

You can simulate a synthesized netlist to verify the synthesized design meets the functional requirements and behaves as expected. Although it is not typical, you can perform timing simulation with estimated timing numbers at this simulation point.

The functional simulation netlist is a hierarchical, folded netlist expanded to the primitive module and entity level; the lowest level of hierarchy consists of primitives and macro primitives.

These primitives are contained in the `UNISIMS_VER` library for Verilog, and the `UNISIM` library for VHDL. See [UNISIM Library, page 15](#) for more information.

Post-Implementation Simulation

You can perform functional or timing simulation after implementation. Timing simulation is the closest emulation to actually downloading a design to a device. It allows you to ensure that the implemented design meets functional and timing requirements and has the expected behavior in the device.



IMPORTANT: *Performing a thorough timing simulation ensures that the completed design is free of defects that could otherwise be missed, such as:*

- *Post-synthesis and post-implementation functionality changes that are caused by:*
 - *Synthesis properties or constraints that create mismatches (such as `full_case` and `parallel_case`)*
 - *UNISIM properties applied in the Xilinx Design Constraints (XDC) file*
 - *The interpretation of language during simulation by different simulators*
 - *Dual port RAM collisions*
 - *Missing, or improperly applied timing constraints*
 - *Operation of asynchronous paths*
 - *Functional issues due to optimization techniques*
-

Supported Simulators

Vivado supports the following simulators:

- Vivado simulator: Integrated in the Vivado IDE See [Chapter 3, Using the Vivado Simulator from Vivado IDE](#).
- Mentor Graphics QuestaSim/ModelSim: Integrated in the Vivado IDE. See [Chapter 7, Simulating with QuestaSim/ModelSim](#).
- Cadence Incisive Enterprise Simulator (IES). See [Chapter 8, Simulating with Cadence Incisive Enterprise Simulator \(IES\)](#).
- Synopsys VCS and VCS MX. See [Chapter 9, Simulating with Synopsys VCS](#).
- Aldec Active-HDL and Rivera-PRO*.

Note: Aldec offers support for Aldec simulators.

See [Chapter 7, Simulating with QuestaSim/ModelSim](#) for more information about third party simulators

See the *Vivado Design Suite User Guide: Release Notes, Installation, and Licensing* (UG973) [[Ref 1](#)] for the supported version of third party simulators.

Language Support

The following languages are supported in the Vivado simulator:

- VHDL IEEE-STD-1076-1993
- Verilog IEEE-STD-1364-2001
- Standard Delay Format (SDF) version 2.1

Encryption Support

Xilinx supports IEEE-P1735 encryption.

OS Support and Release Changes

The *Vivado Design Suite User Guide: Release Notes, Installation, and Licensing* (UG973) [Ref 1] provides information about the most recent release changes, operating systems support and licensing requirements.

Understanding Simulation Components in Vivado

Introduction

This chapter describes the components that you need when you simulate a Xilinx® FPGA in the Vivado® Integrated Design Environment (IDE).

Note: Simulation libraries are precompiled in the Vivado® Design Suite for use with the Vivado simulator. You must compile libraries when using third party simulators.

The process of simulation includes:

- Creating a test bench that reflects the simulation actions you want to run
- Selecting and declaring the libraries you need to use
- Compiling your libraries (if using a third party simulator)
- Writing a netlist (if performing post-synthesis or post-implementation simulation)
- Understanding the use of global reset and 3-state in Xilinx devices

Using Test Benches and Stimulus Files

A test bench is Hardware Description Language (HDL) code written for the simulator that:

- Instantiates and initializes the design
- Generates and applies stimulus to the design
- Optionally, monitors the design output result and checks for functional correctness

You can also set up the test bench to display the simulation output to a file, a waveform, or to a display screen. A test bench can be simple in structure and can sequentially apply stimulus to specific inputs.

A test bench can also be complex, and can include:

- Subroutine calls
- Stimulus that is read in from external files
- Conditional stimulus
- Other more complex structures

The advantages of a test bench over interactive simulation are that it:

- Allows repeatable simulation throughout the design process
- Provides documentation of the test conditions

The following bullets are recommendations for creating an effective test bench.

- Always specify the ``timescale` in Verilog test bench files.
- Initialize all inputs to the design within the test bench at simulation time zero to properly begin simulation with known values.
- Apply stimulus data after `100ns` to account for the default Global Set/Reset (GSR) pulse used in functional and timing-based simulation.
- Begin the clock source before the Global Set/Reset (GSR) is released. For more information, see [Using Global Reset and 3-State, page 30](#).

For more information about test benches, see *Writing Efficient Test Benches (XAPP199)* [Ref 4].



TIP: When you create a test bench, remember that the GSR pulse occurs automatically in the post-synthesis and post-implementation timing simulation. This holds all registers in reset for the first 100 ns of the simulation.

Using Xilinx Simulation Libraries

You can use Xilinx simulation libraries with any simulator that supports the VHDL-93 and Verilog-2001 language standards. Certain delay and modeling information is built into the libraries; this is required to simulate the Xilinx hardware devices correctly.

Do not change data signals at clock edges, even for functional simulation. The simulators add a unit delay between the signals that change at the same simulator time.

If the data changes at the same time as a clock, it is possible that the data input will be scheduled by the simulator to occur after the clock edge. The data will not go through until the next clock edge, although it is possible that the intent was to have the data clocked in before the first clock edge.



RECOMMENDED: *To avoid such unintended simulation results, do not switch data signals and clock signals simultaneously.*

When you instantiate a component in your design, the simulator must reference a library that describes the functionality of the component to ensure proper simulation. The Xilinx libraries are divided into categories based on the function of the model.

Table 2-1 lists the Xilinx-provided simulation libraries:

Table 2-1: Simulation Libraries

Library Name	Description	VHDL Library Name	Verilog Library Name
UNISIM	Functional simulation of Xilinx primitives.	UNISIM	UNISIMS_VER
UNIMACRO	Functional simulation of Xilinx macros.	UNIMACRO	UNIMACRO_VER
UNIFAST	Fast simulation library.	UNIFAST	UNIFAST_VER
XILINXCORELIB ⁽¹⁾	Functional simulation of Xilinx cores.	XILINXCORELIB	XILINXCORELIB_VER
SIMPRIMS	Timing simulation of Xilinx primitives.	N/A	SIMPRIMS_VER ⁽²⁾
SECUREIP	Simulation library for both functional and timing simulation of Xilinx device features, such as the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCIe[®] IP • Gigabit Transceiver 	SECUREIP	SECUREIP

Notes:

1. `compile_simlib` compiles only Xilinx primitives and legacy ISE Design Suite Xilinx cores. Simulation models of Xilinx Vivado IP cores are delivered as an output product when the IP is generated; consequently they are not included in the pre-compiled libraries created using `compile_simlib`.
2. The `SIMPRIMS_VER` is the logical library name to which the Verilog `SIMPRIM` is mapped.

It is important to note the following:

- You must specify different simulation libraries according to the simulation points.
- There are different gate-level cells in pre- and post-implementation netlists.

Table 2-2 lists the required simulation libraries at each simulation point.

Table 2-2: Simulation Points and Relevant Libraries

	UNISIM	UNIFAST	UNIMACRO	XILINXCORELIB Models	SECUREIP	SIMPRIMS (Verilog Only)	SDF
1. Register Transfer Level (RTL) (Behavioral)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	No
2. Post-Synthesis Simulation (Functional)	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes	No	No
3. Post-Synthesis Simulation (Timing)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
4. Post-Implementation Simulation (Functional)	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A
5. Post-Implementation Simulation (Timing)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes



IMPORTANT: The Vivado simulator uses precompiled simulation device libraries. When updates to libraries are installed the precompiled libraries are automatically updated.

Note: Verilog SIMPRIMS_VER uses the same source as UNISIM with the addition of specify blocks for timing annotation. This is enabled by ``ifdef XIL_TIMING` in UNISIM source code. SIMPRIMS_VER is the logical library name to which the Verilog SIMPRIMS is mapped.

Table 2-3 lists the library locations.

Table 2-3: Simulation Library Locations

Library	HDL Type	Location
UNISIM	Verilog	<Vivado_Install_Dir>/data/verilog/src/unisims
	VHDL	<Vivado_Install_Dir>/data/vhdl/src/unisims
UNIFAST	Verilog	<Vivado_Install_Dir>/data/verilog/src/unifast
	VHDL	<Xilinx_Install_Dir>/data/vhdl/src/unifast
UNIMACRO	Verilog	<Vivado_Install_Dir>/data/verilog/src/unimacro
	VHDL	<Vivado_Install_Dir>/data/vhdl/src/unimacro
SECUREIP	Verilog	<Vivado_Install_Dir>/data/secureip/secureip_cell.list.f.

The following subsections describe the libraries in more detail.

UNISIM Library

Functional simulation uses the UNISIM library during functional simulation and contains descriptions for device primitives or lowest-level building blocks.



IMPORTANT: *Xilinx Vivado tools deliver IP simulation models as an output products when you generate the IP; consequently, they are not included in the precompiled libraries when you use the `compile_simlib` command.*

Encrypted Component Files

Table 2-4 lists the UNISIM library component files that let you call precompiled, encrypted library files when you include IP in a design. Include the path you require in your library search path. See [Method 1: Using Library or File Compile Order \(Recommended\)](#), page 21 for more information.

Table 2-4: Component Files

Component File	Description
<Vivado_Install_Dir>/data/verilog/src/unisim_retarget_comp.vp	Encrypted Verilog file
<Vivado_Install_Dir>/data/vhdl/src/unisims/unisim_retarget_VCOMP.vhdp	Encrypted VHDL file.

VHDL UNISIM Library

The VHDL UNISIM library is divided into the following files, which specify the primitives for the Xilinx device families:

- The component declarations (`unisim_VCOMP.vhdp`)
- Package files (`unisim_VPKG.vhd`)

To use these primitives, place the following two lines at the beginning of each file:

```
library UNISIM;
use UNISIM.Vcomponents.all;
```



IMPORTANT: *You must also compile the library and map the library to the simulator. The method depends on the simulator.*

Note: For Vivado simulator, the library compilation and mapping is an integrated feature.

Verilog UNISIM Library

For Verilog, specify each library component in a separate file. This allows the Verilog `-y` library specification switch to perform automatic library expansion.

Specify Verilog module names and file names in uppercase.

For example:

- Module BUFG is BUFG.v
- Module IBUF is IBUF.v

See [Using Verilog UNIFAST Library, page 21](#) and [Chapter 7, Simulating with QuestaSim/ModelSim](#) for examples that use the `-y` switch.

Note: Verilog is case-sensitive, ensure that UNISIM primitive instantiations adhere to an uppercase naming convention.

If you use precompiled libraries, use the correct simulator command-line switch to point to the precompiled libraries. The following is an example for the Vivado simulator:

```
-L unisims_ver
```

UNIMACRO Library

The UNIMACRO library is used during functional simulation and contains macro descriptions for selective device primitives. You must specify the UNIMACRO library anytime you include a device macro listed in the *Vivado Design Suite 7 Series FPGA and Zynq-7000 All Programmable SoC Libraries Guide* (UG953) [Ref 5].

VHDL UNIMACRO Library

Add the following library declaration to the top of your HDL file:

```
library UNIMACRO;  
use UNIMACRO.Vcomponents.all;
```

Verilog UNIMACRO Library

For Verilog, specify each library component in a separate file. This allows automatic library expansion using the `-y` library specification switch.



IMPORTANT: Verilog module names and file names are uppercase. For example, module BUFG is BUFG.v, and module IBUF is IBUF.v. Ensure that UNISIM primitive instantiations adhere to an uppercase naming convention.

You must also compile and map the library: the method you use depends on the simulator you choose.

XILINXCORELIB Library

Use XILINXCORELIB during RTL behavioral simulation for designs that contain older versions of the Xilinx IP (ISE® Design Suite 14.x). See the IP data sheet or product guide to determine what library is appropriate.



IMPORTANT: *The `compile_simlib` option compiles only Xilinx primitives and legacy ISE Design Suite Xilinx cores. Simulation models of Xilinx Vivado IP cores are delivered as an output product when the IP is generated; consequently they are not included in the pre-compiled libraries created using `compile_simlib`.*

SIMPRIMS Library

Use the SIMPRIMS library for simulating timing simulation netlists produced after synthesis or implementation.



IMPORTANT: *Timing simulation is supported on Verilog only; there is no VHDL version of the SIMPRIMS library.*

Specify this library as follows:

```
-L SIMPRIMS_VER
```

Where:

- `-L` is the library specification command.
- `SIMPRIMS_VER` is the logical library name to which the Verilog SIMPRIM has been mapped.

SECUREIP Simulation Library

Use the SECUREIP library for functional and timing simulation of complex FPGA components, such as GT.

Note: Secure IP Blocks are fully supported in the Vivado simulator without additional setup.

Xilinx leverages the encryption methodology as specified in the IEEE-P1735 standard. The library compilation process automatically handles encryption.

Note: See the simulator documentation for the command line switch to use with your simulator to specify libraries.

Table 2-5 lists special considerations that must be arranged with your simulator vendor for using these libraries.

Table 2-5: Special Considerations for Using SECUREIP Libraries

Simulator Name	Vendor	Requirements
ModelSim SE	Mentor Graphics	If design entry is in VHDL, a mixed language license or a SECUREIP OP is required. Contact the vendor for more information.
ModelSim PE		
ModelSim DE		
QuestaSim		
VCS and VCS MX	Synopsys	
Active-HDL	Aldec	If design entry is VHDL only, a SECUREIP language-neutral license is required. Contact the vendor for more information.
Riviera-PRO*		



IMPORTANT: 7 series device designs require an IEEE-P1735 encryption-compliant simulator. Supported simulators are listed in “Supported Simulators” on page 9.

VHDL SECUREIP Library

The UNISIM library contains the wrappers for VHDL SECUREIP. Place the following two lines at the beginning of each file so that the simulator can bind to the entity:

```
Library UNISIM;
use UNISIM.vcomponents.all;
```

Verilog SECUREIP Library

When running a simulation using Verilog code, you must reference the SECUREIP library. For most simulators.

If you use the precompiled libraries, use the correct directive to point to the precompiled libraries. The following is an example for the Vivado simulator:

```
-L SECUREIP
```

You can use the Verilog SECUREIP library at compile time by using `-f` switch. The file list is available in the `<Vivado_Install_Dir>/data/secureip/secureip_cell.list.f`.

UNIFAST Library

The UNIFAST library is an optional library that can be used during RTL behavioral simulation to speed up simulation runtime.



IMPORTANT: *This model cannot be used for timing-driven simulations.*



RECOMMENDED: *Xilinx recommends using the UNIFAST library for initial verification of the design and then running a complete verification using the UNISIM library.*

The simulation runtime speed-up is achieved by supporting a subset of the primitive features in the simulation mode.

Note: The simulation models check for unsupported attribute values only.

MMCME2

To reduce the simulation runtimes, the fast MMCME2 simulation model has the following changes from the full model:

1. The fast simulation model just has basic clock generation function. All other functions; such as DRP, fine phase shifting, clock stopped, and clock cascade are not supported.
2. It assumes that input clock is stable without frequency and phase change. The input clock frequency sample stops after LOCKED high.
3. The output clock frequency, phase, duty cycle, and other features are directly calculated from input clock frequency and parameter settings.

Note: The output clock frequency is not generated from input-to-VCO clock, then VCO-to-output clocks.

4. The LOCKED assert times are different between the standard and the fast MMCME2 simulation model.
 - Standard Model depends on the M the D setting, for large M and D values, the lock time is relatively long for standard MMCME2 simulation model.
 - In fast simulation model, this time is shortened.

RAMB18E1/RAMB36E1

To reduce the simulation runtimes, the fast block RAM simulation model has the following features disabled compared to the full model:

- Error Correction Code (ECC)
- Collision checks
- Cascade mode

FIFO18E1/FIFO36E1

To reduce the simulation runtimes, the fast FIFO simulation model has the following features removed from the full model:

- ECC
- Design Rules Check (DRC) for `RESET` and `almostempty` and `almostfull` offset
- Output padding – `x` for data out, `1` for counters
- First word fall-through
- `almostempty` and `almostfull` flags

DSP48E1

To reduce the simulation runtimes, the fast DSP48E1 simulation model has the following features removed from the full model.

- Pattern Detection
- OverFlow/UnderFlow
- DRP interface support

GTHE2_CHANNEL/GTHE2_COMMON

To reduce the simulation runtimes, the fast GTHE2 simulation model has the following feature differences:

- GTH links must be of synchronous with no Parts Per Million (PPM) rate differences between the near and far end link partners.
- Latency through the GTH is not modeled as accurate.

GTXE2_CHANNEL/GTXE2_COMMON

To reduce the simulation runtimes, the fast GTXE2 simulation model has the following feature differences:

- GTX links must be of synchronous with no Parts Per Million (PPM) rate differences between the near and far end link partners.
- Latency through the GTX is not modeled as accurate.

Using Verilog UNIFAST Library

There are two methods of simulating with the UNIFAST models.

- Method 1 is the recommended method whereby you simulate with all the UNIFAST models.
- Method 2 is for more advanced users to determine which modules to use with the UNIFAST models.

The following subsections describe these simulation methods.

Method 1: Using Library or File Compile Order (Recommended)

To enable UNIFAST support in a Vivado project environment for the Vivado simulator or ModelSim, check the **Enable fast simulation models** box, as shown in [Figure 2-1](#).

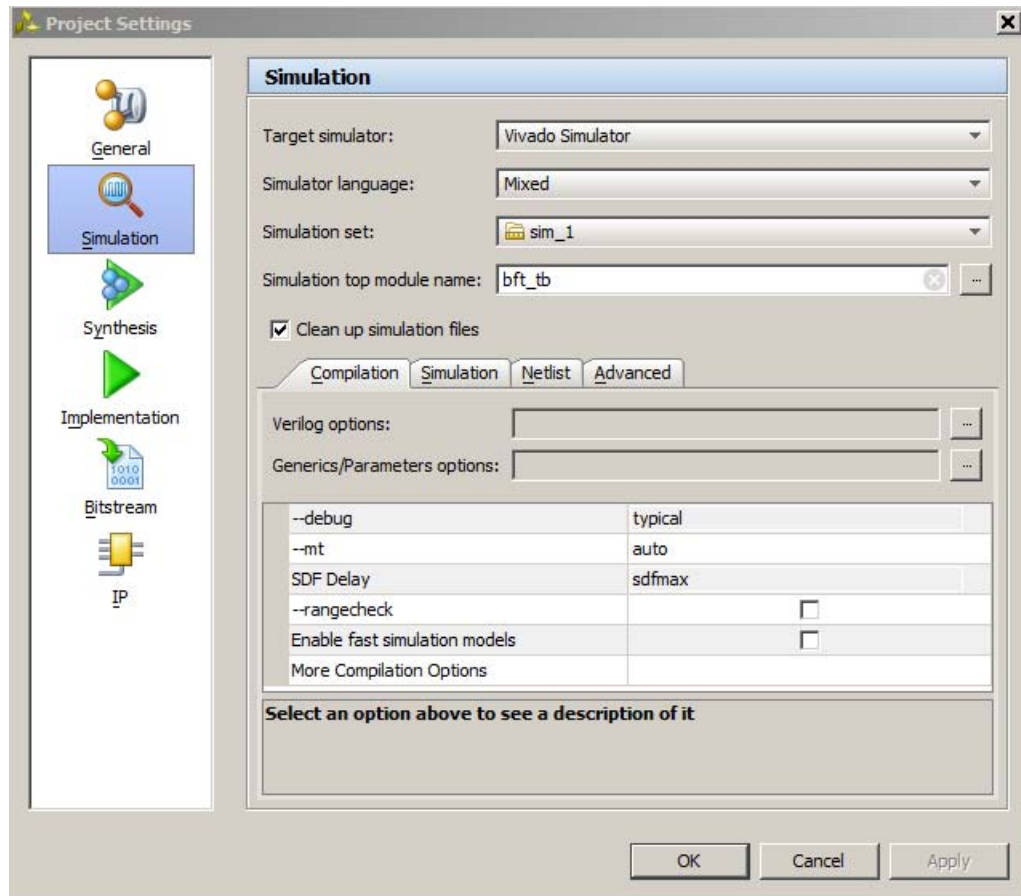


Figure 2-1: Simulation Settings: Compilation

See the [Encrypted Component Files, page 15](#) for more information regarding component files.

For IES and VCS simulators, point to the UNIFAST library using:

```
-y ../verilog/src/unifast
```

For more information, see the third party simulation user guide.

Method 2: Configurations in Verilog

In Method 2, specify the following in a `config.v` file.

- The name of the top-level module or configuration: (for example: `config cfg_xilinx;`)
- The name to which the design configuration applies: (for example: `design testbench;`)
- The library search order for cells or instances that are not explicitly called out: (for example: `default liblist unisims_ver unifast_ver;`)
- The map for a particular CELL or INSTANCE to a particular library.

(For example: `instance testbench.inst.01 use unifast_ver.MMCME2;`)

Note: For ModelSim (vsim) only - `genblk` gets added to hierarchy name. For example: `instance testbench.genblk1.inst.genblk1.01 use unifast_ver.MMCME2;` - VSIM)

Example config.v

```
config cfg_xilinx;
design testbench;
default liblist unisims_ver unifast_ver;
//Use fast MMCM for all MMCM blocks in design
cell MMCME2 use unifast_ver.MMCME2;
//use fast dS048E1 for only this specific instance in the design
instance testbench.inst.01 use unifast_ver.DSP48E1;
//If using ModelSim or Questa, add in the genblk to the name
(instance testbench.genblk1.inst.genblk1.01 use unifast_ver.DSP48E1)
endconfig
```

Using VHDL UNIFAST Library

The VHDL UNIFAST library has the same basic structure as Verilog and can be used with architectures or libraries. You can include the library in the test bench file. The following example uses a *drill-down* hierarchy with a `for` call:

```
library unisim;
library unifast;
configuration cfg_xilinx of testbench
```

```
is for xilinx
.. for inst:netlist
. . . use entity work.netlist(inst);
.....for inst
.....for all:MMCME2
.....use entity unifact.MMCME2;
.....end for;
.....for O1 inst:DSP48E1;
.....use entity unifact.DSP48E1;
.....end for;
...end for;
..end for;
end for;
end cfg_xilinx;
```

Compiling Simulation Libraries



IMPORTANT: *Because the Vivado simulator has precompiled libraries, it is not necessary for you to identify the library locations.*

Before you can simulate your design, you must compile the applicable libraries and map them to the simulator. Before you can simulate your design using a third party simulation tool, you must compile the physical libraries and map the logical library names to the physical libraries.

Xilinx provides the `compile_simlib` Tcl command to automate that task. This Tcl command provides many options including: target simulation tool, language, architecture, and more. For complete details on this command, please see the *Vivado Design Suite Tcl Command Reference Guide* (UG835) [Ref 6] or use `-help` on the Tcl command line.

To compile Xilinx HDL-based simulation libraries for third party simulation vendors, use:

- **Tcl Command:** `compile_simlib`

Examples of `compile_simlib` include:

- **Tcl Command:** `compile_simlib -help`
- **Tcl Command:**

```
compile_simlib -simulator modelsim -arch all -language all
```

Libraries are typically compiled (or recompiled) anytime a new simulator version is installed, when you update to a new version of the Vivado IDE, or when any library source files are modified (either by you or by a software patch).

Querying Third Party Library Information

The `config_compile_simlib` Tcl command lets you display the configurations for a specified simulator.

- **Tcl Command:**

```
config_compile_simlib [-simulator <arg>] [-reset] [-quiet] [-verbose]
```

Where:

- `-simulator <arg>`: Is the name of the simulator whose configuration you want
- `-reset`: Lets you reset all previous configurations for the specified simulator
- `-quiet`: Executes the command without any display to the Tcl Console.
- `-verbose`: Executes the command with all command output to the Tcl Console.

For example, to change the option used to compile the UNISIM VHDL library, type:

- **Tcl Command:**

```
config_compile_simlib {cxl.modelsim.vhdl.unisim:-source -93 -novopt}
```



IMPORTANT: *The `compile_simlib` option compiles only Xilinx primitives and legacy ISE® Design Suite Xilinx cores. Simulation models of Xilinx Vivado IP cores are delivered as an output product when the IP is generated; consequently they are not included in the pre-compiled libraries created using `compile_simlib`.*

Understanding the Simulator Language Option

Most Xilinx IP deliver behavioral simulation models for a single language only, effectively disabling simulation for language-locked simulators if you are not licensed for the appropriate language. The `simulator_language` property ensures that an IP delivers a simulation model for any given language.

The Vivado Design Suite ensures the availability of a simulation model by using the available synthesis files of an IP to generate a language-specific structural simulation model on demand. For cases in which a behavioral model is missing or does not match the licensed simulation language, the Vivado tools automatically generate a structural simulation model to enable simulation. Otherwise, the existing behavioral simulation model for the IP will be used. If no synthesis or simulation files exist, simulation is not supported.

Note: The `simulator_language` property will not be able to deliver netlist simulation files if the Generated Synthesized Checkpoint (.dcp) option is unchecked when generating IP output products (see figure).

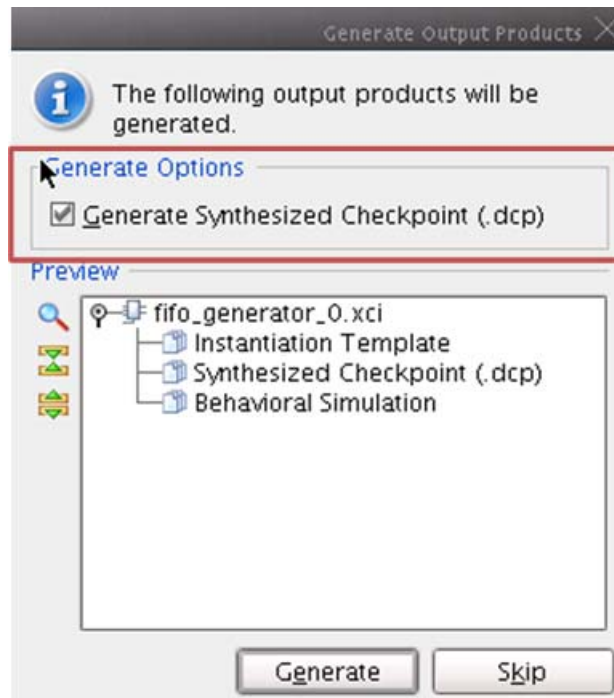


Figure 2-2: Dialog Box Showing Generate Synthesized Checkpoint (.dcp) Option

The table below illustrates the function of the `simulator_language` property.

Table 2-6: Function of `simulator_language` Property

IP Delivered Simulation Model	<code>simulator_language</code> Value	Simulation Model Used
IP delivers VHDL and Verilog behavioral model	Mixed	Behavioral model (<code>target_language</code>)
	Verilog	Verilog behavioral model
	VHDL	VHDL behavioral model
IP delivers Verilog behavioral model only	Mixed	Verilog behavioral model
	Verilog	Verilog behavioral model
	VHDL	Verilog simulation netlist generated from DCP
IP delivers VHDL behavioral model only	Mixed	VHDL behavioral model
	Verilog	Verilog simulation netlist generated from DCP
	VHDL	VHDL behavioral model
IP delivers no behavioral models	Mixed, Verilog, VHDL	Netlist generated from DCP (<code>target_language</code>)

Notes:

- Where available, Behavioral Simulation will always take precedence and be advertised over Structural Simulation. You will not be offered a choice of simulation model.
- The `target_language` property is used when either language could be used for simulation
TCL: `set_property target_language VHDL [current_project]`

Using the export_simulation Command

The `export_simulation` command lets you generate a standalone run file for IES and VCS.

The command exports a script and any associated data files for driving standalone simulation using the specified simulator.

When you run this command on the Vivado Tcl Console, ensure that switches are specified in the following order:

```
export_simulation -of_objects <arg> -lib_map_path <arg>  
-script_name <arg> [-absolute_path] [-32bit] [-force] -directory <arg>  
-simulator <arg> [-quiet] [-verbose]
```

The command returns: `true (0)` if successful; otherwise `false (1)`

Where:

- `-of_objects`: Provides an export simulation script for the specified object.
- `-lib_map_path`: Is the precompiled simulation library directory path. If not specified, then please follow the instructions in the generated script header to manually provide the simulation library mapping information
- `-script_name`: Is the output shell script filename. If not specified, then file with a default name will be created with the `.sh` extension.
- `[-absolute_path]`: Makes all file paths absolute with regards to the reference directory. the Default is 0.
- `[-32bit]`: Performs 32-bit compilation, The default is 0.
- `[-force]`: Overwrites previous files. The default is 0.
- `-directory`: Directory to export the simulation script.
- `-simulator`: Simulator for which to create the simulation script (`<name>`: `ies|vcs_mx`).
- `[-quiet]`: Ignores command errors.
- `[-verbose]`: Suspends message limits during command execution.

Examples:

The following command generates a simulation script file in the current directory for the IES simulator. The source file paths in the generated script are relative to the current directory:

```
export_simulation -simulator ies -directory "."
```

The following command generates a script file `accum_0_sim_ies.sh` for the `accum_0` IP in the specified output directory for the IES simulator:

```
export_simulation -of_objects [get_files accum_0.xci] -simulator ies  
-directory "test_sim"
```

The following command generates a script file `accum_0_sim_vcs_mx.sh` for the `accum_0` IP in the specified output directory for the `VCS_MX` simulator:

```
export_simulation -of_objects [get_ips accum_0] -simulator vcs_mx  
-directory "test_sim"
```

The following command includes `/sim_libs/ius/lin64/lib/cds.lib` file path in the `./test_sim/cds.lib` file ("`INCLUDE /sim_libs/ius/lin64/lib/cds.lib`") for referencing the compiled libraries for IES simulator:-

```
export_simulation -lib_map_path "/sim_libs/ius/lin64/lib" -simulator  
ies -directory "test_sim"
```

Recommended Simulation Resolution

Xilinx recommends that you run simulations using a resolution of 1ps. Some Xilinx primitive components, such as `MMCM`, require a 1ps resolution to work properly in either functional or timing simulation.

There is no simulator performance gain by using coarser resolution with the Xilinx simulation models. Because much simulation time is spent in delta cycles, and delta cycles are not affected by simulator resolution, no significant simulation performance can be obtained.



IMPORTANT: *Picosecond is used as the minimum resolution because all testing equipment can measure timing only to the nearest picosecond resolution.*

Generating a Netlist

To run simulation of a synthesized or implemented design run the netlist generation process. The netlist generation Tcl commands can take a synthesized or implemented design database and write out a single netlist for the entire design.

Netlist generation Tcl commands can write SDF and the design netlist. The Vivado® Design Suite provides the following:

- **Tcl Commands:**
 - `write_verilog`: Verilog netlist
 - `write_vhdl`: VHDL netlist
 - `write_sdf`: SDF generation

These commands can generate functional and timing simulation netlists at any point in the design process.



TIP: *The SDF values are only estimates early in the design process (for example, during synthesis) As the design process progresses, the accuracy of the timing numbers also progress when there is more information available in the database.*

Generating a Functional Netlist

The Vivado Design Suite supports writing out a Verilog or VHDL structural netlist for functional simulation. The purpose of this netlist is to run simulation (without timing) to check that the behavior of the structural netlist matches the expected behavioral model (RTL) simulation.

The functional simulation netlist is a hierarchical, folded netlist that is expanded to the primitive module or entity level; the lowest level of hierarchy consists of primitives and macro primitives.

These primitives are contained in the following libraries:

- UNISIMS_VER simulation library for Verilog simulation
- UNISIMS simulation library for VHDL simulation

In many cases, you can use the same test bench that you used for behavioral simulation to perform a more accurate simulation.

The following is the Verilog and VHDL syntax for generating a functional simulation netlist:

- **Tcl Command:** `write_verilog -mode funcsim <Verilog_Netlist_Name.v>`
- **Tcl Command:** `write_vhdl -mode funcsim <VHDL_Netlist_Name.vhd>`

Generating a Timing Netlist

You can use a Verilog timing simulation to verify circuit operation after you have calculated the worst-case placed and routed delays.

In many cases, you can use the same testbench that you used for functional simulation to perform a more accurate simulation.

Compare the results from the two simulations to verify that your design is performing as initially specified.

There are two steps to generating a timing simulation netlist:

1. Generate a netlist file of the design.
2. Generate a delay file with all the timing delays annotated



IMPORTANT: *Vivado IDE supports Verilog timing simulation only.*

The following is the syntax for generating a timing simulation netlist:

- **Tcl Command:**

```
write_verilog -mode timesim -sdf_anno true <Verilog_Netlist_Name>
```

Annotating the SDF File

Based on the specified process corner, the SDF file has different `min` and `max` numbers. Xilinx recommends running *two separate simulations* to check for setup and hold violations.

To run a setup check, create an SDF with `-process corner slow`, and use the `max` column from the SDF.

To get full coverage run all four timing simulations, specify as follows:

- Slow corner: `SDFMIN` and `SDFMAX`
- Fast corner: `SDFMIN` and `SDFMAX`

Using Global Reset and 3-State

Xilinx® devices have dedicated routing and circuitry that connect to every register in the device.

Global Set and Reset Net

When you assert the dedicated Global Set/Reset (GSR) net, that net is released during configuration immediately after the device is configured. All the flip-flops and latches receive this reset, and are either set or reset, depending on how the registers are defined.

Although you can access the GSR net after configuration, Xilinx does not recommend using the GSR circuitry in place of a manual reset. This is because the FPGA devices offer high-speed backbone routing for high fanout signals such as a system reset. This backbone route is faster than the dedicated GSR circuitry, and is easier to analyze than the dedicated global routing that transports the GSR signal.

In post-synthesis and post-implementation simulations, the GSR signal is automatically pulsed for the first 100 ns to simulate the reset that occurs after configuration.

A GSR pulse can optionally be supplied in pre-synthesis functional simulations, but is not necessary if the design has a local reset that resets all registers.



TIP: When you create a test bench, remember that the GSR pulse occurs automatically in the post-synthesis and post-implementation simulation. This holds all registers in reset for the first 100 ns of the simulation.

Global 3-State Net

In addition to the dedicated global GSR, output buffers are set to a high impedance state during configuration mode with the dedicated Global 3-state (GTS) net. All general-purpose outputs are affected whether they are regular, 3-state, or bidirectional outputs during normal operation. This ensures that the outputs do not erroneously drive other devices as the FPGA device is configured.

In simulation, the GTS signal is usually not driven. The circuitry for driving GTS is available in the post-synthesis and post-implementation simulations and can be optionally added for the pre-synthesis functional simulation, but the GTS pulse width is set to 0 by default.

Using Global 3-State and Global Set and Reset Signals

Figure 2-3 shows how Global 3-State (GTS) and Global Set/Reset (GSR) signals are used in an FPGA device.

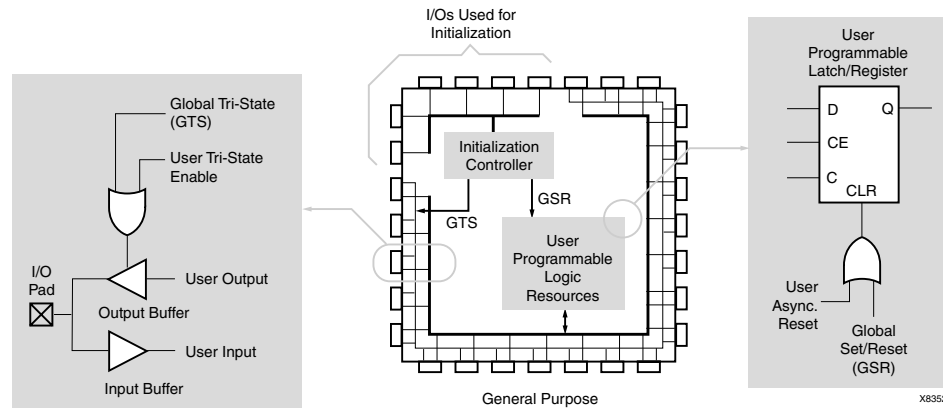


Figure 2-3: Built-in FPGA Initialization Circuitry Diagram

Global Set and Reset and Global 3-State Signals in Verilog

The GSR and GTS signals are defined in the `<Vivado_Install_Dir>/data/verilog/src/glbl.v` module.

In most cases, GSR and GTS need not be defined in the test bench.

The `glbl.v` file declares the global GSR and GTS signals and automatically pulses GSR for 100 ns.

Global Set and Reset and Global 3-State Signals in VHDL

The GSR and GTS signals are defined in the `<Vivado_Install_Dir>/data/vhdl/src/UNISIM/primitive/GLBL_VHD` file.

To use this component you must instantiate it into the test bench.

The `GLBL_VHD` component declares the global GSR and GTS signals and automatically pulses GSR for 100 ns.

The following code snippet shows an example of instantiating the `GLBL_VHD` in the testbench and changing the pulse of the `Reset` on Configuration to 90 ns:

```
GLBL_VHD inst:GLBL_VHD generic map (ROC_WIDTH => 90000);
```

Delta Cycles and Race Conditions

This user guide describes event-based simulators. Event-based simulators can process multiple events at a given simulation time. While these events are being processed, the simulator cannot advance the simulation time. This time is commonly referred to as *delta cycles*. There can be multiple delta cycles in a given simulation time.

Simulation time is advanced only when there are no more transactions to process. For this reason, simulators can give unexpected results. The following VHDL coding example shows how an unexpected result can occur.

VHDL Coding Example With Unexpected Results

```
clk_b <= clk;
clk_prcs : process (clk)
begin
  if (clk'event and clk='1') then
    result <= data;
  end if;
end process;

clk_b_prcs : process (clk_b)
begin
  if (clk_b'event and clk_b='1') then
    result1 <= result;
  end if;
end process;
```

In this example, there are two synchronous processes:

- `clk_prcs`
- `clk_b_prcs`

The simulator performs the `clk_b <= clk` assignment before advancing the simulation time. As a result, events that should occur in two clock edges occur in one clock edge instead, causing a race condition.

Recommended ways to introduce causality in simulators for such cases include:

- Do not change clock and data at the same time. Insert a delay at every output.
- Use the same clock.
- Force a delta delay by using a temporary signal, as shown in the following example:

```
clk_b <= clk;
clk_prcs : process (clk)
begin
  if (clk'event and clk='1') then
    result <= data;
```

```
    end if;
end process;

result_temp <= result;
clk_b_prcs : process (clk_b)
begin
if (clk_b'event and clk_b='1') then
    result1 <= result_temp;
    end if;
end process;
```

Most event-based simulator can display delta cycles. Use this to your advantage when debugging simulation issues.

Using the ASYNC_REG Constraint

The ASYNC_REG constraint:

- Identifies asynchronous registers in the design
- Disables X propagation for those registers

The ASYNC_REG constraint can be attached to a register in the front-end design by using either:

- An attribute in the HDL code
- A constraint in the Xilinx Design Constraints (XDC)

The registers to which ASYNC_REG are attached retain the previous value during timing simulation, and do not output an X to simulation. Use care; a new value might have been clocked in as well.

The ASYNC_REG constraint is applicable to CLB and Input Output Block (IOB) registers and latches only.



RECOMMENDED: *If you cannot avoid clocking in asynchronous data, Xilinx recommends that you do so for IOB or CLB registers only. Clocking in asynchronous signals to RAM, Shift Register LUT (SRL), or other synchronous elements has less deterministic results; therefore, should be avoided. Xilinx highly recommends that you first properly synchronize any asynchronous signal in a register, latch, or FIFO before writing to a RAM, Shift Register LUT (SRL), or any other synchronous element. For more information, see the Vivado Design Suite User Guide: Using Constraints (UG903) [Ref 7].*

Disabling X Propagation for Synchronous Elements

When a timing violation occurs during a timing simulation, the default behavior of a latch, register, RAM, or other synchronous elements is to output an X to the simulator. This occurs because the actual output value is not known. The output of the register could:

- Retain its previous value
- Update to the new value
- Go metastable, in which a definite value is not settled upon until some time after the clocking of the synchronous element

Because this value cannot be determined, and accurate simulation results cannot be guaranteed, the element outputs an X to represent an unknown value. The X output remains until the next clock cycle in which the next clocked value updates the output if another violation does not occur.

The presence of an X output can significantly affect simulation. For example, an X generated by one register can be propagated to others on subsequent clock cycles. This can cause large portions of the design under test to become unknown.

Correcting X-Generation

To correct X-generation:

- On a synchronous path, analyze the path and fix any timing problems associated with this or other paths to ensure a properly operating circuit.
- On an asynchronous path, if you cannot otherwise avoid timing violations, disable the X propagation on synchronous elements during timing violations by the method described in [Using the ASYNC_REG Constraint, page 33](#).

When X propagation is disabled, the previous value is retained at the output of the register. In the actual silicon, the register might have changed to the 'new' value. Disabling X propagation might yield simulation results that do not match the silicon behavior.



CAUTION! Exercise care when using this option. Use it only if you cannot otherwise avoid timing violations.

Simulating Configuration Interfaces

This section describes the simulation of the following configuration interfaces:

- JTAG simulation
- SelectMAP simulation

JTAG Simulation

BSCAN component simulation is supported on all devices.

The simulation supports the interaction of the JTAG ports and some of the JTAG operation commands. The JTAG interface, including interface to the scan chain, is not fully supported. To simulate this interface:

1. Instantiate the `BSCANE2` component and connect it to the design.
2. Instantiate the `JTAG_SIME2` component into the testbench (not the design).

This becomes:

- The interface to the external JTAG signals (such as TDI, TDO, and TCK)
- The communication channel to the `BSCAN` component

The communication between the components takes place in the `VPKG` VHDL package file or the `glbl` Verilog global module. Accordingly, no implicit connections are necessary between the specific `JTAG_SIME2` component and the design, or the specific `BSCANE2` symbol.

Stimulus can be driven and viewed from the specific `JTAG_SIME2` component within the testbench to understand the operation of the JTAG/BSCAN function. Instantiation templates for both of these components are available in both the Vivado Design Suite templates and the specific-device libraries guides.

SelectMAP Simulation

The configuration simulation model (`SIM_CONFIGE2`) with an instantiation template allows supported configuration interfaces to be simulated to ultimately show the `DONE` pin going high. This is a model of how the supported devices react to stimulus on the supported configuration interface.

Table 2-7 lists the supported interfaces and devices.

Table 2-7: Supported Configuration Devices and Modes

Devices	SelectMAP	Serial	SPI	BPI
7 Series [®] and Zynq-7000 [®] AP SoC Devices	Yes	Yes	No	No

The model handles control signal activity as well as bit file downloading. Internal register settings such as the `CRC`, `IDCODE`, and status registers are included. You can monitor the Sync Word as it enters the device and the start up sequence as it progresses. Figure 2-4, page 36 illustrates how the system should map from the hardware to the simulation environment.

The configuration process is specifically outlined in the configuration user guides for each device. These guides contain information on the configuration sequence as well as the configuration interfaces.

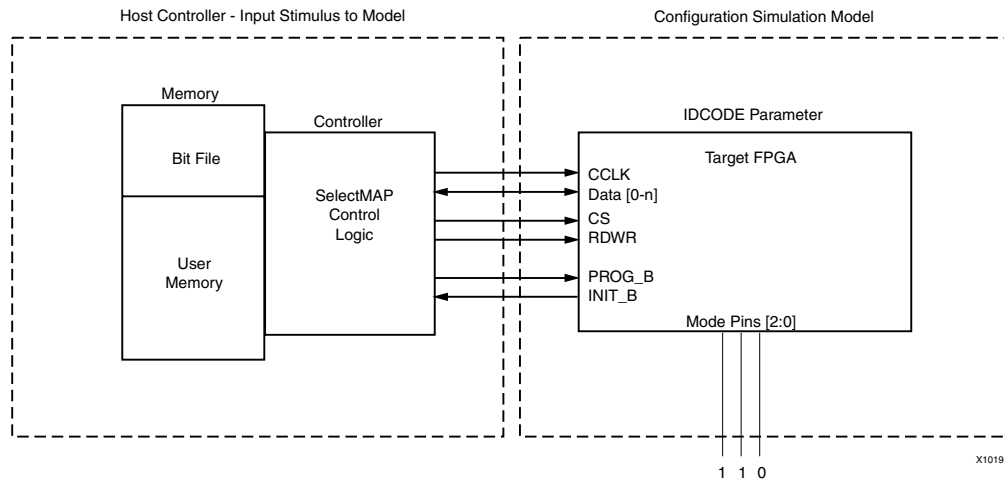


Figure 2-4: Block Diagram of Model Interaction

System Level Description

The SIM_CONFIG2 model allows the configuration interface control logic to be tested before the hardware is available. It simulates the entire device, and is used at a system level for:

- Applications using a processor to control the configuration logic to ensure proper wiring, control signal handling, and data input alignment.
- Applications that control the data loading process with the CS (SelectMAP Chip Select) or CLK signal to ensure proper data alignment.
- Systems that need to perform a SelectMAP ABORT or Readback.

The zip file associated with this model is located at:

http://www.xilinx.com/txpatches/pub/documentation/misc/config_test_bench.zip

The zip file has sample testbenches that simulate a processor running the SelectMAP logic. These testbenches have control logic to emulate a processor controlling the SelectMAP interface, and include features such as a full configuration, ABORT, and Readback of the IDCODE and Status Registers.

The simulated host system must have a method for file delivery as well as control signal management. These control systems should be designed as set forth in the device configuration user guides.

The SIM_CONFIG2 model also demonstrates what is occurring inside of the device during the configuration procedure when a bit file is loaded into the device.

During the BIT file download, the model processes each command and changing registers setting that mirror the hardware changes.

You can monitor the CRC register can be monitored as it actively accumulates a CRC value. The model also shows the Status Register bits being set as the device progresses through the different states of configuration.

Debugging with the Model

The `SIM_CONFIGE2` model provides an example of a correct configuration. You can leverage this example to assist in the debug procedure if you encounter issues.

You can read the Status Register through JTAG using the iMPACT tool. This register contains information relating to the current status of the device and is a useful debugging resource. If you encounter issues on the board, reading the Status Register in iMPACT is one of the first debugging steps to take.

After the status register is read, you can map it to the simulation to pinpoint the configuration stage of the device.

For example, the `GHIGH` bit is set after the data load; if this bit is not set, then data loading did not complete. You can also monitor the `GTW`, `GWE`, and `DONE` signals set in BitGen that are released in the start up sequence.

The `SIM_CONFIGE2` model also allows for error injection. The active CRC logic detects any issue if the data load is paused and started again with any problems. It also detects Bit flips manually inserted in the BIT file, and handles them just as the device would handle this error.

Feature Support

Each device-specific configuration user guide outlines the supported methods of interacting with each configuration interface. [Table 2-8, page 38](#) shows which features discussed in the configuration user guides are supported.

The `SIM_CONFIGE2` model:

- Does not support Readback of configuration data.
- Does not store configuration data provided, although it does calculate a CRC value.
- Can perform Readback on specific registers only to ensure that a valid command sequence and signal handling is provided to the device.
- Is not intended to allow Readback data files to be produced.

Table 2-8: Model-Supported Slave SelectMAP and Serial Features

Slave SelectMAP and Serial Features	Supported
Master mode	No
Daisy chain - slave parallel daisy chains	No
SelectMAP data loading	Yes
Continuous SelectMAP data loading	Yes
Non-continuous SelectMAP data loading	Yes
SelectMAP ABORT	Yes
SelectMAP reconfiguration	No
SelectMAP data ordering	Yes
Reconfiguration and MultiBoot	No
Configuration CRC – CRC checking during configuration	Yes
Configuration CRC – post-configuration CRC	No

Disabling Block RAM Collision Checks for Simulation

Xilinx block RAM memory is a true dual-port RAM where both ports can access any memory location at any time. Be sure that the same address space is not accessed for reading and writing at the same time. This causes a block RAM address collision. These are valid collisions, because the data that is being read from the read port is not valid.

In the hardware, the value that is read might be the old data, the new data, or a combination of the old data and the new data.

In simulation, this is modeled by outputting X because the value read is unknown. For more information on block RAM collisions, see the user guide for the device.

In certain applications, this situation cannot be avoided or designed around. In these cases, the block RAM can be configured not to look for these violations. This is controlled by the generic (VHDL) or parameter (Verilog) `SIM_COLLISION_CHECK` in block RAM primitives.

Table 2-9 shows the string options you can use with `SIM_COLLISION_CHECK` to control simulation behavior in the event of a collision.

Table 2-9: `SIM_COLLISION_CHECK` Strings

String	Write Collision Messages	Write Xs on the Output
ALL	Yes	Yes
WARNING_ONLY	Yes	No. Applies only at the time of collision. Subsequent reads of the same address space could produce Xs on the output.
GENERATE_X_ONLY	No	Yes
None	No	No. Applies only at the time of collision. Subsequent reads of the same address space could produce Xs on the output.

Apply the `SIM_COLLISION_CHECK` at an instance level so you can change the setting for each block RAM instance.

Dumping the Switching Activity Interchange Format File for Power Analysis

The Switching Activity Interchange Format (SAIF) is an ASCII report that assists in extracting and storing switching activity information generated by simulator tools.

This switching activity can be back-annotated into the Xilinx power analysis and optimization tools for the power measurements and estimations.

See the information about the respective simulator for more detail:

- Vivado simulator: [Enable fast simulation models](#), page 46
- [Dumping SAIF in QuestaSim/ModelSim](#), page 133
- [Dumping SAIF for Power Analysis in EIS](#), page 141
- [Dumping SAIF for Power Analysis for VCS](#), page 148

Using the Vivado Simulator from Vivado IDE

Introduction

This chapter describes the Vivado® simulator features, which are available in the Vivado Integrated Design Environment (IDE), allowing you to do push-button waveform tracing and debug.

The Vivado simulator is a Hardware Description Language (HDL) event-driven simulator that supports functional and timing simulations for VHDL, Verilog, and mixed VHDL/Verilog designs.

See *Vivado Design Suite Tutorial: Logic Simulation* (UG937) [Ref 8] for a step-by-step demonstration of how to run Vivado simulation.


Vivado Simulator Features

The Vivado simulator supports the following features:

- Source code debugging
- SDF annotation
- VCD dumping
- SAIF dumping for power analysis and optimization
- Native support for HardIP blocks (such as serial transceivers and PCIe®)
- Multi-threaded compilation
- Mixed language (VHDL and Verilog) use
- Single-click simulation re-compile and re-launch
- One-click compilation and simulation
- Built-in support for Xilinx simulation libraries
- Real-time waveform update

Adding or Creating Simulation Source Files

To add simulation sources to a Vivado project:

1. Select **File > Add Sources**, or click the **Add Sources** button. 

The Add Sources wizard opens.

2. Select **Add or Create Simulation Sources**, and click **Next**.

The Add or Create Simulation Sources dialog box options are:




- **Specify Simulation Set:** Enter the name of the simulation set in which to store simulation sources (the default is `sim_1`, `sim_2`, and so forth).

You can select the **Create Simulation Set** command from the drop-down menu to define a new simulation set. When more than one simulation set is available, the Vivado simulator shows which simulation set is the *active* (currently used) set.

For a demonstration of this feature, see the Quick Take Video at <http://www.xilinx.com/training/vivado/index.htm>.

- **Add Files:** Invokes a file browser so you can select simulation source files to add to the project.
- **Add Directories:** Invokes directory browser to add all simulation source files from the selected directories. Files in the specified directory with valid source file extensions are added to the project.
- **Create File:** Invokes the **Create Source File** dialog box where you can create new simulation source files. See the *Vivado Design Vivado Design Suite User Guide: Using the Vivado IDE* (UG893) [Ref 2] for more information about project source files.

Buttons on the side of the dialog box let you do the following:

- **Remove:** Removes the selected source files from the list of files to be added. 
- **Move Selected File Up:** Moves the file up in the list order. 
- **Move Selected File Down:** Moves the file down in the list order. 

Checkboxes in the wizard provide the following options:

- **Scan and add RTL include files into project:** Scans the added RTL file and adds any referenced include files.
- **Copy sources into project:** Copies the original source files into the project and uses the local copied version of the file in the project.

If you selected to add directories of source files using the **Add Directories** command, the directory structure is maintained when the files are copied locally into the project.

- **Add sources from subdirectories:** Adds source files from the subdirectories of directories specified in the **Add Directories** option.
- **Include all design sources for simulation:** Includes all the design sources for simulation.

Working with Simulation Sets

The Vivado IDE stores simulation source files in simulation sets that display in folders in the Sources window, and are either remotely referenced or stored in the local project directory.

The simulation set lets you define different sources for different stages of the design. For example, there can be one test bench source to provide stimulus for behavioral simulation of the elaborated design or a module of the design, and a different test bench to provide stimulus for timing simulation of the implemented design.

When adding simulation sources to the project, you can specify which simulation source set to use.

To edit a simulation set:

1. In the Sources window popup menu, select **Simulation Sources > Edit Simulation Sets**, as shown in [Figure 3-1](#).

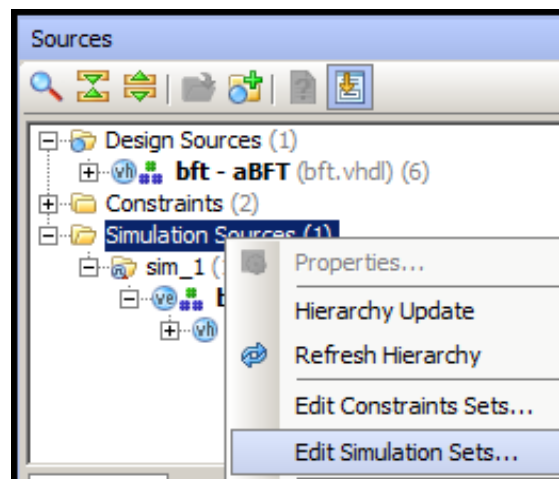


Figure 3-1: Edit Simulation Sets Option

The Add or Create Simulation Sources wizard opens.

2. From the Add or Create Simulation Sources wizard, select **Add Files**.

This adds the sources associated with the project to the newly-created simulation set.

3. Add additional files as needed.

The selected simulation set is used for the *active* Design run.

Using Simulation Settings

The **Flow Navigator > Simulation Settings** section lets you configure the simulation settings in Vivado IDE. The Flow Navigator Simulation section is shown in [Figure 3-2](#).

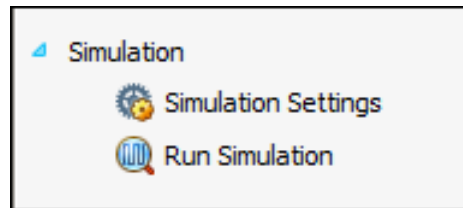


Figure 3-2: Flow Navigator Simulation Options

- **Simulation Settings:** Opens the Simulation Settings dialog box where you can select and configure the Vivado simulator.
- **Run Simulation:** Sets up the command options to compile, elaborate, and simulate the design based on the simulation settings, then launches the Vivado simulator. When you run simulation prior to synthesizing the design, the Vivado simulator runs a behavioral simulation, and opens a waveform window, (see [Figure 3-3, page 44](#)) that shows the HDL objects with the signal and bus values in either digital or analog form.

At each design step (both after you have successfully synthesized and after implementing the design) you can run a functional simulation and timing simulation.

To use the corresponding Tcl command, type:

- **Tcl Command:** `launch_xsim`



TIP: This command has a `-scripts_only` option that writes a script to run the Vivado simulator.

When you select **Simulation Settings**, the Project Settings dialog box opens, as shown in Figure 3-3.

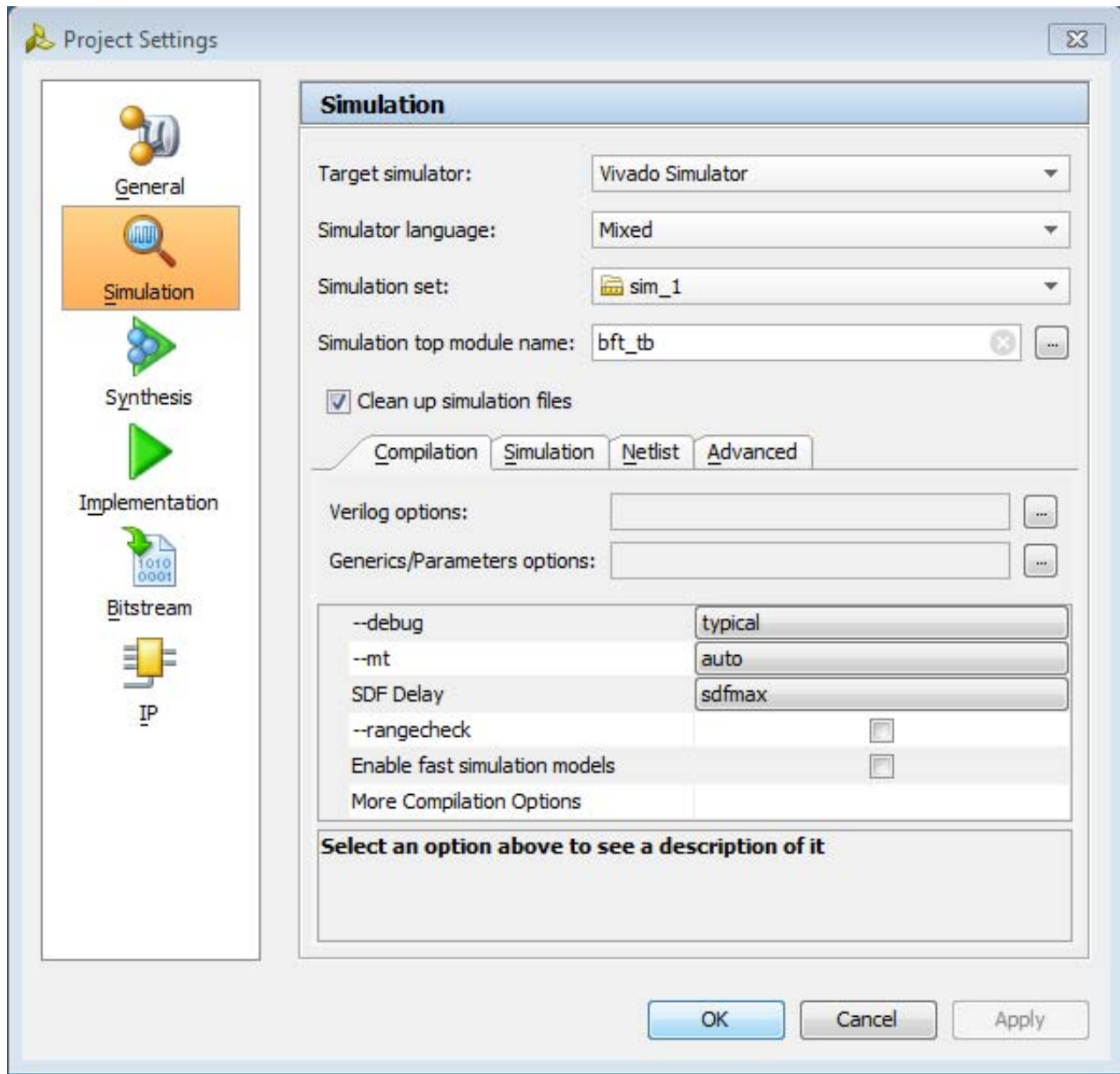


Figure 3-3: Simulation Settings Dialog Box



IMPORTANT: The compilation and simulation settings for a previously defined simulation set are not applied to a newly-defined simulation set.

The Project Setting dialog box contains the following options:

- **Target simulator:** Specifies the simulator to be launched for behavioral or timing simulation. The available options are:
 - **Vivado Simulator:** Specifies the target simulator is the Vivado simulator.



IMPORTANT: Because the Vivado simulator has precompiled libraries, it is not necessary for you to identify the library locations.

- **QuestaSim/ModelSim:** Specifies that QuestaSim/ModelSim is the target simulator.

See [Chapter 7, Simulating with QuestaSim/ModelSim](#) for third party simulation information.

- **Simulation language:** Options are **VHDL**, **Verilog**, or **Mixed**.

The Simulation selection options are:

- **Simulation set:** Select an existing simulation set or use the **Create simulation set** option, described in [Working with Simulation Sets, page 42](#).
- **Simulation top module name:** Set the simulation top module.
- **Compiled library location:** When you select **QuestaSim/ModelSim** as the **Target Simulator**, this field displays the precompiled library.
 - See the [Using Xilinx Simulation Libraries, page 13](#) for information about how to specify simulation libraries.
 - See [Chapter 7, Simulating with QuestaSim/ModelSim](#), for more information regarding QuestaSim/ModelSim.
- **Clean up simulation files:** Select this checkbox to remove simulation files that are not stored in the `/sim` directory.
- **Compilation View:** Provides browse and select options for frequently-used compilation options.
 - **Verilog options:** Select the version of Verilog code to use.
 - **Generics/Parameters options:** Select the required VHDL generics or Verilog parameters.
 - **Command options:**
 - `-debug`: Is set to `typical` by default for a faster simulation run. Other options are `off` and `all`. The `typical` setting includes `wave` and `line` options.
 - `-mt`: Is set to `auto` by default. This option lets you specify the number of sub-compilation job to run in parallel. When you select the option, a drop-down menu displays the following selections as shown in [Figure 3-4, page 46](#): `off`, `2`, `4`, `8`, `16`, and `32`.

You can also set the `-mt` level as follows:

 - **Tcl Command:** `set_property XELAB.MT_LEVEL off [get_filesets sim_1]`

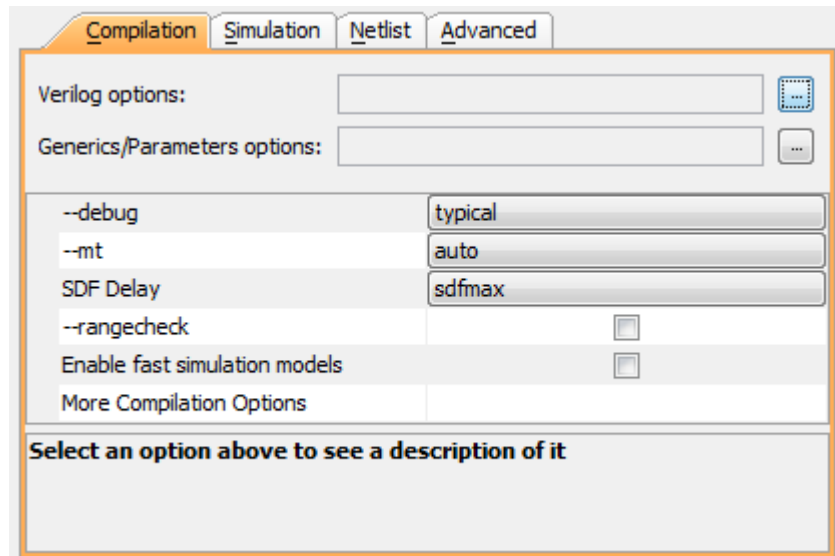


Figure 3-4: -mt Options in Simulation Settings: Compilation View

- **SDF Delay:**

Is set by default to `sdfmax`. this option lets you specify the SDF timing delay type to be read for use in timing simulation. You can optionally select `sdfmin` from the drop-down menu.

- **-rangecheck:**

This checkbox is unchecked by default for a faster simulation run. This option lets you enable or disable a runtime value range check for VHDL.

- **Enable fast simulation models:**

This checkbox is unchecked by default. The option, when checked, enables UNIFAST simulation libraries. See [UNIFAST Library, page 19](#) for more information regarding this library.

Figure 3-5 shows the Simulation view in the Simulation Settings dialog box.

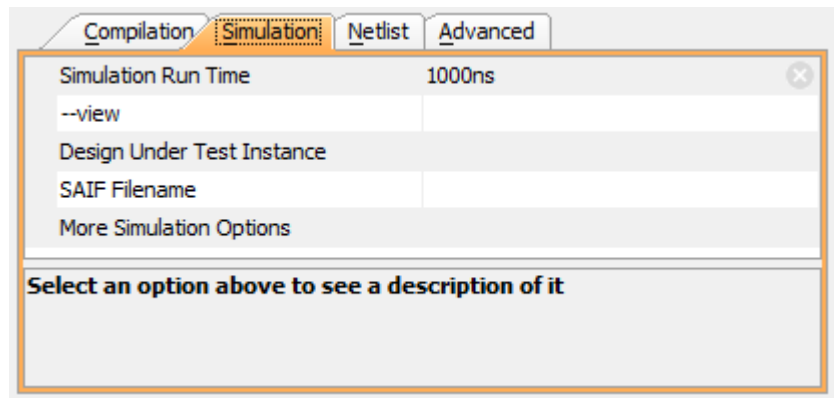


Figure 3-5: Simulation Settings: Simulation View

- **Simulation View:** Provides available simulation options. You can select an option to see a description. Select from the following options in the Simulation view:
 - **Simulation Run Time:** Specifies the amount of simulation time to run automatically when the simulation is launched. The default is 1000 ns.
 - `-view`: Lets you open a previously-saved wave configuration (WCFG) file. A wave configuration is a list of HDL objects to display in a waveform window.
 - **Design Under Test Instance:** Lets you specify the instance name of the design under test. The default is `/uut`.
 - **SAIF Filename:** Lets you specify an SAIF filename if one was created for power optimization and estimation (Timing simulation only).

When you select an option, a tool tip provides an option description.



TIP: You can save a WCFG file from an initial run with signals of interest in an analog or digital waveform with dividers and then have the GUI open the WCFG file using the `-view` option in later runs, which can save time on setting up simulation waveforms.

- **Netlist View:** Lists the simulation `write_verilog` netlist settings. Select an option to see its description. The netlist options are:
 - `-sdf_anno`: Checkbox enables SDF annotation.
 - `-process_corner`: Set by default to `slow`. The alternate option in the drop-down is `fast`.



TIP: Ensure that Vivado IDE timing simulation is run with the switches specified in the simulator settings dialog box to prevent pulse swallowing through the Interconnect.

Figure 3-6 shows the Simulation Settings dialog box Netlist view.

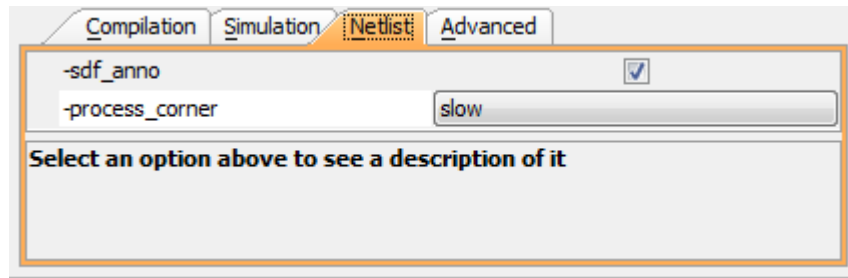


Figure 3-6: Simulation Settings: Netlist View

- **-sdf_anno:** checkbox is available to select the command
 - **Tcl Command:** `write_sdf -process_corner <fast|slow> test.sdf`
- **-process_corner:** You can specify the `-process_corner` as `fast` or `slow`.
- **Advanced View:** Shown in Figure 3-7, provides an option to include all design sources for simulation.
 - Unchecking the box gives you the flexibility to include only the files you want to simulate.
 - Checking the box includes Out-of-Context (OOC) IP, IP integrator files, and DSP in the simulation set.

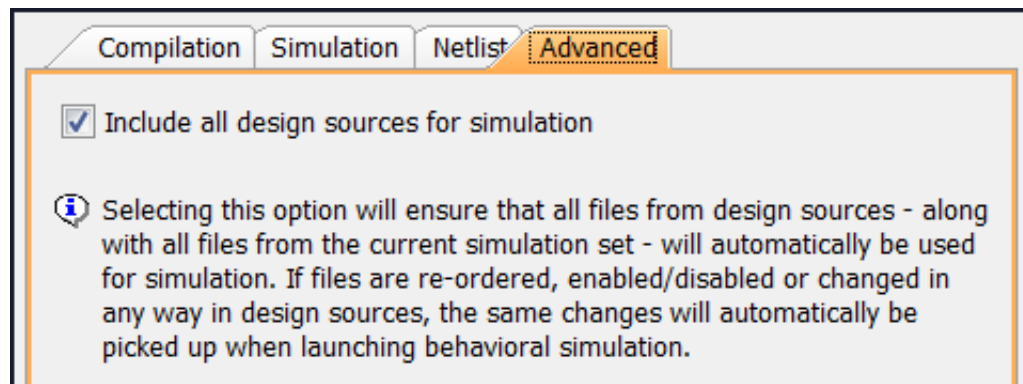


Figure 3-7: Advanced Simulation Settings View



CAUTION! Xilinx recommends that you leave this checkbox checked. This is an Advanced User feature. Unchecking the box could produce unexpected results.

Running the Vivado Simulator

From the Flow Navigator, select **Run Simulation** to display the Vivado simulator GUI, shown in Figure 3-8, page 49.

The main components of the Vivado simulator GUI are:

1. Main Toolbar
2. Run Menu
3. Objects Window
4. Simulation Toolbar
5. Wave Objects
6. Waveform Window
7. Scopes Window
8. Sources Window

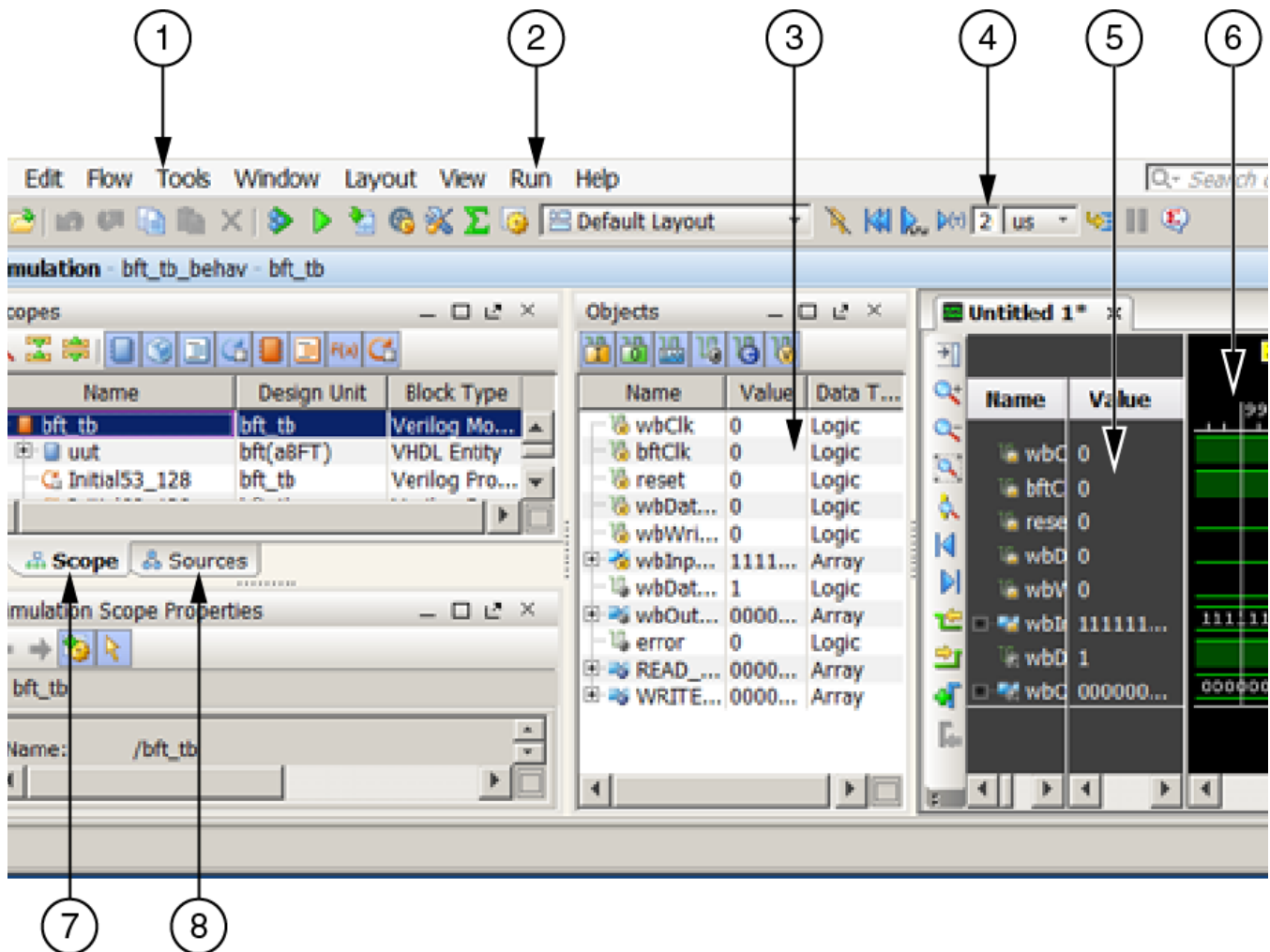


Figure 3-8: Vivado Simulator GUI

Main Toolbar

The main toolbar provides one-click access to the most commonly used commands in the Vivado IDE. When you hover over an option, a tool tip appears that provides more information.

Run Menu

The menus provide the same options as the Vivado IDE with the addition of a **Run** menu after you have run a simulation.

The **Run** menu for simulation is shown in [Figure 3-9](#).

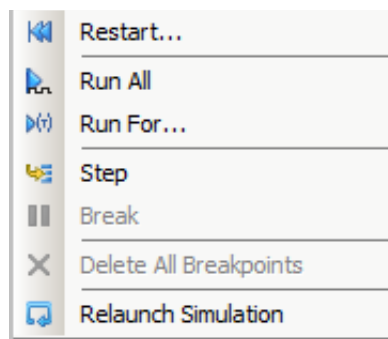


Figure 3-9: Simulation Run Menu Options

The Vivado simulator Run menu options are as follows:

- **Restart:** Lets you restart an existing simulation from 0.
 - **Tcl Command:** `restart`
- **Run All:** Lets you run an open simulation to completion.
 - **Tcl Command:** `run all`
- **Run For:** Lets you specify a time for the simulation to run.
 - **Tcl Command:** `run <time>`
- **Step:** Runs the simulation up to the next HDL source line.
 -
- **Break:** Lets you interrupt a running simulation.
- **Delete All Breakpoints:** Deletes all breakpoints.
- **Relaunch Simulation:** Recompiles the simulation files and relaunches the run.

Objects Window

The HDL Objects window displays the HDL objects in the design, as shown in [Figure 3-10](#).

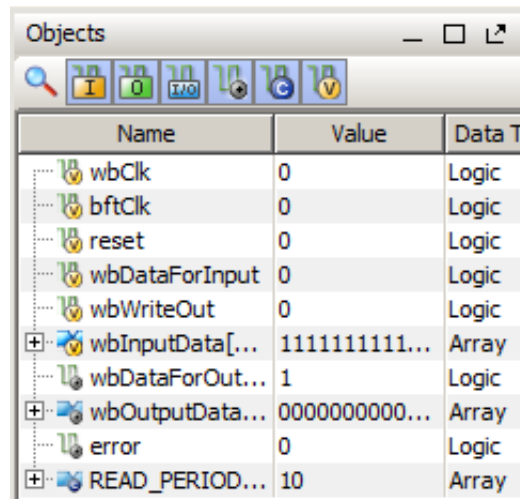


Figure 3-10: HDL Objects Window

Buttons beside the HDL objects show the language or process type. This view lists the **Name**, **Value** and **Block Type** of the simulation objects.

You can obtain the value of an object by typing the following in the Tcl Console.

- **Tcl Command:** `get_value <hdl_object>`

[Table 3-1](#) briefly describes the buttons at the top of the Objects window as follows:

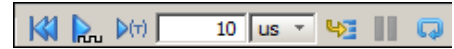
Table 3-1: HDL Object Buttons

Button	Description
	The Search button, when selected, opens a field in which you can enter an object name on which to search:
	Input signal.
	Output signal.
	Input/Output signal.
	Internal signal.
	Constant signal.
	Variable signal.

Also, you can hover over the **HDL Object** buttons for tool tip descriptions.

Simulation Toolbar

When you run the Vivado simulator, the simulation-specific toolbar opens along with the Vivado toolbars, and displays simulation-specific buttons for ease-of-use.



When you hover your mouse over the toolbar buttons, a tool tip describes the button function. The buttons are also labeled in [Figure 3-9, page 50](#).

Wave Objects

The Vivado IDE waveform window is common across a number of Vivado Design Suite tools. An example of the wave objects in a waveform configuration is shown in [Figure 3-11](#).

#	Name	Value
1	wbClk	1
2	bftClk	1
3	reset	0
4	wbDataForInput	0
5	wbWriteOut	0
6	wbInputData[31:0]	111111111111...
39	InputData	
40	wbDataForOutput	1
41	wbOutputData[31:0]	000000000000...
74	error	0
75	READ_PERIOD[31:0]	000000000000...
108	WRITE_PERIOD[31:0]	000000000000...

Figure 3-11: HDL Objects in Waveform

The waveform window displays HDL objects, their values, and their waveforms, together with items for organizing the HDL objects, such as: groups, dividers, and virtual buses.

Collectively, the HDL objects and organizational items are called *wave objects*. The waveform portion of the waveform window displays additional items for time measurement, that include: cursors, markers, and timescale rulers.

The Vivado IDE traces the HDL object in the waveform configuration during simulation, and you use the wave configuration to examine the simulation results.

The design hierarchy and the waveforms are not part of the wave configuration, and are stored in a separate WDB database file.

See [Chapter 4, Analyzing with the Vivado Simulator Waveforms](#) for more information about using the waveform.

Waveform Window

When you invoke the simulator, by default, it opens a waveform window that displays a new wave configuration consisting of the traceable top-module of HDL objects in the simulation as shown in [Figure 3-12](#).

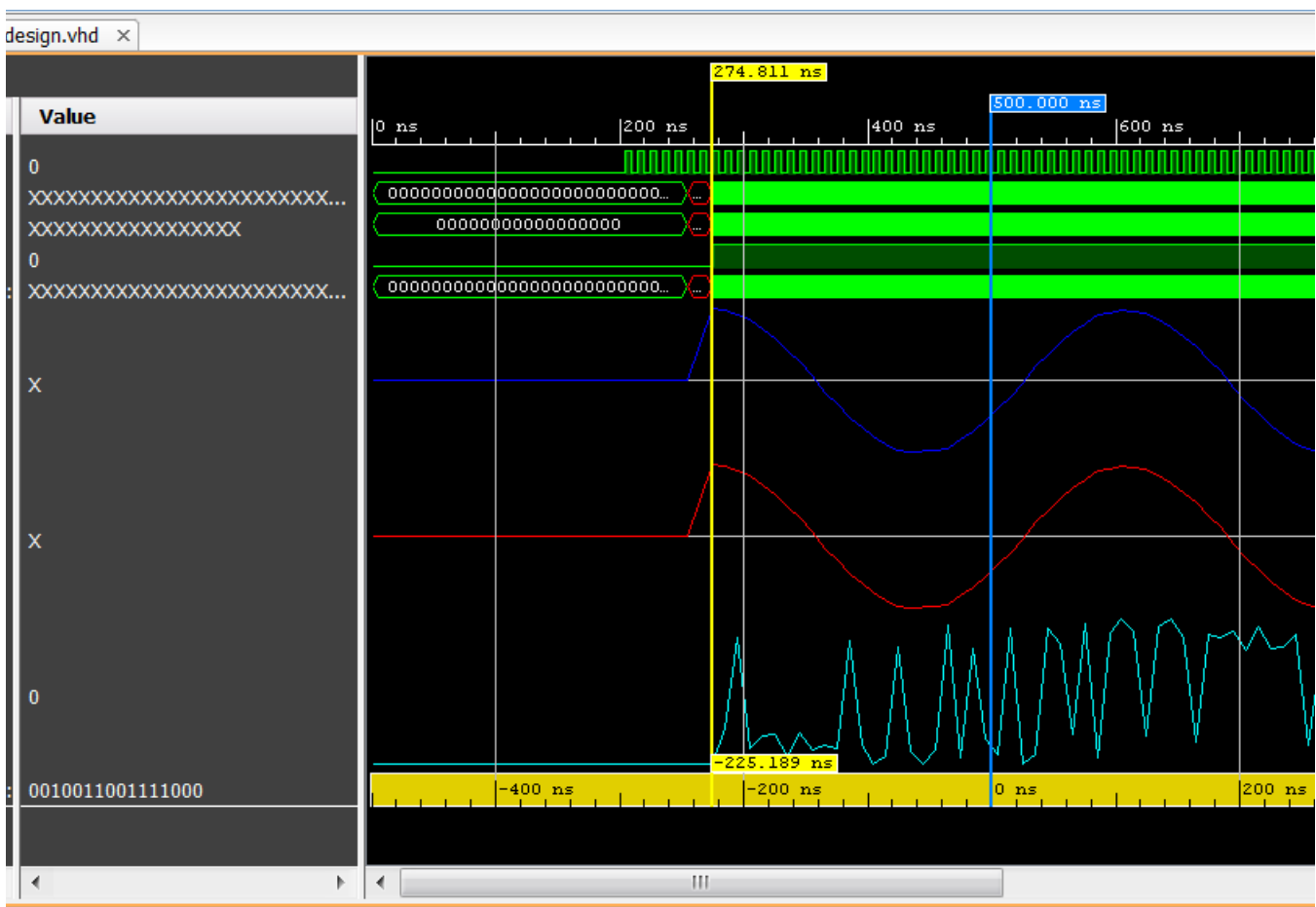
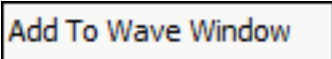


Figure 3-12: Waveform Window

To add an individual HDL object or set of objects to the waveform window, You can right-click the object and select the **Add to Wave Window** option from the context menu.



To add an object using the Tcl command type:

- **Tcl Command:** `add_wave <HDL_objects>`

Using the `add_wave` command, you can specify full or relative paths to HDL objects.

For example, if the current scope is `/bft_tb/uut`, the full path to the reset register under `uut` is `/bft_tb/uut/reset`: the relative path is `reset`.



TIP: The `add_wave` command accepts HDL scopes as well as HDL objects. Using `add_wave` with a scope is equivalent to the **Add To Wave Window** command in the Scopes window.

Saving a Waveform

The new wave configuration is not saved to disk automatically. Select **File > Save Waveform Configuration As** and supply a filename to produce a WCFG file.

To save a wave configuration to a WCFG file, type:

- **Tcl Command:** `save_wave_config <filename.wcfg>`

The specified command argument names and saves the WCFG file.

Creating and Using Multiple Waveform Configurations

In a simulation session you can create and use multiple wave configurations, each in its own waveform window. When you have more than one waveform window displayed, the most recently-created or recently-used window is the *active window*. The active window, in addition to being the window currently visible, is the waveform window upon which commands external to the window, such as the **HDL Objects > Add to Wave Window** command, apply.

You can set a different waveform window to be the *active window* by clicking the title of the window. See [Identifying Between Multiple Simulation Runs, page 59](#) and [Creating a New Wave Configuration, page 64](#) for more information.

Scopes Window

Figure 3-13 shows the Scope Window, where you can view and filter HDL objects by type using the filter buttons at the top of the window. Hover over a button for a tool tip description of what object type the filter button represents.

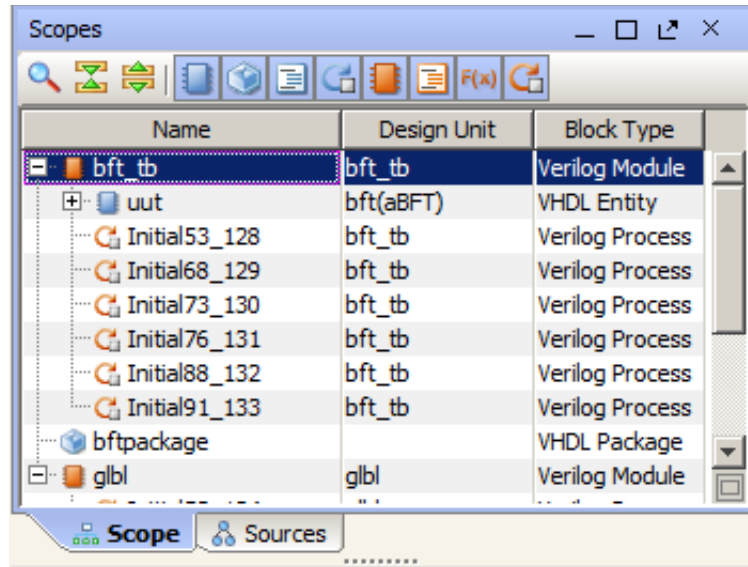


Figure 3-13: Scopes Window

Sources Window

The Sources window displays the simulation sources in a hierarchical tree, with views that show Hierarchy, IP Sources, Libraries, and Compile Order, as shown in Figure 3-14.

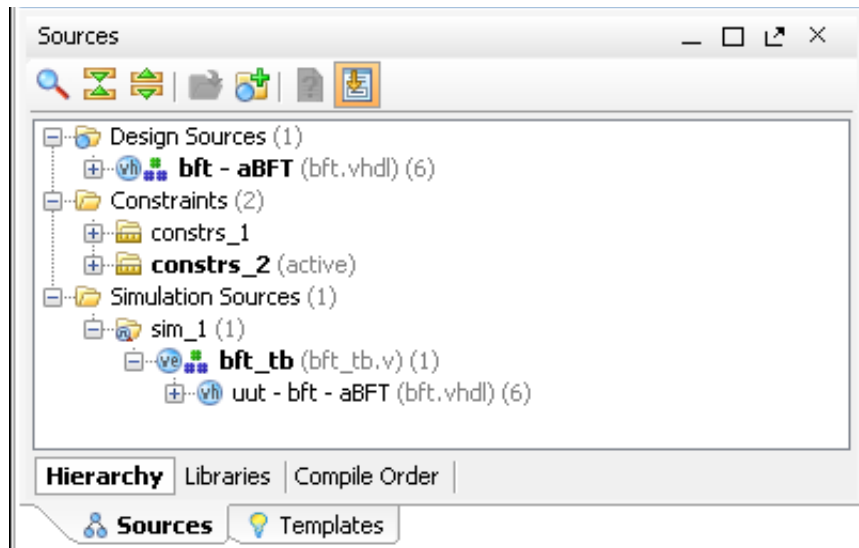
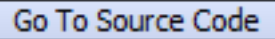



Figure 3-14: Sources Window

The Sources buttons are described by tool tips when you hover the mouse over them. The buttons let you examine, expand, collapse, add to, open, filter and scroll through files.

You can also open a source file by right-clicking on the object and selecting the **Go to Source Code** option.



Additional Scopes and Sources Options

In either the Scopes or the Sources window, a search field displays when you select the **Show Search** button. 

See [Using Cursors, page 82](#) for more detail on how to use the Scopes window in the Vivado simulator. As an equivalent to using the Scopes and Objects windows, you can navigate the HDL design by typing the following in the Tcl Console:

- **Tcl Command:** `get_scopes`
- **Tcl Command:** `current_scope`
- **Tcl Command:** `report_scopes`
- **Tcl Command:** `report_values`



TIP: To access source files for editing, you can open files from the Scopes or Objects window by selecting the Go to Source window, as shown in [Figure 3-15](#).

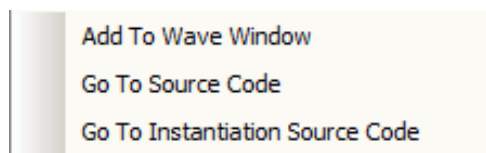
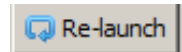


Figure 3-15: Objects Context Menu



TIP: After you have edited source code, you can click the Relaunch button to recompile and relaunch simulation without having to close and reopen the simulation.



Running Post-Synthesis Simulation

Post-Synthesis and Post-Implementation timing simulation can optionally include one of the following:

- Gate-level netlist containing SIMPRIMS library components
- SECUREIP
- Standard Delay Format (SDF) files

Post-Synthesis timing simulation uses the estimated timing numbers after synthesis.

You use Post-Implementation timing simulation after your design is completely through the implementation (Place and Route) process in Vivado IDE. You can now begin to observe how your design behaves in the actual circuit.

You defined the overall functionality of the design in the beginning; when the design is implemented, accurate timing information is available.

The Vivado IDE creates the netlist and SDF by calling the netlist writer (`write_verilog` with the `-mode timesim` switch and the SDF annotator (`write_sdf`)), then sends the generated netlist to the target simulator.

You control these options using the **Simulation Settings**  as described in [Using Simulation Settings, page 43](#).



IMPORTANT: *Post-Synthesis and Post-Implementation timing simulations are supported for Verilog only. There is no support for VHDL timing simulation.*



IMPORTANT: *The Vivado simulator models use interconnect delays; consequently, additional switches are required for proper timing simulation, as follows: `-transport_int_delays -pulse_r 0 -pulse_int_r 0`*

After successfully run synthesis on your design, you can run a Post-Synthesis simulation (Functional or Timing).

Running Post-Synthesis Functional Simulation

When synthesis is run successfully, the **Run Simulation > Post-Synthesis Functional Simulation** option becomes available, as shown in [Figure 3-16](#).

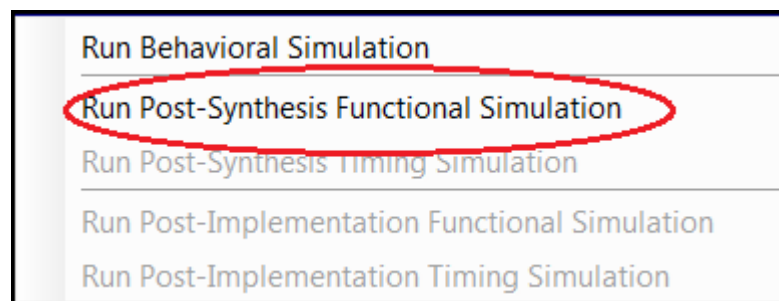


Figure 3-16: Run Post-Synthesis Functional Simulation

After synthesis, the simulation information is much more complete, so you can get a better perspective on how the functionality of your design is meeting your requirements. After you select a post-synthesis functional simulation, the functional netlist is generated and the UNISIM libraries are used for simulation.

Running Post-Synthesis Timing Simulation

When synthesis is run successfully, the **Run Simulation > Post-Synthesis Timing Simulation** option becomes available, as shown in [Figure 3-17](#).

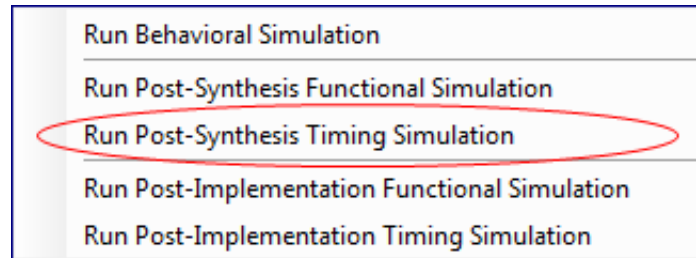


Figure 3-17: Run Post-Synthesis Timing Simulation

After you select a post-synthesis timing simulation, the timing netlist and the SDF file are generated. The netlist files includes `$sdf_annotate` command so that the generated SDF file is picked up.

Running Post-Implementation Simulations

After you have run implementation on your design you can run a post-implementation functional or timing simulation.

Running Post-Implementation Functional Simulations

When implementation is successful, the **Run Simulation > Post-Implementation Functional Simulation** option is available, as shown in [Figure 3-18](#).

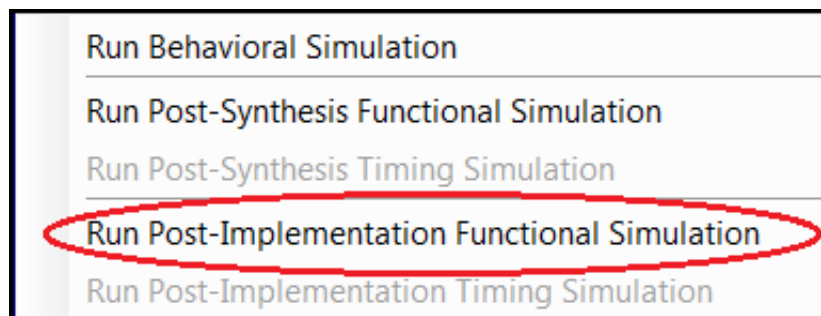


Figure 3-18: Run Post-Implementation Functional Simulation

After implementation, the simulation information is much more complete, so you can get a better perspective on how the functionality of your design is meeting your requirements.

After you select a post-implementation functional simulation, the functional netlist is generated and the UNISIM libraries are used for simulation.

Running Post-Implementation Timing Simulations

When post-implementation is successful, the **Run Simulation > Post-Implementation Timing Simulation** option is available, as shown in [Figure 3-19](#).

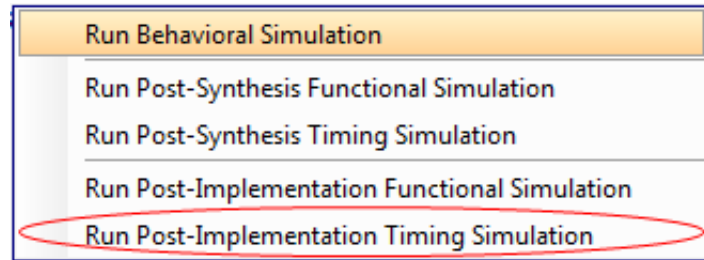


Figure 3-19: Run Post-Implementation Timing Simulation

After you select a post-implementation timing simulation, the timing netlist and the SDF file are generated. The netlist files includes `$sdf_annotate` command so that the generated SDF file is picked up.

Identifying Between Multiple Simulation Runs

When you have run several simulations against a design, the Vivado simulator displays named tabs at the top of the simulation GUI with the simulation type that is currently in the window highlighted, as shown in [Figure 3-20](#).

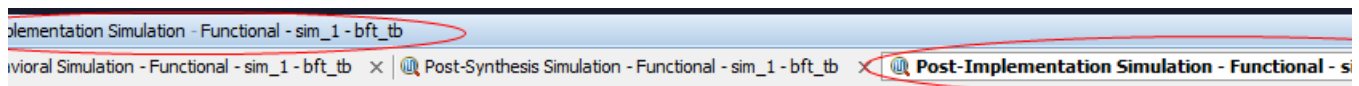


Figure 3-20: Active Simulation Type

Pausing a Simulation

While running a simulation for any length of time, you can pause a simulation using the **Break** command, which leaves the simulation session open.

To pause a running simulation, select **Simulation > Break** or click the **Break** button. 

The simulator stops at the next executable HDL line. The line at which the simulation stopped is displayed in the text editor.

Note: This behavior applies to designs that are compiled with the `-debug <kind>` switch.

The simulation can be resumed at any time by using the **Run All**, **Run**, or **Step** commands. See [Stepping Through a Simulation, page 112](#) for more information.

Saving Simulation Results

The Vivado simulator saves the simulation results of the objects (VHDL signals, or Verilog reg or wire) being traced to the Waveform Database (WDB) file (<filename>.wdb) in the `project/simset` directory.

If you add objects to the Wave window and run the simulation, the design hierarchy for the complete design and the transitions for the added objects are automatically saved to the WDB file.

The wave configuration settings; which include the signal order, name style, radix, and color; are saved to the wave configuration (WCFG) file upon demand. See [Chapter 4, Analyzing with the Vivado Simulator Waveforms](#).

Closing Simulation

To close a simulation, in the Vivado IDE:

- Select **File > Exit** or click the **X** at the top-right corner of the project window.

To close a simulation from the Tcl Console, type:

- **Tcl Command:** `close_sim`


The command first checks for unsaved wave configurations. If any exist, the command issues an error.

Adding a post.tcl Batch File

You can add additional commands to be run after you have created a project and simulated a design. To do so:

1. Create a Tcl file with the simulation commands you want to add to the simulation source files. For example, create a file that adds more time to a simulation originally run for 1000ns:

```
run 5us
```

2. Name the file `post.tcl`, and place it in an available location.
3. Use the **Add Sources**  button to invoke the Add Sources wizard, and select **Add or Create Simulation Sources**.

4. Add the `post.tcl` file to your Vivado project as a simulation source.

The `post.tcl` file displays in the Simulation Sources folder, as shown in [Figure 3-21](#).

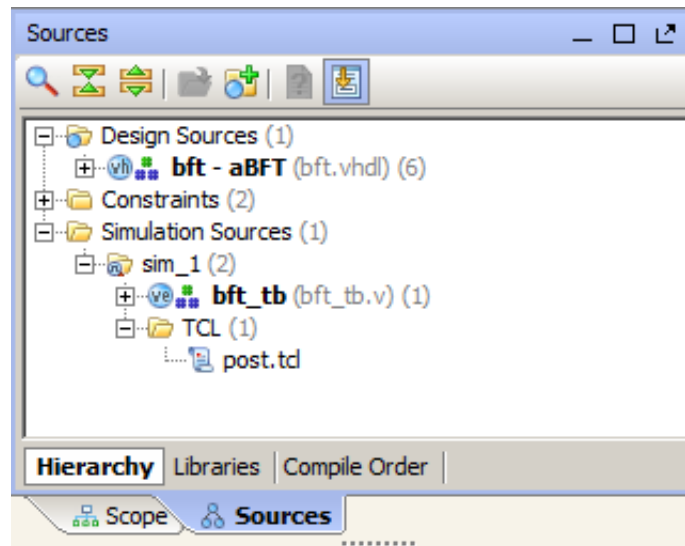



Figure 3-21: Using the `post.tcl` File in a Design

5. From the Simulation toolbar, click the **Relaunch** button. 

Simulation runs again, with the additional time you specified in the `post.tcl` file added to the originally specified time.

Notice that the Vivado simulator automatically sources the `post.tcl` file and the resulting simulation runs for the additional time.

Skipping Compilation or Simulation

You can skip the compilation through `xelab` and or simulation through `xsim`, as follows:

- **Tcl Command:** `set_property skip_compilation 1 [get_filesets sim_1]`

The Vivado tool skips the compilation step of Vivado simulator and runs simulation with existing compiled result.

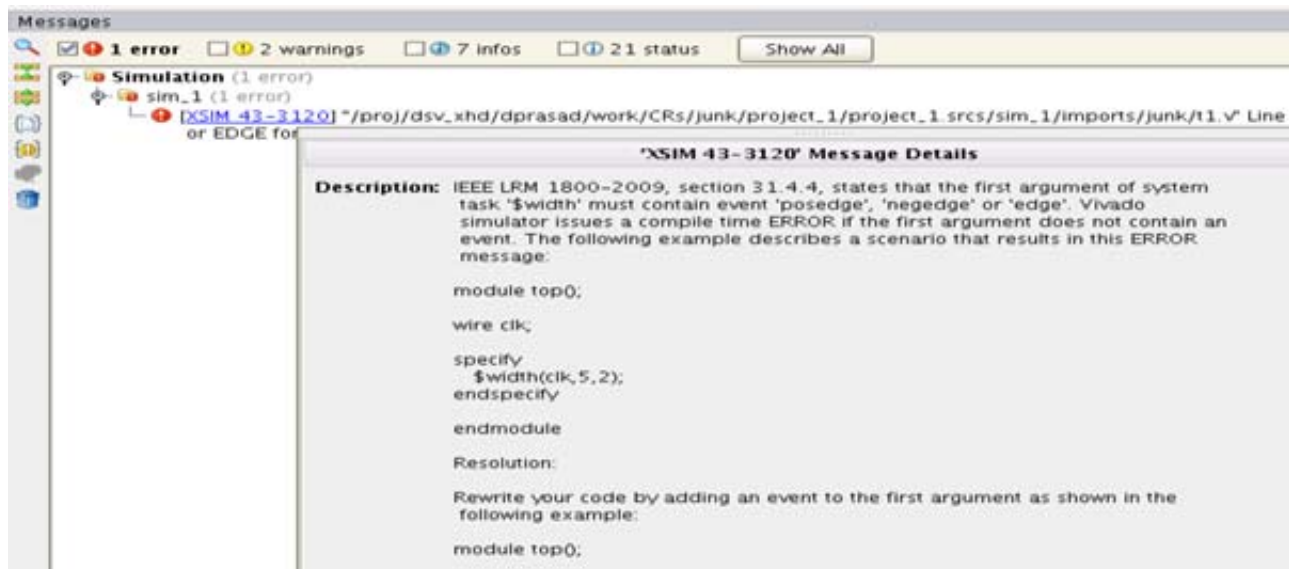
Note: Any change to design files after the last compilation is not reflected in simulation when you set this property.

- **Tcl Command:** `set_property skip_simulation 1 [get_filesets sim_1]`

The Vivado tools skips the execution of simulation step.

Viewing Simulation Messages

The Vivado IDE contains a message area where you can view informational, warning, and error messages. Messages from the Vivado simulator contain a **Description** of the issue, and a suggested **Resolution**, as shown in [Figure 3-22](#).



To see the same detail in the Tcl Console, type:

- **Tcl Command:** `help -message {message_number}`

An example of such a command is as follows:

- **Tcl Command:** `help -message {simulator 43-3120}`

Analyzing with the Vivado Simulator Waveforms

Introduction

In the Vivado® simulator GUI, you can work with the waveform to analyze your design and debug your code. The simulator populates design data in other areas of the GUI, such as the Objects and the Scopes windows.

Typically, simulation is setup in a testbench where you define the HDL objects you want to simulate. For more information about testbenches see *Writing Efficient Testbenches (XAPP199)* [Ref 4].

When you launch the Vivado simulator, a wave configuration displays with top-level HDL objects. The Vivado simulator populates design data in other areas of the GUI, such as the Scopes and Objects windows. You can then add additional HDL objects, or run the simulation. See [Using Wave Configurations and Windows, page 63](#).

Using Wave Configurations and Windows

Although both a wave configuration and a WCFG file refer to the customization of lists of waveforms, there is a conceptual difference between them:

- The wave configuration is an object that is loaded into memory with which you can work.
- The WCFG file is the saved form of a wave configuration on disk.

A wave configuration can have a name or be "**Untitled#**". The name shows on the title bar of the wave configuration window.

Creating a New Wave Configuration

Create a new waveform configuration for displaying waveforms as follows:

1. Select **File > New Waveform Configuration**.

A new waveform window opens and displays a new, untitled waveform configuration.

- **Tcl Command:** `add_wave <HDL_Object>`
2. Add HDL objects to the waveform configuration using the steps listed in [Understanding HDL Objects in Waveform Configurations, page 66](#).

Note: When a WCFG file that contain references to HDL objects that are not present in the simulation when HDL design hierarchy is opened, the Vivado simulator ignores those HDL objects and omits them from the loaded waveform configuration.

See [Chapter 3, Using the Vivado Simulator from Vivado IDE](#) for more information about creating new waveform configurations. Also see [Creating and Using Multiple Waveform Configurations, page 54](#) for information on multiple waveforms.

Opening a WCFG File

Open a WCFG file to use with the static simulation as follows:

1. Select **File > Open Waveform Configuration**.

The Specify Simulation Results dialog box opens.

2. Locate and select a WCFG file.

Note: When you open a WCFG file that contains references to HDL objects that are not present in a static simulation HDL design hierarchy, the Vivado simulator ignores those HDL objects and omits them from the loaded waveform configuration.

A waveform window opens, displaying waveform data that the simulator finds for the listed wave objects of the WCFG file.

- **Tcl Command:** `open_wave_config <waveform_name>`

Saving a Wave Configuration

To save a wave configuration to a WCFG file, select **File > Save Waveform Configuration As**, and type a name for the waveform configuration.

- **Tcl Command:** `save_wave_config <waveform_name>`

Opening a Previously-Saved Simulation Run

When you run a simulation and display HDL objects in a waveform window, the running simulation produces a waveform database (WDB) file containing the waveform activity of the displayed HDL objects.

The WDB file also stores information about all the HDL scopes and objects in the simulated design.

A *static simulation* is a mode of the Vivado simulator in which the simulator displays data from a WDB file in its windows in place of data from a running simulation.

In this mode you cannot use commands that control or monitor a simulation, such as run commands, as there is no underlying "live" simulation model to control.



IMPORTANT: *WDB files are neither backward nor cross-operating system compatible. You must open the WDB file in the same version and on the same type OS in which it was created. WCFG files are both backward and cross-OS compatible.*

However, you can view waveforms and the HDL design hierarchy in a static simulation. As the simulator creates no waveform configuration by default, you must create a new waveform configuration or open an existing WCFG file.

Understanding HDL Objects in Waveform Configurations

When you add an HDL object to a waveform configuration, the waveform viewer creates a *wave object* of the HDL object. The wave object is linked to, but distinct from, the HDL object.

You can create multiple wave objects from the same HDL object, and set the display properties of each wave object separately.

For example, you can set one wave object for an HDL object named `myBus` to display values in hexadecimal and another wave object for `myBus` to display values in decimal.

There are other kinds of wave objects available for display in a waveform configuration, such as: dividers, groups, and virtual buses.



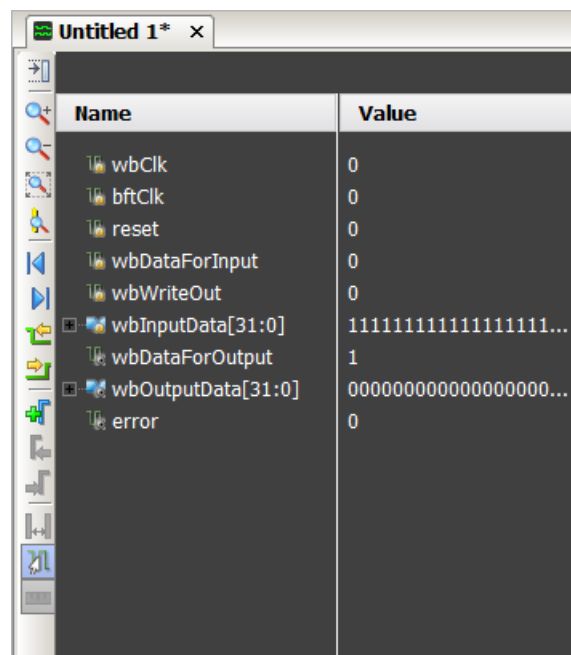
Wave objects created from HDL objects are specifically called *design wave objects*. These objects display with a corresponding identifying icon. For design wave objects, the background of the icon indicates whether the object is a scalar  or a compound  such as a Verilog vector or VHDL record.

Figure 4-1 shows an example of HDL objects in the waveform configuration window.



The screenshot shows a window titled "Untitled 1*" with a table of HDL objects. The table has two columns: "Name" and "Value". The objects listed are:

Name	Value
wbClk	0
bftClk	0
reset	0
wbDataForInput	0
wbWriteOut	0
wbInputData[31:0]	111111111111111111...
wbDataForOutput	1
wbOutputData[31:0]	000000000000000000...
error	0

Figure 4-1: Waveform HDL Objects

The design objects display with **Name**, and **Value**:

- **Name:** By default, shows the *short name* of the HDL object: the name alone, without the hierarchical path of the object. You can change the Name to display a *long name* with full hierarchical path or assign it a *custom name*, for which you can specify the text to display.
- **Value:** Displays the value of the object at the time indicated in the main cursor of the waveform window. You can change the formatting of the value independent of the formatting of other design wave objects linked to the same HDL object and independent of the formatting of values displayed in the Objects window and source code window.

Using the Scopes Window

Figure 4-2 shows the Vivado simulator Scopes window.

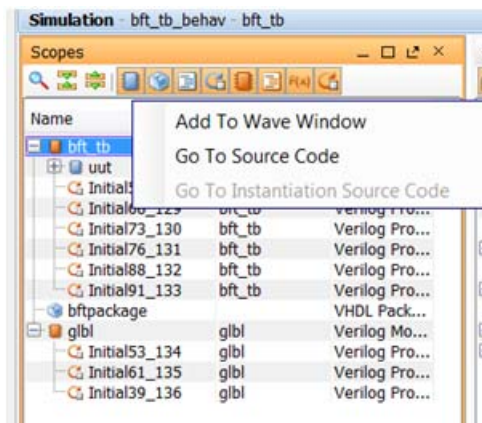




Figure 4-2: Scopes Window

You can filter scopes within the Scopes window using one of the following methods:

- To hide certain types of scope from display, click one or more scope-filtering buttons. 
- To limit the display to scopes containing a specified string, click the **Zoom** button.  and type the string in the text box.

You can filter object within the Scopes window by clicking a scope. When you have selected an scope, the Scopes popup menu provides the following options:

- **Add to Wave Window:** Adds all viewable HDL objects of the selected scope to the waveform configuration.

Alternately, you can drag and drop the objects from the Objects window to the **Name** column of the waveform window.



IMPORTANT: Waveforms for an object show only from the simulation time when the object was added to the window. Changes to the waveform configuration, including creating the waveform configuration or adding HDL objects, do not become permanent until you save the WCFG file.

- **Go To Source Code:** Opens the source code at the definition of the selected scope.
- **Go To Instantiation Source code:** For Verilog module and VHDL entity instances, opens the source code at the point of instantiation for the selected instance.

In the source code text editor, you can hover over an identifier in a file to get the value, as shown in Figure 4-3.

IMPORTANT: You must have the correct scope in the Scopes window selected to use this feature.

```
22 //
23 ///////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////
24
25 module bft_tb;
26
27     // Inputs
28     reg wbClk;
29     reg bftClk;
30     reg reset;
31     reg wbDataForInput;
32     reg wbWriteOut;
33     reg [31:0] wbInputData;
34
35     // Outputs
36     wire wbDataForOutput;
37     wire [31:0] wbOutputData;
38     wire error;
39
40     // Instantiate the Unit Under Test (UUT)
41     bft uut (
42         .wbClk(wbClk),
43         .bftClk(bftClk),
44         .reset(reset),
45         .wbDataForInput(wbDataForInput),
46         .wbWriteOut(wbWriteOut),
47         .wbDataForOutput(wbDataForOutput),
```

Figure 4-3: Source Code with Identifier Value Displayed

Using the Objects Window

Figure 4-4 shows the Vivado simulator Objects window.

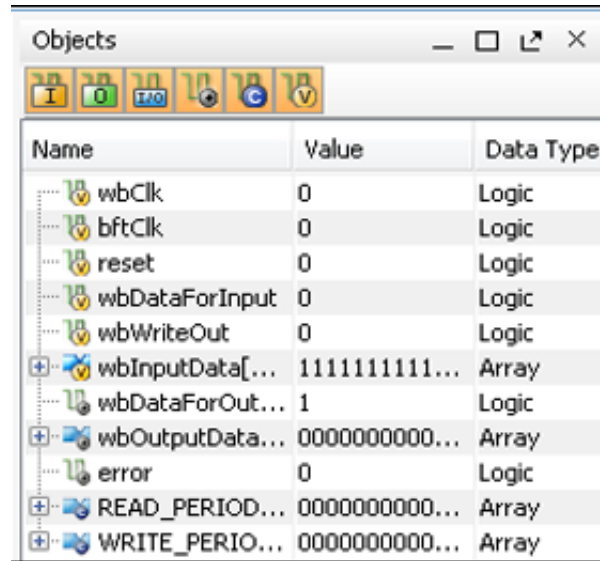
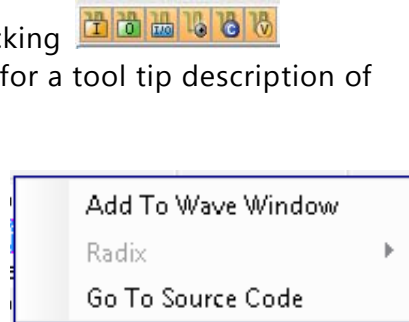


Figure 4-4: Objects Window

You can hide certain types of HDL object from display by clicking one or more object-filtering buttons. Hover over the button for a tool tip description of what object type it represents.

When you have selected an object, the Objects popup menu provides the following options:



- **Add to Wave Window:** Add the selected object to the waveform configuration.

Alternately, you can drag and drop the objects from the Objects window to the **Name** column of the waveform window.

- **Radix:** Select the numerical format to use when displaying the value of the selected object in the Objects window and in the source code window
- **Go To Source Code:** Open the source code at the definition of the selected object.



TIP: Some HDL objects cannot be viewed as a waveform, such as: Verilog-named events, Verilog parameters, VHDL constants, and objects with more elements than the max traceable size (see the `trace_limit` property in the Vivado Design Suite Tcl Command Reference Guide (UG835) [Ref 6]). Alternatively, type **trace_limit -help** in the Tcl Console.

Customizing the Waveform

The following subsections describe the options available to customize a waveform.

Using Analog Waveforms

The following subsections describe the features and requirements around using analog waveforms.

Using Radixes and Analog Waveforms

Bus values are interpreted as numeric values, which are determined by the radix setting on the bus wave object, as follows:

- Binary, octal, hexadecimal, ASCII, and unsigned decimal radixes cause the bus values to be interpreted as unsigned integers.
- Any non-0 or -1 bits cause the entire value to be interpreted as 0.
- The signed decimal radix causes the bus values to be interpreted as signed integers.
- Real radixes cause bus values to be interpreted as fixed point or floating point real numbers, based on settings of the Real Settings dialog box.

To set a wave object to the Real radix:

1. Open the Real Settings dialog box, shown in [Figure 4-5, page 71](#).
2. In the waveform configuration window, select an HDL object, and right-click to open the popup menu.

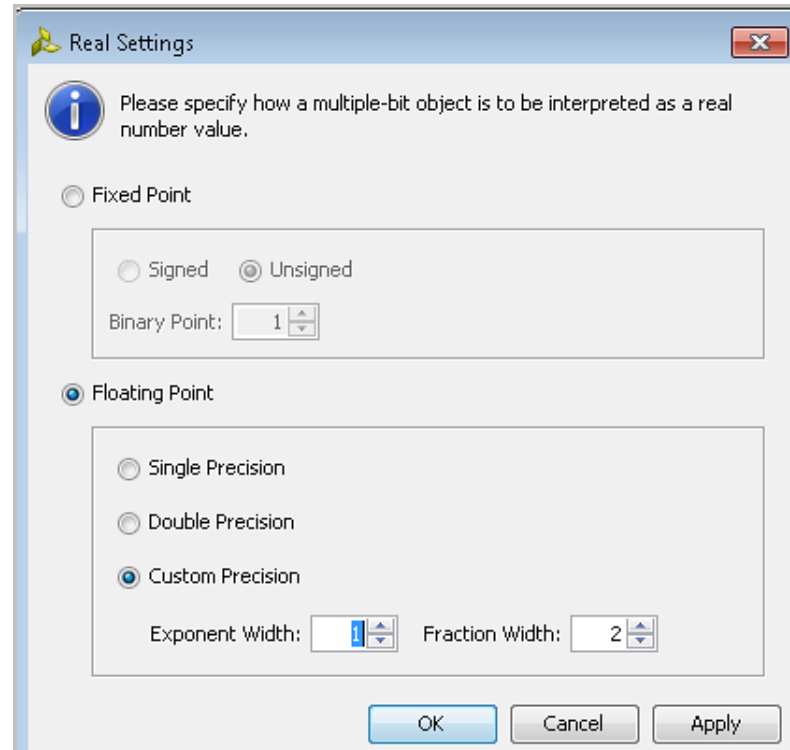


Figure 4-5: Real Settings Dialog Box

You can set the radix of a wave to **Real** to display the values of the object as real numbers. Before selecting this radix, you must choose settings to instruct the waveform viewer how to interpret the bits of the values.

The Real Setting dialog box options are:

- **Fixed Point:** Specifies that the bits of the selected bus wave object(s) is interpreted as a fixed point, signed, or unsigned real number.
- **Binary Point:** Specifies how many bits to interpret as being to the right of the binary point. If Binary Point is larger than the bit width of the wave object, wave object values cannot be interpreted as fixed point, and when the wave object is shown in Digital waveform style, all values show as <Bad Radix>. When shown as analog, all values are interpreted as 0.
- **Floating Point:** Specifies that the bits of the selected bus wave object(s) should be interpreted as an IEEE floating point real number.

Note: Only single precision and double precision (and custom precision with values set to those of single and double precision) are supported.

Other values result in <Bad Radix> values as in Fixed Point.

Exponent Width and Fraction Width must add up to the bit width of the wave object, or else <Bad Radix> values result.



TIP: If the row indices separator lines are not visible, you can turn them on in the [Using the Waveform Options Dialog Box, page 77](#), to make them visible.

Displaying Waveforms as Analog

When viewing an HDL bus object as an analog waveform, to produce the expected waveform it is important to select a radix that matches the nature of the data in the HDL object.

For example:

- If the data encoded on the bus is a 2's-compliment signed integer, you must choose a signed radix.
- If the data is floating point encoded in IEEE format, you must choose a real radix.

Customizing the Appearance of Analog Waveforms

To customize the appearance of an analog waveform:

1. In the name area of a waveform window, right-click a bus to open the popup menu.

2. Select **Waveform Style** >:

- **Analog:** Sets a Digital waveform to Analog.
- **Digital:** Sets an Analog waveform object to Digital.
- **Analog Settings:** [Figure 4-6, page 73](#) shows the Analog Settings dialog box with the settings for analog waveform drawing.

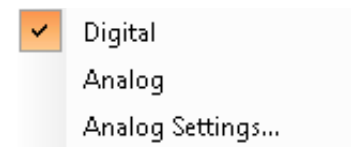




Figure 4-6: Analog Settings Dialog Box

The Analog Settings dialog box options are:

- **Row Height:** Specifies how tall to make the select wave object(s), in pixels. Changing the row height does not change how much of a waveform is exposed or hidden vertically, but rather stretches or contracts the height of the waveform.

When switching between Analog and Digital waveform styles, the row height is set to an appropriate default for the style (20 for digital, 100 for analog).

- **Y Range:** Specifies the range of numeric values to be shown in the waveform area.
 - **Auto:** Specifies that the range should continually expand whenever values in the visible time range of the window are discovered to lie outside the current range.
 - **Fixed:** Specifies that the time range is to remain at a constant interval.
 - **Min:** Specifies the value displays at the bottom of the waveform area.
 - **Max:** Specifies the value displays at the top.

Both values can be specified as floating point; however, if radix of the wave object radix is integral, the values are truncated to integers.

- **Interpolation Style:** Specifies how the line connecting data points is to be drawn.
 - **Linear:** Specifies a straight line between two data points.
 - **Hold:** Specifies that of two data points, a horizontal line is drawn from the left point to the X-coordinate of the right point, then another line is drawn connecting that line to the right data point, in an L shape.

- **Off Scale:** Specifies how to draw waveform values that lie outside the Y range of the waveform area.
 - **Hide:** Specifies that outlying values are not shown, such that a waveform that reaches the upper or lower bound of the waveform area disappears until values are again within the range.
 - **Clip:** Specifies that outlying values be altered so that they are at the top or bottom of the waveform area, such that a waveform that reaches the upper- or lower-bound of the waveform area follows the bound as a horizontal line until values are once again within the range.
 - **Overlap:** Specifies that the waveform be drawn wherever its values are, even if they lie outside the bounds of the waveform area and overlap other waveforms, up to the limits of the waveform window itself.
- **Horizontal Line:** Specifies whether to draw a horizontal rule at the given value. If the check-box is on, a horizontal grid line is drawn at the vertical position of the specified Y value, if that value is within the Y range of the waveform.

As with **Min** and **Max**, the **Y** value accepts a floating point number but truncates it to an integer if the radix of the selected wave objects is integral.



IMPORTANT: *Zoom settings are not saved with the wave configuration.*


About Radixes

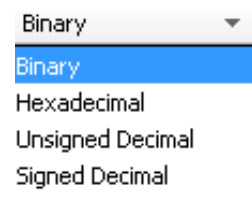
Understanding the type of data on your bus is important. You need to recognize the relationship between the radix setting and the data type to use the waveform options of Digital and Analog effectively. See [Displaying Waveforms as Analog, page 72](#) for more information about the radix setting and its effect on Analog waveform analysis.

Changing the Default Radix

The default waveform radix controls the numerical format of values for all wave objects whose radix you did not explicitly set. The default waveform radix defaults to **binary**.

To change the default waveform radix:

1. In the waveform window sidebar, click the **Waveform Options** button.  to open the waveform options view.
2. On the General page, click the Default Radix drop-down menu.
3. From the drop-down list, select a radix.



Changing the Radix on Individual Wave Objects

You can change the radix of an individual wave object as follows:

1. Select a bus in the Objects window.
2. Select **Radix** and the format you want from the drop-down menu:
 - **Binary**
 - **Hexadecimal**
 - **Unsigned Decimal**
 - **Signed Decimal**
 - **Octal**
 - **ASCII** (default)

From the Tcl Console, to change the numerical format of the displayed values, type the following Tcl command:

- **Tcl Command:** `set_property radix <radix> [current_sim]`

Where <radix> is one the following: bin, unsigned, hex, dec, ascii, or oct.



IMPORTANT: *Changes to the radix of an item in the Objects window do not apply to values in the waveform window or the Tcl Console. To change the radix of an individual waveform object in the waveform window, use the waveform window popup menu.*

Waveform Object Naming Styles

There are options for renaming objects, viewing object names, and change name displays.

Renaming Objects

You can rename any wave object in the waveform configuration, such as design wave objects, dividers, groups, and virtual buses.

1. Select the object name in the **Name** column.
2. Select **Rename** from the popup menu.

The Rename dialog box opens.

3. Type the new name in the Rename dialog box, and click **OK**.

Changing the name of a design wave object in the wave configuration does not affect the name of the underlying HDL object.



TIP: Renaming a wave object changes the name display mode to **Custom**. To restore the original name display mode, change the display mode to **Long** or **Short**, as described in the next section.

Changing the Object Name Display

You can display the full hierarchical name (long name), the simple signal or bus name (short name), or a custom name for each design wave object. The object name displays in the **Name** column of the wave configuration. If the name is hidden:

1. Expand the **Name** column until you see the entire name.
2. In the **Name** column, use the scroll bar to view the name.

To change the display name:

1. Select one or more signal or bus names. Use **Shift+click** or **Ctrl+click** to select many signal names.
2. Select **Name >**:
 - **Long** to display the full hierarchical name.
 - **Short** to display the name of the signal or bus only.
 - **Custom** to display the custom name given to the signal when renamed. See [Renaming Objects, page 75](#).

Note: Long and Short names are meaningful only to design wave objects. Other wave objects (dividers, groups, and virtual buses) display their **Custom** name by default and display an **ID** string for their **Long** and **Short** names.

Reversing the Bus Bit Order


You can reverse the bus bit order in the wave configuration to switch between MSB-first (big endian) and LSB-first (little endian) bit order for the display of bus values.

To reverse the bit order:

1. Select a bus.
2. Right-click and select **Reverse Bit Order**.

The bus bit order reverses. The **Reverse Bit Order** command is marked to show that this is the current behavior.

Using the Waveform Options Dialog Box

Select the **Waveforms Options** button  to open the Waveform Options dialog box, shown in [Figure 4-7](#).

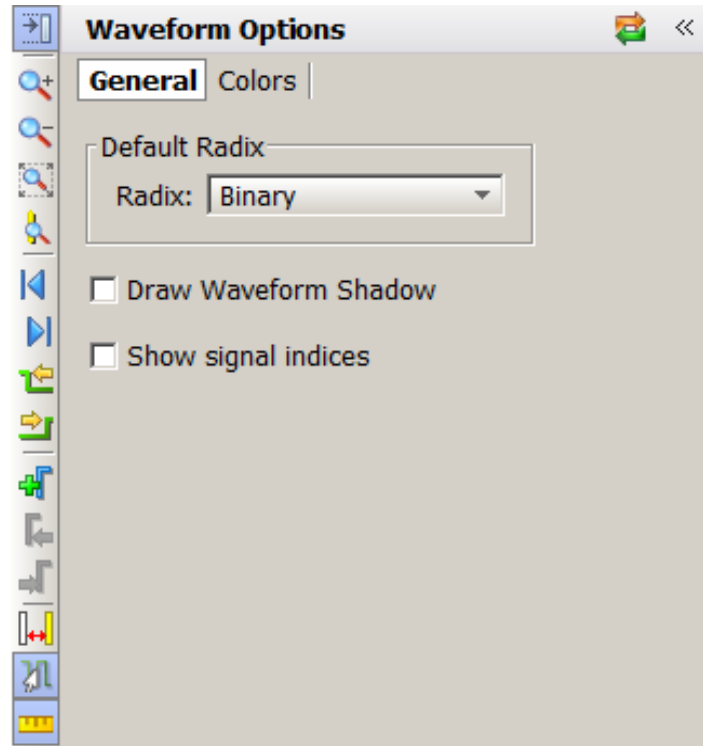


Figure 4-7: Waveform Options Dialog Box

The **General Waveform Options** are:

- **Default Radix:** Sets the numerical format to use for newly-created design wave objects.
- **Draw Waveform Shadow:** Creates a shaded representation of the waveform.
- **Show signal indices:** Checkbox displays the row numbers to the left of each wave object name. You can drag the lines separating the row numbers to change the height of a wave object.
- The **Colors** page lets you set colors of items within the waveform.

Controlling the Waveform Display

You can control the waveform display using:

- Zoom feature buttons in the HDL Objects window sidebar
- Zoom combinations with the mouse wheel
- Vivado IDE Y-Axis zoom gestures
- Vivado simulation X-Axis zoom gestures. See the *Vivado Design Suite User Guide: Using the Vivado IDE* (UG893) [Ref 2] for more information about the Vivado IDE X-Axis zoom gestures.

Note: Unlike in other Vivado graphic windows, zooming in a waveform window applies to the X (time) axis independent of the Y axis. As a result, the **Zoom Range X** gesture, which specifies a range of time to which to zoom the window, replaces the **Zoom to Area** gesture of other Vivado windows.

Using the Zoom Feature button

You have zoom functions as sidebar buttons to zoom in and out of a wave configuration as needed.



Zooming with the Mouse Wheel

You can also use the mouse wheel with the **CTRL** key in combination after clicking within the waveform to zoom in and out, emulating the operation of the dials on an oscilloscope.

Y-Axis Zoom Gestures

In addition to the zoom gestures supported for zooming in the X dimension, when over an analog waveform, additional zoom gestures are available, as shown in [Figure 4-8](#).

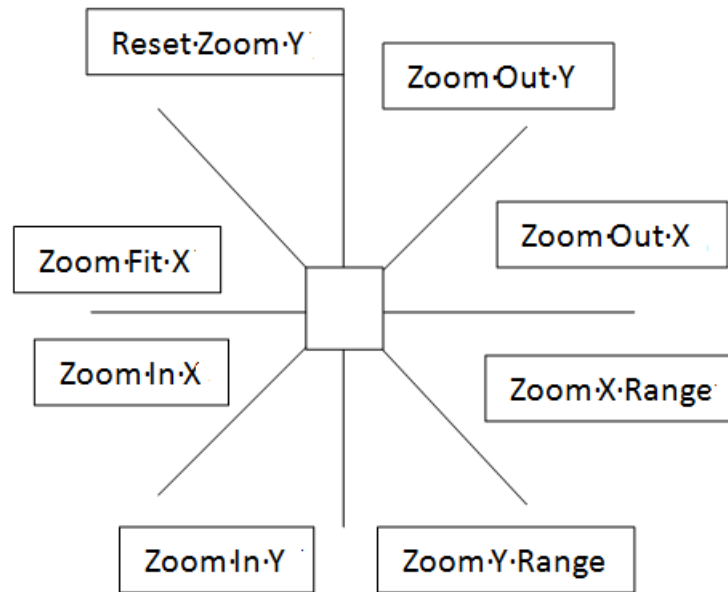


Figure 4-8: Analog Zoom Options

To invoke a zoom gesture, hold down the left mouse button and drag in the direction indicated in the diagram, where the starting mouse position is the center of the diagram.

The additional zoom gestures are:

- **Zoom Out Y:** Zooms out in the Y dimension by a power of 2 determined by how far away the mouse button is released from the starting point. The zoom is performed such that the Y value of the starting mouse position remains stationary.
- **Zoom Y Range:** Draws a vertical curtain which specifies the Y range to display when the mouse is released.
- **Zoom In Y:** Zooms in toward the Y dimension by a power of 2 determined by how far away the mouse button is released from the starting point. The zoom is performed such that the Y value of the starting mouse position remains stationary.
- **Reset Zoom Y:** Resets the Y range to that of the values currently displayed in the waveform window and sets the Y Range mode to **Auto**.

All zoom gestures in the Y dimension set the Y Range analog settings. **Reset Zoom Y** sets the Y Range to **Auto**, whereas the other gestures set Y Range to **Fixed**.

Be aware of the following limitations:

- Maximum bus width of 64 bits on real numbers
- Verilog real and VHDL real are not supported as an analog waveform
- Floating point supports only 32- and 64-bit arrays

Organizing Waveforms

The following subsections describe the options that let you organize information within a waveform.

Using Groups


A Group is an expandable and collapsible container to which you can add wave objects in the wave configuration to organize related sets of wave objects. The Group itself displays no waveform data but can be expanded to show its contents or collapsed to hide them. You can add, change, and remove groups.

To add a Group:

1. In a waveform window, select one or more wave objects to add to a group.
Note: A group can include dividers, virtual buses, and other groups.
2. Select **Edit > New Group**, or right-click and select **New Group** from the context menu.

This adds a Group that contains the selected wave object to the wave configuration.

In the Tcl Console, type `add_wave_group` to add a new group.

A Group is represented with the **Group** button.  You can move other HDL objects to the group by dragging and dropping the signal or bus name.

The new Group and its nested wave objects saves when you save the waveform configuration file.

You can move or remove Groups as follows:

- Move Groups to another location in the **Name** column by dragging and dropping the group name.
- Remove a Group by highlighting it and selecting **Edit > Wave Objects > Ungroup**, or right-click and select **Ungroup** from the popup menu. Wave objects formerly in the Group are placed at the top-level hierarchy in the wave configuration.

Groups can be renamed also; see [Renaming Objects, page 75](#).



CAUTION! The **Delete** key removes the group and its nested wave objects from the wave configuration.

Using Dividers

Dividers create a visual separator between HDL objects. You can add a divider to your wave configuration to create a visual separator of HDL objects, as follows:

1. In a **Name** column of the waveform window, click a signal to add a divider below that signal.
2. From the context menu, select **Edit > New Divider**, or right-click and select **New Divider**.

The new divider is saved with the wave configuration file when you save the file.

- **Tcl Command:** `add_wave_divider`

You can move or delete Dividers as follows:

- To move a Divider to another location in the waveform, drag and drop the divider name.
- To delete a Divider, highlight the divider, and click the **Delete** key, or right-click and select **Delete** from the context menu.

Dividers can be renamed also; see [Renaming Objects, page 75](#).

Using Virtual Buses

You can add a virtual bus to your wave configuration, which is a grouping to which you can add logic scalars and vectors.

The virtual bus displays a bus waveform, whose values are composed by taking the corresponding values from the added scalars and arrays in the vertical order that they appear under the virtual bus and flattening the values to a one-dimensional vector.

To add a virtual bus:

1. In a wave configuration, select one or more wave objects you to add to a virtual bus.
2. Select **Edit > New Virtual Bus**, or right-click and select **New Virtual Bus** from the popup menu.

The virtual bus is represented with the **Virtual Bus** button .

- **Tcl Command:** `add_wave_virtual_bus`

You can move other logical scalars and arrays to the virtual bus by dragging and dropping the signal or bus name.

The new virtual bus and its nested items save when you save the wave configuration file. You can also move it to another location in the waveform by dragging and dropping the virtual bus name.

You can rename a virtual bus; see [Renaming Objects, page 75](#).

To remove a virtual bus, and ungroup its contents, highlight the virtual bus, and select **Edit > Wave Objects > Ungroup**, or right-click and select **Ungroup** from the popup menu.



CAUTION! The **Delete** key removes the virtual bus and nested HDL objects within the bus from the wave configuration.

Analyzing Waveforms

The following subsections describe available features that let you analyze the data within the waveform.

Using Cursors

Cursors are temporary indicators of time and are expected to be moved frequently, as in the case when you are measuring the time between two waveform edges.



TIP: *WCFG files do not record cursor positions. For more permanent indicators, used in situations such as establishing a time-base for multiple measurements, and indicating notable events in the simulation, add markers to the waveform window instead. See [Using Markers, page 84](#) for more information.*

Placing Main and Secondary Cursors

You can place the main cursor with a single click in the waveform window.

To place a secondary cursor, **Ctrl+Click** and hold the waveform, and drag either left or right. You can see a flag that labels the location at the top of the cursor. Alternatively, you can hold the **SHIFT** key and click a point in the waveform.

If the secondary cursor is not already on, this action sets the secondary cursor to the present location of the main cursor and places the main cursor at the location of the mouse click.

Note: To preserve the location of the secondary cursor while positioning the main cursor, hold the **Shift** key while clicking. When placing the secondary cursor by dragging, you must drag a minimum distance before the secondary cursor appears.

Moving Cursors

To move a cursor, hover over the cursor until you see the grab symbol, and click and drag the cursor to the new location.

As you drag the cursor in the waveform window, you see a hollow or filled-in circle if the **Snap to Transition** button is selected, which is the default behavior.

- A hollow circle ○ under the mouse indicates that you are between transitions in the waveform of the selected signal.
- A filled-in circle ● under the mouse indicates that the cursor is locked in on a transition of the waveform under the mouse or on a marker.

A secondary cursor can be hidden by clicking anywhere in the waveform window where there is no cursor, marker, or floating ruler.


Finding the Next or Previous Transition on a Waveform

The waveform window sidebar contains buttons for jumping the main cursor to the next or previous transition of selected waveform or from the current position of the cursor.

To move the main cursor to the next or previous transition of a waveform:

1. Ensure the wave object in the waveform is active by clicking the name.

This selects the wave object, and the waveform display of the object displays with a thicker line than usual.

2. Click the **Next Transition** or **Previous Transition**  sidebar button, or use the right or left keyboard arrow key to move to the next or previous transition, respectively.





TIP: You can jump to the nearest transition of a set of waveforms by selecting multiple wave objects together.

Using the Floating Ruler

The floating ruler assists with time measurements using a time base other than the absolute simulation time shown on the standard ruler at the top of the waveform window.

You can display (or hide) the floating ruler and drag it to change the vertical position in the waveform window. The time base (time 0) of the floating ruler is the secondary cursor, or, if there is no secondary cursor, the selected marker.

The floating ruler button  and the floating ruler itself are visible only when the secondary cursor or a marker is present.

1. Do either of the following to display or hide a floating ruler:
 - Place the secondary cursor.
 - Select a marker.
2. Click the **Floating Ruler** button. 


You only need to follow this procedure the first time. The floating ruler displays each time you place the secondary cursor or select a marker.

Select the command again to hide the floating ruler.

Using Markers

Use a marker when you want to mark a significant event within your waveform in a permanent fashion. Markers let you measure times relevant to that marked event.




You can add, move, and delete markers as follows:

- You add markers to the wave configuration at the location of the main cursor.
 - a. Place the main cursor at the time where you want to add the marker by clicking in the waveform window at the time or on the transition.
 - b. Select **Edit > Markers > Add Marker**, or click the **Add Marker** button. 

A marker is placed at the cursor, or slightly offset if a marker already exists at the location of the cursor. The time of the marker displays at the top of the line.

To create a new wave marker, type:

- **Tcl Command:** `add_wave_marker <-filename> <-line_number>`

- You can move the marker to another location in the waveform window using the drag and drop method. Click the marker label (at the top of the marker or marker line) and drag it to the location.
 - The drag symbol  indicates that the marker can be moved. As you drag the marker in the waveform window, you see a hollow or filled-in circle if the **Snap to Transition** button is selected, which is the default behavior.
 - A filled-in circle  indicates that you are hovering over a transition of the waveform for the selected signal or over another marker.
 - For markers, the filled-in circle is white.
 - A hollow circle  indicates that the marker is locked in on a transition of the waveform under the mouse or on another marker.

Release the mouse key to drop the marker to the new location.
- You can delete one or all markers with one command. Right-click over a marker, and do one of the following:
 - Select **Delete Marker** from the popup menu to delete a single marker.
 - Select **Delete All Markers** from the popup menu to delete all markers.

Note: You can also use the **Delete** key to delete a selected marker.

See the Vivado help or the *Vivado Design Suite Tcl Command Reference Guide* (UG835) [Ref 6] for command usage.

Using Force Options

The Vivado simulator provides an interactive mechanism to specify (or force) stimulus.

You can use this capability instead of creating a testbench to drive stimulus. The available types of Force are:

- [Force Constant](#)
- [Force Clock](#)
- [Remove Force](#)

Force Constant

The Force Constant option lets you assign a new constant force that overrides the assignments made within HDL code or previously applied constant or clock force.

Force constant is an option on the waveform window context menu, as shown in [Figure 4-9, page 86](#):

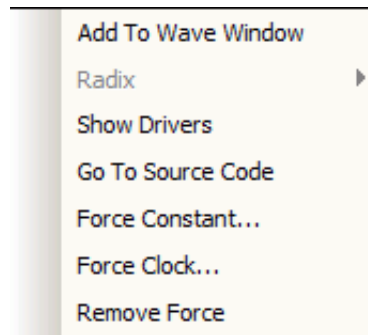


Figure 4-9: Force Options

When you select the **Force Constant** option, the Force Constant dialog box opens where you can enter the relevant values, as shown in Figure 4-10.

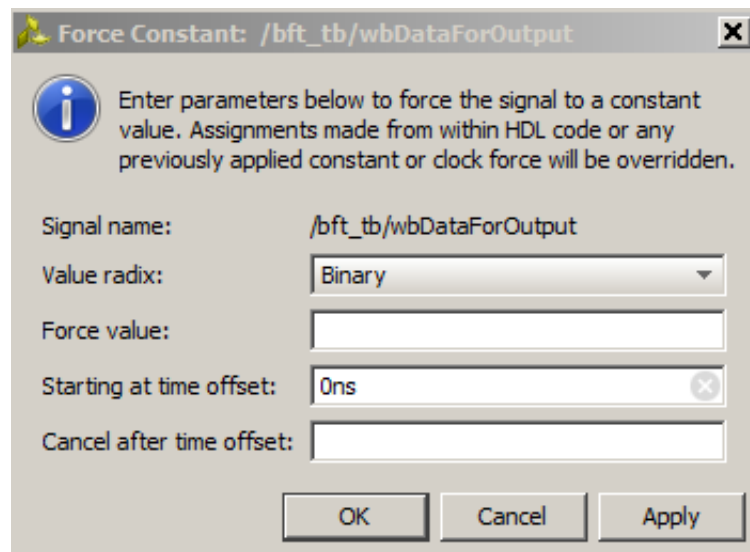


Figure 4-10: Force Selected Signal Dialog Box

The Force Constant options are:

- **Signal name:** Displays the default signal name; the full path name of the selected item. You can change the signal name in the edit box. When you enter an invalid signal name in the edit box, the edit box turns red.
- **Value radix:** Displays the current radix setting of the selected signal. You can choose one of the supported radix types: Binary, Hexadecimal, Unsigned Decimal, Signed Decimal, Octal, and ASCII. The GUI then disallows entry of the values based on the Radix setting. For example: if you choose Binary, no numerical values other than 0 and 1 are allowed.
- **Force value:** Specifies a force constant value using the defined radix value.
- **Starting at time offset:** Starts after the specified time. The default starting time is 0. Time can be a string, such as 10 or 10 ns. When you enter a number without a unit, the Vivado simulator uses the default.

- **Cancel after time offset:** Cancels after the specified time. Time can be a string such as 10 or 10 ns. When a number entered without a unit, the default simulation time unit is used.

- **TCL command:**

```
add_force /testbench/TENSOUT 1 200 -cancel_after 500
```

- **Tcl Command:**

```
add_force /testbench/TENSOUT -radix binary {0} {1} -repeat_every 10ns
-cancel_after 3us
```

Force Clock

When you right-click the Force Clock option in the context menu, the Define Clock dialog box opens, as shown in [Figure 4-11](#):

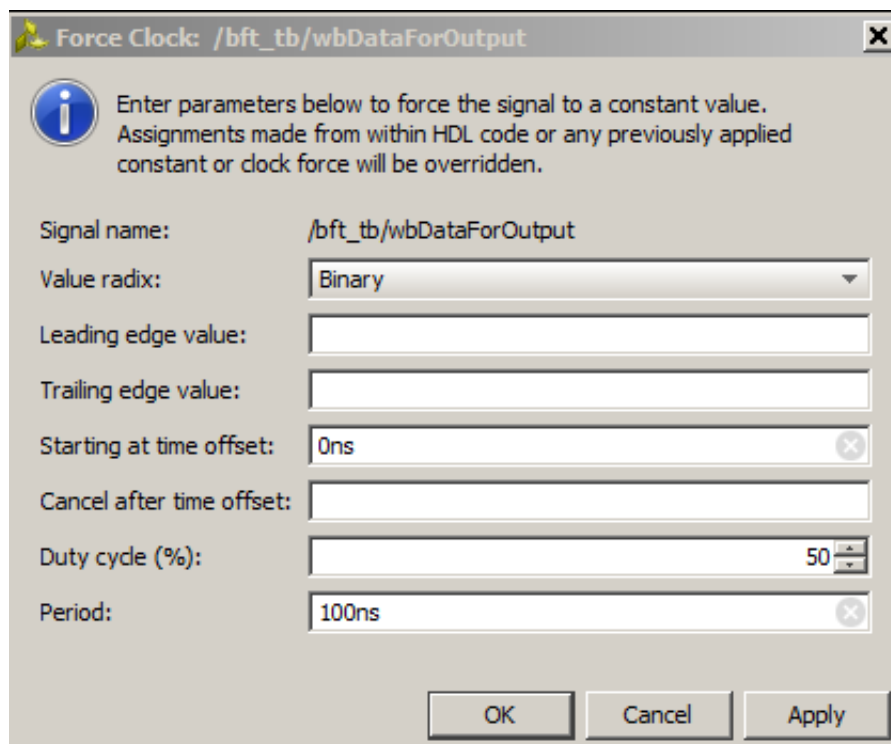


Figure 4-11: Force Clock Dialog Box

The options in the Force Clock dialog box are:

- **Signal name:** Displays the default signal name; the full path name of the item selected in the Objects panel or waveform. You can change the signal name in the edit box. When you enter an invalid signal name in the edit box, the edit box turns red.

Note: Running the **restart** command cancels all the Vivado simulation force commands.

- **Value radix:** Displays the current radix setting of the selected signal. Select one of the displayed radix types from the drop-down menu: Binary, Hexadecimal, Unsigned Decimal, Signed Decimal, Octal, or ASCII.
- **Leading edge value:** Specifies the first edge of the clock pattern. The leading edge value uses the radix defined in Value Radix field.
- **Trailing edge value:** Specifies the second edge of the clock pattern. The trailing edge value uses the radix defined in the Value Radix field.
- **Starting at time offset:** Starts the force command after the specified time from the current simulation. The default starting time is 0. Time can be a string, such as 10 or 10 ns. If you enter a number without a unit, the Vivado simulator uses the default user unit.
- **Cancel after time offset:** Cancels the force command after the specified time from the current simulation time. Time can be a string, such as 10 or 10 ns. When you enter a number without a unit, the Vivado simulator uses the default simulation time unit.
- **Duty cycle (%):** Specifies the percentage of time that the clock pulse is in an active state. The acceptable value is a range from 0 to 100.
- **Period:** Specifies the length of the clock pulse, defined as a time value. Time can be a string, such as 10 or 10 ns.

Remove Force

Remove force removes any specified force from a specified object. The following is the Tcl command

- **Tcl Command:** `remove_force <force object>`

Using Vivado Simulator Command Line and Tcl

Introduction

This chapter describes the command line compilation and simulation process. The Vivado Design Suite simulator executables and their corresponding switch options are listed as well as Tcl commands for running simulation.

For see a list of Vivado simulator Tcl commands, type the following:

- **Tcl Command:** `help -category sim`

See the *Vivado Design Suite Tcl Command Reference Guide* (UG835) [Ref 6] for Tcl command usage.

Compiling and Simulating a Design

Running a simulation from the command line for either a behavioral or a timing simulation requires the following steps:

1. Parsing design files
2. Elaboration and generation of a simulation snapshot
3. Simulating the design

The following subsections describe these steps.

There are additional requirements for a timing simulation, described in the following document areas:

- [Generating a Timing Netlist in Chapter 2](#)
- [Running Post-Synthesis and Post-Implementation Simulations, page 105](#)

Parsing Design Files

The `xvhdl` and `xvlog` commands parse VHDL and Verilog files, respectively. Descriptions for each option are available in [Table 5-2, page 98](#). To go to the command description click the option link.

Note: In your PDF reader, you can turn on Previous View and Next View buttons to navigate back and forth.

xvhdl

The `xvhdl` command is the VHDL analyzer (parser).

xvhdl Syntax

```
xvhdl
[-encryptdumps]
[-f [-file] <filename>]
[-h [-help]]
[-initfile <init_filename>]
[-L [-lib] <library_name> [=<library_dir>]]
[-log <filename>]
[-nolog]
[-prj <filename>]
[-relax]
[-v [verbose] [0|1|2]]
[-version]
[-work <library_name> [=<library_dir>]...
```

This command parses the VHDL source file(s) and stores the parsed dump into a HDL library on disk.

xvhdl Examples

```
xvhdl file1.vhd file2.vhd
xvhdl -work worklib file1.vhd file2.vhd
xvhdl -prj files.prj
```

xvlog

The `xvlog` command is the Verilog parser. The `xvlog` command parses the Verilog source file(s) and stores the parsed dump into a HDL library on disk.

xvlog Syntax

```
xvlog
[-d [define] <name>[=<val>]]
[-encryptdumps]
[-f [-file] <filename>]
[-h [-help]]
[-i [include] <directory_name>]
[-initfile <init_filename>]
[-L [-lib] <library_name> [=<library_dir>]]
```

```
[-log <filename>]
[-nolog]
[-relax]
[-prj <filename>]
[-sourcelibdir <sourcelib_dirname>]
[-sourcelibext <file_extension>]
[-sourcelibfile <filename>]
[-v [verbose] [0|1|2]]
[-version]
[-work <library_name> [=<library_dir>]...
```

xvlog Examples

```
xvlog file1.v file2.v
xvlog -work worklib file1.v file2.v
xvlog -prj files.prj
```

Elaborating and Generating a Design Snapshot

Simulation with the Vivado simulator happens in two phases:

- In the first phase, the simulator compiler `xelab`, compiles your HDL model into a snapshot, which is a representation of the model in a form that the simulator can execute.
- In the second phase, the simulator simulates the model by loading the snapshot and executing it (using the `xsim` command). In Non-Project Mode, you can reuse the snapshot by skipping the first phase and repeating the second.

When the simulator creates a snapshot, it assigns the snapshot a name based on the names of the top modules in the model; however, you can override the default by specifying a snapshot name as an option to the compiler. Snapshot names must be unique in a directory or *SIMSET*; reusing a snapshot name, whether default or custom, results in overwriting a previously-built snapshot with that name.



IMPORTANT: *you cannot run two simulations with the same snapshot name in the same directory or SIMSET.*

xelab

The `xelab` command, for given top-level units, does the following:

- Loads children design units using language binding rules or the `-L <library>` command line specified HDL libraries
- Performs a static elaboration of the design (sets parameters, generics, puts generate statements into effect, and so forth)

- Generates executable code
- Links the generated executable code with the simulation kernel library to create an executable simulation snapshot

You then use the produced executable simulation snapshot name as an option to the `xsim` command along with other options to effect HDL simulation.



TIP: `xelab` can implicitly call the parsing commands, `xvlog` and `xvhdl`. You can incorporate the parsing step by using the `xelab -prj` option. See [Project File \(.prj\) Syntax, page 102](#) for more information about project files.

xelab Command Syntax Options

Descriptions for each option are available in [Table 5-2, page 98](#). To go to the command description click the option link.

Note: In your PDF reader, you can turn on Previous View and Next View buttons to navigate back and forth.

```
xelab
[-d [define] <name>[=<val>]
[-debug <kind>]
[-f [-file] <filename>]
[-generic_top <value>]
[-h [-help]
[-i [include] <directory_name>]
[-initfile <init_filename>]
[-log <filename>]
[-L [-lib] <library_name> [=<library_dir>]
[-maxdesigndepth arg]
[-mindelay]
[-typdelay]
[-maxdelay]
[-mt arg]
[-nolog]
[-notimingchecks]
[-nosdfinterconnectdelays]
[-nospecify]
[-O arg]
[-override_timeunit]
[-override_timeprecision]
[-prj <filename>]
[-pulse_e arg]
[-pulse_r arg]
[-pulse_int_e arg]
[-pulse_int_r arg]
[-pulse_e_style arg]
```

```

[-r [-run]]
[-R [-runall]
[-rangecheck]
[-relax]
[-s [-snapshot] arg]
[-sdfnowarn]
[-sdfnoerror]
[-sdfroot <root_path>]
[-sdfmin arg]
[-sdftyp arg]
[-sdfmax arg]
[-sourcelibdir <sourcelib_dirname>]
[-sourcelibext <file_extension>]
[-sourcelibfile <filename>]
[-stat]
[-timescale]
[-timeprecision_vhdl arg]
[-transport_int_delays]
[-v [verbose] [0|1|2]]
[-version]

```

xelab Examples

```

xelab work.top1 work.top2 -s cpusim
xelab lib1.top1 lib2.top2 -s fftsim
xelab work.top1 work.top2 -prj files.prj -s pciesim
xelab lib1.top1 lib2.top2 -prj files.prj -s ethernetsim

```

Verilog Search Order

The `xelab` command uses the following search order to search and bind instantiated Verilog design units:

1. A library specified by the ``uselib` directive in the Verilog code. For example:

```

module
full_adder(c_in, c_out, a, b, sum)
input c_in,a,b;
output c_out,sum;
wire carry1,carry2,sum1;
`uselib lib = adder_lib
half_adder adder1(.a(a),.b(b),.c(carry1),.s(sum1));
half_adder adder1(.a(sum1),.b(c_in),.c(carry2),.s(sum));
c_out = carry1 | carry2;
endmodule

```

2. Libraries specified on the command line with `-lib|-L` switch.
3. A library of the parent design unit.
4. The `work` library.

Verilog Instantiation Unit

When a Verilog design instantiates a component, the `xelab` command treats the component name as a Verilog unit and searches for a Verilog module in the user-specified list of unified logical libraries in the user-specified order.

- If found, `xelab` binds the unit and the search stops.
- If the case-sensitive search is not successful, `xelab` performs a case-insensitive search for a VHDL design unit name constructed as an extended identifier in the user-specified list and order of unified logical libraries, selects the first one matching name, then stops the search.
- If `xelab` finds a unique binding for any one library, it selects that name and stops the search.

Note: For a mixed language design, the port names used in a named association to a VHDL entity instantiated by a Verilog module are always treated as case insensitive. Also note that you cannot use a `defparam` statement to modify a VHDL generic. See [Using Mixed Language Simulation, page 152](#) for more information.



IMPORTANT: *Connecting a whole VHDL record object to a Verilog object is unsupported.*

VHDL Instantiation Unit

When a VHDL design instantiates a component, the `xelab` command treats the component name as a VHDL unit and searches for it in the logical `work` library.

- If a VHDL unit is found, the `xelab` command binds it and the search stops.
- If `xelab` does not find a VHDL unit, it treats the case-preserved component name as a Verilog module name and continues a case-sensitive search in the user-specified list and order of unified logical libraries. The command selects the first matching the name, then stops the search.
- If case sensitive search is not successful, `xelab` performs a case-insensitive search for a Verilog module in the user-specified list and order of unified logical libraries. If a unique binding is found for any one library, the search stops.

`uselib Verilog Directive

The Verilog ``uselib` directive is supported, and sets the library search order.

`uselib Syntax

```
<uselib compiler directive> ::= `uselib [<Verilog-XL uselib directives>|<lib
directive>]
<Verilog-XL uselib directives> ::= dir = <library_directory> | file = <library_file>
| libext = <file_extension>
<lib directive> ::= <library reference> {<library reference>}
<library reference> ::= lib = <logical library name>
```

`uselib Lib Semantics

The ``uselib lib` directive cannot be used with any of the Verilog-XL ``uselib` directives. For example, the following code is illegal:

```
`uselib dir=./ file=f.v lib=newlib
```

Multiple libraries can be specified in one ``uselib` directive.

The order in which libraries are specified determines the search order. For example:

```
`uselib lib=mylib lib=yourlib
```

Specifies that the search for an instantiated module is made in `mylib` first, followed by `yourlib`.

Like the directives, such as ``uselib dir`, ``uselib file`, and ``uselib libext`, the ``uselib lib` directive is persistent across HDL files in a given invocation of parsing and analyzing, just like an invocation of parsing is persistent. Unless another ``uselib` directive is encountered, a ``uselib` (including any Verilog XL ``uselib`) directive in the HDL source remains in effect. A ``uselib` without any argument removes the effect of any currently active ``uselib <lib|file|dir|libext>`.

The following module search mechanism is used for resolving an instantiated module or UDP by the Verilog elaboration algorithm:

- First, search for the instantiated module in the ordered list of logical libraries of the currently active ``uselib lib` (if any).
- If not found, search for the instantiated module in the ordered list of libraries provided as search libraries in `xelab` command line.
- If not found, search for the instantiated module in the library of the parent module. For example, if module A in library `work` instantiated module B of library `mylib` and B instantiated module C, then search for module C in the `/mylib`, library, which is the library of C's parent B.

- If not found, search for the instantiated module in the `work` library, which is one of the following:
 - The library into which HDL source is being compiled
 - The library explicitly set as `work` library
 - The default work library is named as `work`

``uselib` Examples

File <code>half_adder.v</code> compiled into logical library named <code>adder_lib</code>	File <code>full_adder.v</code> compiled into logical library named <code>work</code>
<pre> module half_adder(a,b,c,s); input a,b; output c,s; s = a ^ b; c = a & b; endmodule </pre>	<pre> module full_adder(c_in, c_out, a, b, sum) input c_in,a,b; output c_out,sum; wire carry1,carry2,sum1; `uselib lib = adder_lib half_adder adder1(.a(a),.b(b),. c(carry1),.s(sum1)); half_adder adder1(.a(sum1),.b(c_in),.c (carry2),.s(sum)); c_out = carry1 carry2; endmodule </pre>

Simulating the Design Snapshot

The `xsim` command loads a simulation snapshot to effect either a batch mode simulation or provides a GUI and/or a Tcl-based interactive simulation environment.

`xsim` Executable Syntax

The command syntax is as follows:


```
xsim <options> <snapshot>
```

Where:

- `xsim` is the command.
- `<options>` are the options specified in [Table 5-1](#).
- `<snapshot>` is the simulation snapshot.

xsim Executable Options

Table 5-1: xsim Executable Command Options

XSIM Option	Description
-f [-file] <filename>	Load the command line options from a file.
-g [-gui]	Run with interactive GUI.
-h [-help]	Print help message to screen.
-log <filename>	Specify the log file name.
-maxdeltaid arg (= -1)	Specify the maximum delta number. Report an error if it exceeds maximum simulation loops at the same time.
-nosignalhandlers	<p>Disables the installation of OS-level signal handlers in the simulation. For performance reasons, the simulator does not check explicitly for certain conditions, such as an integer division by zero, that could generate an OS-level fatal run-time error. Instead, the simulator installs signal handlers to catch those errors and report them to the user. With the signal handlers disabled, the simulator can run in the presence of such security software, but OS-level fatal errors could crash the simulation abruptly with little indication of the nature of the failure.</p> <p> CAUTION! Use this option only if your security software prevents the simulator from running successfully.</p>
-nolog	Suppresses log file generation.
-onfinish <quit stop>	Specify the behavior at end of simulation.
-onerror <quit stop>	Specify the behavior upon simulation runtime error.
-R [-runall]	Runs simulation till end (such as <code>do 'run all;quit'</code>).
-testplusarg <arg>	Specify plusargs to be used by <code>\$test\$plusargs</code> and <code>\$value\$plusargs</code> system functions.
-t [-tclbatch] <filename>	Specify the Tcl file for batch mode execution.
-tp	Enable printing to screen of hierarchical names of process being executed.
-tl	Enable printing to screen of file name and line number of statements being executed.
-wdb <filename.wdb>	Specify the waveform database output file.
-version	Print the compiler version to screen.
-view <wavefile.wcfg>	Open a wave configuration file. Use this switch together with <code>-gui</code> switch.

xelab, xvhd, and xvlog Command Options

Table 5-2 lists the command options for the `xelab`, `xvhdl`, and `xvlog` commands.

Table 5-2: **xelab, xvhd, and xvlog Command Options**

Command Option	Description	Used by Command
<code>-d [define] <name>[=<val>]</code>	Define Verilog macros. Use <code>-d</code> <code>--define</code> for each Verilog macro. The format of the macro is <code><name> [=<val>]</code> where <code><name></code> is name of the macro and <code><value></code> is an optional value of the macro.	xelab xvlog
<code>-debug <kind></code>	Compile with specified debugging ability turned on. The <code><kind></code> options are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>typical</code>: Most commonly used abilities, including: <code>line</code> and <code>wave</code>. <code>line</code>: HDL breakpoint. <code>wave</code>: Waveform generation, conditional execution, force value. <code>xlibs</code>: Visibility into Xilinx precompiled libraries. This option is only available on the command line. <code>off</code>: Turn off all debugging abilities (Default). <code>all</code>: Uses all the debug options. 	xelab
<code>-encryptdumps</code>	Encrypt parsed dump of design units being compiled.	xvhdl xvlog
<code>-f [-file] <filename></code>	Read additional options from the specified file.	xelab xvhdl xvlog
<code>-generic_top <value></code>	Override generic or parameter of a top-level design unit with specified value. Example: <code>-generic_top "P1=10"</code>	xelab
<code>-h [-help]</code>	Print this help message.	xelab xvhdl xvlog
<code>-i [include] <directory_name></code>	Specify directories to be searched for files included using Verilog <code>`include</code> . Use <code>-i</code> <code>--include</code> for each specified search directory.	xelab xvlog
<code>-initfile <init_filename></code>	User-defined simulator initialization file to add to or override settings provided by the default <code>xsim.ini</code> file.	xelab xvhdl xvlog

Table 5-2: xelab, xvhd, and xvlog Command Options (Cont'd)

Command Option	Description	Used by Command
-L [-lib] <library_name> [=<library_dir>]	Specify search libraries for the instantiated non-VHDL design units; for example, a Verilog design unit. Use -L --lib for each search library. The format of the argument is <name> [=<dir>] where <name> is the logical name of the library and <library_dir> is an optional physical directory of the library.	xelab xvhd xvlog
-log <filename>	Specify the log file name. Default: xvlog xvhdl xelab.log.	xelab xvhd xvlog
-maxdelay	Compile Verilog design units with minimum delays.	xelab xvhd xvlog
-maxdesigndepth arg	Override maximum design hierarchy depth allowed by the elaborator (Default: 5000).	xelab xvhd xvlog
-mindelay	Compile Verilog design units with maximum delays.	xelab xvhd xvlog
-mt arg	Specifies the number of sub-compilation jobs which can be run in parallel. Possible values are auto, off, or an integer greater than 1. If auto is specified, xelab selects the number of parallel jobs based on the number of CPUs on the host machine. (Default = auto). To further control the -mt option, an advanced user can set the Tcl property as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Tcl Command: set_property XELAB.MT_LEVEL off N [get_filesets_sim_1]	xelab
-nolog	Suppress log file generation.	xelab xvhd xvlog
-notimingchecks	Ignore timing check constructs in Verilog specify block(s).	xelab
-nosdfinterconnectdelays	Ignore SDF port and interconnect delay constructs in SDF.	xelab
-nospecify	Ignore Verilog path delays and timing checks.	xelab

Table 5-2: xelab, xvhd, and xvlog Command Options (Cont'd)

Command Option	Description	Used by Command
-O arg	Enable or disable optimizations. -O0 = Disable optimizations -O1 = Enable basic optimizations -O2 = Enable most commonly desired optimizations (Default) -O3 = Enable advanced optimizations Note: A lower value speeds compilation at expense of slower simulation: a higher value slows compilation but simulation runs faster.	xelab
-override_timeunit	Override timeunit for all Verilog modules, with the specified time unit in -timescale option.	xelab
-override_timeprecision	Override time precision for all Verilog modules, with the specified time precision in -timescale option.	xelab
-pulse_e arg	Path pulse error limit as percentage of path delay. Allowed values are 0 to 100 (Default is 100).	xelab
-pulse_r arg	Path pulse reject limit as percentage of path delay. Allowed values are 0 to 100 (Default is 100).	xelab
-pulse_int_e arg	Interconnect pulse reject limit as percentage of delay. Allowed values are 0 to 100 (Default is 100).	xelab
-pulse_int_r arg	Interconnect pulse reject limit as percentage of delay. Allowed values are 0 to 100 (Default is 100).	xelab
-pulse_e_style arg	Specify when error about pulse being shorter than module path delay should be handled. Choices are: <code>ondetect</code> : report error right when violation is detected <code>onevent</code> : report error after the module path delay. (Default: <code>onevent</code>)	xelab
-prj <filename>	Specify XSim project file containing one or more entries of <code>vhdl verilog <work lib> <HDL file name></code> .	xelab xvhd xvlog
-r [-run]	Run the generated executable snapshot in command-line interactive mode.	xelab
-rangecheck	Enable runtime value range check for VHDL.	xelab
-R [-runall]	Run the generated executable snapshot until the end of simulation.	xelab
-relax	Relax strict language rules.	xelab xvhd xvlog
-s [-snapshot] arg	Specify the name of output simulation snapshot. Default is <code><worklib>.<unit></code> ; for example: <code>work.top</code> . Additional unit names are concatenated using #; for example: <code>work.t1#work.t2</code> .	xelab

Table 5-2: xelab, xvhd, and xvlog Command Options (Cont'd)

Command Option	Description	Used by Command
-sdfnowarn	Do not emit SDF warnings.	xelab
-sdfnoerror	Treat errors found in SDF file as warning.	xelab
-sdfmin arg	<root=file> SDF annotate <file> at <root> with minimum delay.	xelab
-sdftyp arg	<root=file> SDF annotate <file> at <root> with typical delay.	xelab
-sdfmax arg	<root=file> SDF annotate <file> at <root> with maximum delay.	xelab
-sdfroot <root_path>	Default design hierarchy at which SDF annotation is applied.	xelab
-sourcelibdir <sourcelib_dirname>	Directory for Verilog source files of uncompiled modules. Use -sourcelibdir <sourcelib_dirname> for each source directory.	xelab
-sourcelibext <file_extension>	File extension for Verilog source files of uncompiled modules. Use -sourcelibext <file extension> for source file extension	xelab
-sourcelibfile <filename>	Filename of a Verilog source file with uncompiled modules. Use -sourcelibfile <filename>.	xelab
-stat	Print tool CPU and memory usages, and design statistics.	xelab
-timescale	Specify default timescale for Verilog modules. Default: 1ns/1ps.	xelab
-timeprecision_vhdl arg	Specify time precision for vhdl designs. Default:1ps.	xelab
-transport_int_delays	Use transport model for interconnect delays.	xelab
-typdelay	Compile Verilog design units with typical delays (Default).	xelab
-v [verbose] [0 1 2]	Specify verbosity level for printing messages. Default = 0.	xelab
-version	Print the compiler version to screen.	xelab xvhdl xvlog
-work <library_name> [=<library_dir>]	Specify the work library. The format of the argument is <name> [=<dir>] where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <name> is the logical name of the library. • <library_dir> is an optional physical directory of the library. 	xvhdl xvlog

Project File (.prj) Syntax

To parse design files using a project file, create a file called `<proj_name>.prj`, and use the following syntax inside the project file:

```
verilog <work_library> <file_names>... [-d <macro>]...[-i
<include_path>]...
vhdl <work_library> <file_name>
```

Where:

`<work_library>`: Is the library into which the HDL files on the given line are to be compiled.

`<file_names>`: Are Verilog source files. You can specify multiple Verilog files per line.

`<file_name>`: Is a VHDL source file; specify only one VHDL file per line.

- For Verilog, `[-d <macro>]` optionally lets you define one or more macros.
- For Verilog, `[-i <include_path>]` optionally lets you define one or more `<include_path>` directories.

Predefined Macros

`XILINX_SIMULATOR` is a Verilog predefined-macro. The value of this macro is 1. Predefined macros perform tool-specific functions, or identify which tool to use in a design flow. The following is an example usage:

```
`ifdef VCS
    // VCS specific code
`endif
`ifdef INCA
    // NCSIM specific code
`endif
`ifdef MODEL_TECH
    // MODELSIM specific code
`endif
`ifdef XILINX_ISIM
    // ISE Simulator (ISim) specific code
`endif
`ifdef XILINX_SIMULATOR
    // Vivado Simulator (XSim) specific code
`endif
```

Library Mapping File (xsim.ini)

The HDL compile programs, `xvhdl`, `xvlog`, and `xelab`, use the `xsim.ini` configuration file to find the definitions and physical locations of VHDL and Verilog logical libraries.

The compilers attempt to read `xsim.ini` from these locations in the following order:

1. `<Vivado_Install_Dir>/data/xsim`
2. User-file specified through the `-initfile` switch. If `-initfile` is not specified, the program searches for `xsim.ini` in the current working directory.

The `xsim.ini` file has the following syntax:

```
<logical_library1> = <physical_dir_path1>  
<logical_library2> = <physical_dir_path2>
```

The following is an example `xsim.ini` file:

```
VHDL  
std=C:/libs/vhdl/hdl/  
stdieee=C:/libs/vhdl/hdl/ieee  
work=C:/workVerilog  
unisims_ver=<Vivado_Install_Area>/data/verilog/hdl/nt/unisims_ver  
xilinxcorelib_ver=C:/libs/verilog/hdl/nt/xilinxcorelib_ver  
mylib=./mylib  
work=C:/work
```

The `xsim.ini` file has the following features and limitations:

- There must be no more than one library path per line inside the `xsim.ini` file.
- If the directory corresponding to the physical path does not exist, `xvhdl` or `xvlog` creates it when the compiler first tries to write to that path.
- You can describe the physical path in terms of environment variables. The environment variable must start with the `$` character.
- The default physical directory for a logical library is `xsim/<logical_library_name>`, for example, a logical library name of:

```
<Vivado_Install_Dir>/data/verilog/src/glbl.v
```

- File comments must start with `--`

Running Simulation Modes

You can run any mode of simulation from the command line. The following subsections illustrate and describe the simulation modes when run from the command line.

Behavioral Simulation

Figure 5-1 illustrates the behavioral simulation process:

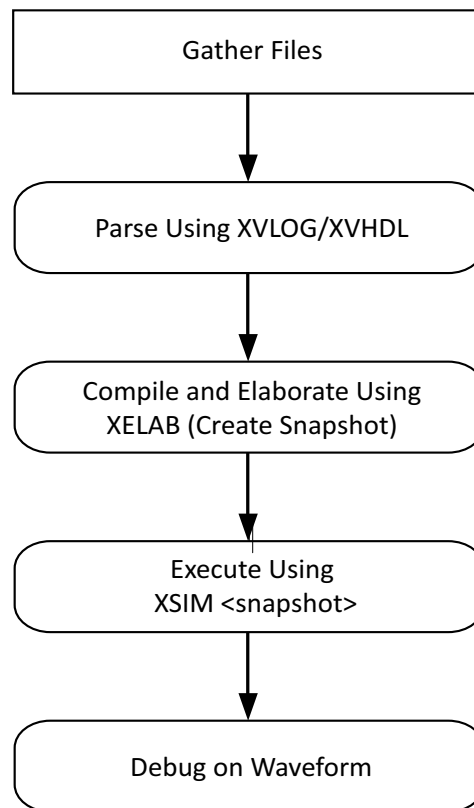


Figure 5-1: Behavioral Simulation Process

To run behavioral simulation, type:

- **Tcl Command:** `launch_xsim -mode behavioral`

Running Post-Synthesis and Post-Implementation Simulations

At post-synthesis and post-implementation, you can run a functional or a Verilog timing simulation. Figure 5-2 illustrates the post-synthesis and post-implementation simulation process:

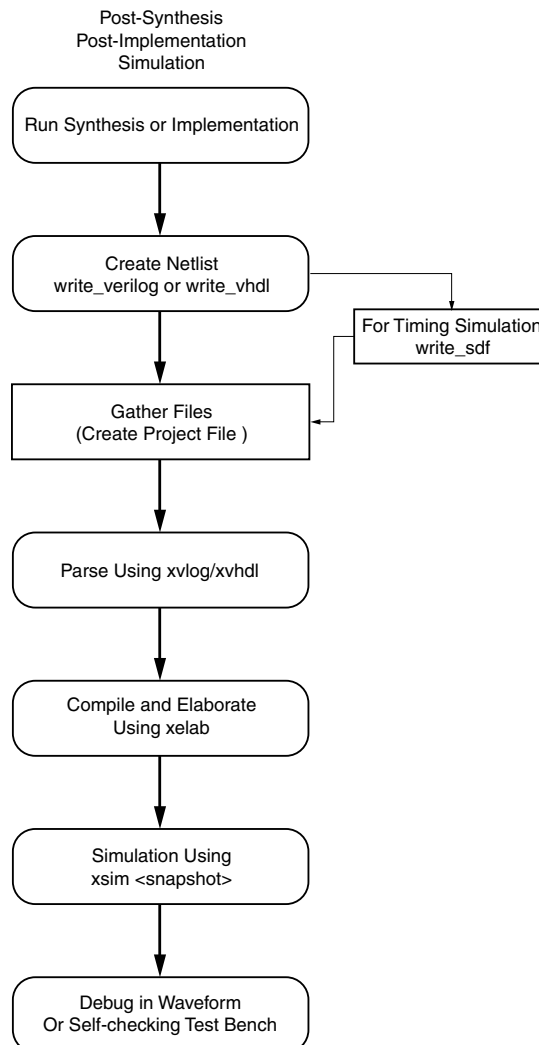


Figure 5-2: Post-Synthesis and Post-Implementation Simulation

The following is an example of running a post-synthesis functional simulation from the command line:

- **Tcl Commands:**

```

synth_design -top top -part xc7k70tfbg676-2
open_run synth_1 -name netlist_1
write_verilog -mode funcsim test_synth.v
xvlog -work work test_synth.v
xvlog -work work testbench.v
xelab -L unisims_ver testbench glbl -s test
xsim test -gui
  
```



TIP: When you run a post-synthesis or post-implementation timing simulation, you must run the `write_sdf` command after the `write_verilog` command, and the appropriate `annotate` command is needed for elaboration and simulation.

Using Tcl Commands and Scripts

You can run Tcl commands on the Tcl Console individually, or batch the commands into a Tcl script to run simulation.

Using a `-tclbatch` File

You can type simulation commands into a Tcl file, and reference the Tcl file with the following:

- **Tcl Command:** `-tclbatch <filename>`

Use the `-tclbatch` option to contain commands within a file and execute those command as simulation starts. For example, you can have a file named `run.tcl` that contains the following:

```
run 20ns
current_time
quit
```

Then launch simulation as follows:

```
xsim <snapshot> -tclbatch run.tcl
```

You can set a variable to represent a simulation command to quickly run frequently used simulation commands.

Launching Vivado Simulator from the Tcl Console

The following is an example of Tcl commands that create a project, read in source files, launch the Vivado simulator, do placing and routing, write out an SDF file, and re-launch simulation.

```
Vivado -mode Tcl
Vivado% create_project prj1
Vivado% read_verilog dut.v
Vivado% synth_design -top dut
Vivado% launch_xsim -simset sim_1 -mode post-synthesis -type functional
Vivado% place_design
Vivado% route_design
Vivado% write_verilog -mode timesim -sdf_anno true -sdf_file postRoute.sdf
postRoute_netlist.v
Vivado% write_sdf postRoute.sdf
Vivado% launch_xsim -simset sim_1 -mode post-implementation -type timing
Vivado% close_project
```

Tcl Property Commands

You can use Tcl `*_property` commands to find the properties associated with a design. The following subsections briefly describe some of the property commands that are useful during simulation.

See the *Vivado Design Suite Tcl Command Reference Guide* (UG835) [Ref 6] for more information regarding the property commands.

report_property Command

- **Tcl Command:**

```
report_property [-all] [-class <arg>] [-return_string] [-file <arg>]
[-append] [-regexp] [-quiet] [-verbose] [<object>] [<pattern>]
```

Related commands are as follows:

- create_property
- get_cells
- [list_property Command](#)
- list_property_value
- reset_property
- set_property
- [get_property](#)

list_property Command

The `list_property` command lists the properties of a specified object.

- **Tcl Command:**

```
list_property [-class <arg>] [-regexp] [-quiet] [-verbose] [<object>]
[<pattern>]
```

The command returns a list of property names.

get_property

The `get_property` command lets you modify the value of a specified property

- **Tcl Command:** `get_property [-quiet] [-verbose] <name> <object>`

The command returns the property value.

Example:

The following example gets the `NAME` property from the specified cell:

- **Tcl Command:** `get_property NAME [lindex [get_cells] 3]`

Property Command Options

[Table 5-3](#) lists the Property options.

Table 5-3: Property Options

Property	Type	Read-only	Visible	Value
CLASS	string	true	true	fileset
FILESET_TYPE	string	true	true	Simulation sources
GENERIC	string	false	true	
INCLUDE_DIRS	string	false	true	
NAME	string	false	true	sim_1
NEEDS_REFRESH	bool	true	true	0
NL.CELL	string	false	true	
NL.INCL_UNISIM_MODELS	bool	false	true	0

Table 5-3: Property Options (Cont'd)

Property	Type	Read-only	Visible	Value
NL.MODE	string	false	false	timesim
NL.NOLIB	bool	false	false	1
NL.PROCESS_CORNER	string	false	true	slow
NL.RENAME_TOP	string	false	true	
NL.SDF_ANNO	bool	false	true	1
NL.WRITE_ALL_OVERRIDES	bool	false	true	0
RUNTIME	string	false	true	1000ns
SIM_MODE	string	false	false	post-implementation
SKIP_COMPILATION	bool	false	false	0
SKIP_SIMULATION	bool	false	false	0
SOURCE_SET	string	false	true	sources_1
TOP	string	false	true	bft_tb
TOP_ARCH	string	false	false	
TOP_AUTO_SET	bool	false	false	1
TOP_FILE	string	false	false	Example: C:/scripts/project_17/project_17.srcs/sim_1/imports/sources/bft_tb.v
TOP_LIB	string	false	false	work
UNIT_UNDER_TEST	string	false	true	
VERILOG_DEFINE	string	false	true	
VERILOG_DIR	string	false	false	
VERILOG_UPPERCASE	bool	false	true	0
VHDL_GENERIC	string	false	false	
XELAB.DEBUG_LEVEL	enum	false	true	typical
XELAB.DLL	bool	false	true	0
XELAB.LOAD_GLBL	bool	false	true	1

Table 5-3: Property Options (Cont'd)

Property	Type	Read-only	Visible	Value
XELAB.MORE_OPTIONS	string	false	true	
XELAB.MT_LEVEL	enum	false	true	auto
XELAB.RANGECHECK	bool	false	true	0
XELAB.RELAX	bool	false	true	0
XELAB.SDF_DELAY	enum	false	true	sdfmax
XELAB.SNAPSHOT	string	false	true	
XELAB.UNIFAST	bool	false	true	0
XSIM.MORE_OPTIONS	string	false	true	
XSIM.SAIF	string	false	true	
XSIM.TCLBATCH	string	false	true	
XSIM.VIEW	string	false	true	
XSIM.WDB	string	false	true	

Debugging a Design with Vivado Simulator

Introduction

You can debug a design in the Vivado® Design Suite simulator from the source code or by setting *breakpoints* and running simulation until a breakpoint is reached.

This chapter describes debugging methods, and includes a number of Tcl commands that are valuable in the debug process. There is also a flow diagram that illustrates the process of debugging in third party simulators.

You can also set conditions by which the tools searches for and displays the source code that matches the specified condition and executes a command.

- **Tcl Command:** `add_condition <condition> <instruction>`

See [Adding Conditions and Outputting Diagnostic Messages for Debugging, page 114](#) for more information.

Debugging at the Source Level


You can debug your HDL source code to track down unexpected behavior in the design. Debugging is accomplished through controlled execution of the source code to determine where issues might be occurring. Available strategies for debugging are:

- Step through the code line by line: For any design at any point in development, you can use the **Step** command to debug your HDL source code one line at a time to verify that the design is working as expected. After each line of code, run the **Step** command again to continue the analysis. For more information, see [Stepping Through a Simulation](#).
- Set breakpoints on the specific lines of HDL code, and run the simulation until a breakpoint is reached: In larger designs, it can be cumbersome to stop after each line of HDL source code is run. Breakpoints can be set at any predetermined points in your HDL source code, and the simulation is run (either from the beginning of the testbench

or from where you currently are in the design) and stops are made at each breakpoint. You can use the **Step**, **Run All**, or **Run For** command to advance the simulation after a stop. For more information, see [Using Breakpoints, page 112](#).

Stepping Through a Simulation

You can use the **Step** command, which executes your HDL source code one line of source code at a time, to verify that the design is working as expected.

A yellow arrow points to the currently executing line of code. 

You can also create breakpoints for additional stops while stepping through your simulation. For more information on debugging strategies in the simulator, see [Using Breakpoints, page 112](#).

1. To step through a simulation:

- From the current running time, select **Run > Step**, or click the **Step** button. 

The HDL associated with the top design unit opens as a new view in the waveform window.

- From the start (0 ns), restart the simulation. Use the **Restart** command to reset time to the beginning of the testbench. See [Chapter 3, Using the Vivado Simulator from Vivado IDE](#).
2. Select **Window > Tile Horizontally (or Window > Tile Vertically)** to simultaneously see the waveform and the HDL code.
3. Repeat the **Step** action until debugging is complete.

As each line is executed, you can see the yellow arrow moving down the code. If the simulator is executing lines in another file, the new file opens, and the yellow arrow steps through the code. It is common in most simulations for multiple files to be opened when running the Step command. The Tcl Console also indicates how far along the HDL code the step command has progressed.

Using Breakpoints

A breakpoint is a user-determined stopping point in the source code that you can use for debugging the design.




TIP: *Breakpoints are particularly helpful when debugging larger designs for which debugging with the Step command (stopping the simulation for every line of code) might be too cumbersome and time consuming.*

You can set breakpoints in executable lines in your HDL file so you can run your code continuously until the source code line with the breakpoint is reached.

Note: You can set breakpoints on lines with executable code only. If you place a breakpoint on a line of code that is not executable, the breakpoint is not added.

To set a breakpoint, do the following:

1. Select **View > Breakpoint > Toggle Breakpoint**,  or click the **Toggle Breakpoint** button.
2. In the HDL file, click a line of code just to the right of the line number.

The **Breakpoint** button  displays next to the line.

Note: Alternatively, you can right-click a line of code, and select **Toggle Breakpoint**.

After the procedure completes, a simulation breakpoint button opens next to the line of code, and a list of breakpoints is available in the Breakpoints view. In the Tcl Console, use the following:

- **Tcl Command:** `add_bp <line_number> <file_name>`


This command adds a breakpoint at `<line_number>` of `<file_name>`.

See the Vivado help or the *Vivado Design Suite Tcl Command Reference Guide* (UG835) [Ref 6] for command usage.

To debug a design using breakpoints:

1. Open the HDL source file.
2. Set breakpoints on executable lines in the HDL source file.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 until all breakpoints are set.
4. Run the simulation, using a Run option:
 - To run from the beginning, use the **Run > Restart** command.
 - Use the **Run > Run All or Run > Run for Specified Time** command.

The simulation runs until a breakpoint is reached, then stops.


The HDL source file displays,  and the yellow arrow indicates the breakpoint stopping point.


5. Repeat Step 4 to advance the simulation, breakpoint by breakpoint, until you are satisfied with the results.

A controlled simulation runs, stopping at each breakpoint set in your HDL source files.

During design debugging, you can also run the **Run > Step** command to advance the simulation line by line to debug the design at a more detailed level.

You can delete a single breakpoint or all breakpoints from your HDL source code.

To delete a single breakpoint, click the **Breakpoint** button. 

To remove all breakpoints, either select **Run > Breakpoint > Delete All Breakpoints** or click the **Delete All Breakpoints** button. 

To delete all breakpoints, you can type:

- **Tcl Command:** `remove_bp`

To get breakpoint information on the specified list of breakpoint objects:

- **Tcl Command:** `report_bp <list>`

Adding Conditions and Outputting Diagnostic Messages for Debugging

To add set breakpoints based on a condition and output a diagnostic message, use the following commands:

- **Tcl Command:** `add_condition <condition> <message>`

Using the Vivado IDE BFT example design, to stop at the when the `wbClk` signal and the `reset` are both Active-high, issue following command at beginning of simulation to print a diagnostic message and pause, then stop when `reset` goes to 1 and `wbClk` goes to 1:

- **Tcl Command:**

```
add_condition {reset == 1 && wbClk == 1} {puts "Reset went to high"; stop}
```

A run all breaks simulation at 5 ns when the condition is met and prints "Reset went to high" to the console.

Generating (forcing) Stimulus

You can use the `add_force` command to force value of signal, wire, or reg to a specified value.

- **Tcl Command:** `add_force`
- **Tcl Command Syntax:**

```
add_force [-radix <arg>] [-repeat_every <arg>] [-cancel_after <arg>] [-quiet]
[-verbose] <hdl_object> <values>...
```

Figure 6-1, page 115 illustrates how the `add_force` functionality is applied given the following command:

```
add_force mySig {0 t1} {1 t2} {0 t3} {1 t4} {0 t5} -repeat_every tr -cancel_after tc
```

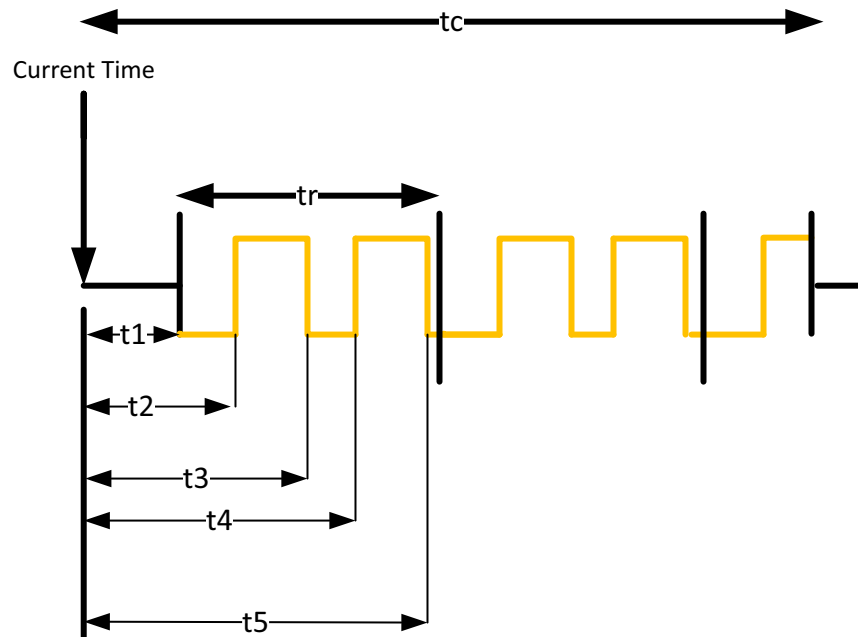


Figure 6-1: Illustration of `-add_force` Functionality

You can get more detail on the command by typing the following in the Tcl Console:

- **Tcl Command:** `add_force -help`

Adding Force in Verilog Code

The following code snippet is a Verilog example of adding force:

```

module bot(input in1, in2,output out1);
  reg sel;
  assign out1 = sel? in1: in2;
endmodule

module top;
  reg in1, in2;
  wire out1;
  bot I1(in1, in2, out1);
  initial
  begin
    #10 in1 = 1'b1; in2 = 1'b0;
    #10 in1 = 1'b0; in2 = 1'b1;
  end
  initial
    $monitor("out1 = %b\n", out1);
endmodule

```

Command Examples

You can invoke the following commands to observe the effect of `add_force`:

```
xelab -vlog tmp.v -debug all
xsim work.top
```

At the command prompt, type:

```
add_force /top/I1/sel 1
run 10
add_force /top/I1/sel 0
run all
```

Using `add_force` with `remove_force`

The following is an example Verilog file, `top.v`, which instantiates a counter. You can use this file in the following command example.

```
module counter(input clk,reset,updown,output [4:0] out1);

reg [4:0] r1;

always@(posedge clk)
begin
    if(reset)
        r1 <= 0;
    else
        if(updown)
            r1 <= r1 + 1;
        else
            r1 <= r1 - 1;
end

assign out1 = r1;
endmodule

module top;
reg clk;
reg reset;
reg updown;
wire [4:0] out1;

counter I1(clk, reset, updown, out1);

initial
begin
    reset = 1;
    #20 reset = 0;
end
```

```

initial
begin
    updown = 1; clk = 0;
end

initial
    #500 $finish;

initial
    $monitor("out1 = %b\n", out1);
endmodule

```

Running add_force and remove_force in a Tcl Batch File

1. Create a file called `add_force.tcl` with following command:

```

create_project add_force
add_files top.v
set_property top top [get_filesets sim_1]
set_property -name xelab.more_options -value {-debug all} -objects
[get_filesets sim_1]
set_property runtime {0} [get_filesets sim_1]
launch_xsim -simset sim_1 -mode behavioral
add_wave /top/*

```

2. Invoke Vivado in batch mode, and source the `add_force.tcl` file.
3. In the Tcl Console, type:

```

add_force clk {0 1} {1 2} -repeat_every 3 -cancel_after 500
add_force updown {0 10} {1 20} -repeat_every 30
run 100

```

Observe that the value of `out1` increments as well as decrements in the Waveform window.

Observe the value of `updown` signal in the Waveform Window.

4. In the Tcl Console, type:

```
remove_force force2
```

Observe that the value of signal `updown` is now the default value present in design.

5. In the Tcl Console, type:

```
run 100
```

Observe that only the value of `out1` increments.

6. In the Tcl Console, type:

```
remove_force force1
run 100
```

Observe that the value of `out1` is not changing because the `clk` signal is not toggling.

Power Analysis Using Vivado Simulator

The SAIF dumping is optimized for Xilinx Power tools and dumps the following HDL types:

- Verilog:
 - Input, Output, and In/Out ports
 - Internal wire declarations
- VHDL:
 - Input, Output, and In/Out ports of type `std_logic`, `std_ulogic`, and `bit` (scalar, vector, and arrays).

Note: VHDL netlist is not generated in Vivado for timing simulations; consequently, the VHDL sources are for RTL-level code only, and not for netlist simulation.

For RTL-level simulations, only block level ports are generated and not the internal signals.

Generating SAIF Dumping

Before you use the `log_saif` command, you must call `open_saif`. The `log_saif` does not return any object or value. The switches are the same as those used in the `log_wave` command.

1. Compile your RTL code with the `-debug typical` option to enable SAIF dumping:

```
xelab -debug typical top -s mysim
```
2. Use the following Tcl command to start SAIF dumping:
 - **Tcl Command:** `open_saif <saif_file_name>`
3. Add the scopes and signals to be generated by typing one of the following commands:
 - **Tcl Command:** `log_saif [get_objects]`
To recursively log all instances, type:
 - **Tcl Command:** `log_saif [get_objects -r *]`
4. Import simulation data into an SAIF format:
 - **Tcl Command:** `read_saif`
5. Run the simulation (use any of the run commands).
6. Close the SAIF file, by typing:
 - **Tcl Command:** `close_saif`

Example SAIF Commands

To log SAIF for all signals in the scope:

- **Tcl Command:** `/tb: log_saif /tb/*`

To log SAIF for all the ports of the scope:

- **Tcl Command:** `/tb/UUT`

To log SAIF for those objects whose names start with `a` and end in `b` and have digits in between:

- **Tcl Command:**
`log_saif [get_objects -regexp {^a[0-9]+b$}]`

To log SAIF for the objects in the `current_scope` and `children_scope`:

- **Tcl Command:** `log_saif [get_objects -r *]`

To log SAIF for the objects in the `current_scope`:

- **Tcl Command:** `log_saif *` or `log_saif [get_objects]`

To log SAIF for only the ports of the scope `/tb/UUT`:

- **Tcl Command:**
`log_saif [get_objects -filter {type == in_port || type == out_port || type == inout_port || type == port } /tb/UUT/*]`

To log SAIF for only the internal signals of the scope `/tb/UUT`:

- **Tcl Command:** `log_saif [get_objects -filter { type == signal } /tb/UUT/*]`

Dumping SAIF using a Tcl Simulation Batch File

```
sim.tcl:  
open_saif xsim_dump.saif  
log_saif /tb/dut/*  
run all  
close_saif  
quit
```

Using the report_drivers Tcl Command

You can use the `report_drivers` Tcl command to determine what signal is *driving* a value on an HDL object. The syntax is as follows:

- **Tcl Command:** `report_drivers <hdl_object>`

The command prints drivers (HDL statements doing the assignment) to the Tcl Console along with current driving values on the right side of the assignment to a wire or signal-type HDL object.

Using the Value Change Dump Feature

You can use a Value Change Dump (VCD) file to capture simulation output. The Tcl commands are based on Verilog system tasks related to dumping values.

- **Tcl Commands:** For the VCD feature, the following commands model the Verilog system tasks, and are listed in [Table 6-1](#).

Table 6-1: Tcl Commands for VCD

Tcl Command	Description
<code>open_vcd</code>	Opens a VCD file for capturing simulation output. This Tcl command models the behavior of the <code>\$dumpfile</code> Verilog system task.
<code>checkpoint_vcd</code>	Models the behavior of the <code>\$dumpall</code> Verilog system task.
<code>start_vcd</code>	Models the behavior of the <code>\$dumpon</code> Verilog system task.
<code>log_vcd</code>	Logs VCD for the specified HDL objects. This command models behavior of the <code>\$dumpvars</code> Verilog system task.
<code>flush_vcd</code>	Models behavior of the <code>\$dumpflush</code> Verilog system task.
<code>limit_vcd</code>	Models behavior of the <code>\$dumplimit</code> Verilog system task.
<code>stop_vcd</code>	Models behavior of the <code>\$dumppoff</code> Verilog system task.
<code>close_vcd</code>	Closes the VCD generation.

See the *Vivado Design Suite Tcl Command Reference Guide* (UG835) [[Ref 6](#)], or type the following on the Tcl Console:

- **Tcl Command:** `<command> -help`

See [Verilog Language Support Exceptions in Appendix B](#) for more information.

Simulating with QuestaSim/ModelSim

Introduction

This chapter provides an overview of running simulation using QuestaSim/ModelSim in the Vivado® Design Suite environment.

IMPORTANT: Xilinx recommends that you use supported versions of third party simulators. For more information on supported Simulators and Operating Systems, see the Compatible Third-Party Tools table in the *Vivado Design Suite User Guide: Release Notes, Installation, and Licensing* (UG973) [Ref 1].

Simulating Xilinx Designs using QuestaSim/ModelSim

QuestaSim/ModelSim from Mentor Graphics is supported through the Vivado Integrated Design Environment (IDE): you can launch those simulators directly.

The *Vivado Design Suite User Guide: Using the Vivado IDE* (UG893) [Ref 2] describes the use of the Vivado IDE.

For more information on the QuestaSim/ModelSim simulators, see the following websites:

- <http://www.mentor.com/products/fv/questa/>
- <http://www.mentor.com/products/fv/modelsim/>

See the *Vivado Design Suite User Guide: Release Notes, Installation, and Licensing* (UG973) [Ref 1] for information regarding supported third party simulation tools and versions.

Setting QuestaSim/ModelSim for Use in Vivado IDE

The following subsections describe how to set the Vivado IDE to use QuestaSim/ModelSim for simulation.

Pointing to the QuestaSim/ModelSim Simulator Install Location

In the **Tools > Options > General** dialog box, shown in [Figure 7-1](#):

1. Select QuestaSim/ModelSim as the **Target Simulator**.
2. Define the QuestaSim/ModelSim path in the Compilation tab, Compiled Library Location.

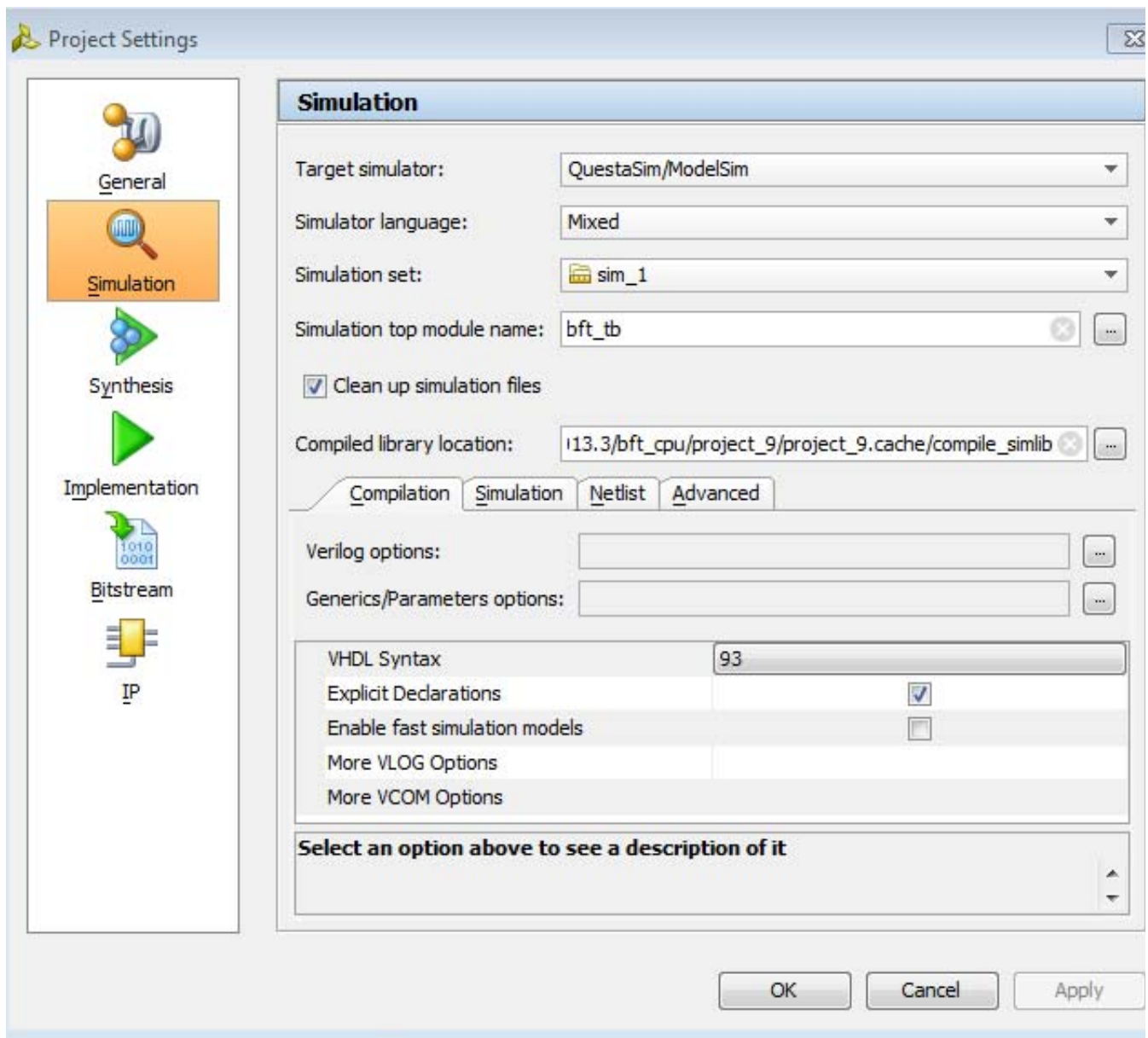


Figure 7-1: Tools General Options Dialog Box

When you select QuestaSim/ModelSim, the dialog box shown in [Figure 7-2](#) opens.

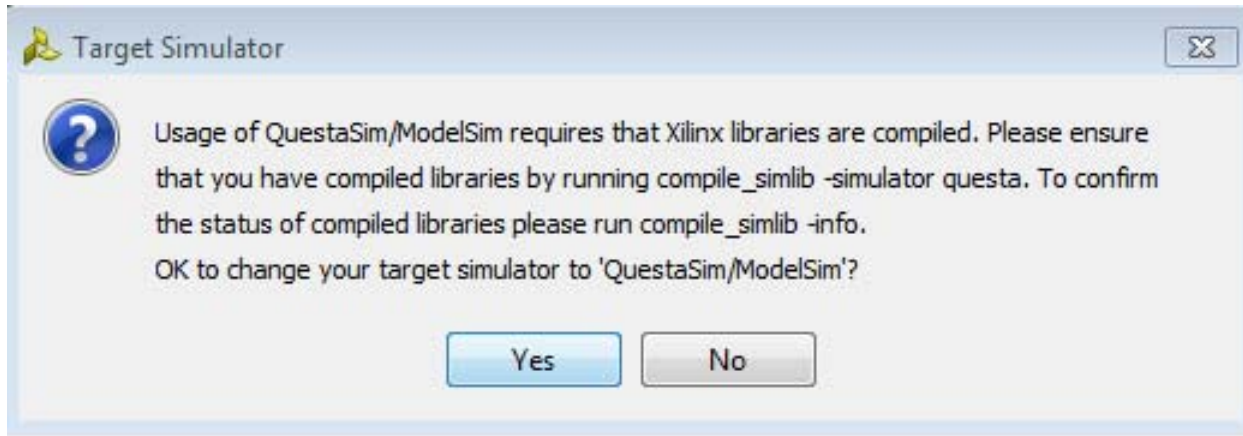


Figure 7-2: Target Simulator Information Dialog Box

Select **Yes** to proceed with using QuestaSim/ModelSim.

Compiling Simulation Libraries for QuestaSim/ModelSim

Before you begin simulation, run the `compile_simlib` Tcl command to compile the Xilinx simulation Libraries for the target simulator.

Note: For information on Xilinx libraries, see [Using Xilinx Simulation Libraries in Chapter 2](#).

- **Tcl command:**

```
compile_simlib -simulator questa
```

Other switches, such as `-directory <library_output_directory>` and `-simulator_exec_path <questa_install_location>` are derived from the simulation settings.

See the *Vivado Design Suite Tcl Command Reference Guide* (UG835) [Ref 6] for more information about the Tcl command, or type `compile_simlib -h` in the Tcl Console.



IMPORTANT: Any change to the Vivado tool or the simulator versions requires that libraries be recompiled.

Note: For information on Xilinx libraries, see [Using Xilinx Simulation Libraries in Chapter 2](#).

After the libraries are compiled, the simulator references these compiled libraries using the `modelsim.ini` file. The `compile_simlib` command copies the `modelsim.ini` file to the `<library_output_directory>`.



IMPORTANT: The `compile_simlib` option compiles only Xilinx primitives and legacy ISE® Design Suite Xilinx cores. Simulation models of Xilinx Vivado IP cores are delivered as an output product when the IP is generated; consequently they are not included in the pre-compiled libraries created using `compile_simlib`.

The `modelsim.ini` file is the default initialization file and contains control variables that specify reference library paths, optimization, compiler, and simulator settings. If the correct `modelsim.ini` file is not found in the path, you cannot run simulation on designs that include Xilinx primitives.

Running QuestaSim/ModelSim Simulation

The **Flow Navigator > Simulation Settings** section lets you configure the simulation settings in Vivado IDE. The Flow Navigator Simulation section is shown in [Figure 7-3](#).

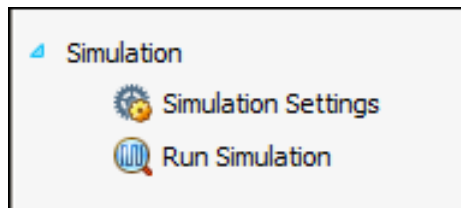


Figure 7-3: Flow Navigator Simulation Options

- **Simulation Settings:** Opens the Simulation Settings dialog box where you can select and configure the simulator.

QuestaSim/ModelSim Simulation Options

The Simulation dialog box opens with the Compilation view displayed, as shown in [Figure 7-4](#).

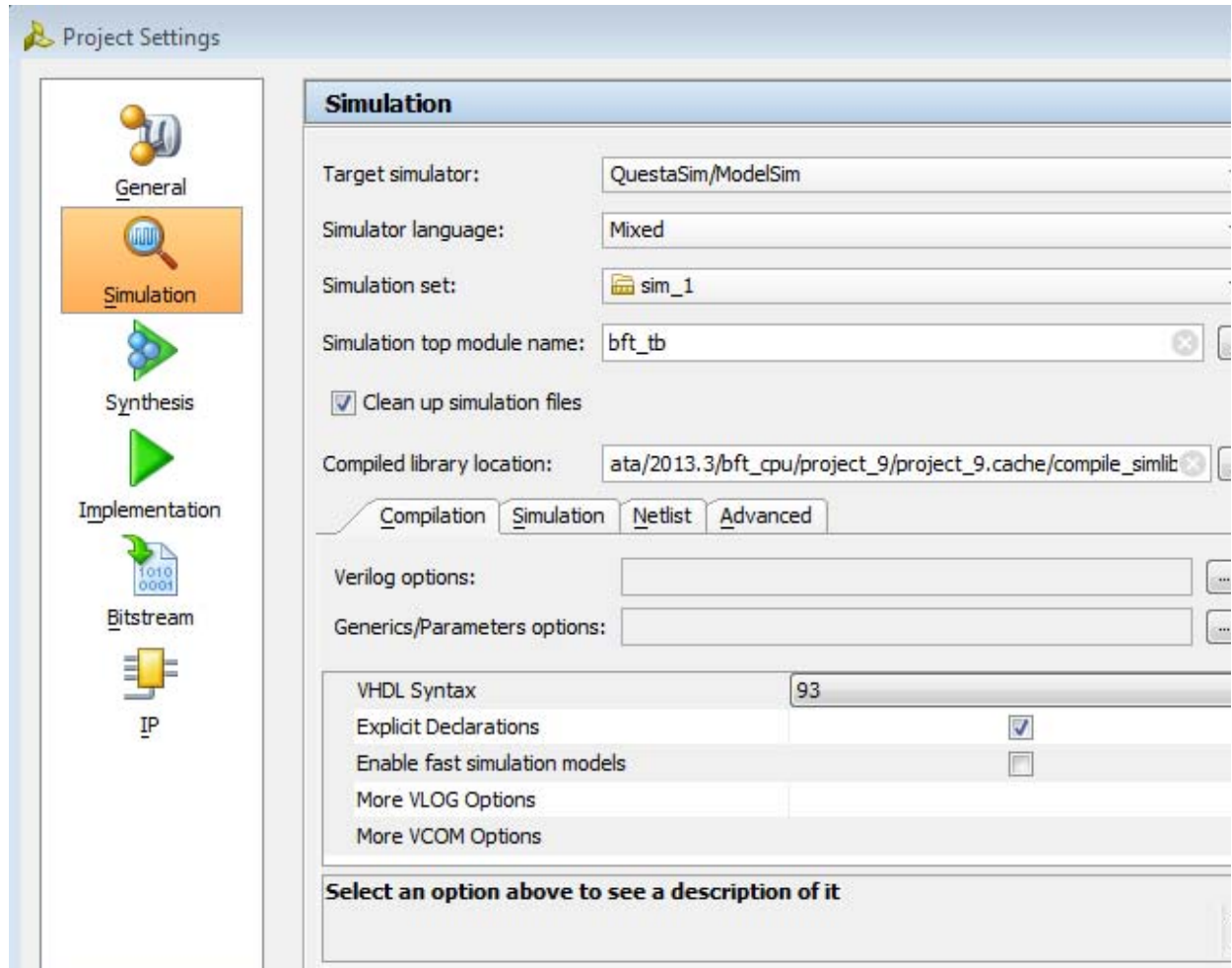


Figure 7-4: Compilation Simulation Options

The selected options display as follows:

- **Target simulator:** Shows the selected simulator.
- **Simulator Language:** Shows the selected HDL language: The Vivado IDE supports VHDL, Verilog, or Mixed for simulation.
- **Simulation set:** Shows the selected simulation set.
- **Simulation top module name:** Provides a path where you can enter or select the top module.
- **Clean up simulation files:** Is a checkbox option that removes unnecessary simulation files.

- **Compiled library location:** Lets you provide the location of the compiled libraries.

Selecting Compilation Options

The available compilation options are:

- Path selection options for **Verilog** and **Generics/Parameters**
- **VHDL Syntax:** Lets you select the VHDL language version. The options are 93, 87, 2002, and 2008.
- **Explicit Declarations:** This checkbox turns explicit declarations on and off. The checkbox is on by default.
- **Enable fast simulation options:** Enables or disables fast simulation models.
- **More VLOG Options:** Let you enter additional VLOG options.
- **More VCOM Options:** Let you enter additional VCOM options.

Selecting Simulation Options

The Simulation view is shown in [Figure 7-5](#):

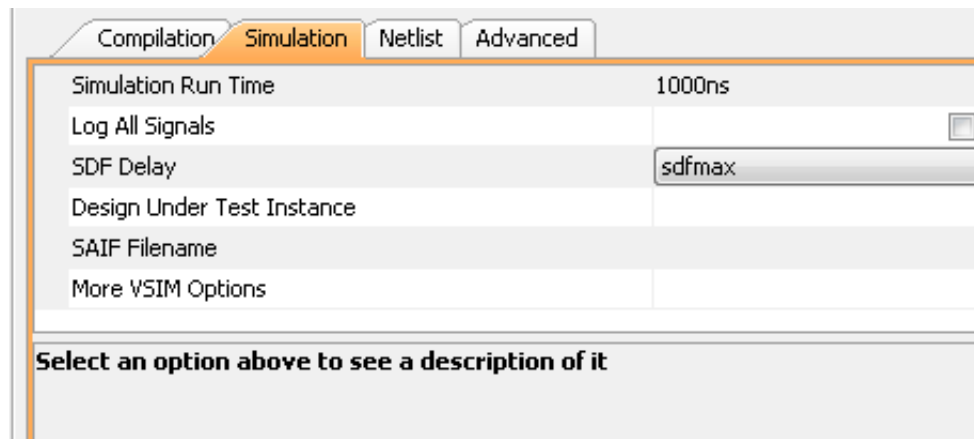


Figure 7-5: Simulation Options

The available options are:

- **Simulation Run Time:** Shows the default simulation run time.
- **Log All Signals:** Instructs the software to generate a log of all simulation signals.
Note: If you log all signals, this slows simulation and increases the size of the waveform database.
- **SDF Delay:** Options in the drop-down are: `sdfmax` (default) and `sdfmin`. See [Annotating an SDF File in QuestaSim/ModelSim, page 134](#), for more information.
- **Design Under Test Instance:** Lets you enter a name for the design.

- **SAIF Filename:** Lets you enter the name of the SAIF file to use. See [Dumping SAIF in QuestaSim/ModelSim, page 133](#) for more information.
- **More VSIM Options:** Lets you enter more QuestaSim/ModelSim options.

Selecting Netlist Options

The available netlist options are shown in [Figure 7-6](#).

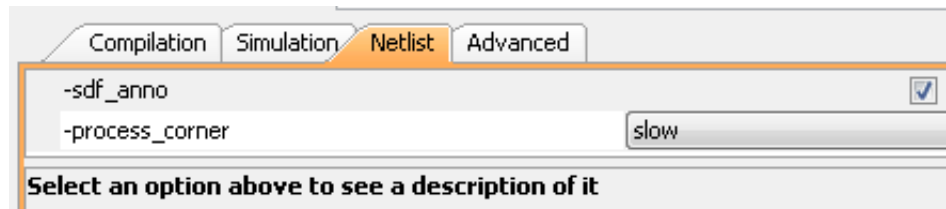


Figure 7-6: Netlist Options

The options are:

- **-sdf_anno:** checkbox is available to select the command. This option is checked by default.
- **-process_corner:** You can specify the `-process_corner` as `fast` or `slow`.

See [Annotating an SDF File in QuestaSim/ModelSim, page 134](#) for more information about SDF.

Selecting Advanced Simulation Options

The Advanced view is shown in [Figure 7-7](#).

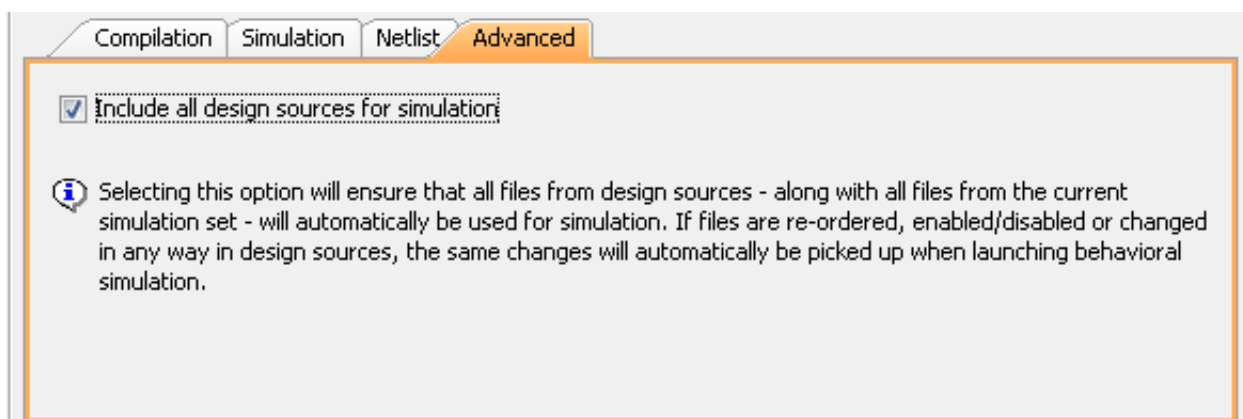


Figure 7-7: Advanced Option


This view provides an option to include all design sources for simulation. Unchecking the box gives you the flexibility to include only the files you want to simulate.



IMPORTANT: *Xilinx does not recommend unchecking this option!*

Adding or Creating Simulation Source Files

To add simulation sources to a project:

1. Select **File > Add Sources**, or click the **Add Sources** button. 

The Add Sources wizard opens.

2. Select **Add or Create Simulation Sources**, and click **Next**.




The Add or Create Simulation Sources dialog box options are:

- **Specify Simulation Set:** Enter the name of the simulation set in which to store testbench files and directories (the default is `sim_1`, `sim_2`, and so forth).

You can select the **Create Simulation Set** command from the drop-down menu to define a new simulation set. When more than one simulation set is available, the Vivado simulator shows which simulation set is the *active* (currently used) set.

- **Add Files:** Invokes a file browser so you can select simulation source files to add to the project.
- **Add Directories:** Invokes directory browser to add all simulation source files from the selected directories. Files in the specified directory with valid source file extensions are added to the project.
- **Create File:** Invokes the **Create Source File** dialog box where you can create new simulation source files.

Buttons on the side of the dialog box let you do the following:

- **Remove:** Removes the selected source files from the list of files to be added. 
- **Move Selected File Up:** Moves the file up in the list order. 
- **Move Selected File Down:** Moves the file down in the list order. 

Checkboxes in the wizard provide the following options:

- **Scan and add RTL include files into project:** Scans the added RTL file and adds any referenced include files.
- **Copy sources into project:** Copies the original source files into the project and uses the local copied version of the file in the project.

If you selected to add directories of source files using the **Add Directories** command, the directory structure is maintained when the files are copied locally into the project.

- **Add sources from subdirectories:** Adds source files from the subdirectories of directories specified in the **Add Directories** option.
- **Include all design sources for simulation:** Includes all the design sources for simulation.

Working with Simulation Sets

The Vivado IDE stores simulation source files in simulation sets that display in folders in the Sources window, and are either remotely referenced or stored in the local project directory.

The simulation set lets you define different sources for different stages of the design.

For example, there can be one simulation source to provide stimulus for behavioral simulation of the elaborated design or a module of the design, and a different test bench to provide stimulus for timing simulation of the implemented design.

When adding files to the project, you can specify which simulation source set into which to add files.

To edit a simulation set:

1. In the Sources window popup menu, select **Simulation Sources > Edit Simulation Sets**, as shown in [Figure 7-8, page 129](#).

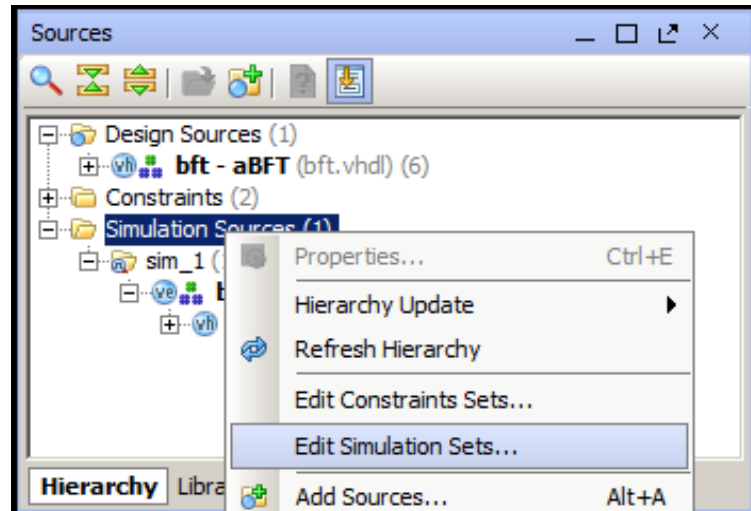


Figure 7-8: Edit Simulation Sets Option

The Add or Create Simulation Sources wizard opens.

2. From the Add or Create Simulation Sources wizard, select **Add Files**.

This adds the sources associated with the project to the newly-created simulation set.

3. Add additional files as needed.

The selected simulation set is used for the *active* Design run.

IMPORTANT: *The compilation and simulation settings for a previously defined simulation set are not applied to a newly-defined simulation set.*

Additionally, you must write a Verilog or VHDL netlist of the design to export to the simulator, and simulate using the third party simulation libraries as provided by the vendor. See the third party simulator documentation for more information on setting up and running simulation in that tool.



IMPORTANT: *Confirm the library compilation order before running a third party simulation.*

Running QuestaSim/ModelSim Simulation

The **Run Simulation** button sets up the command options to compile, elaborate, and simulate the design based on the simulation settings, then launches the QuestaSim/ModelSim simulator in a separate window.

When you run simulation prior to synthesizing the design, the QuestaSim/ModelSim simulator runs a behavioral simulation.

To use the corresponding Tcl command, type:

- **Tcl Command:** `launch_modelsim`

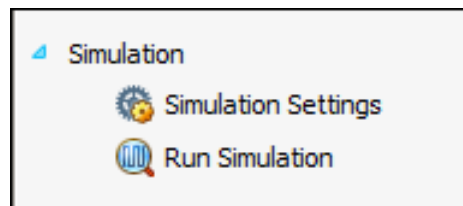


Figure 7-9: Flow Navigator Simulation Options

At each design step (both after you have successfully synthesized and after implementing the design) you can run a functional simulation and timing simulation.



TIP: *This command provides a `-scripts_only` option that can be used to write a `.do` file. Use this `do` file to run QuestaSim/ModelSim simulations outside of the IDE.*

Using A Customized do File during Modelsim Run

The Vivado IDE deletes the simulation directory after every re-launch and creates a new directory.

To use customized *.do file or a *.udo file for a run, create the file in another location and use the file in a particular run by using following command:

```
set_property MODELSIM.CUSTOM_DO <Cutomized do file name> [get_filesets  
sim_1]
```

To control the .udo file and place that outside of the auto-managed directories, set the following command:

```
set_property MODELSIM.CUSTOM_UDO <Cutomized do file name> [get_filesets  
sim_1]
```

Running Post-Synthesis Functional Simulation in QuestaSim/ModelSim

When synthesis is run successfully, the **Run Simulation > Post-Synthesis Functional Simulation** option becomes available, as shown in [Figure 7-10](#).

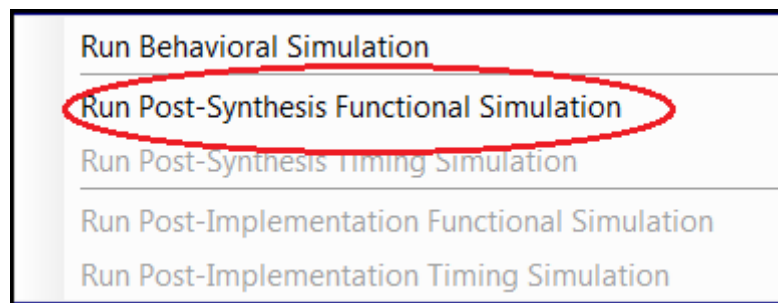


Figure 7-10: Run Post-Synthesis Functional Simulation

After synthesis, the simulation information is much more complete, so you can get a better perspective on how the functionality of your design is meeting your requirements.

After you select a post-synthesis functional simulation, the functional netlist is generated and the UNISIM libraries are used for simulation.

Running Post-Synthesis Timing Simulation in QuestaSim/ModelSim

When synthesis is run successfully, the **Run Simulation > Post-Synthesis Timing Simulation** option becomes available, as shown in [Figure 7-11](#), page 131.

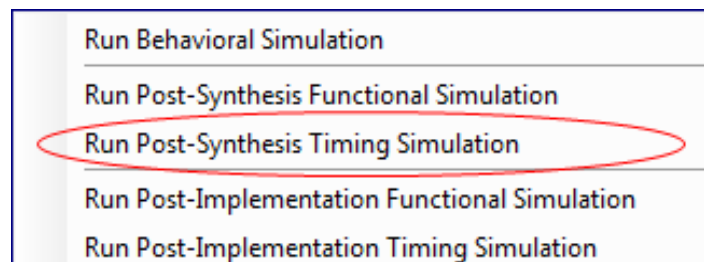


Figure 7-11: Run Post-Synthesis Timing Simulation

After you select a post-synthesis timing simulation, the timing netlist and the SDF file are generated. The netlist files includes `$sdf_annotate` command so that the generated SDF file is picked up.

Using ModelSim in Command Line Mode

The following subsections describe how to run QuestaSim/ModelSim outside the Vivado IDE.

Running RTL/Behavioral Simulation in QuestaSim/ModelSim

The following are the steps involved in simulating a Xilinx design.

1. Compile simulation libraries.
2. Collect source files and create the test bench.
 - If you are using Verilog compile `g1b1.v`, see [Using Global Reset and 3-State in Chapter 2](#).
 - If you have `SECUREIP` in your design, use the precompiled libraries and point to the library using the `-L` switch in `VSIM`. For example:

```
vsim -t ps -L secureip -L unisims_ver work.<testbench> work.g1b1
```

Running Timing Simulation QuestaSim/ModelSim

Timing simulation uses the `SIMPRIM` library. Ensure that you are referencing the correct libraries during the timing simulation process.



IMPORTANT: *UNIMACRO, UNIFAST, and UNISIM libraries are not necessary for timing simulation.*

Timing simulation requires that you pass in additional switches for correct pulse handling in the simulator. Add the following switches to your simulator commands:

```
+transport_int_delays +pulse_int_e/0 +pulse_int_r/0
```

Running Netlist Simulation in QuestaSim/ModelSim

The netlist simulation process involved the same steps as described in [Running Timing Simulation QuestaSim/ModelSim](#).

1. Compile simulation libraries.
2. Gather files for simulation:
 - a. You can reuse the RTL simulation test bench for the majority of designs.
 - b. Generate the simulation netlist.

- If you are using Verilog, compile `g1b1.v`. See [Using Global Reset and 3-State in Chapter 2](#).
- If you have `SECUREIP` in your design, use the precompiled libraries and point to the library using the `-L` switch in `VSIM`. For example:

```
vsim -t ps -L secureip -L unisims_ver work.<testbench> work.g1b1
```

3. Compile and simulate the design. Refer to the QuestaSim/ModelSim user guide of the simulator you are using.

Note: Make sure the `UNISIM`, `SECUREIP`, and `UNIFAST` libraries are referenced correctly for proper simulation. See [Using Xilinx Simulation Libraries in Chapter 2](#).

Dumping SAIF in QuestaSim/ModelSim

See [Dumping the Switching Activity Interchange Format File for Power Analysis, page 39](#) for more information about Switching Activity Interchange Format (SAIF).

QuestaSim/ModelSim uses explicit power commands to dump an SAIF file, as follows:

1. Specify the scope or signals to dump, by typing:

```
power add <hdl_objects>
```

2. Run simulation for specific time (or `run -all`).

3. Dump out the power report, by typing:

```
power report -all filename.saif
```

For more detailed usage or information about each commands, see the *ModelSim User Guide*.

Example do File

```
power add tb/fpga/*
run 500us
power report -all -bsaif routed.saif
quit
```

Annotating an SDF File in QuestaSim/ModelSim

Based on the specified process corner, the SDF file has different `min` and `max` numbers. Xilinx recommends running *two separate simulations* to check for setup and hold violations.

To run a setup check, create an SDF with `-process` corner `slow`, and use the `max` column from the SDF, then specify:

```
-sdfmax
```

To run a hold check, create an SDF with `-process` corner `fast`, and use the `min` column from the SDF. To do so, specify:

```
-sdfmin
```

To get full coverage run all four timing simulations, specify as follows:

- Slow corner: `SDFMIN` and `SDFMAX`
- Fast corner: `SDFMIN` and `SDFMAX`

Using Verilog UNIFAST Library with QuestaSim/ModelSim

There are two methods of simulating with the UNIFAST models.

Method 1 is the recommended method whereby you simulate with all the UNIFAST models as follows:

- Enable UNIFAST support in a Vivado project environment for ModelSim, by checking the **Simulation Settings > Enable fast simulation models** box. See [UNIFAST Library, page 19](#) for more information.

Method 2 is for more advanced users to determine which modules to use with the UNIFAST models. See [Method 2: Configurations in Verilog, page 22](#) for the description of this method.

Simulating with Cadence Incisive Enterprise Simulator (IES)

Introduction

This chapter provides an overview of running simulation using Cadence IES in the Vivado® Design Suite environment.

IMPORTANT: Xilinx® recommends using supported versions of third party simulators. For more information on supported simulators and operating systems, see the "Compatible Third-Party Tools" table in the *Vivado Design Suite User Guide: Release Notes, Installation, and Licensing* (UG973) [Ref 1].

Compiling Simulation Libraries for IES

Before you begin simulation, you must run the `compile_simlib` Tcl command from the Vivado TCL console to compile the Xilinx simulation Libraries for the target simulator.



IMPORTANT: *With any change with the version of Vivado or Simulator, libraries must be recompiled.*

Note: For information on Xilinx libraries, see [Using Xilinx Simulation Libraries in Chapter 2](#).

Tcl command: `compile_simlib -simulator ies`

Other switches, such as `-directory <library_output_directory>` and `-simulator_exec_path <ies_install_location>` are derived from the simulation settings.

See the *Vivado Design Suite Tcl Command Reference* (UG835) [Ref 6] for more information about the Tcl command, or type `compile_simlib -h` in the Tcl Console.

After the libraries are compiled, the simulator references the compiled libraries using the `CDS.lib` file. The `compile_simlib` command copies the `cds.lib` and `HDL.var` file to the `<library_output_directory>`.



IMPORTANT: The `compile_simlib` option compiles only Xilinx primitives and legacy ISE® Design Suite Xilinx cores. Simulation models of Vivado Design Suite IP cores are delivered as an output product when the IP is generated. Consequently, they are not included in the pre-compiled libraries created with `compile_simlib`.

Note: The `cds.lib` file created by `compile_simlib` specifies reference library paths for Xilinx primitives and includes a reference to the master `CDS.lib`. The master `CDS.lib` has mapping to standard VHDL libraries. If the correct `cds.lib` file is not found in the path, you cannot run simulation.



IMPORTANT: If you have a simulator language preference, refer to [Understanding the Simulator Language Option in Chapter 2](#) before proceeding.

Running Behavioral/RTL Simulation Using IES

IES simulator is not integrated into the Vivado IDE, but a Tcl command called `export_simulation` is provided. The `export_simulation` command writes a complete behavioral/RTL simulation script that can be used as a standalone or that can be plugged into your custom simulation environment.

The following are the steps for simulating a design with IES:

1. Open a Vivado project.
2. If you have not done so, compile the simulation libraries.
3. From the Tcl Console, run the `export_simulation` command.

The `export_simulation` command generates a script that you can use on the Tcl Console. It also creates `.do` file.

4. Execute the script.

For more information see:

- [Using the export_simulation Command in Chapter 2](#).
- [Vivado Design Suite Tcl Command Reference \(UG835\) \[Ref 6\]](#)



IMPORTANT: Xilinx recommends you always use the `-lib_map_path` switch with the `export_simulation` TCL command.

Understanding the `export_simulation` Script

The `export_simulation` creates the following files:

- A script file to run simulation.

Optionally, you can specify the name of the shell script using the following Tcl command:

```
export_simulation -script_name <arg>
```

Where `-script_name` lets you specify the name of the shell script.

If you do not specify this option, the filename is generated based on the object type selected with `-of_objects` switch, with the following form:

```
- <simulation_top_name>_sim_simulator.sh
- <ip_name>_sim_simulator.sh
```

- A `.do` file for post-processing operations (such as `run` and `quit`).
- A data file that copies files (such as `.mif`, `.coe`, `.dat`) required for running the simulation.



IMPORTANT: *If you move the script generated by `export_simulation` to a different directory location, make sure you copy all the `export_simulation` generated files as well (for example, a `.dat` file). Failing to move the file with the script will cause simulation failures.*

The following subsections list the major sections of the script.

Script Setup

The Setup section does the following:

- Cleans up any stale libraries that might have been created by a previous simulation run.
- Creates design library directories
- Creates a mapping for design libraries in the `CDS.lib` file.

Script Compilation

The Compilation section of the script saves VHDL and Verilog compile options to `ncvhdl_opts` and `ncvlog_opts`, variables, respectively, as follows:

```
ncvhdl_opts="-64bit -V93 -RELAX -logfile ncvhdl.log -append_log"
ncvlog_opts="-64bit -messages -logfile ncvlog.log -append_log"
```

To make a compile option change to all files, edit the required variable.

Script Elaboration

In the Elaboration section of the script, the `export_simulation` command saves the following:

- Elaboration options to the `ncelab_opts` variable
- Library mappings to the `design_libs_elab` variable

Edit either of the options to fit your design requirements.

Script Simulation

In the Simulation section, the script save all simulation options to the `ncsim_opts` variable

You can also add post-processing options by editing the `.do` file.

The script generated by `export_simulation` provides three options:

- Usage:

```
tb_sim_ies.sh -help
```

Print help.

- Usage:

```
tb_sim_ies.sh -noclean_files
```

Do not remove simulator generated files from the previous run.

- Usage:

```
tb_sim_ies.sh -reset_run
```

Recreate simulator setup files and library mappings for a clean run. The generated files from the previous run will be removed automatically.

IES Simulation Use models

The following subsections describe use models for simulation in IES. There are four major use models:

- Use Model 1: You have generated an IP from XILINX IP catalog, and you would like to collect the files (RTL, DAT, MIF, COE files) and add them to your simulation environment.
- Use Model 2: You have a complete RTL project, and you would like to simulate the project using IES.
- Use Model 3: You have a project that has RTL and IPI. The project also uses an ELF file for a processor system. You would like to simulate the entire design in IES.
- Use Model 4: You have a AXI BFM or a Zynq processor BFM in your project.

Use Model 1: Generating Xilinx IP Simulation Files

In this use model, the `accum_0.xci` file is the IP you generated from Xilinx IP catalog. Now you must collect all the files needed for simulation. The easiest way to do this is to run `export_simulation`.

The following command generates an `accum_0_sim_ies.sh` script file for the `accum_0` IP in the specified output directory for the IES simulator:

```
export_simulation -lib_map_path "/sim_libs/ies/lin64/lib" \  
-of_objects [get_files accum_0.xci] -simulator ies \  
-directory test_sim
```

Now that you have `accum_0_sim_ies.sh`, you can either incorporate the script into your simulation environment or parse the compile commands and add all the RTL files directly to your script. Make sure to copy all data files generated by `export_simulation`.

Use Model 2: Simulating an RTL Design

The following command generates a `top_tb_sim_ies.sh` script file in the `./test_sim` directory for a project with simulation top set to `top_tb`. The command also copies data files (such as `.mif`, `.coe`, `.dat`) to the `./test_sim` directory:

- **Tcl Command:**

```
export_simulation -simulator ies -lib_map_path "/sim_libs/ies/lin64/lib" \  
-directory ./test_sim
```

Use Model 3: Simulating a Vivado IP Integrator Design that Contains an ELF File



IMPORTANT: *The Vivado IDE typically converts project ELF files to .mem (MEM) files. Block memory models use MEM files for simulations. The `export_simulation` command does not generate a MEM file.*

To simulate a Vivado IP integrator IES, use the following steps:

1. In the Vivado Tcl Console, run the following command:

- **Tcl Command:** `launch_xsim -scripts_only`

This step creates a `<project_name>.sim/sim_1/behav/.mem` file.

2. Run the following command:

- **Tcl Command:**

```
export_simulation -simulator ies -lib_map_path "/sim_libs/ies/lin64/lib" \  
-directory ./test_sim
```

3. Copy the `.mem` file `./test_sim`.

Use Model 4: Simulating Design with AXI Bus Functional Models

If an AXI Bus Functional Model (BFM) exists, do the following additional steps:

1. Set the `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` to a syntax like the following example:

```
setenv LD_LIBRARY_PATH $XILINX_VIVADO/ids_lite/ISE/lib/lin64:$LD_LIBRARY_PATH
```

2. Add the following switch to `ncsim` options file:

```
-loadvpi  
$XILINX_VIVADO/ids_lite/ISE/lib/lin64/:xilinx_register_systf.xilinx_register_systf
```

Code Example:

```
simulate()  
{  
  ncsim_opts="-loadvpi  
$XILINX_VIVADO/ids_lite/ISE/lib/lin64/:xilinx_register_systf.xilinx_register_systf  
\  
-64bit -logfile tb_sim.log"  
ncsim $ncsim_opts work.tb -input tb.do  
}
```

Note: The `export_simulation` command always applies OS defaults. So, if you are using 64-bit Vivado tools, the scripts generated by the Tcl command will be for 64-bit simulation. If you want to use 32-bit simulation, you must edit the compile, elaborate, and simulate options. You must also point to a 32-bit location for the `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` and `-loadvpi` switch (change `lin64` to `lin`).



IMPORTANT: Ensure that the `-lib_map_path` points to the directory that contains the `cds.lib`.

Running Timing Simulation Using IES

Timing simulation includes the following steps:

1. Generating the simulation netlist (`timesim.v` generation).
2. Annotating timing information to the netlist (SDF file generation).
3. Analyzing, elaborating, and simulating the timing netlist and SDF using IES.

Generating a Timing Netlist and SDF Generation in Vivado

Use the following Tcl commands to generate a netlist and an SDF file:

- **Tcl Command:**

```
write_verilog -mode timesim -sdf_anno -sdf_file <sdf_file>.sdf <sim_netlist>.v  
write_sdf <sdf_file>.sdf
```

- **IES Timing irun Simulation Tcl Command:**

```
irun -sdf_file <sdf_file>.sdf -y $XILINX/verilog/src/unisims \  
$XILINX/verilog/src/glbl.v \  
-f $XILINX_VIVADO/data/secureip/secureip_cell.list.f\  
<testfixture>.v <sim_netlist>.v
```

Dumping SAIF for Power Analysis in EIS

IES provides power commands to generate SAIF with specific requirements.

1. Specify the scope to be dumped and the output SAIF file name, using the following command:
 - **Tcl Command:** `dumpsaiif -scope hdl_objects -output filename.saif`
2. Run the simulation.
3. End the SAIF dump by typing the following:
 - **Tcl Command:** `dumpsaiif -end`

For more detailed usage or information on IES commands, see the IES User Guide.

Simulating with Synopsys VCS

Introduction

This chapter provides an overview of running simulation using Synopsys VCS in the Vivado® Design Suite environment.

IMPORTANT: Xilinx recommends that you use supported versions of third party simulators. For more information on supported Simulators and Operating Systems, see the Compatible Third-Party Tools table in the *Vivado Design Suite User Guide: Release Notes, Installation, and Licensing* (UG973) [Ref 1].

Vivado Design Suite User Guide: Release Notes, Installation, and Licensing (UG973)

Compiling Simulation Libraries for VCS

Before you begin simulation, run the `compile_simlib` Tcl command to compile the Xilinx simulation Libraries for the target simulator.

Note: For information on Xilinx libraries, see [Using Xilinx Simulation Libraries in Chapter 2](#).

- **Tcl command:**

```
compile_simlib -simulator vcs_mx
```

Other switches, such as `-directory <library_output_directory>` and `-simulator_exec_path <questa_install_location>` are derived from the simulation settings.

See the *Vivado Design Suite Tcl Command Reference Guide* (UG835) [Ref 6] for more information about the Tcl command, or type `compile_simlib -h` in the Tcl Console.



IMPORTANT: Any change to the Vivado tool or the simulator versions requires that libraries be recompiled.

Note: For information on Xilinx libraries, see [Using Xilinx Simulation Libraries in Chapter 2](#).



IMPORTANT: The `compile_simlib` option compiles only Xilinx primitives and legacy ISE® Design Suite Xilinx cores. Simulation models of Xilinx Vivado IP cores are delivered as an output product when the IP is generated; consequently they are not included in the pre-compiled libraries created using `compile_simlib`.

Note: The `synopsys_sim.setup` file created by `compile_simlib` specifies the default initialization file and contains control variables that specify reference library paths, optimization, compiler, and simulator settings.



IMPORTANT: If you have a simulator language preference, refer to [Understanding the Simulator Language Option in Chapter 2](#) before proceeding.

Running Behavioral/RTL Simulation using VCS

VCS simulator is not integrated in Vivado IDE, but Vivado provides an `export_simulation` Tcl command. The command writes a complete Behavioral/RTL simulation script that can be used standalone or plugged into your custom simulation environment.

The script uses the Multi-Step process with precompiled libraries (see [Compiling Simulation Libraries for VCS](#)). The generated script contains simulator commands for compiling, elaborating, and simulating the design.

The command retrieves the simulation compile order of specified objects, and exports this information in a text file with the compiler commands and default options for the target simulator. The specified object can be either a simulation *fileset* or an IP. If the object is not specified, the `export_simulation` command generates the script for the simulation top.

See the *Vivado Design Suite Tcl Command Reference Guide* (UG835) [\[Ref 6\]](#) for more information about the `compile_simlib` command.

The following section lists the steps for simulating a design with VCS.

The following are the steps for simulating a design with IES:

1. Open a Vivado project.
2. If you have not done so, compile the simulation libraries.
3. From the Tcl Console, run the `export_simulation` command.

The `export_simulation` command generates a script that you can use on the Tcl Console. It also creates `.do` file.

4. Execute the script.

For more information see [Using the `export_simulation` Command in Chapter 2](#) and the [Vivado Design Suite Tcl Command Reference \(UG835\) \[Ref 6\]](#).



IMPORTANT: *Xilinx recommends you always use the `-lib_map_path` switch with the `export_simulation` Tcl command.*

Understanding the `export_simulation` Script

The `export_simulation` creates the following files:

- A script file to run simulation.

Optionally, you can specify the name of the shell script using the following Tcl command:

```
export_simulation -script_name <arg>
```

Where `-script_name` lets you specify the name of the shell script.

If you do not specify this option, the filename is generated based on the object type selected with `-of_objects` switch, with the following form:

- `<simulation_top_name>_sim_simulator.sh`
- `<ip_name>_sim_simulator.sh`

- A `.do` file for post-processing operations (such as `run` and `quit`).
- A data file that copies files (such as `.mif`, `.coe`, `.dat`) required for running the simulation.



IMPORTANT: *If you move the script generated by `export_simulation` to a different directory location, make sure you copy all the `export_simulation` generated files as well (for example, a `.dat` file). Failing to move the file with the script will cause simulation failures.*

The following subsections list the major sections of the script.

Script Setup

The Setup section does the following:

- Cleans up any stale libraries that might have been created by a previous simulation run.
- Creates design library directories
- Creates a mapping for design libraries in the `CDS.lib` file.

Script Compilation

The Compilation section of the script saves VHDL and Verilog compile options to `vhdlan_opts` and `vlogan_opts` variables. To make a compile option change to all files, edit the required variables, respectively, as follows:

```
vhdlan_opts="-full64 -l vhdlan.log"
```

```
vlogan_opts="-full64 -l vlogan.log"
```

Script Elaboration

In the Elaboration section of the script, the `export_simulation` command saves the following:

- Elaboration options to the `vcs_opts` variable

Edit either of the options to fit your design requirements.

Script Simulation

In the Simulation section, the script saves simulation options to the `<top>_simv_opts` variable

You can also add post-processing options by editing the `.do` file.

The script generated by `export_simulation` provides three options:

- Usage:

```
tb_sim_ies.sh -help
```

Print help.

- Usage:

```
tb_sim_ies.sh -noclean_files
```

Do not remove simulator generated files from the previous run.

- Usage:

```
tb_sim_ies.sh -reset_run
```

Recreate simulator setup files and library mappings for a clean run. The generated files from the previous run will be removed automatically.

VCS Simulation Use Models

The following subsections describe use models for simulation in VCS. There are four major use models:

- Use Model 1: You have generated an IP from XILINX IP catalog, and you would like to collect the files (RTL, DAT, MIF, COE files) and add them to your simulation environment.
- Use Model 2: You have a complete RTL project, and you would like to simulate the project using VCS.
- Use Model 3: You have a project that has RTL and IPI. The project also uses an ELF file for a processor system. You would like to simulate the entire design in VCS.
- Use Model 4: You have a AXI BFM or a Zynq processor BFM in your project.

Use Model 1: Generating Simulation Files for an IP

In this project `accum_0.xci` file is the IP you generated from Xilinx IP catalog. Now you must collect all the files needed for simulation. The easiest way to do this is to run the `export_simulation`.

The following command generates a script file `accum_0_sim_vcs.sh` for the `accum_0` IP in the specified output directory for the VCS simulator:

```
export_simulation -lib_map_path "/sim_libs/vcs/lin64/lib" \  
-of_objects [get_files accum_0.xci] -simulator vcs_mx \  
-directory test_sim
```



IMPORTANT: *The `synopsys_sim.setup` file should have `library_scan` values set to `true`. This lets VCS search for libraries across language boundaries. Failing to change this value results in UNBOUND component errors.*

Now that you have `accum_0_sim_vcs.sh`, you can either incorporate the script into your simulation environment or parse the compile commands and add all the RTL files directly to your script. Make sure to copy all data files generated by `export_simulation`

Use Model 2: Simulating an RTL Design

The following command generates a script file named `top_tb_sim_vcs.sh` in the `./test_sim` directory for a project with simulation top set to `top_tb`. The command also copies any data files (such as `.mif`, `.coe`, `.dat`) to the `./test_sim` directory:

```
export_simulation -simulator vcs_mx -lib_map_path "/sim_libs/vcs/lin64/lib" \  
-directory ./test_sim
```

Use Model 3: Simulating an IP Integrator Design Containing an ELF file

The ELF files used in the projects are converted to .mem files and the mem files are used by block memory models for simulations. Export_simulation does not have the capability to generate .mem files.

To simulate an IP Integrator design with the VCS simulator, use the following steps:

1. In the Vivado Tcl Console, type

- **Tcl Command:** `launch_xsim -scripts_only`

This step creates the .mem file at `<project_name>.sim/sim_1/behav`

2. Type the following command:

```
export_simulation -simulator vcs_mx -lib_map_path "/sim_libs/vcs/lin64/lib" \
  -directory ./test_sim
```

3. Copy the .mem file to `./test_sim`.

Use Model 4: Simulating an AXI Design with a Bus Functional Model

If you have an AXI Bus Functional Model (BFM) in any of the use models add the following steps:

1. Set the `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` to point to the Xilinx security libraries in the shell, as shown:

```
setenv LD_LIBRARY_PATH $XILINX_VIVADO/ids_lite/ISE/lib/lin64/:$LD_LIBRARY_PATH
```

2. Modify the `.sh` script that was written by the `export_simulation` command by adding the following line to the `vcsopts`:

```
vcsopts="-load
$XILINX_VIVADO/ids_lite/ISE/lib/lin64/libxil_vcs.so:xilinx_register_systf
```

Example:

```
elaborate()
{
  vcsopts="-load
$XILINX_VIVADO/ids_lite/ISE/lib/lin64/libxil_vcs.so:xilinx_register_systf -full64
-debug_pp \
-t ps -licwait -60 -l design_1_wrapper_comp.log"

  vcs $vcsopts work.design work.glbl -o design_simv
}
```

Note: The `export_simulation` command always applies OS defaults. So, if you are using 64-bit Vivado Design Suite tools, the scripts generated by the Tcl command will be for 64-bit simulation. If you want to use 32-bit simulation you must edit the compile, elaborate, and simulate options. You

must also point to a 32-bit location for the `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` and `-loadvpi` switch (change `lin64` to `lin`).



IMPORTANT: *Ensure that the `-lib_map_path` switch points to the directory that contains the `synopsys_sim.setup` file.*

VCS Timing Simulation

VCS Timing simulation consists of the following steps:

1. Generating the simulation netlist (`timesim.v` generation).
2. Annotating timing information to the netlist (SDF file generation).
3. Analyzing, elaborating, and simulating the timing netlist and SDF using VCS.

Timing Netlist/SDF Generation in Vivado

Use the following Tcl commands to generate a netlist and an SDF file:

- **Tcl Command:**

```
write_verilog -mode timesim -sdf_anno -sdf_file <sdf_file>.sdf
<sim_netlist>.v
write_sdf <sdf_file>.sdf
```

VCS Timing Simulation Command

```
vcs +compsdf -y $XILINX/verilog/src/unisims\
$XILINX/verilog/src/glbl.v\
-f <Vivado Install>/data/secureip/secureip_cell.list.f\
+libext+.v +transport_int_delays +pulse_int_e/0 +pulse_int_r/0\
-Mupdate -R <testfixture>.v <sim_netlist>.v
```

Dumping SAIF for Power Analysis for VCS

VCS provides power commands to generate SAIF with specific requirements.

1. Specify the scope and signals to be generated, by typing:


```
power <hdl_objects>
```
2. Enable SAIF dumping. You can use the command line in the Simulator GUI:


```
power -enable
```
3. Run simulation for a specific time.

4. Disable power dumping and report the SAIF, by typing:

```
power -disable  
power -report filename.saif
```

For more detailed usage or information about each command, see the VCS User Guide.

Value Rules in Vivado Simulator Tcl Commands

Introduction

This appendix contains the value rules that apply to both the `add_force` and the `set_value` Tcl commands.

String Value Interpretation

The interpretation of the value string is determined by the declared type of the HDL object and the `-radix` command line option. The `-radix` always overrides the default radix determined by the HDL object type.

- For HDL objects of type `logic`, the value is or a one-dimensional array of the `logic` type or the value is a string of digits of the specified radix.
 - If the string specifies less bits than the type expects, the string is implicitly zero-extended (not sign-extended) to match the length of the type.
 - If the string specifies more bits than the type expects, the extra bits on the MSB side must be zero; otherwise the command generates a size mismatch error.

For example, with radix hex and a 6 bit `logic` array, the value `3F` specifies 8 bits (4 per hex digit), equivalent to binary `0011 1111`. But, because the upper two bits of `3` are zero, the value can be assigned to the HDL object. In contrast, the value `7F` would generate an error, because the upper two bits are not zero.

- A scalar (not array or record) `logic` HDL object has an implicit length of 1 bit.
- For a `logic` array declared as a `[left:right]` (Verilog) or a `(left TO/DOWNTO right)`, the left-most value bit (after extension/truncation) is assigned to `a[left]` and the right-most value bit is assigned to `a[right]`.

Vivado Simulation Logic

The logic is not a concept defined in HDL but is a heuristic introduced by the Vivado simulator.

- A Verilog object is considered to be of `logic` type if it is of the implicit Verilog bit type, which includes wire and reg objects, as well as integer and time.
- A VHDL object is considered to be of `logic` type if the objects type is `bit`, `std_logic`, or any enumeration type whose enumerators are a subset of those of `std_logic` and include at least 0 and 1, or type of the object is a one-dimensional array of such a type.
- For HDL objects, which are of VHDL enumeration type, the value can be one of the enumerator literals, without single quotes if the enumerator is a character literal. Radix is ignored.
- For VHDL objects, of integral type, the value can be a signed decimal integer in the range of the type. Radix is ignored.
- For VHDL and Verilog floating point types the value can be a floating point value. Radix is ignored.
- For all other types of HDL objects, the Tcl command set does not support setting values.

Vivado Simulator Mixed Language Support and Language Exceptions

Introduction

The Vivado® Integrated Design Environment (IDE) supports the following languages:

- VHDL IEEE-STD-1076-1993
- Verilog IEEE-STD-1364-2001
- Verilog IEEE-P1735

This appendix lists the application of Mixed Language in the Vivado simulator, and the exceptions to Verilog and VHDL support.

Using Mixed Language Simulation

The Vivado simulator supports mixed language project files and mixed language simulation. This lets you include Verilog modules in a VHDL design, and vice versa.

Restrictions on Mixed Language in Simulation

- A VHDL design can instantiate Verilog modules and a Verilog design can instantiate VHDL components. Component instantiation-based default binding is used for binding a Verilog module to a VHDL component. Specifically, configuration specification and direct instantiation are not supported for a Verilog module instantiated inside a VHDL component. Any other kind of mixed use of VHDL and Verilog, such as VHDL process calling a Verilog function, is not supported.
- A subset of VHDL types, generics, and ports are allowed on the boundary to a Verilog module. Similarly, a subset of Verilog types, parameters and ports are allowed on the boundary to VHDL components. See [Table B-2, page 155](#).



IMPORTANT: *Connecting whole VHDL record object to a Verilog object is unsupported; however, VHDL record elements of a supported type can be connected to a compatible Verilog port.*

- A Verilog hierarchical reference cannot refer to a VHDL unit nor can a VHDL expanded or selected name refer to a Verilog unit.

However, Verilog units can traverse through an intermediate VHDL instance to go into another Verilog unit using a Verilog hierarchical reference.

In the following code snippet, the `I1.const1` is a VHDL constant referred in the Verilog module, `top`. This type of Verilog hierarchical reference is not allowed in the Vivado simulator. However, `I1.I2.data` is allowed inside the Verilog module `top`, where `I2` is a Verilog instance and `I1` is a VHDL instance:

```
-- Bottom Verilog Module
module bot;
  wire data;
endmodule

// Intermediate VHDL Entity
entity mid is
end entity mid;

architecture arch of mid is
  constant const1 : natural := 10;
begin
  bot I2();
end architecture arch;

-- Top Verilog Module
module top(input in1,output reg out1);
  mid I1();
  always@(in1)
  begin

  // This hierarchical reference into a VHDL instance is not allowed
    if(I1.const1 >= 10) out1 = in1;
  // This hierarchical reference into a Verilog instance traversing through a
  // VHDL instance is allowed
    if (I1.I2.data == 1)out1 = ~in1;
  end
endmodule
```

Key Steps in a Mixed Language Simulation

1. Optionally, specify the search order for VHDL components or Verilog modules in the design libraries of a mixed language project.
2. Use `xelab -L` to specify the binding order of a VHDL component or a Verilog module in the design libraries of a mixed language project.

Note: The library search order specified by `-L` is used for binding Verilog modules to other Verilog modules as well.

Mixed Language Binding and Searching

When you instantiate a VHDL component in a Verilog module or a Verilog module in a VHDL architecture, the `xelab` command:

- First searches for a unit of the same language as that of the instantiating design unit.
- If a unit of the same language is not found, `xelab` searches for a cross-language design unit in the libraries specified by the `-L` option.

The search order is the same as the order of appearance of libraries on the `xelab` command line. See [Method 1: Using Library or File Compile Order \(Recommended\)](#), page 21 for more information.

Note: When using the Vivado IDE, the library search order is specified automatically. No user intervention is necessary or possible.

Instantiating Mixed Language Components

In a mixed language design, you can instantiate a Verilog module in a VHDL architecture or a VHDL component in a Verilog module as described in the following subsections.

To ensure that you are correctly matching port types, review the [Port Mapping and Supported Port Types](#), page 155.

Instantiating a Verilog Module in a VHDL Design Unit

1. Declare a VHDL component with the same name and in the same case as the Verilog module that you want to instantiate. For example:

```
COMPONENT MY_VHDL_UNIT PORT (  
    Q : out  STD_ULOGIC;  
    D : in   STD_ULOGIC;  
    C : in   STD_ULOGIC );  
END COMPONENT;
```

2. Use named or positional association to instantiate the Verilog module. For example:

```
UUT : MY_VHDL_UNIT PORT MAP(  
    Q => O,  
    D => I,  
    C => CLK);
```

Instantiating a VHDL Component in a Verilog Design Unit

To instantiate a VHDL component in a Verilog design unit, instantiate the VHDL component as if it were a Verilog module.

For example:

```
module testbench ;
wire in, clk;
wire out;
FD FD1 (
.Q(Q_OUT),
.C(CLK);
.D(A);
);
```

Port Mapping and Supported Port Types

Table B-1 lists the supported port types.

Table B-1: Supported Port Types

VHDL ¹	Verilog ²
IN	INPUT
OUT	OUTPUT
INOUT	INOUT

1. Buffer and linkage ports of VHDL are not supported.
2. Connection to bi-directional pass switches in Verilog are not supported. Unnamed Verilog ports are not allowed on mixed design boundary.

Table B-2 shows the supported VHDL and Verilog data types for ports on the mixed language design boundary.

Table B-2: Supported VHDL and Verilog data types

VHDL Port	Verilog Port
bit	net
std_logic	net
std_logic	net
bit_vector	vector net
signed	vector net
unsigned	vector net
std_ulogic_vector	vector net
std_logic_vector	vector net

Note: Verilog output port of type `reg` is supported on the mixed language boundary. On the boundary, an output `reg` port is treated as if it were an output net (wire) port. Any other type found on mixed language boundary is considered an error.

Note: xSim supports the record element as an actual in the port map of a Verilog module that is instantiated in the mixed domain. All those types that are supported as VHDL port (listed in [Table B-2](#)) are also supported as a record element.

Generics (Parameters) Mapping

The Vivado simulator supports the following VHDL generic types (and their Verilog equivalents):

- integer
- real
- string
- boolean

Note: Any other generic type found on mixed language boundary is considered an error.

VHDL and Verilog Values Mapping

[Table B-3](#) lists the Verilog states mappings to `std_logic` and `bit`.

Table B-3: Verilog States mapped to std_logic and bit

Verilog	std_logic	bit
Z	Z	0
0	0	0
1	1	1
X	X	0

Note: Verilog strength is ignored. There is no corresponding mapping to strength in VHDL.

[Table B-4](#) lists the VHDL type `bit` mapping to Verilog states.

Table B-4: VHDL bit Mapping to Verilog States

bit	Verilog
0	0
1	1

[Table B-5](#) lists the VHDL type `std_logic` mappings to Verilog states.

Table B-5: VHDL std_logic mapping to Verilog States

std_logic	Verilog
U	X
X	X
0	0
1	1
Z	Z

Table B-5: VHDL std_logic mapping to Verilog States

std_logic	Verilog
W	X
L	0
H	1
-	X

Because Verilog is case sensitive, named associations and the local port names that you use in the component declaration must match the case of the corresponding Verilog port names.

VHDL Language Support Exceptions

Certain language constructs are not supported by the Vivado simulator. [Table B-6](#) lists the VHDL language support exceptions.

Table B-6: VHDL Language Support Exceptions

Supported VHDL Construct	Exceptions
abstract_literal	Floating point expressed as based literals are not supported.
alias_declaration	Alias to non-objects are in general not supported; particularly the following: Alias of an alias Alias declaration without subtype_indication Signature on alias declarations Operator symbol as alias_designator Alias of an operator symbol Character literals as alias designators
alias_designator	Operator_symbol as alias_designator Character_literal as alias_designator
association_element	Globally, locally static range is acceptable for taking slice of an actual in an association element.
attribute_name	Signature after prefix is not supported.
binding_indication	Binding_indication without use of entity_aspect is not supported.
bit_string_literal.	Empty bit_string_literal (" ") is not supported
block_statement	Guard_expression is not supported; for example, guarded blocks, guarded signals, guarded targets, and guarded assignments are not supported.
choice	Aggregate used as choice in case statement is not supported.

Table B-6: VHDL Language Support Exceptions (Cont'd)

Supported VHDL Construct	Exceptions
concurrent_assertion_statement	Postponed is not supported.
concurrent_signal_assignment_statement	Postponed is not supported.
concurrent_statement	Concurrent procedure call containing wait statement is not supported.
conditional_signal_assignment	Keyword guarded as part of options is not supported as there is no supported for guarded signal assignment.
configuration_declaration	Non locally static for generate index used in configuration is not supported.
entity_class	Literals, unit, file, and group as entity class are not supported.
entity_class_entry	Optional <> intended for use with group templates is not supported.
file_logical_name	Although <code>file_logical_name</code> is allowed to be any wild expression evaluating to a string value, only string literal and identifier is acceptable as file name.
function_call	Slicing, indexing, and selection of formals is not supported in a named parameter association within a <code>function_call</code> .
instantiated_unit	Direct configuration instantiation is not supported.
mode	Linkage and Buffer ports are not supported completely.
options	Guarded is not supported.
primary	At places where primary is used, allocator is expanded there.
procedure_call	Slicing, indexing, and selection of formals is not supported in a named parameter association within a <code>procedure_call</code> .
process_statement	Postponed processes are not supported.
selected_signal_assignment	The <code>guarded</code> keyword as part of options is not supported as there is no support for guarded signal assignment.
signal_declaration	The <code>signal_kind</code> is not supported. The <code>signal_kind</code> is used for declaring guarded signals, which are not supported.
subtype_indication	Resolved subtype of composites (arrays and records) is not supported
waveform	Unaffected is not supported.
waveform_element	Null waveform element is not supported as it only has relevance in the context of guarded signals.

Verilog Language Support Exceptions

Table B-7 lists the exceptions to supported Verilog language support.

Table B-7: Verilog Language Support Exceptions

Verilog Construct	Exception
Compiler Directive Constructs	
<code>`unconnected_drive</code>	not supported
<code>`nounconnected_drive</code>	not supported
Attributes	
<code>attribute_instance</code>	not supported
<code>attr_spec</code>	not supported
<code>attr_name</code>	not supported
Primitive Gate and Switch Types	
<code>cmos_switchtype</code>	not supported
<code>mos_switchtype</code>	not supported
<code>pass_en_switchtype</code>	not supported
Generated Instantiation	
<code>generated_instantiation</code>	The <code>module_or_generate_item</code> alternative is not supported. Production from 1364-2001 Verilog standard: <code>generate_item_or_null ::=</code> <code>generate_conditional_statement </code> <code>generate_case_statement </code> <code>generate_loop_statement </code> <code>generate_block </code> <code>module_or_generate_item</code> Production supported by Simulator: <code>generate_item_or_null ::=</code> <code>generate_conditional_statement </code> <code>generate_case_statement </code> <code>generate_loop_statement </code> <code>generate_blockgenerate_condition</code>

Table B-7: Verilog Language Support Exceptions (Cont'd)

Verilog Construct	Exception
genvar_assignment	Partially supported. All generate blocks must be named. Production from 1364-2001 Verilog standard: generate_block ::= begin [: generate_block_identifier] { generate_item } end Production supported by Simulator: generate_block ::= begin: generate_block_identifier { generate_item } end
Source Text Constructs	
Library Source Text	
library_text	not supported
library_descriptions	not supported
library_declaration	not supported
include_statement	This refers to include statements within library map files (See IEEE 1364-2001, section 13.2). This does not refer to the `include compiler directive.
System Timing Check Commands	
\$skew_timing_check	not supported
\$timeskew_timing_check	not supported
\$fullskew_timing_check	not supported
\$nochange_timing_check	not supported
System Timing Check Command Argument	
checktime_condition	not supported
PLA Modeling Tasks	
\$async\$nand\$array	not supported
\$async\$nor\$array	not supported
\$async\$or\$array	not supported
\$sync\$and\$array	not supported
\$sync\$nand\$array	not supported
\$sync\$nor\$array	not supported
\$sync\$or\$array	not supported
\$async\$and\$plane	not supported

Table B-7: Verilog Language Support Exceptions (Cont'd)

Verilog Construct	Exception
<code>\$async\$nand\$plane</code>	not supported
<code>\$async\$nor\$plane</code>	not supported
<code>\$async\$or\$plane</code>	not supported
<code>\$sync\$and\$plane</code>	not supported
<code>\$sync\$nand\$plane</code>	not supported
<code>\$sync\$nor\$plane</code>	not supported
<code>\$sync\$or\$plane</code>	not supported
Value Change Dump (VCD) Files	
<code>\$dumpportson</code> <code>\$dumpports</code> <code>\$dumpportsoff,</code> <code>\$dumpportsflush,</code> <code>\$dumpportslimit</code> <code>\$vcdplus</code>	not supported

Vivado Simulator Quick Reference Guide

Table C-1 provides a quick reference and examples for common Vivado simulator commands.

Table C-1: Standalone Mode: Parsing, Elaborating, and Running Simulation from a Command Line

Parsing HDL Files		
Vivado simulator supports two type of HDL files: Verilog and VHDL. There are two different set of commands. You can invoke the Vivado simulator in standalone mode at the following stages:		
Parsing VHDL files:	<pre>xvhdl file1.vhd file2.vhd xvhdl -work worklib file1.vhd file2.vhd xvhdl -prj files.prj</pre> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where file.prj contains entries such as: vhdl <libraryName> <filename> 	
Parsing Verilog files:	<pre>xvlog file1.v file2.v xvlog -work worklib file1.v file2.v xvlog -prj files.prj</pre> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where file.prj contains entries such as: <libraryName> <filename> 	
Additional xvlog and xvhdl Options		
xvlog and xvhdl Key Options	See xelab, xvhd, and xvlog Command Options, page 98 for a complete list of command options. The following are key options for xvlog and xvhdl:	
	Key Option	Applies to:
	-d [define] <name>[=<val>]	xvlog, xvhdl
	-h [-help]	xvlog, xvhdl
	-i [include] <directory_name>	xvlog, xvhdl
	-initfile <init_filename>	xvlog, xvhdl
	-L [-lib] <library_name> [=<library_dir>]	xvlog, xvhdl
	-log <filename>	xvlog, xvhdl
	-prj <filename>	xvlog, xvhdl
	-relax	xvhdl
-work <library_name> [=<library_dir>]	xvlog, xvhdl	
Elaborating and Generating an Executable Snapshot		
After parsing, xsim provides the xelab executable that elaborates and compiles the design. After successful completion of xelab stage, generates an executable snapshot.		

Table C-1: Standalone Mode: Parsing, Elaborating, and Running Simulation from a Command Line (Cont'd)

Usage:	<code>xelab top1 top2</code>	Elaborate a design that has two top design units: <code>top1</code> and <code>top2</code> respectively. In this example the design units are compiled in the <code>/work</code> library.
	<code>xelab lib1.top1 lib2.top2</code>	Elaborate design having two top design unit named as <code>top1</code> and <code>top2</code> respectively. Here these design units has been compiled in library <code>lib1</code> and <code>lib2</code> respectively
	<code>xelab top1 top2 -prj files.prj</code>	Elaborate a design with two top design unit named as <code>top1</code> and <code>top2</code> , respectively. Here these design units has been compiled in library <code>work</code> . The <code>files.prj</code> contains entries such as: Verilog <libraryName> <VerilogDesignFileName> Vhdl <libraryName> <VHDLDesignFileName>
	<code>xelab top1 top2 -s top</code>	Elaborate design having two top design unit named as <code>top1</code> and <code>top2</code> respectively. Here design units are compiled in the <code>/work</code> library. After compilation, an <code>xelab</code> generates an executable snapshot with name <code>top</code> . Without the <code>-s top</code> switch <code>xelab</code> creates the snapshot by joining all the top design the <code>#unit</code> name.
Command Line Help and xelab Options:	<code>xelab -help</code> xelab, xvhd, and xvlog Command Options, page 98.	
Running Simulation:		
After parsing, elaboration and compilation stages are successful; <code>xsim</code> generates an executable snapshot to run simulation.		
Usage:	<code>xsim top -R</code>	Simulates the design on the terminal to the end.
	<code>xsim top -gui</code>	Opens the Vivado simulator GUI.
	<code>xsim top</code>	Opens the Vivado command prompt in Tcl mode. You can then invokes option such as the following: <code>run -all</code> <code>run 100 ns</code>
Important Shortcuts:		
You can invoke the parsing, elaboration and executable generation and simulation stages in two stages or single stage		
	Three Stage	<code>xvlog bot.v</code> <code>xvhdl top.vhd</code> <code>xelab work.top -s top</code> <code>xsim top -R</code>

Table C-1: Standalone Mode: Parsing, Elaborating, and Running Simulation from a Command Line (Cont'd)

	Two Stage	<pre>xelab -vlog bot.v -vhdl top.vhd work.top -s top xsim top -R</pre>
		<pre>xelab -prj my_prj.prj work.top -s top xsim top -R</pre> <p>where my_prj.prj file contains:</p> <pre>verilog work bot.v vhdl work top.vhd</pre>
	Single Stage	<pre>xelab -vlog bot.v -vhdl top.vhd work.top -s top -R</pre> <pre>xelab -prj my_prj.prj work.top -s top -R</pre> <p>where my_prj.prj file contains:</p> <pre>verilog work bot.v vhdl work top.vhd</pre>
Vivado Simulation Tcl Commands		
<p>The following are commonly used Tcl commands. For a complete list, invoke following command on the Tcl Console:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tcl Command: <code>load_features simulator</code> • Tcl Command: <code>help -category simulation</code> <p>For information on any Tcl Command, type:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tcl Command: <code>-help <Tcl_command></code> 		

Table C-1: Standalone Mode: Parsing, Elaborating, and Running Simulation from a Command Line (Cont'd)

Common Vivado Simulator Tcl Commands:	add_bp	Add break point at a line of HDL source. See TCL command; page 87 for more information
	add_force	Force value of signal, wire, or reg to a specified value.
	current_time	Report current simulation time. See current_time, page 106 for an example of this command within a Tcl script.
	get_objects	Get a list of HDL objects in one or more HDL scopes as per the specified pattern. See Tcl Command; page 119 for an example use of this command.
	get_scopes	Get a list of children HDL scopes of a scope. See Additional Scopes and Sources Options, page 56 for more information.
	get_value	Get current value of the selected HDL object (variable, signal, wire, reg). Type <code>get_value -help</code> in Tcl Console for more information.
	launch_modelsim	Launch simulation using the ModelSim simulator. See Pointing to the QuestaSim/ModelSim Simulator Install Location, page 122 and Tcl Command: launch_modelsim, page 130 for more information.
	launch_xsim	Launch simulation using the Vivado simulator. See Tcl Command: launch_xsim, page 43 for more information.
	remove_bps	Remove breakpoints from a simulation. See Tcl Command: remove_bp, page 114 for more information.
	report_drivers	Print drivers along with current driving values for an HDL wire or signal object. See Using the report_drivers Tcl Command, page 120 for more information.
	report_values	Print current simulated value of given HDL objects (variable, signal, wire, or reg). See Tcl Command: report_drivers <hdl_object>, page 120 for more information.
	restart	Rewind simulation to post loading state (as if design was reloaded), time is set to 0. See Tcl Command: restart, page 50 .
	set_value	Set the current value of an HDL object (variable, signal, wire, or reg) to a specified value. Appendix A, Value Rules in Vivado Simulator Tcl Commands .
	step	Step simulation to the next statement. See Simulation Toolbar, page 52 .
stop	Use within a condition to instruct simulation to stop when a condition is true. See Simulation Toolbar, page 52 for more information.	

Additional Resources

Xilinx Resources

For support resources such as Answers, Documentation, Downloads, and Forums, see the Xilinx Support website at: www.xilinx.com/support.

For a glossary of technical terms used in Xilinx documentation, see: www.xilinx.com/company/terms.htm.

Solution Centers

See the [Xilinx Solution Centers](#) for support on devices, software tools, and intellectual property at all stages of the design cycle. Topics include design assistance, advisories, and troubleshooting tips.

Quick Take Videos

- <http://www.xilinx.com/training/vivado/index.htm>
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Documentation References

Vivado Design Suite Documentation:
(www.xilinx.com/support/documentation/dt_vivado2013-3.htm)

1. *Vivado Design Suite User Guide: Release Notes, Installation, and Licensing* ([UG973](#))
2. *Vivado Design Suite User Guide: Using the Vivado IDE* ([UG893](#))
3. *Vivado Design Suite User Guide: Using the TCL Scripting Capabilities* ([UG894](#))

4. *Writing Efficient Testbenches* ([XAPP199](#))
5. *Vivado Design Suite 7 Series FPGA Libraries Guide* ([UG953](#))
6. *Vivado Design Suite Tcl Command Reference Guide* ([UG835](#))
7. *Vivado Design Suite User Guide: Using Constraints* ([UG903](#))
8. *Vivado Design Suite Tutorial: Simulation* ([UG937](#))
9. *Vivado Design Suite User Guide: Design Flows Overview* ([UG892](#))
10. Answer Record "How do I perform NSCim or VCS simulation using IP in Vivado?"
AR# 56487: <http://www.xilinx.com/support/answers/56487.html>