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Xilinx Webpack Basics for Windows

Obtaining the Software

The software can easily be obtained from the Xilinx website after a short and free registration. The download itself is fairly lengthy, being around 1.7GB.

1. Navigate to the Xilinx website, <http://www.xilinx.com>, and select the "Sign in to Access Account" link located near the top of the page.
2. An option to sign in with an extant account will be presented, as will the option to create an account. Choose appropriately.

If one is able to sign in, skip the steps that relate to creating an account.

3. Create an account by submitting the form, and checking the email address specified.
4. With the new Xilinx account, sign in with the procedure described in step one.
5. Select the "download" link at the top right of the page.
6. Select the download link for the "ISE Webpack" in the shaded column on the right side of the page, conveniently labeled "Design Tools".
7. Follow the simple steps and download ISE Webpack.

Alternatively one may simply download directly from the following links:

For the web install:

http://download.xilinx.com/direct/webpack/92/WebPACK_92i_WebInstall.zip

For the single file download:

http://download.xilinx.com/direct/webpack/92/WebPACK_SFD_92i.zip

For the programming tools only:

http://download.xilinx.com/direct/webpack/92/ProgTools_SFD_92i.zip

For Modelsim

http://xilinx.com/ise/mxe3/mxe_3_6.2g.zip

Installing the Software

Installation is simple and straightforward. Merely extract the file with the software of one's choice (for non-Windows XP users 7-Zip is a good choice) and execute the installation file.

Windows XP

1. Extract the compressed zip archive by either right clicking it or executing it.
2. Execute the setup.exe file.

Other Windows

1. Obtain a file archiving utility, winzip will work, otherwise install 7-Zip from <http://www.7-zip.org>
2. Extract the zip file downloaded earlier, and execute setup.exe.

Programming the Digilent Nexys FPGA-Board

For the purposes of simplicity and due to the near universal nature of the following instructions, the process of obtaining and installing software steps will be merged into one.

1. Navigate to <http://www.digilentinc.com> and download the "Digilent Adept Suite". Or, download it directly from this link:
<http://digilentinc.com/Data/Software/Adept/DASv1-9-1.msi>.
2. Execute the file.
3. Attach the Nexys board (via USB) to complete the installation.
4. Program the board with a programming file synthesized in WebPack.