



Intel[®] High Level Synthesis Compiler Standard Edition

Getting Started Guide

Updated for Intel[®] Quartus[®] Prime Design Suite: **19.1**



UG-20264 | 2020.03.26

Latest document on the web: [PDF](#) | [HTML](#)



Contents

1. Intel® High Level Synthesis (HLS) Compiler Standard Edition Getting Started Guide.....	3
1.1. Intel High Level Synthesis Compiler Standard Edition Prerequisites.....	4
1.2. Installing the Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition on Linux Systems.....	5
1.3. Installing the Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition on Microsoft* Windows* Systems.....	6
1.4. Initializing the Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition Environment.....	8
2. High Level Synthesis (HLS) Design Examples and Tutorials.....	10
2.1. Running a High Level Synthesis (HLS) Design Example (Linux).....	13
2.2. Running a High Level Synthesis (HLS) Design Example (Windows).....	14
3. Troubleshooting the Setup of the Intel HLS Compiler.....	16
3.1. Intel HLS Compiler Licensing Issues.....	16
3.1.1. ModelSim Licensing Error Messages.....	16
3.1.2. LM_LICENSE_FILE Environment Variable.....	16
A. Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition Getting Started Guide Archives.....	18
B. Document Revision History for Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition Getting Started Guide.....	19



1. Intel® High Level Synthesis (HLS) Compiler Standard Edition Getting Started Guide

The Intel® High Level Synthesis (HLS) Compiler is part of the Intel Quartus® Prime Standard Edition design software. The Intel HLS Compiler synthesizes a C++ function into an RTL implementation that is optimized for Intel FPGA products. The compiler is sometimes referred to as the i++ compiler, reflecting the name of the compiler command.

The *Intel High Level Synthesis Compiler Standard Edition Getting Started Guide* describes the procedures to set up the Intel HLS Compiler and to run an HLS design example.

In this publication, `<quartus_installdir>` refers to the location where you installed Intel Quartus Prime Design Suite.

The default Intel Quartus Prime Design Suite installation location depends on your operating system:

Windows C:\intelFPGA_standard\19.1

Linux /home/<username>/intelFPGA_standard/19.1

About the Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition Documentation Library

Documentation for the Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition is split across a few publications. Use the following table to find the publication that contains the Intel HLS Compiler information that you are looking for:

Table 1. Intel High Level Synthesis Compiler Standard Edition Documentation Library

Title and Description	STD
<i>Release Notes</i> Provide late-breaking information about the Intel HLS Compiler.	Link
<i>Getting Started Guide</i> Get up and running with the Intel HLS Compiler by learning how to initialize your compiler environment and reviewing the various design examples and tutorials provided with the Intel HLS Compiler.	Link
<i>User Guide</i> Provides instructions on synthesizing, verifying, and simulating intellectual property (IP) that you design for Intel FPGA products. Go through the entire development flow of your component from defining your component and testbench up to integrating your component IP into a larger system with the Intel Quartus Prime software.	Link
<i>continued...</i>	



Title and Description	STD
<i>Reference Manual</i> Provides reference information about the features supported by the Intel HLS Compiler. Find details on Intel HLS Compiler command options, header files, pragmas, attributes, macros, declarations, arguments, and template libraries.	Link
<i>Best Practices Guide</i> Provides techniques and practices that you can apply to improve the FPGA area utilization and performance of your HLS component. Typically, you apply these best practices after you verify the functional correctness of your component.	Link
<i>Quick Reference</i> Provides a brief summary of Intel HLS Compiler declarations and attributes on a single two-sided page.	Link

1.1. Intel High Level Synthesis Compiler Standard Edition Prerequisites

The Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition is part of the Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition Design Suite. You can install the Intel HLS Compiler as part of your Intel Quartus Prime software installation or install it separately. It requires Intel Quartus Prime and additional software to use.

For detailed instructions about installing Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition software, including system requirements, prerequisites, and licensing requirements, see [Intel FPGA Software Installation and Licensing](#).

The Intel HLS Compiler requires the following software in addition to Intel Quartus Prime:

C++ Compiler

For Linux, install GCC 4.4.7 including the GNU C++ library.

These libraries are included in the version of Linux supported by the Intel HLS Compiler.

Important: The Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition software does not support versions of the GCC compiler other than GCC 4.4.7.

For Windows, install Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 Professional.

Important: The Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition software does not support versions of Microsoft Visual Studio other than Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 Professional.

Mentor Graphics* ModelSim* Software

On Windows and RedHat Linux systems, you can install the ModelSim* software from the Intel Quartus Prime software installer. The available options are:

- ModelSim - Intel FPGA Edition
- ModelSim - Intel FPGA Starter Edition

Alternatively, you can use your own licensed version of Mentor Graphics* ModelSim software.



On RedHat Linux systems, ModelSim software requires the Red Hat development tools packages. Additionally, any 32-bit versions of ModelSim software (including those provided with Intel Quartus Prime) require additional 32-bit libraries. The commands to install these requirements are provided in [Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition Getting Started Guide](#).

For information about all the ModelSim software versions that the Intel software supports, refer to the *EDA Interface Information* section in the Software and Device Support Release Notes for your edition of Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition

Related Information

- [Supported Operating Systems](#)
- [Software Requirements](#)
in *Intel FPGA Software Installation and Licensing*
- [EDA Interface Information \(Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition\)](#)
- [Mentor Graphics ModelSim Website](#)

1.2. Installing the Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition on Linux Systems

You must have administrator privileges to install the Intel HLS Compiler prerequisites. However, the Intel HLS Compiler and Intel Quartus Prime do not require administrator privileges to install.

To install the Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition on Linux Systems:

1. Confirm that your operating system version is supported by the Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition:
 - Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6.x, or a community equivalent
2. Download an installation package from the Quartus Prime download page at the Download Center for FPGAs:

<http://fpgasoftware.intel.com/?edition=standard>

On the download page, you have the following options:

- Download a complete installation package from the **Combined Files** tab.
- Download a Quartus Prime installation package from the **Individual Files** tab and download the Intel HLS Compiler installation package from the **Additional Software** tab. Place both installation packages in the same directory.

For detailed instructions about installing Intel Quartus Prime software, including system requirements, prerequisites, and licensing requirements, refer to [Intel FPGA Software Installation and Licensing](#)

The Intel HLS Compiler standalone installation package requires you to have an existing Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition installation as a target for the Intel HLS Compiler installation.

3. Install the complete Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition installation package as follows:
 - If you are installing the complete Intel Quartus Prime installation package (from the **Combined Files** tab of the Quartus Prime download page at the Download Center for FPGAs):



No additional steps are needed before running the installation package.

- If you are installing separately downloaded Intel Quartus Prime (from **Individual Files** tab of the Quartus Prime download page at the Download Center for FPGAs) and Intel HLS Compiler (from **Additional Software** tab of the Quartus Prime download page at the Download Center for FPGAs) installation packages:

Ensure that you have both installation packages in the same directory. The Intel Quartus Prime installer detects the Intel HLS Compiler installation package and installs both software packages for you.

4. Update your Linux repositories with the following command:

```
sudo yum update
```

5. Install GCC 4.4.7 with the following command:

```
$ sudo yum groupinstall "Development Tools"
```

6. If you want the Intel HLS Compiler to simulate your components with the 32-bit Mentor Graphics ModelSim software provided with Intel Quartus Prime (ModelSim - Intel FPGA Edition), install the required additional 32-bit libraries with the following command:

```
$ sudo yum install -y glibc.i686 glibc-devel.i686 libX11.i686 \
libXext.i686 libXft.i686 libgcc.i686 libgcc.x86_64 \
libstdc++.i686 libstdc++-devel.i686 ncurses-devel.i686 \
qt.i686 qt-x11.i686
```

7. If you use the Mentor Graphics ModelSim software provided with Intel Quartus Prime, add the path to ModelSim to your PATH environment variable

For example:

```
$ export PATH=$PATH:<quartus_installdir>/modelsim_ase/bin
```

8. Optional: If you plan to use Platform Designer to integrate your component with a system, add the path to Platform Designer to your PATH environment variable.

For example:

```
$ export PATH=$PATH:<quartus_installdir>/qsys/bin
```

After completing these steps, the Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition is installed on your system. Before you can compile your component with the Intel HLS Compiler `i++` command, you must initialize your Intel HLS Compiler environment for the `i++` command to run successfully. For details, see [Initializing the Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition Environment](#) on page 8.

1.3. Installing the Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition on Microsoft* Windows* Systems

To install the Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition on Microsoft* Windows* Systems:

1. Confirm that your operating system version is supported by the Intel HLS Compiler (Microsoft* Windows* 8.1 or 10).
2. Install Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 Professional.



If you have multiple versions of Visual Studio, Microsoft recommends installing Visual Studio versions in the order in which the versions were released. For example, install Visual Studio 2010 before installing Visual Studio 2015. For details, see [Install Visual Studio Versions Side-by-Side](#) in the MSDN Library.

3. Download an installation package from the Quartus Prime download page at the Download Center for FPGAs:

<http://fpgasoftware.intel.com/?edition=standard>

On the download page, you have the following options:

- Download a complete installation package from the **Combined Files** tab.
- Download a Quartus Prime installation package from the **Individual Files** tab and download the Intel HLS Compiler installation package from the **Additional Software** tab. Place both installation packages in the same directory.

For detailed instructions about installing Intel Quartus Prime software, including system requirements, prerequisites, and licensing requirements, refer to [Intel FPGA Software Installation and Licensing](#)

The Intel HLS Compiler standalone installation package requires you to have an existing Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition installation as a target for the Intel HLS Compiler installation.

4. Install the complete Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition installation package as follows:

- If you are installing the complete Intel Quartus Prime installation package (from the **Combined Files** tab of the Quartus Prime download page at the Download Center for FPGAs):

No additional steps are needed before running the installation package.

- If you are installing separately downloaded Intel Quartus Prime (from **Individual Files** tab of the Quartus Prime download page at the Download Center for FPGAs) and Intel HLS Compiler (from **Additional Software** tab of the Quartus Prime download page at the Download Center for FPGAs) installation packages:

Ensure that you have both installation packages in the same directory. The Intel Quartus Prime installer detects the Intel HLS Compiler installation package and installs both software packages for you.

5. If you use the Mentor Graphics ModelSim software provided with Intel Quartus Prime, add the path to ModelSim to your `PATH` environment variable.

For example:

```
set PATH=%PATH%:<quartus_installdir>\modelsim_ase\win32aloem
```

6. Optional: If you plan to use Platform Designer to integrate your component with a system, add the path to Platform Designer to your `PATH` environment variable.

For example:

```
set PATH=%PATH%:<quartus_installdir>\qsys\bin
```



After completing these steps, the Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition is installed on your system. Before you can compile your component with the Intel HLS Compiler `i++` command, you must initialize your Intel HLS Compiler environment for the `i++` command to run successfully. For details, see [Initializing the Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition Environment](#) on page 8.

1.4. Initializing the Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition Environment

Before you can compile your component with the Intel HLS Compiler `i++` command, a number of environment variables must be set for the `i++` command to run successfully.

The Intel HLS Compiler environment initialization script applies only to the environment variable settings in your *current* terminal or command prompt session. You must initialize the Intel HLS Compiler environment each time that you start a terminal or command prompt session to develop your design.

To initialize your current terminal or command prompt session so that you can run the Intel HLS Compiler:

- On Linux systems, initialize your environment as follows:
 - a. In your terminal session, change directories to the `hls` directory in your Intel Quartus Prime installation directory.

For example, `/home/<username>/intelFPGA_standard/19.1/hls`

- b. Run the following command from the `hls` directory to set the environment variables for the `i++` command in the current terminal session:

```
source init_hls.sh
```

The command prints out the modified environment variable settings.

The environment initialization script shows the environment variables that it set, and you can now run the `i++` command from this terminal session.

- On Windows systems, initialize your environment as follows:

- a. Start a Visual Studio x64 Win64 Command Prompt session.

For example, `C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio 10.0\VC\bin\amd64\vcvars64.bat`.

- b. In your x64 Win64 Command Prompt session, change directories to the `hls` directory in your Intel Quartus Prime installation directory.

For example, `C:\intelFPGA_standard\19.1\hls`

- c. Run the following command from the `hls` directory to set the environment variables for the `i++` command in the current terminal session:

```
init_hls.bat
```

The command prints out the modified environment variable settings.

The environment initialization script shows the environment variables that it set, and you can now run the `i++` command from this command prompt session.



Tip: To set the environment variables permanently, follow your operating system's standard procedure for making persistent changes to environment variable settings. Review the output of the environment initialization script to determine the environment variables to set permanently.

2. High Level Synthesis (HLS) Design Examples and Tutorials

The Intel High Level Synthesis (HLS) Compiler Standard Edition includes design examples and tutorials to provide you with example components and demonstrate ways to model or code your components to get the best results from the Intel HLS Compiler for your design.

High Level Synthesis Design Examples

The high level synthesis (HLS) design examples give you a quick way to see how various algorithms can be effectively implemented to get the best results from the Intel HLS Compiler.

You can find the HLS design examples in the following location:

```
<quartus_installdir>/hls/examples/<design_example_name>
```

Where `<quartus_installdir>` is the directory where you installed the Intel Quartus Prime Design Suite. For example, `/home/<username>/intelFPGA_standard/19.1` or `C:\intelFPGA_standard\19.1`.

For instructions on running the examples, see the following sections:

- [Running a High Level Synthesis \(HLS\) Design Example \(Linux\)](#) on page 13
- [Running a High Level Synthesis \(HLS\) Design Example \(Windows\)](#) on page 14

Table 2. HLS design examples

Focus area	Name	Description
Linear algebra	QRD	Uses the Modified Gram-Schmidt algorithm for QR factorization of a matrix.
Signal processing	interp_decim_filter	Implements a simple and efficient interpolation/decimation filter.
Simple design	counter	Implements a simple and efficient 32-bit counter component.
Video processing	YUV2RGB	Implements a basic YUV422 to RGB888 color space conversion.
Video processing	image_downsample	Implements an image downsampling algorithm to scale an image to a smaller size using bilinear interpolation.

HLS Design Tutorials

The HLS design tutorials show you important HLS-specific programming concepts as well demonstrating good coding practices.

Each tutorial has a README file that gives you details about what the tutorial covers and instructions on how to run the tutorial.

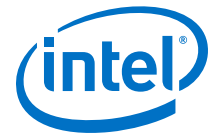


Table 3. Arbitrary precision datatypes design tutorials

Name	Description
You can find these tutorials in the following location on your Intel Quartus Prime system: <code><quartus_installdir>/hls/examples/tutorials/ac_datatypes</code>	
ac_fixed_constructor	Demonstrates the use of the ac_fixed constructor where you can get a better QoR by using minor variations in coding style.
ac_fixed_math_library	Demonstrates the use of the Intel HLS Compiler ac_fixed_math fixed point math library functions.
ac_int_basic_ops	Demonstrates the operators available for the ac_int class.
ac_int_overflow	Demonstrates the usage of the DEBUG_AC_INT_WARNING and DEBUG_AC_INT_ERROR keywords to help detect overflow during emulation runtime.

Table 4. Component memories design tutorials

Name	Description
You can find these tutorials in the following location on your Intel Quartus Prime system: <code><quartus_installdir>/hls/examples/tutorials/component_memories</code>	
bank_bits	Demonstrates how to control component internal memory architecture for parallel memory access by enforcing which address bits are used for banking.
depth_wise_merge	Demonstrates how to improve resource utilization by implementing two logical memories as a single physical memory with a depth equal to the sum of the depths of the two original memories.
static_var_init	Demonstrates the hls_init_on_power and hls_init_on_reset flags for static variables and their impact on area and latency.
width_wise_merge	Demonstrates how to improve resource utilization by implementing two logical memories as a single physical memory with a width equal to the sum of the widths of the two original memories.

Table 5. Interfaces design tutorials

Name	Description
You can find these tutorials in the following location on your Intel Quartus Prime system: <code><quartus_installdir>/hls/examples/tutorials/interfaces</code>	
overview	Demonstrates the effects on quality-of-results (QoR) of choosing different component interfaces even when the component algorithm remains the same.
explicit_streams_buffer	Demonstrates how to use explicit stream_in and stream_out interfaces in the component and testbench.
explicit_streams_packets_ready_valid	Demonstrates how to use the usesPackets, usesValid, and usesReady stream template parameters.
mm_master_testbench_operators	Demonstrates how to invoke a component at different indices of an Avalon Memory Mapped (MM) Master (mm_master class) interface.
mm_slaves	Demonstrates how to create Avalon-MM Slave interfaces (slave registers and slave memories).
<i>continued...</i>	



Name	Description
multiple_stream_call_sites	Demonstrates the benefits of using multiple stream call sites.
pointer_mm_master	Demonstrates how to create Avalon-MM Master interfaces and control their parameters.
stable_arguments	Demonstrates how to use the <code>stable</code> attribute for unchanging arguments to improve resource utilization.

Table 6. Best practices design tutorials

Name	Description
You can find these tutorials in the following location on your Intel Quartus Prime system: <code><quartus_installdir>/hls/examples/tutorials/best_practices</code>	
const_global	Demonstrates the performance and resource utilization improvements of using <code>const</code> qualified global variables.
floating_point_ops	Demonstrates the impact of <code>--fpc</code> and <code>--fp-relaxed</code> flags in <code>i++</code> on floating point operations using a 32-tap finite impulse response (FIR) filter design that is optimized for throughput.
integer_promotion	Demonstrates how integer promotion rules can influence the behavior of a C or C++ program.
loop_memory_dependency	Demonstrates breaking loop carried dependencies using the <code>ivdep</code> pragma.
parameter_aliasing	Demonstrates the use of the <code>restrict</code> keyword on component arguments.
resource_sharing_filter	Demonstrates an optimized-for-area variant of a 32-tap finite impulse response (FIR) filter design
shift_register	Demonstrates the recommended coding style for implementing shift registers.
single_vs_double_precision_math	Demonstrates the effect of using single precision literals and functions instead of double precision literals and functions.
struct_interface	Demonstrates how to use <code>ac_int</code> to implement interfaces with no padding bits.
swap_vs_copy	Demonstrates the impact of using deep copying with registers on the performance and resource utilization of a component design.

Table 7. Usability design tutorials

Name	Description
You can find these tutorials in the following location on your Intel Quartus Prime system: <code><quartus_installdir>/hls/examples/tutorials/usability</code>	
compiler_interoperability	(Linux only) Demonstrates how to use testbench code compiled with GCC along with code compiled by the <code>i++</code> command.
enqueue_call	Demonstrates how to run components asynchronously and exercise their pipeline performance in the test bench using <code>enqueue</code> functionality.
qsys_2xclock	Demonstrates the recommended clock and reset generation for a component with a <code>clock2x</code> input.
qsys_stitching	Demonstrates how to combine multiple components to function as a single cohesive design.



2.1. Running a High Level Synthesis (HLS) Design Example (Linux)

To run an HLS design example on Linux systems:

1. Start a terminal session and initialize the Intel HLS Compiler environment.

For instructions how to initialize the environment, see [Initializing the Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition Environment](#) on page 8.

2. Navigate to the `<quartus_installdir>/hls/examples/<design_example_name>` directory, where `<quartus_installdir>` is the directory where you installed Intel Quartus Prime software.

For example, `/home/<username>/intelFPGA_standard/19.1.`

3. Run the `make test-x86-64` command. This command compiles the C++ source code to an x86-64 binary executable. Then, run the generated executable on your CPU.

Expected outcome after you run the `make test-x86-64` command:

- The console displays the command used to generate the binary. For example, `i++ -march=x86-64 -o test-x86-64 <source_files>`.
- The HLS compiler creates an executable file (for example, `test-x86-64`) in the current working directory.
- The console displays the output of the executable to signify a successful execution.

```
$ make test-x86-64
i++ MGS.cpp QRD_Testbench.cpp TestbenchHelpers.cpp --fpc --fp-relaxed -
march=x86-64 -o test-x86-64
+-----+
| Run ./test-x86-64 to execute the test. |
+-----+
```

4. Run the `make test-fpga` command. The command compiles the C++ source code to a hardware executable and then runs a simulation of the generated HDL. Expected outcome after you run the `make test-fpga` command:

- The console displays the command it uses to generate the testbench binary and the contents of the project directory. For example, `i++ -march="<FPGA_family_or_part_number>" <source_files> -o test-fpga.`
- The HLS compiler creates a `.prj` directory (for example, `test-fpga.prj`) in the current working directory.
- The console displays the output of the executable to signify a successful execution.

```
$ make test-fpga
i++ MGS.cpp QRD_Testbench.cpp TestbenchHelpers.cpp -v --fpc --fp-relaxed -
march=Arria10 -o test-fpga
Target FPGA part name: 10AX115U1F45I1SG
Target FPGA family name: Arria 10
Target FPGA speed grade: -2
Analyzing MGS.cpp for testbench generation
Creating x86-64 testbench
Analyzing MGS.cpp for hardware generation
Analyzing QRD_Testbench.cpp for testbench generation
Creating x86-64 testbench
Analyzing QRD_Testbench.cpp for hardware generation
```



```
Analyzing TestbenchHelpers.cpp for testbench generation
Creating x86-64 testbench
Analyzing TestbenchHelpers.cpp for hardware generation
Optimizing component(s) and generating Verilog files
Generating cosimulation support
Generating simulation files for components: qrd
HLS simulation directory: /data/username/HLS_Trainings/examples/QRD/test-
fpga.prj/verification.
Linking x86 objects
+-----+
| Run ./test-fpga to execute the test. |
+-----+
```

2.2. Running a High Level Synthesis (HLS) Design Example (Windows)

To run an HLS design example on Windows systems:

1. Start a terminal session and initialize the Intel HLS Compiler environment.
For instructions how to initialize the environment, see [Initializing the Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition Environment](#) on page 8.
2. Navigate to the `<quartus_installdir>\hls\examples\<design_example_name>` directory, where `<quartus_installdir>` is the directory where you installed Intel Quartus Prime software.

For example, `C:\intelFPGA_standard\19.1`.

3. Run the `build.bat test-x86-64`. This command compiles the C++ source code to an x86-64 binary executable. Then, run the generated executable on your CPU.

Expected outcome after you run the `build.bat test-x86-64` command:

- The console displays the command it uses to generate the binary. For example, `i++ -march=x86-64 -o test-x86-64 <source_files>`.
- The HLS compiler creates an executable file (for example, `test-x86-64.exe`) in the current working directory.
- The console displays the output of the executable to signify a successful execution.

```
C:\intelFPGA_standard\19.1\hls\examples\QRD>build.bat test-x86-64
i++ --fpc --fp-relaxed -march=x86-64 MGS.cpp QRD_Testbench.cpp
TestbenchHelpers.cpp -o test-x86-64.exe
Run test-x86-64.exe to execute the test.
```

4. Run the `build.bat test-fpga` command. The command compiles the C++ source code to a hardware executable and then runs a simulation of the generated HDL.

Expected outcome after you run the `build.bat test-fpga` command:



- The console displays the command it uses to generate the testbench binary and the contents of the project directory. For example,
`i++ -march="<FPGA_family_or_part_number>" <source_files>
-o test-fpga.`
- The HLS compiler creates a `.prj` directory (for example, `test-fpga.prj`) in the current working directory.
- The console displays the output of the executable to signify a successful execution.

```
C:\intelFPGA_standard\19.1\hls\examples\QRD>build.bat test-fpga
i++ --fpc --fp-relaxed -march=Arria10 MGS.cpp QRD_Testbench.cpp
TestbenchHelpers.cpp -o test-fpga.exe
Run test-fpga.exe to execute the test.
```

3. Troubleshooting the Setup of the Intel HLS Compiler

This section provides information that can help you troubleshoot problems you might encounter when setting up the HLS compiler.

3.1. Intel HLS Compiler Licensing Issues

The Intel High Level Synthesis (HLS) Compiler is licensed as part of your Intel Quartus Prime license. However, the Intel HLS Compiler depends on ModelSim software. If you use a version of ModelSim software other than ModelSim - Intel FPGA Edition or ModelSim - Intel FPGA Starter Edition, ensure that your version of ModelSim software is licensed correctly.

In some cases, you might encounter problems with the licensing for ModelSim software.

3.1.1. ModelSim Licensing Error Messages

The HLS compiler issues error messages if it cannot locate the license for the installed version of ModelSim software.

If the HLS compiler fails to locate the ModelSim software license, it issues the following error message when you compile your design to the FPGA architecture:

```
$ i++ -march="<FPGA_family_or_part_number>" program.cpp
HLS Elaborate cosim testbench. FAILED.
See ./a.prj/a.log for details.
Error: Missing simulator license. Either:
1) Ensure you have a valid ModelSim license
2) Use the --simulator none flag to skip the verification flow
```

Common causes for these errors include:

- Missing, expired, or invalid licenses
- Incorrect license server name in the `license.dat` file
- Unspecified or incorrectly-specified license location

Note: The running speed of the HLS compiler might decrease if the compiler has to search the network for missing or corrupted licenses. If this problem occurs, correct the license file or license location accordingly.

3.1.2. LM_LICENSE_FILE Environment Variable

Intel and third-party software use the `LM_LICENSE_FILE` environment variable to specify the locations of license files or license servers. For example, both the Intel Quartus Prime software and the ModelSim software use the `LM_LICENSE_FILE` variable to specify the locations of their licenses.



Note: The time it takes for your development machine to communicate with the license server directly affects compilation time. If your `LM_LICENSE_FILE` environment variable setting includes paths to many license servers, or if the license server is hosted in a distant locale, you will notice a significant increase in compilation time.

On Linux or UNIX systems, insert a colon (:) after each license file or license server location that you append to the `LM_LICENSE_FILE` environment variable.

On Windows systems, insert a semicolon (;) after each license file or license server location that you append to the `LM_LICENSE_FILE` environment variable.

Note: When modifying the `LM_LICENSE_FILE` setting to include the locations of your software licenses, do not remove any existing license locations appended to the variable.

3.1.2.1. ModelSim Software License-Specific Considerations

When setting up the ModelSim software license, you need to append the license location to the `LM_LICENSE_FILE` environment variable. However, you can also append the location of the ModelSim software license to the `MGLS_LICENSE_FILE` environment variable.

For Mentor Graphics applications, including the ModelSim software, you can specify the paths to license files and license servers in five different locations. If you specify paths to license files or license servers in multiple locations, the following search order is used to find the first valid path:

- `MGLS_LICENSE_FILE` environment variable you set in the user environment
- `MGLS_LICENSE_FILE` environment variable you set in the registry
- `LM_LICENSE_FILE` environment variable you set in the environment
- `LM_LICENSE_FILE` environment variable you set in the registry
- `<path to FLEXlm>\license.dat`, where `<path to FLEXlm>` is the default location of the FLEXlm license file.

When you install a Mentor Graphics product license on a computer, the `MGLS_LICENSE_FILE` environment variable settings take precedence over the `LM_LICENSE_FILE` environment variable settings. If you set both environment variables, set `LM_LICENSE_FILE` to point to the ModelSim license server and set `MGLS_LICENSE_FILE` to only point to the license server for other Mentor Graphics applications. If you only use the `MGLS_LICENSE_FILE` environment variable, ensure that the ModelSim license server and the license servers for other Mentor Graphics applications are on the same machine.



A. Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition Getting Started Guide Archives

Intel HLS Compiler Version	Title
19.1	Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition Getting Started Guide
18.1.1	Intel HLS Compiler Getting Started Guide
18.1	Intel HLS Compiler Getting Started Guide
18.0	Intel HLS Compiler Getting Started Guide
17.1.1	Intel HLS Compiler Getting Started Guide
17.1	Intel HLS Compiler Getting Started Guide

Intel Corporation. All rights reserved. Agilix, Altera, Arria, Cyclone, Enpirion, Intel, the Intel logo, MAX, Nios, Quartus and Stratix words and logos are trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the U.S. and/or other countries. Intel warrants performance of its FPGA and semiconductor products to current specifications in accordance with Intel's standard warranty, but reserves the right to make changes to any products and services at any time without notice. Intel assumes no responsibility or liability arising out of the application or use of any information, product, or service described herein except as expressly agreed to in writing by Intel. Intel customers are advised to obtain the latest version of device specifications before relying on any published information and before placing orders for products or services.

*Other names and brands may be claimed as the property of others.

ISO
9001:2015
Registered



B. Document Revision History for Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition Getting Started Guide

Document Version	Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition Version	Changes
2020.03.26	19.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated the instructions for downloading and installing the Intel HLS Compiler in the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Installing the Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition on Linux Systems on page 5 – Installing the Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition on Microsoft* Windows* Systems on page 6 Corrected Intel High Level Synthesis Compiler Standard Edition Prerequisites on page 4 to indicate that you can install the Intel HLS Compiler as part of your Intel Quartus Prime software installation or install it separately.
2019.12.18	19.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed information about Intel HLS Compiler Pro Edition. For installation and configuration information for the Intel HLS Compiler Pro Edition, see Intel HLS Compiler Pro Edition Getting Started Guide.

Document Revision History for Intel HLS Compiler Getting Started Guide

Previous versions of the *Intel HLS Compiler Getting Started Guide* contained information for both Intel HLS Compiler Standard Edition and Intel HLS Compiler Pro Edition.



Document Version	Intel Quartus Prime Version	Changes
2019.09.30	19.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRO Removed the following tutorials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – bank_bits – mm_slave – rom – struct_member_attributes PRO Added the following tutorials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – memory_bank_configuration – memory_geometry – memory_implementation – memory_merging – static_var_init – attributes_on_mm_slave_arg – exceptions – lsu_control – relax_reeducation_dependency PRO Added Microsoft Visual Studio 2017 Professional and Microsoft Visual Studio 2017 Community as supported C++ compilers. PRO Removed Microsoft Visual Studio 2015 Professional and Microsoft Visual Studio 2015 Community as supported C++ compilers.
2019.07.01	19.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated Installing the Intel HLS Compiler on Linux Systems to clarify the command to run to install the 32-bit libraries required by ModelSim - Intel FPGA Edition.
2019.04.01	19.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRO The Intel HLS Compiler can now be installed separately from Intel Quartus Prime. The following sections were added or updated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Downloading the Intel HLS Compiler – Installing the Intel HLS Compiler on Linux Systems – Installing the Intel HLS Compiler on Microsoft* Windows* Systems PRO The Intel HLS Compiler is now backwards-compatible with earlier versions of Intel Quartus Prime. See Backwards Compatibility for details. Updated Initializing the Intel HLS Compiler Environment to include the requirement that you must initialize your Intel HLS Compiler environment on Windows operating systems from a Visual Studio x64 Native Tools command prompt. Revised and updated the list of tutorials that are provided with the Intel HLS Compiler in High Level Synthesis (HLS) Design Examples and Tutorials.
2018.12.24	18.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRO Added Microsoft Visual Studio 2015 Community to the list of supported C++ compilers on Microsoft Windows systems. Added step to add path to Mentor Graphics ModelSim software provided with Intel Quartus Prime to operating system PATH environment variable in Installing the Intel HLS Compiler on Linux Systems and Installing the Intel HLS Compiler on Microsoft* Windows* Systems.
continued...		



Document Version	Intel Quartus Prime Version	Changes
2018.09.24	18.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRO The Intel HLS Compiler has a new front end. For a summary of the changes introduced by this new front end, see <i>Improved Intel HLS Compiler Front End</i> in the Intel High Level Synthesis Compiler Version 18.1 Release Notes. PRO The Intel HLS Compiler provided with Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition has new prerequisites. Review Intel High Level Synthesis Compiler Prerequisites to learn more. PRO The installation instructions for Linux systems have changed. See Installing the Intel HLS Compiler on Linux Systems for details. PRO The <code>best_practices/parameter_aliasing</code> tutorial description in High Level Synthesis (HLS) Design Examples and Tutorials changed to cover the <code>__restrict</code> keyword. The <code>restrict</code> keyword is no longer supported in the Intel HLS Compiler Pro Edition. PRO Removed the <code>best_practices/integer_promotion</code> tutorial. Integer promotion is now done by default when use the Intel HLS Compiler Pro Edition.
2018.05.07	18.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starting with Intel Quartus Prime Version 18.0, the features and devices supported by the Intel HLS Compiler depend on what edition of Intel Quartus Prime you have. Intel HLS Compiler publications now use icons to indicate content and features that apply only to a specific edition as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRO Indicates that a feature or content applies only to the Intel HLS Compiler provided with Intel Quartus Prime Pro Edition. STD Indicates that a feature or content applies only to the Intel HLS Compiler provided with Intel Quartus Prime Standard Edition. PRO Added the following tutorials to the list of tutorials in High Level Synthesis (HLS) Design Examples and Tutorials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>interfaces/explicit_streams_packets_empty</code> <code>interfaces/explicit_streams_ready_latency</code> <code>best_practices/ac_datatypes</code> <code>best_practices/loop_coalesce</code> <code>best_practices/random_number_generator</code> PRO Renamed the following tutorials to reflect some Intel Quartus Prime component name changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <code>usability/qsys_2xclock</code> is now <code>usability/platform_designer_2xclock</code> <code>usability/qsys_stitching</code> is now <code>usability/platform_designer_stitching</code>
2017.12.22	17.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added the <code>interfaces/overview</code> tutorial to the list of tutorials in High Level Synthesis (HLS) Design Examples and Tutorials.
2017.12.08	17.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated the Mentor Graphics ModelSim software requirements to include the required Red Hat development tools packages.
<i>continued...</i>		



Document Version	Intel Quartus Prime Version	Changes
2017.11.06	17.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Intel High Level Synthesis (HLS) Compiler is now part of Intel Quartus Prime Design Suite, resulting in the following changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised to document to reflect that you now get the Intel HLS Compiler by installing Intel Quartus Prime software. Removed most licensing information. Licensing the Intel HLS Compiler is now covered by your Intel Quartus Prime Design Suite licensing. Some third-party software required by the HLS compiler might continue to require additional licensing. Removed information about overriding compilers. Revised prerequisites to reflect only additional prerequisites required by the HLS compiler. Revised path information to reflect the new file system locations of the Intel HLS Compiler files. Renamed the following tutorials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <code>explicit_streams</code> tutorial is now called <code>explicit_streams_buffer</code>. The <code>explicit_streams_2</code> tutorial is now called <code>explicit_streams_packets_ready_valid</code>.
2017.06.23	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor changes and corrections.
2017.06.09	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated High Level Synthesis (HLS) Design Examples and Tutorials with information about new examples. Revised Overriding the Default GCC Compiler for Intel HLS Compiler.
2017.03.14	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed bit operations (3DES) from list of supplied design examples.
2017.03.01	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added installation of required packages and libraries needed for Linux.
2017.02.03	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changed success message in Quick Start sections to <code>PASSED</code>. Added HLS Design Examples and Tutorials section. Moved Running an HLS Design Example on Linux and Running an HLS Design Example on Windows to HLS Design Examples and Tutorials.
2016.11.30	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In HLS Compiler Prerequisites, updated software requirements to note that the HLS compiler supports all ModelSim software editions that the Intel Quartus Prime software supports. In HLS Compiler Quick Start, added a note that you must run the <code>init_hls</code> script each time you start a shell or terminal to develop your design. In HLS Compiler Quick Start, separated the Linux and Windows instructions. In Running an HLS Design Example, separated the Linux and Windows instructions. For Linux, run the <code>make</code> command; for Windows, run the <code>build.bat</code> command. Changed the <code>test_x86-64</code> command option to <code>test-x86-64</code>. Changed the <code>test_fpga</code> command option to <code>test-fpga</code>. Removed the instruction to run the <code>make test_qii</code> command for Linux and the <code>build.bat test_qii</code> command for Windows because it is no longer necessary. In HLS Licensing Error Messages, updated the error message you will see if the HLS compiler fails to locate the ModelSim software license.
2016.09.12	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial release.