

Moving from Protel 99 SE to Altium Designer

As a Protel 99 SE customer, you can protect your design tool investment and 'future-proof' your organization by upgrading to Altium Designer, the industry's first unified electronic product development system. This allows you to extend your current Protel board-level design skills into new areas of design and maintain innovation into the future.



The electronics design landscape is changing

The way electronic products are developed is fundamentally changing. The availability of highcapacity, low-cost programmable devices is opening up new ways of thinking about design, allowing more intelligent, lower-cost products to be designed within shorter development cycles.

Moving functionality into the 'soft' realm brings innumerable benefits to the design process. Critical design decisions can be made later, products can be brought to market earlier and upgraded in the field and functionality can be added to the product in software without adding to the overall product cost.

To maintain a competitive advantage in today's fast evolving market, it's crucial to embrace changes in design methodologies and adopt product development tools that allow you to harness the opportunities created by this change. Altium Designer supports these developments at a fundamental level by offering a new approach to electronic product development that exploits the latest technology and methodologies in an intuitive, efficient design environment.

The future is unified

Traditionally, board-level design, FPGA design and software development have been treated as independent processes each carried out in separate design environments. Moving into the future, this point tool approach will increasingly present a barrier to efficient electronic product development.

By unifying design, engineering teams can collaborate more effectively with each other, as well as others within and outside the organization, speeding up the overall design cycle. A unified design environment gives the freedom to innovate and to approach electronics design in new ways, allowing you to fully capitalize on the latest technology developments and devices, both today and in the future.

Future proof your organization

As an Altium customer, we are committed to your success both now and over the long term. We recognize the investment you have made in your Protel design system. We believe the best way to protect this investment is to allow us to continue to service your design needs through Altium Designer and help you benefit from a unified approach.

Once you have moved to the unified Altium Designer platform you will immediately benefit from new design capabilities, such as the ability to apply your board-level design skills to targeting programmable devices. You'll have access to advanced features such as interactive routing of high-speed differential signal pairs and automatic optimization of the pin configuration of programmable devices for simpler routing.

Best of all, you will open the door to completely new and innovative ways of harnessing the latest devices and technology to create more intelligent products and bring them to market faster. This ensures you and your organization remain competitive into the future. for a large capital outlay for custom software development.

- Unifies hardware, software and programmable hardware design within a single application
- Is equipped for using the latest design technology
- Has hardware/software co-design and highly developed transitioning tools built in
- Has sophisticated document and design data sharing capabilities and centralized project management
- Is continuously developed and updated with Altium's latest technology
- Has full database library capabilities and is version control ready
- Provides ONE solution to take a design from concept to completion.

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Smooth transition from Protel 99 SE

Altium has created extensive systems and features within Altium Designer to make the task of successfully transitioning from Protel 99 SE as easy as possible, with a minimum of disruption to productivity. The result is our highly-developed Wizard-based design file translators that guide you through the import process for all design documents – including libraries – while managing the relationship between them.

Altium Designer's translators import all documents within a DDB file in one operation and include specific bi-directional support for Protel 99 SE design and library files. With a series of simple, interactive steps the Import Wizard processes all file types to automatically create ready-to-use Altium Designer projects and integrated library files, while accurately processing all essential design elements. Since Protel 99 SE and Altium Designer share a common heritage, we fundamentally understand what is required for successful migration at both a code and functional level.

Altium supports you all the way

As part of Altium's commitment to making electronics design easier our website provides a wide range of support and community-based information to help you become – and remain – productive with Altium Designer. This extends to specific Protel 99 SE migration resources that assist you to make the smoothest transition from Protel 99 SE to Altium Designer.

We also provide a wide range of flexible customer support options that deliver on our commitment to provide the backup you need. Altium's renowned Global Customer Care Network (including localized support in most major centres) and cost-effective training options are ready to help you become successful with Altium Designer. What's more, because our support staff has direct access to Protel 99 SE engineering knowledge, migration issue turnaround time is minimized.

The way forward is Altium Designer

Electronics technology is continually moving forward. You need a design system that does the same. We recognise that changing design systems is never easy. That's why, once you have made the move to Altium Designer, we'll ensure you never need to change again. Altium Designer represents the best future for Protel 99 SE users. Its unified environment and support for the latest devices and design methodologies will allow you to create more intelligent designs faster – both now and into the future.



We believe Altium Designer represents the best and most logical path forward for our Protel 99 SE customers. It provides all the capabilities you currently enjoy with the added benefit of fully supporting the design unification and convergence necessary to move into the future with confidence.

- Confidence that you can work with the latest devices and design methodologies;
- Confidence that your design system will be continuously updated to keep up with changing technology and
- Confidence that you can remain competitive, both now and into the future.

Altium Designer free web-based resources include:

- Extensive Knowledge Base giving you instant access to an expanding database of current technical tips and other up-to-date information
- Forums link you directly to other Altium customers, developers and engineers
- Learning Guides giving you step-by-step explanations on how to get the most out of your design environment
- DEMOcenter that hosts a wide selection of Altium Designer demonstration videos
- TRAININGcenter that includes training videos, training manuals and Altium's comprehensive training courses.