

MONDAY PANEL:
CAD FOR CAD'S SAKE? ARE CAD AND DESIGN DIVERGING?

Moderator: John Cohn - IBM Corp., Essex Junction, VT

In the beginning, CAD tools were written by designers to reduce the tedium of jobs like cutting out photomask data from plastic film. We've come a long way since the first designer put down the Xacto knife and picked up a light pen. CAD is now a multi-billion dollar industry with its own conferences, its own heroes, and its own ideas. No one can deny that CAD innovation has been one of the prime drivers of the microelectronics revolution. Still, a common criticism today is that CAD has drifted away from its design roots. We live in a time when few CAD engineers have ever designed a chip. Should we be taking more direction from the design community... or is our job to lead them? Remember some innovations such as logic synthesis were initially met with fierce resistance from designers.

Whomever is in charge, are we tackling the problems that will enable designers to push their industry, or are we growing too introspective and working on the problems of our own creation?

With CAD conferences filling with discussions of databases and incremental improvements to long solved problems, maybe it's time to step back and ask ourselves...'Are CAD and design diverging?' This panel will explore that question from both the designer's and CAD engineer's perspective. Please come prepared to share your thoughts.

Panelists:

Shekhar Borkar - Intel Corp., Hillsboro, OR

Mark Horowitz - Stanford Univ., Stanford CA

Chekib Akrouf - IBM Corp., Austin TX

Don MacMillan - Synopsys, Inc., Mountain View, CA

Rob A. Rutenbar - Carnegie Mellon Univ., Pittsburgh PA

Steve Teig - Cadence Design Systems, Inc., Santa Clara, CA