



NEWS LETTER

May 2014

VISIT FRACTAL AT DAC 2014



State of the art validation tools for Hard IP, Standard Cell Library and IO.

Our mission is simple: make the Quality of your Design Formats an asset for your business

Fractal at DAC, booth 507,
[Fractal virtual booth](#)
San Francisco, June 1-5



Towards a Quality-Aware Design Flow

A Fractal Whitepaper

This whitepaper addresses the need for IP developers to have QA validation solutions fully integrated within their design flow. Failing the complete embedding of QA checks and procedures in the daily work of designing and enhancing IP blocks,

achieving compliance with quality standards will always remain an afterthought: something that is last on the to-do list before a new IP version can be shipped to customers. And consequently, something that can be short-cut or skipped should circumstances so dictate.



Picture: Automated development / characterization flow: all steps are push-button – so should the QA solution be.

[click link for Whitepaper](#)

Crossfire Updates

Recently Crossfire has been improved in various areas:

- New Parallel Parsing Feature
 - allows faster parsing.
- New setup creation method.
 - setupAPI
- Various speed ups of checks
 - from 2x to 40x
- New checks
 - pg_pin definition check
 - related bias pin check
 - input pins only connected to gates in spice
 - find parameter differences over a range of .lib files
 - find PVT corner in set of .lib files
 - full difference between 2 LEF files
- Message database can be zipped
- Very strict syntax check possible on .lib files



About Crossfire

Crossfire reports mismatches or modelling errors for Libraries and IP that can seriously delay an IC design project.

Library and IP integrity checking has become a mandatory step for a “state of the art” deep submicron design because of:

- The sheer number of different views
- The complexity of the views (ECSM, CCS)
- The loss of valuable design time
- Time to market

Crossfire helps CAD teams and IC designers achieving a high quality of design data in a short time.

Crossfire assures that the information represented across the various views is consistent and does not contain anomalies.

Crossfire usability features

- Graphical setup creation & run environment as well as batch runs
- Powerful hierarchical configuration language supporting macro functions
- Graphical debugging (message > double click > open relevant views)
- Graphical output filtering (zoom in on cells/formats/error-types)
- Waiving mechanism
- HTML and CSV reports
- Automatic setup generation
- Setup API
- Generic setups

Crossfire integration features

API for creating database independent checks, available in: Perl, Tcl and Python
Existing customer validation scripts can be integrated

Visualisation messages/results from customer scripts (double click opens message)

Crossfire Interview

Visualization and browsing of database contents

Opens e.g. LEF, GDS, CDB, OA and Milkyway views in a single window

About Fractal Technologies

Fractal Technologies is a privately held company with offices in Campbell, California and Eindhoven, the Netherlands. The company was founded by a small group of highly recognized EDA professionals.

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