

---

## How to Install Vivado for Macro-Placement Evaluation

---

We use a special version of Vivado 2021.1 for the MLCAD 2023 Contest to evaluate FPGA macro placements generated by contestants. The instructions of downloading and running the Vivado flow are as follows:

### 1. Obtain a Vivado License

- Please ask your team's advising professor to obtain a Vivado license from Xilinx's University Program: <https://www.xilinx.com/support/university/donation-program.html>.

### 2. Download the Vivado 2021.1 executable

After obtaining a Vivado license, please do the following:

- Visit <http://www.xilinx.com/support/download>
- Sign in using UserID/Password. Create a new account if you do not have one.
- Download Vivado HLx 2021
- Save the executable in some directory, say *vivado\_dir*

### 3. Download the Vivado 2021.1 MLCAD 2023 Contest Patch

- Visit <http://www.xilinx.com/getlicense>
- Sign in using UserID/Password. Create a new account if you do not have one.
- You should see account MLCAD\_2023\_Contest Release in your drop down menu
- Click on the Restricted Downloads tab
- You should see the file *vivado.zip* patch file
- Click the download button to download it

### 4. Install Vivado on a linux machine:

Create a Vivado patch directory (e.g. *vivado\_patch\_dir*)

```
% mkdir vivado_patch_dir
% cp vivado.zip vivado_patch_dir
% cd vivado_patch_dir
% unzip vivado.zip
```

### 5. Download Benchmark suite and run Vivado

- Download the benchmark design suite from the following Kaggle website:

<https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/ismailbustany/mlcad-2023-fpga-macro-placement-benchmark-suite>

- The dataset contains 180 designs (Design\_1.tgz, ..., Design\_180.tgz)
- It also contains a design specification file, Design\_specifications\_key, that lists estimated Vivado place-and-route runtimes for each design as a reference. Observe that designs with the larger clock resources (e.g. 38 clock resources) have the longer runtimes.

- Untar all the files and run Vivado on one of the designs (e.g. Design\_1) as follows:

```
% tar xvfz Design*
% cd Design_1
% setenv MYVIVADO [path-to-vivado-path-dir]/vivado
% [path-to-vivado_dir]/vivado -mode tcl -so place_route.tcl
```

- In case of illegal placement, Vivado will error out with illegal placement information.
- If the placement is legal, Vivado router starts and completes routing, or report unroutable design.
- If routing completes successfully, the following message indicates total routed wirelength:

```
Total Routed Wirelength: xxxxx (Vertical xxxx, Horizontal xxxx)
```

- In case of unroutable placement, the following message is issued:

```
CRITICAL WARNING: [Route 35-162] xxxx signals failed to route due
to routing congestion.
```

6. If you encounter any issues, please contact [mlcad2023contest@gmail.com](mailto:mlcad2023contest@gmail.com)