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General FAQs

What exactly is the AIC PurePath Studio?

The AIC PurePath Studio Graphical Development Environment (GDE) is a drag-and-drop programming environment used to develop software for TI's miniDSP family of low power audio converters. This tool contains a library of common audio components that can be graphically arranged and connected together in order to create an audio signal flow. Once a graphical process flow is established, the GDE code generator is used to assemble the actual DSP code.

With the PurePath Studio suite, a user has full flexibility in software development. A miniDSP device can be programmed completely in a graphical manner if time to market and ease of development are important or completely in assembly code if maximum efficiency and flexibility are required.

Is there any cost associated with AIC PurePath Studio?

No. AIC PurePath Studio does not require a licensing fee. The only potential fees related to AIC PurePath Studio are 3rd party licensing fees associated with algorithms from companies such as Dolby and SRS.

What documentation is available for AIC PurePath Studio and the miniDSP devices?

TI maintains an extranet that contains downloadable versions of the AIC PurePath Studio software itself, as well as documentation related to AIC PurePath Studio.

The **AIC PurePath Studio Extranet** includes downloadable production versions of AIC PurePath Studio, as well as a library of TI royalty free advanced audio algorithm components. It also contains AIC PurePath Studio user's guides, miniDSP programming information and documentation.

Specific Hardware/Software FAQs

What is a GDE "component?"

A GDE component is a graphical, drag-and-drop block that contains all of the necessary DSP code and addressing information for a common audio function. It includes a help file accessible by right-clicking, as well as in some cases, a stand-alone graphical user interface.

How do I get information about a specific component?

Right clicking on a component will bring up a menu with a help file specific to that component. Additional information can also be found in the AIC PurePath Studio GDE User's Guide located on the AIC PurePath Studio Extranet.

Does TI offer advanced audio algorithms?

Yes. TI has a suite of advanced audio algorithms such as 3D virtualizer, psychoacoustic bass boost, dynamic volume control, matrix decode and more. These algorithms are provided free of charge with AIC PurePath Studio and do not require any sort of licensing fee. Additional details can be found on the AIC PurePath Studio Extranet.

Why do I have to begin each GDE process flow with a "framework" component?

Each miniDSP device has different analog peripherals and I^2C addressing. The framework component allows AIC PurePath Studio to know which miniDSP device it is being used with.

Can the AIC PurePath Studio be used without an EVM?

Yes. The PurePath Studio can build applications without an EVM.

What is needed to boot a miniDSP device?

The miniDSP device is loaded by the system's host microcontroller.

Do I need to load a configuration file when using the GDE?

Configuration files are scripts that control the behavior of the analog and communication peripherals integrated on the miniDSP devices. For example, the ADCs and DACs on the AIC3254 can be powered up or down, or configured in different modes by changing the register settings in the configuration script.

How do I purchase an Evaluation Module?

Evaluation modules are available from the TI eStore. http://www.ti-estore.com/. The EVMs are also linked from the miniDSP device folders on TI.com.