DSipher Design Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
206 Kristal Olivine, Outer Ring Road, Bellandur, Bangalore 560037, Karnataka, INDIA
Tel: +91-80-41643253 Email: contactus@dsipherdesign.com http://dsipherdesign.com

USER GUIDE

IPintentio

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Tel: +91-80-41643253 Email: contactus@dsipherdesign.com http://www.dsipherdesign.com

1 Introduction

IPintentio is a web browser based environment that integrates Integrated Circuit – Digital Design flows along with a parallel software simulation methodology. An overview of the benefits and capabilities of IPintentio are outlined below:

Flexible and customizable EDA software-agnostic design flow

- Including open source simulator and coverage tool for front-end design
- Including a methodology and open source tools to design and simulate reference software for the said hardware

Platform-independence

- Web browser user interface

Program management capabilities, such as

- Project management utilities
- Selective permissions assignment
- Data integrity across members, teams and generations

Integrated Development Environment (IDE) utilities, such as

- File browser, code editor, terminal access
- Visual design browser

The subsequent sections will explain in detail how to use this environment.

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2 Quick Start

- **Create a Project**

  This is the very first step.

  You must create a project to proceed. Project creation requires a project name (mandatory), design files (this can be done at any stage of the project), and contact email addresses of your collaborators (if any; they will be invited to register and collaborate). This information can be edited at any time. Note that some features are dependent on the information you provide (e.g. the design browser requires RTL files).

  Once a project is added it will appear in the existing projects list. You may edit its details at any point of time subsequently.

- **Invite collaborators**

  You may invite collaborators and assign appropriate privileges to each.

  Owner is assigned complete access to all project data. An owner can edit or delete the project and enjoys complete access to project files through the file browser and terminal interface.

  Member is assigned complete access to all project data. However, a member cannot edit or delete the project. Level of access to project files is identical to that of an Owner.

  Reviewer is assigned partial access to project data. A reviewer cannot edit or delete a project. Level of access to project files is restricted to read-only through the file browser.

- **Create a project plan**

  A project member with **owner** privileges may create and maintain a plan to track using the project planner utility.

- **Workspaces**

  Plan includes project creation, project editing and planning utilities

  Design includes tool execution, terminal, file editor and design browser utilities.

- **Tag files for RTL Browser**

  The RTL browser utility in the **Design** tab can be used to visualize the RTL files (uploaded or created online) in a project. The tagging step is required to identify RTL files in your file repository.

- **View / Edit files**

  You can create / view / edit a file using the text editor utility. It has a simple text edit mode (notepad-like) and a VI edit mode which simulates the most commonly used key-map of the VIM text editor.

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- **Browse around in the terminal**

  The terminal utility emulates a LINUX command shell. A restricted set of LINUX commands are supported. Type *help* in the terminal for further information.

- **Simulate your design**

  You can simulate your design and testbench files using the Icarus Verilog simulator through the IPintentio design flow setup.

- **View coverage**

  You can view the coverage metrics of your verification testcases using the Covered coverage tool.

- **Generate Co-Simulation Model**
  You can create a model from your verilog component rtl files for the provided hardware-software Co-Simulation setup.

- **Software-Configuration**
  You can compile one or more C programs to create an image file to load and run on a simulated HW board.

- **Co-Simulation**
  You can load and run an image file on a chosen simulated hardware board through this step. You can also specify any generated models and their related configuration(s) to be a part of the simulated hardware board.

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3 Plan

3.1 Overview

This includes project creation, project editing and planning utilities

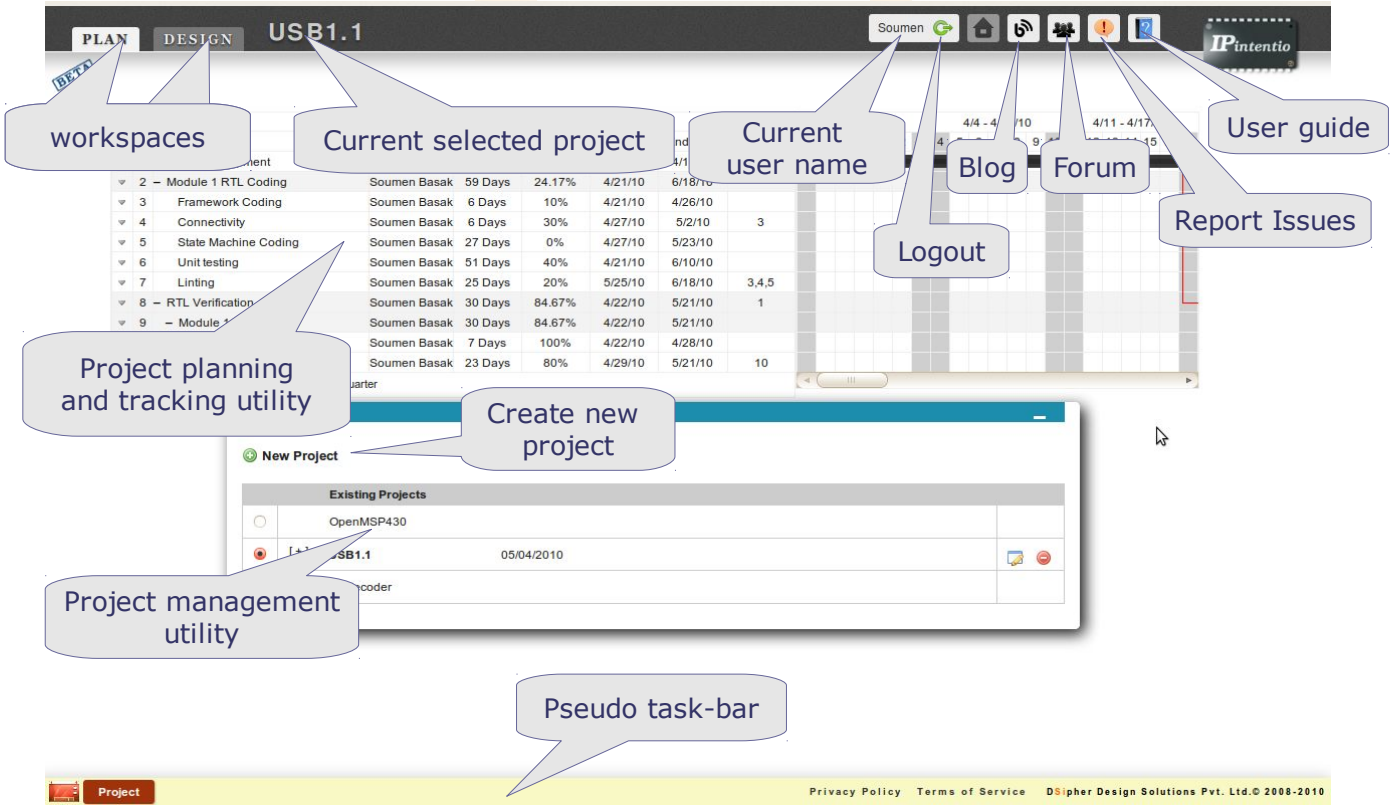

Fig 1 : 'Plan' workspace screen-shot

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3.2 Project Management

3.2.1 Create a new project

Click on the 'New Project' button to enter details of the new project to be created. Details to be entered:

- **Project Name**: It should be less than 25 characters, with no whitespace and can contain alphabets and integers and '_' (underscore). This can be changed later.
- **Upload File**: Files must be compressed. (Zip, Compress, Gzip and Bzip)
- **Start Date:** Project creation date will be chosen if this field is left blank. This can be edited later
- **Digital Design Flow**: Choose the Digital Design flow to be used in the project. Currently only one flow is available
- **Co-simulation Flow**: Choose the flow to be used in the project. Currently only one flow is available.
- **Members**: Specify email address and privilege level per collaborator. Members can be added later

Once the project is added it should appear in the existing projects list and selected as the current working project.

3.2.2 Edit existing project

Users with **Owner** can edit a project.

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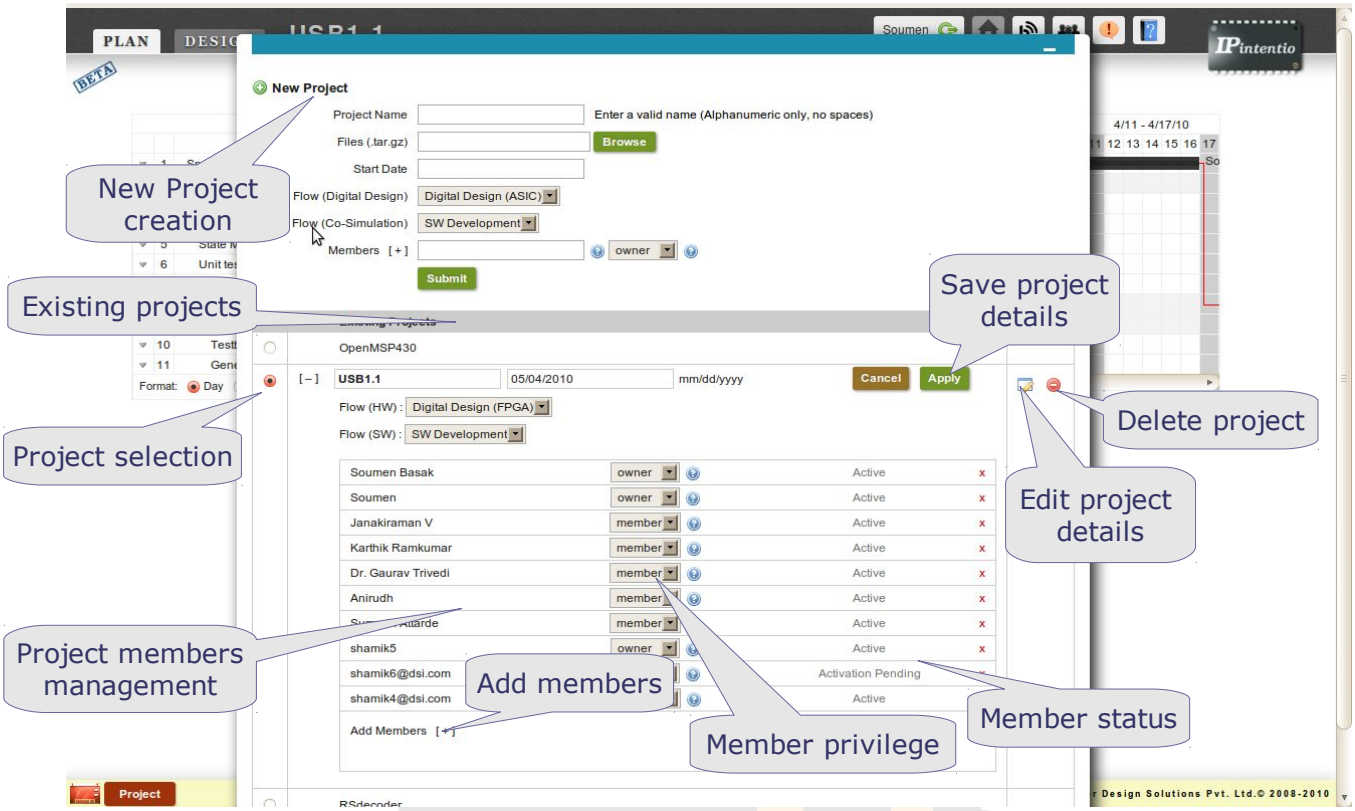

Fig 9 : Project management features screen-shot

3.2.3 Collaborating

You may invite collaborators and assign appropriate privileges to each.

3.2.3.1 Add / Remove project members

A user with **Owner** privileges, can add or remove members to or from the project. Added members, if already registered, will receive an intimation email. There is no further action required on his part and the new project is displayed in his existing project table. If not registered, a pre-approved activated email will be sent to be specified email address. The new member must activate his account to access this project.

3.2.3.2 Privilege types

The privilege characteristic of a member determines the permissions granted to him / her for a project.

- **Owner** is assigned complete access to all project data. An owner can edit or delete the project and enjoys complete access to project files through the file browser and terminal interface.
- **Member** is assigned complete access to all project data. However, a member cannot edit or delete the project. Level of access to project files is identical to that of an Owner.
- **Reviewer** is assigned partial access to project data. A reviewer cannot edit or delete a project. Level of access to project files is restricted to read-only through the file browser.

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3.3 *Project Planning / Scheduling*

This utility is provided to enable users to plan and track the progress of a project. Currently we provide basic features needed to accomplish project tracking.

These are:

- Add/Edit/Delete tasks and milestones
- Associate project members to tasks and milestones
- Associate start date and end date
- Specify percentage completion
- Task categorization and hierarchy
- Specify dependencies between tasks
- Daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly Gantt-chart visualization of tasks and milestones

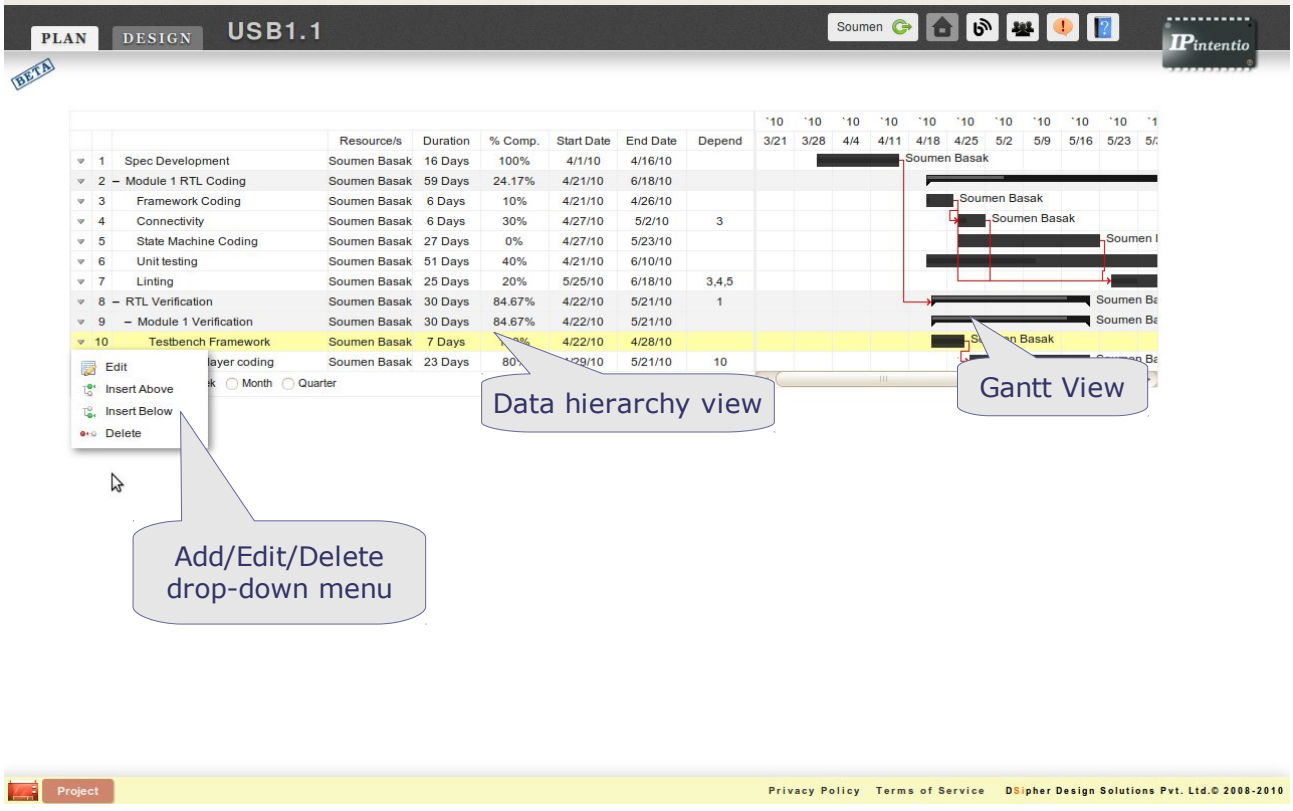

Fig 9 : Project management features screen-shot

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3.3.1 Tasks & Milestones

Tasks and milestones can be added, edited and/or deleted from a drop-down menu which can be accessed by clicking on the down-arrow at the start of each row. A dialog box opens which contains the relevant fields that need to be filled in or edited by the user.

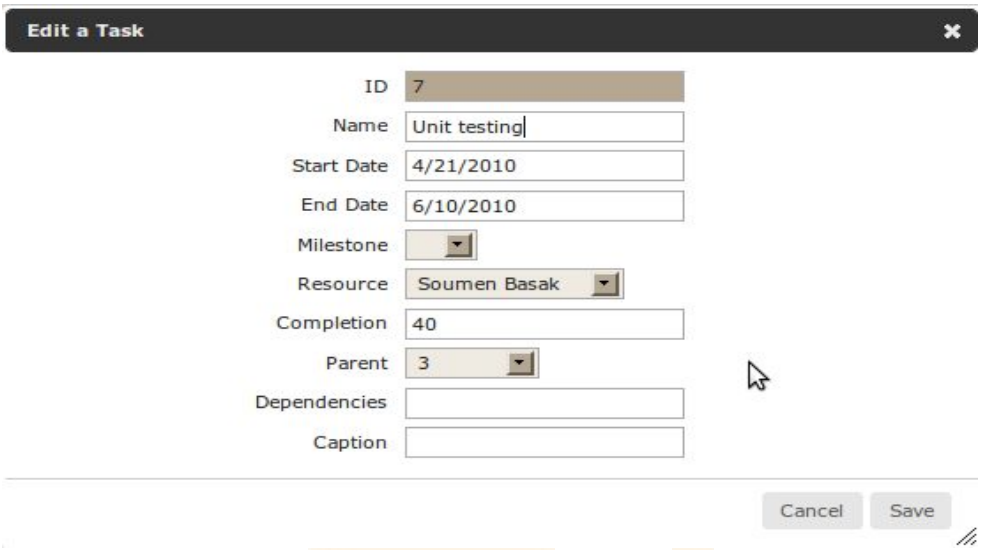

Fig 10 : Edit task dialog screen-shot

3.3.2 Recommendations

The following actions may lead to unexpected behavior in the project management utility

- Not specifying a start and end date.
- Deleting tasks which are parents of other tasks.
- Deleting tasks on which other tasks are dependent.
- Specifying invalid percentage numbers.
- Specifying task ids of undefined tasks as parents or dependencies.

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4 Design

4.1 Overview

This includes tool execution, terminal, file editor and design browser utilities.

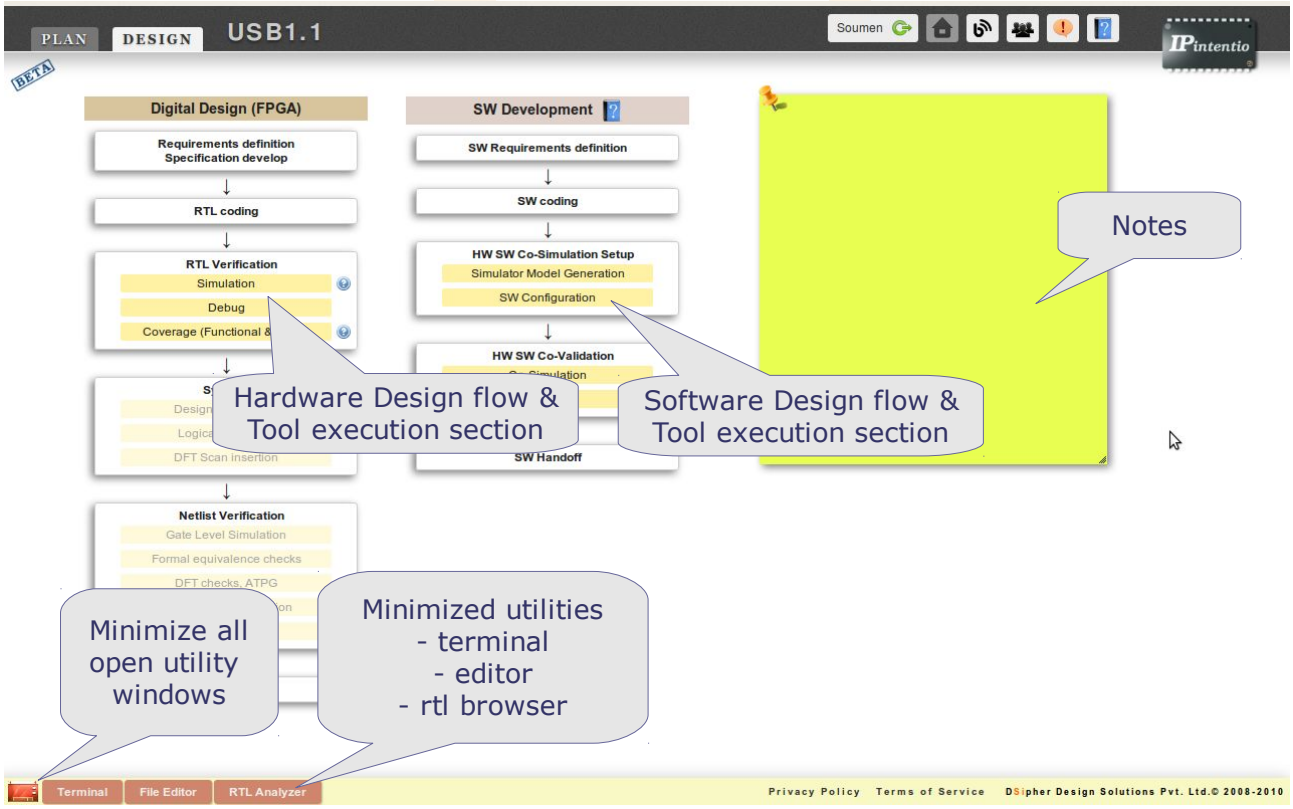

Fig 2 : 'Design' workspace screen-shot

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4.2 Utilities

These are similar to common desktop applications that a user needs to design effectively. The utilities currently provided are

1. Terminal & Directory/File browser
2. A Code editor with a subset of vi key bindings.
3. RTL hierarchy browser

Each utility has its own window which is minimized by default.

4.2.1 Terminal

This utility comprises a LINUX terminal emulator and a Windows-like directory/file browser.

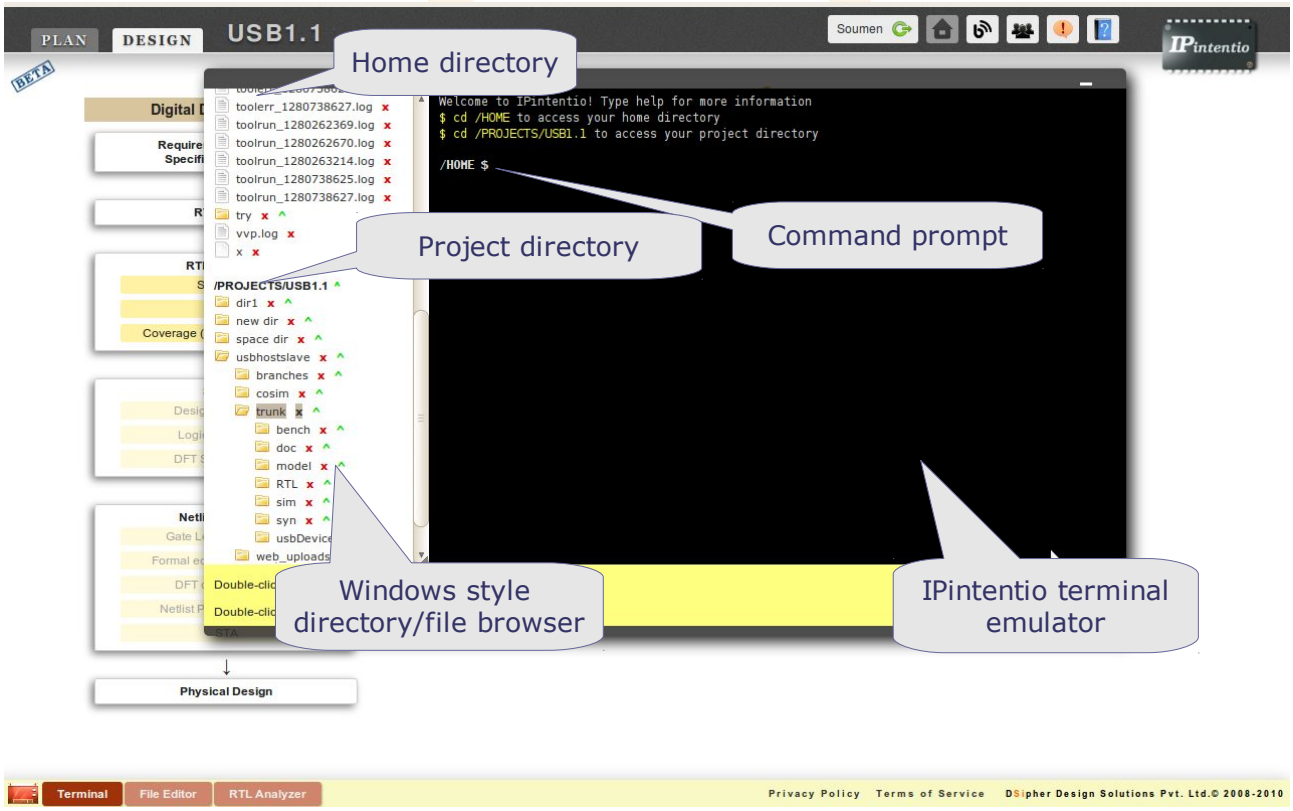

Fig 3 : Terminal features screen-shot

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4.2.1.1 *Terminal Emulator*

You can use this as a command shell inside your work area. A set of LINUX shell commands that are necessary for design is provided. In addition, some standard utilities and specific scripts can be invoked using this interface. Certain commands are not provided or are restricted for security purposes.

For more details type 'help' in the terminal command prompt.

4.2.1.2 *Directory/File Browser*

Files and directories in the user's HOME directory (/HOME) and the selected project directory (/PROJECTS/<projectname>) are listed here. This browser provides the following features:

- File and directory browsing capabilities.
- Option to remove a file or directory (x).
- Option to view/edit a text file in the *Editor* utility by double clicking on a listed file.
- Option to download simulation dump files (v). Only VCD, LXT, LXT2 extensions for dump files are supported.
- Option to upload to directories (^).

Delete and Upload features in the project area are governed by user privileges.

4.2.2 Editor

You can create / view / edit a file using the text editor utility. It has a simple text edit mode (notepad-like) and a VI edit mode which simulates the most commonly used key-map of the VIM text editor. It includes syntax highlighting for verilog (.v) and C, C++ files (.c and .cpp).

Multiple files can be opened in the editor. User can switch between open files from the 'Open Files' drop-down menu.

A file can be loaded in the editor in 3 ways

1. By double-clicking a listed file in the directory/file browser
2. By running the gvim/vim/vi command in the terminal command prompt.
3. By right-clicking on the respective module in the RTL browser (opens the respective verilog file, in the editor).

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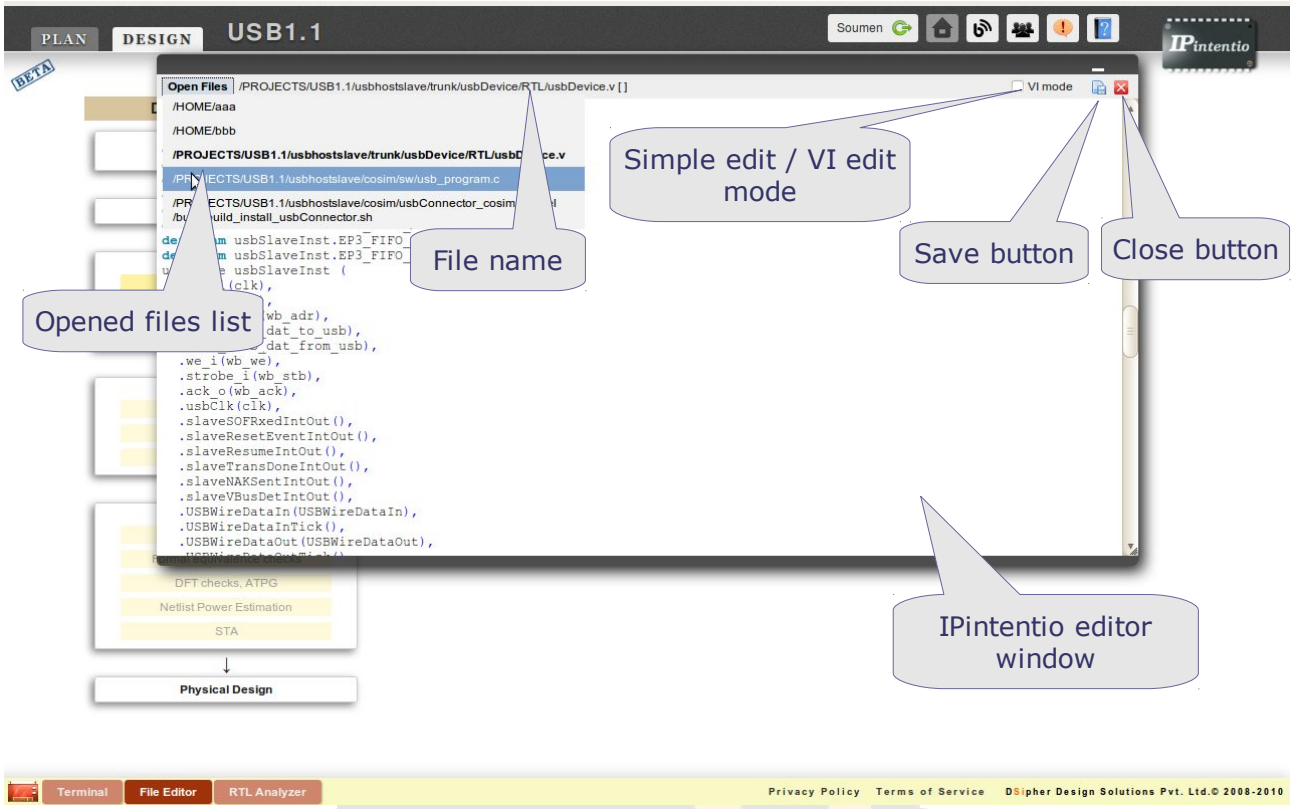

Fig 4 : Editor features screen-shot

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4.2.3 RTL Browser

The RTL browser provides a visualization of the design in the selected project as also a utility to tag files.

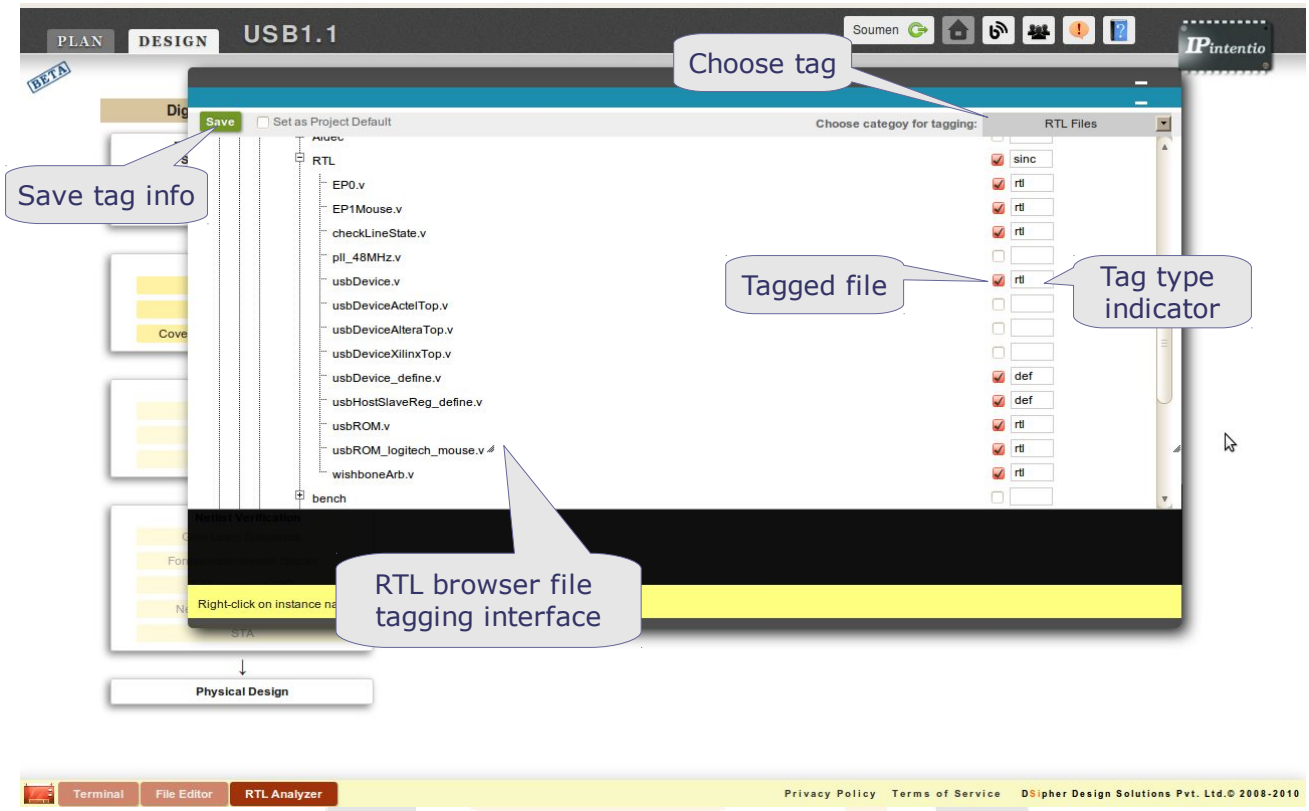

Fig 5 : RTL browser tagging interface screen-shot

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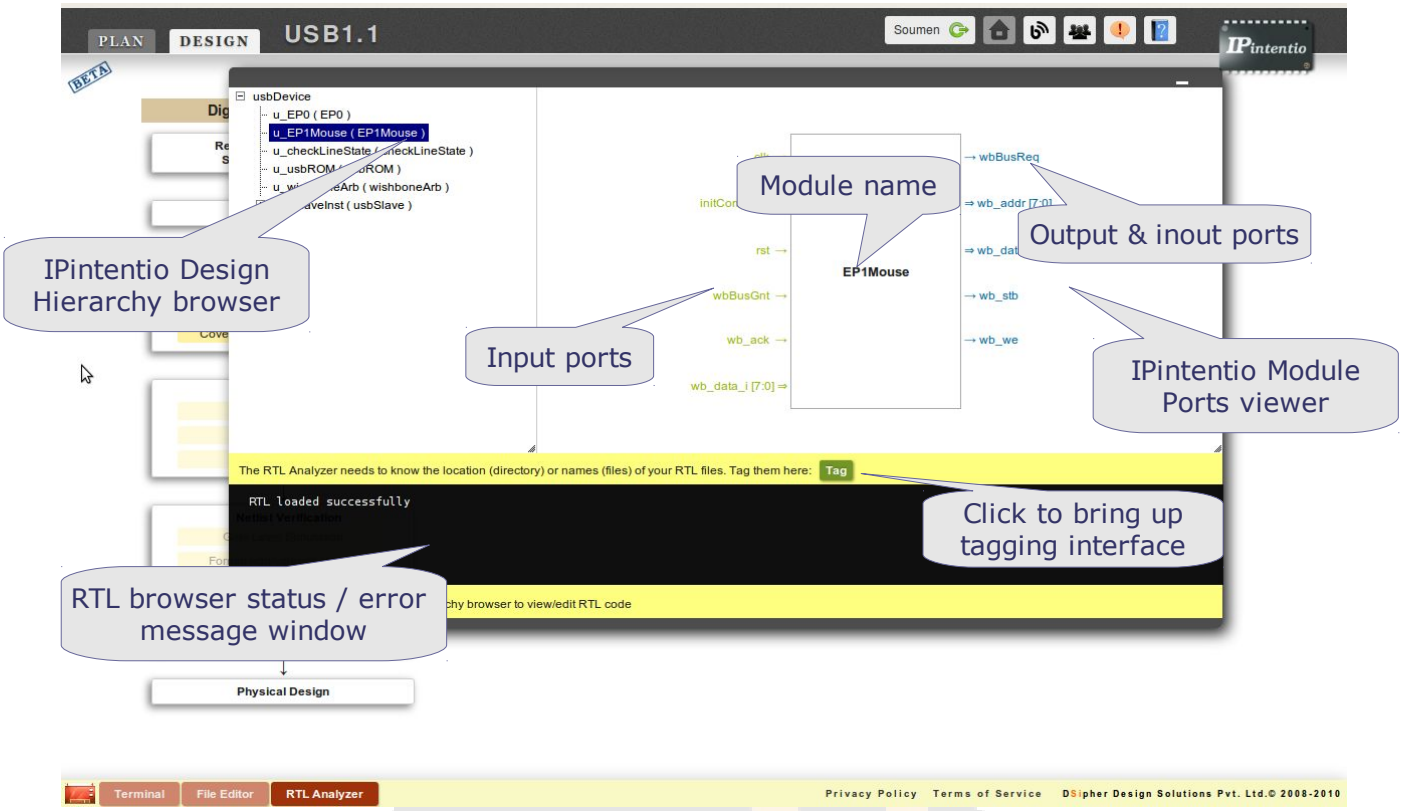

Fig 5 : RTL browser features screen-shot

The RTL browser supports only Verilog 2001 HDL. A subset of testbench constructs are supported and it can generate hierarchy and port information of testbenches correctly in most cases.

It consists of 4 parts

1. Design Hierarchy
2. Module ports view
3. File tagging interface
4. Status / Message area

4.2.3.1 Design Hierarchy

This shows the module hierarchy of the whole design. You can browse the design hierarchy, click on a particular module to view its ports in the *Module ports viewer* and also open the file that defines that module in the *Editor* with a right-click.

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4.2.3.2 Module ports view

This gives a view of the module ports (inputs, outputs, inouts) for a given module in a hierarchy.

4.2.3.3 File tagging interface

The tagging step is required to identify RTL files in your file repository. There are 4 different types of tags that are accepted as inputs

1. RTL files (rtl) – files contain the RTL code. This is mandatory.

2. Include directories (sinc) – directories in which to look for files which have been included in RTL using the *`include* directive. This is optional and is needed only if the *`include* directive is used

3. RTL defines files (def) – files which contain *`define* directives. This is optional and is needed only if *`define* directives are present in separate files.

4. RTL files to exclude (xcld) – Files which should not be considered by RTL browser. This is needed when one needs to include netlist instances of modules without including the library cells. This is optional.

4.2.3.4 Status / Message area

This area shows the status of the RTL browser engine after analysis of the tagged files specified by the user. You can view these messages to correct any errors in tagging or coding in the RTL files to properly visualize your design.

4.3 Design Flow

The Digital Design and Co-simulation flows are sections provided to execute EDA software on your design. The flows can be configured to provide a custom set of tool options at each flow step.

IPi Lite uses the following EDA software:

- Icarus Verilog version 0.9.2
- covered-0.7.8
- Verilator – 3.803
- Verilog-Perl – 3.301
- SID
- eCos – 3.0

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The figure below depicts a standard digital design flow. It is broken up into sub-flows and further into constituent flow-steps

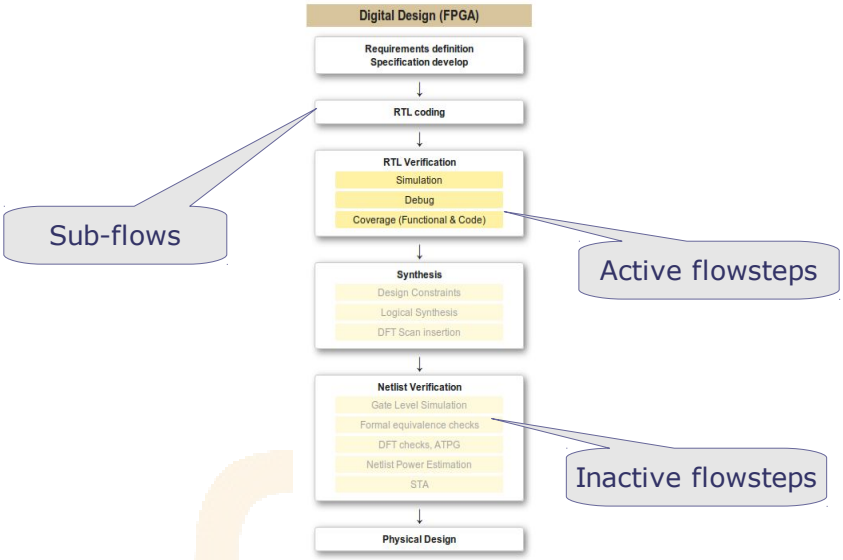

Fig 6 : Flow screen-shot

4.3.1 Tool Execution

Clicking on an active flow-step displays the tool run dialog. This dialog lists the tools that can be run in that flow-step and the execution directory. You can specify multiple tools or the same tool with different options to be run in a single flow-step.

Upon selecting a tool, its options are displayed. These can be viewed by clicking the 'Options' link (e.g. Simulation Options). Further details of each option can be viewed by clicking the help icon .

Options specified in a particular toolrun are retained. Users with **Owner** privileges save a particular set of options for use across user on the same project. However a user can override project settings in for a particular toolrun.

It is advised to execute commands in one flowstep at a time.

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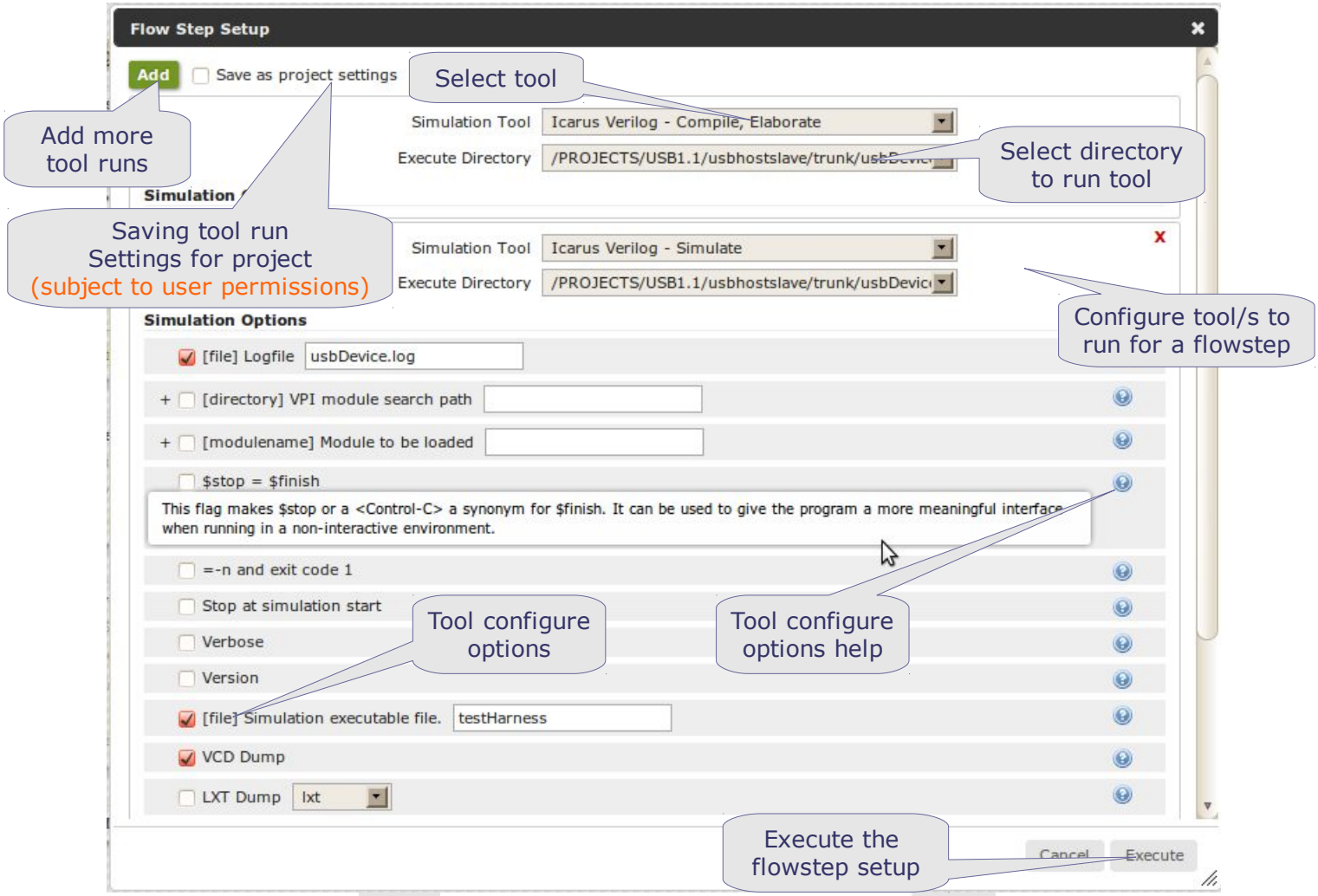

Fig 7 : Tool run dialog screen-shot

4.3.2 Execution Logs/Reports

Tool execution output is displayed in a dialog once the execution is complete. This dialog provides the following information:

- Complete tool execution command
- Tool execution result.
- The tool execution output is stored in files in the command execution directory. These logs or reports generated as a file can be accessed using the Directory/File browser or the Terminal command prompt.

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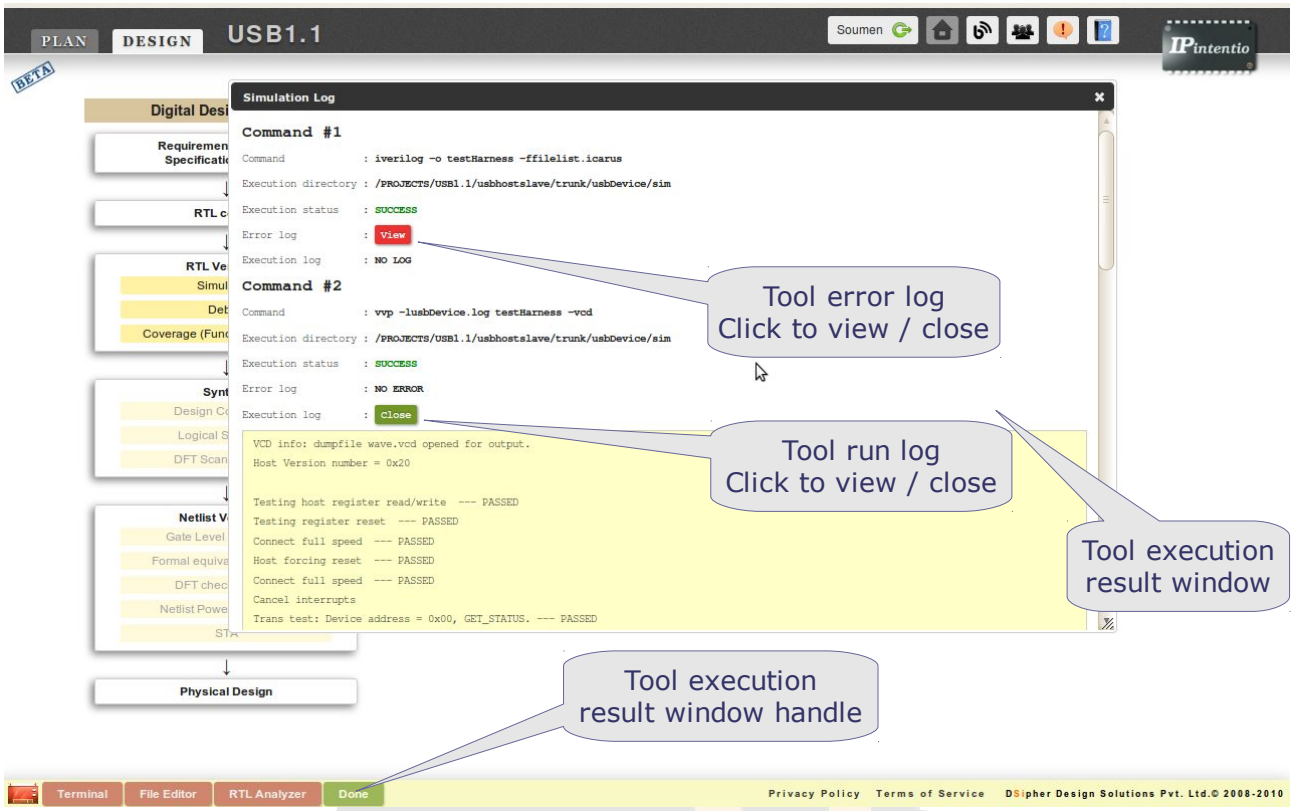

Fig 8 : Tool execution log screen-shot

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