# Scoreboard Generic Package User Guide

# **User Guide for Release 2024.11**

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# **Table of Contents**

1.		ScoreboardGenericPkg Overview				
2.		Basic Usage				
	2.1	Pac	kage References	4		
	2.2	Cre	ate a Scoreboard ID	4		
	2.3	Construct the Scoreboard				
2.4 Push Before Send			h Before Send	4		
	2.5	Get before Check				
	2.6	Putting the basic pieces together				
3.		Using ScoreboardGenericPkg Package Generics				
4.		Predefined Instances of ScoreboardGenericPkg in OSVVM Library				
5.		nulator Does Not Support Package Generics	7			
6.		Scoreb	ooard API Reference	8		
	6.1	Nev	wID and Supporting Types	8		
		6.1.1	NewID: Data Structure Constructor	8		
		6.1.2	ScoreboardIDType	8		
		6.1.3	AlertLogReportModeType	8		
		6.1.4	AlertLogPrintParentType	9		
		6.1.5	NameSearchType	9		
	6.2	Pus	:h	9		
6.3 Check		eck	10			
	6.4		)			
	6.5		k			
	. ,		pty			
	6.7	GetAlertLogID				
	6.8		dAndDelete			
	6.9		dAndFlush			
	6.10					
	6.11	Flus				
	6.12		teScoreboardYaml			
	6.13		PushCount			
	6.14	Get	PopCount	14		
	6.15		:CheckCount			
	6.16		:DropCount			
	6.17		FifoCount			
	6.18		ting the Scoreboard Error Count			
	6.19		nitialized			
7.			d Scoreboards			
R		Indeve	ed Scorehoards	16		

8.1	1D and 2D Array Types	16
8.2	NewID for ScoreboardIdArrayType	16
8.3	NewID for ScoreboardIdMatrixType	16
8.4	Arrays of Scoreboards	17
9.	Deprecated NewID	18
9.1	Deprecated: NewID for ScoreboardIdType	18
9.2	Deprecated: NewID for ScoreboardIdArrayType	18
9.3	Deprecated: NewID for ScoreboardIdMatrixType	18
10.	A Better Way of Calling NewID? Not yet	19
11.	What about the older revisions of ScoreboardGenericPkg?	19
12.	About ScoreboardGenericPkg	19
13.	Compiling and Using OSVVM Utility Library	19
14.	About the Author - Jim Lewis	20

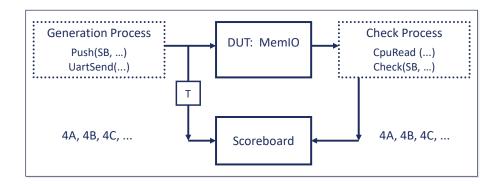
## 1. ScoreboardGenericPkg Overview

A scoreboard is a data structure used for self-checking in an environment where inputs are closely related to outputs, such as in data transmission (UART, AxiStream, ...).

A basic usage of a scoreboard is:

- On the stimulus generation side, we generate the stimulus, push the stimulus into the scoreboard, and then sent the transaction to the interface (UartSend).
- On the stimulus check side, we receive a transaction (CpuRead) and use the scoreboard to check the value.

This is shown in the figure below.



## 2. Basic Usage

## 2.1 Package References

The Scoreboard package instances are not in the OSVVM context declaration, so you will need to include them separately.

```
library OSVVM ;
  context osvvm.OsvvmContext ;
  use osvvm.ScoreboardPkg_slv.all ;
```

#### 2.2 Create a Scoreboard ID

A Scoreboard ID is a handle to the scoreboard object that is created internal to an instance of ScoreboardGenericPkg. A Scoreboard ID has the type ScoreboardIDType. ScoreboardIDType is a regular type and can be held in a signal or variable.

```
architecture Uart_Test1 of TestCtrl is
  signal SB : ScoreboardIDType ;
```

If more than one scoreboard package instance is referenced, the ScoreboardIDType must be disambiguated using a fully selected name.

```
architecture Uart_Test1 of TestCtrl is
  use osvvm.ScoreboardPkg_slv.all ;
  use osvvm.ScoreboardPkg_int.all ;
  signal SB_slv : osvvm.ScoreboardPkg_slv.ScoreboardIDType ;
  signal SB_int : osvvm.ScoreboardPkg_int.ScoreBoardIDType;
```

#### 2.3 Construct the Scoreboard

NewID allocates and initializes (sizes) the memory data structure. It must be called before any read or write operations are used.

```
SB <= NewID("UART_SB") ;</pre>
```

#### 2.4 Push Before Send

In the stimulus generation process, push the expected value into the scoreboard before sending the transaction.

```
Push(SB, X"10");
UartSend(UartTxRec, X"10");
```

#### 2.5 Get before Check

In the stimulus checking process, receive an actual transaction value (UartGet) and then check the value using the scoreboard.

```
UartGet(UartRxRec, RcvD);
Check(SB, RcvD);
```

# 2.6 Putting the basic pieces together

The following is a basic use model of the scoreboard. For more information on how OSVVM structures test cases and test processes, see the OSVVM\_test\_writers\_user\_guide.pdf.

```
architecture Uart_Test1 of TestCtrl is
  signal SB : ScoreboardIDType ;
begin
  ControlProc : process
  begin
    SetAlertLogName("UART_Test1") ;
    SB <= NewID("UART_SB") ;</pre>
    wait until nReset = '1';
   WaitForBarrier(TestStart) ;
   WaitForBarrier(TestDone, 5 ms);
    ReportAlerts;
    std.env.stop(GetAlertCount);
  end process ControlProc;
  GenerateProc : process
  Begin
    WaitForBarrier(TestStart) ;
    Push(SB, X"10");
    UartSend(UartTxRec, X"10");
    Push(SB, X"FF");
    UartSend(UartTxRec, X"FF");
    TestDone <= TRUE ;</pre>
   WaitForBarrier(TestDone) ;
    wait ;
  end process GenerateProc;
  CheckProc : process
    variable RcvD : std_logic_vector(7 downto 0);
    WaitForBarrier(TestStart) ;
    while not TestDone loop
      UartGet(UartRxRec, RcvD);
      Check(SB, RcvD);
      wait for UART_BAUD_PERIOD ;
```

```
end loop;
WaitForBarrier(TestDone);
wait;
end process CheckProc;
end architecture UART_Test1;
```

Note that the test generation process generates numerous values using either directed (shown) or random methods, the checking side is a simple loop. Hence, the big advantage of using a scoreboard is that the checking side remains simple and has no need to know what the test generation side is doing.

## 3. Using ScoreboardGenericPkg Package Generics

The scoreboard package uses package generics to allow the ExpectedType (transaction value sent) and ActualType (transaction value received) to be different for different applications. The function Match is used to determine if the Actual value matches the Expected Value. This supports checking that is more complicated than a simple "=" check. The functions expected\_to\_string and actual\_to\_string help printing values of ExpectedType and ActualType respectively. Hence, the interface to the package is:

To use the scoreboard for your tests, you will need to create a package instance. The following example creates a scoreboard for integer. Note often you will need to reference the package that defines your types and functions that correspond to ExpectedType, ActualType, match, expected\_to\_string, and actual\_to\_string, however, here for integer all types and functions are available in package std.standard which is implicitly visible.

## 4. Predefined Instances of ScoreboardGenericPkg in OSVVM Library

The OSVVM library defines scoreboard instances for integer (ScoreBoardPkg\_int), integer\_vector (ScoreboardPkg\_IntV), std\_logic\_vector (ScoreboardPkg\_slv), unsigned (ScoreboardPkg\_unsigned), and signed (ScoreboardPkg\_signed).

## 5. My Simulator Does Not Support Package Generics

All the simulators we test with support package generics. However, we still have you covered. Copy ScoreboardGenericPkg.vhd to ScoreboardPkg\_integer\_c.vhd. Comment out the generics. Uncomment the subtype and alias declarations that correspond to the generics (they have the same name). Configure these aliases exactly as described in the section titled "Using Scoreboard Package Generics".

The top of your resulting package should look as follows:

#### 6. Scoreboard API Reference

The intent of the API is to make the creation of a scoreboard easy. The OSVVM scoreboard goes beyond simple though in that it supports out of order execution (via tags) and arrays of scoreboards (via effective use of abstractions). Tags are implemented as an additional string parameter on push, pop, and check.

Behind the simple API are some rather interesting data structures. The important thing to note is that you do not need to understand the data structures to be able use ScoreboardGenericPkg.

Caution, features not documented here are either considered experimental or have been deprecated (and may be removed in a future version). If you decide to use it and want it to stay around, be sure to let us know.

## 6.1 NewID and Supporting Types

#### 6.1.1 NewID: Data Structure Constructor

NewID allocates and initializes the scoreboard data structure. It must be called before any other scoreboard operations are used.

NewID also creates an AlertLogID for the data structure using the value of the name parameter and the value of ParentAlertLogID.

## 6.1.2 ScoreboardIDType

ScoreboardIDType is defined as follows.

```
type ScoreboardIDType is record
  ID : integer_max ;
end record ScoreboardIDType ;
```

# **6.1.3** AlertLogReportModeType

```
type AlertLogReportModeType is (DISABLED, ENABLED, NONZERO);
```

When DISABLED, an AlertLogID does not print in ReportAlerts (text reports) or WriteAlertYaml (Yaml/HTML reports). When NONZERO, an AlertLogID does not print in ReportAlerts, but prints in WriteAlertYaml. Hence, NONZERO shortens the text reports to what is essential. When ENABLED, an AlertLogID prints in ReportAlerts and WriteAlertYaml.

None of these settings impact printing in Alert or Log.

DISABLED is intended to be used for data structures that are not used for self-checking and may produce errors on parameter checks. These errors are not lost as they are still accumulated in the parent ID.

## **6.1.4** AlertLogPrintParentType

```
type AlertLogPrintParentType is (PRINT_NAME, PRINT_NAME_AND_PARENT);
```

When PRINT\_NAME, Alert and Log print the name of the AlertLogID. When PRINT\_NAME\_AND\_PARENT, Alert and Log print the parent ID name, the ID separator, and then the ID name.

## 6.1.5 NameSearchType

```
type NameSearchType is (
    PRIVATE_NAME, NAME_AND_PARENT, NAME_AND_PARENT_ELSE_PRIVATE);
```

When NewID is called, first a search of existing IDs is done. If there is a match, that ID is returned, if there is not, a new one is created. Matching is determined by the ID, ParentID, and Search parameters. If the Search parameter is PRIVATE\_NAME, no searching is done and a new ID is created. If the Search parameter is NAME, then any ID whose name matches is returned. If the Search parameter is NAME\_AND\_PARENT, then any ID whose name and ParentID match or NAME and stored Search parameter is NAME is returned.

#### **6.2** Push

Push adds the expected value (ExpectedType) to the scoreboard.

```
-- Simple Scoreboard, no tag
procedure Push (
  constant ID : in ScoreboardIDType;
  constant Item : in ExpectedType
);
```

```
-- Simple Tagged Scoreboard
procedure Push (
  constant ID : in ScoreboardIDType;
  constant Tag : in string;
  constant Item : in ExpectedType
);
```

#### 6.3 Check

Check a received value (ActualType) with value in scoreboard. The Match function is used to determine if the received and expected values match. Checking is handled by AffirmIf. As a result, if they match a log PASSED is generated, otherwise, an alert ERROR is generated.

## 6.4 Pop

The scoreboard can also be used as a FIFO. Pop removes the expected value from the top of the FIFO (oldest value) and returns it. Pop is supported as either a procedure or function.

```
-- Simple Scoreboard, no tag
procedure Pop (
 constant ID : in ScoreboardIDType ;
 variable Item : out ExpectedType
);
-- Simple Tagged Scoreboard
procedure Pop (
 constant ID
                : in ScoreboardIDType ;
  constant Tag : in string;
 variable Item : out ExpectedType
);
-- Simple Scoreboard, no tag
impure function Pop (
 constant ID : in ScoreboardIDType
) return ExpectedType ;
```

```
-- Simple Tagged Scoreboard
impure function Pop (
  constant ID : in ScoreboardIDType;
  constant Tag : in string
) return ExpectedType;
```

#### 6.5 Peek

Peek returns the expected value from the top of the FIFO (oldest value) without removing it. Peek is supported as either a procedure or function.

```
-- Simple Tagged Scoreboard
procedure Peek (
  constant ID
               : in ScoreboardIDType ;
 constant Tag : in string;
 variable Item : out ExpectedType
);
-- Simple Scoreboard, no tag
procedure Peek (
  constant ID : in ScoreboardIDType;
 variable Item : out ExpectedType
);
-- Tagged Scoreboards
impure function Peek (
 constant ID
               : in ScoreboardIDType ;
  constant Tag : in string
) return ExpectedType ;
-- Simple Scoreboard
impure function Peek (
  constant ID : in ScoreboardIDType
) return ExpectedType ;
```

# 6.6 Empty

Check if the Scoreboard is empty.

```
impure function Empty (
  constant ID : in ScoreboardIDType
) return boolean;

-- Tagged
impure function Empty (
  constant ID : in ScoreboardIDType;
  constant Tag : in string
) return boolean;
```

## 6.7 GetAlertLogID

GetAlertLogID returns the AlertLogID associated with a scoreboard.

```
impure function GetAlertLogID (
  constant ID : in ScoreboardIDType
) return AlertLogIDType;
```

#### 6.8 FindAndDelete

Find the oldest expected value that matches the received value. If found, generate a PASSED affirmation and delete the item from the FIFO; otherwise, generate an ERROR affirmation. FindAndDelete is an alternative to check received values when a system can generate responses out of order or drop values without any means to detect a drop.

```
-- Simple Scoreboards

procedure FindAndDelete (
   constant ID : in ScoreboardIDType;
   constant ActualData : in ActualType
);
-- Tagged Scoreboards - tags must match

procedure FindAndDelete (
   constant ID : in ScoreboardIDType;
   constant Tag : in string;
   constant ActualData : in ActualType
);
```

#### 6.9 FindAndFlush

Find the oldest expected value that matches the received value. If found, generate a PASSED affirmation and delete all items up to and including the found item in the FIFO; otherwise, generate an ERROR affirmation. If a tag is used, the tags must also match and only remove items that have a matching tag.

#### 6.10 Find

Return the ItemNumber of the oldest expected value that matches the received value. Find + Flush support systems that drop items before they are synchronized.

```
-- Simple Scoreboard
impure function Find (
  constant ID : in ScoreboardIDType;
  constant ActualData : in ActualType
) return integer;

-- Tagged Scoreboard
impure function Find (
  constant ID : in ScoreboardIDType;
  constant Tag : in string;
  constant ActualData : in ActualType
) return integer;
```

#### **6.11** Flush

Quietly drop all values whose item number is less than the specified item number. Find + Flush support systems that drop items before they are synchronized.

```
-- Simple Scoreboards

procedure Flush (
   constant ID : in ScoreboardIDType;
   constant ItemNumber : in integer
);

-- Tagged Scoreboards - only removes items that also match the tag

procedure Flush (
   constant ID : in ScoreboardIDType;
   constant Tag : in string;
   constant ItemNumber : in integer
);
```

#### 6.12 WriteScoreboardYaml

WriteScoreboardYaml produces a report for all scoreboards in the singleton data structure. WriteScoreboardYaml is called as follows.

```
work.ScoreboardPkg_Uart.WriteScoreboardYaml(FileName => "Uart") ;
```

Using the current defaults, the above call will create a file named, <TestName>\_sb\_Uart.yml in the directory OSVVM\_RAW\_OUTPUT\_DIRECTORY. All except the name "Uart" in the name are required so that OSVVM scripts can find the file and convert it to an HTML table in the test case report.

WriteScoreboardYaml is called by EndOfTestReports for OSVVM defined scoreboard instances (see Predefined Instances of ScoreboardGenericPkg in OSVVM Library).

The declaration for WriteScoreboardYaml is:

```
procedure WriteScoreboardYaml (
   FileName : string := "";
   OpenKind : File_Open_Kind := WRITE_MODE;
   FileNameIsBaseName : boolean := SCOREBOARD_YAML_IS_BASE_FILE_NAME
) ;
```

The value for SCOREBOARD\_YAML\_IS\_BASE\_FILE\_NAME is set by package OsvvmSettingsPkg\_default.vhd to TRUE for releases 2024.03 and beyond.

Setting FileNameIsBaseName to FALSE supports the older methodology where the whole file name is required to be specified. The newer short form is recommended. The older format is only supported for backward compatibility.

#### 6.13 GetPushCount

Get number of items pushed into the scoreboard.

```
impure function GetPushCount (
  constant ID : in ScoreboardIDType
) return integer;
```

## 6.14 GetPopCount

Get number of items poped from the FIFO in that is part of the scoreboard.

```
impure function GetPopCount (
  constant ID : in ScoreboardIDType
) return integer;
```

#### 6.15 GetCheckCount

Get number of items checked by the scoreboard.

```
impure function GetCheckCount (
  constant ID : in ScoreboardIDType
) return integer;
```

# 6.16 GetDropCount

Get number of items dropped by the scoreboard.

```
impure function GetDropCount (
  constant ID : in ScoreboardIDType
) return integer;
```

#### 6.17 GetFifoCount

Get number of currently stored in the FIFO that is part of the scoreboard.

```
impure function GetFifoCount (
  constant ID : in ScoreboardIDType
) return integer;
```

## 6.18 Getting the Scoreboard Error Count

The scoreboard reports errors to the AlertLog data structure. Hence, the error count will be reported with ReportAlerts.

```
ScoreboardErrorCount := GetAlertCount(GetAlertLogID(SB)) ;
```

#### 6.19 IsInitialized

Check that an Scoreboard ID is initialized.

```
impure function IsInitialized (ID : ScoreboardIDType) return boolean ;
```

## 7. Tagged Scoreboards

Tagged Scoreboards are used for systems that allow transactions to execute out of order.

Tags are represented as string values (since most types convert to string using to\_string). A tag value is specified as the first value in the calls to push, check, and pop, such as shown below. In all examples, ExpectedVal has the type ExpectedType, and ReceiveVal has the type ActualType.

```
Push(SB, "WriteOp", ExpectedVal);
Check(SB, "WriteOp", ReceiveVal);
Pop(SB, "WriteOp", ExpectedVal);
if Empty(SB, "MyTag") then ...
```

For Check (and Pop), the item checked (or returned) is the oldest item with the matching tag.

```
ItemNum := Find(SB, "ReadOp", ReceiveVal);
Flush(SB, "ReadOp", ItemNum);
```

For Flush, only items matching the tag are removed. In some systems, it may be appropriate to do the Find with the tag and the flush without the tag.

#### 8. Indexed Scoreboards

Indexed scoreboards are for systems, such as a network switch that have multiple scoreboards that are most conveniently represented as an array.

ScoreboardIDType is an ordinary type, so normal VHDL methods can be used to create arrays of it.

## 8.1 1D and 2D Array Types

ScoreboardGenericPkg defines the following types:

```
-- 1D array type
type ScoreboardIdArrayType is array (integer range <>) of ScoreboardIdType;
-- 2D array type
type ScoreboardIdMatrixType is array (integer range <>, integer range <>)
    of ScoreboardIdType;
```

## 8.2 NewID for ScoreboardIdArrayType

NewID is defined for ScoreboardIdArrayType with the following parameters:

```
-- Vector: 1 to Size
impure function NewID (
 Name : String;
 Size : positive ;
ParentID : AlertLogIDType := OSVVM_SCOREBOARD_ALERTLOG_ID ;
 ReportMode : AlertLogReportModeType := ENABLED ;
 Search : NameSearchType := PRIVATE NAME ;
 PrintParent : AlertLogPrintParentType := PRINT_NAME_AND_PARENT
) return ScoreboardIDArrayType ;
-- Vector: X(X'Left) to X(X'Right)
impure function NewID (
 Name : String;
 Χ
 X : integer_vector ;
ParentID : AlertLogIDType
                                 := OSVVM_SCOREBOARD_ALERTLOG_ID ;
 ReportMode : AlertLogReportModeType := ENABLED ;
 Search : NameSearchType := PRIVATE NAME ;
 PrintParent : AlertLogPrintParentType := PRINT_NAME_AND_PARENT
) return ScoreboardIDArrayType ;
```

# 8.3 NewID for ScoreboardIdMatrixType

NewID is defined for ScoreboardIdMatrixType with the following parameters:

```
-- Matrix: 1 to X, 1 to Y impure function NewID (
Name : String;
```

```
X, Y : positive;
ParentID : AlertLogIDType := OSVVM_SCOREBOARD_ALERTLOG_ID;
ReportMode : AlertLogReportModeType := ENABLED;
Search : NameSearchType := PRIVATE_NAME;
PrintParent : AlertLogPrintParentType := PRINT_NAME_AND_PARENT
) return ScoreboardIdMatrixType;

-- Matrix: X(X'Left) to X(X'Right), Y(Y'Left) to Y(Y'Right)
impure function NewID (
Name : String;
X, Y : integer_vector;
ParentID : AlertLogIDType := OSVVM_SCOREBOARD_ALERTLOG_ID;
ReportMode : AlertLogReportModeType := ENABLED;
Search : NameSearchType := PRIVATE_NAME;
PrintParent : AlertLogPrintParentType := PRINT_NAME_AND_PARENT
) return ScoreboardIdMatrixType;
```

## 8.4 Arrays of Scoreboards

The following operations are appropriate for any array of scoreboards. Note that each scoreboard is independent of each other. Also note that each can support different std\_logic\_vector sizes.

```
signal SB : ScoreboardIDArrayType(1 to 3) ;
. . . .

-- Create 3 indexed scoreboards
SB <= NewID("SB", (1, 3));
wait for 0 ns ;

-- Push values into scoreboards
Push(SB(1), X"11") ;
Push(SB(2), X"2222") ;
Push(SB(3), X"3") ;

-- Check values using scoreboards
Check(SB(3), X"3") ;
Check(SB(2), X"2222") ;
Check(SB(1), X"01") ;

-- test completion all scoreboard errors report via AlertLogPkg
ReportAlerts ;</pre>
```

## 9. Deprecated NewID

First, if you were not using the DoNotReport parameter, there is no difference in calling the deprecated NewID functions and the new functions. The deprecated functions call the new NewID with ReportMode set to ENABLED if DoNotReport is FALSE and DISABLED otherwise.

## 9.1 Deprecated: NewID for ScoreboardIdType

## 9.2 Deprecated: NewID for ScoreboardIdArrayType

NewID is defined for ScoreboardIdArrayType with the following parameters:

# 9.3 Deprecated: NewID for ScoreboardIdMatrixType

NewID is defined for ScoreboardIdMatrixType with the following parameters:

```
) return ScoreboardIdMatrixType ;
```

## 10. A Better Way of Calling NewID? Not yet.

As an ordinary type, ScoreboardID could be a constant and NewID called in the constant declaration as follows:

```
constant ScoreboardID : ScoreboardIDType := NewID("SB") ;
```

One big benefit of this is that NewID is called during elaboration of the design before any other scoreboard API subprogram can run.

While the tools we test with allow this, unfortunately the language does not. We plan to address this in the next revision of the language. See: https://gitlab.com/IEEE-P1076/VHDL-Issues/-/issues/75

## 11. What about the older revisions of ScoreboardGenericPkg?

Versions of ScoreboardGenericPkg before 2021.06 were solely protected type based. That use model is still supported, however, it is deprecated and not talked about here. If you need the documentation for it, see the subdirectory ProtectedTypes\_the\_old\_way in the Documentation repository.

## 12. About ScoreboardGenericPkg

ScoreboardGenericPkg is part of the OSVVM Utility library.

ScoreboardGenericPkg was created by Jim Lewis of SynthWorks. Please support our work by buying your VHDL Training from SynthWorks.

ScoreboardGenericPkg.vhd is a work in progress and will be updated from time to time. Caution, undocumented items are experimental and may be removed in a future version.

## 13. Compiling and Using OSVVM Utility Library

Reference all packages in the OSVVM Utility library by using the context declaration:

```
library OSVVM ;
  context osvvm.OsvvmContext ;
```

Compilation order for OSVVM Utility Library is in OSVVM\_release\_notes.pdf. Rather than learning this, we recommend using the OSVVM compilation scripts.

OSVVM Utility library is released under the Apache open source license. It is free (both to download and use - there are no license fees). You can download it from osvvm.org or from our development area on GitHub (https://github.com/OSVVM/OSVVM).

If you add features to the package, please donate them back under the same license as candidates to be added to the standard version of the package. If you need features, be sure to contact us.

We also support the OSVVM user community and blogs through http://www.osvvm.org. Interested in sharing about your experience using OSVVM? Let us know, you can blog about it at osvvm.org.

#### 14. About the Author - Jim Lewis

Jim Lewis, the founder of SynthWorks, has thirty plus years of design, teaching, and problem solving experience. In addition to working as a Principal Trainer for SynthWorks, Mr Lewis has done ASIC and FPGA design, custom model development, and consulting.

Mr. Lewis is chair of the IEEE 1076 VHDL Working Group (VASG) and is the primary developer of the Open Source VHDL Verification Methodology (OSVVM.org) packages. Neither of these activities generate revenue.

Please support our volunteer efforts by buying your VHDL training from SynthWorks.

If you find bugs these packages or would like to request enhancements, you can reach me at jim@synthworks.com.