

[!NOTE]

Tested on MacOS 15 Sequoia.

MacOS 14 is not supported.

# Vivado on macOS via Docker

This repository provides a solution to run Xilinx Vivado on macOS using Docker containerization.

## Normal Vivado Workflow

The typical FPGA development workflow in Vivado consists of:

1. RTL Design (Verilog/VHDL)
2. Synthesis
3. Implementation
4. Generate Bitstream

## Programming with Docker Limitation

When running Vivado in a container, direct hardware programming is not possible due to USB device access restrictions. To solve this, we use `openFPGALoader` :

1. Generate bitstream in containerized Vivado
2. Locate bitstream in your project directory (typically at  
`<project_name>/<project_name>.runs/impl_1/<top_level_module>.bit` )
3. Use `openFPGALoader` on host to program FPGA:

```
brew install openfpgaloader
openFPGALoader -b basys3 /path/to/project/<project_name>.runs/impl_1/<top_level_module>.bit
```

Note: Supported board names can be listed using `openFPGALoader -h`

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# Prerequisites

## 0. Disk Space

- Ensure you have at least 120GB of free disk space:
  - ~80GB for Vivado download and Extract (this space will be freed after installation)
  - ~40GB for program data

## 1. Homebrew

- Install Homebrew by running:

```
/bin/bash -c "$(curl -fsSL https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Homebrew/install/HEAD/install
```

- Follow any additional setup instructions provided by the installer

## 2. Docker Desktop

- Install Docker Desktop for macOS from [docker.com](https://www.docker.com)
- Alternatively, install via Homebrew:

```
brew install --cask docker
```

## 3. XQuartz

- Install via Homebrew:

```
brew install --cask xquartz
```

- After installation, restart your computer
- Open XQuartz and enable "Allow connections from network clients" in XQuartz preferences
- Navigate to XQuartz -> Settings -> Security -> Allow connections from network clients

## 4. Vivado Installer

- Download Vivado installer for Linux from [AMD/Xilinx website](https://www.xilinx.com/products/design-tools/vivado/index.html)

# Installation

## 1. Get the Repository

```
git clone https://github.com/yokeTH/vivado-mac.git  
# or download and extract the ZIP file
```

## 2. Run Setup Script

```
cd vivado-mac
./scripts/setup.sh
```

### 3. Install Vivado

- When prompted, drag and drop the downloaded `vivado_installer` (from prerequisites no.4) into the terminal
- Follow the installation instructions in the Vivado installer
- Select desired Vivado components

## Usage

### 0. Ensure Display Setup

- Check [X11 Display Issues](#) if you encounter problems
- XQuartz must be running before starting Vivado

#### 1. Start XQuartz

```
xhost + localhost
```

#### 2. Launch Vivado container:

```
./scripts/start_container.sh
```

#### 3. Vivado GUI will appear in XQuartz window

## Troubleshooting

### Common Issues

#### 1. X11 Display Issues

- Ensure XQuartz is running
- In XQuartz preferences:
  - Go to Security tab
  - Check "Allow connections from network clients"
- Try restarting XQuartz
- Run `xhost + localhost` before starting container

#### 2. For permission issues, ensure setup script has executable permissions ( `chmod +x scripts/setup.sh` )

### 3. **100 Killed Error**

If you encounter the following error while using version 2024.2 :

```
100 Killed ${X_JAVA_HOME} /bin/java ${ARGS} -cp ${X_CLASS_PATH} comxilinx.installerapi.I
```

remove the Xilinx folder and try using version 2023 instead.

## License

This project is licensed under the BSD 3-Clause License - see the LICENSE file for details.

## Vivado License

Vivado requires a license from AMD/Xilinx. Please obtain appropriate licensing from AMD/Xilinx website.

## Disclaimer

This repository only provides the environment setup to run Vivado on Apple Silicon Macs via Docker. It does not include Vivado software itself. Users must:

- Download Vivado separately from AMD/Xilinx
- Comply with AMD/Xilinx's licensing terms
- Use at their own risk