

# VHDL-FPGA

notes  
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VHDL - what is "VHDL" stands for?

V → (VHSIC) → Very High Speed Integrated circuit

H → "Hardware"

D → "Descriptive"

L → "Language"

- We are try to physically describe how a digital circuit operates.

• History of VHDL :-

VHDL was developed in 1981 by Department of Defense (USA). VHDL was developed as a way to address the hardware life cycle crisis of electronics systems.

The DoD, gave away all rights of the language to the IEEE. (later on)

Devices that use VHDL :-

Subsets

- FPGA (Field Programmable Gate Array)
- CPLD (Complex programmable Logic device)
- ASIC (Application Specific Integrated circuit)

FPGA :-

- Designed using logic blocks
- Much higher logic capacity
- Typically are used for much more complex design
- Volatile memory
- More expensive than CPLD

CPLD: →

- Less logic capacity than FPGA
- Typically used for a simpler less complex design
- Non-volatile memory
- Typically more cost effective than FPGA.

\* Major manufacturers of both are → XILINX and ALTERA.

Note: → (VVI)\*\*

- VHDL is not a programming language
- we are only writing the configuration file, on FPGA or other, telling how should a physical digital circuit run on FPGA.

- VHDL is not software, it is used to describe the hardware that software runs on.

- When VHDL is synthesized the compiler runs through the code and constructs the gates specified in the VHDL code and implements them onto the targeted logic device.

← Lesson 1 ends → (Introduction to VHDL in High level)

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