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About the Educational version

RS UNIVERSITY
Teach. Learn. Share.

At RS Components/Allied Electronics we are committed to be a part of educating the "Engineers of Tomorrow" and have at heart supporting educational institutions who are pursuing the teaching courses in the field of engineering.

DesignSpark PCB Educational version has been developed as a part of the RS University programme to accommodate the needs of educational institutions and in response to high demand for an easy to learn, easy to use, free and unrestricted electronics design software from Universities, Colleges, Technical Schools and various engineering training centres.

The Educational version is identical in functionality to a standard DesignSpark PCB but allows system administrators simplified activation process on multiple machines along with network deployment. As we have learned from hundreds of institutions already using our software for teaching, this is a key requirement when it comes to incorporating DSPCB into a classroom environment.

About the RS University programme: http://www.rs-online.com/designspark/electronics/eng/page/rs-university

Educational installation download

Download the DesignSpark application from:
The link provided in the email.

Note: this installer is in MSI format and is different to the standard installation available for DesignSpark.com/pcb website

Getting a license file

A license file can be obtained by contacting DesignSparkPCB@designspark.com and providing the following details:

Full Name of the educational institution	
Educational institution website	
Your name	
Your position	
Your email address*	
Name, position and email address of teaching staff contact (if different from the above)	
Number of computers (approx.)	

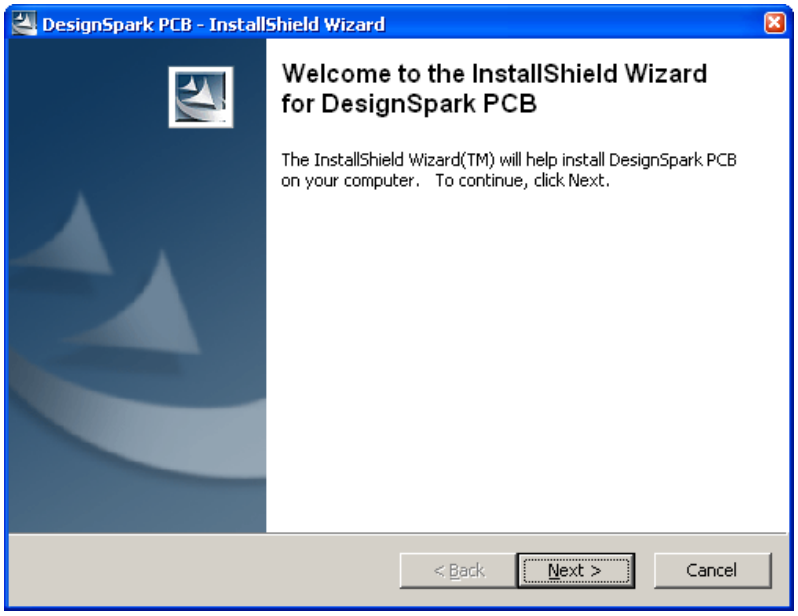
Note: the email addresses provided **must be in your institution domain.*

IMPORTANT: Please bear in mind the license is only for use by your organisation and not to be shared externally. Your students, if they wish to use DSPCB at home, are required to activate via our standard activation process and not the site license.

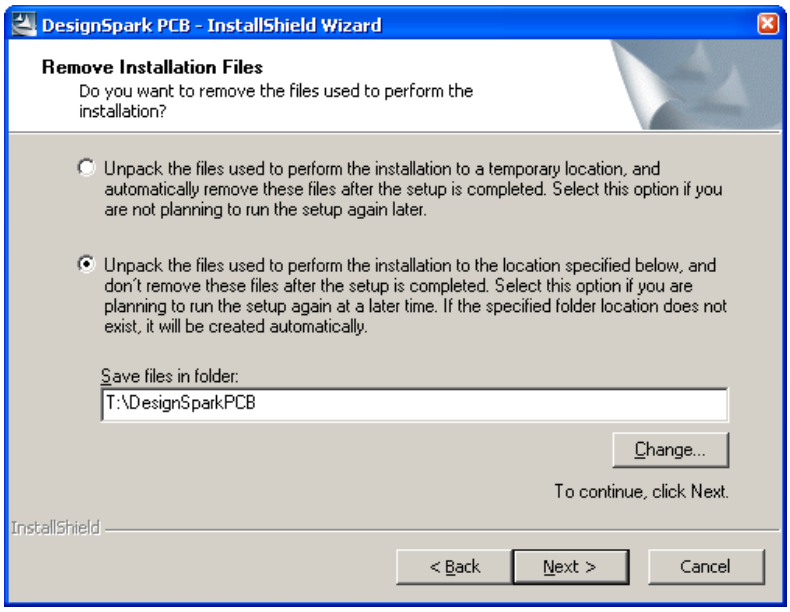
Installation process

1) Run the DesignSparkPCB_v[x.y.z]_Educational.exe

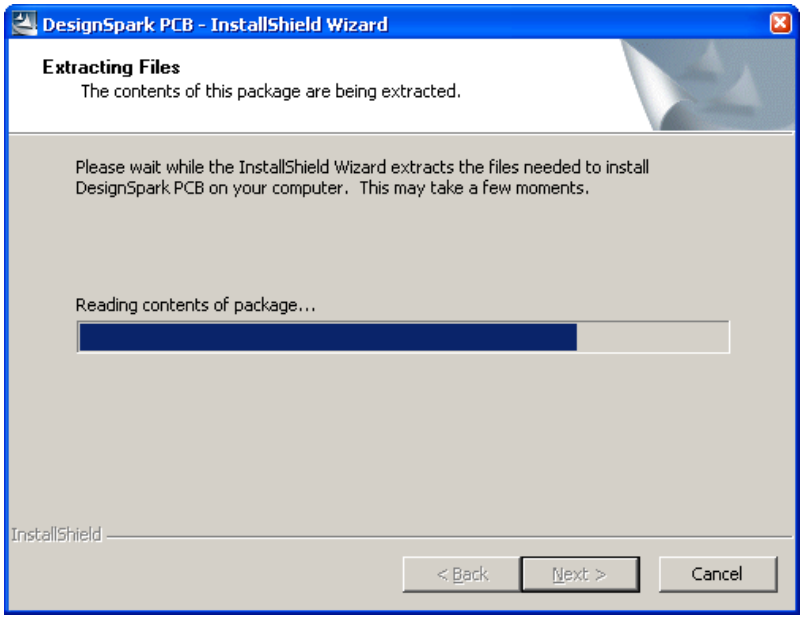
The welcome screen is the first thing you see:

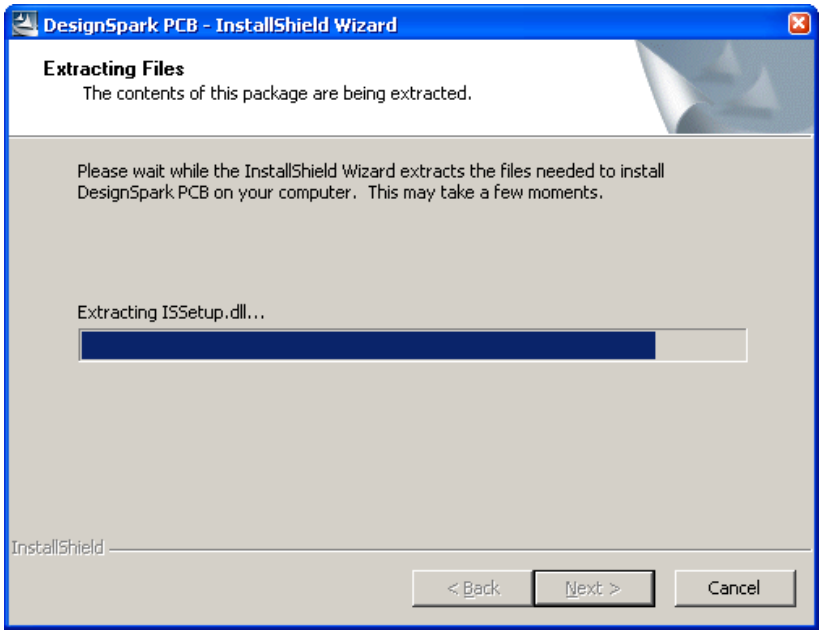


2) Click Next, and you will be asked whether you want to install the application and tidy up the installation files afterwards, or unpack them somewhere and keep them.

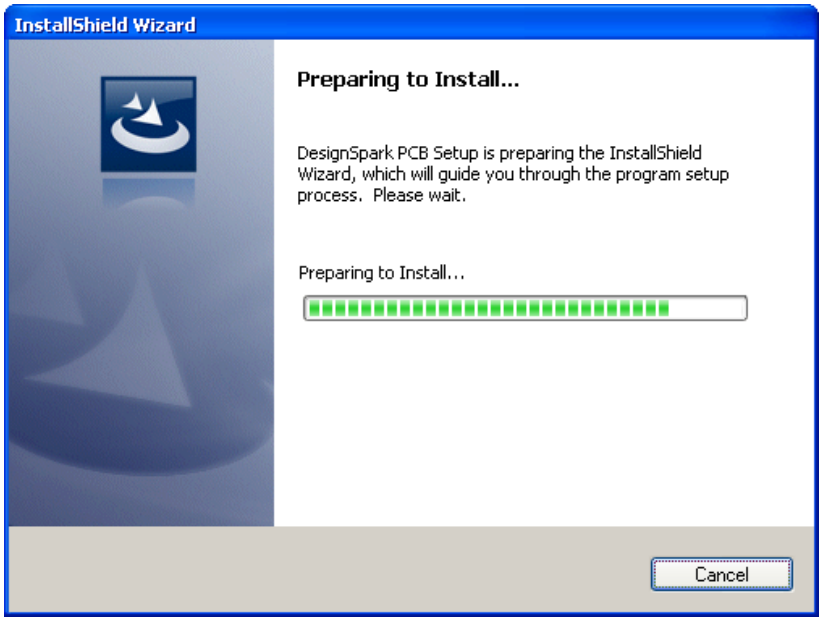


3) Choose the second option, to unpack the files and don't remove them after setup is completed. Enter a suitable folder name, or use the Change button to browse to a suitable folder. Then click Next. The installation files will be unpacked into the folder you have chosen:

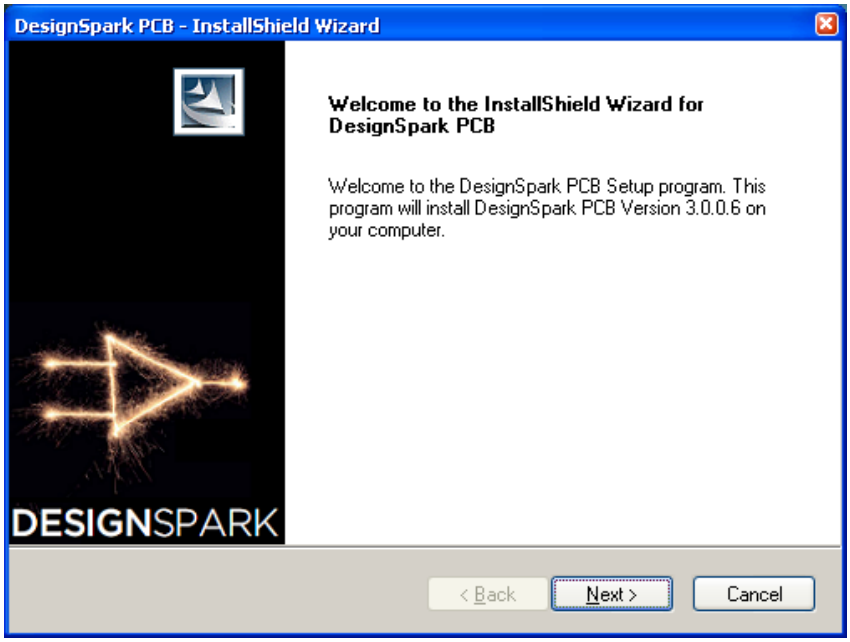




4) When the unpacking is complete, the Setup will begin automatically, first with this screen:

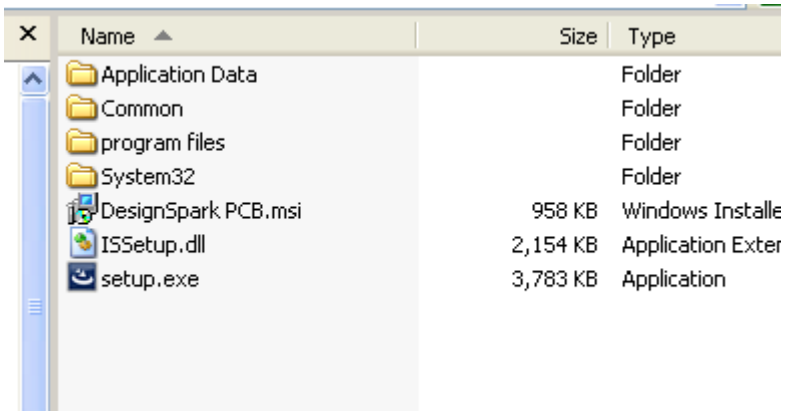


When arriving at the screen below you need to apply your licence file BEFORE clicking the 'Next' button. See the next section for details.

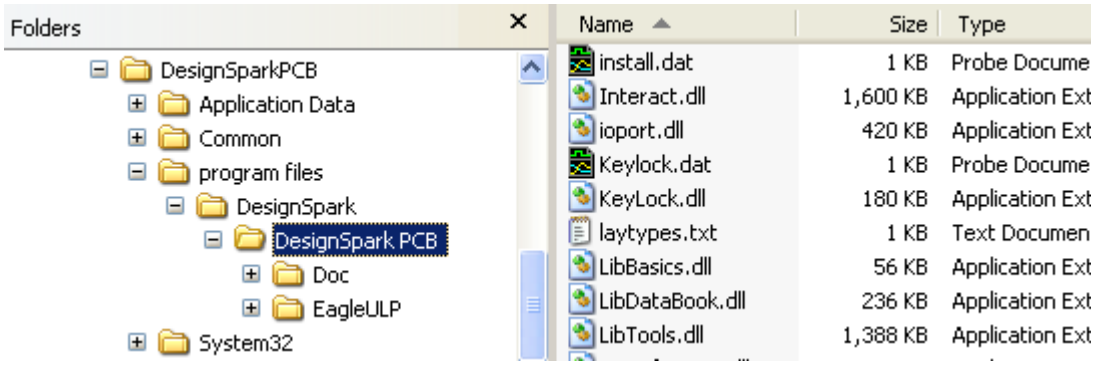


License file installation

1) Using Windows Explorer, open the folder where you chose to store the unpacked files:

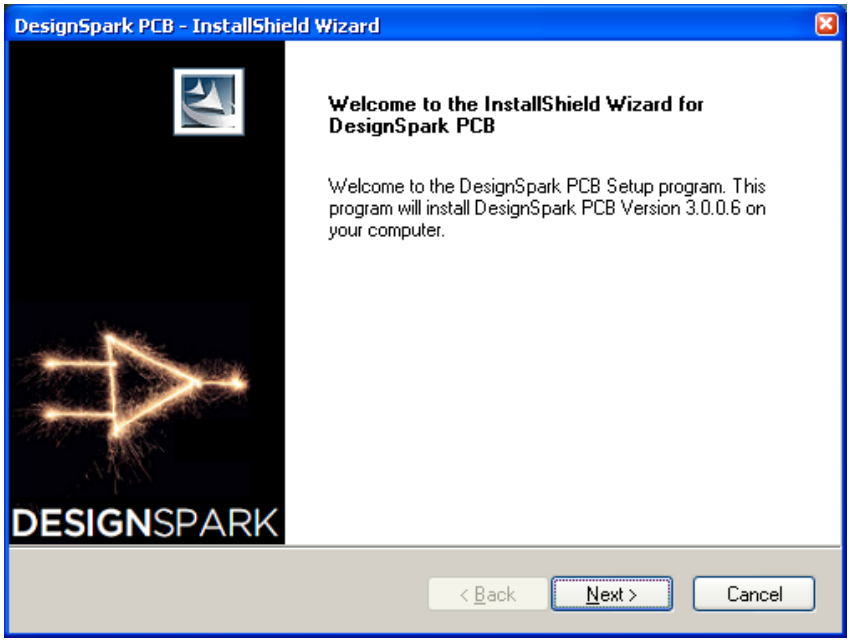


2) If you 'expand' the 'program files' folder, you will find a Keylock.dat file already exists:



3) Replace this Keylock.dat with the 'real' licence file you have been given.

4) You can now return to the Setup screen and proceed with your first installation. When the Setup program continues, it will then use your 'real' licence file instead of the original placeholder file.



7) To install on second and subsequent machines, you simply need to run the Setup.exe shown in our first Explorer screen shot.

Silent mode installation

This is to install DSPCB in the background

Firstly, the command that needs to be run is either Setup with InstallShield switches, or MSIexec with Windows installer switches

The installation requires responses to several dialogs (accepting the license agreement, setting the folders for application and data, and entering the user and company names), those responses have to be fed into the setup process.

A silent installation can be achieved in two relatively easy steps. If the steps are both run on the same machine the software would actually uninstall, so step 2 needs to be run on consecutive machines.

Step 1: record a response file

Run the command “setup –r” which runs through a normal setup but records a response file. Sadly InstallShield write this as “setup.iss” in the Windows folder, so

after the setup is complete you have to copy that file back to the same folder as your Setup.exe.

Step 2: run the silent installation

Run the command "setup –s" from the machine where you want the software to be installed. This should use the response file to feed the installer with the correct information at each stage of the user interface.

Upgrading to a new version

In order to upgrade you need to completely uninstall the previous installation.

From Version 5.0 onwards the educational license is locked to the major revision of the software. This means if you are willing to upgrade to Version 5.x you do not need a new license but if you wish to upgrade to version 6.x you need to request a new keylock file (contact DesignSparkPCB@designspark.com)

The release of new major version of DSPCB does not terminate the licenses issued for previous versions – you can carry on using the previous licensed version as long as you wish and until you decide to upgrade to a new major version.

Default folders configuration

In some system setups the installer can be prevented from creating folders in correct paths. This can make the first use experience difficult as directories would be missing and need to be set up manually. It is therefore recommended to, after installation, verify the following folders on a sample end user machine:
NOTE: Substitute the current DesignSpark PCB version in place of the version numbers shown in the examples below.

Library folders:

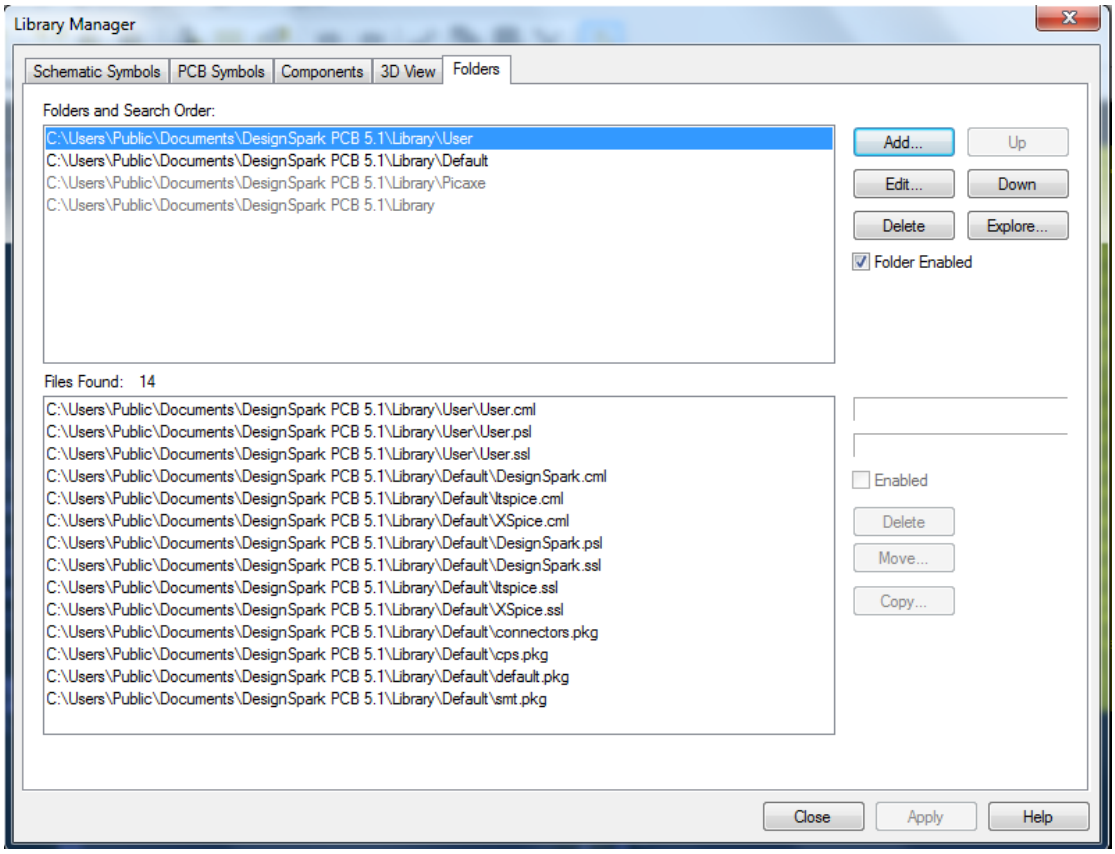
For WIN7 and WIN8:

```
C:\Users\Public\Documents\DesignSpark PCB 5.1\Library\Default
C:\Users\Public\Documents\DesignSpark PCB 5.1\Library\User
```

For WINXP:

```
C:\Documents and Setting\All Users\Documents\DesignSpark PCB 5.1\Library\Default
C:\Documents and Setting\All Users\Documents\DesignSpark PCB 5.1\Library\User
```

Launch DSPCB. Open the "Folders" tab in Library manager (Ctrl + L), ensure the following folders are enabled by "Folder enabled" button on the right. You should find the libraries listed in the bottom section:



Technology file folder:

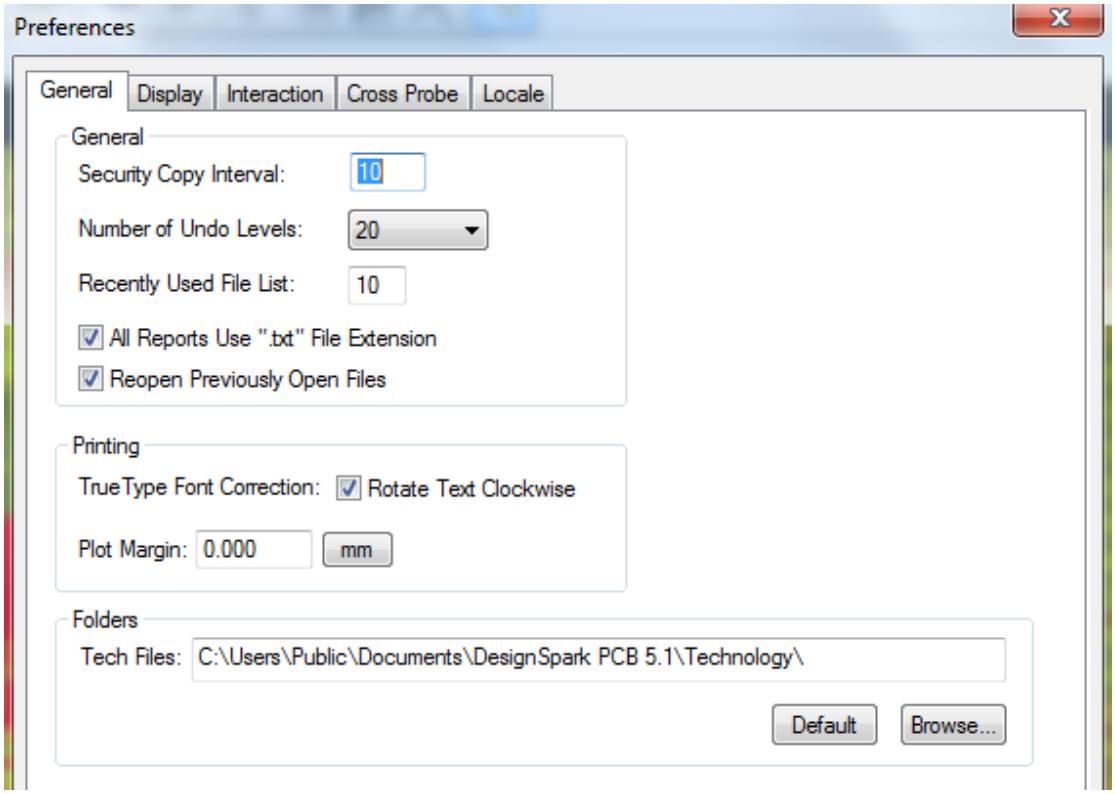
For WIN7 and WIN8:

```
C:\Users\Public\Documents\DesignSpark PCB 5.1\Technology\
```

For WinXP:

```
C:\Documents and Setting\All Users\Documents\DesignSpark PCB 5.1\ Technology\
```

In DSPCB open the “General” tab in Preferences (Ctrl + F7), enable the following folder is listed in the folders box:


Preferences
General
Display
Interaction
Cross Probe
Locale
General
Security Copy Interval:
10
Number of Undo Levels:
20
Recently Used File List:
10
All Reports Use ".txt" File Extension
Reopen Previously Open Files
Printing
TrueType Font Correction:
Rotate Text Clockwise
Plot Margin:
0.000
mm
Folders
Tech Files:
C:\Users\Public\Documents\DesignSpark PCB 5.1\Technology\
Default
Browse...

Recommended list of links for students

Students are likely to want to install DSPCB on their private PCs/laptops, in fact this accessibility is one of the key strengths of our software in the Education environment. By installing at home students are empowered to vastly increase the time spent learning electronics design and often attempt more complex designs than they would have done in the limited lab time. At RS Components we want to democratise innovation by putting the power to design freely in hands of every Engineer. And all the future Engineers are no exception!
Please share the list of the below links with your Students to enable them to start using the software right away:

DesignSpark PCB download: http://designspark.com/pcb

Installation guide: http://designspark.com/eng/tutorial/procedure-for-upgrading-designspark-pcb-to-a-new-version

Getting started video tutorials: http://designspark.com/tutorial/republic-polytechnic-singapore-designspark-pcb-tutorials

Full list of video and text tutorials: http://designspark.com/eng/tutorial/designspark-pcb-tutorials-content-list

User Forums for getting help and discuss: http://designspark.com/discuss/index.php

Advantages of Rapid Prototyping: http://www.rs-online.com/designspark/electronics/eng/nodes/view/type:knowledge-item/slug:advantages-of-rapid-prototyping