

Protocol

Interview initialization

- Purpose: Map digital-analog integration issues on mixed-signal projects at the company
- Company benefits: List with compiled and classified issues
- Interviewee benefits: Reflect own job + reduce chance to fight same issues again
- Explaining what is going to be done:
 - Here we will be doing a semi-structure interview where I'll ask questions and you respond what comes to your mind (don't need to worry if you are not exactly answering what I'm asking, express what most resonates with you).
 - Do not try to give general answers, you can report specific experiences
 - Our talk will be summarized to be used as input for the research.
 - To don't disturb our talk, I will record it so I can transcribe and delete it right after it. Only I will have access to the recording and the transcription, as well as only non-identifiable pieces will be used on the paper.
 - Do you allow me to start recording?
 - Ok... now recording!

Interview questions

Have you ever participated on a **research project**?

Which **recent projects** have you been? What was your **role** in them?

- ice breakers

Have you done **mixed signal projects** (digital + analog team)?

- AMS simulation, digital/analog integration, LVS/DRC, delivery to the other team
- ice breaker-ish, the answer is probably 'yes' once almost all are. The main reason is to help respondent to recap latest interactions with the other team

Could you **explain your work flow**, specifying **deliveries from and to** other teams?

- Verilog, layout, abstract, feature request
- Map main exchanges between the teams, which may or not contain the issues

How is your **understanding of the top-level view** on those projects?

- Very clear, total mystery the other team side, notion of the purpose
- Understanding of the context

How is your experience with **top level or integration verification** at the company?

- Not appear to be relevant, very important, constant concern
- Instigate about mitigation actions to solve integration issues

There were any **problems at the integration** of those deliveries?

- Interface, DRC/LVS errors, simulation not working, not clear documentation
- Map issues

How is the **communication** with the other team?

- Hard to reach, one doesn't understand the other, don't seem to care
- Identify how difficult was the interactions

How is your perception regarding **documentation**?

- Concerned, second-priority, problems related to them
- Identify information problems

Did those problems cause **negative impact** to the **project**?

- Schedule not met, additional working hours, late bugs, headache
- Identify how impactful those problems were

Did those problems cause **negative impact** to **you**?

- Feel too much frustration or stress, deal ok with that
- Identify how impactful those problems were