OSS CVC Verilog Simulator License

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What license is OSS CVC released under

 OSS CVC is released under "OSS CVC dual licensing modified Artistic Open Source Software License". See the License text in the OSS CVC release directory and at the top of every source file.

This license allows free distribution of sources and binaries (either made by the licensor or obtained as free software) provided that only reasonable distribution fees are charged. It is a combination of the Perl Artistic licenses 1.0 and 2.0.

OSS-CVC is licensed using dual free and commercial licensing. Commercial OSS CVC licenses can be purchased to allow commercial distribution of OSS CVC possibly with other closed source software combined. Contact Tachyon Design Automation to negotiate a license that meets your needs.

2. Who is the holder of the OSS-CVC Copyright

Tachyon Design Automation Corp. holds the registered copyright to all CVC source code. OSS CVC is a single vendor dual licensed open source package.

3. Why dual licensing?

We believe that dual licensing gives both developers and designers the best of two worlds. While anyone is free to look at the code and even improve it. OSS CVC can be included in free software or academic projects with the only condition that, following the Perl artistic license, the project has a new name and documentation explaining how the software differs from OSS CVC is included.

Commercial licenses offer flexibility so that commercial enterprises can purchase commercial maintenance and support. This is especially important because OSS CVC implements the stable full IEEE 1364 Verilog HDL standard. Also, OSS CVC can be licensed to be sold commercially and sold as part of closed source packages which is not possible with GPL licensed software. Dual licensing provides total flexibility in negotiating commercial licenses of OSS CVC..

The open-source community gets more high-quality free software at no cost, while businesses can rely on quality support, binaries signed with a unique hash code, tested binaries and the opportunity to include the OSS-CVC binaries package possibly with extensive modifications, in commercial products.

4. How can OSS CVC be both open source and commercially licensed?

This is called "dual licensing". Since Tachyon Design Automation holds all the copyrights to the OSS CVC code, we are free to choose the terms under which we license the code to our customers, or the open-source community.

5. Why does OSS CVC include the conditions of the Perl Artistic Open Source Licenses?

There are two reasons.

First, OSS CVC implements the IEEE 1346 2005 Verilog Hardware Description Language standard. It is important when simulating electronic hardware for simulation behavior and results to follow the standard as closely as possible. One goal of the OSS CVC package is to provide a reference definition of IEEE 1364 simulation semantics.

Second, there needs to be a way for open software users to make minor modifications (such as ports) that are consistent with open source licensing while allowing commercial customers to use the changes. By preventing copywriting of minor changes and by requiring documentation of the changes, both the open source community and commercial users receive the benefits of open source. The open source community can fork off the open source package providing they choose a new name and include documentation of the differences. The new forked off packages is also open source following The OSS CVC modified artistic open source license. This insures artistic integrity and insures relationship to the IEEE 2005 1364 is known.

6. How do I purchase Tachyon Design Automation Products?

You can either purchase Enterprise OSS CVC support or negotiate a commercial license from Tachyon Design Automation. Contact craigr@tachyon-da.com to purchase Enterprise OSS CVC.

For electronic companies, Enterprise OSS CVC allows Tachyon Design Automation to support OSS CVC and provide pre-made binaries. In addition to EDA tool use support, Enterprise binaries are carefully tested, modified to run common commercial part libraries and signed with hash functions. Also, Enterprise OSS CVC binaries are tested to insure continued industry leading compliance with the IEEE 2005 Verilog HDL standard and industry leading Verilog simulation speed.

Commercial entities that wish to include OSS CVC source code in a commercial tool can purchase a commercial redistribution license from Tachyon Design Automation to allow bundling CVC into commercial, possibly closed source products with no requirement to make all changed source code freely available.

7. Why should electronic companies purchase Enterprise OSS-CVC support?.

You can have your support staff download, install and support OSS CVC, but don't you think Tachyon DA deserves some money if you use OSS CVC and its ability to run unlimited, simultaneous simulations as part of your enterprise's EDA development? Don't you think it wastes resources that could be better spent by paying Tachyon Design to provide support and make tested binaries?

8. Can I download a copy of OSS CVC to evaluate before purchasing the support?

Yes.

9. Can I use OSS CVC for commercial design verification?

Yes.

10. Can I make modifications to the OSS CVC for internal use inside my company?

Yes.

11. What happens if I make modifications to OSS CVC that I want to leave as open source?

If you place your changes in the public domain and allow Tachyon DA to include your modifications in the OSS CVC Package, you do not need to do anything. You could fork of a new project, give it a name, document how it differs from the OSS CVC Package, but doesn't it seem inconsistent with open source community goals to do that?

12. What if I want to start a new free software EDA tool project that uses OSS CVC?

Just find a name for you new project (package), document how it differs from the OSS CVC Package. You must continue to license the OSS CVC part of your forked package under the "OSS CVC dual licensing modified Artistic Open Source Software License" just as you license other parts of OSS software packages under their respective licenses.

14. Are Verilog PLI application program interface libraries part of OSS CVC?

No, you are free to license your PLI applications however you want. You can sell your PLI application with instructions for how to install OSS CVC (for example). You also could release your PLI libraries under an open source library.