Labcenter Electronics Ltd
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Accessibility Policy

About

Labcenter Electronics Ltd are a software development company in the electronics and embedded industry. We support all aspects of electronics product design from schematic capture, through simulation and testing to PCB layout and design.

Scope

This policy summarises our approach to accessibility both within the Proteus Design Suite software and on the Labcenter website.

Proteus Design Suite Software Applications

Labcenter aim to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the Proteus Design Suite software is accessible to as many people as possible. However, the inherent visual nature of schematic capture and board layout, much akin to an image editor, is such that precision placement and editing operations are often required.

We believe in being candid about what this means. Interactive schematic capture and PCB layout are inherently visual-spatial activities: the work product is a precision two-dimensional drawing, and editing it requires continuous visual reference to geometry. We do not believe the core graphical editing functions could be made operable without vision without fundamentally altering the nature of the product, and no assistive technology approach is currently known that achieves this for precision CAD.

We therefore concentrate our accessibility effort where it delivers practical benefit: support for users with limited vision (magnification, text scaling, configurable colours), limited manipulation (keyboard access and remapping), usage without hearing, cognitive support (guided tutorials and AI assistance), and the accessibility of the surrounding user interface, documentation, textual outputs (reports, bills of materials, netlists) and support channels. A formal Accessibility Conformance Report (ITI VPAT®, EN 301 549 edition) is available for the Proteus Design Suite; please contact us at info@labcenter.com to request a copy.

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The following summarises accessibility features currently available inside Proteus.

- **Text and Fonts:** The Proteus software is high DPI aware and the full installed set of fonts can be chosen for use in the software editing windows. The Windows Accessibility text size setting is honoured up to 200%; it is read when the application starts, so a change takes effect on restart. Large font handling is supported across most dialogues, although a small number of legacy dialogue controls and virtual-instrument panels use fixed font sizes and do not respond to the setting.
- **Zoom and Pan:** The editing window (creation area) of both the schematic and the layout work with varying levels of zoom, including high magnification. Localised zoom is easily achieved and panning of the zoomed area fully supported.
- **Input Modalities:** The Proteus Software works with a combination of keyboard and mouse. Basic Windows accessibility features such as changes to mouse pointer and cursor are also partially supported. Proteus supports accessibility pointer sizing, even for our custom pointers.
- **Keyboard Accessibility:** The majority of dialogue forms and user commands can be actioned via keyboard shortcut, and every menu command can be remapped in a dedicated Keyboard Map editor with conflict detection, import/export and reset to defaults; no keyboard traps exist. Certain actions such as routing a track require mouse interaction to guide placement, and keyboard editing in the drawing area currently requires the pointer to be over the editing window.
- **Contrast:** Proteus supports both light and dark application themes (a change of theme takes effect on restart). High contrast operation is currently optimised for the standard light theme, and we continue to improve dark theme contrast coverage across the application framework. The Windows High Contrast theme is not currently honoured; the editing windows offer approximately 90 user-configurable colours with monochrome, black and white presets as the route to a high-contrast drawing presentation today, and improved system integration is on our roadmap.
- **Flashing Interface Elements:** Only two interface elements flash: the PCB editor's indication of unrouted or illegal copper (one cycle every two seconds) and the simulated terminal cursor (once per second), both far below the three-flashes-per-second photosensitivity threshold. Interface elements in a running simulation may flash at a rate programmed by the user (e.g. simulating flashing LEDs connected to a microcontroller), but these are user-created content, generally a small percentage of the screen, and the simulation can be paused or stopped at any time.
- **Predictability:** Software modules share a common application framework and basic user interface actions are common to the Proteus software Suite.
- **Error Identification:** Dialogue validation names the field concerned, states the permitted values and returns focus to the entry. Design rule checks itemise every violation in sortable, keyboard-navigable lists that can zoom to the fault.
- **Design Explorer:** Parts and nets are listed in standard Windows list controls, readable by screen readers, providing a navigable text alternative to the graphical drawing.
- **Simulation Control:** Run, step, pause and stop are always available, and pausing freezes all simulated activity at once.
- **Documentation:** The full manual set is published for browser access at https://www.labcenter.com/documentation/ with a skip-to-content link, table of contents, index and full-text search, so it can be read with the user's preferred assistive technologies. The same content is installed with the product as compiled HTML Help.
- **AI Assistance:** ProPilot answers product questions in plain language inside the software, ProTutor provides guided tutorials, and a documented MCP interface allows external AI assistants to be paired with the product.

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We know some parts of the software are not yet fully accessible:

- Screen reader access to the schematic and PCB drawing content is not available; dialogues, menus and the Design Explorer are accessible through Microsoft UI Automation.
- Some dialogue fields do not yet expose their label to assistive technology; an association programme is in progress.
- A small number of conditions are signalled by a system beep only, with no visual equivalent.
- On network and cloud licences, around ten minutes of inactivity can release the licence seat and close the application after a warning; locally licensed installations have no time limits.
- The Audio Analysis graph plays its result automatically, with volume controlled through the operating system mixer.
- Documentation screenshots do not yet carry alternative text; remediation is planned.

Goals and Compliance

Accessibility enhancements will continue to be considered as part of the 9.x feature roadmap where logistically feasible.

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Labcenter Website (www.labcenter.com)

This website is run by Labcenter Electronics. We want as many people as possible to be able to use this website. For example, that means you should be able to:

- Use assistive technologies such as screen readers to access content.
- Access the site with a keyboard.
- Be able to use forms with labels and/or clear instructions so you know what is expected.
- Zoom in on content without text spilling off the screen.
- View text on backgrounds with a good colour contrast.
- Follow content that is organised under clear headings, using a logical order.
- Consistently able to navigate the site without moving elements.

We know some parts of this website are not fully accessible:

- You cannot currently modify the font and colour styling on the website.
- Some of our older PDF documents may not be fully accessible to screen reader software..
- Some areas of the site might be difficult to navigate with just a keyboard.

Goals and Compliance

Our goal is to make the Labcenter website fully accessible, in accordance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).

The website is currently partially compliant with the WCAG version 2.1 AA standard, due to the non-compliances listed below.

- Some videos do not currently have text transcripts. This fails WCAG 2.1 success criterion 1.2.1
- Some videos do not currently have titles or header tags to assist screen readers. This fails WCAG 2.1 success criterion 1.1.1
- Some areas of the website are not currently styled with relative units to allow for better text resizing. This fails WCAG 2.1 success criterion 1.4.4

As always we endeavour to make our website accessible for all users. The issues above are on our agenda to resolve as soon as possible. These will be rolled out in future updates as they stretch many areas in our codebase. When we develop any new content we'll aim to make sure they meet accessibility standards from the outset.

Legal Reference

This policy aligns with the principles of the UK Equality Act 2010 and attempts to follow recognised best practice for accessibility in digital products.

Concerns or Feedback

Please contact us by e-mail at info@labcenter.com if you have any questions or concerns regarding this policy or suggestions on how we might improve. We aim to acknowledge accessibility enquiries within five working days.