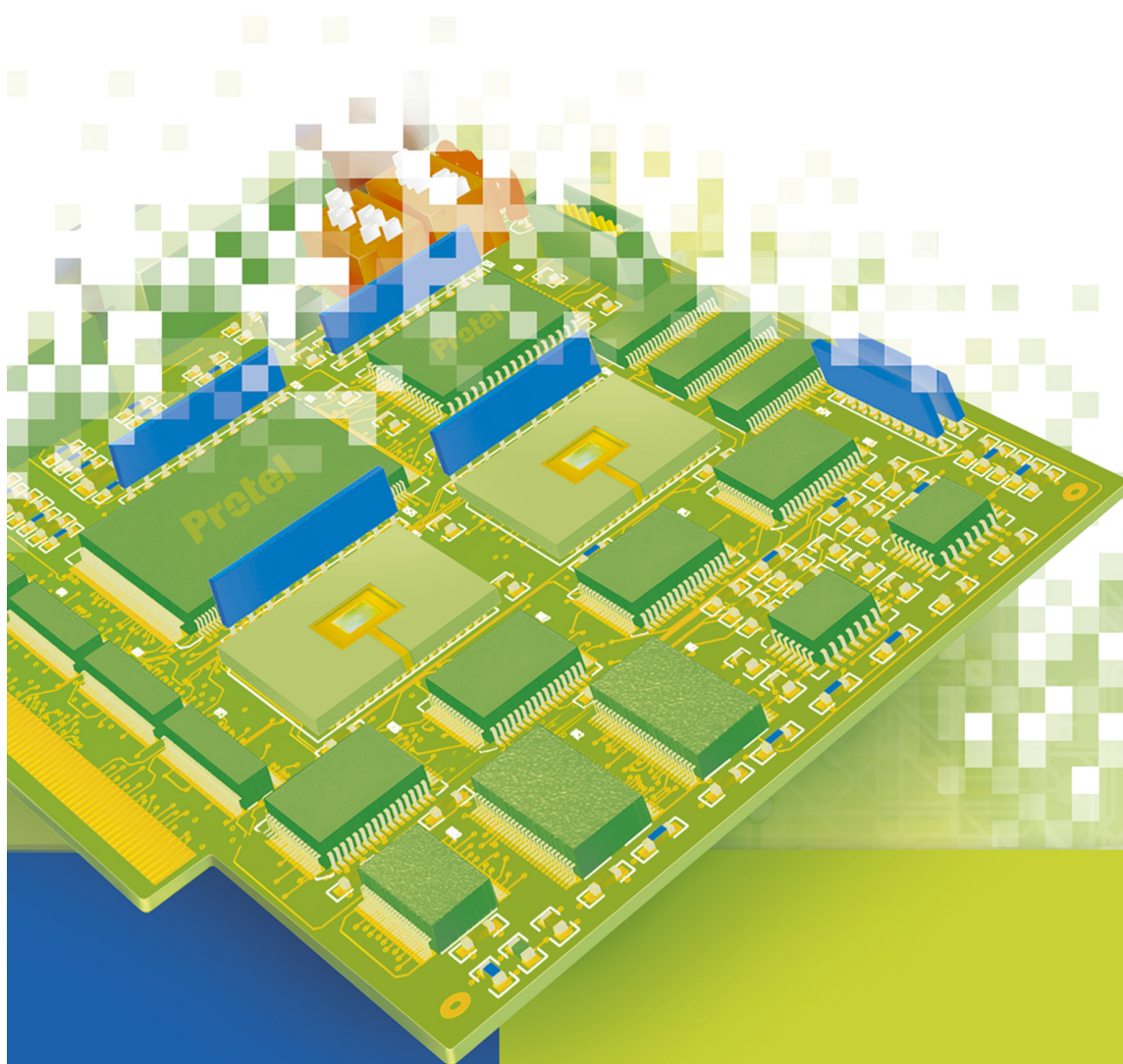


Customizing Resources

Protel*DXP*TM

Tutorial



Protel[®]

Board-level design system from Altium.

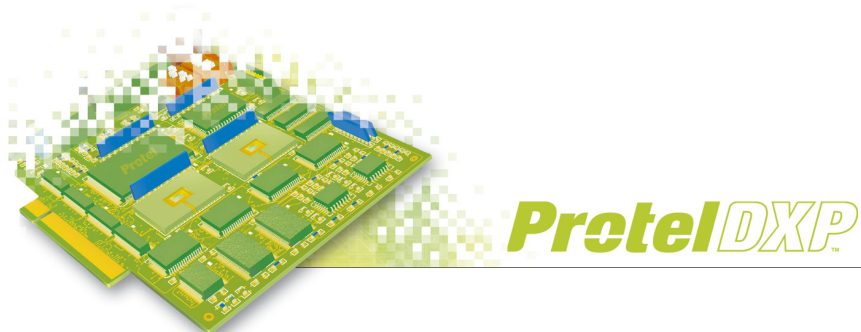


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Customizing DXP resources

This tutorial covers the following topics on customizing Protel DXP resources:

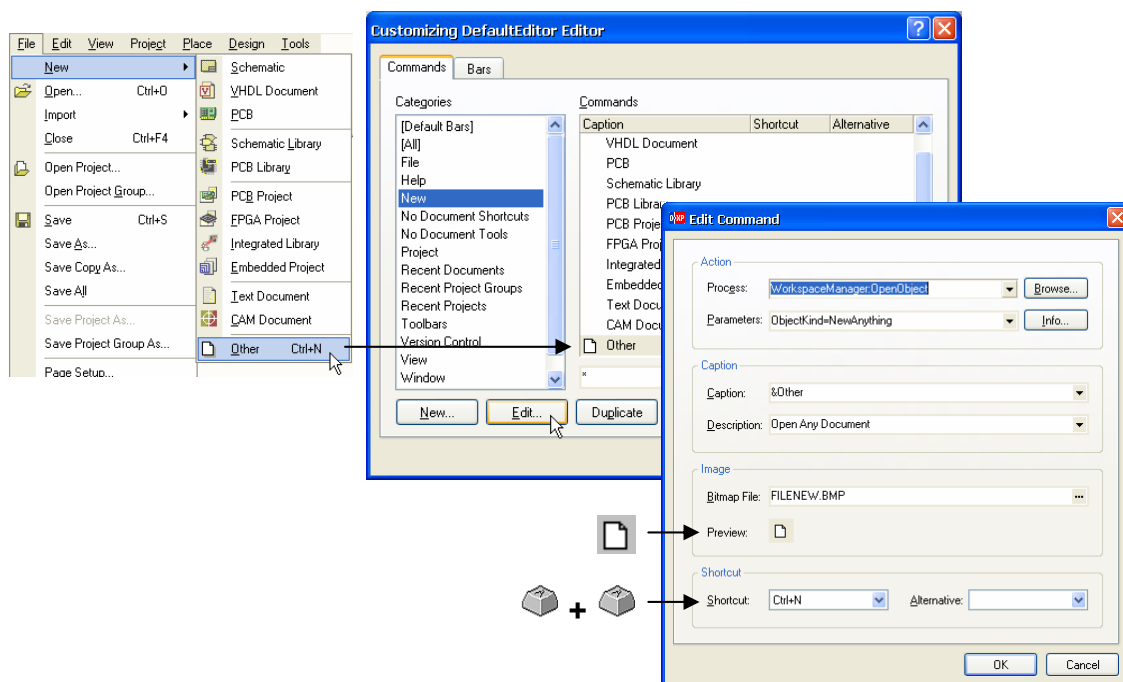
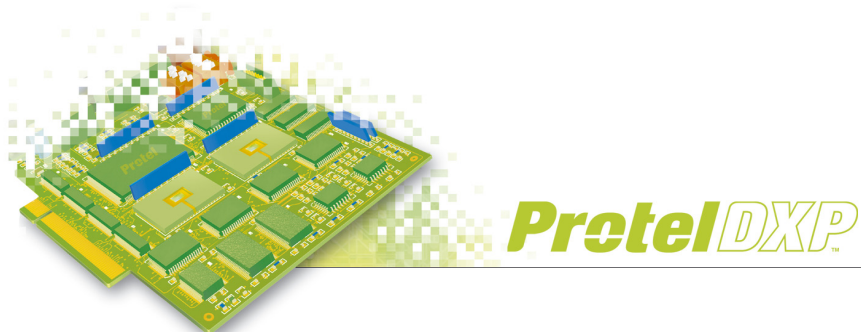
- rearranging the existing menus and toolbars
- adding and deleting toolbar or menu commands
- creating a new drop-down menu or a new toolbar
- duplicating and activating toolbars
- setting the main menu
- floating main menus and toolbars
- creating, duplicating and editing commands
- working with shortcut key tables
- restoring menu and toolbar defaults.

Customization overview

Resources in an editor are the menu bars, toolbars and the shortcut key tables. All the commands available from the menus are also available for adding to or deleting from these resources. Behind each resource item, such as a toolbar icon or menu item, there is a pre-packaged process launcher that activates a command when its resource item is selected.

The pre-packaged process launchers bundle together the process that runs when the command is selected, plus any parameters, bitmaps (icons), captions (the name of an item that displays on a resource), descriptions and associated shortcut keys. If a process launcher is modified, every linked instance of the command on any bar will be updated.

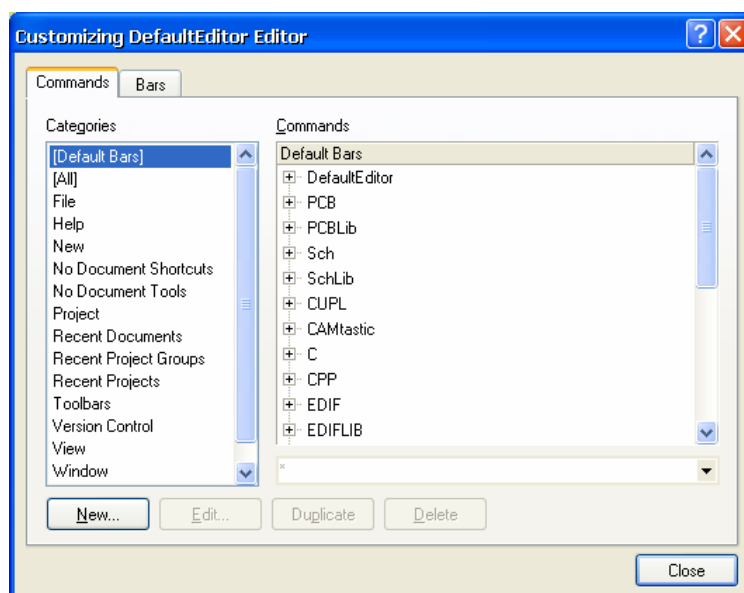
Commands can be customized to meet your own needs. Customizations are stored in the file `C:\Documents and Settings\User_name\Application Data\Altium\Design Explorer.rcs`.



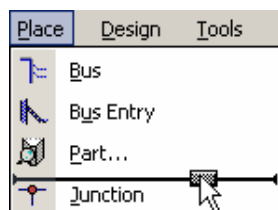
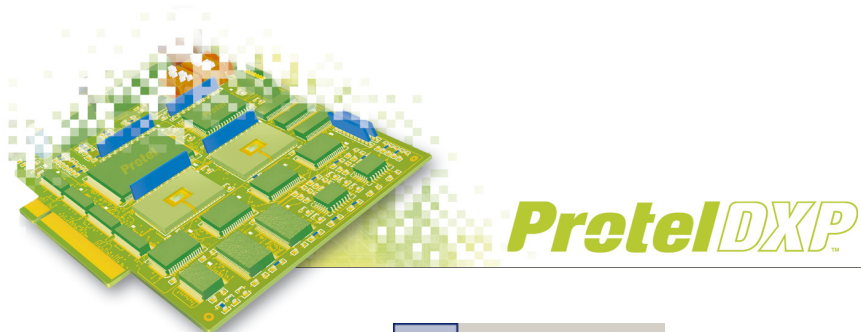
Rearranging the existing menus and toolbars

When the *Customizing* dialog is open, you can click and drag commands around between the active menus and toolbars.

1. Right-click on a menu bar or a toolbar and select **Customize** from the drop-down menu. The relevant *Customizing* dialog displays, e.g. right-clicking on the Schematic Editor menu will display the *Customizing Sch Editor* dialog. All customization is done while this dialog is displayed.



2. Select the command from an existing menu, submenu or toolbar (a black box around the name or icon shows it is selected) and drag it to its new location on either a menu or toolbar. A black bar will indicate where the command will be added.



Adding a command to a toolbar or menu

A command can be linked or duplicated when it is added to a bar. A linked command will be updated if the original process launcher is modified. A duplicated command, however, will remain as a copy of the original process launcher and not be updated. Duplicated commands can be modified to create a new command by changing its process launcher properties. See *Editing Commands* for more details.

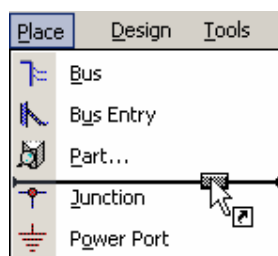
To add a command to a bar:

1. Right-click on a menu bar or a toolbar and select **Customize** from the drop-down menu. The relevant *Customizing* dialog displays.
2. Find the command you wish to add to another bar.

The Categories in the **Commands** tab of the *Customizing* dialog are the menu and submenu headings sorted alphabetically. By default, the built-in bars (the default menus and toolbars) display in the Commands list. These will show you all the commands installed. You can select and drag these commands to add to another toolbar or menu but you will not be able to edit them from this view.

Clicking on a **Category** will display all the commands associated with that menu bar.

3. Select the command you want to add to a toolbar or menu from the Commands section of the *Customizing* dialog.
4. With the dialog still open, go to the menu or toolbar that you want to add the command to and right-click to display the **Customize** drop-down menu.
5. Select **Insert Link** (to link to the original process launcher) or **Insert Duplicate** (to create a copy of the command). A line will appear where the insertion will take place and the cursor will change when you place it over anywhere on the bars that you can add a command, as shown below. The cursor changes for a linked command (arrow) and duplicated command (+ sign).



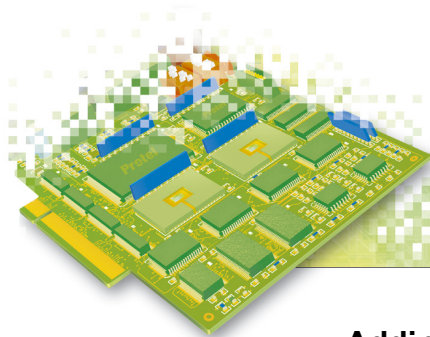
6. Release the mouse button and the command will be added to the menu or toolbar.

Shortcuts to adding commands to existing bars

With the *Customizing* dialog open, select the command in a menu or toolbar you want to duplicate or link.

Ctrl, click and drag to the new location to **Insert Duplicate**.

Shift+Ctrl, click and drag to the new location to **Insert Link**.



Adding a Group separator to a drop-down menu

You can add a line separator above the item in a menu or before an icon in a toolbar. With the Customizing dialog open, right-click on a menu or toolbar item and select **Begin Group**.

Deleting commands

You can delete one instance or all instances of a custom Command from menus or toolbars. Note that the default Commands cannot be deleted.

Delete a custom command

Deleting a customized command stored in the Custom category will delete all instances of the custom command from all resources.

1. Right-click on the main menu bar or a toolbar and select **Customize** from the drop-down menu. The *Customizing* dialog displays.
2. Click on the **Custom** category and select the command you want to delete.
3. Click on the **Delete** button and click **OK** to confirm the permanent deletion of the command. All instances of the command will be removed from the bars.

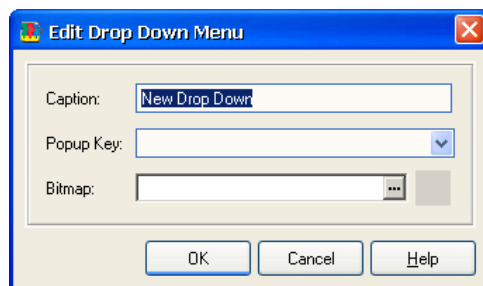
Delete a command from one resource

If you want to delete just one instance of a command without affecting other instances:

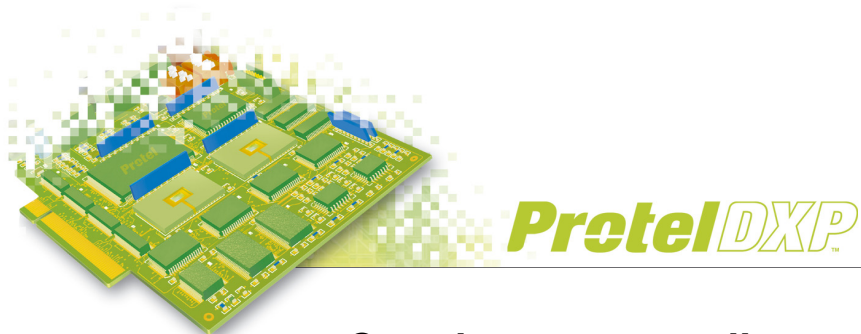
1. Right-click on the menu bar or a toolbar and select **Customize** from the drop-down menu. The *Customizing* dialog displays.
2. With the dialog still open, select the command that you want to delete from the actual menu or toolbar. A black box around the item indicates it is selected.
3. Right-click and select **Delete**. Alternatively, simply click and hold on the menu item or toolbar icon and drag it off its bar. The cursor will change to indicate removal will take place when you release the mouse button.

Creating a new drop-down menu

1. With the *Customizing* dialog open, place the cursor where you want to add the new menu to appear. It could be added to the main menu or by clicking on an existing command in a menu can be used to create a sub-menu.
2. Right-click and select **Insert Drop Down** to add a new drop-down menu. The *Edit Drop Down Menu* dialog displays.



3. Add a new caption (the menu name), a popup key (to quickly access the menu) and a bitmap for an icon (if required) and click OK. The new menu name (caption) displays in the menus.
4. Now, add the commands to your new menu. See *Adding a command* for details.

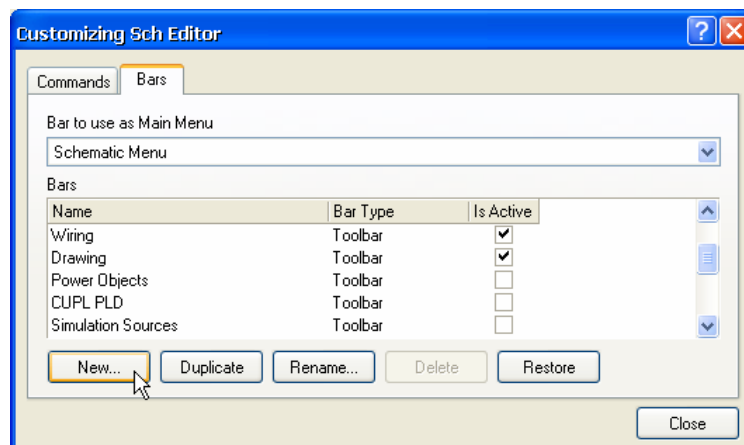


Creating a new toolbar

From the **Bars** tab of the *Customizing Sch Editor* dialog, you can select which main menu and toolbars to display, create a new or duplicate toolbar as well as rename, delete or restore toolbars.

To create a new blank toolbar:

1. Right-click on a menu or toolbar and select **Customize**. When the *Customizing* dialog displays, click on the **Bars** tab.



2. Click on the **New** button to create a new bar. A 'New Toolbar' appears in the Bars section.
3. Click on **Rename** to rename the toolbar.
4. Activate the toolbar by clicking on its selection box. A blank toolbar will appear floating on the screen.
5. Add commands to your new toolbar. See *Adding a command* for details.

Duplicating bars

If you want to create a new bar based on an existing toolbar, it is easier to duplicate the original toolbar and edit the commands.

1. Click on the **Duplicate** button to create a new instance of the selected toolbar.
2. A 'Copy of xxx' appears in the Bars section. Click on **Rename** to change its title.
3. Add your commands. See *Adding a command* for details.

Activating toolbars

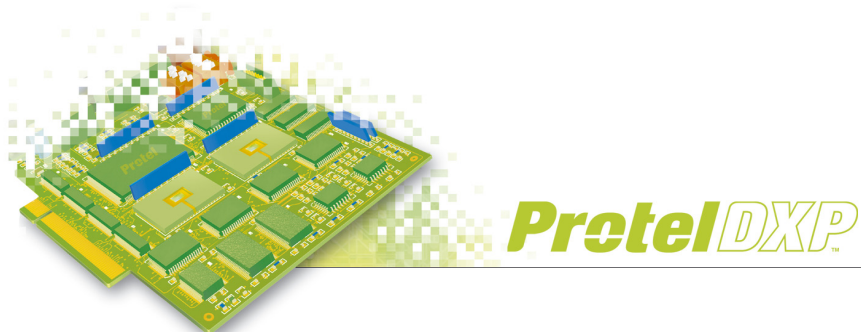
Toolbars will only appear on the screen if they are active.

1. Select which toolbars will be active (display) by clicking on the **Bars** tab in the *Customizing* dialog.
2. Click on the selection box next to the required toolbars until they become checked.

Alternatively, position the cursor over a toolbar or menu, right-click and select the required toolbar from the drop-down list.

Setting the main menu

Nominate which main menu bar will be active (display) by selecting a menu from the **Bar to Use as Main Menu** drop-down list in the **Bars** tab in the *Customizing* dialog.



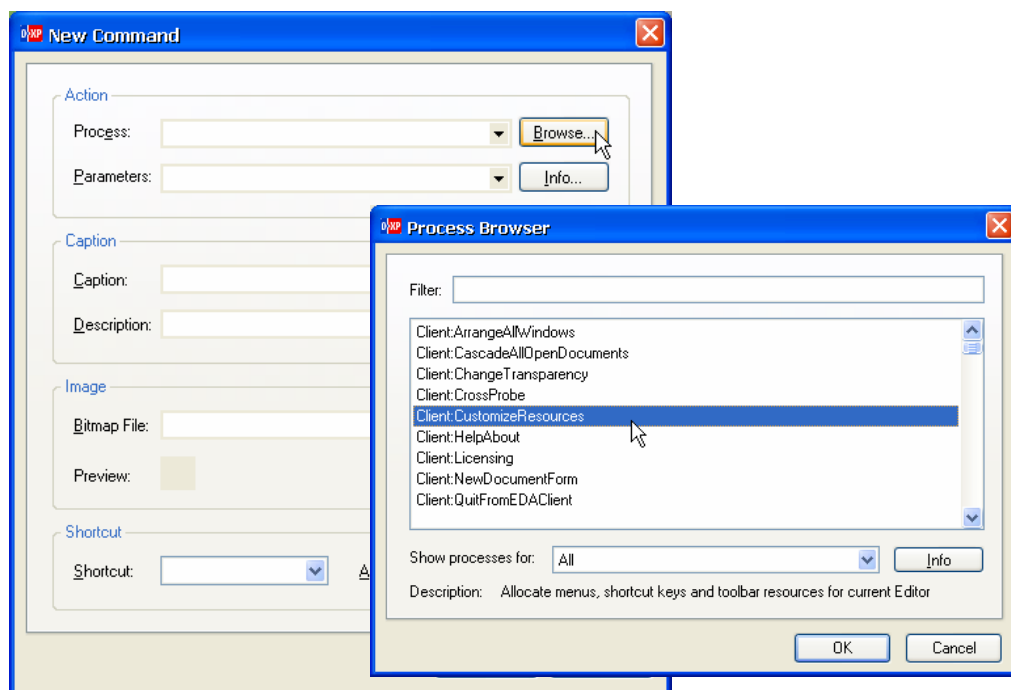
Floating main menus and toolbars

Main menus and toolbars can be set to always float around the screen rather than be docked. With the *Customizing* dialog open, click on the main menu bar or toolbar you want to float at all times, right-click and select **Always Floating**. This command is a toggle, so use it to stop always floating as well.

Creating a new command

New commands that are created using the **New** or **Duplicate** buttons in the *Customizing* dialog and are listed in the **Custom** category of the **Commands** tab when created.

1. Right-click on a menu or toolbar and select **Customize**.
2. Click on the **New** button in the *Customizing* dialog to create a new command. The *New Command* dialog displays.

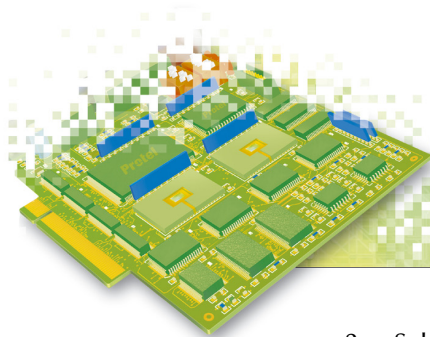


3. Enter the required properties. Click on **Browse** to find the process required.
4. The Caption will become the name of the command as seen when added to a menu, so make it easily recognisable as a new command.
5. If you require an image to be associated with the new process launcher, click on the ... button to find a bitmap file. This image (or icon) will display when the new command is added to toolbars, e.g. the Zoom In command uses the Zoomin.bmp bitmap found in the DXP\System\Buttons folder.
6. Add a shortcut key and alternative from the drop-down lists if required and click **OK**.
7. Add the new command to the relevant bar(s). See *Adding a command* for details.

Duplicating commands

It is often easier to create a new command by duplicating an existing command that is similar and modifying its parameters. To duplicate a Command:

1. Right-click on the main menu bar or a toolbar and select **Customize**. The *Customizing* dialog displays.



2. Select the command you wish to duplicate and click on **Duplicate** to create a new copy of the selected command.
3. Click in the **Custom** category to see the new command in the Command list.
4. Modify its properties, e.g. add a new parameter and a new caption, and click **OK**. See *Editing commands* for more details.
5. Drag the new command onto a toolbar or menu. See *Adding a command* for details.
6. Click on **OK** and all resources that use that command will be updated.

Working with shortcut key tables

A shortcut key table lists all the shortcuts currently available in an editor. Only one shortcut key table can be active per editor, e.g. Schematic Shortcuts is the name of the default shortcut key table for the Schematic Editor. If a shortcut key is changed in a Command, it is updated in the active table automatically.

Shortcut key tables can be added, created, deleted or modified in the same way as menus and toolbars.

Restoring menu and toolbar defaults

To reinstall the original default menus and toolbars and delete customizations:

1. Click on the **Bars** tab in the *Customizing Sch Editor* dialog.
2. Select on the bar you wish to restore and click on the **Restore** button.
3. Click **OK** to confirm the removal of all customizations from the selected bar.