

Digital Systems Community of Practice

Committed to collaborating as members of the IEC Virtual Department

One of the central themes of the Inclusive Engineering Consortium is the concept of the “virtual department”. Many of our departments are of modest size and that does not allow us to achieve critical mass in our research or academic concentration areas. By working together, the faculty of the IEC can collaborate to accomplish things that are challenging as a single department. The Digital Systems Community of Practice is a group of scholars whose academic responsibilities include leadership of their department’s digital systems curriculum. Other similar communities are planned and will begin meeting soon. If you are interested in helping to develop a community for your area, we welcome your engagement. The Digital Systems Community of Practice has started and represents a promising structure for the future of IEC. The Digital Systems Community of Practice welcomes additional participants. If you are interested in participating, information about the next meeting is included below.

The goals of the Digital Systems Community of Practice are listed below:

Build Community	<i>Learn what each other is doing, develop relationships</i>
Develop Tools	<i>Create new solutions that meet the needs of our departments</i>
Learn	<i>Discover or modify existing tools, techniques</i>
Share	<i>Publish the results of our work to benefit the community</i>

The Digital Systems Community of Practice has met three times and began by discussing our introductory course, digital logic and its laboratory. We were specifically interested in lost-cost digital logic laboratory solutions. To that end, participants registered on Intel’s education resources web site and requested hardware. In the future, we will hold workshops that explore the exercises we include in our laboratories, the implementation of robust upper-level digital systems courses, and course-level assessment.

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