Circuit Design Suite – Multisim & Ultiboard
Installation Guide

This guide provides detailed instructions to download, install and activate Multisim. The same instructions apply if you are activating Ultiboard. Together, these two packages form the Circuit Design Suite. There is a troubleshooting section towards the end of this guide to provide initial guidance on how to resolve the most common installation problems.

This guide is made for version **11.0.2**.

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Before you start

There are two items you must have ready before installing the software:

- ❑ **License file(s) provided by PLTW**
  These are "`.lc`" files specific to the software and version you are installing (e.g. `Multisim_Edu_PKG_110002.lc` for Multisim 11.0.2), if you are going to activate Ultiboard you will need an additional license file for it. These license files either came with your PLTW package or were sent by email from PLTW. If you don't have one, you must contact PLTW directly to get one (*see Contacts*).

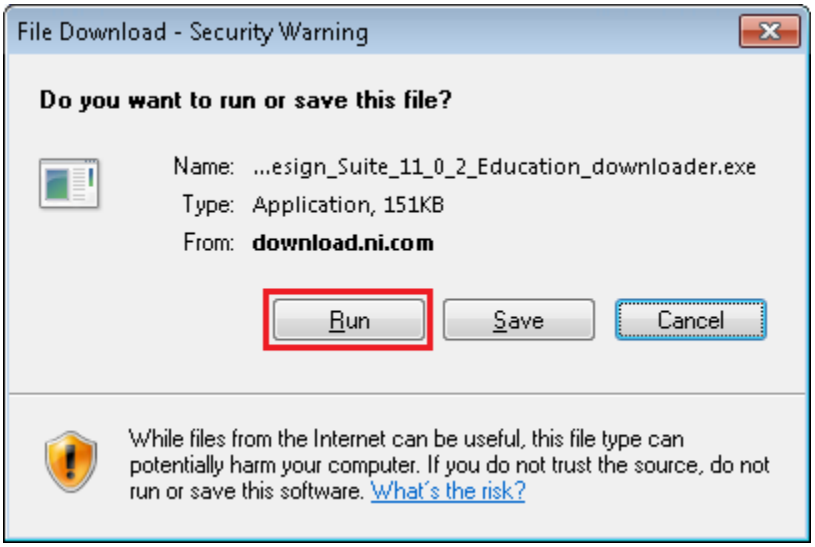
- ❑ **Serial number(s) provided by PLTW**
  Serial numbers to use in National Instruments products follow the format of `A##A#####` where `A` refers to an alphabetic character, and `#` refers to a numeric digit. Multisim and Ultiboard use different serial numbers.

Getting the software

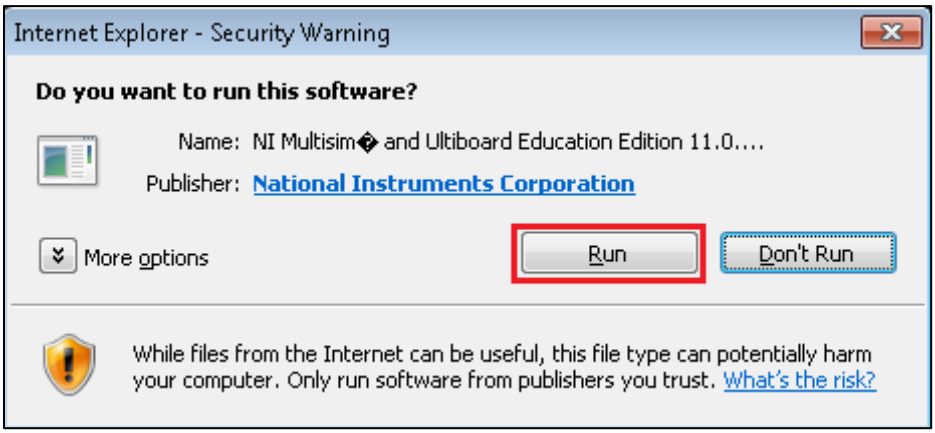
The Circuit Design Suite installer includes both Multisim and Ultiboard software packages. It is readily available in the National Instruments evaluation website.
Its size is large for a typical web download (~550 MB) so in order to download the installer you first get a "downloader" application. This downloader will manage the file download of the full installer, it can effectively manage slowdowns in the internet connection as well as timeouts or other problems. If a download stopped, it will resume where it left when the download connection is available again.

- ❑ Get the downloader from the following URL: http://ftp.ni.com/evaluation/labview/ekit/other/downloader/NI_Circuit_Design_Suite_11_0_2_Education_downloader.exe

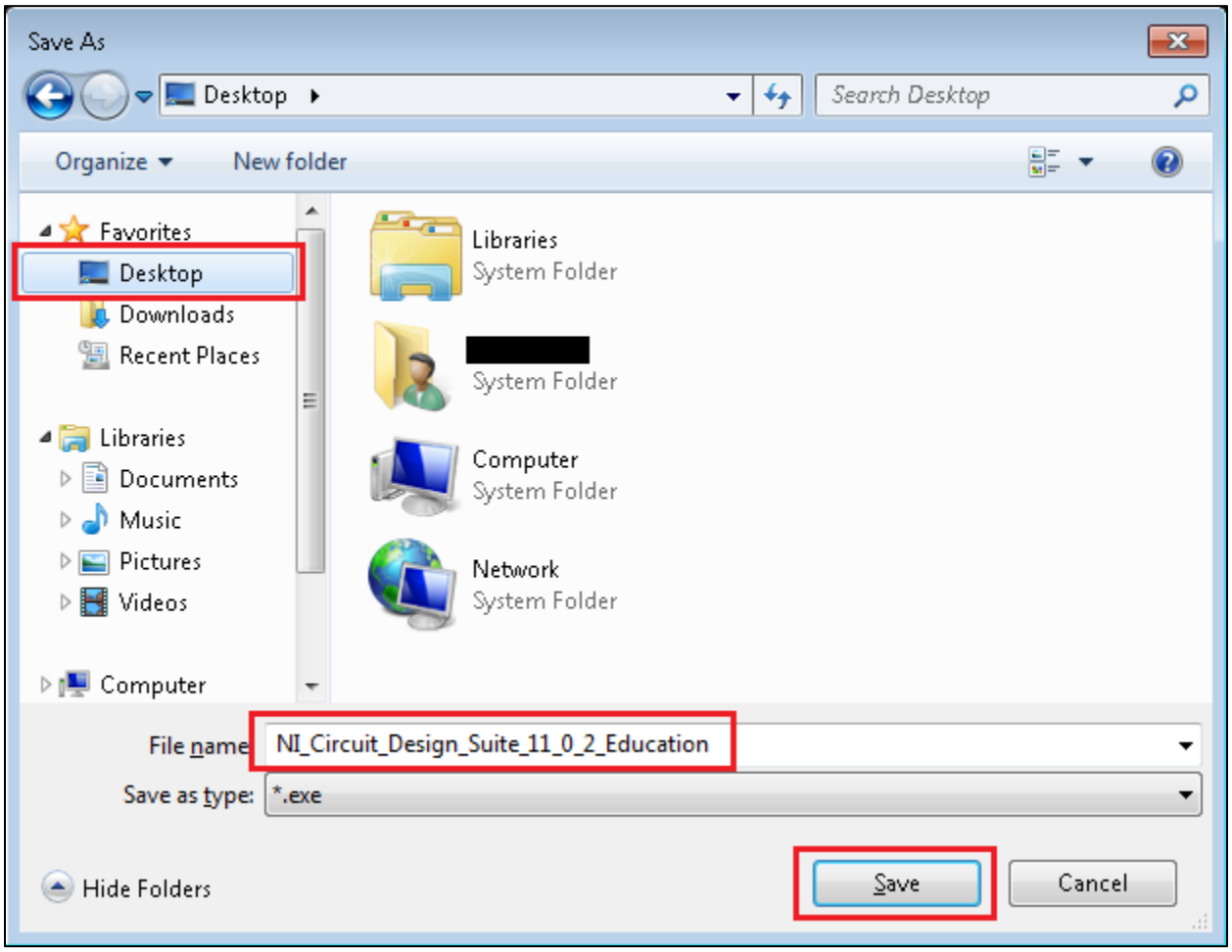
- ❑ You may click **Run** so that it runs as soon as it finishes downloading.



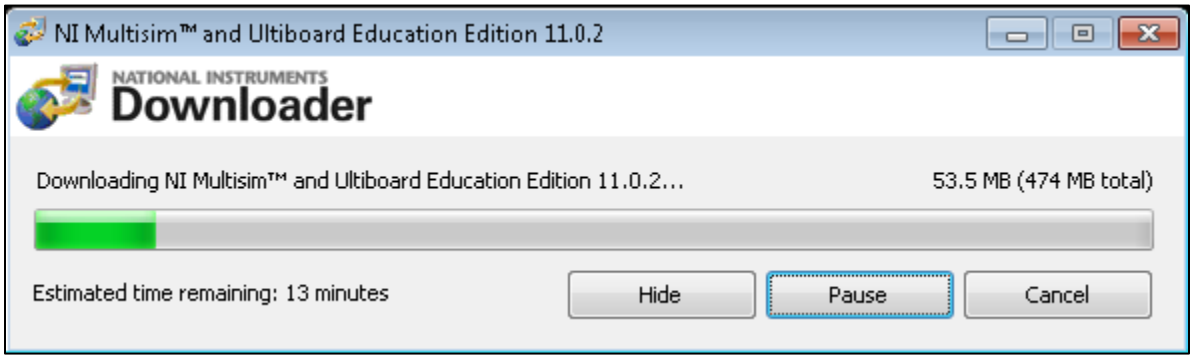
- ❑ When the download has completed, it will launch and Windows may give you a warning, click **Run** if that's the case.



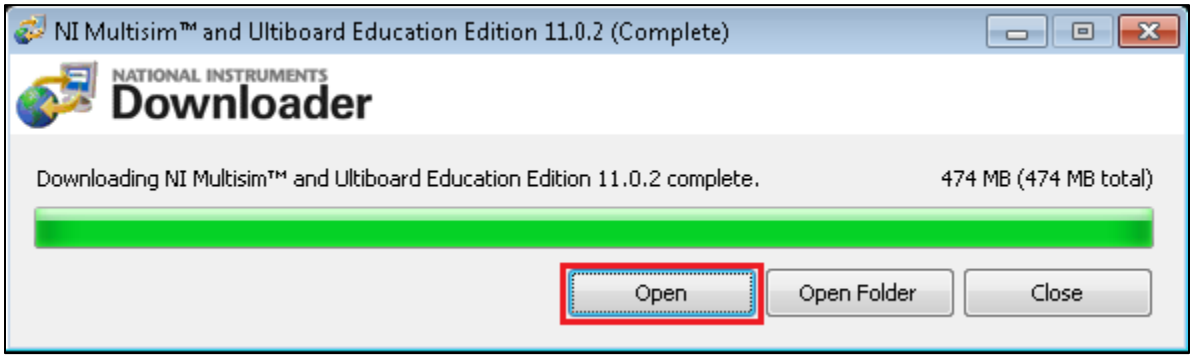
- ❑ The downloader application will ask you for the location to save the full installer of the Circuit Design Suite, pick a location and click **Save**.



- ❑ The downloader will now initiate the download and provide you with a progress bar, estimated time and the ability to hide, pause or cancel the download. Just let it work, in a fast-speed connection it takes about 15 minutes to complete.



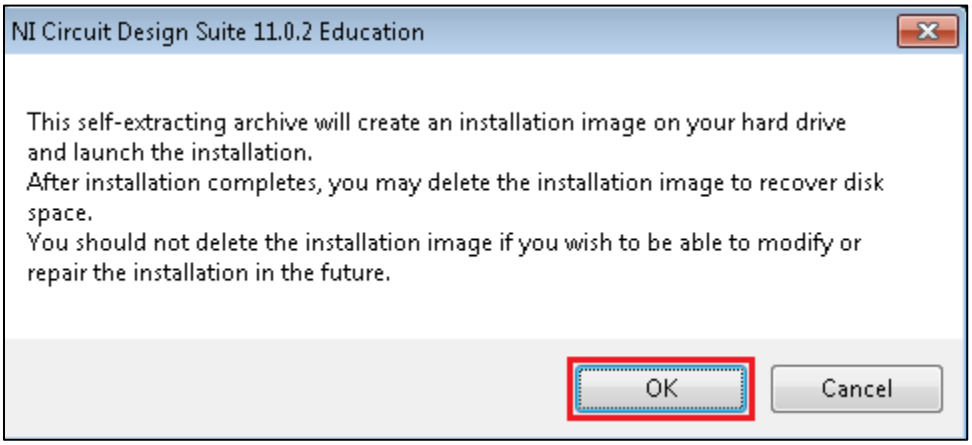
- ❑ When it completes the download, you may click **Open** to start the installation process.



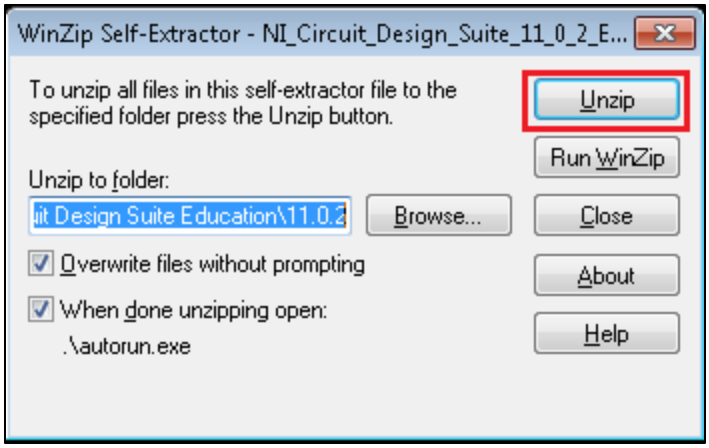
Installing the software

The full installer you just downloaded is a self-extract executable; it will first unzip the compressed files and then launch the setup process.

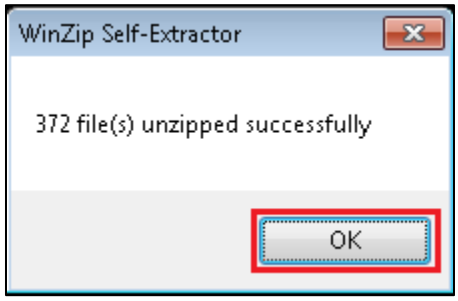
- ❑ When the installer has launched, the first dialog explains the process. Click **OK** when you have read the message.



- ❑ The WinZip Self-Extractor utility starts, we recommend you leave all the defaults and click **Unzip**. The installers will run setup.exe when finished decompressing the files.



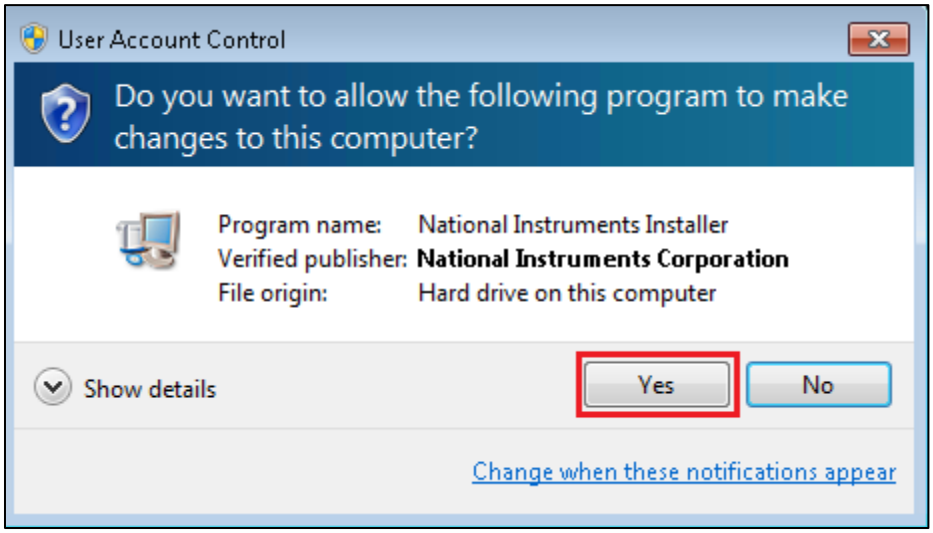
- ❑ It takes just about a minute to decompress all files. Click **OK** to continue.



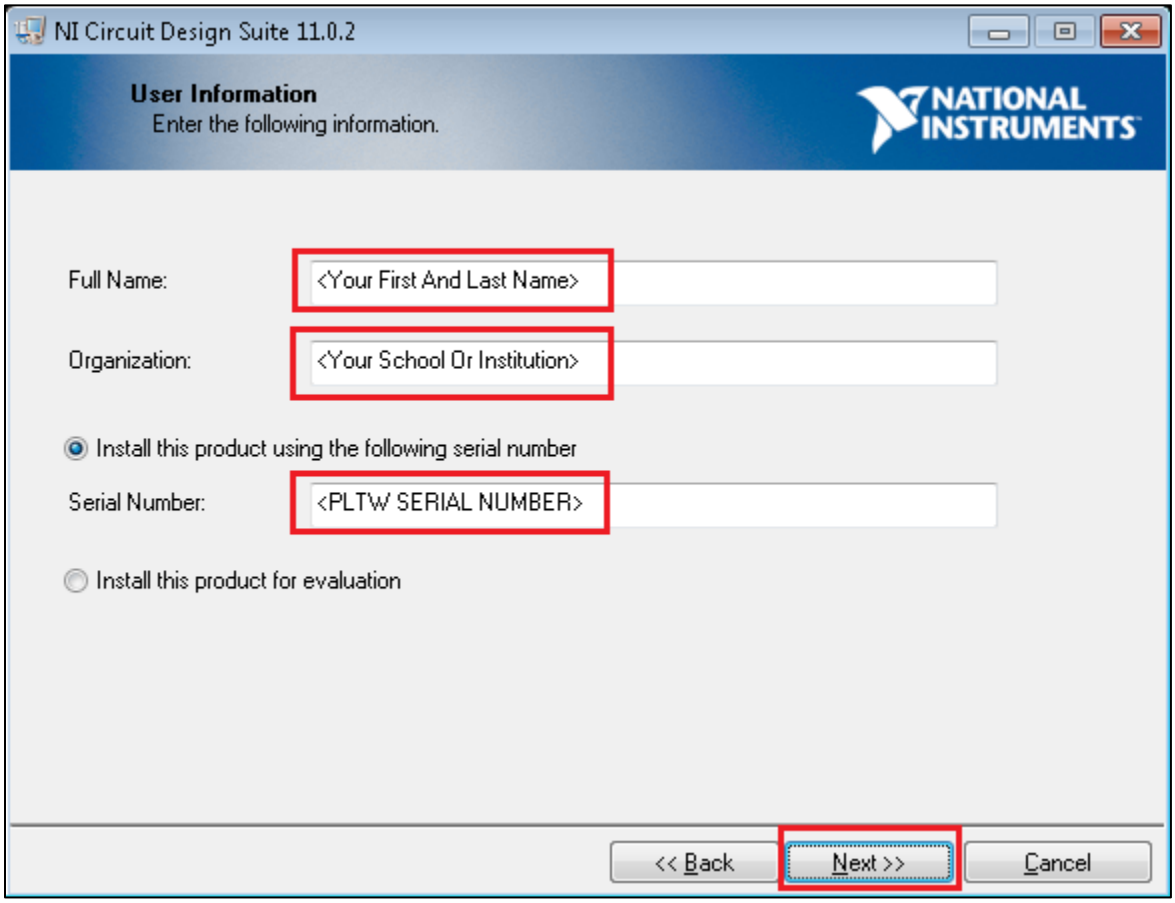
- ❑ The setup program starts and you see the welcome screen for the installer. Click **Install NI Circuit Design Suite 11.0.2** to begin.



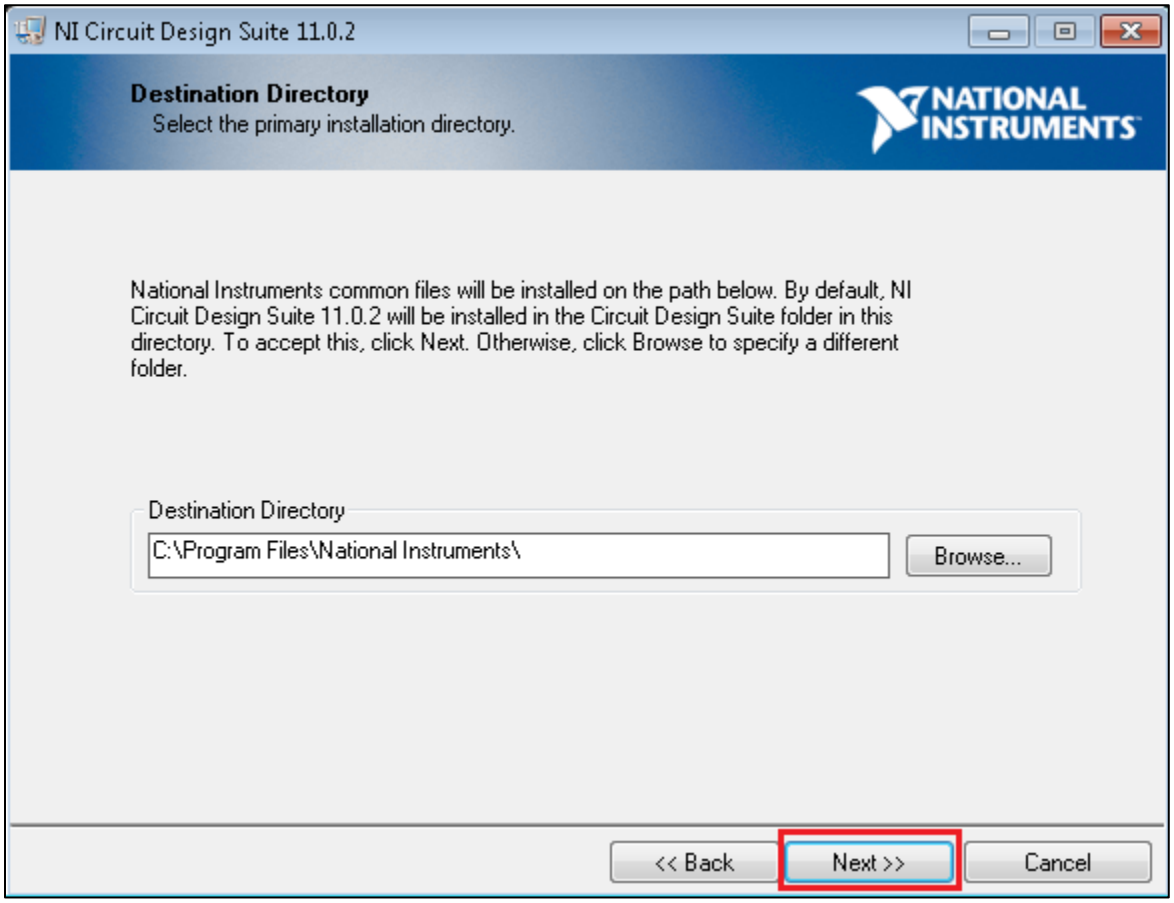
- ❑ If User Account Control (UAC) is enabled in Windows you may click **Yes** to proceed.



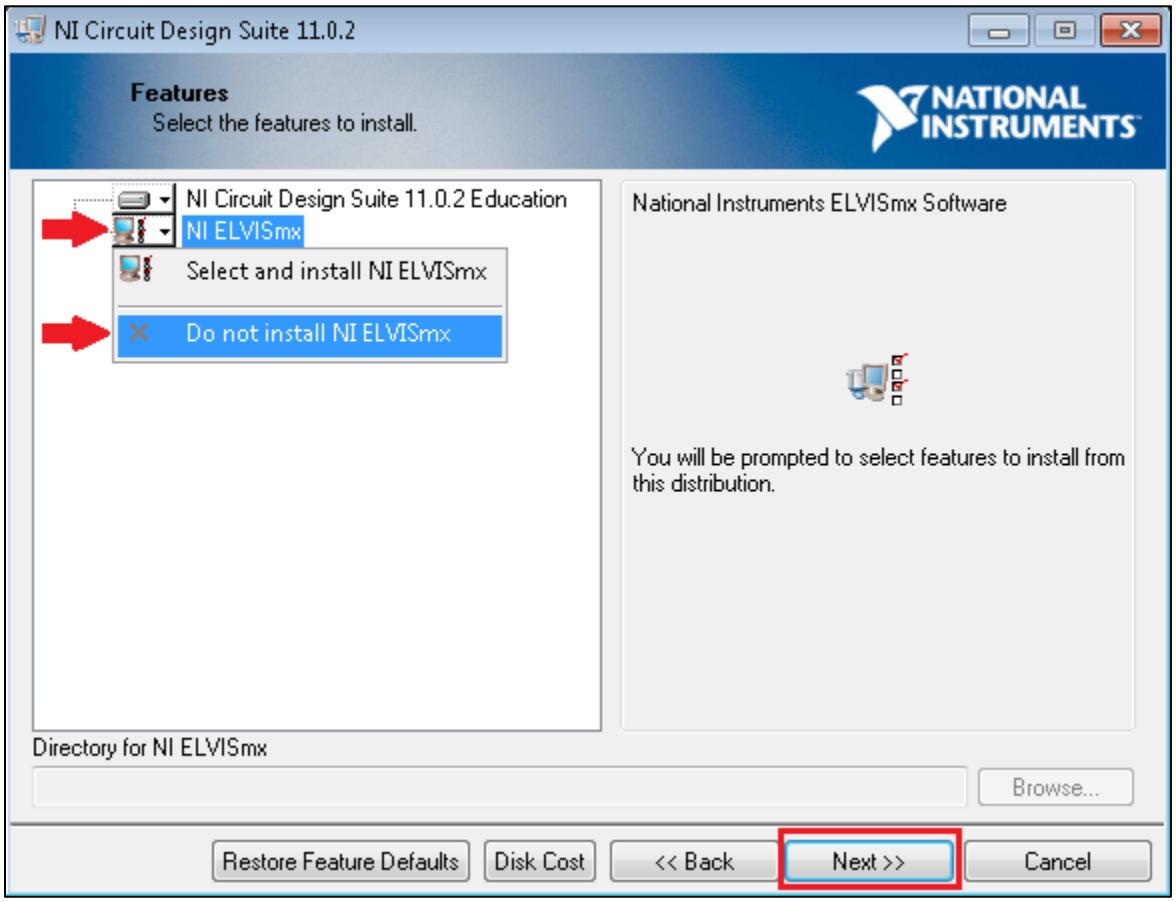
- ❑ Start by completing the User Information, you need your **Full Name**, your **School or Institution**, and the **Serial Number** provided by PLTW. Click **Next** to continue.



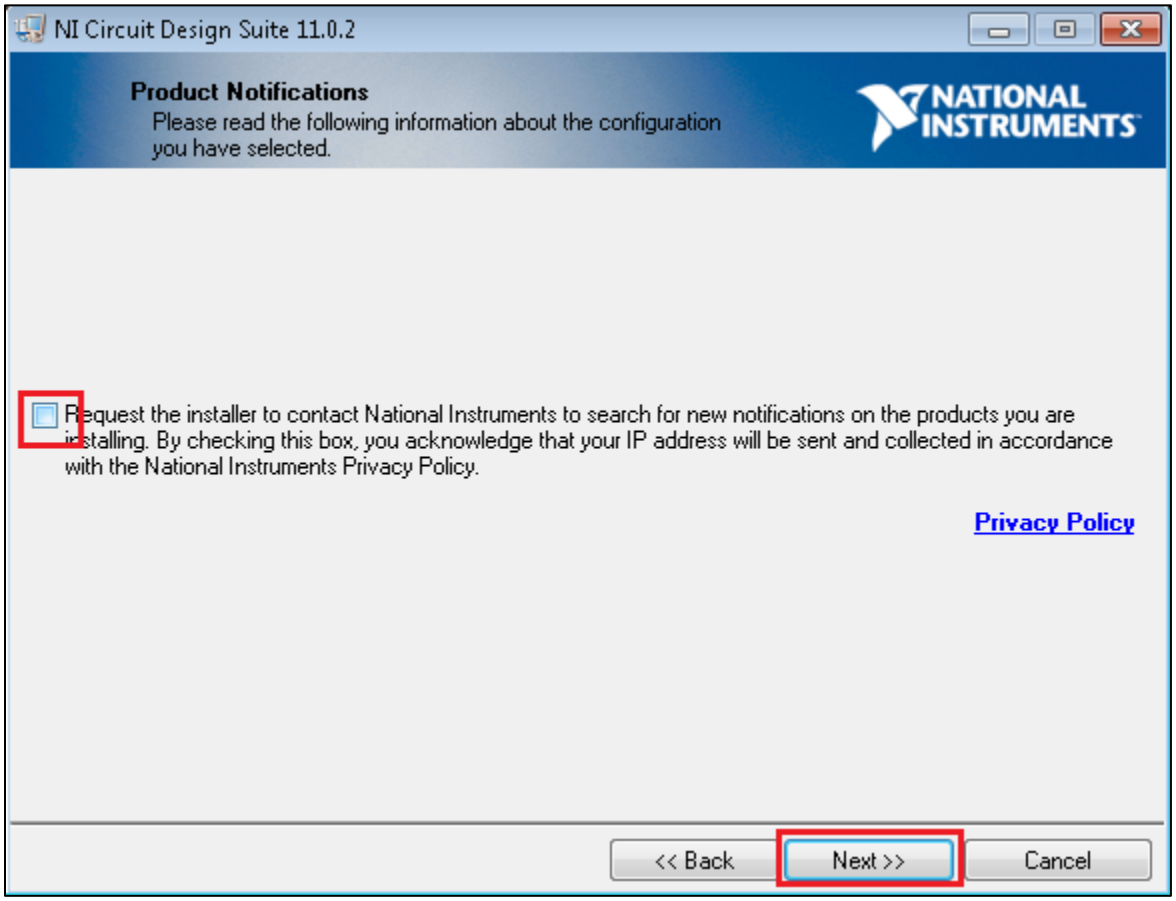
- ❑ Review the destination directory; we suggest you accept the default location. Click **Next** to continue.



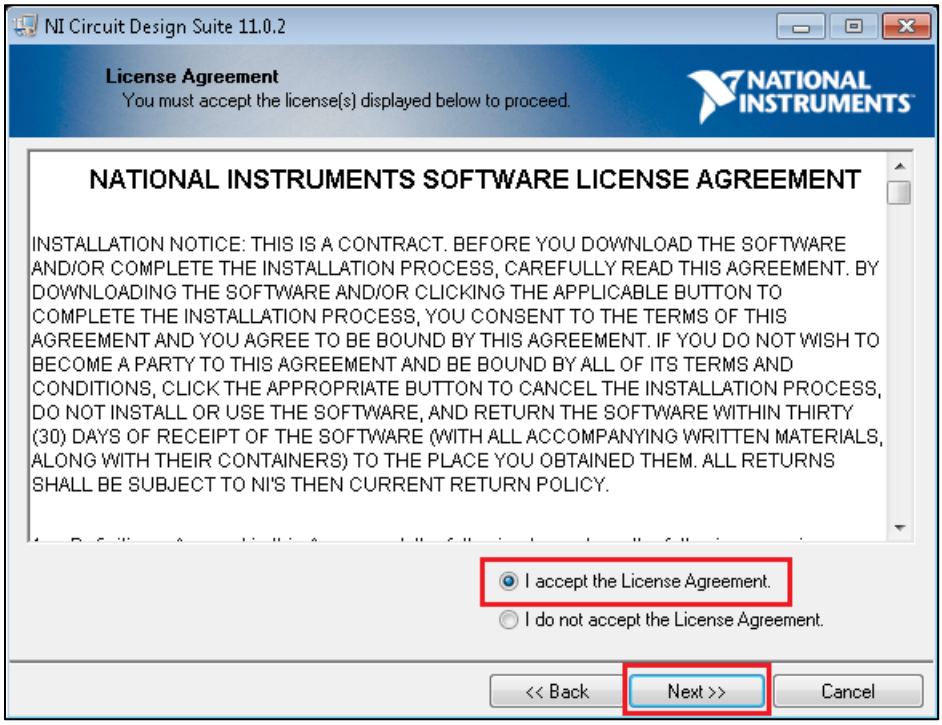
- ❑ If you are using the NI ELVIS or NI myDAQ platforms, you may leave the defaults in the Features window; however, if you will NOT be using these hardware platforms, select **Do not install NI ELVISmx** from the features list. Click **Next** to continue.

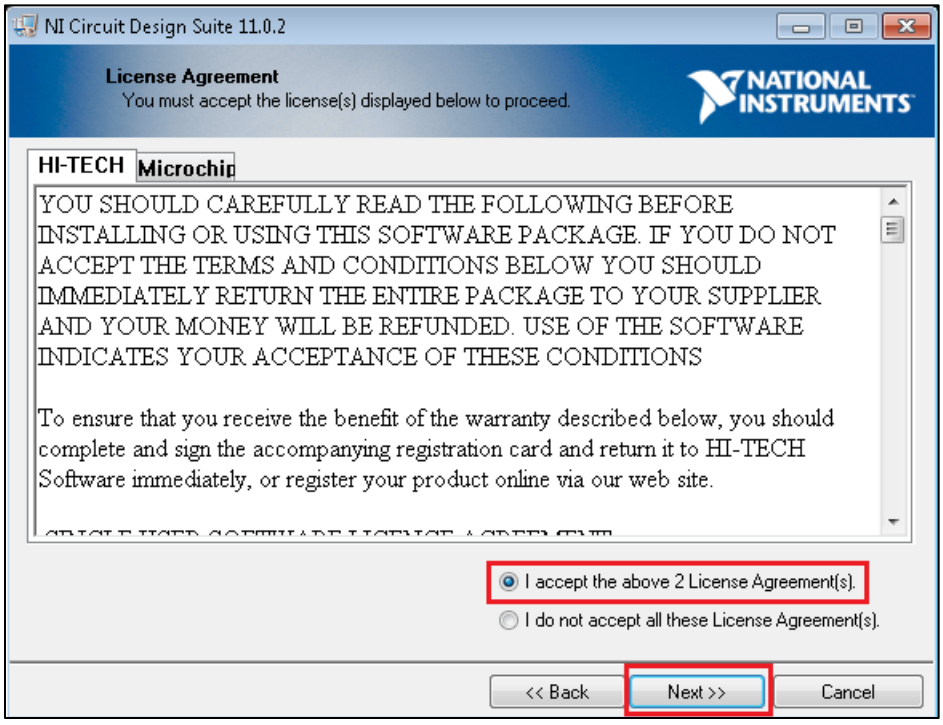


- The 11.0.2 release is the last update for the 11.0.x version series. In the Product Notifications window you may **un-check** the box so that the installer does not contacts NI for updates. Click **Next** to continue.

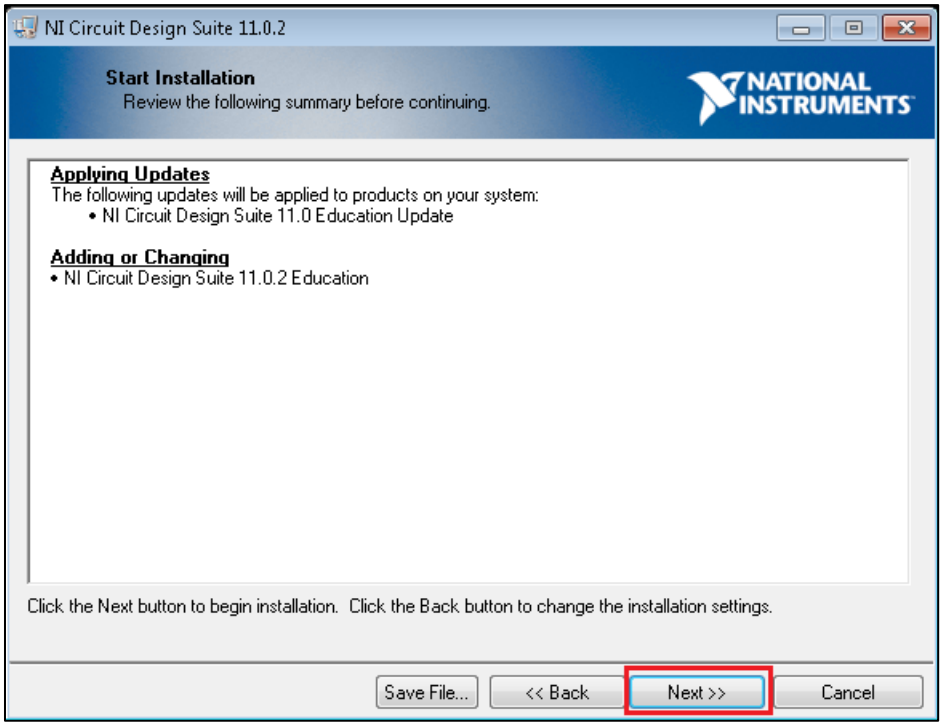


- You must now accept several license agreements (EULA) included in Circuit Design Suite. Select **I accept the License Agreement** and click **Next**, repeat in the following window as well.

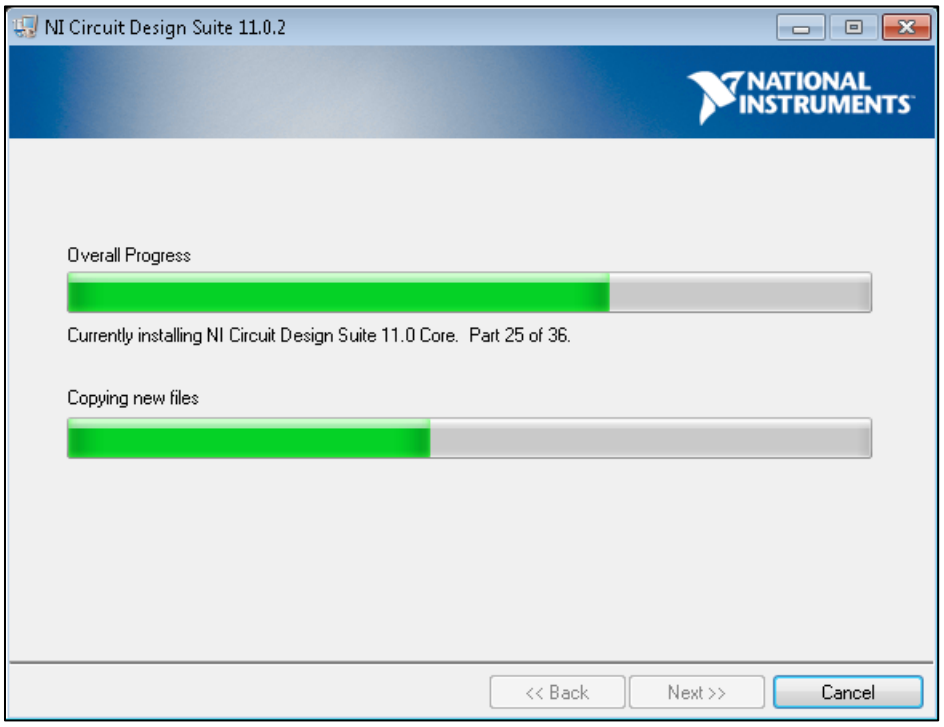




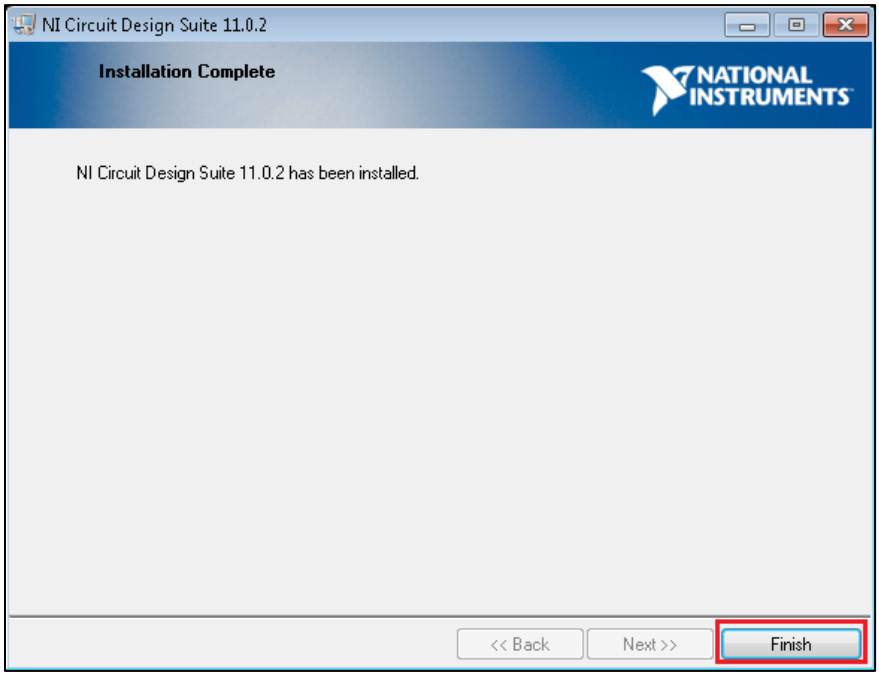
❑ Review the installation configuration and click **Next** to start.



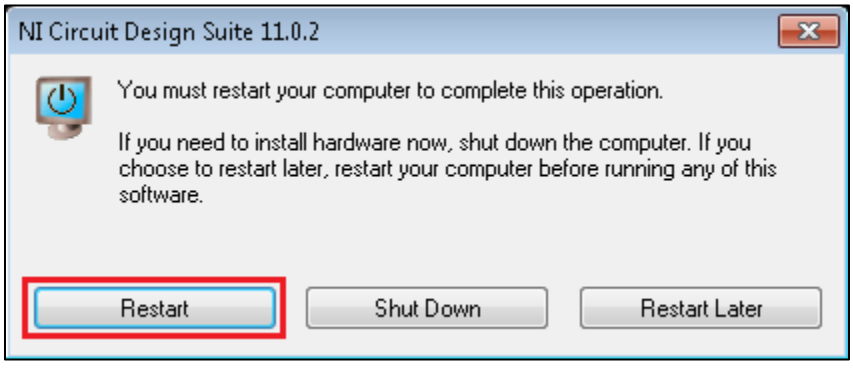
❑ The installer may take between 5 and 10 minutes to complete. Progress information is displayed for the user.



- ❑ When the installer completes, click **Finish**.



- ❑ You are now prompted to restart the computer. Click **Restart**. After a restart is completed you will be able to activate the software.



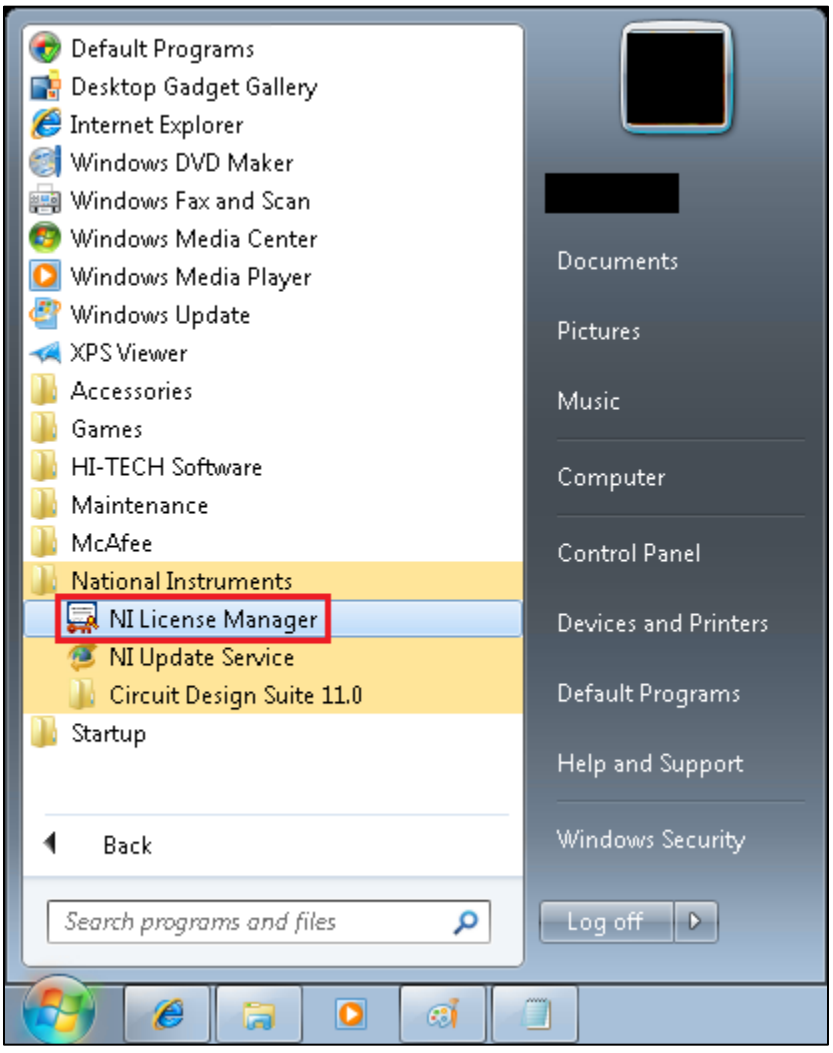
You no longer need the Downloader application, you may delete if you saved it in a particular directory. The full installer is located by default in `C:\National Instruments Downloads` you may also delete it, although we strongly suggest you back-up this installer for future changes.

Activating the software

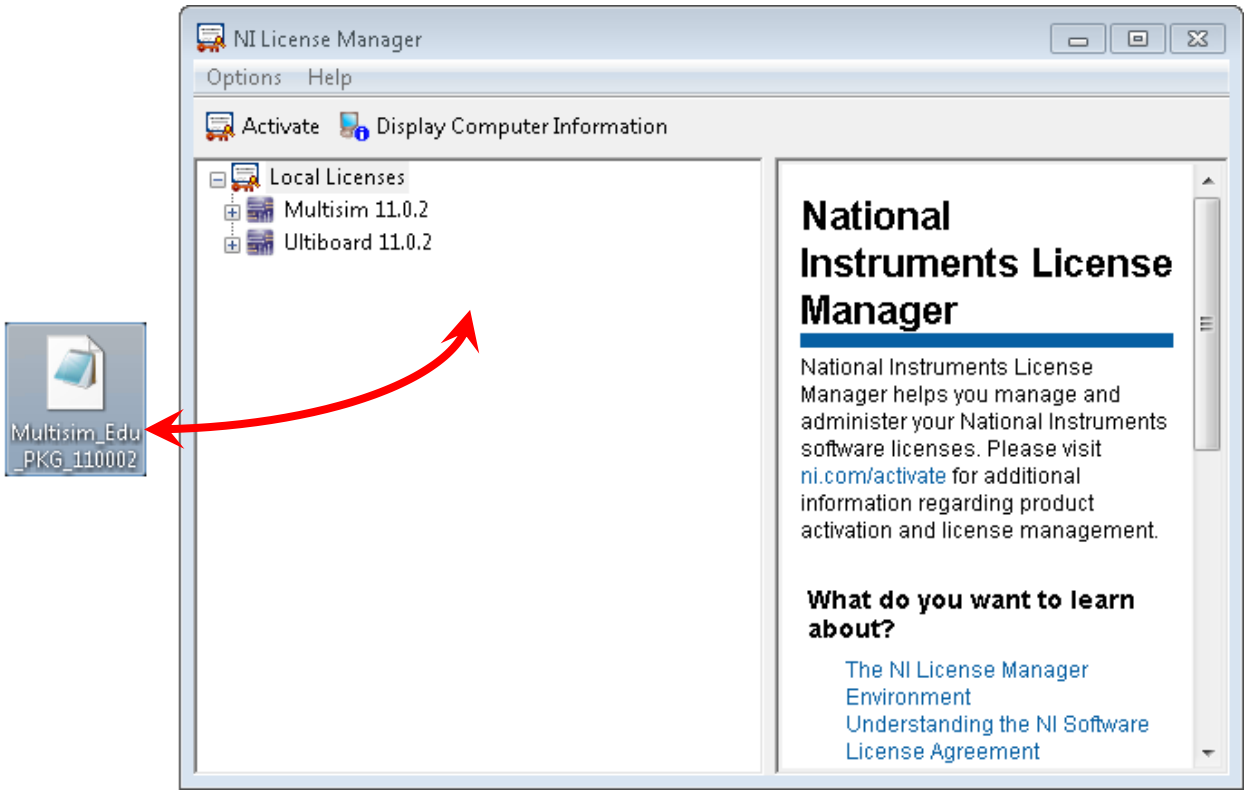
For PLTW software, there are two items needed to activate the software, the serial number and the license file. You will use both in this section.

Once Windows has restarted you can now activate the software.

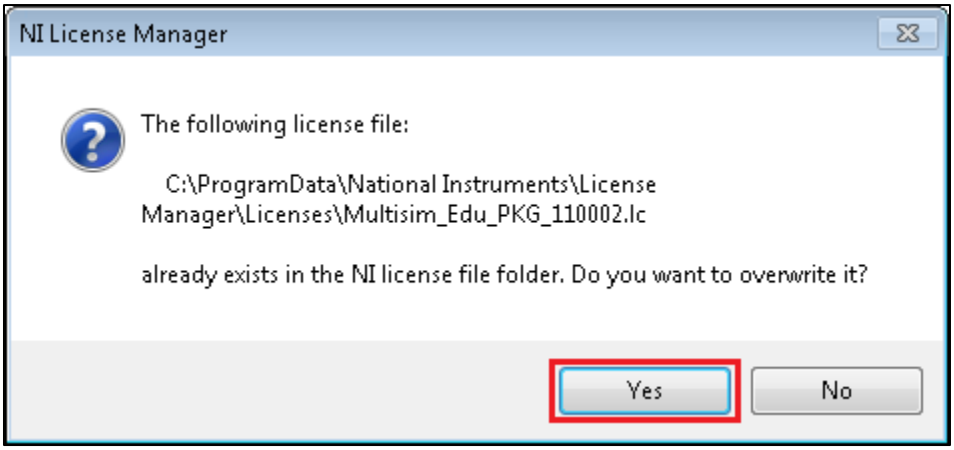
- ❑ Launch **NI License Manager**, is located in **Start » Programs » National Instruments » NI License Manager**.



- ❑ The `.lc` file you received from PLTW must be drag-and-dropped over the License Manager left-side panel, where you see Multisim and Ultiboard listed. Or you can go to **Options » Install License File** and select the license file for the product you wish to activate.

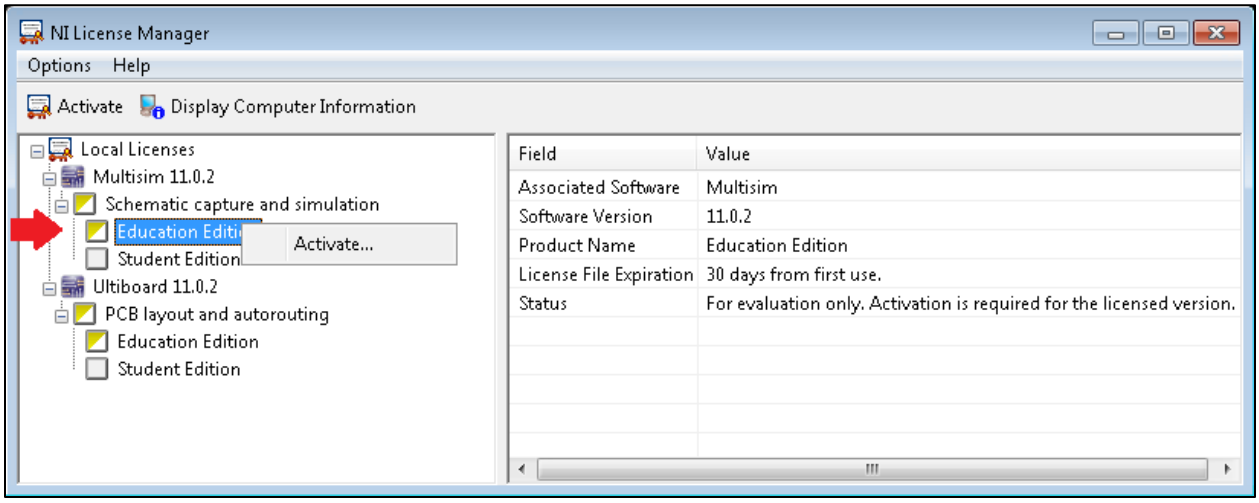


- ❑ You will receive a warning about an existing license file, you want to overwrite it. Click **Yes** to do so.

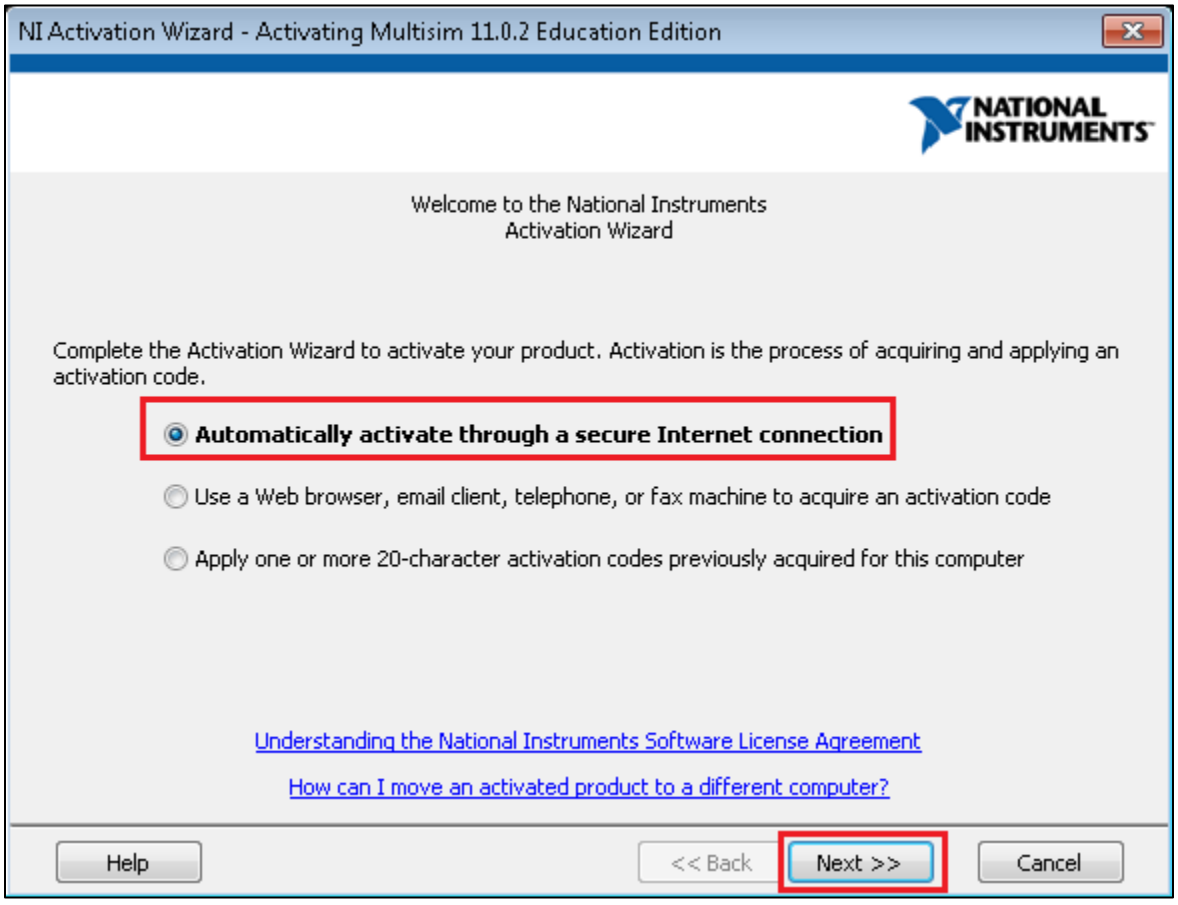


If you are planning to replicate an image of a master computer in a lab setting you may skip now to section *Creating a ghost image to replicate a lab*.

- In the License Manager window you can now select the software to activate. Expand the hierarchy tree for the local licenses until you see the **Education Edition**. Then right-click that label and select **Activate**.

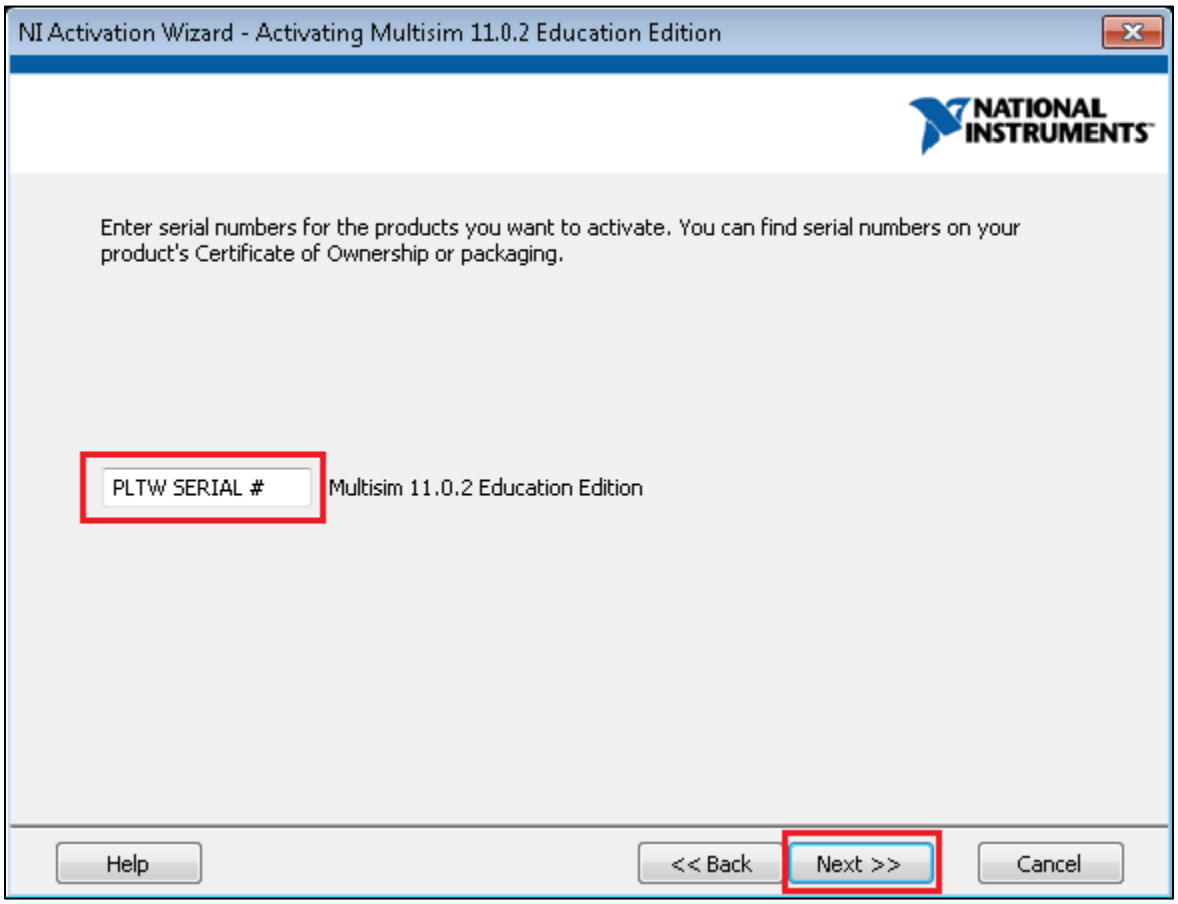


- In the Activation Wizard, select the first option **Automatically activate through a secure Internet connection** and click **Next**.

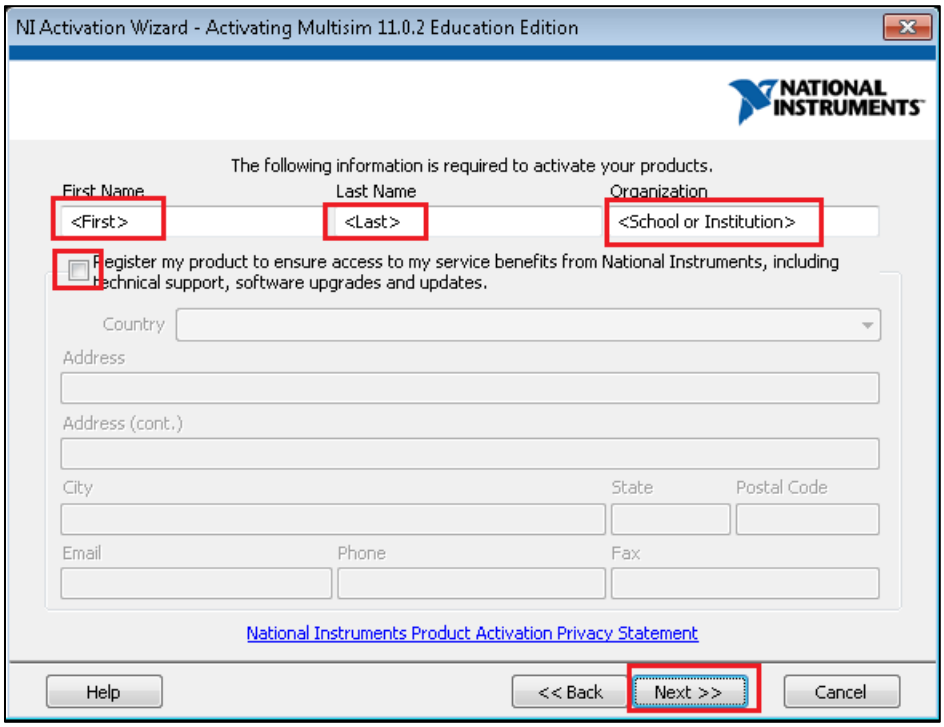


NOTE: *If you do not have an internet connection, or if you have a network firewall that prevents you from accessing the internet please consult the* Troubleshooting *section for more information.*

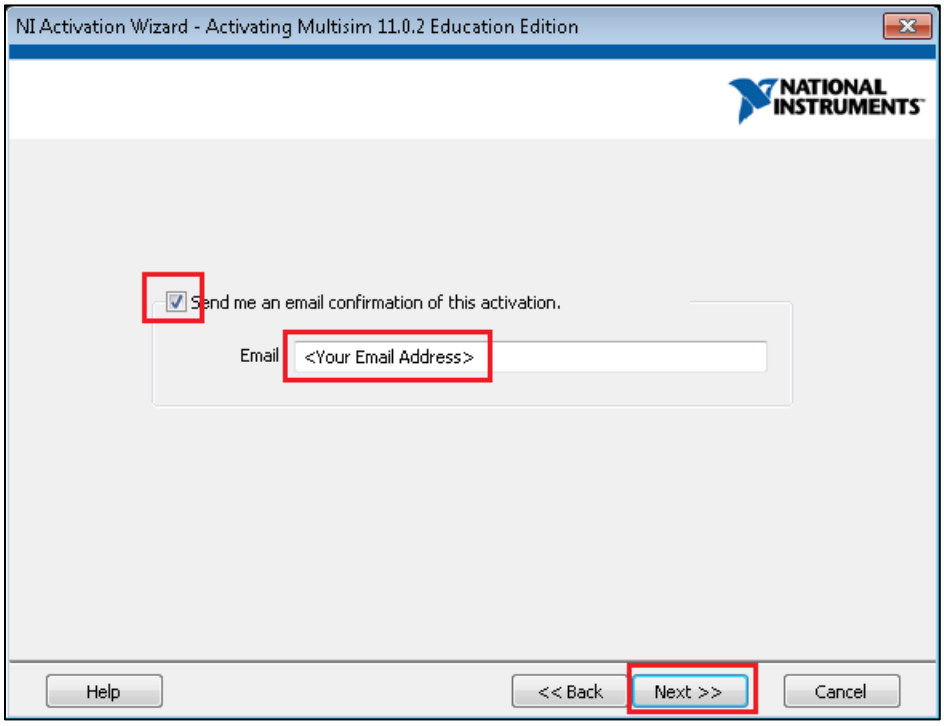
- ❑ Verify the serial number to activate, it must match the serial number provided by PLTW. Please beware of alphabet character O versus numeric digit 0. Click **Next** to continue.



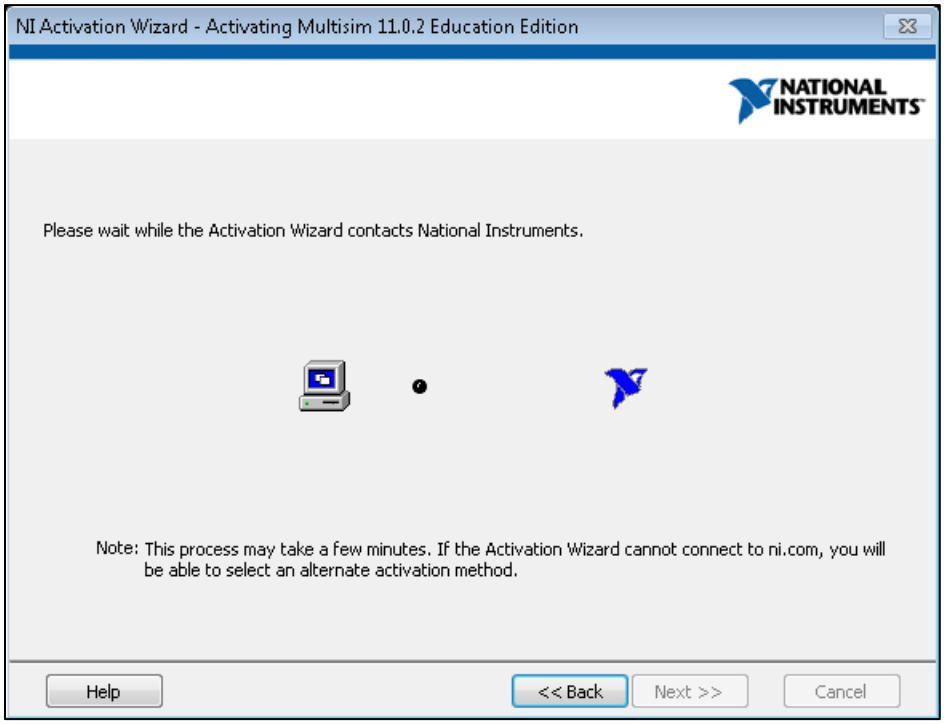
- Fill in your **first name**, **last name** and **school or institution**. You may uncheck the register box if you do not wish to provide all the details. Click **Next** to continue.



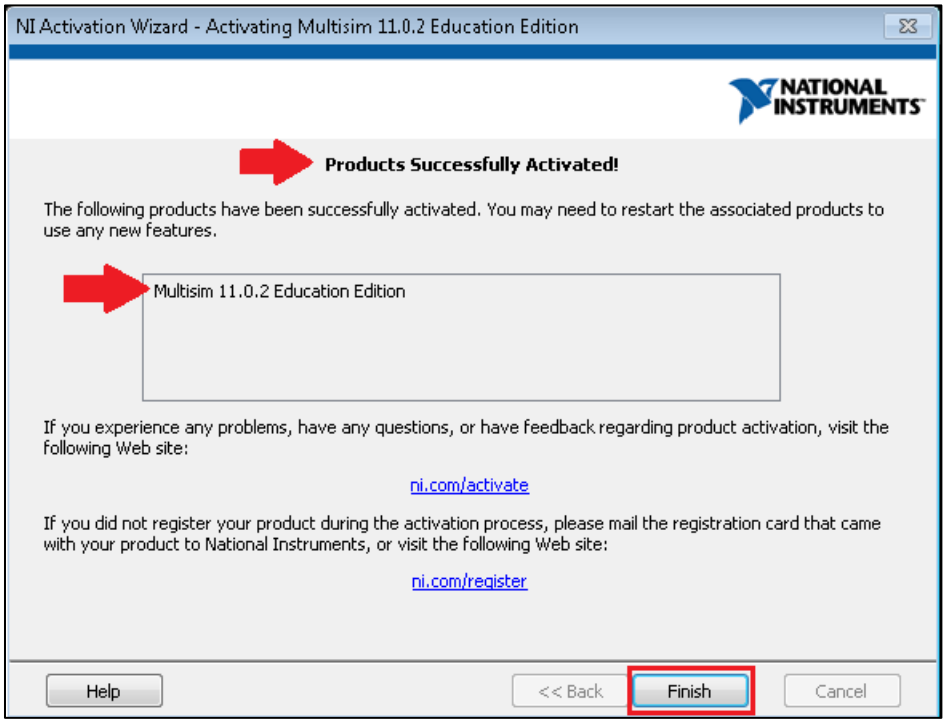
- Please fill in your **email** address and **check** the box. NI will send you an email with the activation information. Click **Next** to continue.



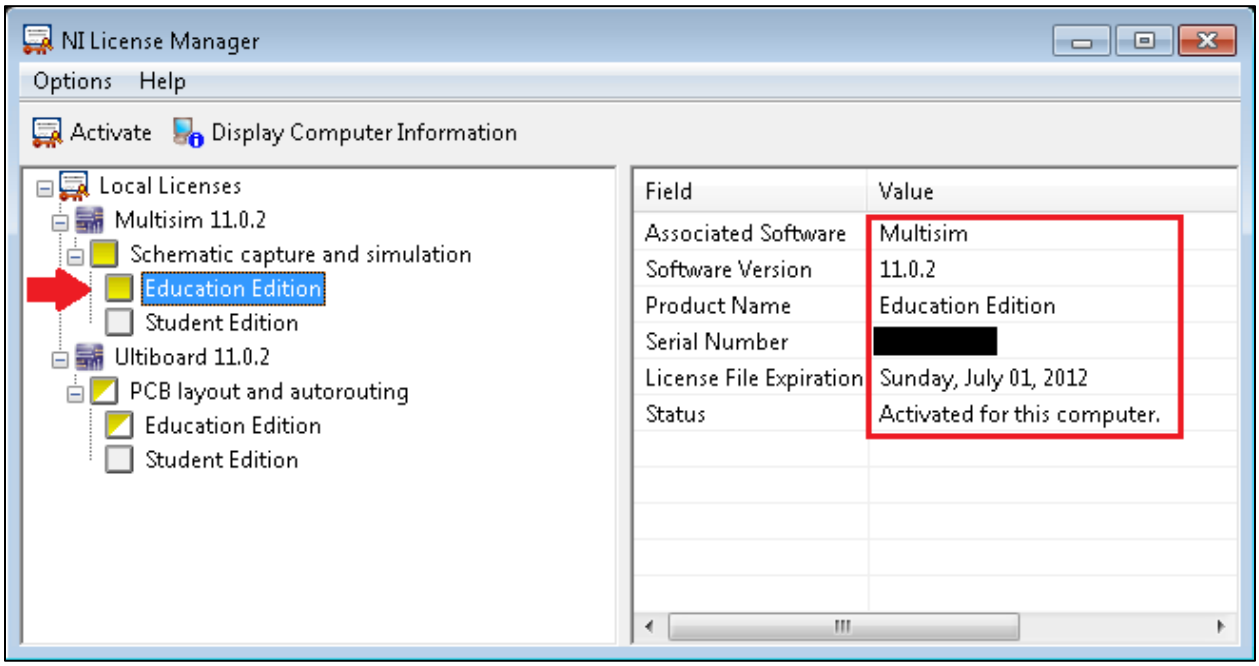
- ❑ The Activation Wizard will communicate to the NI Licensing Server.



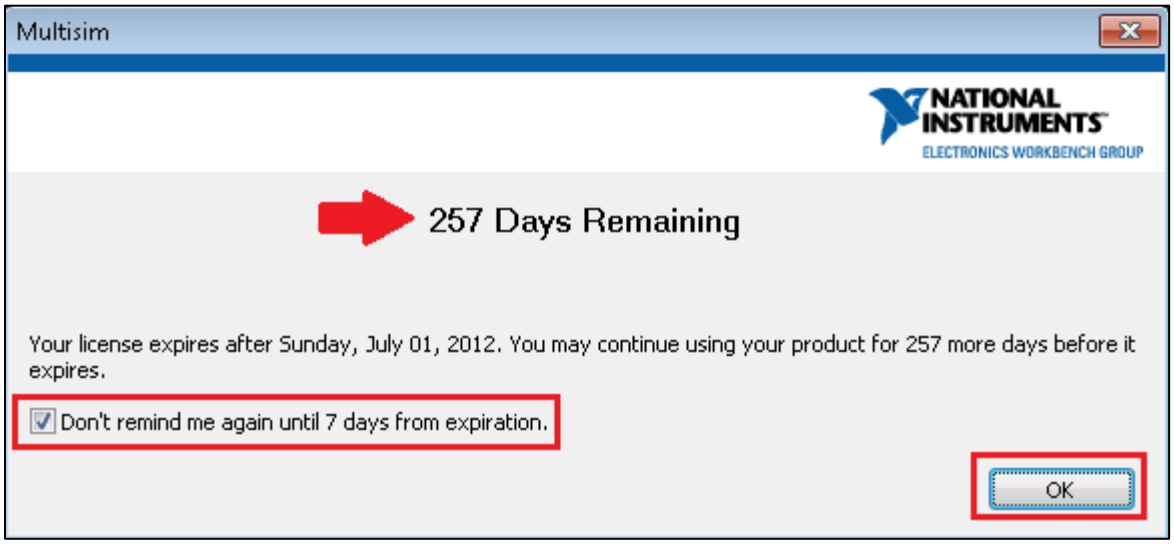
- ❑ If communication is successful you will receive the message **Product Successfully Activated!** Click **Finish** to complete this process.



- You may review now your activation information in NI License Manager. In the following screenshot the serial number has been redacted.



- When you launch **Multisim** from **Start » Programs » National Instruments » Circuit Design Suite » Multisim** you will receive a dialog indicating the remaining days for your license to expire, as well as give you the option to not display this reminder until 7 days prior to expiration date. Click **OK** to continue past this dialog.



Activating Ultiboard

To activate Ultiboard (or other NI software) repeat the Activation process again, but now include the license file and use the serial numbers where applicable for the other software.

Creating a ghost image to replicate a lab

If you want to replicate a ghost image of a master computer instead of individually installing multiple seats, you can do so by following the instructions in the following Knowledge Base from the ni.com website:

KB 5GTELLQC: How can I Change the Hardware Used for Activation of NI Software?

A regular activation is based in a computer ID taken from the MAC address of the computer. In order to create an image of a computer for deployment, you need to switch this computer ID to use instead the disk volume serial number.

You will need to activate your software with a new activation code obtained from NI.

Follow the instructions in the KB to obtain the necessary information and to contact NI for the activation code. Please be aware, that is not guaranteed you will be eligible for this option, changing the computer ID for activation is handled in a case-by-case basis by NI. However, when contacting NI indicate that you are a PLTW school.

Troubleshooting

Here is a list of the most common problems, if you are still unable to activate contact PLTW.

Problem	How to fix it
I receive a "serial number" error from the Activation Wizard.	Verify that you have installed the corresponding license file for the product you are activating; you must have received this license file from PLTW. The license file name for Multisim 11.0.2 is: `Multisim_Edu_PKG_110002.lc`. While the license file for Multisim 11.0.1 is: `Multisim_Edu_PKG_110001.lc`. In License Manager you can check which version of the software you installed. You may have downloaded the wrong version.
	Verify that there are no typos in the serial number (e.g. alphabet character O vs. numeric digit 0).
	Verify that you are using a PLTW provided serial number.
I receive a "cannot communicate" error message from the Activation Wizard.	If your network is behind a firewall you'll need to contact your IT department to allow TCP/IP access to the following processes: • lmgrd.exe • nilm.exe If you are running a personal firewall you may also need to allow: • lmreread.exe If using FLEXnet to manage your licenses instead of NI License Manager, then also allow: • lmdown.exe By default License Manager uses port 27000.
	Verify that you have internet access.

I see duplicate "Education Edition" labels in the licenses hierarchy tree in License Manager.	You may see duplicate Education Edition labels if you are using a license file such as: `247932_Multisim_Edu_PKG_110001.lc` If this is the case, make sure to right-click above one of the "Education Edition" labels and activate, if that one did not worked, try the other one. It is important to right-click on top of the "Education Edition" label.
Do I need Internet access to activate?	Automatic activation through an Internet connection is preferred. In case you don't have any internet access, you may select another option to active from the Activation Wizard when you launch it. You can activate using a web browser, email client, telephone, or even a fax machine.

Contacts

If you are missing the license files, the serial number, are having trouble activating the software, or general support requests, please contact PLTW:

technicalsupport@pltw.org

For general Multisim or Ultiboard Support, you may visit ni.com/ask to browse the Knowledge Base, Tutorials, and Discussion Forums.