Kevin Jones

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Part 5 – 5200 Project

1. **What did you learn from this project?**

We learned that the initial design is not always the final design and you can never start too soon on this project. We learned how to design a CPU using VHDL and more importantly how the different parts of a CPU work together. And building a processor is no longer one of our dreams.

1. **What would you do differently next time?**

Start on this project sooner! We would make an instruction set closer to MIPS and test with the FPGA board sooner. Debugging and troubleshooting becomes more complicated once you are testing with the FPGA. Ask the TA more questions sooner.

1. **What is your advice to someone who is going to work on a similar project?**

We would recommend starting on the VHDL portion of the project ASAP! Although this is a top-down design the VHDL code becomes the most complicated part quickly. Check every component in ModelSim AND on the board. Start each component of the project as soon as possible, once you are behind it is impossible to catch up! Talk to the TA about any questions, they are there to help and they will help! Make sure you understand each component.