GENESIS64 – Tips and Tricks

APPLICATION NOTE

July 2011

Description: Guide to give to make application development easier and faster.
OS Requirement: Windows Server 2003 x64/Vista x64/ Server 2008 x64/Windows 7 x64/ Server 2008 R2 x64
General Requirement: Installation of GENESIS64

Introduction

There are several shortcut keys and tricks that could potentially enhance and expedite your GENESIS64 and GraphWorX64 development experience. This document lists some of the tips and tricks that are helpful for faster graphic design.

Work Environment

- You can double-click on the Ribbon tabs (Home, Dynamics, etc) to collapse it. Single-clicking the titles will expand it as a menu only when you need it.
- Scrolling your mouse wheel while hovering the Ribbon will quickly switch between the different tabs.
- You can click on the "Customize Quick Access Toolbar" button shown in Figure 1, to add your most commonly used commands to it.

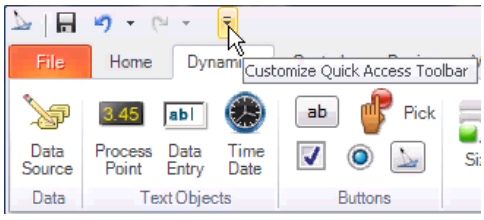

Figure 1 - Quick Access Toolbar

This is how it will look like after adding a few commands:

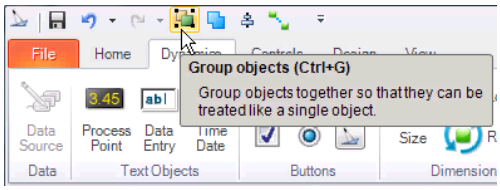

Figure 2 - Modified Quick Access Toolbar

- The Quick Access Toolbar can be placed below the Ribbon as well. You can, for example, set your work environment to look like Figure 3. Here, we also collapsed the Ribbon Bar.

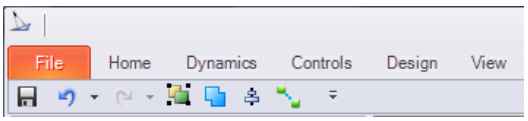

Figure 3 - Quick Access Toolbar below the Ribbon

- GraphWorX64 contains several tabs and toolboxes that can float inside the main container, or can be hooked in a "Visual Studio-like" way.
- While dragging one of them you will notice some special symbol, as you can see in Figure 4.

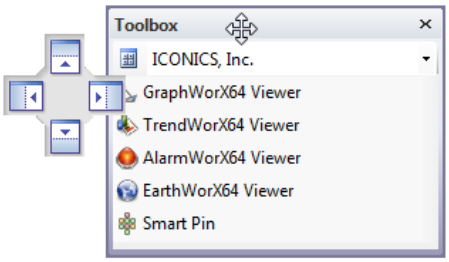

Figure 4 - Relocating Toolbars

Dropping the toolbox over one of them will hook that window in the specified position. Once a toolbox is hooked, you can click on the Pin symbol to auto-hide it.

- The Preferences tab contains many customizable parameters that you can alter depending on your needs. Preferences are set on GraphWorX64-level and not on a display-level, so changing them will affect other displays as well, not only the current one. Preferences can be reset easily.
- Holding down ALT key while scrolling your mouse wheel will adjust the zoom level.
- ALT + Left-Click on the display will double the current zoom level. ALT + Right-Click will set it to half of the current zoom level.
- Holding ALT key while dragging the mouse will zoom to the selected area.

Object Interaction

- Holding down the CTRL key allows you to resize an object from its center. SHIFT constrains its ratio. These can be used in combination as well.
- Holding down the SHIFT key while moving an object around within GraphWorX32 will constrain it to a purely horizontal or vertical movement.
- Holding down the SHIFT key while drawing rectangles or ellipses will help you drawing perfect squares or circles.
- Holding down the SHIFT key while drawing a polygon or polyline segment, or while drawing a line, will help you rotate that segment on a 15-degree steps basis.
- The 15-degree rotation mentioned above can be customized to another degree amount, by altering the "RestrictAngle" property in the "General Settings" section in the "Preferences" tab.
- Holding down the SHIFT key while drawing a Curve will make you draw a quarter of circle.

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- Holding down the CTRL key while dragging an object in GraphWorX32 will create a copy of that object and place it wherever you let go of the mouse button. This is faster than doing a copy, then a paste, then a movement of the object.
- Shift + Click on an object will add it to the current selection, or remove it from the selection if it was already part of it.
- Double-clicking on a Polygon or Polyline is the shortcut to alter its form. Double-clicking on a Rectangle is the shortcut to edit its rounded corners. Double-clicking on an ellipse has no effect.
- Use Tab to select next object and Shift + Tab to select the previous object (in the order of creation).
- Give objects a name. This will help you using the Object Explorer to quickly find what you are looking for. It is even more helpful for Groups, to quickly identify what that group contains.
- You can use display properties like "Description" and "Title" to help understanding what the display is about. This information will be visible from Windows Explorer too, so you don't need to open a display to understand what's inside it.

Generic Tips

- Ctrl + M Key switches between Runtime and Configuration Mode.
- If you have further tips/tricks you would like to share, or have questions on any of the items presented, please contact our Technical Support Department: support@iconics.com.