



Description: *The following application note explains a few shortcuts, tips n tricks that can be used to make Graphics' development easy and fast.*

OS Requirement: Win 95, 98, NT, 2000, XP

General Requirement: An installed GENESIS32 or GraphWorX32 from the GENESIS32 product family.

GraphworX32 Tips n Tricks:

During several recent seminars, several tips and tricks were discussed to enhance the user's experience in working with GraphWorX32.

What follows is a summary of some of the items presented:

1. Holding down the CTRL key allows you to resize an object about its center. SHIFT constrains its ratio. These can be used in combination as well.
2. Holding down the SHIFT key while moving an object around within GraphWorX32 will constrain it to a purely horizontal or vertical movement.
3. Shift-Right-Click on a grouped symbol to automatically enter the "Edit Symbol" mode. Use this to quickly "drill into" sub-symbols.
4. Shift-Right-Click is also the shortcut to edit poly-lines, arcs, and text objects.
5. When specifying a filename for various Pick Actions (e.g., Display Load, Drag-Drop Load, Pop-Up Window, etc.), do not include the full path name, but rather just the filename by itself. The project can then be installed in other directories without having to change the display links.
6. Use the "Set Working Directory" under the Tools menu to set the default path where GraphWorX32 should look for files.
7. Open up multiple instances of GraphWorX32 while developing your screens. You can then drag objects from one screen to the other for faster development.
8. After copying an object, use the "Paste Visible Properties" or the "Paste Dynamics" to apply just the portion desired to other objects.
9. 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.
10. Imported metafiles (e.g., Clipart from MS PowerPoint) can be converted to GraphWorX32 symbols, edited, and animated in GraphWorX32.
11. Right-click on the gray background area of the color pallet to bring up the menu for selecting the eyedropper tool. Use this to easily extract custom colors from objects on the screen.
12. Left-Click on the color palette changes the fill color, and Right-Click on the color palette changes the line (text) color.
13. Use the Shared Keyword feature to create global symbols for easier updates in a project.
14. Use a checkbox to create your own local variable ramp function. An example of this can be found in the Simulation Generator checkbox in the Winder.GDF file in the Gen32Demo directory.
15. Give objects an Object Name. This is helpful in, among other things, reports generated in the Find/Replace/Report tools in GraphWorX32's Edit menu.
16. Type help messages in the Description field for objects. These appear as context-sensitive pop-up tool-tips and are very handy for operators.
17. Operator Comments can be captured and sent as Events using the function call exposed by GenEvent Server. See the OperatorComments.GDF file being added to the Gen32Demo. Because these are in GenEvent, they are broadcast to all Alarm Viewer ActiveX controls subscribed to that server, and can also be logged by the AlarmWorX32 Logger component.
18. To see the number of tags being used in the current display, go to View menu- Object count. The number beside 'Tag' under Unique Data Connections will tell how many unique tags are being used in the display.
19. If a display has to run on multiple screens which have multiple resolutions, use the View Menu- Display Properties- Window tab to check a box that says Scale window dimension based on current screen resolution.
20. Use Tab to select next object and Shift+Tab to select the previous object (in the order of creation).
21. Any setting/change done in the Format – Application Preferences dialog is good for all GraphWorX32 displays.
22. Any change done in the Format- Display Properties dialog is good only for that particular display.

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