



Global Alias Quick Start

APPLICATIONS NOTE

August 2004



Description: Guide to configuring and running the Global Aliasing Engine.

OS Requirement: The operating system required is Windows 2003/XP/2000/NT/95/98/Me.

General Requirement: General knowledge of ICONICS GENESIS32 applications.

About Global Aliasing

Aliases are a way of creating displays without actually connecting to particular OPC tags. Instead, the variables are resolved to actual OPC tags at runtime. The advantage of using aliases is that it is now possible to re-use a particular display over and over with different tags, while only having to create the display once. With Global aliasing it is possible to use the same alias across different ICONICS modules, where local aliasing is confined to GraphWorX32. You can use global aliasing in GraphWorX32, AlarmWorX32, TrendWorX32 and DataWorX32.

Global Aliasing works a bit like the language aliasing; it has a central database driven engine and performs text substitution. The difference is instead of selecting a language you select a theme. This can be a floor, building machine, etc.

Global Aliasing is configured in the Global Alias Configurator. This program can be opened from **Start → Programs → Iconics Genesis32 → Tools → Global Alias Configurator**.

The first step is to create a theme. For example, this could be a certain floor in a building. The second step is to link an alias to a theme. The third step is to create a button in GraphWorX32 to change the theme.

The best way to see Global alias in action is to start the Global Alias demo.

Global Aliasing Demo

1. Start ProjectWorX32 from **Start → Programs → Iconics Genesis32 → ProjectWorX32**. ProjectWorX32 will open and look like **Fig. 1**.

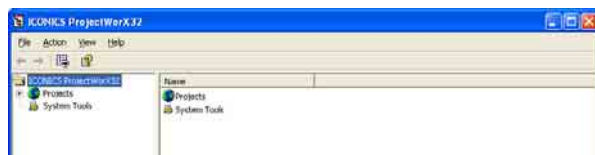


Fig. 1: ProjectWorX32

2. Right-click on **Projects** and choose **Unpack Project**. Select **Global Alias Demo.pwx** located in the Program Files/ICONICS/GENESIS32/EXAMPLES/Global Alias Example

folder. The project will unpack and show the unpacking log.

3. Right-click on the project and select **Activation → Make Project Active**. The project icon will turn green to show activation.
4. Now go to **Tools** menu and select **Put 'Global Alias Demo' in runtime**. DataWorX32 and GraphWorX32 will start up.
5. Minimize ProjectWorX32, to see the GraphWorX32 screen shown in **Fig. 2**.



Fig. 2: Global Alias demo

6. This example works with multiple themes. There is a location theme (Massachusetts / Ohio / Pennsylvania) and a floor theme (Floor 1/Floor 2/Floor 3/Floor 4).
7. If you open the **Global Alias Configurator** you will see that there are three themes configured. Each theme contains aliases.
8. Go to the GraphWorX32 display and enter **Configure** mode. Double click on a fire symbol to open the **Property Inspector** and choose the **Flash** tab. Here you will see the following OPC tag:
ICONICS.DataWorX32.1\Campus.<#Building#>.<#Floor#>.Corridor.Fire
9. The words between the <# and #> delimiters are the Global Alias variables. In runtime the <#Building#> alias is translated into BuildingA, BuildingB, or BuildingC. The <#Floor#> alias is translated in Floor1, Floor2, Floor 3, or Floor4. This all depends on which themes are selected.
10. An example of the translated OPC tag (configured in DataWorX32:
ICONICS.DataWorX32.1\Campus.BuildingA.Floor 1.Corridor.Fire
11. The themes are selected by clicking on the different building and floor buttons. Each button contains the **Select GAS theme** pick action. These buttons allow you to choose the themes, or values, for the aliases located in the tag path previously discussed.