GraphWorX32 – Tips and Tricks

APPLICATIONS NOTE

October 2013

Description: Guide to make graphics development easier and faster with short cuts.
OS Requirement: Win 2000, XP Pro, Server 2003, Vista, Server 2008, Windows 7
General Requirement: GENESIS32 v 9.20 or GraphworX32 from the GENESIS32 product family.

Introduction

There are several shortcut keys and tricks that could potentially enhance and expedite your GraphWroX32 development experience. This document lists some of the tips and tricks that are helpful for faster graphic design.

GraphworX32 Tips and Tricks:

- 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.
- Holding down the SHIFT key while moving an object around within GraphWorX32 will constrain it to a purely horizontal or vertical movement.
- Shift + Right-Click on a grouped symbol to automatically enter the "Edit Symbol" mode. Use this to quickly "drill into" sub-symbols.
- Shift + Right-Click combination is also the shortcut to edit poly-lines, arcs, and text objects.
- When specifying a filename for various Pick Actions (e.g., Load Display, Drag/Drop Load, Pop-Up Window, etc.), do not include the full path name. Instead, use just the filename by itself (provided that all files are in the same folder).
- Use the "Set Working Directory" under the Tools menu to set the default path where GraphWorX32 should look for files.
- Open up multiple instances of GraphWorX32 while developing your screens. You can then drag objects from one screen to the other for faster development.
- After copying an object, use the "Paste Visible Properties" or the "Paste Dynamics" to apply just the portion desired to other objects.
- 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.
- Imported metafiles (e.g., Clipart from MS PowerPoint) can be converted to GraphWorX32 symbols, edited, and animated in GraphWorX32.
- 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.
- Left-Clicking on the color palette changes the fill color, and Right-Clicking on the color palette changes the line (text) color.
- Use the "Shared Keyword" feature to create global symbols for easier updates in a project.
- 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.
- Give objects an Object Name. This is helpful in, among other things, searching for information in reports generated in the Find/Replace/Report tools in GraphWorX32's Edit menu. Object Names are also handy during editing of connections using CSV Export and Import.
- The Description field is useful for giving the operator information about the object. The text in this field is displayed as a tool tip when the mouse is hovered over the object (provided tool tips are enabled for the display).
- Operator Comments can be captured and sent as Events using the function call exposed by the 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.
- To see the number of tags being used in the current display, go to View → Object Count in configuration mode. The number beside 'Tag' under Unique Data Connections will tell how many unique tags are being used in the display.
- If a display has to run on multiple screens which have multiple resolutions, use the Format → Display Properties tab to check a box that says "Scalable Display" under the "Display Scaling" window.
- Use Tab to select next object and Shift + Tab to select the previous object (in the order of creation).
- Any setting/change done in the Format → Application Preferences dialog is good for all GraphWorX32 displays.
- Any change done in the Format → Display Properties dialog is good only for that particular display.
- Ctrl + M Key Switches Runtime to 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.