

Procedure to copy a DA project

ISSUE:

Is there a way to exports the project into a .exe file? So that I can send it to my customer and then they can install and run the software by themselves, with just the runtime dongle?

BACKGROUND:

It is typical of factory networks that they simply have no network connection to the outside world. Another reason for using the copy rather than connect/deploy method is speed – if you have 40 GTRs to *connect, load project, deploy close project, set up* – how fast can you copy files compared to the *disconnect* cycle?

NOTE:

While the procedure below works in 90 percent of situations there are cases where it is not possible – encryption, locking, different hardware platform from the “master” system to which you deploy, and from which you copy. In other cases it requires extra steps – for example if the customer is developing their own custom steps. Also if they copy stuff to the wrong place, and it doesn’t work, how hard could it be to support if the system by definition is not accessible?

PROCEDURE:

Procedure to copy a DA project from one system where it has been deployed, to another system (e.g. for automating mass installations or sending an updated project to a system).

If the two machines are pretty much “the same” – copying the folders to transfer a project could work

a) CONDITIONS

- Same version and build number of DA
- Platform configuration is the same e.g. both with same IOs available if using IO (e.g. Same GigE cameras or both 4sightGP or both 4Sight GPm etc), etc
- both same type of OS - e.g. both Windows
- same version of .NET framework
- same cameras (some dependence on whether cameras being allocated by IP address, M_DEV number or “UserName”)
- assuming he isn’t encrypting or locking the project to a specific machine DA X V1905

Important: If you are copying an improved version of a *project that is already on the target platform* and there are *Operator View inputs* CAUTION- by copying the files this way you will overwrite all the Persistent data – that means all the settings and ROIs and models and recipes that you have adjusted in the operator view on the target platform will be lost. When you Connect DA in the normal way, you have an option to Synchronize and Import the changes from the target platform. When doing a manual copy, if you need to preserve the earlier changes, you need to take extra steps with the Persistent subfolders.

b) Procedure

- i. Stop all running projects on the target platform.
- ii. There are two folders involved - for the flowchart and for the operator view – they need to be copied over in their entirety
%ProgramData%\Matrox Design Assistant\5.1\Projects\ProjectXXX
%ProgramData%\Matrox Design Assistant\5.1\Web\ProjectXXX

iii. The DA Agent on the runtime platform does not continually scan to see if there is a new project folder. It updates its list when the agent starts (You must reboot or stop runtime environment/start runtime environment from PC platform task bar icon) or when a normal deploy is done.

c) Other considerations - If you are using Custom Steps there is an additional folder to copy