

LNS Resource File Catalog Utility

User's Guide

Introduction

LONMARK® resource files are files that define the components of the external interface for one or more LONWORKS® devices. These files allow installation tools and operator interface applications to interpret data produced by a device and to correctly format data sent to a device. They also help a system integrator or system operator to understand how to use a device and to control the LONMARK objects on a device. Standard resource files are available that define the standard components used in the external interface of a device. Device manufacturers must create user-defined resource files for any user-defined components defined within the external interface of a device.

There may be multiple sets of resource files on a PC. In addition to the standard resource files, there may be one or more sets of user resource files from one or more manufacturers. Each set of resource files must be contained in a single folder, but there may be multiple sets of resource files. For example, a network may contain devices from several different manufacturers, and each manufacturer may supply their own set of resource files with type, functional profile, format, and language information specific to their devices. Each set of resource files may be kept in a separate folder. These folders are typically installed in the LONWORKS Types\User folder, each identified by the manufacturer name.

An open application-programming interface (API) is available for accessing these files. This API is called the LONMARK Resource File API and is described in the *LONMARK Resource File API Reference Guide*. The LONMARK Resource File API maintains a resource file catalog with a filename of LDRF.CAT. The resource file catalog contains a list of all resource files and their locations to be used by the LONMARK Resource File API. There should typically be only one catalog per PC. However, you may use multiple catalog for multiple projects. Many applications may read a catalog at the same time, but only one application can write to the catalog at a time.

When LNS for Windows is installed, the LONWORKS TYPES subdirectory contains the standard resource files. No catalog is created at the time of installation, but one is created by the LONMARK Resource File API when the first program that requires a catalog and the standard resource files attempts to access either. The catalog is created in the LONWORKS Types folder.

The *LONMARK Resource File Developer's Guide* describes the different types of resource files, and describes procedures for creating resource files. This user's guide describes the LNS Resource File Catalog Utility. This utility allows you to view and manage the contents of the resource file catalog. The setup programs for manufacturer's LNS applications and plug-ins should automatically install their resource files and enter them into the catalog, so you typically will not need to use this utility. However, if you move existing resource files, manually add new resource files, or manually delete resource files, you will need to update the catalog as described in this user's guide. If you modify existing resource files without changing the filename, file directory location, selector value in the file, and program ID in the file, the catalog is unaffected by the modification, and no update is required.

Getting Started

To start the LNS Resource File Catalog Utility, follow these steps:

1. Open the Windows Start menu, point to **Echelon LNS Utilities**, and click **LNS Resource File Catalog Utility**.
2. Click OK in the start-up dialog.
3. Select the folder that contains your resource file catalog. By default, this is the `c:\lonworks\types` folder, but you may have changed the location of the LONWORKS folder, or you may have changed the location of the catalog using an LNS application (for LNS developers, this is the `LdrfCatalogPath` property of the System object).
4. Click OK. If the selected folder does not already contain a catalog, a new catalog is created with a reference to the selected folder. The main window of the LNS Resource File Catalog Utility opens.

Using the LNS Resource File Catalog Utility

The main window displays a summary of the catalog status and contents under Catalog Information and provides tabs to access the directory, language file, type file, functional profile, and format file lists in the catalog. Click the Exit button to exit the catalog utility.

The catalog information displays the catalog path, the number of directories and files currently in the catalog, and the catalog status. The catalog status displays either Up To Date or Needs a Refresh. Click the Refresh Now button to update the catalog. The catalog sometimes displays Up To Date even if a refresh is required. Always refresh the catalog before closing if you made any changes. Click the Description, Creator, and URL buttons to display these fields from the catalog.

To browse and edit the catalog's directory, language file, type file, functional profile, or format list, click the appropriate tab. If there is a syntax error or other error in the specification of the program ID text or scope selector definition text in a format file, the catalog won't recognize it, and will silently skip over it.

To add a new directory, click the Directories tab and click the Add A New Directory button. A directory browser opens. Select a directory to add to the catalog and click OK, or use the

Cancel button to return to the main window without adding any directories to the catalog. Click **Refresh Now** under Catalog Information after adding a directory.

To remove a directory, click the Previous Directory or Next Directory buttons until the directory to be deleted is selected, then click **Remove this Directory**. The first directory cannot be removed because it is the home directory of the catalog — the location of the catalog itself. Removing a directory removes the files that correspond to that directory at the same time, so a refresh is not required.

The other four tabs display similar information about each of the other four file types. The browsing buttons and file name displays are similar on each of the tabs. The other information displayed includes the file's selector and program ID, and version information. The language files contain an additional field that is the three-letter code for the name of the language which that file supports.

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