

Status of VDCT

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EPICS Meeting – Japan, 2004

Builds 2.4.1247 and 2.4.1249

- Mainly bugfixes (some):
 - An invalid link can be displayed as a link because VDCT appears to be case-insensitive even though EPICS requires field names to be upper-case
 - A minor problem: VME_IO I/O fields are required to have a trailing @ parameter according to VDCT. e.g. it demands an address #c0 s0 @ rather than #c0 s0.
 - **VAL** field is always shown in inspector (some DBD do not have prompt_gui defined).
 - This is really important - novices can easily overwrite a .dbd file because VDCT always seems to take the last used file extension as the default. So the first save operation of your new .db file will attempt to overwrite the .dbd file you have just opened, by default.

Package D1 - build 2.4.1250

- Funded by ORNL, some new features:
 - Command-line tool for flattening hierarchical databases

```
> java -cp VisualDCT.jar com.cosylab.vdct.GenerateFlatDatabase
```

```
Usage: flatdb [OPTION]... input.vdb output.db
```

```
Options:
```

```
-d or --dbd-file input.dbd
```

```
loads a specific .dbd file before generating flat database
```

```
--enable-global-macros and --disable-global-macros
```

```
enables or disables global macro evaluation
```

```
--enable-capfast and --disable-capfast
```

```
enables or disables production of hierarchical names like CapFast
```

```
-h or --help
```

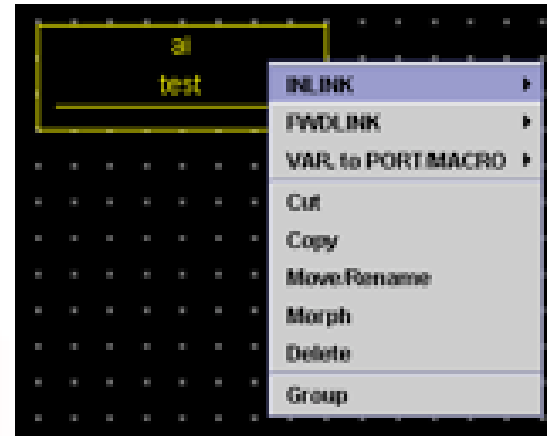
```
displays these lines here
```

```
-v or --version
```

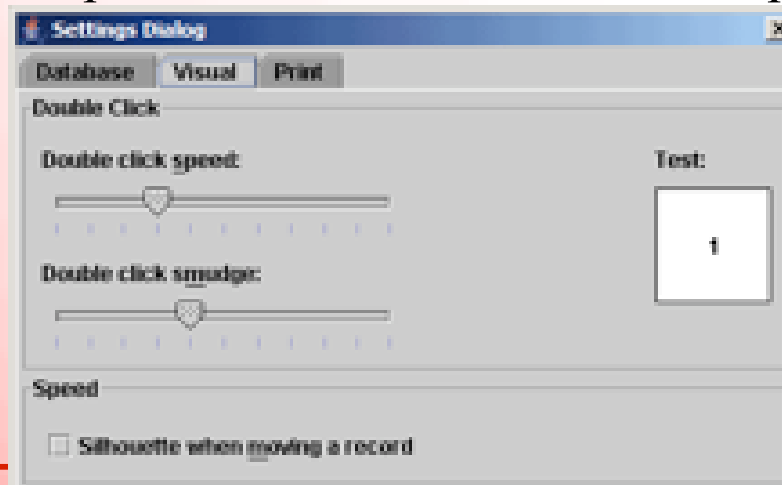
```
display version of this tool
```

Package D1 - build 2.4.1250 (cont.)

- Popup for common actions

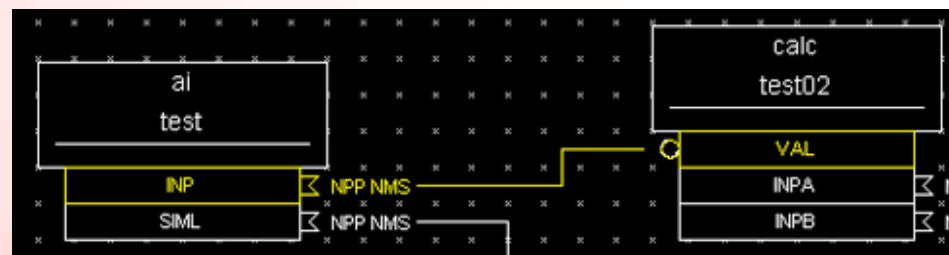


- User settable screen pan direction and double-click speed
- Speed up move



Package D1 - build 2.4.1250 (cont.)

- Morphing (changing type of the record)
- Connectors undo managing
- Local/global macro property (macro propagation depth)
- Meaningful template instance name (created using template file name)
- Link highlighting (link is highlighted on mouse-over event)



- Allow option on record name length limit
- Resize (move record up) record text area and not move link area
- Storing DBD path names (absolute, relative, variables supported)



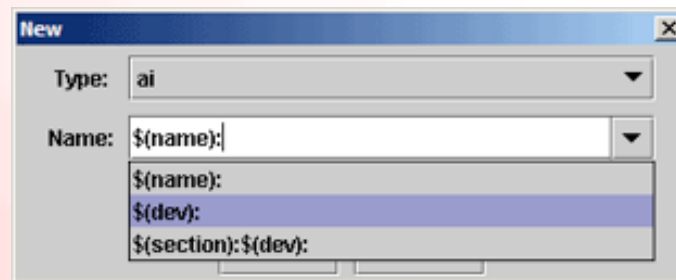
Package D1 - build 2.4.1250 (cont.)

- Bug fixes:
 - VDCT strips \ character from field definitions
 - DTYP field need not be defined before DBF_INPUT/DBF_OUTPUT fields
 - VDCT incorrectly converts DISV="1" and UDF="1"
 - VDCT gives a warning that *Value " is not valid for menu 'menuYesNo'*
 - The console does not popup on error as advertised and as it should
 - The grid changes with the zoom level
 - Macros aren't always substituted
 - Macros should not applied on template instance names
 - External links have wrong description

Package D2 (prerelease) - build 2.4.1256

- Funded by DLS, again new features:
 - Check for configuration files of the plug-ins also in system directory
 - Editable combo box

Remember all prefixes entered so far (part of the name before last ':') and offer them when creating a new record or renaming an existing one. This simplifies typing of the new record names like “\$(crate):\$(valve):record_name”.

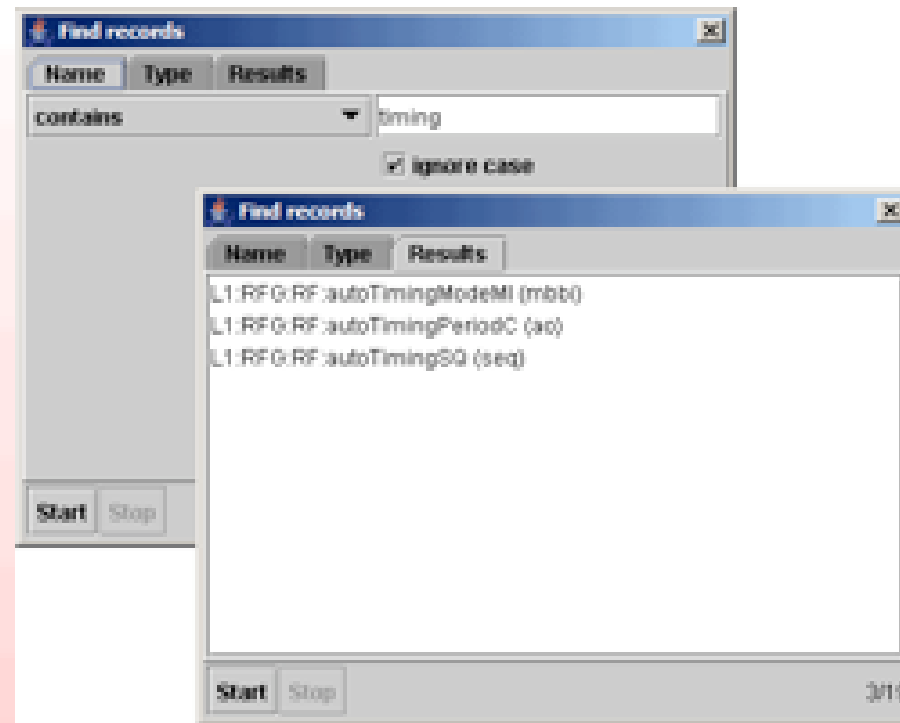


- Make VDCT debug work with the latest JCA 2 (JNI and CAJ)

Available at: <http://visualdct.cosylab.com/builds/VisualDCT-JCADebugPlugin/>

Package D2 (prerelease) - build 2.4.1256 (cont.)

- Search for a record in a record list

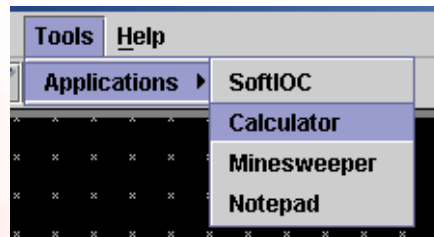


Package D2 (prerelease) - build 2.4.1256 (cont.)

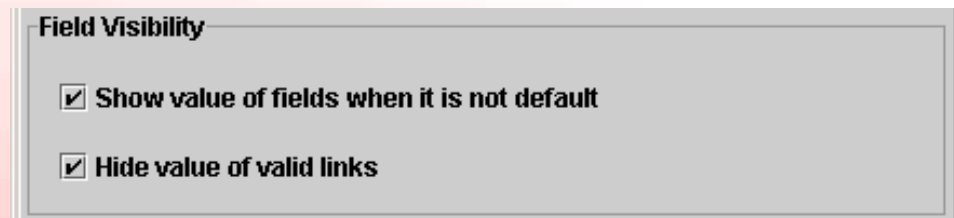
- Provide *application runner plug-in*

Application runner plug-in, runs external applications from the VDCT.

A menu `Tools->Applications` menu item is added. Config done using plug-ins config file.

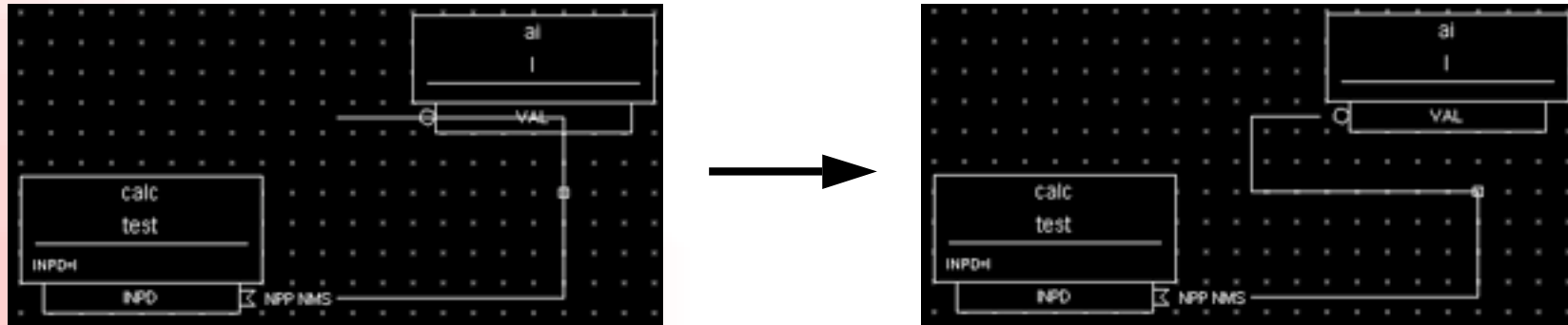


- Configurable canvas size
- Visibility of the fields
- Don't show fields in text area if they are links

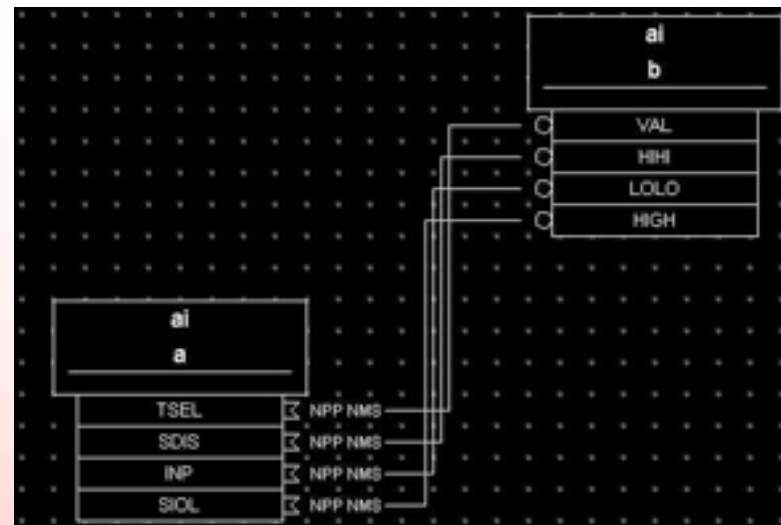


Package D2 (prerelease) - build 2.4.1256 (cont.)

- Crossing avoidance

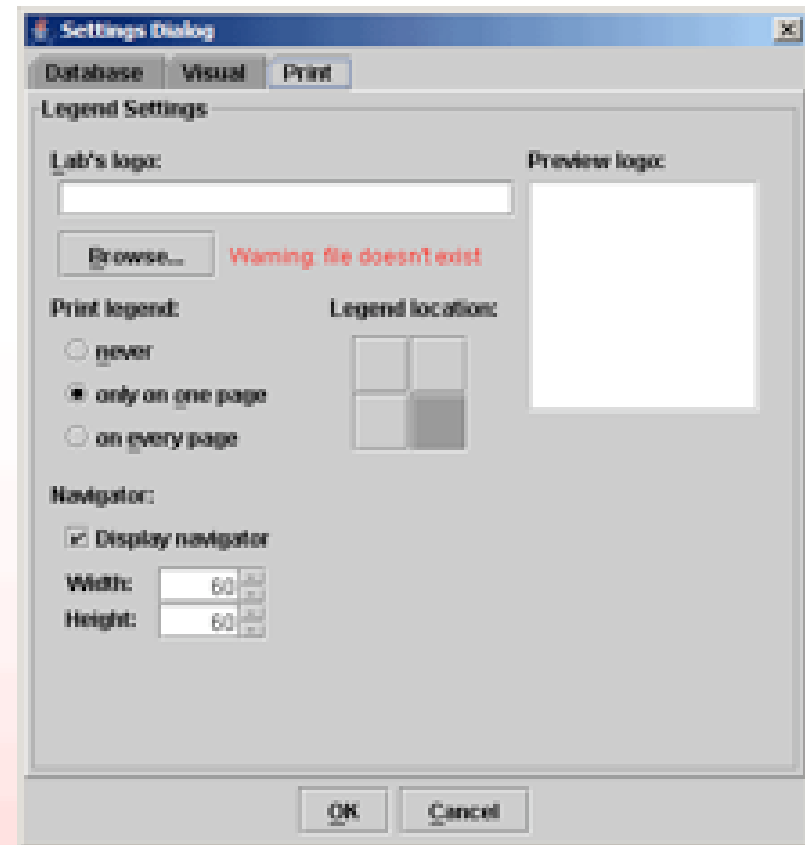


No crossing at 'link columns' →



Package D2 (prerelease) - build 2.4.1256 (cont.)

- Override fields of an already imported record
- Copy-paste a field value from a record
 - Using standard key bindings
(CTRL-C, CTRL-V CTRL-X).
 - Also compatible with *MS Excel* and *OO Calc*.
- Print with legend
- ... and other minor things and bug fixes



Package D2 (prerelease) - build 2.4.1256 (cont.)

- To be done:
 - Interface for application plug in and implementations for:
 - Alarm handler
 - Archiver

This will simplify creation of configuration files for external EPICS apps

Other issues

- Printing (configuration problems?)
- Make some settings to be configured per database since different configurations can lead to different layouts, *e.g. canvas size, crossing avoidance, ...*
- ... and other – all are welcome to point them out
- Send bug reports to **`bug@visualdct.cosylab.com`**
- VDCT discussion/help mailing list **`http://lists.cosylab.com/`**

