

SOFTWARE DOCUMENT

The BACnet EDE Workbench Plugin

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Getting Started

The following topics will get you started:

Introduction

The BACnet EDE Workbench Plugin extends the functionality of the NiagaraAX BACnet Driver. This document describes EDE files and the preparation, installation and operation of the plugin in the NiagaraAX Workbench.

The BACnet EDE Workbench Plugin provides functionality to allow BACnet EDE files to be used as a source of BACnet system data for the NiagaraAX BACnet driver which enables offline device and point discovery.

The plugin is installed in and operated from the Workbench only. It does not run in the remote JACE platform although it can operate on the JACE station.

Requirements

- Target platform running Niagara AX 3.7 or Niagara AX 3.8.
- Latest bacnetEDE.jar and docBacnetEDE.jar files in the !modules folder for the release of NiagaraAX you are using, where! replaces the folder path.
- Niagara AX license feature: "bacnetEde".
- Four EDE files compatible with the EDE 2.2 specification, stored in the local file system and which are accessible to Workbench.

Using the Plugin

The following topics describe how to use the Plugin:

Adding an EDE Configuration

Offline discover operates on an EDE file set. You can select one or more different EDE file sets and each file set, along with its individual EDE file paths is stored as an EDE Configuration with a unique Configuration ID. You must create and add an EDE Configuration before undertaking offline discover.

Perform the following steps:

Step 1 Right-click the **BacnetNetwork** in the nav tree and select **View** > **Ede Bacnet Device**Manager to bring up the **Ede Bacnet Device Manager**.

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Step 2 Click the **Discover** button to automatically learn what devices are defined in the EDE files. A popup **EDE Device Discovery** dialog appears.

- Step 3 Click the **Add** button to bring up the **EDE Configuration** dialog.
- Step 4 Enter a name for this configuration in the Configuration ID option.
- Step 5 Click the down arrow next to the folder icon adjacent to the EDE Master File Location option and select File Ord Chooser.
- Step 6 Navigate to and select the desired MyProject EDE.csv EDE file.
- Step 7 Repeat the previous procedure for the Units File Location and State Texts File Location options.
- Step 8 Adjust, if necessary the CSV Delimiter option to match the configuration of your chosen EDE files. The default is Comma,.
- Step 9 Click the **OK** button to save the **EDE Configuration** and return to the **EDE Device Discovery** dialog.

You have created an EDE Configuration which can be used for offline discover.

Editing an EDE Configuration

Each EDE Configuration can be edited if necessary to adjust the EDE file path details, EDE Configuration ID or the CSV delimiter.

Perform the following steps:

- Step 1 From the Workbench **Tools** menu, select **Tools** > **Bacnet EDE**.

 The default **Property sheet view** displays all the EDE Configurations.
- Step 2 Make any required edits to the EDE Configurations and when finished, click the **Save** button.

Using offline Discover to add Bacnet Devices

The EDE files contain data that defines BACnet devices. You use the BacnetNetwork's **Ede Bacnet Device Manager** view to firstly select an EDE Configuration containing an EDE file set and then discover the BACnet Device components from it so that Bacnet devices can be added to the BacnetNetwork in a similar manner to Bacnet Online discovery.

Prerequisites:

At least one EDE Configuration.

Perform the following steps:

- Step 1 Right-click the **BacnetNetwork** in the nav tree and select **View** > **Ede Bacnet Device Manager** to bring up the **Ede Bacnet Device Manager**.
- Step 2 Click the **Discover** button to automatically learn what devices are defined in the EDE files.
 - A popup **EDE Device Discovery** dialog appears.
- Step 3 Click the down arrow in the EDE Configuration Selection and make a selection from the drop down list.
- Step 4 Click the **OK** button to initiate the discovery process.

A progress bar appears at the top of the view and updates as the discovery occurs.

When the discovery job completes, discovered BACnet devices are listed in the *top pane* of the view, in the "Discovered" table.

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NOTE: This works the same as most Device Manager views. For details, see the section "About Device Discover, Add and Match (Learn Process)" in the Drivers Guide. To add learned devices, see the section "To add discovered BACnet Devices" in the Bacnet Guide.

Using offline Discover to add Bacnet proxy points

The EDE files contain data that defines BACnet objects. You use the BacnetNetwork's **Ede Bacnet Point Manager** view to firstly select an EDE Configuration containing an EDE file set and then discover the BACnet Objects from it so that Bacnet proxy points can be added under any BacnetDevice in a similar manner to Bacnet Online discovery.

Perform the following steps:

Step 1 In the **Ede Bacnet Device Manager**, in the **Exts** column, double-click the Points icon in the row representing the device you wish to explore.

This brings up the Ede Bacnet Point Manager.

Step 2 Click the **Discover** button to automatically learn what BACnet objects are defined in the EDE files.

A popup **EDE File Chooser** dialog appears.

Step 3 Click the down arrow in the EDE Configuration Selection and make a selection from the drop down list.

NOTE: Ensure you select the same EDE Configuration as used previously for the EDE Device discovery.

Step 4 Click the **OK** button to initiate the discovery process.

A progress bar appears at the top of the view and updates as the discovery occurs.

When the discovery job completes, discovered BACnet objects are listed in the *top pane* of the view, in the "Discovered" table. Each BACnet object in the device occupies one row.

NOTE: This works the same as most Point Manager views. For details, see the section "About Point Discover, Add and Match (Learn Process)" in the Drivers Guide. To add learned devices, see the section "To add discovered BACnet objects as Bacnet proxy points" in the Bacnet Guide.

Using offline Discover to add Bacnet Histories

The EDE files contain data that defines BACnet Trend Logs. You use the BacnetNetwork's **Ede Bacnet History Import Manager** view to firstly select an EDE Configuration containing an EDE file set and then discover the BACnet Trend Log objects from it so that Bacnet history import components can be added to the BacnetDevice in a similar manner to Bacnet Online discovery.

Perform the following steps:

Step 1 In the **Ede Bacnet Device Manager**, in the **Exts** column, double-click the Trend Logs icon in the row representing the device you wish to explore.

This brings up the Ede Bacnet History Import Manager

Step 2 Click the **Discover** button to automatically learn what BACnet Trend Log objects are defined in the EDE files.

A popup **EDE File Chooser** dialog appears.

Step 3 Click the down arrow in the EDE Configuration Selection and make a selection from the drop down list.

NOTE: Ensure you select the same EDE Configuration as used previously for the EDE Device discovery.

Step 4 Click the **OK** button to initiate the discovery process.

A progress bar appears at the top of the view and updates as the discovery occurs.

When the discovery job completes, discovered BACnet Trend Log objects are listed in the *top pane* of the view, in the "Discovered" table. Each BACnet Trend Log object in the device occupies one row.

NOTE: For general information on this device extension, see "About the Histories extension" in the Drivers Guide and also see the section "BACnet Trend Log import notes" in the Bacnet Guide.

EDE and NiagaraAX

The following topics describe how NiagaraAX interacts with EDE:

Background to EDE

The BACnet Interest Group (BIG-EU), the European trade association for the application of the global BACnet standard ISO 16484–5, defined a format for distributing BACnet data-point lists. Here is a brief background to the concept of their definition.

In a multi vendor system, engineering data needs to be exchanged between interacting parties. In a BACnet system, it is normally expected that engineering data, such as data point object properties is exchanged by means of BACnet online discovery which is supported by most server and client devices. However this data exchange by definition, can only be accomplished online and is also dependent upon the BACnet discovery functionality being available in both the server and client. When this functionality is unavailable, It has proved necessary to obtain the engineering data in an offline condition. It is also needed when the server device has to be setup with its engineering data before it is installed and operational on a BACnet site network or when the client devices are unavailable for online discovery.

It was with this in mind that in 1999, the BIG-EU began a project to define a data format so that BACnet engineering data could be made available. The original concept was to provide only the BACnet data-point list in a simple human readable form via a Comma-Separated Value (CSV) file. The general format actually consists of four different CSV sheets and collectively they are commonly known as the EDE (Engineering Data Exchange) files, after the BIG-EU description document which defines them and is called *Engineering Data Exchange Template for BACnet Systems*.

BIG-EU continued to develop the EDE concept and in February 2007 the BIG-EU Technical Working Group at the Milano-meeting, approved Version 2.2 of the EDE-layout and its description. This is the latest version of the EDE files definition. Over the years that the EDE definition has been available, many BACnet equipment vendors have adopted the EDE file format to define and distribute the point content of their devices and some vendors have included an EDE file import mechanism in their server device to provide offline engineering programming.

> **NOTE:** It is noted that whilst to date there is no other generally adopted equivalent solution, the EDE it is not extensive in its data content and its reliability cannot be guaranteed. You should be cautious and aware that the data in the EDE is not as extensive as the data discovered online and data discrepancies can occur when discovering online after the EDE has been initially used offline to build the server engineering database. The original concept of a human readable file containing the BACnet data-point list was never intended to be a machine-to-machine (M2M) data exchange format but it has become adopted by BACnet product vendors as the de facto standard for M2M data exchange.

EDE File Set

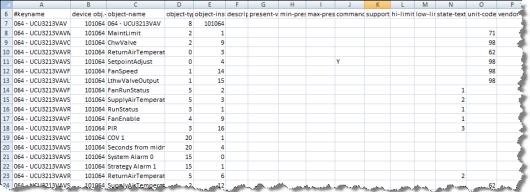
Here are the definitions of the EDE (Engineering Data Exchange) files as specified in the BIG-EU description document called *Engineering Data Exchange Template for BACnet Systems*. The EDE file set is a collection of Comma-Separated Value (CSV) files.

NOTE: The definition document indicates that the *Unit-Texts* and *Object-Types* files may be extended by adding Proprietary Units and Objects, according to the rules defined in the BACnet" Standard". However there is no facility within the Niagara driver framework to generate Niagara point types to represent *Proprietary Objects*, neither is it capable to generate Niagara Facets to represent Proprietary Units and therefore any such extensions made to the files are unsupported by this Plugin.

EDE

The CSV file which includes, in its name *EDE*, contains project information and also the list of data points chosen for interoperation.

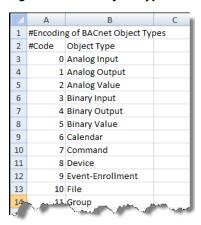




Object-Types

The CSV file which includes, in its name *Object-Types*, contains a list of supported BACnet Object Types. The file *EDE* refers to entries in the file *Object-Types*.

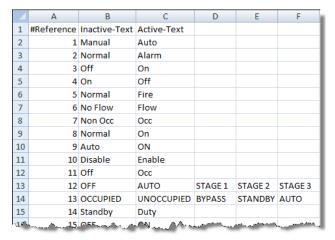
Figure 2. The Object-Types.csv file



State-Texts

The CSV file which includes, in its name *State-Texts*, contains information about the state texts being used for binary objects and multi state objects. The file *EDE* refers to entries in the file *State-Texts*.

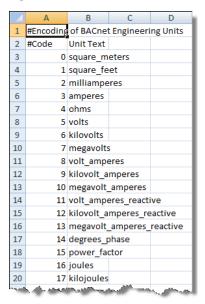
Figure 3. The State-Texts.csv file



Unit-Texts

The CSV file which includes, in its name *Unit-Texts*, contains a list of supported *BACnetEngineeringUnits* which are being used for analog objects. The file *EDE* refers to entries in the file *Unit-Texts*.

Figure 4. The Unit-Texts.csv file



EDE File Set example

The four EDE files will be named in a similar fashion to those in the following MyProject... example:

- MyProject EDE.csv
- MyProject ObjTypes.csv
- MyProject StateTexts.csv
- MyProject_Units.csv

EDE Object Types In NiagaraAX

The EDE definition document states that those Object Types defined in the MyProject_ObjTypes.csv file that have a code number which corresponds with the enumerated value of an object type already defined in the BACnet specification must remain consistent with the BACnet specified type for that code number. Here is a description of the supported and unsupported BACnet object types.

The EDE definition document does state that new Object Types could conceivably be added to the Object-Types CSV file with code values outside of the enumerated range of values reserved by the BACnet specification.

NOTE: Object Type Values that are outside of the BACnet specification will be ignored because it is not possible to determine what appropriate NiagaraAX object type should be used to represent the new Object Type given only an Object Type name.

EDE File (Object-Types.csv) references

NOTE: When any of the EDE files are parsed, the *#Comment* row is ignored. Instead, the column number relative to the start of each row is used by the parser. Column 0 is the first column of each row followed by Column 1, Column 2 etc.

EDE File (Object-Types.csv)		NiagaraAX			
Column 0	Column 1				
Code	BACnet Object Type	Proxy Point Type	Property ID	Write	
0	Analog Input	Numeric Point	Present Value	readonly	
1	Analog Output	Numeric Writeable	Present Value	Writable	
2	Analog Value	Numeric Point	Present Value	readonly	
3	Binary Input	Boolean Point	Present Value	readonly	
4	Binary Output	Boolean Writeable	Present Value	Writable	
5	Binary Value	Boolean Point	Present Value	readonly	
6	Calendar	Unsupported			
7	Command	Enum Point	Present Value	readonly	
8	Device		Device		
9	Event-Enrollment	Enum Point	Event-Enrollment	readonly	
10	File		Unsupported		
11	Group		Unsupported		
12	Loop	Unsupported			
13	Multistate Input	Enum Point	Present Value	readonly	
14	Multistate Output	Enum Writeable	Present Value	Writable	
15	Notification Class	Unsupported			
16	Program	Unsupported			
17	Schedule	Unsupported			
18	Averaging	Numeric Point	Average Value	readonly	
19	Multistate Value	Enum Point	Present Value	readonly	
20	Trend Log	History Import			
21	Life Safety Point	Enum Point	Present Value	readonly	
22	Life Safety Zone	Enum Point	Present Value	readonly	
23	Accumulator	Enum Point	Present Value	readonly	
24	Pulse Converter		Unsupported	•	

EDE Device Discovery In NiagaraAX

The EDE files contain data pertaining to the BACnet Device object. Here is a description of the relevant EDE file data which is used to define the NiagaraAX Bacnet device.

EDE File (*EDE.csv*) references

NOTE: When any of the EDE files are parsed, the *#Comment* row is ignored. Instead, the column number relative to the start of each row is used by the parser. Column 0 is the first column of each row followed by Column 1, Column 2 etc.

EDE File (<i>EDE.csv</i>)		NiagaraAX
Column*	#Comment	Device Property
0 (M)	keyname	Bacnet Device Display Name
3 (M)	object-type	(object-type = 8 which determines the BACnet object type = Device)
4 (M)	object-instance	Object Id

NOTE: *The EDE definition document indicates that some fields are *Mandatory* and some are *Optional*. These are indicated (M) or (O)

EDE Point Discovery in NiagaraAX

The EDE files contain data pertaining to the BACnet Device object. Here is a description of the EDE file data which is used to define the NiagaraAX Bacnet point.

EDE File (EDE.csv) references

NOTE: When any of the EDE files are parsed, the *#Comment* row is ignored. Instead, the column number relative to the start of each row is used by the parser. Column 0 is the first column of each row followed by Column 1, Column 2 etc.

EDE File (EDE.csv)		NiagaraAX
Column*	#Comment	Point / Proxy Ext Property
2 (M)	object-name	Display Name
3 (M)	object-type	Point Type: As specified by the BACnet specification
4 (M)	object-instance	Object Id
5 (O)	description	Facets key: description
6 (O)	present-value-default	Facets key: presentValueDefault
7 (O)	min-present-value	Facets key: min
8 (O)	max-present-value	Facets key: max
9 (O)	settable	Point type: Writable
10 (O)	supports COV	Facets key: cov
11 (O)	hi-limit	Facets key: hiLimit
12 (O)	low-limit	Facets key: lowLimit

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EDE File (<i>EDE.csv</i>)		NiagaraAX
Column*	#Comment	Point / Proxy Ext Property
13 (O)	state-text reference (reference: State-Texts.csv)	Facets key: stateTextRange [EnumRange]
14 (O)	unit-code (reference: Unit- Texts.csv)	Facets key: units [Unit]
15 (O)	vendor-specific-address	Unsupported

NOTE: *The EDE definition document indicates that some fields are *Mandatory* and some are *Optional*. These are indicated (M) or (O)

Troubleshooting

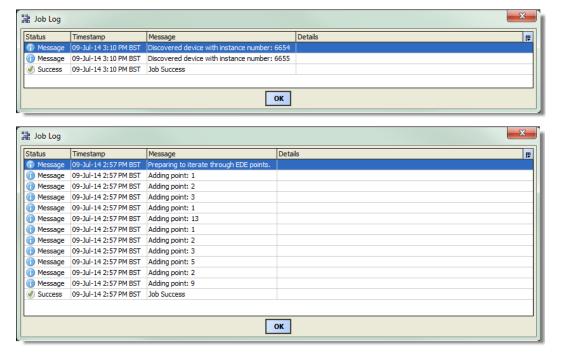
Here is a collection of Troubleshooting topics:

Job Log

When an EDE discover is initiated, the NiagaraAX **JobService** records a **Job Log**. This can be inspected if necessary and used in troubleshooting.

You can click on the **Job Log** control near the top of the manager to see the progress of the EDE discover.

Figure 5. The Job Log shows successful device and point discover



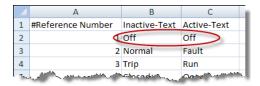
State-Texts Error

If the EDE State-Texts file is in error, the EDE discover will fail.

In this example, the EDE *State-Texts* file contains duplicated texts and the **Job Log** Status has indicated Failed.

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Figure 6. A duplicated text and Job Log error





NOTE: The EDE discover will fail to complete successfully and you will need to correct the error in the EDE *State-Texts* file before continuing.

Stack:Unresolved device address

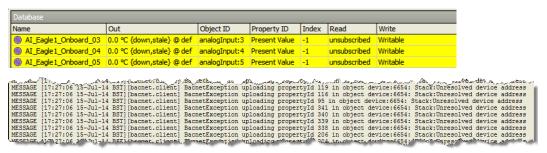
Using offline discover to add Bacnet proxy points into the driver database whilst the BacnetDevice is offline will create a number of BacnetException: Stack: Unresolved device address debug messages in the Application Director view. The status flag type and status flag colours will indicate the condition of the proxy point.

In these examples, offline discover has taken place to add Bacnet proxy points into the driver database. The BacnetDevice is initially offline and then afterwards brought into an online condition. Inspection of the **Application Director** view shows a number of messages which occur during the discover while the BacnetDevice is offline.

NOTE: The behaviour of the Bacnet proxy point status flag type and status flag colours are different between the Niagara AX 3.7.x and 3.8.x releases.

Proxy points added while the BacnetDevice is initially offline at Niagara AX 3.7.x

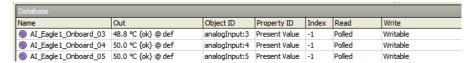
Figure 7. BacnetDevice offline



NOTE: The Bacnet proxy points are shown down indicating driver communications to the parent BacnetDevice are currently lost, based upon the device status (Monitor) configuration for that network.

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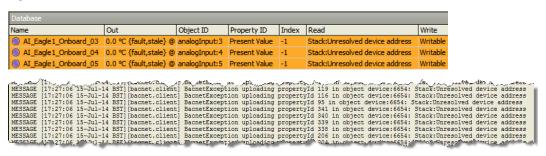
Figure 8. BacnetDevice online



NOTE: When driver communications to the parent BacnetDevice are subsequently established, based upon the device status (Monitor) configuration for that network, the Bacnet proxy points are shown ok

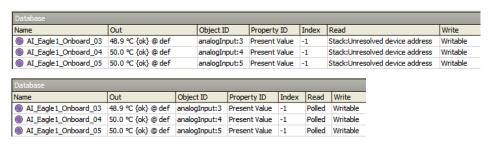
Proxy points added while the BacnetDevice is initially offline at Niagara AX 3.8.x

Figure 9. BacnetDevice offline



NOTE: The Bacnet proxy points are shown fault which typically indicates a configuration error or a "native fault" in the parent BacnetDevice.

Figure 10. BacnetDevice online



NOTE: When driver communications to the parent BacnetDevice are subsequently established, based upon the device status (Monitor) configuration for that network, the Bacnet proxy points are shown ok. Note also that the Read: Stack:Unresolved device address is updated when the database view is Refreshed.

Online Discover following Offline Discover

Bacnet Devices and Bacnet proxy points may be discovered from online devices and added to the driver database after the driver database has been initially discovered offline from an EDE Configuration.

NOTE: If you discover online and overwrite proxy points which have been added from offline discover from an EDE Configuration you are likely to break any Object or Graphical Links which you may have previously made.

Related Documentation July 18th, 2014

Related Documentation

These documents provide more information for understanding how the NiagaraAX implementation of the BACnet EDE Workbench plugin works.

- NiagaraAX BACnet Guide
- NiagaraAX Drivers Guide

Document change log

This log identifies updates made to this document.

• Initial publication: July 18th, 2014