

FlukeView Forms

Documenting Software

Tutorial 2: Formatting Meter Data on a Form

Introduction

This tutorial shows you how to format the way forms display meter data. This tutorial also covers the differences between saving a form with the **Save** command as opposed to the **Save as** command.

Tutorial

FlukeView Forms is designed to quickly and easily transfer data from your meter into a form. Meter data that is logged, uploaded from meter memory, or copied to a form is automatically displayed in graphs and tables that exist on the form.

However, you may want the form to focus on only a section of the meter data you collected. For instance, after logging data with the meter for several hours, you may want the form to concentrate on a particular 2-minute period where the input data was significant.

Also, you can add a “sticky note” to the form: a text note that can be positioned anywhere on the form. The Note will be saved and printed with the form.

For the purposes of this tutorial, we will format data on a form that has already been saved. However, these methods work identically on a new form containing meter data that has not yet been saved.

All form templates contain form items, which are the fields that display meter data or user data. In this tutorial, the term “form item” is generic; text enclosed in angle brackets refers to a specific form item name. For instance, a label form item will appear in the text as <label>.

Highlighting Meter Data on a Graph

We will open a form that contains a half-hour of logged data. However, there is only a small portion of it that shows significant activity. We want the <logged readings graph> form item on this form to focus on only the significant data.

1. From the Windows **Start** menu, open *FlukeView Forms*.
2. The path name of the database that you are currently using is shown in brackets in the blue title bar at the top of *FlukeView Forms*. Remember this path name; you will be changing to a different database for this tutorial, and will want to return to this database when you are finished.
3. From the **File** menu, select **Open Database**. Browse to the directory where *FlukeView Forms* is installed. Open the database **tutorial.fdb**, which contains a saved form for you to format.
4. From the **File** menu, select **Open Saved Form**. A dialog box appears listing all the saved forms in the tutorial.fdb database.

5. Under **Select a form to review**, select the saved form **8/31/00 14:16:00 – Data Formatting Example**, under the form template **Tutorial Voltage Report**. Click **OK**. This opens the saved form in *FlukeView Forms*.

The highlight of this form is a <logged readings graph> displaying DC voltage over a half-hour logging session. The graph shows that the voltage was steady at 2 V DC during the entire logging session, except for a momentary voltage drop during the end of the session. We want to highlight this event on the graph. We will do so by using the zoom feature of the <logged readings graph>.

1. Move the cursor over the data area of the graph – the area bounded by the graph's axis. Click and hold the mouse button down at a place near the voltage drop.
2. Continue to hold the mouse button down and drag the cursor to the voltage drop. As you drag the cursor, the cursor changes into a magnifying glass, and a rectangle is drawn between the cursor position and the point where you originally clicked the mouse.
3. Enclose the voltage drop on the graph in the rectangle, and release the mouse button. The graph will zoom in on the area that was enclosed in the rectangle, giving you a close-up view of this data.

If you did not enclose the area you wanted to, it is easy to undo the zoom: right-click on the graph. From the pop-up menu, select **Undo Zoom**. This will return the graph to its original unmagnified state, and you can perform another zoom. You can also zoom in on an already-magnified view a second time, by repeating steps 2 and 3 as many times as you'd like. By using right-click and **Undo Zoom** you can always return the graph to a completely unmagnified state.

Adding a Note

To add a Note (a “sticky note”) to your form:

1. From the **Edit** menu, select **Add a note**. The note will appear on the form.
2. Move your mouse over the border of the Note, until the mouse pointer changes to crossed arrows. Then drag it over the voltage drop displayed on the graph.
3. Right-click on the note and select **Properties**. The **FlukeView Forms Note Properties** dialog appears.
4. Change the **Note text** to say “Unexpected drop in voltage”. Then click **OK**.

You can also change the color and font of the Note in the **Properties** dialog; and resize the Note by dragging on the black squares (anchors) on its border.

Using Save and Save As Commands

Once you have magnified the voltage drop on the graph to your satisfaction and added your Note, you can save the form. The magnification of the graph and the Note are saved with the form. This way, any time the saved form is reviewed, the graph will be shown with the current magnification, and your comments.

You can save any changes you've made on the form with either the **Save** or **Save as** commands. **Save** overwrites the previously saved form with all the formatting and editing changes you have made to the form (including the optional remark that is listed with the saved form). The total number of saved forms for the currently-selected form template will not change.

Save as allows you to save your changes to a new saved form; the total number of saved forms for the currently-selected form template will be increased by one.

Save the changes you have made using **Save as** by following these steps:

1. From the **File** menu, select **Save as**. The **Save** dialog box appears with **Add a new form** selected.
2. Enter "Magnified Graph" as the **Form remark**, and click **Save**.
3. On the FlukeView Forms toolbar, notice that the total number of saved forms for this template, above and to the right of the **Saved forms** drop-down list, has increased by one. (The form template name is always displayed on the toolbar under **Select a form template**.)
4. Open the drop-down menu under **Saved forms** on the toolbar. Notice there is a new saved form listed, showing the current date and time and the remark "Magnified Graph" This is the form you just formatted and saved.

Finish Tutorial

You have finished the tutorial, and should return to using your own database. From the **File** menu, select **Open Database**, and select the database you were using before you started this tutorial.

Notes

- Reminder: While you formatted a saved form for the purposes of this tutorial, you can also format data on a form that contains new meter data you have not yet saved, by following the same processes.
- Note that you have **not** deleted any of the data you received from the meter. Even though your graph is zoomed in on only a portion of the data, the <logged readings table> still shows all the data your received from the meter.

To delete extraneous or significant data from a form, see *Tutorial 3: How to Edit Data on a Form*.

- There are many other formatting options for the logged readings graph besides magnification. Right-click on the graph to bring up the formatting menu. For details about the formatting options, select **Help** from the formatting menu.
- Other parts of the form can be formatted as well. Tables and other form items can have display options turned on or off. To do this, right-click on the form item; a pop-up menu appears to display any available formatting options. You can also add or edit user data in user data form items, such as <memo>. This new or updated user data is saved when the form is saved.

See Also

- *FlukeView Forms Users Manual*, "Using Forms / Formatting Data on an Existing Form"

