

FlukeView Forms

Documenting Software

Tutorial 3: Editing Meter Data on a Form

Introduction

This tutorial shows you how to remove unnecessary data from a form. This tutorial also covers the differences between saving a form with the **Save** command as opposed to the **Save as** command.

Tutorial

After logging data with a meter over a long period of time (or with a very small logging interval), you may find yourself with a lot of readings. Frequently, only a small subsection of these readings are significant to the test you are conducting. If you save your form with all this extraneous data, it is difficult to find and focus on the significant data when you view or print your form (particularly in tabular form). It also increases the size of your *FlukeView Forms* database and takes up disk space on your PC with data that you are not really interested in keeping.

FlukeView Forms provides you a way to delete unnecessary data from the form. For the purposes of this tutorial, we will delete data from a form that has already been saved. However, these methods work identically on a new form containing meter data that has yet to be 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>.

Removing Unnecessary Data From the Form

We will open a form that contains a half-hour of logged data. However, only a small portion of it shows significant activity. We want to eliminate the insignificant data from this form.

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 edit.
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**, select the form template **Tutorial Voltage Report**. Under **Saved forms**, select the saved form **8/31/00 14:16:00 – Data Formatting Example**. Click **OK**. The saved form opens in *FlukeView Forms*.

The highlight of this form is a <logged readings graph> form item 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 save the data that reflects the voltage drop, and delete the rest.

First, we need to determine which readings we want to delete.

1. Move your cursor over the graph to the beginning of the voltage drop. When the cursor is in this area of the graph data and has changed from an arrow to a pointing hand, click and hold down the mouse button.
2. A yellow popup window appears with information about the reading which began at this point in the graph. Included at the top is the reading number. Write down the reading number for later use.
3. Now move the cursor over the end of the voltage dip, where the voltage returns to a steady 2 VDC value. Repeat step 1, and write down this reading number as well. You now have the first reading number of the significant data you want to save, and the first reading number of the insignificant data that follows the voltage dip.

Below the <logged readings graph> is a <logged readings table> form item that contains all readings logged by the meter. The numbers in the first (gray) column of the table are the reading numbers. Scroll down until you find the first reading number you wrote down. The reading displayed in this table row is the first reading of the significant data. Scroll further down to the second reading you wrote down, the first insignificant reading. We want to save only these two readings and all the readings between them in the table.

1. From the **Tools** menu select **Select Readings**. The **Select Readings** dialog box appears. Move it so that you can still see the <logged readings graph> on the form.

The first table in the **Select Readings** dialog corresponds to the <logged readings table> on the form. Scroll down the table on the dialog until you find the first reading number you wrote down. Click this row to select it.

2. Scroll further down on the same table until you reach the second reading number you wrote down. Hold down the **Shift** key and select this row. All the readings (rows) in the table between the two readings you selected should be highlighted.
3. Click **Copy into Form**. If you are prompted to save the form, click **No**. Now, the <logged readings graph> and <logged readings table> on the form reflect only the readings you selected.

If you wish to reduce the number of significant readings even further, you can repeat the process, picking even fewer of the previously selected readings in the Select Readings dialog. (Notice that the reading have been renumbered, with the first reading you selected being reading 1, and the second reading you selected being the last.)

If you wish to start over again and display all the readings that were originally displayed on the form, click **Revert**. All the readings are shown on the form and in the **Select Readings** dialog.

When the form displays only the readings you want it to, click **Close**.

Using Save and Save As Commands

To make the changes you have made to the form permanent, you need to save the form. You can do this by selecting either **Save** or **Save as** from the **File** menu. There is an important distinction between the two:

Save overwrites your original form with the changes you have made. When you choose this option, you permanently lose the extraneous records you removed with the **Select Readings** dialog box. This results in a smaller and more compact *FlukeView Forms* database.

Save as creates a new form with the changes you have made, and saves it to the database. You still have the original form with all the original readings in the database, and so will not lose any data. However, this uses up more space in the database and on your hard disk.

In this case, we want to use **Save as** and create a new form.

1. From the **File** menu, select **Save as**.
2. The **Save** dialog box appears with **Add a new form** selected. Enter "Significant Data" as the optional remark, and click **Save**.
3. Notice that the total number of saved forms for this template (displayed under **Select a Form**) above and to the right of the **Saved forms** drop-down list has increased by one.
4. From the **File** menu, select **Open Saved Form**. The **Open Saved Form** dialog box appears. With the **Tutorial Voltage Report** form template selected under **Select a form**, open the drop-down menu under **Saved forms**. Notice there is a new saved form listed, showing the current date and time and the remark "Significant Data." This is the form you just edited 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

- Determining whether data is significant or insignificant is, of course, rarely this easy – we use a simplified example in this tutorial. You may want to save the form with a few insignificant readings on either side to provide context.
- Reminder: While you have edited meter data on a saved form for the purposes of this tutorial, you can do the same on a new blank form, containing new meter data you have not yet saved.
- You cannot edit the actual meter data. You can only delete an entire reading, or (in some cases) change the order of the readings.

See Also

- *FlukeView Forms Users Manual*, "Using Forms / Display Selected Readings"
- *FlukeView Forms Users Manual*, "Using Forms / Editing a Saved Form"