

# ScadaTec Technical Note

Using MS Excel as a Tag Server

May 24, 2002

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## Purpose:

Explain how to setup and use MS Excel as a tag server for testing ScadaTec ScadaPhone and ScadaLogger.

## Applies To:

Testing ScadaPhone and ScadaLogger - all versions

## Description:

It is often useful for testing and demo purposes to use MS Excel to provide tag data to ScadaTec's ScadaPhone and ScadaLogger programs. The following is a step by step procedure for doing.

## Using the Sample Spreadsheet:

A example Excel spreadsheet for use with the ScadaPhone 'Sample' application is available from ScadaTec Technical support and may be included in the 'Sample' application folder as '[ScadaPhoneTestServer.xls](#)'. The sample spreadsheet for use with ScadaLogger is named: '[ScadaLoggerTestServer.xls](#)'. These may be downloaded by clicking on the above links. To use this with the sample ScadaPhone project, do the following:

- Open 'Excel Server for Sample Project.xls' in Excel.
- Open the 'Sample' application in ScadaLogger.
- Setup the SCADA Link to use DDE
- Click on the blue text beneath the 'Selected Server' text. Select 'New' from the 'DDE Server List' form, enter a Name such as "ExcelTest" in the Name text box. Enter "Excel" in the 'Service' text box. Enter "Sheet1" in the 'Topic' text box. Leave the 'Tag Name Suffix (Optional)' text box empty. Click 'OK'. Select the new 'ExcelTest' item in the 'DDE Server List' form and click 'OK'. Be sure the 'Enabled' checkbox is checked and click 'OK' in the 'SCADA Link Setup' form.
- Switch to 'Runtime' mode. ScadaPhone should begin retrieving tag data form Excel.
- Change the data as desired in Excel, it will be updated in ScadaPhone on the next scan. You may change analog, discrete, and string values as desired to test various ScadaPhone actions.

## Creating a Custom Tag Server Spreadsheet:

To create a custom MS Excel tag server from scratch, do the following:

1. Configure ScadaPhone or ScadaLogger as desired for your application or demo.
2. Setup the SCADA Link to use DDE
3. Click on the blue text beneath the 'Selected Server' text. Select 'New' from the 'DDE Server List' form, enter a Name such as "ExcelTest" in the Name text box. Enter "Excel" in the 'Service' text box. Enter "Sheet1" in the 'Topic' text box. Leave the 'Tag Name Suffix (Optional)' text box empty. Click 'OK'. Be sure the new 'ExcelTest' item is highlighted in the 'DDE Server List' form and click 'OK'. Be sure the 'Enabled' checkbox is checked and click 'OK' in the 'SCADA Link Setup' form.
4. Open MS Excel.
5. In Excel on Sheet1 enter the tag names of all the Analog, Discrete, and String tags defined in the ScadaPhone or ScadaLogger system. The easiest way to do this is to open the 'Analog.txt', 'Discretes.txt', and 'Strings.txt' files in notepad. These are found in the project directory. Highlight all the lines that do not start with '\$' and copy into a column on the Excel spreadsheet. Now edit each entry to delete everything to the right of the first comma, including the comma. This will leave just the tag name.
6. Highlight the cell to the right of each tag name and select 'Insert/Name/Define' from the main

menu then click 'OK'. This will give the cell a range name = to the tag name that is to its left. A quick way to do this is to hold down the <Alt> key and press the 'I', 'N', 'D' and <Enter> keys sequentially.

7. Enter the desired tag values into the cell to the right of each tag name (the cells that you just assigned range names to in step #6).
8. Save the spreadsheet. It may be named it anything you wish.
9. Switch ScadaPhone or ScadaLogger into Run mode. It should now begin getting the data from the Excel spreadsheet.
10. Change the data as desired in Excel. It will be updated in ScadaPhone / ScadaLogger on the next scan. You may change analog, discrete, and string values as desired to test various ScadaPhone / ScadaLogger actions.