

TECHNICAL NOTE

March 25, 1999

SUBJECT: DATATRACE® for Windows GRAPHS AS ENHANCED METAFILES

PROBLEM: One of the options under the File menu option of the DTW Graph module is to save a graph as a Metafile. Two problems have been noted regarding this option:

1. Many users do not know what a Metafile is.
2. Even fewer know how they can use (retrieve) it.

The answer to the first problem of what exactly is a Metafile is fairly simple. A Metafile is an image, usually of a graphic, that has been saved in a format developed by Microsoft. This format was to become the “universal” format that could be used to transfer these images to any program and retain the maximum amount of detail possible. As it happens, it is not quite so “universal” as Microsoft had hoped.

As indicated above, the graphs saved by the DTW Graph option of “Save to Metafile” are saved as images or pictures. The Metafile exists in two formats: EMF or WMF. The EMF (Enhanced Metafile) is the file you always want to use. The WMF (Windows Metafile) is an older, less useful version of the Metafile.

The following procedure will answer the second problem of how to use a Metafile. While most Windows programs will allow you to create a Metafile, we are discussing the specific DTW application. There may be some subtle differences in procedure with other programs.

PROCEDURE:

If you wish to transfer a graph that you created in DTW to another program, DTW provides two options in the Graph module. The first is the File|Metafile, and the second is the Edit|Copy Page which places a copy of the screen image in the Clipboard. The advantages of the Metafile over the Clipboard include the Metafile is a permanent file, where the Clipboard is temporary. Another is the Metafile retains a much more detailed and precise image of the graphic.

When you select the Metafile option, saving is automatic and the procedure is exactly like any other Save operation in Windows. When you save a graph in EMF, be sure to remember the name and location it was saved to.

To retrieve the Metafile, it must be retrieved into another program (e.g., WORD). A Metafile can not be displayed by double clicking on it. The following example retrieves an EMF into WORD 97, but similar procedures can be found in other Win95 programs.

- Open a document, either new or existing.
- Place the cursor where you want the picture located in the document.
- Select Insert|Picture|From File.
- Go to the location where the Metafile is stored and select it. It will be retrieved into the new document at the cursor location.
- The graph image can be sized or moved like any other picture.

Remember that the EMF is only a picture of the graph that was created in DTW. It has no data or Tracer information associated with it. A Metafile can not be modified or changed. If changes need to be made, you must go back to the original DTW graph, make your changes, and resave the Metafile.