

TECHNICAL NOTE

May 6, 2005

SUBJECT: The Excel Spreadsheet option under Export in DTW version 4.xx does not create an *.xls spreadsheet file, it creates a *.csv file.

PROBLEM: That is not an error, it is intended. The problem with creating an *.xls spreadsheet image as occurred in earlier DTW versions, is that it will only give those cryptic headers that the user has to manipulate into something usable.

CURE: Excel reads directly a CSV file and converts it into a spreadsheet. In addition, Excel will accept the more meaningful column heading and data from a CSV format which can not be created when an XLS format is generated. This makes less work for the user.

PROCEDURE:

After the CSV file is opened in Excel, the user only has to Save As an excel workbook. From this point on all excel functions can be applied to the DataTrace profile(s).

In the next version of DTW, the Excel option will disappear and a message will describe how to use a CSV to create the Excel spreadsheet. We kept the Excel Spreadsheet option defined in this version as a transition.

The only other issue with Excel spreadsheets is that Excel does not have a proper date/time format for DataTrace data. Specifically, Excel does not define a format with the date and time specified to the second. The closest Excel provides is mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm. The seconds are not displayed.

It is a simple procedure to create the format in Excel. A Custom Format must be created of the form mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm:ss. To do this, open an Excel spreadsheet with DataTrace data. Select the date and time column, then right-click the date/time column, and select Format Cells. Select "Custom" and scroll down to "m/d/yyyy h:mm". Click on this format option and modify it so that it appears as "mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm:ss". Click OK and the date/time data in the column will convert to this format.

Excel only allows this new format to be defined for the current spreadsheet. This new date/time format will need to be created each time DataTrace data is sent to Excel.