

Tech Note 9

Use Batch File to Automatically Execute Test Procedure

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Introduction

Simple batch file may be used to execute a series of test scripts automatically. This Tech Note shows how to setup Visual OPCTest Client to run script on startup, and how to create a simple batch file to automate this task.

Platform Requirements

Visual OPCTest® Client 8.0.0000 or later.

Examples used in this Tech Note are based on the OPC Foundation sample servers. In order to successfully follow all the procedures outlined in this Tech Note, please download the OPC Foundation's Data Access sample server and the latest Visual OPCTest Client application.

Basic Steps

To setup a command that will load and execute a test script, we need to perform these three steps:

- (1) Create Test Script
- (2) Setup Client to *Run Script on Startup*
- (3) Create a Command to Run Client and Execute a Test Script

Step 1 - Create Test Script

Please read *Tech Note 6*, *Tech Note 7* or *Tech Note 11* on how to create a fully automatic test script. For illustration purposes, let's assume that the test script is located in:

```
C:\MyTests\MyReadIntoExcel.otx
```

Please note, this sample script calls the `OPC.ShutdownOPCTest` script function to close the Visual OPCTest Client application at the end of script execution. When part of a batch file, closing the application allows other batch commands to execute.

Step 2 – Setup Client to *Run Script on Startup*

Run the Client and select from the main menu *File | Options*. The *Options* dialog will appear. Select the *General* tab and select the *Run Script on Startup* option. Click on the *OK* button. Close Visual OPCTest Client application.

At this moment, whenever Visual OPCTest Client application is started, any last loaded script, will execute immediately. If there is only one script that should be executed every time Client starts up, Step 3 is not necessary. However, if there are several test scripts that execute different OPC Server commands, please proceed to Step 3.

To manually change this setting to false, edit this registry entry key:

```
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Terravic Corporation\Visual OPCTest Client\Scripting  
Set RunScriptOnStartup to 0 (false = do not run script on startup).
```

This may be necessary when your script runs on startup then it closes the application, not allowing you to change this parameter via the *Options* dialog box.

Step 3 – Create a Command to run Client and Execute a Test Script

Create a simple batch file where Visual OPCTest Client takes a script file as a parameter. Use Notepad or any other text editor, save the file as `MyTestBatchFile.bat` in `C:\MyTests` directory. Add this line to the batch file (changing directory paths as required):

```
"C:\Program Files\Terravic Corporation\Visual OPCTest Client\VOPCTV.exe"  
"C:\MyTests\MyReadIntoExcel.otx" [press Enter key]
```

Select *Start | Run* from the Windows menu and type `C:\MyTests\MyTestBatchFile.bat`

Client will load and execute the given script file.

Double quotes are necessary when commands have blank spaces and when defining directory paths or parameters.

If there is more than one script file command in the batch file, use the following script function at the end of each file to close the Visual OPCTest Client application. Closing the application will allow other batch commands to load and execute a script file.

```
REM close the Client, when part of a batch file  
OPC.ShutdownOPCTest
```

Conclusion

Created batch file may now be executed directly from the command prompt or from within other batch files. Scheduling tasks to execute the batch file at specified times might also be achieved (see *Control Panel, Scheduled Tasks* option).

Sample Code File

Complete sample code file: `MyReadIntoExcel.otx`
Sample scripts may be found upon installation of the Visual OPCTest Client software.

Contact

Contact Terravic with any questions regarding Visual OPCTest Client. Please let us know your concerns, desired improvements, or current issues with our software. We pride ourselves in making changes quickly based on your input. Please contact us at support @ terravic.com.

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