Using Honeywell’s Field Device Configurator for Simple and Efficient Instrument Maintenance
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Simple and Efficient Instrument Maintenance

A handheld device is an essential tool used by plant instrument engineers and instrument technicians to monitor, configure, diagnose and trouble-shoot smart field devices.

Despite the increased adoption of host-based tools such as instrument asset management systems and Device Type Manager (DTM) files, handheld tools continue to play a significant role in the daily activities of plant engineers and technicians.

Over the last few decades, several new smart field devices have entered the market. Smart devices based upon proprietary protocols gave way to open protocols such as HART and Foundation Fieldbus protocols. With over 200 device manufacturers and a large user base, HART remains the most used protocol. Customers today are faced with the challenge of maintaining and trouble-shooting devices from several manufacturers operating under multiple protocol revisions.

To support end-users in managing and maintaining this broad instrument base, Honeywell developed the Field Device Configurator (FDC) application that operates on the MCT202 handheld tool, to provide our customers with the right tool to accomplish the following:

- Manage multiple protocol versions from multiple vendors including proprietary protocols
- Enhance user acceptance and eliminate specialized training for a wide variety of users
- Customize the application based upon their usage requirements
- Quickly and easily access device health and device information

The Honeywell MCT202 handheld itself is unique since it is the only handheld that can manage both DE and HART devices in hazardous environments requiring intrinsically safe products.

Figure 1: Honeywell MCT202 Handheld Tool for a Variety of Application Requirements
Protocol Flexibility

With the FDC application, end-users can monitor, configure and calibrate simple as well as complex HART 5, HART 6 and wired HART 7 devices from any manufacturer with ease. In addition to FDC, the MC Toolkit application that resides in the MCT202 helps customers manage Honeywell DE devices, eliminating the need for multiple handhelds.

Simplified Device Description File Management

In multi-product and multi-vendor environments, end-users are challenged to manage and track several Device Description (DD) file revisions from several device manufacturers. FDC’s unique DD manager tool provides the choice of managing the DDs based upon unique plant requirements. The DD manager utility provides the choice of using a generic DD, the latest revision of a DD or the previous version while configuring a device, making the operation simple and easy. Even as new devices replace existing devices, customers continue to use the DD manager utility to add or delete DDs, making the handheld tool relevant to the current plant requirements.

Create Your Own View

Many times an end-user needs to access only a certain set of parameters with their field devices. Most of the available handheld tools require navigating through a long and complicated menu structure to access the desired function. Honeywell’s FDC application simplifies access to information with the freedom to create personalized views in the handheld for every device based on the parameters accessed most frequently. This saves considerable time in accessing the required function in the menu structure. FDC is intuitive for anyone needing relevant instrument data to configure, engineer, support and maintain devices.

In addition, searching for a relevant item in the menu structure during a critical maintenance activity must be fast and simple. FDC includes a robust search function that allows the user to go directly to required item, eliminating the need for navigating through any menu structure. **It typically takes 40% fewer steps to access information on FDC than on other tools.**
Easy Access to Device Health

FDC provides easy access to device health, allowing end-users to make corrective actions on time to avoid an unplanned shutdown or maintenance. An exclusive icon for this function does not dilute this critical information with other routine device information.
Supports Open Standards

FDC also supports open standards based on IEC 61804-3, such as EDDL. FDC helps customers make efficient use of graphical information that resides in EDDL-based field devices, giving them more insight and visibility into the process.

Honeywell’s FDC application, operating on the MCT202 handheld, is the most user friendly tool for efficiently managing HART-based devices, increasing plant safety and reliability.