

METRIC NEWSLETTER

For Metrology Professionals



Yo tengo OpenMETRIC

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Check Us Out at NCSL!



Check out our booth (#100) at the National Conference of Standards Laboratories (NCSL) in Charlotte, July 11-16.

Mr. Don Wyatt, founder and President of Diversified Data Systems will be available to explain our industry-leading solutions for calibration, equipment, property, and asset management.

We will be featuring OpenMETRIC, *"The Next Generation Calibration Management System"* (see related articles on pages 2-3). In addition to an informative "slide show" about OpenMETRIC, Mr. Wyatt will also be demonstrating a "live" version of OpenMETRIC running on Windows NT.

In addition to OpenMETRIC, Mr. Wyatt will answer your questions about our OpenPROTRAK Property Management System, OpenEMBARC Equipment Management, Billing, Acquisition, and Redeployment Control System, and our OpenTRAFIC Transfer and Relocation of Assets System.

Several of our customers will be at our booth at various times to answer your questions about their experiences with DDS.

If you will be attending the NCSL Conference, plan to visit our booth. If you were at the NCSL Conference in previous years, you saw the enthusiastic crowds that surrounded our booth during each exhibit session. You can avoid the crowds by calling today to schedule a private demonstration with Mr. Wyatt during "off hours."

Looking forward to seeing you in Charlotte!

We'll Give You the Shirt off our Back!

Diversified Data Systems is delighted to announce an encore promotion at our NCSL Booth in Charlotte (see related article to the left).

Last year in Albuquerque you made our "Cal the Lab" free t-shirt the most successful promotion in our history. Over 125 people left Albuquerque last year with one or more of our free "Cal the Lab" t-shirts just for stopping by our booth and repeating a simple jingle about our mascot, Cal the Lab.

Since Albuquerque, we've heard from dozens of metrology professionals, sharing stories and experiences they've had with our shirts. One of our long-time friends from the East Coast even sent us a picture of himself wearing our shirt on a vacation in Hawaii!

If you're a little shy in public, here's your chance to memorize the jingle, get your free shirt, and maintain your sense of dignity and decorum.

*In the future when I notice
Furry creatures doing pet tricks,
I'll remember Cal the Lab says
"Yo quiero OpenMETRIC!"*

The rules this year are the same as they were last year. To get your first free shirt, just memorize the jingle and repeat it for one of us at our booth. To get a second free shirt, just wear your first free shirt back by our booth. Additional "free" shirts may be purchased for \$5.00 each.

If you missed our NCSL booth last year, put us on your "Must Visit" list for Charlotte. If you were one of the lucky ones to get one of our shirts last year, come get another one in Charlotte.

Sizes and quantities are limited, so come by early!

Shoeboxes..

...by Don Wyatt

It's probably happening in your organization also. The primary data management system is surrounded by increasing numbers of *ad hoc* systems to fill gaps in your formal system and to augment and supplement those systems.

Many of these systems are being developed directly by users, relying on familiar tools such as Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, and many other productivity applications. These *ad hoc* systems are sometimes called "shoeboxes."

One major client recently identified over 54 shoeboxes within their organization, and they're still looking for more!

As Microsoft Office and similar productivity products become more familiar and available, more and more of these shoeboxes can be expected to emerge. Creative, conscientious people usually prefer to "fix" a system weakness or problem themselves, rather than wait for the IS/IT department to finally get around to it.

Shoeboxes usually indicate a weakness in the formal systems or in IS/IT data system support. Therefore, some might argue that shoeboxes are a "bad thing."

I believe that shoeboxes can actually be a "good thing." The inability of the formal system to embrace and integrate shoeboxes is, however, definitely a "bad thing."

In OpenMETRIC Version 2.1.0, we have incorporated a new feature called "Attachments" (see related article in column to the right). The OpenMETRIC attachment feature allows the formal system to easily integrate shoeboxes into the mainstream of your database management system.

For example, some of our clients are creating elegant Calibration Certificates, complete with logos, graphics, uncertainty data, parametric values, and other "value added" information. They retrieve the data in realtime from our OpenMETRIC database via ODBC or SQL, avoiding the effort and errors associated with manual data re-entry. They "attach" the resulting Certificate to the calibration record, ensuring the ability to archive, retrieve and even reprint the Cert.

At last, we may be starting to get the "best of both worlds" which has so long eluded us.



Getting Attached...

We use attachments every day in our email. Attachments allow us to transfer virtually any file from one user to another.

Now OpenMETRIC Version 2.1.0 allows you to attach virtually any file to virtually any entity or event in your database.

Specifically, OpenMETRIC allows one or more files to be attached to the Class, Manufacturer, Customer, Vendor, Employee, and Item Setup subsystems. OpenMETRIC also allows one or more files to be attached to the Tracking, Calibration, Repair, PM, Other, and Vendor subsystems in Servicing.

For example, If a customer sends you an email about a piece of equipment, you can **attach** the email to the Customer record in the Customer table and to the Item record in the Item table.

If the Customer provides you a document authorizing a special procedure or interval, you can **attach** that document to the Customer and to the Item records.

If you create an elegant Certificate of Calibration, you can **attach** that Cert to the Tracking or to the Calibration record for that Servicing.

You can **attach** automated cal results, technician training records, Vendor Certs, and many other useful pieces of information.

It's easy to get "**very attached**" to this powerful, new OpenMETRIC feature.

Laurel Product Desk Reference

Diversified Data Systems and C. A. Motzko & Associates have announced a strategic alliance under which the Laurel Product Desk Reference from C. A. Motzko & Associates will be fully integrated with OpenMETRIC from Diversified Data Systems.

"This collaborative effort will strengthen the data normalization, model classification, and product cross-reference capabilities of our OpenMETRIC clients," said Don Wyatt, President of Diversified Data Systems.

Wyatt added that DDS is developing a new "front end" for the Laurel database that will blend into the productive look and feel of the OpenTechnology user interface.

C. A. Motzko will maintain the Laurel database, providing quarterly updates for subscribers.

WonderWriter: Easy to Use, Easy to Choose

Diversified Data Systems is proud to announce the release and immediate availability of WonderWriter, the friendliest report generator you've ever seen. WonderWriter was released with OpenMETRIC Version 2.0.0.

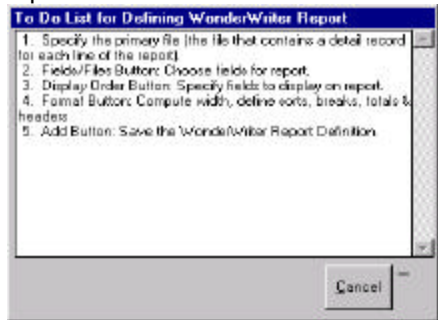
In less than 5 minutes, you can create a WonderWriter report to answer virtually any question or *ad hoc* query about your OpenMETRIC data.

WonderWriter is designed for non-technical users, providing fast, friendly, and flexible *ad hoc* information.

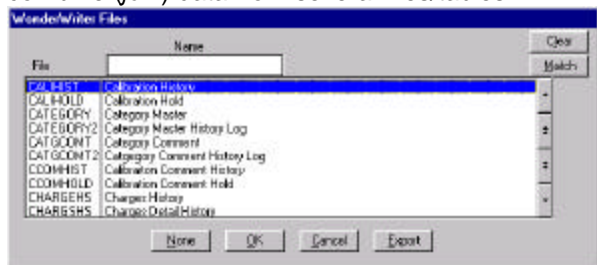
WonderWriter consists of two subsystems; **Define** a report and **Run** a report.

Define a WonderWriter Report

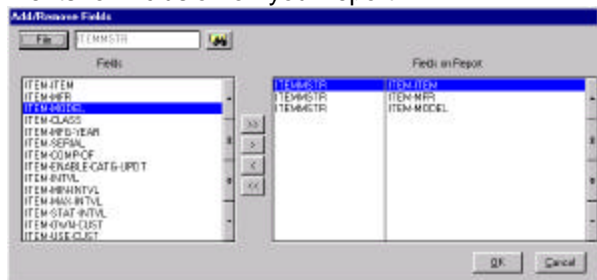
WonderWriter's unique "To Do" button guides you easily and quickly through the process of defining a report.



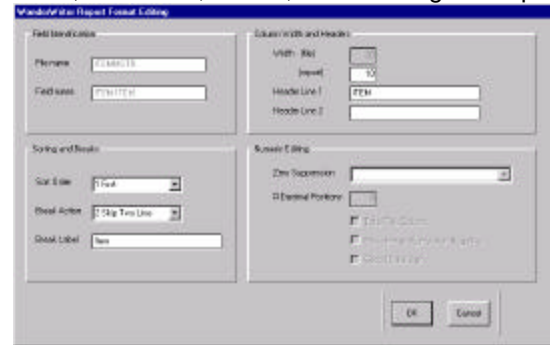
WonderWriter "knows" the database structure of OpenMETRIC and makes it quick and easy to combine (*join*) data from several files/tables.



WonderWriter makes it easy to select data elements for inclusion on your report.

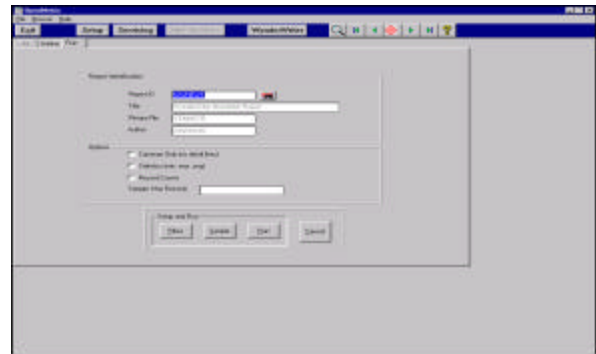


WonderWriter makes it easy to define the column order, sort order, format, and headings on reports.



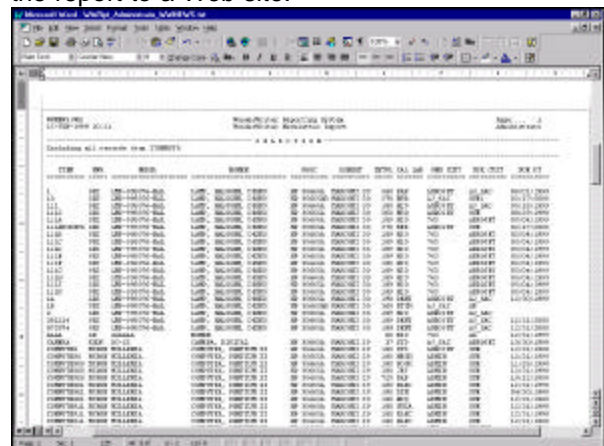
Run a WonderWriter Report

WonderWriter makes it easy to run a small sample or an entire report. WonderWriter allows you to run a "summary only" report if all you need are the totals at the end of the report. WonderWriter will automatically compute totals, averages, minimums, and maximums.



WonderWriter allows you to specify, save, and retrieve filters to apply to the data selected for the report.

In seconds, WonderWriter creates your report and automatically launches Word (or another specified application). From Word, you can print the report, save the report to a file, email the report, or post the report to a Web site.



DIVERSIFIED DATA SYSTEMS -- "TWENTY-NINE YEARS OF TRAILBLAZING"



We at Diversified Data Systems, Inc. (DDS) are proud of our dramatic achievements and enduring contributions to the development and evolution of the computer industry.

For over twenty-nine years, DDS has developed major software products and pioneered new technologies to harness the power and potential of computers for business, industry, manufacturing, health care, education, government, distribution, finance, and public safety.

In the early 70's, DDS gained worldwide recognition by producing the very first COBOL compiler for a 16-bit minicomputer.

This permitted those new, powerful, and economical systems to perform tasks that previously required complex and expensive mainframe computers. DDS's COBOL compiler was the first language compiler to be certified by the Federal Compiler Testing Service, originally under the Department of the Navy, and now under the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

During the 70's and early 80's, DDS made major contributions to the development and refinement of Computer-Aided Software Engineering (CASE) concepts and methodologies.

Today, DDS is the preeminent Software Manufacturing Boutique. DDS has developed a Computer-Aided Software Production (CASP) system named WonderWare. WonderWare uses the power of computer technology to create an "assembly line" to manufacture software. With WonderWare, DDS produces DEFECT-FREE customized software solutions, virtually OVERNIGHT. Yet, WonderWare systems are so ECONOMICAL that our clients tell us that their investments with us are less than the license fees for comparable "packaged" or "canned" products.

Most of DDS's clients are large corporations or organizations who have traditionally developed most of their own software systems. However, today's backlogged MIS departments may take two or three years to develop a new application. DDS is producing such systems in 30-60 days.

Our systems are more economical than internally-developed systems. Our systems generate benefits, economies, and paybacks for our clients immediately. Most importantly, our clients get software that EXACTLY FITS their specific and unique requirements. Most DDS clients, recognizing the value we offer, return to DDS for additional systems and extensions to existing systems. In this way, DDS makes solutions that KEEP FITTING as conditions and requirements change.

Diversified Data Systems, Inc.

**Diversified Data Systems, Inc.
2601 N. Fairview Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85705**

We've got lots to talk about at NCSL in Charlotte!