ASPEN LEAFLET

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File Storage and Retrieval in Relay Database

The upcoming release of the *ASPEN Relay Database*™ has the ability to store files within the database. You can store files of all types and sizes, and you can retrieve them from the database at any time. Both the Unlimited and the Client/Server versions of the database have this "stored-file" capability.

We started working on this feature about a year ago as a solution to the age-old problem of exchanging relay data between the *Relay Database* and different manufacturers' proprietary files. We have successfully worked with SEL-5010 and 5030 files, but we have yet to make a dent in accommodating other manufacturers' files. We came to the conclusion that the stored-file feature is the only realistic solution to working with relays of all makes and models.

Of course when you store the relay settings in the form of a setting file, you will not be able to see the individual pieces of data within the *Relay Database* program. But that is not a problem because you can retrieve a setting file at any time and direct the *Relay Database* to open it with the manufacturer's editing software. For most modern relays, it is pointless to be able to see or edit the individual bits of information in the setting file, because few people know what to do with them without the aid of the manufacturer's setting software. Also, editing the setting with the manufacturer's setting software is safer because the built-in error-checking logic will warn you of any data abnormalities.

For relay types that you plan to store their setting files, you may want to create an abbreviated setting template that contains only the key parameters of interest, such as zone reaches and time delays.

The stored-file feature is also ideally for storing test-set manufacturer's proprietary files. Other relay-related files that you may want to store include drawing files of logic diagrams, trouble reports, and design documents. In additional to relays, stored files can be associated with breakers, transformers, CTs and other data objects.

In the *Relay Database* program, the stored-file feature is available for an object whenever you see this button on the data form: [2 files]. When you press this button, the Stored-File Form will appear. Each line on the form is associated with a stored file. *See figure 1.*

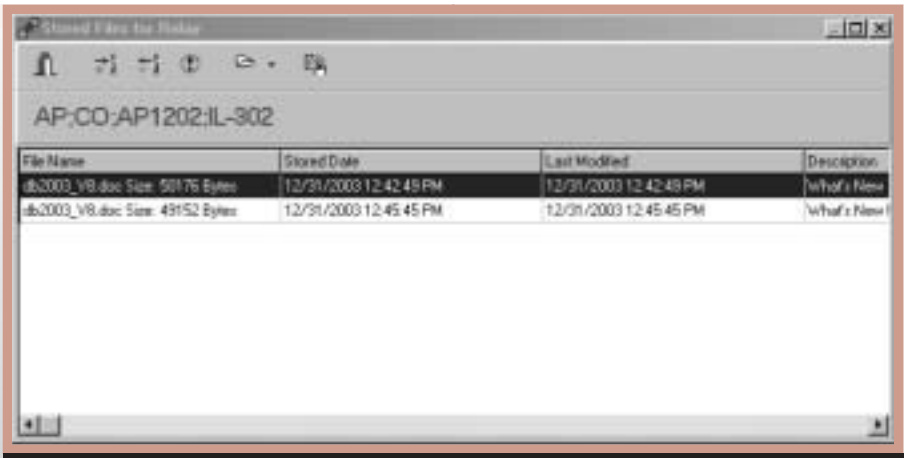

Figure 1

The Open button on this form gives you three different ways of retrieving a stored file: Open File, Open File With, and Retrieve File to Disk.

Open File: The program retrieves the file to the temporary directory on your hard disk and then opens the file with the default application. For example, if you open a .DOC file, the program will open it with your word processor.

Open File With: The program retrieves the file to the temporary directory on your hard disk and open the file with an application you specify. For example, when you open an MDB database, you may want to edit it with the SEL-5010 software, instead of MS Access, which is usually the default application associated with MDB files. In the dialog box for this command, you can direct the *Relay Database* program to always open MDB files with the SEL-5010 software from now on. (Following this change, you can use the "Open File" command, instead of "Open File With" command for files of this type.)

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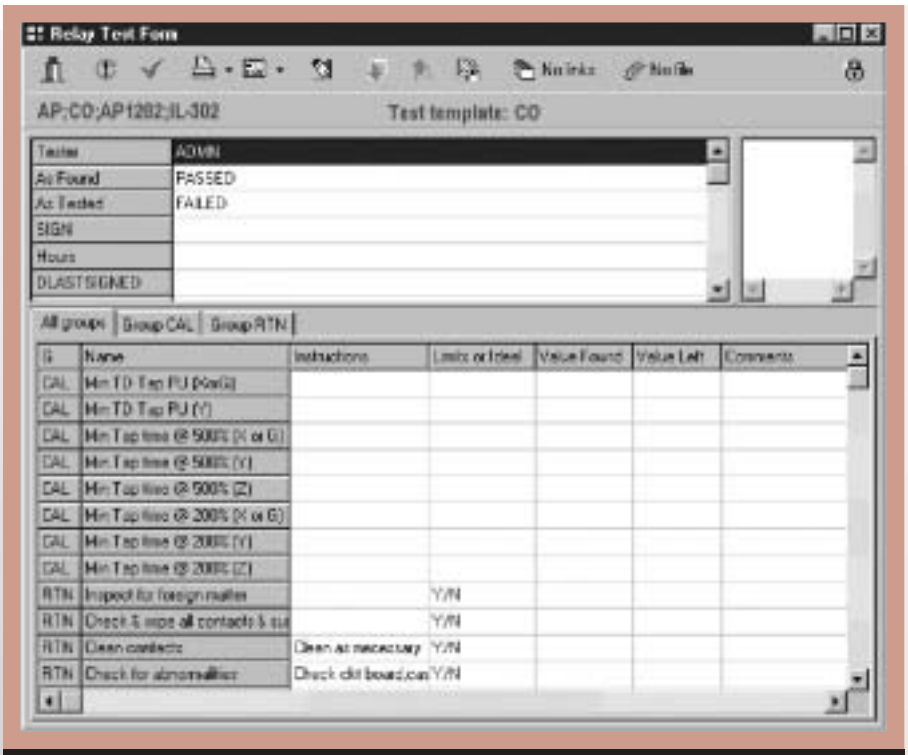

Figure 2

Retrieve File to Disk: Retrieves the stored file to a directory you specify. The *Relay Database* will not launch any application to edit it.

If you retrieved a file with the "Open File" or the "Open File With" command and modify the file, the *Relay Database* will automatically prompt you when you close the file, with two options: Overwrite, or Save as New. The Overwrite option causes the existing stored file to be replaced. The Save as New option causes the updated file to be saved as a new stored file without disturbing the existing stored file.

Test Templates

The upcoming release of the *Relay Database* has a new feature called Test Templates. A test template defines the steps that the technicians need to be carried out to test a relay. If you are currently using paper test forms, you can design your test templates to mimic those forms.

The new release of database requires you to select a test template to go with each test record. The parameters of the test template are displayed at the bottom half of the Test Form, much the same way as setting parameters are displayed at the bottom of the Setting Form. The picture below shows a sample test form with a test template named "CO". Note also the Stored File button at the top, which lets you store any proprietary test files within the database. *See figure 2.*

Improved Recloser Model in DistriView

We have improved the recloser model in the latest maintenance release (V6.7) of *DistriView*. The new features are these:

- For each curve, you can specify a minimum response time.
- For the phase and ground units, you can specify a high-current trip, including a delay.

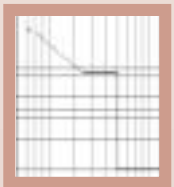

Figure 3

A curve with these new features is shown in *Figure 3*. The upper plateau is caused by the minimum response time. The vertical drop and the lower plateau are results of the high-current trip and delay.

Upcoming Events

- *OneLiner*™ class in Tampa, Florida, from March 17 to 19.

See our web site for details.

New Users

OneLiner

- Alstom T&D, Inc., Eddystone, PA
- GE Industrial System Solutions, Pittsburgh, PA
- Great Lakes Power Ltd., Sault Ste. Marie, ON, Canada
- Maritime Electric Co., Charlottetown, PE, Canada
- Southern California Edison, Rosemead, CA
- University of Texas at Austin
- ZEKC, Sarajevo, Bosnia

Breaker Rating Module™

- GE Industrial System Solutions, Pittsburgh, PA
- Portland General Electric, OR
- Southern California Edison, Rosemead, CA

DistriView

- Board of Public Utilities, Kansas City, KS
- Hawaiian Electric Co., Hilo, HI
- New York Power Authority, White Plains, NY
- Autoridad del Canal de Panama

Relay Database

- Chelan County PUD, Wenatchee, WA

Relay Database Client/Server

- South Mississippi EPA, Hattiesberg, MS
- Southern California Edison, Rosemead, CA
- Westar Energy, Wichita, KS

Line Constants Program™

- Burns and McDonnell, Kansas City, MO
- EPRO, Llc., Augusta, ME

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