

Introduction:

Thank you for trying the Event Manager. This program was developed as a scientific test assistant in human perception testing for a major U.S. manufacturer. I have tried to make it useful to the general public and I hope that you will find it worthy. If you have comments, find bugs, or would like to make suggestions for improvements or add-ons, please leave a message for me on CompuServe. My I.D. is 71612,3074 or write me at the following address:

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Example Programs:

I have included with the executable program, a few example programs that demonstrate the features of the Event Manager. The examples work well with the latest version of Microsoft Video for Windows Runtime. The latest version can be downloaded from the Microsoft Download Service at 206-936-6735 as a self-extracting archive file called "WV1019.EXE". This file will give you all the required drivers and update the Media Player packaged with Windows. In addition, it will give you an AVI file that you can use to try on the Event Manager. Playing AVI files was left out of the examples because the file size of AVI files is usually large and would make downloads cumbersome.

Concerning Hardware:

Because this program supports a subset of the Opto-22 Optomux protocol, it is possible to output optically isolated digital controls, trigger from digital inputs, and wait for digital inputs before continuing a sequence. Future editions will include analog outputs as well. Any hardware compatible with the Optomux protocol should work if it can be configured physically in the same arrangement as the original. I used a Grayhill MicroDAC series I/O controller. The I/O points are configured as follows:

Points 1 - 24 are digital outputs.
Points 25 - 28 are digital inputs
Points 29 - 32 are analog outputs (unused and currently unsupported)

The I/O in this system is not programmatically rearrangeable in terms of inputs and outputs nor is it expandable (yet). It was designed to sequence output events and take an input trigger. For those of you who need analog output capability many manufacturers make serially controllable modules that can be used with the serial data event. For more demanding applications, PID (Proportional-Integral-Derivative) Process controllers can be used with their own programs and I/O with downloadable setpoints and operating parameters and commands via the serial data event. Many manufacturers make RS-422/485 and RS-232 cards that can be used with multidrop controllers to send setpoints and "kick start" programs. One of the best for these is Sea Level Systems Co. There are also many different types of serially based devices that can be commanded from the serial event.

If you currently have access to I/O in the expected configuration you can try the digital functions. Be careful with hookup because of potentially dangerous voltages present in such systems. I am sure that if you purchase components

from any of the many possible vendors, they can be very helpful in making suggestions on how to use their equipment safely and properly.

Original Test System:

For your reference and testing, the original system was programmed on a 486/66 DX2 Packard Bell PC with 4Meg ram, 450 Meg Hard drive, Sound Blaster 16, and CD Rom combination. The monitor was a CompuDyne 15" operated (most often) in 800 * 600 pixel mode. The digital I/O system was a GrayHill MicroDAC MDC-AD32-ADC system with 32 points of I/O. I used a baud rate of 9600 with 8 data bits, 1 stop bit and no parity. The RS-422 output was supplied with a Metrabyte COM-422 board. The network DDE tests were done on a three computer system connected by 3-Com 3C509 boards on a Windows for Workgroups network system. The main CPU was a 486/33. The other two were 386SX/25 systems.

Other Things in the Works -

After this program is released I will be finishing an add on to the Event Manager that supports Event input management. This includes a programmable router (serial to DDE, DDE to Spreadsheets, etc ...), input data parser (convert binary to ascii, cut, etc ...) , data base, graphing tool, spreadsheet and automatic links via DDE to some common spreadsheets and data bases. All events will be programmed in a manner similar to the current Event Manager. A serial data input utility will be included which will auto detect serial parameters for unknown devices and data streams.

Disclaimer:

Lab Automation Systems cannot be held responsible for any damages, direct or inadvertent, caused by the use of this program. It is the user's responsibility to seek professional assistance where dangerous voltages are present or could be made available through the agency of this program. Additionally, Lab Automation Systems disclaims any warranties as to this software, either express or implied, including and without limitation any implied warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, specific functionality, data integrity or protection. The use of this program implies acceptance of these terms.

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