

Jacobsen Declaration Exhibit K

X-eGroups-Return:
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To: loconet_hackers@yahoogroups.com
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Delivered-To: mailing list loconet_hackers@yahoogroups.com
Date: Fri, 8 Aug 2003 09:05:25 -0700
Subject: RE: [loconet_info] Need to do Digitax a service!
Reply-To: loconet_hackers@yahoogroups.com

(This is in reply to several different notes, combined to save space)

At 10:49 PM -0700 8/7/03, kam_loconet wrote:
>I would recommend that you define the data in an xml format. That way
>you can build a word doc from it (or excel for the spread sheet types),
>and us programming types can use them in our applications

The DecoderPro files are in XML. The DTD is available at:

<http://jmri.sf.net/xml/DTD/decoder-config.dtd>

(There are some others in that same directory). This DTD is quite robust now; there are more than 200 decoder types, from 14 manufacturers, successfully defined using it.

I agree that having the data in a general format, e.g. XML, makes it possible to transform it into whatever form you'd like.

>
>What a concept, a xml standard for decoder template...
>

I'm not sure that a "standard" is really needed yet, though I think there's some motion in that direction. Two manufacturers are providing decoder definitions for their new products in this format now, and perhaps others will choose to do that too.

At 3:23 AM -0400 8/8/03, Cact25@aol.com wrote:
>I'd vote for Excel format, since I don't know nor do I care to have to learn
>XML to help out.
>

XML is another thing to learn, but people have certainly helped with the DecoderPro files without learning XML. And if you're trying to keep the information really accurate, you need a format that can be machine checked. The existing Digitrax definitions include over a thousand CV-model combinations!

At 9:44 AM +0100 8/8/03, Alan B. Pearce wrote:
>However I wonder what the problem here is. Surely most of this is NMRA
>specified anyway, and what you are looking for is the extra features.

Many of the CVs are NMRA specified (though even those sometimes have small exceptions in practice). But not all NMRA CVs are present in every decoder type, so having a reference that says "Model DH163AF has CV 51" would be useful by itself. And people mostly have problems with the more complicated features like FX lighting and BEMF. The NMRA doesn't provide definitions for those, and they even differ from one Digitrax decoder model to another.

>Let me just point out that arguments on the format are a little premature.

>The information is not even available yet.

Much of it is, see message 3973

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/loconet_hackers/message/3973

But it's not in a good format for easy reference, which I think is Ray's goal. Having it in a big sheet you could hang on the wall would be really useful.

Bob

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