Multidrop

Device Driver User Guide
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A CAUTION notice denotes a hazard. It calls attention to an operating procedure, practice, or the like that, if not correctly performed or adhered to, could result in damage to the product or loss of important data. Do not proceed beyond a CAUTION notice until the indicated conditions are fully understood and met.
Dear Customer,

The Agilent Technologies acquisition of Velocity11 resulted in the following changes:

- Creation of Agilent Technologies Automation Solutions, formerly Velocity11
- Renaming of some Velocity11 products
- New Customer Service and Technical Support contact information
- New website address for product information

Please make a note of the following changes as they impact this user guide.

**Velocity11 product name changes**

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<td>IWorks Device Driver Programming Interface</td>
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<td>Microplate Centrifuge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VStack Labware Stacker</td>
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**New contact information**

Documentation feedback: documentation.automation@agilent.com

Technical Support: 1.800.979.4811 or +1.408.345.8011
service.automation@agilent.com

Customer Service: 1.866.428.9811 or +1.408.345.8356
orders.automation@agilent.com

European Service: +44 12081443513
euroservice.automation@agilent.com

Web: http://www.agilent.com
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Introduction

This chapter introduces Velocity11 device drivers and provides some basic procedures that are needed to use them.

A Velocity11 device driver is software that plugs into VWorks or BenchWorks software to allow them to control a specific device.

Before reading this guide, you should be familiar with the VWorks or BenchWorks software user interface. Information about using VWorks or BenchWorks software can be found in the *VWorks Version 3 Automation Control User Guide* or *BenchWorks Automation Control User Guide*.

To set up and use Velocity11 device drivers, become familiar with the content in this guide as well as the guides for the devices that use VWorks or BenchWorks software.

This chapter contains the following topics:

- “Who should read this guide” on page 2
- “About Velocity11 user guides” on page 3
- “What this guide covers” on page 5
- “About devices” on page 6
- “About device drivers” on page 7
- “Installing device drivers” on page 9
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<tr>
<td>Integrator</td>
<td>Someone who writes software and configures hardware controlled by device drivers.</td>
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</table>
| Lab manager, administrator, or technician | Someone who is responsible for:  
  - Installing device drivers  
  - Managing device drivers  
  - Developing the applications that are run using device drivers  
  - Solving the more challenging problems that might arise  
  - Developing training materials and standard operating procedures for operators |
| Operator                                | Someone who performs the daily production work using the device driver and solves routine problems. Your organization may choose to create its own procedures for operators including the procedures in this guide. |

### Related topics

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# About Velocity11 user guides

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<td>PDF file The PDF file of the user guide is on the software CD that is supplied with the product.</td>
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<td><strong>Velocity11 website</strong> You can search the online help or download the latest version of any PDF file from the Velocity11 website at <a href="http://www.velocity11.com">www.velocity11.com</a>.</td>
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<td><em>Note:</em> All Velocity11 user information can be searched from the website at <a href="http://www.velocity11.com">www.velocity11.com</a>.</td>
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<td>The online help is the best format to use when you are working at the computer and when you want to perform fast or advanced searches for information.</td>
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<td><strong>To open the online help:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>1. In the Velocity11 lab automation software, press F1. The online help window opens.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Main features</strong> The online help window contains the following:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- <em>Navigation pane.</em> Consists of four tabs. The Contents, Index, and Search tabs provide different ways to locate information. The Using tab contains information about using the help system.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- <em>Content pane.</em> Displays the online help topics.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- <em>Navigation buttons.</em> Enables you to navigate through the pages. The online help includes a navigation pane, content pane, and navigation buttons.</td>
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Computer requirements
To open a user guide in PDF format, you need a PDF viewer. You can download a free PDF viewer from the internet.

Printing and searching
The user guides in PDF format are mainly for printing additional copies. You can perform simple searches in the PDF file, although these searches are much slower than online help searches.

More information
For more information about using PDF documents, see the user documentation for the PDF viewer.

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# What this guide covers

**About this topic**

This topic presents an overview of what procedures and information are provided in this user guide. This guide explains how to:

- Install the driver for the device
- Configure the device in the device manager
- Set and use the tasks associated with the device
- Use *Device* Diagnostics

**Also read**

Information about device drivers not covered in this guide and about running VWorks or BenchWorks software can be found in the *VWorks Version 3 Automation Control User Guide* or the *BenchWorks Automation Control User Guide*.

**Driver version**

*To find version information for a driver in VWorks:*

1. Start VWorks.
2. Click *Help* and select *About VWorks*.

   The *About VWorks* dialog box lists the version numbers of all the current software for all the devices and plug-ins.

*To find version information for a driver in BenchWorks:*

1. Start BenchWorks.
2. Click *Help* and select *About BenchWorks*.

   The *About BenchWorks* dialog box lists the version numbers of all the current software for all the devices and plug-ins.

**Firmware version**

Some devices have firmware installed on them. Because each device is different, the version number may not be the same for all devices.

*To find version information for device firmware:*

1. Open *Device Diagnostics* dialog box.
2. Click *About*.

   The *About Device Control* message box appears displaying the current version of firmware.

**What this guide does not cover**

This guide does not cover the following:

- The operation of the device
- The operation of VWorks or BenchWorks software
- Velocity11 devices, such as the PlateLoc Sealer, VCode Microplate Labeler, and VPrep Pipettor when used in stand-alone mode
If you have purchased a device driver plug-in and are installing it yourself, check with the Velocity11 Technical Support to be sure your version of VWorks or BenchWorks software and the device driver plug-in are using the same version of IXWorks software.

Device driver plug-ins used with BenchWorks software may not include some newer features that were specifically added for use with VWorks software and that are described in this manual.

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**About devices**

This topic presents a definition of a Velocity11 device and the device file. Read this topic if you are unfamiliar with Velocity11 devices and VWorks or BenchWorks software.

**Device defined**

A device is an item on your lab automation system that has an entry in the device manager. A device can be a robot, an instrument, or a location on the lab automation system that can hold a piece of labware.

Examples of devices:
- Velocity11 robot
- Human robot
- PlateLoc Thermal Plate Sealer
- Labcyte Echo550
- Platepad
- VPrep shelf
- Waste

**Device file defined**

The data entered into the device manager and saved as a device file contains the configuration information for your devices.
Device files have the file name format `file name.dev` and are stored in the folder location that you specify when saving the file.

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### About device drivers

**About this topic**

This topic describes what device drivers are and what they do. Velocity11 device drivers enable mechanical devices or software programs to work with VWorks or BenchWorks software.

Read this topic if you are:

- An administrator in charge of installing device drivers and managing Velocity11 devices
- A lab automation system integrator who writes software and configures hardware controlled by VWorks or BenchWorks software

**Device driver defined**

A Velocity11 device driver enables VWorks or BenchWorks software to control and communicate with the specific type of device. Each type of device that you operate with VWorks or BenchWorks software requires a device driver.

For example, VWorks software uses the:

- VPrep Pipettor device driver to communicate with the Velocity11 VPrep Pipettor device
- Softmax Reader device driver to communicate with Molecular Devices readers

**Plug-in defined**

A plug-in is a software program that when added to another program extends it.

**Plug-in device drivers**

Some device drivers are incorporated directly into the VWorks or BenchWorks software application. Other device drivers are distributed as plug-ins. All the device drivers covered in this guide are the plug-in type.
Advantages of distributing device drivers as plug-ins are:

- You only need to install the plug-ins for the devices you use.
- When new plug-ins become available, they can be easily added. There is no need to re-install the VWorks or BenchWorks software application.

### IWorks interface

The device driver plug-ins and VWorks or BenchWorks software use IWorks software as a common interface to communicate with each other. Using a common interface allows the creation of a device driver plug-in without the necessity of changing the software.

**! IMPORTANT !!** Both VWorks or BenchWorks software and the device driver must be using the same version of IWorks to work properly.

### Writing your own device driver

If you are a lab automation system integrator who writes software and configures hardware controlled by VWorks or BenchWorks software, you can write your own driver plug-in for a new device. Contact the Velocity11 Technical Support for information about how to do this.

### What functions do the device drivers provide?

Once installed, the following items are enabled:

- Tasks associated with the device.
  
  Device-specific tasks appear in the Protocol Tasks list and are available for use in protocol editor processes.

- Task parameters associated with the device.
  
  Device-specific task parameters appear in the Protocol Task Parameters toolbar. These determine the conditions with which to execute the tasks of the device.

- Diagnostic commands specific to the device.
  
  Device-specific diagnostic commands and options appear in the Device Diagnostics dialog box. These commands enable direct control of the device.

### Related topics

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Installing device drivers

About this topic

Devices are integrated into VWorks or BenchWorks software using device driver plug-ins. Plug-ins need to be installed before the device can be configured and used.

This topic describes how to install device drivers if they are not already installed on your system. Read this topic if you are an administrator in charge of managing Velocity11 devices.

Procedure

To install device drivers:

1. Insert the device driver installation disc into the CD-ROM of the computer running VWorks or BenchWorks software.
2. Follow the on-screen instructions for installation, selecting the default values when available.
3. When finished, exit VWorks or BenchWorks software.
4. Log off Windows and restart your computer.
5. Start VWorks or BenchWorks software.

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<td>C:\VWorks Workspace\bin\plugins</td>
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<td>BenchWorks software</td>
<td>C:\Program Files\Velocity11\BenchWorks\plugins</td>
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Related topics

For information about... | See...
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Opening diagnostics      | “Opening diagnostics” on page 12
Adding devices

About this topic
To configure your lab automation system to use a device, you need to add it to a device file in VWorks or BenchWorks software. The VWorks or BenchWorks software device manager uses the information in the device file to communicate and operate the device within the automation system.

This topic describes how to:

- Create a new device file (if one does not already exist)
- Add devices
- Save the device file

Read this topic if you are an administrator in charge of managing Velocity11 devices.

Procedure

To add devices to a device file:

1. Make sure that the devices are physically networked to the VWorks or BenchWorks software computer and turned on.
2. Start VWorks or BenchWorks software and login as an Administrator.
3. Do one of the following:
   - If you have an existing device file that you want to add to, select File > Device File, click Open, and select your device file.
   - If you are creating a new device file, select File > Device File and click New.
4. Click the Device Manager tab.
5. Click New device in the Device List toolbar and enter a name for the device you are adding.
6. In the device manager, set the Device type. The default type is Plate Pad, Standard.
7. Repeat step 5 and step 6 for each device.
8. Select **File > Device File > Save**.
   
   If you are creating a new device file, you are prompted to enter a 
   name for your device file.
   
   Alternatively, you can select **File > Save All**. This saves the device file 
   and the current protocol file at the same time.

---

### About diagnostics

**About this topic**

This topic presents an overview of diagnostics software.

Read this topic if you need to set up or troubleshoot a device running 
VWorks or BenchWorks software.

**Background**

Devices can be controlled in real time directly through the VWorks or 
BenchWorks software Diagnostics using simple commands.

Diagnostics software is used for:

- Troubleshooting
- Setting teachpoints
- Performing manual operations outside a protocol
- Creating and editing profiles

For example, if an error occurs during a run that leaves a plate and the 
robot where they should not be, you can use robot diagnostics to move 
the plate and return the robot to its home position.

**Types of diagnostics software**

Devices and robots manufactured by Velocity11 include their own 
diagnostics software. You can find instructions for using this software in 
the relevant user guide.

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Multidrop Device Driver User Guide

Every device has diagnostics software to assist you with troubleshooting and setting up the device. This topic describes how to open a device’s diagnostics in VWorks or BenchWorks software.

Read this topic if you need to access a device’s diagnostics to perform a device setup task or manually operate a device.

Procedure 1

If you are using VWorks4 software

To open Diagnostics:

1. Click **Diagnostics** on the Control toolbar.

2. In the device file’s window, select the device. Expand the general name of the device, if necessary.

3. Click **Device diagnostics** located at the bottom of the window. The device’s diagnostics dialog box opens.

If you are using VWorks3 or BenchWorks software

To open Diagnostics:

1. Click **Diagnostics** on the Control toolbar.
2. In the **Diagnostics** window, select the device. Expand the general name of the device, if necessary.

3. Click **Device diagnostics**. The device’s diagnostics dialog box opens.

### Procedure 2

**If you are using VWorks4 software**

*To open Diagnostics:*

1. Click the **Device File** tab.
2. Select the device from the **Devices** toolbar.
   
   Expand the general name of the device, if necessary.

   ![Device diagnostics toolbar](image)

3. Click **Device diagnostics** located at the bottom of the **Devices** toolbar.

   The device’s diagnostics dialog box opens.

**If you are using VWork3 or BenchWorks software**

*To open Diagnostics:*

1. Click the **Device Manager** tab.
2. Select the device from the **Device List** toolbar. Expand the general name of the device, if necessary.
3. Click **Device diagnostics** located at the bottom of the **Device List** toolbar.

The device's diagnostics dialog box opens.

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### Related topics

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About profiles

About this topic
This topic describes what profiles are and what they do.
Read this topic if you are an administrator in charge of managing Velocity11 devices.

Profiles defined
A profile contains the initialization settings needed for communication between a device and device driver. The data in a profile is used by VWorks or BenchWorks software to identify each device on the network.
A profile can also contain other basic settings that you are unlikely to change once set up.
Because profiles identify device driver devices on the network, each device driver device must have its own profile.
You can create, modify, and delete profiles as needed.

Stored settings
Profiles are stored in the Windows registry.
The settings stored in a device driver profile include:
- Whether the device is connected using serial or Ethernet
- If the device is connected using Ethernet, the Device ID of the device on the network
- If the device is connected using serial, the COM port that the controlling computer uses for communication
- Configuration of accessories

Related topics

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Setting the properties for a device

About this topic
The device properties provide VWorks or BenchWorks software with additional information about the device's current configuration, such as which profile to use, and stores the information in the device file. The device file is automatically loaded when you open a protocol.

The device properties need to be set when configuring the device. Typically, these properties only need to be set once. This topic describes how to set the following device properties:

- General
- Teachpoint
- Barcode
- Location (for devices with multiple teachpoints)
- Device Properties

Read this topic if you are an administrator in charge of managing Velocity11 devices.

Before you start
Make sure that you have installed the device driver plug-in and have added the device to the device manager.

See “Related information” for procedures on how to do these tasks.

Setting general properties

To set the general properties for a device:

1. Click the Device Manager tab.

2. Select the device from the Device List toolbar. (Expand the device name, if necessary.)

   Note: For devices with Locations, see “Setting location properties” on page 17. If no Locations, continue with step 3.

3. In the General group, set the following:

   a. **Approach height.** This is the height to raise the robot gripper above the teachpoint when the robot moves the plate horizontally towards or away from it.

   b. **Allowed/prohibited labware.** Click the adjacent field to open the dialog box. Move the labware classes by selecting them and clicking one of the arrow buttons.

4. In the Device Properties, select the desired profile if it is not already selected.

5. Select File > Device File > Save to save the changes to the device file.
Setting teachpoints

Teachpoints are the coordinates in space that a robot travels to in order to interact with a device. Only the devices that are accessible by robots are able to have teachpoints.

**To set the teachpoint properties:**

1. Open the **Device Properties** page.
2. In the **Teachpoints** property group, set the following:
   a. **Device is accessible from robot robot’s name.** Choose **Yes** or **No**.

   ![Setting teachpoints table]

   b. **Teachpoint for robot robot’s name.** Choose a file.

   ![Setting teachpoints table]

Setting barcode location

If your device has a barcode reader, indicate where the reader is located.

**To set the barcode readers property:**

1. In the **Barcode Readers** property group, set the side that has the barcode to **Yes**.

   ![Setting barcode readers table]

2. Enter the number of the COM port to which the device is connected.

Setting location properties

**Note:** The options available under Location groups might differ for software and hardware device drivers. Software devices do not have robot-accessible labware positions.

For hardware devices that have more than one robot-accessible labware position, the approach height, allowable/prohibited labware, teachpoint, and barcode properties are located under Location groups.

**To set the Location properties:**

1. **Hardware device drivers only.** Set the **Use linked location.** Follow the procedure in “Setting the Use linked location” on page 18.
2. **Hardware device drivers only** Set the **Teachpoints.** Follow the procedure in “Setting teachpoints” on page 17.
3. **Some software device drivers only**. Set the **Approach height** and **Allowed/prohibited Labware**. Follow the procedure in “Setting general properties” on page 16.

4. Set the **Barcode Readers** location. Follow the procedure in “Setting barcode location” on page 17.

5. Assign the **Labware** used by the location by selecting the correct labware type from the list.

6. In the **Device Properties**, select the desired profile if it is not already selected.

7. Select **File > Device File > Save** to save the changes to the device file.

Currently, this feature is enabled for the special situations in which there is a storage device such as a PlateHub Carousel, StoreX, or Cytomat and a robot, such as the Velocity11 Translator robot that is shuttling plates between systems.

To use this feature, select yes and then select the device location to which you want to link. This tells the software that the current device location is the same physical location as the device selected from the Device to use list.

**Note:** Selecting this option when it is not enabled will have no effect on the system.

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Adding and linking Sub Process tasks

About this topic

This topic describes how to add a sub-process to a protocol and configure it. Read this topic if you are an administrator or technician and are responsible for creating protocols in VWorks or BenchWorks software.

Before you read this

Before you read this topic, become familiar with the topics in the VWorks Version 3 Automation Control User Guide or BenchWorks Automation Control User Guide describing what a protocol is and how it is created.

Sub Process task defined

Sub Process tasks indicate the existence of a subroutine within a protocol. Sub-processes typically contain a series of liquid handling tasks used by devices such as the VPrep Pipettor or Multimek dispenser.

Adding a Sub Process task

The first step in creating a pipette process is to add a Sub Process task to the protocol editor. Drag the Sub Process icon into the process.

Setting Sub Process task parameters

When you add the Sub Process task, a new sub-process is started in the pipette process editor. This process is identified by its sub-process link icon.

Because you can have more than one sub-process in a protocol, you must link the Sub Process task to the correct sub-process.

To link the Sub Process task to the correct sub-process:

1. In the Protocol Editor, add a Sub Process task to the protocol and then select it in the protocol sequence.

2. In the Protocol Task Parameters toolbar, select the sub-process that you want to use for this pipetting task from the Use Sub Process list.
3. If there is only one sub-process and you need to create a second one, click **Add New**.

**Associating the sub-process to a device**

Because you can have more than one device that uses sub-processes on a lab automation system, you must link each sub-process link icon with one or more devices that you want the sub-process to be able to use. You do this by setting the parameter for the sub-process link icon.

*To link a Sub Process task to a device:*

1. In the **Pipette Process Editor**, select the **Sub Process** link icon.

2. In the **Available devices** list of the **Pipette Task Parameters** toolbar, select one or more pipettors to link to and click **Add**.

The selected pipettors move to the lower box and become available for use.
Using JavaScript to set task parameters

JavaScript programs (scripts) can be used to change the parameters of a protocol task immediately before it is scheduled. This extends the capability of VWorks or BenchWorks software because the parameters can be changed dynamically during a run, based on the following:

- Information passed from an external source, such as a database
- The number of times the protocol has cycled
- Feedback on changing conditions during the run

This topic describes the use of JavaScript to set task parameters in a protocol.

Read this topic if you are an administrator or technician responsible for creating VWorks or BenchWorks software protocols and want to add functionality to a task using JavaScript.

Where scripts are written

Scripts can be written in two ways:

- Directly into the box in the Advanced Settings tab of the Task Parameters toolbar
- As an external file that is located by clicking Browse in the Advanced Settings tab and navigating to its location on the hard drive

Note: You can also call an external file by embedding the “open ( )” function in the box.

The following screenshot displays a short script that prints the parameters of a task to the log toolbar, just before the task runs. In this case, the script is written directly in the Advanced Settings box.
For more information about using JavaScript, refer to the *VWorks Version 3 Automation Control User Guide* or the *BenchWorks Automation Control User Guide*.

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### About reader output files

Plug-in device drivers that are written for plate readers have a common way of naming their output files. This topic explains the concepts related to output file naming. By reading this topic, you will learn how to prevent data in the reader output files from being overwritten by newer data.

Read this topic if you are an operator who wants to make changes to the task parameters for one of these readers:
- VR4000
- Analyst GT
- Fusion
- Viewlux
- Tecan readers

### Plug-in default output file

When you first install a reader device driver plug-in, all data recorded during a protocol or by a manual read using diagnostics software is written to a single file stored in the C: drive.
The exact name of the file is specific to the device. For example, the RVSI VR4000 device driver creates a file with the name vialreaderresults.txt.

This file can only store data for one read, which means that the set of data for each read overwrites the last set in the file. To avoid this problem you must set up an output file naming convention.

Profile default output file name

Some device drivers allow more than one device of that type to be used in the lab automation system. In this case, each device must have its own profile. Even if you have only one device, you can still set up multiple profiles for it, with each storing different settings.

In these cases, you probably want each profile to have a separate default output filename to prevent the data from runs using one profile overwriting those of another.

Filename suffixes

To prevent the data from one read overwriting the data from another, you need to append a variable suffix to the file name. You can append a date/time stamp and one or more bar codes on the rack or plate.

Example

The example output file folder below shows that a profile default file name of output.txt was created at one time. At another time, a suffix was appended in the profile for the device driver, which added a barcode identifier to the file name (for example output_C100040329.txt).
You can override the default output file name that is set in the profile using the Output filename property of the Read task parameters. This allows you to use different output file names for every task. The suffix used for the file name that you set in the task parameters is taken from the suffix specified in the device diagnostics profile. So if you select date/time stamp in the profile, the date/time stamp will also be appended during a run in which you have specified a different file name.

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About device initialization

About this topic

When working in device diagnostics software, you are often required to initialize the device. This topic explains why device initialization is necessary.

Opening communications

Initializing a device opens communications with it. For example, if the device is connected with a serial cable, the COM port is opened, and if the device is connected with an Ethernet cable, the TCP/IP socket is connected.

Homing motors

Initializing a device homes motors that do not track their position along their line of travel. Homing a motor moves it until it triggers an event, called a home flag. This tells the motor its location.

The motors on some devices automatically move to their home positions when the device is turned on. The motors on other devices must be initialized to be homed.

Setting profile parameters

Initializing a device applies relevant parameters set in the device’s profile.

Setting state and memory variables

Most devices store variables in software or firmware. Initializing a device sets these variables to their initial values.

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The Thermo Labsystems Multidrop device driver supports the following models of Multidrop:

- 384
- Combi

These devices are reagent dispensers that can be integrated into a lab automation system that is run using VWorks.

Note: This device driver is not a plug-in and therefore does not need to be installed. The driver is included directly in VWorks.

This chapter contains the following topics:

- “Workflow for configuring the Multidrop” on page 28
- “Creating a Multidrop profile” on page 28
- “Setting Multidrop task parameters” on page 30
- “Managing Multidrop profiles” on page 32
- “Operating the Multidrop with diagnostics” on page 34
Chapter 2: Multidrop
Multidrop Device Driver User Guide

Workflow for configuring the Multidrop

About this topic
This topic presents the workflow for configuring the Multidrop device driver.
Read this topic if you are an administrator responsible for setting up devices in VWorks.

Workflow

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Creating a Multidrop profile

About this topic
This topic describes how to create a profile for the Multidrop.
Read this topic if you are an administrator responsible for setting up devices in VWorks.

Before you start
Before you can create a profile, you must add the Multidrop to the device manager.

Procedure

To create a Multidrop profile:
1. Open Multidrop Diagnostics.
2. In the **Profile Settings** area, click **New**.

3. Enter a name in the **New Multidrop Profile** dialog box and click **OK**.

4. In the **Com port** box, type the number of the COM port you are using to connect the Multidrop with the computer running VWorks.

5. If you want to prime the Multidrop every time it is initialized, select the **Prime** check box and enter the volume of liquid to use in the box.

   Priming moves liquid through the dispensing system into waste to make sure that there is no air in the lines.

6. Select the model of the Multidrop that you are using (384 or Combi).

7. If you selected **Multidrop Combi**, select one of the two compatible tube sizes: standard or small.

8. Click **Save**.

9. In the **Profile Settings** area, click **Initialize**.
Chapter 2: Multidrop
Multidrop Device Driver User Guide

Setting Multidrop task parameters

When the Multidrop is added to the device manager, the Multidrop task associated with the Multidrop becomes available in the protocol editor, pre-protocol editor, and post-protocol editor. When you add a task to a protocol, you need to set the parameters for it. This topic describes the task and its parameters.

Read this topic if you are:

❑ An administrator or technician responsible for creating protocols
❑ An operator who wants to make changes to the Multidrop task parameters in a protocol

Note: Operators cannot save changes to protocols.

About the Multidrop task

The Multidrop device driver adds the Multidrop task to the Protocol Tasks toolbar:

The task moves a plate to a Multidrop and instructs it to fill the plate. During a dispense, the plate stage moves in the left-right axis and the wells are filled in columns, starting with column 1. In a 96-well plate there are eight rows, so every well in a column is filled at the same time. In a 384-well plate there are 16 rows, requiring two dispense passes. With the Combi model and 1536-well plates, four passes are required. During the first pass, every second well in a column is filled. The plate stage then moves over by one well so that the dispensers sit above empty wells. In the second pass, the stage returns to the starting position and the remaining wells are filled.
Procedure

To set the Multidrop task parameters:

1. Add a Multidrop task to a protocol process.

2. In the Protocol Task Parameters toolbar, make sure the Task Settings tab is displayed.

3. If your lab automation system has more than one Multidrop, select the one you want to use for the task from the Select the Multidrop to work with list.

4. If you want to prime the Multidrop, enter the volume of liquid for priming in the Prime volume box.
   Priming moves liquid through the dispensing system into waste to make sure that there is no air in the lines.

5. Protocol editor only. In the Dispense volume box, enter the volume of liquid that you want to dispense into each well.

6. Protocol editor only. To shake the plate on the Multidrop after the dispense, enter a value into the Shake time box.

7. To purge the lines after the dispense, select the Purge when done check box, and enter the volume of liquid for purging.
   Purging moves liquid back into the liquid cassettes.

8. Protocol editor only. To dispense into all wells, select the Entire plate option.

9. Protocol editor only. To dispense into selected wells only:
   a. Select the Selected columns option.
   b. Click Select none.
   c. In the number matrix, click the numbers corresponding to the columns to dispense into.

   In the following example liquid will be dispensed into columns 2, 4, 6 and 8 of a 96-well plate.

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<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
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Managing Multidrop profiles

**About this topic**

This topic describes how administrators and technicians can manage Multidrop profiles.

**Managing profiles**

*To modify an existing profile:*

1. Open Multidrop Diagnostics.
2. Select the profile you want to edit from the list in the **Profile Settings** area.
3. Make the desired changes to the profile.
4. Click **Save**.

**To delete a profile:**
1. Open **Multidrop Diagnostics**.
2. Select the profile you want to delete from the list in the **Profile Settings** area.
3. Click **Delete**.
4. Click **Yes** in the **Delete profile** dialog box.

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#### About this topic
This topic describes how to:
- Initialize the Multidrop
- Fill a plate
- Purge the Multidrop
- Prime the Multidrop
- Shake the Multidrop

Read this topic if you are an operator who wants to troubleshoot or operate the Multidrop using direct commands.

#### Before you start
Before you can send commands to the Multidrop or receive status information from the Multidrop, you need to initialize it.

**To initialize the Multidrop:**
1. Open Multidrop Diagnostics.
2. In the Profile Settings area, click Initialize.

#### Operating the Multidrop

**To fill a plate:**
1. Refer to the Multidrop user documents to learn how to prepare to fill a plate.
2. In the Dispense Program area:
   - For Combi users, select the type of labware you are using from the Select labware to work with list.

   ![Select labware to work with](image)

   - For 384 users, select either 96 or 384, depending on the number of wells in the labware you are using.
3. If you want to prime the Multidrop, enter the volume of priming liquid in the **Prime volume** box. Priming moves liquid through the dispensing system to make sure that there is no air in the lines.

4. In the **Dispense volume** box, enter the volume of liquid to dispense into each well.

5. To shake the plate after the dispense, enter a value in the **Shake time** box.

6. To purge the lines after the dispense, select the **Purge _ µL when complete** check box, and enter the volume with which to purge. Purging moves liquid back into the liquid cassettes.

7. To dispense into all wells, make sure that the **Entire plate** option is selected.

8. To dispense into selected wells only:
   a. Select the **Specific columns** option.
   b. Click **Clear All**.
   c. In the number matrix, click the numbers corresponding to the columns into which you want to dispense.

   In the following example liquid will be dispensed into columns 1, 3, 5, and 7, and 9–24 of a 384-well plate.

9. Click **Dispense**.

    **Performing non-dispense operations**
    You can also perform basic non-dispense operations using the buttons in the **Multidrop Commands** area.

    **To purge the liquid line:**
    1. Enter a value in the **Purge volume** box and click **Purge**.

    **To prime the liquid lines:**
    1. Enter a value in the **Prime volume** box and click **Prime**.

    **To shake a plate:**
    1. Enter a value in the **Shake time** box and click **Shake**.

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