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## Contents

### ChemStation Connector Plugin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Getting Started</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Configure the Agilent Technologies GC/LC ChemStation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Configure the ChemStation Method</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processing ChemStation Results</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reprocessing Results in ChemStation Data Analysis</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Configure the Instrument</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add an Instrument</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select the Data System Connector</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Configure the Connector</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Instrument Processing</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ChemStation Connector Plugin

Getting Started

This document describes how to configure the Agilent GC ChemStation chromatography data system (both “legacy” and “OpenLab” versions) and the EZReporter 4.0 ChemStation Connector Plugin so that results can be processed automatically at the end of each run.

Installation

Install the EZReporter software that includes the GC ChemStation Connector plugin after installing the GC ChemStation software. The EZReporter post-run processing macro, “ezrptx.mac”, will be installed automatically to the correct ChemStation directory. Otherwise, the macro will be saved to the EZReporter installation folder in a ZIP file named, “ezrptx.gechem.zip” and you will have to extract it and copy it manually to the correct folder.

Note: Older versions of the Agilent ChemStation software are installed to the folder, “C:\Chem32\”. More recent versions are installed to the folder, “C:\Program Files (x86)\Agilent Technologies\ChemStation\”.

Configure the Agilent Technologies GC/LC ChemStation

The Diablo EZReporter software supports automated processing of calibrated peak results generated by the Agilent Technologies GC or LC ChemStation data system. This support is accomplished using a post-run macro as described below.

Important: In order to process results from the Agilent Technologies ChemStation data system, you must first make sure that the names in the EZReporter component settings table match the compound names in the ChemStation calibration tables. For example, if a compound is named "Hexane" in the ChemStation calibration table, it must also be entered as "Hexane" in the component settings table (not "n-Hexane", or "nC6").

Configure the ChemStation Method

To configure a ChemStation method for automatic post-run processing with the EZReporter software, open the “Method > Run Time Checklist…” menu option and configure this dialog box as follows.

1. Check the “Post-Run Command/Macro checkbox.
2. Enter the following command*:

   macro ezrptx.mac, go

   *If you already have a ChemStation method set up for automatic processing with EZReporter 3.0, you will need
to change the macro name from “ezrpt.mac” to “ezrptx.mac” as shown above. EZReporter 4.0 uses a different reporting macro.

3. Click “OK”.

**Important:** Make sure to save the ChemStation method once you have made these modifications.

![Run Time Checklist](image)

*The Agilent ChemStation “Run Time Checklist” dialog box configured to send results automatically to the EZReporter 4.0 software at the end of each run.*

**Note:** If the EZReporter installation program detects the presence of the ChemStation software on the computer, it will automatically copy the post-run macro, “ezrptx.mac” to the proper folder in the ChemStation directory structure (the “Core” folder). If the ChemStation software is not detected, then the macro will be installed in a to the EZReporter installation folder in a zip file (ezrptx.gcchem.zip) and it will need to be extracted and copied manually to the ChemStation “Core” folder.

With older versions of the Agilent ChemStation software, the macro is installed to the folder, “C:\Chem32\Core”. With more recent versions it is installed to the folder, “C:\Program Files (x86)\Agilent Technologies\ChemStation\Core”.

---

**Processing ChemStation Results**

**Reprocessing Results in ChemStation Data Analysis**

You can also reprocess results manually from the ChemStation Data Analysis view as follows:

1. Start the ChemStation software and switch to the Data Analysis View
2. At the ChemStation command line, type the following command followed by the “Enter” key*:

   `macro "ezrptx.mac"

   *Note: You will need to reload the macro from the Data Analysis view any time you restart the ChemStation software.`
*EZReporter 4.0 uses a different macro than EZReporter 3.0, so make sure you load the correct version of macro at the command line (ezrptx.mac).

3. When the macro is loaded a new option will be added to the Data Analysis “Report” menu: Report > Generate EZReport”.

4. **Important**: before sending results to EZReporter you must first generate a ChemStation report to ensure that all of the external standard results are calculated: “Report > Print Report”

5. **Important**: Make sure that you have already started the EZReporter software before sending results.

6. Click the “Report > Generate EZReport” menu option to send the current results to EZReporter for processing.

---

**Configure the Instrument**

**Add an Instrument**

First, you must add and configure an instrument. Switch to the “Sample Processing” tab of the main window and click the “Add” button below the instruments table.
Select the Data System Connector

In order to process results from the Agilent ChemStation data system, you must select the “Agilent OpenLab\ChemStation Connector”, and then “Edit” the connector to select and apply any connector-specific settings.

**Important:** The data system connectors available for you to select will be dependent on which version of the installation program you used to install the EZReporter 4.0 software. Make sure that you download the EZReporter installer version for Agilent Data Systems.

Configure the Connector

Click the “Edit” button to the right of the Data System Connector to edit any connector-specific settings. In the case of the ChemStation Connector, you can typically leave the settings at their default values.
Export Folder to Monitor
The “Export Folder to Monitor” is the folder that the connector will monitor for new results sent from ChemStation processing macro. Results are saved to a text file with a file extension of “.csx”. This file is deleted once it has been successfully processed by EZReporter. The default export folder is:

C:\Users\Public\Documents\Diablo EZReporter\Export

You should leave this setting with the default folder unless you are processing results from multiple instruments.

Enable ChemStation multi-instrument processing: Checking this checkbox enables processing results from multiple ChemStation instruments controlled by the ChemStation software on your workstation computer. See “Multi-Instrument Processing” for more information.

Other Settings
The following settings should not need to be changed in a typical installation:

Result Polling Interval: This is the interval in milliseconds at which the connector will check the export folder for new text files exported from ChemStation. The default value of 2000 milliseconds should be correct for most situations.

Processing Delay: After finding new text files in the export folder, the connector will wait for this period in milliseconds before processing results. The default value of 2000 milliseconds should be correct for most situations.

Multi-Instrument Processing
EZReporter can be configured to process results from more than one ChemStation instrument (the ChemStation software supports up to four instruments to be installed on a single ChemStation instance – contact Agilent Technologies for more information).

IMPORTANT: You will need a separate EZReporter instrument license for each ChemStation instrument you want to monitor. The EZReporter Standard Edition, NGA Edition, and NGL Edition licenses typically include 1 instrument license. Click “Help > License Status” to determine the number of instrument licenses you currently have included in your license. Contact Diablo Analytical if you need to purchase additional licenses.
Enable Multi-instrument Processing

To enable multi-instrument processing, check the “Enable ChemStation multi-instrument processing” check box.

The first time you check this checkbox, the ChemStation connector will create four instrument subfolders in the EZReporter “Export” folder if they do not already exist:

Instrument 1: C:\Users\Public\Documents\Diablo EZReporter\Export\1
Instrument 2: C:\Users\Public\Documents\Diablo EZReporter\Export\2
Instrument 3: C:\Users\Public\Documents\Diablo EZReporter\Export\3
Instrument 4: C:\Users\Public\Documents\Diablo EZReporter\Export\4
In addition, the connector will create a file named, "EnableCSMultiInstProcessing.txt" in the Export folder. The presence of this file tells the “ezrptx.mac” processing macro to save the results in the subfolder that corresponds to the instrument rather than to the export folder. If you uncheck the checkbox, this file is deleted and the macro will revert to saving the result file in the export folder.

Note: If you want to confirm the instrument number for a particular instance of ChemStation, execute the following command at the ChemStation command line:

```
print _instrument
```

The instrument number (1-4) will be displayed in the status bar below the command line.

**Add Instruments to the Instruments Table**

Next, you will need to add instruments to the EZReporter instruments table corresponding to each ChemStation instrument from which you will be processing results:

**Set the Export Folder for each Instrument**

In the instrument configuration for each instrument make sure to select the Agilent OpenLab/ChemStation Connector, and then specify the export subfolder for that ChemStation instrument as the “Export Folder to Monitor”. For example, the connector below is configured to process results from ChemStation instrument 1.

**Set the Default Configuration File for each Instrument**

By default, EZReporter will use the configuration file that is currently loaded to process results from each instrument. If you would like to specify different configuration files for each instrument, then change the “Configuration File Mode” in the instrument settings of each instrument to, “Load default instrument configuration file” and select the configuration file you would like to be loaded when processing results from that instrument.
EZREPORTER.INI File Configuration

EZReporter still supports the old method of configuring multi-instrument support using the “ezrpt.ini” file to tell EZReporter which folder to send results for each instrument. If you are already using this method successfully, then there is no need to change anything. Just make sure that “Enable ChemStation multi-instrument processing” checkbox is not checked.

Important: This method is not recommended for newer versions of ChemStation that are installed in the folder, “C:\Program Files (x86)\Agilent Technologies\ChemStation”. Windows 10 security makes it difficult to create and edit the ezrpt.ini file in this folder. In addition, the ezrpt.ini file must be saved with “ANSI” encoding, not “UTF-8” encoding, which can be problematic depending on the text editor you are using.

1) First, make sure that the “Enable ChemStation multi-instrument processing” checkbox is not checked in the ChemStation connector settings window. This instructs the processing macro to look for the “ezrpt.ini” file, and if present, read the export folders for each instrument. Note that if there is no “ezrpt.ini” file present, then the macro will default to the EZReporter Export folder.

2) Next, you must create an INI file named, “ezrpt.ini” in the ChemStation “Core” folder.

   Older ChemStation Versions: C:\Chem32\Core\ezrpt.ini
   Newer ChemStation Versions: C:\Program Files (x86)\Agilent Technologies\ChemStation\Core\ezrpt.ini

3) Edit the INI file and add the following entries in the [EZREPORTER] section. Note that “ExportDir1 corresponds to ChemStation Instrument 1, ExportDir2 corresponds to Instrument 2, etc. Note that you only need to add entries for the instruments you will be using.

   [EZREPORTER]
   ExportDir1=C:\Users\Public\Documents\Diablo EZReporter\Export\1
   ExportDir2=C:\Users\Public\Documents\Diablo EZReporter\Export\2
   ExportDir3=C:\Users\Public\Documents\Diablo EZReporter\Export\3
4) You can specify any folders you would like in the INI file (including folders on network shares). However, make sure that the folders/paths specified in the INI file exist and the user running EZReporter has full permissions to that folder.

5) Follow the instructions above to “Add Instruments to the Instruments Table”, “Set the Export Folder for each Instrument”, and “Set the Default Configuration File for each Instrument”.

**Important:** when you, “Set the Export Folder for each Instrument”, make sure you select the folder specified in the INI file for that ChemStation instrument.
Index

A
Add an Instrument 3

C
ChemStation Connector Plugin 1
Configure the Agilent Technologies GC/LC ChemStation 1
Configure the ChemStation Method 1
Configure the Connector 4
Configure the Instrument 3

E
Export Folder to Monitor 5
EZRPT.INI File Configuration 8

G
Getting Started 1

I
Installation 1

M
Multi-Instrument Processing 5

O
Other Settings 5

P
Processing ChemStation Results 2

R
Reprocessing Results in ChemStation Data Analysis 2