Jacobsen Declaration Exhibit R

X-eGroups-Return:
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To: loconet_hackers@yahoogroups.com
From: Bob Jacobsen <Bob_Jacobsen@lbl.gov>
Mailing-List: list loconet_hackers@yahoogroups.com; contact
loconet_hackers-owner@yahoogroups.com
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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