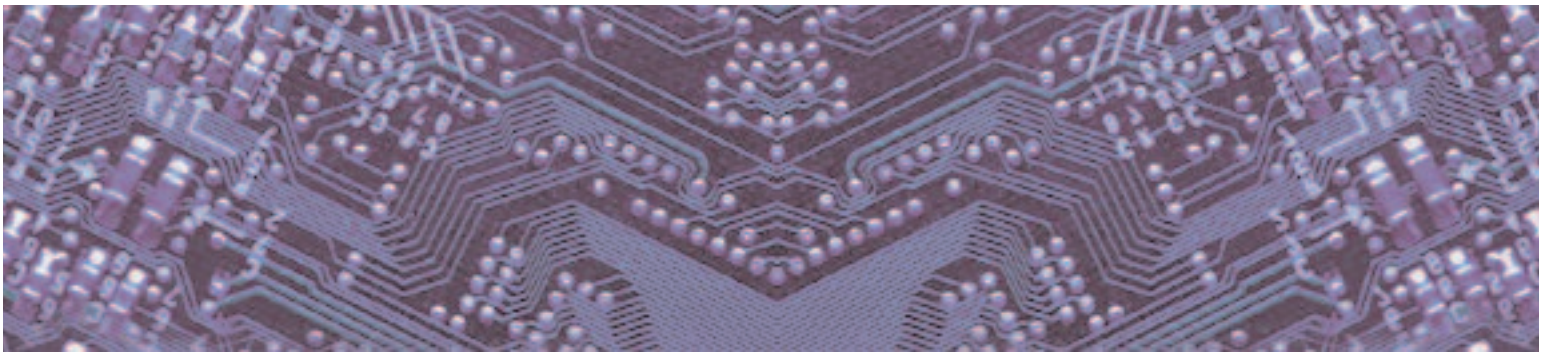

AT-401 DD Services Kit 5.0
Frequently Asked Questions

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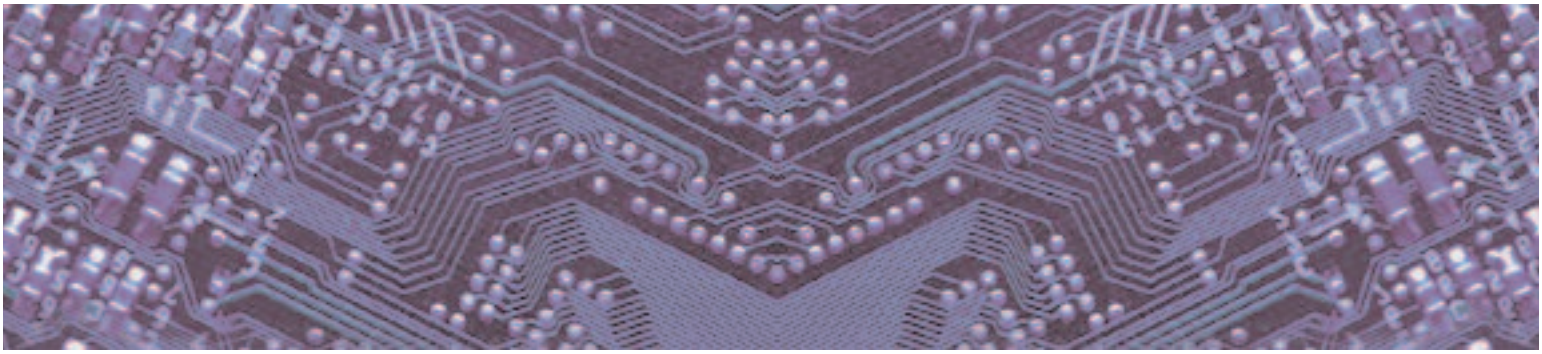


What is the AT-401 DD Services Kit 5.0?

Device descriptions (DDs) are written using the Device Description Language (DDL). The source language DDs are translated into a machine readable binary format by the Tokenizer. Host applications access information about the device from this binary format using Device Description Services.

DD Services kit is a library of source code used to decode the DD binaries and access the DD information. The source code library provides several convenience functions to make it easier for a system supplier to develop DD-based applications.

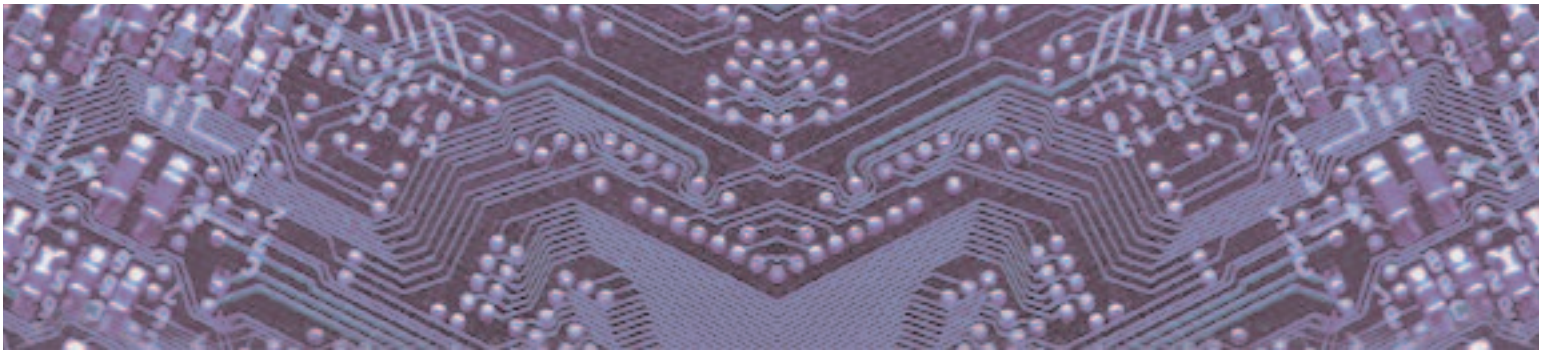
What is included with the AT-401 DD Services Kit 5.0?

The kit contains a single installation disk with DD Services and documentation.

- Device Description Services Source Code
- Documentation
- 90 days support and maintenance updates

What is new with the DD Services Kit 5.0?

The DD Services Kit 5.0 fully supports the new language elements specified by the EDDL cooperative team. These new language extensions are described in the latest Device Description Language Specification (FF-900) available for member review on Fieldbus Forums. The DD Services Kit 5.0 enables the host systems to integrate visualization features such as graphs, charts, images and dialogs, as well as support ing the new persistent data storage features of EDDL.



Will the DD Services Kit 5.0 be compatible with today's DD binaries found on the Fieldbus Foundation's website?

Today's DD binaries conform to the DD Binary 4.x file format. The DD Services Kit 5.0 is compatible with DD binaries generated by the DD Tokenizer 4.x and 5.x. Compatibility with DD Tokenizer 4.x assures continued support for the existing installed base of Device Descriptions while enabling support of the new language extensions in future devices.

Is DD Services system- or platform-dependent?

DD Services can be used with multiple host operating system platforms. The DD Services software design identifies any system-dependent services involved in the process of delivering device description information to an application, and makes them external to DD Services.

By placing these services outside of DD Services, instead of dictating a solution within DD Services that all applications must use, DD Services provides you with greater flexibility over how you choose to implement each service, and which host operating system platform you use.

What is the EDDL?

EDDL is an acronym for Electronic Device Description Language and is the superset specification of the descriptive technology language currently shared by the Fieldbus Foundation, HART Communication Foundation and Profibus Organization. EDDL is specified in the IEC 61804-2 International Standard. The Fieldbus Foundation's Device Description Technology is a fully defined subset of the IEC 61804-2 "EDDL" standard.

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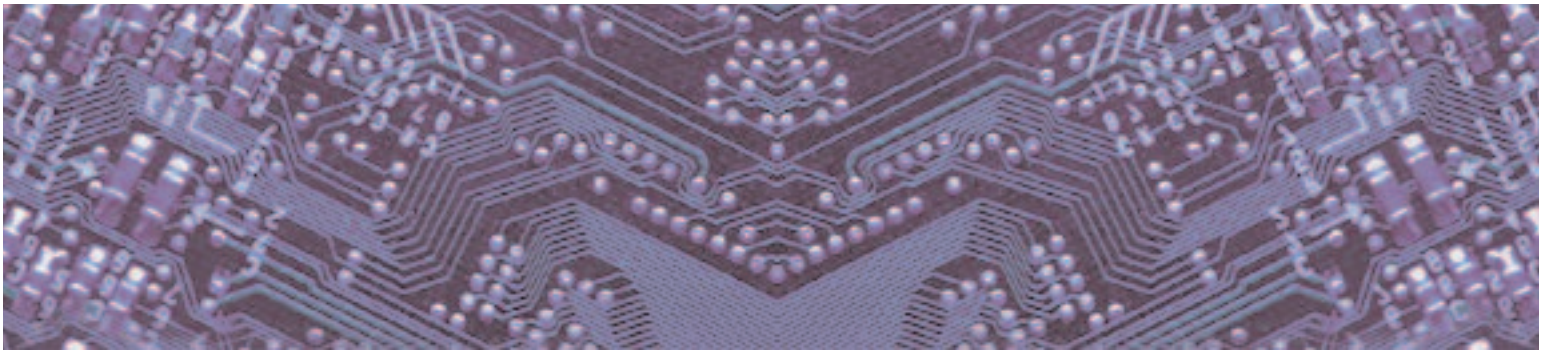

What is the EDDL cooperative effort?

The EDDL cooperative effort is a working group composed of members of the Fieldbus Foundation, OPC Foundation, HART Communication Foundation and Profibus Organization to provide common extensions to the IEC 61804-2 EDDL International Standard. The extensions build upon the existing EDDL standard.

What did the EDDL cooperative deliver?

Built on IEC 61804-2 standards, the EDDL extensions provide powerful, advanced visualization capabilities for diagnostics, complex calibration procedures, persistent data storage and algorithmic relationships. The new extensions are ideal for advanced device applications such as valve signatures and radar level sensor configuration.

Why use EDDL?

You have unrestricted access to the most widely used interoperable descriptive language in the automation industry.

EDDL is forward and backward compatible, preserving your investment and expanding device capability at the same time.

EDDL provides uniform configuration/setup, operation and diagnostics/maintenance features in an interoperable, multi-vendor environment.

EDDL requires no proprietary driver development.

EDDL has built-in revision control.

EDDL defines a single EDD for all hosts and OS platforms.

What is the DD Services Kit maintenance policy?

A new license to DD Services includes 90 days of support and updates. The Fieldbus Foundation offers a one-year extended support and maintenance contract.

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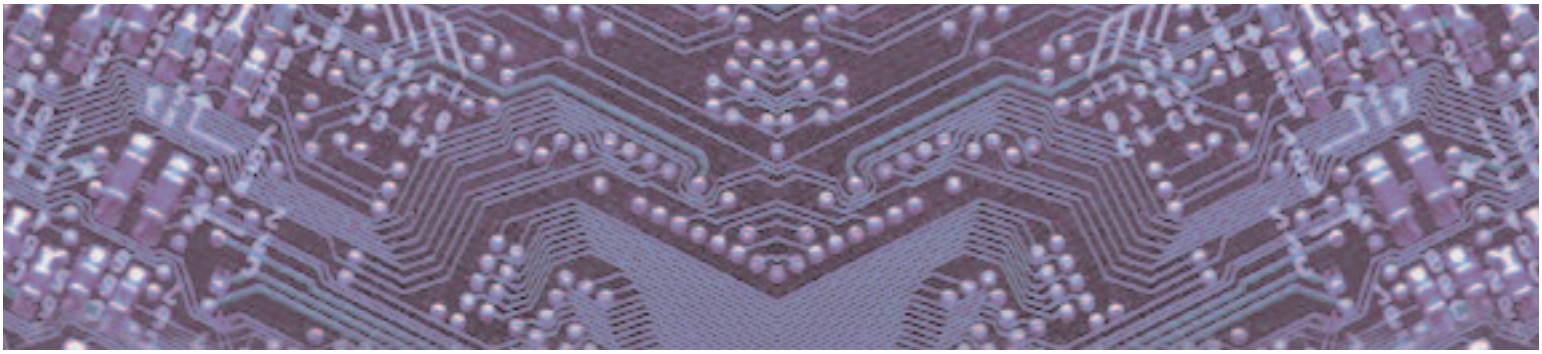

How do I obtain support?

If you have a Fieldbus Forum account, send an email to dd@fieldbus.org and request access to the **DD Services Support Forum**.

Please include your **forum username** in the email. (You must send this email **after** account activation so proper permissions can be set.)

After you have received notification that **DD Services Support Forum** access is active, you may access the **DD Services Support Forum** product support section of Fieldbus Forums.

If you do not have access to the Fieldbus Forums and wish to join, please be sure to follow registration guidance at http://forums.fieldbus.org. If you need assistance, please contact us.

You may email support@fieldbus.org at any time with product questions. Or call (512) 794-8890.

Is any training available?

The Fieldbus Foundation does not offer training on the integration of DD Services. However, the Fieldbus Foundation does offer the Device Description Workshop to guide manufacturers on the best practices for creating a Device Description. Refer to the Fieldbus Foundation website, http://www.fieldbus.org, for course schedule.

What are the DD Services Kit 5.0 system requirements?

The DD Services Kit 5.0 source code is system-independent.

To extract the source code and view documentation from the install disk, the following system is recommended:

- Pentium-class PC
- Windows NT, Windows 2000 or Windows XP
- 10MB free space for installation

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