Using RPI RFID Read software

Open the application RFID\_Serial\_Interface3.exe. Note the date displayed in the upper left corner. This is the name that will be assigned to the output file. The numbers in the lower left corner represent the mouse coordinates. These can be ignored.

click load, and navigate to RFID list file. This is a .csv (comma separated value) file containing a list of names, RCS IDs, RFID tags, and roles. The roles category is user configurable, and for reference only. It has no effect on the operation of the program, so long as it doesn’t exceed 30 characters. The header is defined in the CSV file.

Click open. The program will load the names into the list. Note the open file name in the upper right corner.

In order to begin scanning IDs, we need to open the serial port the RFID reader is connected to. Use device manager to identify the correct COM Port. I know that COM 10 is the RFID reader on my system, but it will be different from system to system. Usually it is a lower number.

Click the ‘serial’ button to detect and select the serial port. It will take a few seconds to load. Enter the number preceding the correct port. This example is 2. Press enter.

The port will open and the program will display ‘OK to scan’ indicating that it is ready to scan IDs and log entries. It will also show the open port next to the file name. The system is ready to scan IDs now.

Scanning an ID causes the list to jump to the correct ID location in the list, and mark that person as ‘present’.

If an ID is scanned that is not in the list, it will prompt the user to enter the rest of the information, then add the new entry to the list and mark as present.

Clicking edit allows the user to change the information of the current entry. The information must be entered in the format specified, and include the name, email, and user field with no spaces between commas. Sorry. It also allows the user to scan a new or replacement ID.

Clicking ‘add’ allows the user to add a new entry by name. The field must be entered as described, without spaces between the commas. Sorry. It assigns an ID of ‘00000000000’ and marks them as present. This is generally only used for RPI Faculty, staff, or students who forget their ID, or for attendees without an RPI ID.

Attendees can be marked as present manually using the ‘mark’ button. This toggles the ‘present’ state.

A user can search the list for a matching string in any of the Name, email, or role fields. The text is case sensitive and must match exactly, including spaces. First or Last name only are not enough, it must be the exact entered name. Short or nicknames in the list may cause problems here. Entering the email correctly is the best option for reliable searches each time. Scanning an ID will cause the list to jump to a correct entry if available.

If an attendee is known to be on the list, but their ID says they are unknown, they may have gotten a new ID. Click ‘search’ to search for their email before adding a new entry. If that turns up nothing, create a new entry.

Closing the application will save both the list of names, emails, RFID tags, and roles, and the list of those present for the event. If another event is needed for the day, the file name must be manually changed on the first before saving the second, or it will be overwritten. The list file location is the same as it was selected. The event file location is in the same folder from which the application was run.

Known Issues

* Event files are overwritten, and cannot be appended to. This means one event per day without closing the application between reads, or without manually changing the file name
* Event file location is not configurable within the application. It can be changed in source though.