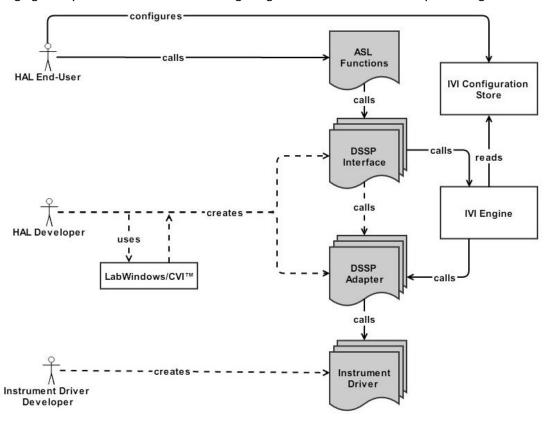
Implementing a C-based Hardware Abstraction Layer (HAL)

1. Introduction

This document covers the process to create a C-based Hardware Abstraction Layer (HAL) step by step. To get the most out of this document, first review Appendix A in the *Mitigate Hardware Obsolescence* white paper. The key value of a HAL is to implement an interchangeable layer for high-level applications so that user can change test system hardware without changing test system software. The following image shows the C-based HAL system diagram.



This example uses a function generator to generate signals and a digital multimeter to receive and measure the signals. This example illustrates how to write a C-based HAL from start to finish. The following table shows the instruments used in this example.

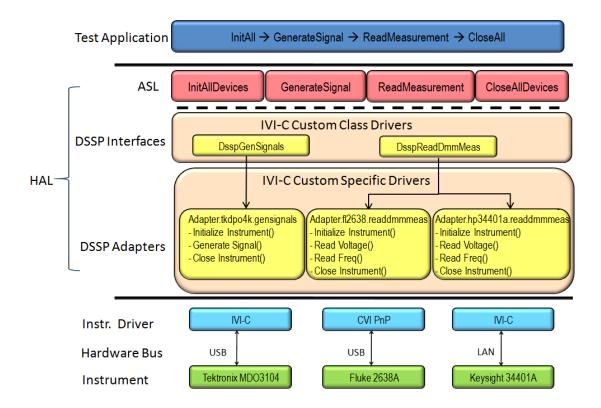
Instrument	Туре	Bus Interface	Instrument Driver
Tektronix MDO3104	Function Generator	USB	IVI-C
Keysight 34401A	Digital Multimeter	LAN	IVI-C
Fluke 2638A	Digital Multimeter	USB	CVI PnP

This example will use the Tektronix MDO3104 oscilloscope as a function generator and two digital multimeters to demonstrate how the HAL supports hardware interchangeability. Refer to the document *How to Run the Example* for details on how to run the example.

2. Implementation

The following diagram shows the C-based HAL architecture, with specific functions and instrument models.

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The example uses the IVI-C architecture provided by the NI IVI Compliance Package (ICP) to implement the HAL because ICP provides well-tested and highly used components that are required for a HAL: edit-time interface definition and binding, run-time binding to specific interface implementations based on configuration external to the client program (i.e., client programs can use different implementations without code changes), and tools for specifying system configuration. Additionally, LabWindows™/CVI™ provides IVI tools to help in the creation of HAL components.

The example creates a custom IVI-C Class Driver for each DSSP Interface and a custom IVI-C Specific Driver for each DSSP Adapter. Note that even though the example uses the ICP infrastructure for the HAL layer, IVI-C drivers are not required for the Instrument Driver layer. In the cases where you want to use an IVI-C driver in the Instrument Driver layer, the architecture uses IVI in both the HAL layer and the Instrument Driver layer.

The following table shows the Prefix and Published API Names in this example. (Refer to Section 2.1.3 for details.)

Туре	Prefix	Published API
IVI-C Custom Class	ReadDmmMeas	N/A
IVI-C Custom Class	GenSignals	N/A
IVI-C Custom Specific	hp34401areaddmmmeas	ReadDmmMeas
IVI-C Custom Specific	fl2638readdmmmeas	ReadDmmMeas
IVI-C Custom Specific	tkdpo4kgensignals	GenSignals

2.1. DSSP Layer

The DSSP layer includes two types of components: DSSP Interfaces, implemented as IVI-C Custom Class Drivers, and DSSP Adapters, implemented as IVI-C Custom Specific Drivers. The following sections describe how to build a DSSP Adapter and then derive a DSSP Interface from the DSSP Adapter. Another viable approach is to first define the DSSP Interface in a .fp file, generate the DSSP Interface shell from the .fp file, and then generate the DSSP Adapter from the DSSP Interface.

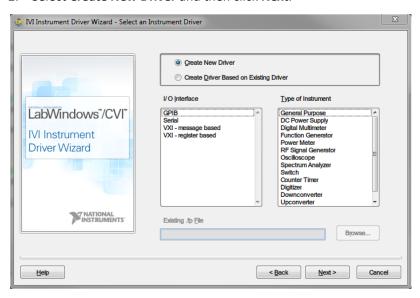
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2.1.1. DSSP Adapters

Create the DSSP Adapter modules using the **IVI Instrument Driver Wizard** in LabWindows/CVI. Then you can modify the generated files to meet system requirements. The following sections show how to create a DSSP Adapter for the Keysight hp34401a IVI-C instrument driver.

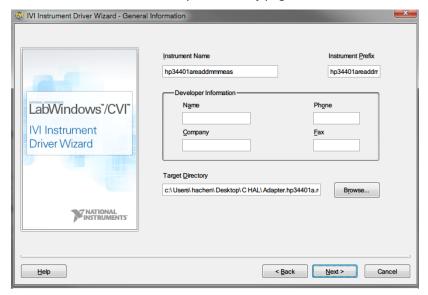
2.1.1.1. Use the IVI Specific Driver Wizard to Generate the DSSP Adapter Shell

- 1. In LabWindows/CVI, choose (Tools»IVI Development»Create IVI Specific Driver) to run the wizard and click Next.
- 2. Select Create New Driver and then click Next.



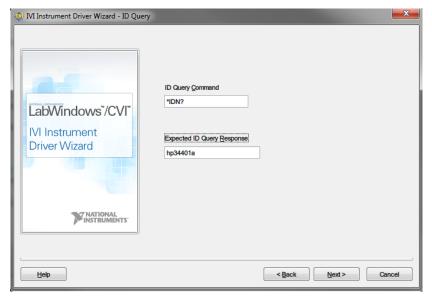
- 3. In this page, you need to provide the information of following editors:
 - Instrument Name is the unique identification of a DSSP Adapter. Name the module hp34401areaddmmmeas.
 - Instrument Prefix should be the same name as Instrument Name.
 - Target Directory specifies the location where the source code will be generated.

Then, click Next all the way to ID Query page.

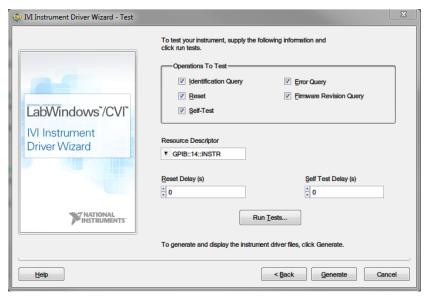


4. Enter the **Expected ID Query Response**. You can enter any string for this text box. The only reason to enter this is to enable the **Next** button to continue the wizard. Click **Next** all the way to **Test** page.

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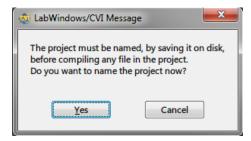


5. Click Generate to finish the wizard.



2.1.1.2. Modify the DSSP Adapter Source and Build the Project

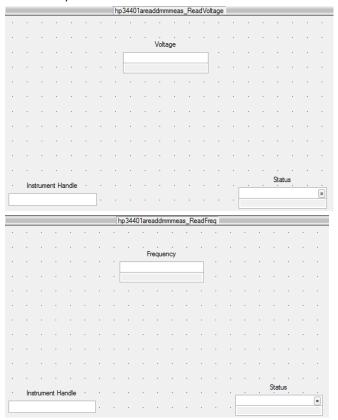
- 1. Create a new project (File»New»Project) in LabWindows/CVI.
- 2. Add the generated .c, .h and .fp files into the project. If you see the following popup dialog, click **Yes** and save the project.



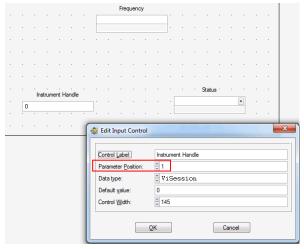
- 3. Add additional function panels in the .fp file for each function in the DSSP Interface you are implementing. For the hp34401a digital multimeter driver example, add two function panel windows:
 - ReadVoltage to measure voltage
 - a) Voltage: ViReal64 Output Control
 - b) Instrument Handle: ViSession Input Control
 - c) Status: ViStatus Return Value Control

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- ReadFreq to measure frequency
 - a) Frequency: ViReal64 Output Control
 - b) Instrument Handle: ViSession Input Control
 - c) Status: ViStatus Return Value Control

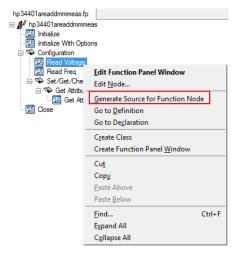


Note: Ensure that Instrument Handle is always the first parameter.



4. Right-click on the newly added function panel window and select **Generate Source for Function Node** to generate source code.

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5. Add VI FUNC to the newly generated functions (for both .c and .h files).

6. To use the IVI-C specific driver hp34401a include the header file by adding the following line in the top of the .c file:

```
#include "hp34401a.h"
```

- 7. Implement the following functions.
 - hp34401areaddmmmeas_init
 - hp34401areaddmmmeas InitWithOptions
 - hp34401areaddmmmeas_close
 - hp34401areaddmmmeas_ReadVoltage
 - hp34401areaddmmmeas_ReadFreq

These functions are included in the example source file. You can find them by right-clicking the *.fp function and selecting **Go to Definition**. For types of drivers other than IVI-C, you need to write some extra code to hold the IVI session (DSSP Adapter session) in global memory. Refer to the sample project Adapter.fl2638.readdmmmeas for a LabWindows/CVI PnP example.

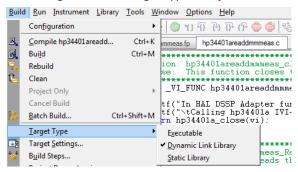
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Functions hp34401areaddmmmeas_ReadVoltage and hp34401areaddmmmeas_ReadFreq invoke functions exported from hp34401a specific driver. Each of them configures the measurement and trigger first, and then reads the measurement result.

- 8. Remove all unnecessary IVI infrastructure code.
 - Remove all get/set attribute functions except GetAttributeViBoolean in .c and .h.
 - Remove all unnecessary #define statements in the .c and .h files.
 - Remove all unnecessary callbacks in .c.
 - Remove all unnecessary exportable functions in .c, .h and .fp.
 - Replace code in the prefix_InitAttributes function with return VI SUCCESS;.
 - Update comments if necessary.

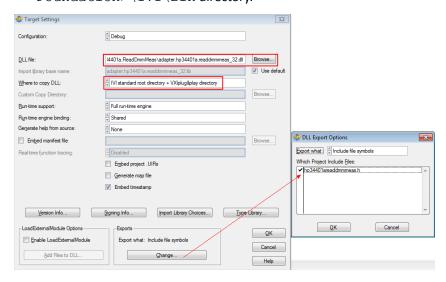
Normally, you only need to keep prefix_InitAttributes, prefix_init, prefix_InitWithOptions, prefix_close, prefix_GetAttributeViBoolean and the newly added functions.

9. Change the build target type to Dynamic Link Library.



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10. Change Target Settings (Build»Target Settings). The DLL file will be stored in the [path to current project] \adapter.hp34401a.readdmmmeas_32.dll and will also be copied to the <IVI Foundation>\IVI\Bin directory.



11. adapter.hp34401a.readdmmmeas_32.dll file will be generated when you build the project.

LabWindows/CVI copies the DLL to the <IVI Foundation>\IVI\Bin folder, so that it could be loaded there.

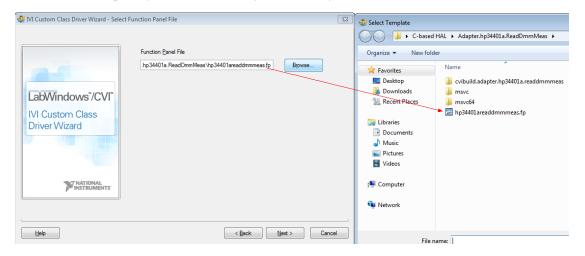
Note: Switch to Build»Configuration»Release64/Debug64 for a 64-bit binary.

2.1.2. DSSP Interfaces

DSSP Interface modules can be created via IVI Custom Class Driver Wizard in LabWindows/CVI. Then customize the generated files to meet your needs. The following sections show how to create a Digital Multimeter (ReadDmmMeas) DSSP Interface.

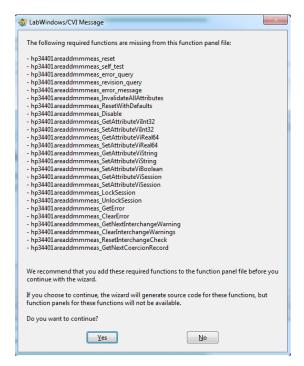
2.1.2.1. Use the IVI Class Driver Wizard to Generate the DSSP Interface Shell

- In LabWindows/CVI, choose (Tools»IVI Development»Create IVI Custom Class Driver) to run the wizard and click
 Next.
- 2. Select the .fp file path of a DSSP Adapter module you created in section 2.1.1

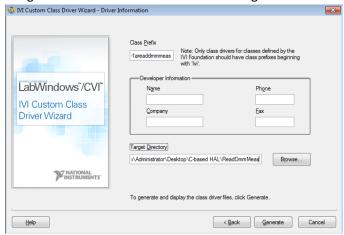


If you see the following warning, click Yes to continue.

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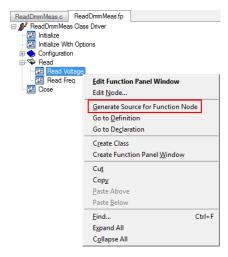
Class Prefix is a unique name to identify a DSSP Interface module. Target Directory is where the wizard should
generate the source code. After entering the Class Prefix and Target Directory, click Generate to finish the wizard.



2.1.2.2. Modify the DSSP Interface Source and Build the Project

- 1. Create a new project (File»New»Project) in LabWindows/CVI.
- 2. Add the generated ReadDmmMeas.c, ReadDmmMeas.h, and ReadDmmMeas.fp files into the project.
- 3. The wizard could generate functions defined in the . fp selected in Step 2 of Section 2.1.2.1. You could add additional function panel windows to the . fp file if needed. In ReadDmmMeas DSSP Interface module, you do not need to add any functions panel windows.
- 4. If there are any new function panel windows, perform the following steps:
 - a) Right-click on the newly added function panel window, and select **Generate Source for Function Node** to generate C source code.

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b) In ReadDmmMeas.c, define function pointers for the new functions created in step 3.

```
typedef ViStatus (_VI_FUNC *ReadVoltageFuncPtr) (ViSession vi, ViReal64 *voltage);
typedef ViStatus (_VI_FUNC *ReadFreqFuncPtr) (ViSession vi, ViReal64 *frequency);
```

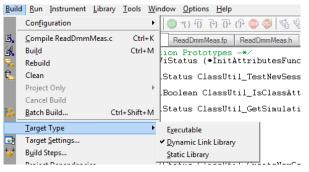
c) Add function names and tables.

d) Implement the newly added functions.

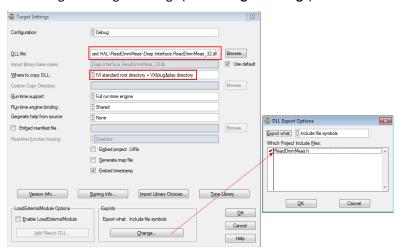
5. To avoid the conflict of global class utility functions among different DSSP Interface modules, add key word static to all class utility function prototypes and DIIMain function.

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- 6. Remove all unnecessary IVI infrastructure code.
 - 1. Remove all get/set attribute functions except GetAttributeViBoolean in .c and .h.
 - 2. Remove all unnecessary #define statements in the .c and .h files.
 - 3. Remove all unnecessary callbacks in .c.
 - 4. Remove all unnecessary exportable functions in .c, .h and .fp.
 - 5. Remove all unnecessary class utility functions.
 - 6. Replace code in the prefix_InitAttributes function with return VI SUCCESS;.
 - 7. Update comments if necessary.
- 7. Change the build target type to **Dynamic Link Library**.



Change the target settings (Build»Target Settings).



9. ReadDmmMeas 32.dll file will be generated after building the project. CVI copy the DLL to the <IVI

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Note: You could switch to Build»Configuration»Release64/Debug64 for a 64-bit binary.

2.1.3. System Configuration

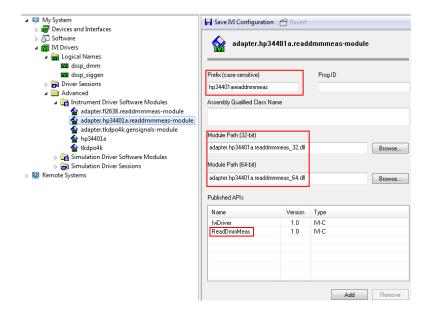
You can use the IVI System configuration tools in NI Measurement & Automation Explorer (MAX) to configure the C-based HAL system. There is a **Driver Session** and a **Software Module** for each DSSP Adapter. There is a **Logical Name** for each DSSP Interface. Please refer to the document <u>Using Measurement & Automation Explorer to Configure Your IVI System</u> for more details of system configuration.

This example uses 2 DSSP Interfaces (IVI-C Custom Class Drivers) and 3 DSSP Adapters (IVI-C Custom Specific Drivers). So in MAX, you should set up two Logical Names, three Driver Sessions, and three Software Modules for the system. The following steps describe how to configure the Digital Multimeter function DSSP Interface and hp34401a DSSP Adapter.

2.1.3.1. Software Module

- Expand My System»IVI Drivers»Advanced, right click the Instrument Driver Software Modules node, and select Create New (case-sensitive) to create a software module. Rename the module to adapter.hp34401a.readdmmmeas-module.
- 2. On the General page, enter the DLL name (Module Path (32-bit) and (Module Path (64-bit)), prefix excluding qualifier (Prefix (case-sensitive)), and qualifier (Published APIs) of the module, as follows:

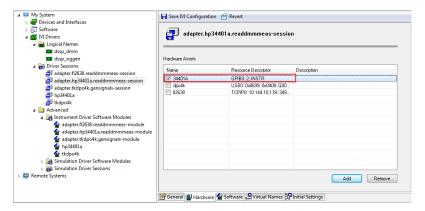
Software Module	Prefix	Module Path (32-bit) (change "_32" to "_64" for 64-bit)	Published APIs
adapter.hp34401a.readdmmmeas-m	hp34401areaddmmm	adapter.hp34401a.readdmmmeas_	ReadDmmMe
odule	eas	32.dll	as



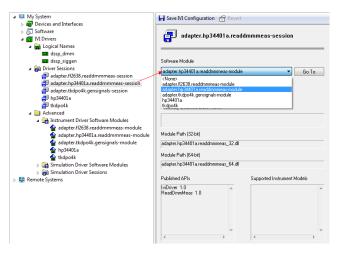
2.1.3.2. Driver Session

- Right-click **Driver Sessions** node and select **Create New (case-sensitive)** to create a driver session named adapter.hp34401a.readdmmmeas-session.
- 2. On the Hardware tab, add your instruments.

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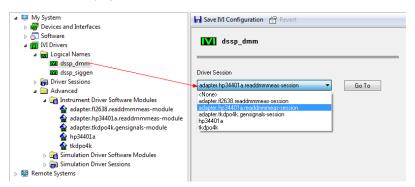


On the Software tab, select the related software module.



2.1.3.3. Logical Name

- 1. Right click Logical Names node and select Create New (case-sensitive) to create a Logical Name called dssp_dmm.
- 2. In General page, select the related driver session.



2.2. ASL Layer

The ASL layer provides application-specific interfaces to serve the upper layer application. This example defines four ASL layer interfaces:

- InitAllDevices(): initialize the signal generator and digital multimeter.
- GenerateSignal(): make the signal generator to generate signals.
- ReadMeasurement(): make the digital multimeter to measure the generated signals.
- CloseAllDevices(): close the signal generator and digital multimeter.

The ASL layer functions call the DSSP Interface (IVI-C Custom Class Driver) only.

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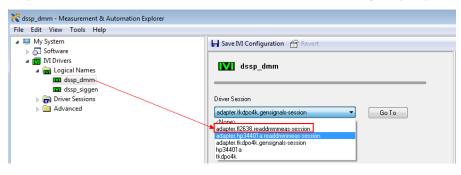
3. Test Application

Enter the following code to implement a test application that uses a function generator to generate signals and a DMM to measure some characteristic of signal.

Note that the test application calls and only calls ASL layer functions.

In MAX, dssp_siggen points to adapter.tkdpo4k.gensignals-session and dssp_dmm points to adapter.hp34401a.readdmmmeas-session. So the test application will control Tektronix MDO3104 to generate signals and control Keysight 34401A to do the measurements.

To use a Fluke 2638A instead of a Keysight 34401A to do the measurement, open MAX and make dssp_dmm point to adapter.fl2638.readdmmmeas-session. You do not need to change any of your test code!



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