**RailwayStudio**

User’s guide

Contents

[Contents 2](#_Toc35937105)

[Using RailwayStudio 3](#_Toc35937106)

[Projects 3](#_Toc35937107)

[Configuration 3](#_Toc35937108)

[General settings 4](#_Toc35937109)

[Visual aspect 4](#_Toc35937110)

[Load last opened project at start-up 4](#_Toc35937111)

[Plug-ins 4](#_Toc35937112)

[Logging 4](#_Toc35937113)

[Designing the layout 5](#_Toc35937114)

[Elements 5](#_Toc35937115)

[Accessory elements 5](#_Toc35937116)

[Themes 5](#_Toc35937117)

[Selecting the layout theme 6](#_Toc35937118)

[Installing new systems 6](#_Toc35937119)

[Operating the layout 7](#_Toc35937120)

[Digital system 7](#_Toc35937121)

[Supported systems 7](#_Toc35937122)

[Selecting the layout digital system 7](#_Toc35937123)

[Installing new systems 8](#_Toc35937124)

[Layout operations 8](#_Toc35937125)

[Connecting and disconnecting digital system 8](#_Toc35937126)

Using RailwayStudio

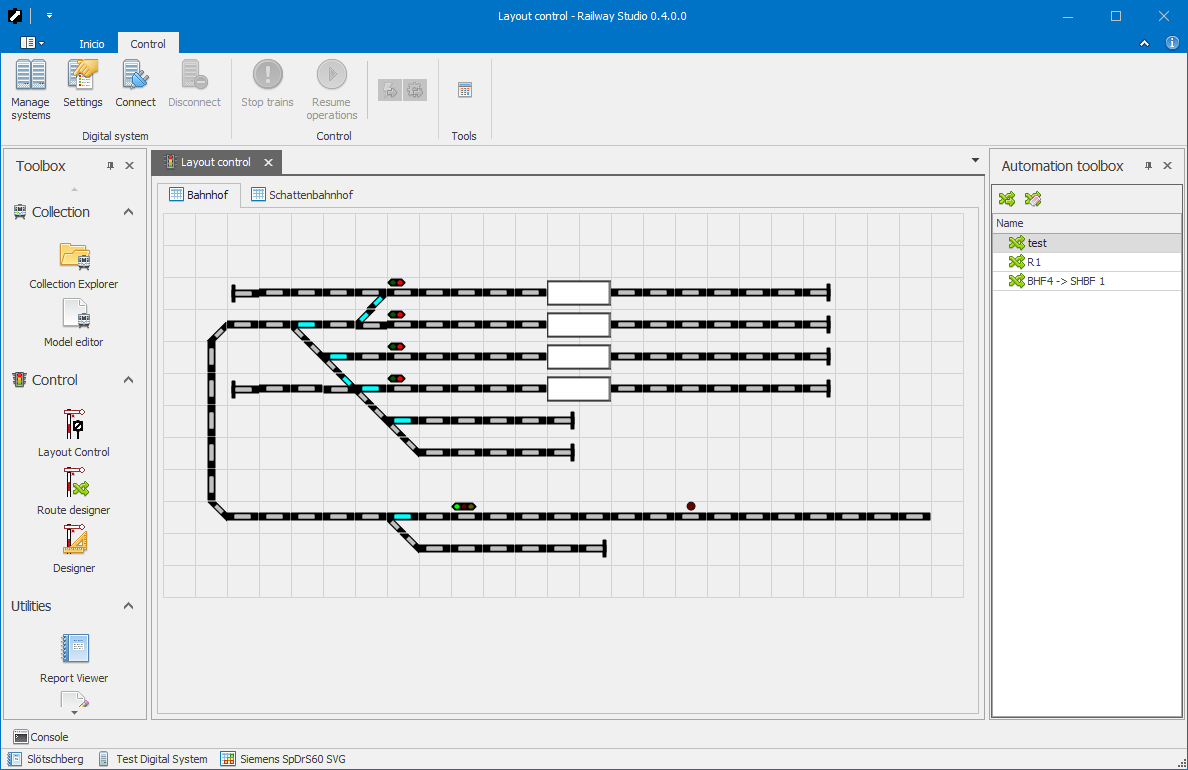
# Introduction

The aim to the **RailwayStudio** project is to have simple and reliable software to, basically, replace the physical switchboard control panels, maintaining manual driving of trains. And this is the big difference between **RailwayStudio** and other software which its mission is to control the traffic in the layout.

This application is ideal for small layouts and for layouts with a main single line (for example, modular layouts).

# Working environment

**RailwayStudio** has a simple and intuitive working environment. All working panels are dockable, so we can work in a single window or in multiple separated panels (useful when working with multiple screens). It is very similar to MS Office applications.



# Projects

**RailwayStudio** works with projects and each project represents a single layout. A layout is the container for all data (switchboards, trains, etc.).

**RailwayStudio** can work with a single project and cannot work with multiple layouts at same time. It means that all functionalities of the application are related to the same project (control, design, etc.).

# Configuration

**RailwayStudio** allows you to set some environment settings to personalize some functionality as you need.

Note that the described settings are always related to the working environment in the current computer, not to the loaded project.

## General settings

### Visual aspect

You can change the **RailwayStudio** aspect by selecting one of the multiple available skins. These skins are predefined and cannot be changed by the user.

### Load last opened project at start-up

If this option is checked, **RailwayStudio** always open the last project at start-up. If you’re working always with same layout, this option should be checked.

## Plug-ins

This tab shows all installed plug-ins. **RailwayStudio** offer two official plug-ins, as shown in the following table.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Plug-in | Description |
| Control | Contains all layout control tools (design tools, layout control, etc). |
| Collection | Contains all model railroad collection tools (explorers, editors, etc.). |

Of course, the OTC open platform allows 3rd parties to develop new plug-ins. With these settings new plug-ins can easily be installed.

## Logging

Logging allows **RailwayStudio** generate LOG files for all errors, warnings or for debugging purposes. The logger can write to text files and/or *Windows Event Log* as well.

Each logger can be configured with its own log level (*error*, *warning*, *information* and *debug*).

Designing the layout

# Elements

Each piece of the layout is an **Element**. It can be a single track, a turnout, etc. Some of them also can have one or more added functionalities like *Accessory*, *Feedback*, etc.

## Accessory elements

**Accessory elements** are all elements that could have different status, like turnouts (straight, turned), signals (red, green), etc.

Accessory elements also should be connected to accessory decoder outputs to be able to digitally control these elements through the DCC command control. Each of these connections always has 2 outputs, and these outputs can be active alternatively, never at same time. The following tables show how it works:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Address 1** | | **Status** |
|  | **P2** | **P1** |
|  | 0 | 1 | 1 |
|  | 1 | 0 | 2 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Address 2** | | **Address 1** | | **Status** |
|  | **P2** | **P1** | **P2** | **P1** |
| Hp 0 (Light) | - | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Hp 1 (Light) | - | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Hp 2 (Light) | - | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 |

Each status is defined by the element, so you must study in each case how to wire the accessories according its functionality.

# Themes

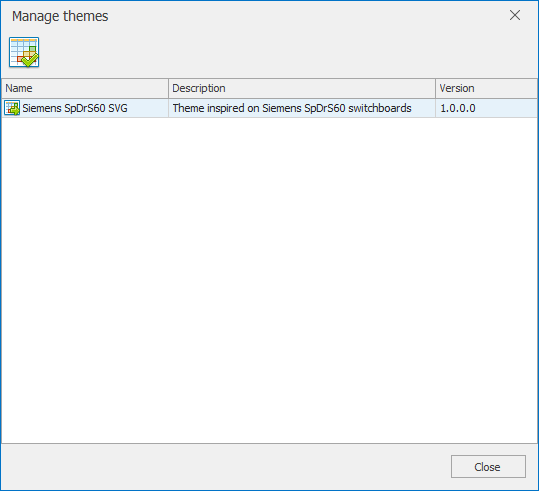
Themes are libraries specialized to draw the layout. Each layout can be represented in different ways, depending on the used theme. **RailwayStudio** offers the *Siemens SpDrS60* inspired theme, but 3rd parties can easily develop new themes thanks to the OTC open platform.

The theme is stored in the application settings, not in the project. It means that all layouts will be represented using the same theme until the user change it in the program.

## Selecting the layout theme

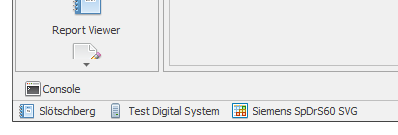
To specify the theme used by the layout:

1. Open the **Layout design** plug-in.
2. From the toolbar, select **Manage themes**. It will open the *Manage themes* dialogue:



1. Select the desired theme by clicking the corresponding row.
2. Press **Set theme** button.
3. Press **Close** button to close the dialogue.

Also the Manage themes dialogue can be accessed by clicking the **Theme** button in the status bar from the *Layout design* plug-in or in *Layout control* plug-in as well.



## Installing new systems

All theme drivers (DLL files) must be placed at the folder’s program. **RailwayStudio** will automatically detect the drivers and put them available in the theme’s management dialogue.

Operating the layout

Operating the layout is possible using the **Layout** **Control** plug-in.

# Digital system

**RailwayStudio** allows you to connect one command station to the layout. The current versions cannot manage more than one system connected at same time to the layout. It means that your command station must be able to manage accessories and feedback.

## Supported systems

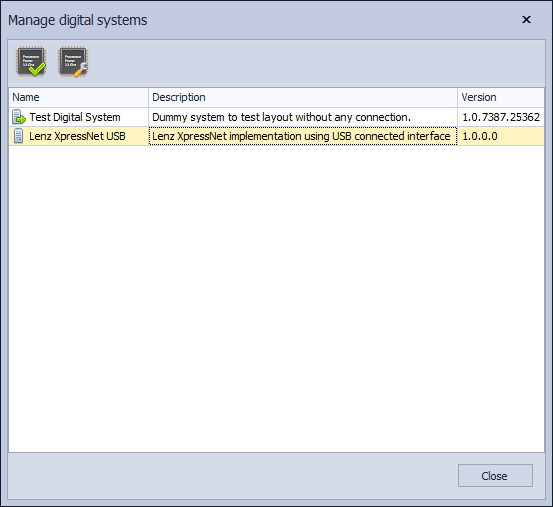
The following table contains all implemented systems. Of course, OTC is an open architecture and allows developing new implementations.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| System | Description |
| Test Digital System | This is a built-in dummy system that allows you to test all software functionalities without any physical command station connected to your computer. You can test all functions (some of them, manually). |
| Lenz XpressNet USB | Lenz XpressNet protocol implementation through the LI-USB interface. It should work also with LAN-USB interface (not tested). |

## Selecting the layout digital system

To specify the system used by the layout:

1. Open the **Layout control** plug-in.
2. From the toolbar, select **Manage systems**. It will open the *Manage digital systems* dialogue:



1. Select the desired system by clicking the corresponding row.
2. Press **Set system** button.
3. Optionally you are able to configure the selected system by clicking **System settings** button on the toolbar.
4. Press **Close** button to close the dialogue.

Now, the selected digital system is ready to use.

## Installing new systems

All digital system drivers (DLL files) must be placed at the folder’s program. **RailwayStudio** will automatically detect the drivers and put them available in the system’s management dialogue.

# Layout operations

To operate the layout, the digital system should be selected and properly configured. After this step, the layout could be operated normally. Refer to [Digital system](#_Digital_system) section for further information.

## Connecting and disconnecting digital system

Before to start operations the digital system must be connected, also when the operation ends, the digital system must be disconnected.