

ThingWorx Dataframe Utilities Extension  
 User Guide

Version 1.1

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# Software Change Log

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Version** | **Release Date** | **Changes** |
| 1.0 | 01/18/2016 | Initial Release |

# Introduction and Installation

Extensibility is a core aspect of the architecture and design of ThingWorx. Partners, third parties, and ThingWorx users can easily add new functionality into the system in a seamless manner. Extensions can be Service (function/method) libraries, Connector Templates, Widgets, and more.

This document provides installation and usage instructions for the Dataframe Utilities Extension.

# About the Dataframe Utilities Extension

The Dataframe Utilities Extension for the ThingWorx Platform allows encode and decode with complex frames of data in order to communicate with low level devices. So, this extension allows you to skip the complex part of doing bit parsing and in order to obtain all the fields data inside a frame, and instead, you just need to create an infortable that describes the frame format.

## Installing the Dataframe Utilities Extension

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. From a web browser, launch ThingWorx Composer. 2. Log into Composer as an administrator. |  |
| 1. Go to **Import/Export > Import**. |  |
| 1. Click **Choose File** and select DataframeUtilitiesExtension.zip 2. Click **Import**.  Note: If an **Import Successful** message does not appear, contact your ThingWorx System Administrator. |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

# 

# Configuration and Usage

In order to you use the Dataframe Utilities Extension, you must examine the firstly create an Infotable using the **FrameFormatDataShape.** Inside this datashape you can define the properties for each of the fields of the frame.

The **MessageDecoderThing** thing provides the following services:

* Decode Frame: uses a frame format Infotable and a data string and returns a JSON with the decoded data. The data string represents a string with data in hexadecimal format, represented using big-endian. The result JSON contains the value for each of the fields.
* Encode Frame: uses a frame format Infotable, with all the properties set, and returns a string in hexadecimal format, using big-endian, for the data.

## Usage

At the base of this extension is the **FrameFormatDataShape** datashape. Using infotables with this datashape you can map the fields of the frame.



Figure FrameFormatDataShape fields

For example, if you have a frame from devices described as the following table:

Table Sample frame definition

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **BITS** | **0-7** | **8** | **9-15** | **16-23** | **24-39** | **64-79** |
| **FIELD** | CODE | Conf Status | Frame counter | Transmit Period | Sensor Value (LSB) | Sensor Offset  (LSB) |

The infotable that describes the preceding table is presented in the following figure. You can see that a row is used for each of the fields in the frame.

The extension supports fields of data that span across multiple bytes, with a portion of the bits in one byte, and another portion in another byte.

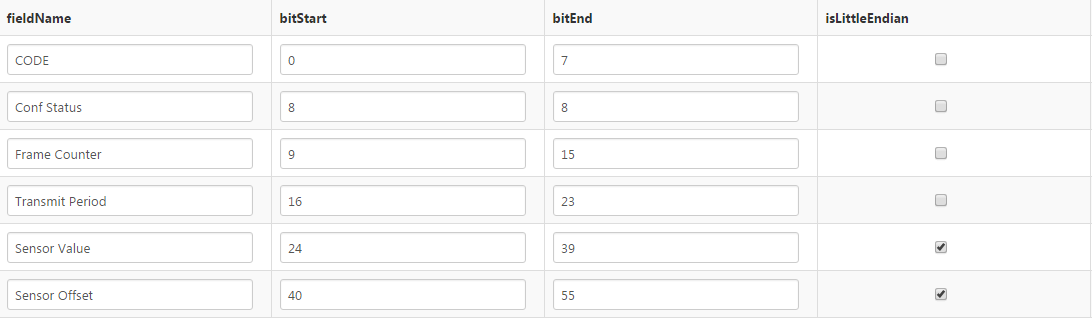


Figure Sample FrameFormatDatashape

The **FrameFormatDataShape** has the following fields:

* **fieldName:** The name of the field. This name is also used to construct the result JSON for frame decoding.
* **bitStart:** The bit where this frame starts. Please note that **bitStart** is included in the field.
* **bitEnd:** The bit where this frame ends. Please note that **bitEnd** is included in the field.
* **isLittleEndian:** For fields spanning across multiple bytes, specifies if the field is little endian(LSB first).
* **value:** The value for this field. Used for frame encoding.

The **MessageDecoderThing** has the following services:

* **decodeFrame**: Decodes a data frame, using a given specification
  + **Inputs**:
    - **frameFormat**: An infotable with the **FrameFormatDataShape** describing the frame
    - **data**: The data to decode, represented as a string with hexadecimal data, where first byte (byte 0) represent the first two characters.
  + **Result**: A string containg JSON data. For each of the fields in the input frame format, a corresponding property exists in the JSON, with the value equal to the computed value from the data
* **encodeFrame**:
  + **Inputs**:
    - **frameFormat**: An infotable with the **FrameFormatDataShape** describing the frame. The value field in this infotable must be filled.
  + **Result:** The encoded data, represented as a string with hexadecimal data, where first byte (byte 0) represent the first two characters.

# Known Limitations and Compatibility

## Limitations

This Extension has the following known limitations:

1. This extension will query based on ThingTemplates or ThingShapes only. This extension does not enable you to query things using any other criteria

## Compatibility

This extension has been tested for compatibility with the following ThingWorx Platform releases and Java JRE versions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ThingWorx Platform Version | Java JRE Version |
| ThingWorx 6.0.0 | Java version 8, update 51 |
| ThingWorx 6.5.0 | Java version 8, update 65 |
| ThingWorx 6.6.2 | Java version 8, update 65 |

# Document Revision History

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Revision Date** | **Version** | **Description of Change** |
| January 18, 2016 | 1.0 | Initial Release |