Guidelines for Beta Testers

Lahniss , January 2013

Introduction

The Beta Testers are usually users interested in the product; often because they need it urgently for their projects, they are funding it the development, they need to document a behavior for a third party, etc..

Beta Testers report issues spanning User Interface, Algorithm, Ease of Use, Common practices in the field at hand, logical/Illogical behavior, terminology, used cases, etc.

Beta testers are often early adopters in their own environment gain early understanding of the product.

In many cases the product saves them time by providing the right tool.

How to report results.

It is helpful to the development teams to report bugs, issues, ideas, and suggestions in a structured way. The best reports contain some or all of the following ingredients:

- A Binary Trace File (TRC file) no longer then 2-3 Mb
- The settings used by the decoder when observing the issue
- A screen dump with comments
- In some case a manually annotated signal can also help understand the context
- Panel file containing the settings of the scope at the time of the observation of the issue.

Using TRC Files to report

When the decoding is scrutinized, it is very helpful to submit a trace whose decoded results are easily described, based on the intrinsic content they carry. For example a long trace acquired during the full rotation of an acceleration sensor, or a trace acquired while heating and cooling the sensor, or putting it under depression/compression. Precautions for optimizing file size are described in a special entry of the FAQ page.

Reporting issues on Controls

All of the values that you can select in the dialogs have **ranges**, from a minimum to a maximum. These ranges have been selected based on experience and the available set of use cases during development. It is very possible that some of these limits hamper your work, please report. We try to set the ranges in the most helpful manner, so that non-sensical values are avoided, therefore saving users time. For example a SENT TickTime of 10 ns is not possible in the context of the SENT protocol. The TickTime has a range from 400 ns to 3 ms, with a default of 3us, the most common value in industry.

Reporting using Panel Files

When reproducing a state, a panel file (extension LSS) can be very useful.

Another way to put the instrument in a known state is to start with a recall Default, then list a minimum number of actions (push, select, set) leading to the desired state.

Reporting using Lab Notebook

LabNotebook is another way to document issues. One caveat is that it tends to create enormous files. It is recommended to start a clean LabNotebook entry for each issue. The same precautions for optimizing file size apply here as when using TRC files.

Reporting using Screen Dumps

Using Screen Dumps is yet another way to report interesting issues. However, remember that screen dumps cannot replace TRC files to recreate a numerical issue. They merely help understanding the issue. When the issue are purely UI (i.e. "*this control appear to be misplaced*") a screen dump is enough.

Discrepancies between preliminary documentation and Firmware

It is possible that the dialogs shown in a preliminary document slightly differs from the actual implementation. This is due to the fact that the firmware has not been frozen yet, and improvements, suggestions and bug fixes are still underway.