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Corporate IT Department Information

DoView version 1.14 Technical Information for Corporate IT Departments

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Introduction

This information sheet is to answer questions Corporate IT departments may have in regard to the use of DoView across a corporate site. Corporate site licenses are available for DoView and pricing is listed on the DoView buy page (<http://www.doview.com/buy.html>).

Why should Corporate IT provide DoView when staff already have generic drawing programs available?

DoView helps users draw outcomes models. These are also known as logic models, program logics, program theories, ends-means diagrams and strategy maps. They are used in strategic planning, monitoring, evaluation, evidence-based practice and related fields. They visualize a hierarchical model of all of the steps needed to achieve higher-level outcomes within a program, organization or sector. DoView is being used worldwide in private, academic, not-for-profit and government settings.

In building and using these models DoView meets a set of user needs not met by generic drawing software, these are:

1. It helps the user build a 'model' rather than just make a 'drawing'. This means that essential features of a model that are often left out of drawings (e.g. line and arrow links between boxes being left out because of space limitations) can be included within the DoView model. In contrast to generic drawing software, DoView lets the user insert underlying links in the model and then provides options for how they are visualized.
2. DoView encourages users to develop models broken up into modules (compact diagrams or 'slices') and supports quick hyperlink drill-down navigation between them. These compact diagrams are of a size optimized for dataprojecting, viewing as HTML within a browser, viewing as a PDF, and for printing out on A4 paper. This ensures portability across different media. Such modularity also has the advantage of increasing efficiency by encouraging sharing and reuse of similar modules from different models. Generic drawing software does not tend to support the rapid real-time development of modular models.
3. DoView has been optimized for building and working with dataprojected outcomes models in real-time in meetings. This increases meeting productivity and reduces workload by eliminating the need to draw a model first by hand and then taking it away from the meeting for a staff member to spend hours trying to emulate it in generic drawing software. It also means that stakeholders in meetings are more likely to 'own' the model they have built.
4. DoView limits the formatting options available to the user for three reasons. Firstly to ensure that they do not create any models which cannot be easily viewed in different media; secondly to make sure it is very simple for staff to use in front of an audience when a model is dataprojected; thirdly because all of the possible formatting features are being used in progressive releases of DoView to visualize different aspects of outcomes models (e.g. strength of links between boxes).
5. With just a couple of clicks DoView can create a fully featured web-based model ready for putting up on an intranet or the internet. This web page model has the innovative feature that a copy of the original file

which created the web page model can be included in the web page model. This means that anyone who is interested in using the web page model themselves can then immediately download it, and if they have DoView installed, can immediately edit it and use it for their own purposes. Examples of web page models can be found at www.outcomesmodels.org.

6. DoView includes an innovative cloning feature which allows the same entity to exist in many places within a model. It is then very simple to update such elements in that if they are updated in one place they are updated right across the model.

7. As a tool for developing visual evaluation plans, DoView visual evaluation plans can be created in something like 1/3 to 1/2 the time it takes to create a traditional text based narrative evaluation plan. An example of a visual evaluation plan in web page format created by DoView can be found at www.outcomesmodels.org/models/communitycentral31.html.

What are its system requirements?

DoView's minimum requirements are a 600 Mhz Pentium III with 128MB of memory running at least Windows 2000. Windows 98 and earlier are unsupported. A Mac version is planned but a release date is yet to be determined.

How can information be outputted and exported from DoView?

The software produces PDF versions of its models which can be used for printing out a model and for sending a model to people who do not have DoView installed.

From version 1.14 DoView allows the creation of a navigable HTML version of a model. This model can then be put up on any intranet or the internet. An option is provided when creating the HTML model such that those browsing the model on the web can download and open the original DoView file from which the HTML model was created. The web page model can also include a PDF version of the model for printing the full model. A web page model with a copy of the original DoView model included is an effective way for template copies of DoView files to be available for easy distribution to users via an intranet or the internet.

The HTML version of a DoView model is saved in a subdirectory of the users choice, it includes the home page of the model with a name given by the user at the time of creating the HTML version of the model, plus two subdirectories with the files that make up the model.

Files can be saved and opened in the native DoView format, in compressed XML and in uncompressed XML. Individual diagrams (slices) within a model can be cut and pasted using Windows Clipboard to standard office software (e.g. Word, Powerpoint, Outlook etc).

What are the installation requirements and changes to registry settings?

The software is installed via the widely used Nullsoft scriptable install system [http://nsis.sourceforge.net/Main_Page] following download from <http://www.doview.com/download.html>.

The software requires no special privileges to run. However the installer requires administrative privileges as it places two third-party shared DLLs into the Windows system directory in order to support product registration [<http://www.esellerate.net/>]. All other files are placed within the program installation directory.

No registry settings are altered apart from those necessary for uninstallation, private application data, and establishing file associations for the DoView file formats.

The software itself does not directly access the network. Version 1.14 will open the default web-browser in order to show web pages linked to by users when they click on an external hyperlink on a diagram (slice).

What help and support is available?

From the point of view of a corporate IT department, DoView's limited feature set and high usability mean that it will have low user support demands in comparison to more complex generic drawing software.

The software comes with a full inbuilt Help system (Help>DoView Help); a PDF manual is available for download from <http://www.doview.com/download.html>; Help Videos (online and within the Help Menu in the software) and a resources page on the DoView site (templates, workflow suggestions, guidelines for drawing program logics, example models). Template examples of DoView files are also being made available at <http://www.outcomesmodels.org>. In some countries and in some sectors, third parties are planning to provide DoView training. For instance DoView is currently working with Clear Horizon in Australia (who develop program logics in the natural resource management area) and they are looking at providing training

courses on DoView in Australia.

What is the update policy?

DoView is being enhanced in response to user feedback. All security and bug fixes for version 1.XX are free. In addition, a number of new features are being added to version 1.XX releases at no cost. Each release in version 1.1X is a full release copy of DoView (not just an update). Users simply uninstall DoView and install the new version by downloading it from <http://www.doview.com/download.html> (the installer is approximately 20 Mbytes). For an administered network, depending on the set-up, an administrator could download the installer for the new version, uninstall the earlier versions of DoView from the machines that have it on them and install the new version on the machines. Registration carries over to new installations of DoView even after it has been uninstalled, so there is no need to reregister registered copies.

How does purchase and licensing work?

A fully functioning 14-day trial version of the software can be downloaded from <http://www.doview.com/download.html>. Licenses for the software are purchased by credit card over the internet from <http://www.doview.com/buy.html> using a third-party internet service <http://www.esellerate.net> for \$39-95US each. A registration serial number is sent by email to the purchaser. The registration serial number is entered into the 14-day trial version of the software and this converts the trial version into a fully licensed version that will continue to function indefinitely. One license can be used by one user on up to two of their machines (e.g. a desktop and a notebook).

Licenses for multiple copies of DoView are also purchased by credit card over the internet. A single registration serial number is sent automatically to the email address provided regardless of the number of copies of DoView purchased. This single registration serial number will work to register each of the copies of DoView that have been purchased. (e.g. if 3 licenses have been purchased the same registration serial number will work for those three copies of DoView). If the purchaser prefers, because it is easier for them to administer user licenses, they can email DoView (esales@doview.com, include the order number from the receipt which has been emailed to you). DoView will provide a set of supplementary registration serial numbers to make the total number up to the number of copies purchased (e.g. in a case of 3 licenses being purchased, two supplementary registration serial numbers will be provided, taking the total number of registration serial numbers to 3).

For further information on any technical aspect of DoView please contact tech@doview.com.

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