

Visio Network Diagramming

In a nut shell, this utility is designed to read a network layout from an external database and render it in Visio using its Network stencil. Our example uses an Access database file containing one table with 6 network devices. There are four fields in the database that correspond, from left to right, to the device type, a short description, the operating system and it's capacity (i.e. hard disk, RAM, ...). These are used in determining the master to be used and the Text, Data1 and Data2 properties of the instanced shapes, respectively.

To keep the model simple it does not work with more than 8 shapes and it uses an Ethernet bus by default as the networks topology. A standard database named NETWORK.MDB is included to show how to setup the tables correctly.

There are two ways to run it, as an EXE or from Visual Basic. Both require Visio 2.0 to be installed and the Access file NETWORK.MDB. Running as an EXE is as simple as double clicking on the EXE from File Manager. Running it from VB requires all of the support files(*.BAS, *.FRM, *.MAK) and Visual Basic Pro v3.0.