Customizing Xspec

Feature in Xspec® Versions 3.1 and 4.0

Xspec is a unique product because you can customize the program to suit your business needs. Many of the names of fields, document types, and sections of a specification are created by your company. Also, your company can design the layout of a specification. For example, figure 1 printout is for a Formula document type. This document type contains the Micro-Biological section and the Formula Composition section. Instead of Formula, you can name the document type anything your company wants. You can also rename the Micro-Biological and Formula Composition sections. Not only can you rename the sections, but you can also decide which section comes first. For example, you may decide the Formula Composition section should come before the Micro-Biological section. Your company can also decide that the Micro-Biological section should not be inside a Formula document type.

Also many of the fields in Xspec contain data lists. A user chooses the information from a data list instead of typing information. As a result, the information in these fields are consistent. One such list is the Business Units list. A business unit is a smaller company inside a larger organization. You decide which companies will be available in this list. Not only do you determine the information for the data list, but you may decide to rename the Business Units field.

How it Works!!!

You can change the names to many screen labels in the Xspec program with the Label Definitions screen (figure 2). Window labels include names of fields and screens. Just type in your change in the Desired Definition field. When you change a window label, every instance of the name is changed throughout Xspec and the Dataflex Configurator.
Many of fields in Xspec contain data lists. A user chooses the information from a data list instead of typing information. As a result, the information in these fields are consistent. One such list is the unit of measurement list. You decide which units of measurement will be available in this list by entering the information in the Data Lists screen (figure 2). Also, since these selection lists may contain numerous items, you can tailor a selection list so that the information from one list pertains to the information from another list. For example, if a user chooses Salmonella from the Property list, you may decide that the only plausible unit of measurement is \( /g \) (per gram). Through the Dataflex Configurator, you can validate the information from one list against the information from another list. You can decide that the UOM list must be validated against what was chosen in the Property list. By validating data lists, your company saves users' time (the system loads shorter lists faster) and lessens the chance of mistakes.

You use the Section Hierarchy screen (figure 3) to design the structure for specifications and boiler plates. You determine which sections will be available in each specification type or boiler plate, and the order of the sections. You can also name the specifications and sections to suit your business practices, as shown in figure 4. Xspec contains numerous section types for you to choose from.

If there is a specification section screen not currently available in Xspec, you can create it yourself. If the screen is simple - contains only one tab with a few fields - we do recommend that you create the section using the Section Format Builder screen (figure 5). You decide what types of fields will be available in each new section. You not only decide the type of field but you name each field and set character limits. You can build many section screens to suit your company's needs. However, your company must document new screen procedures for your employees.
The Result!!

By enabling you to customize Xspec, we enable you to design your very own specification system. Your employees do not have to adapt to templates that were created in stone. You can design a system that adapts to your business!

How Do I Get More Information?

If you would like more information on Xspec version 3.1 or 4.0, please contact your IMAS sales representative at 800-977-3248.