Venus® DataStreamer®

Operation Manual

ED-13649 *Rev 10– 22 July 2011*

DAKTRONICS

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DAKTRONICS

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DAKTRONICS, INC.

Table of Contents

Section 1: Introduction

This manual will assist in the installation and operation of the Venus® DataStreamer® software and display network. Instructions are included for both DAKTicker® and DataTrac™ displays, sometimes in separate sections.

1.1 System Requirements

Venus DataStreamer software has the following minimum system requirements:

- Pentium III 800Mhz or higher
- 256MB of RAM or higher
- 50MB Hard disk space
- Windows 2000 w/SP4, XP Professional w/SP1 required, or Vista, all with most recent updates installed. (Windows 95, 98, ME, NT and XP Home are not supported)
- Other equipment as needed per data source.
- Available parallel or USB port for software key.

Note: These are minimum PC requirements. In cases where multiple displays and/or data sources are used, increasing hardware should be considered to improve performance.

1.2 Conventions Used in this Manual

Conventions Used in this Manual	
Bold	Any item that requires direct action, such as clicking, pressing, selecting, or formatting, appears in boldface. Any item within the manual to reference, such as a figure or another section, also appears in boldface.
Italics	Indicates an item visible on the screen or within a menu. No direct action will be taken on this item. Captions also appear in italics.
[X]	Represents a keyboard key that needs to be pressed.
"Quotes"	Items that need to be typed.
Click	Press and release the left mouse button.
Double-click	Press and release the left mouse button twice.
Right-click	Press and release the right mouse button.
>	Followed by (ex. **File > Open**).

1.3 Definitions of Terms

The following are terms and definitions used throughout the manual and software.

Apply: Allows changes to take effect without closing the dialog; this is an alternative to **OK**.

Cancel: Cancels the last command and closes the window. The **[ESC]** key on the keyboard also performs this action.

Configure: Defines the size and display type operated with Venus DataStreamer software.

Conditional: A set format applied to data when the data satisfies a defined parameter(s).

Duration: The length of time a frame remains on the display before displaying the next frame. This only applies to DataTrac displays.

Field: A section added to the frame of a message. Fields can contain the following information types: Text, Date/Time, DDE, Financial, News, Sports, Weather, or Database. This applies only to DataTrac displays.

Frame: A "page" on the display. A message is composed of one or more frames.

Monochrome: Displays capable of displaying only one color.

OK: Executes a command and/or closes the window. This icon can sometimes be activated by pressing **[Enter]** on the keyboard.

RG: Displays containing red and green LEDs which combine to create amber light. RG displays are capable of using any of these three colors for messages.

RGB: Displays with red, green, and blue LEDs on the modules.

Table: Allows a variety of information to be displayed in a structured format as shown in **Figure 1**.

- **Field:** A portion of the cell that contains the specified data to be displayed.
- **Cell:** A quadrant of a table set up to contain a certain number of fields.

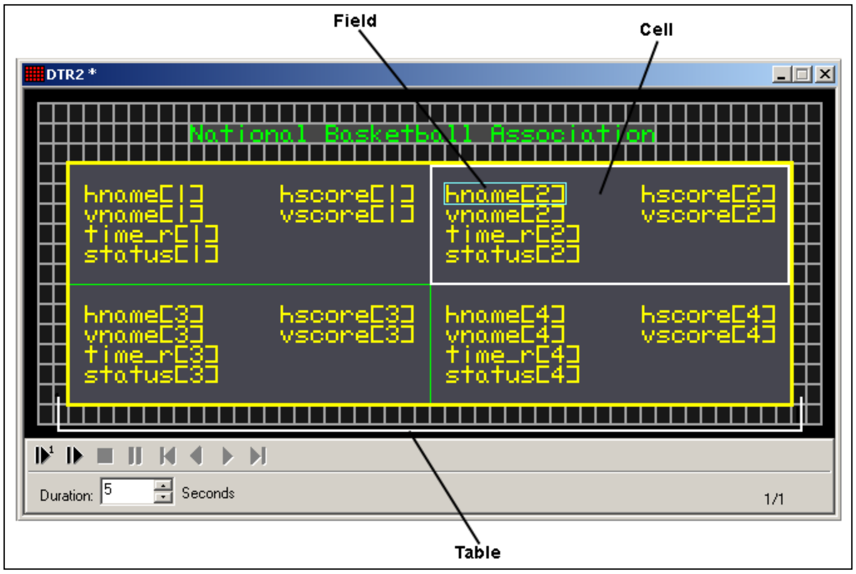


Figure 1: *Table Dialog*

1.4 Functions of the Venus DataStreamer Toolbar

The following items are located on the toolbar of the main screen as shown in **Figure 2**. This section will explain the function of each button.

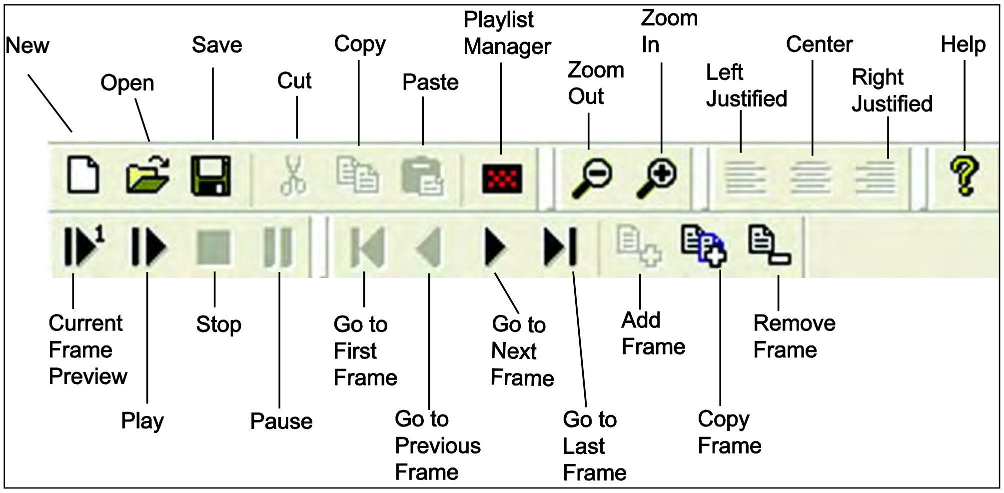


Figure 2: *Venus DataStreamer Toolbar*

 **New:** Start a new message.

 **Open:** Open a previously saved message.

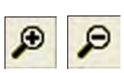
 **Save:** Save a message. If the message has not been previously saved, a window will appear asking where to save the message and what name to give it.

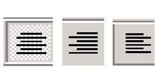
 **Cut:** Remove the selected fields from their current location in the frame of the message and place them on the clipboard.

 **Copy:** Copy selected fields or text from a message onto the clipboard for use in a different message.

 **Paste:** Place a copy of the current contents of the clipboard into the frame of a message. Items that may be pasted include copies of other Venus DataStreamer data fields, text from outside applications, DDE links to DDE compliant applications such as Microsoft Excel, etc.

 **Playlist:** Defines the order and the time that messages are run on a selected display. This is done after messages have been created and saved.

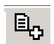
 **Zoom In/Zoom Out:** Zoom In enlarges the contents of a frame by one step per click. Zoom Out reduces the contents of the frame by one step per click.

 **Left, Center, and Right Justify:** Set the position of text within a field.

 **About:** Provides information about the software.

 **Preview Current Frame/ Play Message Preview/ Stop Message Preview/ Pause Message Preview:** Used to preview a single frame or an entire message before sending the message to the display.

 **First Frame/Previous Frame/Next Frame/ Last Frame:** Used for navigation between the frames of a message.

 **Add Frame:** Add an empty frame to the end of the message. This only applies to DataTracs.

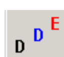
 **Copy Frame:** Insert a copy of the current frame immediately following the current frame.

 **Remove Frame:** Remove the current frame from a message.

The following icons, as shown in **Figure 3**, are located on the left edge of the main screen.

 **Text:** Insert text data into a message.

 **Date/Time:** Insert new Date or Time data into a message.

 **Dynamic Data Exchange (DDE):** Add data gathered from other DDE compliant applications such as Microsoft Excel.

 **Financial:** Insert new financial data into a message. Information is collected from external data sources based on set parameters. Separate data service registration and fees may apply.

 **News:** Insert news data into a message. The news driver will collect information from external data sources based on set parameters. Separate data service registration and fees may apply.

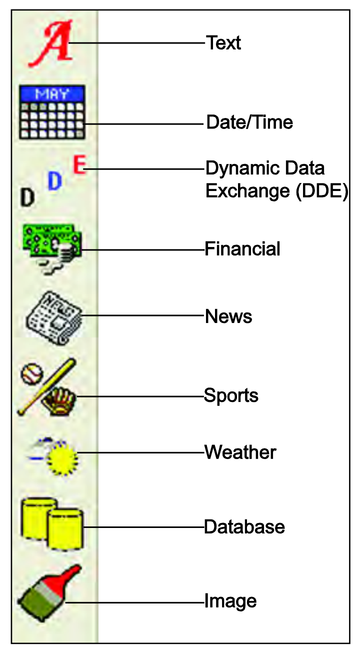


***Figure 3:** Frame Type Toolbar*

 **Sports:** Insert new sports data into a message. The sports driver will collect information from an external data source based on the set parameters. Separate data service registration and fees may apply.

 **Weather:** Insert new weather data into a message. The weather driver will collect data from external data sources based on the set parameters of the field. Separate data service registration and fees may apply.

 **Database:** Insert new database data into a message. The database driver will collect data from specified databases based on set parameters.

 **Image:** Insert new image into a message.

1.5 Help Menu

The *Help* pull-down menu provides two options: **Contents** and **About Venus DataStreamer.**

Contents: The DataStreamer manual information is available under this heading. Double-click the desired section and the sub-sections will be listed. Click on the desired sub-section to go to that text.

About DataStreamer: This box contains information about the software, including its version, system information, and Daktronics contact information as shown in **Figure 4**.

Click **OK** or press **[Enter]** to exit this dialog.

***Figure 4:** About DataStreamer Screen*

1.6 Basic Steps to Using the Venus DataStreamer Software

This manual is arranged in the basic chronological order used to create and show information on a DAKTicker or DataTrac display. In summary, the steps to follow are:

1. Install the Venus DataStreamer Control Software if it is not already installed on the computer.
2. Configure the display type(s) and the communication method.
3. Configure external data sources if needed.
4. Create the message.
5. Add messages to the display playlist.
6. Schedule message entries, if desired.
7. Update the display.

This manual will walk through the steps necessary to use this display system to its full potential.

1.7 Contacting Daktronics

If any problems or questions arise that are not discussed in this manual, contact Daktronics using any of the following methods:

Mail: Daktronics Customer Service
PO Box 5128
201 Daktronics Drive
Brookings, SD 57006-5128

Phone: Customer Service: 800-DAKTRONICS (800-325-8766)

Fax: 605-697-4700 ATTN: Customer Service

Website: http://www.daktronics.com

Section 2: Installation

The Venus DataStreamer software must be installed to the hard drive before use. To install the software to your computer, follow these steps.

NOTE: PRIOR to installing the Venus DataStreamer software, all USB software keys must be REMOVED. Failure to remove the software key will result in deleting of the key. If the software is installed without removing the USB key, a new key will have to be ordered from Daktronics before the software will be able to run.

1. Place the Venus DataStreamer installation compact disk (CD) into the appropriate CD ROM (presume drive D:).

2. The installation should begin automatically within a few seconds. If it does not, click the Start button and select Run from the menu. Type "D:\SETUP" and press **[Enter]**.

3. Follow the instructions on the screen. SETUP will copy the files necessary to run the Venus DataStreamer software to the hard drive and create Venus DataStreamer in the Start menu. **Note:** The Venus DataStreamer software installs to the C:\Program\Files\Daktronics\Venus DataStreamer directory by default. This is the recommended location.

4. The Venus DataStreamer control software is now installed and ready to be configured for use with the Venus DataStreamer displays.

Section 3: Configuration

After installing the Venus DataStreamer software on the computer, the individual displays must be configured. The required steps are covered in this section. Refer to **Figure 5**.

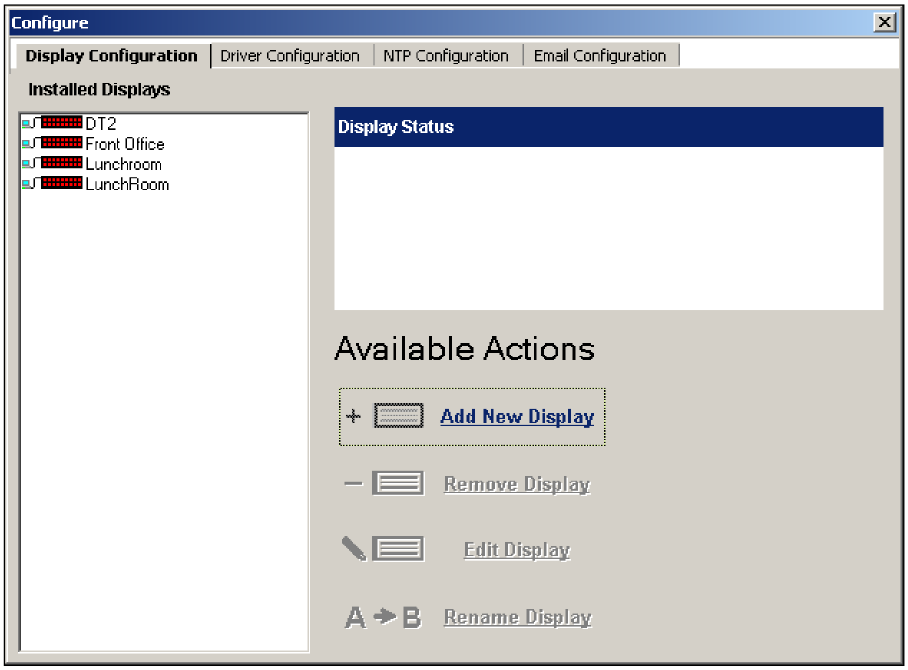


Figure 5: *Main Configuration Window*

This section provides basic instructions and examples for configuring DAKTickers and DataTrac displays that are controlled with the Venus DataStreamer software.

3.1 DAKTicker Display Configuration

Displays will need to be configured once the software is installed. To launch the configuration window, click the **File** menu, and then click **Configuration** (**File > Configuration**).

1. Click **Add New Display** and a pop-up window will appear asking what type of display is being configured.

2. Click the down arrow to select the DAKTicker.

3. Click **OK** to move on to the next step or **Cancel** to void the configuration process.

4. Select the type of communication that will be used, either "Direct Communication" or "Remote Communication" as shown in **Figure 6**. *Direct* consists of a direct serial connection from the PC. *Remote* is via a TCP/IP connection to the display.

5. Once the communication type is selected, fill in any other necessary information, (i.e. Com Port or IP Address).

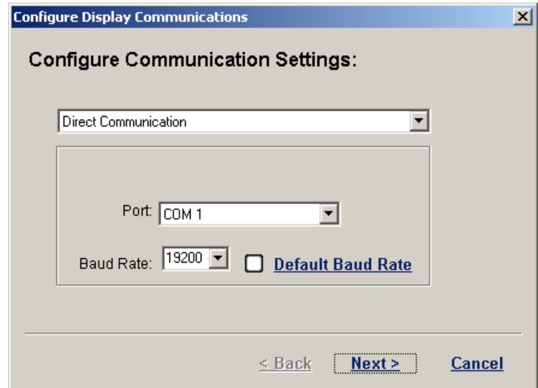


Figure 6: *Configure Communications Dialog*

6. Select the *Baud Rate* from the list provided. Check display documentation for the correct baud rate to use.

7. Click **Next** to accept the entered information and move to the next step or click **Cancel** to void the Configuration process entirely.
   Note: For this example, Direct Communication is chosen.

8. Click the down arrow next to *Display Height* to set this according to the height of the DAKTicker pixels as shown in **Figure 7**.

9. Click the down arrow next to *Color Depth* to set the type of color technology for this display. Default setting is Tricolor.

10. Click the down arrow next to *Direction* to determine if the information will flow from left to right or right to left. The default setting for this is right to left.

11. Once these parameters are set, click **Next** to move to the next screen. Click **Cancel** to close the *Configure Display Parameters* window.

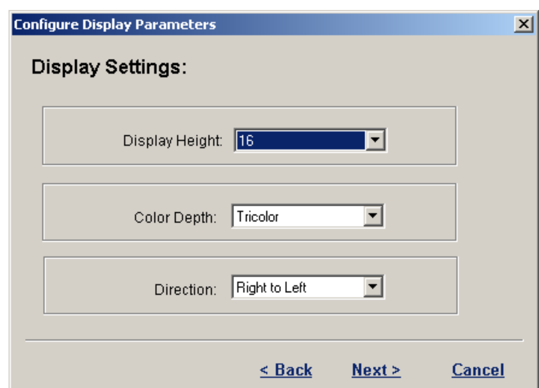


Figure 7: *Configure Display Settings*

12. Click the down arrow next to *Display Type* and set whether the DAKTicker is an indoor display or an outdoor display as shown in **Figure 8**.
Note: It is important to set this properly as it will affect the display speed.

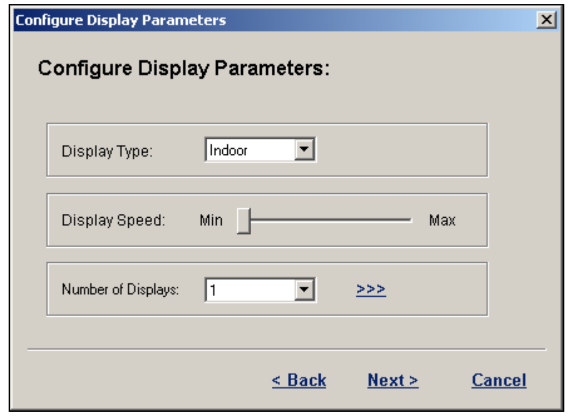


Figure 8: *Configure Display Parameters*

13. Move the slider bar to set the *Display Speed* at which information will travel across the DAKTicker. Daktronics recommends a speed of 90. However, this may need to be adjusted depending on the overall length of the DAKTicker.

Note: Click and hold the mouse button down on the slider bar to show the speed at which the display is currently running. The speed is indicated in columns per second.

14. Click the down arrow or click within the field to select the *Number of Displays* attached to the display network. Click the ">>>" to select the addresses of the individual displays that will be attached to the network. The first display in the list will be monitored for the current status. Please note: All displays will show the same information. Click **Next** to move to the next screen.

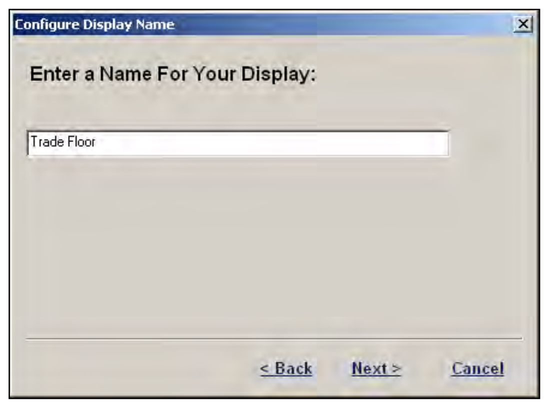


Figure 9: *Display Name Dialog*

15. Enter a name for the display as shown in **Figure 9**. Click **Next**.

16. The last screen in the Configuration shows all the information that was entered during configuration as shown in **Figure 10**. Take time to review this information. If something needs to be changed, click **Back** to get to the correct screen and make changes. If everything is correct, click **Finish** to save the configuration.

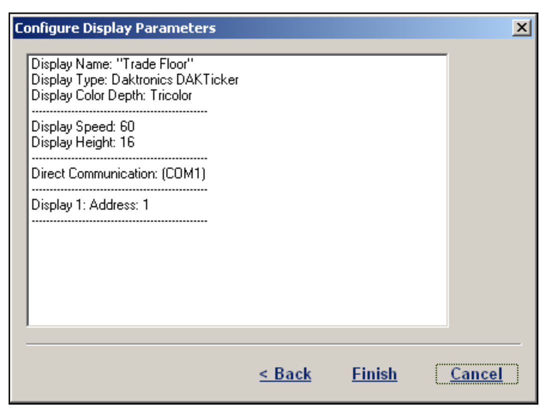


Figure 10: *Configuration Overview*

Rename a Display

Once in the configuration window, a display can be renamed if necessary. To rename the display, click the desired display in the *Installed Displays* list and click **Rename Display**. The *Display Name Settings* window will appear as shown in **Figure 11**. Enter the new name for the display and click **OK** to save the name or click **Cancel** to void the action.

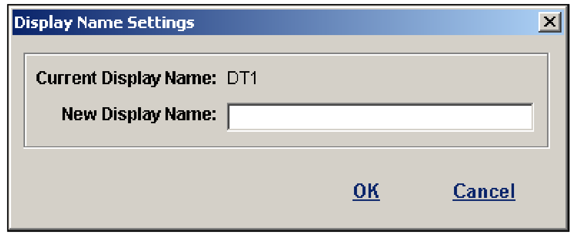


Figure 11: *Renaming a Display*

Edit a Display

Once in the configuration window, a display's properties can be edited. To edit a display, click the desired display in the *Installed Displays* list and click **Edit Display**. The *Configure Display Communications* window will appear. To make the necessary changes, click **Next** until all changes are made and *Finish* appears on the last screen. Click **Finish** to save the changes or click **Cancel** to void the changes.

Remove a Display

Once in the configuration window, a display can be removed. To remove a display, click the desired display in the *Installed Displays* list and click **Remove Display**. The display is instantly removed from the *Installed Displays* list.

3.2 Panelized DataTrac Display Configuration

1. Go to the **File** menu and click **Configuration**.
2. Click **Add Display** and a pop-up window will appear asking what type of display is being configured.
3. Click the down arrow to select the *Panelized DataTrac* as shown in **Figure 12**.
4. Click **OK** to move to the next step or **Cancel** to void the configuration process.

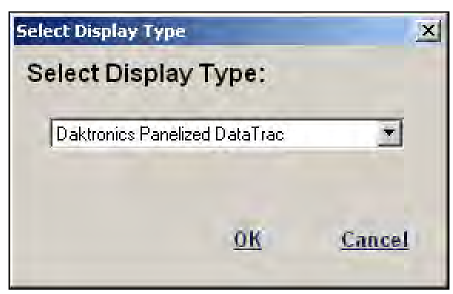


Figure 12: *Select Display Type*

5. Select the type of communication that will be used, either "Direct Communication" or "Remote Communication". *Direct* consists of a direct serial connection from the PC. *Remote* uses a TCP/IP connection to the display as shown in **Figure 13**.

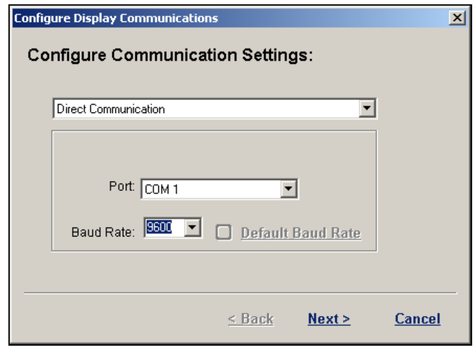


Figure 13: *Configuring Communication*

6. Once the communication type is selected, fill in any other necessary information, (i.e. Com Port or IP Address). Click **Next** to accept the entered information and move on to the next step or click **Cancel** to void the Configuration process entirely. **Note:** For this example, Direct Communication is chosen.

7. To set *Display Dimensions*, click the down arrow next to each field or click in the field to set the overall height and width of the Panelized DataTrac as shown in **Figure 14**. The Upper Left Coordinate values are typically set to 1 for X and 1 for Y.

8. Click the down arrow next to *Color Depth* to set the type of color technology for this display. Default setting is Tricolor.

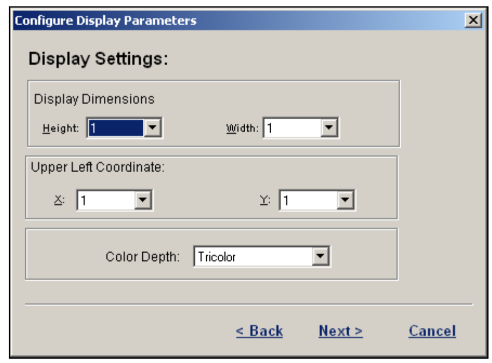


Figure 14: *Configure Display Settings*

9. Once these parameters are set, click **Next** to move to the next screen. Click **Cancel** to close the Configure window.

10. Move the slider bar to set the *Display Brightness* level of the information on the Panelized DataTrac. Daktronics recommends a brightness of 48. However, this may need to be adjusted depending on different lighting conditions. Click **Next**.
Note: Clicking and holding the mouse button down on the slider bar will cause a pop-up window to appear showing the brightness level that the current display is running. This number will change as the slider is moved.

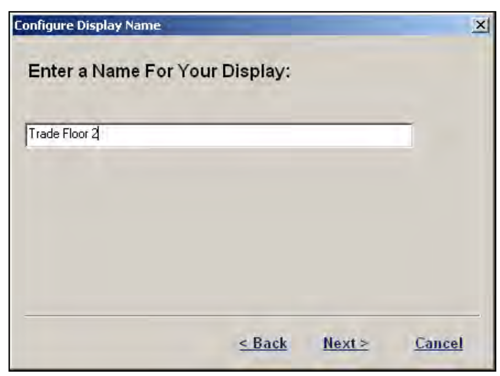


Figure 15: *Naming a Display*

11. Enter a name for the display as shown in **Figure 15**. Click **Next**.

12. The last screen in the Configuration shows all the information that was entered during configuration as shown in **Figure 16**. Take time to review this information. If something needs to be changed, click **Back** to get to the correct screen and make changes. If everything is correct, click **Finish** to save the configuration.

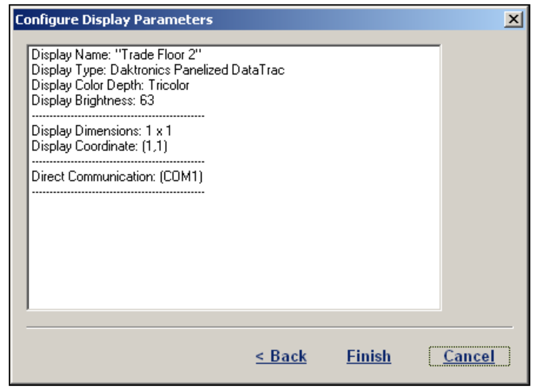


***Figure 16:** Configuration Overview for DataTrac*

3.3 Data Driver Configuration

Data Drivers provide a means of accessing and translating information from external data sources that can be shown via electronic displays. These information sources include Financial, Weather, Sports, and News subscriptions as well as generic DDE and Database sources. The drivers operate as a component of the Venus DataStreamer software, connecting to the data sources and then formatting the information to be shown. Since configurations differ by driver type, each is explained separately in this section.

Configuring the Financial Driver

To configure the Financial driver:

1. Click **File** from the pull-down menu and click **Configuration**. The main configuration window will appear.

2. Click the **Driver Configuration** tab.

3. If registered for this driver source, the box next to it is checked and the configuration can proceed. If not currently licensed to receive data, please contact a Daktronics Sales representative for more information.

4. If registered, highlight the **DTN Financial Driver** on the left, and then click **Configure Data Source**.

5. Enter the configuration data as supplied by Daktronics as shown in **Figure 17**. Set the frequency that the information should be updated, either by using the down arrow next to the field or by clicking into the field itself.

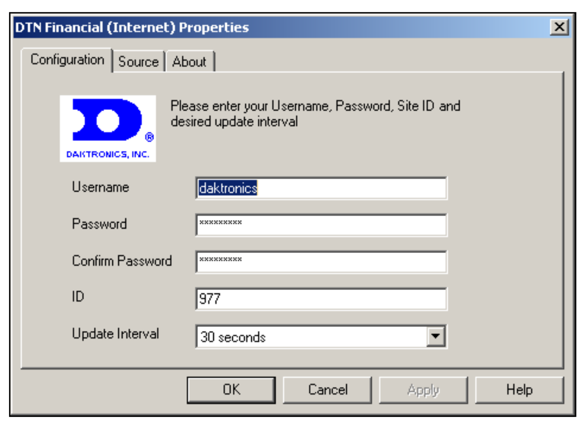


***Figure 17:** Configuring the Financial Driver*

Source Tab

Note: The default values set here should only be changed if directed by Daktronics.

1. Place a checkmark in the Edit box next to the field to be changed as shown in **Figure 18**.

2. The selected address field is now active. Click in the address field and make necessary address changes.

3. Click **Apply** to complete.

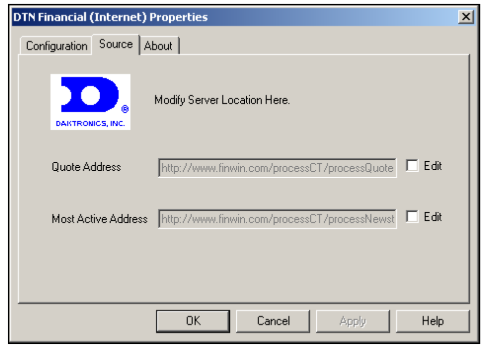


Figure 18: Source Tab Dialog

Configuring the Weather Driver

To configure the Weather driver:

1. Click **File** from the pull-down menu and click **Configuration**. The main configuration window will appear.

2. Click the **Driver Configuration** tab.

3. If registered for this driver source, the box next to it is checked and the configuration can proceed. If not currently licensed to receive data, please contact a Daktronics Sales representative for more information.

4. If registered, highlight the **DTN Weather Driver** on the left. Then click **Configure Data Source**.

5. Enter the configuration data as supplied by Daktronics as shown in **Figure 19**.

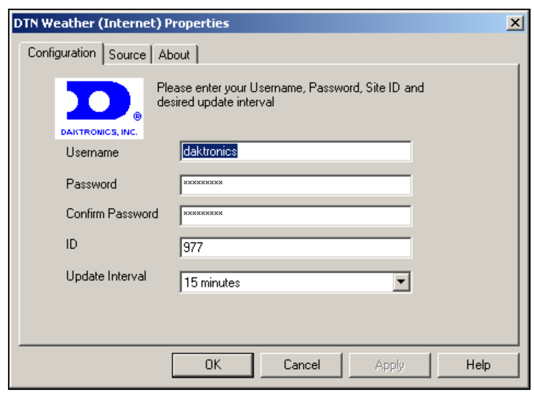


Figure 19: Configuring the Weather Driver

6. Set the frequency that the information should be updated either by using the down arrow next to the field or by clicking into the field itself.

Source Tab

Note: The default values set here should only be changed if directed by Daktronics.

1. Place a checkmark in the **Edit** box next to the field to be changed as shown in **Figure 20**.

2. The selected address field is now active. Click in the address field and make necessary address changes.

3. Click **Apply** to complete.

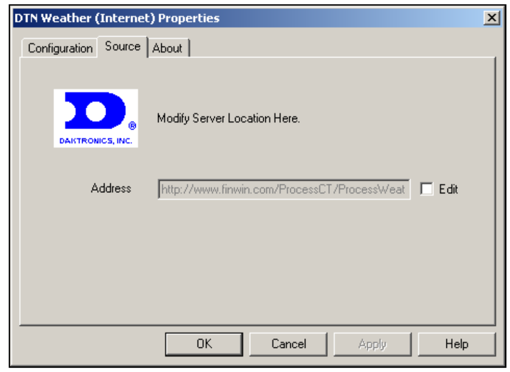


Figure 20: Source Tab Dialog

Configuring the MarketWatch News Driver

Complete the following steps to configure the MarketWatch News driver:

1. Click **File** from the pull-down menu and click **Configuration**. The main configuration window will appear.

2. Click the **Driver Configuration** tab.

3. If registered for this driver source, the box next to it is checked and the configuration can proceed. If not currently licensed to receive data, please contact a Daktronics Sales representative for more information.

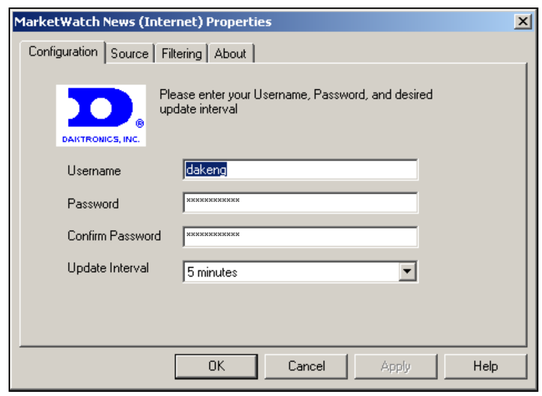


Figure 21: Configuring the MarketWatch Driver

4. If registered, highlight **MarketWatch News** on the left, and then click **Configure Data Source**.

5. Enter the configuration data as supplied by Daktronics as shown in **Figure 21**.

6. Set the frequency that the information should be updated either by using the down arrow next to the field or by clicking into the field itself.

Source Tab

Note: The default values set here should only be changed if directed by Daktronics.

1. Place a checkmark in the **Edit** box next to the field to be changed as shown in **Figure 22**.
2. The selected address field is now active. Click in address field and make necessary address changes.
3. Click **Apply** to complete the changes.

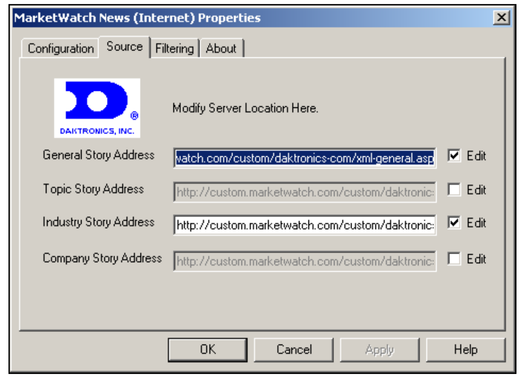


Figure 22: *Source Tab for MarketWatch*

Filtering Tab

The *Filter* list will prevent certain words or phrases in headlines from appearing on the display.

Example: If the word "and" is added to the Filter list, every headline containing the word "and" will be blocked from showing on the display, regardless of other content in the headline.

Click the **Filtering** tab to view the current filter list. Words or phrases can be added to the list by typing in the blank field and then clicking **Add**. A word or phrase can be removed from the list by highlighting the phrase to be removed in the **Filter List** and clicking **Remove** as shown in **Figure 23**.

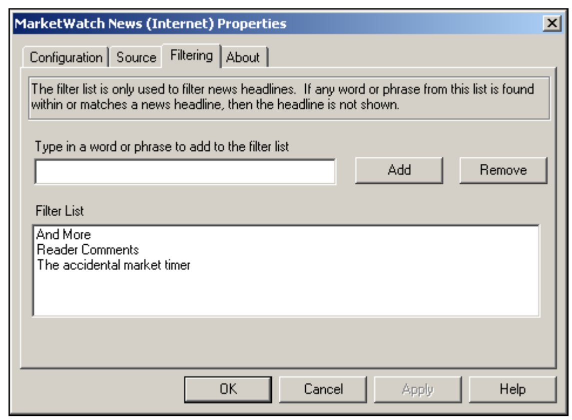


Figure 23: *Filtering Tab Dialog*

Configuring the TSN Sports Driver

The TSN server provides sports data to the Venus DataStreamer software.

In order to receive updated schedules each day, the software must be left running overnight. Data will be available as it is received from the TSN servers.

Complete the following steps to configure the TSN Sports driver:

Configuration Tab

1. Click **File** from the pull-down menu and click **Configuration**. The main configuration window will appear.

2. Click the **Driver Configuration** tab.

3. If registered for this driver source, the box next to it is checked and the configuration can proceed. If not currently licensed to receive data, please contact a Daktronics Sales representative for more information.

4. If registered, highlight the *TSN Sport Driver* and click **Configure Data Source**. The *TSN Sport (XML Feed) Properties* window will appear as shown in **Figure 24**.

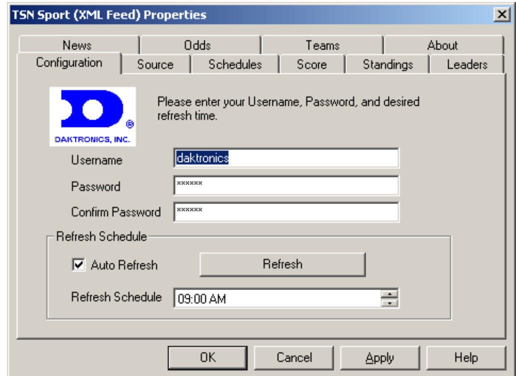


Figure 24: *Configuring the TNS Sports Driver*

5. Enter the *Username* and *Password* and click **Apply**.

6. Set the *Refresh Schedule* by clicking on the scroll buttons to the desired time of day. *Refresh Schedule* is used to determine when the data received the previous day will be removed from the display.

Source Tab

1. Click the **Source** tab and review the *Address* and *Port Number* information. If a correction needs to be made, click the **Edit** boxes next to the *Address* and *Port Number* field as shown in **Figure 25**. The fields will become active. Enter the correct IP Address and Port number. Daktronics provides this information.

2. Click **Apply**.

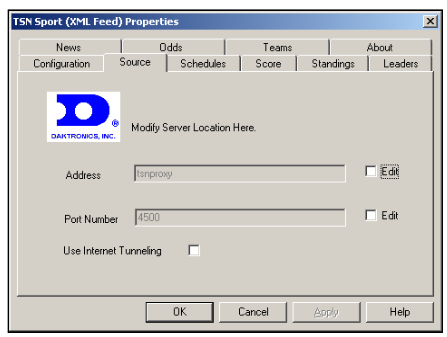


Figure 25: *Source Tab for TNS*

Internet tunneling is a process used to access data from outside sources by "tunneling through" the typical network firewalls and other protective devices installed on private networks. Please contact your network support staff for assistance with this.

Note: If 'Use Internet Tunneling' is checked, the current internet browser settings will be used for connection to the TSN server.

- If a proxy server is used for connections to the internet, it must support and allow for internet tunneling connections.
- If internet tunneling connections are not supported, it may be necessary to bypass the proxy server to allow connection to the TSN Server on port 4500.

Schedules Tab

The *Schedules* tab allows the viewing of game schedules for the day sorted by league.

1. Click the **Schedules** tab as shown in Figure 26.

2. Click the down arrow to select the league's schedule to view.

Note: This is an informational tab only. It won't affect the information viewed on the display.

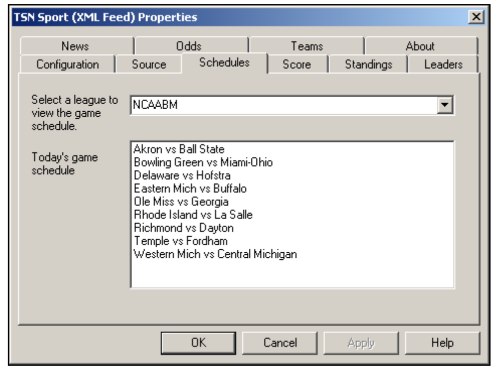


Figure 26: *Schedules Tab Dialog*

Score

The *Score* tab allows the choice of leagues from which to collect scores. Specific team scores within each league can also be selected.

1. Click the **Score** tab.

2. Place a check mark next to each of the leagues to be monitored as shown in **Figure 27**.

3. Click the button next to each league's name to select the individual teams to be monitored.

4. Select the individual teams by clicking on each name individually with the mouse and clicking **Select**. Or click **Select All** to choose all of the teams as shown in **Figure 28**.

5. Repeat this process for all leagues that are to be monitored.

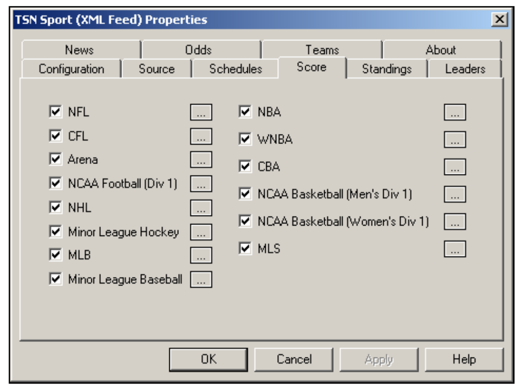


Figure 27: *Setting Score Formats*

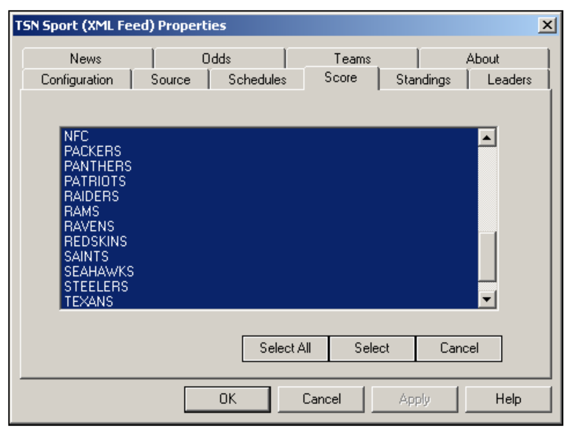


Figure 28: *Selecting Teams*

Standings Tab

The *Standings* tab allows the choice of the leagues from which standings data will be collected.

1. Click the check boxes next to each desired league and click **Apply** to save the settings as shown in **Figure 29**.

2. Click **OK** to close the window or click another tab to continue configuration.

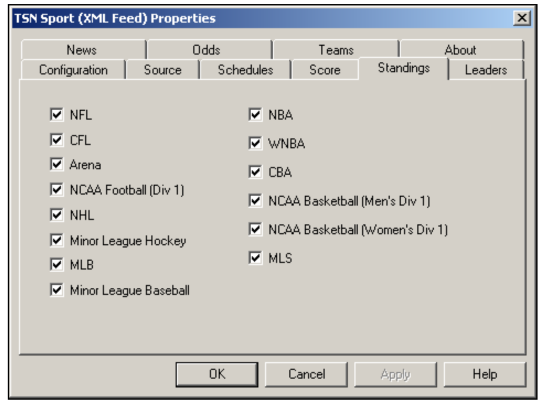


Figure 29: *Standings Tab*

Leaders

The *Leaders* tab allows the choice of league leaders' data to be collected as shown in **Figure 30**.

1. Click the check boxes for each desired league and click **Apply** to save the settings.

2. Click **OK** to close *TSN Sport Properties* window or click the next tab to continue configuration.

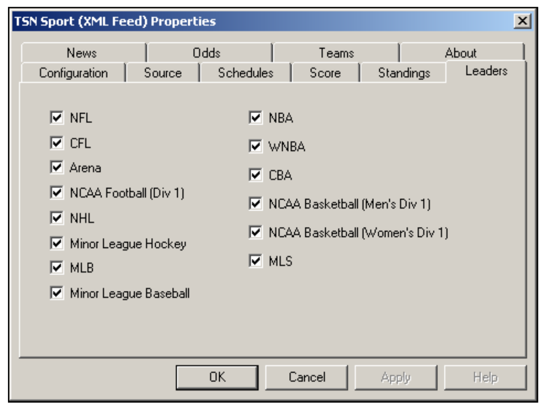


Figure 30: *Leaders Tab*

News

The *News* tab allows the choice of sports news data to be collected. The number of stories to collect for each league can also be set.

1. Click the **News** tab.

2. Place a check mark next to each of the leagues to be monitored as shown in **Figure 31**.

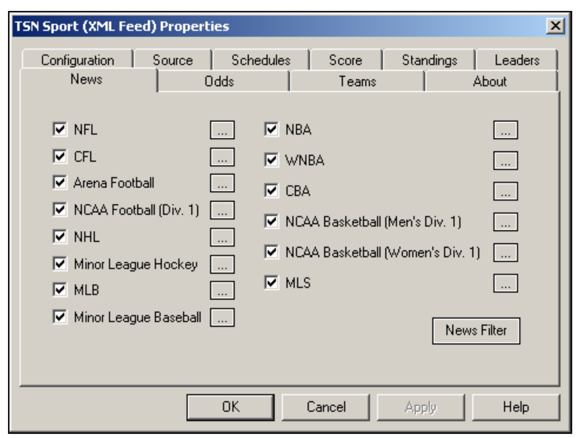


Figure 31: *News Tab*

3. Click the button next to each league's name to set the number of news stories to be retrieved.

4. Repeat this process for all leagues that are to be monitored.

5. Click **OK** to close the *TSN Sport Properties* window or click another tab to continue configuration.

News Filter

The *News Filter* list allows certain words or phrases in headlines to be prevented from appearing on the display as shown in **Figure 32**.

Example: If the word "and" is added to the Filter list, every headline containing the word "and" will be blocked from showing on the display, regardless of other content in the headline.

Click **News Filter** to view the current filter list. Words or phrases can be added to the list by typing in the blank field and then clicking **Add**. A word or phrase can be removed from the list by highlighting the phrase to be removed and clicking **Remove**.

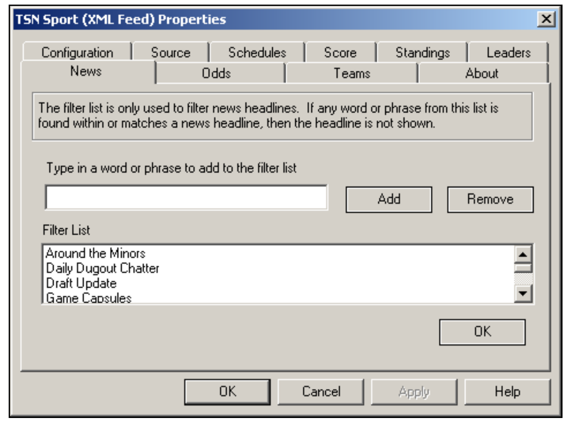


Figure 32: *News Filter Setup*

Click **OK** to accept the changes.

Odds

The *Odds* tab allows the choice of the leagues for which odds data will be collected as shown in **Figure 33**.

1. Click the check boxes next to each desired league and click **Apply** to save the settings.

2. Click **OK** to close *TSN Sport Properties* window or click the next tab to continue configuration.

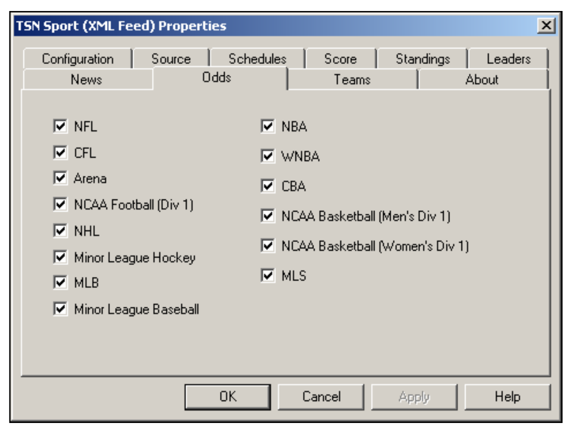


Figure 33: *Setting the Odds Tab*

Teams

The *Teams* tab allows the displayed names of teams in a specific league to be customized as shown in **Figure 34**.

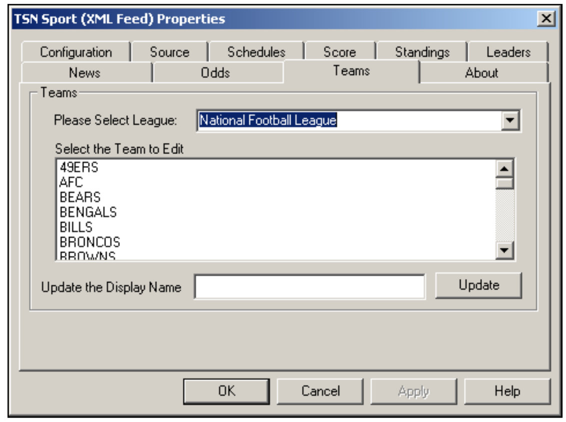


Figure 34: Teams Tab Settings

1. Select the desired league by clicking on the down arrow next to the league field.

2. Click the team name that will be edited. The name will appear in the update field below.

3. Click the box **Update the Display Name** and make desired revisions.
4. Click **Update** to save the changes. Click **Save** to complete the *Sports Driver Configuration*.

5. Click **OK** to close.

3.4 Database Driver Configuration

Following are the steps for configuring a Microsoft Access Database. To configure other database types, please consult the local technical support staff for instructions.

Figure 35: Configured Databases Screen

1. Click the **File** drop-down menu and click **Configuration**. The main configuration window will appear.

2. Click the **Driver Configuration** tab.

3. Highlight the **Database Input** driver and click **Configure Data Source**. The *Configured Databases* window will appear as shown in **Figure 35**.

4. Click **Add**; the *Data Links Properties* window will open as shown in **Figure 36**.

5. Click **Microsoft OLE DB Provider for ODBC Drivers**.

6. Click **Next** at the bottom of the screen.

7. Select the option **Use Connection String** as shown in **Figure 37**. Click **Build** and the *Select Data Source* window will appear.

8. Click the **Machine Data Source** tab. Click **New**. The *Create New Data Source* window will appear as shown in **Figure 38**. Do not change any information on this screen. Simply click **Next** to proceed to the next step.

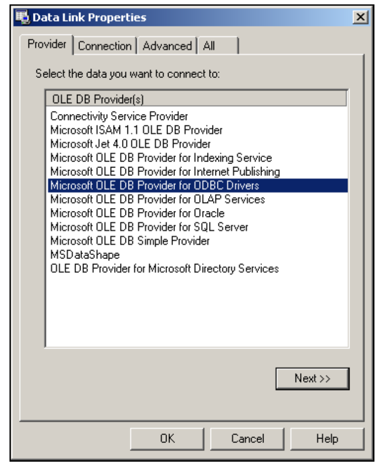


Figure 36: *Setting DataLink Properties*

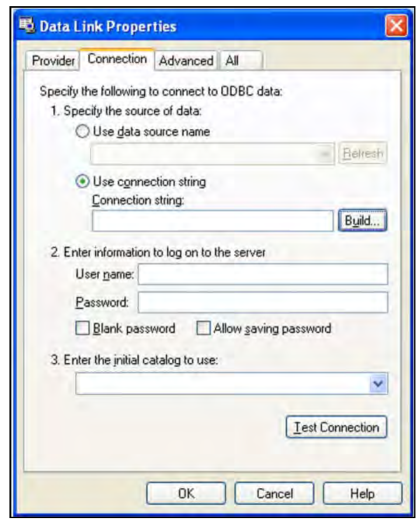


Figure 37: *Connection Sharing Properties*

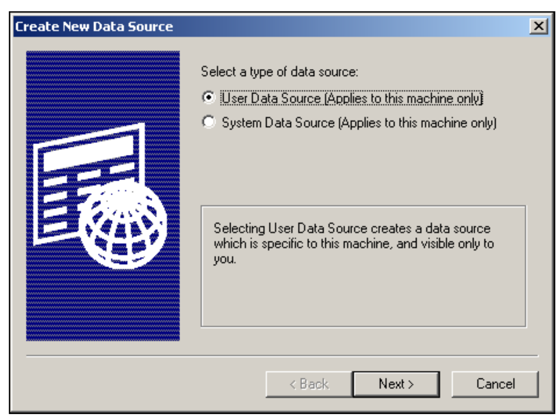


Figure 38: *Create New Data Source Dialog*

9. When the next *Create New Data Source* window appears, select **Microsoft Access Driver** (*mdb) and click **Next** as shown in **Figure 39**.
   A summary window will appear showing the data source that has been configured. Click **Finish** to complete this portion and continue to the next step. The *ODBC Microsoft Access Setup* window will appear.

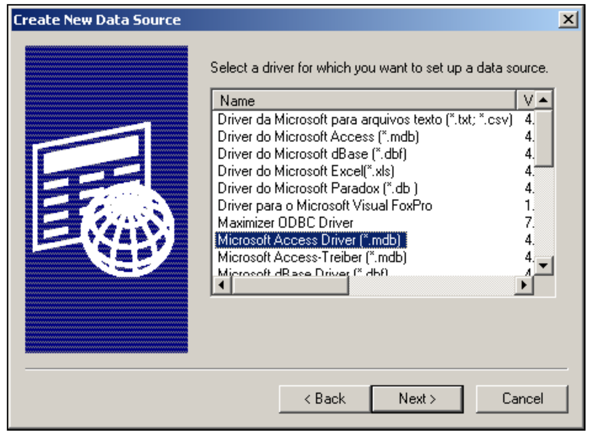


Figure 39: *Driver Selection*

10. Enter a name for the data source in the *Data Source Name* field. Enter a description for the data source in the *Description* field as shown in **Figure 40**. This information is required and configuration *cannot* be completed without it.

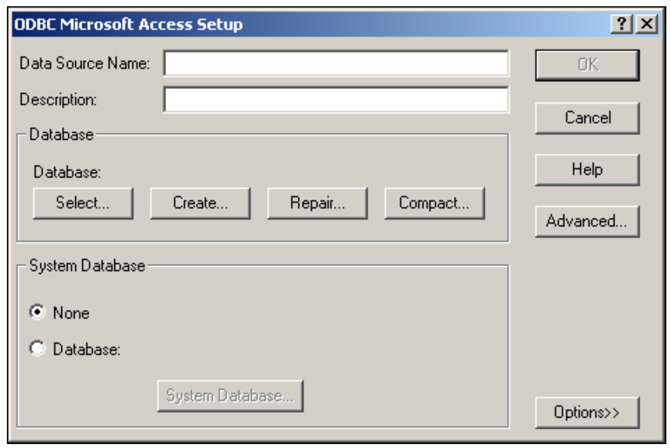


Figure 40: *Naming Data Source*

11. Click the **Select** button and the *Select Database* window will appear as shown in **Figure 41**. Navigate in the *Directories* field to the directory where the desired database is stored. Select the desired database by clicking on the appropriate name under the *Database Name* field. Click **OK** to exit the *Select Database* window and click **OK** again to exit the *ODBC Microsoft Access Setup* window.

12. Click **OK** to close the *Select Data Source* window.

13. Click **OK** to close the *Login* window. Add the appropriate authentication information.

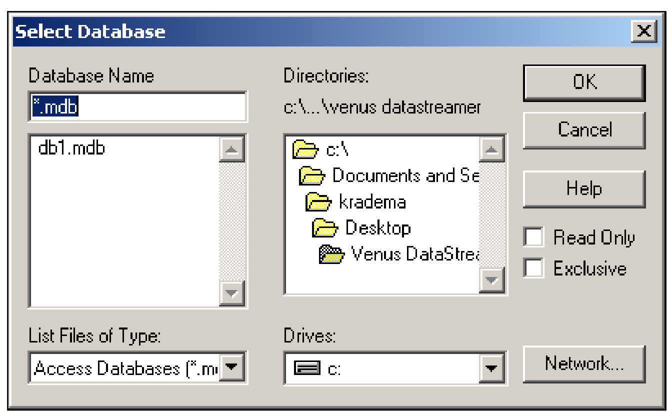


Figure 41: *Database Selection*

14. The dialog should now be the *Data Link Properties* window with the **Connection** tab selected as shown in **Figure 42**. Click the down arrow under *Enter the initial catalog to use*. The available catalog will be the same as the database just configured. Select **Allow Saving Password**. Click the database so that it shows in the field window. Click **Test Connection** to verify the connection between the data source and Venus DataStreamer software or click **OK** to close this window.

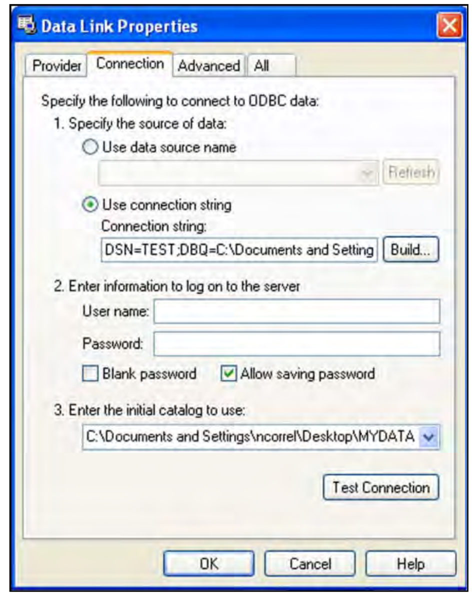


Figure 42: *DataLink Properties Setup*

15. Enter a name for the database connection and click **OK**. The name for the database connection is now listed in the *Configured Databases* window and will be available as a data source for the Venus DataStreamer software.

16. Close the *Configured Databases* window by clicking **Close**.

3.5 NTP Configuration

Network Time Protocol (NTP) is an Internet standard protocol that assures accurate synchronization of computer clock times to the millisecond in a network of computers. Based on UTC, NTP synchronizes client workstation clocks to the U.S. Naval Observatory master clocks in Maryland, Washington D.C., and Colorado Springs, CO. If enabled, Venus DataStreamer will send periodic time requests to the selected server.

1. Click the **File** drop-down menu and click **Configuration**. The main configuration window will appear.

2. Click **NTP Configuration**.

3. Type the NTP server in the area provided. **Note:** To find the correct NTP server, go to http://tf.nist.gov/service/time-servers.html

4. If desired, check the box by **Update Automatically** and set the frequency that the clock should synchronized.

5. Click **Apply** to make changes take effect.

Note: If the PC running Venus DataStreamer is located behind a firewall or proxy server on the network, it may be necessary to open Port 123 in order for NTP synchronization to occur.

If this is not possible, an internal server will need to be configured. Consult the local network administrator for more information.

3.6 Email Configuration

Email Configuration sets the parameters that will be used for **sending** email notifications and operating status emails. The setup of email addresses for those **receiving** these emails is explained in **Section 4.2**.

1. Click the **File** drop-down menu and click **Configuration**. The main *Configuration* window will appear as shown in **Figure 43**.

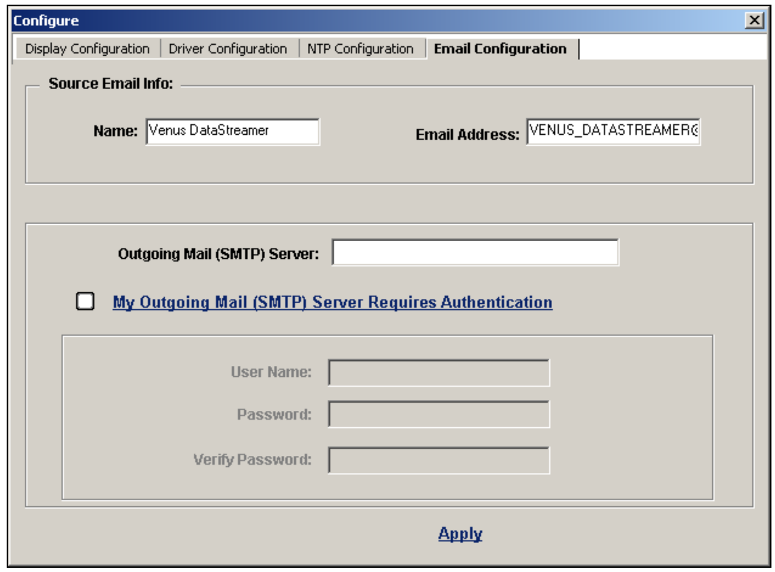


Figure 43: *Email Configuration Tab*

2. Click the **Email Configuration** tab.

3. Click in the **Name** field and enter the name of the outgoing email account.

4. Click in the **Email Address** and enter the address of the *outgoing* email account. (The email addresses for those *receiving* these emails will be entered later. Refer to **Section 4.2**.

5. Click in the *Outgoing Mail Server* field. Enter the address of the SMTP server that will be used for sending the email notifications.
Note: If the server that is being used to send the email requires authentication, check the box next to this option to activate the *User Name* and *Password* fields.

6. Once all information is entered, click **Apply** to complete the action.

Section 4: Options

To access the *Options* window, click the **File** drop-down menu and select **Options**. Two tabs are now available for configuring the options as shown in **Figure 44**.

Note: The Email configuration settings from the configure dialog must be set up before *Email Notifications* can be set up. Please see **Section 3.6** for details.

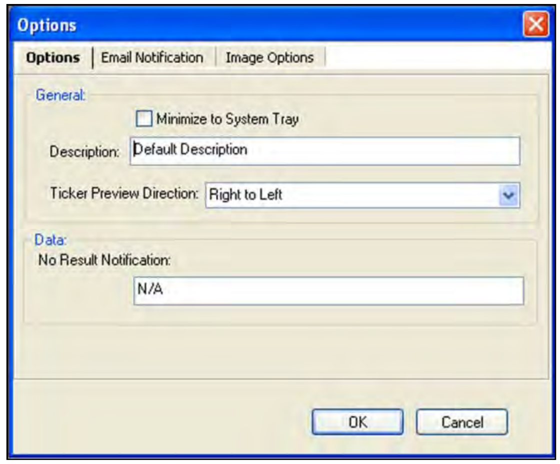


Figure 44: *Options Dialog*

4.1 Options Tab

Minimizing Venus DataStreamer Software

A check mark placed in the box next to *Minimize to System Tray* will allow the software to be minimized to the system tray when not in use. Without a check mark, Venus DataStreamer will be minimized to the tool bar instead of the system tray. Click in the box to remove a check mark. Click **OK** for the change to take effect or **Cancel** to close the *Options* window without making any changes.

Default Description

The *Default Description* allows a name for the set of messages to be entered. In some cases, an extended description for a message may be needed where the message name may not be enough to reflect the content of the message. The message description dialog can be accessed while editing a message from the *File* menu under *Set Message Description*.

To name the messages, click in the *Description* field and type in the desired default. Click **OK** to keep the change or **Cancel** to void the action. All new messages will have the new default description until it is changed again.

Ticker Direction

The default direction for the message previewing function can be set here. Click the down arrow and select whether the information should move across the ticker from right to left or left to right.

No Results Notification

If data is not received from the data source, then a notification will appear on the display. The text of this notification can be set in the *Edit Options* window. The default sets this feature to N/A.

Click in the *No Results Notification* field and type in the desired notification message. Click **OK** to keep the change or **Cancel** to void the action and close the window.

4.2 Email Notification Tab

Email notification is used to determine who receives email notices and which types of notices will be sent. Email must be configured prior to the following steps. See **Section 3.6**

To reach the *Email Notifications* tab, click the **File** menu and select **Options**. Once the *Options* window appears, click the **Email Notification** tab as shown in **Figure 45**.

Click the **Enable Email Notification** box to activate the *Email Notification* feature.

Figure 45: *Email Notification Tab*

Setting Email Frequency

The frequency of email notifications and status emails can be set up separately. The default for status emails is every 60 minutes. The default for email notifications is every minute; however, an email will only be sent if notifications are necessary.

To Add a Contact

To add a contact to receive *Email Notifications*, complete the following steps:

1. Click **Add** and a dialog box will appear as shown in **Figure 46**.

2. Click in the **First Name** field and type the first name of the individual to be added to the list. Repeat this process to enter the last name of the individual in the **Last Name** field.

3. Place the cursor in the **Email Address** field and type in the email address of the recipient.

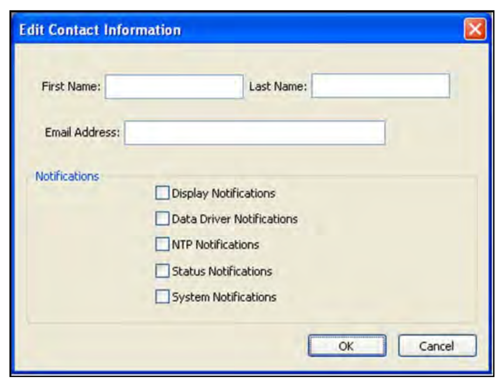


Figure 46: *Setting Email Contacts*

4. Select which notifications should be sent to the recipient by clicking in the box in front of each desired notification. A check mark will appear showing which notifications will be sent.

The notifications are defined as follows:

5. *Display Notification* is sent when communication fails with a display.

6. *Data Driver Notification* is sent when Venus DataStreamer fails to connect or encounters a problem with one or more of the drivers, such as TSN Sports or DTN Weather Data.

    a. *NTP Notification* is sent when Venus DataStreamer fails to connect to the configured NTP server.

    b. *Status Notification* is sent to provide status information, serving as a "heartbeat" for the control system.

    c. *System Notification* is sent when Venus DataStreamer starts or shuts down.

7. Click **OK** to complete the action or **Cancel** to void the action and close the dialog box.

To Remove a Contact

To remove a contact, highlight the name in the *Contact* list and click **Remove**. The contact's name and information are immediately removed.

To Edit a Contact

To edit a contact, complete the following steps:

1. Highlight the appropriate name in the *Contact* list and click **Edit** as shown in **Figure 47**.

2. Click in the necessary fields to make the desired edits. Click **OK** when completed or click **Cancel** to void the action.

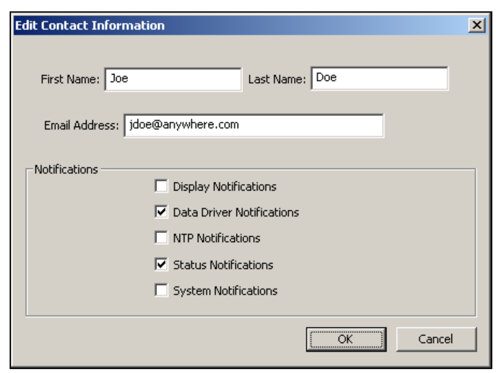


Figure 47: *Changing Email Contacts*

Test Email

To initiate a test email, click the **Test Email** button. This email will be sent to all the contacts listed in the *Email Notification* dialog.

4.3 Image Options Configuration

Image Options tells the ticker display what to do when an image tag is not found. For more information on using images as shown in **Figure 48**, refer to **Section 5**.

Display Text – shows text that would normally be displayed. For example "Dakt" would appear if no image with the tag "Dakt" is found.

Display Default Image – the frame type's default image is displayed, refer to **Section 5**.

Display Nothing – leaves space blank

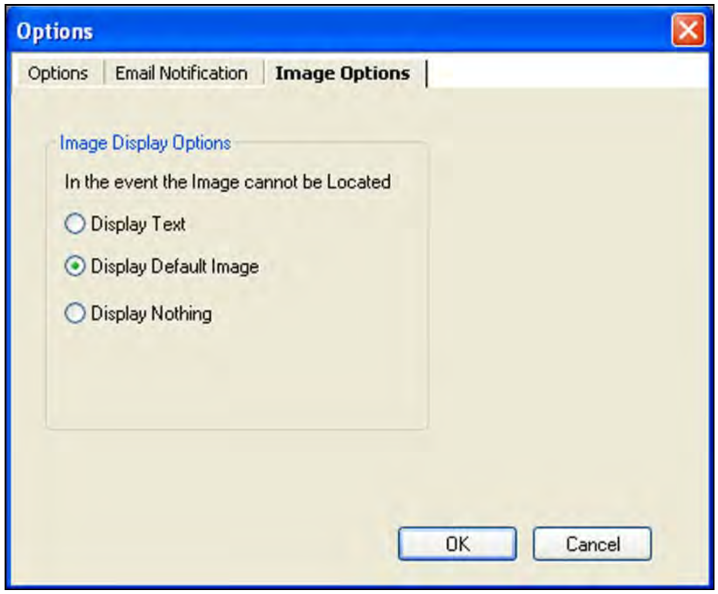


Figure 48: *Image Options Tab*

Section 5: Image Explorer

To use images as part of a frame, they must first be located on the Internet or other sources and saved to a folder on the computer or network.

Daktronics does not provide an image library for customer use.

Once images are saved go to **File>Image Explorer** to open the *Image Explorer*. Go to **File>Import>Images** to add images to the *Image Explorer* as shown in **Figure 49**. Select folder name to search. Left-click an individual image to import it or press and hold the control **[Ctrl]** key while left-clicking multiple images to import several at one time. Click open. To filter images shown in the *Image Explorer* window, select the drop down list next to **Filter** and then the category of images to view.

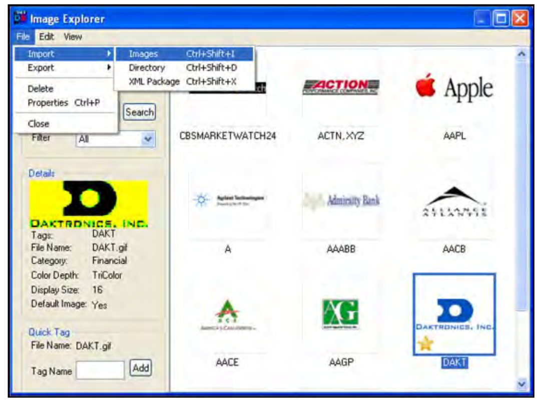


Figure 49: *Image Explorer Import Dialog*

Note: For best results, the image should be the same color depth and height as the ticker being used.

Import Image window opens as shown in **Figure 50**. Select a **Category**, **Color Depth** and **Display Size**. Type a tag name in the tag name box and click **Add Tag**. A tag name or names can be assigned to each image. Click **OK** as shown in **Figure 50**.

Note: When using the financial, news, sports, or weather frames, text can be replaced by an image. Under the *Appearance* tab, when creating a message, there is an *Image* column where replacing an image with text can be specified. For example, in a financial frame where the Daktronics stock symbol is presented, the stock symbol, DAKT can be replaced by an image from the *Image Explorer* that has a tag of DAKT.

When a tag is not found that matches the data to be displayed and the *Image Options Configuration* is set up to use an image, the filter category's default image will be displayed. To set an image as the **default image**, right click on the image and click **select as default**. A star designates the default image as shown in **Figure 49**. To remove the **default image** attribute from an image, right click on the image and click select as **default**.

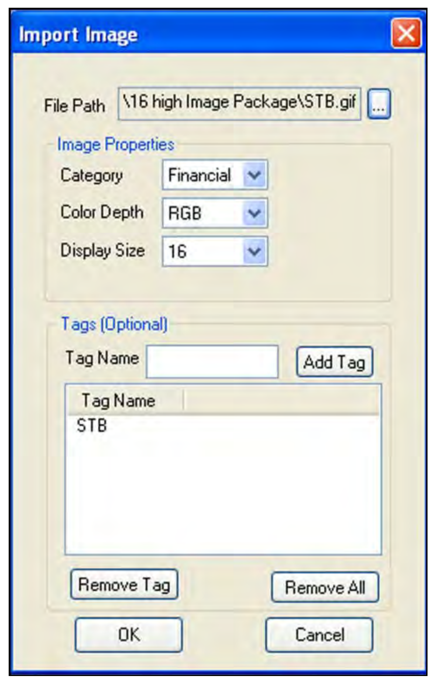


Figure 50: *Import Image Dialog*

To edit an image, select the desired image and click **Edit>Image>Edit Image**.

Section 6: Creating Messages for a DAKTicker

The creating and editing of messages takes place within the main screen of the Venus DataStreamer software as shown in **Figure 51**. This is also the location where options can be applied to a message. This section explains the step-by-step process of creating and editing messages for a DAKTicker display. To create messages for DataTrac displays, refer to **Section 7**.

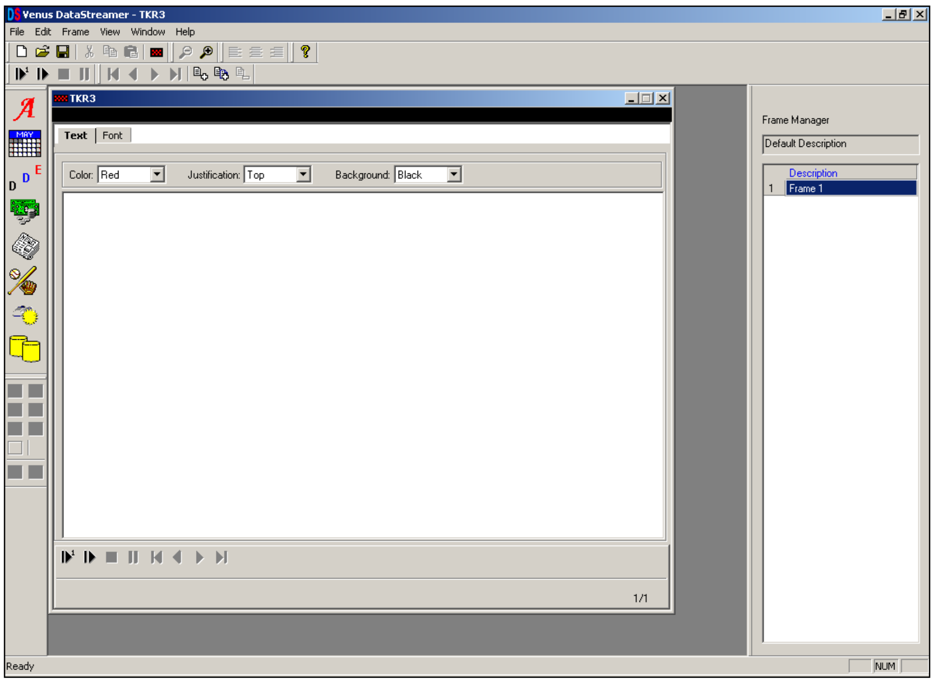


Figure 51: *Main Message Dialog*

6.1 Creating a New Message

To start a new message:

1. Click the **New** button and a dialog box will appear showing a list of display types as shown in **Figure 52**.

2. Highlight the appropriate display type and click **OK**. A new message window will appear.

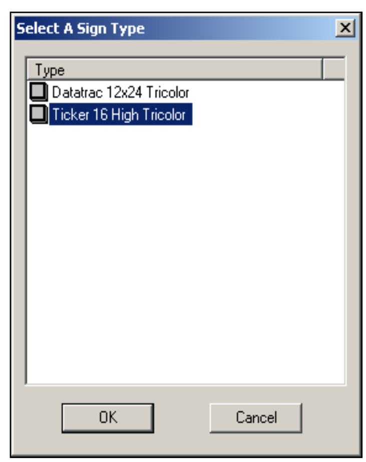


Figure 52: *Select Sign Type*

3. Depending on the driver(s) that are installed, several different types of information can be entered. When the new message window opens, it defaults to *Text*. To enter other types of information, click the appropriate button on the left tool bar as shown in **Figure 53**. Refer to **Section 1.4** for the function of each button.

4. Once all the required fields and information are entered, click the **Preview** button to view the message before sending it to the display. Click the **Stop** button to end the preview as shown in **Figure 54**. Continue to edit or save the message.

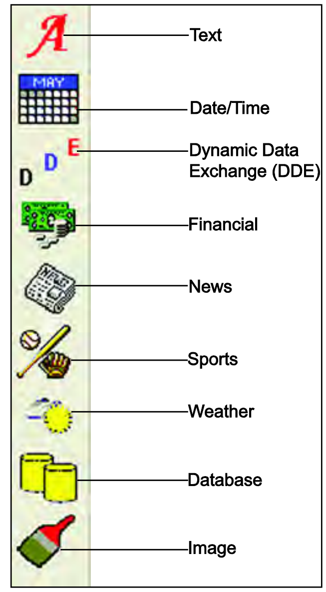


Figure 53: *Frame Type Icons on Left Toolbar*

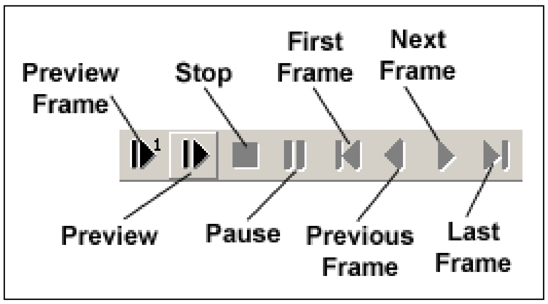


Figure 54: *Messages Toolbar*

6.2 Adding a Text Frame

Text frames allow simple text information to be created for the display. To create a text frame, complete the following steps:

1. Click the **Text** icon located on the left toolbar. The text window will appear as a new frame for the message as shown in **Figure 55**.

2. Click in the text field and type the message.

3. Click the down arrow next to the *Color* field to select the color of the text.

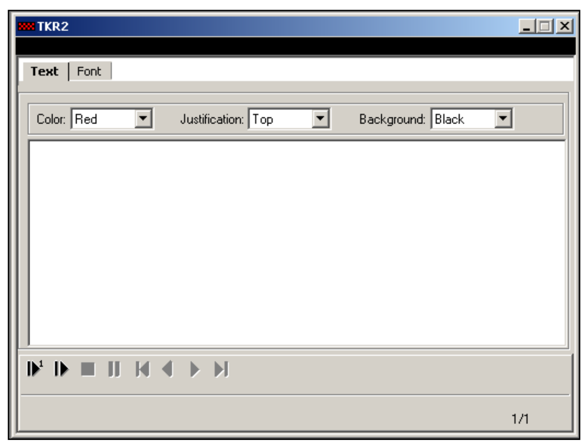


Figure 55: *Text Frame Dialog*

4. Click *Justification* to choose the desired text alignment.

5. Click the down arrow next to the *Background* to select the color of the DAKTicker's background. **Note: This feature is available only for RGB displays.**

6. Click the **Font** tab to choose the type of font for the message and any other attributes the font should have.

7. Click in the **Description** field to enter the name for this text frame. This helps to differentiate between frames.

8. Click the **File** menu and select **Save As** and the *Save* dialog window will appear.

9. Enter a name for the message and click **OK** to save the message or **Cancel** to void the action. Once the message is saved, it is ready to be sent to the display via the *Playlist Manager*.

6.3 Adding a Time/Date Frame

Both Date and Time Frames can be displayed on the DAKTicker. To add either a date or a time frame, complete the following steps:

1. Click the **Date/Time** icon located on the left toolbar. The *Date/Time* window will appear as a new frame in the message as shown in **Figure 56**.

2. Click the down arrow to set the color that the date or time will appear.

3. Choose the alignment of the date or time field by clicking on the down arrow next to the *Justification* field and then choosing *Center*, *Top*, or *Bottom*.

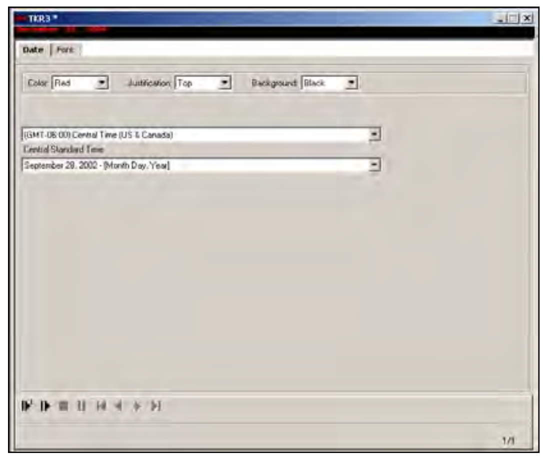


Figure 56: *Time and Date Frame*

4. Choose the background color by clicking on the down arrow next to the background field and selecting the desired color.
Note: This feature is available only for RGB displays.

5. Choose the time zone for the date or time information to be displayed.
Note: The time displayed will show a 30 to 90 second delay compared to the clock on the control computer.

6. Choose the format for the time and/or date to appear.

7. Click the **File** menu and click **Save**.

6.4 Adding a DDE Frame

Dynamic Data Exchange (DDE) frames are used to display information from other DDE compliant programs such as Microsoft Excel. The following example explains the process as it would work for information coming from an Excel spreadsheet.

To add a DDE frame, complete the following steps:

1. Click the **DDE** icon located in the left toolbar. The *DDE* window will appear.

2. Enter the name of the application which is the source of the information to be displayed, in this case, Excel as shown in **Figure 57**.

3. Enter the complete file name (including file extensions and worksheet name) of the file to be monitored in the topic field.

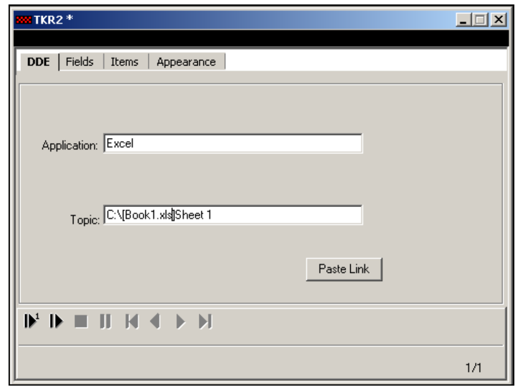


Figure 57: *DDE Frame Dialog*

4. Click the **Fields** tab and the *Fields* dialog window will appear as shown in **Figure 58**. Fields are similar to the rows on a spreadsheet.

5. Create a new entry line for field information by clicking on the "**+**" sign to the top right of the dialog box.

6. In the *Field* area, enter the **row** numbers of the information that will be monitored.

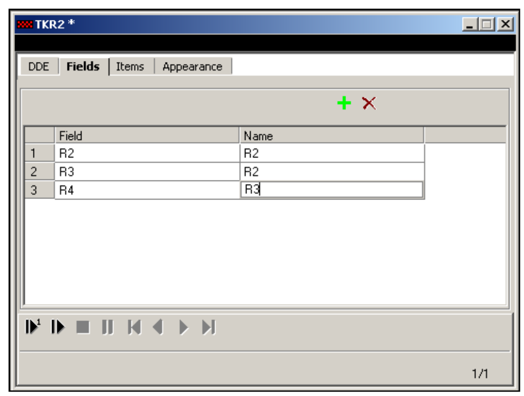


Figure 58: *DDE Fields Tab*

7. In the *Name* field, enter the row number of the identifying information for the data that is being monitored.
   Note: This can be left blank or used as an override field to override the label for a set of data associated with a row in the spreadsheet.

8. Click the **Items** tab. The *Items* window will appear as shown in **Figure 59**.

9. In the *Item* field, enter the **column** location of the information that is being monitored. (Items are similar to columns on a spreadsheet.)

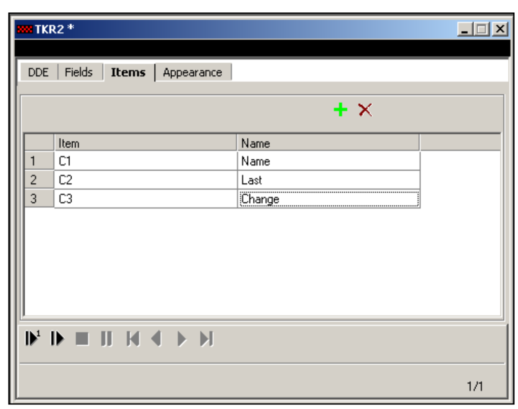


Figure 59: *DDE Items Tab*

10. In the **Name** field of the *Items* tab, enter the name of each column.
Note: The **DDE**, **Fields**, and **Items** tabs can be filled in automatically by copying all the fields to be monitored from the Excel spreadsheet and clicking on the **Paste Link** button. The information from the copied fields will fill into the corresponding fields in the Venus DataStreamer software.

11. Click the **Appearance** tab to set the layout of the information on the display as shown in **Figure 60**.

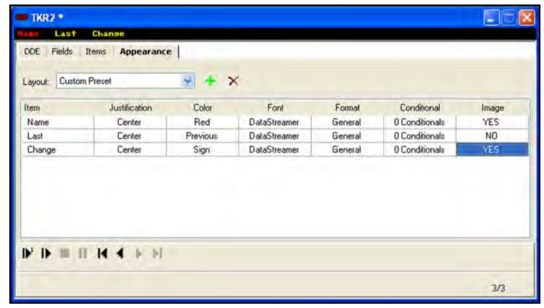


Figure 60: *DDE Appearance Tab*

12. Click the down arrow next to the *Layout* field to select a layout for the information on the display. When using a custom preset, it will be necessary to click the plus sign next to the layout field to add rows to be formatted. See preset examples available for DDE frames in **Figure 61**.

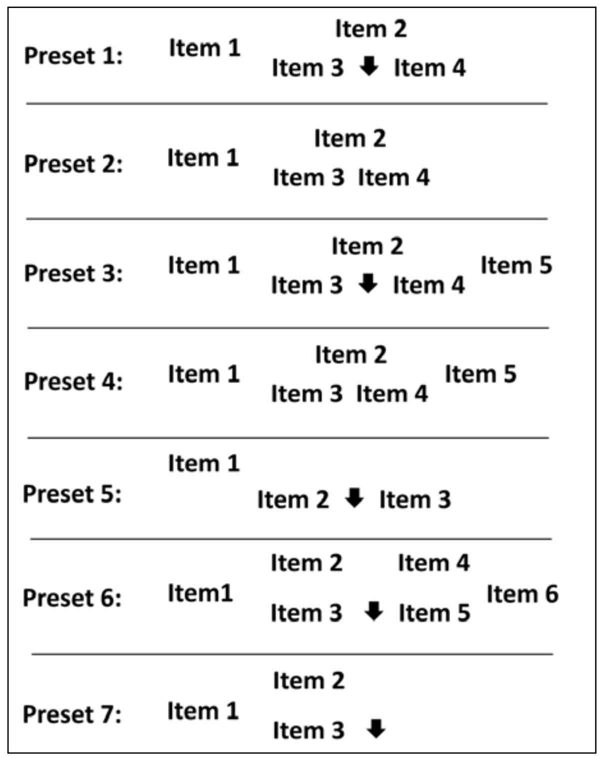


Figure 61: *DDE PReseet Layouts*

13. Click the arrow next to *Background* to set the DAKTicker's background color. **Note: This feature is available only for RGB displays.**

14. Under the *Item* column, click into a field to make the field active. Use the down arrow to choose the information for the stock to show in that field. Repeat this step for the fields under *Color*, *Font*, *Format*, and *Conditional* (if applicable). Refer to **Section 8** for information on setting conditionals.
Note: The Justification field is set by the layout that is chosen and cannot be changed unless the layout is set to a custom preset.

15. Under *Image*, click the cell containing *NO* and click the … button that appears. Check the **Replace Text with Image** box to replace text with an image. Venus DataStreamer will look for an image that has a tag matching the text for that field. Please refer to **Section 5** for further information regarding configuring images with the *Image Explorer*. The size of the image displayed on the ticker can be specified under *Image Size*. Click **OK** to confirm changes. *Yes* will appear in the *Image* column. **Note:** When an image is used, the **color**, **font** and **format** attributes are not used.

16. From the **File** pull-down menu, click **Save As** to save the message and information. The message is now saved and ready to be sent to the display.

6.5 Adding a Financial Frame

Specific information must be entered in order for a financial frame to update and display properly. To add a financial frame, complete the following steps:

1. Click the **Financial** icon located on the left toolbar. The *Financial* window will appear as a new frame in the message.
   Note: For this version of the Venus DataStreamer software, the *Driver* field cannot be changed.

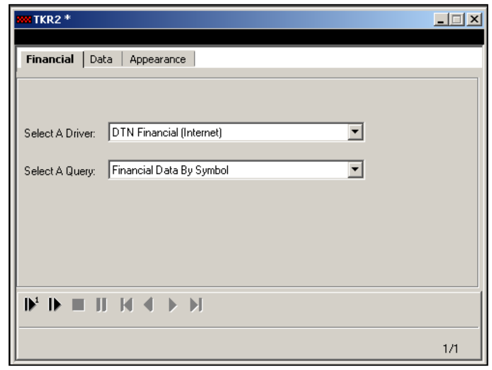


Figure 62: Financial Frame Dialog

2. Click the down arrow next to the field Select a *Query* and select the desired query as shown in **Figure 62**.

3. Click the **Data** tab and the screen will change to show the following window as shown in **Figure 63**. To add *Symbol* and *Name* fields, click the green plus **+** in the top right of the dialog.

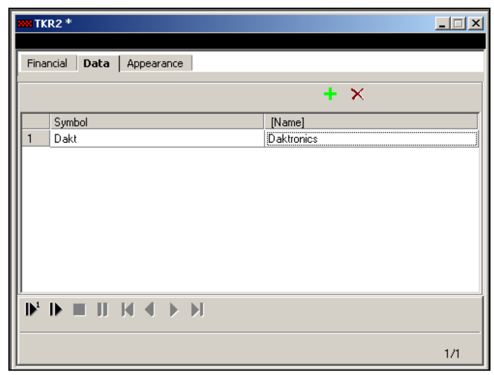


Figure 63: Financial Data Screen

4. Place the cursor into the *Symbol* field and enter the stock symbol of the company that is to be displayed.

5. The default name from the data source can be replaced, if preferred. Place the cursor in the *Name* field and enter the company name to replace the default.

6. Click the **Appearance** tab to set the layout of the information on the display as shown in **Figure 64**.

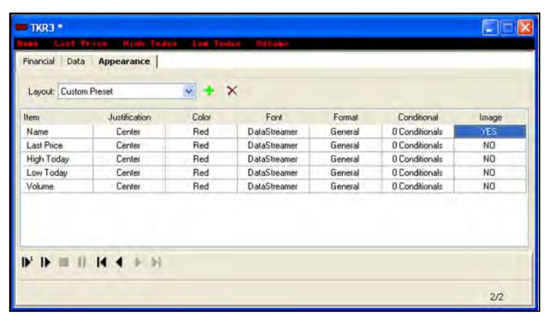


Figure 64: Financial Data Appearance Tab

7. Click the down arrow next to the *Layout* field to select a layout for the information on the display. See preset examples available for financial frames in **Figure 65**. When using a custom preset, it will be necessary to click the plus sign next to the layout field to add rows to be formatted. To remove a row, click the "X".

8. Click the arrow next to *Background* to set the DAKTicker's background color. **Note: This feature is available only for RGB displays.**

9. Under the *Item* column, click into a field to make the field active. Use the down arrow to choose the information for each stock that will appear in the field. Repeat this step for the fields under *Color*, *Font*, *Format*, and *Conditional* (if applicable). Refer to **Section 8** for information on setting conditionals. **Note: The Justification field is set by the layout that is chosen and cannot be changed unless the layout is set to a custom preset.**

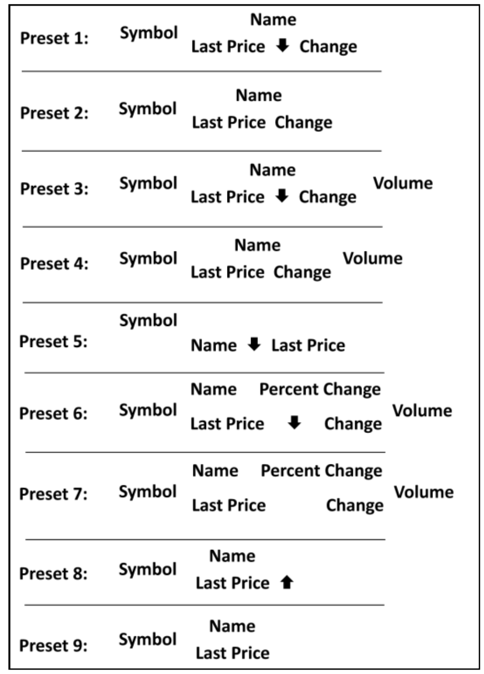


Figure 65: *Financial Preset Layouts*

10. Under Image, click the cell containing *NO* and click the … button that appears. Check the **Replace Text with Image** box to replace text with an image. Venus DataStreamer will look for an image that has a tag matching the text for that field. Please refer to **Section 5** for further information regarding configuring images with the *Image Explorer*. The size of the image displayed on the ticker can be specified under *Image Size*. Click **OK** to confirm changes. *Yes* will appear in the *Image* column. **Note:** When an image is used, the **color**, **font,** and **format** attributes are not used.

11. From the **File** pull-down menu, click **Save As** to save the message and information. The message is now saved and ready to be sent to the display.

6.6 Adding a News Frame

Several different categories of up-to-date news headlines can be displayed with Venus DataStreamer. To add a *News* frame, complete the following steps:

1. Click the **News** icon from the left toolbar and the *News* dialog window will open as shown in **Figure 66**. A new frame will be added to the message.
   Note: For this version of Venus DataStreamer software, the *Driver* field cannot be changed.

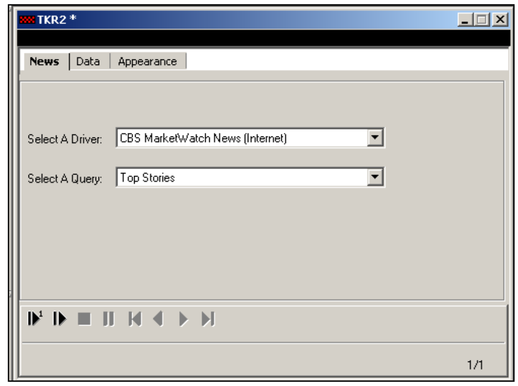


Figure 66: *Choosing a News Frame*

2. Click the down arrow next to the field Select a *Query* to choose a category of news headlines.

3. Click the **Data** tab as shown in **Figure 67**. Click the + button to insert the parameters for the headlines to be shown. This field may change in appearance depending on the type of query selected on the previous screen.

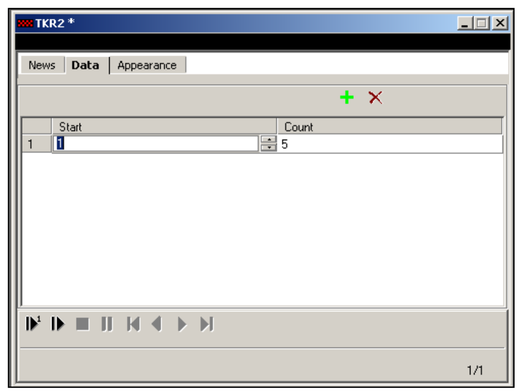


Figure 67: *News Frame Data Tab*

4. Enter the necessary information for each of the fields created. Depending on the query selected, this may require either the entry of a news source or the selection of choices from a drop-down list.

5. In the *Start* column, determine the start point for the display information in the list of news headings. The *Count* column determines the number of news headings to be displayed at a time.

6. Click the **Appearance** tab to set the layout of the information on the display as shown in **Figure 68**. See preset examples available for news frames in **Figure 69**.

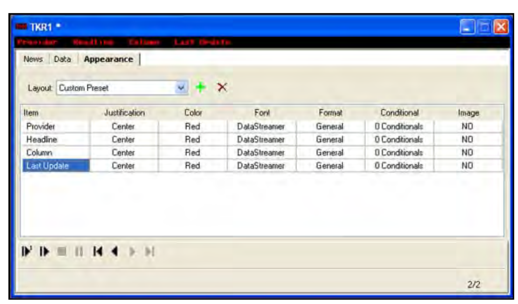


Figure 68: *News Frame Appearance Tab*

7. Click the down arrow next to the *Layout* field to select a layout for the information on the display. When using a custom preset, it will be necessary to click the plus sign + next to the layout field to add rows to be formatted. To remove a row, click the “X”.

8. Click the arrow next to *Background* to set the DAKTicker's background color. **Note: This feature is available only for RGB displays.**

9. Under the *Item* column, click into a field to make the field active. Use the down arrow to choose the information that will show up in that field. Repeat this step for to set *Color*, *Font*, *Format*, and *Conditional* (if applicable). Refer to **Section 8** for information on setting conditionals. **Note: The Justification field is set by the layout that is chosen and cannot be changed unless the layout is set to a custom preset.**

Preset 1:	Author Headline Provider	
Preset 2:	Author Headline Provider	Last Update
Preset 3:	Author Headline	
Preset 4:	Author Headline	
Preset 5:	Author Headline	

Figure 69: *News Preset Layouts*

10. Under *Image*, click the cell containing *NO* and click the … button that appears. Check the **Replace Text with Image** box to replace text with an image. Venus DataStreamer will look for an image that has a tag matching the text for that field. Please refer to **Section 5** for further information regarding configuring images with the *Image Explorer*. The size of the image displayed on the ticker can be specified under *Image Size*. Click **OK** to confirm changes. *Yes* will appear in the *Image* column. **Note:** When an image is used, the **color**, **font** and **format** attributes are not used.

11. From the **File** pull-down menu, click **Save As** to save the message and information. The message is now saved and ready to be sent to the display.

6.7 Adding a Sports Frame

A variety of sports information can be displayed with Venus DataStreamer. To add a *Sports* frame, complete the following steps:

1. Click the **Sports** icon from the left toolbar and the *Sports* dialog window will open as shown in **Figure 70**. A new frame is added to the message. Click the down arrow next to *Select a Query* to choose the query type.

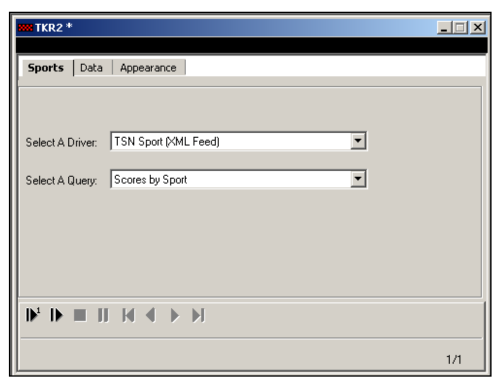


Figure 70: *Choosing a Sports Frame*

2. Click the **Data** tab as shown in **Figure 71**. **Note:** For this version of Venus DataStreamer software, the *Driver* field cannot be changed.

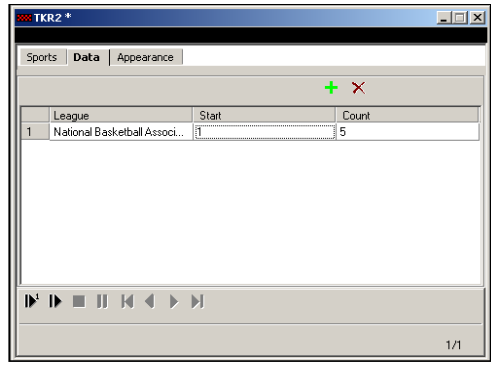


Figure 71: *Sports Data Tab*

3. Click the + button and insert the parameters for showing league data. This field may change in appearance depending on the type of query selected in the previous screen.

4. Enter the necessary information for each of the fields created. Depending on the query selected, this may require either entering information or selecting from a drop-down list of choices.

5. In the *Start* column, determine the starting point for league data to be displayed. The *Count* column determines the amount of data to be displayed at a time.

6. Click the **Appearance** tab to set the layout of the information as shown in **Figure 72**. See preset examples available for news frames in **Figure 73**.

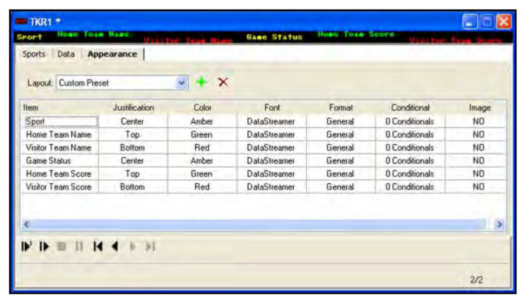


Figure 72: *Sports Appearance Tab*

7. Click the down arrow next to the *Layout* field to select a layout. When using a custom preset, it will be necessary to click the plus sign + next to the layout field to add rows to be formatted. To remove a row, click the "X".

8. Click the arrow next to *Background* to set the DAKTicker's background color. **Note: This feature is available only for RGB displays.**

Preset 1:	**Home Team Name** **Home Team Score**	**Visitor Team Name** **Visitor Team Score**	**Game Status**
Preset 2:	**Home Team Name** **Visitor Team Name**	**Home Team Score** **Visitor Team Score**	**Game Status**
Preset 3:	**Home Team Name** **Home Team Score**	**Visitor Team Name** **Visitor Team Score**	**Game Status**
Preset 4:	**Home Team Name** **Home Team Score**	**Visitor Team Name** **Visitor Team Score**	**Game Status** **Category**
Preset 5:	**Home Team Name** **Home Team Score**	**Visitor Team Name** **Visitor Team Score**	**Game Status** **Category**
Preset 6:	**Home Team Name** **Home Team Score**	**Visitor Team Name** **Visitor Team Score**	**Game Status** **Category**

Figure 73: *Sports Preset Layouts*

9. Under the *Item* column, click into a field to make the field active. Use the down arrow to choose the information to be displayed in that field. Repeat this step for the fields under *Color*, *Font*, *Format*, and *Conditional* (if applicable). Refer to **Section 8** for information on setting conditionals.
   Note: The Justification field is set by the layout that is chosen and cannot be changed unless the layout is set to a custom preset.

10. Under *Image*, click the cell containing *NO* and click the … button that appears. Check the **Replace Text with Image** box to replace text with an image. Venus DataStreamer will look for an image that has a tag matching the text for that field. Please refer to **Section 5** for further information regarding configuring images with the *Image Explorer*. The size of the image displayed on the ticker can be specified under *Image Size*. Click **OK** to confirm changes. *Yes* will appear in the *Image* column.
    Note: When an image is used, the **color**, **font** and **format** attributes are not used.

11. From the **File** pull-down menu, click **Save As** to save the message and information. The message is now saved and ready to be sent to the display.

6.8 Adding a Weather Frame

A variety of weather information can be shown on Daktronics displays. To add a *Weather* frame, complete the following steps:

1. Click the **Weather** icon from the left toolbar and the *Weather* dialog window will open as shown in **Figure 74**. A new frame will be added to the message.
   Note: For this version of Venus DataStreamer software, the *Driver* and *Query* fields cannot be changed.

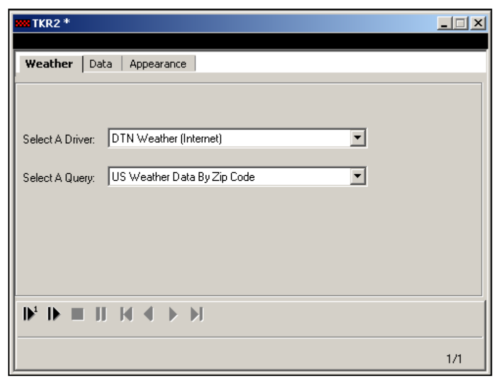


Figure 74: *Choosing a Weather Frame*

2. Click the **Data** tab and enter the zip code of the city for which the weather data will be retrieved as shown in **Figure 75**.

3. Click the **Appearance** tab to set the layout of the information on the display as shown in **Figure 76**.

4. Click the down arrow next to the *Layout* field to select a layout for the information to appear on the display. See preset examples available for weather frames in **Figure 77**.

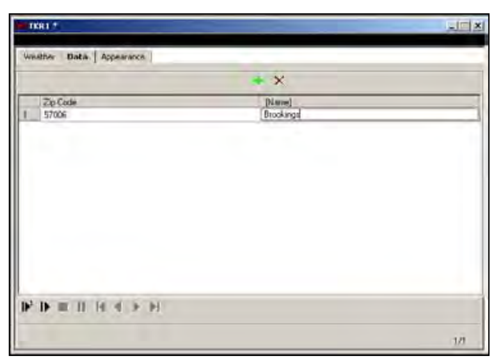


Figure 75: *Weather Data Tab*

5. Click the arrow next to *Background* to set the DAKTicker's background color.
Note: This feature is available only for RGB displays.

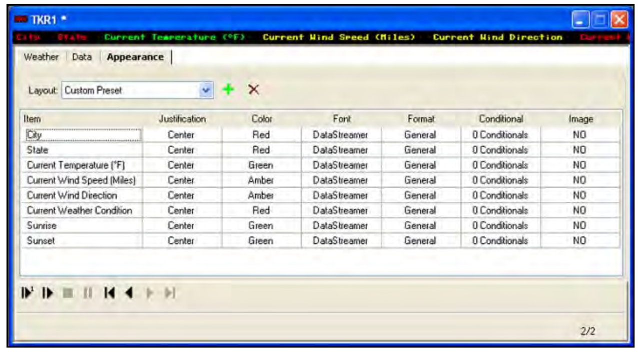


Figure 76: *Weather Appearance Tab*

6. Under the *Item* column, click into a field to make the field active. Use the down arrow to choose the information which will show up in that field. Repeat this step for the fields under *Color*, *Font*, *Format*, and *Conditional* (if applicable). Refer to **Section 8** for information on setting conditionals.
Note: The Justification field is set by the layout that is chosen and cannot be changed unless the layout is set to a custom preset.

7. Under *Image*, click the cell containing *NO* and click the … button that appears. Check the **Replace Text with Image** box to replace text with an image. Venus DataStreamer will look for an image that has a tag matching the text for that field. Please refer to **Section 5** for further information regarding configuring images with the *Image Explorer*. The size of the image displayed on the ticker can be specified under *Image Size*. Click **OK** to confirm changes. *Yes* will appear in the *Image* column.
Note: When an image is used, the **color**, **font** and **format** attributes are not used.

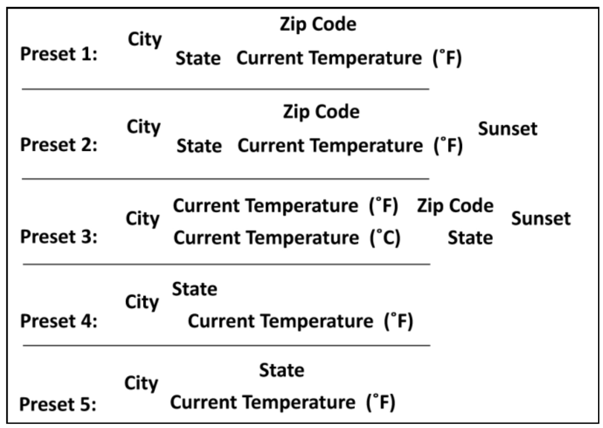


Figure 77: *Weather Preset Layouts*

8. From the **File** pull-down menu, click **Save As** to save the message and information. The message is now saved and ready to be sent to the display.

6.9 Adding a Database Frame

The *Database* frame allows information stored on private systems databases to be shown on a display. To add a *Database* frame, complete the following steps:

1. Click the **Database** icon from the left toolbar. The *Database* dialog window will open as shown in **Figure 78** and a new frame will be added to the message.

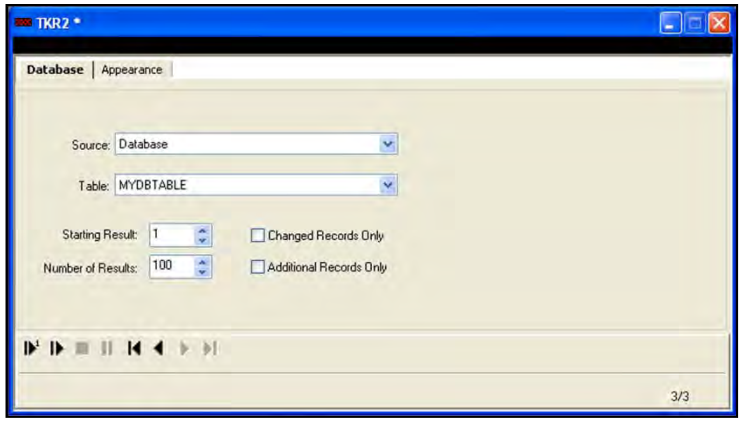


Figure 78: *Adding a Database*

2. Click the down arrow next to the *Source* field and select the appropriate database.
   Note: Databases must be configured prior to being selected.

3. Click the down arrow next to the *Table* field and select the appropriate table.

4. Set the starting point for database information to begin. Row one in the table is equivalent to the first result. So, if the displayed information is to begin on the second row of the table, the starting result should be set to two.

5. Set the number of results to be displayed from the table. If the starting result is set at two and the next fifty rows of the table are to be shown, then the number of results should be set at fifty.

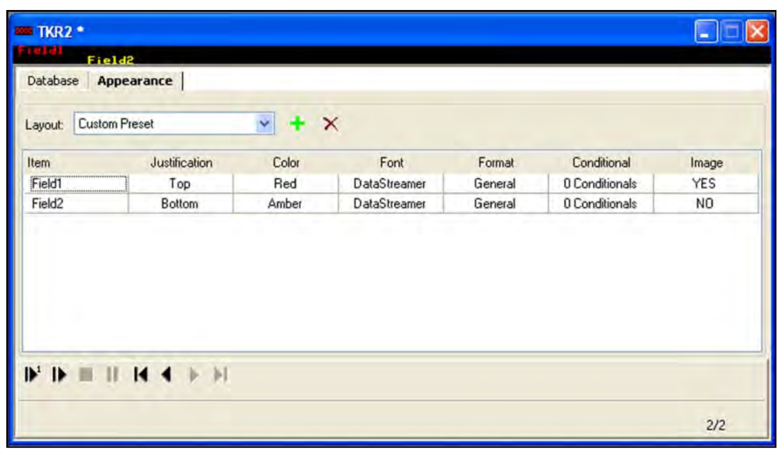


Figure 79:*Database Appearance Tab*

6. Select the **Changes Only** box to show only the data that have experienced a change in value.
   Note: Binary data types are not supported and will not be displayed.

7. Click the **Appearance** tab to set the layout of the information on the display as shown in **Figure 79**.

8. Click the down arrow next to the *Layout* field to select a format for the information to appear on the display. When using a custom preset, it will be necessary for the user to click the plus sign + next to the layout field to add rows to be formatted. See preset examples available for database frames in **Figure 80**.

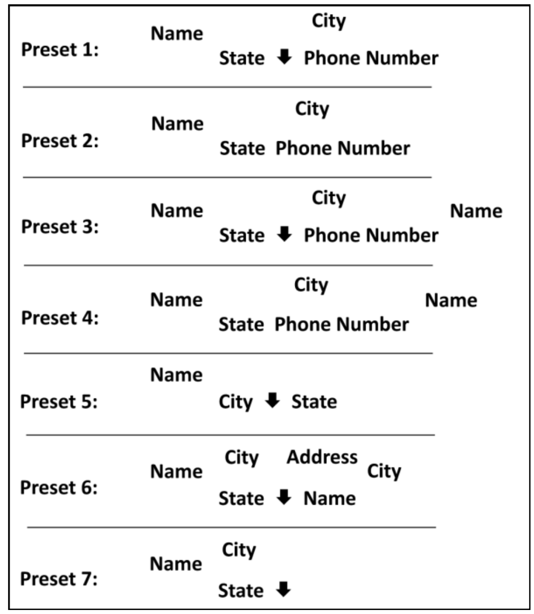


Figure 80: *Database Preset Layouts*

9. Click the arrow next to *Background* to set the DAKTicker's background color.
Note: This feature is available only for RGB displays.

10. Under the *Item* column, click into a field to make the field active. Use the down arrow to choose the database information that will show up in that field. Repeat this step for the fields under *Color*, *Font*, *Format*, and *Conditional* (if applicable). Refer to **Section 8** for information on setting conditionals.
Note: The Justification field is set by the layout that is chosen and cannot be changed unless the layout is set to a custom preset.

11. Under *Image*, click the cell containing *NO* and click the … button that appears. Check the **Replace Text with Image** box to replace text with an image. Venus DataStreamer will look for an image that has a tag matching the text for that field. Please refer to **Section 5** for further information regarding configuring images with the *Image Explorer*. The size of the image displayed on the ticker can be specified under *Image Size*. Click **OK** to confirm changes. *Yes* will appear in the *Image* column.
Note: When an image is used, the **color**, **font**, and **format** attributes are not used.

12. From the **File** pull-down menu, click **Save As** to save the message and information. The message is now saved and ready to be sent to the display.

6.10 Adding an Image Frame

The *Image* frame is used to display images that are stored on a computer of network. To add an *Image* frame, complete the following steps:

1. Click the **Image** icon from the left toolbar. A new *Image* dialog window will open as shown in **Figure 81** and a new frame will be added to the message.

2. Click the down arrow next to the *Image File Name* field. The user can select an image from the list or they can click on **<Browse for File…>** and select the location for an image.

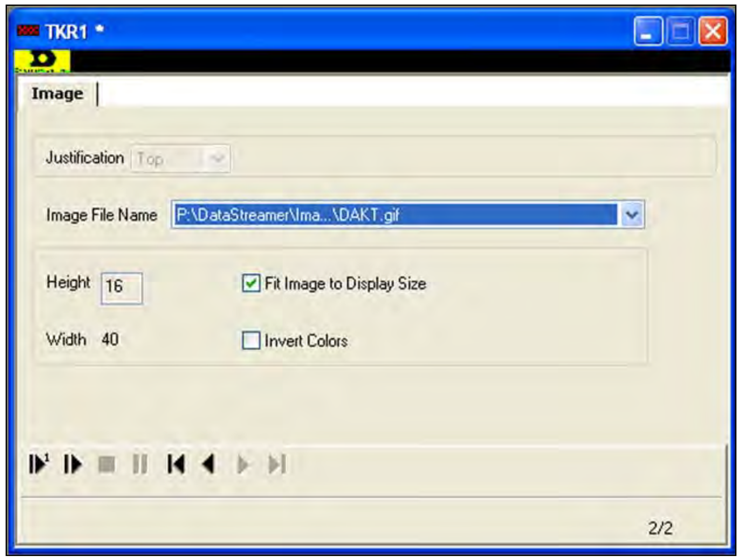


Figure 81: Adding a Frame

3. When **Fit Image to Display Size** is selected, the height is automatically changed to the display height and cannot be changed manually. When **Fit Image to Display Size** is not selected, the user can enter a height they would like the image to be displayed. To invert image colors select **Invert Colors**.

4. From the **File** pull-down menu, click **Save As** to save the message and information. The message is now saved and ready to be sent to the display.

Section 7: Creating Messages for the Panelized DataTrac

Creating and editing messages takes place within the main screen of the Venus DataStreamer software as shown in **Figure 82**. This screen also contains the tools used to apply different options to a message. This section will explain the step-by-step process for creating or editing a message for a *Panelized DataTrac* display. To create messages for a DAKTicker, refer to **Section 6**.

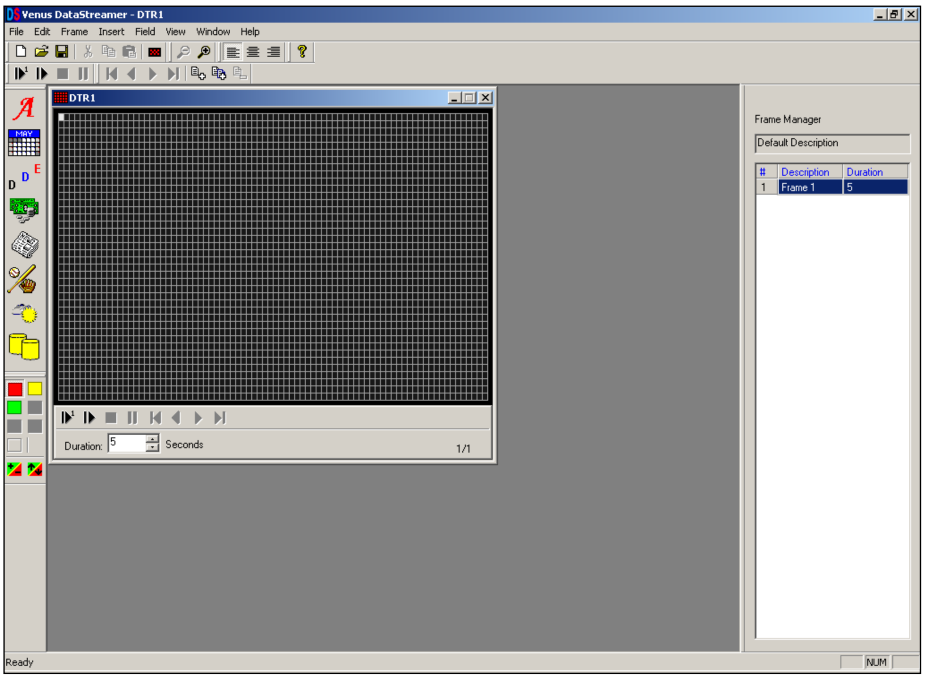


Figure 82: *DataTrac Main Dialog*

7.1 To Create a New Message

To start a new message:

1. Click the **New** button. A dialog box will appear as shown in **Figure 83**.
2. Highlight the appropriate display type and click **OK**. A new message window will appear.
3. Depending on the type of driver(s) that are installed, several different types of information can be entered. To enter information, click the appropriate icon on the left tool bar.

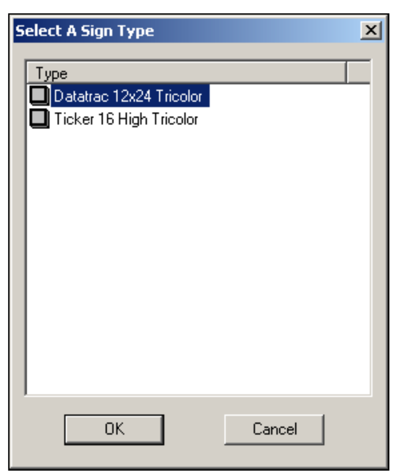


Figure 83: *Selecting Display*

4. Once all the required fields and information are entered, click the **Preview** button to view the message before sending it to the display as shown in **Figure 84**. Click the **Stop** button to end the preview and continue to edit or save the message.

7.2 Entering a Text Field

Text fields allow simple text information to be shown on the display. To create a text field, complete the following steps:

1. Create a new message window or open an existing message and click the **Text** icon from the left toolbar. The *text dialog* window will appear.

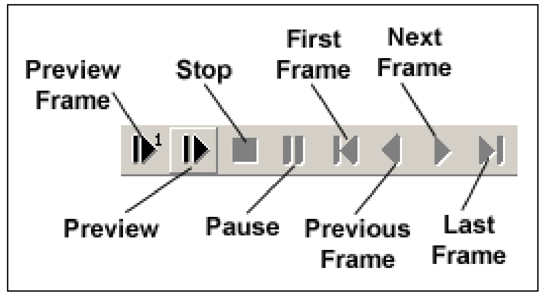


***Figure 84:** Messages Toolbar*

2. Click in the text field and type the message as shown in **Figure 85**.

3. Click the **Display** tab to set the color and alignment of the text within the field. Click **OK** to complete or **Cancel** to void the action.

4. Click the **File** menu and select **Save** and the *Save* dialog window will appear.

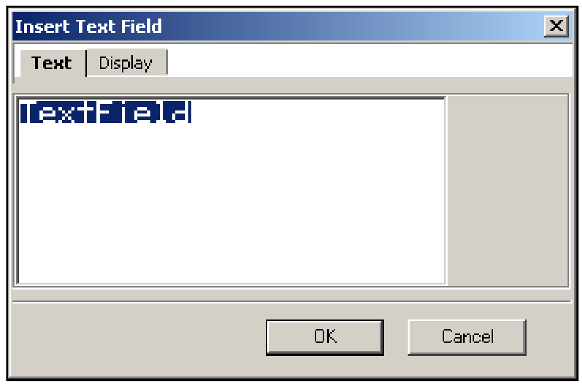


***Figure 85:** DataTrac Text Field*

5. Enter a name for the message and click **OK** to save the message or **Cancel** to void the action. Once the message is saved, it is ready to be sent to the display via the *Playlist Manager*.

7.3 Entering a Time/Date Field

Both date and time fields can be displayed on the DataTrac. To enter either a date or time field in a frame, complete the following steps:

1. Click the **Date/Time** icon located on the left toolbar. The *Date/Time* window will appear as shown in **Figure 86**.

2. Choose the time zone for the date/time information to be displayed.

3. Click the **Display** tab to set the color of the information. Click the down arrow

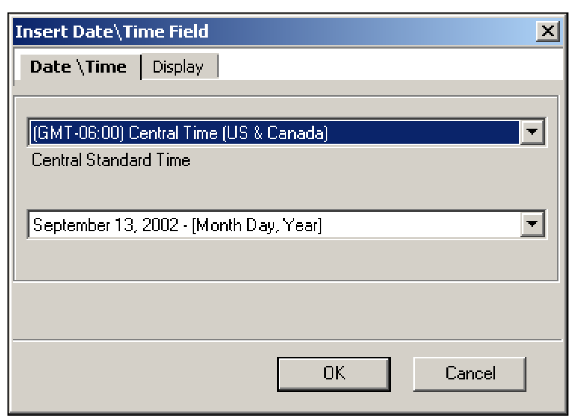


***Figure 86:** Date/Time Dialog*

next to the color field and then click the desired color.

4. Within the *Display* tab, choose the alignment of the date field by clicking on the down arrow next to the *Justification* field and click *Center*, *Top*, or *Bottom*. Refer to **Section 8** for information on setting conditionals.

5. Click the **File** menu and select **Save As**. The *Save As* dialog window will appear. Enter a name for the field and click **OK**. The message is now saved.

7.4 Entering a DDE Field

Dynamic Data Exchange (DDE) fields are used to display information from other DDE compliant programs such as Microsoft Excel. The following example will use information coming from an Excel spreadsheet.

To add a DDE field, complete the following steps:

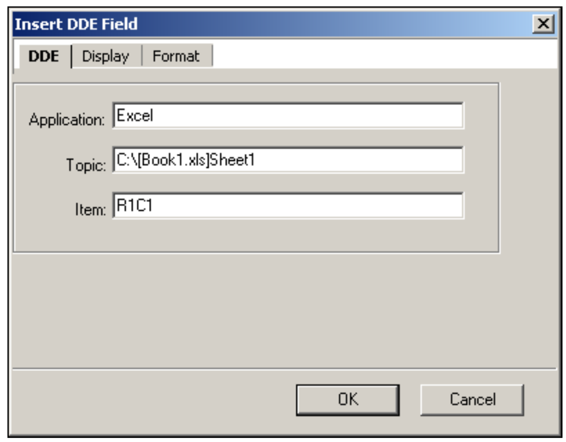


Figure 87: *Inserting DDE Field*

1. Click the **DDE** icon located in the left toolbar.

2. In the ***Application*** field, enter the name of the program from which the information is coming (Ex: Excel) as shown in **Figure 87**.

3. Enter the complete file name of the file to be monitored in the *Topic* field (including file extensions and worksheet name).

4. In the *Item* field, enter the location of the data in the source program. For example, in a spreadsheet situation, enter the row and column of the information to be displayed. For instance, data being pulled from row 1 column A would be entered as R1C1.

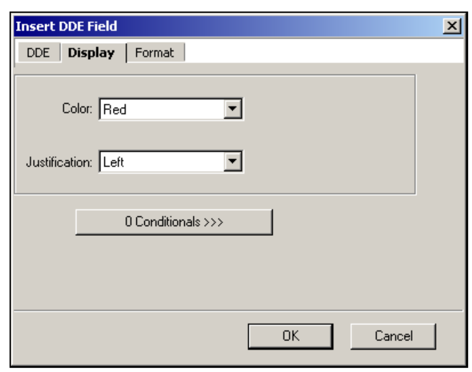


Figure 88: *DDE Display Tab*

5. Click the **Display** tab and the *Display* dialog window will appear as shown in **Figure 88**.

6. Select the text color by clicking on the down arrow next to the color box. Repeat this process to set the *Justification* of the information. Refer to **Section 8** or information on setting conditionals.

7. Click the **Format** tab and the *Format* dialog window will appear as shown in **Figure 89**.

8. In the ***Format*** window, set the information style by highlighting the desired format on the left side of the screen.

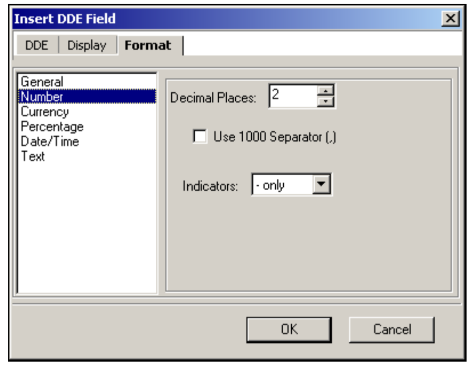


Figure 89: *DDE Format Tab*

9. On the right side of the screen, set the parameters for the chosen format.

10. Click **OK** for the format to be applied. Click **Cancel** to void the action and close the *DDE* window.

11. Click the **File** drop-down menu and click **Save**. Enter a name for the message being saved and click **OK**. The message is now ready to be sent to the display.

Note: A DDE field may also be created by copying the desired fields and pasting them into the DataTrac message window. This will automatically fill in the *Application*, *Topic*, and *Item* fields. The *DDE* fields can then be edited as desired.

7.5 Entering Financial Information

Financial information can be entered either in a field or a table. Both options are explained in this section.

Entering a Financial Field

Specific information must be entered in a *Financial* field in order to update and display information properly.

To add a Financial Field, complete the following steps:

1. Once a new message window is open, click the **Financial** icon located on the left tool bar. The message dialog window will change to the financial mode as shown in **Figure 90**.
Note: Set the driver and the query field at this time.

2. Place the cursor in the field next to *Symbol* and enter the financial symbol of the company to be monitored.

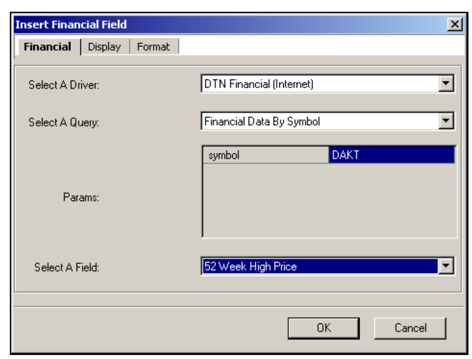


Figure 90: *Financial Field Tab*

3. Click the down arrow next to *Select a Field* to set the query information. This function allows the selection of data to be displayed for a stock index. For example, today's high, low, last price, or the change of a stock price may be selected.

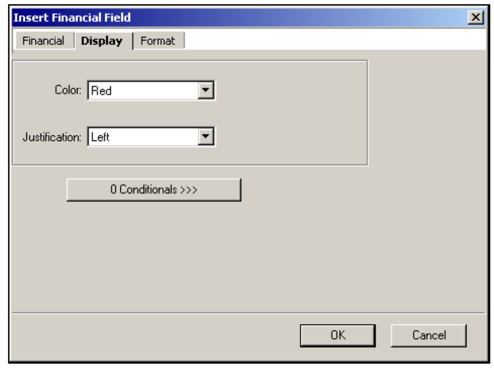


Figure 91: Financial Display Tab

4. Click the **Display** tab to set the color and alignment of the financial information as shown in **Figure 91**. Refer to **Section 8** for information on setting conditionals.

5. Click the **Format** tab to set the parameters of the information as shown in **Figure 92**. For example, if the data will be displayed in numerical form, the number of decimal places can be set here.

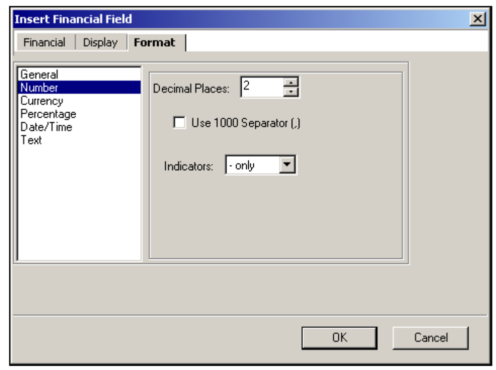


Figure 92: Financial Format Tab

6. From the **File** pull-down menu, click **Save** to save the message and information. The message is now ready to be sent to the display.

7. Repeat the above steps as necessary to create and place all desired fields.

Entering a Financial Table

Occasions may arise when it is necessary to know which stocks are performing in a specific manner, for example, which stocks are most active. The *Financial Table Wizard* allows the user to select a financial exchange, such as the NYSE, and set the criteria for monitoring that exchange.

To create a Financial Table, complete the following steps:

1. Open a new DataTrac window in the Venus DataStreamer software.

2. Right-click within the new message window and a pop-up menu will appear. Click **New** and **Financial Table**. The *Financial Table Wizard* will appear as shown in **Figure 93**.

3. Click **Next**.

4. Click the down arrow next to the *Query* field and select the desired query information as shown in **Figure 94**.

Figure 93: Financial Table Wizard

5. Click in the *Value* field and enter the symbol of the exchange to be monitored, for example, NYSE for New York Stock Exchange. Click **Next**.

6. Click the up and down arrows next to the *Table Width* field to set the number of columns the table will contain as shown in **Figure 95**. Repeat this step in *Table Height* to set the number of rows the table will contain. Click **Next**.

7. Click the up and down arrows to set the width and height of each cell within the table. Click **Next**.

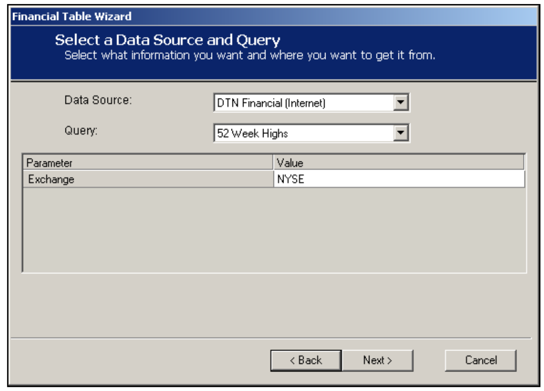


Figure 94: *Financial Data Source Dialog*

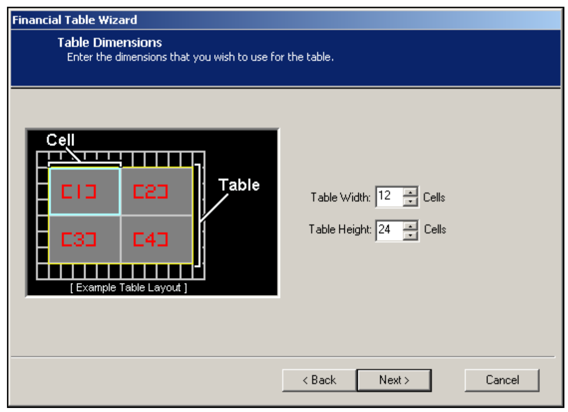


Figure 95: *Table Dimensions Dialog*

8. Click in the first field under the *Field* column in the table and select the information to be displayed in that field of the table as shown in **Figure 96**.

9. In the *Line* and *Character* columns, choose the line and character on which the field should be displayed within each cell. For example, line 1 is the very top line of the defined cell and character 2 is the second column from the left of the defined cell.

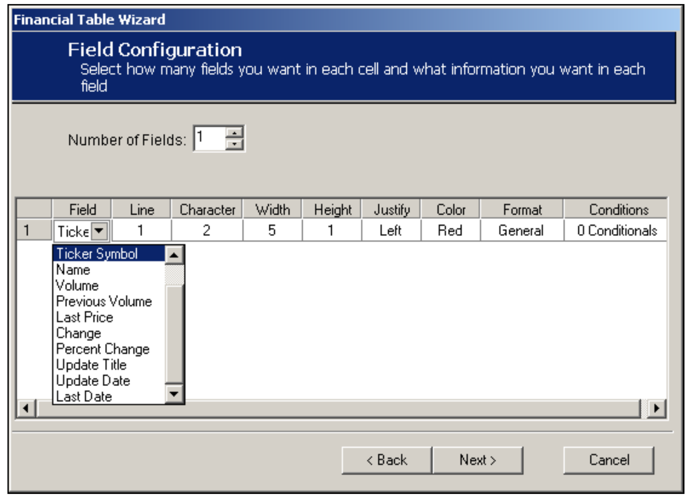


Figure 96:*Field Configuration Dialog*

10. Click in the *Width* column to set the maximum number of characters available for the field to be displayed.

11. Click in the *Height* field to set the number of rows used to display the information. **Note:** If a field is wider than the allowed width, set the height higher than one and the data will wrap into the additional rows.

12. Click in the *Justify* and *Color* columns to set the appearance of the data in the field.

13. Click in the *General* column to set any necessary parameters for the field.

14. The *Conditions* field allows the monitoring of data and the modification of values according to certain criteria. Refer to **Section 8** for information on setting conditionals.

15. Click **Next**.

16. To **Show Only Specific Results**, click this radio button as shown in **Figure 97**. Then click on the up and down arrows next to the *Starting Result* and *Number of Results* fields, selecting the starting result for the table and the number of results to be displayed.
OR
To show **Page Results**, set the *Paging Interval* for reports with several results which will rotate through the display, for example: NYSE Most Actives.
Note: The *Page Results* option allows all the results for a query to be displayed.

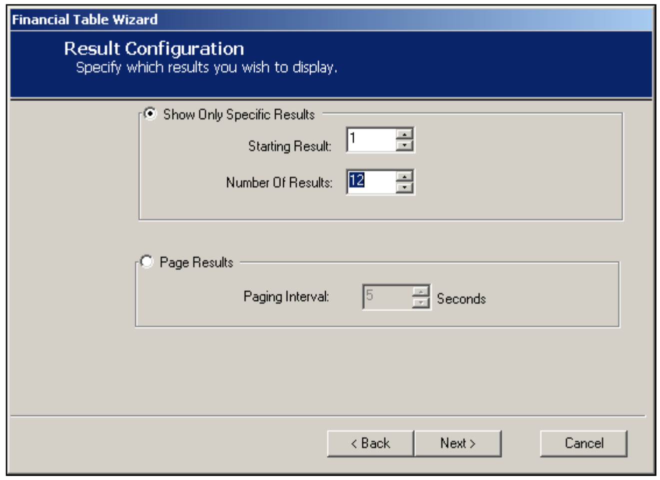


Figure 97: *Result Configuration*

17. Click **Next**.

18. The *Financial Table* overview will show all of the criteria that have been selected for the table as shown in **Figure 98**. Use the scroll bar on the right to see all the information. If anything needs to be changed, click the **Back** button to reach the necessary screen and make the appropriate changes. Otherwise, click **Finish** to close the Wizard and finish creating the table. Or click **Cancel** to void the table. Once the table is complete, click **File > Save** to save the table.

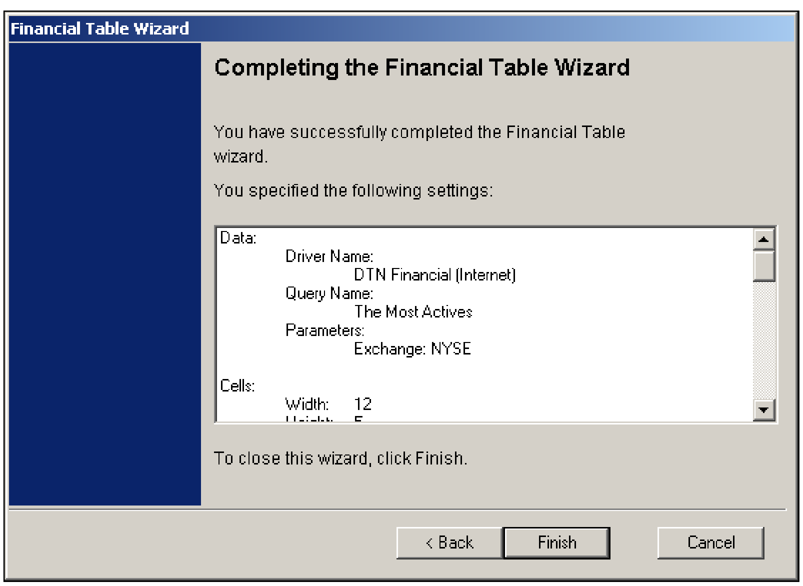


Figure 98: *Financial Table Overview*

7.6 Entering a News Table

A variety of news headlines can be displayed on a Daktronics DataTrac. Follow these steps to set up news headlines for display.

1. To display news data, click the **News** icon from the left toolbar. The *News Table Wizard* will open as shown in **Figure 99**. Click **Next**.

Figure 99: *News Table Wizard*

2. Use the down arrow next to the *Data Source* and *Query* fields to determine the type of news stories that will be as shown in the news field as shown in **Figure 100**. The parameter will change depending on the type of *Query* that is chosen. Under the *Value* field, enter the appropriate information as determined by the parameter field. Click Next.

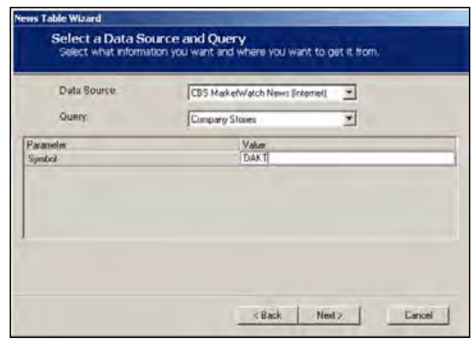


Figure 100: *Selecting a News Source*

3. Click the up and down arrows next to the *Table Width* fields to set the number of columns the table will contain as shown in **Figure 101**. Repeat this step in *Table Height* to set the number of rows the table will contain. Click **Next**.

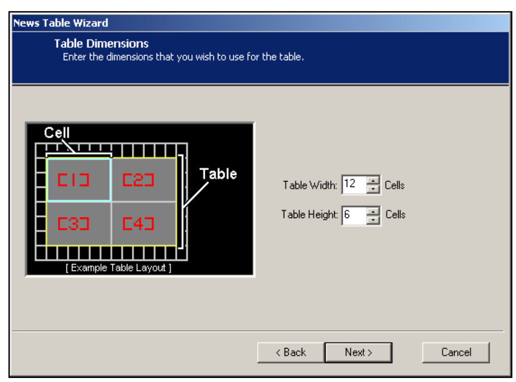


Figure 101: *Selecting Table Dimensions*

4. Click the up and down arrows to set the width and height of each cell within the table as shown in **Figure 102**. Click Next.

5. In the *Field Configuration* dialog as shown in **Figure 103**, click in the *Field* column and select the information to be displayed in that field of the table.

6. In the *Line* and *Character* columns, choose the line and character on which the field should be displayed within each cell. For example, line 1 is the very top line of the defined cell and character 2 is the second column from the left of the defined cell.

7. Click in the *Width* column to set the maximum number of characters to be displayed in the field.

8. Click in the *Height* field to set how many rows will be used to display the information.
Note: If a field is wider than the allowed width, set the height higher than one and the data will wrap onto the additional rows.

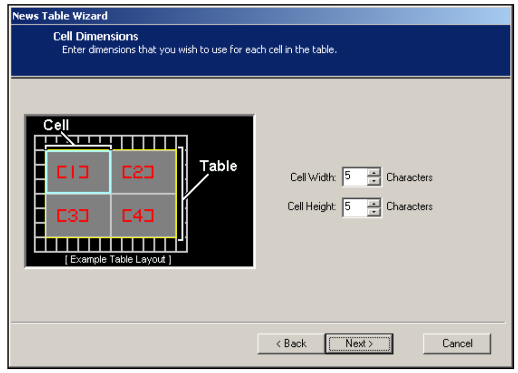


Figure 102: *Setting Cell Dimensions*

9. Click in the *Justify* and *Color* columns to set the appearance of the data in the field.

10. Click in the *General* column and set any necessary parameters for the field.

11. The *Conditions* field allows data to be monitored and values modified according to certain criteria. Refer to **Section 8** for information on setting conditionals.

12. Click **Next**.

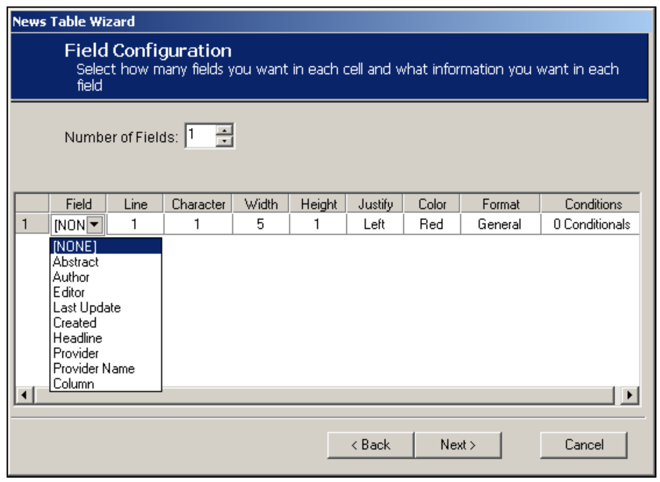


Figure 103: *Setting Field Configurations*

13. To **Show Only Specific Results**, click on that radio button. Then click the up and down arrows next to *Starting Result* and *Number of Results*, selecting the result on which the table will start and the number of results to be displayed as shown in **Figure 104**.
OR
To show **Page Results**, set the *Paging Interval* for reports with several results to be rotated through the display, such as Top Stories.
Note: The *Page Results* option allows all the results for a query to be displayed. Click **Next**.

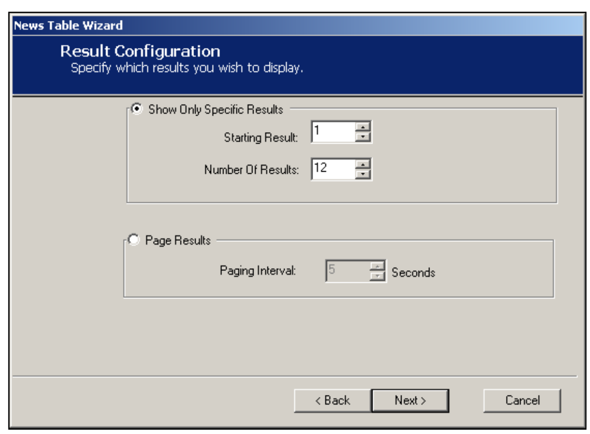


Figure 104: *Result Configuration*

14. The *News Table* overview will show all of the criteria entered as shown in **Figure 105**. Use the scroll bar on the right to review all information. If anything needs to be changed, click the **Back** button to reach the necessary screen and make appropriate changes. Otherwise, click **Finish** to close the Wizard and complete creating the table.

Figure 105: *News Table Overview*

15. Click **File > Save** to keep the changes made or click **Cancel** to void the action and close the Wizard.

7.7 Entering a Sports Table

A variety of sports headlines can be displayed on a Daktronics DataTrac. To display sports data, use the Sports Table Wizard as described here.

Complete the following steps:

1. Click the **Sports** icon from the left toolbar. The *Sports Table Wizard* will open. Click **Next** to begin creating a sports field as shown in **Figure 106**.

Figure 106: *Sports Table Wizard*

2. Use the down arrow next to the *Data Source* and *Query* fields to determine the type of sports query that will be shown in the sports table. The parameter will change depending on the type of *Query* chosen. Under the *Value* field, enter the appropriate information as determined by the parameter field as shown in **Figure 107**. Click **Next**.

3. Click the up and down arrows next to the *Table Width* field to set the number of columns which the table will contain as shown in **Figure 108**. Repeat this step in *Table Height* to set the number of rows the table will contain. Click **Next**.

4. Click the up and down arrows to set the width and height of each cell within the table as shown in **Figure 109**. Click **Next**.

5. Click under the *Field* column in the table and select the information to be displayed in that field of the table as shown in **Figure 110**.

6. In the *Line* and *Character* columns, set the line and character which the field should display within each cell. For example, line 1 is the very top line of the defined cell and character 2 is the second column in from the left of the defined cell.

7. Click in the *Width* column to set the maximum number of characters available for the field to be displayed.

8. Click in the *Height* field to set the number of rows to be used for displaying the information. **Note:** If a field is wider than the allowed width, set the height higher than one and the data will wrap onto the additional rows.

9. Click in the *Justify* and *Color* column to set the appearance of the data in the field.

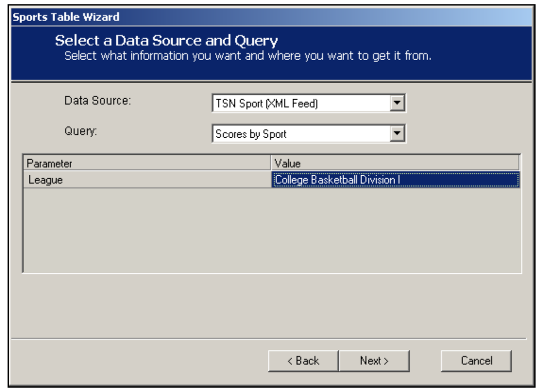


Figure 107: *Sports Data Source Dialog*

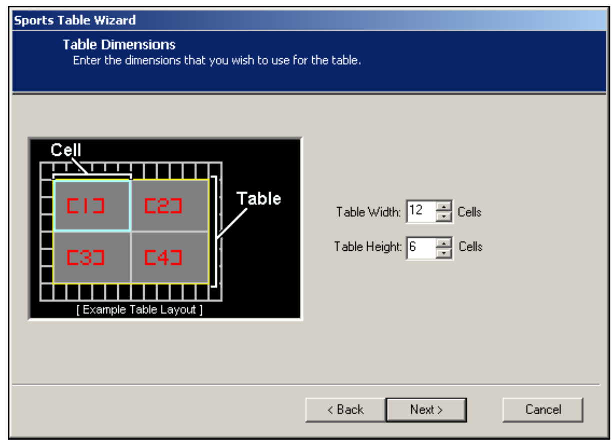


Figure 108: *Setting Table Dimensions*

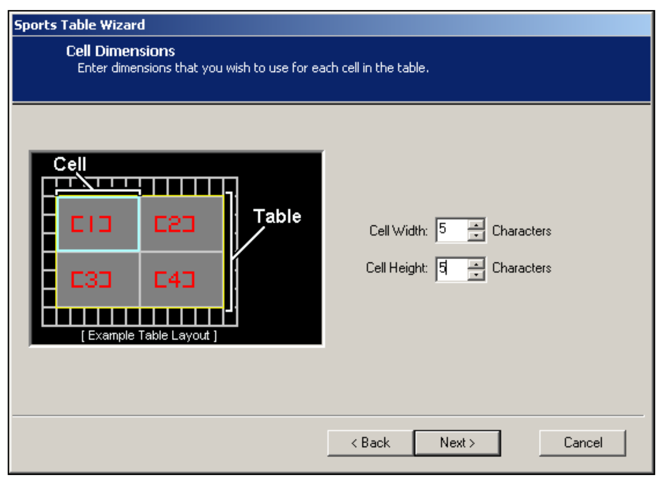


Figure 109: *Sports Cell Dimensions*

10. Click in the *General* column and set any necessary parameters for the field.

11. The *Conditions* field allows data to be monitored and values to be modified according to certain criteria. Refer to **Section 8** for information on setting conditionals. Click **Next**.

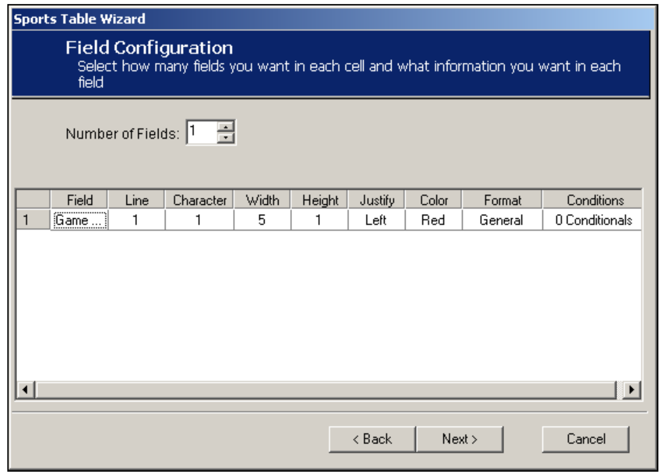


Figure 110: Sports Field Configuration

12. To **Show Only Specific Results**, click that radio button as shown in **Figure 111**. Then click the up and down arrows next to the *Starting Result* and *Number of Results* fields to select the starting result for the table and the number of results to be displayed.
OR
To show **Page Results**, set the *Paging Interval* for reports with several results to rotate through the display.
Note: The *Page Results* option allows all the results for a query to be displayed, such as all NFL scores. Click **Next**.

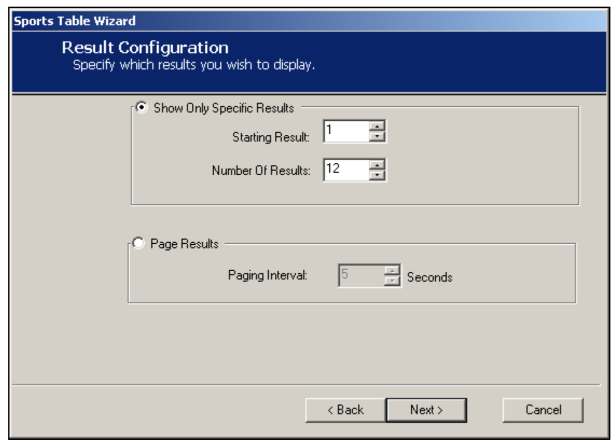


Figure 111: Sports Result Configuration

13. The *Sports Table* overview will show the criteria that were entered as shown in **Figure 112**. Use the scroll bar on the right to review all the information. If anything needs to be changed, click the **Back** button to reach the necessary screen and make appropriate changes. Otherwise, click **Finish** to close the Wizard and complete creating the table.

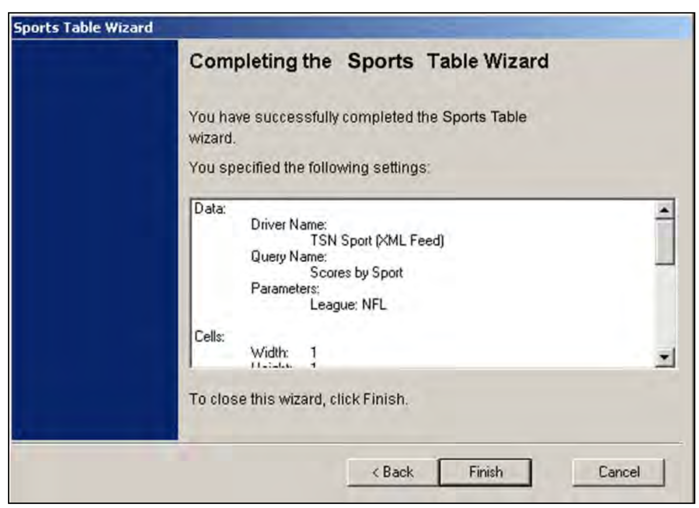


Figure 112: Sports Table Overview

14. Click **File > Save** to keep the criteria selected or click **Cancel** to void the action and close the Wizard.

7.8 Entering Weather Information

A variety of weather information can be displayed using Venus DataStreamer software. To add a Weather field, complete the following steps:

1. Click the **Weather** icon from the left toolbar and the *Weather* dialog window will open as shown in **Figure 113**
   Note: For this version of Venus DataStreamer software, the *Driver* and *Query* fields cannot be changed.

2. Place the cursor in the field to the right of *Zip Code* and enter the zip code of the city to be monitored.

3. Select the *Field* to be displayed by clicking the down arrow and highlighting the desired query.

4. Click the **Display** tab and choose the color and justification of the information as shown in **Figure 114**. Refer to **Section 8** for information on setting conditionals.

5. Click the **Format** tab and set the parameters of the weather information as shown in **Figure 115**.

6. Click **File > Save**. The dialog window will appear.

7. Enter a name for the message and click **OK** to complete the action or click **Cancel** to void the action.

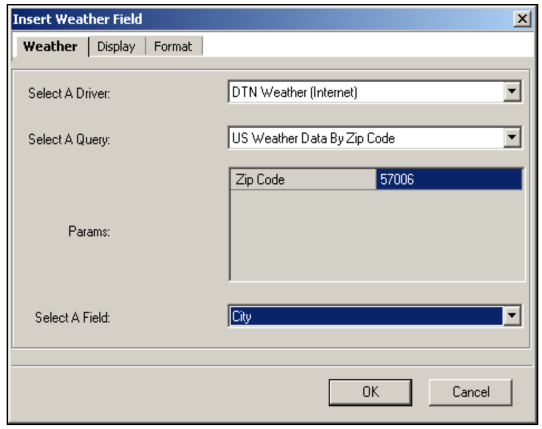


Figure 113: *Weather Field Dialog*

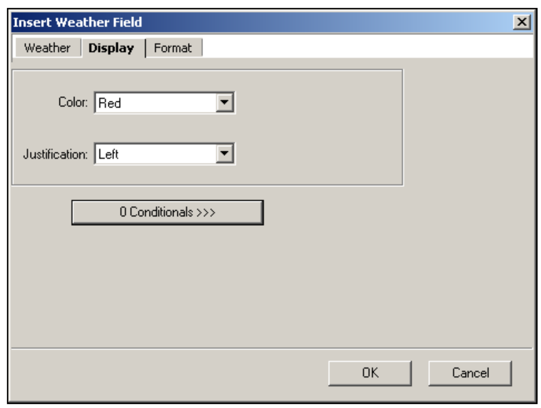


Figure 114: *Weather Display Tab*

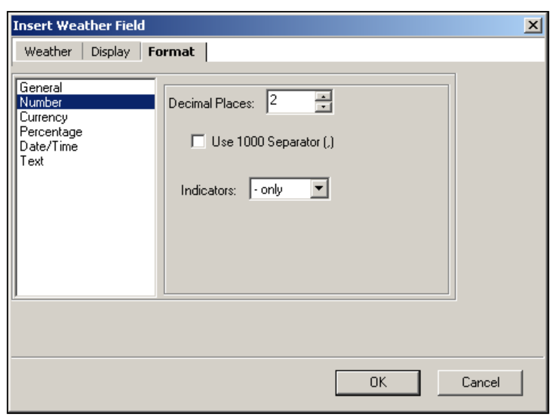


Figure 115: *Weather Format Tab*

7.9 Entering Database Information

Database information stored in private database systems may also be shown on a display. To show database information, complete the following steps.

1. Click the **Database** icon from the left toolbar and the *Database Table Wizard* will open as shown in **Figure 116**. Click **Next**.

2. Click the down arrow next to the *Source* field and select the appropriate database as shown in **Figure 117**. (**Note:** Databases must be configured prior to being selected. Refer to **Section 3.4**.)

3. Click the down arrow next to the *Table* field and select the appropriate table.

4. Click the up and down arrows next to the *Table Width* field to set the number of columns the table will contain as shown in **Figure 118**. Repeat this step in *Table Height* to set the number of rows the table will contain. Click **Next**.

5. Click the up and down arrows to set the width and height of each cell within the table as shown in **Figure 119**. Click **Next**.

6. In the *Field Configuration* dialog, enter the *Number of Fields* to be located in each cell as shown in **Figure 120**. Click in the first field under the *Field* column and select the information to be displayed in that field of the table.

7. In the *Line* and *Character* columns, choose the line and character on which the field should be displayed within each cell. For example, line 1 is the very top line of the defined cell and character 2 is the second column from the left of the defined cell.

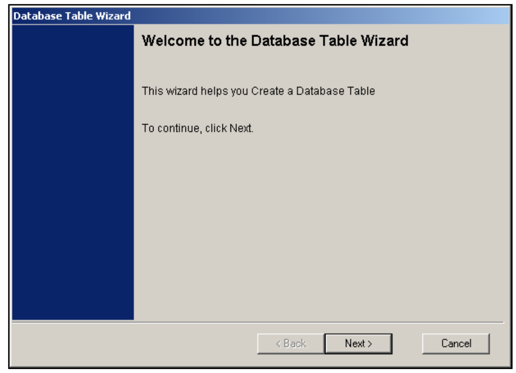


Figure 116: *Database Table Wizard*

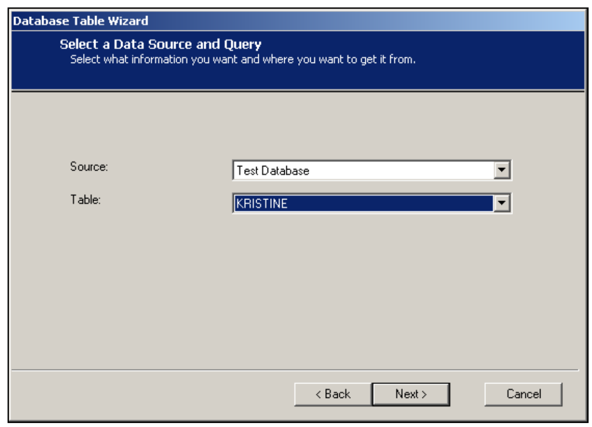


Figure 117: *Database Source Selection*

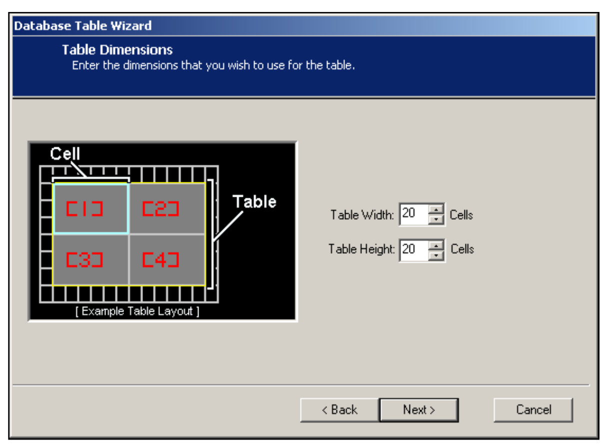


Figure 118: *Setting Table Dimensions*

8. Click in the *Width* column to set the maximum number of characters available for the field to be displayed.

9. Click in the *Height* field to set the number of rows that will be used to display the information.
Note: If a field is wider than the allowed width, set the height higher than one and the data will wrap onto the additional rows.

10. Click in the *Justify* and *Color* columns to set the appearance of the data in the field.

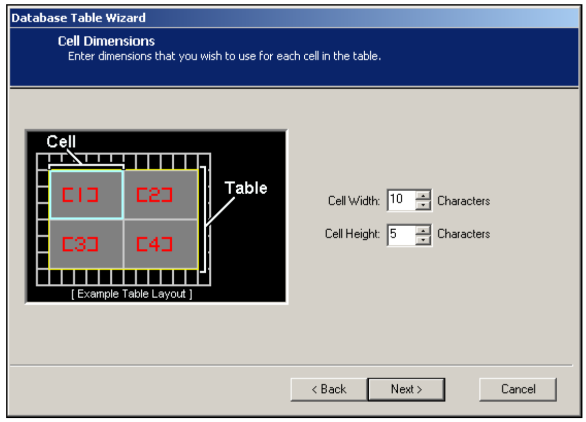


Figure 119: *Setting Cell Dimensions*

11. Click in the *Format* column to set any necessary parameters for the field.

12. The *Conditions* field allows data to be monitored and values to be modified according to certain criteria. Refer to **Section 8** for information on setting conditionals. Click **Next**.

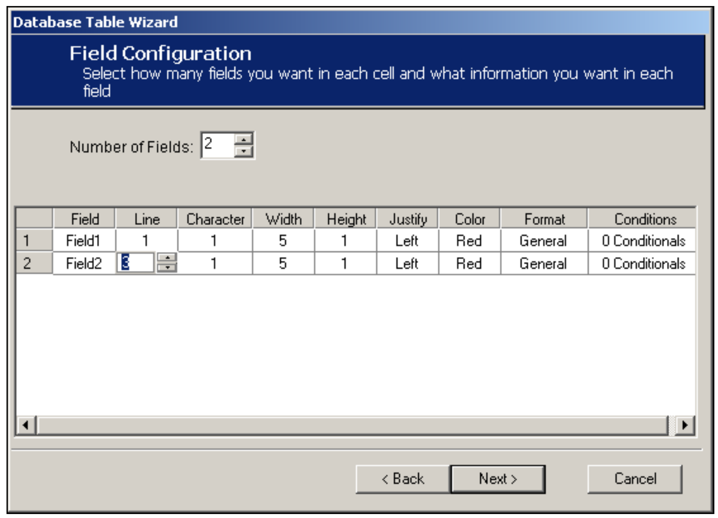


Figure 120: *Setting Field Configurations*

13. To **Show Only Specific Results**, click that radio button as shown in **Figure 121**. Then click the up and down arrows next to the *Starting Result* and *Number of Results* fields, selecting the result on which the table will start and the number of results to be shown.
OR
Click the **Page Results** portion of the screen and set the *Paging Interval* for reports with several results to rotate through the display. The *Page Results* option allows all the results for a query to be displayed.

14. The *Database Table* overview will show the criteria that were entered as shown in **Figure 122**. Use the scroll bar on the right to review all of the information. If anything needs to be changed, click the **Back** button to reach the necessary screen and make the appropriate changes. Otherwise, click **Finish** to close the Wizard and complete creating the table. Click **File > Save** to save the message.

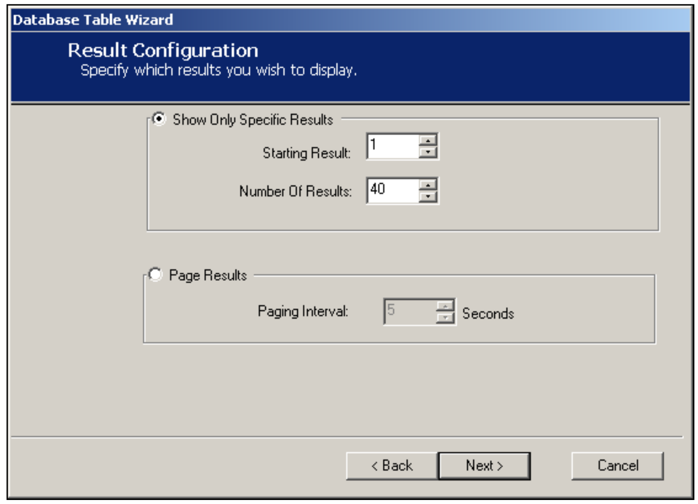


Figure 121: *Database Result Configuration*

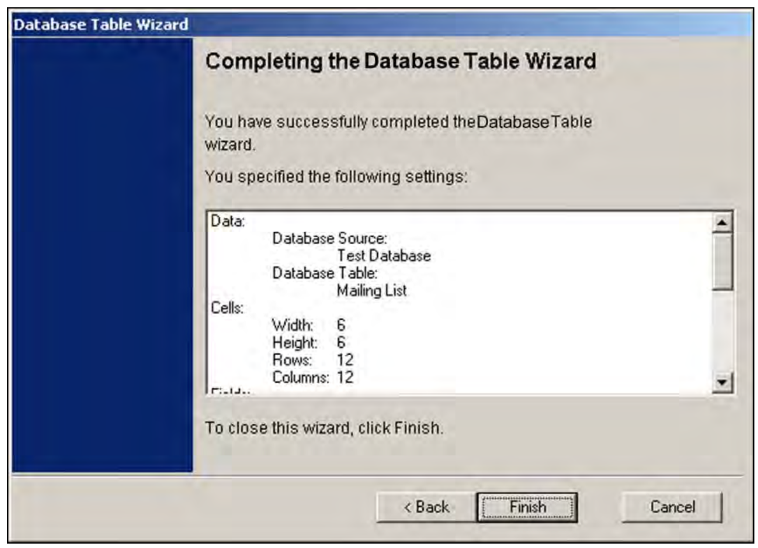


Figure 122: *Database Table Overview*

Section 8: Conditionals

Conditionals allow the user to define parameters that will modify the data shown on a display versus the actual incoming data when the condition has been satisfied. If incoming data does not meet the defined parameters as set by the conditionals, then the incoming data is displayed without any changes. Multiple conditionals can be applied to the incoming data as shown in **Figure 123**. To set a new conditional, click the plus sign **+**. To remove a conditional, highlight it and click the "**X**". A maximum of six conditionals can be applied per field.

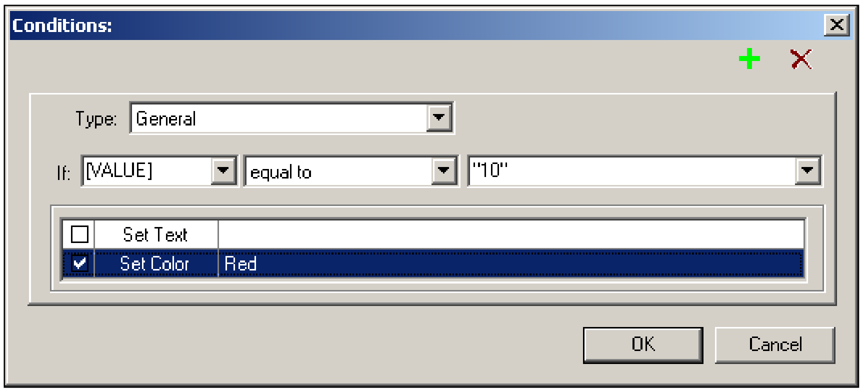


Figure 123: *Conditionals Window*

Conditionals work on an *If/Then* formula. For example, when displaying financial data, if the value of the incoming data is equal to the set parameter, **then** the data will be changed according to the definition of the conditional.

To set conditionals, follow these guidelines for the fields in the *Conditions* dialog.

Type

The *Type* of conditional determines the format of the data when compared to the parameters of the conditional. The format that is applied when displayed is determined by what is set in the format field within the *Appearance* tab. *General* is the default setting and applies no specified format to the incoming data.

Setting the Conditional

When the incoming data meets the conditional parameters, then the data will be displayed with the conditional formats applied. The conditional formats include alternative text and/or change of color.

To set text, complete the following:

1. Click in the **Set Text** box.

2. Click in the field next to *Set Text* to activate the cursor.

3. Type desired text.

To set the text color, complete the following:

1. Click in the **Set Color** box.

2. Click in the field next to *Set Color* to activate the color field.

3. Click the down arrow to select the desired color.

Comparisons can be performed between fields in the selected data source or with a literal value. If a literal value is used for comparison, it must be enclosed in quotes or the Venus DataStreamer software will look for a field with that name.

Example: If comparing two fields and the *Type* is left as *General*: Value 1 is “1” and Value 2 is “01”. While numerically they are the same value, in a general or text comparison, the “01” value would be greater.

8.1 Conditionals Defined

The available conditionals are defined as follows:

Equal to– If the value of the incoming data is equal to the set parameter, then the data will be displayed with the conditional format applied.

Not equal to– If the value of the incoming data is not equal to the set parameter, then the data will be displayed with the conditional format applied.

Greater than – If the value of the incoming data is greater than the set parameter, then the data will be displayed with the conditional format applied.

Greater than or equal to – If the value of the incoming data is greater than or equal to the set parameter, then the data will be displayed with the conditional format applied.

Less than – If the value of the incoming data is less than the set parameter, then the data will be displayed with the conditional format applied.

Less than or equal to – If the value of the incoming data is less than or equal to the set parameter, then the data will be displayed with the conditional format applied.

Between – If the value of the incoming data equals the two set parameter numbers, or any number in between, then the data will be displayed with the conditional format applied.

Not between – If the value of the incoming data does not include the two set parameter numbers or anything in between, then the data will be displayed with the conditional format applied.

Contains – If the value of the incoming data contains the set parameter, then the data will be displayed with the conditional format applied.

Does not contain – If the value of the incoming data does not contain the set parameter, then the data will be displayed with the conditional format applied.

Matches – If the value of the incoming data matches the set parameter, then the data will be displayed with the conditional format applied.

Does not match – If the value of the incoming data does not match the set parameter, then the data will be displayed with the conditional format applied.

Section 9: Playlist Manager

The *Playlist Manager* is responsible for sending saved messages to the server. A list of messages currently running on a display will also be provided along with a list of all configured displays.

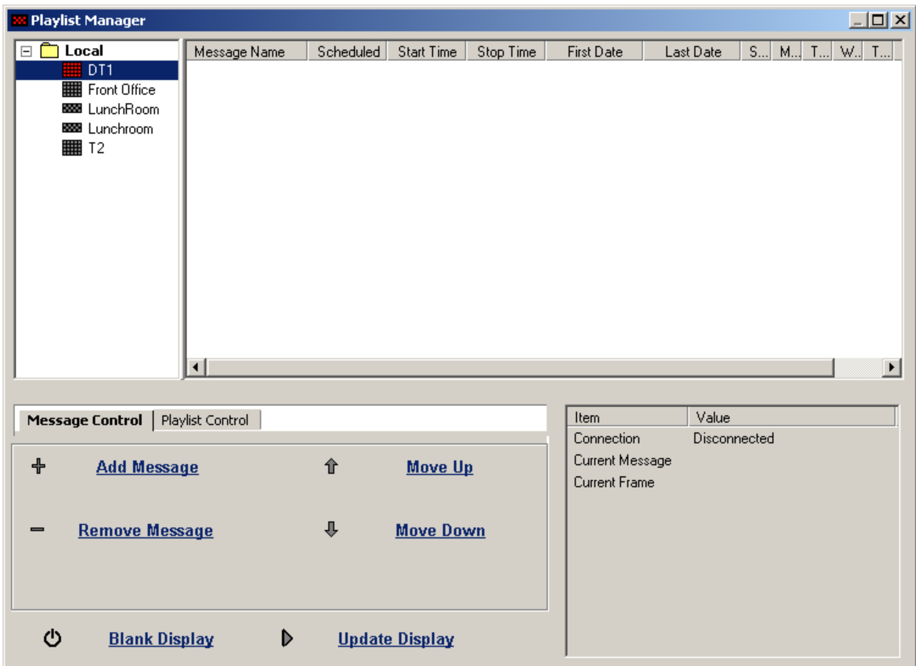


Figure 124: *Playlist Manager Dialog*

The *Playlist Manager* is divided into two parts as shown in **Figure 124**. The left side of the *Playlist Manager* dialog shows the configured display list and the right side shows the currently scheduled or running messages.

The *Playlist Manager* has several functions that include:

- Adding messages to a display.
- Removing messages from a display.
- Blanking the display.
- Updating the display.
- Scheduling messages.

Each of these functions is explained in this section.

9.1 Adding a Message

Once a message is created and saved, it can be shown on the display. Click the *Playlist Manager* button located on the top tool bar in the main window of Venus DataStreamer to activate this. Or click **File > Playlist Manager** to launch the *Playlist Manager* window.

To add messages to the display playlist, complete the following steps:

1. Highlight the desired display from the left side of the screen.

2. Click **Add Message** and the dialog box will open.

Navigate to the folder where the message is saved as shown in **Figure 125**.

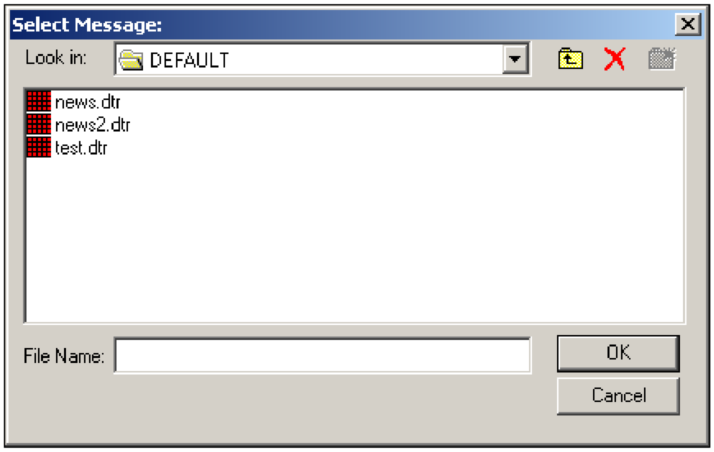


Figure 125: *Select Message for Playlist*

3. Highlight desired messages.

4. Click **OK** to complete the action or **Cancel** to void the action and close the window.

5. Click **Update Display** to add the message to the display playlist.

9.2 Updating the Display

Once a message is added or removed from the playlist, the display must be updated before the changes will take effect. This is accomplished by clicking **Update Display**. During the next rotation of running messages, the message list will be updated.

The circle to the left of a message will display three colors, red, green, and gray. The following list defines the colors:

- **Red** – Message has not been added to the display.
- **Green** – Message has been added to the display and is currently running.
- **Gray** – Message is in the rotation but is not currently displayed.

9.3 Removing a Message

Unique messages may be created for a specific reason, such as announcing an upcoming event. After the events have expired, these messages can be removed from the display.

Complete the following steps to remove a message from the display:

1. Highlight the message to be removed from the message list by clicking on it once.

2. Click **Remove Message**. The message will instantly be removed from the play list; however, until **Update Display** is clicked, the message will continue to be shown.

9.4 Blanking the Display

By clicking on **Blank Display**, all running messages will be immediately removed from the display. This includes scheduled messages as well.

Any or all of the messages can be shown on the display again by going through the steps of adding a message. Refer to **Section 9.1**.

9.5 Saving a Playlist

A playlist can be saved and stored in a display's library.

To save a playlist:

1. Click the **Playlist Control** tab (in the center of the dialog) and select **Save**. A dialog window will appear.

2. Select the library where the playlist will be saved.

3. Enter the name of the playlist in the *File Name* field.

4. Click **OK** to finish saving the playlist or **Cancel** to void the action.

9.6 Opening a Playlist

A previously saved playlist is easily opened again from the display's library.

1. Click the **Playlist Control** tab and then **Open**.

2. An *Open File* dialog window will appear. Navigate to the library where the desired playlist is saved and select it.

3. Click **OK** to open the playlist.

9.7 Scheduling a Message

Situations may arise when a message needs to run at specific times of the day or the week. The scheduling capability of the Playlist Manager can be utilized for this purpose.

To schedule a message, complete the following steps:

1. Place a check mark in the box next to the message to be scheduled by clicking on it once with the mouse. This will activate the other scheduling fields.

2. Click in the **Start Time** field and adjust the start time of the message by either typing in the time or using the up and down arrows on the right. Repeat the same procedure for the **Stop Time** field.
   Note: The scheduled start time must be earlier in the day than the stop time or the message will not be shown

3. Click into the **First Date** and type the date the message should start using the mm/dd/yyyy format. Repeat this process for the **Last Date**.
   Note: The scheduled start date must be earlier in the year than the stop date or the message will not be shown.

4. Place a check mark under the days of the week on which the message should be displayed.

5. Click **Update Display** for the changes to take effect and the message will be effectively scheduled.

Note: The schedule may not begin to run at the exact start time. This occurs because the buffer in the controller needs to be allowed to display all messages before the schedule can start. Once the buffer is cleared, the schedule will begin running.

9.8 Exiting the Playlist Manager

To exit the *Playlist Manager*, click the **X** in the upper right corner of the screen.

Section 10: Venus DataStreamer Troubleshooting

This section contains some symptoms that may be encountered while using Venus DataStreamer software and possible remedies for each situation. This list does not include every possible issue, but does represent some of the more common situations that may occur. If a problem should occur that is not covered here, contact Daktronics Customer Service at the number listed on the cover page of the manual.

Problem Observed	Possible Solutions
The display is set up in the software, but I cannot communicate with my display. The display is blank.	• Check power to the display. Verify this by unplugging the display's power cord and then plugging it back in. The display should boot up and show its initialization sequence. • Check that the data cable is connected from the signal converter to the input connection on the display. • Check that the cable is a flipped cable. • Check that the address in the software matches the hardware address (for DAKTickers only).
I'm using a Lantronix serial server to connect to my display. All the cables are connected correctly and the address in the software matches that of the sign. The display has power and boots up but I still cannot connect.	• Check that the Lantronix serial server is set up for the correct connect mode (either RS-422 or RS-232). • Verify that the baud rate is 9600 for a DAKTicker display or 19200 for a DataTrac display. • Check that the socket on the Lantronix serial server matches the socket in the configuration (The software default is 3001). Refer to ED-12850 for more information on setting the baud rate and changing the socket.
I do not see the names of the stocks, only the stock prices.	• Under the Appearance tab in the message screen, check that Name is in the Item list and not [NAME]. Name shows the name of the stock while [NAME] displays an alternative user name. It is most likely that the [NAME] field was left blank beside the stock index. (Refer to **Section 6.5** for help.)
A portion of the display does not display data.	• Refer to the display manual troubleshooting section.
My DataTrac display boots up fine and I can send messages to it, but no data appears on the display.	• Check the configuration of the display. Make sure the coordinates are set to X=1, Y=1.
No Data Driver appears in the Data Driver field.	• Check that a data driver was configured in the Configuration dialog.
I cannot set the address for a DataTrac.	• The address cannot be set for a DataTrac. The data is broadcast to all displays on the network.