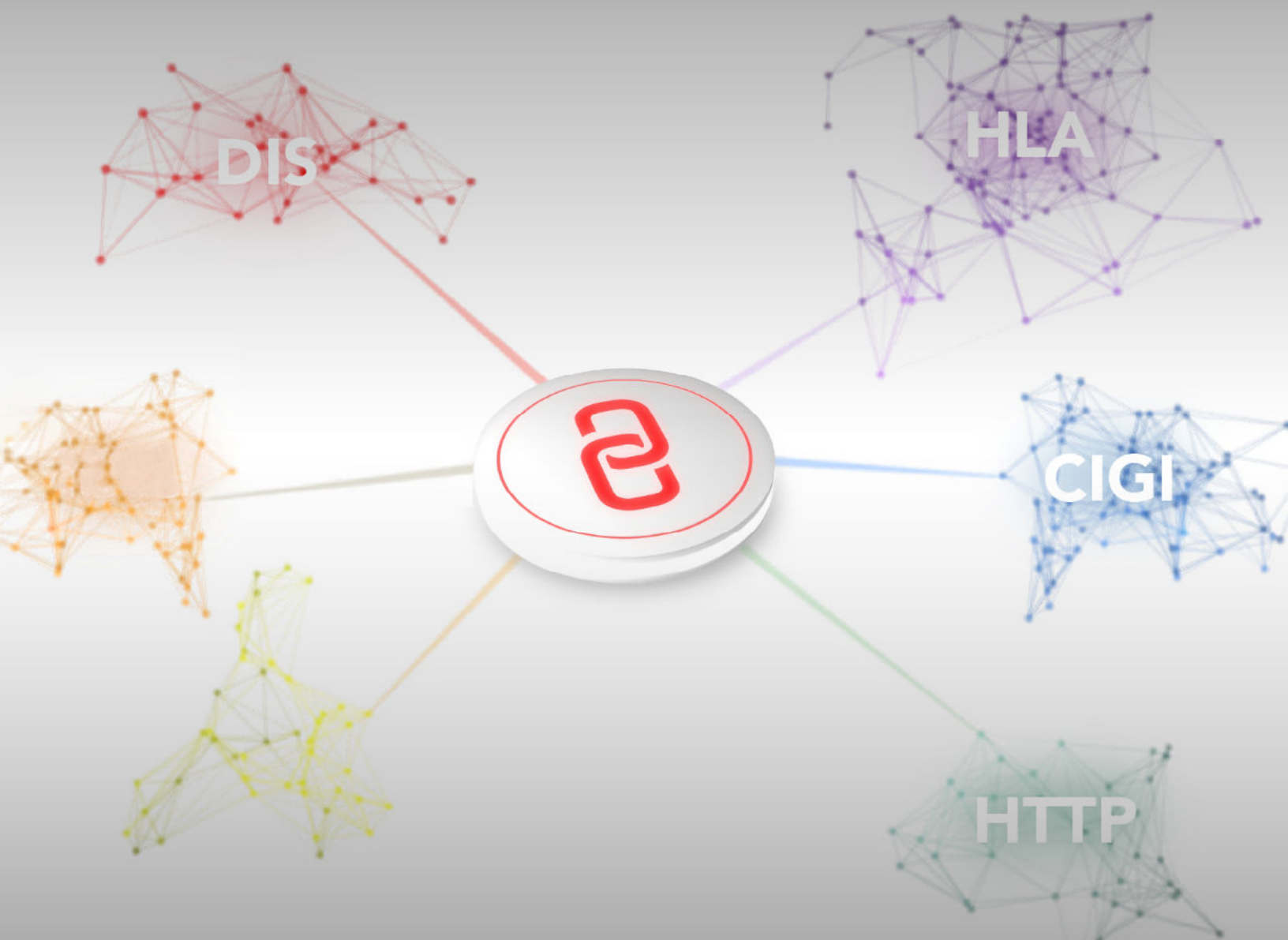




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Preface

This manual is written for persons who will install or use VR-Exchange. The manual assumes that you are familiar with your operating system and windowing environment.

See the VR-Exchange Release Notes for updates to this manual and the latest information about your version of VR-Exchange.

How the Manual is Organized

This manual is organized as follows:

"Chapter 1. Introduction" on page 13 describes VR-Exchange and its architecture. It also contains an important note about the limitations of translation software.

"Chapter 2. Installing VR-Exchange" on page 27 describes installation, including setting up the license server and installing an RTI.

"Chapter 3. Using VR-Exchange" on page 37 explains how to run VR-Exchange, and also how to manage connections and view the data being processed.

"Chapter 4. Working with Broker Connections" on page 55 explains how to add, edit, and configure connections.

"Chapter 5. VR-Exchange Tutorials" on page 83 shows how to set up a DIS-to-HLA exchange and an RTI-to-RTI exchange.

"Appendix A. Troubleshooting" on page 95 explains how to resolve some common problems that can arise with VR-Exchange.

"Appendix B. Broker Details" on page 99 describes the configuration parameters for each broker, lists the supported translators, and lists the command-line options that you can use when you start brokers.

The "MAK Products Glossary" on page 115 defines terms common to real-time simulations and MAK products.

MAK Products

The MAK Technologies product line includes:

- **VR-Link® Network Toolkit.** VR-Link is an object-oriented library of C++ functions and definitions that implement the High Level Architecture (HLA) and the Distributed Interactive Simulation (DIS) protocol. VR-Link has built-in support for the NETN FOM and RPR FOM and allows you to map to other FOMs. This library minimizes the time and effort required to build and maintain new HLA or DIS-compliant applications, and to integrate such compliance into existing applications.

VR-Link includes a set of sample debugging applications and their source code. The source code serves as an example of how to use the VR-Link Toolkit to write applications. The executables provide valuable debugging services such as generating a predictable stream of HLA or DIS messages, and displaying the contents of messages transmitted on the network.
- **MAK RTI.** An RTI (Run-Time Infrastructure) is required to run applications using the High Level Architecture (HLA). The MAK RTI is optimized for high performance. It has an API, RTIsPy®, that allows you to extend the RTI using plug-in modules. It also has a graphical user interface (the RTI Assistant) that helps users with configuration tasks and managing federates and federations.

- **VR-Forces®.** VR-Forces is a computer generated forces application and toolkit. It provides an application with a GUI, that gives you 2D and 3D views of a simulated environment.

You can create and view entities, aggregate them into hierarchical units, assign tasks, set state parameters, and create plans that have tasks, set statements, and conditional statements. You can simulate using entity-level modeling, which focuses on the actions of individual people and vehicles, and aggregate-level modeling, which focuses on the interaction of large hierarchical units.

VR-Forces also functions as a plan view display for viewing remote simulation objects taking part in an exercise. Using the toolkit, you can extend the VR-Forces application or create your own application for use with another user interface.

- **VR-Vantage™.** VR-Vantage is a line of products designed to meet your simulation visualization needs. It includes VR-Vantage and the VR-Vantage Toolkit.
 - VR-Vantage displays a realistic, 3D view of your virtual world, a 2D plan view, and an exaggerated reality (XR) view. Together these views provide both situational awareness and the big picture of the simulated world. You can move your viewpoint to any location in the 3D world and can attach it to simulation objects so that it moves as they do.
 - SensorFX. SensorFX is an enhanced version of VR-Vantage that uses physics-based sensors to view terrain and simulation object models that have been materially classified. It is built in partnership with JRM Technologies.
 - The VR-Vantage Toolkit is a 3D visual application development toolkit. Use it to customize or extend MAK's VR-Vantage applications, or to integrate VR-Vantage capabilities into your custom applications. VR-Vantage is built on top of OpenSceneGraph (OSG). The toolkit includes the OSG version used to build VR-Vantage.
- **MAK Data Logger.** The Data Logger, also called the Logger, can record HLA and DIS exercises and play them back for after-action review. You can play a recorded file at speeds above or below normal and can quickly jump to areas of interest. The Logger has a GUI and a text interface. The Logger API allows you to extend the Logger using plug-in modules or embed the Logger into your own application. The Logger editing features let you merge, trim, and offset Logger recordings.
- **VR-Exchange™.** VR-Exchange allows simulations that use incompatible communications protocols to interoperate. For example, within the HLA world, using VR-Exchange, federations using the HLA RPR FOM 1.0 can interoperate with simulations using RPR FOM 2.0, or federations using different RTIs can interoperate. VR-Exchange supports HLA, TENA, and DIS translation.
- **VR-TheWorld™.** VR-TheWorld is a simple, yet powerful, web-based streaming terrain server, developed in conjunction with Pelican Mapping. Delivered with a global base map, you can also easily populate it with your own custom source data through a web-based interface. The server can be deployed on private, classified networks to provide streaming terrain data to a variety of simulation and visualization applications behind your firewall.

- **DI-Guy™.** DI-Guy is an SDK that allows you to embed the DI-Guy library in your real-time application and populate your world with lifelike human characters. DI-Guy provides high-fidelity human characters that move realistically, respond to simple high-level commands, and travel throughout the environment as directed by the hosting visual application. It comes with thousands of ready-to-use characters, appearances, and motions. DI-Guy character simulation is an integral part of all MAK's visual applications, including VR-Engage, VR-Forces, and VR-Vantage.
- **RFView® for MAK ONE.** Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) imaging is an indispensable tool for today's modern militaries. Developed in partnership with ISL, RFView for MAK ONE acts as a SAR server and delivers simulated SAR images that are both physically accurate and fully correlated with out-the-window views and EO/IR images of MAK ONE synthetic environments. It includes a toolkit that enables you to build a client application to request SAR images from the server.
- **VR-Engage.** VR-Engage is a multi-role virtual simulator that lets users play the role of a first person human character, a ground vehicle driver, gunner or commander, a sensor operator, or the pilot of a fixed wing aircraft or helicopter. It incorporates the VR-Force simulation engine and the VR-Vantage graphics rendering capabilities.
- **WebLVC Server.** WebLVC Server implements the server side of the WebLVC protocol so that web-based simulation federates can participate in a distributed simulation. It is part of the WebLVC Suite, which includes the server and several sample applications that work with VR-Forces and VR-Vantage.
- **MAK Legion.** MAK Legion is a collection of applications and an SDK designed to support simulations with millions of simulation objects.

How to Contact Us

For technical support, information about upgrades, and information about other MAK products, you can contact us in the following ways:

Telephone

Call or fax us at:	Voice:	617-876-8085
	Fax:	617-876-9208

E-mail

Sales and upgrade information:	info@mak.com
Technical support:	support@mak.com

Internet

MAK website home page:	www.mak.com
License key requests:	https://www.mak.com/mak-one/support/portal
Technical support:	https://www.mak.com/mak-one/support/portal
Product version and platform information:	https://www.mak.com/mak-one-specs
For the free, unlicensed MAK RTI:	https://www.mak.com/mak-one/support/help/bonus-material

Post

Send postal correspondence to: MAK Technologies
10 Fawcett Street, Suite 204
Cambridge, MA 02138 USA

When requesting support, tell us the product you are using, the version, and the platform on which you are running. If you are using VR-Vantage, VR-Forces, VR-Engage, or DI-Guy, please also include your data compatibility version and date.

Document Conventions

This manual uses these typographic conventions:

Sans Serif Bold	Indicates a key on the keyboard or menu options. Mentions of letter keys do not require you to press the Shift key. If Shift is necessary, that will be included, for example, Shift+Q . Also indicates parameters.
Monospaced	Indicates values you enter such as commands or arguments.
<i>Monospaced Italic</i>	Indicates command variables that you replace with appropriate values.
{ }	Indicates required arguments.
[]	Indicates optional arguments.
	Separates options in a command where only one option may be chosen at a time.
()	In command syntax, indicates equivalent alternatives for a command-line option, for example, (<code>--help -h</code>).
/	Indicates a directory. Since MAK products run on both Linux and Windows PC platforms, we use the / (slash) for generic discussions of pathnames.
<i>Italic</i>	Indicates a file name, pathname, or a class name.
►	Indicates a procedure.
Menu > Option	Indicates a menu choice. For example, an instruction to select the Save option from the File menu appears as: Choose File > Save .
	Indicates supplemental or clarifying information.
	Indicates additional information that you must observe to ensure the success of a procedure or other task.
	Indicates helpful information.

Directory names are preceded with dot and slash characters that show their position with respect to the VR-Exchange home directory. For example, the directory `./vrexchange2.10/doc` appears in the text as `./doc`.

Mouse Button Naming Conventions

An instruction to click the mouse button refers to clicking the primary mouse button, usually the left button for right-handed mice and the right button for left-handed mice. The context-sensitive menu, also called a popup menu or right-click menu, refers to the menu displayed when you click the secondary mouse button, usually the right button on right-handed mice and the left button on left-handed mice.

Third-Party Licenses

MAK software products may use code from third parties. For an up-to-date list of supported third-party and open source libraries and the associated license information, please visit the MAK ONE Product Support Knowledge Base (at <https://www.mak.com/knowledge>) and refer to the Third-Party/Open Source List under Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).



1. Introduction

This chapter describes VR-Exchange's features and its architecture.

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1.1. The VR-Exchange Architecture

VR-Exchange allows simulations that use incompatible communications protocols to interoperate. For example, within the HLA world, using VR-Exchange, simulations using the HLA RPR FOM 1.0 can interoperate with simulations using RPR FOM 2.0, or simulations using different RTI implementations can interoperate.

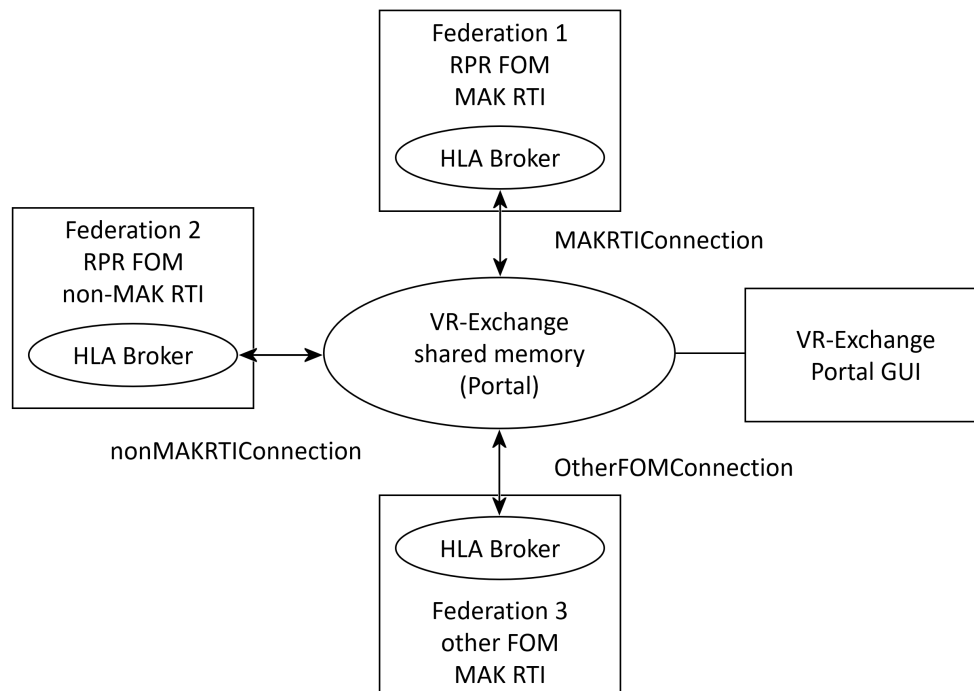
VR-Exchange permits simulations to interoperate through the use of a shared memory space (Portal) and brokers (Figure 1). Each broker translates between its native protocol and the VR-Exchange common simulation representation. The translated data passes through the Portal and is translated by the other brokers to their protocol.

Given this architecture, it is not necessary to create multiple translation programs that map between specific sets of protocols. You only need to create a broker for a particular protocol, and simulations can interoperate with any other simulations for which a broker exists.

You can run multiple instances of a broker, each configured for a particular simulation. For example, Figure 1 shows three different federations. Each uses the broker, but each broker is configured to use different RTIs and different FOMs. Each unique broker configuration is called a connection.

Because the Portal and brokers use shared memory, the Portal and all brokers must run on the same computer.

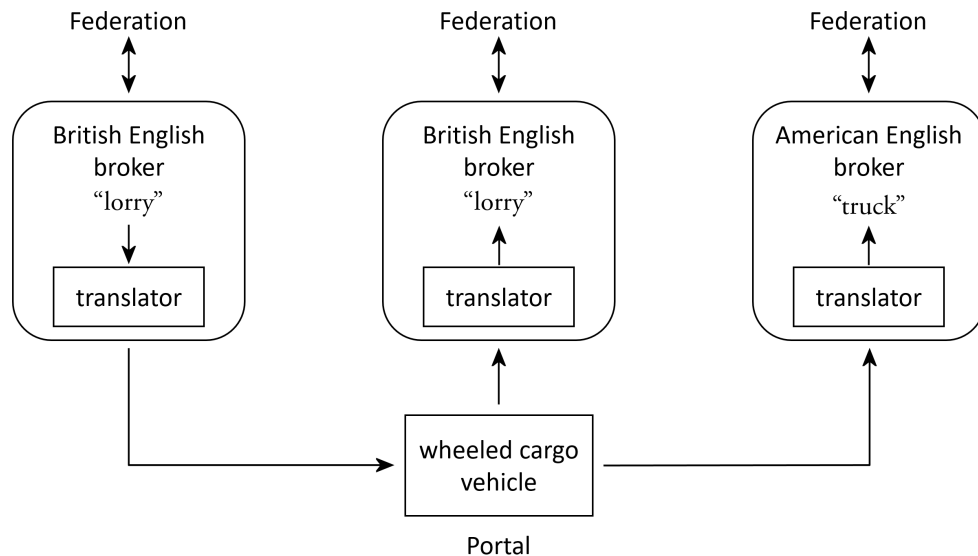
Figure 1. VR-Exchange architecture



1.1.1 Translators

Each broker has translators for the object or interaction classes that it supports. Figure 2 shows how a translator works. Imagine language-specific HLA FOMs, in this case one for American English and one for British English. Their brokers have translators for the different concepts in the English language. The leftmost federation sends a "lorry" message. The vehicle translator in the broker translates "lorry" to a generic description "wheeled cargo vehicle" and puts the data in the VR-Exchange shared memory area. A second federation, also using the British English FOM, takes the vehicle data from the Portal and translates it back to "lorry". Finally, a third federation, which uses an American English FOM, reads the vehicle message from the Portal and translates it to its American English equivalent, "truck".

Figure 2. How translators work

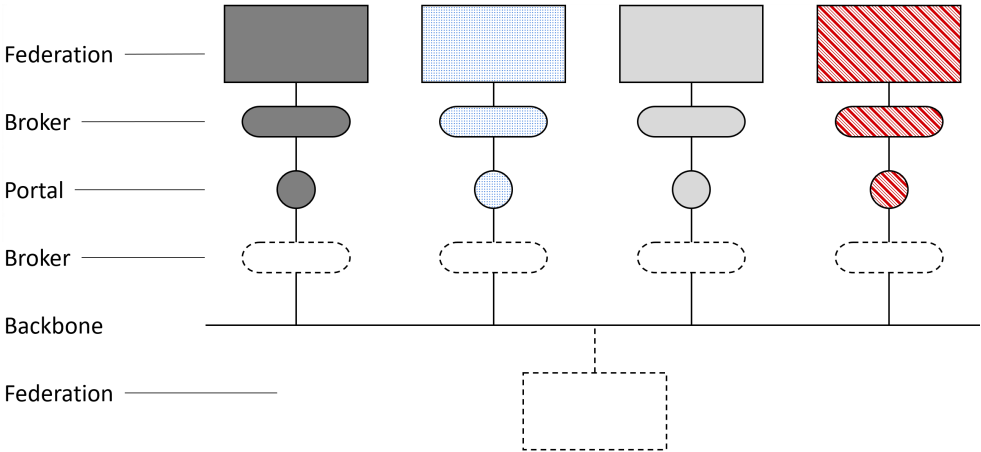


You can disable translators by editing a connection. Since each connection has its own configuration, you can filter the objects and interactions that the federations are communicating through VR-Exchange.

1.1.2 Using VR-Exchange to Manage a Federation of Federations

In addition to using VR-Exchange to enable heterogeneous federations to interoperate, you can use it to help manage a federation of federations, regardless of whether they use the same FOMs and RTIs. Consider the configuration in Figure 3. Four federations are connected via brokers to a VR-Exchange Portal. These Portals are connected to brokers that form their own federation. If any of the individual federations fail, then each instance of VR-Exchange can detect this and drop it from the exercise, while the others can continue.

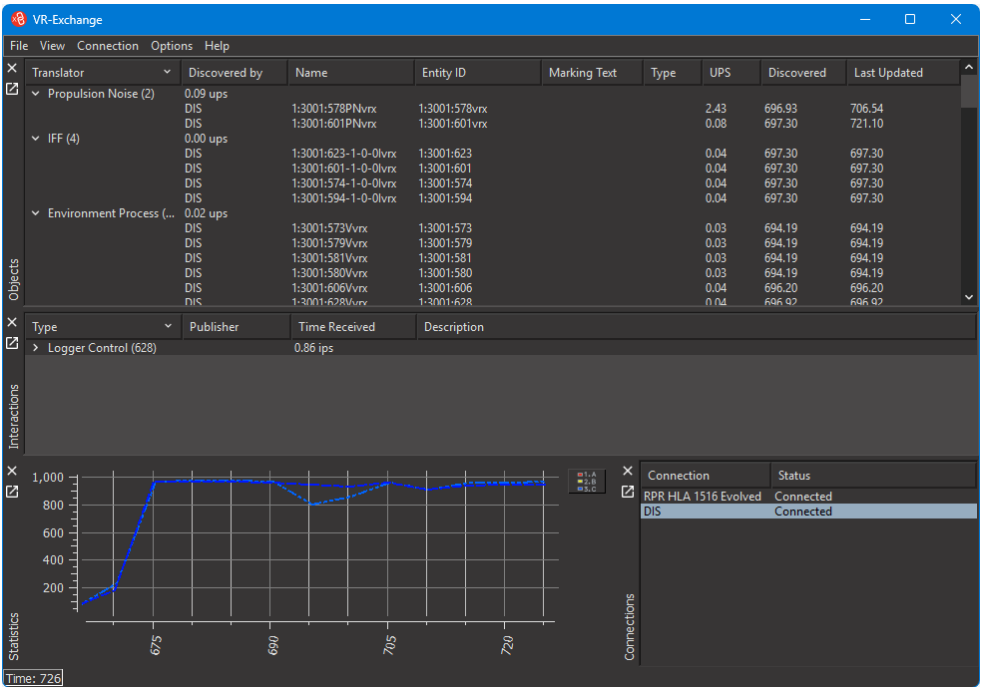
Figure 3. Using VR-Exchange over a WAN



1.1.3 The VR-Exchange Portal Application

VR-Exchange has a graphical user interface (Portal application) that provides a view into the shared memory space. It displays the connections in use and the objects and interactions being translated (Figure 4). The Portal application does not control the translation process. Translation takes place in the brokers, which are separate programs.

Figure 4. VR-Exchange Portal window



1.1.4 FOM-Agility and LROM-Agility

VR-Exchange brokers accommodate different FOMs and LROMs using VR-Link FOM Mappers and LROM Mappers. Mappers are dynamic link libraries that map the objects and concepts of a particular FOM or LROM to the VR-Link internal object model. Since the VR-

Exchange brokers are VR-Link applications, they can use these mappers to switch between different FOMs and LROMs. For details about FOM mapping, please see the *VR-Link Developers Guide*.

1.2. The VR-Exchange API

The VR-Exchange API has two primary components: the Broker API and the Portal API. The Broker API lets you create brokers for use with VR-Exchange or extend the brokers provided by MAK. The Portal API allows brokers to send messages to and receive updates from, the Portal. For details, please see the class documentation.

1.3. Brokers Supplied

VR-Exchange 2.10 includes brokers for:

- HLA 1.3 RPR FOM 1 and 2.
- HLA 1516 RPR FOM 1 and 2 (SISO Standard DLC C++ API for IEEE 1516).
- HLA Evolved RPR FOM 1 and 2 (IEEE 1516-2010).
- HLA 4 RPR FOM 1 and 2 (IEEE 1516-2025).
- DIS, versions 4–7.
- DDS.

The DIS broker receives DIS 4, 5, 6, and 7 PDUs. It sends DIS 5 PDUs.

Table 1 lists the translation capabilities of each broker. For more information about translators, see "B.1.1 HLA Translators" on page 100, "B.3.1 DDS Translators" on page 109, and "B.2. The DIS Broker" on page 105.

Table 1. Broker translators

Translator	HLA	DIS	DDS
Acknowledge	X	X	
Action Request	X	X	
Action Response	X	X	
Action Sonar	X	X	
Additional Passive Activities	X	X	
Aggregate	X	X	
Areal Object	X	X	
Collision	X	X	
Comment	X	X	
Create Entity	X	X	
Data	X	X	
Data Query	X	X	
Designator	X	X	

Table 1. Broker translators (continued)

Translator	HLA	DIS	DDS
Detonation	X	X	X
Emitter System	X	X	
Entity State	X	X	X
Environment Process	X	X	
Event Report	X	X	
Fire	X	X	X
Gridded Data	X	X	
IFF	X	X	
Linear Object	X	X	
Logger Control	X	X	
Point Object	X	X	
Propulsion Noise	X	X	
Radio Receiver	X	X	
Radio Signal	X	X	
Radio Transmitter	X	X	
Remove Entity	X	X	
Repair Complete	X	X	
Repair Response	X	X	
Resupply Cancel	X	X	
Resupply Offer	X	X	
Resupply Received	X	X	
Service Request	X	X	
Set Data	X	X	
Start	X	X	
Stop	X	X	
Transfer Control	X	X	

 VR-Exchange can translate environmental processes. However, it cannot convert custom data inside these PDUs. Therefore, it is recommended that you disable environmental process translation if you are using VR-Forces and translating between DIS and HLA.

Additional Brokers

The following brokers are available on request. Please contact your MAK salesperson for details.

These brokers are included with VR-Exchange:

- DDS
- DIS
- HLA 1.3
- HLA 1516
- HLA Evolved
- HLA 4

MAK can support other brokers. We have previously provided support for:

- ADS-B
- AFMSTT
- AviationSimNet
- COT
- ERF
- MATREX
- MRF
- TENA

For more information about support for these or other brokers, contact your MAK distributor or use the [Support Portal](https://www.mak.com/mak-one/support/portal) at <https://www.mak.com/mak-one/support/portal>.

1.4. Translating Between DIS and the RPR FOM

DIS exercises send updates at regular intervals, called heartbeats. HLA does not have this feature. VR-Exchange handles this difference as follows:

- VR-Exchange provides heartbeat updates for the appropriate PDUs when the time between HLA updates exceeds the heartbeat threshold.
- VR-Exchange deletes HLA objects when the time between DIS PDUs exceeds the timeout threshold (2.5*heartbeat). RPR FOM embedded system objects (radio transmitter/receiver and emitter system/beams) are deleted only if their host entity no longer exists.

VR-Exchange does not support the full set of PDUs in the 1278.1a specification. It supports the following PDUs (listed by protocol families):

- Entity Information and Entity Interaction PDUs:
 - Entity State PDU
 - Collision PDU
- Warfare PDUs:
 - Fire PDU
 - Detonation PDU
- Simulation Management PDUs:

- Start/Resume PDU
- Stop/Freeze PDU
- Acknowledge PDU
- Action Request PDU
- Action Response PDU
- Data Query PDU
- Set Data PDU
- Data PDU
- Event Report PDU
- Comment PDU
- Create Entity PDU
- Remove Entity PDU
- Radio Communications PDUs:
 - Transmitter PDU
 - Signal PDU
 - Receiver PDU
- Distributed Emission Regeneration PDUs:
 - Electromagnetic Emission PDU
 - Designator PDU
 - IFF PDU
- Logistics PDUs:
 - Service Request PDU
 - Resupply Offer PDU
 - Resupply Received PDU
 - Resupply Cancel PDU
 - Repair Complete PDU
 - Repair Response PDU
- Entity Management PDUs:
 - Transfer Control Request PDU
- Synthetic Environment PDUs:
 - Areal Object PDU
 - Environmental Process PDU
 - Gridded Data PDU
 - Linear Object PDU
- Logger Control PDUs (for MAK Logger)

The following sections describe the supported PDUs in greater detail.

1.4.1 Entity Information and Entity Interaction

The DIS Entity Information/Interaction PDUs are the Entity State PDU and the Collision PDU.

The Entity State PDU is translated into a RPR FOM object. The RPR FOM has broken down the Entity State PDU into an object class hierarchy rooted at the *BaseEntity* class with several levels of subclasses, as shown in Table 2. The object class that is registered in the federation execution is dependent on the value of the entity type field. The default mapping between the entity type field and the RPR FOM object class is based on the entity type kind and domain values. For example, a DIS M1 tank would be instantiated as a *GroundVehicle* object in the RPR FOM, whereas a TOW missile would be a *MunitionEntity*.

The data fields of the Entity State PDU are translated to and from the corresponding attributes of the appropriate RPR FOM object class. The entity ID, entity type, and position attributes are required to send an Entity State PDU.

Table 2. BaseEntity Object Classes

Class1	Class2	Class3	Class4
BaseEntity	PhysicalEntity	PlatformEntity	Aircraft
			AmphibiousVehicle
			GroundVehicle
			MultiDomainPlatform
			Spacecraft
			SubmersibleVehicle
			SurfaceVessel
		Lifeform	Human
			NonHuman
		CulturalFeature	
		Expendables	
		Munition	
		Radio	
		Sensor	

The Collision PDU is translated into a RPR FOM *Collision* interaction. The *Collision* interaction is defined at a single level, with no inheritance.

1.4.2 Warfare

The DIS Warfare PDUs are the Fire PDU and the Detonation PDU, which are translated into RPR FOM *WeaponFire* and *MunitionDetonation* interactions, respectively. Each interaction class is defined at a single level, with no inheritance.

1.4.3 Simulation Management

The DIS Simulation Management (SIMAN) PDUs are translated into the corresponding RPR FOM interactions, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3. SIMAN Representation in the RPR FOM

DIS PDU	RPR FOM Interaction Class
Create Entity	CreateEntity
Remove Entity	RemoveEntity
Acknowledge	Acknowledge
Set Data	SetData
Data Query	DataQuery
Data	Data
Action Request	ActionRequest
Action Response	ActionResponse
Event Report	EventReport
Comment	Comment
Start/Resume	StartResume
Stop/Freeze	StopFreeze

1.4.4 Radio Communications

The DIS Radio Communications PDUs are the Transmitter, Receiver, and Signal PDUs. The Receiver and Transmitter PDUs are translated into RPR FOM objects as *RadioReceiver* and *RadioTransmitter* object classes, respectively. The RPR FOM has broken down the Radio Transmitter and Receiver protocols into an object class hierarchy as shown in Table 4. The *EmbeddedSystem* root object class captures the common attributes that specify the objects as being attached to other objects. The specific object class that is used to register a radio object in the federation execution is dependent on the type of PDU received by VR-Exchange. The data fields of the Transmitter and Receiver protocol are translated to and from the corresponding attributes of the appropriate RPR FOM object class. The host entity ID or host object ID (mapping to an entity ID) is required to send a Radio Transmitter PDU.

Table 4. EmbeddedSystem Object Classes

Class1	Class2	Class3
EmbeddedSystem	Designator	
	EmitterSystem	
	RadioReceiver	
	RadioTransmitter	
	IFF	IffInterrogator
		IffTransponder

The Signal protocol is translated into one of several RPR FOM *RadioSignal* interaction classes. A base *RadioSignal* interaction is defined from which the *ApplicationSpecificRadioSignal*, *DatabaseIndexRadioSignal*, *EncodedAudioRadioSignal*, and *RawBinaryRadioSignal* are derived. The HLA signal interaction that VR-Exchange generates is based on the Encoding Class in the DIS Signal PDU.

Table 5. RadioSignal Interaction Class

Class1	Class2
RadioSignal	ApplicationSpecificRadioSignal
	DatabaseIndexRadioSignal
	EncodedAudioRadioSignal
	RawBinaryRadioSignal

1.4.5 Distributed Emission Regeneration

The Distributed Emission Regeneration protocol family consists of the Electromagnetic Emission (EE), Designator, and IFF protocols. The EE PDU is transformed into several RPR FOM object classes. The Designator and IFF PDUs are represented in the RPR FOM by a derivation of the *EmbeddedSystem* class as Designator and IFF respectively (see Table 4 on the previous page). The IFF object class is further broken down into the *IffTransponder* and *IffInterrogator* object classes. These classes allow subscription based filtering of IFF data.

The EE PDU translation is different from any of the other PDU transformations in that it is a many-to-one and one-to-many transformation. A separate RPR FOM object is created for each emitter system and emitter beam in an EE PDU. Conversely, the emitter system and emitter beam objects reflected to VR-Exchange must be combined into a single EE PDU (for the State Update). The emitter system data is transformed into an *EmitterSystem* object class. An *EmitterSystem* object is created for each emitter system record in the EE PDU. The *EmitterSystem* is derived from the *EmbeddedSystem* class that associates each *EmitterSystem* object with its host entity object. Based on the beam function, the EE PDU emitter beam data is transformed into either a *RadarBeam* (the default) or a *JammerBeam*. The *EmitterBeam* class contains all of the emitter beam data parameters. Similar to the *EmbeddedSystem*, the *EmitterBeam* defines an *EmittingSystemID* that establishes the association between it and its *EmitterSystem* object instance.

VR-Exchange creates a Delta State EE PDU for each *EmitterSystem* or *EmitterBeam* reflection. VR-Exchange does not generate a delta EE PDU if the *EmitterSystem* has no active beams (unless that beam is being removed). VR-Exchange must also first receive the *EmitterBeam's* *EmitterSystem* data as well as the emitting entity data. The emitting system ID and beam ID are required for sending an EE PDU. VR-Exchange generates the State Update EE PDU at a heartbeat rate (regardless of intermediate delta updates). The State Update EE PDU contains the emission data for each emitter with active emitter beams.

1.4.6 Logistics

The DIS Logistics PDUs are translated into RPR FOM interaction classes, as shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Logistics Representation in the RPR FOM

DIS PDU	RPR FOM Interaction Class
Service Request	ServiceRequest
Resupply Offer	ResupplyOffer
Resupply Received	ResupplyReceived
Resupply Cancel	ResupplyCancel
Repair Complete	RepairComplete
Repair Response	RepairResponse

The object ID attributes (mappable to DIS IDs) for the participating entities are required to send these PDUs.

1.4.7 Entity Management

The Transfer Control Request PDU is translated to the HLA *TransferControl* interaction class. The *TransferControl* class is available only if you are using RPR FOM version 2, draft 6 or later.

1.4.8 Synthetic Environment

Table 7 lists the PDUs in the Synthetic Environment family that VR-Exchange supports.

Table 7. Synthetic environment PDUs

DIS PDU	RPR FOM Class
Areal Object	<i>ArealObject</i>
Environmental Process	<i>EnvironmentProcess</i>
Gridded Data	<i>GriddedData</i>
Linear Object	<i>LinearObject</i>

1.4.9 MAK Data Logger Control PDUs

In addition to the standard DIS PDUs described in the previous sections, VR-Exchange supports Logger Control PDUs for controlling the MAK Data Logger.

1.5. Hardware Requirements and Product Limitations

VR-Exchange was designed to work with up to 254 connections. However, the requirement that all brokers run on the same machine limits the actual number of connections that you can run. VR-Exchange has been tested with as many as 4 connections.

It is recommended that you run VR-Exchange with one processor for each connection. Though this is not required, and much testing has been done on single processor machines, a typical instance of VR-Exchange will have three or more processes competing for CPU time.

It is also recommended that each supported protocol exist on a dedicated network. This is not a requirement of VR-Exchange, but is recommended for high traffic exercises.

1.6. The Limitations of Translation Software

Translating between two protocols, or even two FOMs (in the case of HLA) is similar to translating between two spoken languages, in that you may lose something in translation. The goal of a good translator is to try to minimize that loss. When translating between spoken languages, you cannot simply perform word-for-word replacement. The source text must be examined holistically and translated such that it conveys the same meaning to the target language. Sometimes idiomatic structures are not directly translatable and can only be approximated in the target language, and some concepts present in one language may not even exist in the other. As a result, some precision may be lost.

This same limitation occurs with all software translators. Messages often cannot be translated on a packet-by-packet basis; rather, a stream of messages as a whole must be examined and translated. Some protocols map easily to each other. Others do not. Some protocols have no valid translation at all.

In the case of DIS-to-HLA translation, or even FOM-to-FOM translation, there is not always a one-to-one mapping between PDUs received from the DIS side and updates sent to the HLA side (or vice versa). This is due to fundamental differences in the rules and conventions of HLA versus DIS, and to differences in the ways different FOMs choose to represent similar concepts. For example, the DIS broker needs to send DIS heartbeat PDUs every 5 seconds, even though it may not receive HLA updates for an object for a much longer period of time. A single DIS PDU might contain data that must be translated into a series of attribute updates. For example, in DIS, a single Electromagnetic Emission PDU might contain information about a series of emitter systems and beams, but in HLA's RPR FOM, each emitter system and beam exists as a separate object, and must be updated through separate streams of messages.

In general, the strategy that VR-Exchange uses is to decode incoming data into state repositories that always contain the current state of each object. State repository information is passed to the other side of the bridge each frame, independently of when actual updates might have arrived. Then, the publishing rules of the other protocol and/or FOM are used to determine when to send out data describing the object. A consequence of this strategy is that no one piece of code is ever looking at both an incoming message and an outgoing message at the same time. While this strategy is necessary to support FOM agility and generic protocol-translation in VR-Exchange, a limitation is that "something" can get lost in the translation. For example, you should not expect that the timestamp on an outgoing HLA update will match the timestamp of a particular incoming DIS PDU.

Translators are very valuable solutions to real-world interoperability problems, and they often offer a much cheaper and easier solution than retooling applications to use a common protocol. But they can never quite provide the same level of close-coupling that you can get if all of your systems communicate natively. MAK works hard to insure that our translators retain as much of the meaning and semantics of the data as is feasible, given the fundamental differences in the various protocols. But users must be aware that, as with any type of translator, there will always be limitations.



2. Installing VR-Exchange

This chapter explains how to install VR-Exchange and associated software.

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2.1. Installing VR-Exchange

2.1.1 Installation and Data Packages

MAK ONE installations are provided in one or more files (packages) that you can download from the MAK website.

There are four types of installation products for MAK ONE:

- Product installers – Each product has a single main installer for each operating system.
- Optional installers – Some products have installers for developer options.
- Required data packages – MAK ONE applications (VR-Vantage, VR-Forces, VR-Engage, SensorFX, and RFView for MAK ONE) and the DI-Guy SDK have a collection of data packages that are required for those products' basic functions.
- Recommended data packages – Additional data packages (if available) are recommended to access the full capabilities of MAK ONE applications.

MAK ONE applications share the same data installation, therefore the same set of data packages is all you need for any or all applications (VR-Vantage, VR-Forces, VR-Engage, SensorFX, RFView for MAK ONE, and the DI-Guy SDK).

Dependencies

Licensing tools and dependent products have their own installers. For details, see "2.2. Installing and Setting Up the MAK License Manager" on page 30.

For interoperability using HLA, see "2.3. Installing an RTI" on page 32.

Before you install VR-Exchange, please read the release notes to see if there are any special instructions for installation.

Build Information

If you need to know the details about the MAK ONE application you are using, you have two options:

- While running the application, choose **Help > About** and then read the information in the About dialog.
- In the installation directory, look at a build information text file.

2.1.2 Installing VR-Exchange on Windows

Windows versions of VR-Exchange are provided as downloaded files.

- To install VR-Exchange, run the installer. Follow the instructions in the installation wizard.

Note the following:

- The installers are named to indicate the compiler used to build that version of VR-Exchange.
- When you install large applications on Windows, there may be a delay of up to several minutes from the time you try to run the setup program to the time that an installation dialog box displays. This is due to how Windows scans setup programs before it executes them. If you experience this problem, turning off User Access Control can reduce or eliminate this delay.

Default Windows Installation Directory

The default root directory for installing MAK ONE products is *C:/MAK*.

You can use an environment variable, *MAK_INSTALL_DIR*, to specify a different location where all MAK ONE products and data should be installed by default. For example, if you define it as *MAK_INSTALL_DIR = D:\MyProject*, then all MAK ONE products automatically install to that location. The data packages and products would then install in that directory by default: *D:/MyProject/SharedData*, *D:/MyProject/vrlink5.10*, and so on.

Uninstalling from Windows

MAK ONE product installations include an uninstaller application (*unins000.exe*), which you can find in the installation directory. Run that program to uninstall the product.

When you run other installers for the product, such as the PDBs, there are additional uninstallers. If you run the uninstallers from the highest number down (for example, *unins002.exe* and then *unins001.exe*), running *unins000.exe* uninstalls everything else and removes the install folder.

When you uninstall VR-Vantage, VR-Forces, or VR-Engage, files such as scenarios or SMSs that reside in the product directory are also deleted. Before uninstalling, copy any of your custom files from the product directory to another folder.

The uninstaller does not remove the data package. That is in a separate directory (for example, *./SharedData/##/latest*).

i If you run only the product uninstaller, you can then simply delete the rest of the product's install folder. Note that if you do not run all of the uninstallers, running only the product uninstaller may not remove all of the shortcuts from the Windows Start menu.

2.1.3 Installing VR-Exchange on Linux Systems

Linux versions of VR-Exchange are provided as compressed TAR files.

► To install a product from a TAR file:

1. Create the directory in which you want to install the product.
2. Copy the tar file to the install directory.

3. Uncompress and untar the tar file:

```
tar -xzf applicationxx-os.tar.gz
```

where *xx-os* is the release, operating system, and other product release coding.

Uninstalling from Linux

To remove installations from Linux machines, simply delete the installation directory. This catches all of the files associated with the product.

When you uninstall VR-Vantage, VR-Forces, or VR-Engage, files such as scenarios or SMSs that reside in the product directory are also deleted. Before uninstalling, copy any of your custom files from the product directory to another folder.

Deleting the installation directory does not remove the data package. That is in a separate directory (for example, *./SharedData/##/latest*).

2.2. Installing and Setting Up the MAK License Manager

Before you can use a MAK ONE product, you must obtain a valid license file, install the MAK License Manager, and configure the license server and client machines. The License Manager uses a client-server architecture, so you do not need to install the License Manager on every computer on which you install MAK ONE products. You only need to install it on the computer that you will use as the license server.

 If you have already installed the License Manager for another MAK ONE product, you do not have to install it again. You only need licenses for your newly installed products.

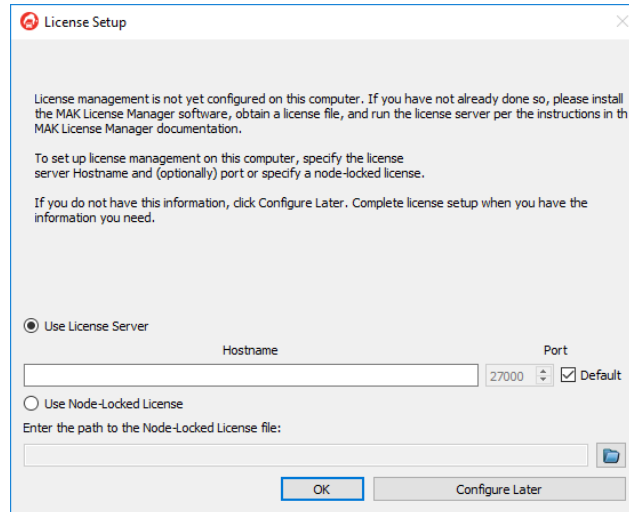
The License Manager installer is included with MAK installation media. It is separate from the product installers. You can download the installers from the [MAK ONE Product Downloads](https://www.mak.com/mak-one-downloads) page at <https://www.mak.com/mak-one-downloads>.

Complete installation and configuration instructions are included with the License Manager installer. The *MAK ONE Installation Guide* is available at <https://mak.com/mak-one-installation-guide>.

Some customers use dongle licenses instead of running a license server. Instructions for using dongles are also in the *MAK ONE Installation Guide*.

2.2.1 Specifying the License Server

The first time you run a MAK ONE product on a particular computer, the License Setup dialog box opens (Figure 5). It prompts you to enter the hostname of the license server and, optionally, a port number.

Figure 5. License Setup dialog box

If you do not know the hostname of the license server, click **Configure Later**. When you have the hostname, you can start the application again and complete the dialog box. You will not be able to run any MAK ONE products until you set up license management.

If you know the hostname, enter it in the **Hostname** box and then click **OK**. The application will start.

Under limited circumstances, MAK issues node-locked licenses. If you have a node-locked license, select the **Use Node Locked License** option and enter the path to the license file.



- If you are running MAK ONE products on the license server machine, it is also a client, so you must specify the license server on that machine, too.
- If you change the license server, the saved configuration will no longer be valid and the License Setup dialog box will open the next time you start a MAK ONE product.
- If you have changed the license server, you may want to clear the license cache. You can clear the saved license configuration by deleting the cache file. On Windows, it is *C:\Users\user_name\AppData\Roaming\MAK\licenses<n>.txt*. (The *AppData* directory is hidden by default.) On Linux, it is *.mak/license<n>.txt*. (There may be more than one cache file, for example, *licenses1.txt* and *licenses2.txt*.) You can also clear the cache in the RTI Assistant.

Setting the MAKLMGRD_LICENSE_FILE Environment Variable

As an alternative to using the license setup procedure described in the previous section, you can configure the license server or node-locked license in an environment variable. The MAKLMGRD_LICENSE_FILE environment variable identifies the server machine. If you set this environment variable, it overrides the settings stored by the license setup procedure.

For license servers, the syntax for the environment variable is: `@server_name`. For example, if the server machine is oak, set the environment variable to `@oak`.

The following sections explain how to set environment variables on the different platforms that MAK ONE products run on.

Windows

► To set MAKLMGRD_LICENSE_FILE in Windows:

1. On the Start menu, click the Settings button (⚙️). The Settings window opens.
2. In the Search box, enter `environment`. A list of choices displays.
3. Select Edit the System Environment Variables. The System Properties dialog box opens to the Advanced tab.
4. Click the Environment Variables button. The Environment Variables dialog box opens.
5. Below the System Variables list, click New. The New System Variable dialog box opens.
6. In the Variable Name field, enter `MAKLMGRD_LICENSE_FILE`.
7. In the Variable Value field, enter `@server_name`, where `server_name` is the name of the license server.
8. Click OK to save out of each dialog box and set the variable.

Linux

On Linux, you set environment variables in your `.cshrc` (or equivalent startup file).

► To specify a license server, set the variable similarly to:

```
setenv MAKLMGRD_LICENSE_FILE @oak
```

If you are using the `sh` or `bash` shells, you set environment variables in your `.profile` file (or `.bashrc`). Set the variable similarly to:

```
MAKLMGRD_LICENSE_FILE=@oak
export MAKLMGRD_LICENSE_FILE
```

Do not put spaces around the equal (=) sign.

You are ready to run the license server and use your new licenses or MAK ONE products.

2.3. Installing an RTI

An RTI is a software library (and perhaps supporting executables) that implements an HLA Interface Specification. In HLA, applications exchange FOM data through RTI calls, which means that all HLA applications need to use an RTI. MAK Technologies has the MAK RTI, but MAK ONE products do not require that you use the MAK RTI.

i Because of differences in the low-level network mechanisms used by different RTI implementations (which include, but are not limited to, packet layout), applications that want to interoperate in the same federation execution must use the same RTI implementation.

Because RTIs are usually provided as dynamic libraries that implement a fixed API, a federation can often switch from one RTI implementation to another between runs (without even recompiling the applications), but during each run, all participants must agree on which RTI to use, much as they must also agree on which FOM to use.

For the most recent information about the RTI versions supported by MAK ONE products, please visit the Product Specifications & Dependencies page (<https://www.mak.com/mak-one-specs>).

The following instructions explain how to install the MAK RTI. If you are using an RTI provided by another vendor, please refer to that RTI's documentation for installation and setup instructions.

2.3.1 Installing the MAK RTI

To install the MAK RTI, follow the instructions in Chapter 2 of *MAK RTI Users Guide*. To install another RTI, see the vendor's documentation.

Configuring Your System to Use the MAK RTI

The RTI dynamic libraries must be located somewhere on your dynamic library search path. The path is specified in the PATH environment variable. The path is indicated by an environment variable:

- Linux — LD_LIBRARY_PATH.
- Windows — PATH.
- The MAK RTI needs to know where to find these configuration files:
 - The federation configuration file (*.fed*, *.fdd*, or *.xml*) for your federation execution (required).
 - The RID file (*rid.mtl*) (optional).

Put the configuration files in the directory from which you are running, or set the environment variable RTI_CONFIG to the directory that contains them.

Running Applications with the MAK RTI

► To run a MAK ONE product with the MAK RTI:

1. Ensure that the license server is running.
2. Start the application. The RTI Assistant prompts you to choose an RTI configuration.
3. Choose a configuration. If necessary start the rtiexec.
4. Click Connect. The application should run.

In many cases, you do not need to run the rtiexec to use the MAK RTI, however you can run the rtiexec if you want to. (It is required to use certain features of the MAK RTI.) For more information, please see your RTI documentation.

Support for HLA Evolved

The VR-Exchange 2.10 HLA Evolved broker is compatible with MAK RTI 4.0.4 or later, VR-Link 4.0.4 or later, and the HLA Evolved specification.

The HLA Evolved libraries included with the MAK RTI 4.0 through 4.0.3 were unintentionally built against one of the last draft versions of the HLA 1516-2010 specification header files. Between the version of the header files used by the MAK RTI and the final version of the specification there was one change. The HLA Evolved API has three functions for createFederationExecution. In the version originally used by the MAK RTI there was an ambiguity. Due to optional parameters, two of these functions could be invoked in such a way that it was not clear which one was being used. Here are the functions as they used to be:

```
// variation 1
virtual void createFederationExecution (
    std::wstring const & federationExecutionName,
    std::wstring const & fomModule,
    std::wstring const & logicalTimeImplementationName = L"");

// variation 2
virtual void createFederationExecution (
    std::wstring const & federationExecutionName,
    std::vector<std::wstring> const & fomModules,
    std::wstring const & logicalTimeImplementationName = L"");

// variation 3
virtual void createFederationExecution (
    std::wstring const & federationExecutionName,
    std::vector<std::wstring> const & fomModules,
    std::wstring const & mimModule,
    std::wstring const & logicalTimeImplementationName = L"");
```

Variation one is unambiguous. However, consider the following code:

```
createFederationExecution( L"FedExName", vectorOfFomModules, L"");
```

It is not clear whether you are using variation two or three, and the compiler would throw an error.

To fix this ambiguity, the final version of the HLA Evolved API renamed the third version of the function to createFederationExecutionWithMIM. However this revision did not make it into the header files used by the MAK RTI. MAK RTI 4.0.4 corrects this and uses the final version of the HLA Evolved header files. As a result, we recommend that anyone using the MAK RTI with HLA Evolved upgrade to this version. Because the API has changed between RTI 4.0.3 and 4.0.4, any HLA Evolved federates built against previous MAK RTI versions will need to be recompiled against the new version.

Because VR-Link's HLA libraries are built against the MAK RTI, this issue also exists in previous versions of VR-Link that supported HLA Evolved. We recommend that anyone using VR-Link with HLA Evolved upgrade to version 4.0.3, which is built against the latest RTI and uses the renamed function.

This problem affects MAK products built against the MAK RTI and VR-Link that support HLA Evolved, such as VR-Exchange 2.0. VR-Exchange 2.0.1 has been built against VR-Link 4.0.4 and is now compliant with the final version of the standard.

As a general rule, any version of VR-Exchange is compatible with any version of the RTI that supports the same platform. However, due to this header file change, previous versions of VR-Exchange and the MAK RTI will not be compatible when using HLA Evolved. This change does not affect compatibility between VR-Exchange and the MAK RTI when using HLA 1.3 or 1516-2000.

When using HLA Evolved:

- VR-Exchange 2.0 is only compatible with MAK RTI 4.0, 4.0.1, 4.0.2, and 4.0.3.
- VR-Exchange 2.0.1 and later releases are only compatible with MAK RTI 4.0.4 and later releases.

2.4. Installing DDS Software

The Object Management Group (OMG) Data Distribution Service (DDS) is a standard for exchanging messages between applications. VR-Exchange includes the RTI DDS broker.

2.4.1 The RTI Connex DDS Broker

The RTI Connex DDS broker is built using RTI Connex DDS. If you want to run or build the RTI DDS broker, you must install the RTI Connex DDS package. You can download it from <https://www.rti.com>.

Install RTI Connex DDS according to the instructions provided with the software. This may require running an installer executable on Windows or extracting a package on Linux.

After you install the software, set the NDDSHOME environment variable to the path to your RTI Connex DDS directory.

Add the NDDSHOME variable to your path:

```
PATH=%NDDSHOME%/lib/COMPILER
```

where *COMPILER* refers to the subdirectory under *lib* that is specific to different compilers.



3. Using VR-Exchange

This chapter explains how to start the Portal and use it to manage connections.

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3.1. Starting VR-Exchange

This section explains how to start VR-Exchange on the different operating systems it supports.

! All VR-Exchange components (the Portal and brokers) must run on the same computer.

3.1.1 Starting VR-Exchange on Linux

► To start VR-Exchange on Linux:

1. In a command shell, change directory to `./bin`.
2. Enter: `vrx [command-line_options]`

The VR-Exchange Portal window opens (Figure 6 below). The VR-Exchange command-line options are described in "3.1.3 VR-Exchange Command-Line Options" on the next page.

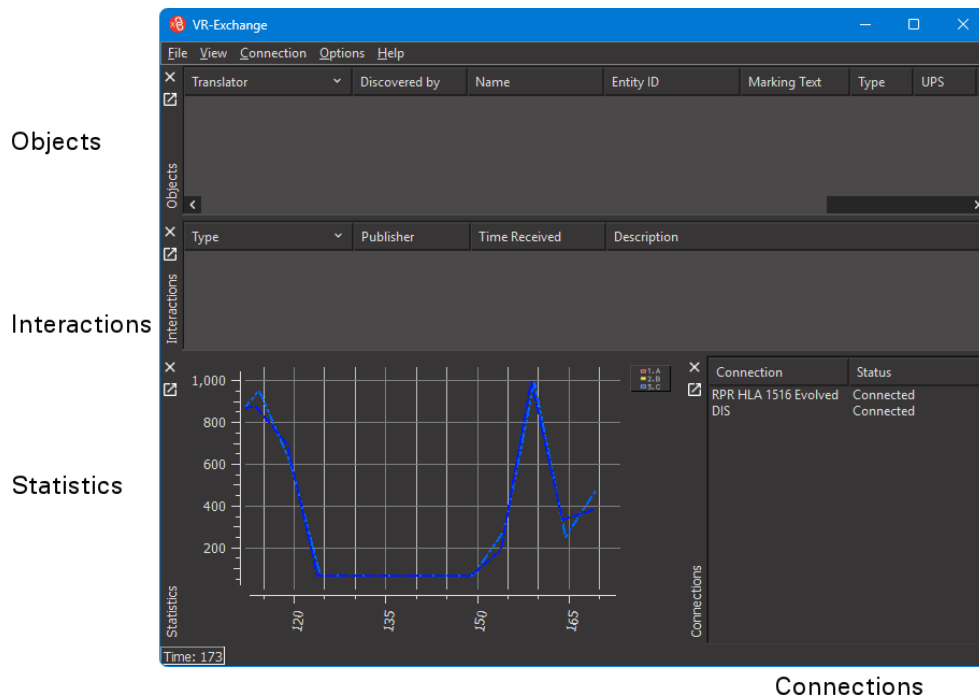
3.1.2 Starting VR-Exchange on Windows

► To start VR-Exchange on Windows, on the Start menu, choose **MAK Technologies > VR-Exchange 2.10 (64-bit)**.

The VR-Exchange Portal window opens (Figure 6).

If you want to start VR-Exchange with command-line options, start it from a command prompt or create a shortcut icon for it on your desktop. The VR-Exchange command-line options are described in "3.1.3 VR-Exchange Command-Line Options" on the next page.

Figure 6. VR-Exchange Portal window



3.1.3 VR-Exchange Command-Line Options

The VR-Exchange command-line options override settings in *VR-Exchange.xml*. Table 8 describes the command-line options.

Table 8. VR-Exchange Portal command-line options

Option	Description
<code>--brokersShouldDumpEnvironment</code>	Sets the brokers to dump their environment at startup.
<code>(--configFile -l) filename</code>	Specifies a configuration file other than <i>VR-Exchange.xml</i> .
<code>--controlQueueName name</code>	Specifies the name of the shared memory control queue.
<code>--dontStartBrokers</code>	Specifies that VR-Exchange not enable the connections listed in <i>VR-Exchange.xml</i> . If you use this option, you must start the connections manually.
<code>--interactionQueueName queueName</code>	Specifies the name of the interaction shared memory queue.
<code>(--logFilename -L) filename</code>	Specifies a name for the log file.
<code>--maxInteractionsToShow count</code>	Specifies the maximum number of interactions to show in the Portal application.
<code>--maxObjectViewCount count</code>	Specifies the maximum number of objects to display
<code>--maxPortalControlMessages count</code>	Specifies the maximum number of control messages to process per tick.
<code>--maxPortalInteractionMessages count</code>	Specifies the maximum number of interaction messages to process per tick.
<code>--maxPortalObjectMessages count</code>	Specifies the maximum number of object messages to process per tick.
<code>(--noGui -G)</code>	Start without the graphical user interface (console mode).
<code>(--notifyLevel -n) notification_level</code>	Specifies the notification level for logging messages. Range: 0-4, where: 0 – Fatal error messages. 1 – Warning messages. 2 – Informational messages. 3 – Verbose information. 4 – Debugging data.
<code>--objectAutocollapseCount count</code>	Specifies the number of objects to collapse.
<code>--objectQueueName queueName</code>	Specifies the name of the object shared memory queue.

Table 8. VR-Exchange Portal command-line options (continued)

Option	Description
<code>--oneToOneMessageMapping</code>	Generates an outbound message for each received message.
<code>--queueBucketCount</code> <i>count</i>	Specifies the number of buckets inside the shared memory queue.
<code>--queueBucketPayloadSize</code> <i>size</i>	Specifies the size of buckets inside the shared memory queue.
<code>--showConsole</code>	Display a console window.
<code>--tcpPort</code> <i>port_number</i>	Specifies the TCP port for connectivity tests.
<code>--translatorLocale</code> <i>language</i>	Specifies the locale (for localization).
<code>(--ignore_rest --)</code>	Tells the broker to ignore the arguments following this flag.
<code>(--version -v)</code>	Displays version information and exits.
<code>(--help -h)</code>	Displays command-line usage information in a console window.

3.1.4 The Portal Application

The Portal application houses several dockable windows. You can drag any of them off of the Portal and place them anywhere on your desktop. You can close any of the windows and open them to suit your viewing preferences.

The Portal has context-sensitive menus. The windows have a context-sensitive menu that matches the View menu. The individual connections in the Connections window have context-sensitive menus that match the Connection menu.

3.1.5 Running VR-Exchange Without the Portal Application

You can run VR-Exchange without the Portal application. It automatically starts any connections that are configured to start when the Portal starts.

► **To run VR-Exchange without the Portal application:**

1. Open `./bin/VR-Exchange.xml` in a text editor.
2. Set the value of the **noGui** attribute to true.

```
<!--Disable Portal GUI-->
<noGui value="true"/>
```
3. Save the file.
4. Start VR-Exchange.

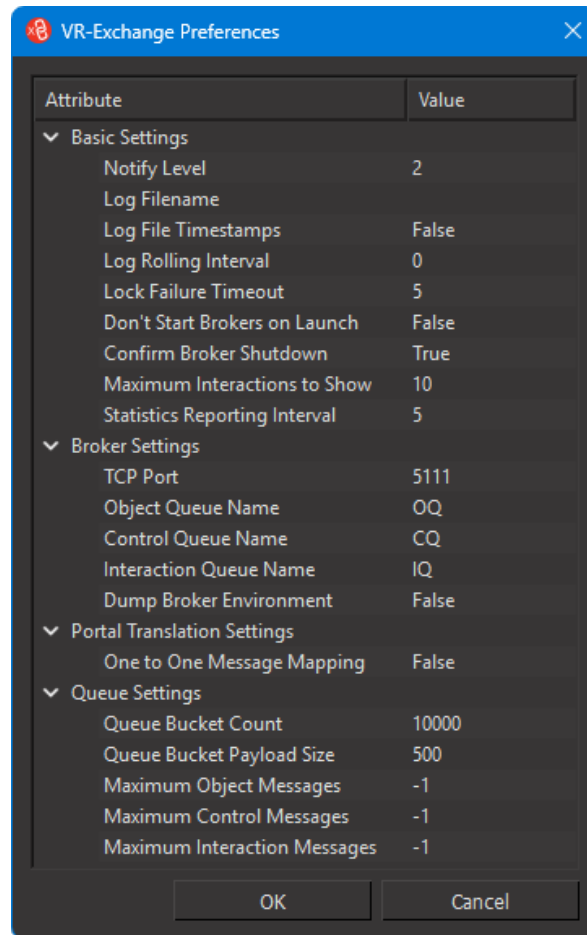
3.2. Configuring VR-Exchange

VR-Exchange has several parameters that you can set to optimize performance. Preferences are saved to `VR-Exchange.xml`.

► To set VR-Exchange preferences:

1. Choose **Options > Preferences**. The VR-Exchange Preferences dialog box opens (Figure 7).

Figure 7. VR-Exchange Preferences dialog box



2. Expand the appropriate group of settings.
3. Click the value for the attribute that you want to change. The value becomes editable.
4. Edit the value. Some values can be chosen from a drop-down list. Others are text or numeric values that you edit directly.
5. Click OK. Changes do not take effect until you restart VR-Exchange.

Table 9 describes the attributes in the VR-Exchange Preferences dialog box.

Table 9. VR-Exchange preferences

Attribute	Description
Basic Settings	
Notify Level	Specifies the output level for the Portal's log file. Default: 2.

Table 9. VR-Exchange preferences (continued)

Attribute	Description
Log Filename	Specifies the log file for messages. Default: <i>disBroker.log</i> , <i>rpr13Broker.log</i> , and so on.
Log File Timestamps	Enable or disable printing timestamps to the log file.
Log Rolling Interval	Frequency, in seconds, to roll the log file to a new file.
Lock Failure Timeout	How long, in seconds, to wait for shared memory locks before retrying.
Don't Start Brokers on Launch	Specifies that connections should not be enabled automatically when VR-Exchange starts.
Confirm Broker Shutdown	Enable or disable prompting for confirmation before shutting down a broker.
Maximum Interactions to Show	Specifies the maximum number of interactions to show in the Interactions window for each interaction type. When the Portal runs for a long time, the interaction list can become very long, which can degrade performance. If this number is set to -1, all interactions are shown. If it is set to any positive number, only the most recent maximum number of interactions is displayed. Default: 10.
Statistics Reporting Interval	The amount of time, in seconds, between updates of the Statistics graph by individual brokers and the Portal.
Broker Communication Settings	
TCP Port	Specifies the TCP port to use to test the broker lifetime. Each broker connects to this port. If the Portal crashes, the brokers will know and then shut down. If TCP Port is set to 0, this feature is disabled.
Object Queue Name	Specifies the names of the object, control, and interaction queues in the shared memory pool. If you run more than one instance of VR-Exchange, the queue names must be different for each Portal.
Control Queue Name	
Interaction Queue Name	
Dump Broker Environment	Print the brokers environment to a file at startup.
Portal Translation Settings	
One to One Message Mapping	Specifies whether or not to generate an outbound message for each inbound message. Changing this setting requires restarting all brokers.

Table 9. VR-Exchange preferences (continued)

Attribute	Description
Queue Settings	
Queue Bucket Count	Specifies the maximum number of messages in the shared memory queue.
Queue Bucket Payload Size	Specifies the maximum message size, in bytes.
Maximum Control Messages, Maximum Interaction Messages, Maximum Object Messages,	Specifies the maximum number of Portal messages to process per call to <code>drainInput()</code> , where -1 means process all messages. Adjust these parameters to avoid process starvation if one of the queues is heavily used.

3.2.1 Additional Portal Configuration Options

The portal has some configuration options that affect performance but are not configurable through the GUI. You can configure them in *VR-Exchange.xml*.

- **maxObjectViewCount.** Specifies the maximum number of objects to display in the portal (per category). When the maximum number of objects is reached, a warning is printed to the log. Default: 5000.
- **objectAutocollapseCount.** Specifies the number of objects at which to automatically collapse an object category. Default: 1000.

3.2.2 Disabling and Enabling Dark Mode

Dark mode is the default in VR-Exchange's graphical user interface. Light mode, the former standard, is also available.

- To toggle dark mode on or off, choose **Options > Toggle Dark Mode**.

3.3. Enabling and Disabling Connections

The brokers are executable files that are independent of the Portal. You start them using connection configurations that specify a broker, a connection name, and configuration parameters. You can enable a connection automatically when the Portal is started or you can enable a connection manually.

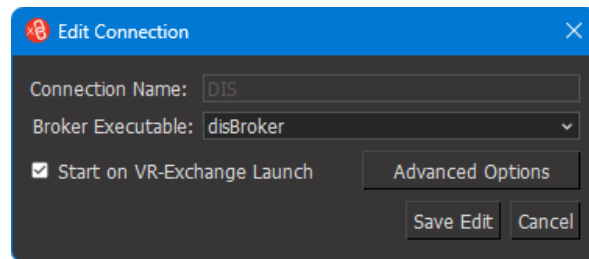
For details about adding and configuring connections, see "Chapter 4. Working with Broker Connections" on page 55.

3.3.1 Enabling Connections when the Portal Starts

► To specify that a connection be enabled when the Portal starts:

1. Start VR-Exchange.
2. In the Connections window (Figure 6 on page 39), select the connection that you want to configure.
3. If the connection is enabled, choose **Connection > Disable Connection**. The connection is disabled.
4. Choose **Connection > Edit Connection**. The Edit Connection dialog box opens (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Edit Connection dialog box



5. Select the Start on VR-Exchange Launch check box.
6. Click Save Edit.
7. Enable the connection, if applicable.

3.3.2 Enabling Connections During Runtime

► To enable a connection after you start the Portal:

1. In the Connections window (Figure 6 on page 39), select the connection that you want to enable.
2. Choose **Connection > Enable Connection**. The status changes to Connected.

3.3.3 Disabling Connections

Connections are disabled and brokers are shut down automatically when the Portal is shut down. Connections can also be disabled independently. If a broker crashes, or otherwise exits, and if the broker is connected using TCP, the Portal removes any connections that use it.

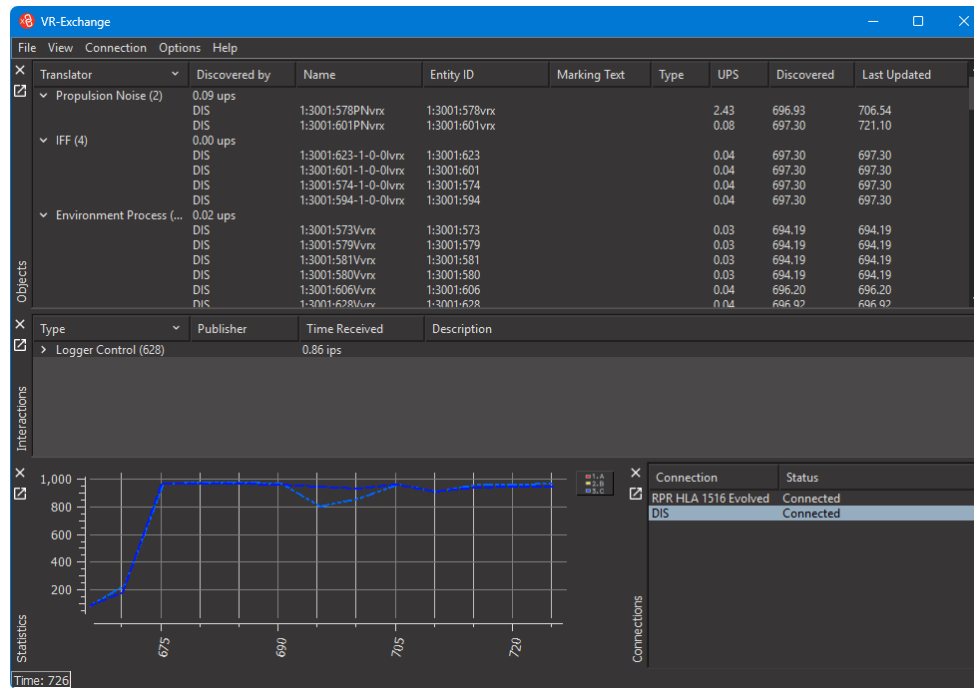
► To disable a connection:

1. In the Connections window (Figure 6 on page 39), select the connection you want to disconnect.
2. Choose **Connection > Disable Connection**.

3.4. Viewing Objects and Interactions

VR-Exchange displays lists of the objects and interactions that it discovers, which connection is publishing them, and statistics about them (Figure 9). As objects join and leave the exercise, VR-Exchange updates the display so that it only shows currently simulated objects. You can configure the number of interactions kept in the interaction list. (For details, see "3.2. Configuring VR-Exchange" on page 41.)

Figure 9. Object and interaction display



i If you mouse over the icon for an entity in the Type column, VR-Exchange displays a tooltip with the entity type enumeration for that object.

3.4.1 Customizing the Display of Object and Interaction Data

You can choose which columns of data to display and change the order of the columns.

► **To show or hide a column:**

1. In the Objects window or Interactions window (Figure 9 above), right-click any column label. A list of columns displays.
2. To display a hidden column or hide a currently displayed column, click its entry in the list.

► **To reorganize the order of data columns,** drag the column title to the location where you want it.

3.4.2 Enabling and Disabling the Display of Object Data

You can enable and disable display of the following types of object data:

- Objects – show or hide all objects
 - Updates – show or hide the Updated column.
- To enable or disable display of object data, choose **View > Objects > option**, where *option* is either Objects or Updates.

3.4.3 Sorting the Object List by Column

- To sort the object list by column, click a column heading.

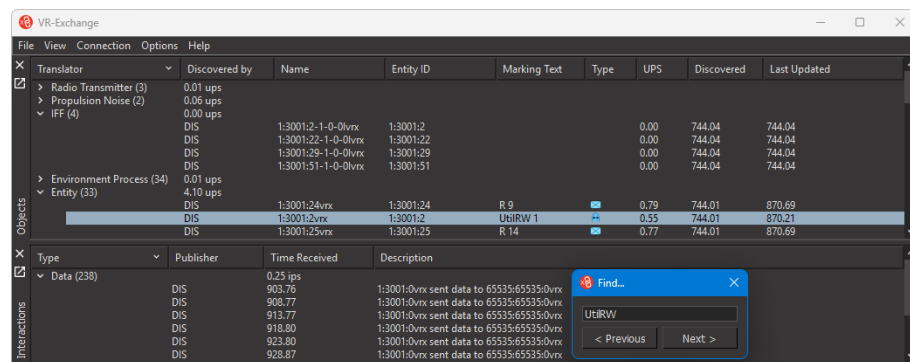
3.4.4 Searching the Object List

When there are many objects listed in the Objects window, it can be difficult to find a particular object that you want to examine. You can search the objects list to quickly find particular objects. VR-Exchange searches the Name, Entity ID, and Marking Text columns in sequence to find the search string.

- To search the Objects list:

1. Choose **View > Objects > Find Objects** or click in the Objects window and press **Ctrl+F**. The Find dialog box opens.
2. Type the string that you want to search for. As you type, VR-Exchange highlights objects that match the search string (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Searching the objects list



3. Press **Enter**, or click the Next> button on the Find dialog box to cycle forward through the list of matching objects. Click <Previous to iterate backwards through matching objects.

3.4.5 Enabling and Disabling the Display of Interactions

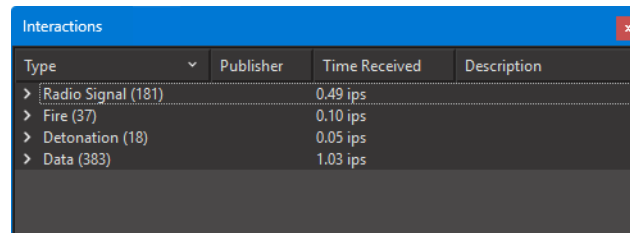
You can hide or display the interaction list.

- To enable or disable the display of interactions, choose **View > Interactions > Interactions**.

3.4.6 Clearing the Interactions List

You can clear the Interactions list. When you clear the Interactions list, VR-Exchange continues to maintain a running count of the number of interactions. Figure 11 illustrates the Interactions list after it is cleared. Notice the cumulative statistics next to Radio Signal, Fire, and Detonation.

Figure 11. Cleared Interactions list



Type	Publisher	Time Received	Description
> Radio Signal (181)		0.49 ips	
> Fire (37)		0.10 ips	
> Detonation (18)		0.05 ips	
> Data (383)		1.03 ips	

- To clear the Interactions list, choose **View > Interactions > Clear Interactions**.

Resetting Statistics

You can clear the cumulative statistics maintained by the Interactions window.

- To clear interaction statistics, choose **View > Interactions > Reset Statistics**.

3.4.7 Expanding and Collapsing the Tree View

You can quickly expand and collapse all entries in the Objects and Interactions windows.

i A category automatically collapses if the number of entries exceeds the value specified by the **objectAutocollapseCount** parameter in *VR-Exchange.xml*. See "3.2.1 Additional Portal Configuration Options" on page 44.

- **To expand and collapse the tree view:**
 1. In the Objects window or Interactions window, right-click any entry. A context-sensitive menu is displayed.
 2. Choose **Expand All** or **Collapse All**.

3.5. Filtering Objects in the Objects Window

You can filter out entire classes of objects (for details, see "4.5. Specifying Which Translators to Use" on page 80). You can also filter individual objects. You might do this if you are interested in particular objects and want to reduce network traffic by filtering out the objects you are not interested in. You can filter objects by name, entity type, and marking text. Filtering by entity type and marking text only applies to entities and aggregates.

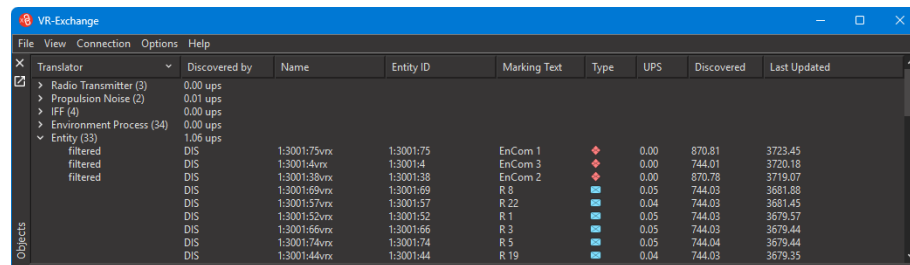
This section explains how to filter out objects from the Objects window. You can also set up filters in the Connection Information dialog box for a broker. For details, see "4.4. Specifying Filters in the Connection Information Dialog Box" on page 76.

3.5.1 Adding a Filter

► To filter out an object:

1. In the Objects window, select the objects that you want to filter.
2. Right-click the objects. A context-sensitive menu displays.
3. Choose **Add Filter**. A submenu displays.
4. Choose the type of filter that you want to add. The word "filtered" displays in the Translator column for each filtered object (Figure 12).

Figure 12. Filtered objects



Translator	Discovered by	Name	Entity ID	Marking Text	Type	UPS	Discovered	Last Updated
> Radio Transmitter (3)	0.00 ups							
> Propulsion Noise (2)	0.01 ups							
> IFF (4)	0.00 ups							
> Environment Process (34)	0.00 ups							
> Entity (33)	1.06 ups							
filtered	DIS	1:3001:75vnx	1:3001:75	EnCom 1	♦	0.00	870.81	3723.45
filtered	DIS	1:3001:4vnx	1:3001:4	EnCom 3	♦	0.00	744.01	3720.18
filtered	DIS	1:3001:38vnx	1:3001:38	EnCom 2	♦	0.00	870.78	3719.07
	DIS	1:3001:69vnx	1:3001:69	R 8	■	0.05	744.03	3681.88
	DIS	1:3001:57vnx	1:3001:57	R 22	■	0.04	744.03	3681.45
	DIS	1:3001:53vnx	1:3001:53	R 1	■	0.05	744.03	3679.57
	DIS	1:3001:66vnx	1:3001:66	R 3	■	0.05	744.03	3679.44
	DIS	1:3001:74vnx	1:3001:74	R 5	■	0.05	744.04	3679.44
	DIS	1:3001:44vnx	1:3001:44	R 19	■	0.04	744.03	3679.35

3.5.2 Removing a Filter

► To remove a filter:

1. In the Objects window, select the objects that you want to unfilter.
2. Right-click the objects. A context-sensitive menu displays.
3. Choose **Remove Filter**. A submenu displays.
4. Choose the type of filter that you want to remove. The filter is removed and the "filtered" text in the Translator column is cleared.

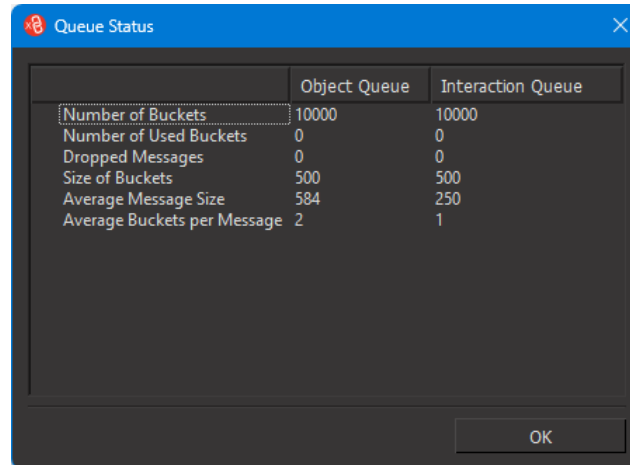
i Only filters created from the context-sensitive menu can be removed from the context-sensitive menu. Filters created on the Filters page of the Connection Information dialog box cannot be removed from the context-sensitive menu.

3.6. Displaying the Queue Status

You can display details about the shared memory queue.

- To display the queue status, choose **View > Queue Status**. The Queue Status dialog box opens (Figure 13).

Figure 13. Queue Status dialog box



The Queue Status dialog box displays a table comparing metrics for the Object Queue and the Interaction Queue. The 'Number of Buckets' field is highlighted with a dashed border.

	Object Queue	Interaction Queue
Number of Buckets	10000	10000
Number of Used Buckets	0	0
Dropped Messages	0	0
Size of Buckets	500	500
Average Message Size	584	250
Average Buckets per Message	2	1

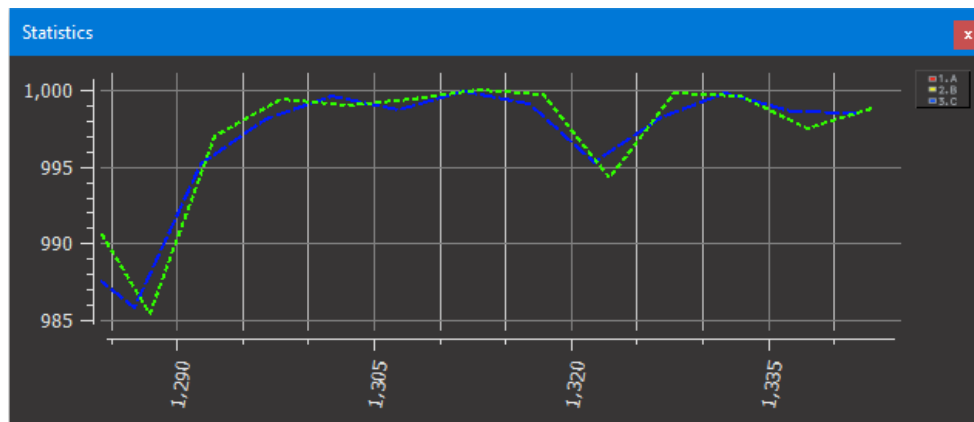
OK

3.7. The Statistics View

You can display a graph of the number of packets being processed by VR-Exchange and internal VR-Exchange messages (Figure 14).

- To hide or display the Statistics View, choose **View > Statistics**.

Figure 14. Statistics View



3.7.1 Displaying the Statistics Legend

The graphs in the Statistics View are color-coded. The Statistics Legend explains the meaning of each graph for each broker (Figure 15).

- To display the Statistics View Legend, choose **View > Statistics Legend** or click the Legend icon () on the Statistics View.

Figure 15. Statistics Plot Legend

Field Name	Line Style	Line Color	Units
General			
☐ # Object Messages	—————	Red	#
☐ # Interaction Messages	- - - - -	Yellow	#
☐ # Control Messages	· · · · ·	Green	#
RPR HLA 1516 Evolved			
☐ % in Frame	· · · · ·	Cyan	%
☐ % Out-of-Frame	- - - - -	Blue	%
☐ % Internal Processing	—————	Purple	%
☐ % External Processing	- - - - -	Magenta	%
☐ % Message Processing	· · · · ·	Orange	%
☐ % Translation Processing	- - - - -	Yellow	%
☐ % Other External Processing	· · · · ·	Green	%
☐ % Other Frame Processing	—————	Cyan	%
☒ Frames-per-Second	- - - - -	Blue	Hz
☐ Interaction Rate	· · · · ·	Purple	Hz
☐ Object Count	- - - - -	Red	#
DIS			
☐ % in Frame	· · · · ·	Orange	%
☐ % Out-of-Frame	—————	Green	%
☐ % Internal Processing	· · · · ·	Green	%
☐ % External Processing	- - - - -	Blue	%
☐ % Message Processing	- - - - -	Purple	%
☐ % Translation Processing	- - - - -	Magenta	%
☐ % Other External Processing	—————	Red	%
☐ % Other Frame Processing	- - - - -	Yellow	%
☒ Frames-per-Second	· · · · ·	Green	Hz
☐ Interaction Rate	· · · · ·	Cyan	Hz
☐ Object Count	- - - - -	Blue	#

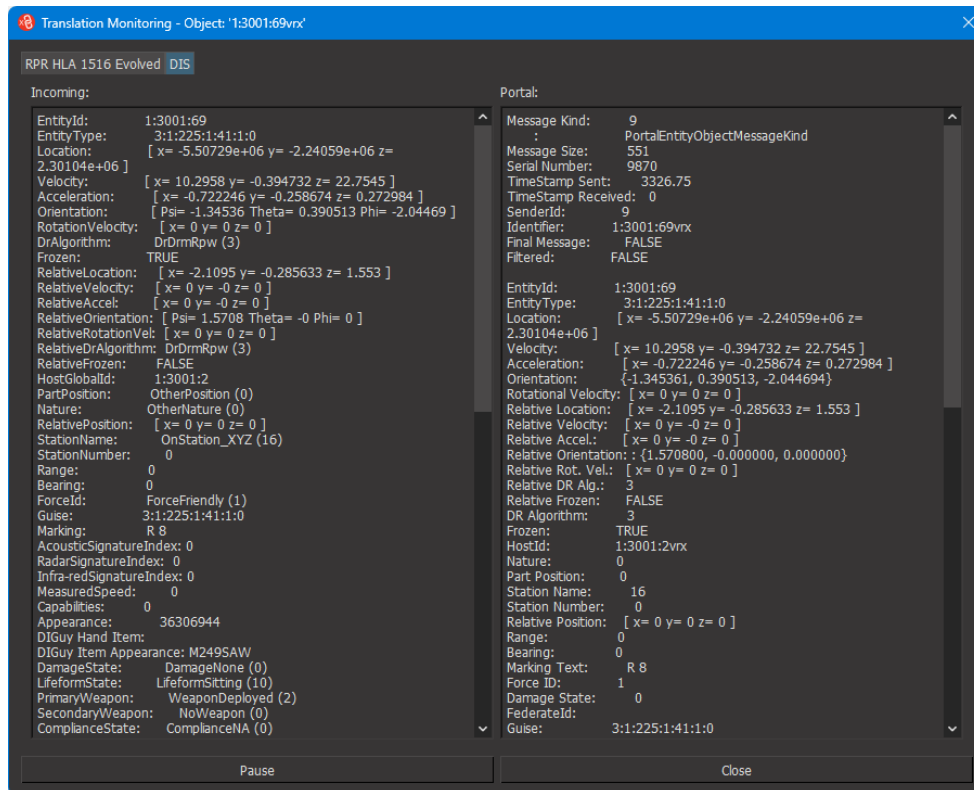
3.8. Monitoring Translations

You can monitor translation on a per-object basis. When you monitor an object, VR-Exchange shows the most recent input and output for the object. This information can be useful for debugging brokers.

► **To monitor translation of an object:**

1. In the Objects window, right-click the object you want to monitor. A menu displays.
2. Choose **Monitor Translation**. The Translation Monitoring window opens (Figure 16).

Figure 16. Translation Monitoring window



3.9. Closing VR-Exchange

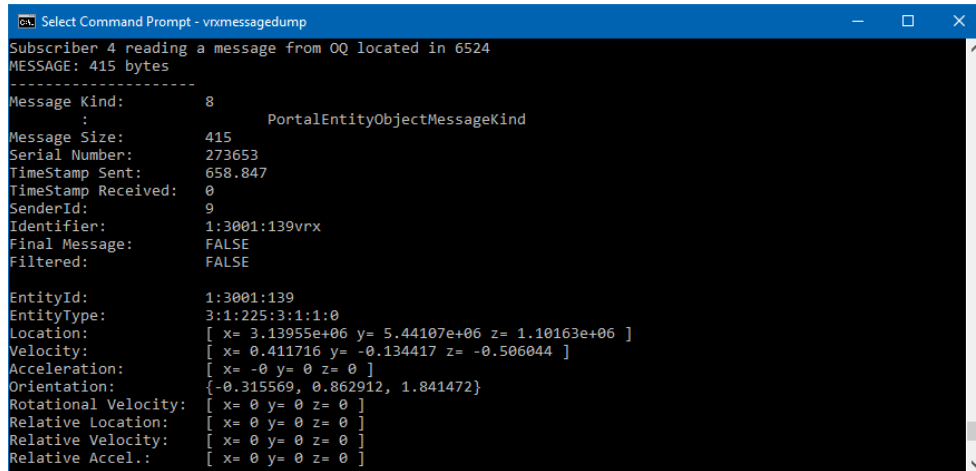
- To close VR-Exchange, choose **File > Exit**.

3.10. Using vrXMessageDump

VR-Exchange includes a utility called *vrXMessageDump*. It displays all messages passing through shared memory in a console window (Figure 17). *vrXMessageDump* exits automatically when the Portal is shut down.

- To run *vrXMessageDump*, start VR-Exchange, then run the *vrXMessageDump* executable in the `./bin` directory.

Figure 17. vrxMessageDump display



```

Select Command Prompt - vrxmessagedump
Subscriber 4 reading a message from OQ located in 6524
MESSAGE: 415 bytes
-----
Message Kind:      8          PortalEntityObjectMessageKind
:
Message Size:      415
Serial Number:     273653
TimeStamp Sent:    658.847
TimeStamp Received: 0
SenderId:          9
Identifier:        1:3001:139vrx
Final Message:     FALSE
Filtered:          FALSE

EntityId:          1:3001:139
EntityType:        3:1:225:3:1:1:0
Location:          [ x= 3.13955e+06 y= 5.44107e+06 z= 1.10163e+06 ]
Velocity:          [ x= 0.411716 y= -0.134417 z= -0.506044 ]
Acceleration:      [ x= -0 y= 0 z= 0 ]
Orientation:       {-0.315569, 0.862912, 1.841472}
Rotational Velocity: [ x= 0 y= 0 z= 0 ]
Relative Location:  [ x= 0 y= 0 z= 0 ]
Relative Velocity:  [ x= 0 y= 0 z= 0 ]
Relative Accel.:   [ x= 0 y= 0 z= 0 ]

```




4. Working with Broker Connections

This chapter explains how to add, edit, and configure connections.

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4.1. Adding and Editing Connections

A connection runs a broker executable with a unique set of parameters. This allows you to, for example, run an instance of the HLA Evolved broker with RTI A and another instance of the HLA Evolved broker with RTI B.

A connection must have a name and it must specify the broker that it uses and a configuration file. It can include command-line options and can specify environment variables. For lists of command-line options, see "Appendix B. Broker Details" on page 99.

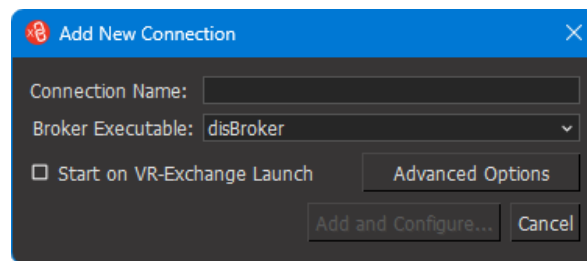
VR-Exchange ships with connections for HLA Evolved, HLA 4, and DIS. The HLA Evolved and DIS connections start automatically when you launch VR-Exchange.

4.1.1 Adding Connections

► To add a connection:

1. Choose **Connection > Add New Connection**. The Add New Connection dialog box opens (Figure 18).

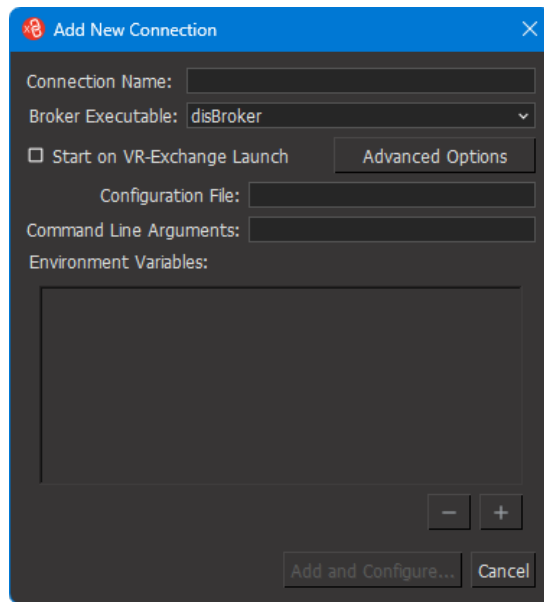
Figure 18. Add New Connection dialog box



2. In the Connection Name box, enter a name for the connection.
3. In the Broker Executable box, select a broker from the drop-down list or type the name of a broker executable.

4. Optionally, specify advanced options:
 - a. Click Advanced Options. The dialog box expands (Figure 19).

Figure 19. Add New Connection dialog box, Advanced Options



- b. In the Configuration File box, enter a name for the connection configuration file. (VR-Exchange appends the extension *.bcf*.) If you do not specify a configuration file name, VR-Exchange uses the connection name as the name the configuration file.

To learn more about how the configuration file relates to the shared exercise connection configuration, see "4.1.5 The Exercise Connection Configuration File" on page 59.
 - c. Optionally, enter command-line arguments in the Command Line Arguments box.

To learn how to specify an alternate exercise connection configuration file on the command line, see "Specifying Exercise Connection Configuration Files on the Command Line" on page 60.
- d. Optionally, specify environment variables for this connection, as described in "4.1.2 Specifying Environment Variables for a Connection" on the next page.
 - e. Click Advanced Options to collapse the dialog box.
5. If you want to enable the connection when VR-Exchange starts, select the Start on VR-Exchange Launch check box.
6. Click Add and Configure. The Connection Information dialog box for this connection opens.
7. Optionally, edit configuration parameters for the new connection. For details, see "4.2. Configuring Connections" on page 61.

4.1.2 Specifying Environment Variables for a Connection

You can specify environment variables that only apply to a specific connection. You might want to do this to have different HLA connections use different RTIs.

► **To specify an environment variable for a connection:**

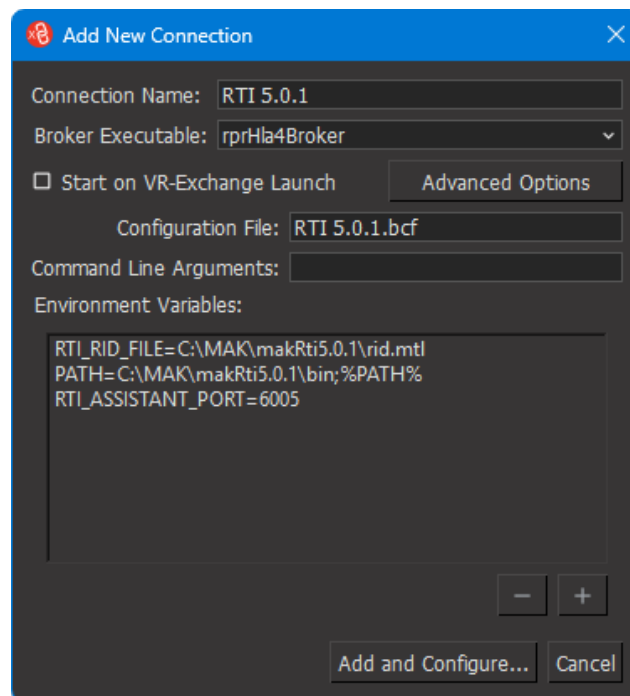
1. In the Add New Connection dialog box or Edit Connection dialog box, click Advanced Options. The dialog box expands (Figure 19 on the previous page).
2. In the Environment Variables group box, click the Add button (+). The Environment Variable dialog box opens.
3. In the Variable Name box, enter a name for the environment variable.
4. In the Variable Value box, enter the value for the variable. It can be a fully qualified path or it can use variable expansion, for example:

PATH=%PATH% (on Windows)

PATH= . ; \$PATH (on Linux)

5. Click OK. The environment variable is added to the list (Figure 20).

Figure 20. Environment variables



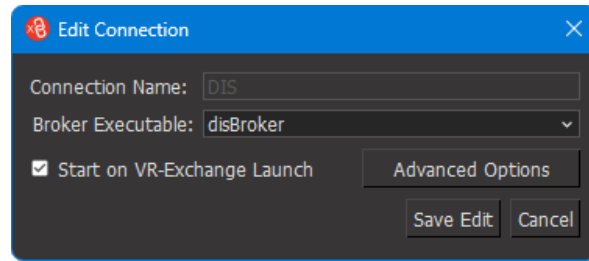
4.1.3 Editing Connections

► **To edit a connection:**

1. In the Connections window (Figure 6 on page 39), select the connection that you want to edit.
2. If the connection is connected, choose **Connection > Disable Connection**.

3. Choose **Connection > Edit Connection**. The Edit Connection dialog box opens (Figure 21).

Figure 21. Edit Connection dialog box



4. Click Advanced Options to display all connection details.
5. Edit the connection as desired.
6. Click Next.

4.1.4 Deleting Connections

Deleting a connection deletes the association of a connection name with a broker and a configuration file. It does not affect the broker executable referenced by the configuration file and it does not affect the configuration file it references (if one exists).

► **To delete a connection:**

1. In the Connections window (Figure 6 on page 39), select the connection that you want to delete.
2. If the connection is connected, choose **Connection > Disable Connection**.
3. Choose **Connection > Remove Connection**.
4. Click OK. A confirmation dialog box opens.
5. Click OK.

4.1.5 The Exercise Connection Configuration File

The exercise connection configuration (exConnConfig) file, *MAK-ONE-YYYY-Config.xml*, specifies the basic set of connection settings for a set of MAK ONE product releases. You can create multiple configuration files and use them for different exercises or environments, and then simply specify that the MAK ONE product use the desired configuration file.

i If you share the same file between multiple MAK ONE applications and include application-specific settings in the file, there may be undesired results.

Broker Connections and the exConnConfig File

When a broker connection is created for the first time, the broker loads its initial connection settings from a shared exercise connection configuration file. By default, this file is *MAK-ONE-YYYY-Config.xml*, which is distributed with the VR-Link installation and contains the default values for settings common across all MAK ONE applications, such as

the federation execution name, FED file name, RPR FOM version and revision, and the set of FOM modules used by HLA Evolved federates. These values serve as the baseline configuration for any newly created broker, ensuring that a new connection starts with consistent defaults that match the rest of the MAK ONE product suite.

Once you launch the broker and make any desired changes to the connection settings through the VR-Exchange GUI, those settings are persisted to the broker's own configuration file, which uses the *.bcf* extension. On all subsequent launches of that same connection, the broker loads the *.bcf* file and its values take precedence over the defaults from the exercise connection configuration file. The exercise connection configuration file is used only to seed the initial defaults for a new broker connection, while the *.bcf* file preserves your customizations for future sessions. If you want to reset a broker connection back to the shared defaults, you can delete the corresponding *.bcf* file. The broker then falls back to the exercise connection configuration file on its next launch.

These two files serve different purposes. The exercise connection configuration file is a shared, read-only resource intended to define organization-wide or deployment-wide defaults. It should not contain settings that are specific to a single broker instance, as it is read by all broker types and all MAK ONE applications. The *.bcf* file, by contrast, is specific to a single broker connection and stores that connection's complete set of operational and protocol-specific parameters, including any user modifications. Editing the exercise connection configuration file only affects broker connections created after you make the edits; it does not alter the behavior of any existing connection that already has a saved *.bcf* file.

When using the shared exercise connection configuration file, there are things you should keep in mind about protocol compatibility. Because the file is shared across all HLA protocol variants as well as DIS, some settings within it only apply to specific protocols. For example, the `fedFileName` value in the configuration file is always specified in the HLA Evolved format, referencing an XML-based FOM file such as `RPR\_FOM\_v2.0\_1516-2010.xml`. This value is not meaningful for HLA 1.3 or HLA 1516 broker builds, which require *fed* or protocol-specific *.xml* files respectively. For this reason, the HLA 1.3 and HLA 1516 brokers do not read the `fedFileName` from the exercise connection configuration file and instead retain their compile-time defaults. Similarly, settings such as FOM modules, the MIM module, and the federate name are only transferred to HLA Evolved builds. Settings that are common across all protocols, such as the federation execution name, RPR FOM version and revision, and the use of HLA advisories, are transferred regardless of the protocol variant.

Specifying Exercise Connection Configuration Files on the Command Line

You can specify the exercise connection configuration file as a command-line argument when launching a broker. When you use the `--exConnConfigFile` argument followed by the path to an XML configuration file, the broker loads that file instead of the default *MAK-ONE-YYYY-Config.xml*. This is useful in deployment scenarios where different federations or exercises require different baseline configurations. For example, launching a broker with `--exConnConfigFile MyExercise-Config.xml` causes the broker to read its initial connection defaults from *MyExercise-Config.xml*. Multiple configuration files can be specified by repeating the argument, in which case the files are loaded in order and later files override values set by earlier ones.

This command-line option only affects the initial defaults loaded from the exercise connection configuration file for a new broker connection; it does not override values already persisted in an existing *.bcf* file for that connection.

4.2. Configuring Connections

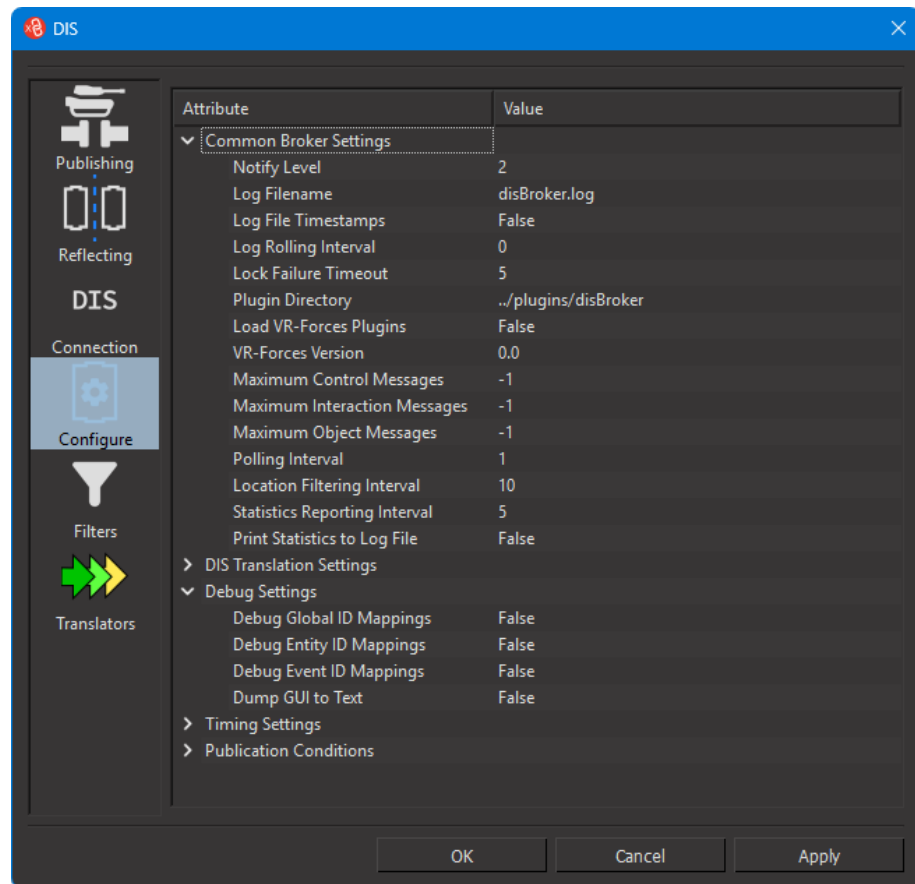
This section describes the attributes you can configure on the Configure page of the Connection Information dialog box.

Each connection has a set of attributes that you can set. If you use the default attribute values, VR-Exchange does not create a configuration file for the connection. If you change any of the attributes, VR-Exchange saves them to the configuration file you specified when you created the connection.

► **To configure a connection:**

1. In the Connections window (Figure 6 on page 39), select the connection that you want to configure.
2. Choose **Connection > Edit Connection Information**, or double-click the connection. The Connection Information dialog box opens (Figure 22). (When you add a new connection, the Connection Information dialog box opens automatically after you create the connection.)

Figure 22. Connection Information dialog box



3. Select the Configure page. It lists attributes for the connection, organized in logical groupings, except for the network connection settings. These are configured on the Connections page.
4. Expand the attribute tree to find the attributes you want to edit.
5. To edit an attribute, click its value. The field becomes editable.
 - If the field has a single text or numeric value, change the value as desired. Some values are available on drop-down lists. The attributes are listed and described in later sections in this chapter.
 - If the attribute value is a collection, edit it as described in "4.2.1 Specifying Collection Values" below.
6. Click OK. If the connection was enabled, the changes do not take effect until you restart the connection. VR-Exchange prompts you to restart the connection.

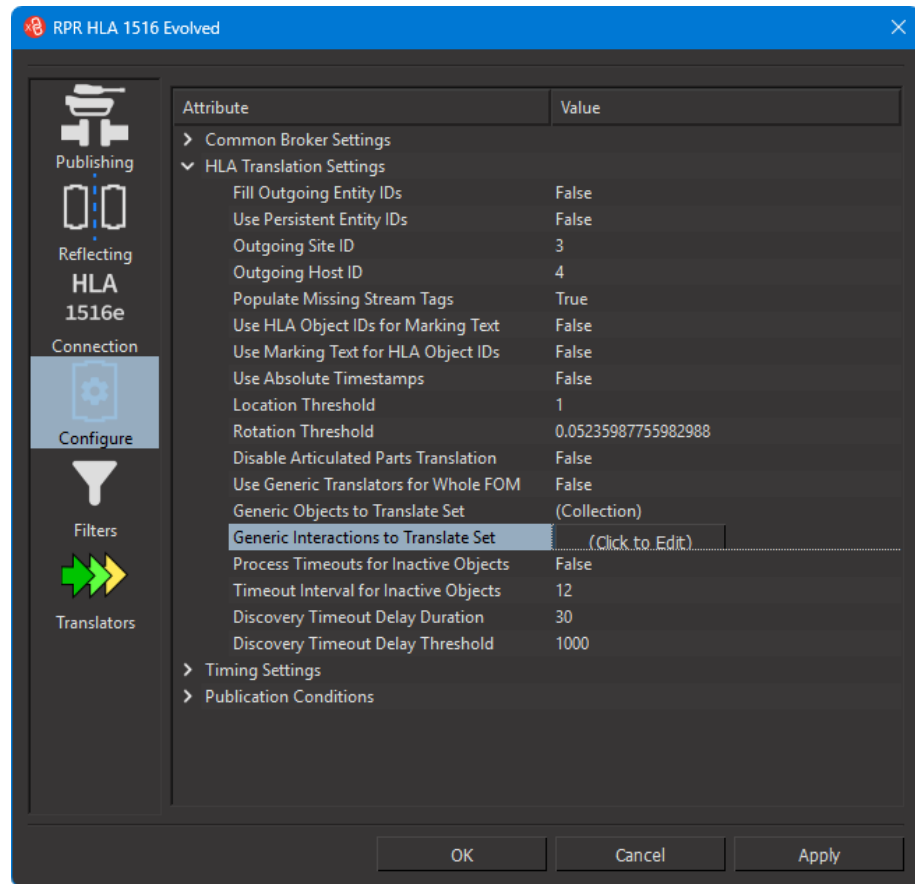
4.2.1 Specifying Collection Values

Some attributes can take multiple values (collections).

► **To specify the values for a collection:**

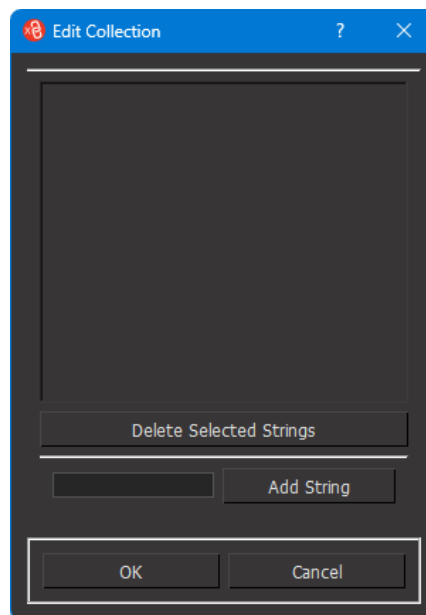
1. In the Configure page for a connection, expand the attribute list to display the collection attribute you want to edit.
2. Click the word Collection in the Value column (Figure 23). It changes to a button labeled Click to Edit.

Figure 23. Collection value



- Click the button. The Edit Collection dialog box opens (Figure 24).

Figure 24. Edit Collection dialog box



4. In the text box, type the string you want to add.
5. Click Add String. The string is added to the list window.
6. Click OK.

Removing Values from a Collection

► **To remove values from a collection:**

1. In the Configure page for a connection, click the word Collection in the Value column (Figure 23). It changes to the text Click to Edit.
2. Click the button. The Edit Collection dialog box opens (Figure 24).
3. In the list window, select the strings that you want to delete.
4. Click Delete Selected Strings.
5. Click OK.

4.2.2 Common Broker Settings

Table 10 describes the attributes in the Common Broker Settings group. They are the same for all of the brokers.

Table 10. Common broker settings attributes

Attribute	Description
Notify Level	The logging output level for the broker's log file. Range 0-4, where: 0 = Fatal error messages. 1 = Warning messages. 2 = Informational messages. 3 = Verbose information. 4 = Debugging data. Default: 2.
Log Filename	The name of the file to log broker output to. Default: "" (no log file).
Log File Timestamps	Specifies whether or not timestamps are printed to the log file.
Log Rolling Interval	How often, in seconds, to roll the log over to a new file.
Lock Failure Timeout	How long, in seconds, to wait for shared memory locks before retrying.
Plugin Directory	The directory to search in for broker plug-ins.
Maximum Control Messages	The maximum number of Portal control messages to process per call to drainInput(). If set to -1, then all messages are processed. Default: -1.
Maximum Interaction Messages	The maximum number of Portal interaction messages to process per call to drainInput(). If set to -1, then all messages are processed. Default: -1.

Table 10. Common broker settings attributes (continued)

Attribute	Description
Maximum Object Messages	The maximum number of Portal object messages to process per call to drainInput(). If set to -1, then all messages are processed. Default: -1.
Polling Interval	The interval, in seconds, between each call to drainInput() on the exercise connection. Default: 1.
Location Filtering Interval	The time, in seconds, between checking entity locations for filtering
Statistics Reporting Interval	The frequency that the broker should report statistics.
Print Statistics to Log File	If true, print the broker statistics to the log file specified in Log Filename.

4.2.3 Configuring Publication Conditions

By default, VR-Exchange does not translate some HLA objects until certain conditions are met. For example, an entity is not translated until its entity ID is a non-zero value. This is done because various mappings exist between DIS and HLA identifiers. However, there are situations in which IDs and other attributes are not specified. Turning off publication conditions allows you to translate these objects.

If a condition is set to True, an HLA object is not published until the condition is true. If a condition is set to False, the object is published without satisfying this condition.

You can set discovery criteria for the following objects:

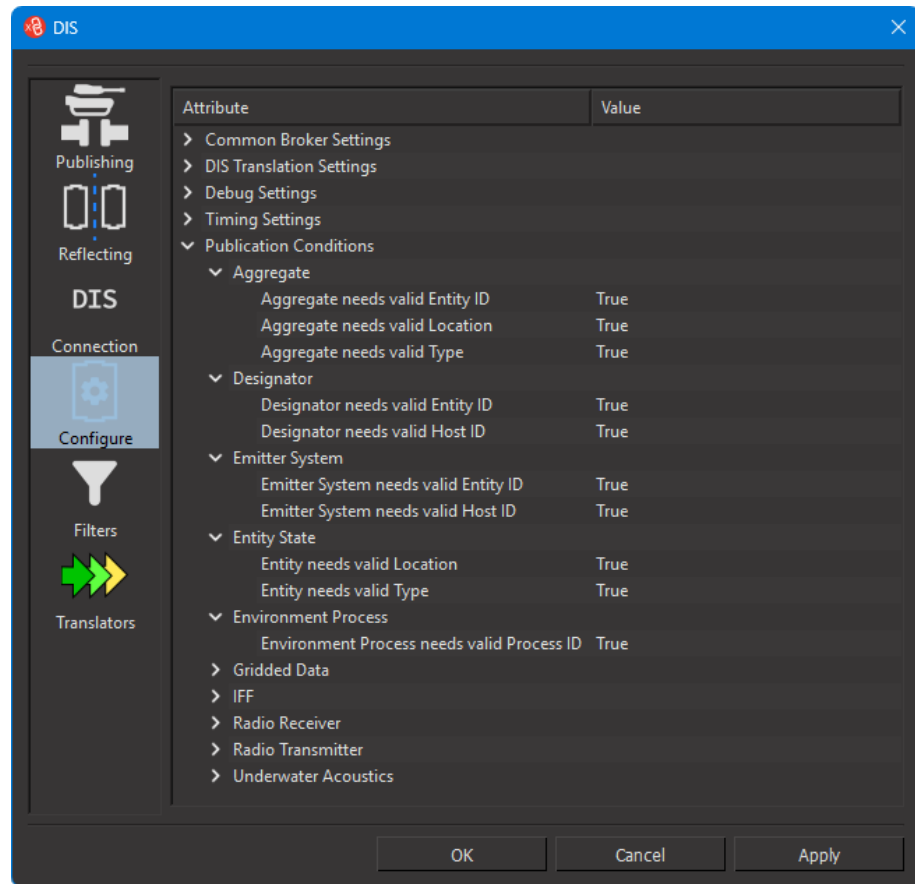
- Aggregate:
 - Aggregate needs valid Entity ID.
 - Aggregate needs valid Location.
 - Aggregate needs valid Type.
- Designator:
 - Designator needs valid Entity ID.
 - Designator needs valid Host ID.
- Emitter System:
 - Emitter System needs valid Entity ID.
 - Emitter System needs valid Host ID.
- Entity State:
 - Entity needs valid Entity ID. (HLA only.)
 - Entity needs valid Location.
 - Entity needs valid Type.

- Environment Process:
 - Environment Process needs valid Process ID.
- Gridded Data:
 - Gridded Data needs valid Grid ID.
- IFF:
 - IFF needs valid Entity ID.
 - IFF needs valid Host ID.
- Radio Receiver:
 - Radio Receiver needs valid Entity ID.
 - Radio Receiver needs valid Host ID.
- Radio Transmitter:
 - Radio Transmitter needs valid Entity ID.
 - Radio Transmitter needs valid Host ID.
- Underwater Acoustics:
 - Underwater Acoustics needs valid Acoustic ID.
 - Underwater Acoustics needs valid Entity ID.
 - Underwater Acoustics needs valid Host ID.

► **To configure publication conditions:**

1. In the Connections window (Figure 6 on page 39), select the connection that you want to configure.
2. Choose **Connection > Edit Connection Information** or double-click the connection. The Connection Information dialog box opens.
3. Select the Configure page (Figure 25).

Figure 25. Publication conditions



4. Expand the Publication Conditions section.
5. Expand the hierarchy for the message type whose publication conditions you want to change.
6. Click the value to make it editable.
7. Select the value that you want.
8. Click OK.

4.2.4 Protocol-Specific Attributes

The Configure page for the different brokers has some attribute groupings used in one or more brokers, but the attributes themselves vary by broker. The following sections describe them.

HLA Translation Settings and Timing Settings

Table 11 describes the HLA-specific attributes grouped under translation settings and timing settings.

Table 11. HLA connection attributes

Attribute	Description
HLA Translation Settings	
Fill Outgoing Entity IDs	Enables or disables filling out the entity ID (site:host:id) for all outgoing HLA entities. Use this parameter to spoof gateways that require DIS entity IDs for RPR FOM objects. Default: False.
Use Persistent Entity IDs	Specifies that entity IDs persist after disconnects. If this feature is enabled, when you replay an exercise, entities with common names will use the same entity IDs that they did in previous runs. To enable this feature, set Use Persistent Entity IDs to True. Default: False. You must also enable Fill Outgoing Entity IDs. This attribute saves entity IDs to the file <i>hlaPersistentEntityNumMap.csv</i> . Default: False.
Outgoing Site ID	The site ID to use when Fill Outgoing Entity IDs is True. Default: 3.
Outgoing Host ID	The host ID to use when Fill Outgoing Entity IDs is True. Default: 4.
Use HLA Object IDs For Marking Text	When enabled, the broker uses the HLA object ID from reflected HLA objects to set the marking text when it sends information to the Portal. This is useful for mapping non-RPR FOM-based FOMs that do not have marking text to RPR FOM-based FOMs that might rely on it. Default: False.
Use Marking Text for HLA Object IDs	When enabled, the broker uses the marking text for objects it discovers in the Portal to name the HLA objects it is sending to its federation. If this parameter is enabled, HLA objects are not published until a valid marking text is supplied. Default: False.
Use Absolute Timestamps	Enables or disables use of absolute time stamping. Default: False.
Disable Articulated Parts Translation	Specifies whether or not to translate articulated parts. This can be used when your exercise has circular dependencies or otherwise non-standard configurations of articulated parts that might confuse the brokers.
Use Generic Translators for Whole FOM	Enables or disables use of generic translation for the entire FOM. Default: False.

Table 11. HLA connection attributes (continued)

Attribute	Description
Generic Objects to Translate Set	A list of HLA object classes to translate using the generic object translator. The generic object translator does not work with a FOM Mapper and the classes represented in this list must be exactly the same in all receiving FOMs. In cases where there are more than two brokers, only the two for which they are exactly the same should have this parameter set. (For information about generic translation, see "B.1.2 Generic Translations" on page 101.) Default: an empty list.
Generic Interactions to Translate Set	A list of HLA interaction classes to translate using the generic interaction translator. (For information about generic translation, see "B.1.2 Generic Translations" on page 101.) Default: an empty list.
Timing Settings	
Heartbeat	The frequency with which to send an update if there is no change. Default: -1 (means do not heartbeat).
HLA Maximum Tick Time	Specifies the maximum amount of time, in seconds, to tick the RTI before processing incoming messages. -1 = Tick the RTI until all messages are read. >0 = Tick the RTI at least HLA Minimum Tick Time, but no more than this value. Default: -1.
HLA Minimum Tick Time	Specifies the minimum amount of time, in seconds, to tick the RTI before processing incoming messages. Default: 0.0.

DIS Translation Settings, Debug Settings, and Timing Settings

Table 12 lists DIS-specific attributes grouped under translation settings, debug settings, and timing settings.

Table 12. DIS connection attributes

Parameter	Description
DIS Translation Settings	
Parse Unknown IDs	Tells the DIS Broker to try to parse a DIS ID out of a Portal Object ID if there is not already a known entity available. For example, if the Portal ID (a string) is "1:2:3", and if the DIS Broker does not already know about string "1:2:3", it tries to create a DIS ID from the string, in this case 1:2:3. Default: True.
Remap DIS IDs	Enables or disables mapping of all DIS entity IDs to match the site and host IDs specified in the configuration file. This corrects errors caused by rogue DIS objects in a DIS-to-HLA-to-DIS exercise. DIS IDs are remapped on send. Default: False.
Use Persistent Entity IDs	Specifies that entity IDs persist after disconnects. If this feature is enabled, when you replay an exercise, entities with common names use the same entity IDs that they did in previous runs. To enable this feature, set Use Persistent Entity IDs to True. You must also enable Fill Outgoing Entity IDs. This attribute saves entity IDs to the file <i>disPersistentEntityNumMap.csv</i> . Default: False.
Application Number	The DIS application number. It is used for creating entity IDs for PDUs originating from the DIS broker. It must be unique. Default: 27.
Site ID	Specifies the DIS site ID. Default: 1.
Use Absolute Timestamps	Specifies the use of absolute timestamps on PDUs or interactions. False = Do not use absolute timestamps. True = Use absolute timestamps. Default: False.
DIS Protocol Version to Send	The DIS PDU version to send, where: 4 = DIS 2.0.4 5 = IEEE 1278.1 6 = IEEE 1278.1a 7 = IEEE 1278.1-2012 Default: 5.
DIS Minimum Protocol Version to Receive	The minimum DIS PDU version to receive. Default: 7.

Table 12. DIS connection attributes (continued)

Parameter	Description
DIS Maximum Protocol Version to Receive	The maximum DIS PDU version to receive. Default: 6.
Disable Articulated Parts Translation	Specifies whether or not to translate articulated parts. This can be used when your exercise has circular dependencies or otherwise non-standard configurations of articulated parts that might confuse the brokers.
Debug Settings	
Debug Global ID Mappings	Enables or disables mapping of Portal object IDs to DIS entity IDs in the debug output. notifyLevel must be set to at least 2 for this to work. Default: False.
Debug Entity ID Mappings	Enables or disables mapping of Portal entity IDs to DIS entity IDs in the debug output. Default: False.
Debug Event ID Mappings	Enables or disables mapping of Portal event IDs to DIS event IDs in the debug output. Default: False.
Dump GUI to Text	Enables or disables logging of GUI updates to the log file. When enabled, the Portal outputs a line each time an update comes from the translator. This information is already displayed in the GUI, but using Dump GUI to Text makes a better record for debugging. Notify Level must be set to at least 2 for this to work. Default: False.
Timing Settings	
Heartbeat Interval	Specifies the number of seconds between heartbeats of published entities. Default: 5.0 seconds.
Timeout Interval	Specifies the number of seconds before a reflected entity times out and the DIS broker removes it. Default: 10.0 seconds.
Drain Timeout	Specifies the timeout value, in seconds, for reading PDUs from the network, as follows: -1 = No timeout. Poll network until all PDUs are read. >0 = Poll the network, reading the number of PDUs specified by Number of PDUs Read Per Tick, until all PDUs are read or the timeout value is reached, whichever comes first. Default: -1.
Number of PDUs Read Per Tick	Specifies the number of PDUs to read before checking to see if the amount of time specified by Drain Timeout has been reached. Default: 100.
Multicast Time-to-Live	Specifies a multicast time-to-live value. Default: 0 (use the system default).

DDS Translation Settings, Debug Settings, and Timing Settings

Table 13 lists DDS-specific attributes grouped under translation settings, debug settings, and timing settings.

Table 13. DDS connection attributes

Parameter	Description
DDS Translation Settings	
Parse Unknown IDs	Tells the DIS Broker to try to parse a DDS ID out of a Portal Object ID if there is not already a known entity available. For example, if the Portal ID (a string) is "1:2:3", and if the DDS Broker does not already know about string "1:2:3", it tries to create a DDS ID from the string, in this case 1:2:3. Default: True.
Fill Outgoing Entity IDs	Enables or disables filling out the entity ID (site:host:id) for all outgoing HLA entities. Use this parameter to spoof gateways that require DIS entity IDs for RPR FOM objects. Default: False.
Use Persistent Entity IDs	Specifies that entity IDs persist after disconnects. If this feature is enabled, when you replay an exercise, entities with common names use the same entity IDs that they did in previous runs. To enable this feature, set Use Persistent Entity IDs to True. You must also enable Fill Outgoing Entity IDs. This attribute saves entity IDs to the file <i>disPersistentEntityNumMap.csv</i> . Default: False.
Use DDS Object ID for Marking Text	Fill the Marking Text field with the DDS Object ID.
Use Marking Text for DDS Object ID	Fill the DDS Object ID with the marking text if it is properly formatted.
Guise is Entity Type	Use the guise attribute as the entity type.
Force Updates	Force all objects to update even if they have not changed.
Debug Settings	
Debug Global ID Mappings	Enables or disables mapping of Portal object IDs to DDS entity IDs in the debug output. notifyLevel must be set to at least 2 for this to work. Default: False.
Debug Entity ID Mappings	Enables or disables mapping of Portal entity IDs to DDS entity IDs in the debug output. Default: False.
Dump GUI to Text	Enables or disables logging of GUI updates to the log file. When enabled, the Portal outputs a line each time an update comes from the translator. This information is already displayed in the GUI, but using Dump GUI to Text makes a better record for debugging. Notify Level must be set to at least 2 for this to work. Default: False.

Table 13. DDS connection attributes (continued)

Parameter	Description
Timing Settings	
DDS Tick Time	The tick rate for the DDS broker.
Object Throttle Rates	The DDS global object throttle rate.

4.3. Configuring Network Connections

Each broker connection dialog box has a Connection page, where you can configure the network connections for the broker. The parameters are protocol-specific.

► **To configure a broker's network connection:**

1. In the Connections window (Figure 6 on page 39), select the connection that you want to configure.
2. Choose **Connection > Edit Connection Information** or double-click the connection. The Connection Information dialog box opens.
3. Select the Connection page. Figure 26 illustrates the Connections page for a DIS broker.

Figure 26. DIS Network Connections page

The screenshot shows the DIS Network Connections configuration window. The sidebar on the left contains icons for Publishing, Reflecting, DIS (highlighted), Connection, Configure, Filters, and Translators. The main configuration area includes the following fields:

- Port: 3000
- Exercise ID: 1
- Network Interface Address: 172.10.10.55
- Advanced button
- Destination Address: 172.10.255.255
- Multicast Subscription Set: (empty field with a file icon)
- Send Buffer Size: Default
- Receive Buffer Size: Default
- Multicast TTL: Default
- Subnet Mask: (empty field)

At the bottom of the window are buttons for OK, Cancel, and Apply.

- Edit the parameters. The parameters are described in the following sections.

4.3.1 HLA Network Connection Parameters

Table 14 describes the HLA-specific parameters that you can configure for connections that use the HLA broker.

Table 14. HLA network connection parameters

Attribute	Description
HLA Execution Name	Specifies the name of the HLA federation execution that this broker will join. Default: VR-Link.
HLA FED File Name	Specifies the name of the FED file being used for the federation execution. It must be the complete name including the three-character extension (<i>.fed</i>). Default: VR-Link.fed.
Federate Type	Specifies the HLA Federate type. Federate Type can be used to distinguish different categories of federates, and its only practical use is in save-and-restore. Default: VR-Exchange.

Table 14. HLA network connection parameters (continued)

Attribute	Description
FOM Mapper Library Name	Specifies the name of a FOM mapper library, if you are using one. If you want to use one of the FOM Mappers supplied with VR-Exchange, leave this attribute blank and specify a FOM Mapper for the Built In FOM Mapper Attribute. Default: "".
FOM Mapper Initialization Data	Specifies a string that is passed to the FOM mapper library specified in FOM Mapper Library Name. This data is optional. Default: "".
Built In FOM Mapper	If the federation is using the RPR FOM, specifies the version, and for RPR FOM 2, draft 17, the revision. RPR FOM revision 2 for version 2.0017 fixes an encoding and decoding size issue with object ID lists to match RPR FOM 2 draft 17. The encoding and decoding issues affected the Aggregates, JammerBeams, and RadarBeams objects and the RemoveObjectRequest, AttributeChangeRequest, and ActionRequestToObject interactions. The built-in FOM Mappers are: • RPR FOM 1.0 • RPR FOM 2, draft 14 • RPR FOM 2, draft 17, Revision 1 • RPR FOM 2, draft 17, Revision 2. Default: RPR FOM 1.0.
Use HLA Advisories	Specifies whether the broker should use RTI advisory messages when determining what attributes to update. • False = Send attribute updates regardless of whether someone subscribes to the attribute with the RTI. • True = Send attribute updates only when someone subscribes to the attribute. Default: False.
Additional Connection Settings for HLA Evolved	
Federate Name	The Federate Name is a unique name that can be assigned to the federate. No two federates within the same federation can have the same name. If no name is specified, the RTI automatically assigns a unique name for the federate.
HLA Evolved FOM Module Names	HLA Evolved allows federates with different FOMs to interoperate without merging their FOMs. This is done by loading FOM modules.
Local Settings Designator	A string that is passed to the RTI during federate connect when using HLA Evolved. It is usually used to provide additional RTI configuration, but every RTI uses it differently. Please consult your RTI documentation for proper usage. This setting is optional for the MAK RTI. If you specify it, it overrides the RID file settings.

4.3.2 DIS Network Connection Parameters

Table 15 lists parameters that you can configure for network connections that use the DIS broker.

Table 15. DIS network connection parameters

Parameter	Description
Port	Specifies the port to receive network PDUs from and send them to. Default: 3000.
Exercise ID	Specifies the DIS exercise ID. Default: 1.
Network Interface Address	Specifies the IP address of the network device to use for sending DIS PDUs.
Destination Address	Specifies the address of outgoing DIS PDUs. If set to 0.0.0.0, the default broadcast address is used.
Multicast Subscription Set	Specifies a list of multicast addresses the DIS broker should subscribe to for DIS communication. Default: an empty list.
Send Buffer Size	Sets the socket's send buffer size. Default: 0.
Receive Buffer Size	Sets the DIS socket's buffer received size. If you think the broker is dropping incoming packets during periods of heavy network traffic, increasing this value might help. A typical default value is 50000. If you set the size to zero, the DIS broker uses the default size for the operating system. Default: 0.
Multicast TTL	Specifies the number of routers that a message can pass through when PDUs are sent to multicast addresses.
Subnet Mask	VR-Exchange can usually figure out the subnet mask from the IP address. However, if it does not do this correctly, you can explicitly specify the subnet mask.

4.3.3 DDS Network Connection Parameters

The DDS broker has two network connection parameters: **Partition Name** and **Domain ID**.

Domain ID is an integer that represents an address space for DDS applications. DDS applications must join the same DDS Domain to communicate.

Partition Name specifies the DDS partition to join using the RTS. Partitions can be used to control which DataWriters can communicate with DataReaders within a domain.

4.4. Specifying Filters in the Connection Information Dialog Box

You can filter out objects by their object type, object name, marking text, or geospatial location. Filtering by entity type and marking text applies only to entities and aggregates.

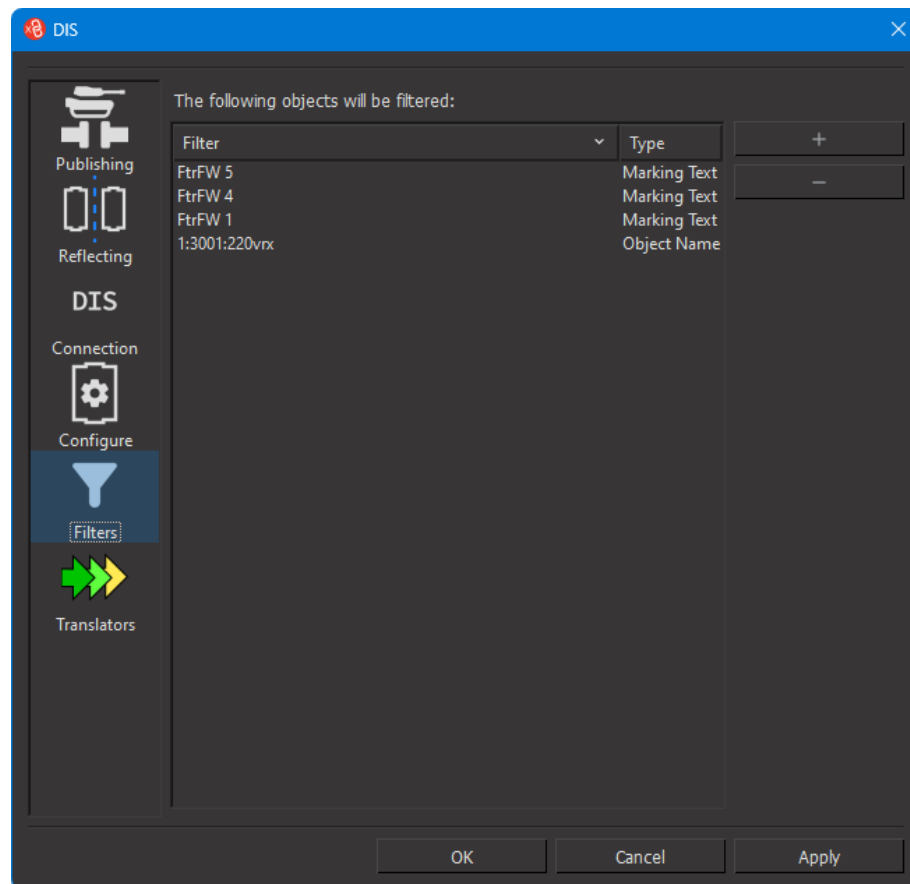
The filtering mechanism supports use of wildcards. When you filter by geospatial location, you supply a latitude, a longitude, and a radius. All entities that are outside of the radius are filtered out.

This section explains how to add and remove filters in the Connection Information dialog box. You can also do so dynamically in the Objects window. For details, see "3.5. Filtering Objects in the Objects Window" on page 48.

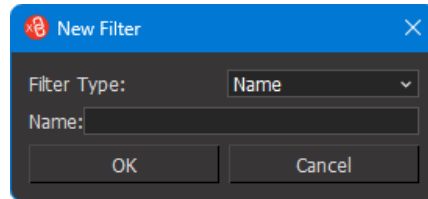
► **To filter an object:**

1. Select the broker connection on which you want to configure a filter.
2. Choose **Connection > Edit Connection Information** or double-click the connection. The Connection Information dialog box opens.
3. Select the Filter page (Figure 27). It displays any filters that you have set in the Objects window or in this dialog box.

Figure 27. Filter page



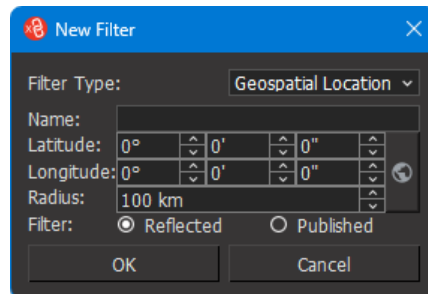
4. Click the Add icon (+). The New Filter dialog box opens (Figure 28).

Figure 28. New Filter dialog box

5. Select the filter type from the Filter Type drop-down list. The dialog box redisplay and requests the type of information needed for the filter that you selected.
6. Enter the filter value. If you chose Name or Marking Text as the filter type, enter the appropriate text for the object you want to filter. You can use wildcards such as *, ?, and [abcd] to define a generalized ID.

If you chose Type, VR-Exchange automatically inserts an enumeration value (all zeros) in the field. Enter the enumeration for the object you want to filter. (If you mouse over the entity icon in the Type column of the Objects window, VR-Exchange displays the entity type enumeration for the object. This information may be helpful in deciding the enumeration you want to use when filtering by entity type.)

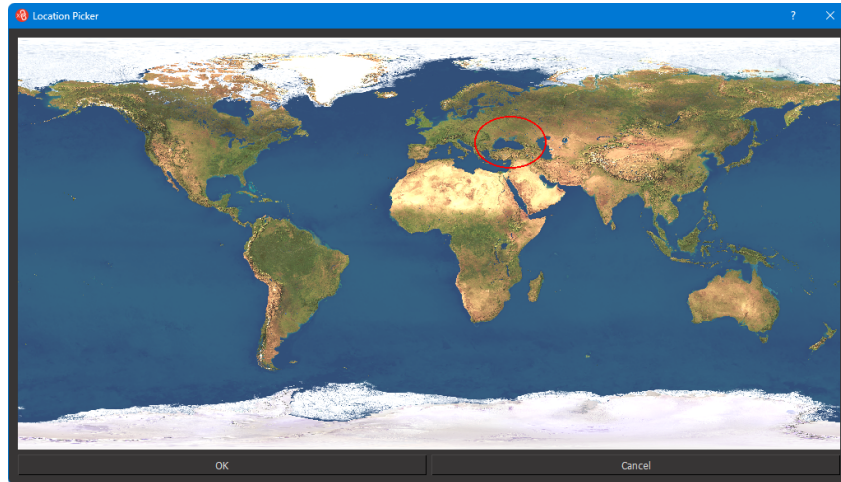
If you chose Geospatial Location (Figure 29), provide the latitude and longitude of the location, in degrees, minutes, seconds, and the radius around it outside of which entities should be filtered out. You can also specify that the filter apply to incoming packets, outgoing packets, or both.

Figure 29. Geospatial Location filter

You can also specify the location graphically:

- a. Click the map button (Figure 29). A map of the world opens.
- b. Draw a circle to define the area you want to filter (Figure 30).

Figure 30. Location Picker window



- c. Click OK.

7. Click OK. The new filter is added to the list.

4.4.1 Editing a Filter

► **To edit a filter:**

1. Select the broker connection for which you want to edit a filter.
2. Choose **Connection > Edit Connection Information** or double-click the connection. The Connection Information dialog box opens.
3. Select the Filter page (Figure 27 on page 77).
4. Double-click the filter that you want to edit. The New Filter dialog box opens (Figure 28 on the previous page).
5. Edit the values as desired.
6. Click OK.

4.4.2 Removing a Filter

When you delete a filter in the Connection Information dialog box, its status in the Objects window is updated. However, there may be some latency between the two events.

► **To delete a filter:**

1. Select the broker connection from which you want to remove a filter.
2. Choose **Connection > Edit Connection Information** or double-click the connection. The Connection Information dialog box opens.
3. Select the Filter page (Figure 27 on page 77).

4. Select the filter that you want to delete.
5. Click the Delete icon (—).

4.5. Specifying Which Translators to Use

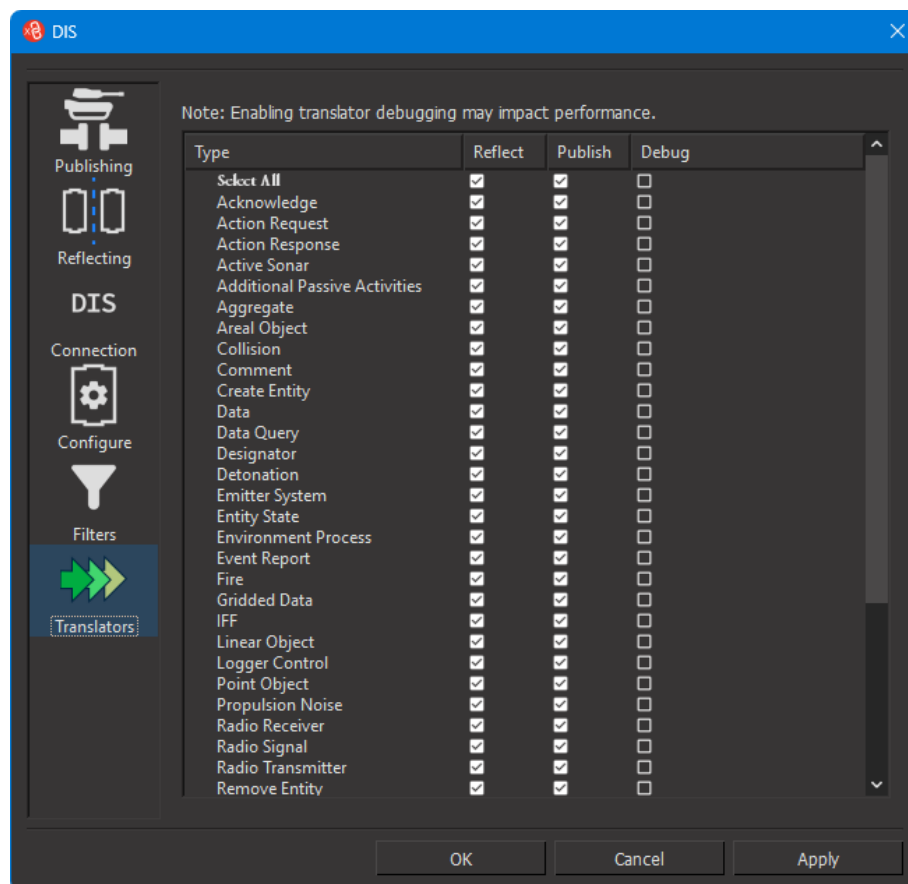
Each broker has a set of translators. For each translator, you can specify whether it reads from the network and writes to the network.

i When you enable or disable a translator, you must restart the broker for the change to take effect.

► **To specify which translators a connection should use:**

1. In the Connections window (Figure 6 on page 39), select the connection that you want to configure.
2. Choose **Connection > Edit Connection Information** or double-click the connection. The Connection Information dialog box opens.
3. Select the Translators page (Figure 31).

Figure 31. Translators page



4. In the Reflect column, select the check box for each translator that you want the broker to read from the network. Clear the check box for each translator that you do not want to read.
5. In the Publish column, select the check box for each translator that you want the broker to write to the network. Clear the check box for each translator that you do not want to write.
6. In the Debug column, select the check box for a translator if you want VR-Exchange to send debugging messages for this translator. If debugging is enabled, the notify level must be at least 2.
7. To select or clear all check boxes in a column, select or clear the Select All check box at the top of the list.
8. Click OK.

4.6. Viewing Publishing and Reflecting Lists

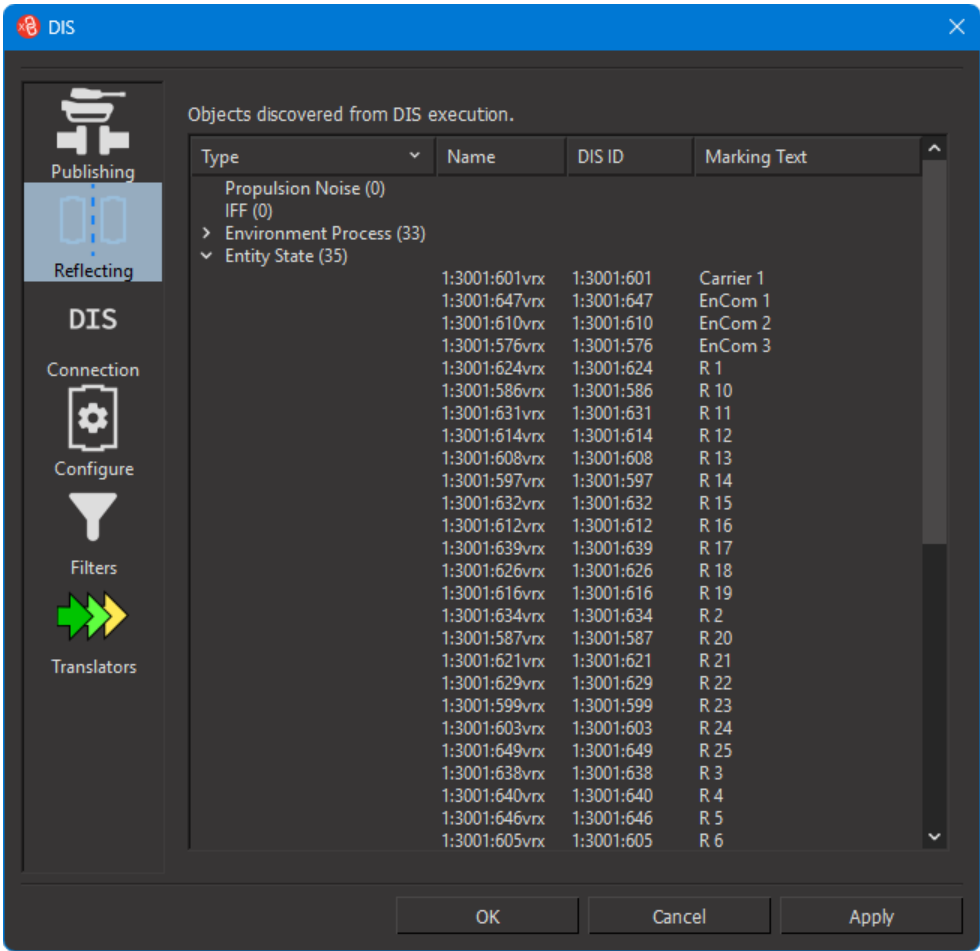
You can view lists of the objects that a connection is publishing and reflecting. You can open information windows for multiple connections at the same time.

- The Publishing page displays the objects that the connection has discovered from the Portal and published to its simulation network.
- The Reflecting page displays the objects that the connection has discovered on its simulation network and published to the Portal.

► **To view connection information:**

1. In the Connections window (Figure 6 on page 39), select the connection whose details you want to display.
2. Choose **Connection > Edit Connection Information** or double-click the connection. The Connection Information dialog box opens.
3. Select the Publishing page or the Reflecting page (Figure 32).

Figure 32. HLA connection Reflecting page





5. VR-Exchange Tutorials

This chapter has tutorials for common VR-Exchange use cases.

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5.1. Examples of Using VR-Exchange

This section has two examples of using VR-Exchange. The first shows how to have a DIS application interact with an HLA application on the same computer. The second shows how to connect two federates using different RTI versions. In both tutorials, we use the MAK Data Logger to send data through the connection and VR-Vantage to receive the data. You can, of course, use any application that you want to use when you try these tutorials.

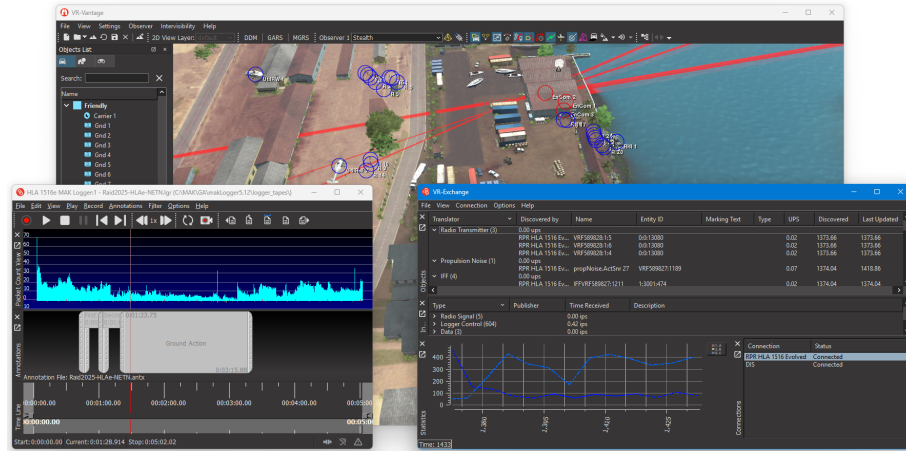
5.2. An HLA to DIS Example

In this example, we use VR-Exchange to connect the output of a MAK Data Logger running in HLA to VR-Vantage running in DIS. (The procedure assumes you know how to use these applications.)

► **To connect a DIS application to an HLA application:**

1. Start the HLA 1516 Evolved RPR FOM 2.0 version of the MAK Data Logger and load an HLA Logger file, such as *Raid2025-HLAe-NETN.lgr*.
2. Start VR-Vantage. Load the *Ala Moana.mtf* terrain and connect to DIS.
3. Start VR-Exchange.
4. Open the DIS connection and make sure that it uses the same connection and port value as VR-Vantage. If necessary, change the port value and restart the connection:
 - a. In the Connections window, double-click the DIS connection. The Connection Information dialog box opens.
 - b. Select the DIS Connection page.
 - c. If necessary, change the port number.
 - d. Click OK.
5. The connections should be connected. If they are not, enable them.
6. Play the Logger file. You should see objects and interactions listed in VR-Exchange.
7. Observe VR-Vantage to see that it is receiving the output from VR-Exchange (Figure 33).

Figure 33. HLA to DIS example



5.3. Connecting Two Different RTIs

An important use for VR-Exchange is to connect applications running different RTIs or different versions of the same RTI. This example shows how to connect applications that are using different versions of the MAK RTI. The applications could be running on the same computer (Figure 34) or on separate computers (Figure 35). In either case, you must install the two RTIs on the computer that is running VR-Exchange and must configure VR-Exchange brokers the same way.

i The RTIs must be built with the same compiler as VR-Exchange.

Figure 34. VR-Exchange configuration - one computer

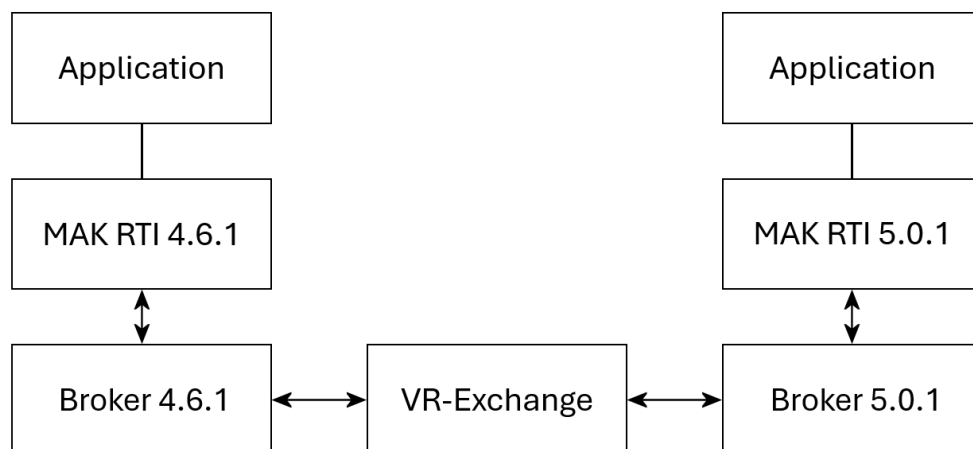
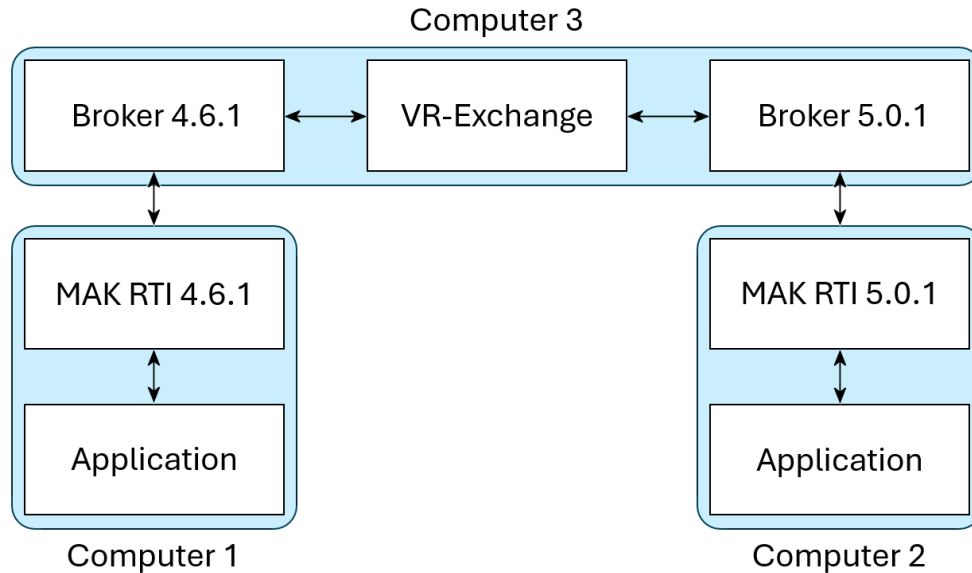


Figure 35. VR-Exchange configuration - three computers

The overall procedure is:

1. Install the RTIs.
2. Create brokers for the two RTIs.
3. Enable the brokers.
4. Run the applications.

5.3.1 Installing the RTIs

For this tutorial, we use MAK RTI 4.6.1 VC14 and MAK RTI 5.0.1 VC15 with a VC14 version of VR-Exchange. The key to this procedure is to set the environment variables for each RTI in the VR-Exchange broker, not as part of the installation.

► **To install the RTIs:**

1. Install the RTIs using their installers. Do not set either RTI as the default. When you are prompted whether to specify the RTI as the default, clear the check box.
2. Check your environment variables and make sure that these variables are not set:
 - RTI_RID_FILE.
 - RTI_ASSISTANT_PORT.
 - PATH. Be sure that there are no RTIs listed in your PATH.

i The default HLA 1516 Evolved broker included with VR-Exchange generates error messages when you launch it because it will not be able to find an RTI in the search paths. You can ignore the error messages.

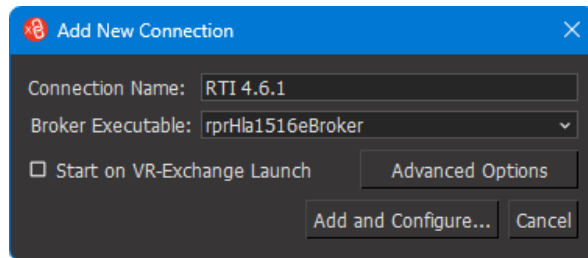
5.3.2 Adding the Brokers

You must add a broker for each RTI.

► **To add a broker:**

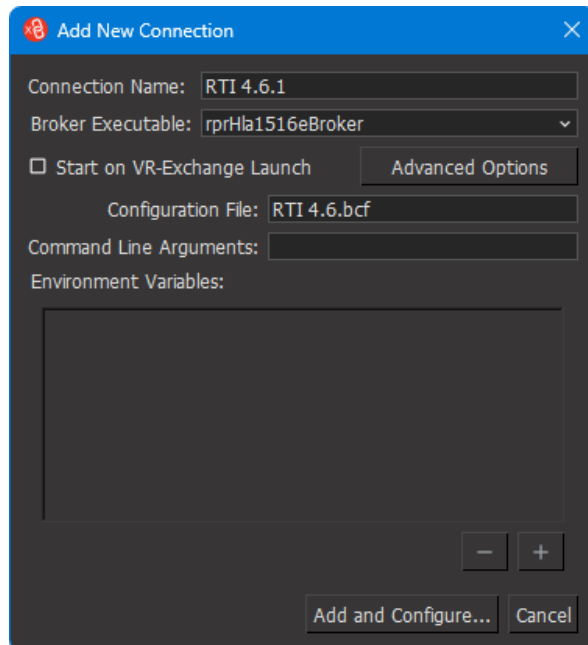
1. Open VR-Exchange. Do not connect to an RTI.
2. Choose **Connection > Add New Connection**. The Add New Connection dialog box opens (Figure 36).
3. In the Connection Name box, enter a name for the connection, for example, RTI 4.6.1.
4. In the Broker Executable box, select a broker from the drop-down list or enter the name of a broker executable. For this tutorial, select rprHla1516eBroker.

Figure 36. Add New Connection dialog box



5. Click Advanced Options. The dialog box expands (Figure 37).

Figure 37. Add New Connection dialog box, Advanced Options

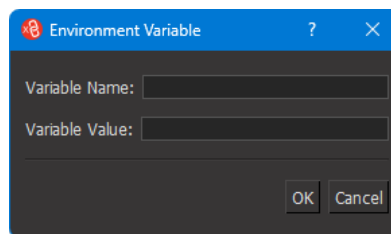


6. You will specify the environment variables for the broker:
- RTI_RID_FILE. The RID file for MAK RTI 4.6.1, for example, C:\MAK\makRti4.6.1\rtd.mtl.
 - PATH. The full system path with the RTI ./bin directory prepended. You can use variable substitution (on Windows, %PATH%; on Linux, \$PATH or \${PATH}). For example: C:\MAK\makRti4.6.1\bin;%PATH%
 - RTI_ASSISTANT_PORT. The port the RTI assistant should use.

To specify the environment variables:

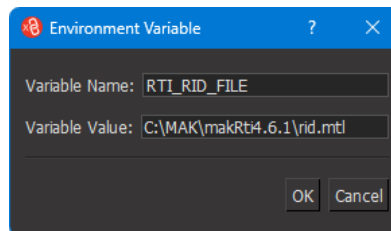
- a. Click the Add button (+) under the Environment Variables window. The Environment Variable dialog box opens (Figure 38).

Figure 38. Environment Variable dialog box



- b. In the Variable Name box, enter the name of the environment variable you want to add, for example, RTI_RID_FILE.
- c. In the Variable Value box, enter the appropriate value.

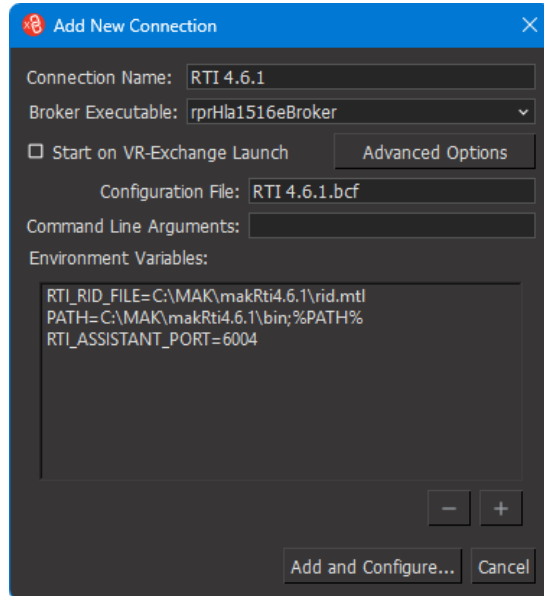
Figure 39. Completed Environment Variable dialog box



- d. Click OK.

- e. Repeat the procedure for each environment variable. Use 6004 for the port.

Figure 40. Add New Connection dialog box, completed

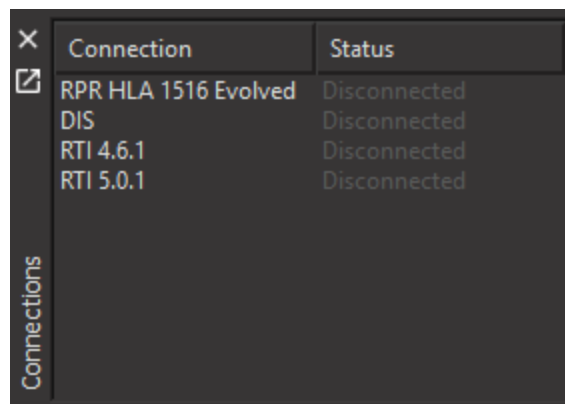


7. Click Add and Configure. The Connection Information dialog box opens.

i Note that the federation name and FOMs must match those one used in the applications you are going to connect. If you use different applications than those mentioned in this tutorial, you may need to edit the connection information.

8. Click OK in the connection information.
9. Repeat the previous steps to add a broker for MAK RTI 5.0.1. In the Broker Executable list, select rprHla4Broker. Use a different port for the RTI_ASSISTANT_PORT environment variable, such as 6005.
10. The new brokers are now listed in the Brokers window (Figure 41).

Figure 41. New brokers



5.3.3 Connecting the Brokers

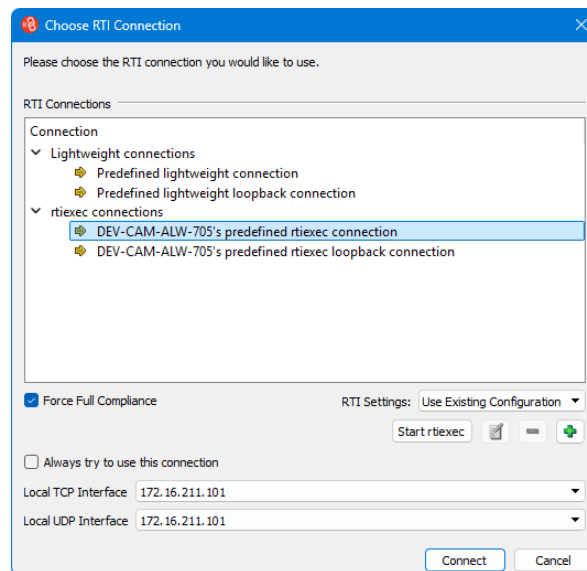
Each broker needs to connect to an RTI connection using the correct version of the RTI. They must have different ports. We will create these connections when we connect the broker.

i The configuration process described in this section is for the MAK RTI. If you use a different RTI, the process will probably be different.

► **To connect the brokers:**

1. In the Connections window, right-click the RTI 4.6.1 broker. A context menu displays.
2. Choose **Enable Connection**. The Choose RTI Connection dialog box opens. It lists the available RTI connections.

Figure 42. Choose RTI Connection



3. Select the predefined rtiexec connection for your computer.
4. Click the Add a New Connection button (+). The Add New RTI Connection dialog box opens (Figure 43). The Connection Name field has the name of your computer with the number 1 added.

Figure 43. Add New RTI Connection

The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Add New RTI Connection". It contains the following fields and options:

- Connection Name: DEV-CAM-ALW-705 1
- Host Name: DEV-CAM-ALW-705
- ☒ Use rtiexec/Forwarder
- TCP Address: 172.16.211.101
- TCP Port: 4001
- UDP Destination Address: 229.7.7.7
- UDP Port: 4000
- UDP Interface Address: 172.16.211.101
- ☒ Use IPv4 ☐ Use IPv6
- Buttons: Advanced, OK, Cancel

5. Optionally, change the name of the connection, for example, RTI 4.6.1.
6. Change the TCP Port value. Add a 4 to the default value, since this connection is for RTI 4.6.1 (making it 40014).
7. Change the UDP Port value by adding a 4 to the default value (also making it 40004).

i This procedure suggests specific port numbers. There is nothing special about these numbers. The important thing is that the port numbers be different for the two RTIs.

8. If the Advanced Forwarder Options are not displayed, click Advanced.
9. Change the Forwarder Port value to 5004. The completed connection should look similar to Figure 44.

Figure 44. New RTI connection

Add New RTI Connection

Connection Name: RTI 4.6.1

Host Name: DEV-CAM-ALW-705

☒ Use rtixec/Forwarder

TCP Address: 172.16.211.101

TCP Port: 40014

UDP Destination Address: 229.7.7.7

UDP Port: 40004

UDP Interface Address: 172.16.211.101

☒ Use IPv4 ☐ Use IPv6

Advanced OK Cancel

Advanced Forwarder Options

Forwarder Port: 5004

Forwarder Networks can be established at runtime by specifying other connections and merging their known connections.

☐ Specify Additional Forwarder Connection

Address:

10. Click OK.
11. In the Choose RTI Connection dialog box, select the new connection (Figure 45).

Figure 45. Select new RTI connection

Choose RTI Connection

Please choose the RTI connection you would like to use.

RTI Connections

Connection

- Lightweight connections
 - Predefined lightweight connection
 - Predefined lightweight loopback connection
- rtixec connections
 - DEV-CAM-ALW-705's predefined rtixec connection
 - DEV-CAM-ALW-705's predefined rtixec loopback connection
 - RTI 4.6.1**

☐ Force Full Compliance RTI Settings: Use Existing Configuration

☐ Always try to use this connection

Local TCP Interface: 127.0.0.1

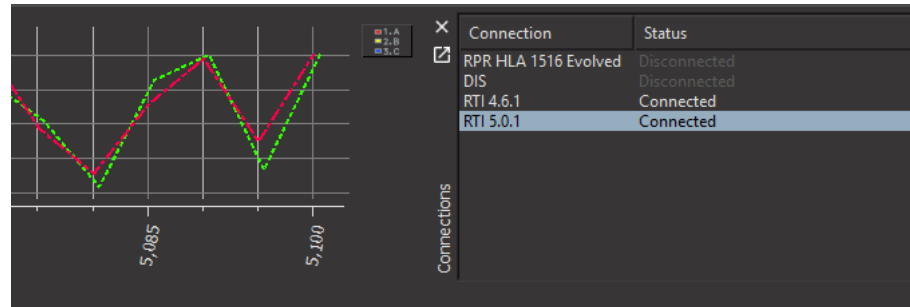
Local UDP Interface: 127.0.0.1

Start rtixec Connect Cancel

12. Click Connect. The broker connects to the RTI.
13. Repeat this procedure for the RTI 5.0.1 broker. Add a 5 to the port values and change the forwarder port to 5005.

The Connections panel now shows the two brokers are connected.

Figure 46. Connected brokers



5.3.4 Running the Applications

Three Computers

If you are running your applications on separate computers, as shown in Figure 35 on page 86, start the applications. For example, start MAK Data Logger on one computer playing an HLA1516e recording, and VR-Vantage on the second computer to display the simulation using an HLA 4 connection. VR-Exchange, on a third computer, should pick up the network traffic from the Logger using its RTI 4.6.1 broker and send it out using its RTI 5.0.1 broker to VR-Vantage (Figure 47).

One Computer

If you are running the applications on the same computer as VR-Exchange, the setup is a bit more complicated. You must set up different RTI environments and run the applications from them.

► To run applications on one computer using different versions of the MAK RTI:

1. Open up two console windows. One is for MAK RTI 4.6.1 and the other for MAK RTI 5.0.1.
2. In one console window, set the environment to match the RTI 4.6.1 broker, for example:

```
>SET RTI_RID_FILE=C:\MAK\makrti4.6.1\rid.mtl
>SET PATH=C:\MAK\makRTi4.6.1\bin;%PATH%
>SET RTI_ASSISTANT_PORT=6004
```

3. In the second console window, set the environment to match the RTI 4.6 broker, for example:

```
>SET RTI_RID_FILE=C:\MAK\makrti5.0.1\rid.mtl
>SET PATH=C:\MAK\makRTi5.0.1\bin;%PATH%
>SET RTI_ASSISTANT_PORT=6005
```

i If you do this regularly, you may want to write scripts to set the environment.

4. In the RTI 4.6.1 window, run the MAK Data Logger (or the federate of your choice), for example:

```
>cd C:\MAK\makLogger#.#\bin64
```

```
>loggerhla1516e
```

The Choose RTI Connection dialog box opens. Select the RTI 4.6.1 connection and click Connect.

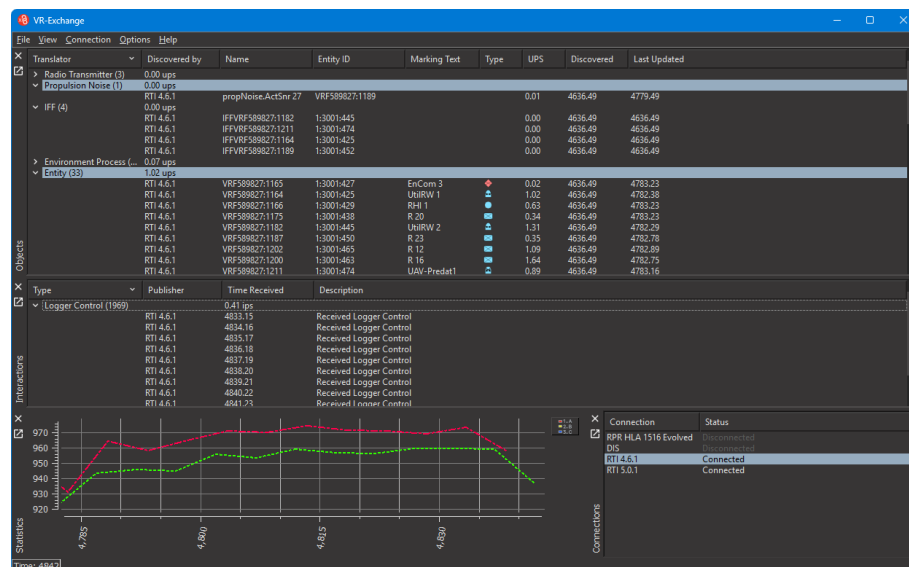
- In the RTI 5.0.1 window, run VR-Vantage (or the federate of your choice), for example:

```
>cd C:\MAK\vr_vantage#.#\bin64
>vrvStealth
```

Connect to HLA 4. The Choose RTI Connection dialog box opens. Select the RTI 5.0.1 connection and click Connect.

- Load an HLA1516e recording in the Logger and run it. In VR-Exchange, you will see that it is receiving data from the Logger (Figure 47). In VR-Vantage, load the appropriate terrain. You will see the traffic that VR-Exchange is sending to the network using RTI 5.0.1.

Figure 47. VR-Exchange routing RTI 4.6.1 traffic to RTI 5.0.1





A. Troubleshooting

This appendix describes solutions to common issues. If your problem is not covered here, visit MAK's Support Portal to request assistance (<https://www.mak.com/mak-one/support/portal>) or check the [MAK ONE Product Support Knowledge Base](https://www.mak.com/knowledge) (<https://www.mak.com/knowledge>).

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A.1. The Fault Tolerant Heap

The Fault Tolerant Heap (FTH) is a subsystem on Windows that can affect software developers and testers. If a software application crashes many times—for example, in the process of programming and debugging that application—Windows adds it to the FTH. This is significantly slower than the normal heap and can have a negative impact on the performance of the application as a result.

For more information and to learn possible solutions, see <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/win32/win7appqual/fault-tolerant-heap>.

A.2. Known Problems with Linux

A.2.1 Memory Pool Manager Issue

On Linux you might encounter the message:

```
VR-Exchange caught exception: DtSharedMemoryPoolManager() create has  
error with shmget: Invalid argument()
```

This error can occur for a couple of reasons.

- The queue manager cannot reserve enough shared memory for the internal message queues. To correct the error, do one of the following:
 - Increase the maximum shared memory allocations on your platform. On Linux the root user can do this by modifying the *shmmax* file:

```
echo "33554432" > /proc/sys/kernel/shmmax
```

 This number is typically the maximum number of bytes allocatable in shared memory. Please consult your operating system documentation first.
 - Reduce the number of buckets in the message queues.
- The user does not have write permissions in the *./tmp* directory. When VR-Exchange creates shared memory queues, it creates temporary files in *./tmp*. The files are called: *./tmp/OQ.shared*, *./tmp/IQ.shared*, and *./tmp/CQ.shared*. If those files exist and the person running VR-Exchange does not have permission to open them for writing, VR-Exchange prints out the error. To correct the problem, delete the files.

A.2.2 TCP Connection Does Not Start

Under Linux, the TCP connection sometimes fails to start. If this happens, you cannot successfully start any brokers. Shutting down the portal and starting it again usually fixes the problem.

A.2.3 Spin Boxes Do Not Display

On Linux, if you filter entities by geospatial location and you set the degrees, minutes, and seconds to their maximum values, the down arrows in the spin boxes appear to be unavailable. However, they still work.

A.3. MAK RTI in Lightweight Mode

If you use the MAK RTI in lightweight mode, misconfiguring the HLA connections can cause a feedback loop to occur. A symptom of this is seeing the number of entities rapidly increase, with the same Entity ID. This is not a bug. It is mentioned here to help you diagnose this problem should it occur.

To avoid such situations, when using the RTI in lightweight mode, make sure the first three characters of each connection's HLA Execution Name are unique.



B. Broker Details

This appendix lists the translators provided by each broker and lists their command-line options. You can add command-line options to a connection in the Add Broker dialog box and the Edit Broker dialog box.

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B.1. The HLA Brokers

VR-Exchange includes HLA brokers for the HLA 1.3 specification, HLA 1516 (SISO Standard DLC C++ API for IEEE 1516 specification), and HLA Evolved (IEEE 1516-2010), and HLA 4 (IEEE 1516-2025). They have built-in support for the RPR FOM using the VR-Link FOM Mappers and FED files provided. They can support other FOMs through the use of user-written FOM Mappers or generic translation.

 The brokers work identically and support the same configurations, so for simplicity, in the remainder of this manual we refer to them generically as the HLA broker.

B.1.1 HLA Translators

The HLA broker is composed of translators (described in "1.1.1 Translators" on page 15). Each translator is responsible for a specific FOM object class, or interaction class. Table 16 lists the translators in the HLA broker. The HLA broker can use a VR-Link FOM Mapper to modify the translations of any of the translators. For information about FOM mapping, please see *VR-Link Developers Guide*.

Table 16. HLA broker translators

Translator	RPR FOM Class
Acknowledge	InteractionRoot.Acknowledge
Action Request	InteractionRoot.ActionRequest
Action Response	InteractionRoot.ActionResponse
Active Sonar	ObjectRoot.EmbeddedSystem.UnderwaterAcousticsEmission.ActiveSonar
Additional Passive Activities	ObjectRoot.EmbeddedSystem.UnderwaterAcousticsEmission.AdditionalPassiveActivities
Aggregate	ObjectRoot.BaseEntity.AggregateEntity
Areal Object	ObjectRoot.EnvironmentObject.ArealObject
Collision	InteractionRoot.Collision
Comment	InteractionRoot.Comment
Create Entity	InteractionRoot.CreateEntity
Data	InteractionRoot.Data
Data Query	InteractionRoot.DataQuery
Designator	ObjectRoot.Designator
Detonation	InteractionRoot.MunitionDetonation
Emitter System	ObjectRoot.EmitterBeam ObjectRoot.EmbeddedSystem.EmitterSystem
Entity State	ObjectRoot.BaseEntity.PhysicalEntity.Platform

Table 16. HLA broker translators (continued)

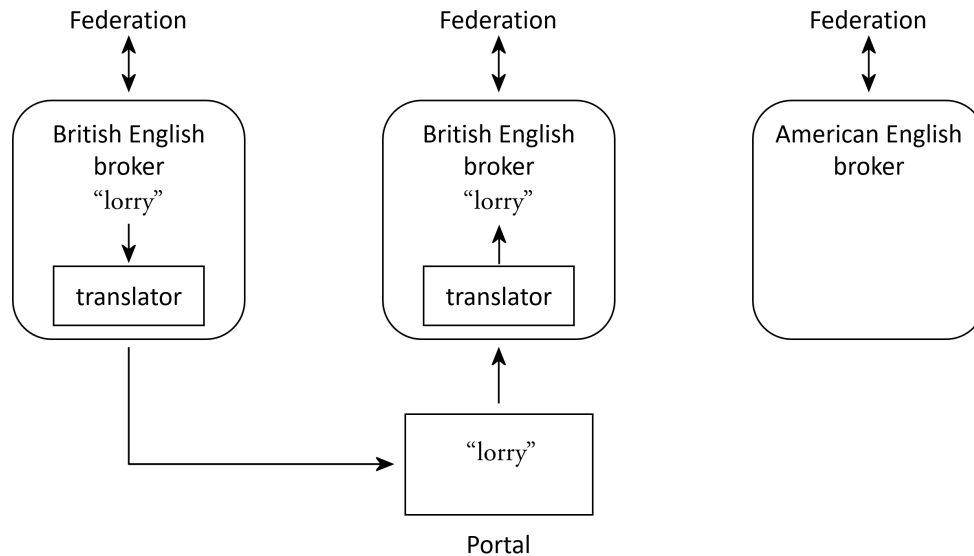
Translator	RPR FOM Class
Environment Process	ObjectRoot.EnvironmentProcess
Event Report	ObjectRoot.EventReport
Fire	InteractionRoot.WeaponFire
Gridded Data	ObjectRoot.GriddedData
IFF	ObjectRoot.EmbeddedSystem.IFF
Linear Object	ObjectRoot.EnvironmentObject.LinearObject
Point Object Translator	ObjectRoot.EnvironmentObject.PointObject
Propulsion Noise	ObjectRoot.EmbeddedSystem.UnderwaterAcousticsEmission.PropulsionNoise
Radio Receiver	ObjectRoot.EmbeddedSystem.RadioReceiver
Radio Signal	InteractionRoot.RadioSignal
Radio Transmitter	ObjectRoot.EmbeddedSystem.RadioTransmitter
Remove Entity	InteractionRoot.RemoveEntity
Set Data	InteractionRoot.SetData
Start	InteractionRoot.StartResume
Stop	InteractionRoot.StopFreeze

B.1.2 Generic Translations

The HLA broker has a special translator called a generic translator. Each broker can configure multiple generic translators, each responsible for one specific object or interaction class. You can also specify that all translations be done generically, using none of the translators supplied with VR-Exchange. Generic translation allows you to filter parts of a FOM. It also allows you to create RTI-to-RTI bridges if the federations being bridged use the same FOM.

The generic translator does not actually do any translation. It copies each attribute or parameter byte-for-byte from and to the Portal, and publishes it to the network.

Using the same configuration as Figure 2 on page 15, Figure 48 illustrates how a generic translator works. This time, suppose that these FOMs do not have a translator for vehicle names. The leftmost federation sends a "lorry" message. The broker simply sends the string "lorry" to the VR-Exchange shared memory area. The second federation reads the string "lorry" from the Portal. This string is meaningful to the FOM, which is identical to that of the first federation, so it sends the "lorry" message. The third federation does not have a generic translator, so it ignores the string.

Figure 48. How generic translators work

! To use generic translation, the sending and receiving federations must configure the same generic translators.

Generic translation only works with the HLA brokers, and only with one API at a time. This means:

- Generic messages do not work between the different HLA specifications.
- The object or interaction class must be exactly the same in all connected FOMs.
- You cannot use a FOM Mapper with generic translators.

Translating Individual Classes Generically

Translating individual classes generically is useful when you only want to translate parts of a FOM or you want to supplement the built-in translators. For example, if your exercise includes an interaction for which VR-Exchange does not have a translator, you can add a generic translator for that interaction. Bear in mind the restrictions on generic translations listed in the previous section.

To translate individual classes generically, you add the class names of the objects you want to translate to the appropriate collection in a connection's configuration. For example, you might add `ObjectRoot.EnvironmentProcess` to the Generic Objects to Translate Set attribute.

Translating a FOM Generically

Translating all FOM classes generically is useful when you have two or more federations that use the exact same FOM, but perhaps different RTI's. When you enable generic translation for all FOM classes, the HLA broker creates a generic translator for all objects and interactions in the FOM (except MOM data, and anything that starts with `RTIPrivate`). This mode prevents any built-in translators from starting.

To enable generic translation for the entire FOM, set the Use Generic Translators for Whole FOM attribute to True.

B.1.3 HLA Broker Command-Line Options

The HLA broker command-line options override the settings in a connection's configuration file. Table 17 lists the command-line options for the HLA broker.

Table 17. HLA Broker command-line options

Option	Description
(--brokerLogFileName -L) <i>filename</i>	Specifies the name of the log file for the broker.
--brokerName <i>name</i>	Specifies the name of the broker. The broker name must be unique among all brokers used. Default: Broker.
(--configFile -l) <i>filename</i>	Specifies the name of the configuration file for the specified broker. Default: <i>broker.xml</i> .
--controlQueueName <i>name</i>	Specifies the name of the shared memory control queue.
--customFom	Specifies that the <code>fomMapperLibName</code> and <code>fomMapperInitData</code> values should be used to initialize a custom FOM instead of using the RPR FOM.
--debuggedTranslators <i>translator</i>	Specifies translators for which you want to enable debugging.
--disablePublishTranslators <i>translator</i>	Specifies published translators to disable (accepted multiple times).
--disableReflectTranslators <i>translator</i>	Specifies the reflect translators to disable (accepted multiple times).
 Each translator works in two directions, translating messages incoming from HLA into the Portal as well as translating messages from the Portal to HLA. The <code>--disablePublishTranslators</code> and <code>--disableReflectTranslators</code> options allow you to choose whether you want to disable one way or the other. Specifying a translator in both lists disables it completely.	
(--dumpEnvironment -E)	Print all of the environment variable settings to the log file.
(--execName -x) <i>execution</i>	Specifies the HLA federation execution. Default: "VR-Link".
(--federateName -N) <i>federate_name</i>	Specifies the name of the HLA broker federate. (HLA Evolved only.)
(--federateType -p) <i>type</i>	Specifies the federate type. Federate Type can be used to distinguish different categories of federates, and its only practical use is in save-and-restore.
(--fedFileName -F) <i>file</i>	Specifies the FED file name. Default: <i>VR-Link.fed</i> .

Table 17. HLA Broker command-line options (continued)

Option	Description
<code>--fomMapperInitData <i>data</i></code>	Specifies FOM Mapper initialization data, if it is required.
<code>(--fomMapperLibName -f) <i>library</i></code>	Specifies the FOM mapper library, if used.
<code>--fomModules <i>module</i></code>	Specifies a FOM module. This can be used multiple times. (HLA Evolved only.)
<code>--interactionQueueName <i>queuename</i></code>	Specifies the name of the interaction shared memory queue.
<code>(--localSettingsDesignator -S) <i>designator</i></code>	Specifies a string that is passed to the RTI during federate connect when using HLA Evolved. It is usually used to provide additional RTI configuration, but every RTI uses it differently. Please consult your RTI documentation for proper usage. This attribute is optional in the MAK RTI. You can use it to override the RID file settings. (HLA Evolved only.)
<code>--mimModule <i>module</i></code>	Specifies the MIM module to use. (HLA Evolved only.)
<code>(--noGui -G)</code>	Specifies that the VR-Exchange Portal GUI should not run.
<code>(--notifyLevel -n) <i>notification_level</i></code>	Specifies the output level for the broker's log file. Value values are 0–4. As the level increases, so does the output generated. Default: 2. The meanings of the various levels are described in "3.1.3 VR-Exchange Command-Line Options" on page 40.
<code>--objectQueueName <i>queuename</i></code>	Specifies the name of the object shared memory queue.
<code>(--oneToOneMapping -O)</code>	Forces the broker to send an update every time it receives an update from the portal, even if normal rules would dictate that an update is not necessary.
<code>--pluginDirectory <i>directory</i></code>	Specifies the location of plug-ins.
<code>--qtTranslatorLocale <i>filename</i></code>	Specifies the location of the Qt translation file.
<code>--rprFomRevision <i>revision</i></code>	Specifies the revision of the RPR FOM version, for example, RPR FOM 2, revision 17.
<code>--rprFomVersion <i>version</i></code>	Specifies the RPR FOM version. Default: 1.0.
<code>--showInfoDialog</code>	Specifies that the connection information dialog box display at startup.

Table 17. HLA Broker command-line options (continued)

Option	Description
(--tcpPort -t) <i>port</i>	Specifies the TCP port to use to maintain connectivity with the Portal. If the Portal dies, then the broker will know by testing this port. If this argument set to 0, the broker does not try to connect. Default: 5111.
--toggleDarkMode <i>integer</i>	Sets the application to either dark mode (1) or light mode (0). The default is dark mode.
--vrfVersion <i>version</i>	Specifies the version of VR-Forces plug-in to load. Applies only to WebLVC.
(--ignore_rest --)	Tells the broker to ignore the arguments following this flag.
(--version -v)	Displays version information.
(--help -h)	Displays command-line usage information in a console window.

B.2. The DIS Broker

The DIS broker provides comprehensive translation of DIS PDUs. It receives DIS 4, 5, 6, and 7. It sends DIS 5.

Table 18 lists the translators supported by the DIS broker.

Table 18. DIS broker translators

Translator	PDU
Acknowledge	Acknowledge PDU
Action Request	Action Request PDU
Action Response	Action Response PDU
Active Sonar	Underwater Acoustics PDU
Additional Passive Activities	Underwater Acoustics PDU
Aggregate	Aggregate PDU
Areal Object	Areal Object PDU
Collision	Collision PDU
Comment	Comment PDU
Create Entity	Create Entity PDU
Data	Data PDU
Data Query	Data Query PDU
Designator	Designator PDU
Detonation	Detonation PDU

Table 18. DIS broker translators (continued)

Translator	PDU
Emitter Systems	Electromagnetic Emission PDU
Entity State	Entity State PDU
Environment Process	Environmental Process PDU
Event Report	Event Report PDU
Fire	Weapon Fire PDU
Gridded Data	Gridded Data PDU
IFF	IFF/ATC/NAVAIDS PDU
Linear Object	Linear Object PDU
Point Object	Point Object State PDU
Propulsion Noise	Underwater Acoustics PDU
Radio Receiver	Radio Receiver PDU
Radio Signal	Signal PDU
Radio Transmitter	Radio Transmitter PDU
Remove Entity	Remove Entity PDU
Set Data	Set Data PDU
Start	Start Resume PDU
Stop	Stop Freeze PDU

B.2.1 DIS Broker Command-Line Options

The DIS broker command-line options override the settings in a connection's configuration file. Table 19 lists the command-line options for the DIS broker.

Table 19. DIS Broker command-line options

Option	Description
(--applicationNumber -a) <i>application</i>	Specifies the unique DIS application number. It is used for creating entity IDs for PDUs originating from the DIS broker. Default: 27.
(--brokerLogFileName -L) <i>filename</i>	Specifies the name of the log file for the broker.
--brokerName <i>name</i>	Specifies the name of the broker. The broker name must be unique among all brokers used. Default: Broker.
(--configFile -l) <i>filename</i>	Specifies the name of the configuration file for the specified broker. Default: <i>broker.xml</i> .
--controlQueueName <i>name</i>	Specifies the name of the shared memory control queue.
--debuggedTranslators <i>translator</i>	Specifies translators for which you want to enable debugging.
(--destinationAddress -A) <i>address</i>	Specifies the address of outgoing DIS PDUs. If set to 0.0.0.0, the default broadcast address is used. Default: 0.0.0.0.
(--deviceAddress -D) <i>address</i>	Specifies the address of the network card to use for UDP traffic.
--disablePublishTranslators <i>translator</i>	Specifies published translators to disable (accepted multiple times).
--disableReflectTranslators <i>translator</i>	Specifies the reflect translators to disable (accepted multiple times).
 Each translator works in two directions, translating messages incoming from DIS into the Portal as well as translating messages from the Portal to DIS. The --disablePublishTranslators and --disableReflectTranslators options allow you to choose whether you want to disable one way or the other. Specifying a translator in both lists disables it completely.	
(--disPort -P) <i>port</i>	Specifies the port to send and receive network PDUs on. Default: 3000.
(--dumpEnvironment -E)	Print all of the environment variable settings to the log file.

Table 19. DIS Broker command-line options (continued)

Option	Description
(--exerciseId -x) <i>ID</i>	Specifies the exercise ID for the current exercise. This needs to be the same for all participants in the DIS exercise. Default: 1.
--interactionQueueName <i>queuename</i>	Specifies the name of the interaction shared memory queue.
(--noGui -G)	Specifies that the VR-Exchange Portal GUI should not run.
(--notifyLevel -n) <i>notification_level</i>	Specifies the output level for the broker's log file. Value values are 0–4. As the level increases, so does the output generated. Default: 2. The meanings of the various levels are described in "3.1.3 VR-Exchange Command-Line Options" on page 40.
--objectQueueName <i>queuename</i>	Specifies the name of the object shared memory queue.
(--oneToOneMapping -O)	Forces the broker to send an update every time it receives an update from the portal, even if normal rules would dictate that an update is not necessary.
--pluginDirectory <i>directory</i>	Specifies the location of plug-ins.
--qtTranslatorLocale <i>filename</i>	Specifies the location of the Qt translation file.
--showInfoDialog	Specifies that the connection information dialog box display at startup.
(--siteId -s) <i>ID</i>	Specifies the site ID for the current exercise. This needs to be the same for all participants in the DIS exercise. Default: 1.
--subnetmask <i>mask</i>	Specifies the subnet mask. VR-Exchange can usually figure out the subnet mask from the IP address. However, if it does not do this correctly, you can explicitly specify it.
(--tcpPort -t) <i>port</i>	Specifies the TCP port to use to maintain connectivity with the Portal. If the Portal dies, then the broker will know by testing this port. If this argument set to 0, the broker does not try to connect. Default: 5111.
--toggleDarkMode <i>integer</i>	Sets the application to either dark mode (1) or light mode (0). The default is dark mode.
--vrfVersion <i>version</i>	Specifies the version of VR-Forces plug-in to load. Applies only to WebLVC.
(--ignore_rest --)	Tells the broker to ignore the arguments following this flag.

Table 19. DIS Broker command-line options (continued)

Option	Description
(--version -v)	Displays version information.
(--help -h)	Displays command-line usage information in a console window.

B.3. The DDS Broker

The DDS Broker uses a custom object model that supports entity objects and the fire and detonate interactions. The code for this broker is provided, and can be used to customize the object model or add support for additional objects and interactions.

B.3.1 DDS Translators

Table 20 lists the DDS translators provided by the DDS broker.

Table 20. DDS translators

Translator	Class
Entity State	simpleOM::simpleBaseEntity
Fire	simpleOM::simpleFireInteraction
Detonation	simpleOM::simpleDetonationInteraction

B.3.2 DDS Broker Command-Line Options

The DDS broker command-line options override the settings in a connection's configuration file. The table lists the command-line options for the DDS broker.

Table 21. WebLVC Broker command-line options

Option	Description
(--brokerLogFileName -L) <i>filename</i>	Specifies the name of the log file for the broker.
--brokerName <i>name</i>	Specifies the name of the broker. The broker name must be unique among all brokers used. Default: Broker.
(--configFile -l) <i>filename</i>	Specifies the name of the configuration file for the specified broker. Default: <i>broker.xml</i> .
--controlQueueName <i>name</i>	Specifies the name of the shared memory control queue.
--debuggedTranslators <i>translator</i>	Specifies translators for which you want to enable debugging.
--disabledTranslators <i>translator</i>	Specifies translators that you want to disable. Accepted multiple times.

Table 21. WebLVC Broker command-line options (continued)

Option	Description
<code>--DomainID</code>	Defines an integer that represents an address space for DDS applications. DDS applications must join the same DDS Domain to communicate.
<code>(--dumpEnvironment -E)</code>	Print all of the environment variable settings to the log file.
<code>--interactionQueueName <i>queueName</i></code>	Specifies the name of the interaction shared memory queue.
<code>(--noGui -G)</code>	Specifies that the VR-Exchange Portal GUI should not run.
<code>(--notifyLevel -n) <i>notification_level</i></code>	Specifies the output level for the broker's log file. Value values are 0–4. As the level increases, so does the output generated. Default: 2. The meanings of the various levels are described in "3.1.3 VR-Exchange Command-Line Options" on page 40.
<code>--objectQueueName <i>queueName</i></code>	Specifies the name of the object shared memory queue.
<code>(--oneToOneMapping -O)</code>	Forces the broker to send an update every time it receives an update from the portal, even if normal rules would dictate that an update is not necessary.
<code>--partitionName <i>name</i></code>	Specifies the DDS partition to join using the Run Time System (RTS). The partition name is similar to a federation in HLA. It groups together DDS applications so that they can see each other on the network.
<code>--pluginDirectory <i>directory</i></code>	Specifies the location of plug-ins.
<code>--qtTranslatorLocale <i>filename</i></code>	Specifies the location of the Qt translation file.
<code>--showInfoDialog</code>	Specifies that the connection information dialog box display at startup.
<code>(--tcpPort -t) <i>port</i></code>	Specifies the TCP port to use to maintain connectivity with the Portal. If the Portal dies, then the broker will know by testing this port. If this argument set to 0, the broker does not try to connect. Default: 5111.
<code>(--ignore_rest --)</code>	Tells the broker to ignore the arguments following this flag.
<code>(--version -v)</code>	Displays version information.
<code>(--help -h)</code>	Displays command-line usage information in a console window.

B.4. The WebLVC Broker

The WebLVC broker provides comprehensive translation of the WebLVC protocol with its standard object model as well as extensions that support VR-Forces, VR-Vantage, and MAKData Logger remote commands. The WebLVC broker has the following translators:

- MAK:VRFBacKend
- MAK:VRFMessage
- MAK:VRVMessage
- MAK:LoggerControl
- OMT:Interactions
- OMT:Objects
- WebLVC:AggregateEntity
- WebLVC:Data
- WebLVC:EnvironmentalEntity
- WebLVC:MunitionDetonation
- WebLVC:PhysicalEntity
- WebLVC:RadioSignal
- WebLVC:RadioTransmitter
- WebLVC:StartResume
- WebLVC:StopFreeze
- WebLVC:TransferOwnership
- WebLVC:WeaponFire

B.4.1 WebLVC Broker Command-Line Options

The WebLVC broker command-line options override the settings in a connection's configuration file. The table lists the command-line options for the WebLVC broker.

Table 22. WebLVC Broker command-line options

Option	Description
<code>(--brokerLogFileName -L) <i>filename</i></code>	Specifies the name of the log file for the broker.
<code>--brokerName <i>name</i></code>	Specifies the name of the broker. The broker name must be unique among all brokers used. Default: Broker.
<code>(--configFile -l) <i>filename</i></code>	Specifies the name of the configuration file for the specified broker. Default: <i>broker.xml</i> .
<code>--controlQueueName <i>name</i></code>	Specifies the name of the shared memory control queue.

Table 22. WebLVC Broker command-line options (continued)

Option	Description
<code>--debuggedTranslators <i>translator</i></code>	Specifies translators for which you want to enable debugging.
<code>--disablePublishTranslators <i>translator</i></code>	Specifies published translators to disable (accepted multiple times).
<code>--disableReflectTranslators <i>translator</i></code>	Specifies the reflect translators to disable (accepted multiple times).
i Each translator works in two directions, translating messages incoming from DIS and HLA into the Portal as well as translating messages from the Portal to DIS and HLA. The <code>--disablePublishTranslators</code> and <code>--disableReflectTranslators</code> options allow you to choose whether you want to disable one way or the other. Specifying a translator in both lists disables it completely.	
<code>(--dumpEnvironment -E)</code>	Print all of the environment variable settings to the log file.
<code>--httpProxy</code>	Enables the HTTP proxy.
<code>--httpServer</code>	Enables the web server.
<code>--interactionQueueName <i>queueName</i></code>	Specifies the name of the interaction shared memory queue.
<code>--localHttpDirectory <i>directory</i></code>	Specifies the local directory where JavaScript and HTML files for the web server are located.
<code>--localNonProxyDir <i>directory</i></code>	If the web server and the proxy are both enabled, this client-side directory signals for pages to be served without using the proxy.
<code>(--noGui -G)</code>	Specifies that the VR-Exchange Portal GUI should not run.
<code>(--notifyLevel -n) <i>notification_level</i></code>	Specifies the output level for the broker's log file. Value values are 0–4. As the level increases, so does the output generated. Default: 2. The meanings of the various levels are described in "3.1.3 VR-Exchange Command-Line Options" on page 40.
<code>--objectQueueName <i>queueName</i></code>	Specifies the name of the object shared memory queue.
<code>--omtFiles <i>filename</i></code>	Specifies the OMT or FED files for automatic WebLVC generation.
<code>(--oneToOneMapping -O)</code>	Forces the broker to send an update every time it receives an update from the portal, even if normal rules would dictate that an update is not necessary.

Table 22. WebLVC Broker command-line options (continued)

Option	Description
<code>--pluginDirectory <i>directory</i></code>	Specifies the location of plug-ins.
<code>--proxyDest <i>hostname</i></code>	Specifies the destination host for proxied pages.
<code>--proxyPort <i>port</i></code>	Specifies the destination port for proxied pages.
<code>--qtTranslatorLocale <i>filename</i></code>	Specifies the location of the Qt translation file.
<code>--showInfoDialog</code>	Specifies that the connection information dialog box display at startup.
<code>--sleepInterval <i>interval</i></code>	Specifies the amount of time to wait between every tick. This is not the amount of time between updates, but the amount of time that the broker checks if there is an update to be processed.
<code>--sslCertificate <i>certificate</i></code>	Specifies the path to the file or directory with the CA root certificates. If empty, use HTTP.
<code>--statusPage</code>	Enables the status page that has information about current connections. URL: <code>HTTP://<yourserver>/status</code> .
<code>(--tcpPort -t) <i>port</i></code>	Specifies the TCP port to use to maintain connectivity with the Portal. If the Portal dies, then the broker will know by testing this port. If this argument set to 0, the broker does not try to connect. Default: 5111.
<code>(--tcpServerPort -S) <i>port</i></code>	Specifies the port for the alternate TCP server.
<code>--toggleDarkMode <i>integer</i></code>	Sets the application to either dark mode (1) or light mode (0). The default is dark mode.
<code>--useTcpPort</code>	Enables an alternate TCP server in addition to the HTML server. This is necessary only if you are sending WebLVC data without using web clients.
<code>--vrfVersion <i>version</i></code>	Specifies the version of VR-Forces plug-in to load.
<code>(--webPort -w) <i>port</i></code>	Specifies the HTTP web server port.
<code>(--ignore_rest --)</code>	Tells the broker to ignore the arguments following this flag.
<code>(--version -v)</code>	Displays version information.
<code>(--help -h)</code>	Displays command-line usage information in a console window.



MAK Products Glossary

This glossary defines terms used in MAK ONE product documentation.

A**absolute dead reckoning**

A method of dead-reckoning in which an application uses the timestamps contained within state updates if the sender is using absolute timestamping. Contrast with relative dead reckoning.

aggregate

The combination of individual entities, aggregates, or both into a single object — for example, an organizational group such as a platoon.

API

Application Programming Interface.

articulated part

A part of an entity that is capable of movement relative to the entity, such as a wheel, turret, or gun.

attached part

An object that is attached to another object, such as a rocket attached to a jet.

B**body coordinate frame**

A coordinate framework centered on an entity. To represent the orientation of an entity, an application uses Euler angles or a rotation matrix that rotates from a reference frame to the body coordinate frame.

C**channel**

A channel renders the view of an observer in a 3D visualization application.

clipping

A feature that prevents the display of terrain and objects or parts of objects, that are closer than or farther than specific distances from the observer.

clipping planes

The range of distances from the observer (near clipping and far clipping) in which an application clips (does not display) objects.

culling

The process of discarding database objects which are not within view, and therefore need not be rendered and displayed.

Cartesian coordinates

A system for indicating location by means of three planes intersecting at right angles to one another at the origin.

D**Data Distribution Management**

The set of High-Level Architecture services used to specify the routing of data between publishers and subscribers. DDM adds greater control over the Declaration Management (DM) services that only specify filtering based on the class of the data (e.g., ground vehicle versus aircraft). DDM uses the data content to express regions of interest and regions of affect whose overlap establish a communication channel. An example is geographic filtering where a publisher indicates a region around the entity or effect and a subscriber indicates a region expressing its sensor range.

dead-reckoning

A process by which an application calculates the expected location of an entity during periods between state updates, based on velocity, acceleration, and rotational velocity. See also absolute dead reckoning and relative dead reckoning.

DDM

See Data Distribution Management.

Defense Modeling and Simulation Office

The former name of the executive secretariat for the Executive Council on Modeling and Simulation (EXCIMS), which provided a full-time focal point for information concerning Department of Defense modeling and simulation (M&S) activities. Renamed Modeling and Simulation Coordination Office. Currently the MSCO promulgates M&S policy, initiatives, and guidance to promote cooperation among DoD components to maximize efficiency and effectiveness.

DIS

See Distributed Interactive Simulation.

DIS data packets

See Protocol Data Unit.

display engine

An object in an application that can render 3D data.

Distributed Interactive Simulation

The DIS protocol is a set of standards that govern how participating applications share information about the virtual world. The protocol specifies a set of packets, called protocol data units (PDUs), that communicate this information. Each PDU identifies the sender and contains other information depending on the PDU type. The DIS protocol also specifies when and how frequently PDUs are sent.

The DIS protocol has been superseded by the High-Level Architecture for use by the Department of Defense.

DMSO

See Defense Modeling and Simulation Office.

E**element definition**

In VR-Forces and VR-Vantage, an element definition specifies all of the visualizers that control the various aspects of visualizing a scene element. For example, an element definition includes the main model or military symbology, trailing effects, cockpit displays, and so on.

emitter

A simulated device on an entity that emits electromagnetic radiation, for example, radar.

entity

An element in a simulation, such as a vehicle or a person, that is represented in the simulation through the issuance of state messages.

entity maintenance

A process by which the MAK Data Logger compensates for discontinuities following a time jump. The Logger sends out interim state messages for entities that were present before the time jump so that they do not time out before the next update message arrives.

entity-type

A list of seven components as specified by the DIS protocol and the HLA RPR FOM. If none of the seven components contains a wildcard (-1) value, then the entity type refers to a specific, narrowly-defined entity. If some components contain a wildcard, then the entity type refers to a class of entities. A larger number of wildcards indicates a broader, more general class.

The components of an entity-type are:

- Entity kind
- Domain
- Country
- Category
- Subcategory
- Specific
- Extra.

environmental process

According to the IEEE 1278.1a specification (DIS), environmental process PDUs communicate simple environment variables, small scale environmental updates, and embedded processes.

Euler angles

A set of three angles used to describe the orientation of an entity as a set of three successive rotations about three different orthogonal axes (x, y, and z). These angles specify successive rotations needed to transform from a reference coordinate system to the entity's body coordinate system.

event

An interaction between objects or between an object and the terrain, such as firing of a munition, or a collision of entities.

exercise

The DIS term for a one or more interacting simulation applications. Compare to federation execution in HLA.

exercise connection

The object (DtExerciseConn) through which a VR-Link application connects to the network. State messages are sent through the exercise connection and information about remote entities is received through the exercise connection. (All MAK ONE products are VR-Link applications.)

exercise ID

A numeric identification for a DIS simulation exercise.

F**FED file**

Federation Execution Data file. The Federation Execution Data is the subset of FOM data needed and read by the MAK Products Glossary. VR-Link applications also read the FED file.

federate

A connection to the MAK Products Glossary. Typically a single simulation application can be thought of as a federate.

federate protocol

A message-based RTI API utilizing Protocol Buffers encoding that enables federates to invoke RTI services using a simple TCP connection.

federation

A group of HLA federates capable of playing in the same federation execution.

Federation Object Model

Defines the data content of a federation execution.

federation execution

The federation execution represents the actual operation, over time, of a subset of the federates and the RTI initialization data taken from a particular federation. A federation execution is the logical equivalent of a DIS simulation exercise.

field of view

Controls the perspective of the observer.

A wide field of view creates an effect like that of a wide-angle camera lens. Objects appear smaller and farther away from the observer, since the observer coverage spans a wider area. Depth become exaggerated.

A narrow field of view creates an effect like that of a telephoto lens. Objects appear larger and closer to the observer, and the overall scene depth appears flattened. The distances between objects appears compressed.

filter range

A setting that prevents distant entities from being processed while allowing distant terrain to appear normally.

FOM

See Federation Object Model.

FOM Module

In HLA Evolved and HLA 4, defines additional modular data content for a federation execution, usually extensions to an existing Federation Object Model. (Also supported by the HLA 1.3 and HLA 1516 versions of the MAK RTI. Per the HLA Evolved interface specification:

“A partial FOM (containing some or all OMT tables) that specifies a modular component of a FOM. A FOM module may contain classes not inherent to it but upon which the FOM module depends, i.e., superclasses to the modular components. These superclasses will be included in the FOM module either as complete or scaffolding definitions.”

frame rate

The rate at which the application displays updated images.

 G**ground clamping**

A process by which the a 3D visualization application keeps an entity anchored to the surface of its terrain database, regardless of the altitude data contained in its entity state message.

geocentric coordinates

A coordinate system calculated with respect to the earth's center. The origin of the geocentric coordinate system is the center of the earth. The positive X-axis passes through the prime meridian at the equator; the positive Y-axis passes through 90 degrees east longitude at the equator; and the positive Z-axis passes through the north pole.

geodetic coordinates

A coordinate system in which position is determined relative to a reference ellipsoid, such as the surface of the earth at sea level. In MAK ONE applications, geodetic coordinates consist of latitude and longitude in radians, and altitude in meters above the reference ellipsoid.

gridded data

Data that has been processed in a rectangular array of points, in X, Y or latitude/longitude, at which single data values define a two dimensional function. According to the IEEE 1278.1a specification, gridded data transmits information about large-scale or high-fidelity spatially and temporally varying ambient fields and about environmental processes and features.

guise

An alternative entity type used to display an object depending on the force ID. For example, a tank could look like an M1A1 to friendly forces and a T72 to hostile forces.

H**head-up display**

A set of indicators and readouts superimposed onto a graphics display. Also called an overlay.

heartbeat

In DIS, the frequency with which current Protocol Data Units are sent to the network regardless of whether the entity's state has changed.

High-Level Architecture

The High Level Architecture (HLA) for simulations is a U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)-wide initiative to provide an architecture to support interoperability and reuse of simulations. The HLA supersedes DIS for the DOD.

HLA

See High-Level Architecture.

I**IG**

image generator

interaction

A message describing a simulation event. An interaction describes an event, it does not update an objects state.

L**Logger control PDUs**

A set of DIS PDUs or HLA interactions that let you control the MAK Data Logger remotely.

logical range

A suite of TENA Resources, sharing a common object model, that work together for a given range event. Similar in concept to the HLA Federation.

Local RTI Component

The libraries on a computer that implement a Run-Time Infrastructure. A federate communicates with the HLA network through the LRC.

LRC

See Local RTI Component.

M**MÄK Technologies Lisp**

An adaptation of the Lisp language used in configuration files for MAK ONE products.

message

A general term used to refer to DIS PDUs and HLA interactions and state updates. In TENA, a message is similar to an HLA interaction.

MIM

The MOM & Initialization Module (MIM) allows for extensions to be made to the High-Level Architecture standard MOM. It is a subset of the Federation Object Model that contains OMT tables that describe the HLA MOM. The MIM also contains additional predefined HLA constructs such as object and interaction roots, data types, transportation types and dimensions. HLA specifies a standard MIM that is incorporated into all FDDs automatically by the Run-Time Infrastructure. The standard MIM can be replaced with a user-supplied MIM containing the standard MIM plus extensions.

model definition

In VR-Forces and VR-Vantage, a model definition specifies the 3D model and other basic attributes of a model. It is referenced by an element definition.

Modeling and Simulation Coordination Office

The executive secretariat for the Executive Council on Modeling and Simulation (EXCIMS), which provided a full-time focal point for information concerning Department of Defense modeling and simulation (M&S) activities. The MSCO promulgates M&S policy, initiatives, and guidance to promote cooperation among DoD components to maximize efficiency and effectiveness. (Formerly DMSO)

MSCO

Modeling and Simulation Coordination Office. (Formerly DMSO.)

MTL

See MÄK Technologies Lisp.

N**NETN FOM**

The NETN FOM (NATO Education and Training Network Distributed Simulation Federation Object Model) is an extension of the RPR FOM 2.0, allowing other federates using pure RPR FOM to interoperate with applications using the NETN FOM.

O**orientation clamping**

Adjusts the pitch and roll of an entity so that it appears properly seated when the terrain is inclined. For example, if a tank is moving horizontally across the face of a hill, orientation clamping prevents the tank from appearing level, and therefore, partially embedded into the hillside. Used with ground clamping.

object

An element in a simulation that has persistence, as opposed to an interaction, which is a transient element.

object handle

An integer that an application uses to identify a particular object in Run-Time Infrastructure service calls. An object handle is meaningful only to a particular federate. The same object can be known to different federates by different object handles.

object name

A character string that can be used to identify an object. In HLA, the object name is known to the Run-Time Infrastructure, and the RTI provides functions to find out an object's name, given its handle, and vice versa. Object names can be chosen by applications that register the objects with the RTI, however if you do not want to choose names for objects, the RTI will assign names for you.

observer

In MAK ONE 3D applications, the point of view into the scene. (Called the eyepoint in MAK Stealth 6.x and earlier.)

P**PDU**

See Protocol Data Unit.

Protocol Data Unit

A unit of data message (packet) that is passed on a network between DIS simulation applications.

R**radio transmitter**

A simulated device on an entity, capable of transmitting radio communications.

radio receiver

A simulated device on an entity, capable of receiving radio communications.

Real-time Platform Reference FOM

An HLA reference Federation Object Model based on the DIS protocol.

recording

A MAK Data Logger file that stores a history of the interactions in a simulation for playback.

reflected entity list

A list of entities simulated by remote applications (federates in HLA) and about which the local simulation has received information over the network.

reference FOM

A Federation Object Model designed to be used as a whole, or with modification, by a wide variety of similar federation executions.

relative dead reckoning

A method of dead reckoning in which an application approximates the location of an object based on the local time of receipt of the last state update message. Contrast with absolute dead reckoning.

remote display engine

A display engine running in an application that is separate from the master application, and which is controlled by the master application.

RID file

See RTI Initialization Data.

RTI Initialization Data

Data required by a Run-Time Infrastructure during initialization, independent of the FOM being used. RID data is usually dependent on a specific implementation of the RTI.

RPR FOM

See Real-time Platform Reference FOM.

RTI

See Run-Time Infrastructure.

Run-Time Infrastructure

A library and other supporting software that implements the HLA interface specification. All federates communicate with one another in an HLA environment through RTI functions.

S**scene element**

In VR-Vantage and VR-Forces, any object that is rendered in the scene, such as an entity model, interaction, or tactical graphic.

Simulation Interoperability Standards Organization

A group that seeks to promote modeling and simulation interoperability and reuse for the benefit of diverse M&S communities, including developers, procurers, and users, world-wide.

simulation time

In VR-Forces, simulation time is used in dead-reckoning of remote entities and thresholding of local entities. Typically, simulation time is set once during each iteration of the application's main simulation loop so that all entities are dead-reckoned based on the same value of current time.

SISO

See Simulation Interoperability Standards Organization.

smooth period

The period of time over which trajectory smoothing takes place.

smoothing

A method of ensuring that transitions from an entity's dead-reckoned position to its actual position are not so abrupt as to be visually disconcerting.

state

The current status of an object, including location, direction of movement, extent of damage, and so on.

T**tape**

An alternative term for a Logger recording. Not a physical magnetic tape.

terrain following

In a 3D visualization application, causes the observer (eyepoint) to maintain a constant distance above the terrain surface. The observer's height changes in tandem with the peaks and valleys as it passes over the geography.

timeout

The period of time in which an application continues to display an entity after that entity's update messages have stopped appearing on the network. Time-outs are usually not used in HLA because there is no set frequency (no heartbeat) for transmitting messages.

timescale

A factor by which time is accelerated or slowed during playback of a Data Logger recording.

topographic coordinates

A right-handed Cartesian coordinate system whose X-Y plane is tangent to the earth's surface at the origin, with the positive X axis pointing north, the positive Y axis pointing east, and the positive Z axis pointing down. There are an infinite number of topographic coordinate systems – one for each point on the earth's surface.

topographic coordinate frame

A coordinate frame in the context of the terrain.

trajectory smoothing

A method used by to smooth positional discontinuities that could occur when new state updates arrive.

U**UDP port**

A network channel through which an application sends and receives data for DIS exercises.

Universal Transverse Mercator

In general, a non-cartesian coordinate system in which the X, Y, and Z correspond to easting (nearly east), northing (nearly north), and height above an ellipsoid that approximates the surface of the earth.

UTM

See Universal Transverse Mercator.

V

view control messages

A set of programmatic messages that let you control the view in VR-Vantage applications remotely.



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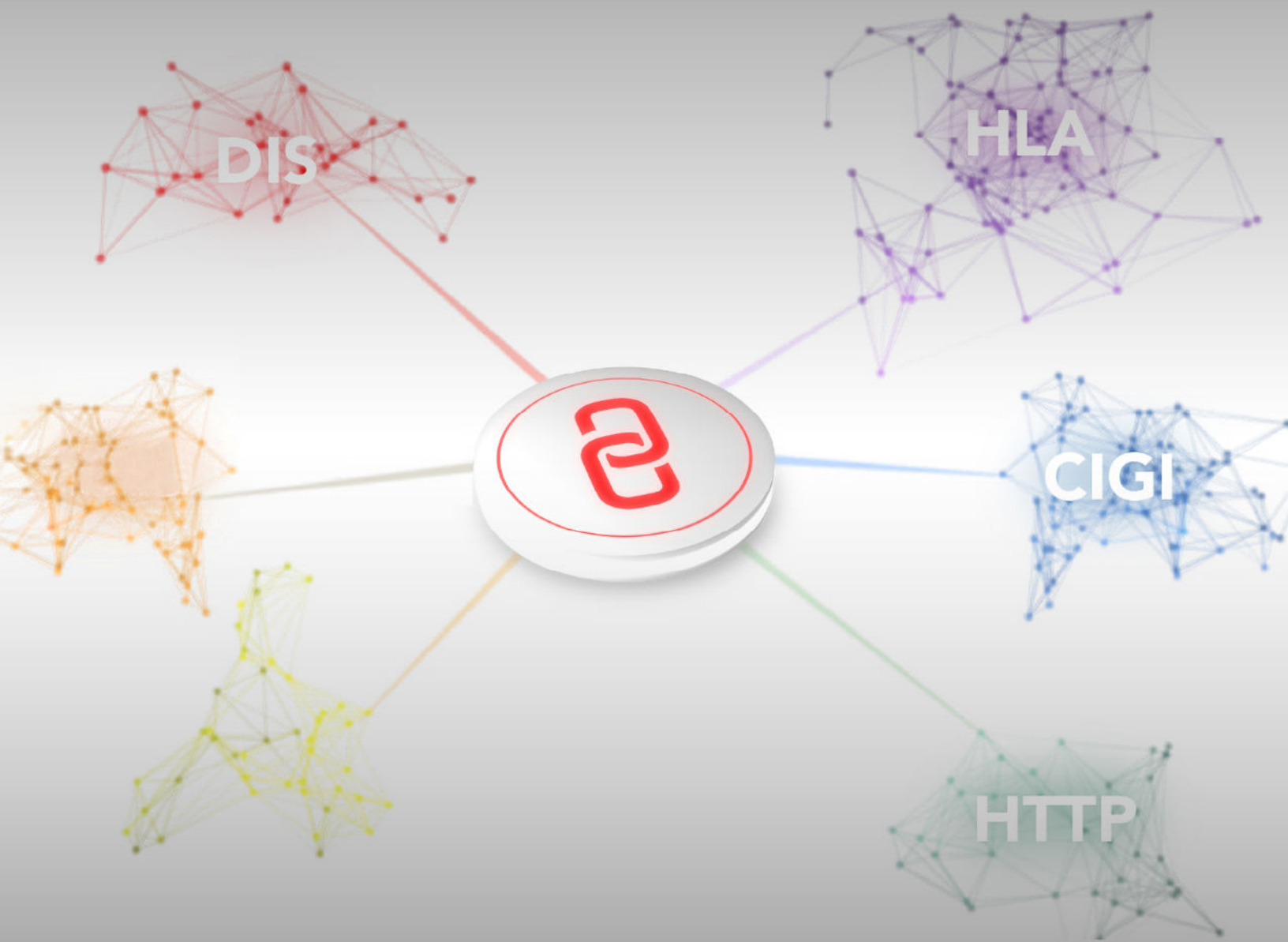
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