

Knowledge Base

Information



Abaqus/CAE Plug-in to Save Paths

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QUESTION

For the purpose of plotting results, I have created a number of paths in the current Abaqus/Viewer session. Is there an option to save them so they can be loaded in the next session of Abaqus/Viewer?

ANSWER

(The following applies to Version 6.8 and higher)

An Abaqus/CAE plug-in application for this purpose is attached below. The plug-in exports path information into an XML file and then allows you to import this XML file in a later session. Note that a path defined by a node list may not be meaningful for the analysis of results from a different output database. An exported path should be re-used carefully, preferably on the same output database in a later session or on an output database that contains different results (e.g., by changing a material property or friction coefficient) from the same mesh.

Installation

Important: The latest XML core module must be installed before this plug-in can be used. Please refer to Answer [Abaqus/CAE plug-in for XML-based save and import of session-specific settings](#) for details about obtaining and installing the XML core module.

When the XML core module is installed, one of the following directories is created:

abaqus_dir\abaqus_plugins\caeXML where *abaqus_dir* is the Abaqus parent directory

home_dir\abaqus_plugins\caeXML where *home_dir* is your home directory

current_dir\abaqus_plugins\caeXML where *current_dir* is the current directory

Save the attached archive files in the *caeXML* directory where the XML core files have been saved.

On Windows platforms, right click on the archive file and select WinZip → **Extract to here**. On Linux platforms, type **unzip paths.zip** at the command prompt. A folder, named paths, and sub-folders will be extracted. Note that the plug-in will not function properly if this procedure is not followed.

Usage

1. Open an output database (.odb) in the Visualization module of Abaqus/CAE or in Abaqus/Viewer and create a path as desired.
2. From any module, select **Plug-ins** → **Export/Import Manager...** to receive the following dialog:



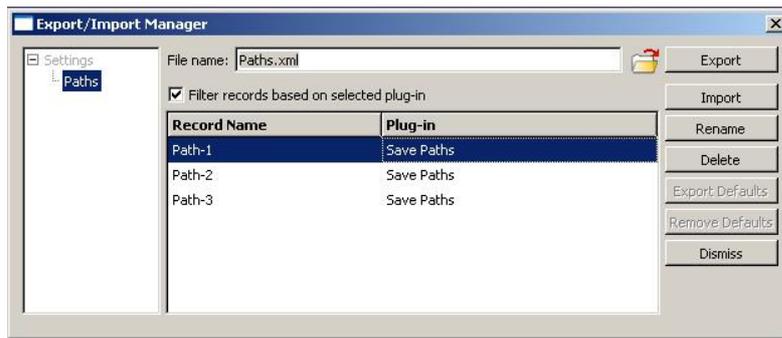
3. In the **File name:** field enter the name of the file where the definitions will be exported. If the file does not exist, it will be created in the directory from which you launched Abaqus/CAE. If you wish to save the definitions in the current model database then select the **MDB** radio button. Or if you wish to save the settings in any currently open output database then select the **ODB** option and choose appropriate ODB from the combo box.
4. Select **Export** to receive the following dialog:



The dialog lists all currently defined paths. Check the paths you want to export or press "Set all On" button if you want all of them to be exported.

5. In the above dialog, you may change the record names for the paths that you want to export. For details on records and record names, please see Answer [Abaqus/CAE plug-in for XML-based save and import of session-specific settings](#).
6. Press **Export** to export.

7. To load previously saved paths, first open the model database or the output database for which the settings were created if the information was saved to an **MDB** or **ODB** database, respectively. Then, from any module other than **Sketch**, select **Plug-ins** → **Export/Import Manager...** to receive the following dialog:



8. If paths were previously saved to an XML file, load the appropriate XML file. Then select a record that has been previously created by the **Paths** plug-in, as shown in following dialog:



9. You can change the path names as appropriate and then press the **Import** button. Note that while importing in Abaqus/CAE, the plug-in may prompt you to overwrite existing path definitions if the same path name is found in the current session.

Notes

The XML schema used when storing object information may change in future releases of Abaqus/CAE. Thus, future versions of this plug-in may not be able to import XML files created from previous versions.

Disclaimer

The attachments to this article → are subject to certain usage conditions. Please [click here](#) for details.

KEYWORDS

save, paths, plug-in, persistent, load, import, export, display, xml, file, translate,, 3811

ATTACHMENT



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