Knowledge Base

Abaqus/CAE plug-in to save display groups

Portfolio / Domain: SIMULIA Abaqus Unified FEA / SIMULIA Abaqus Unified FEA
Product: SIMULIA Abaqus/CAE

QUESTION

I have created a number of display groups for my model or output database. Is there an option to save them so they can be loaded in the next session of Abaqus/CAE or Abaqus/Viewer?

ANSWER

(The following applies to Abaqus 6.9 and higher)

An Abaqus/CAE plug-in application for this purpose is attached below. This plug-in saves display group information in XML format and allows you to import this XML object in a later session or in a different model.
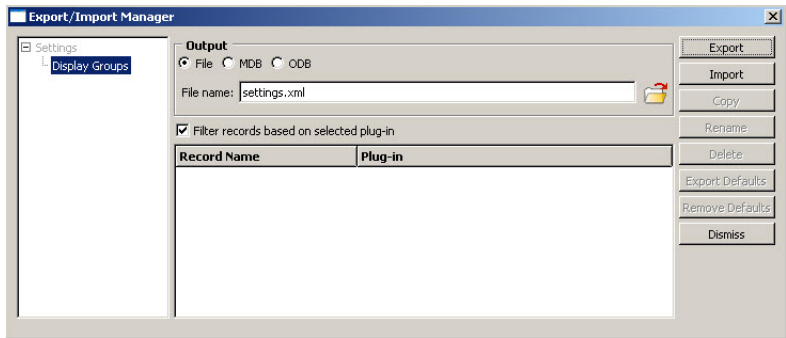
Installation

Important: The latest XML core module must be installed before this plug-in can be used. Please refer to 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.
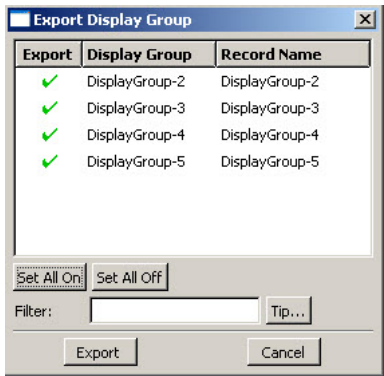
On Windows platforms, right click on the archive file and select **WinZip → Extract to here**. On Linux platforms, type **unzip displayGroups.zip** at the command prompt. A folder, named displayGroups, and sub-folders will be extracted. Note that the plug-in will not function properly if this procedure is not followed.

Usage

1. Open an Abaqus/CAE model database or output database and create your display groups as desired.

2. From any module, select **Plug-ins → Export/Import Manager...** to receive the following dialog:
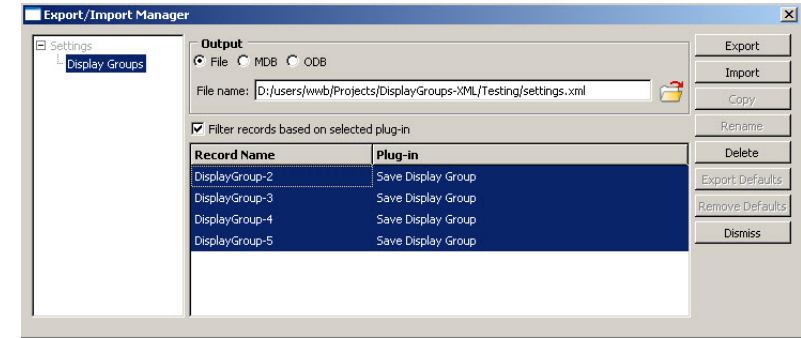

3. In the **File name:** field enter the name of the file where the definitions will be exported. If the file does not exist, it will be created in the directory from which you launched Abaqus/CAE. If you wish to save the display groups in the current model database then select the **MDB** radio button.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

4. If not selected already, select **Display Groups** from the left pane list in the **Export/Import Manager** and press the **Export** button to receive the following dialog:
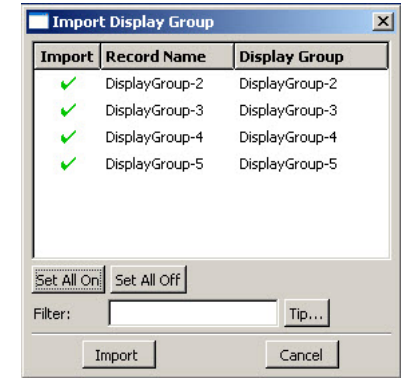

5. Check the individual items in the **Display Group** column to select the display group that you want to export. You can also use drag-select to check/uncheck multiple display groups or use the **Set All On** button to select all available display groups.

6. Based on the display group names, the plug-in will automatically populate the default **Record Name** field of the table. For details on records, please see Abaqus/CAE plug-in for XML-based save and import of session-specific settings. Press **Export** to export the selected display groups.

7. To load previously saved display groups, first open the model database or the output database for which the display was created.

8. From any module select **Plug-ins → Export/Import Manager...** to receive the following dialog:

9. Select an appropriate **XML** file or current model database or .odb. Select record(s) that have been previously created by the **Display Groups** plug-in. Select **Import**. The following import dialog is invoked:

Note that while importing in Abaqus/CAE, the plug-in may prompt you to overwrite existing display group definitions if the same display group name is found in the current database.

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.

Revision History

19 Aug 11	Fixed a minor bug with model name.

Disclaimer

The attachments to this article are subject to certain usage conditions. Please click here for details.

KEYWORDS	plug-in, plugin, save, group, plug, persistent, load, import, export, display, xml,

ATTACHMENT	answer_4124_fig4.jpg displayGroups.zip answer_4124_fig2.jpg answer_4124_fig1.jpg answer_4124_fig3.jpg

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