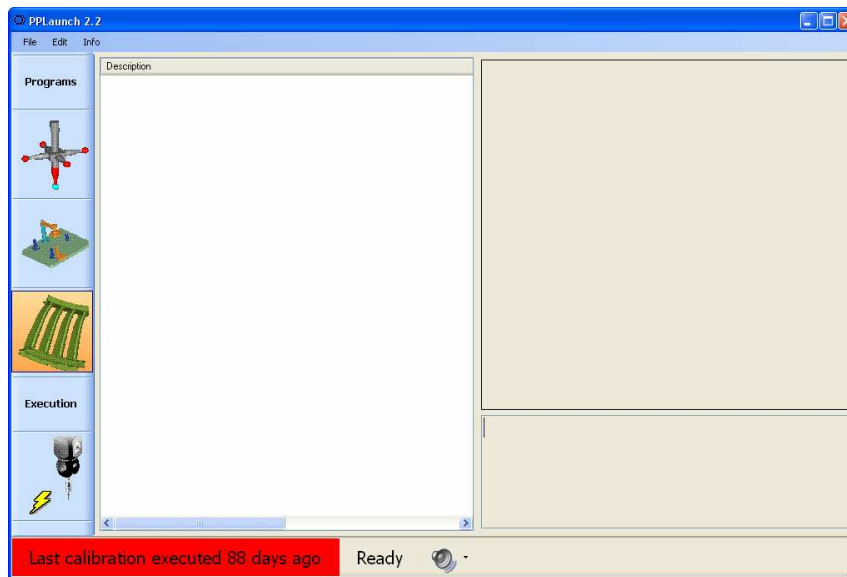# PPLaunch

Version 2.2

Description

PPLaunch is a simple supervisor program, that allows to untrained operators to execute PC-DMIS part programs easily. It protects fully the original part program, because the executed program is just a copy of the original part program, so there is no chance to corrupt it. This may request from the programmer to prepare the part program with a separate PRINT/SAVE commands, typically at the end of the part program.

The usage of PPLaunch may be also integrated with FlexReport command (using appropriate settings in the Preferences of PPLaunch, and having also installed FlexReport version 1.9 or above). FlexReport in this case is used for saving the measured data in a simple text-based database (allows then to access any measurement, re-create the reports, make some basic statistical evaluations, export data to Excel as reports or as summary), or as Report Viewer at the end of the program. Keep in mind that FlexReport anyway do not recognize the FCF dimensions, but only the "Legacy" dimensions of PC-DMIS.

PPLaucnh organizes the programs in 3 distinct groups – Calibration programs, Alignment Programs, Measurement programs. It is up to the user how to use these groups, sometimes only one group can be used, leaving all others empty.
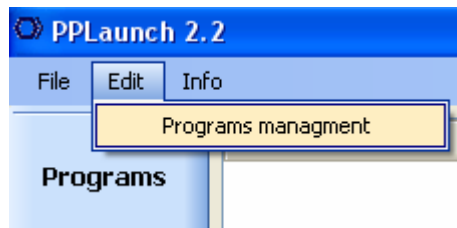
For each program, registered in PPLaunch, you can assign a "Text description" + "Image" + "Sound instructions", that allow to easily find the program and to consult the written/shown/spoken instructions. This makes an important difference, respect to the traditional "browsing" in the folders.
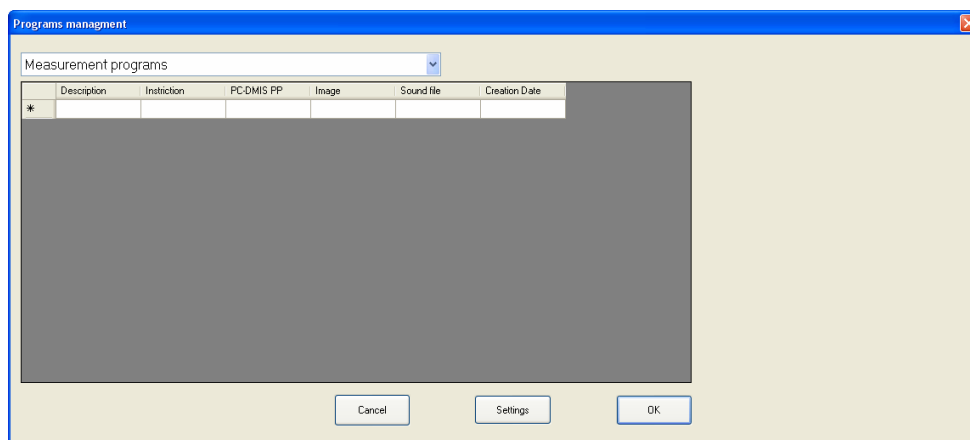
Installation

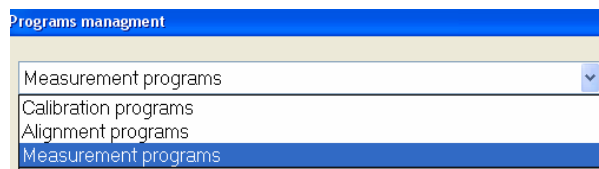Execute the installation, using SETUP.EXE

Settings

1. Start PPLaucnch.exe (PC-DMIS must be closed, if not PPLaunch will give you possibility to close it)
2. Go to Edit -> Programs Management

You will be requested to insert a password (the default one is "Password" – you can change it form Preferences)

Now you can select which group of programs are you managing (the combo box in the upper part)
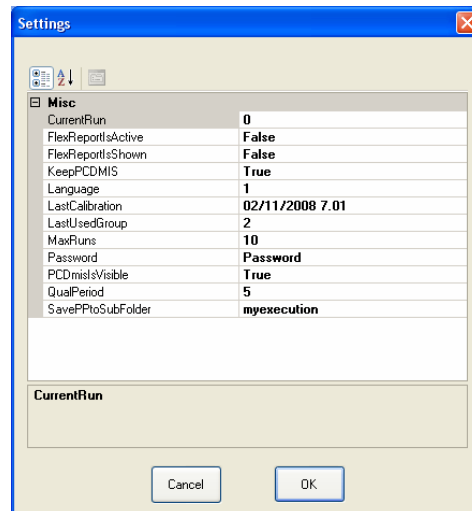

Now:
- Click in the "Description" field and input the description, you want to see in the list – typically this is a short description of what is doing the PP
- Click in the "Instruction" and Input a longer multiline text (shown in the lower left part of the screen, when the part program will be selected later). This text includes typically some instructions about important preparations of how to fixture or orient the part or similar
- Click on PC-DMIS PP and browse in the folders to indicate which PP will be executed
- Continue in the same manner, assigning a picture or/and sound instruction (wav file) for that program
- The creation date will be automatically created

Note : The minimum required inputs are the Description and the PC-DMIS PP field.

Use the same steps to edit an existing input.

Clicking on "Settings" you access the settings of PPLaunch. Bellow you will find a description for each item.

CurrentRun – Internal use (counts the executions, and is used to re-start PC-DMIS, once the execution number is bigger then MaxRuns). Has meaning only if KeepPCDIMS is set to True!

FlexReportIsActive – activate the usage of FlexReport (needs to have FlexReport program installed). If set to True, saves silently all measurement results in a database file (FLR) in the folder of PPLaunch, using the name of the part program.

FlexReportIsShown – has sense only if FlexReportIsActive=True. If set to True, shows the FlexReport Report window, after the measurement cycle is executed.

KeepPCDMIS – On certain PC-DMIS versions and/or PC's it happens, that executing many times programs, PC-DMIS crashes. In order to avoid this it is possible to start and close PC-DMIS every time the program has to be executed. This can make sense on versions 4.3 (because the opening time is reduced), but on 4.1 or 4.2 this leads to significant delays, before the machine starts. It is possible to choose between: KeepPCDMIS=False (means that PC-DMIS will be closed after each execution), or KeepPCDMIS=True, if you want to keep PC-DMIS on, so the next execution is almost immediate. In any case, if using KeepPCDMIS=True, it is recommended that you use MaxRuns settings at value between 10 or 20 (those causing re-start of PC-DMIS after reaching this execution number)

LastCalibration – Date/time of last execution of any of the programs present in the "Calibration programs" group.

LastUsedGroup – internal use

MaxRuns – (only if KeepPCDMIS=True) Maximum allowed number of executions, without re-starting PC-DMIS. See also KeepPCDMIS setting.

Password – the password to access the settings.

PCDMisISVisible – keep PCDMIS visible or not. You may wish to keep it visible, to follow the measurement results in the report window of PC-DMIS. Otherwise you would keep it on False.

QualPeriod – Max. number of days passed since last execution of any of the programs present in the calibration group, to show a warning message in the status bar.

SavePPtoSubFolder – if not empty, then a subfolder will be created (in the folder of the PP), so that after each execution the part program with the measured data will be saved to that folder (adding time/date stamp to the name). May be useful, if you want to access later the executed programs, to request more evaluations for example…

Updates on : http://ams3d.astrei.com   28.01.2009 A. Mavrov