

SOFTWARE AND SENSORS

The Shipdex Viewer 3.1

The shipping community is facing the big challenges of Internet of Things and Big Data management. These challenges introduce the need to produce and manage a huge amount of electronic and standardised data onboard and ashore, writes Marco Vatteroni, former Italian Navy officer and founder and director of Shipdex Consulting.

Taking advantage of this huge amount of data requires a different way of thinking: how data is built, exchanged and used, how much of it we can handle, how fast we can retrieve, process and analyse it, and where and how decisions are made.

The Shipdex protocol is the perfect solution to dramatically simplify how to produce, manage, exchange and use huge amount of equipment's technical data in electronic and standard format. The same data that are currently coming from different sources, in different formats and often with a different quality.

The information produced in accordance with Shipdex protocol is gathered into several xml files (called data modules) in accordance with specific Shipdex business and writing rules. Xml is a perfect language to produce electronic standardised data that IT applications can read and manage in a very powerful way, but it is not the best solution for end users because xml provides the "content" without the "form" (layout).

For this reason, the Shipdex organisation has developed a powerful and free-of-charge "Shipdex Viewer" to give end-users a tool to:

- Retrieve and navigate technical information provided in Shipdex format
- Present the information in html format, based on a standard nice layout
- Create and print, in few seconds, a technical manual in pdf format.

The aim is to give end-users a powerful tool to retrieve technical information in a simpler and faster way compared with traditional research on pdf or paper manuals.

Shipdex Viewer can be downloaded from the Shipdex website home page^[1] and can also be provided by suppliers together with Shipdex datasets.

The Shipdex Viewer is a stand-alone application for Windows XP, Vista, 7 and 10. It does not require any installation as it can be run directly from its folder. It works like a portable application that can be run on CD or USB flash-pen.

Shipdex datasets can be stored into the Viewer default folder (called "Series") or into any other folder over the LAN. The Viewer allows to select the target Shipdex dataset wherever it is stored.

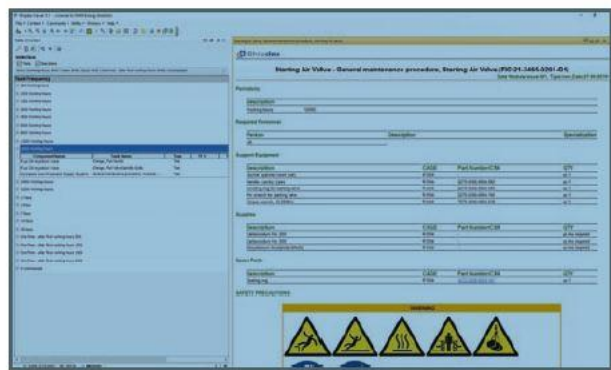
The Viewer layout is composed of the following 4 frames:

1. Main toolbar
2. Table of Content (ToC)
3. Content
4. Illustration

Once a Shipdex dataset has been selected and opened into the Shipdex Viewer, all the information is immediately available to be retrieved, navigated, re-organised and printed.

The Shipdex Viewer allows 3 different Table of Contents (ToC):

1. By Information Set. The data modules are presented in order of below information sets:
 - a. Description and Operation
 - b. Illustrated Catalogues (IPD)



Shipdex Viewer can also show the maintenance tasks grouped by periodicity. Illustration courtesy of MAN ES

2. By physical component. The data modules are presented in order of physical component
 3. By Publication Module (PM). If the PM is contained into the dataset, the data modules are presented in the order defined by the author inside the PM.
- Among a number of powerful features the Shipdex Viewer allows to:

1. Automatically create a "maintenance

- plan" ordered by periodicity that can be printed or exported in Excel format
2. Manage comments on data modules (see image)
3. Convert a single data module or a selection of data modules to pdf format
4. Publish a whole Shipdex dataset in pdf format

Shipdex invites any maritime user to download the Shipdex Viewer and try it. It is provided together with 2 demo datasets kindly offered by MAN ES and MacGregor.

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[1] www.shipdex.org