

Knowledge Base Article

Product Group: Software

Product: CMSW7400 – SKF @ptitude Analyst

Version: N/A

Abstract

At this time, SKF does not have a tool in place to translate Commtest data into an SKF @ptitude Analyst database. Developing a tool to convert a Commtest database to an SKF @ptitude Analyst database is possible; however, it would require a custom engineering project and will be expensive. The customer more than likely will NOT achieve a good Return On Investment (ROI) based on the rationale outlined in the points in this article.

Overview

The points provided below should be considered when making the decision to convert a Commtest database into @ptitude Analyst.

- The import process is manual and requires the efforts of a highly-skilled software engineer; therefore, this work is performed at a cost per MB of data.
- SKF Condition Monitoring can import many (but not all) competitors' databases, depending on the version of @ptitude Analyst software being used. Specific needs should be discussed with the SKF sales team.
- When a database import is performed, only recordings are imported. ROUTEs, machine setups, parameter sets, alarm bands, images, notes etc. are not imported and must be re-entered manually.
- In the final evaluation, recordings taken with dissimilar instruments with differing sensitivity, dynamic range, lines of resolution, alarm bands, etc. will be compared by the customer. However, customer feedback indicates that after import, historical data is rarely, if ever, accessed. The financial ROI from converting historical data recorded by dissimilar products should seriously be taken into question.
- Generally, the first time a customer sets up database structures and ROUTEs, and begins building and growing a vibration analysis program, this is done from the perspective of a novice; the program just grows and gets added to over time. Conversely, when a person is building the database structure and ROUTEs from the ground up for the second

time, this is done with enhanced knowledge and experience of the lessons learned over years, and the results are almost always superior to the original program.

- When switching to a new product line, opportunities for improvement are almost always seen with a 'do it right this time' perspective. Not only will the advantage of experience now be there, but the modern software and the ability to use longer text strings, set up the machines, databases, alarm sets, asset numbers, and ROUTEs in a much more comprehensive manner will also be present.

In summary, SKF strongly suggests that a parallel system be run for a period of time and used as reference data, as within a very few months of switching over the value of the old data diminishes very rapidly.

For further assistance, please contact the Technical Support Group by phone at 1-800-523-7514 option 8, or by email at TSG-Americas@skf.com.

