Quick Start Manual

Runtime User Management for FTView SE

FTVSE-WINUSERKIT-QS001-EN-SEPT-2025

Sharadsoft

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End-User License Agreement (EULA)

End-User License Agreement (EULA) for Software developed by Sharadsoft

Last Updated: 01-Mar-2025

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Introduction

We are pleased to introduce WinUserKit, a suite of Windows-based utilities developed specifically to support runtime user management within FactoryTalk View SE Station environments. Designed for standalone SCADA systems running on Windows client operating systems, WinUserKit empowers operators and administrators to manage users and enforce security policies without exiting the runtime session.

Key Highlights:

1. Simplicity and Efficiency: WinUserKit offers a direct and efficient way to manage Windows users and groups during SCADA runtime—without requiring complex scripting or external integrations.
2. Tailored to Your SCADA Workflow: The utilities are purpose-built to align with FactoryTalk View SE's security model, enabling seamless mapping between Windows accounts and SCADA roles. We've focused on the features most relevant to runtime user provisioning and policy enforcement.
3. Ease of Use: Designed with accessibility in mind, WinUserKit allows operators with minimal technical expertise to perform tasks such as user creation, password changes, and policy updates—all from within the SCADA interface.
4. Focused Functionality: While WinUserKit may not include advanced enterprise-level features like centralized credential stores or remote policy propagation, it delivers the essential capabilities needed for effective runtime user management in standalone SCADA deployments.

We understand that WinUserKit may be compared with more comprehensive identity management solutions. However, it's important to note that this utility suite is intentionally designed to be lightweight, cost-effective, and user-friendly, offering just the right balance of functionality and simplicity for your runtime security needs.

Important User Information

- The points and notes mentioned in this manual are based on our sole understanding and the data available to us as of Aug 27, 2025. Please be aware that interpretations or meanings may vary. Kindly refer to the respective third-party manuals or documentation for further clarification or detailed information.
- WinUserKit is designed for Windows client operating systems only, such as Windows 11 Pro 64-bit, and is optimized for standalone FactoryTalk View SE Station environments.
- Administrator-level access is recommended for full functionality. Use the built-in Administrator account or an account with equivalent privileges to create and manage Windows users and groups without restrictions.
- Windows local users and groups are used as the foundation for SCADA runtime security.
- Group creation must be performed during SCADA development (offline mode) using the GroupManager utility. These groups are later referenced in FTView Studio under System > Users and Groups.
- Runtime utilities such as UserManager, ChangePassword, and PolicyManager are designed to be launched from within the SCADA environment, allowing dynamic user management without exiting runtime.
- The shared DLL Sharadsoft.UserNameShare.Library.dll must be placed in the following path to enable username sharing across utilities:
    - C:\Users\Public\Documents\RSView Enterprise\DotNetControl Setup
- The current SCADA username is written to C:\WinUserKit\CurrentUser.txt, which is used by supporting utilities to operate contextually based on the active user session.
- Images used in the demo application are for demo purposes only and licensed by Sharadsoft for their use in an application developed by Sharadsoft. To maintain optimal CPU performance, avoid using multiple images within the application. Excessive image usage can lead to increased processing demands, potentially impacting overall application efficiency.

Prerequisites

System used during testing - Hardware & Software

Description	Details
Demo App Development Software	FactoryTalk View Studio v15 with Patch July 2025
Windows Operating System	Windows 11 Pro
Workstation RAM	8 GB or more
Sharadsoft Software	1.00.00

Sharadsoft software details

Description	Activation	Functionality
WinUserKit	Requires *1,2	WinUserKit includes following utilities; -Group Manager : Create windows group -User Manager: Create windows users, Assign group to users, Modify user properties, Reset user password -Policy Manager: Set windows basic security policies -Change Password: Change user password -UserNameShare library: .Net Control library for FTView SE to share the current username to above utilities

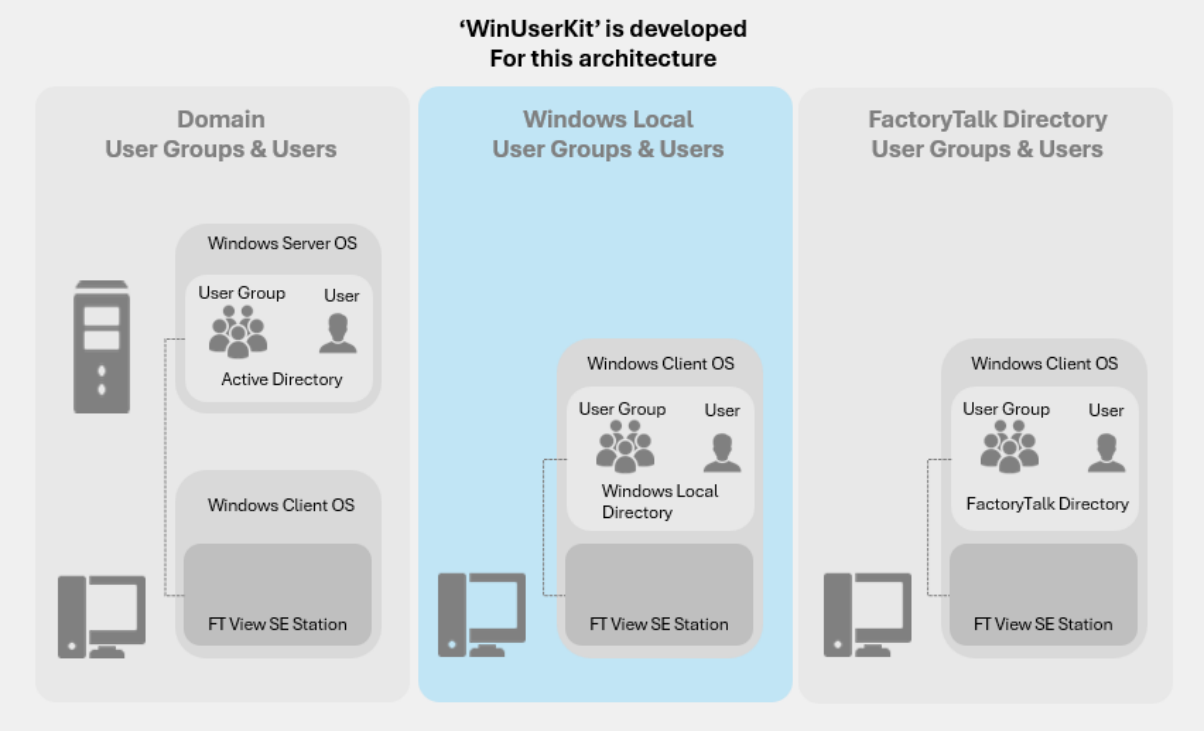
Note:

1. WinUserKit is a separate purchase and requires an activation key.
2. Without activation, it will allow three groups & users to create.

Runtime user management for FTView SE

Workstation OS Configuration

The WinUserKit utilities have been successfully tested on client operating systems, specifically Windows 11 Pro 64-bit, and are designed for standalone FactoryTalk View SE Station environments.



To enable flexible runtime user management, these utilities leverage Windows local users and groups, which are seamlessly mapped to FTView SE's security configuration. For unrestricted creation and modification of users and groups, it is recommended to run the utilities on a client OS using an Administrator-level account.

To activate the built-in Administrator account:

- Open the Local Users & Groups Manager console by typing lusrmgr.msc in the Command Prompt.

- Locate and enable the Administrator account.

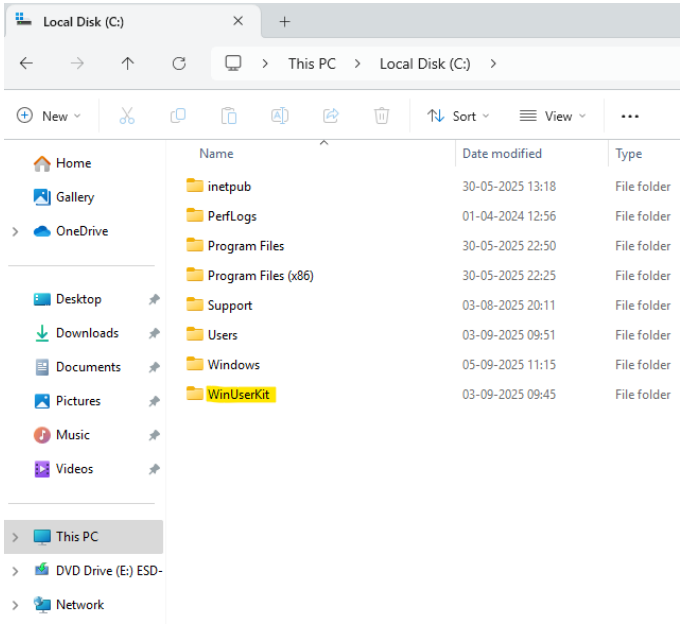
- Set a secure password and configure it with no expiry.

- Reboot the PC and log in using the Administrator account.

This setup ensures full access to Windows user management functions during SCADA runtime, allowing password changes, resets, and policy enforcement without exiting the FTView SE environment. All changes are reflected in the system's audit trail for traceability.

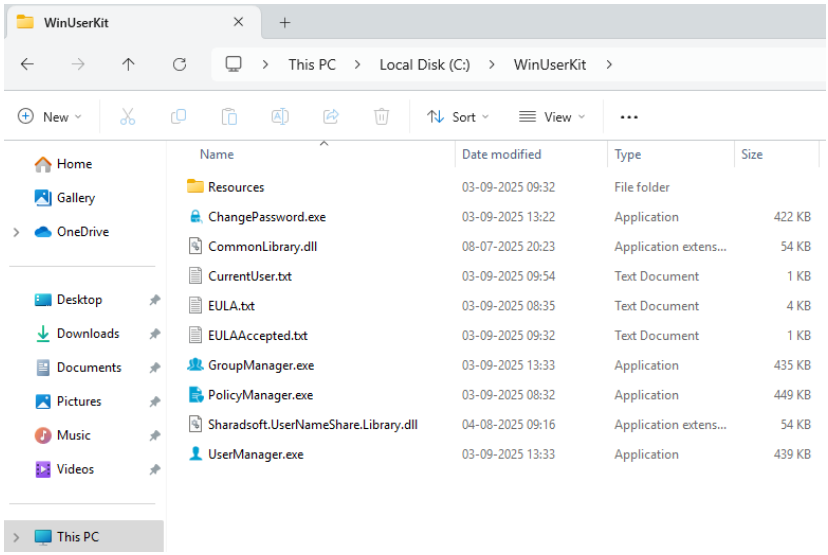
Allocation of WinUserKit

Extract the contents of the downloaded WinUserKitXX.zip archive, then move the WinUserKit folder to the root of the C: drive.



Inside the WinUserKit folder, you'll find multiple executable utilities designed to be triggered from SCADA based on specific functional needs.

Please note: the Group Manager utility must be executed during the SCADA development phase (i.e., when the system is offline) to create the required Windows groups. These groups form the foundation for runtime user-role mapping and must be established before deploying the SCADA application.

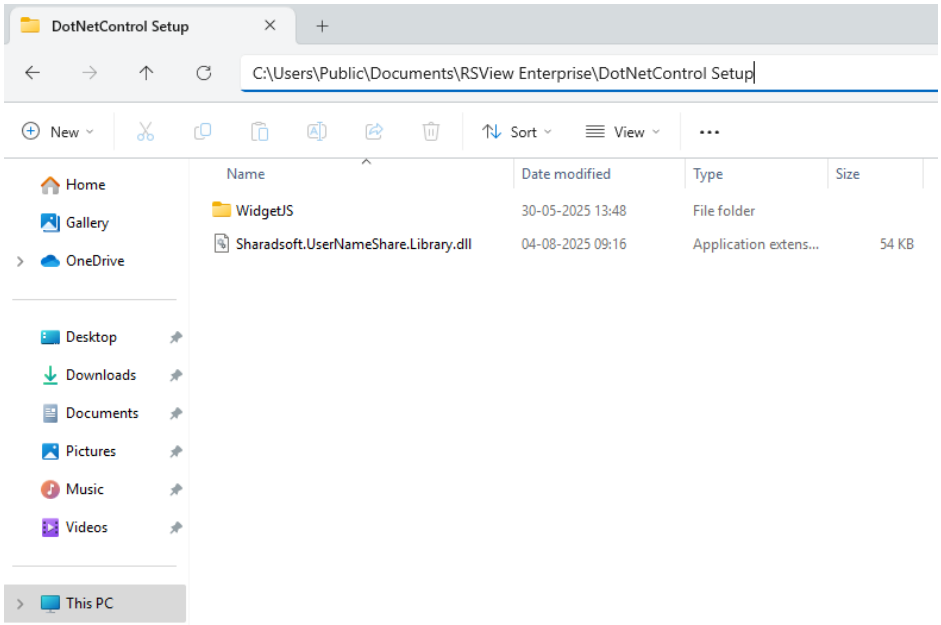


Dot Net Control assignment

To enable access to the current SCADA username across supporting utilities, copy the Sharadsoft.UserNameShare.Library.dll file into the following directory:

C:\Users\Public\Documents\RSView Enterprise\DotNetControl Setup

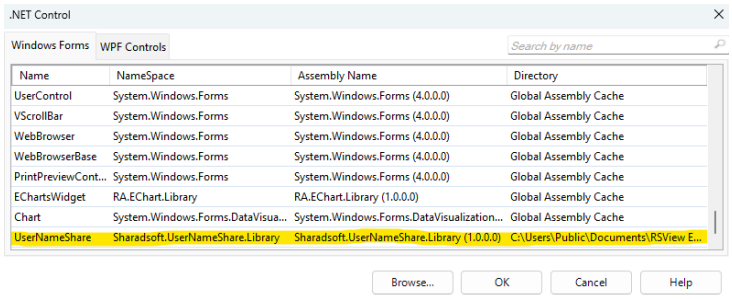
Placing the DLL in this location ensures it is recognized within the FactoryTalk View SE development environment. This shared library allows runtime utilities—such as Group Manager, User Manager, Change Password, and Policy Manager—to retrieve and utilize the active SCADA username for context-aware operations and audit consistency.

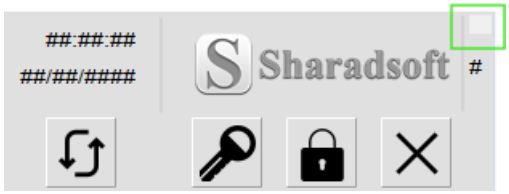


Place the .NET Control named UserNameShare onto a persistent display—such as the Header—by navigating to:

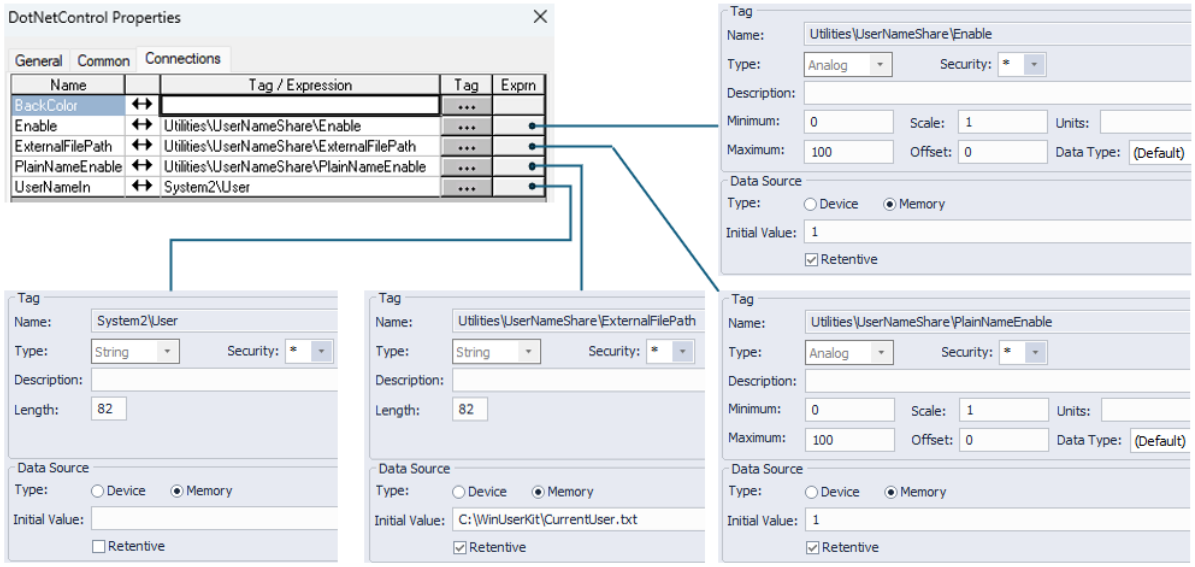
Objects → .NET Control → UserNameShare.

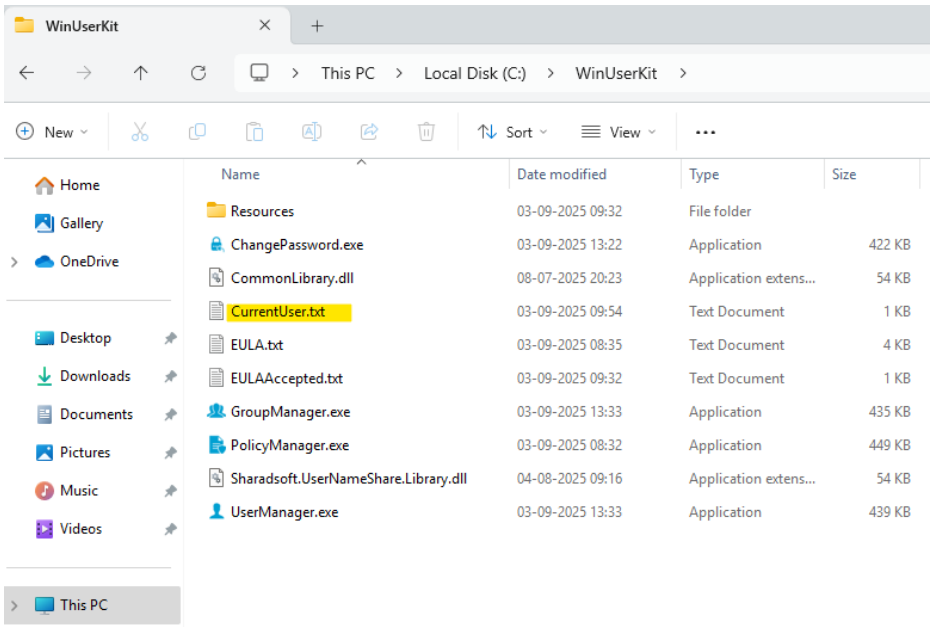
This control should remain active throughout the SCADA runtime to continuously expose the currently logged-in username, allowing seamless integration with supporting utilities.





Connections properties for above .net control is as follows;





The currently logged-in SCADA username will be written to the following file path:

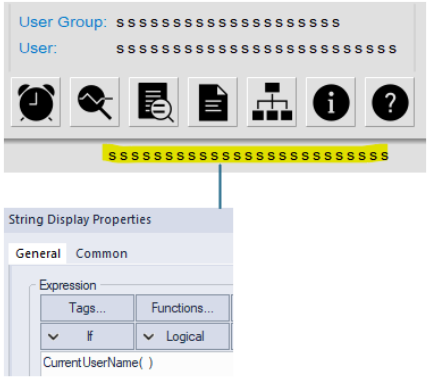
C:\WinUserKit\CurrentUser.txt

This file serves as a shared reference for supporting utilities such as Group Manager, User Manager, Change Password, and Policy Manager.

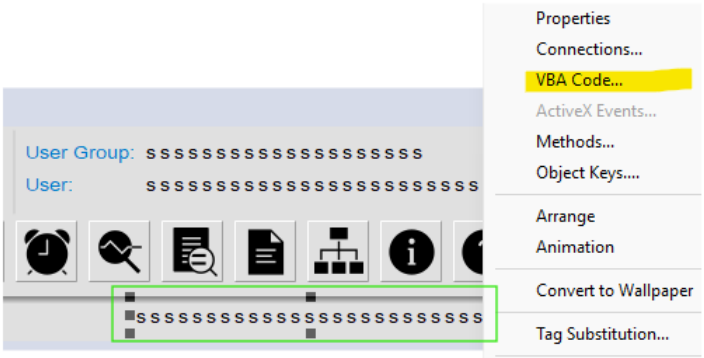
Read current username of the SCADA

Add a String Display control to the Header display, positioning it just outside the visible runtime area to keep it hidden from operators.

Assign the CurrentUserName() function to this control to continuously capture the active SCADA username. The Header display is chosen intentionally, as it remains active throughout the runtime session—ensuring consistent availability of the username.



Right click on the string display and select 'VBA Code' option as follows;



Assign the following code within the NameChanged event of the String Display control. This ensures that whenever the displayed username changes, the updated value is automatically written to the System2\User tag—allowing other components to access the current SCADA user context in real time.

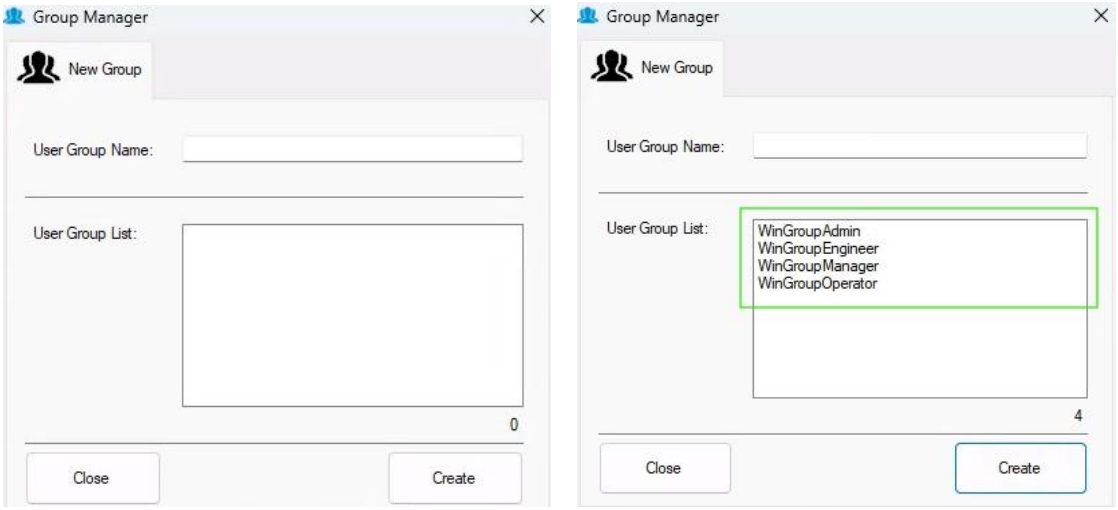
```
Private Sub StringDisplayCurrentUserName_Change()

'-----------------------------------------------------------
Dim vbCurrentUserName As Tag

On Error GoTo ErrHandler
'-----------------------------------------------------------

Set vbCurrentUserName = TagDB.GetTag("System2\User")

vbCurrentUserName.Value = Application.CurrentUserName

'-----------------------------------------------------------
Exit Sub

ErrHandler:
        Application.LogDiagnosticsMessage "VBA Error: Display

'-----------------------------------------------------------

End Sub
```

Create Windows Groups & bind with SCADA

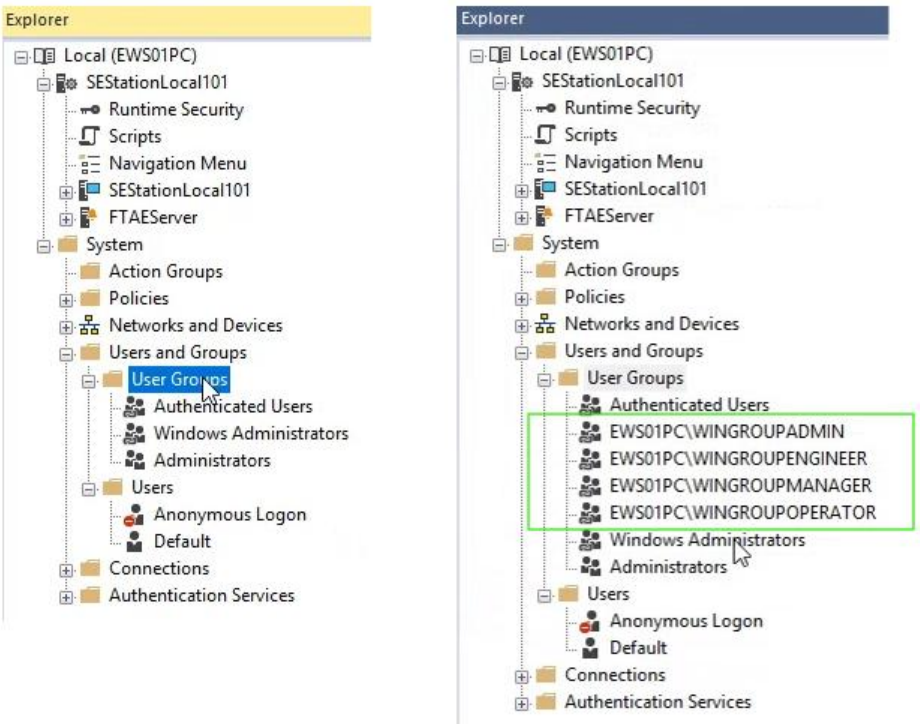
Minimize FTView Studio, then launch the GroupManager executable located at:

C:\WinUserKit\GroupManager.exe

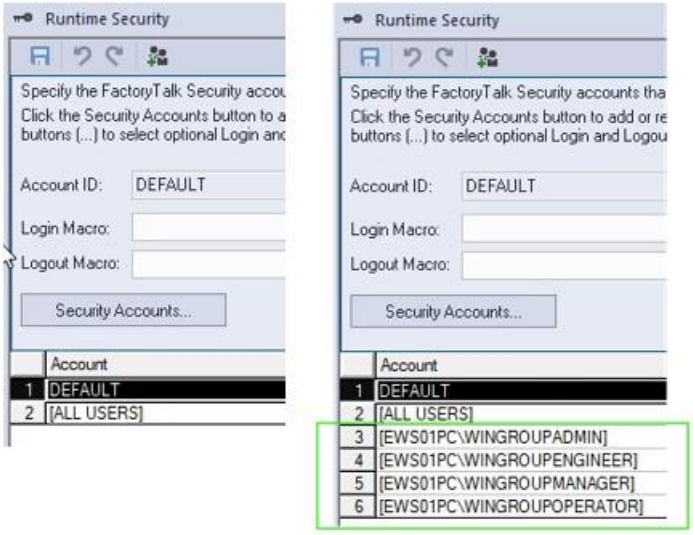
Use this utility to create the required Windows groups. These groups should align with your SCADA security design and must be established before runtime to ensure proper role-based access control.



Next, in FTView Studio, navigate to Explorer > System > Users and Groups, and manually add the Windows groups you previously created. This step links your system-defined groups to the SCADA security configuration, enabling role-based access control during runtime.



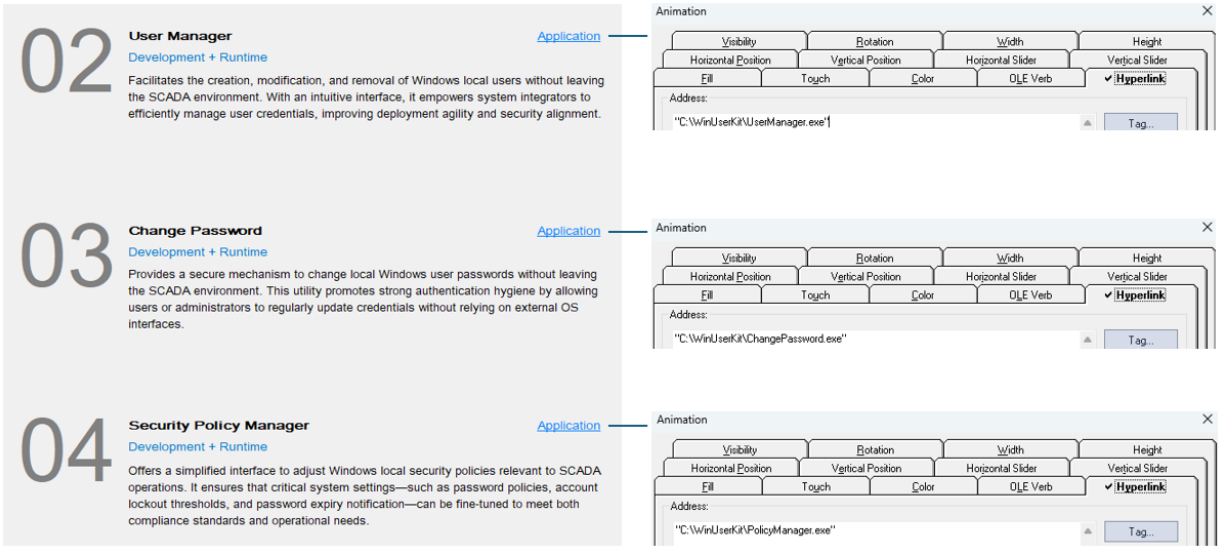
Configure Runtime Security in the FTView Studio Explorer to assign appropriate permissions to the newly created user groups, based on your application's access requirements. This step ensures that each group is granted the correct level of control and visibility during SCADA runtime.



Calling User Manager, Policy Manager & Change Password

Create a dedicated display within your SCADA application that serves as a runtime user management panel. This interface should include buttons or interactive elements that allow operators to launch supporting utilities such as UserManager, ChangePassword, and PolicyManager directly from within the SCADA environment.

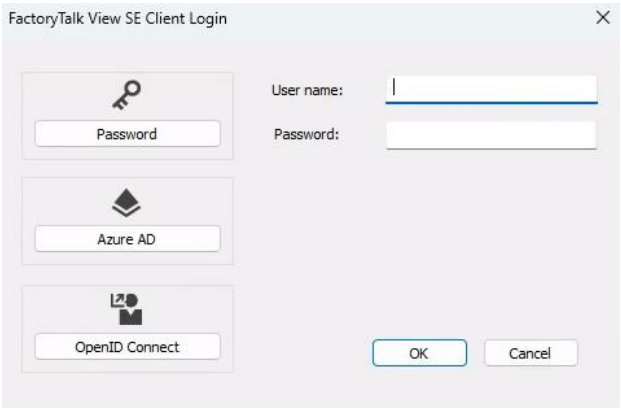
Ensure the display is designed for accessibility and clarity, with appropriate labels and grouping based on functionality. This panel enables seamless execution of user-related tasks—like password updates, policy enforcement, and account modifications—without interrupting the runtime session.



User Manager

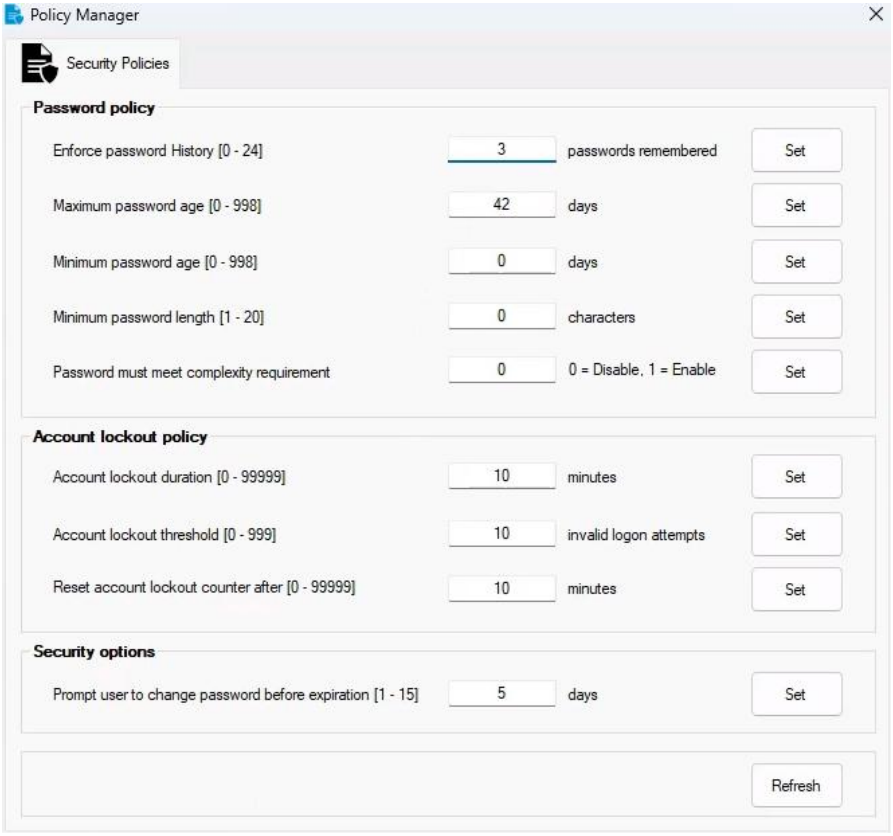
The User Manager utility enables you to create new user accounts, configure their properties, and assign them to the appropriate Windows groups—all during SCADA runtime. This facilitates dynamic user provisioning and role assignment without interrupting system operation.

Verify the login functionality for newly created users by signing in through the default FactoryTalk View SE login window. This ensures that user credentials and group assignments are correctly configured and recognized by the SCADA system during runtime.



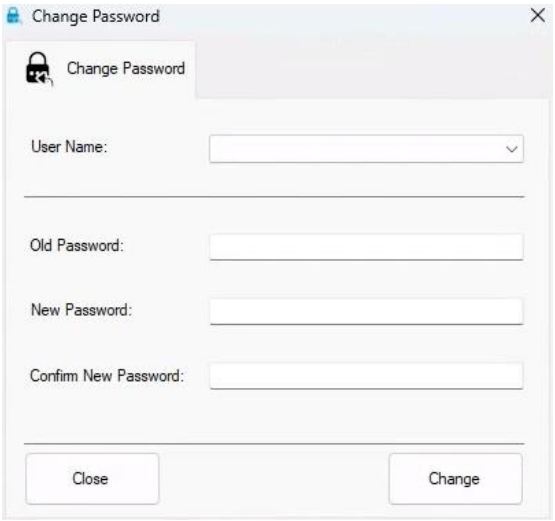
Policy Manager

During SCADA runtime, authorized users can configure or update essential security policies using the Policy Manager utility. This tool provides a streamlined interface for adjusting password rules, account restrictions, and other access-related settings—ensuring that security remains adaptable without interrupting system operation.



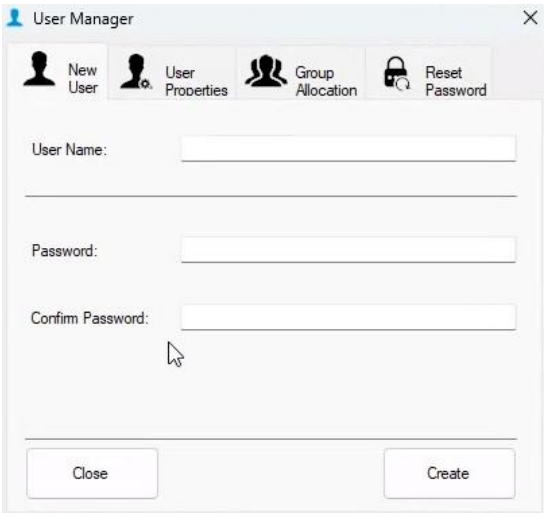
Change Password

Users can update their password during runtime by launching the Change Password utility, as illustrated below. This tool provides a secure and straightforward interface for modifying credentials without exiting the SCADA environment.



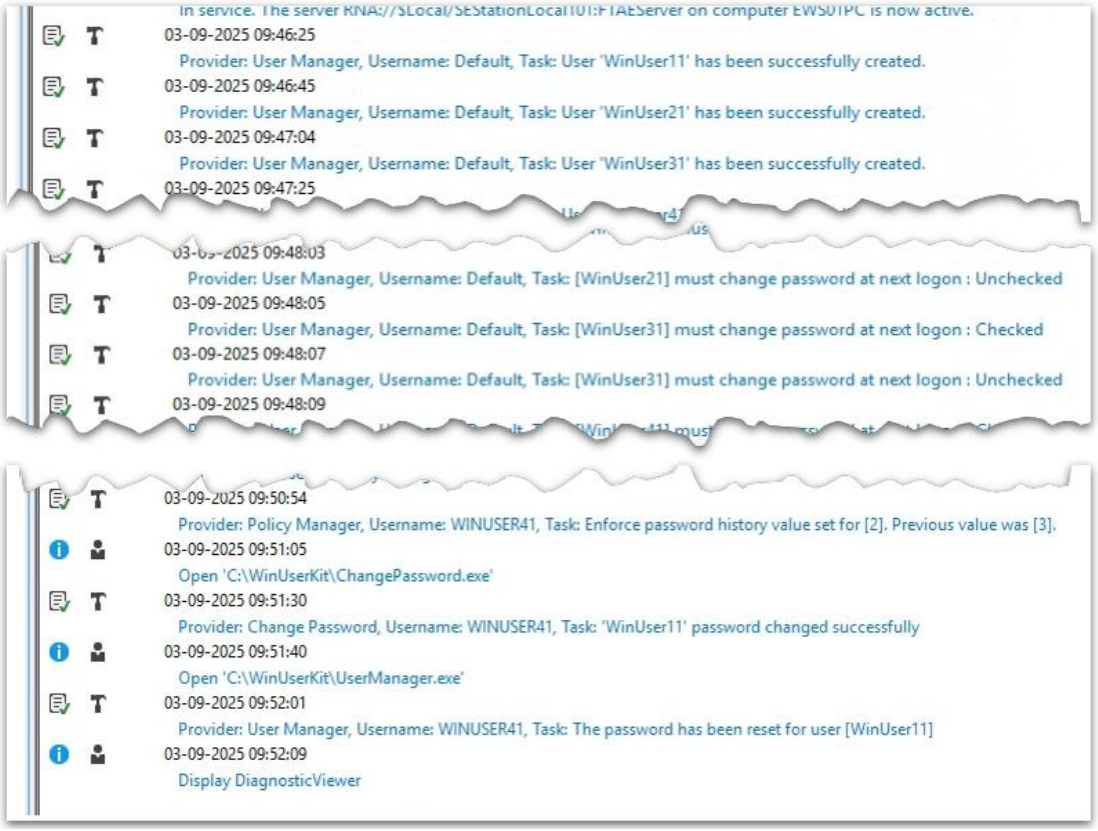
Reset User Password

An authorized user can reset the password for any selected account using the dedicated Reset Password option available within the User Manager utility. This feature allows secure credential updates during runtime, ensuring quick recovery and policy compliance without exiting the SCADA environment.



Audit Trail Log

All actions performed using the above utilities—including user creation, property updates, group assignments, password resets, password changes, and security policy modifications—are automatically recorded in the system's default diagnostic log. This ensures full traceability and audit compliance throughout SCADA runtime operations.

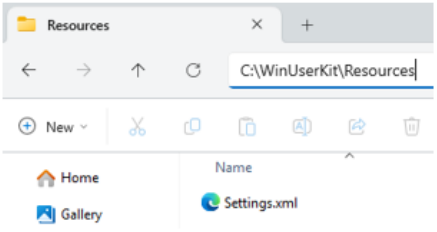


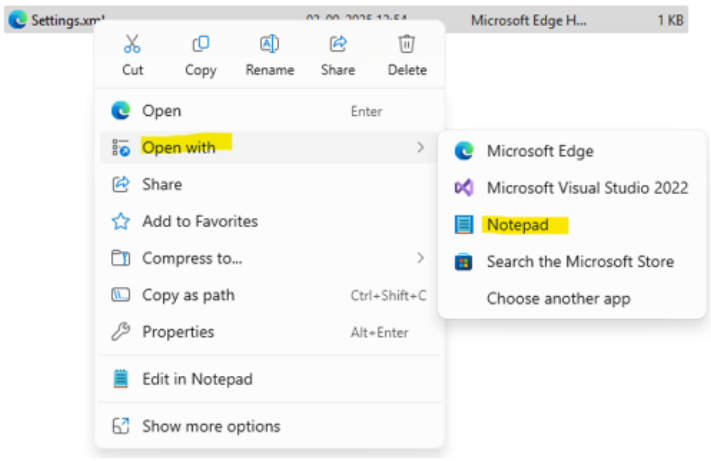
Utilities settings

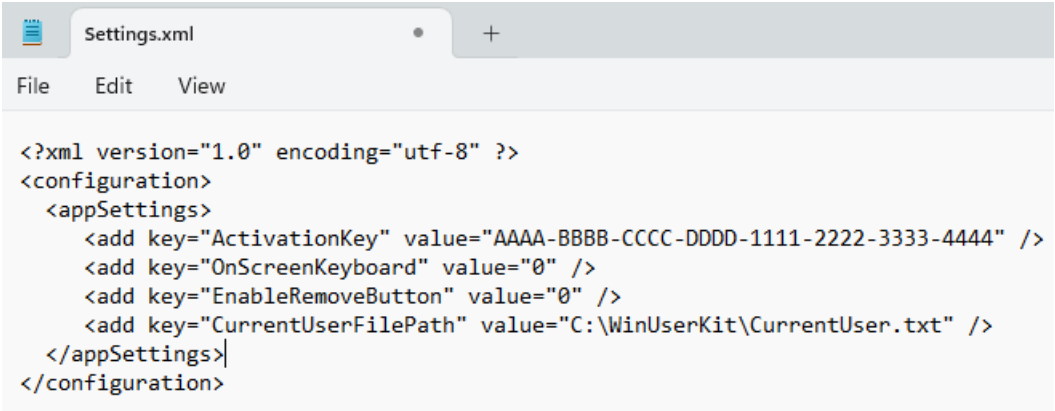
Navigate to the following path:

C:\WinUserKit\Resources

Open the Settings.xml file using Notepad to configure runtime parameters for the utilities.



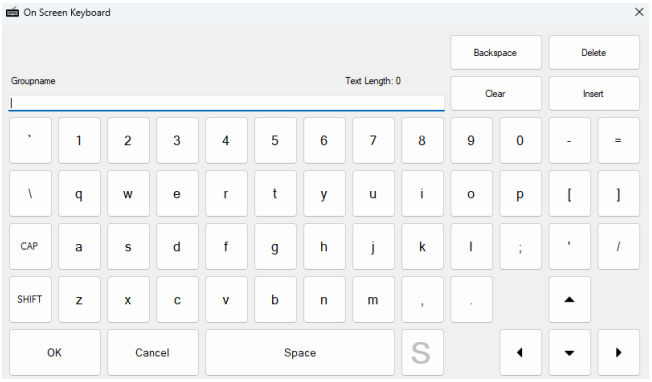




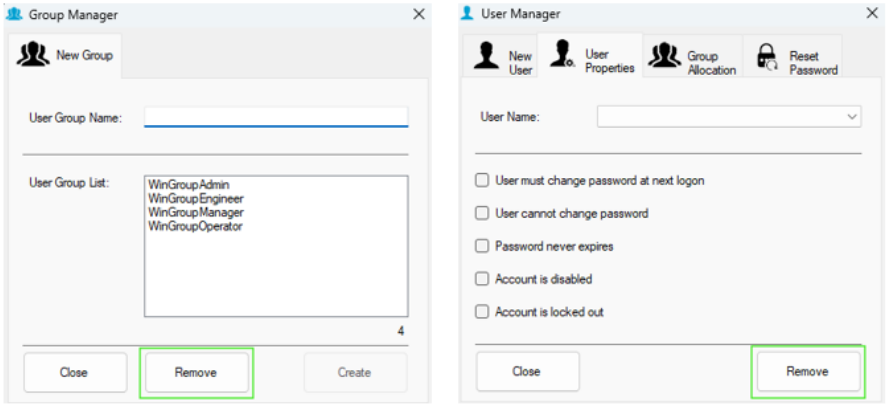
Configuration Options:

- ActivationKey: Define the activation key required to enable the utilities.
- OnScreenKeyboard: Set the value to 1 to enable the customized on-screen keyboard designed for WinUserKit utilities.
- EnableRemoveButton: Set the value to 1 to allow authorized users to remove Windows users and groups via the utilities.
- CurrentUserFilePath: Ensure this path matches the FactoryTalk View SE tag value:
  Tag → Utilities → UserNameShare → ExternalFilePath
  This ensures consistent username sharing between SCADA and supporting utilities.

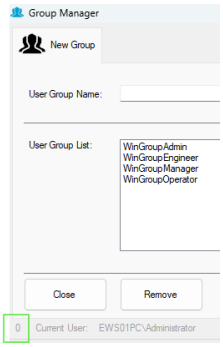
On Screen Keyboard



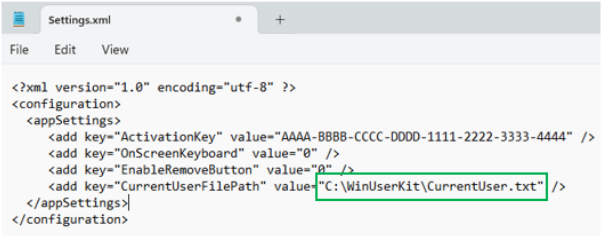
Remove button enabled

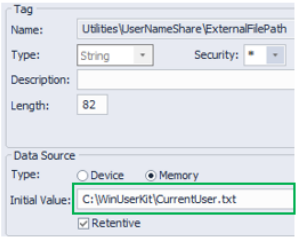


Each utility includes a status bar at the bottom. The left-side numeric indicator reflects the activation status: 0 = Not Activated, 1 = Activated



CurrentUserFilePath value





These settings allow you to tailor the behavior of WinUserKit utilities to your runtime environment and security policies.

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Feedback/Support

Your comments will help us better serve your Runtime User Management needs. If you have any suggestions/ require support, then drop an email to ‘info@sharadsoft.com’.

Location: Mumbai, India.

Document updated on 05-Sept-2025