

SkyFoundry Insider

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SkyFoundry News Update - New Reporting Features and SkySpark® Mobile

Recent issues of the Insider have focused on specific topics like Visualization tools (March `14), the SkyFoundry Developer and Partner Community (Jan `14) and Energy Analytics and Analysis tools (Sep `13). In this issue we have brought together a wide range of newsworthy items – all without a singular theme.

From new charting/data visualization tools and other features that expand reporting options, to BACnet enhancements, JSON support and other new additions, we hope you like this “news” issue of the Insider Newsletter.

And did we mention SkySpark mobile – see Page 4 !!!

In This Issue



New Charting and Reporting Tools



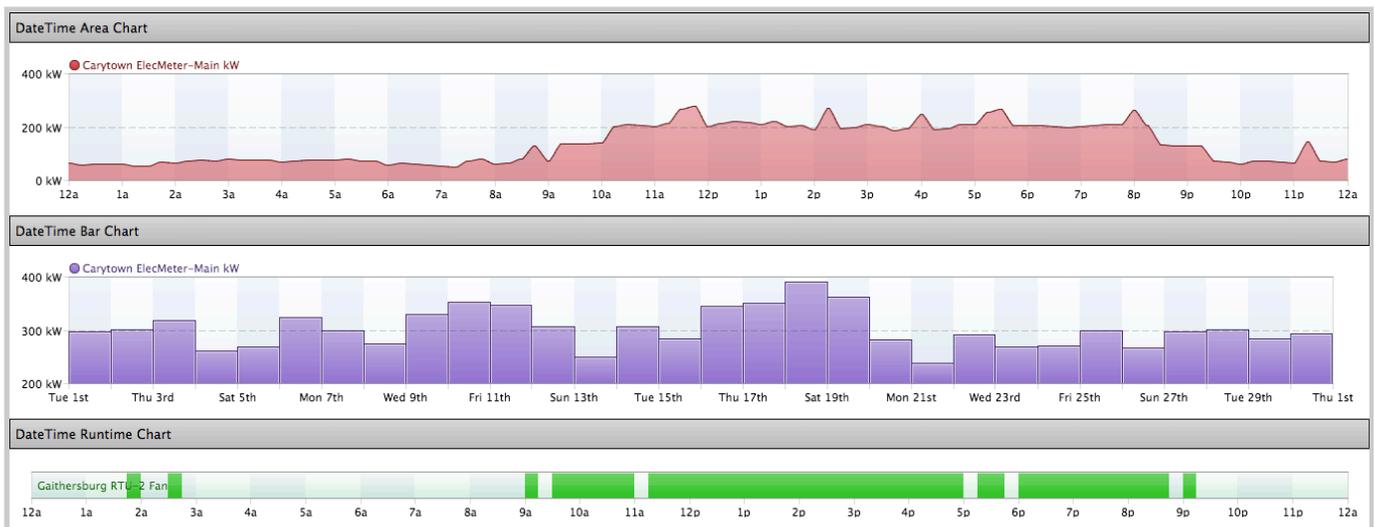
SkySpark Goes Mobile !!!



Haystack Connect
Announced for 2015

New Charting and Reporting Options Enhance Data Presentation and Reporting

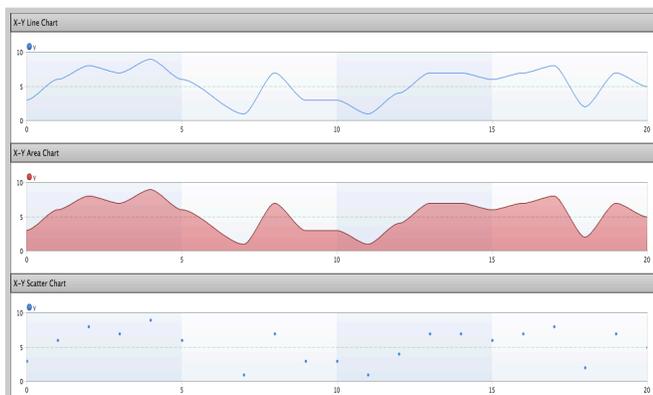
SkySpark recently added a range of new charting options for enhanced data presentation and reporting. Shown below are examples of the Area Chart, a DateTime Bar Chart, and a DateTime runtime chart view:



SkySpark also includes charts that display 2 Y-Axes like the Temp and KW example shown below...



...And a range of X-Y chart options and Bar Chart options:



Con't Pg 3

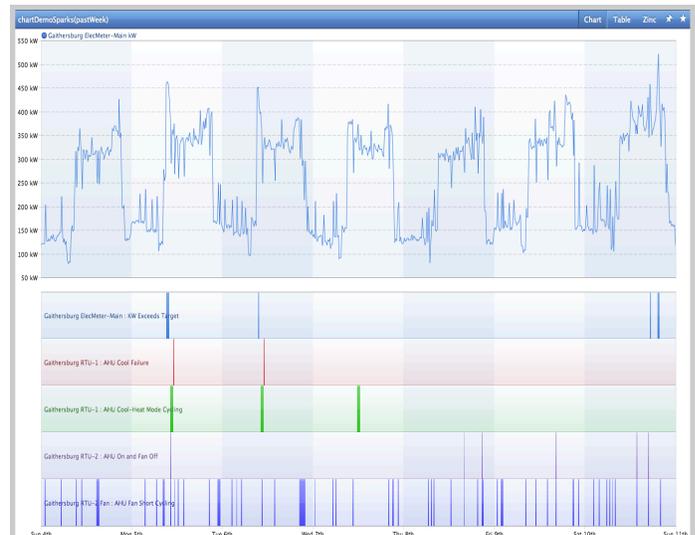
New Charting and Reporting Tools

Con't from Pg 2



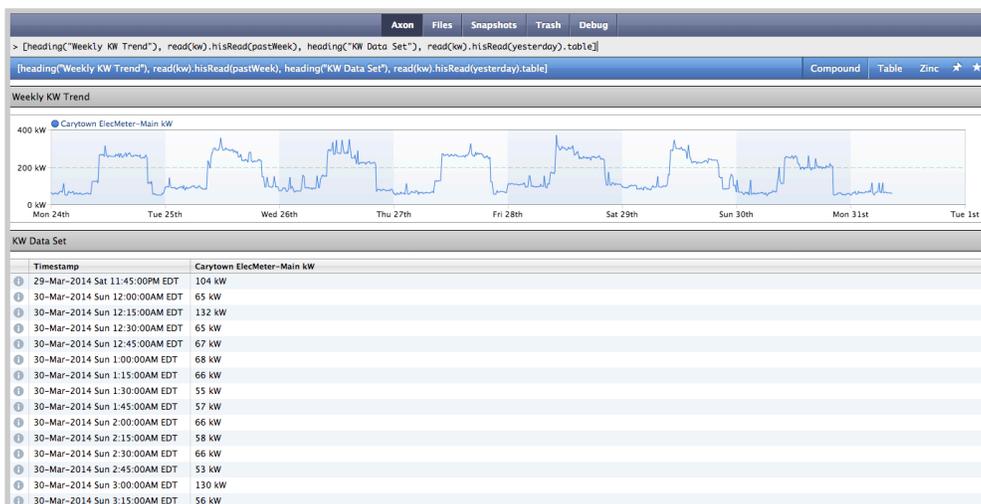
All of the new charting tools are available via the Folio App. This means that once charts are configured they can be saved as Reports for easy access by users. And, the new charting options include a special chart type that presents Spark timelines as shown to the right.

When used with the “compound chart feature” this enables you to combine Spark timelines with any other data you want.



Compound Reports

In addition to the new charting options, SkySpark now enables multiple charts to be combined into “compound reports”. Compound reports allow a series of charts, each with their own descriptive header information, to be combined in a single view. The following image shows an example.



Generate PDF Report Documents

And to add even more value to the new reporting features, Compound Reports can now generate PDF documents. AND SkySpark can automatically email those PDF documents directly to users.

There is much more to the new charting and reporting features than we can show here. Contact us to learn more.

SkySpark Goes Mobile !!!

The SiteSpark App Now Provides Views Designed for Use on Mobile Devices

No Apps to Load, Nothing to Buy !!!



We are extremely excited to announce SiteSpark for mobile devices. This new feature works with iOS and Android phones and tablets and provides a concise, easy-to-navigate presentation of Sparks designed specifically for use on small-format devices.



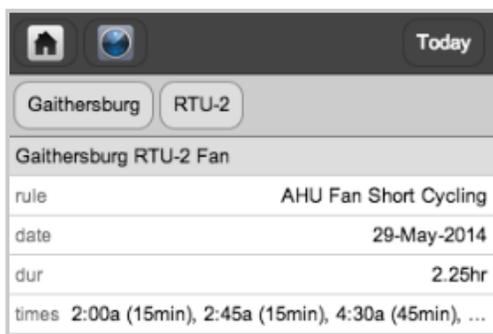
Now you can get a quick, easy-to-use view of analytic results on your favorite device.



Navigation is simple and follows the same model as the browser based version – select the Site you want to view for a summary of Sparks. Click on any Spark to get a detailed view. It couldn't be simpler.



And, best of all its delivered in HTML5 – this means there is no need to visit an app store, there's nothing to load, and nothing you need to buy.



Unless you want to use it as an excuse to get that new phone 😊

SiteSpark mobile will be available in the June release of SkySpark.

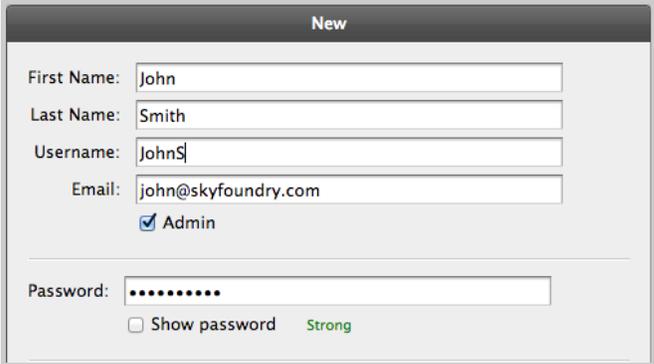


Product Enhancements, New Tools and Educational Resources

New Functions Help Streamline SSL Certificate Management and Provide Feedback on Password Strength

SkySpark is often used to access data (and push data to) web-based services such as Energy Star™ and others. These sites use HTTPS certificates to insure authenticity. SkySpark recently added a set of functions to help manage the certificates in your local Java truststore. The truststore is used to verify HTTPS (and other SSL/TLS) connections to remote servers. The certificate store is encoded in a special file under your Java installation. Complete information is provided in the SkySpark Docs.

Password Strength Indicator. Also on the topic of security, SkySpark's User configuration App now provides feedback to show if passwords are weak or strong, helping remind admins to specify strong passwords to improve overall security.



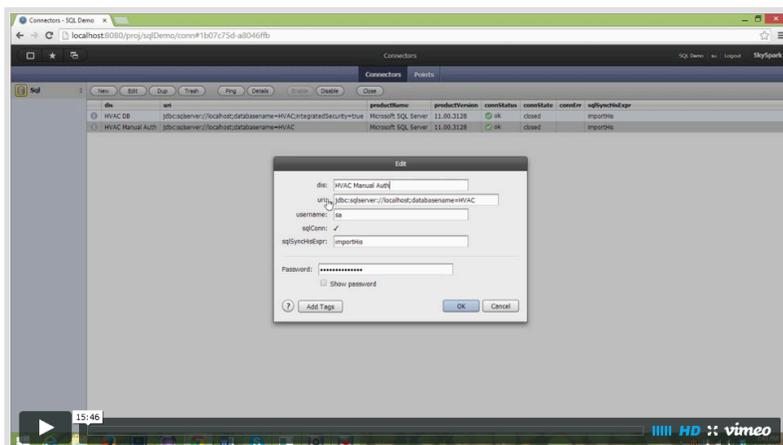
The screenshot shows a 'New' user configuration window. It contains the following fields and options:

- First Name: John
- Last Name: Smith
- Username: JohnS
- Email: john@skyfoundry.com
- Admin
- Password: [masked]
- Show password
- Strong

New Educational Resources For SQL Database Integration

We have recently released a range of application notes and video training covering the topic of integration with SQL databases. The Application notes include:

-  [Application Note: Connecting to MySQL DBs with SkySpark.pdf](#)
-  [Application Note: Connecting to SQLite DBs with SkySpark.pdf](#)
-  [Application Note: Connecting to SQL Server DBs with SkySpark.pdf](#)
-  [Application Note: Creating Snapshot and DB Compact Jobs in SkySpark.pdf](#)



We also have a comprehensive new video covering the entire process from SQL connection set all the way through to setting up a Job to automatically sync history data to the SkySpark Folio database.

Industry Recognition

SkySpark Recognized as a “GreenButton Adopter” for offering a released product supporting GreenButton Energy Data format



Green Button is an industry-led effort in response to a White House call-to-action to provide electricity customers with easy access to their energy usage data in a consumer-friendly and computer-friendly format via a "Green Button" on electric utilities' website. One key feature of Green Button is that it provides interval meter data and electric demand information.

Green Button defines a standard, machine-readable format for energy use data, and SkySpark introduced support for Green Button data in January of 2013 with functions that streamline the importing of energy meter data provided in the Green Button XML format. The “greenButton Extension” provides a function to parse green button XML usage data into SkySpark.

Find SkyFoundry and other Green Button Adopter companies listed here:
<http://www.greenbuttondata.org/greenadopt.html>

You can find complete details on the Green Button initiative and data format to see if your utility company makes your energy usage data available in Green Button format:
<http://www.greenbuttondata.org/>

Article Explains How Analytics Help Save Money (and When They Don't)

The May Issue of Automated Buildings includes an excellent article by Paul Oswald of ESI (a SkyFoundry partner) that provides a clear, to the point message, on using analytics to reduce operational and energy costs. Its provocative title: “Analytics Don't Save Money” conveys a simple yet essential message that is often overlooked in the buzz about new technologies. Analytics are a tool. They find the faults, deviations, anomalies and opportunities for savings – but savings only result if action is taken to address the findings.



We highly recommend the article. You can find it here:

<http://www.automatedbuildings.com/news/may14/articles/thinkesi/140420114808esi.html>

More Enhancements

Based on customer requests

New BACnet Connector Features

BACnet™ IP is one of the most commonly used connectors for acquiring data and bringing it into SkySpark. Other popular connectors include: OBIX, MODbus TCP, SQL databases via JDBC, and the new Haystack protocol which is rapidly gaining traction in the industry.



With our recent releases we have added a number of features to the BACnet connector:

- added support for reading proprietary objects present_value when polling
- added a new Axon function for reading arbitrary object properties
- streamlined the trend log importer
- added support for UDP port specification in the Device Discovery broadcast address string

Full Support for JSON

JSON (Java Script Object Notation) is a lightweight data-interchange format. It is easy for humans to read and write and it is easy for machines to parse and generate. JSON is based on a subset of the JavaScript Programming Language (<http://www.json.org>).

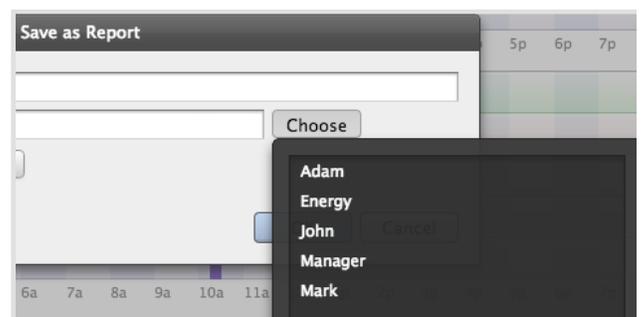
JSON is a text format that is completely language independent but uses conventions that are familiar to programmers of the C-family languages, including C, C++, C#, Java, JavaScript, Perl, Python, and many more. These properties make JSON an ideal data-interchange language.



With the latest release of SkySpark JSON is now supported as a first class format in the REST API for both sending and receiving data. ***This made a lot of programmers very happy*** 😊

Save Reports to Pre-defined Folders

Once you've defined folders for saved Reports its really helpful if you can just pick the folder you want to save new reports to. Well now you can. The Report App now provides a handy drop down list so you can quickly choose your from existing folders.

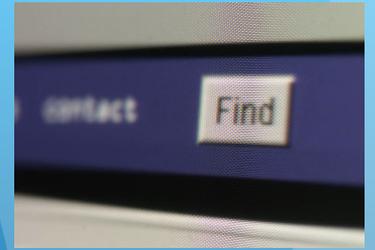


SkySpark® - Analytics for a World of Smart Devices

The past decade has seen dramatic advances in automation systems and smart devices. From IP connected systems to support for web services and xml data schemas, it is now possible to get the data produced by the wide range of systems and devices found in today's buildings and equipment systems.

Access to this data opens up new opportunities for the creation of value-added services to reduce energy consumption and cost, and to identify opportunities to enhance overall facility operations.

Access to the data is just the first step in that journey, however. The new challenge is how to manage and derive value from the exploding amount of data available from these smart and connected devices. *SkySpark directly addresses this challenge.*



The new frontier is to efficiently manage and analyze data to *find what matters.*

Haystack Connect 2015 Announced



YES! The Haystack Connect event will be back for 2015. The 2013 inaugural Haystack Connect event

was a great success and attendees voiced resounding support for making it an ongoing industry event.

Initial plans are underway by the community volunteers to host the event in May of 2015. The location and exact dates will be announced by September of 2014 so watch for full details. Based on the positive response to the event, and the continued growth of the community we expect to see significant growth in attendance.

For those of you new to the topic, Haystack Connect is the place where industry professionals come to learn the latest techniques for connecting systems and data to achieve intelligent, efficient buildings. Technologies and session topics include data acquisition, wireless communications, protocol translation, data visualization, analytics and methods to effectively bring all of that data together for improved systems and equipment performance. The data integration topic is of course where the synergy with Project-Haystack is found.

Project Haystack (www.project-haystack.org) was founded in 2011 specifically to address this challenge and make it easier for software applications to consume, analyze and present data from smart devices and equipment systems. Project Haystack is an open source initiative to develop tagging conventions and taxonomies for building equipment and operational data.

Overview Video Explains Project Haystack in 8 Minutes. Find it here:

<http://youtu.be/5C6GwLbYqTw>

