

Macro for Automatic file saving in LabChart version 7 or 8 – with video

Introduction

When recording data from telemetry studies the files can get very large very quickly. The problem with large files is that they can be slow to work with and analyze in LabChart. A macro can be used to automatically record data for a set period of time, save the data and create a new file before starting a new recording.

The macro below saves the data and starts a new file every 12 hours with the date and time that recording is started appended to the end of each filename.

These instructions are written to accompany *File saving macro - with video.zip*

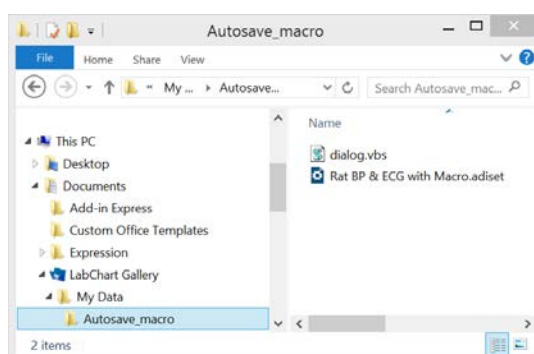
You can download this file from the Kaha Sciences website:

<http://www.kahasciences.com/download/LabChart-macros/>

Inside this zip file you will find a folder called *Autosave_macro* containing:

- *Rat BP & ECG with Macro – with video.adiset* – LabChart settings file containing the macro
- *Macro for Automatic file saving in LabChart - with video.pdf* - A copy of these instructions
- *dialog.vbs* – vbs script file called by the macro to acknowledge dialog box when clearing data containing video

Double click the zip file and copy the *Autosave_macro* folder to the My Data folder of your LabChart Gallery



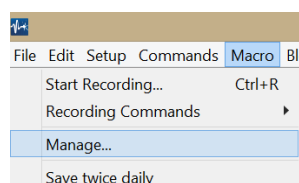
Macros in LabChart are stored as part of individual data files rather than as part of the LabChart program itself. To use the macro your LabChart file must have it available. The easiest way to do this is to append a LabChart settings file containing the macro you wish to use.

1. Prepare or open a LabChart file which has the data channels set up and ready to record your data.
2. Go to File> Append... and choose the file *Rat BP & ECG with Macro.adiset*
3. You will be asked if you wish to add macros. Click OK
4. You now need to customize the macro for your use following the instructions below.
5. The macro will create new files based on the one it is run from so make sure to check the Channel settings (e.g. sampling rate & Units Conversion), Time mode, Video and Data Pad column settings.

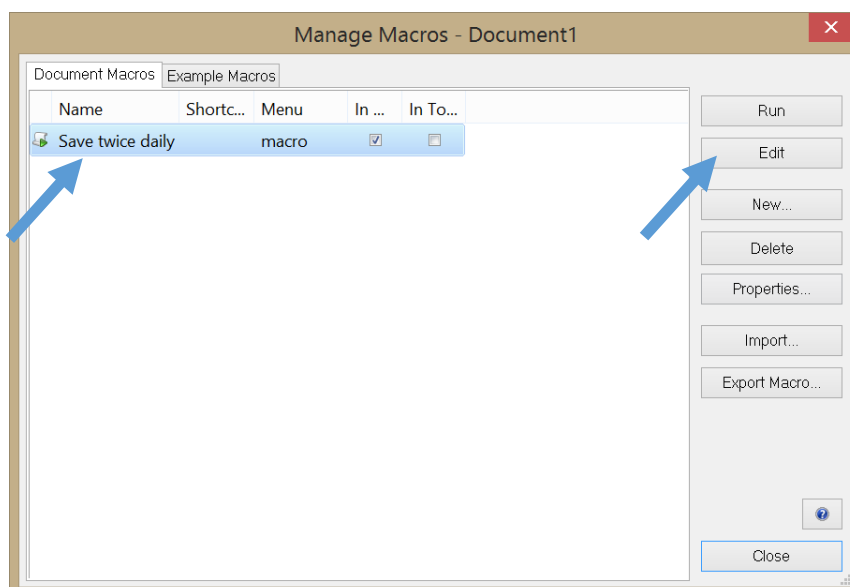
The macro

The macro is called "Save_twice_daily". It should now be listed under the Macro menu of LabChart. Before you run the macro you will need to customize the file path and names for your PC and experiment.

Go to Macro > Manage...



Select the *Save_twice_daily* macro and click Edit



The text of the macro is below. The green text lines are comments and do not actually run as commands.

To prepare the macro for use you must change the highlighted sections to match your user name (delete the []) and the filename you wish to record your data as. It is recommended to leave the underscore _ at the end of your filename to give a separation between the name, date and time automatically added to the filename.

To test the macro you can change the RecordSeconds=43200 (12 hours) value to 10 seconds.

Troubleshoot: If a dialog box opens asking for a filename then you have not changed the [UserName] correctly. Check the name and check that the square brackets are deleted.

```
Sub Save_twice_daily ()
'This macro will automatically save your LabChart data after a chosen period of recording, clear the
data and start a new file.
'Each filename is appended with the date and time the recording was started.
'A vbs script file is called to acknowledge a dialog box that pops up when video capture is enabled
and data containing video is cleared.
'Make sure to check the path, filename and recording period below.

Set objShell = CreateObject("WScript.Shell")
num=1

'Change the line below to the appropriate path and filename for your data.
'You must change [UserName] to the user logged in (make sure to delete the [ & ])
'Change BaseFilename to what you wish to call your data files. The date and time will be appended to
each file after the underscore
'Example where user is circul_admin and filename is Rat1401
'filename="C:\Users\circul_admin\Documents\LabChart Gallery\My Data\Rat1401\Rat1401_.adicht"
filename="C:\Users\[UserName]\Documents\LabChart Gallery\My Data\BaseFilename_.adicht"

'Set the recording period in seconds e.g. 12 hours = 43200
RecordSeconds=43200

do while num>0
    Call Doc.SaveAsAdvanced (filename, "{FA80FC3E-8409-4053-BEB7-1ACE168EE24F}-0", 12)
    Call Doc.StartSampling (RecordSeconds, True, kSMSampleForPeriod)
    Call Doc.Save ()
    Call Doc.SelectAll ("Chart View")
    objShell.Run(""" & App.MyDataFolder & "\Autosave_macro\dialog.vbs""")
    Call Doc.Clear ("Chart View")
loop

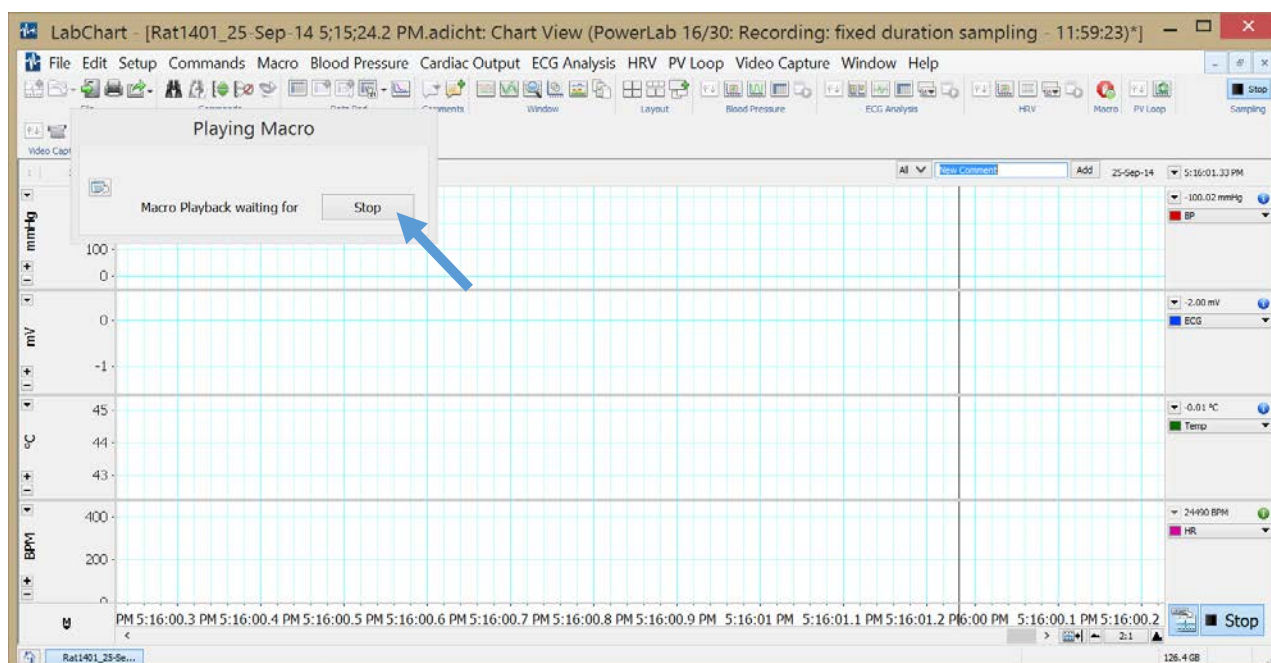
End Sub
```

After you have made the edits to the macro, close the macro editing dialog (the changes will be saved automatically).

Go to Macro>Save twice daily and the macro will start running.

When the macro is running a new window will appear called *Playing Macro* and in the LabChart title bar you will see the words *fixed duration sampling* followed by the time left in the current recording period.

To stop the macro you need to click *Stop* in the *Playing Macro* window. Clicking the usual LabChart Stop button will only cause the macro to start saving to the next file.



It is recommended that you disable automatic window updates on your LabChart PC when running this macro as prompts to restart after update installation can cause problems with the macro and data saving.

Please contact support@kahasciences.com if you have any questions or comments regarding this macro.