Contents

Introduction

versaverter is a rather strightforward application designes to provide as simple an interface as possible for performing conversions. Despite being somewhat intuitive, this manual should put to rest any questions that remain.

Conventions used in this manual:

The following conventions have been used in this guide in an attempt to maintain consistency and clarity.

Italic Text	Used for screen names and/or field labels
Bold Avant-garde	Used to indicate exact values as they would appear as data.

Getting Started

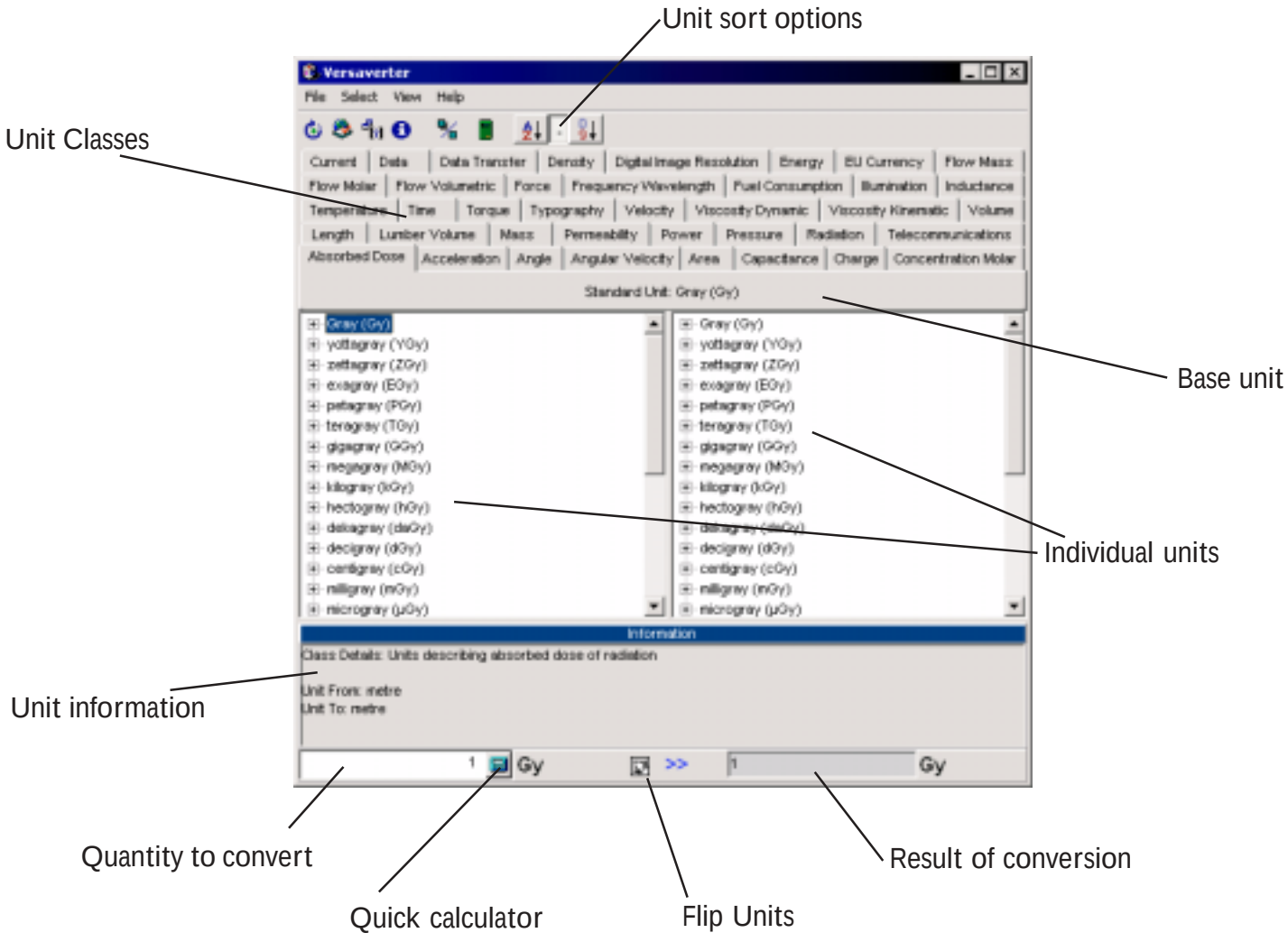
The main window

The main versaverter window contains the bulk of the applications' functionality. Units are sorted by classes (listed on the top of the window and in the "Select|Unit" menu) and individual units from the currently selected class are displayed in the 2 main selection boxes. Each class has a base unit (typically the SI standard if one applies) and any number of conversion units. The lower portion of the window contains the source and result data fields.

Converting data

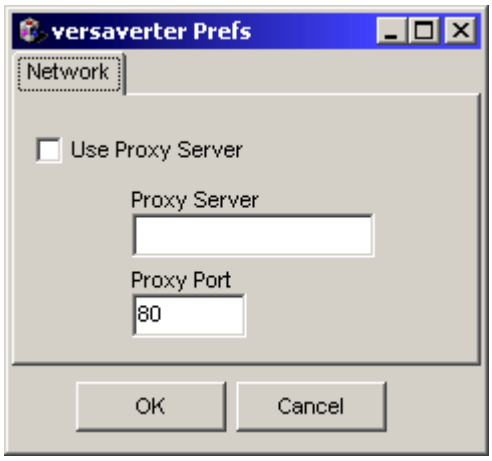
To convert from one unit to another:

1) select the applicable class.
2) Choose the source unit from the left list, and the destination from the list on the right.
3) Enter the data in the "Quantity to convert" field - the answer will appear immediately.



Preferences

Currently the only preferences in Versaverter are any proxy settings required during web based update checks.
If you connect to the Internet via a proxy server enter the Proxy Server address and port and check the box marked “Use Proxy Server” This proxy server will then be used whenever Versaverter checks for updated on the web.



Unit upgrades

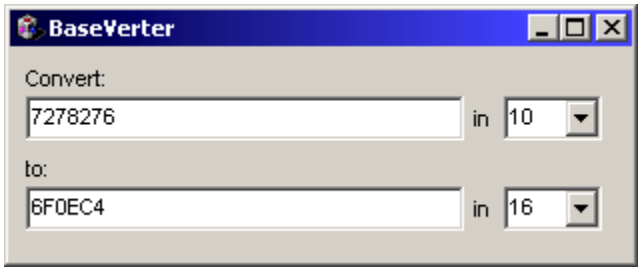
The master unit knowledge base is updated frequently and can be upgraded automatically from within the Versaverter application. to check for, and install, any upgrades simply click the *Check for Upgrades* icon or select *Check for Upgrade* from the File menu and follow the prompts.

Note: If required, the proxy settings must be defined for upgrades to work.

Baseverter

The Baseverter window provides a simple means to convert integer across numeric bases.

To make the conversion, enter a number in the topmost field labelled "Convert" and select the applicable base for that number. The converted number will immediately appear in the lower "To" field and can be converted to any other base by selecting the desired base in the box to the right.



Custom Units

You may create you own units for Versaverter and use the conversion engine to convert between these units. To do so - just edit the file **useruints.xml** using any standard text editor. This file has the same format as the **units.xml** file as described in Appendix A

Appendix A

Unit file formats

Both the standard unit library and user unit library files follow the same format. The files are created and maintained in XML but Versaverter automatically converts these to an internal data format whenever it detects a change in either of the datafiles. Although you may edit either file, the standard library is overridden when you install a new version and/or update the units from the web.

Filenames

The standard unit library is stored in the file units.xml
The user unit library should be called userunits.xml

Format

The XML files are defined by the included XML schema unitdata.xsd you can use this combined with an xml editor to edit the files or simply use a text editor if you feel so disposed.

I have neither the time nor inclination to explain xml in this appendix as there are many resources on the web to assist in learning the basics of the language, I will however describe the basic tags in the unitdata format. The rest of the definition should be straightforward by looking at the existing data in the units.xml file.

XML tags

<vv:unit>
This tag is the outer container for all units it takes a attribute **type** which defines the type of conversion the type may be one of 'factor', 'add', 'formula'

<vv:symbol>
Specifies the symbol of the unit.

<vv:name type="SI">
Specifies The name of the unit (currently all names are the SI name)

<vv:convert-from>
Specifies the factor or formula to convert from the unit to the base unit: for example if the definition was for kilometres the factor would be 1000 because there are 1000 metres (the base unit) in a Kilometre.

<vv:convert-to>
Only required for 'formula' type units: specifies the formula to convert from the base unit to the unit being defined.

Appendix B

Application control notes

Config file format

Versaverter stores all its configuration data in a single file called versaverter.conf that resides in the same directory as the unit data.This file follows the standard format for Unix type configuration files:

Any content on a line following a '#' character is considered a comment
Lines are of the format
<key><whitespace><value>

where
<key> is the name of a versaverter option (case insensitive)
<whitespace> is any of tabs or spaces
<value> is the setting for the option

In general this file is managed by the versaverter application but should users wish to transfer data from one machine to another or have several users share a configuration just point them all to the same config file.

Command Line Options

Versaverter has no command line options at this time.

Troubleshooting

Please review the support archive or post a message at our pier to pier support group:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pawprint-support/

FAQ

In an attempt to answer some of the most common questions regarding Versaverter here comes the ole Q and A...

Why is Versaverter free?

Versaverter is free because I want it to be! I started writing it because I didn't want to pay the (sometimes outrageous) prices for other similar software that was available at the time. Now that I have got a viable application I see no reason to charge others for it. Regardless, Versaverter already benefits me in several ways: I have a test bed with which to further my programming skills, I meet tons of interesting people via email, and my web page is completely paid for by the advertizing revenue Versaverter and WorldTime generate. Last but not least... when I started out on the internet using NCSA Moasic as a browser (Netscape didn't even exist yet!) everything was free - that was the whole point. Now, in my small way, I'm attempting to preserve the origional goals of the internet - free, easy, mutual colloboration and development.

Why are some "major" units not in the list?

The Versaverter unit list is primairly created from user sumbissions. I don't have time to search through data and find all the information but rely on the many users of Versaverter to help out in this area. Thus, if a unit is "missing" it just means that no one else has submitted it yet and that since you need it it may be high time for someone (hint hint) to do so.

What programming language is used to create Versaverter

The entire application was coded using the Borland Delphi programming environment (see www.borland.com) I started using Delphi 4 and have been using Delphi version 5 since early 2000.