

PATHFINDER X-REF HISTORY TELLS ALL

For every PATHFINDER X-ref that is on your system, a history is kept that provides a perspective on what was documented and how. For your HAWKEYE Technical Services folks, this is very helpful. If you have ever called us with a question related to the X-ref, we may have taken you into the history to help in the problem solving loop. With an understanding of the story that history tells, you will be able to do some checking yourself as well as be better able to help Technical Services help you.

To start with, there are two kinds of X-ref, Object and Field. They are saved as separate sets of physical and logical files in a user-selected library. You can have many X-refs on the system, each stored in a different library. For each X-ref (Object and Field), a history is maintained which logs everything that has been done to the X-ref since it was last built.

The history consists of dated entries representing build or refresh jobs that have affected the X-ref. For each of these entries, detail is available to describe exactly what was requested at that time, including what the Setup values were. The detail also includes statistics like the number of programs documented, start time, end time and CPU minutes for the job. What all this means to you and me, is that we can see what was documented, and how it was documented.

Here is a scenario that we encounter every now and then is Technical Services. Your site has PATHFINDER and has been using the X-ref successfully for some time. In many sites there is a person who makes it their responsibility to setup and maintain the X-ref. The others in the site then use the X-ref in their daily activities. Then, that key PATHFINDER X-ref person leaves and nobody else knows how the X-ref is setup or how to continue maintaining it. History will identify for you what has been done in the past so you can easily continue the process in the future.

Another scenario ... You have a person who cares for the X-ref that covers your primary production systems. Industrious individuals in the site may create X-ref for their own testing and development environments. An element of the X-ref history is a command that will scan the entire system looking for X-ref. Having this, and the detail available could help to identify whether these additional X-refs are necessary, redundant, or poorly planned, and taking up too much disk space.

Let's look at how to get into history. There are three ways to get there, and each have their advantages.

“F22=History”

This is available from within any X-ref inquiry option in the package. It prompts you for Object or Field X-ref history and the X-ref library identified in the upper right corner of the entry panel is used. Then it will show you the list of jobs that have been run against that X-ref. From there you can investigate the detail for any of the jobs.

WRKHST

This is a HAWKEYE command that you can execute from any command line and prompt using F4. It is also executed when you press “F8=Work with” anywhere within the history panels. The command will search all libraries looking for X-refs and may take a minute to complete. It will give you a list of the X-refs it found and you can then look at the detail for any of them. It tells you what library it is in, whether it is Object or Field X-ref, and the last time it was affected by a Build/refresh job. Option “6=X-ref files” is also available to show you a list of the file objects making up the X-ref.

DSPHST

This command takes you to the history detail for a particular X-ref. When you have used the WRKHST command, taking option “5=Display” executes the DSPHST command. By prompting the command with F4, you can direct it to the X-ref library that you want and whether you want object or field history from that library. This is very quick. If you know where the X-ref is, this is faster than having the WRKHST scan the entire system. This may also be preferred over “F22=History” because you don’t need to be in an inquiry option to use it. All you need is a command line.

For further information, please contact our Technical Services department. We can be reached by email at info.hawkinform.com or call us Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. (MST) and Friday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., VOICE (970) 498-9000 or FAX (970) 498-9096.