

R&S iq-tar

File Format Specification



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The iq-tar file format XML schema definition (<http://www.rohde-schwarz.com/file/RslqTar.xsd>) is released under the Apache License, Version 2.0, <http://www.apache.org/licenses/LICENSE-2.0>.

The iq-tar file format XML stylesheet (http://www.rohde-schwarz.com/file/open_lqTar_xml_file_in_web_browser.xslt) is released under the Apache License, Version 2.0, <http://www.apache.org/licenses/LICENSE-2.0>.

It includes:

jQuery (JavaScript Library v1.4.2)

jquery-1.4.2.min.js (<http://jquery.com/>)

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explorercanvas HTML5 Canvas for Internet Explorer (r3)

excanvas.compiled.js (<http://code.google.com/p/explorercanvas/>)

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Muehldorfstr. 15, 81671 Munich, Germany

Phone: +49 89 41 29 - 0

Fax: +49 89 41 29 12 164

E-mail: info@rohde-schwarz.com

Internet: <http://www.rohde-schwarz.com>

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1 I/Q Data File Format (iq-tar)

I/Q data is packed in a file with the extension `.iq.tar`. An iq-tar file contains I/Q data in binary format together with meta information that describes the nature and the source of data, e.g. the sample rate. The objective of the iq-tar file format is to separate I/Q data from the meta information while still having both inside one file. In addition, the file format allows you to preview the I/Q data in a web browser, and allows you to include user-specific data.

The iq-tar container packs several files into a single `.tar` archive file. Files in `.tar` format can be unpacked using standard archive tools (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_file_archivers) available for most operating systems. The advantage of `.tar` files is that the archived files inside the `.tar` file are not changed (not compressed) and thus it is possible to read the I/Q data directly within the archive without the need to unpack (untar) the `.tar` file first.

Contained files

An iq-tar file must contain the following files:

- **I/Q parameter XML file**, e.g. `xyz.xml`
Contains meta information about the I/Q data (e.g. sample rate). The filename can be defined freely, but there must be only one single I/Q parameter XML file inside an iq-tar file.
- **I/Q data binary file**, e.g. `xyz.complex.float32`
Contains the binary I/Q data of all channels. There must be only one single I/Q data binary file inside an iq-tar file.

Optionally, an iq-tar file can contain the following file:

- **I/Q preview XSLT file**, e.g. `open_IqTar_xml_file_in_web_browser.xslt`
Contains a stylesheet to display the I/Q parameter XML file and a preview of the I/Q data in a web browser.
A sample stylesheet is available at http://www.rohde-schwarz.com/file/open_IqTar_xml_file_in_web_browser.xslt.

1.1 I/Q Parameter XML File Specification



The content of the I/Q parameter XML file must comply with the XML schema `RsIqTar.xsd` available at: <http://www.rohde-schwarz.com/file/RsIqTar.xsd>.

In particular, the order of the XML elements must be respected, i.e. iq-tar uses an "ordered XML schema". For your own implementation of the iq-tar file format make sure to validate your XML file against the given schema.

The following example shows an I/Q parameter XML file. The XML elements and attributes are explained in the following sections.

Sample I/Q parameter XML file: xyz.xml

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<?xml-stylesheet type="text/xsl"
href="open_IqTar_xml_file_in_web_browser.xslt"?>
<RS_IQ_TAR_FileFormat fileFormatVersion="1"
xsi:noNamespaceSchemaLocation="RsIqTar.xsd"
xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance">
  <Name>FSV-K10</Name>
  <Comment>Here is a comment</Comment>
  <DateTime>2011-01-24T14:02:49</DateTime>
  <Samples>68751</Samples>
  <Clock unit="Hz">6.5e+006</Clock>
  <Format>complex</Format>
  <DataType>float32</DataType>
  <ScalingFactor unit="V">1</ScalingFactor>
  <NumberOfChannels>1</NumberOfChannels>
  <DataFilename>xyz.complex.float32</DataFilename>
  <UserData>
    <UserDefinedElement>Example</UserDefinedElement>
  </UserData>
  <PreviewData>...</PreviewData>
</RS_IQ_TAR_FileFormat>
```

Element	Description
RS_IQ_TAR_FileFormat	The root element of the XML file. It must contain the attribute <code>fileFormatVersion</code> that contains the number of the file format definition. Currently, <code>fileFormatVersion "2"</code> is used.
Name	Optional: describes the device or application that created the file.
Comment	Optional: contains text that further describes the contents of the file.
DateTime	Contains the date and time of the creation of the file. Its type is <code>xs:dateTime</code> (see <code>RsIqTar.xsd</code>).

Element	Description
Samples	<p>Contains the number of samples of the I/Q data. For multi-channel signals all channels have the same number of samples. One sample can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A complex number represented as a pair of I and Q values • A complex number represented as a pair of magnitude and phase values • A real number represented as a single real value <p>See also <code>Format</code> element.</p>
Clock	<p>Contains the clock frequency in Hz, i.e. the sample rate of the I/Q data. A signal generator typically outputs the I/Q data at a rate that equals the clock frequency. If the I/Q data was captured with a signal analyzer, the signal analyzer used the clock frequency as the sample rate. The attribute <code>unit</code> must be set to "Hz".</p>
Format	<p>Specifies how the binary data is saved in the I/Q data binary file (see <code>DataFilename</code> element). Every sample must be in the same format. The format can be one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <code>complex</code>: Complex number in cartesian format, i.e. I and Q values interleaved. I and Q are unitless • <code>real</code>: Real number (unitless) • <code>polar</code>: Complex number in polar format, i.e. magnitude (unitless) and phase (rad) values interleaved. Requires <code>DataType = float32 or float64</code>
DataType	<p>Specifies the binary format used for samples in the I/Q data binary file (see <code>DataFilename</code> element and chapter 1.2, "I/Q Data Binary File", on page 7). The following data types are allowed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <code>int8</code>: 8 bit signed integer data • <code>int16</code>: 16 bit signed integer data • <code>int32</code>: 32 bit signed integer data • <code>float32</code>: 32 bit floating point data (IEEE 754) • <code>float64</code>: 64 bit floating point data (IEEE 754)
ScalingFactor	<p>Optional: describes how the binary data can be transformed into values in the unit Volt. The binary I/Q data itself has no unit. To get an I/Q sample in the unit Volt the saved samples have to be multiplied by the value of the <code>ScalingFactor</code>. For polar data only the magnitude value has to be multiplied. For multi-channel signals the <code>ScalingFactor</code> must be applied to all channels.</p> <p>The attribute <code>unit</code> must be set to "V".</p> <p>The <code>ScalingFactor</code> must be > 0. If the <code>ScalingFactor</code> element is not defined, a value of 1 V is assumed.</p>
NumberOfChannels	<p>Optional: specifies the number of channels, e.g. of a MIMO signal, contained in the I/Q data binary file. For multi-channels, the I/Q samples of the channels are expected to be interleaved within the I/Q data file (see chapter 1.2, "I/Q Data Binary File", on page 7). If the <code>NumberOfChannels</code> element is not defined, one channel is assumed.</p>
DataFilename	<p>Contains the filename of the I/Q data binary file that is part of the iq-tar file.</p> <p>It is recommended that the filename uses the following convention: <code><xyz>.<Format>.<Channels>ch.<Type></code></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <code><xyz></code> = a valid Windows file name • <code><Format></code> = complex, polar or real (see <code>Format</code> element) • <code><Channels></code> = Number of channels (see <code>NumberOfChannels</code> element) • <code><Type></code> = float32, float64, int8, int16, int32 or int64 (see <code>DataType</code> element) <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • xyz.complex.1ch.float32 • xyz.polar.1ch.float64 • xyz.real.1ch.int16 • xyz.complex.16ch.int8

Element	Description
UserData	Optional: contains user, application or device-specific XML data which is not part of the iq-tar specification. This element can be used to store additional information, e.g. the hardware configuration. User data must be valid XML content.
PreviewData	Optional: contains further XML elements that provide a preview of the I/Q data. The preview data is determined by the routine that saves an iq-tar file (e.g. iq-tar file format). For the definition of this element refer to the RsIqTar.xsd schema. Note that the preview can be only displayed by current web browsers that have JavaScript enabled and if the XSLT stylesheet <code>open_IqTar_xml_file_in_web_browser.xslt</code> is available.

Example: ScalingFactor

Data stored as `int16` and a desired full scale voltage of 1 V

$$\text{ScalingFactor} = 1 \text{ V} / \text{maximum int16 value} = 1 \text{ V} / 2^{15} = 3.0517578125e-5 \text{ V}$$

Scaling Factor	Numerical value	Numerical value x ScalingFactor
Minimum (negative) int16 value	$-2^{15} = -32768$	-1 V
Maximum (positive) int16 value	$2^{15}-1 = 32767$	0.999969482421875 V

Example: PreviewData in XML

```
<PreviewData>
  <ArrayOfChannel length="1">
    <Channel>
      <PowerVsTime>
        <Min>
          <ArrayOfFloat length="256">
            <float>-134</float>
            <float>-142</float>
            ...
            <float>-140</float>
          </ArrayOfFloat>
        </Min>
        <Max>
          <ArrayOfFloat length="256">
            <float>-70</float>
            <float>-71</float>
            ...
            <float>-69</float>
          </ArrayOfFloat>
        </Max>
      </PowerVsTime>
      <Spectrum>
        <Min>
          <ArrayOfFloat length="256">
            <float>-133</float>
            <float>-111</float>
            ...
```

```

        <float>-111</float>
    </ArrayOfFloat>
</Min>
<Max>
    <ArrayOfFloat length="256">
        <float>-67</float>
        <float>-69</float>
        ...
        <float>-70</float>
        <float>-69</float>
    </ArrayOfFloat>
</Max>
</Spectrum>
<IQ>
    <Histogram width="64" height="64">0123456789...0</Histogram>
</IQ>
</Channel>
</ArrayOfChannel>
</PreviewData>

```

1.2 I/Q Data Binary File

The I/Q data is saved in binary format according to the format and data type specified in the XML file (see `Format` element and `DataType` element). To allow reading and writing of streamed I/Q data, all data is interleaved, i.e. complex values are interleaved pairs of I and Q values and multi-channel signals contain interleaved (complex) samples for channel 0, channel 1, channel 2 etc. If the `NumberOfChannels` element is not defined, one channel is presumed.

Example: Element order for real data (1 channel)

```

I[0],           // Real sample 0
I[1],           // Real sample 1
I[2],           // Real sample 2
...

```

Example: Element order for complex cartesian data (1 channel)

```

I[0], Q[0],     // Real and imaginary part of complex sample 0
I[1], Q[1],     // Real and imaginary part of complex sample 1
I[2], Q[2],     // Real and imaginary part of complex sample 2
...

```

Example: Element order for complex polar data (1 channel)

```

Mag[0], Phi[0], // Magnitude and phase part of complex sample 0
Mag[1], Phi[1], // Magnitude and phase part of complex sample 1
Mag[2], Phi[2], // Magnitude and phase part of complex sample 2
...

```

Example: Element order for complex cartesian data (3 channels)

Complex data: I[channel no][time index], Q[channel no][time index]

```
I[0][0], Q[0][0],           // Channel 0, Complex sample 0
I[1][0], Q[1][0],           // Channel 1, Complex sample 0
I[2][0], Q[2][0],           // Channel 2, Complex sample 0

I[0][1], Q[0][1],           // Channel 0, Complex sample 1
I[1][1], Q[1][1],           // Channel 1, Complex sample 1
I[2][1], Q[2][1],           // Channel 2, Complex sample 1

I[0][2], Q[0][2],           // Channel 0, Complex sample 2
I[1][2], Q[1][2],           // Channel 1, Complex sample 2
I[2][2], Q[2][2],           // Channel 2, Complex sample 2
...
```

Example: Element order for complex cartesian data (1 channel)

This example demonstrates how to store complex cartesian data in float32 format using MATLAB®.

```
% Save vector of complex cartesian I/Q data, i.e. iqiqli...
N = 100
iq = randn(1,N)+1j*randn(1,N)
fid = fopen('xyz.complex.float32','w');
for k=1:length(iq)
    fwrite(fid, single(real(iq(k))), 'float32');
    fwrite(fid, single(imag(iq(k))), 'float32');
end
fclose(fid)
```