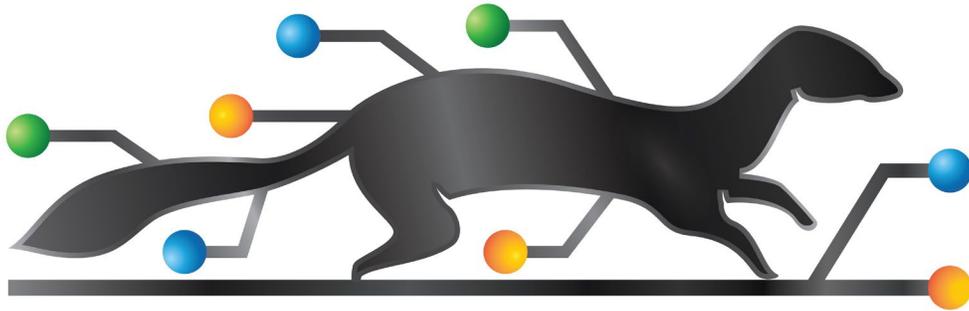


Network Ferret™

MIB Analysis

V19



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1: What Is MIB Analysis

Network Ferret - MIB Analysis is essentially a MIB Browser on a MIB Dump rather than against a live device or simulation.

MIB Analysis scans MIB definitions and builds a tree just like every other MIB definition scanner out there.

NMS Shops Collect Dumps

Any NMS shop whether it is a product shop or a consulting shop is going to collect SNMP MIB Dumps. It is unavoidable.

Dumps are collected to load into a MIB Simulator and test NMS software. Dumps are collected to plan out new features. Dumps are collected when customers have bugs.

What MIB Analysis is Not

MA is not a perfect parser of the grammar of a MIB definition. Our goal was to read MIBs well enough to present the OIDs and descriptions and be able to use that to display the data in a MIB dump.

We have parsed over a thousand actual MIB definition files that humans read and it works pretty well. If you come across a real file that is not parsed correctly, please send it to us. support@altmantech.com.

Feel free to send us MIBs (or a link, or an RFC number) and we will incorporate them into the download site.

We have not tried every MIB dump format out there. MA will not work with MIB dumps that do partial translations of the OIDs into text. If we fail to read a dump format, send us a small sample and we will deal with it.

What Can MA Do For You?

- Present the data from a MIB Dump in a nice browsing format.
 - Export table data in CSV format
- Scan MIB definition files and present a tree format of the OIDs.
- Generate code to represent OID constants in programs.



2: Quick Start

Installation

Unzip the distribution and follow the instructions in the readme. It is necessary to know where the machine's Java installation is.

Sample Database

A sample database can be downloaded (See [Chapter 3 – Importing/Exporting](#)). It contains standard RFC MIBs plus some vendors such as Cisco and Juniper which also brought in some ISO and Experimental MIBs.

This would be the best option to determine if you like MA's features before spending the time parsing your own MIB files.

Optionally, you can parse your own MIB definition files (See [Chapter 4](#)).

Start MA

Start MDM and do File->Load a Database. Select the sample database that was downloaded or the database saved after scanning.

Browse to the well-known ifTable.

See graphic on next page



Network Ferret - MIB Analysis - C:\amt_work\Network Ferret\MIBDatabases

File Exchange Favorites Options Help

DB Name: nfMIBDB.dat Legend: Table Name Clash Favorite

Prune Tree Match case Whole word In Selection Search

Id	Name	MIB Name	File
> 1	iso		
> 0	std	IEEE8021-PAE-MIB	IEEE_802_1X.mib.txt
> 2	member-body	LAG-MIB	LAG-MIB.txt
> 2	mgmt		
> 1	mib-2		
> 1	system	RFC1213-MIB	rfc1213_MIBII.txt
> 2	interfaces	IF-MIB	rfc2863.txt
> 1	ifNumber	IF-MIB	rfc2863.txt
> 2	ifTable	IF-MIB	rfc2863.txt
> 1	ifEntry	IF-MIB	rfc2863.txt
> 3	at	RFC1213-MIB	rfc1213_MIBII.txt
> 4	ip	IP-MIB	rfc4293-newIP.txt
> 10	transmission	RFC1213-MIB	rfc1213_MIBII.txt
> 11	snmp	RFC1213-MIB	rfc1213_MIBII.txt
> 14	ospf	RFC1253-MIB	rfc1253-OSPF.txt
> 15	bgp	BGP4-MIB	rfc1657v1.mib.txt
> 17	dot1dBridge	BRIDGE-MIB	rfc4188-bridgeMIBNew.txt
> 31	ifMIB	IF-MIB	rfc2863.txt
> 35	etherMIB	EtherLike-MIB	IETF_ETHERLIKE.mib.txt
> 37	atmMIB	ATM-MIB-v1	ATM-MIB-V1SMI.mib.txt
> 47	entityMIB	ENTITY-MIB	IETF_ENTITY.mib.txt
> 53	vgRptrMIB	DOT12-RPTR-MIB	rfc2266.mib.txt
> 55	ipv6MIB	IPV6-MIB	mib-rfc2465.txt
> 68	vrrpMIB	VRRP-MIB	VRRP-MIB.txt
> 75	fcFeMIB	FIBRE-CHANNEL-FE-MIB	V4_0FE.mib.txt
76	inetAddressMIB	INET-ADDRESS-MIB	IETF_INET_ADDRESS.mib.txt
> 79	ptopoMIB	PTOPO-MIB	rfc2922_physical_topology.txt
> 83	ipMRRouteStdMIB	IPMRROUTE-STD-MIB	rfc2932-MRoute.txt
84	ianaRtProtoMIB	IANA-RTPROTO-MIB	IANA_RTPROTO.mib.txt
> 85	igmpStdMIB	IGMP-STD-MIB	rfc2933-IGMP.txt
> 100	transportAddressMIB	TRANSPORT-ADDRESS-M...	mib-rfc3419.txt
103	ipv6FlowLabelMIB	IPV6-FLOW-LABEL-MIB	mib-IPV6-FLOW-LABEL-MIB.txt
> 118	alarmMIB	ALARM-MIB	mib-alarmmib.txt
129	vpnTcMIB	VPN-TC-STD-MIB	mib-rfc4265.txt
> 138	isisMIB	ISIS-MIB	ISIS-MIB.txt
152	ianaGmpls	IANA-GMPLS-TC-MIB	mib-IANA-GMPLS-TC-MIB.txt
> 207	vrrpv3MIB	VRRPV3-MIB	mib-rfc6527.txt
> 3	experimental		

MIB Detail Dump Content Table View

Table variable view options

Show Descriptions Show Full OID Show Type Detail

File name: rfc2863.txt
MIB name: IF-MIB

Variable name: ifTable
OID: 1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2
Type: TABLE
Index: ifIndex)
Description: A list of interface entries. The number of entries is given by the value of ifNumber."

Table Entries:
=====

Variable name: [1] ifIndex
Type: InterfaceIndex -> Integer32 -> INTEGER
Description: A unique value, greater than zero, for each interface. It is recommended that values are assigned contiguously starting from 1. The value for each interface sub-layer must remain constant at least from one re-initialization of the entity's network management system to the next re-initialization."

Variable name: [2] ifDescr
Type: DisplayString -> OCTET STRING
Description: A textual string containing information about the interface. This string should include the name of the manufacturer, the product name and the version of the interface hardware/software."

Variable name: [3] ifType
Type: IANAifType -> INTEGER
Description: The type of interface. Additional values for ifType are assigned by the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA), through updating the syntax of the IANAifType textual convention."

Variable name: [4] ifMtu
Type: Integer32 -> INTEGER
Description: The size of the largest packet which can be sent/received

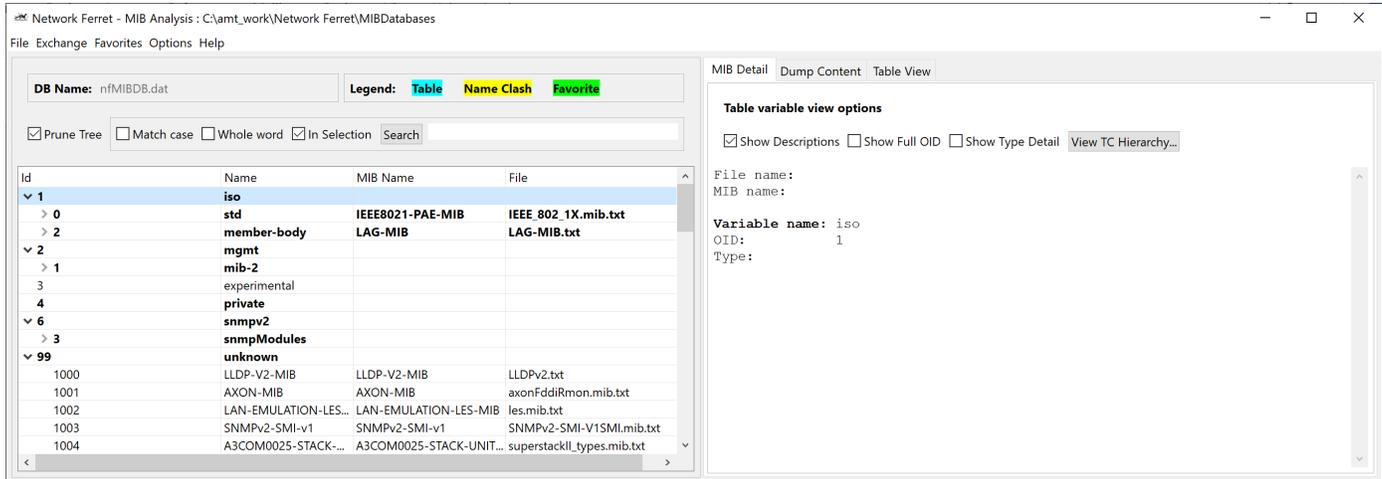
This is pretty much what one would expect to see in a MIB definition browser. The OID tree on the left. The definition detail on the right.



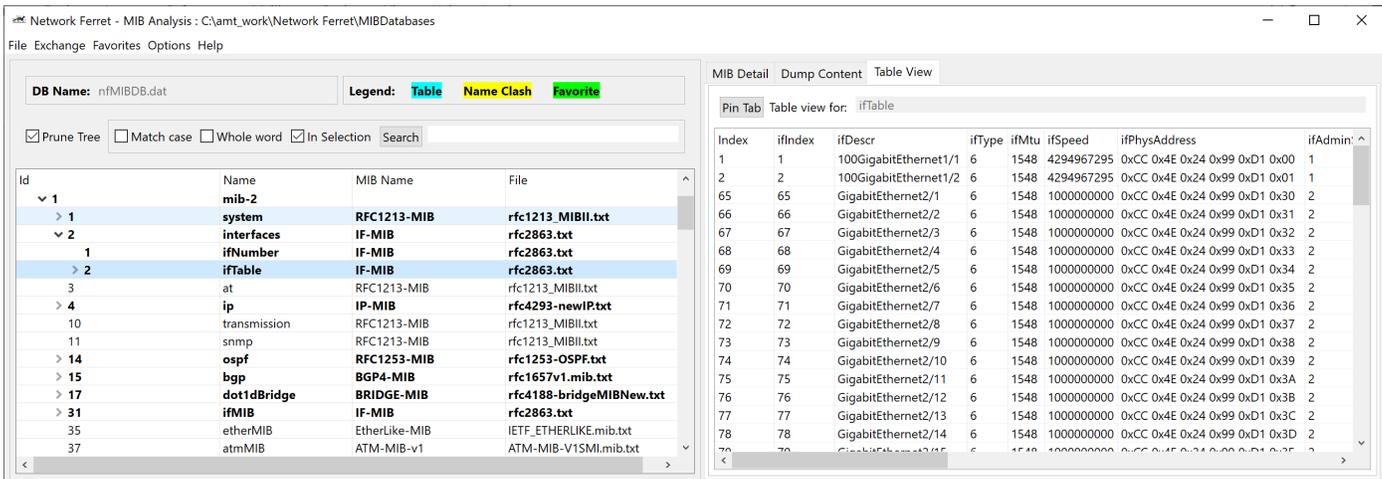
Analyze A Dump

The distribution comes with a few small MIB dumps in the dumps subdirectory. Select **File->Analyze A MIB Dump** and choose one of the dumps.

The dump will be scanned and any branches that contain data will become **BOLD**.

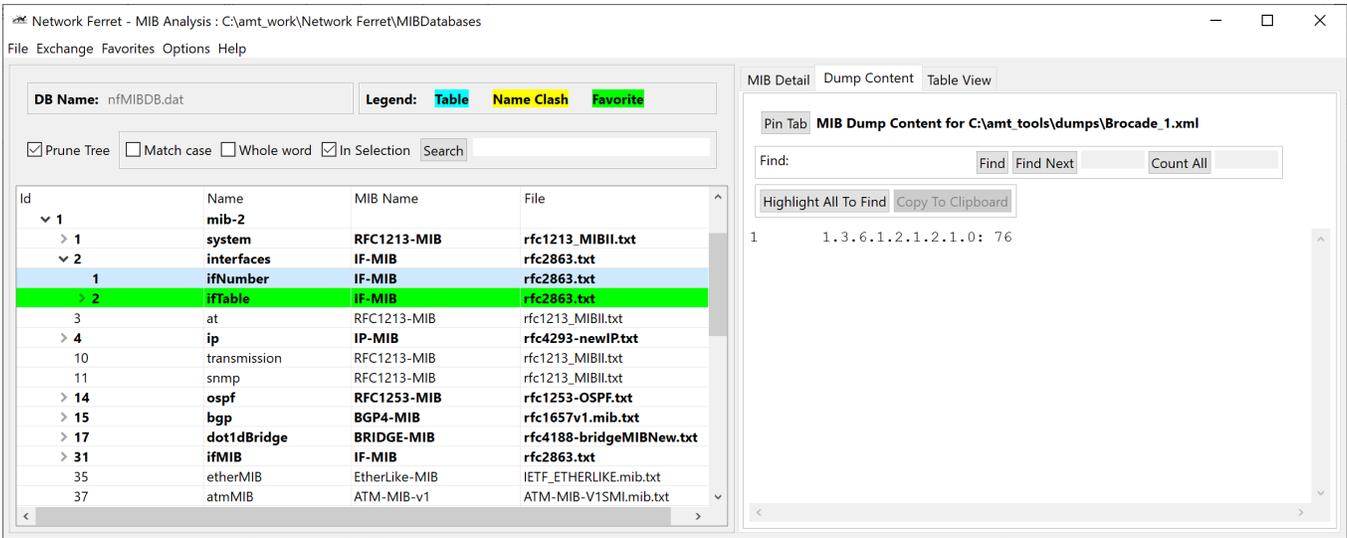


Browse back to the well-known ifTable. Select the Table View tab on the right. There is a nice presentation of the ifTable data.

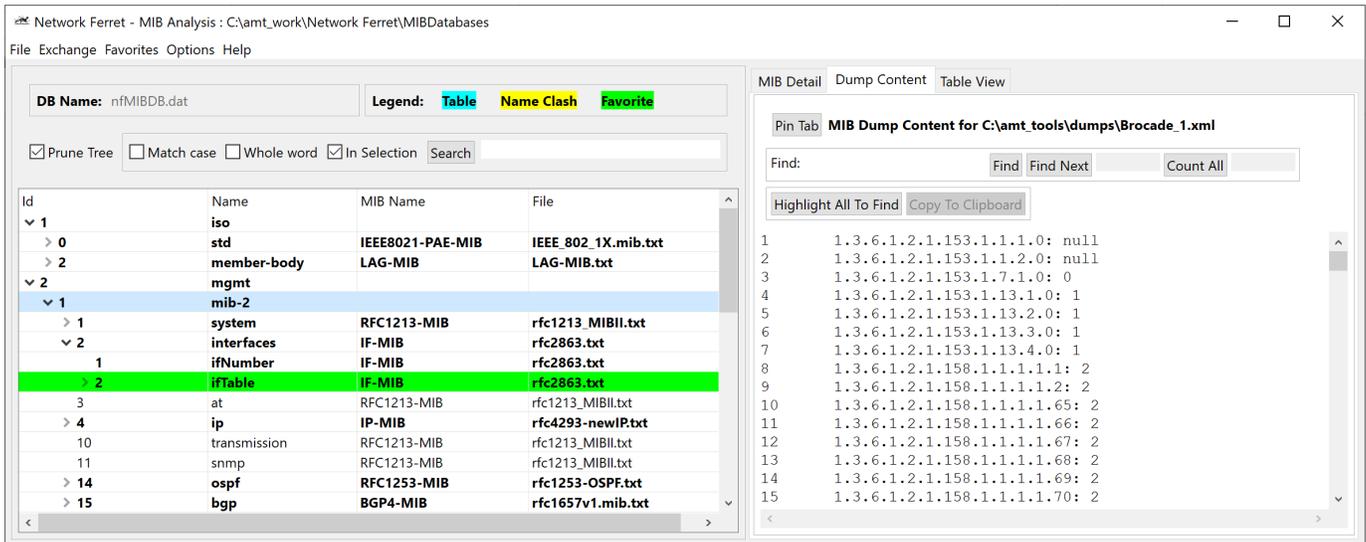


Individual variables such as ifNumber or specific table columns can be seen on the Dump Content tab.





Dump content for which there is no MIB definition will be attached to the nearest parent branch. For example, MIB2 has some data attached to it for this sample dump. These happen to be the spdMIB (153) and the dot3OamMIB (158)



On the main window Options menu, there is an option to set the maximum characters per table cell. Normally this is not a problem. However, there are cells that are super long such as VLAN membership bit maps. Scrolling gets cumbersome. Setting a maximum number of characters per cell alleviates this.



3: Importing/Exporting

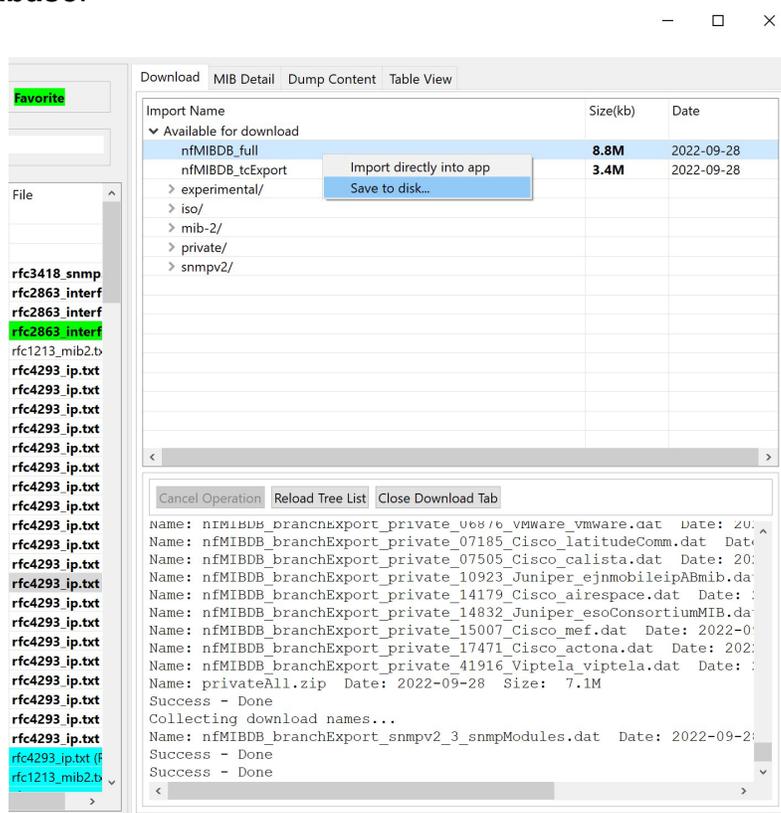
Importing

Download Imports From AMT

AMT has scanned a number of MIBs which are available for import. We will be happy to add more to the site. Send MIB files or a link to support@altmantech.com.

From the main window menu select **Exchange->Import From Download Site**. The Download tab will open in the right pane and it will automatically download the list of possible imports from the AMT site.

At the first level will be the full database. **nfMIBDB_full**. Select the file, right-click, select **Save To Disk** and then choose a directory. After download is complete, **unzip** the file and then select **File->Load Database**.



Any other downloads can either be **saved to disk** or **imported directly** into the loaded database (which could be a new, empty database). Imports will replace existing branches. No attempt is made to merge the data.

AMT has created some collections of downloads. The big main branches will have files at the top of their list called branchAll. This is a collection of all branches in that folder.

There are some special collections for vendors. Cisco, for example. There is an import called **00000_Cisco_cisco** which is ONLY the Cisco branch. However, the Cisco MIB package download includes a number of other private branches. They are all included in the file **Cisco_allVendors**.

Import From File System

Under the main window Exchange menu there are options to import TCs and branches from the file system. Branch imports can be either individual branches or zip files containing a collection of branches.

Any import will replace an existing branch if it exists. No attempt is made to merge data.

TC imports will ALWAYS be merged.

Exporting

Export The Main Branches

From the main window Exchange menu there are options to export the main branches or all of the main branches. A file will be created for each sub-branch. For example, under Private, there will be a file for Cisco, Juniper, etc. The files are all created in the same directory.

No zip files are exported. Collections need to be created manually.

Export A Single Branch

From the right-click menu in the MIB Tree, an individual branch can be exported.

Only the first level below the main branches can be selected.



Export A Single Branch Plus TCs

From the right-click menu in the MIB Tree, an individual branch plus Textual Conventions can be exported.

Use this when you want to merge a new vendor branch into an existing MIB database.

- 1 – Select File->New Database
- 2 – Scan the MIBs you want to scan.
- 3 – Highlight the vendor branch under Private, right-click and select Export Branch + TCs.

This will export the MIB definitions AND the Textual Conventions as a single file. Import this file into an existing database. Save the database.

The alternative is to export the MIB Branch as one file and export the TCs as another file and then import them both.

Most of the exports on the download site were done WITHOUT including TCs. Instead, there is one large TC import file with all of them.



4: Scanning MIB Definitions

Databases

MA databases can be kept anywhere. They do not need to be in the directory that was scanned.

The database does maintain file names so if the database is moved to a location that does not have access to the files (like the sample database that can be downloaded), the user will not be able to view the MIB definition files.

Deleting A Branch

MA allows the deletion of branches. This allows the cleaning up of a database of things you don't want to see. Keep in mind, that this cleanup will have to be repeated if the database is rescanned. It might be better to either remove those MIB files or put entries into the nfMIBDB_scanIgnore.txt file.

Scan A Directory

Select **File->Scan A Directory**, choose the directory to be scanned and the Scanner Window will open.

Scanning will recursively traverse the directory hierarchy. At AMT, we download zip packages from vendors that contain files other than MIB definition files. The file nfMIBDB_scanIgnore.txt in the distribution, lists files extensions that are ignored. You can add more.

Any directory ending with “_NFDS” (Network Ferret Don't Scan) will be ignored.

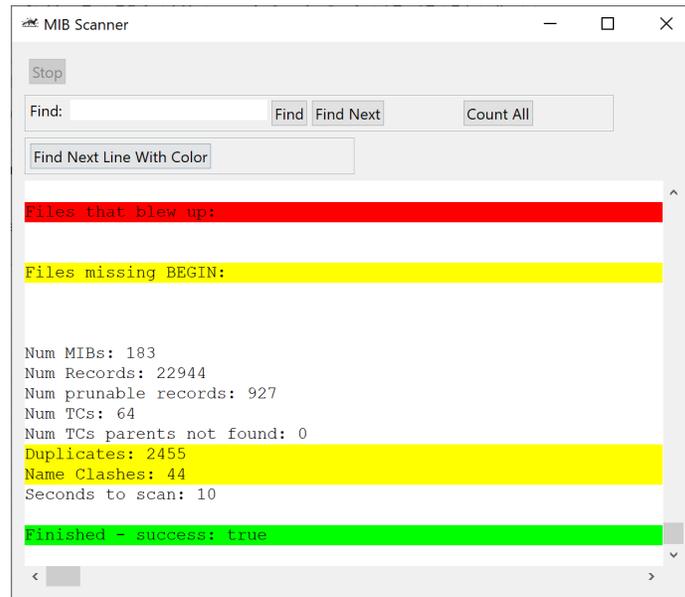
Any file larger than 5,000,000 bytes will be ignored. We have seen a couple of valid files just over 2MB. 5MB seems like a safe limit. This is to prevent accidentally loading some massive text file that isn't really a MIB definition.

Any file that has binary data at the start will be ignored.



We have noticed that the painting of the window can take significant CPU so if scanning a massive hierarchy (thousands of files), minimize the window and check periodically to see if it is finished.

A finished scan will look like the graphic below. Hopefully with zero files that blew up, zero files missing BEGIN, no duplicates, no name clashes and a Green – success line.



Exceptions

If a file blows up, that is AMT's fault. Please send us the file so we can correct the error.

Vendors include many text files that are not MIB definitions. **Files Missing BEGIN** is just to let you know they are there. This could also be a parsing error with MIB Analysis.

TCs without parents indicates either a missing MIB definition file with the parent TC or some parsing error with MIB Analysis.

Duplicates often occur because multiple versions of a vendor MIB set are downloaded. Also, older MIBs tended to redefine many of the standard variables higher up the tree.

Name Clashes occur when the same OID is found in different MIBs with different names. This is usually a typo, or one vendor bought another and they edited the private branch name, or the vendor changed a top level name and did not change it in all files.



Create a New Database

Scanning a directory automatically creates a new database. The only time to manually create a new database is if you want to build a database from imports.

Select **File->New DB**.

Import .dat and .zip files. See [Chapter 3 – Importing/Exporting](#).

Adding to an Existing Database

The only way to add to an existing database is via imports. Scanning automatically creates a new database.



5: Analyzing A Dump

The [Quick Start](#) chapter describes how to analyze a dump file. In this chapter we will describe some details about the dump files.

Text Dumps

MIBAnalysis has not been tested with every MIB dump format out there.

It looks for the following:

“OID=” is snmpwalk format. Those four characters are stripped from the line.

Does the line start with a dot (.) or digit?

Grab the OID by reading dots and digits.

For non-table data, the line is simply taken and displayed as is in the Dump Content tab.

For table data, MA looks for the first non-digit, non-dot (.) character after the OID. Then it skips any white space. Then it takes the rest of the line as the value for that OID.

Remember that this is strictly for human consumption so there is no attempt to translate/interpret the data.



XML Dumps

MA expects to find "<?xml" on the first line of an XML file. MA will load the XML and build the object tree.

AMT works with ireasoning as our MIB simulator so MA expects that format (mostly) for the file. If there are other XML formats for MIB dumps, send us a sample. support@altmantech.com.

MA expects the MIB instance data to be at the third level in the object tree.

```
<Level 1 object - name irrelevant>
  <Level 2 object - name irrelevant>
    <Level 3 object - name irrelevant oid="1.2.3">
      <Value><![CDATA[someData]]></Value>
    </Level 3 object>
  The rest of the file is a list of Level 3 objects
```

For example (paste this into a text file and Analyze it):

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<SnmpSimulatorData>
<Instances readCommunity="public">

<Instance oid=".1.0.8802.1.1.2.1.1.1.0" valueType="Integer">
  <Value><![CDATA[30]]></Value>
</Instance>

</Instances>
</SnmpSimulatorData>
```

The screenshot shows the Network Ferret MIB Analysis interface. On the left, a tree view displays the MIB structure. The selected node is 'lldpMessageTxInter...' with ID 1. The right pane shows the 'MIB Dump Content for C:\temp\test.xml' with a search bar and a table of results.

Id	Name	MIB Name
1	iso	
0	std	IEEE8021-PAE-MIB
8802	iso8802	IEEE8021-PAE-MIB
1	ieee802dot1	IEEE8021-PAE-MIB
1	ieee802dot1mibs	IEEE8021-PAE-MIB
1	ieee8021paeMIB	IEEE8021-PAE-MIB
2	lldpMIB	LLDP-MIB
1	lldpObjects	LLDP-MIB
1	lldpConfiguration	LLDP-MIB
1	lldpMessageTxInter...	LLDP-MIB
2	lldpMessageTxHoldM...	LLDP-MIB

The dump content window shows the following result:

Find:	Count
1.0.8802.1.1.2.1.1.1.0: 30	1

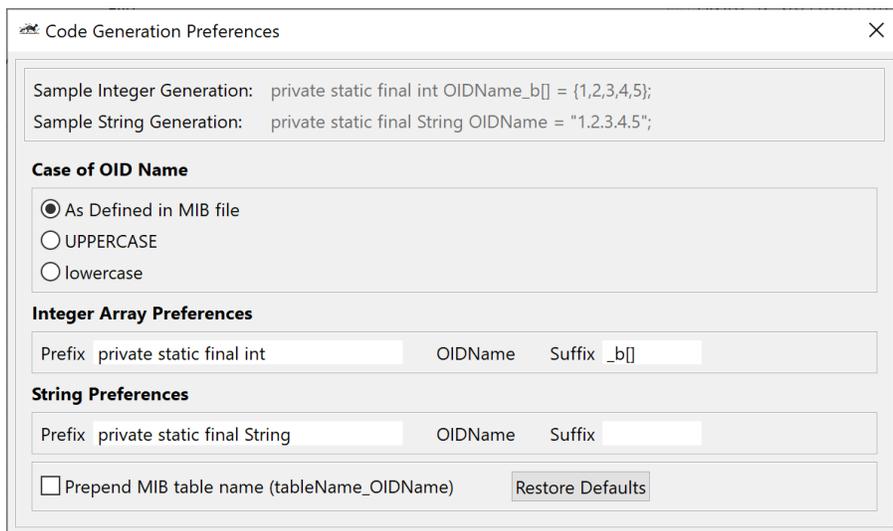


6: Generating Code

We are programmers here at AMT so we added a little feature to generate OID variable constants.

Options

From the main window menu select **Options->Code Generation Options**.



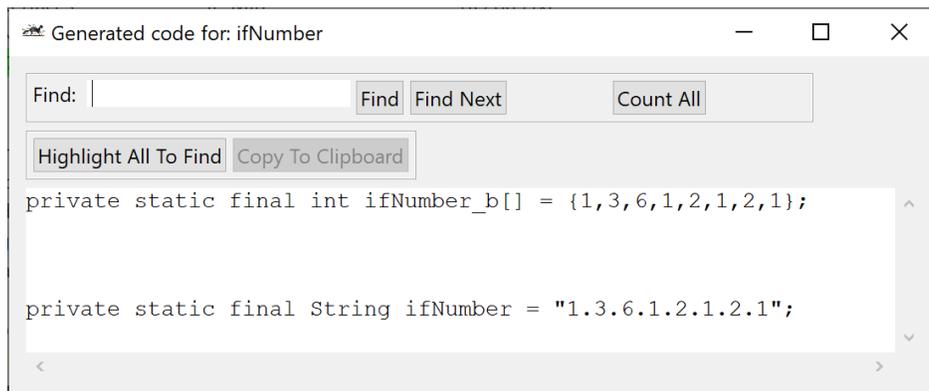
The dialog box titled "Code Generation Preferences" contains the following sections:

- Sample Integer Generation:** `private static final int OIDName_b[] = {1,2,3,4,5};`
- Sample String Generation:** `private static final String OIDName = "1.2.3.4.5";`
- Case of OID Name:** Radio buttons for "As Defined in MIB file", "UPPERCASE", and "lowercase".
- Integer Array Preferences:** Fields for Prefix (`private static final int`), OIDName, and Suffix (`_b[]`).
- String Preferences:** Fields for Prefix (`private static final String`), OIDName, and Suffix.
- "Prepend MIB table name (tableName_OIDName)" and a "Restore Defaults" button.

The Samples at the top of the dialog will update as changes are made in the dialog. Values are stored in the Java VM Preferences cache so they will be there the next time MA starts.

Sample Code

Right-click on a variable or table and select **Generate Code**.



The "Generated code for: ifNumber" window shows a search bar and a text area with the following code:

```
private static final int ifNumber_b[] = {1,3,6,1,2,1,2,1};

private static final String ifNumber = "1.3.6.1.2.1.2.1";
```



7: Favorites

Favorites work like browser favorites. Right-click on a row in the MIB tree and select Add or Remove from favorites.

When a favorite is selected from the Favorites menu in the main window menu, the tree will highlight the favorite if it exists in the tree.

Favorites can be imported and exported from the main window menu.

