

EyeLink SDL2 Example Scripts

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The examples bundled with the EyeLink Developers Kit installation demonstrate how to integrate EyeLink eye trackers into your C/C++ projects using the cross-platform SDL2 (Simple DirectMedia Layer 2) library. These scripts utilize the core EyeLink C API to handle tracker connection, setup, recording, and data retrieval natively across modern Windows, macOS, and Linux environments with hardware-accelerated rendering support.

Example Scripts

- **simple:** A basic experiment template that demonstrates the standard EyeLink trial loop, recording eye movements while displaying a simple stimulus, and transferring the .edf data file.
- **text:** A text presentation example that demonstrates how to generate text stimuli and send appropriate messages to the .edf file for integration with Data Viewer.
- **picture:** A static image presentation example that displays image files and sends integration commands to ensure the exact image appears as the background during analysis.
- **Extension:** A plug-in template that you can use as a starting point for implementing custom calibration routines, animated targets, or custom display hooks.

*(Note: The **shared** folder contains the common C/C++ source files, headers, and SDL2 utility functions required to compile and run the experiments above. The **.sln** and **.cache** files are provided to manage project dependencies and build configurations within Microsoft Visual Studio).*

EyeLink Data Viewer Integration

Beyond marking event times, these examples demonstrate how to send specially formatted messages to your EyeLink Data File (.edf) to include integration with Data Viewer. These messages allow Data Viewer to automatically parse your experiment's structure, including trial start/end times, trial variables, interest areas, and other stimulus information.

Documentation & Resources

- **EyeLink Programmer's Guide:** Documentation for the core C API functions utilized in these examples (accessible via Start Menu > SR Research > EyeLink > Docs).
- **Data Viewer User Manual:** Contains the complete integration messaging protocol (accessible via Help > Contents > "Protocol for EyeLink Data to Viewer Integration", and also as a download at [Data Viewer User Manual](#)).