FIBER OPTIC FIELD GUIDE

Rename files and edit identifiers

When files come back with missing or wrong cable IDs and site names, you don't have to retest and you don't have to install anything. Here's the faster fix.

Johnstone Technical Services · https://johnstonetechs.com/guides/trace-editor

This one comes from a real day I just lost.

One of my techs was testing in another state. He finished the job, all 24 fibers shot and saved, and started packing up. Then he looked at the files. No cable ID. No Site A. No Site B. Just a generic fiber ID on every trace.

His plan was to go back and retest everything. A full day of work to fix a labeling problem.

I told him to send me the files instead. He emailed them over, I opened each one, typed in the cable ID, Site A, Site B, saved it, and moved on to the next. 24 files. Between the emailing back and forth and the one-at-a-time editing, we lost half a day.

Then, after it was all done, I remembered something. I'd been building a tool that does exactly this.

Why this happens

Every OTDR has a setup screen. Cable ID, Site A, Site B, fiber number, operator, job info. You fill it in before you shoot, and every trace saves with the right identifiers.

Some techs fill it in every time. Some forget. Some fill it in on the first cable, then the OTDR keeps auto-incrementing through the second cable and now half the files carry the wrong IDs.

Either way, the result is the same. The traces are good but nobody can tell what they are. The engineer can't build the acceptance report. The customer can't verify what was tested. The job won't close.

And the old answers are both bad. Retest everything, or open every file one at a time in the native software.

Three ways to fix it

VIAVI software. If your traces came off a T-BERD, you can open them in VIAVI's desktop software and edit the identifiers. One trace at a time. One field at a time. It works, but 24 files is a couple of hours. There's no bulk edit.

EXFO software. EXFO can handle bulk updates. Select a batch of files in FastReporter, edit the common fields once, apply to all. If you're an EXFO shop with the software installed and licensed, this is the fastest native option. The catch is the same as VIAVI: it lives on a laptop with the software installed. Not on the truck. Not on your phone.

The File Editor & Rename Tool at johnstonetechs.com/trace-editor. Open your files in the browser, edit the identifier fields, save the corrected files. It started as a trace editor and reads OTDR traces (.sor, .msor, .trc) plus EXFO power-meter files (.opm) today, with more fiber file types on the way. No install, no license, no

account. Works on anything with a browser, and your files never leave your device, same as the fiber analyzer.

And it does the whole job at once. Load a batch, or drag in a whole zipped job folder, and set any identifier field once (cable ID, fiber ID, Site A/B, cable code, operator, comments) across every file. Find and replace swaps a wrong site code or a repeated typo across the entire job in one pass, file names included. It auto-numbers fiber IDs down the list, renames files to match their own identifiers, and drops a change log (before and after) into every download so you keep a record. The 24 files that cost me half a day would have been a couple of minutes.