TK Annotation Helpers Reference

Reference page for the 10.1.5 server-side script-API helpers `TK.AddAnnotation` and `TK.GetAnnotations` — the headless read/write surface for annotation tables.

Version 10.1.5+

Overview

`TK.AddAnnotation` and `TK.GetAnnotations` are static helper methods on the Toolkit class `TK`. They give server-side scripts a headless read/write surface against an annotation Dataset.Table — no operator UI, no chart wiring required.

Typical use cases:

- **AI-generated annotations** from a Server `Script.Task` — the script computes an explanation or anomaly note and pins it on the affected tag.
- **Report-time annotations** from a generator that walks a time range and writes summary commentary.
- **Batch annotation imports** from external maintenance, MES, or work-order systems.
- **Programmatic read-back** for analytics, audit, or downstream visualization that does not use the platform's TrendChart.

The helpers operate on the same Dataset.Table that the TrendChart and DrillingChart bind through `AnnotationsSource`. Annotations written through `TK.AddAnnotation` render on charts wired to the same source on the next refresh.

TK.AddAnnotation

Inserts a single annotation row into the resolved Dataset.Table.

```
public static int AddAnnotation(
    string   tagName,
    DateTime utc,
    double   value,
    string   contents,
    string   source           = "Annotations",  // Dataset.Table object name
    bool     isEvent          = false,
    double   durationSeconds  = 0,
    string   color            = null,
    string   title            = null);
```

Parameters

Name	Type	Description
`tagName`	`string`	The tag the annotation pins to. Used by the chart at read-back time to decide which pen the pin belongs to. May be empty for chart-level (non-pen-bound) notes.
`utc`	`DateTime`	The annotation's timestamp. UTC is required — if a non-UTC value is passed, it is converted before insert.
`value`	`double`	The Y-axis value the annotation refers to. Typically the tag's value at `utc`.
`contents`	`string`	The annotation body. Free-form text; renders inside the pin tooltip.
`source`	`string`	Optional. Dataset.Table object name. Defaults to `"Annotations"` — the auto-created table inside the TagHistorian SQLite database. Pass an explicit name (e.g. `"MyAnnotations"`) to write to a customer-managed table.
`isEvent`	`bool`	Optional. `true` marks the row as an event-range annotation; combined with `durationSeconds` renders a span instead of a pin. Defaults to `false`.
`durationSeconds`	`double`	Optional. Duration in seconds for event-range annotations. Defaults to 0 (point-in-time pin).
`color`	`string`	Optional. Pin color hint (e.g. `"#FFAA00"`). When null, the chart's default annotation color applies.
`title`	`string`	Optional. Short title shown on the pin in addition to `contents`. When null, only contents render.

Return value

Returns `0` on success, non-zero on failure (most commonly: source unresolved, target Dataset.Table not writable, SQL error). The helper **never throws** — it logs the failure to the platform trace log at Warning level and returns the failure code. Callers should check the return value before assuming the annotation persisted.

Example: AI-generated annotation from a Server Script.Task

```
// Server-side AI-generated annotation -- triggered when the anomaly score
// crosses a threshold. Runs in a Server Script.Task whose Trigger is set to
// the AnomalyScore tag.

string aiText = "Anomaly detected: temperature drift exceeds normal range.";
double currentTemp = Tag.Mixer.Heater.Temperature;

int status = TK.AddAnnotation(
    "Mixer.Heater.Temperature",   // pin to the temperature pen
    DateTime.UtcNow,
    currentTemp,
    aiText);

if (status != 0)
{
    TK.LogException(new Exception("AddAnnotation failed status=" + status));
}
```

TK.GetAnnotations

Reads annotations from the resolved Dataset.Table for a given tag and time window.

```
public static DataTable GetAnnotations(
    string   tagName,
    DateTime startUtc,
    DateTime endUtc,
    string   source   = "Annotations");
```

Parameters

Name	Type	Description
`tagName`	`string`	Filter to annotations bound to this tag. Pass null or empty to retrieve all annotations in the time window across all tags.
`startUtc`	`DateTime`	Inclusive lower bound on the annotation timestamp. UTC required.
`endUtc`	`DateTime`	Inclusive upper bound on the annotation timestamp. UTC required.
`source`	`string`	Optional. Dataset.Table object name. Defaults to `"Annotations"`.

Return value

Returns a `DataTable` in the projected consumer column shape (the same shape the chart's read-back path consumes). Returns `null` when the source cannot be resolved (typo in name, Dataset.Table not configured, etc.); returns an empty `DataTable` when the source resolves but no rows match. Always check for null before iterating.

Example: read-back for an audit report

```
DateTime end   = DateTime.UtcNow;
DateTime start = end.AddHours(-24);

DataTable rows = TK.GetAnnotations(
    "Mixer.Heater.Temperature",
    start,
    end);

if (rows == null)
{
    TK.LogException(new Exception("GetAnnotations: source unresolved"));
    return;
}

foreach (DataRow r in rows.Rows)
{
    DateTime ts       = (DateTime)r["DateTime"];
    string   contents = r["Contents"] as string;
    // ... emit to report
}
```

Async overloads

Both helpers expose `async`/`await` overloads for callers running in async contexts (e.g., async Script.Tasks, async event handlers):

```
public static Task<int>       AddAnnotationAsync(
    string tagName, DateTime utc, double value, string contents,
    string source = "Annotations", bool isEvent = false,
    double durationSeconds = 0, string color = null, string title = null);

public static Task<DataTable> GetAnnotationsAsync(
    string tagName, DateTime startUtc, DateTime endUtc,
    string source = "Annotations");
```

The synchronous overloads are wrappers around the async ones using the platform's standard sync-over-async helper (no `.Result` / `.GetAwaiter().GetResult()` deadlock risk).

Default `source` behavior

When `source` is omitted (or passed as `"Annotations"`), the helper resolves the auto-created `Annotations` table inside the TagHistorian SQLite database. This is the same table the TrendChart's zero-config quick-start path uses — pins written from a Script.Task render on charts wired to `AnnotationsSource = "Annotations"` on the next refresh, with no extra wiring.

Customers managing their own annotation table pass the Dataset.Table object name explicitly:

```
// Write to a customer-managed annotation table
TK.AddAnnotation(
    "Reactor.PressureSetpoint",
    DateTime.UtcNow,
    Tag.Reactor.PressureSetpoint,
    "Setpoint adjusted per shift handover note",
    source: "MaintenanceAnnotations");
```

Cross-reference

For chart-side configuration — the `AnnotationsSource` binding, the `AnnotationsEnabled` opt-out, the four `*Method` override hooks, and the auto-created table's full 26-column SQL schema — see Trend Annotations Reference.

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