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Improving Automation
Through Innovation

Industrial Data

The Latest News in Industrial Automation

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BizWareDirect offers affordable, easy-to-use data-management software that increases efficiency in automated facilities. BizWareDirect's products make data more useful and more accessible to those who need it.

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Welcome!

You have just received the first issue of *Industrial Data*, a newsletter brought to you by **BizWareDirect**. This newsletter is sent on a monthly basis. Its goal is to keep you informed of what is going on in the world of automation, to provide useful tips to make your job easier and to occasionally find humor in the work we do. We hope that you enjoy this newsletter, but if you wish to **unsubscribe**, or would like to receive a text-only version, please send your request to enewsletter@bizwaredirect.com or simply "reply" to this message. To download a printable PDF or text-only version of this issue, or to view archived issues, go to: www.bizwaredirect.com/newsletter. Happy reading!



News from BizWareDirect

BizWareDirect Releases DataLynx™ Remote Data-Collection Software

BizWareDirect recently announced the release of DataLynx™, a new software package for use in industrial environments. DataLynx uses modem technology to provide an inexpensive and simple solution to collect, view and store data from industrial devices – regardless of location. DataLynx is now available through AutomationDirect, a BizWareDirect technology partner and a leading supplier of hardware and software for the industrial automation market.

DataLynx is the ideal solution for collecting data from remotely located I/O devices, or for relaying data from multiple stations back to one location. DataLynx empowers those in charge of plant operations, by bringing important information from distant or hard-to-reach locations right to their fingertips.

To learn more about DataLynx, or to download additional information, visit BizWareDirect's product page: www.bizwaredirect.com/all_products.htm.



In the Headlines

Plant Engineers and IT Professionals Can Find Harmony

Plant floor control systems and enterprise networks often seem like polar opposites to those who work in industrial environments. However, there are ways to strike a balance and find the harmony of a common business purpose:

- 1) **Get Set Up** – The first step to finding harmony is to find a compatible physical setup that will satisfy both the plant floor and the IT department. Go into setup knowing you will have to compromise, but also realizing that some things are non-negotiable. IT cannot, for example, sacrifice security; plant floor personnel will not compromise performance and efficiency.
- 2) **Plot Data in Advance** – Often, the biggest challenge in connecting the plant floor to the enterprise system, is displaying the data in a manner that makes sense to everyone from the plant floor to the front office. To avoid costly hassles, determine ahead of time what data will be required by each organizational system and how it will be accessed.
- 3) **Invest in Training** – Training is one of the biggest plant-floor challenges. When plant floor personnel become involved with operating data, they need a strong understanding of what they are doing and why.
- 4) **Draw the Lines** – Often, there is a disagreement over who owns the industrial data and the systems. To avoid power struggles and duplication of efforts, specific roles and responsibilities should be outlined in detail, ahead of time.
- 5) **Rally Support** – One of the most important factors involved in connecting the plant floor to the enterprise system is upper management's realization of its benefits and their dedication to the process.

From "A Delicate Balance," by Dan Hebert and Joe Feeley, *Industrial Networking* magazine, Fall 2004, p. 11.

For the complete story, go to:

<http://www.controldesignmag.com/ME2/Audiences/dirmod.asp?sid=&nm=&type=Publishing&mod=Publications%3A%3Aarticle&mid=8F3A7027421841978F18BE895F87F791&AudID=BA724FC167504569A89F297389E66A26&tier=4&id=765B958F0BC64C15BBB2A8FE707F4DE8>

Making Sense of Industrial Data

For much of the industrial era, there has been a lack of data. Now, the problem seems to be an overabundance of data – with no way to extract useful information from it. Data is not made useful until it is received by somebody who can use it to make decisions, but industry experts say that many plants still are collecting data inefficiently and failing to get the numbers into the hands of those who need them.

Recent advances such as .NET and OPC technology have laid the groundwork for applications that can easily and inexpensively bridge the plant floor and corner office. These technologies have encouraged the development of software solutions which enable those who need industrial data to view it anywhere, anytime.

The wide dissemination of integrated off-the-shelf process information systems means that facilities no longer have to keep and feed a database programmer in order to collect and process industrial data. It also means that smaller companies are now afforded the same data-collection and monitoring systems that the large companies have been utilizing for years – without a significant expense.

From "Data Into Information," by Walt Boyes, *Control* magazine, September 2004, p. 77. For the complete story, go to:
<http://controlglobal.com/ME2/dirmod.asp?sid=6C2C49FE0EB74214AEF6EF9E3CBB960B&nm=&type=Publishing&mod=Publications%3A%3AArticle&mid=8F3A7027421841978F18BE895F87F791&tier=4&id=DD688D78EF0341348B6FBE3E34FEDB9B>



Technology Tips

By Joseph Kulakowski

What is OPC?

OPC (OLE for Process Control) is a standard interface that facilitates communication between Windows PCs and industrial devices. It handles all communication exchanges behind the scenes, so industrial applications can talk to devices without having to learn a new language. This increases flexibility in the number and types of devices with which applications are able to work. It also decreases the cost and development time of new applications.

The recent introduction of OPC technology into the world of industrial automation has encouraged the development of innovative software packages that can communicate with any OPC-supported industrial device. With more than a hundred OPC products available, wide support for a large number of devices is guaranteed. To learn more about OPC technology, visit www.opcfoundation.org. If you would like to submit a question or suggestion for Technology Tips, please send it to newsletter@bizwaredirect.com.

On the Lighter Side ...

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**"That foul smell is coming from your computer.
You've got some old data in there that's gone bad."**