

Sponsored by:

BIZWAREDIRECT
Improving Automation
Through Innovation

Industrial Data

The Latest News in Industrial Automation

March 2005

Volume 2, Issue 3

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.

Contents:

- **News from BizWareDirect**
 - BizWareDirect Releases DataNet OPC Professional
- **In the Headlines**
 - Optimizing the Factory Floor
 - Plant Control Systems Still Lack Necessary Integration
- **Joey's Tech Tips**
 - Save Your Eyes!
- **On the Lighter Side**
 - Cartoon by Randy Glasbergen

Contact Us!

BizWareDirect
2450 Atlanta Highway
Suite 1202
Cumming, GA 30040

Phone:
(770) 886-5878

Fax:
(770) 886-1390

E-mail:
sales@bizwaredirect.com

Visit us on the Web!

www.bizwaredirect.com

Welcome!

Industrial Data, a newsletter brought to you by BizWareDirect, 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, please send your request to enewsletter@bizwaredirect.com or simply "reply" to this message. For a printable PDF or text-only version of this issue, or to view archived issues, go to: www.bizwaredirect.com/newsletter.htm
Happy reading!



News from BizWareDirect

BizWareDirect Releases DataNet OPC Professional Software

BizWareDirect announced its release of DataNet OPC™ *Professional* during National Manufacturing Week in Chicago. DataNet OPC *Professional* is a Web-based data presentation and logging application that serves as the interface between plant or executive managers and their operational systems. DataNet OPC *Professional* uses OPC technology to display and archive real-time data from industrial devices on a live Web page. Data is then available, at your fingertips, anywhere the Internet or company intranet is accessible.

Linear trend charts can be created for any logged file, and multiple display pages keep data tables organized. DataNet OPC *Professional* also sends e-mail alerts when an alarm has been activated. Add-ons even allow the creation of circular trend charts, turbidity reports and other management tools.

To learn more about DataNet OPC *Professional*, or for information on BizWareDirect's complete line of data-management software products, visit http://www.bizwaredirect.com/all_products.htm



In the Headlines

Optimizing the Factory Floor

An increasingly large number of manufacturing facilities are optimizing their plant floors, thanks to the introduction of more innovative data-handling technologies. Recent advances in software are helping engineers and managers to boost the efficiency in their operations by decreasing downtime and getting the maximum value out of uptime. Where manufacturers used to have to spend hours – or even days – trying to diagnose line problems, it now takes five minutes to find the problem and go right to fixing it. Finding the right software application can be the key to unlocking significant gains in operating efficiency. Here are some features to look for in a data-handling program:

1. **Real-Time Databases:** Real-time databases allow you to collect and organize thousands of pieces of information from the line every few seconds. Data can be retrieved immediately, to display current operating information. It also can be archived for future analysis, to aid in troubleshooting or to optimize processes.
2. **Low Implementation Costs:** Look for solutions that make sense economically. Look for solutions that will work double-time, benefiting the company in areas outside the plant walls. Make sure the software is capable of handling the data in the way you anticipate, and never pay for features that you don't need.
3. **Traceability:** Traceability has become much more important in the last few years. There have been huge demands for records of industrial processes and of each individual product as it is being built. As a result, the entire control team, as well as individual management teams, must be able to access process data.
4. **Communications Standards:** Communications standards have made it possible to streamline information while eliminating the confusion and the costs of custom drivers. Most industrial devices can talk to Ethernet now, and standards such as OPC and ISA 88 specify a universal way for establishing the free flow of information among disparate platforms in real time.
5. **Up-to-Date Communications Tools:** Plant managers and employees need to have the ability to view the entire line, even if virtually. Connections between networks must be seamless so that the equipment can exchange and extract information, and so that management can see what is happening at all times.

From "Optimizing the Factory Floor," By James R. Koelsch, Contributing Editor, *Automation World* magazine, February 2005, p. 34. For the complete story, go to: http://www.automationworld.com/articles/Features/1136.html?ppr_key=02.2005&sky_key=02.2005&term=02.2005

Plant Control Systems Still Lack Necessary Integration

Although technology has grown leaps and bounds in recent years, a *ControlGlobal* poll shows that the majority of plants are still failing to integrate their control systems with corporate business systems. More than 51 percent of all respondents say that their plants have not had *any* success in merging their plant and business systems. The poll results show that when asked how well integrated their plant automation system was with their business system,

- 33%** of respondents say, ***"We're thinking about doing it someday."***
- 18%** of respondents say, ***"We've been working at it, but it isn't going well."***
- 18%** of respondents say, ***"We are experiencing spotty success."***
- 27%** of respondents say, ***"We have a plan and we're moving forward confidently."***
- 3%** of respondents say, ***"We jumped on this years ago and we're now right and"***

tight.”

From an online poll conducted by Putnam Media and *CONTROL* magazine, for *ControlGlobal*. Results retrieved March 18, 2005. For a complete list of previous polls and poll results, go to:
<http://www.controlglobal.com/ME2/Apps/PollManager/xlalistprevious.asp?p=13>



Joey's Tech Tips

Save Your Eyes!

If your eyes start hurting after long hours in front of the computer, the problem may be the monitor. To help make the monitor easier on your eyes, try increasing the refresh rate. The monitor draws a new picture so many times per second – this is the monitor's refresh rate. Ideally, the monitor should be set at 85 Hertz or more. When set at 60 Hertz or less, discomfort in the eyes can occur.

To change the refresh rate, go to your control panel and double-click on "Display." Once there, double-click on the "Settings" tab, then the "Advanced" button. If you then choose the tab labeled, "Monitor," you should see a field labeled "Screen Refresh Rate." Select the highest rate in the list. The available refresh rates will vary with hardware.

If you would like to submit a question for Joey's Tech Tips, please send it to enewsletter@bizwaredirect.com.

On the Lighter Side ...

Computer Repairs



© 2000 by Randy Glasbergen.

“We found the problem. You called your computer a moron and it's waiting for an apology.”
