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!

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 find some 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

DataNet OPC™ *Professional* Preserves Integrity of City Records

City employees of Rock Hill, S.C., attribute improved record keeping and reporting procedures to BizWareDirect's DataNet OPC™ *Professional* software. Jon White, maintenance superintendent for the City of Rock Hill, says that the application has helped improve operations at his facility by preserving the integrity of records, keeping logs more organized, and better preparing everyone for state reporting.

"It's great to have these records available electronically. I can go directly to the exact timeframe I need and pull the logs and charts right from my desk. I can even show city engineers and managers from other parts of the city how to get date and time-stamped charts from their own offices," White says.

DataNet OPC *Professional* sends e-mail alerts when an alarm has been activated. It delivers concise, understandable graphs with the click of a button. Add-on options allow the creation of specialized charts and management tools. Visit www.bizwaredirect.com, to learn more about DataNet OPC *Professional*.

In the Headlines

A Survey of Ethernet Networks

In 2004, Venture Development Corp. undertook a comprehensive survey of industrial machine builders, system integrators and end users regarding their wireless and wired Ethernet use. Survey leaders recently teamed up with *Industrial Networking* to wade through the findings, identifying where current activity and future growth are centered, and highlighting some user preferences that emerged from the study. Below are some of the survey's most notable findings:

- **High growth rates forecasted for Ethernet infrastructure products:** Forecasts through 2006 indicate a 22 percent annual growth rate for wire-based products and a 35 percent annual growth rate for wireless Ethernet products.

- **Growth is linked to the perceived advantages of using Ethernet:** The perceived advantages of Ethernet versus other network technologies are lower cost, plant-wide uniformity, the ability to be used in a greater range of applications, and the availability of commercial-grade products.

- **Wired vs. wireless Ethernet networks:** The most cited reasons for choosing wire-based Ethernet were high reliability and high security. The top reasons for going wireless were increased flexibility and mobility.

From "Perceptions and Realities of Ethernet Use," By Jim Taylor, Venture Development Corp., and Joe Feeley, Editor in Chief, Industrial Networking magazine, Spring 2005, pp. 22-26. For complete article, please 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=42C50752F4BF43CE909AF20F29CA75C3

Should You Outsource Your IT Services?

Once a plant-floor network is successfully installed and running, a decision must be made as to who will provide the technical support to keep the network operating reliably and securely. Experts agree that whether you decide to keep IT in-house or hire it out, you need to be willing to invest for the long haul.

Manufacturers are beginning to realize the many benefits of networking the plant floor to the business system. Integrating the administration and manufacturing systems requires an in-house IT team and a huge investment in both time and money. A majority of these investments come not from overhead implementation and operating costs, but from the wars that often arise as both groups are learning to work together effectively, understanding each other's needs and providing timely and reliable services to one another. Developing these systems to the point that they are able to integrate seamlessly involves much more than what is usually anticipated.

Choosing to outsource your IT services should mean more than just fixing a problem when it occurs. Companies that opt to outsource their IT should find a support vendor that will take responsibility for maintaining the network, as opposed to just waiting until something breaks to fix it. Downtime is expensive. When a problem crops up, it needs to be fixed immediately, and it is a lot easier if you can avoid trying to find a vendor at 3 a.m. A contractor that has been proactively monitoring the network will usually be anticipating a problem and working on a solution - *before* it blows up.

From "In or Out," By Wayne Labs, contributing editor, Industrial Networking magazine, Spring 2005, pp. 14-21. For complete article, please 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=5D71506B33F14BC29EEC7D2600DB79A7

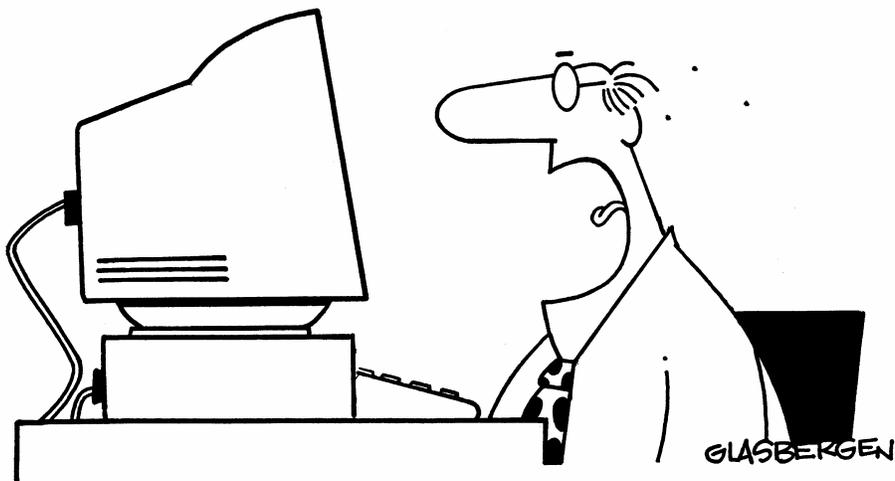# Joey's Tech Tips

Keep on Cruisin'!

With the low power requirements of today's computers, it cannot only be easier – but also safer – to leave your computer running sometimes, instead of constantly turning it on and off. During a normal work week, for example, you could turn your computer on Monday morning and wait until Friday afternoon to shut it down. Much like a car, most of the damage occurs at start-up. You may notice some faint clicking sounds when you turn your computer on. This is the computer working to get power to the hard drive and other peripherals. Many hard drive failures are caused by this constant on-and-off powering cycle.

You also may have noticed that once your computer is up and running, it is rather quiet. This is because the computer is a born cruiser – it is designed to run for a long time. If you are concerned about the electricity bill, just turn off the monitor when you are finished working. The monitor actually draws the most power. Even so, you can consider that on average, even if you were to leave the monitor and computer on 24/7, for an entire year, it would only cost about $90 for the electricity used. The energy expense is worth preventing early failure of the hard drive, which can cost hundreds of dollars to repair. So, go ahead and resist that power button – just let your computer cruise.

Please keep Joey busy! Send a question to him at enewsletter@bizwaredirect.com.

On the Lighter Side ...

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**"I don't have to wait for my television to boot up!
I don't have to wait for my stereo to boot up!
I don't have to wait for my microwave to boot up!"**