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**BizWareDirect**  
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 solutions that increase efficiency in automated facilities. BizWareDirect's software applications make data more useful and more accessible throughout all organizational systems, from the plant floor to the front office.

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## News from BizWareDirect

### Tell Your Story and Win!

BizWareDirect is inviting customers to share their stories for the chance to win \$50. All DataWorx, DataNet OPC, DataLynx and Remote SetPoint software customers or end-users are being asked to submit an online testimonial, offering feedback on the BizWareDirect software product they are using, and providing a brief description of the application in which it is being used. Customers with interesting or unique stories will be invited to work with BizWareDirect to produce a full-length application story for publication. Participants whose testimonials become full-length stories will receive a \$50 American Express gift card and the chance to be published in a leading industrial trade magazine.

"Having insight into how our software products are being used in industrial facilities and custom-built machinery can help us improve our existing product lines and introduce new lines. This kind of feedback helps us to better understand our customers' changing needs, so that we can deliver a more useful tool," says Tonya York, marketing communications specialist for BizWareDirect.

To submit your story, go to BizWareDirect's online customer testimonial page at:

[www.bizwaredirect.com/customer\\_testimonials.htm](http://www.bizwaredirect.com/customer_testimonials.htm).

Follow the link at the bottom of the page to submit your feedback and tell us how BizWareDirect software is being used in your facility.



## In the Headlines

### Technology to Improve Your Industrial Processes

Historians and databases are becoming widely used in plant operations as solutions to a range of problems, from improving operational efficiency to comparing goods against a "golden batch." These technologies have become the measurement tools for process improvement, quality assurance, deviation warnings, regulatory compliance, and the data bridge between plant operations and business processes. Here are some tips from plant operators who have extended the use of historians, databases, or the integrated duo in their facilities:

**Match the Golden Batch:** Create a data template that allows you to compare and contrast processed batches. This allows you to recognize and control variations, bringing all of your batches more in line with the quality ideal. Plot data from the ideal batch, and overlay it against data from the in-process batch. Analyze the differences and make changes to bring the overall quality and consistency in batches up to par.

**Monitor Plant Deviations:** Use the data collected by historians and databases to investigate and analyze problems or opportunities in plant operations. Configure your application to capture data whenever a field changes. Track and monitor data regularly, identifying exceptions or measurements that exceed historical norms. This allows you to proactively avoid problems and analyze processes for improvement opportunities. When problems do arise, databases and historians make it very easy to backtrack through your data history. After a bottleneck or breakdown, this can be critical to finding out what led up to the event and making an effort to fix the problem.

**Meet Regulatory Requirements:** Some regulations now call for plants to provide the genealogy of their processes in a matter of days. Historian and database technologies make compliance a breeze. They can be used not only to collect and store batch records, but also to automatically gather compliance data and submit it to the appropriate regulatory bodies.

*From "Regulatory Compliance Leads to Process Improvements," By Rob Spiegel, contributing editor. AutomationWorld magazine, August 2005, pp. 39-40. For full-text article, please visit: <http://www.automationworld.com/>*

### Alarming Evolution

In the past, alarms functioned solely as reactive devices used to keep basic processes running. In many facilities, this is still the case. An evolution of alarm systems is taking place, though, and those who have embraced this progression are being rewarded with increased process efficiency and machine productivity.

The new-generation alarm system is an effective tool for tracking and identifying minor problems *before* they cause major setbacks. Event information is stored into a database so that charts and graphs can be created to help the user analyze messages and identify trends. After careful analysis, the user is able to locate the source of the problem and make operational changes to improve machine productivity.

Contemporary alarm systems also allow for the more efficient use of resources, as well as increased connectivity between and among departments. Web interfaces provide the ability to send alarms via e-mail to PDAs and other portable devices. Operators can then tend to more than one machine or area at a time. Web interfaces and e-mail capabilities

also connect the plant floor to other organizational systems, and keep management more involved in operations. Groups of users can be established so that certain alarm types will be e-mailed to a list of people. Systems can, for example, be configured so that whenever a certain event occurs, a notification will be sent to the operator in charge of correcting the problem on her PDA. At the same time, a notification will be sent to the plant manager so that he can remain in the loop while he's away. Across town in the corporate office, someone in the quality management department will also receive an alert so that the event can be logged and tracked.

From "You can be Easily Alarmed," By Kevin Russelburg, field editor. *Control Design* magazine, August 2005, p. 63. Full-text article at: <http://www.controlglobal.com/articles/2005/447.html>

## On the Lighter Side ...



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