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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

InduSoft Web Studio Builds HMI/SCADA Applications Both Large and Small

SCADA/HMI software runs on everything from mobile phones to PC workstations, handles an unlimited number of tags for large process control systems, and interfaces to high level enterprise software.

Austin, Texas – February 22, 2004 – The latest version of InduSoft's Web Studio™ creates SCADA/HMI systems that vary from small, embedded machine controls to large, advanced process control systems with thousands of process tags. InduSoft Web Studio will run on various Microsoft® operating system platforms, including high-availability redundant servers, desktop and industrial PCs, embedded and panel PCs, and on mobile devices such as Tablet PCs, handheld PCs, PDAs, and mobile phones or smart appliances.

In addition to all this versatility, users can create applications ranging in size from 150 tags to large-scale SCADA/HMI, process control or automation applications with an unlimited tag count from a single development environment.

Embedded Systems

In the embedded market, InduSoft has worked closely with Applied Data Systems to offer comprehensive embedded display applications. "Using Web Studio, system developers can quickly create robust HMI applications that are both portable and highly optimized for Applied Data Systems embedded platforms," said Fred Salloum, Director of Marketing for Applied Data Systems. "Our partnership with InduSoft enables our customers to deploy systems in various embedded applications such as automotive and machine control. Machine builders are able to deploy visual applications easily and enjoy a variety of graphics features to enhance their embedded systems."



InduSoft remains the only software vendor that is certified for use on the Siemens Automation Simatic MP370 HMI platform. Since testing began in 2001, InduSoft's Web Studio is still the only CE-based software to meet Siemen's certification requirements.

Mobile, Wireless and Web Compatibility

In all cases, from embedded machine controls to large-scale process control systems, InduSoft Web Studio applications can communicate with mobile and wireless devices, Web browsers, and similar devices. A customer does not need to purchase add-on products to deploy an InduSoft Web Studio system on Web or mobile devices.

InduSoft customers are currently using mobile devices in industrial automation and instrumentation applications such as:

1. Viewing real-time process data such as levels, temperatures, pressures, and counts
2. Data collection, acquisition and logging
3. Information systems
4. Quality data
5. Monitoring applications
6. Plant alarms
7. Instant communications such as phone, e-mail, instant message, and text message
8. Direct connect to PLCs
9. Operator interfaces
10. Line & machine monitoring systems

“High-end smart phones are going to grow by over 110 percent, according to IDC forecasts next year. That's why InduSoft has been actively working on evolving this solution for the industrial automation and instrumentation market,” says Ernest Roland, CEO and President of InduSoft. “We are evolving our product to address these new devices while continuing to enhance our product for our customers with large-scale deployment in such industries as oil and gas, and automotive.”



Large Systems

InduSoft Web Studio has been used in many large-scale applications in a variety of industries such as automotive, chemical, oil and gas, pulp and paper, pharmaceutical, refining and petrochemical, power and energy to name a few. For example, in the automotive industry, InduSoft has been used in an automotive assembly plant. An automotive assembly plant is a massive operation requiring stamping, welding, plastic parts production, component receiving areas, material handling, and other facilities. InduSoft Web Studio is used in the assembly lines where 18 stations are networked together. If a problem occurs in the middle of the line, InduSoft Web Studio automatically reroutes production onto another line and real-time diagnostics is handled immediately, removing any downtime. This application has over 100,000 tags.

In the utility industry, InduSoft Web Studio is used in a large hydraulic plant that generates electricity for a country in Latin America. This system has over 80,000 tags to monitor and diagnose failures in the components of the plant. This application is configured in a highly redundant system with failover capabilities. In a thermal electric plant, InduSoft Web Studio is used in a SCADA application that monitors the power generation from recycling warm vapors from oil production.

In addition, InduSoft Web Studio has been used in various applications in the oil industry from one application that polls data from associated unmanned well platforms to another that captures drilling data from the data acquisition system. All of these applications are highly redundant and mission critical with many exceeding 200,000 tags.

Enterprise Software

InduSoft makes it easy for users to connect to high-level enterprise software packages, such as asset management, ERP, and supply-chain management programs. Web Studio has software interfaces to hundreds of networks, devices, and control systems, giving it access to legacy and proprietary systems. Web Studio also conforms to "open" industry standards, such as Microsoft .NET, OPC, DDE, ODBC, XML, SOAP, and ActiveX, allowing it to access information in newer DCSes, process historians, and other modern systems.



ValeoSoft, for example, uses Web Studio software to gain access to data stored in industrial and process-control databases. Tom Bellemare, president of ValeoSoft, says using Web Studio gives his company a big advantage. "One of the biggest problems in asset management is obtaining the plant floor data we need to track equipment and identify maintenance problems," he explains.

"There are dozens, if not thousands, of different networks and databases that hold the real time and historical data that we need. With Web Studio software, we can now interface to virtually every industrial database in the world, and obtain the data we need to perform our holistic and asset-centric analyses. Very few other asset and maintenance management software systems have this kind of access to plant data, so we have a definite competitive advantage in EAM and maintenance management."

InduSoft is using the ValeoSoft asset and maintenance management software to help round out its product offering. "We have begun a program that will align us with the best software manufacturers in the world," explains Ernest Roland, CEO and President of InduSoft. "Our core competency is in HMI/SCADA, not asset management, vibration analysis, or supply chain management. However, our OEM and end-user customers need that kind of software, and we want to make sure our software is compatible. Therefore, we are actively seeking out the leaders in various software categories and forming joint-marketing agreements with them."

Partnerships

InduSoft has partnerships with some of the top-tiered industrial automation, instrumentation, and embedded vendors such as Advantech, Ann Arbor Technology, Applied Data Systems, Beckhoff, Fluke, HMW, ICP-DAS, Siemens, and Xycom.

Summary

InduSoft Web Studio is a powerful, integrated collection of automation tools that includes all the building blocks needed to develop human machine interfaces (HMIs), supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems, and embedded instrumentation and control applications.



Although Web Studio can be relatively inexpensive for a small embedded machine control system – prices start at \$750 for a development license and \$150 for a runtime license on Windows CE – it is capable of handling the largest automation and process control tasks.

InduSoft Web Studio runs in native Windows NT, 2000, XP, and CE 3.0 environments and conforms to industry standards such as Microsoft .NET, OPC, DDE, ODBC, XML, SOAP, and ActiveX. Download a free demo version at www.InduSoft.com.

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ABOUT INDUSOFT

Founded in 1997, InduSoft provides a powerful family of industrial software products for developing applications in process supervision, automation and control for Windows 2000, NT, XP and CE operating systems. Today, InduSoft is developing tools and technologies to empower people and companies to develop graphical interfaces, integrate Web browsers, and take advantage of Internet connectivity. More than 15,000 InduSoft HMI, SCADA, control, and data acquisition systems are operating worldwide.