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For Immediate Release

InduSoft WebPLC Thin Client HMI Talks to PLCs and Smart Devices over Web, Wireless, or Fieldbus

HMI software works anywhere in a plant, using Explorer or Netscape browsers on standard PCs and handhelds.

AUSTIN, TEXAS — October 10, 2002 — InduSoft's WebPLC Thin Client HMI works with a standard Web browser – including Internet Explorer or Netscape – on any standard PC, laptop or handheld device. It can:

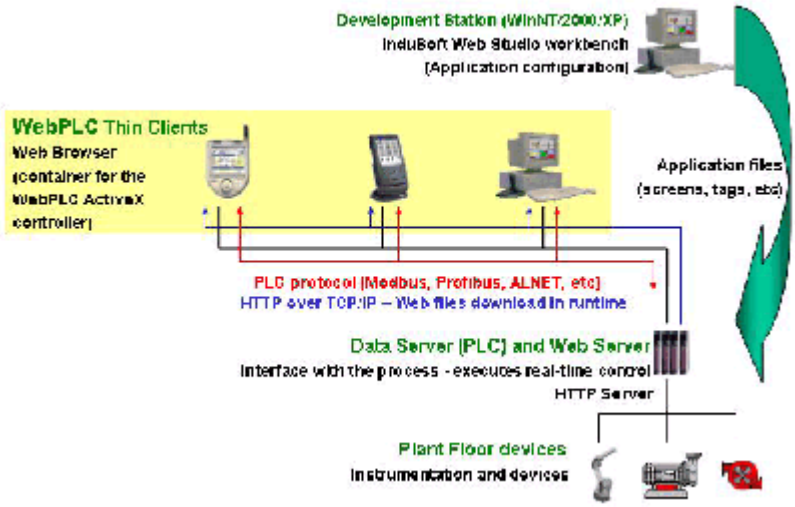
- Read data directly from a PLC or an intelligent field device.
- Write data directly to a PLC or device.
- Update graphic screens dynamically, based on the current value of registers read from the PLC.
- Provide HMI interfaces such as buttons and text input that can be used to send commands or setpoints to a PLC or device.

The InduSoft WebPLC Thin Client station works on any desktop PC, laptop, handheld or PDA with Windows NT, 2000, XP, or CE operating systems. The InduSoft WebPLC thin client HMIs can communicate with any smart plant floor devices, such as PLCs, instrumentation or any other intelligent devices that use standard communications protocols, such as Modbus, Profibus, DFI and dozens more, through wired or wireless links (LAN or WAN).

The interface screens are stored on a Web Server station, which can be the PLC itself — if the PLC contains an embedded HTTP Server. After downloading the interface screen, the InduSoft WebPLC connects to the PLC and exchanges data with it using the appropriate protocol. The PLC program does not require any modifications to read or write the data.

Once the PLCs and field devices in a control system are configured, thin client HMIs can be used in any locations that are reachable by network wiring, wireless communications or the Internet.

The main architecture of the system is illustrated in the following picture:



Note:
If the PLC does not provide an embedded HTTP Server, the application pages can be stored on the Thin Client itself or on any other Web Server available on the network.

HOW IT WORKS

The InduSoft WebPLC application is configured using a standard InduSoft Web Studio HMI/SCADA system workbench to build and debug the InduSoft WebPLC application locally on a development station. The process for building an InduSoft WebPLC application is basically the same as building any standard HMI application:

1. Configure the application settings (resolution, Web settings, etc.)
2. Configure the tags in the Tags database.
3. Associate tags to the registers (addresses) of the controller device (PLC).
4. Build the graphic screens with objects, linking the appropriated tags to the dynamics.

After debugging the application, it creates an HTML file for each screen, which will contain the information needed to load the InduSoft WebPLC ActiveX controller onto a Browser and set its properties (communication driver name, list of tags, and so forth).
The application files are then stored on a Web Server station that can transmit files to a remote HTTP Client station (i.e., a Web Browser).

Using this architecture, the user can access the PLC data from any computer connected on the process network. Therefore, the InduSoft WebPLC provides a simple, flexible, efficient, and low-cost solution for maintenance and/or operation of the process.
The InduSoft WebPLC Thin Client station downloads files from the Web Server only when a new screen is opened on the Browser, which minimizes traffic in the network.

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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 8,000 InduSoft HMI, SCADA, control and data acquisition systems are operating worldwide.

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