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Proficise

Issue Four - December 2009

Welcome to the December 2009 issue of Proficise. The silly season is now upon us, so we thought we would add to the mayhem and send out a quick newsletter.

In this edition, we cover:

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As always, if there is anything that you would like covered in a future issue of Proficise, please let us know as we are always open to suggestions (proficise@iic.co.nz).

IIC Office hours - 2009 Christmas & New Years

The IIC office will be closed from this Thursday afternoon - December 24th and will re-open on Tuesday - January 5th, 2010.

We will be checking e-mails over the break period and should anything urgent come up, our support telephone lines will still be open.

We wish you all a safe & happy festive season and look forward to working with you in the New Year.

Tony, Chris, Barry & Dean.

GE Fanuc - Dissolution of Joint Venture

Earlier this year, GE Fanuc announced that after 23 years of a successful partnership that the two parties had agreed to work towards dissolving their joint venture. Both companies deciding to focus on their specialist interests - CNC for Fanuc & Industrial Automation /Process Control for GE.

Last week we received official confirmation that the Joint Venture dissolution agreement had been reached.

The two companies will continue to work together in a commercial relationship related to GE's motion control and motor products with no interruption in supply of these components.

The Proficy range of products will remain under the GE banner and the new name for the parent company is: GE Intelligent Platforms.

Over the coming weeks, you will see a gradual change over to the new branding.

New Product: iFIX WebSpace

iFIX WebSpace is a new full-featured 'zero client configuration' web client that allows users to view & control existing iFIX & FIX32 applications from within a web browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, etc).

iFIX WebSpace enables full control and visualisation capabilities over a company's intranet or Internet system without the need to change or alter the iFIX application - pictures, scripts, trends, etc all work without any conversion.

There is a bit of overlap in terms of user functionality between Proficy Portal (Web based Reporting Solution), iClientTS (Terminal Server) & the WebSpace products. At one end of the spectrum iFIX iClientTS provides a secure 24/7, high availability, personalised SCADA experience, at the other end Proficy Portal can provide a real-time view in to an iFIX system and is suited for a casual ad-hoc user. iFIX WebSpace sits between the two and provides a low cost, easy to install, zero client configuration, runtime only, web enabled SCADA experience.

WebSpace is licensed on concurrent users - from 2 to 50 users. You can either WebSpace enable an existing iFIX v5.0 license or can deploy a new dedicated iFIX WebSpace server which will provide you with another development iClient and two additional concurrent WebSpace sessions. iFIX WebSpace is also very light on the budget, enabling an existing iFIX key with 2 users of WebSpace will cost less than \$5,000.00.

WebSpace can be used to web enable many different versions of iFIX/FIX. Additionally if you have multiple versions of iFIX/FIX32 running within your plant, a single WebSpace server can be used to web enable all the compatible systems.

You can register for a free 90-day trial of WebSpace online at www.myifix.com

Product Update: Proficy Historian v3.5

Proficy Historian v3.5 is now released - the key changes to v3.5 are:

- Capacity: Historian now supports 500,000 Points/Tags per server
- Speed: Fast Read/Write Performance - 100,000 Read/Writes per second
- Virtualisation: Historian v3.5 is now supported on VMWare ESX Server
- Enhanced Data Collection: Dynamic Collector updates - no start and stop required, no loss of data capture
- Enhanced Memory Management: Access the full 4 GB range of memory
- O/S Support: Now supported on Windows 2008 Server & Office 2007
- Updated Alarm & Events Server: Microsoft SQL Server Express replaces MSDE for the Alarm and Events data storage

Proficy Historian is one of GE Intelligent Platforms biggest selling products due to its ease-of-use, speed of installation and configuration and ultra high performance. Historian can be used with or without SCADA products and is a core component of many OEE, Quality and SPC applications.

If you have any questions about Historian or need any specific training, please call us for assistance. Often things can be easily explained and dealt with quickly over the phone.

GlobalCare - Pricing Changes

As the NZ economy is now back on track, it's time to announce the end to our GlobalCare 'recession buster' initiative. From Jan 1, 2010 our local GlobalCare prices will be reverting to their original rates of 12.5% of replacement system value. Updated renewal notices for GlobalCare contracts that come up for renewal in Q1 of 2010 will be sent out early in the New Year.

GlobalCare benefits include:

- Priority technical support from Industrial Interface Company & GE
- GE Fanuc Web Support
- Reduced rates for engineering assistance
- No Cost Product upgrades - eg. iFIX v4.5 to iFIX v5.0
- No Cost System upgrades - eg. FIX32 to iFIX
- And more...

If you would like to know more about GlobalCare, please contact globalcare@iic.co.nz for further information.

Key Updates - Hasp M4

Well it had to happen one day, due to the vast amount of products that GE have, we ran out of room on the Hasp M1 dongles to store them all and as a result of this we are shifting all of our licenses over to the larger capacity Hasp M4 USB keys.

The recently released Historian v3.5 is only available on M4 keys and the next iFIX release (early 2010) is also going to be on M4 only. To make things easier, over the next couple of months, we will be contacting all of our users that have current GlobalCare contracts and arranging free M4 updates for all of the Proficy licenses.

As well as providing a nice platform for us to provide your future updates on, updating to M4 keys unlocks a free 100-point Historian (with Alarm & Events Server option) on each v5.0 iFIX SCADA key. The 100 points are non-transferable, local Historians only - if you wish to expand your system, you can purchase additional Historian points & options and add them to the base license.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact m4.keyupdates@iic.co.nz.

Barry's Tech Tip - I/O Drivers

News Flash !!! – At long last GE have combined the licensing applications for both M1 and M4 keys into a single software package/install. Hopefully this break through should alleviate the niggles that a few users have had of late with switching between the two styles of licensing applications.

There are two ways you can obtain the updated licensing package, either visit the GE support website, instructions as follows:

Go to the <http://support.gefanuc.com> website, Login using your valid SSO User ID and Password, Under "Quick Picks" and "Tools", click on the Licensing Key Updates hypertext, This will open the GE Product Licensing web page, Download the latest Proficy Licensing Software by selecting the click "here" hypertext.

Or you can also obtain this update from our local website – www.iic.co.nz, inside the users corner, under licensing.

Installing the updated licensing package, installs both the M1 Licensing and the Proficy M4 Common Licensing applications to the local computer. At the time of writing this ProficyClientInstallr907.exe contains: M1 Licensing 4.0.14 & M4 License Viewer 12.1.907.0

Does your Licensing Driver need an update?

Users of the M1 USB (Purple) and Parallel (White) dongles who install iFIX v5.0 may find they are unable to Upgrade/Reflash their License Dongles.

Symptoms:

- The .iLicense file does not have an associated 'Red i' icon.
- Double Clicking the .iLicense file doesn't launch iKeyUpdate.exe.
- iKeyupdate.exe fails to update the key with new License data.

Solution:

Download and install the latest combined GE Licensing as detailed above.

Note: This does not apply to users of M4 USB dongles (Green & White).

If you have any problems or need any assistance, please contact me barryh@iic.co.nz

Proficise is produced by...

The Industrial Interface Company (NZ) Ltd, P O Box 17 239, Greenlane, Auckland

Tel: 09 525 5501

Fax: 09 525 5502

E-Mail: info@iic.co.nz

Internet URL: www.iic.co.nz

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