

The Industrial Interface Company (NZ) Ltd, is pleased to offer you...

A Shot of Red i

Issue Twenty - April 2004

Welcome to the twentieth edition of A Shot of Red *i*. This is our fifteenth year in business; we started by representing the relatively small and innovative company - Intellution Inc, who helped shape the PC based HMI/SCADA market. Today we are agents for GE Fanuc, the industrial automation arm of GE, one of the worlds largest and most sucessful companies. We are now able to supply a full range of software solutions that cover all facets of the manufacturing enterprise.

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 A Shot of Red *i*, please let us know as we are always open to suggestions (redi@iic.co.nz).

New IIC Premises

After 10 years of being in our pleasant Greenlane villa, we are moving to larger purpose built commercial premises just down the road in Kalmia Street.

From the 15th April 2004, you can find us at:

The Industrial Interface Company (NZ) Ltd
Unit 3

22A Kalmia Street
Ellerslie
Auckland

All our other contact details will remain the same as they currently are: Phone 09 525 5501; Fax 09 525 5502; P O Box 17 239, Greenlane; etc.

Kalmia Street is off the Great South Road, between the Ellerslie/Penrose and Greenlane motorway junctions, opposite Rockfield road. We are situated down a long driveway, in the middle complex, right next to the Ellerslie Bowling Club. There is plenty of parking right outside our Unit, so next time you are in the area stop by and we'll show you around.

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EMEX 2004 - Stand 551

We have booked stand 551 at next months [EMEX 2004](#) show.

From May 11th to 13th, you will find us on display at Stand 551, Hall 5 - Greenlane Showgrounds. Make sure you stop by and have a chat. This year we will be highlighting GE Fanuc's latest software releases: [iFIX v3.5 with FIX32 Desktop](#) and [infoAgent v2.0](#), see below for further details on these releases.

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New Release - infoAgent v2.0

As the leading plant-wide web trending and analysis tool, *infoAgent* v1.1 enabled users to visualise, analyse and report on *iHistorian* data through a web browser. *infoAgent* v2.0 builds on the architecture and features of v1.1 and greatly expands the business analysis tools to enable your production team to truly make plant-wide decisions in real-time.

infoAgent v2.0 includes more comprehensive plant-wide connectivity (Relational Databases, OPC, *iFIX*, *iHistorian*, OSI PI), easy-to-use analysis tools (Graphic Statement Builder, Hierarchical Data Control, Data-bound Form Controls) and impressive set of other client components (Grids, Charts, Graphics).

infoAgent v2.0 will be licensed to include an Historian Edition, an Enterprise Edition and has additional optional modules available.

infoAgent 2.0 Historian Edition

infoAgent v2.0 Historian Edition builds on the strength of the *infoAgent* v1.1 product and includes many new enhancements.

These enhancements include:

- Enhanced Security
- Expanded Hosting and Content Organisation
- Tabular Data Control or Grid Components

infoAgent 2.0 Enterprise Edition

infoAgent v2.0 Enterprise Edition provides all of the Historian Edition functionality plus additional plant-wide connectivity and analysis capabilities. These include connectivity to Relational Databases (RDBs) with an easy-to-use Graphical Statement Builder, many new Charts, Data-bound Form Controls for executing queries, and a Hierarchical Data Control for viewing organised or structured data.

infoAgent 2.0 - Optional Modules

Graphics Module - The optional Graphics Module provides a comprehensive shape library with advanced animation capabilities that can be used from any data source.

iFIX Module - The *iFIX* Module enables users to connect to and display HMI screen content from the *iFIX* HMI Product. This module includes the Optional Graphics Module, real-time data connectivity to *iFIX* and FIX32, a "jump start" screen utility for creating *infoAgent* displays from *iFIX* displays, and an Alarm Presentation component.

Quality Module - The Optional Quality Module enables users to view their quality data through a web browser. It includes a comprehensive set of quality charts with advanced statistical capabilities. These charts include variable control charts, Attribute Control Charts, Linear Regression Plots, Summary Statistics and many more.

[Click here](#) to download a product brochure on *infoAgent* v2.0 release.

New Release - iFIX v3.5 with FIX32 Desktop

The Convergence of FIX32 with iFIX

Great news for HMI/SCADA customers! Our FIX32 and *iFIX* applications have finally been brought together, thanks to an exciting new release of *iFIX*, which includes the classic FIX32 desktop operator interface environment. Users of both applications can benefit greatly from this enhancement, which combines many of the latest features and mainstream technology of our *iFIX* module with the traditional FIX32 desktop that customers have relied upon over the years.

This important release effectively bridges the gap between the two technologies, enabling FIX32 customers to take advantage of many of the advanced database and connectivity features of *iFIX*, while continuing to view and control their plant-wide processes in the FIX32 desktop environment. Best of all, this simple add-on is transparent to your existing infrastructure, allowing you to continue leveraging your current HMI/SCADA investments without having to re-configure your system.

Get Updated With the Latest Technology - FIX32 users can now experience many of the latest features of *iFIX* 3.5, including:

- New displays with ActiveX, OPC Support, VBA and more
- ODBC database and iHistorian connectivity
- VisiconX relational database connectivity
- AB Productivity Pack

Implement Quickly and Cost Effectively

No “graphics conversion” is required, allowing you to keep your current system up and running and eliminating the need for a costly re-configuration.

Capitalise on Proprietary FIX32 Graphics

iFIX customers now have access to the classic FIX32 graphic environment, allowing you to launch SPC, X-Y and histogram charts along side your *iFIX* application, with tools including:

- FIX32 Draw
- FIX32 View
- History Trend Display

Continue to Benefit From New Enhancements

As *iFIX* continues to be enhanced and developed, FIX32 customers will be able to take advantage of future product improvements.

Migrate to iFIX if Desired

Additional migration tools are now available, allowing you to upgrade fully to an *iFIX* application at a later time if you so choose.

Highlights:

- FIX32 Graphics Run on an *iFIX* Node
- FIX32 Draw and View now part of *iFIX*
- FIX32 Macros and Scripts Remain Intact
- No Graphics Migration Required
- FIX32 Historic Trending Runs on an *iFIX* Node
- FIX32 HTD Now part of *iFIX*
- FIX32 HTD Now supports *i*Historian
- FIX32 Tag and Chart Groups Supported
- FIX32 Report Generator Runs on an *iFIX* Node
- Report Generator Now part of *iFIX*
- *iFIX* Process Database Blocks support FIX32 Charts
- SPC Charts, X-Y Charts
- FIX32 Graphics and *iFIX* Graphics Co-Exist
- Switching between FIX32 and *iFIX* Full Screen Graphics Provides the User with a Seamless Experience

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In the Pipeline - Efficiency in a Box

Improving Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE): it's the primary goal of every manufacturer. From eliminating downtime to increasing throughput, there's no faster way to improve the performance of your business than to improve the performance of your production processes. Given the complexities of modern manufacturing, however, pinpointing where and how to make those process improvements can prove quite challenging. Production delays can pop-up at anytime, processes can be disrupted for any reason and downtime can even occur on a sub-second level. Catching these events before they can have a detrimental effect on your business requires a robust set of tools, open technologies that work with the equipment you have in place today and a solution provider that can bring it all together in a single resource that's fast, easy and affordable to implement.

That's where we come in. Introducing GE Fanuc's "Efficiency-in-a-Box" solution – a simple yet powerful suite of applications designed to optimise both your production processes and your profitability.

What is OEE?

Fundamentally, OEE is a performance metric compiled from data on Machine Availability, Performance Efficiency and Rate of Quality that is collected either manually or automatically. These three data points are calculated as follows:

Availability = (Operating time – Downtime) / Total Operating Time

Performance = Total output/potential output

Quality = Good output/total output

OEE is then calculated by multiplying those factors: $OEE = \text{Availability} * \text{Performance} * \text{Quality}$

The product of this calculation is then presented in relation to other plant metrics and provides an indication of the relative efficiency of your plant. These statistics are considered Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and can be visualised in a number of different ways – typically in a graphical format conveyed via a web browser – in a simple “dashboard” format. KPIs can be shared throughout the enterprise and beyond and can be customised to reflect the unique business needs of each person accessing the data, thereby enabling your entire workforce to make better-informed business decisions based on real-time information.

Modern manufacturing is a complex, highly technical endeavor involving an intricate array of capital equipment, control systems and personnel. And the more complex a system becomes, the greater the possibility for error.

Aligning the greatest contributors to inefficiency with the core components of the OEE calculation, the most notable causes of inefficiency are:

Availability

- Equipment failure & breakdowns
- Set-ups & adjustments

Performance Rate

- Idling & minor stops
- Reduced speeds

Quality Rate

- Reduced yield
- Scrap

By measuring all of these factors, you'll gain a better understanding of what's happening on the plant floor and focus on the most pressing areas of inefficiency. And all the tools you need to collect, retain, analyse and visualise the data that will help you to eliminate inefficiencies are available in a single solution: Efficiency-in-a-Box.

Efficiency-in-a-Box is a Proficiency-based solution for optimising a single machine or an entire production line to reduce downtime and increase efficiency. Whether your business is process or discrete, under the strict scrutiny of federal regulatory agencies or an independent contract manufacturer, Efficiency in a box can help you to become more effective and more profitable than ever before.

Achieve Fast ROI

No matter where you sit within an organisation, there's more pressure than ever to demonstrate fast ROI and ROA on all your investments. With Efficiency-in-a-Box, you can do so by actively:

- Reducing scrap
- Improving yield
- Increasing production
- Decreasing downtime
- Enhancing operator productivity
- Identifying equipment maintenance issues before they become problems

Improve overall business processes

By gaining a greater insight into the inner-workings of your plant and your production processes, patterns will emerge, previously hidden areas of inefficiencies become obvious and you'll learn precisely where to turn when looking for ways to tweak the last cycle of efficiency from your existing resources.

Through Efficiency-in-a-Box, you can:

- Maximise the utilisation of production assets
- Eliminate bottlenecks from your production processes
- Drive intelligent purchasing of assets through a better understanding of how assets are truly being used within your facility
- Gain an enterprise-wide view of your company's Performance vs. Plan

Improve your OEE with GE Fanuc today! Efficiency-in-a-Box represents the easiest, most efficient and most effective way for you to monitor and improve the performance of your production processes... all in one convenient package.

How can we do it? Because when you leverage solutions from GE Fanuc, you're leveraging solutions from a company that's in a truly unique position within the marketplace. In addition to being one of the leading solution providers for the manufacturing industry, we're also one of the largest and most successful manufacturers in the world. In essence, we're able to deliver a unique insight and share our expertise.

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Enhanced I/O Driver - OPC Client Driver v7.33

The I/O Driver team recently released a new version of the OPC Client Driver (v7.33). After conducting a careful review of customer change requests and usability studies, the focus of this release was determined to be developer productivity and ease of use enhancements. This release includes new features that streamline the not only the OPC Client configuration process, but also the *i*FIX Process Database configuration as well.

Features include:

- Right Mouse Support
- 'Find' and 'Sort' Added to Power Tool's Toolbar
- Add Multiple Items to Driver Configuration
- Add Items Automatically to the *i*FIX Process Database
- Data Monitor
- Support for Windows Server 2003 Operating System

For further details refer to the [driver fact sheet](#).

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New I/O Driver - GE Fanuc SRTP OPC Server

The I/O Driver Team has also released a new I/O Driver, the GE SRTP (GES) OPC Server.

The GES OPC Server offers:

- Connectivity to GE Fanuc's latest PLC product offering, the PACSystems-RX7i controller (including support for symbolic addressing)
- Connectivity to GE Fanuc's family of PLC products (90-30, 90-70 and VersaMax)

- Communication to both CIMPLICITY HMI and *i*FIX

For more details refer to the [driver fact sheet](#).

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