

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

A Shot of Red i

Issue Eighteen - December 2002

Welcome to the December 2002 edition of A Shot of Red *i*. It's only a week out from Christmas and still the good weather seems to be hiding from us. Let's hope things get a bit more stable by the time Team New Zealand defends the cup.

In this month's edition, we cover:

- [GE Fanuc Automation acquires Intellution Inc](#)
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We hope you & your associates have a Merry Christmas and a Safe New Year. 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).

GE Fanuc Automation acquires Intellution Inc.

GE Fanuc Automation has recently completed its acquisition of Intellution, Inc., from Emerson Process Management. Intellution, which will become known as GE Fanuc Intellution, will operate as an integral part of the GE Fanuc Global Solutions Business.

"Bringing Intellution into the GE Fanuc family supports GE's ability to deliver world-class solutions that improve quality, reduce cycle times, increase profitability, and facilitate collaboration in the supply chain to drive customer competitive advantage," said Charlene Begley, president and CEO of GE Fanuc. "The Intellution acquisition is part of GE's global growth strategy and combines technologies that increase benefits to customers around the world. The

worldwide manufacturing community can anticipate exciting, new disruptive technologies, which will change and improve the way we do business."

ARC Advisory Group Principal Analyst John Blanchard said, "Intellu*t*ion is an excellent complement to GE because it brings a large installed base and extensive knowledge in the highly regulated batch process industries that include food, beverage, pharmaceutical, and fine chemicals. Intellu*t*ion's strong suite of manufacturing intelligence products are also ideal for small- to medium-sized companies in these industries, while their knowledge of 21 CFR Part 11 will help in the pharmaceutical industry."

"It's a good buy for GE Fanuc and for Intellu*t*ion's customers", said Bill Swanton, vice president with AMR Research (The Alert on Manufacturing, October 24, 2002). "There are opportunities for large, global production system rollouts. User companies will have an unprecedented opportunity to buy whole factory management systems from large, multibillion-dollar vendors with global delivery capabilities."

What all this will mean to the Industrial Interface Co. is not yet known; at this time it is business as usual. It is our aim to remain a PLC hardware independent software supplier, watch this space.

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iFIX v3.0

Intellu*t*ion Inc. has released *i*FIX v3.0, the latest version of the company's popular HMI/SCADA application. *i*FIX v3.0 introduces key functions that greatly expand the application's already robust security, usability and data integrity capabilities.

One of the most significant additions to *i*FIX v3.0 is the inclusion of a point verification option - a set of core functions that require users to enter username and password information each time a change is made to the HMI/SCADA application, or to perform specific actions in the process.

This prompt for username and password is independent of the initial user log-in, thereby ensuring that only authorised users can access specific functions. Where and when point verification features are necessary, is established during system configuration and once defined, creates a detailed audit trail of who did what, when they did it, and why it was done.

This new function is crucial for businesses operating under the jurisdiction of the United States Food & Drug Administration (FDA). However, it has been

delivered in such a way as to enhance product quality and consistency, and achieve a greater level of security and accountability, in all market segments.

Fully synchronised and configurable with standard Windows security, *i*FIX application protection is robust yet easy to administer. Its security completely controls access to operator displays, schedules and recipes, along with access to crucial program functions - such as reloading or writing to the process database.

In addition to making *i*FIX v3.0 one of the most powerful and flexible HMI/SCADA solutions currently available, Intellution has made the application remarkably easy to use. Through powerful Wizards, the software makes developing and deploying applications a simple and efficient process.

For environments where use of a physical keyboard is either inconvenient or difficult, Intellution has included an on-screen “virtual keyboard” enabling users to input data via touch-screen, or other pointing devices.

Capitalising on ActiveX technology, users can take advantage of a diverse array of third-party applications and enhance the functions of their HMI/SCADA applications with optimised reliability and ease of use. With the introduction of *i*FIX 3.0, users can now enjoy the benefits and advanced technical features of the latest Microsoft operating system - Windows XP.

The new *i*FIX version also works with Windows NT and Windows 2000, and features individual user-based and node-based security, configured and synchronised with the security policies inherent to each of the Windows operating systems.

In addition *i*FIX version 3.0 is now officially supported on the Citrix MetaFrame XP platform. Two of Intellution's *i*FIX support engineers recently completed the Citrix certification process and are now Citrix Certified Administrators (CCA).

To request a demonstration copy of *i*FIX v3.0, please send an e-mail to try.v30@iic.co.nz

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I/O Driver Update - I/O Driver Versions

Two common questions that we are asked; What is the difference between a v6.x and a v7.x driver and What version will work with my Intellution HMI product?

To start here's a little history lesson. In 1994 Intellution introduced an I/O driver toolkit to help developers produce 32-bit I/O v6.x drivers for exclusive use with the FIX32 SCADA/HMI product. The drivers that the toolkit produced looked very similar to the "ease of use" v5.x drivers introduced with the Hawaii 5.0 (FIX DMACS for Windows 3.1) product.

The downside of the toolkit was that the drivers produced were proprietary drivers, only for use with Intellution's products and each SCADA/HMI vendor had to produce their own.

All v6.x drivers will work with FIX32 (v6.x & v7.x) for Windows 95, 98, NT, Windows 2000 and also with iFIX (v2.x, v3.0) on Windows NT & Windows 2000.

In 1998, Intellution as part of its push towards the new OPC standards introduced its new 32-bit ASDK (Advanced Server Development Kit), which produced the new "power tool style" v7.x Drivers/OPC Servers.

The ASDK (now called the iFIX OPC Toolkit) was a major step forward in openness & usability, which allowed drivers/servers developed with the toolkit to be used with other vendor's products. The industry trend is for all HMI, SCADA and DCS vendors to support the OPC standard as this provides a more open interface.

v7.x Drivers contain advanced features, including the ability to auto create the poll table based upon tags used in the FIX process database. The v7.x Power Tool also allows on-line modifications, so that new points can be added on-the-fly, which is consistent with the other iFIX, FIX32 and iHistorian products.

All v7.x Drivers will work on both FIX32 on Windows NT & Windows 2000 and with iFIX on Windows NT, Windows 2000.

Intellution has recently finished testing a series of core drivers on Windows XP. The following drivers have been verified for use on Windows XP (with iFIX v3.0), they are: ABH, ABR, GE9, ISG, MB1, MBE, OPC Client, SH1, SL4, and SM2.

Off-Set Addressing

Both v6.x & v7.x drivers when used with FIX32 or iFIX, support Intellution's unique offset addressing feature. Offset Addressing provides the ability to display data on the FIX graphics from Tags that aren't defined in the database. A base Tag needs to be defined in the FIX Process Database and the desired polling length of data to be displayed needs to be allocated in the I/O Driver table. The base Tag is used in the development of the data link but instead using the familiar F_CV (floating point, current value) field, the fields F_01 to F_xx can be

used (the xx is usually the maximum length that the PLC vendors protocol supports).

Offset addressing:

- Reduces the number of Tags, making the database smaller and more manageable.
- Reduces the number of I/O points used, so that smaller I/O count HMI can be purchased reducing project costs.
- Speeds up development time, especially when the data in the PLC is arranged in consecutive fashion.

For more information on the range of I/O Drivers developed by Intellution, please [click here](#).

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New I/O Driver - SI7 for Siemens S7 PLC's

Intellution announce the release of the SI7 I/O Driver for Siemens S7 family. The SI7 is a brand new product offering focused on connectivity to Siemens' S7 family of PLCs. The driver offers the following features/benefits:

Ease of Use

- 7.x Driver Architecture (Power Tool, Real-Time Configuration, AutoCreate, Sub-Second Polling, OPC DA 2.0 support)
- New HTML formatted help system, including tool tips, and digital photos of hardware setups
- Improved configuration (allows users to choose from a list of configured Interfaces, VFD names, and Connection names)

Supported Siemens Hardware/Software

- Support for Siemens S7 family of hardware through Simatic Net software (v5/2000 & v6.0)
- Connectivity via Profibus DP, Industrial Ethernet and MPI

New Features

- Improved VFD handling to reduce/eliminate resource issues (now 1 VFD per channel, not device)
- Block Write support

- Array support (read contiguous registers of data)
- Support for Double Integer and ASCII data types
- S7 Monitor of CPU status (allows user to switch from primary to backup PLC based on status of a bit)
- Support for OPC Data Access version 2.0
- Advanced diagnostics (data viewer)

To learn more about this driver, please [click here](#).

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New I/O Driver - IGS for Allen Bradley PLC's

Intellution announce the release of the IGS (Intellution Gateway Server) for Allen Bradley PLC's. This exciting new Driver/OPC Server offers connectivity to a wide variety of Allen-Bradley devices (including the popular ControlLogix™), via Ethernet and/or DF1 protocols.

The new driver offers several unique features, including:

- No additional software required (no RSLinx™)
- Support for ControlLogix Native Tags (Atomic Tags)
- Direct Access to the *i*FIX process database
- Import RSLogix 5000 generated L5K file to auto configure the driver
- Ability to read arrays configured in the ControlLogix PLC
- ControlLogix Gateway support - allows access via Data Highway Plus and ControlNet networks.
- Device routing features allow access to ControlLogix, PLC5, and SLC500 PLCs via any connecting network topology

To learn more about this driver, please [click here](#).

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HASP - The Key to the future

There are currently three different types of security keys (dongles) in circulation for use with Intellution's FIX32 and *i*FIX products. The following is a brief description of each type of dongle:

The Rainbow Technologies Sentinel C dongle is a full size key that plugs in to the Parallel port of each PC. End Users Sentinel C keys are turquoise in colour and

support FIX for Windows, FIX32 and *i*FIX (up to and including the *i*FIX v2.5 release).

The second type of key, which was introduced with the release of *i*FIX v2.6 is the Rainbow Technologies Super Pro. The Super Pro is available in two different formats, a USB token coloured purple and a half sized turquoise parallel key. One of the advantages of using the Super Pro keys was that they are field upgradeable, which meant that new license files could be applied to the key “on the fly” with minimal disruption to the process. The Super Pro keys also introduced the ability to provide limited time trial/demonstration keys and version control. The Super Pro keys work with both *i*FIX v2.6 and *i*FIX v3.0.

The third and newest type of key is Aladdin HASP. Like the Rainbow Super Pro, the HASP is also available in two formats, a see through “glow in the dark” purple USB token and a half sized white parallel key. The HASP keys are also field upgradeable, provide version control and can be used as limited time trial/demonstration keys. HASP keys are currently supported (with a SIM) on *i*FIX v2.6, *i*FIX v3.0, *i*infoAgent v1.1 and *i*Historian v1.0. Intellution have released a new *i*FIX v3.0 (dated September 2002) which contains the updated licensing drivers for the HASP keys.

Why did Intellution switch Key vendors?

Rainbow Technologies (Intellution’s long term key supplier) indicated that they were going to be issuing a new key to replace the SuperPro key. Given this development, Intellution took the opportunity to evaluate other options and key vendors for licensing their software. In doing so, Intellution assessed the solutions available from Aladdin Knowledge Systems.

Who is Aladdin Knowledge Systems?

Aladdin Knowledge Systems is one of the worlds leading producers of security key technology. In addition to delivering exceptional quality ratings, Intellution found that Aladdin also produces keys that are based on more advanced technology, are more reliable and ultimately could deliver greater value for Intellution and their customers.

What does it mean to you?

- Users upgrading from either FIX32 or *i*FIX v2.5 (or earlier) to *i*FIX v3.0 will need new HASP keys
- Existing users of Super Pro keys can upgrade “free of charge” to HASP keys, at any time.
- All new *i*FIX orders are supplied with the new HASP keys, either USB or Parallel.

To order new HASP keys for your site, please send an e-mail to keymaster@iic.co.nz, letting him know which style (USB or Parallel) of keys you require.

Please note: If your PC is fitted with USB ports and you are currently running Windows NT v4.0, you will need to upgrade to either Windows 2000 or Windows XP Professional for these ports to work. Unfortunately, Windows NT is not designed for "plug & play" or as we say "plug & pray".

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A Shot of Red *i* 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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