CitectSCADA V7.20 – What's New
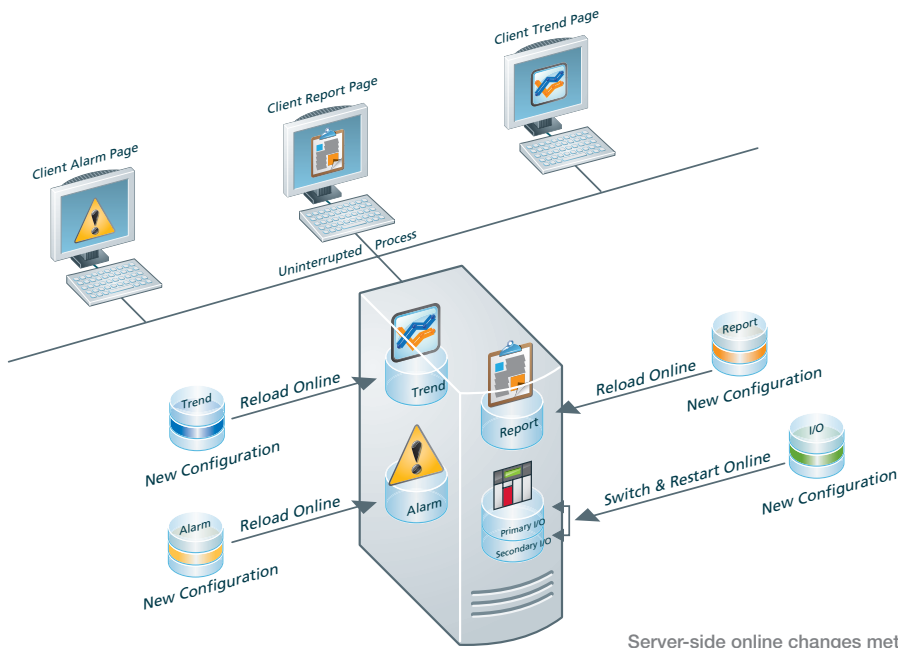

Server-side online changes methodology.

Benefits at a glance:

- Optimise your assets, resources and production.
- Gain a more holistic picture of your processes.
- Secure your automation investment with enhanced product quality, security and supportability.
- Improve decision making.
- Tighten asset security and improve operator effectiveness.
- Reduce development cost, time and risk.

What's new in V7.20:

- Tag extensions for richer information
- Alarm, Trend and Report server-side online changes
- New templates, including resolutions to support widescreen LCD displays
- Microsoft Windows 7 support
- System performance improvements
- Security improvements
- Runtime-only installation support
- Seamless integration with Pelco cameras for effective security monitoring
- New driver for tighter integration with Schneider Electric hardware via OFS
- Process Analyst can now display CitectHistorian data
- Instantly trend any variable tag in Process Analyst
- Reduced engineering by using metadata with graphics objects
- Simpler super-genies

With the release of V7.20, CitectSCADA™ software now provides you with an even more complete picture of your process than ever before. Take advantage of improvements in operating system technologies with the addition of support for Microsoft® Windows 7. Simple tasks like adding a new alarm are now possible without having to restart the server thanks to the introduction of server-side online changes. Every single variable tag now has much richer context information, rather than merely a simple value, thanks to the new tag extensions.

This new CitectSCADA software release can also help companies better meet their growing surveillance and remote monitoring and control requirements. The ability to closely monitor critical processes, high-value equipment and strategic production materials is now made easier by the capacity to integrate the video feed from Pelco™ cameras directly onto process displays.

Microsoft Windows 7 support

By providing a control system that supports the latest Microsoft operating systems, such as Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008, CitectSCADA V7.20 enables you to take advantage of the technology and security improvements these operating systems offer both now and into the future.

With cyber-terrorism an ever increasing threat, additional security enhancements, such as server authentication, have been introduced in order to provide an extra layer of protection to networked control systems.

Pelco camera integration

The integration of surveillance and remote monitoring functions allow you to link control system events, such as alarms in secured areas, with the surveillance of those areas. It also provides the ability to closely monitor critical processes, high-value equipment and strategic production materials while keeping track of control system variables.

The visibility afforded by this integration enhances decision making and can even help reduce the risk to field staff in potentially hazardous situations. In addition, the visual validation of the actual equipment, perimeter, zone or site in question helps reinforce safety and security.

Server-side online changes

Alarm, Trend and Report servers no longer need to be restarted just because something has been added, changed or removed. It is now possible to add new configuration, recompile and then, when you are ready to deploy the change, simply reload the appropriate server.

One of the key features of the reload operation is that it will only reload the changes, thus allowing any unchanged alarms, trends or reports to continue to function without interruption. This also means that should a change be attempted which the running system is unable to implement, the system will continue to run as before, with only that specific change disabled, thereby optimising operational efficiency and data continuity, and minimising risk.

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For many customers, the ability to make changes without system interruption can be extended to support variables and communications within the system. This is achieved by scaling the operations of a redundant pair of I/O servers onto a single PC and then cycling the I/O servers to bring the changes online.

In addition, control of all server reload or restart operations is available through code in order to provide the ability for fully automated change deployment, even on remote PCs. Detailed status information is available so that each process can be monitored to ensure that it is not initiated until the corresponding server process has successfully completed, thus minimising risk even further.

Tag extensions
With the addition of tag extensions in CitectSCADA V7.20, each variable tag now has a collection of functional elements, each of which in turn contains value, quality and time-stamp information as a collection of items.

The addition of quality information gives you tools to better interpret the data that is being supplied, while the addition of time-stamp information provides greater accuracy within the system. All variables are time-stamped by the I/O server, with some protocols such as DNP3 and OPC getting the time-stamp from the source. The addition of quality and time-stamped information therefore facilitates a much greater understanding of exactly how the system is changing, enabling you to make better informed decisions than ever before.

When using the variable tag as part of a display, the system automatically determines the element and item that should be used based on the current state of the entire variable tag collection. It is also possible to access each individual piece of information in the collection so that if, for example, an OPC server is providing a value of BAD quality, you may also show the last value that was of GOOD quality and the time when that value was collected.

Now that each variable tag contains these rich collections of elements, it is easy to access functions such as Override and Control Inhibit. The Override function allows you to manually set the value shown by the variable tag. If, for example, a field transmitter is stuck and is supplying an invalid value, the variable tag can be put into Override mode, with a more accurate value assigned as reported by field personnel. The Control Inhibit function protects critical system information by disabling the ability to write to specific variables. These functions enhance the security of your process while increasing the capabilities of your system.

New templates
CitectSCADA V7.20 introduces a new set of application icons which illustrate some of the key software functions in a much more intuitive style. Also added are new templates that are designed to support the latest LCD-sized screen resolutions and feature a handy tab-style menu system with the most common user actions. All these combine to enhance the display and allow for faster project creation, improving engineering efficiency.
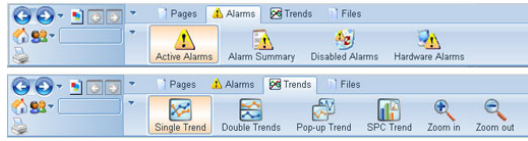
New tab-style user interface.

The new tab-style menu system provides a contemporary look and feel similar to that of the latest applications and is totally user-configurable within the project and included projects. The Main menu items are represented by tabs along the top menu bar, with second level items displayed as icons within the tab. Third and fourth level items are also catered for in pull-down lists, thus providing an easy-to-use, user configurable, four-level menu system.

Additional improvements have also been made to the alarm and Process Analyst templates to make them more flexible, more powerful and even easier to use.

Graphics enhancements
Metadata provides graphic objects with a simple list of name-value pairs that can be used to hold virtually any information, such as super genie associations, simple recipes, operating parameter downloads and on through a virtually unlimited range of other uses. Named page association starts by removing the need to remember what number relates to which tag and then goes even further by including default and error value support. The combination of metadata and named associations virtually eliminates the need for code to call and animate super genies, including the most advanced and powerful ones that handle undefined variables. These graphics enhancements allow more powerful and easier to maintain systems to be created in far less time.

New application icons.

Other enhancements
- More robust data analysis thanks to Process Analyst's ability to access historical data from CitectHistorian™ software. You can now compare historical process patterns with a current process upset and gain access to a far greater amount of process data across much longer time periods.

- Better flexibility due to application installation runtime-only option for the client and server, eliminating unnecessary access to the configuration environment by staff not authorised to make system changes.

- Tighter integration with Schneider Electric hardware through the inclusion of the OPC Factory Server driver (OFSOPC), reducing configuration time, cost and effort.

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