

PiLink OPC Software Product

What is PiLink?

PiLink is an OPC client software product that allows an operator, technician or engineer to enter data on a Windows Server-based computer and then pass the data into a DCS or PLC. In a manufacturing process or a chemical plant, there are many needs where data entered by a human being must be downloaded into the DCS. In many cases, data entry directly into the DCS or PLC is not possible or may be prohibited by control room or laboratory policies because of security reasons. Entering the data into a Windows server computer is safer and may be also recommended especially when there are some other specific needs such as printing of labels, custom data validation and other special needs. Following is a simple illustration of PiLink:

Example of the use of PiLink

Data from a laboratory may need to be entered in a special custom computer screen from which it needs to be transferred into a DCS or PLC. PiLink is the software product for this need. PiLink can be created with a custom user interface specifying the names of the laboratory samples and tagnames. After each laboratory value is available, both the time stamp and the laboratory sample value can be entered into the computer screen. After validation and release by the user, the data is then written out into the DCS or PLC.

Configuration of PiLink

Configuration of PiLink is remarkably simple. The user configures an ASCII file to specify the lab tags and details such as tag description and names. Or alternately, data may be written to an Excel file that is updated periodically by another application written in any language – VB, C++ or even Access. Such an external application can update the Excel file which is the input file to PiLink. PiLink then sends the data into the DCS.

PiLink provides a quick and easy method to configure as many as 2000 tags conveniently.

PiLink Screen Shot

A sample screen shot illustrating the PiLink user interface and overall details is shown below:

VCM Plant Operator Lab Data Entry Screen

	Value	Time	Stamp	Status
Viscosity A	2.1		7:10 PM JAN 20 2009	Downloaded
Density	0.9218		8:50 PM JAN 19 2009	Downloaded
Viscosity B	0.00051		5:04 AM JAN 02 2009	Download
Ash Content	0.331		9:10 AM DEC 31 2008	Downloaded
Particle Size 100	213498		11:10 PM DEC 20 2009	Downloaded
Particle Size 200	11234		5:30 PM JAN 12 2009	Downloaded
Particle Size 300	8976		6:12 AM JAN 15 2009	Downloaded
Particle Size 700	112		3:33 PM JAN 29 2009	Downloaded
Viscosity C	3.985		7:15 PM FEB 02 2009	Downloaded

Testing with an OPC Simulation server

PiLink provides the capability to test easily with any standard OPC simulation server. This capability is useful for testing and also for training purposes.

Technical Help and Support

For technical help and additional details on PiLink, please contact PiControl Solutions Company via email at info@picontrolsolutions.com.