

Fenclo – Quebec, Canada

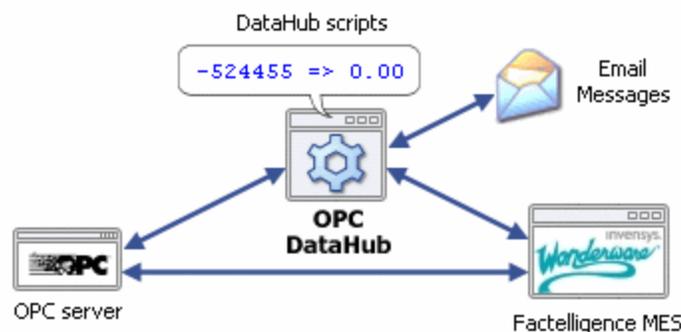
The OPC DataHub customizes an OPC connection

Fenclo, Ltd. located near Montreal, Quebec, is the manufacturer of wooden and vinyl fencing products. Their state-of-the-art facility relies on OPC to provide a live connection between their production equipment and their MES (Manufacturing Execution System). Recently they started using the OPC DataHub to manipulate the data midstream between these two systems, adding intelligence and new capabilities to the data transfer path.



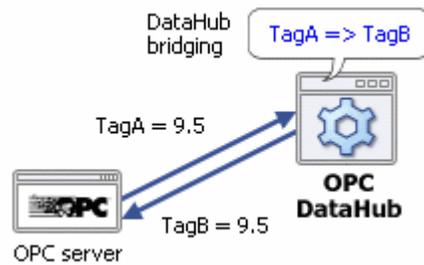
Last year the Information System team at Fenclo needed to get more mileage out of their system. Specifically, they wanted to be able to run calculations on the data flowing between the OPC server and the OPC client. A friend in a sister company who was working with the OPC DataHub told the team about its wide range of features, including OPC bridging and scripting. So they gave it a try.

“We use Wonderware’s Factelligence,” said a team member. “It’s connected directly to the OPC server to get raw data values. But we find it advantageous to run several kinds of calculations on that data before it gets to the Factelligence system. So we connected the OPC DataHub to the OPC server and to Factelligence, and now send some of the data along that path. Using the DataHub’s scripting engine, we can crunch the numbers on the fly, in real time, and feed those results into Factelligence.”



The initial scripts were so successful that the team soon found other uses for the OPC DataHub. For example, they created a script that lets them control the run and idle settings on their plant equipment from within the Factelligence software. The script polls a few specially created fields in the Factelligence ODBC database, and based on the latest entry of plant personnel, sends commands to the OPC server to switch the machinery between idle or run modes.

In addition to scripting, they are also using the bridging feature of the OPC DataHub in a unique way—to bridge data tags on a single OPC server. Rather than creating a whole new set of tags on the OPC server, they simply send the source tag values to the OPC DataHub and bridge them to the destination OPC server tags represented by DataHub points. The values then get written in real time back to the corresponding tags in the OPC server.



Most recently, they have been using the email capabilities of the OPC DataHub to produce alert messages. The company can now send email messages with dynamic content on certain events. This simple feature gives the plant operators greater mobility and reduces work-load. The OPC DataHub has added entirely new functionality to the existing system at minimum cost. The resulting access to information saves money by reducing process down-time.

“We had an issue recently when a message was received that there was a failure on the ODBC data system,” said a team spokesperson, “but we were able to react in time to save the data, and we found the problem in the connection. This is just one more example of how we benefit from the OPC DataHub. It is an excellent piece of software.”

□ □ □

The OPC DataHub is a highly optimized integration tool for real-time data. It provides quick, reliable and secure access to valuable process and production data and makes it available to management systems, database archives, and remote clients. Combining a number of innovative technologies, the OPC DataHub makes it easy for you to access the real-time data you need to make informed and timely decisions that save time, reduce waste, and increase profitability.

Founded in 1995, Cogent Real-Time Systems is the leader in real-time data integration between Windows, Linux and QNX systems. Customers include the Bank of Canada, Cadbury Chocolate and the European Space Agency. Cogent leverages its experience in real-time data communications to provide the next generation of OPC products. For more information, please contact Cogent at info@cogent.ca or visit our web site at www.opcdatahub.com. You can also call us at +1 (905) 702 7851.