Process Control’s Communication and Integration Specialist Fred Mau, CCNA, RHCE, OPN, presented some of his findings on SCADA (Supervisory, Control and Data Acquisition), particularly as it relates to Industry 4.0.

Industry 4.0 is a name given to the current trend of automation and data exchange in manufacturing technologies. It includes cyber-physical systems, the Internet of things, cloud computing and cognitive computing.

A brief history on Process Control’s Communications since 2017:

2017: Extensive rework of core Ethernet driver, greatly improving Modbus/TCP and Ethernet/IP.

In 2018 the addition of OPC-UA protocol for Guardian, Continuous and Gravitrol. The Internal use of CAT5e shielded cable and couplers, and B&R C070 Panels. Lastly PCC equipment incorporates a FASTER processor, and larger screen (10”).

CURRENT: “PCC Best Practices” assures stable comms. A few examples of best practices are: validate all needed registers with PCC tools, Cat Se Shielded Twister Pair (STP), or at least run unshielded cable in well-grounded metal conduit, and block reads no faster than 1 second. PCC can supply a list of tools used to validate communications; supplied as ready-made routines that are guaranteed to work. "Comms" available for Siemens S7-300/400 with Profibus, Siemens S7-1200/1500 with Modbus/TCP, Allen-Bradley ControlLogix with Ethernet/IP and GE iFix.

Fred Mau, CCNA, RHCE, OPN, is currently employed by PCC as a Integration and Communications Specialist. He spent more than 20 years employed with Siemens Corporation integrating systems using various PLC’s and protocols.

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