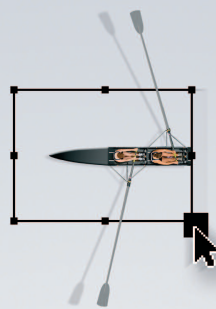


Scalability – The Crucial Component for Flexible Process Control



Always competing in the same class?

A traditional DCS system limits vision and potential because it lacks a crucial component which can allow the system to grow and evolve without excessive cost or transition problems between laboratory, pilot plant and production facility. The crucial component is scalability or the ability to start small and grow big!

This is a key advantage that Simatic PCS 7 has over traditional DCS systems. Changes in customer demand or the requirement to 'ramp up' production require flexibility, and a system equipped with SIMATIC PCS 7 can be easily, quickly and efficiently expanded without problem if there is an increase in capacities or a technological modification. PCS 7 offers attractive introductory systems in the lower price performance range; when the plant expands, it simply grows along with it – without significant additional engineering. There is therefore no need to create expensive reserve capacities. This means that plant managers can buy bolt-on additions to their current system as and when required.

SIMATIC PCS 7 is scalable, from small single-station systems with around 100 I/O, eg for laboratory automation or use in a pilot plant, all the way to distributed multiple-

station systems with client / server architecture and in excess of 100,00 I/O for automation of a larger production plant. Crucially, a process control system run by Simatic PCS 7 will use the same standardised engineering tools and the same software structure, which means that maintenance staff need only be familiar with a single set of support tools and operational staff will have a standard look and feel for all operator interfaces.

Scalable Server Concept

Central to the scalability concept is the scalable server concept, which enables PCS 7 to be adapted to any plant and complexity. Every plant unit can be equipped with its own server which enables maximum flexibility in operation and the potential for supervision of all plant areas. Dual redundant servers can be selected where required, thus offering additional availability in critical plant areas only.

Engineering

PCS 7 also offers unified engineering from the laboratory up to a complete production plant on a single automation platform. This means users will be able to utilise the same engineering tools, the same libraries and

use the same configurations and control strategies throughout their process control systems.

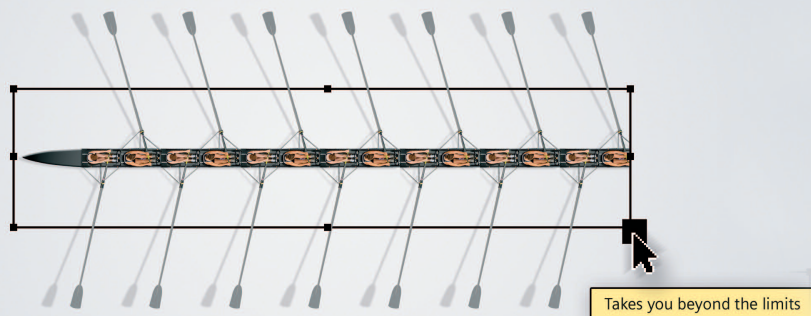
Runtime

PCS 7 offers a common look and feel from laboratory up to a complete production plant, meaning users benefit from the same visualisation and the same functionality. This is increasingly being used to reduce costs through consolidation of control rooms or supporting single operation teams on multiple production facilities.

PCS 7 also has a wide range of options available for enhanced functionality such as Advanced Process Control, Batch and Safety. This ensures the best possible adaptation to individual requirements of the plant – at the optimal price / performance ratio.

Whereas in the past a process plant would have had a mixture of PLC / SCADA and DCS, due to the relatively high entry level of a DCS system, it is now possible to standardise on PCS 7. The benefits are uniform operational standards, lower spares inventories for maintenance and easier software maintenance support.

Setting standards with Totally Integrated Automation.



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