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DAQ and OPC Overview

Hans-Petter Halvorsen



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Introduction



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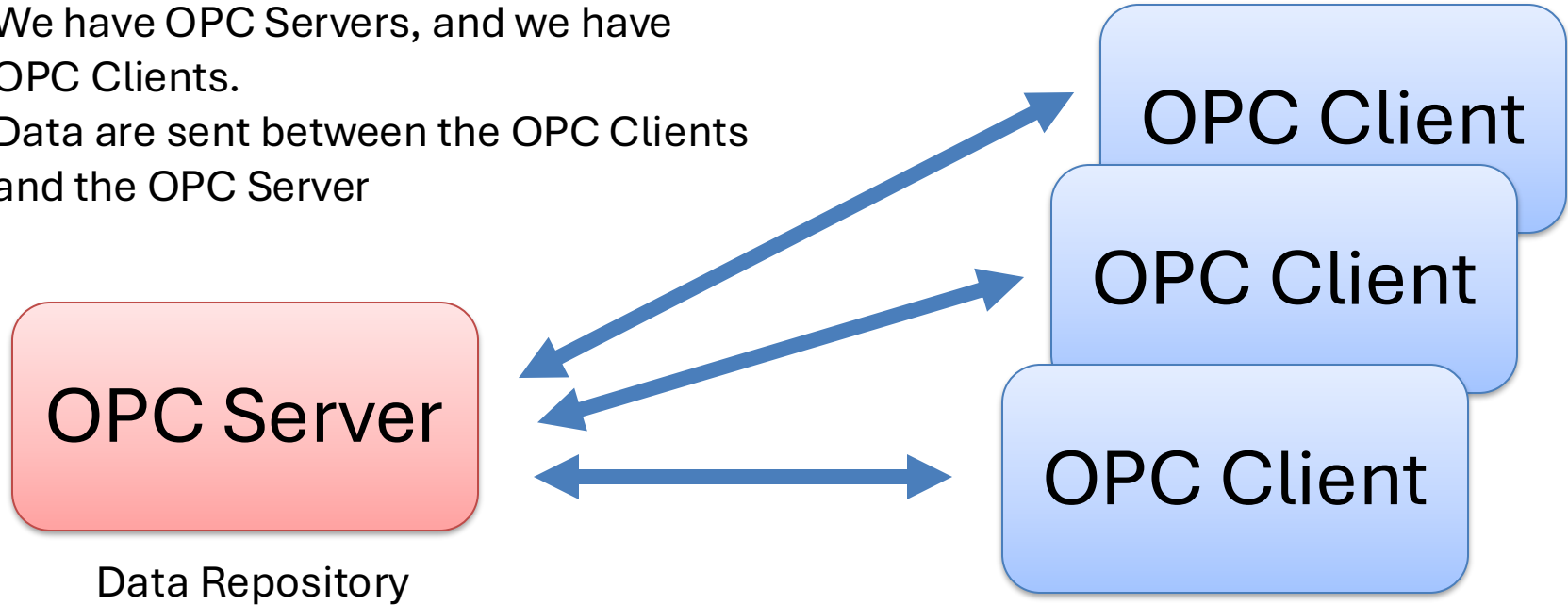
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What is OPC?

- OPC - “Open Process Control”/“Open Platform Communications”
- A standard that defines the communication of data between devices from different manufactures
- Requires an **OPC server** that communicates with the **OPC clients**
- OPC allows “plug-and-play”, gives benefits as reduces installation time and the opportunity to choose products from different manufactures
- Different standards: “Real-time” data (**OPC DA**), Historical data (**OPC HDA**), Alarm & Event data (**OPC AE**), etc.

Basic OPC concept

We have OPC Servers, and we have OPC Clients.
Data are sent between the OPC Clients and the OPC Server



Send Data (Write) to OPC Server
or Retrieve Data (Read) from OPC Server

OPC Specifications



OPC DA (Data Access)

The most common OPC specification is OPC DA, which is used to read and write “real-time” data. When vendors refer to OPC generically, they typically mean OPC DA.

- **OPC HDA** (Historical Data Access)
- **OPC A & E** (Alarms & Events)
- ... (many others)

These OPC specification are based on the OLE, COM, and DCOM technologies developed by Microsoft for the Microsoft Windows operating system family. This makes it complicated to make it work in a modern Network! Typically, you need a Tunneller Software in order to share the OPC data in a network (between OPC Servers and Clients)

OPC UA (Unified Architecture)

OPC UA eliminating the need to use a Microsoft Windows based platform of earlier OPC versions. OPC UA combines the functionality of the existing OPC interfaces with new technologies such as XML and Web Services (HTTP, SOAP)

“Next Generation” OPC

“Classic” OPC

OPC DA

OPC HDA

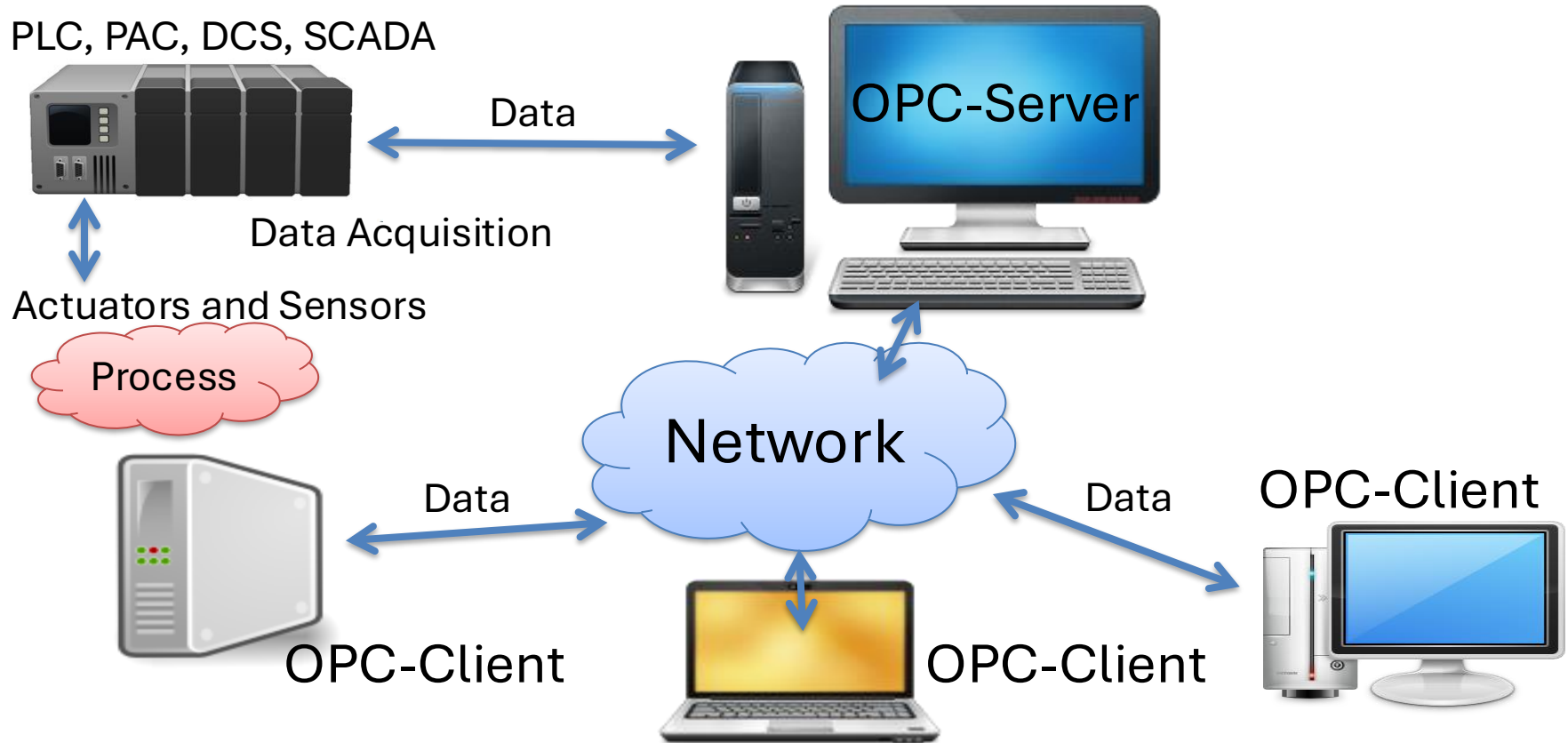
OPC A&E

... (Many others)

“Next Generation” OPC

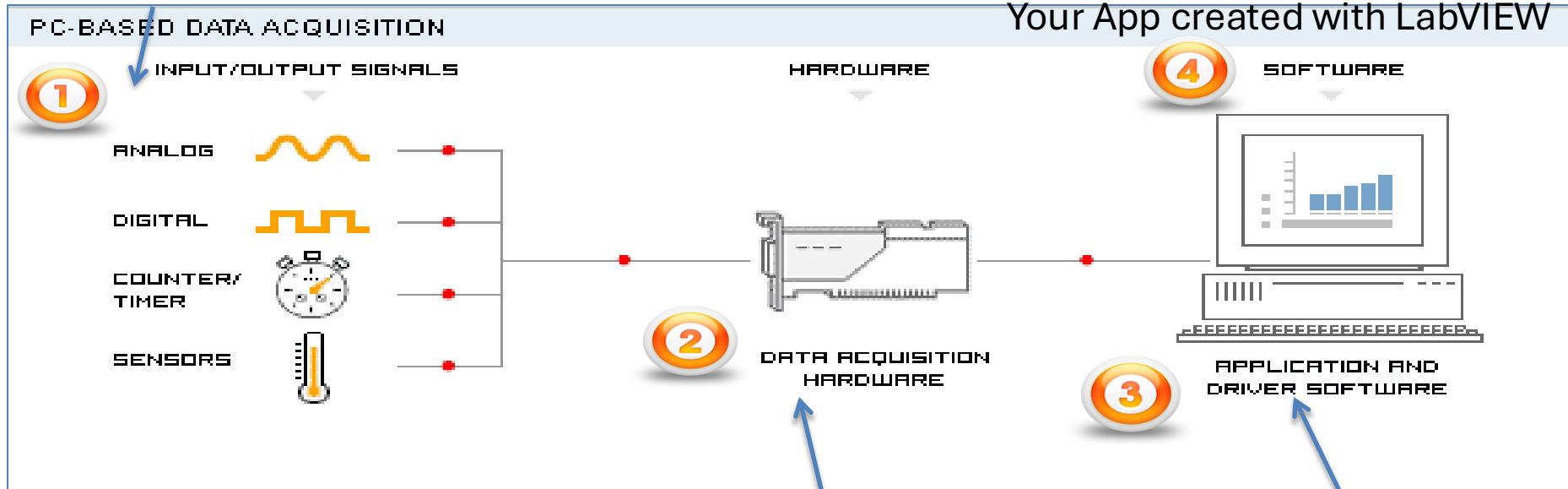
OPC UA

Typical OPC Scenario



Data Acquisition (DAQ)

Sensors, etc.



A DAQ System consists of 4 parts:

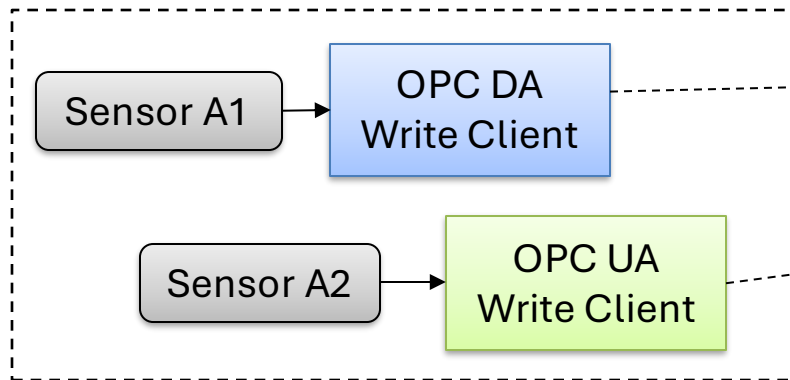
1. Physical input/output signals, sensors
2. DAQ device/hardware
3. Driver software
4. Your software application (Application software)

NI TC-01 Thermocouple
or USB-6008 Device

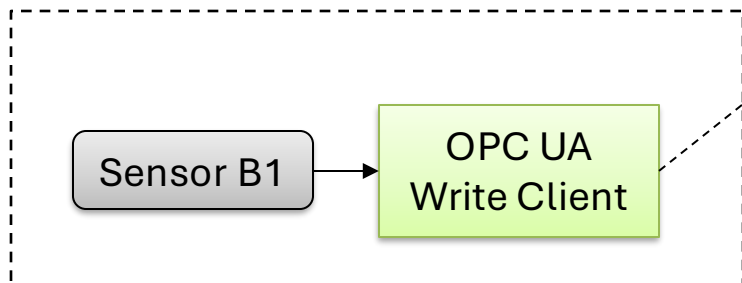
NI DAQmx Driver

Use Case Scenario for DAQ and OPC System

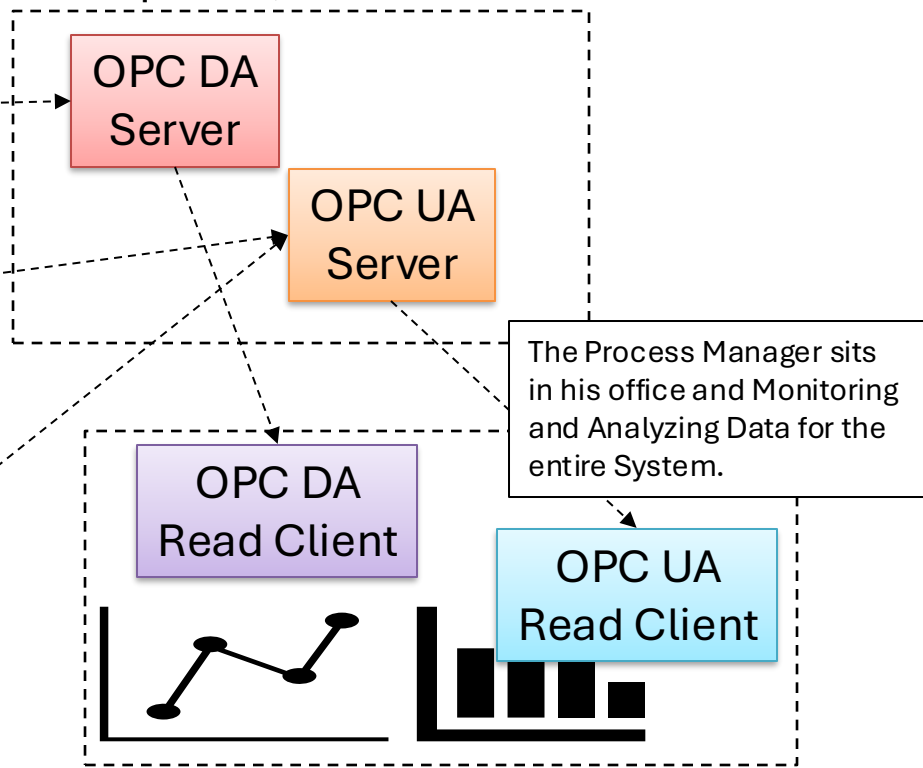
Factory A, Porsgrunn



Factory B, Bergen



Headquarter, Drammen



A typical factory can include both OPC DA and OPC UA parts

Office Building, OSLO

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DAQ with TC-01 Thermocouple

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TC-01 Thermocouple Sensor

TC-01 Thermocouple Temperature Sensor is made by NI, the same company that develop LabVIEW

Sample Rate: 4 Samples/S



<https://www.ni.com/en-no/support/model.usb-tc01.html>

Datasheet: <https://www.ni.com/pdf/manuals/374918b.pdf>

Getting Started with TC-01

The following window should pop up automatically when you plug in your NI USB-TC01 device in your USB port (if not, select “**TC01Launcher.exe**”):

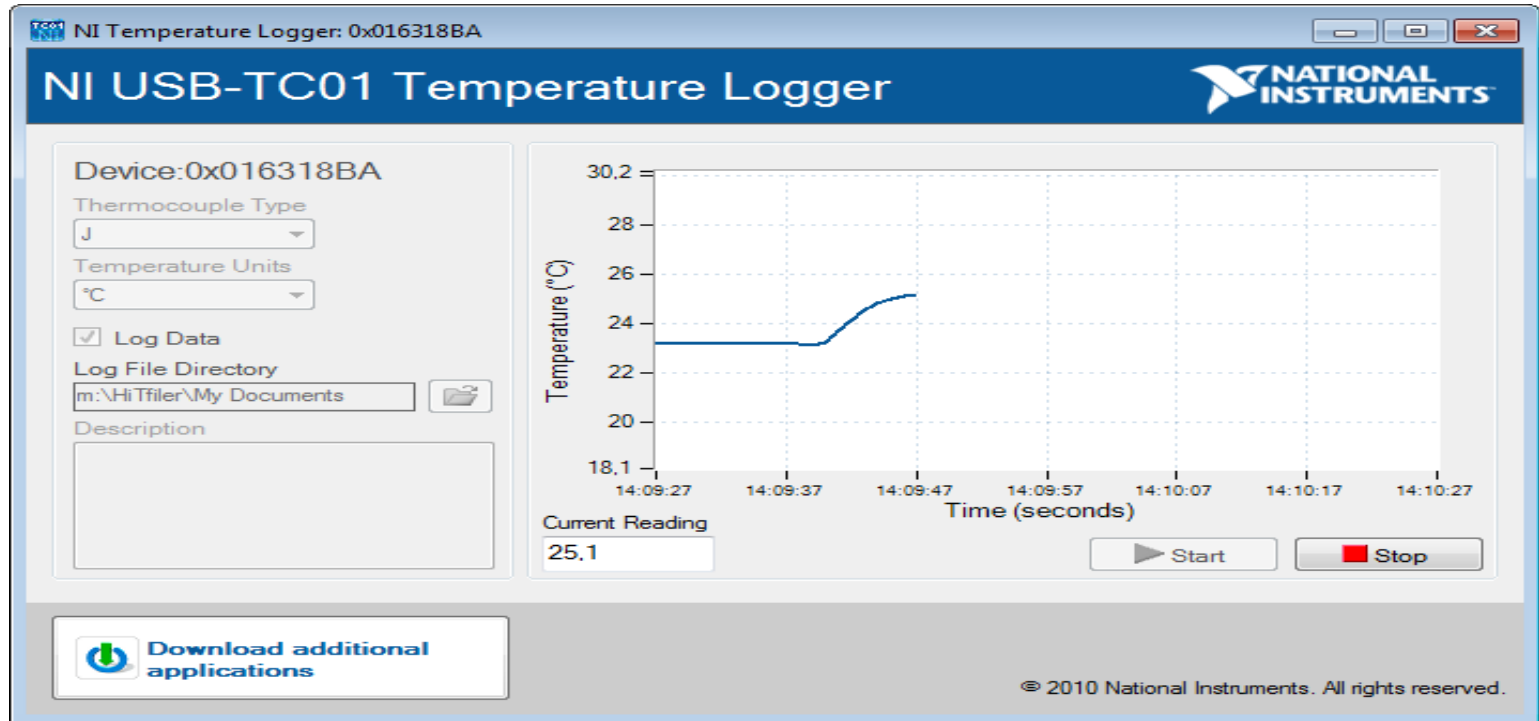


The screenshot shows the NI USB-TC01 software interface. The window title is "National Instruments" and the main header is "NI USB-TC01" with the National Instruments logo. The interface is divided into several sections:

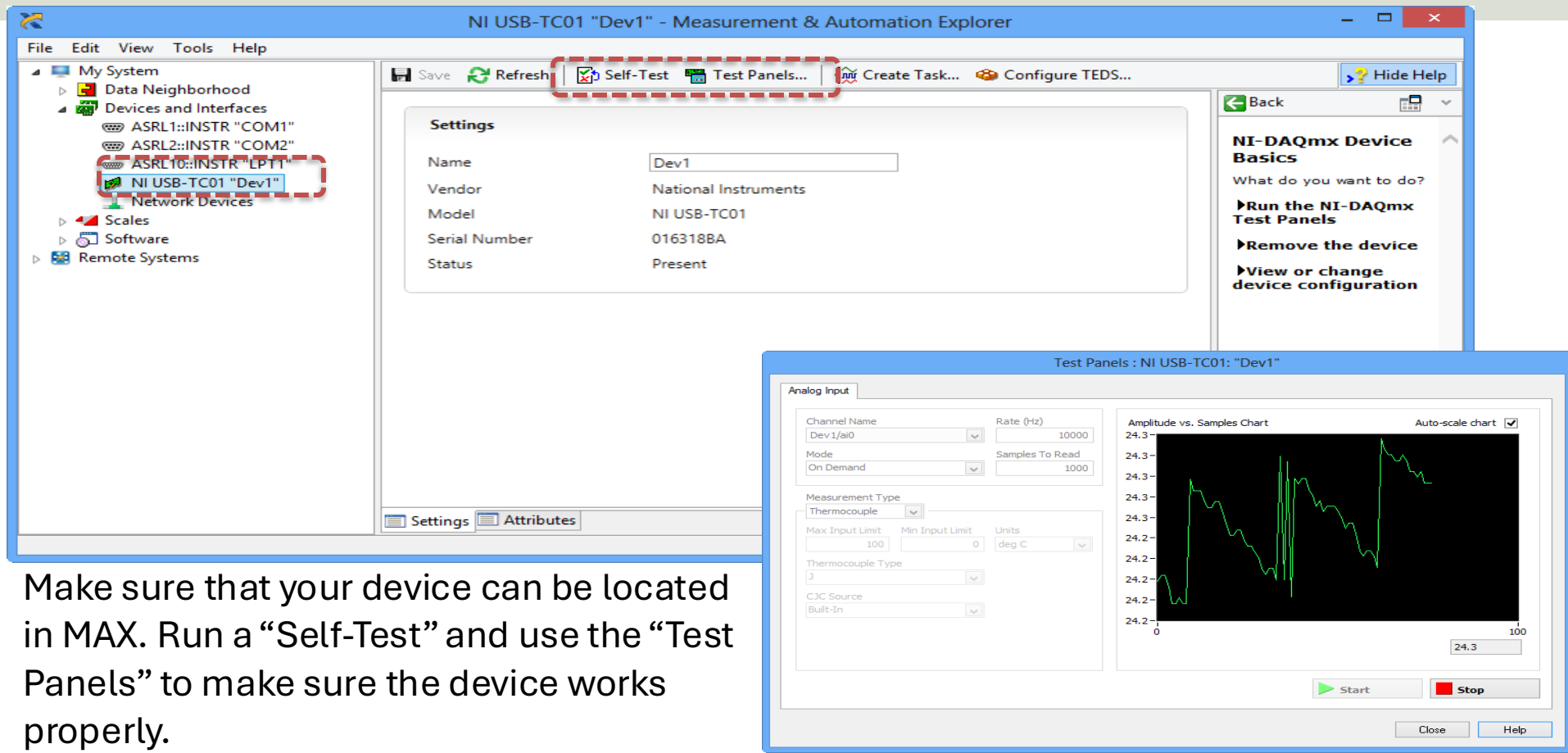
- Left Sidebar:** Three buttons with icons: "Temperature Logger" (thermometer icon), "LabVIEW Example Temperature Logger" (LabVIEW icon), and "Do More with your NI USB-TC01" (refresh icon).
- Right Panel:** Contains the text "NI USB-TC01 Thermocouple Measurement Device from National Instruments." and an image of the physical device.
- Configuration Section:** Labeled "Thermocouple Configuration", it features two dropdown menus: "Current Reading" set to "23,1°C" and "Type" set to "J".
- Bottom Section:** "Device Information:" with details: "Serial Number: 0x016318BA", "Firmware Version: 1.0.0f1", and a "Device Support >>" link.
- Footer:** "© 2010 National Instruments. All rights reserved."

Built-in Temperature Logger

The TC-01 comes with a built-in Temperature Logger (No Driver or programming needed):



Measurement & Automation Explorer (MAX)



The screenshot displays the NI Measurement & Automation Explorer (MAX) interface. The main window is titled "NI USB-TC01 'Dev1' - Measurement & Automation Explorer". The left pane shows a tree view of the system hierarchy, with "NI USB-TC01 'Dev1'" selected and highlighted by a red dashed box. The main pane shows the "Settings" tab for the selected device, with a red dashed box around the "Self-Test" and "Test Panels..." buttons. The "Settings" table is as follows:

Settings	
Name	Dev1
Vendor	National Instruments
Model	NI USB-TC01
Serial Number	0163188A
Status	Present

The right pane shows the "NI-DAQmx Device Basics" section, with options to "Run the NI-DAQmx Test Panels", "Remove the device", and "View or change device configuration".

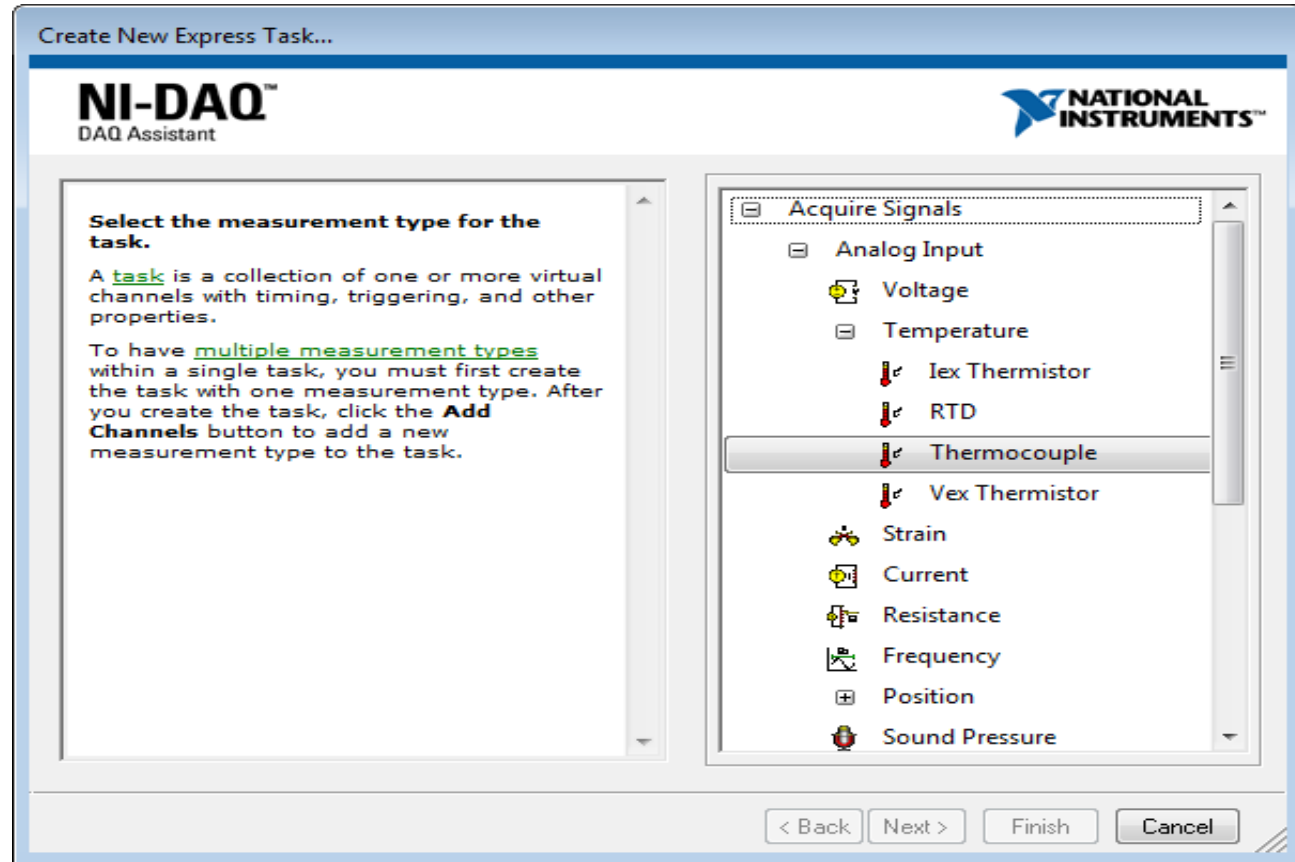
An inset window titled "Test Panels : NI USB-TC01: 'Dev1'" is shown in the bottom right. It displays the "Analog Input" configuration for a thermocouple. The "Channel Name" is "Dev1/ai0", the "Rate (Hz)" is "10000", and the "Mode" is "On Demand". The "Measurement Type" is "Thermocouple", and the "Thermocouple Type" is "J". The "CJC Source" is "Built-in". The "Amplitude vs. Samples Chart" shows a green waveform with a value of 24.3. The "Start" and "Stop" buttons are visible at the bottom of the chart area.

Make sure that your device can be located in MAX. Run a "Self-Test" and use the "Test Panels" to make sure the device works properly.

LabVIEW DAQ Assistant



When you place the **DAQ Assistant** on the Block Diagram, a Wizard automatically pops up where you configure what you want to do, i.e., if you want to Read or Write Data, Analog or Digital signals, which channel you want to use, etc.



Select the measurement type for the task.

A **task** is a collection of one or more virtual channels with timing, triggering, and other properties.

To have **multiple measurement types** within a single task, you must first create the task with one measurement type. After you create the task, click the **Add Channels** button to add a new measurement type to the task.

Acquire Signals

- Analog Input
 - Voltage
 - Temperature
 - Iex Thermistor
 - RTD
 - Thermocouple**
 - Vex Thermistor
- Strain
- Current
- Resistance
- Frequency
- Position
- Sound Pressure

LabVIEW DAQ Assistant

3

Set Properties

DAQ Assistant

Undo Redo Run Add Channels Remove Channels

Express Task Connection Diagram

Channel	Value
Temperature	0

Table Display Type

Configuration Triggering Advanced Timing Logging

Channel Settings

Temperature

Thermocouple Setup

Signal Input Range

Max 100 Min 0 Scaled Units deg C

Thermocouple Type J

CJC Source Built In

Timing Settings

Acquisition Mode 1 Sample (On Demand) Samples to Read 100 Rate (Hz) 1k

Measuring Temperature with a Thermocouple

A **thermocouple** is created when two dissimilar metals touch, and the contact point produces a small open-circuit voltage that corresponds to temperature. Thermocouple measurements require sensing of the **cold-junction** temperature where the thermocouple wire is connected to the measurement system. Therefore, signal connection accessories should include an accurate cold-junction sensor, and should be designed to minimize any temperature gradients between the cold-junction sensor and thermocouple wire connections. Other signal conditioning requirements include:

- Constant**—The cold-junction temperature must be specified with **CJC Value**.
- Built In**—A CJC channel built into the terminal block is used.
- Channel**—A virtual

OK Cancel

Select the physical channel(s) to add to the task.

If you have previously configured **global virtual channels** of the same measurement type as the task, click the **Virtual** tab to add or copy global virtual channels to the task. When you copy the global virtual channel to the task, it becomes a local virtual channel. When you add a global virtual channel to the task, the task uses the actual global virtual channel, and any changes to that global virtual channel are reflected in the task.

If you have TEDS configured, click the **TEDS** tab to add TEDS channels to the task.

For hardware that supports **multiple channels** in a task, you can select multiple channels to add to a task at the same time.

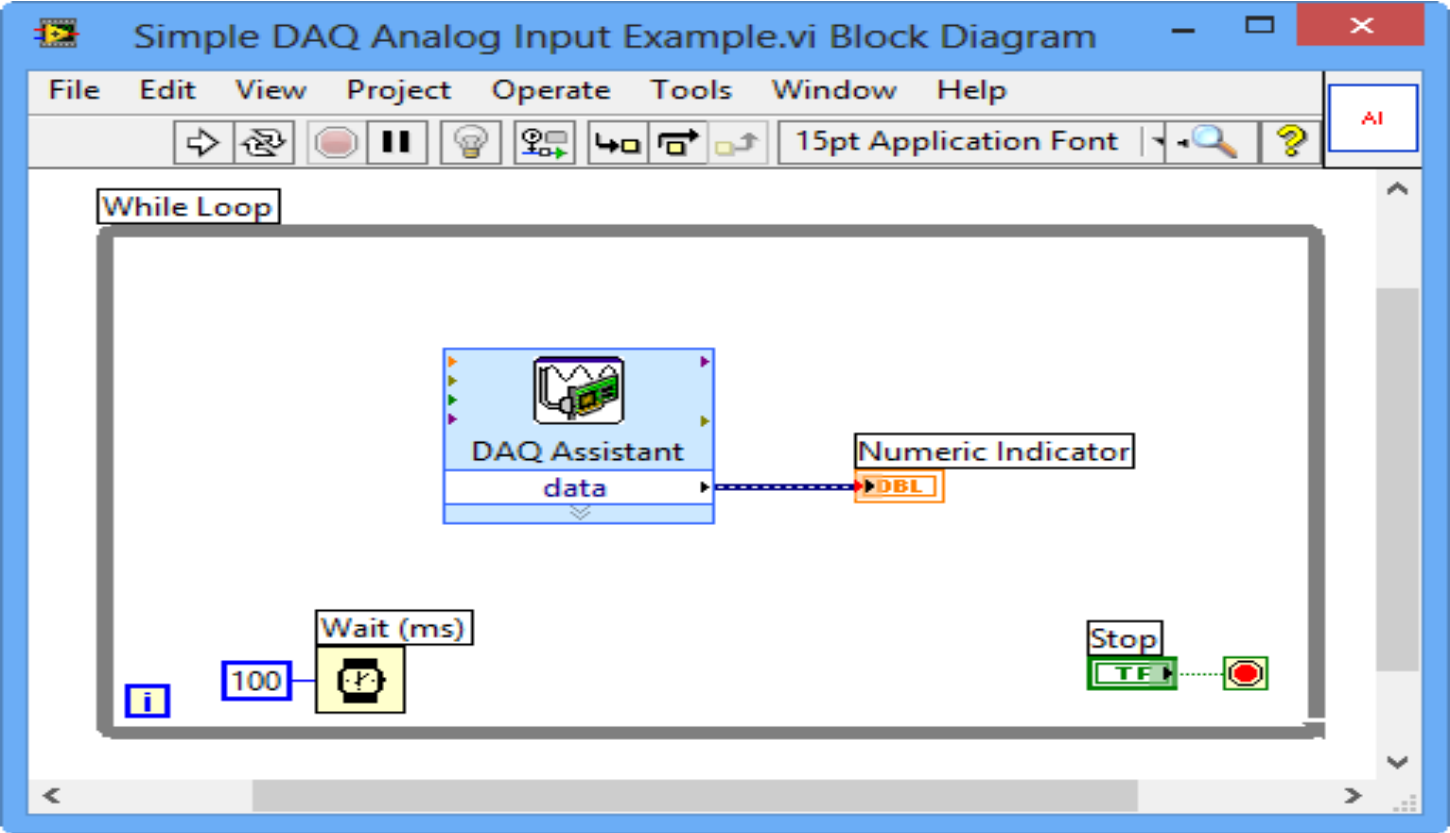
Physical

Supported Physical Channels

- Dev1 (USB-TC01) ai0

<Ctrl> or <Shift> click to select multiple channels.

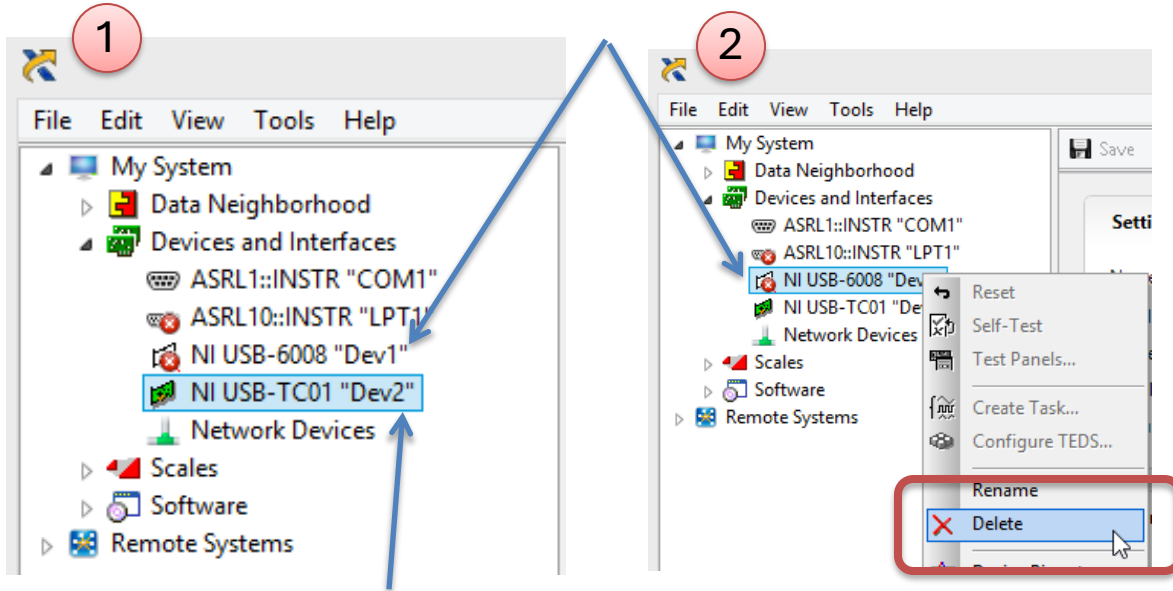
Read Data from TC-01 Device



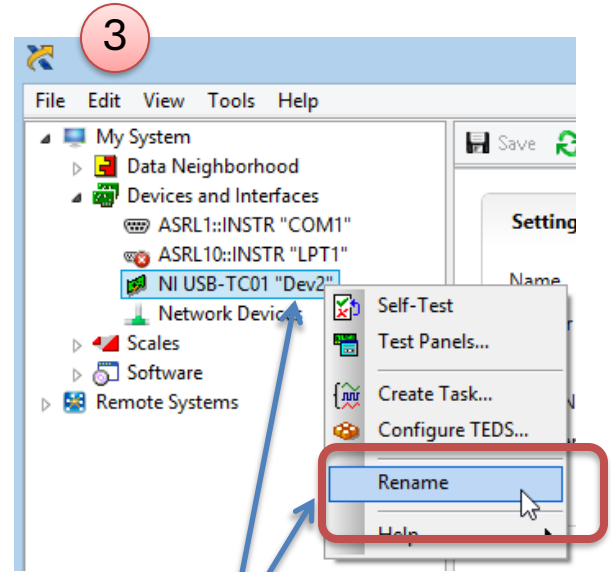
Not working after you got a new Device?

Solution, Alt 1: Open **MAX** (Measurement & Automation Explorer) in order to Fix-it!

Delete Old Device



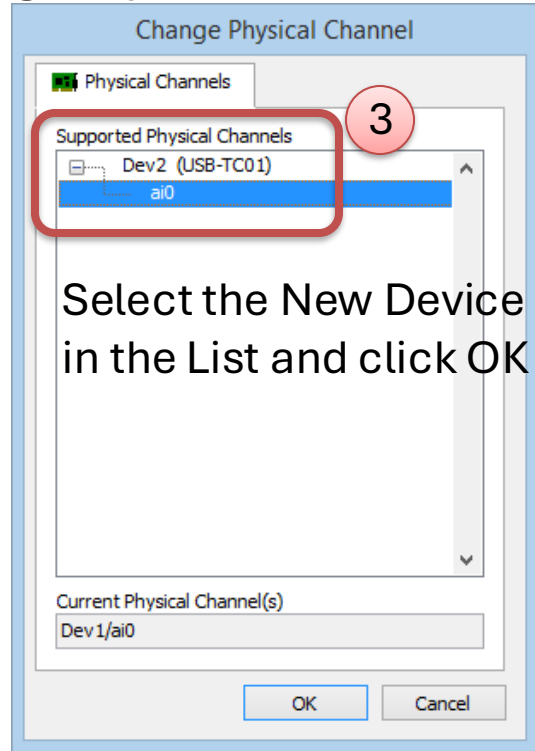
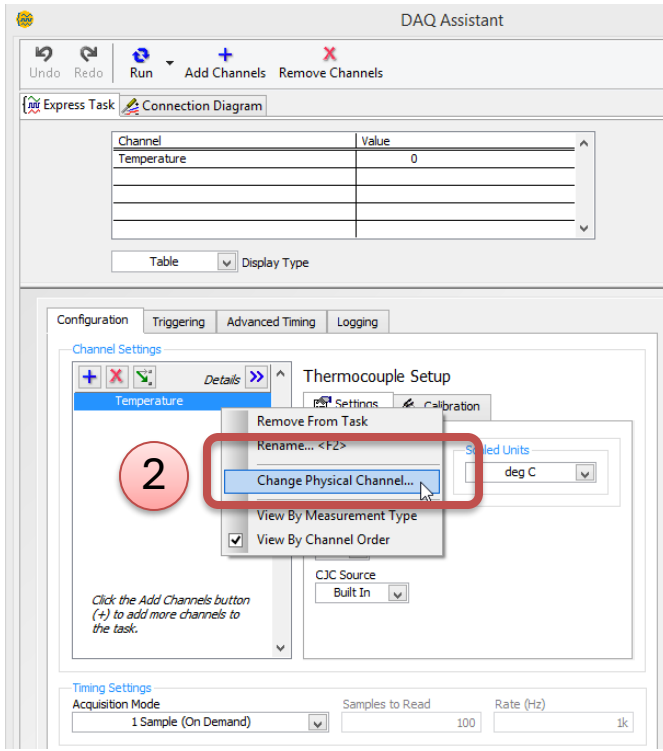
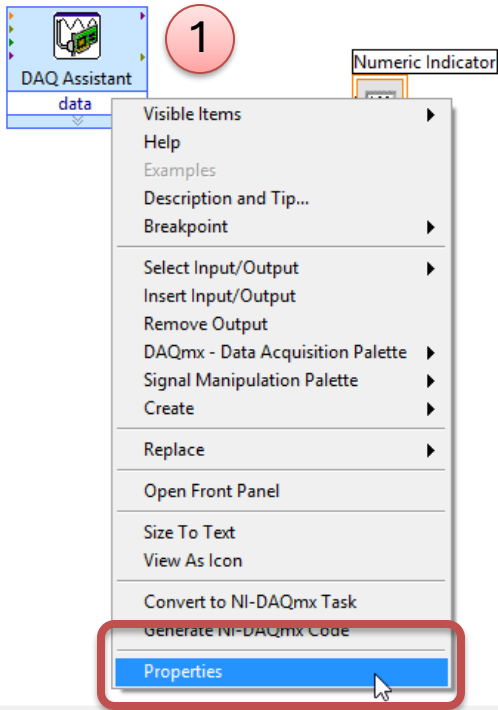
New Device



Rename the New Device with the same Name as the Old one

Not working after you got a new Device?

Solution, Alt 2: Change the Settings in the DAQ Assistant in your LabVIEW Application
Right-click and select “Change Physical Channel”



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DAQ with USB-6008



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USB-6008

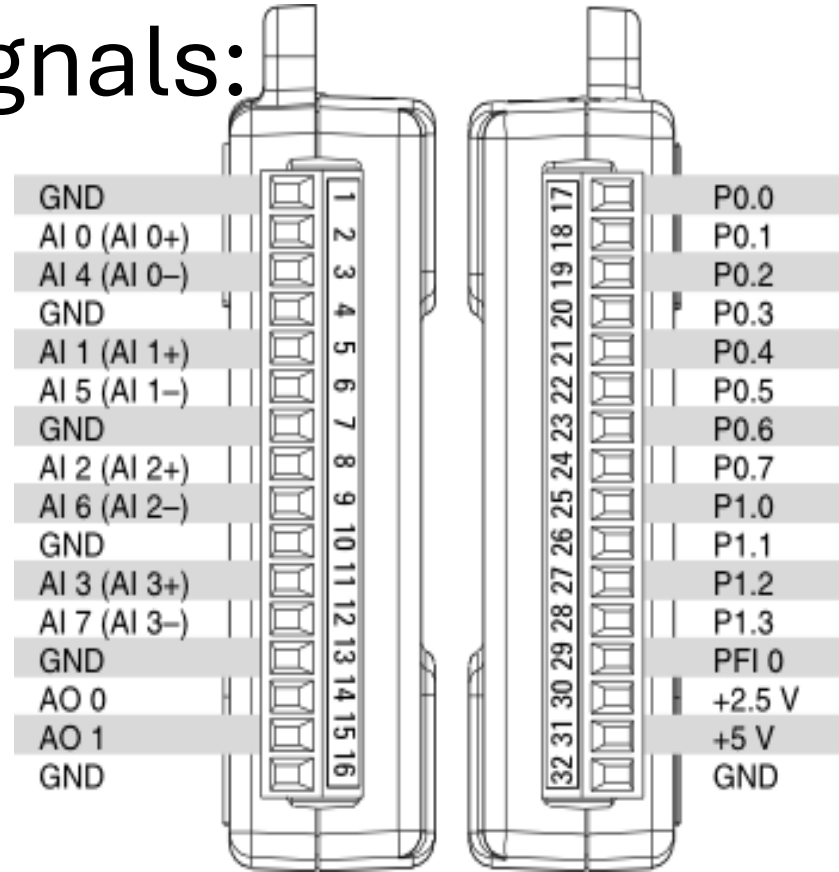
- USB-6008 is a DAQ Device from NI
- Can be used within LabVIEW
- NI-DAQmx Driver
- It has Analog and Digital Inputs and Outputs



USB-6008

4 different types of Signals:

- AO – Analog Output
- AI – Analog Input
- DO – Digital Output
- DI – Digital Input



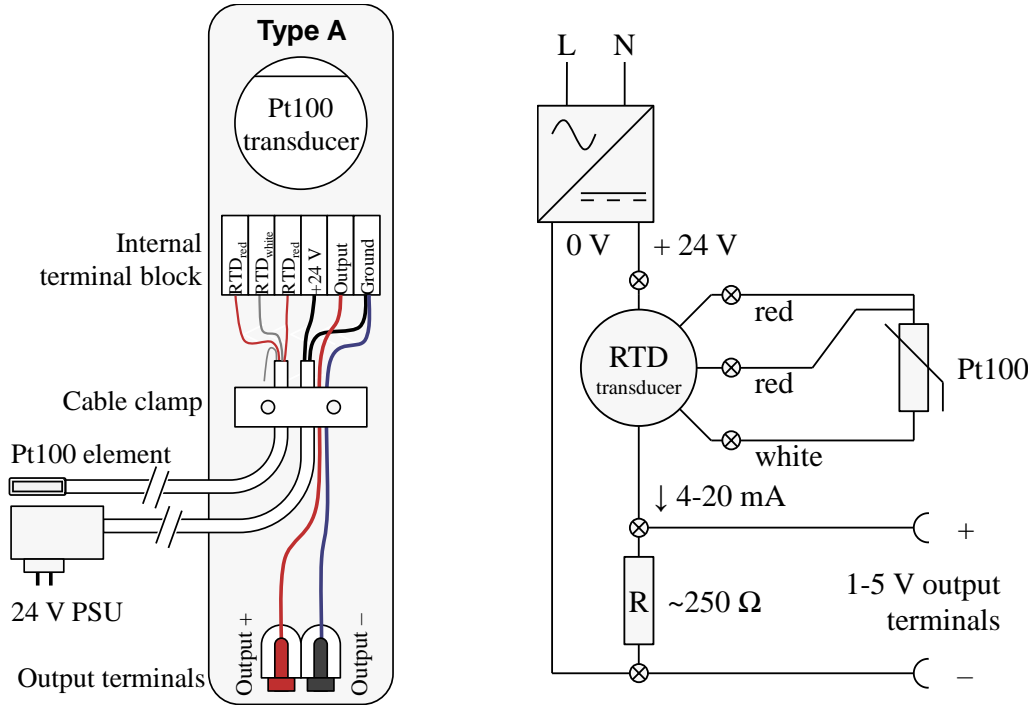
Temperature Sensors

In the Laboratory we have different types of Temperature Sensors that we can connect to the USB-6008 DAQ device:

- PT-100
 - A Pt100 element is a RTD that uses platinum (Pt) as the resistor element. A Pt100 element is calibrated so that a temperature of 0°C yields a resistance of exactly 100Ω .
- TMP36
 - It provides a voltage output that is linearly proportional to the Celsius temperature.
- Thermistor
 - A thermistor is an electronic component that changes resistance to temperature - so-called Resistance Temperature Detectors (RTD).

PT-100

In the Laboratory we have a PT-100 device with Power Supply and PT-100 transducer:



In the laboratory we have 2 different

Transducers/Transmitters:

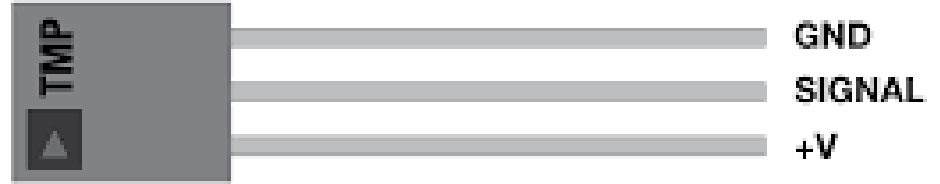
$$0 - 50^{\circ}\text{C} \rightarrow 4 - 20\text{mA}$$

$$0 - 1 + 0^{\circ}\text{C} \rightarrow 4 - 20\text{mA}$$

You must scale the output to a temperature value in degree Celsius

The PT-100 device can easily be connected to the USB-6008 DAQ device with Banana cable

TMP36



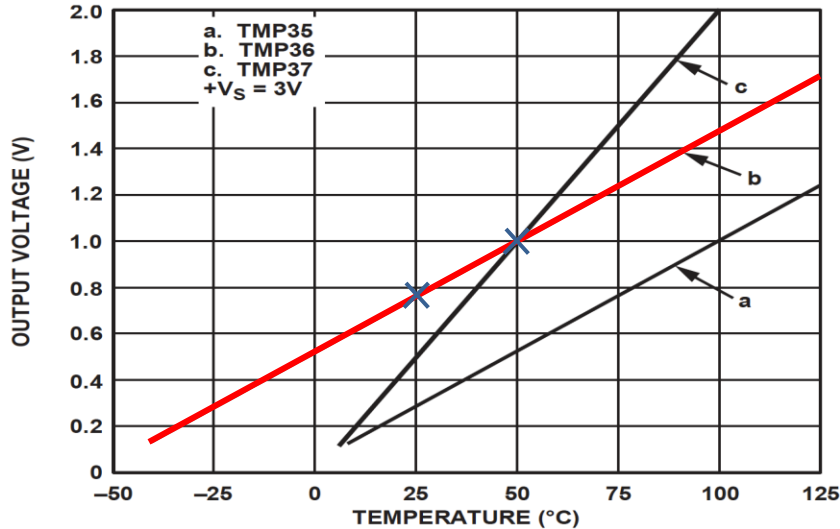
FRONT



BACK

TMP is a small, low-cost temperature sensor and cost about \$1 (you can buy it “everywhere

Linear Scaling



This gives:

$$y - 25 = \frac{50 - 25}{1 - 0.75} (x - 0.75)$$

Then we get the following formula:

$$y = 100x - 50$$

Convert from Voltage (V) to degrees Celsius

From the Datasheet we have:

$$(x_1, y_1) = (0.75V, 25^\circ C)$$

$$(x_2, y_2) = (1V, 50^\circ C)$$

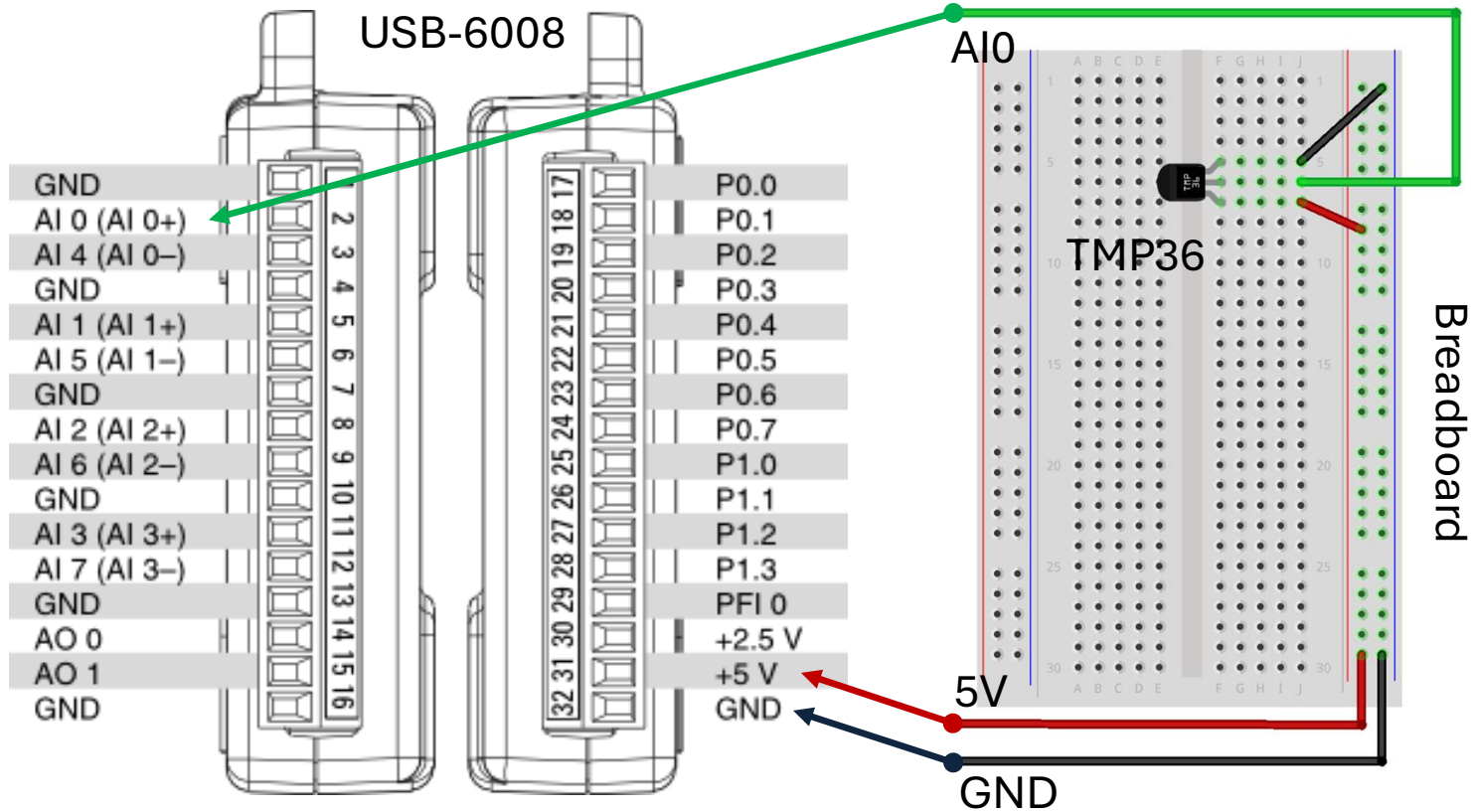
There is a linear relationship between Voltage and degrees Celsius:

$$y = ax + b$$

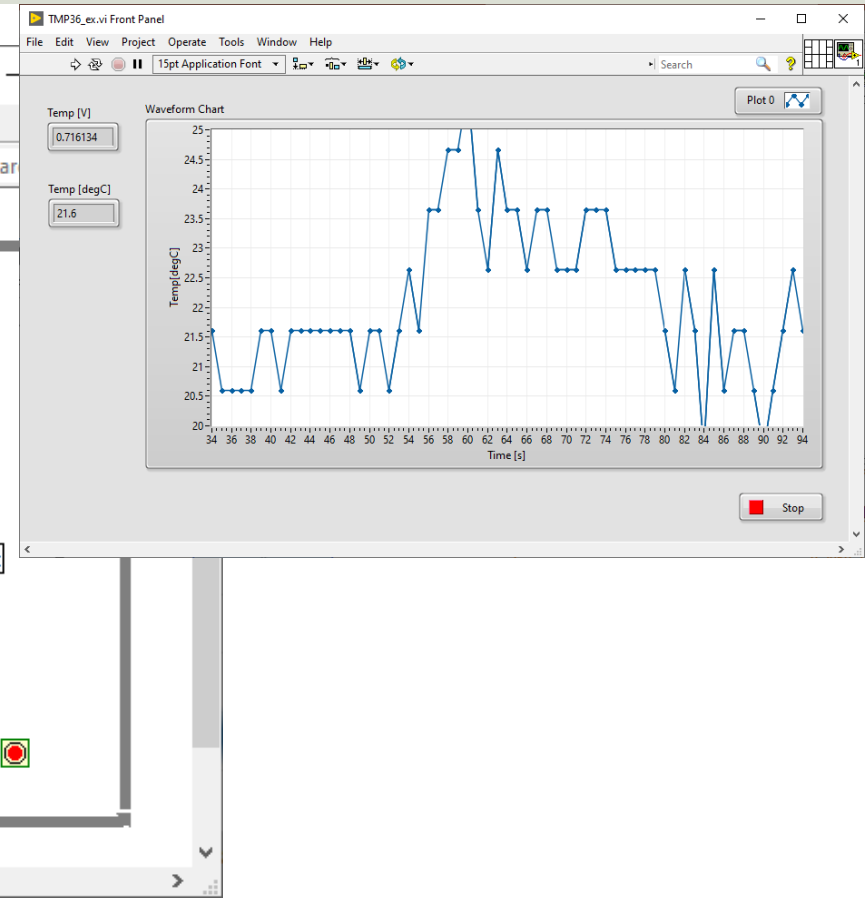
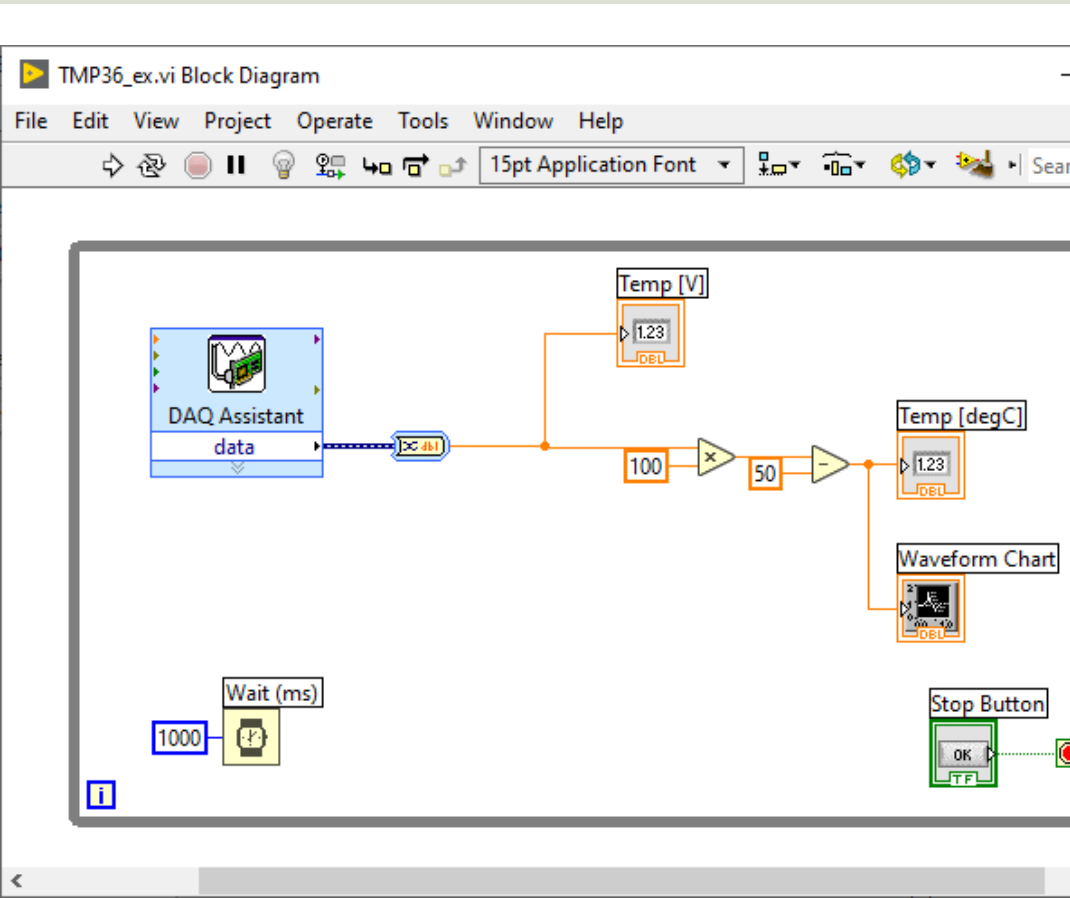
We can find a and b using the following known formula:

$$y - y_1 = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} (x - x_1)$$

Wiring



Plotting Example



Thermistor



A thermistor is an electronic component that changes resistance to temperature - so-called Resistance Temperature Detectors (RTD). It is often used as a temperature sensor.



Our Thermistor is a so-called NTC (Negative Temperature Coefficient). In a NTC Thermistor, resistance decreases as the temperature rises.

There is a **non-linear relationship** between resistance and excitement. To find the temperature we can use the following equation (**Steinhart-Hart equation**):

$$\frac{1}{T} = A + B \ln(R) + C (\ln(R))^3$$

where A, B, C are constants given below [Wikipedia]

$A = 0.001129148, B = 0.000234125$ and $C = 8.76741E - 08$

Steinhart-Hart Equation

To find the Temperature we can use Steinhart-Hart Equation:

$$\frac{1}{T_K} = A + B \ln(R) + C(\ln(R))^3$$

This gives:

$$T_K = \frac{1}{A + B \ln(R) + C(\ln(R))^3}$$

Where the Temperature T_K is in Kelvin

A , B and C are constants

$$A = 0.001129148$$

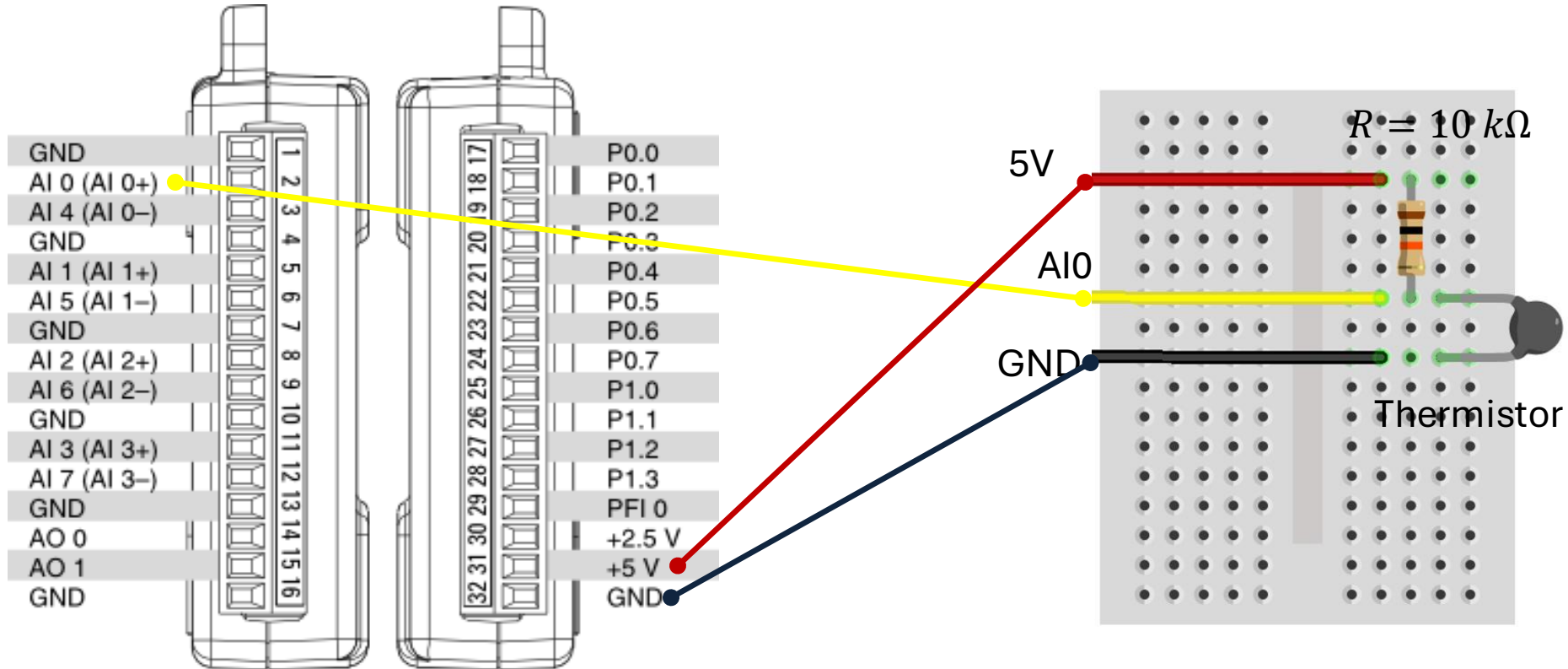
$$B = 0.000234125$$

$$C = 0.0000000876741$$

The Temperature in degrees Celsius will then be:

$$T_C = T_K - 273.15$$

Wiring



LabVIEW Example

Thermistor10K Example.vi Front Panel

File Edit View Project Operate Tools Window Help

Vout: 2.55

Rt: 10421.4

TempC: 24.1

Steinhart-Hart Equation - Formula Node.vi Block Diagram

File Edit View Project Operate Tools Window Help

```
Formula Node
float Vin = 5;
float Ro = 10000;
float Rt = (Vout*Ro)/(Vin-Vout);

//Steinhart constants
float A = 0.001129148;
float B = 0.000234125;
float C = 0.0000000876741;

//Steinhart-Hart Equation
float TempK = 1 / (A + (B * Ln(Rt)) + (C * Ln(Rt)**3));

//Convert from Kelvin to Celsius
float TempC = TempK - 273.15;

1/T = A + B*(Ln R) + C*(Ln R)^3 -> T = 1 / (A + B*(Ln R) + C*(Ln R)^3)
```

Thermistor10K Example.vi Block Diagram

File Edit View Project Operate Tools Window Help

DAQ Assistant data

Steinhart

Vout

Rt

TempC

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OPC DA



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MatrikonOPC Simulation Server

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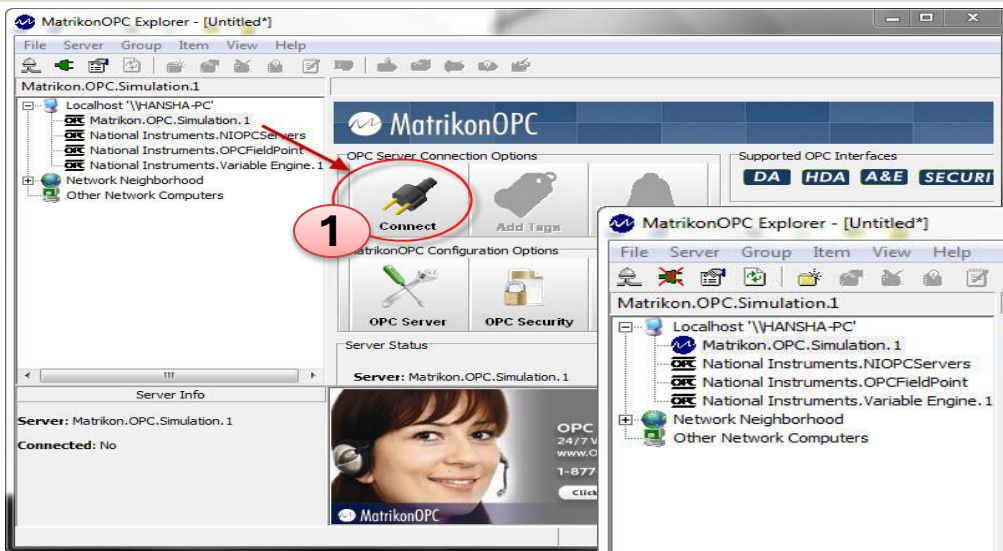
MatrikonOPC Simulation Server

The screenshot shows the MatrikonOPC Simulation Server product page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Matrikon logo, a shopping cart icon, and a language selector. Below the navigation bar is a search bar and a list of menu items: PRODUCTS, SUPPORT, TRAINING, COMPANY, RESOURCES, DOWNLOADS, and LOGIN. The main content area features a large banner image of an industrial facility. Below the banner, there is a sidebar with a list of navigation links: Overview, OPC Servers, OPC Archiving and Analytics, OPC Data Management, Data Connectivity Devices, OPC Security, OPC Unified Architecture (UA), OPC Event Management, OPC Solutions and Architectures, OPC Free Test Tools, Ordering Information, and Downloads. The main content area is titled "MatrikonOPC Simulation Server" and includes a version number (1.8.0.8589), a description of the utility, a "Download Now" button, and a "Downloads" section. The "Downloads" section includes a "Get the Product Download" link and a "Downloads" button. Below the "Downloads" section, there is a section for "OPC Server Search" and a "Mix, Match & Migrate" section. The "Mix, Match & Migrate" section features a large blue arrow pointing right with the text "OPC UA Classic OPC". Below this, there is a "Shopping Cart" section showing 0 items in the cart and a total of \$0.00. The "Contract" section includes contact information for MatrikonOPC. At the bottom, there is a "Connect With Us" section with social media icons for Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube, and a "All the News right in your inbox" section with an email icon.

MatrikonOPC Simulation Server is a free utility that provides Simulated OPC DA, OPC HDA, and OPC A&E Data for the Purposes of Testing OPC Clients.

<https://www.matrikonopc.com/products/opc-drivers/opc-simulation-server.aspx>

Matrikon OPC Explorer – Connect to Server

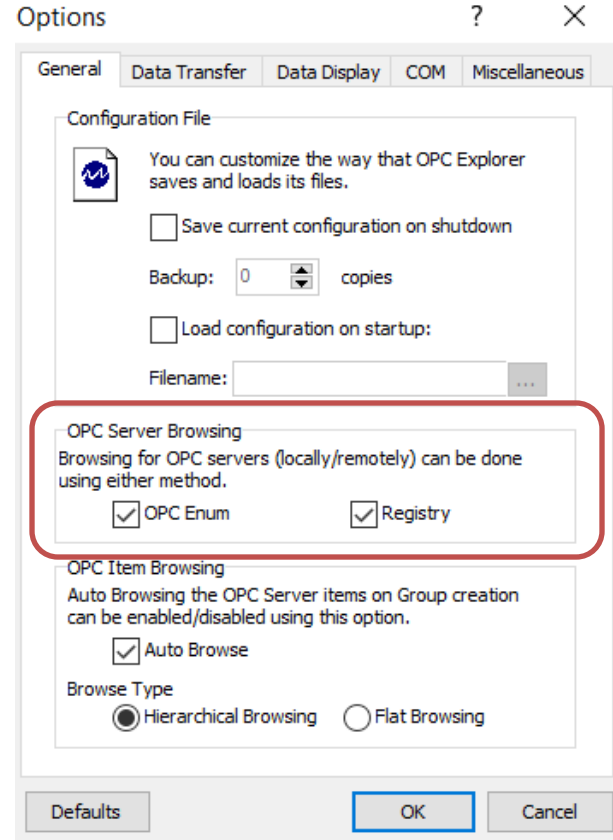


Problems with Matrikon Installation?
Try Disabling the Firewall



MatrikonOPC Explorer Troubleshooting

- **Problem:** “When starting MatrikonOPC Explorer, I get an error indicating there are no servers installed”.
- **Solution:**
 - In OPC Explorer select View ->Options from the menu bar.
 - On the General Tab select both “OPCEnum” and “Registry” as the Browse Methods.
 - Exit OPC Explorer and restart.
 - Upon restarting, you should see a listing of locally registered OPC servers.
 - If this still does not work, remove OPCEnum as a browse method and restart.



Matrikon OPC Explorer - Add Tag



The screenshot shows the Matrikon OPC Explorer interface with several steps highlighted by red circles and numbers:

- Step 1:** A red circle highlights the "Simulation Items" folder in the tree view.
- Step 2:** A red circle highlights the "Available Tags" list, with the text "Double-click" written below it.
- Step 3:** A red circle highlights the "Bucket Brigade.Real4" tag in the "Tags to be added:" list.
- Step 4:** A red circle highlights the "Add Tag" button in the top toolbar.
- Step 5:** A red circle highlights the "Bucket Brigade.Real4" tag in the "Contents of 'Group0'" table.

The "Contents of 'Group0'" table shows the following data:

Item ID	Access Path	Value	Quality
Bucket Brigade.Real4		22	Good, non-specific

Tip! Use the **BucketBrigade** Items – because they can be used for both reading and writing

Rate: 1000 ms
d: 0.00%
e: 0.01 Items/Sec

MatrikonOPC Explorer (OPC Client)

The screenshot displays the MatrikonOPC Explorer application window. The left pane shows a tree view of the OPC hierarchy under 'Localhost \\\HANSHA-PC', including 'Matrikon.OPC.Simulation.1' and 'Group0'. The main pane shows the 'Contents of Group0' table:

Item ID	Access Path	Value	Quality
Bucket Brigade.Real4		22	Good, non-specific

A context menu is open over the 'Square Waves.Int4' item, showing options: Write Values, Deactivate, Delete (Del), Export Items, and Properties (Alt+Enter). The 'Server Info' pane at the bottom left shows:

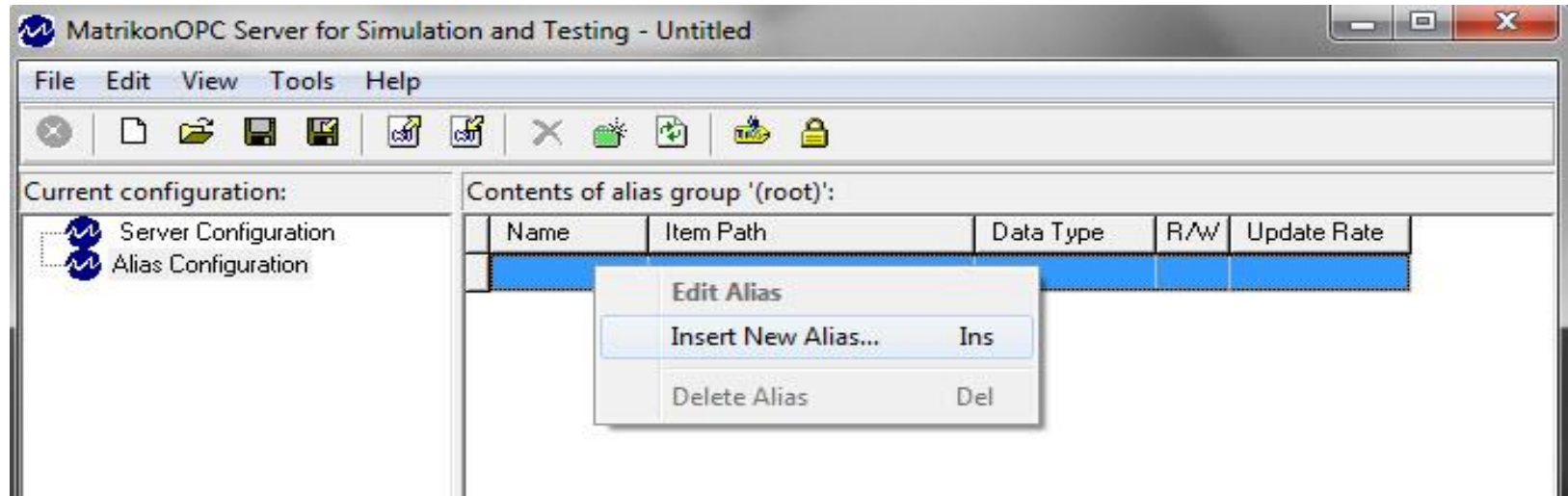
Server: Matrikon.OPC.Simulation. 1
Connected: Yes
State: Running
Groups: 1
Total Items: 1
Current Local Time: 03/06/2012 10:59:22.417 A
Update Local Time: 03/06/2012 10:59:16.300 A

The bottom right status bar displays: Current Update Rate: 1000 ms, Percent Deadband: 0.00%, Data Change Rate: 0.01 Items/Sec.

The MatrikonOPC Explorer is useful for testing. You can use it for writing and reading OPC Tags

Aliases

In the “Matrikon OPCServer for Simulation” you can create Aliases. Aliases is handy when you want to describe your OPC items using more realistic names.



Tip: You can create an alias called, e.g., “Temperature” which you can use instead of the real OPC Tag Name

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OPC DA in LabVIEW



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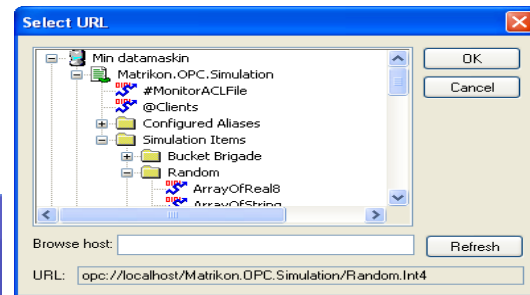
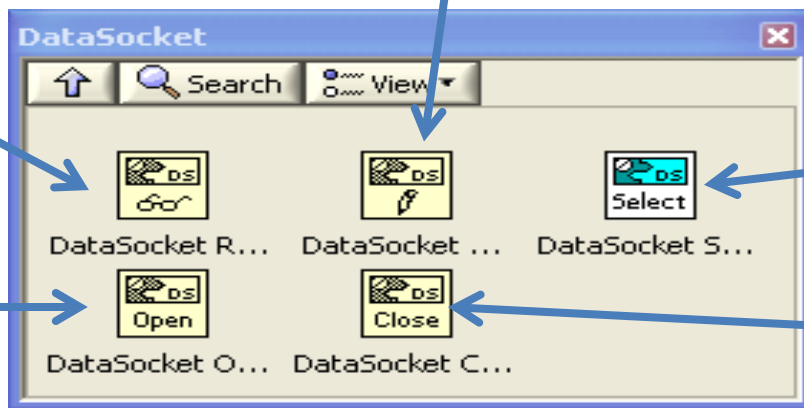
OPC DA in LabVIEW

You can use LabVIEW as an OPC client by connecting to an OPC server through a **DataSocket** connection.

The **DataSocket** palette in LabVIEW:

Read Data from OPC

Open Connection
to OPC Server



Browse OPC
Servers and OPC
Items

Close Connection
to OPC Server

Note! Make sure to use LabVIEW 32bit version (even if you have 64bit operating system) because the DataSocket feature is only supported by the 32bit version of LabVIEW.

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LabVIEW OPC DA - Write

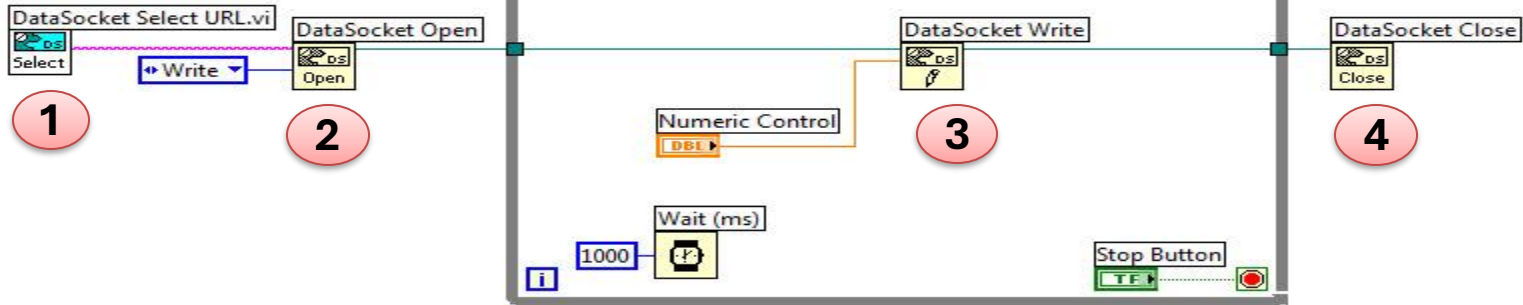


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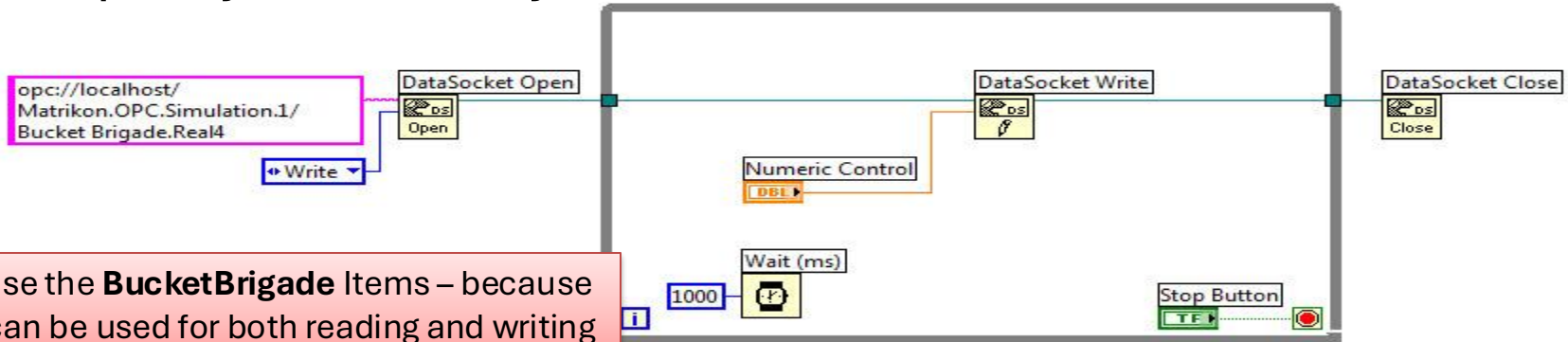
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LabVIEW OPC DA - Write

While Loop



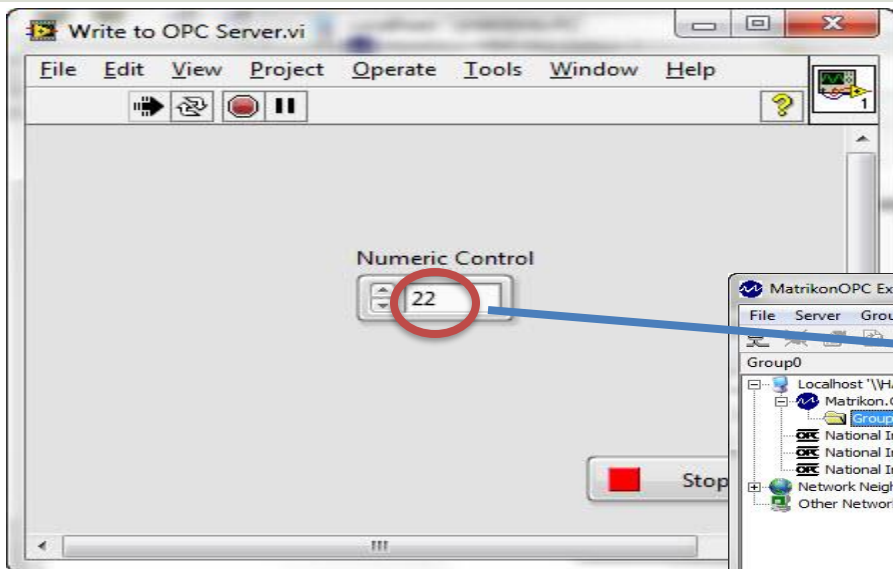
Or specify URL directly: While Loop



Tip! Use the **BucketBrigade** Items – because they can be used for both reading and writing

Use OPC Explorer to Check Communication

Tip! Run the LabVIEW program and use the Matrikon OPC Explorer to check if the data is correctly written to the OPC Server from LabVIEW.



MatrikonOPC Explorer - [Untitled*]

File Server Group Item View Help

Item ID	Path	Value	Quality
Bucket Brigade.Real4		22	Good, non-specific

Server Info

Server: Matrikon.OPC.Simulation.1

Connected: Yes
State: Running
Groups: 1
Total Items: 1
Current Local Time: 03/06/2012 10:59:22.417 A
Update Local Time: 03/06/2012 10:59:16.300 A

Group Info

Group: Group0

Connected (Async I/O): Yes (2.0)

Active: Yes
Items: 1
Current Update Rate: 1000 ms
Percent Deadband: 0.00%
Data Change Rate: 0.01 Items/Sec

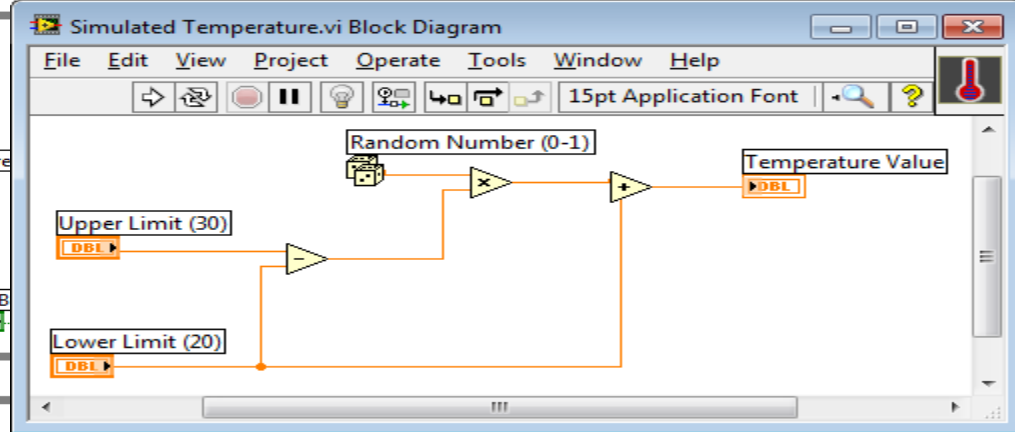
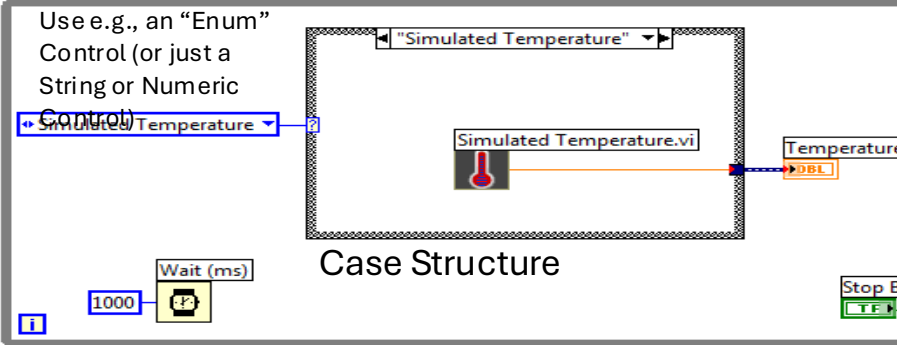
MatrikonOPC eLea
Learn on your own time
Click For Details

Temperature Simulator Example

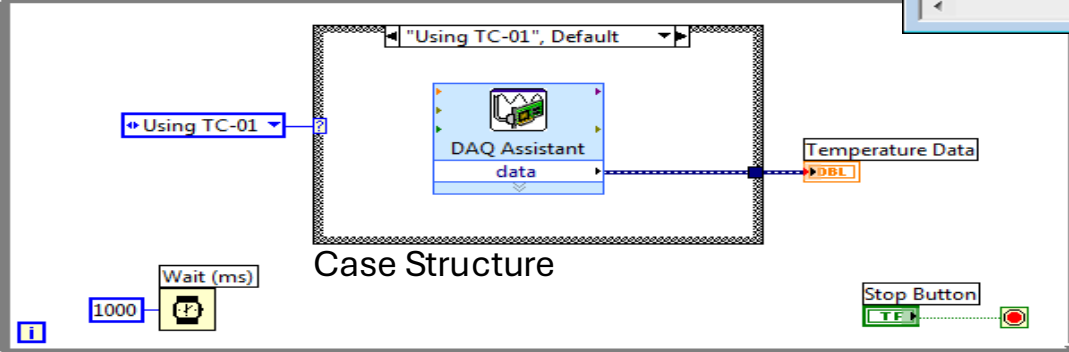
! If you do not have the TC01 device available, you can create and use a simple “Temperature Simulator” instead

A simple SubVI that simulates a Temperature value using a Random Generator:

While Loop

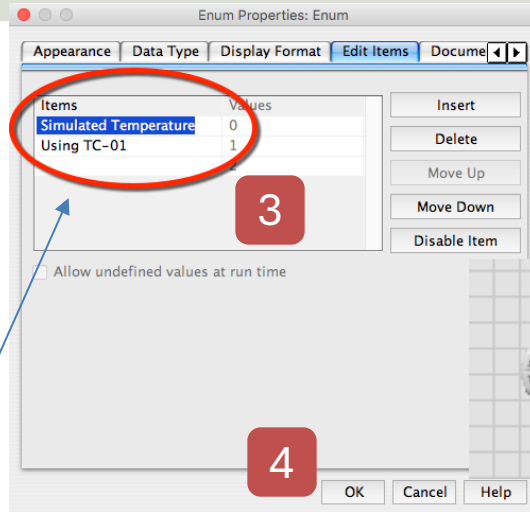
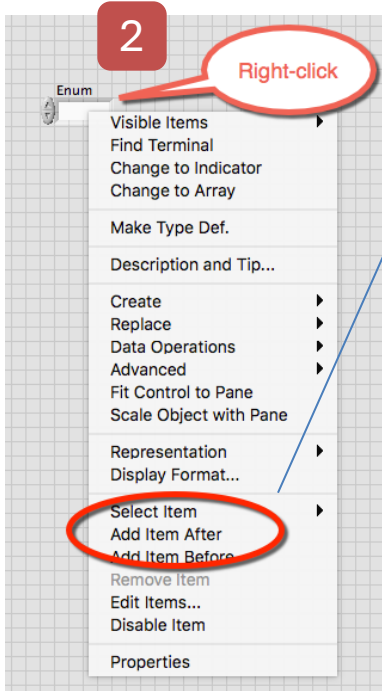
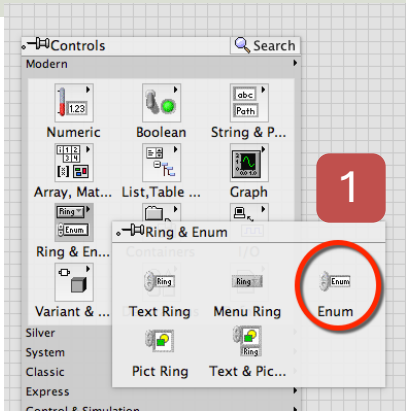


While Loop

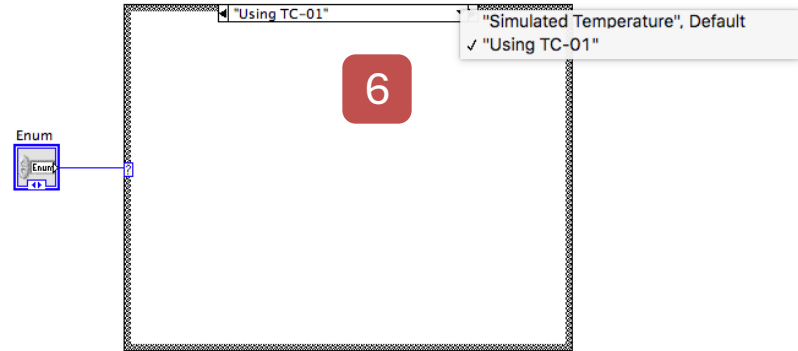
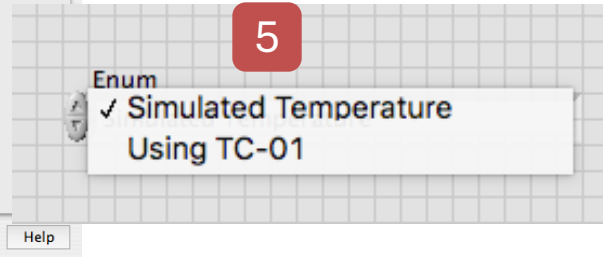


In this way you can easily switch between the real Temperature sensor (TC-01) and the Simulator. Here you just see a simple example - feel free to create a more realistic Temperature Simulator

How to create an "Enum" in LabVIEW



(used in the Temperature Simulator Example)



Convert from Dynamic Data

Search Palettes

Return Customize

convert from Dynamic

Functions Controls

Convert from Dynamic Data

If your Program crash when sending data to OPC server from DAQ device, make sure to use the **“Convert from Dynamic Data”** block

Configure Convert from Dynamic Data [Convert from Dynamic Data]

Conversion

Resulting data type

- 1D array of scalars - most recent value
- 1D array of scalars - single channel
- 2D array of scalars - columns are channels
- 3D array of scalars - rows are channels
- Single scalar**
- Single waveform

Scalar Data Type

- Floating point numbers (double)
- Boolean (TRUE and FALSE)

Channel: 0

Input Signal

Channel 0 Channel 1

Amplitude

Time

Sample Data

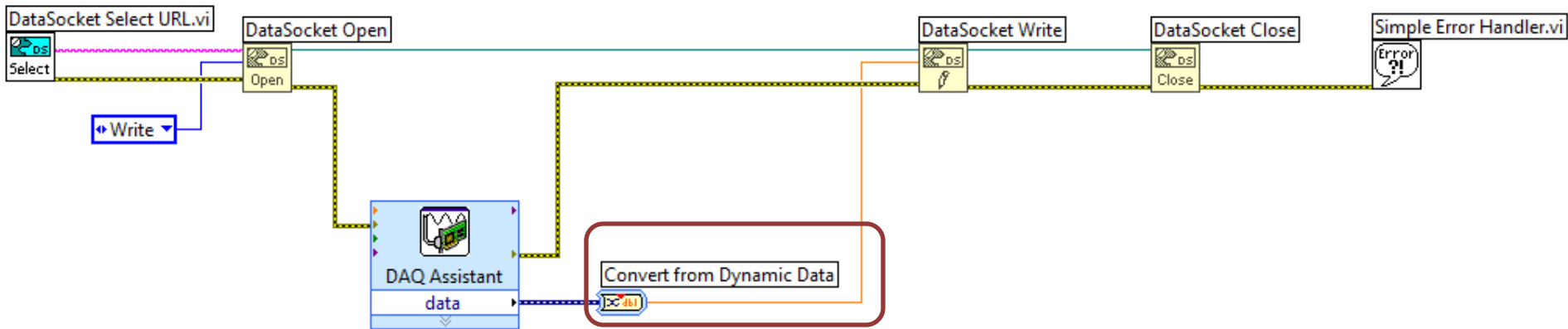
Result Preview

Single value (double)

2

Sample Data

OK Cancel Help



<https://www.halvorsen.blog>

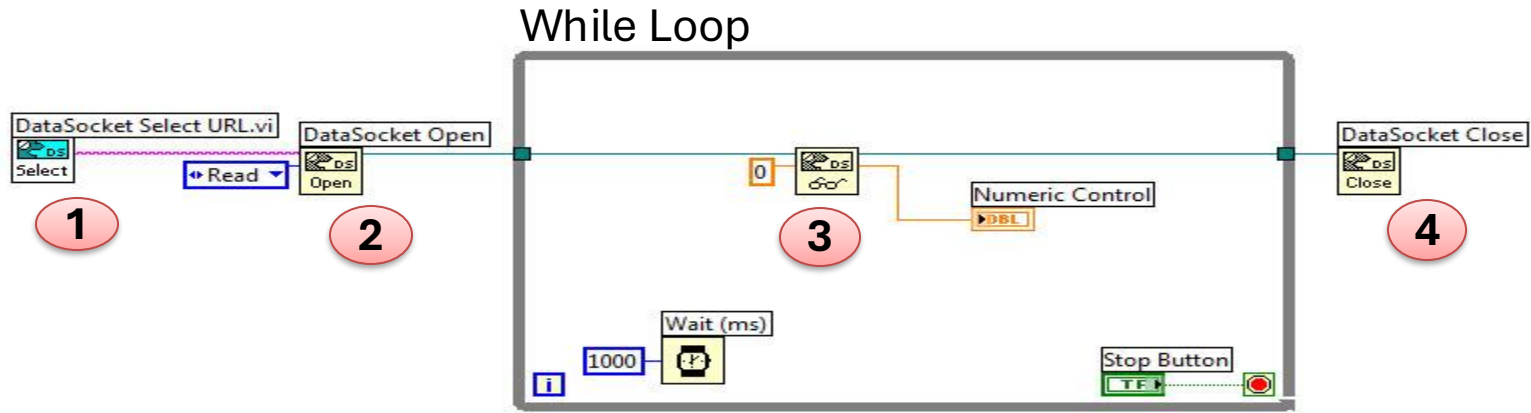
LabVIEW OPC DA - Read



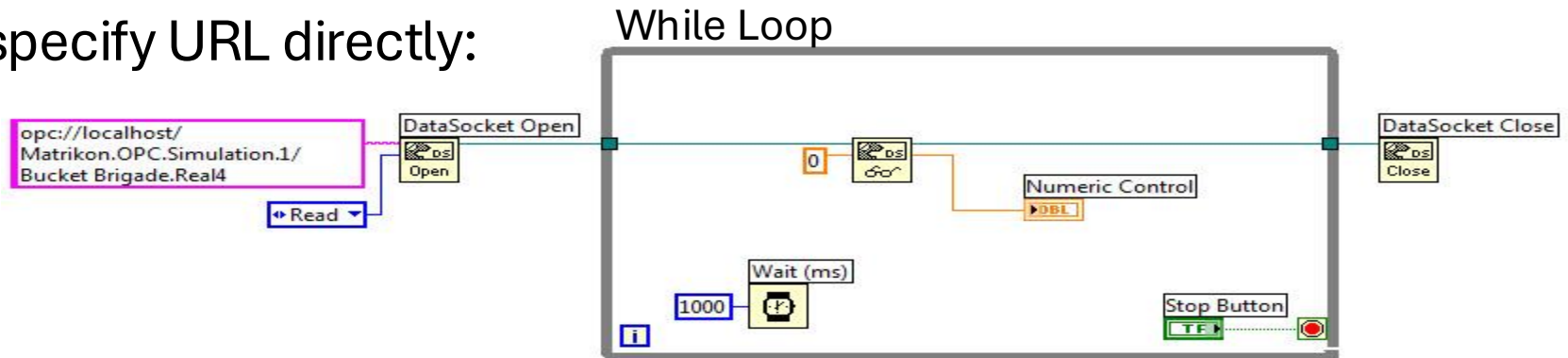
Hans-Petter Halvorsen

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Read from OPC Server using LabVIEW



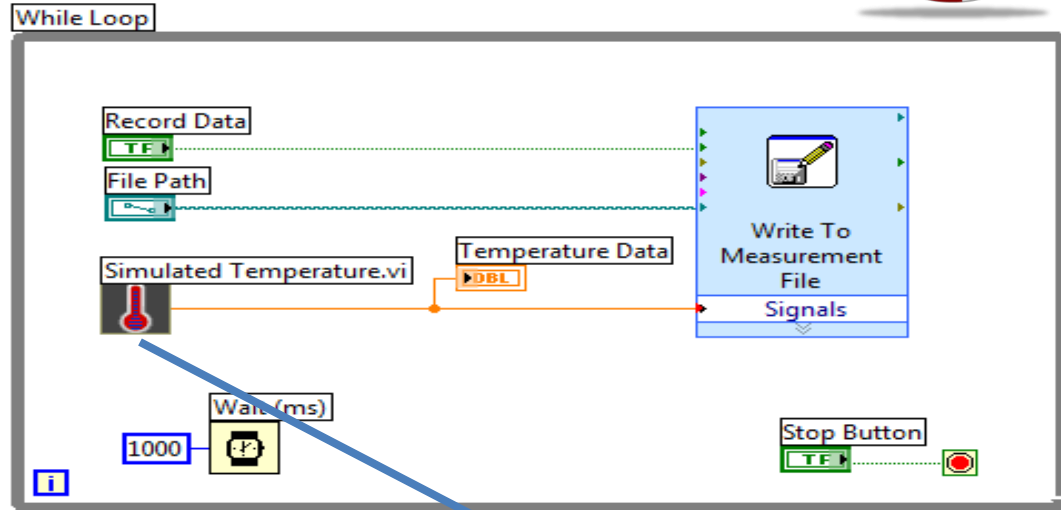
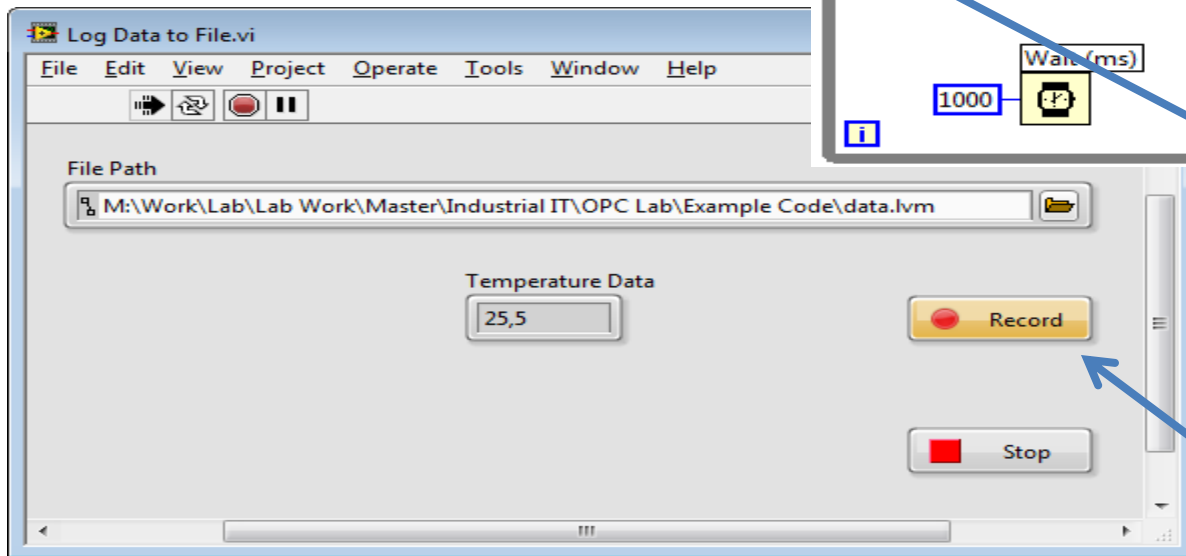
Or specify URL directly:



Log Data to File



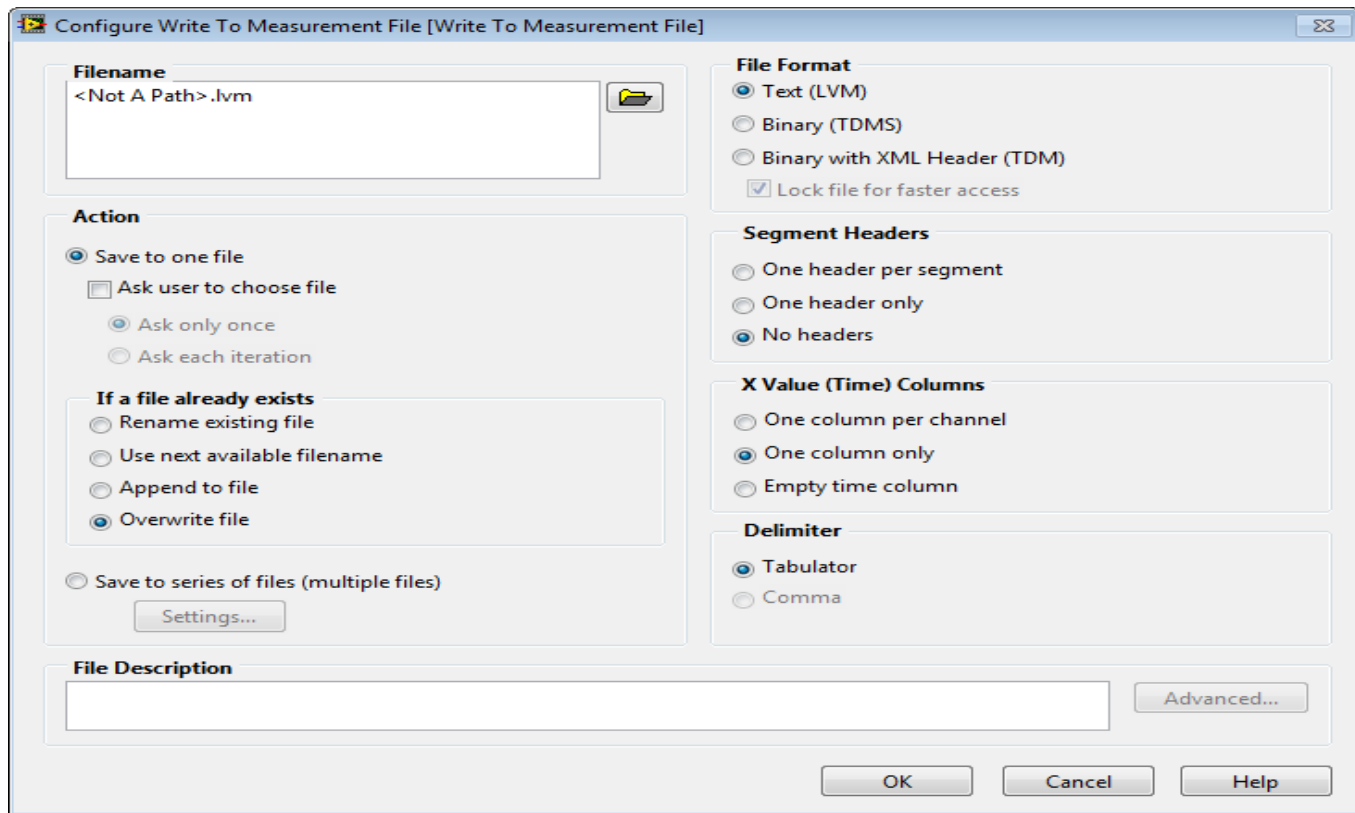
Simple Example of how to log data to a Measurement File using the "Write To Measurement File" function in LabVIEW



In this example we just generate some random data.
In your case you shall log the data received from the OPC Server
You can turn logging On/Off

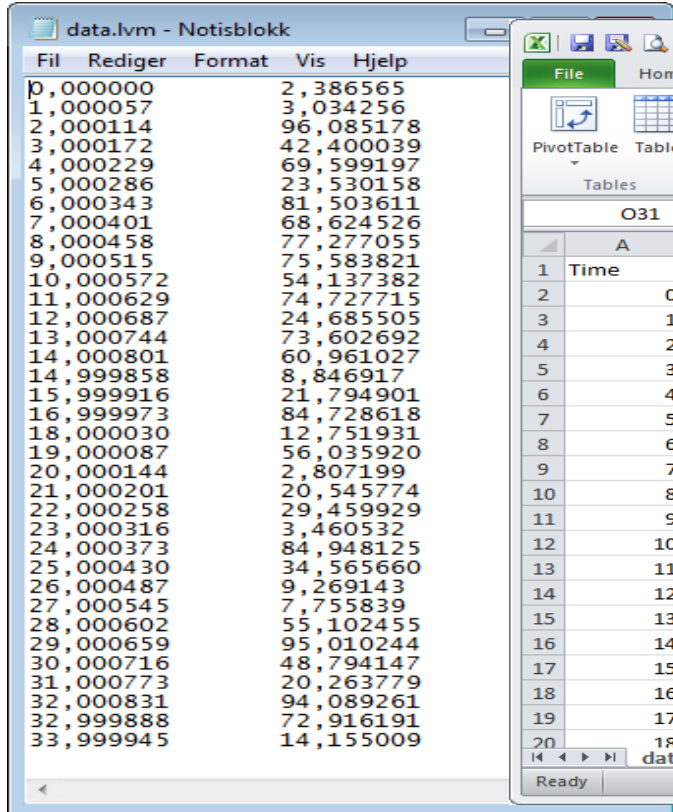
Log Data to File - Properties

Recommended Settings
in the **Properties**
Window (Right-click on
the “Write To
Measurement” File icon):



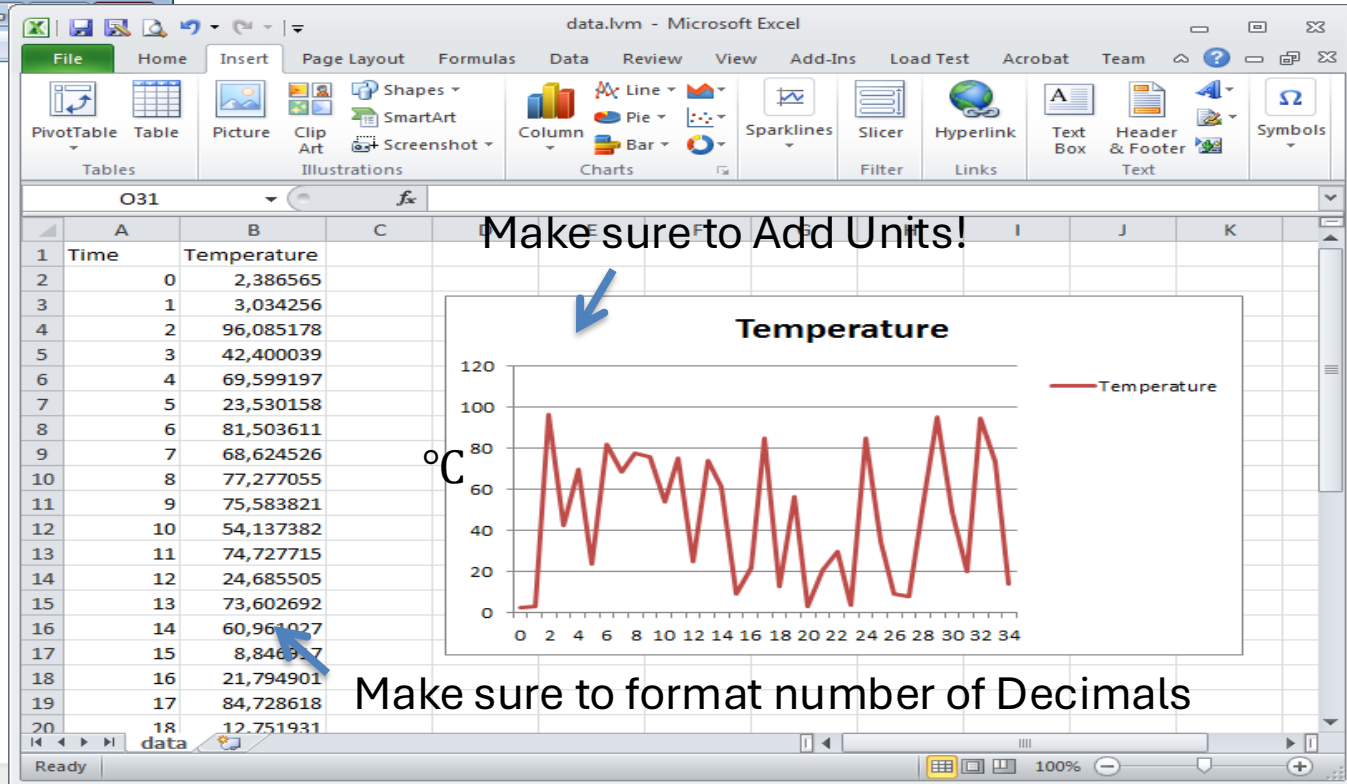
Measurement File – Data Visualization

Open the File with Logged Data in e.g.,
Notepad:



Time	Temperature
0	2,386565
1	3,034256
2	96,085178
3	42,400039
4	69,599197
5	23,530158
6	81,503611
7	68,624526
8	77,277055
9	75,583821
10	54,137382
11	74,727715
12	24,685505
13	73,602692
14	60,961027
14	8,846917
15	21,794901
16	84,728618
18	12,751931
19	56,035920
20	2,807199
21	20,545774
22	29,459929
23	3,460532
24	84,948125
25	34,565660
26	9,269143
27	7,755839
28	55,102455
29	95,010244
30	48,794147
31	20,263779
32	94,089261
32	72,916191
33	14,155009

Here we see an example where we have opened the File with Logged Data in **MS Excel** and created a Chart



<https://www.halvorsen.blog>

OPC UA

OPC Unified Architecture



Hans-Petter Halvorsen

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“Next Generation” OPC

“Classic” OPC

OPC DA

OPC HDA

OPC A&E

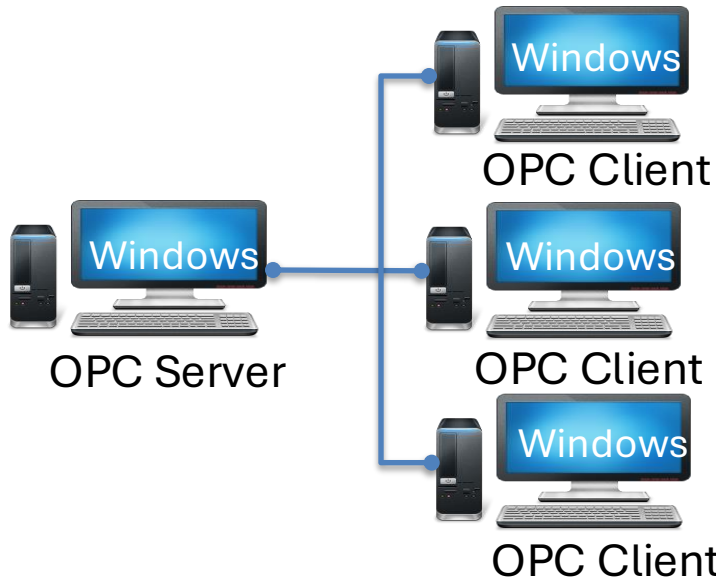
... (Many others)

“Next Generation” OPC

OPC UA

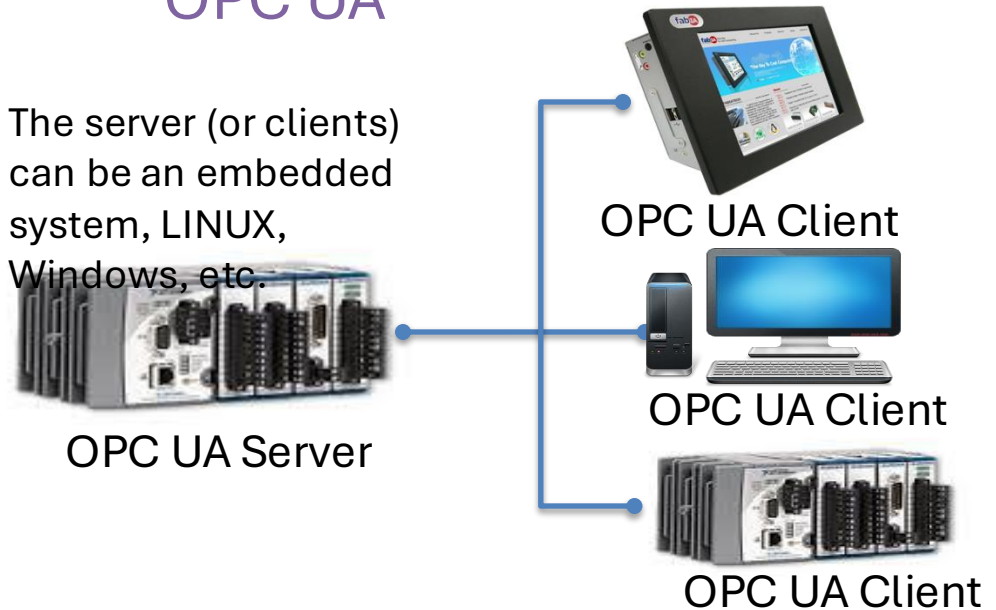
Classic OPC vs. OPC UA

Classic OPC (DCOM)



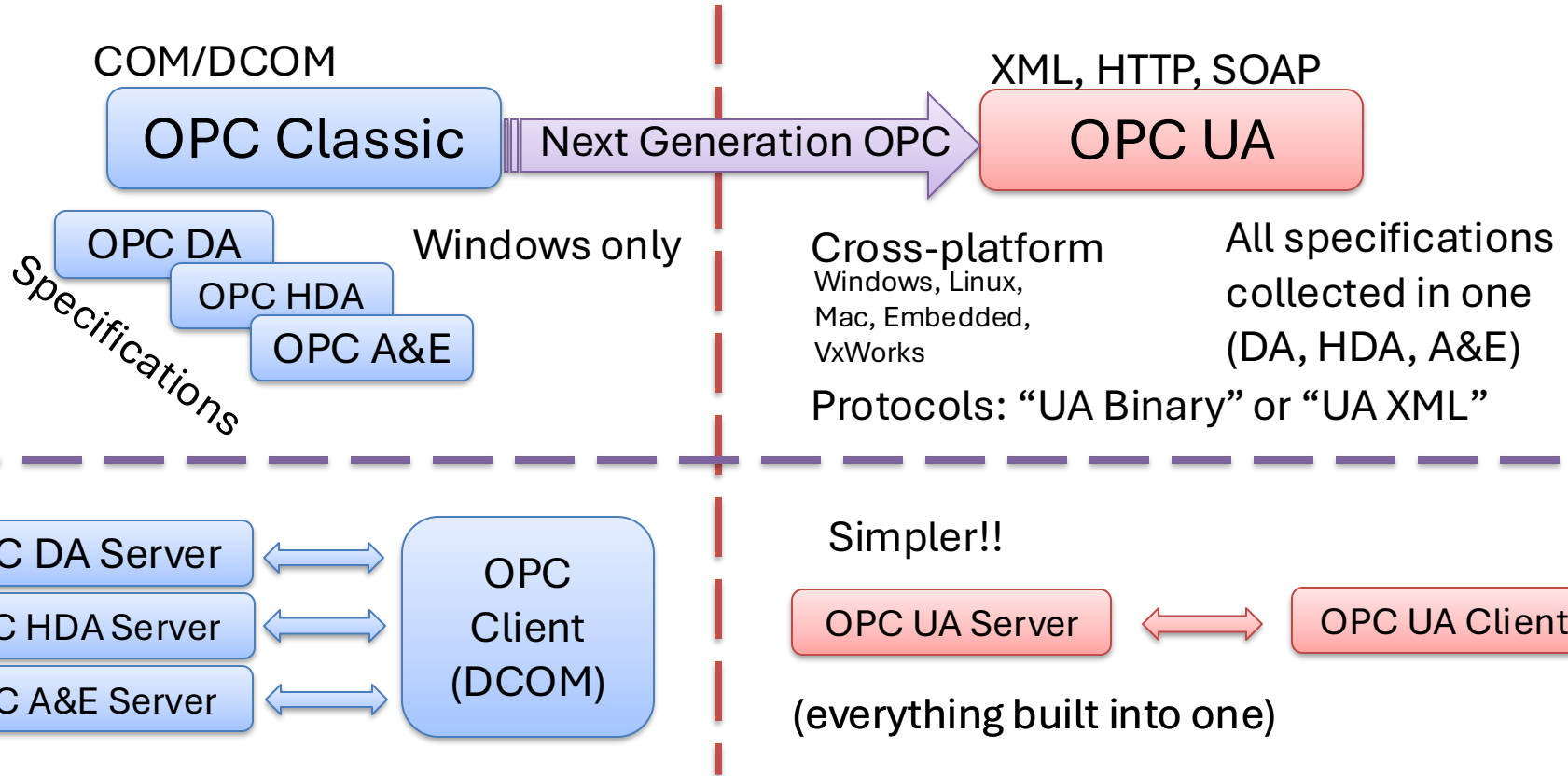
OPC UA

The server (or clients) can be an embedded system, LINUX, Windows, etc.

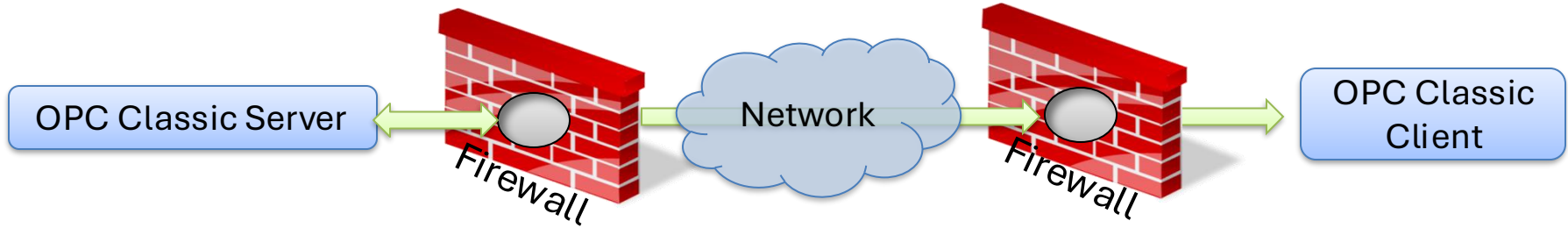


Classic OPC requires a Microsoft Windows operating system to implement COM/DCOM server functionality. By utilizing SOA and Web Services, OPC UA is a platform-independent system that eliminates the previous dependency on a Windows operating system. By utilizing SOAP/XML over HTTP, OPC UA can deploy on a variety of embedded systems regardless of whether the system is a general-purpose operating system, such as Windows, or a deterministic real-time operating system.

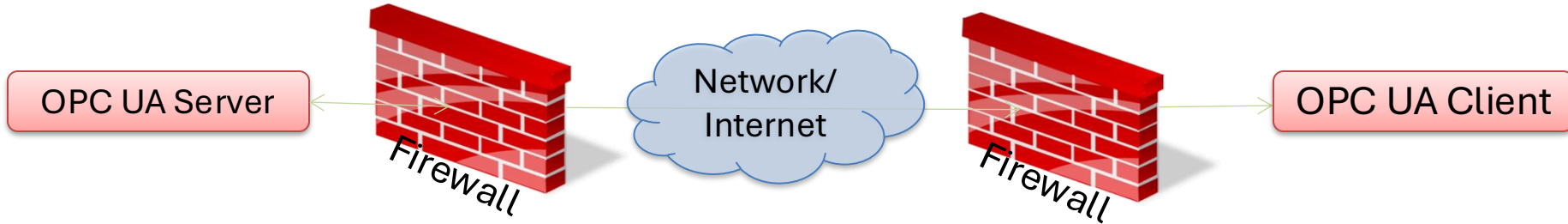
Next Generation OPC



Firewall



To open DCOM through firewalls demanded a large hole in the firewall!
Impossible to route over Internet!



No hole in firewall (UA XML) or just a simple needlestick (UA Binary) is necessary
Easy to route over Internet!

OPC UA (Unified Architecture)

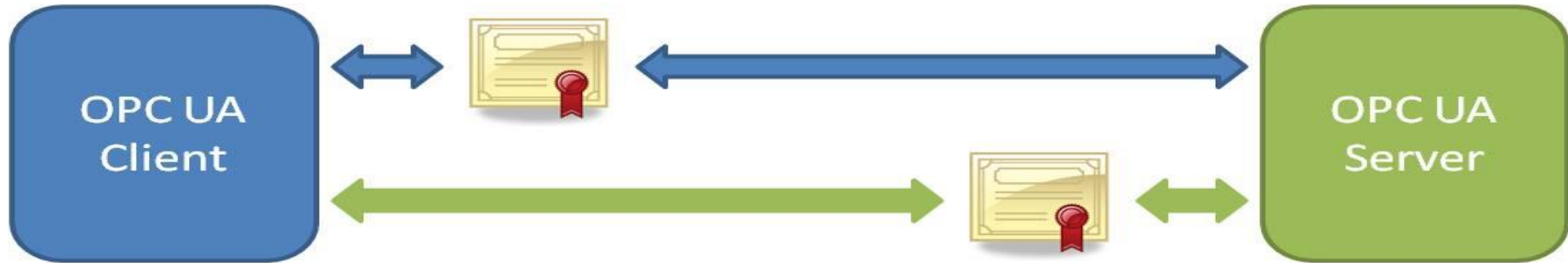
- OPC UA solves problems with standard/classic OPC
 - Works only on Windows
 - Cumbersome to use OPC in a network due to COM/DCOM
- OPC UA eliminating the need to use a Microsoft Windows based platform of earlier OPC versions.
- OPC UA combines the functionality of the existing OPC interfaces with new technologies such as XML and Web Services (HTTP, SOAP)
- Cross-platform
- No dedicated OPC Server is no longer necessary because the server can run on an embedded system

OPC UA Protocols

- OPC UA supports two protocols.
 - “**UA Binary**” protocol `opc.tcp://Server`
This uses a simple binary protocol
 - “**UA XML**” protocol `http://Server`
This used open standards like XML, SOAP (-> Web Service)
- This is visible to application programmers only via changes to the URL.
- Otherwise OPC UA works completely transparent to the API.

OPC UA Security

One of the most important benefits of eliminating the reliance on COM/DCOM technology is the expanded security features.



[Figure: <http://www.ni.com/white-paper/13843/en/>]

- OPC UA requires handshaking between clients and servers using X.509 Web standard certificates for authentication before they are able to talk with one another.
- To communicate between the server and client, the user can choose from three kinds of messaging modes: None, Sign, Sign and Encrypt.
- OPC UA can communicate through any standard HTTP or UA TCP port. Through this standardization, OPC UA can connect securely over a VPN and through firewalls to allow seamless, remote client-to-server connectivity.

<http://www.ni.com/white-paper/13843/en/>

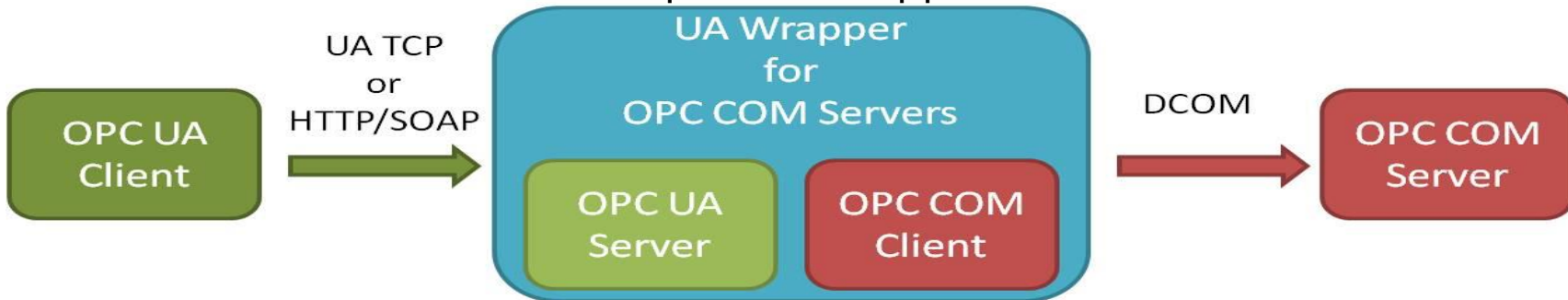
Classic OPC and OPC UA Compatibility

Because of the shift in data communication technology, the OPC UA protocol is **not** inherently backwards compatible with Classic OPC data access (DA) models!

Classic OPC COM-based Clients require a UA Proxy to communicate with UA Servers:

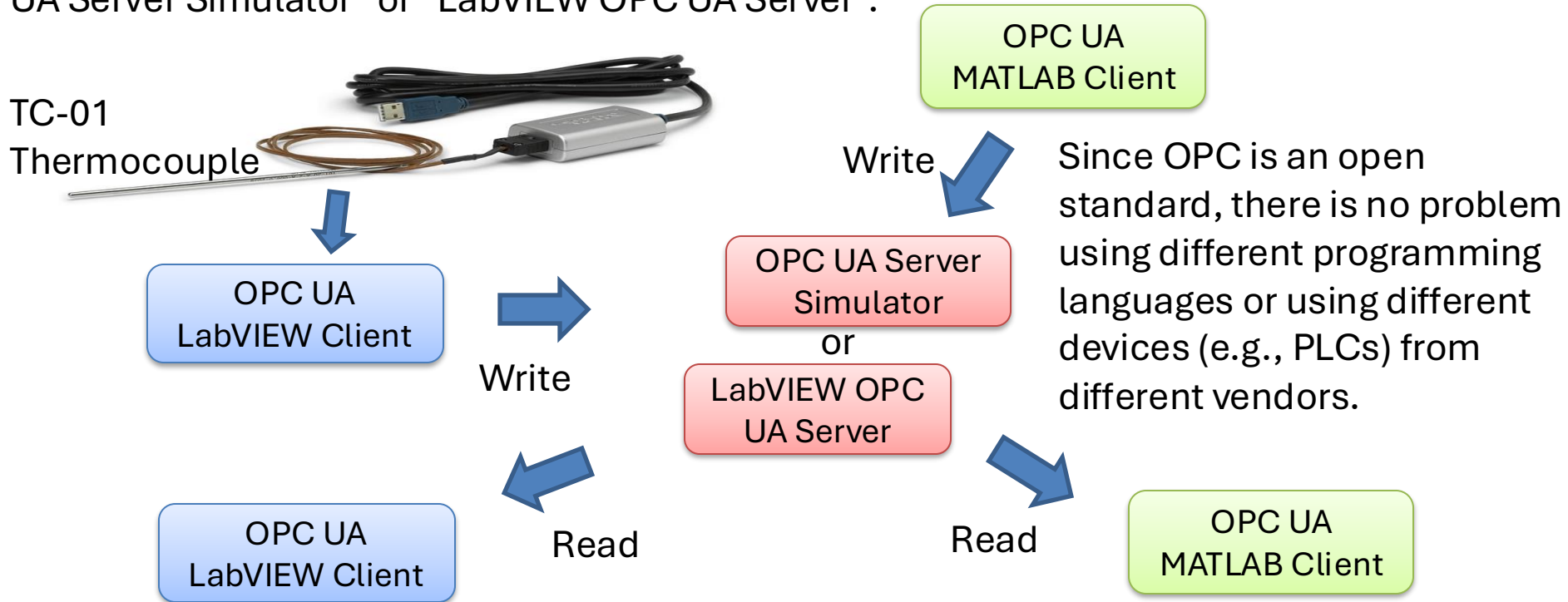


Classic OPC COM-based Servers require UA Wrappers to interact with UA Clients:



OPC UA Scenario

This OPC UA Scenario shows multiple OPC UA Clients made with different Programming Languages where some Write Data and others Read Data from an OPC Server, e.g., “OPC UA Server Simulator” or “LabVIEW OPC UA Server”.



<https://www.halvorsen.blog>

OPC UA Server Simulator

Free OPC UA Simulation Server from Integration Objects

Hans-Petter Halvorsen





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OPC UA Server Simulator

- This free OPC UA Server tool supports data access and historical access information models of OPC UA.
- Consequently, it provides simulated real-time and historical data.
- Moreover, users can configure their own tags and the data simulation via CSV files.
- OPC UA clients can monitor real-time data and explore history data from this simulator.
- <https://opcfoundation.org/products/view/opc-ua-server-simulator>

OPC UA Server Simulator



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<https://opcfoundation.org>

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[Products](#) » [OPC UA Server Simulator](#)

OPC UA Server Simulator



Member: Integration Objects

Product website: integrationobjects.com/sioth-opc/sioth-opc-unified...

Integration Objects' **OPC UA Server Simulator** is a free to use and distribute OPC Unified Architecture server utility. Indeed, you can use this OPC UA simulator to play the role of OPC UA servers and test your OPC UA Client applications.

This free OPC UA Server tool supports data access and historical access information models of OPC UA. Consequently, it provides simulated real-time and historical data. Moreover, users can configure their own tags and the data simulation via CSV files. OPC UA clients can monitor real-time data and explore history data from this simulator.

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<https://opcfoundation.org/products/view/opc-ua-server-simulator>

OPC UA Server Simulator

The screenshot shows the OPC UA Server Simulator application window. The title bar reads "OPC UA Server Simulator". The menu bar includes "File", "Settings", and "Help". The "Server Endpoints URLs" field contains the text "opc.tcp://xps15hph:62640/IntegrationObjects/ServerSimulator".

There are two main sections: "Sessions" and "Subscriptions".

Sessions Table:

SessionId	Name	User	Last Contact
-----------	------	------	--------------

Subscriptions Table:

SubscriptionId	Publishing Interval	Item Count	Seq No
----------------	---------------------	------------	--------

Status Bar: Status: Running Current Time: 11:01:11 Sessions: 0 Subscriptions: 0 Items: 0

OPC UA Server Simulator

The OPC UA Server Simulator uses 2 CSV simulation files:

- “**AddressSpace.csv**” used to build the address space of the OPC UA Server.
- “**ValueSpace.csv**” used to simulate the data values of the OPC UA items.
- Those two files are located at the following path:
X:\Program Files (x86)\Integration Objects\Integration Objects' OPC UA Server Simulator\OPC UA Server Simulator\DATA

“OPC UA Client” Tool

- “OPC UA Client” is a free client tool that supports the main OPC Unified Architecture information models.
- These models are Data Access, Alarms & Conditions, and Historical Data Access
- <https://integrationobjects.com/sioth-opc/sioth-opc-unified-architecture/opc-ua-client/>

OPC Tunneling

OPC UA

OPC UA Server Simulator – Full Edition

OPC UA Server Toolkit

OPC UA IoT Broker

OPC UA Server for Databases

OPC UA Client Toolkit

OPC UA Server Simulator

OPC UA Proxy

OPC UA Wrapper

OPC UA Client

OPC Data Archiving

OPC Clients

OPC Servers

OPC Client Toolkits

OPC Free Tools

OPC Server Toolkits

OPC UA Client

Download

User Guide

Quick User Guide

Download free OPC UA Client and start your OPC UA tests now!

OPC UA Client is a free client tool that supports the main OPC Unified Architecture information models. These models are Data Access, Alarms & Conditions, and Historical Data Access. In fact, it offers the capability to:

- ▶ Discover local and remote OPC UA servers
- ▶ Establish secure communication channels
- ▶ Browse the address space of any OPC UA compliant server
- ▶ Monitor real-time data and alarms & conditions
- ▶ Explore and update history data

Moreover, this OPC UA explorer allows you to generate its self-signed Application Instance Certificate in order to provide application level security and secure the connections with OPC UA servers.

▶ [View Tutorial Video of OPC UA Test Client & OPC UA Wrapper](#)



Home

New Open Save Save as **Connect** Disconnect Settings UA Settings Help About Define Remove Certificate Manager

File Session Configuration Help

Sessions

Sessions

Address Space

Forward

Message Type	Timestamp	Message
[Control]	2022-02-08 13:05:06	Disconnecting from session
[Control]	2022-02-08 13:03:09	Read operation of the variab
[Control]	2022-02-08 13:01:03	A session "Session0" with the

3 Messages

Connection Settings

Session Information

Session Name

Server Information

Endpoint Url

Transport Protocol

Opc.tcp
 Https

Message Encoding

Binary
 Xml

Security Mode

None
 Sign
 Sign_Encrypt

Security Policy

None
 Basic128RSA15
 Basic256
 Basic256Sha256

User Authentication Mode

Anonymous UserName Certificate

Certificate (.pfx)

Password

Subscription Session

Attribute	Value

ne:Binary]]

ne:Binary]] was successfully created.

New
 Open
 Save
 Save as
 Connect
 Disconnect
 Settings
 UA Settings
 Help
 About
 Define
 Remove
 Certificate Manager

File Session Configuration Help Default Configuration Certificate

Sessions

- Sessions
 - Session0

Address Space

Forward

Real Time Data

- Tag1
- Tag2
- Tag3
- Tag4
- Tag5
- Tag6
- Tag7
- Tag
- Tag
- Tag

References and Attributes
 Read
 Write
 History Update
 Monitor

Data View History View Event View

Display Name	Node Id	Value	Data Type	Server Timestamp	Source Timestamp	Status Code	Subscription	Session

Attribute	Value
NodeId	ns=2;s=Historical...
NodeClass	Object
BrowseName	2:Historicaldata
DisplayName	Historical Data
Description	
WriteMask	0
UserWriteMask	0
EventNotifier	Subscribe

Message Type	Timestamp	Message
[Control]	2022-02-08 13:03:09	Read operation of the variable [ns=2;s=Tag7] succeeded.
[Control]	2022-02-08 13:01:03	A session "Session0" with the Endpoint [opc.tcp://xps15hph:62640/IntegrationObjects/ServerSimulator - [None:None:Binary]] was successfully created.

<https://www.halvorsen.blog>

OPC UA in LabVIEW

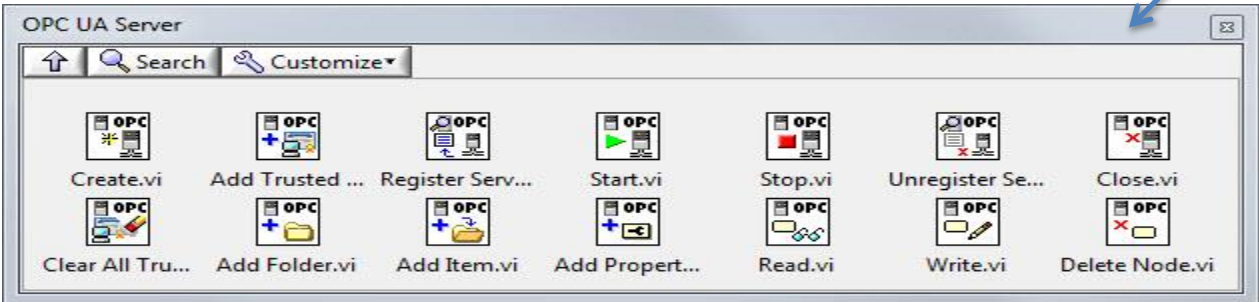
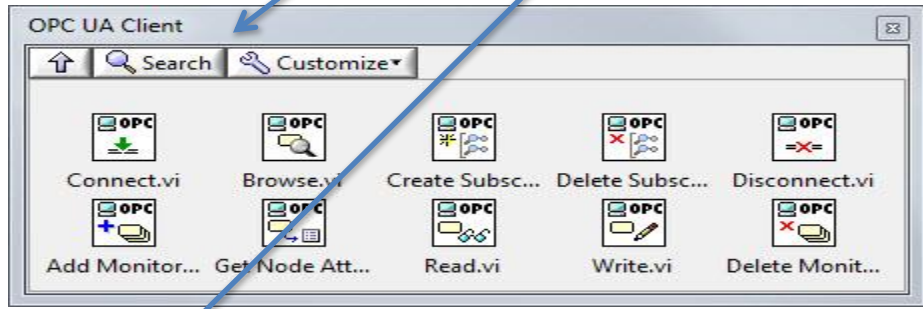
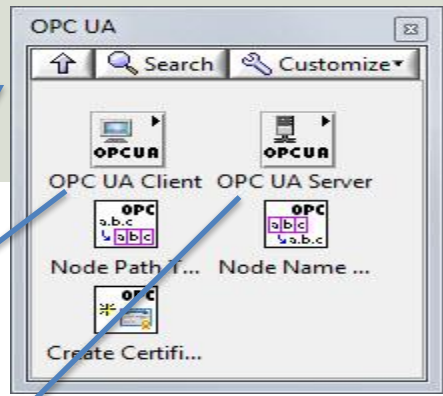
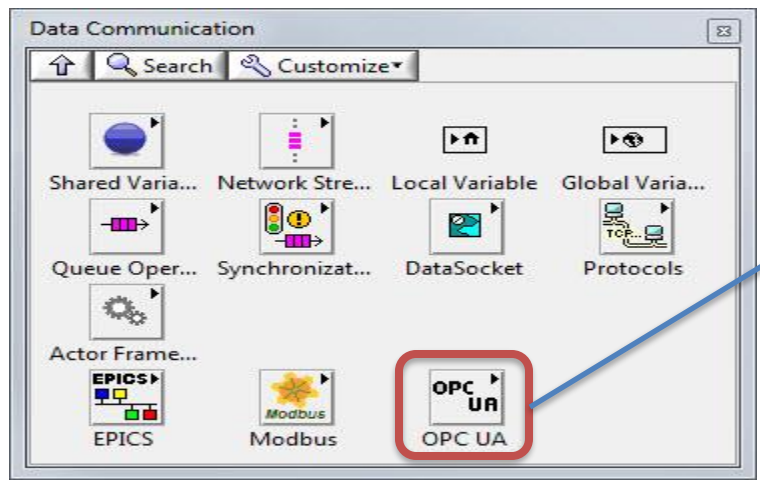
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Hans-Petter Halvorsen



OPC UA in LabVIEW

<http://zone.ni.com/reference/en-XX/help/371618J-1/TOC9.htm>

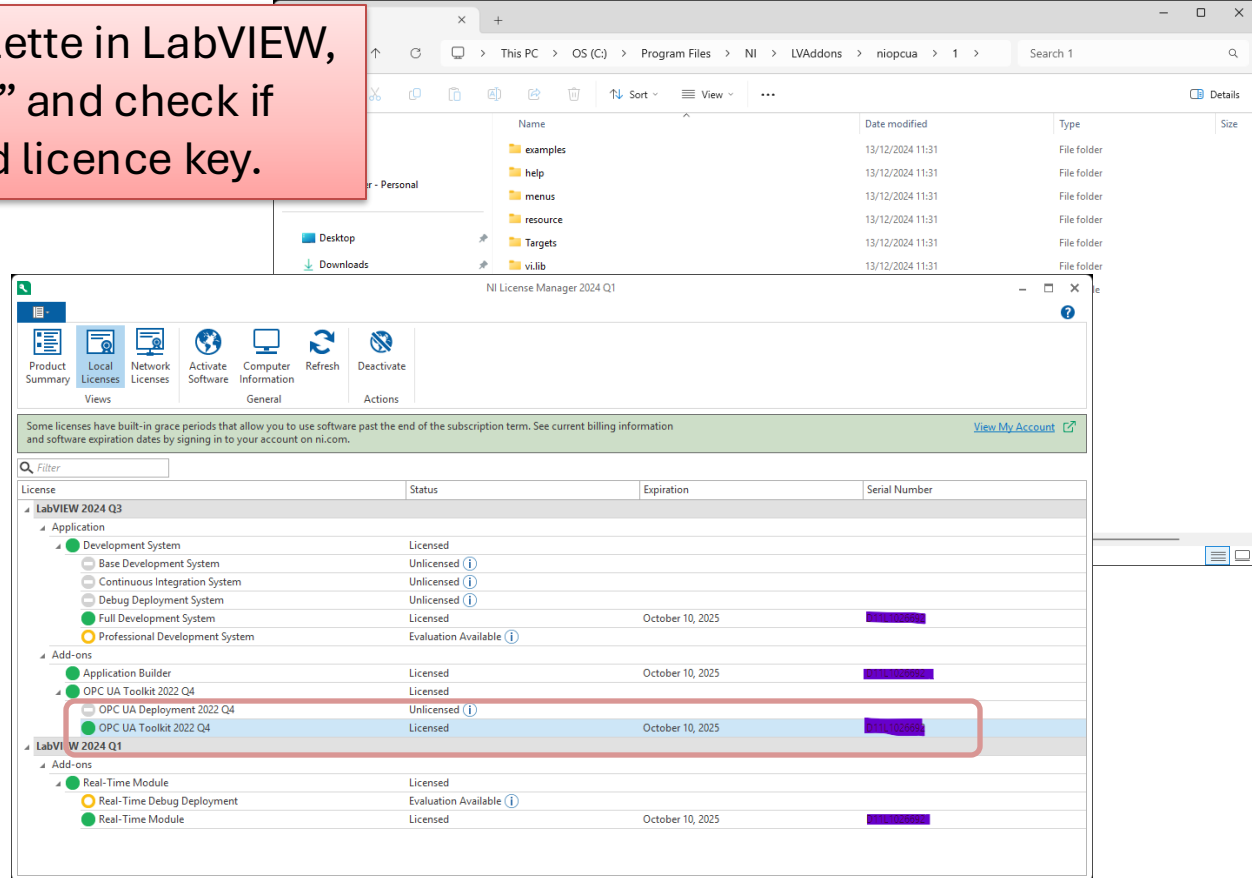
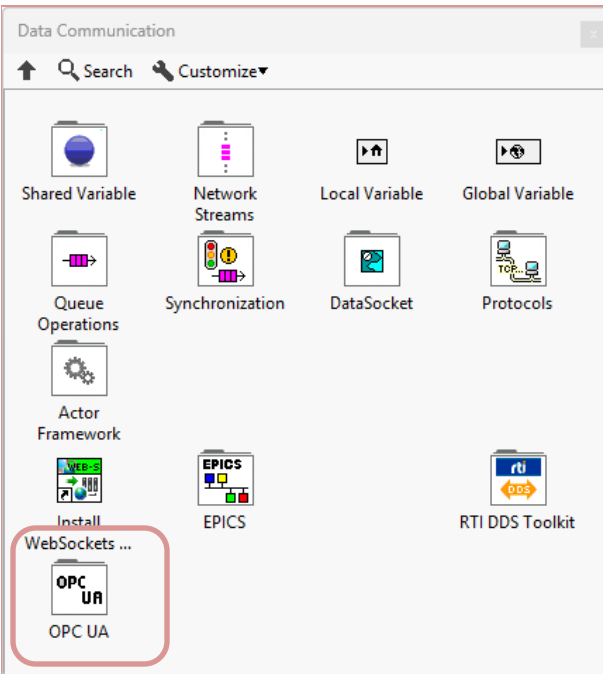


Note! You need to install the **LabVIEW OPC UA Toolkit**

<https://zone.ni.com/reference/en-XX/help/376230B-01/>

LabVIEW OPC UA Toolkit

If you don't find the OPC UA palette in LabVIEW, open the "NI License Manager" and check if the "OPC UA Toolkit" has a valid licence key.

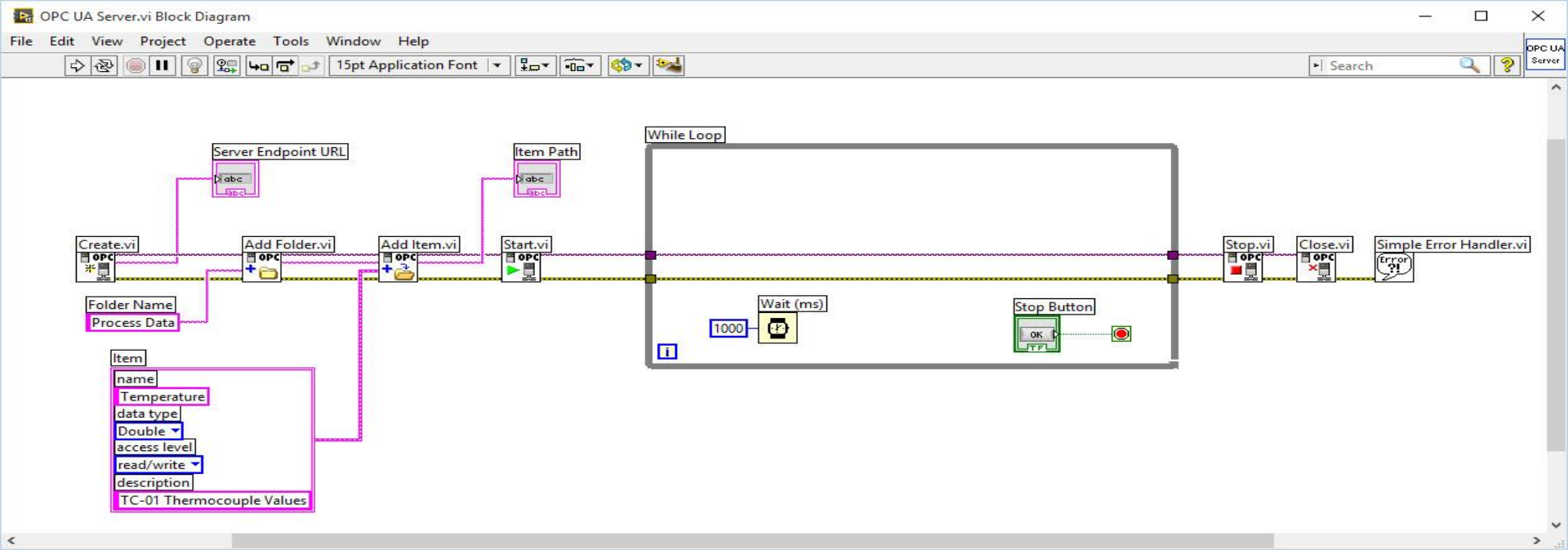


LabVIEW OPC UA Server Example

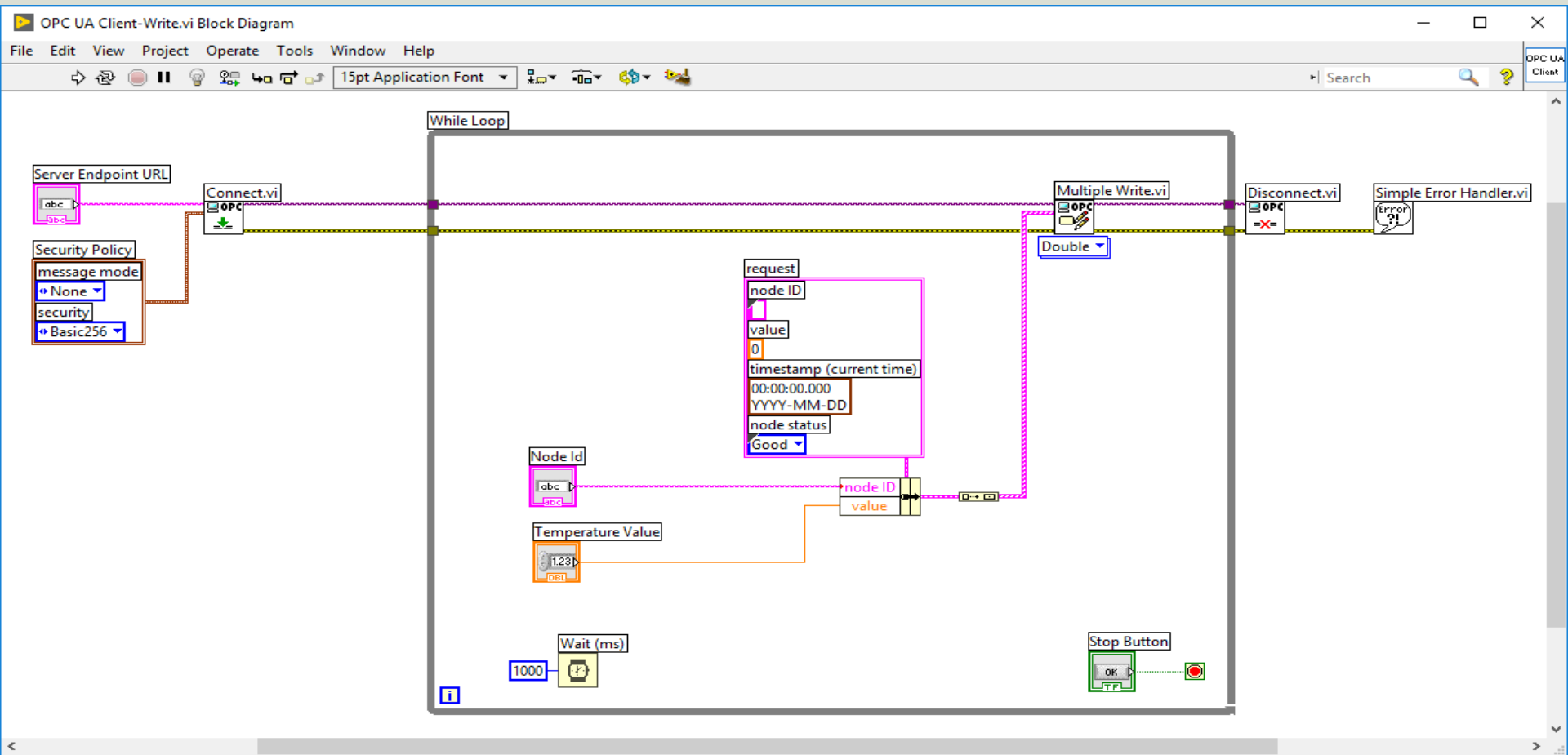
PC UA Server.vi Front Panel

Server Endpoint URL
opc.tcp://hansph_laptop:49580

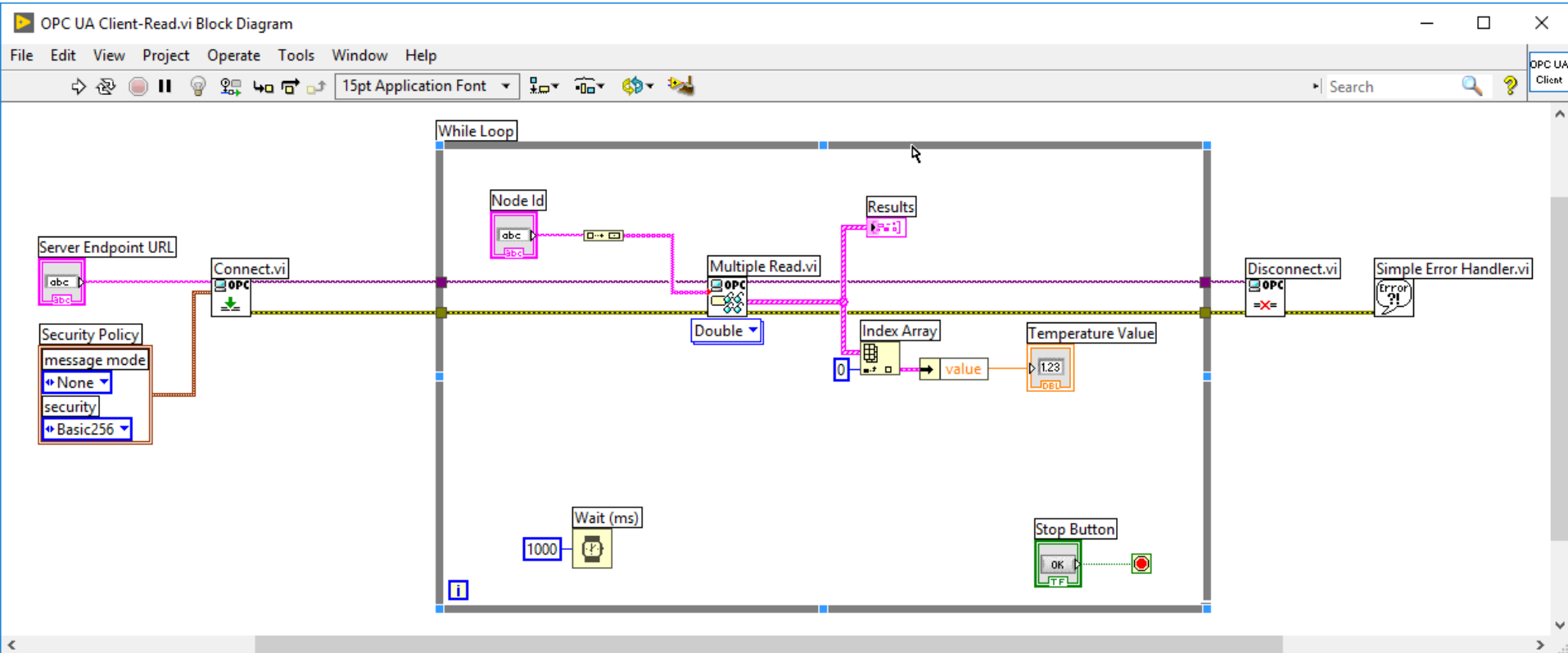
Item Path
Process Data.Temperature



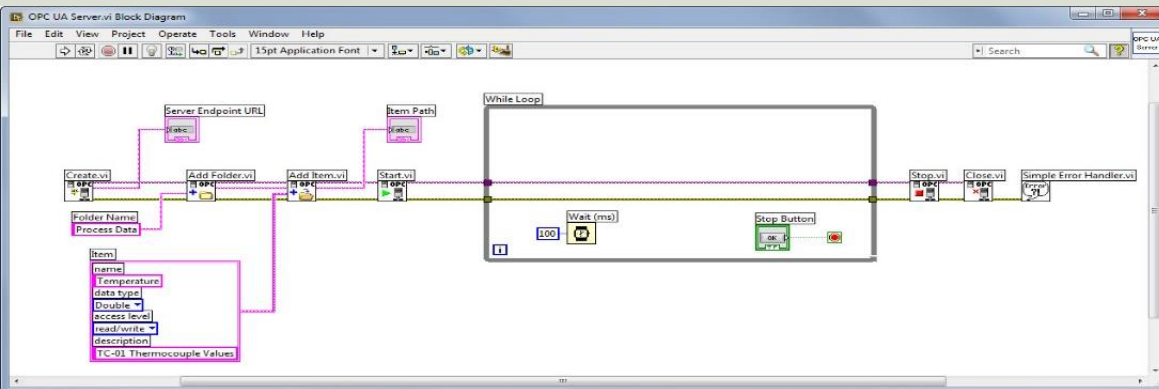
LabVIEW OPC UA Client - Write



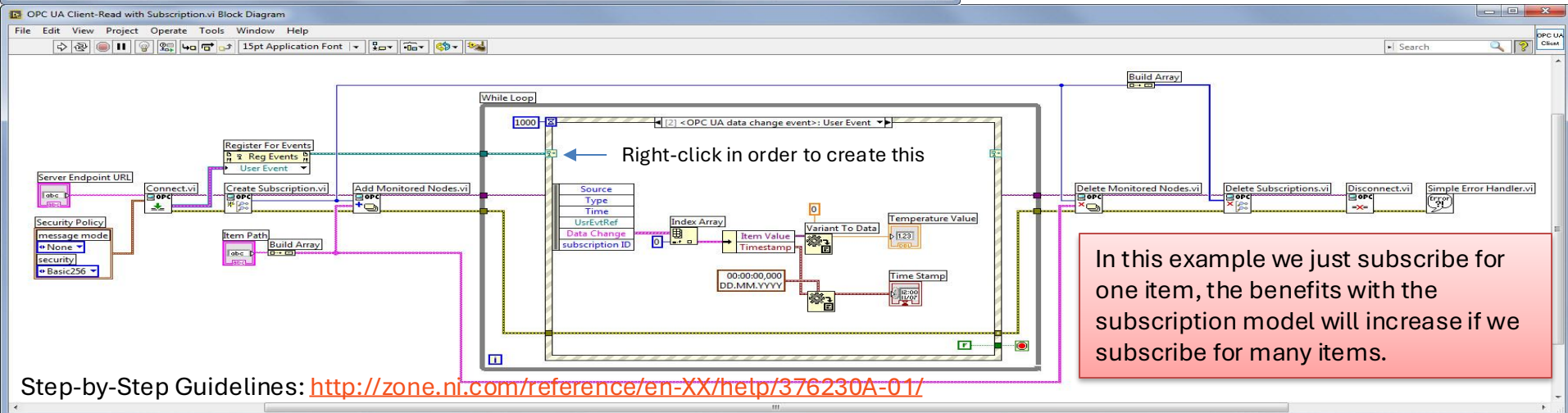
LabVIEW OPC UA Client - Read



OPC UA Client with Subscription



This is a more complex example where you read data on the client only when the value on the server is changed.



In this example we just subscribe for one item, the benefits with the subscription model will increase if we subscribe for many items.

<https://www.halvorsen.blog>

OPC UA in Visual Studio/C#

Hans-Petter Halvorsen



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OPC UA .NET SDK

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Products » OPC UA .NET SDK for Client and Server

OPC UA .NET SDK for Client and Server



Member: Traeger Industry Components GmbH

Product website: opcua.traeger.de

OPC UA Client & Server in C# / VB.NET quick and easy.

Introduction: <https://opcua.traeger.de/>

Development: <https://docs.traeger.de/en/software/sdk/opc-ua/net/>

NuGet Package: <https://www.nuget.org/packages/OpC.UaFx.Advanced/>

Samples: <https://github.com/Traeger-GmbH/opcuanel-samples/>

Description

The OPC UA .NET SDK allows rapid and easy development of Client and / or Server applications using .NET. With a few lines of code you can realize your application in minutes. The SDK is provided for .NET Standard 2.0+, .NET Core 3+ and .NET Framework 4.6+. Therefore the SDK supports Windows, Linux, macOS, Android, iOS and Unity. No installation required, just download the ZIP or NuGet package and get started.

Features

- OPC UA with DA, AE, HDA and more
- OPC UA Companion Specifications
- OPC Classic (with just a different URI)

- The “OPC UA .NET SDK” comes with an evaluation license which can be used unlimited for each application run for 30 minutes
- It comes in a **NuGet** Package you can install and use in your Visual Studio Project
- <https://opcfoundation.org/products/view/opc-ua-net-sdk-for-client-and-server>

NuGet Package

The screenshot displays the Visual Studio interface with the NuGet Package Manager open. The main window shows the 'Browse' tab for the 'OPCUAClient' package source. A list of packages is shown, with 'Opc.UaFx.Client' highlighted by a red box. The right-hand pane provides detailed information for the selected package, including its version (2.21.0), description, and features. The Solution Explorer on the right shows the project structure for 'OPCUAClient', including files like Form1.cs, Form1.Designer.cs, and Program.cs.

NuGet Package Manager: OPCUAClient

Package source: nuget.org

Search: Include prerelease

Package Name	Author	Downloads	Version
Opc.UaFx.Advanced	Traeger.de	82.9K	2.21.0
Opc.UaFx.Client	Traeger.de	52.2K	2.21.0
OPCFoundation.NetStandard.Opc.Ua	OPC Foundation	8	1.4.367.95
OpcLabs.QuickOpc	OPC Labs	147K	5.62.1032
OPCFoundation.NetStandard.Opc.Ua.Core	OPC Founda	8	1.4.367.95
opc.ua.pubsub.dotnet.binary	Siemens AG	10.7K	1.0.16
opc.ua.pubsub.dotnet.client	Siemens AG	10.1K	1.0.16
OPCFoundation.NetStandard.Opc.Ua.Client	OPC Found	8	1.4.367.95
OPCFoundation.NetStandard.Opc.Ua.Configuration	OPC Found	8	1.4.367.95
OPCFoundation.NetStandard.Opc.Ua.Server	OPC Four	8	1.4.367.95
OPCFoundation.NetStandard.Opc.Ua.Security.Certific	OPC Found	8	1.4.367.95

Opc.UaFx.Client nuget.org

Version:

Options

Description

OPC UA Client SDK supporting OPC DA, AE and HDA for quick & easy OPC UA Client development using .NET Framework and .NET Standard. Simple & familiar .NET API, portability, features, patterns, samples and technical support. Unlimited free evaluation & royalty free licensing. Designed and implemented using Microsoft's Framework Design Guidelines by Traeger in Germany/ Bavaria with over 30 years of experience in industrial communication.

NEW!
Samples available at <https://github.com/Traeger-GmbH/opcuonet-samples>

OPC Watch
Download: <https://docs.traeger.de/en/software/sdk/opc-ua/net#download>
Usage: Browse, read, write, subscribe nodes or generate code for user defined types from server or nodeset.

Features:

- DA: Data Access
- HDA: Historical Data Access
- AE: Alarms & Events + Conditions
- IO: FileAccess
- API: Methods and Enumerations
- OPC Classic Support
- Others:
 - Units of Measurements
 - Complex/Structured Data Types

Characteristics:

Solution Explorer | **Git Changes**

Properties

Solution 'OPCUAClient' (1 of 1 project)

- OPCUAClient
 - Dependencies
 - Analyzers
 - Frameworks
 - Form1.cs
 - Form1.Designer.cs
 - Form1.resx
 - Program.cs

OPC UA Write Example

```
private void btnOpcWrite_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    string opcUrl = "opc.tcp://localhost:62640/";
    var tagName = "ns=2;s=Tag7";

    var client = new OpcClient(opcUrl);
    client.Connect();

    double temperature;
    temperature = Convert.ToDouble(txtOpcDataWrite.Text);

    client.WriteNode(tagName, temperature);

    client.Disconnect();
}
```

OPC UA Read Example

```
private void btnOpcRead_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    string opcUrl = "opc.tcp://localhost:62640/";
    var tagName = "ns=2;s=Tag7";

    var client = new OpcClient(opcUrl);
    client.Connect();

    var temperature = client.ReadNode(tagName);
    txtOpcDataRead.Text = temperature.ToString();

    client.Disconnect();
}
```

<https://www.halvorsen.blog>

OPC UA in MATLAB



Hans-Petter Halvorsen

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MATLAB OPC UA - Write

1. Locate Your OPC UA Server

```
serverList = opcuaserverinfo('localhost')
```

2. Create an OPC UA Client

```
uaClient = opcua('localhost', port)
```

3. Connect to the Server

```
connect(uaClient)
```

4. Browse OPC UA Server Namespace

```
serverNodes = browseNamespace(uaClient)
```

5. Write Current Values to the OPC UA Server

```
newValue = 22.5
```

```
writeValue(uaClient, serverNodes, newValue);
```

6. Disconnect

```
disconnect(uaClient)
```

MATLAB OPC UA - Read

1. Locate Your OPC UA Server

```
serverList = opcuaserverinfo('localhost')
```

2. Create an OPC UA Client

```
uaClient = opcua('localhost', port)
```

3. Connect to the Server

```
connect(uaClient)
```

4. Browse OPC UA Server Namespace

```
serverNodes = browseNamespace(uaClient)
```

5. Read Current Values from the OPC UA Server

```
[val, ts, qual] =  
readValue(uaClient, serverNodes)
```

6. Disconnect

```
disconnect(uaClient)
```


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OPC in Network and Tunneling

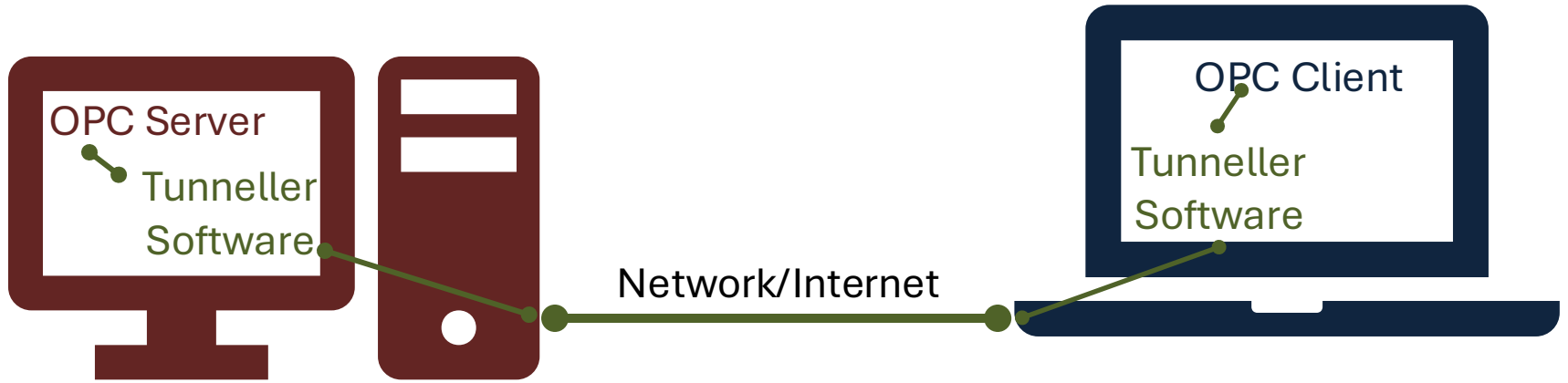


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OPC Tunneller

Problem: Sending OPC Data between 2 (or more) Computers in a Network, or even worse, over Internet. OPC DA uses COM/DCOM. This makes it complicated to make it work in a modern Network



Solution: Use OPC Tunneller Software that makes an open tunnel between the 2 network nodes. The goal of OPC tunneling is to eliminate DCOM, i.e., replacing the DCOM networking protocol with TCP.

OPC DA in Network

- OPC DA uses COM/DCOM -> Complicated to make it work in a modern Network!!
- Solution: Use an **OPC Tunneller Software**, e.g.:
 - OPC Tunneller from MatrikonOPC (30 days free trial)
 - Cogent DataHub Tunnelling Software (Trial software works only 1 hour, then needs to be restarted)



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