Emerging standards in information exchange with Automation Systems: a case study on OPC Unified Architecture (OPC UA)

Thursday, 22nd February, 2007
Refreshments at 5.30pm Talk at 6.15pm
Engineering House, 447 Upper Edward St, Brisbane

Presented by: Gavan Hood, Senior Systems Architect Rockwell Automation

The OPC foundation has established a set of connectivity standards that have been broadly adopted in the manufacturing automation industry. A new set of standards titled OPC Unified Architecture is being published by this group. Most leading automation practitioners have indicated support for the Unified Architecture specification. This discussion presents an overview of OPC Unified Architecture specification being developed by the OPC foundation.

OPC Unified architecture is a multipart specification and reference implementation that attempts to converge and fill in gaps within the existing OPC standards. The new architecture is expected to open up new opportunities in the control and information sectors of manufacturing.

Those attending this presentation will gain a better understanding of what the OPC foundation directions are and what the OPC Unified Architecture specifications represent. Some insights into the evolution of Service Orientated Architecture and its impact on control system automation will also be given.

Biography

Gavan Hood holds qualifications in Industrial Chemistry, Analytical Computing and Education.
He has worked in America and Australia during his engineering career.
His career started with Union Carbide – chemicals division and continued with a number of manufacturing companies in the food and chemical industries in roles spanning analytical chemistry, R&D and information technology.

Gavan performed research in the field of Manufacturing Simulation and worked as a professional software engineer on products including real time distributed gaming systems, systems simulation - scheduling and manufacturing information systems.

Gavan started with Rockwell Automation where he led teams to deliver shared component technology and one of the world's first B2MML compliant web service capabilities.
He is currently is a senior systems architect with Rockwell Automation where he leads architecture initiatives spanning manufacturing information and process control. Gavan has a number of patents published and papers presented in the field of industrial automation. He is an active member of various standards groups including ISA SP 88 and SP 95 and OPC Unified architecture.

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