

OPC Client Controls

The OPCData Control now provides the synchronous I/O mode. In this mode, communication with the OPC Server is handled by means of synchronous reads and writes. The interface of the OPCDataItem object was enhanced by the Tag property.

In addition, the OPCData Control offers optional connection monitoring. Thus, your OPC application is protected against hazards such as interruption of the network connection, server crash etc.

Sorting: Now, you can control the order of the elements in the OPCDATreeView Control. The DefaultSort propertycontrol provides automatical sorting in alphabetical order (ascending or descending) as well as the custom sort mode. In the "custom sort" mode, you can implement any order of the elements. You can also sort individual branches. Specific parts of the displayed name space can be invalidated, which is important especially for OPC Servers with dynamic name spaces. Other events as well as the Tag property of the DATreeNode object were added.

For working with arrays of data types which are not offered in Visual Basic or Visual Basic Script, a conversion function CNumericArray is offered.

In addition to the functionality extensions, elimination of the following problems took place:

- The method OPCDataControl.Connect formerly supplied no correct error information.
- Because of problems with VB5, the data type of the property OPCDataItem.Datatype was changed from VARTYPE to short.
- OPCDataControl could formerly not be loaded on systems without OLE DB. Now, it can be used on such systems (data binding is not supported).

An additional example for using the controls for HTML pages was prepared.

- New events: A number of new events were added.
- Subtree invalidation: Now, you can invalidate a subtree and force the control to require a part of the OPC namespace from the OPC server. This feature is especially important for the servers with a dynamic namespace.
- *Tag property*
 - For DATreeNode Object: The Visual Basic users must be familiar with the standard Tag property implemented by various controls. Now, the DATreeNode Object also has this handy property which allows you to store any extra data needed for your program.
 - For OPCDataItem Object: The OPCDataItem objects also implement the Tag property.
- Synchronous operations : Now, the OPCDataControl provides an extra mode that allows you to communicate with an OPC server by means of synchronous reads and writes.
- Besides this functional enhancements a few bug fixes are enclosed in the new version. The method OPCDataControl.Connect did not deliver correct error information. Now it does.
- A new sample for using the controls in HTML pages was added