

Easy Connect - OPC Tunnel

Easy, safe, and secure OPC communication without DCOM

The Softing Easy Connect Suite provides a safe, secure, and easy method of OPC communication across networks. It allows bypassing DCOM completely and eliminating time-consuming and nerve-wracking DCOM setup work.

NO MORE COMPLICATED DCOM CONFIGURATION

The Easy Connect Suite features an OPC Tunnel that acts as a “DCOM bypass,” ensuring robust high-performance communication between OPC components on networked computers. For this, the Easy Connect Suite is installed on all computers running OPC client or server applications that are to be networked using the OPC Tunnel.

“TUNNELING” BETWEEN MULTIVENDOR OPC CLIENTS AND SERVERS

Any Data Access (DA) or Alarms&Events (AE) client applications can access Easy Connect in its function as an OPC Tunnel. Easy Connect “tunnels” read and write requests from DA or AE client applications via TCP/IP to remote computers running one or more DA or AE servers. The remote computers receive the “tunneled” information from Easy Connect and transmit it as OPC calls to the OPC server(s). The OPC client and server applications networked through the OPC Tunnel do not need to be modified or reconfigured.

CONFIGURATION WITH FEW MOUSE CLICKS

To set up an OPC Tunnel connection, all you need to do is configure the IP address of the remote computer and a communication port. A wizard guides you through the configuration, which takes just a few mouse clicks. Data exchange through the OPC Tunnel is fast, robust, and reliable. Unlike DCOM, the OPC Tunnel is able to monitor connections every second. If a connection is broken, Easy Connect automatically tries to reconnect cyclically at user-configurable intervals. For diagnostic purposes, you can log OPC calls, notifications, and the transmitted and received TCP/IP frames.

CUSTOMER BENEFITS

- > Time savings: OPC communication across networks is up and running in a matter of minutes
- > Security: One-second detection of broken connections, communication across firewalls, authentication function
- > High performance: Optimized data transfer allows higher data throughput compared to DCOM



TECHNICAL DATA

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Supported OPC specifications | Data Access 1.0a, 2.05, 3.0, Alarms&Events 1.10 and OPC XML-DA 1.01 |
| OPC roles | On the OPC server computer: OPC client On the OPC client computer: OPC server |
| OPC data types | VARIANT data types I1, UI1, I2, UI2, I4, UI4, I8, UI8, R4, R8, CY, DATE, BSTR, BOOL and arrays of these data types (VT_ARRAY) |
| Implementation types | OutProc server, service |
| Operating systems | Windows 2000 / XP / Server 2003 / Vista / Server 2008 with the latest service packs (status: November 2010) |
| OPC Certification | Client: Test with several OPC servers at the OPC Foundation's Interoperability Workshop Server: Test with several OPC clients at the OPC Foundation's Interoperability Workshop, test using the OPC Foundation's Compliance Test Tool |
| Documentation | Online help in English and German |
| Logging | Logging of OPC calls and notifications, OPC data, OPC Tunnel frames |
| License model | Runtime license per computer |
| Demo version | Full functionality for up to 10 tunnel connections, time limited to 90 minutes |

ORDER NUMBER

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|-----------------|---|
| OPC-EC-BCL | Basic license for using Easy Connect functionality on one computer (software copy protection) supports a tunnel connection between one or more OPC clients and one OPC server |
| OPC-EC-SRV-NN/L | Add-on license to OPC-EC-BCL for access to max. NN OPC servers simultaneously, with NN = 10, 20, 50, 100; |
| LIC-USB-1 | USB hardware key for copy protection, only in combination with OPC-EC-BCL |

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

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|--------------|------------------------------|
| TRA-OPC-ANW | OPC User Training, 2-day |
| OPC-ENTW-TAG | OPC Engineering / Consulting |

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