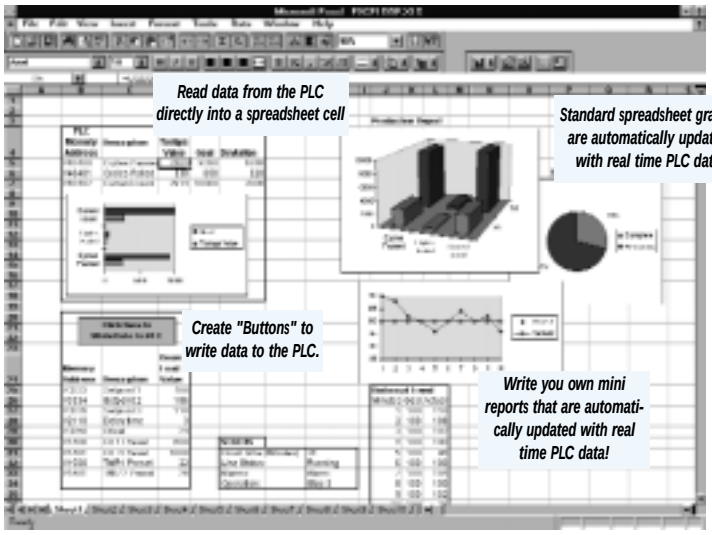
DSData Server

Overview

The DSData Server (formerly the DDE Server) allows you to use many standard Windows software packages to quickly and easily exchange data with your ***Direct***LOGIC PLC. In the past, if you wanted to use a personal computer to access PLC data, you either had to purchase an HMI package or spend many hours learning the PLC communications protocol. With the DSData Server, you can now use packages such as Excel or Visual Basic as a "window" to the PLC for either control or data acquisition. The DSData Server also provides the powerful feature of Object linking and embedding for Process Control (OPC).

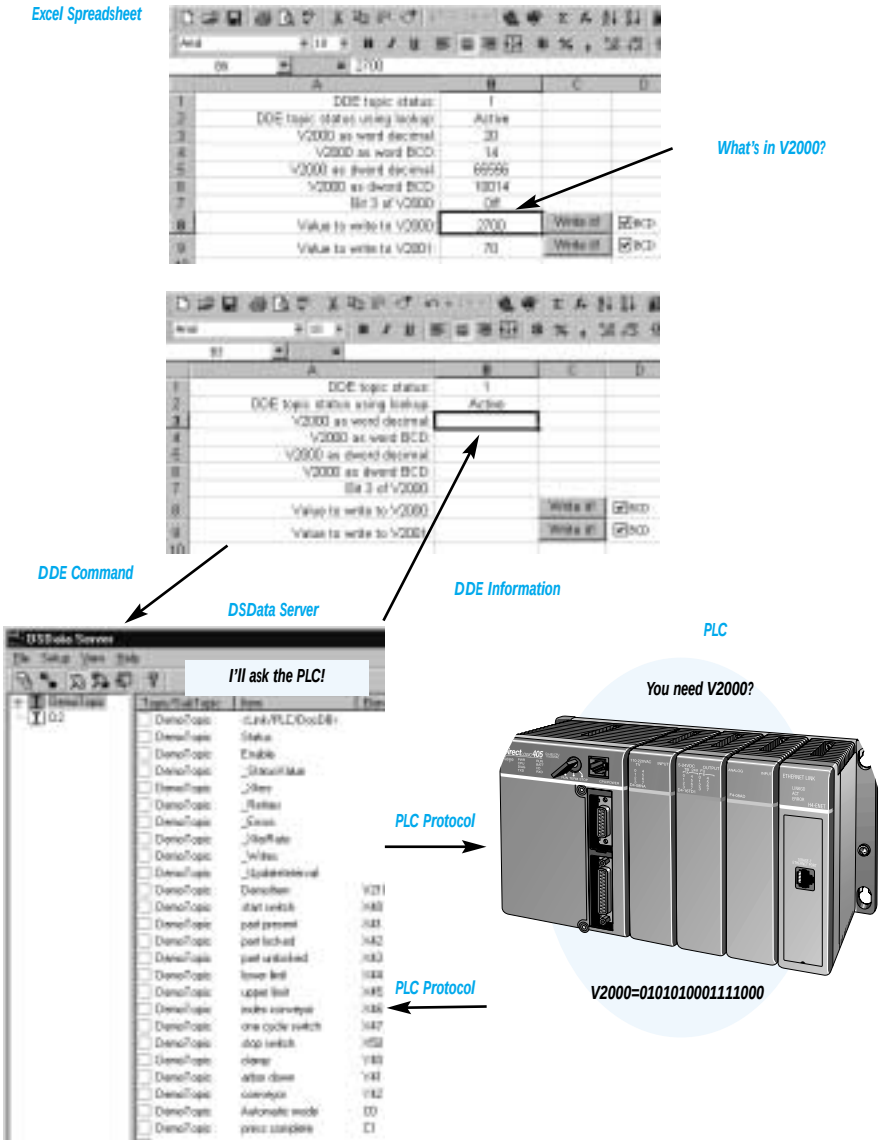


Features

- OPC Server: Fully OPC compliant
- Windows 9x/NT4 User Interface Features
- Sub-Topic Support
- Event Logging
- NickName Support
- System Items
- 32-Bit Communication Server

DDE operation

Many Windows packages have special DDE commands available. The commands are easy-to-use. The DSData Server commands are also this simple and you don't have to be a programming expert to use them. There is no complex protocol to learn. The DSData Server takes care of that part for you *automatically* by acting as a "translator" to convert the DDE commands into a request that the PLC can understand. The DSData Server works with all of our PLC product families, i.e., the DL05, DL105, DL205, DL305, and DL405.



OPC operation

OPC consists of a standard set of interfaces, properties, and methods for use in process control and automation applications. It is based on Microsoft's OLE (Active X), Component Object Model (COM and Distributed Component Object Model (DCOM). These technologies define how individual software components can interact and share data.

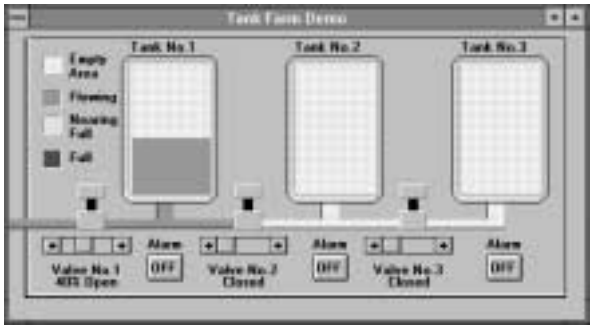
The DSData Server provides a link or bridge between your OPC Client (HMI, etc.) and your PLC(s). Use the DSData Server tools to build a communications link to the PLC. Once configured, the DSData Server runs like any other Windows application as it handles the requests to exchange data with the PLC.

DSData server with Visual Basic

The DSData Server and the Professional Edition of Visual Basic for Windows (3.0 or higher) is a great combination for building a more graphical approach for data acquisition or control. Visual Basic allows you to create screens with graphic symbols, such as slider bars, gauges, buttons, flashing text, etc. There are standard shapes available that can be modified to allow more complex graphic symbols to be created.

You can use the DDE commands to tie these objects directly to the PLC data using the following methods:

- Use the commands in a Properties box
- Use the commands in a subroutine



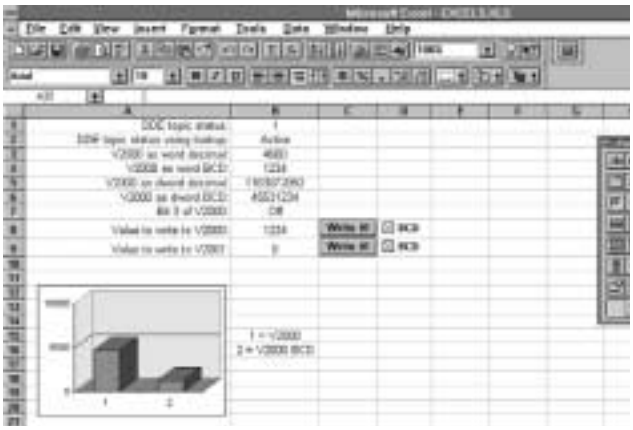
Use with spreadsheets

Many popular spreadsheet packages support DDE. You can either read data from the PLC or write data to the PLC by using DDE commands. There are primarily two ways that you can use these commands in a spreadsheet.

- Embed the commands in a Formula (read only)
- Embed the commands in a Macro (read or write)

Spreadsheet formulas are probably the easiest and fastest way to read data. You simply enter a cell formula with the proper DDE syntax and the data update begins! This is often called a 'hot link' because no manual action is required to initiate the data exchange. You can even tie the formulas to bar charts, etc., to create your own graphic display.

Macros provide additional flexibility since you can use them to read or write data. Also, many packages even allow you to create buttons and other objects that can be tied to a macro. You can then click on the button to trigger the read or write operation.



Example Formula

=DSData|DemoTopic!'V2000:B'

Example Macro

```
' WriteDataBtn_Click Macro
'
Sub     WriteDataBrn_Click( )
        Channel = DDEInitiate
        ("DSData", "DemoTopic")
        Set Data = Cells (8.2)
        DDEPoke Channel,  "V2000", Data
        DDETerminate Channel
End Sub
```

The world's most practical automation products, at almost-free prices, delivered by 11 a.m., just by clicking a mouse.

DSData Server OEM

Overview

There is also a OEM License program for the ***Direct***SOFT32 DSDATA Server. This program is designed to allow you to ship an inexpensive copy of the powerful DSData Server software with every machine you build!

When do you need an OEM license?

If you're a system integrator or OEM, then you may be able to save money by purchasing a DSData Server OEM license. This value-priced package is often an essential component in many applications. If you need a copy with every machine, you must have a legal copy for every installation.

OEM license part numbers

The DDE Server OEM License comes with five copies of our DDE Server software. A cable is not included and must be ordered separately

OEM license

Order No.

PC-DDEOEM

Extra user copies

Order No.

PC-DDE-X

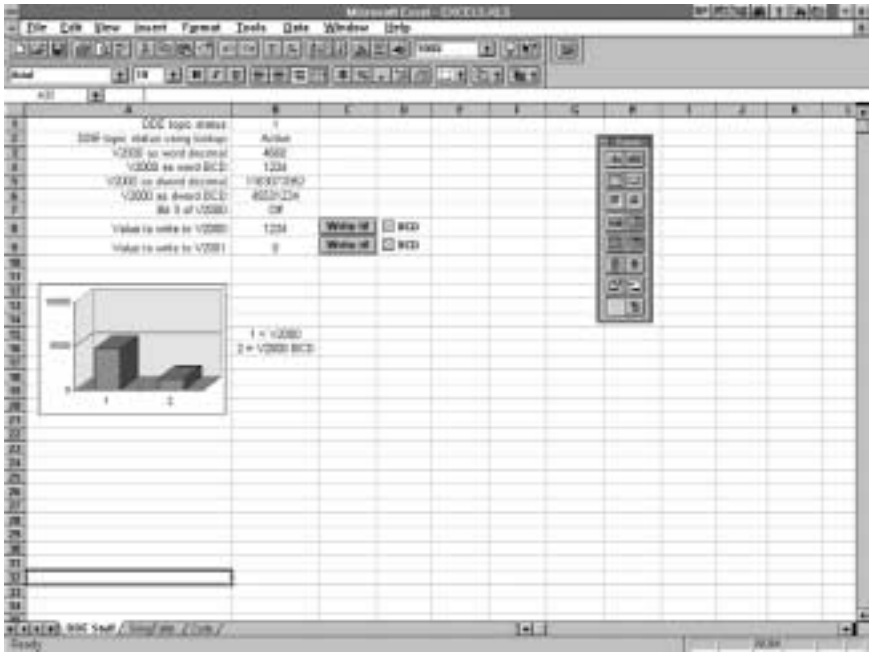
Cables

For point-to-point applications, why build your own cable? Save time and money by ordering one of the following cables.

Order No.

D2-DSCBL
(DL05/105/DL205/D3-350/D4-450)
D3-DSCBL-1 (D3-340)
D3-DSCBL-2
(D3-330/330P/350/DL405 DCM)
D4-DSCBL (DL405)

See the cable selection chart for cable selection details.



Supports all *Direct*LOGIC product families

Just like our normal package, the OEM license also provides support for all of our product families. You get 5 copies of the software in the initial package at an incredible price. The resulting cost per package is a significant discount from the price of our single user package.

Package contents

You will receive 5 complete sets of software when you purchase the license. Each set includes a production CD and a complete set of user documentation. Unlike some vendors, there's no need to make your own diskettes or copies of the user documentation. Instead, you provide a professional looking package that your customer can appreciate.

Extra copies

Once you've purchased the license, you have the right to purchase extra copies at an even lower per copy price. Each additional copy includes a production CD and a copy of the manual.

DSData Server Site License

Overview

In some larger installations (or in educational institutions) there are occasions when you have several people who each need access to a copy of the DSData Server. Also, the Ethernet support makes the DSData Server a great way to collect data from a network of PLCs. If the software is only being used for occasional troubleshooting or system maintenance a site license will work for you. This package is designed for those of you who need to install the software on multiple machines throughout a single location.

Package contents

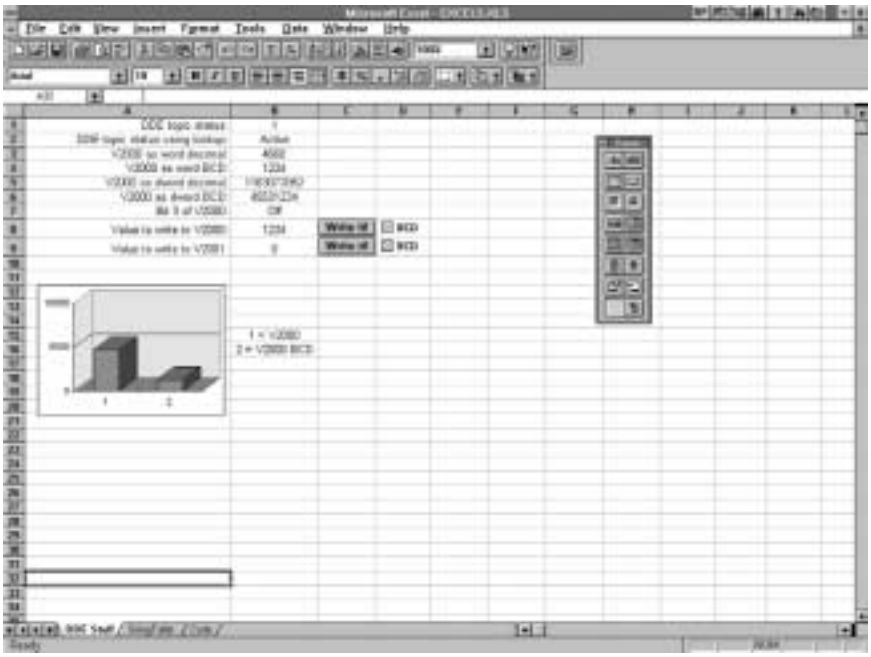
You will receive one CD and one set of documentation. You can use this CD to install the software on the applicable number of machines. You can make copies of the documentation, or you can purchase additional copies.

Number of users

Each package is designed for a specific number of concurrent users. Our license defines a 'user' as someone who uses the software more than 20% of their normal working hours. This means that even though you purchase a five-user license, you are actually allowed to have many other people who occasionally use the software. This is especially useful for technicians that randomly use the software for troubleshooting or maintenance.

Can I ship a copy to my customer?

No, the site license is not intended to allow you to ship copies of the software to your customers. If you need to do this, check out our OEM Licenses. They provide this capability at a reasonable price.



Portable computers and off-site usage

Many of you may be using laptop computers for field service work. You can install the software on these machines as long as their permanent residence remains at the site. It is perfectly acceptable to allow your engineers or technicians to take computers to job sites or remote offices for occasional use.

Upgrades

The Web site will provide upgrades to correct problems or you can order a copy at no charge. These are “maintenance releases” and do not include any feature enhancements. Any release that contains feature enhancements will be subject to the normal upgrade charge in effect at that time. Here’s an example: Let’s say you purchased a five-user license and two year from now you see an advertisement that shows some exciting new features. Rather than purchasing a new site license, you would simply purchase five upgrade packages which would allow you to upgrade all of your packages at the site.

Site license packages

Many vendors provide site license packages, but not all of them provide the flexibility or options that you really need. We offer several different packages designed for specific numbers of users. This allows you to purchase a license that closely matches your needs without paying an exorbitant price!

Site license packages

Users	*Order No.*
5-user	PCDDE-5U
10-user	PCDDE-10U
25-user	PCDDE-25U
50-user	PCDDE-50U

Extra user copies

Users	*Order No.*
5-user	PCDDE-5U-X
10-user	PCDDE-10U-X
25-user	PCDDE-25U-X
50-user	PCDDE-50U-X

Manuals

DA-DDE-M

(Extra manuals are only available to site license holders. They cannot be purchased by single-user license holders.)

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