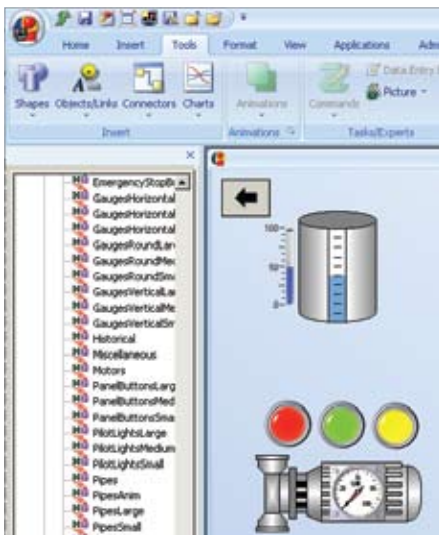# Proficy* HMI/SCADA – iFIX* 5.0

Building on a track record of success and continual enhancements, the latest release of Proficy HMI/SCADA – iFIX from GE Intelligent Platforms is here: iFIX 5.0.
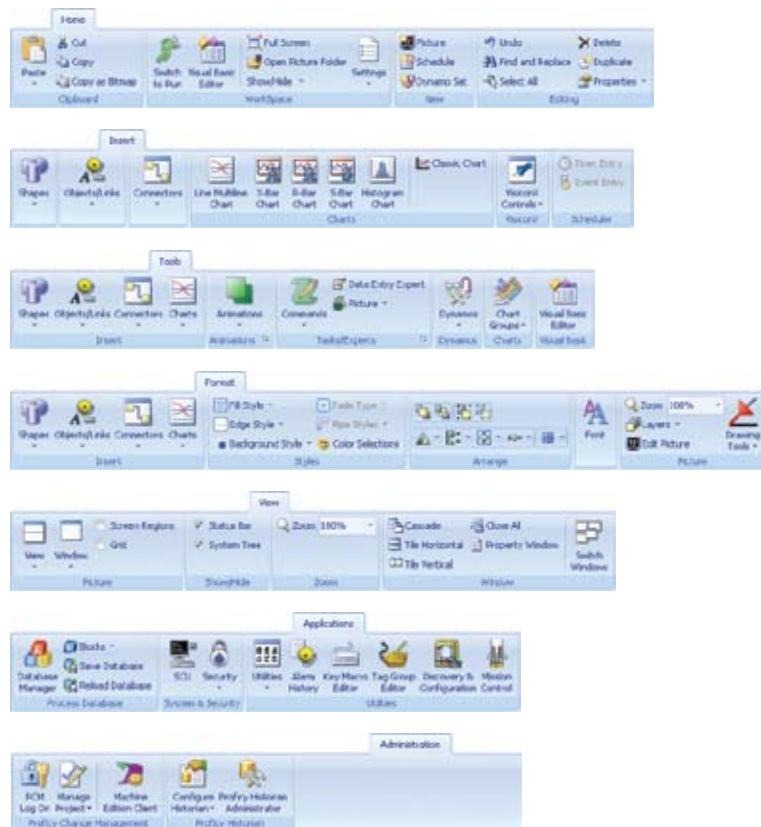
What's new about iFIX 5.0?

Updated look and feel for faster development

iFIX 5.0 comes with a completely new look and feel for the Workspace and Database Manager, based on a Microsoft-fluent User Interface (UI) technology. The new UI follows the Ribbon Bar concept, which allows you to easily access your tools during application development and configure Quick Access Toolbars for frequently used tools. The new UI also organizes all the configuration tools in the form of Galleries that allow you to view all available options "on the go" and reduces the time to access these tools.

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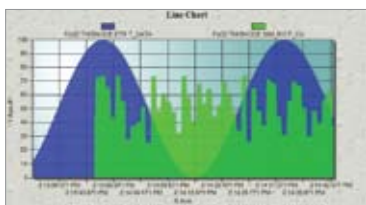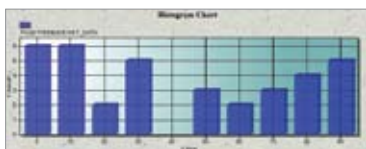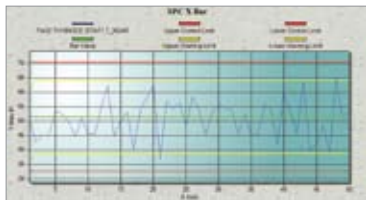
Proficy HMI/SCADA – iFIX 5.0

Enhanced failover for increased reliability

You can increase reliability with iFIX 5.0's new and enhanced failover feature, which enables you to synchronize real-time data such as alarm setpoints, and synchronize every aspect of the tag database as well as alarms across the entire network. The new failover capability is easy to configure and allows you to prioritize your networks for data synchronization; you can separate your real-time SCADA network from the data synchronization network to boost performance.
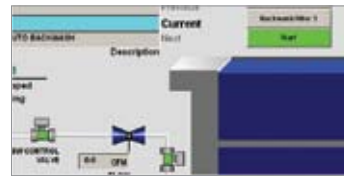
New charting tool to expand analytical capability for higher performance

iFIX 5.0 introduces a new state-of-the-art charting tool that expands the software's capability to display X-Bar, R-Bar, S-Bar, Histogram and Logarithmic charts, in addition to the more traditional real-time and historical charts. With support for advanced CGI graphics and a wide range of plotting types such as Bar, Area, Spline and Best Fit Curves, the new charting tool enables you to configure different line and display styles. Ideal for GE's Proficy Historian product, this new tool implements an advanced algorithm to fetch and plot data efficiently, boosting overall system performance.

New Charting Tool

Data Synchronization

iClient TS = Thin Clients

iClients – Thick Clients

Database Synchronization

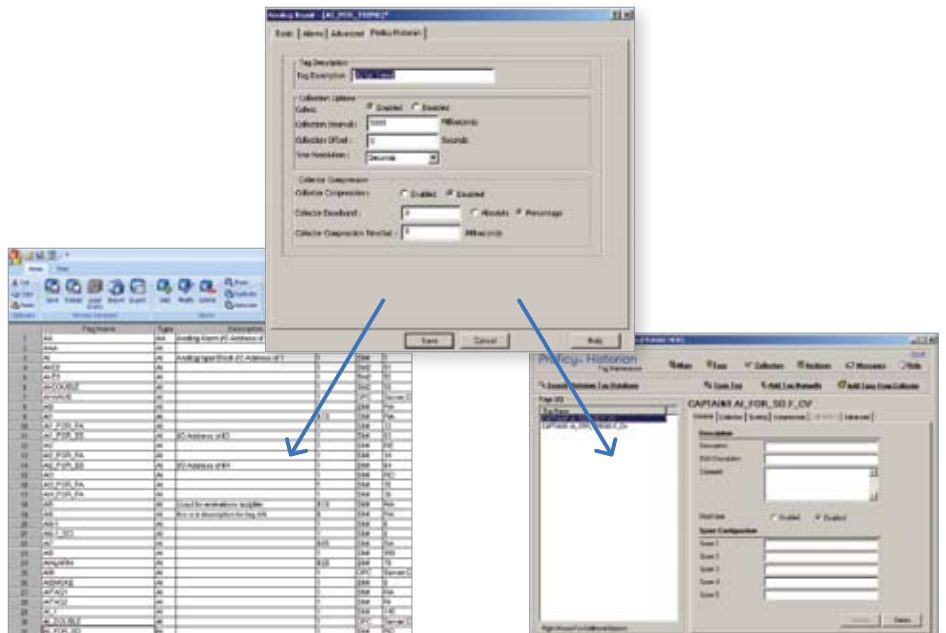iFIX SCADA Servers

Terminal Server

Alarm Database Synchronization

Tighter and bundled Proficy Historian to provide best-in-class data management

Forming a powerful combination with GE's Proficy Historian, iFIX 5.0 provides you with a true real-time data management solution. This new release of iFIX provides a one-time configuration capability for the iFIX and Proficy Historian databases; the two products are now tightly integrated to synchronize database settings, reducing the maintenance on product configurations.

In addition, iFIX 5.0 enables you to read time-stamped data into your process graphics from Proficy Historian using iFIX's standard Datalink, providing easy accessibility to historical data in context to real-time data. iFIX's unique VisionX tools now have an added capability of connecting directly to Proficy Historian tables, allowing you to display data grids into graphics without configuring complex SQL queries. Furthermore, the iFIX product installation now includes an integrated Proficy Historian installation, making it easier for you to set up the system.

One point configuration for iFIX and Proficy Historian

Proficy HMI/SCADA – iFIX 5.0

Alarm display enhancements and alarm escalation for improved notification of process abnormalities

Alarm management is one of the most critical aspects of an HMI/SCADA system, and iFIX 5.0 introduces some new tools to filter alarms, display alarms and notify you of alarm escalations. The iFIX Alarm Summary now allows you to filter alarms based on acknowledgment status, enabling you to analyze critical alarm behavior. The Alarm Summary display options also have added support for coloring alarms based on status or priority and acknowledgement. In addition, iFIX 5.0 introduces an alarm escalation feature that allows the real-time Alarm Summary to generate an event if the severity of a particular alarm has increased, thus improving notification about process abnormalities.
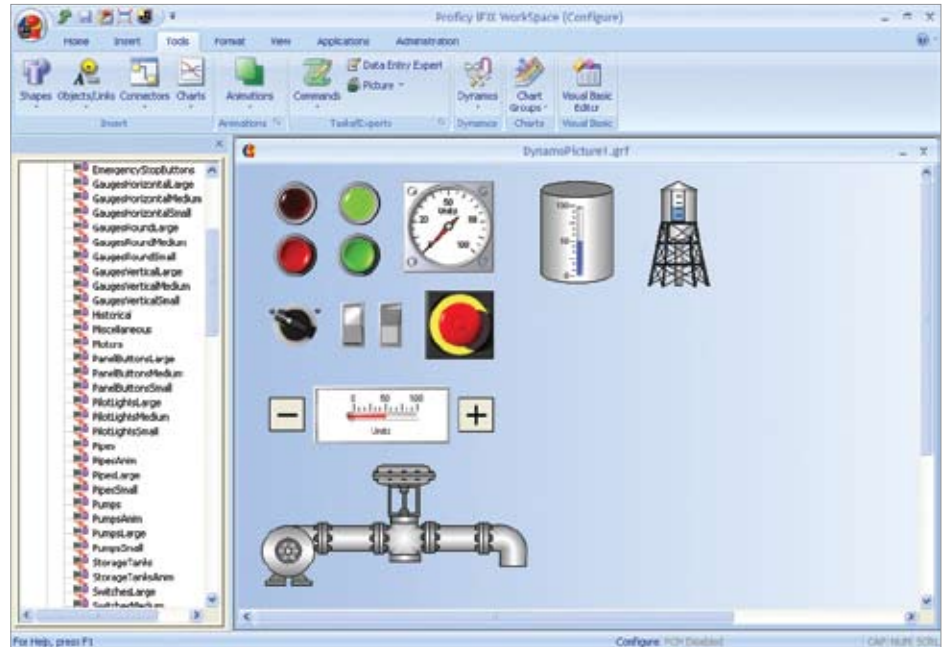
All new custom dynamos and a new dynamo converter for easy configuration

iFIX 5.0 comes packed with over 500 prebuilt graphic objects, called dynamos, which include ISA-specific symbols for valves and support versioning to track any changes made to the master dynamos. All of these objects support dynamic linking, which enable you to update your graphics with any changes made to the master dynamo object. All dynamos have been built natively in iFIX, and thus are extremely scalable and support maximum animations. To enable existing customers to upgrade, iFIX 5.0 introduces a dynamo converter, which helps convert existing custom dynamos into objects that support versioning and dynamic linking.
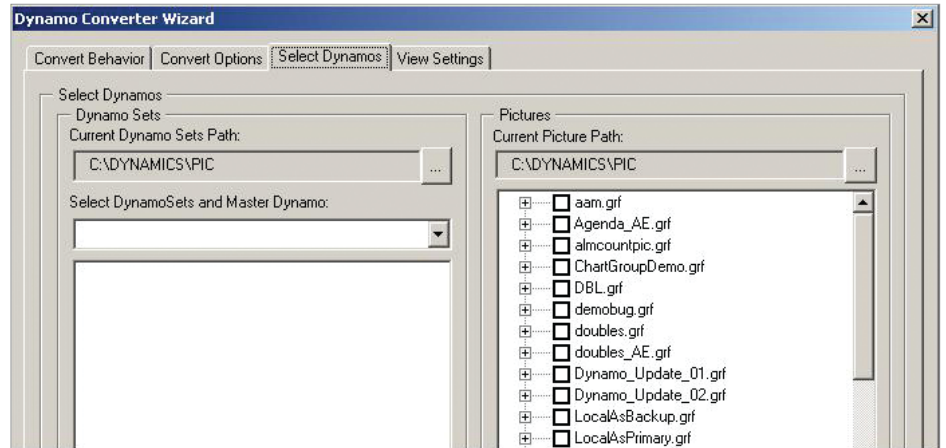
Tools to increase productivity by reducing development and maintenance time

. . . .

Expanded Discover and Auto Configurationtool

The Discover and Auto Configuration tool in iFIX is a big differentiating feature that allows you to read in the PLC configuration from its PLC file and configure the driver, database and Proficy Historian from one location in a single effort. iFIX 5.0's Discover and Auto Configuration tool now supports Rockwell's RSLogix 5/500 for PLC5, SLC 500 and Micrologix controllers, Siemens Step 7 for the S7 controllers and the generic OPC Client driver for configuring third-party device servers.

Over 500 new pre-configured Graphic Objects

New Dynamo Converter to upgrade existing Custom Dynamos

Proficy HMI/SCADA – iFIX 5.0

Graphic thumbnail support

iFIX 5.0 now supports a "thumbnail view" of its graphics in Windows® Explorer. This support has also been extended into the iFIX Workspace, where you can view snapshots of your graphics as you move the mouse over the graphic names – helping developers and maintenance personnel locate the right display quickly and efficiently.

Specifications

Proficy HMI/SCADA - iFIX 5.0 System Requirements
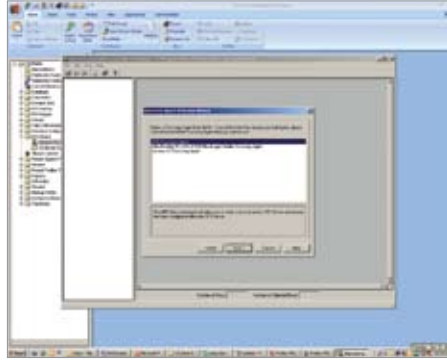
Software Requirements

GE recommends using the latest service packs for Windows operating systems. The minimum iFIX software requirements include:

- One of the following operating systems:
  - Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional, Service Pack 2 or greater.
  - Microsoft® Windows® Server 2003, Standard or Enterprise Edition.
  - Microsoft® Windows® Vista™, Business, Enterprise, or Ultimate Edition.
  - Microsoft® Windows® Vista™ Ultimate Edition running on a Tablet PC, iClient Only.
    NOTE: Proficy Historian is not available for use in Windows Vista. Proficy Historian currently does not support Windows Vista.
  - Microsoft® Windows® XP Tablet Edition, iClient Only.

Hardware Requirements

For Proficy HMI/SCADA - iFIX computers, the recommended minimum hardware requirements are:

- A minimum Pentium 3-based 733 MHz computer. For optimum performance, GE recommends a Pentium 4-based 1 GHz computer.
- A minimum of 512 MB RAM.
- A minimum of 1 GB of free hard drive space to install a typical iFIX system, including pictures, databases, alarm files, other data files, and help.
- A DVD drive.
- TCP/IP-compatible network interface adapter for network communication and certain I/O drivers.
- One parallel port or free direct-connect USB port. Some touch screens, pointing devices, and I/O drivers require a serial port. Additional ports for I/O hardware should be ordered with the computer.
- SVGA or better color graphics monitor and a 100% IBM-compatible, 24-bit graphics card capable of 800x600 resolution and at least 16 million (16,777,216) colors.
- Two-button mouse or compatible pointing device (such as a touch screen).

Expanded Discover and Auto Configuration tool

Custom scaling for analog data within database tags

iFIX 5.0 further enhances the product's SCADA capability by introducing a custom scaling capability for analog tags within the database blocks. This allows you to configure one tag that reads in non-standard raw values and outputs an EGU-specific value – reducing the development and maintenance time on the database.

Loadable blocks bundled with the product

Loadable blocks are specialized database blocks that have been created over the years based on customer requirements and input. Traditionally, these blocks are available on GE's Support website for download and use. However, iFIX 5.0 includes all of these blocks on the product CD, thus making it readily available for you and expanding its already powerful database offering. For existing users, this will provide a seamless upgrade, and for new customers, it will add more power to their database configurations.

Graphic Thumbnail Support

Voice of Customer features

iFIX 5.0 also includes several Voice of Customer requests, which have translated into major features and minor customer delighter enhancements. Key features include alarm distribution support for the AR and DR blocks in the iFIX database, easier-to-configure UI for network and alarm filters and some event trapping support for iFIX's VBA scripting commands.

Summary

iFIX 5.0 is packed with innovative new features and advanced capabilities such as enhanced failover that supports database and alarm synchronization, bundled and integrated Historian, a new charting tool that supports SPC and logarithmic charts, advanced alarm escalation, filtering and display, and a Microsoft-fluent UI with more than 500 new dynamos and thumbnail support.

Better than ever, iFIX 5.0 enables you to drive better analytics and leverage more reliability, flexibility and scalability across your enterprise.
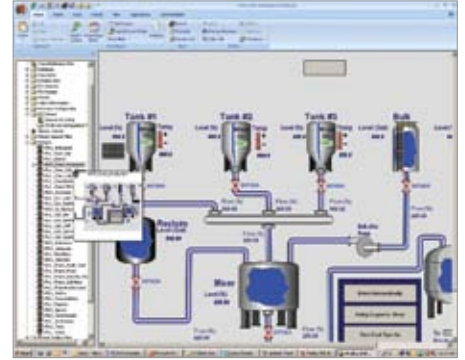
About GE Intelligent Platforms

GE Intelligent Platforms, a General Electric Company (NYSE: GE), is an experienced high-performance technology company and a global provider of hardware, software, services, and expertise in automation and embedded computing. We offer a unique foundation of agile, advanced and ultra-reliable technology that provides customers a sustainable advantage in the industries they serve, including energy, water, consumer packaged goods, government and defense, and telecommunications. GE Intelligent Platforms is a worldwide company headquartered in Charlottesville, VA and is part of GE Home and Business Solutions. For more information, visit www.ge-ip.com.

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www.ge-ip.com

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