



ifm prover gmbh

BENCHMARK REPORT



Process Automation

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The M&M-Business segment for PC-/Pocket PC and web-assisted Field device management – from the local user application on FDT-basis to the Enterprise-Application with globally networked sensors and actuators. Experiences from numerous projects, know-how of modern Software technology and knowledge of the industrial sector create a distinct competitive advantage. M&M offers consultation, development support and project management, as well as the handling of complete projects.

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FDT in Classic-Mode: Point-to-Point guidance through Wizard



User

The ifm prover gmbh, an independant subsidiary of the ifm electronic gmbh, develops and produces Flow-, Pressure- and Temperature sensors for the Process engineering, which are applied in different industrial sectors – from the Food processing industry to the Machine tool industry.

The situation

For more than 10 years, the ifm electronic gmbh pursues the goal of replacing mechanical manometric switches in the mechanical engineering and the automation technology with electronic pressure sensors. To make the full function-spectrum of this innovation available to the customer, the sensors were equipped with more and more functions, which can be activated through an integrated LED-Display with keyboard control. A global control concept meanwhile stretches across almost all Flow-, Pressure-, Level- and Temperature sensors. Due to ifm's strong focus on the Process engineering technology, further requirements could no longer be integrated into the company's own Configuration tool. It was necessary to develop a new Configuration software to cater for these aspects. For ifm, the solution was the FDT-Standard which, by being a strategic platform, offers numerous

advantages to manufacturers and buyers of Automation components.

Solution

A new FDT-based Tool, a special User mode integrated into the fdtCONTAINER, was developed jointly with M&M. The customer can now benefit from the entire range of options offered by FDT – especially the readiness for integration in other FDT-Systems – and also enjoys the support from the M&M-developed Wizard.



This Wizard offers a distinct advantage to ifm and their customers: The customer can decide for himself, in which degree of complexity – Classic-Mode or FDT-Mode – he wants to work: The customer, who configures his device with a simple point-to-point connection, will not be confronted with a complex Network topology, but works in the familiar and simple device tool. The user in the Process engineering technology, on the other hand, who builds a network with multiple sensors, can use with the FDT-Mode the full FDT-functionality (FDT-Topology and Communication-DTM).

Conclusion

Both the sensor producer ifm and the ifm customer benefit from the

development of the new Wizard. The ifm-developers spend less time and face less problems with the realization of new function-modules, configurations can in future be executed fast and cost-effective with the help of Software functions. All ifm-products can gradually be integrated in one Platform and the ifm-customer can incorporate and administrate devices – also from different manufacturers – in one engineering system with the open Tool, which covers different manufacturers. The user-friendly features of the FDT-Standard also allow an easy handling of all necessary device parameters for the operating personnel, without them having to get acquainted with all kinds of different Software programs.

"With M&M Software, we have chosen a leader in technology with numerous FDT-References to prove."



Alfred Wagner
ifm prover