

iFIX New Features **VERSION 6.1**

Welcome to the newest version of iFIX! The features of iFIX 6.1 include:

OPC UA Client Driver

iFIX 6.1 includes support for an OPC Unified Architecture (UA) Client Driver. Use this driver to connect to an OPC UA Server and allow access to the data from that OPC UA Server in iFIX.

You can add and configure this driver in the same way you configure other drivers in iFIX. From the System Configuration Utility (SCU) in the SCADA Configuration dialog box (accessed by selecting SCADA > Configuration), add the OUA - OPC UA Client Driver v1.0 in the tool. After you add the driver, you can configure your server, groups, and driver tags using the new HTML5 Browser Based configuration tool.

New OPC UA Client Configuration Tool

iFIX 6.1 includes a powerful new HTML5 native web client that allows users to configure connection to OPC UA Server, browse for data sources, and automatically populate the iFIX database with new tags. Use of the tool will require you to enable security in iFIX.

The supported browsers for the OPC UA Client Configuration tool are Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, and Mozilla Firefox.

This tool contains the following tabs:

- **Server Configuration:** Here you specify the OPC UA Server name, endpoint URL, security mode (signing options), security policy (encryption type), and authentication settings (anonymous or a specified user).
- **Groups:** Lists groups added or associated with each server, and the publishing interval.
- **Driver Tags:** Lists any data points defined for this OPC UA Server, along with the node ID and group name.

After you configure your driver, you will need to restart iFIX for your changes to get applied.

NOTE: Be aware that iFIX self-signed certificates for OPC UA expire in 5 years by default. No warning message will appear when a certificate expires. When expired, you will not be able to make a connection in the OPC UA Client tool or view data coming from the iFIX OPC UA Server. You can regenerate your certificates after an expiration period using the steps described in the "Certificate Management" topic in the OPC UA Client Driver help.

For more information on using this tool, refer to the I/O Driver section of the iFIX e-book.

Alarm Limit Support for High Performance Dynamos

The High Performance (HP) HPLInearGauges Dynamos now include support for working with alarm operating limits. From the configuration screen for the HP Dynamo, there are two new options: Display Alarm Limits and Enable Smart Limits.

The Display Alarm Limits feature allows you to display labels for the defined alarm limits in run mode. The optional Enable Smart Limits feature allows you show only the alarm limits that you are approaching on the gauge. Smart Limits help if you have multiple of these Dynamos on screen. In this case, the Alarm Limits labels can crowd the picture and could possibly cause confusion. Smart labels provide the situational awareness with less clutter.

Be aware that if you are upgrading from a previous release, and want to upgrade the HPLInearGauges Dynamo in your picture, be sure to run the Dynamo Updater wizard on the picture to get the new updates.

For more information on using the High Performance Dynamos, refer to the Creating High Performance Pictures e-book.

Common Historian Server Configuration

iFIX 6.1 provides the ability to create a common Historian server configuration that can be used across multiple Windows user accounts. The common Historian server configuration is available in any session type including the: iClient, iClientTS, and Webspaces Client.

To enable this option in the iFIX WorkSpace, go to the Administration tab, click Configure Historian and then Configure Historian Server. Select the "Enable Historian aliases for all sessions" option. Close the dialog box to save your settings. Restart iFIX Workspace to apply your change.

For more information on configuring Historian servers for use in iFIX, search the iFIX documentation for the "Configuring GE Historian and iFIX" topic. For more information on using iFIX with Historian, see the Getting Started guide.

Auto-Login Support for Windows Users

This feature allows iFIX users (both native and Windows users) to automatically log in to iFIX. Previously this feature only applied to iFIX users not connected to Windows security. Now, in iFIX 6.1, you can use Windows domain security to log into iFIX and bypass the iFIX Login screen.

To configure auto-login in iFIX, use the Security Configuration tool. iFIX must be running to access this tool. From the Security Configuration program, on the Edit menu, select Auto Login. The Automatic Login Node dialog box appears. From here you can select the node you automatically want to log in and the user you want logged in. When the Windows user is selected, another dialog box appears requesting the password.

The current implementation only allows one user to be automatically logged in at a time. The auto-login information is stored in encrypted format on the iFIX node. Automatic Login will only work if you are logged onto the computer with the same Windows Domain user as you defined for the iFIX Auto Login feature. For information on auto-login, search the e-books for "Automatic Login" to view additional content.

New Experts for Alarm Shelving

Two new experts were added to the iFIX WorkSpace:

- Shelfe Alarm Expert
- Unshelve Alarm Expert

You can access these experts from the Experts toolbar in the iFIX WorkSpace, or the Multiple Command Script Wizard available in the Basic Animation dialog box, Key Macro Editor, or Scheduler.

Alarm Shelving is a feature in iFIX that allows you to temporarily suppress selected alarms from the active alarms list in the Alarm Summary object for a fixed period of time. For an overview on Alarm Shelving, search the e-books for "About Alarm Shelving" for help.

For a complete list of Experts available in iFIX, search the e-books for "Experts Summary" to display the list.

iFIX for IoT

iFIX Embedded is renamed iFIX for IoT and provides a new starter level system, providing a lower-level entry point with a full HMI/SCADA run-time experience. iFIX for IOT will run only on either Windows 7 Embedded or Windows operating systems released under the Long Term Service Channel. Use of iFIX for IOT is further restricted by your End User License Agreement (EULA), please see your EULA for details.

Upgraded Windows Support

iFIX 6.1 includes support for the following new Windows operating systems:

- Microsoft® Windows® 10 IoT Enterprise Edition.
- Microsoft® Windows® Server 2019.

For a complete list of all supported operating systems, refer to the System Requirements tab.

Additional Configuration Settings Available through OPCAConfig.ini

The iFIX OPC A&E Server includes new settings (DisableStartupAlarms, WhenToSysAck, and LogLevel) that can be enabled through the OPCAConfig.in file in the iFIX LOCAL folder. These settings provide assistance in alarm startup, system acknowledgements, and troubleshooting for the OPC A&E Server. The settings configured in the OPCAConfig.in file are not included in the UI, and only can be set through this .INI file. The iFIX OPC A&E Server must be restarted after changing any of these settings.

Search the iFIX documentation for the “Configuration Available through the OPCAConfig.ini” topic for more information.

Updates to FIXVBA

The iFIX Automation References includes the following method updates. These changes implement a better naming conventions for the specified methods. Old method references will continue to work unchanged.

- GetStatusColor Method has been deprecated and replaced with GetAlarmForegroundColor Method.
- SetStatusColor Method has been deprecated and replaced with SetAlarmForegroundColor Method.
- GetPriorityColor Method has been deprecated and replaced with GetAlarmBackgroundColor Method.
- SetPriorityColor Method has been deprecated and replaced with SetAlarmBackgroundColor Method.

For more information, refer to the iFIX Automation Reference e-book.

Updated Third-party Applications

The following applications were updated to support the iFIX 6.1 release:

- iFIX Productivity Tools from Catapult (included on the iFIX install media). Includes updates to support the latest version of iFIX.
- Dream Report 5.0.
- Win911 version 3.18.18.
- Industrial Gateway Server (IGS) 7.66. Includes support for all the latest driver fixes.

Support for Recently Updated GE Products

iFIX 6.1 includes support for the following recently updated GE products:

- Weospace 6.0.
- Historian 8.0.
- Plant Applications 8.0.

For a complete list of products and versions tested to work with the iFIX 6.1 product, go to the System Requirements tab and scroll to the Compatibility with Other GE Products section.

More information:

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