



The EIB bus applied to Progea's headquarters.

Use of domotic technologies has allowed Progea's headquarters to take on the role of "Live Demo", using the EIB bus and Scada supervision which, naturally, is Movicon.

As is now well known, Progea Srl produces software platforms for industrial automation purposes. Core-product of the company is Movicon, a Scada/HMI platform widely used by enterprises that deal with automation in both Italy and abroad. Due to its on-going growth and development, Progea was faced with having to move to larger headquarters and therefore decided to purchase new offices in Via S. Anna 88, Modena, able to host all the activities carried out by the group, such as R & D, Assistance, Training, Production, Marketing and Resource Management. This office area triplicates that

of the previous seat.

From a technological aspect, Progea's entire technical staff was involved in the project of the new headquarters and a specific technique was set up to identify the primary needs of the company. The management's intention was to apply a monitoring system for the technological users by means of a bus-bar system. The aim was to both rationalize consumptions, and to use the bus-bar system as "live demo" of how Progea's actual products can be used to advantage in the Building Automation sector. The plan was to apply Progea's Scada Movicon system directly

the PC. When a switch goes OFF (or ON), the variation is transmitted to the PC. This technique does away with traffic in the network due to continuous requests from the PC for these values, with the added advantage of instantaneous signalling. Since signals are only transmitted to the PC the moment in which a variation occurs, the signal loss that would occur if the PC were off or disconnected at that moment can also be avoided by using the polling mode. This technique allows the signal to be transmitted in a spontaneous way at regular intervals, every minute or half-minute for example. The communication driver allows one mode or the other, or both to be selected.

Supervision

The Movicon supervisor is installed in one of the company's servers, in redundant configuration. Supervision is interfaced with the bus-bar through the serial converter handled by the dedicated EIB driver with which Movicon is equipped.

A client station based on touch screen PCs in the Reception area, thus easily accessible to all, is connected to the server via the company TCP-IP network. This is the operating station that can be consulted by the staff members, that handles the accesses and general operations. The TCP-IP network allows the PC in each office to link to the server through Movicon Web Client technology, thanks to which each Progea employee can access the control synoptic of his office using the browser, thus governing the users of his station by remaining comfortably seated at his computer. The architecture of the system is illustrated in the figure.

Use of the supervisor

Although it is independent, the system can be governed entirely through the PCs. On access, the staff members register and the supervisor enables the office users (Lights and

Ventilator) of the person in question. The operating controls can be enabled by the switches on the bus-bar (according to the conventional method), the centralized supervisor and from the employees station via Movicon Web Client. Each command requires a password.

The lights in the corridors and stairways can also be controlled by presence detector sensors, also nodes of the bus-bar. Sensors are also used to handle the security functions thanks to the potential and functional logic of Movicon.

Thanks to access management, personnel attendance can be monitored to verify the presence of staff members in the office and register their accesses by means of the supervisor system.

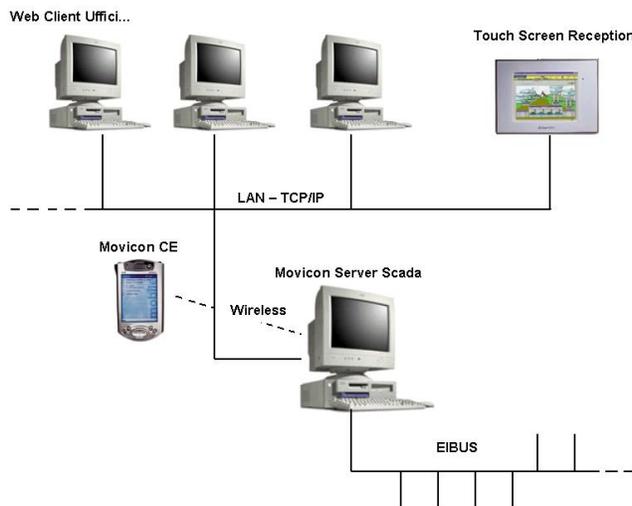
Dusk sensors establish the effective need to



Thanks to Web Client technology, each staff member can control his users from his own office with the browser when sitting comfortably in front of his PC.

use the lights in common areas. Temperature sensors optimize the temperature degree in the offices and rationalize consumptions, also plotting the historic temperature trends.

Other types of automation have been added to handle the user “scenarios”. For example, before beginning presentations in the Conference Hall with the use of a film projector, the operator can recall the preset scenario via the PC with a key after which the supervisor will enable the bus-bar to activate the driven screen and will set the most suitable degree of luminosity for the subdued lights.



Security

Progea chose to have the security system controlled by the Movicon supervisor. An automatic logic arms the system when there are no longer any staff members in the offices. However, the system can also be activated in the manual mode or to suit a time-table. Presence detecting sensors activate the alarm both locally and via the SMS and Voice functions handled directly by Movicon. The Voice function handles the TTS (Text-to-speech) and dials the numbers of the people to warn, vocally synthesizing the alarm text until the user presses the “#” key to silence it. Use of Progea’s Scada Wap product allows

the users to be activated and the functional parameters to be modified by remote control, using a Wap cell phone.

Alarm management

Boiler, Chiller unit and UTA (Air Treatment Unit) are all monitored by the supervisor. Faults are promptly signalled, allowing them to be quickly identified and reducing inefficiency to the minimum. Activation of the electrical protections is also kept under control. This achieves efficient plant diagnosis and improves maintenance, also thanks to historic recording of the events and statistical analysis.

The future

Progea is planning to expand the system by applying web-cams to the TCP-IP, that Movicon can directly control in order to monitor the external areas and the main entrance. The access monitoring system will be simplified thanks to use of a biometric device (digital fingerprints), thus reducing the LogOn time without anything having to be digitized. Moreover, Progea also forecasts wireless access to the users using hand-held PocketPCs, again thanks to use of Movicon CE.

Conclusion:

The management’s declared intention is to illustrate the potential and simplicity of the software products it produces to customers in the office. Movicon, Web Client and Wap Scada are connected to the EIB bus-bar so as to apply the best technologies to the building, improving comfort, rationalizing consumptions and creating a big dynamic workshop to demonstrate how an avant-garde company like Progea intends to place its wealth of know-how at the customers’ disposal.

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