Intelligent Device Management Road Show Highlights EDDL

Although EDDL has made control systems and handhelds work since 1990, it has been functioning anonymously in the background of device tools for HART, FF, and PROFIBUS. Although the technology plays a key role in all process automation systems, it is largely unknown. Very significant enhancements were made in 2006 that adds great value to users for diagnostics, setup, and calibration. To create awareness of these benefits and to correct some of the misinformation that is being spread, a road show was launched in Asia Pacific with the title "EDDL - Unleashing the Power in Your Devices".

Four locations were included in this tour in July 2007: Singapore, Taipei, MaiLiao, and Kuantan. The seminar in Singapore was organized by the local ISA chapter.

Intelligent device management

To provide easily indefinable value to the participants, the first topic of the half-day seminar was intelligent device management explaining how different protocols are integrated, different system architectures and tools, as well as comparison between preventive and predictive maintenance. Main focus was on savings from predictive maintenance practices can be achieved in terms of faster plant commissioning, lower cost of maintenance & operation, greater plant availability, higher product quality, higher plant performance, lower cost of regulatory compliance, and less training required.

Basic demo

The first part of the demo highlighted basic functionality such as integrating multiple fieldbus protocols in the same tool. Devices using HART, FF, PROFIBUS-DP, and PROFIBUS-PA were shown. Interoperability between software and devices from different manufacturers were also demoed. Four different hosts using enhanced EDDL were used: intelligent device management software from Emerson Process Management and Siemens, laptop tool from HART. Device vendors include Emerson, Siemens, Endress+Hauser, SMAR, Samson, M-system, and Mettler-Toledo. Device types shown include everything from simple temperature and pressure transmitters to sophisticated devices such as valve positioners, variable speed drives, machinery health monitors, and radar level transmitters.

Participants had the opportunity to see how this great variety of devices using different protocols, from different manufactures, of different kinds, are consistently display to the technicians making the tools easy to use. Demo also included various kinds of diagnostics from simple over-range in temperature transmitters to failures in centrifugal pumps and the actionable information and help that are provided as user guidance. Other device management functionality supported for all devices was displayed and include audit trail (change log), reconciliation (comparison), printing, access to device documents such as manuals and procedures as well as plant location documents such as installation photos and drawings plus the ability for the technician to enter notes for the tag.

Several new enhancements were shown such as the ability for the device manufacturer to neatly organize the information in the device on tabs and in frames according to their use as well as including images illustrating wiring, block diagrams, or the device itself well as gauges and bar-graphs for process variables and strip-charts for trending.

The operating system independence of EDDL, in addition to being unaffected by Windows versions and service packs, was highlighted in the demo of the handheld field communicator and the embedded web server in the fieldbus gateway device.

During the break the users had a chance to come up front to look at devices and software

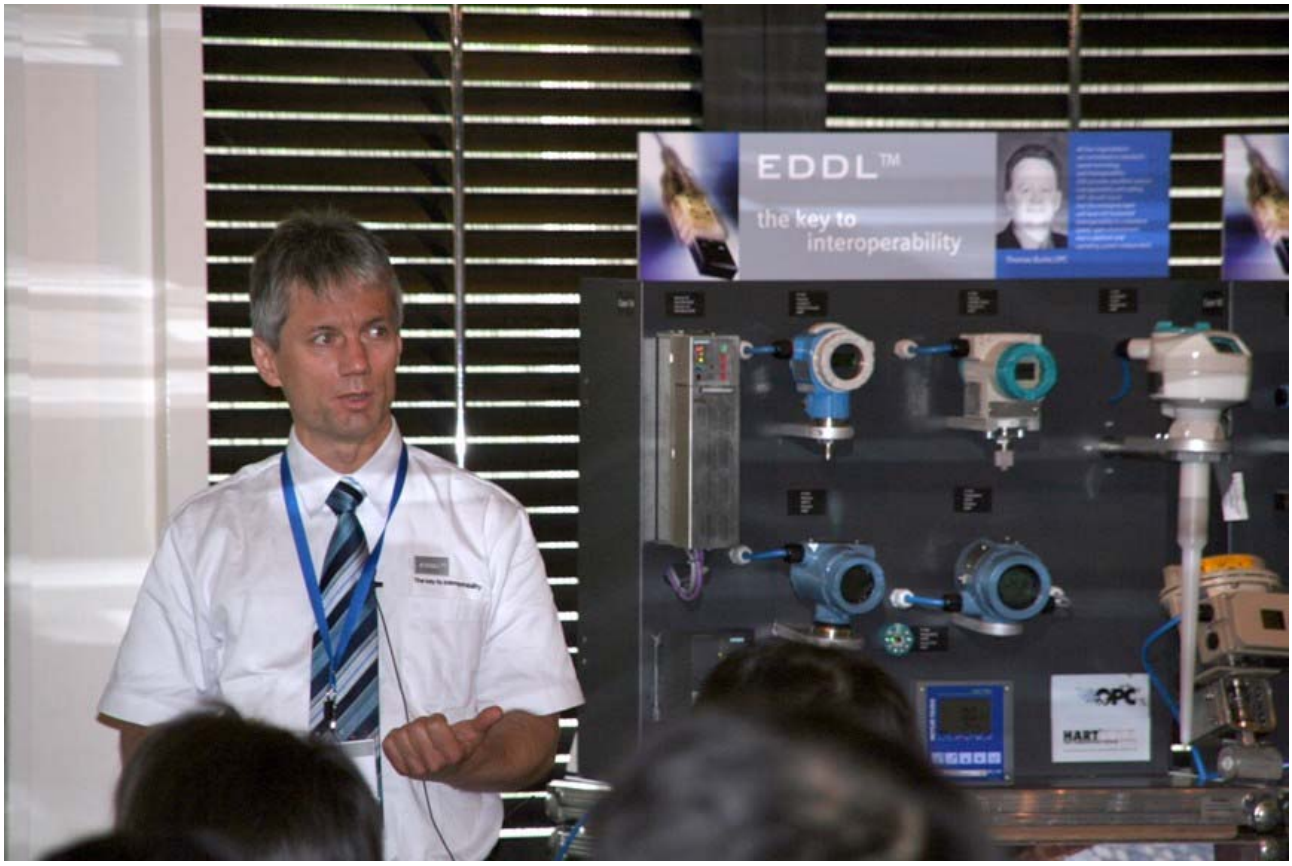
EDDL overview

The second part of the training uses course material on EDDL developed by ISA. It starts with history, benefits for technicians and plant owners, and lastly explain the HTML-like characteristics of the EDDL technology that makes a better long-term solution since it is not affected by upgrade or changes in operating systems, more secure since it is not executable, and more robust since it does not involve procedure calls between applications from different vendors. A great deal of importance was put on the management and administration of the device management software itself. That is, not just the importance of being able to setup, calibrate, and diagnose devices, but also the importance of being able to easily keep the system up to date as new device types and new device versions keep being introduced to the plant

during its long life. This is the main differentiator for EDDL and it jives very well with user requirements such as those in NAMUR NE 105.

Advanced demo

The second part of the demo focused on full support of more sophisticated devices and how EDDL with enhancements make it easier for the technician to work with devices than ever before. For example, the display of captured waveforms such as the echo curve in radar level transmitters, the ability to filter false echoes, and table grids for tank strapping information. Other examples shown include a setup wizard for variable speed drives which takes an unskilled user step-by-step through the configuration of a complex device. Lastly, also wizards for calibration trim. Version management and how new device types and versions can be added without having to uninstall and install software on running systems, simply by copying files.



Other device management functionality displayed included the Device Library, that is, the catalogue of manufacturers, devices, and their different versions.

After the seminar the users had a chance to come up front to look at devices and software

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