



Designed for Success

Results

- Improved plant productivity through significant time savings and optimized device management
- Major cost savings with easy upgrade path
- Faster data delivery
- Highly reliable performance
- Increased safety
- Faster and easier system for operators to use
- Flexible, open solution
- Outstanding support

"GE Fanuc offers an evolutionary upgrade path, which has allowed us to move to a more advanced, full-featured solution without the huge cost of investing in an entirely new system."

Electrical Engineer
Major Brewing Company

GE Fanuc's Change Management Solution On Tap at Major Brewing Company

Producing millions of barrels of beer each year for one of America's largest brewing companies requires a unique blend of experience and fast, reliable and repeatable processes. This major brewing company can raise its glass to its seasoned staff – some of whom have worked there for two or more decades – for exceptional knowledge in the art of making award-winning beer. And, by relying on change management solutions from GE Fanuc Automation, a unit of GE Infrastructure, the team at this brewing company can ensure that each sip of beer leaving its plant tastes just as good as the one before it.

Another round of automation software

Due to increased production demands, one of the company's facilities recently upgraded its automation capabilities. This location brews 20 different brands of beer, and managing the many databases on the plant's PLC network is no "lite" task. Looking for a faster, better way to move information throughout the plant, an efficient method of managing a greater number of projects, and

faced with operating and managing nearly twice as many PLCs, electrical engineers at this facility were looking for the openness, flexibility and speed of an Ethernet-based network—and for a software management solution that could handle the new automation demands.

After reviewing solutions from several manufacturers, engineers chose Proficy Change Management from GE Fanuc Automation. This solution has helped to save time, increase safety and improve operator ease of use.



Serving up the benefits

Proficy Change Management, part of GE Fanuc's Windows®-based Proficy Intelligent Production Solutions software, is designed to simplify and optimize application and device management in plants and factories. The software provides all of the tools necessary for tracking and coordinating changes. As a client/server system, it offers version control, audit trails, security, scheduling, and reporting capabilities that streamline operations and help companies meet audit compliancy and other regulations with ease.

At this facility, a Proficy Change Management server transmits the PLC programs to clients via Ethernet. This triggers the system to deliver the programs to the PLCs via ModBus. Within the next year, all networking is scheduled to be done over Ethernet, providing even faster data transfer and enabling greater process integration. For now, though, engineers are pleased with the performance they are getting from the newly upgraded system—and particularly from Proficy Change Management. Since the software automatically backs up all PLC programs, workers save a lot of time—and are spared a lot of tedium—and they are free to do other, more productive tasks.

"The Scheduler feature is the heart and soul of our PLC program management application," comments one engineer. He also cites the software's version control capabilities as being highly valuable in this application. By comparing all existing databases and loading only the version that is most up to date, Proficy Change Management helps increase worker safety, production speed and process reliability.

In addition to managing PLC databases, Proficy Change Management manages the plant's process control application, HMI programs, Excel spreadsheets and some machine controls, such as VFD settings. Engineers have been impressed with the software's versatility and reliability—but not surprised.

"We expected and received an outstanding level of performance and support on Proficy and GE Fanuc," an engineer explains, adding that he expects it will continue even as this plant continues upgrading its automation and moving toward an entirely Ethernet-based infrastructure.

"GE Fanuc offers an evolutionary upgrade path, which has allowed us to move to a more advanced, full-featured solution without the huge cost of investing in an entirely new system," the engineer notes.

Now that's something any manufacturer could drink to.



Put Proficy Change Management on Tap at Your Plant!

Just like this major brewing company, consistency and control may be crucial elements of your success. Your ability to maximize productivity while minimizing operational costs will often determine whether or not your business can survive in today's highly competitive and tightly regulated environment. Proficy Change Management is a powerful solution for managing your automation systems and protecting your software and engineering investments. You, too, can use Proficy Change Management to put the following benefits on tap at your plant:

Increased Plant Uptime

- Provides immediate, reliable disaster recovery
- Ensures that backups are always available when needed
- Prevents or significantly reduces user errors
- Ensures that the latest data is always available during recovery

Improved Engineering Processes

- Provides a common methodology for accessing device files and other plant information
- Maintains consistency between multiple facilities
- Helps enforce Good Manufacturing Practices throughout your organization
- Facilitates teamwork and collaboration

Reduced Costs of Engineering and Maintenance

- Provides ongoing control over a large number of device and software programs in a multi-user environment
- Lowers costs by automating tasks (i.e., scheduling)
- Reduces equipment failure and related maintenance costs
- Remains compatible with a large array of complementary hardware and software offerings
- Reduces maintenance costs by backing up your system automatically

Improved Safety, Security and Regulatory Compliance

- Prevents errors by automating critical manufacturing functions at the configuration level
- Controls access to your operation to ensure consistency and security
- Prevents and detects unauthorized changes and access requests
- Supports Electronic Signaturing required to meet the FDA's 21 CFR Part 11 regulation
- Controls and monitors access to projects and devices
- Automatically tracks significant events throughout your operation

Protection of Key Information Assets

- Client/Server based system
- Stores all critical information on the server and deployed to clients as needed
- Facilitates plant device backups
- Keeps historical revisions of program and device changes
- Automatically provides and maintains version numbering
- Easily restores previous versions
- Provides version labeling for custom naming or numbering
- Controls and safeguards the checkout process

Increased Flexibility

- System works with the entire plant regardless of networking structure
- Adapts to work on existing infrastructure
- Provides customizable HTML interface for ease of use and flexibility to support multiple languages and end user requirements
- Connects quickly and easily to other systems
- Full integration available with our full suite of products, including powerful Intelligent Production Solutions applications such as Proficy Historian and Proficy Real-Time Information Portal
- Scripting engine leverages visual basic script
- Allows for easy modification of standard functions
- Provides added support for new software and devices
- Customizes order of operations

GE Fanuc Automation Information Centers

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Additional Resources

For more information, please visit the GE Fanuc web site at:

www.gefanuc.com

