What's New in Release 1.80

The InteractX version 1.80 Networking Release is a no charge update to the current version of InteractX. The update includes an updated version of InteractX Designer, InteractX Runtime, MachineShop Suite and the runtime Deployment Server. The following is a list of the new features, enhancements, and fixes included in the InteractX Networking release.

InteractX to InteractX TCP/IP Networking – allows real-time data exchange between two or more InteractX runtime systems. You can address local tags or remote InteractX runtime tags. You can also address local tags using remote virtual PLC addressing. Virtual PLC Addressing allows you to address data in a device attached to the remote InteractX runtime, without having to predefine a tag on the remote system. The remote InteractX runtime will create the tag dynamically and return the data automatically.

Networked OPC Server/Client Support – allows for the InteractX Tag Editor to browse and attach to tags in the OPC Server running on a separate networked PC. OPC Clients running on the same or on a separate networked PC can now browse and attach to InteractX tags. Networked OPC functionality requires DCOM (Distributed COM). InteractX implements a simple non-secure DCOM configuration by default to allow for easy setup. InteractX also supports fully secure DCOM connections.

Interact Application Conversion Utility – coverts an Interact 6.10 application to an InteractX application. The conversion utility is available when you insert a new application into a Parker MachineShop Suite project.

OPC Tag Browsing – new support for browsing local and remote OPC Servers for tags. When tags are selected, InteractX tag address references are automatically created.

Enhanced Tag Address Validation – an additional Tag Editor address validation indicator has been added to the Tag Editor to indicate when a 3rd party OPC Server cannot validate a tag.

Electronic Licensing Support – allows a customer to automatically license a system with a live Internet connection eliminating the need to enter Hardware and Enable Codes. A new Electronic Licensing Wizard automatically guides you through enabling a license.

Reduced Deployment Footprint – allows InteractX program files to be updated on limited space Compact Flash systems. Requires the use of the updated Deployment Server and Parker MachineShop Suite.

Application Transfer Option – new MachineShop Suite transfer option to copy Application Files directly to a Compact Flash or drive letter. This transfer option can be used to transfer an application to an external (Application Storage) Compact Flash in one easy step.

PX PowerStation Pre-Licensing – All PX PowerStations will be pre-licensed before shipping from the factory. PX PowerStations will be 'ready to run' out of the box.

Performance Enhancements –Several performance enhancements have been implemented in the release. Some of the improvements included:

    Language Change – The time required to switch languages in runtime has been reduced.

    Multi-State Indicators and Panel Updates – When using Discrete Indicators with more than two states assigned to them, your application may have experienced slower overall runtime application performance in version 1.70. This has been fixed in version 1.80.

    Maintained Push Buttons and Panel Loading – When using Button Tools configured as a Maintained Push Button, delays in loading panels may have been experienced. This has been fixed in version 1.80.

    Grouped Objects and Panel Loading – Performance optimization for animated graphic objects within groups of objects has been added in the 1.80 release.

    Project File Bundling Time – The time required to bundle files for project Transfers has reduced.

    Accessing Deployment Server System Information Tab – Accessing the System Information Tab may cause a timeout condition causing a delay in viewing the PC's information. This has been fixed in the 1.80 release.

ActiveX Support – Two new additional ActiveX tools were tested with this release and were approved for use with InteractX:

- Windows Media Player Version 9.0
- Microsoft Excel Viewer

Runtime Deployment Server Updates – The following updates have been made

- Easy Touchscreen Support – Allows the selection of the Deployment Server setting and properties by a single or double touch (equivalent to a left mouse click).
- Reduced Footprint Deployment – Allows larger projects and program files to be deployed to a Compact Flash system which will take up less space.
- Addition of a System Information Tab.

Embedded NT Updates

    Updated InteractX and Deployment Server Software – updated versions included in the default images. Updated Deployment Server required for reduced footprint deployment.

    New Embedded NT FlashBack Utility – allows a Compact Flash to be recovered in the field. Addresses flash issues when they are formatted as "non-fixed" drives. Allows customer to create a custom Embedded NT recovery image.

    Multi-Language Support -– The default image ships with basic language support. Language Installation files are now included with the Embedded NT Recovery CD to install the desired language.

    DCOM added to standard ENT image – Basic DCOM configuration is included. No special DCOM configuration is needed to use the new Networking OPC Client/Server capabilities. If secure connections are required, DCOM configuration is required.

InteractX Startup Patch Fix – the DOS batch file that runs at startup is no longer needed.

COMM Server and Communication Drivers Additions and Updates

New Connectivity

WAGO 750 Ethernet TCP/IP I/O Driver
   All new driver that supports the following:
   - Up to 64 I/O modules per device can be addressed
   - Covers all I/O Modules supported in the 750 family
   - Supports Digital and Analog I/O

Siemens TCP/IP Ethernet Driver – Added support for the S7-200 PLC

Automation Direct Ethernet, K-Sequence and DirectNet Drivers –Added support for DL-05, DL-06, and DL-260 PLCs

Modbus Serial Driver – Added option to support special addressing format for the Daniel S500 Flow meter

Fixes and Updates

COMM Server – Fixed InteractX connection to the COMM Server where InteractX could not connect to it on some system.

Allen-Bradley ControlLogix – Fixed bit addressing for non-BITARRAY elements (i.e. DINTARRAY[0]). Symptoms: Tags would be deactivated and error posted: "Datatype 'Boolean' is illegal for this tag."

Allen-Bradley Ethernet – enhancements and fixes include the following.
- Fixed issue when writing a value to a tag while a pending update is taking place.
- The driver was updated to reduce the chance of getting networking errors due to receiving old packets from the PLC.
- Enhanced driver to reduce occurrences of "Device not responding" error messages in noisy environments.

Mitsubishi Ethernet – Added string support.

Modbus Ethernet – The following enhancements and fixes are included.
- Enhanced Slave mode with an initial memory map allocation feature.
- Fixed issue with writes to output coils. When writing a 1 to an output coil that already has a value of 1, a value of 0 will display until the next read is complete. This is a read only error as the correct data was sent to the device.

Omron Host Link – Added open addressing model.

Siemens 3964R – Fixed help topic link for "String Options" device property

Siemens Simatic 505 Serial – Added support for word arrays with up to 100 words per array.

User Configurable Driver – The following enhancements and fixes are included.
- Fixed modem connection.
- Enhanced optimization for unsolicited tag update rate.
- Enhanced tag updates for block tags in solicited mode, and for all tags in unsolicited mode.
- Fixed initialization of fixed length strings and variable length stings.