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MGE UPS SYSTEMS Uses CEView to Improve System and Application Management Processes

Using InduSoft's CEView, MGE Enhances GUI and Builds Even More Flexibility and Reliability into Their Applications

MGE UPS SYSTEMS is a leading provider of products and services designed to deliver uninterrupted, high-quality power to mission-critical applications and processes for computer, industrial, Internet, and telecommunication industries worldwide.

MGE in the United States is using the InduSoft CEView™ application to build a powerful, flexible, and user-friendly interface for their UPS systems. In addition, MGE is using CEView to facilitate their ability to monitor these UPS systems from the Web.

Improving the Existing Offering

MGE currently provides a smaller, monochrome, alphanumeric LCD interface on its 225-500 kVA range. While this interface displays all the essential information, many data center operators are required to quickly understand the operation of countless pieces of equipment. Ideally, data and operating instructions should be presented in a format that most operators can understand "at a glance."

When MGE UPS SYSTEMS contacted InduSoft about using the CEView product, the goal was to create a user-friendly, flexible, reusable, and reliable interface to eliminate wasted time and human error during the system and application management processes.

Finding a User-Friendly Solution

MGE used InduSoft CEView's object-oriented screen editor to create a new and intuitive graphical interface for their UPS units (with almost no direct help from InduSoft). CEView's modular structure enabled MGE to create a standard application with a common, easy-to-read graphical user interface (*GUI*). MGE can further customize and reuse this basic application to suit the needs of any project — simply by adding new screens or scripts.

When MGE connects their UPS units running CEView to a network (Internet, intranet, and dial-up connections), the units can provide information to a Web Thin Client station (a computer with only an Internet Browser installed). This capability enables authorized operators with a network connection to access detailed, easy-to-read status information about their systems or specific objects. These operators can receive data from and send commands to the system through most Internet Browsers.

Also, a built-in alarm task enables the operator to view, monitor, and acknowledge active and normalized alarms from any screen. UPS units running CEView can send email messages (based on events such as alarm conditions) using standard SMTP (*Simple Message Transfer Protocol*) to designated users, who can read (and respond to) these emails from any email client program, including designated cell phones and PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants).

The MGE Data Center uses the new-format interface and applications to view critical parameters online, log and maintain a history of alarms, view system voltage (current and power), provide history data for CEP analyses, and to provide technical support.

Software and Hardware

The MGE/InduSoft solution is an open-architecture, modular system providing TCP/IP and OPC client/server modules, communication drivers in several different protocols (popular in most industrial environments), and an object-oriented graphical user interface.

The TCP/IP client/server modules allow two or more units running CEView to connect and exchange data through a TCP/IP network. For example, UPS units can use one HMI for a PMM system (where the device reads data directly from a PMM system using a Modbus driver) and another HMI for an STS system (where the device reads data directly from an STS system using a Modbus driver). After networking the two units (through Ethernet for example), operators can monitor information from both systems and from either one of the HMIs.

The OPC client/server modules allow MGE units to exchange data directly with other third-party systems providing OPC connectivity (such as WonderWare's InTouch® and USDATA's FactoryLink®).

In addition, MGE units running CEView can use the communication drivers provided (such as Modbus RTU or ASCII, Master or Slave, or DeviceNet) to read data from different devices simultaneously. And, thanks to CEView's open architecture, MGE can use add-on toolkits to create new communication drivers or create new interfaces to access CEView's tag database.

Success

Though it is difficult to quantify savings at this point, MGE UPS SYSTEMS (United States) reports that using InduSoft's CEView application to update their interface and build applications makes their systems more reliable, flexible, and "exceptionally easy to use because it [*CEView*] makes the data available in a clear format."

The new graphical user interface (GUI) features a large, high-contrast TFT LCD touch screen with features such as animated mimic diagrams, alarm event logs, trending, component-level status, and more. Operators can quickly understand and navigate through screens to determine system-level information on their multi-module systems or drill down for more specific information about modules and components on the system.

"One of the key reasons we selected your software, is its ability to provide the flexibility [needed] to customize our embedded systems." MGE can retrofit their new GUI solution into existing systems, such as EPS 6000 modules. MGE engineers simply evaluate existing systems to determine the need for cabling or electrical work, and then retrofit the GUI with minimal system disturbance.

Using CEView reduces operator errors and "in critical situations, provides reliable information needed to fix the error condition," which saves MGE UPS SYSTEMS both *time* and *money*.