

OPC SERVER FOR VMware®

Standardization for Industrial Automation

Stratus is leveraging the OPC standard for Industrial Automation to ensure that Stratus ftServers® running on VMware become an integral part of the entire Industrial Automation infrastructure to further extend interoperability with other business critical applications.

The Stratus OPC Server presents the Stratus ftServer as a managed device within the HMI (Human Machine Interface). It assists with operational simplicity by giving production operations and maintenance personnel 'up to the minute' status and health information of their industrial application servers—right through their normal operational screens and software applications.

The unique fault-tolerant architecture of the ftServer means that automation technicians and engineers will always know the status of the ftServer, even in the event of a failure.

The Stratus OPC Server runs as part of the standard ftServer management appliance virtual machine in the VMware environment. It supports the most current Unified Architecture (UA) standard for OPC which is more secure and offers higher performance than OPC DA or Classic. For environments with an HMI that requires OPC DA or Classic, the ftServer OPC package includes a proxy server that will convert from UA to DA.

Components and Functionality

The Stratus OPC package consists of two components—the OPC Server and the OPC Proxy software.

OPC UA Server Component

The OPC Server resides within the management appliance and is installed on each ftServer that needs to be monitored. It provides healthy/unhealthy state notification for each ftServer. The OPC Server uses minimal ftServer CPU and memory resources. The health of the ftServer is calculated based on the state of CPUs, IOs and sensors which are checked at one

Key Benefits

- A simple, intuitive view of the Stratus ftServer as an always-on device within an Industrial Automation environment
- The ability to drill-down from overall server state to status of individual components via a link to the Stratus management console
- Support for both OPC UA and OPC DA or Classic

About OPC

OPC is the interoperability standard for the secure and reliable exchange of data across a variety of platforms in the Industrial Automation space. It is platform independent and ensures the seamless flow of information among devices from multiple vendors. OPC is the most adopted data/information integration standard in the Industrial Automation marketplace and is supported by every popular HMI software, control system and industrial automation software package. The OPC Foundation has responsibility for the maintenance and continued development of the standard.

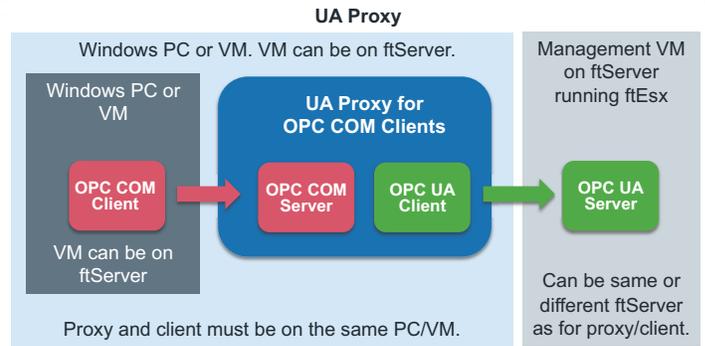
minute intervals. Any change in state becomes known to the OPC Server within one minute. An unhealthy status would be indicated if something causes the ftServer to failover from its active component to the backup. This could be caused by a failed component, a disk failure, or any one of the several hundred diagnostics that are continually running that trigger the switch. The failover is transparent to the applications on the ftServer and they continue to operate with no downtime and no loss of data. And by selecting a user-configured HMI link to the specific ftServer maintenance console, the operator can drill down to view more details on diagnostic results and internal ftServer failures.



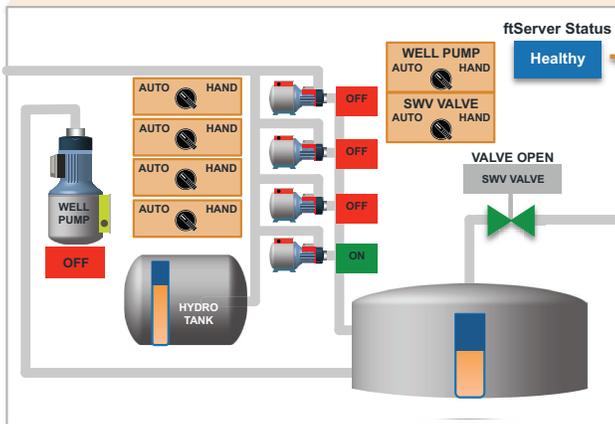
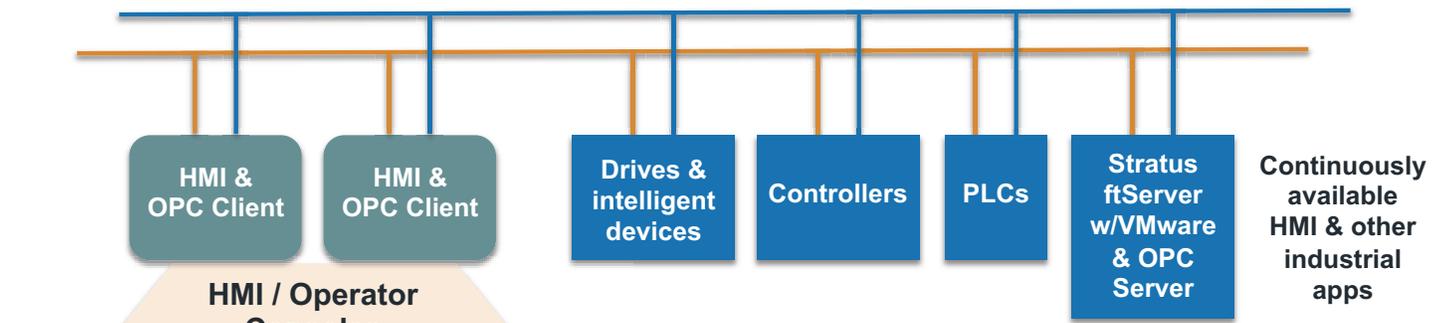
The Stratus OPC Server supports the Data Access specification only. Some clients support the creation of their own custom events/alerts based on server-provided data. Such events/automation are provided by the operator.

OPC UA Proxy Software Component

If the HMI is using OPC DA or Classic, an additional component—the UA Proxy software—is required. The software needs to be installed on the same Microsoft® Windows® system that the client resides on and needs to be configured to connect to the ftServer’s OPC Server. The same proxy can be configured for multiple ftServer OPC Servers.

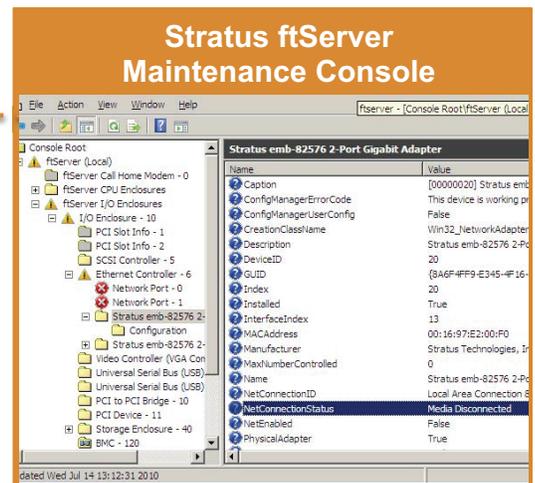


Automation System Network



HMI / Screen shot

Drill down into Stratus ftServer maintenance console



Screen shot

Operational Simplicity for Production Operations & Maintenance



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