

Bristol® Virtual ControlWave®

Distributed Control on a SCADA Platform

The Bristol® Virtual ControlWave®, from Emerson Process Management, introduces the power of the ControlWave product line to the Bristol OpenEnterprise Server, even for those users who don't currently have ControlWave hardware. It brings the power of a traditional Distributed Control System (DCS) to OpenEnterprise without sacrificing the field hardware independence and Open Architecture that OpenEnterprise already provides.

Available as an option for OpenEnterprise Servers, it provides very similar functionality to our standard range of ControlWave RTUs, but runs on industry standard PC hardware.

Instead of traditional hardware I/O, the Virtual ControlWave can access any real-time data held within the OpenEnterprise database – data which can be sourced from anywhere within the SCADA network.

Industry Standard Programming Environment

Like a traditional intelligent RTU or PLC, a program ('load') must be developed for it. This is done using ControlWave Designer – the same development tools used for the ControlWave line of RTUs.

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Hardware & Protocol Independent

The Virtual ControlWave can read and write both 'local' data, or can read/write 'field data' to any devices connected to the OpenEnterprise Server. The devices need not be Emerson hardware, and need not even be of the same type, or support the same communications protocols. This makes the Virtual ControlWave ideal for constructing distributed control applications with mixed hardware and protocols – while hiding the details from the applications programmer. Another possibility is the use of Virtual ControlWave with legacy hardware during the migration to a ControlWave based system. The same control algorithms developed for the newer devices can be used with the installed legacy equipment, reducing the effort and risk associated with a system replacement.

As the Virtual ControlWave has access to real field data, it can also be used for testing real application loads, before download to field RTUs, but using real field data – something that's not possible in the ControlWave Designer Simulator. Some typical applications for the Virtual ControlWave are

- Distributed Control & Supervisory Control
- Flow or Storage Totalization
- Line Packs
- Leak Detection
- Calculations based on LIMS data
- Application Testing (before download to a real ControlWave)

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