



Technology Training that Works

Practical Troubleshooting of Data Acquisition & SCADA Systems

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Definition of data acquisition and control	1
1.2	Fundamentals of data acquisition	2
1.3	Data acquisition and control system configuration	6
2	Analog and Digital Signals	13
2.1	Classification of signals	13
2.2	Sensors and transducers	17
2.3	Transducer characteristics	17
2.4	Resistance temperature detectors (RTDs)	19
2.5	Thermistors	22
2.6	Thermocouples	23
2.7	Strain gauges	28
2.8	Wheatstone Bridges	29
3	Signal Conditioning	37
3.1	Introduction	37
3.2	Types of signal conditioning	38
3.3	Classes of signal conditioning	45
3.4	Field wiring and signal measurement	49
3.5	Noise and interference	57
3.6	Minimizing noise	63
3.7	Shielded and twisted-pair cable	66
4	The PC for real time work	69
4.1	Operating systems	69
4.2	Operation of interrupts	74
4.3	Operation of direct memory access (DMA)	79
4.4	Repeat string instructions (REP INSW)	85
4.5	Polled data transfer	86
4.6	Data transfer speed (polled I/O, interrupt I/O, DMA)	98
4.7	Memory	99
4.8	Expansion bus standards (ISA, EISA, PCI and PXI bus)	102
4.9	Serial communications	114
4.10	Interfacing techniques to the IBM PC	115



Technology Training that Works

5	Plug-in data acquisition boards	121
5.1	Introduction	121
5.2	A/D boards	122
5.3	Single ended vs differential signals	140
5.4	Resolutions, dynamic range, and accuracy of A/D boards	144
5.5	Sampling rate and the Nyquist theorem	155
5.6	Sampling techniques	153
5.7	Speed vs throughput	158
5.8	D/A boards	159
5.9	Digital I/O boards	166
5.10	Interfacing digital inputs/outputs	168
5.11	Counter/timer I/O boards	172
6	Serial data communications	179
6.1	Definitions and basic principles	179
6.2	RS-232-C interface standard	185
6.3	RS-485 interface standard	194
6.4	Comparison of the RS-232 and RS-485 standards	196
6.5	The 20 mA current loop	197
6.6	Serial interface converters	197
6.7	Protocols	198
6.8	Error detection	201
6.9	Trouble shooting & testing serial data communication circuits	203
7	Distributed and stand-alone loggers/controllers	207
7.1	Introduction	207
7.2	Methods of operation	207
7.3	Stand-alone logger/controller hardware	212
7.4	Communications hardware interface	220
7.5	Stand-alone logger/controller firmware	223
7.6	Stand-alone logger/controller software design	224
7.7	Host software	233
7.8	Considerations in using stand-alone logger/controllers	234
7.9	Stand-alone logger/controllers vs internal systems	235
8	IEEE 48 Standard	237
8.1	Introduction	237
8.2	Electrical and mechanical characteristics	238
8.3	Physical connection configurations	239
8.4	Device types	241
8.5	Bus structure	241
8.6	GPIB handshaking	243
8.7	Device communication	244
8.8	IEEE 488.2	246
8.9	Standard commands for programmable instruments (SCPI)	251



Technology Training that Works

9	Ethernet LAN Systems	255
9.1	Ethernet and fieldbuses for data acquisition	255
9.2	Physical layer	256
9.3	Medium access control	263
9.4	MAC frame format	266
9.5	Difference between 802.3 and Ethernet	267
9.6	Reducing collisions	268
9.7	Ethernet design rules	268
9.8	Fieldbuses	271
10	The Universal Serial Bus (USB)	275
10.1	Introduction	275
10.2	USB – overall structure	275
10.3	The physical layer	281
10.4	Data link layer	285
10.5	Application layer (user layer)	287
10.6	Conclusion	288
11	Specific Techniques	289
11.1	Open and closed loop control	289
11.2	Capturing high speed transient data	293
12	The PCMCIA Card	297
12.1	History	298
12.2	Features	298
12.3	Products	300
12.4	Construction	302
12.5	Hardware	303
12.6	Software	307
12.7	PC Card enablers and support software	308
12.9	Future	309
Appendix A	Glossary	311
Appendix B	Introduction to TCP/IP	339
Appendix C	Internet Layer Protocols	343
Appendix D	Host-to-host (transport) layer protocols	389
Appendix E	Application Layer Protocols	401
Appendix F	TCP/IP Utilities	431



Technology Training that Works

Appendix G	Practical 1	445
Appendix H	Practical 2	465
Appendix I	Practical 3	469