



This year's OSI Users Conference held in San Francisco was an insightful event that thoroughly explored high value opportunities and innovative solutions...

The themes of the event, *"Empowering Businesses in Real-Time"* and *"Value Now,"* set forth an urgent tone as OSIsoft and their industry partner Microsoft pounded out the message of an undeniable shift from the current industrial age to an exploding information era. Today, industrial enterprises are taking advantage of the mountain of data available to streamline and optimize performance. This trend has gathered momentum and will undeniably reshape North America's manufacturing industry.

Discussion highlights included the topic of energy management. ICE Energy & San Diego Gas & Electric gave exceptional keynote addresses. They focused on the need for smarter energy consumption and its impact on power generation and grid infrastructure. There was an emphasis on the need for performance monitoring and integrated energy management. Noteworthy to mention is the Smart Grid initiative and the push for Smart Meters, both of which provide ways to better manage energy flow and reduce demand during periods of high load thereby keeping energy costs down. Initiatives such as these reinforce our belief in the need for greater data management within industrial enterprises.

OSIsoft's drive to address this growing need of data consumers is apparent with their ongoing development of PI AF (Analysis Framework). AF is aimed at bringing order, structure and models to any facility. Organizations will have the capability to consistently define assets, associate data, organize elements and perform simple or complex analysis resulting in enhanced data comprehension, decision support and business insight.

A strong Microsoft presence at this industrial user conference reaffirmed their commitment to empowering manufacturers and utility companies with greater enterprise-wide visibility, collaboration and streamlined processes. Microsoft announced improved SharePoint functionality with the enhancement of its business intelligence application (PerformancePoint). Effective April 2009, PerformancePoint will now be included with SharePoint software.

OSIsoft Technology Highlights

- OSIsoft's applications will be further developed for tighter integration with Microsoft SharePoint. This strategy provides the foundation to interface with other enterprise software packages. Developments include:
 - PI Tags to InfoPath forms
 - RTWebParts integration with AF and Notifications
 - Improved DataLink with Excel Services now has the ability to accept more than one million rows of information.
 - RtReports compatibility with RTWebParts
- It is clear from this conference OSIsoft is committed to moving customers and partners forward to AF. AF extends MDB with richer functionality, such as scripting, analytics and integration with PI Notifications. All newer releases of software will have AF 2.0 integration such as ProcessBook 3.2, DataLink 4.1, RtWebParts 3.0, RtReports 3.2 and PI OLEDB 4.0.
- In order to ensure backward compatibility, OSI is releasing 'MDB to AF migration', which is a tool that converts an MDB database to AF database format, and replicates the two models as a single one. By doing so, one can continue to use the legacy MDB model or adopt the new AF model to take advantage of new features such as PI Notifications and improved SharePoint integration.

About Cogent

Cogent is a customer focused Industrial Automation and IT solutions provider that works with its clients around the world to define, design, implement and successfully operate their facilities. Our tailored solutions connect plant equipment, processes and people to increase productivity, reduce operational costs and improve agility.

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