

# **S7A V 8.60**

## **Version History**

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Jürgen Stähler**

<b>1.</b>	<b>What is new...</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1	<b>Version 8.60, build 103</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1.1	Alias names for TIA symbols	6
1.1.2	Secured connection to S7-1200/1500	9
1.1.3	Alarms sent by the PLC	11
1.2	<b>Version 8.50, build 109</b>	<b>12</b>
1.2.1	New Tool Window for unresolved I/O addresses	12
1.3	<b>Version 8.50, build 108</b>	<b>13</b>
1.3.1	Automatic fail-over for (TIA) PLC connections	13
1.3.2	Extended logging and debug options	14
1.4	<b>Version 8.50, build 106</b>	<b>15</b>
1.5	<b>Version 8.50, build 105</b>	<b>17</b>
1.6	<b>Version 8.50, build 104</b>	<b>18</b>
1.7	<b>Version 8.50, build 102</b>	<b>19</b>
1.7.1	Support for iFIX 2022 (6.8)	19
1.7.2	Re-arranged grid columns on TIA symbol grid	19
1.8	<b>Version 8.50, build 101</b>	<b>20</b>
1.8.1	New Setup	20
1.8.2	Support for iFIX secure mode introduced with iFIX version 6.5	20
1.8.3	Support for CIMPLICITY HMI versions 9.5 up to 11.5 (2022)	21
1.8.4	Symbol Editor with watch feature	21
1.8.5	OPC UA Server	22
1.8.6	Automatic iFIX block generation of TIA symbols	24
1.8.7	Extended data block diagnosis and client access monitoring	25
<b>2.</b>	<b>Fixed defects...</b>	<b>26</b>
2.1	<b>Version 8.60, Build 103</b>	<b>27</b>
2.1.1	Background process	27
2.1.2	Power Tool	27
2.2	<b>Version 8.50, build 109</b>	<b>28</b>
2.2.1	Background process	28
2.2.2	Power Tool	28
2.2.3	iFIX interface	28
2.3	<b>Version 8.50, build 108</b>	<b>29</b>
2.3.1	Background process	29
2.3.2	Power Tool	29
2.3.3	OPC DA/UA	29
2.4	<b>Version 8.50, build 106</b>	<b>30</b>
2.4.1	Program installation (Setup)	30
2.4.2	Background process	30
2.4.3	Native CIMPLICITY interface	30
2.5	<b>Version 8.50, build 105</b>	<b>31</b>
2.5.1	Power Tool	31

2.5.2	Background process .....	31
<b>2.6</b>	<b>Version 8.50, build 104 .....</b>	<b>32</b>
2.6.1	Program installation (Setup) .....	32
2.6.2	Power_Tool .....	32
2.6.3	Native iFIX interface .....	32
2.6.4	Native CIMPLICITY interface .....	32
<b>2.7</b>	<b>Version 8.50, build 102 .....</b>	<b>33</b>
2.7.1	Offset addressing via iFIX DR block on analog TIA symbols .....	33
2.7.2	High CPU load caused by S7ADRV process .....	33
2.7.3	Power Tool failed to connect to background process .....	33
<b>2.8</b>	<b>Version 8.50, build 101 .....</b>	<b>34</b>
2.8.1	Lower case I/O addresses or OPC Item Ids .....	34
2.8.2	Import of version 8.10 CSV import files .....	34
2.8.3	Poll overrun counting .....	34
2.8.4	Fragmented polling on demand .....	34
2.8.5	Limitation of Slot number range .....	34
2.8.6	iFIX Register Element Offset .....	34
2.8.7	Control Tag addresses for symbolic (TIA) driver objects .....	34
2.8.8	Simulation mode .....	34
2.8.9	OPC UA Security Policy .....	35
2.8.10	Limitation of Cimplicity point name length .....	35
2.8.11	Software license and lower case computer name .....	35
<b>3.</b>	<b>Known Issues .....</b>	<b>36</b>
	<b>Index .....</b>	<b>0</b>

## 1 What is new...

The following topics describe all new functions and enhancements added to the respective version and build numbers.

## 1.1 Version 8.60, build 103

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This topic and its sub-topics briefly describes all new features added to S7A version 8.50, build 109

Major extensions in V 8.60, Build 103:

- Release for Windows 11
- Release for Cimplicity HMI 2023 (12.0)
- [Alias names for TIA Symbol paths](#)<sup>[6]</sup>
- [Secured \(encrypted\) connections](#)<sup>[9]</sup> to S7-1200/1500 for symbolic addressing mode
- The S7A now can receive [program alarms from TIA PLCs](#)<sup>[11]</sup>

Minor extensions and changes in V8.60, Build 103:

- Symbol comments for array element of a TIA array symbol are now displayed
- Support for TIA data type 'S7\_WString'
- The length of the channel and device names has been increased from 12 to 20 characters and aligned with the length of the data block names, which already allowed 20 characters length.
- The version is prepared for the use of loadable iFIX blocks, which can be created by the user with the soon to be released 'Block Generation Wizard'. This wizard automatically generates loadable iFIX blocks from TIA PLC data types.

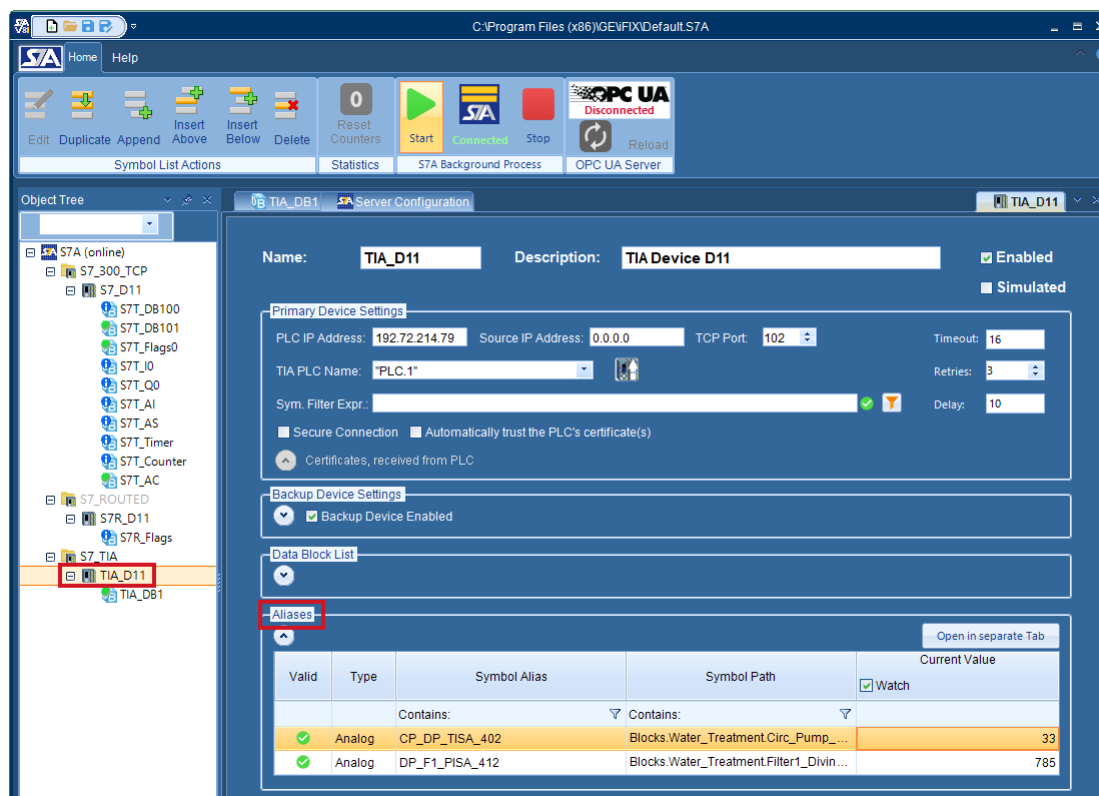
### 1.1.1 Alias names for TIA symbols

Version 8.60 of the S7A software now allows the definition of alias names for symbol paths. The use of alias names instead of symbol paths may be necessary or useful if the symbol paths become very long and thus difficult to read due to a large nesting depth. The use of short 'speaking' alias names instead of long symbol paths can increase and/or clarify the function and meaning of the symbols on which the alias names are based.

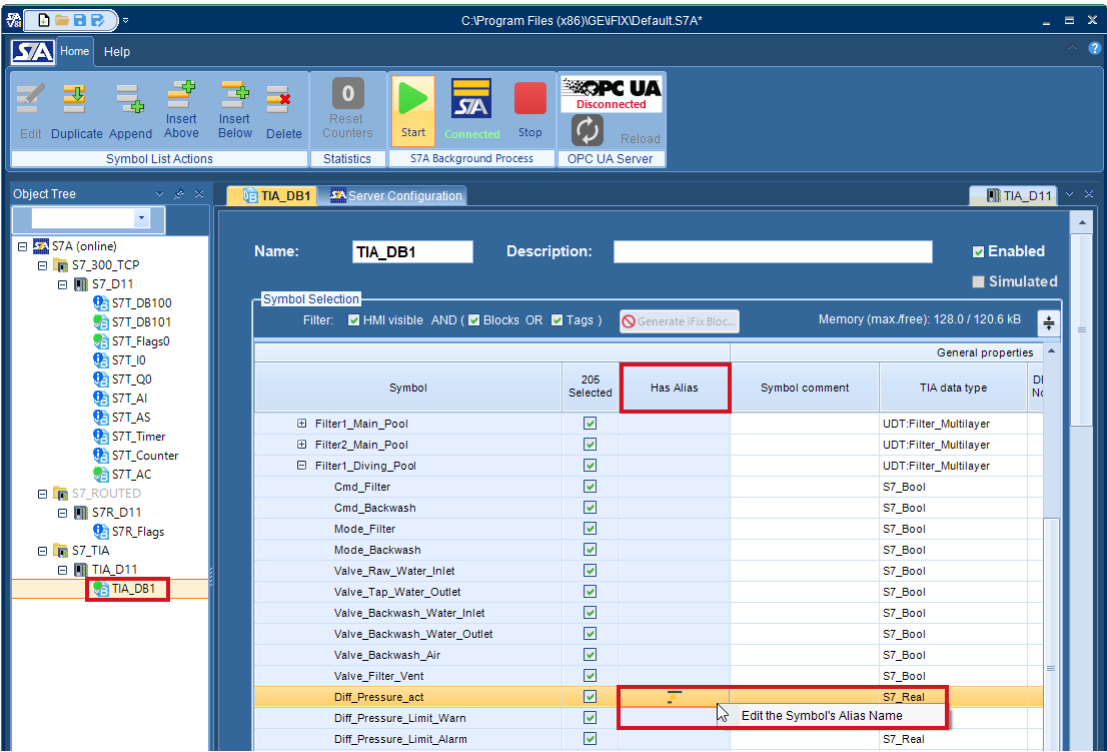
Alias names can be used in the client applications (iFIX, OPC DA and OPC UA) instead of the regular symbol paths.


Alias names can be created in two ways in the Power Tool:

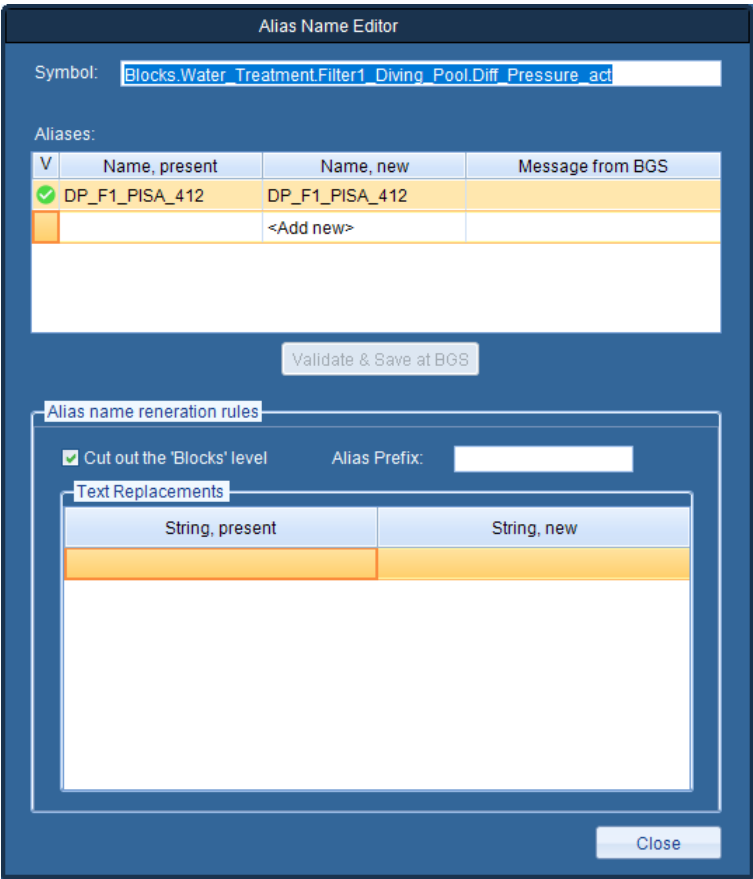
1. Via the expandable panel 'Aliases' on the TIA device level:



2. In the data block's symbol tree:



The new column 'Alias def.' indicates via the symbol  that an alias name is defined for the symbol path. You can open the dialogue for editing the symbol name via the context menu.



In this dialog you can enter an alias name individually or have it generated automatically. With automatic generation you can, for example, remove irrelevant symbol path elements (e.g. the group name 'Blocks') or replace long symbol path elements with shorter ones. In addition, you can define a prefix to be placed in front of the alias name.

The alias names are not stored in the binary S7A configuration file, but in a separate symbol file that follows an XML syntax. This symbol file has the file extension 'S7AS' and is located in the same directory as the S7A configuration file. The very simple XML format of the symbol file also allows you to create it 'manually', i.e. to create the alias names outside the S7A-Power Tool dialog.

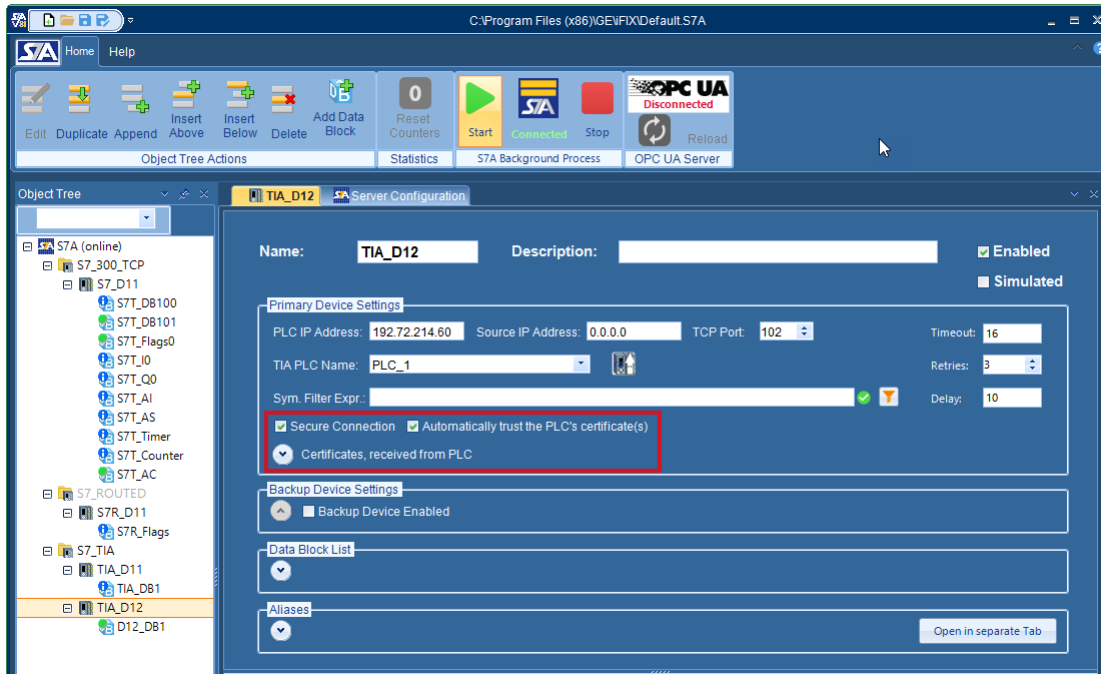
The following example shows the rather simple structure of the symbol file:

```
<DRIVER>
<ITEM Symbol="Global_Symbol_1" PhysAddress="S7_D11:DB100.DBW 0"/>
<CHANNEL name="S7_300_TCP">
<DEVICE name="S7_D11">
<ITEM Symbol="Device_Symbol_1" PhysAddress="DB100.DBW 0"/>
</DEVICE>
</CHANNEL>
<CHANNEL name="S7_ROUTED">
<DEVICE name="S7R_D11"/>
</CHANNEL>
<CHANNEL name="S7_TIA">
<DEVICE name="TIA_D11">
<ITEM Alias="CP_DP_TISA_402"
SymbolPath="Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump_Diving_Pool.Temp_Act"/>
<ITEM Alias="DP_F1_PISA_412"
SymbolPath="Blocks.Water_Treatment.Filter1_Diving_Pool.Diff_Pressure_act"/>
</DEVICE>
</CHANNEL>
</DRIVER>
```

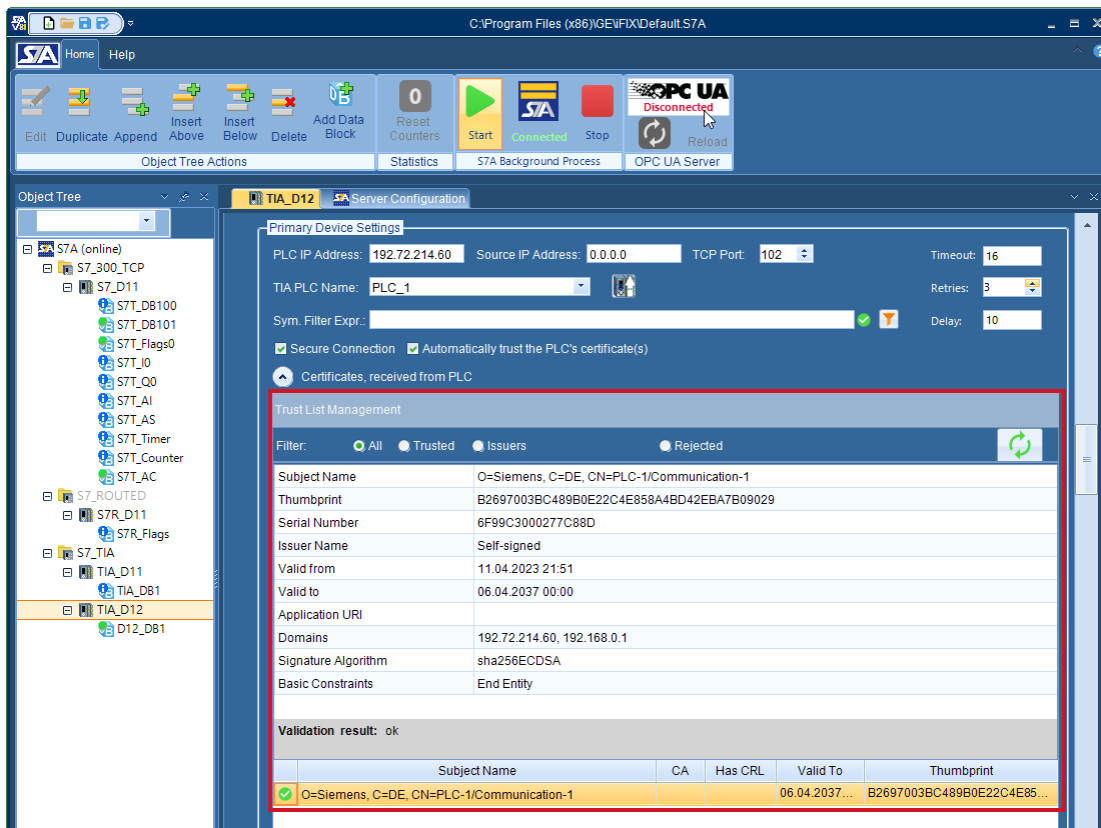


### 1.1.2 Secured connection to S7-1200/1500

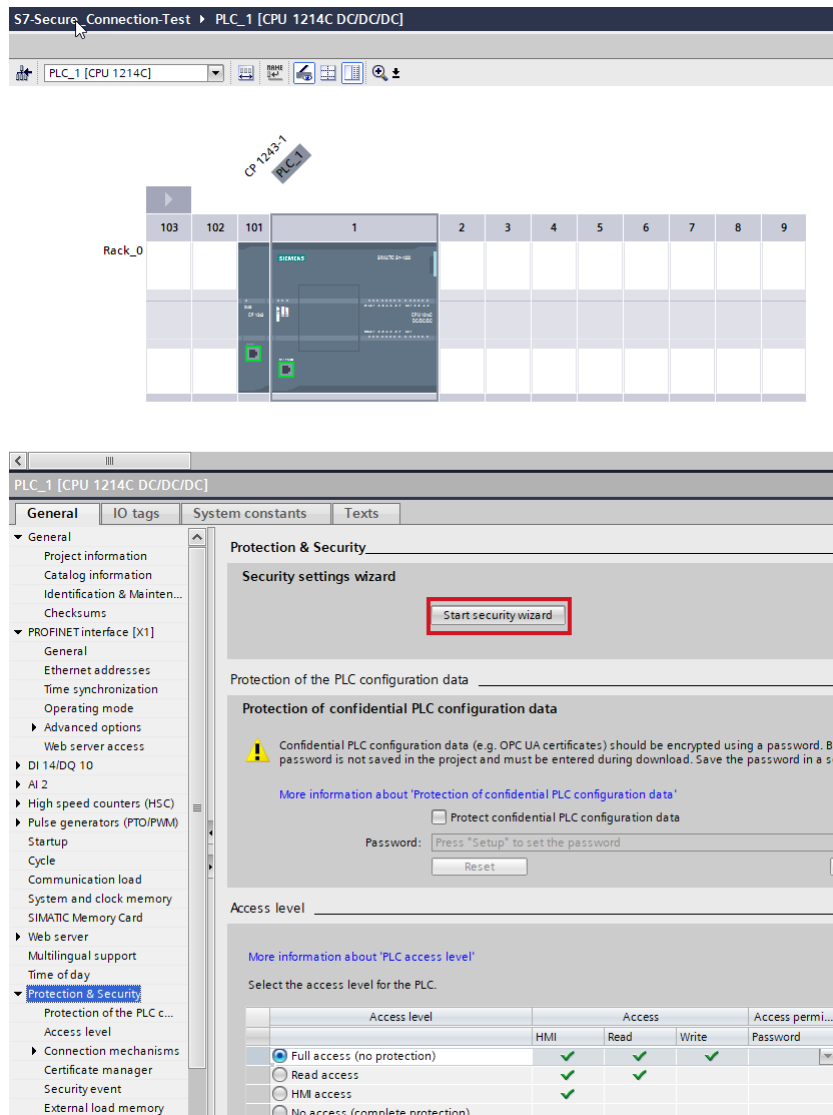
The secure (encrypted) communication via the TSL protocol available from TIA version 17 can now also be used for the symbolic communication to S7-1200/1500. For this purpose, the check boxes 'Secure connection' and 'Automatically trust the PLC's certificate' have been added to the parameter group 'Primary Device Settings' in the configuration dialog for the device:



In the expandable panel 'Certificates received from PLC', you can view detailed information about the certificates received by the PLC.



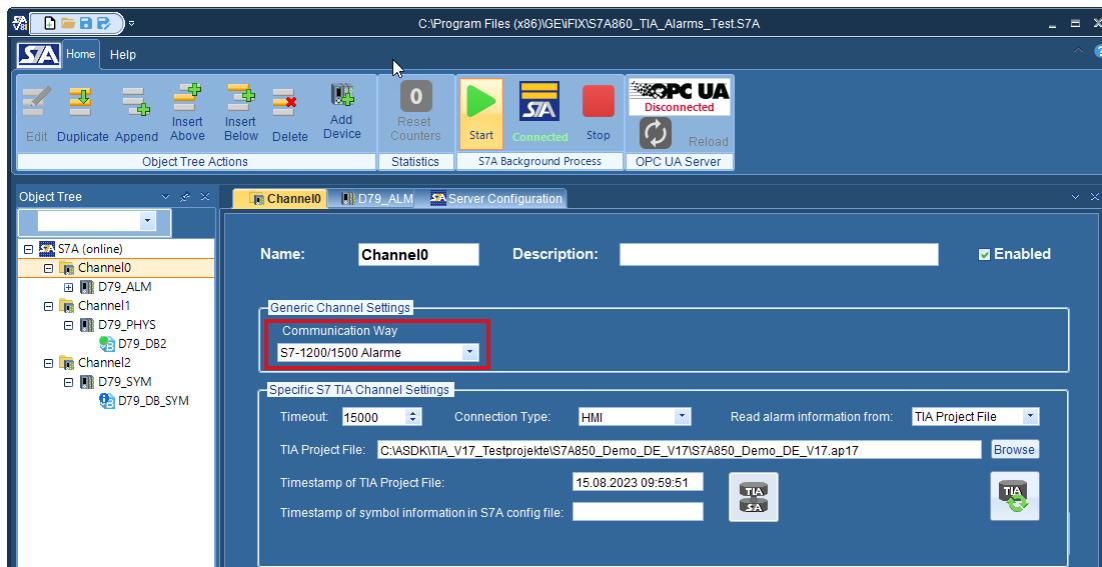
Please note that secure communication must be explicitly activated on the PLC side. The TIA Portal offers the 'Security Wizard' in the 'Protection & Security' settings for the PLC CPU for this purpose:



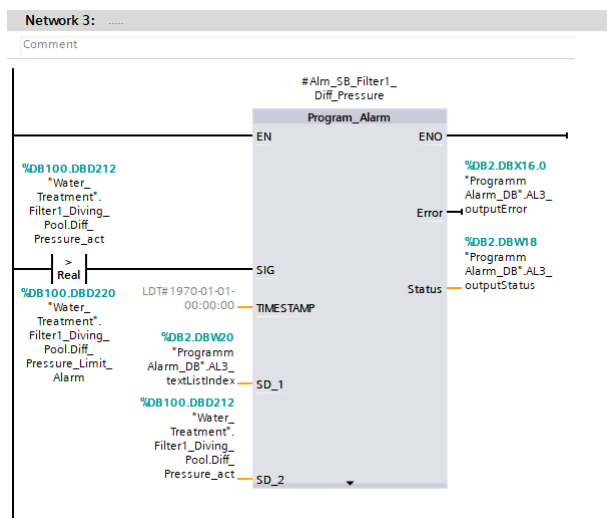
The S7A driver can only establish a secure connection once the PLC has been downloaded with the certificate required for encryption via the TIA Portal.

### 1.1.3 Alarms sent by the PLC

Digital program alarms and their associated values sent by an S7-1200/1500 via the function block 'Program\_Alarm' can now be received by the S7A driver and are available to the clients (iFIX, OPC ) for processing. The new communication path 'S7-1200/1500 TCP/IP Alarms' has been added for this purpose:



The following screen shot shows an example of a 'Program\_Alarm' call in the PLC program:



This new S7A function also enables the alarm texts defined in the TIA project (from PLC alarm text lists), which are also transmitted via an alarm associated value (parameters SD\_1 to SD\_10), to be made available to the S7A clients. Combined with the INCOSOL DAX block (extended digital alarm block for iFIX) the PLC message texts can then be sent directly as alarm texts to the iFIX alarm system.

An application note describing the function and configuration of this new feature in detail will be released soon.

## 1.2 Version 8.50, build 109

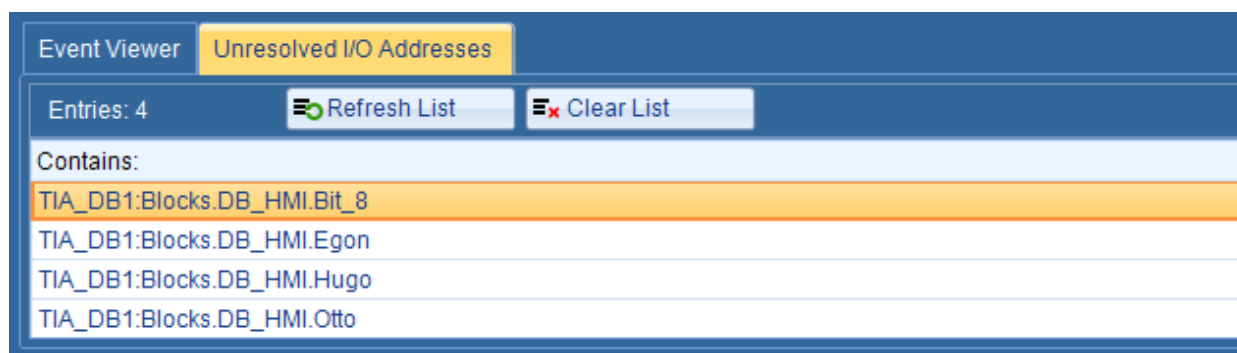
This topic and its sub-topics briefly describes all new features added to S7A version 8.50, build 109

The main new features are:

- Release for iFIX 2023 (7.0)
- Release for use under Windows Server 2022
- The Tool Windows Area has been extended by a new windows which shows all unresolved I/O addresses which are not covered by a S7A data block. See the sub-topic next to this topic for detailed information.

All bug fixes are described in topic [Fixed defects in version 8.50, build 109](#)<sup>28</sup>.

### 1.2.1 New Tool Window for unresolved I/O addresses



This new window shows all iFIX I/O addresses and OPC Item Ids which could not be resolved by the background server. An unresolved I/O address means that

- the physical I/O address is not covered by a data block since the data block is missing or too short.
- the symbolic (TIA or SIMOTION) I/O address (the symbol) is unknown (not loaded from the project data or the PLC) or not selected in the data block's symbol tree.

In this first version the list is not automatically updated yet. To refresh or delete the list you have to click on the respective 'Refresh List' and 'Clear List' buttons.

### 1.3 Version 8.50, build 108

This topic and its sub-topics briefly describes all new features added to S7A version 8.50, build 108

The main new features are:

- Automatic fail-over for symbolic (TIA) PLC connections is now implemented.
- The logging has been extended by detailed debug flag options.

All bug fixes are described in topic [Fixed defects in V 8.50, build 108](#)<sup>29</sup>.

#### 1.3.1 Automatic fail-over for (TIA) PLC connections

With build 108 the automatic fail-over from the primary device IP address to the back device IP address is now available for symbolic TIA) devices.

The following screen shot shows the device settings for the primary and the backup IP connection:

The screenshot displays the 'Server Configuration' window for a device named 'TIA\_D11'. The 'Primary Device Settings' section includes fields for 'PLC IP Address' (192.72.214.80), 'Source IP Address' (0.0.0.0), 'TCP Port' (102), 'Timeout' (04), 'TIA PLC Name' (PLC\_TiaStd), 'Sym. Filter Expr.' (BlockName contains 'HMI'), 'Retries' (3), and 'Delay' (10). The 'Backup Device Settings' section, highlighted with a red box, shows the 'Backup Device Enabled' checkbox checked, 'PLC IP Address' (192.72.214.78), 'Source IP Address' (0.0.0.0), 'TCP Port' (102), 'Timeout' (04), 'Retries' (3), 'Delay' (10), and the 'Automatically switch back to primary device' checkbox checked.

When a backup device IP address is configured and the **Backup Device Enabled** check box is checked, the driver automatically switches the IP connection to this backup address in case that the primary connection becomes disturbed.

If the **Automatically switch back to primary device** check box is activated, the driver cyclically checks (via Ping) the availability of the primary connection and once the PLC becomes reachable again by this primary IP address the driver automatically changes back the communication to the primary IP address.

The currently active connection (primary or backup) can be retrieved by an analog tag (AR or AI) with the so-called Control Tag Address **!Switch:<Device name>** whereby <Device name> is the logical name of the S7A device. For the above screen shot the correct Control Tag Address is **!Switch:TIA\_D11**. Returned values are 0 (zero) for primary and 1 for the backup connection. By means of writing these two values such a Control Tag also can be used

to control the active connection. Note: This manual switching just makes sense when the ***Automatically switch back to primary device*** is deactivated!

### 1.3.2 Extended logging and debug options

Especially to get detailed information about data traffic in the interface between the client processes (iFIX WSACTask, TCPTask, Workspace etc.) and the S7A background process and its shared process data memory, the logging abilities have been extended.

The following screen shot shows the new/extended dialog in the S7A Power Tool's backstage view:

The screenshot displays the 'Driver Logging Options' dialog box within the S7A Power Tool's backstage view. The left sidebar contains three main sections: 'Power Tool Setup' with a 'General' button, 'Driver Setup' with buttons for 'Run Mode', 'Default Config.', 'Advanced', and 'Logging & Debug' (which is highlighted), and 'OPC UA Setup' with buttons for 'Server', 'Certificate', and 'Trust List'. The main area of the dialog is titled 'Driver Logging Options' and contains the following settings:

- Log to file:** A toggle switch set to 'ON'.
- New file every:** A dropdown menu set to 'Hour'.
- Number of files in ring buffer:** A numeric input field set to '10'.
- Number of user data bytes to log:** A numeric input field set to '10'.
- Log File Path:** A text field containing 'C:\ProgramData\INCOSOL\S7A\Driver\Logs\'.
- Log (Debug) flags (hex):** A dropdown menu set to '8021'.

Below these settings are three expandable sections for debug options:

- NIO Interface Debug Options:** Contains checkboxes for 'General' (checked), 'Parse Address', 'Read' (checked), 'Read Errors', 'Heartbeat', 'Display Address', 'Write', and 'Errors'.
- Background Process Debug Options:** Contains checkboxes for 'Interfaces', 'Channel Level', 'TIA Symbol Loading', 'Output Thread', 'Device Level', 'TIA Symbol Processing', 'Data Block Level', and 'S7 Alarming'.
- Misc Debug Options:** Contains a checked checkbox for 'Send Debug Output to 'Debug View' Tool'.

At the bottom, there is a text field labeled 'Filter NIO log by I/O addresses:' containing the text 'S7\_D11:DB100.DBW 10;S7\_D11:DB101.DBW 20'.

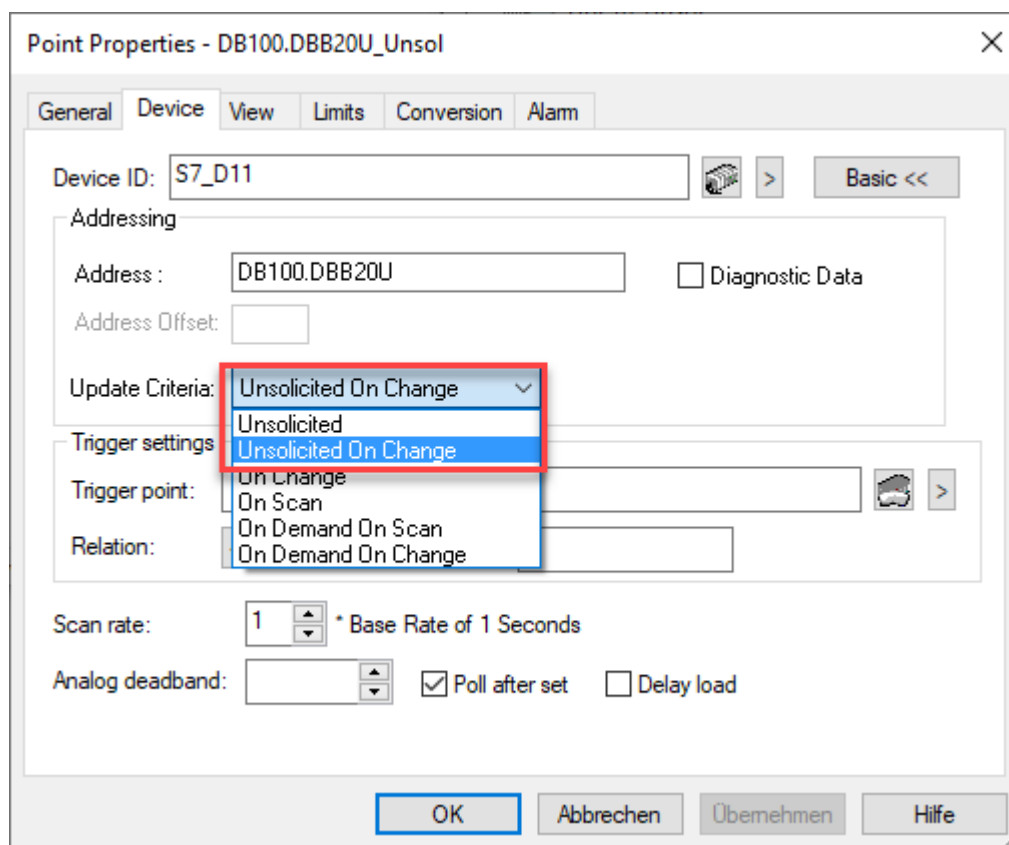
## 1.4 Version 8.50, build 106

This topic and its sub-topics briefly describes all new features added to S7A version 8.50, build 106

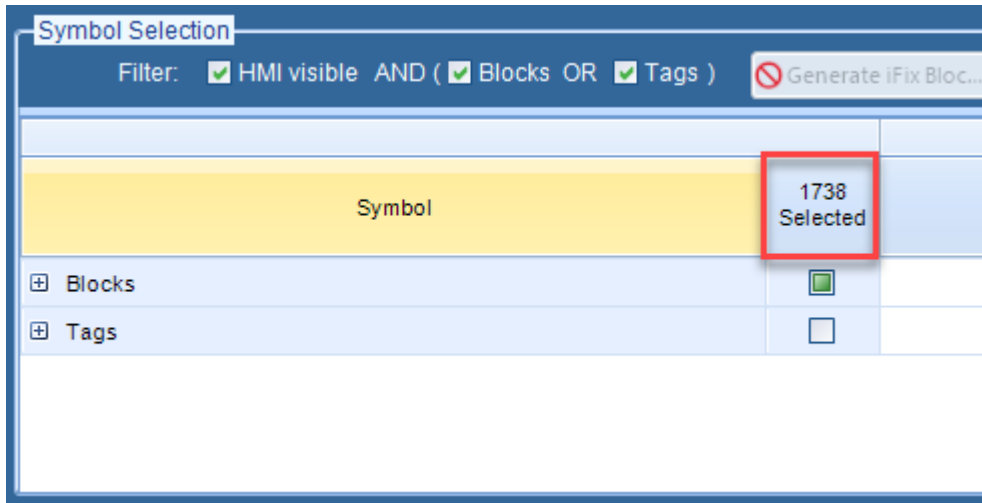
The build 106 does not contain new main features but the following minor changes/improvements and some bug fixes (see topic [Fixed defects in V 8.50, build 106](#)<sup>[30]</sup>).

Minor changes and improvements:

1. To achieve compatibility with the old S7M driver two new signal conditioning function have been added. The BWRD function reads the two bytes starting at the iFIX tag's I/O address and provides an unsigned 16 bit value in the range between 0 and 65535. The BINT function reads the two bytes starting at the iFIX tag's I/O address and provides a signed 16 bit value in the range between -32768 and 32767.
2. Das Cimplicity Interface now supports the Point Update Criteria 'Unsolicited' and 'Unsolicited On Change'.



3. The shared memory size of a S7A data block has been increased from 64k byte to 128k byte. As a result, the number of selectable TIA symbols in a S7A data block now is twice as many as in former versions.
4. The 'Selected' header text of the TIA symbol grid now shows the number of selected symbols:





## 1.5 Version 8.50, build 105

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The build 105 does not contain new main features but some minor changes/improvements and bug fixes (see topic [Fixed defects in V 8.50, build 105](#)<sup>31</sup>).

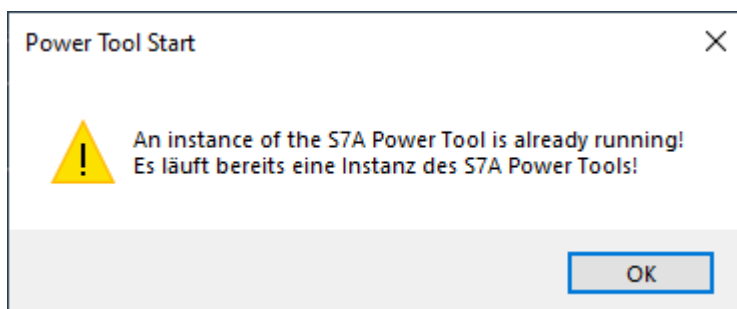
## 1.6 Version 8.50, build 104

This topic and its sub-topics briefly describes all new features added to S7A version 8.50, build 104

The build 104 does not contain new main features but the following minor changes/improvements and some bug fixes (see topic [Fixed defects in V 8.50, build 104](#)<sup>32</sup>).

Minor changes and improvements:

- When the S7A Power Tool is started while another instance of the program is already running, the following message box will be displayed:



Since at this stage the specific language information is not yet available the message is displayed in English and German language.

## 1.7 Version 8.50, build 102

This topic and its sub-topics briefly describes all new features added to S7A version 8.50, build 102

The build 102 does not contain new main features but the following minor changes/improvements and some bug fixes (see topic [Fixed defects in V 8.50, build 102](#)<sup>[33]</sup>).

Minor changes and improvements:

- Support for [iFIX 2022](#)<sup>[19]</sup> (6.8)
- [Re-arranged grid columns](#)<sup>[19]</sup> in TIA symbol grid.

### 1.7.1 Support for iFIX 2022 (6.8)

The S7A driver now supports the new iFIX version 2022 respectively 6.8 in both modes, means with or without access controls.

### 1.7.2 Re-arranged grid columns on TIA symbol grid

The columns of the TIA symbol grid have been re-arranged / re-sorted. Furthermore the two left-most columns 'Symbol' and 'Selected' are now 'pinned', means they are anchored to the left side of the grid. When the grid is scrolled horizontally these two columns will not be scrolled.

Symbol Selection									
Filter: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HMI visible AND ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blocks OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tags ) <input type="button" value="Generate iFix Bloc..."/>									
Symbol	Selected	General properties						Current value	
		Symbol comment	TIA data type	DB No.	Access	HMI accessible	HMI visible	<input type="checkbox"/> Display	
Blocks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Block List						
DB_HMI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Data Block	1					
Bit_0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Bit 0	S7_Bool		RW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Bit_1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		S7_Bool		RW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Bit_2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		S7_Bool		RW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Bit_3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		S7_Bool		RW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Bit_4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		S7_Bool		RW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Bit_5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		S7_Bool		RW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Bit_6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		S7_Bool		RW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Bit_7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Bit 0	S7_Bool		RW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
TenSignals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ten Bits in an array	ARRAY [0..9] of S7_Bool		RW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

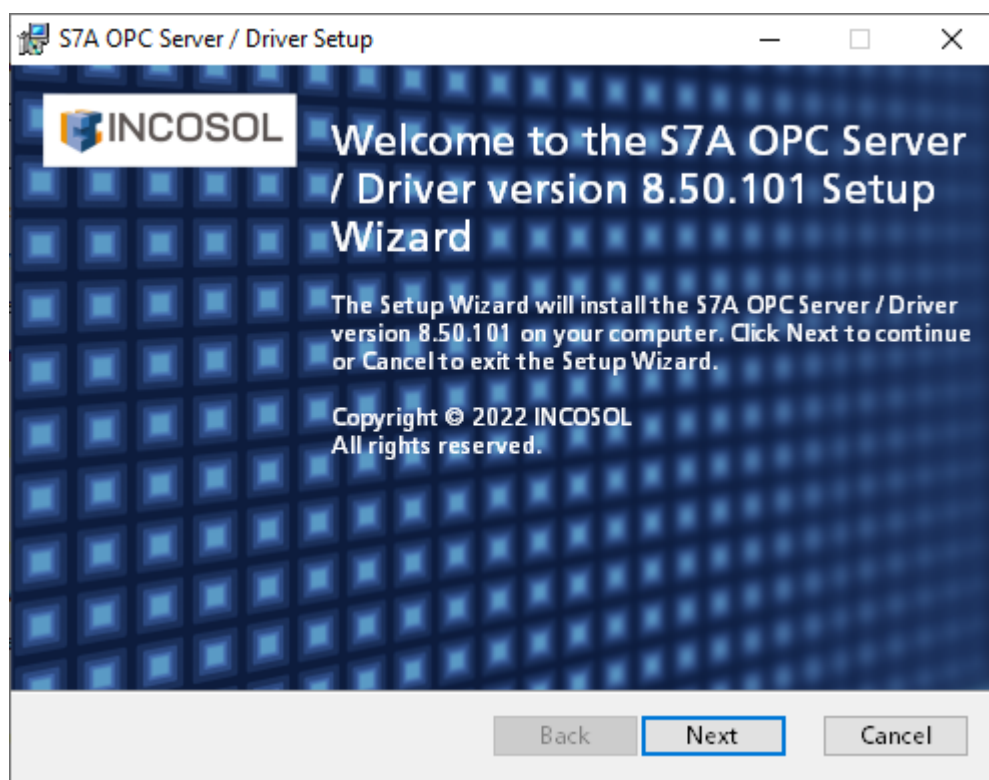
## 1.8 Version 8.50, build 101

This topic and its sub-topics briefly describes all new features added to S7A version 8.50, build 101

The main new features are:

- New [setup](#)<sup>[20]</sup> routine
- Support for [iFIX secure mode](#)<sup>[20]</sup> introduced with iFIX version 6.5
- Support for [CIMPLICITY HMI](#)<sup>[21]</sup> versions 9.5 up to 11.5 (2022)
- OPC UA Server<sup>[22]</sup>
- [Symbol editor](#)<sup>[21]</sup> for all communication ways with physical (classic) addressing
- iFIX [block generation](#)<sup>[24]</sup> from TIA symbolic
- Extended data block [diagnosis and client access monitoring](#)<sup>[25]</sup>

### 1.8.1 New Setup



The Setup of the S7A OPC Server has to be redesigned to address the additional requirements for the OPC UA Server installation.

### 1.8.2 Support for iFIX secure mode introduced with iFIX version 6.5

In iFIX version 6.5 GE introduced a new secure mode which even has influence on the S7A driver.

One aspect of this secure mode is that all iFIX processes (SCU, Workspace, WSACTask etc.) now runs with a reduced so-called Integrity Level *Medium*. on all former iFIX versions the program run on Integrity Level *High*.

For proper interoperability between the S7A driver and iFIX it was necessary to adapt/downgrade the integrity level of the S7A process (S7ADrv.exe) to the same *Medium* level as iFIX works on.

### 1.8.3 Support for CIMPLICITY HMI versions 9.5 up to 11.5 (2022)

The S7A driver now supports all CIMPLICITY HMI versions from 9.5 up to latest version 11.5, also known as CIMPLICITY 2022.

The native CIMPLICITY driver interface has been fully refactored with the goal of improving the performance and usability.

Now all control tags the S7A driver provides can be accessed by CIMPLICITY points. Furthermore all signal conditioning functions and options, the S7A driver provides, can be used in CIMPLICITY. E.g. S7 data and time data types now can be configured as CIMPLICITY text points in various, language specific display formats.

### 1.8.4 Symbol Editor with watch feature

Symbol List													Open in separate Tab
Valid	Type	Symbol Name	Device	Physical Address	Memory Area	Data Type	DB No.	Byte Index	Bit	Signal Cond.	Option	Watch	Current Value
		Contains: ▾		Contains: ▾									
✓	Analog	HUGO	S7_D11	DB100.DBW 0	Datablock (DB)	Int	100	0		NONE			17562
✓	Analog	EGON	S7_D11	DB100.DBW 2	Datablock (DB)	Int	100	2		NONE			20972
✓	Analog	OTTO	S7_D11	DB100.DBW 4UJEXP1	Datablock (DB)	Word	100	4		EXP1			5033
✓	Analog	KARL	S7_D11	DB100.DBW 6UJLIN.0.100	Datablock (DB)	Word	100	6		LIN			32
✓	Digital	INA	S7_D11	DB100.DBX 10.0	Datablock (DB)	Bool	100	10	0				True
✓	Digital	EVA	S7_D11	DB100.DBX 10.1	Datablock (DB)	Bool	100	10	1				True
✓	String	JÜRGEN	S7_D11	DB100.DBS 118 10.SPAC...	Datablock (DB)	String[10]	100	118			SPACEFILL		Jürgen
✓	String	THE_TIME_OF_DAY	S7_D11	DB100.DBS 12 10.TOD_24H	Datablock (DB)	String[10]	100	12			TOD_24H		12:34:56
✓	String	A_DATE	S7_D11	DB100.DBS 20 12.DATE_...	Datablock (DB)	String[12]	100	20			DATE_GER		14.02.2022
✓	String	A_DATE_AND_TIME	S7_D11	DB100.DBS 22 20.DT_GM...	Datablock (DB)	String[20]	100	22			DT_GMP_DE		14-Mrz-2022 12:34:56
✓	String	A_TIME_SPAN	S7_D11	DB100.DBS 16 20.TIME_L...	Datablock (DB)	String[20]	100	16			TIME_LEN		1D 2H 3M 4S 500MS

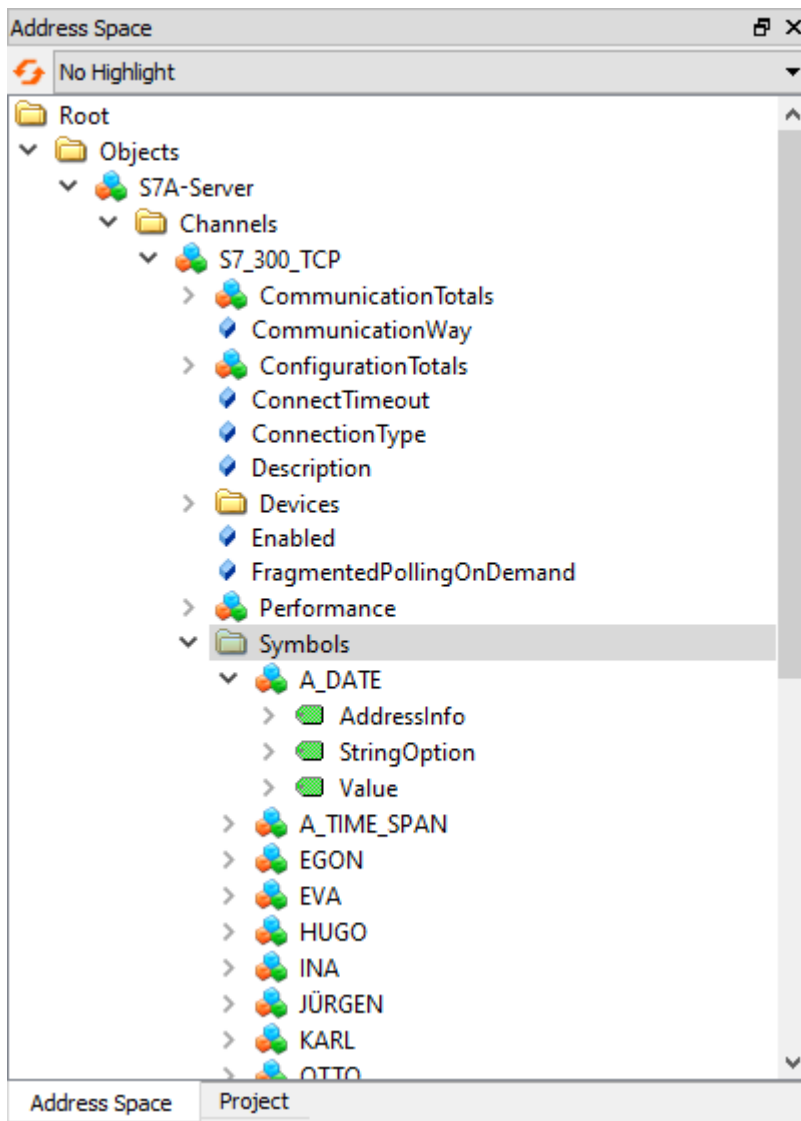
The driver now allows to define symbols for I/O addresses of communication ways with physical addressing (e.g. S7 300/400/1500 TCP Absolute).

These symbols can be used as iFIX I/O addresses or OPC Item Ids as an alternative to the physical I/O address. Means, a symbolic name and I/O address are interchangeable.

Furthermore the symbolic names configured by the Symbol Editor are the node base for the OPC UA server.

As an additional feature the Symbol Editor provides a watch function which allows to facilitate the monitoring of the current value online from the PLC.

### 1.8.5 OPC UA Server



The S7A driver is now a full functioning OPC UA Server. This functionality is not available in the base license but a license option.

All physical communication ways (via symbol editor) as well as the two symbolic communication ways for S7-1200/1500 series and SIMOTION controllers can provide its data as OPC UA nodes.

Furthermore most of the driver's, channel's, device's and data block's configuration, runtime, performance and diagnostics properties are browsable and readable from OPC UA clients.

Server / OPC UA Base Settings

TCP Port:

48030

Network Address:

DESKTOP-QQAKSBS

Logical Host Name:

desktop-qqaksbs

Organization Name:

INCOSOL

Instance Name:

S7AUAServer

Endpoint URL:

opc.tcp://DESKTOP-QQAKSBS:48030/

Application URI:

urn:desktop-qqaksbs:INCOSOL:S7AUAServer

Application Name:

S7AUAServer@DESKTOP-QQAKSBS

Server / OPC UA Security Settings

Allow communication with no security (None):

ON

|||

!

Allow secure communication with data privacy (SignAndEncrypt):

ON

|||

Allow secure communication without data privacy (SignOnly):

ON

|||

OPC UA Server Security Policies / (Encrytion modes)

Basic256Sha256 (Mandatory, always ON):

ON

|||

Aes128-Sha256-RsaOaep (Recommended - Fastest):

|||

OFF

Basic256 (Not recommended):

|||

OFF

!

Basic128Rsa15 (Not recommended):

|||

OFF

!

Save

Save and Restart

The configuration of the OPC UA Server and the entire certificate management (even the request from a GDS) is integrated in the S7A Power Tool.

### 1.8.6 Automatic iFIX block generation of TIA symbols

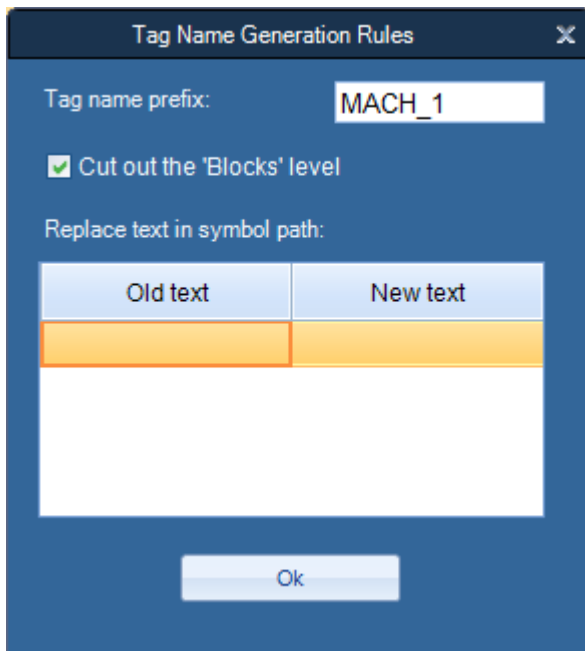
Symbol Selection													
Filter: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HMI visible AND ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blocks OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tags ) <span>Generate iFix Blocks</span>													
Hidden columns: <span>Current value</span> <span>HMI accessible</span> <span>HMI visible</span> <span>Access</span>													
General properties						iFix Auto Gen. Properties							
Symbol	TIA data type	DB No.	Selected	Symbol comment	Status	Gen.	Block type	Tag Name	Description	I/O Address	Scan time	On scan	Enable output
[-] Blocks	Block List		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
[-] DB_HMI	Data Block	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Bit_0	S7_Bool		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Bit 0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DR	Blocks_DB_HMI_Bit_0	Single Bit 0	TIA_D11.Blocks.DB_HMI.Bit_0		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bit_1	S7_Bool		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DR	Blocks_DB_HMI_Bit_1		TIA_D11.Blocks.DB_HMI.Bit_1		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bit_2	S7_Bool		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DI	Blocks_DB_HMI_Bit_2		TIA_D11.TIA_DB1.Blocks.DB_HMI.Bit_2	3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bit_3	S7_Bool		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DA	Blocks_DB_HMI_Bit_3		TIA_D11.TIA_DB1.Blocks.DB_HMI.Bit_3	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bit_4	S7_Bool		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DO	Blocks_DB_HMI_Bit_4_XXX	Eigene Beschreibung	TIA_D11.Blocks.DB_HMI.Bit_4		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bit_5	S7_Bool		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bit_6	S7_Bool		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bit_7	S7_Bool		<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Bit 0		<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
[-] TenSignals	ARRAY [0.....		<input type="checkbox"/>	Ten Bits in an array									
Byte_0	S7_Byte		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AA	Blocks_DB_HMI_Byte_0		TIA_D11.TIA_DB1.Blocks.DB_HMI.Byte_0	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Byte_1	S7_Byte		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
USInt_1	S7_USInt		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unsigned short int (8 Bit)		<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Word_0	S7_Word		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AI	Blocks_DB_HMI_Word_0		TIA_D11.Blocks.DB_HMI.Word_0	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Word_1	S7_Word		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Int_0	S7_Int		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AO	Blocks_DB_HMI_Int_0		TIA_D11.Blocks.DB_HMI.Int_0	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Int_1	S7_Int		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DWord_0	S7_DWord		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AA	Blocks_DB_HMI_DWord_0		TIA_D11.Blocks.DB_HMI.DWord_0	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DWord_1	S7_DWord		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DInt_0	S7_DInt		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AI	Blocks_DB_HMI_DInt_0		TIA_D11.Blocks.DB_HMI.DInt_0	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DInt_1	S7_DInt		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LInt_0	S7_LInt		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LInt_1	S7_LInt		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LWord_0	S7_LWord		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The symbol selection tree in the Power Tool's TIA data block configuration dialog has been extended by addition columns which allows to directly configure and generate iFIX database blocks from within the Power Tool.

The following data block fields can be configured by this way:

- Block Types DI, DA, DO, DR, AI, AA, AO, AR and TX
- *Tag Name* can be generated automatically, derived from the TIA symbol path or can be entered individually
- *Tag Description* can be generated automatically, derived from the TIA symbol comment or can be entered individually
- *I/O Address*, derived from S7A device name and TIA symbol path
- *Startup mode On Scan or Off Scan*
- *Scan Time*
- *Enable Output Option*
- *Signal Conditioning*
- *Hardware Option*
- *EGU Low Limit and High Limit*





Tag Name Generation Rules

Tag name prefix:

☒ Cut out the 'Blocks' level

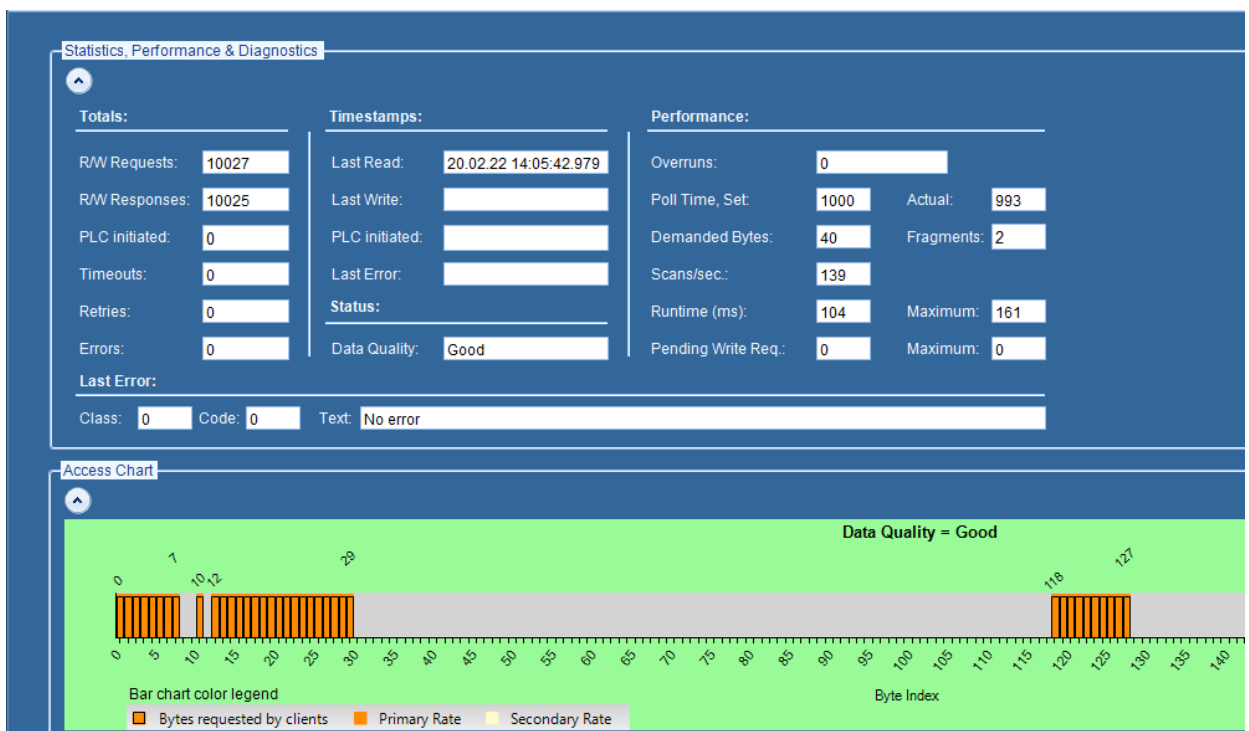
Replace text in symbol path:

Old text	New text

Ok

The automatic iFIX tag name generation can be controlled by various options.

### 1.8.7 Extended data block diagnosis and client access monitoring



The Power Tool now provides a tool which allows the monitoring of the client access to the data byte of a single driver data block.

A bar chart, shown on the new expandable panel 'Access Chart' in the Power Tool's data block dialog visualizes the access state of all bytes of the data block with different colors and thus provides a direct view of the current 'occupancy' of the data block by the clients (iFIX, OPC etc.).

2 Fixed defects...

The following sub-topics describe all defects, fixed in the respective versions and builds.

## 2.1 Version 8.60, Build 103

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The following chapters describe all bugs fixed with version 8.60, build 103 compared to version 8.50, build 109.

### 2.1.1 Background process

1. With certain data block configurations of a symbolic TIA device it could happen that some data blocks were 'stuck', that means they were no longer polled, when cyclic write requests to the data blocks were active.
2. When stopping the driver, the data quality of certain symbolic TIA data blocks was not set to 'BAD' but remained at 'GOOD'.
3. Writing of digital signals to a S5 data block address does not work
4. The sporadic error fff50012 (NO\_INFORMATION) on AG state requests is now completely suppressed.
5. By installing an S7A update, an existing configuration file in the current iFIX PDB directory with the name <iFIX node name>.S7A was overwritten by an empty (dummy) file.

### 2.1.2 Power Tool

1. On channel and device level, the count for retries and timeouts did not work properly. As soon as one of the two values became greater than zero on the data block level, the counters on the device and channel level were continuously incremented.
2. When inserting a channel, device or data block below/above a selected entry in the object tree, the new object was always appended to the bottom of the list instead of being inserted at the selected position.
3. Setting an individual symbol file name in the Power Tool's options did not work.
4. With a large number (> 1000) of symbols or alias names, the Power Tool caused a high CPU load and the update of the symbol grid was very slow. Here the performance was increased significantly and the CPU load was reduced considerably.
5. Write requests to data blocks which were set to manual or automatic block write mode were not counted in the write statistics.

## 2.2 Version 8.50, build 109

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The following sub-topics describe all defects which have been fixed in build 109.

### 2.2.1 Background process

1. Clients (iFIX WSACTask, Workspace, OPC Clients etc.) of the S7A Server background process could crash when the heartbeat logging was enabled.
2. Some On-the-fly changes of the debug and logging parameters were ignored by the S7A Server background process.
3. The S7A Server background process could crash when user deselected TIA symbols in the Power Tool's symbol tree.
4. The S7A Server background process could crash when a control tag I/O address (e.g. !Poll) was read or written but the referring driver object does not exist anymore in the current driver configuration.
5. The maximum size of a S7ADrv log file is now limited to 1 GB.
6. Switch back from the backup to the primary device failed in version 8.50, build 108.
7. Once user created a new, empty configuration in Power Tool, the driver rejected all symbolic TIA addresses.
8. Under rare occasions the S7A background process could crash after the Power Tool was started.

### 2.2.2 Power Tool

1. The Power Tool's log viewer window cyclically showed the error message 'The communication with the OPC UA Server failed with an exception in code path 4' even though the OPC UA server was neither installed nor running.

### 2.2.3 iFIX interface

1. Under specific conditions all non-register blocks have been set to off-scan after iFIX start.
2. An initial iFIX register (DR or AR) read or write operation with an register offset greater 0 failed. The specified offset value was not recognized. On a read operation the driver returned the value of the register's base address, on a write operation the driver has written the write value to the register's base address.
3. An iFIX data base which contained non-register blocks with symbolic TIA addresses and the 'Exception based' scan flag set, could corrupt the internal structure of the driver data block's shared memory when the iFIX block was stored in the upper half of the driver data block's shared memory.

## 2.3 Version 8.50, build 108

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The following sub-topics describe all defects which have been fixed in build 108.

### 2.3.1 Background process

1. When 'Auto create', respectively 'Auto select' for symbolic TIA channels, was active, the top most element of a TIA array variable was not automatically selected and rejected by the I/O address parser.
2. By an export of the driver configuration to CSV file, the primary rate of all data block was overwritten by the value of the secondary rate.
3. When the data quality of a data block changed from GOOD to BAD the driver sent a 'communication recovered' message to the iFIX alarm system instead of 'communication failed'.

### 2.3.2 Power Tool

1. The channel setting 'iFIX Register Offset is Element Offset' was not properly set on driver start. The driver always worked with 'Byte Offset' even though 'Element Offset' was set for the channel.
2. Undocking and moving the 'Log Viewer' dock window led to an exception message. Now the 'Log Viewer' window can be undocked, moved and re-docked properly.
3. The drop down area of the 'Communication Way' drop down list has been extended to show all communication way items without the need to scroll the list.

### 2.3.3 OPC DA/UA

1. On a connect of an OPC DA client to the Server an empty event message was sent to the Windows event log system.
2. Under certain circumstances the Power Tool's internal OPC UA client interface cyclically sent 'connection failed' messages to the 'Log Viewer' window.

## 2.4 Version 8.50, build 106

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The following topics describe all defects which have been fixed in build 106.

### 2.4.1 Program installation (Setup)

1. When S7A driver was installed as a Windows Service, any configuration changes made in the Backstage Setup View of the S7A Power Tool (e.g. change of default configuration file name) only became active once the system was restarted or the S7A driver service was restarted. With this new build the S7ADrv service start-up mode has been changed from 'Automatic' to 'Manual' which means that the S7ADrv Service is not started automatically with the system start-up. Instead it is started by the first client (iFIX processes, OPC client or Cimplicity S7A\_DC process) which connects to the S7ADrv background server. In turn, the S7ADrv service is stopped once the last client is disconnected from the S7ADrv background service. Changes in the setup parameters (made before via S7A Power Tool) now become effective upon the S7ADrv service has been automatically has terminated and started next time (by a new client connection).

### 2.4.2 Background process

1. When automatic symbol selection was active (*Auto create 'ON'* in Advanced driver setup) symbols which contained language-specific characters in its symbol path were not selected automatically.
2. When exception-based data transfer between S7ADrv process and a client (iFIX WSACTask, OPC UA Server or Cimplicity driver) was configured the S7ADrv process generated duplicate exceptions for digital signals (boolean addresses).

### 2.4.3 Native CIMPLICITY interface

1. The S7A\_DC driver process crashed when more than 100 Cimplicity points referred to the same S7A driver data block.
2. Memory leak in S7A\_DC driver process has been fixed.
3. Point values have been displayed as zero values instead as '\*\*\*' when the PLC was disconnected.

## 2.5 Version 8.50, build 105

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The following topics describe all defects which have been fixed in build 105.

### 2.5.1 Power Tool

1. The settings for *I/O Address Syntax* and *iFIX Register Offset* in the channel configuration were not persistently stored in the configuration file. Once the *I/O address syntax* was set to 'S7M comp.' and/or the *iFIX Register Offset* was set to 'is element offset' and the configuration was saved and the driver was restarted, the settings changed back to the default settings ('S7 Not. IEC' and 'is byte offset').

### 2.5.2 Background process

1. Once the connection to a PLC dropped, all the iFIX database blocks which referred to the PLC went persistently Off-Scan. Now they stay On-Scan. Only the data quality of the database block changes to 'BAD' thus all data links in iFIX pictures changes from regular value to displaying question marks. As soon as connection is re-established the data links become valid again and displaying their regular value.

2. Loading an empty S7A configuration file could cause a crash of the S7ADrv.exe process.

3. Large configurations with hundreds of S7A data blocks could cause a high CU load on the S7ADrv.exe process.

4. Symbolic (TIA) data blocks not started cyclical polling when a *Primary Rate* and an *Access Time* but no *Secondary Rate* were configured for the data block.

5. When disabling a S7A device e.g. via Power Tool or by a `!Mode:<device name>` control tag, the data quality of some of the subordinated data blocks remained at 'GOOD' instead of changing to 'BAD'.

6. When symbol source 'TIA project' was selected and a PLC name within the TIA project contained language specific characters then the selection of symbols in the S7A data block dialog failed. The auto-selection of symbols when the iFIX database was loaded failed as well.

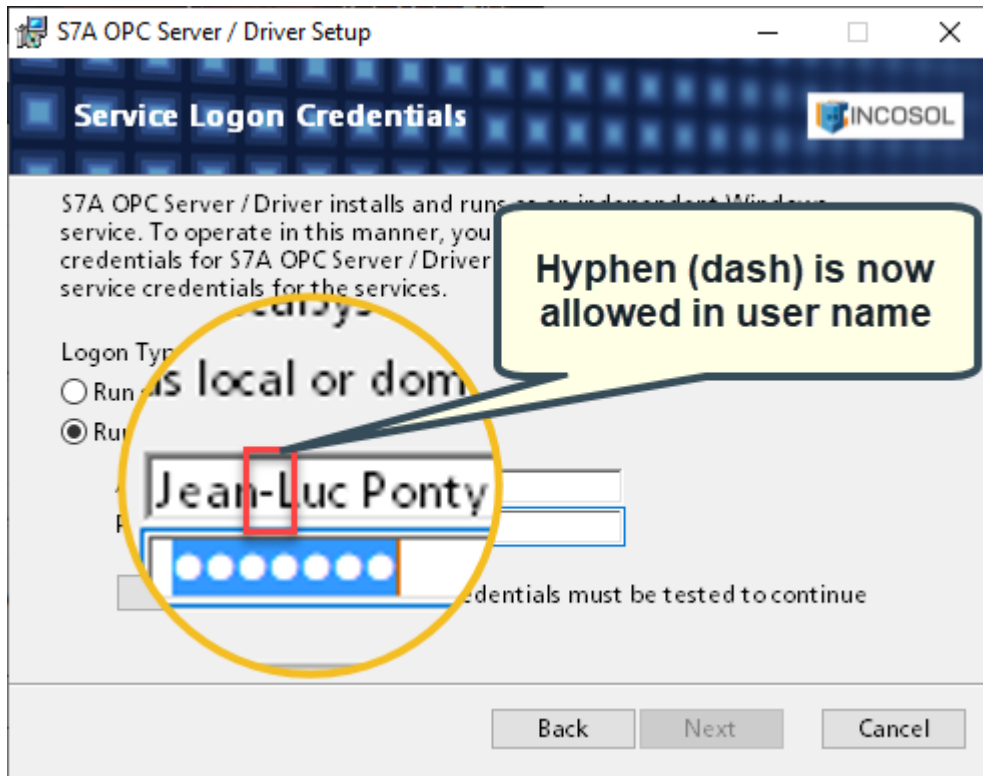
7. When Auto-create mode was activated and iFIX was started and a S7A data block was deleted via the Power Tool, the S7ADrv.exe process crashed.

## 2.6 Version 8.50, build 104

The following topics describe all defects which have been fixed in build 104.

### 2.6.1 Program installation (Setup)

The 'Account' field in the 'Service Logon Credentials' dialog did not accept hyphens (dashes). Now hyphens within the account name are allowed.



### 2.6.2 Power\_Tool

1. In the device configuration dialog of a S7 TCP channel the selection of the PLC type has not been persistently stored. Instead it has been reset to the default selection 'S7-300/400' once the configuration dialog has been closed and opened again.
2. For data blocks with memory area unequal to 'Data Block' the start index could not be set to a value greater than zero.

### 2.6.3 Native iFIX interface

1. When the data block option 'Auto Create' was activated the S7A background process (S7ADrv) could possibly crash when the iFIX data base manager program was launched.
2. A memory leakage in the S7A background process (S7ADrv), the iFIX WSACTask and the iFIX data base manager might occur in cases where the iFIX data base contained blocks with unresolved S7A I/O addresses.

### 2.6.4 Native CIMPLICITY interface

1. The native CIMPLICITY driver process S7A\_DC.EXE possibly could crash.
2. Writing a value to a single element of a CIMPLICITY Array point failed.



## 2.7 Version 8.50, build 102

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The following topics describe all defects which have been fixed in build 102.

### 2.7.1 Offset addressing via iFIX DR block on analog TIA symbols

The indexed addressing (F\_x) via iFIX DR block of a bit within an analog TIA symbol value failed. Only the first bit's value was read no matter which offset was defined in the iFIX data link.

### 2.7.2 High CPU load caused by S7ADRV process

On large S7A configuration with multiple symbolic TIA channels and devices the S7A driver background process S7ADrv.exe could cause a high CPU load of more than 50%.

### 2.7.3 Power Tool failed to connect to background process

After the driver was installed as a service the S7A Power Tool and all other clients which run on integrity level 'Medium' failed to connect to the background process (S7ADrv.exe service). After a restart of the computer or a restart of the S7A Driver service the issue disappeared.

## 2.8 Version 8.50, build 101

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The following topics describe all defects which have been fixed in build 101.

### 2.8.1 Lower case I/O addresses or OPC Item Ids

The I/O address portion (the part right to the colon) of an iFIX I/O address or an OPC Item Id now accept lower case characters for the memory area and data type specifier. Example: 'D11:db100.dbw0' now is a valid I/O address.

### 2.8.2 Import of version 8.10 CSV import files

- The import of a CSV configuration file exported by version 8.10 failed due to an invalid or missing symbol filter expression string value (CSV file property **TCPTIASymbolFilterExpr**) in the channel portion of a symbolic TIA channel.
- The import of a CSV configuration file exported by version 8.10 failed due to an invalid or missing TIA project file time stamp value (CSV file property **TCPTIAProjectTSSaved**) in the channel portion of a symbolic TIA channel.  
The driver now tolerates such missing property values.
- CSV import failed when the CSV file was modified and save in MS Excel. Now the driver accepts CSV files which were modified and saved by Excel.
- The Channel property **TCPMaxGap** has been added to achieve compatibility with CSV files generated with version 8.10.

### 2.8.3 Poll overrun counting

The detection of the polling overruns counted much more overruns than actually occurred.

### 2.8.4 Fragmented polling on demand

The '**S7-300/400/1500 TCP/IP Absolute**' communication way channel feature '**Fragmented polling on demand**' now works properly.

### 2.8.5 Limitation of Slot number range

The **Slot** number field in the TCP/IP device settings dialog was limited to a range between 0 and 10. The upper limit has been extended to 64.

### 2.8.6 iFIX Register Element Offset

The **iFIX Register Offset is Element Offset** channel setting failed in S7A 8.50 RC14. This option is working properly now.

### 2.8.7 Control Tag addresses for symbolic (TIA) driver objects

All control tag addresses (e.g. !Mode:<device name>) with driver objects (Channel, Device or Data Block) of symbolic communication ways (TIA and SIMOTION) failed and were rejected by the S7ADrv.

### 2.8.8 Simulation mode

In simulation mode of symbolic communication ways (TIA and SIMOTION) the data quality 'BAD' was returned to the clients (iFIX or OPC). Now the driver returns the proper data quality 'GOOD'.

**2.8.9 OPC UA Security Policy**

Setting the OPC UA Security Policy 'None' on or off via the Power Tool's OPC UA options dialog had no effect on the OPC UA Server.

**2.8.10 Limitation of Cimplicity point name length**

The length of a CIMPLICITY point address was limited to 32 characters, which is too less for symbolic addresses for TIA or SIMOTION communication ways. The address length has been extended to 296 characters.

**2.8.11 Software license and lower case computer name**

Under certain circumstances the comparison of the computer name against the name encoded in the software license file failed when the computer name contained lower case characters.

### 3 Known Issues

The following issues or functional restrictions are still pending and are going to be address by the next version or build.

- The TCP port number of the EDA GRPC server is not configurable. Currently it is solely changeable in the S7ADIDW.exe.config file.
- The EDA GRPC Server's log files are stored in the installation folder but not in the program data path (where the other S7A program store their log files).
- The change of the user interface language does not work when S7A is installed as a service and Power Tool is started with integrity level 'Medium'.
- Due to an issue in iFIX 6.1 (the S7ASTSR.DLL is improperly unloaded by the Databasemanager) the S7ADrv background process does not automatically shut down while iFIX is shutting down. This issue seems to be fixed with iFIX version 6.5.