

S7A Driver / OPC Server V 8.70

Version History

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Jürgen Stähler

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1 What is new...

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

1.1 Version 8.70, Build 102

Build 102 does not include any new features; it only contains bug fixes. You can find the list of fixed bugs [here](#)³³.

1.2 Version 8.70, Build 100

The new version 8.70, Build 100 is based on the previous version 8.60, build 116. This topic and its sub-topics describes all new features added to S7A version 8.70, build 100.

Major extensions in V 8.70, Build 100:

- Support for Windows Server 2025
- Support for TIA Portal V20
- The upload of symbols from S7-1200/1500 is now implemented in a satellite process (S7ATIASymbolLoader.exe). A separate instance of this process is started for each TIA device. All instances run in parallel, which significantly speeds up the upload of symbols. Furthermore, this significantly reduces the memory footprint of the main process (S7ADrv.exe).
- New Option '[Symbol Load Mode](#)'⁶ in the TIA Device Dialog.
- New Option '[Symbol Update Mode](#)'⁶ in the TIA Device Dialog.
- Option to use [filter in TIA symbol tree](#)⁸.

1.2.1 TIA Symbol Load Mode

The screenshot shows the configuration window for a TIA device. The 'Symbol Load Mode' dropdown is highlighted with a red box, and its menu is open, showing three options: 'PLC, (by all means)', 'PLC, (by all means)', and 'AGL File, (if up-to-date)'. The 'AGL File, (if up-to-date)' option is selected. Other settings include Name: TIA_D11, Description: TIA Device D11, PLC IP Address: 192.72.214.79, Source IP Address: 0.0.0.0, TCP Port: 102, Timeout: 16, Retries: 3, Delay: 10, and Symbol Update Mode: Only Monitoring.

With the introduction of the TIASymbolLoader satellite process, this process generates a symbol file (AGL file in folder **C:\ProgramData\InCoSol\S7A\Driver\SymSave**), which is then read by the S7ADrv process. The symbols read by the PLC are therefore permanently available in this AGL symbol file.

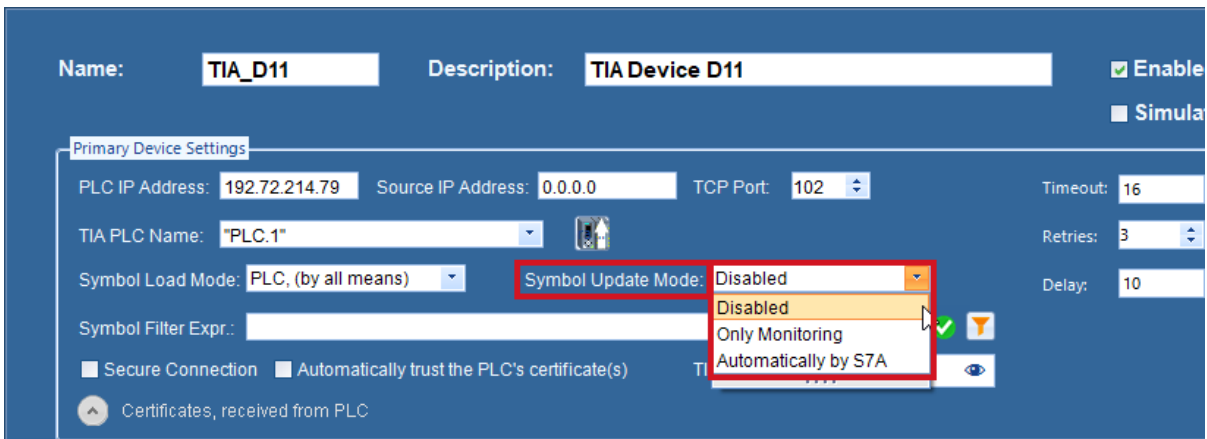
The symbol load mode can now be used to control whether the symbols, if up to date, should be read from the AGL file or always loaded from the PLC.

Load Modes:

- **PLC, by all means setting** - The symbols are always loaded online from the PLC. This is the classic mode, as with older S7A versions prior to V 8.70. Although the symbols are stored in the AGL symbol file, this file is always generated from the upload of symbols from the PLC.
- **AGL file (if up-to-date)** - If the last written AGL symbol file is newer than the last download of the TIA project to the PLC, then the symbols are loaded from the AGL symbol file. Otherwise the symbols are loaded online from the PLC. Loading symbols from the file offers a speed advantage, especially when there are a large number of symbols (> 50,000). Loading symbols from the AGL symbol file takes significantly less time than loading them from the PLC.

1.2.2 TIA Symbol Update Mode

The newly introduced TIA symbol update mode controls the automatic reloading of symbols and monitors and reports when the symbols in S7A are out of date compared to the PLC.



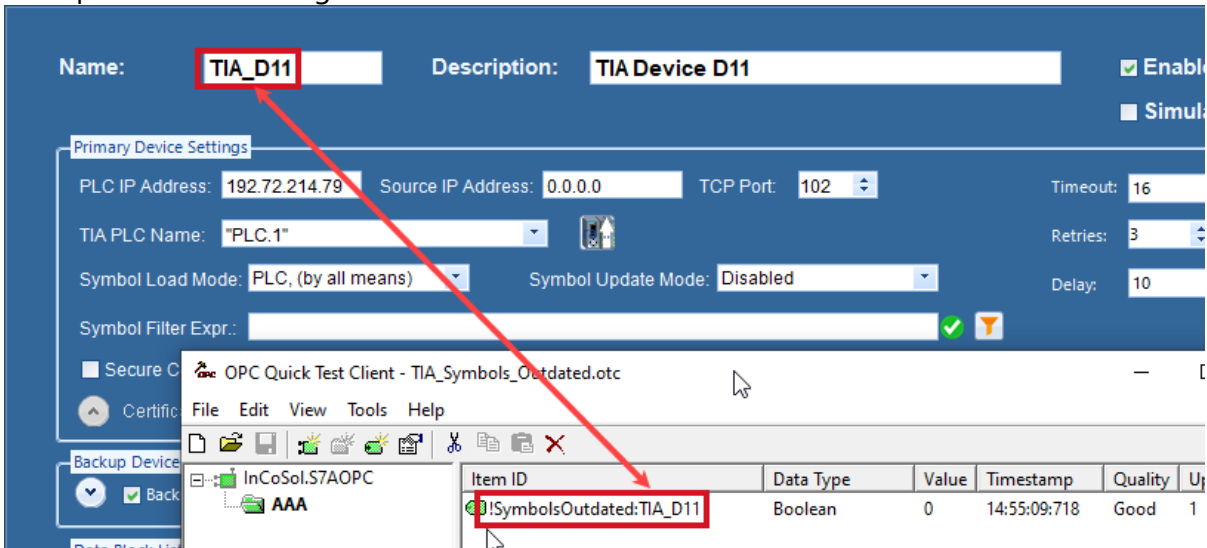
Description of the three symbol update modes:

- **Disabled** - No query of the date of the last download of the project via the TIA Portal. The same functionality as in previous S7A versions prior to 8.70.
- **Only Monitoring** -: The date of the last download of the project via the TIA Portal is queried cyclically and compared with the date of the last symbol file (.agl in C:\ProgramData\InCoSol\S7A\Driver\SymSave) loaded by the S7A driver. The result of the comparison can be queried via the control tag address **!SymbolsOutdated:<Device name>**.

Value 0 = Symbols in S7A are up to date i.e. the last write date of the AGL symbol file is newer than the last download to the PLC.

Value 1 = Symbols in S7A are outdated, i.e., the last write date of the AGL symbol file is older than the last download to the PLC.

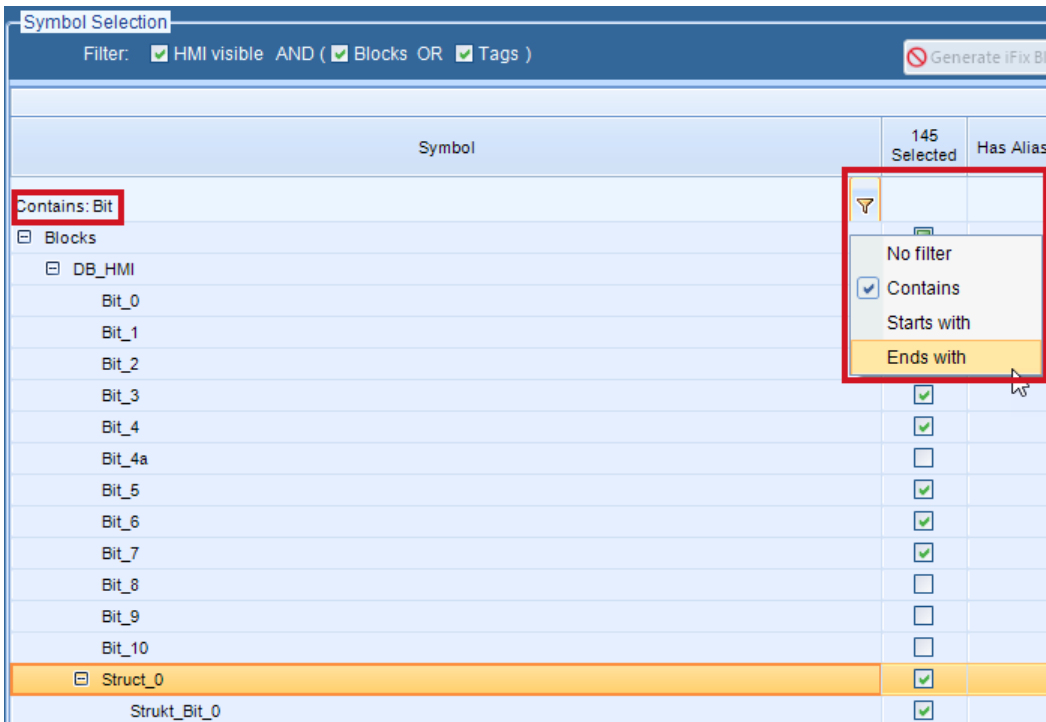
Example of a control tag definition in OPC DA:



- **Automatically by S7A** - The date of the last download of the project via the TIA Portal is queried cyclically and compared with the date of the last AGL symbol file (.agl in C:\ProgramData\InCoSol\S7A\Driver\SymSave) loaded by the S7A driver. If the software detects that the AGL symbol file is older than the last download to the PLC, the symbols are automatically reloaded from the PLC and the AGL symbol file is also updated. The tags of the connected clients (iFIX and/or OPC) are updated automatically, so no manual reload of the iFIX database is required anymore.

1.2.3 TIA Symbol Filter

With very large TIA symbol structures, searching for a specific individual symbol can be quite time-consuming because you have to click through many PLC data blocks and their nested symbol structures to find the symbol you are looking for. To simplify and speed up this process, a filter function has been integrated into the TIA symbol tree. You can now enter a search string and the symbol tree is automatically reduced to the symbol nodes whose names match the selected filter criteria and search string.



The following three filter expressions are available in the first version of this new feature:

- **Contains** - Only nodes whose symbol contains the string entered in the search field are displayed. A corresponding wildcard operation would be `*<search string>*`.
- **Starts with** - Only nodes whose symbol begins with the string entered in the search field are displayed. A corresponding wildcard operation would be `<search string>*`.
- **Ends with** - Only nodes whose symbol ends with the string entered in the search field are displayed. A corresponding wildcard operation would be `*<search string>`.

1.3 Version 8.60, build 116

This chapter and the sub-chapters describe the new features of S7A Version 8.60, Build 116 in compact form.

Compared to build number 108, only minor enhancements and changes have been made to version 8.60, build 116, which are listed below:

- Symbolic addressing now supports the latest S7-1500 firmware versions 3.1.0 and S7-1200 firmware version 4.6.1.
- When writing values to symbolic TIA addresses, the value to be written is now also written to the input image of the shared memory in order to provide immediate feedback to the operator.
- The signal condition function **BCD4** can now also be used for byte data types. Previously, only word data types were supported.
- The **S5TXTSWAP** hardware option has been added. With this option, strings that are exchanged via iFIX-TX blocks with an S5 are converted in way that the bytes or ASCII characters within an S5 data word are swapped as to be displayed correctly in iFIX.
- When logging is active and the NIO-Send debug flag is set, the write values for symbolic (TIA) addresses are now also logged in the S7ASTSR log file. Previously, only write values for classic (physical) addressing were logged.
- S7_Time variables (TIA) can now also be read and written as analog values (iFIX block types AI, AA, or AR) as milliseconds value.
- With classic (physical) data block addressing, data block numbers up to 65535 can now be accessed. Previously, the data block number was limited to 32767.
- The validity period of self-generated OPC UA server certificates has been increased from 36 months to 120 months.

1.4 Version 8.60, build 105

This topic and its sub-topics briefly describes all new features added to S7A version 8.60, build 105

Build 105 does not contain any new functions, only a few bug fixes (see topic [Fixed defects in V 8.60, build 105](#)⁽³⁵⁾).

1.5 Version 8.60, build 104

This chapter and the sub-chapters describe the new features of S7A Version 8.60, Build 104 in compact form.

Major enhancements in V 8.60, Build 104:

- [Export of a TIA symbol node](#) and its sub-nodes to a CSV file.
- With symbolic addressing, the latest S7-1200/1500 firmware versions 3.0.3 (S7-1500) and 4.6.1 (S7-1200) are now supported.
- Symbolic addressing now supports TIA version V19
- Full redundancy support for the S7-1500R/H controllers, compatible with the S7-400H. The S7A software constantly checks which of the two PLC CPUs is the active one and connects to it. If the network connection to the active CPU is interrupted, the S7A software automatically switches to the backup CPU. Depending on the configuration of the S7A device, the S7A software checks the availability of the primary (active) CPU and automatically switches back as soon as the active CPU is available again. To support this functionality, a PLC function developed by INCOSOL must be called in OB1 on the S7-1500R/H. A TIA demo project for this can be requested via the INCOSOL support form.

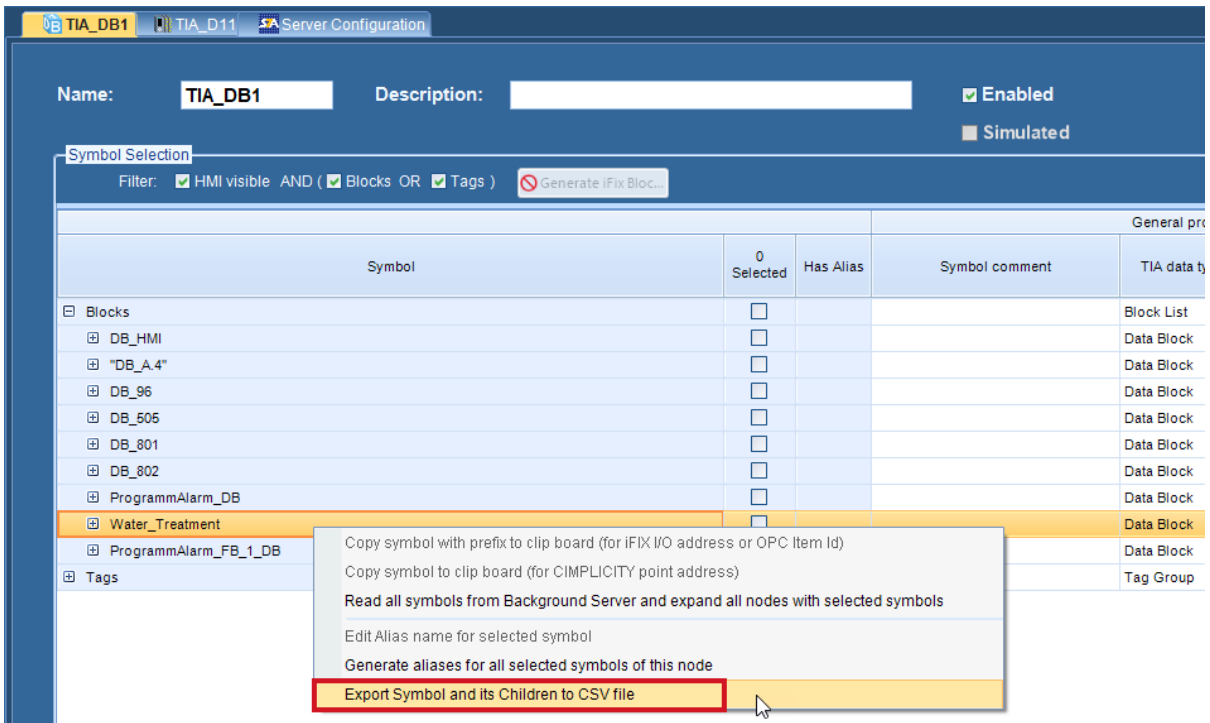
Minor enhancements and changes in V8.60, Build 104:

- In iFIX, TIA array symbols can now be specified as I/O addresses for DR/AR blocks. In combination with the auto-select option, the complete array (i.e. all array elements) is selected when importing an iFIX database for DR/AR tags that refer to TIA array symbols in the I/O addresses. If, on the other hand, the first array element of the array is specified as the I/O address, only this first array element is automatically selected.
- The shared memory footprint of the S7A background process (S7ADrv.exe) has been significantly reduced. The previous versions up to 8.60, Build 103 allocated 300 MB in the virtual address space of the S7A background process for the shared memory in the default installation. In S7A configurations with a large number of PLCs that were addressed symbolically and contained a very large number (several hundred thousand) of symbols, a memory shortage or a complete memory allocation of up to 2 GB could occur. With this improvement or reduction in memory consumption, more memory is now available for TIA symbols.
The software now determines and allocates the required size of the shared memory based on the size of the loaded configuration file, including a reserve in case the configuration should be expanded.
- The input length of a physical I/O address of a symbol or of a symbol path of a TIA alias was limited to 50 characters and has been extended to 256 characters.
- Symbolic (TIA) array variables larger than 1024 bytes can now be written.

- The TIA data type ULInt is now supported.
- Improved read performance when reading TIA addresses. The number of shared memory read calls has been optimized/minimized. The access time or runtime of a read call from iFIX to the S7A driver has been reduced by 50%.

1.5.1 Export of a TIA Symbol Node

An CSV export function is now available via the context menu in the symbol tree of an S7A data block of a symbolic TIA device.



The export takes place in a file in CSV format.



In this version, the structure (the number and sequence of the exported fields) is fixed. In a later S7A version, the fields and their sequence will be freely selectable.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	TreeSequenceNr	Symbol	Has Alias	Symbol comment	TIA data type	Path	Access	HMI accessible	HMI visible
2	1	Water_Treatment	No		Data Block	Blocks.Water_Treatment	NONE	Yes	Yes
3	1.1	Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool	No		UDT:Drive_Fl	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool	NONE	Yes	Yes
4	1.1.1	Cmd_Man	No		S7_Boolean	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Cmd_Man	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
5	1.1.2	Cmd_Off	No		S7_Boolean	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Cmd_Off	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
6	1.1.3	Cmd_Auto	No		S7_Boolean	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Cmd_Auto	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
7	1.1.4	Cmd_Manual_On	No		S7_Boolean	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Cmd_Manual_On	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
8	1.1.5	Cmd_Manual_Off	No		S7_Boolean	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Cmd_Manual_Off	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
9	1.1.6	Status_Man_Auto	No	Status Hand (1), 0, Automatic (2)	S7_Byte	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Status_Man_Auto	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
10	1.1.7	Status_On_Off	No		S7_Byte	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Status_On_Off	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
11	1.1.8	RPM_Set	No		S7_Integer	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.RPM_Set	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
12	1.1.9	RPM_Act	No		S7_Integer	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.RPM_Act	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
13	1.1.10	Temp_Act	No		S7_Real	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Temp_Act	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
14	1.1.11	Temp_Limit_Warn	No		S7_Integer	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Temp_Limit_Warn	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
15	1.1.12	Temp_Limit_Alarm	No		S7_Integer	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Temp_Limit_Alarm	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
16	1.1.13	Current_Act	No		S7_Real	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Current_Act	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
17	1.1.14	Current_Limit_Warn	No		S7_Real	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Current_Limit_Warn	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
18	1.1.15	Current_Limit_Alarm	No		S7_Real	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Current_Limit_Alarm	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
19	1.1.16	Alarm_Overcurrent	No		S7_Boolean	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Alarm_Overcurrent	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
20	1.1.17	Alarm_Temperature	No		S7_Boolean	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Alarm_Temperature	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
21	1.1.18	Alarm_Fl	No		S7_Boolean	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Alarm_Fl	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
22	1.1.19	Error_Code_Fl	No		S7_Word	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Error_Code_Fl	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
23	1.1.20	Operation_Hours	No		S7_Word	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Operation_Hours	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
24	1.1.21	Srv	No		UDT:Maintenance	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Srv	NONE	Yes	Yes
25	1.1.21.1	Interval	No	Maintenance interval (days)	S7_Word	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Srv.Interval	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
26	1.1.21.2	Last	No	Date of last maintenance	S7_Date_And_Time	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Srv.Last	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
27	1.1.21.3	Next	No	Next maintenance date	S7_Date	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Srv.Next	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
28	1.1.21.4	ID	No	d of the service technician who carried out last maintenance	S7_String	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool.Srv.ID	READ_WRITE	Yes	Yes
29	1.2	Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool	No		UDT:Drive_Fl	Blocks.Water_Treatment.Circ_Pump1_Main_Pool	NONE	Yes	Yes

1.6 Version 8.60, build 103

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](#)^[14]
- [Secured \(encrypted\) connections](#)^[17] to S7-1200/1500 for symbolic addressing mode
- The S7A now can receive [program alarms from TIA PLCs](#)^[19]

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.

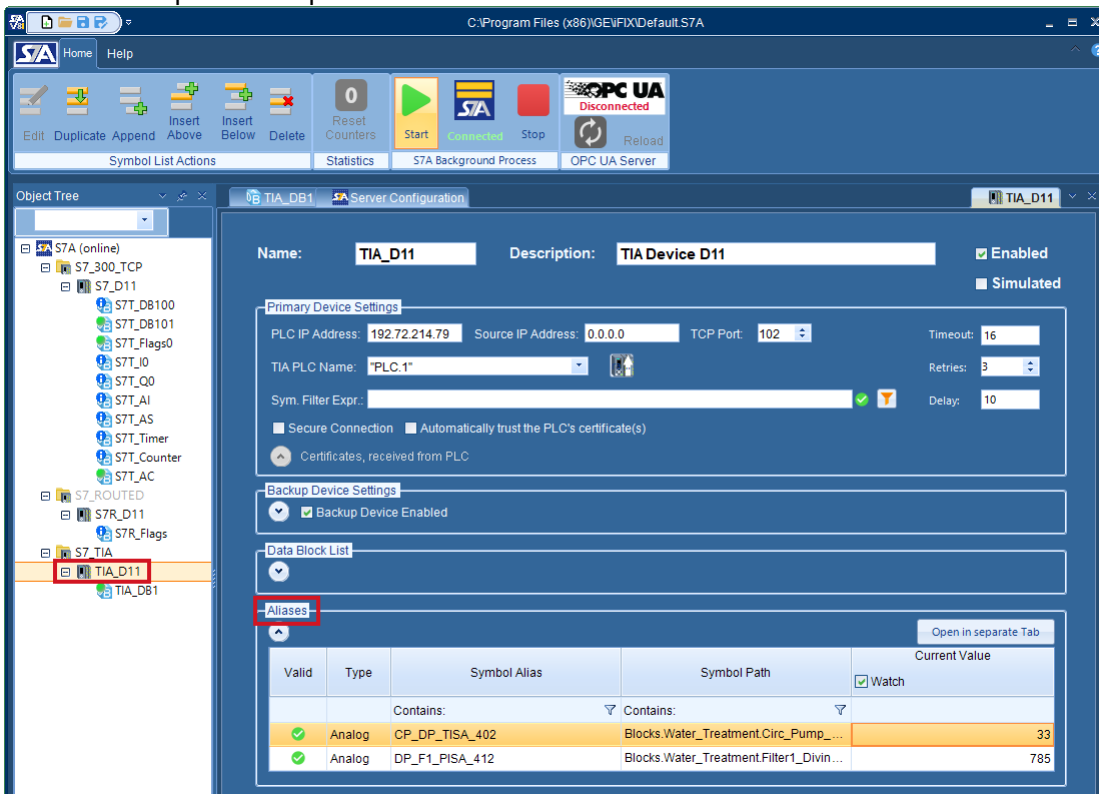
1.6.1 Alias names for TIA symbols

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.

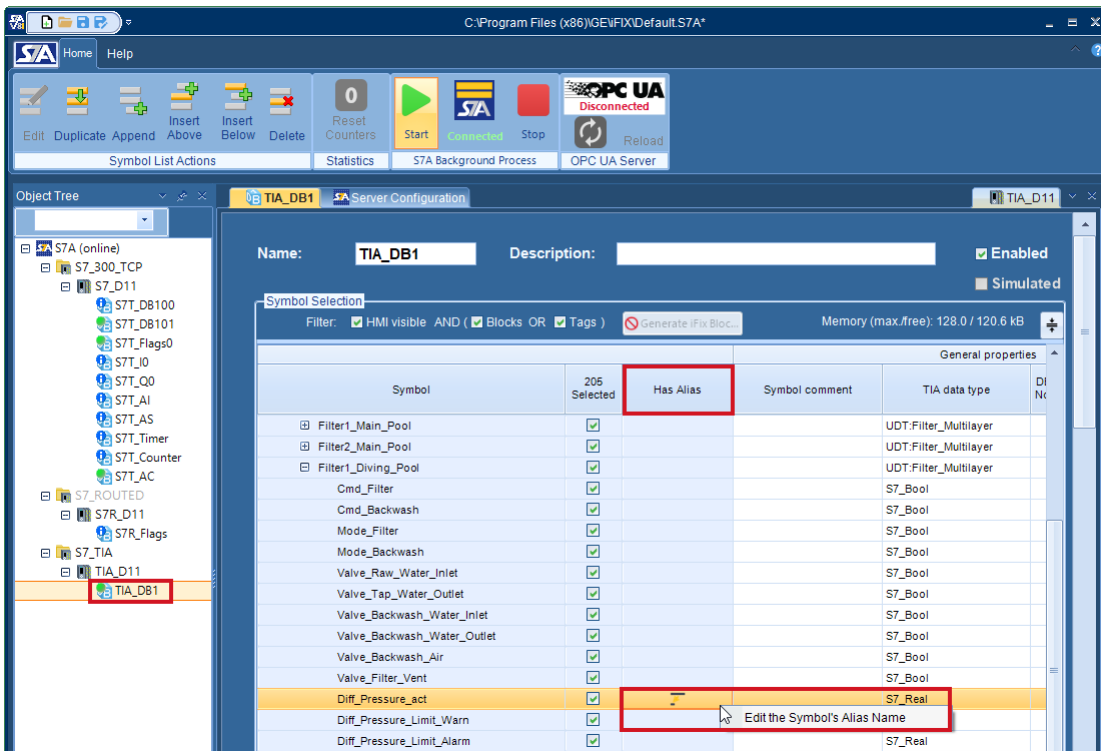
Alias names can be used in the client applications (iFIX, OPC DA and OPC UA) instead of the regular symbol paths.


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

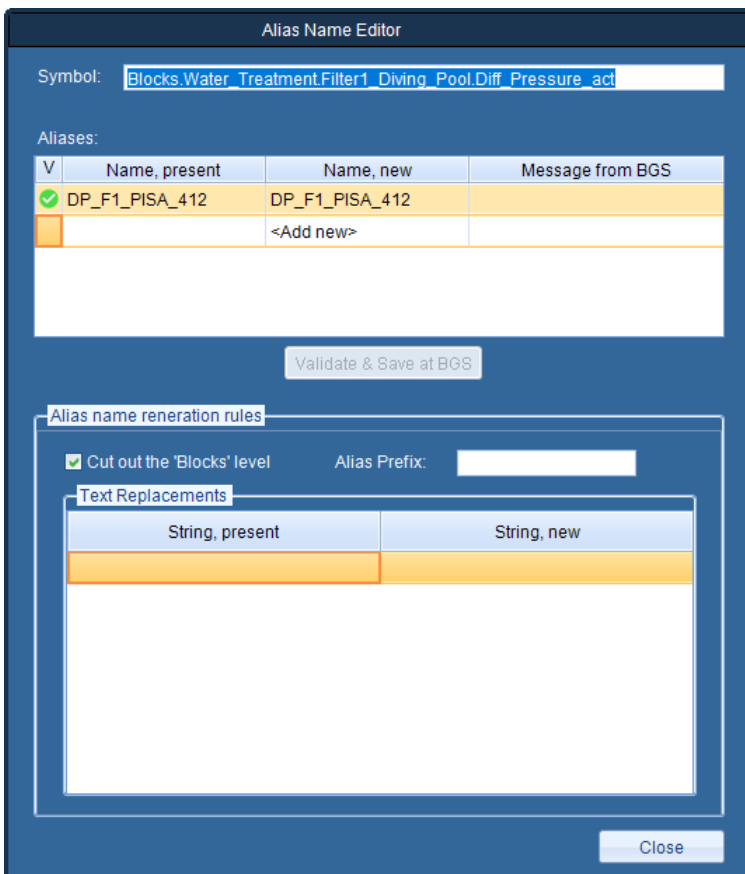
1. Via the expandable panel 'Aliases' on the TIA device level:



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.

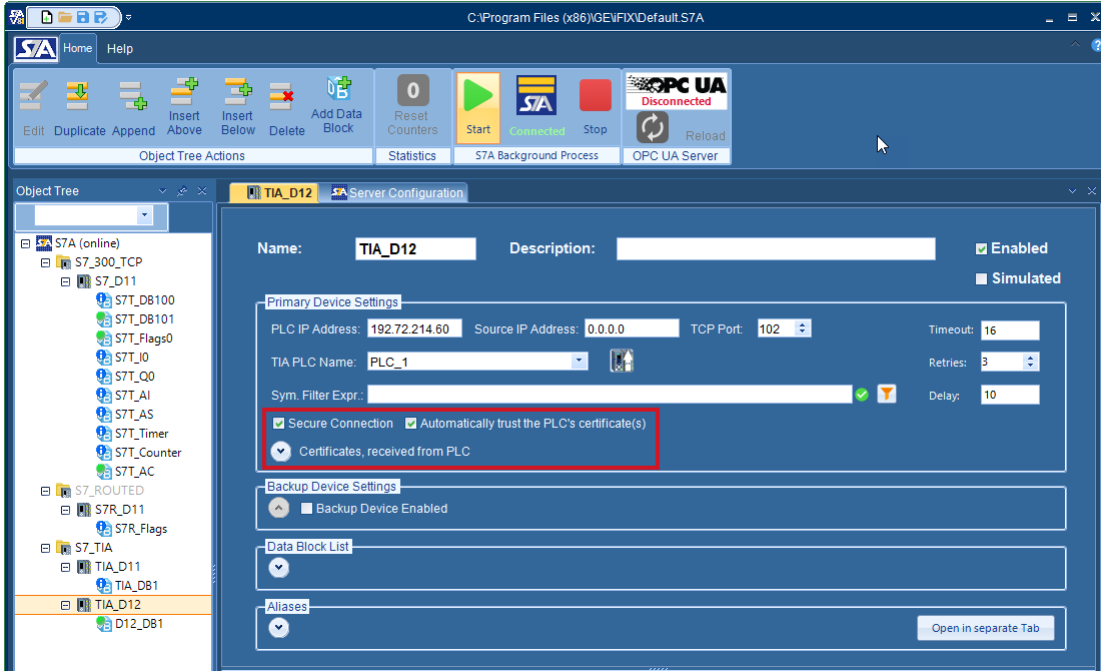
The alias names are not stored in the binary S7A configuration file, but in a separate symbol file that follows an XML syntax. This symbol file has the file extension 'S7AS' and is located in the same directory as the S7A configuration file. The very simple XML format of the symbol file also allows you 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:

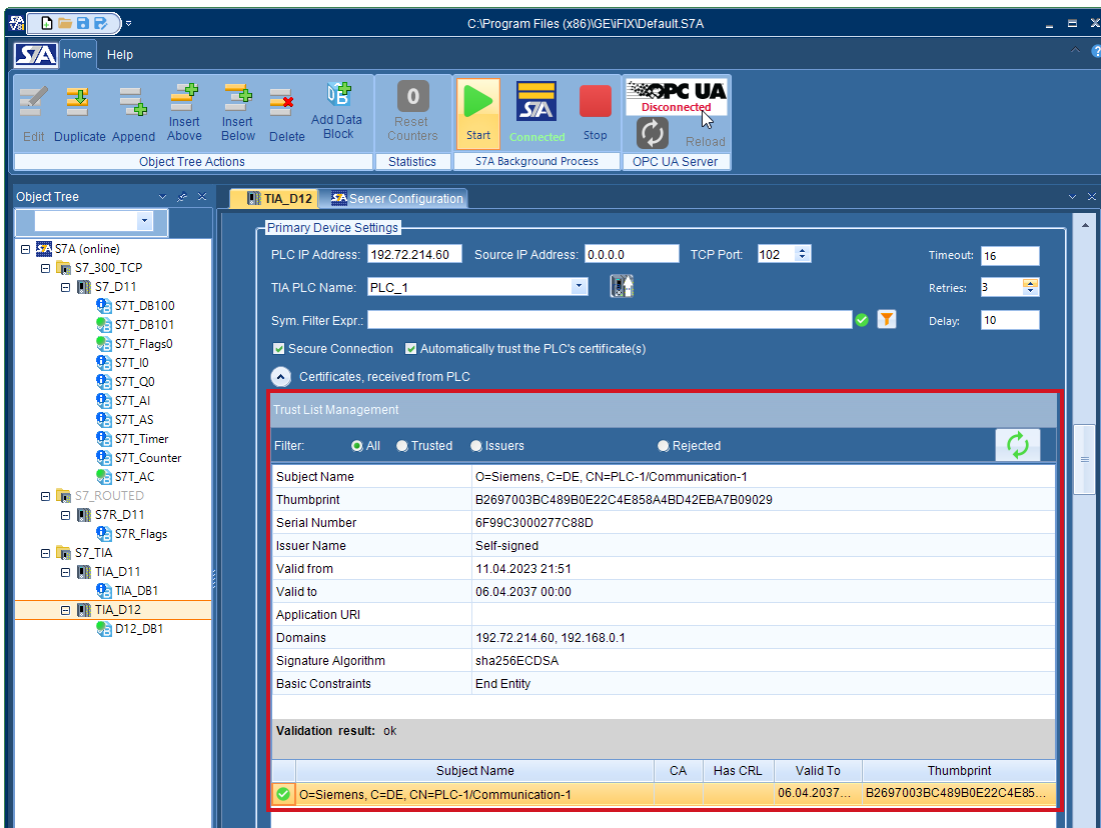
```
<DRIVER>
<ITEM Symbol="Global_Symbol_1" PhysAddress="S7_D11:DB100.DBW 0"/>
<CHANNEL name="S7_300_TCP">
<DEVICE name="S7_D11">
<ITEM Symbol="Device_Symbol_1" PhysAddress="DB100.DBW 0"/>
</DEVICE>
</CHANNEL>
<CHANNEL name="S7_ROUTED">
<DEVICE name="S7R_D11"/>
</CHANNEL>
<CHANNEL name="S7_TIA">
<DEVICE 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>
```

1.6.2 Secured connection to S7-1200/1500

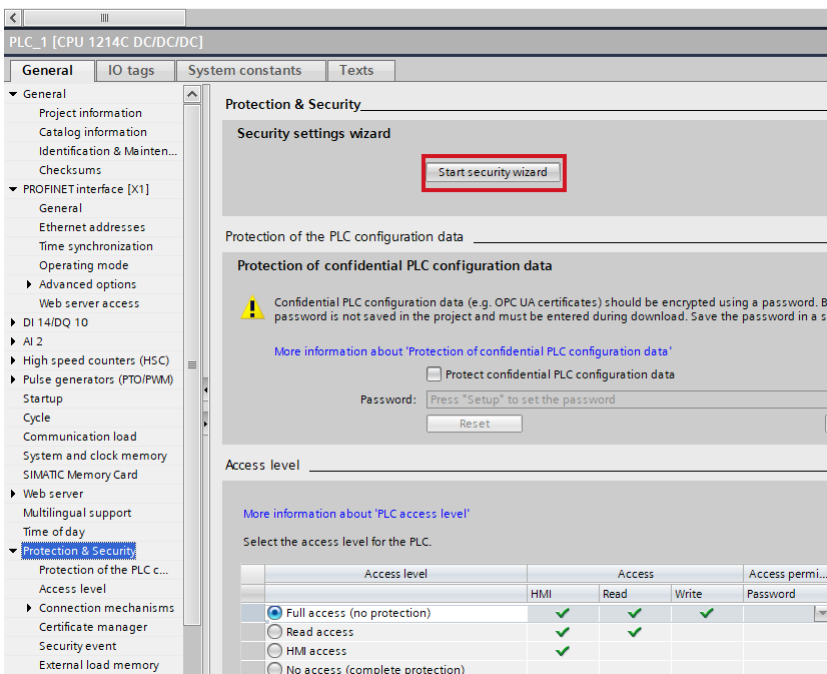
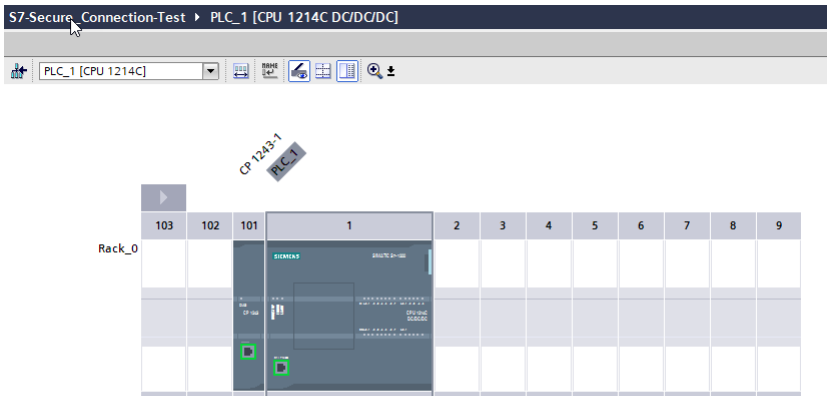
The secure (encrypted) communication via the TSL protocol available from TIA version 17 can now also be used for the symbolic communication to S7-1200/1500. For this purpose, the check boxes 'Secure connection' and 'Automatically trust the PLC's certificate' have been added to the parameter group 'Primary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



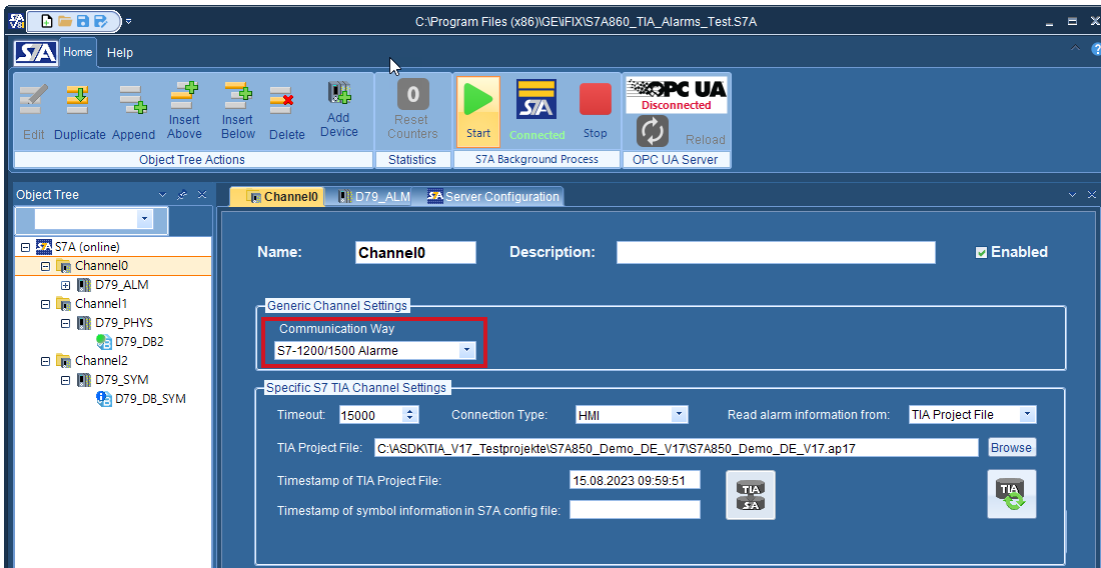
Please note that secure communication must be explicitly activated on the PLC side. The TIA Portal offers the 'Security Wizard' in the 'Protection & Security' settings for the PLC CPU for this purpose:



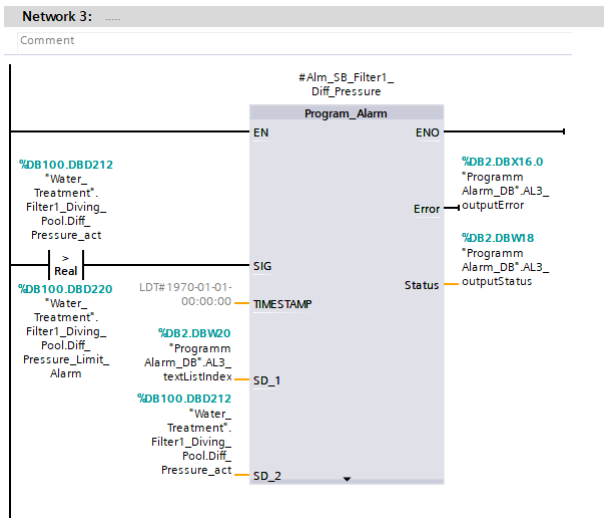
The S7A driver can only establish a secure connection once the PLC has been downloaded with the certificate required for encryption via the TIA Portal.

1.6.3 Alarms sent by the PLC

Digital program alarms and their associated values sent by an S7-1500 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 'S7-1500 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.

1.7 Version 8.50, build 109

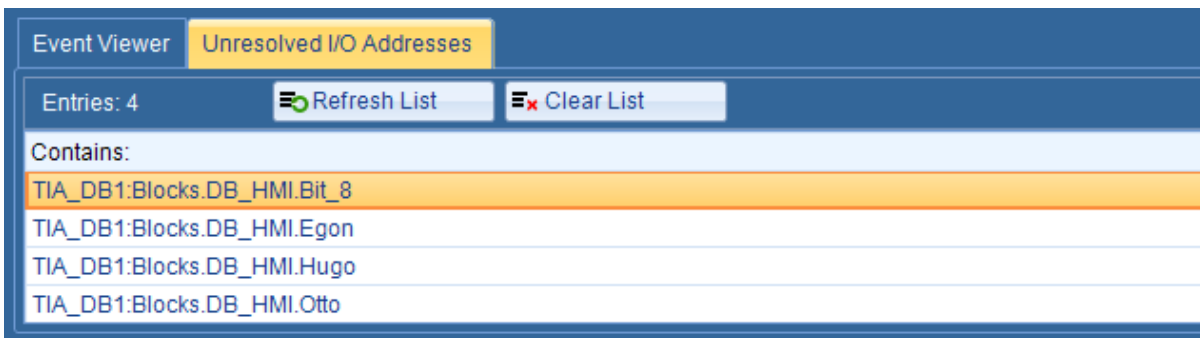
This topic and its sub-topics briefly describes all new features added to S7A version 8.50, build 109

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](#)³⁹.

1.7.1 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.

1.8 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](#)

1.8.1 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:



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.

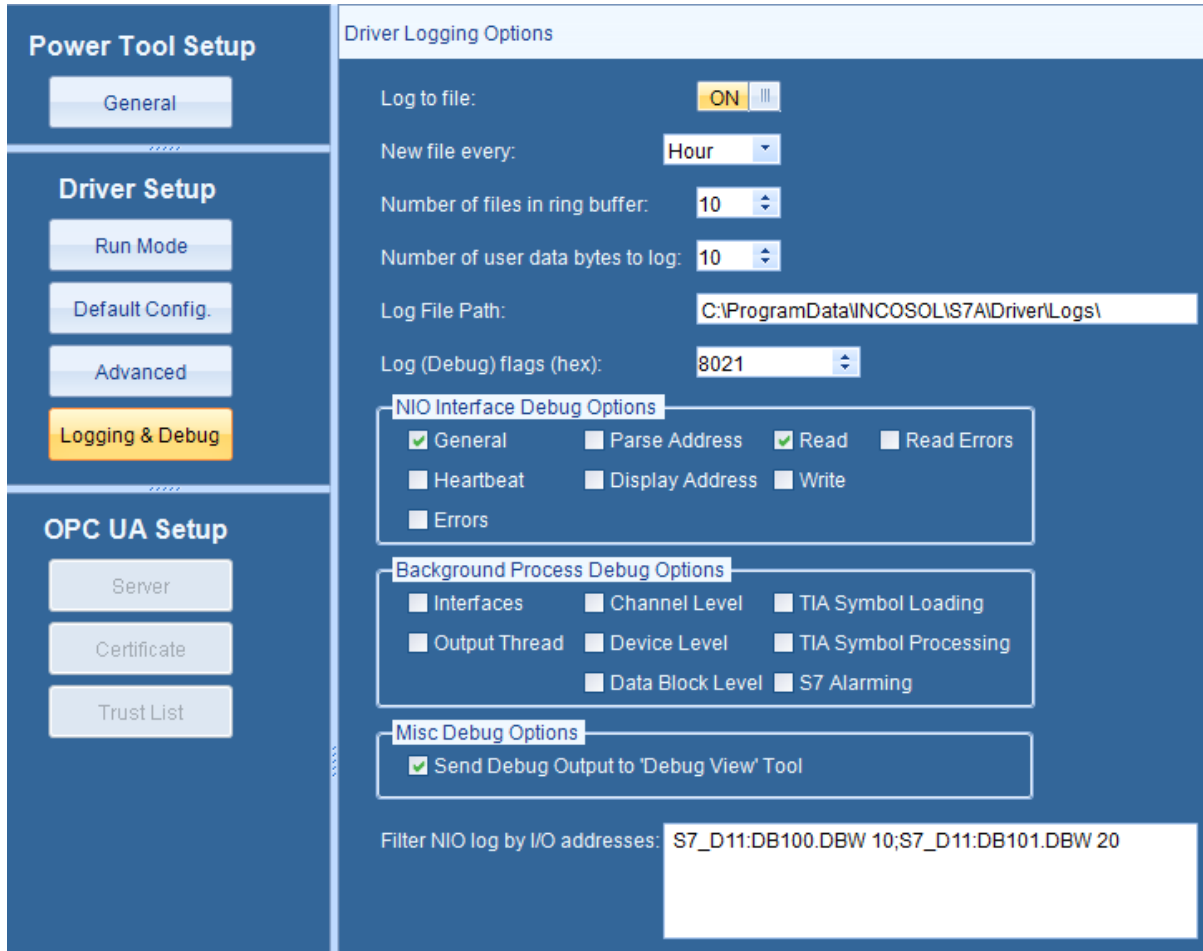
If the **Automatically switch back to primary device** check box is activated, the driver cyclically checks (via Ping) the availability of the primary connection and once the PLC becomes reachable again by this primary IP address the driver automatically changes back the communication to the primary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

1.8.2 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:



1.9 Version 8.50, build 106

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

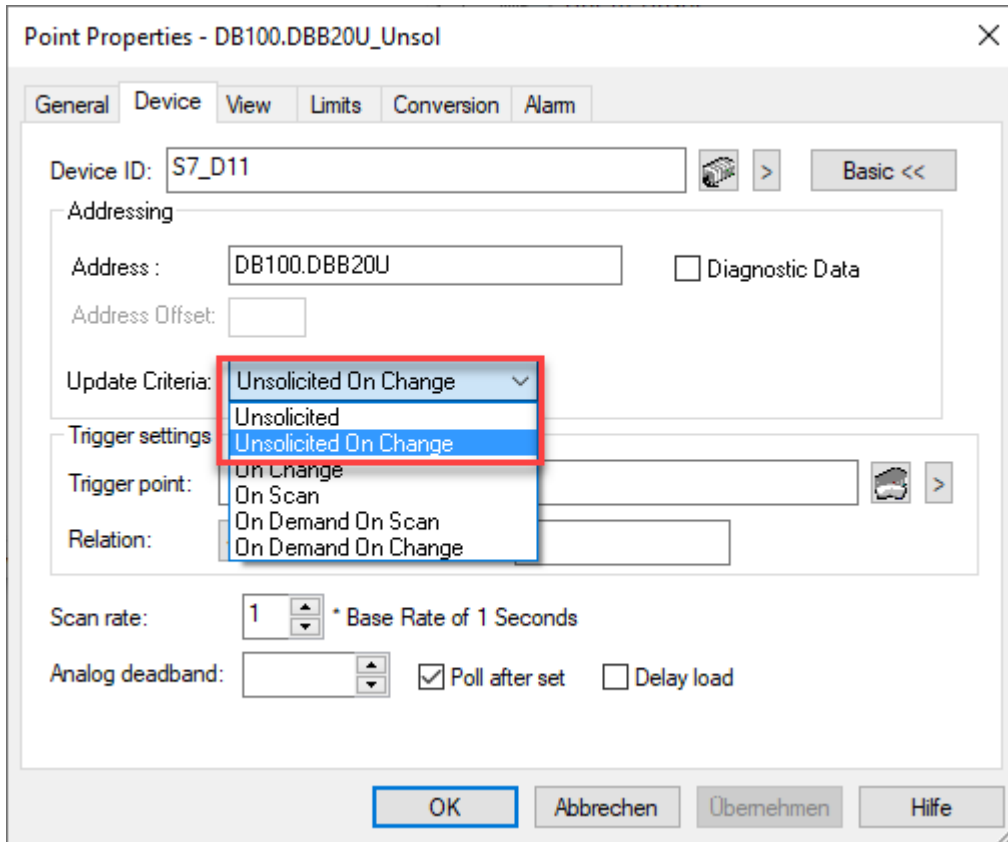
The build 106 does not contain new main features but the following minor changes/improvements and some bug fixes (see topic [Fixed defects in V 8.50, build 106](#)⁴²).

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

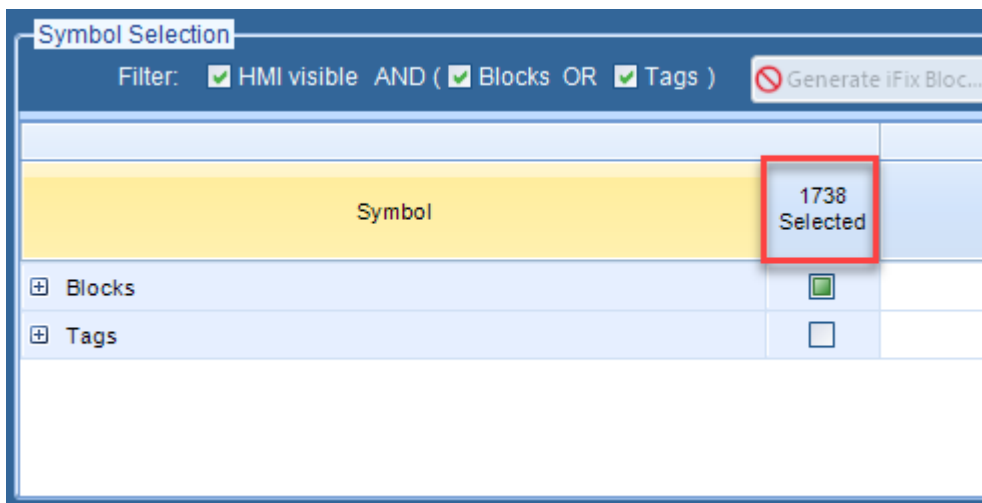
BINT function reads the two bytes starting at the iFIX tag's I/O address and provides a signed 16 bit value in the range between -32768 and 32767.

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:



1.10 Version 8.50, build 105

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](#)^[42]).

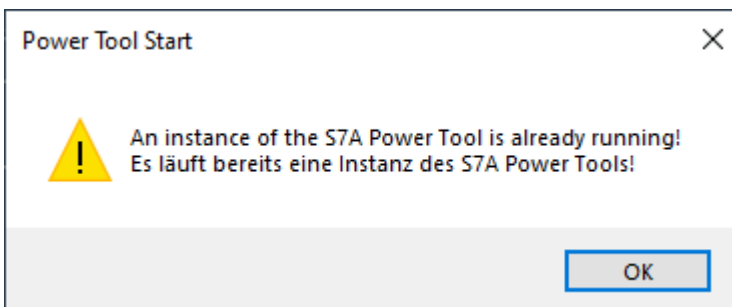
1.11 Version 8.50, build 104

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](#)^[43]).

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.

1.12 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](#)^[45]).

Minor changes and improvements:

- Support for [iFIX 2022](#)^[25] (6.8)
- [Re-arranged grid columns](#)^[25] in TIA symbol grid.

1.12.1 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.

1.12.2 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.

The screenshot shows the 'Symbol Selection' dialog box with a table of symbol properties. The 'Symbol' and 'Selected' columns are highlighted with a red box and labeled 'Pinned columns'. The table has the following structure:

Symbol Selection		General properties							Current value
Symbol	Selected	Symbol comment	TIA data type	DB No.	Access	HMI accessible	HMI visible	<input type="checkbox"/> Display	
Blocks			Block List						
DB_HMI			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"/>		

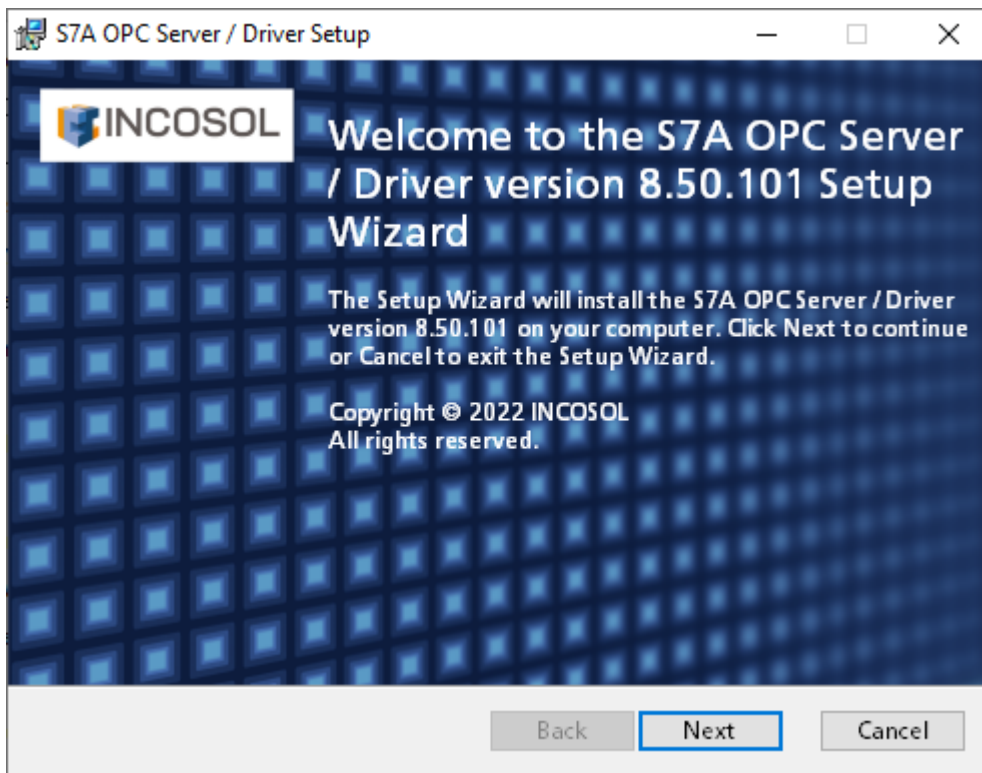
1.13 Version 8.50, build 101

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](#)^[26] routine
- Support for [iFIX secure mode](#)^[26] introduced with iFIX version 6.5
- Support for [CIMPLICITY HMI](#)^[27] versions 9.5 up to 11.5 (2022)
- OPC [UA Server](#)^[28]
- Symbol editor for all communication ways with physical (classic) addressing
- iFIX [block generation](#)^[30] from TIA symbolic
- Extended data block [diagnosis and client access monitoring](#)^[31]

1.13.1 New Setup



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

1.13.2 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.

1.13.3 Symbol Editor with watch feature

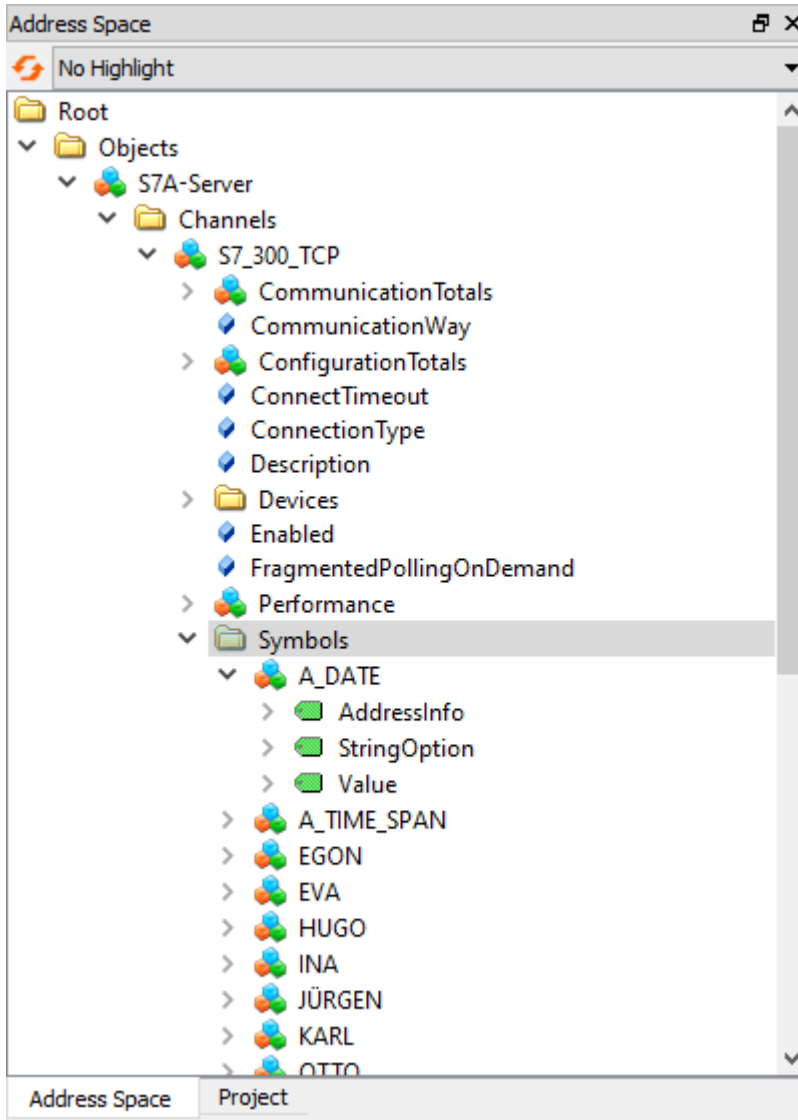
The S7A driver now supports all CIMPLICITY HMI versions from 9.5 up to latest version 11.5, also know as CIMPLICITY 2022.

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 access by CIMPLICITY points.

Furthermore all signal conditionig 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.

1.13.4 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:	<input type="text" value="48030"/>	
Network Address:	<input type="text" value="DESKTOP-QQAKSBS"/>	
Logical Host Name:	<input type="text" value="desktop-qqaksbs"/>	
Organization Name:	<input type="text" value="INCOSOL"/>	
Instance Name:	<input type="text" value="S7AUAServer"/>	
Endpoint URL:	<input type="text" value="opc.tcp://DESKTOP-QQAKSBS:48030/"/>	
Application URI:	<input type="text" value="urn:desktop-qqaksbs:INCOSOL:S7AUAServer"/>	
Application Name:	<input type="text" value="S7AUAServer@DESKTOP-QQAKSBS"/>	

Server / OPC UA Security Settings

Allow communication with no security (None):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Allow secure communication with data privacy (SignAndEncrypt):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Allow secure communication without data privacy (SignOnly):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

OPC UA Server Security Policies / (Encrytion modes)

Basic256Sha256 (Mandatory, always ON):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Aes128-Sha256-RsaOaep (Recommended - Fastest):	<input type="checkbox"/>	OFF	
Basic256 (Not recommended):	<input type="checkbox"/>	OFF	
Basic128Rsa15 (Not recommended):	<input type="checkbox"/>	OFF	

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.

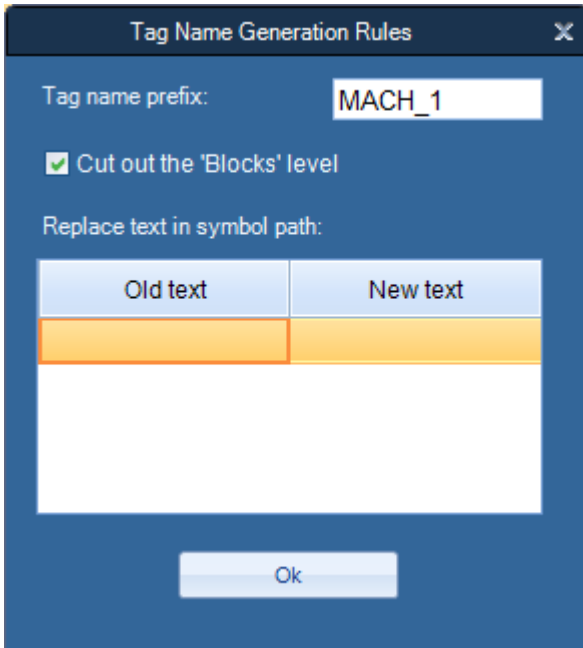
1.13.5 Automatic iFIX block generation of TIA symbols

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_Boolean		<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_Boolean		<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_Boolean		<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_Boolean		<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_Boolean		<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_Boolean		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bit_6	S7_Boolean		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bit_7	S7_Boolean		<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.

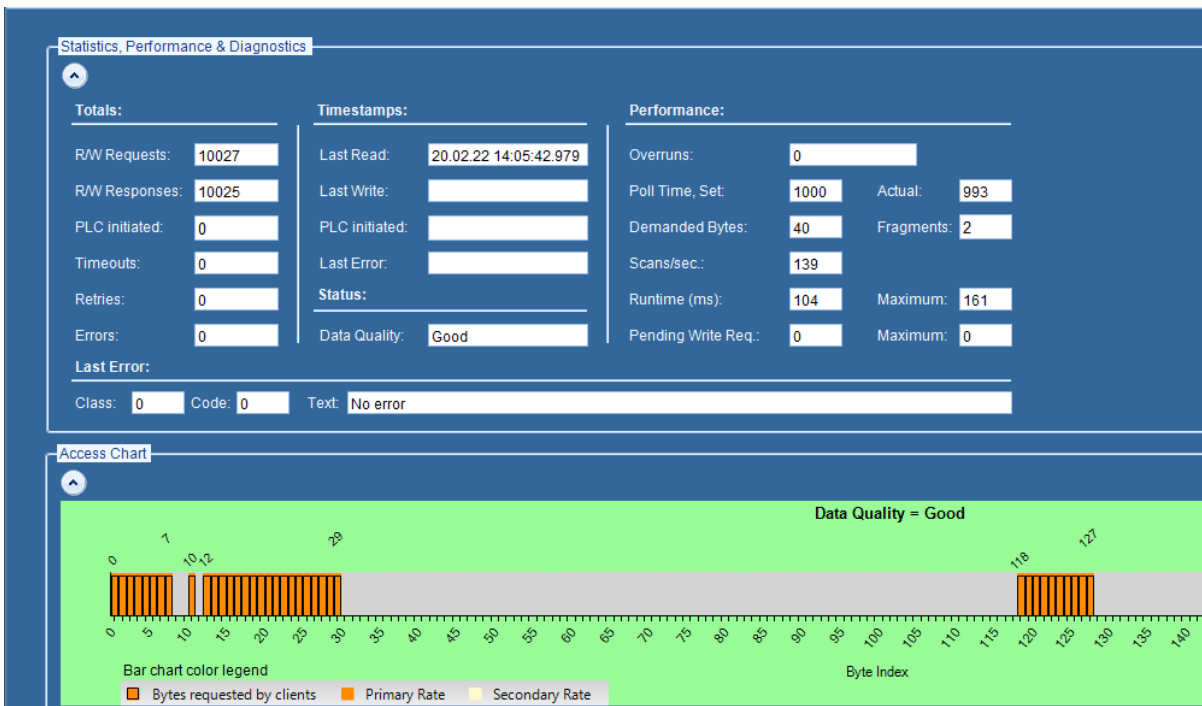
The following data block fields can be configured by this way:

- 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*



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

1.13.6 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 8.70, Build 102

The following chapters describe all errors that have been fixed in version 8.70, build 102 compared to version 8.70, build 100.

2.1.1 Background Process

- Loading TIA symbols from the PLC failed if a secure connection to the PLC was configured.
- The S7ADrv process could crash if, for example, communication with one or more PLCs was interrupted for an extended period of time, causing the process's internal message buffer to reach its maximum capacity of 500 entries (e.g., communication errors). If an upload of the TIA symbols was then triggered in this state (either automatically or by the user), the S7ADrv background process would crash.

2.1.2 Power Tool

- Due to the introduction of the TIA symbol filter function, the symbol tree was no longer displayed in its entirety.
- In the TIA symbol tree, only the node of the first structure component was displayed when expanding an array element node for arrays of UDT data types.
- In the TIA symbol tree, the base node "Tags" (called "PLC tags" in TIA Portal) was no longer displayed.
- The following error message was displayed in the Power Tool's message list:
"CDataBlockPhys::ConvertStringToPLCFormat: Step 4: nRtc = 0, Last Error = 00000057"
when iFIX/OPC wrote an empty string.

2.1.3 iFIX Interface

- The value of the '!ConnOk' control tag is set to TRUE upon a successful read/write request and is reset to FALSE only after all retries of a request have failed. This means that in the event of a temporary communication failure that is resolved after one or more retries, 'ConnOk' remains at the value TRUE. Previously, 'ConnOk' was set to FALSE immediately upon the first error in a request.

2.1.4 OPC UA Server

- When writing a float value via the OPC UA server, the 'Quality Bad' was reported back to the UA client.
- For OPC UA string items on S5 addresses, updating the string via callback from the server to the client did not work.

2.2 Version 8.70, Build 100

Bug fix level: Version 8.60, Build 116.

2.3 Version 8.60, build 116

The following chapters describe all errors that have been fixed in version 8.60, build 116 compared to version 8.60, build 105.

2.3.1 Background Process

- When writing a symbolic array with a size greater than 1024 bytes, a data misalignment occurs in the PLC data.
- Under certain conditions, the TIA symbols could not be read online from the PLC. The error was fixed by updating the AGLink DLL.
- When switching the TIA symbol source from 'S7A Configuration' to 'Online from PLC', the S7ADrv process could become stalled.
- Writing bits of a symbolic analog array element did not work.
- The import of a CSV file was aborted if a TIA device was configured whose SecuredConnection and TrustCertsAuto properties contained invalid values.
- The change to the synchronization time for PLC time synchronization did not take effect immediately, but only after the background process was restarted.

2.3.2 Power Tool

- If a backslash was included in the comment text of a TIA symbol, no (empty) symbol tree was displayed in the symbol tree of the S7A data block.

2.3.3 iFIX Interface

- The hardware options DATE_ENG, DATE_US, DATE_GER, and DATE_SWE displayed a date that was one day behind.
- Error in the simulation module when writing bits of TIA symbols of an analog scalar or array element variable
- Writing values via the hardware options UL_xxx and SL_xxx did not work.
- After switching the active iFIX-SCADA of a redundant pair, tags that were configured with a signal condition requiring the EGU min and max values were displayed with 0 values.

2.3.4 Cimplicity Interface

- After stopping and restarting a Cimplicity project, all Cimplicity points with symbolic TIA addresses became unreadable and displayed 'Bad Quality'.

2.3.5 OPC UA Server

- When writing a float value via the OPC UA server, the 'Quality Bad' was reported back to the UA client.
- For OPC UA string items on S5 addresses, updating the string via callback from the server to the client did not work.

2.3.6 OPC DA Server

- Writing a byte array item to an S5 via OPC DA did not work.

2.4 Version 8.60, build 105

The following chapters describe all errors that have been fixed in version 8.60, build 105 compared to version 8.60, build 104.

2.4.1 Background Process

The background process S7ADrv.exe could crash with an application error due to a malfunction implemented in build 104.

2.4.2 Power Tool

The Trust List of OPC UA certificates was created without the buttons for moving the certificates and without a context menu. An error message was displayed when trying to open the context menu.

2.4.3 iFIX Interface

The formatting of an S7_Date value into a string returned an incorrect string if the system time zone was set to a negative value (e.g. UTC - 8).

2.5 Version 8.60, build 104

The following chapters describe all errors that have been fixed in version 8.60, build 104 compared to version 8.60, build 103.

2.5.1 Background process

1. Memory leak if database blocks with I/O addresses to unresolved TIA addresses exist in an iFIX application.
2. The default value of the configuration parameter '**Scans per second**' was reduced from 50 to 15. It was discovered that for very large configurations with several thousand data blocks, the CPU load caused by the S7ADrv process was unusually high and this also slowed down the processing of the iFIX database by the WSACTASK. For S7A configurations that require low poll times (< 500ms) with the most accurate possible compliance with these poll times, the configuration parameter '**Scans per second**' should be increased. In such configurations, a '**Scans per second**' value that is too low would lead to a greater deviation of the actual poll time compared to the configured value.
3. Writing an empty string (from iFIX or OPC) led to the application being blocked for a few seconds, which triggered the write request.
4. The list of selected symbols of a TIA data block was not saved if no connection to the PLC was established and the configuration was saved. As a result, all previously selected symbols were no longer selected at the next start.
5. A byte twister when writing bits to S5 data block addresses has been fixed.
6. Fixed an error with the **!SyncPoll** command on a physical data block. If **Optimized Polling on Demand** was active and the primary and secondary poll rate was disabled for the data block and a **!SyncPoll** was executed, the data quality of the block was set to **Bad, Out of Service** immediately after polling. Now, if neither primary nor secondary rate is set but an access time and the latch data flag is *not* set, the quality is set to

GOOD after the !SyncPoll. Once the access time has expired, the quality changes to **BAD, Out of service**. If, on the other hand, no access time is set or the latched data flag is set, the quality remains **GOOD**.

7. Selected TIA array symbols with a very large number of array elements (> 5000) led to a long loading time when starting the S7A background process. This time delay has been significantly reduced.
8. Writing TIA arrays with a size of more than 1024 bytes failed. TIA arrays of any size can now be written.
9. Fixed a memory leak that occurred when TIA symbols were read or written that were not present in the PLC. This situation could occur if the S7A driver read the symbols via the TIA project file, but the TIA project had not (yet) been loaded onto the PLC, i.e. it may have contained new symbols that were not yet present on the PLC.
10. If TIA symbols are to be read that are not present on the PLC, the iFIX tags associated with them are now set to Off-Scan. Previously, the value of the tag was set to 0 (analog tag) or False (digital tag).
11. Although the poll time of TIA blocks could be set to 0, only a minimum of 500 ms was actually achieved. Now poll times of less than 100 ms can also be achieved.
12. If the number of symbols to be read (selected) in a TIA data block was greater than the value in the registry value **TIA_MaxCollectiveSymbolsInReadRequest**, the S7ADrv process crashed.
13. Block writing could lead to a crash of the S7ADrv process.
14. When writing to a TIA array element of a fully selected array variable, the wrong array element was written to in the PLC.
15. The display of the process values in the TIA symbol grid led to an increased CPU load on the S7ADIDW process.

2.5.2 Power Tool

1. Copying the TIA symbols from the TIA project to the S7A configuration reported an error.
2. With TIA symbol source 'S7A Config', the TIA project was not loaded when the button for transferring the symbols from the TIA project to the S7A configuration was clicked.
3. The own OPC UA certificate was not displayed.

4. A symbol filter expression with the string operation 'DataBlock Like' and a wildcard character in front of the search term led to incorrect results. Data blocks were filtered that did not match the condition.
5. The validation of the filter expression has been improved at channel level. If a filter expression was defined with a string operator '**DataBlock like**' or '**DataBlock contains**' without a (mandatory) preceding string operator for the PLC name (i.e. '**PLCName like**' or '**PLCName contains**'), no explicit error message was issued.
6. Selecting a TIA array with a large number of elements (several thousand) led to a very long delay/blocking of the Power Tool. This delay time has been significantly reduced.
7. After creating a new configuration via the Power Tool (File->New), no I/O addresses that were sent to the driver for validation via iFIX or OPC were accepted but rejected as 'invalid address'.
8. The error status of a channel node in the driver object structure tree was not displayed correctly. If a device summary alarm was set once, the error status of the channel node was not deleted after all alarms of the subordinate devices had been resolved. The channel node continued to display an error.
9. When the service account was validated, the incorrect check was carried out in the 4th step in which it is checked whether the account is authorized to start a service or to be used as a service account. As a result, an account that had no service authorization could pass the validation, but the subsequent reconfiguration of the service then failed since the user account did not have the authorization to do that.

2.5.3 iFIX Interface

1. Writing an unsigned 64-bit value (LWORD) failed for values greater than 9,223,372,036,854,775,807. Such values were incorrectly converted to a signed negative value and written to the PLC.

2.5.4 OPC UA Server

1. The ring buffer management of the OPC UA server log files did not work. Log files were generated in more than the configured number of log files.

2.6 Version 8.60, build 103

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

2.6.1 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.

2.6.2 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.

2.7 Version 8.50, build 109

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

2.7.1 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.

2.7.2 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.

2.7.3 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.

2.8 Version 8.50, build 108

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

2.8.1 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'.

2.8.2 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.

2.8.3 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.

2.9 Version 8.50, build 106

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

2.9.1 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).

2.9.2 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).

2.9.3 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.

2.10 Version 8.50, build 105

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

2.10.1 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').

2.10.2 Background process

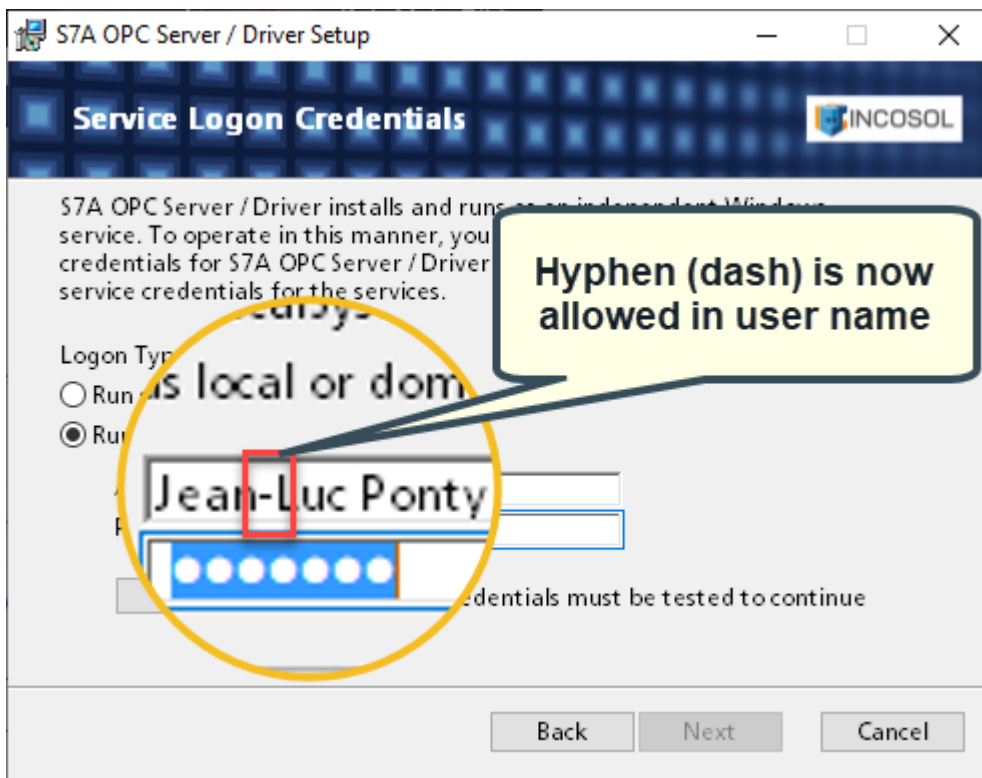
1. Once the connection to a PLC dropped, all the iFIX database blocks which referred to the PLC went persistently Off-Scan. Now they stay On-Scan. Only the data quality of the database block changes to 'BAD' thus all data links in iFIX pictures changes from regular value to displaying question marks. 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.

2.11 Version 8.50, build 104

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

2.11.1 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.



2.11.2 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.

2.11.3 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.

2.11.4 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.

2.12 Version 8.50, build 102

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

2.12.1 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.

2.12.2 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%.

2.12.3 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.

2.13 Version 8.50, build 101

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

2.13.1 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.

2.13.2 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.

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2.13.3 Poll overrun counting

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

2.13.4 Fragmented polling on demand

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

2.13.5 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.

2.13.6 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.

2.13.7 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.

2.13.8 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'.

2.13.9 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.

2.13.10 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.

2.13.11 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.

2.14 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.

