

## Logix 5000 Controllers I/O and Tag Data

1756 ControlLogix, 1756 GuardLogix, 1769 CompactLogix, 1769 Compact GuardLogix,  
1789 SoftLogix, 5069 CompactLogix, 5069 Compact GuardLogix, Studio 5000 Logix Emulate



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## ***Summary of changes***

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This manual contains new and updated information. The following table contains the changes made to this revision.

<b>Change</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Updated supported controller models.	Cover
Updated screen shots.	Throughout



<b>Preface</b>	Studio 5000 environment.....7
	Additional resources .....8
	Legal notices .....8
	<b>Chapter 1</b>
<b>Communicate with I/O modules</b>	Introduction..... 11
	Requested packet interval..... 12
	Communication format..... 13
	Direct or rack-optimized connection..... 13
	Ownership ..... 14
	Electronic keying..... 15
	More information ..... 16
	Address I/O data..... 16
	Buffer I/O..... 18
	<b>Chapter 2</b>
<b>Organize tags</b>	Introduction..... 21
	Tag type..... 22
	Data type..... 23
	Tag scope..... 25
	Program parameter scope ..... 26
	Guidelines for tags..... 27
	Create a tag..... 31
	Add extended properties to a tag..... 33
	Create an array..... 34
	Configure an array..... 37
	User-defined data types..... 38
	Guidelines for user-defined data types ..... 40
	Create a user-defined data type..... 40
	Add extended properties to a user-defined data type..... 41
	Describe a user-defined data type..... 43
	Activate pass-through and append descriptions..... 45
	Paste a pass-through description ..... 46
	Address tag data..... 47
	Alias tags..... 47
	Display alias information..... 49
	Assign an alias..... 49
	Indirect addresses ..... 50
	Expressions ..... 51
	Array subscript out of range..... 52
	Tag documentation ..... 53

Project documentation.....	53
----------------------------	----

## Chapter 3

### Force I/O

Introduction.....	55
Precautions .....	55
Enable forces.....	55
Disable or remove a force.....	56
Check force status .....	56
Force status indicator .....	57
GSV instruction.....	57
When to use I/O force .....	58
Force an input value.....	58
Force an output value .....	59
Add an I/O force.....	59
Remove or disable forces.....	60
Remove an individual force .....	60
Disable all I/O forces .....	61
Remove all I/O forces.....	61

## Chapter 4

### Data access control

Introduction.....	63
External access.....	63
Configure external access.....	64
External access options .....	64
Configure external access in the New Tag dialog box.....	65
Set up external access in the Tag Properties dialog box .....	68
View and select external access status on the Tag Editor .....	69
Find a base tag with Go To.....	69
External access availability .....	71
User-defined type considerations.....	72
Add-on instructions external access considerations.....	73
Tag mapping considerations .....	76
Imported tag behavior .....	77
Constant value tags.....	77
Configure constant tags .....	78
Set up a constant in the New Tag dialog box.....	78
Configure a constant in the Tag Properties dialog box .....	79
Designate a constant in the Tag Editor.....	81
Track a constant tag.....	82
Constant check box availability.....	83
Add-on instructions constant value considerations .....	83

## Index

This manual shows how to access I/O and tag data in Logix 5000 controllers. This manual is one of a set of related manuals that show common procedures for programming and operating Logix 5000™ controllers.

For a complete list of common procedures manuals, refer to the [Logix 5000 Controllers Common Procedures Programming Manual](#), publication [1756-PM001](#).

The term Logix 5000 controller refers to any controller that is based on the Logix 5000 operating system.

### Studio 5000 environment

The Studio 5000 Automation Engineering & Design Environment® combines engineering and design elements into a common environment. The first element is the Studio 5000 Logix Designer® application. The Logix Designer application is the rebranding of RSLogix 5000® software and will continue to be the product to program Logix 5000™ controllers for discrete, process, batch, motion, safety, and drive-based solutions.



The Studio 5000® environment is the foundation for the future of Rockwell Automation® engineering design tools and capabilities. The Studio 5000 environment is the one place for design engineers to develop all elements of their control system.

## Additional resources

These documents contain additional information concerning related Rockwell Automation products.

Resource	Description
<a href="#">Logix 5000 Controllers Program Parameters Programming Manual</a> , publication 1756-PM021	Describes how to use program parameters when programming Logix 5000 controllers.
Product Certifications website, <a href="http://ab.rockwellautomation.com">http://ab.rockwellautomation.com</a>	Provides declarations of conformity, certificates, and other certification details.

You can view or download publications at <http://www.rockwellautomation.com/literature>. To order paper copies of technical documentation, contact your local Rockwell Automation distributor or sales representative.

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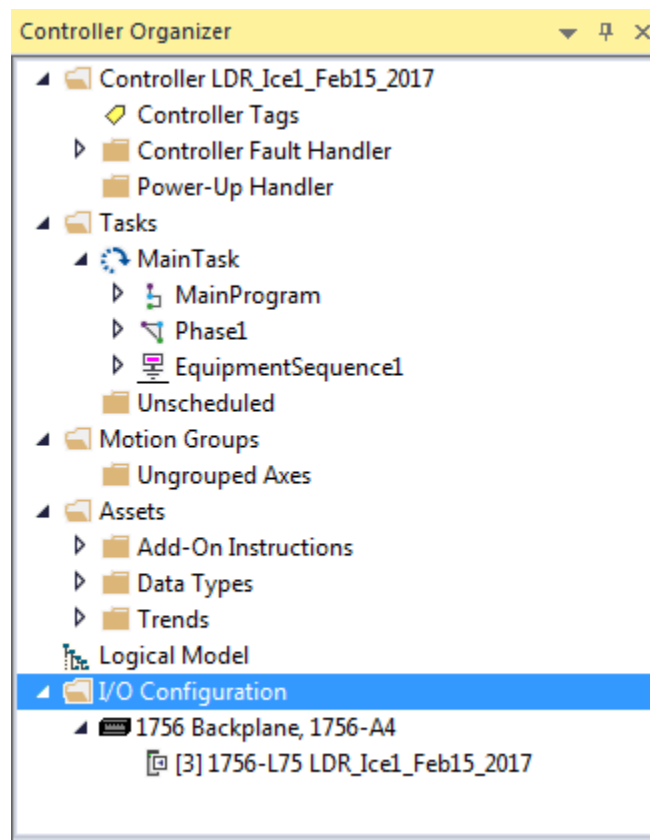
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## Communicate with I/O modules

### Introduction

To communicate with an I/O module in your system, you add the module to the **I/O Configuration** folder in the **Controller Organizer**.



When you add the module, you also define a specific configuration for the module. While the configuration options vary from module to module, these are some common options that you typically configure:

- [Requested packet interval](#) on [page 12](#)
- [Communication format](#) on [page 13](#)
- [Electronic keying](#) on [page 15](#)

## Requested packet interval

The Logix 5000 controller uses connections to transmit I/O data.

Term	Definition
Connection	<p>A communication link between two devices, such as between a controller and an I/O module, PanelView terminal, or another controller. Connections are allocations of resources that provide more reliable communications between devices than unconnected messages. The number of connections that a single controller can have is limited.</p> <p>You indirectly determine the number of connections the controller uses by configuring the controller to communicate with other devices in the system. The following types of communication use connections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I/O modules</li> <li>• Produced and consumed tags</li> <li>• Produced and consumed program parameters</li> <li>• Certain types of Message (MSG) instructions (not all types use a connection)</li> </ul>
Requested packet interval (RPI)	<p>The RPI specifies the period at which data updates over a connection. For example, an input module sends data to a controller at the RPI that you assign to the module.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Typically, you configure an RPI in milliseconds (ms). The range is 1 ms (1000 microseconds) . . . 536870.911 ms.</li> <li>• If a ControlNet network connects the devices, the RPI reserves a slot in the stream of data flowing across the ControlNet network. The timing of this slot may not coincide with the exact value of the RPI, but the control system guarantees that the data transfers at least as often as the RPI.</li> </ul>

In Logix 5000 controllers, I/O values update at a period that you configure in the I/O configuration folder of the project. The values update asynchronous to the execution of logic. At the specified interval, the controller updates a value independently from the execution of logic.



**ATTENTION:** Make sure that data memory contains the appropriate values throughout a task's execution. You can duplicate or buffer data at the beginning of the scan to provide reference values for your logic.

- Programs within a task access input and output data directly from controller-scoped memory.
- Logic within any task can change controller-scoped data.
- Data and I/O values are asynchronous and can change during the course of a task's execution.
- An input value referenced at the beginning of a task's execution can be different when referenced later.
- To prevent an input value from changing during a scan, copy the value to another tag and use the data from there (buffer the values).

**Tip:** Starting with Logix Designer version 24, you can use program parameters to share data between programs in much the same way as you have used controller-scoped tags. Input and Output program parameters automatically buffer data, without using another program parameter or tag. For more information on program parameters, refer to the *Logix 5000 Controllers Program Parameters Programming Manual*, publication [1756-PM021](#).

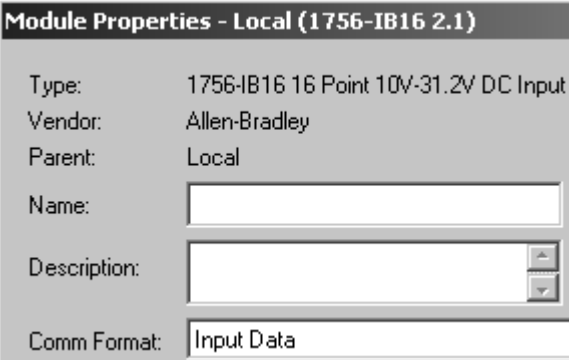
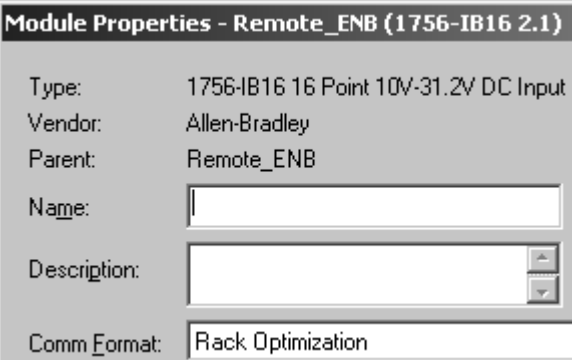
## Communication format

The communication format that you choose determines the data structure for the tags that are associated with the module. Many I/O modules support different formats. Each format uses a different data structure. The communication format that you choose also determines:

- [Direct or rack-optimized connection](#) on [page 13](#).
- [Ownership](#) on [page 14](#).

## Direct or rack-optimized connection

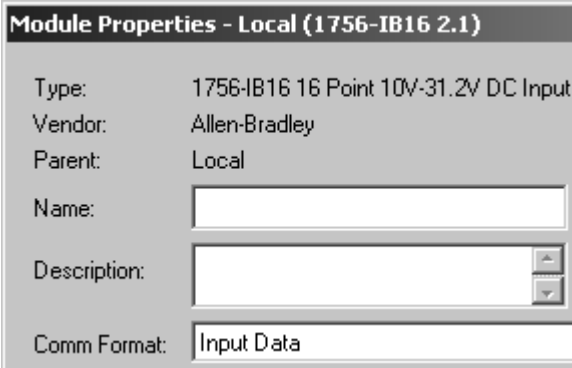
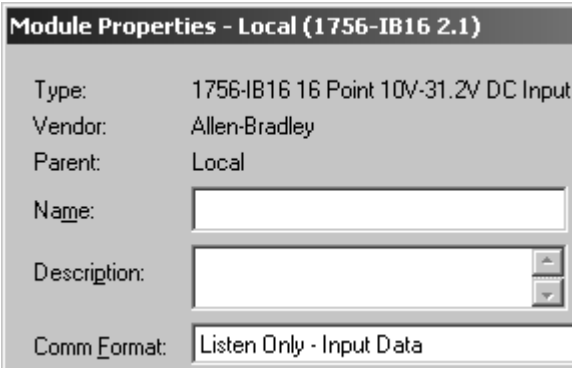
The Logix 5000 controller uses connections to transmit I/O data. These connections can be direct connections or rack-optimized connections.

Term	Definition
Direct connection	<p>A direct connection is a real-time, data transfer link between the controller and an I/O module. The controller maintains and monitors the connection with the I/O module. Any break in the connection, such as a module fault or the removal of a module while under power, sets fault bits in the data area associated with the module.</p>  <p>A direct connection is any connection that does not use the Rack Optimization Comm Format.</p>
Rack-optimized connection	<p>For digital I/O modules, you can select rack-optimized communication. A rack-optimized connection consolidates connection usage between the controller and all the digital I/O modules in the chassis (or DIN rail). Rather than having individual, direct connections for each I/O module, there is one connection for the entire chassis (or DIN rail).</p> 

## Ownership

In a Logix 5000 system, modules multicast data. This means that multiple devices can receive the same data at the same time from a single device.

When you choose a communication format, you have to choose whether to establish an owner or listen-only relationship with the module.

Term	Definition
Owner controller	<p>The controller that creates the primary configuration and communication connection to a module. The owner controller writes configuration data and can establish a connection to the module.</p>  <p>An owner connection is any connection that does not include Listen-Only in its Comm Format.</p>
Listen-only connection	<p>An I/O connection where another controller owns/provides the configuration data for the I/O module. A controller using a listen-only connection only monitors the module. It does not write configuration data and can only maintain a connection to the I/O module when the owner controller is actively controlling the I/O module.</p> 

Use the following table to choose the type of ownership for a module.

If module is	And another controller	And you want to	Then use this type of connection
Input module	Does not own the module	----->	Owner (not listen-only)
	Owns the module	Maintain communication with the module if it loses communication with the other controller	Owner (not listen-only) Use the same configuration as the other owner controller.
		Stop communication with the module if it loses communication with the other controller	Listen-only
Output module	Does not own the module	----->	Owner (such as, not listen-only)

If module is	And another controller	And you want to	Then use this type of connection
	Owns the module	----->	Listen-only

There is a noted difference in controlling input modules versus controlling output modules. The following table lists the differences.

Controlling	This Ownership	Description
Input modules	Owner	An input module is configured by a controller that establishes a connection as an owner. This configuring controller is the first controller to establish an owner connection.  Once an input module has been configured (and owned by a controller), other controllers can establish owner connections to that module. This lets additional owners to continue to receive multicast data if the original owner controller breaks its connection to the module. All other additional owners must have the identical configuration data and identical communications format that the original owner controller has; otherwise, the connection attempt is rejected.
	Listen-only	Once an input module has been configured (and owned by a controller), other controllers can establish a listen-only connection to that module. These controllers can receive multicast data while another controller owns the module. If all owner controllers break their connections to the input module, all controllers with listen-only connections no longer receive multicast data.
Output modules	Owner	An output module is configured by a controller that establishes a connection as an owner. Only one-owner connection is allowed for an output module. If another controller attempts to establish an owner connection, the connection attempt is rejected.
	Listen-only	Once an output module has been configured (and owned by one controller), other controllers can establish listen-only connections to that module. These controllers can receive multicast data while another controller owns the module. If the owner controller breaks its connection to the output module, all controllers with listen-only connections no longer receive multicast data.

## Electronic keying

Electronic Keying reduces the possibility that you use the wrong device in a control system. It compares the device defined in your project to the installed device. If keying fails, a fault occurs.

The following attributes are compared:

Attribute	Description
Vendor	The device manufacturer.
Device Type	The general type of the device, for example, digital I/O module.
Product Code	The specific type of device. The <b>Product Code</b> maps to a catalog number.
Major Revision	A number that represents the functional capabilities of a device.
Minor Revision	A number that represents behavior changes in the device.

The following **Electronic Keying** options are available:

Keying Option	Description
Compatible Module	<p>Lets the installed device accept the key of the device that is defined in the project when the installed device can emulate the defined device. With <b>Compatible Module</b>, you can typically replace a device with another device that has the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same catalog number</li> <li>• Same or higher Major Revision</li> <li>• Minor Revision as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the Major Revision is the same, the Minor Revision must be the same or higher.</li> <li>• If the Major Revision is higher, the Minor Revision can be any number.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Disable Keying	<p>Indicates that the keying attributes are not considered when attempting to communicate with a device. With <b>Disable Keying</b>, communication can occur with a device other than the type specified in the project.</p> <p><b>ATTENTION:</b> Be extremely cautious when using <b>Disable Keying</b>; if used incorrectly, this option can lead to personal injury or death, property damage, or economic loss.</p> <p>We strongly recommend that you do not use <b>Disable Keying</b>.</p> <p>If you use <b>Disable Keying</b>, you must take full responsibility for understanding whether the device being used can fulfill the functional requirements of the application.</p>
Exact Match	<p>Indicates that all keying attributes must match to establish communication. If any attribute does not match precisely, communication with the device does not occur.</p>

Carefully consider the implications of each keying option when selecting one.

<b>Important:</b>	<p>Changing Electronic Keying parameters online interrupts connections to the device and any devices that are connected through the device. Connections from other controllers can also be broken.</p> <p>If an I/O connection to a device is interrupted, the result can be a loss of data.</p>
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## More information

For more detailed information on Electronic Keying, see [Electronic Keying in Logix 5000 Control Systems Application Technique](#), publication [LOGIX-AT001](#).

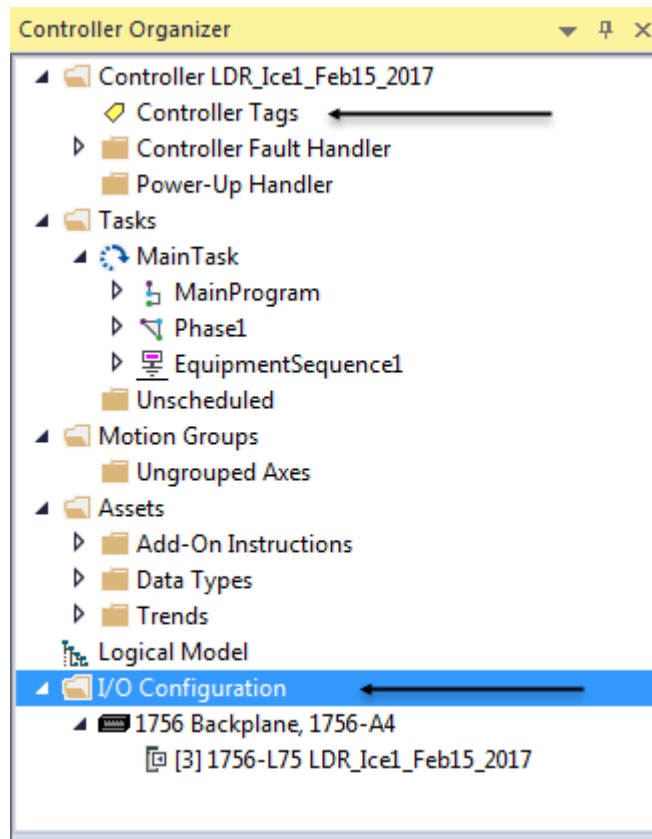
## Address I/O data

I/O information is presented as a set of tags.

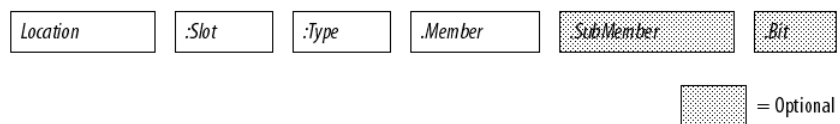
- Each tag uses a structure of data. The structure depends on the specific features of the I/O module.
- The name of the tag is based on the location of the I/O module in the system.



- When you add a module to the I/O Configuration folder, the software automatically creates controller-scoped tags for the module in Controller Tags.



An I/O address uses this format:



Where	Is
Location	Network location LOCAL = same chassis or DIN rail as the controller ADAPTER_NAME = identifies remote communication adapter or bridge module
Slot	Slot number of I/O module in its chassis or DIN rail
Type	Type of data I = input O = output C = configuration S = status
Member	Specific data from the I/O module; depends on what type of data the module can store.

Where	Is
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For a digital module, a Data member usually stores the input or output bit values.</li> <li>For an analog module, a Channel member (CH#) usually stores the data for a channel.</li> </ul>
SubMember	Specific data related to a Member.
Bit	Specific point on a digital I/O module; depends on the size of the I/O module (0–31 for a 32-point module)

## Buffer I/O

Buffering is a technique in which logic does not directly reference or manipulate the tags of real I/O devices. Instead, the logic uses a copy of the I/O data. Buffer I/O in the following situations:

- To prevent an input or output value from changing during the execution of a program. (I/O updates asynchronous to the execution of logic.)
- To copy an input or output tag to a member of a structure or element of an array.

**Tip:** Starting with Logix Designer version 24, you can use program parameters to buffer data in a program without having to copy the data to a second tag. Input and Output program parameters automatically buffer data while the program routines execute. For more information on program parameters, refer to the *Logix 5000 Controllers Program Parameters Programming Manual*, publication [1756-PM021](#).

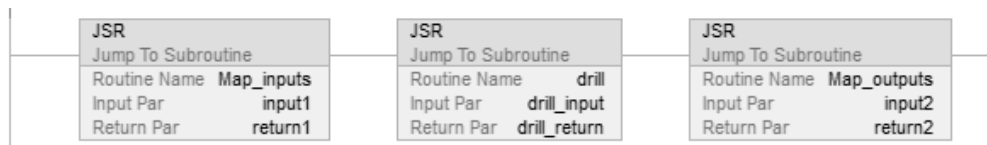
Follow these steps to buffer I/O.

- On the rung before the logic for the function, copy or move the data from the required input tags to their corresponding buffer tags.
- In the logic of the function, reference the buffer tags.
- On the rung after the function, copy the data from the buffer tags to the corresponding output tags.

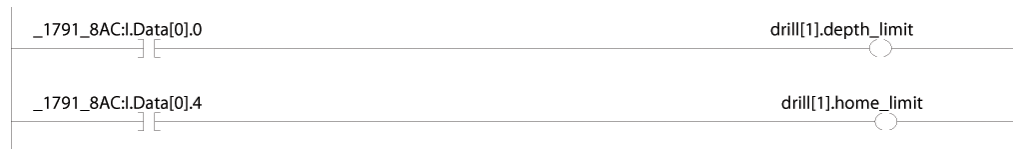
The following example copies inputs and outputs to the tags of a structure for a drill machine.

**Example:** Buffer I/O by mapping values to tags

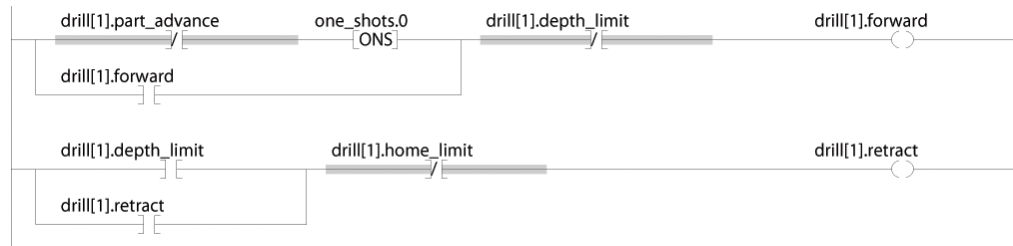
The main routine of the program executes the following subroutines in this sequence.



The map\_inputs routine copies the values of input devices to their corresponding tags that are used in the drill routine.



The drill routine executes the logic for the drill machine.



The map\_outputs routine copies the values of output tags in the drill routine to their corresponding output devices.



The following example uses the CPS instruction to copy an array of data that represent the input devices of a DeviceNet network.

**Example:** Buffer I/O using CPS instruction

Local:0:I.Data stores the input data for the DeviceNet network that is connected to the 1756-DNB module in slot 0. To synchronize the inputs with the application, the CPS instruction copies the input data to input\_buffer.

- While the CPS instruction copies the data, no I/O updates can change the data.

As the application executes, it uses the input data in input\_buffer for its inputs.





## Organize tags

### Introduction

With a Logix 5000 controller, you use a tag (alphanumeric name) to address data (variables).

Term	Definition
Tag	<p>A text-based name for an area of the controller's memory where data is stored.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tags are the basic mechanism for allocating memory, referencing data from logic, and monitoring data.</li><li>• The minimum memory allocation for a tag is four bytes.</li><li>• When you create a tag that stores data that requires less than four bytes, the controller allocates four bytes, but the data only fills the part it needs.</li></ul>

The controller uses the tag name internally and does not need to cross-reference a physical address.

- In conventional programmable controllers, a physical address identifies each item of data.
  - Addresses follow a fixed, numeric format that depends on the type of data, such as N7:8, F8:3.
  - Symbols are required to make logic easier to interpret.
- In Logix 5000 controllers, there is no fixed, numeric format. The tag name itself identifies the data. This lets you:
  - Organize your data to mirror your machinery.
  - Document (through tag names) your application as you develop it.

Example Tags:

Name	Usage	Alias For	Base Tag	Data Type
north_tank_mix	Local			BOOL
north_tank_pressure	Local			REAL
north_tank_temp	Local			REAL
one_shots	Local			DINT
recipe	Local			TANK
recipe_number	Local			DINT
replace_bit	Local			BOOL
running_hours	Local			COUNTER
running_seconds	Local			TIMER
start	Local			BOOL
stop	Local			BOOL

Item	Description
1	Analog I/O Device
2	Integer Value
3	Storage Bit
4	Counter
5	Timer
6	Digital I/O Device

Tag type

The tag type defines how the tag operates within your project.

If you want the tag to	Then select this type
Store a value or values for use by logic within the project	Base
Represent another tag	Alias
Send data to another controller	Produced
Receive data from another controller	Consumed

If you plan to use produced or consumed tags, you must follow additional guidelines as you organize your tags.

See the *Logix 5000 Controllers Produced and Consumed Tags Programming Manual*, publication [1756-PM011](#).

## Data type

Data type applies to tags and structures.

Term	Definition
Data type	The data type defines the type of data that a tag stores, such as a bit, integer, floating-point value, string, and so forth.
Structure	<p>A data type that is a combination of other data types.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A structure is formatted to create a unique data type that matches a specific need.</li> <li>• Within a structure, each individual data type is called a member.</li> <li>• Like tags, members have a name and data type.</li> <li>• A Logix 5000 controller contains a set of predefined structures (data types) for use with specific instructions such as timers, counters, Function Blocks, and so forth.</li> <li>• You can create your own structures, called a user-defined data type</li> </ul>

The following table outlines the most common data types and when to use each.

For	Select
Analog device in floating-point mode	REAL
Analog device in integer mode (for very fast sample rates)	INT
ASCII characters	String
Bit	BOOL
Counter	COUNTER
Digital I/O point	BOOL
Floating-point number	REAL
Integer (whole number)	DINT
Sequencer	CONTROL
Timer	TIMER

### To add Extended Properties

You have the option to add extended properties to select tags. The extended properties include:

- Min
- Max
- Engineering Units
- State0
- State1

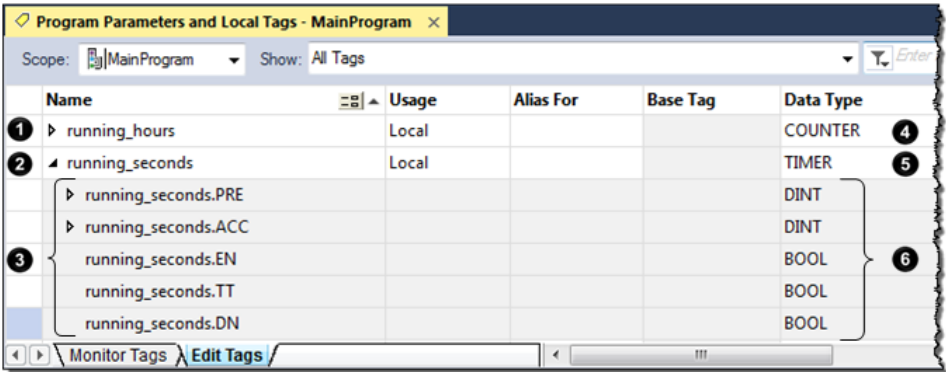
When these properties are added, their values are made available for use by some Rockwell Automation HMIs.

Extended properties for a tag are added and modified in the Tag **Properties** pane.

The minimum memory allocation for a tag is four bytes. When you create a tag that stores data that requires less than four bytes, the controller allocates four bytes, but the data only fills the part it needs.

Data Type	Bits					
	31	16	15	8	7 1	0
BOOL	Not used					0 or 1
SINT	Not used				-128...+127	
INT	Not used		-32,768...+32,767			
DINT	-2,147,483,648...+2,147,483,647					
REAL	-3.40282347E <sup>38</sup> ...-1.17549435E <sup>-38</sup> (negative values) 0 -1.17549435E <sup>-38</sup> ...3.40282347E <sup>38</sup> (positive values)					

The COUNTER and TIMER data types are examples of commonly used structures.



Item	Description
1	To expand a structure and display its members, click the ▶ icon.
2	To collapse a structure and hide its members, click the ◀ icon.
3	Members of running_seconds.
4	COUNTER Structure.
5	TIMER Structure.
6	Data Type Members.

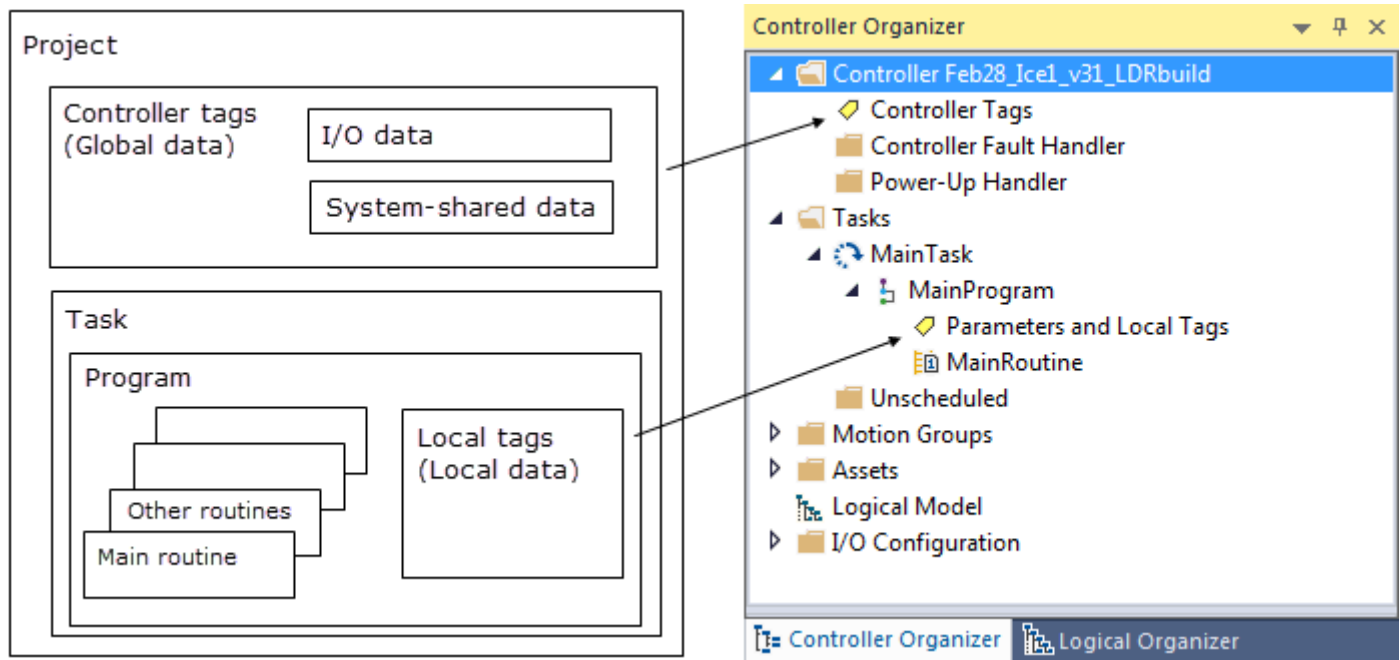
To copy data to a structure, use the COP instruction.



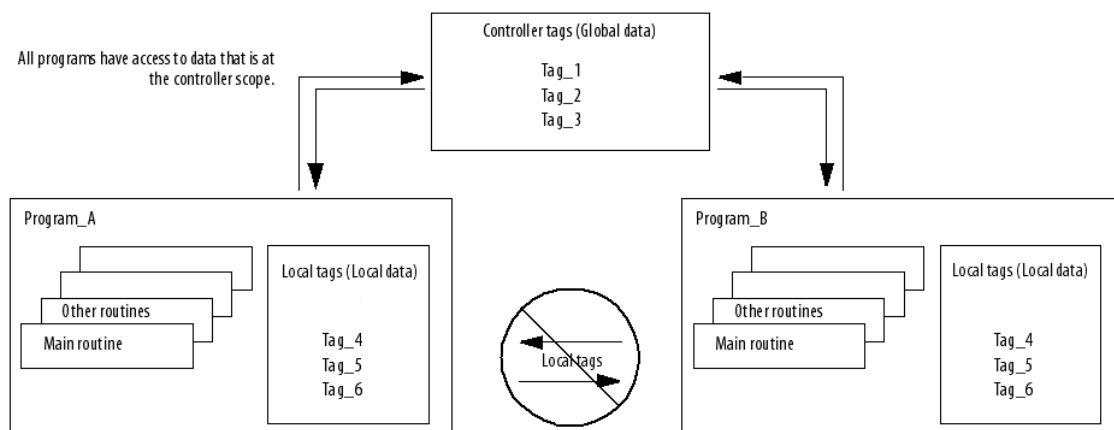
Refer to the [Logix 5000 Controllers General Instructions Reference Manual](#), publication [1756-RM003](#).

## Tag scope

When you create a tag, you define it as either a controller tag (global data) or a local tag for a specific program (local data).



A Logix 5000 controller lets you divide your application into multiple programs, each with its own data. There is no need to manage conflicting local tag names between programs. This makes it easier to reuse both code and tag names in multiple programs.



Data at the program scope is isolated from other programs.

- Routines cannot access data that is at the local scope (local tag) of another program.
- You can reuse the tag name of a local tag in multiple programs.
- For example, both Program\_A and Program\_B can have a local tag named Tag\_4.
- You can also use program parameters to share data between programs as an alternative to controller-scope tags. See [Program parameter scope](#) on [page 26](#).

Avoid using the same name for both a controller tag and a local tag. Within a program, you cannot reference a controller tag if a local tag of the same name exists for that program.

Certain tags must be controller scope (controller tags).

If you want to use the tag	Then assign this scope
In more than one program in the project	Controller scope (controller tags)
In a Message (MSG) instruction	
To produce or consume data	
In any of the seven AXIS data types	
To communicate with a PanelView terminal	
None of the above	Program scope (local tags)

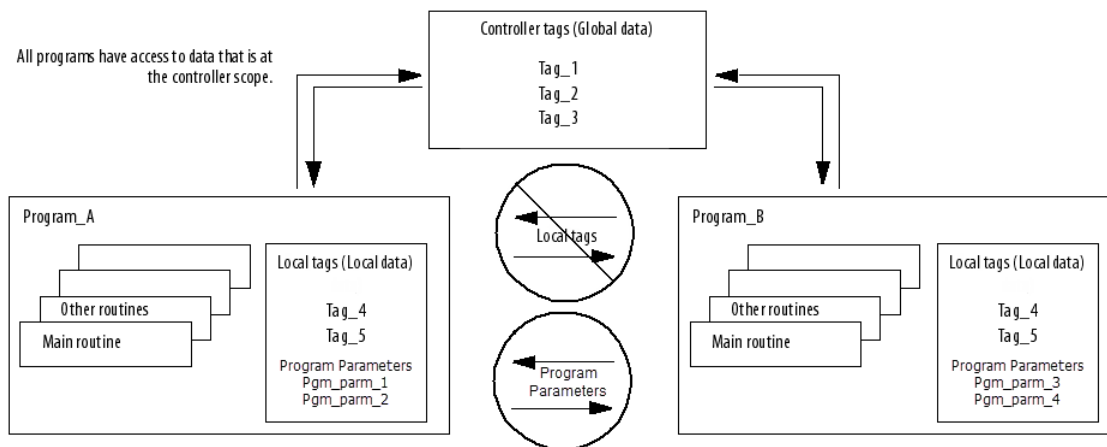
## Program parameter scope

Program parameters are similar to tags:

- You create program parameters at the program level, and use them to manage data.
- Program parameters behave like controller-scope tags in that they can pass data between programs.

Among other benefits, program parameters allow you to clearly define the inputs to the routines in a program, and the outputs from those routines. Input and

Output parameters also automatically buffer data, so that you do not have to create separate tags to buffer IO data.



If you want to restrict data to only the local program scope, you can use local tags. See [Tag scope](#) on [page 25](#).

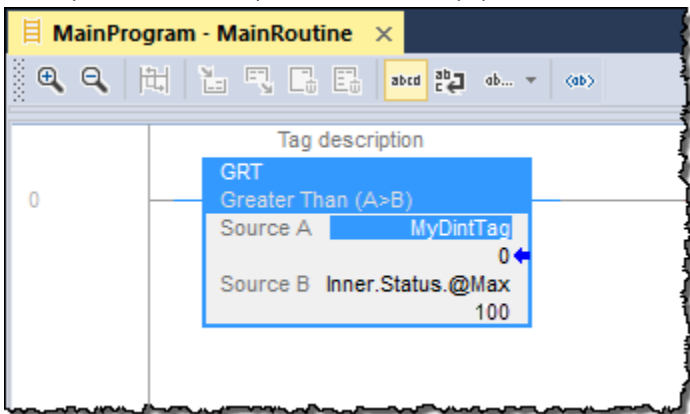
For more information on program parameters, refer to the [Logix 5000 Controllers Program Parameters Programming Manual](#), publication [1756-PM021](#).

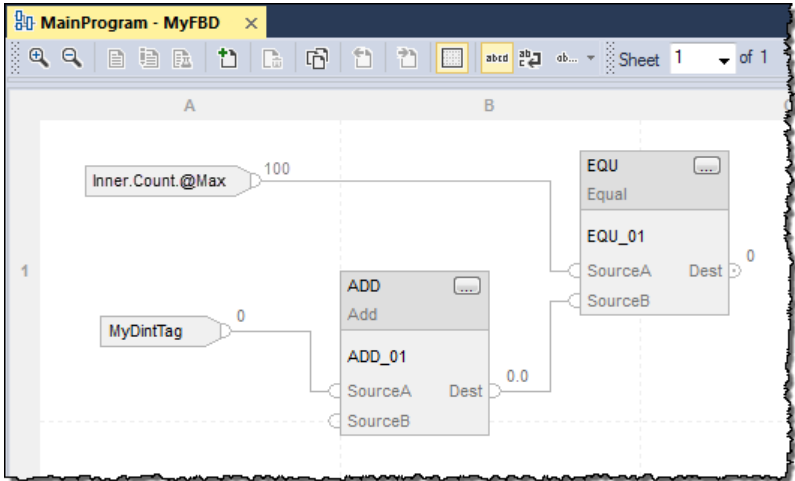
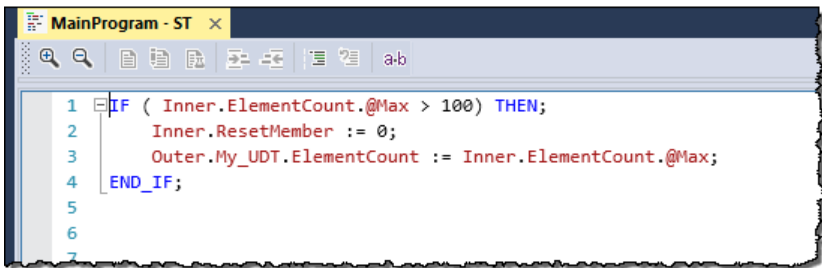
## Guidelines for tags

Use the following guidelines to create tags for a project.

Guideline	Details
Create user-defined data types	<p>User-defined data types (structures) let you organize data to match your machine or process. A user-defined data type provides these advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One tag contains all the data related to a specific aspect of your system. This keeps related data together and easy to locate, regardless of its data type.</li> <li>Each individual piece of data (member) gets a descriptive name. This automatically creates an initial level of documentation for your logic.</li> <li>You can use the data type to create multiple tags with the same data layout.</li> </ul> <p>For example, use a user-defined data type to store all the parameters for a tank, including temperatures, pressures, valve positions, and preset values. Then create a tag for each of your tanks based on that data type.</p>
Use arrays to quickly create a group of similar tags	<p>An array creates multiple instances of a data type under a common tag name.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrays let you organize a block of tags that use the same data type and perform a similar function.</li> <li>You organize the data in one, two, or three dimensions to match what the data represents.</li> </ul> <p>For example, use a two-dimensional array to organize the data for a tank farm. Each element of the array represents a single tank. The location of the element within the array represents the geographic location of the tank.</p> <p><b>Important:</b> Minimize the use of BOOL arrays. Many array instructions do not operate on BOOL arrays. This makes it more difficult to initialize and clear an array of BOOL data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Typically, use a BOOL array for the bit-level objects of a PanelView screen.</li> <li>Otherwise, use the individual bits of a DINT tag or an array of DINTs.</li> </ul>

Guideline	Details	
Take advantage of program-scoped tags	<p>If you want multiple tags with the same name, define each tag at the program scope (local tags) for a different program. This lets you reuse both logic and tag names in multiple programs.</p> <p>Avoid using the same name for both a controller tag and a local tag. Within a program, you cannot reference a controller tag if a tag of the same name exists as a local tag for that program.</p> <p>Certain tags must be controller scope (controller tag).</p>	
	If you want the tag	Then assign this scope
	In more than one program in the project	Controller scope (controller tags)
	In a Message (MSG) instruction	
	To produce or consume data	
	In any of the seven AXIS data types	
	To communicate with a PanelView terminal	
	None of the above	Program scope (local tags)
For integers, use the DINT data type	<p>To increase the efficiency of your logic, minimize the use of SINT or INT data types. Whenever possible, use the DINT data type for integers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Logix5000 controller typically compares or manipulates values as 32-bit values (DINTs or REALs).</li> <li>• The controller typically converts a SINT or INT value to a DINT or REAL value before it uses the value.</li> <li>• If the destination is a SINT or INT tag, the controller typically converts the value back to a SINT or INT value.</li> <li>• The conversion to or from SINTs or INTs occurs automatically with no extra programming. But it takes extra execution time and memory.</li> </ul>	
Use most restrictive external access	<p>External access limits the exposure of controller tags by defining a user's ability to edit tags to Read/Write, Read Only and None. This helps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the risk of inadvertently changing tags.</li> <li>• Reduce the number of tags to browse when configuring HMI.</li> </ul> <p>See <a href="#">External access</a> on <a href="#">page 63</a>.</p>	
Enable constant attribute for tags that should not be changed by logic	<p>You can assign a constant value to a tag to prevent the table-backed data from being changed programmatically. This helps reduce the risk of inadvertently changing tags.</p> <p>See <a href="#">Constant value tags</a> on <a href="#">page 77</a>.</p>	
Limit a tag name to 40 characters	<p>Here are the rules for a tag name:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only alphabetic characters (A–Z or a–z), numeric characters (0–9), and underscores (_)</li> <li>• Must start with an alphabetic character or an underscore</li> <li>• No more than 40 characters</li> <li>• No consecutive or trailing underscore characters (_)</li> <li>• Not case sensitive</li> </ul>	
Use mixed case	Although tags are not case sensitive (upper case <i>A</i> is the same as lower case <i>a</i> ), mixed case is easier to read.	
	These tags are easier to read	Than these tags
	Tank_1	TANK_1
	Tank1	TANK1
		tank_1
		tank1
Consider the alphabetical order of tags	Logix Designer application displays tags of the same scope in alphabetical order. To make it easier to monitor related tags, use similar starting characters for tags that you want to keep together.	

Guideline	Details											
	<p>Starting each tag for a tank with 'Tank' keeps the tags together.</p> <table><thead><tr><th>Tag Name</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Tank_North</td></tr><tr><td>Tank_South</td></tr><tr><td>...</td></tr></tbody></table>	Tag Name	Tank_North	Tank_South	...	<p>Otherwise, the tags may end up separated from each other.</p> <table><thead><tr><th>Tag Name</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>North_Tank</td></tr><tr><td>...</td></tr><tr><td>...</td></tr><tr><td>...</td></tr><tr><td>South_Tank</td></tr></tbody></table>	Tag Name	North_Tank	...	...	...	South_Tank
Tag Name												
Tank_North												
Tank_South												
...												
Tag Name												
North_Tank												
...												
...												
...												
South_Tank												
Using extended properties in logic	<p>You can access limit extended properties defined on tags using the .@Min and .@Max syntax. However, you cannot write to extended properties values in logic.</p> <p>For example, in the Ladder Editor, you can use limit extended properties on an instruction's source operand.</p> 											

Guideline	Details
Using extended properties in logic (continued)	<p>In the Function Block Editor, you can access extended properties in logic by wiring an Input Reference to a block's input pins.</p>  <p>In the Structured Text Editor, you can access limit extended properties in logic on the right hand side of an assignment operation or in a comparison statement. You can also access limit extended properties in logic when you embed structured text in the Sequential Function Chart Editor.</p>  <p>You need to know which tags have limit extended properties associated with them as there is no indication in the Tag Browser that extended properties are defined for a tag. However, if you try to use extended properties that have not been defined for a tag, the editors show a visual indication (that is: a rung error in Ladder Logic, a verification error X in Function Block Diagrams, and the error underlined in Structured Text) and the routine does not verify.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following restrictions apply when you use extended properties in logic. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must use extended properties as an input operand.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>You can use extended properties on an instruction as long as the input (source) operand is a non-boolean atomic data type. That is, if an instruction has operands whose data type is non-atomic or BOOL, limit extended properties cannot be used. For example, the ALMD instruction in Ladder Logic does not support extended properties because its configurable operands are of type BOOL.</p> <p>In the Ladder Editor, when limit extended properties is used in logic, the value field associated with the source operand is unavailable. You can change the tag's extended properties only in the Tag Editor <b>Properties</b> Pane.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You cannot access alias tags with extended properties in logic.</li> </ul> <p>If you use alias tag extended properties in logic, the routine does not verify.</p>

Guideline	Details
Using extended properties in logic (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Array Tags are constrained</b>            A constraint on array tags applies if the array tag uses indirect addressing to access limit extended properties. If an array tag is using indirect addressing to access limit extended properties in logic, the following conditions apply.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the Array Tag has limit extended properties configured, the extended properties are applied to any array element that does not explicitly have that particular extended property configured. For example, if the MyArray has <b>Max</b> configured to 100, then any element of the array that does not have <b>Max</b> configured inherits the value of 100 when being used in logic. However, it is not visible to you that the value inherited from MyArray is configured in the tag properties.</li> <li>At least one array element must have specific limit extended property configured for indirectly referenced array logic to verify. For example, if MyArray[x].@Max is being used in logic, at least one array element of MyArray[] must have <b>Max</b> extended property configured if <b>Max</b> is not configured by MyArray. If this is not done, if you attempt to access <b>Max</b> in logic on MyArray in logic, the routine does not verify.</li> <li>Under the following circumstances the software uses a data type default value:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Array is accessed programmatically with indirect reference.</li> <li>Array tag does not have the extended property configured.</li> <li>Member of array does not have the extended property configured. For example for Array of SINT type, when max limit is called in logic for a member, the value 127 is used.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li> <b>Removing Extended Properties</b>            You cannot remove extended properties that are accessed in logic when the project is online with the controller. The <b>Max</b> and <b>Min</b> check boxes in the <b>Extended Properties</b> box in the Tag <b>Properties</b> pane are unavailable. You have to go offline to remove the extended properties.            Removing extended properties in logic on structure tags is unavailable at the tag level. For example, if MyUDTTag has 2 members, Mem1 being a DINT and the Mem2 being a SINT, if you define limit extended properties in Logic on both members, but are only accessing <b>Max</b> extended properties on Mem1, the <b>Max</b> check box is unavailable in <b>Extended Properties</b> for both members. You are not able to remove the <b>Max</b> extended properties for MyUDTTag .Mem2 online.            The same applies for Array tags. If you define limit extended properties on an array element and that element is accessed in logic, then you cannot remove the limit extended properties from any of the array elements.         </li> </ul>

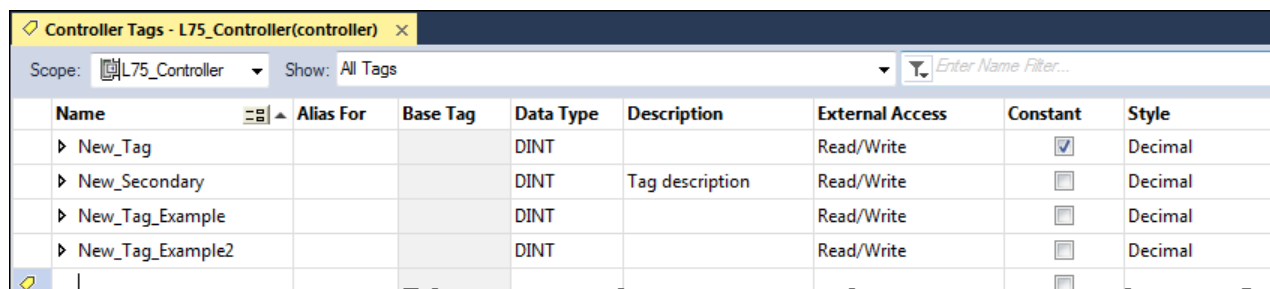
## Create a tag

Use the **Tag Editor** to create and edit tags using a spreadsheet-style view of the tags.

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Important:</b> | <p>The Logix Designer application also automatically creates tags when you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add an element to a sequential function chart (SFC).</li> <li>Add a function block instruction to a function block diagram.</li> </ul> |
|-------------------|---|

Follow these steps to create a tag by using the Logix Designer application.

1. In the **Controller Organizer**, right-click **Controller Tags** and then click **Edit Tags**.



2. In the Tag Editor, from the **Scope** box, choose a scope for the tag using the following table as a guide.

If You Use The Tag	Then Choose
In more than one program within the project	The controller name
As a producer or consumer	
In any of the seven AXIS data types	
In a message	
In only one program within the project	Program that uses the tag

This also limits the tag display to only tags with the same scope.

3. In the **Name** box, type a name for the tag.
4. In the **Data Type** box, enter the data type.

You can also click the **Browse** button and then in the **Select Data Type** dialog box, choose a data type for the tag.

5. (optional) In the **Description** box, type a description for the tag.
6. (optional) Select the **Constant** check box if you want the tag to have a constant value.
7. In the **External Access** box, choose the external access for the tag.

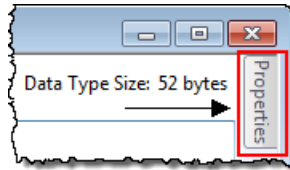
See [Data access control](#) on [page 63](#) for information on the **External Access** and **Constant** attributes.



## Add extended properties to a tag

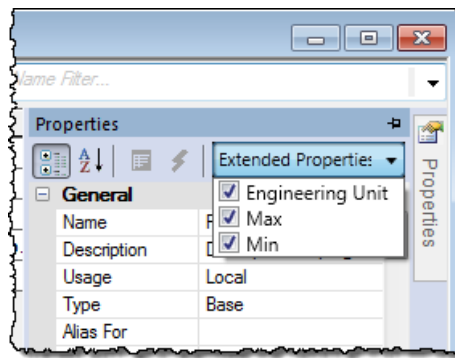
To add extended properties to a tag:

1. In the Tag Editor, select the tag.
2. If the **Properties** pane is not visible, click **Properties**.



3. In the **Properties** pane, click **Extended Properties**, and select the properties that you want to add.

The entries in the list depend on the tag's data type. You can select more than one property.



For data type	You can add the following extended property
Array and string	Engineering Unit
BOOL	State0 State1 Engineering Unit
DINT, INT, LINT, SINT, and REAL and corresponding array member	Min Max Engineering Unit

The added properties are displayed in the Tag Editor **Properties** pane under **Data**.

Clear the check box to remove the property from the tag. This also removes the properties from the Data properties category. Note that once the property is removed, any value associated to the property is removed from the system.

The list is not available for other types of tags. The following table lists the minimum and maximum values for DINT, INT, LINT, SINT, and REAL Data Types.

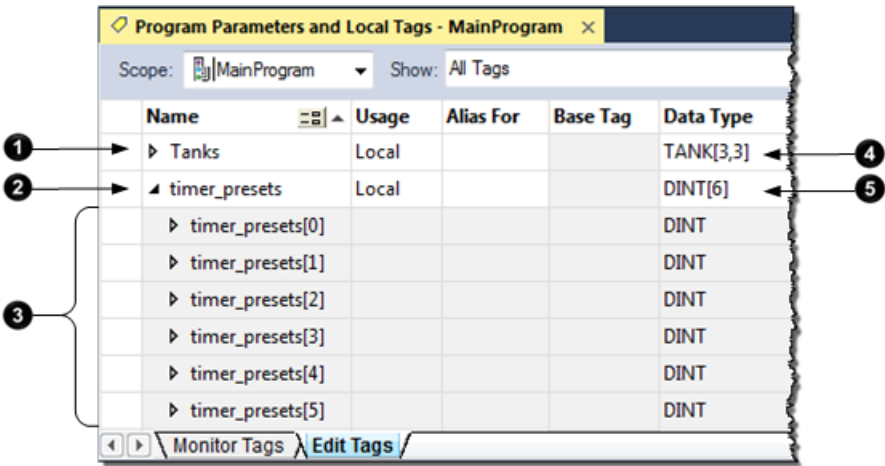
Data Type	Range
DINT	-2,147,483,648...2,147,483,647
INT	-32,768...32,767
LINT	0...3253512959999999
SINT	-128...127
REAL	-3.402823E38 to -1.1754944E-38 (negative values) and 0 and 1.1754944E-38 to 3.402823E38 (positive values)

Create an array

Arrays can also be used to organize data.

Term	Definition
Array	<p>A tag that contains a block of multiple pieces of data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An array is similar to a file.</li><li>• Within an array, each individual piece of data is called an element.</li><li>• Each element uses the same data type.</li><li>• An array tag occupies a contiguous block of memory in the controller, each element in sequence.</li><li>• You can use array and sequencer instructions to manipulate or index through the elements of an array.</li><li>• You organize the data into a block of one, two, or three dimensions.</li></ul>

The subscript identifies each individual element within the array. A subscript starts at 0 and extends to the number of elements minus 1 (zero based).



Item	Description
1	To expand a structure and display its members, click the ▶ icon.
2	To collapse a structure and hide its members, click the ◀ icon.
3	Six elements of timer_presets.
4	This two-dimensional array contains nine elements (three by three array).
5	This one-dimensional array contains six elements of the DINT data type. In this example, a single timer instruction times the duration of several steps. Each step requires a different preset value. Because all the values are the same data type (DINTs), use an array.

The following example compares a structure to an array.

This is a tag that uses the Timer structure (data type).

Tag Name	Data Type
◀ Timer_1	TIMER
▶ Timer_1.PRE	DINT
▶ Timer_1.ACC	DINT
Timer_1.EN	BOOL
Timer_1.TT	BOOL
Timer_1.DN	BOOL

This is a tag that uses an array of the Timer data type.

Tag Name	Data Type
◀ Timers	TIMER[3]
▶ Timer[0]	DINT
▶ Timer[1]	DINT
Timer[2]	BOOL

**Example:** Two-dimension array

A drill machine can drill one through five holes in a book. The machine requires a value for the position of each hole from the leading edge of the book. To organize the values into configurations, use a two-dimension array. The first subscript indicates the hole that the value corresponds and the second subscript indicates how many holes are to be drilled (one through five).

Subscript of First Dimension	Subscript of Second Dimension						Description	
		0	1	2	3	4	5	
	0							
	1		1.5	2.5	1.25	1.25	1.25	Position of first hole from leading edge of book
	2			8.0	5.5	3.5	3.5	Position of second hole from leading edge of book
	3				9.75	7.5	5.5	Position of third hole from leading edge of book
	4					9.75	7.5	Position of fourth hole from leading edge of book
	5						9.75	Position of fifth hole from leading edge of book

In the Tag Editor, the elements are in the order in the following graphic.

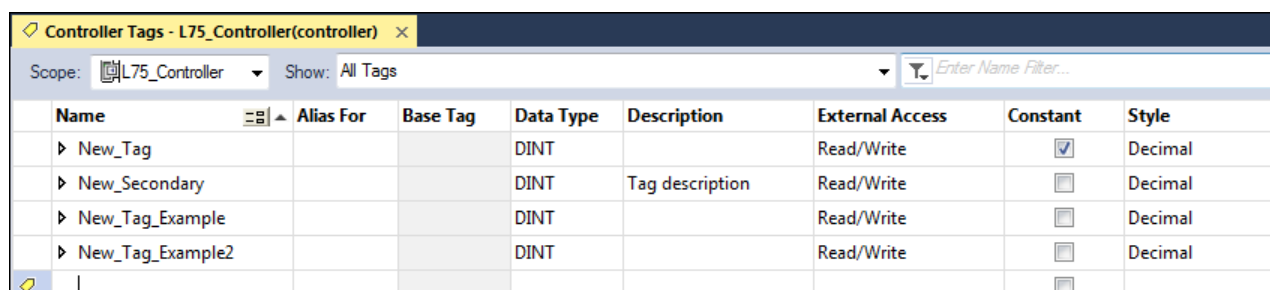
Name	Usage	Alias For	Base Tag	Data Type
hole_position	Local			REAL[6,6]
hole_position[0,0]				REAL
hole_position[0,1]				REAL
hole_position[0,2]				REAL
hole_position[0,3]				REAL
hole_position[0,4]				REAL
hole_position[0,5]				REAL
hole_position[1,0]				REAL
hole_position[1,1]				REAL
hole_position[1,2]				REAL
hole_position[1,3]				REAL

Item	Description
1	The rightmost dimension increments to its maximum value then starts over.
2	When the rightmost dimension starts over, the dimension to the left increments by one.
3	This array contains a two-dimensional grid of elements, six elements by six elements.

## Configure an array

To create an array, you create a tag and assign dimensions to the data type.

1. In the **Controller Organizer**, right-click **Controller Tags** and then click **Edit Tags**.



2. In the Tag Editor, from the **Scope** box, choose a scope for the tag using the following table as a guide.

If You Use The Tag	Then Choose
In more than one program within the project	The controller name
As a producer or consumer	
In any of the seven AXIS data types	
In a message	
In only one program within the project	Program that uses the tag

This also limits the tag display to only tags with the same scope.

3. In the **Name** box, type a name for the tag.
4. In the **Data Type** box, enter the data type the array dimensions. In the following table, Data\_type represents the actual data type you enter.

If the tag is	Then type	Where
One-dimension array	Data_type[x]	Data_type is the type of data that the tag stores. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• X is the number of elements in the first dimension.</li> <li>• Y is the number of elements in the second dimension.</li> <li>• Z is the number of elements in the third dimension.</li> </ul>
Two-dimension array	Data_type[x,y]	
Three-dimension array	Data_type[x,y,z]	

You can also click the **Browse** button and then in the **Select Data Type** dialog box, choose a data type and the array dimensions for the array.

User-defined data types

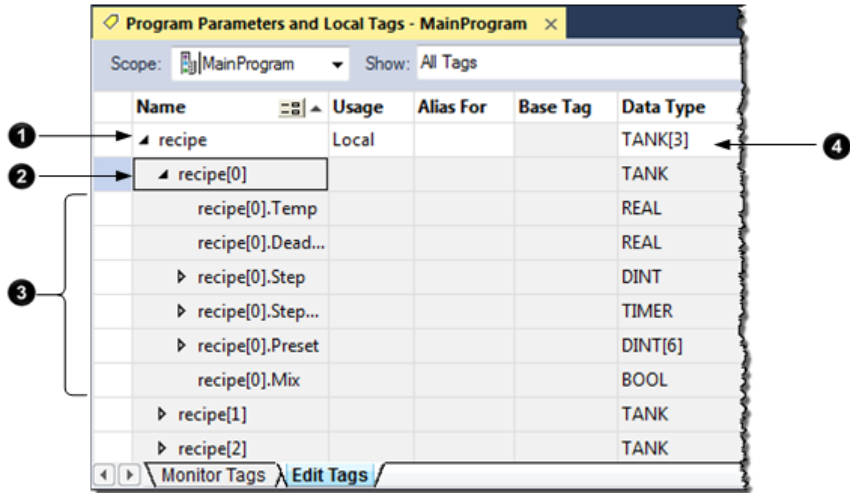
User-defined data types (structures) let you organize your data to match your machine or process.

**Example:** User-defined data type that stores a recipe.

In a system of several tanks, each tank can run a variety of recipes. Because the recipe requires a mix of data types (REAL, DINT, BOOL, so forth), a user-defined data type is used.

Name (of data type): TANK	
Member Name	Data Type
Temp	REAL
Deadband	REAL
Step	DINT
Step_time	TIMER
Preset	DINT[6]
Mix	BOOL

An array that is based on this data type looks like this example.



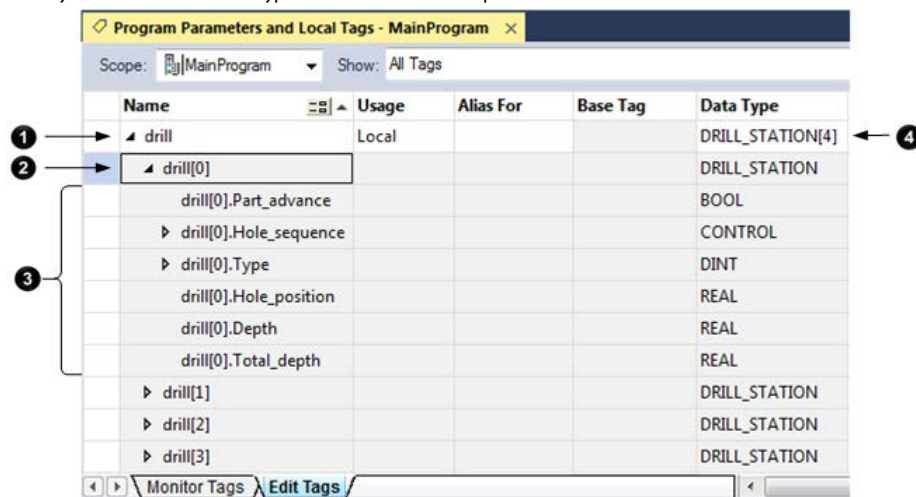
Item	Description
1	Array of recipes
2	First recipe
3	Members of the recipe
4	Array containing three elements of the TANK data type

**Example:** User-defined data type that stores the data that is required to run a machine.  
Because several drill stations require the following mix of data, use a user-defined data type.

**Name (of data type): DRILL\_STATION**

Member Name	Data Type
Part_advance	BOOL
Hole_sequence	CONTROL
Type	DINT
Hole_position	REAL
Depth	REAL
Total_depth	REAL

An array that is based on this data type would look like this example.



Item	Description
1	Array of drills
2	First drill
3	Data for the drill
4	Array containing four elements of the DRILL_STATION data type

## Guidelines for user-defined data types

When you create a user-defined data type, use the following guidelines.

- If you include members that represent I/O devices, you must use logic to copy the data between the members in the structure and the corresponding I/O tags. Refer to [Address I/O data](#) on [page 16](#).
- If you include an array as a member, limit the array to a single dimension. Multi-dimension arrays are not permitted in a user-defined data type.
- When you use the BOOL, SINT, or INT data types, place members that use the same data type in sequence.

### More Efficient

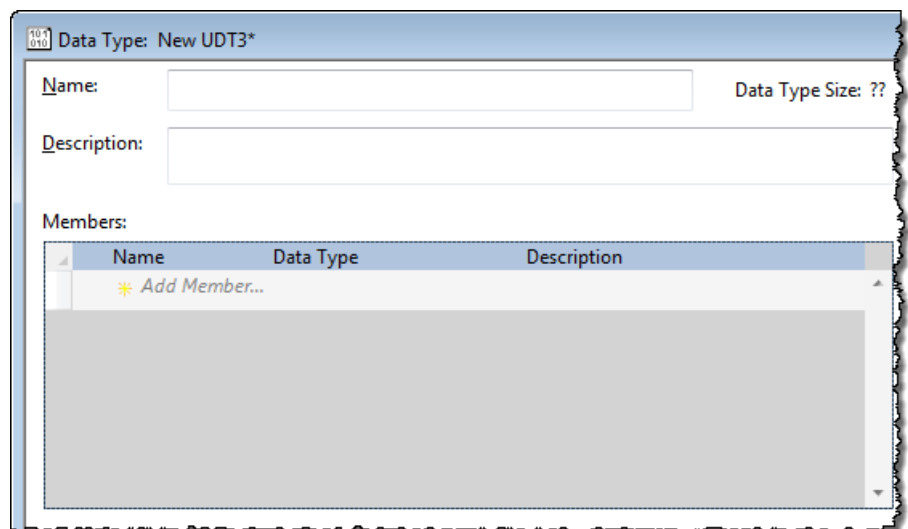
BOOL
BOOL
BOOL
DINT
DINT

### Less Efficient

BOOL
DINT
BOOL
DINT
BOOL

## Create a user-defined data type

1. In the **Controller Organizer**, expand **Data Types**, then right-click **User-Defined** and then click **New Data Type**.
2. In the **Data Type Editor**, in the **Name** box, type a name for the user-defined data type.
3. (optional) In the **Description** box, type a description for the user-defined data type.
4. Click **Add Member** to add a new data type member.



5. In the member **Name** box, type a name for the data type member.

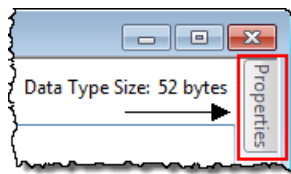


6. In the member **Data Type** box, enter the data type for the member.

You can also click the **Browse** button and then in the **Select Data Type** dialog box, choose a data type for the tag.

Limit any arrays to a single dimension. See [Configure an array](#) on [page 37](#).

7. (optional) In the member **Description** box, type a description for the data type member.
8. If the **Properties** pane is not visible, click **Properties** to display the properties for the data type member.



**Tip:** You may have to click in the data type member again to display the properties for the member instead of the properties for the data type.

- a. In the **Properties** pane, click the box next to **External Access**, and select an attribute.
  - b. To display the value of the member in a different style (radix), click the box next to **Style**, and select the style.
9. Click **Apply**.
  10. Repeat this procedure to add as many members as needed.

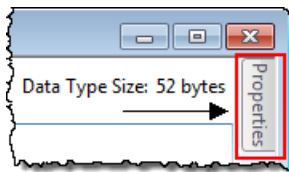
## Add extended properties to a user-defined data type

You can add Min, Max, Engineering Units, State 0, and State 1 properties to a data type or its member. When you add these properties, other Rockwell Automation HMIs can use their values.

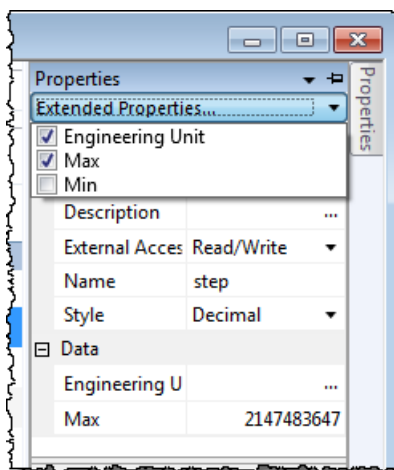
You can add and change these extended properties in the Data Type Editor **Properties** pane.

1. In the **Controller Organizer**, expand **Data Types**, then expand **User-Defined**, then right-click the user-defined data type and then click **Properties**.
2. In the **Data Type** Editor, do one of the following:

- Click in the data type **Name** box to choose the data type.
  - Click in the data type member **Name** box to choose the data type member.
3. If the Properties pane is not visible, click **Properties**.



4. Click **Extended Properties**.
5. Select one or more properties that you want to add. The properties in the list depend on the selected data type or member's data type.



For data type	You can add the following extended property
Array and string	Engineering Unit
BOOL	State 0 State 1 Engineering Unit
DINT, INT, LINT, SINT, and REAL	Min Max Engineering Units

**Important:** The list is unavailable for other types of data type members.

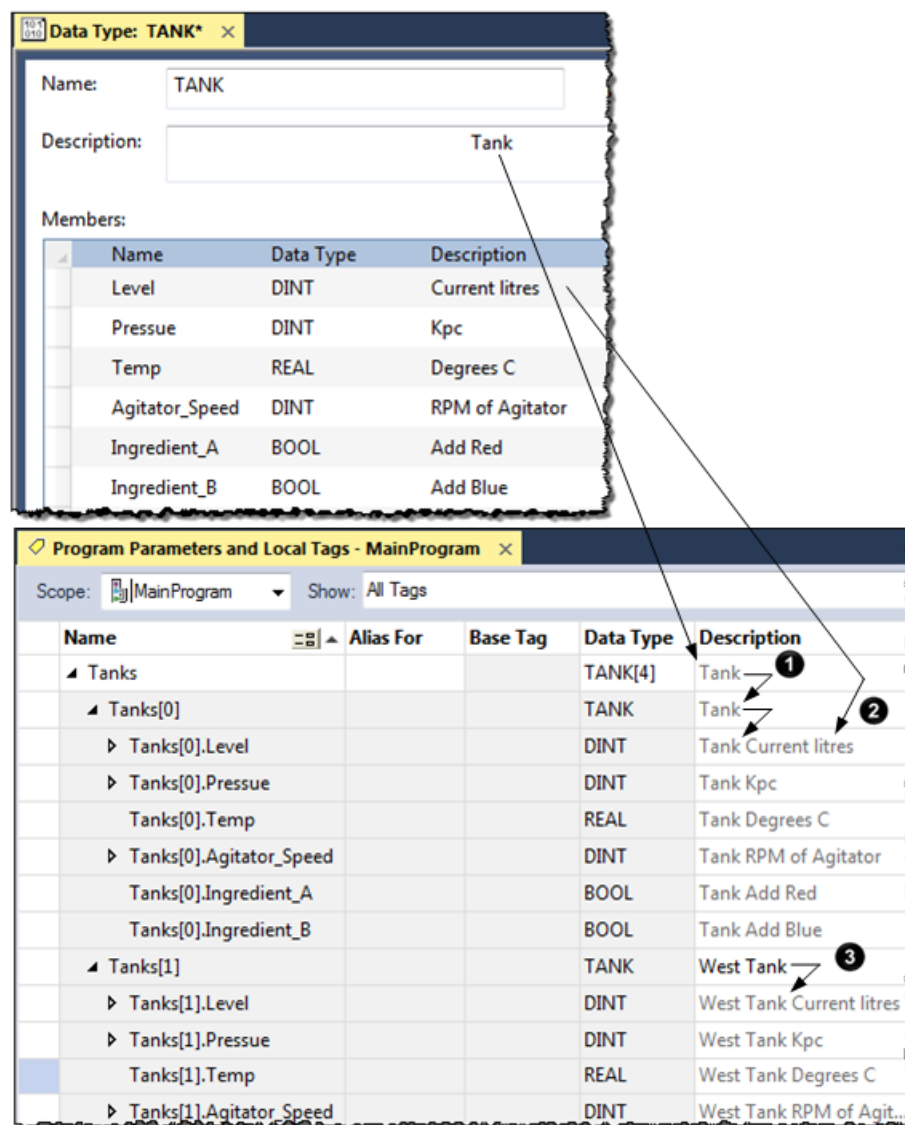
The following table shows the minimum and maximum values for DINT, INT, LINT, SINT, and REAL Data Types.

Data Type	Range
DINT	-2,147,483,648...2,147,483,647
INT	-32,768...32,767
LINT	0...3253512959999999
SINT	-128...127
REAL	-3.402823E38...-1.1754944E-38 (negative values) and 0 and 1.1754944E-38...3.402823E38 (positive values)

## Describe a user-defined data type

In version 13 or later, the Logix Designer application lets you automatically build descriptions out of the descriptions in your user-defined data types. This greatly reduces the amount of time you have to spend documenting your project.

As you organize your user-defined data types, keep in mind the following features of the Logix Designer application.



Item	Description
①	<b>Pass through of descriptions</b> —When possible, the Logix Designer application looks for an available description for a tag, element, or member. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Descriptions in user-defined data types ripple through to the tags that use that data type.</li> <li>• Description of an array tag ripples through to the elements and members of the array.</li> </ul>
②	<b>Append description to base tag</b> —the Logix Designer application automatically builds a description for each member of a tag that uses a user-defined data type. It starts with the description of the tag and then adds the description of the member from the data type.

3

**Paste pass-through description**—Use the data type and array description as a basis for more specific descriptions.

In this example, Tank became West Tank.

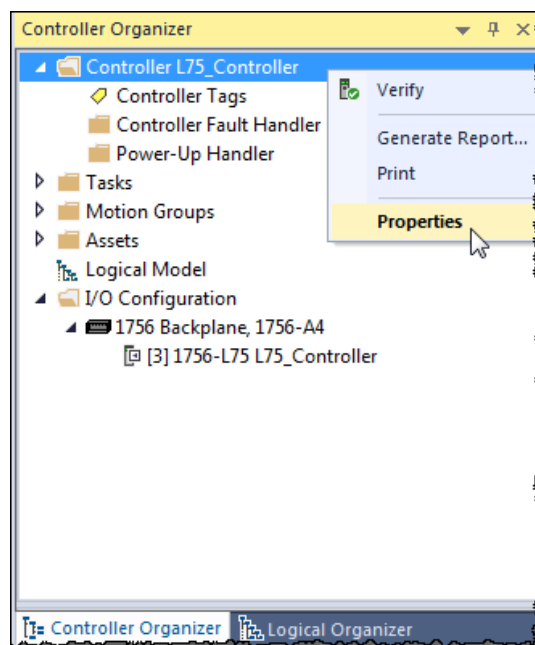
The Logix Designer application uses different colors for descriptions.

If the Color of the Description Is	It is a
Gray	Pass-through description
Black	Manually entered description

## Activate pass-through and append descriptions

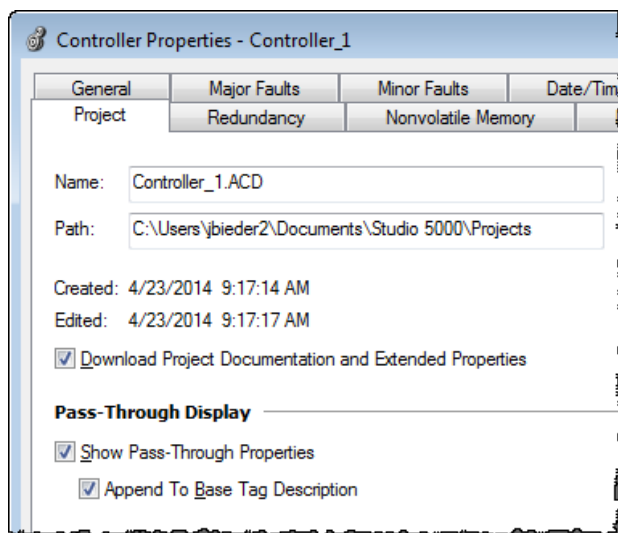
Follow these steps to use pass-through descriptions and append to base tag descriptions.

1. In the **Controller Organizer**, right-click the controller at the top and then click **Properties**.



2. In the **Controller Properties** dialog box, click the **Project** tab.

3. Check **Show Pass-Through Descriptions** and **Append to Base Tag Descriptions**.



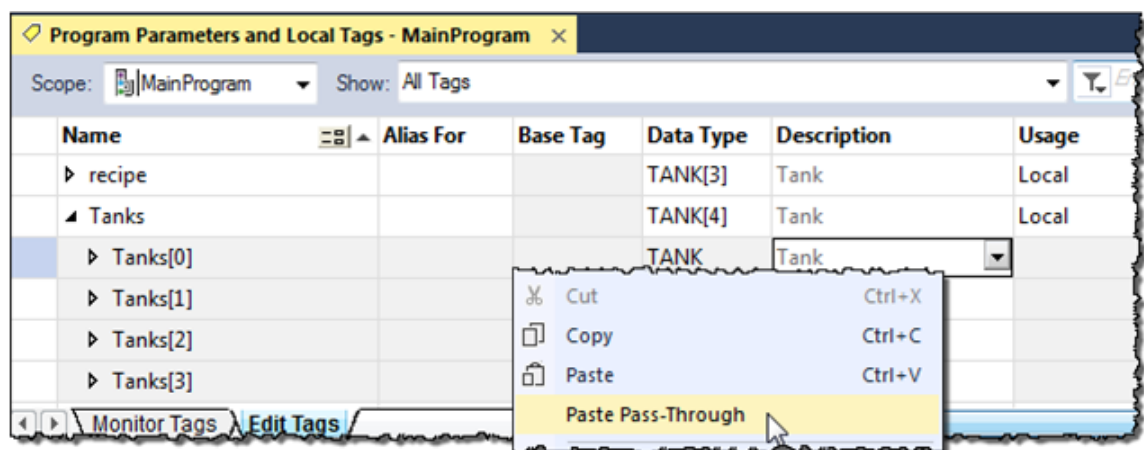
4. Click **OK**.

## Paste a pass-through description

Choose this command to paste a pass-through value of an item into the **Description**, **Engineering Unit**, **State 0**, or **State 1** field of another item.

Follow these steps to use a pass-through description as the starting point for a more specific description.

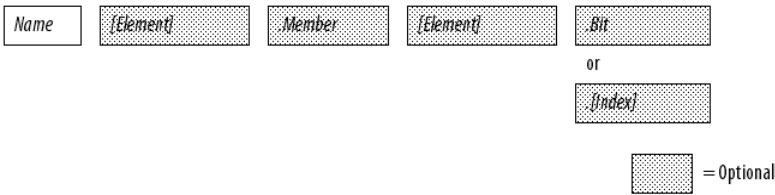
1. In the **Controller Tags** Editor, right-click the **Description** box, and then click **Paste Pass-Through**.



2. Edit the description and press **CTRL+Enter**.

Address tag data

A tag name follows this format.



Where	Is
<i>Name</i>	Name that identifies this specific tag.
<i>Element</i>	<p>Subscript or subscripts that point to a specific element within an array.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use the element identifier only if the tag or member is an array.</li><li>• Use one subscript for each dimension of the array. For example: [5], [2,8], [3,2,7].</li></ul> <p>To indirectly (dynamically) reference an element, use a tag or numeric expression that provides the element number.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A numeric expression uses a combination of tags, constants, operators, and functions to calculate a value. For example, Tag_1-Tag_2, Tag_3+4, ABS (Tag_4).</li><li>• Keep the value of the tag or numeric expression within the dimensions of the array. For example, if a dimension of an array contains 10 elements, then the value of the tag or numeric expression must be 0...9 (10 elements).</li></ul>
<i>Member</i>	<p>Specific member of a structure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use the member identifier only if the tag is a structure.</li><li>• If the structure contains another structure as one of its members, use additional levels of the.Member format to identify the required member.</li></ul>
<i>Bit</i>	Specific bit of an integer data type (SINT, INT, or DINT).
<i>Index</i>	<p>To indirectly (dynamically) reference a bit of an integer, use a tag or numeric expression that provides the bit number.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A numeric expression uses a combination of tags, constants, operators, and functions to calculate a value. For example, Tag_1-Tag_2, Tag_3+4, ABS(Tag_4).</li><li>• Keep the value of the tag or numeric expression within the range of bits of the integer tag. For example, if the integer tag is a Dint (32-bits), then the value of the index must be 0...31 (32-bits).</li></ul>

Alias tags

An alias tag lets you create one tag that represents another tag.

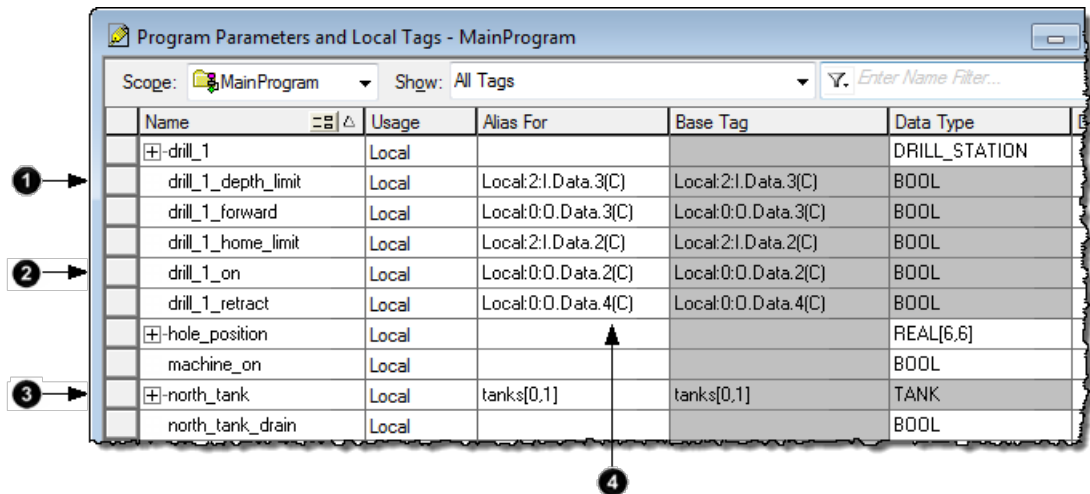
- Both tags share the same value.
- When the value of one of the tags changes, the other tag reflects the change as well.

Use aliases in the following situations:

- Program logic in advance of wiring diagrams.
- Assign a descriptive name to an I/O device.
- Provide a simpler name for a complex tag.

- Use a descriptive name for an element of an array.

The tags window displays alias information.



Item	Description
1	drill_1_depth_limit is an alias for Local:2:I.Data.3 (a digital input point). When the input turns on, the alias tag also turns on.
2	drill_1_on is an alias for Local:0:O.Data.2 (a digital output point). When the alias tag turns on, the output tag also turns on.
3	north_tank is an alias for tanks[0,1].
4	The (C) indicates that the tag is at the controller scope.

A common use of alias tags is to program logic before wiring diagrams are available.

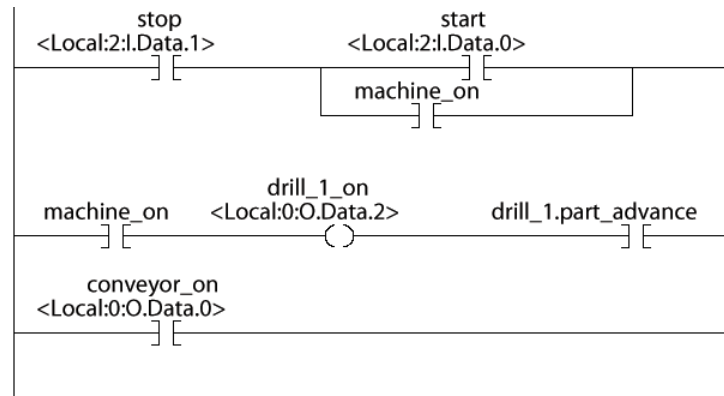
1. For each I/O device, create a tag with a name that describes the device, such as conveyor for the conveyor motor.
2. Program your logic by using the descriptive tag names.

You can even test your logic without connecting to the I/O.

3. Later, when wiring diagrams are available, add the I/O modules to the I/O configuration of the controller.
4. Finally, convert the descriptive tags to aliases for their respective I/O points or channels.



The following logic was initially programmed by using descriptive tag names, such as stop and conveyor\_on. Later, the tags were converted to aliases for the corresponding I/O devices.



- **stop** is an alias for **Local:2:I.Data.1** (the stop button on the operator panel)
- **conveyor\_on** is an alias for **Local:0:O.Data.0** The starter contactor for the conveyor motor)

## Display alias information

Follow these steps to show (in your logic) the tag to which an alias points.

1. On the Menu bar, click **Tools > Options**.
2. In the **Workstation Options** dialog box, expand **Ladder Editor** and then click **Display**.
3. Select the **Show Tag Alias Information** check box.
4. Click **OK**.

## Assign an alias

Follow these steps to assign a tag as an alias tag for another tag.

1. On the **Controller Organizer**, right-click **Controller Tags** and then click **Edit Tags**.
2. In the Tag Editor window, to the right of the tag name, click the **Alias For** cell.
3. In the cell, click ▼.
4. Select the tag that the alias represents.

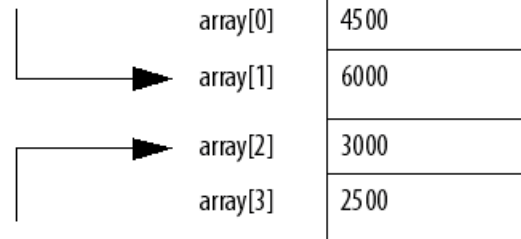
To	Do This
Select a tag	Double-click the tag name.
Select a bit number	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Click the tag name.</li> <li>2. To the right of the tag name, click +.</li> <li>3. Click the required bit.</li> </ol>

5. Click another cell.

## Indirect addresses

If you want an instruction to access different elements in an array, use a tag in the subscript of the array (an indirect address). By changing the value of the tag, you change the element of the array that your logic references.

When index equals 1, array[index] points here.



When index equals 2, array[index] points here.

The following table outlines some common uses for an indirect address.

To	Use a tag in the subscript and
Select a recipe from an array of recipes	Enter the number of the recipe in the tag.
Load a specific machine setup from an array of possible setups	Enter the desired setup in the tag.
Load parameters or states from an array, one element at a time	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Perform the required action on the first element.</li> <li>B. Use an ADD instruction to increment the tag value and point to the next element in the array.</li> </ol>
Log error codes	
Perform several actions on an array element and then index to the next element	

The following example loads a series of preset values into a timer, one value (array element) at a time.

**Example:** Step through an array.

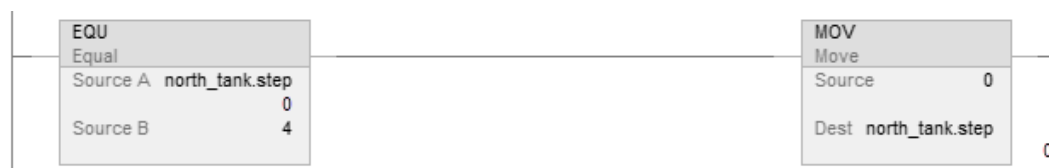
The timer\_preset array stores a series of preset values for the timer in the next rung. The north\_tank.step tag points to which element of the array to use. For example, when north\_tank.step equals 0, the instruction loads timer\_preset[0] into the timer (60,000 ms).



When `north_tank.step_time` is done, the rung increments `north_tank.step` to the next number and that element of the `timer_preset` array loads into the timer.



When `north_tank.step` exceeds the size of the array, the rung resets the tag to start at the first element in the array. (The array contains elements 0–3.)



## Expressions

You can also use an expression to specify the subscript of an array.

- An expression uses operators, such as `+` or `-`, to calculate a value.
- The controller computes the result of the expression and uses it as the array subscript.

You can use these operators to specify the subscript of an array.

Operator	Description	Operator	Description
+	Add	MOD	Modulo
-	Subtract/negate	NOT	Complement
*	Multiply	OR	OR
/	Divide	SQR	Square root
ABS	Absolute value	TOD	Integer to BCD
AND	AND	TRN	Truncate
FRD	BCD to integer	XOR	Exclusive OR

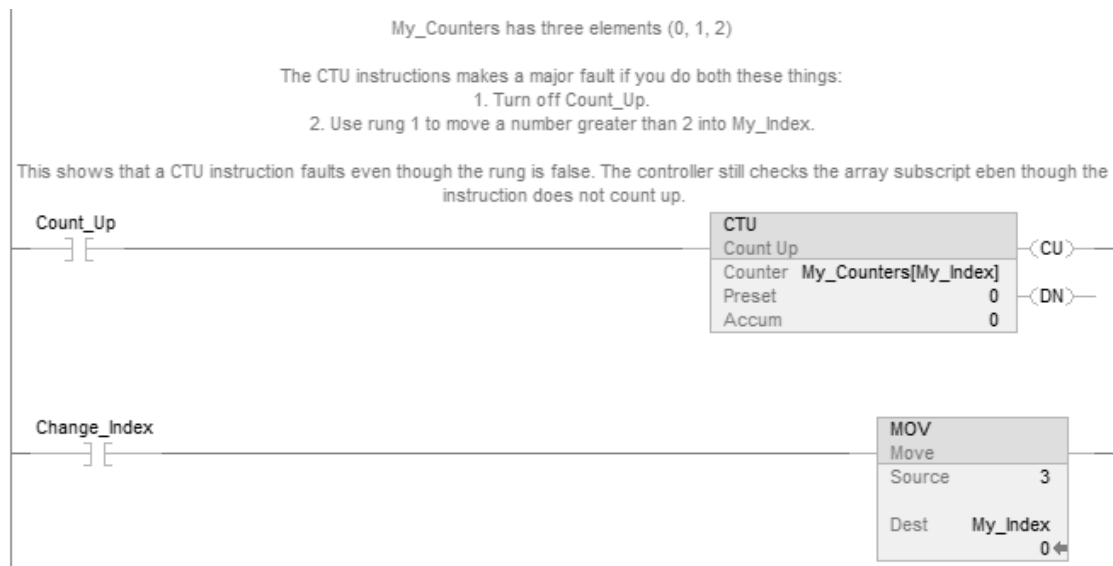
Format your expressions as shown in the following table.

If the operator requires	Use this format	Example
One value (tag or expression)	operator(value)	ABS(tag_a)
Two values (tags, constants, or expressions)	value_a operator value_b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>tag_b + 5</li> <li>tag_c AND tag_d</li> <li>(tag_e ** 2) MOD (tag_f / tag_g)</li> </ul>

## Array subscript out of range

Every instruction generates a major fault if the array subscript is out of range. Transitional instructions also generate a major fault even if the rung is false. The controller checks the array subscript in these instructions even if the rung is false.

**Example:**



For more information on handling major faults, refer to the [<LOGIX5> Controllers Major and Minor Faults Programming Manual](#), publication [1756-PM014](#).

## Tag documentation

The table outlines the four types of tags that you can create and the descriptions that you can document for each one.

---

**Important:** The Logix Designer application automatically assigns what are called pass-through descriptions of the tags you create. You may or may not want to use these descriptions.

---

Tag	Description
Base	When you create a tag without specifying a tag type, the Logix Designer application automatically assigns your tag a default type of Base. Since base tags enable you to create your own internal data storage, you can document in your tag description the nature of the data being stored.
Alias	By creating an alias tag, you can assign your own name to an existing tag, structure tag member, or bit. In the description of your alias tag, you can describe the tag that your alias tag references.
Produced	A produced tag refers to a tag that is consumed by another controller. In the description of your produced tag, you can describe the remote controllers that you want to make your produced tag available through controller-to-controller messaging.
Consumed	A consumed tag refers to a tag that is produced by another controller and whose data you want to use in your controller. In the description of your consumed tag, you can describe how you want to use a produced tag's data or the data-producing controller.

## Project documentation

With version 17 and later of the Logix Designer application, you have the option to display project documentation variables for any supported localized language, such as:

- Component descriptions in tags, routines, programs, equipment phases, equipment sequences, user-defined data types, and Add-On Instructions.
- Engineering units and state identifiers added to tags, user-defined data types, or Add-On Instructions.
- Trends.
- Controllers.
- Alarm messages (in configuration of ALARM\_ANALOG and ALARM\_DIGITAL tags).
- Tasks.
- Property descriptions for a module in the **Controller Organizer**.
- Rung comments, Sequential Function Chart text boxes, and Function Block Diagram text boxes.

You can store project documentation for multiple languages in a single project file rather than in language-specific project files. You define all the localized languages that the project supports and set the current, default, and optional custom localized language. The application uses the default language if the current language's content is blank for a particular component of the project. However,

you can use a custom language to tailor documentation to a specific type of project file user.

Enter the localized descriptions in your Logix Designer project, either when programming in that language or by using the import/export utility to translate the documentation off-line and then import it back into the project. Once you enable documentation languages in the Logix Designer application, you can dynamically switch between languages as you use the application.

For more information on enabling a project to support multiple translations of project documentation, see the online help.

## Force I/O

### Introduction

Use a force to override data that your logic either uses or produces. For example, use forces to:

- Test and debug your logic.
- Check wiring to an output device.
- Temporarily keep your process functioning when an input device has failed.

Use forces only as a temporary measure. They are not intended to be a permanent part of your application.

### Precautions

When you use forces, take these precautions.



**ATTENTION:** Forcing can cause unexpected machine motion that could injure personnel. Before you use a force, determine how the force affects your machine or process and keep personnel away from the machine area.

- Enabling I/O forces causes input, output, produced, or consumed values to change.
- Enabling SFC forces causes your machine or process to go to a different state or phase.
- Removing forces may still leave forces in the enabled state.
- If forces are enabled and you install a force, the new force immediately takes effect.

### Enable forces

You must enable forces for a force to take effect. You can only enable and disable forces at the controller level.

- You can enable I/O forces and SFC forces separately or at the same time.
- You cannot enable or disable forces for a specific module, tag collection, or tag element.

---

**Important:** If you download a project that has forces enabled, the application prompts you to enable or disable forces after the download completes.

---

When forces are in effect (enabled), a ► appears next to the forced element.

## Disable or remove a force

To stop the effect of a force and let your project execute as programmed, disable or remove the force.

- You can disable or remove I/O and SFC forces at the same time or separately.
- Removing a force on an alias tag also removes the force on the base tag.



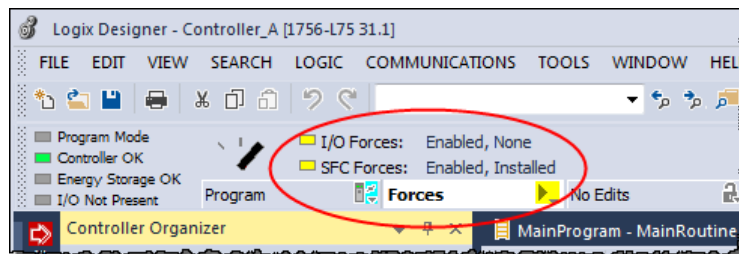
**ATTENTION:** Changes to forces can cause unexpected machine motion that could injure personnel. Before you disable or remove forces, determine how the change affects your machine or process and keep personnel away from the machine area.

## Check force status

Before you use a force, determine the status of forces for the controller. You can check force status.

To determine status	Use any of the following
I/O forces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online toolbar</li> <li>• FORCE status indicator</li> <li>• GSV instruction</li> </ul>
SFC forces	Online toolbar

The Online toolbar shows the status of forces. It shows the status of I/O forces and SFC forces separately.



This	Means
Enabled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the project contains any forces of this type, they <b>are</b> overriding your logic.</li> <li>• If you add a force of this type, the new force immediately takes effect</li> </ul>
Disabled	Forces of this type are inactive. If the project contains any forces of this type, they <b>are not</b> overriding your logic.
Installed	At least one force of this type exists in the project.
None Installed	No forces of this type exist in the project.



## Force status indicator

If your controller has a FORCE Status Indicator, use it to determine the status of any I/O forces.

**Important:** The FORCE Status Indicator shows only the status of I/O forces. It does not show that status of SFC forces.

FORCE Status Indicator	Then
Off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No tags contain force values.</li> <li>I/O forces are inactive (disabled).</li> </ul>
Flashing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least one tag contains a force value.</li> <li>I/O forces are inactive (disabled).</li> </ul>
Solid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I/O forces are active (enabled).</li> <li>Force values may or may not exist.</li> </ul>

## GSV instruction

**Important:** The ForceStatus attribute shows only the status of I/O forces. It does not show the status of SFC forces.

This ladder rung shows how to use a GSV instruction to get the status of forces.



Use the following table where Force\_Status is a DINT tag.

To determine if	Examine this bit	For this value
Forces are installed	0	1
No forces are installed	0	0
Forces are enabled	1	1
Forces are disabled	1	0

## When to use I/O force

Use an I/O force to override:

- An input value from another controller (that is, a consumed tag).
- An input value from an input device.
- Your logic and specify an output value for another controller (that is, a produced tag).
- Your logic and specify the state of an output device.

---

**Important:**

- Forcing increases logic execution time. The more values you force, the longer it takes to execute the logic.
  - I/O forces are held by the controller and not by the programming workstation. Forces remain even if the programming workstation is disconnected.
- 

Use these guidelines when forcing an I/O value.

- You can force all I/O data, except for configuration data.
- If the tag is an array or structure, such as an I/O tag, you can force a BOOL, SINT, INT, DINT, or REAL element or member.
- If the data value is a SINT, INT, or DINT, you can force the entire value or you can force individual bits within the value. Individual bits can have a force status of:
  - No force
  - Force on
  - Force off
- You can also force an alias to an I/O structure member, produced tag, or consumed tag.
  - An alias tag shares the same data value as its base tag, so forcing an alias tag also forces the associated base tag.
  - Removing a force from an alias tag removes the force from the associated base tag.
- If a produced tag is also Constant, you cannot use forces.
- If a produced tag is forced, you cannot make it Constant.

## Force an input value

Forcing an input or consumed tag:

- Overrides the value regardless of the value of the physical device or produced tag.
- Does not affect the value received by other controllers monitoring that input or produced tag.

## Force an output value

Forcing an output or produced tag overrides the logic for the physical device or other controller. Other controllers monitoring that output module in a listen-only capacity also see the forced value.

## Add an I/O force

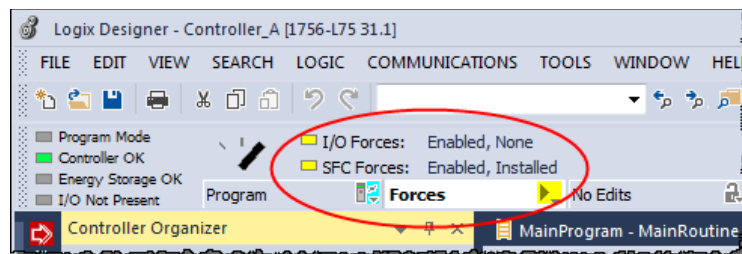
To override an input value, output value, produced tag, or consumed tag, use an I/O force.



**ATTENTION:** Forcing can cause unexpected machine motion that could injure personnel. Before you use a force, determine how the force affects your machine or process and keep personnel away from the machine area.

- Enabling I/O forces causes input, output, produced, or consumed values to change.
- If forces are enabled and you install a force, the new force immediately takes effect.

1. Check the state of the I/O Forces status indicator.



If	Then note
Off	No I/O forces currently exist.
Flashing	No I/O forces are active. But at least one force already exists in your project. When you enable I/O forces, <b>all</b> existing I/O forces also take effect.
Solid	I/O forces are enabled (active). When you install (add) a force, it immediately takes effect.

2. Open the routine that contains the tag that you want to force.
3. Right-click the tag and then click **Monitor**.

If necessary, expand the tag to show the value that you want to force (that is, BOOL value of a DINT tag).

4. Install the force value.

To force a	Do this
BOOL value	Right-click tag and then click <b>Force On</b> or <b>Force Off</b> .
Non-BOOL value	In the <b>Force Mask</b> column for the tag, type the value that you want to force the tag. Press <b>Enter</b> .

5. Verify that I/O forces are enabled (see step 1). If they are not, on the Menu bar, click **Logic > I/O Forcing > Enable All I/O Forces**, and then click **Yes** to confirm.

## Remove or disable forces

You can remove forces, or disable them.



**ATTENTION:** Changes to forces can cause unexpected machine motion that could injure personnel. Before you disable or remove forces, determine how the change affects your machine or process and keep personnel away from the machine area.

This section describes how to remove and disable forces.

If you want to	And	Then
Stop an individual force	Leave other forces enabled and in effect	Remove an Individual Force
Stop all I/O forces but leave all SFC forces active	Leave the I/O forces in the project	Disable All I/O Forces
	Remove the I/O forces from the project	Remove All I/O Forces

## Remove an individual force

You can remove an individual force.



**ATTENTION:** If you remove an individual force, forces remain in the enabled state and any new force immediately takes effect.

**ATTENTION:** Before you remove a force, determine how the change affects your machine or process and keep personnel away from the machine area.

1. Open the routine that contains the force that you want to remove.
2. Determine the language of the routine.

If	Then
SFC	Go to step 4.
Ladder logic	Go to step 4.
Function block	Go to step 3.
Structured text	Go to step 3.

3. Right-click a tag that has the force and then click **Monitor**.

If necessary, expand the tag to show the value that is forced, for example, BOOL value of a DINT tag.

4. Right-click a tag or element that has the force and then click **Remove Force**.

**Disable all I/O forces**

To disable, on the Menu bar, click **Logic > I/O Forcing > Disable All I/O Forces**. Click **Yes** to confirm.

**Remove all I/O forces**

To remove, on the **Menu bar**, click **Logic > I/O Forcing > Remove All I/O Forces**. Click **Yes** to confirm.



## Data access control

### Introduction

In version 18 or later of the Logix Designer application, there are two tag attributes that allow you to control access to tag data. These attributes are:

- **External Access**
- **Constant**

The **External Access** attribute controls how external applications, such as HMIs, can access tags. It has possible values of **Read/Write**, **Read Only**, and **None**. See [Configure external access](#) on [page 64](#).

The **Constant** attribute value determines if controller logic can change a tag. Also, by using FactoryTalk Security software, it is possible to control which users can change tags designated as constants in the Logix Designer application. See [Constant value tags](#) on [page 77](#) for more information on the **Constant** attribute.

By using these two attributes, you can help safeguard tag data by preventing unwanted changes to tag values. Also, by reducing the number of tags exposed to external applications, you can reduce the time required to develop HMI screens.

### External access

Use the **External Access** attribute to control how external applications and devices access tags.

Using external access reduces the number of tags for an application that appear when you reference them in applications or devices. It can also improve system performance by reducing the number of tags RSLinx has to maintain, scan, and cache. Reducing the number of externally accessible tags can improve the performance of the RSLinx data server and other related applications.

External applications and devices include:

- RSLinx Classic and FactoryTalk Linx software.
- Other Logix controllers.
- PanelView terminals.
- PLC/SLC controllers.
- FactoryTalk Historian software.

- Other third-party software.

## Configure external access

You configure external access from a menu when you create a new tag or data type. You can also change that value just like other tag attributes. You can make these changes throughout the application. For example, you can make the changes in the **User-defined Data Type Editor, New Tag** dialog box, and the **Tag Properties** dialog box.

External Access Settings	Description
Read/Write	External applications and devices have full access to the tag and can read and change the tag's value.
Read Only	External applications can read, but cannot change, the tag's value.
None	External applications cannot read or change the tag's value.

### Important:

- The Logix Designer application has full access to all tags, regardless of their external access settings. External access applies to all program, controller, and Add-On Instruction scoped tags.
- If the controller is in safety locked mode, only the safety tags are disabled from being accessed. The standard tags have the same behavior as in the unlocked mode.

## External access options

You can choose one of three options: **Read/Write**, **Read Only**, or **None** from the **External Access** list on the following Logix Designer dialog boxes.

- **New Tag** (See [Configure external access in the New Tag dialog box](#) on [page 65](#))
- **Tag Properties** (See [Set up external access in the Tag Properties dialog box](#) on [page 68](#))

The default value in the **External Access** list depends on the usage and type of the tag. The following table describes the values.

If the tag is	Default value is
Alias	Same as its target. See Important note following this table.
Controller or program scoped and equipment phase input parameters	The initial value is <b>Read/Write</b> . Thereafter, when you create a new tag, the default external access tag keeps the value of your previous choice. <sup>(1)</sup>
Equipment phase output parameters	The initial value is <b>Read Only</b> . Thereafter, when you create a new tag, the default external access tag keeps the value of your previous choice. <sup>(1)</sup>

(1) The external access default value for tag creation is stored for each Windows login account.



---

**Important:** For alias type tags, the **External Access** list is unavailable. You are not allowed to change the external access of an alias tag. However, the **External Access** list updates its value to be the same as the external access of the base target.

See [Find a base tag with Go To](#) on [page 69](#) for procedures to locate the base tag for an alias.

See [External access availability](#) on [page 71](#) for additional tag considerations.

---

## Configure external access in the New Tag dialog box

You can create the following types of tags in the **New Tag** dialog box.

- Base
- Alias
- Produced
- Consumed

The parameters on the dialog box depend on the type of tag you are creating. For tag descriptions, see [Tag type](#) on [page 22](#).

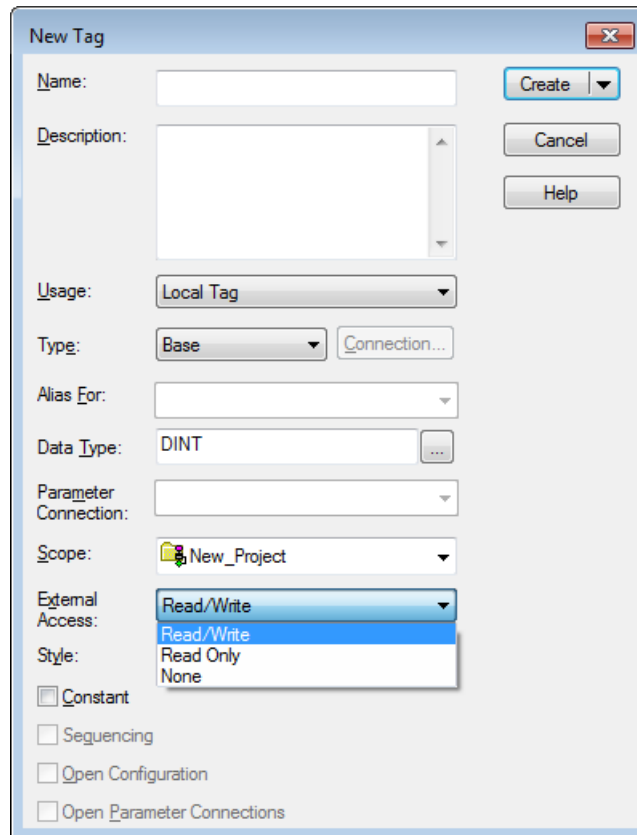
You choose the external access attribute for a new tag in the **External Access** list on the **New Tag** dialog box. Follow these steps.

1. In the **Controller Organizer**, right-click **Controller Tags** and then click **New Tag**.



2. In the **New Tag** dialog box, in the **Type** list, choose a tag type.

3. In the **External Access** list, choose an external access option.



The image shows a 'New Tag' dialog box with the following fields and options:

- Name:** Text input field.
- Description:** Text area.
- Usage:** Dropdown menu set to 'Local Tag'.
- Type:** Dropdown menu set to 'Base', with a 'Connection...' button next to it.
- Alias For:** Text input field.
- Data Type:** Text input field set to 'DINT', with a '...' button next to it.
- Parameter Connection:** Text input field.
- Scope:** Dropdown menu set to 'New\_Project'.
- External Access:** Dropdown menu with a list showing 'Read/Write' (selected), 'Read/Write', 'Read Only', and 'None'.
- Style:** Text input field.
- Constant:** Checked checkbox.
- Sequencing:** Unchecked checkbox.
- Open Configuration:** Unchecked checkbox.
- Open Parameter Connections:** Unchecked checkbox.

Buttons on the right: 'Create' (with a dropdown arrow), 'Cancel', and 'Help'.

4. Click **OK**.

As shown in the following example, the **External Access** list is unavailable for an alias tag.

There may be many alias tags in a program. To locate an associated base tag to assign an external access, use the Go To feature. See [Find a base tag with Go To](#) on [page 69](#) for details.

For other tag considerations, see [External access availability](#) on [page 71](#).

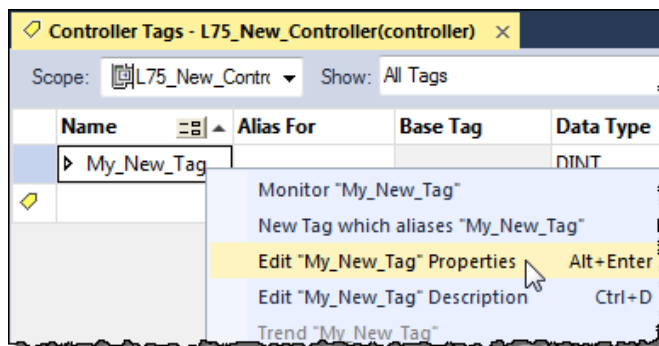
The **Connection** button (next to the **Type** box) becomes active when you select either a produced or consumed tag type. The button displays a dialog box to set up produced and consumed tag connections. See the [Logix 5000 Controllers Produced and Consumed Tags Programming Manual](#), publication [1756-PM011](#).

## Set up external access in the Tag Properties dialog box

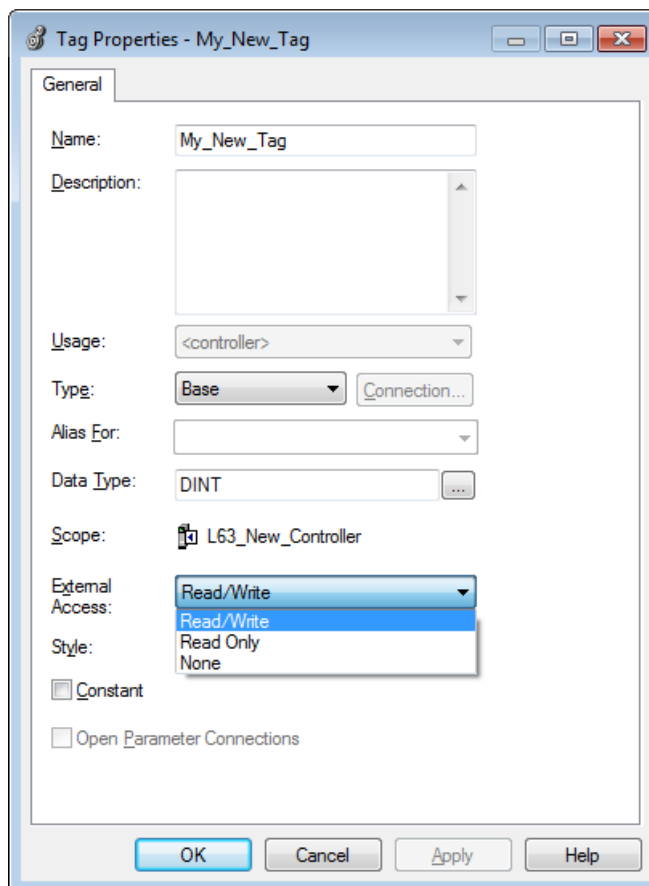
Use the **Tag Properties** dialog box to edit properties of existing tags. You can change tag attributes and change tag types.

Follow these steps to choose an external access option for an existing tag.

1. In the Tag Editor, right-click a tag and then click **Edit (tag name) Properties**.



2. In the **Tag Properties** dialog box, in the **Type** list, choose a tag type.



3. In the **External Access** list, choose an external access option.


The **External Access** list is unavailable for an alias tag. If a tag is a module tag, the only external access option is **Read/Write**.

See [External access availability](#) on [page 71](#) for other considerations.

4. Click **OK**.

## View and select external access status on the Tag Editor

You can view the external access status of a tag in the Tag Editor. The **External Access** column displays the tag as **Read/Write**, **Read Only**, or **None**.

Scope:  L75_New_Contr		Show: All Tags		Enter Name Filter...				
Name	Alias For	Base Tag	Data Type	Description	External Access	Constant	Style	
▶ InStart			DINT		Read/Write	<input type="checkbox"/>	Decimal	
▶ InStop			DINT		Read/Write	<input type="checkbox"/>	Decimal	
▶ InStopped			DINT		Read Only	<input type="checkbox"/>	Decimal	
▶ WallClockTime			DINT	Wall Clock Time	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Decimal	
▶ DEVWHO_CT			MESSAGE		Read Only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
						<input type="checkbox"/>		

Follow these steps to select multiple rows and set the external access at one time on the Tag Editor.

1. To select multiple individual rows, hold down the **Ctrl** key and click the desired rows.
2. Right-click a selected tag, and then click **Set External Access for (tag name)** to select an external access option.

This updates the external access for all highlighted rows that are enabled for changing external access.

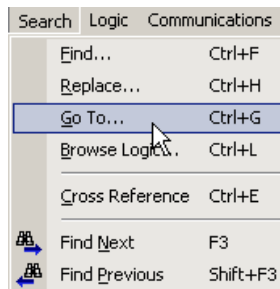
See [External access availability](#) on [page 71](#) for considerations when the **External Access** column is unavailable.

## Find a base tag with Go To

You can only change the external access setting of an alias tag through its base tag. The **Go To** command on the **Search** menu of the Logix Designer application is a convenient way to find the base tag among all the cross-reference records.

Follow these steps to locate a base tag.

1. In the Tag Editor select the alias tag, and then on the Logix Designer application Menu bar, click **Search > Go To**.

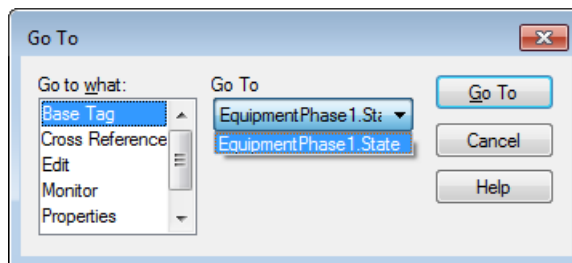


You can also right-click the alias tag and then click **Go To**.

2. In the **Go To** dialog box, in the **Go to what** list, choose **Base Tag**.

The **Go To** box displays the target of the alias tag. If there is an alias chain, all alias tags in this chain appear in the **Go to** list.

3. In the **Go to** list, choose a target of the alias tag.



4. Click **Go To**.

The target is located with a black box around it.

## External access availability

The following table describes the conditions in which the **External Access** list is unavailable.

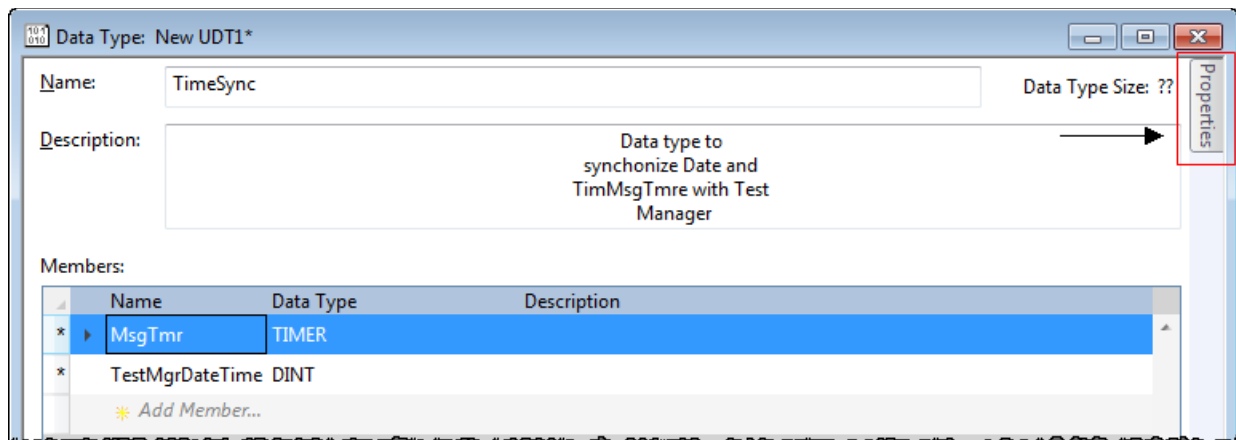
**Important:** The External Access list is always unavailable for any tag whose data type is **Alarm Analog** or **Alarm Digital**. The external access status is always **Read/Write** for these data types.

Dialog Box/Window	Considerations
New Tag	<p>The <b>External Access</b> list is unavailable if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tag is an alias tag.</li> <li>• The controller is user locked online.</li> </ul> <p>Changing the tag type from base to alias also makes the <b>External Access</b> list unavailable. If you select a target for an alias tag in the <b>Alias For</b> list, the <b>External Access</b> list remains unavailable, but the external access value for the target tag appears in the <b>External Access</b> list. You can only change the external access value of an alias tag through its base tag.</p>
Tag Properties	<p>The <b>External Access</b> list is unavailable if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You do not have permission to change the external access settings.</li> <li>• The redundancy controller is in any state that does not allow changes.</li> <li>• The controller is user-locked online from another computer.</li> <li>• The controller is safety-locked and the tag is a safety tag.</li> <li>• The tag scope is an equipment phase and the equipment phase feature is not activated in the current license.</li> <li>• The tag is an alias tag.</li> <li>• The controller is in hard-run mode.</li> </ul>
Tag Editor	<p>The <b>External Access</b> list is unavailable if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You do not have permission to change the external access settings.</li> <li>• The redundancy controller is in any state that does not allow changes.</li> <li>• The controller is user-locked online.</li> <li>• The controller is safety-locked and the tag is a safety tag. Only the safety tags' <b>External Access</b> list is disabled.</li> <li>• The tag scope is an equipment phase and the equipment phase feature is not activated in the current license.</li> <li>• The tag is an alias tag.</li> <li>• The controller is in hard-run mode.</li> <li>• The row represents an expanded array dimension, bit, or data member.</li> </ul> <p>For tags of <b>Predefined</b> (Atomic and Structural), <b>Module-Defined</b> Data Types and <b>String</b>, all of these tag members have the same external access level because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are all hard-coded to <b>Read/Write</b> and you can only view, not change, this value. You also cannot change external access for the data type members.</li> <li>• An external access change on the tag results in an update on all tag members.</li> </ul> <p>For array tags, all elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have the same external access level.</li> <li>• Of all data members for predefined or module-defined data types have the same external access setting.</li> <li>• Of each data member for user-defined type (UDT) and Add-On Instruction have the more restrictive external access setting between the element external access setting and the external access setting of the member in the type definition.</li> </ul>

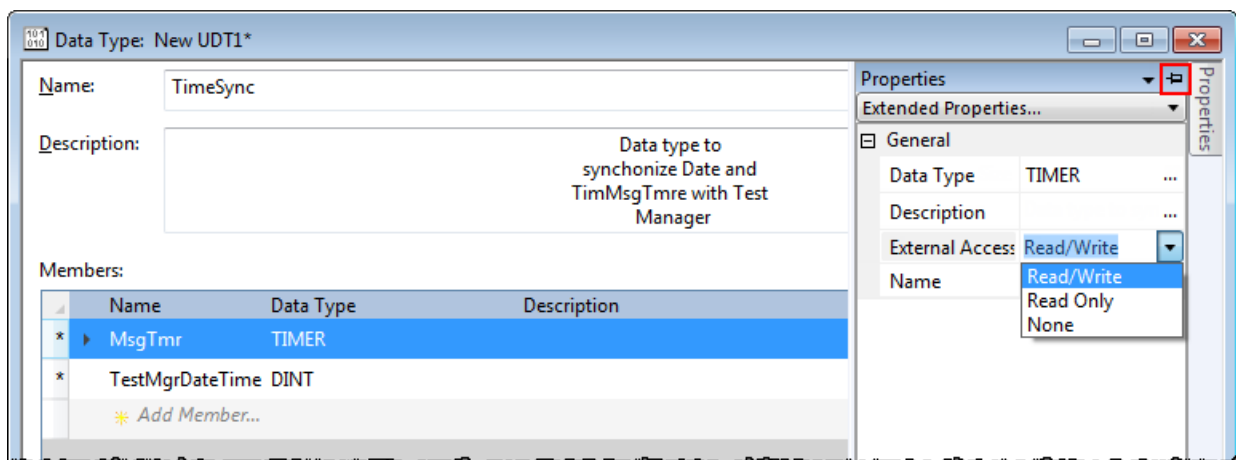
## User-defined type considerations

You select the external access options for a tag—**Read/Write** (default), **Read Only**, or **None**—from the Data Type Editor **Properties** pane.

1. In the **Controller Organizer**, right-click the data type and then click **Properties**.



2. In the Data Type editor, click the **Properties** tab to display the **Properties** pane. Click the pushpin icon to keep the **Properties** pane open.



3. In the **External Access** list, choose the external access option.

Three external access rules apply for members of User-defined data types.

- You can only set external access for the top members of that User-defined data type. **External Access** boxes for the child-members are unavailable on the User-defined Data Type Editor.
- If the member's data type is **Predefined structural**, **Module-defined**, or **String**, you cannot set external access of child-members. The external access level of the parent member applies to its child-members.



- If the member's data type is **User-defined** and the child-member has a different external access level from its parent, the more restrictive external access level applies to the child-members.

The following table describes the conditions in which the **External Access** column is unavailable.

To pick	Considerations
Change existing data type	<p>The <b>External Access</b> column is unavailable if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You do not have permission to change the external access settings.<sup>(1)</sup></li> <li>• The redundancy controller is in any state that does not allow changes.</li> <li>• The data type is applied to tags and the controller is online.</li> </ul> <p><b>Tip:</b> Data type size is not affected by the external access attribute.</p>
Predefined, module-defined, Strings type	The <b>External Access</b> column is always visible but unavailable. The <b>Set External Access</b> entry is added to the bottom of the row header context menu, but it is always unavailable.

(1) If you have User-defined Data Type Modify permission, you also can modify external access of a User-defined data type.

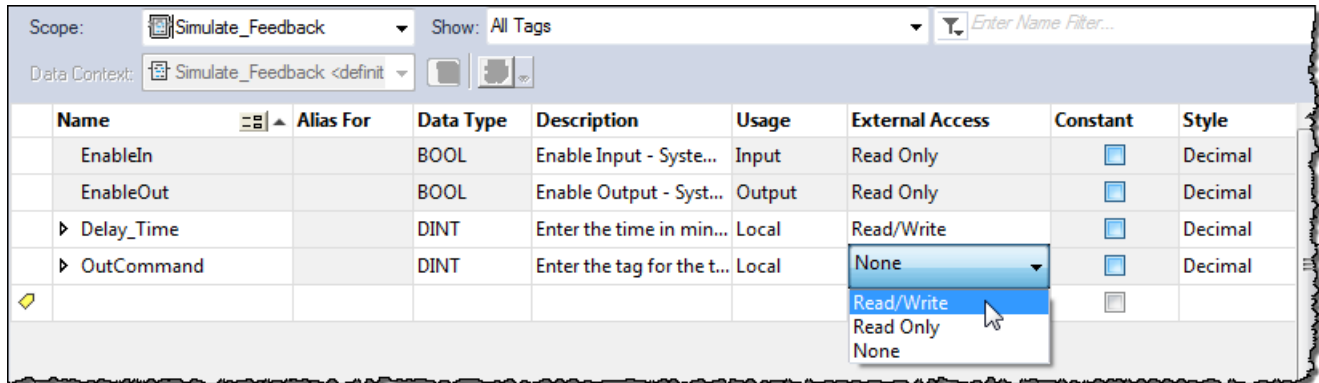
## Add-on instructions external access considerations

You can use external access settings with parameters and local tags of Add-On Instructions. For example, if you define an input parameter with external access of read only, the member that represents that parameter in the Add-On Instruction data type cannot be written.

The following table describes the external access options for various Add-On Instruction parameters and tags.

Add-On Instruction Parameters and Tags	External Access Options
Local tag	Read/Write
Input parameter	Read Only
Output parameter	None
EnableIn parameter	Read Only
EnableOut parameter	Read Only
InOut parameter	Not Applicable

You can choose the external access for an Add-On Instruction tag from the list on the **New Add-On Instruction Parameter** or **Local Tag** dialog box or from the **External Access** column on the Tag Editor.



You can configure the external access of an Add-On Instruction's parameters and local tags in the **Add-On Instruction Definition** dialog box and on the **Add-On Instruction Parameters and Local Tags** dialog boxes.

For alias parameters, the external access type is equal to the type configured for the base local tag.

Dialog Box/Window	Considerations
<b>New Add-On Instruction Parameter or Local Tag</b>	<p>If the current usage is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Input parameter, then the <b>External Access</b> list is available and the displayed value is your last selection when creating an equipment phase input parameter or Add-On Instruction input parameter.</li> <li>• Output parameter, then the <b>External Access</b> list is available and the displayed value is your last selection when creating an equipment phase output parameter or Add-On Instruction output parameter.</li> <li>• InOut parameter, then the <b>External Access</b> list is unavailable and blank.</li> <li>• Local tag, then the <b>External Access</b> list is unavailable and the displayed value is None.</li> </ul>
<b>Parameters/Local Tag Properties</b>	<p>No change is applied to the <b>External Access</b> list if you switch the usage among <b>Input</b> parameter, <b>Output</b> parameter or <b>Local Tag</b>, except when the usage is <b>Local Tag</b>, then the list is unavailable.</p> <p>If you change the usage from <b>InOut</b> parameter to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Input or output parameter, then the <b>External Access</b> list is available and your last selection for creating an equipment phase/Add-On Instruction input parameter or an equipment phase/Add-On Instruction output parameter is displayed accordingly.</li> <li>• Local tag, then the external access is updated to <b>None</b> and the list is unavailable.</li> </ul> <p>The <b>External Access</b> list also is unavailable if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You do not have permission to change external access settings.<sup>(1)</sup></li> <li>• The controller is online.</li> <li>• The tag is an alias tag.</li> <li>• The Add-On Instruction is in Source Protection mode.</li> </ul>
<b>Add-On Instruction Definition - Parameters Tab</b>	<p>The <b>External Access</b> column is unavailable for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• InOut parameters, for which there are no external access options.</li> <li>• EnableIn and EnableOut parameters, which default to <b>Read Only</b>.</li> </ul> <p>The <b>External Access</b> column is unavailable when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You do not have permission to change the external access settings.<sup>(1)</sup></li> <li>• The controller is online.</li> <li>• The tag is an alias tag.</li> <li>• The Add-On Instruction is in Source Protection mode.</li> <li>• The row represents an expanded bit, or data member.</li> </ul> <p>For new parameters, changing <b>Usage</b> changes the <b>External Access</b> default:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To <b>Read/Write</b> for <b>Input Parameter</b>, equipment phase input parameter, and Add-On Instruction input parameter.</li> <li>• To <b>Read Only</b> for <b>Output Parameter</b>, for equipment phase output parameter, and Add-On Instruction output parameter.</li> <li>• To blank and unavailable for <b>InOut Parameter</b>.</li> </ul> <p>Changing external access attributes cause:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An error message if you change a tag from <b>Input</b> or <b>Output Parameter</b> to <b>InOut Parameter</b> and the present attribute is either <b>Read/Write</b>, or <b>Read Only</b>.</li> <li>• No change if you switch between <b>Input Parameter</b> and <b>Output Parameter</b>.</li> <li>• The value of the external access updates to the new target for an alias.</li> </ul>
<b>Add-On Instruction Definition - Local Tags Tab</b>	<p>The <b>External Access</b> column is unavailable if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You do not have permission to change external access settings.<sup>(1)</sup></li> <li>• The controller is online.</li> <li>• The Add-On Instruction is in Source Protection mode.</li> <li>• The row represents an expanded array dimension, bit, or data member.</li> </ul>

Dialog Box/Window	Considerations
<b>Add-On Instruction Edit Tags</b>	<p><b>Note:</b> External access is not applicable for InOut parameters because they are just references until invoked.</p> <p>The <b>External Access</b> column is unavailable for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EnableIn and EnableOut parameters, which default to <b>Read Only</b>.</li> </ul> <p>The <b>External Access</b> column is unavailable when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You do not have permission to change the external access settings.<sup>(1)</sup></li> <li>• The controller is online.</li> <li>• The tag is an alias tag.</li> <li>• The Add-On Instruction is in Source Protection mode.</li> <li>• The row represents an expanded array dimension, bit, or data member.</li> </ul> <p>For new parameters, changing <b>Usage</b> changes the <b>External Access</b> default:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To <b>Read/Write</b> for <b>Input Parameter</b>, equipment phase input parameter, and Add-On Instruction input parameter.</li> <li>• To <b>Read Only</b> for <b>Output Parameter</b>, for equipment phase output parameter, and Add-On Instruction output parameter.</li> <li>• To blank and unavailable for <b>InOut Parameter</b>.</li> <li>• To <b>None</b> and unavailable for <b>Local Tag</b>.</li> </ul> <p>Changing the external access attribute causes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A warning message if you change a tag from <b>Input Parameter</b> or <b>Output Parameter</b> to <b>InOut Parameter</b> and the parameter attribute is either <b>Read/Write</b>, or <b>Read Only</b>.</li> <li>• No change if you switch between <b>Input Parameter</b> or <b>Output Parameter</b> and <b>Local tag</b>.</li> </ul> <p>Finally, the external access value updates to the value from the new target if you change the target for an alias for an Input or Output parameter.</p>

(1) If you have User-defined Data Type Modify permission, you also can change the external access for a User-defined data type.

## Tag mapping considerations

Only tags with external access settings of **Read/Write** or **Read Only** can be mapped to a PLC-2 controller and PLC-5/SLC controllers.

1. In the PLC-2 or PLC-5/SLC Mapping dialog box, type a file number.
2. Choose a tag from the **Name** list. Only eligible tags that are set to either **Read/Write** or **Read Only** appear in the menu.

If you manually type the name of a tag whose external access is set to **None**, an error message appears.

3. Click **OK**.

## Imported tag behavior

The Logix Designer application preforms a check to verify an imported program file has a valid external access value. A default value is assigned to unspecified tags that are imported from programs created in the Logix Designer application earlier than version 18.

An error message appears in the Logix Designer application for imported files that contain tags with any value other than **Read/Write**, **Read Only**, and **None**.

Object Name	Default External Access
Controller and program-scoped standard tags	Read/Write
All safety tags	Read Only
Add-on Instruction local tags	Read/Write
Add-on Instruction Input parameters	Read/Write
Add-on Instruction Output, EnableIn and EnableOut parameters	Read Only
Add-on Instruction InOut parameters	N/A
Equipment phase output parameters	Read Only
Members of all data types	Read/Write

## Constant value tags

In version 18 and later of the Logix Designer application, you can designate tags as constants to protect them from being changed programmatically by:

- The controller programming application.
- Logic in the controller.

The tags that you cannot designate as constants are User-defined type members, Add-On Instruction input and output parameters, and local tags. You make a tag a constant value tag by selecting the **Constant** check box on tag creation dialog boxes and tag editor/monitor windows.

Use FactoryTalk security to control who is permitted to change values of constants and who can change the constant attribute of a tag. To change the value of a constant, you must have the Tag: Modify Constant Tag Values permission. To change the constant attribute of a tag, you must have the Tag: Modify Constant Property permission.

For details on setting permissions, see the [FactoryTalk Security System Configuration Guide](#), publication [FTSEC-QS001](#).

For an alias tag, the default constant setting of this tag is the same as its target tag. For all other conditions, the default value is unchecked, indicating the tag is not a constant value tag.

When you designate an InOut parameter as a constant, it cannot be written to within the Add-On Instruction.

**Tip:** You cannot pass a constant value tag as an argument to an Output parameter of an Add-On Instruction. You cannot pass a constant tag to an InOut parameter that is not also designated as a constant value.

## Configure constant tags

This section describes the various ways you can configure a constant attribute for a tag.

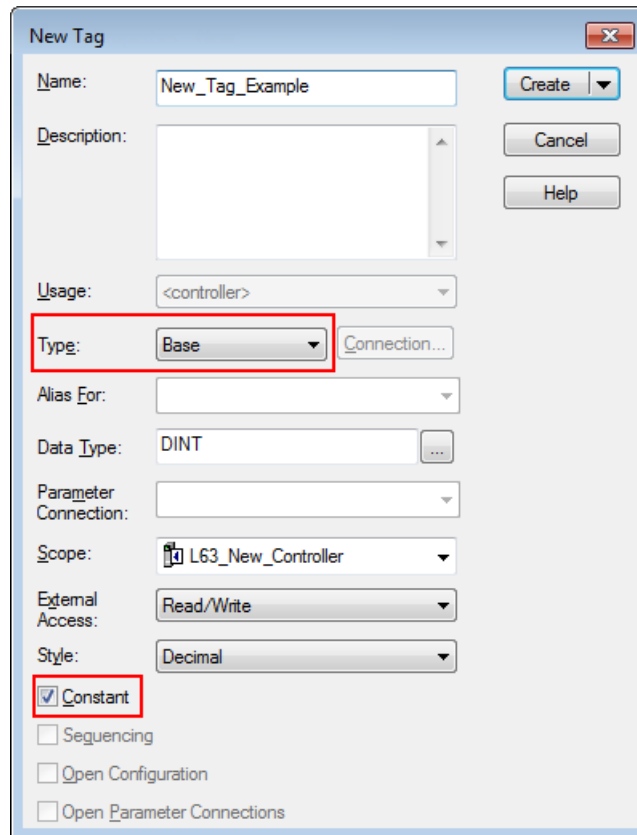
### Set up a constant in the New Tag dialog box

Follow these steps to configure a tag as a constant.

1. On the **Controller Organizer**, right-click **Controller Tags** and then click **New Tag**.



2. In the **New Tag** dialog box, in the **Type** list, choose a tag type.



The image shows the 'New Tag' dialog box with the following fields and values:

- Name:** New\_Tag\_Example
- Description:** (empty text area)
- Usage:** <controller>
- Type:** Base (highlighted with a red box)
- Alias For:** (empty dropdown)
- Data Type:** DINT
- Parameter Connection:** (empty dropdown)
- Scope:** L63\_New\_Controller
- External Access:** Read/Write
- Style:** Decimal
- Constant:** ☒ (highlighted with a red box)
- Sequencing:** ☐
- Open Configuration:** ☐
- Open Parameter Connections:** ☐

Buttons on the right: Create, Cancel, Help.

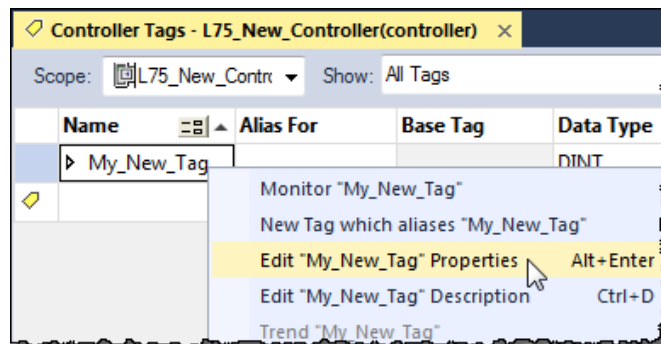
3. Select the **Constant** check box.
4. Click **Create**.

See [Constant check box availability](#) on [page 83](#) for considerations.

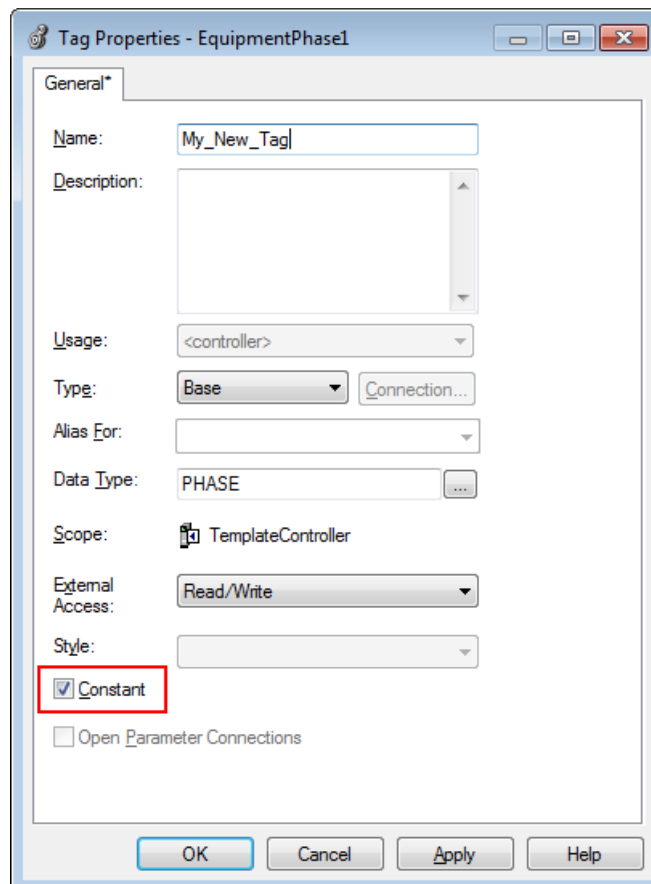
### Configure a constant in the Tag Properties dialog box

Follow these steps to designate a tag as a constant on the **Tag Properties** dialog box.

1. On the Tag Editor, right-click a tag and then click **Edit (tag name) Properties**.



2. In the **Parameter/Local Tag Properties** dialog box, select the **Constant** check box.



3. Click **OK**.

See [Constant check box availability](#) on [page 83](#) for considerations.



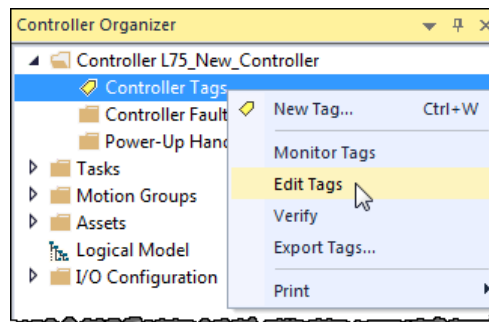
## Designate a constant in the Tag Editor

The **Constant** column in the Tag Editor lets you designate tags that cannot be modified in the Logix Designer program. The Constant property applies to an entire tag; all members of the tag take on the same setting. The **Constant** column cells are blank for members of the constant tag.

An error message appears if you try to change the data type of a constant tag to a data type that cannot be constant.

Follow these steps to add a constant value in the Tag Editor.

1. In the **Controller Organizer**, right-click **Controller Tags** and then click **Edit Tags**.



In the Tag Editor, select the check box in the **Constant** column.

Scope: L75\_New\_Contr ▾ Show: All Tags ▾ Enter Name Filter...

Name	Alias For	Base Tag	Data Type	Description	External Access	Constant	Style
▶ New_Tag_E...			DINT		Read/Write	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Decimal
▶ New_Secon...			DINT		Read/Write	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Decimal

---

**Important:** In the Tag Monitor, the Constant setting for the tag appears in the same **Constant** column as shown in the previous illustration. However, you cannot change the value. The **Constant** column also is available on the Equipment Phase Tag Editor and Equipment Phase Tag Monitor.

---

## Track a constant tag

Use component tracking to determine whether tracked components have been changed. The Logix Designer application creates an overall tracked value to indicate the current state of tracked components.

**Tip:** Component tracking is supported only on CompactLogix 5370, ControlLogix 5570, Compact GuardLogix 5370, and GuardLogix 5570 controllers in version 30 of the Logix Designer application.

Tracked components and their current states appear in the **Tracked Components** dialog box, which is accessible on the **Controller Properties dialog box - Security** tab.

The recommended limit on the number of constant tags that can be tracked is 300. If this limit is exceeded, there might be a noticeable impact on performance in the Logix Designer application. When tracking a base tag or an alias tag, the base tag and all alias tags are tracked.

**Tip:** To optimize performance, configure component tracking so that the tracked state value is calculated on demand rather than at regular intervals.

For more information on component tracking, see the [Logix 5000 Controllers Information and Status Programming Manual](#), publication [1756-PM015](#).


The FactoryTalk Security permission **Tag: Modify Properties** controls a user's ability to change the tracking status for a constant tag.

Follow these instructions to enable tracking on an Add-On Instruction.

1. In the **Tag Editor** or the **Data Monitor**, highlight the constant tag to track.
2. Right-click and select **Include in tracking group**.
3. To stop tracking a constant tag, right-click and select **Include in tracking group** again.

## Constant check box availability

The state of the **Constant** check box depends on a number of conditions.

Dialog Box/Window	Considerations
<b>New Tag</b>	<p>The <b>Constant</b> check box is unavailable if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tag is an alias tag.</li> <li>• The Factory Talk Security action is not enabled for changing constant value property of a tag.</li> <li>• You do not have permission to change tag properties (Factory Talk Security Tag Modify is denied.)</li> <li>• The new tag is a consumed tag.</li> <li>• The tag's data type is not a data table-backed type.</li> <li>• The tag is used in an Add-On Instruction as an input parameter, output parameter, or local tag.</li> <li>• Redundancy controller is in any state that does not allow changes.</li> <li>• The controller is safety-secured and the tag is a safety tag.<sup>(1)</sup></li> <li>• If the tag scope is an equipment phase and the equipment phase feature is not activated in the current license.</li> <li>• The controller is in hard-run mode.</li> <li>• The Add-On Instruction is in Source Protection mode.</li> </ul>
<b>Tag Properties</b> <b>Tag Editor</b>	Same considerations apply as for New Tag (preceding row).
<b>Tag Monitor</b>	<p>You can change the value of a constant tag in the Tag Monitor if you have both standard <b>Tag: Modify Values</b> permission and <b>Tag: Modify Constant Tag Values</b> permission. You cannot change a constant value in any of the language editors or any other tag browser. The icon  in the <b>Value</b> column indicates that you are changing a constant value tag's value. Any change to the values of a constant tag is recorded in the Controller Log for future reference.</p> <p>For controller logging, see the <a href="#">Logix 5000 Controllers Information and Status Programming Manual</a>, publication 1756-PM015.</p>

(1) If the controller is in safety-locked mode, only the safety tags are unavailable, and the standard tags will have the same behavior as in the unlocked mode. The **Constant** check box is unavailable in the **Tag Properties** dialog box only if the tag is a safety tag.

## Add-on instructions constant value considerations

The Constant attribute applies only to InOut parameters. The default setting of the property is not a Constant Value.

The Constant attribute does not apply to Input, Output, EnableIn and EnableOut Add-On Instruction parameters. It does not apply to Add-On Instruction Local tags.

If in an Add-On Instruction, you make an InOut parameter a constant, it means that within the Add-On Instruction, nothing can write to that parameter. The project fails verification if this type of write is attempted.

Appropriate usage of Constant tags is monitored by logic verification.



**A**

- access
  - external 63
- add extended properties to a tag 32
- add extended properties to user-defined data type 41
- Add-On Instruction
  - constant value considerations 83
  - external access variables 73
- address
  - assign indirect 50
  - tag 47
  - tag I/O module 16
- alias
  - create 49
  - show/hide 49
  - use of 47
- array
  - calculate subscript 51
  - create 36
  - index through 50
  - organize 27
  - overview 34
- availability
  - constant value 82
  - external access 70, 71

**B**

- base tag 69
- buffer
  - I/O data 18

**C**

- communication
  - format 13
  - ownership 14
  - I/O module 12
  - module I/O configuration 55
- compatible
  - keying 15
- configure
  - external access 64
- connection
  - listen-only 14

- overview 12
- considerations
  - Add-On Instructions
    - constant value 83
    - external access 73
  - external access 70, 71
  - user-defined data type external access 71
- constant
  - track constant tags 81
  - value
    - availability 82
    - dialog box 78
    - tag editor 80
    - tag properties 79
  - value configuration 78
  - value tags 77
- controller
  - tags 25
  - use of 25
- create
  - alias 49
  - tag 31
  - user-defined data type 40

**D**

- data
  - block
    - See array (create) 34
  - I/O 16
  - table
    - See tag (organize) 55
  - type
    - choose 23
    - overview 23
    - structure 23
- description
  - tag 43
  - user-defined data type 43
- direct connection 13
- disable
  - force 55
- document
  - tag
    - description 43
  - user-defined data type 43

**E**

- electronic keying
  - I/O 15
- enable
  - force 55
- exact match
  - keying 15
- expression
  - calculate array subscript 51
- extended properties 23
  - adding extended properties to a
    - tag 32
    - user-defined data type 41
- external
  - access 63
    - Add-On Instruction 73
    - availability 70, 71
    - configure 64
    - configure tag dialog 65
    - configure tag properties 67
    - options 64
    - user-defined data type considerations 71
    - view tag editor 69

**F**

- file
  - See array 34
- force
  - disable 55
  - enable 55
  - remove 55
- function block diagram
  - force a value 55

**G**

- global data
  - See scope 25
- Go To 69

**I**

- I/O module
  - buffer data 18
  - configuration 55

- document
  - See alias 47
- electronic keying 15
- ownership 14
- synchronize with logic 18
- tag address 16
- update period 12

- index
  - See indirect address 50
- indirect address 50
  - format 47
  - use of expression 51

**K**

- keying
  - See electronic keying 15

**L**

- ladder logic
  - force a value 55
  - override a value 55
- local data
  - See scope 25

**M**

- memory
  - allocation for tags 23
- Min and Max for DINT, INT, LINT, SINT, and REAL data types 32, 41
- module
  - I/O configuration 55

**N**

- name
  - guidelines for tag 27
  - reuse of tag name 25

**O**

- ownership
  - I/O module 14

## P

pass-through description 43  
 program  
   parameters 12, 18, 25, 26  
   tags 25  
 program parameters 12, 18, 25, 26  
 project documentation 53

## R

rack-optimized connection 13  
 remove  
   force 55  
 requested packet interval (RPI) 12

## S

scope  
   guidelines 27  
   parameters 12, 18, 25, 26  
   tag 25  
 sequential function chart  
   force element 55  
 structure  
   create 40  
   organize 27  
   overview 23  
   user-defined 40  
 structured text  
   force a value 55  
 symbol  
   See alias. 47

## T

tag  
   address 47  
   alias 47  
   array 34  
   assign dimensions 36  
   constant value 77  
     configuration 78  
   create 31  
   create alias 49  
   data  
     type 23

dialog  
   external access 65  
 editor  
   view external access 69  
 guidelines 27  
 I/O 16  
 mapping  
   considerations 76  
 memory allocation 23  
 name 25  
 organize 27  
 overview 55  
 properties  
   external access 67  
 reuse of name 25  
 scope 25  
 track constant tags 81  
 type 22

## U

user-defined data type  
   create 40  
   external access variables 71  
   guidelines 39  
   overview 40

## V

variables  
   constant value 82  
   external access 70, 71  
   user-defined data type  
     external access 71

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In addition, we offer multiple support programs for installation, configuration, and troubleshooting. For more information, contact your local distributor or Rockwell Automation representative, or visit <http://www.rockwellautomation.com/services/online-phone>.

## Installation assistance

If you experience a problem within the first 24 hours of installation, review the information that is contained in this manual. You can contact Customer Support for initial help in getting your product up and running.

United States or Canada	1.440.646.3434
Outside United States or Canada	Use the Worldwide Locator available at <a href="http://www.rockwellautomation.com/locations">http://www.rockwellautomation.com/locations</a> , or contact your local Rockwell Automation representative.

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Rockwell Automation Publication 1756-PM004H-EN-P - February 2018