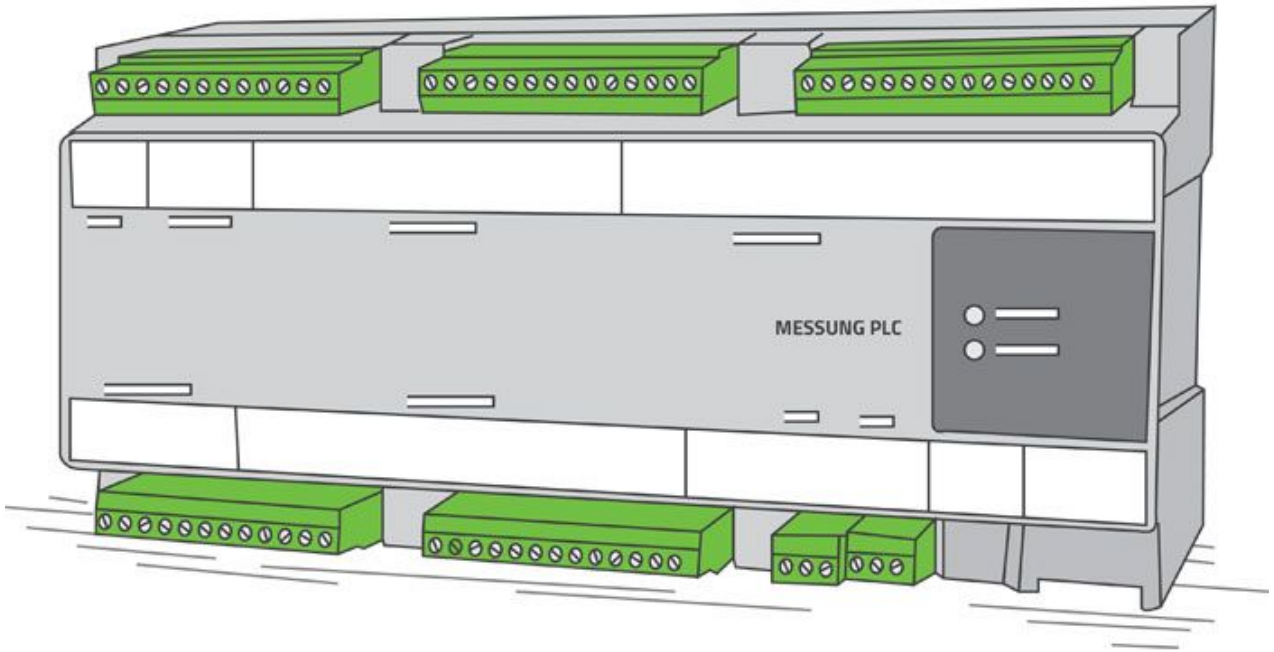
SY486K MICS Lecture 5

Introduction to PLCs

CDR Brien Croteau, USNA Cyber Science Department, February 2023

Outline

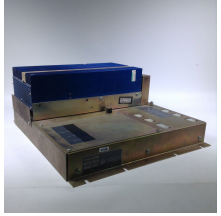
- Overview
- History
- Components
- Applications
- SCADA Organization
- Programming



What is a PLC?

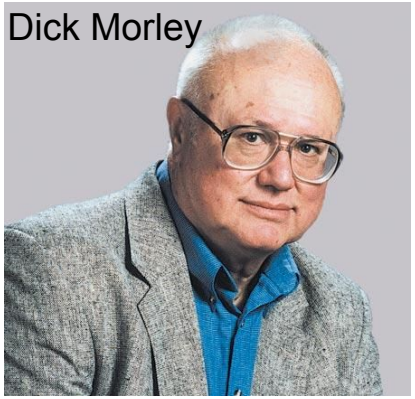
A programmable logic controller (PLC) or programmable controller is an industrial computer that has been ruggedized and adapted for the control of manufacturing processes, such as assembly lines, machines, robotic devices, or any activity that requires high reliability, ease of programming, and process fault diagnosis.

History

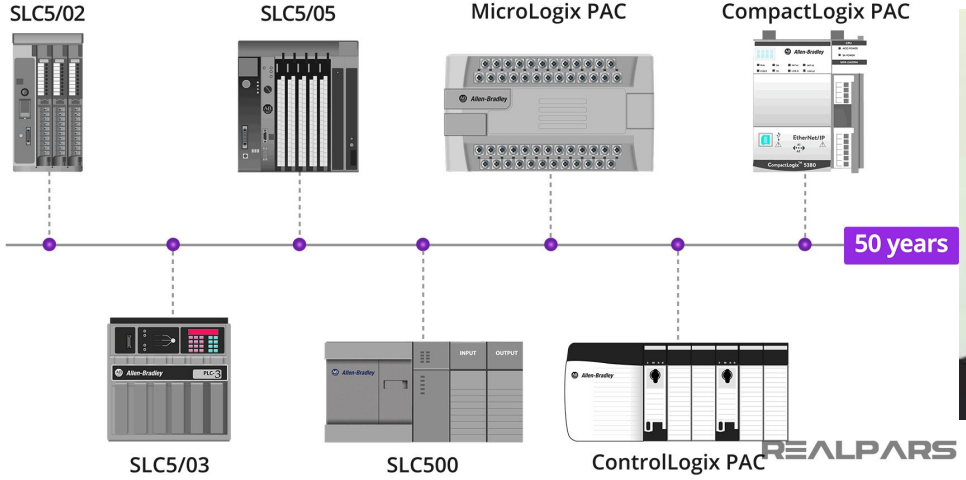


There are two men credited as being the "father" of the PLC.

- Richard E. Morley (1932-2017) was an American mechanical engineer who was involved with the production of the first PLC for General Motors, Modicon, and Bedford Associates in 1968.
- Odo Josef Struger (1931-1998) was involved in the invention of the Allen-Bradley programmable logic controller (PLC) and coined that term, during 1958 to 1960 based on a concept developed in his doctoral dissertation at the Vienna University of Technology.



MODICON
Schneider Electric



Allen-Bradley
by ROCKWELL AUTOMATION

EVOLUTION of the PLC

ALLEN BRADLEY | MODICON | SIEMENS

THE PROBLEM: *Before PLCs, automated machines were run by a complex and problematic series of relays. Maintenance costs were high, and system reconfiguring took too long to accomplish.*

THE FATHER OF THE PLC: *In the late 1960s, GM's Hydra-Matic division requested a concept from Dick Morley. On New Year's Day 1968 the concept that would become the PLC was born. It was then called the Standard Machine Controller. Morley's new company MODICON introduced the 084 Model in 1969 starting the race to perfect this new technology.*

1970

MODICON 184 Model
Described by Morley as the first commercial success

1774 PLC family introduced by Allen-Bradley

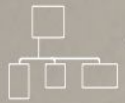
284/384 Models

1975

Rack based PLCs
Rack based PLCs, such as Allen-Bradley's PLC 2, begin to proliferate.

Modbus is introduced as first PLC network, becoming an industry standard.

1980



Field I/O
Field I/O, such as AB Remote I/O is introduced. Greatly reduced wiring costs, increasing the rate of growth.

Processors Evolve Further

Offering more expansive instruction sets in models such as the Allen-Bradley's PLC 5.

Simantic S5
Siemen's Four CPU design makes advanced automation applications a reality.

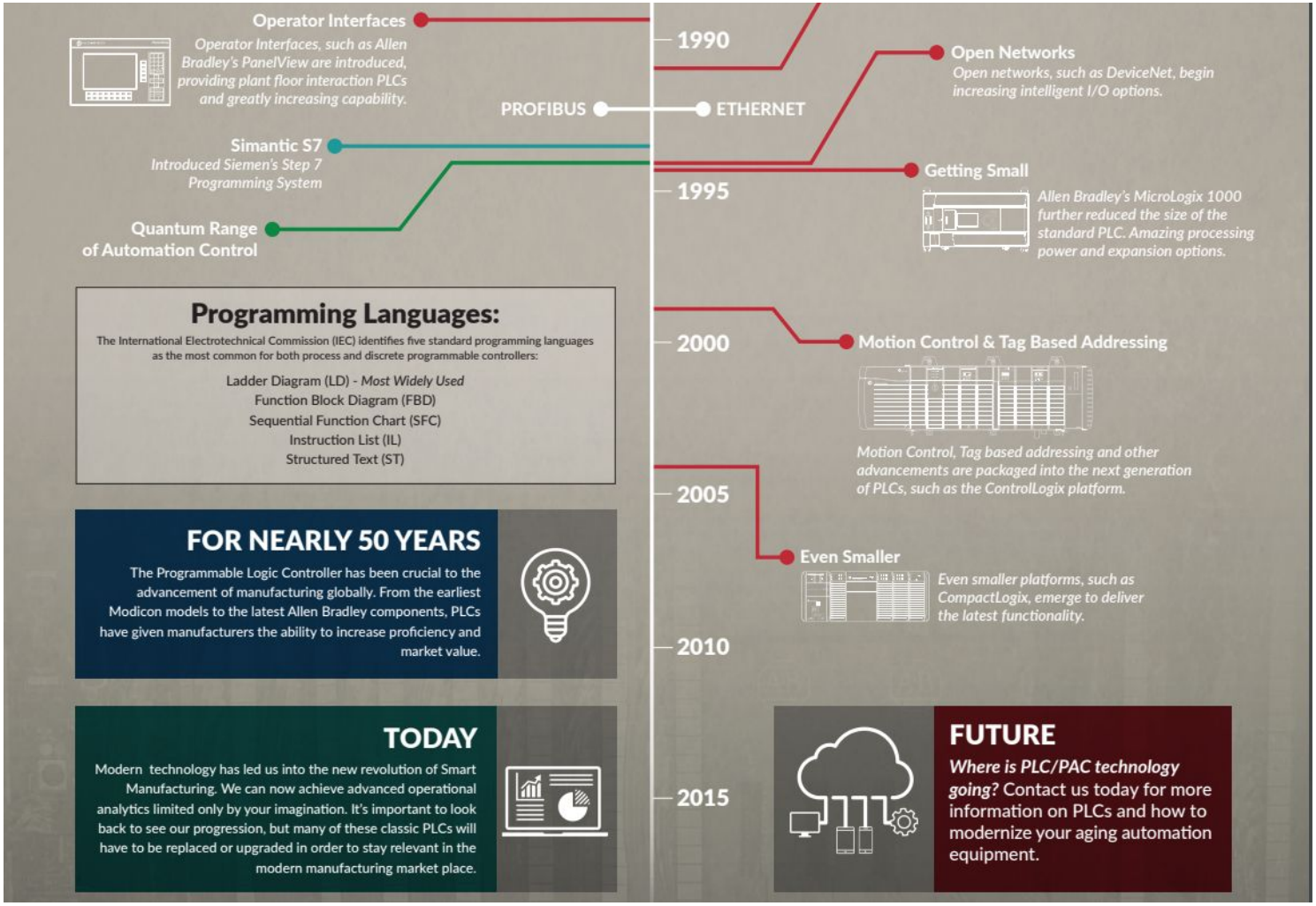
1985

Size and Costs are Optimized

Functionality is packaged into smaller and less expensive models like Allen-Bradley's SLC-500

MODICON 984 Model

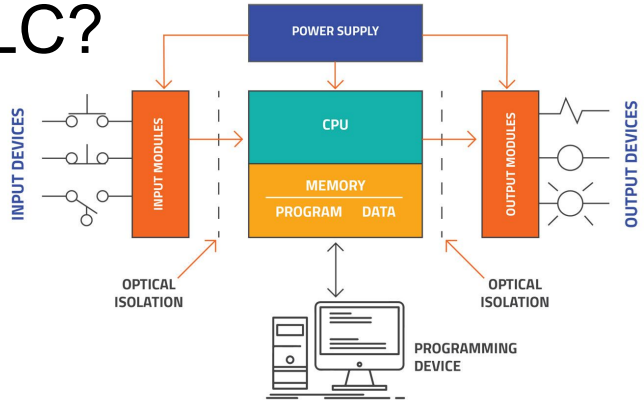
https://eecoonline.com/inspire/evolution-of-the-plc-a-historic-timeline

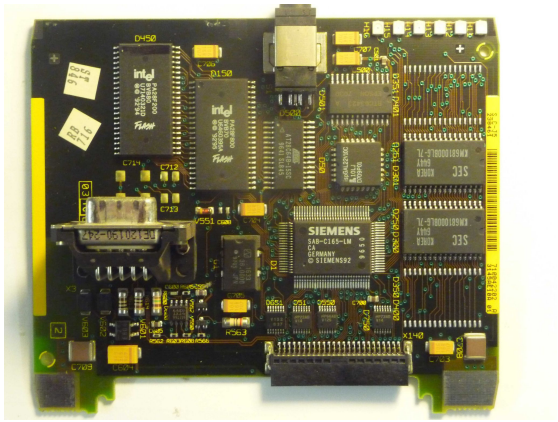


https://eecoonline.com/inspire/evolution-of-the-plc-a-historic-timeline

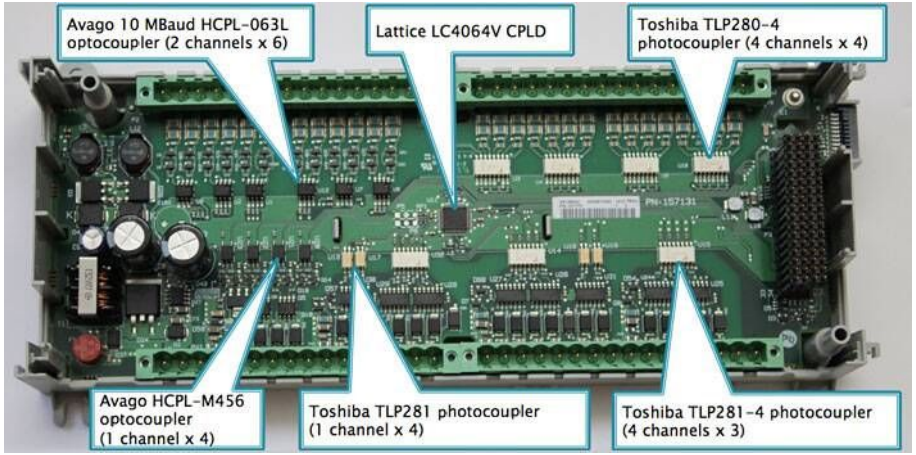
What is inside a PLC?

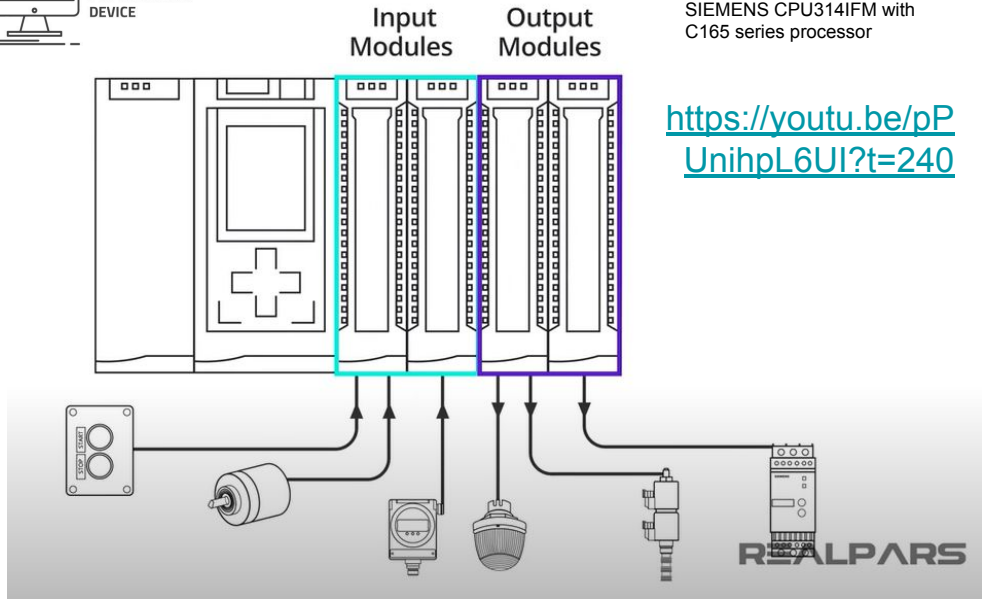
- Power Supply
- Processor
- Input Modules
- Output Modules
- Interface Modules
- Programming Interface





SIEMENS CPU314IFM with C165 series processor





https://youtu.be/pPUnihpL6UI?t=240

Simple PLC Example

Figure 8 shows control of a manufacturing process being performed by a PLC over a fieldbus network. The PLC is accessible via a programming interface located on an engineering workstation, and data is stored in a data historian, all connected on a LAN.

https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/SpecialPublications/NIST.SP.800-82r3.ipd.pdf

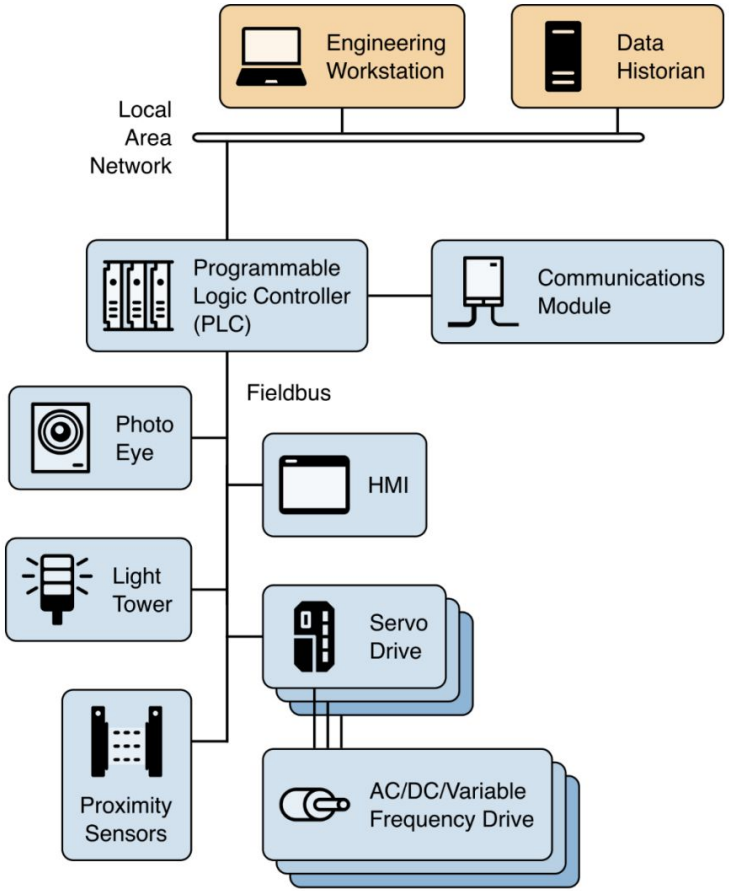


Figure 8: A PLC control system implementation example

PLC Example Applications

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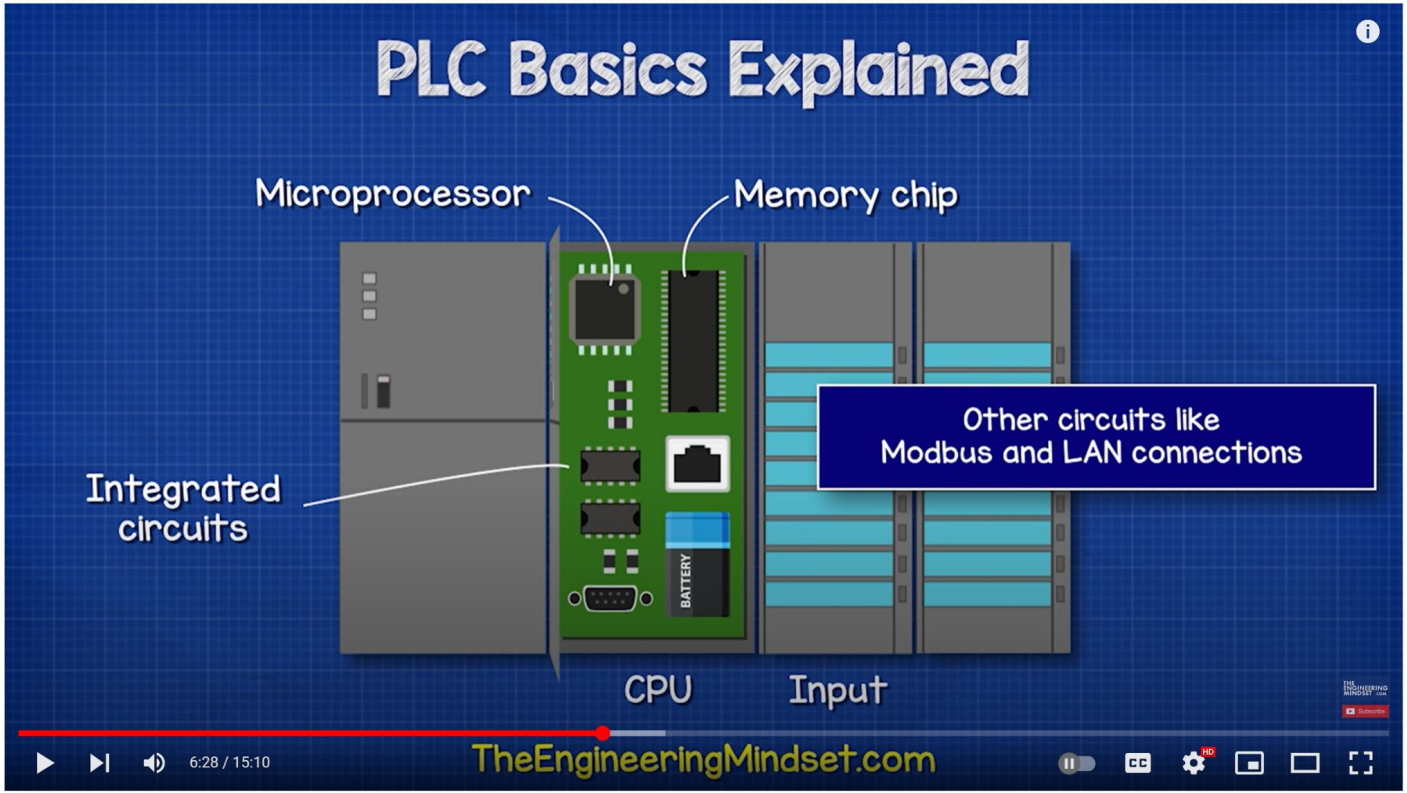
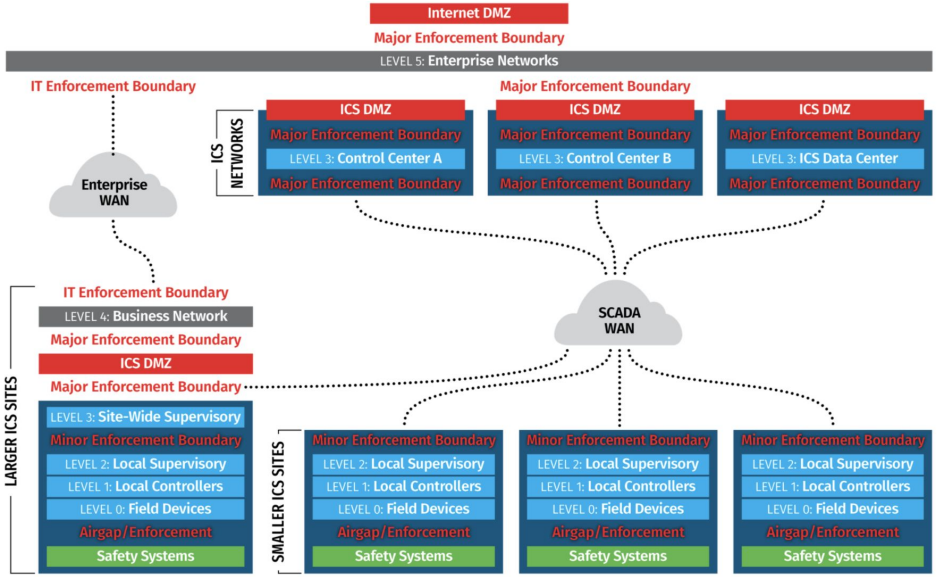
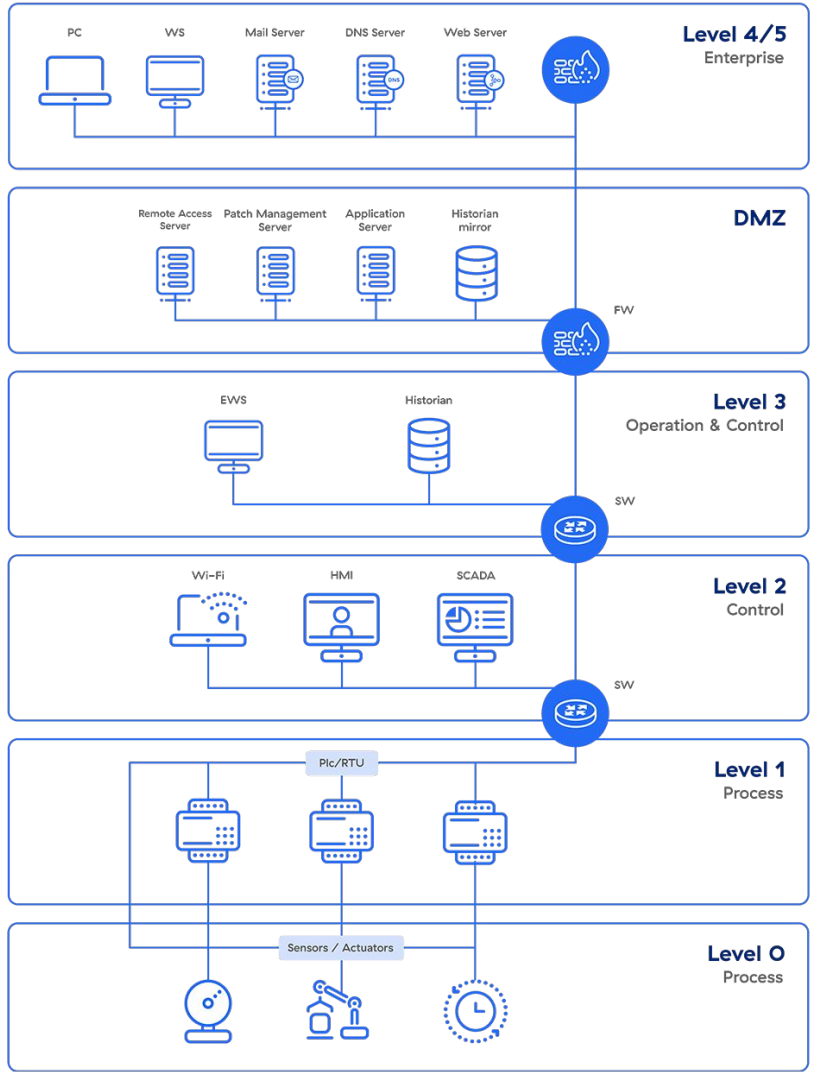


Programable Logic Controller Basics Explained - automation engineering

Where they fit into a SCADA system

The Purdue model, part of the Purdue Enterprise Reference Architecture (PERA), was designed as a reference model for data flows in computer-integrated manufacturing (CIM), where a plant's processes are completely automated. It came to define the standard for building an ICS network architecture in a way that supports OT security, separating the layers of the network to maintain a hierarchical flow of data between them.

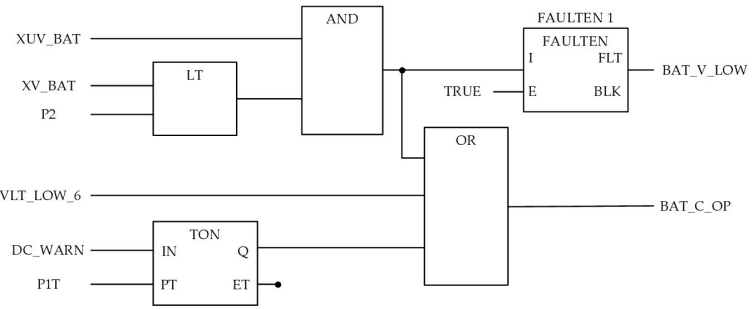


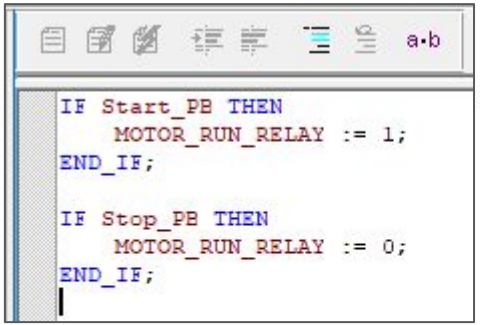


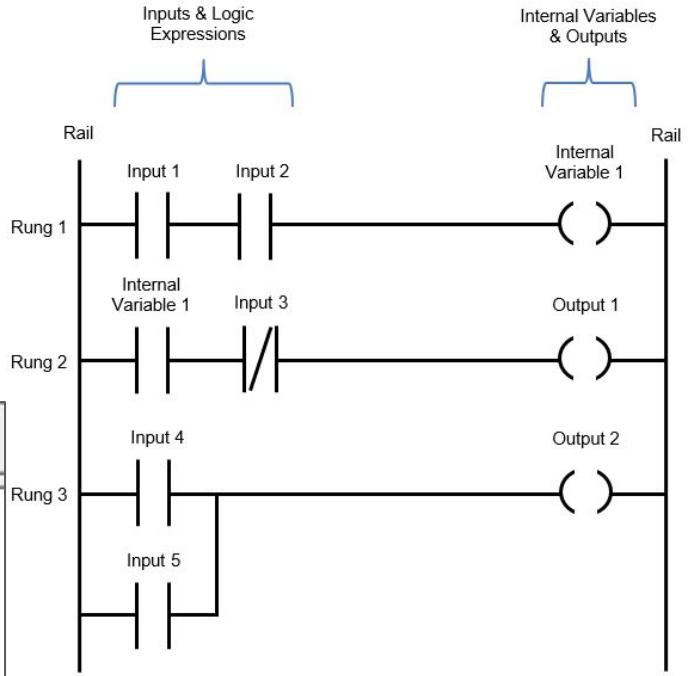
PLC Programming

Standardized with [IEC 61131-3](#) which defines three graphical and two textual programming language standards:

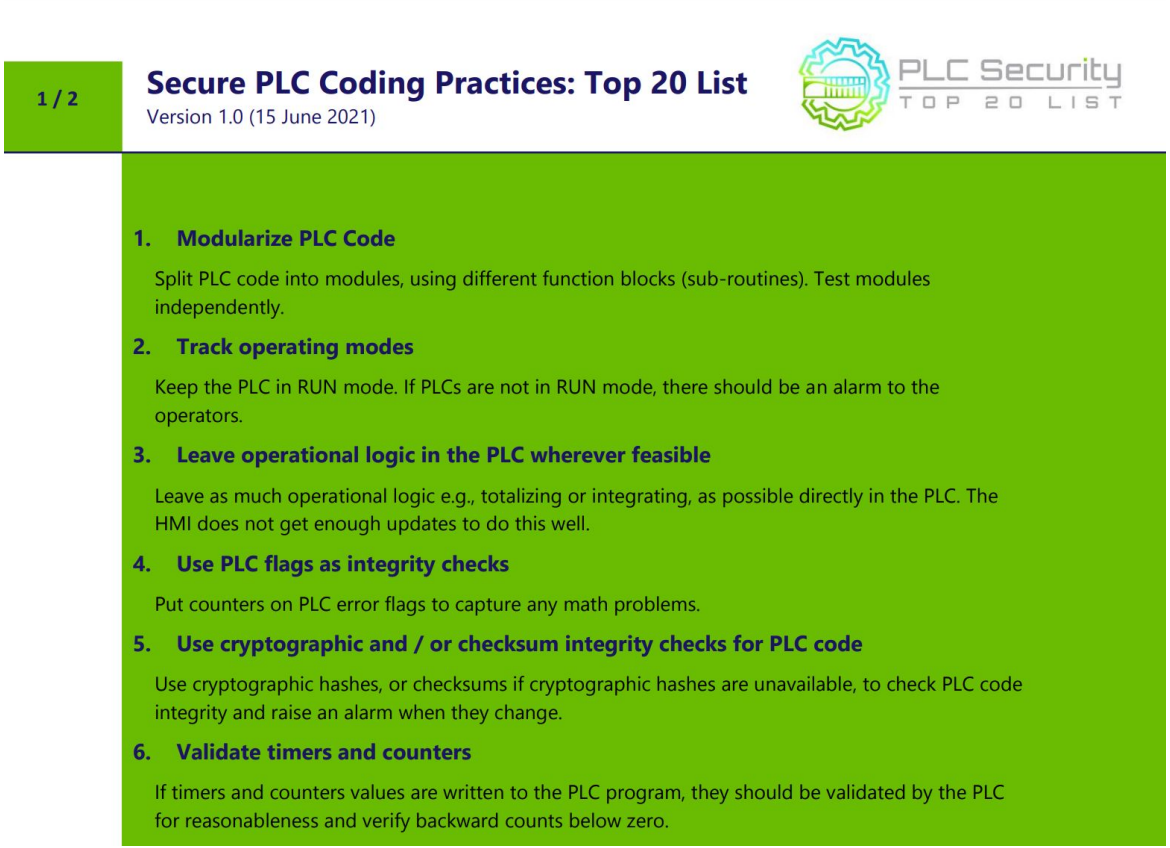
- Ladder diagram (LD), graphical
- Function block diagram (FBD), graphical
- Structured text (ST), textual
- Instruction list (IL), textual (deprecated)
- Sequential function chart (SFC), graphical







PLC Secure Coding Practices



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Secure PLC Coding Practices: Top 20 List

Version 1.0 (15 June 2021)

PLC Security TOP 20 LIST

1. **Modularize PLC Code**

   Split PLC code into modules, using different function blocks (sub-routines). Test modules independently.

2. **Track operating modes**

   Keep the PLC in RUN mode. If PLCs are not in RUN mode, there should be an alarm to the operators.

3. **Leave operational logic in the PLC wherever feasible**

   Leave as much operational logic e.g., totalizing or integrating, as possible directly in the PLC. The HMI does not get enough updates to do this well.

4. **Use PLC flags as integrity checks**

   Put counters on PLC error flags to capture any math problems.

5. **Use cryptographic and / or checksum integrity checks for PLC code**

   Use cryptographic hashes, or checksums if cryptographic hashes are unavailable, to check PLC code integrity and raise an alarm when they change.

6. **Validate timers and counters**

   If timers and counters values are written to the PLC program, they should be validated by the PLC for reasonableness and verify backward counts below zero.