

PLC Code Generator - Design Document

Overview

Desktop application that generates Rockwell Automation Studio 5000 ladder logic code (.L5K files) for conveyor systems.

Tech Stack: Python 3 + Tkinter GUI

Architecture

GUI (gui.py)



Conveyor Generator (generator.py)



Section Classes → Generate Logic + Tags



.L5K File Output

Core Components

Data Models

- **Context:** Stores `conveyor_name`, `num_conveyors`,
`has_makeup_unit`
- **RoutineOutput:** Contains `name`, `logic`, and `tags` for
each section

Section Classes

Each section generates specific fault detection logic:

1. **PeJamSection** - Photo-eye jam detection with timers
2. **MotorFaultSection** - VFD motor fault monitoring
3. **DiscFaultSection** - Disconnect switch monitoring
4. **EStopFaultSection** - Emergency stop button logic

Conveyor Class

- Coordinates all sections
- Deduplicates tags
- Assembles final L5K file with header/footer

User Interface

Controller Name:	[_____]
Conveyor Name:	[_____]
Number of Conveyors:	[_____]
<input type="checkbox"/> Has Makeup Unit?	
Filepath:	[_____] 
[Generate]	

Workflow:

1. User fills inputs
2. Validates (non-empty, valid integer)
3. Calls `Conveyor.generate_plc_code_full()`
4. Writes to file
5. Shows success message

Generated File Structure

Static Header (controller config, modules)



Global TAG Block (all tags)



PROGRAM Block

- └── PE_Jam_Faults Routine
- └── Motor_Faults Routine
- └── Disc_Faults Routine
- └── EStop_Faults Routine
- └── MainRoutine (calls all via JSR)



Static Footer (task config)

Key Logic Patterns

Per-Conveyor Generation

```
for i in range(1, num_conveyors + 1):
    # Generate tags: F_LineA_01_PE_JAM, F_LineA_02_PE_JAM, etc.
    # Generate logic for each conveyor
```

Tag Naming Convention

- `F_` = Fault flag
- `I_` = Input
- Format: `{Type}_{ConveyorName}_{Number}_{Element}`
- Example: `F_LineA_01_PE_JAM`

Hardware Configuration

- Processor: 1756-L81E (ControlLogix)
- Ethernet Module: 1756-EN2T
- Timers: 2000ms delay for PE jam and motor faults
- Task Rate: 10ms continuous

Adding New Sections

1. Create class inheriting from `Section`
2. Implement `render(ctx: Context) -> RoutineOutput`
3. Add to `Conveyor.__init__()` sections list

Error Handling

- Empty field validation
- Integer conversion validation
- File write exception handling
- Error dialogs for all failures