

Project Name: Zone Page Creator

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My plan is to create a program that will create files for Siemens TIA Portal based on settings chosen by the user. I am a Controls Engineer, and a big part of my job is programming PLCs. Specifically, I program Siemens PLCs using different versions of a program called TIA Portal. The way our company sets up our programs is we use a certain file type that we call the Zone page that controls the flow of parts around an assembly line through different stations. Most times, each station has different tools. Some stations have cameras, some have scanners, most have displays for the operators to see the order of operations. All of these stations need to be tied together and communicate in a specific order. Setting this all up is usually fairly straightforward, but tedious. My plan is to create an app where I can select which tools will be needed in each station, and the program will populate the whole Zone page.

I am not sure exactly sure what the assignment is looking for when it says to plan and estimate effort. I think that the hardest part of this project will be to figure out exactly how and when to add each new part of the zone page. If you are looking for man-hours, I am not really sure how to estimate that. If you are looking for easy medium hard, I think that this is a medium, but hopefully the usefulness of this application will offset that.