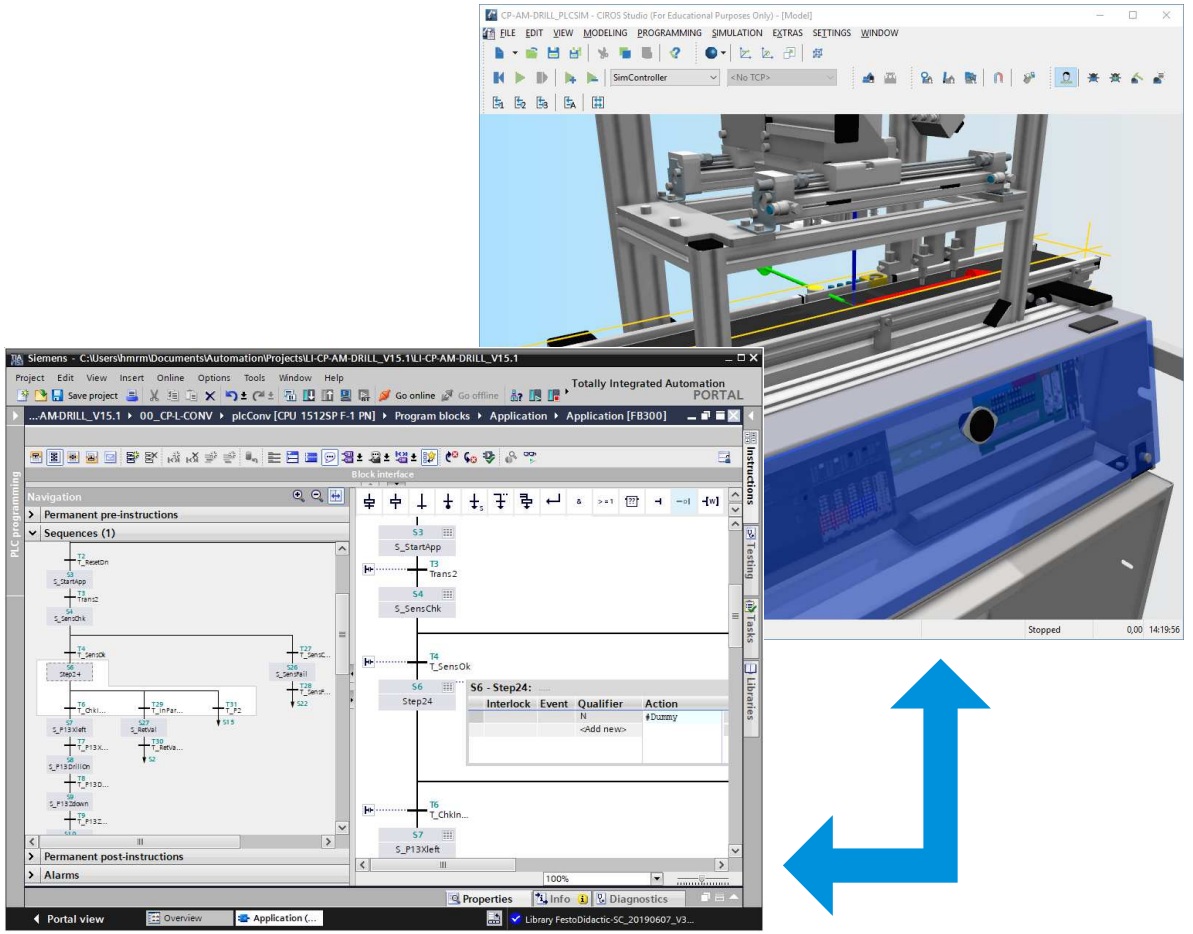
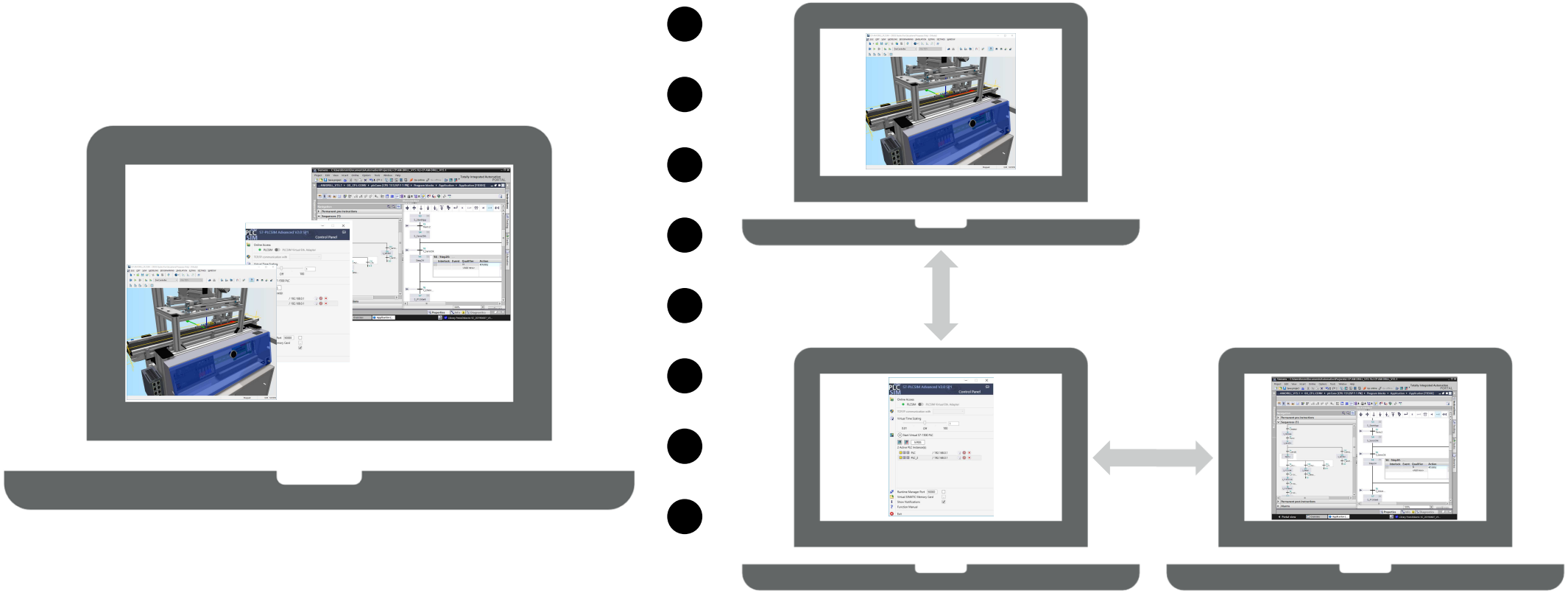
Virtual commissioning with CIROS and PLCSIM Advanced

Scenario overview

- Program your PLC against a virtual mechatronic model
- No risk to your hardware if students make mistakes in program code
- Program modules that you don‘t physically own or let dozens of students program the same module even if you only own it once



Scenario overview



Process summary

1. Prepare a CIROS model with the hardware you want to program
2. Create your hardware configuration and I/O tags in TIA Portal
3. Create a PLCSIM Advanced instance and download the hardware configuration
4. Configure the interface between CIROS and your instance
5. Start programming!

Preparing a CIROS model

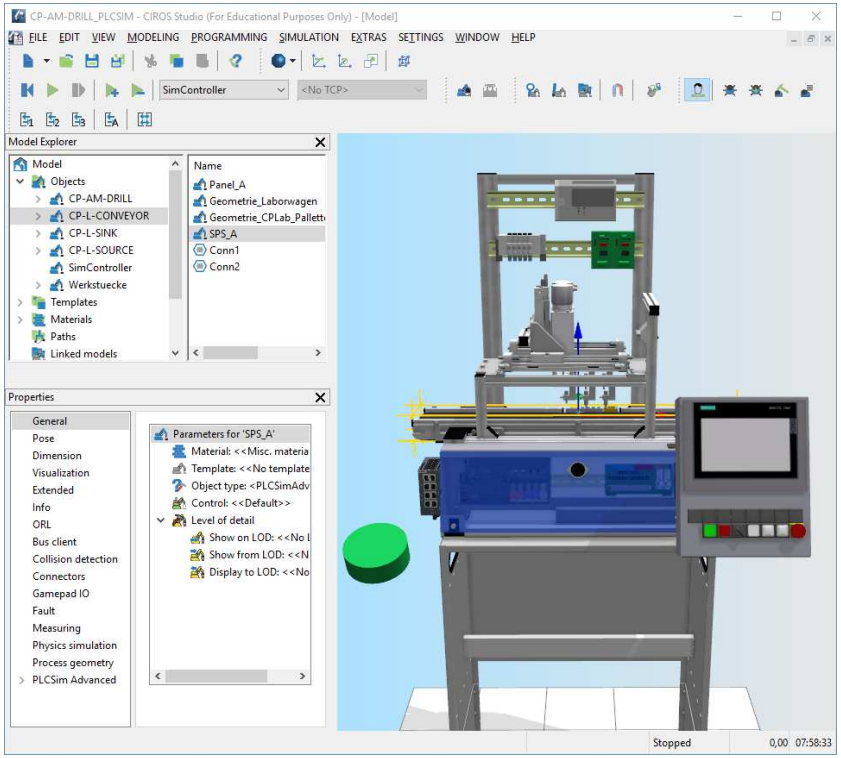
Two approaches are possible:

Create a model from scratch

- Maximum flexibility
- Program any CP station you like

Load a premade model from the model library

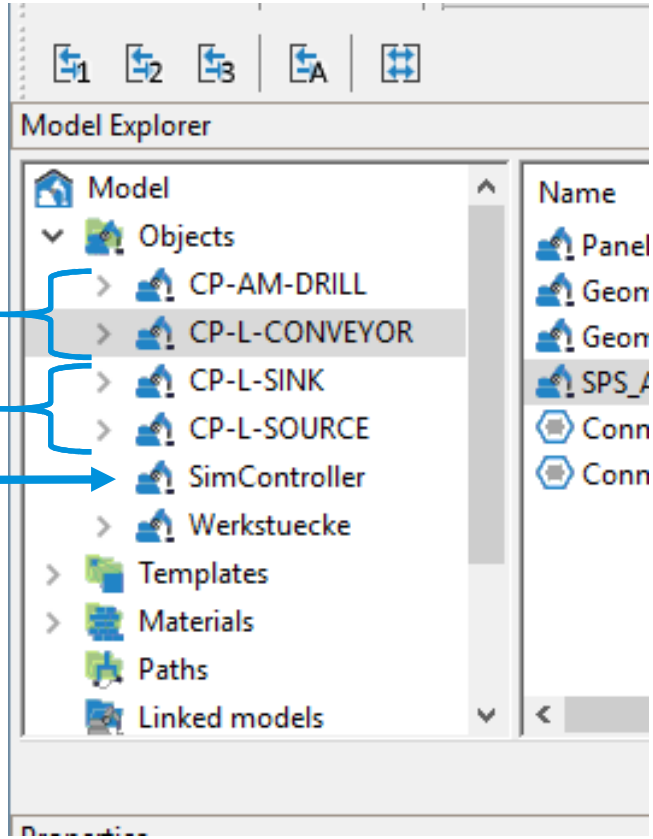
- Get started quickly with minimum effort
- Limited selection of CP systems available



Preparing a CIROS model

Your model usually needs three basic elements to serve for virtual commissioning with PLCSIM Advanced:

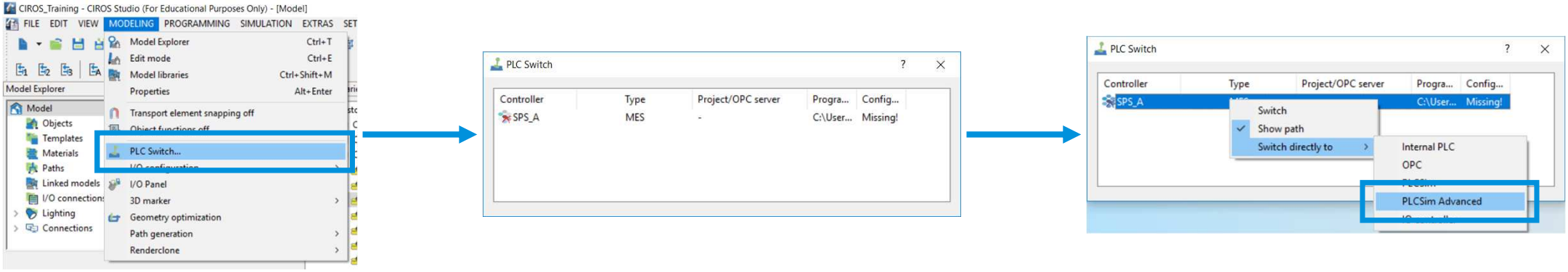
- The mechatronic system you want to program
- A source and sink to generate and remove carriers with parts
- A SimController so CIROS is able to simulate your model



Exercise

Preparing a CIROS model from scratch

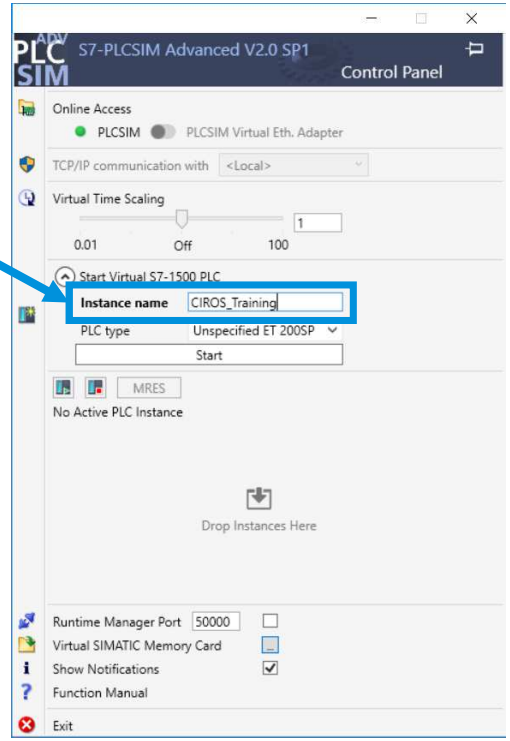
1. Create a new empty model
2. Add your mechatronic system from the model library
   For this exercise, add a CP-L-CONV
3. Add a source and sink from the model library that matches your system
   For this exercise, add a CP Lab source and sink
4. Connect the source and sink to your CP Lab module
5. Switch the PLC in your CP Lab module (it's named 'SPS_A') to PLCSIM Advanced mode



Starting a PLCSIM instance

Feel free to choose any PLCSIM Advanced settings that work for you.

The only setting relevant to CIROS is the instance name. Choose one you like and remember it. You'll need it later.



Some recommendations:

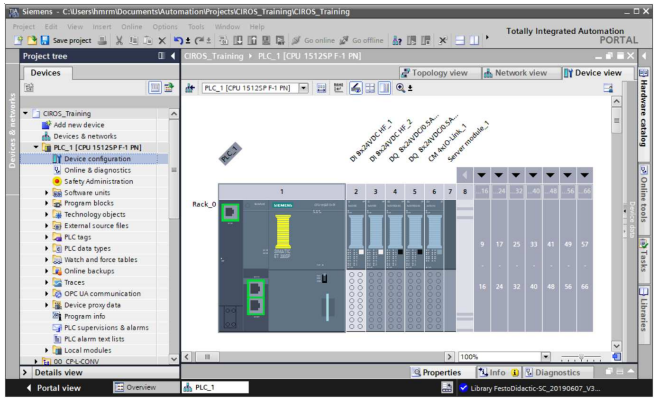
- For Online Access, choose PLCSIM unless your simulated PLC needs to communicate over the network. This mode makes the connection to TIA Portal effortless
- Leave Time Scaling off. CIROS has its own time scale and will make sure the PLC keeps track if you speed up the simulation beyond real-time
- Choose ET 200SP for PLC type as that matches the physical PLC in most CP hardware systems

Creating the hardware configuration and IO tags in TIA Portal

Hardware configuration

You can configure your PLC in any way you like.

Ideally, it should have at least the number of digital and analog I/Os that the physical PLC inside your chosen CP system has.

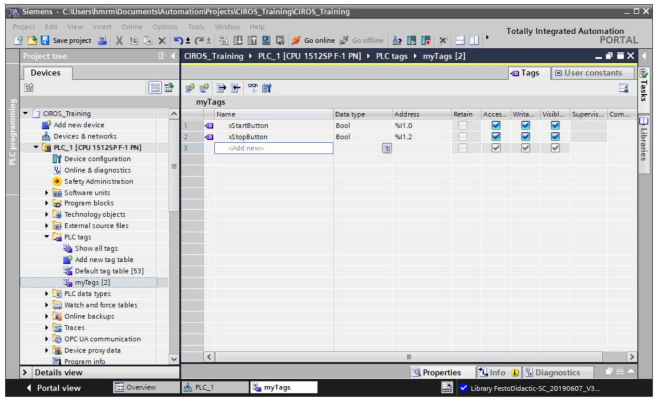


IO tags

You can freely name your inputs and outputs, as long as the address and the type of an input/output is correct.

If you like you can skip the inputs and outputs that are not connected to anything in your CP system.

Refer to the Festo Didactic Infoportal (https://ip.festo-didactic.com) for an I/O listing of your CP system. Alternatively, find the relevant information in your manual or circuit diagram.



Exercise

Creating the hardware configuration

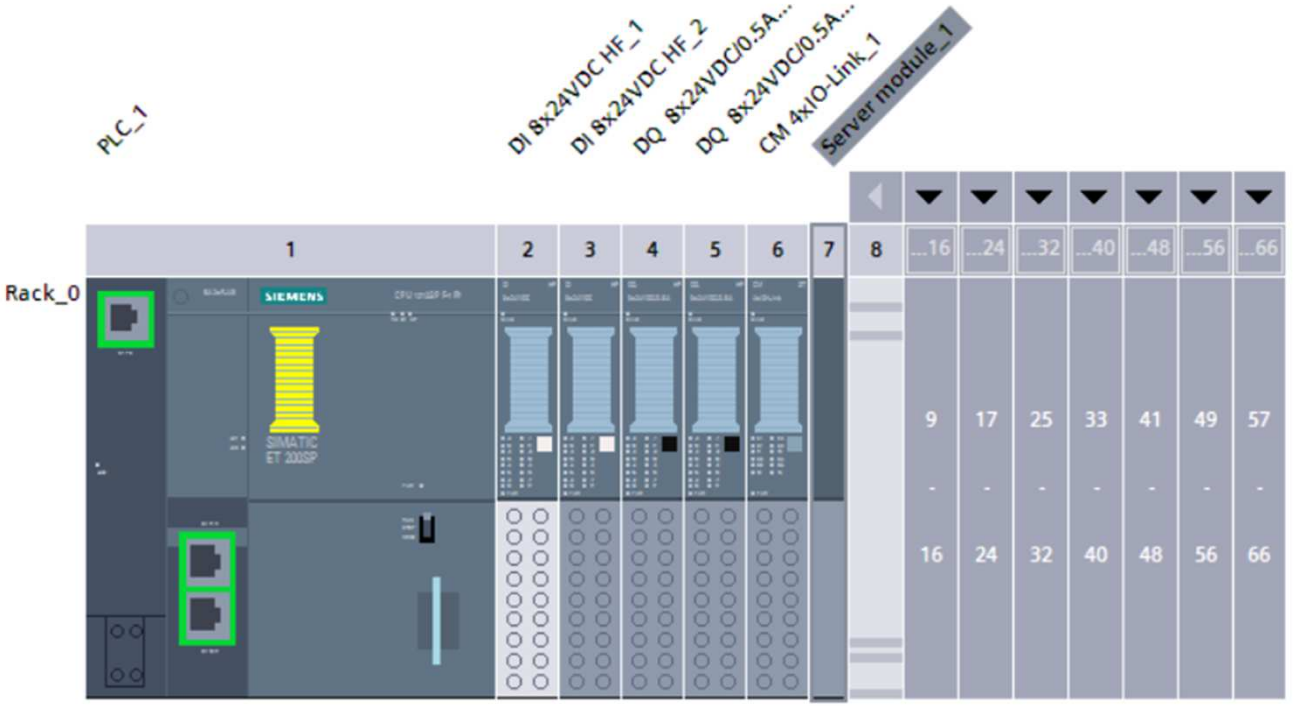
Detailed instructions how to do the hardware configuration in TIA Portal are beyond the scope of this document. Refer to the courseware ‘Device configuration’ if you’re having trouble.

For this exercise, we’re configuring the PLC as we would a real CP-L-CONV module with a Siemens IO-Link 1.1 conformant RFID device.

1. Create a new TIA project
2. Add a S7-1512SP F-1 PN PLC to your project (6ES7 512-1SK01-0AB0)
3. Add two DI 8x24VDC HF (6ES7 131-6BF00-0CA0)
4. Add two DQ 8x24VDC/0.5A HF (6ES7 132-6BF00-0CA0)
5. Add a CM 4xIO-Link (6ES7 137-6BD00-0BA0)
6. Add a server module (6ES7 193-6PA00-0AA0)
7. Set the IO-Link master’s input/output type to 64/64 and shift the starting I/O addresses to address 10

Exercise

Creating the hardware configuration



Exercise

Setting up the I/O tags

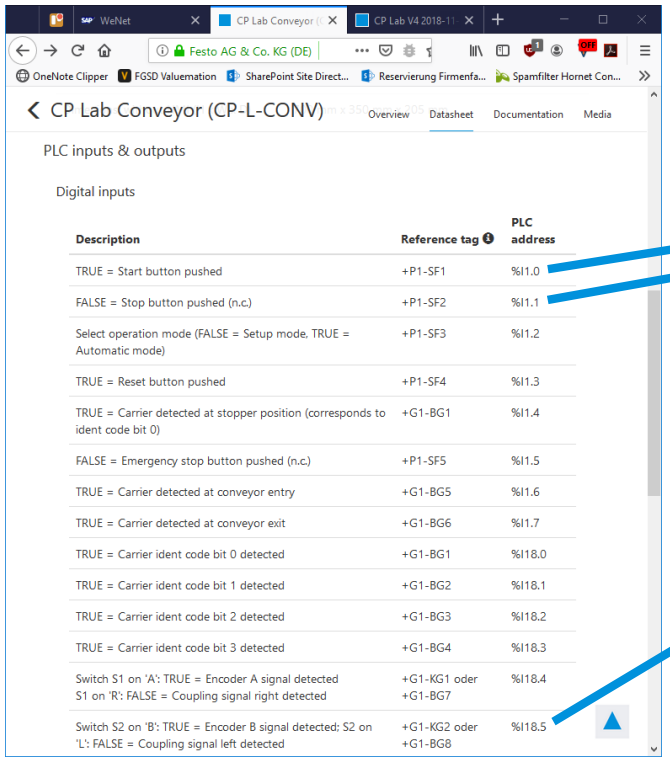
1. Find the list of I/O addresses for the CP-L-CONV at https://ip.festo-didactic.com/InfoPortal/CPFactoryLab/hardware/base/datasheet.php?model=CP-L-CONV&lang=en
2. Create a new tag table
3. Enter all tags listed on the Infoportal into your tag table

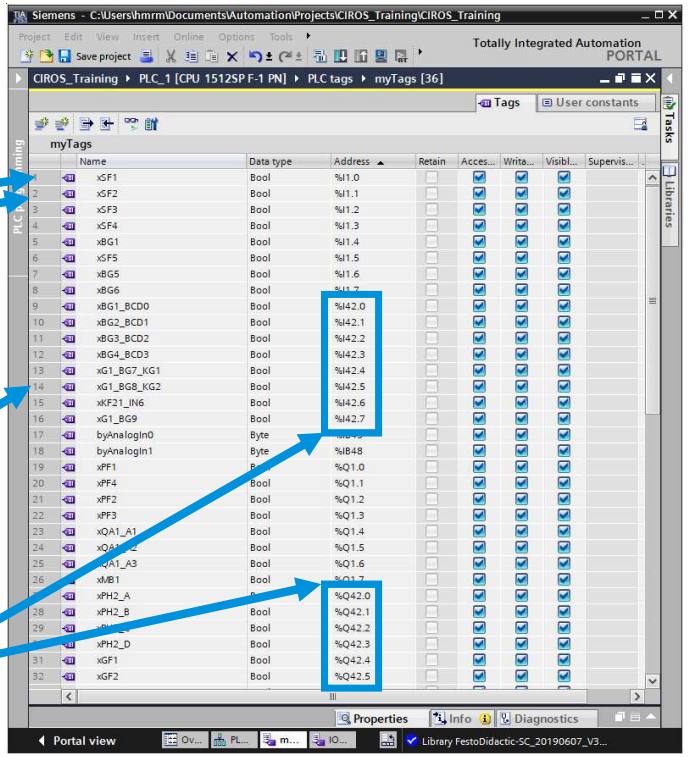
Note

Depending on the revision of a physical CP-L-CONV, any address listed on the Infoportal in byte 18 might require to be shifted to byte 42. This is only relevant if you plan to download this TIA project to a real CP-L-CONV. In CIROS the absolute I/O addresses don’t matter.

Exercise

Setting up the I/O tags



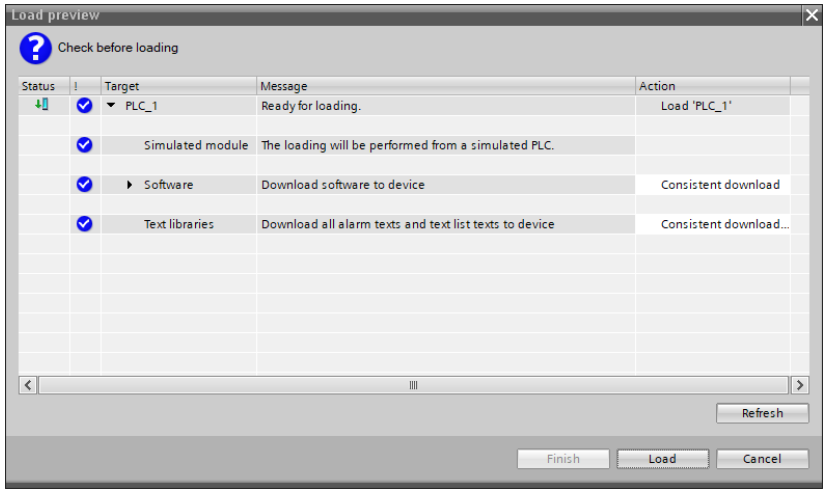


Note the addresses are shifted from 18.x to 42.x.

Exercise

Downloading project to PLC instance

1. Compile the project
2. Download it to your simulated PLC
   If Online Access in PLCSIM Advanced is set to PLCSIM mode, this is almost fully automatic

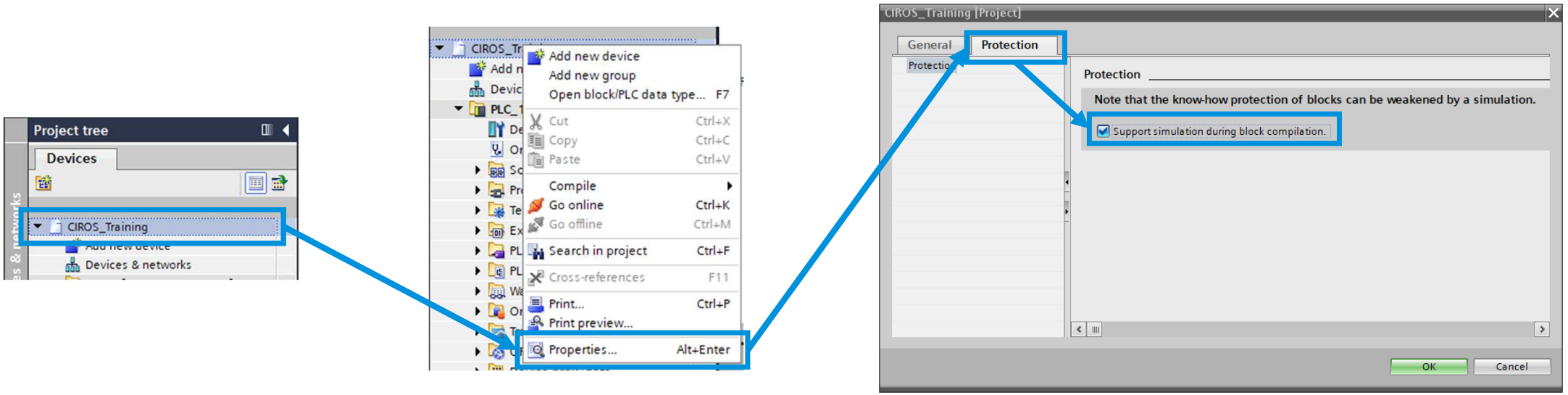


3. Got an error? Good, you're supposed to
   For a project to run in PLCSIM Advanced you have to explicitly enable simulation.

Exercise

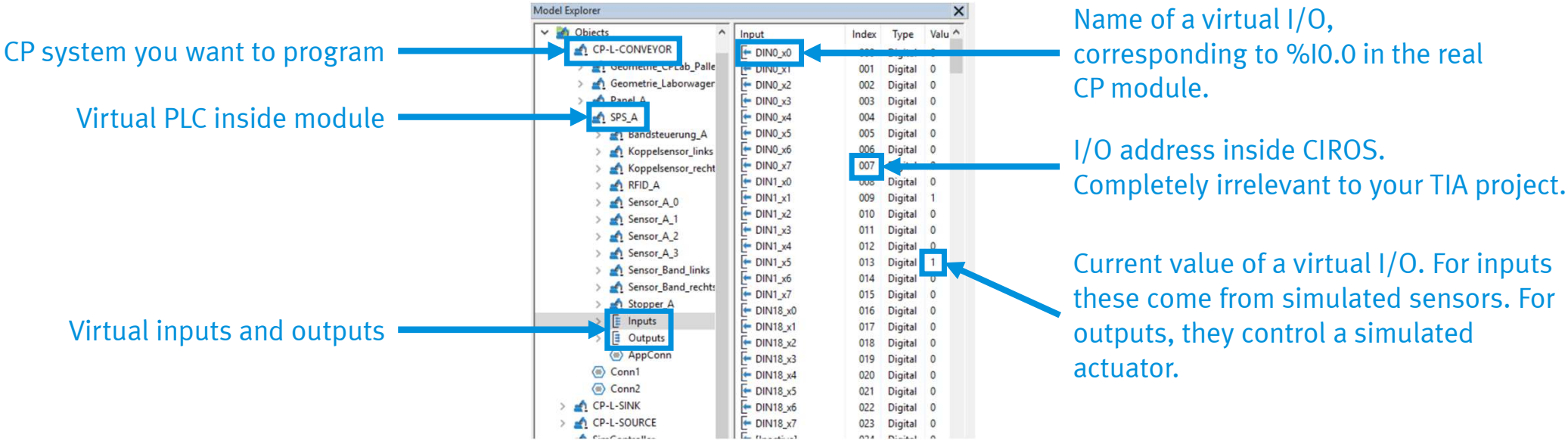
Enabling simulation support

1. Open the project properties
2. On the Protection tab, check Support simulation during block compilation
3. Compile and download it again. It should work without a problem now



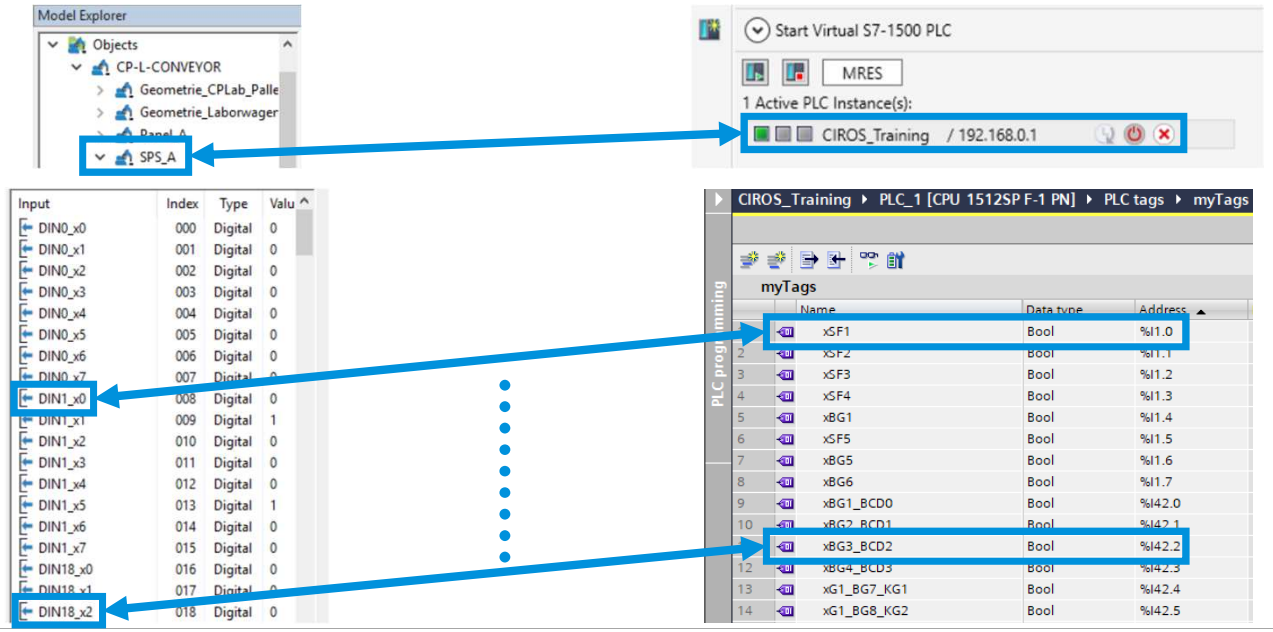
Configuring the interface

The virtual PLC in CIROS has a large number of inputs and outputs, most of which are unused or used for internal processes inside CIROS. A few virtual I/Os correspond to the I/Os of the PLC inside a real CP system, though. These are named DIN0_x0 to DIN18_x7 and DOUT0_x0 to DOUT18_x7, after the absolute addresses of the real PLC's I/Os.



Configuring the interface

You can connect each virtual PLC in your CIROS model to exactly one PLCSIM Advanced instance.
You have to configure our CIROS PLC to connect to the right instance and to hook up the virtual CIROS I/Os to the correct TIA I/Os.

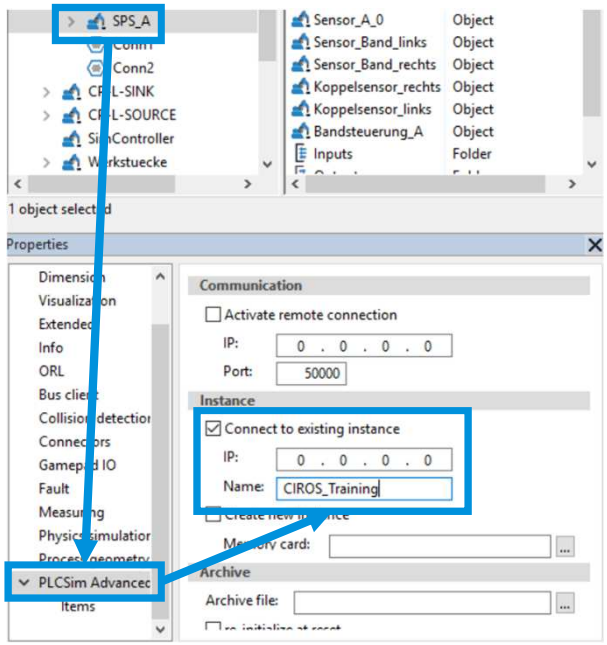


Exercise

Configuring the interface

Configure your CP-L-CONV model to connect to your instance.
All of this is done in CIROS. TIA doesn't know anything about the CIROS interface.

1. Open the properties of your virtual PLC (SPS_A)
2. On the PLCSIM Advanced page, select Find instance by name
3. Enter the name of your PLCSIM Advanced instance

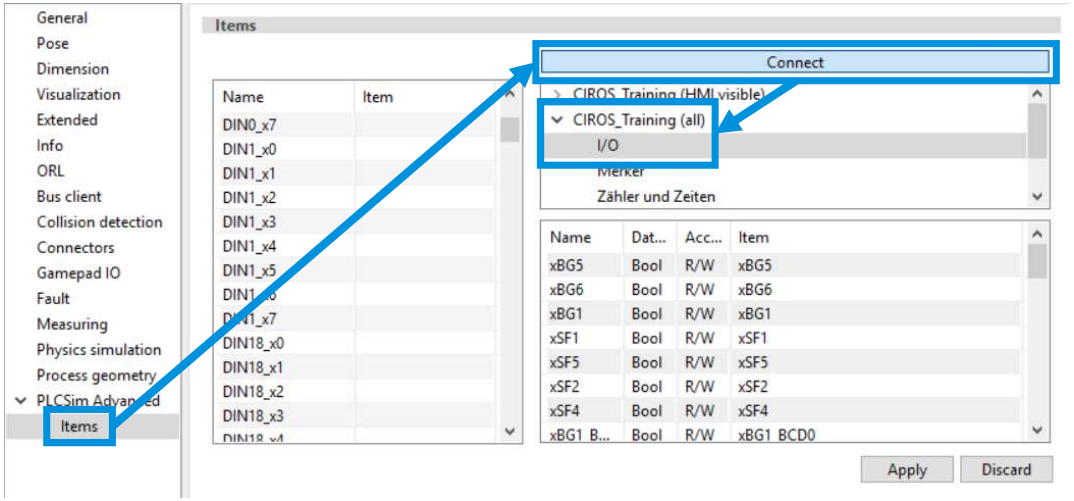


Exercise

Configuring the interface

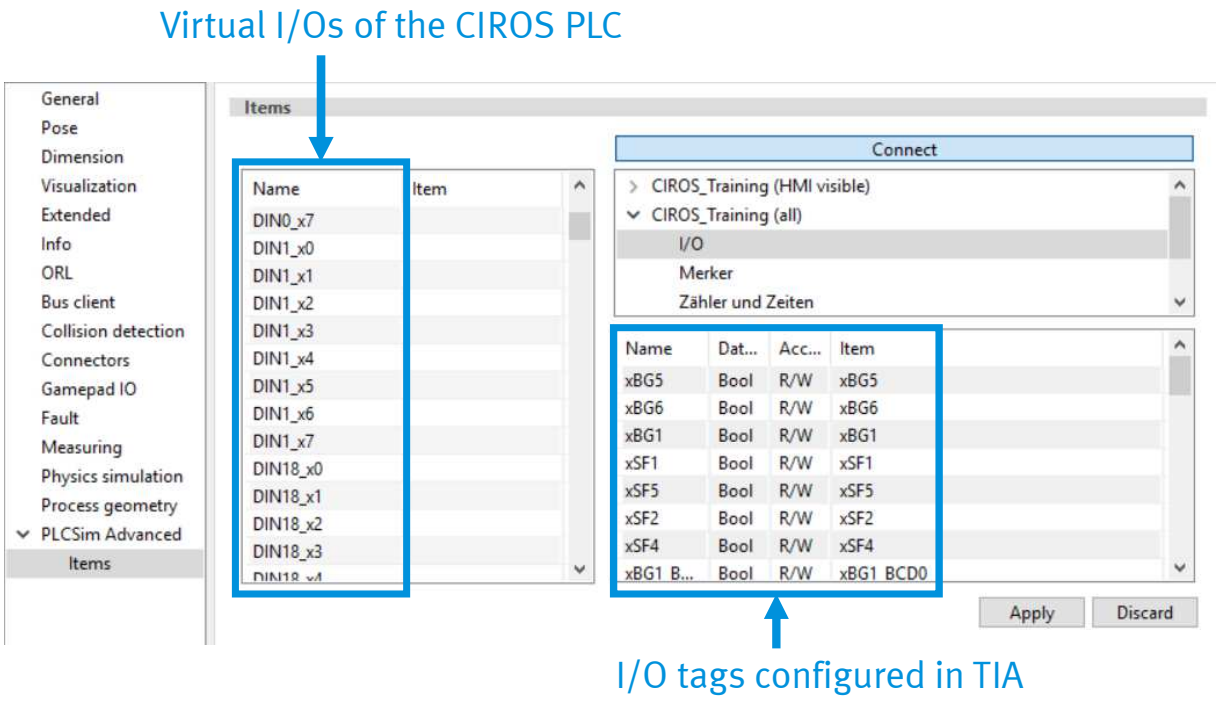
1. Go to the subpage Items
2. Click on Connect
3. Open either the entry that says *all* or *HMI visible*, depending on your preference. The latter only offers you I/O tags that have been declared as *Visible in HMI engineering* inside TIA
4. Under this entry, open I/O

Note that you're also offered *Memory*, *Counters and Timers* and *Data blocks*. You can hook up CIROS I/Os to any of these but in this exercise, we'll only use I/Os.



Exercise

Configuring the interface

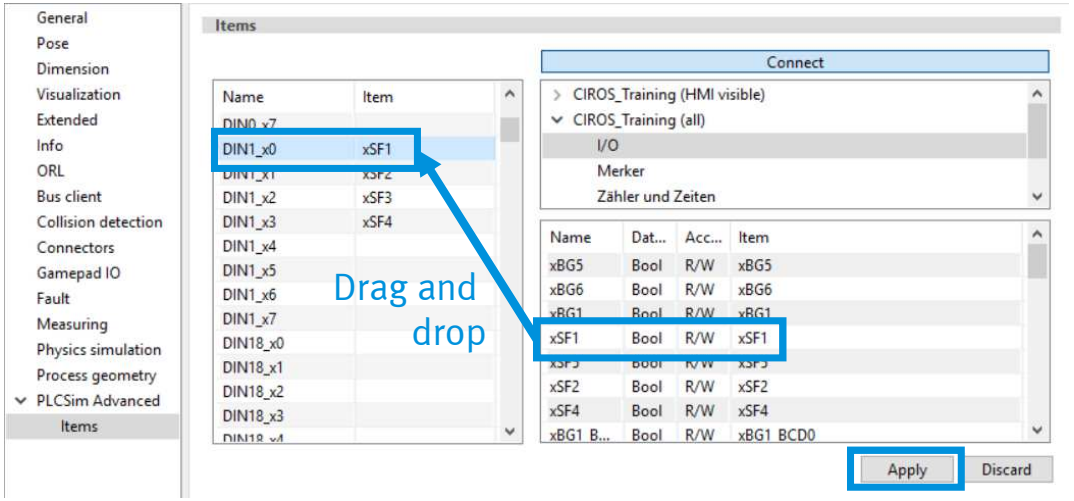


Exercise

Configuring the interface

1. From the list of I/O tags on the right, drag and drop each I/O to the matching entry on the left
2. When done, click Apply
3. Optionally, click Connect again to disconnect

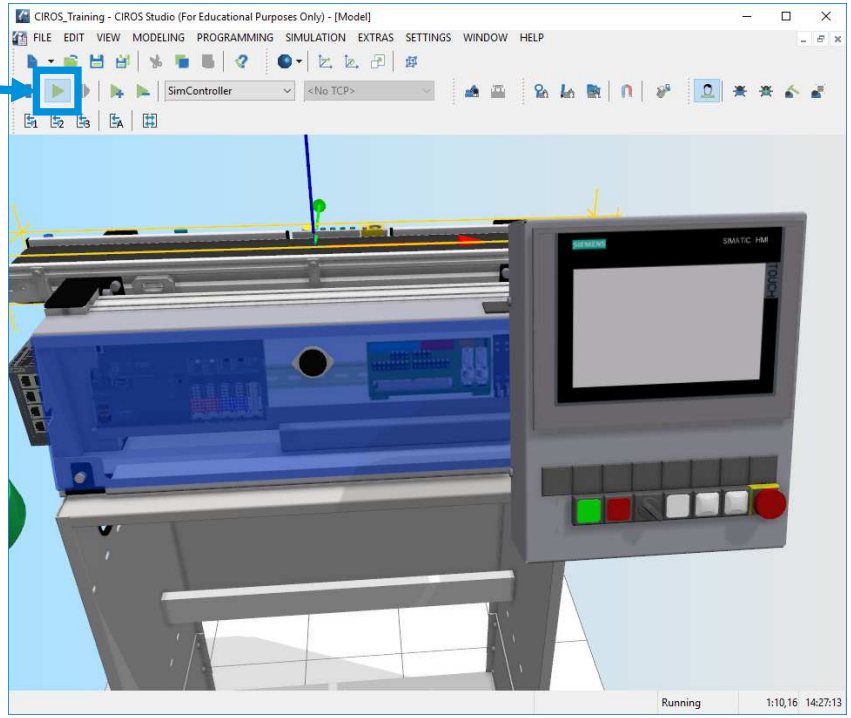
Hint: You can select multiple I/Os from the right as long as they are in the right order and drag them to the left at once.

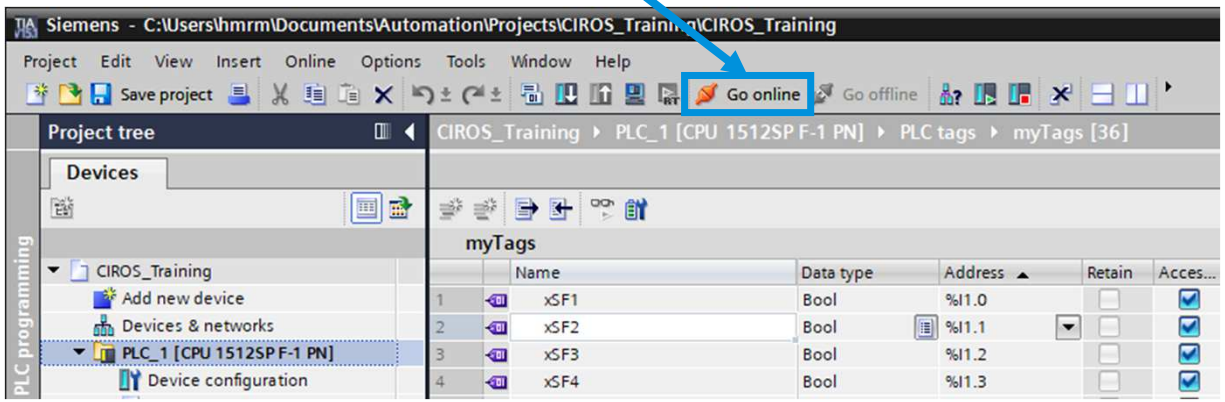


Exercise

Run the simulation

1. Click the play button to start the simulation
2. Use TIA to go online / connect to your PLC instance

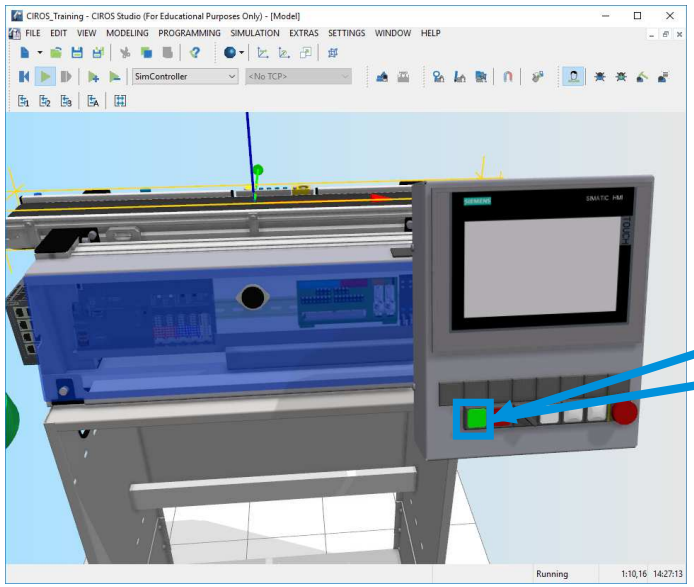


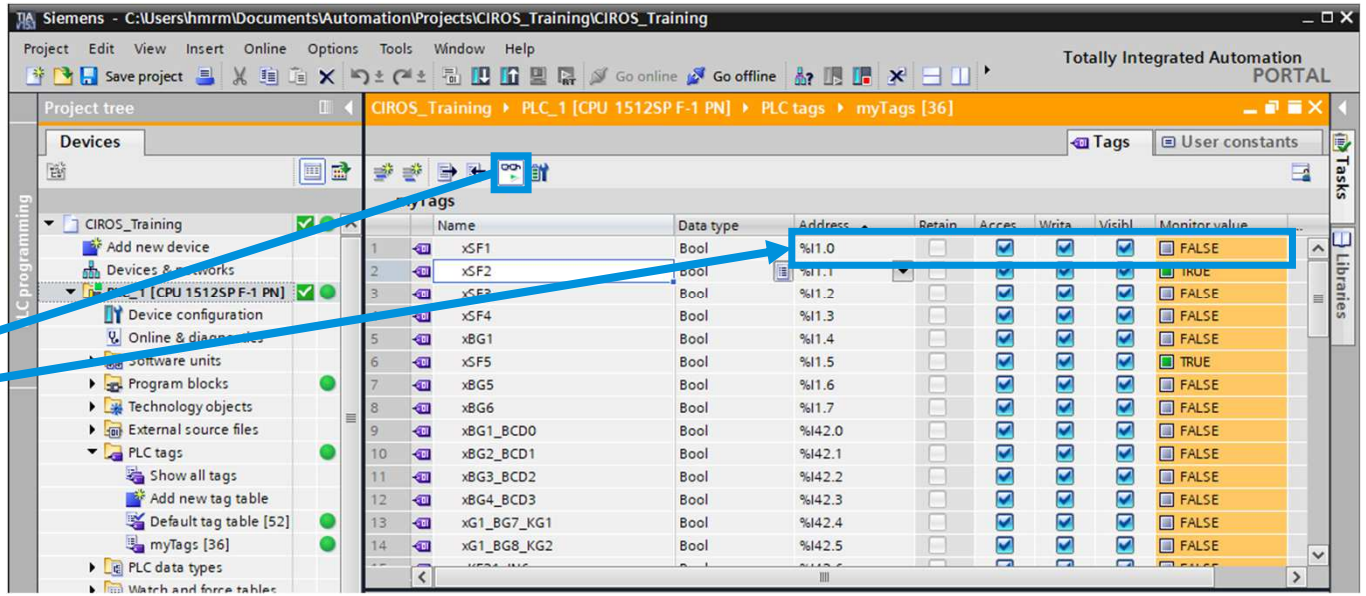


Exercise

Run the simulation

1. In TIA, open your tag list and monitor it
2. Test the connection by clicking on the virtual green start button inside CIROS. You should see the value of %I1.0 change in TIA





Common issues

Can’t download project to PLC instance anymore

Once CIROS has established a link to a PLCSIM instance, that instance is bound to the simulation. Only when the CIROS simulation is running, will the instance run as well.

Should TIA appear to be stuck when downloading to the instance that is likely because your CIROS simulation is paused. As soon as you start the simulation, the download will continue.