IEC 104 RTU Simulator – Ver 1.0

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Introduction and why I wrote this program

IEC 104 RTU simulator is a program to simulate the operation of RTU (remote terminal unit) or server as defined by protocol IEC 60870-5-104. It can simulate any number of RTUs or servers. Simulated RTUs could be connected to different or same SCADA master station. IO signals are indexed and grouped by using index numbers. You can send IO signals from all RTUs to the connected SCADA master stations at once by using index number.

Program features:

- Simulation of any number of RTUs simultaneously.
- Connect to multiple SCADA systems at once.
- Can simulate redundant RTU ports.
- Can simulate redundant SCADA system connections.
- Easy IO database building by using spreadsheet programs such as MS Excel.
- Linux and windows compatible.
- Python native graphical user interface (GUI) (no need for third party solutions).
- Multithread operation.
- Time synchronization through multiple NTP servers.
- Detailed logging of all events and signals in comma delimited file format.

I wrote this program when at my company we replaced our legacy ABB SCADA system with new OSI SCADA system, so we wanted to test the new system in comparison with the old legacy system without taking shutdown on the power stations.

So, by indexing the IO signals in the IOA database files we succeeded to send same IO signals to both of the SCADA systems (old and new) in the same time and compare between them:

- IOA address of the signals.
- Signals' values for SPI, DPI, AMI.
- Testing commands and send back the status to both systems.
- Compare time tags and time synchronization between the two systems.
- Test IEC 104 protocol on the new system such as startdt, stopdt, GI, time tags, etc.
- Measure test frame period. For that reason, the simulator will not send "Testfr act" but it will wait until receiving "testfr act" from the connected SCADA system and will reply by "testfr con" and log the test frame period in the RTU log file.

Program is distributed under GPL license and could be found on GitHub:

https://github.com/med7at69/IEC104-RTU-Simulator

It is written in python3 language and code is supporting both Windows and Linux OS.

Package contains the following files:

iec104rs.py: The code in python 3 language.

iec104rs.csv: ini file in comma separated values. Must be in the same folder where program starts in.

"data" folder with samples "iodata.csv" files which are IOA data files in comma separated values. Must be kept in "data" folder. "data" folder must be in the same folder where program starts in.

lec104rs.pdf: Help file in pdf format.

Readme.txt

LICENSE file.

Program arguments

-h or --help display help message.

-i or --ini specify init file name.

-t or --ntp_update_every_sec NTP update interval (seconds). Default = 900 sec.

-s or --ntp server NTP server (may repeated for multiple servers).

Usage:

iec104rs [[-h][--help]] [[-i][--ini] init-file] [[-t][--ntp_update_every_sec seconds] sec] [[-s][--ntp_server ntpserver] server]

- Updating local time requires admin/root privilege.
- init file is a comma separated values format, default: iec104rs.csv
- "-s or --ntp_server" could be included multiple times for multiple servers.

example1:

iec104rs -i iec104rs1.csv

example2:

iec104rs --ntp server pool.ntp.org --ntp server time.windows.com

Program operation

Program operation depends on providing huge data either for RTUs that the program to simulate or for the IOA signals provided for each RTU. To make the program operation as simple as possible I tried to use the comma separated values file (csv) format to provide the data to the program for the following reasons:

- 1- "csv" format is simple and well known since long time.
- 2- Besides supported by Microsoft Excel, there are many freeware programs supporting editing "csv" files.
- 3- It is easy to add, delete, copy and paste large number of data entries to the "csv" files without complications.

Program operation is based on the following files:

- 1- Initial file (default name is iec104rs.csv): It is a comma separated values file format or ".csv" which should be available in the same folder where program starts in. In the file you can define the following:
 - a. NTP servers to update local time of the PC (requires admin/root privilege).
 - b. Number of seconds to periodically update local time from NTP servers.
 - c. Any number of RTUs or systems to be simulated by the program.
- 2- IOA database file (for example iodata.csv): It is a comma separated values file format or ".csv" which should be in folder "data". Folder "Data" should be in the same folder where the program starts in. In the file you can define the IOA signals such that SPI, DPI, NVA, SVA, FLT, SCO, DCO, RCO. Each RTU may have separated IOA data file or multiple RTUs can share the same IOA signals data file. In the IOA database file, IO signals are indexed and grouped by index numbers. You can send IO signals from all RTUs to the connected SCADA master stations at once by using index numbers.
- 3- Log files for all RTUs are saved in folder "log". Folder "log" will be created in the same folder where the program starts in.

When the program starts it will:

- 1- Read the program arguments if provided by user.
- 2- If initial file is not provided in program arguments, then the program will use the default iec104rs.csv
- 3- Read the initial file to get the NTP servers and RTUs as described later.
- 4- Each RTU should have name, RTU number, port number to listen on and IOA data file (in "data" folder).
- 5- To speed up the loading of RTUs, program will not start any RTU connection until load all RTUs in memory.

- 6- If user type index number and press "send" button, then the program will send all IO signals grouped by this index number in all IOA database files of different RTUs to the connected master stations. This function is helpful specially when you want to compare between two SCADA master stations, for example one new and the other is the legacy working system.
- 7- The simulator will not send "Testfr act" but it will wait until receiving "testfr act" from the connected SCADA system and will reply by "testfr con" and log the test frame period in the RTU log file.
- 8- If idle time (configured in the initial file for each RTU in seconds) passed without send/receive data then the program simulator will disconnect the connection to restart working connection again.

Initial file format

General notes:

- Initial file format is comma separated values format (csv).
- Initial file default name is iec104rs.csv
- You can provide another name as program argument with "-i" or "--ini"
- Initial file should be in the same folder where the program starts in.
- If first character of first column in any row is "!" Then program will stop reading the initial file and cancel the rest of the rows.
- Initial file will start by defining the following parameters:
 - "ntp_server": it could be repeated in multiple rows for multiple NTP servers. If program
 has admin/root privilege then it will try all the servers one by one to synchronize the
 local time
 - "ntp_update_every_sec": seconds to periodically update local time. If not provided, then the default is 900 seconds.
- Then initial file should contain all RTUs information one by one (each row contains one complete RTU information) such that each RTU is define the following parameters in separated rows:
 - o ID:
- Better to be a unique sequential number for each RTU.
- If "id" field is not number, then it will be considered as comment and will be neglected by the program.
- If first character of "id" column in any row is "!" Then program will stop reading the rest of the initial file and will cancel the rest of the rows.
- System/RTU name: Name with maximum of 16 characters length.
- RTU number: RTU number (1-65535). RTU number is not unique and multiple RTUs can have the same RTU number. If multiple RTUs have the same RTU number, then it is supposed to be connected to different SCADA systems or IEC 104 clients.
- Port number: Unique port number (1-65535). Program will listen to this port to accept connection for the specified RTU.

- Accept hosts/network list: Accepted hosts or networks filters separated by ";". example: 192.168.1.0/24;10.10.1.2".
- IEC 104 "k": IEC 104 "k" constant which represent maximum number of packets could be transmitted without receiving acknowledge from the receiver. If not provided, then default value is "12" packets.
- Idle time: Idle time in seconds before disconnecting RTU connection. Default is "60" seconds.
- IOA signal database file: File contains the IOA signals for the specified RTU in comma separated values format (csv). Multiple RTU can share same IOA data file.

Please check appendix A for sample initial file format.

IOA signal database file format

General notes:

- IOA signal database file format is comma separated values format (csv).
- For each RTU, an existing file should be provided.
- Multiple RTUs can share the same IOA signal database file.
- All IOA database files should be in folder "data". Folder "data" should be in the same folder where the program starts in.
- If first character of first column in any row is "!" Then program will stop sending general interrogation "GI" signals and cancel the rest of the rows.
- IOA signal database file should define the following parameters for each signal row:
 - Index number:
 - This index will be used to submit the signals from the file to the SCADA connected system.
 - Multiple signals could be grouped by same "index" number to submitted together when the specified index number given to the iec104rs program.
 - If first character of this column in any row is "!" Then program will stop sending general interrogation "GI" signals and cancel the rest of the rows.
 - o GI: If this field contains "Y" then the specified signal will be submitted during general interrogation to the connected SCADA system.
 - Type ID: IEC 104 type ID of the signal in numeric value. All supported values are mentioned in the provided sample IOA database files:
 - SPI (single point indication) without time tag: 1
 - SPI (single point indication) with time tag: 30
 - DPI (double point indication) without time tag: 3
 - DPI (double point indication) with time tag: 31
 - NVA (normalized meas.) without time tag: 9
 - NVA (normalized meas.) with time tag: 34

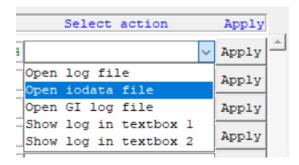
- SVA (Scaled meas.) without time tag: 11
- SVA (Scaled meas.) with time tag: 35
- FLT (Float meas.) without time tag: 13
- FLT (Float meas.) with time tag: 36
- SCO (single command) without time tag: 45
- SCO (single command) without time tag: 45
- SCO (single command) with time tag: 58
- DCO (double command) without time tag: 46
- DCO (double command) with time tag: 59
- RCO (regulation command) without time tag: 47
- DCO (regulation command) with time tag: 60
- Only "CP56Time2a " time tag is used.
- o IOA address: Signal object address.
- Signal value: For command, the value should contain the status (SPI, DPI, or AMI) IOA address to be submitted as a response to the connected SCADA system when receiving the command. This way, full command simulation could be achieved.
- Comment: Sequential columns (maximum 53 characters) could be used to represent signal and feeder names or any other comments to be written in the RTU log file.

Please check appendix B for sample IOA database file format.

Program GUI

Trying to make the graphical user interface as simple as possible:

1- Configuration of the IOA signals is collected only from the IOA database files (example: iodata.csv). There is no place in the GUI to modify this part of the data. However, you can select to open the IOA database file in your default "csv" editor to modify on fly the database file and it will be reflected immediately in the "iec104rs" program. Please refer to screenshot below.



2- Configuration of all RTUs/Systems are initially read from the initial file (default: iec104rs.csv). However, you can select any RTU and display it in the "comparison tab" and modify its parameters then restart the RTU connection. Please refer to below screenshot (entries in light yellow color could be changed and it will take effect after restarting the connection).



3- Floating tooltips is displayed whenever possible to explain the GUI part.

More screenshots available in appendix "C".

Troubleshooting

Program did not load one or more configured RTU(s) in the initial file:

- If first character of "ID" field equal "!" then current row and all subsequent rows (RTUs) will not be loaded.
- If the "ID" field is not number, then RTU will not be loaded.
- If RTU has no name, then RTU will not be loaded. Program will read the first 16 characters of the name field.
- RTU number field should be in range 1 to 65535.
- Port number field should be unique (not used for any already loaded RTU) and in range 1 to 65535.
- IOA database file (example: iodata.csv) should be in folder "data" in the folder where the program starts in.

Some IO signals not submitted during general interrogation or during index sending process although the signal is configured in the IOA database file of the specific RTU.

- During general interrogation, if first character of "index" field equal "!" then current row and all subsequent rows (signals) will not be submitted, and general interrogation will stop.
- If "index" of the signal is not digits (numbers) then it will be considered as a comment and will not be submitted.
- If the "GI" field is not equal "Y" then the signal will not be submitted during GI.
- If signal "type ID" field is not in the supported type IDs then it will not be submitted.
- If signal value is not valid then it will not be submitted.

Local time not updated although NTP servers configured, and it is tested normally.

- Updating local time required admin/root privilege under both Windows and Linux so please be sure to start the application with admin/root privilege so it can update the local time normally.

- Program will try the NTP servers one by one then will sleep for the specified period (ntp_update_every_sec = 900 seconds by default) before trying again. So, maybe software couldn't reach to the servers at the first try so please wait until the software try next time.
- Please notice the local time update status as indicated in the screenshots below:

Index to send	Send	Time updated at: 2021-05-10 11:42:27 from time.windows.com
Local time updated succes	sfully.	
Index to send	Send	No admin privilege, cannot update time.
No admin privilege so prog	gram cannot upda	ate the local time.
Index to send	Send	Trying NTP servers to update local time

Program is trying but cannot connect to the NTP servers so please check the network connection and the availability of the configured servers.

Appendix A - Sample initial file

	А	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н
1	# ini file - iec104rs.csv							
2	# If first character of first column in any row is ! Then program will cancel the rest of the rows.					rows.		
3	#							
4	# starting by general set	tings in con	nma separ	ated value	s.			
5	# parameter of ntp_serv	er could be	e repeated	multiple ti	mes in sep	arated line	s for multi	ple servers.
6	ntp_server	10.1.1.15						
7	ntp_server	time.wind	ows.com					
8	ntp_server	pool.ntp.c	org					
9	ntp_update_every_sec	900						
10	#							
11	# then all RTUs settings i	in comma s	eparated v	/alues.				
12	# RTU number may be re	epeated fo	r some RTl	Js.				
13	# port number should b	e unique fo	r each RTU	J.				
14	# hosts: a list of hosts/net separated by; which will only be accepted to connect to the specific RTU.					pecific RTU.		
15	# k: the IEC 104 k constant. Default is 12 packets.							
16	# idletime: time in secon	nds. If no da	ata for idle	time secon	ds the RTU	connectio	n will be d	isconnected.
17	# io data files (iodata.cs	v) should b	e in "data"	folder in t	he same fo	lder where	e the progr	am starts in
18	# id	sys name	rtu no	port no	hosts	k	idletime	iodata.csv
19	1	ABB	32	2404	192.168.1.	12	60	iodata1.csv
20	2	ABB	32	2405	192.168.1.	12	60	iodata1.csv
21	3	OSI	105	2406	192.168.1.	12	60	iodata2.csv
22		OSI	105	2407	192.168.1.	12	60	iodata2.csv
4	iec104rs	+						

5, Siemens, 178, 2408, 192.168.1.16; 127.0.0.0/24; 10.1.1.0/24, 12, 60, iodata1.csv

Appendix B - Sample IOA database file

	А	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н	1	J	K	L
1	#" IOA dat	a file in co	mma sepa	rated value	es (.csv). Sh	ould be in	folder ""d	ata"" unde	r main fold	der where	the prograr	n starts in"
2	# If first ch	naracter of	first colum	in in any ro	w is ! Ther	GI will car	ncel rest of	f the rows.				
3	# Support	ed types:										
4	#	SPI (1,30)	OFF = 0	ON = 1								
5	#	DPI(3,31)	OFF = 01	ON = 02	XX = 00/11							
6	#	NVA(9,34)	Example, i	if you want	to send 1	LKv then va	alue=(1100	0/max. val	ue) = (1100	00/13200)	= 0.83	
7	#	SVA(11,35	Example, i	if you want	to send 1	LKv then va	lue = 11					
8	#	FLT(13,36)	Example, i	if you want	to send 1	L.23Kv ther	n value = 1	1.23				
9	#	SCO(45,58	s) - value sh	ould equa	I the IOA o	f its status	•					
10	#	DCO(46,59	9) - value sl	hould equa	I the IOA o	of its status						
11	#	RCO(47,60)) - value sl	nould equa	I the IOA o	f its status	•					
12	#											
13	#	GI	typeid	IOA	Value	Comment						
14	#											
15	# SCO command											
16	#											
17	#		DCO comr	nand + sta	tus							
18	100000	N	46	21001	301	dummy (D	dummy (E	OCO)				
19	100001	N	31	301	1	dummy (d	dummy (c	łpi)				
20	100002	N	46	21035	343	KLN01-Q0	KLN01-Q0	(DCO)				
21	100003	N	47	21007	15001	TX-(RCO)	TX-(RCO)					
22	100004	N	46	21039	355	KLN03-Q0	KLN03-Q0	(DCO)				
4)	iodata1	+									

	А	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н
22	100004	N	46	21039	355	KLN03-Q0	KLN03-Q0	(DCO)
23	100005	N	46	21041	361	KLN05-Q0	KLN05-Q0	(DCO)
24	100006	N	46	21043	367	KLN07-Q0	KLN07-Q0	(DCO)
25	100007	N	46	21017	307	TH01-Q0 (TH01-Q0 (DCO)
26	100008	N	46	21045	377	TL01-Q1 ([TL01-Q1 ([OCO)
27	#		SCO comm	and with t	ime tag			
28	#							
29	#		DCO comn	nand with	time tag			
30	#							
31	#		DPI					
32	301	Υ	31	301	1	DUMP	DUMP	
33	301	Υ	31	303	1	spare	spare	
34	301	Υ	31	305	1	H-TH01BA	H-TH01BA	Y CTRL
35	301	Υ	31	307	1	H-TH01Q0	H-TH01Q0	
36	301	Υ	31	309	1	H-TH01Q1	H-TH01Q1	
37	301	Υ	31	311	1	H-TH01Q4	H-TH01Q4	
38	301	Υ	31	313	1	H-LN01BA	H-LN01BA	Y CTRL
39	!End GI	N	31					
40	301	Υ	31	315	1	H-LN01Q0	H-LN01Q0	
41	317	Υ	31	317	2	H-LN01Q1	H-LN01Q1	
42	319	Υ	31	319	2	H-LN01Q3	H-LN01Q3	
43	321	_	31	321	2	K-C2 CAP	K-C2 CAP	CTRL
4	i	odata1	+					

"#"" IOA data file in comma separated values (.csv). Should be in folder """"data"""" under main folder where the program starts in""",,,,,,

If first character of first column in any row is! Then GI will cancel rest of the rows.,,,,,,

Supported types:,,,,,

#,"SPI (1,30)",OFF = 0,ON = 1,,,

#,"DPI(3,31)",OFF = 01,ON = 02,XX = 00/11,,

#,"NVA(9,34)","Example, if you want to send 11Kv then value=(11000/max. value) = (11000/13200) = 0.83",,,,

#,"SVA(11,35)","Example, if you want to send 11Kv then value = 11",,,,

#,"FLT(13,36)","Example, if you want to send 11.23Kv then value = 11.23",,,,

#,"SCO(45,58) - value should equal the IOA of its status.",,,,,

#,"DCO(46,59) - value should equal the IOA of its status.",,,,

#,"RCO(47,60) - value should equal the IOA of its status.",,,,,

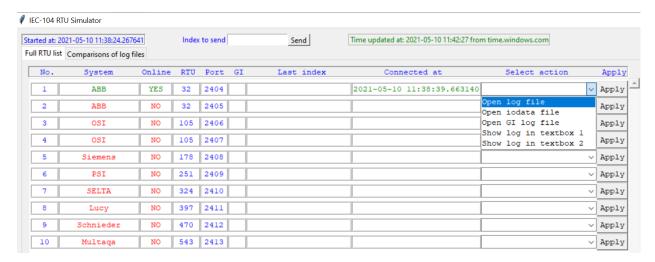
#,,,,,

```
#,GI,typeid,IOA,Value,Comment,
#,--,----,
#-----,,,SCO command -----,,,,,,
#-----,,,DCO command + status -----,,,,,,
100000,N,46,21001,301,dummy (DCO),dummy (DCO)
100001,N,31,301,1,dummy (dpi),dummy (dpi)
100002,N,46,21035,343,KLN01-Q0 (DCO),KLN01-Q0 (DCO)
100003,N,47,21007,15001,TX-(RCO),TX-(RCO)
100004,N,46,21039,355,KLN03-Q0 (DCO),KLN03-Q0 (DCO)
100005,N,46,21041,361,KLN05-Q0 (DCO),KLN05-Q0 (DCO)
100006,N,46,21043,367,KLN07-Q0 (DCO),KLN07-Q0 (DCO)
100007,N,46,21017,307,TH01-Q0 (DCO),TH01-Q0 (DCO)
100008,N,46,21045,377,TL01-Q1 (DCO),TL01-Q1 (DCO)
#-----,,SCO command with time tag -----,,,,,,
#-----,,DCO command with time tag -----,,,,,,
#,,,,,,
#-----,,,DPI ------,,,,,,
301,Y,31,301,1,DUMP,DUMP
301,Y,31,303,1,spare,spare
301,Y,31,305,1,H-TH01BAY CTRL,H-TH01BAY CTRL
301,Y,31,307,1,H-TH01Q0,H-TH01Q0
301,Y,31,309,1,H-TH01Q1,H-TH01Q1
301,Y,31,311,1,H-TH01Q4,H-TH01Q4
301,Y,31,313,1,H-LN01BAY CTRL,H-LN01BAY CTRL
!End GI,N,31,,,,
301,Y,31,315,1,H-LN01Q0,H-LN01Q0
317,Y,31,317,2,H-LN01Q1,H-LN01Q1
```

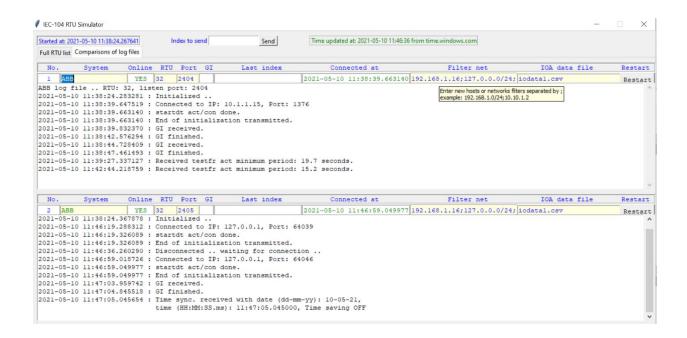
#,,SPI,,,,,,
445,Y,30,445,0,110V DC FAULT,110V DC FAULT
446,Y,30,446,0,30V DC FAULT,30V DC FAULT
447,Y,30,447,0,48V DC BAT CIRC FAULT,48V DC BAT CIRC FAULT
#,,Short floating point measurements,,,,,,
249,Y,13,10001,33.2,H-TH01U,H-TH01U
250,Y,13,10002,33.3,H-LN01U,H-LN01U
#,,Normalized measurements,,,,,
56,N,9,11002,-0.4,W,W
57,N,9,11002,0.6,W,W
#,,Scaled meas. + CP56Time2a,,,,,
80,N,35,11002,-10,W,W
81,N,35,11002,5,W,W

Appendix C – GUI screenshots

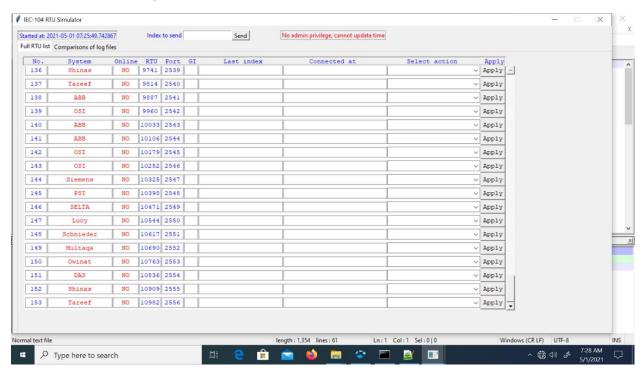
Tab1 - Full RTU list



Tab2 - RTU comparisons and parameters editing.



153 RTUs configured at once. It took about 1 minute to load all the 153 RTUs on a machine with 16 GB RAM and 3.8 GHZ Intel processor.



Appendix D – Windows binary files

Windows binary file is generated by nuitka Python compiler:

https://nuitka.net/

By using the following command:

python -m nuitka --windows-file-description="IEC104 RTU Simulator" --windows-file-version="1.0" -- windows-product-version="1.0" --windows-company-name="M.M" --onefile --plugin-enable=tk-inter -- standalone --mingw64 iec104rs.py