Supporting Information

The yaq Project: Standardized Software Enabling Flexible Instrumentation

*Kyle F. Sunden, Daniel D. Kohler, Kent A. Meyer, Peter L. Cruz Parrilla, John C. Wright, and Blaise J. Thompson**

Department of Chemistry, University of Wisconsin–Madison
1101 University Ave., Madison, Wisconsin 53706

*Corresponding Author
email: blaise.thompson@wisc.edu
phone: (608) 263-2573

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Each message call over the yaq interface returns rapidly, ensuring that client applications are not blocked. Some mes- sages initiate long-running operations, e.g. motor motion and sensor measurement. Separate messages are provided to re- trieve results from e.g. sensor measurement. In order to know how long to wait, all yaq daemons provide a message called “is_busy”, which returns ”true” while the long running action is not complete, and ”false” once it is finished. Additionally, multiple clients can communicate with the same daemon si- multaneously. A complex instrument may involve multiple operators watching sensor data in real time, while one pro- gram is orchestrating the hardware and recording the data.

1 Package size analysis