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PROCESS AUTOMATION

Freelance distributed control system

Version 2024 – What's new



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Freelance distributed control system

With this new version, Freelance takes the next step into the future. Freelance 2024 provides significant improvements in all areas: usability, connectivity, compatibility, security and digitization.

Freelance is ABB's user-friendly, cost-effective and robust solution, ideal for all process industries, with the following benefits:

- **Easy to use:** It is easy to install, learn, engineer, commission, back-up, maintain and expand.
- **Reliable:** It is a proven, award-winning and patented technology providing high reliability and availability.
- **Future-proof:** Future-proof new technologies are continuously introduced to Freelance to meet the demands of a rapidly changing, digitalized industrial world.
- **Value for your money:** The small footprint and the ability to run on any PC results in savings in training, installation, engineering and commissioning.

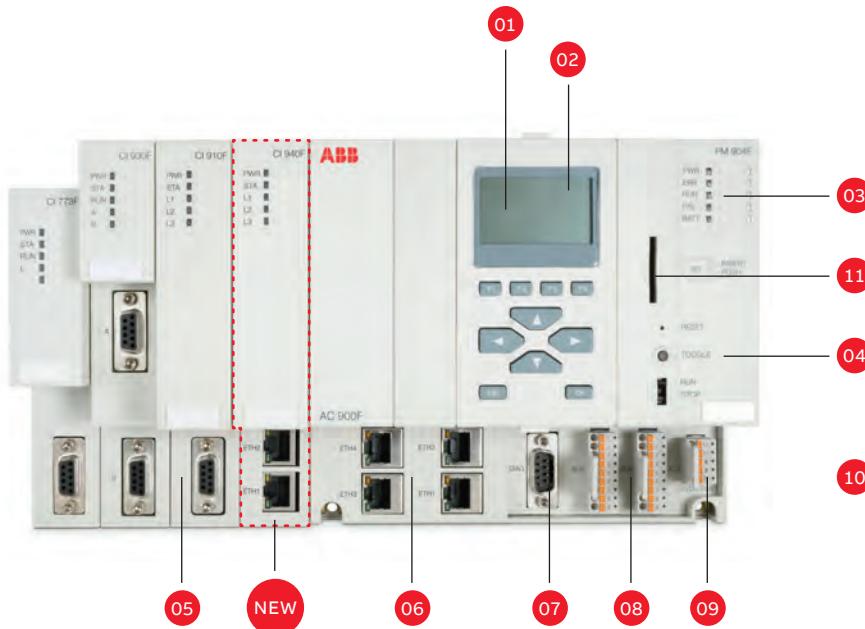
ABB took the next big step on the success story of Freelance. With this new version the Distributed Control System is more attractive than ever before for both, new projects and its huge installed base.



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Compact, scalable, and reliable



CPU PM 904F and
Ethernet Communication Interface CI 940F

- 01. Battery (underneath display)
- 02. Display (optional)
- 03. LEDs: Power, Error, Run/Stop, Prim/Sec, Battery
- 04. Switches/Buttons: Reset, Toggle, Run/Stop
- 05. 4 slots for communication modules
- 06. 4 x Ethernet 10/100 MB
- 07. 1 x Diagnosis/Radio-Clock
- 08. 2 x serial lines, Modbus or Telecontrol
- 09. Power 24 V
- 10. Up to 10 direct I/O modules can be connected
- 11. SD card slot for loading programs, backup, loading firmware

What's new?



PROFINET support for the AC 900F controller

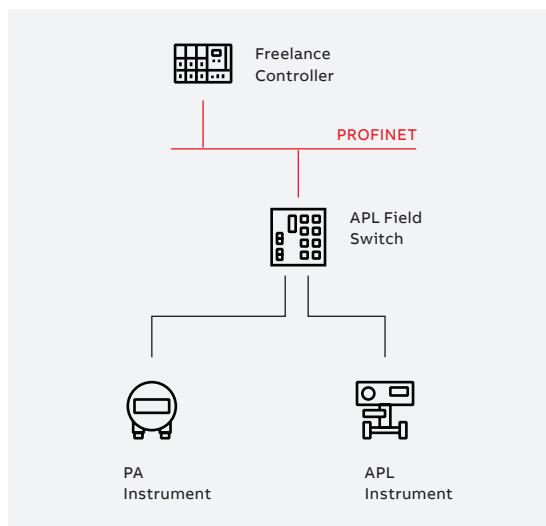
With its real-time communication capabilities, Freelance is now capable to fully integrate the leading Ethernet protocol for communication between devices and industrial automation systems. It ensures reliable data transmission, supports flexible network topologies, and provides device configuration and diagnostics.

Freelance 2024 now supports PROFINET communication on AC 900F controller with the multi-purpose Ethernet Communication Interface. This CI 940F module has a 100BaseT Ethernet interface that can run with the PROFINET protocol. It supports S1 and S2 redundancy and up to 128 PROFINET devices. In combination with controller redundancy, this CI (Communication Interface) is also redundant and ensures highest availability.

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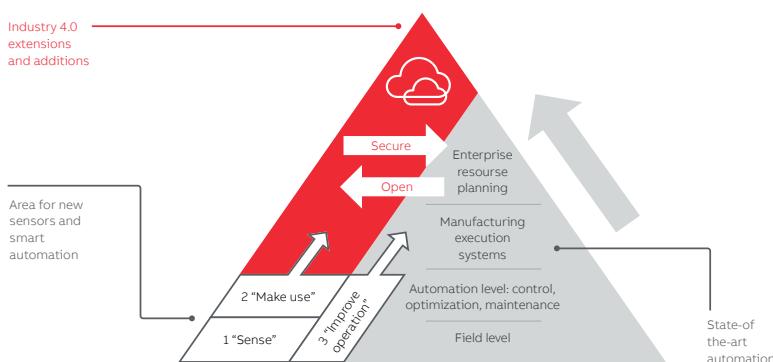
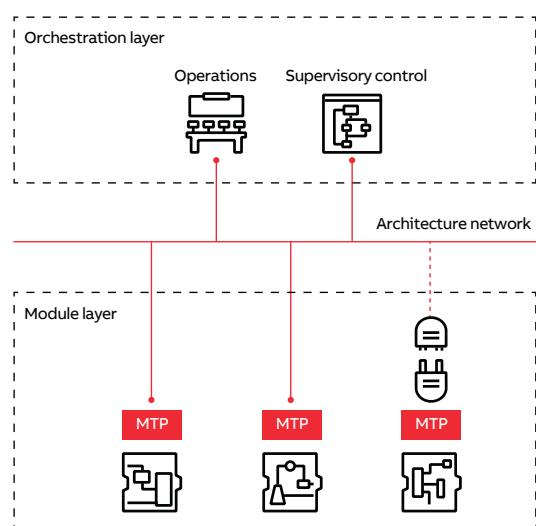
Ready for Ethernet-APL

Ethernet-APL technology provides a secure, high-speed, two-wire powered Ethernet solution, overcoming PROFIBUS PA limitations with extended cable lengths and enhanced data access. It supports both PROFIBUS PA and APL devices, utilizing the PROFINET communication to the controller.



Modular Automation with Freelance

Freelance 2024 implements the industry-standard Module Type Package (MTP). The new Module Designer facilitates seamless MTP integration, enabling effortless setup and integration with the Orchestration Layer. This advancement in modular automation simplifies system design and enhances interoperability.



NOA support via OPC UA

The OPC UA Gateway enables secure process data exchange. Freelance 2024 fully embraces NAMUR Open Architecture (NOA) through OPC UA, allows seamless integration of process data with Digital Operational Infrastructure for monitoring and optimization purposes, leveraging open standards and secure communication protocols.

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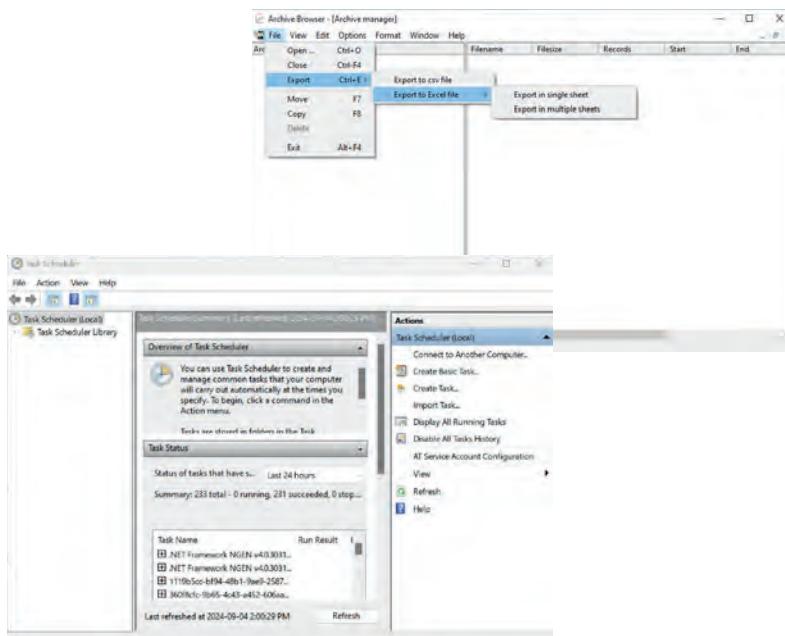
More displays to Freelance Operations Lite

Freelance 2024 expands the possible number of graphic display (FGR) capabilities in Freelance Operations Lite, offering increased license scalability, start small and grow from there.



Auto-convert for Trend & Log archives

Freelance 2024 introduces automatic conversion of Trend & Log archives to Microsoft Excel for easier analysis, enhancing operational efficiency and decision-making.



New license hardkey and softkey

New licensing options includes softkeys, ideal for touch notebooks and virtual environments. For multi-device flexibility, portable driver-less hardkeys are available, offering a versatile solution to meet diverse operational needs.



Support of Microsoft Defender

ABB strongly recommends users to install virus scan software to be able to identify viruses and other malware on all Freelance nodes. Trellix Endpoint Security and Symantec Endpoint Protection has been tested and qualified for this purpose. In addition to that, now Microsoft Defender Anti-Virus Solution is supported with Freelance 2024. This can reduce installation effort and cost.



Freelance 2024 supports Windows 11

With the release of Freelance 2024, the software now runs on Microsoft Windows 11, providing enhanced compatibility and security. We recommend upgrading to Windows 11 to ensure better operation and security for your Freelance installation.

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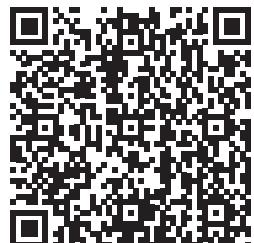
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Benefits of the new version at a glance



Key benefits

- Enhanced connectivity: PROFINET for all AC 900F controllers with CI 940F
- Enhanced Security: Microsoft Defender support and smart card login option
- Improved digitalization: Support for PROFINET, APL, OPC UA, NOA, and MTP to help customers accelerate digital transformation.
- Long-Term Compatibility: Supports Freelance hardware even from its first version
- OS Compatibility: Runs on Windows 11 and Windows 10



Click here or scan the QR code to download the latest Freelance Quickstart Tutorial including Freelance 2024 software setup, user manuals and latest computer based training



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