



Dynamic Configuration Software (DCS)

Information Module

The Information Module provides a dynamic mechanism to directly and indirectly interact with the operator, flag point states, and AM points' execution status. This allows a number of new ways to inform the operator of specific events or requirements and a number of new ways to incorporate custom functionality into dynamic configuration schemes.

Features

- Issue short / long messages to the Operator or Journal
- Set / reset / switch the state of flag points
- Activate / inactivate / switch the execution state AM points
- Periodic case enforcement
- Area access security
- Interface schematic displays

Logically related functions are grouped into Information Modules with an optional sequence of conditional and delayed execution. Not a single line of custom code is required for these generic capabilities.

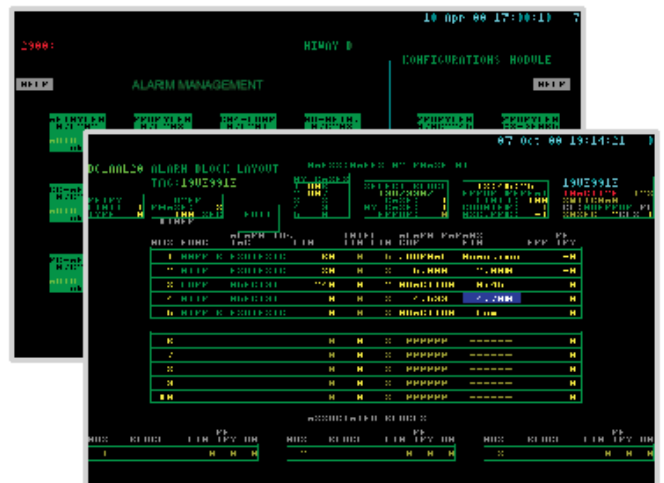
The Information Modules are activated through a generic Selector which operates in manual, semi-automatic, or automatic mode. A user configurable logic dynamically determines which Information Module to activate in semi-automatic or automatic mode. Other Module types can be linked together to provide the final application. The Selector can also be configured to periodically enforce an Information Module.

Built-in security prevents accidental use from other areas. Operator interface schematic displays provide module details, execution status, and easy-to-use access to both Selectors and Information Modules. These displays are accessed through a target sub picture which allows seamless integration with client schematic displays. Advanced features include conditional execution, time delayed links to all other Module types, and event initiated processing.

Control and alarm point configuration can often be completed without any interaction or communication with the operator. However, there may be special instances when a dynamic configuration scheme can and should communicate with the operator to notify him of situations that only he can resolve. Alternatively, special applications can be developed and then triggered by the Information Module when they need to execute. This allows many opportunities.

Situations

- Unit Start-ups and Shutdowns: During operating mode changes, many meaningless alarms are annunciated. The operator must search displays and determine which alarms are significant. Conversely, some start-up and shutdown conditions do not have appropriate alarms because they conflict with normal operation alarm settings.
- Product Switches: Some process units produce a variety of products or grades. Such units do not have a single set of normal operation conditions. This introduces management problems because of a static configuration.



With the intelligence of the Selector and the flexibility of the Information Module, these situations can be better managed.