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New Updates to Opto 22's *groov* Provide Faster Interface Development and Improved Mobile Communications

Web-based mobile operator interface system *groov* 2.1 adds new features, improves OPC tag handling, and reduces data payload for mobile devices.

Temecula, CA – February 12, 2014 – Industrial automation manufacturer Opto 22 has announced *groov* version 2.1, an update to its *groov* web-based mobile operator interface system for building and using effective, scalable operator interfaces on smartphones, tablets, and other mobile devices. *groov* 2.1 improvements include faster tag handling with OPC-UA servers, and improved data exchange with mobile devices for faster response times and lower mobile network costs. *groov* lets industrial automation end-users, system integrators, machine OEMs, technicians, or any authorized person quickly and securely monitor and control PLCs and PACs like Allen-Bradley ControlLogix and CompactLogix, Siemens SIMATIC S7, Schneider Electric Modicon, GE PACSystems, and other controllers, all from a mobile device. *groov* gets important data out of processes, OEM machines, and manufacturing systems and into operators' hands.

A major improvement in *groov* 2.1 is faster operator interface development due to new real-time OPC tag browsing. An OPC-UA server can have potentially tens of thousands of tags to choose from for an operator interface, and real-time browsing makes it faster to select tags and link them to on-screen indicators and controls.

groov 2.1 exchanges up to 75% less data with smartphones, tablets, and other devices running an operator interface than earlier *groov* versions, thanks to improved data handling and compression. Mobile devices operating over a cellular or other network with slower

connections benefit with faster updates, faster interface responses, and lower mobile network costs.

Additional Improvements in groov 2.1

groov 2.1 includes other improvements and new features:

- Webpage links can be added to interface screens, making it possible, for example, to incorporate an internal company webpage showing production targets and KPIs.
- Update/refresh rates can be individually set for IP camera widgets, so an IP camera monitoring a production machine, for example, can update twice a second, while a camera watching a loading area might update once every ten seconds.
- Slider controls and range/level indicators can be oriented horizontally or vertically. Orienting these items vertically saves screen space and is particularly useful for compact mobile devices.
- Using IP camera widgets on an interface screen no longer requires router configuration changes or opening firewall ports for each camera's IP address. Instead, IP camera widgets can optionally use a reverse proxy server to communicate through the *groov*'s IP address.

What's groov?

groov is a zero-programming, web-based way to build, deploy, and view effective, scalable operator interfaces to monitor and control systems and equipment using mobile devices and other computer-based systems. These operator interfaces can be viewed on almost any mobile device or computer regardless of its manufacturer, operating system, or screen size, including smartphones, tablets, PCs, and even smart high-definition televisions.

groov can augment existing human-machine interfaces (HMIs) and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems by making important information available at any time and in any location. *groov* is available as either the standalone *groov* Box hardware appliance or the PC-based *groov* Server for Windows software.

groov uses a standard method of securely communicating with devices on the plant floor, including PLCs, DCSs, PACs, databases, and OPC-DA servers called OPC Unified Architecture (OPC UA). A fully functional version of *groov* Server for Windows is available to download and

try so you can see your own system's data on a smartphone, tablet, or other mobile device. *groov* operates for two hours without a license and can be restarted if more time is required.

groov works with Kepware Technologies' KEPServerEX communications platform. Kepware has developed hundreds of device drivers for communicating with diverse automation systems, databases, building automation systems, and more.

Pricing and Availability

groov 2.1 will be available on Mar. 3, 2014. Choose either the *groov* Box hardware appliance (GROOV-AT1) at a list price of \$2895.00 USD, or *groov* Server for Windows software (GROOV-SVR-WIN) at a list price of \$2695.00 USD. For more information, contact Opto 22 Pre-Sales at 951-695-3000 or toll free at 800-321-6786, or visit groov.com.

An OPC-UA server is required for most systems, and we recommend the KEPServerEX communications platform from Kepware Technologies. Call Kepware at 207-775-1660 or visit info.kepware.com/kepserverex-and-groov for more information. A fully functional version of KEPServerEX is available that operates for two hours without a license.

About Opto 22

Opto 22 develops and manufactures hardware and software for applications involving industrial automation and control, energy management, remote monitoring, and data acquisition. Designed and made in the U.S.A., Opto 22 products have an established reputation worldwide for ease-of-use, innovation, quality, and reliability. Opto 22 products, including the *groov* mobile operator interface, use standard, commercially available networking and computer technologies, and are used by automation end-users, OEMs, and information technology and operations personnel in over 10,000 installations worldwide. The company was founded in 1974 and is privately held in Temecula, California, U.S.A. Opto 22 products are available through a global network of distributors and system integrators. For more information, contact Opto 22 headquarters at +1-951-695-3000 or visit www.opto22.com.

About Kepware Technologies

Kepware Technologies is a private software development company headquartered in Portland, Maine. Kepware provides a portfolio of software solutions to help businesses connect diverse automation devices and software applications. From plant floor to wellsite to windfarm, Kepware serves a wide range of customers in a variety of international vertical markets including Manufacturing, Oil & Gas, Building Automation, Power Distribution, and more. Established in 1995 and now distributed in more than 100 countries, Kepware's software solutions help thousands of businesses improve operations and decision making. Learn more at www.kepware.com.

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