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Opto 22 enhances *groov*® Industrial Edge Appliance with OPC-UA drivers for Allen-Bradley® and Siemens® PLCs, plus MQTT

New additions position groov as a complete edge appliance for industrial automation and Internet of Things applications

Temecula, CA - October 24, 2017 – Industrial automation manufacturer and Industrial Internet of Things tools developer Opto 22 today announced a new version of *groov*, embedding key IIoT technologies MQTT and OPC-UA drivers directly into its industrial edge appliance. Added to the *groov* View software for web and mobile visualization, and the open-source Node-RED development environment, the new release offers engineers, technicians, and developers a comprehensive set of tools for edge deployment in industrial environments.

These new embedded capabilities are made possible through forging close partnerships with technology providers Inductive Automation® and Cirrus Link Solutions®, and are part of the Ignition Edge Onboard™ program.

“Partnering is vital to provide everything required for a given IIoT implementation,” said Benson Hougland, Opto 22 VP of Marketing and Product Strategy. “With Inductive Automation and Cirrus Link, we’ve combined proven applications into a single, industrially hardened appliance to address today’s application needs. Visualization, data handling, security, and connectivity are all in one compact box.”

“We’re pleased that Opto 22’s *groov* is one of the first edge appliances to market with Ignition Edge® embedded,” said Don Pearson, Chief Strategy Officer at Inductive Automation. “Opto 22’s reputation for reliable industrial hardware and their interest in the future direction of automation systems made the partnership a natural fit.”

“Working with Opto 22 on drivers and embedding MQTT with Sparkplug has been great,” said Arlen Nipper, President and CTO at Cirrus Link, and co-inventor of the MQTT protocol. “This partnership approach combines a trusted hardware platform with resilient communication architectures for automation and SCADA systems in an extremely efficient and flexible way.”

A typical use case for the new *groov* edge appliance is gathering data from plant floor devices or from remote plants. A customer places *groov* near a machine or process, uses the built-in drivers to connect to existing control systems, analyzes the data, and publishes the results back to a central server or broker on premises or in the cloud. Applications like Ignition Enterprise or any MQTT/Sparkplug-compliant software can subscribe to the data.

This scenario eliminates complex networking architectures like VPNs, firewall configurations, and remote desktop software, because all communications to the broker use a secure outbound connection from control systems, whether publishing data or subscribing to it. Additionally, because *groov* is a complete computing appliance, a PC is not required.

Other use cases for *groov*:

- A controls technician who needs to see Allen-Bradley CompactLogix™ variables on her smartphone for access from anywhere she is located
- An OEM machine builder whose machine must periodically send operational data to a central location for predictive analysis and machine learning
- A SCADA engineer who needs to efficiently control and acquire data from a large number of geographically dispersed locations over a cellular or other bandwidth-constrained network
- A facilities engineer who needs energy use and HVAC status data transmitted to a cloud database for historical logging

Ignition Edge in the *groov* appliance includes both a built-in OPC UA server and MQTT module.

The built-in OPC UA server includes drivers to popular PLC brands, including Rockwell Automation® Allen-Bradley PLCs, Siemens S7 PLCs, and Modbus® TCP devices. Other drivers are available at additional cost. Embedding these drivers and OPC UA at the edge eliminates the cost and complexity of commissioning and maintaining a Microsoft® Windows®-based computer for translating PLC and device data to OPC UA, the only method available until now.

MQTT is a bi-directional, lightweight event- and message-oriented transport protocol with a publish/subscribe architecture. This architecture decouples devices from applications, allowing

users to reduce reliance on traditional IT networking resources. MQTT's pub/sub architecture also reduces network traffic, because data is published and sent only when it changes. Supported over the MQTT transport is Sparkplug, a freely available, MQTT-based payload definition for industrial applications, which greatly simplifies implementation by defining topic namespaces and payload, and managing the state of devices in the field.

Ignition Edge embedded into the *groov* edge appliance also allows Inductive Automation customers to extend their Ignition platform to the edge with optional Panel and Edge Enterprise Administration licenses, available directly from Inductive Automation.

Originally launched in April 2013, the *groov* edge appliance is an industrially hardened computer appliance used for visualization, data handling, and connectivity. For visualization, *groov* View makes it easy to create secure, scalable operator interfaces for mobile devices and web browsers on any computing platform. For data handling, *groov* includes Node-RED, an IoT application builder that connects to data sources locally and in the cloud, manipulates that data, and publishes the data to anywhere. The *groov* edge appliance was designed for security from the ground up, with communications to the appliance over two independent Ethernet interfaces protected by TLS encryption and user authentication. All configuration of the appliance is securely managed by the included *groov* Admin utility.

Pricing and Availability

Both the *groov* edge appliance (part number [GROOV-AR1-BASE](#), \$1295 list) and the *groov* Enterprise License with Ignition Edge (part number [GROOV-LIC-ENT](#), \$1595 list) are available immediately from a world-wide channel of distributors, partners, and system integrators.

Customers with a GROOV-AR1 *groov* Box can purchase a *groov* Enterprise license to obtain the new features. Existing customers with a *groov* Enterprise License under current maintenance can request an Ignition Edge license at no additional charge. For more information, contact Opto 22 Pre-sales: 951-695-3000 or toll free, 800-321-6786. For more on *groov*, visit <http://groov.com/>.

About Opto 22

Opto 22 designs and manufactures industrial control products and Internet of Things platforms that bridge the gap between information technology (IT) and operations technology (OT). Based on a core design philosophy of leveraging open, standards-based technology, Opto 22 products

are deployed worldwide in industrial automation, process control, building automation, industrial refrigeration, remote monitoring, and data acquisition applications. Designed and manufactured in the U.S.A., Opto 22 products have a worldwide reputation for ease-of-use, innovation, quality, and reliability. For over 40 years OEMs, machine builders, automation end-users, and information technology and operations personnel have and continue to trust Opto 22 to deliver high-quality products with superior reliability. 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. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#).

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