

Progression Towards Adaptability in the PLC Library at the EuXFEL

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European XFEL at a glance



Image credit to : https://www.xfel.eu

PLCs at EuXFEL

- EEE (Electronic and Electric Engineering)
 - EEE-PLC (PLC Development and Support)
 - EEE-FS (Fast Electronics)
 - EEE-EDS (Electronic Developments and Services)
 - EEE-EE (Electrical Engineering)
- Other groups using PLCs
 - Undulator
 - Safety
- PLC systems of EEE in operation
 - 137 PLC in 7 Instruments and all tunnels
 - Ca. 10.000 Softdevices
 - Ca. 9.500 EtherCAT Fieldbus Terminals

PLC library build and release process



PLC project build process





Structure of the current library





Goals of the future EuXFEL PLC library

Increase modularity of the library

- Use interfaces for peer to peer communication
- Different layers of abstraction
- Decouple control system interface implementation
- Faster component development
 - Reduced complexity of components (softdevices)
 - Enable automated testing
 - Custom code in projects
- Increase flexibility of system operations
 - Allow hardware relinking during runtime
 - Partial regeneration of projects
 - Reconfiguration of components without PLC restart

Structure of the future library



- Layered Architecture
 - Hardware abstraction layer (HAL)
 - Device abstraction layer (DAL)
 - Beamline component abstraction layer
- Decoupled communication
 - Reduced complicity of communicating components
 - Could allow us to implement interfaces to other control systems
 - Improved testability of components
- Remapping during runtime
 - Through the use of interfaces
 - Mapping manger
 - Locally stored mapping configuration
- Simpler implementation of components
 - Through higher cohesion of components
 - Fewer responsibilities
 - Clean interfaces (interfacing / implementation)

Migration Strategy

Hardware Abstraction Layer

- Added as soon as all EtherCAT terminals used at EuXFEL are implemented
- Used with new Softdevices first
- Existing Softdevices will be connected through adapters

Layers and Interfaces

- Existing Softdevicse implement commands and properties through methods
- Softdevices can be refactored step by step
- HAL will make another layer

Updated Communication Protocol

- When Selfdescription-Service on IPCs is implemented, Selfdescription of PLC will be disabled
- Existing Softdevices will get adopters
- Add Configuration Persistence
 - Can be added step by step to Softdevices, when configuration-server on IPC is implemented
 - Fall back to hardcoded configurations possible during migration