GenBroker – Browsing OPC Data over Internet

APPLICATIONS NOTE

October 2013

Description: Guide to setup GenBroker for browsing OPC data that is anywhere on the Internet
OS Requirement: Win 2000, XP Pro, Server 2003, Vista, Server 2008, Windows 7
General Requirement: Basic understanding of communication between OPC servers and clients.

Introduction

Connecting to live data for read and write access over the network is effortless with GenBroker. The following instructions will walk you through the configuration on the client and Server to make this happen.

Starting GenBroker on the Server

1. On the machine running the OPC Server that you want to connect to, go to Start → Programs → ICONICS Tools → MonitorWorX
2. Expand GenBroker and right-click on the GenBroker item to start the server.

   NOTE: If you ran the application setup utility during installation, GenBroker is set to an automatic service. This means it should already be running on the server machine.

Configuring GenBroker on the Client

1. On the machine that runs your OPC clients (i.e. GraphWorX32), go to Start → Programs → ICONICS Tools → GenBroker Configurator
2. Click on the "New…" button to create a new GenBroker Configuration.

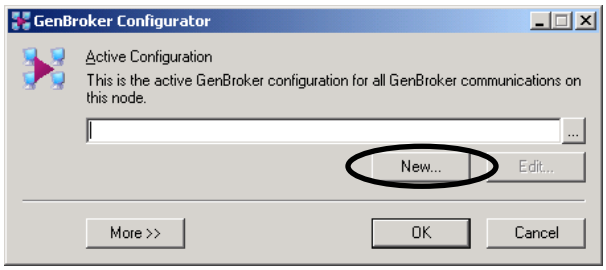

Figure 1 - GenBroker Configurator

   NOTE: You can also edit the default GenBroker configuration file if you wish.

3. In the tree-control in the left-hand pane, select Channels.
4. In the right-hand pane, right-click on OPC over TCP/IP channel and select "Add Node"

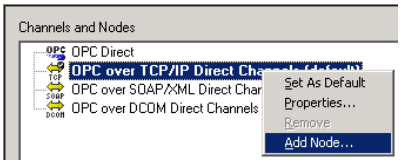

Figure 2 - GenBroker Configurator Channels

5. Specify the name of the remote OPC server computer that is on the internet and click "OK". We will use www.webhmi.com in this example.

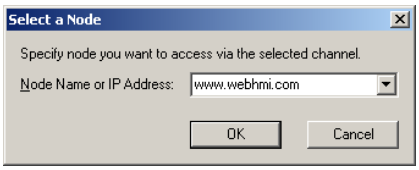

Figure 3 - Select a Node

6. Save the file by going to File → Save As, choose where you want to save the file and give the file a name. You can close the configurator once you have saved the configuration.

View Remote OPC Data in GraphWorX32

1. Start GraphWorX32 by going to Start → Programs → ICONICS GENESIS32 → GraphWorX32 → GraphWorX32.
2. Place a process point on the display. You will see the properties inspector come up.
3. Click on the "Data Tag…" button to bring up the Unified Data Browser.
4. In the Unified Data Browser, select Internet → OPC over TCP/IP Direct Channel and select the OPC Server node that you have added earlier.

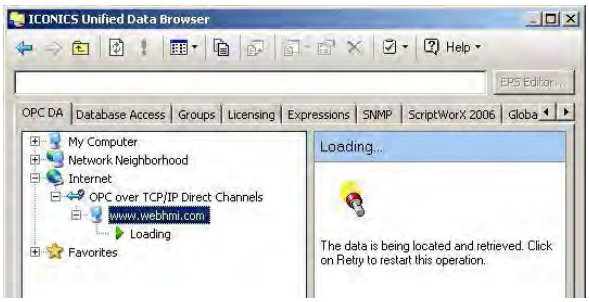

Figure 4 - Unified Data Browser Internet Node

5. You should then see all of the OPC servers on this node. You can choose any OPC tag on any OPC server on this node.
6. Once you have selected the tag, click "OK" until you are back in the GraphWorX32 display working area.
7. Go into run time and you should see your tag with live data.