



# Introduction to GenBroker

## APPLICATIONS NOTE

January 2003

**Description:** *Introduction to GenBroker*

**OS Requirement:** *Windows XP/2000/NT, 9x/Me.*

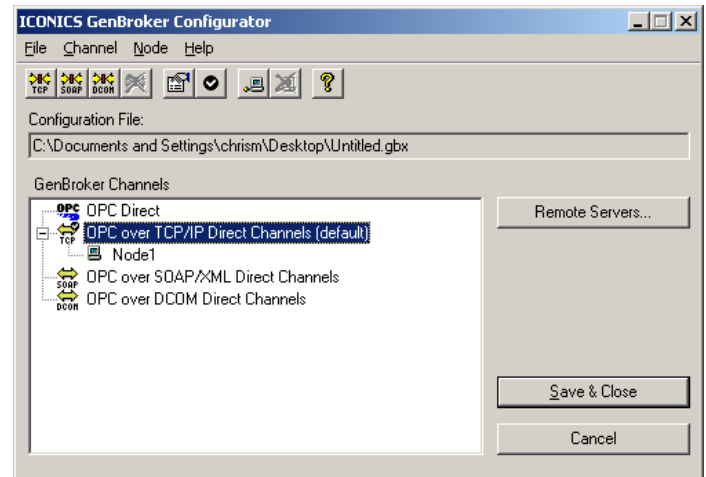
### General Requirement:

First there was DCOM, a promising technology embraced by ICONICS and the OPC Foundation. The DCOM interprocess communication is fully utilized in the GENESIS products. It allows a seamless connection to the OPC Servers available to the automation market.

The unparalleled capabilities of GENESIS and DCOM led to impressive cost reductions in advanced engineering projects. However, DCOM also exposed some technical limitations, which made it hard to use in complicated networks where OPC servers were being connected to the factory's intranet or to the public internet. To provide a robust industrial solution, DCOM needed a helping hand. GenBroker was developed by ICONICS. GenBroker incorporates OPC and Security communications through TCP/IP channels. It achieves real-time and secure communications to and from OPC servers (data access, alarm&events, historical data).

Any computer running OPC Servers can now be quickly intranet / internet enabled by simply running the GenBroker service. The computer will then only need some kind of network connection such as a dialup modem, network card or an internet connection.

The client computer that wants to reach out to this OPC Data will setup GenBroker and identify the computers which expose OPC Data. An example can be seen in the next configuration dialog where a computer called [www.webhmi.com](http://www.webhmi.com) exposes relevant OPC data.



GenBroker is natively available to GENESIS. Because of this, the user can even Browse the intranet and internet for OPC Servers and OPC Tags which may be required in the GENESIS application. In fact, even third party OPC Data Access client applications can be instantly WEB enabled using GenBroker technology. These clients can address their Data Access OPC tags through DataWorX32

Especially ICONICS WebHMI benefits from GenBroker. Because of its web nature WebHMI is used in applications where thin clients need to get access to SCADA/HMI graphics, alarms and trend data. The SCADA/HMI engineers can develop their process interface, using the standard GENESIS development tools, anywhere remotely. They then publish the developed application to the WebHMI server. The visitors of this web site will have instant access to the application including full security, read/write capabilities, alarm acknowledgement, just like GENESIS.