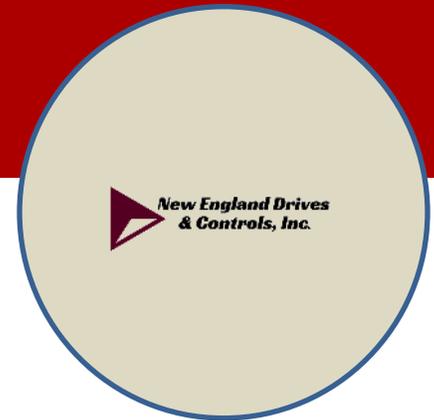


Connections

What would you say drives you?



“Control leads to compliance; autonomy leads to engagement.”

- Daniel Pink

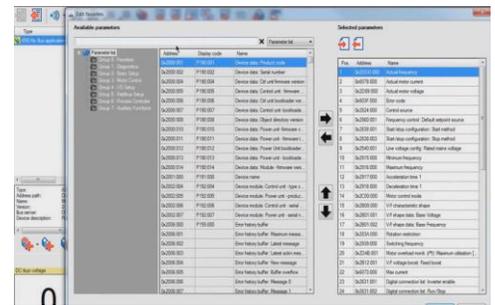
As New England Drives & Controls constantly strives to become a better asset to our customers, our whitepaper series will feature new technologies or helpful insights that may be pertinent to the reader. It is our sincere hope that this information will be beneficial in both relating, and applying content to your industrial needs.

We hope you find this whitepaper series an enjoyable and informative read.

We always welcome your questions and comments.

Motor control has many tried and true solutions however, it, like everything else still finds ways of changing and improving.

For instance, let’s look at a Variable Frequency Drive. They are made by many manufacturers, and they all pretty much do the same thing, with slight nuances on how they are set up and configured.



Most VFD units have some sort of buttons and a display on them. You can step through configuration menus using this simple interface, but it can be confusing. Not to mention time consuming. We won’t even discuss debugging if an entry was “fat -

fingered.” The solution to this is being able to connect them to a PC. The configuration becomes drop down menus with context sensitive help. Much simpler to administer. There is even the benefit of being able to save the configurations that are either up or downloaded to the drive. This makes provisioning multiple drives with the same configuration fast and easy.

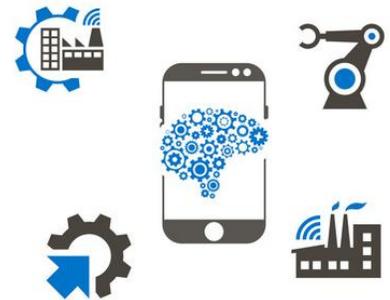




That sounds well and good, but what happens when you have different VFD units from different manufacturers? Each has its own software, menus, configurations, and even proprietary connection cables. Schleppling your PC from the office down to the floor, finding a power outlet, and hopefully having the right cable poses problems of their own.

Imagine a world where, the interface was on your smart phone. You could simply tap on an app, and voila! The settings for that particular drive are now configured and ready to go. No more dragging the laptop onto the floor. Changes and adjustments can be easily made to your hearts content. All this, as long as you remember to carry your smart phone with you.

Being able to offer this kind of interface places you on the cutting edge. We've all heard rumblings about the Internet of Things (IoT) and maybe even have/use some smart appliances such as thermostats, lights, personal assistants, etc. Why shouldn't we not expect to see this functionality on the factory floor? Change can sometimes be hard, but it often brings with it new ideas and ways to improve the way things are done. This is a perfect opportunity to ride the crest of the wave instead of simply watching it break on shore. When looking for a way to drive your motor, look for this technology. It will not only set you apart from the competition; it will simplify the way automation is done! (or at least make the tools to do it much lighter. 😊)



Bluetooth, WiFi... You've heard the terms and are probably already using them today. Why not expand this into your automation projects? Let us know what you are thinking, and we can help find solutions that will make these thoughts and dreams into reality.

We are proud to distribute solutions to simplify and streamline projects for industrial automation by several of our solutions partners. Let us know how New England Drives & Controls can help.

-Peter Lavoie (Engineering Manager)



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