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Instrumentation & Automation News

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Product News for the Instrumentation, Control and Automation Engineer

AUTOMATION AWARD EXCELLENCE

WEB ENABLED CONTROLLERS, iSeries, from Newport Electronics, Inc., connect directly to an Ethernet network with a standard RJ-45 connector and can send and receive data in standard TCP/IP packets.

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IAN AUTOMATION AWARD EXCELLENCE

Instrumentation & Automation News

A Line Of Temperature Controllers, Panel Meters, Transmitters And Signal Conditioners Now Includes Embedded Internet

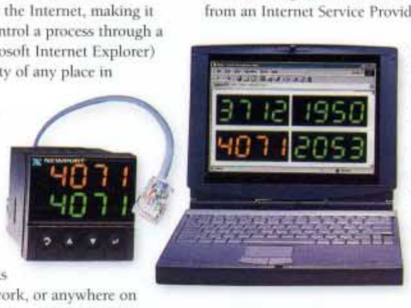
Newport Electronics, Inc.'s line of temperature controllers, panel meters, transmitters and signal conditioners, called the iSeries, now connects directly to an Ethernet network with a standard RJ-45 connector and can send and receive data in standard TCP/IP packets.

These devices can serve Web pages over an Ethernet LAN or even over the Internet, making it possible to monitor and control a process through a web browser (such as Microsoft Internet Explorer) from anywhere in the facility of any place in the world.

For example, using this company's 1/16 DIN temperature controller to control a heater, an engineer can monitor the temperature, change set points or alarm points, turn the heater on and off, or make other modifications anywhere on the local network, or anywhere on the Internet. The web pages are easily customized and secure password protected access to the devices is easily controlled. And, it requires no special software on the engineer's computer to view the data and "supervise" the controller—nothing other than a Web Browser.

In fact, the controller can even send an e-mail to the engineer (or anyone he chooses) alerting him to an alarm condition or updating the status. Leveraging the technology on the Internet, the engineer could receive a message from his controller on an Internet pager or cell phone.

All of this is accomplished without a computer. The iSeries device (meter or contoller) connects directly to the Ethernet Network—not to the serial port of a computer functioning as a "server" and "master" to "slave" instruments connected through serial communications.



These small iSeries instruments are full stand-alone Internet Appliances. The Ethernet and Web Server capability is actually embedded in the device.

The iSeries device is assigned an IP address on the network and can also be assigned an easily remembered name such as "Heater1". In fact, the device could be assigned an authorized Internet IP address from an Internet Service Provider and function as a World Wide Web Server delivering whatever specific information is called for.

Apart from the Web server feature, the iSeries also works with conventional data acquisition and control programs as well as Visual Basic and Excel. The company provides free software and demos which makes it fast and easy to get up and running with many applications.

The company has also introduced the same Embedded Internet capability in a discrete DIN rail mounted device which can be a hub connecting up to 32 instruments that have serial communications capability to the Ethernet and Internet. The "iServer" is both a Web Server and an Ethernet-Serial bridge compatible with RS-232, RS-422, and RS-485.

Pricing for the iSeries devices (meters and controllers) with Embedded Internet starts at approximately $2000 in OEM quantities.

The DIN rail-mounted "iServer" sells for less than $100.

For more information, contact **Newport Electronics**, Inc., 2229 South Yale St., Santa Ana, CA 92704. 714-540-4914.

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