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## **Research Article**

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# Communications protocol application in the substation automatic system

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#### **ABSTRACT**

With the economic development, the traditional substation control system cannot satisfy the current electric power requirement. It is necessary to effectively use the communication protocol in the substation automatic system. This article introduces the communication protocol in the first place. Moreover, it discusses the IEC 101 protocol characteristics, frame structure, and the overall summon transmitting in details. Then, the substation automatic system obtains the optimized analysis of hardware and software. At last, this paper provides part of the system core code, which has a positive effect to the software designer and substation maintainer.

**Keywords:** communication protocol, substation, automation

## INTRODUCTION

Substation places the important position of the network system as well as the center circle of transmission and distribution. With the economy and technology development, it is necessary to change the traditional substation into the primary and the secondary equipment. Decrease the cost, improve the security, reduce the maintainer, and realize the unattended operation under 200KV is the target of the substation automatic system.

#### **Protocol analysis**

The communication protocol is the unified regulation of synchronization method, transmittal step, data format, error correction, transfer rate, and character control between the both sides, which have to be executed. Since we entered WTO, different fields connect with the international standard continuously. About the substation communication protocol, occident use IEC protocol. Beijing passed IEC 101 (2.0 Edition) in 2002, and it will be the standard of our utility industry.

## IEC 101 protocol

Protocol characteristics

IEC protocol is the first integrated communication system for using the substation automatic system. Compare with the internet communication system, it has the following characteristics:

It uses a layer system with application layer, route layer and physical layer.

It uses object-oriented modeling.

The communication and function have device independence.

It has ACSI (abstract communication service interface).

Open.

#### IEC 101 frame structure

The substation automatic system requires a large amount of transmitted data quantity and type, which include tele-command, interrogation, telemetering, tele-control, fault report, self-test report, and the sequence of event. It means the same type data will has great differences when facing the various equipment or measurement time. Therefore, IEC 101 protocol based on the detailed data quantity and design the different frame structure. Figure 1 has the details.

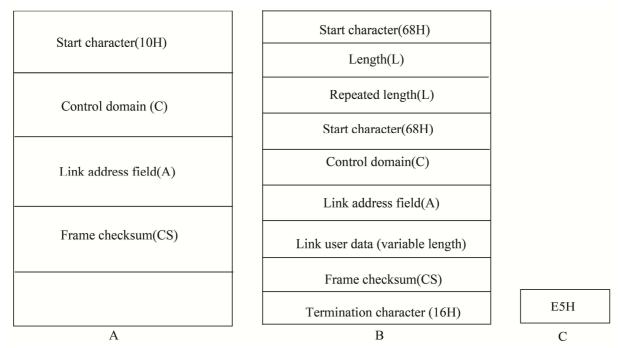


Fig. 1: IEC 101 transmission frame structure

Figure 1 has three kinds of transmission frame structure. A is the fixed frame structure, B is the frame structure with variable length, C is the single byte frame structure. Star character means the first byte of each frame, and the termination character is the last byte. Although the fixed frame and variable frame have the different start characters, the termination characters are the same (16H). The control domain length is one byte and stands for the frame control information. The length of the link address field is two bytes, which means the local collection unit address. Frame checksum length is one byte and it is the cumulative arithmetical check. The variable frame has length, link user data and other information. The single byte frame shows with E5H. If there have no required data on the slave station, send E5H.

## Overall call-transmitting procedure of IEC 101

This process means the main station will send information and tell all the slave station to send all the related data to the main station. The detailed process is: the main station sends C\_IC\_NA\_1\_ACT to the slave station. After receiving this information, the slave station sends C\_IC\_NA\_1 ACTION. If the main station receives error information or not received the information, the system will delay. The system will resend information to the slave station based on the timeout condition. Then, the main station will wait or resend the information. If the slave station receives the data while staying in the busy condition that cannot send information to the main station in time, it will directly send one busy frame to the main station. After connecting the main station and slave station, send the data. The detailed process is figure 2.

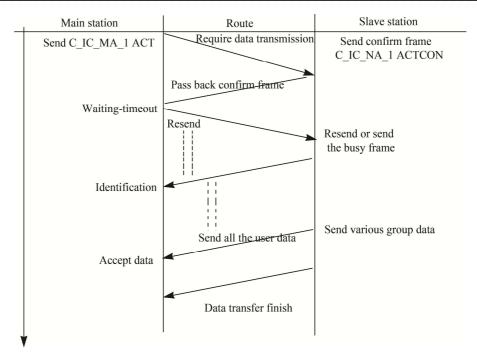


Fig. 2: Overall call-transmitting procedure of IEC 101

## 1. Evaluation of substation automatic system

Electric power is related to the life and asset security of the nation and people. The automatic system requires distribute structure mode. Therefore, communication timelines are the system core center. The process of information sending request, data management, identification, and transmission has to less than 40 milliseconds. Network topology and software optimization is the necessity.

## Hardware

The Ethernet main, emergency control network and status condition network forms the combined network topology that divides into three layers. It means collect the required data through the high-speed pick device, and sends them to the main server. The network topology is in figure 3.

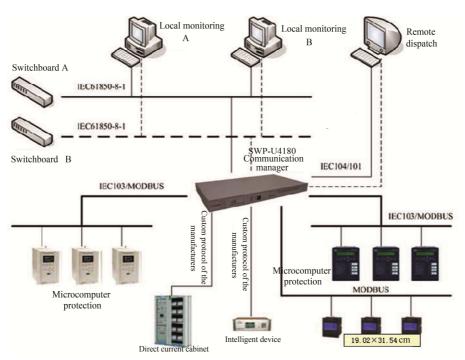


Fig. 3: Network topology structure

#### Software design

The traditional industry control electricity software uses a standard bus application and easy to control. It is hard to maintain it. Therefore, use the configuration software and internet technology to design the software is inevitable. It provides convenience to operate the remote and control. In order to change the traditional disadvantages, we can add the following technologies in the automatic software.

## (1)Real-time task queue

It breaks the traditional time limit and the system management will be easier and in time. The process is: when adding the new object, the system will create a new task and add it to the end of the task queue. During the process, the queue will carry out all the tasks follow the arriving time. Otherwise, we cannot control the sequence based on the task priority. It is possible to divide the task priority level into three modules. The system will check the highest priority level and operate it. It will carry out the proximate grade task and then the lowest level. The task queue will empty after finishing all the tasks.

## (2)Digital transmission mode

System alarm and data transmission might cause the unnecessary lost on account of the error code. Change the traditional analog signal transmission and use the digital transmission and optimize the link connection can solve this problem.

#### (3)Buffer mechanism

In the traditional automatic control system, data lost is the caused by the busy condition. It needs data resend and build the connection. This will lead resource waste. We can use the buffer mechanism that puts data in the buffer zone.

#### (4)Optimize the database structure

Data operation includes read and write. If the database construction stays the same with the hardware equipment, it will greatly improve the read-write speed.

## 2. Detailed realization

This article designs the substation automatic system that aims at the software. It uses VC++6. 0, and the database is SQL2000. The core codes are in the following:

```
unsigned int stdcall WriterThreadFun(PVOID pM)
int nData = 0:
while (nData < 20)
WaitForSingleObject(g_hEmpty, INFINITE);
g_arrDataQueue[g_j] = ++nData;
g_j = (g_j + 1) \% \text{ QUEUE\_LEN};
EnterCriticalSection(&g_cs);
SetConsoleColor(FOREGROUND GREEN);
printf(" Write data '%d' into the queue '\n", nData')
SetConsoleColor(FOREGROUND RED | FOREGROUND GREEN | FOREGROUND BLUE);
LeaveCriticalSection(&g_cs);
Sleep(rand() % 300);
ReleaseSemaphore(g_hFull, 1, NULL);
}
return 0;
int main()
InitializeCriticalSection(&g_cs);
g hEmpty = CreateSemaphore(NULL, QUEUE LEN, QUEUE LEN, NULL);
g_hFull = CreateSemaphore(NULL, 0, QUEUE_LEN, NULL);
srand(time(NULL));
g_i = g_j = 0;
HANDLE hThread[2];
hThread[0] = (HANDLE)_beginthreadex(NULL, 0, ReaderThreadFun, NULL, 0, NULL);
hThread[1] = (HANDLE)_beginthreadex(NULL, 0, WriterThreadFun, NULL, 0, NULL);
```

WaitForMultipleObjects(2, hThread, TRUE, INFINITE);

```
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## **CONCLUSION**

This article uses a communication protocol to research the substation automatic system, which places important station on industry and people's livelihood. Moreover, it has significant meaning to the automatic research. The substation automatic system is the huge engineering. Due to the length limitation, here not detailed the network structure design and database design. Hope the interested colleagues can do the further perfection.

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