

Product - PIView

Alba has been using OSIsoft's powerful PI package to record process data for a number of years now. Here, we take a look at one of Alba's custom trending and interface solutions, developed with the Osisoft PI Software Development Kit (SDK).

What is it?

PIView is a trending application with many useful features, fast to configure and easy to use.

How good is it?

PIView is a powerful, fast, and efficient enterprise wide tool. By only asking the PI server for the data points that can actually be displayed on the screen, PIView makes it possible to quickly trend a large time range of data and rapidly drill down to level of detail required.

Think of piView as processbook trends on steroids, but easier to setup, when we say out-of-the-box we mean it ! There is no visual basic or scripting required, that's been taken care of.

PIView has a rich feature set, look over the page for a quick tour.

Why should I use it?

PIView can be used for problem solving, or to quickly pinpoint process bottlenecks and problems. Perhaps you want to compare your current batch against a 'perfect batch' scenario to see where you can improve quality? Alternatively, it could be used to see when a pump is under performing, and either schedule maintenance on it, or know when to order a new one. The only limit is your imagination!

Who should use it?

PIView can serve a variety of purposes around the plant, and the enterprise. Operators can use it to monitor the process in real-time, Supervisors to help their teams work more efficiently, Managers to identify time and cost savings, Lab Personnel to assist in quality control and analysis, and Maintenance crews to assist with preventative maintenance scheduling.

In short, anyone who has a need for clear, concise data should be using it!

How easy is it to deliver?

PIView is packaged as a single standard MSI install file, so it can easily be delivered to the Client systems via CD, download, or via the corporate network. Connecting to the PI server only requires that you know the name or IP address of your PI server, and have a valid username and password to connect.

How easy is it to use?

PIView is very easy to use, and requires little knowledge of the inner working of the PI system. The PIView Client is simple to install and configure, and is packaged for easy and quick installation.

Ad-hoc trends are easy to configure, these can be saved both as local files, or better still in the PI module database.

PIView can be used in a variety of places. It can run as a stand alone executable program, with as many copies as you like running at the same time, allowing you to view different trends, or even different plants at the same time.

Alternatively, PIView can be run as an ActiveX control and embedded in any ActiveX control container, making it easy to integrate either into the corporate network, or into your SCADA or visualisation system. Such as iFix/DeltaV or a browser like Internet Explorer.

Licensing

The OSIsoft SDK



must be licensed.

Having a server DAP license allows unlimited client SDK connections.

Interested

We are passionate about 'pi' and value it can create for your business, let our knowledge help you to get the best from your RtPM investment.

Contact Alba Controls for a powerpoint presentation or to arrange a demonstration.



PIView includes a range of advanced features and functions. Let's take a quick look at some of them.

Unlimited pens

No limit on the amount of pens you can display on the trend at any one time.

Module Database

PIView's configuration data and trends, including pen and colour customisation, are stored in the Module Database, a flexible data repository on the PI server. Rather than have user's custom trend files saved on the local machine, storing them in the PI Module Database means that they are available to anyone who has access to the PI server, making trends easy to share around the enterprise.

Live playback

As well as having a highly configurable historical view, PIView trends can also run in Live Playback mode, where the trend data updates in real time.

On trend values

Values can be displayed beside the draggable timeline, allowing you to see at a glance what the corresponding values of the trends were at that point in time.

Area model

The area model is a powerful explorer like view of your plant. This hierarchical view can be configured to arrange your trends into their logical plant areas, and to divide up plants, buildings, sites and process areas into an intuitive logical view for grouping and organising your pre configured trends. The area model also contains the PI tags, which are similarly divided by area. Tags can be added directly from the area model, making trend creation for a particular area quick and easy.

Sticky notes

Another powerful feature of PIView is its ability to use 'sticky notes' to annotate your trends. Use it to mark particular points of interest, for example, one shift of workers could leave a note for the following shift about a problematic point in the previous batch. It's possible to save 'sticky tag values' on the trend too!

Multiple servers

PIView offers full support for multiple PI servers, and is time zone aware, so data from international PI servers can be viewed without confusion.

Dual Monitor Support

Customisable options to set preferred monitor and number of instances

Digital sets

Can either be plotted as trends, or displayed as events on the trend, with state changes signified by red and green triangles along the time line. The third option is to display the digital events in the event grid. Alternatively, maybe you want a combination of these, or even all three at once? That's possible too!

Curve measure tool

A quick and effective way to get important information about a given section of a trend. The curve measure tool gives information such as minimum and maximum values, the average value, integrals, rates, time selected, and span in engineering units.

Jpeg's and Emails

Users can use the PIView menu to save the display as a JPEG type picture file, and also automatically make a JPEG picture, and email it to a chosen user.

Time ranges

PIView makes it easy to select the time range you want to trend. Use the quick plot feature to select from a list of the most commonly used time ranges, or manually pick your time range, using the drop down menus and calendar controls. You can even select from the list of batches to have the range automatically set for the duration of the batch.

Batch displays

PIView is capable of delivering powerful batch displays, using trends, Gantt charts, and an explorer like view of your batch. See at a glance your batch data, what phases and operations were running at the time, and a trend of the pertinent information.

Other Features

- moveable crosshairs for quick viewing of data at a particular point,
- flexible zoom in/out options
- editing of PI tags directly from PIView
- command line switches for extra flexibility
- string tag support
- stacking of trends for clearer displays
- run time tag renumbering for quickly changing trends across process units
- help files to assist you in using PIView
- options to disable and enable many features for security purposes.

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