The Virtual Flow Computer (VFC) for Regulatory Compliance

ISA New Orleans Section is pleased to begin its regular monthly meeting series for the 2016–17 operating year by offering Mr. Steve May as speaker for the 1 November section meeting. His topic introduces a tool for satisfying regulators’ requirements in an existing distributed control system or programmable logic controller environment.

Virtual Flow Computer (VFC) functionality may be required to calculate volumetric flow that meets regulatory compliance requirements. Often, an existing DCS or PLC collects data but there is no flow computing device present.

A VFC software module takes real-time data inputs into a PC-based system and rolls them into historical hourly and daily records, and then stores the records in a secure database.

A VFC software module also creates event records when a change is made to the configuration of the virtual meter either from an HMI device or from input configuration data.

Combined, these assets can establish an audit trail in compliance with API 21 and Directive 17—enabling a noncompliant user to become compliant.

Steve May has been president of CPU LLC for 11 years and in the automation, SCADA, and flow measurement business for 20 years. He is also CEO for Simple Control Solutions LLC.

Steve is an expert in automation and in the measurement industry. His expertise includes a practice in API 21.1, 21.2, AGA volumetric calculations, and Directive 17 requirements.

Also, he is the designer of CPU’s eFCAS RelationalSCADA and Measurement Software Solution and stays involved in the evolution and deployment of the product on a daily basis.

The topic of November’s presentation qualifies ISA New Orleans Section to grant one Professional Development Hour (PDH) to registered professional engineers. Please ask for a certificate at the registration table.

Please send your RSVP to the email address cited above or by simply clicking here. Also, you may use the PayPal link above (or click here) to pay the $25 admission in advance.
President’s Message
José Suarez
President
ISA New Orleans Section
Ph.: (504) 344–3758
Jose.Suarez@jacobs.com

Dear fellow members,

Our annual shrimp boil and membership drive is now history. The shrimp and their companions in the boiling pot were all expertly prepared and served. We met some new members and potential student members. Again, we are indebted to Ram Ramachandran and his volunteer helpers for their dedication in presenting this much anticipated event. He even arranged ideal weather for the evening.

We’re back on schedule starting in November. Our customary first Tuesday meeting will be held on 1 November. This year we do not have to compete with election day as occurs more often than not every four years.

We are pleased to have Steve May, who is a past president of the section and who is president of CPU, LLC, as our speaker. Please see p.1 of this newsletter for a synopsis of his presentation as well as his complete list of credentials. The subject matter, The Virtual Flow Computer (VFC) for Regulatory Compliance, qualifies for the section to award one PDH to registered professional engineers. Please request a certificate when you sign in.

Membership in ISA is not required to attend our meetings. Nor is Society membership required to receive a PDH. So, consider attending this meeting.

Also, should any member readers want to become active at the Executive Committee level, then feel free to attend the meeting from 5:00–6:00 p.m. at the same place and date as the general meeting.

If you’re not a member of the Society, then consider joining. You can become a member at the ISA web site. Click on this link https://www.isa.org/membership.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting. See p.1 for information to RSVP and, if you so desire, pay in advance using the PayPal link. They’re both an easy click away.

Finally, check out our web site. There’s a link to it at the top of p.1.

Sincerely,
José Suarez, President
ISA New Orleans Section, Inc.
Computerized Processes Unlimited, LLC, (CPU® LLC) is a software and services company that delivers software solutions for the Oil and Gas Market, focused on the eFCAS RelationalSCADA® and Measurement software offering. Our eFCASTM software is used worldwide, supported 24x7, and is the only SCADA and Measurement solution that provides everything from Data Collection to Production Well Testing. CPU is the one-stop-shop for all of your SCADA and Measurement requirements. Visit cpullc.com.

The Reynolds Company is an independently owned wholesale distributor with global distribution and project management experience. We are a premier supplier of electrical, lighting, automation, switchgear and datacom products. The Reynolds Company has experienced personnel on staff including electrical engineers to work with customers to provide engineered solutions and services along with a complete suite of electrical supplies and equipment. Visit Reynoldsonline.com.

Rockwell Automation, the world’s largest company dedicated to industrial automation and information, makes its customers more productive and the world more sustainable. Throughout the world, our flagship Allen-Bradley® and Rockwell Software® product brands are recognized for innovation and excellence. Visit www.rockwellautomation.com.

With over a half century of experience and thousands of installations worldwide, Petrotech provides customized control solutions in a full turnkey package, from engineering concept to installation and commissioning. Our corporate office is located in New Orleans, La., with full-service offices in Houston, Tx., and the United Kingdom.

Our products include integrated control systems for gas, hydro and steam turbines, generators, reciprocating/diesel engines, centrifugal and axial compressors, pumps and all associated ancillary systems. Our turnkey services include engineering design (software and hardware), project management, control panel fabrication, system integration, site I&E, commissioning and startup, training and all after-market services. Visit www.petrotechinc.com.

NELSON provides project management, engineering, environmental science and architectural services from offices in New Orleans, Louisiana and Houston, Texas. We have served multiple clients in a broad range of projects worldwide since 1945. Our staff of over 300 professionals and support personnel blends many years of experience and expertise with today’s technology to deliver state-of-the-art projects for our clients, focusing on scope, schedule and budget.

By providing a wide spectrum of project services, we often work with clients from concept development to start-up, and regularly maintain a life-of-facility relationship with them through continuous support of operations. Visit wsnelson.com.

M S Benbow and Associates is a Professional Engineering Corporation that provides Electrical Power Systems, Instrumentation, Control Systems, and Telecommunications systems design, commissioning, start-up and testing services to clients across the Gulf South. Visit msbenbow.com.

Keystone Engineering is a multi-discipline engineering consulting firm with over 300 employees; our locations include Metairie, Mandeville, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Houston and Baltimore.

We offer civil/structural, mechanical, process, electrical, instrumentation and controls & automation engineering services to a largely industrial client base. Keystone is dedicated to providing a quality work product in a schedule-conscious, safe and cost-effective way. Our flexibility allows us to handle a broad range of project needs, from small efforts like a simple field sketch to multi-discipline project teams for large capital projects. Visit keystoneengr.com.

Champion Technology Services, Inc., was founded in 2000 with a main focus in industrial automation and control systems integration, and has since expanded that focus to include wireless communications and data management. Most automation projects include the design, fabrication, integration, installation, commissioning, and follow-up maintenance of control systems using the latest DCSs, PLCs, HMIs, and hybrid systems. Our telecommunication services include tower maintenance and path surveys. Champion has eight offices spread throughout Louisiana, Texas, Utah, and Colorado and serves customers in the surrounding states and throughout the country. When it comes to technology, “we’ve got it under control!!” Visit http://champtechnology.com.
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Karen, she advised that 6 Jan. would not be a possible date due to conflicts with Mardi Gras activities, specifically a Twelfth Night activity.
2. Recognition that because of an early Mardi Gras date in 2017 (i.e., 28 Feb.) other January Fridays might be problematic for scheduling the banquet. That also is another reason to make a decision on the venue as soon as possible.
3. The value for the funds expended is not consistent with this year’s budget. The consensus opinion during the previous discussion was that the likely quantity of members attending could not begin to fill the space provided at the SYC. The alternative site mentioned (i.e., Andrea’s Restaurant) has a smaller room that, in the past, has been adequate.
Nat gave his proxy to José to vote for Andrea’s Restaurant when the vote is taken during the 1 Nov. Executive Committee meeting.

Membership Chair
No report.
Exhibits Chair
No report.
Webmaster
No report.
Society Delegate
No report.
Publications Chair
No report.

Old Business (Pending Action Items)
1. Nat to provide an updated Treasurers report.—COMPLETE.
5. UNO student section inactive. José and Bill to address the issue with student section representative.

New Business—Action Items
1. Planning for this year’s events:
   a. Regular events are on Tuesday evenings starting in November. Roger Reedy to check into topics for Dec.–May. Executive Committee members can help him.
   b. EPC lunch and learns: Work with Bill and Dean on this. José, Bill and Dean to discuss this idea. Mike Benbow agreed to help out and maybe to host the event at M S Benbow & Assoc. offices for the first time.
   c. Need seminar ideas for the spring of 2017.
2. Appoint UNO Scholarship Committee (four people—Larry, José, Mike Benbow, and Dean?).

Time & Date of Next Meeting
The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on 1 November, 5:00–6:00 p.m. at Augie’s Restaurant.

Adjourn Meeting
The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes, Executive Board  
ISA New Orleans Section, Inc.  
17 October 2015

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<th>Not Present</th>
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<tr>
<td>José Suarez</td>
<td>Mike Benbow</td>
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<td>Larry Iverson</td>
<td>Steve May</td>
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<td>Nat Muthaiah</td>
<td>Mike Williams-son</td>
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<td>Robert Terrell</td>
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<td>Dean Bickerton</td>
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<td>Roger Reedy</td>
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Call to Order  
President, José Suarez, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Quorum  
There was insufficient attendance for a quorum.

Safety Topic  
None offered.

Review & Approve Agenda  
The agenda was approved by attendees but not by a quorum.

Review & Approve Last Meeting Minutes  
The quorum requirement was not met and, therefore, a vote on the minutes could not be taken.

Review Communications from Society  
None were presented or discussed.

Review Communications from Others  
None were presented or discussed.

Announcements  
None were presented or discussed.

Report of Officers and Committees  
President  
The President, José Suarez, presented seven items for discussion. The items and results of discussion follow:

1. General members meeting on 1 Nov.  
   See the Program Chairman’s report herein.
2. Updated budget.  
   See the Treasurer’s report herein.
   See the Honors & Awards Chairman report herein.
4. Corporate sponsors.  
   See the Marketing Chairman’s report herein.
5. Ideas for seminar in the spring.  
   See the Education Chairman’s report herein.
6. EPC lunch.  
   See the Program Chairman’s report herein.
7. UNO scholarship.  
   José advised that he would schedule a meeting to discuss the issue.

President-Elect  
No report. The section needs to fill this position.

Vice President  
No report. The section needs to fill this position.

Past President  
No report.

Student Section Chair  
No report.

Next Meeting  
Executive Committee  
Tuesday 1 Nov. 2016, 5:00–6:00 p.m.  
Augie’s Restaurant

Secretary  
No report.

Treasurer  
Nat Muthaiah reported that the 2016–17 budget is in the red by upwards of $1,000. He advised that the budget still needs to be approved by the Executive Committee meeting in quorum.

He advised that he had emailed the revised budget on 26 Sept. to members of the Executive Committee.

Education Chairman  
No report from the chairman.

Meeting attendees agreed that unless a decision is made by the January 2017 Executive Committee meeting on the topic and place for the spring seminar, then it ought to be scrubbed. It was agreed that significant guidance for a decision to scrub should be whether employers are likely to pay for their employees’ participation.

Arrangements Chairman  
No report.

Program Chairman  
Larry Iverson reported that a speaker and venue are confirmed for November. This assurance was made based on (a) correspondence with CPU, LLC, regarding Steve May’s commitment as speaker, and (2) Mike Benbow’s having reserved the meeting site at Augie’s Restaurant.

José confirmed that a meeting of the Executive Committee will be held that day from 5:00–6:00 p.m.

Discussion on the EPC lunch proposal was deferred until a time when the promoter(s) of this idea would be present.

Honors & Awards Chairman  
No report from the chairman.

The president advised that a decision on the venue for the Honors & Awards Banquet must be made during the 1 Nov. meeting of the Executive Committee. Also, the previous meeting’s discussion on whether the SYC should be considered again as the venue for the meeting was reprised during this meeting. As in the prior discussion, the price of that location was the chief reason that a less expensive venue (Andrea’s Restaurant, for instance) had been suggested then and again during this meeting.

Implicit during this discussion were additional issues as follows:

1. Email correspondences between Erston and Karen Reisch, Toby Miller, Ram Ramachandran, Larry Iverson, and copied to Mike Benbow, Nat Muthaiah, and José Suarez. In the message originated by