CONTROL TECHNOLOGY INC.

5734 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville, TN 37921 Phone 865.584.0440
www.controltechnology.com FAX 865.584.5720

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TECHNICAL ADVISORY – Possible Scan Extension with Heavy Loading on CAMP Server

Janus processors and coprocessors include support for the "CAMP Server" fieldbus, which allows HMI and SCADA devices to access variables using the CAMP protocol which was used on CTI 2500-Cxxx processors and 2572-X Ethernet modules. This capability makes it easier to transition applications from Cxxx processors to Janus processors without having to make changes to HMI and SCADA.

It has been reported from the field and confirmed at CTI that the scan time can be periodically extended when there is heavy activity on the CAMP server. This can result in a max scan time of 40msec or more, even though the "typical" scan time may be only a few msec. In our test scenario, a Kepware OPC server was configured to poll more than 2000 variables on a 250msec interval. Our test recorded that the scan extension occurred on about 2% of scans, so 98% of scans had no impact.

This problem affects all Janus processors with firmware 1.24 and below, and Janus Coprocessors with firmware V1.05.

We're presently working on a solution and will update this Technical Advisory when a fix is available. If you're unsure whether you have this situation in your application, see the notes on the following page for instructions.

Robert Peck
Senior Vice-President
Control Technology Inc.

Viewing Cycle Statistics to Determine if You Have a CAMP Server Scan Extension

You can view your cycle statistics by opening the processor web page, and going to Statistics – Cycle Statistics. This screen capture shows the relevant entries to look for.