

INTERNET : www.arel.fr



All the news, real time on the Internet.
 You will find at all times Topkapi's basic documentation, the user's corner, handy information, the list of foreign partners, etc. Printable technical sheets are also available.
 If access to certain areas requires a password, use the request forms, and a password will be provided to you within a very short time.
 To help regular interrogation, an update log has been added, enabling direct access to recent information.

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POINT OF VIEW

Components decomposed

When Microsoft introduced the OLE concept in the worldwide computing scene, I first thought this would be like facing bulls in the arenas in the South West of France. We would have to avoid very closely the sharp horns of these linking and embedding objects. Then, this concept improved, first in COM, then ActiveX. Bull-fighting or surfing, which one should I choose ? Using ActiveX, I feel like practicing some kind of sport, and I can now terminate my membership at the gym !

One can find so many different and unrelated elements in this area ... But let us be serious and... cautious. ActiveX components are great, but we should not use them indiscriminately. OK for a customized interface, a non-critical application. Not for sensitive applications though. Why show so many reservations ? Because the components you are going to use are from various suppliers, that they will evolve independently from one another, that the stability of the construction will be at best the reflection of that of the weakest component, and that although individually they are excellent, assembling various components is a matter of specific programming, which requires testing, validating ...

Of course, AREAL support the notion of ActiveX components (see article about WEBSERV), but the heart of the supervisor we supply, TOPKAPI Vision, is and will remain a native application, and not a disorganized assembly of components.

Sylvain STARCK - Technical Manager

EVENTS



POLLUTEC 99
AREAL: Hall 3
Stand X23
21-24 September 99
 Paris Parc des Expositions de Villepinte

As every year, we are ready to welcome the environment professionals concerned with supervising, collecting and processing technical data.

We have more specifically prepared for you **PRIMO Vision**, our new remote management tool.

See you soon hopefully.

To receive invitations, tick ① readers' service.



AUTOMATION
Europe 99
AREAL : Stand B 54
5-7 October 99
 Paris Parc des Expositions de la porte de Versailles

A new location and schedule for the Automation exhibition, which will now be held every two years alternating with the Elec exhibition, and remains our reference event. We will be expecting to meet many of you.

Innovation Grand Prix

TOPKAPI Vision's Webserv component has been preselected to enter the exhibition's Innovation Grand Prix. (see hereafter the global philosophy of the tools we have designed for the Internet).

However, do not neglect other innovations, sometimes less prone to media coverage, but not less useful, and more particularly the SOFTLINK component which interfaces with controller programming development tools..



DEVELOPMENTS

SOFTLINK: controller programming tools interface

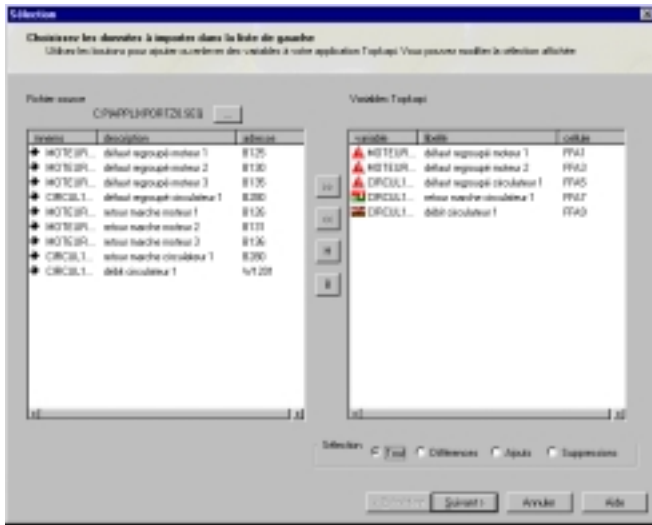
Why re-enter in your supervisor programming data already entered in your controller programming software ?

TOPKAPI Vision now prevents this useless waste of time (version 2.6 32 bits, to be released in November, 1999): the insert function enables selection of a controller variable and selection of a variable processing profile (or template). The data available in controller programming (address, mnemonic, title) are then automatically used in TOPKAPI Vision, and the profile specifies the processes to be performed:

for example, Emergency Failure 1 with logging on failure occurrence and disappearance. You can create as many profiles as you wish, according to your needs.

You can also choose to work in the "Import" mode (use the information in their current condition) or in the "Refresh" mode (use any modifications made later to controller programming).

The software workshops currently supported are those from SCHNEIDER and SIEMENS. For the other vendors, please contact us.



PRIMO Vision: specializing in remote management

En For many remote management applications, the use of a supervisor is often considered as a costly and complex option. Indeed, the flexibility openness and power of supervisors require proper knowledge of the product in order to implement it. Many remote management users wish to use the data from their stations in a very simple way, and reduce the costs of centralized management stations. It is to meet with this expectation that we designed the PRIMO Vision product.

The specifications sheet was simple (at least theoretically):

- Use AREAL developments (base TOPKAPI Vision) avoiding the use of desktop products such as EXCEL or ACCESS which are not designed for constant industrial use.
- Avoid information double entries by using for the configuration of the central station the configuration from the stations.
- Simplify by all means the application setting stage, and therefore help getting started and reduce training time ; more particularly, avoiding all parameter requests by the operator, as the system is able to choose by itself or suggest the answer.

In practical terms, PRIMO Vision enables:

- Real time viewing of station data,
- Processing alarms with logs including source and reception time stamping
- Station manual and automatic connections
- Using a graphics interface to access various stations, knowing the time of the last connection, as well as all the communication management settings
- Representing data in the form of trend plots for forwarding alarms to stand-by operators

The implementation is performed easily:

- Choose the communication ports
- Choose the remote management stations: their configuration is then automatically loaded and used by the central station (immediate availability: PERAX and SÔFREL stations; other vendors: please contact us)
- Set the station periodical call settings
- Move and reformat the data in tables when PRIMO Vision's default display is not appropriate
- Adjust if required the data presentation in the graphics screen.



To conclude, PRIMO Vision simplifies operation by focusing only on vital aspects, and reduces by a factor of 3 to 5 the cost of final applications provided you accept to restrict your requirements.

If you wish later to upgrade the application with more sophisticated functions not supported by PRIMO Vision, upgrading to TOPKAPI Vision is ensured through ascending compatibility.

The self-configuration functions described will also be shortly be integrated into TOPKAPI Vision.

INTERNET – INTRANET: what's new ?

The deployment of the Internet enables widespread access to information using a single media. But we should not be misled: after all, the Internet is merely a huge TCP/IP network to which everyone can connect.

Electronic mail tools, and above all the HTML standard with hyperlinks have enabled computers to use a common language. However, data confidentiality and security may be compromised. In addition, a standard browser cannot handle everything and we believe - you probably guessed - supervision: experience shows that using a basic browser to display graphic synoptic diagrams does not ensure display and refreshing times satisfactory with low rate connections (64 kbps or less). Still not convinced ? Try seeing a real application which was not developed specifically for the cause.

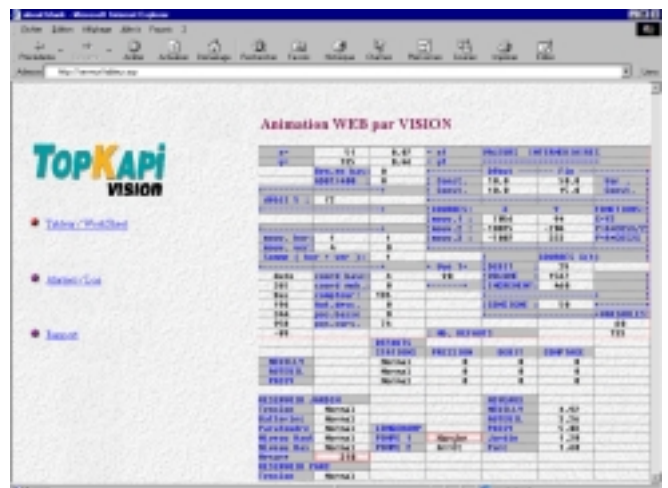
As far as we are concerned, at AREAL we have chosen to ensure access to supervision data through the Internet/Intranet using two different methods:

- WEBSERV feature added to Topkapi
- NETVIEW client station, both local and remote

WEBSERV

This server enables addressing, from any standard browser, data tables, alarms lists and production reports using (preset) HTML pages supplied by the system or you have set up according to your own needs.

It is voluntarily restricted to text type information in order to avoid slowing down the display, but if required you can add images.



NETVIEW

From its design stage, TOPKAPI Vision's 32-bit version was based for network communication exclusively through TCP/IP, while keeping the functional specifications of the older versions.

For a remote client station, we now use Windows RAS (Remote Access Services). The APIs are supported, which means that, as before, just click an icon to connect with your Internet provider or any other Topkapi station.

The features specific to the remote client station for low rate links by modem are maintained on the NETVIEW station: local application copy, optimized exchange, automatic remote application updates.

But compared with former techniques, using RAS enables making network connection simpler: the TOPKAPI Vision client shares modem access with other applications such as a browser, file management tools for remote maintenance, etc. On an Intranet or a fast network, this prevents loading the network at the expense of the other applications.

NETVIEW hence offers widespread access to the Internet/Intranet, enabling connection to a TOPKAPI Vision server application by displaying a synoptic diagram page in normal conditions in less than 2 seconds. Of course, if you call a station in the US at peak hours... this will take between 5 and 10 seconds.

Stand-by: VISITERM

VISITERM is TOPKAPI Vision's new standby management module. It enables several concurrent communications, in incoming and outgoing calls. The use of telephone lines is optimized, as the same modem can be used for example for remote management and standby calls. As an incoming call, a modem however remains restricted to one function because of a communication protocol choice.

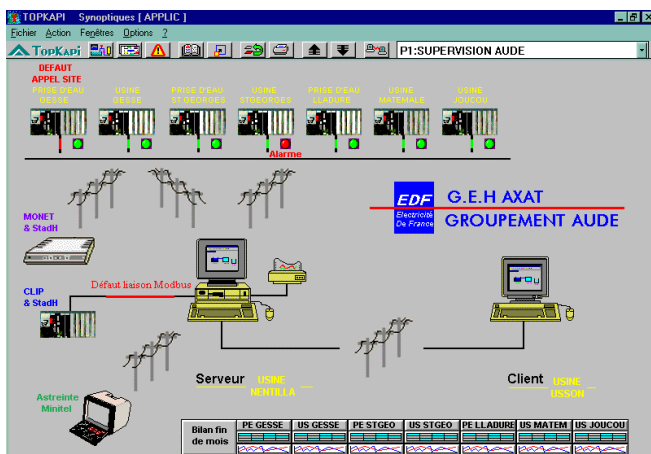
ACHIEVEMENTS

. We wish to thank our customers and partners who devoted some of their precious time to help us write this section.

Current flows between EDF and TOPKAPI Vision ...

ENERGIE LANGUEDOC ROUSSILLON, a regional branch of EDF PRODUCTION TRANSPORT, have entrusted the management of 3 major dams and 13 hydraulic plants to the G.E.H. AXAT. The Groupement d'Exploitation Hydraulique AXAT manages all the EDF facilities in the Aude, Têt, Tech valleys and their affluents. Their headquarters are located in Quillan, and they intervene in 3 "départements": Aude, Pyrénées Orientales and part of Ariège.

Beyond energy production, the G.E.H. AXAT takes into account all the aspects related with the use of water, for example regulating rivers for irrigation and organizing activities centered around water.



A new internal organization has led the GEH AXAT to study a global solution for centralized management, and their choice was TOPKAPI Vision.

The latter ensures full operation (information acquisition and processing) linked with Witnets on classical telephone lines. By

default, the "SCHEDULER" integrated to TOPKAPI Vision enables filtering the alarms: differed during open hours, urgent permanently. During the day, the alarms are managed on the central station or in the remote client station, which enables managing the application identically as with the central station, with the same possibilities. To route this information, TOPKAPI Vision is linked with the StadH, an EDF certified standby facility which warns the agents. After acknowledgement, these agents connect on the central station to run a diagnostics.

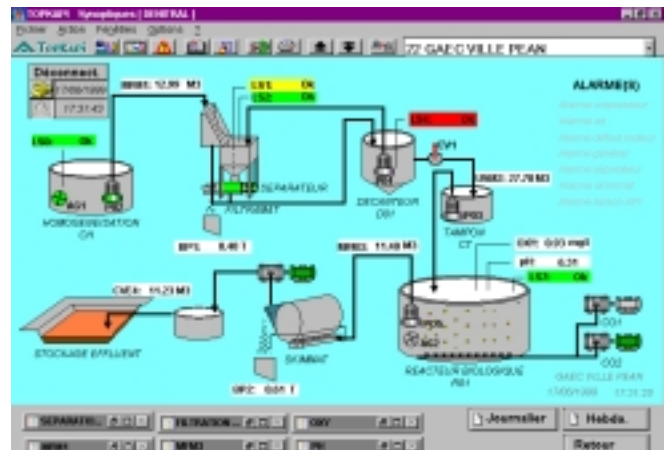
According to William GENTIL, who implemented the application, the choice was TOPKAPI Vision because of its easy setting and match with the needs. In addition, TOPKAPI Vision enables operation and analysis, the implementation of device (information on the number of triggers of the unit circuit breakers, end of month energy calculations,...). As system deployment was completed only recently, the few operators to be trained are still in the system appropriation stage. This appropriation is globally easy, even more so as a mini training session is performed internally, helped by the user friendliness and ergonomics of TOPKAPI Vision added William GENTIL.

TOPKAPI Vision and hog manure...

ITECOM, an integrator specializing in automation solutions for the agrofood business and the environment installed TOPKAPI Vision for DENITRAL, a company specializing in the construction of STEPs (water treatment stations) for treating hog manure.

DENITRAL's choice was TOPKAPI Vision, who best match requirements:

- acquisition, automatic interrogation, remote instructions, printing curves and restoring alarms.
- Full control of the facility by DENITRAL



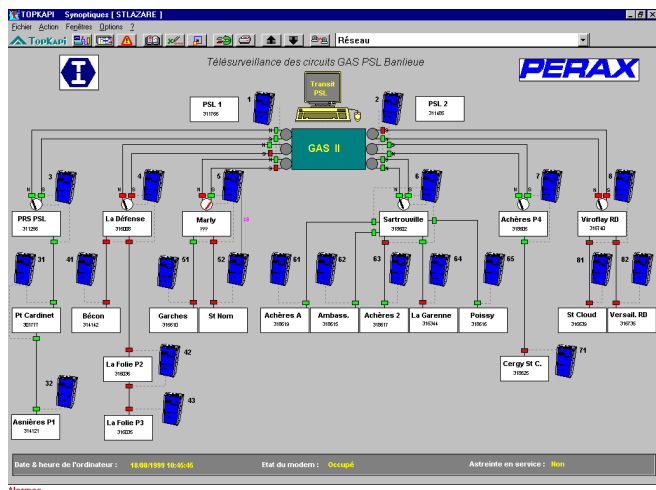
TOPKAPI Vision supervises remotely the STEPs fitted with a controller and a remote management satellite (in the long run the project will group 100 sites distributed over the Bretagne and Pays de Loire regions). The objective of this application is to enable DENITRAL to optimize remote management of the stations and effective reprogramming of all sites every night to recover the data. Hence every morning, DENITRAL can view their process representative curves and interrogate summary reports generated.

TOPKAPI Vision's ease of use together with a clever initial setting of ITECOM enabling DENITRAL to add new stations using copy/paste without any outside help. As says Stéphane BRANDEAU from ITECOM, the architecture of the real-time database in the form of a spreadsheet, as well as the object-oriented design of the graphics editor, perfectly match this type of requirements.

TOPKAPI Vision on the right track ...

INFORMA DATA, based in TAVERNY, chose to install TOPKAPI Vision at the SNCF PARIS Saint Lazare train station. The application enables supervising the transmission of signals between the various stations from Saint Lazare to Mantes la Jolie. These signals which ensure monitoring of trains, are transmitted through modems linked with P200X stations supplied by PERAX. Most modems are doubled. If a modem fails, the P200X calls TOPKAPI Vision over an internal RTC line. The latter can switch to another modem. This action can be performed manually by a simple click upon operator intervention, or fully automatically set within TOPKAPI Vision.

TOPKAP Vision's integrated standby mode warns the agents when an alarm occurs outside the human presence periods. It should be noted that this application was set internally. The skills of the agents enabled them to handle this on their own, after discovering TOPKAPI Vision during a training session provided by PERAX.



USERS' CORNER

- Year 2000:** the Year 2000 compatibility sheet is available on our Internet site. Although there is no recent information (except for the following article), the latest updates dating back to February '99, we recommend you check that you have up-to-date information.
- Year 2000 and Wit or Aquaveil remote management stations:** if you have recently updated your Wit or Aquaveil for the switchover to the year 2000, check the proper operation of incoming calls. Modifications made by the manufacturer can make the new stations incompatible with versions of Topkapi earlier than 2.5. The calls made by Topkapi perform normally, but on-alarm calls initiated by the station may fail to succeed, and if your tests are not thorough enough, you might be misled into believing everything's fine. Should a problem arise, call your station supplier, but you may also contact Areal for more information.
- Part of the AREAL Web site has been translated for our friends who speak the language of CERVANTES.**
- System functions:** you wish to display a synoptic diagram page, or open an alarm view automatically, stop the alarm buzzer after 5 seconds, view a modem's status ...The SYS() and ESYS() functions are what you need. The list of parameters is described in part C of TOPKAPI Vision's manual.

READERS' SERVICE

LTV8
 M., Mrs., Miss:
 Company:
 Function/Dept:
 Address:
 Telephone: / Fax:
 Email:
 Wish to receive (please tick):

- ① Invitation (s) for Pollutec 99 Nr: ...
- ② Invitation (s) for Automation 99 Nr: ...
- ③ An Internet access code
- ④ AREAL Web site new products subscription
- ⑤ Year 2000 compatibility updates note
- Other copies of this newsletter:
 Nr: French Nr: English
- Previous issues of the TOPKAPI Vision newsletter
 (Contents of the various issues available on the Internet)
- Sales brochure French Nr:
 English Nr:
- Technical manual
- Price list
- Evaluation version (CD-ROM)

I am:
 A final user An integrator
 A reseller
 Interested in a distribution/reselling activity

I have already implemented TOPKAPI Vision:
 YES NO

I am a user and wish to receive the upgrading terms
 Nr of license(s):

- I intend to purchase equipment in:
 3 months 6 months 1 year and more
- I wish to continue receiving TOPKAPI Vision's newsletter on a regular basis
 - I no longer wish to receive TOPKAPI Vision's newsletter
 - Please send TOPKAPI Vision's newsletter to the following persons or colleagues:

Your comments, suggestions, new feature requirements:

Company stamp

Please send to:
AREAL
 16 Avenue Jean Moulin
 77176 SAVIGNY LE TEMPLE

Tel: +33 (0)1.60.63.07.52
Fax: +33 (0)1.64.41.90.15
Internet: www.arel.fr
E-mail: areal@arel.fr