



A Rockwell Automation Company

Edmonton Journal Eastgate Plant Automation

The Client:

The Edmonton Journal is a Southham daily newspaper publication. The Edmonton Journal has a circulation is most of approximately 250,000 newspapers and covers

central and Northern Alberta as well as areas of Northern British Columbia.

The Requirement:

The Edmonton Journal wished to replace the existing PDP11 computer controlling their "Fast Belt" system. The Fast Belt system is a conveyor system used to take newspaper bundles from the strapping machines in the mailroom and deliver them to the appropriate docks in the loading area.

The project constraints required the new control system to be programmed tested and constructed

without interfering in any way with the existing system. In addition, during the proving period for the new control system, operations needed to be able to switch back to the existing control system in five minutes or less. The Edmonton Journal also wanted the ability to log real-time production data into their Oracle database server.

The Design Solution:

The new control system for the Fast Belt runs on a SLC-5/04 chosen for its compactness, fast scan rate and high speed I/O handling capabilities. The Control room interface was developed on two (2) PC workstations running Taylor process windows software connected to the PLC using a DH+ network.

PLC software was developed to control the loading of different products (newspaper bundles with various inserts) from the nine strapping machines, onto the conveyor belt. The program would then track the product into the truck loading area and deliver it to a truck awaiting that product. The truck would continue to receive product until it had received its required load.

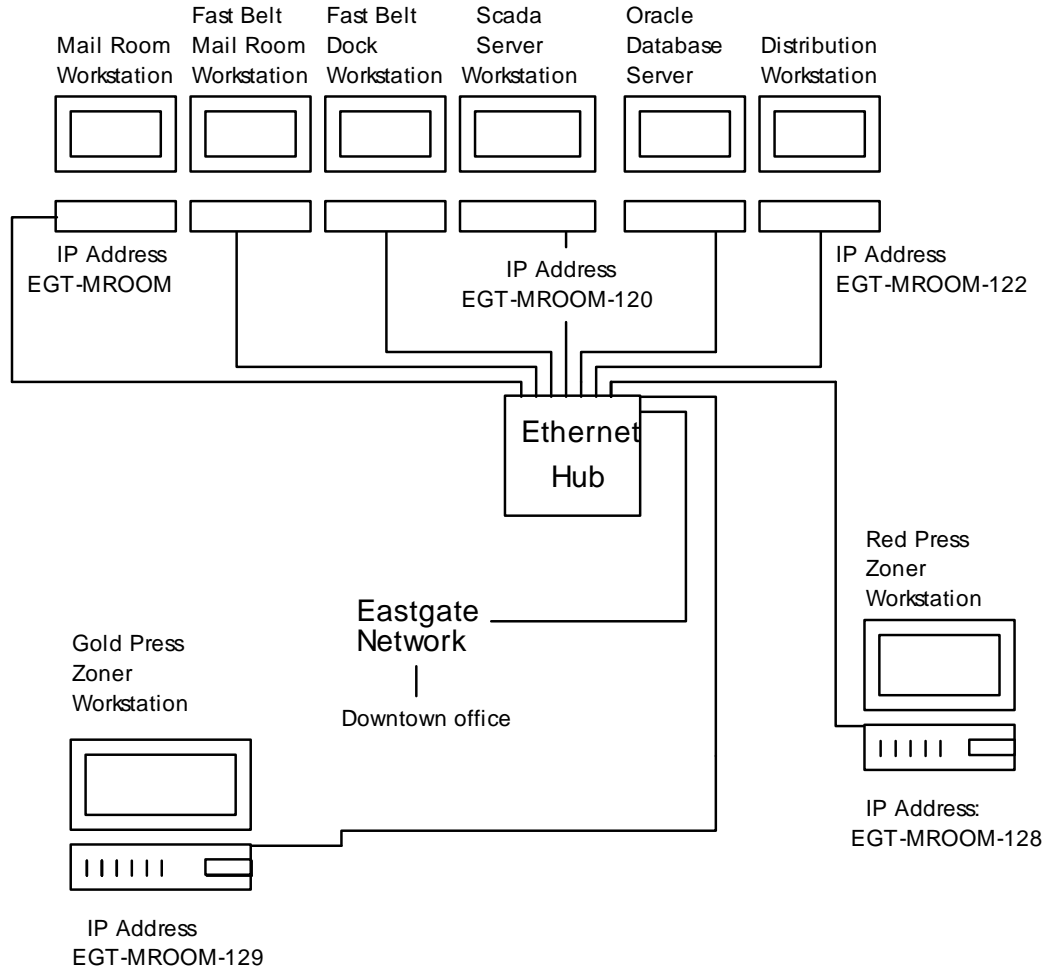
Using two graphical operator interfaces, control room operators can monitor the conveyer system and select what products are being produced.

An intercept panel was installed between the existing field I/O and the PDP-11 computer I/O cards. The intercept panel allowed us to reroute field control to our new panel by moving a set of terminal block pins. Tests could be accomplished when the paper was not in production while switching back to the old system for the production run.



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System Specifications:

- Oracle Database Server
- SQ2
- AB-Data Highway
- Taylor process Windows
- Delphi custom software
- AB PLC 5/04

For further information or to contact a Hinz office near you, please check our website at:

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