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STANDARDS UPDATE

ISA112 SCADA Systems Standard: The Document Begins to Take Shape

By Graham Nasby, ISA112 standards committee co-chair

Since its establishment in late-2016, the ISA112 SCADA Systems standards committee has been hard at work developing a new management lifecycle for the long-term management of SCADA systems and a standardized workflow for managing the SCADA aspects of capital upgrade projects.

Based on work to date, the committee released the draft ISA112 lifecycle and the ISA112 model architecture diagrams in mid-2020. PDF copies are available at www.isa.org/isa112/. See the Summer 2020 issue of the WWID newsletter for an introduction to these two reference diagrams. These diagrams will also be soon joined by several SCADA system maturity model diagrams that the committee is currently working on.

In parallel with diagram development, the committee has been working on the actual text for the upcoming ISA112 standards documents. This has included writing the Table of Contents and developing “point-form” content for each of the document’s various sections. Individual volunteer section authors have been using this outline to create the first draft of the documents’ written content.

As of January 2021, the ISA112 master working document has reached a staggering 393 pages with about 75% of the written content now at the first draft stage. It is expected that once the first rough draft is complete, the page count will reach approximately 500 pages. The committee will then begin the process of editing/refining the rough draft content, and then portioning the text into the core ISA112 standards documents and associated ISA112 technical reports.

It is expected the main ISA112 SCADA Systems standard will be published in 3 parts, namely: Part 1: SCADA Terminology and Diagrams, Part 2: Requirements for the ISA112 management lifecycle, and Part 3: Requirements for the ISA112 model architecture. The development of standardized SCADA terminology has been a major goal of the ISA112 committee. Part 1 will provide a standardized way for end users, vendors, consultants and contractors to communicate to each other when discussing SCADA systems. The Part 1 document will also include the already-developed ISA112 SCADA management lifecycle diagram and ISA112 model architecture diagram along with a brief introduction of each. The committees is aiming to publish Part 1 in 2022/2023.

At present the ISA112 committee comprises of over 210 volunteer SCADA experts from around the world and from a wide range of industries. To find out more about the ISA112 SCADA standards committee visit www.isa.org/isa112