

BASEstar Integration Platform

A Software Platform for Creating Integrated Manufacturing Solutions

digital



Integrating Manufacturing Raises Product Quality While Lowering Production Costs

Today's manufacturers recognize the need to integrate automated manufacturing operations. Passing critical data between operations saves time and money while increasing overall product quality. But while manufacturers are aware of the benefits of implementing computer-integrated manufacturing solutions, they are just as aware of the hurdles. The experiences of the past decade have shown that large CIM projects have brought inflexible systems that require a complete overhaul each time the business changes. What manufacturers need is a solid foundation on which to build integrated manufacturing solutions—a foundation that can easily be enhanced and extended to meet ever-growing and changing automation needs.

Solutions That Grow to Meet Your Changing Business Needs

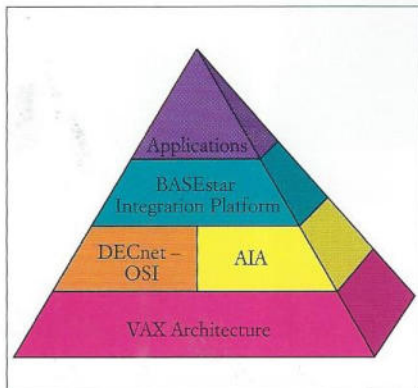
The BASEstar Integration Platform provides manufacturers with a foundation for creating integrated manufacturing solutions using a building-block approach. BASEstar software does not offer ready-made manufacturing applications; instead it offers a solid base for creating flexible, extensible solutions that are tailored to meet specific business needs. The BASEstar platform integrates data from applications and devices currently in use in the manufacturing environment while facilitating the creation of new applications for sharing factory data.

Integrated Software and Service Solutions from Digital

BASEstar Integration Platform is a Packaged Application Software Solution (PASS) offering software components and professional services that facilitate the development and integration of manufacturing solutions. BASEstar Integration Platform offers software with a 90-day warranty, documentation, and user orientation services. The BASEstar platform is available worldwide and is delivered and supported by experienced Digital consultants—experts who understand manufacturing automation needs.

Digital's Platform Approach for Long-Term Success

A platform provides a set of capabilities for common use throughout an application environment. The BASEstar Integration Platform is designed for integrating factory-floor devices and applications into a complete manufacturing solution. BASEstar software is built to take advantage of the VAX architecture and Digital's world-renowned DECnet networking capabilities, while evolving with Digital's Application Integration Architecture.



Digital offers a superior hardware/software/networking platform to meet your manufacturing automation and integration needs.

Building integrated manufacturing solutions on the BASEstar platform lowers the cost and risk of implementing solutions for you – today's manufacturer. BASEstar platform features enable you to build and integrate manufacturing applications that can be easily adapted and extended to address changes in business needs dictated by the marketplace. By providing fundamental consistency among applications layered on the platform, BASEstar software reduces

the redundancies and maintenance problems inherent in most manufacturing systems. The Digital BASEstar platform provides integration capabilities today that you can utilize to ensure the long-term success of your investment in manufacturing automation.

Building on BASEstar Platform Lowers the Cost of Implementing Solutions

Building on the BASEstar platform does not mean building from the ground up. Through its standard set of software functions such as messaging, data management and object definition, layering applications on the BASEstar platform lowers the initial cost of developing basic system functions and also eliminates redundancies between applications.

The power of the BASEstar platform's integration capabilities lies in the fact that you integrate applications with the platform one time only. Once an application is integrated, it is able to share data with other applications layered on the platform as well as applications that are added later, because they all share data through common software features.

BASEstar Software Protects Your Investment in Factory Applications and Equipment

You can use the BASEstar platform to share data among devices and applications in use in your factory today. The BASEstar platform can integrate custom-built manufacturing applications as well as applications from Digital and other vendors. BASEstar software can be used to connect to existing factory-floor devices such as programmable controllers, numerical control devices, robots, bar code readers and gauges through custom-built or ready-made BASEstar device access software.

Highlights

- Data management capabilities for defining and referencing factory data elements locally and globally within a BASEstar system.
- Distributed messaging for creating, receiving and sending application messages.
- Callable interface providing well-documented service routines modeled after VMS system services, for use by application programmers in developing and integrating manufacturing solutions.
- Services for coordinating processing events among applications, automatic startup of BASEstar applications and a central log for recording and storing BASEstar system events.
- Generic factory device access and management offering a single method for gathering information and coordinating operations on various factory devices.
- Ready-made device access software for communication with an ever-growing number of factory devices from major vendors. Consulting services are also available for assistance in developing customized device access software.
- A wide range of optional professional services, from needs analysis and strategic planning and design through coding, testing, integration, training and support.

BASEstar Integration Platform's Distributed Capabilities Let You Put the Processing Power Where It's Needed

Because BASEstar software is built to use DECnet capabilities, you can distribute processing power throughout your factory and share information as needed. The BASEstar Integration Platform is designed to run on the entire VAX product line, from a single MicroVAX processor to the VAXcluster environment.

With the BASEstar Foundation You Can Start Small and Grow

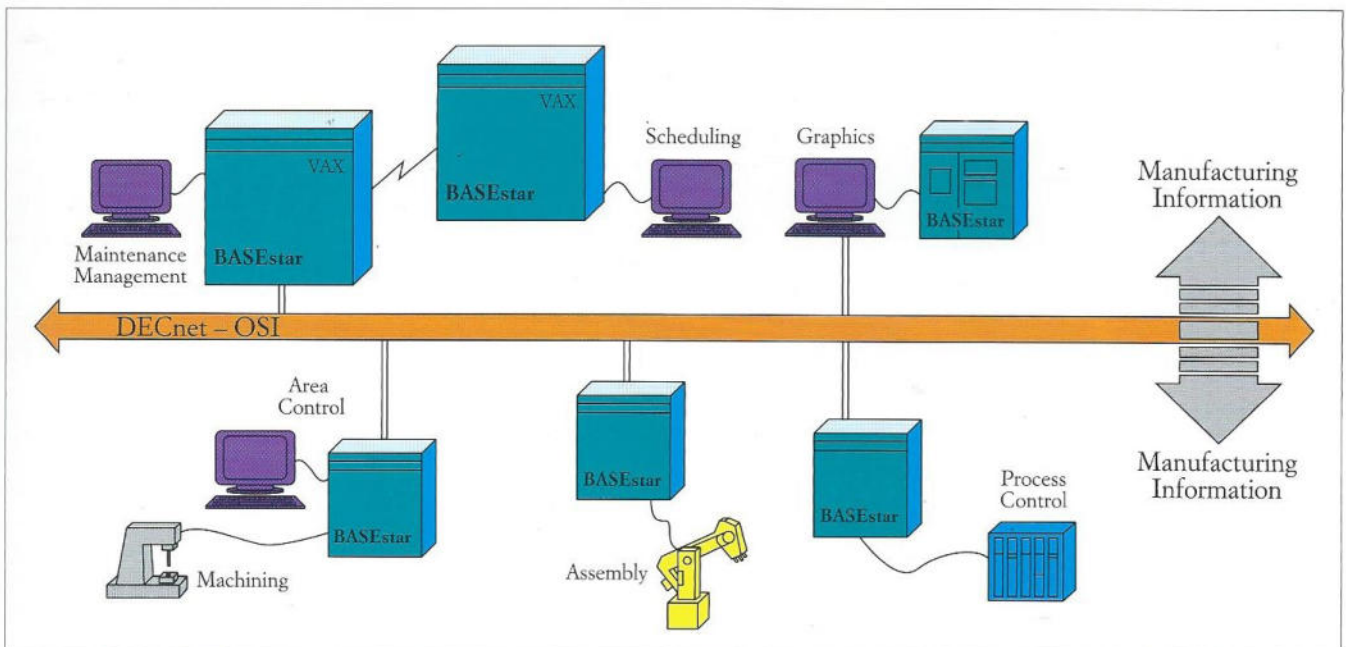
You can start small by automating a critical manufacturing function and then expand your manufacturing solution to include other applications when you're ready. Because you're building on a solid platform foundation, you don't need to worry about the compatibility of future manufacturing systems development. Once applications are integrated with

BASEstar platform functions, data can be shared between current and future layered applications without reprogramming. The BASEstar Integration Platform allows you to automate and integrate your manufacturing environment step-by-manageable-step so that your manufacturing solutions can grow and change in response to your business needs.

BASEstar Software Maximizes Development Efforts and Lowers Maintenance Costs

When layered on the BASEstar platform, application software is tied only to BASEstar data and object definitions, not to actual data sources such as applications and factory devices. This "application independence" makes software adaptable to changes in factory configurations and flexible enough to be used in other plants within the company. Software is adapted by just changing the definitions and not the applications themselves.

Software portability maximizes investment in software development by making it flexible and reusable. And, once developers become familiar with using the BASEstar platform, software maintenance costs are lowered. Software maintainers don't need to constantly "switch gears" in solving software problems and making functional enhancements to existing software since all software is developed using the same basic features.



You can run applications where they are needed while sharing the data across the factory.

Successful Integrated Manufacturing Solutions from Digital

At Digital, we understand that computer technology provides only the potential for integration excellence. That is why we offer an Enterprise Services program to help you integrate human and organizational requirements with business goals and advanced technology to create total business solutions. Digital's Enterprise Integration Services consultants work in partnership with you to understand your specific business problems and employ proven tools and methodologies in building solutions tailored to meet your business needs.

Digital—An Industry Leader in Systems Integration

Digital offers a portfolio of Enterprise Services that support the four stages of enterprise-wide integration—planning, design, implementation and management. Our project expertise covers everything from designing and delivering customized hardware and software solutions to providing the training and support your business needs to operate and maintain those solutions for as long as you use them. And best of all, integrated manufacturing solutions from Digital are delivered and supported by a worldwide network of 40,000 distinguished service professionals—experts with a proven track record in delivering integration in everything from small projects to enterprise-wide solutions.

Delivery

This Packaged Application Software Solution is delivered by local Digital consultants and includes software and user documentation. It is covered by a 90-day warranty.

For more information about BASEstar Integration Platform, contact your Digital representative.

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