

FrontVue



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Client GUI For
OEMs and End Users

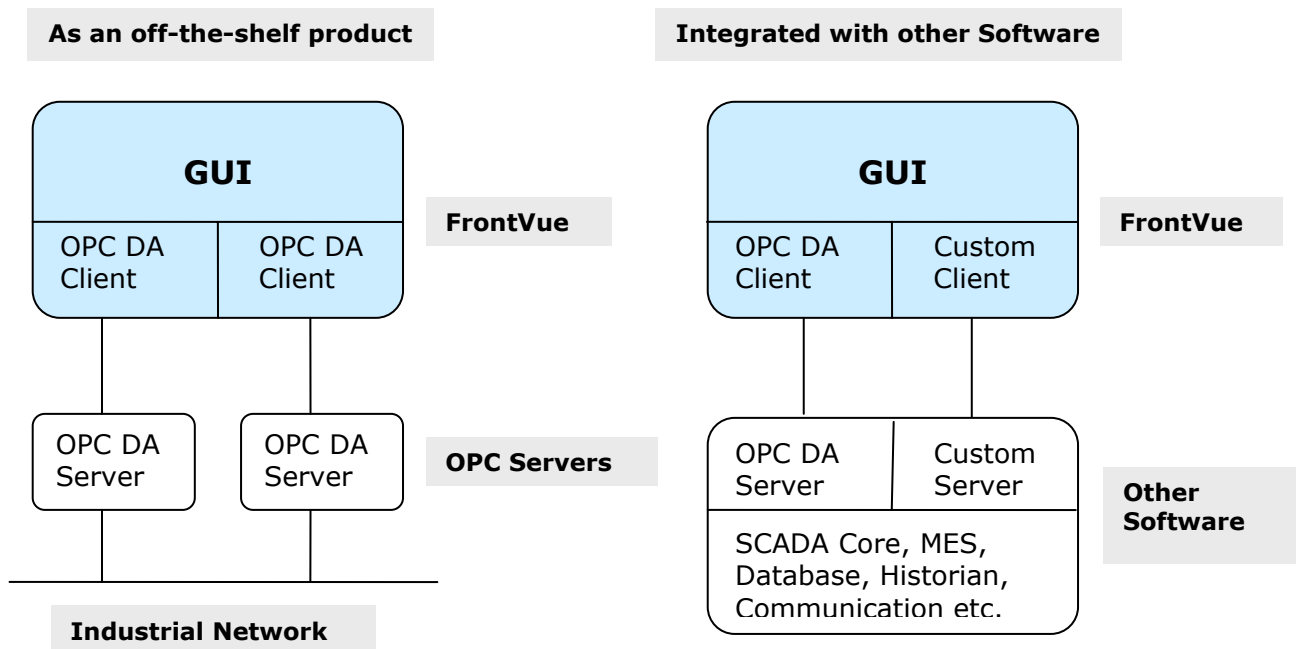
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What is **FrontVue** and Who should use it?

FrontVue is a client GUI (Graphical User Interface) for Windows 2000™, XP™ and Server 2003™. It provides everything you need to design and display comprehensive animated graphics of your process on a PC. **FrontVue** includes an OPC™ client component that collects the real-time information from OPC™ servers. A wide range of OPC™ servers is already available from PLC manufacturers and 3rd parties.

End Users and System Integrators can use **FrontVue** as an off-the-shelf product. OEMs can badge it as their own product. **FrontVue** can also be integrated with existing software to create an up to date look and feel for an established product without the expense of a complete re-write.



Application Development

FrontVue applications are developed as one or more interactive windows linked together to provide menus, process mimics, status pages etc. Each window can contain ActiveX® Controls, Java™ Beans and native **FrontVue** drawing elements. A drawing property manager enables you to define sets of properties that will be applied when creating or modifying objects. Integrated development and run-time environments allow changes to be made on-line without the need to compile or restart.

ActiveX® Container

FrontVue is an ActiveX® container. Developers can integrate off-the-shelf 3rd party components by simply pasting them into a window. An enhanced VBA style properties list allows you not only to view and modify ActiveX® properties but also to link them directly to the real-time values of variables from an OPC™ server.

VBA Scripting

Microsoft™ Visual Basic for Applications is an integral part of **FrontVue** providing programmatic access to the properties, methods and events of all native drawing elements, the project environment, OPC™ variables and any ActiveX® components used in the project. Using VBA you can adapt **FrontVue** to the special needs of the user and easily integrate third party software such as spread-sheets, databases and reporting tools.

2D & 3D Graphic Engine

FrontVue has its own native window editor using the latest drawing technology for maximum productivity. The comprehensive animation range includes colour change, variable filling, visibility, text display, exchange, movement, rotation and sizing. Bitmaps including animated GIF files and AVIs may be imported and animated as well as 2D and 3D DirectX objects from CAD software.



Zoom and De-clutter

De-clutter templates may be created to reveal and hide information as mimics are zoomed in and out. Mimics can be larger than the physical display and scrolled using vertical and horizontal scroll bars. CAD like layers may also be used to hide and reveal information according to the current user.

Object Technology

Re-usable graphic objects are easily created without the need for special tools. Modification of any object is automatically propagated wherever it is used. User configurable libraries allow you to organise and distribute objects specific to your industry sector.

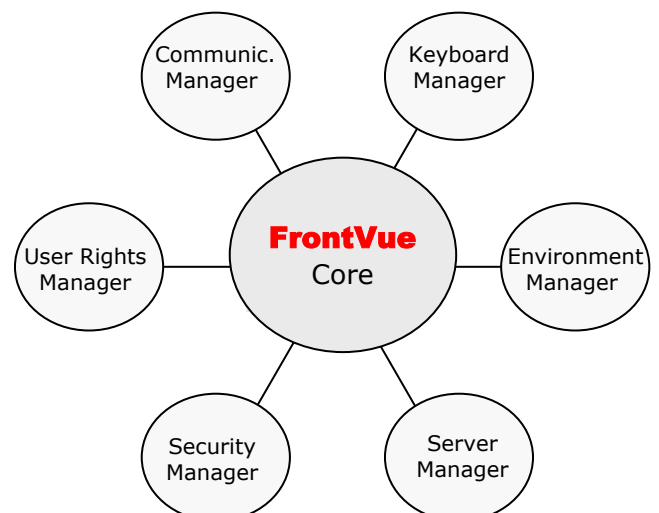
Communication

A separate manager handles communication with PLCs and other kinds of industrial equipment. As standards evolve support for new types of server can easily be added without the need to modify the **FrontVue** core. Redundant server capability is included for applications where communication is critical.

Internal Architecture

FrontVue is highly customisable with many of the functionalities provided by external components communicating with the core using a COM/DCOM compliant interface.

Development tools are available to allow the user to modify or even replace the external components to tailor **FrontVue** to individual requirements.



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