

Connecting jMobile systems to OPC Servers

This technical note describes how to connect
jMobile systems any 3rd part OPC server using
the OPC client connectivity options

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1 Introduction

The jMobile run-time for Win32 systems is featuring an interesting option allowing connectivity with 3rd part OPC servers software via its native OPC client support.

The OPC connectivity is available as native jMobile communication protocol configurable in the jMobile Studio protocol editor as any other communication driver.

Note: *OPC Client communication driver is supported only on JMSE-WIN runtimes and supports only “in-process” communication with OPC servers components (the JMSE-WIN application and the OPC server should be running on the same PC).*

2 Configuring the communication driver

The OPC Client communication driver has been included in jMobile Suite starting from version 0.80.027.

In jMobile Studio create a new Project; from the “Protocols” node of the project tree view, open the Protocol editor and select “OPCClient” from the list of available driver. Click on the “edit” button in the Configuration column to display the configuration dialog. Figure 1 shows the dialog.

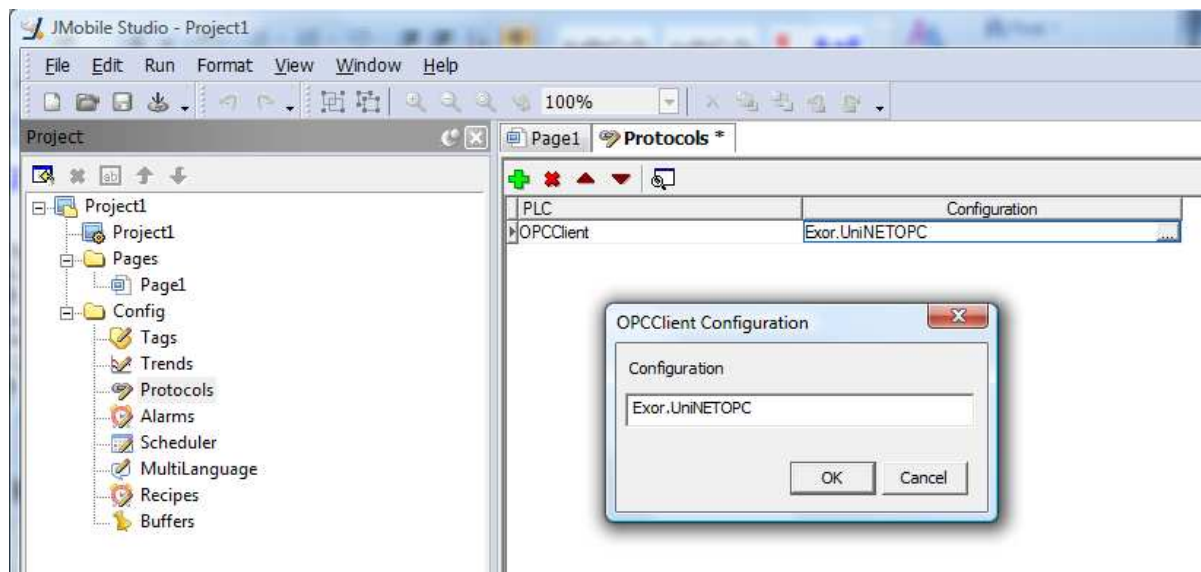


Figure 1

The driver requires only one parameter; the Configuration string should contain the exact name of the OPC Server as it is registered on the PC.

Above example shows the case of the UniNET OPC Server.

Names for OPC servers are normally case sensitive.

Note: *Current OPC Client driver version does not support OPC server browsing*

2.1 Configuring Tags

Tags should be manually defined in the jMobile Tag editor accessible from the “Tag” icon of the project tree as showed Figure 2.

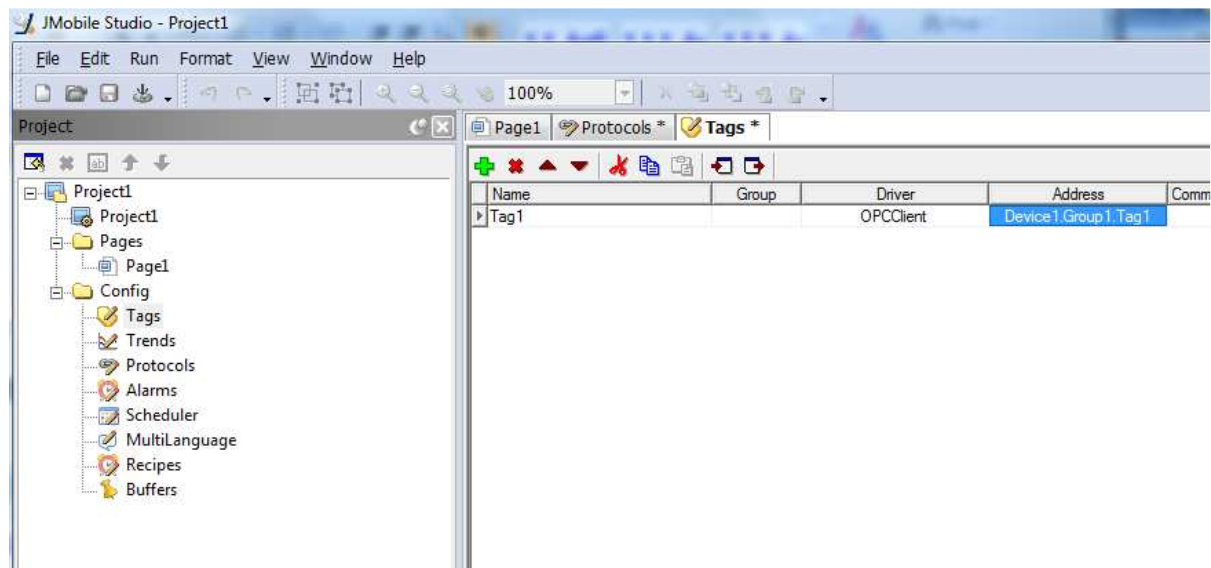


Figure 2

The “Name” column contains the Tag name as it will be used in the jMobile page editor.

The “Address” information should contain the full tag location copied from OPC Server.

The next Figure 3 shows an example of a Tag configured in UniNET OPC server for “Device1” and belonging to “Group1”.

In this case the address information required in jMobile tag editor corresponds to the following string: Device1.Group1.Tag1.

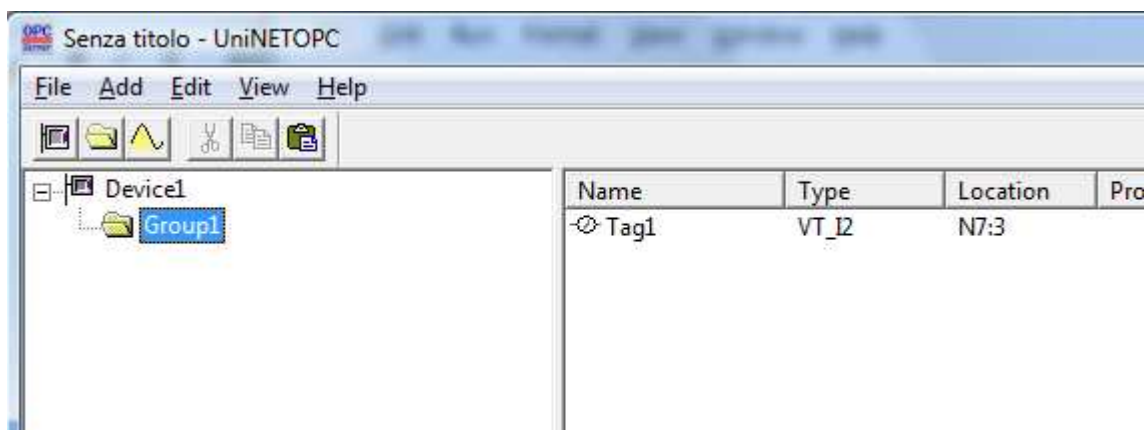


Figure 3

Note: Current OPC Client driver version does not support OPC server tag browsing. It will be part of next enhancements.

3 Remote control for UniOP legacy systems

The jMobile OPC Client communication driver gives some very interesting opportunity to extend the connectivity of existing UniOP system using UniNET networks Ethernet based.

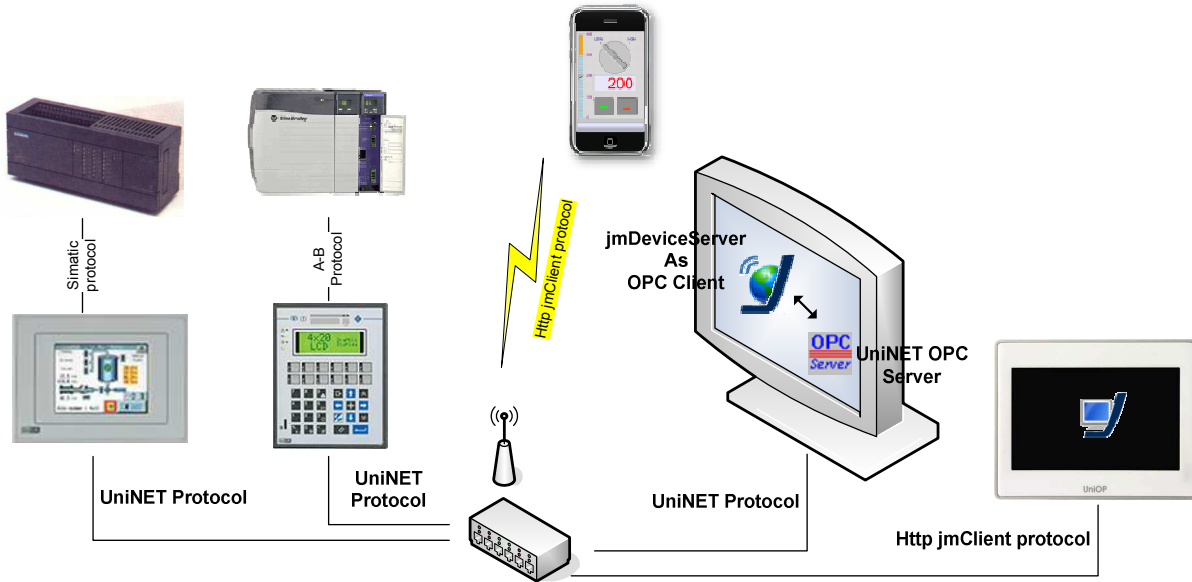


Figure 4

A personal computer running UniNET OPC Server can be already used as UniNET Client and can be seen as a concentrator of data coming from the panels on the network, each one connected to its own controller.

On the same computer where UniNET OPC is running, jMobile runtime for Windows systems can be installed as well and acts as OPC client connecting to the UniNET OPC server.

The jMobile runtime for PC is a very effective way you can use to create PC HMI connecting to the field devices via the existing UniOP panels.

At the same time the jMobile runtime is able to offer unrivaled connectivity options to external devices that can connect to it via local network or internet when in presence of proper routings.