

## April 2011 The Rise of the Data Historian

No matter what line of business you are in today, it's all about the data. Lots of data! Data from every possible source! This data can be collected manually, i.e. by someone writing down information onto a sheet of paper, or by punching numbers into spread sheets or data collectors, or it can be collected automatically using automation systems such as control system historians or funnelled off into other systems.

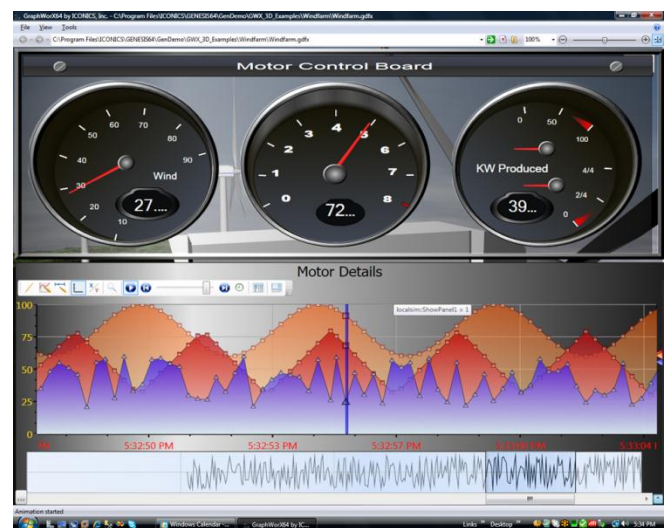
When modern plant historian databases debuted in the 1980s, they were valued as an engineering tool for generating reports or finding out why a particular incident occurred in plant production. They were however expensive to implement, difficult to maintain and constrained the control systems to a very small amount of useful historical data for the operator. Loss of data was merely a source of frustration or annoyance; it might require a trip to the control room to look up the missing data. All in all, glitches in the plant historian had minimal impact on overall plant performance.



Historians have come a long way since then and are now a critical part of the process environment—an environment that requires reliable, 24-7 data collection and often 24-7 data access. As such, plant engineers have to be sure that the data absolutely will get to the history system and that it is highly accessible. Why?

Regulatory requirements, historical data reporting and auditing are all reasons why data needs to be accurately stored. In addition, as businesses are looking to squeeze every last drop of efficiency from the production line, analytics tools are becoming increasingly important and the ability to slice and dice your historical data to look for improvements makes accurate data collection ever more important.

Initially, plant engineers and others trying to tweak factory-floor processes used historians to comb through historical trends to spot patterns. But increasingly, historians are being paired with other technologies such as portals to serve as engines for plant intelligence aimed at improving overall business performance.

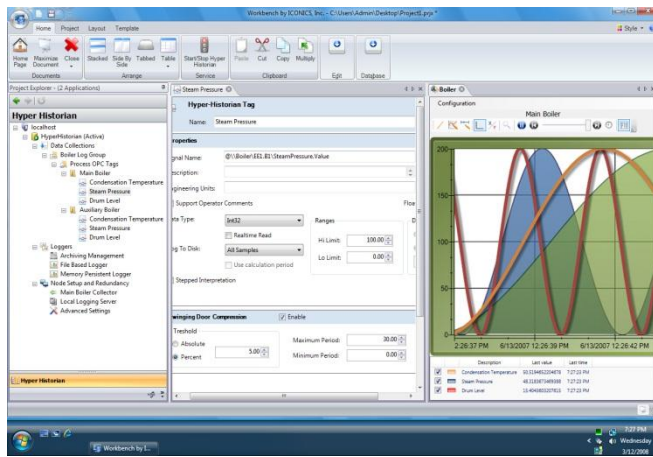


Historian technology now has a presence in every industrial manufacturing sector and modern historians can acquire plant or process data from virtually any type of automated control system or other source, storing an almost limitless amount of historical data, at its original resolution. Today's historians offer flexibility that makes it easy to configure them for any industry or function.



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A historian's powerful processing tools transform raw data into useful information. User-definable interactive displays and decision dashboards provide information visibility wherever it is needed, including support for standard Internet browsers.



The bedrock of any analysis or reporting solution is a robust and reliable data historian with the following attributes:

- High performance
- Easily configurable
- As small a storage footprint as possible
- Easily maintainable (in terms of backups and restoration)
- Fast replay of data from any time period
- Simple yet powerful standard query tools

Plant historians—mainstays in process manufacturing plants for more than 20 years—are going through a change of life. Historians remain capable of capturing, time stamping, storing, and serving up massive amounts of factory-floor data, but now their role is more attuned to real-time trends and the impact of those trends on the enterprise.

ICONICS Hyper Historian™ is a low cost data historian that fits the demanding requirements of the modern plant environment.

Built on a powerful 64-bit architecture that scales to hundreds of thousands of data points, it can collect and store data efficiently in a very compact file-based format, providing a single unified view of your organization. This allows easy maintenance and lightning fast data replay in trend viewers and reporting tools.

Leveraging the ICONICS platform allows this Hyper Historian data to be presented in real-time in a web browser dashboard format, enabling real-time decision making for the production floor.

Hyper Historian provides built in aggregation and summarization tools to allow fast, simple access to the information that you need to tune your processes. Add to that its lower entry level price point, and you've got the right solution to your data storage needs.

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Want to see more? Click [here](#) to learn more about ICONICS' Data Historian solutions.

Interested in talking to us about solutions for your real-time plant operations? [Contact Us](#) and see what solutions ICONICS has to offer you.

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