COGNEX

Get Control of Your Vision and ID Systems

The three keys to getting control

One challenge facing manufacturing professionals today is easily maintaining and montoring the vital information from vision systems and ID readers in their manufacturing facilities. With the real time process information provided by vision systems and ID readers, the maintenance of these systems is vital. These networks are set up with the best intentions but before long any number of factors can work to derail even the most well-conceived network.

When you easily and efficiently control of all of these systems, you create ongoing savings of time, effort and money for your manufacturing organization. The key to getting control is simplifying the processes. These processes include (but are certainly not limited to) the deployment, maintenance and monitoring of your Cognex vision, ID and visualization installations in your production environment.

1. Simplifying deployment

If you are like most manufacturing professionals, you have vision and ID systems deployed in your factory and have been increasing the usage of these systems as they have become more powerful and easy to use.

This also means that you've been deploying systems over "generations" with different firmware versions and capabilties. You also may have had to replace older generation systems with newer systems to increase the capabilties, but did not want to have to rebuild the project from scratch on the new hardware. With the need to keep production running, you hope that you have the right job saved, that you have recorded all of the correct network settings and that you will have flawless integration.

The Cognex Explorer control center simplifies the deployment of new installations by ensuring that you have all the information you need up front to get your devices online quickly. Cognex Explorer allows you to see all of your current installations from a central utility, their locations on your factory floor and how each installation is configured. Having a unified network view makes it possible for you to quickly see each system and verify that they are running the proper firmware. This central view also allows you to create network backups for these settings in case any of the systems need to be replaced—a huge time saver as production downtime needs to be minimized.
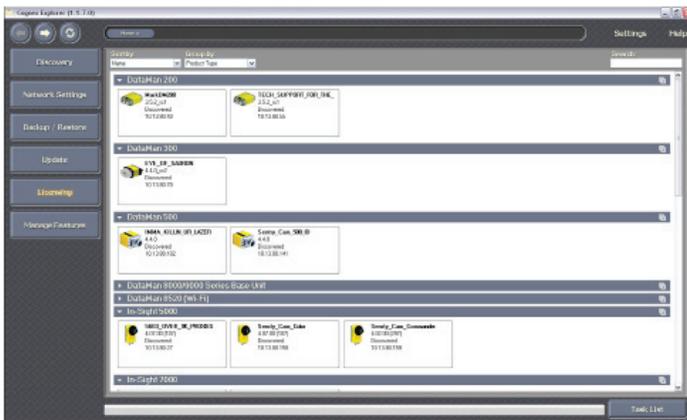

Figure 1: View network settings for all installations, sort by device name and group product type.
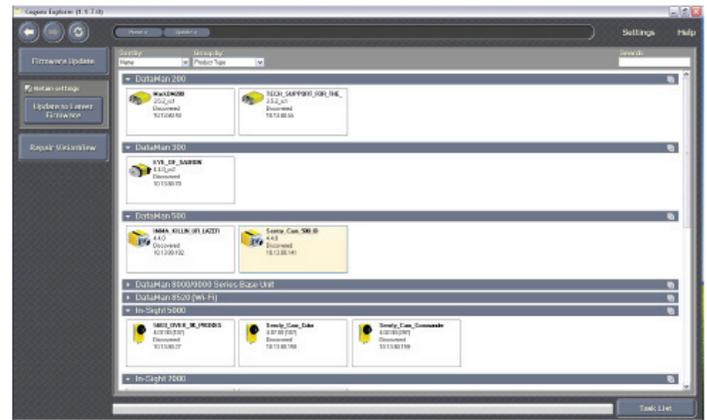

Figure 2: Retain installation settings while upgrading firmware onto multiple devices on the network with one click.

2. Simplifying maintenance

Backing up, restoring or cloning systems and upgrading firmware on the production line is extremely important to production managers. If you make adjustments to the settings and configurations of one installation, you should be able to duplicate these adjustments for other installations simply and easily. And you should be able to "roll back" your installations to previous settings if necessary. Cognex Explorer simplifies these maintenance activities by helping you manage firmware upgrades, and keep systems up-to-date online. Cognex Explorer provides the information you need to deliver full functionality to any device from anywhere in real time.

Cognex Explorer was designed for control, production and maintenance engineers who will find the intuitive point and click interface easy to use without any training required. The new control center offers the ability to:

• Display the identity, type and status of all Ethernet-connected In-Sight® vision systems, DataMan® ID readers and VisionView® display devices on the network

• View device settings including IP addresses, firmware/software versions, etc.

• Execute firmware updates

• Backup and restore multiple systems simultaneously

• Clone systems when adding more systems to the network
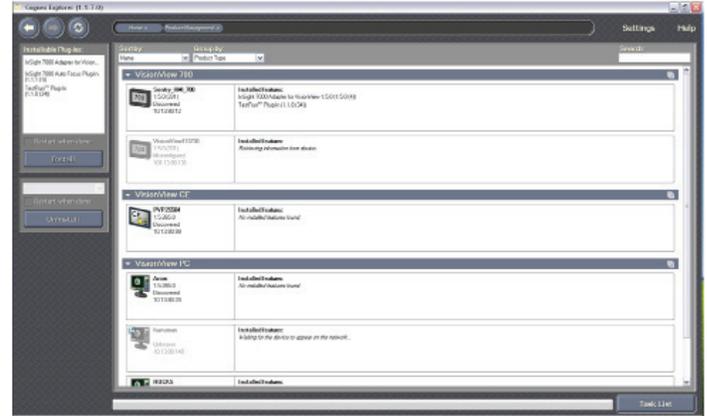
• Add licenses for VisionView

Figure 3: From a single screen, manage features on all devices, install and uninstall plug-ins.

3. Simplifying control

Cognex Explorer simplifies control of your vision and visualization systems and ID readers by allowing you to store, view and share critical information on the factory floor or from any remote location where you can access the network. You have the power to sort and analyze the data in ways that support peak efficiency on your network. You can make adjustments to your Cognex devices, seamlessly responding to changes on the production line as they occur. Cognex Explorer also supports network scalability. As your network expands and you add more Cognex devices you can continue to control and manage them with the Cognex Explorer control center.

Cognex Explorer is available free of charge to all Cognex customers and can be downloaded at http://www.cognex.com/explorer.