

Technical Note #76

Using the Suspend Port feature in the PMCS DDE server

Subject: Suspending a Comm port being used by the PMCS DDE server so another program can access the Comm port.

Applies To: PMCS 5.b or later

There are cases when another program needs access to the same Comm port that the PMCS DDE server is communicating with. Examples would be using the XXXPC programs from Multilin to configure setpoints, relay settings, etc. In earlier versions of PMCS the DDE server would be shut down to release the Comm ports to these programs. In PMCS 5.1b and later a "tag" was added which allows suspension of a selected Comm port. **IMPORTANT:** When a port is suspended all the devices associated with that port will not received updated data while the port is suspended!!

Configuring the suspend feature: The Server uses a DDE tag to suspend a particular port. The DDE tag is named *SUS_RES_PORT#*, where # is the port number. The topic name is SYSTEM and the tag value is a discrete variable where 0 is suspend and 1 is require.

Example, to suspend Comm port 1 the DDE tag would be
GE32MODB|SYSTEM!SUS_RES_PORT1 = 0

The port can now be used by another program. When the program is done using the port the following DDE command must be sent to reacquire the port for DDE server usage.

GE32MODB|SYSTEM!SUS_RES_PORT1 = 1

Related Notes: None

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