Rockwell Automation Users: Why Version Control?

COPIA

How Rockwell Automation Users can mitigate costly downtime, increase collaboration with an established source of truth, and beat project timelines with stunning speed.

Why Rockwell Automation Users need Version Control when coding industrial devices

In modern software development, the advantages of version control have become widely recognized: heightened productivity, risk mitigation, reduced downtime, and enhanced collaboration. As the importance of version control grows for industrial code development, the pivotal question emerges: Why do Rockwell Automation Users need Version control? This eBook explores why Rockwell manufacturing teams should utilize a version control strategy. We highlight the unique challenges faced by Control and Automation engineers working with Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs), and showcase why Copia is the preferred Version Control solution for Rockwell Automation users.

Why Version Control for Rockwell Automation

Version Control allows you to automatically save each version of code your team produces to a communal repository. This means there is a centrally stored source of truth. No more rifling through save files on multiple computers with multiple versions of each project to find the live code. Version Control allows your team to work together, seeing what changes are being made to the code, by whom, and with context. This means you can get updates to the floor faster, with less downtime. Code break? Simply revert to the last version of the code available to get things back up and running.

> Version Control allows you to automatically save each version of code your team produces to a communal repository. This means there is a centrally stored source of truth.

Some benefits of version control include:

- Teams can work on the most up to date file without the risk of overwriting work

- Teams can merge their individual files with the current file version

- Teams can run true code review (not possible before for Rockwell Automation users)

These benefits lead to significant business outcomes, including:

- Reduced project downtime due to code errors

- Reusable project code for your entire operation, including multiple plant locations

- Reduced risk of injury, broken protocol, or safety violations due to broken programming

Unlocking Version Control for Rockwell Automation Users

This is where Copia Automation comes in. Copia provides tools to easily work with Rockwell PLC files. Copia provides a desktop application that executes Git commands for you so that you don't need to learn how to run Git commands from the terminal. The Copia desktop application and web application have viewing and diffing support for the Studio 5000, letting you see the historical changes to your files and can even help you share files via web links.

Copia includes commenting for code reviews both for text-based and graphical languages like ladder logic so you can comment on and discuss specific elements that have been modified. This empowers you to spot more coding mistakes before they reach production.

Copia provides tools to easily work with Rockwell PLC files.

Copia also includes tooling to help with merging changes that were made during concurrent development. Copying and pasting changes between file versions can be tedious and the Copia merge tool automates this process by extracting modified project items from one project and importing them into another, resulting in a file that has the changes from both versions.

The rendering of ladder logic, with change-highlighting, can accelerate code review and makes it easy for all team members to understand the changes that have been made. Time is saved and quality is improved. Copia's renders Studio 5000 PLC code in user-friendly interfaces, facilitates collaborative reviews, and automates concurrent development merges. With Copia, the PLC landscape is empowered to leverage the full scope of Git's prowess, unlocking potential that elevates productivity, minimizes risk, reduces downtime, and fosters collaboration.

The unique demands and challenges of Control and Automation engineers requires innovative solutions. With Copia's Version Control, you can arm your engineers with a tool designed to increase productivity and drive business results.

> Copia's renders Studio 5000 PLC code in user-friendly interfaces, facilitates collaborative reviews, and automates concurrent development merges.

Conclusion

As the manufacturing industry continues its progression towards Industrial DevOps, it is clear Rockwell Automation users require Version Control to unlock their true productive potential. Interested in learning more about Copia's Version Control solution for Rockwell Automation Users? Request a demo today at copia.

Take the Next Step in Your Journey

Contact us today for a personalized demo and embark on your journey towards Industrial DevOps. You can also reach out directly by emailing contact@copia.io.