



## Connecting InTouch to TOP Server

### Using the FastDDE/SuiteLink Interface

Software Toolbox  
International Corporate  
Headquarters, USA

148A East Charles Street  
Matthews, NC 28105 USA  
[www.softwaretoolbox.com](http://www.softwaretoolbox.com)

TOLL FREE: 888-665-3678  
GLOBAL: 704-849-2773  
FAX: 704-849-6388



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## Introduction

### Overview

The purpose of this guide is to demonstrate how to make a basic SuiteLink connection to the TOP Server with Wonderware's InTouch 10 (or any version 7.0 or later). The TOP Server in this example will use the Simulator driver and the pre-configured simdemo.opf. The same basic steps can be used to make a SuiteLink connection using any of the 90+ drivers available for the TOP Server. If you do not already have TOP Server installed, the free two-hour demonstration version can be downloaded at <http://www.toolboxopc.com/wonderware>. This version functions the same as a fully licensed version within the two-hour demo mode. Stop the TOP Server and restart it for two more hours of runtime.

This guide will also demonstrate how to connect InTouch tags to TOP Server tags and thus to points on your controller. TOP Server does not have to have a tag database for InTouch to communicate with devices using TOP Server. You can directly address the points on the controller to reduce the number of locations that you must create a tag database. However, there are cases where you should create the TOP Server tag database first (see [Using InTouch Tag Wizard](#) document – all documents referenced in this paper can be found at <http://www.toolboxopc.com/wonderware> click on Papers and Utilities button).

The information provided here is not a substitute for your InTouch documentation. This procedure is being demonstrated in order to show a complete connection, not to provide comprehensive training on how to build InTouch projects.

### Intended Audience

This guide is intended for Wonderware InTouch users who are new to TOP Server. This document makes the assumption that you have some familiarity with InTouch and have configured a TOP Server project (for assistance read [Introduction to TOP Server](#)).

### Required Software:

For FastDDE/SuiteLink Connections, you need Software Toolbox TOP Server Version 4.41.159 or higher and Wonderware InTouch 7.0 through 10. For older versions of InTouch, we support DDE connections.

See Also: Topic named "FastDDE and SuiteLink Options" in the main TOP Server help file, which is accessible by clicking Help|Contents from the TOP server application itself.



## Basic connection between InTouch and TOP server:

### Installing Wonderware Common Components

In order for the server to allow FastDDE/SuiteLink connections Wonderware components must be installed. In many existing InTouch Installations, the necessary files will be present already. If TOP Server is not running on an InTouch node or if within TOPServer under Tools|Options you do NOT see the option tab for FastDDE/SuiteLink, then you will need to install these components. The common components can be installed from the Wonderware FactorySuite I/O Server installation CD. To install the common components from the FactorySuite I/O Server CD perform the following steps.

Run the setup.exe located under FS2K71\Common\

Run the setup.exe located under FS2K71\IOServer\Common\Win32

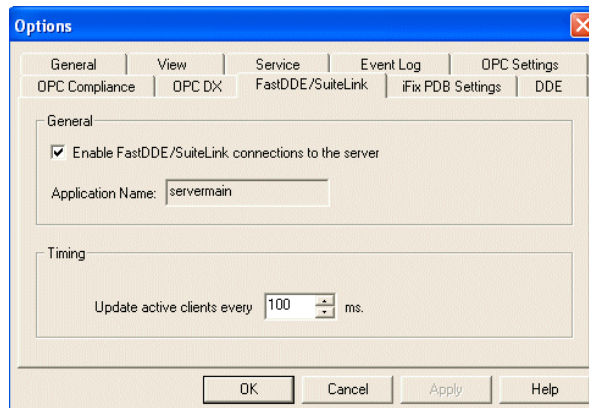
Since the size of this install is large we will not be including this in our setup. The TOP Server works with all Common components installs from 7.0 to 10.0 InTouch, but we always suggest using the newest you have available,

Please note that the server will function properly if these components are not installed. Tool | Options | FastDDE/SuiteLink will be shown or hidden based on proper installation of these Wonderware components.

### Enable FastDDE/SuiteLink in TOP Server

When you run the TOPServer you will need to enable FastDDE/SuiteLink Communications by clicking on Tools|Options. Go to the Tab labeled FastDDE/SuiteLink and Check the box as shown below. If you do not see this tab or it is disabled then you did NOT properly complete the install of the common components.





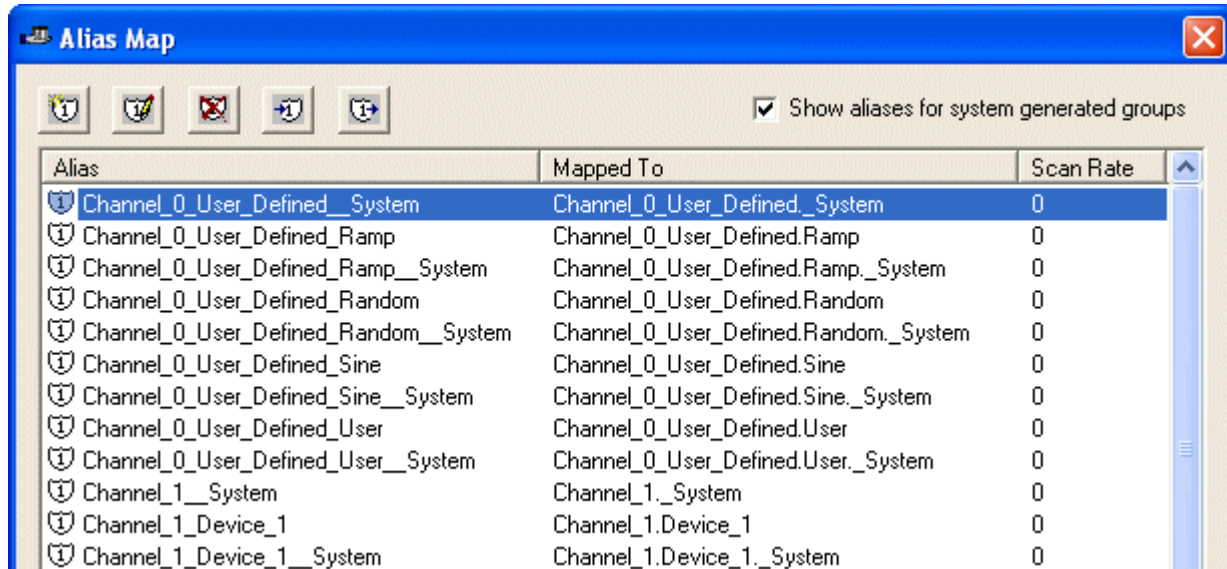
**Figure 1**

## Configure an Alias in the TOPServer

Each time you add a channel, device, or group TOP Server generates a basic Alias for you. You may also create your own alias mapped to a channel, device or group. Aliases are necessary in the Server since Wonderware does not recognize the “ChannelName.DeviceName” syntax in the Topic Name because of the dot “.” characters in the hierarchical structure when you setup the InTouch Access Name.

If you are used to setting up Topic Names in other DDE servers, setting up an Alias name in the TOP Server is our equivalent of that step in the setup. To do this in the TOPServer, click on Edit|Alias Map. The dialog shown below will appear and will already have topics made for you automatically that correspond to your channel names, device names and group names, each separated by underscores. If you don't have any Aliases make sure you have configured your channel and device first or that the “show aliases” check box is checked.





Alias	Mapped To	Scan Rate
Channel_0_User_Defined_System	Channel_0_User_Defined_System	0
Channel_0_User_Defined_Ramp	Channel_0_User_Defined.Ramp	0
Channel_0_User_Defined_Ramp_System	Channel_0_User_Defined.Ramp_System	0
Channel_0_User_Defined_Random	Channel_0_User_Defined.Random	0
Channel_0_User_Defined_Random_System	Channel_0_User_Defined.Random_System	0
Channel_0_User_Defined_Sine	Channel_0_User_Defined.Sine	0
Channel_0_User_Defined_Sine_System	Channel_0_User_Defined.Sine_System	0
Channel_0_User_Defined_User	Channel_0_User_Defined.User	0
Channel_0_User_Defined_User_System	Channel_0_User_Defined.User_System	0
Channel_1_System	Channel_1_System	0
Channel_1_Device_1	Channel_1.Device_1	0
Channel_1_Device_1_System	Channel_1.Device_1_System	0

**Figure 2**

If you have the checkbox “Show aliases for system generated subgroups” unchecked, all you will see are aliases you have entered or will be blank if you have created none. If you plan to use only aliases that you create, it is recommended that you leave this unchecked for simplicity and ease of finding your aliases for editing.



To create your own alias, click on the Icon in the upper left corner of the Alias Map dialog and add an alias in the dialog shown below that maps your ChannelName.DeviceName to a single word topic name WITHOUT any spaces or punctuation - this Alias name will be used as the TOPIC NAME when configuring the InTouch Access Name. In the example below we created an alias named “Device” that maps to “Channel\_1.Device\_1” in the TOPServer.

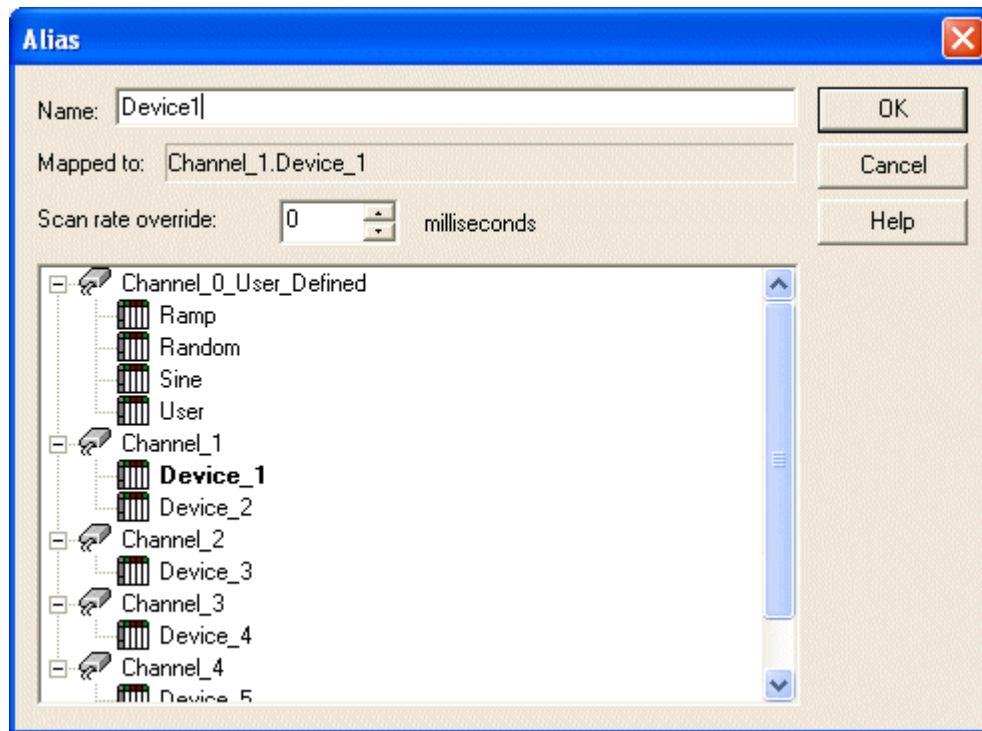


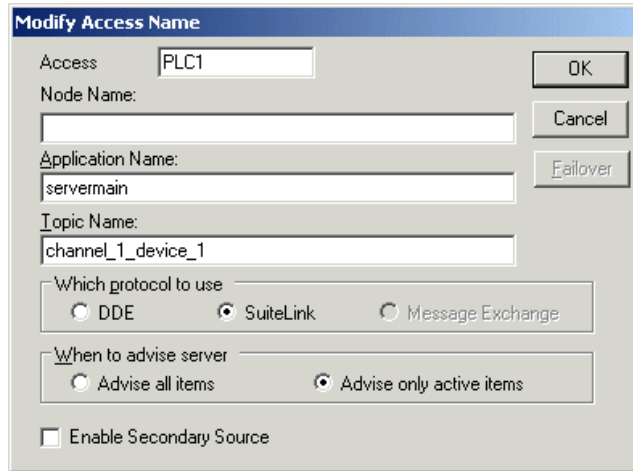
Figure 3

Note that you can create as many aliases (also known as topic names in InTouch), as you like that point to the same or different combinations of a Channel, Device, and Group name.



## Configuring InTouch

When you configure the InTouch Access Name you will need the Application Name, Topic Name, and Item Name. The steps below apply whether you are using FastDDE or SuiteLink.



**Modify Access Name**

Access:

Node Name:

Application Name:

Topic Name:

Which protocol to use

DDE  SuiteLink  Message Exchange

When to advise server

Advise all items  Advise only active items

Enable Secondary Source

**Figure 4**

- The Application Name is always “servermain” when using SuiteLink.
- The topic name is the ALIAS name in the TOPServer that you defined in step 3.
- The protocol to use is discretionary but it is recommended that you use SuiteLink, as it is far more efficient than DDE.
- We recommend that you set “When to advise server” to “Advise only active items” as this will reduce the load on the network and device you are connecting too.



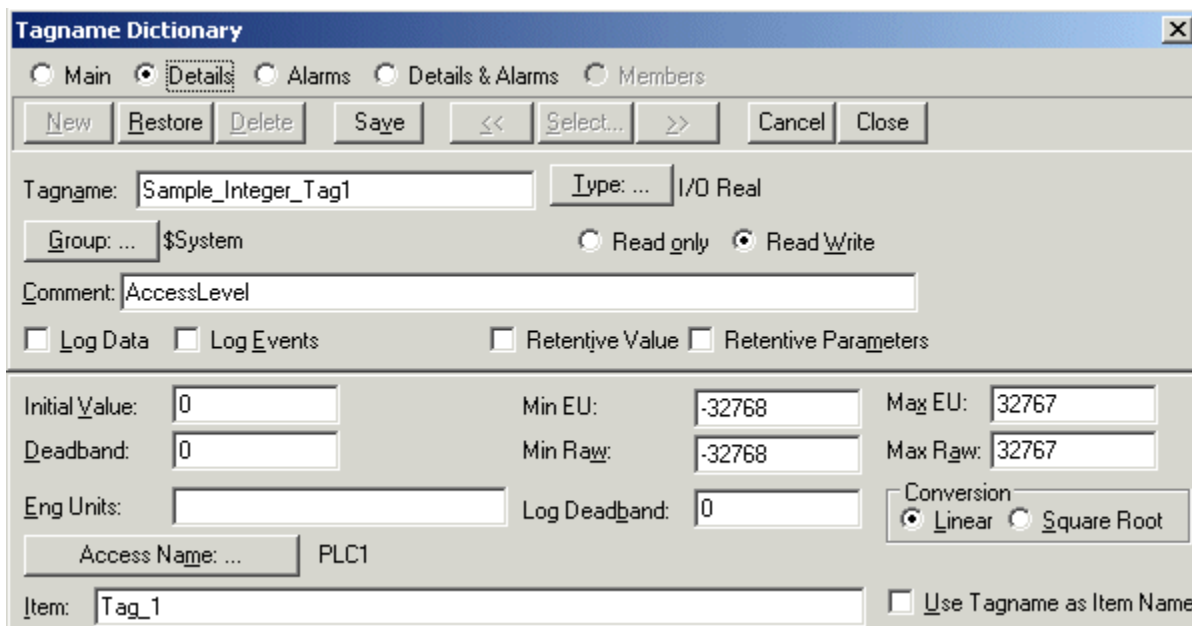


Figure 5

- c. The item name is either of
  - i. An actual tag name configured in the TOPServer (shown above) or
  - ii. A PLC address is passed down in the Item name in the format of DeviceAddress@DataType the DataType is optional – if not specified the default data type for the device address specified will be used. This format is used if you do not create a tag database in TOP Server.

For more information on Device Addressing and valid data types for a device address see the driver specific help file for whichever driver you are using.



## Summary

This guide has demonstrated the basic steps for configuring a SuiteLink connection from InTouch to the TOP Server. This guide is also applicable in configuring SuiteLink connections from InTouch to all of TOP Server's other 90+ available device drivers.

If you do not have TOP Server but would like to evaluate what TOP Server can offer in terms of robust, reliable device data acquisition, you can download a free two hour demonstration of TOP Server at <http://www.toolboxopc.com/wonderware> . This demonstration version is fully functional, only requiring that you restart it at the end of the two-hour demonstration period.

TOP Server also fully supports OPC and DDE client connections in addition to SuiteLink. For tutorials demonstrating connecting System Platform or InSQL to TOP Server please refer to our Wonderware Users Resource website by clicking [HERE](#) or copying the following URL into your Internet browser:  
[http://www.toolboxopc.com/support/more\\_downloads/wonderware\\_downloads/wonderware\\_downloads.html](http://www.toolboxopc.com/support/more_downloads/wonderware_downloads/wonderware_downloads.html).

If you have further questions or need assistance, our experienced staff is here to assist you. We can be contacted in the methods outlined below.

## Contact Us

If you have any questions or are seeking further information and help:

**Online Support:** <http://support.softwaretoolbox.com/>

**Email Support:** [support@softwaretoolbox.com](mailto:support@softwaretoolbox.com)

**Phone Support:** +1 (704) 849-2773

**Fax:** +1 (704) 849-6388

**Mailing Address:** Software Toolbox, Inc. 148A East Charles Street, Matthews, NC, 28105 USA

