

## iec 61131 3 programming industrial automation systems

IEC 61131-3 Programming Industrial Automation Systems IEC 61131-3 Programming Industrial Automation Systems is a foundational standard in the field of industrial automation, shaping how control systems are designed, programmed, and maintained worldwide. As industries evolve towards more flexible, efficient, and reliable automation solutions, understanding IEC 61131-3 becomes essential for engineers, programmers, and automation professionals. This article provides a comprehensive overview of IEC 61131-3 programming, its significance in industrial automation systems, and how it influences modern control technology.

What is IEC 61131-3? IEC 61131-3 is the third part of the international standard IEC 61131, which defines the programming languages, data types, and programming environment for programmable logic controllers (PLCs). Published by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), IEC 61131-3 specifically focuses on the programming languages used to develop control programs for automation systems. The standard aims to:

- Provide a universal framework for PLC programming
- Enable interoperability between different automation devices and software
- Simplify the development, maintenance, and integration of control systems

Since its inception, IEC 61131-3 has become the de facto standard for PLC programming, supporting a wide range of industrial applications, from manufacturing lines to building automation.

Core Components of IEC 61131-3

IEC 61131-3 introduces several critical elements that form the basis of programming industrial automation systems:

Programming Languages IEC 61131-3 specifies five programming languages, each suited for different types of control tasks:

1. Ladder Diagram (LD): Visual, relay-like language resembling electrical circuit diagrams; ideal for relay logic and simple control.
2. Function Block Diagram (FBD): Graphical language emphasizing data flow between function blocks; suitable for complex control processes.
3. Structured Text (ST): High-level textual language similar to Pascal or C; used for complex algorithms and data processing.
4. Instruction List (IL): Low-level, assembly-like language, now deprecated but historically used for simple, fast control routines.
5. Sequential Function Charts (SFC): Graphical language for modeling sequential control processes, including state transitions and steps.

2 Data Types and Variables IEC 61131-3 standardizes data types such as BOOL, INT, DINT, REAL, and STRING, promoting consistency across

programming environments. Variables can be global, local, or instance-specific, facilitating modular and reusable code.

**Program Organization** The standard advocates a modular approach, organizing control logic into:

- Programs
- Function Blocks
- Functions

This modularity improves code clarity, reusability, and maintenance.

**Execution Models** IEC 61131-3 supports different execution models, including cyclic and event-driven execution, enabling flexible control strategies tailored to specific industrial needs.

**Advantages of Using IEC 61131-3 in Industrial Automation** Implementing IEC 61131-3 programming standards offers numerous benefits:

- Interoperability:** Compatibility across devices from different manufacturers simplifies system integration.
- Flexibility:** Multiple programming languages allow engineers to select the most suitable approach for each task.
- Standardization:** Consistent programming practices improve maintainability and reduce errors.
- Reusability:** Modular code components can be reused across different projects, saving development time.
- Scalability:** The standard supports small control applications and large, complex systems.
- Enhanced Debugging and Testing:** Standardized environments facilitate troubleshooting and validation.

**Implementing IEC 61131-3 in Modern Automation Systems** Modern industrial automation leverages IEC 61131-3 through a combination of hardware and software solutions. Here's an outline of how the implementation typically proceeds:

- Selection of PLC Hardware** Choose programmable controllers that support IEC 61131-3 programming languages. Many manufacturers provide PLCs compatible with multiple languages, enabling flexibility.
- 3 Development Environment** Use specialized IEC 61131-3 compatible software platforms (like Siemens TIA Portal, Beckhoff TwinCAT, or Codesys) for programming, simulation, and debugging.
- Programming Process**
  - Define control requirements and system architecture.
  - Develop programs using the appropriate IEC 61131-3 language(s).
  - Test and simulate control logic within the development environment.
  - Deploy the code to the PLC hardware.
  - Monitor and maintain the system during operation.

**Benefits of Software Compatibility** The availability of multiple programming languages allows engineers to:

- Develop intuitive ladder logic for straightforward control tasks.
- Write complex algorithms in structured text.
- Model sequential processes with SFC.
- Use function blocks for reusable control modules, such as motor drives or valve controllers.

**Future Trends in IEC 61131-3 and Industrial Automation** As technology advances, IEC 61131-3 continues to evolve to meet the demands of Industry 4.0, IoT, and smart manufacturing. Key trends include:

- **Integration with IoT Protocols:** Enhancing communication capabilities for real-time data exchange.
- **Hybrid Control Strategies:** Combining IEC 61131-3 with high-level programming languages like C++ or Python.
- **Cybersecurity Considerations:** Developing secure programming practices to protect automation systems.
- **Edge Computing:** Running IEC 61131-3 programs at the edge for faster response times and reduced latency.

Enhanced Visualization and HMI Integration: Connecting control logic seamlessly with human-machine interfaces. Conclusion IEC 61131-3 programming industrial automation systems has revolutionized how control systems are designed, implemented, and maintained in industrial environments. Its standardized languages, modular approach, and interoperability facilitate the development of reliable, scalable, and flexible automation solutions. As industries move further into digitalization and smart manufacturing, mastery of IEC 61131-3 becomes increasingly valuable for automation professionals seeking to innovate and optimize industrial processes. By adhering to this international standard, organizations can ensure their automation systems are future-proof, efficient, and aligned with global best practices.

**Question** What is IEC 61131-3 and why is it important in industrial automation?

**Answer** IEC 61131-3 is a standard for programming industrial automation systems, defining programming languages and software architecture for programmable logic controllers (PLCs). It ensures interoperability, ease of programming, and consistency across automation projects, making it essential for reliable and efficient system design.

**Question** Which programming languages are supported by IEC 61131-3?

**Answer** IEC 61131-3 supports five main programming languages: Ladder Diagram (LD), Function Block Diagram (FBD), Structured Text (ST), Instruction List (IL), and Sequential Function Charts (SFC). These provide flexibility for engineers to choose the most suitable language for their application.

**Question** How does IEC 61131-3 facilitate interoperability between different automation devices?

**Answer** By standardizing programming languages, data types, and communication protocols, IEC 61131-3 enables compatible software development and integration across various PLC brands and devices, simplifying system upgrades and maintenance.

**Question** What are the benefits of using IEC 61131-3 compliant tools in industrial automation projects?

**Answer** Using IEC 61131-3 compliant tools improves code portability, reduces development time, enhances maintainability, and ensures consistency across different hardware platforms, leading to more reliable and scalable automation systems.

**Question** Are there any recent updates or extensions to the IEC 61131-3 standard that industry professionals should be aware of?

**Answer** While IEC 61131-3 remains a foundational standard, recent developments include support for object-oriented programming, integration with IoT and cloud platforms, and enhancements in safety and security features, reflecting the evolving needs of modern industrial automation.

**IEC 61131-3 Programming for Industrial Automation Systems: A Comprehensive Guide**

In the rapidly evolving world of industrial automation, the ability to develop reliable, flexible, and maintainable control systems is paramount. One of the foundational standards that underpin modern automation programming is IEC 61131-3, which provides a comprehensive framework for programming industrial control systems. This standard not only streamlines the development process but also ensures interoperability and consistency across different hardware

and software platforms. --- What is IEC 61131-3? IEC 61131-3 is the third part of the IEC 61131 international standard, which specifies the programming languages and associated tools for programmable logic controllers (PLCs). Originally published in 1993 and subsequently revised, IEC 61131-3 has become the de facto standard for programming industrial automation systems worldwide. The Purpose and Significance The main objective of IEC 61131-3 is to establish a common programming language environment that facilitates:

- Portability: Ability to transfer programs between different PLC brands.
- Reusability: Use of common code modules across multiple projects.
- Maintainability: Easier troubleshooting and updates.
- Standardization: Uniform programming practices across industries.

The standard delineates five programming languages, each suited to different types of control tasks, along with associated programming tools and data types. --- The Five Programming Languages of IEC 61131-3 IEC 61131-3 defines five programming languages, each with unique characteristics and ideal use cases:

1. Ladder Diagram (LD) - Description: Graphical language resembling relay ladder logic. - Use Cases: Discrete control, machine control logic, safety interlocks. - Strengths: Intuitive for electricians and technicians familiar with relay logic; easy to visualize control sequences.
2. Function Block Diagram (FBD) - Description: Graphical language using blocks interconnected by signals. - Use Cases: Continuous control, process automation. - Strengths: Modular and reusable; suitable for complex control algorithms.
3. Structured Text (ST) - Description: High-level textual programming language akin to Pascal or C. - Use Cases: Complex mathematical computations, algorithms, data processing. - Strengths: Powerful and flexible; ideal for advanced logic and data manipulation.
4. Instruction List (IL) - Description: Low-level, assembly-like language. - Use Cases: Very simple routines, resource-constrained systems. - Note: Deprecated in newer versions of the standard.
5. Sequential Function Chart (SFC) - Description: Graphical language for defining sequential control processes. - Use Cases: Batch processes, multi-step procedures. - Strengths: Clear visualization of process sequences.

--- Core Concepts and Data Types in IEC 61131-3 Understanding the core concepts and data types is critical for effective programming within the IEC 61131-3 framework.

Data Types - Basic Data Types - BOOL: Boolean (true/false) - INT: Integer - REAL: Floating-point number - STRING: Text strings - BYTE, WORD, DWORD, LWORD: Bit and byte data types - Derived Data Types - Arrays, records, and user-defined types for complex data structures.

Program Organization - Programs: Main control routines. - Function Blocks: Encapsulate logic with internal states, reusable and instantiable. - Functions: Stateless routines returning a value. - Global Variables: Shared data accessible across program modules.

Execution Cycle IEC 61131-3 programs operate within a cyclic execution model, where control logic is evaluated repeatedly in a

scan cycle. This ensures real-time responsiveness and consistency. --- Advantages of Using IEC 61131-3 in Industrial Automation

Adopting IEC 61131-3 offers several benefits:

- Interoperability: Compatibility across different vendors' hardware.
- Modularity: Break down complex systems into manageable, reusable components.
- Scalability: Suitable for small to large-scale systems.
- Ease of Maintenance: Standardized structure simplifies troubleshooting and updates.
- Cost Efficiency: Reusable code reduces development time and costs.

--- Practical Implementation of IEC 61131-3 Programming

**Step 1: Define Control Requirements** Begin by clearly understanding the control process, the sensors, actuators, and the desired logic. Document all inputs, outputs, and process sequences.

**Step 2: Choose Appropriate Languages** Select the programming language that best fits the task:

- IEC 61131 3 Programming Industrial Automation Systems 6 Use Ladder Diagram for straightforward relay logic.
- Use Function Block Diagram for modular control.
- Use Structured Text for complex calculations or algorithms.

**Step 3: Develop Modular Code** Leverage Function Blocks to encapsulate logic:

- Create reusable modules.
- Implement control algorithms as Function Blocks.
- Use global variables judiciously for shared data.

**Step 4: Simulate and Test** Before deploying to hardware, simulate the program in development environments such as PLC programming software. Validate logic and performance.

**Step 5: Deploy and Monitor** Upload the program to the PLC hardware. Monitor system behavior and troubleshoot issues using diagnostic tools.

--- Best Practices and Tips for IEC 61131-3 Programming

- Maintain Clear Documentation: Comment code extensively to facilitate future modifications.
- Use Modular Design: Break down complex control logic into smaller, manageable Function Blocks.
- Implement Error Handling: Anticipate and manage fault conditions gracefully.
- Follow Industry Standards: Adhere to safety standards and best practices.
- Regularly Update and Backup Code: Ensure system reliability and ease of recovery.

--- Challenges and Considerations

While IEC 61131-3 standardizes programming, practitioners should be aware of potential challenges:

- Vendor-Specific Implementations: Variations in software tools may require adaptation.
- Learning Curve: Mastery of multiple languages and concepts takes time.
- Complexity Management: Large projects require disciplined organization.

--- Conclusion

IEC 61131-3 programming provides a robust, standardized framework for developing, deploying, and maintaining industrial automation control systems. Its multi-language approach caters to various control tasks, from simple relay logic to complex algorithms. By understanding its core principles, data types, and best practices, automation engineers can create systems that are reliable, scalable, and easier to troubleshoot. As automation continues to grow in complexity and importance, IEC 61131-3 remains a critical foundation for advancing industrial control technology. Whether you're designing a small machine controller or a large

manufacturing process, mastering IEC 61131-3 programming will significantly enhance your capability to develop efficient and future-proof automation solutions. IEC 61131-3, PLC programming, industrial automation, programmable logic controller (PLC), automation standards, ladder logic, structured text, function blocks, control systems, industrial control programming

IEC 61131-3: Programming Industrial Automation Systems IEC 61131-3: Programming Industrial Automation Systems PLC Controls with Structured Text (ST) PLC Controls with Structured Text (ST), V3 IEC 61131-3: Programming Industrial Automation Systems PLC Programming In Instruction List According To IEC 61131-3 IEC 61131-3 Programming Methodology PLC Controls with Ladder Diagram (LD) IEC 61131-3 Programming Industrial Automation Systems PLC Controls with Ladder Diagram (LD), Monochrome Programmable Logic Controllers PLC Controls with Ladder Diagram (LD), Wire-OPLC Controls with Structured Text (ST), V3 Monochrome BS EN IEC 61131-3. Programmable Controllers PLC Controls with Structured Text (ST), V3 Wire-OPLC Controls with Structured Text (ST), V4 Kickstart PLC Programming: Design and Build Scalable Control Systems Using IEC 61131-3, Ladder Logic, SCADA and HMI for Modern Industrial Automation PLC Programming in Instruction List According to IEC 61131-3 Use of the SOLID principles with the IEC 61131-3 BS EN 61131-3: Programmable controllers part 3: programming languages Karl-Heinz John Karl-Heinz John Tom Mejer Antonsen Tom Mejer Antonsen Hans-Joachim Adam Flavio Bonfatti Tom Mejer Antonsen Karl-Heinz John Tom Mejer Antonsen Dag H. Hanssen Tom Mejer Antonsen Tom Mejer Antonsen British Standards Institution Tom Mejer Antonsen Tom Mejer Antonsen Henrique Morata Hand-Joachim Adam Stefan Henneken BSI. British Standards Institution IEC 61131-3: Programming Industrial Automation Systems IEC 61131-3: Programming Industrial Automation Systems PLC Controls with Structured Text (ST) PLC Controls with Structured Text (ST), V3 IEC 61131-3: Programming Industrial Automation Systems PLC Programming In Instruction List According To IEC 61131-3 IEC 61131-3 Programming Methodology PLC Controls with Ladder Diagram (LD) IEC 61131-3 Programming Industrial Automation Systems PLC Controls with Ladder Diagram (LD), Monochrome Programmable Logic Controllers PLC Controls with Ladder Diagram (LD), Wire-O PLC Controls with Structured Text (ST), V3 Monochrome BS EN IEC 61131-3. Programmable Controllers PLC Controls with Structured Text (ST), V3 Wire-O PLC Controls with Structured Text (ST), V4 Kickstart PLC Programming: Design and Build Scalable Control Systems Using IEC 61131-3, Ladder Logic, SCADA and HMI for Modern Industrial Automation PLC Programming in Instruction List According to IEC 61131-3 Use of the SOLID principles with the IEC 61131-3 BS EN 61131-3: Programmable controllers part 3: programming languages *Karl-Heinz*

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the programming of industrial controllers has developed into a fully fledged engineering discipline in its own right over the last few years it soon became apparent that the concepts and languages used in office automation were not equal to the task rugged software and fast adaptability are just two examples of the additional demands made by industrial automation technology to standardise a variety of modern concepts and languages for the benefit of users the international electrotechnical commission iec developed a standard for using industrial controllers based on experience with existing plc languages five programming languages were defined together with a data concept using modern software development methods this book introduces these new programming concepts assesses the value of the standard in the industrial context and provides a checklist to enable users to appraise the functionality of a programming system it also includes two free programming packages on cd rom inviting the reader to try out iec 61131 programming the iec 61131 programming systems openpcs and step 7 are supplied by infoteam software gmbh infoteam.de and siemens ag siemens.de this book is the product of more than 15 years of experience in the development of plc programming systems especially a number of iec systems the purpose of writing it was not only to present the user with the formal language structure but also to explain the concepts and methods underlying the different languages

this practical book gives a comprehensive introduction to the concepts and languages of the new standard iec 61131 used to program industrial control systems a summary of the special requirements in programming industrial automation systems and the corresponding features in the iec 61131 3 standard makes it suitable for students as well as plc experts the material is presented in an easy to understand form using numerous examples illustrations and summary tables there is also a purchaser's guide and a cd rom containing two reduced but functional versions of programming systems these increase the value of the book for plc programmers and for those in charge of purchasing software in industrial companies

this book gives an introduction to structured text st used in programmable logic control plc the book can be used for all types of plc brands including siemens structured control language scl and programmable automation controllers pac contents background

advantage and challenge when st programming syntax and fundamental st programming widespread guide to reasonable naming of variables ctu ton case struct enum array string guide to split up into program modules and functions more than 90 plc code examples fifo rnd 3d array and digital filter examples from ladder to st programming guide to solve programming exercises many clarifying explanations to the plc code and focus on the fact that the reader should learn how to write a stable robust readable structured and clear code are also included in the book furthermore the focus is that the reader will be able to write a plc code which does not require a specific plc type and plc code which can be reused the basis of the book is a material which is currently compiled with feedback from lecturers and students attending the ap education in automation engineering at the local dania academy erhvervsakademi dania randers denmark the material is thus currently updated so that it answers all the questions which the students typically ask through out the period of studying the author is bachelor of science in electrical engineering bsc and has 25 years of experience within specification development and supplying complex control solutions and supervision systems within these years the author has 7 years of experience within pascal programming and 12 years of experience with solutions and systems containing plc the author is assistant professor and teaching plc control systems at higher educations at a danish academy of business and technology erhvervsakademi dania randers denmark linkedin linkedin com in tommejerantonsen

this book gives an introduction to the programming language structured text st which is used in programmable logic controllers plc the book can be used for all types of plc brands including siemens structured control language scl and programmable automation controllers pac this 3rd edition has been updated and expanded with many of the suggestions and readers and students have come up with including the desire for many more illustrations and program examples contents background benefits and challenges of st programming syntax data types best practice and basic st programming if then else case for ctu ton struct enum array string guide for best practice naming troubleshooting test and program structure sequencer and code split up into functions and function blocks fifo rnd sorting scaling toggle simulation signals and digital filter tank controls conveyor belts adaptive pump algorithm and robot control plc program structure for pumping stations 3d car park and car wash examples from ladder diagram to st programming the book contains more than 150 plc code examples with a focus on learning how to write robust readable and structured code the book systematically describes basic programming including advice and practical examples based on the author s extensive industrial experience the author is bachelor of science in electrical engineering



b s c e e and has 25 years experience in specification development programming and supplying complex control solutions and supervision systems the author is assistant professor and teaches plc programming at dania academy a higher education institution in randers denmark

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this textbook and exercise book provides a solid basic knowledge and comprehensive practical skills in dealing with plc programming numerous exercises help to deepen the material with the accompanying simulation software and sample solutions the acquired knowledge can be applied immediately the software can be downloaded via the internet the knowledge of number systems and digital technology conveyed in the book is an important prerequisite for skilful and clever plc programming the programming language used instruction list according to iec 61131 3 provides the best insights into the functioning of a plc the didactically prepared programming examples for switching networks signal memories time functions counters function blocks and functions program structures sequence controls data types and much more enable systematic learning of programming corrected edition experiences an expansion of the exercises with a didactically prepared project for the control of a mountain railway the associated simulation software plc lite enables the realisation of controls for the mountain railway and the realistic representation of the cableway movements on the screen

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background benefits and challenges of ladder programming plc hardware sensors and basic ladder programming practical guides and tips to achieve good program structures theory and examples of flowcharts block diagrams and sequence diagrams design guide to develop functions and function blocks examples of organizing code in program modules and functions sequencing using self hold set reset and move compare complex code examples for a pump station tank control and conveyor belt design development testing and simulation of plc programs the book describes ladder programming as described in the standard iec 61131 3 plc vendors understand this standard in different ways and not all vendors follows the standard exactly this will be clear through material from the vendor this means that some of the program examples in this book may not work as intended in the plc type you are using in addition there is a difference in how the individual plc type shows graphic symbols and instructions used in ladder programming note this is a book for beginners and therefore advanced techniques such as array loops struct enum string pid and fifo are not included

introduction building blocks of iec 61131 3 variables data types and common elements innovative plc programming system

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widely used across industrial and manufacturing automation programmable logic controllers plcs perform a broad range of electromechanical tasks with multiple input and output arrangements designed specifically to cope in severe environmental conditions such as automotive and chemical plants programmable logic controllers a practical approach using codesys is a hands on guide to rapidly gain proficiency in the development and operation of plcs based on the iec 61131 3 standard using the freely available software tool codesys which is widely used in industrial design automation projects the author takes a highly practical approach to plc design using real world examples the design tool codesys also features a built in simulator soft plc enabling the reader to undertake exercises and test the examples key features introduces to programming techniques using iec 61131 3 guidelines in the five plc recognised programming languages focuses on a methodical approach to programming based on boolean algebra flowcharts sequence diagrams and state diagrams contains a useful methodology to solve problems develop a structured code and document the programming code covers i o like typical sensors signals signal formats noise and cabling features power point slides covering all topics example programs and solutions to end of chapter exercises via companion website no prior knowledge of programming plcs is assumed making this text ideally suited to electronics engineering students pursuing a career in electronic design automation experienced plc users in all fields of manufacturing will discover new possibilities and gain useful tips for more efficient and structured programming register at [codesys.com](http://codesys.com) [wiley.com](http://wiley.com) go hanssen [logiccontrollers.com](http://logiccontrollers.com)

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books and sold more than 12 000 copies

your fast track guide to plcs scada and smart control key features learn core iec 61131 3 plc languages like ladder st and fbd in depth design scalable control systems with reusable modular logic integrate plcs with hmi scada and modern industrial networks book descriptionembark on a structured hands on journey into the world of plc programming and machine automation this comprehensive guide takes you from the fundamentals of iec 61131 3 programming languages such as ladder logic structured text and function blocks to the advanced techniques required to build reliable and scalable automation systems start by understanding how software environments interact with plc hardware and the field devices they control explore the inner workings of industrial networks the role of standardization in system design and how to ensure seamless communication and interoperability using protocols such as modbus profinet and opcs as the chapters progress you will gain practical insights into modular software design integration with hmi and scada systems and how to architect automation projects for small machines as well as complex processes you will also learn how to future proof your solutions through robust network topologies version control practices and building a solid foundation for modern connected and intelligent industrial control systems what you will learn master the intricacies of plc programming with iec 61131 3 standards effectively structure control logic using ladder st and fbd languages establish robust communication with field devices and remote systems integrate plcs seamlessly with hmi scada and industrial protocols develop modular and scalable control architectures for complex processes perfect the design of standardized maintainable and optimized plc software understand how emerging technologies like iiot and ai connect with plcs

this textbook and exercise book provides a solid basic knowledge and comprehensive practical skills in dealing with plc programming numerous exercises help to deepen the material with the accompanying simulation software and sample solutions the acquired knowledge can be applied immediately the software can be downloaded via the internet the knowledge of number systems and digital technology conveyed in the book is an important prerequisite for skilful and clever plc programming the programming language used instruction list according to iec 61131 3 provides the best insights into the functioning of a plc the didactically prepared programming examples for switching networks signal memories time functions counters function blocks and functions program structures sequence controls data types and much more enable systematic learning of programming corrected edition experiences an expansion of the exercises with a didactically prepared project for the control of a mountain

railway the associated simulation software plc lite enables the realisation of controls for the mountain railway and the realistic representation of the cableway movements on the screen the content number systems dual numbers and codes boolean algebra flip flops and static memories dynamic memory elements and counters switching networks with plc circuits with signal memories time functions counters function blocks jumps loops and repetitions functions sequential controls the target groups the book is intended for pupils trainees and students of all technical disciplines or interested engineers it is very well suited for self study the authors dipl ing hans joachim adam studied electrical engineering and has been involved in education for over 20 years dipl ing mathias adam is a system consultant and specializes in compiler development for microcontrollers this book is a translation of an original german edition the translation was done with the help of artificial intelligence machine translation by the service deepl com a subsequent human revision was done primarily in terms of content so that the book will read stylistically differently from a conventional translation

solid principles are an essential part of object oriented software development and have proven to be valuable tools for developing clean maintainable and extensible code in industrial automation engineering especially in programming controllers with iec 61131 3 it is of particular importance to develop robust and reliable systems in this book solid principles are presented in detail and explained with examples in iec 61131 3 it also illustrates how the application of these principles improves the maintainability extensibility and reliability of software systems in addition to the solid principles the principles kiss dry lod and yagni are also presented these do not belong to the group of solid principles but they are a helpful addition

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