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Foundation Fieldbus with Control-In-Field and Control-In-Controller-An Analysis

Shah Aayush D.[1], Chaitanya J. Talati[2], Mrs. Namrata K. Prasad[3], Prof. Chirag S. Dalal[4], Dr. Himanshu Kumar R. Patel[5]
Dy. General Manager, L&T, Hydrocarbon[3]
Dharmsinh Desai University, Nadiad, India[1,2,4,5]

Abstract: *Foundation Fieldbus (FF) is an advanced digital communication protocol widely used in industrial automation, particularly in process control industries.[1] It enables enhanced communication between field devices and control systems, offering improved efficiency, reliability, and scalability. One of the key advantages of Foundation Fieldbus is its ability to support distributed control architectures, allowing control strategies to be implemented either at the field level (Control In Field, CIF) or at the central control system (Control In Controller, CIC).Control In Field (CIF) leverages smart field devices with built-in control capabilities, allowing control loops to be executed locally without relying on a centralized controller.[2] This reduces communication latency, minimizes bandwidth usage, and enhances system resilience against network failures.[3] CIF enhances plant availability, as the failure of a central controller does not disrupt local control operations. On the other hand, Control In Controller (CIC) involves executing control logic at the central Distributed Control System (DCS) or Programmable Logic Controller (PLC). This traditional approach simplifies system management, enables easier modifications to control strategies, and allows centralized monitoring and diagnostics.[4]The choice between CIF and CIC significantly impacts system performance, reliability, and maintenance complexity. This study provides an in-depth evaluation of CIF vs. CIC by analyzing their impact on system performance, fault tolerance, response time, and overall operational efficiency.*

Keywords: Foundation Fieldbus (FF), Control systems, Control In Field (CIF), Control In Controller (CIC), Implementation, System performance