thin-edge.io for PLCnext Controls

PLCnext App

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1 Introduction

This PLCnext App installs the *thin-edge.io* (https://thin-edge.io/) agent. This provides an easy connection to the Cumulocity loT cloud platform. Optional Cumulocity modules as (PLCnext) Software Update, Restart Commands and Log File Retrieval are supported as well. Thin-edge.io is an open edge framework to connect your device to the cloud. Refer to the *thin-edge.io* documentation (https://thin-edge.github.io/thin-edge.io/ntml/) on how to use the client.

1.1 Version Information

The version notation includes the thin-edge.io version and the build information as build date of the PLCnext App container. The build information will be updated if the PLCnext App container is patched. Example: 0.8.1 (20221214) where 0.8.1 is the thin-edge.io version and 20221214 is the build date of the app.

1.2 Supported PLCnext Controls

This PLCnext App supports the following PLCnext Controls from firmware 2022.0 LTS:

Name	ltem number
AXC F 2152	2404267
AXC F 3152	1069208
EPC 1502	1185416
EPC 1522	1185423
RFC 4072S	1051328

1.3 Third Party

This PLCnext App deploys the following third party software packages on the PLCnext Control. See *Appendix A - Third Party Licenses* for the respective software licenses.

Name	Version	URL
thin-edge.io	0.8.1	https://thin-edge.io
Mosquitto	2.0.11	https://mosquitto.org/
cJSON	1.7.15	https://github.com/DaveGamble/cJSON
libwebsockets	4.3.2	https://libwebsockets.org/

2 Installation

Download the PLCnext App from the PLCnext App Store. Download link: https://www.plcnextstore.com/eu/app/1712



thin-edge.io for PLCnext

Developed by Phoenix Contact Deutschland GmbH

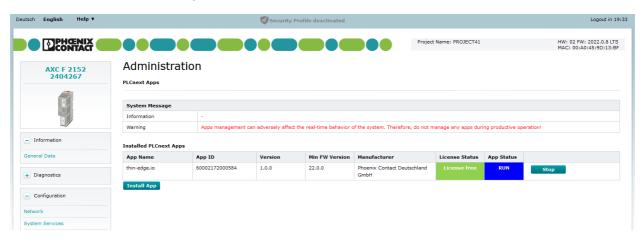
Function Extension | Version:







Open the Web Based Management of the controller and install the PLCnext App.



Before starting the PLCnext App, it is possible to configure basic settings for the thin-edge.io agent. These settings can be provided with the file <code>tedge_default</code> in the directory <code>/opt/plcnext/</code> on the device. With this file it is possible to the set the <code>tedge</code> config parameters on installation.



Use Unix style linefeed (LF) for newlines not Windows Style (CRLF).

Here is an example for the config file. Notice the double underscores as separator characters:

```
TEDGE C8Y URL='mytennant.eu-latest.cumulocity.com'
TEDGE DEVICE ID='TestDevice65'
TEDGE CERT UPLOAD C8Y USER='my.username@domain.tld'
TEDGE CERT UPLOAD C8Y PASSWORD='SuperSecretPassword'
```

For security reasons, the access rights have to be set for the configuration file. Only the owner must be allowed to read or write the file.

```
-rw----- 1 admin plcnext 224 Dec 6 09:07 /opt/plcnext/tedge_default
```

Connect via ssh to the PLCnext control as admin user and use the command chmod 600 /opt/plcnext/tedge_default to set the access rights of the file. You can also use for example WinSCP on Windows hosts to set the access rights.

After the configuration file is uploaded to the device and the access rights are set, the PLCnext App can be started by clicking the start button in the Web Based Management. The initial start of the App will take some time. The App will install the thin-edge.io agent into the system. It creates a test certificate with the provided device ID and will upload the certificate to the Cumulocity tenant, if a valid username and password is provided. The provided user has to have set the proper role in Cumulocity to upload device certificates to the tenant. The installer will also connect the device to the Cumulocity cloud automatically. After the start of the PLCnext App has finished the device should be present in the Cumulocity tenant.



If you don't want to create a test certificate set <code>WITH_TEST_CERTIFICATE</code> to <code>0.</code> If you don't want to upload the test certificate to the Cumulocity cloud set <code>WITH_CERTIFICATE_UPLOAD</code> to <code>0.</code> If you don't want to auto connect to Cumulocity cloud after installation set <code>WITH_CONNECT_C8Y</code> to <code>0.</code>

Here is an example tedge default file that does not create test certificates on installation:

```
TEDGE_C8Y_URL='mytennant.eu-latest.cumulocity.com'
TEDGE_DEVICE_ID='TestDevice65'
WITH_TEST_CERTIFICATE=0
WITH_CONNECT_C8Y=0
```

This PLCnext App bundles the Mosquitto MQTT Broker. The thin-edge.io agent relies on an available mosquitto installation for cloud connection. If there is already a running mosquitto service installed on the system, set <code>WITH_MOSQUITTO</code> to 0 in the <code>tedge_default</code> configuration file. This prevents installing the included Mosquitto MQTT Broker during App installation. Keep in mind to patch the existing Mosquitto configuration file to include the tedge mqtt configuration directory.

Here is an example tedge_default file that does not install Mosquitto MQTT Broker during installation:

```
TEDGE__C8Y__URL='mytennant.eu-latest.cumulocity.com'
TEDGE__DEVICE__ID='TestDevice65'
WITH_MOSQUITTO=0
WITH_CONNECT_C8Y=0
```

3 Sending data to the cloud

With the thin-edge.io client it is possible to send measurements, alarms and events to the cloud. The data has to be sent to the local MQTT broker as JSON encoded messages. Refer to the thin-edge.io documentation (https://thin-edge.github.io/thin-edge.io/html/tutorials/send-thin-edge-data.html) for more information on sending data to the cloud.

3.1 Send measurements

Publish topic: tedge/measurements

Payload example:

```
{
  "time": "2020-10-15T05:30:47+00:00",
  "temperature": 25,
  "current": {
    "L1": 9.5,
    "L2": 10.3,
    "L3": 8.8
  },
  "pressure": 98
}
```

3.2 Send alarms

Publish topic: tedge/alarms/<severity>/<alarm-type>

Severity:

- critical
- major
- minor
- warning

Alarm-type: The custom alarm type of the alarm.

The message must be sent with QoS 1 and MQTT retained flag.

Example:

Topic: tedge/alarms/critical/temperature high

Payload:

```
{
    "text": "Temperature is very high",
    "time": "2021-01-01T05:30:45+00:00"
}
```

3.3 Send events

Topic: tedge/events/<event-type>

Event-type: The custom event type.

Example:

Topic: tedge/events/login event

Payload:

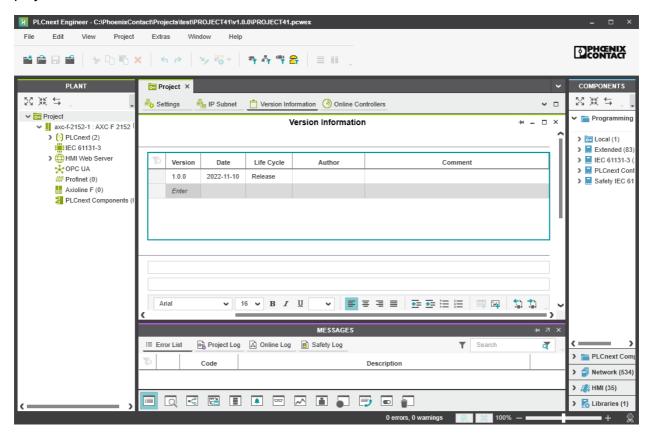
```
{
    "text": "A user just logged in",
    "time": "2021-01-01T05:30:45+00:00"
}
```

4 Deploy PLCnext Engineer Project

The thin-edge.io PLCnext App comes with a custom Software Management Plugin for handling PLCnext Engineer Projects on the device. With this plcnextengineer Plugin it is possible to deploy and update the PLCnext Engineer Project from the cloud. For details on Software Management Plugins refer the documentation of the thin-edge.io (https://thin-edge.github.io/thin-edge.io/html/tutorials/software-management.html) client.

4.1 Create a Software Package

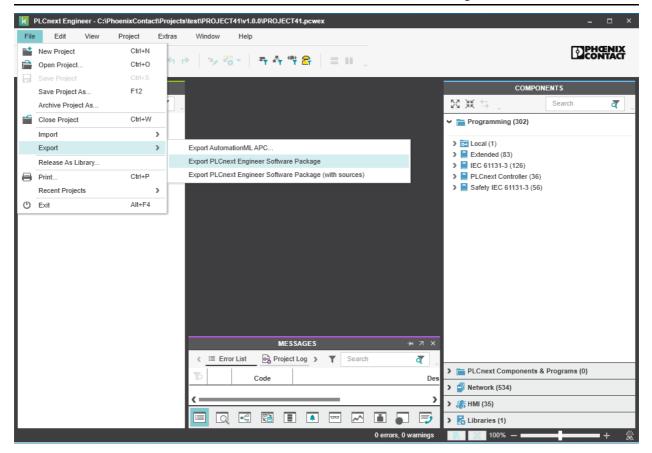
To include the PLCnext project into the Software Repository from Cumulocity the PLCnext Engineer project has to be released as Software Package. In PLCnext Engineer open the *Project* Node in the Plant Area and insert the release Information in the *Version Information* tab of the project.



Next export the project as Software Package. Click in the top menu under "File / Export / Export PLCnext Engineer Software Package".

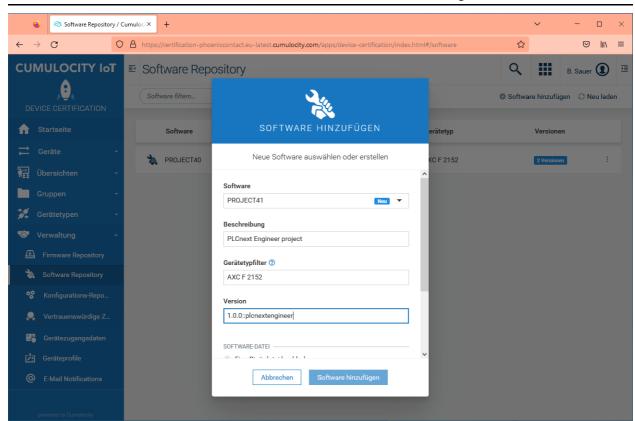


The feature *Export PLCnext Engineer Software Package* ist available from PLCnext Engineer Version 2022.9.



4.2 Add Software to Software Repository

The PLCnext Engineer Software Package can now be imported as a Software to the Cumulocity Software Repository. When you add the software to the Software Repository the plugin type name plcnextengineer must be provided to the Software. Keep in mind in the current Cumulocity version (1015.0.218) the plugin type name is provided as suffix to the software version in the form of ::plugin_type_name e.g. 1.0.0::plcnextengineer



5 Access PLCnext log files

The thin-edge.io client allows to access the PLCnext logs of the device. Per default there are two PLCnext specific logs types configured for access:

- plcnext-output This is the main PLCnext logfile. On the device it can be found at /opt/plcnext/logs/Output.log.
- plcnext-plcnextapp This is the PLCnext App logfile. On the device it can be found at /opt/plcnext/logs/plcnextapp.log.

For more information of the available logfiles of the PLCnext device refer to the *PLCnext Info Center (https://www.plcnext.help)* .

6 Known Issues

6.1 Version 0.8.1 (20221214)

- Log file retrieval with c8y_log_plugin fails to work after some time *GitHub #1688* (https://github.com/thin-edge/thin-edge/io/issues/1688)
- Client error 401 Unauthorized while requesting configuration file via c8y_configuration_plugin *GitHub #1562* (https://github.com/thin-edge/thin-edge.io/issues/1562)

7 Support

For technical support please contact your local PHOENIX CONTACT agency at https://www.phoenixcontact.com

Owner:

PHOENIX CONTACT Deutschland GmbH Business Unit Industry Management & Automation (IMA) IMA Engineering Flachsmarktstraße 8 D-32825 Blomberg

8 Appendix A - Third Party Licenses

This software makes use of third party packages with different licenses. The software packages and the licenses are listed in this chapter.

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```
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Jean-loup Gailly
                       Mark Adler
jloup@gzip.org
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```

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