

List of most-wanted corrections or additions for Siemens WinCC Flexible Software.

The list below has been compiled from many posters input.
The order of the entries is completely arbitrary.
After the vote from March 5 – 9, I shall repost the list with the totals of the votes.

1. Reduce the diskpace required for storing projects.

The disk memory usage for storing projects is exorbitant. Emailing projects is in many cases impossible.

2. List objects. Not all properties shows up in the list.

Let all properties in list objects, like tags and alarms, be editable in the list. At the moment, you cannot edit the info-text of alarms for example. This makes this functionality practically useless if there are more than a few alarms in the project. Solving this will also clear another problem: Changing the addresses of acknowledge tags for digital alarms is practically impossible. If these addresses were available in the list view, then you could modify them en block.

3. Let all graphical animations be editable by copy-paste and/or multiselection.

At the moment, you have to edit the graphical animations such as colors and flashing one-by-one by opening up the properties and then editing step-by-step. For other types of properties this functionality is available, so why not for animations ?

4. Copy-paste texts in lists between two open projects is extremely slow.

For example, copying 20 alarm texts from one project to another takes several minutes.

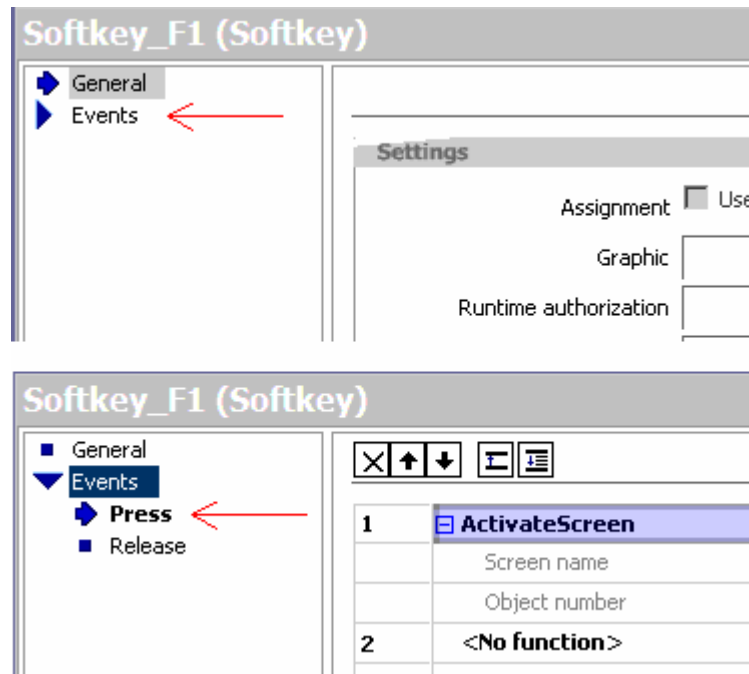
5. Password entry. Clumsy operators zaps users. = Panel becomes useless.

When a user enters passwords incorrectly 3 times, then that user/password is permanently disabled. This is so even for the ADMIN user. It should be possible to select that the application needs to be restarted, not the user to be disabled, just like it is normal for the logon to Windows.

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6. Hide-and-seek with Properties.

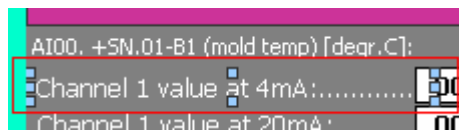
In the tree-view of the properties of any object, if there are assigned animations or events, then this is indicated with bold text in the parent tree level. But in the previous level higher up there is no indication. It can thus easily happen that animations or events becomes orphaned.



Above: Active property is hidden on the higher level.

7. Objects can be placed outside the viewable area.

When editing text fields, you can place part of it outside the viewable area. Only when you compile the project will you get a warning message. If the text is partially outside the viewable area it will not be displayed at all at runtime.



Above: A text that is a single pixel outside the viewable area.

8. Print preview for reports at run time.

(CharlesM) Sometimes I only want to display the information on the screen. If I could display a print preview for reports then it would cover this need.

9. A table type object for displaying data in a format like Excel

(CharlesM)

(Comment JesperMP) This is already possible, and there is an example project with it. Only, it takes a lot of scripting and screen manipulation to get the job done. So I agree that there should be a more "shrink-wrapped" component for this, maybe an ActiveX

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10. Fix copy/paste of data for objects.

(CharlesM) I had a problem this week were I did a paste into a setvalue event. I did not notice but is was not in bold and would not work. I sent the project to tech support and they told me that I had to reselect the tag until it went bold. This worked. Most of the time this type of problem is shown in the output window but not this time. Its hard enought to get things to work when you make your own problems but this will not work just because it didn't like the paste.

11. Bug when using a non-standard USB host-to-host cable driver.

(Black Jack) If you just happen to load the native driver for a USB link cable, you CANNOT ever use the cable with Win CC unless you reload Windows. Currently you must use only the Seimens driver provided on their CDs.

12. Load graphical objects or text lists at runtime.

(CharlesM) Be able to load text list from a script [at runtime].

13. Absolute tag adress should be viewable like in Protool.

(coa) It should able to see S7 address (or other PLC address) by point the mouse over the tag name.

14. It should be possible to limit the number of installed languages.

(panic mode) it would be nice to have choice of choosing installed languages [in the engineering software].

15. Reduce the number of services and processes.

(panic mode) i like to see my PC start in a snap.[..]

(panic mode) make it start MUCH faster. this is way too slow...[..]

(panic mode) Before Siemens:

-Active precesses (mostly services) - 16

-Fresh boot - 30sec.

-Reboot - 40sec

-etc.

After installing Siemens:

-Active processes - 67; (+400%)

-Fresh Boot - 3minutes; (+500%)

-Reboot - 4 minutes... (+500%)

-and according to Task Manager some 4000 more handles running on start (thats whooping 35% more

on a system that already had FULL RANGE of big applications for variety of platforms like

PC, Embeded development, AB, Omron, Mitsubishi, Automation Direct, IDEC, Microsoft Visual Studio,

SolidWorks, Mechanical Desktop and many more).

Windows START menu navigation was blazing fast, for some reason after installing Siemens software

there is a lag of about 1-2 seconds per level. The whole PC seams to be artificially aged 5-10 PC years.

Take those numbers and turn them around. If there is a PC loaded with Siemens (only automation package)

as well as MS Office, MS Visual Studio, Solid Works etc. what I already have (non-automation software).

Install ANY one more automation package (Omron or AB or whatever) will not cause increase of more than 1-2%.

Install ALL others (!) and this will still be around some 5%. Quite different from 400..500% above.

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16. Allow access to properties of objects from other applications.

(panic mode) some faster way of editing would be nice. I like to [...] and use Excel.

(JesperMP) You can import tags from Excel.

And import/export texts for translation.

But you cannot use Excel as sort of external project generator.

(panic mode) This is what I'm after. In the good old PanelBuilder32 from AB, if you click on object you could edit all aspects of all states of whole object - just like in Excel. And you can copy this to and from Excel or another object. It is just marvelous...! WinCC works but it's not exactly cutting edge from any angle other than system requirements.

17. Add the use of complex data types with multiplex tags.

(Miika) At the moment it's not possible to use complex datatypes with multiplexed tags, for example Date_and_time type.

18. DBConverter. Conversion errors.

(Miika) Another problem I found today was a conversion error with DBConverter. It's not directly a WinCC flexible problem, but bounded up with Flexible working. Converter reserves only four bytes for date_and_time tag, although it should reserve eight. All tags after that tag are messed up, absolute address is four bytes behind from correct address

(S7Guy) Another problem with the DBConverter is that it doesn't handle strings well. I seem to remember if the string length is an odd number, it screws up the following addresses.

19. Runtime. Multiple windows open at the same time.

(Rookie_Eng) Ability to create different screen sizes [...]

I would like to see the ability to have multiple windows open at the same time, for my situations it would be probably two at a time. Where each window could be individually sized. I am not sure how easy this would be to accomplish via Touch Panels but would be nice for PC applications.

20. VB Script should allow the complete instruction set.

(CharlesM) For example message boxes, file open/save, etc

(Rookie_Eng) Full VBScript would be nice not just a condensed instruction set [...] For example, Flex does not support the command "MsgBox". I have to use another command from WSHShell that was supported in Protool to accomplish the same function. I like to use this for acknowledgement for initiating a process. There is even less commands supported for the Touch Panels that is explained in the scripting help section of one of the Flex pdf's. I can understand why some commands are not supported for Touch Panels but not for Advanced, PC apps

21. More standard control objects like Message boxes, check boxes.

(Rookie_Eng) More Controls such as option boxes, check boxes etc like in WinCC.

(DesertDog) Popup support. I can buy a cheap little touch screen and it has popup support, yet ProTool and WinCC Flex don't.

(Comment JesperMP) This is not a duplicate entry with #20. If it is not possible to access all VBScript functions from buttons and the like, then an alternative could be controls that are specific to WinCC Flexible.

22. Allow mouse cursor to activate buttons that are under transparent texts.

(DesertDog) Allow buttons to work under a text display.

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23. Transparant webservice functionality.

(DesertDog) Make remote access similar to WinCC WebNavigator where it acts as a separate interface and does not interfere with the operation of the panel itself.

24. Some devices are not supported.

(DesertDog) Make it compatible with WinAC MP!!!! We were sold on that 3 years ago and have been working around it ever since.

(Combo) WinCC Flexible 2005 with SP1 doesn't seem to work with OP73's, impossible to do a download.

25. Faceplates do not support all animations.

(JesperMP) I had great hopes for the faceplate object. I was so disappointed when I found out that you cannot control all animation types within a faceplate.

Faceplates can be used for .. faceplates, nothing else. There is no real truly reusable graphical object in WinCC Flexible.