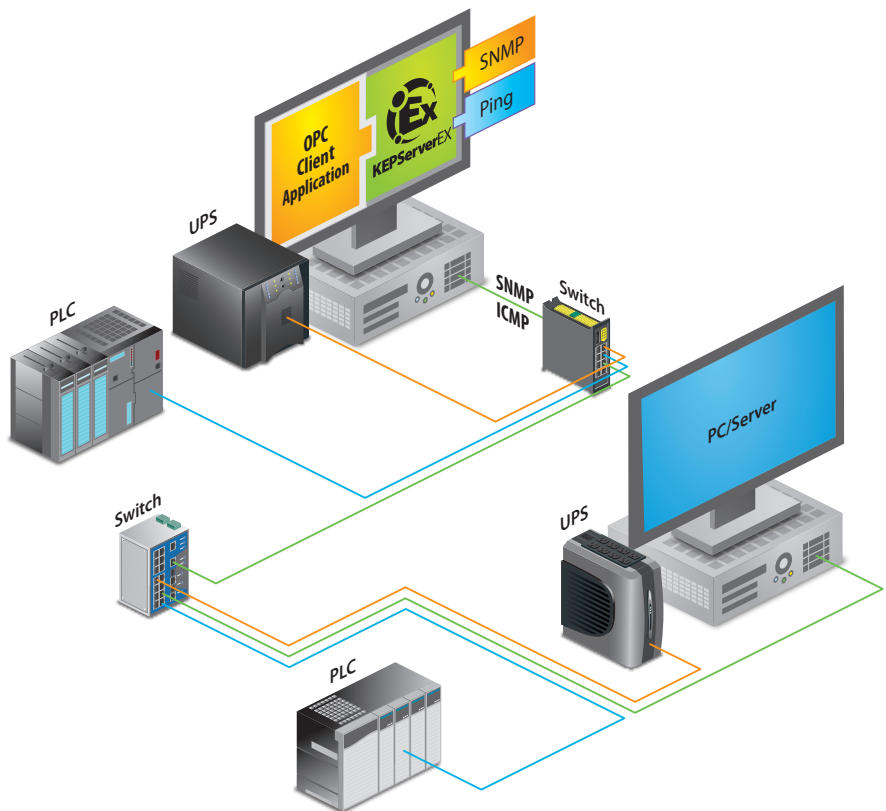


# Will your Automation Network be there when you need it?

What is the most important thing on the mind of a manufacturing professional? Well, from most articles we read, there are two areas – improving manufacturing performance and reducing downtime with a wide array of solutions available to assist you with both. You can focus on integration with your business systems to improve the real-time aspects of production management and you can focus on better production analytics to squeeze additional performance out of the equipment you are monitoring. Both identify and resolve areas of production stress – the items that impact the reliability of your manufacturing equipment. These are all valuable pursuits and they will, no doubt, deliver improvements in your production and profitability. To effectively calculate the savings, you should quantify your cost of downtime, per machine, per line, per plant area, etc. Only then, will you really clearly know the return on your investments.

But as was said in a song... “The real troubles in your life are apt to be things that never crossed your worried mind: the kind that blindsides you at 4pm on some idle Tuesday.”

What might they be? Let's start simple – that production printer that is left off-line or that ran out of ink or paper. The Storage Disk that filled up. On the more disruptive side – it's the CD left in a Drive that stops a system from Auto-Booting. The operator that started a video session and stole all available network bandwidth... It's the laptop plugged into an available switch port to access a plc needing maintenance (oops – yes, I let my kids use it to do homework the other night and hmmm – I guess they may have accidentally infected it). Or, maybe the power fails and you find out your UPS Backup Batteries have aged and can no longer provide the power you need.



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## ABOUT KEPWARE

Kepware is the leading provider of communications for Automation. Founded in 1995, and having developed a focus on communications for the automation industry, Kepware Drivers have become the most widely OEM'd product among both software and hardware vendors within the automation space. In 2007, Kepware acquired the products of COI Software, the company that pioneered SNMP communications for automation. In 2008, Kepware redeveloped the iSNMP product, bringing it up to date with industry standards and adding the iSNMP and PING Driver to its current suite of over 130 protocols. KEPServerEX, and all communication protocols, including iSNMP and Ping, are available for download at [www.kepware.com](http://www.kepware.com) and will offer full operation in a two hour demonstration mode.

These are just some of the ways that idle Tuesday can become an expensive nightmare...





Chances are, if you are like most manufacturers, you are not prepared for any of this. In an informal website poll, almost 70% of engineers knew about the technology that can be applied to monitor their automation infrastructure, yet only about 30% were actively doing so.

The solution relies upon SNMP – Simple Network Management Protocol, a communications protocol built into most of the IT infrastructure around us. From Printers to UPS Systems,

Do you know what SNMP is?

Yes		68%
No		32%

Do you have Plans to monitor your Automation Network and IT infrastructure in Real-time – monitor Network traffic - enable and disable switch ports – manage security policies, etc. from your HMI/SCADA?

We do now		31%
In the next 6 months		26%
No plans now		29%
Didn't know it was possible		15%

Routers, wireless access points, security cameras, PLCs and the PCs we use in automation. Virtually everything in the IT world supports SNMP communications. It is already there, waiting for your use. And, it is supported over the Ethernet you are already using.

So, what does this all mean? Well, it means you can both monitor and control most of the equipment making up your system infrastructure. You can monitor that printer and make sure it is on-line and has the resources it needs for this production shift. You can monitor for media left in drives or measure the UPS reserve power to make sure it is ready for that power interruption. Plus monitor your network for normal bandwidth so that you can generate alarms on abnormal situations. You can even disable unused ports on a network switch to ensure someone doesn't just plug-in a maintenance laptop without first following procedures to ensure the safety and security of your automation environment.

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Monitoring devices via SNMP has typically been the domain of your IT personnel. They have tools such as HP OpenView – enabling them to discover and monitor the various bits that make up your business infrastructure. But their domain experience generally ends at the business systems. It's the automation engineer that manages the automation networks and the tools that notify operators of impending dangers are in the form of HMI (Human Machine Interfaces) and SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) systems. So, what do you do? You know now that you already have most of what you need in terms of devices that can give you SNMP results, all that's missing is the integration of SNMP data with your existing HMI/SCADA solution.