



# Connecting InTouch to TOP Server V5

Using the FastDDE/SuiteLink Interface



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## Introduction

### Overview

The purpose of this guide is to demonstrate how to make a basic SuiteLink connection to the TOP Server V5 with Wonderware's InTouch 10 (or any version 7.0 or later). The TOP Server in this example will use the Simulator driver and the pre-configured simdemo.opf. The same basic steps can be used to make a SuiteLink connection using any of the 70+ drivers available for the TOP Server. If you do not already have TOP Server installed, the free two-hour demonstration version can be downloaded at <http://www.toolboxopc.com>. This version functions the same as a fully licensed version within the two hour demo mode. This demo timer is repeatable for an unlimited number of times.

This guide will also demonstrate how to connect InTouch tags to TOP Server tags and thus to points on your controller. TOP Server does not have to have a tag database for InTouch to communicate with devices using TOP Server. You can directly address the points on the controller to reduce the number of locations that you must create a tag database. However, there are cases where you should create the TOP Server tag database first.

The information provided here is not a substitute for your InTouch documentation. This procedure is being demonstrated in order to show a complete connection, not to provide comprehensive training on how to build InTouch projects.





## Intended Audience

This guide is intended for Wonderware InTouch users who are new to TOP Server. The document makes the assumption that you have some familiarity with InTouch and have configured a TOP Server project (for assistance read [Introduction to TOP Server](#)).

## Required Software

For FastDDE/SuiteLink Connections, you need Software Toolbox TOP Server Version 5.0 or higher and Wonderware InTouch 7.0 or above. For older versions of InTouch, we support DDE connections.

See Also: Topic named “FastDDE and SuiteLink Options” in the main TOP Server help file, which is accessible by clicking Help from the TOP server application itself and selecting Server Help. This Topic is located under Server Help | Configuration | Project Preferences – FastDDE/SuiteLink.





## Basic Connection between InTouch and TOP Server

### Installing Wonderware Common Components

In order for the server to allow FastDDE/SuiteLink connections Wonderware components must be installed. In many existing InTouch installations, the necessary files will be present already. If TOP Server is not running on an InTouch node or if within TOP Server under File | Project Properties you do NOT see the option tab for FastDDE/SuiteLink, then you will need to install these components. The common components can be installed from the Wonderware Device Integration CD.

Run the setup.exe located under \DIFolders\WW\SuiteLink\2.0 SP3\SuiteLink

Since the size of this install is large we will not be including this in our setup.

Please note that the server will function properly if these components are not installed. File | Project Properties | FastDDE/SuiteLink will be shown or hidden based on proper installation of these Wonderware components.

After installing the Wonderware common components, rerun the TOP Server installer and verify that the FastDDE/SuiteLink Native Client interface was installed on the feature selection page.

### Enable FastDDE/SuiteLink in TOP Server

When you run the TOP Server you will need to enable FastDDE/SuiteLink Communications by clicking on File | Project Properties. Go to the tab labeled FastDDE/SuiteLink and check the box as shown below. If you do not see this tab or it is



disabled then you did NOT properly complete the install of the common components or you did not install the SuiteLink Native Interface when installing the TOP Server.

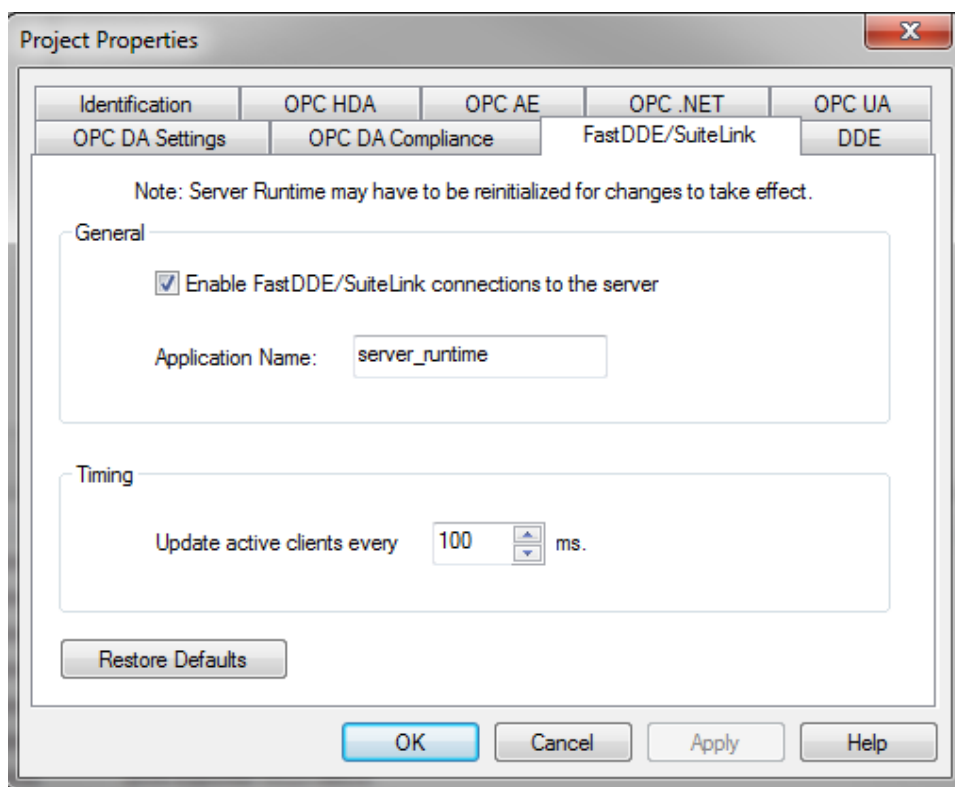


Figure 1

## Configure an Alias in the TOP Server

Each time you add a channel, device, or group TOP Server generates a basic Alias for you. You may also create your own alias mapped to a channel, device or group. Aliases are necessary in the TOP Server since Wonderware does not recognize the “ChannelName.DeviceName” syntax in the Topic Name. This is because of the dot “.” characters in the hierarchical structure when you set up the InTouch Access Name.



If you are familiar with setting up Topic Names in other DDE servers, setting up an Alias name in the TOP Server is our equivalent of that step in the setup process. To do this in the TOP Server, click on Edit | Alias Map. The dialog shown below will appear and will usually have topics made for you automatically that correspond to your channel names, device names, and group names each separated by underscores.

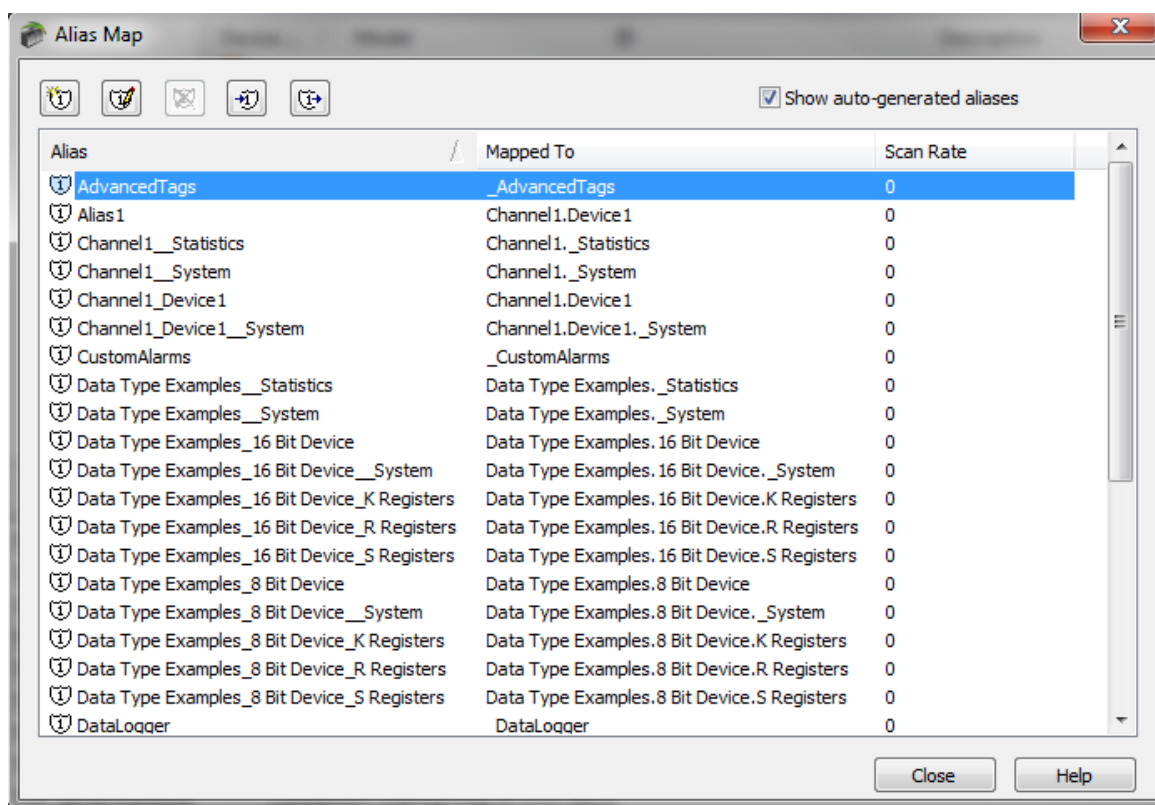


Figure 2

If you have the checkbox “Show aliases for system generated subgroups” unchecked, all you will see are aliases you have entered or will be blank if you have created none. If you plan to use only aliases that you create, it is recommended that you leave this unchecked for simplicity and ease of finding your aliases for editing.



To create your own alias, click on the Icon in the upper left corner of the Alias Map dialog and add an alias in the dialog shown below that maps your ChannelName.DeviceName to a single word topic name WITHOUT any spaces or punctuation. This Alias name will be used as the TOPIC NAME when configuring the InTouch Access Name. In the example below we created an alias named “TestTopic” that maps to “Channel1.Device1” in the TOP Server.

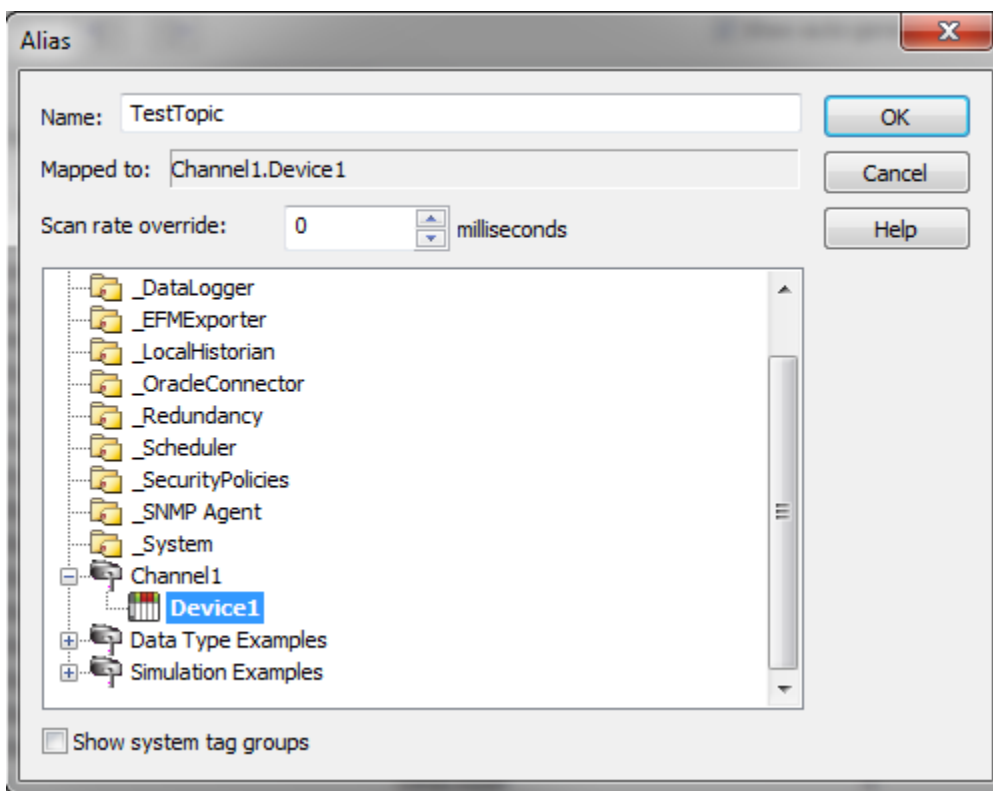


Figure 3

Note that you can create as many aliases (also known as topic names in InTouch), as you like that point to the same or different combinations of a Channel, Device, and Group name.



## Configuring InTouch

### Configure the InTouch Access Name

When you configure the InTouch Access Name you will need the Application Name, Topic Name, and Item Name. The steps below apply whether you are using FastDDE or SuiteLink.

**Add Access Name**

Access Name:

Node Name:

Application Name:

Topic Name:

Which protocol to use

☐ DDE ☒ SuiteLink ☐ Message Exchange

When to advise server

☐ Advise all items ☒ Advise only active items

☐ Enable Secondary Source

OK Cancel Failover

Figure 4



When configuring the InTouch Access Name, as shown in figure 4 above:

- a. The Application Name is always “server\_runtime” when using SuiteLink in TOP Server version 5.
- b. The topic name is the ALIAS name in the TOP Server that you defined above (“TestTopic” in this example).
- c. The protocol to use is discretionary but it is recommended that you use SuiteLink as it is far more efficient than DDE.

Note: If you choose to make a DDE connection the TOP Server must be running in “Interactive” mode. By default, the TOP Server runs as a service. For more information on how to configure the TOP Server to run in Interactive mode, view the TOP Server Help Topic: [Server Help](#) | [Server Administration](#) | [Runtime Settings](#) | [Runtime Settings = Runtime Process](#)

- d. We recommend that you set “When to advise server” to “Advise only active items” as this will reduce the load on the server and the network.



## Configure the InTouch Tagname

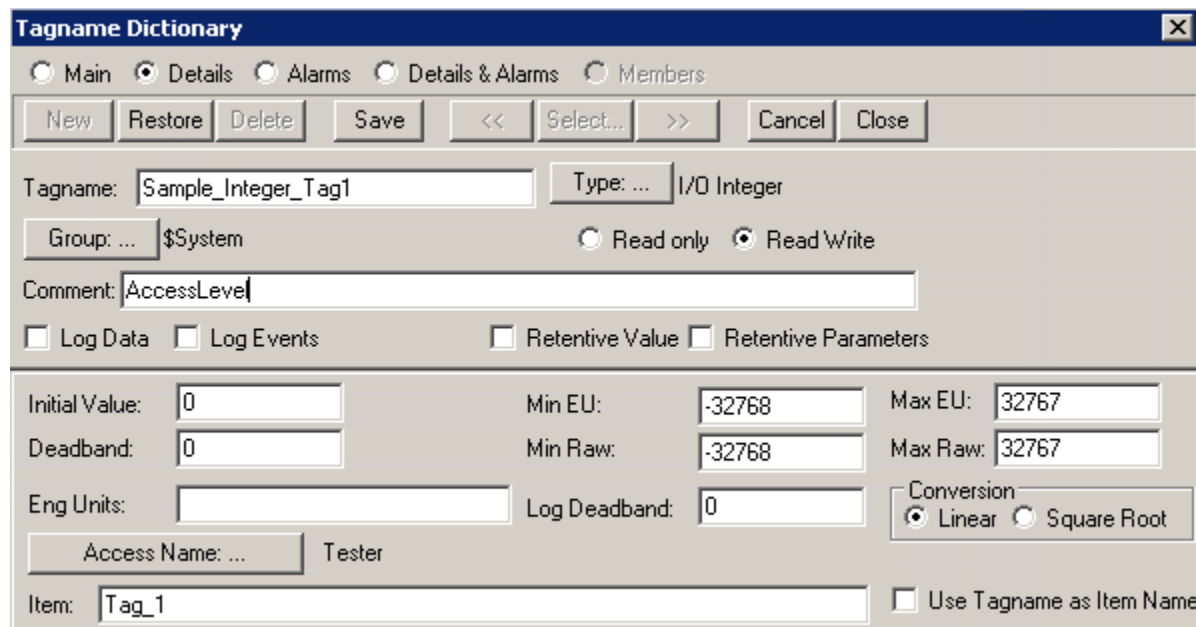


Figure 5

When configuring the Tagname in the InTouch Tagname Dictionary the item name is either of

- i. An actual tag name configured in the TOP Server (shown above) or
- ii. A PLC address is passed down in the Item name in the format of DeviceAddress@DataType. The DataType is optional – if not specified the default data type for the device address specified will be used. This format is used if you do not create a tag database in TOP Server.

For more information on Device Addressing and valid data types for a device address see the driver specific help file for the driver you are using.





## Summary

This guide has demonstrated the basic steps for configuring a SuiteLink connection from InTouch to the TOP Server. This guide is also applicable in configuring SuiteLink connections from InTouch to all of TOP Server's other 70+ available device drivers.

If you do not have TOP Server but would like to evaluate what TOP Server can offer in terms of robust, reliable device data acquisition, you can download a free two hour demonstration of TOP Server at <http://www.toolboxopc.com> . This demonstration version is fully functional, only requiring that you restart it at the end of the two hour demonstration period.

TOP Server also fully supports OPC and DDE client connections in addition to SuiteLink. For tutorials demonstrating connecting System Platform or InSQL to TOP Server please refer to our Wonderware Users Resource website by clicking [HERE](#).

If you have further questions or need assistance, our experienced staff is here to assist you. We can be contacted in the methods outlined below.

## Contact Us

If you have any questions or are seeking further information and help:

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