Methods for Embedding Video Streams in SCADA, Part III
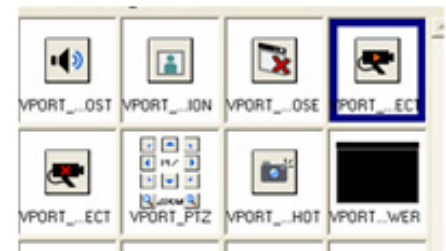
The traditional way to embed video streams into a SCADA system requires using an ActiveX SDK (software development kit), which is provided by the IP video device supplier, and spend time and effort on studying and programming the code. To take the pain out of this cumbersome process, Moxa is pleased to introduce the new VPort Video Gadget, a user-friendly and easy-to-use programming tool. In this article, we will show you how simple it is to embed video into a SCADA system with VPort Video Gadget.

What is VPort Video Gadget?

VPort Video Gadget is a software tool with various function objects for all the function codes you need to embed video into your SCADA system. These functions allow you to connect/disconnect the VPort device, display the video, close the video, control the PTZ capability, enable/disable the audio, and take a snapshot image. Best of all, there is no need for the system engineer to program the codes so you'll save a great deal of time and engineering resources.

Benefits of Using VPort Video Gadget

To illustrate how VPort Video Gadget benefits system integrators and engineers, consider the following comparison between VPort Video Gadget and ActiveX Control SDK.
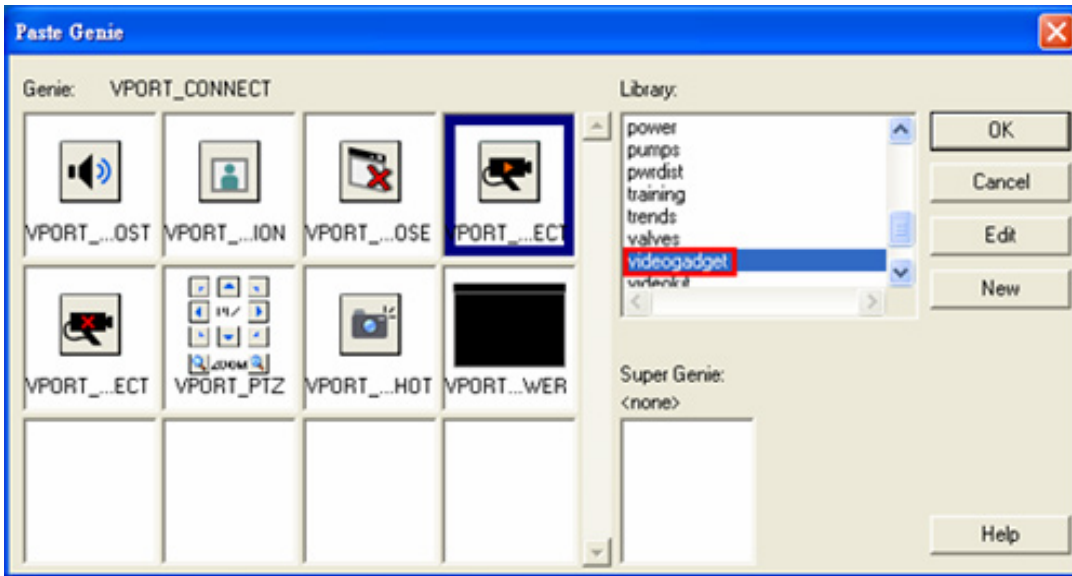
	ActiveX SDK	VPort Video Gadget
Document study	Over 70 commands	Currently 8 commands
Program codes	Yes	No
Try & Error	Yes	No
Programming know-how	Yes	No
Estimated spending time for the engineer who haven't use the ActiveX Control SDK	3 to 7 days	1 to 3 hours

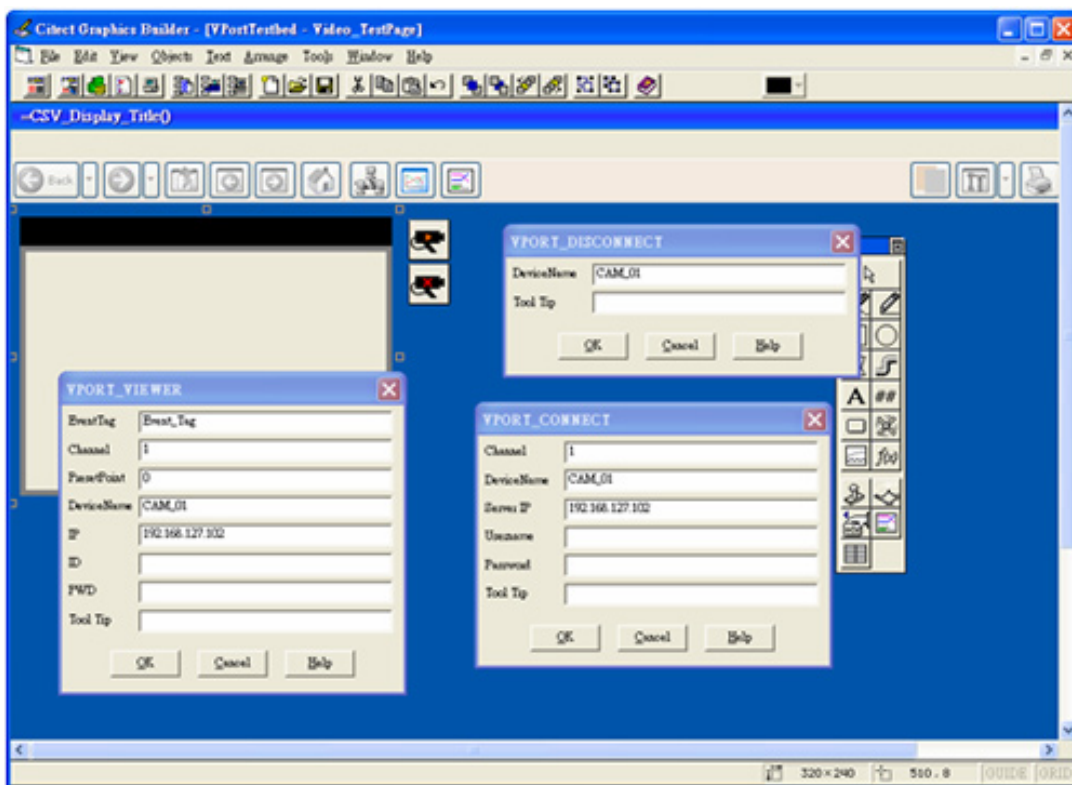As you can see, the key benefit of VPort Video Gadget is the time and effort saved in programming.

How VPort Video Gadget Works?

Since there are different methods for installing VPort Video Gadget depending on the type of SCADA software you are using, you should refer to the VPort Video Gadget user's manual for specific instructions after installing VPort ActiveX SDK PLUS. Once VPort Video Gadget is installed, then you can find the list of function objects under the **videogadget** folder. (The following steps are based on Citect SCADA software.)
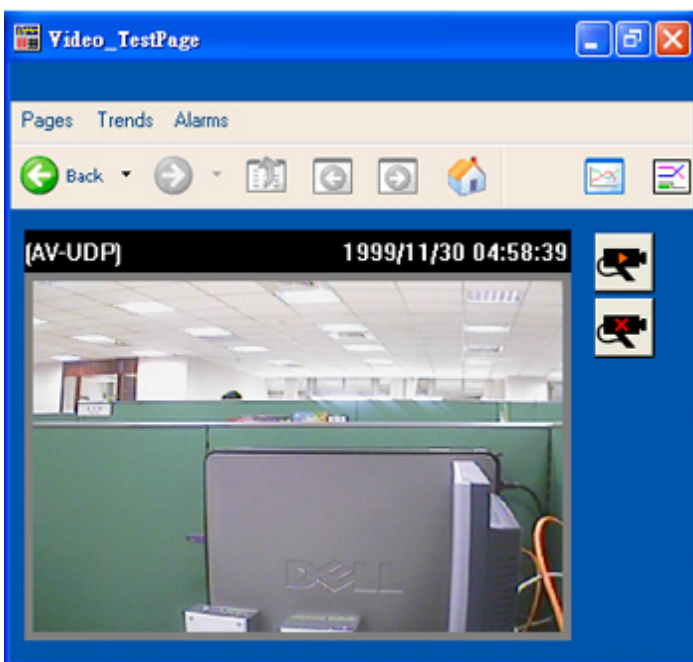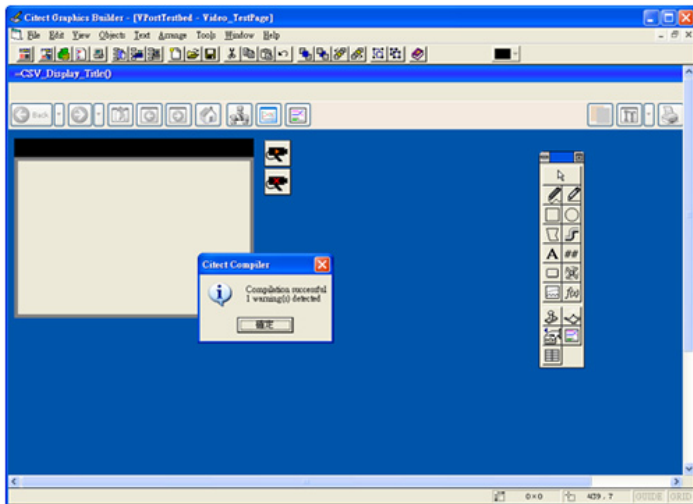
Step 1: Select the **videogadget** library.

Step 2: Drag and drop the selected function objects onto the SCADA software page. A dialog box will pop up to request the necessary parameters for connecting the VPort and taking the actions. Enter the requested parameters.

Step 3: Save and compile. Click **Run** and you're done!

In just a few simple steps, VPort Video Gadget lets you embed video streams into your SCADA system.

Summary

Augmenting remote monitoring systems with visual management is the latest trend in automation systems. Although ActiveX Control SDK is a good method for embedding video into SCADA, it takes a great deal of time and effort for system integrators and engineers to learn and implement. A user-friendly tool like VPort Video Gadget can make embedding video streams in SCADA systems painless. VPort Video Gadget currently only available for Citect SCADA software but will also support Intouch, iFix, and other SCADA systems in the near future. In addition, more function objects to fulfill even more video applications are under development.

VPort Video Gadget is provided as a free download as part of Moxa's VPort ActiveX SDK PLUS. Click here to download the software development kit now. Please refer to your VPort user's manual for detailed installation instructions on how to integrate it with your SCADA software.