Opto 22 tackles large-scale IIoT with *groov* EPIC version 3.0 firmware

Enhancements include central user management, lower-cost licensing, and better remote troubleshooting

Temecula, CA - October 27, 2020 – Opto 22 has debuted its second major firmware release for 2020 (the third since initial release in 2018) of the *groov* EPIC® edge programmable industrial control platform. Version 3.0 focuses on enhancing the scalability of industrial internet of things (IIoT) and automation projects. It introduces centralized user management via LDAP (lightweight directory access protocol), the option of lower-cost Ignition Edge® licensing, and improved maintenance and troubleshooting capabilities for remote installations.

Fulfilling the promise of IIoT requires building networks of hundreds, thousands, or millions of connections, but the very magnitude of these systems can create an administrative bottleneck. *groov* EPIC's Linux®-based operating system and embedded framework of connected applications allow it to grow to meet these challenges. EPIC already supports such IT standards as DNS, DHCP, HTTPS, VPN, and MQTT; and now with version 3.0, users can take advantage of central user management using an LDAP-compatible directory server, like Microsoft® Active Directory. Rather than defining user access profiles repeatedly for individual network devices—creating potential gaps in security—with LDAP, IT administrators can define permissions once and manage them centrally across an organization. For regulated industries like pharmaceutical manufacturing, central user management is a critical data integrity requirement.

Cost can also be a limiting factor in the growth of IIoT and edge computing networks. That's why long-time Opto 22 partner Inductive Automation® has adjusted licensing for the Ignition Edge integration platform embedded in *groov* EPIC. Two field device connections and unlimited OPC UA client connections are now supported at a reduced base licensing cost for users who upgrade to Ignition Edge 8.0, available as an additional firmware update. For experienced Ignition or Ignition

Edge users, version 8.0 also supports optional features like scripting and mobile visualization. The standard version 3.0 firmware retains current Ignition/Ignition Edge 7.x licensing.

In addition to administrative and financial overhead, long-term maintenance and troubleshooting challenges can break the feasibility of large networking projects, so the *groov* EPIC 3.0 firmware strengthens features designed to support these activities. The backup and restore function now captures the installed Node-RED node library, making it easier to archive, restore, and upgrade EPIC systems in remote locations or on isolated networks lacking internet access. Network engineers can also take advantage of integrated logging for *groov* EPIC's native MQTT client. And with Opto 22's always-free product support, maintenance personnel can enable the improved Remote Support Service in *groov* EPIC to receive remote troubleshooting directly from the manufacturer's product support group.

Version 3.0 also includes other juicy extras:

- **Node-RED** is upgraded to version 1.1.3, with improvements to the editor and core nodes plus support for Websockets connections for data-rich client-side apps.
- Standalone **PID** capability debuts for *groov* Manage, allowing for control of up to 96 PID loops without any programming in PAC Control™ or CODESYS®.
- **MQTT/Sparkplug B** support is enhanced with the ability to publish more tag properties, like deadband, scaled min and max values, and signal filter settings.

All these and more are available within *groov* EPIC's secure industrial ecosystem. EPIC supports multi-threaded process flowcharts with PAC Control, IEC 61131-3 industrial control languages via CODESYS, or custom applications with *groov* EPIC secure shell access (SSH). Everything is protected with user authentication, a configurable device firewall, encrypted communications, and segregated network interfaces. Users can play it safe and still go big with the *groov* EPIC 3.0 firmware!

Availability

For new customers, all *groov* EPICs (GRV-EPIC-PR1) will ship with firmware version 3.0. Ignition Edge 7.9.16 is pre-installed but can be upgraded to version 8.0.16 through the manage.groov.com portal. Both versions of the 3.0 firmware are available for free for all current users as well through manage.groov.com. Complete upgrade instructions are available in the *groov EPIC User's Guide*.

About *groov* EPIC

groov EPIC is an edge programmable industrial controller (EPIC). More than a PLC, PAC, or PC, it is a Linux-based processor in a compact industrial enclosure, with local and remote I/O and wide-ranging programming and communications options. In addition to real-time control, *groov* EPIC provides the connectivity many of today's projects require: it connects to field sensors and devices, legacy PLC systems, software applications, remote equipment, and cloud services for anything from weather conditions to big data analytics and predictive maintenance.

About Opto 22

Opto 22 designs and manufactures industrial control products and Internet of Things platforms that bridge the gap between information technology (IT) and operations technology (OT). Based on a core design philosophy of leveraging open, standards-based technology, Opto 22 products are deployed worldwide in industrial automation, process control, building automation, industrial refrigeration, remote monitoring, and data acquisition applications. Designed and manufactured in the U.S.A., Opto 22 products have a worldwide reputation for ease-of-use, innovation, quality, and reliability. For over 40 years OEMs, machine builders, automation end-users, and information technology and operations personnel have and continue to trust Opto 22 to deliver high-quality products with superior reliability. The company was founded in 1974 and is privately held in Temecula, California, U.S.A. Opto 22 products are available through a global network of distributors and system integrators. For more information, contact Opto 22 headquarters at +1-951-695-3000 or visit www.opto22.com. Follow us on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube.

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