

TECHNICAL NOTE 3: REVISION NUMBERING

The product release number consists of a GPT version number, such as 3.0, and a plug-in revision number, such as 1:

- **GPT version number.** Consists of major (the number on the left of the period) and minor revision indicators:
 - **Major revision.** Indicates changes to the PT/user application interface specification, that is, changes to the APIs or the data structures that they use. The *ASE Protocol Translator Interface Specification* documents the PT/user application interface.
 - **Minor revision.** Typically indicates changes to the GPT documentation or changes to the GPT software that either do not affect the PT/user application interface or that extend it without affecting any other interface component. These types of changes include bug fixes, the introduction of new PT properties, document rewrites, and so on. Typically, user software developed for an older revision of the GPT will work with a newer revision, provided the major revision numbers are the same.

ASE Protocol Translator Getting Started provides a summary of changes for each version of the GPT.

- **Plug-in revision number.** The plug-in revision number tracks changes internal to the plug-in software and documentation. ASE maintains a revision history for each plug-in in a separate revision history document that resides in the base directory for the plug-in.

If the GPT major and minor revision numbers remain constant between two GPT distributions, the user can conclude that all user software written against that GPT version number will continue to work with the new distribution. If the minor revision number changes in a release, the user software should continue to work, but there might be extensions in the COMM or DAC specification that require additional user support. If the major revision number changes, this indicates a major change in the DAC or COMM interface that requires a re-reporting of the user software to the new GPT baseline.

A current problem with the GPT version number and revision history is that they do not reflect internal corrections to the baseline software. For example, a user may receive a 3.0 MODBUS Master, revision 4, followed later by a 3.0 DNP RTU, revision 12. From the revision history the user can conclude that user-written DAC and COMM routines will work with both distributions without modification. However, the GPT baseline files that the PT plug-ins use may have been updated, and the earlier MODBUS PT may not compile with the later GPT baseline software sent with DNP.

In the future, the GPT version number will reflect internal corrections to the baseline software. This will help the user determine with which baseline software the plug-ins will run and when a plug-in must be updated to work with the latest GPT release. Until this

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new revision scheme is implemented, the user should make sure all plug-ins run with the latest GPT baseline distribution.

When the user receives a new GPT baseline distribution, the user should unpack the new software into a development directory. The user should then overlay user-supported files on top of the distribution. Typically the only files of concern are those in the vendor sub-directory. The user will have to replace these files with user-updated files.