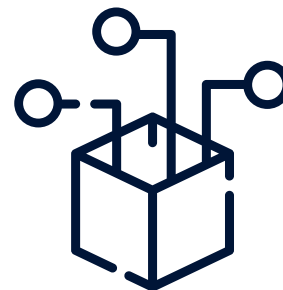# Smart Objects

The logical next step for even more simplicity in engineering

With zenon version 8.20, users are making their projects a little more efficient. Smart Objects are more than an extension of the engineering environment. They are a cluster of related objects such as symbols, variables and commands which, once created, can be adapted centrally to individual requirements.

In the spirit of COPA-DATA's motto – there is always an easier way! – Smart Objects ensure that the complexity and development time of engineering are reduced significantly. Previously, users have been able to combine graphical objects in symbols. However, with Smart Objects in versions 8.20 and higher, zenon takes this one step further to allow the combining of other functional components as well.

BECAUSE TEMPLATES MAKE LIFE EASIER

The foundations for this are the Smart Object templates, which consist of already familiar zenon functionalities such as drivers, variables, symbols and screens. Reaction matrices, scripts, interlocks, files, processing commands and soft logic are supported and can be saved as a unit. This entity (a self-contained object) can be used to represent a hardware element, such as a pump. To create one of these function blocks, a

separate template editor is available in the zenon engineering environment. Essentially, such a template can be described as a small independent project with self-contained functionality.

FULL INTEGRATION

To configure the Smart Objects users can adjust specific properties centrally. For example, change a color or variable for all objects with a mouse-click. In addition, Smart Object templates can also be imported or exported. The version number can be used, including change ID, to ensure that users do not unintentionally overwrite the templates currently in use.

PROJECT-SPECIFIC CUSTOMIZATION

From the templates, users create one or more independent objects. These are the Smart Objects. Once created, templates for Smart Objects can be instanced multiple times in the zenon project. The resulting object instances are assigned the properties that were defined in the higher-level Smart Object template. All objects and links are generated automatically by zenon, so users benefit from significant time savings. When working with symbols, for example, users must manage the required variables, but a Smart Object provides all the required elements directly.

FAST FACTS
- Smart Objects consist of logic and visualization components
- Launch instances from templates
- Centrally update released properties
- Save valuable engineering time by using Smart Objects

Please note: In case of changes to the Smart Object templates provided as part of a zenon Application Set, COPA-DATA does not guarantee functionality or updatability.