

Anybus Advantage



**Anybus® Communicator
Serial Gateway**

vs.



**PLC Serial Communications
Module**

In serial communications applications, the decision needs to be made whether to use a PLC based solution or an external solution such as a gateway. In many applications where a PLC serial communications module is used, there exists on the PLC platform support for fieldbus standards such as DeviceNet, Profibus, EtherNet/IP, Modbus TCP, CANopen and Profinet among others either through the processor module or through an already existing fieldbus communications module.

There is a better solution! The Anybus® Communicator Serial Gateway!

Multi-Vendor Support

The Anybus Communicator supports Profibus, DeviceNet, Profinet, EtherNet/IP, Modbus TCP, CANopen, ControlNet, Modbus Plus, Modbus RTU, CC-Link, Interbus, EtherCAT and FIPIO. This provides a solution that will integrate into almost any vendor's control architecture.

PLC serial communications modules are vendor specific due to the proprietary nature of the PLC platforms they are integrated into. For those who have multi-vendor installations, no single PLC-based solution satisfies the need.



Advantage: Anybus

Integrity of the Architecture

One of the key advantages to systems that employ networking or fieldbus technologies is the ability to exercise control or exchange information across a single cable providing for easier installation and troubleshooting.

The PLC serial communications module used in tandem with an existing fieldbus defeats this advantage by creating more physical connections out of the PLC and more potential points of failure.

The Anybus Communicator with its ability to be mounted on DIN rail near the devices it needs to integrate into the network eliminates these potentially long cable runs thus maintaining the key benefits derived from installing the fieldbus in the first place.



Advantage: Anybus

Ease of Configuration

The Anybus® Communicator is configured using a simple to use Windows™ based configuration software. Configuration is done by simply filling in the blanks as defined by the serial protocol being used. A built-in wizard for Modbus RTU makes integrating devices very simple.

PLC serial communications modules often require that several rungs of ladder logic or function blocks be written in order to facilitate communications. Integrating this into the already existing code significantly increases the time to complete this project.



Advantage: Anybus

Integrity of the Process

PLC serial communications modules with their need to embed communications code into the PLC program along with the control code add significant overhead to the total program. This can serve as a significant detriment to the performance of the total process.

The Anybus® Communicator presents the serial device it is connected to onto the network as a simple array of Input and Output bytes. The PLC simply scans the Anybus Communicator as if it were any other I/O device on the network. This provides for no greater burden to the network than the speed of the serial connection.



Advantage: Anybus

Overall Value

The Anybus® Communicator provides a simple, easy to integrate device for bringing serial devices into the control systems without any detriment to the process.

The Anybus® Communicator achieves this at 40-70% of the cost of most PLC serial communications modules.

Consider the Anybus advantage when specifying your next serial communications project!