

Raphael Alt

***Service-Oriented Architecture
for Automated Commissioning
of Fluid Power Systems***



**SERVICE-ORIENTED ARCHITECTURE
FOR AUTOMATED COMMISSIONING
OF FLUID POWER SYSTEMS**

*Serviceorientierte Architektur
für die automatisierte Inbetriebnahme
fluidtechnischer Systeme*

Von der Fakultät für Maschinenwesen der
Rheinisch-Westfälischen Technischen Hochschule Aachen
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Raphael Alt

Berichter/in: Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Katharina Schmitz
Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Tobias Kleinert

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The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

— *Metaphysica*, Aristotle (384 – 322 BC)

PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Aristotle formulated the above quote around 1700 years ago. Applied to technical systems, its validity presupposes that the individual elements are in close exchange with each other and combine their skills and knowledge in a beneficial way. These aspects are indeed the core characteristics of Industrie 4.0 systems. I hope this work will inspire some implementations of Industrie 4.0 in real industrial applications that contribute to the digital transformation and further drive the automation in the manufacturing industry.

Started my career at ifas only one week before the major fire at WZL in February 2016, Prof. Murrenhoff soon paved my way into the field of Industrie 4.0. The project “Studie Industrie 4.0 in der Fluidtechnik” and the subsequent project “Funktionsnachweis der Interoperabilität am Beispiel von Plug and Produce”, funded by the VDMA Forschungsfonds Fluidtechnik, are the basis for this dissertation and sealed my destiny under the nickname “Digi Dieter”. The latter project was conducted in close cooperation with the Institute of Applied Computer Science TU Dresden, led by Prof. M. Wollschlaeger. The multidisciplinary background of our project team sometimes led to intense discussions, just to establish a common understanding of a subject. While this presented a significant challenge, it ultimately contributed to the good results we were able to archive. This experience highlighted again the critical role of a common understanding and consistent semantics when it comes to interaction and collaboration among individuals. I extend my gratitude to Prof. M. Wollschlaeger, R. Lehmann, N. Braunisch and H. Schweizer, who had significant impact on the presented concepts and implementations in this project, without whom this work would not have been possible.

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Raphael Alt

ABSTRACT

Volatile markets and the increasing individualization of products with shortening life cycles require increased adaptability in manufacturing. The continuous adaptation processes increase the number and relevance of commissioning in the life cycle of production machines. However, as of today, commissioning is highly specific, complex, requiring many manual operations by skilled personnel. This is the consequence of the machines' lack of adaptability, which results from today's rigid and strictly hierarchical control and automation structures as well as the high heterogeneity and incompatibility between various subsystems.

The aim of this work is to increase the flexibility and interoperability of fluid power production systems by applying the principles of service-oriented architectures, to decouple the traditionally rigid structures and fixed dependencies, thus enabling self-organized and largely automated commissioning processes. The solution approach pursues a modularization of the overall system into independent Industrie 4.0 (I4.0) components. Their properties and functionalities required for the commissioning are modeled according to the concept of the asset administration shell, encapsulated and made interoperable available via a communication interface for the cooperative execution of processes in the overall system. To describe the commissioning process, the self-description of each component provides a sequence of individual commissioning steps that are required for itself. Considering component- and system-specific dependencies, commissioning can be derived dynamically at runtime and flexibly based on individual components in the overall system and executed using the functionalities provided by the I4.0 components in the system. The IT-retrofit approach developed together with a concept for seamless integration of the commissioning personnel enable self-guided commissioning on both intelligent and conventional machines even with completely passive components.

The feasibility of a service-oriented architecture for flexible, self-organized and largely automated commissioning is successfully demonstrated by its implementation and experimental validation on a linear hydraulic system and a pneumatic handling system respectively. The evaluation is conducted by a direct comparison with a traditional commissioning of a conventional state of the art system. The increased systematization and structurization of this novel system lead to improved robustness and consistency of the commissioning, regardless of the qualification of the commissioning personnel. In contrast to the conventional system, the self-guided commissioning can even be carried out completely without the expertise of skilled personnel. Furthermore, a parallelization of commissioning steps and a reduction in commissioning time can be demonstrated in many cases.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Volatile Märkte und die zunehmende Individualisierung von Produkten mit sich verkürzenden Lebenszyklen erfordern eine gesteigerte Flexibilität in der Produktion. Durch die kontinuierlichen Anpassungsprozesse steigt die Anzahl und Relevanz von Inbetriebnahmen im Lebenszyklus der Produktionsmaschinen. Die Inbetriebnahme ist jedoch stark spezialisiert, komplex und bedarf einer Vielzahl manueller Anpassungen durch Fachpersonal. Dies ist eine Folge der mangelnden Wandlungsfähigkeit der Maschinen, die aus den heute starr und streng hierarchisch aufgebauten Steuerungs- und Automatisierungsstrukturen sowie der hohen Heterogenität und Inkompatibilität der Teilsysteme untereinander resultiert.

Ziel dieser Arbeit ist es, durch Anwendung der Prinzipien serviceorientierter Architekturen die Flexibilität und Interoperabilität von fluidtechnischen Produktionssystemen zu erhöhen und damit eine selbstorganisierte und weitgehend automatisierte Inbetriebnahme zu ermöglichen. Dazu verfolgt der Lösungsansatz eine Modularisierung der Gesamtsysteme zu eigenständigen Industrie 4.0 (I4.0) Komponenten. Deren Eigenschaften und Funktionalitäten werden durch das Konzept der Verwaltungsschale modelliert und gekapselt über eine Kommunikationsschnittstelle interoperabel zur kooperativen Durchführung von Prozessen im Gesamtsystem zur Verfügung gestellt. Zur Beschreibung der Inbetriebnahme verfügt jede Komponente eine Sequenz aus einzelnen, für sie selbst relevante, Inbetriebnahmeschritte. Durch Berücksichtigung komponenten- und systemspezifischer Abhängigkeiten, lässt sich die Inbetriebnahme dynamisch zur Laufzeit und auf Basis aller einzelner Komponenten für das Gesamtsystem ableiten und mittels der, durch die I4.0 Komponenten im System angebotenen Funktionalitäten, durchführen. Der entwickelte IT-Retrofit-Ansatz in Verbindung mit einem Konzept zur nahtlosen Einbindung des Inbetriebnehmers ermöglichen die selbstgeleitete Inbetriebnahme sowohl auf intelligenten als auch auf konventionellen Maschinen mit teilweise gänzlich passiven Komponenten.

Die Machbarkeit wird durch die Realisierung und Validierung an jeweils einem linear hydraulischen System sowie einem pneumatischen Handlingsystem erfolgreich nachgewiesen. Die Evaluierung erfolgt durch direkten Vergleich mit der klassischen Inbetriebnahme des konventionellen Systems. Der vergleichsweise hohe Grad an Systematisierung und Strukturierung des entwickelten Systems führt zu einer verbesserten Robustheit und Wiederholbarkeit der Inbetriebnahme, unabhängig von der Personalqualifikation. Im Gegensatz zum konventionellen System kann die selbstgeleitete Inbetriebnahme sogar gänzlich ohne Fachkenntnisse des Personals durchgeführt werden. Darüber hinaus kann eine Parallelisierung der Arbeitsabläufe und eine Verkürzung der Inbetriebnahmezeit in vielen Fällen nachgewiesen werden.

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