BECKHOFF New Automation Technology

Functional description | EN TF5200 | TwinCAT 3 CNC CNC Program encryption



Notes on the documentation

This description is only intended for the use of trained specialists in control and automation engineering who are familiar with the applicable national standards.

It is essential that the documentation and the following notes and explanations are followed when installing and commissioning the components.

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This documentation uses the following icons next to the safety instruction and the associated text. Please read the (safety) instructions carefully and comply with them at all times.

Icons in explanatory text

- 1. Indicates an action.
- ⇒ Indicates an action statement.

▲ DANGER

Acute danger to life!

If you fail to comply with the safety instruction next to this icon, there is immediate danger to human life and health.

Personal injury and damage to machines!

If you fail to comply with the safety instruction next to this icon, it may result in personal injury or damage to machines.

NOTICE

Restriction or error

This icon describes restrictions or warns of errors.



Tips and other notes

This icon indicates information to assist in general understanding or to provide additional information.

General example

Example that clarifies the text.

NC programming example

Programming example (complete NC program or program sequence) of the described function or NC command.



Specific version information

Optional or restricted function. The availability of this function depends on the configuration and the scope of the version.

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1 Overview

Task

Controller/machine manufacturers supply encrypted NC programs that end-users are not allowed to modify and cannot view.

The NC kernel processes encrypted NC programs.

Characteristics

An encrypted NC program is recognised by its file extension. A key used for encryption and decryption must be defined for every file extension. Every file extension and the associated key define an encryption group.

A file is recognised as encrypted if its extension matches one of the encryption group file extensions. The CNC uses the associated key to decrypt the file automatically during NC program decoding.

The program ISG Encrypter is used.

Parameterisation

The user can define 3 different encryption groups. The keys are transmitted by <u>CNC objects [> 18]</u> to the NC kernel at controller start-up or before program start.

The file extensions assigned to the keys are configured by <u>P-CHAN-00283</u> [▶ 17].

Mandatory note on references to other documents

For the sake of clarity, links to other documents and parameters are abbreviated, e.g. [PROG] for the Programming Manual or P-AXIS-00001 for an axis parameter.

For technical reasons, these links only function in the Online Help (HTML5, CHM) but not in pdf files since pdfs do not support cross-linking.

2 Description

Initialisation

The following steps are required to use an encrypted NC program:

- 1. An NC program is encrypted with an individual key and saved to a folder.
- 2. The file extension is entered in the channel parameter list as an encrypted file type for the corresponding channel.
- 3. In parallel to the file extension, the associated key used to encrypt the file is entered in the NC kernel. The entry is made by using a write operation to a CNC object. This can be executed by the PLC.

Process

When an NC program is invoked, the NC kernel detects from the file extension whether it is encrypted. If the NC program is detected as encrypted, the kernel decrypts it using the specified key. If the file extension is defined as not encrypted, the program is processed as a normal NC program.

NOTICE

If the key is incorrect, the file is still decrypted. The NC kernel attempts to process the file and normally this then results in a syntax error.

CNC diagnosis

Entries of NC program parts in the CNC diagnostic data "diag_data.txt" are encrypted by a key from the controller manufacturer, i.e. they are not visible to users.

Flow chart



Fig. 1: Encryption/decryption flow chart of an NC program

3 Encryption groups and configuration

Groups

The user can define 3 different encryption groups for the NC kernel. Each of these groups consists of a pair comprising a key and a file extension. A key can contain a maximum of 56 characters plus '\0'.

A file extension must consist of 1 to 3 characters. When the NC kernel loads an NC program, it checks whether the extension of the NC program is entered in one of these 3 groups. If this is the case, the NC kernel decrypts the NC program with the key belonging to the associated group.

Default configuration

Users can use the groups as they wish. The pair assignment of key and file extension is depicted in the table below:

Group	Кеу	Channel parameters
1	mc_encryption_key_0	encryption_extension[0] P-CHAN-00283
2	mc_encryption_key_1	encryption_extension[1] P-CHAN-00283
3	mc_encryption_key_2	encryption_extension[2] P-CHAN-00283

3.1 Channel parameter list

Parameterisation options for file extensions in the channel parameter list

The table below shows an example of a setting for the extensions in the channel parameter list. The file extensions for groups 1 to 3 (index 0, 1, 2) can be set.

Channel parameters	Value
encryption_extension[0]	enc
encryption_extension[1]	od
encryption_extension[2]	e

A further group also exists. This group is permanently specified by the controller or machine manufacturer and is used for the encryption of user-created NC programs (e.g. CNC cycles). These NC programs have the extension "ecy".



It is strongly recommended that you do not re-assign the file extension "ecy" for your own definitions.

If you define the file extension "ecy", it is not possible to use CNC cycles since NC programs encrypted by controller/machine manufacturers cannot be decrypted.

3.2 Setting keys via CNC objects

The keys for encryption groups must be set via CNC objects. Refer to the example below on how to address objects via the index group and index offset.

You can also set them online using the ISG Object Browser of the CNC.

As a security measure, all keys are only displayed hidden.

Access to encryption

All groups are accessible as shown below. The arrays can only be written via CNC objects.

Channel 1

Task: COM

IDXGRP	:=16#00120101	(Channel 1)
IDXOFFS	:=16#0000094	(<u>mc_encryption_key_0 [▶_18]</u>)
IDXGRP	:=16#00120101	(Channel 1)
IDXOFFS	:=16#00000095	(<u>mc_encryption_key_1 [▶ 18]</u>)
IDXGRP	:=16#00120101	(Channel 1)
IDXOFFS	:=16#0000096	(<u>mc_encryption_key_2 [▶_18]</u>)

ADS function block

Transfer takes place using the function block ADSWRITE(). The following applies to the example above:

);

NOTICE

When writing CNC objects, note that it may be necessary to insert a "\0" at the string end.

4 Library methods

isg-encrypt-x*.dll

This auxiliary DLL includes the methods for encrypting NC programs.

- encrypt_file()
- get_version()

The auxiliary DLL is available in both a 64-bit version (isg-encrypt-x64.dll) and a 32-bit version (isg-encrypt-x86.dll).



The library is designed for the European/Western character set. If different character sets are used, it may result in unforeseen side effects.

4.1 Encryption

The specified input file is fully encrypted with the specified key and is saved as the output file.

long encrypt_file (char *pln, char *pOut, char* encryption_key,

char* err_buffer, unsigned long err_buffer_size)

Parameter

Name	Туре	Meaning
pln	char*	Name for input file
pOut	char*	Name for output
encryption_key	char*	Кеу
err_buffer	char*	Buffer for error messages:
		"Key is longer than 56 characters"
		"No key defined"
		"Could not open input file"
		"Could not open output file"
		If a blank string is entered, no error occurred. A maximum of 256 characters can be transmitted.
err_buffer_size	unsigned long	Size of the buffer err_buffer

Return values

Value	Meaning
-4	Output file cannot be opened
-3	Input file cannot be opened
-2	Maximum key length exceeded.
-1	Key missing.
0 <x< td=""><td>Encryption of x characters successful.</td></x<>	Encryption of x characters successful.

4.2 Version number

The file version of the dll can be determined with the library method get_version(). This is the same version that is obtainable by right-clicking File => Properties => Details (see the figure below).

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isg-encrypt-x64.dll Properties				
General Security	Details Previous Versions			
Property Description —	Value			
File description Type	ISG Encrypt DLL, Release version Application extension			
File version	2.0.0.0			
Product version	2.0.0			
Copyright	Copyright (C) 2024 ISG Industrielle Steuerung			
Date modified	14/05/2025 11:50			
Language Original filename	German (Germany) isg-encrypt-x64.dll			
Remove Propertie	s and Personal Information			
	OK Cancel Apply			

Fig. 2: Determining the dll file version

Parameter

Name	Туре	Meaning
buffer	char*	Buffer for version string
size	unsigned long	Size of buffer

Return values

Value	Meaning
TRUE	Version string successfully copied to the buffer.
FALSE	Version string could not be written to the buffer.

5 Use of the dll in a test GUI

isg-encrypt-x*.dll in the application of the ISG Encypter

BG Encrypter, v2.1.0				- 🗆 ×
Source (3 Files) D\Encrypt_Demo\test_B.nc D\Encrypt_Demo\test_C.nc D\Encrypt_Demo\test_A.nc	Encrypted target D:Encrypt_Demo\Output\test_B.enc D\Encrypt_Demo\Output\test_C.enc D\Encrypt_Demo\Output\test_A.enc	Size 313 Byte 718 Byte 2.14 kë		Industrielle Steuerungstechnik GmbH
			key Output folde	**** 8 © Show key 8 r D\Encrypt_Demo\Output >> Select folder 9
			File suffix	enc 10
2 Add files 3 Add folder 4 Load file lists 5 Save file list		6 Clear selected 7 Clear -	.	ENCRYPT 1
2024-03-20 13:33:32,465 [INFO] ISG Encrypter, v2.1.0 2024-03-20 13:33:32,466 [INFO] isg-encrypt-x64.dll, v2.0. 2024-03-20 13:33:32,466 [INFO] © ISG Industrielle Steuern 2024-03-20 13:34:03,285 [INFO] added 3 Files to list	0.0 nggtechnik GmbH			

Fig. 3: Overview of how to apply the ISG Encypter

Description of	highlighted	elements
----------------	-------------	----------

index	Meaning	Description
1	File list	This lists all the files to be encrypted. The first column contains the file name of the source; the second column specifies the target file name.
2	Add files	Opens a dialog to add one or more files to the file list.
3	Add folder	Opens a dialog to add all the files in a folder (and all subfolders) to the file list.
4	Load file lists	Opens a dialog to load one or more file lists previously saved.
5	Save file list	Saves the current file list.
6	Remove selected	Removes selected entries from the file list.
7	Remove all	Removes all entries from the file list.
8	Кеу	The secret key used for encryption. The identical key must then be transferred to the CNC later, e.g. via the associated CNC object.
9	Output folder	This lets you specify a folder to save the encrypted files in. If this field remains empty, each encrypted file is stored in the folder of the associated source file.
10	File extension	Specifies the file extension used for encrypted files.
11	ENCRYPT	Starts encryption.
12	Log output	Displays information, warnings and errors.
13	Language	Changes the language of GUI elements.

5.1 Encryption example

¶ ISG CNC Editor					×
🗈 🖾 🕼 🗇 🖉 🚔 🛛					
Start Search Text NC-Tools	View Cycle	s Help			3
N100 N100 N100 N110 N110 N120 Extended Insert Insert Standard Remove Block Block Numbers Block Numbers Blocknumbers	/N100 Add/Remove Skip Block Skip	Comment Block Block Comment	9 1 Remove Comment Create NC-File Header Temp	Insert Date in Current Line plates	
Encrypt_Example.nc ×					Ŧ
1 N010 G17 G162 2 N020 G00 X0 Y0 Z=0 F1000 3 N030 #ROTATION ON [ANGLE=45 CENTER1=0 CENTER2=0] 4 N040 G01 X10 5 N050 G01 X10 Y10					
7 N070 G01 X40					
8 N080 #ROTATION OFF 9 N090 G0 X0 Y0 10 N100 M30					
File Offset: 177 Line: 8 Column: 19 Sele	ected Characters: 0		Standard Encoding 1252	Version:	2.0.0.0

Fig. 4: View of the source file with readable code

ISG CNC Edite	or							- 0	×
🗈 🖾 🖾 🕤 (2 🛤								
Start	Search	Text NC-1	Tools View	Cycles Help	b				3
N100 N11/L N12/L Extended Insert	N100 N110 N120 Insert Standard	N100 N110 N122 Remove Blo	/N100 ck Add/Remove	0 0 Comment	Decomment	9 Remove	0 1 Create NC-File	Insert Date in	1
BIOCK NUMBERS	Block Numbers Blocknumbers	Numbers	Skip	BIOCK	Comment	Comment	Temp	lates	
Encrypt_Example.e	cy X								Ŧ
Encrypt_Example.ecy × ãø&ETXD·~dĬ^3L<(CAN)±FF, Jý?æ·Ü¬ HOPFSëë-¢0+s^m}&d0.¢À¤u@; ~"o" HhR¶®‡49_]äñmÀ¤äFF[-Sŷg³-Ô\$ÝÐSUB7²ENQ _%~FSŷu¦åþQš30_ä^FFPCS8 'SIcm¢rðFS¥¥Xð³*0C4¿-n@köZ ~g 'ZµYø, "Z·1óL%BELƒ>r²U m*‰¤Ñ¾≥µ™*ä³ñ"gCR~] DòFSYN/þó°XÜZ¤BEL}ĔÉ-«[~Õ1FSFS-x\$èCBELÓc~SS3>ôR] 									
File Offset: 208	Line: 1 Col	lumn: 209	Selected Character	rs: 0		Standard E	Encoding 1252 🕤	' Version	: 2.0.0.0

Fig. 5: Encrypted file with encrypted code

Procedure to encrypt a file

The file in the figure "View of the source file with readable code" is encrypted. The isg-encypt- x^* .dll must be in the same folder as the example application.

- 1. In this case, choose "asdf" as the password.
- 2. Select "Encrypt_Example.enc" (in the same folder as the input file) as the output file.

3. The result should be similar to the figure "Encrypted files".

6 Parameter

6.1 Channel parameters

P-CHAN-00283	Define file extensions to encrypt NC programs	
Description	The NC channel can process encrypted NC programs. Encryption is recognised by the file extension. A maximum of 3 self-defined file extensions are available in the channel parameter 'encryption_extension[]' to configure file extensions.	
	A file extension can consist of one to maximum 3 characters. No distinction is made between uppercase and lowercase letters in the file extension. A check is made whether the extension is entered in one of the 3 groups before opening an NC program. If the check is positive, the NC kernel decrypts the NC program with the key belonging to the related group. Both main programs and global subroutines can be encrypted.	
	For more information about encryption see [<u>FCT-C12</u> [▶ <u>8]</u>].	
Parameter	encryption_extension[i] where i = 0 2	
Data type	STRING	
Data range	Maximum of 3 characters	
Dimension		
Default value	encryption_extension[0]	
	encryption_extension[1]	
	encryption_extension[2]	
	encryption_extension[3] ecy *	
Remarks	* File extensions can be set for the groups 1 to 3 (Index 0, 1, 2). A further group also exists. This group especially is pre-defined by the controller or machine manufacturer and is used for the encryption of self-created NC programs (e.g. cycles). The extension is 'ecy'. It is recommended not to re-use this extension for new user-defined definitions	
	Parameterisation example:	
	encryption_extension[0] enc (1st group) encryption_extension[1] od (2nd group) encryption_extension[2] d (3rd group)	

6.2 CNC objects

Notes on addressing

 $<C_{ID}$ > Channel or channel ID starting with 1

For further information on addressing CNC objects, see [FCT-C13//Description].

Name	mc_encryption_key_0			
Description	This object specifies the key for the first encryption group.			
	The encryption group is defined by the parameter <u>P-CHAN-00283 [> 17]</u> and reference to the specified file extension.			
	This key acts on			
	encryption_extension[0]			
Task	COM (Port 553)			
Indexgruppe	0x12010 <c<sub>ID></c<sub>	Index offset	0x94	
Data type	STRING	Length/byte	57	
Attributes	write Unit -			
Remarks				

Name	mc_encryption_key	mc_encryption_key_1			
Description	This object specifies the key for the second encryption group.				
The encryption group is defined by the parameter P-CHAN-0028 specified file extension.			r P-CHAN-00283 and refers to the		
	This key acts on				
	encryption_extension	encryption_extension[1]			
Task	COM (Port 553)	COM (Port 553)			
Indexgruppe	0x12010 <c<sub>ID></c<sub>	Indexoffset	0x95		
Data type	STRING	Length/byte	57		
Attributes	write Unit -				
Remarks			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		

Name	mc_encryption_key_2			
Description	This object specifies the key for the third encryption group.			
	The encryption group is defined by the parameter <u>P-CHAN-00283 [▶ 17]</u> and refers to the specified file extension.			
	This key acts on			
	encryption_extension[2]			
Task	COM (Port 553)			
Indexgruppe	0x12010 <c<sub>ID></c<sub>	Indexoffset	0x96	
Data type	STRING	Length/byte	57	
Attributes	write Unit -			
Remarks				

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