BECKHOFF New Automation Technology

Documentation | EN

EL6685

Reference clock, high-precision, distributed clocks

2025-09-30 | Version: 1.0.0

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1 Product overview EtherCAT Terminals, reference clock, high-precision, distributed clocks

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EtherCAT Terminal, reference clock, high-precision, distributed clocks

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2 Foreword

2.1 Notes on the documentation

Intended audience

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 these components.
The qualified personnel is obliged to always use the currently valid documentation.

The responsible staff must ensure that the application or use of the products described satisfy all the requirements for safety, including all the relevant laws, regulations, guidelines and standards.

Disclaimer

The documentation has been prepared with care. The products described are, however, constantly under development.

We reserve the right to revise and change the documentation at any time and without prior announcement.

No claims for the modification of products that have already been supplied may be made on the basis of the data, diagrams and descriptions in this documentation.

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2.2 Guide through documentation

NOTICE

Further components of documentation

This documentation describes device-specific content. It is part of the modular documentation concept for Beckhoff I/O components. For the use and safe operation of the device / devices described in this documentation, additional cross-product descriptions are required, which can be found in the following table.

Title	Description
EtherCAT System Documentation (PDF)	• System overview • EtherCAT basics • Cable redundancy • Hot Connect • EtherCAT devices configuration
I/O Configuration in TwinCAT (PDF)	Quick start guide for EtherCAT Box Modules and EtherCAT P Box modules
Infrastructure for EtherCAT/Ethernet (PDF)	Technical recommendations and notes for design, implementation and testing
Software Declarations I/O (PDF)	Open source software declarations for Beckhoff I/O components

The documentations can be viewed at and downloaded from the Beckhoff website (www.beckhoff.com) via:

- the “Documentation and Download” area of the respective product page,
- the Download finder,
- the Beckhoff Information System.

If you have any suggestions or proposals for our documentation, please send us an e-mail stating the documentation title and version number to: documentation@beckhoff.com

2.3 Safety instructions

Safety regulations

Please note the following safety instructions and explanations!
Product-specific safety instructions can be found on following pages or in the areas mounting, wiring, commissioning etc.

Exclusion of liability

All the components are supplied in particular hardware and software configurations appropriate for the application. Modifications to hardware or software configurations other than those described in the documentation are not permitted, and nullify the liability of Beckhoff Automation GmbH & Co. KG.

Personnel qualification

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

Signal words

The signal words used in the documentation are classified below. In order to prevent injury and damage to persons and property, read and follow the safety and warning notices.

Personal injury warnings

⚠ DANGER
Hazard with high risk of death or serious injury.

⚠ WARNING
Hazard with medium risk of death or serious injury.

⚠ CAUTION
There is a low-risk hazard that could result in medium or minor injury.

Warning of damage to property or environment

NOTICE
The environment, equipment, or data may be damaged.

Information on handling the product

This information includes, for example:
recommendations for action, assistance or further information on the product.

2.4 Documentation issue status

Version	Comment
1.0.0	• Complements and corrections • First release
0.3.0	• Complements and corrections
0.2.0	• Complements and corrections
0.1	• Provisional documentation for EL6685

2.5 Version identification of EtherCAT devices

2.5.1 General notes on marking

Designation

A Beckhoff EtherCAT device has a 14-digit designation, made up of

- family key
- type
- version
- revision

Example	Family	Type	Version	Revision
EL3314-0000-0016	EL terminal 12 mm, non-pluggable connection level	3314 4-channel thermocouple terminal	0000 basic type	0016
ES3602-0010-0017	ES terminal 12 mm, pluggable connection level	3602 2-channel voltage measurement	0010 high-precision version	0017
CU2008-0000-0000	CU device	2008 8-port fast ethernet switch	0000 basic type	0000

Notes

- The elements mentioned above result in the **technical designation**. EL3314-0000-0016 is used in the example below.
- EL3314-0000 is the order identifier, in the case of “-0000” usually abbreviated to EL3314. “-0016” is the EtherCAT revision.
- The **order identifier** is made up of
  - family key (EL, EP, CU, ES, KL, CX, etc.)
  - type (3314)
  - version (-0000)
- The **revision** -0016 shows the technical progress, such as the extension of features with regard to the EtherCAT communication, and is managed by Beckhoff.
  In principle, a device with a higher revision can replace a device with a lower revision, unless specified otherwise, e.g. in the documentation.
  Associated and synonymous with each revision there is usually a description (ESI, EtherCAT Slave Information) in the form of an XML file, which is available for download from the Beckhoff web site.
  From 2014/01 the revision is shown on the outside of the IP20 terminals, see Fig. *“EL2872 with revision 0022 and serial number 01200815”*.
- The type, version and revision are read as decimal numbers, even if they are technically saved in hexadecimal.

2.5.2 Version identification of EL terminals

The serial number/ data code for Beckhoff IO devices is usually the 8-digit number printed on the device or on a sticker. The serial number indicates the configuration in delivery state and therefore refers to a whole production batch, without distinguishing the individual modules of a batch.

Structure of the serial number: **KK YY FF HH**	Example with serial number 12 06 3A 02:
KK - week of production (CW, calendar week)	12 - production week 12
YY - year of production	06 - production year 2006
FF - firmware version	3A - firmware version 3A
HH - hardware version	02 - hardware version 02

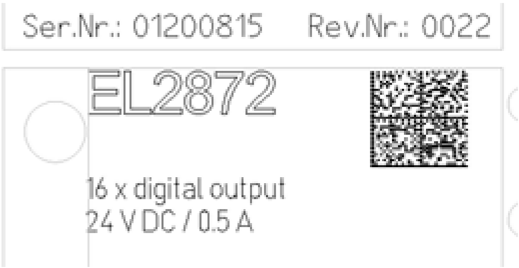


Fig. 1: EL2872 with revision 0022 and serial number 01200815

2.5.3 Beckhoff Identification Code (BIC)

The Beckhoff Identification Code (BIC) is increasingly being applied to Beckhoff products to uniquely identify the product. The BIC is represented as a Data Matrix Code (DMC, code scheme ECC200), the content is based on the ANSI standard MH10.8.2-2016.

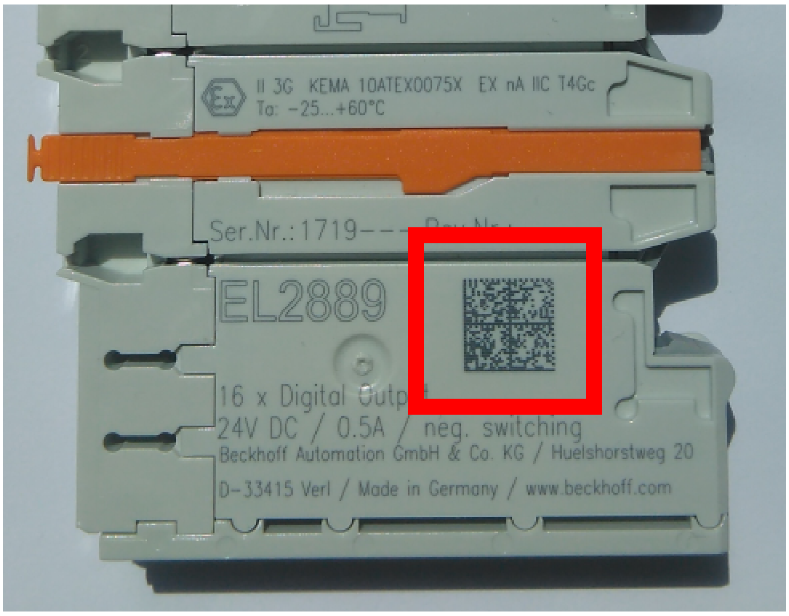


Fig. 2: BIC as data matrix code (DMC, code scheme ECC200)

The BIC will be introduced step by step across all product groups.

Depending on the product, it can be found in the following places:

- on the packaging unit
- directly on the product (if space suffices)
- on the packaging unit and the product

The BIC is machine-readable and contains information that can also be used by the customer for handling and product management.

Each piece of information can be uniquely identified using the so-called data identifier (ANSI MH10.8.2-2016). The data identifier is followed by a character string. Both together have a maximum length according to the table below. If the information is shorter, spaces are added to it.

Following information is possible, positions 1 to 4 are always present, the other according to need of production:

Posi-tion	Type of information	Explanation	Data identifier	Number of digits incl. data identifier	Example
1	Beckhoff order number	**Beckhoff order number**	1P	8	**1P**072222
2	Beckhoff Traceability Number (BTN)	**Unique serial number, see note below**	SBTN	12	**SBTN**k4p562d7
3	Article description	**Beckhoff article description, e.g. EL1008**	1K	32	**1K**EL1809
4	Quantity	**Quantity in packaging unit, e.g. 1, 10, etc.**	Q	6	**Q**1
5	Batch number	Optional: Year and week of production	2P	14	**2P**401503180016
6	ID/serial number	Optional: Present-day serial number system, e.g. with safety products	51S	12	**51S**678294
7	Variant number	Optional: Product variant number on the basis of standard products	30P	12	**30P**F971, 2*K183
...					

Further types of information and data identifiers are used by Beckhoff and serve internal processes.

Structure of the BIC

Example of composite information from positions 1 to 4 and with the above given example value on position 6. The data identifiers are highlighted in bold font:

1P072222**SBTN**k4p562d7**1K**EL1809 **Q**1 **51S**678294

Accordingly as DMC:

Fig. 3: Example DMC **1P**072222**SBTN**k4p562d7**1K**EL1809 **Q**1 **51S**678294

BTN

An important component of the BIC is the Beckhoff Traceability Number (BTN, position 2). The BTN is a unique serial number consisting of eight characters that will replace all other serial number systems at Beckhoff in the long term (e.g. batch designations on IO components, previous serial number range for safety products, etc.). The BTN will also be introduced step by step, so it may happen that the BTN is not yet coded in the BIC.

NOTICE

This information has been carefully prepared. However, the procedure described is constantly being further developed. We reserve the right to revise and change procedures and documentation at any time and without prior notice. No claims for changes can be made from the information, illustrations and descriptions in this documentation.

2.5.4 Electronic access to the BIC (eBIC)

Electronic BIC (eBIC)

The Beckhoff Identification Code (BIC) is applied to the outside of Beckhoff products in a visible place. If possible, it should also be electronically readable.

The interface that the product can be electronically addressed by is crucial for the electronic readout.

K-bus devices (IP20, IP67)

Currently, no electronic storage or readout is planned for these devices.

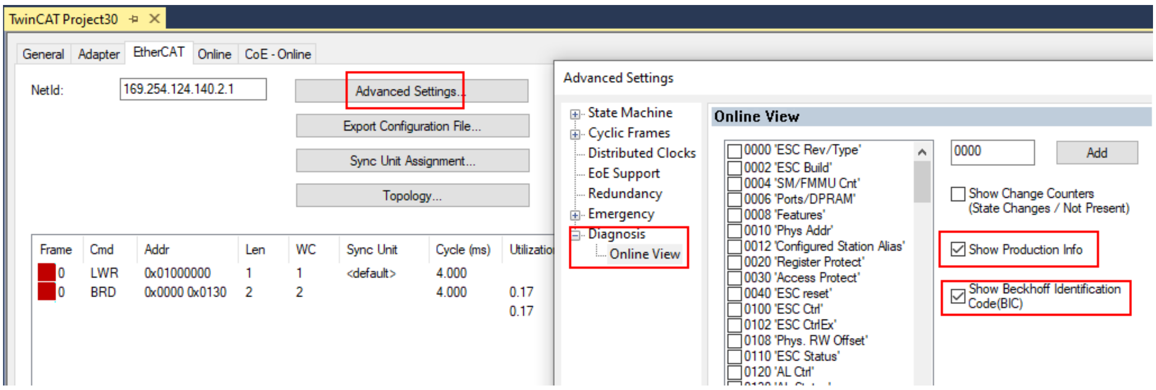
EtherCAT devices (IP20, IP67)

All Beckhoff EtherCAT devices have an ESI-EEPROM which contains the EtherCAT identity with the revision number. The EtherCAT slave information, also colloquially known as the ESI/XML configuration file for the EtherCAT master, is stored in it. See the corresponding chapter in the EtherCAT system manual (Link) for the relationships.

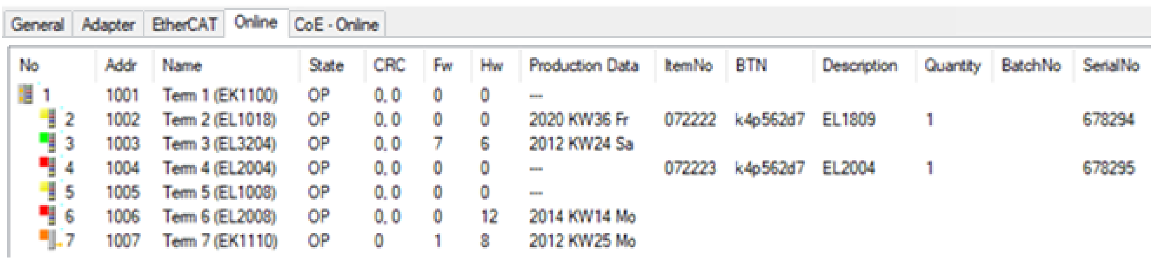
Beckhoff also stores the eBIC in the ESI-EEPROM. The eBIC was introduced into Beckhoff IO production (terminals, box modules) in 2020; as of 2023, implementation is largely complete.

The user can electronically access the eBIC (if present) as follows:

- With all EtherCAT devices, the EtherCAT master (TwinCAT) can read the eBIC from the ESI-EEPROM
  - From TwinCAT 3.1 build 4024.11, the eBIC can be displayed in the online view.
  - To do this, check the "Show Beckhoff Identification Code (BIC)" checkbox under EtherCAT → Advanced Settings → Diagnostics:



  - The BTN and its contents are then displayed:



  - Note: As shown in the figure, the production data HW version, FW version, and production date, which have been programmed since 2012, can also be displayed with "Show production info".
  - Access from the PLC: From TwinCAT 3.1. build 4024.24, the functions *FB_EcReadBIC* and *FB_EcReadBTN* for reading into the PLC are available in the Tc2_EtherCAT library from v3.3.19.0.
- EtherCAT devices with a CoE directory may also have the object 0x10E2:01 to display their own eBIC, which can also be easily accessed by the PLC:

- The device must be in PREOP/SAFEOP/OP for access:

Index	Name	Flags	Value
1000	Device type	RO	0x015E1389 (22942601)
1008	Device name	RO	ELM3704-0000
1009	Hardware version	RO	00
100A	Software version	RO	01
100B	Bootloader version	RO	J0.1.27.0
+ 1011:0	Restore default parameters	RO	> 1 <
+ 1018:0	Identity	RO	> 4 <
− 10E2:0	Manufacturer-specific Identification C...	RO	> 1 <
10E2:01	SubIndex 001	RO	1P158442SBTN0008jekp1KELM3704 Q1 2P482001000016
+ 10F0:0	Backup parameter handling	RO	> 1 <
+ 10F3:0	Diagnosis History	RO	> 21 <
10F8	Actual Time Stamp	RO	0x170bfb277e

- The object 0x10E2 will be preferentially introduced into stock products in the course of necessary firmware revision.
- From TwinCAT 3.1. build 4024.24, the functions *FB_EcCoEReadBIC* and *FB_EcCoEReadBTN* for reading into the PLC are available in the Tc2_EtherCAT library from v3.3.19.0

- The following auxiliary functions are available for processing the BIC/BTN data in the PLC in *Tc2_Utilities* as of TwinCAT 3.1 build 4024.24
  - F_SplitBIC: The function splits the Beckhoff Identification Code (BIC) sBICValue into its components using known identifiers and returns the recognized substrings in the ST_SplittedBIC structure as a return value
  - BIC_TO_BTN: The function extracts the BTN from the BIC and returns it as a return value
- Note: If there is further electronic processing, the BTN is to be handled as a string(8); the identifier "SBTN" is not part of the BTN.
- Technical background
  The new BIC information is written as an additional category in the ESI-EEPROM during device production. The structure of the ESI content is largely dictated by the ETG specifications, therefore the additional vendor-specific content is stored using a category in accordance with the ETG.2010. ID 03 tells all EtherCAT masters that they may not overwrite these data in the event of an update or restore the data after an ESI update.
  The structure follows the content of the BIC, see here. The EEPROM therefore requires approx. 50..200 bytes of memory.
- Special cases
  - If multiple hierarchically arranged ESCs are installed in a device, only the top-level ESC carries the eBIC information.
  - If multiple non-hierarchically arranged ESCs are installed in a device, all ESCs carry the eBIC information.
  - If the device consists of several sub-devices which each have their own identity, but only the top-level device is accessible via EtherCAT, the eBIC of the top-level device is located in the CoE object directory 0x10E2:01 and the eBICs of the sub-devices follow in 0x10E2:nn.

PROFIBUS, PROFINET, and DeviceNet devices

Currently, no electronic storage or readout is planned for these devices.

3 Product description

3.1 Introduction

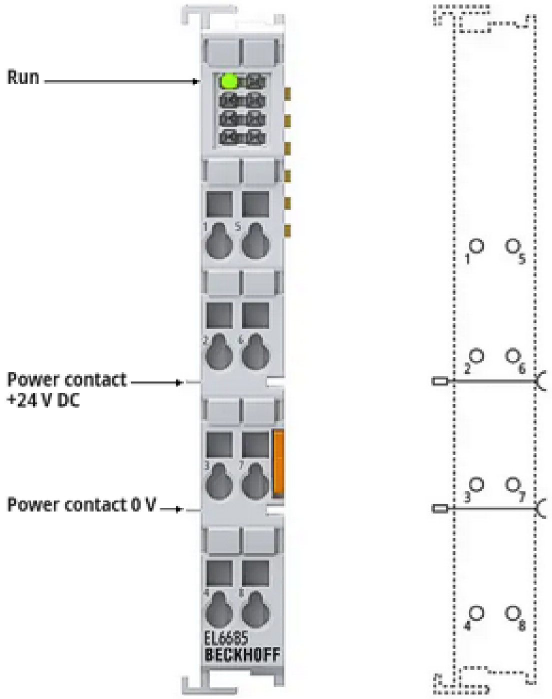


Fig. 4: EL6685 | EtherCAT Terminal, reference clock, high-precision, distributed clocks

The EL6685 serves as a high-precision reference clock for the distributed clocks system. For applications with the highest demands on time measurement, the built-in oscillator significantly increases the basic accuracy of the timer.

Quick links

- EtherCAT basics
- Technical data [▶ 17]
- Notes on commissioning EL6685 [▶ 107]

3.2 Technical data

Technical data	EL6685
Technology	Reference oscillator
Oscillator basic accuracy	±5 ppm (see also Notes on commissioning [▸ 107])
Distributed clocks	yes
Power supply	via the E-bus
Current consumption via E-bus	typ. 90 mA
Configuration	TwinCAT System Manager/CAN-over-EtherCAT (CoE)
Weight	approx. 50 g
Operating temperature	0…55 °C
Storage temperature	-25…+85 °C
Relative humidity	95 % no condensation
Size (W x H x D)	approx. 12 mm x 100 mm x 68 mm (width aligned: 23 mm)
Installation	on 35 mm mounting rail, conforms to EN 50022
Vibration/shock resistance	conforms to EN 60068-2-6/EN 60068-2-27
EMC immunity/emission	conforms to EN 61000-6-2/EN 61000-6-4
Protection rating/installation position	IP20/any
Approvals/markings*)	CE

*) Real applicable approvals/markings see type plate on the side (product marking).

3.3 LEDs

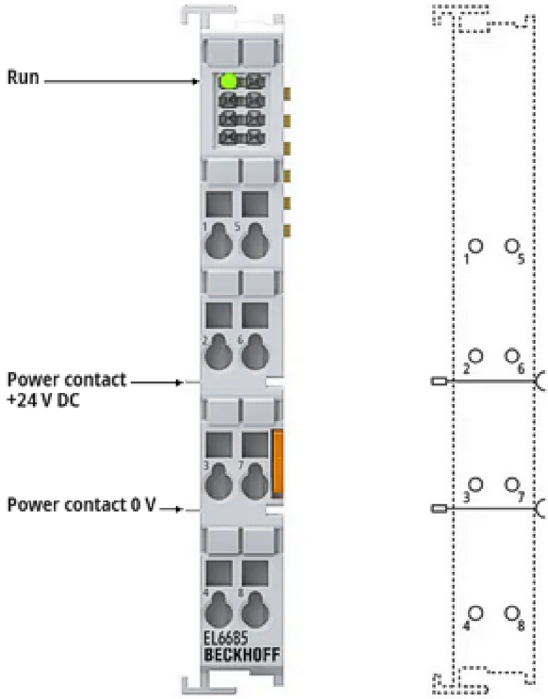


Fig. 5: LED EL6685

LED EL6685

LED	Color	Meaning	
RUN	green	This LED indicates the terminal's operating state:	
		off	State of the EtherCAT State Machine: **INIT** = initialization of the terminal
		flashing	State of the EtherCAT State Machine: **PREOP** = function for mailbox communication and different default settings set
		Single flash	State of the EtherCAT State Machine: **SAFEOP** = verification of the Sync manager channels Outputs remain in safe state
		on	State of the EtherCAT State Machine: **OP** = normal operating state; mailbox and process data communication is possible
		flickering / rapidly flashing	State of the EtherCAT State Machine: **BOOTSTRAP** = function for Firmware updates [▸ 110]

4 Basics communication

4.1 EtherCAT basics

Please refer to the EtherCAT System Documentation for the EtherCAT fieldbus basics.

4.2 General notes for setting the watchdog

The EtherCAT terminals are equipped with a safety device (watchdog) which, e. g. in the event of interrupted process data traffic, switches the outputs (if present) to a presettable state after a presettable time, depending on the device and setting, e. g. to FALSE (off) or an output value.

The EtherCAT slave controller features two watchdogs:

- Sync Manager (SM) watchdog (default: 100 ms)
- Process Data (PDI) watchdog (default: 100 ms)

Their times are individually parameterized in TwinCAT as follows:

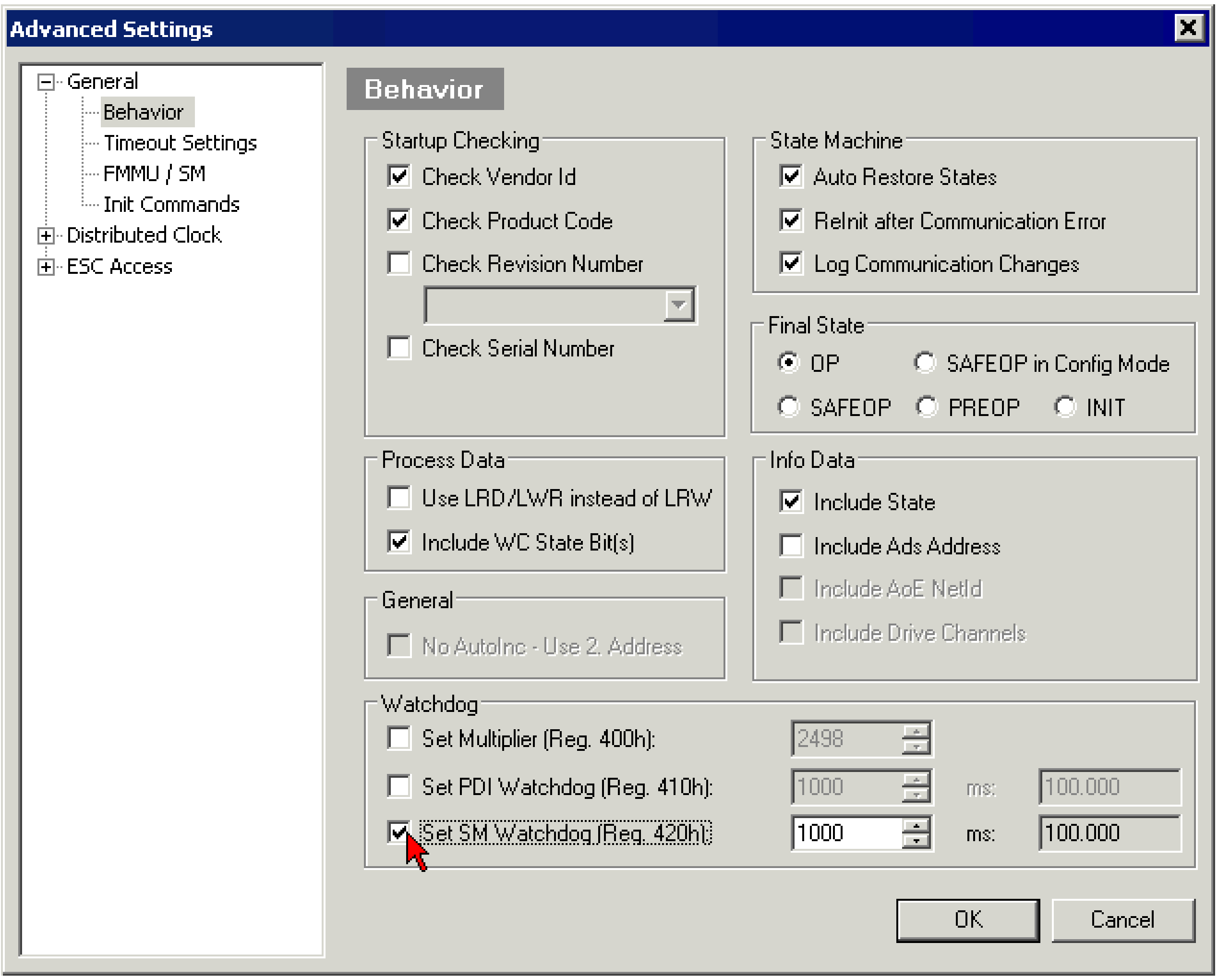


Fig. 6: eEtherCAT tab -> Advanced Settings -> Behavior -> Watchdog

Notes:

- the Multiplier Register 400h (hexadecimal, i. e. 0x0400) is valid for both watchdogs.
- each watchdog has its own timer setting 410h or 420h, which together with the Multiplier results in a resulting time.

- important: the Multiplier/Timer setting is only loaded into the slave at EtherCAT startup if the checkbox in front of it is activated.
- if it is not checked, nothing is downloaded and the setting located in the ESC remains unchanged.
- the downloaded values can be seen in the ESC registers 400h, 410h and 420h: ESC Access -> Memory

SM watchdog (SyncManager Watchdog)

The SyncManager watchdog is reset with each successful EtherCAT process data communication with the terminal. If, for example, no EtherCAT process data communication with the terminal takes place for longer than the set and activated SM watchdog time due to a line interruption, the watchdog is triggered. The status of the terminal (usually OP) remains unaffected. The watchdog is only reset again by a successful EtherCAT process data access.

The SyncManager watchdog is therefore a monitoring for correct and timely process data communication with the ESC from the EtherCAT side.

The maximum possible watchdog time depends on the device. For example, for "simple" EtherCAT slaves (without firmware) with watchdog execution in the ESC it is usually up to 170 seconds. For complex EtherCAT slaves (with firmware) the SM watchdog function is usually parameterized via register 400h/420h but executed by the microcontroller (µC) and can be significantly lower. In addition, the execution may then be subject to a certain time uncertainty. Since the TwinCAT dialog may allow inputs up to 65535, a test of the desired watchdog time is recommended.

PDI watchdog (Process Data Watchdog)

If there is no PDI communication with the ESC for longer than the set and activated Process Data Interface (PDI) watchdog time, this watchdog is triggered.

The PDI is the internal interface of the ESC, e.g. to local processors in the EtherCAT slave. With the PDI watchdog this communication can be monitored for failure.

The PDI watchdog is therefore a monitoring for correct and timely process data communication with the ESC, but viewed from the application side.

Calculation

Watchdog time = [1/25 MHz * (Watchdog multiplier + 2)] * SM/PDI watchdog

Example: default setting Multiplier = 2498, SM watchdog = 1000 => 100 ms

The value in “Watchdog multiplier + 2” in the formula above corresponds to the number of 40ns base ticks representing one watchdog tick.

⚠ CAUTION

Undefined state possible!

The function for switching off the SM watchdog via SM watchdog = 0 is only implemented in terminals from revision -0016. In previous versions this operating mode should not be used.

⚠ CAUTION

Damage of devices and undefined state possible!

If the SM watchdog is activated and a value of 0 is entered the watchdog switches off completely. This is the deactivation of the watchdog! Set outputs are NOT set in a safe state if the communication is interrupted.

4.3 EtherCAT State Machine

The state of the EtherCAT slave is controlled via the EtherCAT State Machine (ESM). Depending upon the state, different functions are accessible or executable in the EtherCAT slave. Specific commands must be sent by the EtherCAT master to the device in each state, particularly during the bootup of the slave.

A distinction is made between the following states:

- Init
- Pre-Operational
- Safe-Operational
- Operational
- Bootstrap

The regular state of each EtherCAT slave after bootup is the OP state.

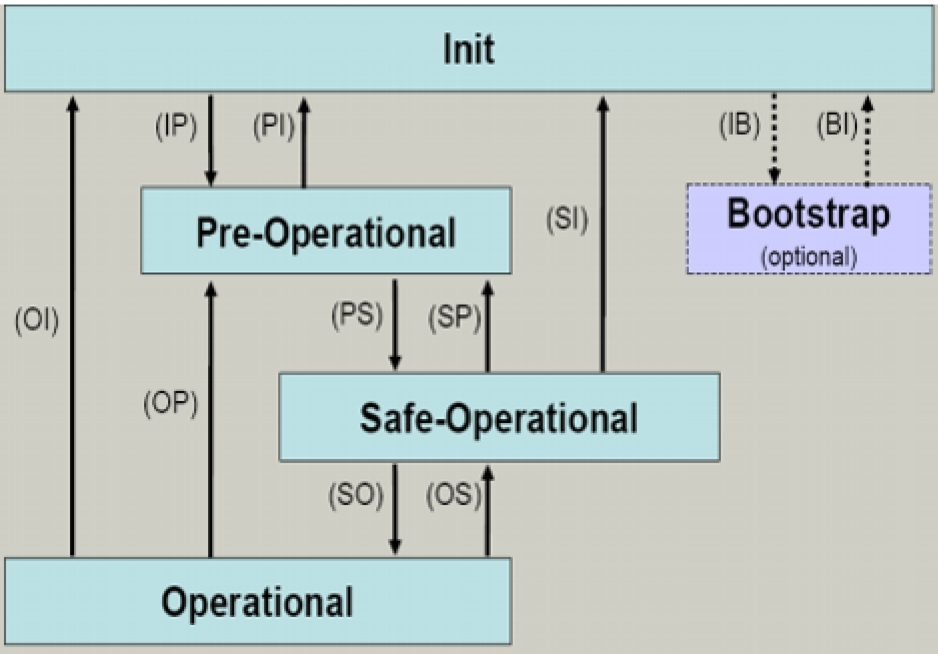


Fig. 7: States of the EtherCAT State Machine

Init

After switch-on the EtherCAT slave in the *Init* state. No mailbox or process data communication is possible. The EtherCAT master initializes sync manager channels 0 and 1 for mailbox communication.

Pre-Operational (Pre-Op)

During the transition between *Init* and *Pre-Op* the EtherCAT slave checks whether the mailbox was initialized correctly.

In *Pre-Op* state mailbox communication is possible, but not process data communication. The EtherCAT master initializes the sync manager channels for process data (from sync manager channel 2), the Fieldbus Memory Management Unit (FMMU) channels and, if the slave supports configurable mapping, PDO mapping or the sync manager PDO assignment. In this state the settings for the process data transfer and perhaps terminal-specific parameters that may differ from the default settings are also transferred.

Safe-Operational (Safe-Op)

During transition between *Pre-Op* and *Safe-Op* the EtherCAT slave checks whether the sync manager channels for process data communication and, if required, the Distributed Clocks settings are correct. Before it acknowledges the change of state, the EtherCAT slave copies current input data into the associated Dual Port (DP)-RAM areas of the ESC.

In *Safe-Op* state mailbox and process data communication is possible, although the slave keeps its outputs in a safe state, while the input data are updated cyclically.

Outputs in SAFEOP state

The default set watchdog monitoring sets the outputs of the ESC module in a safe state - depending on the settings in SAFEOP and OP - e.g. in OFF state. If this is prevented by deactivation of the monitoring in the module, the outputs can be switched or set also in the SAFEOP state.

Operational (Op)

Before the EtherCAT master switches the EtherCAT slave from *Safe-Op* to *Op* it must transfer valid output data.

In the *Op* state the slave copies the output data of the masters to its outputs. Process data and mailbox communication is possible.

Boot

In the *Boot* state the slave firmware can be updated. The *Boot* state can only be reached via the *Init* state.

In the *Boot* state mailbox communication via the file access over EtherCAT (FoE) protocol is possible, but no other mailbox communication and no process data communication.

4.4 CoE Interface

General description

The CoE interface (CAN application protocol over EtherCAT interface) is used for parameter management of EtherCAT devices. EtherCAT slaves or the EtherCAT master manage fixed (read only) or variable parameters which they require for operation, diagnostics or commissioning.

CoE parameters are arranged in a table hierarchy. In principle, the user has access via the fieldbus. The EtherCAT master (TwinCAT System Manager) can access the local CoE lists of the slaves via EtherCAT in read or write mode, depending on the attributes.

Different CoE data types are possible, including string (text), integer numbers, Boolean values or larger byte fields. They can be used to describe a wide range of features. Examples of such parameters include manufacturer ID, serial number, process data settings, device name, calibration values for analog measurement or passwords.

The order is specified in two levels via hexadecimal numbering: (main)index, followed by subindex.

The value ranges are

- Index: 0x0000 …0xFFFF (0...65535$_{dec}$)
- Subindex: 0x00…0xFF (0...255$_{dec}$)

A parameter localized in this way is normally written as 0x8010:07, with preceding “0x” to identify the hexadecimal numerical range and a colon between index and subindex.

The relevant ranges for EtherCAT fieldbus users are:

- 0x1000: This is where fixed identity information for the device is stored, including name, manufacturer, serial number etc., plus information about the current and available process data configurations.
- 0x8000: This is where the operational and functional parameters for all channels are stored, such as filter settings or output frequency.

Other important ranges are:

- 0x4000: here are the channel parameters for some EtherCAT devices. Historically, this was the first parameter area before the 0x8000 area was introduced. EtherCAT devices that were previously equipped with parameters in 0x4000 and changed to 0x8000 support both ranges for compatibility reasons and mirror internally.
- 0x6000: Input PDOs (“inputs” from the perspective of the EtherCAT master)
- 0x7000: Output PDOs (“outputs” from the perspective of the EtherCAT master)

Availability

Not every EtherCAT device must have a CoE list. Simple I/O modules without dedicated processor usually have no variable parameters and therefore no CoE list.

If a device has a CoE list, it is shown in the TwinCAT System Manager as a separate tab with a listing of the elements:

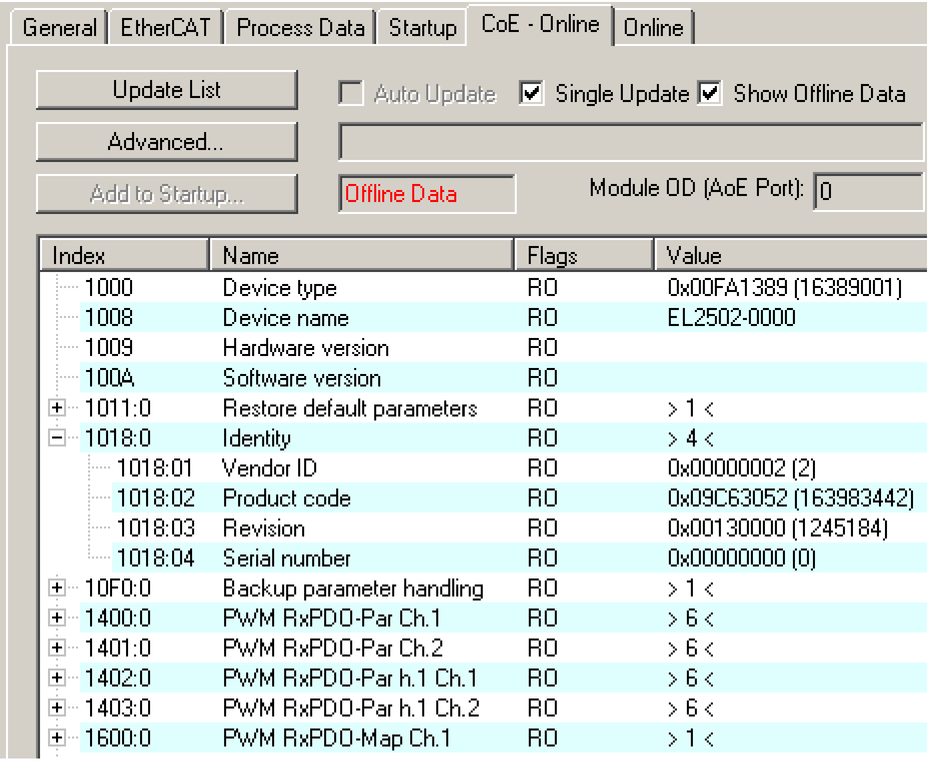


Fig. 8: “CoE Online” tab

The figure “’CoE Online’ tab” shows the CoE objects available in device “EL2502”, ranging from 0x1000 to 0x1600. The subindices for 0x1018 are expanded.

NOTICE

Changes in the CoE directory (CAN over EtherCAT directory), program access

When using/manipulating the CoE parameters observe the general CoE notes in chapter "CoE interface" of the EtherCAT system documentation:

- Keep a startup list if components have to be replaced,
- Distinction between online/offline dictionary,
- Existence of current XML description (download from the Beckhoff website),
- "CoE-Reload" for resetting the changes
- Program access during operation via PLC (see TwinCAT 3 | PLC Library: "Tc2_EtherCAT" and Example program R/W CoE)

Data management and function “NoCoeStorage”

Some parameters, particularly the setting parameters of the slave, are configurable and writeable,

- via the System Manager (Fig. “CoE Online” tab) by clicking.
  This is useful for commissioning of the system or slaves. Click on the row of the index to be parameterized and enter a value in the “SetValue” dialog.
- from the control system or PLC via ADS, e.g. through blocks from the TcEtherCAT.lib library.
  This is recommended for modifications while the system is running or if no System Manager or operating staff are available.

Data management

If slave CoE parameters are modified online, Beckhoff devices store any changes in a fail-safe manner in the EEPROM, i.e. the modified CoE parameters are still available after a restart. The situation may be different with other manufacturers.

An EEPROM is subject to a limited lifetime with respect to write operations. From typically 100,000 write operations onwards it can no longer be guaranteed that new (changed) data are reliably saved or are still readable. This is irrelevant for normal commissioning. However, if CoE parameters are continuously changed via ADS at machine runtime, it is quite possible for the lifetime limit to be reached. Support for the NoCoeStorage function, which suppresses the saving of changed CoE values, depends on the firmware version.
Please refer to the technical data in this documentation as to whether this applies to the respective device.

- If the function is supported: the function is activated by entering the code word 0x12345678 once in CoE index 0xF008 and remains active as long as the code word is not changed. After switching the device on it is then inactive. Changed CoE values are not saved in the EEPROM and can thus be changed any number of times.
- If the function is not supported: continuous changing of CoE values is not permissible in view of the lifetime limit.

Startup list

Changes in the local CoE list of the terminal are lost if the terminal is replaced. If a terminal is replaced with a new Beckhoff terminal, it will have the default settings. It is therefore advisable to link all changes in the CoE list of an EtherCAT slave with the Startup list of the slave, which is processed whenever the EtherCAT fieldbus is started. In this way a replacement EtherCAT slave can automatically be parameterized with the specifications of the user.

If EtherCAT slaves are used which are unable to store local CoE values permanently, the Startup list must be used.

Recommended approach for manual modification of CoE parameters

- Make the required change in the System Manager
  (the values are stored locally in the EtherCAT slave).
- If the value is to be stored permanently, enter it in the Startup list.
  The order of the Startup entries is usually irrelevant.

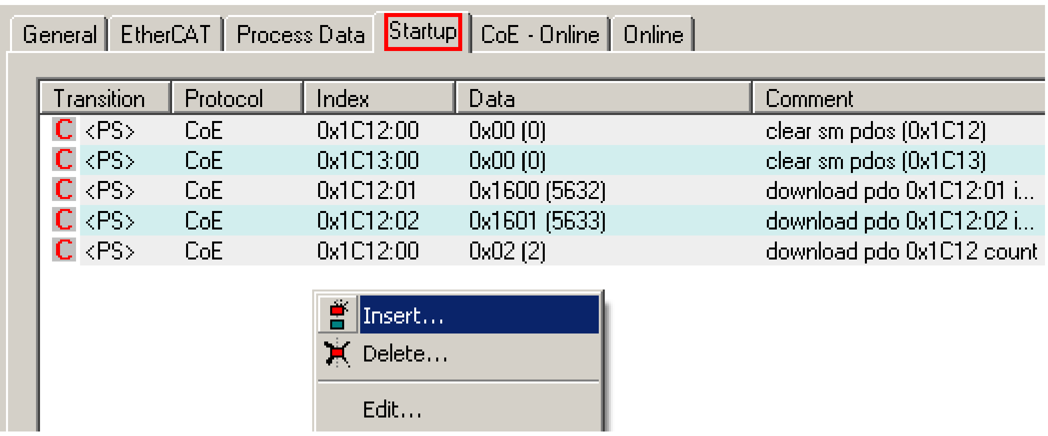


Fig. 9: Startup list in the TwinCAT System Manager

The Startup list may already contain values that were configured by the System Manager based on the ESI specifications. Additional application-specific entries can also be created.

Online / offline list

When working with the TwinCAT System Manager, a distinction must be made as to whether the EtherCAT device is currently "available", i.e. switched on and connected via EtherCAT - i.e. **online** - or whether a configuration is created **offline** without slaves being connected.

In both cases a CoE list as shown in Fig. "CoE online tab" is displayed. The connectivity is shown as offline/online.

- If the slave is offline:
  - The offline list from the ESI file is displayed. In this case modifications are not meaningful or possible.
  - The configured status is shown under Identity.
  - No firmware or hardware version is displayed since these are features of the physical device.
  - **Offline Data** is shown in red.

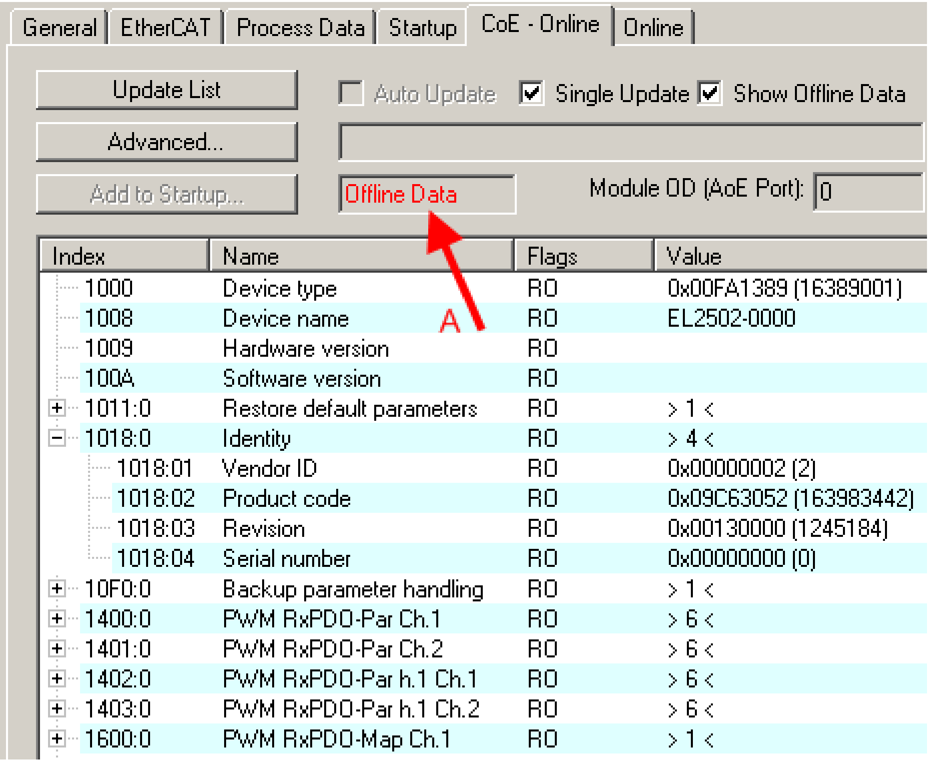


Fig. 10: Offline list

- If the slave is online:
  - The actual current slave list is read. This may take several seconds, depending on the size and cycle time.
  - The actual identity is displayed.
  - The firmware and hardware status of the device is displayed in the CoE.
  - **Online Data** is shown in green.

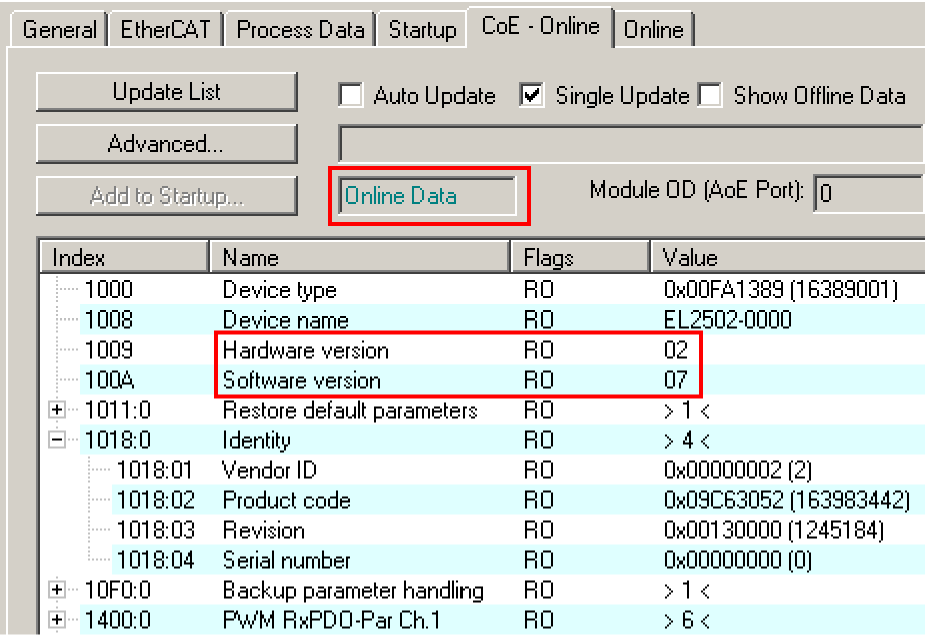


Fig. 11: Online list

Channel-based order

The CoE list is available in EtherCAT devices that usually feature several functionally equivalent channels, for example, a 4-channel analog input terminal also has four logical channels and therefore four identical sets of parameter data for the channels. In order to avoid having to list each channel in the documentation, the placeholder “n” tends to be used for the individual channel numbers.

In the CoE system 16 indices, each with 255 subindices, are generally sufficient for representing all channel parameters. The channel-based order is therefore arranged in 16_{dec} or 10_{hex} steps. The parameter range 0x8000 exemplifies this:

- Channel 0: parameter range 0x8000:00 ... 0x800F:255
- Channel 1: parameter range 0x8010:00 ... 0x801F:255
- Channel 2: parameter range 0x8020:00 ... 0x802F:255
- ...

This is generally written as 0x80n0.

Detailed information on the CoE interface can be found in the EtherCAT system documentation on the Beckhoff website.

4.5 Distributed Clock

The distributed clock represents a local clock in the EtherCAT slave controller (ESC) with the following characteristics:

- Unit *1 ns*
- Zero point *1.1.2000 00:00*
- Size *64 bit* (sufficient for the next 584 years; however, some EtherCAT slaves only offer 32-bit support, i.e. the variable overflows after approx. 4.2 seconds)
- The EtherCAT master automatically synchronizes the local clock with the master clock in the EtherCAT bus with a precision of < 100 ns.

For detailed information please refer to the EtherCAT system description.

5 Basics of EtherCAT synchronization (distributed clocks)

5.1 TwinCAT & time

5.1.1 TwinCAT time sources

The Beckhoff TwinCAT automation suite can analyze several independent time sources. See also the sample program [▸ 48].

Information regarding the architecture:

Time architecture, required libraries: TcEtherCAT.lib, TcUtilities.lib, TcSystem.lib

Name	BIOS mother-board	CPU time	Windows/NT time	TwinCAT/TC time	Distributed clocks/DC time
Description	RTC (RealTimeClock), battery-operated on the motherboard	CPU counter from the controller hardware, not regulated Initialized by RTC	Local system time of the Windows operating system (NT) Initialized by RTC	Running TwinCAT clock Initialized by Windows	The system returns the start time of the current task cycle. Initialized by TwinCAT.
Data		64 bit Resolution: 100 ns$_{\text{PC Base}}$	from 1.1.1601 00:00 Resolution: 1 ms Scope: Structure with year, month, day, hour, etc.	from 1.1.1601 00:00 Resolution: 100 ns Scope: 64 bit	from 1.1.2000 00:00 Resolution: 1 ns Scope: 64 bit
Reference			Local	Local time taking into account the set time zone, i.e. usually UTC	Local time taking into account the set time zone, i.e. usually UTC
PLC format		T_ULARGE_INTEGER	TIMESTRUCT	T_FILETIME	T_DcTime
Call		GetCpuCounter	NT_GetTime()	GetSystemTime()	F_GetActualDcTime*()* *(from TwinCAT 2.11)* *F_GetCurDcTickTime() (= GetSystemTime)* *F_GetCurDcTaskTime() (from TwinCAT 2.11)*
Update		with each call, possibly several times within a PLC cycle		with each base tick (System Manager | BaseTime)	ActualDcTime with each call, possibly several times within a PLC cycle *TickTime* with each base tick (System Manager | BaseTime) *TaskTime* at the start of the Sync task cycle
Exemplary use	can be used by the PLC function block *Nt_SetTimeToRtcTime* for correcting the NT time	relative time measurements	Logging, time stamping at operating system level	high-precision, relative time-based tasks within one or across several task cycles	• high-precision, relative time-based tasks within the EtherCAT system • definitive reference to the global time through external synchronization possible
Manipulation options			• Can be changed to the current RTC time via the PLC function block *Nt_SetTimeToRtcTime*. This also triggers a correction of the RTC time. ATTENTION Use of this function in conjunction with EtherCAT distributed clocks systems is not recommended. • Synchronization at network level (SNTP, NTP)		Synchronization with external reference time from TwinCAT 2.11

Application scenario 1: Local control system without forced synchronization via the network

The local Windows clock is free-running and can be coupled to the RTC via *Nt_SetTimeToRtcTime*. This option is not recommended when using distributed clocks components!

We recommend using the TC or DC clock if absolute time references are required.

Ideally, the DC time should be coupled to an external reference time via suitable EtherCAT components.

Application scenario 2: Local control system with forced synchronization via the network

The local Windows clock is cyclically synchronized with the world time through a network clock/server/Internet time server.

Coupling of the Windows clock to the RTC through *Nt_SetTimeToRtcTime* is not recommended.

We recommend using the TC or DC clock. The reference to the absolute time can be established via the application through offset calculation at the NT time.

Ideally, the DC time should be coupled to an external reference time via suitable EtherCAT components.

Application scenario 3: Local control system with external reference time via EtherCAT

A frequency- and phase-synchronized analog time is available through coupling of the DC time to an external time source (GPS, radio clock, PTP/IEEE1588, EtherCAT). The NT and TC time are not required in the application.

Common time synchronization

The usual time synchronization at operating system level works in discrete intervals ranging from several seconds to days. In the synchronization case this leads to an erratic/unsteady change of the subordinate time! The usual network synchronizations (SNTP, NTP and similar) or even Nt_SetTimeToRtcTime are affected by this. The application must be able to anticipate these sudden changes in the "absolute" time.
Beckhoff only integrates continuous synchronization techniques in EtherCAT.

5.1.2 Local and external EtherCAT synchronization

5.1.2.1 Introduction

Note: In the following, a "central control architecture" is assumed: a central controller (PLC) serves topologically subordinate stations via 1..n fieldbuses: I/O terminals/couplers, drives, cameras, sensors, …

In a machine control system with distributed components (I/O, drives, possibly several masters/controllers), it may be necessary for the components to work in more or less close temporal relation to each other.

Time dimension, application requirements

In view of the requirements, the terms "close temporal relationship" or "simultaneous" must be expressed in tangible figures:

- a serial communication structure and NTP synchronization may be sufficient for "simultaneity" in the two-digit millisecond range,
- if, on the other hand, a few nanoseconds are required, high-performance synchronization technologies such as EtherCAT distributed clocks must be selected

The components must therefore have a “time”, to which the component (e.g. an I/O terminal or a drive) has access at all times. Such requirements may include:

Requirement 1

- 1a) Several outputs in a control system have to be set simultaneously, irrespective of when the respective station receives the output data.
- 1b) Inputs should be read simultaneously; drives/axes in a control system must read their axis position synchronously, regardless of the topology or cycle time.

Both requirements mean that there is a “local” synchronization mechanism between the clocks of the subordinate stations of a control system.

The solution: the central controller (preferably TwinCAT 3) synchronizes all subordinate EtherCAT devices via EtherCAT distributed clocks -> "local synchronization"

Requirement 2

- 2a) If inputs act on the controller, the (absolute) time must be recorded - this can be helpful for later evaluation if functional chains need to be traced by analyzing the sequence of events.
  This means that the time running in the components must be linked to a globally valid time, e.g. Greenwich Mean Time or a network clock.
- 2b) A system consists of several (central) controllers that should work synchronously or at least with the same time base. In extreme cases, tasks on different controllers should run synchronously (i.e., at the same frequency) and without phase shift.

The solution: Beckhoff TwinCAT can not only be a clock source for other controllers, but is also set up to receive external timing signals and can thus align its own operating clock accordingly: TwinCAT can therefore synchronize itself to other clock sources ("external synchronization")

In order to cover requirements 1 + 2, the following must be resolved in this example

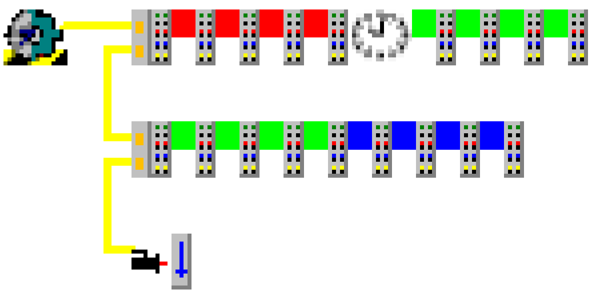


Fig. 12: Simple I/O topology

(consisting of the EtherCAT master, part of the TwinCAT controller, various I/O and an axis):

- Synchronization of the local clocks "local synchronization"
- Coupling to a higher-level reference time “external synchronization”
- task synchronization if necessary, i.e. TwinCAT runs synchronously to an external clock

These topics are discussed in the following sections.

5.1.2.2 Requirement 1: local synchronization

In an EtherCAT system the distributed clocks concept (DC) is used for synchronization of local clocks in the EtherCAT components.

Synchronization of local EtherCAT devices

General:

- 1 ns time resolution corresponds to 1 digit, scope of 64 bits corresponds to approx. 584 years
- The EtherCAT master must keep the distributed clocks synchronous within the system accuracy (EtherCAT: <100 ns) using synchronization datagrams.
- Not all EtherCAT devices have to support this feature. If a slave does not support this concept, the master will not include it in the synchronization. If the EtherCAT master does not support this feature, DC is also ineffective in all slaves.
- Such a clock also runs in the EtherCAT master, in this case software-based.
- in the system *one* of the existing clocks is selected as reference clock and used for synchronizing all other clocks. This reference clock is usually one of the EtherCAT slave clocks, not the EtherCAT master clock. Usually, the first EtherCAT slave in the topology that supports distributed clocks is automatically selected as the reference clock.
- a distinction is made between
    - the EtherCAT master (the software that “manages” the EtherCAT slaves with Ethernet frames) and the EtherCAT slaves managed by it.
    - the reference clock, which is usually located in the first DC slave, and the slave clocks whose time is based on it, including the clock in the EtherCAT master.

Master:

- during the system start phase the EtherCAT master must set the local time of the reference clock and the other slave clocks to the current time and subsequently minimize deviations between the clocks through cyclic synchronization datagrams.
- in the event of topology changes the EtherCAT master must re-synchronize the clocks accordingly
- not all EtherCAT masters support this procedure
- the EtherCAT master in the Beckhoff TwinCAT automation suite fully supports distributed clocks.

Slave:

- Due to the high precision required, this local clock is implemented in hardware (ASIC, FPGA).
- Distributed clocks are managed in the EtherCAT Slave Controller (ESC) in registers 0x0900 - 0x09FF. Specifically, the local synchronized time runs in the 8 bytes from 0x0910.

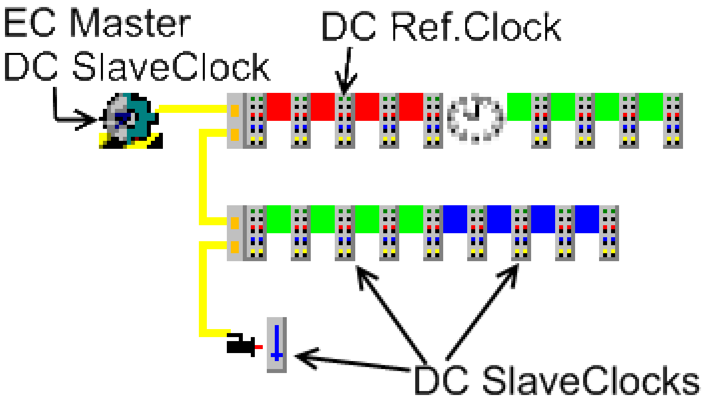


Fig. 13: Mapping of DC to the topology

In Fig. *Mapping of DC to the topology* the 3rd EtherCAT slave was selected as DC reference clock as an example. The local time of this slave is now used to adjust all other distributed clocks, i.e. all other EtherCAT slaves and the clock of the EtherCAT master. This is achieved through synchronization datagrams, which the EtherCAT master sends cyclically.

TwinCAT clock readjustment

The TwinCAT clock that determines the real-time must track the DC ReferenceClock to ensure that the PLC/NC tasks in the real-time context of the controller run synchronous with the distributed clocks. If more than one EtherCAT system is used on a control system, only one of these systems can provide the ReferenceClock for TwinCAT. The other EtherCAT systems in turn must then follow the TwinCAT clock.
See the notes in the chapter "Coupling EtherCAT systems"

This procedure ensures that all devices supporting DC always have local access to a time that is identical (within the DC synchronization accuracy) in all devices.

The system now operates based on the time base of the selected DC reference clock and its local clock generator/quartz with T_{DC}. Due to production tolerances this time base is rarely the same as the official sidereal time/Coordinated Universal Time UTC T_{UTC} or another reference time. This means that 1 ms_{UTC} never corresponds exactly to 1 ms_{DC}, $T_{DC} \neq T_{UTC}$. Over longer periods also drift processes may also change the ratio. As long as DC is used for relative processes within the EtherCAT system, the deviation from the UTC is irrelevant. However, if the DC time is to be used for data logging with a global timebase, for example, the $timebase_{DC}$ must be synchronized with the $timebase_{UTC}$. This is described in chapter Requirement 3.

5.1.2.3 Requirement 2a: higher-level global time, absolute time

If the time base T_{DC} is to be adjusted based on a higher-level time base, the time base and the associated procedure must be selected. Generally common synchronization protocols are used for the synchronization. Samples for time sources and synchronization procedures are listed below.

- Sources: UTC world time, network time, adjacent control system, radio clocks (in Central Europe: DCF77)
- Procedures: GPS, radio clocks, NTP (NetworkTimeProtocol), SNTP (Simple NTP), PTP (IEEE1588), distributed clocks DC

The following synchronization precisions can be achieved (depending on the hardware)

- NTP/SNTP: ms range
- PTP: < 1 µs
- DC: < 100 ns

The following two control aims must be achieved:

- The frequency of the subordinate time base must be adjusted to the higher-level time base.
- Any offset between two absolute times does not have necessarily to be controlled to 0. It is sufficient for it to be announced and kept constant. The maximum offset adjustment is ±½ cycle time.

External EtherCAT synchronization

External synchronization sources (e.g. EL6688, EL6692) can only be used from TwinCAT 2.11 used. In older versions of TwinCAT such EtherCAT slaves have no meaningful function.

If a higher-level master clock is integrated in an EtherCAT system, a special EtherCAT device is generally used for the physical connection. The device monitors both time bases and is therefore able to determine the time difference.

Please refer to www.beckhoff.de for suitable products currently available for this purpose.

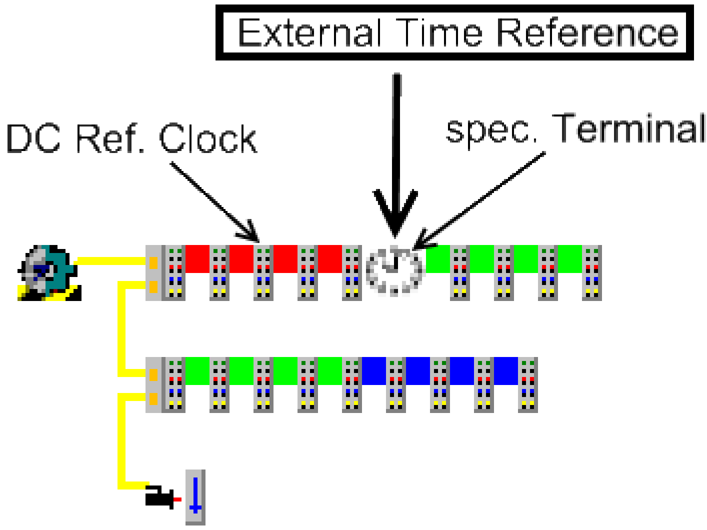


Fig. 14: EtherCAT topology with external reference clock

The different time bases can be arranged hierarchically, so that at the start of the respective system the current absolute time is taken from the subordinate system. If necessary top-down synchronization is used, if external time bases or DC components are present in the system.

Readjustment of local time vs. higher-level absolute time

For the purpose of synchronization the local DC time is not adjusted based on the higher-level absolute time, but only to a constant offset. This offset is made available to the user as a process data. The offset is corrected by ±½ cycle time to ensure both tasks run in phase.

- When TwinCAT starts the EtherCAT master, the local DC system in the slaves is started and synchronized immediately.
- However, an external reference slave such as EL6688 (IEEE1588 PTP) takes a few seconds before it can supply a reference time that is synchronized with the higher-level clock.
- As soon as the external reference time is available, the offset to the local time is calculated and corrected by ±½ cycle time to ensure that both tasks run in phase, and the EtherCAT master Info Data are made available to the user for reconciliation with the local time values.
- From this time the offset is kept constant, depending on the selected control direction.

5.1.2.4 Requirement 2b: External synchronization

5.1.2.4.1 Concept for external TwinCAT synchronization

Using the sample programs

This document contains sample applications of our products for certain areas of application. The application notices provided here are based on typical features of our products and only serve as samples. The notices contained in this document explicitly do not refer to specific applications. The customer is therefore responsible for assessing and deciding whether the product is suitable for a particular application. We accept no responsibility for the completeness and correctness of the source code contained in this document. We reserve the right to modify the content of this document at any time and accept no responsibility for errors and missing information.

TwinCAT clock hierarchy

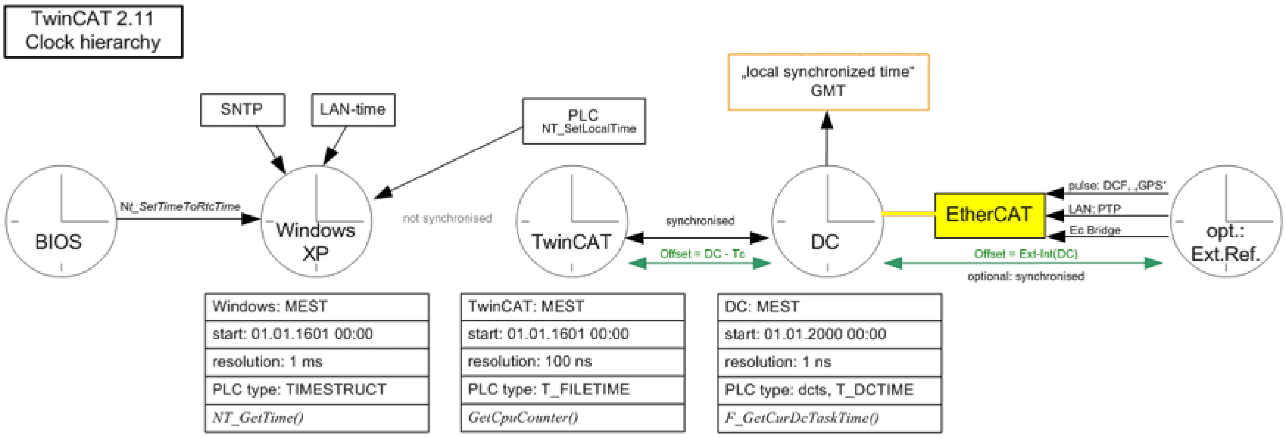


Fig. 15: TwinCAT 2.11 clock hierarchy (subject to change)

The CE operating system uses a different system time. Using the DC clock is therefore recommended.

Basic principles

If EtherCAT components are used for external synchronization of TwinCAT, a time is provided for the local controller that matches the higher-level time. As the fieldbus, EtherCAT makes the necessary operating resources available, in particular EtherCAT's own synchronization mechanism, distributed clocks. In other words,

- in the TwinCAT controller the EtherCAT slaves and the EtherCAT master are synchronized locally in TwinCAT (see also preceding pages).
- The controller is then adjusted based on the higher-level clock total as a slave clock with DC clock.

The procedure is as follows:

- The frequencies of the two time bases are synchronized
- The offset between the two time bases is determined and announced

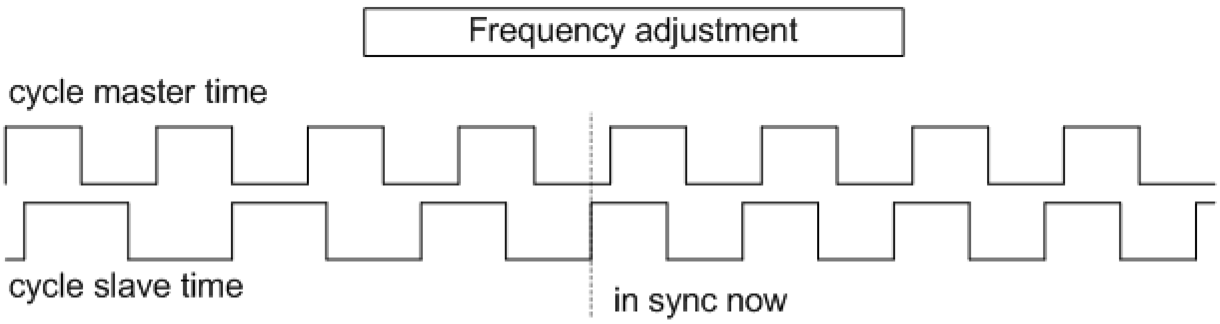


Fig. 16: Frequency synchronicity

Note the following:

- After TwinCAT has started, the slave clock controller adjusts the frequency of its distributed clock time based on the higher-level time:
  - at the start of EtherCAT, the initial offset between the two times is determined.
  - the subsequent adjustment keeps this offset constant and makes it known.
  - the readjustment takes place continuously.
- In the case of failure of the synchronization (interruption of the connection, restart of one of the systems), the behavior is as follows:
  - once slave clock control resumes, a new offset is calculated and announced.
  - the application must therefore continuously observe this offset.
- A new offset is also calculated, if the control limit of ± 1 cycle time is exceeded.
- This does not affect the BIOS clock (motherboard) or the operating system clock (Windows).
- The TwinCAT clock also remains unchanged.
- The local DC time must still be used for tasks related to the respective station hardware (EtherCAT slaves, terminals).
- If the TwinCAT time is used in the application, the TcToDc offset between the TwinCAT clock and the DC clock must be taken into account.

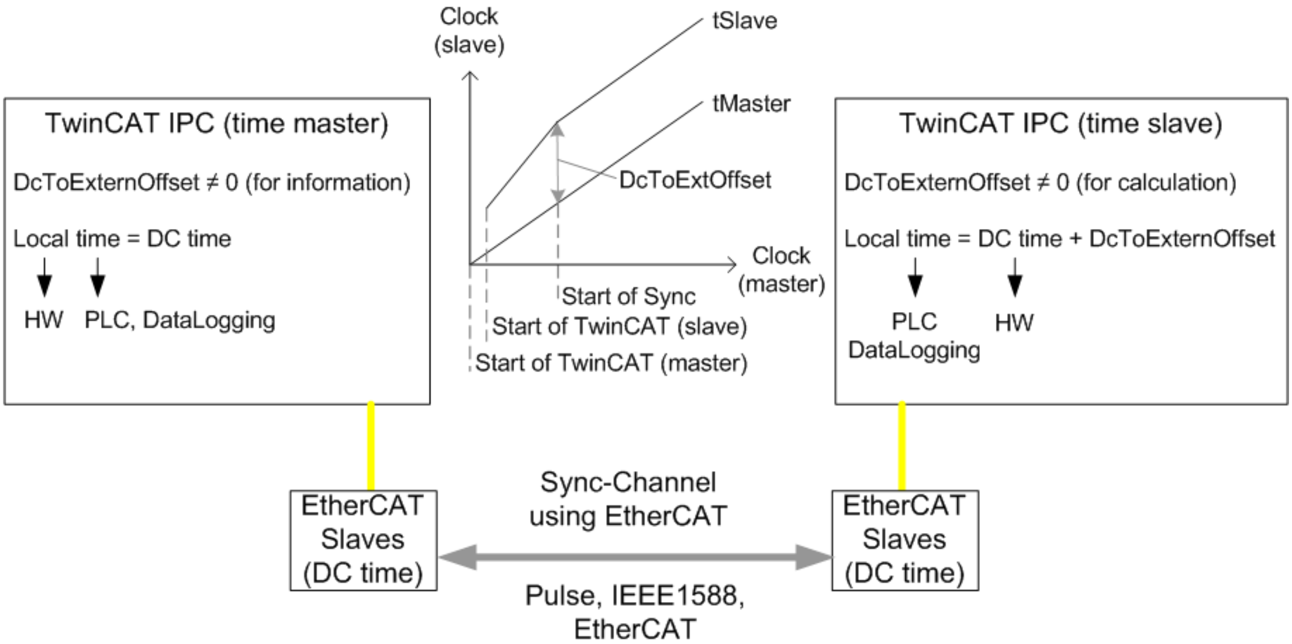


Fig. 17: Synchronization of 2 TwinCAT IPCs with the aid of EtherCAT components

Using the synchronized time

In the adjusted station the "other" time from the master PC is known through:

Synchronized DC time = local DC time + offset

This synchronized time can now be used for data logging. The local DC time must still be used for tasks related to the respective station hardware (EtherCAT slaves, terminals).

Cascading of synchronized TwinCAT systems

We advise against cascading of several time-synchronized TwinCAT systems. However, please note that simple cascading already occurs if a TwinCAT system is controlled by an external clock based on GPS and transfers its local time to a subordinate EtherCAT system via an EL6692 bridge terminal.

In the subordinate systems the respective DcToExt offset relative to the higher-level systems must be taken into account.

Synchronized DC time = local DC time + DcToExtOffset $_{local}$ **+ Σ DcToExtOffset** $_{higher\text{-}level}$

The respective higher-level DcToExtOffsets can be transported through network variables, ADS, via the EL6692 bridge terminal or any other channels. The subordinate system must take these offsets into account.

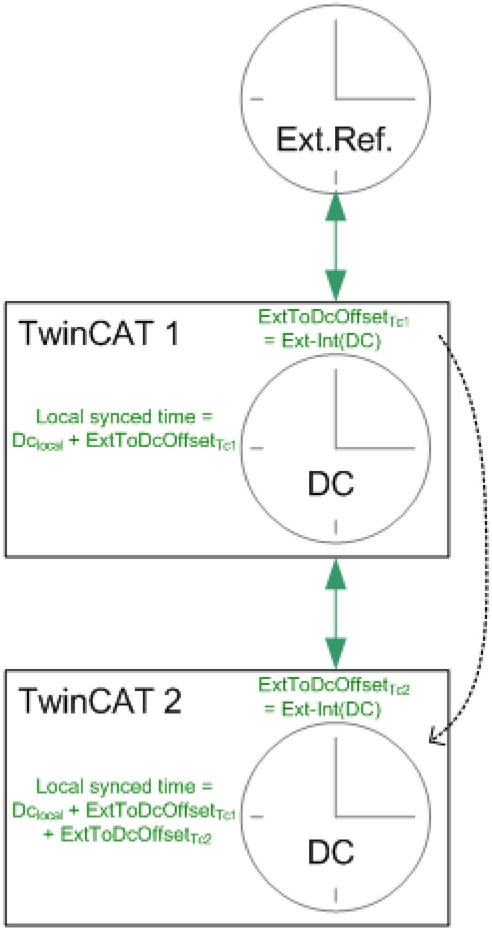
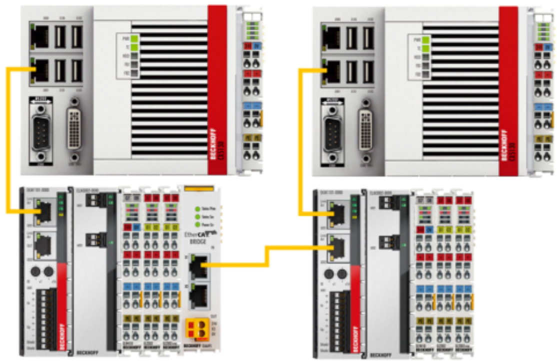
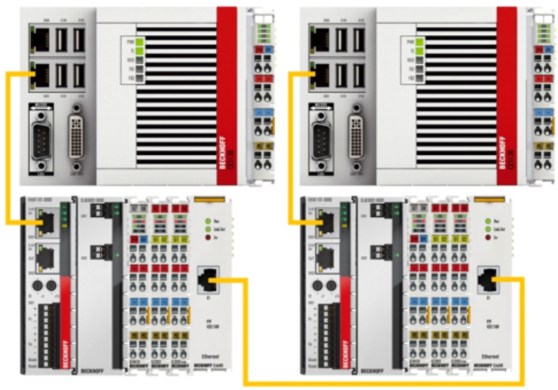
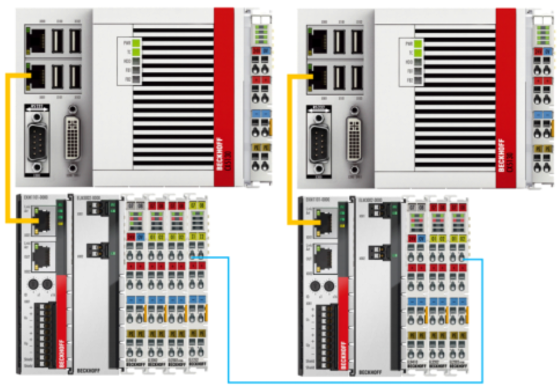
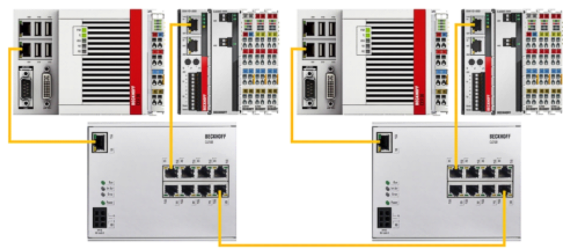


Fig. 18: Cascade consisting of controlled TwinCAT systems

5.1.2.4.2 Implementation options

The following technical variants are possible for external TwinCAT synchronization (as of 2022-08)

Con-secu-tive no.	Name	Evaluation	Example illustration
1	EtherCAT data exchange device (EL6692/6695 bridge terminal, FC11xx EtherCAT slave card) 2 EtherCAT systems are directly coupled for data exchange and DC time synchronization	Best possible time (DC) coupling; master IPC sets the absolute time; only 2 partners possible (if more then linking necessary)	
2	PTP IEE1588 n EtherCAT systems are coupled to a PTP network via EL6688; an EL6688 may also be the time master	Good time coupling; complex network technology required for best results; n devices possible	
3	TF6225 and EL1252 n EtherCAT systems are coupled via a wire connection	Best possible time (DC) coupling; if absolute time needs to be transferred, this must be done via secondary communication, e.g. via NMEA0183 via serial RS line	
4	CU2508 2 EtherCAT systems are coupled directly via one CU2508 each, for DC time synchronization	Best possible time (DC) coupling; master IPC sets the absolute time;	
5	NTP n controllers are synchronized with each other in an NTP network	Moderately good time coupling; no tracking of TwinCAT Realtime! Only the absolute time is available in the IPC for further application-side use in the PLC	

5.1.2.4.3 TwinCAT system behavior

External reference clock outage

If the external reference clock signal fails, both time bases will naturally drift apart again. Once the signal is available again, the system will once again be controlled based on the previous offset values.

TwinCAT can start without external clock signal. In this case the offset is calculated and maintained as described above, as soon as a stable external reference clock signal is received.

5.1.2.4.4 External synchronization: Settings in TwinCAT 2.11

External synchronization via EtherCAT is supported from TwinCAT 2.11. The synchronization direction can be set in the associated dialog.

Distributed clock timing settings

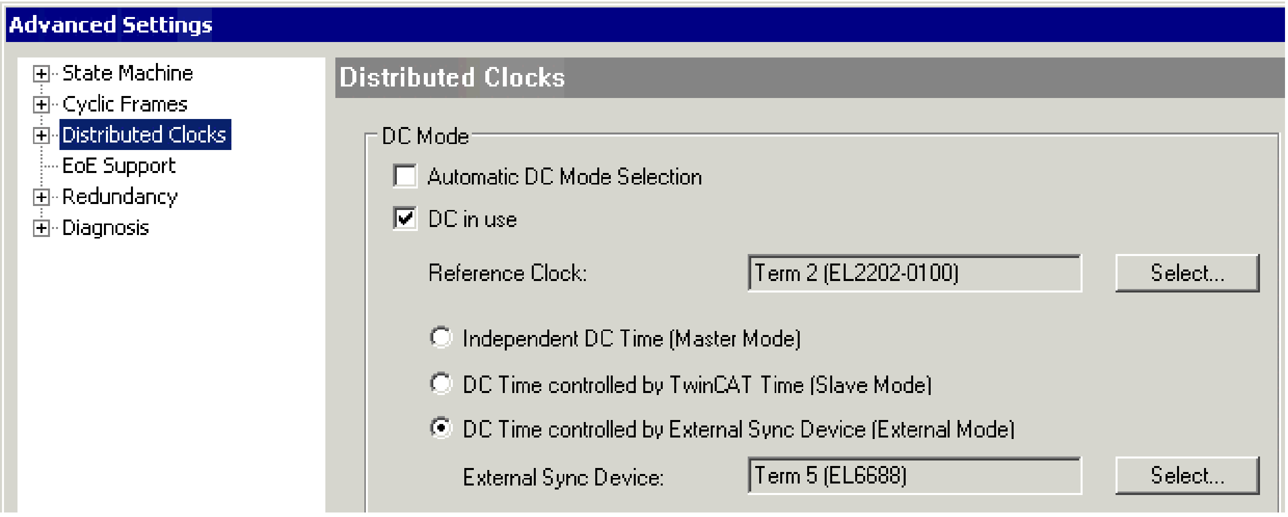


Fig. 19: TwinCAT 2.11 distributed clock settings

The figure above shows an example for EL6688 in PTP slave mode as time reference for the local EtherCAT system.

Fig. *Synchronization direction* shows the synchronization direction for the respective synchronization type, i.e. the source on which the synchronization time is based.

- **Independent DC Time (A):**
  One of the EL terminals (generally the first terminal supporting distributed clocks (DC)) is the reference clock to which all other DC terminals are adjusted. Selection of the reference clock in the dialog above.
- **DC Time controlled by TwinCAT (B):**
  The DC reference clock is adjusted to the local TwinCAT time. This setting is used in cases where several EtherCAT systems with distributed clocks function are operated in the same control system. This tracking mode is less accurate.
  If high accuracy is required the external CU2508 EtherCAT distributor must be used.
  Note: In the subordinate EtherCAT system a device without firmware intelligence (e.g. an EK1100 coupler) must be set as reference clock.
  Please refer to section “Coupling of EtherCAT systems”.
- **DC Time controlled by External Sync Device (C)**:
  If the EtherCAT system is to be adjusted to a higher-level clock, the external sync device can be selected here.
  Please refer to section "External synchronization" [▸ 35].

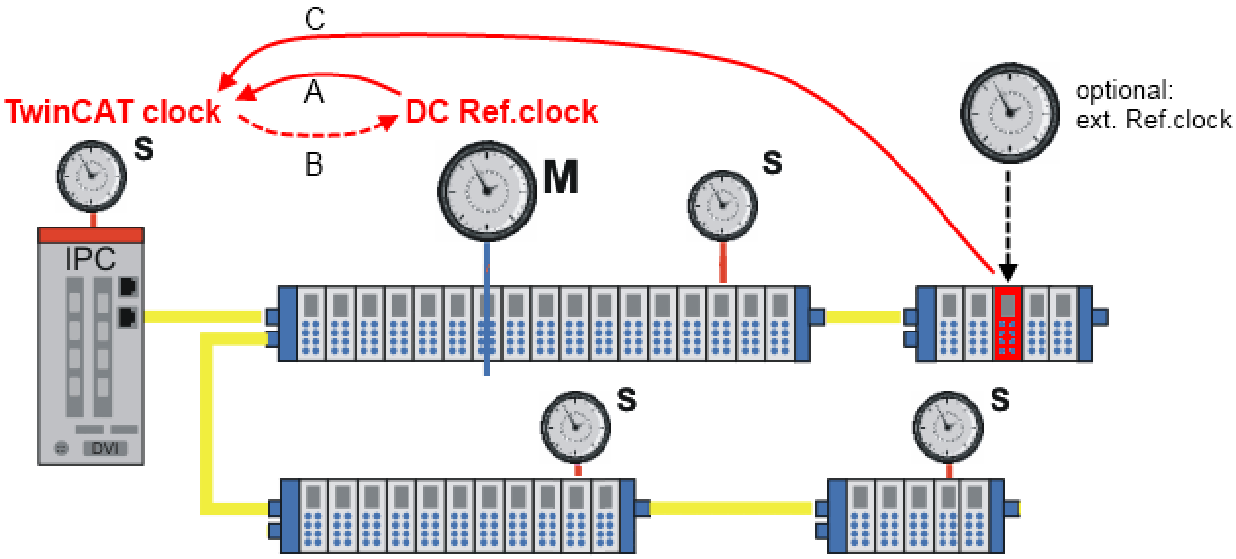


Fig. 20: synchronization direction

Process data settings

TwinCAT 2.11 can display the current offsets in [ns] in the EtherCAT master info data.

- These offsets are calculated once after EtherCAT has started.
- The synchronization control keeps these offsets constant.
- If local DC time values in the synchronized EtherCAT system are to be related to the absolute reference from the higher-level EtherCAT system (e.g. from EL1252 timestamp terminals), the user must adjust this offset with each local timestamp.

Sample: $t_{EL1252\ timestamp\ channel\ 1,\ absolute\ time} = t_{EL1252\ timestamp\ channel\ 1,\ local\ DC\ time} + t_{ExtToDcOffset} + t_{TcToDcOffset}$

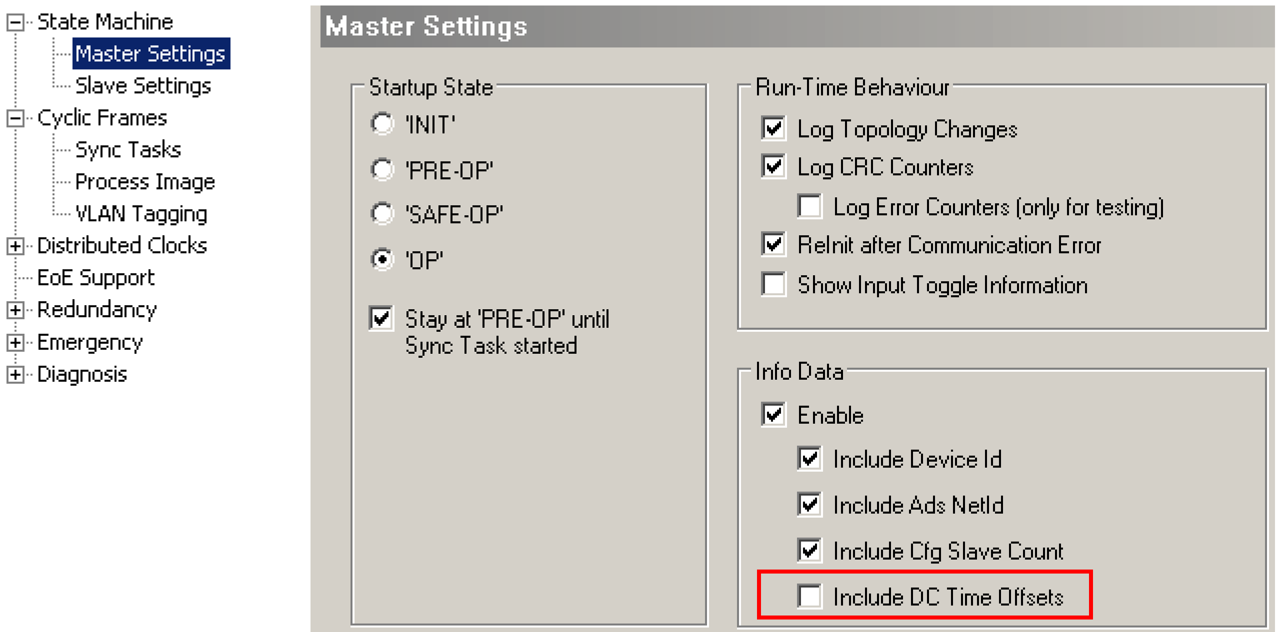


Fig. 21: display current offsets

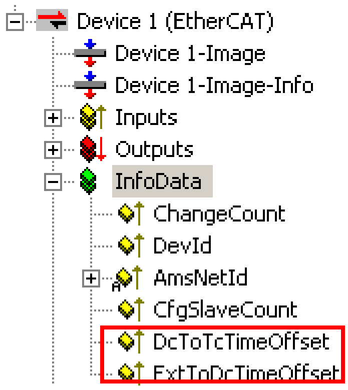


Fig. 22: Current offsets

5.1.2.4.5 Sample: EL6692 bridge terminal

Using the sample programs

This document contains sample applications of our products for certain areas of application. The application notices provided here are based on typical features of our products and only serve as samples. The notices contained in this document explicitly do not refer to specific applications. The customer is therefore responsible for assessing and deciding whether the product is suitable for a particular application. We accept no responsibility for the completeness and correctness of the source code contained in this document. We reserve the right to modify the content of this document at any time and accept no responsibility for errors and missing information.

In this example, two Beckhoff IPCs with TwinCAT 2.11, b1539, will be synchronized with each other. One PC is the master clock, the second (slave clock) synchronizes its 'time' to the first. As the fieldbus, EtherCAT makes the necessary operating resources available, in particular EtherCAT's own synchronization mechanism, distributed clocks.

The procedure is as explained in the previous chapter.

The following must be observed:

- The master PC works autonomously on the basis of its DC time
- Following the start of TwinCAT, the slave PC readjusts its distributed clocks time to the master IPC:
    - at the start of EtherCAT, the initial offset between the two times is determined.
    - the subsequent adjustment keeps this offset constant and makes it known.
    - the readjustment takes place continuously.
- In the case of failure of the synchronization (interruption of the connection, restart of one of the systems), the behavior is as follows:
    - If the adjustment restarts in the slave PC, a new offset is calculated there and made known.
    - the application must therefore continuously observe this offset.
- The local DC time must still be used for tasks related to the respective station hardware (EtherCAT slaves, terminals).
- The EtherCAT cycle time must be identical in both systems.
- If different configurations are used in the two systems, i. e. the number, type and/or order of the slaves is different, the automatically calculated shift times will also differ.
  Sample: Both systems use an EL2202-0100, which are both supposed to switch their output at the same time. A constant difference is measured, since different output shift times were calculated.
  In the system with the smaller output shift time the shift time of the other system should be entered.

NOTICE

Effect on devices when changing the shift times

Side effects relating to the function of the other slaves when the shift times are changed should be taken into account!

- In a controlled system the time offset between the systems is subject to certain fluctuations.

Sample program (https://infosys.beckhoff.com/content/1033/el6685/Resources/2469158155.zip), TwinCAT 2.11

Pay attention in the program to the use of ‘signed’ and ‘unsigned’ 64-bit variables as required.

Topology

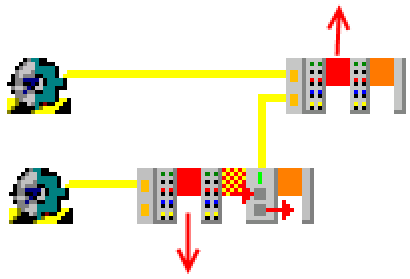


Fig. 23: Topology of the sample program

Station Master: EK1100, EL2202, EL6692

Station Slave: EK1100, EL2202

In this example, the EL6692 is synchronized in the direction *PrimarySide --> SecondarySide (RJ45 connection)*. Synchronization in the other direction is also possible.

EL6692 documentation

Please note the information in the EL6692 documentation regarding the system behavior of this terminal.

Demo program

In this demo program, the slave’s own local DC time from the ReferenceClock in the EtherCAT segment is offset by the time difference to the external synchronization device. This calculation therefore only makes sense on a platform that is a synchronization slave to a master.

The synchronization route can be

- another EtherCAT system, means: Beckhoff EL6692 bridge terminal (this example)
- an IEEE1588 system, means: Beckhoff EL6688 PTP terminal
- any timer with time information (GPS, radio clock), means: TwinCAT Supplement "External synchronization"

The principle:
TwinCAT cyclically receives (e.g. every second) a pair (64-bit, unit 1 ns) made up of an internal (DC) and an external timestamp. These two timestamps are originally obtained simultaneously. The offset between the two time bases is calculated from the initial difference and made known in the System Manager | EtherCAT device | InfoData.
Furthermore, the slave TwinCAT readjusts its own local DC time from the course of the two timestamps with respect to each other.

Calculations:

- current control deviation = DcToExtOffset - (external timestamp - internal timestamp)
  This value ("signed", 64-bit) is compared with an application-specific barrier; if it is met, the validity of the time is output
- local synchronized time = local DC time + DcToExtOffset
  This "nuLocalTime" ("unsigned", 64-bit) can now be used for data logging and events with a time reference to the master PC clock.

Setting up TwinCAT 2.11

In the following procedure the complete system is set up as follows:

- EL6692 primary side (E-bus): Sync Master (i.e. reference clock)
- EL6692 secondary side (RJ45 sockets): Sync Slave (i.e. synchronized side)

The synchronization direction of the time can be set up the other way around; the instructions must then be followed analogously.

Sync Master side

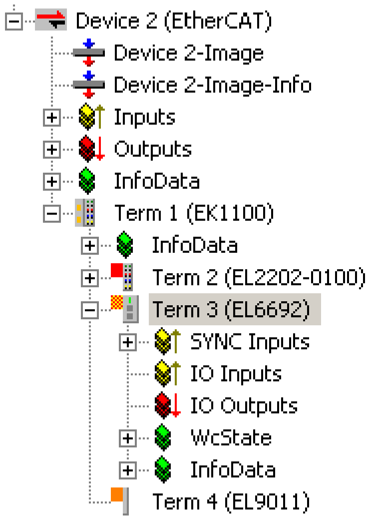


Fig. 24: Device on the master side

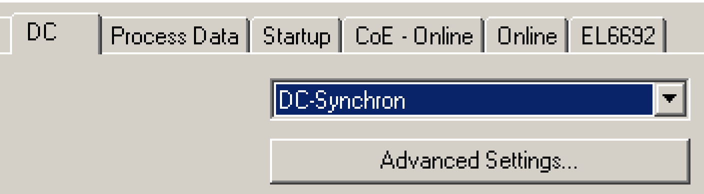


Fig. 25: Set the EL6692 PrimarySide to DC

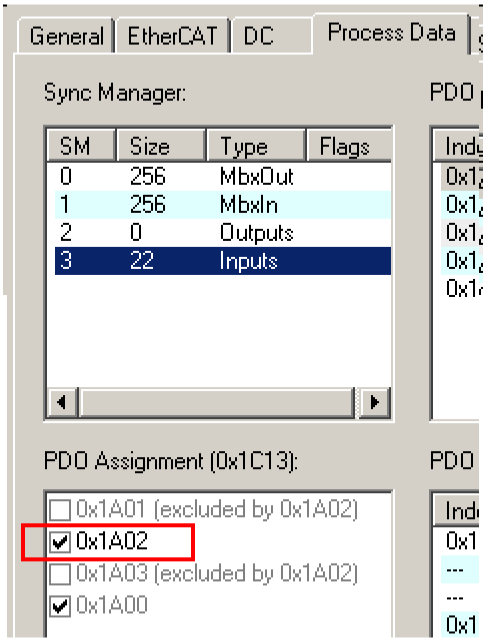


Fig. 26: Activate PDO 0x1A02 to display the time stamps

Timestamp PDO

The activation of the timestamp PDO indicates to the TwinCAT software on the respective side that this side is to be synchronized, i.e. that it is the Sync Slave.
It is not necessary to activate the timestamp PDO on the Sync Master side (i.e. the side that represents the reference clock).

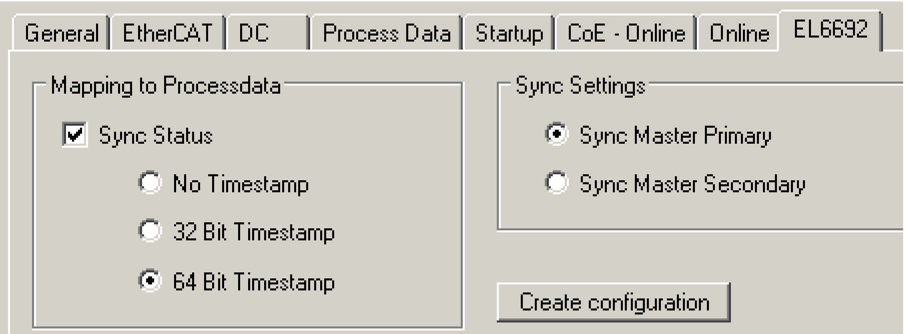


Fig. 27: Set the synchronization direction on the PrimarySide;

The figure above shows SyncSettings: Primary --> Secondary

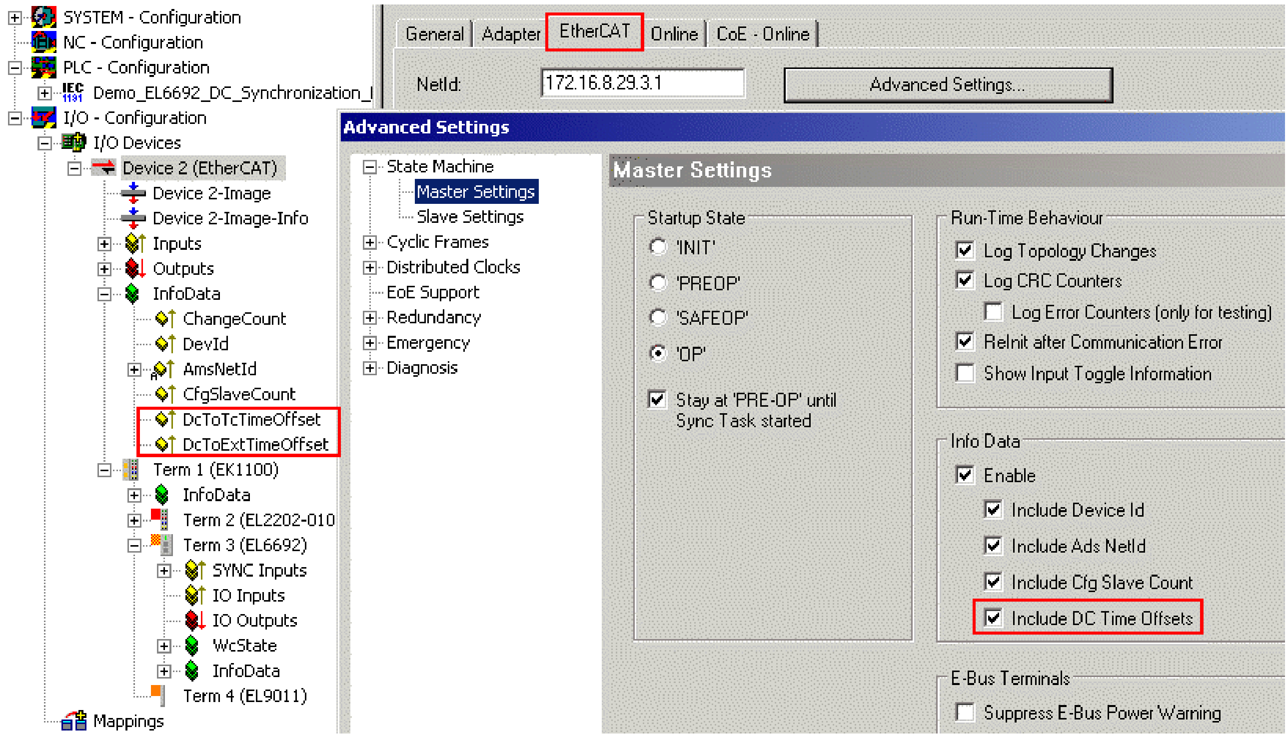


Fig. 28: Activate the display of the DC offsets in the EtherCAT master

They can then be evaluated on the master side.

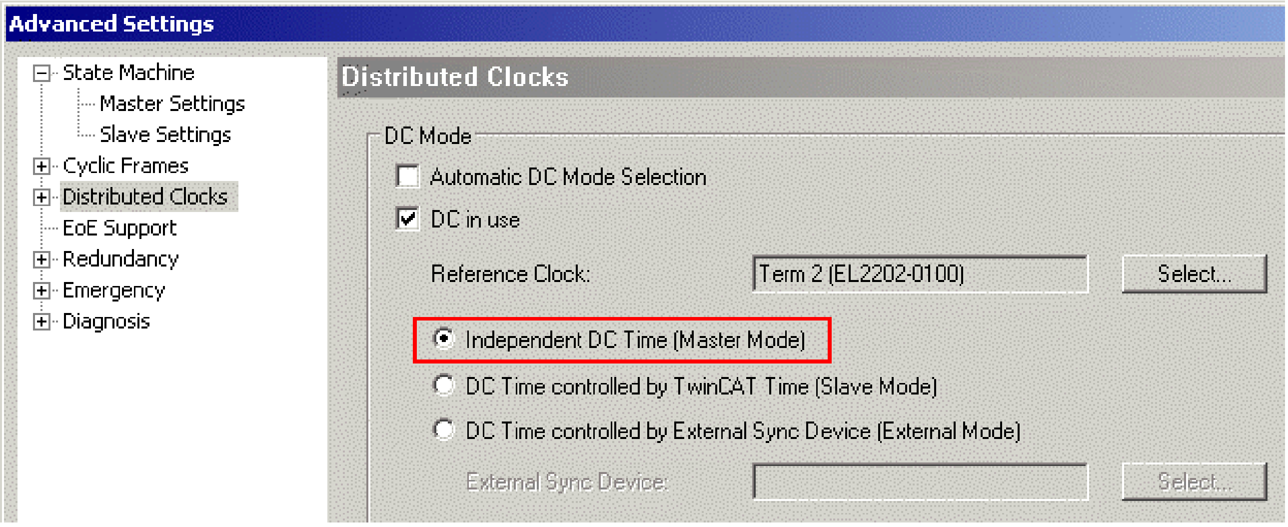


Fig. 29: Master PC works with its own ReferenceClock as a basis

TwinCAT can now be activated and started on this side. All devices must be in OP, WorkingCounter = 0, no LostFrames. The EL6692 time stamps on the PrimarySide remain at 0, because the SecondarySide has not yet been configured.

Sync Slave side

The EL6692, *SecondarySide* is set to DC and 0x1A02 according to Figs. *Set the EL6692 PrimarySide to DC* and *Activate PDO 0x1A02 to display the time stamps.*

After reloading the configuration (or restarting in *ConfigMode*, FreeRun), the synchronization direction can be read out by means of *GetConfiguration* on the *SecondarySide*, see the fig. *SecondarySide of the EL6692*.

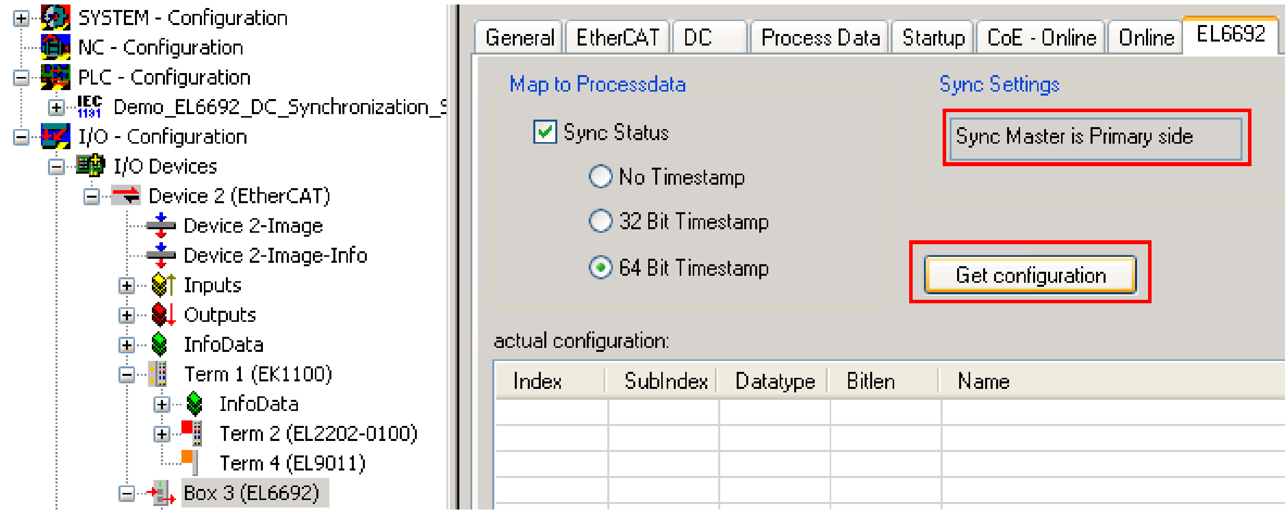


Fig. 30: SecondarySide of the EL6692

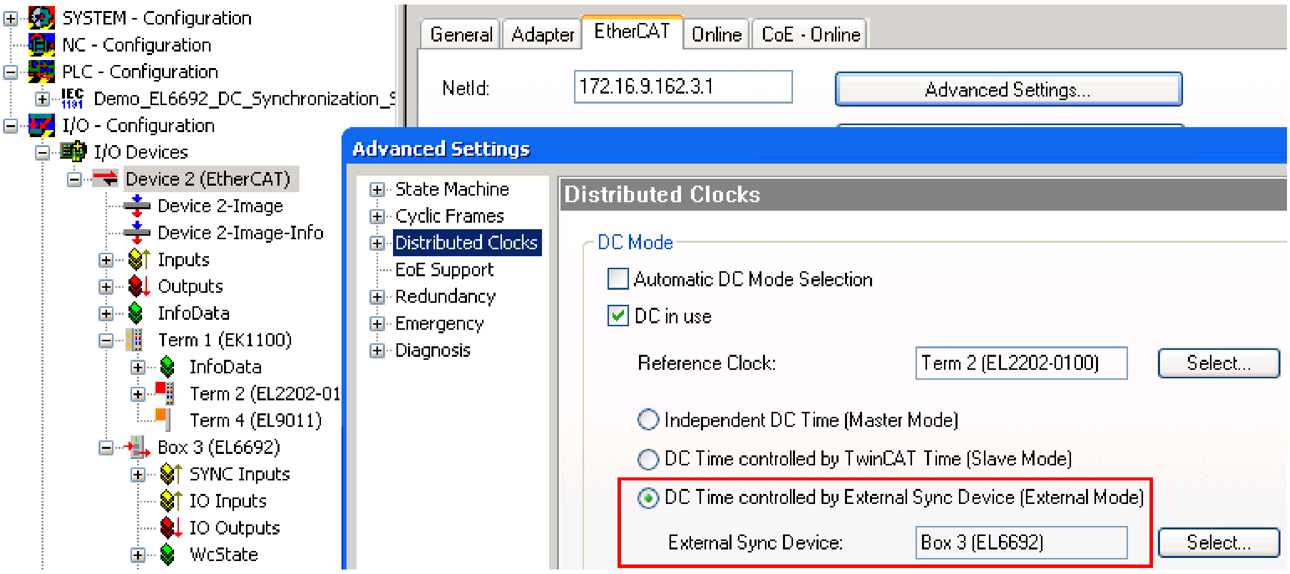


Fig. 31: EtherCAT master settings, slave side

After the restart, the DC function of the EL6692 is known to the EtherCAT master; therefore, it now offers this EL6692 as an *ExternalSyncDevice* in the DC dialogue.

The linking of the following variables is necessary for the evaluations; see the fig. *Slave side.*

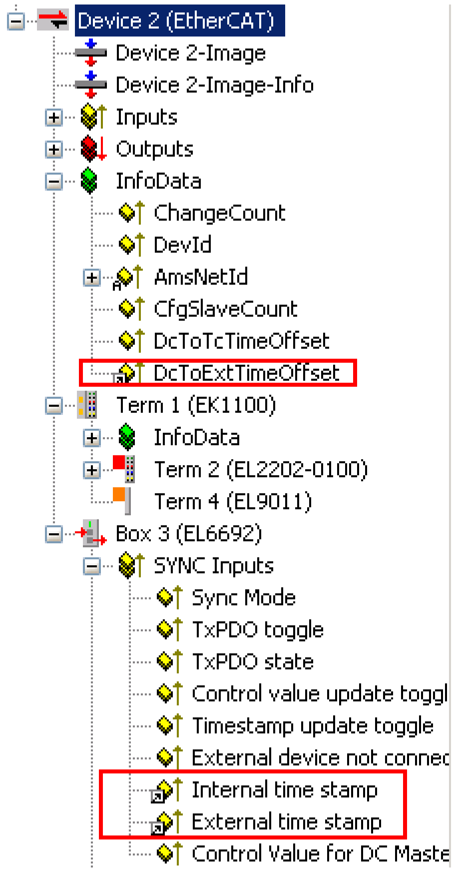


Fig. 32: Slave side

NOTICE

Demo program

The following screenshots and information refer exclusively to the PLC demo program discussed here and the sample code it contains, and not to the analysis functions of the system manager.

See also the note [▶ 41].

On the slave side, the start of the synchronization can be observed with the incorporated visualization.

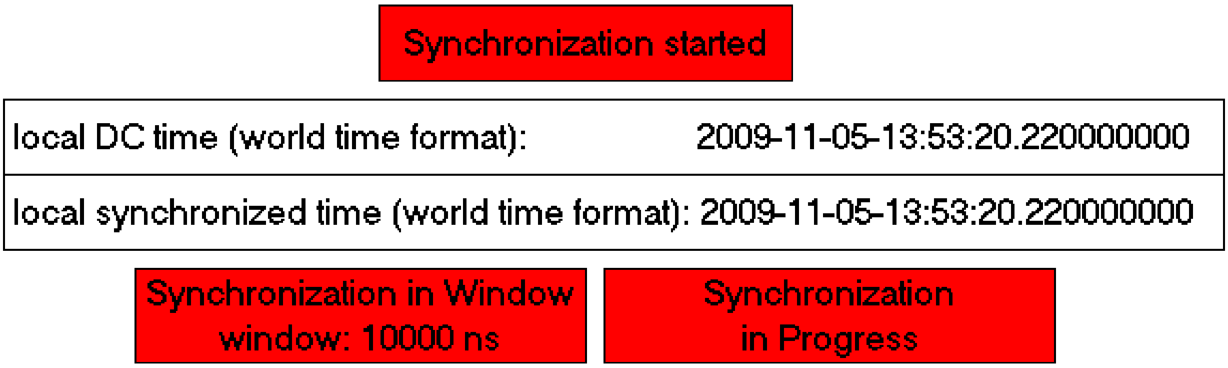


Fig. 33: Start slave side

Only the local DC time is available on the slave side immediately after the start.

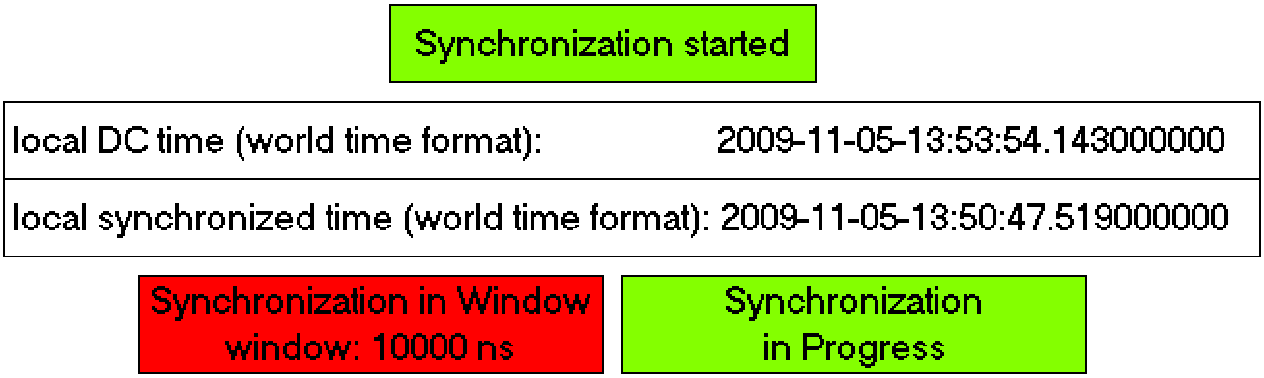


Fig. 34: Time stamp known

Following receipt of the first time stamps via the EL6692, the offset is known; in this case it is around 3 minutes different to the time of the IPC used. Synchronization has begun; in this sample a window of ± 10 µs is to be achieved.

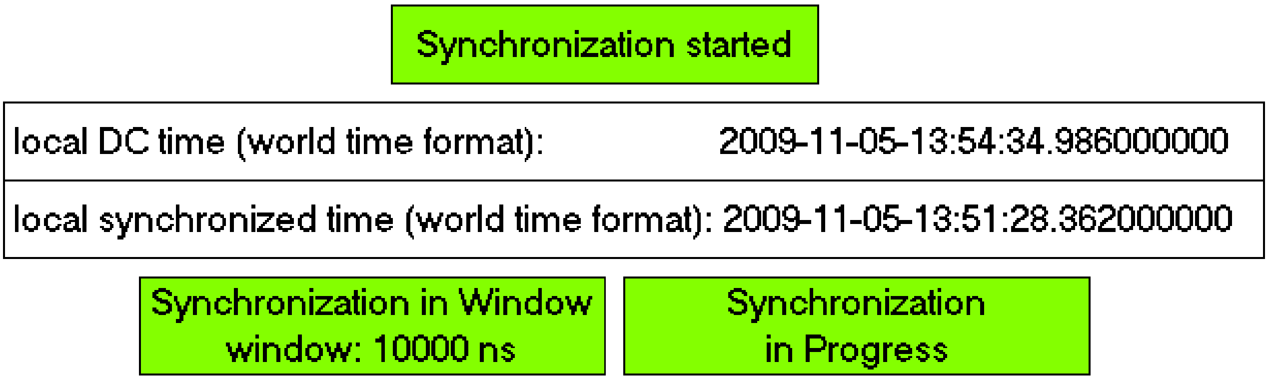


Fig. 35: Synchronization successful

5.1.3 Sample programs

Using the sample programs

This document contains sample applications of our products for certain areas of application. The application notes provided here are based on typical features of our products and only serve as examples. The notes contained in this document explicitly do not refer to specific applications. The customer is therefore responsible for assessing and deciding whether the product is suitable for a particular application. We accept no responsibility for the completeness and correctness of the source code contained in this document. We reserve the right to modify the content of this document at any time and accept no responsibility for errors and missing information.

Sample 1: Display and evaluations of the different times in TwinCAT

The sample program determines several independent local times in a TwinCAT system under Windows XPe, calculates current deviations and converts them into different representations. The function *Nt_SetTimeToRtcTime* can be activated for testing purposes.

Notes:

- Cycle time used: 1 ms
- Determined times:
  - Local Windows NT time (shown in the taskbar)
  - Local TwinCAT time
  - Distributed Clocks time
- The example uses EtherCAT distributed clocks terminals for determining the distributed clocks time (DC).
- The individual conversion, particularly the cyclic string representations, require significant computing time. A CX1000 platform or above is recommended for testing the sample program.

Please follow the general instructions for EtherCAT synchronization.

Starting the sample program

The application samples have been tested with a test configuration and are described accordingly. Certain deviations when setting up actual applications are possible.

The following hardware and software were used for the test configuration:

- TwinCAT master PC with Windows XP Professional SP 3, TwinCAT version 2.10 (Build 1330) and INTEL PRO/100 VE Ethernet adapter
- Beckhoff EK1100 EtherCAT coupler, EL2202-0100, EL2252 and EL9011 terminals

5.1.3.1 Sample program TwinCAT 2

https://infosys.beckhoff.com/content/1033/el6685/Resources/2469153803.zip

Preparations for starting the program

- After clicking the Download button, save the zip file locally on your hard disk, and unzip the *.tsm (configuration) and the *.pro (PLC program) files into a temporary working folder.
- The *.pro file can be opened by double click or by the TwinCAT PLC Control application with menu selection “File/ Open”. The *.tsm file is provided for the TwinCAT System Manager (to review or overtake configurations).
- This example requires a PLC control with a terminal EL2202-0100. You can use either an embedded PC that has the terminal placed on the right or an IPC with an EtherCAT link of an e.g. RJ-45 connector to the EK1100 coupler with the terminal (e.g. C6915 + EK1100 + EL2202-0100).

- Within this example it’s not necessary to connect the terminals outputs (as there will be the DC operation mode used only). However the Sync Master needs a link to a variable. The external “bDummyOut” variable is designated for that, so it has to be linked with one of the both channels of the terminal.

Please continue with further descriptions in sectionTwinCAT Quickstart, TwinCAT 2.

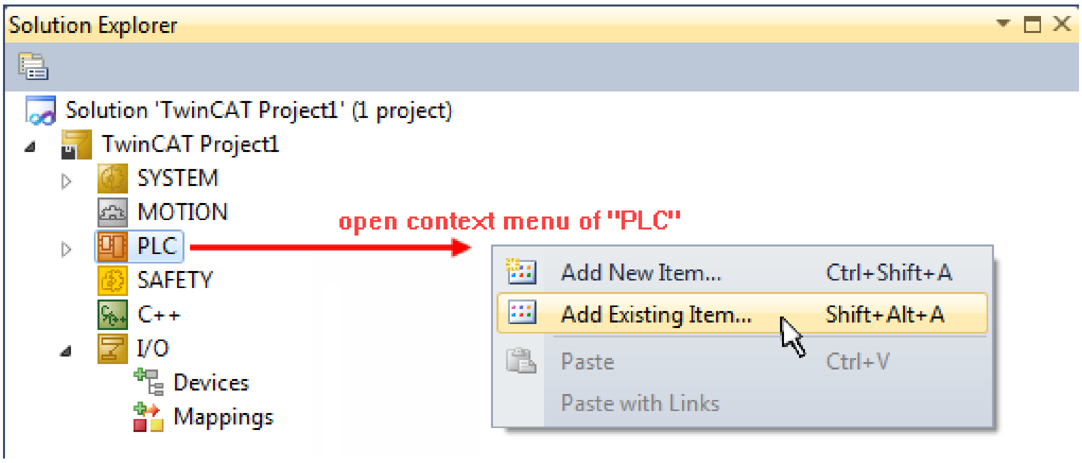
5.1.3.2 Sample program TwinCAT 3

https://infosys.beckhoff.com/content/1033/el6685/Resources/3722257291.zip

Preparation to start the sample program (tpzip file/ TwinCAT 3)

- After clicking the Download button, save the zip file locally on your hard disk, and unzip the *.tpzip -archive file into a temporary working folder.
- Create a new TwinCAT project as described in section:
TwinCAT Quickstart, TwinCAT 3, Startup

- Open the context menu of "PLC" within the "Solutionexplorer" and select "Add Existing Item..."



- Select the beforehand unpacked .tpzip file (sample program).
- This example requires a PLC control with a terminal EL2202-0100. You can use either an embedded PC that has the terminal placed on the right or an IPC with an EtherCAT link of an e.g. RJ-45 connector to the EK1100 coupler with the terminal (e.g. C6915 + EK1100 + EL2202-0100).
- Within this example it’s not necessary to connect the terminals outputs (as there will be the DC operation mode used only). However the Sync Master needs a link to a variable. The external “bDummyOut” variable is designated for that, so it has to be linked with one of the both channels of the terminal.

Also see more hints in section:
Commissioning, TwinCAT Quickstart, TwinCAT 3, Startup.

6 Mounting and wiring

6.1 Instructions for ESD protection

NOTICE

Destruction of the devices by electrostatic discharge possible!

The devices contain components at risk from electrostatic discharge caused by improper handling.

- When handling the components, ensure that there is no electrostatic discharge; also avoid touching the spring contacts directly (see illustration).
- Contact with highly insulating materials (synthetic fibers, plastic films, etc.) should be avoided when handling components at the same time.
- When handling the components, ensure that the environment (workplace, packaging and persons) is properly earthed.
- Each bus station must be terminated on the right-hand side with the EL9011 or EL9012 end cap to ensure the degree of protection and ESD protection.

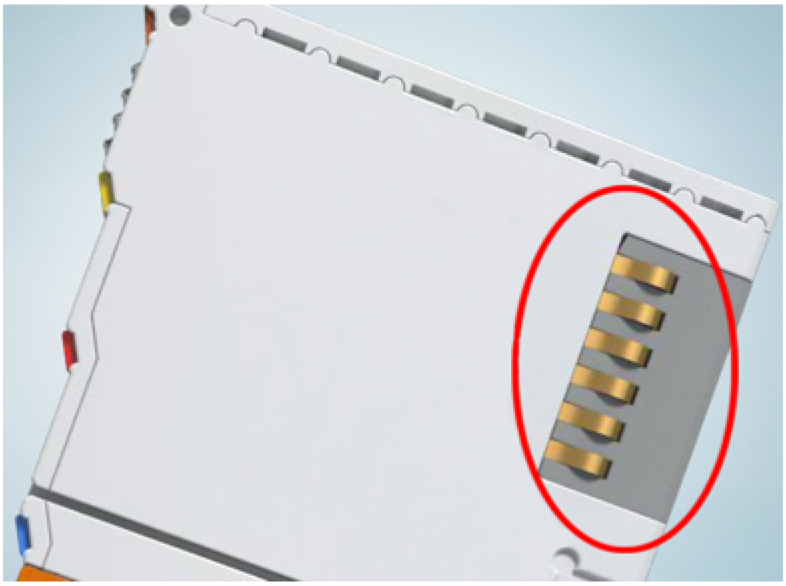


Fig. 36: Spring contacts of the Beckhoff I/O components

6.2 Note - power supply

⚠ WARNING

Power supply from SELV / PELV power supply unit!

SELV / PELV circuits (safety extra-low voltage / protective extra-low voltage) according to IEC 61010-2-201 must be used to supply this device.

Notes:

- SELV / PELV circuits may give rise to further requirements from standards such as IEC 60204-1 et al, for example with regard to cable spacing and insulation.
- A SELV supply provides safe electrical isolation and limitation of the voltage without a connection to the protective conductor, a PELV supply also requires a safe connection to the protective conductor.

6.3 Positioning of passive Terminals

Hint for positioning of passive terminals in the bus terminal block

EtherCAT Terminals (ELxxxx / ESxxxx), which do not take an active part in data transfer within the bus terminal block are so called passive terminals. The passive terminals have no current consumption out of the E-Bus.
To ensure an optimal data transfer, you must not directly string together more than two passive terminals!

Examples for positioning of passive terminals (highlighted)

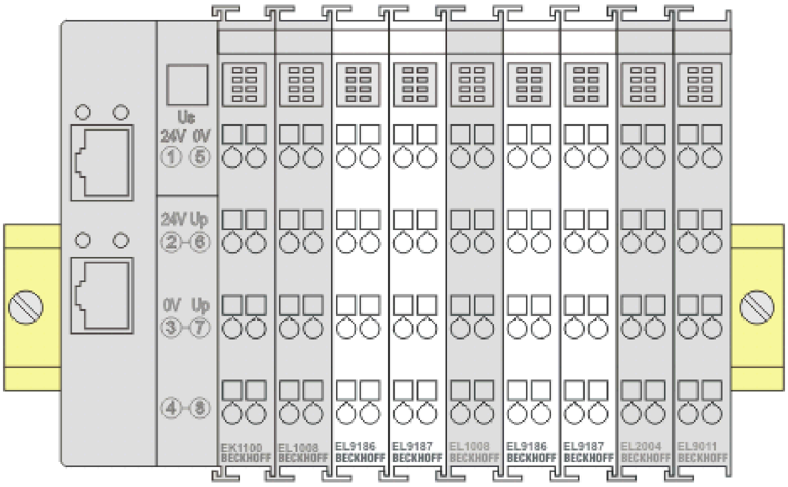


Fig. 37: Correct positioning

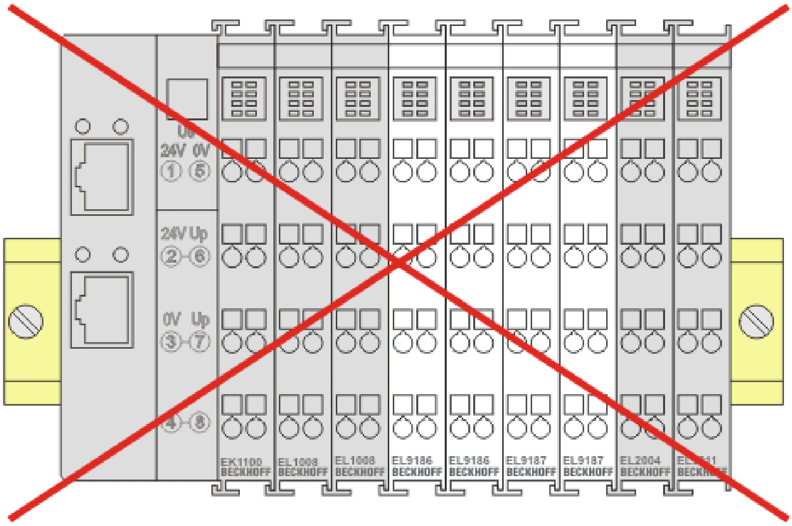


Fig. 38: Incorrect positioning

6.4 Installation positions

NOTICE

Constraints regarding installation position and operating temperature range

Please refer to the technical data for a terminal to ascertain whether any restrictions regarding the installation position and/or the operating temperature range have been specified. When installing high power dissipation terminals ensure that an adequate spacing is maintained between other components above and below the terminal in order to guarantee adequate ventilation!

Optimum installation position (standard)

The optimum installation position requires the mounting rail to be installed horizontally and the connection surfaces of the EL- / KL terminals to face forward (see Fig. “Recommended distances for standard installation position”). The terminals are ventilated from below, which enables optimum cooling of the electronics through convection. “From below” is relative to the acceleration of gravity.

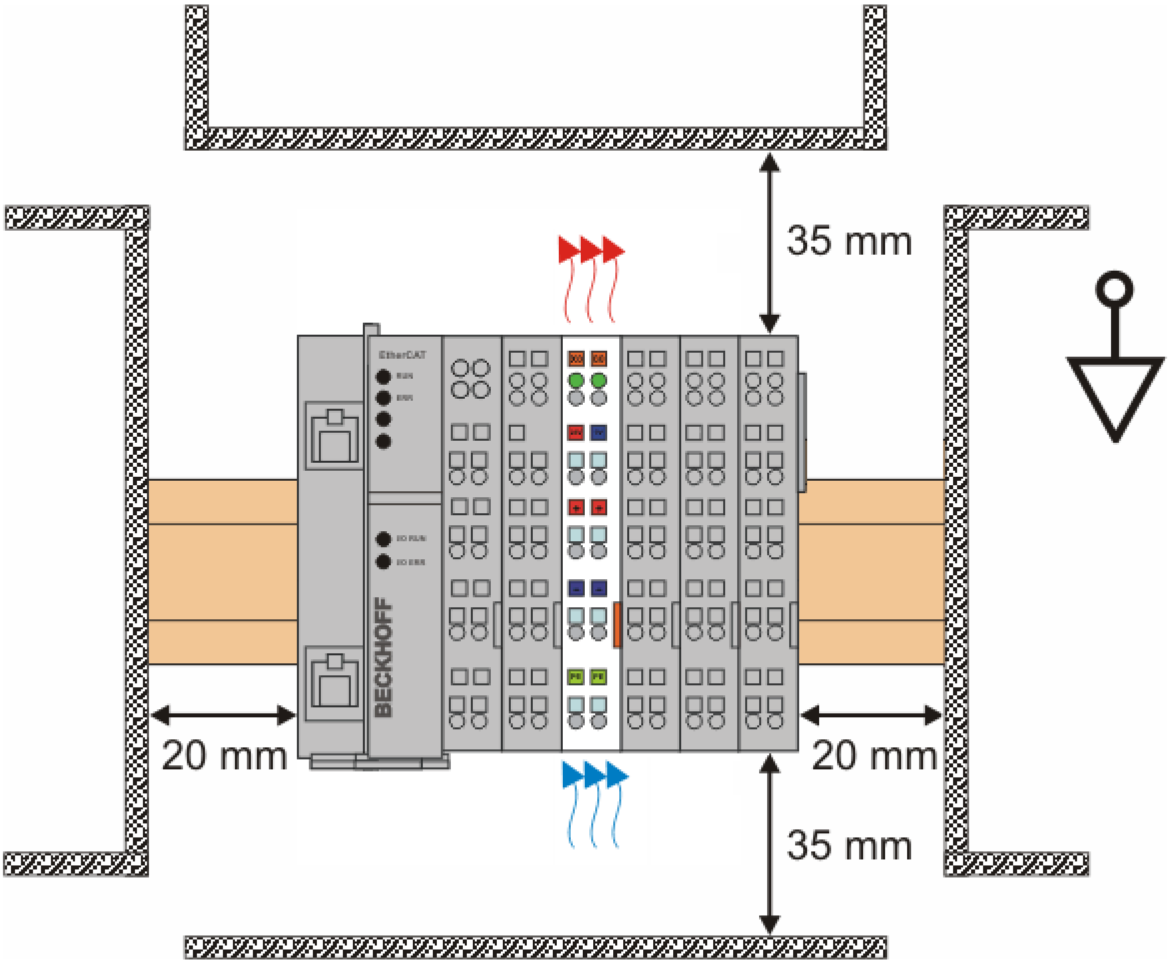


Fig. 39: Recommended distances for standard installation position

Compliance with the distances shown in Fig. “Recommended distances for standard installation position” is recommended.

Other installation positions

All other installation positions are characterized by different spatial arrangement of the mounting rail - see Fig “Other installation positions”.

The minimum distances to ambient specified above also apply to these installation positions.

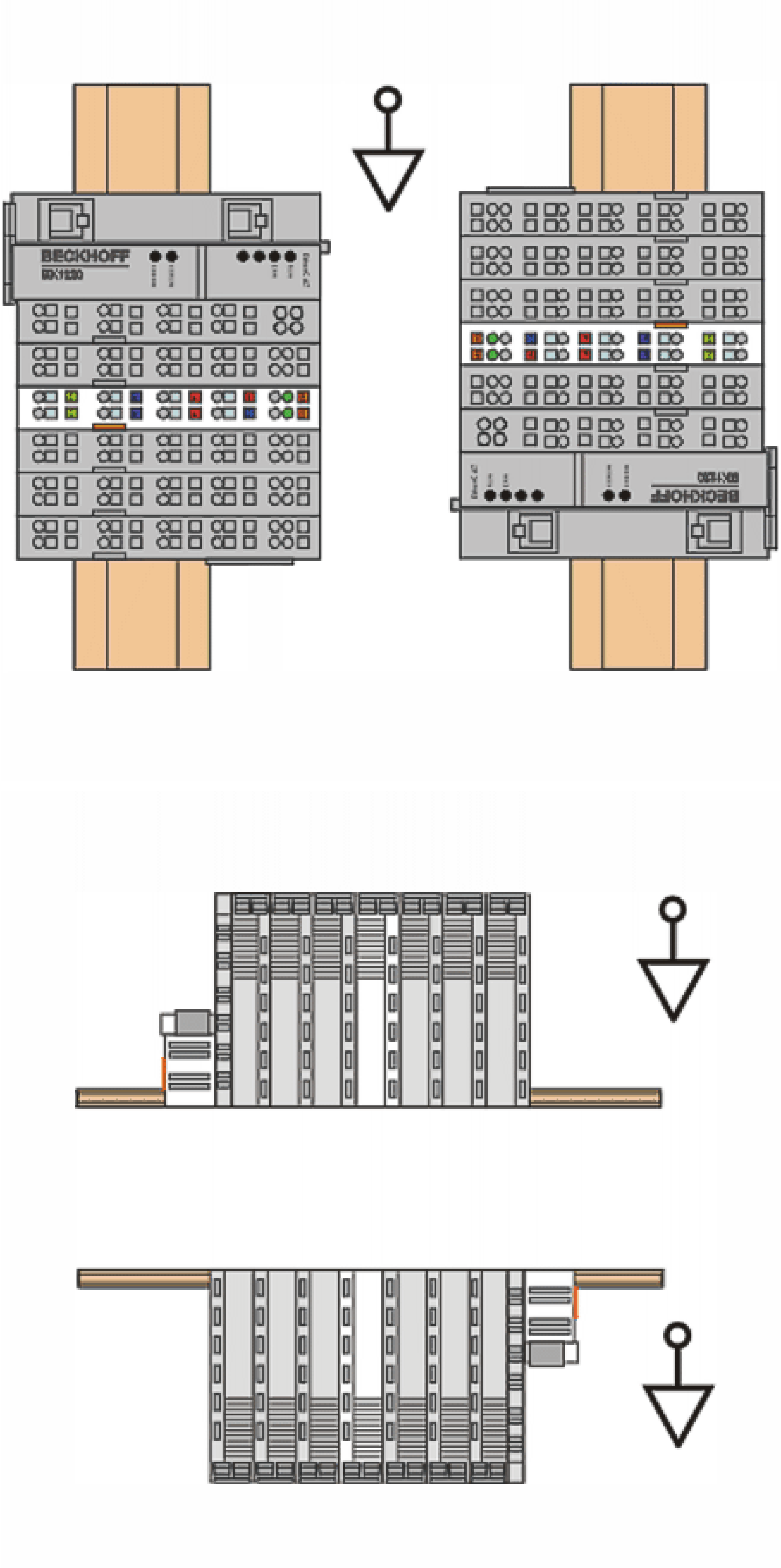


Fig. 40: Other installation positions

6.5 Disposal

Products marked with a crossed-out wheeled bin shall not be discarded with the normal waste stream. The device is considered as waste electrical and electronic equipment. The national regulations for the disposal of waste electrical and electronic equipment must be observed.

7 Commissioning

7.1 TwinCAT Development Environment

The Software for automation TwinCAT (The Windows Control and Automation Technology) will be distinguished into:

- TwinCAT 2: System Manager (Configuration) and PLC Control (Programming)
- TwinCAT 3: Enhancement of TwinCAT 2 (Programming and Configuration takes place via a common Development Environment)

Details:

- **TwinCAT 2:**
  - Connects I/O devices to tasks in a variable-oriented manner
  - Connects tasks to tasks in a variable-oriented manner
  - Supports units at the bit level
  - Supports synchronous or asynchronous relationships
  - Exchange of consistent data areas and process images
  - Datalink on NT - Programs by open Microsoft Standards (OLE, OCX, ActiveX, DCOM+, etc.)
  - Integration of IEC 61131-3-Software-SPS, Software- NC and Software-CNC within Windows NT/2000/XP/Vista, Windows 7, NT/XP Embedded, CE
  - Interconnection to all common fieldbusses
  - More...

Additional features:

- **TwinCAT 3** (eXtended Automation)**:**
  - Visual Studio® integration
  - Choice of the programming language
  - Supports object orientated extension of IEC 61131-3
  - Usage of C/C++ as programming language for real time applications
  - Connection to MATLAB®/Simulink®
  - Open interface for expandability
  - Flexible run-time environment
  - Active support of multi-core- and 64 bit operating system
  - Automatic code generation and project creation with the TwinCAT Automation Interface
  - More...

Within the following sections commissioning of the TwinCAT Development Environment on a PC System for the control and also the basically functions of unique control elements will be explained.

Please see further information to TwinCAT 2 and TwinCAT 3 at http://infosys.beckhoff.com.

7.1.1 Installation of the TwinCAT real-time driver

In order to assign real-time capability to a standard Ethernet port of an IPC controller, the Beckhoff real-time driver has to be installed on this port under Windows.

This can be done in several ways.

A: Via the TwinCAT Adapter dialog

In the System Manager call up the TwinCAT overview of the local network interfaces via Options → Show Real Time Ethernet Compatible Devices.

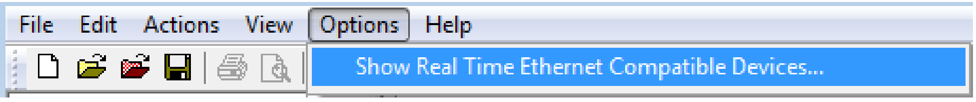


Fig. 41: System Manager “Options” (TwinCAT 2)

This have to be called up by the menu “TwinCAT” within the TwinCAT 3 environment:

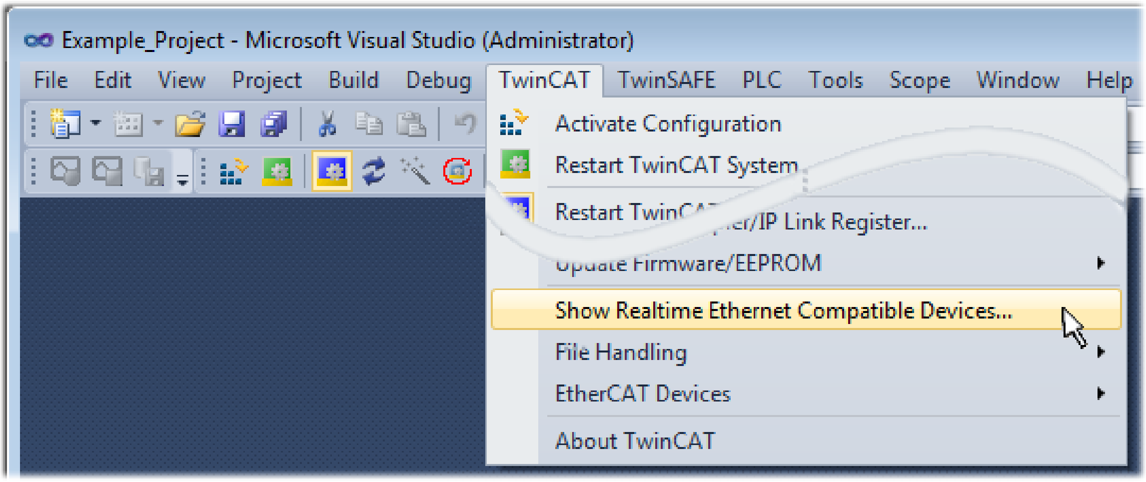


Fig. 42: Call up under VS Shell (TwinCAT 3)

B: Via TcRteInstall.exe in the TwinCAT directory

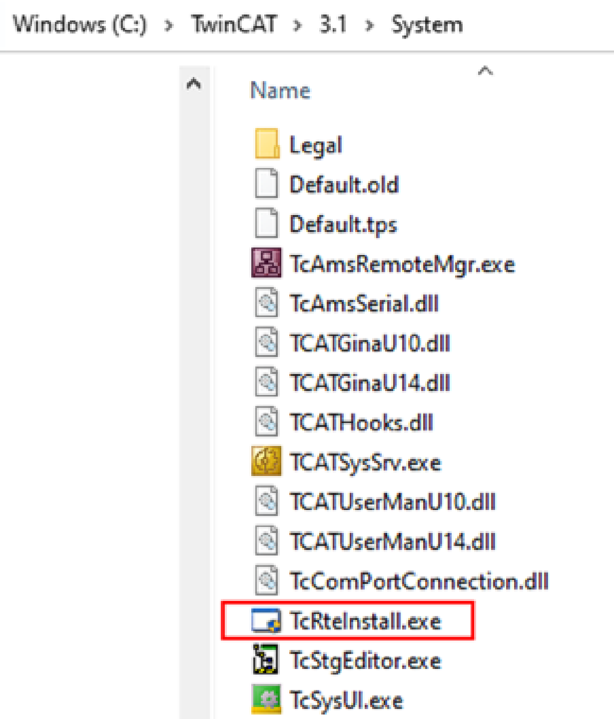


Fig. 43: TcRteInstall in the TwinCAT directory

In both cases, the following dialog appears:

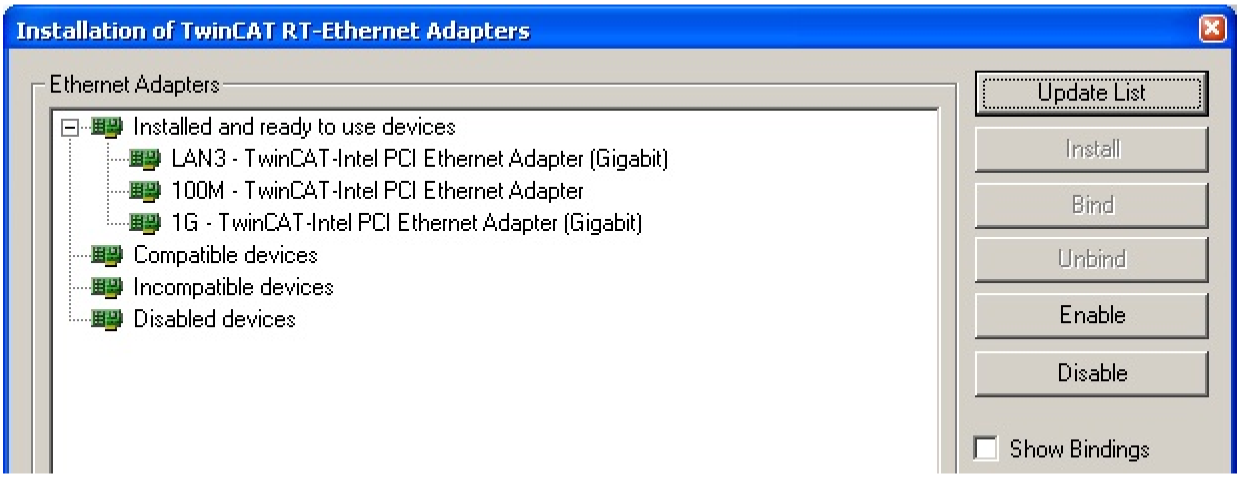


Fig. 44: Overview of network interfaces

Interfaces listed under “Compatible devices” can be assigned a driver via the “Install” button. A driver should only be installed on compatible devices.

A Windows warning regarding the unsigned driver can be ignored.

Alternatively an EtherCAT-device can be inserted first of all as described in chapter Offline configuration creation, section “Creating the EtherCAT device” [▶ 68] in order to view the compatible ethernet ports via its EtherCAT properties (tab “Adapter”, button “Compatible Devices…”):

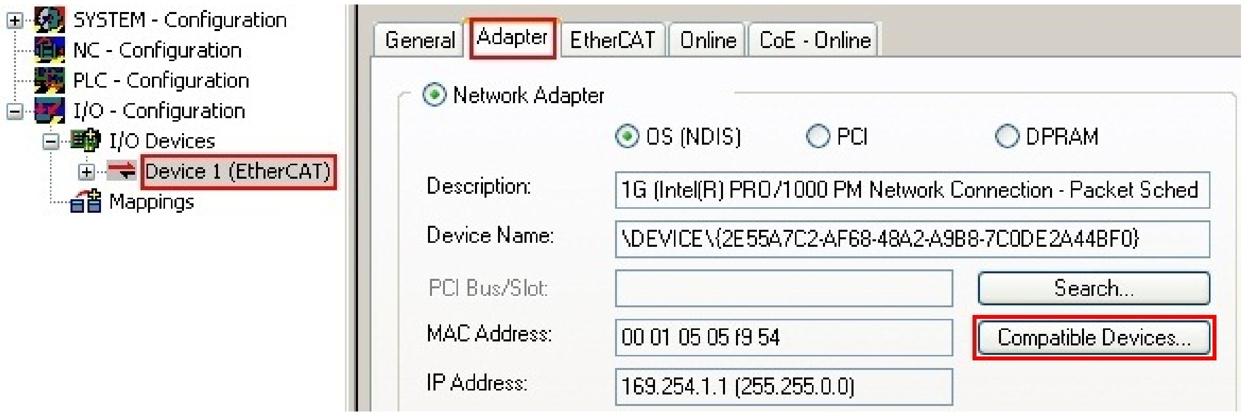


Fig. 45: EtherCAT device properties (TwinCAT 2): click on “Compatible Devices…” of tab “Adapter”

TwinCAT 3: the properties of the EtherCAT device can be opened by double click on “Device .. (EtherCAT)” within the Solution Explorer under “I/O”:

After the installation the driver appears activated in the Windows overview for the network interface (Windows Start → System Properties → Network)

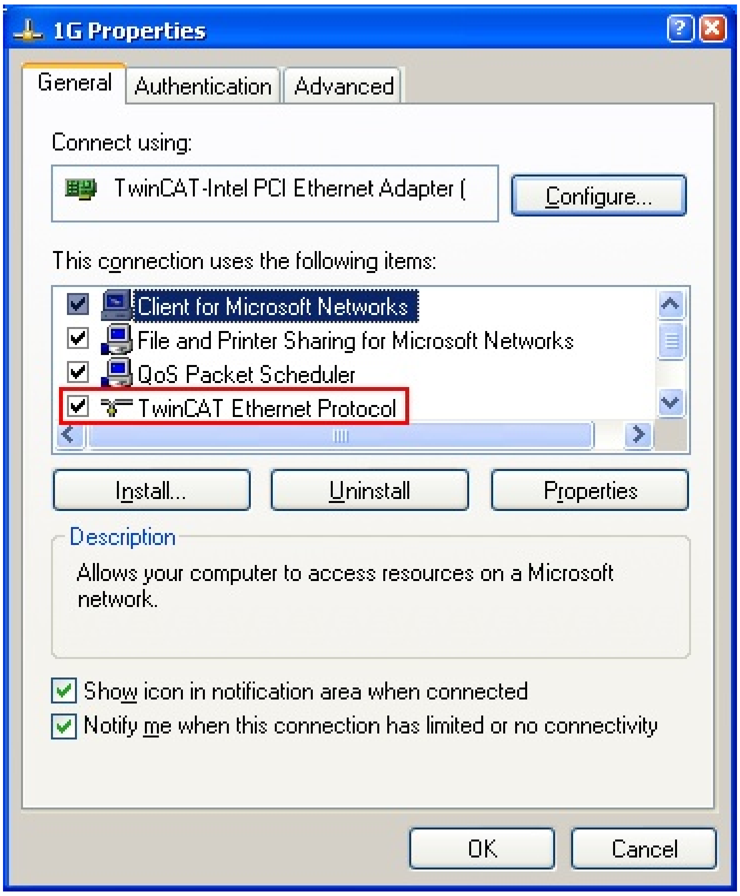


Fig. 46: Windows properties of the network interface

A correct setting of the driver could be:

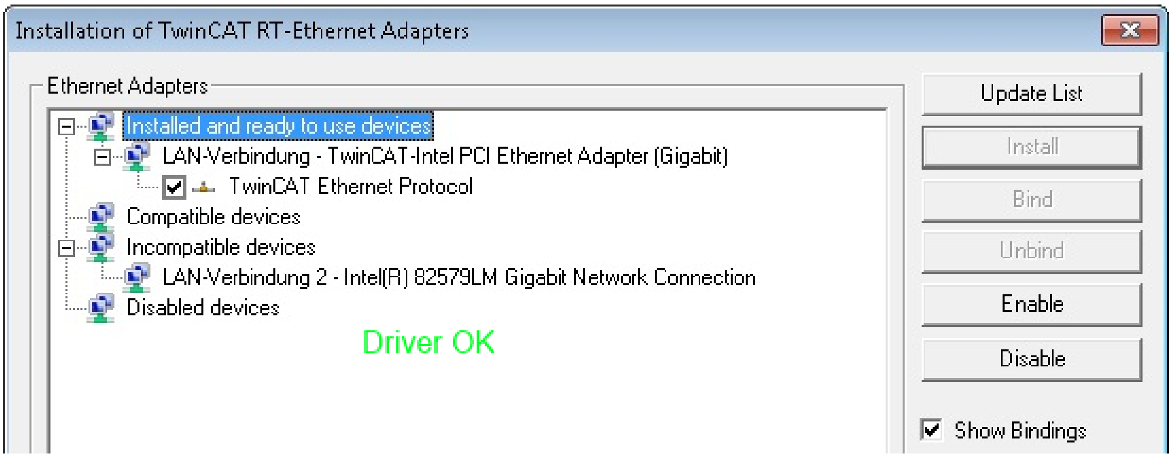


Fig. 47: Exemplary correct driver setting for the Ethernet port

Other possible settings have to be avoided:

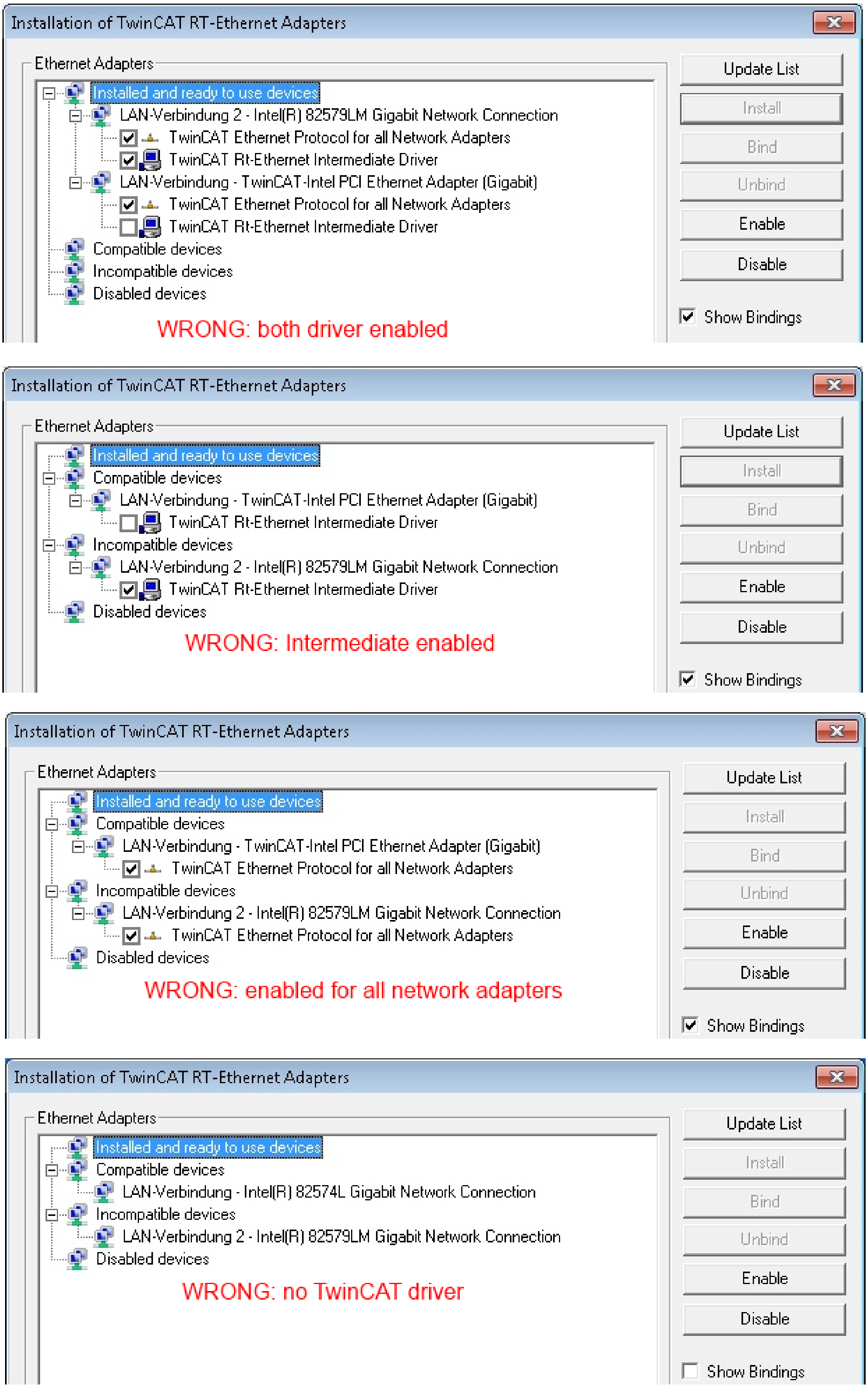


Fig. 48: Incorrect driver settings for the Ethernet port

IP address of the port used

IP address/DHCP

In most cases an Ethernet port that is configured as an EtherCAT device will not transport general IP packets. For this reason and in cases where an EL6601 or similar devices are used it is useful to specify a fixed IP address for this port via the “Internet Protocol TCP/IP” driver setting and to disable DHCP. In this way the delay associated with the DHCP client for the Ethernet port assigning itself a default IP address in the absence of a DHCP server is avoided. A suitable address space is 192.168.x.x, for example.

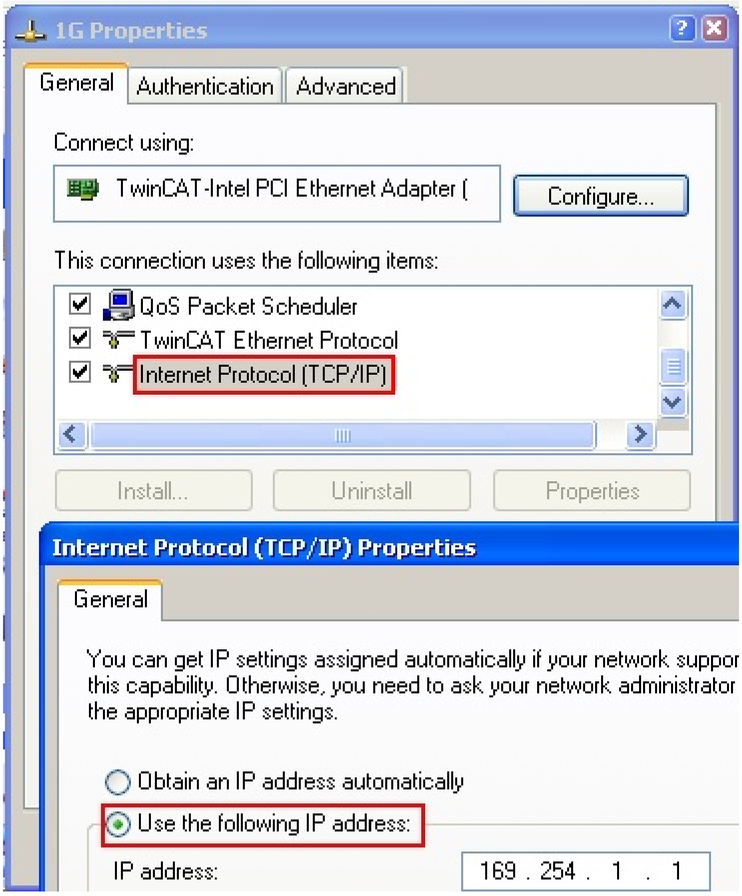


Fig. 49: TCP/IP setting for the Ethernet port

7.1.2 Notes regarding ESI device description

Installation of the latest ESI device description

The TwinCAT EtherCAT master/System Manager needs the device description files for the devices to be used in order to generate the configuration in online or offline mode. The device descriptions are contained in the so-called ESI files (EtherCAT Slave Information) in XML format. These files can be requested from the respective manufacturer and are made available for download. An *.xml file may contain several device descriptions.

The ESI files for Beckhoff EtherCAT devices are available on the Beckhoff website.

The ESI files should be stored in the TwinCAT installation directory.

Default settings:

- **TwinCAT 2**: C:\TwinCAT\IO\EtherCAT
- **TwinCAT 3**: C:\TwinCAT\3.1\Config\Io\EtherCAT

The files are read (once) when a new System Manager window is opened, if they have changed since the last time the System Manager window was opened.

A TwinCAT installation includes the set of Beckhoff ESI files that was current at the time when the TwinCAT build was created.

For TwinCAT 2.11/TwinCAT 3 and higher, the ESI directory can be updated from the System Manager, if the programming PC is connected to the Internet; by

- **TwinCAT 2**: Option → “Update EtherCAT Device Descriptions”
- **TwinCAT 3**: TwinCAT → EtherCAT Devices → “Update Device Descriptions (via ETG Website)…”

The TwinCAT ESI Updater [▶ 66] is available for this purpose.

ESI

The *.xml files are associated with *.xsd files, which describe the structure of the ESI XML files. To update the ESI device descriptions, both file types should therefore be updated.

Device differentiation

EtherCAT devices/slaves are distinguished by four properties, which determine the full device identifier. For example, the device identifier EL2521-0025-1018 consists of:

- family key “EL”
- name “2521”
- type “0025”
- and revision “1018”

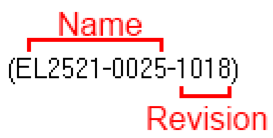


Fig. 50: Identifier structure

The order identifier consisting of name + type (here: EL2521-0025) describes the device function. The revision indicates the technical progress and is managed by Beckhoff. In principle, a device with a higher revision can replace a device with a lower revision, unless specified otherwise, e.g. in the documentation. Each revision has its own ESI description. See further notes.

Online description

If the EtherCAT configuration is created online through scanning of real devices (see section Online setup) and no ESI descriptions are available for a slave (specified by name and revision) that was found, the System Manager asks whether the description stored in the device should be used. In any case, the System Manager needs this information for setting up the cyclic and acyclic communication with the slave correctly.

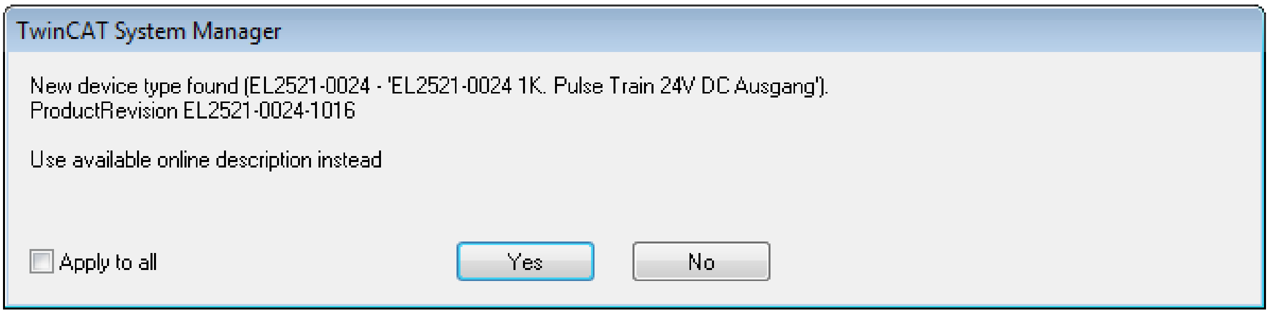


Fig. 51: OnlineDescription information window (TwinCAT 2)

In TwinCAT 3 a similar window appears, which also offers the Web update:

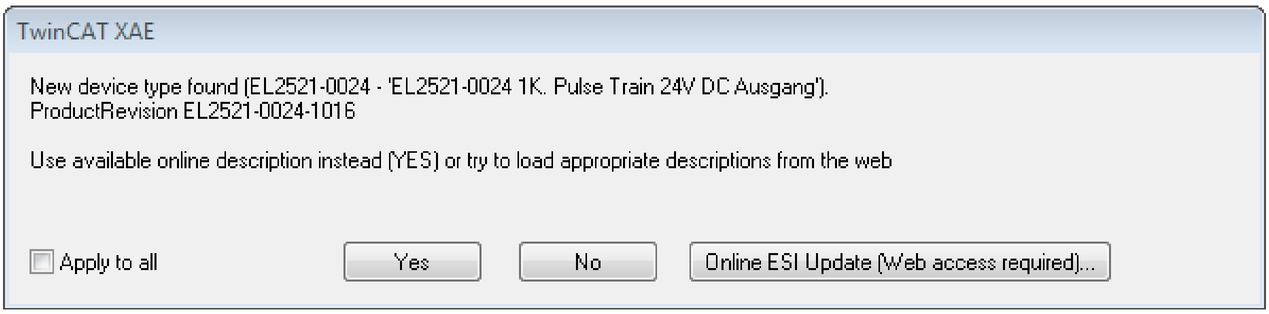


Fig. 52: Information window OnlineDescription (TwinCAT 3)

If possible, the *Yes* is to be rejected and the required ESI is to be requested from the device manufacturer. After installation of the XML/XSD file the configuration process should be repeated.

NOTICE

Changing the "usual" configuration through a scan

✓ If a scan discovers a device that is not yet known to TwinCAT, distinction has to be made between two cases. Taking the example here of the EL2521-0000 in the revision 1019

a) no ESI is present for the EL2521-0000 device at all, either for the revision 1019 or for an older revision. The ESI must then be requested from the manufacturer (in this case Beckhoff).

b) an ESI is present for the EL2521-0000 device, but only in an older revision, e.g. 1018 or 1017.
In this case an in-house check should first be performed to determine whether the spare parts stock allows the integration of the increased revision into the configuration at all. A new/higher revision usually also brings along new features. If these are not to be used, work can continue without reservations with the previous revision 1018 in the configuration. This is also stated by the Beckhoff compatibility rule.

Refer in particular to the chapter "General notes on the use of Beckhoff EtherCAT IO components" and for manual configuration to the chapter "Offline configuration creation [▶ 68]".

If the OnlineDescription is used regardless, the System Manager reads a copy of the device description from the EEPROM in the EtherCAT slave. In complex slaves the size of the EEPROM may not be sufficient for the complete ESI, in which case the ESI would be *incomplete* in the configurator. Therefore it's recommended using an offline ESI file with priority in such a case.

The System Manager creates for online recorded device descriptions a new file "OnlineDescription0000...xml" in its ESI directory, which contains all ESI descriptions that were read online.

Fig. 53: File OnlineDescription.xml created by the System Manager

Is a slave desired to be added manually to the configuration at a later stage, online created slaves are indicated by a prepended symbol “>” in the selection list (see Figure *Indication of an online recorded ESI of EL2521 as an example)*.

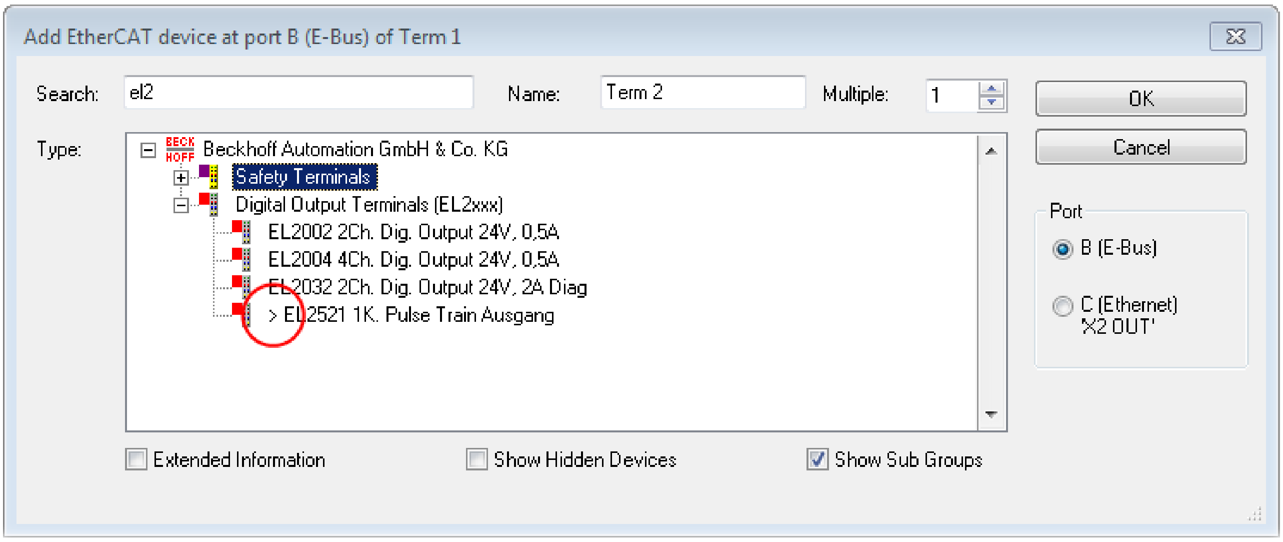


Fig. 54: Indication of an online recorded ESI of EL2521 as an example

If such ESI files are used and the manufacturer's files become available later, the file OnlineDescription.xml should be deleted as follows:

- close all System Manager windows
- restart TwinCAT in Config mode
- delete “OnlineDescription0000...xml”
- restart TwinCAT System Manager

This file should not be visible after this procedure, if necessary press <F5> to update

OnlineDescription for TwinCAT 3.x

In addition to the file described above “OnlineDescription0000...xml”, a so called EtherCAT cache with new discovered devices is created by TwinCAT 3.x, e.g. under Windows 7:

C:\User\[USERNAME]\AppData\Roaming\Beckhoff\TwinCAT3\Components\Base\EtherCATCache.xml

(Please note the language settings of the OS!)
You have to delete this file, too.

Faulty ESI file

If an ESI file is faulty and the System Manager is unable to read it, the System Manager brings up an information window.

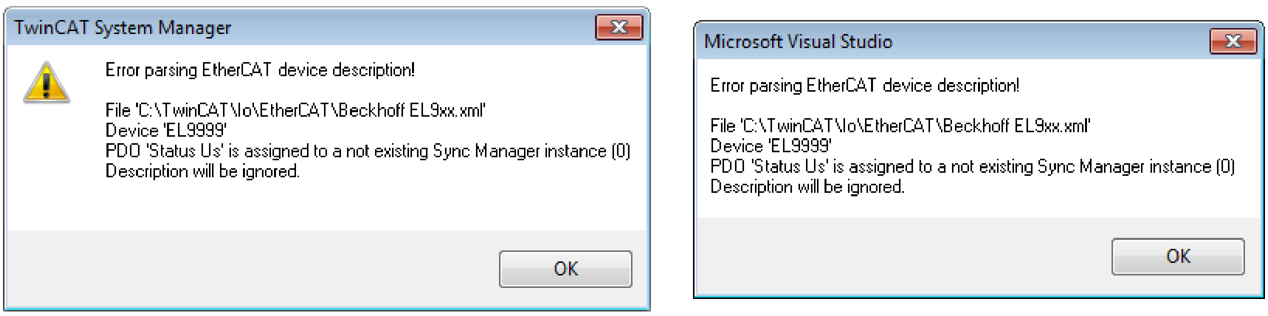


Fig. 55: Information window for faulty ESI file (left: TwinCAT 2; right: TwinCAT 3)

Reasons may include:

- Structure of the *.xml does not correspond to the associated *.xsd file → check your schematics
- Contents cannot be translated into a device description → contact the file manufacturer

7.1.3 TwinCAT ESI Updater

The ESI Updater is a convenient option for automatic downloading of ESI data provided by EtherCAT manufacturers via the Internet into the TwinCAT directory (ESI = EtherCAT slave information). TwinCAT accesses the central ESI ULR directory list stored at ETG; the entries can then be viewed in the Updater dialog, although they cannot be changed there.

7.1.3.1 TwinCAT 3

Step 1) Updating the ESI data sets

The Updater can be accessed under:
“TwinCAT” → “EtherCAT Devices” → “Update Device Description (via ETG Website)...”

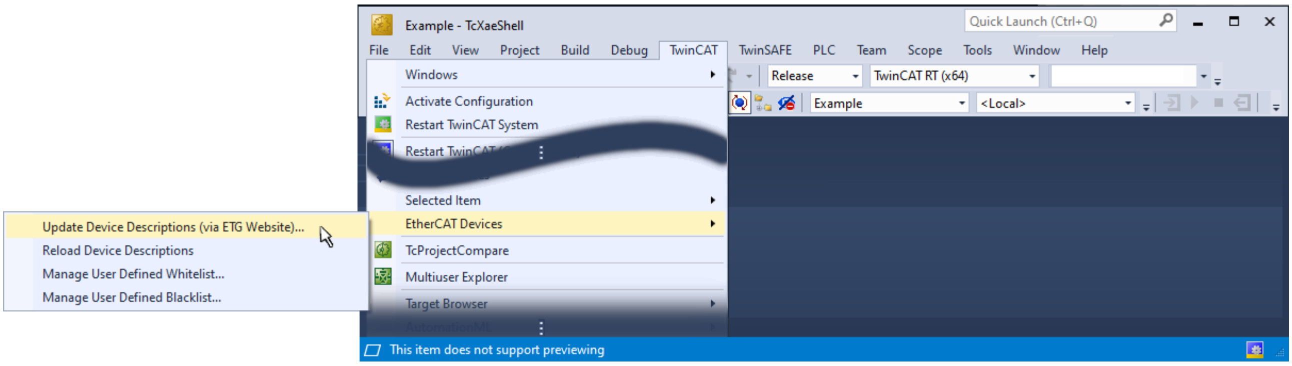
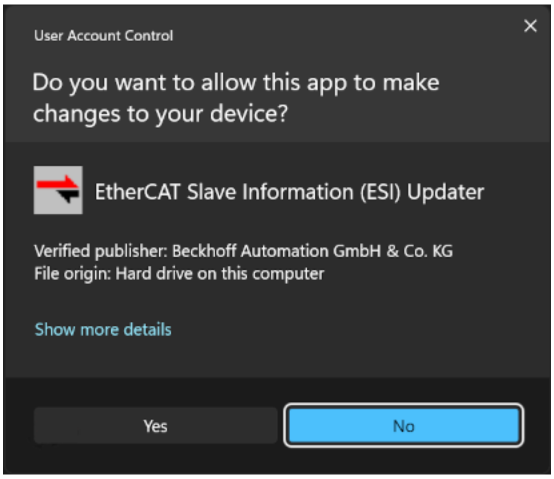


Fig. 56: Calling the ESI Updater (TwinCAT 3)

A prompt for Windows user account control appears after the call, which must be confirmed with [Yes]:



The "Updater" window then appears, showing the configuration data source:

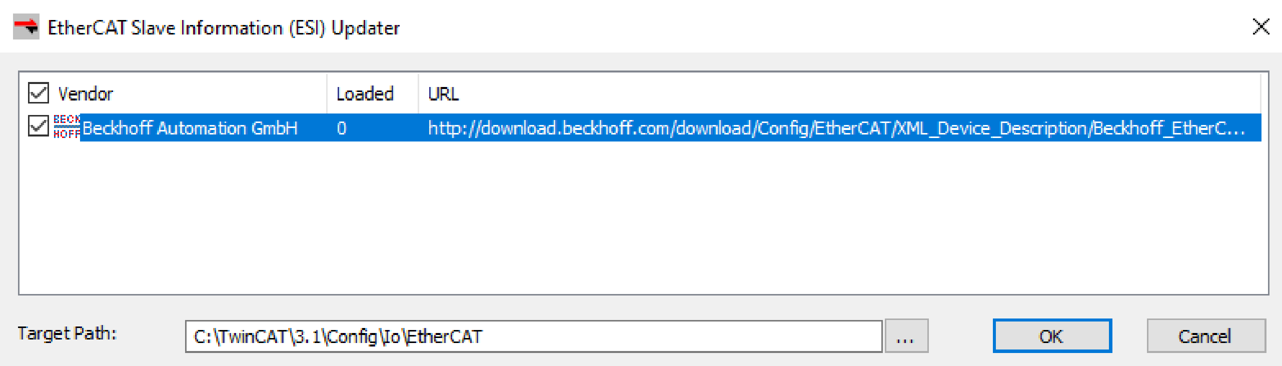
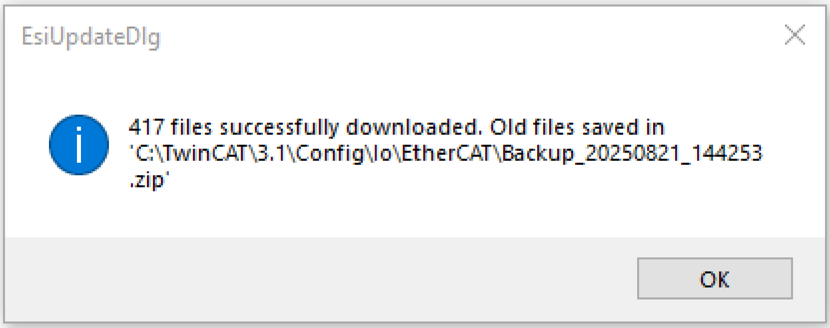


Fig. 57: (ESI) Updater

Select the desired line and click [OK] to start the download or update process. This may take a few minutes.

The completion of the download process is indicated by the message



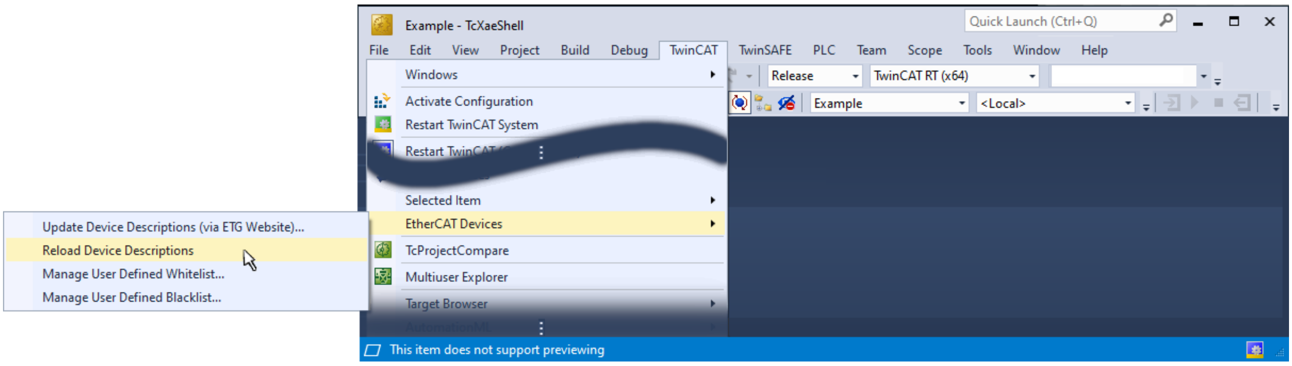
, which shows the number of downloaded files and the storage location or the backup zip folder. Click [OK] to close the window.

Note: Manually added ESI files are not moved to the backup zip folder and remain accessible in TwinCAT. Only the ESI files supplied by Beckhoff are managed automatically.

The (ESI) Updater window that is still open can now be closed with [X] (top right) or [Cancel].

Step 2) Update ESI cache

The ESI files must now be loaded into the application cache in order to be able to use them. This is done either by restarting TwinCAT or by calling up
"TwinCAT" → "EtherCAT Devices" → "Reload Device Descriptions":



The status of the cache rebuild can be seen in the lower status bar in TwinCAT.

7.1.3.2 TwinCAT 2

For TwinCAT 2.11 and higher, the System Manager can search for current Beckhoff ESI files automatically, if an online connection is available:

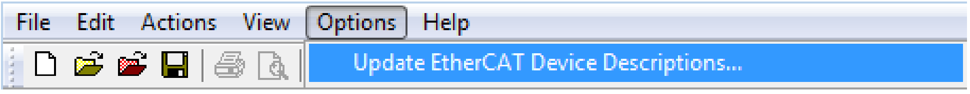


Fig. 58: Using the ESI Updater (>= TwinCAT 2.11)

The call is made via:
“Options” → “Update EtherCAT Device Descriptions”.

7.1.4 Distinction between Online and Offline

The distinction between online and offline refers to the presence of the actual I/O environment (drives, terminals, EJ-modules). If the configuration is to be prepared in advance of the system configuration as a programming system, e.g. on a laptop, this is only possible in “Offline configuration” mode. In this case all components have to be entered manually in the configuration, e.g. based on the electrical design.

If the designed control system is already connected to the EtherCAT system and all components are energised and the infrastructure is ready for operation, the TwinCAT configuration can simply be generated through “scanning” from the runtime system. This is referred to as online configuration.

In any case, during each startup the EtherCAT master checks whether the slaves it finds match the configuration. This test can be parameterised in the extended slave settings. Refer to note “Installation of the latest ESI-XML device description” [▶ 62].

For preparation of a configuration:

- the real EtherCAT hardware (devices, couplers, drives) must be present and installed
- the devices/modules must be connected via EtherCAT cables or in the terminal/ module strand in the same way as they are intended to be used later
- the devices/modules be connected to the power supply and ready for communication
- TwinCAT must be in CONFIG mode on the target system.

The online scan process consists of:

- detecting the EtherCAT device [▶ 74] (Ethernet port at the IPC)
- detecting the connected EtherCAT devices [▶ 75]. This step can be carried out independent of the preceding step
- troubleshooting [▶ 78]

The scan with existing configuration [▶ 79] can also be carried out for comparison.

7.1.5 OFFLINE configuration creation

Creating the EtherCAT device

Create an EtherCAT device in an empty System Manager window.

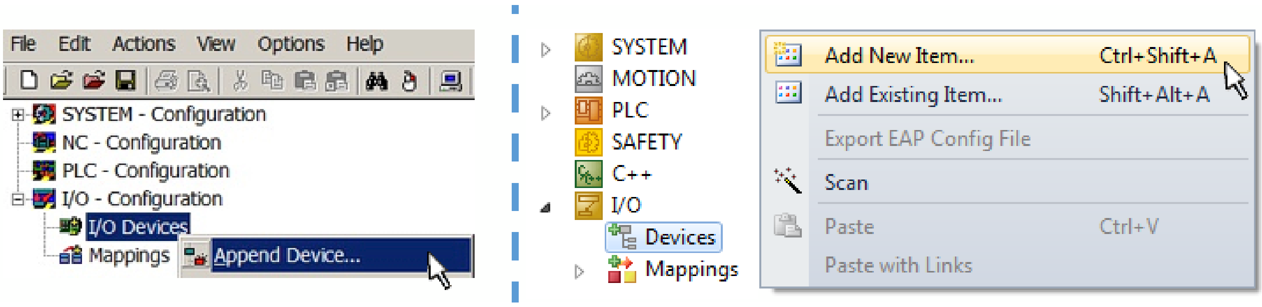


Fig. 59: Append EtherCAT device (left: TwinCAT 2; right: TwinCAT 3)

Select type "EtherCAT" for an EtherCAT I/O application with EtherCAT slaves. For the present publisher/subscriber service in combination with an EL6601/EL6614 terminal select "EtherCAT Automation Protocol via EL6601".

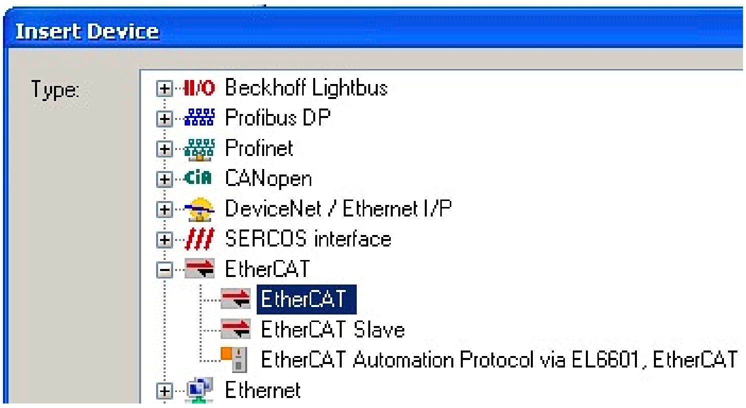


Fig. 60: Selecting the EtherCAT connection (TwinCAT 2.11, TwinCAT 3)

Then assign a real Ethernet port to this virtual device in the runtime system.

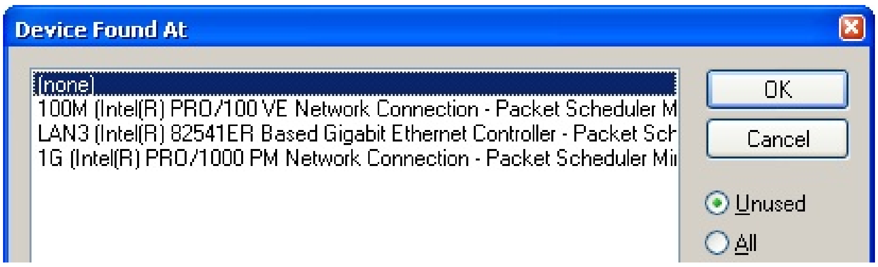


Fig. 61: Selecting the Ethernet port

This query may appear automatically when the EtherCAT device is created, or the assignment can be set/modified later in the properties dialog; see Fig. "EtherCAT device properties (TwinCAT 2)".

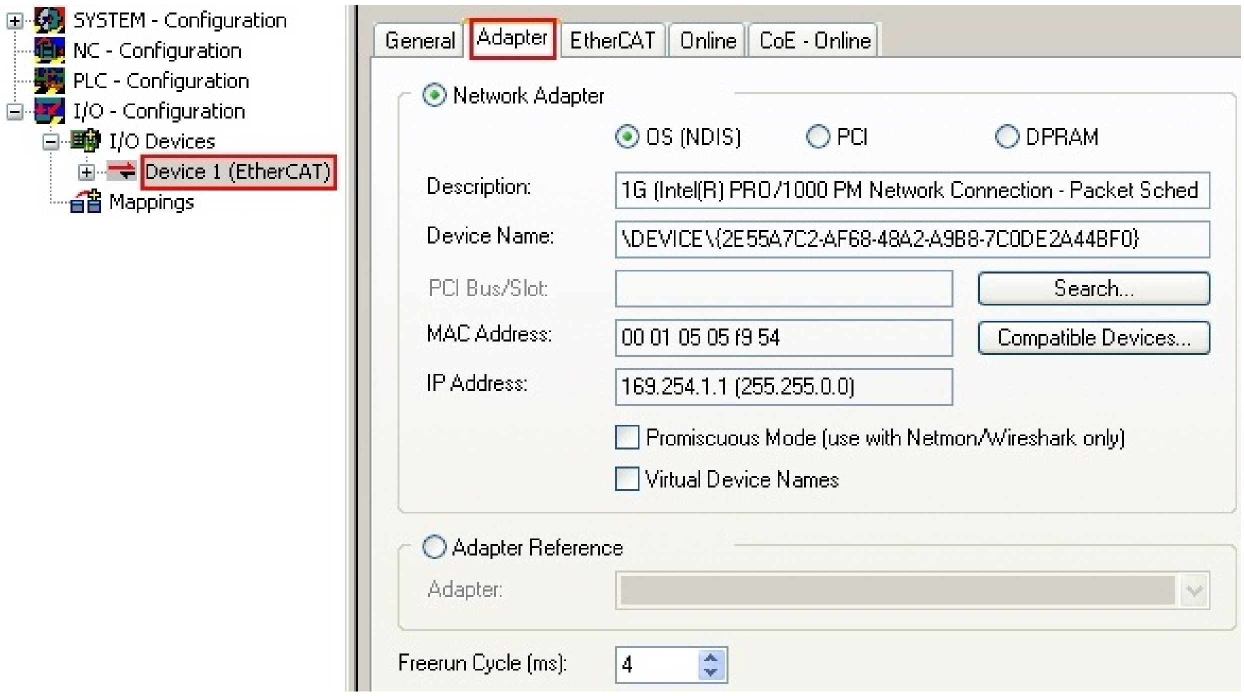


Fig. 62: EtherCAT device properties (TwinCAT 2)

TwinCAT 3: the properties of the EtherCAT device can be opened by double click on “Device .. (EtherCAT)” within the Solution Explorer under “I/O”:

Selecting the Ethernet port

Ethernet ports can only be selected for EtherCAT devices for which the TwinCAT real-time driver is installed. This has to be done separately for each port. Please refer to the respective installation page [▸ 56].

Defining EtherCAT slaves

Further devices can be appended by right-clicking on a device in the configuration tree.

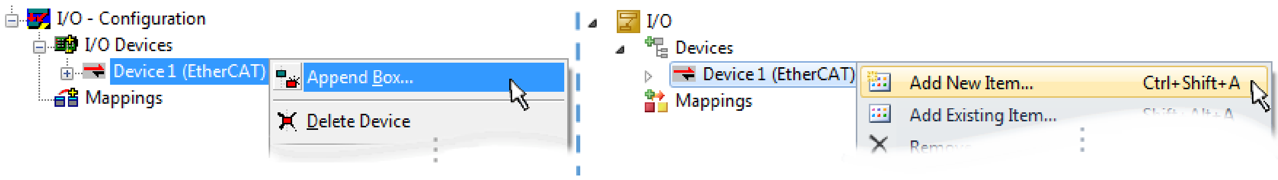


Fig. 63: Appending EtherCAT devices (left: TwinCAT 2; right: TwinCAT 3)

The dialog for selecting a new device opens. Only devices for which ESI files are available are displayed.

Only devices are offered for selection that can be appended to the previously selected device. Therefore, the physical layer available for this port is also displayed (Fig. “Selection dialog for new EtherCAT device”, A). In the case of cable-based Fast-Ethernet physical layer with PHY transfer, then also only cable-based devices are available, as shown in Fig. “Selection dialog for new EtherCAT device”. If the preceding device has several free ports (e.g. EK1122 or EK1100), the required port can be selected on the right-hand side (A).

Overview of physical layer

- “Ethernet”: cable-based 100BASE-TX: couplers, box modules, devices with RJ45/M8/M12 connector
- “E-Bus”: LVDS “terminal bus”, EtherCAT plug-in modules (EJ), EtherCAT terminals (EL/ES), various modular modules

The search field facilitates finding specific devices (since TwinCAT 2.11 or TwinCAT 3).

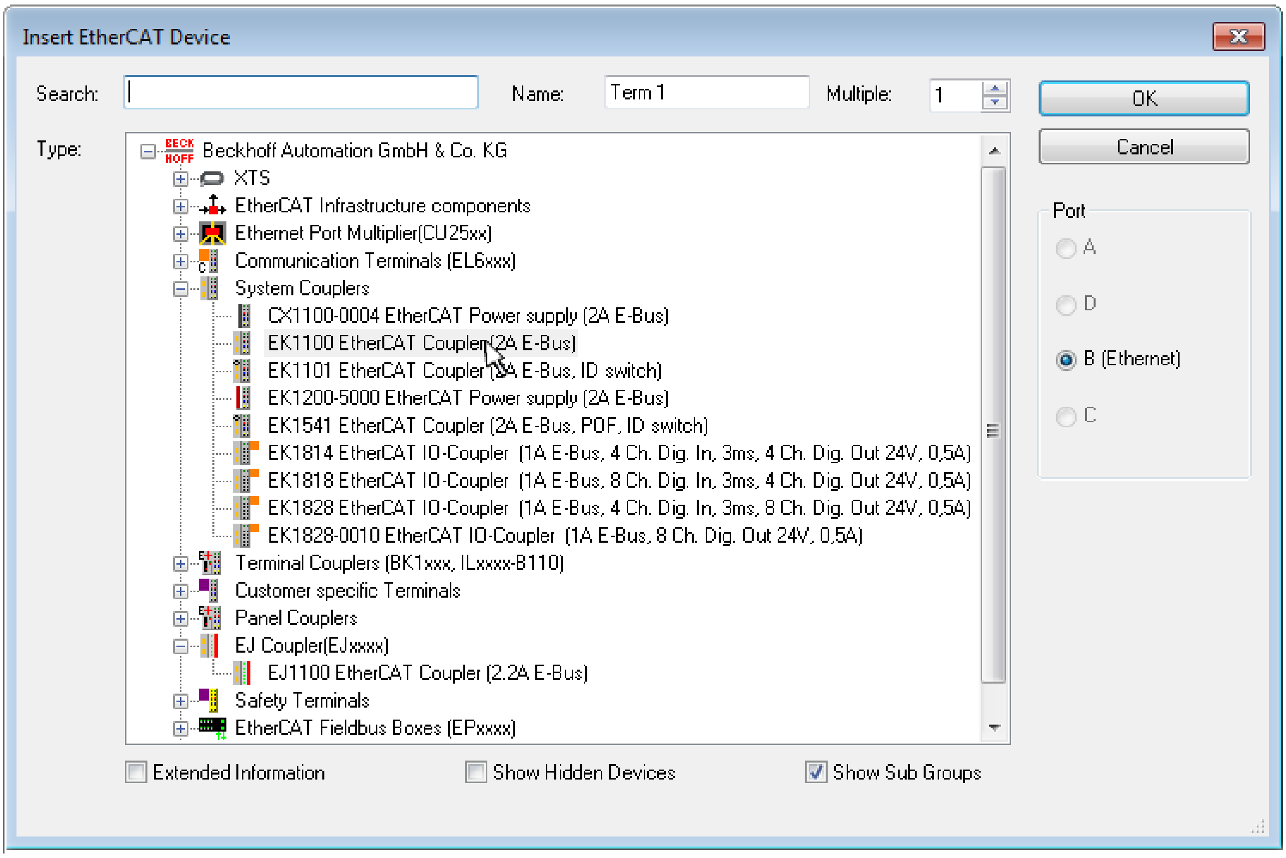


Fig. 64: Selection dialog for new EtherCAT device

By default, only the name/device type is used as selection criterion. For selecting a specific revision of the device, the revision can be displayed as “Extended Information”.

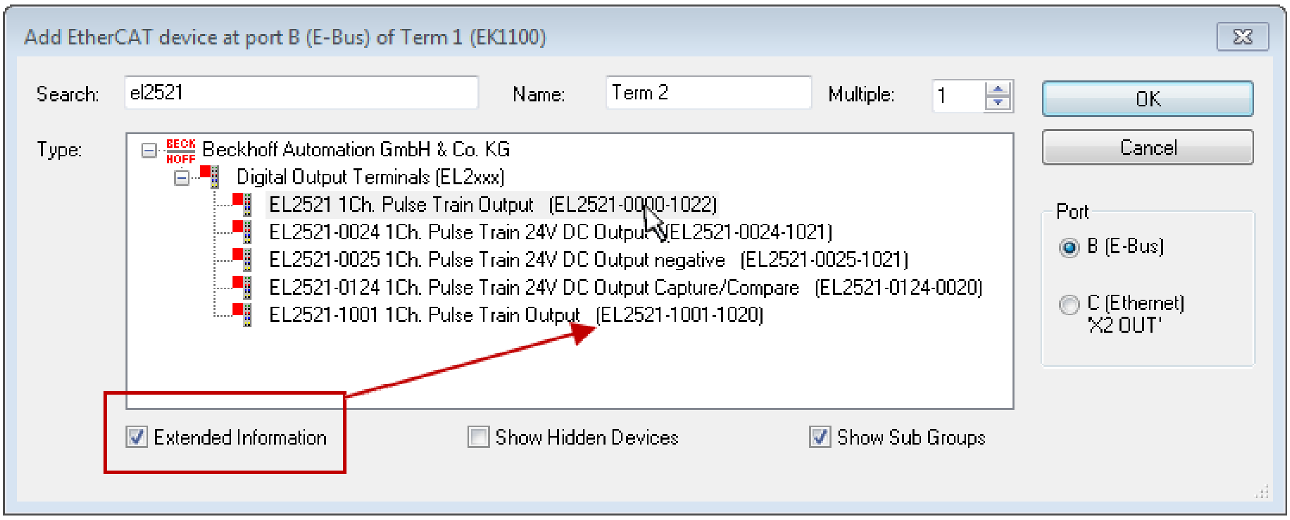


Fig. 65: Display of device revision

In many cases several device revisions were created for historic or functional reasons, e.g. through technological advancement. For simplification purposes (see Fig. “Selection dialog for new EtherCAT device”) only the last (i.e. highest) revision and therefore the latest state of production is displayed in the selection dialog for Beckhoff devices. To show all device revisions available in the system as ESI descriptions tick the “Show Hidden Devices” check box, see Fig. “Display of previous revisions”.

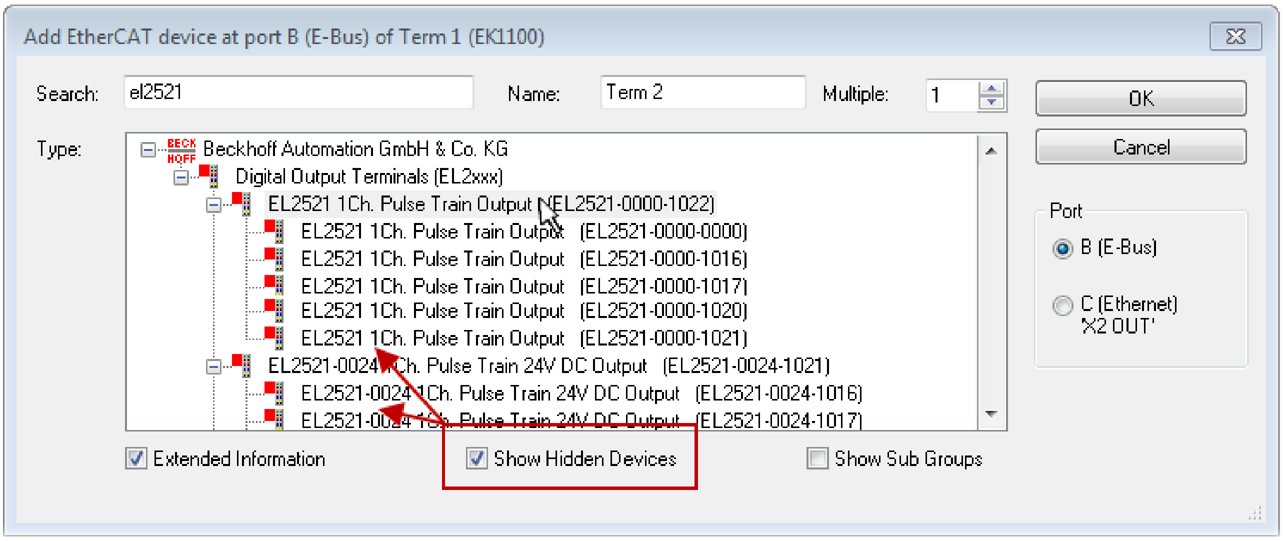


Fig. 66: Display of previous revisions

Device selection based on revision, compatibility

The ESI description also defines the process image, the communication type between master and slave/device and the device functions, if applicable. The physical device (firmware, if available) has to support the communication queries/settings of the master. This is backward compatible, i.e. newer devices (higher revision) should be supported if the EtherCAT master addresses them as an older revision. The following compatibility rule of thumb is to be assumed for Beckhoff EtherCAT Terminals/ Boxes/ EJ-modules:

device revision in the system >= device revision in the configuration

This also enables subsequent replacement of devices without changing the configuration (different specifications are possible for drives).

Example

If an EL2521-0025-**1018** is specified in the configuration, an EL2521-0025-**1018** or higher (-**1019**, -**1020**) can be used in practice.

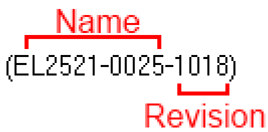


Fig. 67: Name/revision of the terminal

If current ESI descriptions are available in the TwinCAT system, the last revision offered in the selection dialog matches the Beckhoff state of production. It is recommended to use the last device revision when creating a new configuration, if current Beckhoff devices are used in the real application. Older revisions should only be used if older devices from stock are to be used in the application.

In this case the process image of the device is shown in the configuration tree and can be parameterized as follows: linking with the task, CoE/DC settings, plug-in definition, startup settings, ...

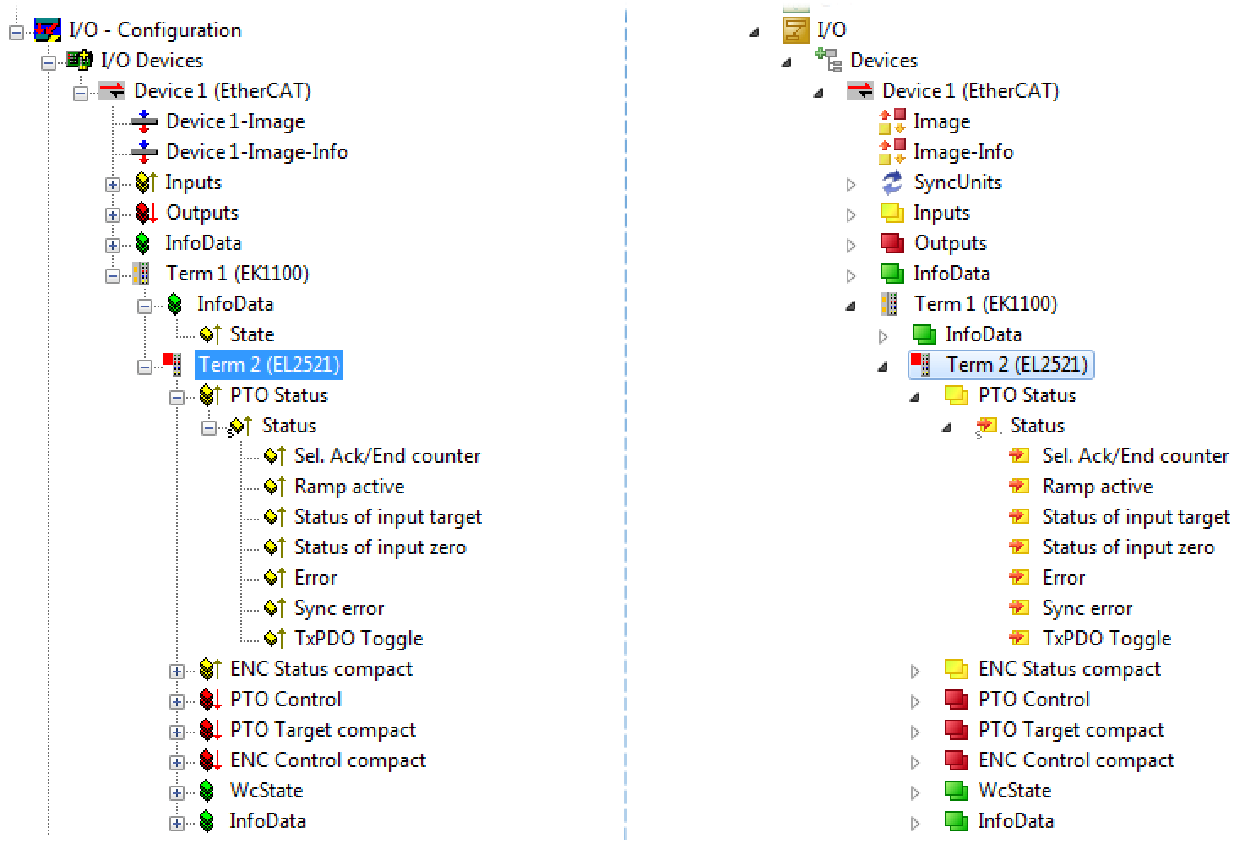


Fig. 68: EtherCAT terminal in the TwinCAT tree (left: TwinCAT 2; right: TwinCAT 3)

7.1.6 ONLINE configuration creation

Detecting/scanning of the EtherCAT device

The online device search can be used if the TwinCAT system is in CONFIG mode. This can be indicated by a symbol right below in the information bar:

- on TwinCAT 2 by a blue display “Config Mode” within the System Manager window:  .
- on TwinCAT 3 within the user interface of the development environment by a symbol  .

TwinCAT can be set into this mode:

- TwinCAT 2: by selection of  in the Menubar or by “Actions” → “Set/Reset TwinCAT to Config Mode…”
- TwinCAT 3: by selection of  in the Menubar or by “TwinCAT” → “Restart TwinCAT (Config Mode)”

Online scanning in Config mode

The online search is not available in RUN mode (production operation). Note the differentiation between TwinCAT programming system and TwinCAT target system.

The TwinCAT 2 icon () or TwinCAT 3 icon () within the Windows-Taskbar always shows the TwinCAT mode of the local IPC. Compared to that, the System Manager window of TwinCAT 2 or the user interface of TwinCAT 3 indicates the state of the target system.

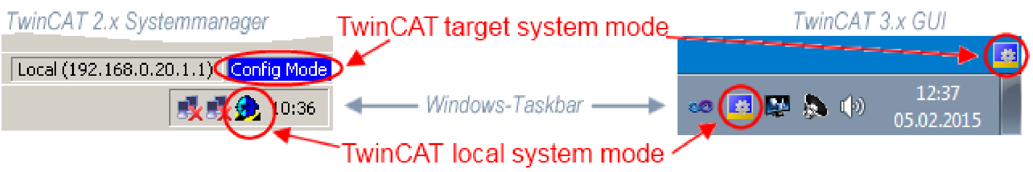


Fig. 69: Differentiation local/target system (left: TwinCAT 2; right: TwinCAT 3)

Right-clicking on “I/O Devices” in the configuration tree opens the search dialog.

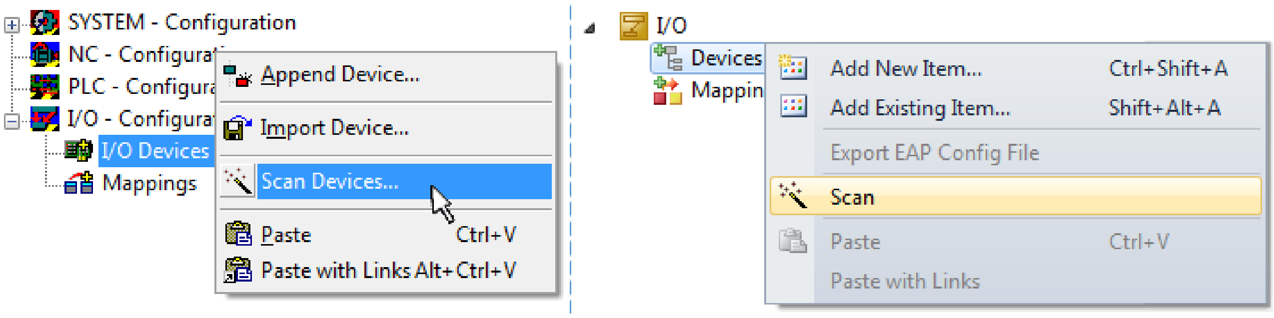


Fig. 70: Scan Devices (left: TwinCAT 2; right: TwinCAT 3)

This scan mode attempts to find not only EtherCAT devices (or Ethernet ports that are usable as such), but also NOVRAM, fieldbus cards, SMB etc. However, not all devices can be found automatically.

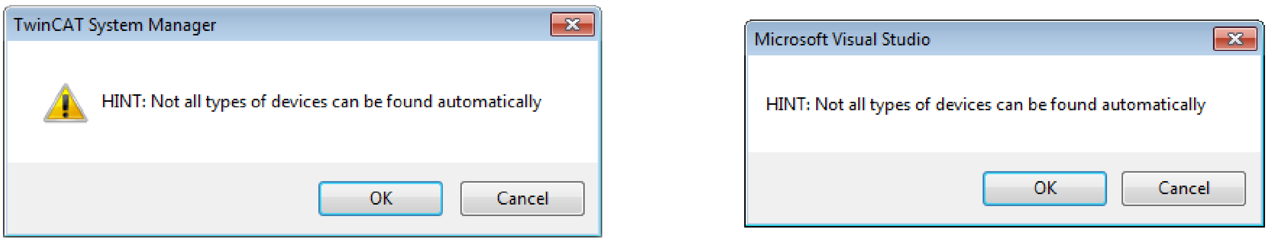


Fig. 71: Note for automatic device scan (left: TwinCAT 2; right: TwinCAT 3)

Ethernet ports with installed TwinCAT real-time driver are shown as “RT Ethernet” devices. An EtherCAT frame is sent to these ports for testing purposes. If the scan agent detects from the response that an EtherCAT slave is connected, the port is immediately shown as an “EtherCAT Device” .

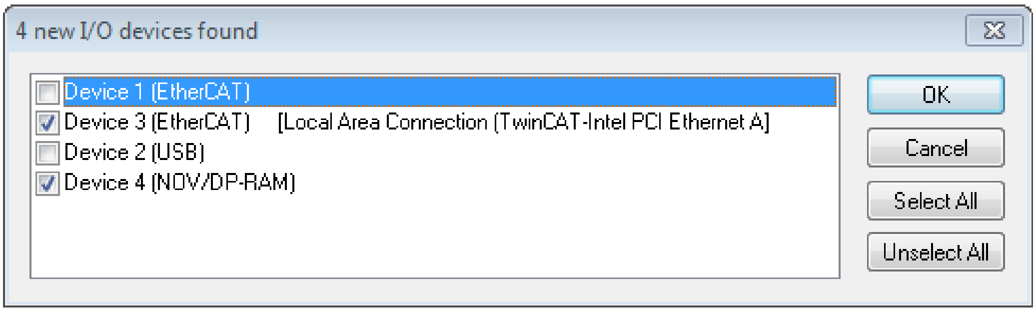


Fig. 72: Detected Ethernet devices

Via respective checkboxes devices can be selected (as illustrated in Fig. “Detected Ethernet devices” e.g. Device 3 and Device 4 were chosen). After confirmation with “OK” a device scan is suggested for all selected devices, see Fig.: “Scan query after automatic creation of an EtherCAT device”.

Selecting the Ethernet port

Ethernet ports can only be selected for EtherCAT devices for which the TwinCAT real-time driver is installed. This has to be done separately for each port. Please refer to the respective installation page [▸ 56].

Detecting/Scanning the EtherCAT devices

Online scan functionality

During a scan the master queries the identity information of the EtherCAT slaves from the slave EEPROM. The name and revision are used for determining the type. The respective devices are located in the stored ESI data and integrated in the configuration tree in the default state defined there.

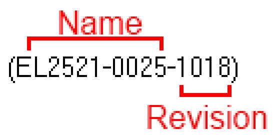


Fig. 73: Example default state

NOTICE

Slave scanning in practice in series machine production

The scanning function should be used with care. It is a practical and fast tool for creating an initial configuration as a basis for commissioning. In series machine production or reproduction of the plant, however, the function should no longer be used for the creation of the configuration, but if necessary for comparison [▸ 79] with the defined initial configuration.Background: since Beckhoff occasionally increases the revision version of the delivered products for product maintenance reasons, a configuration can be created by such a scan which (with an identical machine construction) is identical according to the device list; however, the respective device revision may differ from the initial configuration.

Example:

Company A builds the prototype of a machine B, which is to be produced in series later on. To do this the prototype is built, a scan of the IO devices is performed in TwinCAT and the initial configuration “B.tsm” is created. The EL2521-0025 EtherCAT terminal with the revision 1018 is located somewhere. It is thus built into the TwinCAT configuration in this way:

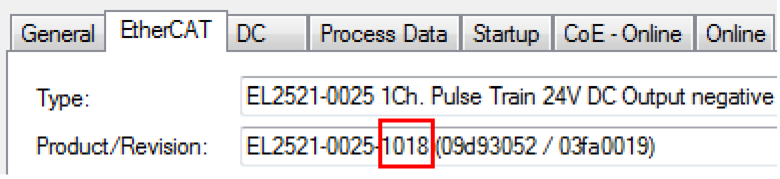


Fig. 74: Installing EthetCAT terminal with revision -1018

Likewise, during the prototype test phase, the functions and properties of this terminal are tested by the programmers/commissioning engineers and used if necessary, i.e. addressed from the PLC “B.pro” or the NC. (the same applies correspondingly to the TwinCAT 3 solution files).

The prototype development is now completed and series production of machine B starts, for which Beckhoff continues to supply the EL2521-0025-0018. If the commissioning engineers of the series machine production department always carry out a scan, a B configuration with the identical contents results again for each machine. Likewise, A might create spare parts stores worldwide for the coming series-produced machines with EL2521-0025-1018 terminals.

After some time Beckhoff extends the EL2521-0025 by a new feature C. Therefore the FW is changed, outwardly recognizable by a higher FW version and **a new revision -1019**. Nevertheless the new device naturally supports functions and interfaces of the predecessor version(s); an adaptation of “B.tsm” or even “B.pro” is therefore unnecessary. The series-produced machines can continue to be built with “B.tsm” and “B.pro”; it makes sense to perform a comparative scan [▶ 79] against the initial configuration “B.tsm” in order to check the built machine.

However, if the series machine production department now doesn’t use “B.tsm”, but instead carries out a scan to create the productive configuration, the revision **-1019** is automatically detected and built into the configuration:

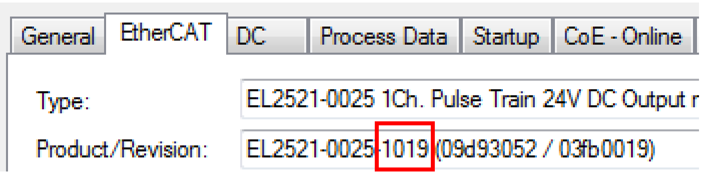


Fig. 75: Detection of EtherCAT terminal with revision -1019

This is usually not noticed by the commissioning engineers. TwinCAT cannot signal anything either, since a new configuration is essentially created. According to the compatibility rule, however, this means that no EL2521-0025-**1018** should be built into this machine as a spare part (even if this nevertheless works in the vast majority of cases).

In addition, it could be the case that, due to the development accompanying production in company A, the new feature C of the EL2521-0025-1019 (for example, an improved analog filter or an additional process data for the diagnosis) is discovered and used without in-house consultation. The previous stock of spare part devices are then no longer to be used for the new configuration “B2.tsm” created in this way. Þ if series machine production is established, the scan should only be performed for informative purposes for comparison with a defined initial configuration. Changes are to be made with care!

If an EtherCAT device was created in the configuration (manually or through a scan), the I/O field can be scanned for devices/slaves.

Fig. 76: Scan query after automatic creation of an EtherCAT device (left: TwinCAT 2; right: TwinCAT 3)

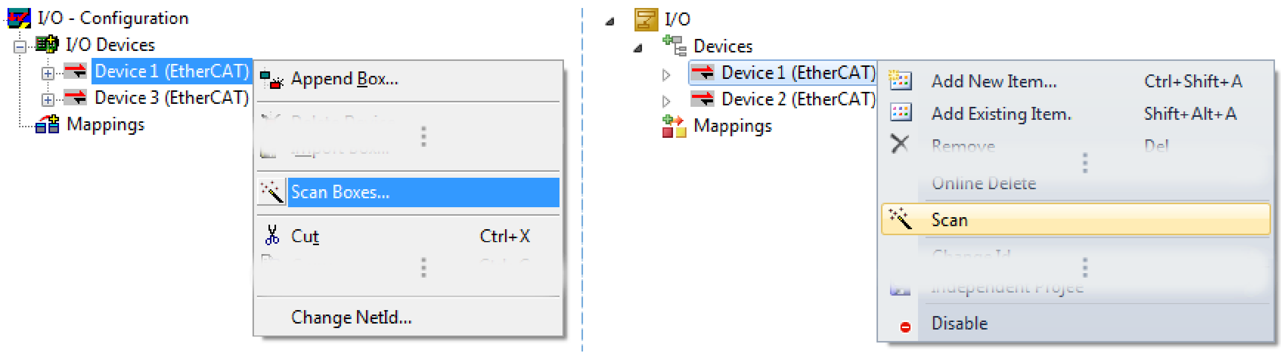


Fig. 77: Manual scanning for devices on a specified EtherCAT device (left: TwinCAT 2; right: TwinCAT 3)

In the System Manager (TwinCAT 2) or the User Interface (TwinCAT 3) the scan process can be monitored via the progress bar at the bottom in the status bar.

Fig. 78: *Scan progressexemplary by TwinCAT 2*

The configuration is established and can then be switched to online state (OPERATIONAL).

Fig. 79: Config/FreeRun query (left: TwinCAT 2; right: TwinCAT 3)

In Config/FreeRun mode the System Manager display alternates between blue and red, and the EtherCAT device continues to operate with the idling cycle time of 4 ms (default setting), even without active task (NC, PLC).

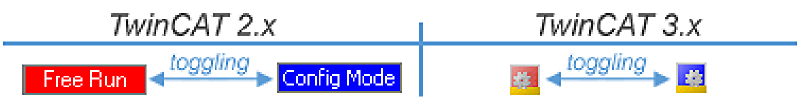


Fig. 80: Displaying of “Free Run” and “Config Mode” toggling right below in the status bar

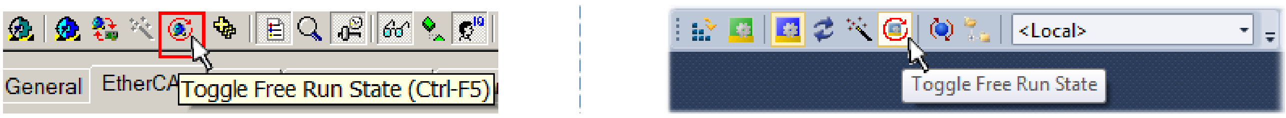


Fig. 81: TwinCAT can also be switched to this state by using a button (left: TwinCAT 2; right: TwinCAT 3)

The EtherCAT system should then be in a functional cyclic state, as shown in Fig. *Online display example*.

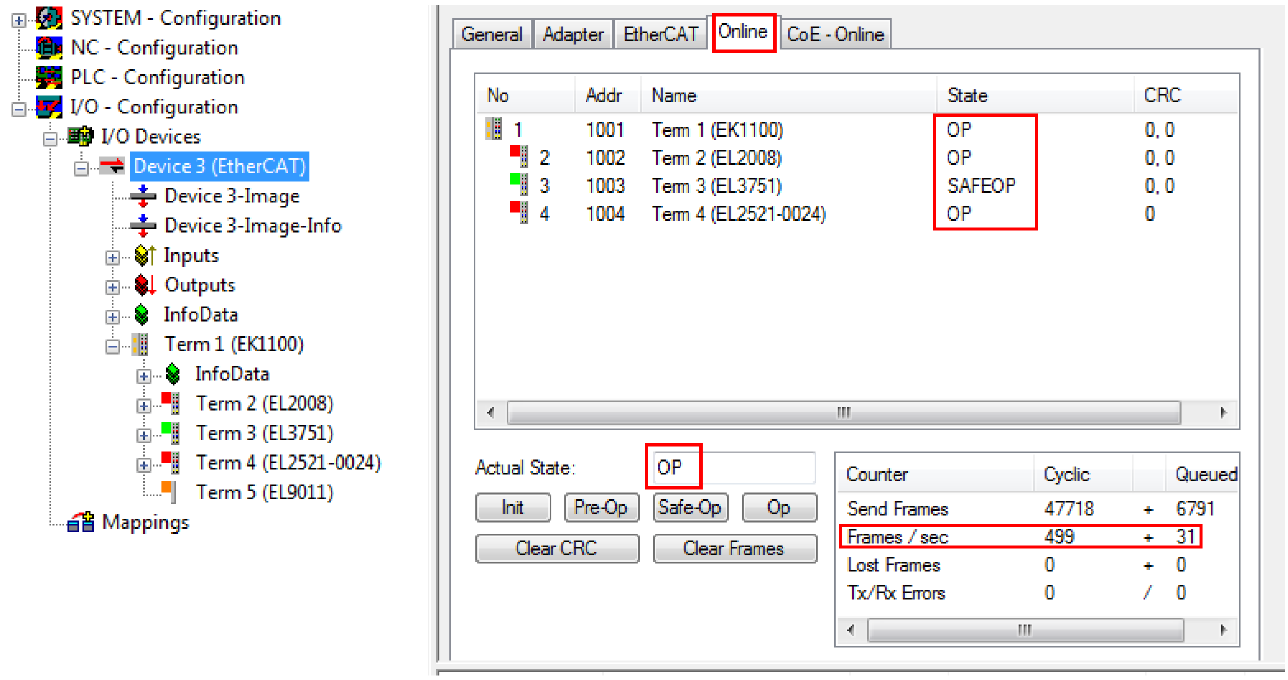


Fig. 82: Online display example

Please note:

- all slaves should be in OP state
- the EtherCAT master should be in “Actual State” OP
- “frames/sec” should match the cycle time taking into account the sent number of frames
- no excessive “LostFrames” or CRC errors should occur

The configuration is now complete. It can be modified as described under manual procedure [▶ 68].

Troubleshooting

Various effects may occur during scanning.

- An **unknown device** is detected, i.e. an EtherCAT slave for which no ESI XML description is available. In this case the System Manager offers to read any ESI that may be stored in the device. This case is described in the chapter “Notes regarding ESI device description”.
- **Device are not detected properly**
  Possible reasons include:
  - faulty data links, resulting in data loss during the scan
  - slave has invalid device description

  The connections and devices should be checked in a targeted manner, e.g. via the emergency scan. Then re-run the scan.

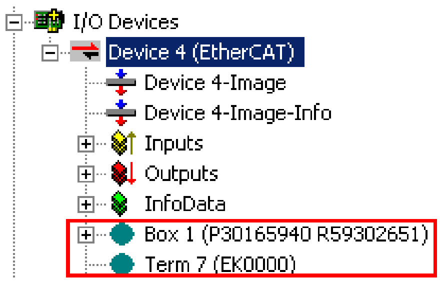


Fig. 83: Faulty identification

In the System Manager such devices may be set up as EK0000 or unknown devices. Operation is not possible or meaningful.

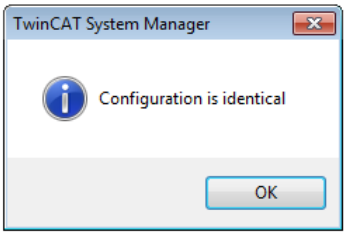
Scan over existing Configuration

NOTICE

Change of the configuration after comparison

With this scan (TwinCAT 2.11 or 3.1) only the device properties vendor (manufacturer), device name and revision are compared at present! A “ChangeTo” or “Copy” should only be carried out with care, taking into consideration the Beckhoff IO compatibility rule (see above). The device configuration is then replaced by the revision found; this can affect the supported process data and functions.

If a scan is initiated for an existing configuration, the actual I/O environment may match the configuration exactly or it may differ. This enables the configuration to be compared.



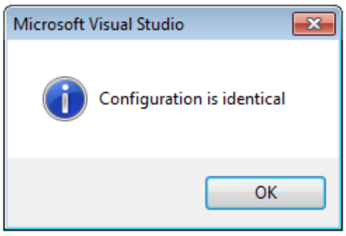


Fig. 84: Identical configuration (left: TwinCAT 2; right: TwinCAT 3)

If differences are detected, they are shown in the correction dialog, so that the user can modify the configuration as required.

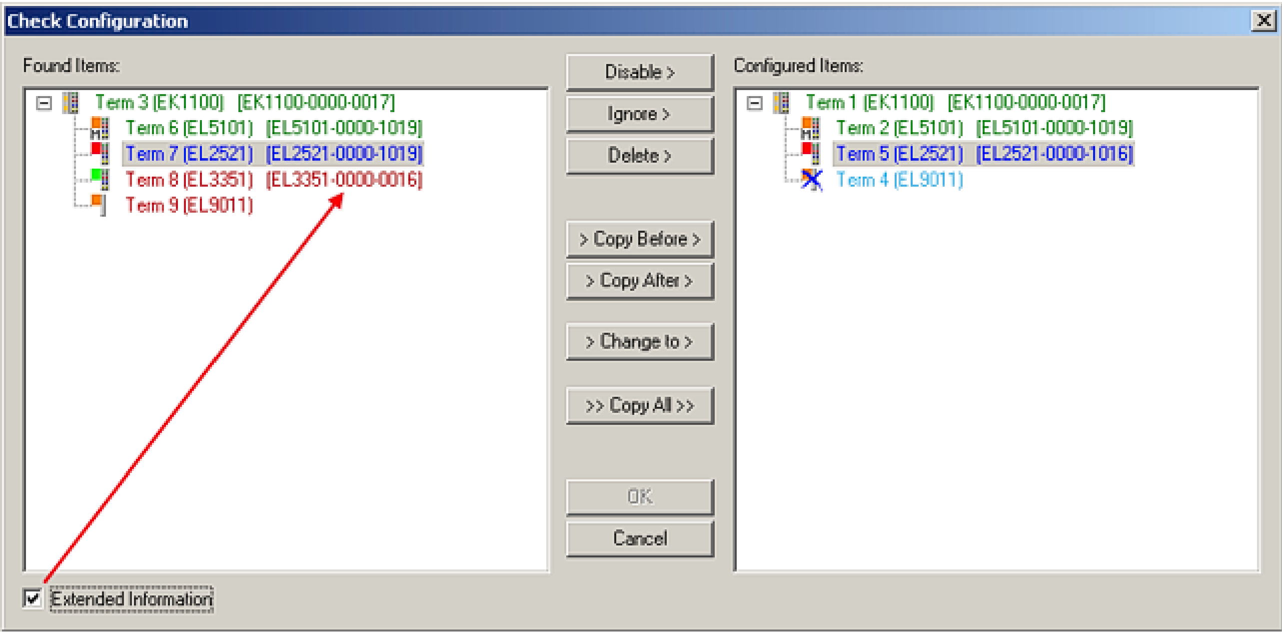


Fig. 85: Correction dialog

It is advisable to tick the “Extended Information” check box to reveal differences in the revision.

Color	Explanation
green	This EtherCAT slave matches the entry on the other side. Both type and revision match.
blue	This EtherCAT slave is present on the other side, but in a different revision. This other revision can have other default values for the process data as well as other/additional functions. If the found revision is higher than the configured revision, the slave may be used provided compatibility issues are taken into account. If the found revision is lower than the configured revision, it is likely that the slave cannot be used. The found device may not support all functions that the master expects based on the higher revision number.
light blue	This EtherCAT slave is ignored (“Ignore” button)
red	• This EtherCAT slave is not present on the other side. • It is present, but in a different revision, which also differs in its properties from the one specified. The compatibility principle then also applies here: if the found revision is higher than the configured revision, use is possible provided compatibility issues are taken into account, since the successor devices should support the functions of the predecessor devices. If the found revision is lower than the configured revision, it is likely that the slave cannot be used. The found device may not support all functions that the master expects based on the higher revision number.

Device selection based on revision, compatibility

The ESI description also defines the process image, the communication type between master and slave/device and the device functions, if applicable. The physical device (firmware, if available) has to support the communication queries/settings of the master. This is backward compatible, i.e. newer devices (higher revision) should be supported if the EtherCAT master addresses them as an older revision. The following compatibility rule of thumb is to be assumed for Beckhoff EtherCAT Terminals/ Boxes/ EJ-modules:

device revision in the system >= device revision in the configuration

This also enables subsequent replacement of devices without changing the configuration (different specifications are possible for drives).

Example

If an EL2521-0025-**1018** is specified in the configuration, an EL2521-0025-**1018** or higher (-**1019**, -**1020**) can be used in practice.

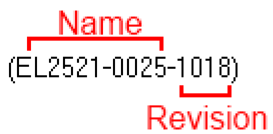


Fig. 86: Name/revision of the terminal

If current ESI descriptions are available in the TwinCAT system, the last revision offered in the selection dialog matches the Beckhoff state of production. It is recommended to use the last device revision when creating a new configuration, if current Beckhoff devices are used in the real application. Older revisions should only be used if older devices from stock are to be used in the application.

In this case the process image of the device is shown in the configuration tree and can be parameterized as follows: linking with the task, CoE/DC settings, plug-in definition, startup settings, ...

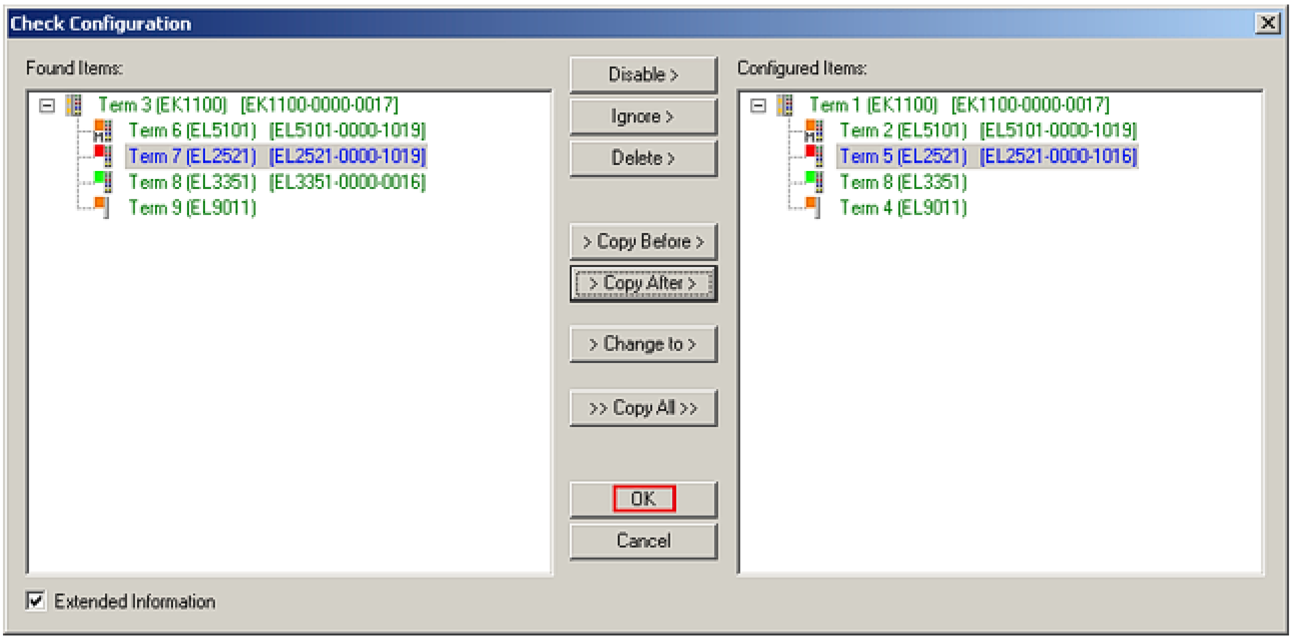


Fig. 87: Correction dialog with modifications

Once all modifications have been saved or accepted, click “OK” to transfer them to the real *.tsm configuration.

Change to Compatible Type

TwinCAT offers a function *Change to Compatible Type…* for the exchange of a device whilst retaining the links in the task.

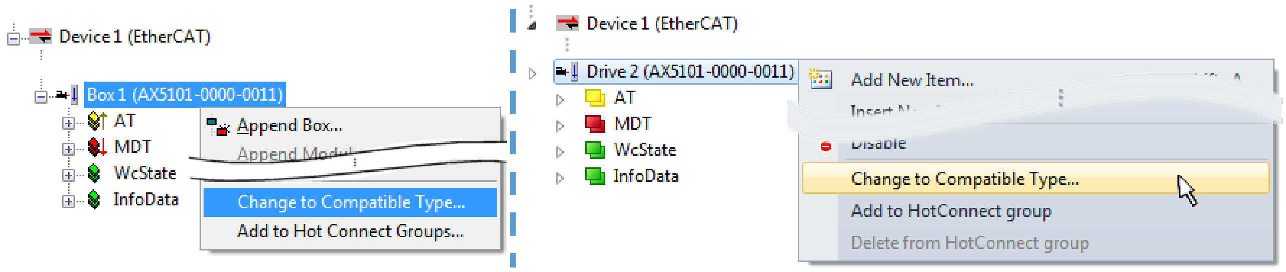


Fig. 88: Dialog “Change to Compatible Type…” (left: TwinCAT 2; right: TwinCAT 3)

The following elements in the ESI of an EtherCAT device are compared by TwinCAT and assumed to be the same in order to decide whether a device is indicated as "compatible":

- Physics (e.g. RJ45, Ebus...)

- FMMU (additional ones are allowed)

- SyncManager (SM, additional ones are allowed)

- EoE (attributes MAC, IP)

- CoE (attributes SdoInfo, PdoAssign, PdoConfig, PdoUpload, CompleteAccess)

- FoE

- PDO (process data: Sequence, SyncUnit SU, SyncManager SM, EntryCount, Ent-ry.Datatype)

This function is preferably to be used on AX5000 devices.

Change to Alternative Type

The TwinCAT System Manager offers a function for the exchange of a device: Change to Alternative Type

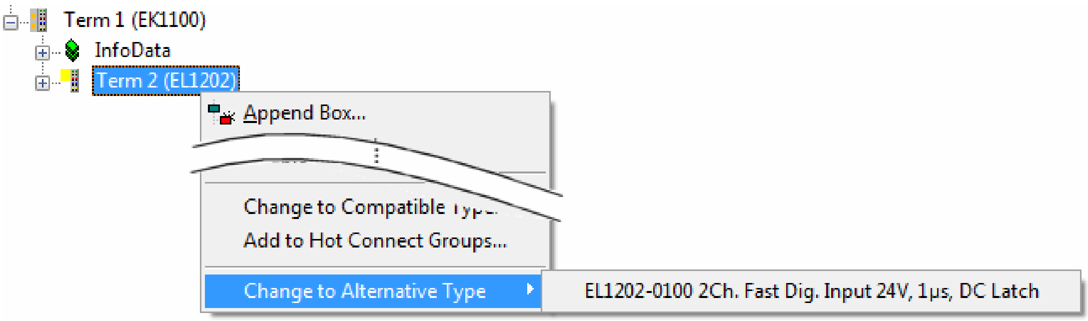


Fig. 89: TwinCAT 2 Dialog Change to Alternative Type

If called, the System Manager searches in the procured device ESI (in this example: EL1202-0000) for details of compatible devices contained there. The configuration is changed and the ESI-EEPROM is overwritten at the same time – therefore this process is possible only in the online state (ConfigMode).

7.1.7 EtherCAT subscriber configuration

In the left-hand window of the TwinCAT 2 System Manager or the Solution Explorer of the TwinCAT 3 Development Environment respectively, click on the element of the terminal within the tree you wish to configure (in the example: EL3751 Terminal 3).

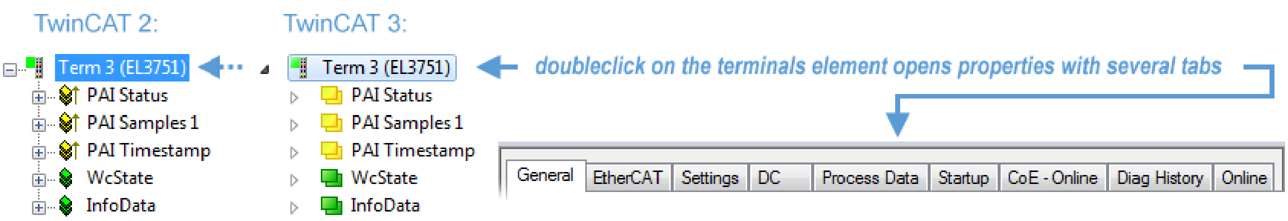


Fig. 90: Branch element as terminal EL3751

In the right-hand window of the TwinCAT System Manager (TwinCAT 2) or the Development Environment (TwinCAT 3), various tabs are now available for configuring the terminal. And yet the dimension of complexity of a subscriber determines which tabs are provided. Thus as illustrated in the example above the terminal EL3751 provides many setup options and also a respective number of tabs are available. On the contrary by the terminal EL1004 for example the tabs “General”, “EtherCAT”, “Process Data” and “Online“ are available only. Several terminals, as for instance the EL6695 provide special functions by a tab with its own terminal name, so “EL6695” in this case. A specific tab “Settings” by terminals with a wide range of setup options will be provided also (e.g. EL3751).

“General” tab

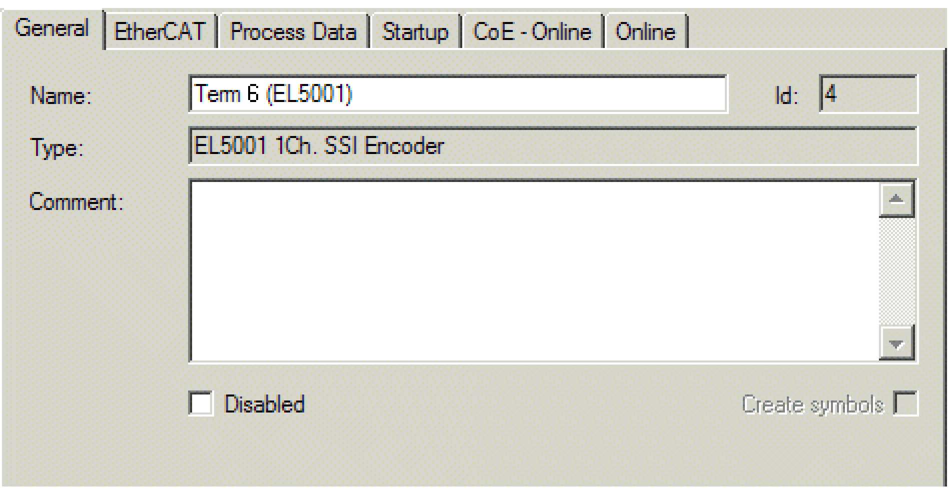


Fig. 91: “General” tab

Name	Name of the EtherCAT device
Id	Number of the EtherCAT device
Type	EtherCAT device type
Comment	Here you can add a comment (e.g. regarding the system).
Disabled	Here you can deactivate the EtherCAT device.
Create symbols	Access to this EtherCAT slave via ADS is only available if this control box is activated.

“EtherCAT” tab

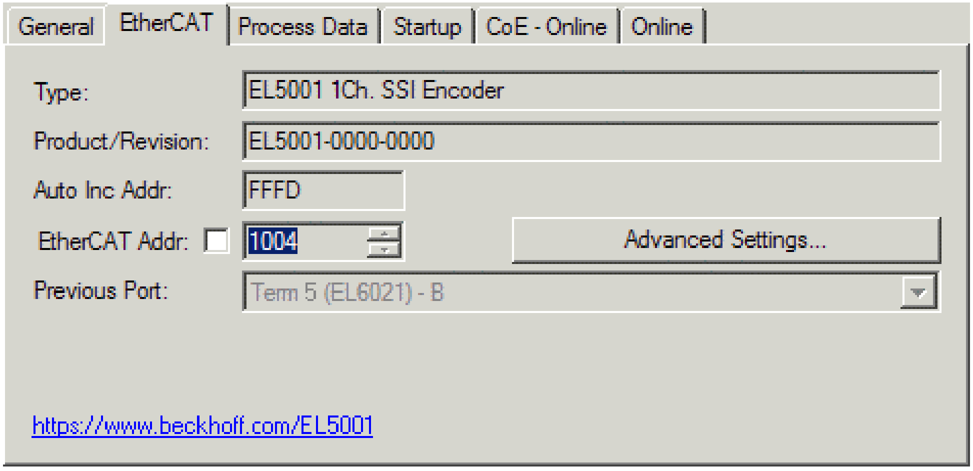


Fig. 92: “EtherCAT” tab

Type	EtherCAT device type
Product/Revision	Product and revision number of the EtherCAT device
Auto Inc Addr.	Auto increment address of the EtherCAT device. The auto increment address can be used for addressing each EtherCAT device in the communication ring through its physical position. Auto increment addressing is used during the start-up phase when the EtherCAT master allocates addresses to the EtherCAT devices. With auto increment addressing the first EtherCAT slave in the ring has the address 0000_{hex}. For each further slave the address is decremented by 1 ($FFFF_{hex}$, $FFFE_{hex}$ etc.).
EtherCAT Addr.	Fixed address of an EtherCAT slave. This address is allocated by the EtherCAT master during the start-up phase. Tick the control box to the left of the input field in order to modify the default value.
Previous Port	Name and port of the EtherCAT device to which this device is connected. If it is possible to connect this device with another one without changing the order of the EtherCAT devices in the communication ring, then this combination field is activated and the EtherCAT device to which this device is to be connected can be selected.
Advanced Settings	This button opens the dialogs for advanced settings.

The link at the bottom of the tab points to the product page for this EtherCAT device on the web.

“Process Data” tab

Indicates the configuration of the process data. The input and output data of the EtherCAT slave are represented as CANopen process data objects (**P**rocess **D**ata **O**bjects, PDOs). The user can select a PDO via PDO assignment and modify the content of the individual PDO via this dialog, if the EtherCAT slave supports this function.

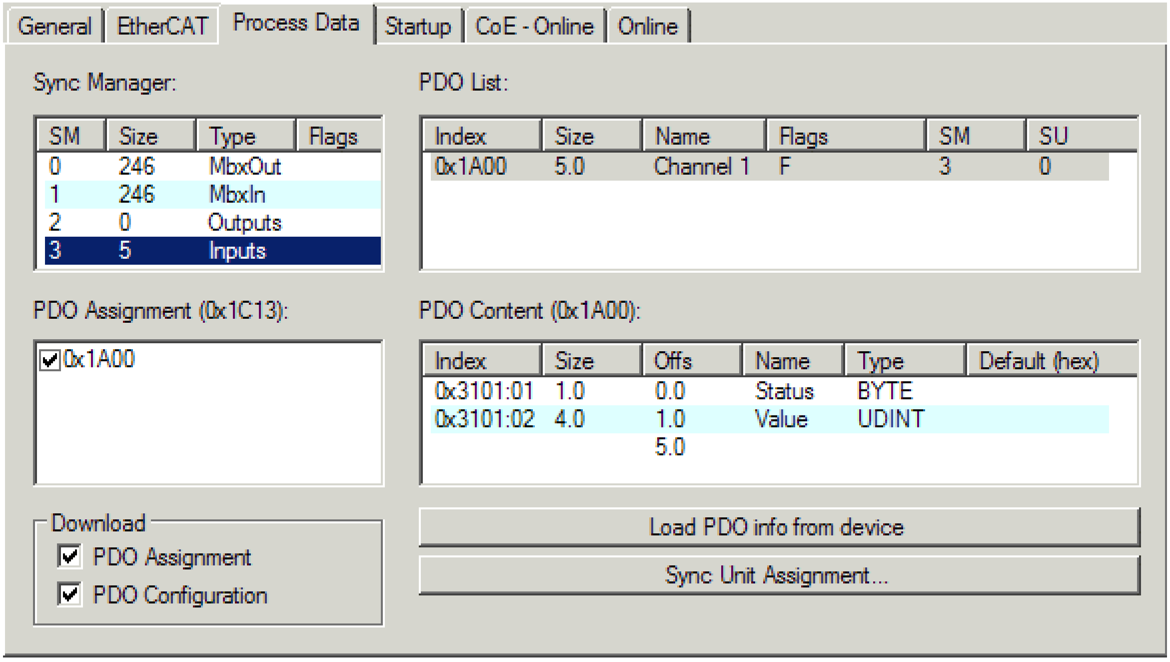


Fig. 93: “Process Data” tab

The process data (PDOs) transferred by an EtherCAT slave during each cycle are user data which the application expects to be updated cyclically or which are sent to the slave. To this end the EtherCAT master (Beckhoff TwinCAT) parameterizes each EtherCAT slave during the start-up phase to define which process data (size in bits/bytes, source location, transmission type) it wants to transfer to or from this slave. Incorrect configuration can prevent successful start-up of the slave.

For Beckhoff EtherCAT EL, ES, EM, EJ and EP slaves the following applies in general:

- The input/output process data supported by the device are defined by the manufacturer in the ESI/XML description. The TwinCAT EtherCAT Master uses the ESI description to configure the slave correctly.
- The process data can be modified in the System Manager. See the device documentation.
  Examples of modifications include: mask out a channel, displaying additional cyclic information, 16-bit display instead of 8-bit data size, etc.
- In so-called “intelligent” EtherCAT devices the process data information is also stored in the CoE directory. Any changes in the CoE directory that lead to different PDO settings prevent successful startup of the slave. It is not advisable to deviate from the designated process data, because the device firmware (if available) is adapted to these PDO combinations.

If the device documentation allows modification of process data, proceed as follows (see Figure *Configuring the process data*).

- A: select the device to configure
- B: in the “Process Data” tab select Input or Output under SyncManager (C)
- D: the PDOs can be selected or deselected
- H: the new process data are visible as linkable variables in the System Manager
  The new process data are active once the configuration has been activated and TwinCAT has been restarted (or the EtherCAT master has been restarted)
- E: if a slave supports this, Input and Output PDO can be modified simultaneously by selecting a so-called PDO record (“predefined PDO settings”).

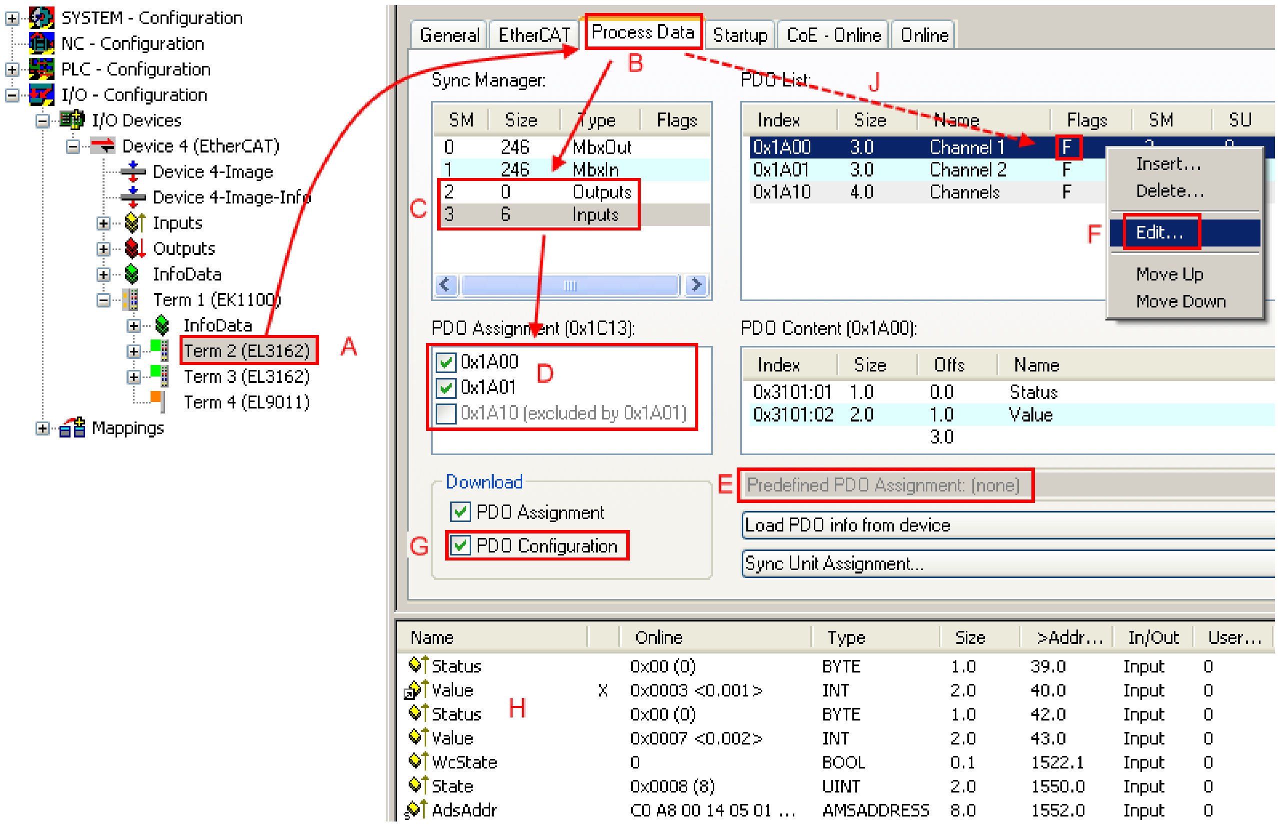


Fig. 94: Configuring the process data

Manual modification of the process data

According to the ESI description, a PDO can be identified as “fixed” with the flag “F” in the PDO overview (Fig. *Configuring the process data*, J). The configuration of such PDOs cannot be changed, even if TwinCAT offers the associated dialog (“Edit”). In particular, CoE content cannot be displayed as cyclic process data. This generally also applies in cases where a device supports download of the PDO configuration, “G”. In case of incorrect configuration the EtherCAT slave usually refuses to start and change to OP state. The System Manager displays an “invalid SM cfg” logger message: This error message (“invalid SM IN cfg” or “invalid SM OUT cfg”) also indicates the reason for the failed start.

A detailed description [▶ 90] can be found at the end of this section.

“Startup” tab

The *Startup* tab is displayed if the EtherCAT slave has a mailbox and supports the *CANopen over EtherCAT* (CoE) or *Servo drive over EtherCAT* protocol. This tab indicates which download requests are sent to the mailbox during startup. It is also possible to add new mailbox requests to the list display. The download requests are sent to the slave in the same order as they are shown in the list.

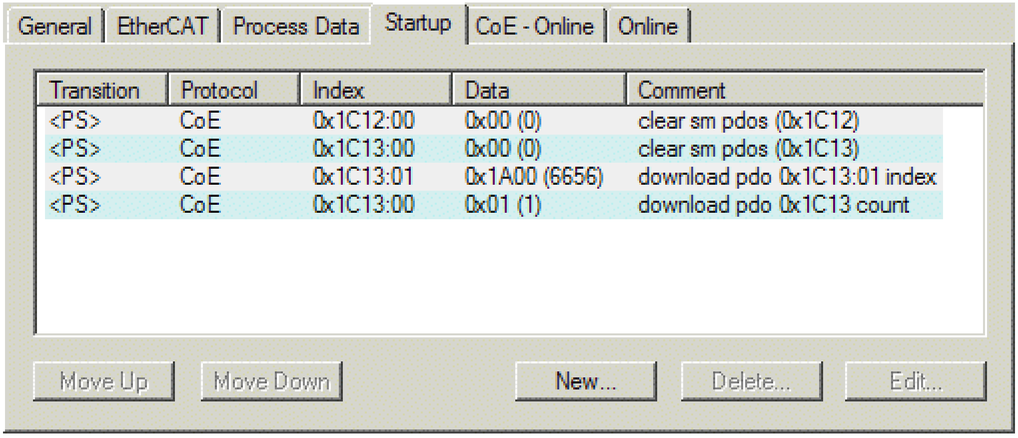


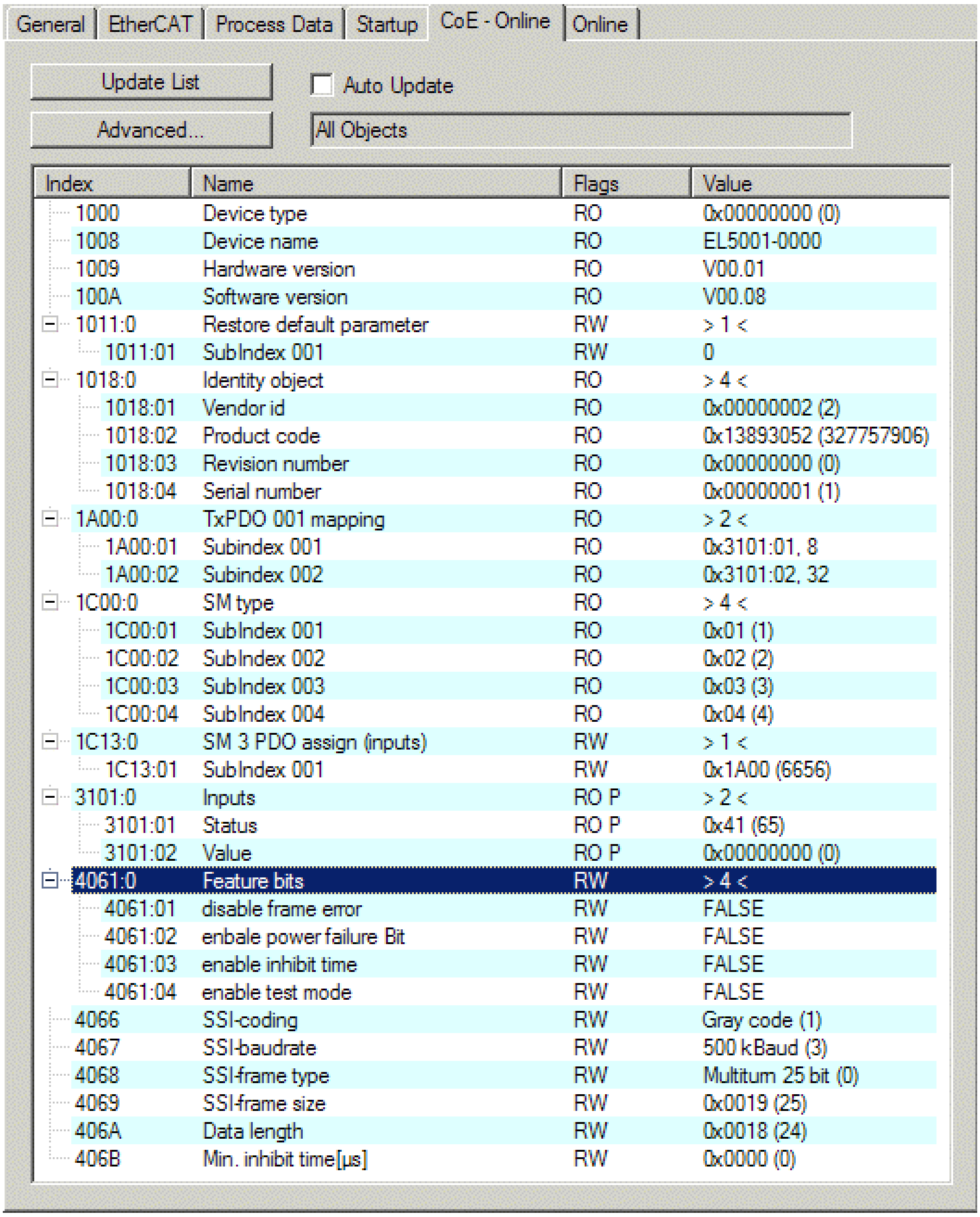
Fig. 95: “Startup” tab

Column	Description
Transition	Transition to which the request is sent. This can either be • the transition from pre-operational to safe-operational (PS), or • the transition from safe-operational to operational (SO). If the transition is enclosed in “<>” (e.g. <PS>), the mailbox request is fixed and cannot be modified or deleted by the user.
Protocol	Type of mailbox protocol
Index	Index of the object
Data	Date on which this object is to be downloaded.
Comment	Description of the request to be sent to the mailbox

Move Up This button moves the selected request up by one position in the list.
Move Down This button moves the selected request down by one position in the list.
New This button adds a new mailbox download request to be sent during startup.
Delete This button deletes the selected entry.
Edit This button edits an existing request.

“CoE - Online” tab

The additional *CoE - Online* tab is displayed if the EtherCAT slave supports the *CANopen over EtherCAT* (CoE) protocol. This dialog lists the content of the object list of the slave (SDO upload) and enables the user to modify the content of an object from this list. Details for the objects of the individual EtherCAT devices can be found in the device-specific object descriptions.



Index	Name	Flags	Value
1000	Device type	RO	0x00000000 (0)
1008	Device name	RO	EL5001-0000
1009	Hardware version	RO	V00.01
100A	Software version	RO	V00.08
1011:0	Restore default parameter	RW	> 1 <
1011:01	SubIndex 001	RW	0
1018:0	Identity object	RO	> 4 <
1018:01	Vendor id	RO	0x00000002 (2)
1018:02	Product code	RO	0x13893052 (327757906)
1018:03	Revision number	RO	0x00000000 (0)
1018:04	Serial number	RO	0x00000001 (1)
1A00:0	TxPDO 001 mapping	RO	> 2 <
1A00:01	Subindex 001	RO	0x3101:01, 8
1A00:02	Subindex 002	RO	0x3101:02, 32
1C00:0	SM type	RO	> 4 <
1C00:01	SubIndex 001	RO	0x01 (1)
1C00:02	SubIndex 002	RO	0x02 (2)
1C00:03	SubIndex 003	RO	0x03 (3)
1C00:04	SubIndex 004	RO	0x04 (4)
1C13:0	SM 3 PDO assign (inputs)	RW	> 1 <
1C13:01	SubIndex 001	RW	0x1A00 (6656)
3101:0	Inputs	RO P	> 2 <
3101:01	Status	RO P	0x41 (65)
3101:02	Value	RO P	0x00000000 (0)
4061:0	Feature bits	RW	> 4 <
4061:01	disable frame error	RW	FALSE
4061:02	enbale power failure Bit	RW	FALSE
4061:03	enable inhibit time	RW	FALSE
4061:04	enable test mode	RW	FALSE
4066	SSI-coding	RW	Gray code (1)
4067	SSI-baudrate	RW	500 kBaud (3)
4068	SSI-frame type	RW	Multitum 25 bit (0)
4069	SSI-frame size	RW	0x0019 (25)
406A	Data length	RW	0x0018 (24)
406B	Min. inhibit time[µs]	RW	0x0000 (0)

Fig. 96: “CoE - Online” tab

Object list display

Column	Description	
Index	Index and sub-index of the object	
Name	Name of the object	
Flags	RW	The object can be read, and data can be written to the object (read/write)
	RO	The object can be read, but no data can be written to the object (read only)
	P	An additional P identifies the object as a process data object.
Value	Value of the object	

Update List The *Update list* button updates all objects in the displayed list

Auto Update If this check box is selected, the content of the objects is updated automatically.

Advanced The *Advanced* button opens the *Advanced Settings* dialog. Here you can specify which objects are displayed in the list.

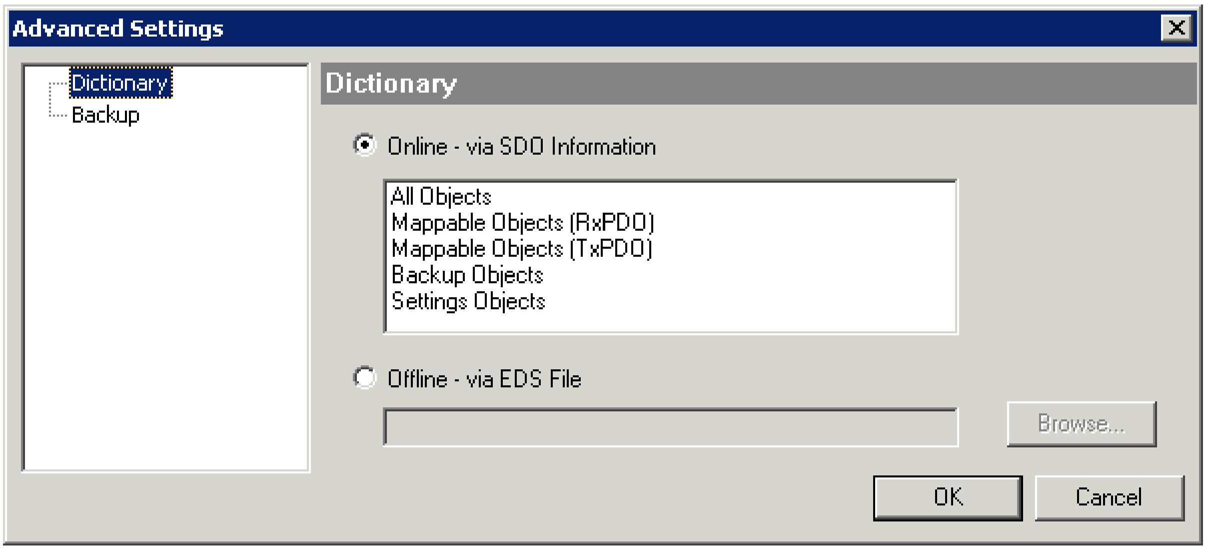


Fig. 97: Dialog “Advanced settings”

Online - via SDO Information	If this option button is selected, the list of the objects included in the object list of the slave is uploaded from the slave via SDO information. The list below can be used to specify which object types are to be uploaded.
Offline - via EDS File	If this option button is selected, the list of the objects included in the object list is read from an EDS file provided by the user.

“Online” tab

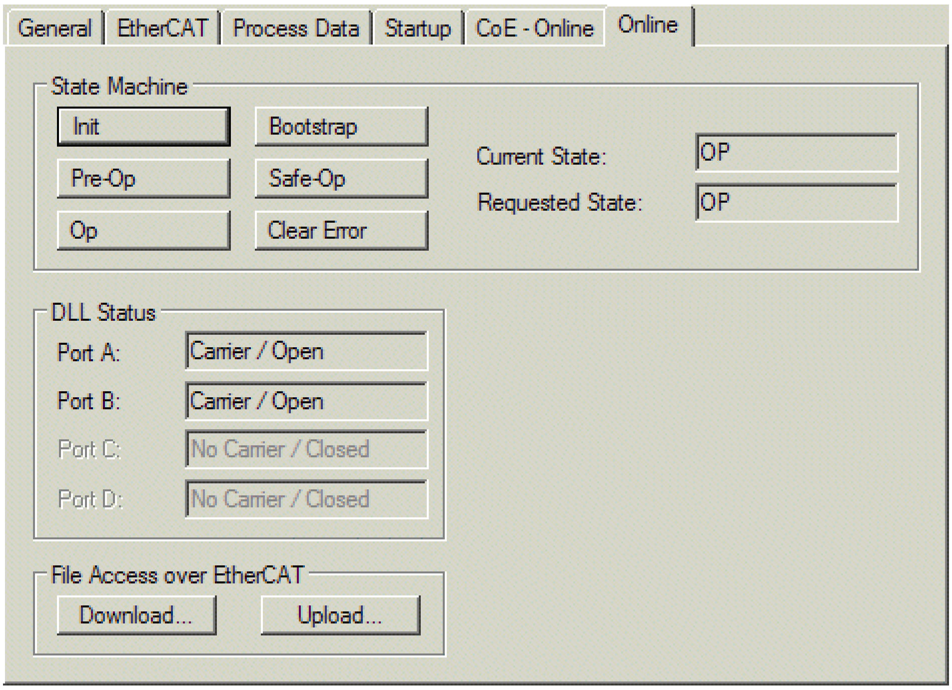


Fig. 98: “Online” tab

State Machine

Init	This button attempts to set the EtherCAT device to the *Init* state.
Pre-Op	This button attempts to set the EtherCAT device to the *pre-operational* state.
Op	This button attempts to set the EtherCAT device to the *operational* state.
Bootstrap	This button attempts to set the EtherCAT device to the *Bootstrap* state.
Safe-Op	This button attempts to set the EtherCAT device to the *safe-operational* state.
Clear Error	This button attempts to delete the fault display. If an EtherCAT slave fails during change of state it sets an error flag. Example: An EtherCAT slave is in PREOP state (pre-operational). The master now requests the SAFEOP state (safe-operational). If the slave fails during change of state it sets the error flag. The current state is now displayed as ERR PREOP. When the *Clear Error* button is pressed the error flag is cleared, and the current state is displayed as PREOP again.
Current State	Indicates the current state of the EtherCAT device.
Requested State	Indicates the state requested for the EtherCAT device.

DLL Status

Indicates the DLL status (data link layer status) of the individual ports of the EtherCAT slave. The DLL status can have four different states:

Status	Description
No Carrier / Open	No carrier signal is available at the port, but the port is open.
No Carrier / Closed	No carrier signal is available at the port, and the port is closed.
Carrier / Open	A carrier signal is available at the port, and the port is open.
Carrier / Closed	A carrier signal is available at the port, but the port is closed.

File Access over EtherCAT

Download	With this button a file can be written to the EtherCAT device.
Upload	With this button a file can be read from the EtherCAT device.

“DC” tab (Distributed Clocks)

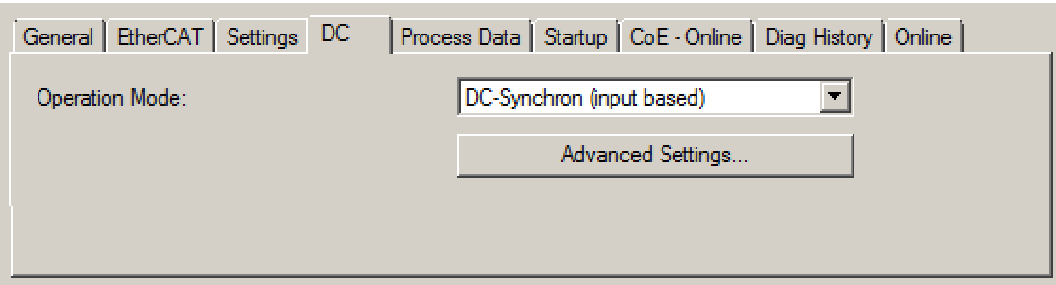


Fig. 99: “DC” tab (Distributed Clocks)

Operation Mode	Options (optional): • FreeRun • SM-Synchron • DC-Synchron (Input based) • DC-Synchron
Advanced Settings…	Advanced settings for readjustment of the real time determinant TwinCAT-clock

Detailed information to Distributed Clocks is specified on http://infosys.beckhoff.com:

Fieldbus Components → EtherCAT Terminals → EtherCAT System documentation → EtherCAT basics → Distributed Clocks

7.1.7.1 Detailed description of Process Data tab

Sync Manager

Lists the configuration of the Sync Manager (SM).
If the EtherCAT device has a mailbox, SM0 is used for the mailbox output (MbxOut) and SM1 for the mailbox input (MbxIn).
SM2 is used for the output process data (outputs) and SM3 (inputs) for the input process data.

If an input is selected, the corresponding PDO assignment is displayed in the *PDO Assignment* list below.

PDO Assignment

PDO assignment of the selected Sync Manager. All PDOs defined for this Sync Manager type are listed here:

- If the output Sync Manager (outputs) is selected in the Sync Manager list, all RxPDOs are displayed.
- If the input Sync Manager (inputs) is selected in the Sync Manager list, all TxPDOs are displayed.

The selected entries are the PDOs involved in the process data transfer. In the tree diagram of the System Manager these PDOs are displayed as variables of the EtherCAT device. The name of the variable is identical to the *Name* parameter of the PDO, as displayed in the PDO list. If an entry in the PDO assignment list is deactivated (not selected and greyed out), this indicates that the input is excluded from the PDO assignment. In order to be able to select a greyed out PDO, the currently selected PDO has to be deselected first.

Activation of PDO assignment

✓ If you have changed the PDO assignment, in order to activate the new PDO assignment,

a) the EtherCAT slave has to run through the PS status transition cycle (from pre-operational to safe-operational) once (see Online tab [▶ 88]),

b) and the System Manager has to reload the EtherCAT slaves

( button for TwinCAT 2 or  button for TwinCAT 3)

PDO list

List of all PDOs supported by this EtherCAT device. The content of the selected PDOs is displayed in the *PDO Content* list. The PDO configuration can be modified by double-clicking on an entry.

Column	Description	
Index	PDO index.	
Size	Size of the PDO in bytes.	
Name	Name of the PDO. If this PDO is assigned to a Sync Manager, it appears as a variable of the slave with this parameter as the name.	
Flags	F	Fixed content: The content of this PDO is fixed and cannot be changed by the System Manager.
	M	Mandatory PDO. This PDO is mandatory and must therefore be assigned to a Sync Manager! Consequently, this PDO cannot be deleted from the *PDO Assignment* list
SM	Sync Manager to which this PDO is assigned. If this entry is empty, this PDO does not take part in the process data traffic.	
SU	Sync unit to which this PDO is assigned.	

PDO Content

Indicates the content of the PDO. If flag F (fixed content) of the PDO is not set the content can be modified.

Download

If the device is intelligent and has a mailbox, the configuration of the PDO and the PDO assignments can be downloaded to the device. This is an optional feature that is not supported by all EtherCAT slaves.

PDO Assignment

If this check box is selected, the PDO assignment that is configured in the PDO Assignment list is downloaded to the device on startup. The required commands to be sent to the device can be viewed in the Startup [▶ 85] tab.

PDO Configuration

If this check box is selected, the configuration of the respective PDOs (as shown in the PDO list and the PDO Content display) is downloaded to the EtherCAT slave.

7.1.8 Import/Export of EtherCAT devices with SCI and XTI

SCI and XTI Export/Import – Handling of user-defined modified EtherCAT slaves

7.1.8.1 Basic principles

An EtherCAT slave is basically parameterized through the following elements:

- Cyclic process data (PDO)
- Synchronization (Distributed Clocks, FreeRun, SM-Synchron)
- CoE parameters (acyclic object dictionary)

Note: Not all three elements may be present, depending on the slave.

For a better understanding of the export/import function, let's consider the usual procedure for IO configuration:

- The user/programmer processes the IO configuration in the TwinCAT system environment. This involves all input/output devices such as drives that are connected to the fieldbuses used.
  Note: In the following sections, only EtherCAT configurations in the TwinCAT system environment are considered.
- For example, the user manually adds devices to a configuration or performs a scan on the online system.
- This results in the IO system configuration.
- On insertion, the slave appears in the system configuration in the default configuration provided by the vendor, consisting of default PDO, default synchronization method and CoE StartUp parameter as defined in the ESI (XML device description).
- If necessary, elements of the slave configuration can be changed, e.g. the PDO configuration or the synchronization method, based on the respective device documentation.

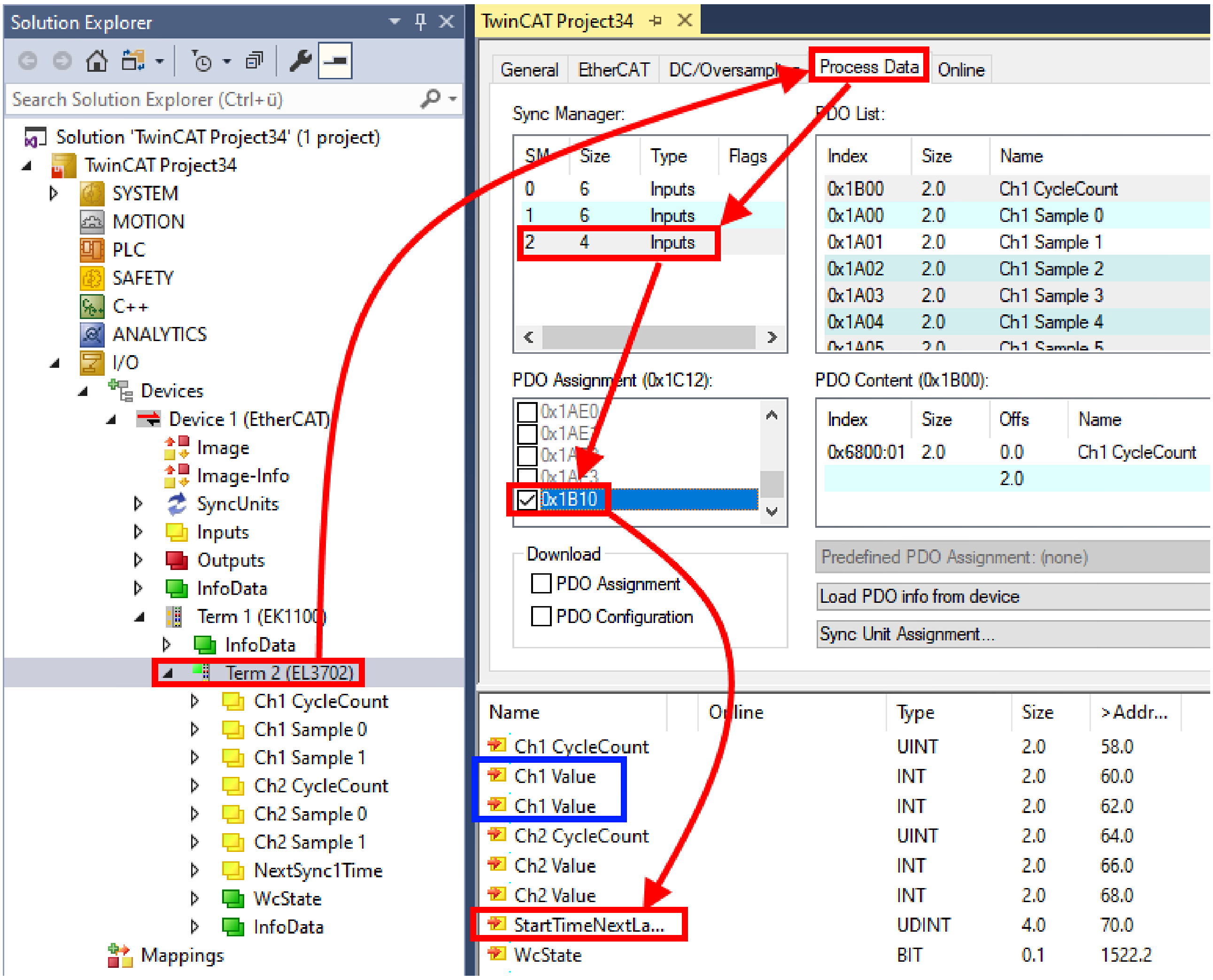
It may become necessary to reuse the modified slave in other projects in this way, without having to make equivalent configuration changes to the slave again. To accomplish this, proceed as follows:

- Export the slave configuration from the project,
- Store and transport as a file,
- Import into another EtherCAT project.

TwinCAT offers two methods for this purpose:

- within the TwinCAT environment: Export/Import as **xti** file or
- outside, i.e. beyond the TwinCAT limits: Export/Import as **sci** file.

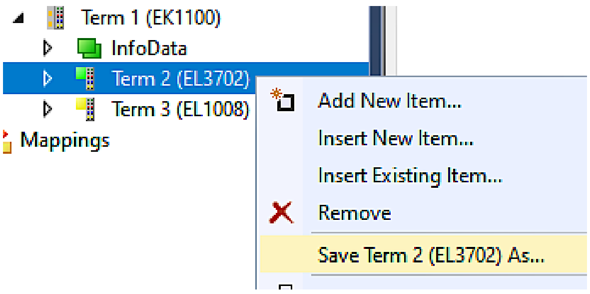
An example is provided below for illustration purposes: an EL3702 terminal with standard setting is switched to 2-fold oversampling (blue) and the optional PDO "StartTimeNextLatch" is added (red):



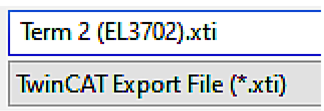
The two methods for exporting and importing the modified terminal referred to above are demonstrated below.

7.1.8.2 Procedure within TwinCAT with xti files

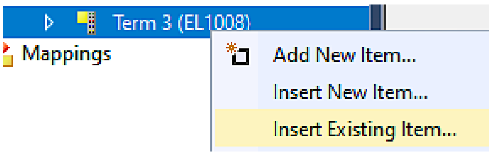
Each IO device can be exported/saved individually:



The xti file can be stored:



and imported again in another TwinCAT system via "Insert Existing item":



7.1.8.3 Procedure within and outside TwinCAT with sci file

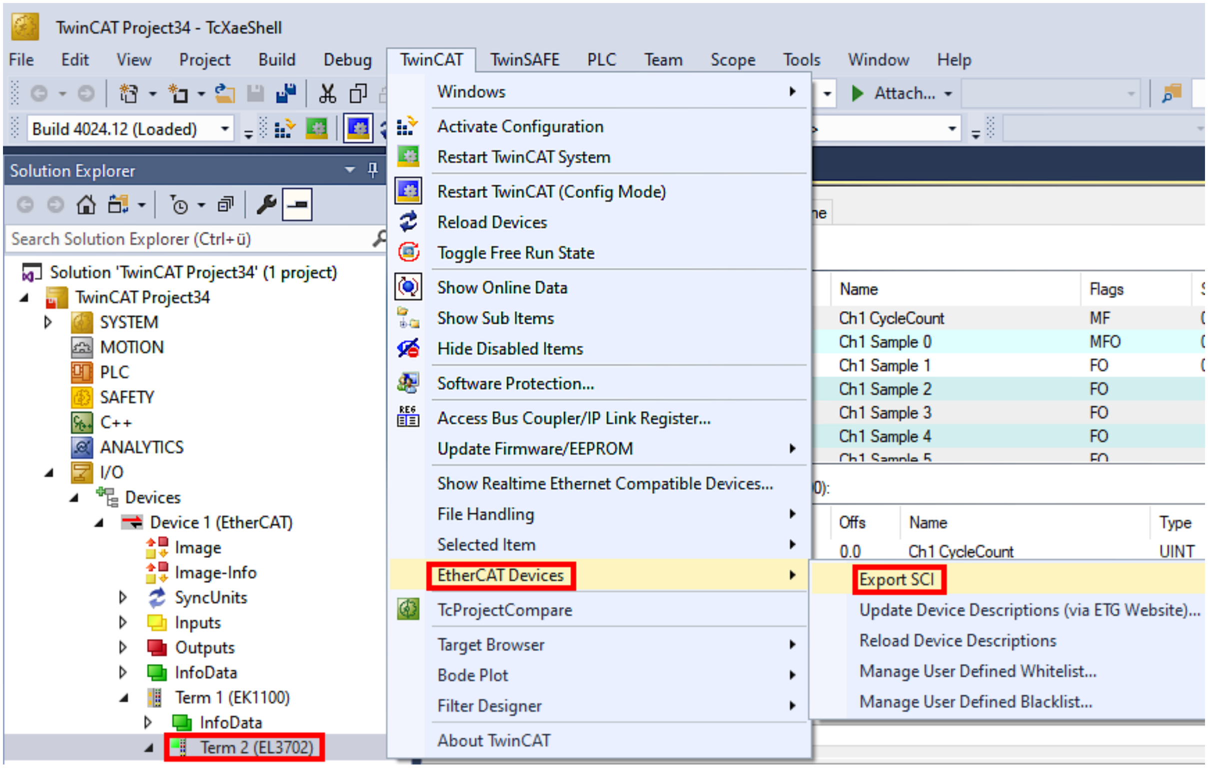
Note regarding availability (2021/01)

The SCI method is available from TwinCAT 3.1 build 4024.14.

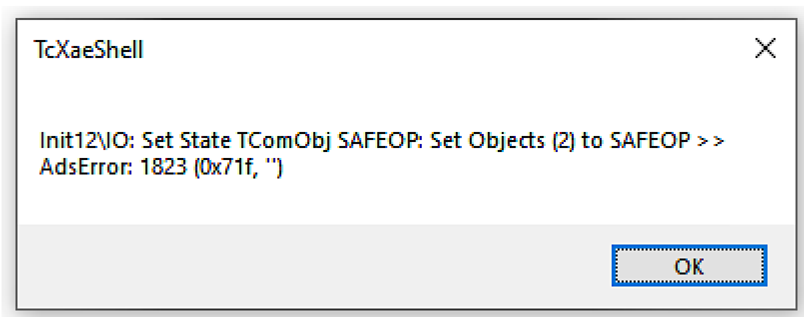
The Slave Configuration Information (SCI) describes a specific complete configuration for an EtherCAT slave (terminal, box, drive...) based on the setting options of the device description file (ESI, EtherCAT Slave Information). That is, it includes PDO, CoE, synchronization.

Export:

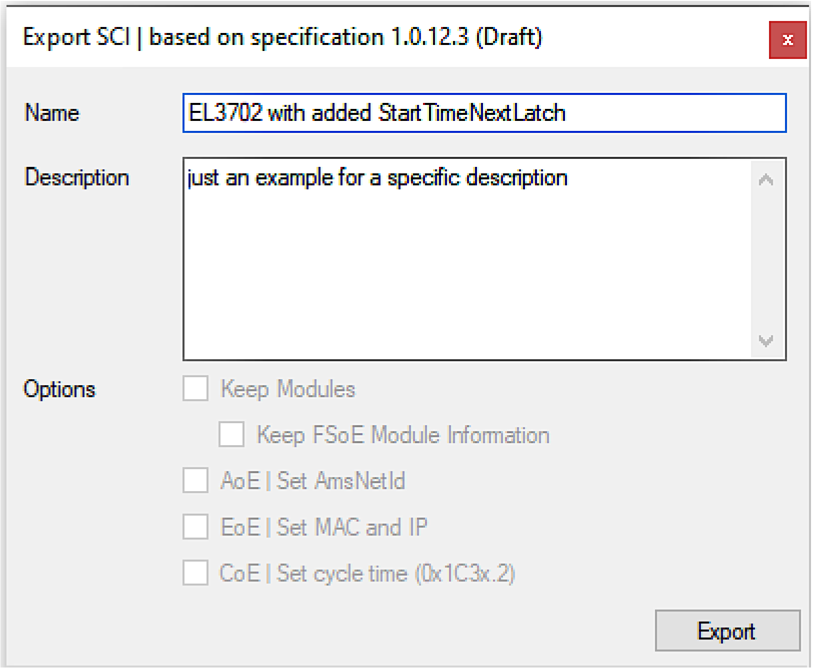
- select a single device via the menu (multiple selection is also possible): TwinCAT → EtherCAT Devices → Export SCI.



- If TwinCAT is offline (i.e. if there is no connection to an actual running controller) a warning message may appear, because after executing the function the system attempts to reload the EtherCAT segment. However, in this case this is not relevant for the result and can be acknowledged by clicking OK:



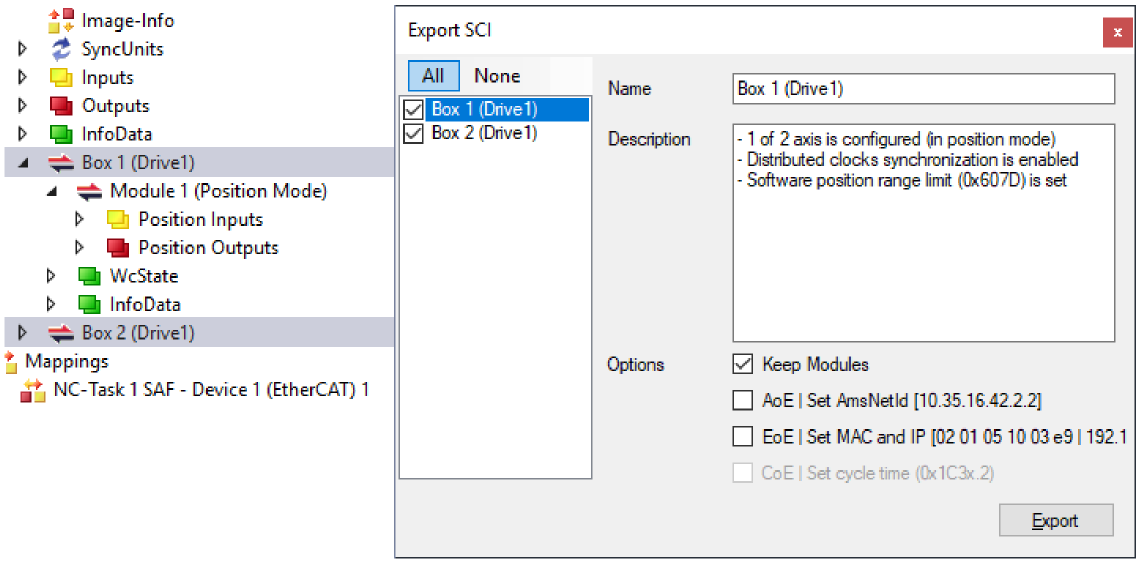
- A description may also be provided:



- Explanation of the dialog box:

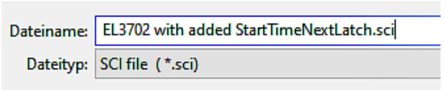
Name		Name of the SCI, assigned by the user.
Description		Description of the slave configuration for the use case, assigned by the user.
Options	Keep modules	If a slave supports modules/slots, the user can decide whether these are to be exported or whether the module and device data are to be combined during export.
	AoE | Set AmsNetId	The configured AmsNetId is exported. Usually this is network-dependent and cannot always be determined in advance.
	EoE | Set MAC and IP	The configured virtual MAC and IP addresses are stored in the SCI. Usually these are network-dependent and cannot always be determined in advance.
	CoE | Set cycle time(0x1C3x.2)	The configured cycle time is exported. Usually this is network-dependent and cannot always be determined in advance.
ESI		Reference to the original ESI file.
Export		Save SCI file.

- A list view is available for multiple selections (*Export multiple SCI files*):

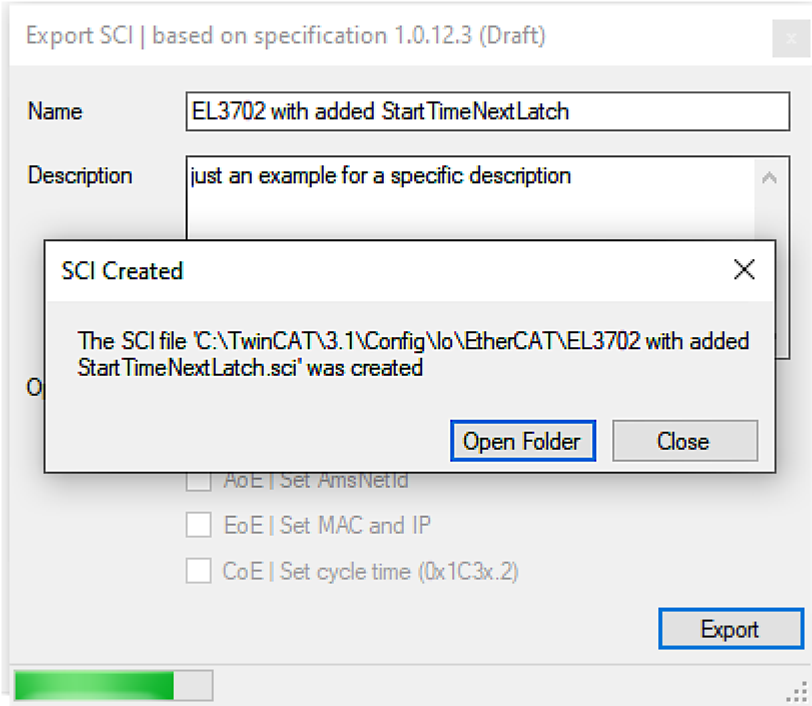


- Selection of the slaves to be exported:
    - All:
      All slaves are selected for export.

  - None:
    All slaves are deselected.
- The sci file can be saved locally:

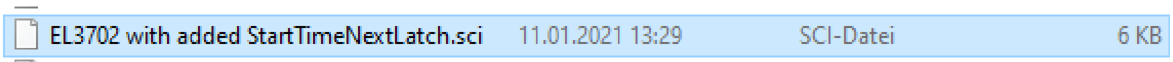


- The export takes place:

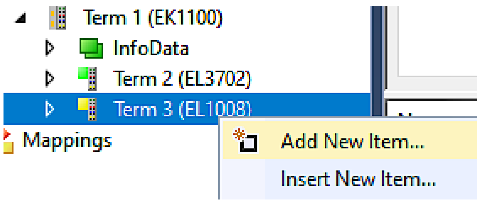


Import

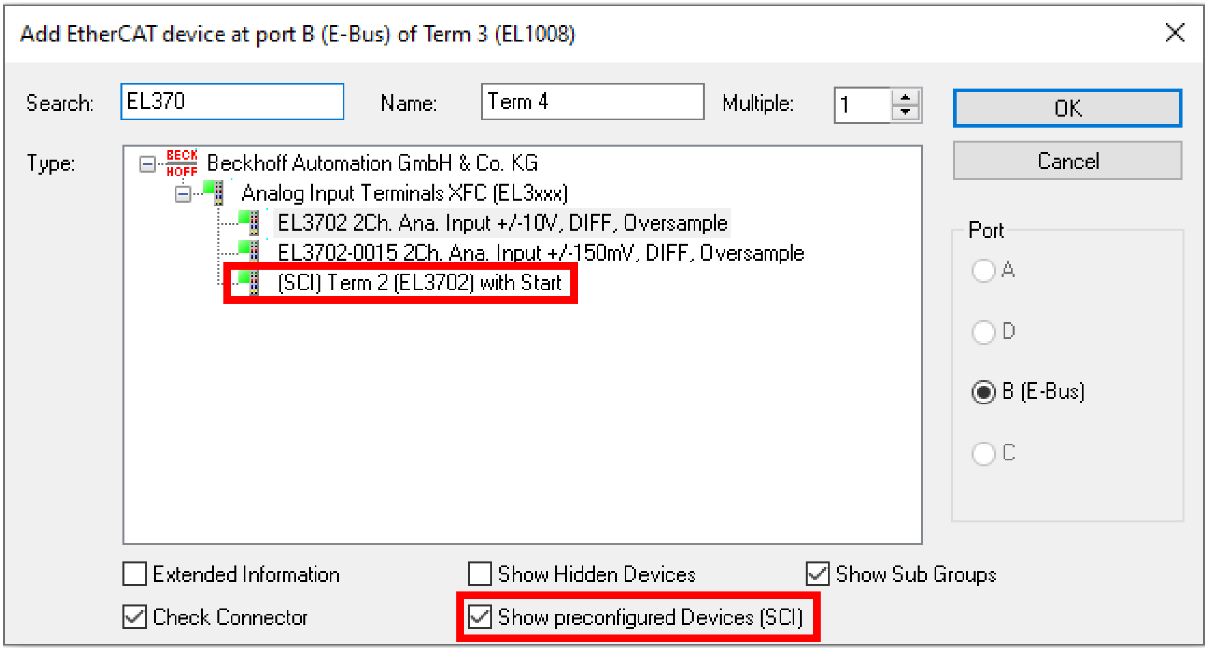
- An sci description can be inserted manually into the TwinCAT configuration like any normal Beckhoff device description.
- The sci file must be located in the TwinCAT ESI path, usually under:
  C:\TwinCAT\3.1\Config\Io\EtherCAT



- Open the selection dialog:

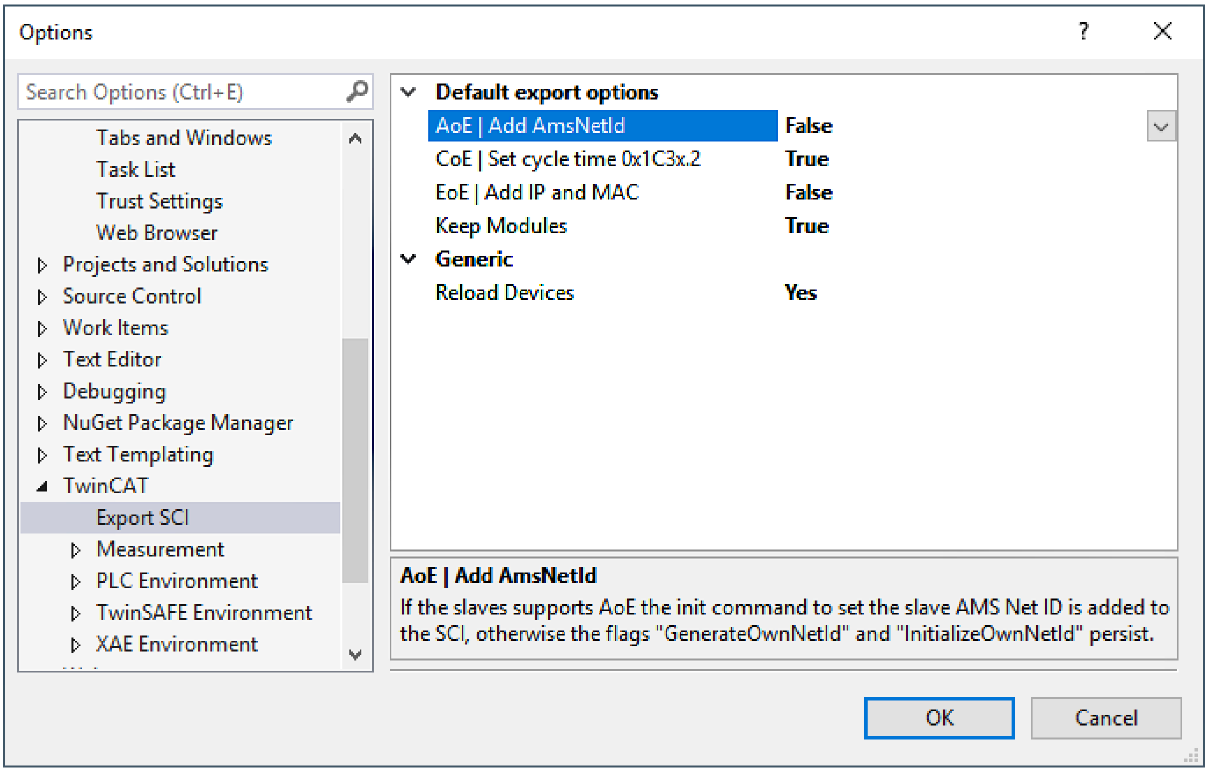


- Display SCI devices and select and insert the desired device:



Additional Notes

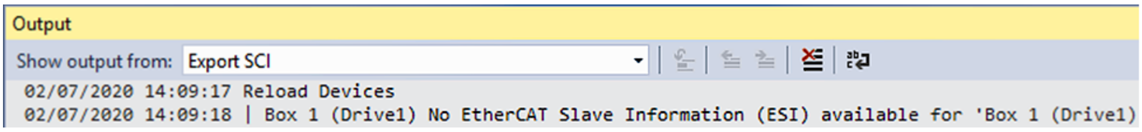
- Settings for the SCI function can be made via the general Options dialog (Tools → Options → TwinCAT → Export SCI):



Explanation of the settings:

Default export options	AoE | Set AmsNetId	Default setting whether the configured AmsNetId is exported.
	CoE | Set cycle time(0x1C3x.2)	Default setting whether the configured cycle time is exported.
	EoE | Set MAC and IP	Default setting whether the configured MAC and IP addresses are exported.
	Keep modules	Default setting whether the modules persist.
Generic	Reload Devices	Setting whether the Reload Devices command is executed before the SCI export. This is strongly recommended to ensure a consistent slave configuration.

SCI error messages are displayed in the TwinCAT logger output window if required:



7.2 General Commissioning Instructions for an EtherCAT Slave

This summary briefly deals with a number of aspects of EtherCAT Slave operation under TwinCAT. More detailed information on this may be found in the corresponding sections of, for instance, the EtherCAT System Documentation.

Diagnosis in real time: WorkingCounter, EtherCAT State and Status

Generally speaking an EtherCAT Slave provides a variety of diagnostic information that can be used by the controlling task.

This diagnostic information relates to differing levels of communication. It therefore has a variety of sources, and is also updated at various times.

Any application that relies on I/O data from a fieldbus being correct and up to date must make diagnostic access to the corresponding underlying layers. EtherCAT and the TwinCAT System Manager offer comprehensive diagnostic elements of this kind. Those diagnostic elements that are helpful to the controlling task for diagnosis that is accurate for the current cycle when in operation (not during commissioning) are discussed below.

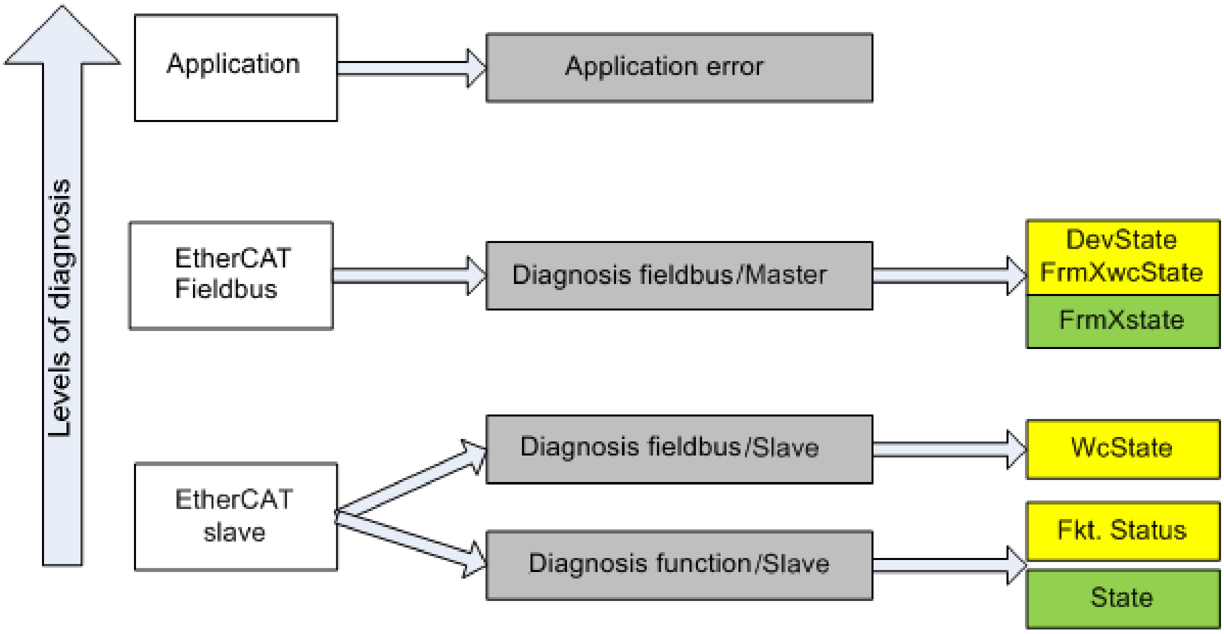


Fig. 100: Selection of the diagnostic information of an EtherCAT Slave

In general, an EtherCAT Slave offers

- communication diagnosis typical for a slave (diagnosis of successful participation in the exchange of process data, and correct operating mode)
  This diagnosis is the same for all slaves.

  as well as
- function diagnosis typical for a channel (device-dependent)
  See the corresponding device documentation

The colors in Fig. *Selection of the diagnostic information of an EtherCAT Slave* also correspond to the variable colors in the System Manager, see Fig. *Basic EtherCAT Slave Diagnosis in the PLC*.

Colour	Meaning
yellow	Input variables from the Slave to the EtherCAT Master, updated in every cycle
red	Output variables from the Slave to the EtherCAT Master, updated in every cycle
green	Information variables for the EtherCAT Master that are updated acyclically. This means that it is possible that in any particular cycle they do not represent the latest possible status. It is therefore useful to read such variables through ADS.

Fig. *Basic EtherCAT Slave Diagnosis in the PLC* shows an example of an implementation of basic EtherCAT Slave Diagnosis. A Beckhoff EL3102 (2-channel analogue input terminal) is used here, as it offers both the communication diagnosis typical of a slave and the functional diagnosis that is specific to a channel. Structures are created as input variables in the PLC, each corresponding to the process image.

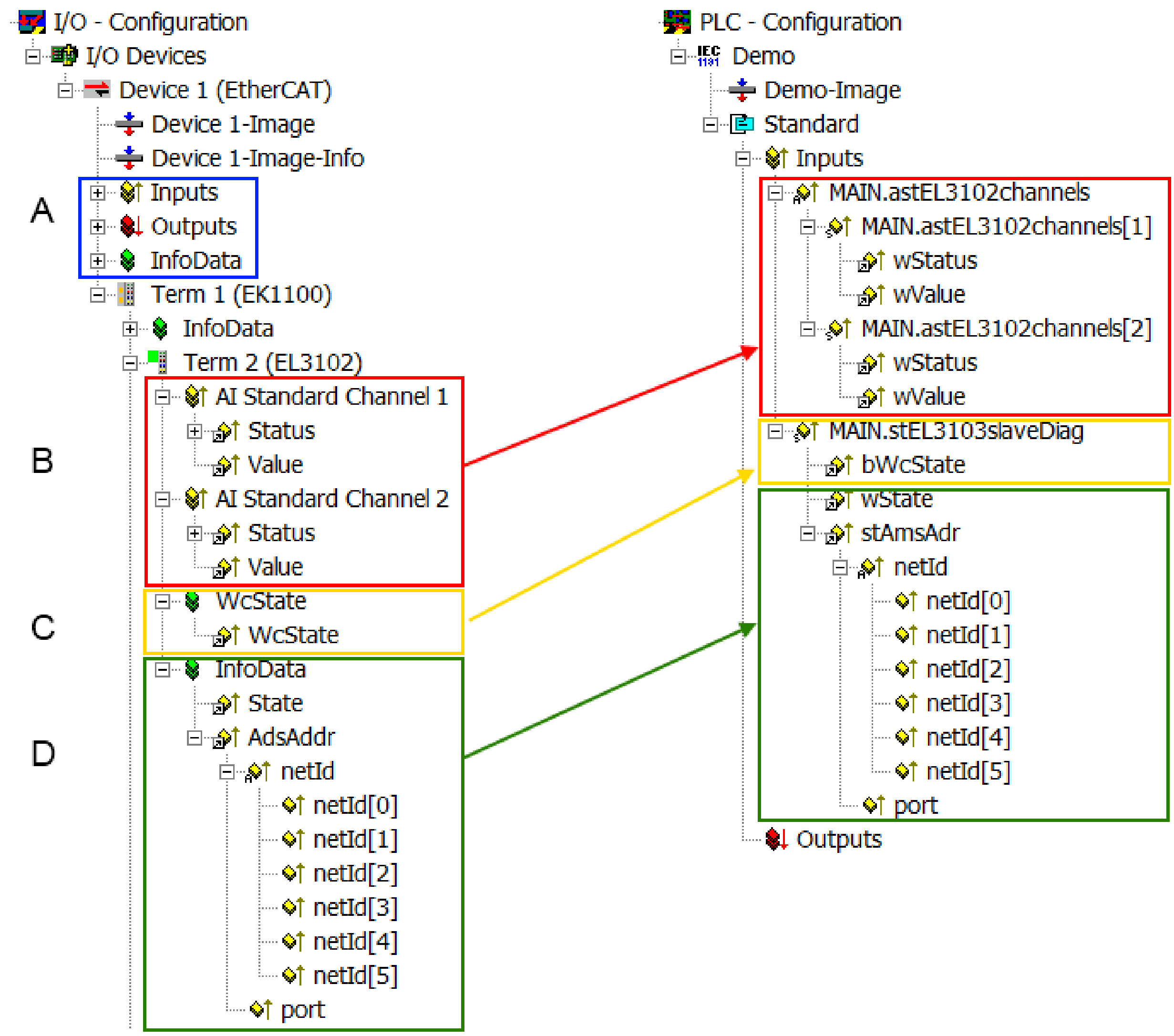


Fig. 101: Basic EtherCAT Slave Diagnosis in the PLC

The following aspects are covered here:

Code	Function	Implementation	Application/evaluation
A	The EtherCAT Master's diagnostic information updated cyclically (yellow) or provided acyclically (green).		At least the DevState is to be evaluated for the most recent cycle in the PLC. The EtherCAT Master's diagnostic information offers many more possibilities than are treated in the EtherCAT System Documentation. A few keywords: • CoE in the Master for communication with/through the Slaves • Functions from *TcEtherCAT.lib* • Perform an OnlineScan
B	In the example chosen (EL3102) the EL3102 comprises two analogue input channels that transmit a single function status for the most recent cycle.	Status • the bit significations may be found in the device documentation • other devices may supply more information, or none that is typical of a slave	In order for the higher-level PLC task (or corresponding control applications) to be able to rely on correct data, the function status must be evaluated there. Such information is therefore provided with the process data for the most recent cycle.
C	For every EtherCAT Slave that has cyclic process data, the Master displays, using what is known as a WorkingCounter, whether the slave is participating successfully and without error in the cyclic exchange of process data. This important, elementary information is therefore provided for the most recent cycle in the System Manager 1. at the EtherCAT Slave, and, with identical contents 2. as a collective variable at the EtherCAT Master (see Point A) for linking.	WcState (Working Counter) 0: valid real-time communication in the last cycle 1: invalid real-time communication This may possibly have effects on the process data of other Slaves that are located in the same SyncUnit	In order for the higher-level PLC task (or corresponding control applications) to be able to rely on correct data, the communication status of the EtherCAT Slave must be evaluated there. Such information is therefore provided with the process data for the most recent cycle.
D	Diagnostic information of the EtherCAT Master which, while it is represented at the slave for linking, is actually determined by the Master for the Slave concerned and represented there. This information cannot be characterized as real-time, because it • is only rarely/never changed, except when the system starts up • is itself determined acyclically (e.g. EtherCAT Status)	State current Status (INIT..OP) of the Slave. The Slave must be in OP (=8) when operating normally. *AdsAddr* The ADS address is useful for communicating from the PLC/task via ADS with the EtherCAT Slave, e.g. for reading/writing to the CoE. The AMS-NetID of a slave corresponds to the AMS-NetID of the EtherCAT Master; communication with the individual Slave is possible via the *port* (= EtherCAT address).	Information variables for the EtherCAT Master that are updated acyclically. This means that it is possible that in any particular cycle they do not represent the latest possible status. It is therefore possible to read such variables through ADS.

NOTICE

Diagnostic information

It is strongly recommended that the diagnostic information made available is evaluated so that the application can react accordingly.

CoE Parameter Directory

The CoE parameter directory (CanOpen-over-EtherCAT) is used to manage the set values for the slave concerned. Changes may, in some circumstances, have to be made here when commissioning a relatively complex EtherCAT Slave. It can be accessed through the TwinCAT System Manager, see Fig. *EL3102, CoE directory*:

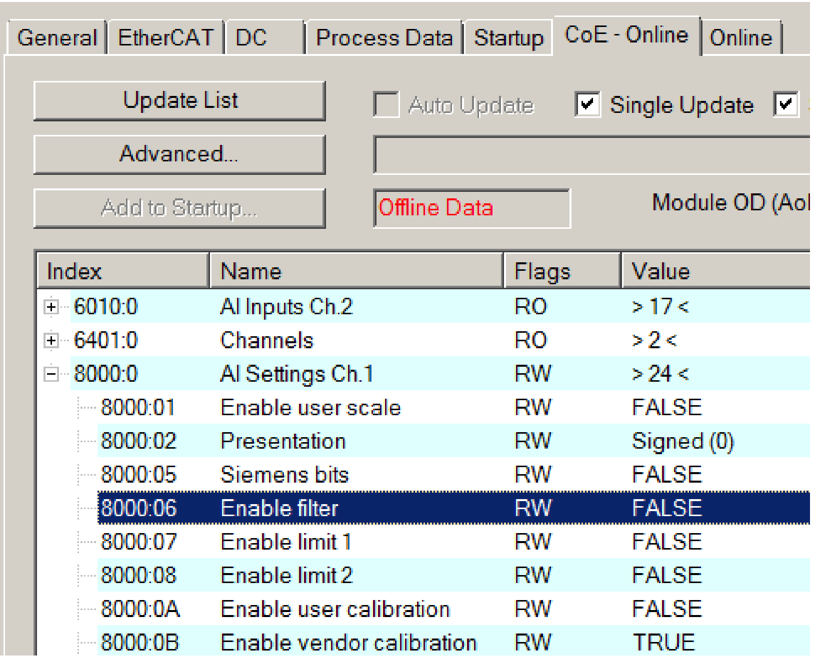


Fig. 102: EL3102, CoE directory

EtherCAT System Documentation

The comprehensive description in the EtherCAT System Documentation (EtherCAT Basics --> CoE Interface) must be observed!

A few brief extracts:

- Whether changes in the online directory are saved locally in the slave depends on the device. EL terminals (except the EL66xx) are able to save in this way.
- The user must manage the changes to the StartUp list.

Commissioning aid in the TwinCAT System Manager

Commissioning interfaces are being introduced as part of an ongoing process for EL/EP EtherCAT devices. These are available in TwinCAT System Managers from TwinCAT 2.11R2 and above. They are integrated into the System Manager through appropriately extended ESI configuration files.

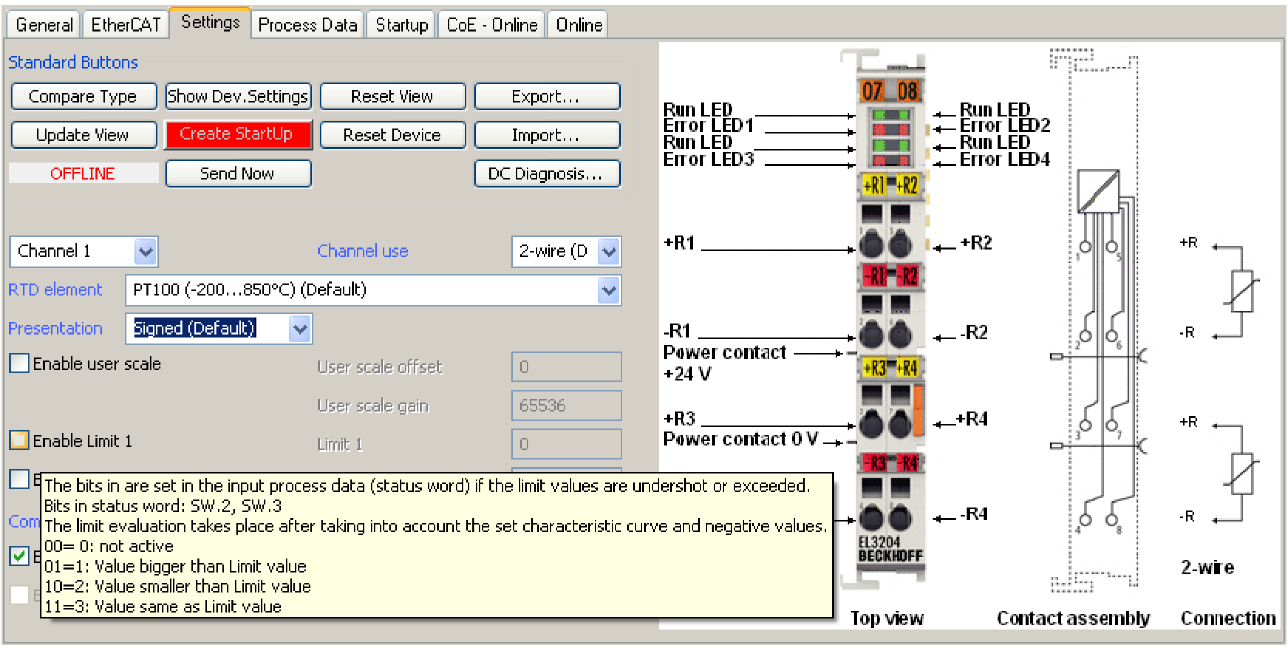


Fig. 103: Example of commissioning aid for a EL3204

This commissioning process simultaneously manages

- CoE Parameter Directory
- DC/FreeRun mode
- the available process data records (PDO)

Although the “Process Data”, “DC”, “Startup” and “CoE-Online” that used to be necessary for this are still displayed, it is recommended that, if the commissioning aid is used, the automatically generated settings are not changed by it.

The commissioning tool does not cover every possible application of an EL/EP device. If the available setting options are not adequate, the user can make the DC, PDO and CoE settings manually, as in the past.

EtherCAT State: automatic default behaviour of the TwinCAT System Manager and manual operation

After the operating power is switched on, an EtherCAT Slave must go through the following statuses

- INIT
- PREOP
- SAFEOP
- OP

to ensure sound operation. The EtherCAT Master directs these statuses in accordance with the initialization routines that are defined for commissioning the device by the ES/XML and user settings (Distributed Clocks (DC), PDO, CoE). See also the section on "Principles of Communication, EtherCAT State Machine [▶ 20]" in this connection. Depending how much configuration has to be done, and on the overall communication, booting can take up to a few seconds.

The EtherCAT Master itself must go through these routines when starting, until it has reached at least the OP target state.

The target state wanted by the user, and which is brought about automatically at start-up by TwinCAT, can be set in the System Manager. As soon as TwinCAT reaches the status RUN, the TwinCAT EtherCAT Master will approach the target states.

Standard setting

The advanced settings of the EtherCAT Master are set as standard:

- EtherCAT Master: OP
- Slaves: OP
  This setting applies equally to all Slaves.

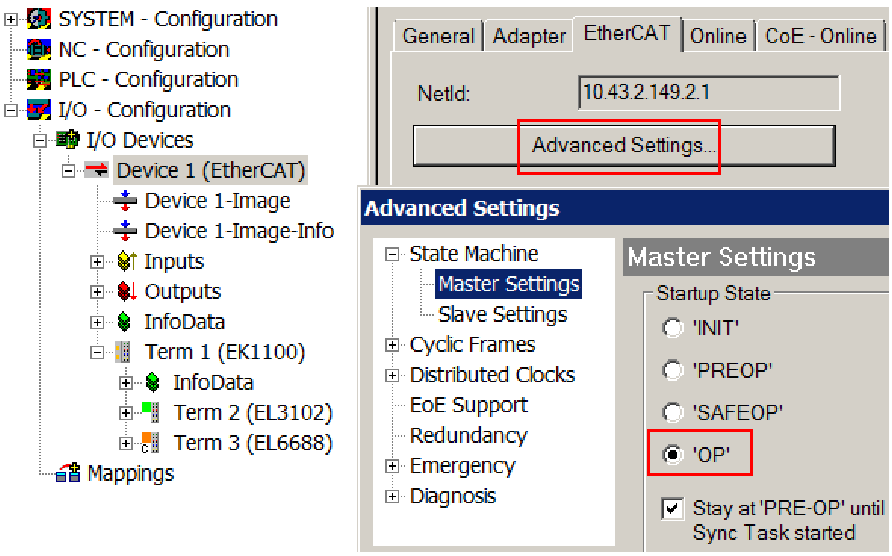


Fig. 104: Default behaviour of the System Manager

In addition, the target state of any particular Slave can be set in the “Advanced Settings” dialogue; the standard setting is again OP.

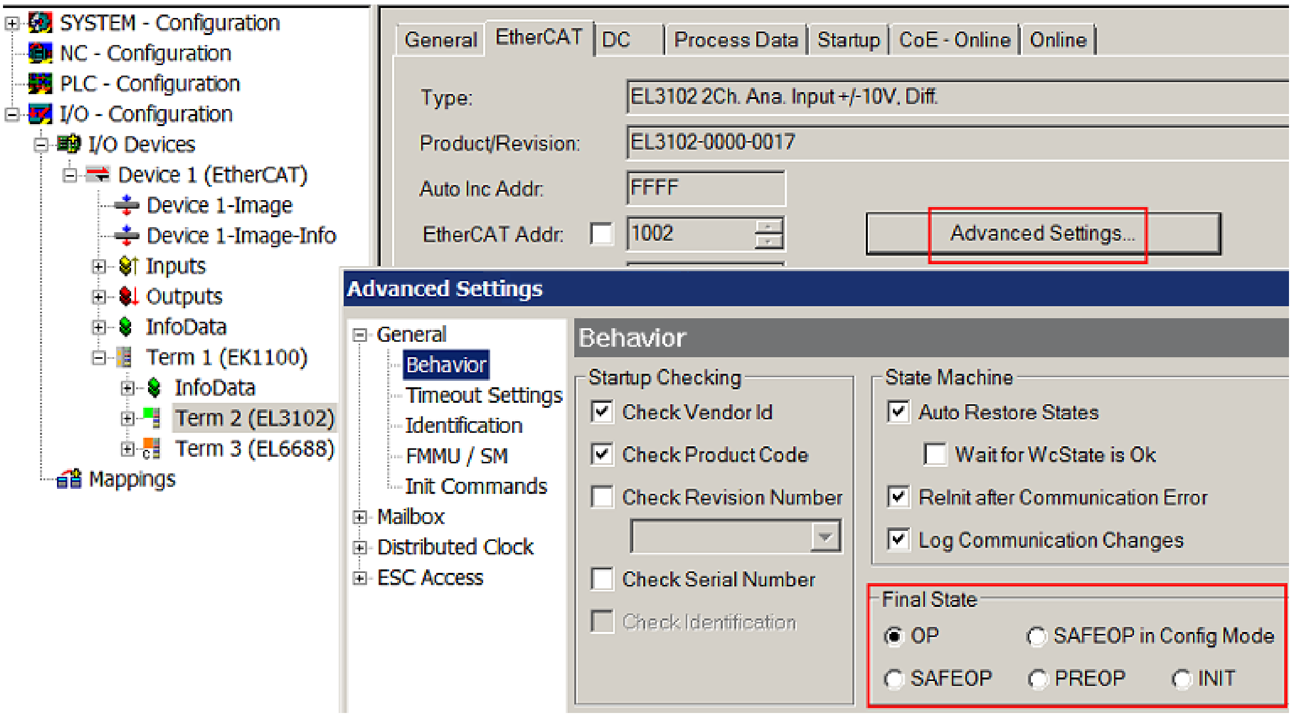


Fig. 105: Default target state in the Slave

Manual Control

There are particular reasons why it may be appropriate to control the states from the application/task/PLC. For instance:

- for diagnostic reasons
- to induce a controlled restart of axes
- because a change in the times involved in starting is desirable

In that case it is appropriate in the PLC application to use the PLC function blocks from the *TcEtherCAT.lib*, which is available as standard, and to work through the states in a controlled manner using, for instance, *FB_EcSetMasterState*.

It is then useful to put the settings in the EtherCAT Master to INIT for master and slave.

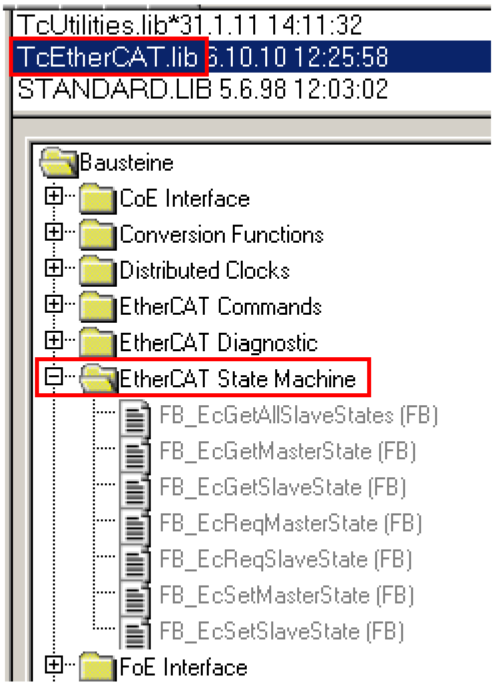
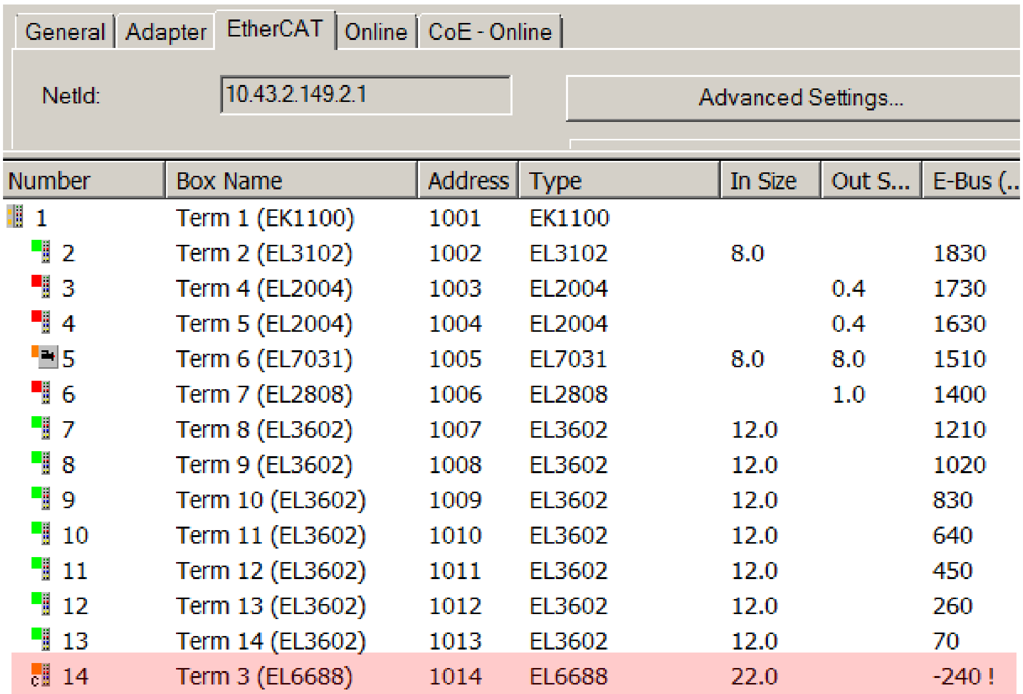


Fig. 106: PLC function blocks

Note regarding E-Bus current

EL/ES terminals are placed on the DIN rail at a coupler on the terminal strand. A Bus Coupler can supply the EL terminals added to it with the E-bus system voltage of 5 V; a coupler is thereby loadable up to 2 A as a rule. Information on how much current each EL terminal requires from the E-bus supply is available online and in the catalogue. If the added terminals require more current than the coupler can supply, then power feed terminals (e.g. EL9410) must be inserted at appropriate places in the terminal strand.

The pre-calculated theoretical maximum E-Bus current is displayed in the TwinCAT System Manager as a column value. A shortfall is marked by a negative total amount and an exclamation mark; a power feed terminal is to be placed before such a position.



Number	Box Name	Address	Type	In Size	Out S...	E-Bus (..
1	Term 1 (EK1100)	1001	EK1100			
2	Term 2 (EL3102)	1002	EL3102	8.0		1830
3	Term 4 (EL2004)	1003	EL2004		0.4	1730
4	Term 5 (EL2004)	1004	EL2004		0.4	1630
5	Term 6 (EL7031)	1005	EL7031	8.0	8.0	1510
6	Term 7 (EL2808)	1006	EL2808		1.0	1400
7	Term 8 (EL3602)	1007	EL3602	12.0		1210
8	Term 9 (EL3602)	1008	EL3602	12.0		1020
9	Term 10 (EL3602)	1009	EL3602	12.0		830
10	Term 11 (EL3602)	1010	EL3602	12.0		640
11	Term 12 (EL3602)	1011	EL3602	12.0		450
12	Term 13 (EL3602)	1012	EL3602	12.0		260
13	Term 14 (EL3602)	1013	EL3602	12.0		70
14	Term 3 (EL6688)	1014	EL6688	22.0		-240 !

Fig. 107: Illegally exceeding the E-Bus current

From TwinCAT 2.11 and above, a warning message “E-Bus Power of Terminal...” is output in the logger window when such a configuration is activated:

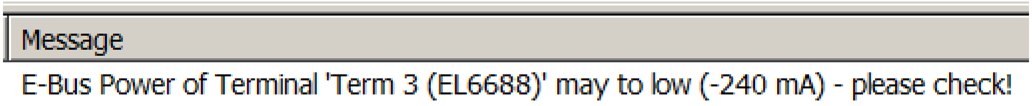


Fig. 108: Warning message for exceeding E-Bus current

NOTICE
Caution! Malfunction possible!
The same ground potential must be used for the E-Bus supply of all EtherCAT terminals in a terminal block!

7.3 Notes on commissioning EL6685-00x0

NOTICE

Basic information on distributed clocks (DC)

The EL6685-00x0 is an EtherCAT slave for time synchronization. Please regard the explanations in the EtherCAT system documentation from chapter "EtherCAT synchronization".

The EL6685-00x0 serves as a reference clock in the EtherCAT network and should be used physically as the first device in the EtherCAT Terminal network (closest possible position to the EtherCAT master). The EL6685 is automatically selected as the EtherCAT master for the reference clock. This increases the time accuracy, as the first terminal in the network is best suited as a reference.

When operating on an IPC, an EK1100 Coupler is required, which is typically the first distributed clock device. The DC capability of the coupler must be disabled manually so that the EtherCAT master as the first DC device selects the EL6685-00x0 as the reference clock.

The specifications of the EL6685-00x0 are shown below:

Specification	EL6685	EL6685-0010	Unit	Conditions
Oscillator basic accuracy*)	±5000	±275	ppb	includes frequency characteristics such as initial tolerance, frequency/ temperature, frequency/load, frequency/ voltage characteristics and ageing (constant temperature, 20 years)
1-day stability (max.)	±50	±0.5	ppb	Operating temperature 25 °C, 1 day, after 48 hours of continuous operation
1-day stability (typ.)	±10	±0.2	ppb	Operating temperature 25 °C, 1 day, after 30 days of continuous operation
1-year stability*)	±600	±100	ppb	The aging resistance is assessed on the basis of reliability tests under environmental conditions and the expected frequency fluctuations over time.
Temperature deviation	±130	±0.4	ppb/°C	Over the operating temperature range (max. 1 K/minute)

*) This does not constitute a guarantee of performance over the entire product life cycle.

8 Appendix

8.1 EtherCAT AL Status Codes

For detailed information please refer to the EtherCAT system description.

8.2 Firmware compatibility

Beckhoff EtherCAT devices are delivered with the latest available firmware version. Compatibility of firmware and hardware is mandatory; not every combination ensures compatibility. The overview below shows the hardware versions on which a firmware can be operated.

Note

- It is recommended to use the newest possible firmware for the respective hardware
- Beckhoff is not under any obligation to provide customers with free firmware updates for delivered products.

NOTICE

Risk of damage to the device!

Pay attention to the instructions for firmware updates on the separate page [▶ 110].
If a device is placed in BOOTSTRAP mode for a firmware update, it does not check when downloading whether the new firmware is suitable.
This can result in damage to the device! Therefore, always make sure that the firmware is suitable for the hardware version!

EL6688			
Hardware (HW)	**Firmware (FW)**	**Revision no.**	**Release date**
00*)	01*)	EL6685-0000/0016	03/2025

*) This is the current compatible firmware/hardware version at the time of the preparing this documentation. Check on the Beckhoff web page whether more up-to-date documentation is available.

8.3 Firmware Update EL/ES/EM/ELM/EP/EPP/ERPxxxx

This section describes the device update for Beckhoff EtherCAT slaves from the EL/ES, ELM, EM, EK, EP, EPP and ERP series. A firmware update should only be carried out after consultation with Beckhoff support.

NOTICE

Only use TwinCAT 3 software!

A firmware update of Beckhoff IO devices must only be performed with a TwinCAT 3 installation. It is recommended to build as up-to-date as possible, available for free download on the Beckhoff website.

To update the firmware, TwinCAT can be operated in the so-called FreeRun mode, a paid license is not required.

The device to be updated can usually remain in the installation location, but TwinCAT has to be operated in the FreeRun. Please make sure that EtherCAT communication is trouble-free (no LostFrames etc.).

Other EtherCAT master software, such as the EtherCAT Configurator, should not be used, as they may not support the complexities of updating firmware, EEPROM and other device components.

Storage locations

An EtherCAT slave stores operating data in up to three locations:

- Each EtherCAT slave has a device description, consisting of identity (name, product code), timing specifications, communication settings, etc.
  This device description (ESI; EtherCAT Slave Information) can be downloaded from the Beckhoff website in the download area as a zip file and used in EtherCAT masters for offline configuration, e.g. in TwinCAT.
  Above all, each EtherCAT slave carries its device description (ESI) electronically readable in a local memory chip, the so-called **ESI EEPROM**. When the slave is switched on, this description is loaded locally in the slave and informs it of its communication configuration; on the other hand, the EtherCAT master can identify the slave in this way and, among other things, set up the EtherCAT communication accordingly.

NOTICE

Application-specific writing of the ESI-EEPROM

The ESI is developed by the device manufacturer according to ETG standard and released for the corresponding product.
- Meaning for the ESI file: Modification on the application side (i.e. by the user) is not permitted.
- Meaning for the ESI EEPROM: Even if a writeability is technically given, the ESI parts in the EEPROM and possibly still existing free memory areas must not be changed beyond the normal update process. Especially for cyclic memory processes (operating hours counter etc.), dedicated memory products such as EL6080 or IPC's own NOVRAM must be used.

- Depending on functionality and performance EtherCAT slaves have one or several local controllers for processing I/O data. The corresponding program is the so-called **firmware** in *.efw format.
- In some EtherCAT slaves the EtherCAT communication may also be integrated in these controllers. In this case the controller is usually a so-called **FPGA** chip with *.rbf firmware.

Customers can access the data via the EtherCAT fieldbus and its communication mechanisms. Acyclic mailbox communication or register access to the ESC is used for updating or reading of these data.

The TwinCAT System Manager offers mechanisms for programming all three parts with new data, if the slave is set up for this purpose. Generally the slave does not check whether the new data are suitable, i.e. it may no longer be able to operate if the data are unsuitable.

Simplified update by bundle firmware

The update using so-called **bundle firmware** is more convenient: in this case the controller firmware and the ESI description are combined in a *.efw file; during the update both the firmware and the ESI are changed in the terminal. For this to happen it is necessary

- for the firmware to be in a packed format: recognizable by the file name, which also contains the revision number, e.g. ELxxxx-xxxx_REV0016_SW01.efw

- for password=1 to be entered in the download dialog. If password=0 (default setting) only the firmware update is carried out, without an ESI update.
- for the device to support this function. The function usually cannot be retrofitted; it is a component of many new developments from year of manufacture 2016.

Following the update, its success should be verified

- ESI/Revision: e.g. by means of an online scan in TwinCAT ConfigMode/FreeRun – this is a convenient way to determine the revision
- Firmware: e.g. by looking in the online CoE of the device

NOTICE

Risk of damage to the device!

✓ Note the following when downloading new device files

a) Firmware downloads to an EtherCAT device must not be interrupted

b) Flawless EtherCAT communication must be ensured. CRC errors or LostFrames must be avoided.

c) The power supply must adequately dimensioned. The signal level must meet the specification.

⇨ In the event of malfunctions during the update process the EtherCAT device may become unusable and require re-commissioning by the manufacturer.

8.3.1 Device description ESI file/XML

NOTICE

Attention regarding update of the ESI description/EEPROM

Some slaves have stored calibration and configuration data from the production in the EEPROM. These are irretrievably overwritten during an update.

The ESI device description is stored locally on the slave and loaded on start-up. Each device description has a unique identifier consisting of slave name (9 characters/digits) and a revision number (4 digits). Each slave configured in the System Manager shows its identifier in the EtherCAT tab:

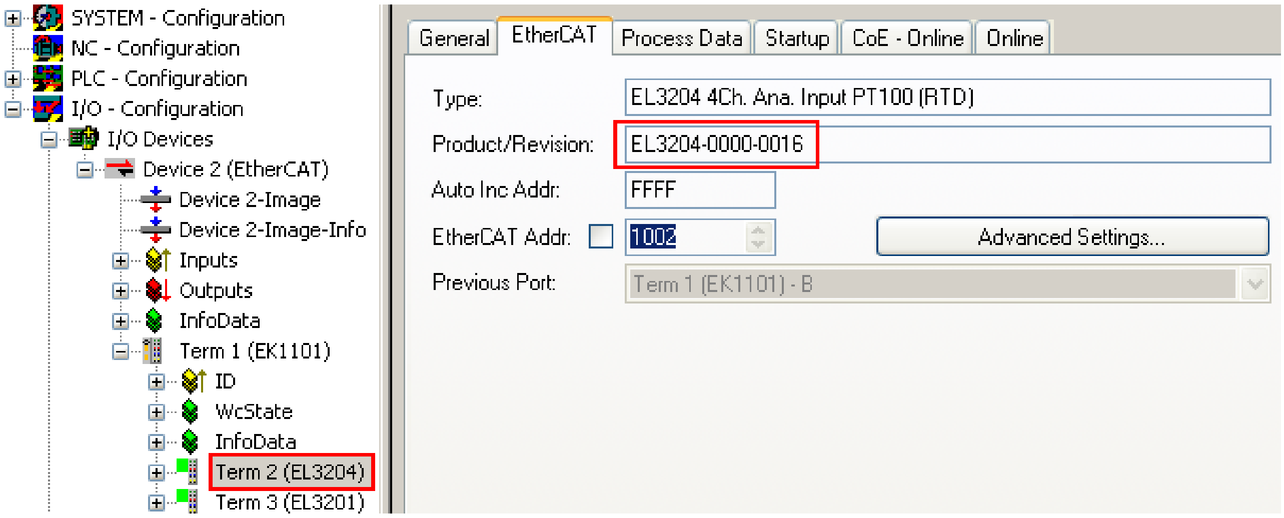


Fig. 109: Device identifier consisting of name EL3204-0000 and revision -0016

The configured identifier must be compatible with the actual device description used as hardware, i.e. the description which the slave has loaded on start-up (in this case EL3204). Normally the configured revision must be the same or lower than that actually present in the terminal network.

For further information on this, please refer to the EtherCAT system documentation.

Update of XML/ESI description

The device revision is closely linked to the firmware and hardware used. Incompatible combinations lead to malfunctions or even final shutdown of the device. Corresponding updates should only be carried out in consultation with Beckhoff support.

Display of ESI slave identifier

The simplest way to ascertain compliance of configured and actual device description is to scan the EtherCAT boxes in TwinCAT mode Config/FreeRun:

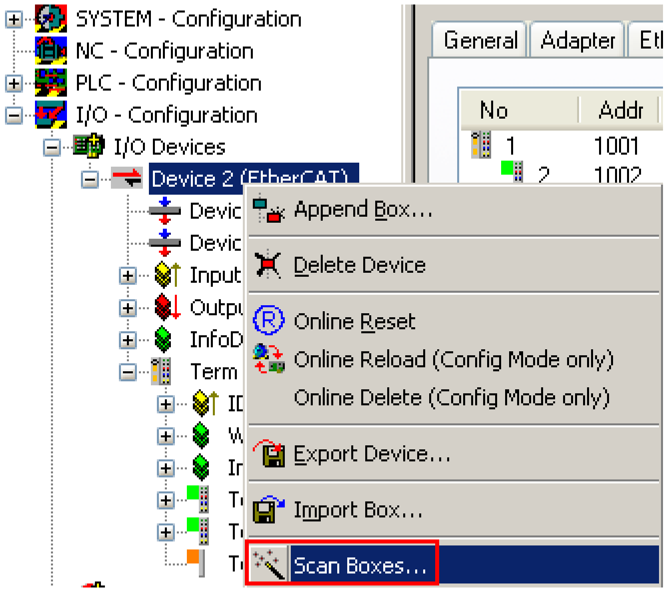


Fig. 110: Scan the subordinate field by right-clicking on the EtherCAT device

If the found field matches the configured field, the display shows

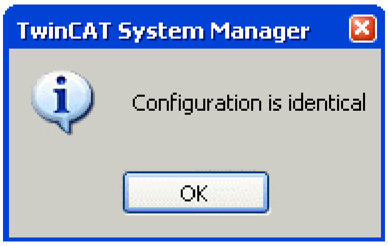


Fig. 111: Configuration is identical

otherwise a change dialog appears for entering the actual data in the configuration.

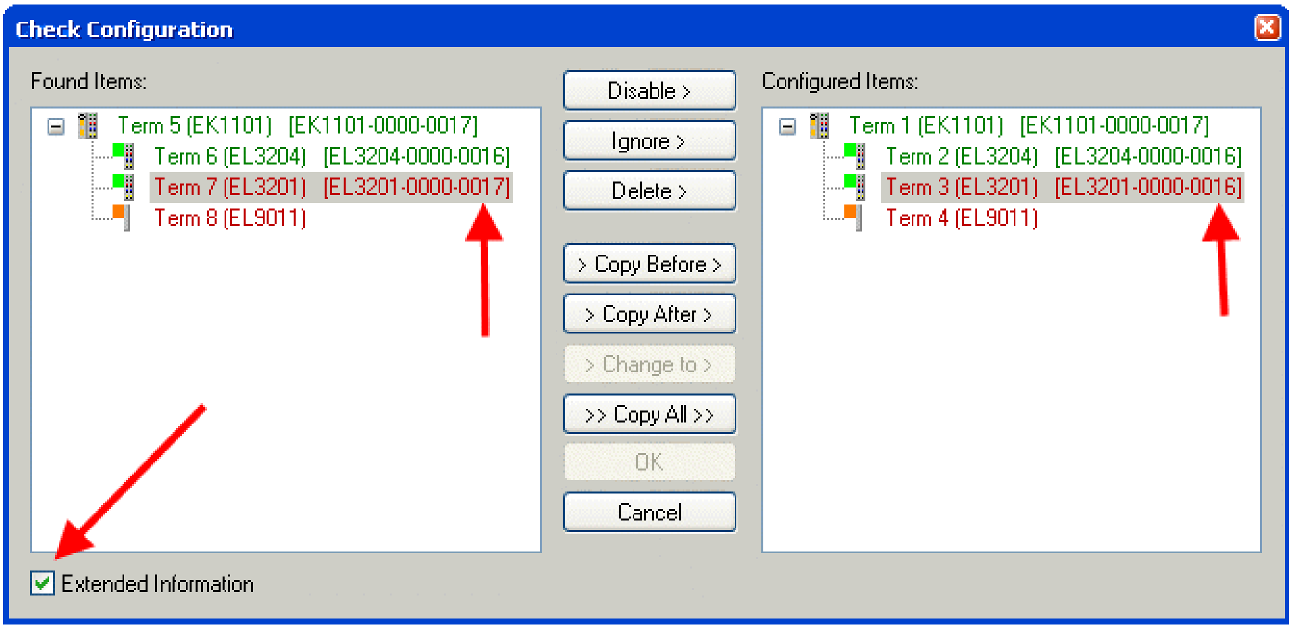


Fig. 112: Change dialog

In this example in Fig. *Change dialog*, an EL3201-0000-**0017** was found, while an EL3201-0000-**0016** was configured. In this case the configuration can be adapted with the *Copy Before* button. The *Extended Information* checkbox must be set in order to display the revision.

Changing the ESI slave identifier

The ESI/EEPROM identifier can be updated as follows under TwinCAT:

- Trouble-free EtherCAT communication must be established with the slave.
- The state of the slave is irrelevant.
- Right-clicking on the slave in the online display opens the *EEPROM Update* dialog, Fig. *EEPROM Update*

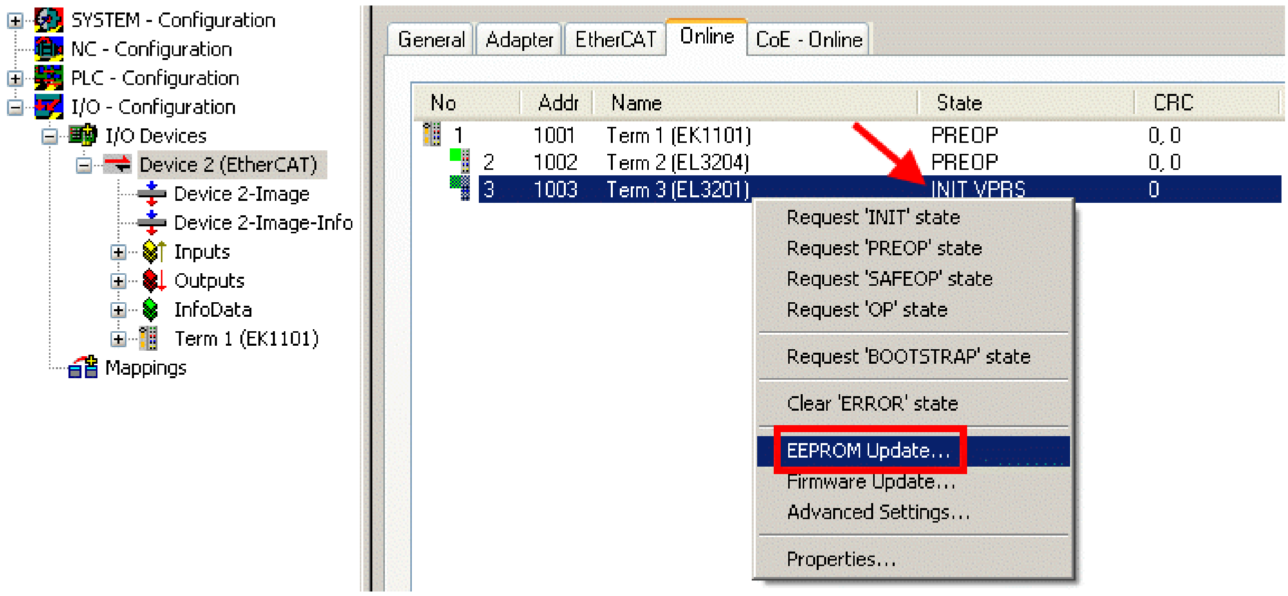


Fig. 113: EEPROM Update

The new ESI description is selected in the following dialog, see Fig. *Selecting the new ESI.* The checkbox *Show Hidden Devices* also displays older, normally hidden versions of a slave.

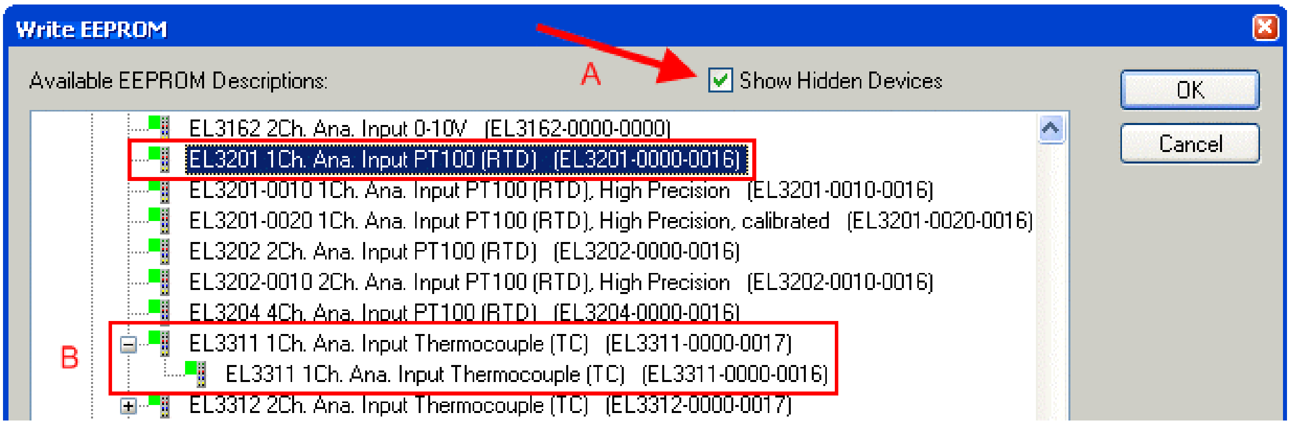


Fig. 114: Selecting the new ESI

A progress bar in the System Manager shows the progress. Data are first written, then verified.

The change only takes effect after a restart.

Most EtherCAT devices read a modified ESI description immediately or after startup from the INIT. Some communication settings such as distributed clocks are only read during power-on. The EtherCAT slave therefore has to be switched off briefly in order for the change to take effect.

8.3.2 Firmware explanation

Determining the firmware version

Determining the version via the TwinCAT System Manager

The TwinCAT System Manager shows the version of the controller firmware if the master can access the slave online. Click on the E-Bus Terminal whose controller firmware you want to check (in the example terminal 2 (EL3204)) and select the tab *CoE Online* (CAN over EtherCAT).

CoE Online and Offline CoE

Two CoE directories are available:
• **online**: This is offered in the EtherCAT slave by the controller, if the EtherCAT slave supports this. This CoE directory can only be displayed if a slave is connected and operational.
• **offline**: The EtherCAT Slave Information ESI/XML may contain the default content of the CoE. This CoE directory can only be displayed if it is included in the ESI (e.g. “Beckhoff EL5xxx.xml”).

The Advanced button must be used for switching between the two views.

In Fig. *Display of EL3204 firmware version* the firmware version of the selected EL3204 is shown as 03 in CoE entry 0x100A.

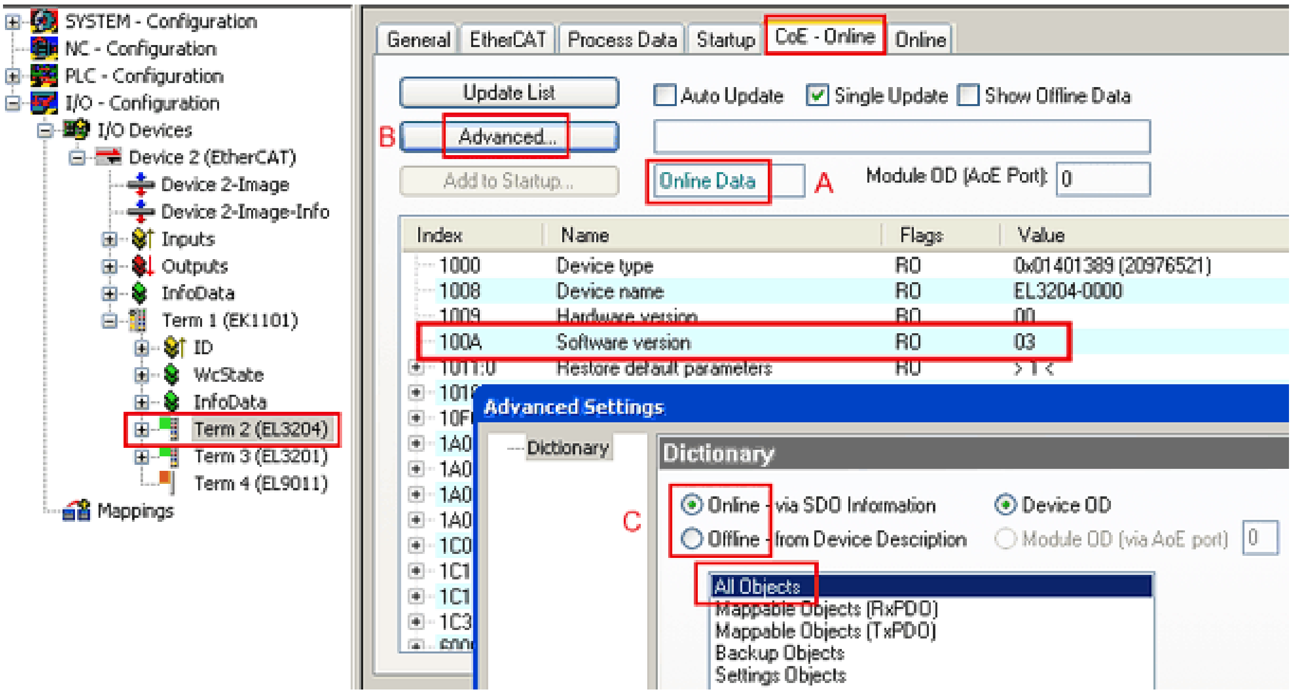


Fig. 115: Display of EL3204 firmware version

In (A) TwinCAT 2.11 shows that the Online CoE directory is currently displayed. If this is not the case, the Online directory can be loaded via the *Online* option in Advanced Settings (B) and double-clicking on *AllObjects*.

8.3.3 Updating controller firmware *.efw

CoE directory

The Online CoE directory is managed by the controller and stored in a dedicated EEPROM, which is generally not changed during a firmware update.

Switch to the *Online* tab to update the controller firmware of a slave, see Fig. *Firmware Update.*

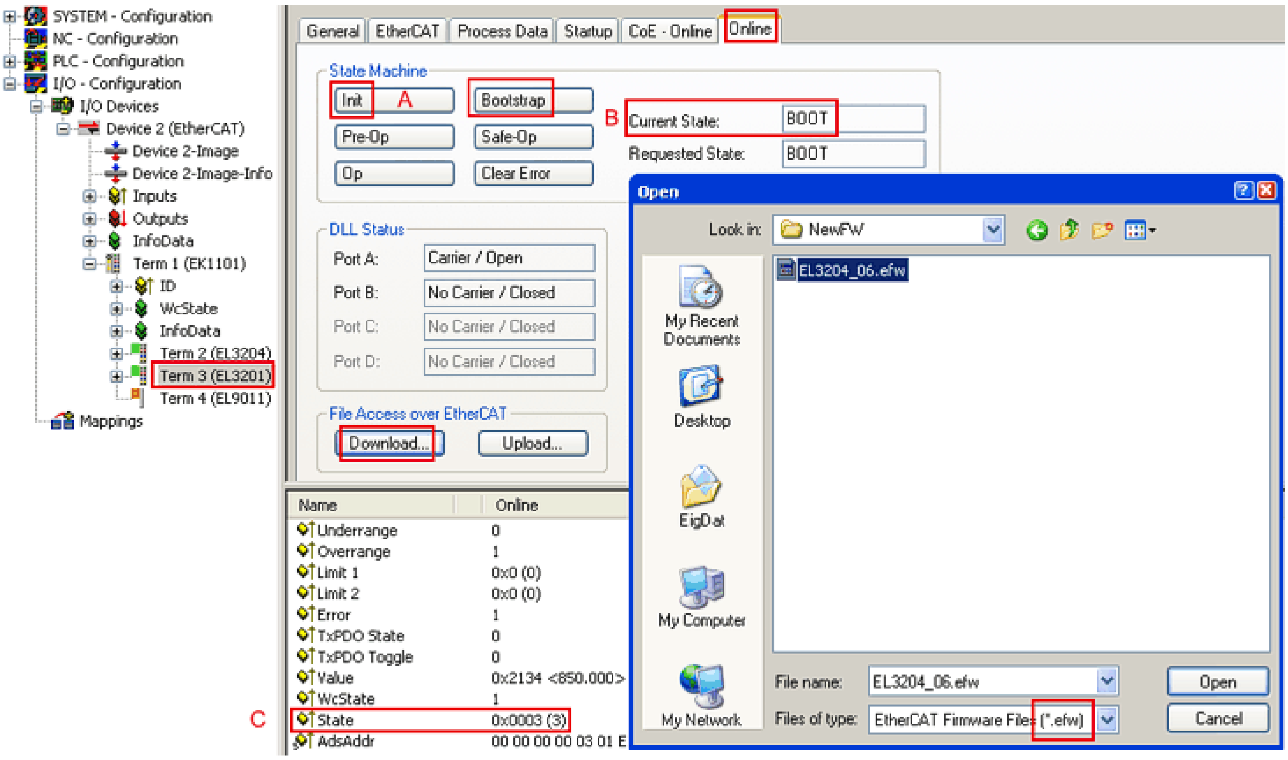
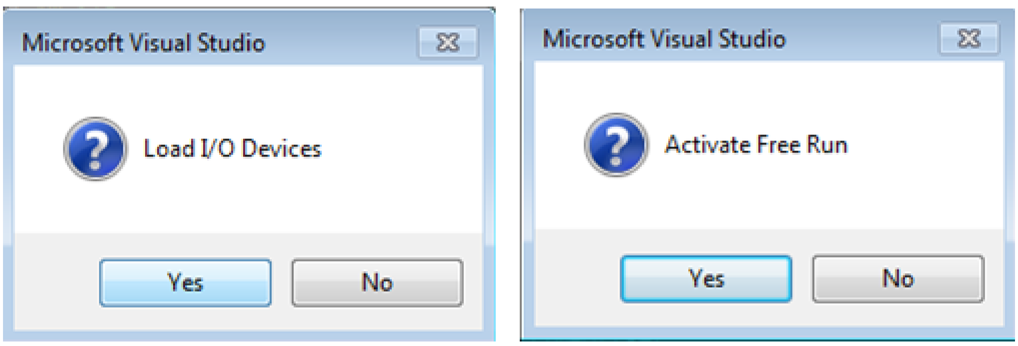


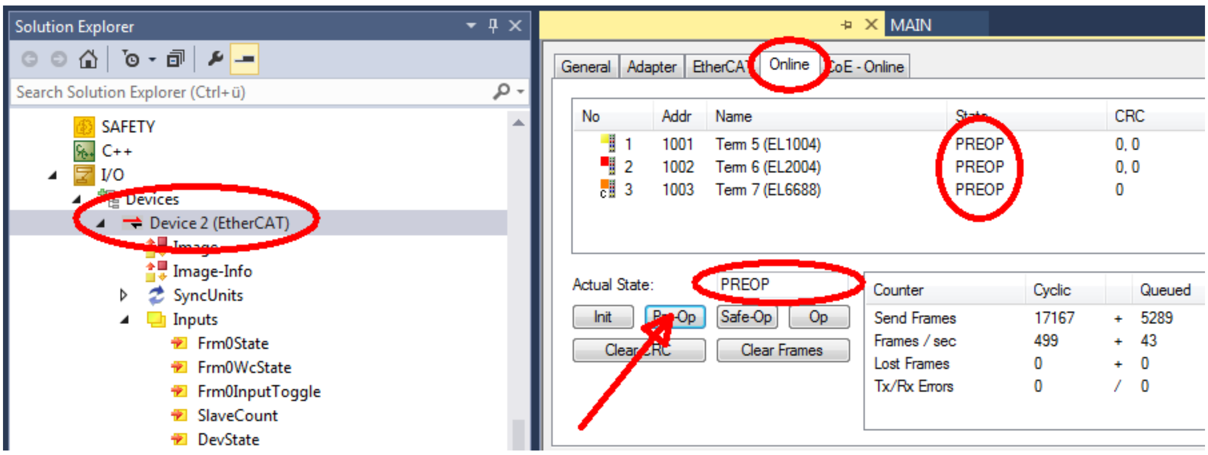
Fig. 116: Firmware Update

Proceed as follows, unless instructed otherwise by Beckhoff support. Valid for TwinCAT 2 and 3 as EtherCAT master.

- Switch TwinCAT system to ConfigMode/FreeRun with cycle time >= 1 ms (default in ConfigMode is 4 ms). A FW-Update during real time operation is not recommended.

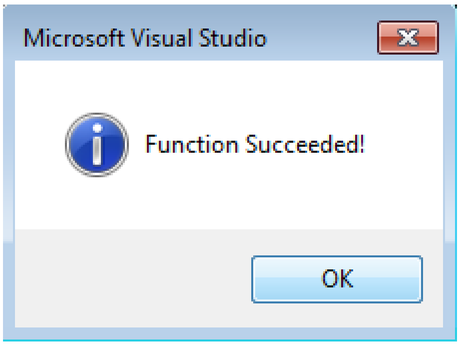


- Switch EtherCAT Master to PreOP



- Switch slave to INIT (A)
- Switch slave to BOOTSTRAP

- Check the current status (B, C)
- Download the new *efw file (wait until it ends). A password will not be necessary usually.



- After the download switch to INIT, then PreOP
- Switch off the slave briefly (don't pull under voltage!)
- Check within CoE 0x100A, if the FW status was correctly overtaken.

8.3.4 FPGA firmware *.rbf

If an FPGA chip deals with the EtherCAT communication an update may be accomplished via an *.rbf file.

- Controller firmware for processing I/O signals
- FPGA firmware for EtherCAT communication (only for terminals with FPGA)

The firmware version number included in the terminal serial number contains both firmware components. If one of these firmware components is modified this version number is updated.

Determining the version via the TwinCAT System Manager

The TwinCAT System Manager indicates the FPGA firmware version. Click on the Ethernet card of your EtherCAT strand (Device 2 in the example) and select the *Online* tab.

The *Reg:0002* column indicates the firmware version of the individual EtherCAT devices in hexadecimal and decimal representation.

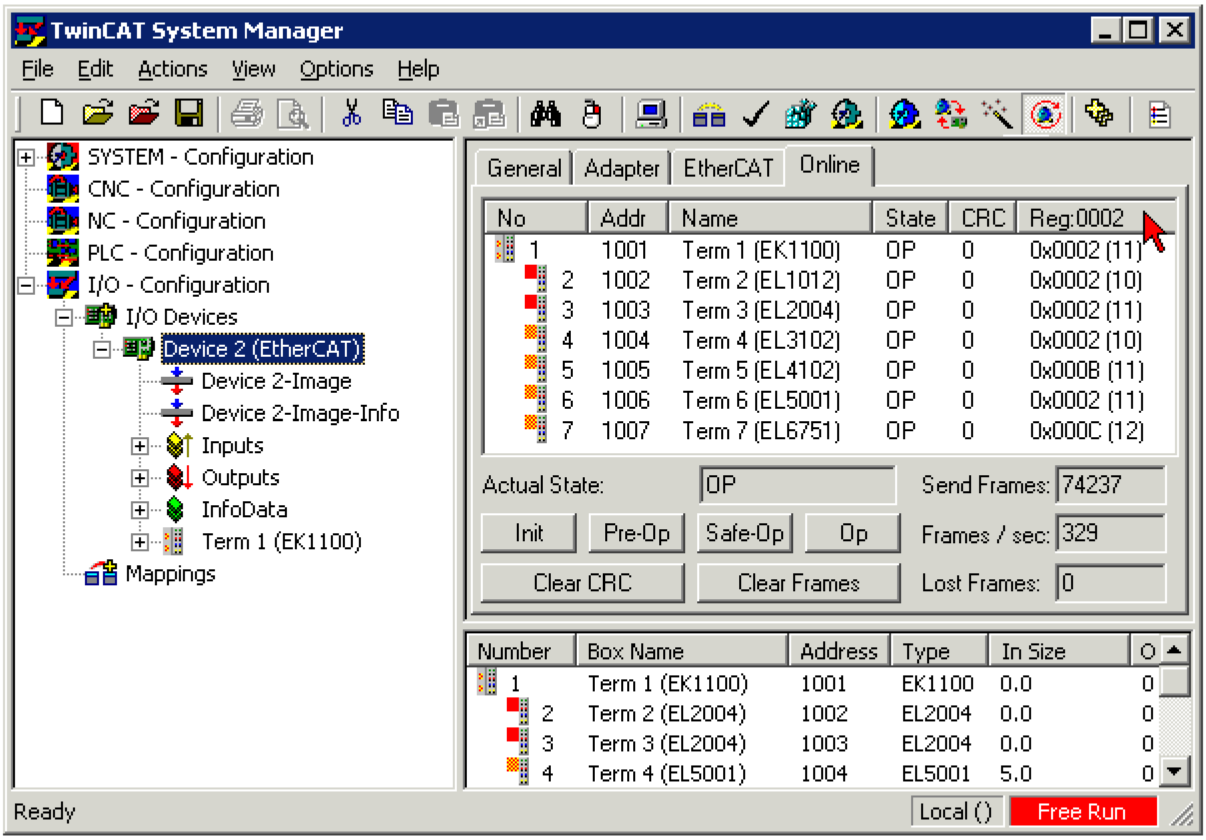


Fig. 117: FPGA firmware version definition

If the column *Reg:0002* is not displayed, right-click the table header and select *Properties* in the context menu.

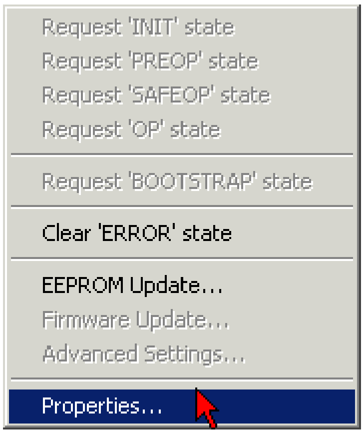


Fig. 118: Context menu *Properties*

The *Advanced Settings* dialog appears where the columns to be displayed can be selected. Under *Diagnosis/***Online View** select the *'0002 ETxxxx Build'* check box in order to activate the FPGA firmware version display.

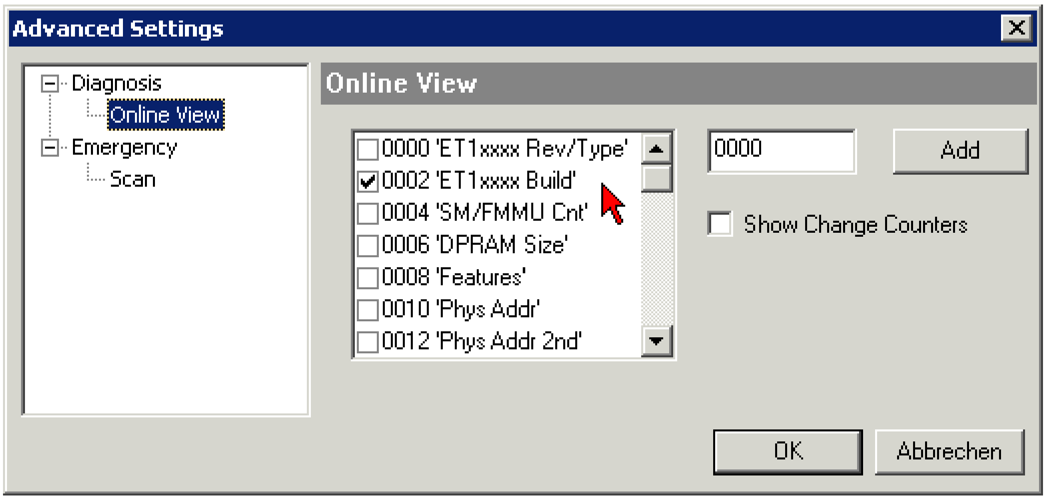


Fig. 119: Dialog *Advanced Settings*

Update

For updating the FPGA firmware

- of an EtherCAT coupler the coupler must have FPGA firmware version 11 or higher;
- of an E-Bus Terminal the terminal must have FPGA firmware version 10 or higher.

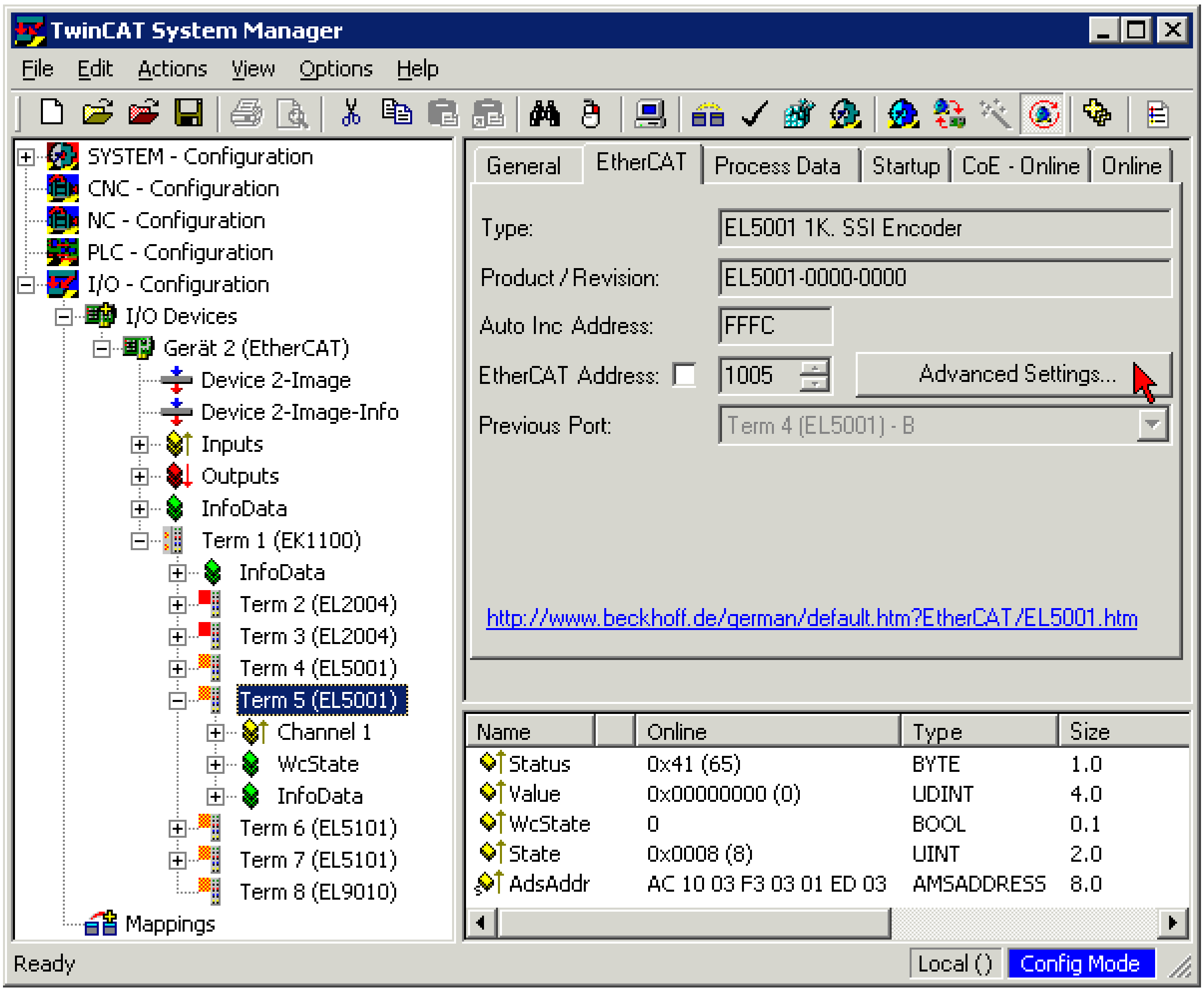
Older firmware versions can only be updated by the manufacturer!

Updating an EtherCAT device

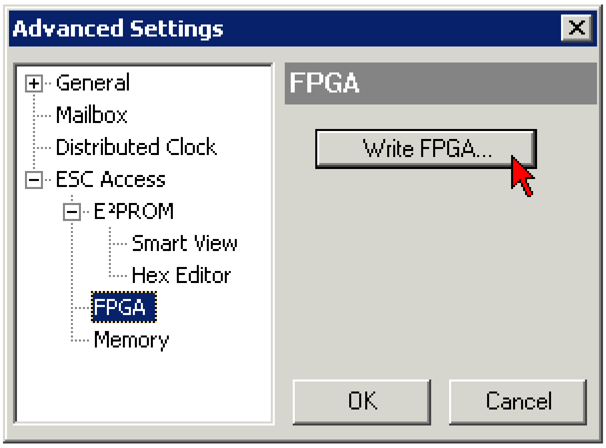
The following sequence order have to be met if no other specifications are given (e.g. by the Beckhoff support):

- Switch TwinCAT system to ConfigMode/FreeRun with cycle time >= 1 ms (default in ConfigMode is 4 ms). A FW-Update during real time operation is not recommended.

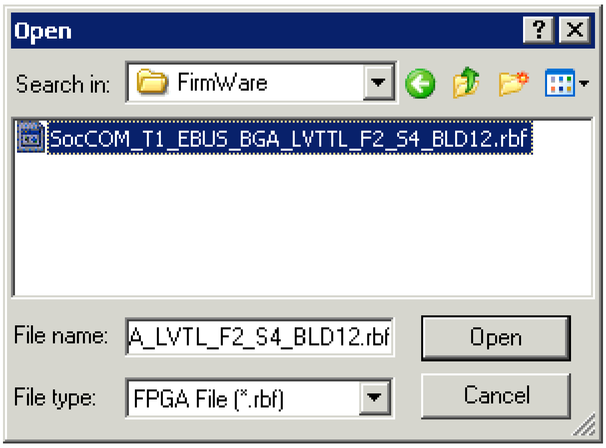
- In the TwinCAT System Manager select the terminal for which the FPGA firmware is to be updated (in the example: Terminal 5: EL5001) and
click the *Advanced Settings* button in the *EtherCAT* tab:



- The *Advanced Settings* dialog appears. Under *ESC Access/E²PROM*/FPGA click on *Write FPGA* button:



- Select the file (*.rbf) with the new FPGA firmware, and transfer it to the EtherCAT device:



- Wait until download ends
- Switch slave current less for a short time (don't pull under voltage!). In order to activate the new FPGA firmware a restart (switching the power supply off and on again) of the EtherCAT device is required.
- Check the new FPGA status

NOTICE

Risk of damage to the device!

A download of firmware to an EtherCAT device must not be interrupted in any case! If you interrupt this process by switching off power supply or disconnecting the Ethernet link, the EtherCAT device can only be recommissioned by the manufacturer!

8.3.5 Simultaneous updating of several EtherCAT devices

The firmware and ESI descriptions of several devices can be updated simultaneously, provided the devices have the same firmware file/ESI.

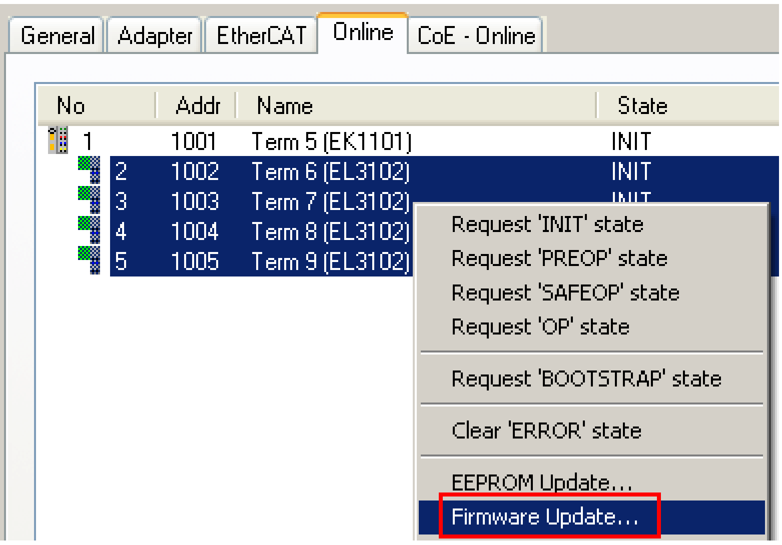


Fig. 120: Multiple selection and firmware update

Select the required slaves and carry out the firmware update in BOOTSTRAP mode as described above.

8.4 Restoring the delivery state

To restore the delivery state (factory settings) of CoE objects for EtherCAT devices (“slaves”), the CoE object *Restore default parameters*, SubIndex 001 can be used via EtherCAT master (e.g. TwinCAT) (see Fig. *Selecting the Restore default parameters PDO*).

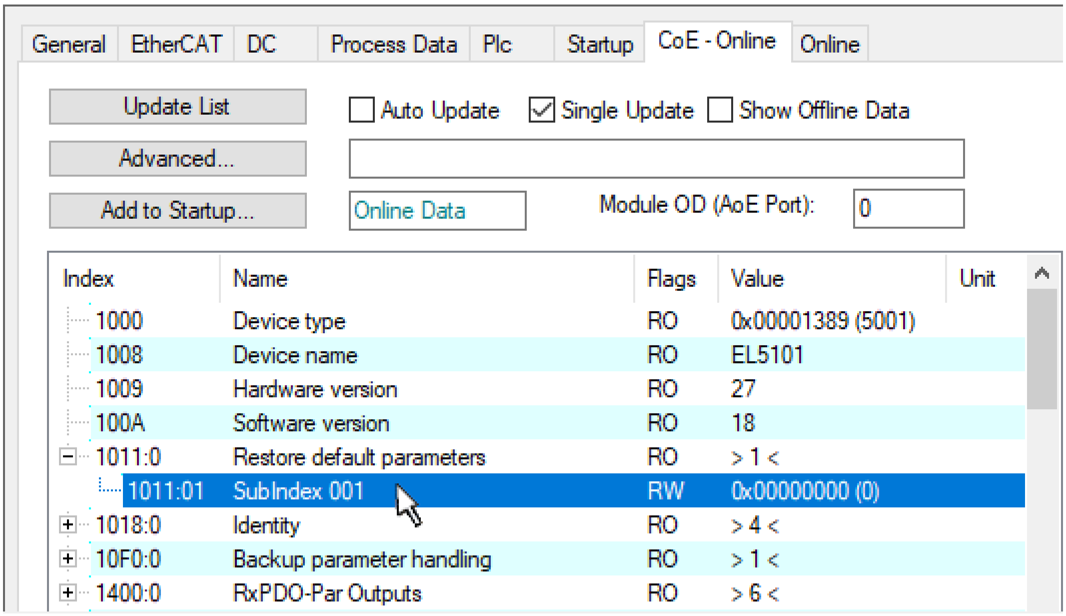


Fig. 121: Selecting the *Restore default parameters* PDO

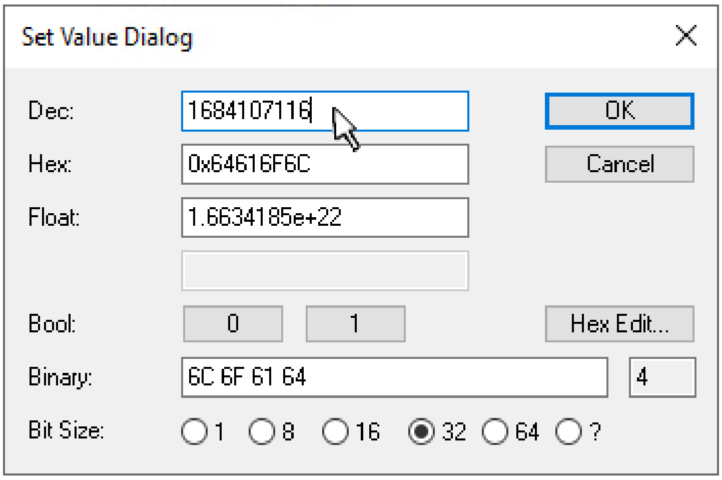


Fig. 122: Entering a restore value in the Set Value dialog

Double-click on *SubIndex 001* to enter the Set Value dialog. Enter the reset value **1684107116** in field *Dec* or the value **0x64616F6C** in field *Hex* (ASCII: “load”) and confirm with *OK* (Fig. *Entering a restore value in the Set Value dialog*).

- All changeable entries in the slave are reset to the default values.
- The values can only be successfully restored if the reset is directly applied to the online CoE, i.e. to the slave. No values can be changed in the offline CoE.
- TwinCAT must be in the RUN or CONFIG/Freerun state for this; that means EtherCAT data exchange takes place. Ensure error-free EtherCAT transmission.
- No separate confirmation takes place due to the reset. A changeable object can be manipulated beforehand for the purposes of checking.
- This reset procedure can also be adopted as the first entry in the startup list of the slave, e.g. in the state transition PREOP->SAFEOP or, as in Fig. *CoE reset as a startup entry*, in SAFEOP->OP.

All backup objects are reset to the delivery state.

Alternative restore value

In some older terminals (FW creation approx. before 2007) the backup objects can be switched with an alternative restore value: Decimal value: 1819238756, Hexadecimal value: 0x6C6F6164.

An incorrect entry for the restore value has no effect.

8.5 Support and Service

Beckhoff and their partners around the world offer comprehensive support and service, making available fast and competent assistance with all questions related to Beckhoff products and system solutions.

Beckhoff's branch offices and representatives

Please contact your Beckhoff branch office or representative for local support and service on Beckhoff products!

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web:	www.beckhoff.com/service

Headquarters Germany

Beckhoff Automation GmbH & Co. KG

Hülshorstweg 20
33415 Verl
Germany

Phone:	+49 5246 963 0
e-mail:	info@beckhoff.com
web:	www.beckhoff.com

More Information:
www.beckhoff.com/EL6685

Beckhoff Automation GmbH & Co. KG
Hülshorstweg 20
33415 Verl
Germany
Phone: +49 5246 9630
info@beckhoff.com
www.beckhoff.com