

Using MacroStar

Installation

Start the installation by doubleclicking the installation file. It will ask you for a folder to install the program. You may create a new folder called MacroStar.

All required drivers and configuration files will be copied into that folder. No entry to any other directory or to the Windows Registry will be done.

Starting the Program

Start the MacroStar programming environment by doubleclicking Macrostar.exe in the directory where you installed it. There will be no entry in the Windows program list.

On the left side you will see the Management window. On the right side is the work space.

The Management Window

There are tabs for Variables, ASCII Commands, Macros and Modules. On each tab there is a tree with different functions or function groups. Groups can be opened by clicking the "+" sign.

Short information about most functions and variables is available by holding the mouse cursor above the requested function.

All variables and functions can be used by dragging them with the mouse cursor into the workspace window.

The Workspace Window

The workspace window is separated into tabs representing the different tasks usable in a macro program:

PLCINIT is executed once at the start of the drive.

PLCMAIN is a background task without defined cycle time (running in the "idle task").

PLC62 is running every 62,5µs.

PLC250 is running every 250µs.

PLC1 is running every 1ms.

PLC4 is running every 4ms.

Creating a new project

When MacroStar is started a project "default.pl3" is opened. Add your program text into the task tabs. To use predefined functions and variables open the corresponding tab and group in the management window and drag the item into the workspace window.

Please make sure that every line is finished with a semicolon! MacroStar will not do this automatically.

Save your project using "File/ Save Project as".

Opening an existing File or Project

Choosing “File/ Open File” or “File/ Open Project” will open an existing file with the extension PL3. If you use “Open File” the complete file will be opened with a new tab in the workspace on the right side.

If you use “Open Project”, an existing project will be separated into the different tasks and shown under the according tabs in the workspace.

Using the Build Function

After you have finished your program and saved it, use the Build function (menu “Build” or F9 key or button with symbol) to start the syntax checker and create a downloadable file.

Below the workspace the tab “Build log” will show what has been done. In case an error occurred, the tab “Build messages” will show the task and the line with the error. Clicking on an error line in this tab will open the appropriate task tab in the workspace area and mark the incorrect line.

If no error occurred a file with the extension .S19 will be created. This file must be downloaded to the drive using the standard download tool. There is no download function integrated into MacroStar yet.