

9. Making the Most of your ISA Membership: Free Web-Access to ISA Technical Papers

By Graham Nasby

This article is part of a series of articles about taking advantage of the resources and opportunities that come with your ISA membership.

Looking for ideas for your next automation project? Put your ISA membership to work for you! The ISA has unbiased technical papers written by experts available at your fingertips on the ISA website. As a member benefit, the ISA has over 2500 technical papers that are available free of charge to its members. Simply log in to the ISA website with your login/password, and this vast treasure trove of information awaits.

The technical papers that are available on the ISA website come from a wide variety of ISA sources, and are typically in PDF format. The papers are usually about 6-12 pages long and are written with the practitioner in mind. There are proceedings from the ISA's many symposiums, conferences and special events, such as: IIS, LDAR, AERO, AD, ANALYSIS, AUTOWEST, BIOMED, ETCON, ICON, IMEKO, IMS, INPLANT, INTERKAMA, POWID, SAFETY, SICON, and WWAC. There are both papers and slides from past ISA Automation Weeks and EXPOs, as well as presentations from some local EXPOs as well. Lastly, there are a large number of articles from InTech Magazine, ISA Transactions, and various other affiliated sources. In all, the ISA's technical paper archive has over 2500 papers and is growing every year.

The main benefit to the ISA Technical papers is that they are vendor-neutral, written by experts and are unbiased. ISA Technical papers are peer-reviewed and are carefully written so that they are focused on technical information and not marketing a specific product. This "knowledge first" approach makes the papers a helpful tool when researching ideas for your next automation product. Having ISA technical papers at your fingertips can help you make better design, purchasing, and maintenance decisions when it comes to leveraging your automation resources.

Some examples of technical papers available on the ISA website include:

- A Case History of the Installation of a SCADA System in a 70 year old plant
- A Case Study in Knowledge Engineering: Interactive Electronic Technical Manuals
- A Checklist For Software Reuse
- A Control System Specific Threat and Vulnerability Taxonomy

- A Miniaturized Process Gas Chromatograph – Expanding Process Control by Lowering Cost of Ownership
- A Neurofuzzy Update of PI Controllers for Speed Control of a Turbogas Unit
- A Non-Intrusive System for Monitoring Soot in Aircraft Engine Exhausts
- A Practical and Inexpensive System for Natural Gas Leak Standoff Detection
- A Remotely Operated Shallow-Water Boat for Wireless Data Logging
- A Wrist-Mounted Arterial Pulse Interval and Movement Recording System
- An ISA88 Overview Presented by the WBF
- Analyzer Connectivity – Sharing Data and Results
- Accurate Simplistic Predictive Modeling of Non-Linear Dynamic Process

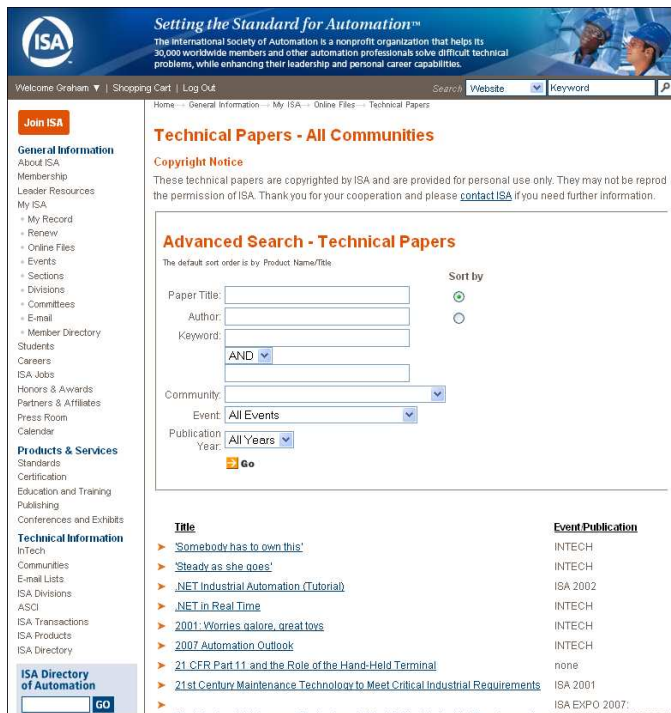
For those of you who have not visited the "My ISA" section of the ISA website, here are a few pointers on how to access the technical papers member benefit:

First point your web browser at <http://www.isa.org> to load the ISA website. Click on the "Login" link near the top left corner and login with your ISA login/password. If you do not have an ISA login/password yet, click on the Login link and follow the "New to ISA" link. You can then set up an ISA web account using your membership card and some information like your mailing address.

Once you have logged in, click on the "My ISA" link on in the menu under "General Information". The "home page" for your ISA membership will now come up; click on the "My Online Files" link. When the next page loads go to the "Technical Papers" section and click on the "Access your free papers now". A new page called "Technical Papers – All Communities" will now appear on your screen.

This "Technical Papers" page on the ISA website consists of two parts. The top part is an "Advanced Search" tool that you can use to search for papers using criteria such as title, author, keyword and year. The bottom part has two functions: the first when the page is initially loaded it lists a small selection of papers that are available, the second is to display the "search results" from the advanced search tool on to the top of the screen. Using this tool will allow you to search, sort and view all of the technical papers available on the ISA website.

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Being able to download and view ISA technical papers for free on the ISA website is just one of the many benefits that come with ISA membership. This article is part of a series in the ISA Hamilton Section newsletter about ISA membership benefits and how you can take advantage of them. There is a reason that the ISA is the largest organization for Automation Professionals and it's not just for the shiny membership card. Make the most of your ISA membership—you won't regret it.

NEXT ISSUE: ISA Symposiums: Annual Conferences on Specific Industries and Technologies

10. Member Meetings: Call for Speakers

As a service to its members, the ISA Hamilton section holds monthly membership meetings. The meetings consist of dinner and a speaker. The meetings generally start at 6:00pm, followed by a 45 minute seminar that begins at 6:30pm.

Meetings are open both members and non-members of the ISA. Pre-registration is required so that we know how many dinners to order. Please see our website for the meeting schedule.

We are currently seeking speakers for several of our upcoming membership meetings. We ask that presentations be non-commercial in nature. The goal of the member meeting presentations is to present technical topics of interest to our members – not sales presentations. We do accept vendor presentations provided that they are geared towards general technical

knowledge and not specific product lines. We have had many excellent vendor-provided presentations in the past, and we look forward to many more.

Please visit our website to see what meeting presentation slots are available. Feel free to contact us if you are interested in sharing your knowledge with your fellow automation professionals through our membership meetings program. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

11. ISA Hamilton Section Contacts

For more information about ISA membership, the ISA Hamilton section or the upcoming section events, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us. (Note: Email addresses are @isahamilton.com)

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