6. Making the Most Of Your ISA Membership

Free Web-Based Training Seminars from the ISA

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

Feeling the pinch on your training budget? Keeping your skills up to date with training and professional development is more important than ever, yet corporate training budgets seem to be getting smaller and smaller every year. While it used to be the norm to send employees to at least a few training courses annually, tighter budgets are often trimming this back to just one course a year, or potentially none at all. So how is the automation professional to cope? There is no easy answer to this one, but the ISA has a benefit that comes with your membership that certainly helps. The ISA has, since 2005, had pre-recorded online seminars on its website that you can watch for free as part of your membership. All you need to do is to log into the ISA website, click on a few links and there you have it.

Most of the ISA online seminars are about 90 minutes long and just require a computer with an Internet connection and a pair of headphones. I was able to use Windows Media Player on my desktop PC and be up and running in under 5 minutes. Best of all, since it is streamed from the ISA website you can view, pause and restart the presentation as many times as you need.

Here is list of the currently available free web-based seminars for ISA members:

- Wireless Networking of Sensors and Instrumentation: Applications & Techniques
- Introduction to ISA100.11a (Wireless Connectivity Standard for Industrial Plants)
- Deployment of ISA100.11a – (Wireless Connectivity Standard)
- Applying Manufacturing Execution Systems (ISA-95)
- Benefits of ISA Certification
- Boiler Control Fundamentals
- DCS Alarm Assessment Overview
- Designing & Applying Model Predictive Control Strategies
- Effective Project Team Building

- Engineering Influence: Unlock the Secrets to Getting Your Way
- Fiber Optic Sensing
- FOUNDATION Fieldbus H1 Field-Level Installation and Commissioning
- Grounding in Instrumentation Systems
- How Can OPC Reduce Your Plant Control Integration Costs?
- Hybrid Systems Overview
- Industrial Ethernet Series Part 1: Understanding Ethernet Cabling & Hardware
- Industrial Ethernet Series Part 2: Is Ethernet Ready for the Plant Floor?
- Industrial Ethernet Series Part 3: Designing Industrial Ethernet Networks
- Introduction to DCS Alarm Management
- Introduction To Patents & Patent Process
- Introduction to Process Control
- Introduction to Safety Instrumented Fire & Gas Systems
- Introduction to SCADA
- Introduction to Temperature Measurement
- Is a Burner Management System (BMS) a Safety Instrumented System (SIS)?
- Is a Fire & Gas System a Safety Instrumented System?
- Manufacturing System Security Using ISA SP99
- Motivating Team Members
- Network Security Series Part 1: Cyber Security Risk Assessment for Automation Systems
- Network Security Series Part 2: Firewalls and Filtering Security on the Plant Floor
- Network Security Series Part 3: Encryption and Virtual Private Networks
- Next Generation Fieldbuses - Picking the Right One
- Noise Reduction in Signal Replacement
- Overview of Enterprise Control Integration
- Overview of Foundation Fieldbus Technology
- Overview of HMI Applications
- Safety Instrumented Systems Series Part 1: Determining Safety Integrity Levels
- Safety Instrumented Systems Series Part 2: The Pros and Cons of Logic System Technologies
- Safety Instrumented Systems Series Part 3: Field Device Issues and System Performance
- Sell More Through Effective Technical Presentations
- The ISA95 Object Models for Enterprise - Control System Integration Part 2

Accessing the online seminars on the ISA website does take few clicks, so I will walk you through what you need to do. 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 a 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". A "home page" for your ISA membership will now come up. On this page click on the link for "My Online Files". On the page that comes up, scroll down to "Web Seminars" and click on "Access your free web seminars". A new page called "ISA Pre-recorded Web Seminars Available for Members" will now come up. Click on the "alphabetical listing" link. (Don't use the links under "Series" as they don't list all the seminars.) You will now see a menu page that lists the more than 40 different web-based seminars that are available. In addition to the pre-recorded seminar videos, many of the online seminars also have PDF copies of the handouts that you can print out and use to take notes as you watch and listen.

The online seminars are just one of the many benefits that come with ISA membership. This article is the first of a series that will be appearing in the ISA Section Newsletter about ISA membership benefits and how you can take advantage of them. There is a reason hat 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: Accessing ISA Standards on the ISA website, a free membership benefit

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