

Itris Import/Export Tool Manual

Itris Automation Square- July 2019

www.itris-automation.com

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Chapter 1

Itris Import/Export Tool

1.1 Introduction

Itris Automation's **Itris Import/Export Tool** is a simple way to proceed with code importation and exportation from and to several Software Development Environments, in a unified user experience. It is suitable for use with PLC Checker, PLC DocGen, ICS Monitoring, PLC Converter, ...

This tool connects with your usual PLC program development software, so you need to set it up on the same computer as the one you are using to develop your applications.

The most advanced users are able to use **Itris Import/Export Tool** in command line mode, allowing them to use it with their favourite continued integration software or to create automatic scripts to be more efficient.

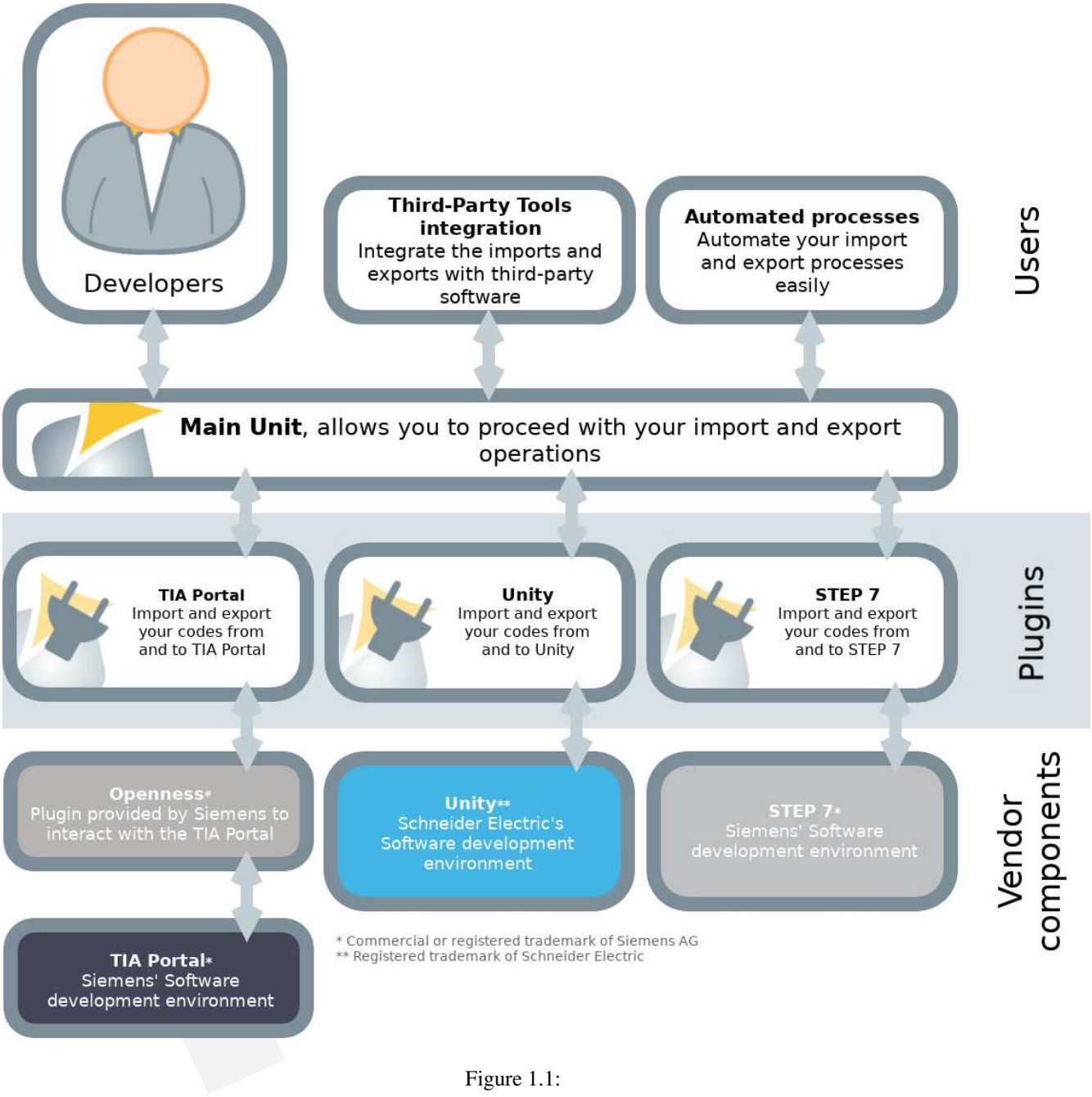


Figure 1.1:

1.2 Installation

Itris Import/Export Tool is based on a modular architecture. You will have to setup the **Main Unit**, which will provide you with the graphical and command-line interfaces. Then, you will have to add some plugins. Each plugin provides you with a functionality, for instance, **Code Exportation for STEP 7** or **Code Importation for TIA Portal**. Generally, if you are using PLC Checker or PLC DocGen, you will need a code exporter, and if you are using PLC Converter, you may need a code exporter and you will need a code importer.

In order to easily find the plugins that you need, Itris Automation set up a web selector, available at the given address: http://www.itris-automation.com/itris-importexport-tool/ .

To use it, simply choose the Software Development program that you are using and the Itris tools that you want to use with it. The online selector will then tell you what plugins to download and setup.

The setup process in itself does not require specific operations. By default, the main unit is put in the "Program

Files" folder and its plugins are added here in sub-folders. You may change the location of the main unit, however the plugins must remain as sub-folders to the main unit for them to work.

NOTE	**This software replaces TIA Portal Import/Export Tool. It remains compatible with the former setup and the former plugins (called "modules"). You can use the Itris Import/Export Tool installer to update the TIA Portal Import/Export tool, however you will need to be vigilant when setting up new plugins as the default setup folder is not the same for the two tools.**

1.3 Usage

After the setup of the main unit and your required plugins, you will immediately be able to proceed with importations and exportations of your PLC code.

NOTE	**Some PLC programming software may require additional configuration. Please check the manuals dedicated to the particular software for more information.**

Two interfaces are available when you are using the **Itris Import/Export Tool** :

- The graphical UI : allows you to easily perform your exportation and importation operations. This interface is the one that you have to use if you have not automatised the processes.
- The command-line interface : allows you to automatise the importation and exportation processes by providing a user interaction-less process to perform the importations and exportations of code. You will need this interface if you want to integrate the importation and exportation processes with a third party tool or in your continued integration system.

1.3.1 Graphical UI for the daily usage

This interface allows you to perform the importation and exportation operations easily. It is composed of three parts:



Figure 1.2:

The first part is used to perform a **code exportation**. You have to click on the button "Select a file" in the area called "Export a project" and localise your project's code. Then you will have to run the process by clicking on "Proceed".

NOTE	**The PLC programming interfaces do not all react in the same way, so some of them may need some additional information from you during the process. Please check the manuals dedicated to each software for more information.**

Once the exportation process is finished, **Itris Import/Export Tool** will tell you where the exported file (in ZIP format) is located and will ask if you want to open the folder, for your convenience.

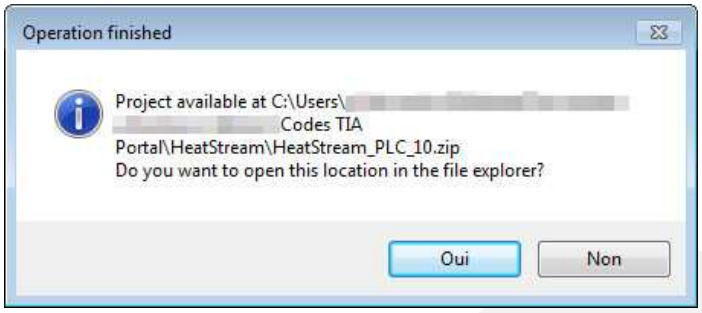


Figure 1.3:

The second part of the screen is used to perform a **code importation**. To do so, you just have to click on the button "Select a file" in the area "Import a project". **Itris Import/Export Tool** will ask you to choose the ZIP file to import, and a project to import it to. The projects that you can import are dependant on the plugins that you have setup.

NOTE	**If the code that you want to import contains a block named the same as an existing block inside the project you have selected, then the newly imported block will replace the existing block.**

To run the operation, just click on "Proceed".

Finally, the third part of the screen is used to validate the operation and to get some information about what is happening.

1.3.2 Command line interface to automate the processes

This interface is designed to be used by advanced users for advanced usages without requiring any user interaction (no need to select the project and then click on "Proceed"). It allows the integration of the importation and exportation processes into automated tasks for instance.

NOTE	**This interface is not aimed at configuring the system. Some software development environments require additional configuration that you won't be able to manage using this interface. It is advised that you use the graphical interface at least once to check that all is running as expected and to make any configurations, if required, before using the command line interface.**

To use this interface, you will need to use a command prompt or any tool able to pass arguments to a program (a Windows' shortcut for example). The executable is located inside the same folder as the main unit, and is called **ImportExportMainUnitCli.exe**.

By default, you have to pass one or two arguments to the executable, which are both files paths.

- If there is only one argument, then it means that you want to run an export process, and the path you will give is the path to a supported project.
- If there are two arguments, then it means that you want to run an import process, the first path that you will give is the path to the ZIP file to import, the second one is the path to the project in which to import the ZIP file.

At any moment, you can get help using the argument **-h** (or without any argument).

Some usage samples :

- ImportExportMainUnitCli.exe -s project.ap13: Export the project located inside **.\project.ap13** (TIA Portal Version 13)
- ImportExportMainUnitCli.exe -s -p=2 project.ap13 : Exports the second program of the project located in **.\project.ap13** (TIA Portal Version 13)
- ImportExportMainUnitCli.exe -s codeFromConverter.zip project.ap13 : Silently import the code inside **.\codeFromConverter.zip** into the project located in **.\project.ap13** (TIA Portal Version 13)

Arguments list:

- ? : Displays the help
- p : If your project contains several programs, then define the program to export (1 stands for the first program...), the default value is **?** meaning that in such a case, the utility will ask the user to choose the project during the process (it could be useful to run it once in this way to get the right project number)
- d : **p**'s synonym
- t : For code exportation, allows the user to choose where they want the exported ZIP file to be saved. It will not override an existing ZIP file
- T : Does the same as **t** but overrides any existing file
- s : Displays fewer messages during the process
- v : Displays more messages during the process
- i : Displays some information about the installation (plugins, versions...)

1.4 Visualise The Export Content

You are able to see an export's content by using the tool **Archive Viewer**, which is included in the **main unit**.

To do this, launch the Archive Viewer and find the export file (ZIP format) you want to use by going to the menu "Archive..." and then "Read". You will then be able to see the export's content as well as find information on the state of export and the content of the different code blocks.

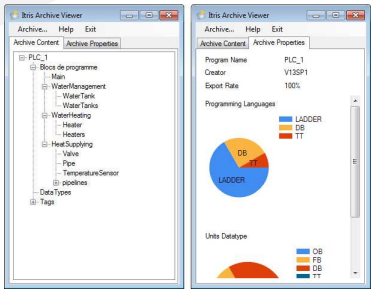


Figure 1.4:

1.5 Get the list of installed plugins

Both interfaces allow you to gather information about the plugins installed on your system.

When you are using the Graphical User Interface, right-click anywhere in the window and select "Plugins".



Figure 1.5:

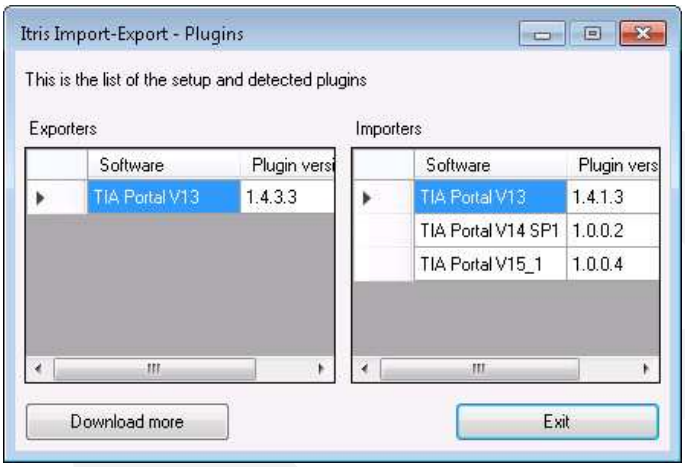


Figure 1.6:

NOTE	This functionality is available from the version 1.5.3.4 of the main unit

If you are using the Command Line interface, use the "-i" argument to get these information.