

when parts of the source code are masked in the current view and moved to another layer. With this technique, the logic of a function can be presented in great detail, and the developer cannot fail to produce a highly readable and comprehensible unit on each side.

Analysing complex files

Easy**CODE** is ideally suited for analyzing complex files and algorithms as it interprets the source files and converts them into structure diagrams when it loads the files. Function blocks, data and organization components are hidden in the first view and the user sees a parent view of the file. Similar to the table of contents in a book, the structure list gives an excellent breakdown of the file from where the user can navigate to specific "chapters". A single mouse click takes the developer to the detailed view to inspect the source code, or lets him form logical units and optimize the structure within the element. It becomes particularly interesting when inserting plain source text. Easy**CODE** generates a structure diagram from this text that seamlessly integrates itself into the file.

For advanced development, Easy**CODE** allows all the available, language-specific elements to be accessed from the shortcut menu, and prevents insert operations that are not compatible with the language definition. Easy**CODE** performs all routine tasks, such as counting parentheses and indents, setting line stops and comments, fully automatically and using the correct syntax. A metrics visualization function warns the developer when the complexity of the file reaches a critical threshold, if the decision density makes the program difficult to maintain, or simply if just a couple of comment lines are necessary.

Documentation

The structure diagrams mean that you always have documentation that is consistent with the source code and compliant with ISO 9001, a welcome aspect of acceptance procedures. It is not only the German technical control board (TÜV) that frequently demands structure diagrams as an essential part of a documentation. Easy**CODE** allows the developer to send the structure diagram to a printer just as it appears on the screen, or to import individual elements from the diagram into other applications such as MS Word to meet individual needs with regard to the documentation.

Project support

Easy**CODE** offers a truly user-friendly project environment for easily importing existing projects. Easy**CODE** Project is not dissimilar to Windows Explorer and simplifies the restructuring of projects considerably. It also offers an interface for integrating external compilers and provides a programmable linkup to version control systems.

Why EasyCODE and when?

SIEMENS® recommends using the standard language SCL (Structured Control Language), which is capable of handling even the most complex tasks, for developing sophisticated control systems. Quote: "S7-SCL® is particularly suitable for programming complex algorithms and mathematical functions or for performing tasks in the field of data processing."

We unreservedly agree with this, and we always recommend using Easy**CODE** if you are able to program in standard languages. EASYCODE® is extremely conversant in these languages, and ensures that you can also use it should you ever begin programming your PLC in C or C++. But even seemingly unending lists of statements can be logically structured with Easy**CODE** and therefore be made even more easily readable.

When is EasyCODE viable?

Experience shows that during the implementation phase, time savings of 40% over development in textual systems are no rarity. The structured design of the files reduces the likelihood of design errors, while the editor prevents the use of incorrect syntax, provides innovative techniques for rapid coding, assists in the analysis of complicated files, and supplies full and standards-compliant documentation.