

COMPARISON of .NET or ACTIVE X controls vs. OPC

.NET or ACTIVE X:

- This concept was introduced in 1991 and the ActiveX name was coined in early 1996.
- In-Process server integrated into one single application.
- Extremely light weight.
- A very solid foundation to begin with.
- Almost every Microsoft product supports it.
- Thousands of companies support it world-wide.
- Extremely fast and low resource consumer.
- Typically run-time licenses are free.
- Several options available to build client-server or n-tier applications.
- Only one application needed.
- Natively based on COM & DCOM

Additional issues for .NET

- Introduced early 2003.
- Native Support for COM & DCOM withdrawn. Use layers to support COM & DCOM.
- Basis for all long-term software technology infrastructure.

OPC:

- Introduced in 1997.
- Extremely heavy, needs a very souped up machine.
- The specification has been a moving target.
- No Microsoft product has native support for OPC except VC++. You must use automation layer as an interface.
- Very few companies support OPC.
- Slow and heavy on resources.
- Based on COM & DCOM.
- Setup is very complicated unless using on the same machine & from the same vendor.
- Must pay for each node.
- Must run multiple applications.