# Deploy and manage PlantPAx systems with greater efficiency

[Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform](#) offers the features, integrations, security focus, and flexibility needed to scale automation across domains and orchestrate essential workflows.

[Rockwell Automation's PlantPAx Distributed Control System](#) gives producers the power to make faster process control decisions by helping them respond more quickly to changing demands and specifications.

## Supercharge industrial process automation with IT automation

Producers in various industries including food and beverage, oil and gas, pharmaceuticals, and chemical manufacturing have long used intelligent technologies to automate and control industrial processes. For example, distributed control systems (DCS) can improve the reliability, efficiency, and safety of industrial processes.

A modern DCS like PlantPAx® from Rockwell Automation takes the benefits of industrial process automation even further by reducing infrastructure overhead, facilitating the adoption of the latest security standards, and providing features such as diagnostics and analytics.

As organizations continue to modernize industrial processes and look for more ways to gain further efficiency, reduce risk, and improve control, industrial producers can look to IT automation to remove some of the manual toil of provisioning, managing, and troubleshooting DCS systems.

There are 2 main use cases where IT automation can accelerate the efficiency of PlantPAx:

**System setup.** Systems integrators can use IT automation to deploy the servers, workstations, programmable logic controllers, and networks that are part of the DCS system installation.

**Plant management and maintenance.** Plant management teams can use IT automation for ongoing monitoring and system restoration.

## Solve DCS challenges with Rockwell Automation and Red Hat

Integrating enterprise IT innovation into industrial environments can help enhance productivity and reliability, and strengthen security.

Rockwell Automation and Red Hat work together to provide IT automation solutions for industrial producers with Red Hat® Ansible® Automation Platform. PlantPAx customers that use Ansible Automation Platform can automate system configuration, deployment, and lifecycle management, and take advantage of tested automation workflows that improve scalability. The result is increased efficiency in PlantPAx setup and day-to-day operations, which provides further value to customers.

## How PlantPAx customers benefit from IT automation

Process industry manufacturers using PlantPAx can gain significant benefits from using Ansible Automation Platform, including:

**Accelerating initial deployment.** Systems integrators follow a mostly manual process to configure and deploy PlantPAx, which can take weeks depending on the size and architecture of the implementation. To help speed this up, Rockwell Automation has put written specifications into code

using Ansible Playbooks (which are blueprints of automation tasks that can be executed across an inventory of IT solutions), which not only automates many manual processes, but also eliminates many common set-up errors. These playbooks give installers prescribed settings that significantly reduce set-up time and provide guardrails while allowing enough flexibility to customize the implementation to meet unique needs.

**Maximizing uptime.** By standardizing configurations in playbooks, systems become easier to replicate. That means if an issue arises, IT automation can help restore systems more quickly, reducing costly unplanned downtime. Ansible Automation Platform also makes system administration activities more efficient and can potentially save days of planned downtime each year for customers with hundreds of servers.

**Mitigating risk.** Rockwell Automation's in-house characterization lab vets each Ansible Playbook before it is made available to customers, making sure it is trusted and proven to work as intended. Ansible Automation Platform can also be used to check if compliance requirements are being met, which is more efficient than manual analysis.

**Managing security threats.** By automating the installation of the latest security patches, IT components such as workstations, servers, and network equipment can be kept up to date, which is critical in maintaining a reliable DCS. Ansible Automation Platform can also be used to search for abnormal activity in logs to identify threats, so corrective action can be taken sooner.

**Closing skills gaps.** In some cases the engineers and technicians responsible for managing industrial facilities are not proficient at IT tasks such as provisioning or updating servers and networks. Ansible Automation Platform can simplify IT tasks with prescriptive playbooks that allow those teams to focus on production automation.

## How to get started

Learn more about [Ansible Automation Platform](#) to take advantage of the benefits of using IT automation to manage PlantPAx. Rockwell Automation offers customers subscribed to Ansible Automation Platform access to lab-tested Ansible Playbooks through a Rockwell-hosted cloud-to-edge platform. Access is currently available to select customers by invitation only; general availability of playbooks is expected in 2025.

## Learn more

Explore the benefits of [Ansible Automation Platform for edge computing](#) in industrial settings, or [contact](#) a Red Hatter to learn more about subscriptions.

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Red Hat helps customers standardize across environments, develop cloud-native applications, and integrate, automate, secure, and manage complex environments with [award-winning](#) support, training, and consulting services.

**About Rockwell Automation**
Rockwell Automation helps make the world more productive and sustainable by powering next generation smart manufacturing that creates value for customers.

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