
Getting started

Creating a simple Modbus protocol application

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1. Introduction

In this guide we propose, as an example, the design of a simple supervision application Modbus RTU protocol based; this example is a little step towards the design of more complex SCADA applications, but it can be useful for anybody who approaches for the first time to a SCADA, and in particular to **Winlog Pro** software, to quickly understand how to communicate with external devices.

Every time you design a new application, it is necessary to know, for each external device, the communication protocol, the address and the list of variables that you want read or write.

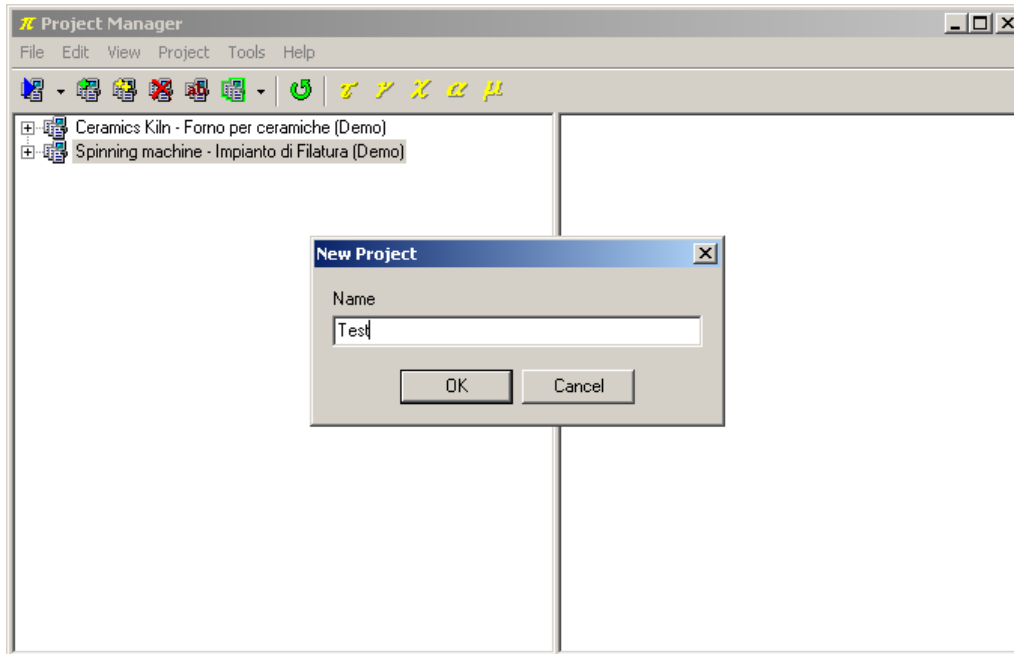
In our example we have to communicate with two devices (Test Device#1 e Test Device#2) whose address are 1 and 2; for each device we want to read 3 numeric variables (Temp, Sp e Out) and 1 digital variable (Alarm).

2. Creating the project

To create a new supervision project, it is necessary to use **Project Manager**, the **Winlog Pro** integrated development environment that provides different tools (**Gate Builder**, **Template Builder**, **Code Builder**).

Run **Project Manager** selecting own icon from Start menu.

Select New from **Project** menu and insert the project name (for example `Test`).



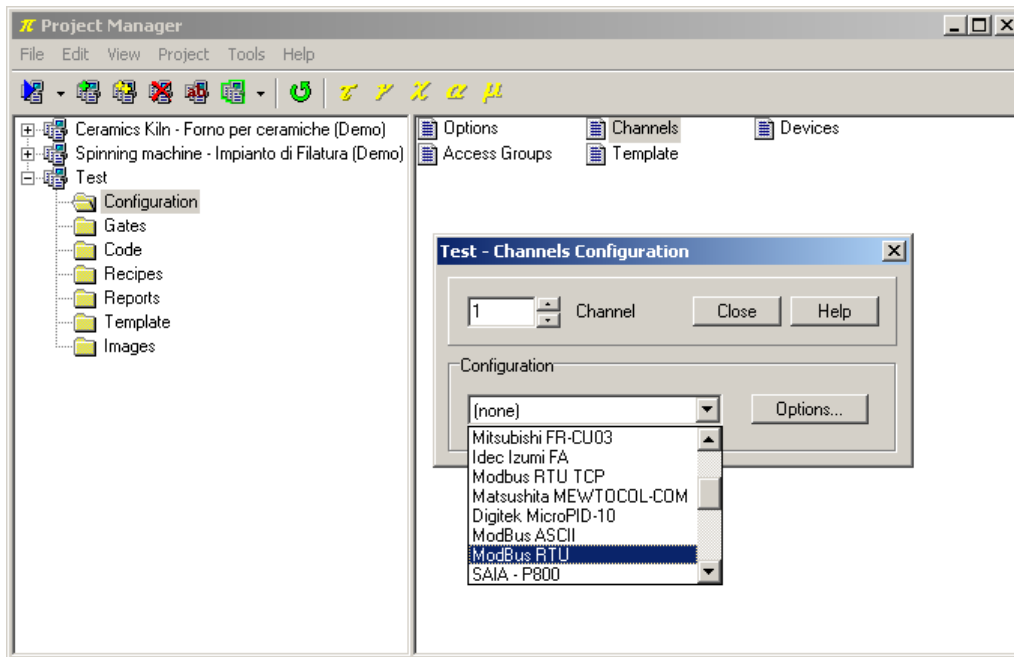
Project creation

In this way you create a tree structure with all supervision project elements.

3. Communication channel configuration

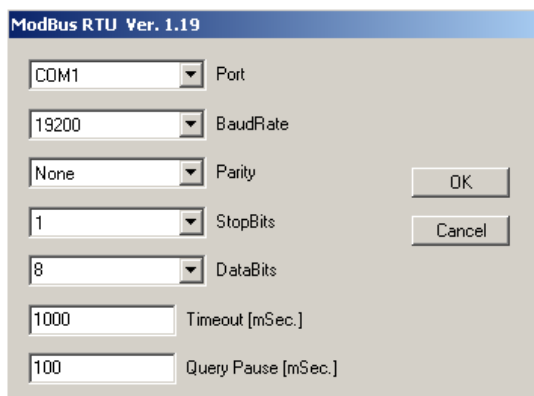
From elements in Configuration folder select Channels.

Define the logic channel 1 to communicate in Modbus RTU.



Protocol selection

Press button `Options...` and select the serial port to assign to the channel (for example COM1). It is necessary to set serial port specifying Baud rate, Parity, Stop bits, Data bits, Time out e Query Pause (for these parameters refer to manufacturer data device, an example is provided in the figure)

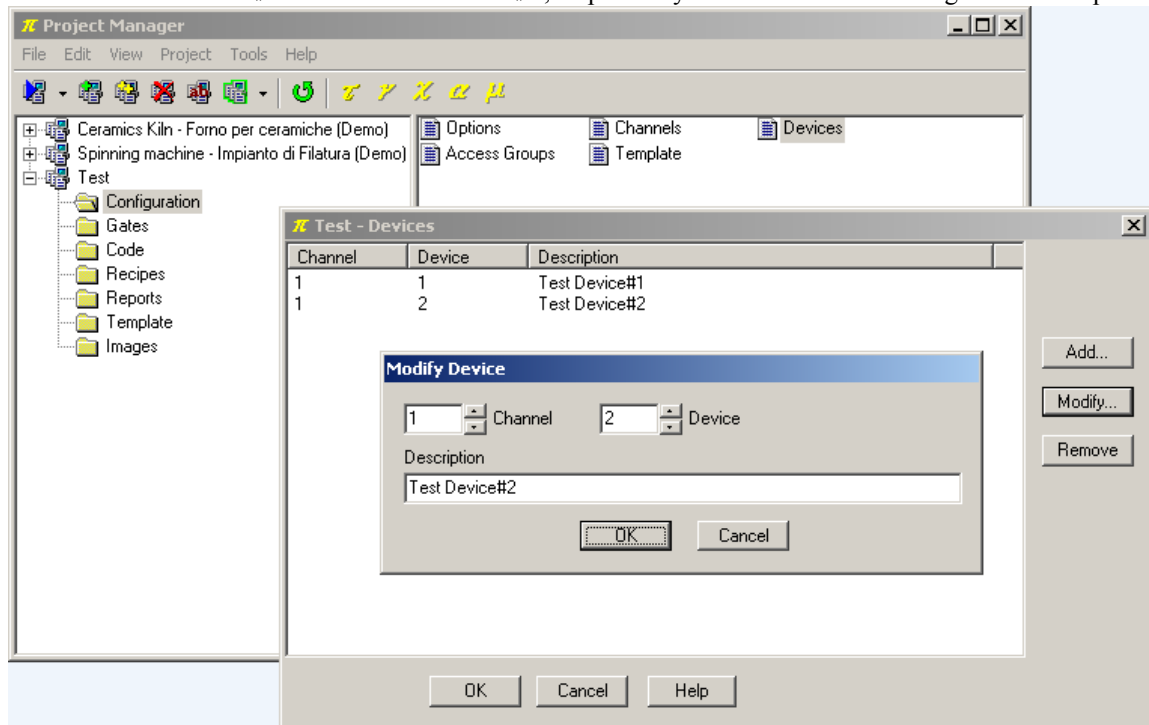


Protocol configuration

4. Devices declaration

From elements in Configuration folder select Devices.

Insert Test Device#1 and Test Device#2, respectively at address 1 and 2 on logic channel 1 previously set



Devices declaration

5. Creating variables database

Now we can insert the devices variables in gates database

In this example we only consider numeric and digital variables (gates).

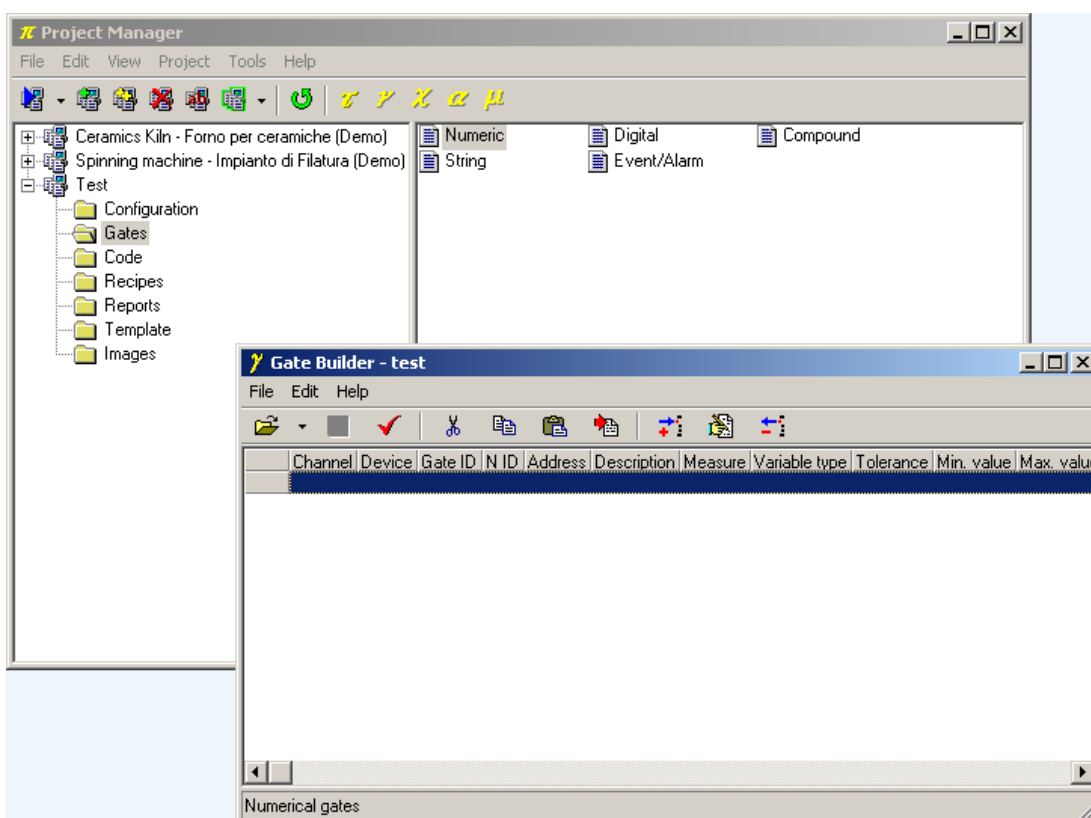
Numeric gates include all those variables that refer to an analog quantity (for example measured variables, set-points, alarm threshold ..) and can be expressed by a byte, a word, a double word, an integer or by a floating-point variable.

Digital gates include all those variables that refer to digital status (for example an alarm conditions, a configuration option, ...) and can be expressed by a single bit.

Sometimes more digital conditions can be gathered in a single numeric variable, but this case will not be explained in this example.

To edit the variables database, you need to run **Gate Builder**

From **Project Manager**, select Gates folder and double-click on each of icons (Numeric, Digital, ...).



Variables database creation

Suppose you need to read the following variables (to adapt this example to a real case it is enough to modify the gates details below).

Name	Channel	Device	Modbus address*	Variable type	Gate type	Unit	Description
TEMP	1	1	(3:) 005	Signed Word	Numeric	°C	Temperature - Measure
SP	1	1	(3:) 010	Signed Word	Numeric	°C	Temperature - Setpoint
OUT	1	1	(3:) 015	Unsigned Word	Numeric	%	Control Output - Value
ALARM	1	1	(1:) 012	Bit	Digitale		Internal alarm status
TEMP	1	2	(3:) 005	Signed Word	Numeric	°C	Temperature - Measure
SP	1	2	(3:) 010	Signed Word	Numeric	°C	Temperature - Setpoint
OUT	1	2	(3:) 015	Unsigned Word	Numeric	%	Control Output - Value
ALARM	1	2	(1:) 012	Bit	Digital		Internal alarm status

* The number between brackets represents Modbus function used to read the variable (refer to protocol manual in Project Manager Help).

5.1 Numeric variables configuration

Repeat numeric gates configuration for both devices, having care to change device number (Device) and N ID.

Numeric variable TEMP configuration

The screenshot shows the 'Numerical gates' dialog box with the 'General' tab selected. The 'Gate ID' is set to 'Temp'. The 'N ID' is set to '1'. The 'Record on DB' checkbox is checked, and the 'Writing enabled' checkbox is unchecked. The 'Description' field contains 'Temperature - PV - Measured value - Test Device#1'. The 'Access groups' field is empty, with a 'Choose...' button next to it. The 'Ok', 'Cancel', and 'Help' buttons are at the bottom right.

TEMP numeric variable configuration – General folder

The screenshot shows the 'Numerical gates' dialog box with the 'Sampling' tab selected. The 'Channel' is set to '1'. The 'Device' is set to '1'. The 'Address' is set to '3:005'. The 'Sample' dropdown is set to 'Always'. The 'Sample freq. [Sec.]' is set to '1'. The 'Read block' and 'Write block' dropdowns are empty. The 'Ok', 'Cancel', and 'Help' buttons are at the bottom right.

TEMP numeric variable configuration – Sampling folder

Numerical gates

General | Sampling | Value | Tolerance

0 Min. value

0 Max. value

0 Start value

1 Decimal digits

°C Measure

S_WORD Variable type

Conversion factor

1 Measured val. 1

1 Engineering val. 1

1 Measured val. 2

1 Engineering val. 2

Ok Cancel Help

TEMP numeric variable configuration – Value folder

Numeric variable SP configuration

Numerical gates

General | Sampling | Value | Tolerance

Sp Gate ID Record on DB

Writing enabled

1 NID

Description

Temperature - SP- Setpoint value - Test Device#1

Access groups

Choose...

Ok Cancel Help

SP numeric variable configuration – General folder

Numerical gates

General | Sampling | Value | Tolerance

1 Channel Read block

1 Device Write block

3:010 Address

Always Sample

1 Sample freq. [Sec.]

Ok Cancel Help

SP numeric variable configuration – Sampling folder

Numerical gates

General | Sampling | Value | Tolerance

0 Min. value

0 Max. value

0 Start value

1 Decimal digits

°C Measure

S_WORD Variable type

Conversion factor

1 Measured val. 1

1 Engineering val. 1

1 Measured val. 2

1 Engineering val. 2

Ok Cancel Help

SP numeric variable configuration – Value folder

Numeric variable OUT configuration

Numerical gates

General | Sampling | Value | Tolerance

Out Gate ID Record on DB

1 NID Writing enabled

Description

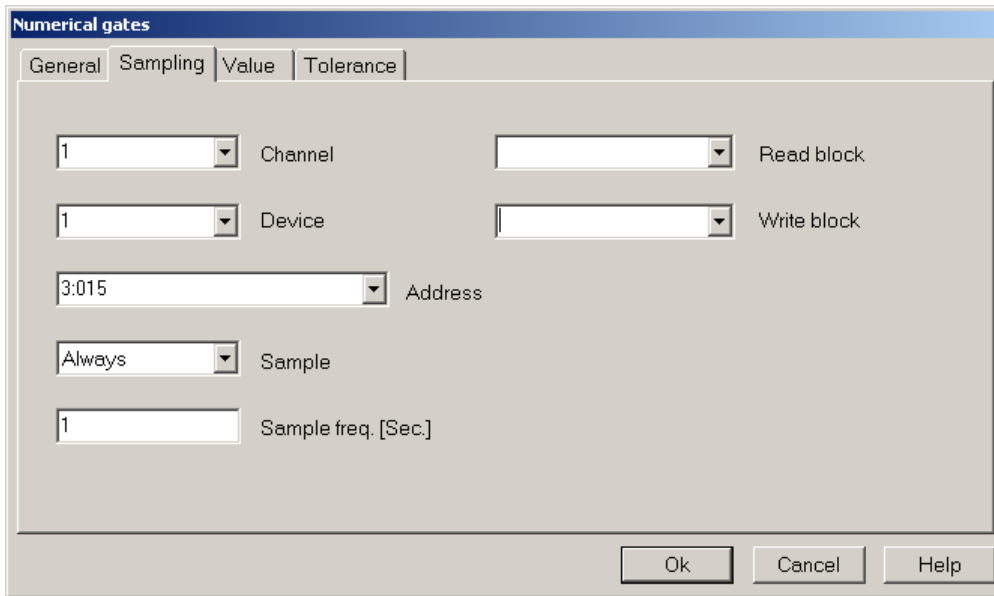
Control Output - OP - Value - Test Device#1

Access groups

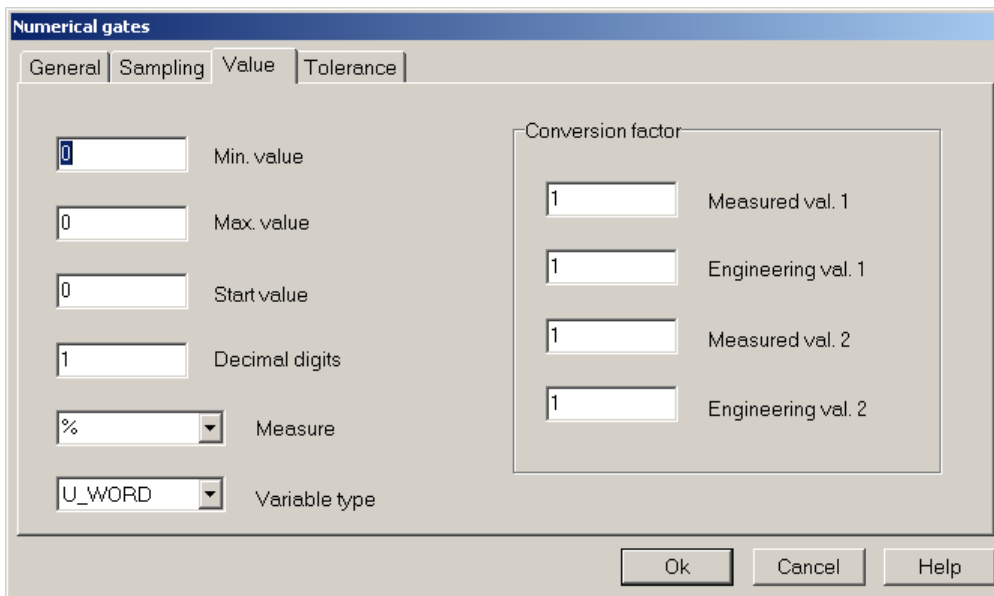
Choose...

Ok Cancel Help

OUT numeric variable configuration – General folder



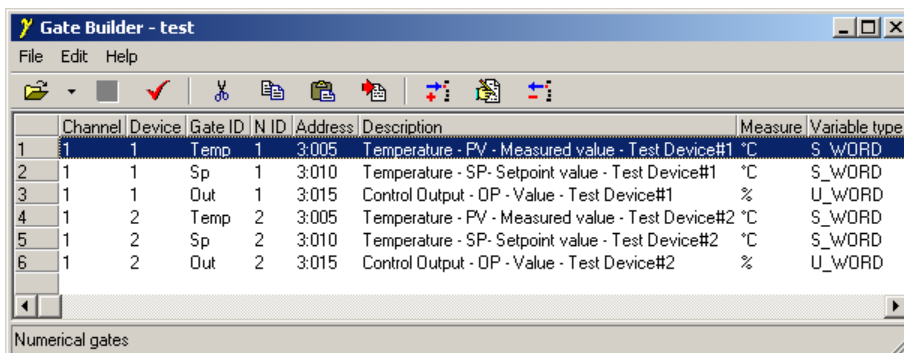
OUT numeric variable configuration – Sampling folder



OUT numeric variable configuration – Value folder

End result

After you have defined all numeric variables, you should see the **Gate Builder** main page similar to the one shown below.



Numeric variable database

5.2 Digital variables configuration

Repeat numeric gates configuration for both devices, having care to change device number (Device) and N ID.

Digital gates

General | Sampling | Value

Alarm Gate ID Record on DB
 Writing enabled

1 N ID

Description
Internal Alarm Status - Test Device #1

Access groups
 Choose...

Ok Cancel Help

ALARM digital variable configuration – General folder

Digital gates

General | Sampling | Value

1 Channel Read block

1 Device Write block

1:012 Address

Always Sample

1 Sample freq. [Sec.]

Ok Cancel Help

ALARM digital variable configuration – Sampling folder

Final result

After you have defined all numeric variables, you should see the **Gate Builder** main page similar to the one shown below.

Gate Builder - test

File Edit Help

	Channel	Device	Gate ID	N ID	Address	Description
1	1	1	Alarm	1	1:012	Internal Alarm Status - Test Device #1
2	1	2	Alarm	2	1:012	Internal Alarm Status - Test Device #2

Digital gates

Digital variables database

5.3 Alarms gates configuration

So we have created numeric and digital gates database; now we will create as example an event/alarm gate for each device.

These gates are not read from devices but are software generated and their status will be displayed in runtime as "event and alarm status" and "event and alarm history".

Let's create alarm gates with the following conditions.

Name	Condition	Filter time	Message	Registration
Internal_Alarm,1	Alarm,1 = 1	10 s	Attention! Internal Alarm Test Device#1	yes
Internal_Alarm,2	Alarm,2 = 1	10 s	Attention! Internal Alarm Test Device#2	yes

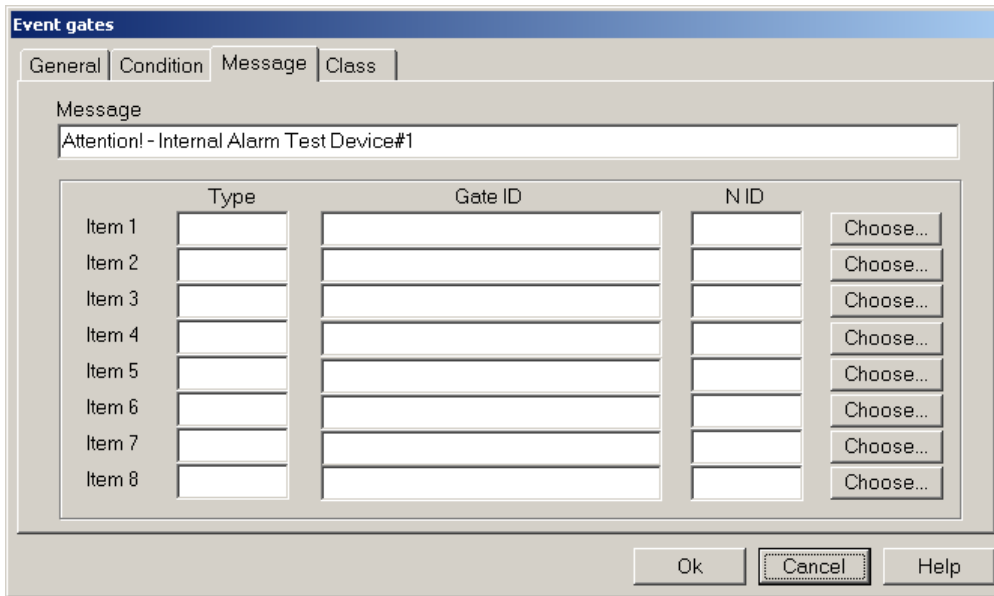
Configuration of alarm gate Internal_Alarm

The screenshot shows the 'Event gates' dialog box with the 'General' tab selected. The 'Gate ID' dropdown is set to 'Internal_Alarm' and the 'N ID' dropdown is set to '1'. The 'Is Alarm' checkbox is checked, 'Need Acknowledge' is unchecked, and 'Record on DB' is checked. There is an empty 'Access group' text box with a 'Choose...' button below it. At the bottom, there are 'Ok', 'Cancel', and 'Help' buttons.

Internal_Alarm ALARM gate configuration – General folder

The screenshot shows the 'Event gates' dialog box with the 'Condition' tab selected. In the 'Condition gate' section, the 'Type' field contains 'DIG', the 'Gate ID' field contains 'Alarm', and the 'N ID' field contains '1'. To the right, the 'Condition' dropdown is set to '=', the 'Value' field contains '1', and the 'Filter time [Sec.]' field contains '10'. There is a 'Choose...' button below the 'N ID' field. At the bottom, there are 'Ok', 'Cancel', and 'Help' buttons.

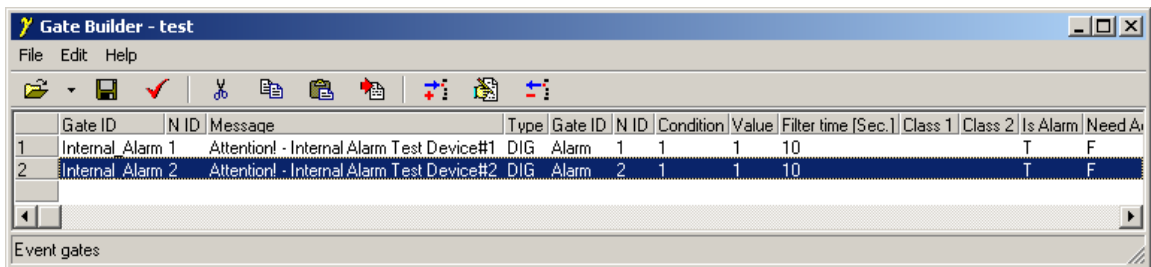
Internal_Alarm ALARM gate configuration – Condition folder



Internal_Alarm ALARM gate configuration –Message folder

Final result

After you have defined all numeric variables, you should see the **Gate Builder** main page similar to the one shown below.



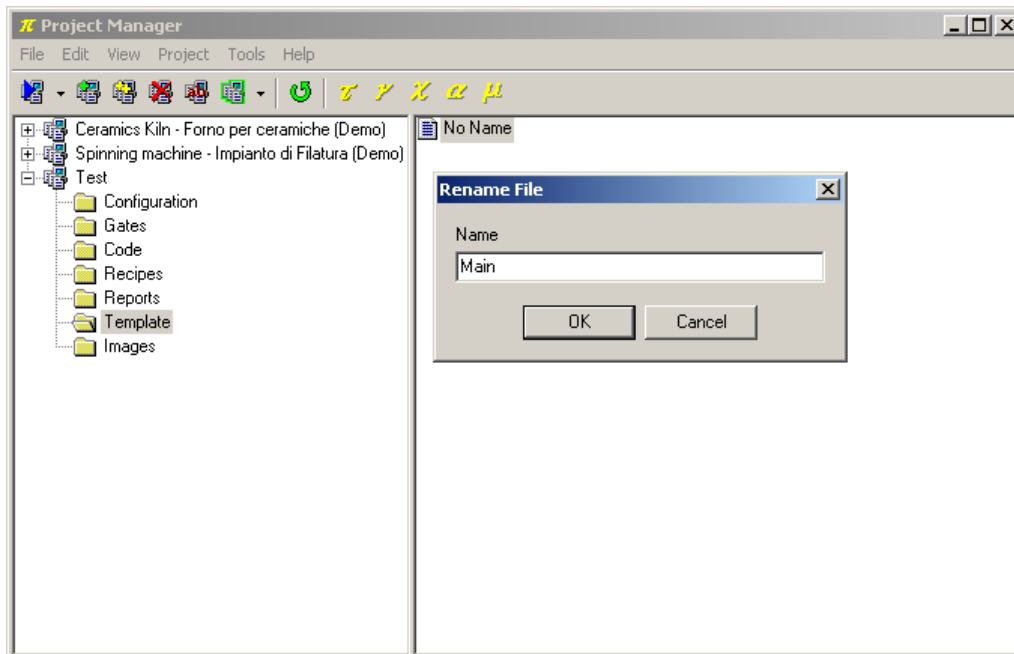
Alarm gates database

6. Creating a template

Now supervision network has been set; we have defined the logical channel and its link to PC COM port and we have connected it to Modbus RTU protocol; we have linked to this channel two devices (Test Device#1 e Test Device#2); for both we have declared sampling variables and alarm/event internal variables.

Now it is the moment to build a template for the application.

Select **Template** folder and create a new template, selecting the item **New>File** from **Edit** menu. Rename the just created template using the name **Main**, do this selecting it and then using **Rename** item from **Edit** menu.



Template creating

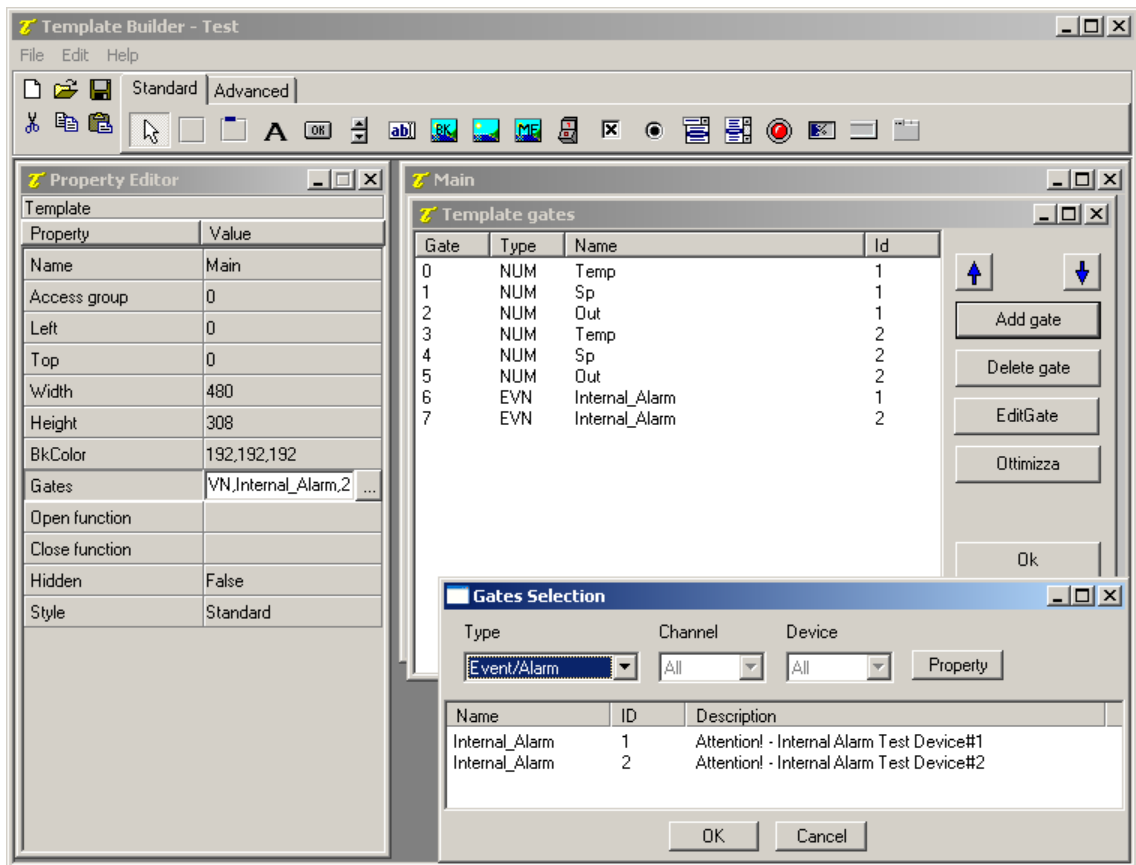
Double-clicking on created template, **Template Builder** start in order to build the graphic page.

6.1 Declaring template variables

First it is necessary to declare which variables we will use in the template; in this example we will use all of them.

Click on button **...** alongside of the **Gates** item in the *Property Editor* (*Property Editor* is the window on the left side of the screen that allows to modify template elements properties).


A new windows will appear; press **Add gate** button, select the first numeric gate and press **Ok**. Repeat this operation for each numeric, digital and alarm gate that belongs to the application.




Template variables declaration


6.2 Inserting a Label object

Firstly build a *Frame* that will contain all the elements that will be inserted later.

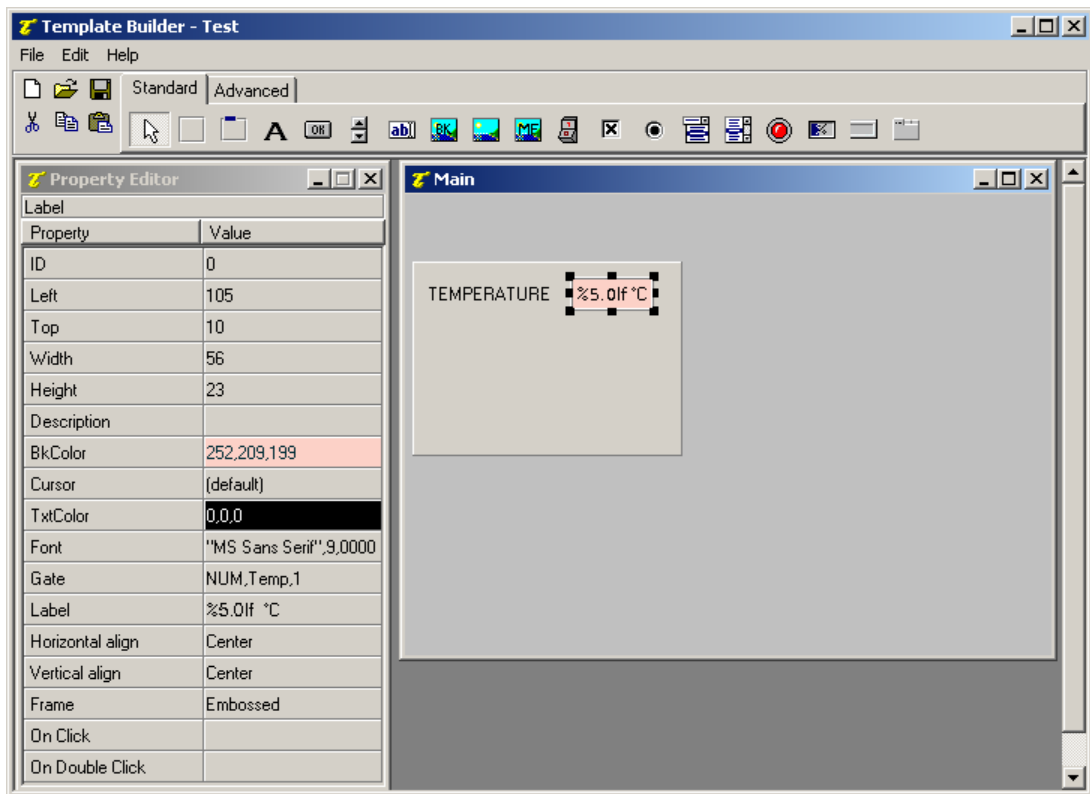
To do this, select *Frame* object among the ones on the upper bar (, it is the first on the left) and click on the template, a void rectangle will be displayed.

The next step is to insert into the created frame a static label that is a static text; select *Label* object among the ones on the upper bar (, then click into the frame. To modify the text displayed into the object, use Property Editor, click alongside of the property `Label` and digit `TEMPERATURE`.

Alongside of just inserted label, position another one to visualise temperature read form the device.

To link the Label to the numeric variable *TEMP*, click on the button  alongside of the item Gate in Property Editor and select `NUM, Temp, 1` among the available gates. Modify in addition the property `Label` inserting `%5.01f °C`.

Every described object can be formatted and placed as you like using Property Editor.



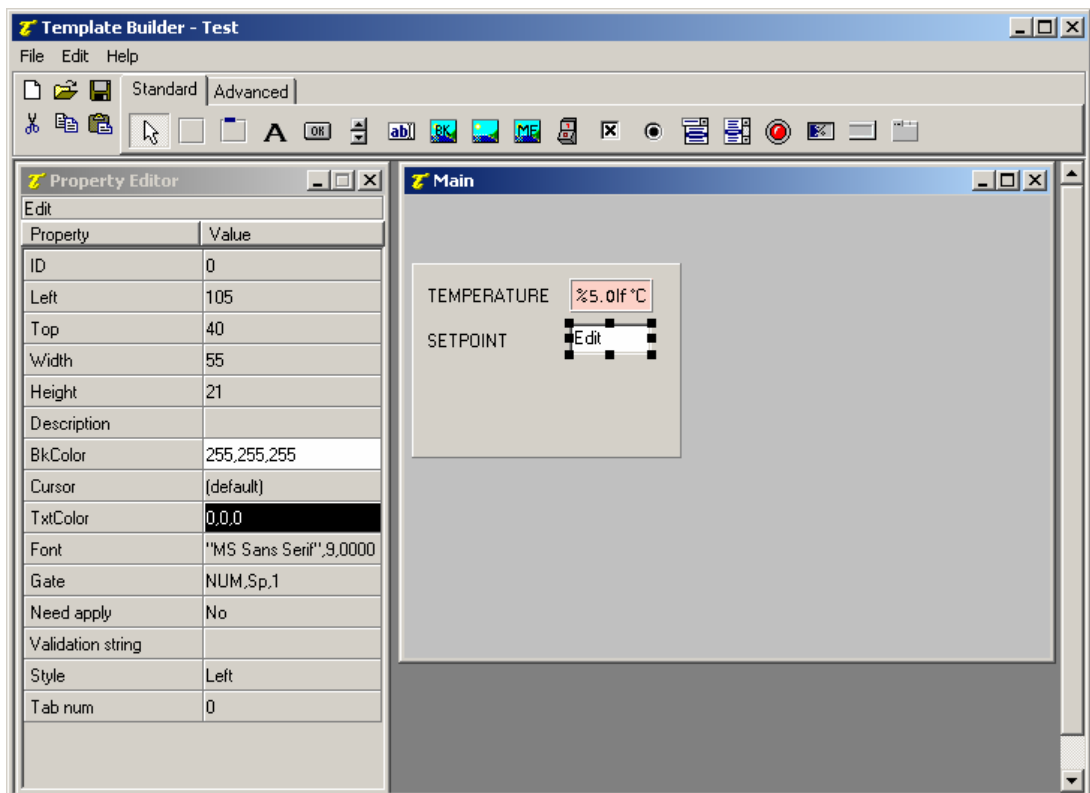
Label object inserting

6.3 Inserting an *Edit* object

Insert another Label, positioning it below *TEMPERATURE* and modify the text in *SETPOINT*

A control will be inserted that will allow to modify the value of the *SP* gate and to send it to the device.


Select *Edit* (abl) object from tool bar; and, as done before, link it to *NUM, Sp, 1* gate using the Property Editor.



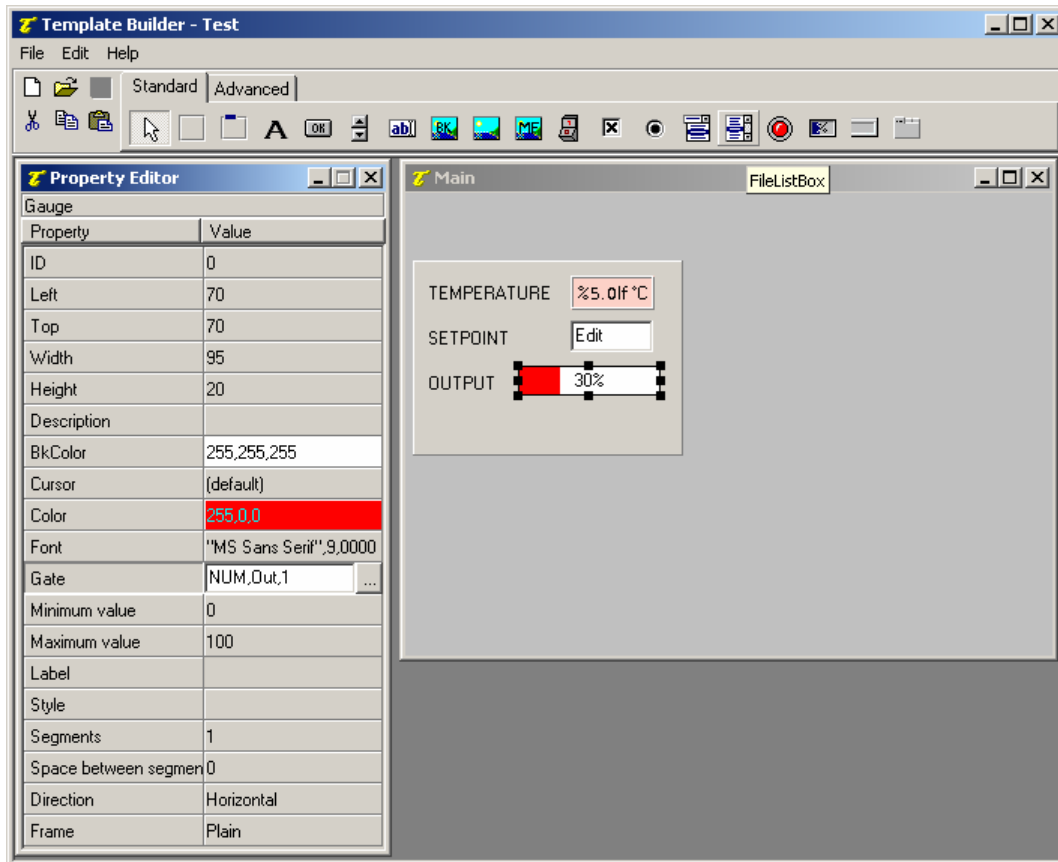
Edit object inserting

6.4 Inserting a Gauge object

Insert another Label, positioning it below SETPOINT and modify the text in OUTPUT.

Insert now a *Gauge* object () alongside of the previous Label; link it to NUM, Out , 1 gate using the Property Editor.


In this way the value of the device output power will be displayed in bar format.

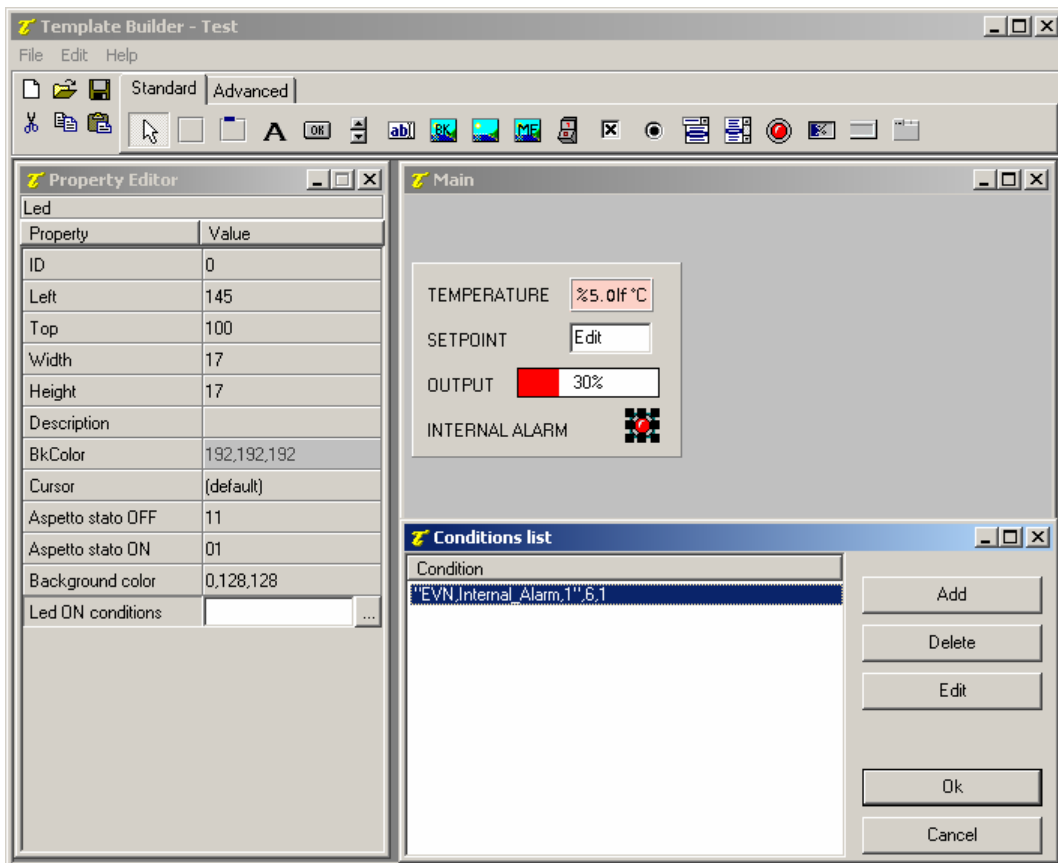


Gauge object inserting

6.5 Inserting a Led object

Insert another Label, positioning it below OUTPUT and modify the text in INTERNAL ALARM.

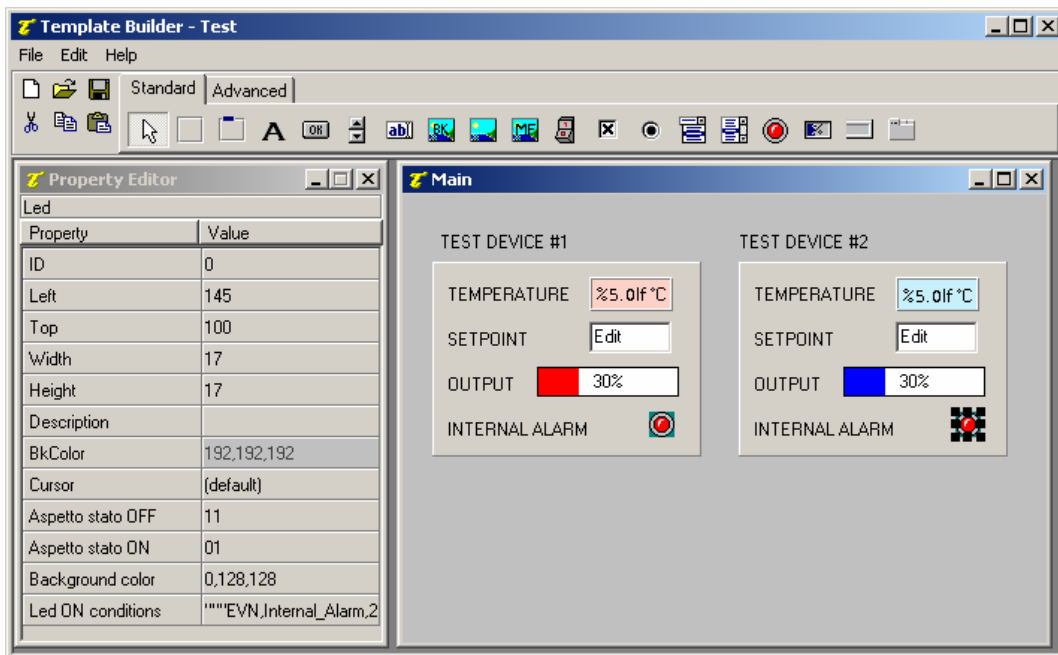
Insert now a *Led* (). alongside of the previous Label. To "give animation" to the object it is necessary to specify which is the condition that make it change colour; modify Led ON conditions property linking led activation condition to *Internal_Alarm,1* (*Internal_Alarm,1 == true*) alarm activation. A red led will be shown in presence of the alarm, otherwise led will be green.




Led object inserting

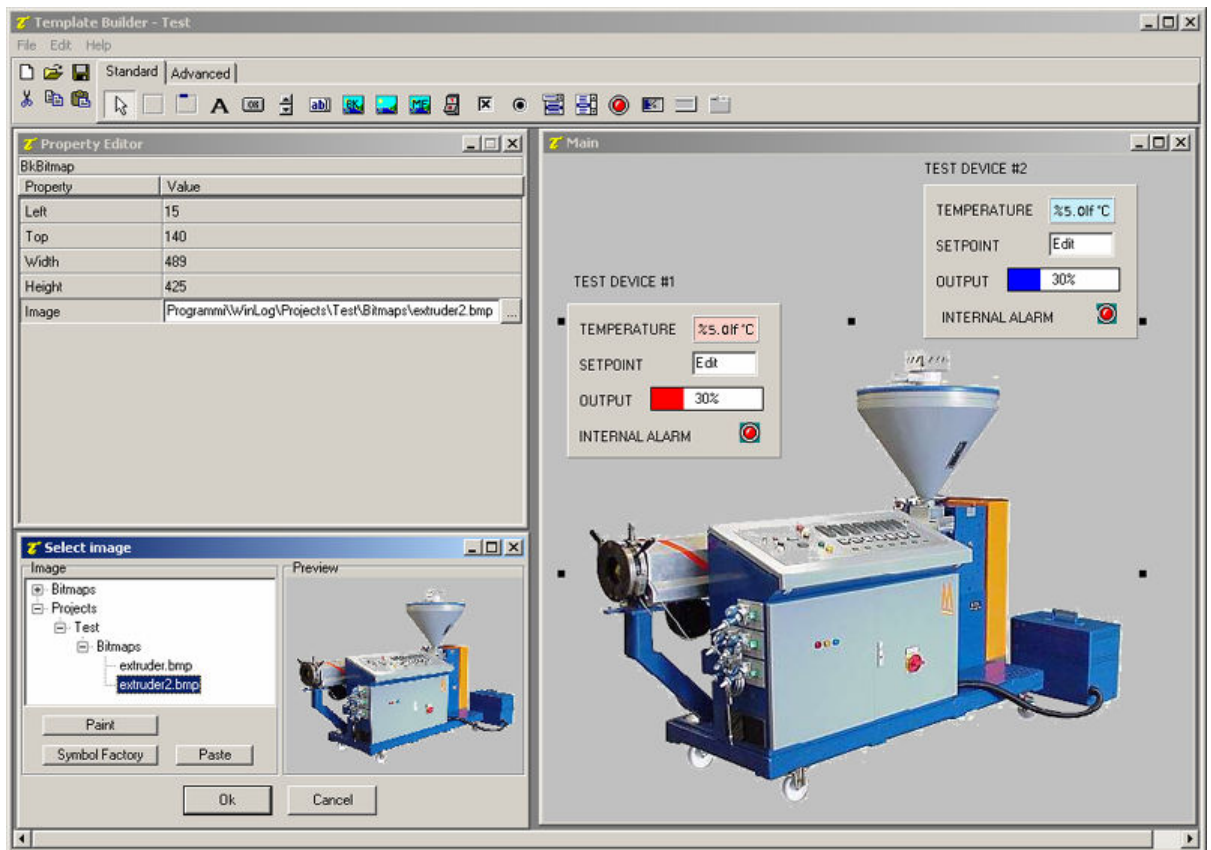
6.6 Completing template

All variables read from device 1 are now displayed; to display also device 2 variables it is enough to select the Frame we have created, copy and paste it in the template. Be careful not to paste it in the source frame; to avoid this mistake click in a free object area of the template before pasting it. Now we have only to modify variables links in Label, Edit, Gauge and Led objects to obtain a supervision interface for the *Test Device #2*.



Two devices supervision template

To complete the template, insert now a *BkBitmap* object (background bitmap, ) previously created using any graphic design software (for example *Paint*) and saved in project *Bitmaps* folder.

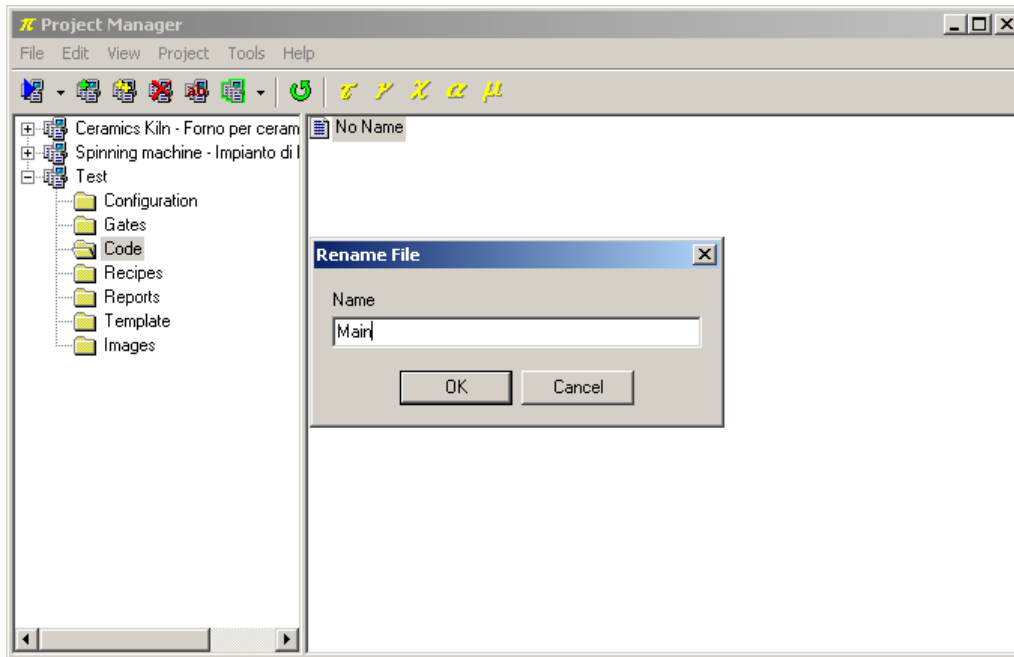


Background bitmap inserting

7. Winlog Pro code example

Now create the code function that allows showing the template at runtime startup.

In Code folder create a file and rename it `Main`; opening it, **Code Builder** starts.



Creazione di un file di codice

Code Builder is the **Winlog Pro** programming environment; we will use it only to define a function that will open the main template at the application startup.


Copy and paste the following code:

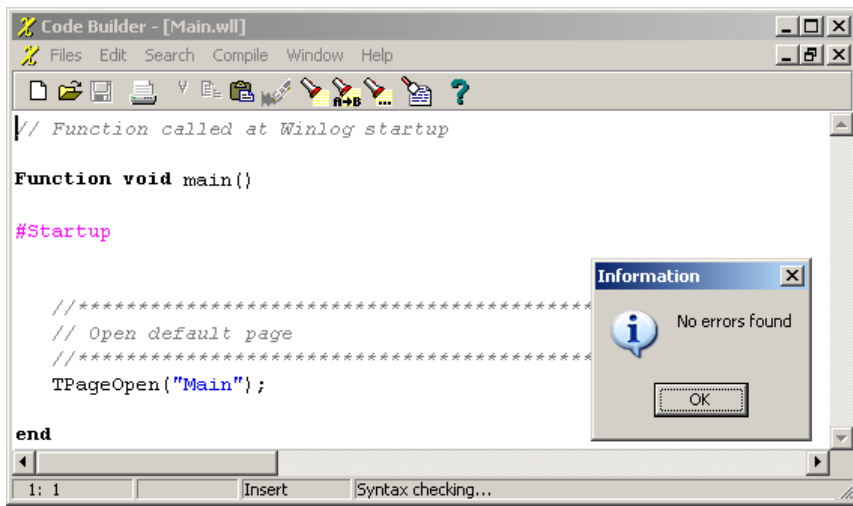
```
// Function called at Winlog startup

Function void Main()
#Startup

    //*****
    // Open default page
    //*****
    TPageOpen ("Main");

end
```

To check syntax of the code use function `Check syntax` ()



Code syntax checking

8. Project execution

Our example is complete.

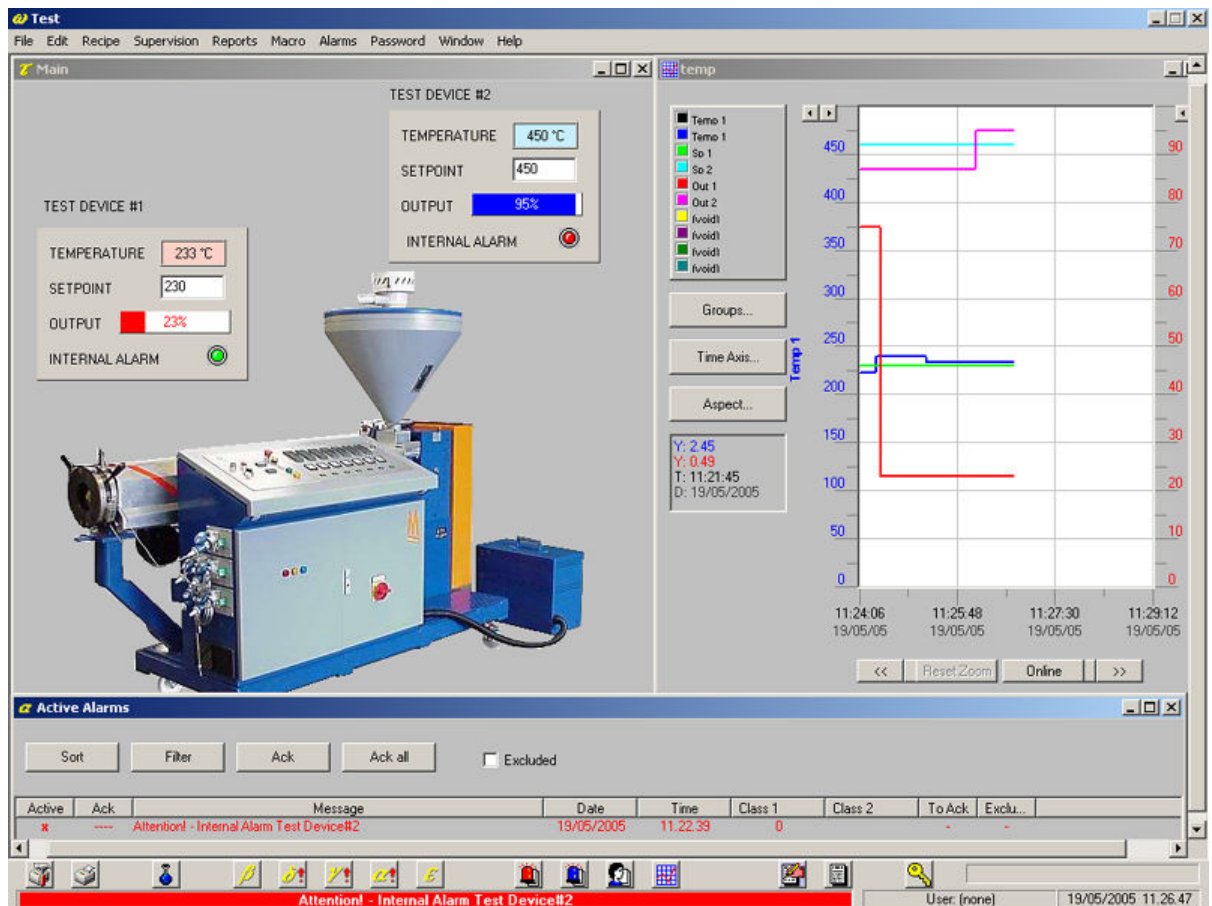
Wire devices to the serial port; to run the project, in **Project Manager** select **Execute...** from **Project** menu.

Now we are entering in the "run-time" phase that is application execution mode. **Winlog Pro** samples variables from devices and processes results in graphical representations (trends and template) and in tabular representations (reports and historical data).

At project startup, main template will appear automatically.

From **Supervision** menu you can display graphical trends; select menu item **Charts...** and define the group of variables that you want to display as graphical trends.

Again in **Supervision** menu you can display both the online status (**Status>Alarms...**) and the story (**Historical>Alarms...**) of all alarms that have been created with **Gate Builder**.



Project execution