TWCAT Communication Driver

Driver for TCP/IP Communication with TWINCAT Runtime Using TwinCAT ADS Library

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Introduction

The TWCAT driver enables communication between the Studio system and TwinCAT PLC using the TwinCAT ADS Interface PLC over TCP/IP, according to the specifications discussed in this document.

This document was designed to help you install, configure and execute the TWCAT driver to enable communication with these devices. The information in this document is organized as follows:

- Introduction: Provides an overview of the TWCAT driver documentation.
- General Information: Provides information needed to identify all the required components (hardware and software) used to implement communication between Studio and the TWCAT driver.
- Installing the Driver: Explains how to install the TWCAT driver.
- Configuring the Driver: Explains how to configure the TWCAT driver.
- Executing the Driver: Explains how to execute the driver to verify that you installed and configured the driver correctly.
- Troubleshooting: Lists the most common error codes for this protocol and explains how to fix these errors.
- **Sample Application**: Explains how to use a sample application to test the TWCAT driver configuration.
- **Revision History**: Provides a log of all modifications made to the driver and the documentation.

Notes:

- This document assumes that you have read the "Development Environment" chapter in the Studio *Technical Reference Manual*.
- This document also assumes that you are familiar with the Windows XP/7/8 environment. If you are unfamiliar with Windows XP/7/8, we suggest using the Help feature (available from the Windows desktop Start menu) as you work through this guide.

General Information

This chapter explains how to identify all the hardware and software components used to implement communication between the Studio TWCAT driver and the TwinCAT PLC.

The information is organized into the following sections:

- Device Characteristics
- Link Characteristics
- Driver Characteristics
- Conformance Testing

Device Characteristics

To establish communication, you must use devices with the following specifications:

- Manufacturer: Beckhoff
- Compatible Equipment: Beckhoff TwinCAT PLC/IO on Windows XP/7/8, CX1000 and CX1020 with Windows CE 5.0 and 6.0, PLC BC9000 and BX9000, and CP66xx with Windows CE 5.0 and ARMV4i processor
- Programmer Software: Beckhoff TwinCAT (System Manager and PLC Control)

Link Characteristics

To establish communication, you must use links with the following specifications:

- Device Communication Port: Runtime device (CX, CP, BC, BX, PC) Ethernet Port
- Physical Protocol: Ethernet/TCP/IP
- Logic Protocol: ADS
- Device Runtime Software: TwinCAT Software
- Third Party Library: TwinCAT ADS Interface PLC Software (tcAdsDll.dll or tcAdsDllCE.dll)
- Specific PC Board: Any TCP/IP Adapter (Ethernet Board)

Driver Characteristics

The TWCAT driver is composed of the following files:

- **TWCAT.INI**: Internal driver file. You must not modify this file.
- TWCAT.MSG: Internal driver file containing error messages for each error code. You must not modify this file.
- **TWCAT**. **PDF**: Document providing detailed information about the TWCAT driver.
- **TWCAT.DLL**: Compiled driver.

Notes:

- All of the preceding files are installed in the /DRV subdirectory of the Studio installation directory.
- You must use Adobe Acrobat[®] Reader[™] (provided on the Studio installation CD-ROM) to view the **TWCAT.PDF** document.

You can use the TWCAT driver on the following operating systems:

- Windows XP/7/8
- Windows CE

For a list of the operating systems used for conformance testing, see "Conformance Testing" on page 4.

The TWCAT driver supports the following flair registers:

Register Type	Write	Read	Bit	Byte	Integer	Float	DWord
%M	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
%Q	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
%I	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
NAME	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
ARRAY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Note:

• The TWCAT driver communicates only with **Variable Names** when communicating with a Windows based TwinCAT runtime system for (Windows Windows XP/7/8, CX1000, CX1020, Windows CE).

• When communicating with a Beckhoff BC9000/BX9000, it is possible only through the following registers: %Q, %I and %M.

Conformance Testing

The following hardware/software was used for conformance testing:

- Driver Configuration: PLC Program Maschine.pro
- Cable: Ethernet Cable

Driver Version	Studio Version	Operating System (Development)	Operating System (Target)	Equipment	TwinCat System Versions
1.26	8.1 + SP1	Windows 7/8.1	 Windows XP + Service Pack 3 Windows 7 	Equipment : Beckhoff TwinCAT PLC	2.10.1318 2.11.2401 3.1.4014 3.1.4016 3.1.4018 3.1.4020

Installing the Driver

When you install Studio version 6.1 or higher, all of the communication drivers are installed automatically. You must select the driver that is appropriate for the application you are using.

Perform the following steps to select the driver from within the application:

- 1. Open Studio from the Start menu.
- 2. From the Studio main menu bar, select File \rightarrow Open Project to open your application.
- 3. Select Insert \rightarrow Driver from the main menu bar to open the Communication Drivers dialog.
- 4. Select the TWCAT driver from the Available Drivers list, and then click the Select button:

	Description	-	Help
T9091 TCPIP	TOLEDO - Module 9091(NT/2K/XP) [1.04]		
TFLUX	TOLEDO, TLP2 Protocol-TOLFLUX 9300 (NT-2000-9x) (v1		
THERM T1500	THERMA, THZ131 (NT-2000-9x) (V1.01) Texas Instruments (Siemens) - Series 500 (TRP/NITP) (NT-		
TND	THINK&DO - Think & Do PC Based Control (NT-CE) [v1.00]		
TXBX	Send and receive data using a serial or TCP/IP port(NT-2	-	
			Coloutex
		1	O EIECLOO
elected dri	vers		
	Description		>> Remóv
DLL		10.0	000001/24154
DLL TWCAT	Beckhoff, TWinCAT ADS Interface PLC (NT-2k-XP-CE)	100	

Communication Drivers Dialog

5. When the TWCAT driver displays in the Selected Drivers list, click the OK button to close the dialog.

Note:

It is necessary to install the TwinCAT ADS libraries on your computer to enable communication between the host and the device. This is installed automatically if you have TwinCAT on your PC. If you will run the runtime in a PC or WinCE device without TwinCAT, you will need to get the libraries directly from Beckhoff. Please check the appendix A for further information

Attention:

For safety reasons, you must use special precautions when installing the physical hardware. Consult the hardware manufacturer's documentation for specific instructions in this area.

Configuring the Driver

After opening Studio and selecting the TWCAT driver, you must configure the driver. Configuring the TWCAT driver is done in two parts:

- Specifying communication parameters
- Defining tags and controls in the MAIN and STANDARD DRIVER SHEETs (or Communication tables)

Worksheets are divided into two sections, a *Header* and a *Body*. The fields contained in these two sections are standard for all communications drivers — except the **Station**, **Header** and **Address** fields, which are driver-specific. This document explains how to configure the **Station**, **Header** and **Address** fields only.

>> Note:

For a detailed description of the Studio *MAIN* and *STANDARD DRIVER SHEETs*, and information about configuring the standard fields, review the product's *Technical Reference Manual*.

Setting the Communication Parameters

Use the following steps to configure the communication parameters, which are valid for all *Driver* worksheets configured in the system:

- 1. From the Studio development environment, select the **Comm** tab located below the *Workspace* pane.
- 2. Click on the Drivers folder in the Workspace pane to expand the folder.
- 3. Right-click on the TWCAT subfolder and when the pop-up menu displays, select the Settings option:



Select Settings from the Pop-Up Menu

The TWCAT: Communication Parameters dialog displays:

ni.		TWCAT:	>
Serial Encapsulation:	None	×	
Serial Port			
COM:	COM1	Stop Bits:	1 v
Baud Rate:	9600	✓ Parity: I	None v
Data Bits:	8	\checkmark	
Timeout:		Import Symbol Table	:
1000		After (re)connectir	ng 🗸 🗸
Max Block Size:		String 2:	
512			
Advanced			OK Cancel

Communication Parameters Dialog

Field	Default	Range	Meaning
Timeout	1000	0 or greater	The value in milliseconds of the internal timeout of the TwinCAT library. This timeout is valid only when trying to find a remote TwinCAT runtime. Note: If the TwinCAT runtime is found but the system is not running, this timeout will not apply
Max Block Size	512	0 - 512	The max amount of addresses that will be read in the same block using the Main Driver Sheet. If set to 0, it defaults to 512
Import Symbol Table	After (re)Connecting	After (re)Connecting OR On Startup only	This option determines when the symbols are imported from the TwinCAT PLC or runtime:. <i>After (re)connecting :</i> The symbol table is dynamically imported every time this driver communicates with the target device. This option is supported by all versions of TwinCAT <i>On startup only :</i> The symbol table is imported only once, when this driver communicates with the target device for the first time after startup. This option is more efficient, but it is supported only by TwinCAT 3.1 or later.

4. Click the **Advanced** button on the *Communication Parameters* dialog to open the *Advanced Settings* dialog and configure the necessary settings.

Notes:

• Do not change any of the other *Advanced* parameters at this time. You can consult the Studio *Technical Reference Manual* for information about configuring these parameters for future reference.

Configuring the Driver Worksheets

This section explains how to configure the *MAIN* and *STANDARD DRIVER SHEETs* (or Communication tables) to associate application tags with the device addresses. You can configure multiple *Driver* worksheets — each of which is divided into a *Header* section and *Body* section.

Configuring the MAIN DRIVER SHEET

When you add the TWCAT driver to your application, Studio automatically adds a *MAIN DRIVER SHEET* to the driver folder, as shown in the following figure:



Main Driver Sheet

You use this worksheet (similar to the following figure when communicating with TwinCat v2.x) to associate Studio tags to addresses in the PLC:

🛅 TW(CAT - MAIN DRIVER SHEET				
Desc	ription:				
MAI	N DRIVER SHEET				
Disat	ole:				
Read	d Completed: Read Sta	itus:			
Write	Completed: Write Sta	tue:	1m:		
write	completed. white sta	ius	lax:		
	Tag Name	Station	I/O Address	Action	Scan
1	STRING[1]		%IB1:BYTE	Read+Write 💌	Always 💌
2	STRING[2]		.string2:244	Read+Write 💌	Always 🔛
3	STRING[3]		.string3:241	Read+Write 👱	Always 🔛
4	STRING[4]		%IB4:WORD	Read+Write 💌	Always 🛛 💌
5	STRING[5]		%QB5:BOOL	Read+Write 💌	Always 🛛 💌
6	STRING[6]		.string6:101	Read+Write 💌	Always 🛛 💌
7	STRING[7]		.string7:128	Read+Write 💌	Always 🛛 💌
8	STRING[8]		%IB8:BYTE	Read+Write 💌	Always 🛛 💌
9	STRING[9]		.string9:212	Read+Write 💌	Always 🛛 💌
10	STRING[10]		.steps	Read+Write 💌	Always 🛛 💌
11	STRING[11]		.arrString[11]	Read+Write 💌	Always 🛛 💌
12	STRING[12]		string12:45	Read+Write 💙	Alwavs 💙



> Note:

Most of the *MAIN DRIVER SHEET* parameters are standard for all drivers, and are not discussed in this document. Instructions for configuring these standard parameters are provided in the Studio *Technical Reference Manual*.

Use the following information to configure the Station and Address parameters specific to this driver:

Station: Type the PLC AmsNetID Address (ID number) and the Runtime number or station port.
 <AmsNetID>:<Runtime or Port Number> (for example: 192.168.1.72.1.1:1 or 192.168.1.72.1.1:301)

Where:

- **<AmsNetID>:** AmsNet ID of the PLC.
- <Runtime>: Runtime number of PLC program (1, 2, 3 or 4) for TwinCAT programs running
- <Port Number>: PLC/NC/IO port used to do the communication.
 The following ports are implemented and tested in the current TWCAT driver version:

- o 801, 811, 821, 831 TwinCAT PLC on WinXP/2000 or WinCE
- o 301 TwinCAT I/O (Custom port option if using tag integration/online symbol retrieval)
- o 800 BC9000 or BX9000 (Custom port option if using tag integration/online symbol retrieval)
- o 851 TwinCAT 3.1 PLC (Custom port option if using tag integration/online symbol retrieval)
- I/O Address: You can communicate either with the variable name (Windows based runtime system) or a specific I/O Address

Type the address of each register in the PLC using the following syntax

For Input, Outputs and Memory areas (on TwinCat 2.x):

%<AddressType><DataType><AddressNumber>.optBit:<VarType> (for example, %QX0.0:BOOL,%IW0:INT)

For STRING type:

%<AddressType><DataType><AddressNumber>.optBit:STRING[Length] (for example, %QB0:STRING[9],%IW0:STRING)

Where:

- <AddressType>: Register type (%M, %Q, %I)
- <Datatype>: Format of data B (byte), X (byte for bit access), W (word), D (double word)
- <AddressNumber>: This value is the address number that you configured on your PLC
- **<Bit>** (*optional*): Indicates the bit number to be read from/written to the device.

Important: In order to access Bit addresses, you need to have the data type set for **X** (e.g. %IX0.0) **<VarType>**: Type here the TwinCAT variable type that you configured for this address. The valid types

- are: BOOL, BYTE, WORD, DWORD, SINT, USINT, INT, UINT, DINT, UDINT, REAL, LREAL, TIME, TOD (TIME_OF_DAY), DATE and DT (DATE_AND_TIME)
- **[optLength]** (optional parameter): Indicates the string length. The default length is 80.

If you do not type the variable type, it will automatically fill this field with the default type according to the configured Data Type: **BOOL** for **X**, **BYTE** for **B**, **WORD** for **W** and **DWORD** for **D**

🖎 Note:

- If the STRING length is not configured the default value going to be 80.
- The maximum STRING length on the address field is 1024.

- If configured a studio STRING length over than the device STRING length you can have a "string overflow" error from device.

Attention:

The headers (%M, %Q, %I) are not supported by the driver when communicating with Twincat 3.1. To communicate with these type of variables use the variables names as the I/O addresses. See section *For Variable Names* below.

For Variable Names (Windows based runtime systems only, e.g. CX1000, CX1020, WinCE, WinXP, WinXPe in Twincat 2.8 or Windows 7/8 with Twincat 3.1):

You can access both Local and Global variables.

For Twincat v2.10 or v2.11 Global variables, type a dot and then the variable name

Examples:

.Speed

.Counter

For Twincat v3.1 Gobal variables, <name of the Global Variable List>.<variable name>

Examples:

GLBL.Speed

GLobalList.Counter

For **Local** variables, type the **POU** name first where the variable is followed by the **dot** and then the variable name

Example

Main.Param1

Both type of variables support a length property, using the syntax:

<Var Name>:optLength

The length property is used to predict the block size that will be necessary, and create virtual groups that will not be bigger than allowed. If not set, no assumption about the length is made, and the parameter Max Block Size of the driver settings will determine the number of tags on each block.

The length is especially useful when reading several string variables that may or may not have its size determined on the TwinCAT program, and not setting its length on the address may lead to errors of Invalid Block Size. Also, if using the length, the user must type the same length as used on the TwinCAT program, as in the example:

On TwinCAT:

0001 VAR_GLOBAL 0002 string1: STRING; 0003 string2: STRING(150); 0004 END_VAR

On Studio:

	Tag Name	Station	I/O Address	Action		Scan	Div	Add
1	STRING[1]		.string1:80	Read+Write 🕒	r A	Always 🛛 💌		
2	STRING[2]		.string2:150	Read+Write 📐	r A	Always 🛛 💌		
*				Read+Write 📘	<	Alwavs 🔽 🔽		

Note that even though the variable *string1* on TwinCAT does not have a specific size, it has a default of 80, that the user can supply on the Main Driver Sheet address to ensure correct separation of virtual groups.

>> Note:

Using Variable Names, you can access **arrays** and **structures** created in TwinCAT. However, you need to associate one tag for each array position or structure member, as you can see in the example below:

On TwinCAT:

0001	VAR_GLOBAL
0002	MyRealArray: ARRAY[010] OF REAL;
0003	MyDINT: ARRAY[010] OF DINT;
0004	END_VAR
OOOF	

On Studio:

	Tag Name	Station	I/O Address	Action	Scan
7	MyRealArrayTag[0]	127.0.0.1.1.1:801	.MyRealArray[0]	Read+Write 💌	Always 🛛 💌
8	MyRealArrayTag[1]	127.0.0.1.1.1:801	.MyRealArray[1]	Read+Write 💌	Always 🛛 💌
9	MyRealArrayTag[2]	127.0.0.1.1.1:801	.MyRealArray[2]	Read+Write 💌	Always 🛛 💌
10	MyRealArrayTag[3]	127.0.0.1.1.1:801	.MyRealArray[3]	Read+Write 💌	Always 🛛 💌
11	MyRealArrayTag[4]	127.0.0.1.1.1:801	.MyRealArray[4]	Read+Write 💌	Always 🛛 💌
12	MyRealArrayTag[5]	127.0.0.1.1.1:801	.MyRealArray[5]	Read+Write 💌	Always 🛛 💌
13	MyRealArrayTag[6]	127.0.0.1.1.1:801	.MyRealArray[6]	Read+Write 💌	Always 🛛 💌
14	MyRealArrayTag[7]	127.0.0.1.1.1:801	.MyRealArray[7]	Read+Write 💌	Always 🛛 💌
15	MyRealArrayTag[8]	127.0.0.1.1.1:801	.MyRealArray[8]	Read+Write 💌	Always 🛛 💌
16	MyRealArrayTag[9]	127.0.0.1.1.1:801	.MyRealArray[9]	Read+Write 💌	Always 🛛 💌
17	MyRealArrayTag[10]	127.0.0.1.1.1:801	.MyRealArray[10]	Read+Write 💌	Always 🛛 💌

>> Note:

The length field syntax is also valid for members of arrays and structures.

Address suffixes for For Variable Names:

Reading Date and Time Variable types as Strings instead of numbers

The user can optionally use suffixes in the addresses configured as Variable names to convert values received for variables of the type DATE (use suffix DATES), DT or Date and Time (use suffix DTS), TOD or Time of Day (use suffix TODS) into a string. This is supported when communicating with Twincat 2 or Twincat 3.1.

For example: Main.dateVarArr[1]:DATES Main.dateTimeVarArr[4]:DTS Main.TimeOfDayVarArr[3]:TODS

On TwinCAT:

0001	PROGRAM temp
0002	VAR
0003	dateVar : DATE := DATE#1973-05-06;
0004	dateTimeVar : DT := DT#1973-05-06-0:0:0;
0005	TimeOfDayVar : TOD := tod#15:36:30.123;
0006	END_VAR
10007	

On Studio:

	📷 TWCAT - MAIN DRIVER S	HEET ×							
	Description:								
	MAIN DRIVER SHEET								
	Disable:								
	Read Completed: Read	Status:							
	Write Completed: Write	Statue:							
	WINE COMPLETED AND	otatus.							
		MIdX.							
[Mdx.							
	Tag Name	Station	I/O Address	Action		Scan		Div	Add
	Tag Name	Station	I/O Address	Action	~	Scan	~	Div Q Filter text	Add
1	Tag Name	Station Station	I/O Address Filter text Main.dateVar	Action (All) Read+Write	~ ~	Scan (All) Always	~ ~	Div Q Filter text	Add
12	Tag Name Comparison Tag Name Comparison	Station Station	I/O Address Filter text Main.dateVar Main.dateVar:DATES	Action (All) Read+Write Read+Write	> > > >	Scan (All) Always Always	> > > >	Div Q Filter text	Add
1 2 3	Tag Name Filter text dateVar dateVarString dateAndTimeVar	Station Station	I/O Address Filter text Main.dateVar Main.dateVar:DATES Main.dateTimeVar	Action (All) Read+Write Read+Write Read+Write	> > > > >	Scan (AII) Always Always Always	> > > >	Div Silter text	Add Filter text
1 2 3 4	Tag Name Filter text dateVar dateVarString dateAndTimeVar dateAndTimeVarString	Station Station	I/O Address Filter text Main.dateVar Main.dateVar:DATES Main.dateTimeVar Main.dateTimeVar:DTS	Action (AII) Read+Write Read+Write Read+Write Read+Write	> > > > > >	Scan (All) Always Always Always Always	> > > >	Div Q Filter text	Add Filter text
1 2 3 4 5	Tag Name Tag Name Filter text dateVar dateVarString dateAndTimeVar dateAndTimeVarString TimeOfDayVar	Station Station	I/O Address Filter text Main.dateVar Main.dateVar:DATES Main.dateTimeVar Main.dateTimeVar Main.dateTimeVar.DTS Main.TimeOfDayVar	Action (AII) Read+Write Read+Write Read+Write Read+Write Read+Write	> > > > > > >	Scan (AII) Always Always Always Always Always		Div Silter text	Add Filter text

Database Spy			
Tag/Expression	Value	Quality	Continuous
dateVar	105494400	GOOD	✓
dateVarString	1973-05-06	GOOD	✓
dateAndTimeVar	105494400	GOOD	✓
dateAndTimeVarString	1973-05-06-00:00:00	GOOD	✓
TimeOfDayVar	56190123	GOOD	✓
TimeOfDayVarString	15:36:30.123	GOOD	✓

Configuring the STANDARD DRIVER SHEET

Use the following steps to create a new STANDARD DRIVER SHEET:

- 1. From the Studio development environment, select the Comm tab, located below the Workspace pane.
- 2. In the Workspace pane, expand the Drivers folder and right-click the TWCAT subfolder.
- 3. When the pop-up menu displays, select the **Insert** option:



Inserting a New Worksheet

> Note:

To optimize communication and ensure better system performance, you must tie the tags in different *Driver* worksheets to the events that trigger communication between each tag group and the period in which each tag group must be read or written. Also, we recommend configuring the communication addresses in sequential blocks to improve performance.

The STANDARD DRIVER SHEET displays (similar to the following figure):

Descriptio	on:					
Maschin	chine communication					
Read Trig	gger:	Enable Read when I	Idle: Read Completed:	ad Status:		
rt[1]	rt[1] er[1]		RC[1]	RS	5[1]	
Write Trig	jger:	Enable Write on Tag	Change: Write Completed:	Wr	ite Status:	
wt[1]		ew[1]	WC[1]	W:	5[1]	
Station:		Header:				
192.168.	1.72.1.1:1	NAME		Min:		
				Trian.		
	Tag Name					
	18	ag Name	Address		Div	Add
1	switch	ag Name	Address .switch		Div	Add
1	switch engine	ag Name	Address .switch .engine		Div	Add
1 2 3	switch engine deviceUp	ag Name	Address .switch .engine .deviceUp		Div	Add
1 2 3 4	switch engine deviceUp deviceDowr	ag Name	Address .switch .engine .deviceUp .deviceDown		Div	Add
1 2 3 4 5	switch engine deviceUp deviceDown count	ig Name	Address .switch .deviceUp .deviceDown .count		Div	Add
1 2 3 4 5 6	switch engine deviceUp deviceDown count steps	ng Name	Address .switch .engine .deviceUp .deviceDown .count .steps		Div	Add
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	switch engine deviceUp deviceDown count steps devSpeed	ag Name	Address .switch .engine .deviceUp .deviceDown .count .steps .devSpeed		Div	Add
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	switch engine deviceUp deviceDown count steps devSpeed devTimer	ag Name	Address .switch .engine .deviceUp .deviceDown .count .steps .devSpeed .devTimer		Div	Add
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	switch engine deviceUp deviceDown count steps devSpeed devTimer timerUp	ig Name	Address .switch .engine .deviceUp .deviceDown .count .steps .devSpeed .devSpeed .devTimer .timerUp		Div	Add

Standard Driver Sheet

In general, all parameters on the *Driver* worksheet (except the **Station**, **Header** and **Address** fields) are standard for all communication drivers, but they will not be discussed in this document. For detailed information about configuring the standard parameters, consult the *Studio Technical Reference Manual*.

- 4. Use the following information to complete the Station, Header and Address fields on this worksheet.
 - Station: Type the PLC AmsNetID Address (ID number) and the Runtime or Port number.

<AmsNetID>:<Runtime or Port Number>(for example: 192.168.1.72.1.1:1 or 192.168.1.72.1.1:301)

Where:

- * **<AmsNetID>:** AmsNet ID of the PLC.
- * **<Runtime>:** Runtime number of PLC program (1, 2, 3 or 4) for TwinCAT programs running
- * **<Port** Number>: PLC/NC/IO port used to do the communication.

The following ports are implemented and tested in the current TWCAT driver version:

- o 801, 811, 821, 831 TwinCAT PLC on WinXP/2000 or WinCE
- o 301 TwinCAT I/O
- o 800 BC9000/BX9000
- o 851 TwinCAT 3.1 PLC (Custom port option if using tag integration/online symbol retrieval)

Note:

If both Studio and the TwinCAT runtime are on the same computer or CX10XX, you can leave the **Station** field blank and it will communicate with the Local Runtime Target system number 1 (Port 801) in case of Twincat v2.x. However this will have to be configured when using Twincat v3.1

Header field: Use the information in the following table to define the type of variables that will be read from
or written to the device

For Input, Outputs and Memory areas:

The header must comply with the following syntax:

%<AddressType>

Where:

- <AddressType> is the can be %M, %Q or %I

After you edit the **Header** field, Studio checks the syntax to determine if it is valid. If the syntax is incorrect, Studio automatically inserts the default value **%M** in the **Header** field

Also, you can type a tag string in brackets {**Tag**} into the **Header** field, but you must be certain that the tag's value is correct and that you are using the correct syntax or you will get an **invalid Header** error.

Attention:

The headers (%M, %Q, %I) are not supported by the driver when communicating with Twincat 3.1. To communicate with these type of variables use the variables names in the Address field and NAME as the header field. See section *For Variable Names* below.

For Variable Names (Windows based runtime systems only, e.g. CX1000, CX1020, WinCE, WinXP, WinXPe, WIN7/8):

For a TwinCAT Windows based runtime system, you can only access the variables by their name in the Address field. So, in the header field you simply type **NAME** on it, as shown in the example below:

Station:	Header:	
127.0.0.1.1.1:801	NAME	

• Writing into Array Variables (Only supported on TwinCat v2.x)

You can optimize writing into Array Variables creating a specific standard driver worksheet for it, where all the array positions will be written in just one shot using the **Write Trigger** field.

In this case, the header that you need to configure is the Tag Name with the array configuration they way to do it on TwinCAT.

Syntax: <VariableName>[initial..final]

For example:

On TwinCAT:

 0001
 VAR_GLOBAL

 0002
 MyRealArray: ARRAY[0..10] OF REAL;

 0003
 MyDINT: ARRAY[0..10] OF DINT;

 0004
 END_VAR

On Studio:

Enable Write on Tag Change: Write Completed:	Write Status:
] [
Header:	and L
MYREALARRAY[0.,10]	
	Max.
Enable Write on Tag Change: Write Completed:	Write Status:
Enable Write on Tag Change: Write Completed:	Write Status:
Enable Write on Tag Change: Write Completed:	Write Status:
	Enable Write on Tag Change: Write Completed: Header: MYREALARRAY[010]

The following table lists all of the data types that are valid for the TWCAT driver

Data Types	Supported on Twincat version	Sample Syntax	Comments
%М	2.1x	%M	Memory: Read and write data value in the memory area
%Q	2.1x	°°Q	Output: Read and write data value in the outputs area.
%I	2.1x	%Ι	Input: Read and write data value in the inputs area.
NAME	2.1x and 3.1	NAME	Variable Name: up to 512 in the same driver sheet or 7Kb of Data.
Array Variable Name	2.1x	.VAR[010]	Array Variable Name – the limit is the variable array size. (only 1 dimenstional arrays)

Address field: Use the information in the next table to associate each tag to its respective device address.
 Type the tag from your application database into the Tag Name column. This tag will receive values from or send values to an address on the device. The address must comply with the following syntax:

For Input, Outputs and Memory areas:

<DataType><AddressNumber>.optBit:<VarType> (for example, X0.0:BOOL, W0:INT)

For STRING type:

<DataType><AddressNumber>.optBit:STRING[optLength] (for example, B0:STRING[9], W0:STRING)

Where:

- <Datatype>: Format of data B (byte), X (byte for bit access), W (word), D (double word)
- **<AddressNumber>**: This value is the address number that you configured on your PLC
- **<Bit>** (*optional*): Indicates the bit number to be read from/written to the device.

Important: In order to access Bit addresses, you need to have the data type set for X (e.g. %IX0.0)

- <VarType>: Type here the TwinCAT variable type that you configured for this address. The valid types are: BOOL, BYTE, WORD, DWORD, SINT, USINT, INT, UINT, DINT, UDINT, REAL, LREAL, TIME, TOD (TIME_OF_DAY), DATE and DT (DATE_AND_TIME)
- **[optLength]** (optional): Indicates the string length. The default length is 80.

If you do not type the variable type, it will automatically fill this field with the default type according to the configured Data Type: **BOOL** for **X**, **BYTE** for **B**, **WORD** for **W** and **DWORD** for **D**

🔈 Note:

- If the STRING length is not configured the default 80 will be used
- The maximum STRING length on the address field is 1024.

- If you configure a STRING length in the Address field larger than the STRING length configured at the TwinCAT program, and try to write to it, you may get a "string overflow" error on TwinCAT

Attention:

The headers (%M, %Q, %I) are not supported by the driver when communicating with Twincat 3.1. To communicate with these type of variables use the variables names in the Address field and NAME as the header field. See section *For Variable Names* below.

For Variable Names (Windows based runtime systems only, e.g. CX1000, CX1020, WinCE, WinXP, WinXPe or Win7/8):

You can access both Local and Global variables.

For Twincat v2.10 or v2.11 Global variables, type a dot and then the variable name

Examples:

.Speed

.Counter

.Position[0,2,3]

For Twincat v3.1 Global variables, type <name of the Global Variable List>.<variable name>

Examples:

GLBL.Speed

GLobalList.Counter

For **Local** variables, type the **POU** name first where the variable is followed by the **dot** and then the variable name for both Twincat v2.10, v2.11 and TwinCaT v3.1

Example

Main.Param1

Address Configuration Sample v.2.1x							
Device Address	Header Field	Address Field					
%QX0.0	%Q	X0.0:BOOL					
%QX0.5	%Q	X0.5:BOOL					
%QX1.0	%Q	X1.0:BOOL					
%QX7.7	%Q	X7.7:BOOL					
%QB0 (8 bits)	%Q	B0:BYTE					
%QW0	%Q	W0:WORD					
%MW0 (Word)	%M	W0:WORD					
%MW5 (INT)	%M	W5:INT					
%MB5 (BYTE)	%M	B5:BYTE					
%MX5.0	%M	X5.0:BOOL					
%MD15 (REAL)	%M	D15:REAL					
%IX10.7	%I	X10.7:BOOL					
%IW10	%I	W10:WORD					
%I10 and %I11 (16bits)	%I	W10					
engine (Global Variable)	NAME	.engine					
speed (Global Variable)	NAME	.speed					
down (Global Variable)	NAME	.down					
balance (main program)	NAME	MAIN.balance					
timerUp.StartTime (Global)	NAME	.timerUp.StartTime					
MyDINT[3] (Global)	NAME	.MyDINT[3]					
MyArray[3,3,3] (Globa)	NAME	.MyArray[3,3,3]					

Address Configuration Sample v3.1						
Device Address	Header Field	Address Field				
engine (Global Variable List : GVL)	NAME	GVL.engine				
speed (Global Variable List Glbl1)	NAME	Glbl1.speed				
down (Global Variable List:Global)	NAME	Global.down				
balance (main program)	NAME	MAIN.balance				
MyDINT[3,3,3] (Main)	NAME	Main.MyDINT[3,3,3]				

Attention:

- You must not configure a range of addresses or variable greater than the maximum block size (data buffer length) supported by each PLC within the same worksheet. The maximum data buffer length for this driver is configured on the drivers' settings, with a maximum of 512 addresses / variable names, corresponding to 7Kb, per *Standard Driver* worksheet.

- If there is any variable name configured in the **Address** field that does not match the PLC variable name, the entire worksheet will be invalidated, and you will get communication error

• Writing into Array Variables

As mentioned before, you can optimize writing into Array Variables creating a specific standard driver worksheet for it, where all the array positions will be written in just one shot using the **Write Trigger** field.

Once you have configured the header with the variable name and the array settings, in the **Address** field you only need to type the array position which you are connecting the tag to.

Important: this feature is supported only with one-dimensional arrays on Twincat v2.xx.

For example:

On TwinCAT v2.1x:

 0001
 VAR_GLOBAL

 0002
 MyRealArray: ARRAY[0..10] OF REAL;

 0003
 MyDINT: ARRAY[0..10] OF DINT;

 0004
 END_VAR

On Studio:

1				crease priority
B	ead Trigger:	Enable Re	ad when Idle: Read Completed:	Read Status
W	/rite Trigger:	Enable Writ	te on Tag Change: Write Completed:	Write Status
V	ArTr			
St	tation:	Header:		
1	127.0.0.1.1.1:801	MYARR	AYREAL[010]	Mini -
1			-	10 dX.
	Tag Na	ime	Addr	ess
	MyRealArrayTag[0	1	0	
2	MyRealArrayTag[1	1	1	
3	MyRealArrayTag[2	Ι.	2	
4	MyRealArrayTag[3	1	3	
5	MyRealArrayTag[4	1	4	
6	MyRealArrayTag[5	1	5	
7	MyRealArrayTag[6	1	6	
3	MyRealArrayTag[7	1	7	
3	MyRealArrayTag[8	1	8	
0	MyRealArrayTag[9	1	9	
1	MyRealArrayTag[1	0]	10	

So, what you get there is that when you change the value of the tag that is on the **Write Trigger** field you will write the entire array in just one shot, optimizing the communication performance.

Note that in this case Enable Write on Tag Change trigger field will not work.

• Address suffixes for For Variable Names:

Reading Date and Time Variable types as Strings instead of numbers

You can optionally use suffixes in the addresses configured as Variable names to convert values received for variables of the type DATE (use suffix DATES), DT or Date and Time (use suffix DTS), TOD or Time of Day (use suffix TODS) into a string. This is supported when communicating with Twincat 2 or Twincat 3.1.

For example: Main.dateVar:DATES Main.dateTimeVar:DTS Main.TimeOfDayVar:TODS On TwinCAT:

L	0001	PROGRAM temp
E	0002	VAR
E	0003	dateVar : DATE := DATE#1973-05-06;
Γ	0004	dateTimeVar : DT := DT#1973-05-06-0:0:0;
Γ	0005	TimeOfDayVar : TOD := tod#15:36:30.123;
Γ	0006	END_VAR
Γ	0007	

On Studio:

	🛒 TWCAT - MAIN DRIVER S	heet ×										
	Description:											
	MAIN DRIVER SHEET											
	Disable:											
	Read Completed: Read	Status:	Min:									
	Write Completed: Write	Status:	Max:									
Γ	Tag Name		Station		I/O Address		Action		Scan		Div	Add
	🔍 Filter text	🔍 Filter t	ext	🔍 Filt	er text		🔍 (All)	v	🔍 (All)	¥	🔍 Filter text	🔍 Filter text
1	dateVar			Main.d	ateVar		Read+Write	V	Always	¥		
2	dateVarString			Main.d	Main.dateVar:DATES Read+		Read+Write	V	Always	v		
3	dateAndTimeVar			Main.dateTimeVar Rea		Read+Write	v	Always	v			
4	dateAndTimeVarString			Main.dateTimeVar:DTS		Read+Write	V	Always	v			
5	TimeOfDavVar			Main.TimeOfDayVar R		Read+Write	v	Always	v			
6	TimeOfDavVarString			Main.Ti	imeOfDavVar	TODS	Read+Write	V	Always	v		
							read mite		/iiiidy5			
	Database Spy	Database Spy										×
	Tag/Expression	on	Value		Quality	Conti	nuous					
	dateVar		105494400		GOOD		/					
	dateVarString		1973-05-06		GOOD		/					
	dateAndTimeVar		105494400		GOOD		/					
	dateAndTimeVarSt	ring	1973-05-06-00:00:	00	GOOD		/					
	TimeOfDayVar		56190123		GOOD		/					
	TimeOfDayVarStrin	g	15:36:30.123		GOOD		/					

Executing the Driver

After adding the TWCAT driver to a project, Studio sets the project to execute the driver automatically when you start the run-time environment.

To verify that the *Driver Runtime* task is enabled and will start correctly, perform the following steps:

- 1. Select $Project \rightarrow Status$ from the main menu bar.
 - The Project Status dialog displays:

Task	Status Startup	
Background Task	Automatic	<u>S</u> tart
😭 Database Spy	Manual	
🕺 DDE Client Runtime	Manual	Stop
DDE Server	Manual	0300
🛅 Driver Runtime	Automatic	
LogWin	Manual	
🖗 ODBC Runtime	Manual	Start <u>u</u> p
CPC Client Runtime	Automatic	
Studio Scada OPC Server	Automatic	
🕅 TCP/IP Client Runtime	Automatic	
YTCP/IP Server	Automatic	
Viewer	Automatic	

Project Status Dialog

- 2. Verify that the Driver Runtime task is set to Automatic.
 - If the setting is correct, click **OK** to close the dialog.
 - If the Driver Runtime task is set to Manual, select the Driver Runtime line. When the Startup button becomes active, click the button to toggle the *Startup* mode to Automatic.
- 3. Click OK to close the Project Status dialog.
- 4. Start the application to run the driver

Troubleshooting

If the TWCAT driver fails to communicate with the device, the tag you configured for the **Read Status** or **Write Status** fields will receive an error code. Use this error code and the following table to identify what kind of failure occurred.

Error Code Description		Possible Causes	Procedure to Solve			
0	ОК	Communication without problems	None required			
1	Invalid AmsNet ID Station	Invalid AmsNet ID Station. The AmsNet ID must have 6 numbers.	Type a valid AmsNet ID.			
30	Error loading third party library	The third party library is not installed (tcAdsDll.dll or tcADsDllCE.dll).	Install the third party library TwinCAT ADS Interface PLC software.			
40	Error loading extern function	The extern function can not be loaded.	Install the correct tcAdsDII.dll or tcAdsDIICE.dll library. The library exists, but the extern functions cannot be loaded.			
50	Invalid command	Header in the Driver Worksheet is invalid.	Type a valid header.			
60	Invalid datatype	Specified address contains an invalid value	Type a valid address.			
70	Error in the GetLocalAddress function	The TwinCAT ADS Interface PLC is not working properly, or TwinCAT software is not running.	Contact your Studio technical support representative.			
90	Error writing data	The TwinCAT ADS Interface PLC is not working properly, or TwinCAT software is not running.	Note the error text in the LogWin, and contact your Studio technical support representative.			
100	Error in the ADSIGRP_SYM_READWRITE (InfoByNameEx) service	Cannot load the TwinCAT PLC variables information. The TwinCAT ADS Interface PLC is not working properly, TwinCAT software is not running, or the configured variable name is not configured in the TwinCAT PLC software.	Using the Output or LogWin modules, enable the Serial Communication and check if it says the variable name that could not be found. Once it shows the variable name, go back to the driver sheet that has it and double check with the PLC program if this variable is correctly configured.			
110	Error in the ADSIGRP_SYM_READWRITE service	Cannot read the TwinCAT PLC variables values. The TwinCAT ADS Interface PLC is not working properly, or TwinCAT software is not running.	Using the Output or LogWin modules, enable the Serial Communication and check if it says the variable name that could not be found. Once it shows the variable name, go back to the driver sheet that has it and double check with the PLC program if this variable is correctly configured.			
120	Error processing value	The configured variable name or address is not configured in the TwinCAT PLC software or is out of range.	Using the Output or LogWin modules, enable the Serial Communication and check if it says the variable name that could not be found. Once it shows the variable name, go back to the driver sheet that has it and double check with the PLC program if this variable is correctly configured.			
130	BlockSize Error	Address or variable configured in Driver sheet is over the limit.	Only 512 addresses or variables can be configured per Driver Sheet.			
200	Too many connections	AmsNetID is over the limit.	Only 64 AmsNetID addresses can be configured.			
211	Invalid Read Block Size	Not enough data buffer.	Configure up to 7Kb of data. If using the Main Driver Sheet, specify the length of the variables or block size			
213	Invalid Header	The configured Header is not valid.	Check the documentation for a valid Header configuration.			
215	Invalid Block Size ARRAY	Not enough data buffer ARRAY.	Configure up to 7Kb of data.			

Error Code	Description	Possible Causes	Procedure to Solve
216	Invalid Symbol	Invalid NAME	Correct the invalid NAME
217	Invalid Connection	Invalid connection configuration.	Check the connection configuration.
-15	Timeout Start Message	 Disconnected cables PLC is turned off, in stop mode, or in error mode Wrong station number Wrong RTS/CTS control settings 	 Check cable wiring. Check the PLC state – it must be RUN. Check the station number. Check the configuration. See Studio <i>Technical Reference Manual</i> for information about valid RTS/CTS configurations.
-17	Timeout between rx char	 PLC in stop mode or in error mode Wrong station number Wrong parity Wrong RTS/CTS configuration settings 	 Check cable wiring. Check the PLC state – it must be RUN. Check the station number. Check the configuration. See Studio <i>Technical Reference Manual</i> for information about valid RTS/CTS configurations.

🗢 Tip:

You can verify communication status using the Studio development environment *Output* window (*LogWin* module). To establish an event log for Field Read Commands and Field Write Commands, right-click in the *Output* window. When the pop-up menu displays, select the option to set the log events. If you are testing a Windows CE target, you can use the Remote LogWin of Studio (Tools \rightarrow Remote LogWin) to get the log events from the target unit remotely.

If you are unable to establish communication with the PLC, try to establish communication between the PLC Programming Tool (TwinCAT PLC Control) and the PLC (TwinCAT Runtime). Quite frequently, communication is not possible because you have a hardware or cable problem, or a PLC configuration error. After successfully establishing communication between the device's Programming Tool and the PLC, you can retest the supervisory driver.

To test communication with Studio, we recommend using the sample application provided rather than your new application.

If you must contact us for technical support, please have the following information available:

- Operating System (type and version): To find this information, select Tools \rightarrow System Information.
- Studio Version: To find this information, select $Help \rightarrow About$.
- **Driver Version**: To find this information, read the full description of the driver on the *Communication Drivers* dialog.
- Communication Log: Displays in the Studio *Output* window (or *LogWin* window) when the driver is running. Be sure to enable the Field Read Commands and Field Write Commands for the *LogWin* window.
- Device Model and Boards: Consult the hardware manufacturer's documentation for this information.

Sample Application

This driver does not have a sample application.

Revision History

Doc. Revision	Driver Version	Date	Description of changes
А	1.00	Jan/28/2004	First driver version
В	1.01	Feb/04/2004	Modified the extern function to dynamic mode
С	1.02	Oct/27/2004	 Implemented remote access Accessed all runtimes Increased read performance
D	1.03	Jan/06/2005	Modified to accept any port number in the Station field.
E	1.04	Apr/25/2005	Implemented String TypeImplemented Signed Type
F	1.05	Sep/6/2005	Fixed problems with GPF in ARMs processors
G	1.06	Sep/26/2005	Fixed problems with string writing
Н	1.07	Feb/02/2006	Avoid GPF on variable writing.
1	1.08	Apr/18/2006	Changed TWCAT to communicate with BC9000
J	1.09	Oct/25/2006	Fixed problem with the bit reading Implemented the group writing
к	1.10	Nov/05/2007	 -Fixed problem of the IO operands communicating with BX/BC PLC(TWCAT driver) - Implemented String Length - Driver reviewed - Fixed problem about String configuration - Increased Read performance - Implemented Write Trigger NAME
L	1.12	Dec/15/2008	 Increased the maximum Tag Name to 1023 characters. Modified the algorithm to order the addresses.
М	1.13	Apr/6/2009	Modified driver to communicate with Strings more than 80 Characters long
Ν	1.14	Apr/21/2009	Fixed problem with REAL values when communicating with BC/BX 9000
0	1.14	Dec/9/2009	Changed the documentation only. No modifications in the driver
Р	1.14	Mar/31/2010	Changed the documentation only. No modifications in the driver
Q	1.15	Jul/08/2010	-Included optional size of variable -Included option for max block size on drivers' settings -Included new timeout parameter
R	1.16	Jul/1/2013	Modified error Message when beckhoff libraries fail to load
S	1.17	Jan/05/2016	-Fixed bug when the driver fails with the entire group in case one symbol is invalid -Updated driver quality as BAD for invalid symbol.
Т	1.18	Feb/04/2016	Fixed problem in tags timestamp value
U	1.19	Apr/27/2016	-Fixed problem with writing TRUE to a Boolean tag. -Updated documentation for ADS configuration (Appendix A) and driver settings.
V	1.20	Jun/14/2016	-Fixed the issue of Reading/Writing symbols when they were dynamically added or changed in the PLC/Simulator while in runtime. -Improved loading of symbols when using After re-connect mode or On startup mode -Improved performance of the driver when loading symbols.
W	1.21	Sept/16/2016	-Improved memory usage and performance of the driver and fixed stability issues when working with large applications with deep structures and multiple simultaneous requests.
x	1.22	Feb/09/2017	 Improved memory consumption for the driver when using multiple simultaneous connections for large applications with deep structures. Added support to string conversion for variables of the type Date, Date and Time (DT) and Time of Day (TOD)

			-Fixed issue of driver generating exceptions when using more than 16 simultaneous connections.
Y	1.23	June/26/2017	 -Fixed issue of wrong quality and timestamp when using input, output and memory area addresses. - Improved memory allocation to prevent crashes.
Z	1.24	Aug/09/2017	-Fixed issue of no support for length entry for strings using %M, %Q or %I
AA	1.25	Feb/12/2018	-Fixed an issue with a memory leak when using invalid addresses
AB	1.26	Feb/22/2018	-Fixed a memory leak -Fixed an issue with connectivity while using multiple stations on WinCE

Appendix A : Installing and Configuring the TwinCAT ADS Software

This section describes how to install and configure the TwinCAT Automation Device Specification (ADS) software that is required for communication with TwinCAT PLCs and runtimes.

<u>Download and install the ADS software on the local computer Setting the</u> <u>Communication Parameters</u>

To communicate with TwinCAT PLCs and runtimes, you must have the ADS software installed and configured on the same computer where the driver is set to run (hereafter called "the local computer"). The ADS software allows the local computer to present itself as a TwinCAT node on the network, and the TWCAT driver communicates through it.

The ADS software is installed as part of the full TwinCAT software, so if you already have the full TwinCAT software installed on the local computer, there is nothing more you need to do. Otherwise, you need to install and configure the ADS software separately.

At the time this document was written, you could download the ADS software installer from the following location: www.beckhoff.com/english/twincat/tc1000.htm

After you download the installer, run it and follow the instructions. You will need to restart the local computer to finish the installation, and when you do, the software will run automatically. By default, the software is installed at: C:\TwinCAT\

Your use of the ADS software is subject to the License Agreement that is installed with the software. For more information about the License Agreement, please contact Beckhoff.

Add an AMS route between the local computer and the target

To establish communication between the local computer and a target PLC or runtime, you need to add an AMS route between the two. This can be done on either the local computer or the target, as long as both have valid AMS Net IDs.

Each TwinCAT node on the network — in other words, each PLC, runtime, or computer that has the ADS software installed — has a unique AMS Net ID that consists of six numeric values separated by periods (e.g., 5.7.46.126.1.1). When you install the ADS software on a computer, that computer is given a default AMS Net ID based on the computer's IP address. The AMS Net ID is separate from the IP address, however, and if you change the IP address, the AMS Net ID is not updated to match. You can manually change the AMS Net ID, if necessary.

To add the AMS route on the local computer

- 1. In the notification area of the Windows taskbar, right-click the TwinCAT icon, and then on the shortcut menu, click Router > Edit Routes. (You might need to expand the notification area if the TwinCAT icon is hidden.) The TwinCAT Static Routes dialog box is displayed.
- 2. In the TwinCAT Static Routes dialog box, click Add. The Add Route dialog box is displayed.
- 3. If the target is located on the same network as the local computer, you should be able to select it:
 - a. Click Broadcast Search to get a list of targets that broadcast their presence on the network.
 - b. Select your target in the list. The route settings are automatically configured for the selected target.
- 4. If the target is not located on the same network as the local computer, you need to manually configure the route settings:

a. In the Route Name (Target) box, type a name for the target. This is the name that will be displayed in the local computer's list of routes, after you finish adding the route.

b. In the Route Name (Remote) box, type a name for the local computer. This is the name that will be displayed in the target's list of routes, after you finish adding the route. The default name is the local computer's host name, but you can change it if necessary.

c. In the AmsNetID box, type the target's ID.

If you do not know the target's ID, either use the TwinCAT programming software to get it or use Broadcast Search on another computer on the target's network.

d. In the Transport Type list, select the network's transport type or protocol. In most cases, you should select TCP_IP (i.e., TCP/IP). For all other options, please contact Beckhoff.

e. In the Address Info box, type the host name or IP address of the target, and then below the box, make sure the corresponding option — Host Name or IP Address — is selected.

^r Tip:

You can use the ping command, at the Windows command prompt, to confirm that the specified host name or IP address is valid and accessible.

- 5. Click Add Route. The Add Route dialog box is closed, and the route is added to the local computer's list of routes.
- 6. Close the TwinCAT Static Routes dialog box.

Alternatively, if you want to add the AMS route on the target, see the manufacturer's documentation for that PLC or runtime.

Test the AMS route that you added

After you have added the AMS route between the local computer and the target, you should test the route itself to make sure they can communicate with each other. To test the route:

1. On the local computer, locate and run the ADS test program (TcAdsTest.exe). The TcAdsTest window is displayed.

>> Note:

There are three copies of TcAdsTest.exe included in the ADS software. If the software was installed at its default location, the three copies should be located at:

C:\TwinCAT\AdsApi\TcAdsDll\TcAdsTest.exe

C:\TwinCAT\AdsApi\TcAdsTest\TcAdsTest.exe

C:\TwinCAT\Common32\TcAdsTest.exe

All three copies function the same, so you can use any one of them

- 2. In the TcAdsTest window, click AdsPortOpen. An alert message is displayed to inform you that the computer's ADS port has been opened for communication.
- 3. In the TcAdsTest window, click Test. The Test window is displayed.
- 4. In the Test window, in the AmsNetId box, type the ID of the target.
- 5. Click Start to start the test. The number of successful operations (e.g., n Successful) should be displayed in the Output box, and the number should keep increasing as long as the test is running.
- 6. Click Stop to stop the test.
- 7. Close the Test window, and then close the TcAdsTest window.

If the test results confirm that the local computer and the target can communicate with each other, the TWCAT driver should also be able to communicate with the target through the ADS software.