NEW E2G INTERFACE - API RBI V9 IN PLANT MANAGER TO MERIDIUM

E2G has developed a new interface to connect the API RBI v9 software to Meridium 3.5 or higher. The new interface allows two-way synchronization of RBI and Meridium data. Because of architectural changes in both the API RBI and Meridium softwares, the prior Meridium “Connector” could not be used with the newer software. For customers currently using API RBI v8 and Meridium 3.4, the new interface now offers a path to upgrading both software packages while maintaining the sync functionality.

The new interface is completely redesigned, taking advantage of modern programming techniques. E2G and Meridium collaborated on the initial design of the new E2G Interface, considering lessons learned from the previous version. The previous Meridium Connector attempted to copy all of the data from the API RBI software into Meridium, resulting in a cumbersome and confusing user experience and slow performance. The new E2G Interface enforces data custody in the appropriate software. This means each piece of data is mastered in only one program. Data that is not required in the other program is not transferred. Only data required in both programs are synchronized. This makes the new interface easier to operate and maintain.

The new E2G Interface utilizes the Meridium web services (ETL Load and ETL Query) which buffer the interface from any changes to the underlying Meridium software. Likewise, a plugin has been added to PlantManager. The plugin includes a configuration utility to define and edit the interface. This tells the interface where to find and where to put the data to be synchronized. This enhances maintainability of the interface.

For companies currently using the old Meridium Connector, the prerequisite to moving to the new E2G Interface is to move from API RBI v8.xx to a current version of API RBI v9 in PlantManager. This requires a database upgrade, which E2G provides at no additional charge with the API RBI v9 subscription. Because v9 has significantly expanded keywords and changes in business rules, the database upgrade cannot be performed by the user. On the Meridium side, the business...
logic must be removed from the client’s current Meridium Connector forms. Clients then provide E2G with their Meridium family structure for their equipment hierarchy. E2G will configure the Meridium queries and synchronization preferences per client specification for the interface.

E2G will assist clients with the initialization of the new interface. This process maps Equipment in API RBI to Assets in Meridium and Components in API RBI to RBI Components in Meridium. Wherever matches are found, a link is established between the two systems. Equipment in API RBI not found in Meridium is flagged in the PlantManager tree. Equipment in Meridium not found in API RBI is created in API RBI. Flagged and new equipment are reviewed and any additional data needed for these is supplied by the client.

Operation of the E2G Interface is permission based. Users can be given permission to only sync or sync and perform an RBI calculation. Permissions can be designated down to a Unit level. Synchronization can be performed at any level in PlantManager (Corporation Plant, Unit or Equipment level). Synchronization performed without calculation simply updates the data in PlantManager. Where any data has changed, the item in the PlantManager tree will indicate the calculation is not up-to-date. If a synchronization with calculation is performed, any changes to the inspection plan recommendation will be pushed back into Meridium. Each synchronization generates a log file. The log file captures changes made to each system and any failures to match records.

The new E2G Interface between API RBI v9 in PlantManager and Meridium gives clients using Meridium the opportunity to update to the latest API 581 compliant RBI software tool. There have been many improvements in RBI technology since the 2nd Edition of API 581. Most of these ballot-approved changes are already available in the latest version of API RBI v9. In addition, clients can take advantage of improved functionality offered in PlantManager.