

**Title:** Information Aggregation on a Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit

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**Abstract**

This paper is a consolidation of relevant points of interest and lessons learned when implementing information aggregation architectures on a mobile offshore drilling unit. Transocean is a leading international provider of offshore contract drilling services for oil and gas wells. The company specializes in technically demanding sectors of the global offshore drilling business with a particular focus on deepwater and harsh environment drilling services, and it operates one of the most versatile offshore drilling fleets in the world. Transocean's fleet has developed over many years through acquisitions and mergers. As a result this heterogeneity is reflected in the diversity of the controls systems being used onboard. In this paper we will review some of the challenges and propose best practices when tackling similar tasks.

The purpose of information aggregation within the context of this paper is to establish connectivity to all the vessel control systems so as to consolidate data and alarms, provide remote support capabilities as well as manage control system software. Leveraging mature, 'open' standards where applicable such as OLE for Process Control (OPC) is crucial to providing an extensible architecture that can leverage the latest tools without being tied into a single manufacturer's development roadmap. Control system aggregation and remote support capabilities start to blur the line between Control Systems Engineering and the Information Technology. Leveraging standards, skill sets and components from both of these specialties have provided an optimal architecture and support structure for this system.

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