

PROFIBUS COMPETENCY CENTRE, AUSTRALIA TECHNICAL SERIES		
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SUBJECT: NETWORK CONFIGURATION		

PROFIBUS stations have different capabilities and characteristics. For example the number of I/O channels, diagnostic messages, supported Baud rate etc. Before any PROFIBUS system can operate the system must be *configured*. That is the master(s) must be made aware of the characteristics of the slaves. Configuration is normally carried out using a proprietary software tool supplied for the PROFIBUS master station.

Every PROFIBUS device is given a unique *identification number*. The ID number identifies the type of device and provides a simple check that the configuration is correct. All PROFIBUS equipment suppliers provide standard General Station Description or *GSD files* (actually from the German "Geräte Stamm Date"). GSD files can be read by the configuration tool to provide detailed information on the devices being used on the bus. GSD files make integration of devices from different vendors in a bus system simple. The GSD file is specific to a particular ID number.

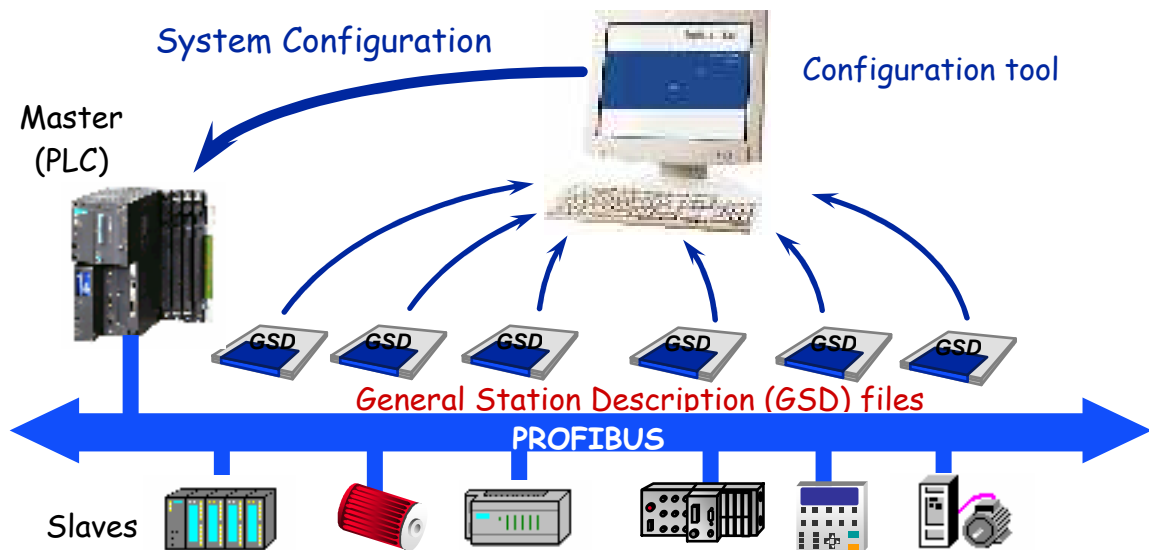


Fig. 1 Network Configuration Diagram<sup>i</sup>

References:

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<sup>i</sup> CPIC Presentation L02 Verwer Training & Consultancy Ltd.  
The New and Rapid Way to PROFIBUS DP, Manfred Popp

<http://www.profibuscetre.com.au>  
<http://www.profibus.com/>