Agilent E2094K
I/O Libraries for Windows®

Data Sheet

- **Supports the VXI*plug&play* Win, Win 95/98/NT/2000/Me Frameworks**
- **Works with VXI*plug&play* compliant equipment**
- **Works on external and Agilent VXI embedded PCs**
- **Supported by Agilent VEE, BASIC, LabVIEW, LabWindows, and other languages**
- **Supports VISA 2.2 specification**

Description

The Agilent Technologies E2094 I/O libraries for instrument control for PC controllers conforms to the latest VXI*plug&play* software. This, a significant industry standard, ensures a high degree of interoperability among VXI vendors providing mainframes and instruments, controllers and interfaces, and software. In addition to providing the Win, Win 95/98/NT/2000/Me Frameworks for external and Agilent VXI embedded PCs, the E2094 I/O libraries support Agilent VEE, BASIC, and Borland C/C++, MS Visual Basic (16 and 32 bits), MS Visual C++, NI LabVIEW/LabWindows software languages.

SICL (Standard Instrument Control Library), an Agilent standard I/O library, which preceded the VXI*plug&play* standard VISA, is available for most Agilent I/O products.

VISA I/O libraries are available for most Agilent I/O products. This product is provided with GPIB interfaces (except the Agilent 82335B) and VXI Slot 0 interfaces. Otherwise, if you are purchasing a standalone PC and need RS-232 support, you must also purchase the Agilent E2094.

Refer to the Agilent Technologies Website for instrument driver availability and downloading instructions, as well as for recent product updates, if applicable.

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What is VISA?

As an innovator in test and measurement technology and a leader in setting and supporting standards, Agilent created the Standard Instrument Control Library (SICL) in June 1993 as a proposed I/O library standard. As other manufacturers in the industry recognized the value of a standard I/O library for test and measurement, the VXI*plug&play* Systems Alliance was formed (see VXI*plug&play* tutorial). The Alliance developed the specification for an I/O library similar in features and functionality to SICL. This library is called the Virtual Instrument Software Architecture, or VISA. Agilent joined the Alliance as an active participant in specifying and bringing these new standards to our customers.

VISA is based on the most frequently used I/O function calls. The calls are similar to SICL calls—for example, *iopen* in SICL is *viopen* VISA. You can continue using your existing SICL applications while adding VISA for new ones.

What about SICL?

Agilent is committed to supporting SICL as well as VISA. You can continue to use SICL for all your current program applications, and use VISA for new applications. Your SICL-only programs can run on the same system as VISA-only programs if the programs are talking to different instruments, whether or not the instruments are on the same interface.

One of the main benefits of SICL and VISA continues to be portability between Windows and HP-UX environments. Applications written on HP-UX run under Windows with a simple recompile of the code.

VISA and the VXI*plug&play* Systems Alliance Frameworks

The VXI*plug&play* Systems Alliance divides systems into several Frameworks. The most active of these provides VXI*plug&play* compatibility for the Microsoft Windows environment. The HP-UX Framework is another framework that is especially important to Agilent customers. The HP-UX Framework is designed to be POSIX-compliant. As with SICL, portability between VXI*plug&play* Frameworks is an important part of VISA functionality.

How to Upgrade from SICL to VISA

As you add new VXI*plug&play* devices to your system, change the I/O function calls from SICL to VISA. Although SICL and VISA function calls may be written into the same application program, this is not an Agilent-supported configuration.

Ordering Information

Description	Product No.
I/O Libraries for Windows	E2094K

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Test and Measurement Support,
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Agilent Technologies aims to maximize the value you receive, while minimizing your risk and problems. We strive to ensure that you get the test and measurement capabilities you paid for and obtain the support you need. Our extensive support resources and services can help you choose the right Agilent products for your applications and apply them successfully. Every instrument and system we sell has a global warranty. Support is available for at least five years beyond the production life of the product. Two concepts underlie Agilent's overall support policy: "Our Promise" and "Your Advantage."

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Your Advantage

Your Advantage means that Agilent offers a wide range of additional expert test and measurement services, which you can purchase according to your unique technical and business needs. Solve problems efficiently and gain a competitive edge by contracting with us for calibration, extra-cost upgrades, out-of-warranty repairs, and on-site education and training, as well as design, system integration, project management, and other professional engineering services. Experienced Agilent engineers and technicians worldwide can help you maximize your productivity, optimize the return on investment of your Agilent instruments and systems, and obtain dependable measurement accuracy for the life of those products.

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(fax) (905) 282 6495

China:
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(fax) 1 0800 650 0121

Europe:
(tel) (31 20) 547 2323
(fax) (31 20) 547 2390

Japan:
(tel) (81) 426 56 7832
(fax) (81) 426 56 7840

Korea:
(tel) (82 2) 2004 5004
(fax) (82 2) 2004 5115

Latin America:
(tel) (305) 269 7500
(fax) (305) 269 7599

Taiwan:
(tel) 080 004 7866
(fax) (886 2) 2545 6723

Other Asia Pacific Countries:
(tel) (65) 375 8100
(fax) (65) 836 0252
Email: tm_asia@agilent.com

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