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DAServer vs OI Server vs Communication Drivers Pack

ANSWER

OI Servers are the next generation of DAServers. They support newer PLC models and firmware and were rebranded **OI Server** because of some more advanced features, like being able to run multiple OI Servers of the same type on the same node (multi-instance), due to new functionality available in the OI Core. Minus the changes for the new hardware support, the PLC-related code-base is actually exactly the same, so they are not a completely new product in reality.

OI Servers are moving on to a newer generation, Communications Driver Pack. This is all new OI Servers releases, bundled into a single installer, so still basically the same code base from a PLC comms perspective, plus any fixes, enhancements, and new hardwre support. You can install Comm Driver Pack 2020.1 (which installs OI Core plus a few other drivers), then install the older OI ABCIP G-2.0, no problem. The upcoming Comm Driver Pack 2020.2 will include many more new drivers releases, such as a new ABCIP, MBTCP, SIDirect, GESRTP, etc. all in one package.

One of the big things to be aware of when transitioning is licensing. For OI Servers, the OI Core version dictates what licensing modes are supported.

- Most very old DAServers required wwsuite.lic licensing with an IO-Server feature. The final DAServer releases switched to ArchestrA.lic licensing with DAServer feature. This change will be called out in the Readme files.
- OI Core G-1.0 to G-2.0: OI Servers used only ArchestrA.lic with DAServer v11.1 or OI_Server feature. OI Server licensing is also available in "Professional" level, which enables the multi-instance config, etc.
- OI Core G-2.05 to G-3.0 have dual licensing model support, ArchestrA.lic and/or the new Activated licensing that was introduced with System Platform 2017.
- Communication Drivers Pack only supports Activated Licensing, so customers that upgraded must have a 2017+ license with an OI Server or Communication Drivers Pack feature.

Tech Note 1036 Wonderware Operations Integration Server (OI Server) Support Tips also has details about some of the new features that were introduced with OI Servers.