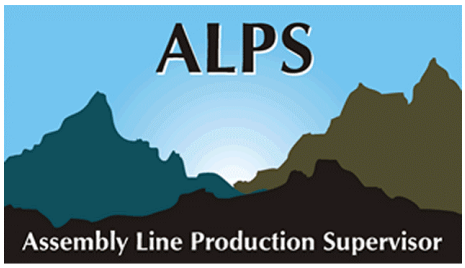
ALPS 2.83 Release Bulletin



The most important change in ALPS 2.83 is in the installation process. The installation and configuration of both ALPS Server and ALPS Client have been simplified and made more reliable.

A few new facilities were implemented to offer a better support for other than die pick equipment, like wafer bump machines and test tools.

A third change was needed to offer support for old ALPS PC installations for which no new wafer map converters will be available anymore later this year.

Finally, some further small extensions have been made and some bugs have been fixed.

Please find some more detailed information below.

Installation

- Simplified installation
  - The number of successive actions in the installation process has been reduced.
  - We removed several "opportunities" to do something wrong during the installation, like confirming that the computer should restart when that should actually not be done.
  - Actions required to do a standard installation are simpler.
  - The number of computer restarts has been reduced. There is now only one restart for the ALPS Server and no restarts on ALPS Clients.
- More secure and robust installation
  - Checks are performed to verify that ALPS is installed on a platform it supports: right Windows version, correct Service Pack, English language version.

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- A check on the presence of an old ALPS installation has been built in. A new version of ALPS cannot be installed "on top of" an earlier installed ALPS system. In the past, when a user would nevertheless install a new ALPS system without first removing the old system, the installation would result in a not-working ALPS system. The new ALPS system does a check on the presence of an earlier installed ALPS system. If that is the case, the user is informed the he should first de-install the old system and the installation stops.
- The ALPS installation job can handle Windows systems that have been re-installed without first removing the old Windows installation. This did not work all right with earlier ALPS versions.
- The ALPS installation can handle installing ALPS at other than the default file location, including installing ALPS on a different hard disk. Earlier ALPS installations could not handle such deviations automatically, but required some special actions.

- De-installation bug removed. In earlier ALPS versions, de-installation of ALPS required the Program CD-ROM for that ALPS version to be present. This is no longer the case.

Die Pick Screen

- Better support for wafer bump and test equipment

  Facilities were built into ALPS to allow equipment to identify wafers using the wafer ID ("wafer scribe") instead of the frame ID that is normally used by die pick machines. This change is in particular important for equipment that handles wafers when they have not yet been mounted on wafer frames, like wafer bump machines and certain inspection and test equipment.

- Support for bin code changes

  This is another change to offer better support for wafer inspection and test machines. Equipment can now send wafer maps back to ALPS without the limitation that bin codes can only be changed to one other bin code (the null bin code).

- Extension of the real-time equipment display

  Facilities were built into ALPS allowing to show a somewhat different real-time equipment status for test equipment. The name of this screen in ALPS has correspondingly been changed from "Die Pick" into the more generic "Monitor".

- BESI driver

  A new equipment driver is included, supporting communication with the BESI (Laurier) DS-9000 Die Sorter.

- Other new equipment drivers

  Integration tests are being done with a few more equipment drivers. These are expected to become available, after approval by the respective equipment manufacturers, in the form of ALPS 2.83 Updates.

Sort Setup Screen

- Log file bug removed

  A bug was removed that caused the ALPS Sort log file (residing in the folder "logging" inside the ALPS installation folder) to become filled with fixed error messages. These messages were only produced on systems in which ALPS Sort (automatic import) was not being used and was completely harmless, other than that it generated large amounts of meaningless messages.

ALPS PC Connection

- A change has been made in ALPS 2.83 that allows setting up a "loosely coupled connection" to ALPS PC systems.

  On April 30, 2004, wafer map converter support for ALPS PC was announced to stop one year later, April 30, 2005. Several alternatives were (and are) offered to allow customers to stay using their ALPS systems for new wafer map formats.

  One of these possibilities is to use an ALPS LT front-end system, which would read and convert all wafer maps (existing and new formats) and store them in its database. From this database, wafer maps can be written in the ALPS-internal format to computer files. The latest ALPS PC release 1.30 includes a facility to read such files.

  Support for this solution is included in ALPS 2.83 (ALPS LT version only).

  This solution to handle the ALPS PC support termination and a few other solutions offered, are available for a limited time period at attractive conditions. Please consult KINESYS Software or our local distributor for further details.

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