

Creating a Typical FieldPoint Application

Use the [I/O controls](#) on the **I/O** and **Classic I/O** palettes to specify the instrument or device resource with which you want to communicate. Use the VIs on the **FieldPoint** palette to develop FieldPoint distributed I/O applications. Most FieldPoint applications require only the FP Read VI and the FP Write VI. The FP Read VI returns data from the FieldPoint I/O channel or group of channels the FieldPoint IO Point function represents. The FP Write VI sends data to the FieldPoint I/O channel or group of channels the FieldPoint IO Point function represents. You also can [use properties](#) to extend the functionality of FieldPoint VIs programmatically.

Channels versus Items

FieldPoint modules consist of physical I/O points called channels. Items represent the channels or groups of channels. You can create items in Measurement & Automation Explorer (MAX) and use the FieldPoint I/O Point control to access the items in LabVIEW.

Using the FieldPoint I/O Point Control

Use the FieldPoint I/O Point control to communicate with the FieldPoint items you create in MAX. Place the FieldPoint I/O Point control in the front panel window. Right-click the control and select the items you want to read from or write to from the shortcut menu. If you do not see the FieldPoint items you want, configure the items in MAX.

Using Properties with Measurement Applications

You can write most measurement applications using only the VIs of the NI-DAQmx, NI-VISA, and IVI Instrument Driver APIs. You also can use properties with these APIs to extend the functionality to include less commonly used features. For example, you can use the [VISA Configure Serial Port](#) VI to set several commonly used serial port settings in a VISA Session, including the baud rate. However, if you want to change only the baud rate, you can use a Property Node.

Use the Property Node on the **DAQmx** palette to configure various low-level settings for NI-DAQmx. Use the Property Node on the **VISA Advanced** palette for any VISA property. Use the Property Nodes on the **Modular Instrument** palette and the **IVI Instrument Drivers** palette for these APIs, respectively.