

Showing a custom message box in older software

In [previous article](#) we showed how to implement oxyfuel gas cutting procedure. Preheat process in gas cutting can last 30-120 seconds. It is convenient to have on screen message that shows preheat progress. Let's add message box with preheat progress countdown for gas cutting.

Global variables 9100-9163 are reserved to show/hide enumerated Popup message box. Writing "1" to register (9100+N) will show Message Box #N on the main screen. Writing "0" will hide the Message Box.

Content for message box #0...#63 defined in cnc-variables.xml configuraton file by item **cnc-popup-message-0 ... cnc-popup-message-15**

```
<value name="cnc-popup-message-0"
  header="Preheat Countdown" footer="sec" message="%d"
  headerHeight="60" footerHeight="30" width="300" height="150"
  fontSize="60" headerFontSize="30" footerFontSize="20"
  timeout="5" dest="cnc-gvariable-99" K="0.001">0</value>
```

Message box contains 3 lines. Lines defined by attributes **header** (top line), **message** (middle line), **footer** (bottom line). Font size for each line defines by attributes **headerFontSize**, **fontSize** and **footerFontSize**

Line height for each line defined by attributes **headerHeight**, **height** and **footerHeight**.

Attributes **width** and **height** define message box width and height in pixels. Popup Messagebox will be automatically hidden if variable value was not changed longer than time defined in **timeout** attribute.

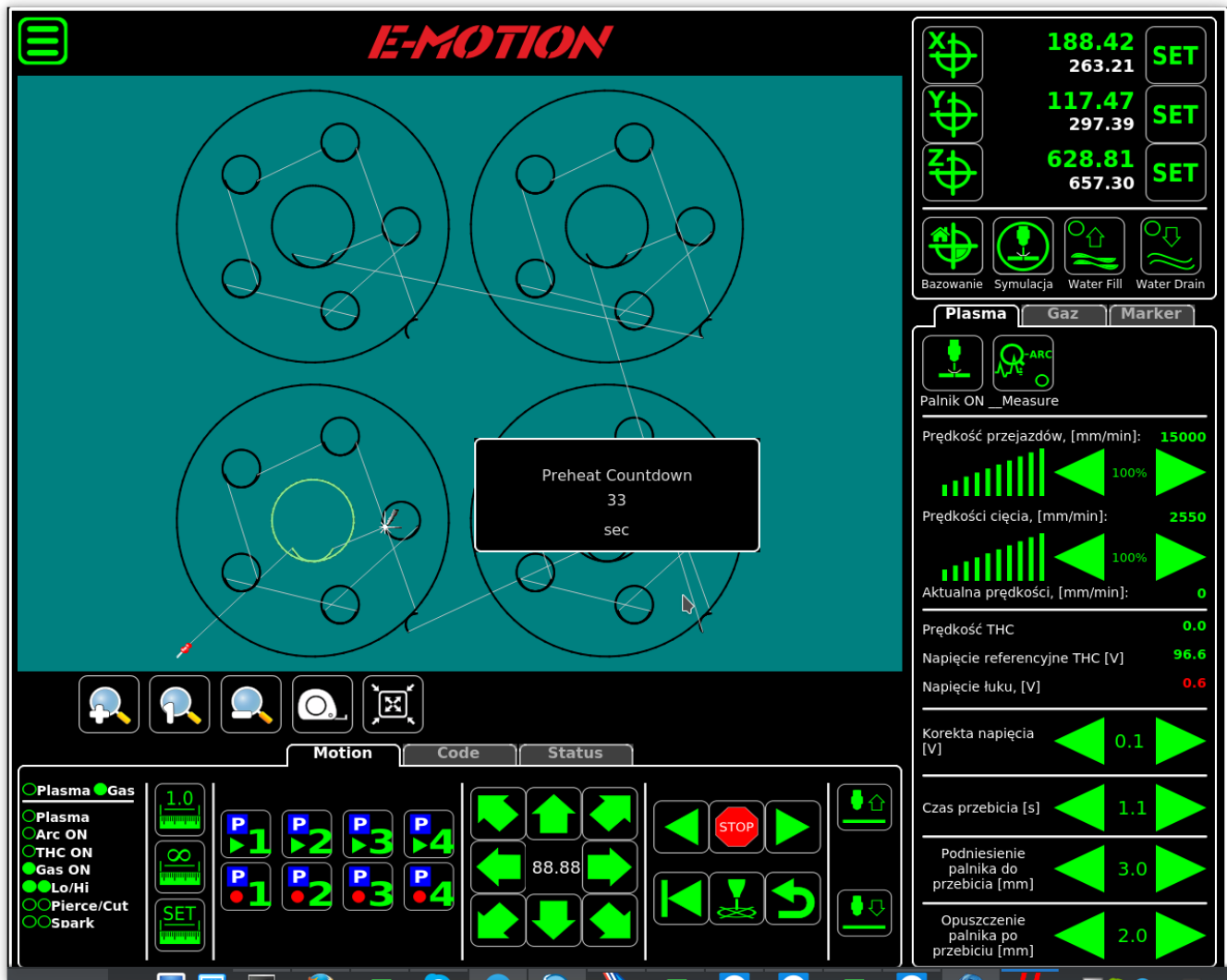
Parameter value can be printed in Message Box. To print a value -

- Message attribute should contain C-style contains format line (ie "%d", "%7.3f")
- Attribute **dest** should define variable number
- Attribute **K** defines scale ratio.

For example if

- message="%d"
- dest="cnc-gvariable-99"
- K="0.001"

Variable #99 value multiplied by K-ratio will be printed: if variable value is 95000, value **95** will be shown.



Source code to show Message Popup is

```
gvarset(9100,1); //show the Message Box
portset(OUTPUT_OXY_HEAT_HI); //turn ON preheat Valve
timer=time_preheat;
break_heating=1; //Set Heating variable.
//if the value will be clearen outside of PLC, abort Preheat procedure
do {
    timer--;
    if (portget(6)!=0) //if start key is pressed - start piercing
    {
        timer=0; //exit from heating
    };
    if (break_heating==0) //if start key is pressed - start piercing
    {
        timer=0; //exit from heating
    };
    if ((timer&0xff)==0)
    {
        gvarset(99,timer); //update Countdown value every 256msec
    };
}
```

```
}while(timer>0);           //Preheat loop  
  
gvarset(9100,0);           //hide Message Box
```

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http://docs.pv-automation.com/plc/plc_show_custom_message_box/old_version

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