

Center for Intelligent Maintenance Systems (CIMS)

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Watchdog Agent for Assessing Equipment Performance



Since machine or process breakdowns severely limit their effectiveness, methods are needed to predict products' life expectancy. Information about the remaining life of products and their components is crucial for their disassembly and reuse, which in turn leads to a more efficient and environmentally friendly usage of product and resources. Development of the Watchdog Agent by researchers at the Center for Intelligent Maintenance Systems (CIMS) answers the aforementioned needs. The Watchdog is essentially software that can be applied to just about any product or system for which it would be beneficial to predict when and why the product or system is going to fail, from a simple valve to a complex system. Watchdog Agent™ assesses and predicts the process or equipment performance based on the inputs from the sensors mounted on it. Performance-related information is extracted from multiple sensor inputs through signal processing, feature extraction and sensor fusion techniques. Historical behavior of process signatures is utilized to predict their behavior and thus forecast the process or machine performance. Researchers

developed the Watchdog Agent toolbox to include tools for a wide variety of applications. These tools can then be customized to meet the needs of the particular industry or processes involved. Most of previous systems are limited to few tools. In today's competitive market, production costs, lead time and optimal machine utilization are crucial values for companies. The watchdog agent's continuous assessment and prediction of product's performance enables collaborative product life-cycle management in which products are followed, assessed and improved throughout their life-cycle. Watchdog software has been used in test-beds for Harley-Davidson, Tongtai Machine, TechSolve, and it is in the process of being applied at Omron, Toyota, GE and other companies. For more information, contact Jay Lee at the University of Cincinnati, 513.556.2493, jay.lee@uc.edu.

