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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

Digitalization has far-reaching effects on society and the economy. Cloud computing is an important prerequisite for being able to exploit the benefits of digitalization in industry. This application example describes how you can directly connect a SIMATIC S7 controller (without additional gateway solutions) to a wide range of cloud platforms that support the standardized MQTT protocol – for example Amazon Web Services.

The "LMQTT" library is a suitable solution for implementing the MQTT protocol in a SIMATIC S7 controller.

Note

The "LMQTT" library is part of the libraries for communication. You can download the library separately from Siemens Industry Online Support (see \5\ in chapter 4.3).

Another example of an application of the library can be found under \6\ in chapter 4.3.

1.2 Principle of operation

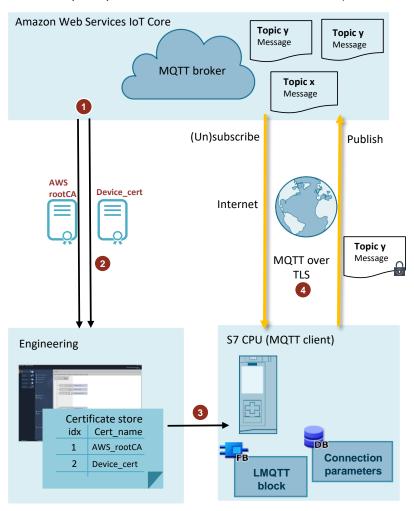
This application example will show you how to connect a SIMATIC S7 controller with Amazon Web Services (AWS) using the "LMQTT" library with IoT Core.

AWS IoT Core offers secure, bidirectional communication between the devices and the AWS cloud. All data traffic to and from AWS IoT is encrypted with Transport Layer Security (TLS). During server and client authentication, your device must authenticate itself with AWS IoT.

This application example uses X.509 certificates for both authentication processes. More information on security in AWS IoT can be found under \3\ in chapter 4.3.

Simplified representation

The following Figure shows the most important relationships between the involved components and the steps required for secure MQTT communication (MQTT over TLS).



Step	Description		
1	The device certificate (with the associated keys) is generated and activated. The root CA certificate from AWS is exported.		
2	The certificates are imported into TIA Portal. The certificates are now located in the global certificate manager of STEP 7.		
3	The certificates are assigned to the S7 CPU.		
4	The "LMQTT_Client" function block is responsible for the following roles: • Publisher: Send MQTT messages to broker • Subscriber: Subscribe to MQTT messages or unsubscribe The MQTT messages are encrypted via a secure connection (MQTT over TLS).		

Components used

The following hardware and software components were used to create this application example:

- S7-1500 controller (here: Item number 6ES7516-3AN02-0AB0)
- "LMQTT" library (contained in the user program)
- Internet access (router, DNS server)
- Engineering station (PG) with TIA Portal V17 or higher
- "Amazon Web Services" account with the IoT Core service set up and licensed. You can find additional information at https://console.aws.amazon.com/

Note

You can also use a different SIMATIC S7 controller. For secure MQTT communication over TLS you will need one of the following components:

- S7-1500 CPU with firmware V2.0 or higher
- S7-1200 CPU with firmware V4.4 or higher

This application example consists of the following components:

Component	File name	Note
Documentation	10972284_Datatransfer_AWS_S7- 1500_DOKU_en.pdf	This document
Project	109772284_Datatransfer_AWS_CODE.zip	TIA Portal V17 project

2 Engineering

2.1 Certificate manager

Certificate store in TIA Portal

TIA Portal manages two certificate stores:

- Local CPU certificate manager
- Global certificate manager

You can activate the global certificate store in TIA Portal with the option "Use global security settings for certificate manager".

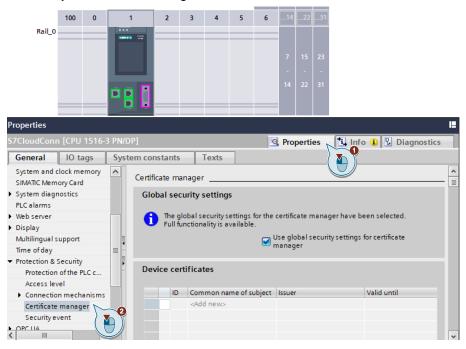
This option decides whether you have access to all certificates in the project or not and whether you can have the device certificates signed by the CA certificates of the certification authority or not.

- If you do not use the certificate manager in the global security settings, then you only have
 access to the local certificate store of the CPU. You have no access, for example, to
 imported certificates or root certificates. Without these certificates only a limited functionality
 is available. For example, you can only generate self-signed certificates.
- If you use the certificate manager in the global security settings, you have access to the
 global, project-wide certificate store. For example, you can assign imported certificates to
 the CPU or create device certificates issued and signed by the project's certification
 authority. TIA Portal provides two root certificates (CA certificates) for the entire project.

Each certificate in the certificate store is assigned an ID that can be used to reference the certificate in the program blocks.

Local CPU certificate manager

You can find the local CPU certificate manager in the CPU properties in the section "Protection & Security > Certificate manager".



Global certificate manager

If you are signed in to the security settings of your TIA Portal project and have activated the global certificate manager, then you can find the global certificate manager in the project tree of your TIA Portal project under

"Security settings > Security features > Certificate manager".



2.2 Preparing the environment

2.2.1 IP addresses and hardware setup

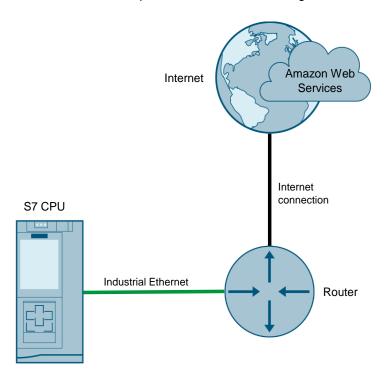
IP addresses

In the TIA Portal project for this application example, the CPU has the following IP addresses: Table 2-1

Component	IP address	Subnet mask
Ethernet interface	192.168.168.15	255.255.255.0
Router	192.168.168.1	255.255.255.0
DNS server	192.168.168.1	255.255.255.0

Hardware setup

Interconnect the components as shown in the Figure below.



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2.2.2 TIA Portal project

Create project

Follow these steps:

- 1. Open your TIA Portal project or create a new project with your hardware components.
- 2. When you add the CPU, follow the instructions from the Security Wizard and adjust the security features to suit your needs.
- 3. Assign the CPU the necessary IP addresses (see Table 2-1).

Set clock time

Because a certificate always has a time period over which it is valid, the clock time of the S7 CPU that wants to encrypt with this certificate must also be in this time period.

With a brand new S7 CPU or after an overall reset of the S7 CPU, the internal clock is set to a default value that lies outside the certificate runtime. The certificate is then marked as invalid.

You set the time manually with the Online and Diagnostics view or set up time synchronization.

Enable global certificate manager

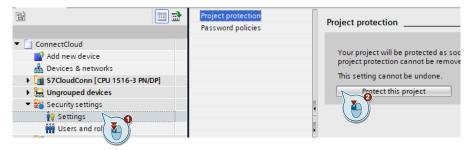
To import and use third-party certificates, you must enable the global certificate manager and sign in with the security settings.

Follow these steps:

Switch to the menu "Protection & Security > Certificate manager".
 Activate the function "Use global security settings for certificate manager".

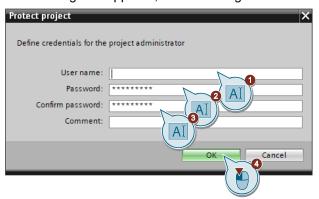


2. Double-click "Settings" in the project tree under "Security settings" and click the button "Protect this project".



The dialog "Project Protection" is shown.

3. In the dialog that appears, define the login information and confirm your entries with "OK".



The login data for the TIA Portal project in this application example are:

Note User name: ConnectCloud

Password: CloudUser123!

2.3 Using the "LMQTT" library

In this chapter, you will integrate the "LMQTT" library and a global data block into your TIA Portal project.

This application example provides you with a TIA Portal project. The "LMQTT" library has already been added to this TIA Portal project and parameterized.

Note

The login data for the TIA Portal project in this application example are:

User name: ConnectCloud Password: CloudUser123!

2.3.1 Integrate library blocks

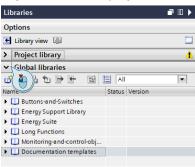
Download library

Download the "Library for communication". You can find the library in Siemens Industry Online Support (see \5\ in chapter 4.3).

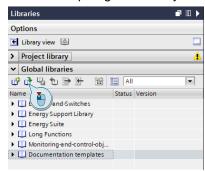
Open "Library for communication"

The "LMQTT" library is part of the "Library for communication". Proceed as follows to open the "Library for communication":

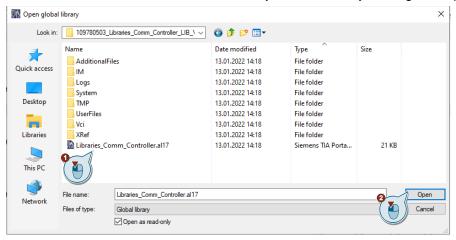
1. In your TIA Portal project, click the "Libraries" tab and open the "Global libraries" palette.



2. Click the "Open global library" button. The "Open global library" dialog will open.

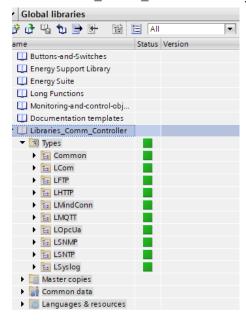


3. Navigate to the directory with the global library and select the global library "Libraries_Comm_Controller.al17". Confirm your selection by clicking the "Open" button.



Result

The "Libraries_Comm_Controller" library now appears under the "Global libraries" palette.



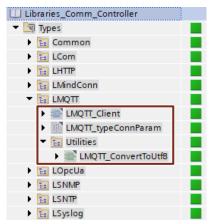
Copy the "LMQTT" library

The "LMQTT" library consists of the following blocks:

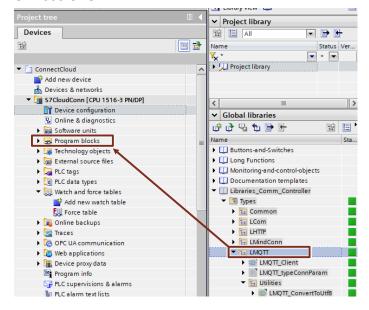
- Function block "LMQTT_Client"
- Data type "LMQTT_typeConnParam"
- System block "LMQTT_ConvertToUtf8"

To copy the "LMQTT" library into your user program, follow these steps:

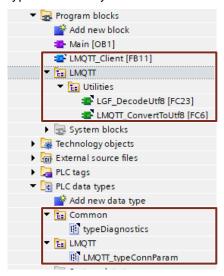
1. Open the folder "Types > LMQTT" in the library "Libraries_Comm_Controller".



Drag and drop the "LMQTT" folder into the "Program blocks" folder of your device, e.g. the S7-1500 CPU.



3. The data types required by the function block will be automatically added to the "PLC data types" folder of your CPU.



2.3.2 Create global data block

In this chapter you will create a global data block with the following parameters:

- Control and output parameters
- · Connection parameters
- MQTT parameters
- Publish parameters
- Subscribe parameters

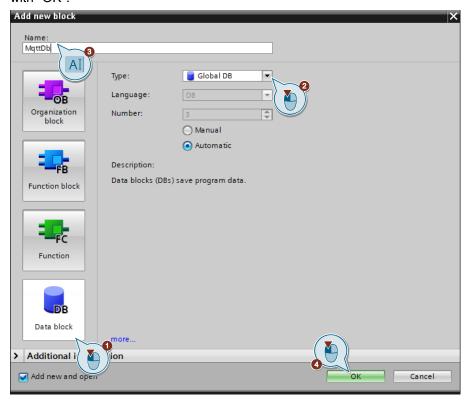
Create data block

Proceed as follows to create a new global data block:

- 1. In the project tree, navigate to the device folder of the S7 CPU.
- 2. Open the "Program blocks" folder and double-click the "Add new block" command. The corresponding dialog box opens.



3. Create a new Global DB and assign a block name, e.g. "MqttDb". Acknowledge the dialog with "OK".



Result

The new data block appears in the program folder of the CPU.

Control and output parameters

Open the data block. Define the following control and output tags in the data block. Double-click "<Add new>" in an empty row to do this.



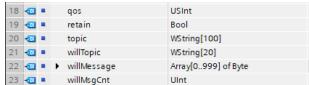
Connection parameters

Define the following connection tags in the data block. Double-click "<Add new>" in an empty row to do this.



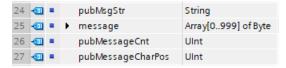
MQTT parameters

Define the following MQTT tags in the data block. Double-click "<Add new>" in an empty row to do this.



Publish parameters

Define the following publish tags in the data block. Double-click "<Add new>" in an empty row to do this.

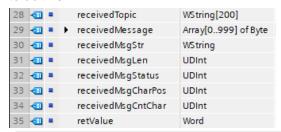


Note

You can also change the size of the "message" byte array as needed.

Subscribe parameters

Define the following subscribe tags in the data block. Double-click "<Add new>" in an empty row to do this.

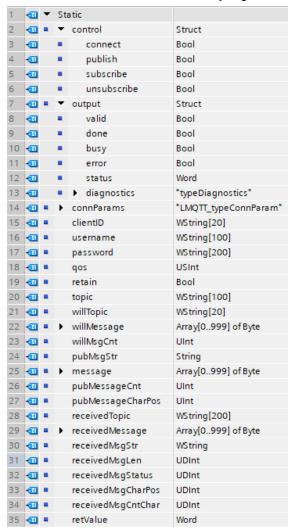


Note

You can also change the size of the "receivedMessage" byte array as needed.

Result

The data block with all the necessary tags has been declared.

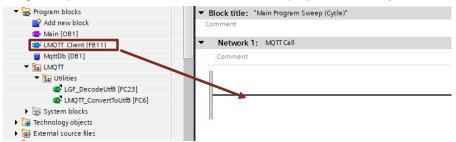


2.3.3 Call "LMQTT_Client" in the user program and connect it

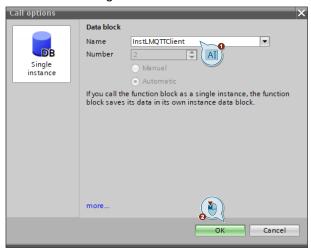
Call "LMQTT Client" block

Proceed as follows to call the "LMQTT_Client" block in the user program:

- 1. In the Project tree, open the folder "Program blocks" of your CPU.
- 2. Double-click the block "Main [OB1]" to open the associated program editor.
- 3. Drag & drop the block "LMQTT_Client" from the project tree to any OB1 network.

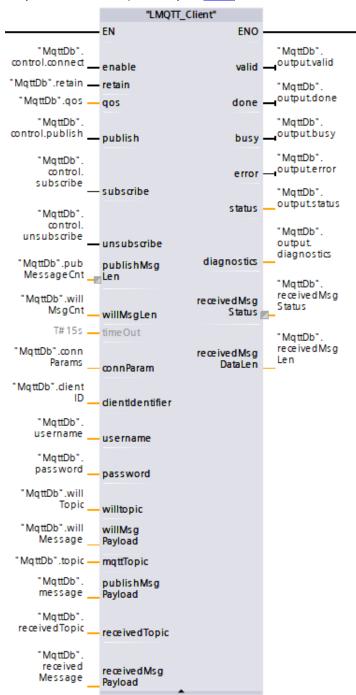


4. The corresponding instance DB will be created. Change the block name if necessary. Confirm the dialog with "OK".



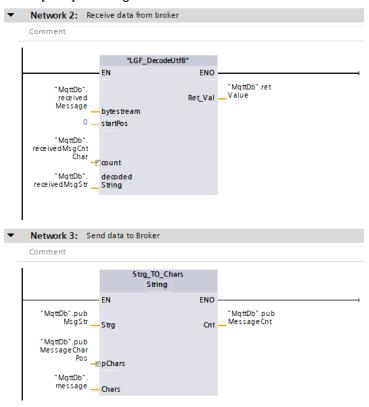
Connect block

Connect the inputs and outputs of the "LMQTT_Client" FB with the tags that you created in the "MqttDb" data block (see chapter 2.3.2).



Insert additional networks

To convert the messages to and from the broker as a string, add the following networks to the "Main [OB1]" building block.



2.4 Setting up AWS IoT

The following chapter describes the steps required to establish a connection in AWS IoT between the S7 CPU and the AWS cloud and send data.

An "Amazon Web Services" account with the IoT Core service set up and licensed is a prerequisite.

To connect a device with AWS IoT, the following steps are necessary:

- Create IoT object
- Configure device certificate
- · Create and attach AWS IoT policy

Note

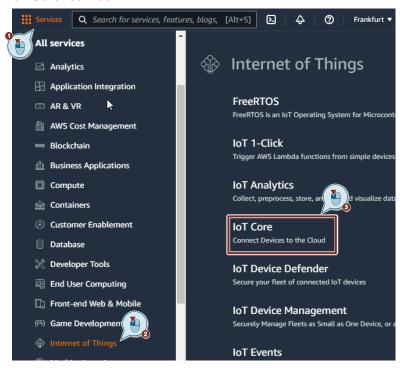
This application example does not consider automatic saving of incoming values. If you wish to save or process data, program this additional functionality in the user program of the application example.

2.4.1 Create AWS IoT object

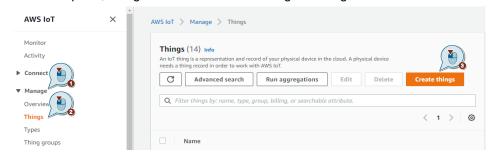
An "object" is the digital representation of a physical object (in this case, the S7 CPU). It contains static metadata about the device.

Proceed as follows to create an IoT object:

- Open the AWS cloud service with the link https://console.aws.amazon.com and sign in with your login credentials.
- Open the "Services" menu in the top menu bar. In the "Internet of Things" menu, select the "IoT Core" service.

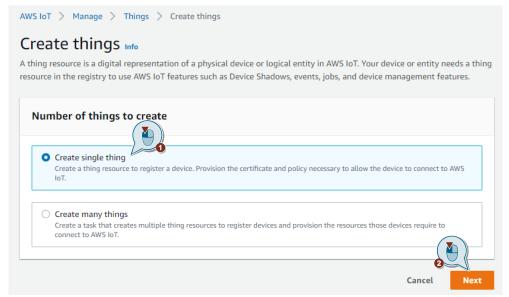


3. In the left pane, navigate to "AWS IoT > Manage > Things" and select "Create things".



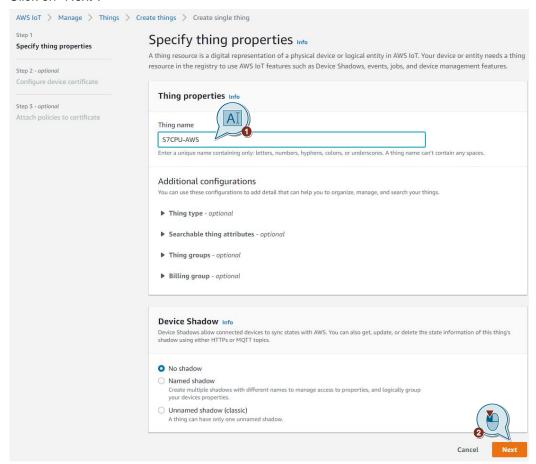
The "Create things" page appears.

4. Click "Create single thing" and click "Next".



5. Give your thing a name.

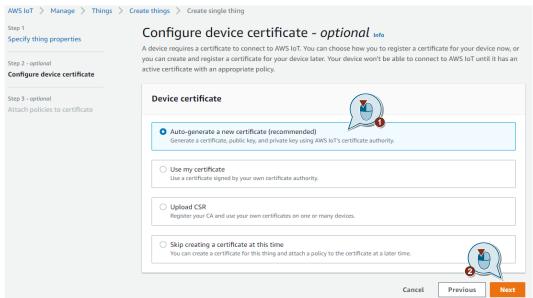
You have the option to create additional properties, attributes and groups. No additional properties are defined in this application example. Click on "Next".



2.4.2 Configure device certificate

Proceed as follows to configure the device certificate:

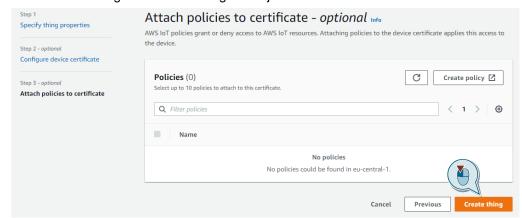
1. In the next step you will configure the device certificate. Select the item "Auto-generate a new certificate (recommended)".



Note

You can also select "Skip creating a certificate at this time" and create the certificate at a later time via "AWS IoT > Secure > Certificates".

2. Click "Create thing" to finish creating the object.



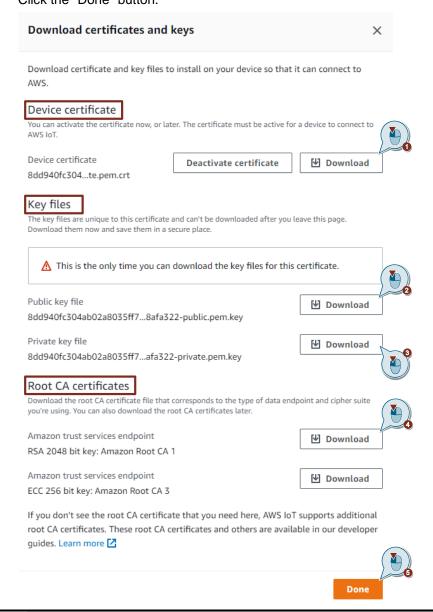
Note

If policies already exist for the object that you just created, then attach them in the next step. Chapter 2.4.3 demonstrates how to create a policy and later add an existing object.

- 3. In the "Download certificates and keys" dialog, you can download the following certificates:
 - the device certificate
 - private and public keys
 - the Amazon root CA certificate ("AmazonRootCA1")

Save the required keys and certificates to your computer, as they will be imported into your TIA Portal project at a later time.

For the root CA certificate, select the RSA 2048-bit key. Click the "Done" button.



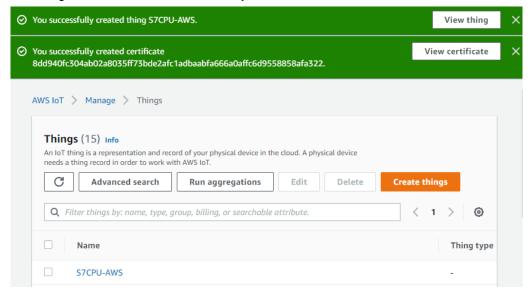


It is not possible to download the key files after you have exited the "Download certificates and key" dialog.

Download them now and save them to a secure location.

Result

The thing has been created successfully.



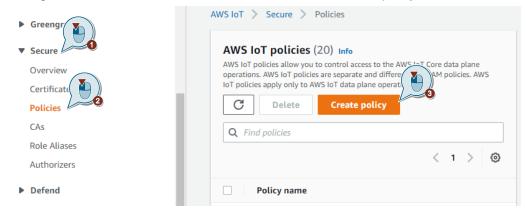
2.4.3 Create and attach AWS IoT policy

The policies define which AWS IoT resources the devices have access to. At least one AWS IoT policy is assigned to each device certificate.

Create IoT AWS policy

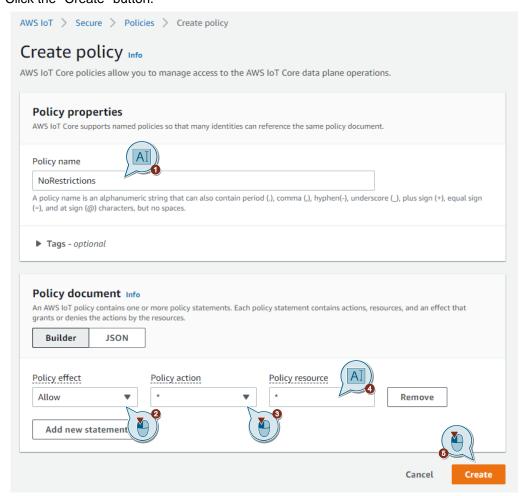
In the following, you will create a policy for unrestricted access.

1. Navigate to "AWS IoT > Secure > Policies" and select "Create policy".



2. Set a name for your policy, in this example "NoRestrictions", and define the following policy instructions for unrestricted access:

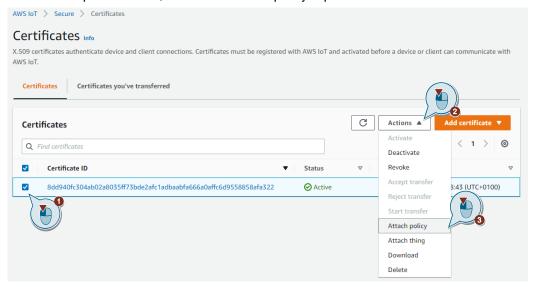
"Policy effect": "Allow"
"Policy action": "*"
"Policy resources": "*"
Click the "Create" button.



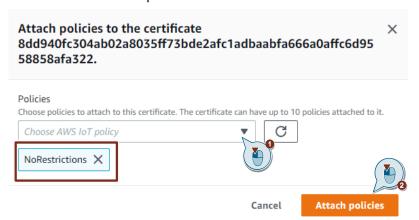
Attach IoT AWS policy

Proceed as follows to attach a policy:

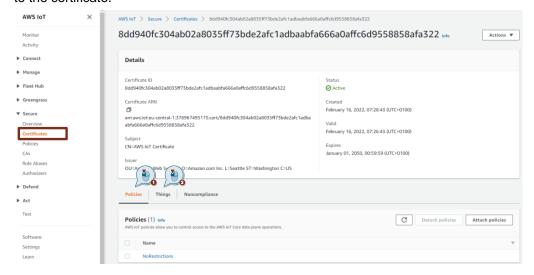
1. Navigate to "Secure > Certificates". Tick the checkbox to select the device certificate. In the "Actions" dropdown menu, select the "Attach policy" option.



2. To attach policies to the device certificate, select one or more policies in the dialog shown. In this example, select the unrestricted access policy you created earlier from the dropdown menu and click "Attach policies".



3. The "Secure > Certificates" menu shows the certificate details, policies and the things linked to the certificate.

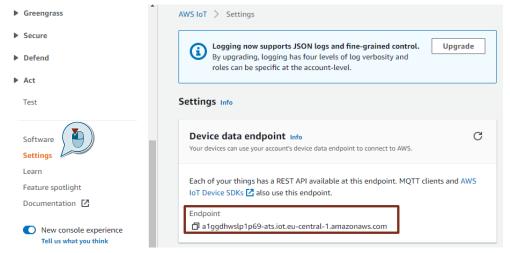


2.4.4 Find device data endpoint

The AWS account has a custom device data endpoint address that devices can connect to for IoT communication. The device data endpoint is needed in the S7 CPU to set up the connection.

Proceed as follows to find the device data endpoint:

- Navigate to "AWS IoT Hub > Settings".
- Save the "Endpoint address" in a text file, as the endpoint will be needed for parameter assignment (see <u>chapter 2.6</u>).



2.5 Configuring safety functions

2.5.1 Prepare device certificate for TIA Portal

In addition to the server authentication, AWS IoT will also perform an authentication of the MQTT client. Therefore, the device certificate you created in chapter 2.4.2 must be imported into TIA Portal together with its private key.

To do this, it is necessary to combine the device certificate and the private key into a single file. The easiest way to combine a device certificate and a private key is with a text editor. However, the new file will not be encrypted if you use this method. In this application example, this method is used for illustration.

Note

To combine the certificates in an encrypted manner, use third-party tools such as X-Certificate and Key management (XCA). Handling of certificates with XCA is explained in chapter 3.

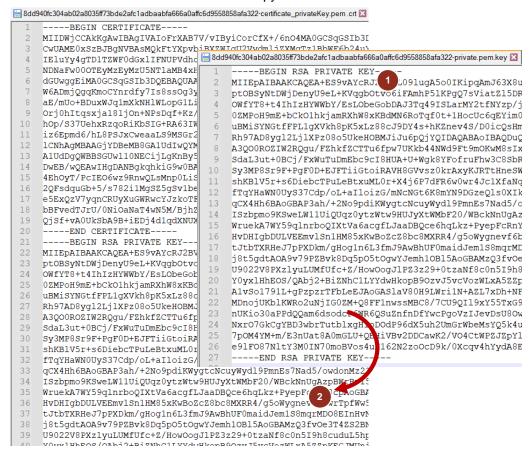
Proceed as follows to combine the device certificate and the private key into one file:

1. Navigate to the directry, the certificates are saved (see chapter 2.4.2). Save the device certificate as a copy under a different name.



- Open the following files with Notepad++ or another text editor.
 - The copy of the device certificate (see <u>Step 1</u>)
 - The private key

Copy the content of the file with the private key and append it to the contents in the copy of the device certificate. Save the modified copy of the device certificate.



2.5.2 Import CA certificate and device certificate into TIA Portal

To encrypt the MQTT communication between an S7 CPU and AWS IoT with TLS, the amazon root CA certificate ("AmazonRootCA1") and the certificate with the private key (combined to a single file in chapter 2.5.1) must be imported into TIA Portal.

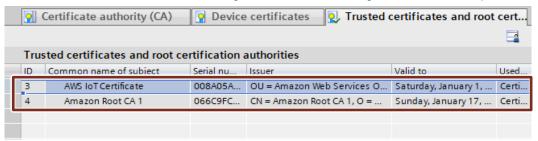
Import AWS CA certificate and device certificate

Proceed as follows to import the certificates into TIA Portal:

1. Open the global certificate manager of your TIA Portal project (see chapter 2.1). Select the tab "Trusted certificates and root certification authorities". To open the context menu, right-click in the tab and select "Import".



- 2. Navigate to the directory, the certificates are saved. Select the certificate "AmazonRootCA1" and the device certificate you modified in chapter 2.5.1.
- 3. The certificates are now located in the global certificate manager and have a unique ID.



2.5.3 Assign certificates to the S7 CPU

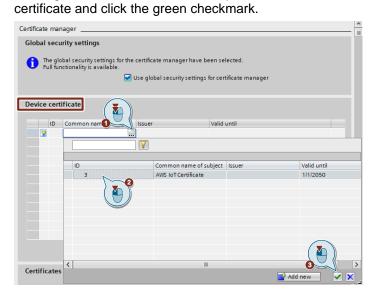
The certificates imported from AWS IoT are now located only in the global certificate manager of TIA Portal and are not automatically assigned to the S7 CPU.

The device certificate and the CA certificate will now be assigned to the local certificate store of the CPU.

Assign device certificate

Proceed as follows to assign the device certificate:

 Open the local certificate manager of your CPU (see <u>chapter 2.1</u>). Double-click on an empty table row in the "Device certificates" area. Clicking on "..." in the new line will open the new certificate selector. Select the AWS IoT

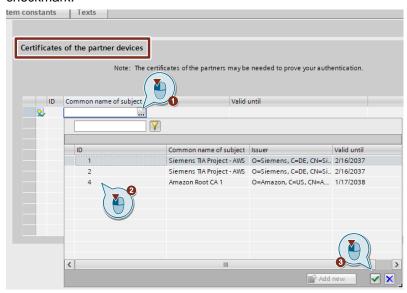


2. The selected certificate was assigned to the S7 CPU and provided with an ID. The ID is the number of the certificate. You must enter this value in the connection parameters for the tag "tls.ClientCert" (see chapter 2.6).

Assign CA certificate

Proceed as follows to assign the CA certificate:

Scroll to the area called "Certificates of the partner devices". Double-click on a table row.
 Clicking on "..." in the new line will open the new certificate selector. In the global certificate
 manager, select the Amazon root CA certificate (here with ID 4) and click the green
 checkmark.



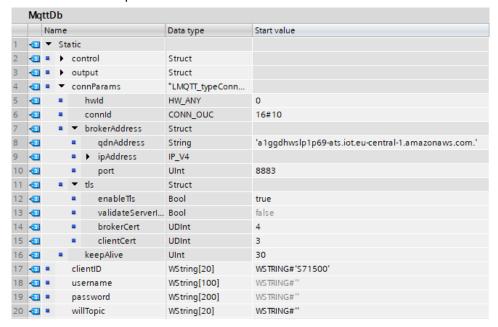
2. The selected certificate was assigned to the S7 CPU and provided with an ID. The ID is the number of the certificate. You will enter this value in the connection parameters for the "tls.brokerCert" tag (see chapter 2.6).



2.6 Parameter assignment

Before you can test the application example, you must adjust the parameters for the secure TCP connection and MQTT to suit your use case. The parameters are located in the global data block "MqttDb".

Set the connection parameters as follows:



Hardware ID

Set the "hwld" tag to "0" for automatic selection.

Connection ID

The "connID" tag can be given any value. The value must be unique and cannot be used by a different application at the same time.

AWS IoT Core URL

For the "qdnAddress" tag, enter the device data endpoint from <u>chapter 2.4.4</u>. The endpoint name must end with a ".".

Port

For the "port" tag, enter the value "8883" for a secured MQTT connection.

Use of TLS

A valid, imported certificate is a prerequisite for secure communication.

- Set the "enableTls" tag in the "tls" structure to "TRUE".
- Set the "brokerCert" tag in the "tls" structure to the ID of the Amazon CA certificate. It was added to the local certificate manager in chapter 2.5.3.
- Set the "clientCert" tag in the "tls" structure to the ID of the device certificate. It was added to the local certificate manager in chapter 2.5.3.

MQTT client ID

The "clientID" tag is freely selectable.

MQTT user name

The "username" tag is not used.

MQTT password

The tag "password" is not used.

2.7 Operation

Requirements

The following points are prerequisites before testing the application example:

- The project has been downloaded to the CPU.
- The clock time in the CPU is accurate.
- The SIMATIC station is connected to the internet.
- All parameters have been set.

Note

The application example uses blocks from the "LMQTT" library. This library is part of the libraries for communication. You can find the library and a detailed block description in Siemens Industry Online Support (see \5\ in chapter 4.3).

Test the connection

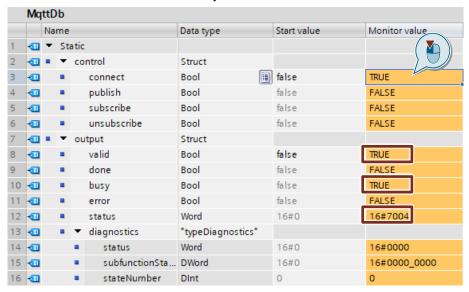
If the requirements are met, the application example can be tested.

Initiate MQTT communication between the CPU and AWS IoT. To do this, trigger the "connect" input in the "MqttDb" data block.

Note

As long as the input "connect" is set to "TRUE", the connection will be maintained. If the "connect" input is reset to "FALSE", the connection will be terminated.

If the connection is established successfully, the output tag "status" will be set to the value "16#7004" and the "valid" and "busy" bits will be set to "TRUE".



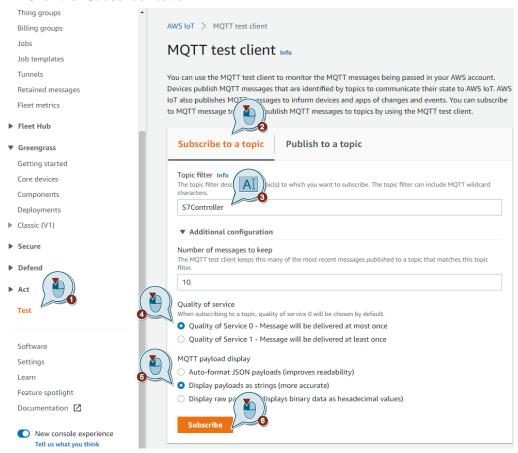
If an error occurs, you can find relevant information in <u>chapter 2.8</u>.

Send MQTT messages to AWS IoT

If the connection is established, you can send messages to AWS IoT with an arbitrary topic name (see \4\ in chapter 4.3).

- In the lefthand pane of the Amazon Cloud, navigate to "AWS IoT > Test > MQTT test client".
- 2. Select the "Subscribe to a topic" tab.
 - Enter the topic name in the "Topic filter" field.
 - In the "Additional configuration" menu, select "Quality of Service 0".
 - Set "MQTT payload display" to "Display payloads as strings (more accurate)".

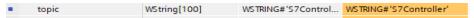
Click the "Subscribe" button.



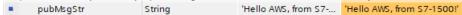
The MQTT test client in AWS is ready to receive messages with the subscribed topic.



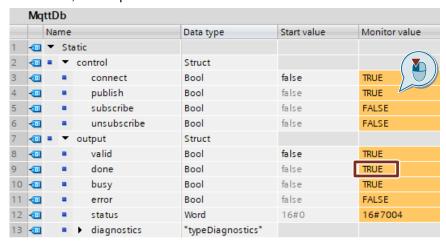
3. Switch to TIA Portal and, in the "topic" tag in the "MqttDb" data block, enter the topic name that you subscribed to in Step 1.



4. Populate the byte array "pubMsgStr" with the information that you wish to send.



5. The message will be sent when you set the "publish" tag to "TRUE". If the transmission was successful, the output bit "done" will be set to "TRUE".



6. Go to AWS IoT in the "Subscriptions" view to see the sent message.



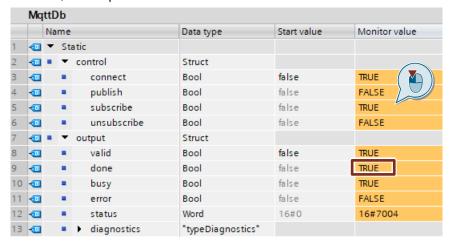
Receive MQTT messages from AWS

To receive messages from an IoT Hub, subscribe to a topic of your choice.

1. In the "topic" tag in the "MqttDb" data block, enter a topic name (it can be the same name as the one in <u>chapter 2.5.2</u>).



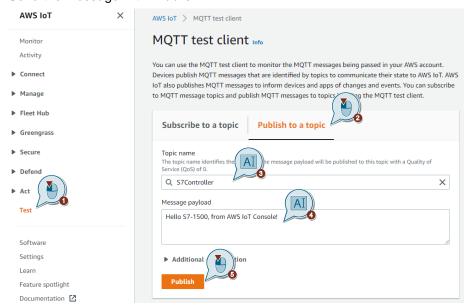
2. To receive messages, set the "subscribe" tag to "TRUE". When a message has been received, the output bit "done" will be set to "TRUE".



3. In the left-hand pane of the Amazon Cloud, navigate to "AWS IoT > Test > MQTT test client". Select the "Publish to a topic" tab.

In the "Topic name" field, enter the topic name. In "Message payload", enter the message you wish to send.

Send the message with "Publish".



Go to TIA Portal in the "MqttDb" data block and here to "receivedMsgStr" to see the message received from AWS IoT as a string.



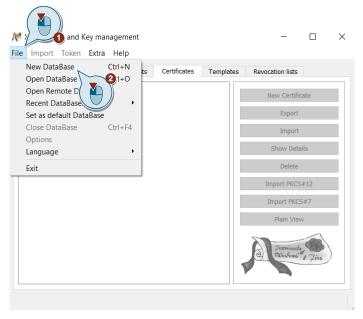
2.8 Error handling

For a description of each error code, refer to the documentation on the Libraries for Communication (see \5\ in chapter 4.3).

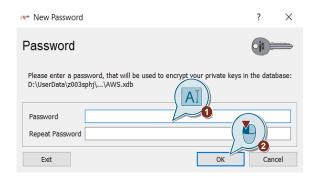
3 Additional information

The "X-Certificate and Key management" software is used to create and manage X509 certificates. Proceed as follows to combine a certificate with its private key and get an encrypted file:

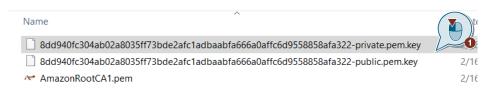
- 1. Download the "XCA" software (see \4\ in chapter 4.3) and install it.
- 2. Open XCA and create a new database.



3. Enter a name for the database and enter a password that will be used to encrypt the private key. Click "OK".

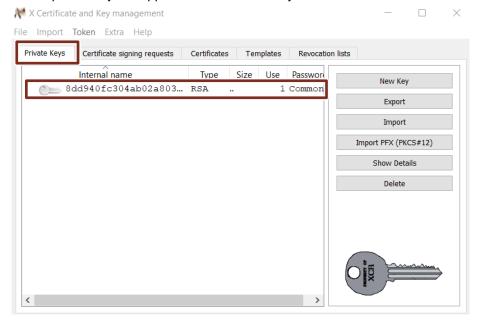


4. Select "Import > Key" and import the private key for the certificate.

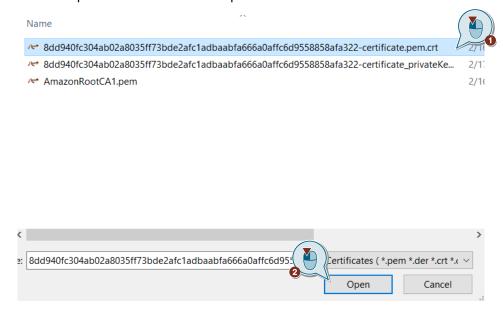




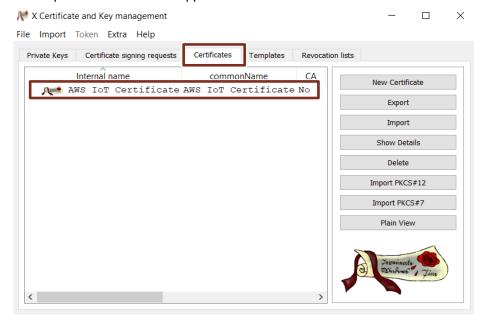
5. The imported key will appear in the "Private Keys" tab.



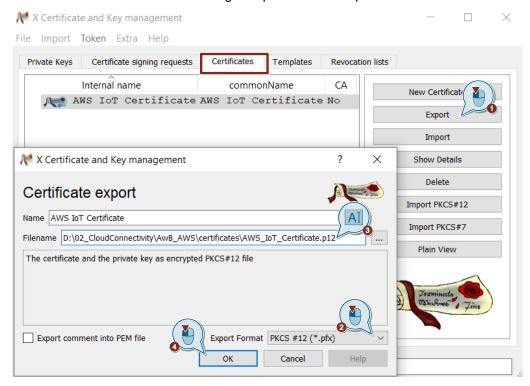
6. Select "Import > Certificates" and import the device certificate from AWS.



7. The imported certificate will appear in the "Certificates" tab.



8. Click the "Export" button in the right-hand pane and select the "PKCS #12 (*.pfx)" export format. Make sure that the file ending is "*.p12" and not "*.pfx".



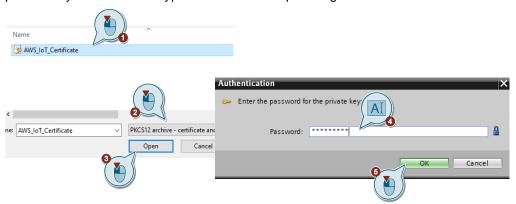
Note

All systems involved must support the PKCS#12 standard.

9. Enter a password to encrypt the PKCS#12 file.



10. Switch to TIA Portal and import the PKCS12 archive under "Security settings > Security features > Certificate manager > Trusted certificates and root certification authorities". The password you used to encrypt the file will be required again.



11. Follow the instructions in chapter 2.3.2 for how to proceed next.

4 Appendix

4.1 Service and support

Industry Online Support

Do you have any questions or need assistance?

Siemens Industry Online Support offers round the clock access to our entire service and support know-how and portfolio.

The Industry Online Support is the central address for information about our products, solutions and services.

Product information, manuals, downloads, FAQs, application examples and videos – all information is accessible with just a few mouse clicks:

support.industry.siemens.com

Technical Support

The Technical Support of Siemens Industry provides you fast and competent support regarding all technical queries with numerous tailor-made offers

 ranging from basic support to individual support contracts. Please send queries to Technical Support via Web form:

siemens.com/SupportRequest

SITRAIN - Digital Industry Academy

We support you with our globally available training courses for industry with practical experience, innovative learning methods and a concept that's tailored to the customer's specific needs.

For more information on our offered trainings and courses, as well as their locations and dates, refer to our web page:

siemens.com/sitrain

Service offer

Our range of services includes the following:

- Plant data services
- Spare parts services
- Repair services
- On-site and maintenance services
- · Retrofitting and modernization services
- Service programs and contracts

You can find detailed information on our range of services in the service catalog web page:

support.industry.siemens.com/cs/sc

Industry Online Support app

You will receive optimum support wherever you are with the "Siemens Industry Online Support" app. The app is available for iOS and Android:

support.industry.siemens.com/cs/ww/en/sc/2067

4.2 Industry Mall



The Siemens Industry Mall is the platform on which the entire siemens Industry product portfolio is accessible. From the selection of products to the order and the delivery tracking, the Industry Mall enables the complete purchasing processing – directly and independently of time and location:

mall.industry.siemens.com

4.3 Links and literature

No.	Торіс		
\1\	Siemens Industry Online Support		
	https://support.industry.siemens.com		
\2\	Link to the article page of the application example		
	https://support.industry.siemens.com/cs/ww/en/view/109772284		
\3\	Security in AWS IoT		
	https://docs.aws.amazon.com/iot/latest/developerguide/security.html		
\4\	XCA tool download:		
	https://hohnstaedt.de/xca/		
\5\	Libraries for Communication		
	https://support.industry.siemens.com/cs/de/en/view/109780503		
\6\	Application example: Use the SIMATIC controller as an MQTT client		
	https://support.industry.siemens.com/cs/de/en/view/109748872		

4.4 Change documentation

Version	Date	Modifications
V1.0	05/2022	First version