



UCS TECHNICAL FIELD GUIDE

Johnson Controls FX Platform Guide

Facility Explorer and F4 controllers with practical legacy N2 migration paths

— Field-earned, not brochure-deep —

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Prepared for building owners, consulting engineers, facility teams and IT/OT stakeholders

NIAGARA SUPERVISION • OWNER ADVOCACY • SUPPORTABLE FIELD CONTROL

The UCS point of view

FIELD-EARNED, NOT BROCHURE-DEEP.

Our team has installed, programmed and serviced these systems in the field—including lines we do not represent—so we know the real strengths and trade-offs first-hand. That experience lets UCS act as an advocate for the owner, not a salesperson for a badge.

What stays consistent on every UCS project

- Niagara is the supervisory and integration standard above the controller line.
- NiagaraMods Reflow is the standard UCS operator interface, licensed appropriately for each deployment.
- BACnet helps systems communicate; it does not make controller logic, licenses, databases or service tools interchangeable.
- Native platform engineering tools remain part of a supportable design; one front end does not erase them.
- Controller choice follows the installed base, sequences, IT standards, service resources and owner goals.

Johnson Controls

Facility Explorer and F4 support, with clear separation from Metasys and practical legacy N2 paths.

Conceptual Niagara-centered riser

EXPERIENCE Operators Reflow views	SUPERVISORY Niagara N4 Open integration	SECURE IP BACnet/SC · IP Backbone	AUTOMATION CGE · CVE CGM · CVM	FIELD MS/TP · N2 XPM · devices
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Facility Explorer and Metasys are related ecosystems, not interchangeable products. Tool, firmware and license details drive the final path.

Field perspective

WHERE IT IS STRONG - Facility Explorer is Niagara-based. - BACnet/SC, IP and MS/TP controller options. - Selected N2 paths can support phased migration. - Broad airside equipment-controller range.	DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS - CCT and native source management remain necessary. - FX and Metasys expectations must be separated. - N2 reuse needs device-level verification and an end-state. - IT segmentation and certificates must be engineered.
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Where it fits

USE CASE	FIT	FIELD NOTE
FX estates	Best fit	Retain Niagara investment while improving owner experience.
N2 transition	Strong fit	Preserve selected devices temporarily during phased work.
FX / Metasys mix	Discovery first	Document databases, tools, licenses and feature expectations.
Owner-advocate question Is the migration plan reducing dependence on legacy tools and trunks each phase, or just wrapping them with a new front end?		

Working with UCS on Johnson Controls

- Field-verified discovery before pricing: controllers, firmware, databases, wiring and reusable assets.
- Native engineering stays native—UCS maintains the platform's own tools, source files and backups.
- One supervisory standard: Niagara N4 with NiagaraMods Reflow as the operator experience.
- Turnover includes source files, station backups, graphics resources, point documentation and support contacts.
- Ongoing service under a UCS Smart Service agreement, with remote diagnostics where the owner's IT policy allows.

Manufacturer references

TOPIC	MANUFACTURER REFERENCE
Johnson Controls Facility Explorer	johnsoncontrols.com/building-automation-and-controls/facility-explorer and docs.johnsoncontrols.com
Tridium Niagara N4	tridium.com/us/en/products-services/niagara4
NiagaraMods Reflow	niagaramodules.com/products/reflow

Disclaimer: This document is a conceptual planning aid, not a stamped controls design, cybersecurity plan or product-availability guarantee. Final architecture must be engineered for the specific project and approved by the owner and responsible design professionals.