

Technical Guidance – LinkMaster Retirement

Summary & Purpose

In the Fall of 2025, Kepware **discontinued the sale of LinkMaster**. Customers with active support can renew for a limited time, but are encouraged to migrate to alternative solutions as soon as possible.

Advanced Tags – Link Tags can satisfy many LinkMaster use cases, but are not a drop-in replacement. Link Tags introduce different architectural dependencies, scaling characteristics, and operational constraints that must be evaluated before migration.

This document helps customers and field teams determine when Link Tags are technically appropriate, where redesign is required, and what architectural considerations must be understood before transition.

What LinkMaster was Optimized for

- Standalone OPC DA machine-to-machine replication
- Very high link counts
- Continuous synchronization patterns
- Lightweight configuration with minimal architectural dependencies
- No dependency on Kepware Server

What Link Tags are Designed for

- Server-level tag linking inside Kepware
- Intentional governed data movement
- Event-driven or condition-based control workflows
- Leveraging Kepware's driver ecosystem and namespace model
- Controlled performance characteristics

Architectural Design Principals

- Centralized execution inside Kepware enables tighter control, visibility, and alignment with broader Kepware architectures.
- Operating within the Kepware namespace ensures consistency across drivers, clients, and downstream applications.
- Per-tag configuration allows selective optimization rather than blanket synchronization.
- Encourages purposeful data movement rather than passive mirroring.

Scaling & Performance Considerations

- Larger LinkMaster-style use cases benefit from re-evaluating update patterns and scope during migration.
- Link Tags are optimized for controlled link counts with predictable behavior.
- Performance scales best when updates are event-driven rather than time-driven.
- Conditional triggers enable efficient, targeted writes instead of constant replication.

Link Tags excel when used as part of a broader Kepware architecture where data movement is intentional, observable, and aligned with system behavior rather than raw volume alone.

Operational Considerations

- Output tags must be write-enabled.
- Input and output tags cannot reference the same item.
- Some data types, including certain arrays, are not supported.
- Trigger configuration has direct impact on system performance.

Migration Impact & Pre-Work

- Solutions Consulting engagement is recommended.
- Inventory of existing link counts and patterns is advised.
- Manual structure and trigger path redesign is required.

Comparison Table

Dimension	LinkMaster	Advanced Tags – Link Tags	Guidance
Execution Environment	Standalone	Runs inside Kepware	Plan for Kepware as a core dependency
Primary Use Case	Bulk OPC DA tag replication	Targeted tag linking and control logic	Not a 1 to 1 replacement for large mirroring
External OPC Server Access	Native	Requires OPC DA or UA client drivers	Validate driver needs early
Scalability	Optimized for very high link counts	Practical limits at moderate to high volumes	Prototype before migrating large projects
Configuration Experience	Drag and drop, project level	Per tag config or CSV	Expect higher setup effort
Trigger Model	Continuous synchronization	Data change, interval, or logic based	Avoid aggressive interval triggers
Performance Predictability	High for mirroring	Sensitive to volume and rates	Tune counts and scan rates carefully
Automation of Migration	Not applicable	No automated conversion	Budget time for redesign and testing