Application Brief: Covina Irrigating Co.

The Challenge

"Bottleneck" is commonly defined as "a point of congestion," and that's what Steve Sherman faced. Sherman is Field Operations Superintendent at Covina Irrigating Co. in Covina, California. The Southern California company supplies water to the City of Covina and parts of neighboring communities, and maintains a water distribution network of pumping plants, reservoirs, and water treatment facilities.

Covina Irrigating Co. has twelve separate sites in the water distribution system, and at each site Opto 22 control systems monitor and control tanks, pumps, valves, filters, and other equipment. These control systems communicate with a PC at company headquarters running Opto 22's PAC Display HMI (human-machine interface) software. An interface built with PAC Display runs on the PC and displays key operating information for each site like equipment status, water levels, flow rates, and pressures.

The PC-based HMI works well at headquarters, but operators needed to access the HMI while away from headquarters, too. To do so, an operator could run remote desktop software on a notebook PC and then connect to the HMI PC in what's called a "remote session." However, only one operator at a time could connect to the PC; other operators couldn't connect until the current remote session was ended. During busy periods several people might need to connect to the HMI PC. And that's the bottleneck Sherman needed to eliminate.

The Solution

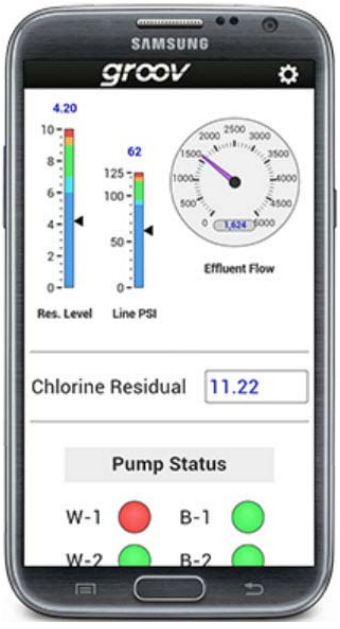
Learning about *groov* from his regional Opto 22 sales engineer, Sherman says he "could see its value" right away. He bought a *groov* Box hardware appliance, set it up at headquarters, and built an interface to monitor and control the remote sites. "It was pretty easy," says Sherman. Opto 22 control systems at the remote sites communicate back to the *groov* Box just as they do with the HMI PC. The HMI PC remains, and now provides detailed information and logs for analysis.

The bottleneck is gone. To monitor and control equipment at a remote site, an operator opens a web browser and securely logs in to the *groov* interface. All the other operators can log in simultaneously.

Adding *groov* gave operators another advantage: mobility. Because *groov* runs in a web browser, they're not limited to notebook and desktop PCs. Instead, they can use almost any mobile device with a modern web browser—like tablets and even the smartphones in their pockets.

The Customer

Covina Irrigating Co.
Covina, CA



Realtime data on water distribution systems is available in the field on a smartphone.

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About Opto 22

Opto 22 develops and manufactures hardware and software for applications involving industrial automation and control, energy management, remote monitoring, and data acquisition. Designed and made in the U.S.A., Opto 22 products have an established reputation worldwide for ease of use, innovation, quality, and reliability. Opto 22 products, which use standard, commercially available networking and computer technologies, are used by automation end-users, OEMs, and information technology and operations personnel in over 10,000 installations worldwide. The company was founded in 1974 and is privately held in Temecula, California, U.S.A. Opto 22 products are available through a global network of distributors and system integrators. For more information, contact Opto 22 headquarters at +1-951-695-3000 or visit www.opto22.com.

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