

Municipality Moves SCADA System from Desktop Computers to Thin Clients

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FORMAT

6-12 page paper plus 30-minute presentation

KEYWORDS

Thin Client, Remote Desktop Services, SCADA application management

ABSTRACT

One of the most time consuming tasks of updating a SCADA system can be simply copying the application to all of the servers and view nodes. The Region of Halton spent an average of 2000 person hours on application updates per year due to the high number of HMI workstations and servers across a wide geographical area. For instance, updating the water distribution application required copying the files to ten laptops and over a dozen workstations. When doing an update on that application the integrator would need to arrange to meet with all of the operators to update their laptops. This resulted in loss of time for the operators and the integrator.

In late 2013 the Region of Halton began to move their SCADA system from traditional Windows PC based 'view nodes' to thin clients using Remote Desktop Services. The change involved installing 18 new Remote Desktop servers, replacing 80 Windows desktop PCs with Thin clients, and the integration of Thin Client management software. This presentation and paper will cover our business case for the migration, our experience during the upgrade, and the benefits and drawbacks of the project.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Bob Loncar is the SCADA Programmer at the Regional Municipality of Halton. He has over 15 years of experience in the Water/Wastewater, Food and Beverage and Energy automation field. He has been responsible for the creation and maintenance of programming standards for the City of Orlando FL, Jefferson Parish LA, The Region of Niagara Ontario, The Regional Municipality of Halton Ontario and Haldimand County Ontario. He is currently involved in several SCADA automation projects and is the software architect on independent software projects.