

INVENSYS: SUPPLYING GLOBAL TECHNOLOGIES

SecureData helps Invensys support hundreds of devices globally in the cloud to maximise efficiencies

The challenge

In order to improve its processes and efficiency, Invensys required its manufacturing plant personnel to interact with a management system on the production line using fixed terminals, handheld scanners and various other wireless devices.

The company had deployed a Plex Enterprise Resource Planning Management System (ERP) at the shop floor to achieve this. However, to support it, and as part of a wider strategy to adopt cloud services, Invensys required a robust wireless deployment that would eventually be utilised across thirty international manufacturing plants.

Scaling a wireless deployment from a handful of office-space access points to a resilient, high-density solution, capable of supporting a mission critical environment posed a significant technical and administrative challenge for the company.



The Solution

Invensys turned to long-term and trusted partner SecureData, the independent IT security integrator, to provide remote access solutions and technologies. SecureData began the consultancy project with a significant amount of information gathering to understand the business units and the demands of wireless in the context of manufacturing. Production floors and warehouses typically provide many physical obstacles for the reliable transmission of wireless data, with heavy equipment creating a significant source of interference, which can compromise performance. This information was then turned into a blueprint which included a best practice design for deploying a secure, scalable wireless solution in a cost-sensitive manufacturing environment.

With budget being a major concern, the solution was designed to be as efficient as possible to minimise the need for the deployment of equipment in manufacturing locations which had little or no IT support. The solution was also centralised as much as possible to leverage the maximum economies of scale in deploying a global solution.



The Implementation

The initial deadline for the project was very tight. Once the preliminary design had been completed, SecureData was given a month to survey both phase one locations, create work plans, implement the recommended solution and be ready for production testing/go live.

Initially prototyped at two key manufacturing locations, the deployment was rolled out to a further ten sites in the first half of 2012. The remaining sites are expected to go live during the remainder of 2012 and in early 2013.

The sites are now managed by the Aruba Airwave device management solution, which provides centralised policy management and reporting, enabling Invensys to obtain solid figures on the reliability and performance of the system.

SecureData also monitors the sites with a local AFFINITYSECURE server within the data centre. This is SecureData's own real-time monitoring service developed in-house and monitors the system health of the entire solution for metrics such as the number of authenticated users and the status of access points.

As part of this project SecureData developed an environmental health monitoring solution to effectively emulate a 'real' user connecting to the wireless; in the event that an issue developed with the authentication process, AFFINITYSECURE would alert this in real-time and start the troubleshooting process before word spreads from the shop floor that this is an emergent issue.

The solution is currently being used to support access to the Plex ERP Management System from fixed terminals and wireless handsets. It supports every aspect of the manufacturing process from goods in, to production, to finished goods to good out. It also supports corporate wireless access for trusted devices by providing seamless and secure access, and enabled 'guest' access for visitors.



The Benefits

Since the deployment of the solution the company has seen multiple benefits. Invensys has begun its strategy to develop an efficient Software as a Service (SaaS) solution which can reliably support hundreds of devices with a consistent configuration across the globe.

The partnership has proved effective in both time and cost and SecureData and Invensys have additional plans to work together on phase three of the project due to kick off towards the end of 2012. This will take into account manufacturing locations in the Far East, India, South America and Australia.

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David van Rooyen, Global Service Delivery - Voice & Data Solutions Architect Lead, Invensys

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Glen Kemp, Solutions Consultant, SecureData

ABOUT SECUREDATA

SecureData is an independent IT security service provider that supplies, installs, supports and manages secure data, network and storage solutions to businesses.

The company specialises in providing managed security services that help businesses fight the increasing array of cyber threats including advanced persistent threats, drive-by installs, coordinated attacks and denial of service attacks. SecureData also assists companies in a number of other areas including taking advantage of the latest employee productivity enhancements including employee mobility and Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) implementation, security and regulatory compliance such as Payment Card Industry (PCI) and ISO 27001 compliance, and the safe adoption of both cloud computing and consumer technologies in the workplace.

SecureData works with the latest technology innovations from a number of partners to ensure customers have uniquely designed solutions and support 24/7, 365 days a year. SecureData brings its technical expertise and integrity to approximately 2,000 managed devices, working with over 450 customers.

For more information, visit www.secdata.com

IN COLLABORATION WITH ARUP INVENSYS

Invensys is a global technology group supplying solutions, software, services and equipment to monitor, control and automate processes in a wide range of environments and across almost every sector. It works in partnership with a broad range of industrial and commercial customers, rail operators and appliance manufacturers to design and supply advanced technologies that optimise their operational performance and profitability.

Invensys's market-leading software, systems and equipment enable its customers to monitor, control and automate their products and processes, thereby maximising safety, efficiency, reliability and ease of use. Active in over 180 countries, Invensys employs over 20,000 people across three divisions: Invensys Operations Management, Invensys Rail and Invensys Controls.

For more information, visit www.invensys.com

CASE STUDY