



Application Brief: Union Township Water & Sewer

Department reduces travel, improves efficiency with mobile HMI

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APPLICATION BRIEF: UNION TOWNSHIP WATER & SEWER

Department reduces travel, improves efficiency with mobile HMI

THE CHALLENGE

It used to be that staff members at Union Township's Water & Sewer Department had to drive to each equipment location in the township's 28-square-mile (72 sq. km) area. They'd read flow rates, tank levels, pump status, and other data from wells, pumping stations, and water treatment plants, then bring the data back to department headquarters.

A small municipality located in central Michigan, the Charter Township of Union provides water and sewer service for approximately 10,000 area residents. But the staff is small, and all this travel took a lot of time away from maintaining and improving existing systems.

The obvious solution was remote monitoring, and since most locations had PCs running HMI (human-machine interface) software already, the department installed remote desktop software to view and operate them.

It was a definite improvement, but WWTP Superintendent Michael Dearing, responsible for the wastewater system, and Chief Water Operator Shaun McBride, Dearing's counterpart for water distribution, thought they could do better. The remote desktop solution required a PC running HMI software at every location. And when smartphones came along, the interface didn't work on them.

THE SOLUTION

Union Township Water & Sewer Department had used Opto 22 systems for over a decade, so when local Opto 22



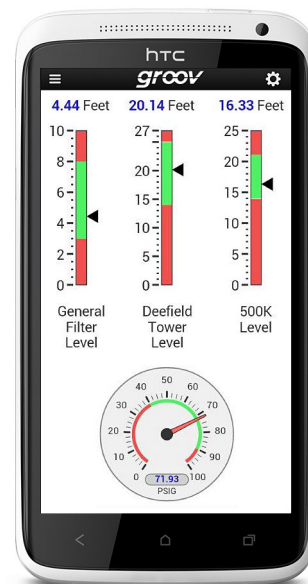
distributor OptoSolutions showed *groov* View to Dearing and McBride, it was an easy decision. They promptly bought three *groov* Box appliances and started building new operator interfaces.

Results came fast.

"Considering the limited time we had between other projects," says McBride, "we were surprised that we were up and running so quickly with a new product."

The *groov* View interfaces provide equipment status, process measurements, and much more.

"For wastewater we monitor flows, power consumption, and tank levels," says Dearing, as well as key metrics like dissolved oxygen levels, pH, and turbidity.



Tank levels and pressures are readily available on a smartphone.

"Considering the limited time we had between other projects, we were surprised that we were up and running so quickly with a new product."

**- Shaun McBride, Chief Water Operator,
Union Township**

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"groov View," Dearing agrees, "was very easy to configure and set up." Dearing and McBride kept the existing PCs running HMIs, which now provide detailed information for analysis.

And because the browser-based *groov View* interface runs on PCs, tablets, and smartphones—in fact on most devices that use a web browser—Dearing and McBride already have the smartphone support they needed.

ABOUT UNION TOWNSHIP

For more information, contact Charter Township of Union Water & Sewer Department:
<http://www.uniontownshipmi.com>

ABOUT OPTO 22

Opto 22 was started in 1974 by a co-inventor of the solid-state relay (SSR), who discovered a way to make SSRs more reliable.

Opto 22 has consistently built products on open standards rather than on proprietary technologies. The company developed the red-white-yellow-black color-coding system for input/output (I/O) modules and the open Optomux® protocol, and pioneered Ethernet-based I/O.

Famous worldwide for its reliable industrial I/O, the company in 2018 introduced *groov EPIC*® (edge programmable industrial controller). EPIC has an open-source Linux® OS and provides connectivity to PLCs, software, and online services, plus data handling and visualization, in addition to real-time control.

groov RIO Ethernet-based edge I/O modules, introduced in 2020, include I/O and IIoT software in a compact industrial package that goes anywhere.

All Opto 22 products are manufactured and supported in the U.S.A. Most solid-state SSRs and I/O modules are guaranteed for life.



The company is especially trusted for its continuing policy of providing free product support, free training, and free pre-sales engineering assistance.

For more information, visit opto22.com or contact **Opto 22 Pre-Sales Engineering:**

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