



Application Brief: Covina Irrigating Co.

*Getting water out of a bottleneck:
groov View streamlines HMI access*

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43044 Business Park Drive • Temecula • CA 92590-3614

Phone: 800-321-6786 or 951-695-3000

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APPLICATION BRIEF: COVINA IRRIGATING CO.

Getting water out of a bottleneck: groov View streamlines HMI access

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* View 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



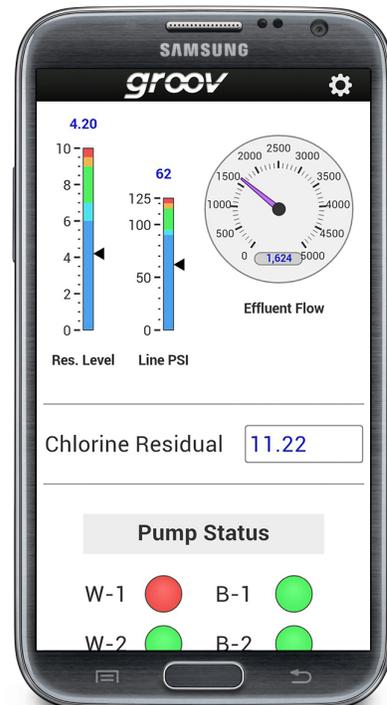
headquarters, and built an interface to monitor and control the remote sites.

“It was pretty easy,” says Sherman.

Now 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* View interface. All the other operators can log in simultaneously.

Adding *groov* View gave operators another advantage: mobility. Because *groov* View runs in a web browser, they’re not limited to notebook and desktop PCs. Instead, they can



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

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use almost any mobile device with a web browser—like tablets and even the smartphones in their pockets.

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.

In early 2013 Opto 22 introduced *groov* View, an easy-to-use IoT tool for developing and viewing mobile operator interfaces—mobile apps to securely monitor and control virtually any automation system or equipment.

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.

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:**

Phone: **800-321-6786** (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada) or **951-695-3000**

Email: systemseng@opto22.com

