

The Mobility Transformation

The mobile technology of the 21st century has provided the opportunity to instantly receive and interact with information and systems. This revolutionary shift toward mobility was achieved by leveraging large wireless infrastructures, cloud computing and mobile devices. Mobility was quickly adopted in the corporate world which easily allows employees to work productively while at the office, local coffee shop or even halfway around the world. According to Forbes, ***“employee mobility leads to 30% better processes and 23% more productivity.”*** This increase in productivity directly translates into real dollars saved. The mobility transformation is no longer exclusive to the corporate environment and has become mainstream within the SCADA and DCS industry. Readily available solutions for leveraging mobile functionality within the process and controls environment allow for access to previously untapped productivity.



Mobility for SCADA and DCS Applications

Mobile functionality is available in nearly every SCADA and DCS application within the industry. More modern SCADA and DCS applications can quickly achieve mobility status with built-in features or modules, while some legacy applications may require more complicated methods. Prior to smartphones and tablet devices, SCADA and DCS applications could be “mobile” with the use of a VPN client, Microsoft Remote Desktop Services and a laptop computer. This typically required operations personnel to carry around a bulky laptop computer and cellular air-card connect into the system. This method is still a trusted and viable option but is considered archaic compared to current approaches.

Today, almost every employee has access to a smartphone or tablet device. These mobile devices are compact, cost effective, and almost always connected to a network, which makes them ideal for accessing SCADA and DCS applications. ***With the use of HTML5 or downloadable apps, mobile devices are excellent tool to provide on-demand connectivity to a process or control system.*** By equipping operations personnel with a mobile device that has control system connectivity, monitoring and control of system equipment is possible while completing other job tasks.

How to Achieve Mobility

- Smartphones / Tablets
- Downloadable Apps
- HTML5
- Thin Client Architectures
- VNC Client
- Remote Desktop Services
- Subscription Services

Selecting the Right Mobility Option

When selecting a mobile option for your system, it is important to define your mobility goals. After those goals are outlined, the capabilities of your SCADA or DCS application for mobility must be evaluated. Some older SCADA and DCS applications were not designed for current mobile devices and may have limitations. In spite of those limitations, there may be alternatives to achieve your mobility needs. ***It is our goal to help SCADA and DCS owners unlock extra productivity and flexibility within their process and control environments.***