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Endian Case Study - **SFS Group**

Cyber security: a central aspect in the remote maintenance of industrial plants

Efficiently ensuring IT security is a central aspect of remote maintenance. As soon as any device, machine or manufacturing facility connects to the Internet, it creates a potential avenue for malware or other cyber attacks. For example, the Petya and WannaCry encryption Trojan attacks have shown how industrial companies have become the target of cyber criminals. Endian Secure Digital Platform consists of industry leading network security technologies including standard encryption technology that protects data during transmission so that it cannot be copied or manipulated by third parties.

In addition to central management via Endian Switchboard and VPN encryption, the security of the production facilities themselves is an important issue: that's why SFS has equipped each plant with an Endian 4i appliance, an industrial firewall that filters out malicious traffic and protects the flow of data. These devices can be integrated into existing IT infrastructures: for example, there is the possibility of integrating 4i devices behind an existing e company firewall. In turn, the 4i devices connect to the central management tool, Endian Switchboard, which provides simple and coordinated management of the devices. For SFS, Endian 4i made it possible to connect its systems to the Internet via Network Address Translation (NAT), since the devices themselves did not have a public IP address.

More security and transparency: network segmentation

With the goal of further increasing network security and transparency, Robert Steiger, Project Manager Business Application & Security, placed great emphasis on separating the office network, the plant network, and the warehouse management systems network. "Phishing attacks can infect office computers with malware," he explains "Segmentation of the networks prevents malware from spreading to production systems as well."

When choosing a suitable solution, Robert Steiger put ease of use at the forefront. Of all the solutions that were considered for SFS, Endian was able to combine a high number of features with great ease of use. "The central management tool, Endian Switchboard, is ideal for our needs, as all machines can be centrally controlled, protected and repaired," says Steiger.

Expanding internationally

To date, SFS has equipped eight production facilities with Endian 4i devices in Germany, France, Turkey, the Czech Republic and China. The connection of ten more plants is already in the planning phase, as Endian also offers the right solution for international facilities. Different production plants, but with the same subnet are among the most common challenges in industrial networks, as implementing a central VPN management tool without significant intervention is very complex, if not virtually impossible: Endian Secure Digital Platform is the only solution on the market that can easily solve the routing problem to ensure smooth operation.

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Robert Steiger,
Projektleiter Business Application & Security
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About SFS

SFS is a global leader in mechanical fastening systems and precision moulded parts. SFS Group AG comprises the three segments Engineered Components, Fastening Systems and Distribution & Logistics, which represent corresponding business models. In the Engineered Components segment, SFS acts as a development and manufacturing partner for precision parts and customer-specific fastening and assembly solutions and operates under the brands SFS intec (Automotive and Industrial), Unisteel (Electronics) and Tegra Medical (Medical). In the Fastening Systems segment, which consists of the two divisions Construction and Riveting, SFS develops, manufactures and distributes optimized mechanical fasteners, through the brands SFS intec (Construction) and GESIPA (Riveting). In the Distribution & Logistics segment, SFS with its brand SFS unimarket, is the leading partner for innovative fasteners, tools, fittings and logistics solutions in Switzerland. SFS Group is present in 25 countries worldwide with more than 70 distribution and production sites and generated sales of CHF 1.437 billion.

About Endian

Endian is the vendor of choice for IoT and Industry 4.0 security technologies. Headquartered in Bolzano, South Tyrol, Endian was founded in 2003 by CEO Raphael Vallazza and a team of network specialists and security experts. The product portfolio ranges from network security solutions, to BYOD Management, to network protection in industrial plants. With the Secure Digital Platform solution, Endian aims to position itself among the leaders in the Secure Data Communication market, defining technological standards for the protection of IoT communication. In addition to the Enterprise line, Endian offers the Community Edition, a free software among the most popular UTM Open Source, with 2.2 million downloads.

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