

Consol Glass successfully upgrades all security and access management with Bytes Systems Integration

Consol Glass, one of South Africa's largest glass product manufacturers, focuses on the manufacture of glass containers of all sizes and for all uses for the food and beverage industry.

Until recently the glass giant relied heavily on its aging security system that combined various outdated security and access control systems that still relied on clock-in cards.

Consol Glass began facing a number of challenges with its security and access systems, and began to look for a new system to replace the old. The main challenge for the company was that the solutions it had in place were initially provided by a myriad of solution providers and were not able to fully integrate with its existing SAP ERP system, in addition to which continuity and maintenance of the existing systems had become an ongoing issue.

Another reality facing the company was that much of the existing equipment they had in place was proprietary technology and had not been developed using an open standards framework. As a result they were extremely cumbersome to manage and whenever third party integration was required costs would spiral out of control.

"It became a challenge to work with and add to our systems, and our security had become ineffective and compromised," says Albert van der Merwe, systems analyst at Consol Glass.

The Solution

"We were looking for a SAP certified solution that integrated SAGEM Technology into the systems architecture. It was then that we began looking for partners to assist, and after looking at what was available in the market Bytes Systems Integration (Bytes SI) made it an easy decision, because it had already designed a solution that catered for all our needs," says van der Merwe.

After winning the tender, Bytes SI began designing a completely new solution for Consol Glass that would resolve its integration problems by implementing a Honeywell EBI system with biometric access control that integrated into the SAP Time and Attendance module, chosen by the company as its preferred application.

As an existing SAP user, Consol Glass wanted to be able to have a single access point into its SAP system and required that its employee master file data be automatically transferred to the EBI system. Additionally the clocked data for time and attendance purposes needed to be automatically loaded into SAP. The company also required that the system use SAGEM Biometric readers at all access and clock in points. SAGEM was chosen as the standard technology to achieve this integration because of its ease of use and high success rate as far as successful transactions and integration into third party systems such as the Honeywell EBI system.

Bytes SI installed the Honeywell EBI system on a central server at Consol Glass' Head Office in Wadeville, which was then also rolled out to its manufacturing facilities in the Western Cape and Gauteng. The entire

system is run over the Consol WAN with IP based TEMA controllers deployed at each of the sites, and SAGEM MA500 and MA100 readers connected back into the Tema Controllers via Wiegand convertors. Staff are enrolled onto the system through SAP and then automatically transferred to the EBI system via the HR-PDC interface.

Should any badge holder be suspended or dismissed they are automatically removed from the SAP system, which filters to all access points in the premises, ensuring that there is never a gap in the workflow process and that people who are no longer employed by the company do not have access to buildings.

All staff including contractors enter plants through turnstiles and vehicle barriers and use SAGEM biometric readers to gain access. Once at their place of work they will clock in on their workstation SAGEM reader, this time is then transferred up to SAP as a time event. The system also makes use of standard access control rules such as zoning which restricts certain areas to certain staff such as server rooms and anti-passback which monitors sequential clocking.

Benefits

“Our entire operation benefitted from the solution from a security point and as the Honeywell EBI solution is a centrally installed solution on the Consol Network and is directly integrated into SAP we now have seamless business processes and smooth integration with the existing SAP systems,” says van der Merwe.

A single point of entry for data, further secures the network and results in all provisioning controlled by SAP is “fed” down to the EBI system, while SAGEM Biometric readers ensure the entrance to the plant and clocking on and off of shift is of the highest integrity. The ultimate benefit of Honeywell EBI being a fully certified solution means that the EBI system will always stay current and up to date with future SAP releases.

Conclusion

“The system has met the criteria laid out in the scope of work by Consol and was delivered on time, in budget and met with all of the clients tailored technical specifications. A live successful payroll run has already been done and so far two of the four sites have gone live with this solution and we expect to have the next two sites live within the next six months,” says Mike Ellison, Technical Manager, Kronos Unit – Bytes Systems Integration.
