SCADA at WEFTEC 2016
What We Learned from Users and Consultants

VTScada®
Software for Monitoring & Control

Live from our new VTScada office in Houston, TX.

Presenters

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Background

Supervisory

Control

And

Data

Acquisition

HMI

Historian

Radio
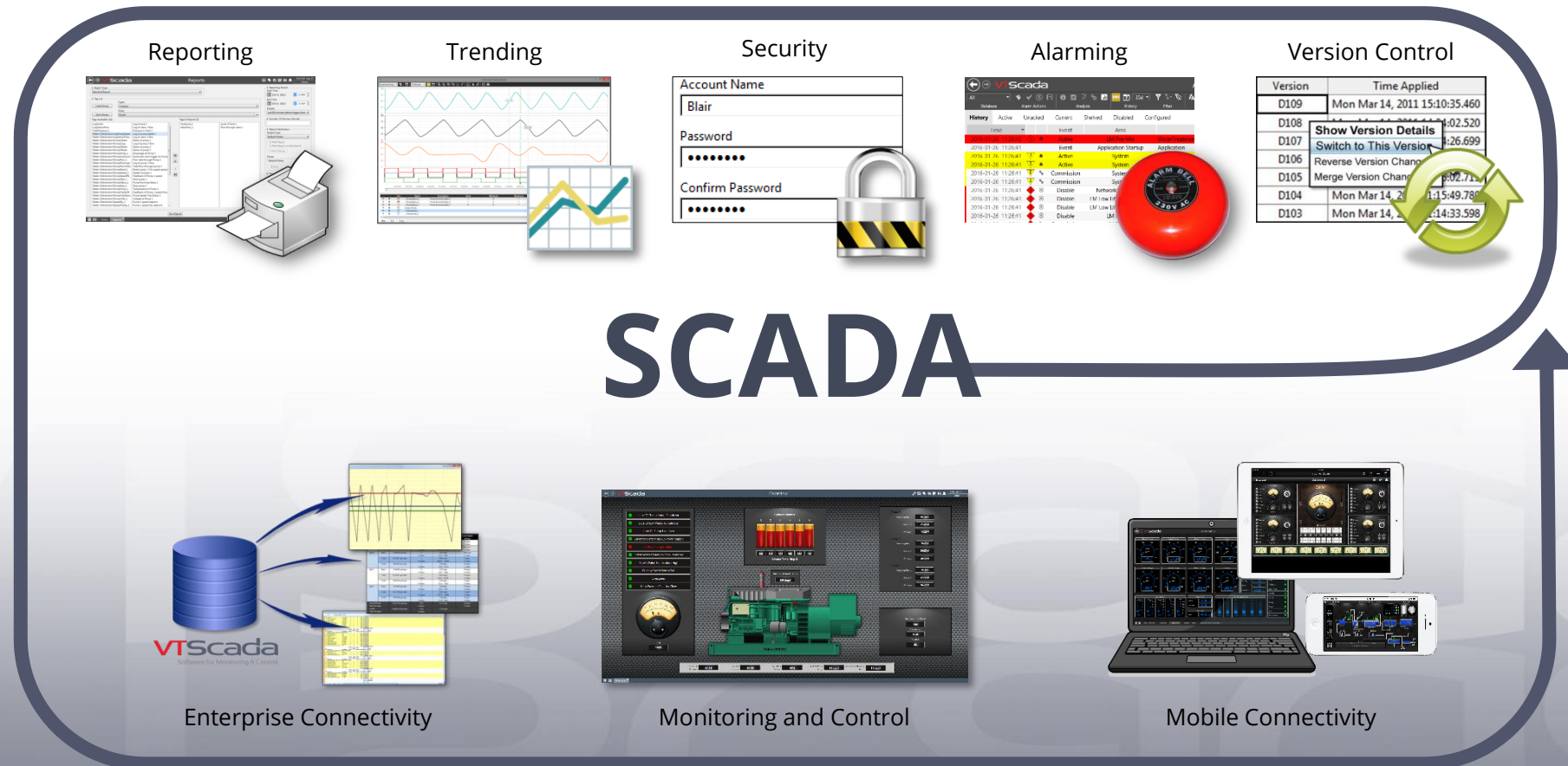
Network

Cellular

RTU

PLC

PLC
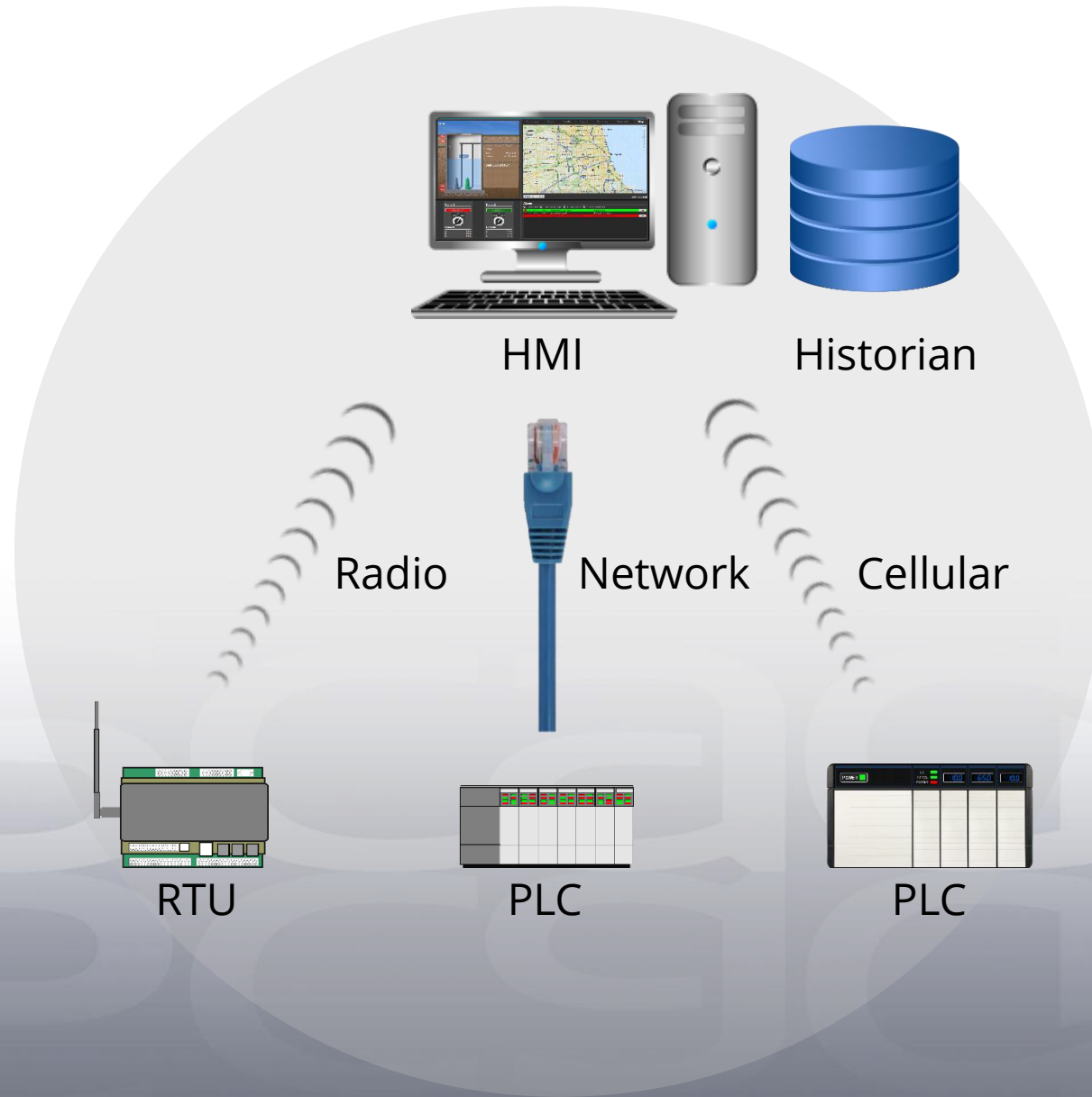
Trends

- Rented wireless SCADA networks common
- High reliability more affordable
- Preference for mobile visualization
- Cheaper access to more data
- Cost reduction through optimization
- Increased IT involvement

Network Simplicity

Integrators, consultants, and end users are seeking simplicity in SCADA architecture.

Reporting   Trending   Security   Alarming   Version Control

SCADA

Enterprise Connectivity   Monitoring and Control   Mobile Connectivity

Network Simplicity

Networking is Changing

- Faster, more powerful computers with more storage
- Virtualization technology, network accessed storage
- Mobile interconnectivity with computing platforms
- Business/control network standardization
- WAN connectivity greatly enhanced

WTP
WRF1
Lift Station 1
Offices
Radio Tower
Fibre
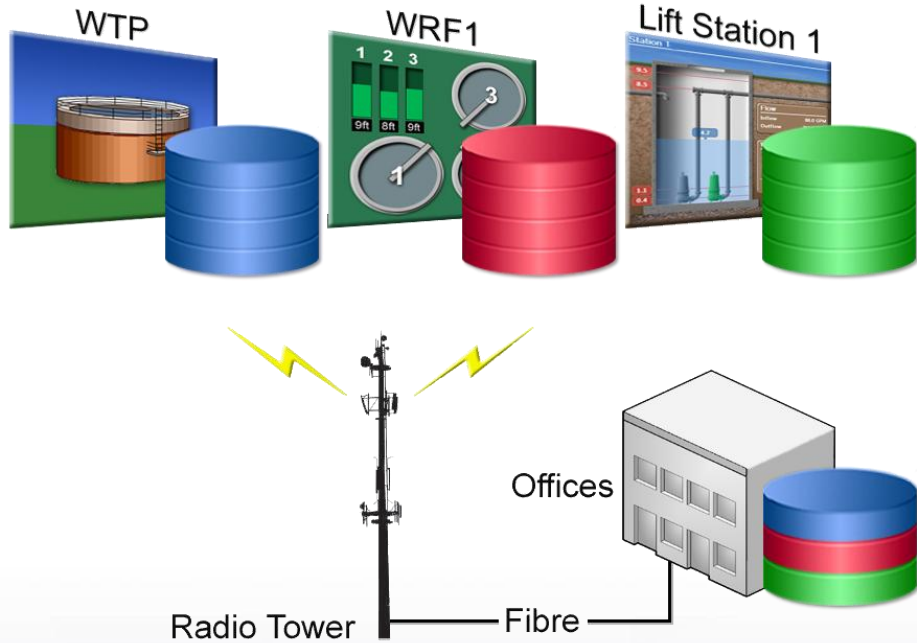
## How is this being leveraged?

- Dedicated servers for individual functions eliminated
- Simplified rollout of high redundancy systems
- Big picture available – multiple plants/one system
- Geographically separated redundancy
- Centralization of SCADA administration services
- Distributed alarms/data treated as a single repository
- Online logbooks accessible across facilities
- Software systems connectivity garnering interest (maintenance, lab info, water metering, leak detection)

High Performance ~~vs.~~ AND High Impact Graphics

High Impact Graphics
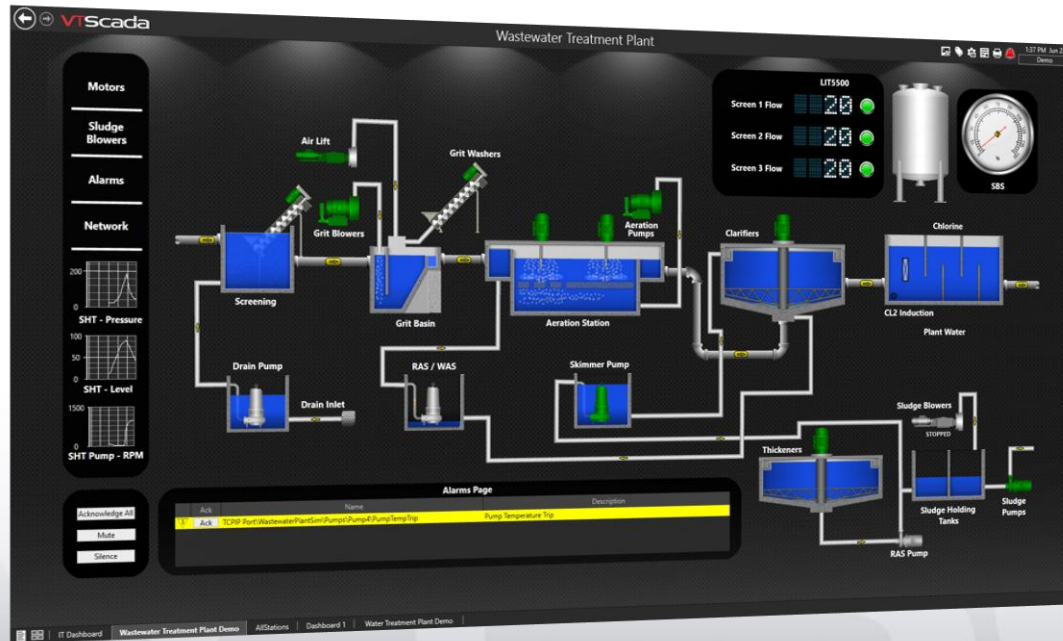

High Performance Graphics
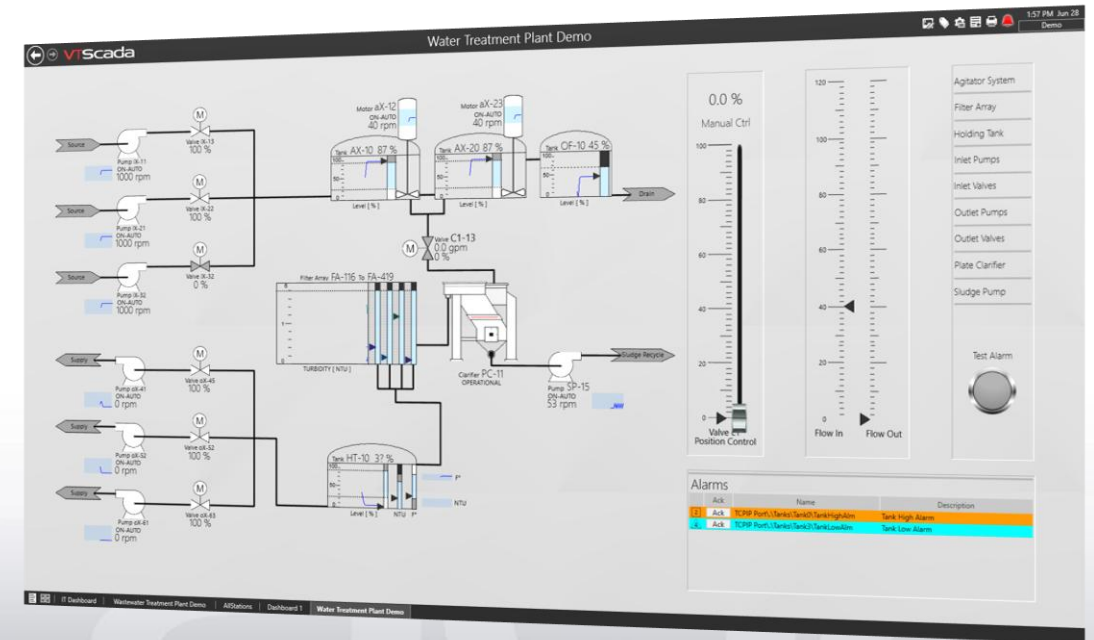
High Performance ~~vs.~~ AND High Impact Graphics

Balancing High Performance with High Impact

- Consultants more interested than End users

- Process industry prefers HP. W/WW technology adoption lags process industry by 3-5 years

- Balance is preferred – HP for ease of problem identification, HI for context

- Reviews of SCADA on mobile devices identifies color as a critical identifier

- Preference for contextual value of pictures, videos, and high resolution graphics


Embedded Video
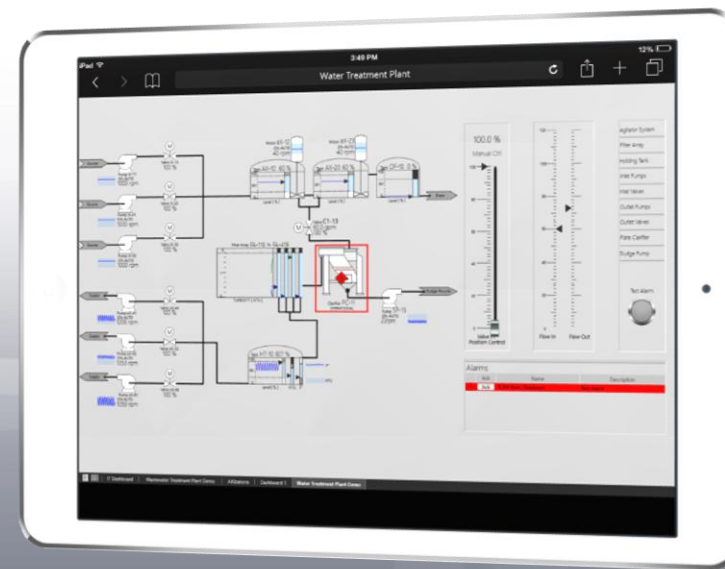
Color in Mobile Interfaces

Barriers to Optimization are Disappearing

- Packaged solutions simplify procurement, but can lock users into a single brand

- Internet of Things (IoT) – Buzzword – ideal vs. reality

- Intelligent sensors are everywhere

- Data available from online sources

- High-speed computing and data storage enhance real-time decision making

- Low-cost, high bandwidth communication links
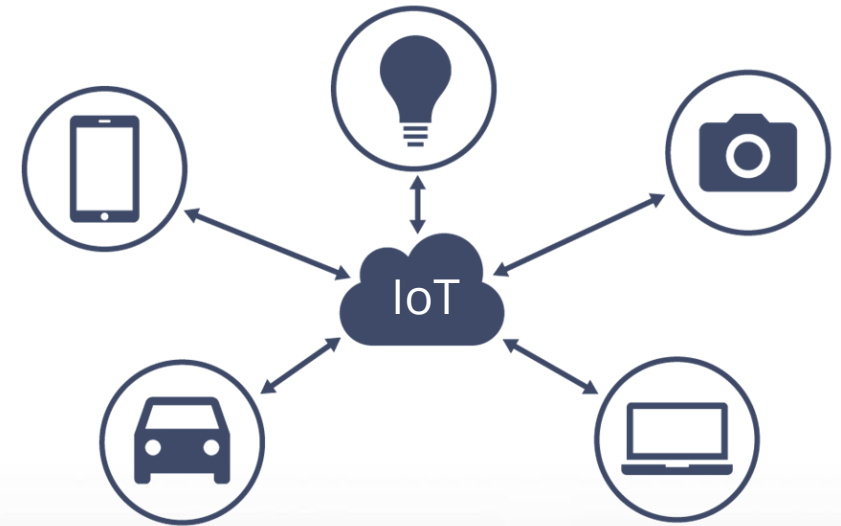
System Optimization

Putting New Sources of information to Work

- Real-time performance degradation tracking compared to known baseline

- Optimization options at the pump head, station, and system-wide levels

- Manufacturers want real-time and diagnostic data on their equipment at customer sites

- Automatic decision making using real-time power rates, time of day, weather feeds

- Energy use reporting
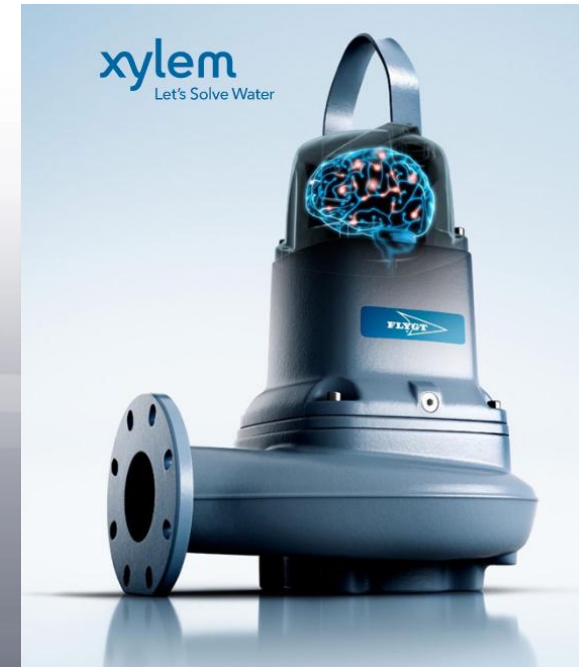
Common Concerns - Utilities Have Been Bitten

- Computer hardware/software upgrades limited by outdated SCADA software

- Technical support unavailable using current common tools (voice calls, texting, remote access)

- Many SCADA products purchased by a few large companies. Which will survive?

- Replacement components scarce (ebay, discards from other organizations)

- Proprietary systems and a general lack to control

- Older workforce leaving with working knowledge

SCADA System Longevity

Planning for Tomorrow and Beyond

- Preference for master SCADA plans – In depth review of current status

- Seeking comfort from the manufacturer regarding end of life products/future evolution path

- Want to minimize reliance on changing technologies – prefer cross platform, automatic display resolution management

- Moving to a common software platform for all interfaces

- Open connectivity still key decision point

- Migration from legacy software relatively easy. Migrating from legacy equipment as budgets permit

Q&A

Download the Answer Sheet

We have answered all the questions collected from attendees during the webinar and made them available as a PDF on our website on the same page you found this presentation.

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