EFFICIENT PATCH MANAGEMENT OF SIEMENS SIMATIC PCS 7 CLIENTS

The automation department of a renowned biotechnology company was faced with the challenge of patching all clients of the Siemens SIMATIC PCS 7 process control system in use during a short maintenance window. The team recognized the need for a reliable overall solution and decided to use ondeso SR.

An internal security audit discovered that some of the SIMATIC PCS 7 clients had outdated patch levels dating back more than two years, which posed a significant security risk. During a short maintenance window, which only opens a maximum of twice a year, all SIMATIC PCS 7 clients were now to be patched. Often, the previously applied patch process, in which clients were updated remotely via Windows Server Update Services (WSUS), resulted in necessary reboots. In addition, there was no way to automate the patch process. After evaluating three different patch management solutions, the team finally chose ondeso SR.

Of particular importance was the fact that ondeso SR, as an official Product Partner for SIMATIC Automation Systems, is so far the only patch management tool approved by Siemens. With a specially developed ondeso SR connector for SIMATIC PCS 7, Microsoft Update Management can be automated within SIMATIC PCS 7 infrastructures.

IMPLEMENTATION OF ONDESO SR

The number of clients to be patched was already known and comprised about 50 clients per security cell. After all requirements and solution paths were coordinated in close cooperation with the automation team, our ondeso consultants from the Professional Services team created independent workflows, so-called „Operations", with ondeso SR.

First, the prerequisites of the client were checked, for example, whether sufficient hard disk space was available. In the second step, the project running on the client was stopped, before the client's system was patched in the third step. The redundant server pairs were also patched automatically, since with ondeso SR it is possible to query the redundancy status of the servers directly via an interface to the SIMATIC Management Console.

Our customer had also defined groups within a security cell, which were also taken into account in the execution of the patch process. The patch process was started only once per security cell during the maintenance window, after which it was processed fully automatically. This meant that our customer was now able to patch all SIMATIC PCS 7 clients automatically within the defined time.

AT A GLANCE

SECTOR

Biotechnology

REQUIREMENTS

Patching of Siemens SIMATIC PCS 7 clients within a short maintenance window

SOLUTION

Automated patch process via ondeso SR connector for SIMATIC PCS 7 taking into account groups within security cells

100 %
AUTOMATED PROCESSING

82 %
FASTER OVERALL PROCESS

BLUEPRINT
FOR FUTURE PATCH OPERATIONS OR PLANTS

ENSURE SECURITY, SAVE TIME

By using ondeso SR, the biotechnology company was able to significantly increase the security level of the SIMATIC PCS 7 clients. The patch process became less error-prone and ran about 82% faster. „With a single click, our customer is now able to patch through an entire security cell automatically," says ondeso OT consultant Andreas Decker. „Patch management for SIMATIC PCS 7 clients is now 100% automated and our customer has a reliable blueprint for other plants and can create its own operations for client management.

„The success of this implementation has thus enabled the biotechnology company to improve its security and make the patch process efficient."

Andreas Decker
OT consultant at ondeso

„With a single click, our customer is now able to patch through an entire security cell automatically"

ondeso develops software products especially in the field of operational technology and Industry 4.0 and supports the automation of OT client management in production. For years, plant operators as well as machine and plant manufacturers have trusted in ondeso products, which are are suited for all industries and can be used across the entire range of production systems and processes. Whether management systems, HMIs or controls – ondeso manages the lifecycle of industry PCs and offers custom fitted products on the highest technological and conceptual level – 100% made in Germany.

Do you want to make the client management of your industrial PCs more efficient?

Contact us now and arrange a free software demo to get an idea of ondeso SR.

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