

PROTECTION AGAINST RANSOMWARE THROUGH USB CONTROL

A furniture manufacturer was faced with the challenge of managing the USB interfaces on the production machines in order to contain the sharply increased risk of a ransomware attack. At the same time, it had to be ensured that important maintenance work on the machines could still be carried out without restrictions. Our client management software ondeso SR helped with the implementation.

The controlled use of USB sticks and flexible USB interface management in production became an increasingly important task for the furniture manufacturer's security managers. To counter the growing threat of ransomware, the USB interfaces needed to be protected as best as possible. A general deactivation of the USB ports was not practicable, because in addition to internal personnel, external technicians as well as maintenance personnel of the machine manufacturer had a legitimate interest in using the USB ports.

For this reason, a system was sought that would maintain a secure basic configuration, while at the same time enabling a documented and time-limited release of USB ports for maintenance purposes in a quick and uncomplicated manner. With these requirements in mind, ondeso SR was selected after comparison with two other tools, as it can also manage other interfaces, protocols and services (such as RDP) in addition to pure USB control – both for OT clients in the network and for offline clients.

MINIMIZE ATTACK SURFACE, INCREASE DEVICE SAFETY

With ondeso SR and the associated „USB Lock / Unlock“ function in combination with the recording of the USB interface status via the Asset Inventory, both OT clients connected to the network and OT clients operated offline could be effectively protected.

The function could be used in two ways: Either via the ondeso SR Agent as a persistent installation of the software on the end device or as a portable functionality via the ondeso SR Starter. This is useful, for example, if the machine manufacturer would object to a software installation. By differentiating between mass storage and input devices, it was also possible to ensure that it is still possible to use a USB mouse and keyboard to control the industrial PCs, whereas the uncontrolled use of USB sticks for data exchange could be effectively prevented.

On the OT clients equipped with ondeso SR, the status of the USB interfaces can now be queried and adjusted in a matter of seconds. This makes it easy to maintain a secure basic state and, at the same time, to release the USB interfaces if necessary for maintenance purposes.

AT A GLANCE

SECTOR

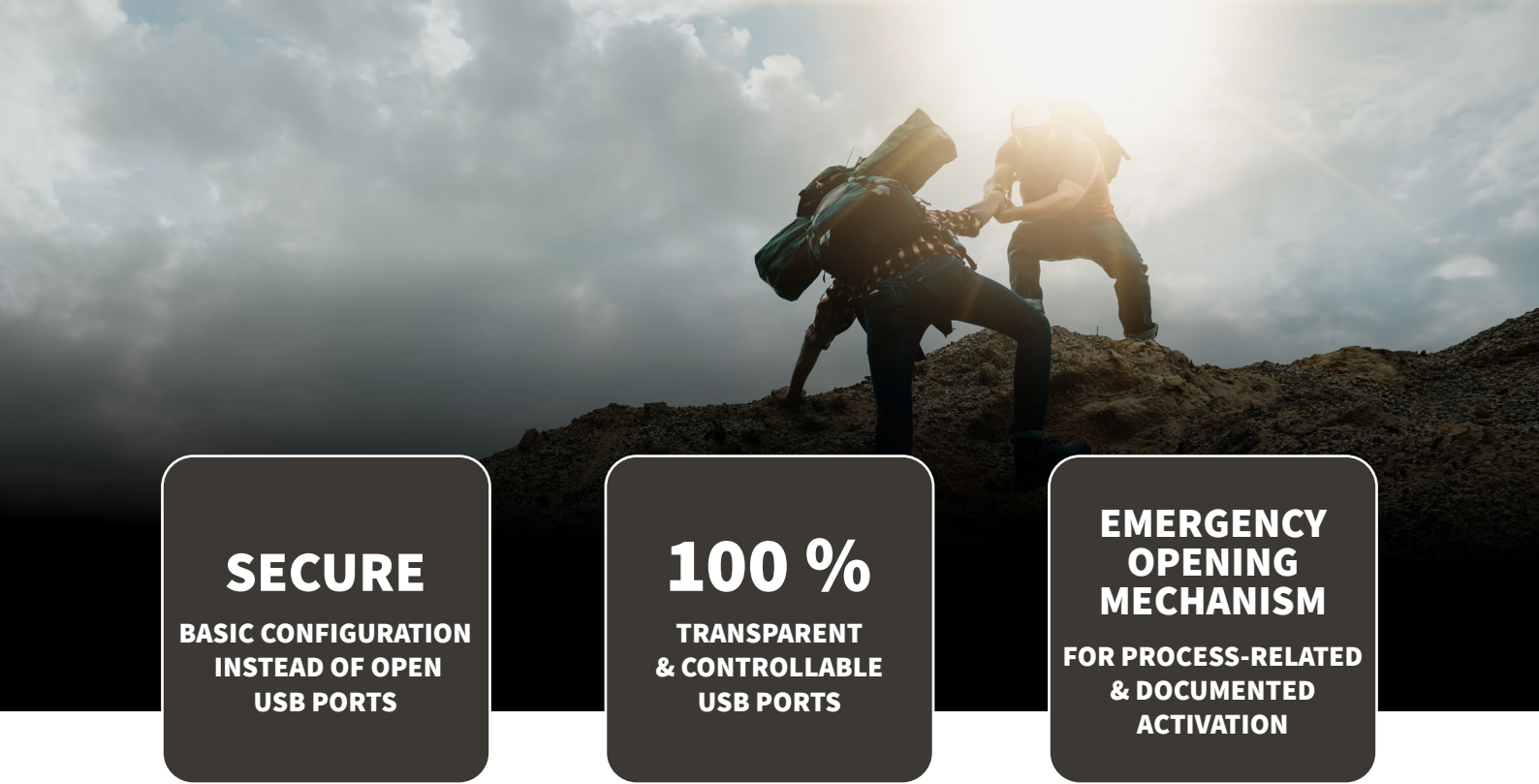
Furniture manufacturing

REQUIREMENTS

Overview and controlled management of USB interfaces in production

SOLUTION

USB lock via ondeso SR with subsequent inventory for evaluation of the interface status and the possibility for an always documented emergency opening mechanism



SECURE
BASIC CONFIGURATION
INSTEAD OF OPEN
USB PORTS

100 %
TRANSPARENT
& CONTROLLABLE
USB PORTS

EMERGENCY
OPENING
MECHANISM
FOR PROCESS-RELATED
& DOCUMENTED
ACTIVATION

EFFECTIVE PROTECTION AGAINST UNCONTROLLED USB STICKS

“The security level could be significantly increased with this easy to achieve measure via ondeso SR“, summarizes the implementing ondeso OT consultant Christopher Durch and adds: „Thus, our software provides the technical support of an organizational measure for the effective handling of USB devices in production.“ And our customer is also pleased with a „permanently easy-to-maintain“ solution that delivers clearly recognizable added value after only a very short time, especially by preventing accidental infections with malware from external sources and creating greater transparency about the actual use of USB devices in production.



Christopher Durch
 OT consultant at ondeso

„The security level could be significantly increased with this easy to achieve measure via ondeso SR.“



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 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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