



COSOL CASE STUDY

BMA Coal
Brisbane, Queensland
Coal

ADVISORY SOLUTIONS

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Background

BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA) has a number of coal sites throughout the Bowen Basin in Queensland; comprising both open-cut surface mines and under-ground mining methodologies. These mines utilise sophisticated technologies to maximise performance including the Process Control Network (PCN) deployed in the 'operational space'. The PCN included approximately 400 computers: PC's, laptops and servers. A significant majority of these computers were using Microsoft Windows XP operating systems for which extended support for BMA had ceased. A consortium of three key project vendors, with the combined depth of experience to deliver in a challenging operational environment (COSOL, Schneider Electric and Vantaz), was engaged by BMA.

Challenges

Across the sites there was a variety of mining equipment types employed. This equipment has specific configuration software installed and has been historically maintained, on a site-by-site basis, by BMA field and engineering staff as well as vendor technicians. Due to the mining equipment variances at the different sites there embedded industrial machines running Windows XP or Windows. Scheduling outage windows and production critical focus points, along with access to key site personnel were major challenges which needed to be overcome.

COSOL Delivery

COSOL was asked to deliver XP remediation, Windows 7 standardisation with an initial site discovery phase.

Site Discovery and Remediation:

- Broadmeadow (U/G) was used as the pilot discovery platform. This involved testing discovery methods & assumptions (Business, Technical and OCM). This provided input to the 'Order of Magnitude' estimates for execution phase.

Site Discovery (Designated Sites):

- Designated Sites considered to have XP environments were engaged for detailed machine probing and analysis of their PCN application environments. Vendors (OEM's, Contracted Support) were engaged where propriety environments required remediation. Some BMA Sites had already progressed down an XP Remediation path. A 'Lite Discovery' focused on capturing a 'Current State Listing' of machines within the PCN.

XP Remediation was completed by:

- Upgrading or replacing machines within the PCN to a prescribed minimum standard configuration and remediating existing Windows 7 machines so that they aligned with Enterprise standards for Windows 7 deployments.

Windows 7 Standardisation was completed by:

- Upgrading or replacing machines within the PCN that were currently running Windows 7 but did not comply with the BMA standards.

Project Summary

COSOL delivered the work on budget and schedule. All target XP machines were interrogated to determine existing technical configuration and identify potential Windows 7 incompatibilities. Application readiness and migration was provided for all XP machines on the PCN to Windows 7 for all sites. Existing Windows 7 machines were assessed and an upgrade path determined to Enterprise standards. All units were completed in scope sites. COSOL recommended an appropriate fit-for-purpose management solution for monitoring and maintenance of computers and applications in the PCN environment.