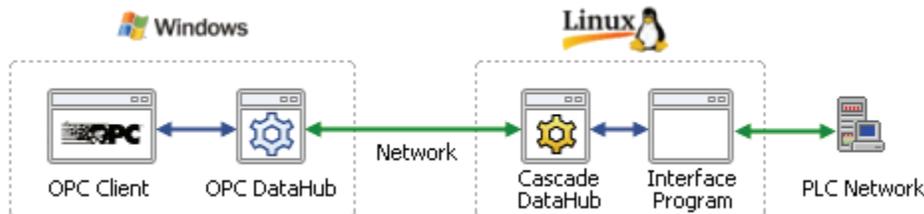# Goulston Technologies - USA
Manufacturing plant uses OPC DataHub to
Link PLC Network to Windows

Goulston Technologies is a worldwide leader in fiber lubricant technology. To hold their top position in a competitive marketplace, Goulston constantly works to improve their manufacturing process. Whenever possible they integrate the latest developments in automation with the reliable and trusted technology of their existing systems. Sometimes this can be a challenge.

Last year plant engineer Warren Eads was faced with a difficult proposition. He needed to integrate data between Goulston's proprietary PLC system and their Windows network. He had to find or develop an application that would be equally at home in Windows and Linux, and reliably transfer data between the two systems.   In a web search he came across Cogent's OPC DataHub and Cascade DataHub for Linux. He ran some preliminary tests and the results were positive, so he set up a working system in development mode.

Warren first configured the OPC DataHub in Windows to mirror data across the network to the Cascade DataHub in Linux. Next, using the Cogent API in Linux, Warren wrote a small interface program to connect his PLC network directly to the Cascade DataHub. With this program running, he was then able to read the data coming off his PLCs directly from his OPC client in Windows.

Throughout the testing and for the duration of the project, the PLC network was live. Warren had to move forward carefully, step by step, often working after hours. Once the OPC client was reading data from the PLCs, he developed a separate application to write data back to the PLCs from the OPC client.

"We couldn't be more pleased with how the project has gone," said Warren. "We started running 900 data points every 15 seconds, and sped it up quite easily until we reached the latency of the PLC connection. At first we ran in parallel with our residual network, and when the DataHubs proved reliable, we removed the gateways and went straight to Ethernet, serving the data directly."

The system has been online for months now, meeting or exceeding all of Warren's requirements. "We weren't quite sure how we were going to integrate live processes

between Linux and Windows." he said. "But the OPC DataHub and Cascade DataHub made our work simple and straightforward. We couldn't be more pleased."

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The OPC DataHub is a highly optimized integration tool for real-time data. It provides quick, reliable and secure access to valuable process and production data and makes it available to management systems, database archives, and remote clients. Combining a number of innovative technologies, the OPC DataHub makes it easy for you to access the real-time data you need to make informed and timely decisions that save time, reduce waste, and increase profitability.

Founded in 1995, Cogent Real-Time Systems is the leader in real-time data integration between Windows, Linux and QNX systems. Customers include the Bank of Canada, Cadbury Chocolate and the European Space Agency. Cogent leverages its experience in real-time data communications to provide the next generation of OPC products. For more information, please contact Cogent at info@cogent.ca or visit our web site at www.opcdatahub.com. You can also call us at +1 (905) 702 7851.