



A Rockwell Automation Company

## Westaim Corporation Coinage Facility - NBS2 Line - Y2K Upgrade

### The Client:

The Westaim Corporation specializes in a number of high potential technologies. These technologies are encompassed within three subsidiary sections of the company: Westaim Biomedical Corporation, Surface

Engineered Products Corporation and Westaim Advanced Display Technologies Incorporated. All of these sections have exceptional technologies for multiple product application in fast growing markets.

### The Requirement:

The original control systems for the NBS2 Line (Coinage facility) faced possible Y2K compliancy issues. The existing system was an old FactoryLink version 2.03 system. Due to the existing systems not having Y2K compliance, the recommended solution was to upgrade the older control system to a newer Y2K compliant system. The primary objectives for this project were to:

- Upgrade existing system to Y2K compliance.
- Make the interface more user friendly.

- Ensure stability of the control system.
- Improve overall speed and efficiency of control system for the production line
- Ensure existing functionality from the older system to the newer system.

### The Design Solution:

Hinz was contracted in May of 1999 to improve the overall control system on the NBS2 line so that it would meet Y2K compliance.

Two ideas were proposed for the upgrade. One was to upgrade the existing system to a newer FactoryLink system; the other was to re-engineer the existing system to a new Wonderware system. Maintenance staff felt that the Wonderware development software was more user friendly and easier to use than the existing FactoryLink software. Therefore Westaim went with the option of re-engineering the existing system to a new Wonderware system.

The original system was very sluggish and crashed unexpectedly while the new system has improved the speed, efficiency and simplicity for the operator. Continual site visits/contact helped gather information, which made the finished system very acceptable to the

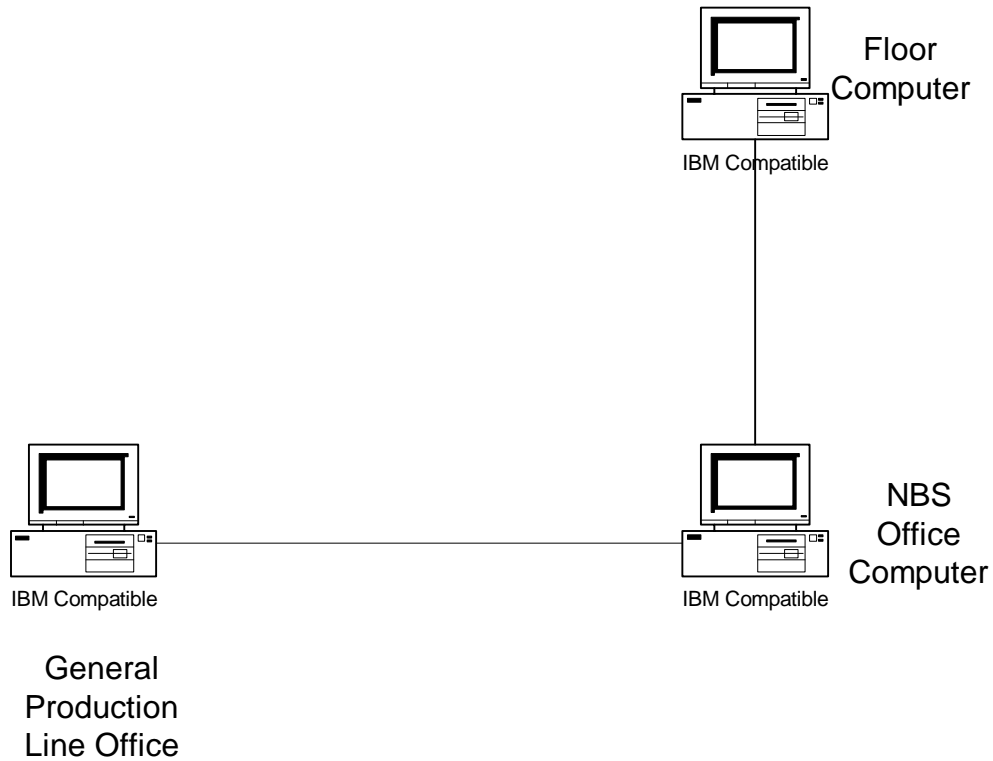
operators. Management personnel were better able to access production problems and inefficiencies through various parts of the line. Increased awareness of the new interface made routine functions less tedious for the operators. Testing and commissioning of the Wonderware control system was performed in November of 1999.

Additional changes to the operator interface were made to improve ease of operation. The initial changes involved improving colors for easy alarm recognition, operator control, viewing status and reporting. All of these changes aided productivity and efficiency of the production line. All functionality in the old reporting package, as well as new functions, were integrated into the reporting package of the Wonderware system.



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### NBS2 Control System (Wonderware HMI)

#### System Specifications:

- Two new Compaq Desktop Computer Systems (300 MHz, 64 MB Ram, 6.4 GB Hard Drive), including peripherals
- touch screen
- 1 (17") NEC Monitor
- 1 Modbus communication cable
- 2 Windows NT operating system software with Service Pack 4

For further information or to contact a Hinz office near you, please check our website at:

[www.hinz.com](http://www.hinz.com)