



APPLICATION NOTE AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING COMPANY DEPLOYS RA10C COMPACT INDUSTRIAL FIREWALL TO GAIN NETWORK EFFICIENCIES

CUSTOMER

A large agricultural processing company operating in multiple US states

PRODUCTS

RA10C Industrial Firewall

RESULT

The RA10C Industrial Firewall gave the company a cost-effective way to manage its network communications and achieve a more stable and more efficient network for its processing facility

THE CHALLENGE

The company's processing facility maintains a single subnet network through which all its devices, computers, and Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs) communicate. The network also includes two Ethernet radio links for communication to two remote PLCs. These remote PLCs communicate exclusively to two Engineering workstations and a single SCADA server.

The company was experiencing instances of intermittently dropped traffic over its network, impacting communications between the SCADA server, Engineering workstations and remote PLCs over the Ethernet radio segments. Ethernet radio links normally have low or limited bandwidth and can experience issues in communication if oversubscribed. The company's traffic issue was likely due to unnecessary traffic on those links consuming excessive bandwidth.

THE SOLUTION

To address the problem, the company installed the RA10C Compact Industrial Firewall in Bridge Mode on its network with the "radio side" connected to the WAN interface. All other devices connected to the LAN interface.

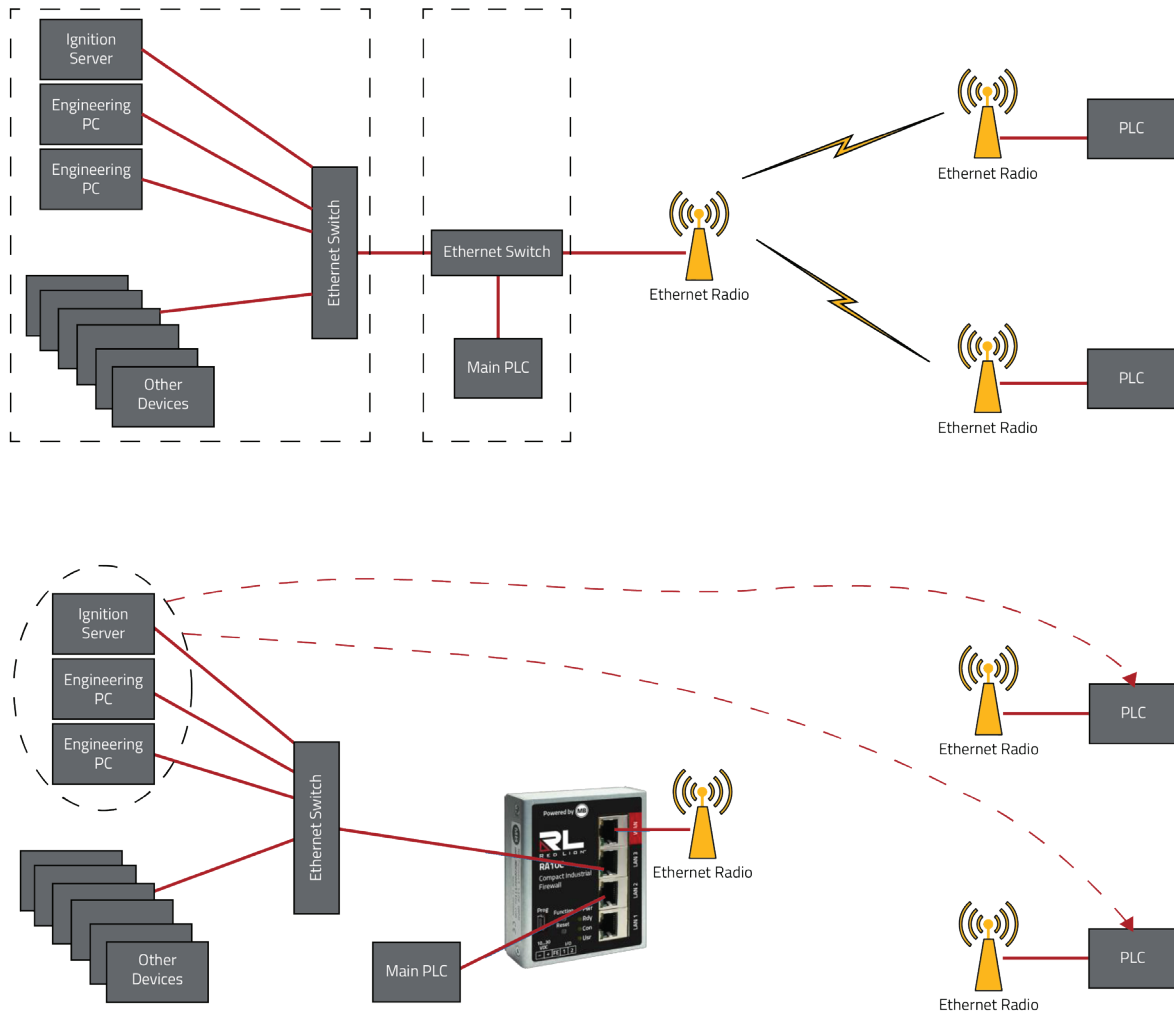
Using the RA10C, the company created rules that permitted traffic from the two Engineering PCs and the SCADA server to access the PLCs on the radio links. The RA10C was provisioned to block all traffic access from the LAN side of the RA10C to the WAN side, thus preventing all other traffic from network devices from accessing the PLCs.

After the solution was put in place, network traffic from the Engineering PCs and SCADA server to the PLCs was stable and consistent. Improved network traffic management using the RA10C helped the company avoid a costly network redesign and the purchase of new network hardware. The solution easily accommodates future changes if the network grows or communication needs change.

THE RESULT

The RA10C Industrial Firewall gave the company a cost-effective way to manage its network communications and achieve a more stable and more efficient network for its processing facility.

THE DIAGRAM



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