PLANTFORMANCE CASE STUDY · HMI

Purpose-built Linux HMI terminals cut plant-floor OpEx to near zero

An abrasives manufacturer · Abrasives

An abrasives manufacturer replaced office Windows PCs on the shop floor with Plantformance FactoryClient and FactoryTouch terminals. Fully managed updates now run with at most one minute of downtime, and devices last 7.5 to 9+ years.

One minute

maximum downtime per fleet-wide update

7.5–9+ yrs

device service life

THE PROBLEM

Running shop-floor operator HMIs on standard office PCs with Windows creates a steady drain. IT maintenance never stops, the security risk stays high, and the hardware has to be replaced every 3 to 5 years. Patching adds its own risk, since a bad update can take an operator station down in the middle of production. The manufacturer needed operator terminals built for the plant floor, not adapted from the office.

HOW WE DID IT

Plantformance designed and developed a new line of purpose-built hardware. FactoryClient is a compact Linux-based terminal dedicated only to Ignition. FactoryTouch is an all-in-one unit with an integrated touchscreen and peripherals. Multiple factories rolled the terminals out across their floors. OS updates and Ignition patching are fully managed, and peripheral integration is turnkey, which pushes recurring OpEx toward zero. Updates run with instant rollback, so a problem can be reversed without stopping production.

BEFORE

With no viable alternative, multiple facilities ran business-grade Windows PCs on the plant floor, pushing corporate IT to support OT it was never equipped for. Manual Windows updates, Ignition client patches and peripheral setup drove up IT OpEx, shortened hardware life and frustrated operators.

AFTER

The multi-factory rollout removed manual plant-floor maintenance entirely. Automated OS and Ignition updates finish quickly with instant rollback, need no local IT intervention, and keep recurring operating costs near zero.

RESULTS

- Large upfront CapEx savings from standardizing on purpose-built terminals
- Recurring OpEx reduced to near zero
- Fleet-wide updates with a maximum of one minute of downtime
- Devices run 7.5 to 9+ years; 7.5-year-old units still receive updates and 9-year-old units retire only for modern compute needs

Plantformance products and services: FactoryClient, FactoryTouch

PLANT FORMANCE

NEXT STEP

Planning a project like this?

Talk to an Ignition engineer about your sites, timeline and architecture. We will tell you honestly what it takes.

Contact Plantformance

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Plantformance is an Inductive Automation Alliance Partner that helps enterprises deploy, secure, and scale Ignition across sites through plug-and-play modules, turnkey zero-maintenance HMI hardware, and 24/7 managed infrastructure.

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