AUTOMATION ᴺᵀᴴ
Excellence in Automation

Automation NTH gives engineers hours back every week by streamlining code reviews

The challenge

Automation NTH had all the automation skills and know-how, but lacked the tools to achieve full visibility into its code development process across all the tools and controls in a given project.

Founded in 1999, Automation NTH provides custom automation equipment and system integration services to the Life Sciences and Medical Device industries. The company guides its customers through successful automation equipment projects and programs to help them quickly level up to the highest of manufacturing industry standards and improve production efficiency, reliability, and scalability.

But Automation NTH found that its software development cycle needed some optimization of its own. Specifically, it was hampered by its inability to compare altered code with the original code on record, which made it difficult to identify any hotfixes or new developments that had been implemented for control products from Rockwell Automation and others — until the team discovered the Copia Industrial DevOps Platform.

> "With Copia, our efficiency soared, saving an average of a couple hours per person each week. Copia is simply faster and more readable than other methods NTH has tried."
>
> **LANDON PAULS**
> CONTROLS ENGINEER II

The solution: a team you can count on

Copia was able to provide Automation NTH with the ability to compare code over multiple versions and enable peer reviews, as well as become the single source of truth for all its controls code and provide secure backup of that code to recover from any unforeseen outages.

"Copia's compare tool has significantly enhanced productivity for NTH on projects where our clients need to track changes across multiple softwares," said Controls Engineer II Landon Pauls. "In a recent project involving Allen Bradley PLCs, we relied on a compare tool from another vendor that we found cumbersome. With Copia, our efficiency soared, saving an average of a couple hours per person each week. Copia is simply faster and more readable than other methods NTH has tried."

Automation NTH first discovered Copia at an industry trade show, explained Automation NTH Project Manager Chris Secrest. "We were immediately drawn to the code comparison functionality, which offered significant advantages over other tools we had used," he said. "Copia also had the robust version control and documentation capabilities to meet FDA compliance standards for our validated equipment."

Once they had chosen Copia to solve their problems, the Copia team quickly got to work on implementation.

"The Copia implementation process was smooth and highly collaborative," said Secrest. "Copia provided excellent training resources and migration assistance. We were up and running in no time. They've been stellar partners all along the way, making it easy for us to see benefits quickly."

With clarity comes power

Some of those benefits include the ability for the Automation NTH dev team to collaborate on the same files in real time.

"Our ability to conduct peer reviews is significantly improved with Copia," said Secrest. "There are a lot of tools built into the Copia platform that allow us to check each other's code, to leave comments, and to notify each other of any changes that were made."

"It's sped our process up at least by a few times since we started using Copia," said Automation NTH Controls Engineer II Landon Pauls. "Making updates to projects is a much faster process because multiple people are able to access the same files and see the whole picture."

Copia deploys solutions based on IT DevOps processes within an operational technology framework, providing unprecedented visibility and control over industrial code in development, production, and management throughout project lifetimes. The result is a repository for industrial automation code that provides for full collaboration, extra fine version control, and super tight backup and security. It's a platform that provides access to all automation code to everyone who needs it.

"Our ability to conduct peer reviews is significantly improved with Copia."

CHRIS SECREST
PROJECT MANAGER

"Copia gives us a clear snapshot of everything that has changed in our code, saving us so much time," said Secrest. "And it puts it into a friendly format that the customer can view as well. Being able to verify that code was saved and released, and to know that we're using the proper code when the customer puts it into their management system — these are game changers. Copia has been transformational for us."

All systems go

By implementing the Copia Industrial DevOps Platform, Automation NTH has gained robust code-comparison capabilities and achieved sizable improvements in development velocity, quality control, collaboration, and regulatory compliance. Copia's Industrial DevOps approach has empowered Automation NTH to optimize its critical processes for its pharmaceutical manufacturing clients so they can continue to lead the way to optimized automation for many years to come.

"For systems integrators that work with industrial automation software, Copia is a no-brainer for all the benefits it offers," said Automation NTH Controls Engineer Caleb Deal.

Meet with the Copia team

Visit **copia.io** to learn how you can implement the Copia Industrial DevOps Platform in your manufacturing business.

To learn more about Automation NTH or request their services, please visit **www.AutomationNTH.com** or reach out to Sales@AutomationNTH.com.