Westfalia Technologies Redefines Code Management and Collaboration with Copia Automation

Westfalia

Overview

[Westfalia Technologies, Inc.](), a leader in automated storage and retrieval systems, specializes in optimizing warehouse and distribution center operations through innovative, data-driven solutions. Founded in 1992, Westfalia integrates automation with its proprietary **Savanna.NET® software platform** to deliver world-class efficiency and reliability. With an emphasis on vertically integrated design, the company manufactures the majority of its equipment, ensuring quality and reducing risks associated with downtime and obsolescence.

As a forward-thinking innovator, Westfalia Technologies continuously evolves its business to scale and support the growth of its customers in the best possible way. To enhance operational excellence and meet the increasing complexity of managing industrial code across diverse projects, Westfalia partnered with Copia Automation. Together, they embraced a shared vision of creating best-in-class approaches, leveraging Copia's Industrial DevOps Platform to transform how they manage code, foster collaboration, and deliver exceptional solutions to their customers.

COPIA

Accelerating Innovation with Copia Automation

Westfalia Technologies partnered with Copia Automation to evolve their engineering workflows and meet the growing demands of their expanding operations. Together, they implemented innovative solutions to enhance code management practices, improve operational efficiency, and deliver exceptional customer outcomes.

1. Implementing Enhanced Code Management Practices

Managing complex PLC codebases across multiple projects required a solution that could provide visibility, consistency, and scalability. By adopting Copia's Git-based workflows, Westfalia introduced robust version control practices that reduced manual effort and improved traceability.

"Copia's tools allow us to track changes with clarity and confidence," said Kaleb Best, Controls Engineering Manager. "We now have a system in place that supports collaboration and minimizes errors."

2. Establishing Robust Documentation Standards

As Westfalia's team grew, so did the need for consistent, scalable documentation processes. Copia's platform enabled the team to create structured documentation that supports onboarding, knowledge sharing, and ongoing development.

"Documentation has become a critical part of how we work, thanks to Copia," Kaleb shared. "It simplifies how we manage knowledge and ensures that our solutions are reliable and easy to maintain."

3. Scaling Engineering Capabilities

With a growing engineering team and increasingly complex customer projects, scalability was key. Copia's Industrial DevOps Platform provided the tools to manage projects efficiently, empowering Westfalia to scale their operations without sacrificing quality or efficiency.

"Copia has given us the ability to handle more complexity as we grow," Kaleb explained. "It's been instrumental in helping us deliver better results faster."

4. Strengthening Customer Deliverables

Westfalia's commitment to customer satisfaction required tools that enhanced their ability to deliver reliable, high-quality solutions. Copia's automated backups and collaboration features helped the team ensure operational excellence and minimize downtime for customers.

"Having confidence in our backups and processes means we can provide better support and faster recovery for our customers," Kaleb said. "That level of reliability sets us apart."

Copia's Industrial DevOps Solution

Westfalia adopted Copia's Git-based workflows and automated backup capabilities to streamline code management and collaboration.

Key Features Implemented

1. Source Control

- Git-based workflows tailored for PLC environments.
- Visual diffs, commit histories, and branching for real-time collaboration.

"With Copia, we can track who made changes, when, and why," Kaleb noted. "It provides the accountability and visibility we needed to standardize our processes."

2. **DeviceLink**

- Automated nightly backups directly from PLCs, ensuring the latest code is always available.

- Recovery-ready backups to minimize downtime during unexpected faults.

3. **Enhanced Collaboration Tools**

- Pull requests and branching workflows to simplify multi-engineer projects and reduce conflicts.

Impact of Copia's Platform

1. **Streamlined Version Control and Collaboration**

- **Improved Workflow:** Engineers now work collaboratively on branches, with clear histories and visual diffs simplifying reviews.

- **Fewer Conflicts:** Real-time commit tracking ensures that changes are logged and conflicts are resolved quickly.

" We've saved hours by resolving conflicts and identifying changes faster. This is especially valuable during commissioning," Kaleb said.

2. **Improved Disaster Recovery and Resilience**

- **Automated Backups**: DeviceLink captures nightly backups, ensuring that the latest code is always recoverable.

- **Faster Recovery:** When PLC faults occur, the team can restore systems quickly with minimal downtime.

"In the rare case a PLC issue is encountered, DeviceLink is right there to assist with a revertible backup. That is a huge confidence booster as we look to mitigate risk and maximize uptime through our partnership with Copia," Kaleb explained.

3.   Increased Operational Efficiency

- **Time Savings:** Engineers no longer spend hours hunting for the latest version of code or waiting for uploads.

- **Scalability:** With standardized workflows, Westfalia can scale operations without sacrificing quality.

"In some cases, we've gone from hours of troubleshooting to resolving issues in minutes. That kind of time savings is invaluable," Kaleb said.

The Copia team has been amazing," Kaleb noted. "Their support and training have helped us adopt these new tools smoothly and at our own pace."

Overcoming the Learning Curve

Transitioning to Git-based workflows required training, especially for engineers unfamiliar with software development practices. Copia's responsive support team played a key role in facilitating this change.

Conclusion

By adopting Copia's Industrial DevOps Platform, Westfalia Technologies has transformed its code management processes, enabling their engineers to collaborate effectively, maintain code integrity, and improve documentation standards.

"Copia has helped us bring software engineering best practices to the PLC world," Kaleb explained. "It's an essential tool for modern industrial automation, and it's helping us scale efficiently while maintaining the high-quality standards our customers expect."

As Westfalia continues to grow and deliver cutting-edge storage automation solutions, Copia remains a critical part of their strategy to optimize operations and stay ahead in a competitive market.

Challenges:

- Managing complex PLC codebases across multiple projects and customer sites
- Scaling engineering workflows to support rapid team and project growth
- Ensuring reliable backups and minimizing downtime risks

Solutions:

- Implementation of Copia's Industrial DevOps Platform for advanced version control and collaboration
- Automated nightly backups with DeviceLink for robust disaster recovery
- Git-based workflows to improve traceability and streamline code management

Benefits:

- Enhanced code quality and reduced errors through improved version control
- Simplified documentation processes, improving onboarding and knowledge sharing
- Increased operational efficiency and faster recovery during troubleshooting
- Scaled engineering capabilities to support growth while maintaining quality
- Strengthened customer deliverables with reliable, high-quality solutions

Meet with the Copia team

Visit copia.io to learn how you can implement the Copia Industrial DevOps Platform in your manufacturing business, or reach out for more information today at contact@copia.io.
To learn more about Westfalia or to request their services, please visit westfaliausa.com or reach out to sales@westfaliausa.com