COPIA

Food Processing Leaders: Why Version Control?

How Food and Beverage Processors can gain greater visibility into their operational technology in order to maintain food safety and optimize production.

Why Food Processors need Version Control when coding industrial devices

In software development, the benefits of Version Control have become widely recognized: heightened productivity, increased oversight and control, reduced downtime, and enhanced collaboration.

As Version Control becomes more important for Operational Technology, many in the Food Processing space are starting to look into how implementing Version Control into Operational Technology can help them eliminate downtime and gain insight and control into their OT.

This eBook explores why Food Processing teams should utilize a Version Control strategy. We highlight the unique challenges faced by the Food Processing industry and showcase why Copia is the preferred Version Control solution for Food Processors.

Unique Challenges of Food Processors

Food Processors face the unique challenge of maintaining food safety and sustainability while pushing to optimize production to keep up with ever growing demand. This means that every change to production must carefully be monitored and tracked to ensure that no unauthorized changes threaten the integrity of food safety standards.

As teams look to optimize production, there must be workflows in place to make sure that all updates to industrial code are tracked and approved before they reach production.

Version Control for Food Processors:

Version Control allows you to automatically save each version of code your team produces to a communal repository. This means there is a centrally stored source of truth. No more rifling through saved files on multiple computers with multiple versions of each project to find the live code.

Version Control allows your team to work together, seeing what changes are being made to the code, by whom, and with context. This means you have strong visibility into changes are taking place, and how they affect important factors such as food safety. It also means you can get updates to the floor faster, with less downtime. Code break? Simply look back at the last version of the code available to get things back up and running.

Some benefits of version control include:

- Teams can work on the most up to date file without the risk of overwriting work

- Teams can merge their individual files with the current file version

- Teams can run true code review, ensuring only error-free and authorized code hits the manufacturing floor

These benefits lead to significant business outcomes, including:

- Reduced project downtime due to code errors

- Reusable project code for your entire operation, including multiple plant locations

- Reduced risk of injury, broken protocol, or safety violations due to broken programming

Unlocking Version Control for Food Processors

This is where Copia Automation comes in. Copia allows you to store all versions of your Operational Technology code, allowing for easy access and oversight of code files.

Copia includes commenting for code reviews both for text based and graphical languages like ladder logic so you can comment on and discuss specific elements that have been modified. This empowers you to spot more coding mistakes before they reach production.

Copia also includes tooling to help with merging changes that were made during concurrent development. Copying and pasting changes between file versions can be tedious and the Copia merge tool automates this process by extracting modified project items from one project and importing them into another, resulting in a file that has the changes from both versions.

The rendering of ladder logic, with change highlighting, can accelerate code review and makes it easy for all team members to understand the changes that have been made. Time is saved and quality is improved. Copia renders PLC code in user friendly interfaces, facilitates collaborative reviews, and automates concurrent development merges. With Copia, the PLC landscape is empowered to leverage the full scope of it's prowess, unlocking potential that elevates productivity, minimizes risk, reduces downtime, and fosters collaboration.

The unique demands and challenges of Food Processors require innovative solutions. With Copia s Version Control, you can arm your engineers with a tool designed to increase productivity and drive business results.

As the manufacturing industry continues it's progression towards Industrial DevOps, Automatotive Manufacturers will require Version Control to unlock their true productive potential.

Interested in learning more about Copia s Version Control? Request a demo today at copia.io/request-demo.