Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) provides water service to the entire city of Detroit and several neighboring counties making up approximately 40 percent of the state’s population. For many years, DWSD had contracted a communications supplier to provide a pair of firewalls to serve as the sole security solution for IT/OT network integration. In early 2011, DWSD carried out a risk assessment of the security of the firewalls between the operations networks and the business network and determined that the risk of a security compromise of the operations network from the utility’s enterprise network was unacceptably high.

**THE CHALLENGE**

Secure the safe & reliable operation of process control systems from external threats, while enabling real-time access to operations data for enterprise users and applications.

Important hydraulic analysis and optimization applications must run on the enterprise network as they require access to Internet-enabled GIS applications. These applications also rely on access to real-time reservoir levels, pressures and pump status indications from the operational network.

Equipment status information, wastewater treatment billing information and other readings must also be pushed from the OT network to the enterprise network.

**WATERFALL SOLUTION**

Detroit Water replaced the IT/OT firewall with a Unidirectional Security Gateway. The gateways replicate an OSIsoft PI historian from the OT network to the IT network. The IT PI replica provides enterprise users and applications with real-time access to all operations data authorized to be shared with the enterprise.

The enterprise hydraulic analysis application draws real-time reservoir levels, pressures and pump indications from the replica historian.

A secure web portal accesses equipment status information, billing information and other readings from the replica as well. This data is available to utility management, end users and field personnel.

**DETROIT WATER BENEFITS**

**Security:** Waterfall Unidirectional Gateways eliminate all possibility of threats penetrating operations from all external networks.

**Visibility:** The utility benefits from a wide variety of customer-service-enhancing integrations between OT and IT networks.

**Cost:** Every month, the utility saves the $10,000 it spent on firewall security management before the Waterfall deployment. Web-based applications dramatically improve field technician effectiveness and reduce technician wait times. The hydraulic optimization application is estimated to save the utility $7 million/year in electric power costs for operating the utility’s distributed network of water pumps.
Waterfall Unidirectional Security Gateways replace firewalls in industrial network environments, providing absolute protection to control systems and industrial control networks from attacks emanating from external less-trusted networks. Waterfall Gateways contain both hardware and software components. The hardware is physically able to send information in only one direction. The software replicates servers and emulates devices. At Detroit Water, the gateway software produces an accurate, timely replica of an operations OSIsoft PI server. Enterprise, web-based and cloud-based IIoT applications and users use the replica server exclusively.

Unidirectional Gateways enable control-system intrusion detection, vendor monitoring, industrial cloud services, and visibility into operations for modern enterprises and customers. Unidirectional Gateways replicate servers, emulate industrial devices and translate industrial data to cloud formats. Unidirectional Gateway technology represents a plug-and-play replacement for firewalls, without the vulnerabilities and maintenance issues that accompany firewall deployments. Replacing at least one layer of firewalls in a defense-in-depth architecture breaks the attack path from the Internet to critical systems.

UNIDIRECTIONAL SECURITY GATEWAY BENEFITS:

- Safe, continuous monitoring of critical systems
- Protects product quality, personnel safety, rotating equipment and the environment
- Simplifies audits, change reviews, and system documentation
- Disciplined, on-demand and scheduled updates of plant systems, without introducing firewall vulnerabilities
- Replaces at least one layer of firewalls in a defense-in-depth architecture thereby breaking the chain of infection and preventing pivoting attacks

“We can see that this solution eliminates external networks as threats to the safety or availability of our operations.”

Biren Saparia, Detroit Water’s Process Control System Manager

ABOUT WATERFALL SECURITY SOLUTIONS

Waterfall Security Solutions is the OT security company, producing a family of Unidirectional Gateway technologies and products that enable enterprise-wide visibility for operations, with disciplined control. Waterfall products represent an evolutionary alternative to firewalls. The company’s growing list of customers includes national infrastructures, power plants, nuclear plants, off and on shore oil and gas facilities, refineries, manufacturing plants, utility companies, and many more. Deployed throughout North America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia, Waterfall products support the widest range of leading industrial remote monitoring platforms, applications, databases and protocols in the market. For more information, please contact: info@waterfall-security.com