

"SHELL CONTROL BOX IS A GOOD FIT FOR ANYONE THAT IS TRULY SERIOUS ABOUT SECURITY AND CONTROLLING ACCESS TO CRITICAL ASSETS."

Brian Schoeck, SCADA Network Engineer, E.ON Climate & Renewables North America.

E. ON Climate and Renewables North America (E.ON) is one of the world's largest owners of renewable power projects and is rapidly expanding its wind and solar energy portfolio. The company develops, owns, and operates some of the most efficient, highest performing renewable energy projects in the United States. In the US the company has more than 15 wind farms with a production capacity of over 3000 megawatts. Already a leader in the American wind industry, E.ON is actively building utility scale solar generation projects and is committed to investing the resources needed to play a major role in the transformation of the electric energy marketplace.

THE CHALLENGE

Strict NERC CIP Regulations

As a critical infrastructure operator, E.ON has to comply with NERC CIP (North American Electric Reliability Corporation Critical Infrastructure Protection) regulations. Among others, NERC CIP specifies strict requirements to prevent DDoS attacks or sabotage against high risk targets, such as the wind farms. The main expectation was to keep system access from a single user or workstation to below 750 Megawatts. To meet these requirements, E.ON had to find a solution which can monitor and restrict concurrent access to IT equipment which control the power output of the wind farms. Previously, the company used firewalls and Active Directory for such purposes, but these solutions could meet neither E.ON's nor NERC CIP expectations.

THE SOLUTION

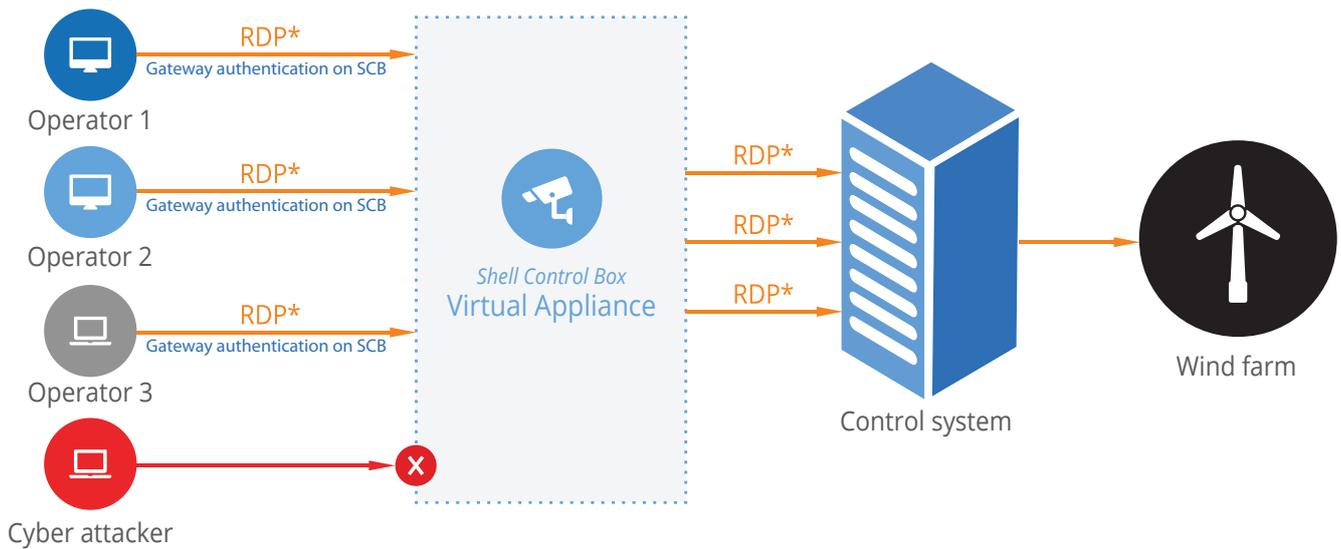
SCB-based Access Control



To find a compliant solution, E.ON security experts also considered Bomgar's remote support tool, but finally they chose **BalaBit's Shell Control Box(SCB)** privileged activity monitoring system.

"SCB was promoted and supported by a group that we use for many outside services. We were able to set it up quickly and when we needed changes BalaBit worked with us and made the changes." – explains Mr. Brian Schoeck, SCADA Network Engineer of E.ON Climate & Renewables North America.

Shell Control Box implementation only took a few weeks. The product is in productive operation monitoring the access to 25 control systems by approximately 50 privileged users (operators). They use the product in 15+ distributed network locations to keep high risk targets protected from general access while keeping them available to authorized operators. Virtual SCB appliances were deployed in each location which reliably monitor RDP-access to control servers of the wind power farms. SCBs enforce web gateway authentication for operators and limit the number of concurrent sessions of users.



*Number of concurrent RDP sessions per user is limited to 3 by SCB

BENEFITS

Customized, Secure & Compliant Operations



With SCB, E.ON was able to build a more secure and more reliable network infrastructure which is NERC CIP compliant yet easy to use and understand. The ability and willingness of BalaBit to customize the product is one of the biggest benefits for the company.

We have a unique IT environment and BalaBit was able to tailor the product to our needs. BalaBit & Shell Control Box is a good fit for anyone facing the daunting task of becoming NERC CIP compliant or anyone that is truly serious about security and controlling access to critical assets. – concludes Mr. Schoeck.



[Read more about Shell Control Box](#)



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ABOUT BALABIT

BalaBit – headquartered in Luxembourg – is a European IT security innovator, specialized in advanced monitoring technologies. The company is widely-known for syslog-ng™, its open source log management solution, used by more than a million companies worldwide. This significant userbase provides a solid foundation for company's expansion which is fueled by Shell Control Box™, a pioneering development for the rapidly-growing niche of privileged activity monitoring market. BalaBit has customers all over the world including 23 percent of the Fortune 100 companies.

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