



**Asset Guardian®**  
SOLUTIONS LIMITED

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## CASE STUDY

**Solution for Leading Whisky Distiller  
to Manage their Industrial and Automation  
Control Software Changes**



## BACKGROUND

A leading Whisky Distiller had multiple distilleries in remote locations all of which had their own Industrial and Automation Control Systems (**IACS**) software. The main challenges faced by the Distiller were:

- Ensuring the correct backups of all system software
- Keeping backups under full revision control
- To manage access to making changes to systems by vendors and technicians
- Record changes made
- Record who made the changes and why
- Record what backups of the new version had been made
- Notify a responsible engineer of all this information

## SOLUTION

### Manage Access to Programming Tools

The Distiller had an Asset Guardian solution for a number of years and were storing their Industrial and Automation Control System Software backups in a centralised repository, keeping them under full revision control.

There were multiple servers on various sites which synchronised together through Asset Guardian's proprietary synchronisation module *AGSync*, and so the software was secure and available at all locations as required.

Software was checked in and out of Asset Guardian when changes were planned and made as part of projects or upgrades, however it was very common for OEM'S and 3rd parties visiting sites to update software without notifying the correct personnel and as a result were not leaving a current copy of the software leading to uncontrolled software being downloaded to the automation systems.



## Control Unplanned Changes to Systems Integrated with the AG Solution: The AG Access Management Module.

To overcome the challenge with OEM and 3rd Party access, the distiller requested the AG Access Control Management module. This required the AG Access Module to be installed at the Programming Workstation on each site. Once the Access module was initiated, the workstation was unlocked and key information was required to be recorded relating to the work being carried out by the engineer prior to access being given to use the requested programming tool.

### THE RESULT



Asset Guardian and the AG Access Management Module allows the Distiller to track all changes to control systems software, with the up-to-date backups on all sites.



Correct versions are always used preventing operational and safety issues, as well as the time to try and re-engineer these lost changes.



Asset Guardian protects the integrity of files through automatic schedules, verifying all files against recorded checksums, minimising the risk of corruption.



Asset Guardian can be relied on to provide all configurations and files to get the plant back up and running.



Compliance with relevant industry standards has been assured with Asset Guardian's full audit history allowing all actions to be viewed and reported.



Downtime has been greatly reduced because the software is stored in a central repository. The current version of software is always available.

**In compliance with  
IEC 62443**

**AG  
Access Module**

**Automatic  
file verification**

**Configuration Change  
Management**