



## The Challenge

Austin Powder needed a way to provide 24/7 continuous IT systems coverage of their two iSeries.

## The Solution

BOSaNOVA's Twinax Console allows Austin Powder to easily manage their iSeries remotely with the features and functions of today's technology.

## The Benefits

Full system backups are now performed from home instead of spending many hours in the office at night or over the weekend.

*Now, I can work from home. I can just kick it off, wake up in the morning, bring the system back up and it's done without needing to physically be there. I'm really thrilled with the consoles."*

*Tim Prostor, iSeries Systems Manager, Austin Powder*

## Austin Powder Blast IT Headaches With Twinax Console

Austin Powder had humble beginnings in 1833 as a Cleveland gunpowder manufacturer, answering the needs of a burgeoning American population hungry to build cities and anxious to blast open the road to prosperity. The use of black gunpowder as an explosive has ended, but Austin Powder's commercial explosives are used today in myriad ways, from the construction and quarry blasting to mining and even seismic exploration. Distributing in the United States and Canada through 65 privately owned shops, Austin Powder enjoys distinction as the second oldest manufacturing company in Ohio, manufacturing industrial explosives and accessories such as detonators and providing blasting services to a worldwide customer base.

Tim Prostor, Austin Powder's iSeries Systems Manager, has heard every misconception about the explosives business, and emphasizes the technicality involved in a typical blast. "Obviously it's a lot more technical than just blowing things up. Half of our revenue comes from manufacturing different kinds of explosives and detonators. The other half of our business comes from the service side, physically setting up the blast. Primarily this applies to rock quarries. The quarry determines how much and what size rock it will need. Our blast technician designs the blast so that the client gets exactly what they're asking for. We do dozens of blasts every single day."

Because of this dynamic, ever-shifting environment, Prostor searched for a way to provide continuous IT systems coverage more remotely.

While today's systems management is a 24/7 operation, the IT department of most small to medium companies has decreased, with more IT specialists and less systems generalists. As Prostor explains, "The IT staff is about 12 or 13 people strong right now. Today's small to medium shops are a collection of people with specializations and responsibilities in one or two areas."

*"I can remotely connect to my network and log on to my console from anywhere. It's amazing."*

Prostor's search for a remote access solution for this 24/7 challenge led him to BOSaNOVA, Inc., a company widely recognized as a leader in IBM iSeries connectivity solutions, and the product that would solve Prostor's problem, the Twinax console. Prostor recalls, "I initially began to search for a product that would allow me to access our iSeries remotely. Network administrators can access systems remotely from anywhere. I wanted to do that for the iSeries and that's how I found BOSaNOVA. I wanted to sit at any remote location and access my office console over a secure connection. In a nutshell that's what the product allows me to do, remotely connect to my network and log on to my console from anywhere. It's amazing."

BOSaNOVA, Inc., a privately held company headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, is the leader in innovative solutions development for both Thin Clients and Network Appliances.

In addition to their extensive line of Thin Client solutions, BOSaNOVA continues to be the number one provider of iSeries connectivity products. With over 15 years in the iSeries market, BOSaNOVA has thousands of happy customers worldwide. The company's products are sold through a network of IBM and CITRIX Business Partners.

BOSaNOVA's reputation was one of the finer points that attracted Prostor to the Twinax console as a solution. Prostor relates, "I never purchased anything from BOSaNOVA before, but always heard that BOSaNOVA was one of the best vendors in the midrange world. You never read anything negative about them, and I discovered they had a good relationship with the iSeries business partner I deal with in Cleveland, United Computer Group, Inc. I was confident in BOSaNOVA and knew instinctively this product would be perfect, so I didn't evaluate any other products."

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Prostor implemented the Twinax console in the first quarter of 2006 and was pleased to find it took a little less than an hour to get the consoles up and running. Additionally, the Windows interface meant the product was highly intuitive, with no learning curve and no tech support needed. Prostor finds the console is perfect for daily tasks such as initializing tapes, tape drives and routine solving of problems with system hardware or system software.



Almost a year has passed since the Twinax consoles were put into action at Austin Powder. So how does Tim Prostor feel about the product now? He enthusiastically explains, "Our main system of our Enterprise software is IBM iSeries. We have two iSeries machines, a system 810 and an i520. I have one Twinax console for each of the systems. The 810 system is on the 5R2 the 520 is on the 5R3. They sit on the network so I can easily access the Twinax consoles from my desktop or from home. Full system backup requires everyone to be off the system. We typically take the system down at night or on the weekends, and I would sit at the console to do it. This could require many hours. Now, I can work from home. I can just kick it off, wake up in the morning, bring the system back up and it's done without needing to physically be there. I'm really thrilled with the consoles."

BOSaNOVA Operations Consoles provide reliable local and remote access to your iSeries and provide the reliability of your old Twinax console with the added features and functions of today's technology. The BOSaNOVA Operations Consoles work in restricted mode as you would expect, enabling full management of the iSeries. Administrators can easily use VNC or RDP to remotely access their iSeries, check system messages, check system status and access the iSeries remote control panel, initiate backups from home.



## iSeries Consoles

For iSeries users, there are four different types of consoles available:

- Twinax
- LAN
- Serial
- HMC

IBM provides one - HMC.

BOSaNOVA provides the other three.

## Visit Us Online

For more information on BOSaNOVA iSeries Consoles, visit [www.ucgrp.com](http://www.ucgrp.com).

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