

Case Study

Configuring Successful Solutions for a Custom Integrator

EFFICIENT,
STREAMLINED
CONFIGURATION

Blue Collar Automation is a boutique system integrator that seizes every opportunity to take on big challenges. Founded three years ago by Brennen Dugger, the western Tennessee firm provides a wide range of automation and control solutions to clients in industries ranging from the dental industry to material handling.

Blue Collar specializes in services such as PLC programming, robotic integration, electrical engineering, control panel fabrication and more. No job is too small or too complex for this ambitious integrator. "We're a rapidly growing integrator equipped to undertake complex and unique projects, and we have a wide range of industry experience and capabilities," says Dugger.

Recently, one of Blue Collar's customers came to them with a substantial project: designing and building 34 control panels. For a company of Blue Collar's size, an undertaking of this magnitude could have been daunting. However, Dugger had an ace up his sleeve—a newly forged relationship with industrial connectivity specialist Weidmüller USA.

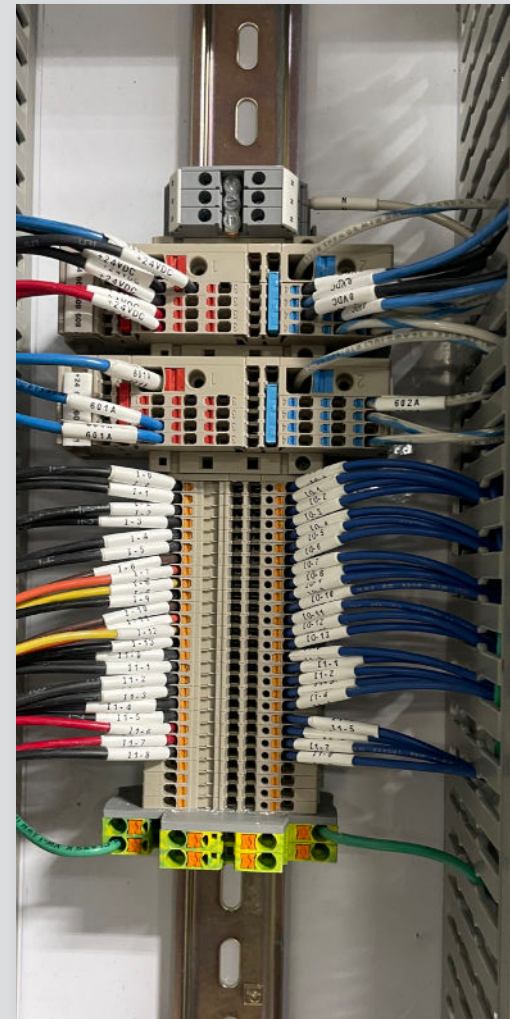
Streamlining the Control Panel Design & Ordering Process

The control panel project for Blue Collar's customer presented several challenges. The job required designing, specifying components and building 30 small identical panels and four large identical panels.

Traditionally, this process would involve a significant amount of manual work. Blue Collar would need to determine the necessary quantities of each component, select appropriate parts from a variety of vendors and compile a comprehensive bill of materials to send to their distributor. This time-consuming, traditional approach left room for errors and inefficiencies.

Blue Collar knew that to deliver this project on time and budget, they needed to streamline the configuration, component selection and ordering process. Blue Collar required a solution that would allow them to efficiently configure the panels, automatically generate accurate bills of materials and seamlessly order the necessary components.

Faced with these challenges, the business began exploring options to optimize the control panel design workflow.



Closeup view of the interior of a control panel that Blue Collar Automation designed and built on the Weidmüller Configurator.

Project Overview

Project Design & Build Control Panels

Customer Blue Collar Automation

Solution Control Panel Design
using Weidmüller Configurator

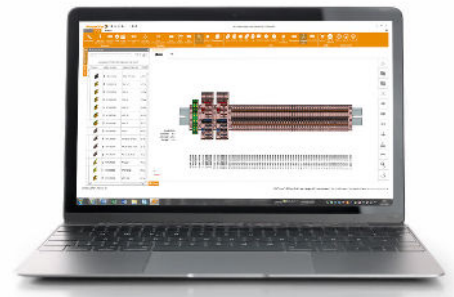
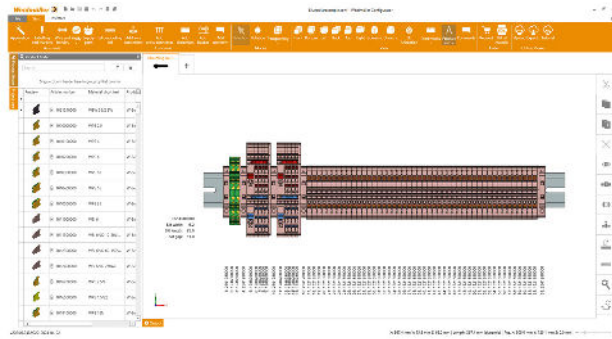
Project Teams

Blue Collar Automation

Weidmüller Automation Team

Weidmüller Southeast Business Team

Weidmüller 



Game-Changing Solution for Control Panel Design

A visit from Weidmüller's "WOW Van" – a mobile demo vehicle that features a wide array of Weidmüller's innovative products and solutions – proved to be a turning point. During the demonstration in the WOW Van, Blue Collar was introduced to the Weidmüller Configurator. This intuitive configuration platform allows users to easily select components, lay out panel designs, generate bills of materials and seamlessly order necessary parts. Leveraging the Configurator eliminates manual work and ensures efficiency, accuracy and consistency across complex panel building projects. Blue Collar recognized that leveraging this tool could significantly reduce the time and effort required to complete the 34-panel project.

The Configuration and Ordering Process

Armed with the Configurator, Blue Collar Automation set out to tackle the configuration and ordering process for the 34 control panels. Using the Configurator, Blue Collar efficiently laid out and configured all 34 panels. The software's intuitive interface and comprehensive component library made the process seamless and accurate. One of the standout features of the Configurator was its ability to automatically generate a detailed bill of materials (BOM) based on the panel configurations. This ability eliminated the need for manual calculations and reduced the risk of errors. The BOM included all necessary components, thereby ensuring a complete and accurate list of required parts.

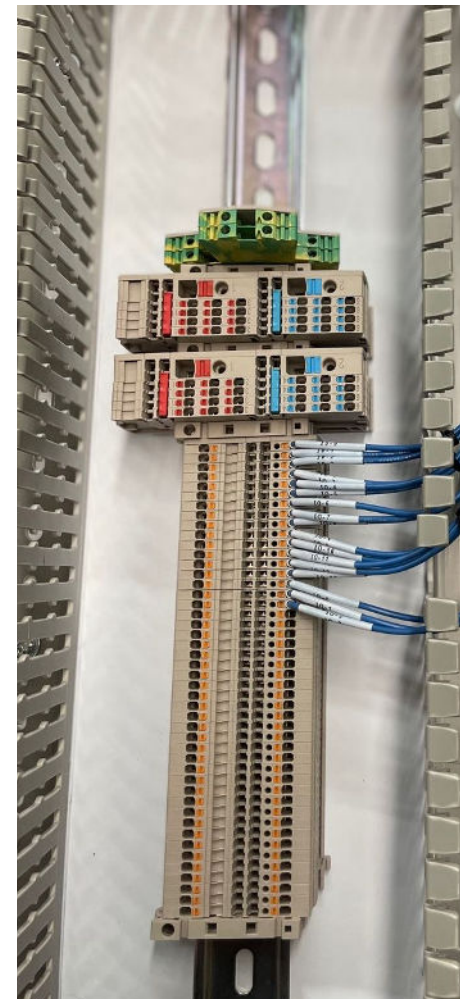
The Configurator also allowed Blue Collar to specify precise panel dimensions, guaranteeing a perfect fit for each control panel. This level of customization and attention to detail was crucial in meeting the specific requirements of their customer's project. Once the panel configurations were finalized, the Weidmüller Configurator made the ordering process a breeze. Blue Collar simply sent the automatically generated BOM directly to their distributor, H.H. Barnum. This streamlined approach eliminated the need for manual order entry and minimized the chances of miscommunication or errors.

"It was really nice because you can configure the layout of the panel in the configurator and then that's how you know your dimensions. It really helped us in creating specifications for our control panel, too," notes Dugger. By leveraging the Weidmüller Configurator, Blue Collar Automation simplified the entire component specification and ordering process.

Delivering Excellence with the Right Partner

The collaboration between Blue Collar Automation and Weidmüller—along with the utilization of the Weidmüller Configurator—yielded impressive results and numerous benefits throughout the control panel project.

"It worked really well," says Dugger. "We designed it all in the software and then built it and then wired it all to print. We got everything we needed on the first order. Everything was so smooth."



A large control panel in the Blue Collar Automation project features an elegant design of the components that were selected and ordered through the Weidmüller Configurator.

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