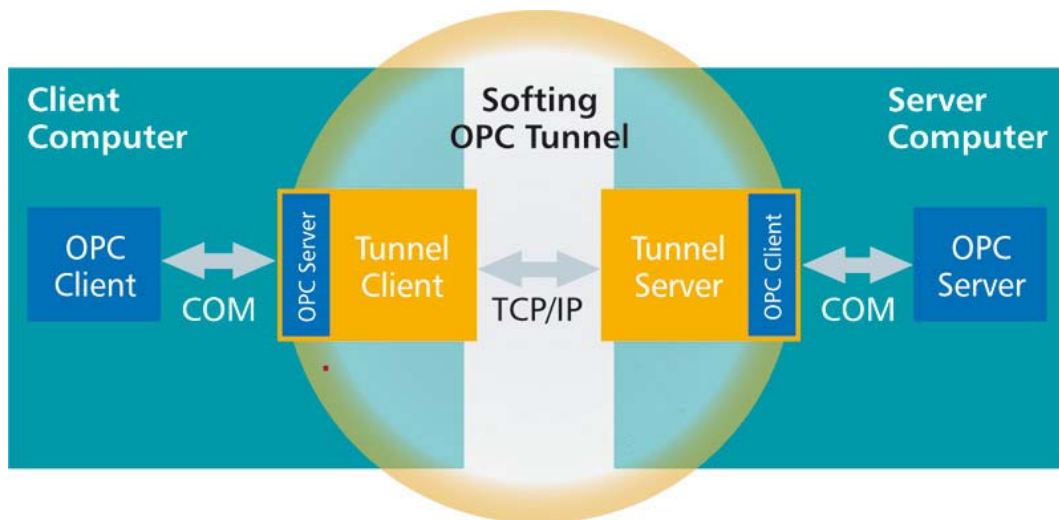


## OPC Tunnel vs. DCOM Headache



Bixby International Corporation, a custom thermoplastic sheet extruder and laminator based in Newburyport MA, assigned Chris V. the task to setup an OPC application consisting of a SCADA system running on a PC and a gauging system. This seemingly easy task turned quickly into a nerve-wracking struggle with the security settings of the underlying DCOM system.

Have you ever had the pleasure of configuring the security settings for DCOM to make your OPC application run in a network? It is not easy to say the least, and it has become increasingly more difficult with Microsoft's continued release of new security enhancements for its Windows operating system. Here is the good news: There are alternatives that are worthy of consideration when setting up OPC connections between computers.

The OPC Tunnel, one of Softing's OPC Easy Connect utilities, is a proprietary solution that bypasses DCOM completely. The OPC Tunnel enables highperformance and robust communications between OPC components on networked computers. OPC Tunnel components are installed on both the OPC client computer and the OPC server computer.

Communications between the client-side and server-side OPC Tunnel components is realized over a TCP/IP connection (encrypted, if desired). The data between client and server applications is thus tunneled via TCP/IP, bypassing DCOM completely and eliminating time-consuming DCOM setup work.

Chris V. downloaded Softing's OPC Tunnel and was immediately able to get his OPC application up and running. Quote: "I tried OPC Tunnel products from multiple vendors, **but Softing's OPC Tunnel was by far the easiest and fastest to setup.** It runs **reliably** and provides **excellent performance** at a **very affordable price.** I also like the fact that Softing offers every one of their OPC Easy Connect utilities as a separate product, so I don't have to buy additional 'stuff' when I only need the OPC Tunnel."

### Industry

Material Supplier

### Task / Objective

Data visualization,  
Process control

### Requirements

Work through firewalls  
Exchange data between  
different versions of  
Windows

### Solution

OPC Tunnel

### Benefits

Circumvent complex  
DCOM security settings

### Market segments

Small to mid-sized  
Manufacturing  
Companies