

Evolving OT Cybersecurity Posture in Manufacturing

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OT and IT Integration Creates Opportunities

While sensitive operational technology (OT) functions remain air-gapped, OT systems are increasingly being connected to information technology (IT) networks.

IT/OT Interconnectivity delivers multiple benefits.



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47%

of companies who have implemented Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) projects have realized rapid payback.



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Whether connected or not, both need to be shielded from external and internal bad actors.

IT/OT Integration Increases Security Risk



Many OT systems in use today are decades old, run by outdated hardware, and may use connected IIoT devices that cannot be updated or patched, creating security risks.



A successful ransomware attack could shut down a manufacturing facility, resulting in thousands to millions of dollars in actual costs and lost productivity.

10%

of the 649 complaints the ICS received were from the critical manufacturing sector.



Source: International Council on Industrial Control Systems (ICS) Security, 2021

Ransomware is a major attack outcome.



© 2023 IDC. Source: IDC, "Ransomware: Security & Recovery," August 2022

The IIoT Attack Surface Is Huge

Digital transformation is driving factory-floor connectivity; and IIoT devices are deployed in many critical applications in manufacturing as well as other industries.

By 2026, IDC forecasts there will be over 49 billion connected IIoT devices in place, up from 38 billion in 2022.



Source: IDC, "Forecast of Connected IIoT Devices," August 2022

From a device management/security perspective, manufacturers rank their concerns around IIoT deployment:

Manufacturing	
1	Who can access data generated by IIoT devices
2	Protecting IIoT data in movement and data at rest
3	Lack of security tools designed for OT environments

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There is need for a "self-defending manufacturing floor" – one that is able to identify, prevent, and adapt to threats from both internal and external sources.

Breaches of OT Networks Likely to Start in IT Networks

A potential breach of an OT network is more likely to start in the IT network.

Over 25,000

new Common Vulnerabilities and Exposure (CVEs) records were recorded in 2022; only about 6% were assigned specifically to OT products.



More remote workers and more OT systems are being monitored remotely, creating opportunities for sophisticated attackers.

Source: Trend Micro, 2022

Air-gapped systems still require a comprehensive on-site security program, as all it takes is one unsecured USB port to compromise an organization.



Source: IDC, "OT Cybersecurity in Manufacturing," Aug. 2022

IT Plays a Major Role in Managing and Protecting OT Systems

Companies' cybersecurity plans should include:



An inventory of connected devices and their configurations



A catalog of their vulnerabilities



A strategy for thwarting attacks and responding when there is a successful breach

IT analysts (for their cybersecurity knowledge) and OT engineers (for their OT knowledge) need to work closely together.

84%

describe that IT supports the IT infrastructure used by OT systems/organizations, and some or all of the OT systems.

16%

describe that IT does not support OT systems.

54% IT supports IT infrastructure used by OT systems/organizations, and some of the OT systems.

30% IT supports IT infrastructure used by OT systems/organizations, and all of the OT systems.

15% IT supports IT infrastructure used by OT systems/organizations, but not the OT systems.

1% IT does not support IT infrastructure used by OT systems/organizations.

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Resource-constrained companies are turning to managed service providers (MSPs), who can step in to assist with both:

1 Improving security and

2 fulfilling regulatory and compliance requirements.



53% of small to medium-sized businesses expect to use an MSP for operations cybersecurity within 3 years.

Message from the Sponsor

BlackBerry | Cybersecurity

Establishing a Self-Defending Manufacturing Floor

Whether operational technology systems are air-gapped, connected, or somewhere in between, an endpoint solution should eliminate complexity, deliver proven security, and enable uninterrupted evolution. BlackBerry can help establish a self-defending manufacturing floor, delivering a lightweight presence on endpoints – without the need for signatures, heuristics, or even internet connections.

Secure OT-Based Environments

