

Industrial Security Consulting and Managed Services 2023

Accenture



Cybersecurity challenge

Despite lower manufacturing output globally, asset owners continue to invest in digitalising plant operations. The long-term vision for most manufacturers is clear: highly connected, automated, and intelligent plants that optimise operations and create value for the entire supply chain. Yet, digitalisation also brings with it new cybersecurity challenges and risks.

One of the most pertinent issues arises from the convergence of Information Technology (IT) and Operational Technology (OT). While the merger can lead to streamlined operations and real-time data analytics, it also blurs the lines between two distinct domains, each with its own unique characteristics and requirements. This intersection can introduce new vulnerabilities, from malware being inadvertently introduced by supply chain partners to misconfigurations that could result in security incidents.

Cloud-based OT applications introduce another layer of complexity. While cloud environments offer scalability and operational flexibility, they are also susceptible to a wide range of cyber threats, including ransomware and data breaches. Moreover, the cloud's remote accessibility can extend the attack surface, providing new entry points to exploit.

The overarching challenge faced by asset owners is finding the right balance between accelerating digital transformation without incurring additional or unacceptable risks. The transition to intelligent manufacturing hinges on implementing new operations that are secure-by-design, and by moving from a security model that is entirely dependent on protecting the perimeter to blending traditional layered defence with Attack Surface Management and Zero Trust Principles. Future operations will be connected, interoperable and agile, but they also need to be secure and resilient.



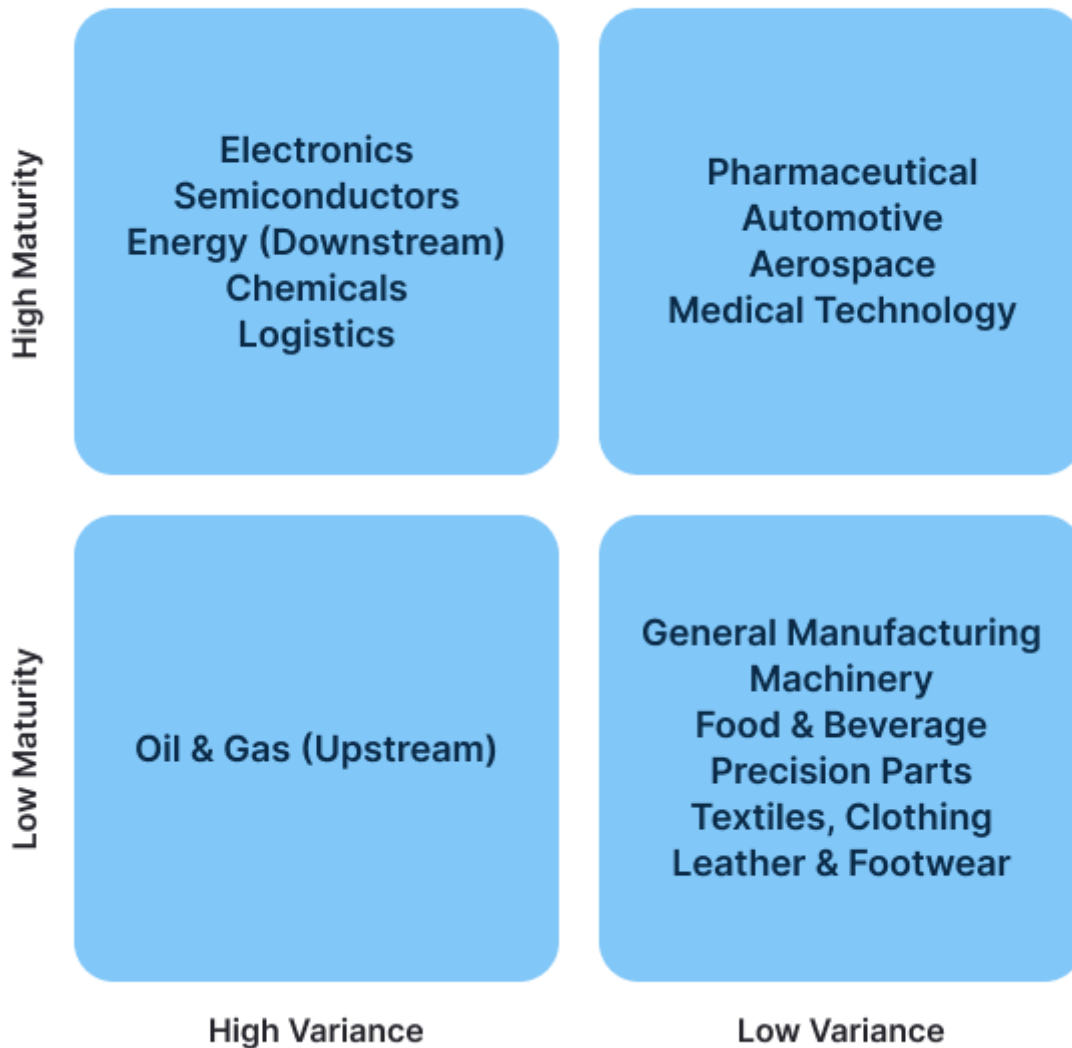
Cybersecurity maturity and target model

Despite the increased investment in OT cybersecurity, there remains a wide gap between the program maturity of the front-runners – those managing Advanced Programs – and the followers who make up most asset owners.

In most countries there is wide variation in the maturity of cybersecurity programs, ranging from no program at all to Advanced OT cybersecurity operations. In the US for example, there are a reported 250,000 manufacturing sites which contribute significantly to economic performance – about 17% of the US economy is dependent on Operational Technology. One of the largest sectors – chemical manufacturing – consists of 9,000 organisations managing around 13,500 plants.

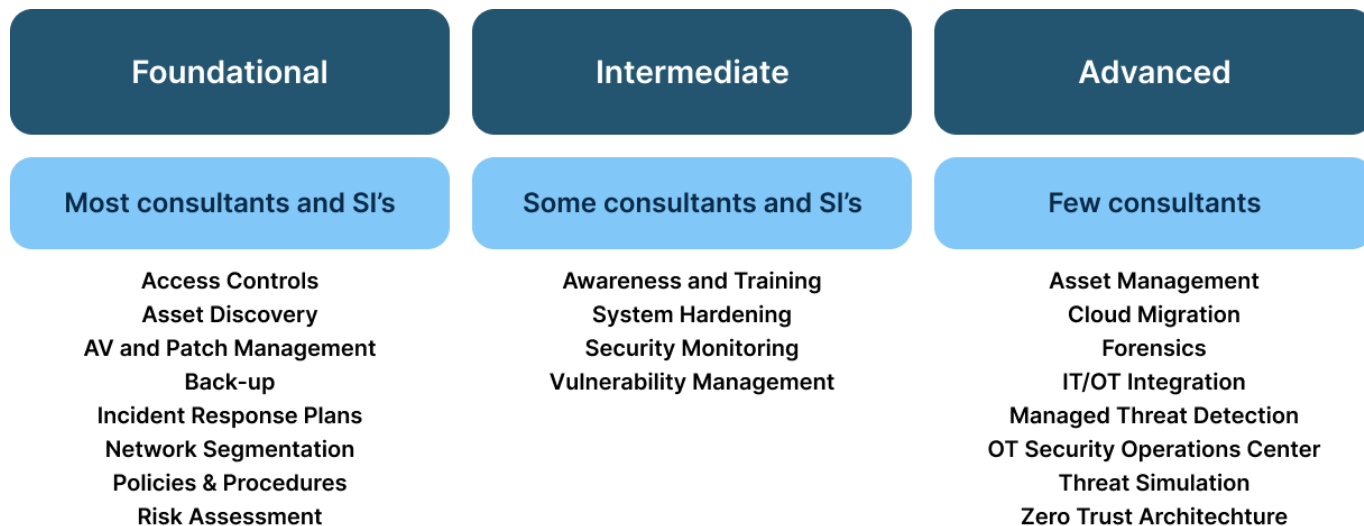
Yet, despite the importance of manufacturing to the economy, OT cybersecurity maturity at many sites remains nascent. This can be largely traced to the maturity of digital programs. Research by the World Economic Forum (WEF) highlights the large variance that exists within industrial sectors, with Energy, Chemicals and Oil & Gas, highlighted as having highly contrasting levels of digital maturity among the operators.

Digital Maturity of Industry Sectors



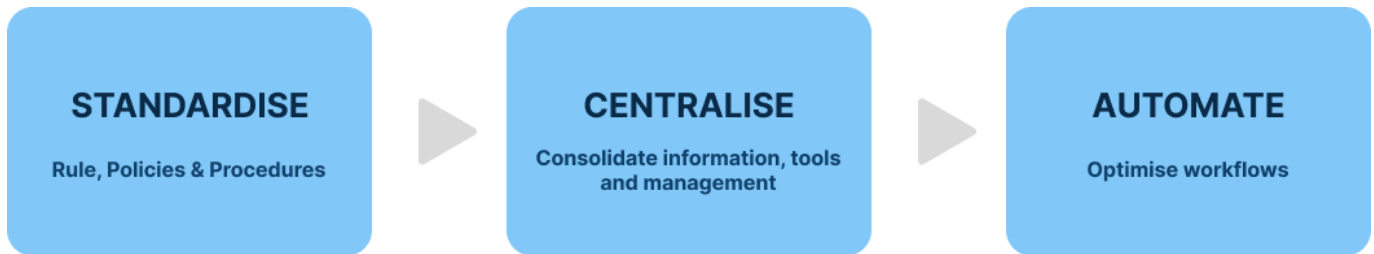
Asset owners without an OT cybersecurity program or with fledgling plans, should start with implementing Foundational security controls. This includes policies and procedures, as well as technical controls such as network segmentation, AV and patch management, and access management.

This may be the destination, or Target Security Operating Model (TSOM) for asset owners with small and less complex operations. There are many consultants and SI's able to provide these services with high levels of specialisation by region or industry. For asset owners with large, complex operations, this is likely the start of a journey towards a more Advanced program characterised by greater strategic alignment with business operations, continuous improvement, and increasing levels of automation.



The Pathway to Cybersecurity Maturity: Standardise, Centralise, and then Automate

Managing the transition from Foundational to Advanced OT security programs across sites, business line owners, and regions is challenging, requiring partners with the scale and skills to deliver large security transformation programs. Security Leaders should start the journey with a comprehensive risk assessment to identify vulnerabilities and quantify the potential impact on the availability and safety of operations. This will result in a sequential set of processes to accelerate the program: Standardise, Centralise, and finally Automate. Security Leaders rushing to automation without completing the first two steps are likely to achieve an unsatisfactory outcome.



Standardisation is essential. Given the diversity of technologies, processes, and human practices in OT environments, harmonising rules, policies, and procedures is indispensable and lays the foundation for centralisation. A clear, consistent set of guidelines not only reduces the likelihood of error but also serves as the cornerstone upon which other security measures can be implemented. This includes using standards and frameworks such as NIST Cybersecurity Framework and IEC 62433 and adapting them to the unique exigencies of the asset owners OT environment.

The next logical progression is centralisation. There are advantages to distributed security operations that offer localised agility, but they also introduce systemic vulnerabilities through inconsistencies and siloed data. Centralising security operations in a Security Operations Center (SOC) offers the dual advantage of consolidated oversight and unified control. It simplifies the execution of policy adjustments and enables real-time, data-driven decision-making. Centralisation also allows for more effective allocation of resources, ensuring that the best tools and talents are utilised where they are most needed.

Once standards have been implemented, and the security operating model has been centralised, then asset owners can evaluate where and how automation can add value to the security operation. By adopting this framework Security Leaders are more likely to maximise the return on their investment, building a comprehensive, cohesive, and scalable security operation.

Trusted OT Security Service Providers

The design and implementation of an Advanced OT security program requires specialist skills and resources that few multinational organisations have internally. In most cases asset owners will require support from a strategic partner.

However, sourcing and selecting the right partner can be difficult as the breadth and depth of OT cybersecurity skills provided by cybersecurity services firms isn't always clear. In addition, asset owners will have different requirements driven by the type of operation, the complexity of the organisation, and the severity of the threats and risk. For example, a small, regional manufacturing firm requiring support to implement 'Foundational' security requirements is unlikely to need the services of an international partner that specialises in large-scale transformation projects.

Security Leaders should consider a range of criteria when choosing partners, including the partner's current capability and strategic direction. Capability is a measure of the security service vendors ability to deliver the required service and includes its technical capability, its experience with OT security product vendors, the quality of its customer operations, adjacent skill sets including change management, and the experience of its personnel.

Technical capability covers a wide range of disciplines. However, whilst areas such as risk assessment and security architecture design are table stakes, potential partners tend to differentiate themselves by providing mastery of a specific discipline such as Incident Response, Awareness & Training, Threat Simulation, and Managed Threat Detection. A leading OT cybersecurity service provider is likely to have dedicated OT SOC's, OT labs for testing and threat simulation, and training facilities.



WA advises Security Leaders to select service providers with in-depth knowledge of OT and a strong record of delivery. The market is attracting many new services firms, some bringing new skills and services, others repackaging IT security services.



Profile: Accenture

Summary

Accenture has been recognized as a leader in industrial cybersecurity consulting and managed services for the second consecutive year. With robust capabilities and deep industry expertise, the company offers customers a comprehensive range of end-to-end security services.

As a global security services provider, Accenture generated revenues exceeding \$6 billion in 2022. The company's security business encompasses four main sectors: Cyber Strategy, Cyber Protection, Cyber Resilience, and the cross-functional Cyber Industry business, which delivers industry-specific solutions. Accenture's security team has a strong presence across the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and Australia.

Accenture is also a well-regarded thought leader in operational technology (OT) security, earning high-profile government engagements and a customer reference list that includes leading asset owners in the Oil & Gas, Energy, Chemicals, and Manufacturing industries. In 2023, the company led workshops with group members of the U.S. government's JCDC ICS program. Accenture's OT-specific industry event, Operation:Next, provides a platform for customers to share best practices in implementation.

Accenture's go-to-market strategy is vertically oriented, leveraging company-wide functional skills and industry expertise to address customer challenges. The OT cybersecurity team often collaborates with colleagues from across the wider customer business, tapping into the expertise of more than 5,000 engineers and 16,000 cybersecurity professionals.

Positioning

Accenture offers a comprehensive OT cybersecurity service, categorised under three main pillars: Define, Deploy, and Sustain. These services are supported by skilled professionals, industry-specific architectural designs, deployment playbooks, and infrastructure that facilitates education, training, and security services management.

The company's global reach is backed by local support and a network of 22 Security Operations Centers (SOCs) – three of which are dedicated to OT – 12 delivery centers, 10 Cyber Fusion Centers, 5 cyber ranges, and 1 cyber lab that provides specialised services to customers. Fusion centers aid customers in understanding their unique challenges, testing concepts, and accelerating deployments. The OT Cyber Fusion Center in Houston, for instance, has played a significant role in training both Accenture employees and customers, and has been pivotal in co-creating cyber solutions.

Innovation and co-creation are central to Accenture's business and customer strategy. The company has developed over 200 unique "tools and enablers" through close collaboration with its customers, including cloud architectures, firewall configuration templates, assisted reality, and OT incident response solutions.

Accenture's robust delivery performance is further bolstered by its technology alliances with security technology vendors such as Forescout, Armis, Nozomi, Fortinet, and Splunk, as well as ITSM vendors like ServiceNow and industrial OEMs including ABB and Rockwell Automation.

Known for

- World-leading security capabilities
- One of the largest cybersecurity professional services companies in the World
- Strong OT alliance ecosystem and strategic partnerships with OT vendors
- Significant investments in future technology
- Cross-industry and geographical cybersecurity expertise
- OT Cyber Fusion Centers

Industrial Security Consulting & Managed Services

The following service providers were reviewed and qualified for the 2023 OT Cybersecurity Services Navigator. Each scored highly against the main evaluation criteria and provide an end-to-end OT cybersecurity service from risk assessment to architecture design, network monitoring and incident response. All demonstrated strong technical capability across most of the 10 categories evaluated, providing customers with a global service. Service providers not included in the Navigator includes regional based OT cybersecurity specialists, IT security service providers with low levels of OT expertise, or service providers with highly specialised or niche OT cybersecurity services.



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Evaluation

The evaluation included a review of capabilities and strategic direction. The following services were reviewed as part of the capability evaluation.

- Risk Assessment

- Cyber Strategy
- Security Architecture & Implementation
- Secure-by-Design
- Security Awareness & Testing
- Threat Simulation
- Threat Intelligence
- Managed Security Services
- Managed Threat Detection
- Incident Response

Further information on WA's methodology is on the website.

Qualification

Service providers must meet the following criteria to qualify for consideration in the IT/OT Cybersecurity Service Navigator.

- Operational Technology expertise including people, OT specific SOC's and capability centres that includes cyber ranges.
- A wide range of services to support customers deliver against IEC 62443, NIST CSF and other relevant regulation or standards. This includes the ability to advise, integrate, monitor, and respond to incidents.
- Global capability with strong representation in more than two regions globally (NA, LATAM, Europe, Middle East & Africa, Asia)
- Strong set of customer references

Further insight on the market and industry trends is available in the related WA Insight report, "Industrial Cybersecurity Industry Analysis"

Concluding

It takes time and significant resource to design and implement an Advanced security program. For large multinational asset owners, designing and implementing the TSOM is often a highly complex change program. The large number of stakeholders, variation in technology and processes across sites, local regulatory requirements, and differing attitudes to risk, often results in a web of differing and sometimes conflicting requirements.

Asset owners should seek OT cybersecurity services firms with the requisite knowledge of OT systems and networks, experience of implementing relevant standards, and with the skills to manage change. Equally, OT Security Leaders should also consider the strategic direction of the OT security services firm including investment in new technology, processes and skills, and current and future partnerships. As manufacturing becomes more connected, automated, and intelligent, security services firms must be able to demonstrate that they have the knowledge, skills, and capacity to help customers transform operations securely.