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Operational Technology

Asset Inventory

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Operational Technology (OT) asset inventory provides a single, trusted source of truth for all industrial assets across the plant floor and supporting infrastructure. In many operational environments, assets have been added, modified, replaced, or repurposed over decades often without centralised records or ownership clarity. This creates blind spots that increase cyber risk, safety exposure, operational downtime and audit complexity. A comprehensive OT asset inventory is foundational to secure operations, effective risk management, lifecycle planning and regulatory compliance. Without knowing what you have, where it is, and how critical it is, protecting and modernising OT environments becomes guesswork.

1. Tools and Technology

1.1 Passive asset discovery and fingerprinting

Asset inventory platforms identify devices by analysing network behaviour rather than actively scanning or logging into equipment.

Why it is used: Asset inventory platforms prevent disruption to sensitive OT systems while accurately identifying programmable logic controllers (PLCs), human-machine interfaces (HMIs), supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) servers, industrial PCs, sensors and controllers.

1.2 Vendor, firmware and operating system identification

Advanced fingerprinting reveals manufacturer, model, firmware version, operating system and end-of-life status.

Why it is used: These tools highlight legacy and unsupported assets that require compensating controls and prioritised protection.

1.3 Industrial protocol awareness

Asset inventory tools understand OT-specific protocols to correctly classify device roles and functions.

Why it is used: Traditional IT asset tools cannot distinguish between an engineering workstation and a safety controller, but OT-aware inventory can.

1.4 Asset classification and criticality tagging

Assets are categorised by role, Purdue level, zone, process function and business criticality.

Why it is used: These controls enable risk-based security decisions rather than one-size-fits-all controls.

1.5 Centralised asset repository and dashboards

All assets are stored in a structured, continuously updated inventory with reporting and audit views.

Why it is used: Centralised asset repository and dashboards provide engineering, operations, security and compliance teams with a shared operational view.

2. Standards and Compliance Alignment

OT asset inventory directly supports compliance with:

- IEC 62443 (asset identification, zoning and risk management)
- NIS2 (visibility, governance and risk ownership)
- ISO 27001 / 27019 (asset management and risk treatment)
- Industry-specific audit and safety frameworks (Pharmaceutical, Automotive, Mining)

3. Business Outcomes

OT asset inventory is used to:

- Reduce operational risk through full asset visibility
- Enable faster incident response and root-cause analysis
- Extend the lifecycle of legacy assets through informed protection strategies
- Improve governance, ownership and accountability
- Deliver audit-ready reporting without manual data collection
- Create a strong foundation for vulnerability management, segmentation and digital transformation

4. Fortify Your Operational Resilience

Ensure your asset inventory provides a single, trusted source of truth for all your industrial assets across the plant floor and supporting infrastructure to enhance the management of cyber risk, lifecycle planning and regulatory compliance. Contact our industrial OT asset inventory specialists today to discuss how we can help you protect and modernise your OT environment.

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