datacentrix

Operational Technology

Asset Vulnerability

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In industrial environments, the most dangerous vulnerabilities are often known but unmanaged, unpatchable, or hidden behind operational constraints. Operational Technology (OT) asset vulnerability translates technical exposure into business and operational risk that management can act on. OT asset vulnerability does not ask "What devices exist?" It answers far more critical questions, such as which assets can realistically be exploited? What failure or attack would stop production, impact safety, or breach regulation? Where is the risk we are unknowingly accepting?

1. The Difference Between OT and IT Vulnerability

Traditional IT vulnerability management focuses on patching speed and common vulnerabilities and exposures severity. OT environments require a fundamentally different approach:

- Systems cannot be rebooted freely
- Patching may void vendor warranties
- Some vulnerabilities can never be remediated technically
- Availability and safety outweigh confidentiality

OT asset vulnerability management recognises these realities and focuses on risk control, not checkbox remediation.

2. From Vulnerability to Control (not just findings)

Where vulnerabilities cannot be patched, we define compensating controls, such as:

- Network zoning and conduit enforcement
- Application allowlisting
- Restricted remote access paths
- USB and removable media controls
- Enhanced monitoring around high-risk assets

This shifts vulnerability management from "fix it or fail audit" to "control the risk and prove governance".

3. Fortify Your Operational Resilience

Ensure your OT assets are not a point of vulnerability. Contact our industrial asset vulnerability specialists today to discuss how we can help you manage business and operational risks in your OT environment.

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