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المؤتمر الدولي الثاني والعشرون لإدارة الأصول والمرافق والصيانة  
The 22<sup>nd</sup> International Asset, Facility & Maintenance  
Management Conference

**Digitization - Excellence - Sustainability**

# Zero Trust Architecture Application in Maintenance Operations: A Cybersecurity Perspective

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## Background

### Digitization is a double-edged sword

Digitization brings operational efficiency and sustainability, but it introduces significant cybersecurity risks, especially in maintenance operations

### Emerging Technologies in Maintenance

- Internet of Things (IoT)
- Predictive Maintenance & AI
- Digital Twins
- Cloud Computing

### Challenges

Increased vulnerabilities in maintenance environments  
Need for robust cybersecurity strategies

## Understanding Zero Trust Architecture (ZTA)



**ZTA is a security framework that requires continuous validation of every access attempt, minimising implicit trust within networks**

### **Core principles of ZTA:**

**Identity verification** (always confirm who is accessing your network)

**Continuous monitoring** (Keep an eye on the network)

**Data encryption** (make sure data is protected when it's stored and shared)

# Why Zero Trust Architecture?

## Evolving Threat Landscape

Attackers exploit traditional security gaps and assumptions

A cyber incident is predicted to cause damages exceeding \$25 billion by 2025

## Remote & Hybrid Work

Organizations need a flexible approach that adapts to users working from anywhere

## Data Protection & Compliance

Stricter regulations and privacy requirements demand robust security measures

## Reduced Attack Surface

Limiting trust reduces risks at every point of the network



# Digitization in Maintenance Operations



**IoT in Maintenance**

Collects real-time data for critical insights

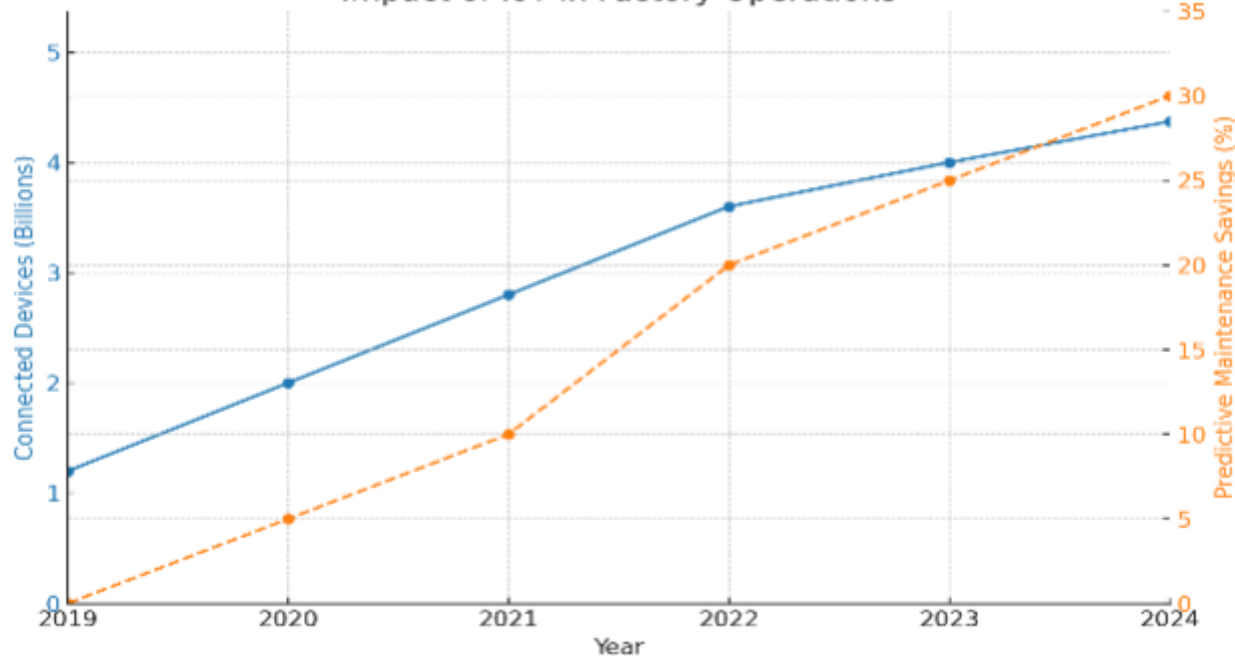


Uses data analytics to anticipate equipment failures



Used for simulation, monitoring, and optimization

Impact of IoT in Factory Operations



# Cybersecurity Risks in Digitized Maintenance



## IoT Vulnerabilities

- 98% of IoT traffic is unencrypted
- Devices often lack robust security features



## Case Study - Mirai Botnet Attack

- Mirai Botnet exploited vulnerabilities in IoT devices like IP cameras, routers, and DVRs by using their weak security to launch massive Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks.



# Introducing the IBM Maximo Case Study



**Happy Life Limited** and **Smart System Company**  
implemented Zero Trust Architecture using IBM  
Maximo



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# Overview of IBM Maximo Asset Management

An Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) system

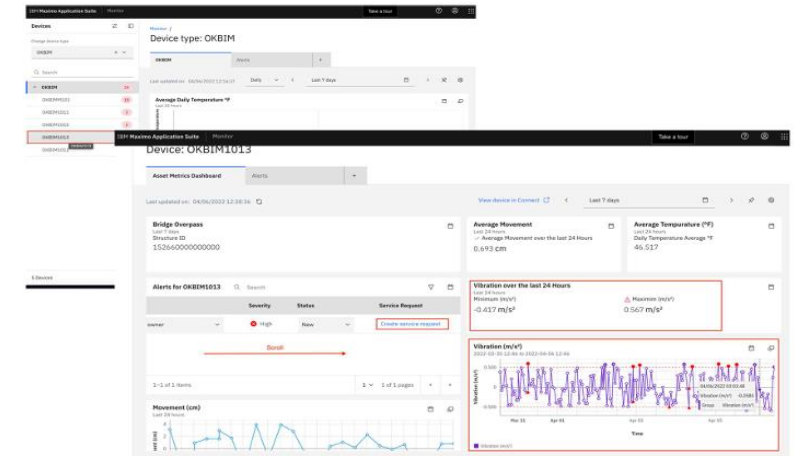
Facilitates predictive maintenance and IoT integration

Supports the implementation of Zero Trust principles



## Maximo Monitor

- Connect
- Prepare
- Visualize
- Investigate





## Challenges Faced Before Implementation



### Legacy Systems Vulnerabilities

Outdated maintenance platforms were prone to cyber threats



### Lack of Real-Time Monitoring

Difficulty in promptly detecting unauthorized access



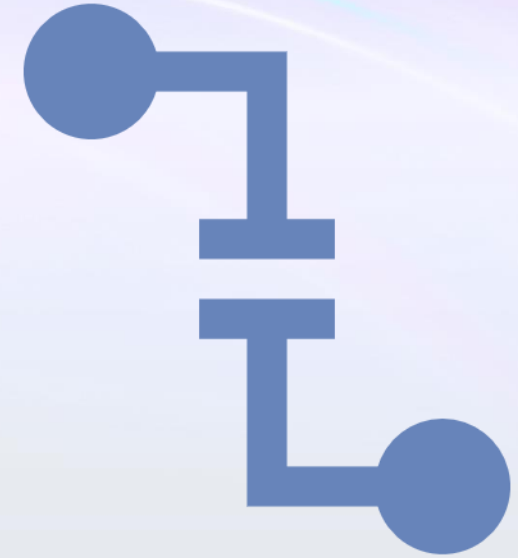
### Data Silos

Inefficient data sharing across departments hindered operations



### Compliance Issues

Existing systems did not meet new cybersecurity regulations



## Need for Change

A robust, secure, and efficient maintenance system was essential

# Implementing Zero Trust with IBM Maximo

## Identity Verification

### Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)

Implemented for all users accessing IBM Maximo

### Role-Based Access Control

Users were granted permissions based on roles and responsibilities

### Defined strict firewall rules for traffic

Configured firewalls to allow only specific ports and protocols (e.g., TCP/443 for HTTPS) between segments

## Implementing Zero Trust with IBM Maximo

### **We divided our network into smaller, secure zones**

Maximo servers and databases were isolated from other systems (e.g., IoT devices, cloud services)  
virtual LANs (VLANs) or software-defined networking (SDN) may be used to create segmented zones  
Necessary communication between zones was allowed using strict firewall rules

### **All communication to and from Maximo was encrypted**

TLS encryption was used for all REST API calls and web interfaces

### **Endpoint security was strengthened**

Endpoint protection software was installed  
IoT devices and gateways had strong authentication  
Endpoint detection and response (EDR) tools were used to monitor and secure edge devices

## Lessons Learned and Best Practices



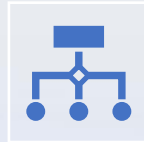
### **Stakeholder Engagement**

Involving all stakeholders early ensured alignment and support



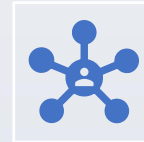
### **Staff Training and Awareness**

Continuous training on new systems and cybersecurity practices was vital



### **Phased Implementation**

Starting with a pilot program allowed for testing and adjustments



### **Collaboration Between IT and Operations**

Bridging the gap between departments enhanced overall effectiveness



### **Regular System Audits**

Ongoing assessments ensured sustained security and performance

# Next-Gen EAM+: Innovating Beyond Security



## Core Features of Next-Gen EAM+

### 1. Cognitive Digital Twins

#### Adaptive Intelligence

Digital twins learn from past actions via reinforcement learning, continuously enhancing performance

#### Context Awareness

Incorporate external factors (e.g., climate data, market conditions) to optimize operations over time

### 2. Quantum-Resistant Cryptography

**Post-Quantum Security:** Employ NIST-approved quantum-resistant algorithms to protect long-term data integrity

**Future-Proofing:** Ensure secure data and communications against emerging quantum computing threats



# Next-Gen EAM+: Innovating Beyond Security

## 4. Holographic and Spatial Computing Interfaces



**Hands-Free Interaction:** Manipulate asset models in mid-air using holographic displays.

**Spatial Mapping:** Integrate with advanced data visualization platforms for easier understanding and action on complex data



## 5. Bio-Authenticated Access Controls

**Continuous Verification:** Seamlessly authenticate using biometrics and behavioural cues

**Reduced Credential Theft:** Minimize unauthorized access, upholding Zero-Trust Architecture principles



## 6. Intelligent Edge Hardware

**Local Inference:** Deploy AI chips on-site for immediate anomaly detection

**Reduced Latency:** Ensure real-time responses without relying on cloud processing



## 7. Nanotechnology-Based Sensors

**Ultra-Sensitive Measurements:** Detect micro-level changes in materials, stress, or corrosion

**Extended Asset Lifespan:** Prevent catastrophic failures through early detection

# Discussion



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