

TOP 3 CHALLENGES FACING THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

A large industrial manufacturing facility, likely an engine plant, with two engines on an assembly line. The engines are mounted on a metal frame and are being processed by machinery. The background shows a complex network of pipes, cables, and structural elements, typical of a modern manufacturing plant. The lighting is bright and even, highlighting the metallic surfaces and the intricate details of the machinery.

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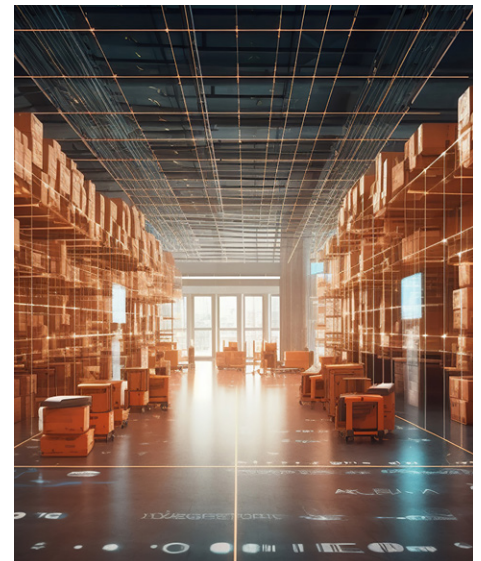
Manufacturers around the world are facing many of the same challenges, including supply chain disruptions, the ever-present danger of cybersecurity threats and how to improve productivity amid ongoing labor and material shortages. Among these challenges, there is a common denominator that manufacturers must recognize: you can't improve for tomorrow when you're still using yesterday's optics.

By taking a closer look at these persisting challenges, manufacturers and solution providers alike can learn valuable insights that can help them become proactive in addressing roadblocks before they impact productivity down the line:

THE SUPPLY CHAIN AND YOUR INVENTORY ARE MOST LIKELY CONNECTED

Trouble can often be found when the left hand fails to know what the right hand is doing. This adage is particularly relevant in manufacturing, especially when you consider the scope of how much supply chain disruptions can impact inventory management. Consider a manufacturer who isn't focusing on material delays caused by ongoing supply chain woes. The slightest miscalculation of delivery dates, volume, or shipping costs could leave the manufacturer facing costly outcomes that disrupt performance and delay production. Not hitting production

goals and informing customers of delays can cause irreparable damage in the minds of consumers. Supply chain and inventory levels are closely intertwined, with one often making good and bad marks upon the other. Throw in the changeability of third parties and additional vendors – each of whom are faced with similar supply chain and inventory variabilities – manufacturers need to maintain end-to-end visibility to have a better chance at weathering potential disruptions, keeping them on target and on schedule.



CYBERSECURITY THREATS ARE EVOLVING:

Keeping the flow of data moving between touchpoints is critical for manufacturers who would like to keep their product lines moving. And it's no secret that phishers and hackers are constantly on the hunt to take advantage of those who do not remain cyber aware, especially when it comes to protecting their data. While enterprise defenses have strengthened in the face of constant cybersecurity and ransomware threats, manufacturers who aren't looking for every chink in their armor may find that the smallest gap can become their biggest vulnerability.

But with so many devices deployed onto the manufacturing floor – from printers to mobile computing devices – IT teams can be limited in how effective they are in covering their networks and devices. By securely capturing data and being able to remotely update devices from a centralized location – manufacturers can empower IT teams to bolstering cybersecurity defenses and ensure networks and data remain lock tight.

DIGITALIZATION IS A BIG UNDERTAKING, BUT IT'S CRITICAL:

Having operational visibility throughout the manufacturing process, from materials being ordered and received to pushing finished product out of the door, isn't just important – it's critical. Keeping track of materials received, labor performance, impending deadlines and production goals are all valuable indicators, especially as competition becomes fiercer in an increasingly "order today, receive today" world. However, many enterprise resource planning systems are unable to effectively help manufacturers automate the collection of these high stake datapoints.

As labor shortage woes continue to hamstring how manufacturers collect such valuable insights, deploying IoT-based technology can be a force multiplier. Digitizing and automating the way data is captured can help manufacturers achieve deeper insights into their daily operations and how to improve workflows for their future. Although digitalization can seem like a daunting task to undertake, manufacturers quickly realize that the information they gather from improved data capture points can be priceless.



So where does that leave manufacturers who are ready to be proactive about addressing the challenges they face today? To start, they should begin with a reliable manufacturing solution partner that can provide a nuanced solution that fits their needs, their workflows and their ideals.

OUR SOLUTIONS

Honeywell has over 75 years of experience in helping manufacturers deploy form-fit solutions that help them achieve their digital transformation goals. Through harnessing the power of data to enhance workflow touchpoints throughout the supply chain, Honeywell is aimed at helping manufacturers achieve their greatest potential. With sweeping portfolios of analytics software like Honeywell Operational Intelligence, secure platforms with Mobility Edge™ and Honeywell Printer Edge™, intelligent mobile computers, barcode scanners, and a fleet of printers, Honeywell is positioned to be your ideal partner to achieve positive and sustainable growth through collaboration and execution.

Discover more about how Honeywell can help your manufacturing operations and talk to a solutions expert today.

For more information

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