AccessHub

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Source / Link: Personal interview & https://access-hub.com/

Technology area:	Type of good practice:	Target group:
☐ Artificial Intelligence	☒ Company	☒ Discrete (smart) manufacturing
☐ Big Data	☒ Project	☒ Automotive
☐ Digital Twins	☐ Initiative	☒ Aerospace
☐ IoT and IIoT	☐ Programme	☒ Metal processing
☒ Cybersecurity	☐ Other	☒ Consumer goods
☐ VR/AR		☒ Pharmaceuticals and chemistry
☐ Robotics		☒ Food and agriculture
☐ Automation		☒ Health
☐ System Integration		☒ Textiles
☐ Smart Sensors		☐ Others
☐ Additive Manufacturing		
☐ Other		

Summary:

AccessHub is a Dutch scaleup with a focus on different innovations in the privacy and data management domains. It is widely known that there are a lot of different risks for our data, so this ultimately raises the question, whether we really are masters of our data. There are many third parties, both known and unknown, that are involved in people' and organizations' communication with the internet and this leads to various security and privacy issues, especially when using unprotected networks (public WIFI), cloud-based services, social networks etc. Since we rarely know who is behind these services (e.g., hackers, governments etc.) we cannot be sure whether we are communicating and transmitting data in a safe and protected way.

AccessHub develops solutions that help their customers become real masters of their own data – something that is especially important for organizations dealing with sensitive information, such as personal data, legal or financial information, intellectual property, smart equipment etc. The main product of AccessHub is called "SecureZone" and this is a very well protected environment with dedicated applications servers inside, which can be deployed on top of every existing network infrastructure, in order to ensure the safe and protected transmission of critical data and information.

Detailed description

AccessHub's products and services can be applied to a variety of industries, but they are especially suitable for manufacturing settings. Recently, AccessHub took part in a pilot installation of shared production lines (a manufacturing concept that is expected to become even more popular in the future), where multiple companies were sharing access to a few production lines, consisting of 3D printers.

The owner of the production line had to provide information about how long the line was occupied by a specific customer, how many final components were produced etc. This information was then stored in blockchain and subsequently used for automatically determining how much to charge the customer for the components he produced. Such systems can be connected with a quality control system, so that it rejects components that don't meet adequate quality standards. Respectively for any such poor-quality components, the manufacturer covers their price and does not charge the customer, thus ensuring a better transparency of the processes.

AccessHub's role in the project was to provide the connectivity and implement appropriate security measures in order to ensure the seamless execution of the manufacturing activities. The role of AccessHub and other providers of cybersecurity solutions is of crucial importance to the manufacturing sector since most classical manufacturers and manufacturing devices do not have the right cybersecurity measures in place and they often lack the skills to implement them.

Additionally, with the growing importance of integrated supply chains and with more and more companies committing to them, the role of cybersecurity will continue to play a critical role. Such integrated supply chains will enable consumers to check and follow the story of specific products and they will be able to obtain more information regarding the plant, where the product was produced, who produced it, what its package is made of, where it was shipped from and many other product-specific information. Such level of granularity of the information will undoubtedly necessitate superior cybersecurity standards and solutions, which will ensure the data integrity and its safe transmission.

Beneficial Results

The project turned out to be very successful and beneficial for AccessHub and practically illustrates the central role cybersecurity solutions play in a manufacturing environment. Some of the achievements that were accomplished within the project are:

- Greater visibility and traceability of manufacturing processes;
- Improved reliability and security of manufacturing data;
- Visualization of an integrated supply chain in a secure way.

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