



ADVANCING INDUSTRIAL IOT: ENABLING EFFECTIVE CONDITION MONITORING AND PREDICTIVE MAINTENANCE THROUGH MICROSOFT AZURE: A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY

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Abstract- The Fourth Industrial Revolution, often referred to as Industry 4.0, is characterized by the integration of digital technologies into manufacturing processes, leading to the emergence of smart factories. One of the key aspects of Industry 4.0 is the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT), which involves the interconnectivity of machines, sensors, and devices within a manufacturing environment. Among the numerous challenges and opportunities presented by Industry 4.0, condition monitoring and predictive maintenance stand out as critical components for ensuring the reliability, efficiency, and sustainability of manufacturing operations. This thesis aims to explore the implementation of condition monitoring and predictive maintenance strategies within the framework of Industrial IoT, leveraging Microsoft Azure as a robust platform for data processing, analysis, and decision-making.

This paper begins with a brief introduction, followed by the second section, which presents a literature review discussing various research projects. Section 3 focuses on the architecture of a smart factory. Further, it explores the integration of smart factory concepts with Microsoft Azure IoT. The paper also discusses the benefits of predictive maintenance and monitoring. The conclusion summarizes the findings, and we have also identified future research areas in Industrial IoT.

Keywords— Azure IoT & Industry 4.0: Monitoring & Maintenance, Smart factory, Azure tools.

1. INTRODUCTION

With the rapid advancements in electric, electronic, information, and manufacturing technologies, the production methods of manufacturing enterprises are transitioning from digital to intelligent paradigms. This evolution towards a new era is marked by the fusion of virtual reality technology within the framework of the Cyber-Physical System (CPS). In response to these emerging challenges, the advantages once held by conventional manufacturing industries have progressively waned. Consequently, the domain of intelligent manufacturing technology has gained significant attention from industrialized nations. Strategies like Europe 2020, Industry 4.0, and China Manufacturing 2025 have been introduced, while the United States has initiated the acceleration of reindustrialization and manufacturing resurgence.[1]

Gaining an understanding of the distinguishing factors among various cloud service providers is crucial for making informed decisions. Within this context, renowned providers like Amazon AWS, Microsoft Azure, IBM, and Google Cloud Platforms offer distinctive offerings. For edge applications, Microsoft Azure IoT stands out as a promising choice due to its robust scalability, up-to-date support, transparent pricing structures, and global coverage.[2]

Consequently, for this study, Microsoft Azure IoT has been selected as the preferred platform. Its device and service SDKs provide cloud endpoints for seamless telemetry processing. Moreover, it streamlines the integration of Docker containers, serving as essential tools to deploy developed modules or images effortlessly onto devices.[2]

In recent times, emerging technologies such as

Internet of Things (IoT), wireless sensor networks, big data, cloud computing, embedded systems, and mobile Internet have made their way into the manufacturing landscape, marking the onset of the fourth industrial revolution.[3] This transformative shift gave rise to the strategic initiative "Industry 4.0," embraced as part of Germany's "High-Tech Strategy 2020 Action Plan." Comparable strategies have also been put forth by other major industrial nations, including the "Industrial Internet" initiative from the USA and China's internet-driven approach.[4]

In the journey towards realizing the smart manufacturing paradigm of Industry 4.0, several advanced manufacturing concepts have emerged to overcome limitations of traditional production lines. Examples include flexible manufacturing and agile manufacturing. Notably, the multi-agent system (MAS) has stood out as a representative approach, defining manufacturing resources as intelligent agents that collaborate to enable dynamic

reconfiguration for enhanced flexibility. However, the complexity of manufacturing systems poses challenges for MAS implementation, leading to an absence of universally accepted MAS practices.[6]

Within this context, we propose that cloud-assisted industrial wireless networks (IWN) can effectively support smart factories through IoT and service implementation. This approach enables smart artifacts to engage in communication and negotiation via IWN, facilitating self-organization. Additionally, cloud technology's scalable storage and robust computational capabilities empower it to process extensive data, achieving system-wide coordination.[7]

Industrie 1.0–3.0-4.0

First Industrial Revolution: The late 18th to early 19th century marked the transition from agrarian economies to industrialized ones. It was characterized by mechanization powered by water and steam, leading to the emergence of factories and significant changes in textile and manufacturing industries

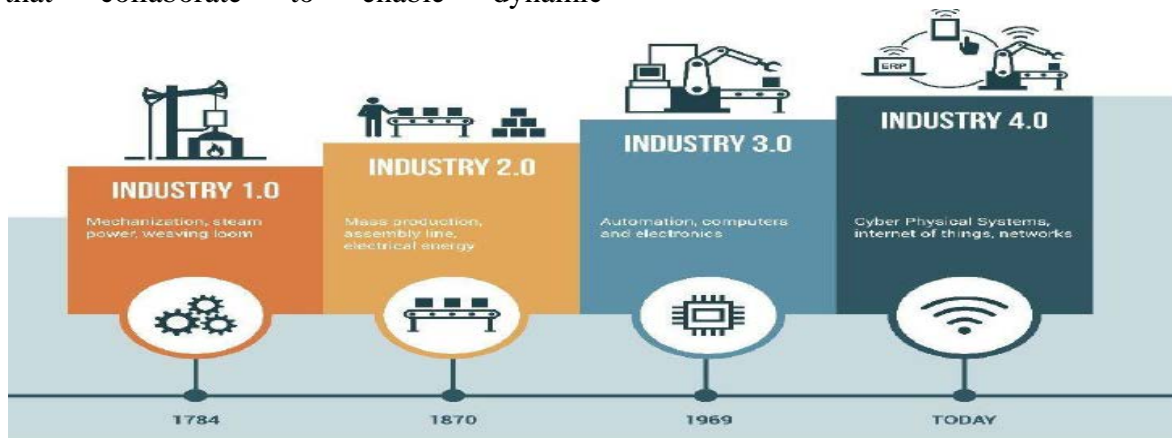


Figure1-An overview of the four industrial revolutions. It's worth noting that the era of manual labor-dominated production saw the highest levels of production flexibility. This trait remains a key driving force behind the Industrie 4.0 movement. [Images courtesy Credit: Getty Images/iStockphoto Copyright: elenabs]

Second Industrial Revolution: Occurring around the late 19th to early 20th century, this phase was driven by advancements in electricity, steel, and chemicals. Mass production, assembly lines, and the growth of railroads marked this period, leading to significant economic growth.

Third Industrial Revolution (Digital Revolution): The latter half of the 20th century saw the rise of electronics,

telecommunications, and information technology. Automation, computers, and the internet played a central role, transforming how industries operated and leading to the digital age.

Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0): Emerging in the 21st century, this revolution is characterized by the fusion of physical, digital, and biological technologies. Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence, big data, and advanced robotics are central components. Smart factories, interconnected systems, and data-driven

decision-making define this era.

The foundational technical underpinning of Industrie 4.0 lies in the integration of Internet technologies into the industrial domain. This technological framework is often coupled with future-oriented visions. Despite certain overly enthusiastic marketing claims, Industrie 4.0 remains a concept on the horizon. While many of the necessary technical components already exist, they are predominantly employed in different sectors, such as consumer industries. Industrie 4.0 is intricately connected with Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS).

2. LITERATUREREVIEW

The advent of Industry 4.0 has brought forward the concept of the smart factory, integrating physical and cyber technologies to revolutionize the manufacturing industry. Key technologies, challenges, and application cases have been extensively explored by researchers in the pursuit of efficient, flexible, and intelligent manufacturing solutions. Within this context, this literature review delves into the insights provided by several research papers that discuss the smart factory, its technological components, and the role of predictive maintenance in enhancing its efficiency.

"Smart Factory of Industry 4.0: Key Technologies, Application Case, and Challenges" by Baotong Chen and Jiafu Wan (2018) This paper introduces the concept of the smart factory as a fusion of physical and cyber technologies within a hierarchical architecture. The authors highlight key technologies, focusing on the physical resource layer, network layer, and data application layer. Challenges such as IoT, big data, and cloud computing integration are discussed, with potential solutions identified. The paper emphasizes the potential of big data-driven virtual manufacturing to enhance product quality and energy efficiency.

"The Smart Factory: Exploring Adaptive and Flexible Manufacturing Solutions" by Agnieszka Radziwon(2013) This paper addresses the ambiguous nature of the "smart" label and proposes a unified definition for the smart factory concept. The authors connect smart factory characteristics to traditional

manufacturing practices and discuss challenges related to its implementation in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The paper emphasizes the importance of a consistent definition to foster a better understanding of this emerging manufacturing approach.

"IIoT Based Smart Factory 4.0 over the Cloud" by Chetna Nagpal (2019) The authors present a framework for a smart factory integrating industrial networks, cloud, and control terminals using IoT technologies. They employ wireless smart sensors for intelligent operation, focusing on "Controllino mega" as an open-source PLC device. The paper highlights the role of IoT in achieving more intelligent and efficient production processes.

"Software-Defined Industrial Internet of Things in the Context of Industry 4.0"(2016) by Jiafu Wan:

This paper analyzes the architecture of Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT), including the physical layer, industrial wireless networks (IWNs), industrial cloud, and smart terminals. The authors propose a software definedIIoT architecture that manages physical devices and facilitates information exchange. Challenges and potential solutions for software definedIIoT are discussed, and an intelligent manufacturing environment is presented as a test bed.

"Towards Smart Factory for Industry 4.0:(2016) A Self-organized Multi-agent System with Big Data Based Feedback and Coordination" by Shiyong Wang:This paper introduces a self-organized multi-agent system framework for a smart factory using big data-based feedback and coordination. The authors propose an intelligent negotiation mechanism for agent cooperation and strategies to prevent deadlocks. They emphasize the potential of IoT, big data, and cloud computing to transform traditional industries through intelligent manufacturing.

"Implementing Smart Factory of Industry 4.0: An Outlook" by Shiyong Wang: (2015)The authors discuss vertical integration for implementing a flexible and reconfigurable smart factory. They propose a framework that incorporates industrial wireless networks, cloud, and smart artifacts, and emphasize the role of self-organization and big data-based feedback in achieving high flexibility and efficiency.

"Smart Engineering as Enabler for the 4th

Industrial Revolution" by Michael Abramovici: This paper highlights the multidisciplinary and intelligent nature of modern products, driven by advancements in information and communication technologies. It emphasizes the need for Smart Product Service Systems (smartPSS) and introduces the concept of Smart Engineering to cater to the needs of Industry 4.0.

Service innovation and smart analytics for Industry 4.0 and big data environment" by Jay Lee, Hung-An Kao, and Shanhu Yang: (2014) The authors discuss the evolving landscape of Industry 4.0, focusing on the collaborative nature of smart factories and the need for advanced prediction tools. They stress the importance of manufacturing service transformation and the readiness of predictive informatics tools to manage big data and enhance transparency and productivity.

These research papers collectively provide insights into the key technologies, challenges, and application cases within the realm of smart factories and their integration with predictive maintenance strategies. The convergence of IoT, big data, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence is poised to drive the future of manufacturing towards greater efficiency, flexibility, and intelligence.

3. Smart Factory Architecture

Within the framework of Industry 4.0, intelligent manufacturing has garnered substantial attention from government bodies, enterprises, and researchers [9]. Consequently, discussions about the construction models for smart factories have proliferated. However, definitive standards for implementing smart factories remain pending. Notably, Benkamoun et al. [10] presented a class diagram offering diverse perspectives on manufacturing systems' entities and functions. Radziwon et al. [11] delved into prior research on the smart factory concept, highlighting its emphasis on adaptability and flexibility. Lin et

al. [12] put forth a cloud manufacturing systems architecture tailored for aerospace conglomerates, aimed at optimizing manufacturing resource configurations. These contributions collectively shape the architectural blueprint for smart factories. In essence, smart factories leverage information technology (e.g., cloud platforms and IIoT) to enhance manufacturing resource management and Quality of Service (QoS) [13], [14]. To establish smart factories, manufacturers must bolster production and marketing strategies, heighten production process control, and minimize manual intervention. By analyzing manufacturing data, smart factories enable flexible manufacturing, dynamic reconfiguration, and production optimization to align with evolving business models and consumer behaviors [15].

In the realm of smart factory implementation, the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) serves to integrate foundational equipment resources. Consequently, manufacturing systems possess perceptual, interconnected, and data-integrated capabilities. Data analysis and informed decision-making underpin production scheduling, equipment servicing, and product quality control within smart factories. Additionally, the Internet of Services is introduced to virtualize manufacturing resources, transitioning from local databases to cloud servers. Through human-machine interaction, a globally collaborative process for order-driven intelligent manufacturing is established. This positions the smart factory as an engineering system centered around interconnection, collaboration, and execution. Illustrated in Figure 1, the smart factory architecture [16], [17] is composed of four layers: the physical resource layer, network layer, data application layer, and terminal layer.

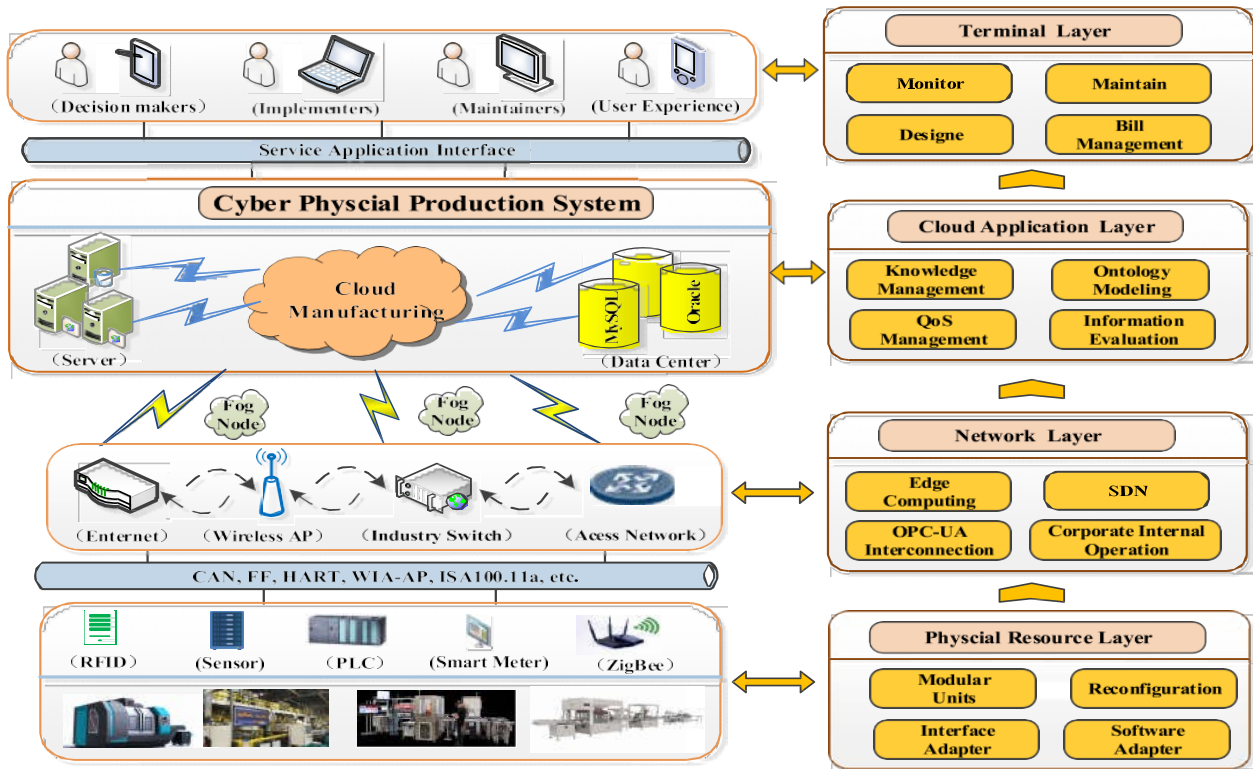


Figure 2: Architecture Smart factory, Source: (Baotong Chen, 2017)

3.1 Physical Resources Layer- The realm of physical resources encompasses all manufacturing assets integral to the complete manufacturing lifecycle, forming the cornerstone for realizing intelligent manufacturing. The effective production of tailored products introduces fresh requisites for manufacturing machinery, production lines, and data capture. Consequently, addressing prevailing challenges in pivotal technologies is imperative to align with the requisites of smart factories.

It encompasses a diverse array of physical entities like intelligent products, machines, and conveyors. These intelligent components not only communicate within the industrial network but also collaborate to attain overarching objectives. For instance, a cluster of machines, typically a specific subset, is selected through negotiation to execute the necessary operations for a given product sequence. Consequently, these physical entities coalesce into an autonomous and self-organized manufacturing system founded on industrial networking and an intelligent negotiation mechanism.[18]

The foundational component is the physical layer, which directly dictates the precise type of implementation and production approach.

Functionally, this layer is responsible for executing specific physical operations, encompassing tasks like manufacturing, transportation, logistics, sensor data acquisition, and mobility. Within this framework array of devices, including Automated Guided Vehicles (AGVs), manipulators, flexible conveyor Systems, manufacturing machinery, warehouses, and sensors, can constitute the physical layer. The subsequent depiction outlines the operational processes within this platform's physical layer.[20]

A. Adaptable Manufacturing Facility: This system of modularized manufacturing stands as a cornerstone, with modularity facilitated by the integration of industrial robots, machining centers, and mechanical arms. This integration significantly enhances the agility of dynamic scheduling. Furthermore, a reconfigurable controller augments the functional scope of manufacturing equipment, offering extension capabilities.[21]

Controller with Configurable Attributes: The concept of configurability within a control system pertains to the seamless integration, reuse, expansion, and substitution of both hardware and software components. The efficacy of the controller profoundly impacts the manufacturing unit's configurability, thereby expanding its utility across diverse multi-application scenarios. Such adaptability enables swift adjustments to changing

operational environments. While the focus of configurable controller research primarily centers on its functionality and structure, it holds the key to empowering manufacturing units with enhanced versatility.

Modular Manufacturing Components:

These individual modular manufacturing elements can function independently and adeptly manage varied schedules within smart factory setups. Consequently, elevating the intelligence of robotic units becomes paramount.

B. Enhanced Intelligent Data Acquisition:

The paradigm of smart factories relies on wireless sensor networks (WSNs) for activities such as data monitoring, logging, and acquisition. Intelligent manufacturing execution frameworks leverage data analysis to ensure precise adherence to production schedules. Prominent wireless sensor network technologies encompass Bluetooth, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), and ZigBee. Moreover, Near-Field Communication (NFC) can act as an entry point to manufacturing resources. Both Bluetooth and ZigBee effectively cater to the cost considerations of industrial automation, offering attributes like energy efficiency and affordability. Diverse specialized sensors collect a spectrum of data within the manufacturing environment, characterized by varying quality and types. As a result, the communication interface of intelligent equipment must seamlessly align with an array of communication protocols to accommodate the multifaceted data collected by sensors.

3.2 Network Layer-Industrial networks encompass the integration of various network technologies such as sensor networks and field buses. Within the framework of the smart factory, the network layer assumes a crucial role, delineated by its control and perception functions. This layer demands enhancements in data transmission mechanisms, including advancements in cloud computing technology, dependable real-time network techniques, manufacturing cloud platforms, and seamless information sharing among intelligent equipment. To fulfill these requisites, advanced information technologies like field buses and Industrial Wireless Sensor Networks (IWSNs) coupled with relevant machinery provide a viable solution. Notably, field buses such as

Foundation Fieldbus, Hart, and Profibus emerge as solutions that cater to the demands for open, compatible, and universally applicable network infrastructure. Importantly, many of these solutions have already been standardized.[21]

A. OPC UA-Based Interaction in Multi-Agent Systems-

In the realm of multi-agent systems, the interaction facilitated through OPC Unified Architecture (OPC UA) stands as a significant communication protocol within industrial automation for machine-to-machine (M2M) exchanges. OPC UA, conceived by the OPC Foundation, provides the framework for seamless M2M communication. An illustration of this is the Machine-to-Machine (M2M) PICtail Daughter Board (AC320011), which relies on u-blox GPS and GSM/GPRS modules. This configuration simplifies the creation of cost-effective M2M applications endowed with location-aware capabilities. Integrating this daughter board with the Multimedia Expansion Board (DM320005) and a PIC32 starter kit (DM320003-2) furnishes developers with a comprehensive platform to initiate projects encompassing functionalities like texting, email, and GPS integration.

An intelligent manufacturing system inherently embodies the characteristics of a multi-agent system. Comprising task-oriented intelligent equipment, each agent manifests traits of autonomy, decentralization, and heterogeneity. This collaborative assembly of agents collectively addresses intricate, large-scale challenges. Cooperative engagement among agents is integral to resolving these complex puzzles. Beyond its role in data transmission, OPC UA finds utility in amalgamating production data with the manufacturing process. Notably, each agent possesses access to semantic annotation, thereby bridging the gap between semantic units—akin to bridges—and real-world concepts. These semantic units serve as conduits for both knowledge and linguistic input. In this context, a repository of semantic information assumes the role of a valuable resource, facilitating the extraction of knowledge from the tangible world. This reservoir, akin to a semi-structured database, is a rich source of comprehensive insights into human knowledge, conceptual frameworks, and the interrelations that bind them.

3.3 Cloud Application Layer- This infrastructure serves as a crucial backbone for the functioning of smart factories. The term "cloud"

vividly encapsulates a network of interconnected servers that offer tiered services in the forms of Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS), Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS), and Software-as-a-Service (SaaS). The capabilities of cloud computing extend to such an extent that even the vast expanse of the Internet can be conceptualized as a virtualized resource pool. This quality renders the cloud an exceptionally flexible solution, especially for extensive applications involving big data. The beauty lies in the fact that both storage capacity and computational power can be effortlessly scaled according to demand.

Microsoft Azure IOT- Azure presents a comprehensive toolkit designed to efficiently manage all IoT devices, encompassing sensors and hubs, within your organizational framework. This suite empowers you to gather data generated by these sensors, subsequently refining and filtering the data to derive insightful analytics and generate informative reports. Integral to this is Azure's commitment to upholding the essential standards of security and privacy, thereby safeguarding your organization's interests. The pivotal component catering to these functions is Azure's specialized service known as "Azure IoT Hub." [22] This service is succinctly described by Azure as follows:

"Facilitate a highly secure and dependable communication channel connecting your Internet of Things (IoT) application with the devices it oversees. The Azure IoT Hub serves as the cloud-based backend solution, establishing connections with a diverse range of devices. This service expands its functionality from the cloud to the edge, incorporating features like device-specific authentication, seamlessly integrated device management, and scalable provisioning."

3.4 Terminal Layer- This component serves as the bridge connecting individuals to the smart factory. Through interfaces like personal computers, tablets, and mobile phones, individuals gain the capability to access the data and insights furnished by the cloud. This access empowers them to implement diverse configurations, conduct maintenance and diagnostic activities, and even execute tasks remotely using Internet

connectivity.[23]

Case Study- Conditional Monitoring for Industrial IOT- This concept showcases how manufacturers can link their assets to the Azure cloud through the utilization of Open Platform Communication Unified Architecture (OPC UA) in conjunction with Industrial Components.

1. Devices in industrial settings that have native support for OPC UA can establish a direct connection with Azure IoT Edge. Azure IoT Edge serves as the computational engine within your on-premises network and acts as the runtime environment for specific Industrial Modules, namely OPC Publisher, OPC Twin, and Discovery. These modules operate as containers, enabling the execution of Azure services, third-party services, or custom code.

2.The OPC Publisher module is responsible for interfacing with OPC UA servers and transmitting telemetry data from OPC UA sources to Azure IoT Hub. On the other hand, OPC Twin creates a digital twin of an OPC UA server within the cloud, offering the ability to browse, read, write, and execute method calls using a cloud-based Representational State Transfer (REST) interface. Additionally, the Discovery module plays a crucial role by providing discovery services at the edge, including the discovery of OPC UA servers in the local environment.

- i. For industrial devices lacking OPC UA compatibility, a third-party PLC adapter from Azure Marketplace is necessary to link them to IoT Edge.
- ii. These third-party PLC adapters facilitate the connection between the devices and IoT Edge.
- iii. To enable close-to-source analytics, modules such as Azure Machine Learning on Edge or Azure Functions, available on Azure Marketplace, offer low-latency operation, even when disconnected.
- iv. Azure IoT Hub virtually connects devices to the cloud for enhanced data processing and secure bidirectional communication.
- v. The Industrial Services consist of microservices with REST APIs deployed on an Azure Kubernetes Service cluster. They handle

functions like discovery, registration, remote control, and telemetry processing for industrial devices, accessible from various programming languages and frameworks.

- vi. Azure Event Hubs transforms and stores data, providing a low-latency distributed stream processing platform.
- vii. Data can be stored and analyzed in Azure Data Explorer or Azure Data Lake, depending on the case. Azure Data Explorer offers a web UI for visualization, while Azure Data Lake provides a scalable data lake with robust security.
- viii. Explore and share data insights using Power BI, which integrates seamlessly with other tools like Microsoft Excel.
- ix. Azure Stream Analytics offers real-time analytics with extensibility and built-in machine learning capabilities.
- x. Azure Notification Hubs enables notifications to various mobile platforms and alerts for operators and administrators during critical events.
- xi. The above points describe the connectivity and data processing aspects within an industrial IoT solution using Azure services.

Key Components Used-Data from various sources is efficiently managed and processed through a range of Azure components:

IoT Edge: This technology extends cloud analytics and custom business logic to devices, enabling organizations to concentrate on deriving business insights rather than data management. By encapsulating business logic in standard containers, you can deploy them to devices and monitor everything from the cloud.

Azure Industrial IoT Industrial Modules: These modules operate within Azure IoT Edge to establish connectivity with shop floor devices. The OPC Publisher module connects to OPC UA servers and transmits telemetry data to Azure IoT Hub. OPC Twin offers discovery, registration, and remote control of industrial devices via REST APIs. The Discovery Module facilitates OPC UA server discovery.

IoT Hub: As a cloud-hosted managed service, IoT Hub serves as a central message hub for bidirectional communication between IoT applications and managed devices. It ensures reliable and secure communication between countless IoT devices and a cloud-based backend solution, accommodating virtually any device.

Industrial Services on Azure Kubernetes: Comprising microservices providing REST APIs and agent services, this cloud-based component offers processing capabilities and daemon-like

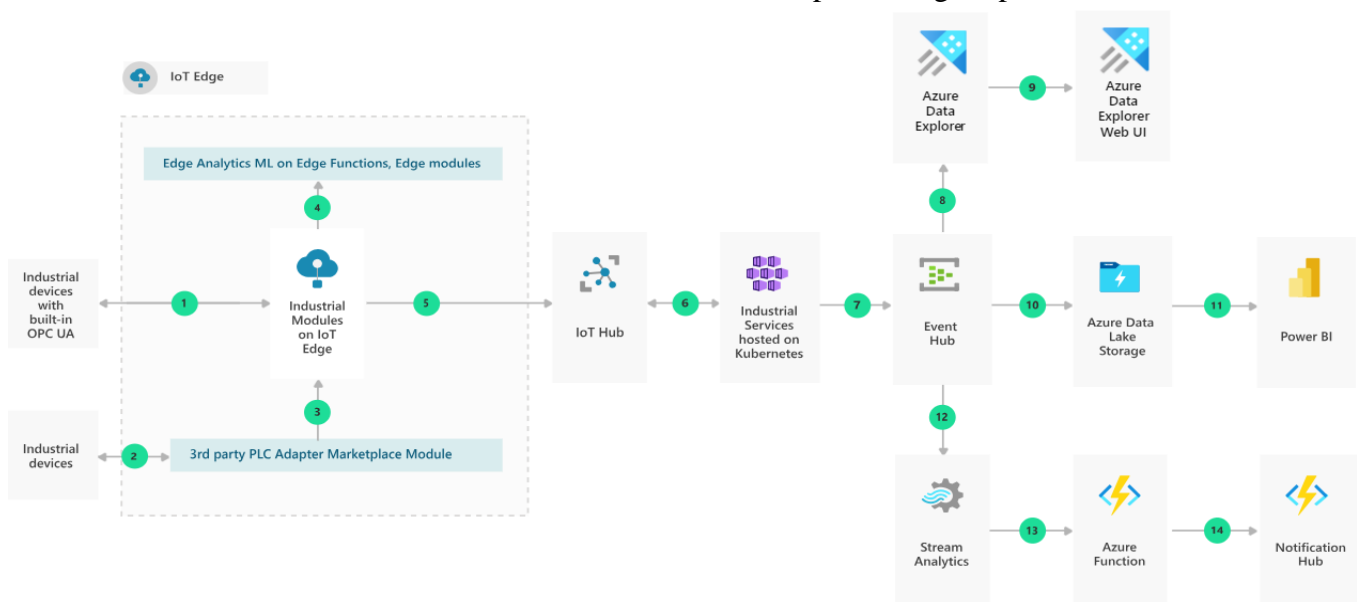


Figure 3- Conditional Monitoring for functionality. Industrial IOT

Azure Event Hubs: Azure Event Hubs serves as a robust platform for managing big data streaming and event ingestion. It efficiently processes millions of events per second, ensuring seamless reception and handling. The received data can be dynamically transformed and stored using a diverse range of real-time analytics providers or through batching/storage adapters.

Azure Data Explorer: Azure Data Explorer is a swift and incredibly adaptable data exploration service designed specifically for log and telemetry data. It's well-suited for crafting time series services, offering seamless capabilities for creating, manipulating, and analyzing multiple time series. This empowers the development of near-real-time monitoring solutions and workflows.

Azure Data Lake: Designed to support multiple petabytes of data and sustain high throughput, Azure Data Lake leverages Azure Storage as the foundation for constructing enterprise data lakes. It simplifies the management of vast data volumes.

Power BI: Power BI is a comprehensive set of analytical tools that facilitate data examination and the dissemination of valuable insights. It has the capability to directly query semantic models stored in Analysis Services or Azure Synapse.

Azure Stream Analytics: This advanced analytics and complex event-processing engine is proficient in dissecting extensive streams of data from various origins in real-time. It discerns patterns and correlations within data sourced from devices, sensors, clickstreams, social media feeds, and applications.

Azure Functions: Azure Functions enable the execution of concise, independent code functions without the need to manage the underlying application infrastructure. They are apt for tasks like handling large data sets, integrating systems, managing IoT operations, and crafting uncomplicated APIs and microservices.

Certainly, here are concise **Applications of IoT-based conditional monitoring** in various

sectors:

- i. **Manufacturing:** It used in Predictive Maintenance, Quality Control, Supply Chain Optimization
- ii. **Electrical Power and Energy:** Grid Monitoring, Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy.
- iii. **Construction and Facilities:** Equipment Tracking, Building Automation, Safety Monitoring
- iv. **Upstream Oil and Gas:** Asset Integrity, Remote Monitoring, Safety Compliance

These succinct descriptions highlight the IoT's potential to enhance efficiency, safety, and operational optimization in different industries.

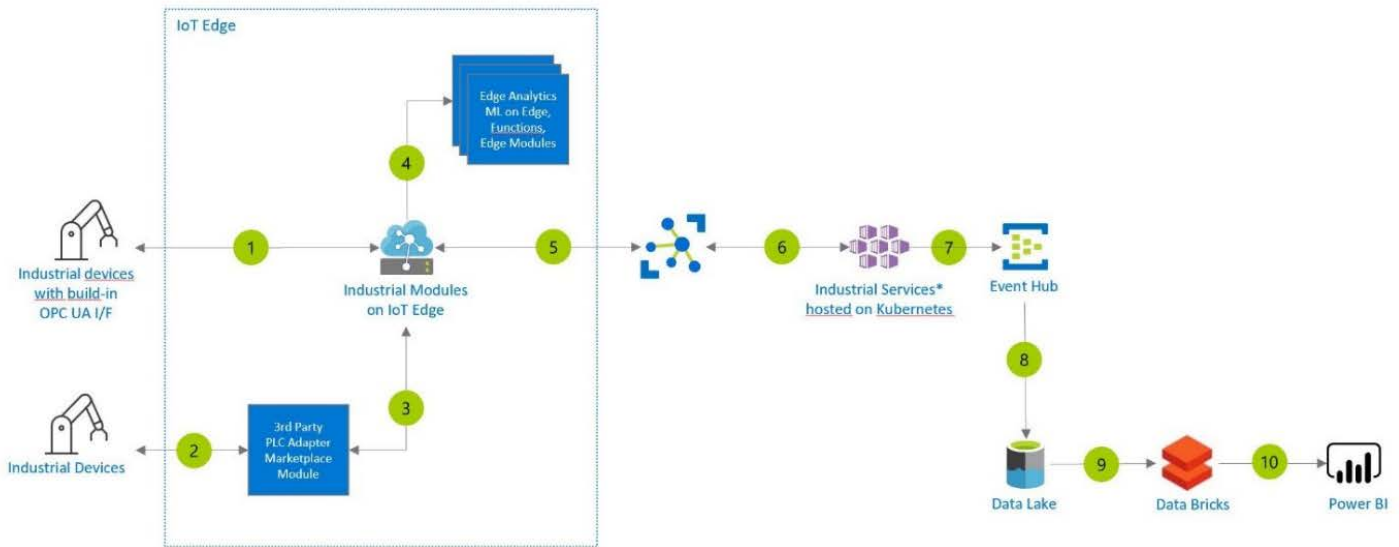
Case Study-2 Predictive maintenance for industrial IoT

This showcases how manufacturers can link assets to the cloud through OPC UA (Open Platform Communication Unified Architecture) and Industrial Components. This linkage streamlines production processes, trims expenses, and empowers Predictive Maintenance to elevate machine performance. Advanced analytics and machine learning help prevent disruptions, ensuring improved production uptime and proactive alerts triggered by manufacturing data. OPC UA is a widely adopted standard for secure data exchange in industrial systems and devices.

- i. Devices equipped with native OPC UA communication capabilities can establish a direct connection with IoT Edge, serving as the computational core within your on-premises network. This environment hosts the Industrial Modules, including OPC Publisher, OPC Twin, and the Discovery Module, which operate as self-contained containers capable of running Azure services, third-party solutions, or custom code.
- ii. The OPC Publisher module is responsible for interfacing with OPC UA servers, extracting telemetry data, and transmitting it to Azure IoT Hub. Meanwhile, OPC Twin orchestrates the creation of a digital twin for an OPC UA server in the cloud, offering comprehensive OPC UA functionality through a cloud-based REST interface

- iii. In cases where industrial devices lack OPC UA communication capabilities, third-party PLC adapters, available as modules in the Azure Marketplace, bridge the connectivity gap between these devices and IoT Edge.
- iv. For analytical tasks nearer to the data source, modules like Machine Learning on

Event Hubs, Azure Data Lake assumes responsibility for further data analysis. This massively scalable data lake boasts enterprise-grade security and auditing, facilitating the execution of batch, stream, and interactive analytic programs with ease. Azure Data Lake effectively addresses productivity and scalability challenges, enabling organizations to



Edge or Functions, accessible via the Azure Marketplace, offer low-latency processing capabilities, even when operating in disconnected environments.

- v. Azure IoT Hub establishes a virtual connection between devices and the cloud, facilitating secure, bidirectional communication between IoT applications and connected devices.
- vi. Within the ecosystem, Industrial Services consist of multiple microservices that expose REST APIs. Deployed on an Azure Kubernetes Service cluster, these services encapsulate core functionalities, such as discovery, registration, remote management, and post-processing of industrial device telemetry. The REST APIs are accessible from various programming languages and frameworks that can invoke HTTP endpoints.
- vii. Data transformation and storage are seamlessly handled by Azure Event Hubs, providing a distributed stream processing platform with minimal latency.
- viii. Subsequently, after data processing within

extract maximum value from their data assets.

- ix. Azure Databricks offers the latest Apache Spark versions as an Azure service, fostering seamless integration with open-source libraries. It simplifies setup, streamlines workflows, and provides a collaborative, interactive workspace.
- x. To delve into data exploration and collaborative reporting, Power BI stands as a versatile tool,

Figure 4- PredictiveMaintenance for Industrial IOT supporting integration with other applications like Microsoft Excel for efficient and unified solutions.

Key Components Used- Azure IoT Edge enhances IoT solutions by moving cloud analytics and custom business logic directly to devices. This empowers organizations to focus on deriving business insights rather than managing data. By encapsulating the operational logic within standardized containers, you gain the capability to distribute them to various devices and oversee them centrally through cloud-based monitoring.

Within the Azure Industrial IoT platform,

essential components operate seamlessly on Azure IoT Edge to streamline the connection with shop floor operations:

The OPC Publisher module establishes a connection with OPC UA servers, transmitting telemetry data to Azure IoT Hub. The OPC Twin module enables functionalities such as device identification, enrollment, and remote management via REST APIs.

The Discovery Module offers on-edge discovery services, including OPC UA server discovery.

Azure IoT Hub, hosted in the cloud, serves as a central message hub for bi-directional communication between IoT applications and managed devices. It provides a secure and reliable means to connect millions of IoT devices to a cloud-hosted backend solution, accommodating virtually any device.

The platform's Industrial Services, running on Azure Kubernetes, comprises microservices that offer REST APIs and agent services for processing and daemon-like functionality.

Azure Event Hubs functions as a high-capacity data streaming platform and event ingestion service, capable of handling millions of events per second. It enables data transformation and storage through various real-time analytics providers or batching/storage adapters.

Azure Data Lake leverages Azure Storage as the foundation for creating enterprise data lakes on Azure. It's designed to manage massive data volumes, servicing multiple petabytes while sustaining high throughput.

Azure Databricks is an Apache Spark-based analytics platform optimized for Microsoft Azure. It offers streamlined workflows and collaboration features, making it suitable for data scientists, engineers, and analysts.

Power BI, this set of business analytics tools makes data analysis and sharing insights easier. It has the capability to directly query semantic models stored in Analysis Services or Azure Synapse.

Data Factory orchestrates data transformation into a standardized structure within Azure Synapse. It enables the creation

and scheduling of data-driven workflows (pipelines) that can ingest data from various sources, supporting complex ETL processes.

Conclusion and its application - Condition monitoring and predictive maintenance in industrial IoT are closely interrelated processes that work together to ensure the reliability and efficiency of industrial equipment. Here's how they are interconnected:

Data Source:

Condition Monitoring: Condition monitoring serves as the initial data source. It continuously collects real-time data from sensors and devices installed on industrial equipment. This data includes information about equipment performance, temperature, vibration, pressure, and other relevant parameters.

Predictive Maintenance: Predictive maintenance relies on the data gathered through condition monitoring as its primary source. The continuous stream of data provides insights into the current health and behavior of the equipment.

Data Analysis:

Condition Monitoring: Condition monitoring systems analyze the real-time data to detect anomalies, deviations from normal operating conditions, and potential issues as they occur. Alerts are generated in real-time when abnormalities are detected.

Predictive Maintenance: Predictive maintenance takes the historical and real-time data from condition monitoring and subjects it to more advanced analytics. Machine learning algorithms and predictive models are applied to identify patterns and trends that may indicate future equipment failures or maintenance needs.

Alerts and Notifications:

Condition Monitoring: Condition monitoring systems generate immediate alerts when they detect abnormal conditions or performance deviations. These alerts are used for short-term maintenance actions.

Predictive Maintenance: Predictive maintenance models generate alerts and notifications based on the analysis of data from condition monitoring. These alerts provide advance warning about potential equipment failures, allowing maintenance teams to plan and schedule maintenance activities proactively.

Maintenance Planning:

Condition Monitoring: Condition monitoring is primarily focused on immediate issues and day-to-day equipment performance. It helps maintenance teams prioritize and address urgent concerns promptly.

Predictive Maintenance: Predictive maintenance takes a longer-term view. It forecasts when maintenance should be performed to prevent future failures. This enables maintenance teams to plan downtime, order necessary parts, and optimize maintenance schedules to reduce downtime and costs.

Cost Reduction and Efficiency:

Condition Monitoring: Condition monitoring helps reduce unexpected breakdowns and production interruptions by quickly identifying issues. However, it doesn't provide long-term insights.

Predictive Maintenance: Predictive maintenance goes beyond immediate issues to optimize maintenance schedules, reducing downtime and minimizing unnecessary maintenance activities. This results in significant cost savings and improved operational efficiency.

In summary, condition monitoring and predictive maintenance are intertwined processes that leverage the same data source—real-time equipment data from IoT sensors. Condition monitoring provides immediate insights, while predictive maintenance uses historical and real-time data to forecast future maintenance needs, allowing organizations to proactively manage their equipment, reduce downtime, and optimize maintenance operations.

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