

Topic

## Secure free spaces

### IT security for operative technologies

All topics &gt;&gt;&gt;

Industrial manufacturing is based on the pillars of information and operational technology: in short, IT and OT. IT tasks include data processing and strategic planning of production on the company level, whereas OT handles specific control of the individual production lines and equipment. Both areas work towards the same company goals, though using essentially different working principles and procedures.

The digitalization trend of recent decades has brought with it not only great opportunities for productivity, but also the necessity of close cooperation between the two areas. This can be made more difficult with respect to IT security due to differing requirements of the two areas as well as different priorities and demands on processes or results.

#### The differences

<b>High data throughput</b> , but chronology tolerance	Less data throughput, more <b>real-time requirements</b> (latency, jitter)
Safety is only indirectly affected by security incidents	Security incidents often with directly effects on safety
Useful life of standard components <b>typ. 3-5 years</b>	Useful life of machines and automation components <b>typ. 10-20 years</b>
<b>Established security culture</b> and experienced systems/IT personnel	<b>First security experiences</b> for automation pros
<b>Confidentiality</b> before availability	<b>Availability</b> before confidentiality
Frequent updates/patches <b>Automated and native system component</b>	Updates/patches often proprietary, <b>manual and only with support from OEM</b>

With respect to security the differences between IT and OT can make cooperation more difficult.

#### Satisfying IT and OT

Therefore one key requirement for IT security products and services is not to impede productive and harmonious cooperation between IT and OT. Security measures and especially helpful in this relationship if they mean the least possible intervention in proven strategies and accustomed sequences on both sides and can meet both security and freedom requirements.

The core function of the W&T Microwall is just that: on one hand they protect individual network sectors in a targeted and controllable way, namely by using a whitelist to allow only individually selected and expressly desired communication. This works without affecting other network sectors. On the hand they open up protected free areas where production processes can continue unimpeded.

All Microwalls involve minimal integration effort since the desired filter rules are quickly created simply by specifying an IP address or port number. The Microwall Bridge even allows non-intervention integration into the IP configuration of the network sectors to be protected, making it ideal as an add-on and low-effort security enhancement.

Enable only selected communication: create the desired filter rules in just a few clicks.

Simple integration and targeted protection on one hand, the needed free areas on the other - the W&T Microwalls meet the needs of IT and OT equally.

## More links

#55411



**Microwall Bridge**

Protect machines and systems - without modifying the IP setup

[Sample order](#) >>

Background information

[Here's how it works](#)

Secure communication for machines and systems

Support

[Could you use some assistance?](#)  
We're here for you!

You can reach our applications engineers at +49 202-2680-110



We are available to you in person:

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