



# INSIDE THE PANEL

Monthly automation insight at a glance

**This Month:**

## Risk Check: The Automation Audit Guide

*Use our Free Checklist tool to find hidden automation risk before it becomes unplanned downtime.*

### THE HIDDEN RISK OF “IF IT AIN’T BROKE”

Unplanned downtime costs manufacturers an estimated \$50 billion every year, with some operations losing \$22,000–\$50,000 per minute when a line goes down.

The biggest risk isn’t dramatic failures—it’s obsolescence. More than half of industrial facilities are still running control systems over a decade old. When that legacy PLC finally quits, you’re not just replacing hardware—you’re losing days while someone hunts for a part that hasn’t existed since 2010.



### SYSTEMS DON’T WAIT

Legacy controls limit visibility and slow decision-making. An audit reveals where modern tools can unlock efficiency, insight, and reliability

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### AUDITS TURN GUESSWORK INTO CLARITY

A walkthrough at a historic distillery revealed a familiar problem: limited visibility, reactive troubleshooting, and legacy controls doing just enough to survive.

By auditing their system needs first, the plant upgraded with purpose. Mobile access, real-time data, and meaningful alarms replaced guesswork with insight.

The technology mattered—but the audit made the improvement possible.

### THE VENT TO “VUVUZELA” VALVE EFFECT

During a panel walkthrough, an engineer found an output labeled “VENT TO VUVUZELA.”

A kinked airline caused a deafening trumpet blast every time it fired—and a previous programmer made the joke official.

It’s funny until you realize the lesson: undocumented logic and “temporary” fixes can live quietly for years. You only find them when you look.

### START A CUSTOM RISK CHECK

This tool generates a custom automation walkthrough checklist based on the equipment you actually run. It helps identify obsolescence, documentation gaps, and safety concerns before they turn into downtime.

[Controls and Automation Risk Check](#)

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