



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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