

# Digital Twin Cybersecurity

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**La Cybersecurity e le PMI**  
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# *Organization of the talk*

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- Setting up the scene
- Digital Twins: what they are
- Digital Twins: threats and attacks
- Securing a Digital Twin
- Wrap Up

# Setting Up The Scene



# Business Drivers

- While volumes have increased, **margins have dropped**

## **The Airbus example:**

Airbus has an average of about 100 billion euros throughput in cash flow going out of their factories

Their margin on sales is **below five percent**

→ It is key that production plants be managed efficiently:

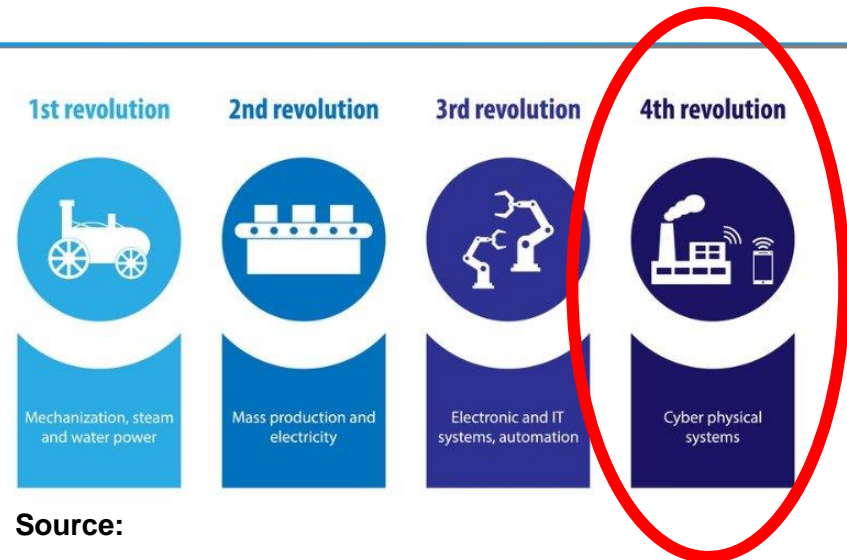
- Quickly apply changes in product design
- Handle increasingly smaller lot sizes
- Ensure that distribution meets challenging reliability and timeliness requirements

**This is not possible if we do not make the transition from traditional manufacturing models to Flexible Manufacturing Systems (FMS), aka Digital Manufacturing Platforms (DMPs)\***

**\*The terms FMS and DMP will be used interchangeably throughout this talk**

# Hyperconnected Manufacturing

- Manufacturing as we knew it is a memory from the past **that will never come back**



Source:

<https://www.iotcentral.io/blog/the-evolution-of-industry-4-0>

- The current (and the future) scenario is a global competition arena
- Companies must react quickly and in an economically feasible fashion to market requirements that change continuously, and at an amazingly fast pace

# Claims

- FMS are a great opportunity, and – at the end of the day – the only option we have  
(meaning: **even if we don't like them, we will have to live with them**)
- Unfortunately, we are witnessing a dramatic escalation in cyber attacks to FMS:
  - By 2019, **the manufacturing sector reached the top 10 status** as the 8th most targeted industry by cyber attackers
  - The problem exploded in 2020, when many companies were forced to depend almost entirely on remote workers due to pandemic restrictions
  - In 2020, **the manufacturing industry moved from the 8th most targeted industry** by cyber attackers **to number 2** (falling behind only finance and insurance)
  - According to the 2021 Global Threat Intelligence Report (GTIR), **this represents a 300% increase in a single year!**



shutterstock.com · 1016817820

Source: <https://www.bitlyft.com/resources/cyber-threats-manufacturing-companies>

# Claims

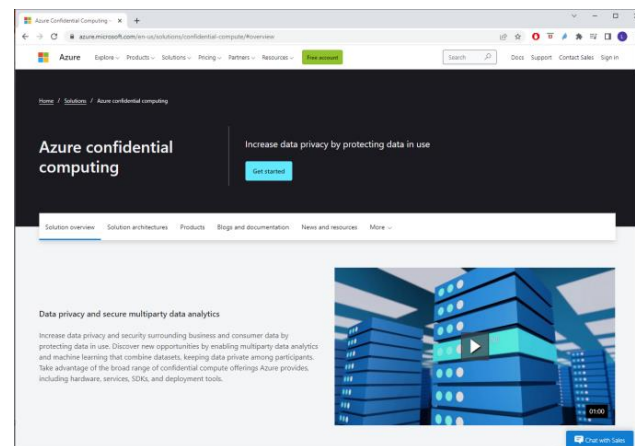
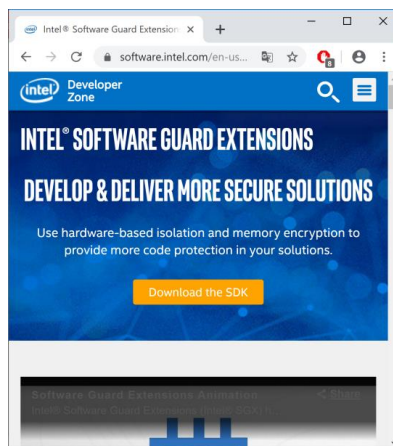
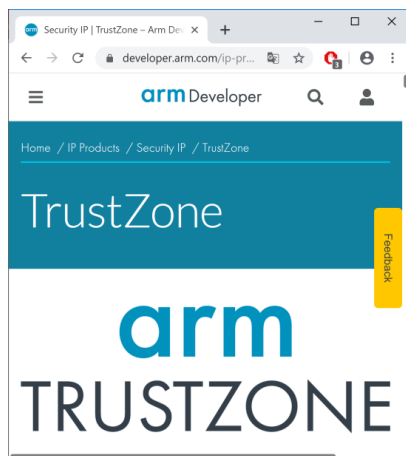
- Effective protection of a DMP is a multifaceted problem (and a moving target)
- It requires a number of security-enhancing features/tools



- Cannot be solved without a rigorous methodological approach, to be rolled out in a continuous process

# Claims

- A handful of technologies is already available, which can be used to build such features/tools



- Regrettably, the potential of these technologies is not exploited at all, or it is exploited to a limited extent



# ***Rationale for this talk here today***

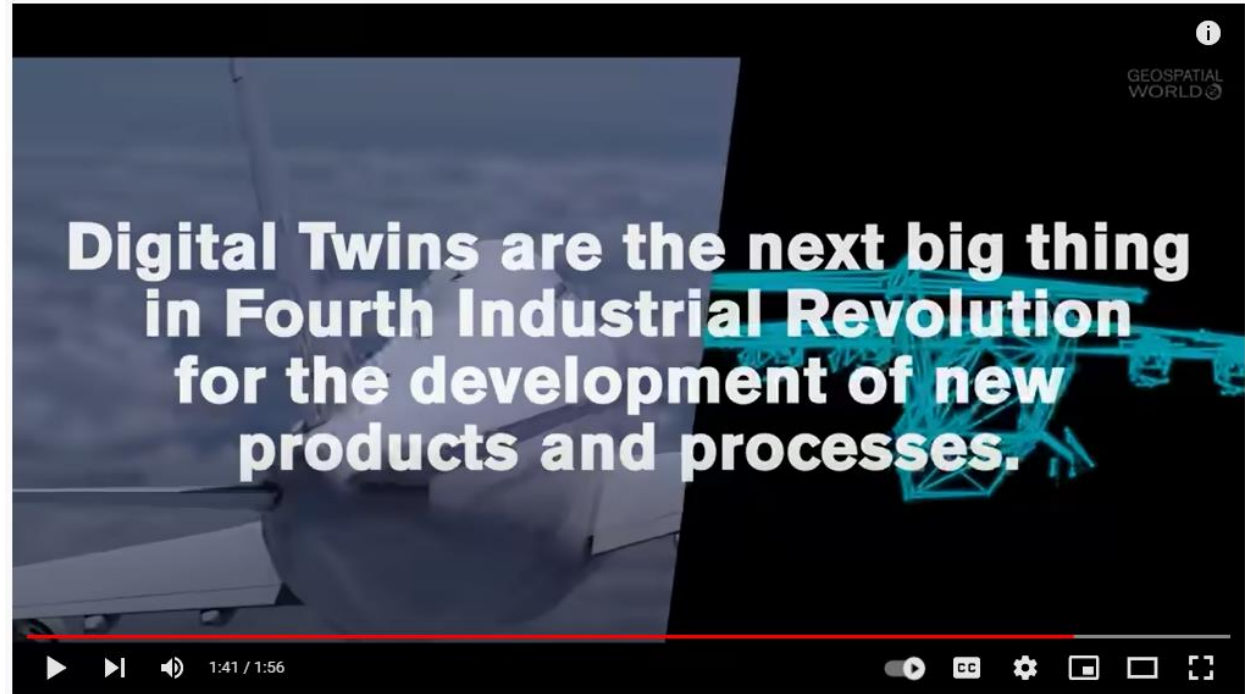
- We must be **creative** in inventing methods/techniques for fully unleashing the power of such technologies, while ensuring that ultimate control stays with the human (Human In the Loop principle)
- This is where SMEs\* can play a key role
  - \*SME stands for «Small and Medium Enterprise» → PMI in Italian
- Of course, this is none of an easy task, but ...

**“When the going gets tough,  
the tough get going”**



# *Focus of this talk*

- How to protect a key enabling technology of DMPs, namely: Digital Twins



An introduction to the wider topic of protection of DMPs is given here:  
«Cybersecurity for Manufacturing: challenges and R&I avenues», Luigi Romano  
- <https://cloud.effra.eu/index.php/s/LatomDjFrY8s3lX#pdfviewer>

# *Digital Twins according to Siemens*

## I 4 principali casi d'uso dell'IoT industriale

### **Caso d'uso #3: Digital Twin a ciclo chiuso**

I “gemelli digitali” (digital twin) sono copie virtuali di asset fisici. Utilizzano simulazioni, intelligenza artificiale e machine learning a partire dai dati offerti dai sensori IoT per fornire validi insight sul funzionamento di un dispositivo. I digital twin a ciclo chiuso sfruttano i dati quasi in tempo reale sulle prestazioni forniti dai dispositivi IoT. Questi dati sono inseriti nel digital twin del prodotto e nel digital twin della produzione.

# *A major challenge (and an opportunity): re-using legacy systems*

- In September 2018 DePuy was recognized as one of the nine Industry 4.0 Lighthouse projects/companies

THE ORTHOPAEDICS COMPANY OF *Johnson & Johnson*

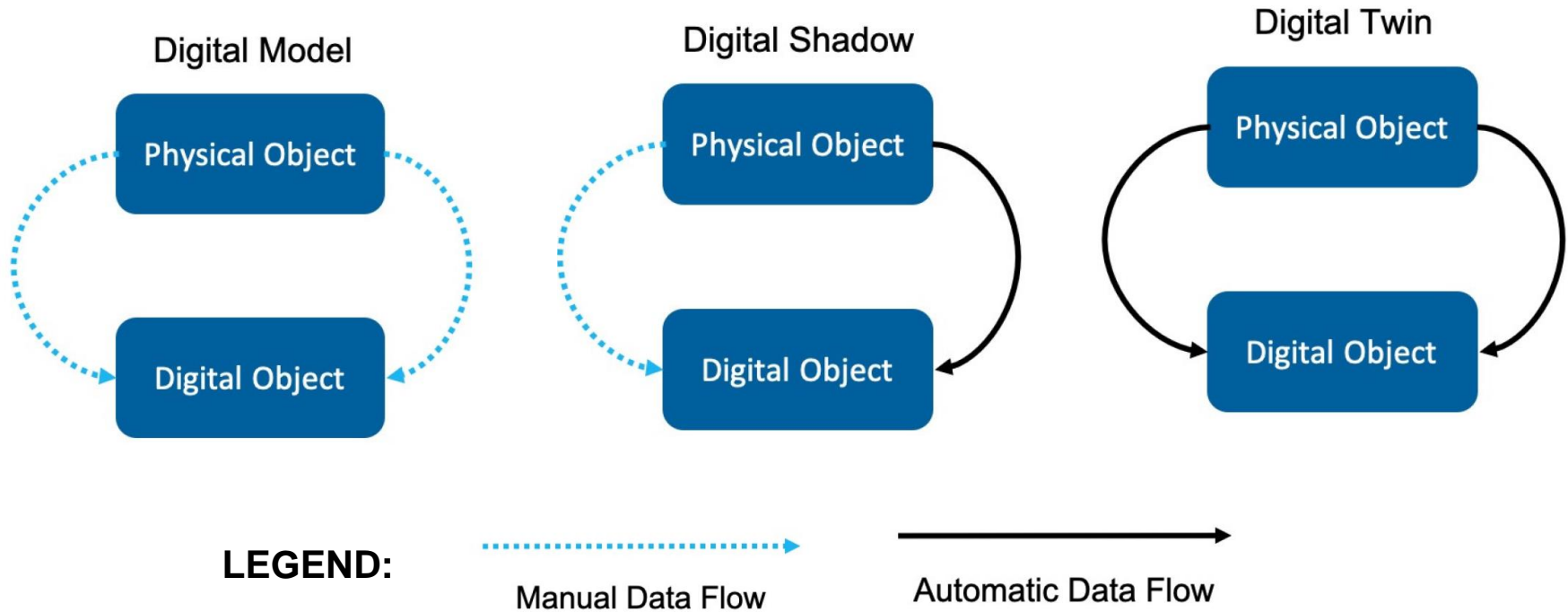


- A major motivation behind this decision was that **they use legacy technology to build Digital Twins**

# Digital Twins: what they are



# Digital Model, Shadow and Twin



**Source:**

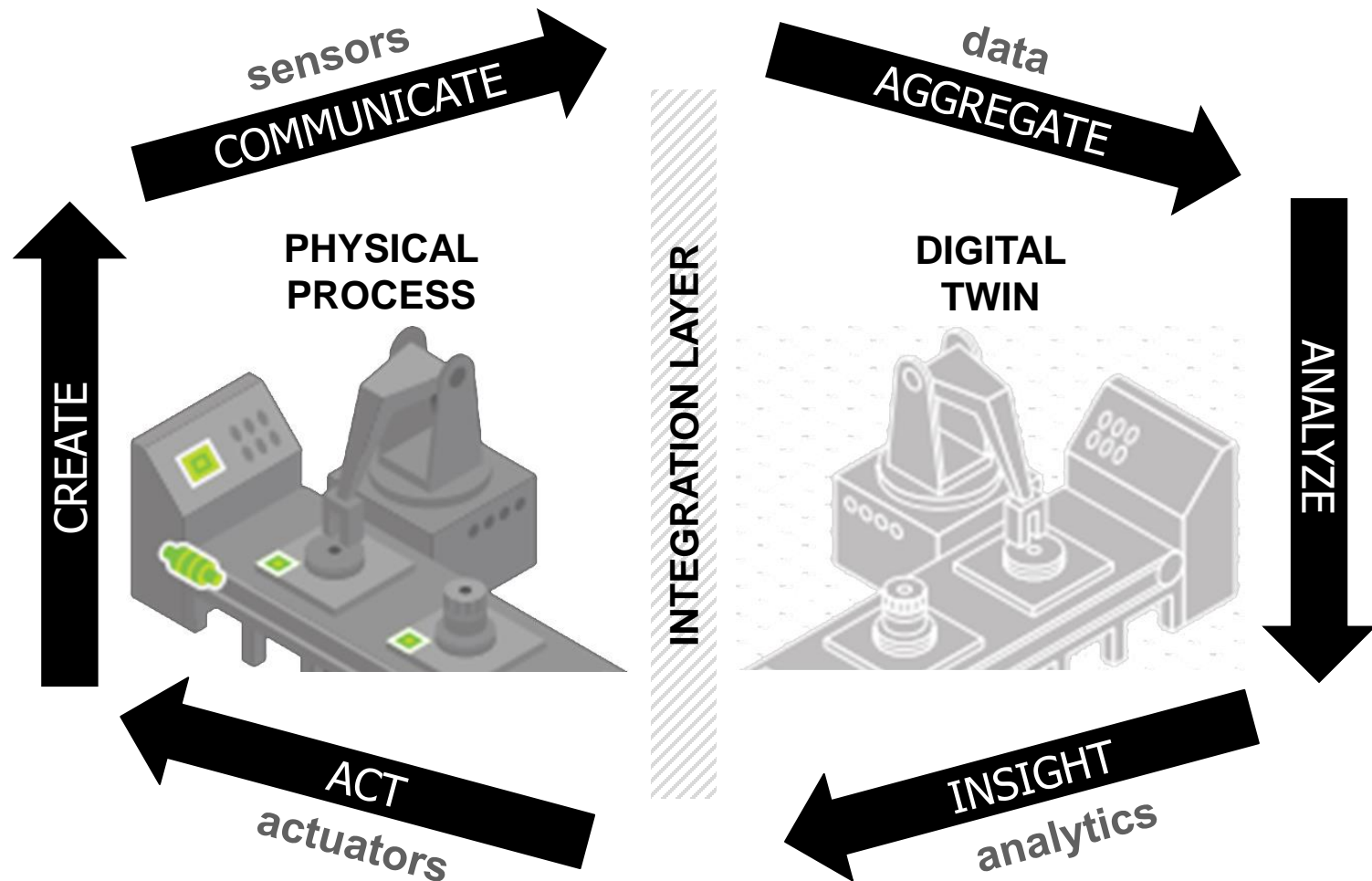
**“Digital Twin: Enabling Technologies, Challenges and Open Research”**

**AIDAN FULLER et al. – IEEE Access VOLUME 8, 2020**

# Digital Twins: threats and attacks

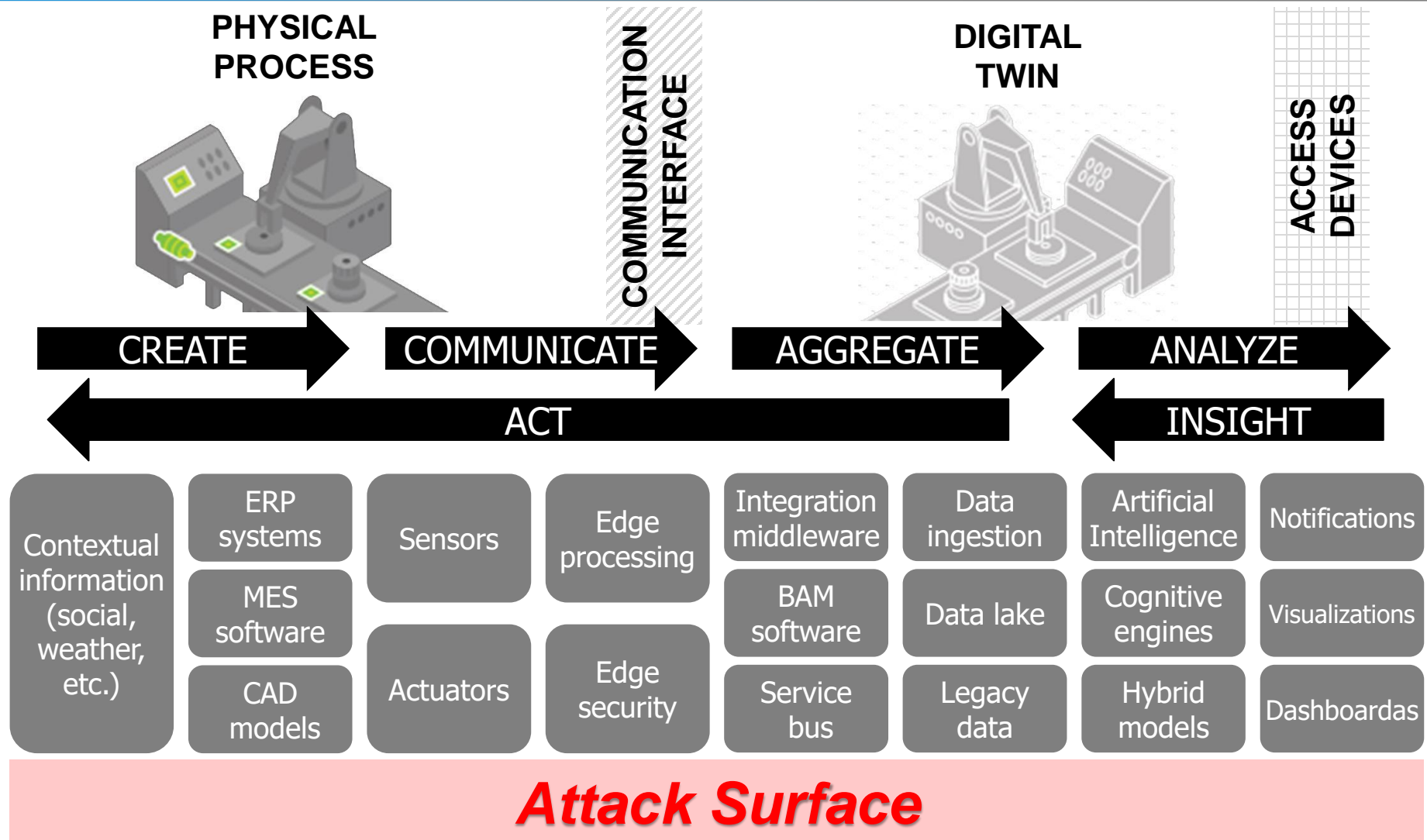


# Conceptual Process and Architecture





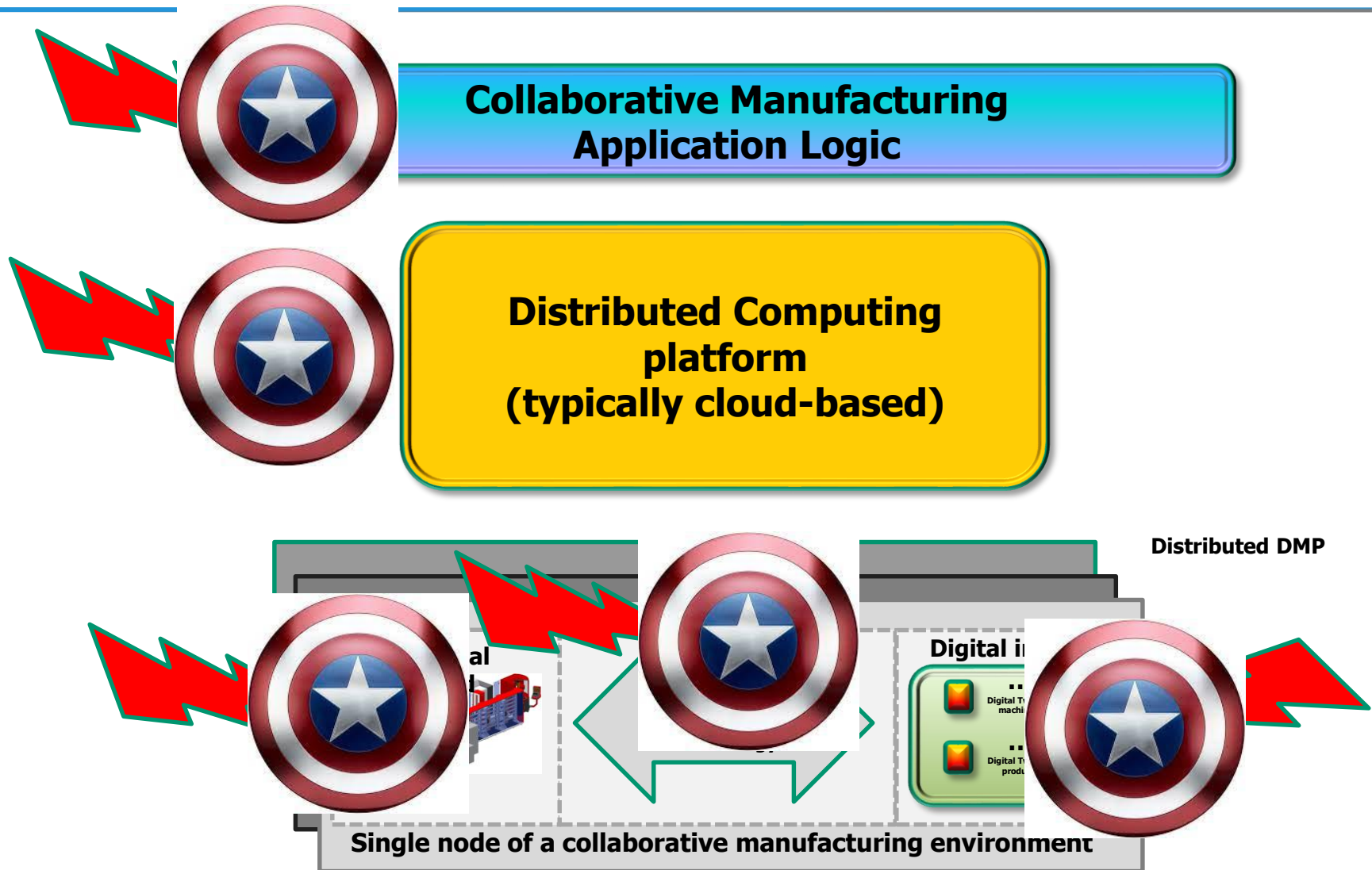
# Attack Surface



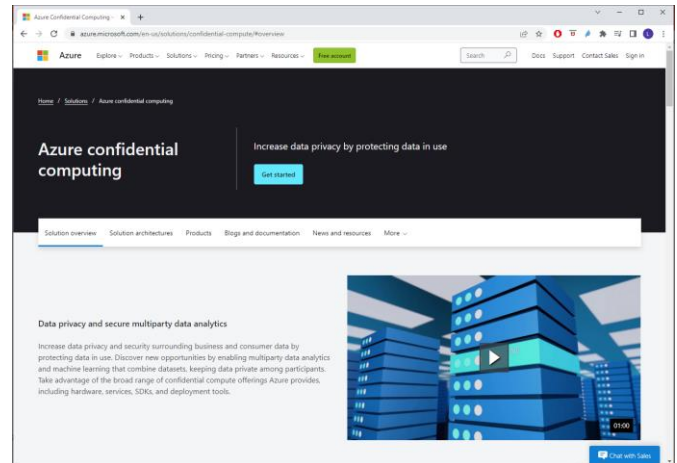
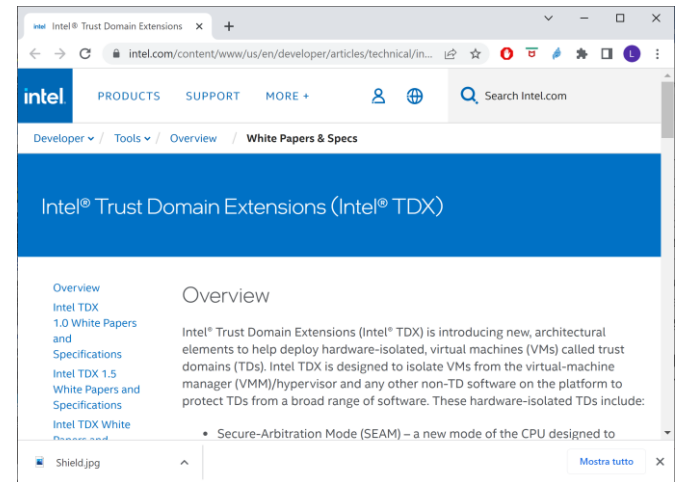
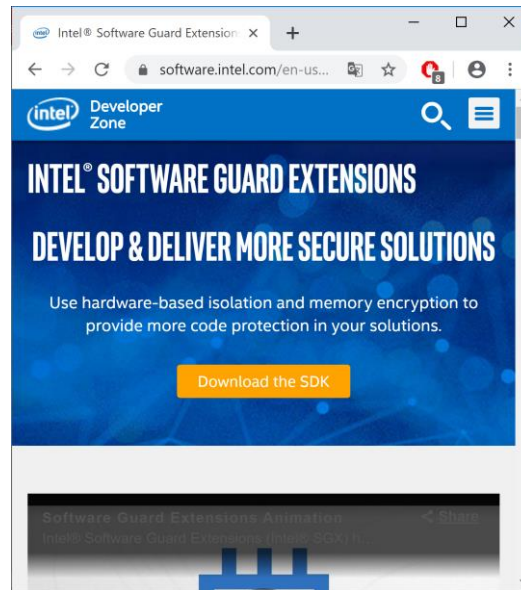
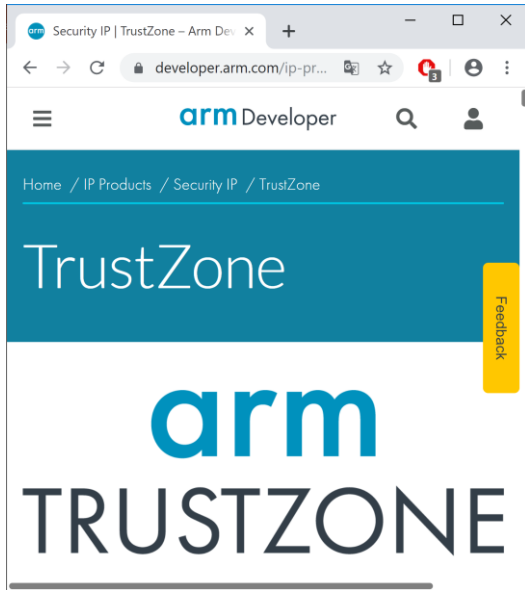
# Securing a Digital Twin



# Conceptual architecture of a protection infrastructure



# Enabling Technologies



# Related initiatives



# Connected Factories 2

The screenshot displays the homepage of the ConnectedFactories.eu website. The browser's address bar shows the URL [connectedfactories.eu](http://connectedfactories.eu). A navigation bar at the top includes links for **HOME**, **ABOUT**, **CROSS-CUTTING FACTORS**, **PATHWAYS**, **SHARE CASES**, **MORE INFO**, and **DMP CLUSTER**. The main content area features a large banner for an **EVENTS** titled "CyberSecurity for Digital Manufacturing Pathway webinar" with the text "Save the date & register". To the right, a **NEWS MENU** section contains icons and links for **News**, **Project news**, **Events**, and **Videos**. At the bottom right, there is a section for the **Twitter feed @C\_Factories**. The website's logo, "CONNECTED FACTORIES", is prominently displayed at the top left of the main content area.

# Wrap Up



# Concluding Remarks

- DMPs are the future, but they are exposed to high-impact attacks, which are increasing at an amazingly fast pace
- If future is at risk, you must make an effort to protect it
- Protection is possible, but it requires that:
  - Tools/technologies are carefully selected and their potential is fully exploited
  - A sound methodological approach is used, to drive a continuous improvement process which is rolled out iteratively
- At each iteration, results must be measured based on widely accepted standards
- Automation is a nice to have, but Human In the Loop (HIL) is a must
- Important results have already been achieved, but there is still a long way to go
- Synergies can be found at the European level



# Contact Info

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