

The background of the page is a photograph of classical white marble columns. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the text 'OT/IT CONVERGENCE'. There are two solid blue squares: one in the top right corner of the white box and one in the bottom left corner of the white box.

# OT/IT CONVERGENCE

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# CHALLENGES FOR OT/IT CONVERGENCE

IT/OT convergence is a hot topic for all operators at the moment, and there's a distinct drive to understand what can and can't be achieved. Despite the undoubted desire to achieve convergence, projects are stalling because of the complex challenges raised.

Merging IT (information technology -commercial networks, email, productivity systems, user management) with OT (operating technology networks managing industrial appliances) is desirable due to:

- The need for a single, coherent policy across all parts of the enterprise
- The need for visibility across all parts of the network (driven by both network management, and the need to comply with regulatory concerns)
- The desire for centralised access to live information
- Perceived cost savings

Our clients have already benefited from our proven track record in this space.

## COMPETING PRIORITIES

Convergence must balance two distinct entities, with very different priorities:

### IT PRIORITIES

Data Protection  
Constant change  
Continuous Patching/Updates  
Evolving needs  
User development  
Convenient access, anywhere

### OT PRIORITIES

Uptime  
(uptime is king,  
above security or data)  
Continuity  
Ease of maintenance  
Smooth running  
Meeting standards



# OT/IT CONVERGENCE

## Understand the Priorities of All Stakeholders

*What's important for commercial networks is relatively unimportant for OT where uptime and continuity are valued more than access for users and data security. Understanding all requirements is the first step to convergence.*

## Define the Objectives for Convergence

*What network elements should be converged and why? What third parties should be accommodated? What will the organisation achieve by bringing everything together in a single platform?*

## Understand the Current Topology In Detail

*Attempting convergence without a complete picture of all network elements significantly increases complexity and risks failure later in the project.*

## Perform a Full Evaluation of the Ecosystem Ahead of Time

*Identifying and remediating vulnerabilities upfront reduces the risk of network elements being exposed as the topology changes.*

## Set a Single Security Strategy

*A properly implemented security strategy empowers business growth rather than restricts. It provides a solid platform for all your security decisions and identifies the key priorities for your organisation. Your strategy should be a flexible framework extending at least five years into the future.*

## Define a Programme Plan

*Careful planning and project definition is imperative to a successful transformation.*

## Network Architecture

*Bring IT and OT together, using our extensive experience of both DCS and commercial networks to create a single platform which can balance the diverse needs of both functions. Rearchitecture should establish zoning (or reuse existing zoning).*

## Use Specialists in OT Security

*Few organisations have the in-house resources to implement complex security and recovery solutions. Utilising specialist consultancy allows your team to focus on the day to day requirements of your business, rather than trying to keep up with the ever changing landscape of cyber security.*



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