e-Crime & Cybersecurity Congress Online Series: Manufacturing

SECURING MANUFACTURING

e-Crime & Cybersecurity Manufacturing Summit

April 14th, 2026, Online

Fighting back: can manufacturers turn the tide?

When you're the most targeted group worldwide, and you know you need better security, what are your priorities for 2026?

https://akjassociates.com/event/manufacturing

AKJ Associates

e-Crime & Cybersecurity Congress Online Series: Manufacturing

SECURING MANUFACTURING

Tough times for the world's most targeted sector

The numbers are stark. Manufacturing has been the #1-targeted industry by cybercriminals four years in a row. That's according everyone from IBM through to the FBI.

Why? Because manufacturing hold highly monetisable IP and sensitive operational data which is useful to both economic and nation-state attackers; because they are extremely sensitive to downtime and so are more likely to pay to get up and running again; and because disrupting them can have significant wider economic effects.

The other reason unfortunately is weak internal security. The most significant attack of the year involved the poorly-debated risk-acceptance of an unsecured legacy system.

That's why manufacturing organisations polled for a recent study reported that **exploited vulnerabilities now drive 32% of all successful ransomware attacks, with malicious email (23%) and credential compromise (20%) close behind.**

Even more troubling, manufacturers have the second-highest rate of data theft across all sectors (39% of cases where encryption occurred). This means the threat has shifted from operational disruption to large-scale IP extraction, trade secrets theft, and supply chain coercion — exactly the scenarios that keep manufacturing CISOs awake at night.

And critically, most victims cite **a lack of expertise** (42.5%), **unknown security gaps** (41.6%), and **lack of adequate protection** (41%) as the core reasons they were breached.

In other words: manufacturing CISOs know they need more help, more tools, and more trusted suppliers.

Meanwhile, attackers have evolved. Although data encryption rates have fallen to 40% — the lowest in five years — the rise of pure extortion attacks has tripled, hitting 10% of all manufacturing victims.

The **business consequences remain severe.** Even after declining 24% year-on-year, average recovery costs still hit $1.3 million, and **more than half of manufacturers (51%) paid ransoms** despite strong backup practices. **And the human cost is escalating:**

- 47% of teams report increased anxiety or stress,
- 44% report increased pressure from senior leaders,
- 41% report sustained workload increases, and
- 27% saw leadership replaced after an incident.

This is one of the highest-stress cybersecurity environments in the world. These leaders are investing fast but they cannot solve these problems alone.

They need partners. They need help from their peers. And they need a trusted space to find them. That's why we are running the e-Crime & Cybersecurity Manufacturing Summit.

**The e-Crime & Cybersecurity Manufacturing Summit will take place online and will look at how cybersecurity teams are tackling these challenges.
Join our real-life case studies and in-depth technical sessions and help make manufacturing secure.**

e-Crime & Cybersecurity Congress Online Series: Manufacturing

SECURING MANUFACTURING

Key Themes

Achieving visibility across ecosystems

From exposed initial access points such as warehouse management systems to complex machine control software, simply understanding your device and application landscapeis a huge challenge. **Can you help with asset tracking and endpoint visibility? And what about anomaly detection after that?**

Transitioning OT to the Cloud?

OT traditionally was localized in particular sites and air-gapped from IT systems. But connectivity with broader corporate networks and the need to manage technology more centrally (especially during COVID) has seen companies looking at managed services in the Cloud for OT. **Is this a way forward? Or does the Cloud just create more problems?**

Defending against the latest ransomware variants

Ransomware is effective precisely because it can exploit whatever weaknesses exist in your security architecture and processes. The threat and the actors are constantly evolving and that evolution is forcing the hands of government and causing havoc in the insurance market. **What can CISOs do to better defend against ransomware?**

OT and the regulations

DORA, NIS2 and other regulations put more responsibility for resilience on firms deemed important or critical. Many have focused on IT networks but the regulations include all resilience and so OT environments matter. **What does this new emphasis from mean practically for OT security?**

Why zero trust, isolation and segmentation are key

There has been a shift in recent attacks away form the theft of data – now threat actors are concerned with interrupting all operation activity. It is now critical that business functions are separated, and that internet access to OT networks is limited**. Can security teams still keep up with sophisticated foes? Should they upgrade their capabilities?**

Pen testing for OT / SCADA

Testing is key to identifying and fixing vulnerabilities before they're exploited. Regulations like NERC CIP require utilities to assess and mitigate risk. Testing checks OT security controls are functioning properly shows regulators an organization's commitment to security. **But what what kind of testing works best? How frequent should it be? Who should do it?**

e-Crime & Cybersecurity Congress Online Series: Manufacturing

SECURING MANUFACTURING

Key Themes

Making the best use of threat intelligence

In a preemptive security model, timing is everything — success depends on detecting and neutralizing threats before they become active incidents. To do this, security operations can't just rely on internal telemetry (e.g., endpoint or network logs). They need external, real-time context about emerging threats — **where do they get it?**

Security Posture Management

Traditional vulnerability scanners don't handle cloud native architectures well.

Today's cloud environments spin up thousands of ephemeral assets without a traditional OS, without an IP address for long. **So how do you adapt to that dynamic, API-driven reality? How can traditional tools connect the dots – not just generate tickets?**

Improving continuous attack surface discovery

You need to know what attackers can see and what they can actually attack – and you need it on a continuous basis, not in some static inventory. Ideally you also need assets ranked by risk priority and put into the current threat and vulnerability context. **Is this feasible and is it cost effective?**

The power of automation

There's too much manual intervention in security. SOAR pulls data from SIEMs, EDRs, firewalls, cloud APIs, ticketing systems threat intelligence feeds, and even email servers and coordinates actions across tools via APIs and prebuilt integrations and intelligent playbooks. **Well, that's the theory. How does it work in the real world?**

Adversary simulation and behavioural analysis

Automated adversary simulation Identifies telemetry blind spots. They provide prioritized remediation guidance and control effectiveness metrics. They track progress trends and validate security ROIs as well as providing board and audit reporting.

How well do they work in practice?

Dealing with regulations

CISOs now must build a single coherent security program that simultaneously satisfies divergent regulatory demands; they must interpret vague legal standards into technical architectures, and they risk non-compliance if auditors, regulators, or courts interpret differently later; they face unrealistic expectations around incident reporting; and they face personal liability. **Can RegTech help?**

Why AKJ Associates?

SECURING MANUFACTURING

A History of Delivery

For more than 25 years, AKJ Associates has been running been the world's most sophisticated closed-door meeting places for senior cyber-security professionals from government, law enforcement, intelligence and business.

For example, our annual London-based e-Crime Congress is still **the largest invitation-only, Chatham House rules,** gathering of the most senior information risk and security professionals from business and government in the world.

The UK Home Office sponsored the public sector delegation from 40 countries in 2002 and we are delighted to say they still do today.

Global Engagement

We have run hundreds of events in the **UK, across Europe, the Middle East and Asia**, attracting **tens of thousands of delegates** in cybersecurity, data security and privacy.

These delegates range from C-suite CIOs, CTOs, CROs and C(I)SOs, to heads of enterprise architecture, desktop and network. They encompass all the senior professionals whose input drives security and privacy solution purchase decisions.

And as well as cross-sector events for both private and public sector, we also design and deliver sector-specific conferences for high-value, high-sophistication sectors including the legal sector, financial services and gambling and gaming.

Unrivalled Relationships

Events like this have enabled us to build relationships of trust with **the most influential decision-makers** at the full spectrum of public and private sector organisations in the UK, Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

By providing this audience with valuable insights and business intelligence over the past 25 years, we have built up **the world's most significant community of professionals in cybersecurity.**

We use this to develop new events; to conduct research to understand what cybersecurity professionals are doing, thinking and buying; and to market our conferences and other services.

Smart Lead Generation

We have also developed and trained one of the **most effective marketing and telemarketing operations** in the cybersecurity space.

Our in-depth knowledge of the marketplace allows us to design marketing outreach that **consistently delivers the best audiences** for the providers of critical cybersecurity infrastructure and solutions.

We connect vendors directly with B2B decision-makers. By combining unrivalled reach, deep knowledge of specialist markets and sophisticated marketing we **engage buyers to deliver real results.**

Why the e-Crime and Cybersecurity Online Series?

The challenge: end-user needs are rising, solution providers' too

Our end-user community of senior cybersecurity professionals is telling us that they face a host of new threats in the post-pandemic environment, to add to their existing challenges.

Remote working and an increased reliance on Cloud and SaaS products are all putting organisations across the world under even more strain. **They need cybersecurity products and services that can solve these issues**.

In addition, the post-COVID environment has created groups of cybersecurity professionals who are less willing or able to attend physical events, and yet these groups still demand the latest information on security technology and techniques.

At the time solution providers are finding it ever more difficult to build relationships in an increasingly competitive environment.

Economic and business drivers are making CISOs more selective and pushing them away from large security stacks and multiple point solutions.

To sell to this increasingly sophisticated community, vendors need multiple access points to engage security professionals, to build deeper relationships and maintain those relationships throughout the year.

To cater to all of the different sectors of the market, this means an increasingly varied palette of communications.

Therefore, **in response to many requests from our community** for us to continue to deliver best practice advice and to give them the up-to-date technical case studies and content they need to cope in the current environment, **we are adding to our traditional physical services.**

The e-Crime & Cybersecurity Congress Virtual Series will offer virtual versions of our key upcoming events and will deliver great **opportunities for lead generation and market engagement**.

Maintaining the ethos and quality of our physical events we will continue to offer **unrivalled partnership opportunities to cybersecurity vendors** looking to build strong, engaged relationships with high-level cybersecurity professionals.

e-Crime & Cybersecurity Congress Online Series: Manufacturing

SECURING MANUFACTURING

Delegate Acquisition

- The e-Crime & Cybersecurity Congress has the **largest community of genuine cybersecurity stakeholders** to invite to our events.
- Our delegates are **invited by an in-house delegate liaison team** who call senior security and privacy professionals at public and private sector companies with a personal invitation to attend
- We **follow up all registrations** with further calls, emails on logistics requirements and reminders to **ensure the best possible attendance**.

Lead Sourcing

- The e-Crime & Cybersecurity Congress prides itself on **putting the key cybersecurity buyers and sellers together**
- To offer you the best prospects to network with, **we don't invite** academics, job seekers, consultants**,** non-sponsoring vendors or marketing service providers to this closed-door event. This **attention to quality over quantity** is the case for our online offering.
- **Each of our vendor partners will receive a delegate list at the end of the event.**

Get Your Message Across

- **Content is king,** which is why the e-Crime & Cybersecurity Congress prides itself on delivering informative and useful content, to attract senior audiences of decision-makers.
- Deliver an exclusive 20-min keynote presentation in the online plenary theatre: good content drives leads and engagement post event: showcase your company's expertise
- AKJ's in-house content / research team will complement the agenda with best practice from senior security professionals from the end-user community

Exclusivity Delivered

- AKJ Associates has never done trade shows. We see most value in working with **a select number of the top vendor partners** and offering those companies the best access to leads.
- Our online events keep the same ethos, limiting vendor numbers. We keep our **online congresses exclusive and give you the best networking opportunities**.
- This is an opportunity to **continue driving leads** in partnership with our outstanding 25-year reputation and the e-Crime & Cybersecurity Congress brand.

Delivering the most senior cybersecurity buyers

SECURING MANUFACTURING

Our USP? We put buyers and sellers together

We understand that every vendor needs to sell more. That is the bottom line. This is even more necessary in the present situation.

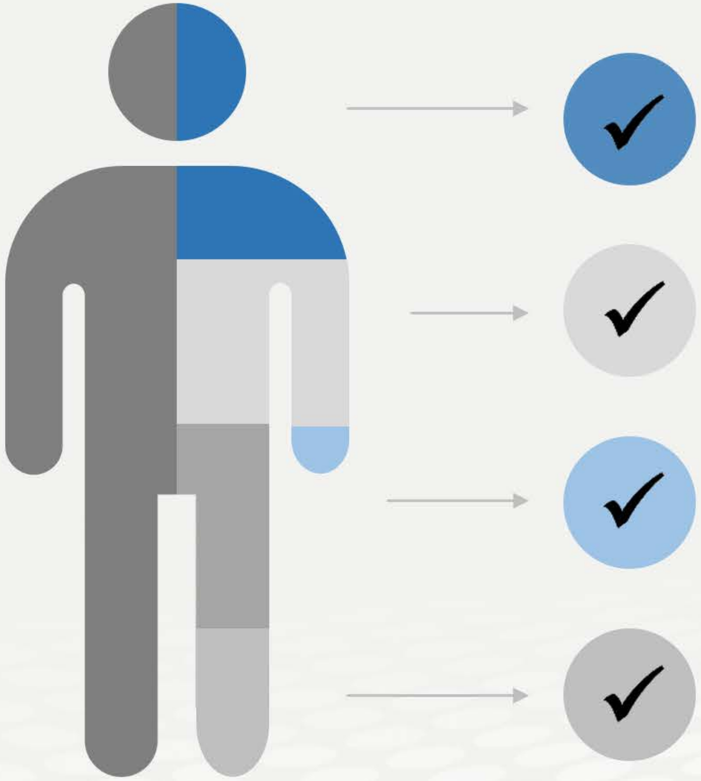
You will have access to the most senior buying audience in the cyber-security market.

AKJ Associates has been building relationships with senior information risk and security professionals for 25 years and our cybersecurity community is the largest of its kind globally.

We know the senior executives who drive strategy from the top, we know the enterprise architects who often control the largest budgets and we know the IT Security Leads and Engineers who so often dictate the purchase process.

All of these job titles attend e-Crime & Cybersecurity Congress events.

Getting access to the right people at the right time always increases the lead generation and always increases profitable sales activity.



Cyber-security
We have an almost 20-year track record of producing the events cyber-security professionals take seriously

Risk Management
We attract senior risk officers with responsibility for information risk assessment and mitigation

Fraud, Audit, Compliance
We provide the go-to events for fraud prevention and compliance owners at the world's key corporates

Data Protection & privacy
We are a key venue for decision-makers with budget and purchasing authority

We deliver the most focused selling opportunity

SECURING MANUFACTURING

Specific, actionable and relevant information for time-constrained industry professionals

SECURING MANUFACTURING

The perfect platform for solution providers to deliver tailored advice to the right audience

Target growth

Each event represents a targeted opportunity to address the needs of a specific community whose need for your solutions and services is growing.

Boost sales

Sponsors can tailor messages to the needs of an audience that shares similar concerns and challenges, looking for solutions now.

Meet commercial aims

We work with sponsors to ensure they meet their commercial aims. We offer a number of sponsorship options, each providing specific benefits.

Showcase solutions

Our events provide sponsors with a unique platform to showcase solutions, as well as provide advice on how best to solve delegates' key challenges.

What our sponsors say about us

SECURING MANUFACTURING

OneSpan

"Firstly, a big thank you for yesterday — it was a fantastic event, and we really felt it was a great success. The quality of the attendees was excellent; people were genuinely engaged and very open to conversation. We had strong interest at the stand throughout the day, with many visitors eager to learn more about our solutions."

Sales Manager UK & I

Recorded Future®

"Thank you for your email. I attended the event yesterday and have to say it was very well organised.

We were very happy with the turnout for our afternoon session as well - all in all, it was a very successful event!

Senior Marketing Executive

Red Helix

"AKJ are a pleasure to work with.

A lot of work goes into making physical events a success, and with AKJ the team are there to support at each step.

They ensure the events are a great success for both suppliers and end users alike."

Senior Digital Marketing Manager

vmware® Carbon Black

"AKJ has been a valuable partner for us for a few years now, enabling us to build relationships and engage with the CISO community in a number of key territories across Europe. The events they hold are a great vehicle for discussing the latest challenges and our work with them has delivered way beyond expectations."

Senior Marketing Manager

95% percent of our exhibitors and sponsors work with us on multiple events each year.

This because they generate real business at our events every year. Our sponsor renewal rate is unrivalled in the market.

https://akjassociates.com/event/manufacturing

AKJ Associates