hitex

Hitex Technology Spotlight

Making the most of data from your factory with OPC UA Namespaces

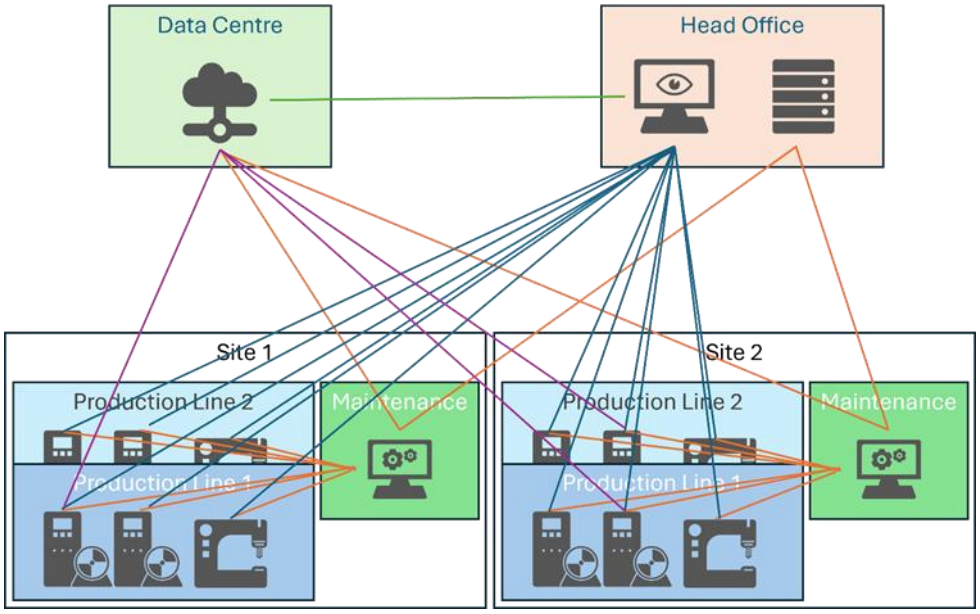
by Dave Tomlin

Introduction

Data is the new currency of the factory floor—but most of it stays trapped in isolated silos. Managing data across multiple sites isn't just a technical challenge; it's a bottleneck to growth. If you're struggling to synchronise your enterprises data, the combination of OPC UA and Unified Namespaces offers a modern solution for industrial interoperability.

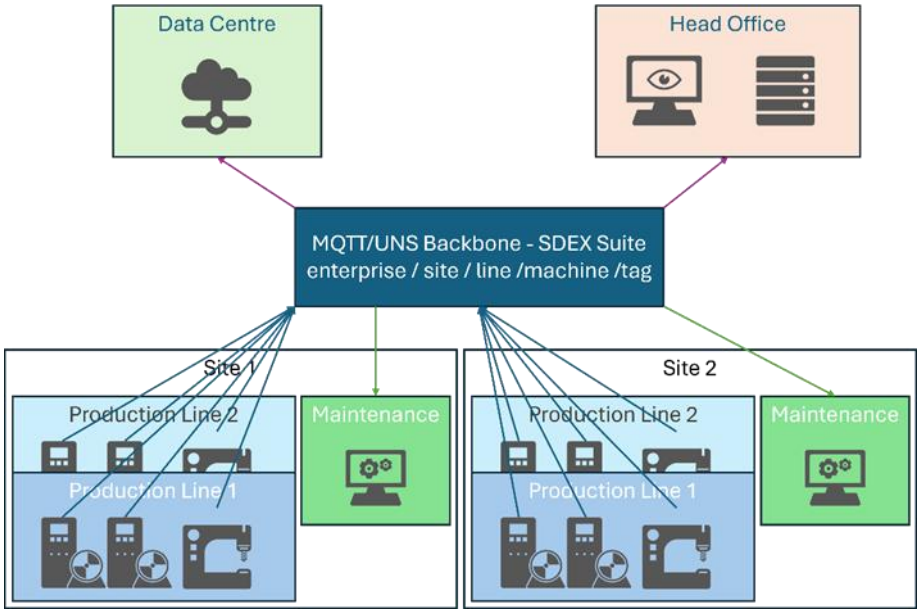
The Problem

I have lots of data coming from machines in multiple factories but every time we change something it breaks down and takes ages to get working again. Each factory has multiple machines producing both production and maintenance data, the data is useful but is consumed by multiple direct connections that each have a login to each component, changing any component could lead to the collapse of the whole system.



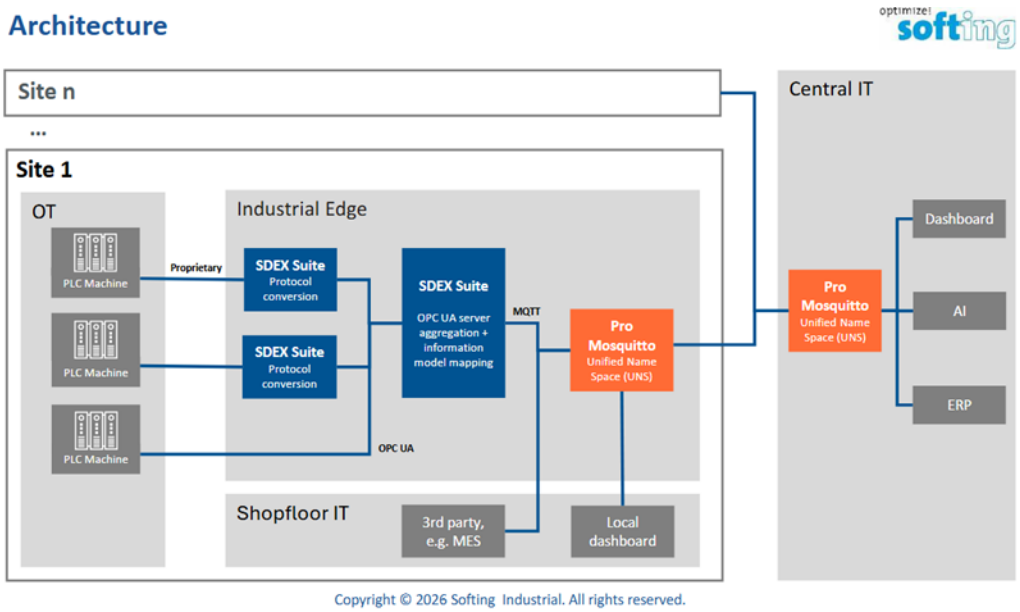
The Solution

We would propose that one solution is the Softing SDEX Suite using Unified Name Spaces to bring the spaghetti of point-to-point connections under control. By connecting each device in a factory to an edge system such as the SDEX suite then propagating that data to the destination we can simplify things. We can aggregate the data from all sorts of sources, like Siemens and Rockwell PLCs, to name a couple. If we also introduce Unified Namespace (UNS) then we can really tame the data jungle. You can build your own namespace or use industry standard ones (ISA-95). If all the data is easily identifiable using the UNS then we can roll out the same build to multiple sites saving time and effort by reusing the setup configurations. The SDEX Suite from Softing allows you to connect to the machines on your production floor, gather the data, organising it into Namespaces and passing it along to the consumers of the data, be that MES, Databases, Analytics or Cloud applications.



Additional Benefits

Another benefit of this method is reduced port usage through the firewall if each site has an edge installation of SDEX Suite to aggregate all the data from within the factory, as in the example below. So, there is no need to tunnel into individual machines to get the data for a central MES system or similar application.



Further Information

For more information about the SDEX Suite please contact us using sales@hitex.co.uk or

https://www.hitex.co.uk/products/industrial-automation/docker-containers/secure-industrial-connectivity-across-all-platforms to find out more.

For more information visit our website: www.hitex.co.uk or get in touch: info@hitex.co.uk. You can also connect with us: LinkedIn