Protocol conversion is an important building block for the Industrial Internet of Things, and one you need to be familiar with.

What is protocol conversion?

Wikipedia describes a protocol converter as “a device used to convert a standard or proprietary protocol of one device to the protocol suitable for the other device or tools to achieve the interoperability.”

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Protocol conversion is important because organisations often have a mixed bag of devices that have different ages and come from different suppliers or manufacturers. Sometimes these devices can be five, 10 or even 20+ years old. So how can you be IIoT ready when you use such legacy devices to operate many of your processes? Replacing equipment is often not an option because of cost and integration time. You need to find a way to protect your existing investment and make it compatible with more modern equipment.

Through the Internet of Things (IoT) may be a hot topic in the media, there seems to be a bit of mystery for some around what is needed to truly make it work. The same holds true for the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT), called industry 4.0 by some, which may be more of a near term reality than the broader IoT. Considering the industrial reality associated with these terms, what are some of the building blocks of IIoT?

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