

3 Ways for CIOs to Increase Factory Production and IBM i High Availability

As any CIO or head of IT in the manufacturing industry knows, the high availability of your IBM i uptime directly affects your factory's production performance. Staying up to date with modern technology advancements provide manufacturing companies with the tools they need to be increasingly profitable in an automated and competitive global market. Maximizing your IBM i system and resources allow you to unlock the full potential of your production capacity, while also protecting against disasters, unscheduled system downtimes, and cybersecurity breaches.

Here are three time-tested ways to increase your IBM i High Availability to help accomplish your goals:

1. Utilize IBM i's Existing Features to Increase Efficiency

IBM i has been specially designed to manage all complex relational database operations. It distributes the balance of data across all system storage, using as little space possible [as explained in this video](#). IBM i also has the ability to run multiple applications alongside one another simultaneously, keeping them as separate or as integrated as the user desires. Users can operate with far more efficiency and speed than with other platforms, since IBM i prevents the slowing of the O/S that occurs when each program is run separately.

2. Get Cloud Stabilized and Redundant, Always Available 24/7

The movement from local to cloud storage has been wholly embraced by the manufacturing sector over the last decade. Companies around the world have reaped the rewards of increased speed, high availability, security, and coordination between different locations of company sites. It has proven tempting for many manufacturing CIOs to keep their servers in-house, but a recent brief by the consultant group Bain & Company, called [Tapping Cloud's Full Potential](#), found that public cloud servers run by specialized tech companies like IBM, Amazon, Google, and Microsoft consistently deliver a safer and more reliable standard of security. Tech companies are generally quicker to adapt to developments in the field, automatically working to keep your company servers protected.

But any adoption of new technology, even if it is beneficial in the long run, can cause changes to workflow, high availability, and efficiency. There are a variety of ways to counteract these problems. One is leveraging IBM i's "PowerHA for I" program, and another is Vision Solutions' "MIMIX Availability" software. These types of solutions can help make the creation of backup archives easy (provided with high availability solution), and allow for the rapid transfer of information from one server to another, in the event of downtime. If electrical power is

disrupted, for example, you'll need a backup system to keep your servers online and your data accessible.

Planned downtime — when a system is purposely deactivated to perform updates or repairs — is an aspect of software which all companies must work into their logistics, particularly manufacturing plants that need to be functional 24/7 (explained in IBM's [Improving Systems Availability](#) document). In addition to software malfunction or physical damage, machines will sometimes be put into downtime in order to upload critical updates or patches to a system. In fact, an unusually long period of uptime can be a sign of system instability or a vulnerability to crashes and viruses. Downtime can be avoided with the right infrastructure in place and external support.

3. Leverage the Right IBM i Support Vendor

While IBM i can be hosted on the cloud and offer server security, a certified IBM i support vendor can help you unlock the system's full potential and increase your capabilities across the board.

You may believe that your system is operating optimally, however with the engagement of a qualified IBM i expert continually monitoring and adjusting it, you can dramatically increase your system's uptime high availability and performance. A deeper picture of supply chains, forecasts, macro-trends, and precise coordination between multiple factory locations can be at your fingertips anytime, anywhere (as described in this [great article](#) on A Passion for Research).

Rather than taking the time and resources to train onsite employees who may not have the required background or expertise, a third-party vendor can help you maximize your system high availability and rapidly recover from any systemic disruptions.