3 Strategies to Increase Manufacturing Uptime with Power Systems (Power8)

For over a decade now, IBM's Power Systems hardware series has been counted among the most popular and reliable microprocessors on the commercial market. The latest product, "POWER8", is a microprocessor that's four times faster than the previous version and up to 50 times faster than rival "commodity" servers. Power8 was developed specifically with cloud computing in mind, its server racks designed to handle large-scale data storage and increase uptime in industrial manufacturing. Since its rollout in 2008, the operating system that has proved most capable at harvesting Power8's potential has been "IBM i."

1) IBM i Blasts off With Power Systems 8
A cursory exploration of IBM i will reveal a number of tools that can prove invaluable to enhancing system productivity and increasing uptime. One of these is its ability to run multiple applications simultaneously, permitting the user to keep them as separate or as integrated as they desire. This minimization of required processing power allows the system to run faster and with greater efficiency. More machines, more data, and more output.

Another important IBM i tool is the acclaimed relational management database, "DB2." This program allows users to integrate all organization data on a company's server, tying in factors like salaries, production, staffing, sales performance, marketing, overhead, earnings and expenditures. It offers easily formattable and tailored queries that can reveal every conceivable cross-section of a company's finances and performance. Armed with this information, company analysts and C-level executives can learn of production inefficiencies and manufacturing flaws, with an eye toward improving efficiency and uptime.

2) Up In The Clouds
Cloud hosting is perhaps the most significant development in server management in the last decade, and it's revolutionizing the speed and expectations with which manufacturers operate. The Power Series of microservers has stood at the cutting edge of cloud hosting from the onset, and the release of Power9 in 2017 promises to continue that trend. By utilizing multiple servers with redundant data across different locations, businesses can safeguard themselves from operational interruption during any period of downtime. It also provides strong protection against spikes in website usage and operational need, as it spreads the bandwidth burden across multiple nodes.

Another silver lining of the cloud is the money that can be saved. Manufacturers can retain tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars by leasing space on managed hosted servers rather than using purchasing local ones for the company. Whereas traditional or local hosting servers may

leave a business overpaying for server space it does not use, or worse, leaves it unprepared to handle a higher volume of operational need, cloud hosting provides an optimal amount of bandwidth and server scalability. What's more, in the cloud you only pay for what you use.

3) A Bird's Eye View of Your Business
Don't be afraid to look at your company through a fresh set of eyes. Third-party IT consultants can provide insights on IBM i, cloud hosting, and hardware maintenance for Power8 systems. They can provide high-end servers and skilled engineers to protect your data systems from malware intrusion and environmental disaster disruption. Consultants can also supply staffing as a short-term measure or a long-term solution, with results that are often on par or above the client's norm.

Workers in every sort of industry may experience anxiety when it comes to bringing in outsiders, owing to questions of data safety, productivity, cost, and the implications for one's job security. A philosophical shift in business management over the last several years has attempted to mitigate this potential rift between consultants and employees. The nuanced mechanics of manufacturing upkeep cannot be optimized if each side is undermining the other. It is being more commonly being recognized that collaborative relationships are more financially and professionally rewarding for all parties involved. With the institutional knowledge of employees and technical expertise and equipment of IT consultants, manufacturing uptime can reach extraordinary heights.

<u>The Bottom Line</u>
When paired with IBM i, the Power8 microprocessor server offers top-of-the line value for the hosting needs of any manufacturing company. With enhanced database efficiency, cloud computing, and the right organizational structure, increased manufacturing uptime is a highly attainable goal.

IBM i and managed hosting services can provide cost-efficient and technologically adept solutions for productivity and high availability for your manufacturing needs. Adaptability, scalability, cost reduction, and program efficiency can provide the edge in a manufacturing marketplace that now operates on a global level.