

Atos' OT Vulnerability Management Proactive Checklist

1. Asset Discovery and Inventory

- ✓ Maintain a real-time, continuously updated OT asset inventory that captures the make, model, firmware, and software versions.
- ✓ Classify assets by criticality and business impact.
- ✓ Map all connections between OT, IT, and external environments.

2. Risk-based Vulnerability Prioritization

- ✓ Continuously assess OT assets using threat intelligence, exploitability data, and business impact.
- ✓ Apply a risk-based scoring model to prioritize remediation.
- ✓ Address critical vulnerabilities proactively, even before vendor patches.

3. Secure Configuration and Hardening

- ✓ Enforce baseline security configurations — disable unused services, close unnecessary ports, and remove default credentials.
- ✓ Regularly audit configurations against IEC 62443 and industry best practices.
- ✓ Implement application allow listing and network segmentation to shrink the attack surface.

4. Patch and Firmware Management

- ✓ Define a structured, minimally disruptive OT patch management process.
- ✓ Test patches in controlled environments prior to deployment.
- ✓ Collaborate with vendors to access security updates pre-disclosure.

5. Network and Access Controls

- ✓ Enforce zero-trust access – only authorized users and devices allowed.
- ✓ Apply strict remote access policies with MFA.
- ✓ Continuously monitor network traffic for unauthorized or abnormal activity.

6. Threat Intelligence and Anomaly Detection

- ✓ Integrate OT-specific threat intelligence to track emerging risks.
- ✓ Deploy OT-aware IDS to detect anomalies.
- ✓ Automate correlation of network activity with known threats and vulnerabilities..

7. Incident Preparedness and Response Simulation

- ✓ Regularly conduct tabletop exercises and OT-specific red team drills.
- ✓ Define clear roles for operations, IT, security, and compliance teams.
- ✓ Maintain a rapid containment and mitigation plan for potential exploits.

8. Compliance and Continuous Improvement

- ✓ Align processes with IEC 62443, NIST CSF, and NERC CIP standards..
- ✓ Continuously review and refine vulnerability management policies.
- ✓ Deliver ongoing security awareness training for OT operators and engineers.

