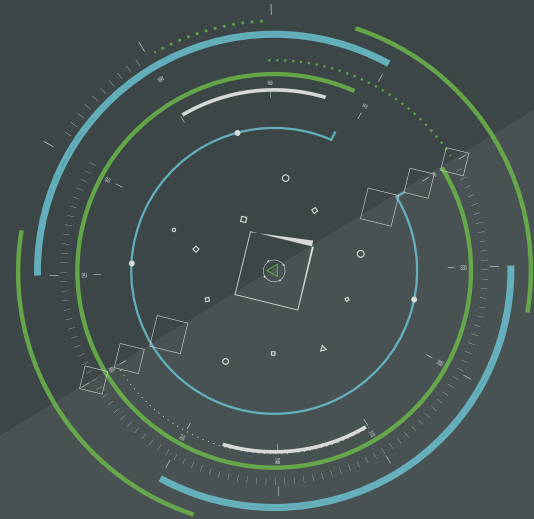




5 **CHANGE - MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES** of Your Future Plant Floor



With the implementation of new equipment and software, plant floors are constantly changing.

This makes it challenging to consistently collect and utilize operations data without making major changes to your connectivity architecture. A one-off or “reactive” approach to connectivity—such as building in-house, siloed connectivity workarounds to address vendor lock-in or gather data from legacy machines—may solve small problems in the short-term, but may also set you up for bigger issues in the longer term.

It can be overwhelming to consider the unknown future in the midst of pressing data access and connectivity concerns during a major software or equipment implementation.

However, addressing the future now is the first step toward a secure, scalable, and future-proof plant floor. These five common data connectivity challenges—and the ways you consider and approach them—can mean the difference between a successful, long-term strategy and a frustrating, disconnected one.



For controls engineers, **“future-proofing”** creates an architecture ready for the potential of expansion and digital transformation.

CHALLENGE 1

Integrating New Equipment

Consider

When it comes to integrating new equipment, you must consider both existing legacy assets and any potential future assets. Implementing a connectivity solution that only connects to a specific asset or type of asset could set you up for rework in the case of future asset additions.

Approach Connectivity Strategically

With that in mind, it's critical to implement a connectivity solution equipped with drivers that can connect to both existing and new equipment across your plant floor.

Connectivity should be designed and implemented with the future in mind—not on a short-term, ad hoc basis. **KEPServerEX** connects all your assets—regardless of age, vendor, or communication protocol.



...By gathering integrated data from both legacy and modern machines, this approach has the potential to enhance decision-making at all levels of an organization."

— *Merging Legacy Equipment with the Industrial Internet of Things: Three Approaches for Integrated Data*

CHALLENGE 2

Scaling Across the Enterprise

Consider

Enterprise-wide data visibility is a crucial, but often difficult, achievement—especially if assets are located across multiple sites. Without enterprise-wide connectivity, enterprise-wide decisions, communication, and performance consistency are more difficult.

Approach Connectivity Strategically

Scaling across the enterprise is a key consideration, particularly for enterprises with assets spread across multiple sites. In addition to providing greater visibility, standardization across the enterprise ensures controls engineers can more securely send data outside the operations network.

KEPServerEX has the capabilities to efficiently and securely connect assets across multiple sites, ensuring everyone across the enterprise has visibility to ALL data—now and in the future.



CHALLENGE 3

Implementing New Software

Consider

Eventually, the addition of new software—and the need to integrate that software—will be inevitable. If you haven't taken a proactive approach, it's likely you'll need to rebuild connectivity.

Rebuilding connectivity to accommodate new software is costly and time-consuming.

Approach Connectivity Strategically

Here, approaching connectivity strategically means setting the early expectation of new software additions. In these efforts, you'll need to choose a connectivity solution that will allow the quick integration of new software while you avoid rework and added cost.

KEPServerEX will enable you to quickly and easily **integrate new software in the future**—without having to rebuild connectivity.



[Industrial Control System implementers] need to assume that at some point in time, the system will be asked to do more without actually knowing what 'more' is."

— *More Data, More Sources, More Problems*

CHALLENGE 4

Avoiding Vendor Lock-In

Consider

You already know it's critical to maintain flexibility with new software. You'll also want to achieve the same level of flexibility with different vendors. Locking in with a single vendor (or "vendor lock-in") could mean depriving your plant floor strategy from different tools and features you might want to utilize—and risking a connectivity rebuild.

Approach Connectivity Strategically

You should be able to build your plant floor based on your needs and that of the enterprise, not on any particular vendor's roadmap. KEPServerEX can connect to any machine, helping you achieve greater vendor flexibility and access new features as needed.



...Many of Teel Plastics machines are custom built—meaning they needed a solution capable of speaking to an entire range of PLCs from vendors including Allen-Bradley and Siemens."

— Teel Plastics Reduces Human Error
with IoT Strategy Powered by Kepware

CHALLENGE 5

Preparing for the IIoT

Consider

Proper connectivity—that is, a solution that utilizes protocols beyond connectivity to on-premises, traditional applications—is the essential foundation for IIoT implementation.

Approach Connectivity Strategically

It's critical to choose a connectivity solution that aligns with your long-term initiatives. A strategic approach to connectivity (as opposed to a reactive one) ultimately allows you to avoid rework and additional cost. A connectivity solution equipped with IIoT-ready features will achieve connectivity while enabling fully future-proofed data.



Best-of-breed solutions create a future-proofed foundation for greater collaboration with IT and other departments as technology needs change and evolve. Your connectivity is covered from the oldest legacy machines to the ever-growing list of IIoT-enabled devices and applications."

— *Improve without Change:
Extending Your Industrial Assets
to Do More with What You Have*

KEPServerEX is a reliable connectivity

solution that will allow you to approach connectivity strategically by facilitating IIoT-ready integration for a fully future-proofed plant floor.



CONTACT an industrial connectivity expert to launch a strategic approach to your future plant floor today.