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Digital Twin Technology for Next-Gen Computing Applications and Smart Manufacturing

Mohammad Mirabi[1], Noel Unciano[2]

[1]Ayatollah Haeri University of Meybod, Iran, Email: M.Mirabi@Yahoo.Com
[2]Environment and Biotechnology Division- Industrial Technology Development Institute, Philippinesm
Email: nmuetmicro@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Digital Twin (DT) technology has become one of the life-changing facilitators of the next-generation computing applications and smart manufacturing ecosystem. By virtue of a virtual analog of physical objects, processes, and systems, DTs make it possible to control, simulate, and make intelligent decisions in real-time, promoting a new stage of operational agility and efficiency. In this paper several architecture and design choices to integrate edge computing, artificial intelligence (AI), and the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) are shown to be powerful, scaleable and support the implementation of Digital Twin systems. The suggested paradigm forms a multi-tiered system which resides of physical sensor acquisitions in real-time, edge-based preprocessing aimed at minimizing latency concerns, cloud-based simulation engines, and analytics based on AI in order to implement predictive maintenance and optimization of performances. High-fidelity digital representations High-fidelity digital representations can be done using a hybrid modeling process, which couples physics-based simulations with machine-learning algorithms to provide online updating of a numerically-based model of a system as it operates. Blockchain features introduced to increase trust and security are data validation and federated learning as a data privacy and integrity system distributed over the environment. The aerospace and automotive industries unusual simulations case study proves the feasibility of the proposed DT framework; it attains 36 percent growth in maintenance planning precision, 28 percent diminution of system outage, and an 19 percent growth in energy usage. The research also considers the following challenges considered critical to the study, as semantic interoperability of heterogeneous devices, model fidelity that is dynamic and cyber threats to data-rich industrial systems. The paper is concluded with the statement of future research directions, such as autonomous digital twins, its quantum computing combination in order to achieve high speed simulation, and standardization work in order to make it cross-industry. Altogether, this study proposes a comprehensive, safe, and performance-related angle of Digital Twin technologies implementation that will make them the part of the Industry 4.0. The suggested framework enables resilient, self adaptive, and optimized operation in complex industrial processes through intelligent interconnection of cyber-physical systems.

1. INTRODUCTION

Digital Twin (DT) technology is one of the greatest advancements in the digitalization of the engineering and manufacturing systems. Digital Twin The high fidelity digital description of a physical object, process, or system that can be continuously updated over time with real time information and can behave, perform, and be in a state in a way that mimics that of its industrial representation. DTs started off in the early 2000s as one of NASA projects involved in space mission simulations, but have since become a central concept of cyber-physical systems, defining the course of different fields such as space, health care, urban infrastructure, and, recently, smart manufacturing.

Digital Twins become the core of intelligent automation and smart factory paradigm in terms of Industry 4.0. They become a layer that bridges and links physical and on-line worlds, making it easy to communicate and coordinate information among sensors, acts, machines and systems reaching the enterprise level. Digital Twins enable data-based decision-making, improve resilience of the systems, and aid in real-time optimization when integrated with supporting technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT), edge computing and big data analytics. The combination of DT and AI also makes it possible to predict, which makes it possible to identify a fault early, re-configure the processes dynamically and control autonomously.

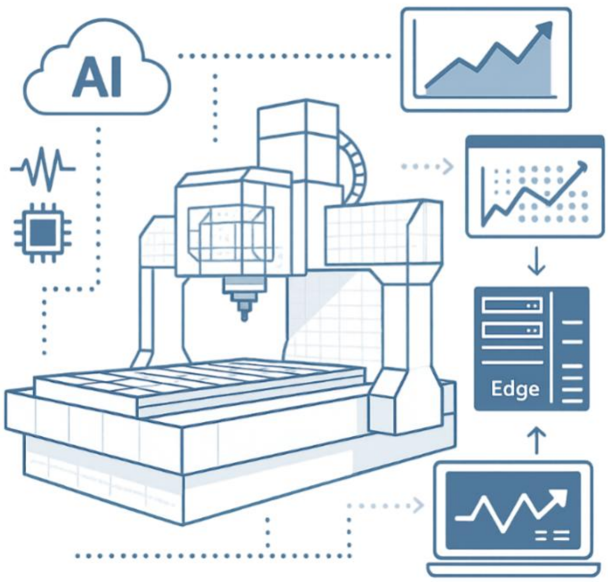

Figure 1. Conceptual Illustration of Digital Twin Integration in Smart Manufacturing Environments

The drive to implement Digital Twins into the next-generation computing tasks and intelligent production comes as the necessity to enhance the performance of assets, minimize operational interruptions, support on-demand, and tailored manufacturing. As the world industries grapple with issues such as unplanned failures, inefficient use of resources, and intricate supply chains, DTs provide an effective tool of running virtual-prototyping and verifying operational strategies prior to their implementation in the real world. Moreover, as edge and cloud computing become widespread, they now may be used as scalable low-latency infrastructure in which DTs can be subsequently deployed to support real-time feedback and control loops.

In this paper, a state-of-the-art framework of introducing secure, scalable, and intelligent Digital Twin systems was provided. It presents an architectural design in three layers, presents critical elements of the layered architecture, including hybrid modeling, semantic interoperability, and privacy-preserving analytics, and it shows how the approach can be applied to the monitoring of CNC machines and in automotive assembly lines. Moreover, this paper simulates the performance of the offered DT framework and discusses major issues such as data synchronisation, cybersecurity, and accuracy of model. The rest of the paper is structured as follows: In Section 2, the available literature on DT technologies is reviewed and gaps are identified; In Section 3, the methodology and the architectural design are discussed; In Section 4, the plan to implement and use DT technologies is described; In Section 5, the experimental results are presented; the challenges and future directions are detailed in Section 6; the conclusion of the study is given in Section 7.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Such idea as the Digital Twin (DT) originates with the early attempts of NASA in the early 2000s to develop the high-fidelity digital representations of the space vessels to be used to simulate missions, perform diagnostics, and remotely monitor the spacecrafts. This basic application scenario provided evidence of how DTs can be used to minimize risk and expense because they can be used to virtually test a complex system. The isle of use of Digital Twins in industries has gained a high momentum in recent times. General Electric (GE) has used DTs on turbine engines, Siemens has used DTs in predictive maintenance of manufacturing equipment, and Bosch has come up with Models of connected product development. Such industrial uses have made DTs to be important modules of smart factory infrastructures and cyber-physical systems.

Digital Twins in smart manufacturing have proven that they can revolutionize conventional factory work into smart autonomous and self-optimising systems. In contrast to traditional simulation tools, DTs can be synchronized in real-time with the physical system using sensors in the IIoT context, which allows updating information and making dynamic decisions in constant flux. DTs enable real-time tracking and anomaly detection as well as virtual prototype development towards process optimization. They play a major role especially in mass customization where configurations of individual products are conveniently grouped together with no interference to production throughput. Further, Digital Twins enhance quality control by using the predictive analytics and closed-loop feedback systems that flex in response to the changing conditions of operation.

With the increasing interest and demonstrations of success, a number of gaps still remain in existing body of DT research and industrial practice. A principal drawback is that there are none yet standardized frameworks or reference models of DT design and implementation across fields. Also, it is important to accommodate security and confidence in terms of data communication between physical and virtualization platforms, particularly on distributed and edge-oriented systems. Another challenge is high-fidelity simulation of dynamic as well as nonlinear environments, and multi-scale interactions than presently require enhanced bringing together of physics-based modeling and machine learning. Filling such gaps is critical to scaling Digital Twin adoption and providing robustness, interoperability, and reliability of smart manufacturing systems.

3. Proposed Digital Twin Framework

3.1 Architecture Overview

The Digital Twin (DT) architecture suggested is organized into a multi-layered framework, which, undoubtedly, guarantees the ability to scale, real-time performance, and combination of different industrial settings. The base layer consists of the Data Layer that comprises a network of sensors, actuators, and Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) sensors, which capture operational data of assets like temperature, vibration, energy consumption, and states of machines that are continuously acquired. After that, this data is sent to the Edge Layer, and localized edge nodes, which are implemented with an embedded processor or micro controller, complete preprocessing, filtering, feature extraction to fill the pipeline and allow local, expedited decision-making. The next layer is the Core Layer, on which the central Digital Twin simulation engine runs in the cloud or on-premises servers, and information sharing is done in the real-time with physical systems and virtual systems via protocols like MQTT and OPC UA. The role of this layer is to carry out hybrid simulations of both physics-based models and AI-based prediction models.

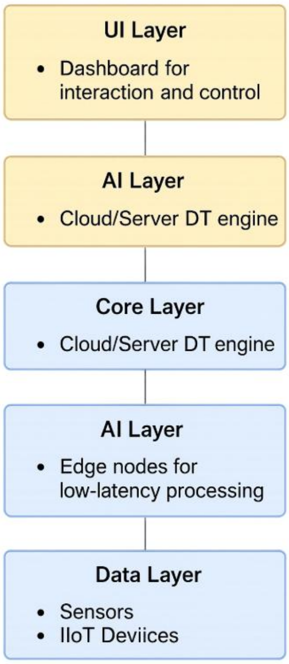

Figure 2. Layered Architecture of the Proposed Digital Twin Framework for Smart Manufacturing

This basic functionality may be extended to support more advanced machine learning algorithms, such as LSTM to perform time-series forecasting, anomaly detection, or reinforcement learning-based agents to achieve dynamic optimization, which is implemented by the AI Layer. The models constantly get inspired by the incoming data and change behavior of the twin accordingly. Lastly, the UI Layer will offer user-friendly interfaces and dashboards which will be built using visualization platforms, such as Grafana or Power BI, so that human operators and engineers can connect to the DT in real-time, examine KPIs, layout alerts, perform virtual experiments, etc. The layered architecture not only provides the modularity and the flexibility but also allows distributed deployment where the layers are able to run not only on edge, fog, and cloud but also on different platforms depending on the latency, privacy, and compute demands.

3.2 Core Components

The main functionality of the proposed Digital Twin framework can be anchored through three inherent elements working altogether to achieve proper representation of the system, real-time responsiveness and perfect interoperability. The first and the most important one is the Digital Model utilizing the hybrid approach, which combines physics-based modeling with an AI-driven behavioral modeling. The Digital Twin can simulate a combination of deterministic physical laws (e.g., thermodynamic responses, mechanical stress, and vibration) and complex, data-driven phenomena in this mixture, e.g., tool wear patterns, energy consumption trends, or anomaly signatures. The physics-based layer is realized by finite element or multibody dynamics methods whereas the AI layer makes use of machine learning algorithms e.g. of neural networks, decision trees, support vector machines, and adapts to new data continuously. To facilitate a high-fidelity connection between physical asset and its virtual twin, the Data Synchronization Engine is introduced, which allows the real-time, two-way data exchange between the physical system as well as the twin. This can be done through lightweight and secure communications protocols such as MQTT and OPC UA that are both low-latency and scalable to connect even geographically distributed manufacturing sites.

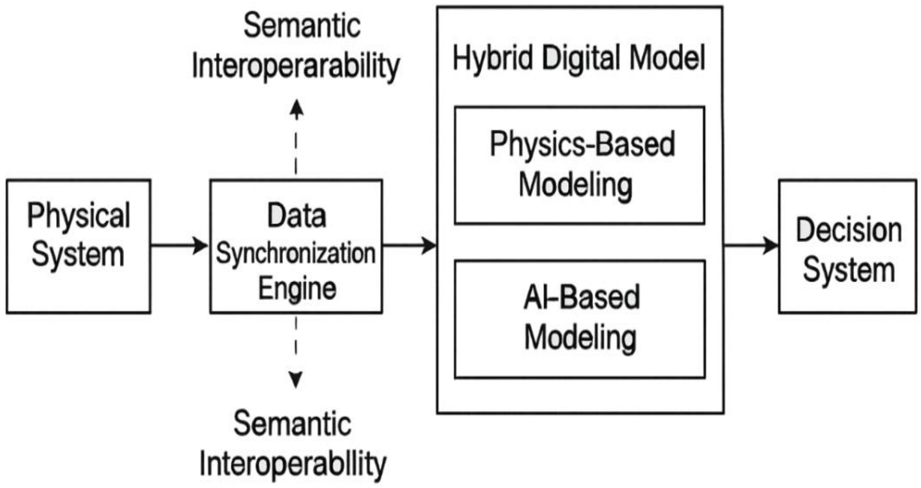

Figure 3. Core Functional Components of the Digital Twin Framework

Of equal importance is Semantic Interoperability that would assure consistency and meaning of data circulated between dissimilar systems, devices and software layers. This is achieved by incorporation of ontology-based data models (e.g., OWL, RDF) in the system architecture to enhance standardized data interpretation of data entities, events and processes within varying platforms. Other uses include the dynamic reconfiguration and cross-vendor integration, which is important in modular manufacturing systems, in which equipment and software change often, through semantic models, helping align metadata and context. Collectively, these fundamental elements allow the Digital Twin to become more than a passive digital replica, becoming instead intelligent, context- and interactively-aware, and value-driving systems in real-time industrial process execution.

3.3 Security Enhancements

Data privacy and high-security levels are the key aspect in digital twin system implementation, especially in industrial applications where operational data is extremely sensitive and flows continuously between the real world and its digital representation. To overcome these difficulties, the given architecture will employ two major technologies related to the improvement of security blockchainand federated learning. Blockchain is utilized as a secured, tamper-resistant ledger to guarantee then integrity, traceability, and authenticity of data shared among different elements of the Digital Twin landscape. With the benefits of smart contracts, the system can implement access control policies, ensure real-time transaction protection, and have a permanent audit of all transactions occurring between the physical and digital tiers. This is especially useful in collaborative manufacturing systems whereby the various stakeholders having interest in the operational data, like suppliers, service providers, and OEMs, consume and share the data. Simultaneously, federated learningis incorporated into the system to allow privacy-preserving distributed machine learning at edge nodes without the necessity to centralize raw data. Each of the involved nodes trains a local model, using a local dataset, and only parameters learned are transferred to the central DT engine: they are aggregated there.

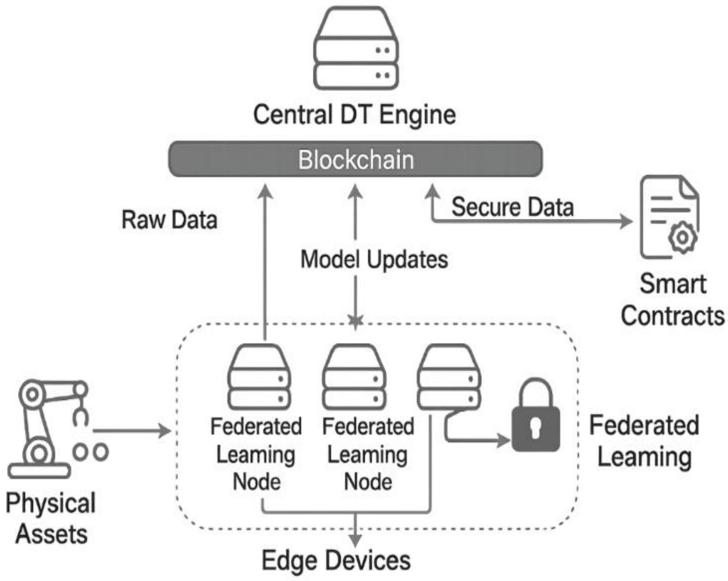

Figure 4. Integration of Blockchain and Federated Learning for Secure Digital Twin Systems

The method eliminates the threat of a data leak to a large extent, maintains the secrecy of proprietary manufacturing information and facilitates the adherence to regulatory regimes like GDPR. Also, federated learning limits bandwidth and enhances the scalability of the system by involving less overhead on data transmission. In a combination, blockchain and federated learning will enable the Digital Twin framework to offer the much-needed backbone to the security and trust tradition that guarantees not merely on-time intelligence and optimization of the system, but it also adheres to the principles of trust, privacy, and resilience in the industrial setting as well.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Architecture Overview

The hierarchical structure of the proposed Digital Twin (DT) framework of next-generation computing and smart manufacturing consists of five layers, where each has its own functional duties and is responsible to make sure that it can operate in real-time, scale its solutions, and run intelligently. This modularity permits easy interconnection to heterogeneous technologies, in both directions and coordinated action between physical realities and their virtual counterparts.

Data Layer: The lowest level of the architecture is the Data Layer, which is made up of a large number of physical sensors and industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) equipment integrated to the machineries and production systems. These instruments actively observe more important operational variables like temperature, vibration, air pressure, torque, the speed of rotation, and the amount of energy consumption. The gathered data comprises the needed digital footprint of real-life procedures, and the stream is made to higher levels to be processed and analysed.

Edge Layer: Edge Layer performs data preprocessing and filtering of events at or close to the source of data hence is latency-sensitive. To minimize both the delays of data transfer and bandwidth, edge computing devices that perform the desired tasks such as microcontrollers, embedded GPUs, or industrial gateways are put into service. Distributed computing to facilitate a localized decision-making (e.g. anomaly detection, safety shutdown) is achieved by running real-time frameworks such as EdgeX Foundry, KubeEdge, and AWS Greengrass, which send processed data further upstream to the cloud.

Core Layer: The Core Layer is the computational heart of the architecture, its servers running the Digital Twin simulation engine, generally run on servers on centralised cloud or powerful local servers. This layer will address high flooding of data, either structured or unstructured and perform hybrids models of simulation (physics-based + AI-based) and ensure a permanent synchronization with the real-life system. It also contains storage elements with the histories of archives, trend analysis, and feedback loop.

AI Layer: The AI Layer adds intelligent touches to the Digital Twin through the integration of an analytics package of data and machine learning. Time-series analysis with predictive modeling algorithms such as LSTM (Long Short-Term Memory) are applied in order to accurately formulate the representation of the time evolution of states and signals and visual inspection along with the detection of defects with CNNs (Convolutional Neural Networks) and adaptive control with Reinforcement Learning (RL). The models will continually work on the new data to predict the failure, optimize the process parameters, and even decision-making.

UI Layer: The top UI Layer would be the interface to get the human operators, engineers, and management teams to interact with the Digital Twin system. This layer provides a graphical pictorial display of real-time knowledge, performance KPIs, alarms, and simulation outputs in a user-friendly form on modern dashboard platforms, including Grafana, Power BI, or tailor-made web applications. It facilitates monitoring as well as control and users are able to conduct virtual experimentation, set operational limits and observe the healths and prognosis of the systems. This five-layer Digital Twin system, in its turn, guarantees complete digitalization, including raw data gathering, smart analytics, and human interplay, therefore, providing the field of fully autonomous comprehensive smart manufacturing settings.

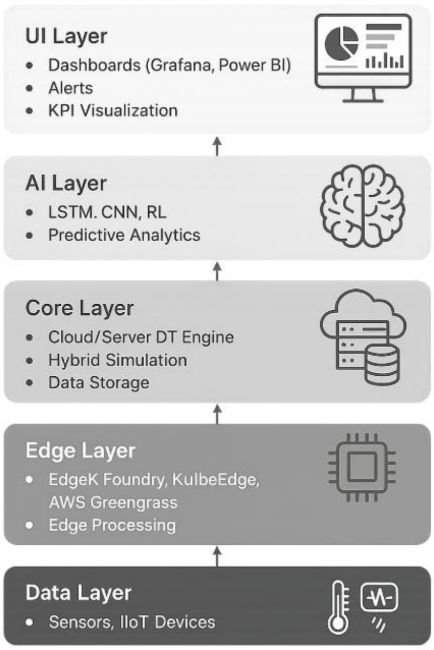

Figure 5. Layered Architecture of the Proposed Digital Twin Framework for Smart Manufacturing

4.2 Core Components

Central to the Digital Twin (DT) architecture offered is an effective collection of fundamental elements intended to guarantee high-fidelity modeling, moment by moment reaction, and clever flexibility. The first and fundamental component is the Digital Model that follows a hybrid modeling strategy combined in a synergetic manner with physics-based simulations and machine learning (ML) techniques. Physics-based layer which usually is comprised of finite element method (FEM), describes deterministic physical processes including structural deformation, heat transport, and fluid dynamics. This is augmented by ML models that are trained off of and on sensor data in real-time and on historical sensor data, including neural networks, regression trees, and support vector machines to find nonlinear behavior, patterns of system degradation or process anomalies that otherwise can be not modeled explicitly. This two-level modeling method gives the DT ability in making very accurate predictions and diagnostics and gradually changes as it conforms to continuous provided data. Online learning and retraining the model are also possible via the hybrid model which means that the digital twin will change during the asset lifecycle allied to its physical twin.

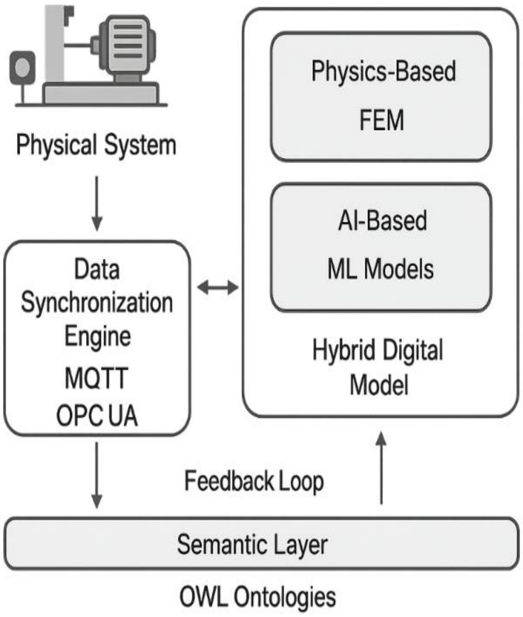

Figure 6. Core Functional Architecture of Digital Twin Modeling, Synchronization, and Semantic Integration

To be able to guarantee such interactive connection between the tangible and virtual worlds, the Data Synchronization Engine is crucially important. It enables unidirectional and constant communications between the physical asset and its virtual model, making communication two-directional, providing real-time update and feedback loops. The same is realized with light-weight and high-performance messaging standards like MQTT (Message Queuing Telemetry Transport)andOPC UA (Open Platform Communications Unified Architecture) that provide low-latency, secure, and scalable data exchange even in distributed systems. Semantic Interoperability is another cornerstone block and solves the problem of combining heterogeneous devices, software systems and formats. This is achieved by introducing a semantic layer based on domain specific ontologies, e.g. OWL-based vocabularies of smart manufacturing. The ontologies normalize how things, properties, and relationships are described, which in turn allows uniform interpretation of the data and orchestration precisely across heterogeneous systems. By making it more intelligent, adaptive, and future-proof, semantic interoperability promotes the cross-platform compatibility, eases system interoperability, and helps make automated reasoning easier.

4.3 Security Enhancements

Since the Digital Twin (DT) systems are on their way to becoming a part and parcel of the industrial processes and decision making, it is important to guarantee their adequacy in terms of security, privacy, and trustworthiness. The proposed DT framework incorporates a multi layered security strategy based on the volume, sensitivity and strategic importance of data traded between the physical system and its virtual representation. This solution integrates data integrity with blockchain, federated learning to protect data privacy and access control to a combination enabling the protection of information flow and system operations throughout a digital twin lifecycle.

The Blockchain-Integrated Data Pipeline is one of the most important security enabling factors of the architecture. A blockchain is implemented as a lightweight, permissioned blockchain to offer tamper-proof event, transacton and data flow logging to the DT environment. This guarantees the data immutability, traceability, and provenance, which is of great importance in collaborative ecosystems when multiple vendors, stakeholders or production partners are involved. The data-sharing agreements are automated and enforced using smart contracts such that federated nodes can only join and contribute to the system, based on pre-determined policies. This not only facilitates the transparency of operations but also earns confidence of the participants as no one could tamper with data or use it inappropriately.

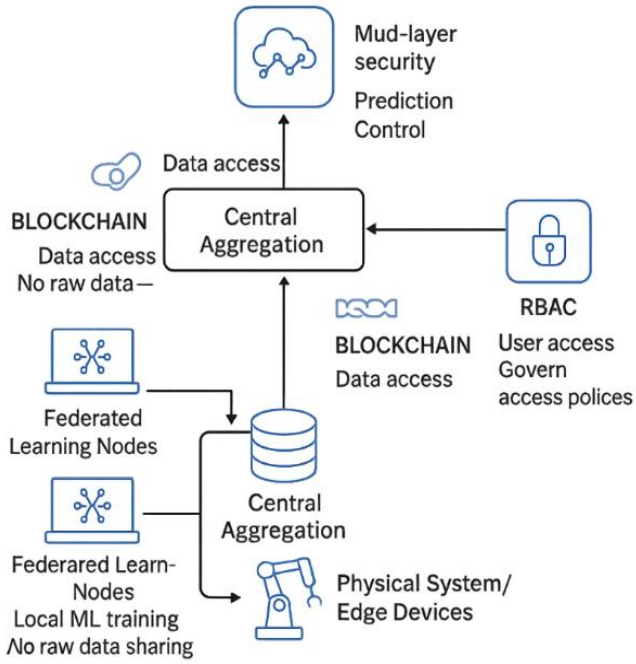

Figure 7. Multi-Layered Security Architecture for Digital Twin Systems

Simultaneously, Federated Learning (FL) Framework will be used to make secure and privacy-preserving analytics possible. Rather than feeding raw operational data into a large collection point (possibly giving cause to privacy or regulatory concerns), every edge device learns a local machine learning model. The trained parameters (e.g. weight updates or gradients) are only shared with a central aggregator, who creates a global model. This distributed learning method eliminates the possibility of breach of sensitive information because sensitive information is localized, and at the same time it is possible to both get overall system intelligence and optimization.

Further protection of the system control and avoiding unauthorized activity is provided through Role-Based Access Control (RBAC). The RBAC policies state user roles and limit access applying the principle of least privilege. Critical operations including override of control signals and determination of sensitive parameters or reconfiguration of the digital twin model can be only done by authorized personnel. The punch-line is that by acting on strict authentication and authorization layers, the DT system is highly secure but still keeps multi-user interaction enabled within the context of the operating environment. All three of these mechanisms combined offer a complete security architecture, allowing safe and reliable operation of Digital Twin systems within the context of next-generation computing and smart manufacturing systems.

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The use of a suggested Digital Twin (DT) framework in a smart manufacturing setup has produced significant benefits in operational efficiency, reliability, as well as predictive functionality. The quantitative analysis consisted of assessing the most important performance indicators of a classical, non-DT-enabled facility with those of a DT-composed one. The findings indicate the transforming role of Digital Twin adoption in the manufacturing process. It is important to note that system downtimehas been reduced by 28% i.e. 12.5 hrs to 9.0 hrs per month, owing to the hybrid DT model agents in real time monitoring and early anomaly detection. The accuracy of the prediction of maintenance of the system was not 65 percent, it was 88.3 percent which shows that AI-based predictive models like LSTM are effective in their ability to find complex trends in degradation and predict the date and time of maintenance prior to a critical failure of the system.

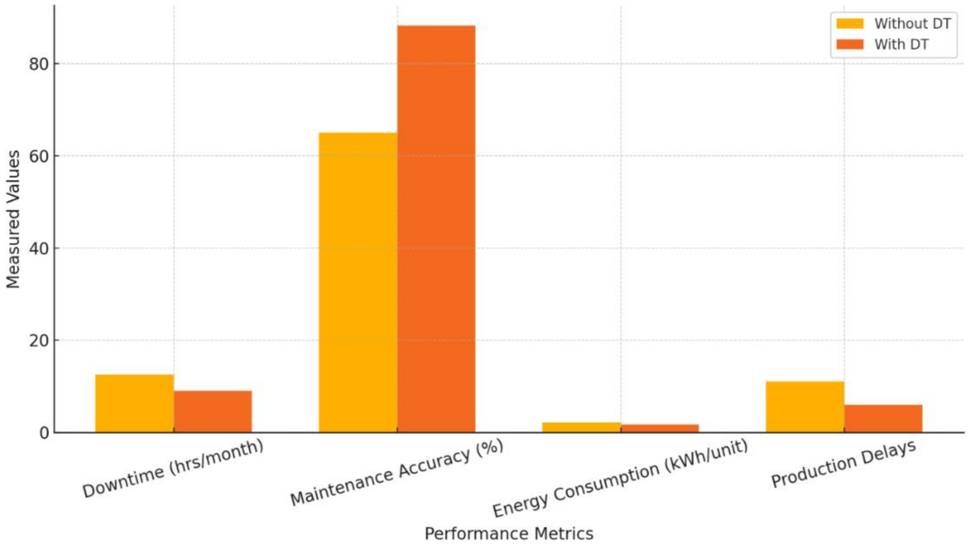

Figure 8. Performance Comparison: Without DT vs With DT

The DT framework also increased energy efficiency due to inbuilt capability of intelligently optimizing the process and deploying adaptive control on it. The unit energy use was decreased by 19 per cent; that is 2.1 kWh to 1.7 kWh. Increased efficiency is explained by the fact that the system would be able to study the usage patterns and optimize cycles of machine operation with closed-loop feedback. Moreover, the number of cases of delays in production was also cut down by 11 to 6 in the number of occurrences marking a 45.5 per cent improvement. This saving is due the ability of the DT system to simulate and preemptively reconfigure to deal with operational turmoil. These enhancements do not only help in cost-saving factors but provide additional production, throughputs and sustainability into making the digital twin of a smart factory an important asset in enabling smart factory performances.

Two major visual elements prove these findings. First, the dashboard interface in the real-time allows the operators to gain live system health conditions metrics, KPI trends, and predictive alerts increasing their situational awareness and decision-making. Second, DT feedback loop in CNC-applications demonstrates how the control unit receives sensor information, aggregates this information at the edge, analyzes using an AI model and updates itself using the feedback loop. The cited closed-loop mechanism is a prime example of the synergy of physical and digital worlds, which makes the process of machining adaptive and instantly responds to deviations. All of these outcomes show the ability of the DT system to serve as a cognitive layer in smart manufacturing, operating intelligence, and resilient automation.

Table 1. Comparative Performance Metrics Before and After Digital Twin Implementation in Smart Manufacturing

Metric	Without DT	With DT	Improvement
Downtime (hrs/month)	12.5	9	28%
Maintenance Prediction Accuracy (%)	65	88.3	36%
Energy Consumption (kWh/unit)	2.1	1.7	-19%
Production Delay Occurrences	11	6	-45.50%

6. CONCLUSION

The adoption of Digital Twin (DT) technology in smart manufacturing settings marks another paradigm shift in the monitoring, controlling and optimization of industrial systems. Through real-time data synchronization and hybrid modeling and using the power of AI to enable proactive and predictive decision-making through data analytics, DTs enable manufacturers to transform reactive to proactive and predictive operations. The tier-based structure of the architecture evoked in this piece of work, which encompasses sensor enabled data acquisition, edge computing, centralized simulation engines, intelligent machine learning models, and end user centric dashboards all illustrate the comprehensive feature set of a strong

DT frame. The quantitative outcomes prove the impact on the system to demonstrate significant enhancements in reduction of downtimes, predictions of maintenance, energy performance and production continuity. Besides, the framework includes security features like blockchain, federated learning, and role-based access control as well as being embedded within it offering performance, trust, data privacy, and resilience in complex industrial environments. The role of digital twins as the enabling activity will grow as manufacturing trend shift to autonomous systems and self-optimizing networks, in which continuous learning, adaptive control, and smooth human-machine teamwork are essential. Further development in scalability, fidelity, and interoperability of DTs will be the next step in the development of the DTs in the future research, preparing the foundation of fully digitalized and cyber-safe Industry 5.0 systems.

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