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Digital Maintenance in the Digital Twin Era

Proceedings of the 64th ESReDA Seminar & Doctoral Workshop

Deusto

Engineering

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Work funded by project SUSTASKILLS: Development of a roadmap for the implementation of skills related to industrial symbiosis and energy efficiency to achieve a sustainable process industry. Grant Agreement No PUE_2023_1_0006. The sole responsibility for the issues treated in the present paper lies with the authors; the Basque Gobernment is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

Work funded by project SKILLS4EII: Development of a roadmap for the implementation of skills related to industrial symbiosis and energy efficiency to achieve a sustainable process industry. Project N101184954. The sole responsibility for the issues treated in the present paper lies with the authors; the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

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ISBN: 978-84-1325-228-5

Digital Twin aiding more effective Digital Maintenance

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Abstract

This presentation explores the revolutionary impact of Digital Twins in maintenance operations across industries. By creating real-time digital replicas of physical assets, organizations can implement predictive maintenance strategies, conduct remote diagnostics, and optimize operational efficiency. The integration of Digital Twins with maintenance practices enables data-driven decision-making, reduces downtime, and promotes environmental sustainability. Case studies from manufacturing, energy, and transportation sectors demonstrate significant improvements in cost savings and operational performance, highlighting the transformative potential of Digital Maintenance in the Digital Twin Era.

1. Introduction

In the era of digital transformation, the concept of Digital Twins has emerged as a revolutionary approach to managing and optimizing the lifecycle of physical assets, systems, and processes. This talk delves into the transformative potential of Digital Maintenance in the Digital Twin Era, highlighting the seamless integration of digital replicas with real-world operations to foster unprecedented levels of efficiency, predictability, and sustainability in maintenance practices.

We will explore how Digital Twins serve as dynamic, real-time reflections of physical assets, allowing for meticulous monitoring, analysis, and simulation. Through vivid examples, we'll demonstrate the benefits of this paradigm, such as predictive maintenance, which leverages data analytics and machine learning to anticipate failures and optimize maintenance schedules, thereby reducing downtime and extending asset lifespan.

Further, the talk will showcase the role of Digital Twins in facilitating remote maintenance operations. By providing a comprehensive, virtual view of assets, maintenance professionals can perform diagnostics and identify issues without being physically present, enhancing safety and reducing response times.

We'll also explore the environmental benefits of Digital Maintenance within the Digital Twin framework. By optimizing maintenance schedules and operations, organizations can significantly reduce their carbon footprint and resource consumption, contributing to more sustainable industrial practices.

Finally, the presentation will highlight case studies from various industries, including manufacturing, energy, and transportation, where the adoption of Digital Twins has led to substantial cost savings, improved operational efficiency, and enhanced decision-making processes. These examples will illustrate the tangible value and competitive advantage that Digital Maintenance in the Digital Twin Era offers to forward-thinking organizations.

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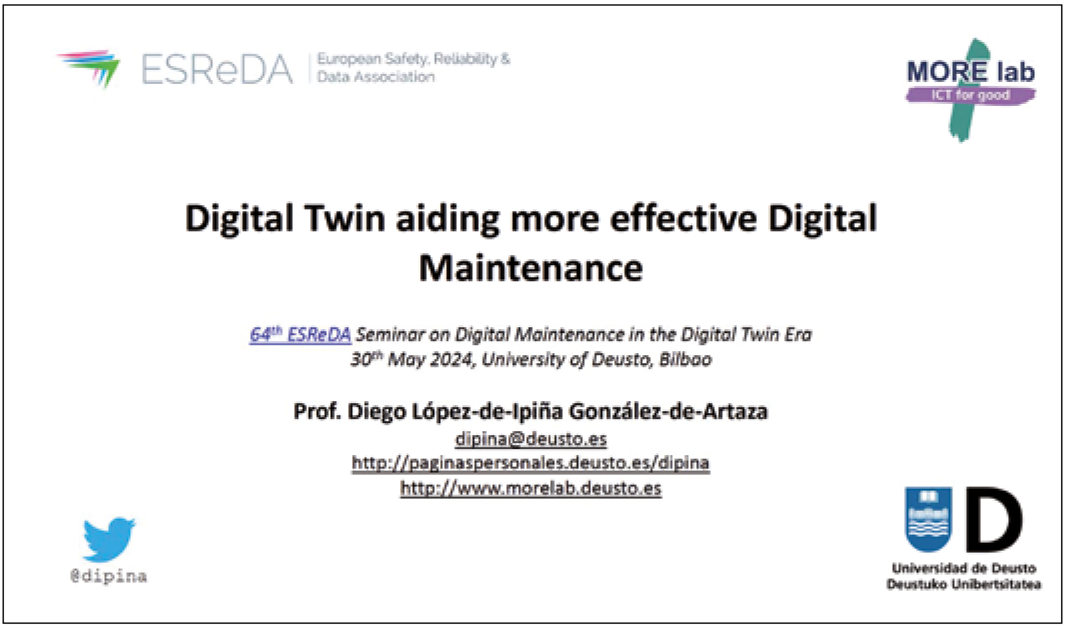
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64th ESReDA Seminar on Digital Maintenance in the Digital Twin Era
30th May 2024, University of Deusto, Bilbao
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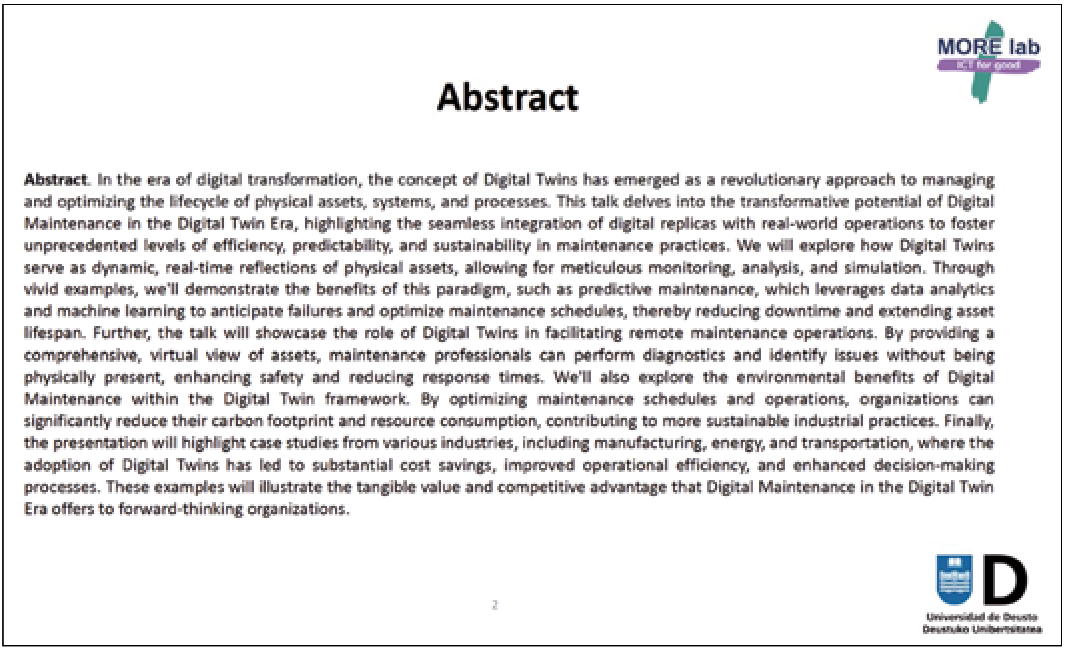
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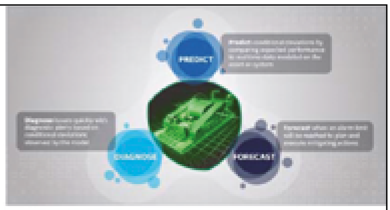
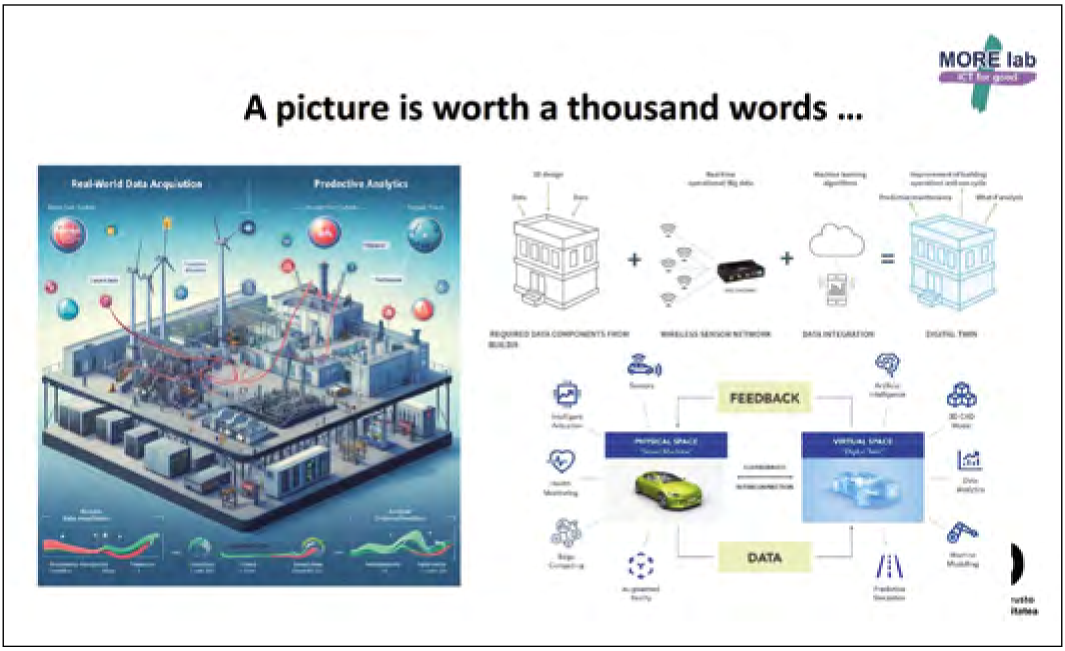
Digital Twin definition



- A digital twin is a virtual **representation of a physical object or system**, integrating IoT sensors, real-time data, and simulations **to mirror and predict the behavior** of its physical counterpart
  - **Real-time Data Synthesis:** Digital twins continuously collect and synthesize data from various sources, including IoT sensors, to update and maintain their accuracy in real-time.
  - **Predictive Maintenance**: They enable predictive maintenance by forecasting potential issues and equipment failures before they occur.
  - **Simulation and Modeling**: By simulating different scenarios and conditions, digital twins help optimize systems and processes without the risks associated with physical testing.
  - **Optimization of Operations:** They assist in refining operational efficiency by providing insights that help minimize downtime and reduce costs.
  - **Lifecycle Management**: Digital twins manage the entire lifecycle of their physical counterparts, from design and manufacturing to operation and decommissioning.
  - **Decision Support**: They offer valuable support for decision-making processes by providing comprehensive insights and outcomes of various hypothetical scenarios.

Key aspects of a Digital Twin

- **Physical Counterpart:** A digital twin is always linked to a real-world entity, such as a machine, building, product, or even a city.
- **Data Integration:** Sensors attached to the physical entity collect data on its performance, condition, and surrounding environment. This data is then fed into the digital twin, keeping it constantly updated.
- **Digital Model:** The digital twin is a computer-generated model that incorporates data from the physical entity, engineering designs, and other relevant information. This model can be as simple or complex as needed, depending on the application.
- **Analytics and Simulation**: The digital twin can be used to analyze data from the physical entity and run simulations to predict future performance, identify potential problems, and optimize operations.
- **Improved Decision-Making**: By providing insights into the real-world entity, the digital twin can help stakeholders make better decisions about design, maintenance, and overall operations.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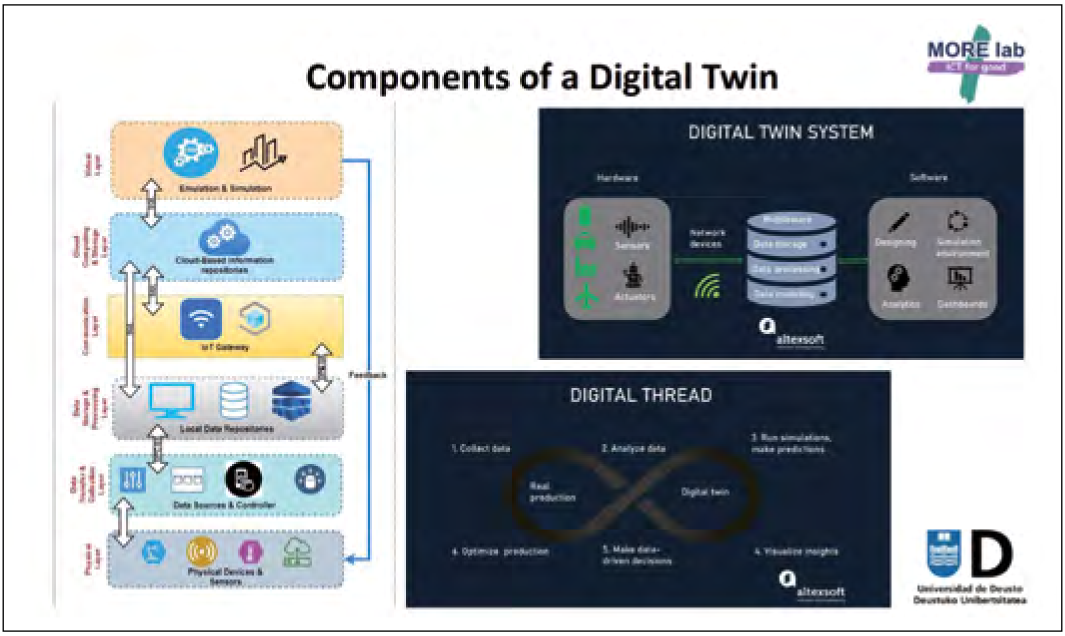
A picture is worth a thousand words ...
Real-World Data Acquisition
Predictive Analytics
REQUIRED DATA COMPONENTS FROM BUILDER
WIRELESS SENSOR NETWORK
DATA INTEGRATION
DIGITAL TWIN
FEEDBACK
PHYSICAL SPACE
VIRTUAL SPACE
DATA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Components of a Digital Twin
Emulation & Simulation
Cloud-Based information repositories
IoT Gateway
Local Data Repositories
Data Sources & Controller
Physical Devices & Sensors
Feedback
DIGITAL TWIN SYSTEM
Hardware
Software
Sensors
Actuators
Network devices
Middleware
Data storage
Data processing
Data modeling
Designing
Simulation environment
Analytics
Dashboards
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DIGITAL THREAD
1. Collect data
2. Analyze data
3. Run simulations, make predictions
Real production
Digital twin
5. Make data-driven decisions
4. Visualize insights
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Landscape of Digital Twin solutions
• General-purpose platforms
– Microsoft Azure Digital Twins: This cloud-based platform provides a foundation for building next-generation IoT solutions. It facilitates data-driven workspaces, allowing integration with various Azure services like AI, analytics, and storage. (https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/digital-twins/overview)
– PTC ThingWorx: A comprehensive suite for building, deploying, and managing digital twins across the entire product lifecycle. It caters to a wide range of industries, particularly manufacturing and industrial operations. ThingWorx offers a low-code development environment for user-friendly customization. (https://www.ptc.com/en/industry-insights/digital-twin)
– Siemens MindSphere: This cloud-based platform focuses on industrial IoT applications. It offers tools for creating digital twins of machines, production lines, and entire factories. MindSphere facilitates remote monitoring, predictive maintenance, and performance optimization. (https://design.mindsphere.io/)
• Industry specific solutions
– GE Digital Twin Software (Manufacturing): GE's solution boasts features tailored for monitoring equipment performance in manufacturing settings. It provides detailed analytics to refine processes and ensure optimal performance. GE's software integrates with platforms like Microsoft, enhancing its usability and expanding its toolkit. (https://www.ge.com/digital/applications/digital-twin)
– AVEVA (Oil & Gas, Chemicals): This provider offers solutions for industrial asset management, including digital twin capabilities. AVEVA's digital twins focus on monitoring equipment health, optimizing maintenance schedules, and improving overall operational efficiency in process industries. (https://www.aveva.com/en/solutions/digital-transformation/digital-twin/)
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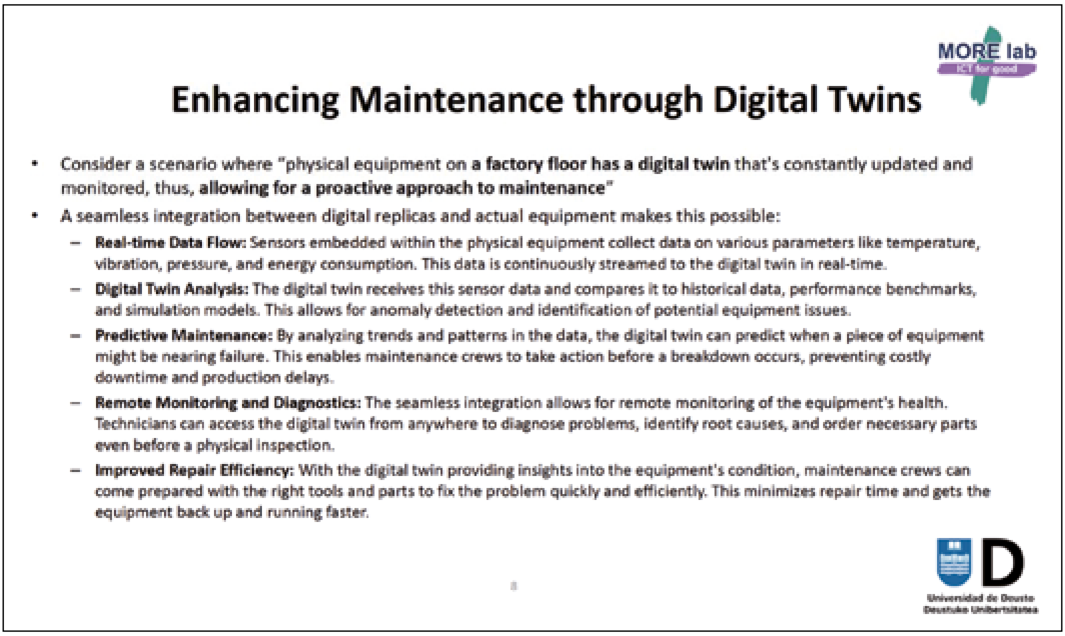
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Enhancing Maintenance through Digital Twins
• Consider a scenario where "physical equipment on a factory floor has a digital twin that's constantly updated and monitored, thus, allowing for a proactive approach to maintenance"
• A seamless integration between digital replicas and actual equipment makes this possible:
– Real-time Data Flow: Sensors embedded within the physical equipment collect data on various parameters like temperature, vibration, pressure, and energy consumption. This data is continuously streamed to the digital twin in real-time.
– Digital Twin Analysis: The digital twin receives this sensor data and compares it to historical data, performance benchmarks, and simulation models. This allows for anomaly detection and identification of potential equipment issues.
– Predictive Maintenance: By analyzing trends and patterns in the data, the digital twin can predict when a piece of equipment might be nearing failure. This enables maintenance crews to take action before a breakdown occurs, preventing costly downtime and production delays.
– Remote Monitoring and Diagnostics: The seamless integration allows for remote monitoring of the equipment's health. Technicians can access the digital twin from anywhere to diagnose problems, identify root causes, and order necessary parts even before a physical inspection.
– Improved Repair Efficiency: With the digital twin providing insights into the equipment's condition, maintenance crews can come prepared with the right tools and parts to fix the problem quickly and efficiently. This minimizes repair time and gets the equipment back up and running faster.
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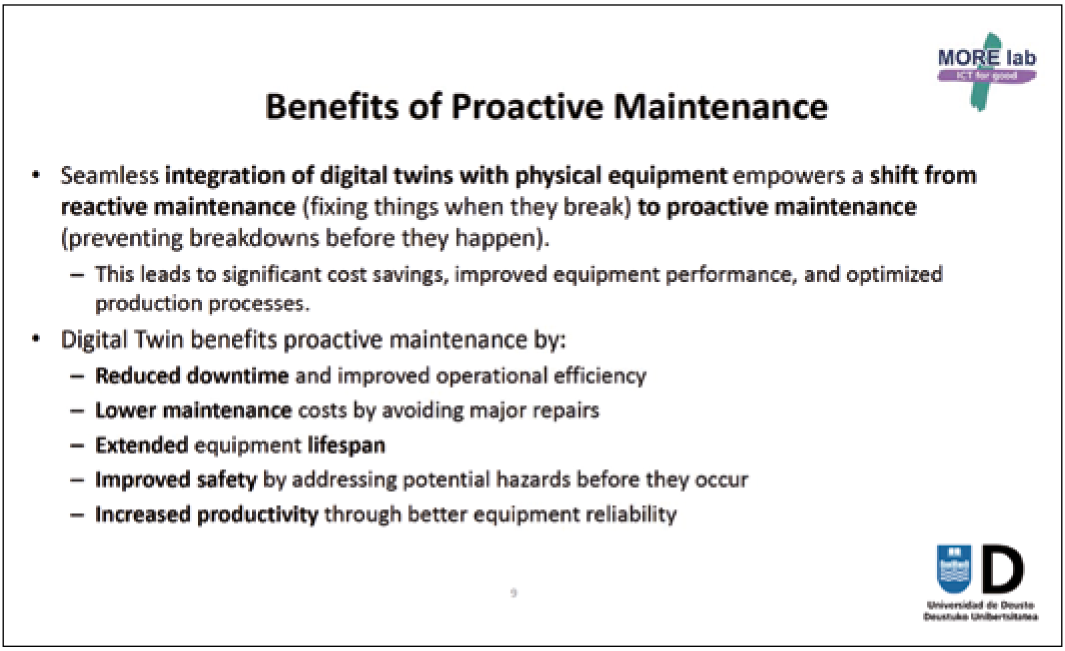
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Benefits of Proactive Maintenance
• Seamless integration of digital twins with physical equipment empowers a shift from reactive maintenance (fixing things when they break) to proactive maintenance (preventing breakdowns before they happen).
– This leads to significant cost savings, improved equipment performance, and optimized production processes.
• Digital Twin benefits proactive maintenance by:
– Reduced downtime and improved operational efficiency
– Lower maintenance costs by avoiding major repairs
– Extended equipment lifespan
– Improved safety by addressing potential hazards before they occur
– Increased productivity through better equipment reliability
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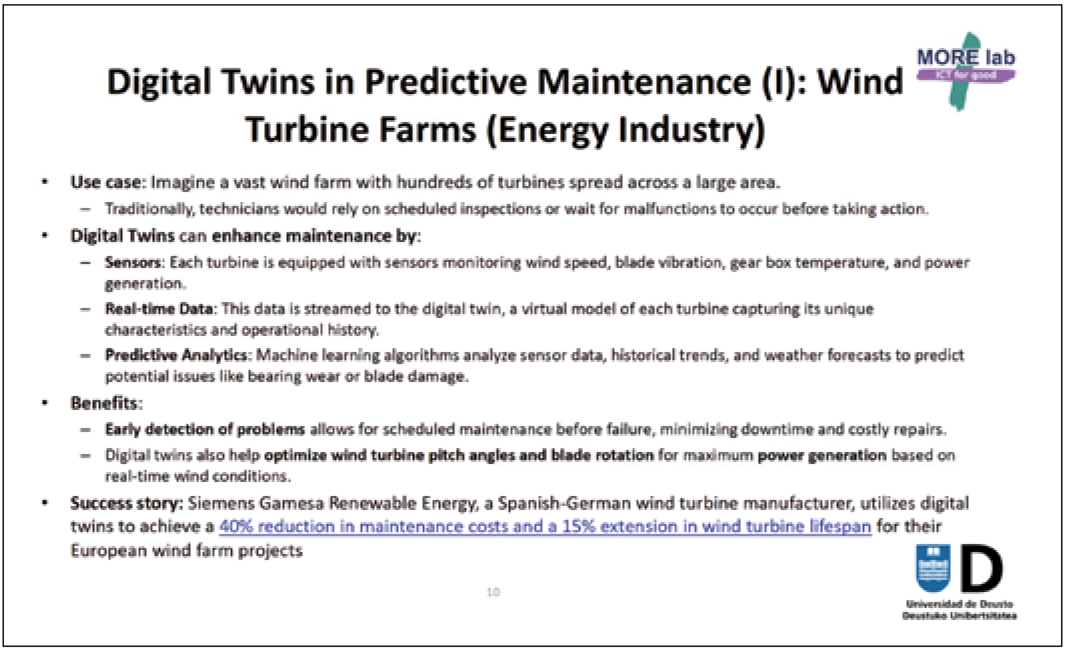
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Digital Twins in Predictive Maintenance (I): Wind Turbine Farms (Energy Industry)
• Use case: Imagine a vast wind farm with hundreds of turbines spread across a large area.
– Traditionally, technicians would rely on scheduled inspections or wait for malfunctions to occur before taking action.
• Digital Twins can enhance maintenance by:
– Sensors: Each turbine is equipped with sensors monitoring wind speed, blade vibration, gear box temperature, and power generation.
– Real-time Data: This data is streamed to the digital twin, a virtual model of each turbine capturing its unique characteristics and operational history.
– Predictive Analytics: Machine learning algorithms analyze sensor data, historical trends, and weather forecasts to predict potential issues like bearing wear or blade damage.
• Benefits:
– Early detection of problems allows for scheduled maintenance before failure, minimizing downtime and costly repairs.
– Digital twins also help optimize wind turbine pitch angles and blade rotation for maximum power generation based on real-time wind conditions.
• Success story: Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy, a Spanish-German wind turbine manufacturer, utilizes digital twins to achieve a 40% reduction in maintenance costs and a 15% extension in wind turbine lifespan for their European wind farm projects
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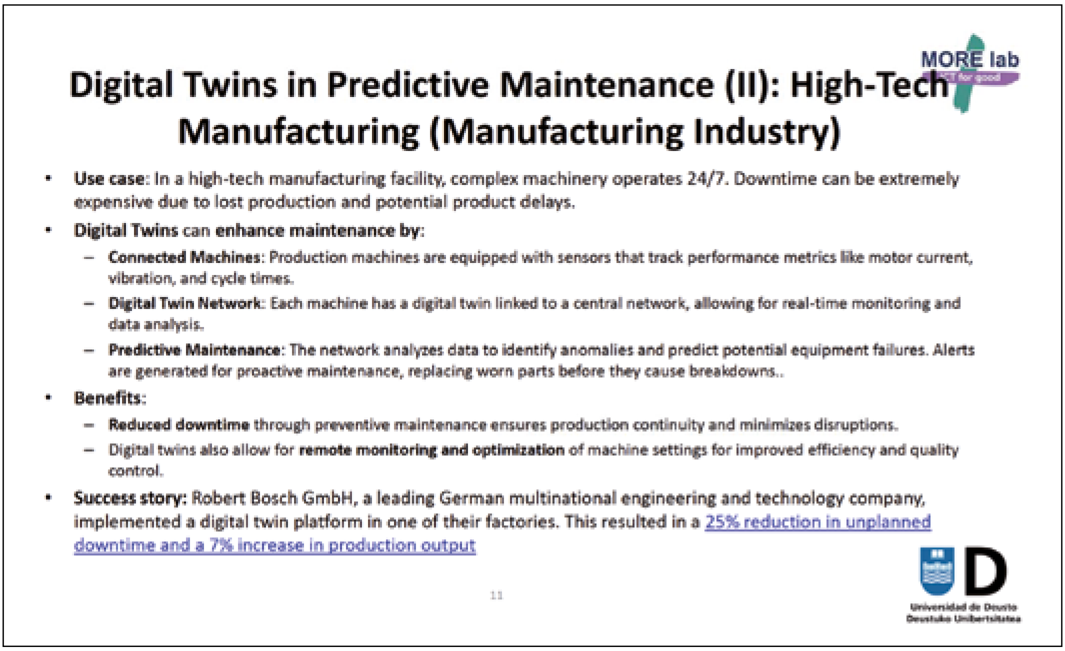
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Digital Twins in Predictive Maintenance (II): High-Tech Manufacturing (Manufacturing Industry)
Use case: In a high-tech manufacturing facility, complex machinery operates 24/7. Downtime can be extremely expensive due to lost production and potential product delays.
Digital Twins can enhance maintenance by:
Connected Machines: Production machines are equipped with sensors that track performance metrics like motor current, vibration, and cycle times.
Digital Twin Network: Each machine has a digital twin linked to a central network, allowing for real-time monitoring and data analysis.
Predictive Maintenance: The network analyzes data to identify anomalies and predict potential equipment failures. Alerts are generated for proactive maintenance, replacing worn parts before they cause breakdowns..
Benefits:
Reduced downtime through preventive maintenance ensures production continuity and minimizes disruptions.
Digital twins also allow for remote monitoring and optimization of machine settings for improved efficiency and quality control.
Success story: Robert Bosch GmbH, a leading German multinational engineering and technology company, implemented a digital twin platform in one of their factories. This resulted in a 25% reduction in unplanned downtime and a 7% increase in production output
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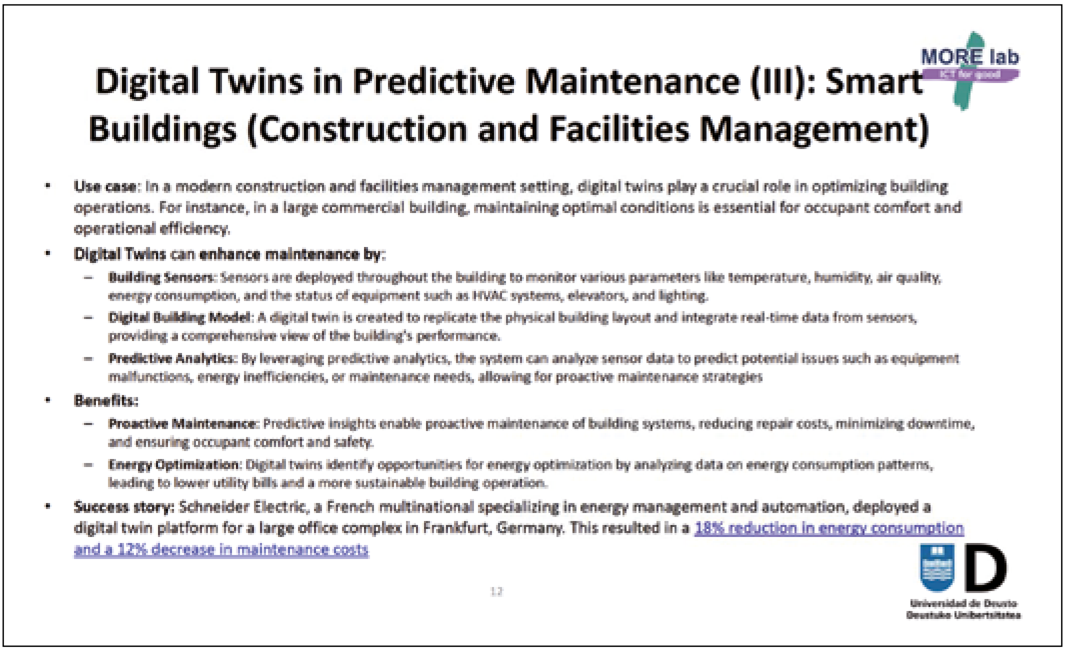
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Digital Twins in Predictive Maintenance (III): Smart Buildings (Construction and Facilities Management)
Use case: In a modern construction and facilities management setting, digital twins play a crucial role in optimizing building operations. For instance, in a large commercial building, maintaining optimal conditions is essential for occupant comfort and operational efficiency.
Digital Twins can enhance maintenance by:
Building Sensors: Sensors are deployed throughout the building to monitor various parameters like temperature, humidity, air quality, energy consumption, and the status of equipment such as HVAC systems, elevators, and lighting.
Digital Building Model: A digital twin is created to replicate the physical building layout and integrate real-time data from sensors, providing a comprehensive view of the building's performance.
Predictive Analytics: By leveraging predictive analytics, the system can analyze sensor data to predict potential issues such as equipment malfunctions, energy inefficiencies, or maintenance needs, allowing for proactive maintenance strategies
Benefits:
Proactive Maintenance: Predictive insights enable proactive maintenance of building systems, reducing repair costs, minimizing downtime, and ensuring occupant comfort and safety.
Energy Optimization: Digital twins identify opportunities for energy optimization by analyzing data on energy consumption patterns, leading to lower utility bills and a more sustainable building operation.
Success story: Schneider Electric, a French multinational specializing in energy management and automation, deployed a digital twin platform for a large office complex in Frankfurt, Germany. This resulted in a 18% reduction in energy consumption and a 12% decrease in maintenance costs
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Some further examples

- Manufacturing Industry: Digital twins have been successfully applied in manufacturing to improve product design, detect problematic areas, forecast machinery performance, and calculate maintenance-related KPIs. By monitoring equipment degradation and simulating maintenance scenarios, manufacturers can optimize operations, prevent breakdowns, and enhance efficiencies. This is exemplified in the article "How to Use Digital Twin for Predictive Maintenance in Manufacturing"
- Healthcare Sector: Digital twins have shown promise in healthcare by enabling real-time monitoring of medical equipment, predicting failures, and optimizing maintenance strategies. By leveraging data analytics and machine learning, healthcare facilities can enhance patient care, reduce downtime, and ensure equipment reliability. Success cases in healthcare can be found in literature reviews like "Predictive maintenance using digital twins: A systematic literature review"
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management: Digital twins have revolutionized predictive maintenance in logistics by providing real-time insights, optimizing maintenance schedules, and reducing operational disruptions. By simulating different scenarios and monitoring asset health, companies can minimize downtime, improve safety, and innovate faster. Success stories in logistics can be explored in articles like "Overview of predictive maintenance based on digital twin technology"

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Empowering Maintenance Professionals

- Digital Twins empower maintenance professionals with the tools and information they need to be more proactive and efficient:
  - **From Reactive to Proactive**: Traditionally, maintenance professionals relied on inspections or waited for breakdowns to occur.
    - Digital twins enable a shift towards proactive maintenance.
    - Sensor data and real-time insights from the digital twin allow them to predict potential issues before they escalate into major problems
  - **Improved Decision-Making**: The constant stream of data and analytics from the digital twin empowers maintenance professionals to make data-driven decisions.
    - They can prioritize tasks, identify root causes of failures, and optimize maintenance schedules for maximum efficiency.
  - **Enhanced Remote Monitoring:** Digital twins enable remote monitoring of equipment health.
    - Technicians can access the digital twin from anywhere to diagnose problems, identify necessary parts, and even prepare for repairs before physically reaching the equipment.
    - This saves time and improves response times.
  - **Streamlined Workflows**: Digital twins can integrate with maintenance management systems, streamlining workflows.
    - Work orders can be automatically generated based on predicted issues, and technicians can access relevant information and historical data directly within the digital twin platform.

Benefits for Companies Adopting Digital Twins

- Digital Twins offer a pathway to significant cost savings, improved operational performance, and a more sustainable approach to asset management:
  - **Reduced Downtime**: Predictive maintenance sayesinde (German for "thanks to predictive maintenance"), companies can identify and address equipment issues before they cause breakdowns. This significantly reduces downtime, leading to increased production output and improved operational efficiency.
  - **Lower Maintenance Costs**: By preventing major repairs and optimizing maintenance schedules, digital twins can help companies save on maintenance costs. Early detection of problems allows for replacing parts before they fail completely, reducing the need for expensive repairs or replacements.
  - **Extended Asset Lifespan**: Proactive maintenance based on digital twin insights helps to extend the lifespan of equipment. By addressing issues before they cause significant wear and tear, companies can get more value out of their assets.
  - **Improved Safety**: Digital twins can help identify potential safety hazards before they occur. By monitoring equipment health and predicting failures, companies can take proactive steps to prevent accidents and ensure a safe working environment.
  - **Data-Driven Optimization**: The data collected by digital twins provides valuable insights into equipment performance. This data can be used to optimize maintenance strategies, improve machine design, and develop more efficient production processes.

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Environmental benefits of Digital Twin aided Maintenance

- The integration of digital twin technology into maintenance practices offers a pathway to more sustainable industrial operations, leveraging precise data and analytics to enhance environmental performance across multiple fronts:
  - **Reduced Resource Consumption**: Digital twins can simulate various operational scenarios and predict outcomes with high accuracy, enabling companies to optimize the use of energy and raw materials. By fine-tuning processes before implementing them in the real world, industries can minimize waste and reduce their resource consumption.
  - **Enhanced Energy Efficiency**: By creating a virtual replica of physical systems, digital twins allow for the monitoring and analysis of energy usage in real-time. This helps in identifying inefficiencies and potential improvements, leading to more energy-efficient operations and lower carbon footprints.
  - **Optimized Equipment Lifespan**: Maintenance powered by digital twins can predict when a piece of equipment will fail or when its performance will degrade. This predictive maintenance means that parts are replaced only when necessary, extending the lifespan of equipment, reducing waste, and decreasing the frequency of manufacturing new parts.
  - **Decreased Emissions**: Optimizing operations and maintenance with digital twins can lead to smoother, more efficient processes that emit fewer pollutants. For industries like manufacturing, transportation, and energy, this can contribute significantly to reducing overall emissions.
  - **Lower Transportation Costs and Impact**: Digital twins can simulate logistics and supply chain scenarios, helping to optimize routes and loads. This not only cuts costs but also reduces the environmental impact of transportation by minimizing fuel consumption and associated emissions.
  - **Remote Monitoring and Control**: With digital twins, it's possible to monitor and control systems remotely, reducing the need for physical travel and inspections. This decreases the carbon emissions associated with travel and transportation of maintenance crews and equipment.
  - **Training and Simulation**: Digital twins provide a platform for training personnel in a virtual environment. This reduces the need for physical resources during training and helps in avoiding errors that could lead to inefficient resource use or environmental harm.

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Case studies: manufacturing

- The integration of digital twin technology into maintenance practices offers a pathway to more sustainable industrial operations, leveraging precise data and analytics to enhance environmental performance across multiple fronts:
  - Snellman (Food Industry): This Finnish food company uses a digital twin to monitor their cooking processes in real-time. This allows for immediate adjustments to optimize quality, reduce waste, and ensure consistent production
  - A detailed example in manufacturing involves the use of a factory digital twin for an industrials player. This digital twin was deployed to redesign the production schedule, which resulted in a 5 to 7 percent monthly cost saving by compressing overtime requirements. It also uncovered hidden blockages in the manufacturing process by simulating real-time production bottlenecks, optimizing product line sequencing to minimize downtime
  - Energy Digital Twin Application for a Heating Tunnel: A case study demonstrated a reduction in energy consumption by up to 40% through the implementation of an Energy Digital Twin for a Heating Tunnel
  - Smart Factories and Predictive Maintenance: Digital twin technology in the steel industry allowed for more accurate prediction of maintenance needs, leading to decreased downtime, improved performance, and profitability
  - A case study involving human interactions in manufacturing processes at NIST illustrates how digital twins can enhance operational efficiency. This digital twin combined simulation with real-world data and reinforcement learning to improve decision-making on the shop floor, leading to better predictions of overall production output and solutions to existing problems (NIST).

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Case studies: energy

- The integration of digital twin technology into maintenance practices offers a pathway to more sustainable industrial operations, leveraging precise data and analytics to enhance environmental performance across multiple fronts:
  - Dubai's Energy Consumption Reduction: By leveraging digital twins, Dubai managed to reduce energy consumption by 20% and water consumption by 30%, showcasing the potential of digital twins in optimizing energy usage and promoting sustainability
  - Florida Utility (Utilities): The Utilities Commission of New Smyrna Beach created a digital twin of their electric grid. This digital replica integrates with real-time data from field operations, enabling them to pinpoint inefficiencies, optimize maintenance schedules, and improve overall grid reliability
  - SIEMENS (healthcare sector)used digital twin technology during the COVID-19 pandemic to adapt ventilators for dual-patient use efficiently. This adaptation was crucial during the ventilator shortage and demonstrated the versatility of digital twins in modifying and optimizing medical device operations under crisis conditions

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Case studies: transportation

- The integration of digital twin technology into maintenance practices offers a pathway to more sustainable industrial operations, leveraging precise data and analytics to enhance environmental performance across multiple fronts:
  - Predictive Maintenance in Transportation: The use of digital twins in transportation enables predictive maintenance, resulting in reduced maintenance costs by up to 40% and increased equipment uptime by up to 20%
  - Volvo (Automotive): Volvo leverages digital twins to virtually test new car designs. This allows for simulations of various materials and aerodynamic configurations. By optimizing designs virtually, Volvo reduces the need for physical prototypes, saving time and development costs
  - Singapore Land Transport Authority (Transportation): This government agency implemented a digital twin of their entire transportation network, encompassing roads, trains, and bus services. The digital model integrates real-time data from traffic sensors and fare collection systems. This empowers them to analyze traffic patterns, predict congestion risks, and optimize transportation operations for efficiency

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Conclusions

- **Digital Twin** approach offers clear benefits for enhancing maintenance in a wide range of industrial domains.
  - A successful digitalization of maintenance hinges on a collaborative effort, where individuals with different roles must work together to leverage technology for improved decision-making, optimized maintenance strategies, and enhanced overall equipment effectiveness
    - **Management**: Leaders need to champion the digitalization initiative, securing resources, fostering a data-driven culture, and promoting collaboration between departments like IT, maintenance, and operations.
    - **Maintenance Technicians**: Experienced technicians possess valuable domain knowledge about the physical assets. They can provide crucial insights into historical maintenance data, failure patterns, and best practices. Their buy-in and active participation are essential for a successful transition.
    - **Data Analysts**: These individuals are responsible for collecting, cleaning, and structuring vast amounts of maintenance data from various sources like sensors, CMMS (Computerized Maintenance Management System), and historical records. Their analysis skills are vital for identifying trends, predicting equipment failures, and optimizing maintenance schedules.
    - **IT Specialists**: IT plays a critical role in integrating digital twin platforms with existing IT infrastructure, ensuring data security, and providing ongoing technical support.
    - **Maintenance Technicians**: As maintenance becomes more data-driven, technicians will need training in new skillsets like data interpretation, using diagnostic tools, and working with digital twin interfaces. This empowers them to leverage the data for more effective troubleshooting and preventive maintenance.
    - **New Roles**: Digitalization may create new job opportunities for individuals with expertise in data visualization, machine learning, and integrating domain knowledge with advanced analytics.

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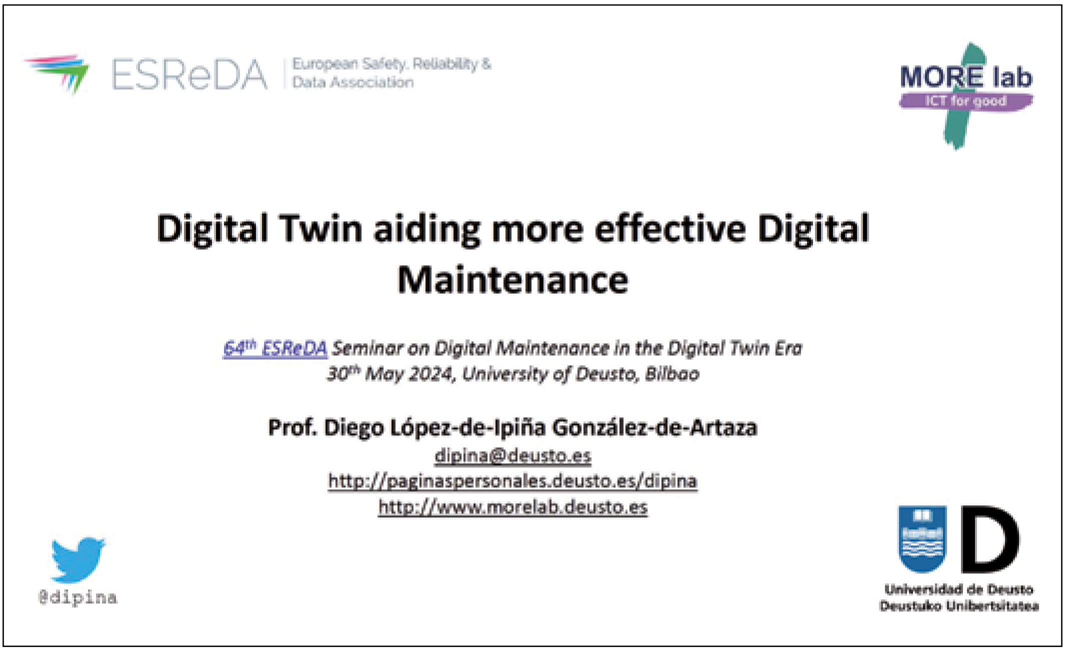
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