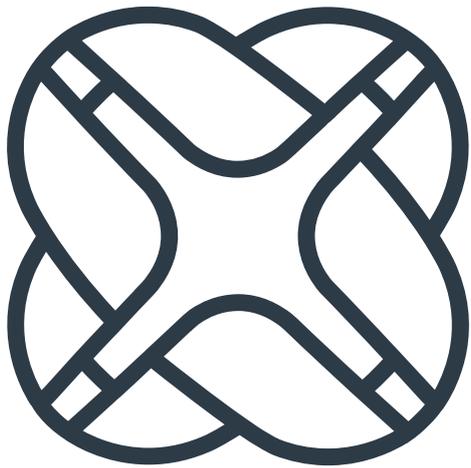


# IXON Cloud Security Whitepaper

Ensuring a safe, reliable and trustworthy IIoT solution





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# Introduction

## IXON provides a fully integrated cloud-based Industrial IoT solution.

IXON provides a fully integrated cloud-based Industrial IoT solution for machine builders, building automation integrators and system integrators. The IXON Cloud platform together with a connectivity gateway, the IXrouter or third party devices with the IXagent installed, offers an all-in-one solution for safely and easily setting up remote access to your machines, monitoring machine status and receiving alerts about important machine events – all within your own branded IXON Cloud portal.

As a cloud solution provider, IXON fully understands the security implications of operating in the cloud. All products and services are designed to provide better security than many traditional on-premise solutions.

Security shapes the day-to-day business, how IXON develops products, designs the IXON Cloud infrastructure, and more. This paper outlines IXON's approach to security for the IXON Cloud platform and the associated IXrouter. IXON's security strategy is based on the CIA triad: a security management model for protecting the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information. Over 1.000 companies worldwide have already chosen the IXON Cloud solution. With over 10.000 IXON Cloud platform users, the IXON Cloud continues to grow rapidly and it is imperative to keep all data secure – following industry best practices.

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**Data protection is IXON's number one priority and the cornerstone of everyday operations.**

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**Machine builders entrust us with critical data and it is our number one priority to protect this data at all costs, and make sure that it's always available. We created an ISO 27001 based ISMS in order to identify, prevent and defend any vulnerabilities that may arise. This systematic approach allows us to achieve our main goals: no security incidents, 99.9% uptime and no data loss.**

Willem Hofmans, CEO at IXON

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# Information security management

Protecting the confidentiality, availability and integrity of all data



A better world starts with yourself. IXON believes that you can only provide a secure cloud solution if all internal processes and procedures are secured as well. That is why IXON has developed and implemented a comprehensive information security management system (ISMS).

IXON's ISMS is certified according to the ISO 27001 standard: the leading global standard for information security in organisations. It requires adherence to a number of disciplines, including access control, (cyber)security, compliance, risk management and business continuity. Compliance with ISO 27001 shows that organisations have implemented comprehensive security programs and controls that protect their information and those of their customers in accordance with internationally recognized standards.

## The ISMS covers all of IXON's business activities:

- Development of cloud connectivity solutions for machines and devices;
- Gateway production for connecting machines and devices to the IXON Cloud platform;
- Management and maintenance of the IXON Cloud platform; and
- Selling and supporting IXON products and services.

Choosing such a wide scope for the ISMS allows protection of not only all data in the IXON Cloud, but also all of the internal company data. Thanks to the ISMS, IXON can protect the confidentiality, availability and integrity of all data.

## Extensive audits

After a series of extensive audits by DigiTrust in 2018, an RvA-accredited certification body based in the Netherlands, IXON's ISMS was found to be fully compliant with the ISO 27001 standard. Annual audits by DigiTrust ensure that IXON's ISMS remains up-to-date with all latest (cyber)security standards.



Figure 1. ISO 27001:2013 certificate belonging to IXON B.V.

## Audits by DigiTrust

This shows the ISMS is of excellent quality and that IXON protects all data according to the highest industry standards. IXON will continue to improve the ISMS to ensure compliance with the latest industry best practices and technological advancements. This will be verified on a regular basis through internal audits and external audits by DigiTrust. With the ISO 27001 certification, IXON can now focus on driving innovation, with the confidence that all data is protected.

# The IXON Cloud

## Services and servers

The IXON Cloud is a complex network of over 70 servers, distributed worldwide. It is structured to provide the best performance, availability and security. It consists of numerous server and database types, of which the key types are discussed below in more detail. All servers are located in data centers which uphold the highest security standards and have obtained ISO 27001 certification.

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Note that IXON does not own any data stored by users in the IXON Cloud; all data is owned by its users.

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### API services

The application programming interface (API) services are the heart of the IXON Cloud and are located in data centers in Amsterdam. They handle key processes in the IXON Cloud, including authorization, configuring VPN connections and connecting to our databases.

The API services are not publicly accessible, but can be used by IXON Cloud users after a unique API key is provided by IXON. Users are then able to use the API services for creating custom applications or integrations with third parties.

### MQTT broker services

The IXON Cloud uses the Message Queueing Telemetry Transport (MQTT) protocol for data transfer. The MQTT protocol is ideal for the Industrial Internet of Things, because it is highly efficient, secure, has minimal overhead and greatly diminishes bandwidth use.

IXON's MQTT broker services are used for pushing router configurations, firmware upgrades and for the transmission of Cloud Logging and Cloud Notify data. They are physically located in data centers in Amsterdam.



## VPN servers

VPN servers are located in data centers around the world to provide low-latency connections. The VPN server network is redundant, so if one VPN server goes down, the other servers will take over automatically. The API decides which VPN server is best for setting up a secure VPN tunnel, based on the physical location of the IXrouter and its nearest VPN server. All you need to do is install our VPN client (IXclient) for setting up a secure connection from your browser to your machine.

Our VPN client is a lightweight application, running in the background on your computer, that enables you to set up a secure VPN connection to your machine from within your browser.

These VPN servers are also used for setting up Cloud Access connections to your HMI or web-based controls. A secure VPN tunnel is created from the IXrouter to the server and its contents are then streamed to your browser using an HTTPS or secure WebSocket connection.



Figure 2: IXON Cloud data center locations across the globe.

## Kubernetes cluster

The IXON Cloud platform contains multiple Kubernetes clusters for enabling and managing microservices. This modern architectural style ensures optimal scalability and availability of the IXON Cloud platform. Microservices allow large applications to be structured as a collection of loosely coupled, smaller applications (services) that can be managed and updated individually, without downtime. Each microservice is built as a Docker container and Kubernetes is used for managing all these microservices.

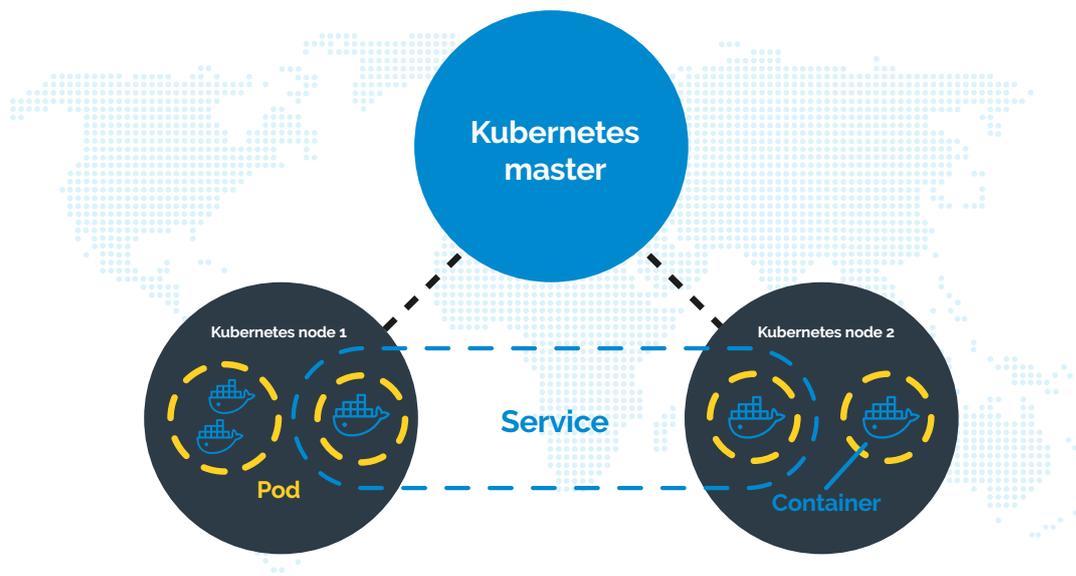


Figure 3: Kubernetes cluster. The Kubernetes master acts as a manager for Docker containers. It can manage and update these containers individually, in order to build a modern, fast and scalable application.

## Relational database cluster

The relational database stores information about IXON Cloud users, companies, devices, etc. It is set up redundantly using a master-slave structure across multiple data centers in Amsterdam. The Master receives and processes all requests to view or edit the database.

The Slave replicates all write/update events on the Master and creates a backup every four hours. In case of any issues with the Master, the roles can be switched to ensure database availability. Only the IXON API, Slave and Kubernetes cluster are able to communicate with the Master; all other connections are refused outright.

### Non-relational database cluster

The non-relational database stores data on IXON Cloud platform events, generated alarms, logs, etc. This database is configured as a replica set, of which the primary server receives and processes all requests, and the secondary server replicates the primary server.

This configuration ensures high availability and redundancy for the non-relational database. Only the IXON API, other servers in the replica set or Kubernetes cluster are able to communicate with the non-relational database; all other connections are refused outright. The database servers are located across multiple data centers in Amsterdam.

### Time series database cluster

Machine data gathered with Cloud Logging is sent to the lightweight and highly efficient MQTT protocol. This protocol uses the MQTT broker: a central station for receiving and sending data messages. After the IXrouter collects the data, it is first passed to our MQTT broker. There it is timestamped and stored in a buffer database. Next, a time correction is applied to account for any possible discrepancies between the IXrouter's internal clock and the NTP time (actual time).

Finally, the data is stored in a time series database cluster (InfluxDB), which is hosted in a data center in Frankfurt, Germany. The main advantage of a time series database is that it's optimised for handling timestamped data. This allows users to request data over a large period of time in just a few milliseconds and perform operations, such as calculating the mean value, in a fast and highly efficient manner. Furthermore, time series databases allow for advanced data lifecycle management options, such as aggregation or downsampling of your machine data.

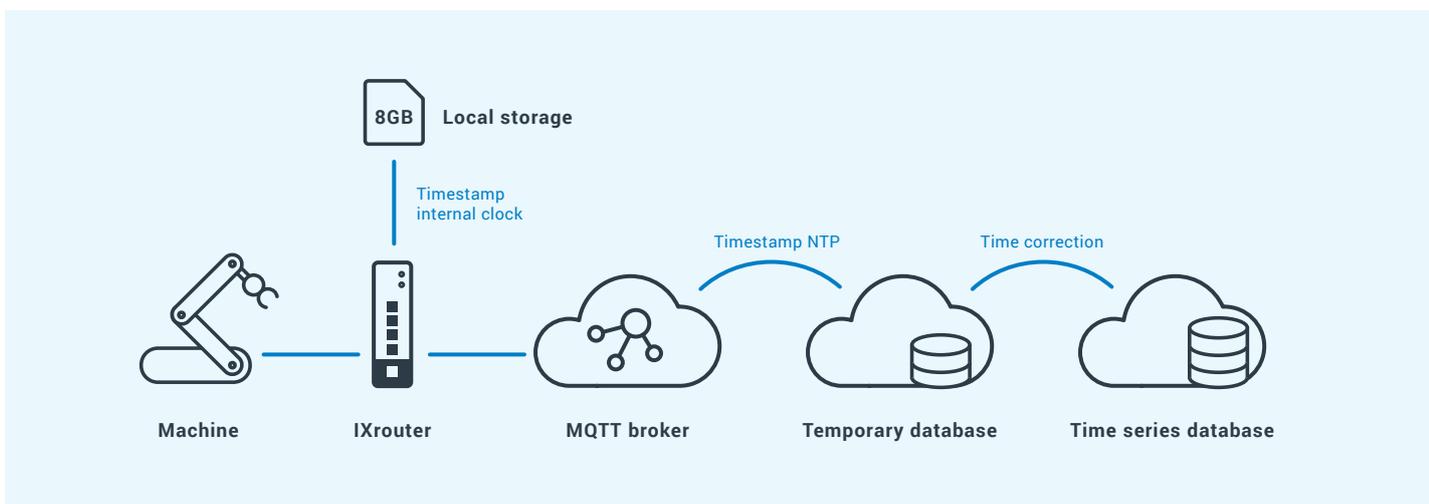


Figure 4. Machine data: the road from machine to the IXON Cloud.



Figure 5. Dylan Eikelenboom, security officer at IXON.

## Security controls

### Security officer

As an organisation that prioritizes security, it is imperative to have someone responsible for and fully dedicated to this topic.

**IXON's security officer, Dylan Eikelenboom, is part of the in-house R&D team and responsible for securing the IXON Cloud.**

He works in close collaboration with operational management, IT management and process management. This guarantees that security is an integral part of IXON. His main tasks include monitoring the IXON Cloud, vulnerability management, ensuring redundancy, and ensuring overall security is in line with the highest industry standards.



## Encrypted connections

Encrypted connections are necessary to prevent attacks which can let attackers gain access to accounts and sensitive information.

All connections to and from the IXON Cloud and between Cloud services are therefore encrypted using HTTPS with TLS 1.2 or higher. MQTT connections are also TLS encrypted to ensure the confidentiality of your machine data. VPN connections use single-use VPN certificates and are encrypted using AES-256-CBC with SHA512. IXON Cloud user passwords are stored as hashes using PBKDF2 with 12 bytes salt, 12000 iterations and SHA512 + HMAC.

## Centralized monitoring, logging and analysis

The IXON Cloud is monitored 24/7 and logs are stored and analyzed on a centralized logging platform. The centralized logging platform is mainly focused on collecting information about employee actions on IXON's systems, server performance and database requests. It uses artificial intelligence to detect critical events and anomalies in real time before they affect users. IXON's security officer is tasked with analyzing all monitoring and logging reports in order to quickly identify and react to any performance issues, unusual server activity or unauthorized actions.

## Vulnerability management

A third-party vulnerability solution scans the IXON Cloud regularly for any external vulnerabilities. Scan results are reported in a centralized overview and assessed by the security officer. In addition, IXON's servers are audited daily by another third party specialized in server security and system hardening. Server auditing is aimed at determining system health by detecting any internal vulnerabilities or configuration management weaknesses.

A centralized overview of the audit results shows the status of each server and provides guidance for improvement. This enables IXON to quickly react to any vulnerabilities and to confirm that each server matches the highest security standards.



## Access control

IXON has implemented a strict control policy for accessing servers. Only a few of IXON's senior developers are able to access the IXON Cloud's servers. Other developers may be given access to a server temporarily, if this is necessary for their task, under the direct supervision of a senior developer. Developers log into servers using their own unique SSH key. All server logins and changes are monitored 24/7 and logged to the centralized logging platform for analysis.

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We implemented a strict control policy for accessing servers.

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## Software development life cycle

IXON's software development life cycle is focused on delivering secure, high quality software. All software is tracked through an advanced software versioning management system. New code is developed following language-specific coding conventions and secure coding techniques.

All software changes are reviewed by at least one other developer and are thoroughly tested through manual and fully automated tests. IXON's software versioning management system has been designed for continuous integration, delivery and deployment. This means that for most software updates, all code is:

- Automatically tested with 100% code coverage;
- After all tests have passed, software changes are automatically scheduled for release, and;
- Software is then automatically released, without human intervention.

This method of automated testing and releasing software changes greatly reduces risks for each release and enables developers to get valuable features and improvements out fast and in a sustainable way.



# IXrouter security



### **Built-in firewall separates your machine from the internet**

Machine controllers were never designed for security. Their operating systems are not updated and do not contain the latest security mechanisms. It is imperative that these machine controllers are never connected to a company network while linked to other devices. The IXrouter can isolate these from the company network with its built-in firewall.

The IXrouter is a robust and compact industrial router, the edge gateway that connects machines to the IXON Cloud. Its built-in firewall completely separates the WAN port (company network) from the LAN ports (machine network). It blocks all communication except for authorized and encrypted data verified by a valid identity certificate. This means that only authorized users can access the machine network via the IXON Cloud.

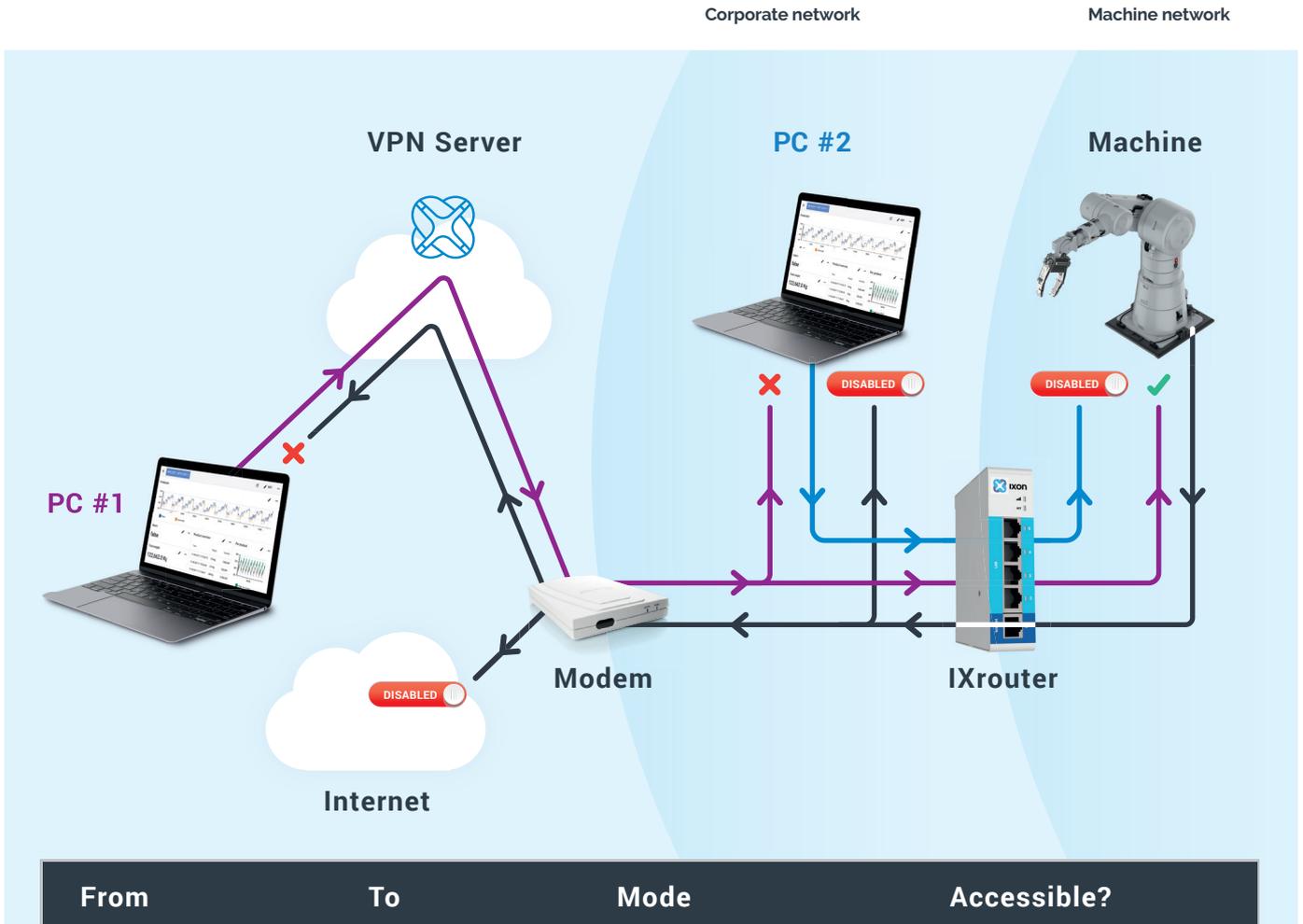
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**The firewall blocks all traffic from the WAN to the LAN ports - and vice versa - by default.**

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## What is and isn't accessible



From	To	Mode	Accessible?
PC #1	> Machine	VPN	✓
PC #1	> PC #2	VPN	✗
PC #2	> Machine	TCP	DISABLED (1)
Machine	> PC #2	TCP	DISABLED (1)
Machine	> Internet	TCP	DISABLED (1)
Machine	> PC #1	VPN	✓

(1) Disabled by default. Configurable in the IXON Cloud platform.

## Outgoing ports

The IXrouter only uses outgoing ports to establish a secure connection to the IXON Cloud, so there is no need to open any incoming ports on the local firewall in the company network.

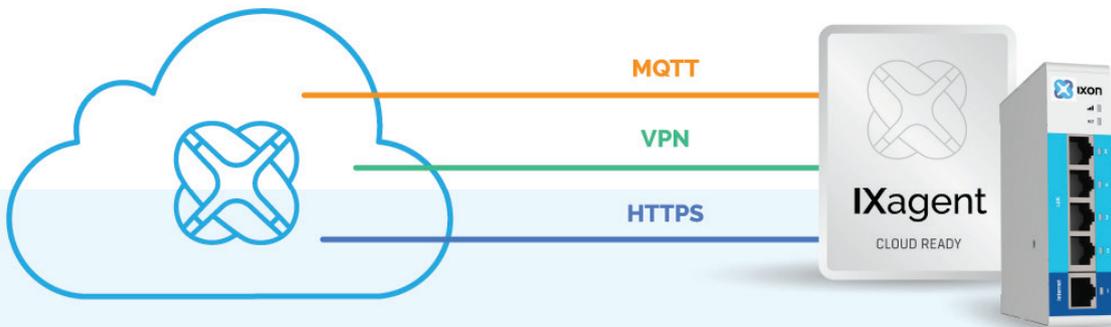


Figure 6. The IXagent (software in the IXrouter) connects to the IXON Cloud via HTTPS, VPN or MQTT over TLS.

The IXrouter is only able to connect to IXON servers with a domain ending in `.ixon.net` or `.ayayot.com`. Below is an overview of the outgoing ports and protocols that the IXrouter utilizes.

Port	Transport	Application
<b>443, 8443</b> <sup>(1)</sup>	TCP	HTTPS, MQTT (TLS), OpenVPN
<b>53</b> <sup>(2)</sup>	TCP & UDP	DNS

(1) Port 8443 is only used when stealth mode is activated for connectivity via a censored internet connection (i.e. when located in China).

(2) DNS requests are often handled by local DNS servers. In those cases the listed DNS port can be ignored.

## Access restriction that meets customers' security standards

The local IT department may choose to only grant specific devices internet access, based on the MAC address or IP address of the device. The MAC address can be obtained from the label on the side of the IXrouter or from the info panel in the IXON Cloud. The IP address can be set to a static IP address. However, by default the IP address is set to be obtained automatically via DHCP.

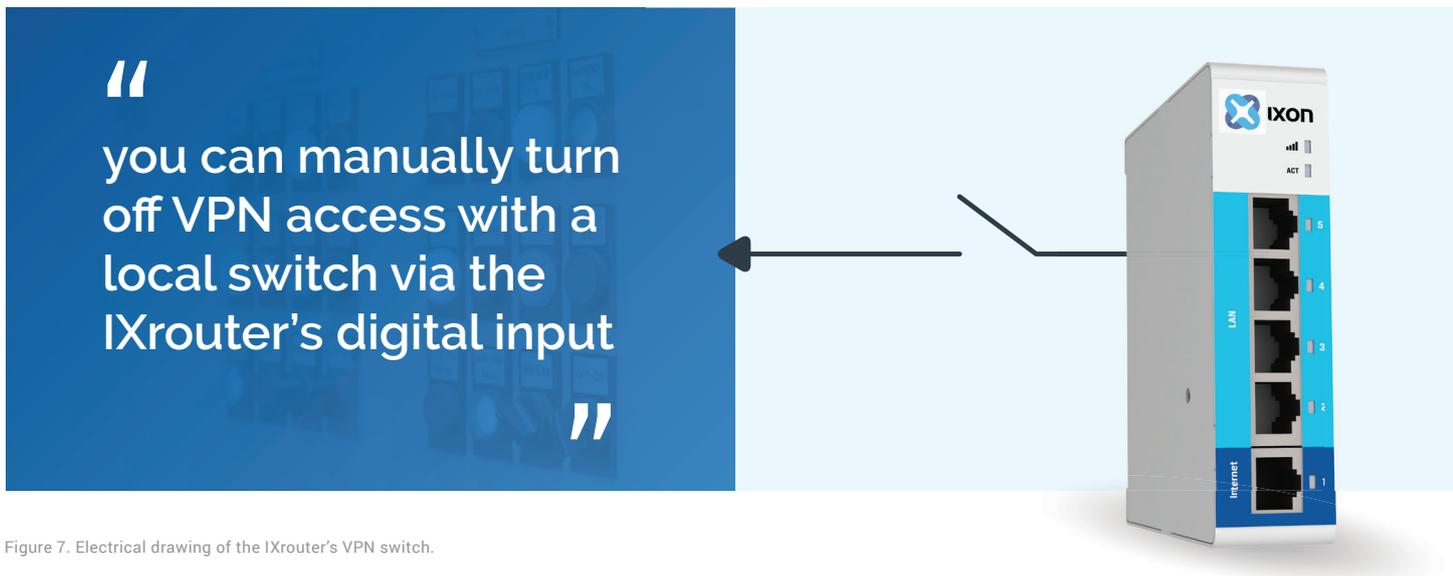


Figure 7. Electrical drawing of the IXrouter's VPN switch.

## Always keep your machine online with the IXrouter failover

Should your preferred connection drop, the IXrouter will automatically connect to another network. This is fully configurable for Wi-Fi, 4G, and Ethernet. Each connection is constantly checked by sending keep-alive messages to a public IP address every few seconds.

If the connection fails multiple consecutive times, the connection is considered down and the IXrouter will automatically connect to the first (or second) fallback. If the preferred network is up again, the IXrouter will automatically switch back to the preferred network. The IP address for keep-alive messages and time interval can be changed according to individual needs.

## Data logging even when your machine is offline

Internet connections are not always stable and may go down from time to time. In some situations, such as on a ship, there might not even be an internet connection available at all. This is problematic for users who wish to log their machine data in such conditions.

To solve this, the IXrouter has an 8GB flash memory which allows machine data to be stored offline for weeks at a time. As soon as the IXrouter comes back online again, all machine data is automatically sent to the IXON Cloud over an encrypted connection.

Additionally, users are able to receive notifications when the IXrouter has been offline for a specified number of hours with the Cloud Notify functionality. This allows users to quickly react to any connectivity problems and fix these issues as soon as possible.

## Hardware certifications

The IXrouter's certifications ensure IXON hardware products match the highest safety, health and environmental protection standards. The IXrouter has been certified for:

- CE certification
- FCC verification
- cULus listing (E492721)



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Furthermore, the IXrouter is fully compliant with REACH and RoHS regulations and is completely asbestos-free.

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# Browser and app security

## Login security

The IXON Cloud platform can be accessed via any web browser or via the IXON app on your mobile device. Users log in with their username and password. If two-factor authentication is enabled, users are also prompted to enter a one-time password. One-time passwords add an extra layer of security to your account. They are generated by an app (e.g. Google Authenticator) on your mobile device and remain valid for 30 seconds.

Unsuccessful login attempts return the user to the login screen. After five incorrect attempts, the user is locked out of his/her account for a number of seconds. This time increases exponentially (up to 1 hour) with subsequent incorrect attempts.

## Secure online purchases for additional IXON Cloud services

Additional services - such as Cloud Logging, Cloud Notify and premium branding - can be purchased directly from the IXON Cloud user portal. IXON does not receive or store any billing information.

All payments are handled by PCI-DSS level 1 compliant third parties. PCI-DSS level 1 is the most stringent level of certification available in the payments industry. This certification ensures that payment providers maintain the highest security standards and that your billing information is secured.

## User management

From the IXON Cloud user portal, administrative roles and user privileges can be configured and controlled by company administrators. This means that individual users in a company can access or manage certain services or make payments without gaining access to all settings and data. For instance, a user may only be given access to certain devices.

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The IXON Cloud platform can be accessed via any modern web browser or via the IXON app on your phone.

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# A safe, reliable and trustworthy IIoT solution

With the IXON Cloud, IXON offers machine builders a highly secure and advanced Industrial Internet of Things platform. Comprehensive security controls and redundant servers worldwide are key in achieving a safe, reliable and trustworthy IIoT solution. Protecting your information is our top priority and we will do anything to secure your data, following industry best practices.

Over 1000 companies across the globe trust IXON with their most valuable asset: information. IXON will continue to invest in security and new innovations to allow IXON Cloud users to benefit from its full potential in a secure manner.

**For more information about security, please contact our security officer, Dylan Eikelenboom:**

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