



National Electric Sector
Cybersecurity Organization

Cybersecurity Landscape for the Utility Industry and Considerations for State Regulators

Chairman's Forum on Cybersecurity
and Critical Infrastructure

Kentucky Public Service Commission, Hearing Room One
January 25 2012 Frankfort, KY



SPECTRUM OF CYBER THREATS TO OUR BULK POWER AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

Advantage: Adversaries



Motivated, adaptive adversaries exist, and they don't follow the rules or regulatory checklists



Advantage: Adversaries



SONY

citibank



Bank of America



The Washington Post



**Pacific Northwest
NATIONAL
LABORATORY**

Morgan Stanley

SECURITY

LOCKHEED MARTIN



HB Gary

YOUR NAME HERE...

Technology Landscape



- Emergent intelligence
- A new digital world order
- Widespread connectivity
- Hyper-embeddedness
- Lingering legacy

Regulatory Landscape



- Smart Grid interoperability
- Compliance vs. Security
- Data breach disclosure
- Vendor, utility responsibility
- Intelligent islanding

Cybersecurity Landscape



- Research, espionage, organized crime, warfare
- Nation state quality defense is the new norm
- Isolation is extremely difficult
- Bolt-ons are complex
- Cyber-kinetic impacts



Cybersecurity Landscape



- Aurora
 - Demonstration of cyber-kinetic attack on generator
- Stuxnet
 - “Most sophisticated malware...”
 - “Game changer...”
- Duqu
 - Industrial equipment target



Cybersecurity Landscape



*“Mr. Alghanim's lawyers allege in court filings that his brother hired investigators to illegally access his email with the help of Chinese hackers. **Cost to hire the hackers: about \$400.**”*

*One such site, hiretohack.net, advertises online services including being able to "crack" passwords for major email services in **less than 48 hours**. **It says it charges a minimum of \$150***

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203471004577145140543496380.html>

Vulnerability Disclosure



Project Basecamp "Vigilante" Hopes

Dale G Peterson

Like

+1 0

Tweet 2



the default.

While Kim Zetter's *Wired* article had a sensational "Vigilante" teaser headline, it was a fair accounting of the presentation at S4. And I was very pleased that she captured a couple of key quotes on the "why" of Project Basecamp and our goal of making it a Firesheep moment for PLC's.

Eric Butler's *Firesheep* plugin for the Firefox browser made it simple for anyone who could operate a browser to hijack Twitter, Facebook and Hotmail http sessions in a coffee shop's wifi. This security problem related to cleartext cookies that had not been addressed 2+ years after researchers disclosed it. After *Firesheep* the outcry from the users was so widespread that https quickly became a configurable option and in a few more months

Firmware	!	X	!	!	!
Ladder Logic	!	!	X	!	X
Backdoors	!	X	X	✓	✓
Fuzzing	X	X	X	!	!
Web	!	X	N/A	N/A	X
Basic Config	!	!	X	!	!
Exhaustion	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Undoc Features	!	X	X	!	!

Source: www.digitalbond.com

Anonymous Reconnaissance



The image shows two overlapping website screenshots. The background screenshot is for SHODAN, featuring a search bar and navigation links like 'Main', 'Exploits', 'Research', 'Videos', 'Anniversary Promotion', 'Settings', and 'Logout'. The foreground screenshot is for ERIPP (Every Routable IP Project), showing a 'stats' section with the following data:

stats	
Workers	0
Running:	34,188,425
Active hosts	223.255.12.248
found:	5888.5MB
Next IP group:	

Below the stats, there are sections titled 'What's This?' and 'Why do this?'. The 'What's This?' section explains the project's goal: to connect to every IP address on the internet, specifically port 80, to identify web servers.

10,000 Reasons to Worry



Global Exposure Surface Timeline



Source: www.wired.com/threatlevel/2012/01/10000-control-systems-online

Push of a Button



NETWORKWORLD News | Blogs & Columns | Subscriptions | Videos | Events | **1/19/12**

Security | LANs & WANs | UC / VoIP | Cloud Computing | Infrastructure Mgmt | Wireless | Software | Data Cent

BACK TO MICROSOFT SUBNET
Privacy and Security Fanatic
Mr. Smith

← Previous Post | Next Post →

Firesheep moment for SCADA: Hacking critical infrastructure systems now as easy as pushing a button?

Thanks to a new Metasploit release, hacking our critical infrastructure systems may be as easy as pushing a button. At the SCADA Security Scientific Symposium, Project Basecamp hopes this is a 'Firesheep moment' for hacking SCADA (PLC) systems.

By [Mr. Smith](#) on Thu, 01/19/12 - 2:26pm

Source: Network World (<http://goo.gl/K5xZ7>)

*"In some scariest than your average security news, thanks to several Program Logic Controllers (PLC) exploits that were added to Metasploit today, **"hacking SCADA systems can be push of a button easy,"** tweeted HD Moore, CSO of Rapid7 and*

Chief Architect of Metasploit."

Is There a Solution?



- Equipped, empowered and engaged people
- Protection, detection, response
- Defense in depth
- Drills, exercises
- Options, spares





CONSIDERATIONS FOR STATE REGULATORS

Nothing New Under The Sun



- Mature security practices; highly refined
 - Defense in Depth
 - Principle of Least Privilege
 - Segregation of Duties
 - Need to Know
 - Availability, Integrity and Confidentiality
- No Silver Bullet, 100%, Total Security
- Strong protection has never been easy, inexpensive or quick to implement (pick two)

Art vs. Science



“...security is an art – and you cannot legislate art.”

Bill Bryan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Infrastructure Security & Energy Restoration, US DOE

What Can State Regulators Do?



- Get and stay **educated**
- Strategic **communication**, in all directions
- Work **collaboratively** with utilities
- Support measures to get **actuarial data**
- Support secure **procurement** measures
- Support appropriate **staffing** levels
- Support security **training/education**

What Can State Regulators Do?



- Ask questions...
 - Who is ultimately responsible for cybersecurity in your organization?
 - How many dedicated security staff do you have?
 - What security training/ education/ awareness are you providing to all staff and how often?
 - Are you participating in local, state, regional, national security/ disaster or energy assurance exercises?
 - Are you using the DHS/MS-ISAC Procurement Language or IEC 62443?

What Can State Regulators Do?



- More questions...
 - Where do you get your situational awareness data?
 - What cybersecurity technologies do you use (general platforms, not specific technologies)?
 - How frequently do you performed an exhaustive inventory of all control systems and associated communication links?
 - Can the ICS networks be intelligently islanded from corporate networks and the Internet?

Protect Your Own



- State Commission systems may be targets
 - Sutton’s rule: “because that’s where the money is”
 - What type of information are you asking for?
 - How much of it do you keep?
 - How much should be public vs. classified/non-public?
- How are you protecting your systems and data?
- Do you go through security reviews?
- What if you made the front page?

Good Communication



- Ratepayers want a secure grid, until they see the costs (both capital and operational)
- “Common Practice” vs. “Best Practice”
- Early and regular, fact-based communication can minimize negative public reaction
- Remind ratepayers that smart, informed decisions are being made
- Stay well-informed, **things change fast**



Questions...

Patrick C Miller

President & CEO, EnergySec

Principal Investigator, National Electric Sector Cybersecurity Organization

patrick.miller@energysec.org

503.446.1212 (desk)

[@patrickcmiller](https://twitter.com/patrickcmiller) (twitter)

www.energysec.org