

## **The Urgent Need**

Cybersecurity in Water Systems

## 1/ IRANIAN GOVERNMENT HACKERS ATTACKED U.S. UTILITIES, INCLUDING WATER SYSTEMS

- Exploited Unitronics programmable logic controllers (PLCs)
- November 2023
- <a href="https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/alerts/2023/11/28/exploitation-unitronics-plcs-used-water-and-wastewater-systems">https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/alerts/2023/11/28/exploitation-unitronics-plcs-used-water-and-wastewater-systems</a>

## 2/ CHINA'S VOLT TYPHOON GROUP HACKED INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEMS AND DRINKING WATER FACILITIES IN THE US

- · Aim to disrupt OT assets via IT networks
- February 2024
- https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-02/aa24-038a-jcsa-prc-statesponsored-actors-compromise-us-critical-infrastructure\_1.pdf

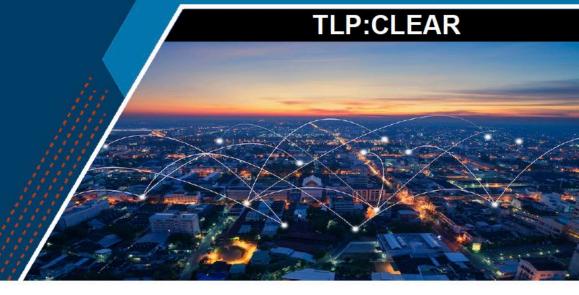
## 3/ INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED THREATS AGAINST INDUSTRIAL CONTROL SYSTEMS

- As threats get more complex, there is a need for highly skilled technologists to match.
- Security tools are only part of the solutions, aware and qualified people are essential.

## 4/ MORE CONNECTIVITY + INCREASED COMPLEXITY = ELEVATED SECURITY RISK

- The devil to security is complexity
- Ransomware more effective

# Defending OT Operations Against Ongoing Pro-Russia Hacktivist Activity





















Communications Security Establishment

Canadian Centre for Cyber Security

Centre de la sécurité des télécommunications

Centre canadien pour la cybersécurité



#### Overview

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), National Security Agency (NSA),

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Department of Energy (DOF)

#### Actions to take today:

• Immediately change all default

## **Cyber Threats and Vulnerabilities**

Operational Technology (OT) systems embody a vulnerability nexus, where aging infrastructure, expanding connectivity, and the tightrope walk between open access and robust security converge.



1/ OUTDATED LEGACY TECHNOLOGY

OT systems commonly use obsolete tech that The need for more data results in increased is increasingly vulnerable to cyberattacks.



2/ INCREASING INTERCONNECTIVITY

connections, multiplying the attack surface.

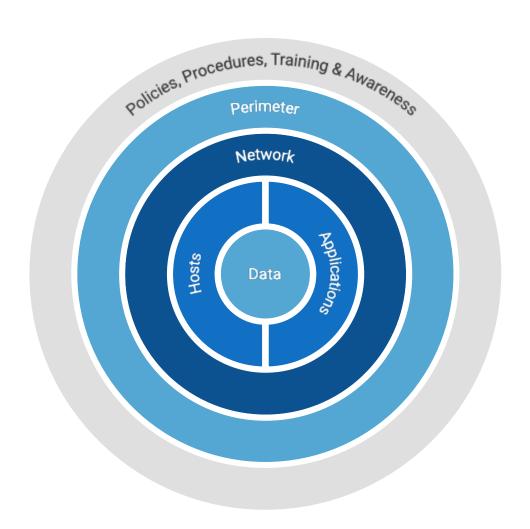


3/ CONFLICTING NEEDS

Accessibility and security measures can clash, creating vulnerabilities in attempts to balance the two.

## **Understand Risk & Strengthening Defenses**

Getting ahead of the game before mandatory and enforceable standards are forced upon us



## **Incident Response**

A key factor in industrial control system resilience



Cyber Security Incident Response Plan

## Recovery and Building Resilience

Recovery is not just about restoring systems, but also about learning and improving from the experience

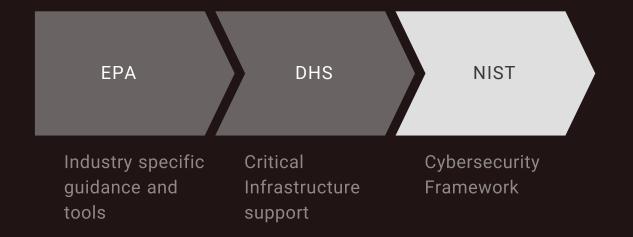






## Leveraging Resources

Build cybersecurity programs using best of breed methods.





## Conclusion

Continuous improvement is the cyber security game

THREATS TO INDUSTRY ARE REAL

AS CONNECTIVITY INCREASES, SO DO SECURITY RISKS

CYBER SECURITY IS A BUSINESS ENABLER

**USE AVAILABLE RESOURCES** 

**EDUCATE YOUR TECHNOLOGISTS** 

