



Vulnerabilities & Incident Response in Control Systems

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Digital Bond

- ◆ Control System Security Practice
 - Research and Consulting
- ◆ Available on Digital Bond Site
 - IDS Signatures for Control System Protocols
 - Nessus SCADA Plugins
 - SCADA PLC Honeynet
 - Blog, SCADApedia, White Papers, Podcasts
 - SCADA Security Scientific Symposium (S4)



Control Systems

- ◆ Monitor and control physical processes
 - SCADA: Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (WAN)
 - Oil Pipelines, Trains, Electric Transmission
 - DCS: Distributed Control System (LAN)
 - Manufacturing, Power Generation, Refinery
 - Very similar technologies

Get Out of the Data Center - - Wear a Hard Hat



Simplified Control System

Control
Center

Realtime Servers
Historians
Operator Stations



Field
Device

PLC's
RTU's
IED's



Sensors &
Actuators

Flowmeters
Gates and Valves



RESPECT

- ◆ Control Systems lag IT and IT Security by at least 5 years, but ...
 - They control very complex processes with 10,000+ or even 100,000+ points
 - Timing is extremely important, 4 ms typical
 - Huge automation, one or two operators can run an entire plant, pipeline, water treatment, train
 - Highly reliable, 24 x 7 x 365 for years
 - No downtime in many control systems
 - Failure can cost lives or huge economic damage



Why No Cyber Security?

- ◆ Control systems were truly isolated
 - Serial protocols designed for control systems
 - 4-20 mA, still represent maybe 80%
 - No Ethernet, IP or TCP/UDP
 - Difficult to reach or attack the system without a physical connection to the network
 - Even with connection requires specialized tools and a lot of control system knowledge



What Changed?

- ◆ 90's the PC invaded the control center
 - Customers demanded it
 - Vendors enjoyed leveraging Windows
 - Ethernet NIC's and LAN's were deployed
 - Enter the IP stack and routing
- ◆ Next "SCADA" data was sent to enterprise
 - Valid business reasons
 - No thought of security implications



Field Devices

- ◆ Field devices add Ethernet interface
 - Lower cost, ubiquitous, higher data rate
 - Non deterministic, no guaranteed performance
- ◆ Approach 1: Industrial Ethernet
 - Token approach over Ethernet
- ◆ Approach 2: True Ethernet
 - Protocol encapsulated in TCP/UDP packet

Field Devices More Accessible to Hackers



Control System Security

- ◆ Catching up after the exposure
- ◆ Network segmentation with firewalls
 - Enterprise now needs even more SCADA data
 - BUT NOT CONTROL
 - Learning DMZ's, least privilege rulesets
- ◆ Anti-virus
- ◆ Patching - - huge issue
- ◆ Administrative controls



Latent Vulnerabilities

- ◆ Testing of ‘Good’ data and packets
 - Does the system work with extreme reliability?
- ◆ No testing of ‘Bad’ data or packets
 - Scans or light fuzzing will crash systems!
- ◆ Partial implementation of protocols
 - Even legal protocol messages cause crashes
 - Example: broadcast and multicast
- ◆ Build your own or buy untested stacks



Security Development Lifecycle

- ◆ Little attention to secure coding standards and other elements of the SDL
- ◆ Poor architecture and semi-custom
 - Many patches cannot be applied
 - Detailed testing is required
- ◆ Repeat of everything you have experienced with IT applications in the last 2 decades
- ◆ Vulnerabilities are found by accident
 - Field device TCP/IP stacks
 - Control center proprietary app ports



How Can You Help?

- ◆ You = FIRST and Coordination Centers
- ◆ Repeat what you did for the IT user and vendor community
 - Seriously! Have a meeting and remember what worked and repeat. (We are 5 years behind)
- ◆ Attend control system industry events
 - Educate the control system community
 - Learn and develop two-way trust
 - Most control system vulns are not reported



Reporting Problems

- ◆ Real World 2007/2008 Example
 - GE Fanuc vulnerabilities took 11 months to get to the right point of contact despite diligent researcher and CERT efforts
- ◆ Proactively engage the community
 - Develop points of contact for incident handling
 - Persuade the vendor to implement common vulnerability contact methods
 - Persuade users and researchers to report



Market Differences

- ◆ Geographic

- US approach vs. UK approach

- ◆ Market Sectors

- Similar technologies
- Different communities, protocols, vendors
- A single organization for critical infrastructure?



Questions?

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