

INDUSTRIAL NETWORK SECURITY

Securing Critical Infrastructure Networks for Smart Grid,
SCADA, and Other Industrial Control Systems

Eric D. Knapp



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SCADA, and Other Industrial
Control Systems



Technical Editor
James Broad



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Foreword

One of the most mysterious areas of information security is industrial system security. No other area of information security contains that many myths, mistakes, misconceptions and outright lies. Information available online, while voluminous, will only lead information security professionals and industrial systems professionals to more confusion and more misconceptions—which may result in not only costly, but also life-threatening, mistakes.

What raises the mystery even higher is that the stakes in the area of industrial security are extremely high. While the loss of trade secret information may kill a business, the loss of electricity generating capability may kill not just one person, but potentially thousands.

And finally the mystery is solved—with this well-researched book on industrial system network security.

The book had a few parts of particular interest to me. I liked that the book covers the “myth of an air gap”—now in the age of wireless, the air gap is not what it used to be and should not be assumed to be “the absolute security.” I also liked that safety versus security is covered: industrial engineers might know more about the former while my InfoSec colleagues know more about the latter. Today’s interconnected industrial systems absolutely need both! Finally, I also liked the book’s focus on risk and impact, and not simply on following the regulatory minimum.

Both information security and industrial engineers, which are currently two distinctly different tribes, would benefit from this book. And, hopefully *Industrial Network Security* will bring the much needed union of both tribes, thus helping us build a more secure business and industrial system.

—Dr. Anton A. Chuvakin
Security Warrior Consulting

Contents

About the Author.....	xiii
About the Technical Editor	xv
Foreword	xvii

CHAPTER 1 Introduction 1

Book Overview and Key Learning Points	1
Book Audience.....	1
Diagrams and Figures.....	2
The Smart Grid	2
How This Book Is Organized.....	3
Chapter 2: About Industrial Networks.....	3
Chapter 3: Introduction to Industrial Network Security.....	4
Chapter 4: Industrial Network Protocols.....	4
Chapter 5: How Industrial Networks Operate.....	4
Chapter 6: Vulnerability and Risk Assessment.....	4
Chapter 7: Establishing Secure Enclaves	4
Chapter 8: Exception, Anomaly, and Threat Detection.....	4
Chapter 9: Monitoring Enclaves.....	5
Chapter 10: Standards and Regulations.....	5
Chapter 11: Common Pitfalls and Mistakes.....	5
Conclusion	5

CHAPTER 2 About Industrial Networks 7

Industrial Networks and Critical Infrastructure	7
Critical Infrastructure	8
Critical versus Noncritical Industrial Networks	11
Relevant Standards and Organizations	12
Homeland Security Presidential DirectiveSeven/HSPD-7	12
NIST Special Publications (800 Series)	13
NERC CIP	13
Nuclear Regulatory Commission.....	13
Federal Information Security Management Act	15
Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards	16
ISA-99	17
ISO 27002.....	18
Common Industrial Security Recommendations	18
Identification of Critical Systems	18
Network Segmentation/Isolation of Systems	20

Defense in Depth	23
Access Control.....	24
The Use of Terminology Within This Book	25
Networks, Routable and Non-routable	25
Assets, Critical Assets, Cyber Assets, and Critical Cyber Assets	25
Enclaves	26
Electronic Security Perimeters	27
Summary	28
Endnotes	28
CHAPTER 3 Introduction to Industrial Network Security	31
The Importance of Securing Industrial Networks.....	31
The Impact of Industrial Network Incidents.....	34
Safety Controls	34
Consequences of a Successful Cyber Incident	35
Examples of Industrial Network Incidents	36
Dissecting Stuxnet	38
Night Dragon	41
APT and Cyber War.....	41
The Advanced Persistent Threat	43
Cyber War.....	44
Emerging Trends in APT and Cyber War	45
Still to Come	49
Defending Against APT.....	50
Responding to APT.....	50
Summary	52
Endnotes	53
CHAPTER 4 Industrial Network Protocols	55
Overview of Industrial Network Protocols	55
Modbus	56
What It Does	56
How It Works.....	57
Variants	58
Where It Is Used	59
Security Concerns.....	59
Security Recommendations	60
ICCP/TASE.2.....	61
What It Does	62
How It Works.....	62

Where It Is Used	63
Security Concerns	63
Security Improvements over Modbus	64
Security Recommendations	65
DNP3	66
What It Does	66
How It Works	67
Secure DNP3	69
Where It Is Used	70
Security Concerns	71
Security Recommendations	72
OLE for Process Control	73
What It Does	73
How It Works	74
OPC-UA and OPC-XI	75
Where It Is Used	75
Security Concerns	75
Security Recommendations	77
Other Industrial Network Protocols	78
Ethernet/IP	78
Profibus	79
EtherCAT	80
Ethernet Powerlink	81
SERCOS III	82
AMI and the Smart Grid	83
Security Concerns	84
Security Recommendations	85
Summary	85
Endnotes	86

CHAPTER 5 How Industrial Networks Operate..... 89

Control System Assets	89
IEDs	89
RTUs	90
PLCs	90
HMIs	93
Supervisory Workstations	94
Data Historians	94
Business Information Consoles and Dashboards	96
Other Assets	96

Network Architectures	97
Topologies Used	98
Control System Operations.....	100
Control Loops	101
Control Processes	102
Feedback Loops.....	103
Business Information Management.....	104
Control Process Management	106
Smart Grid Operations.....	107
Summary	109
Endnotes	109
 CHAPTER 6 Vulnerability and Risk Assessment	111
Basic Hacking Techniques.....	111
The Attack Process	112
Targeting an Industrial Network.....	116
Threat Agents.....	122
Accessing Industrial Networks	123
The Business Network.....	124
The SCADA DMZ.....	126
The Control System.....	127
Common Vulnerabilities	127
The Smart Grid	132
Determining Vulnerabilities.....	132
Why Vulnerability Assessment Is Important	133
Vulnerability Assessment in Industrial Networks.....	137
Vulnerability Scanning for Configuration Assurance	138
Where to Perform VA Scans	139
Cyber Security Evaluation Tool.....	140
Vulnerability Management	140
Patch Management	141
Configuration Management.....	143
Device Removal and Quarantine	144
Summary	144
Endnotes	145
 CHAPTER 7 Establishing Secure Enclaves.....	147
Identifying Functional Groups.....	148
Network Connectivity.....	149
Control Loops	149
Supervisory Controls	150
Control Processes	151

Control Data Storage	152
Trading Communications	153
Remote Access.....	154
Users and Roles	155
Protocols	156
Criticality.....	156
Using Functional Groups to Identify Enclaves.....	159
Establishing Enclaves	161
Identifying Enclave Perimeters.....	161
Network Alterations.....	164
Enclaves and Security Policy Development	164
Enclaves and Security Device Configurations.....	164
Securing Enclave Perimeters	166
Selecting Perimeter Security Devices.....	166
Implementing Perimeter Security Devices	169
Intrusion Detection and Prevention (IDS/IPS)	
Configuration Guidelines.....	172
Securing Enclave Interiors.....	181
Selecting Interior Security Systems.....	183
Summary	185
Endnotes	186
 CHAPTER 8 Exception, Anomaly, and Threat Detection.....	189
Exception Reporting	190
Behavioral Anomaly Detection.....	192
Measuring Baselines.....	192
Anomaly Detection	194
Behavioral Whitelisting	199
User Whitelists	199
Asset Whitelists	200
Application Behavior Whitelists.....	202
Threat Detection	205
Event Correlation.....	206
Correlating between IT and OT Systems.....	211
Summary	213
Endnotes	213
 CHAPTER 9 Monitoring Enclaves	215
Determining What to Monitor	216
Security Events	217
Assets	218

Configurations	220
Applications	221
Networks.....	222
User Identities and Authentication	223
Additional Context.....	225
Behavior.....	228
Successfully Monitoring Enclaves.....	229
Log Collection	229
Direct Monitoring.....	230
Inferred Monitoring.....	230
Information Collection and Management Tools (Log Management Systems, SIEMs).....	233
Monitoring Across Secure Boundaries	236
Information Management	236
Queries.....	237
Reports.....	240
Alerts.....	241
Incident Investigation and Response	241
Log Storage and Retention	242
Nonrepudiation	242
Data Retention/Storage.....	242
Data Availability	243
Summary	245
Endnotes	246

CHAPTER 10 Standards and Regulations..... 249

Common Standards and Regulations.....	250
NERC CIP	250
CFATS	251
ISO/IEC 27002:2005	252
NRC Regulation 5.71	253
NIST SP 800-82	253
Mapping Industrial Network Security to Compliance.....	254
Perimeter Security Controls	255
Host Security Controls	255
Security Monitoring Controls.....	279
Mapping Compliance Controls to Network Security Functions.....	293
Common Criteria and FIPS Standards.....	293
Common Criteria	293

FIPS 140-2	300
Summary	300
Endnotes	300
CHAPTER 11 Common Pitfalls and Mistakes	303
Complacency	303
Vulnerability Assessments vs. Zero-Days	303
Real Security vs. Policy and Awareness	304
The Air Gap Myth.....	304
Misconfigurations	305
Default Accounts and Passwords.....	306
Lack of Outbound Security and Monitoring	306
The Executive Override	307
The Ronco Perimeter	307
Compliance vs. Security	308
Audit Fodder	308
The “One Week Compliance Window”	309
Scope and Scale	310
Project-Limited Thinking	310
Insufficiently Sized Security Controls.....	311
Summary	312
Endnotes	312
Glossary	313
Appendix A	323
Appendix B	325
Appendix C	329
Index	331

Introduction

1

INFORMATION IN THIS CHAPTER:

- Book Overview and Key Learning Points
- Book Audience
- Diagrams and Figures
- The Smart Grid
- How This Book Is Organized

BOOK OVERVIEW AND KEY LEARNING POINTS

This book attempts to define an approach to industrial network security that considers the unique network, protocol, and application characteristics of an **industrial control system**, while also taking into consideration a variety of common compliance controls.

Although many of the techniques described herein—and much of the general guidance provided by regulatory standards organizations—are built upon common enterprise security methods and reference readily available information security tools, there is little information available about how to implement these methods. This book attempts to rectify this by providing deployment and configuration guidance where possible, and by identifying why security controls should be implemented, where they should be implemented, how they should be implemented, and how they should be used.

BOOK AUDIENCE

To adequately discuss industrial network security, the basics of two very different systems need to be understood: the Ethernet and Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) networking communications used ubiquitously in the enterprise, and the **SCADA** and field bus protocols used to manage and/or operate industrial automated systems.

As a result, this book possesses a bifurcated audience. For the plant operator with an advanced electrical engineering degree and a decade of logic programming

for Modbus controllers, the basics of industrial network protocols in Chapter 4 have been presented within the context of security in an attempt to not only provide value to such a reader, but also to get that reader thinking about the subtle implications of cyber security. For the information security analyst with a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) certification, basic information security practices have been provided within the new context of an industrial control system.

There is an interesting dichotomy between the two that provides a further challenge. Enterprise security typically strives to secure the users and **hosts** on a network while at the same time enables the broad range of open communication services required within modern business. Industrial control systems, on the other hand, strive for the efficiency and reliability of a single, often fine-tuned system. Only by giving the necessary consideration to both sides can the true objective be achieved: a secure industrial network that supports reliable operation while also providing business value to the larger enterprise.

To further complicate matters, there is a third audience: the compliance officer who is mandated with meeting certain regulatory standards in order to survive an audit with minimal penalties and/or fines. Compliance continues to drive information security budgets, and therefore the broader scope of industrial networks must also be narrowed on occasion to the energy industries, where (at least in the United States) electrical energy, nuclear energy, oil, and gas are tightly regulated. Compliance controls are discussed in this book solely within the context of implementing cyber security controls. The recommendations given are intended to improve security and should not be interpreted as advice concerning successful compliance management.

DIAGRAMS AND FIGURES

The network diagrams used throughout this book have been intentionally simplified and have been designed to be as generic as possible while adequately representing industrial networks across a very wide range of industrial systems. As a result, the diagrams will undoubtedly differ from real industrial network designs and may exclude details specific to one particular industry while including details that are specific to another. However, they will provide a high-level understanding of the specific industrial network security controls being discussed.

THE SMART GRID

Although the smart grid is of major concern and interest, for the most part it is treated as any other industrial network within this book, with specific considerations being made only when necessary (such as when considering available **attack vectors**). As a result, there are many security considerations specific to the smart grid that are unfortunately not included. This is partly to maintain focus on the more ubiquitous

ICS and SCADA security requirement, partly due to the relative immaturity of smart grid security and partly due to the specialized and complex nature of these systems. Although this means that specific measures for securing synchrophasers, meters, etc. are not provided, the guidance and overall approach to security that is provided herein is certainly applicable to smart grid networks. For more in-depth reading on smart grid network security, consider *Securing the Smart Grid: Next Generation Power Grid Security* by Tony Flick and Justin Morehouse (ISBN: 978-1-59749-570-7, Syngress).

HOW THIS BOOK IS ORGANIZED

This book is divided into a total of eleven chapters, followed by three appendices guiding the reader where to find additional information and resources about industrial protocols, standards and regulations, and relevant **NIST** security guidelines. An extensive glossary is also provided to accommodate the wealth of both information security and industrial networking terms and acronyms used throughout the book.

The chapters begin with an introduction to industrial networking, and what a cyber attack against an industrial control systems might represent in terms of potential risks and consequences, followed by details of how industrial networks can be assessed, secured, and monitored in order to obtain the strongest possible security, and conclude with a detailed discussion of various compliance controls, and how those specific controls map back to network security practices.

It is not necessary to read this book cover to cover, in order. The book is intended to offer insight and recommendations that relate to both specific security goals as well as the cyclical nature of the security process. That is, if faced with performing a **vulnerability assessment** on an industrial control network, begin with Chapter 6; every effort has been made to refer the reader to other relevant chapters where additional knowledge may be necessary.

Chapter 2: About Industrial Networks

In this chapter, there is a brief introduction to industrial networks as they relate to “**critical infrastructure**,” those infrastructures upon which our society, industry, and way of life depend. The dependencies of critical infrastructures upon industrial control systems lead naturally to a discussion of the many standards, regulations, guidance documents, and policies that have been implemented globally to protect these systems. In addition, the chapter introduces the reader to the most basic premises of industrial security.

Of particular note, Chapter 2 also discusses the use of terminology within the book as it relates to the many applications of industrial networks (again, there is also an extensive Glossary included to cover the abundance of new acronyms and terms used in industrial control networks).