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Transforming ENERGY



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An Association Of Electric Energy Solution Providers

# Cybersecurity Technical Controls for Utility OT and SCADA

September 22, 2021







# Housekeeping – Zoom

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## Welcome to our webinar! Here are a few notes about using Zoom:

- You will be **automatically muted** upon joining and throughout the webinar.
- Please add comments or ask questions in the **chat box**.
- You can adjust your audio through the **audio settings**.
- If you have **technical issues**, please send a message directly to Britton Marchese.
- To **mute**  or **unmute**  yourself (during the Q&A portion), use the microphone icon.

Erick Conde  
Project Management Specialist, SEED Office  
USAID



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# The USAID-NREL Partnership

USAID and NREL partner to deliver clean, reliable, and affordable power to the developing world. The USAID-NREL Partnership addresses critical aspects of deploying advanced energy systems in developing countries through:

- Policy, planning, and deployment support
- Global technical toolkits.

[www.nrel.gov/usaid-partnership](http://www.nrel.gov/usaid-partnership)

# The Caribbean Energy Initiative (CEI)

Focuses on bolstering the resilience and performance of energy systems across the region, recognizing the critical role that the stable and reliable supply of energy plays in the daily economy of the region as well as during the recovery phase from the impacts of disasters.



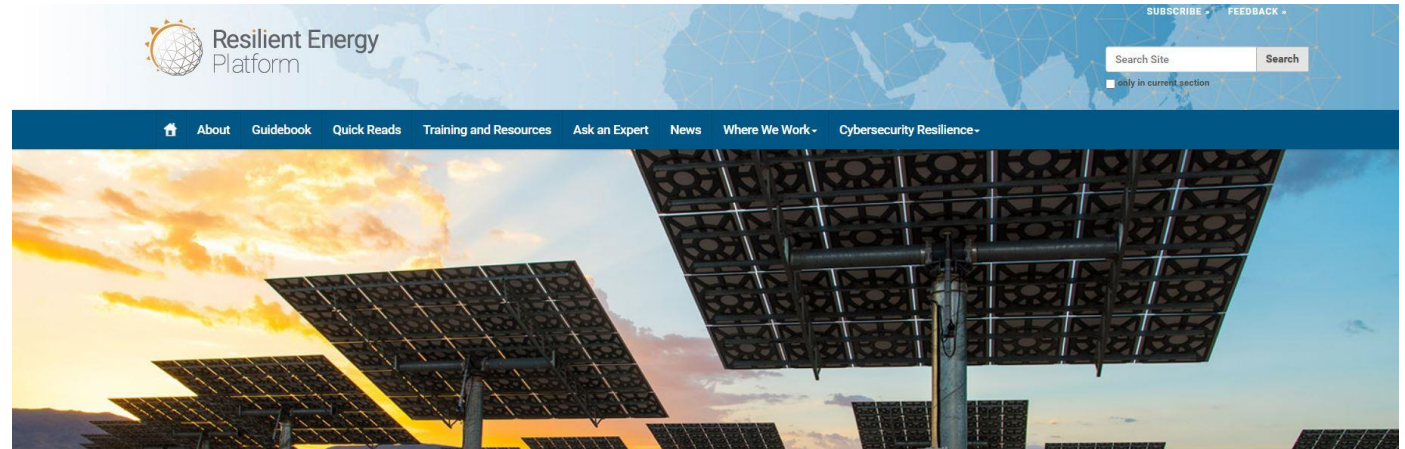
More information: <https://www.usaid.gov/documents/1862/caribbean-energy-initiative>



# Resilient Energy Platform

Developed through the USAID-NREL Partnership, the Resilient Energy Platform provides **expertly curated resources, training materials, tools, and technical assistance** to enhance power sector resilience.

The Resilient Energy Platform enables decision makers to **assess power sector vulnerabilities, identify resilience solutions, and make informed decisions** to enhance power sector resilience at all scales.



Developed through the USAID-NREL Partnership, the Resilient Energy Platform provides expertly curated resources, training materials, data, tools, and direct technical assistance in planning resilient, sustainable, and secure power systems.

<https://resilient-energy.org/cyber>



[www.re-explorer.org](http://www.re-explorer.org)



[www.greeningthegrid.org](http://www.greeningthegrid.org)



[www.i-jedi.org](http://www.i-jedi.org)



[www.resilient-energy.org](http://www.resilient-energy.org)

Dr. Cletus Bertin  
Executive Director  
CARILEC

# Regional Technical Controls Presenter

## Edward Millington

- Cybersecurity Consultant and Enterprise Security Architect based in Barbados
- 20+ years' experience in Information Systems Security and ICT
- Experience in various industries – Internet Service Providers, ICT Service Providers, Telco, Banking, Government, Consulting
- Bachelor's Degree in Electronics
- Certified Information Security Manager Candidate (ISACA CISM) and Information Systems Security Professional (ISC2 CISSP)
- **Specialties:** Policy Development, IT & Security Governance, Cybersecurity Audits, Enterprise Defense & Security, Cybersecurity Incident Management, Malware & Attack Technologies, Security Operations



Member of Institute of Engineering and Technology (MIET)

Full Member of the Chartered Institute of Information Security (MCIIS)

Member of the Information System Security Association (ISSA) - International Chapter



# NREL Technical Controls Presenters

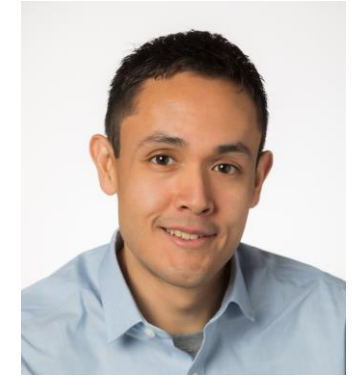
## Anuj Sanghvi

- National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- 3.5 years at NREL
- Masters in Electrical Engineering
- Technical lead — Distributed Energy Resource Cybersecurity Framework
- PI — Cybersecurity Value-at-Risk Framework
- Technical lead — Consequence Driven Cybersecurity Analysis for Extreme Fast Charging Infrastructure



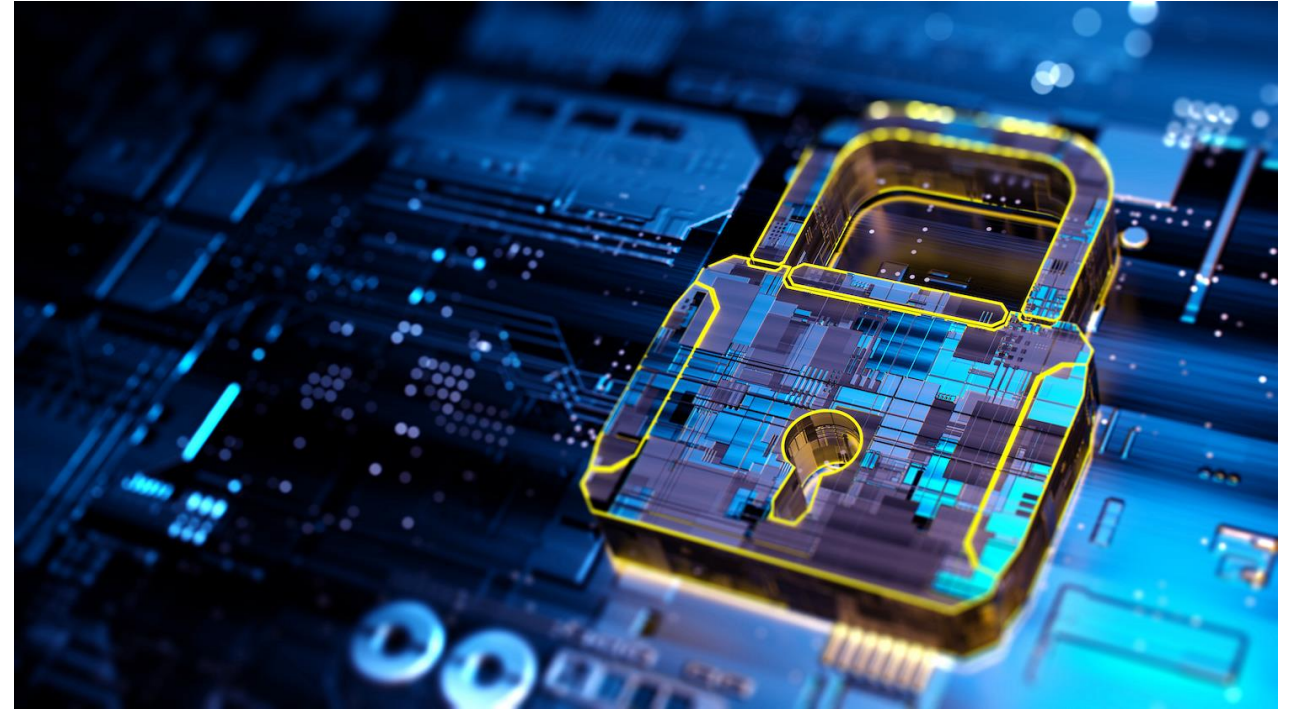
## Steve Granda

- National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- Computer Engineering
- 10+ years experience in systems, security, and software development
- Developer for Utility testbed for DARPA under the RADICS program
- Technical Lead — Grid Modernization Laboratory Consortium Firmware Command and Control



# Agenda

- USAID-NREL Building Blocks Overview
- Risk Controls
- Cybersecurity Technical Controls
- Cybersecurity for OT and ICS
- SCADA Cybersecurity
- Resources and References
- Q&A



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# Power Sector Cybersecurity Building Blocks



# Building Blocks: Description

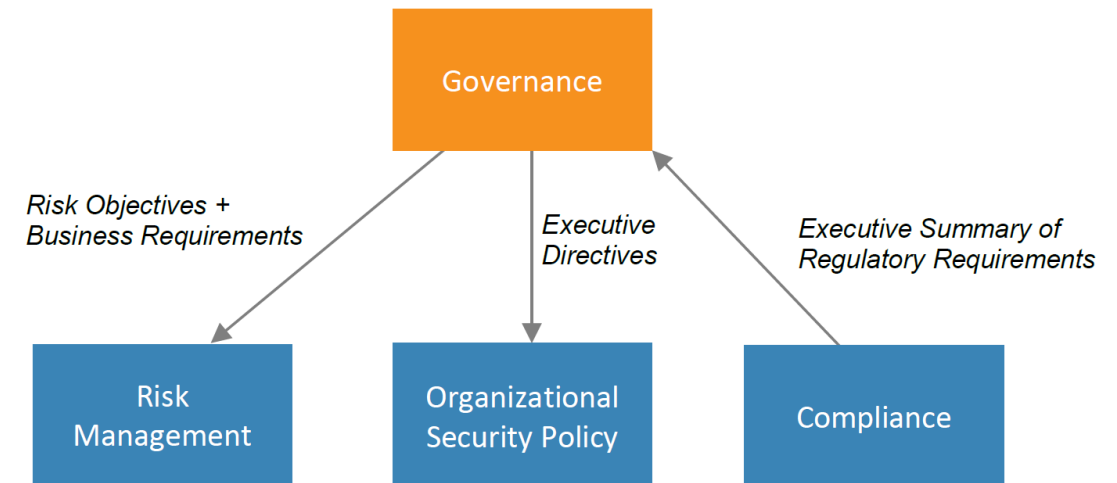
- Clusters of related activities that support a well-rounded cyber program
- Encourage utilities to think about different areas of cybersecurity
- Draw from established best practices
- Span multiple stakeholders
- Interconnected and mutually supporting
- Not the last word!



**Read the full report at:**  
<https://resilient-energy.org/cyber>

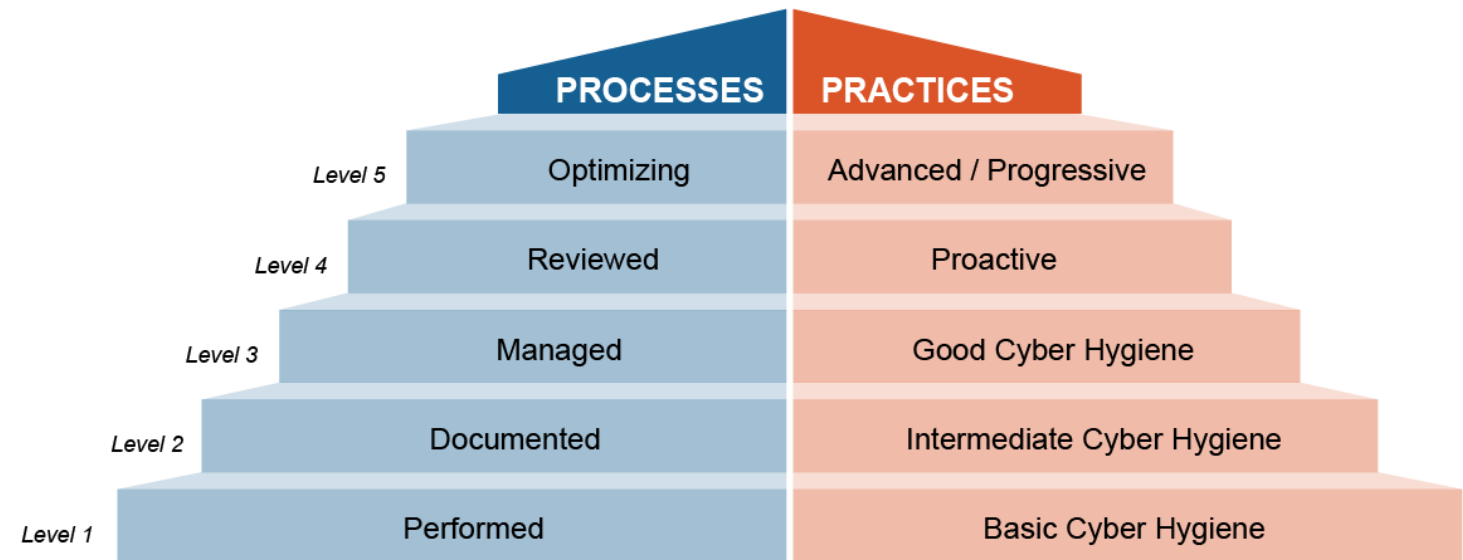
# Information Security Governance Program

- Program should be risk-based.
- Drives the creation of policies which can increase Operational Maturity.
- Creates a Culture of Security.
- A matured program will provide the ability to effectively and efficiently mitigate threats.
- A well-established program will give insight to incident response.



# Business Maturity and Good Governance

- Using the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) Framework will allow greater levels of Business Maturity Operations.
- CMMC Level 2+ demonstrates and defined an Information Security Governance Program in operation.
- Processes and Practices operating at CMMC Level 3 and above demonstrate risk-based operations in defending and securing critical IT/OT systems.



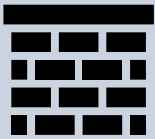
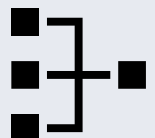

CMMC Levels, Processes and Practices

SOURCE: <https://aws.amazon.com/blogs/publicsector/how-plan-cybersecurity-maturity-model-certification-cmmc/>



# Risk Controls

# Introduction to Controls

	Preventive	Detective	Corrective	Recovery
<b>Physical Control</b> 	Physical Barriers	Cameras	Access Card Termination	Offsite Facility
<b>Technical Control</b> 	Firewall, Endpoint Security, IPS, Encryption	IDS, Honeypots, Traffic Monitoring	Patching, Updates, User/Connection Termination	Backups, Recovery Systems
<b>Administrative Control</b> 	Data/Role Classification	Access Controls & Logs	Process Termination	Disaster Recovery Planning

# Cybersecurity Technical Controls



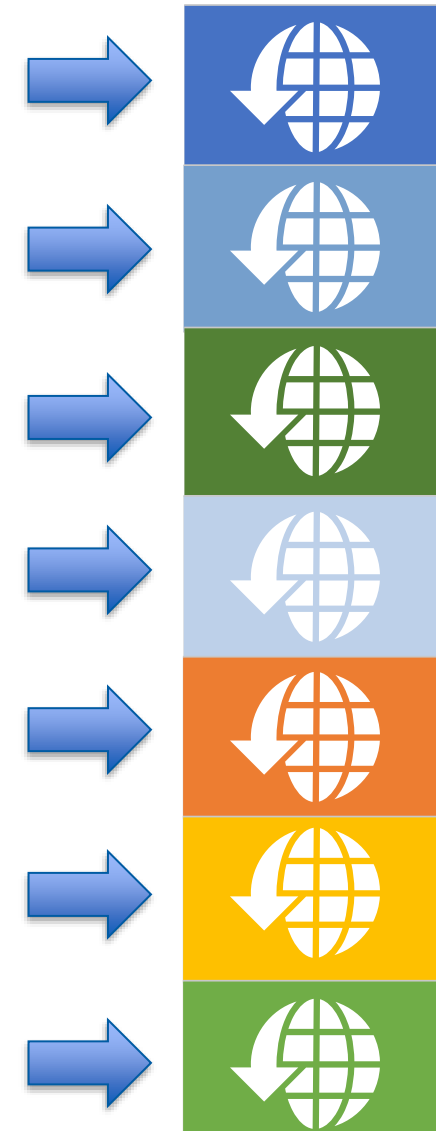
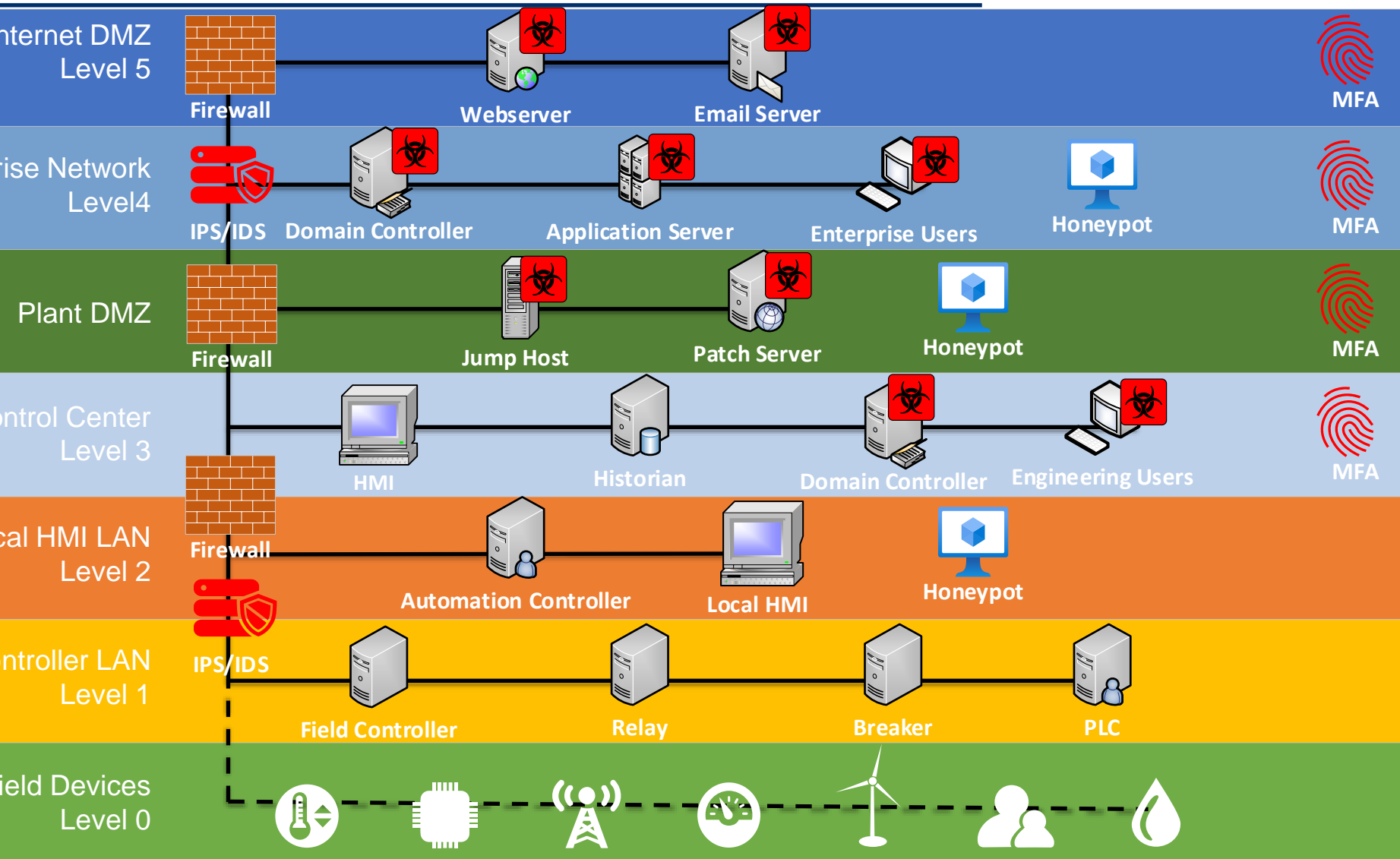
## Hardware and software components that protect a system against cyberattacks”

	Preventative	Detective	Corrective	Recovery
Technical Control Examples	Firewall, Endpoint Security, IPS Encryption	IDS, Honeypots, Traffic Monitoring	Patching, Updates, User/Connection Termination	Backups, Recovery Systems

### Adversary Examples:

- Malicious USB drop in parking lot
- Unauthorized Network/Server/Device access
- Coffee Shop Attacks
- External Vendor connecting internal network
- Email Spear/Phishing, Crypto Lockers, etc.

# Technical Controls



# Additional Technical Controls

Current Industry Defense-in-Depth implemented security strategy:

- Firewalls
- Network Segmentation
- Auditing and Accounting
- Access Control
- Configurations and Change Management

NextGen Security Strategy: **Zero-Trust Model**

- Enhances existing security strategy through the addition of:
  - NextGen Firewalls
  - Security Zones
  - Identity and Access Management
  - Encryption of Data and Communications
  - Threat Hunting & Detection Tools
  - Threat Intelligence



# Cybersecurity for Operational Technology (OT) and Industrial Control Systems (ICS)

# What is Operational Technology?

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**Operational Technology:** focuses on hardware and software that is used to monitor, change, or control physical devices, events, and processes within a system.

**Information Technology:** focuses on hardware and software related to enterprise or business end users in an organization and occasionally industrial.

**These systems operate together but can differ with regards to policy, operation, and protection.**

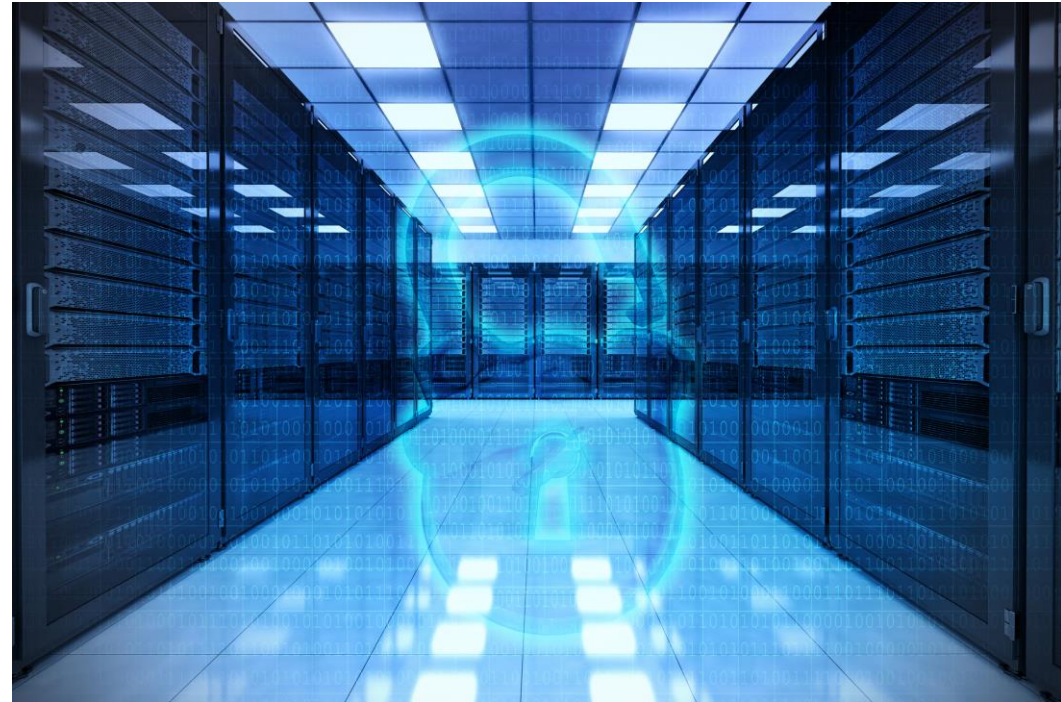


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*What is the difference between an ICS device running Linux versus an Application Server running Linux?*

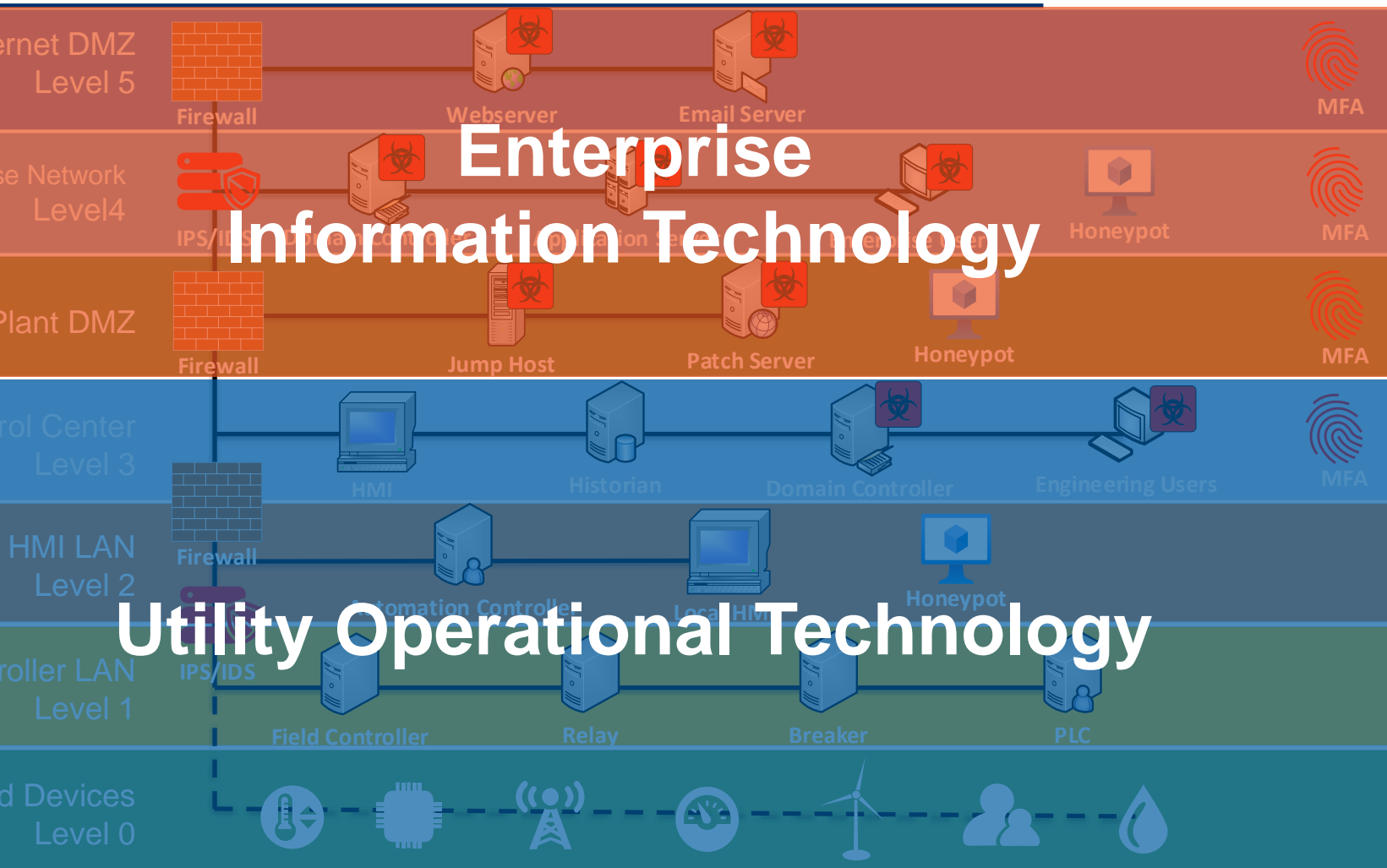


# Security Tradeoffs with IT and OT

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Information Technology	Operational Technology
Rapidly Swapped/Replaced/Virtualized	Long Equipment Life Cycles
Updated Frequently	Patching relies on overall System Stability (Grid)
Planned Downtime/Service Windows	Cannot bring down critical paths for Critical Infrastructure (i.e., hospitals)
Work with Legacy Software, Protocols, Connections can be mitigated easily with smaller life cycles	Legacy Protocols, Connections, Software oftentimes cannot be changed due to infrastructure costs
Production and Dev environments	Upgrades cannot easily be performed or tested
Asset Management, Monitoring, and Enumeration Automated	Asset Management, Monitoring, Enumeration is oftentimes Manual
Change Management Support	Configuration Management often proprietary format

# IT/OT Convergence



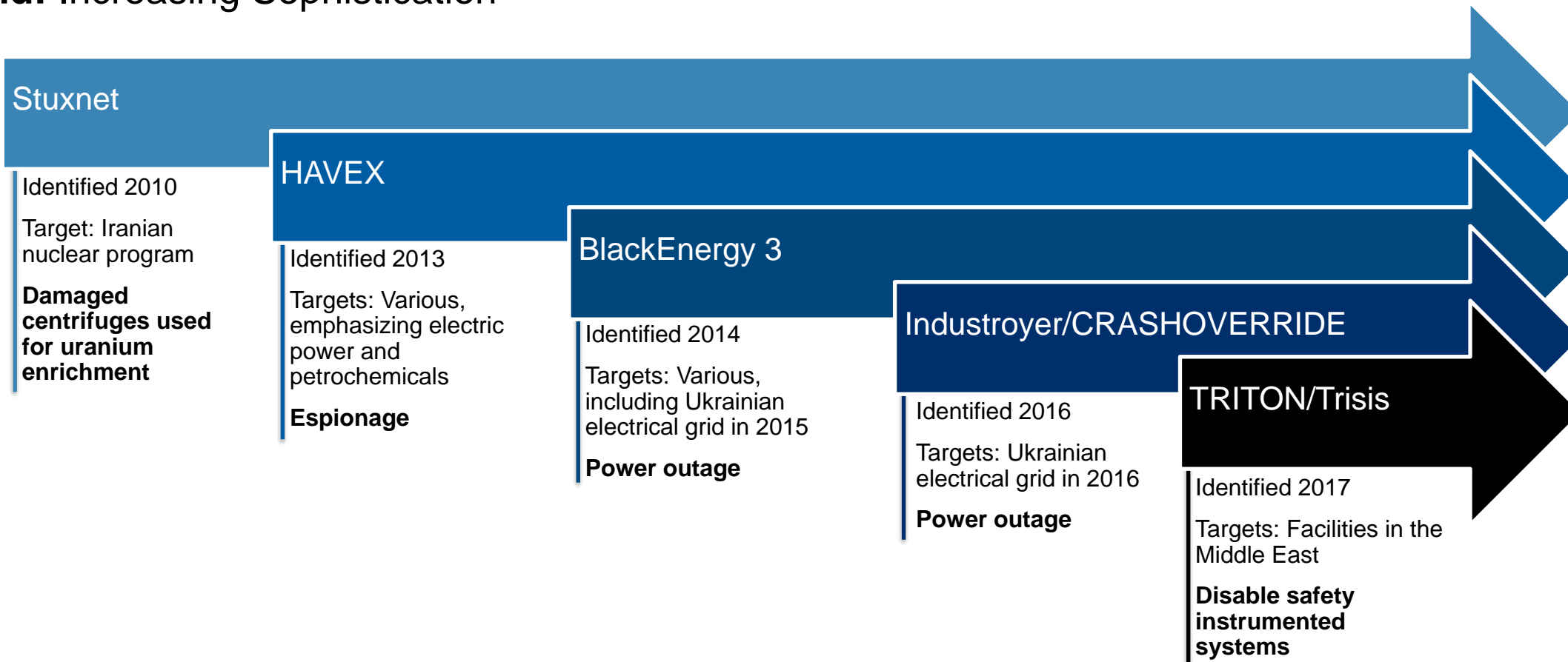
## IT/OT can share:

- Processes
- Boundaries
- Assets
- Users
- Networks
- Data

**...Especially Attacks!**

# Operational Technology Cyber Attacks

**end:** Increasing Sophistication



# OT Cybersecurity Objectives

NIST SP-800-82:

- Restricting logical access to ICS network
- Restricting physical access to ICS network and devices
- Protecting individual ICS components from exploitation
- Restricting unauthorized modification of data
- Detecting cybersecurity events and incidents
- Maintaining functionality during adverse conditions
- Restoring the system after an incident
- Principle of security-by-design
- Avoid problems by addressing concerns earlier in the design process.

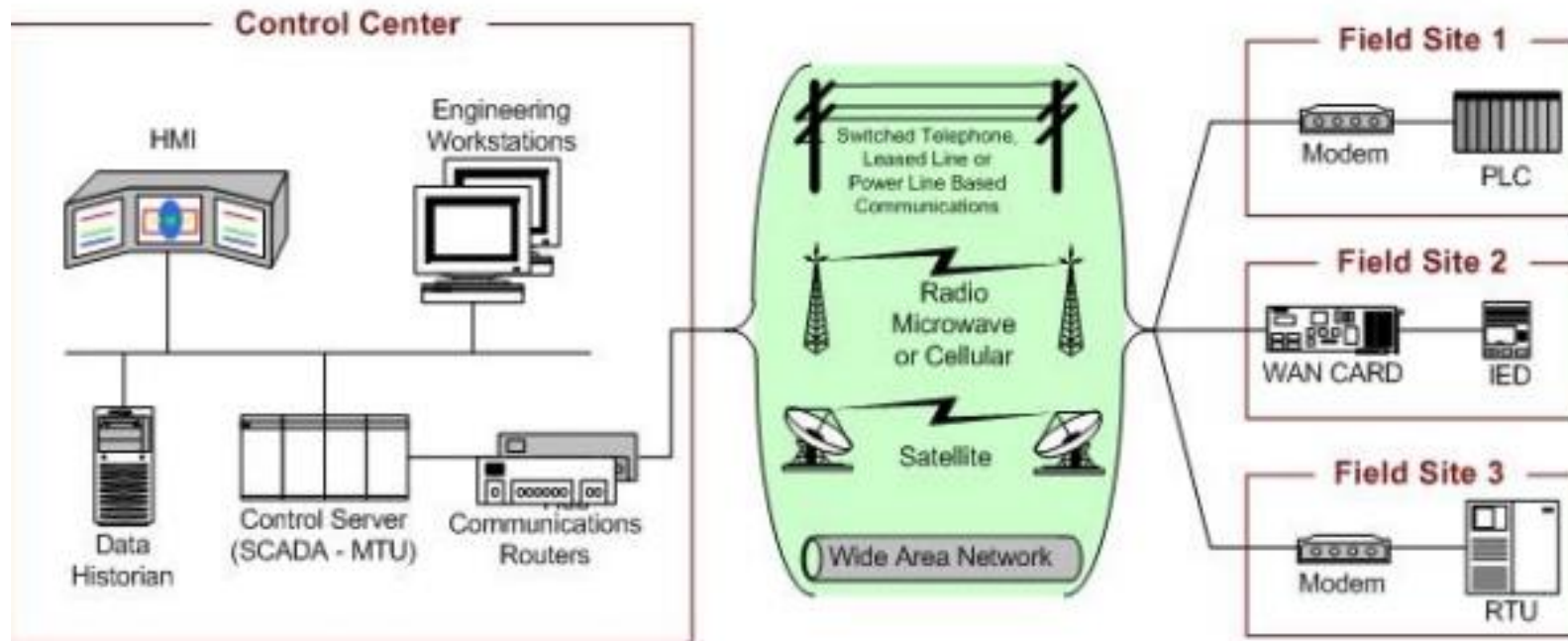
<https://csrc.nist.gov/publications/detail/sp/800-82/rev-2/final>



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# Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Cybersecurity





*Illustration from NIST SP 800-82*

# CADA System General Layout

# SCADA Properties

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Access control for monitoring/control end points for both new and legacy equipment

Tailored implementation of communication and network security

SCADA networks pushing outward and closer to grid edge

SCADA systems control physical devices and processes — this leads to special requirements

Cyber incident response can lead to unintended consequences in the physical systems being controlled

➤ Ex. Disconnecting a malware-affected generation station leads to cascading outage

Independent Patch Management Strategy



# SCADA Security Best Practices



- Isolate the SCADA network as much as possible
- Remove unnecessary devices and services from the SCADA network
- Access and Authentication Controls
- Deploy IDS
- Have “red teams” identify possible SCADA attack scenarios
- Review the physical security of remote sites connected to the SCADA network
- Conduct periodic cybersecurity assessments

# Recommendations



Case-in-Depth  
Approach

## Strategy

- Firewalls
- Demilitarized Zones
- Security Policies
- Training Programs
- Incident Response Mechanisms
- Physical Security

## Possible Attack Vectors

- Backdoors and hole in network perimeter
- Vulnerabilities in common protocols
- Attacks on field devices
- Database attacks
- Communication hijacking and 'man-in-middle' attacks
- Spoofing attacks
- Attacks on privileged and/or shared accounts

# Resources

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The USAID-NREL Partnership can help as your organization implements technical controls for OT and SCADA:

- Visit our website at: <https://resilient-energy.org/cybersecurity-resilience>.
- Read the guidance document: Power Sector Cybersecurity Building Blocks: <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy21osti/79396.pdf>.
- Reach out for (free!) direct technical assistance through the [Ask an Expert](#) form.

Free NIST training:

<https://www.nist.gov/itl/applied-cybersecurity/nice/resources/online-learning-content>.

NIST SP-800-82: <https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/SpecialPublications/NIST.SP.800-82r2.pdf>.

CIS Controls ICS Companion Guide:

<https://www.cisecurity.org/white-papers/cis-controls-implementation-guide-for-industrial-control-systems/>.

**The USAID-NREL partnership can help with planning and/or execution of technical controls.**



# References and Resources, cont.

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History of Industrial Control System Cyber Incidents (INL and DOE, 2018)

<https://www.osti.gov/servlets/purl/1505628>.

ISA/IEC 62443 Series of Standards:

<https://gca.isa.org/blog/download-the-new-guide-to-the-isa/iec-62443-cybersecurity-standards>.

Recommended Practices: Improving ICS Cybersecurity with Defense-in-Depth Strategies (DHS, 2016)

[https://us-cert.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/recommended\\_practices/NCCIC\\_ICS-CERT\\_Defense\\_in\\_Depth\\_2016\\_S508C.pdf](https://us-cert.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/recommended_practices/NCCIC_ICS-CERT_Defense_in_Depth_2016_S508C.pdf).

SCADA systems: Vulnerability assessment and security recommendations

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0167404819302068>.

A Comprehensive Guide to Operational Technology (OT) Cybersecurity (Mission Secure, 2021)

<https://www.missionsecure.com/ot-cybersecurity>.

**The USAID-NREL partnership can help with planning and/or execution of technical controls.**

# Q&A

Please type questions into the Q&A on Zoom. Thanks!

# Closing Thoughts

# How else can USAID & NREL help?

## Presentations for utility:

- Board of directors
- Executives
- Technical staff
- Non-technical staff
- Regulators



## New documents



## New tools for

- Expanded assessments
- Cybersecurity investment ROI
- Other topics?



## One-on-one technical assistance

<https://resilient-energy.org/cyber>

# How else can USAID & NREL help?



Read the guidance document: *Power Sector Cybersecurity Building Blocks* report available at: <https://resilient-energy.org/cyber>

Access additional resources and information by visiting the [Cybersecurity Resilience page](#) on the Resilient Energy Platform website

## Contact Us:

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# How else can USAID & NREL help?

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## Upcoming Webinars in this Series:

November 17, 2021: Regulatory Compliance

January 19, 2022: Risk Management

February 16, 2022: IT Network Security

To learn about additional webinars and resources, sign up for the quarterly [\*\*USAID-NREL Partnership Newsletter!\*\*](#)

**Caribbean Cybersecurity Forum – March 2022**

# Thank You!



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