Cyber-Physical Systems Network Architectures and intrinsic attacks

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• Security/network architectures

- **OT/ICS** no or "strictly supervised" Internet
- **IIoT** "one-way" Internet
- IoT bidirectional Internet
- Edge computing
- CPS-specific attacks (not preventable by any traditional IT security methods)
 - "Stale Data" attack
 - "Data Veracity" attack
 - Escaping security boundaries or "evil bubbles" attack



CPS network architectures

ICS/OT – typical architecture



- Strong physical security
- In rare cases air gapped
 - Data exchange over USB or similar
- Limited and tightly configured data exchange & communication flows through OT DMZ
 - Should prevent & detect >90% of automated & human-assisted intrusions/attacks
 - (Mostly) wired communication
- Lower requirement to security of end-points

IIoT – independent reliable data infrastructure



- Strong physical security
- Typically <u>one way</u> communication, can be enforced with data diodes
- Data exchange between bore process control and IIoT is limited & securely provisioned
- Lower requirement to security of end-points (often simple analog sensors)

https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/implementing-namur-open-architecture-noa-jonas-berge/

IoT – by definition is exposed to Internet



- Physical security cannot be guaranteed
- Internet-connected: directly or via some networking equipment (e.g. gateway)
- Predominately wireless
 communication
- High requirement to security of end-point IoT devices

Edge computing

Advantages

- On premises data acquisition, processing & actuation
- Some resiliency
- Lower latency
- Less network traffic
- Data retention on premises



https://conference.hitb.org/hitb-lockdown002/sessions/the-fragile-art-of-edge-computing-walk-through-access-control-systems/

Edge Computing Reference Architecture 2.0



http://en.ecconsortium.net/Uploads/file/20180328/1522232376480704.pdf



Stale Data attack

Stale Data attack: Exploiting control features



- (Most) cyber-physical systems adhere to hard real-time control requirements
- Process data may only be valid for a short time & become irrelevant if arriving just few milliseconds too late
- Data timeliness must be protected and "stale" data should be recognized & discarded

Giving "new life" to DoS attacks



DoS / packet delay / packet drop / network congestion / etc.







Timing of DoS attack matters





Impact of 8h long DoS attacks on reactor pressure sensor at random time

Process response depends on DoS value



Where this approach could be useful?

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Point Number 8 (Quality: Online), Value: 25 030 81 1e 02 00 00 45 01 8e 06 01 4e 05 01 e0 06 01E 040 8d 06 01 5d 06 01 0b 07 01 4a 00 01 67 00 01 19E 040 8d 06 01 5d 06 01 0b 07 01 4a 00 01 67 00 01 19E 040 8d 06 01 5d 06 01 b0 07 01 4a 00 01 67 00 01 19E 040 8d 06 01 5d 06 01 b0 7 00 01 b6 00 01 15 01E 040 8d 06 01 5d 06 01 01 74 00 01 da 00 01 05 01E 040 8d 06 01 16 00 01 17 00 01 b6 00 01 01 80 01 01E 040 8d 06 01 16 00 01 180 01 01 80 01 01 80 01 01E 040 8d 06 01 10 180 01 01 80 01 01 80 01 01 80 01 01 80 01 01E 040 8d 01 01 80 01 01 80 01 01 80 01 01 60 00 11 f0 00 10 00 40 0E 040 8d 01 01 80 01 01 80 01 01 80 01 01 60 01 01E 040 8d 01 01 80 01 01 80 01 01 60 01 01 f0 0E 040 8d 02 01 01 80 01 01 80 01 0E 0E 01 0F 0E 0400 8d 25 97 0E a4 15 3a 00 a0 45 8c 36 75 08 00 45 00 E. EE. 0400 06 49 16 63 00 11 60 00 44 7E da e2 88 bc C9 50 18 E. EE. 0401 04 2e 92 00 00 00 02 00 00 00 20 00 00 01 70 10 314 00 P.	> Point Number	7 (Quality: Online)	Value: 103	Register 2 (UINT16): (99	•)			
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Quest for best peak



- **REAL TIME** decision making problem
- Searching for the "BEST" peak
- Achieving results within some time horizon

Avocado problem



Avocado problem

- Problem of choosing the time to take a particular action
 - Based on sequentially observed random variables
 - In order to maximize an expected pay off
- Applied in a wide range of applications including financial
 - Best time to buy or sell stocks



Secretary Problem applied to sensor signal



DoS attacks can be chained

• Chain DoS attacks: on sensors

Use change detection algorithms
 (e.g. CUSUM) to detect state change





- Chain two DoS attacks: on sensor & actuator
- Unsafe state achieved in 3.43 h vs.
 12.03 h in case of direct attack

Stale data almost collapsed EU power grid

 On <u>10 January 2019</u>, 21:02 CET, the Continental Europe Power System which stretches across 26 countries registered for nine seconds the <u>largest absolute frequency deviation</u> <u>since 2006</u>. Among the main causes of the incident was a failure of a communication line, which resulted in stale data



https://eepublicdownloads.entsoe.eu/clean-documents/news/2019/190522_SOC_TOP_11.6_Task%20Force%20Significant%20Frequency%20Deviations_External%20Report.pdf



Data Veracity attack

Process data security requirements

• Process data originate in physical world and their accuracy is paramount



Example: Instrument calibration

InTech, ISA magazine, April 2014

ISA	Setting the Stan	🕑 🗗 in 🔠 💿 🐨 Join ISA Members Co Website 🖵 Search				s Corner				
MEMBERSHIP	TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS	STANDARDS & PUBLICATIONS	CONFERENCES & EVENTS	NEWS & PRESS RELEASES	RESOURCES	T	ECHNICAL TOPICS	PROFE DEVEL	SSIONAL OPMENT	STORE

Home > ISA Publications > InTech Magazine > 2014 / Mar-Apr > Executive Corner: Ahola: The Future of Calibration is Integration

March/April 2014

The Future of Calibration is Integration

ву каппо Апоја

The need for calibration from the viewpoint of the reliability, repeatability, and accuracy of a measurement has been around for thousands of years, with various requirements and "controlling" systems. In today's calibration environment, there are basically two types of "official" requirements for calibration: International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards and regulatory requirements. The greatest difference between the two is simple-ISO standards are optional, and regulatory requirements are mandatory. A small human error or the failure of an instrument in a pharmaceuticals plant could adversely affect the health of thousands of people. This is why pharmaceutical manufacturing is one of the most stringent, highly regulated industries in the world. The third, newest, and ever-increasing requirement for calibration-or more precisely, requirement for the implementation of a



HIMA presentation, October 2014

- Due to a known bug at the engineering Software, all scaling of the SIS AI got altered to 0 to 100% automatically
- Altered values got loaded and activated automatically based on an unknown Bug at the same System

Core principle of application security



NEVER TRUST YOUR INPUTS

Veracity: data security property that a statement about an aspect relevant in a given application truthfully reflects reality

Process data security requirements

- Worst accident in the recent USA history (2005)
- 15 killed, 180 injured
- Wrong calibration the splitter tower level indicator
 - It showed that the tower level was declining when it was actually overfilling with flammable liquid hydrocarbons
- The further chain of events eventually led to an explosion



Attack concealment



- "Record-and-play-back"
 - Used in Stuxnet ;-)
 - Storage requirements
- Derive process model
 - Requires knowledge, CPU cycles and storage
- Crafted sensor signals
 - Reconstruction of sensor data features

Spoofing sensor signals inside transmitter







Find X differences ;-)

M. Krotofil, J. Larsen, D. Gollmann. The Process Matters: Ensuring Data Veracity in Cyber-Physical Systems (ASIACCS, 2015)

Correlated sensor signals



SLASS CO.

Spoofing sensor signals inside transmitter



- Scatter plot to visualize correlations
 between signals
- Metis tool kit: Graph partitioning for sensor clustering



Correlation entropy



Powerful attacker



Bad luck ;-) Spoofed signals will all look genuine but won't be correlated

He spoofed them all!!!







Escaping security boundaries and Evil Bubbles attacks

Reminder: Persistent economic damage



Failed scenario: Alarm and physics propagation



Physical process is communication media



Process Physics vs. Attacker



I felt very angry



The attacker always wants to win!



(wishfully)

Delivery of Attack Payload via Process Physics

Valve and pump do not communicate electronically



The concept first formulated and described in 2013, practically demonstrated in 2017





Escaping security boundaries

 Violation of security zones defined based on IEC 62443



Detection with IIoT predictive maintenance solutions



M. Krotofil. Evil Bubbles or How to Deliver Attack Payload via the Physics of the Process, Black Hat USA, 2017

Detection of cyber-physical attack



Verification of flow



Pump curve would suggest: Head 34,3 ft ~ flow 21-22 gpm

Flow reading **53,42 gpm** is <u>implausible</u>



Verification of valve position







The suction valve is closed or obstructed. Pump is operating in sub optimal state and could cause mechanical failure

Root cause: Cavitation

FAILURE PREDICTIONS

	A Bearing Failure		⚠ Impeller Failure		A Mechanical Seal Failure		
)	5 Days	i	313 Days	i	10 Days	i	

Mechanical stress

Low Flow

2

Cavitation

The discharge valve is closed or obstructed. Pump is operating in sub optimal state and could cause mechanical failure

Root cause: Low flow

Another application of the attack vector

 Physical process is natural sidechannel



Process state detection algorithm
 and its implementation

Observation of state A in component B needs to trigger payloads X, Y, Z



 $S_i^+ = \max(0, |X_{i-1} - X_i| + S_{i-1}^+)$ $S_i^- = \max(0, |X_i - X_{i-1}| + S_{i-1}^-)$

Non-Parametric Cumulative Sum (NCUSUM)

stwu 1,-48(1)	PELLIN
mflr 0	
stw 0,52(1)	
stw 31,44(1)	
mr 31,1	
stfd 1,24(31)	
lfd 1,24(31)	
<pre>bl compute_sco</pre>	re(double)
stfd 1,8(31)	
lis 9,m_curren	t_sum@ha
lfd 12,m_curre	nt_sum@l(9)

check(double):

17640 bytes ~= 0.11% of DRAM (unoptimized)



Conclusions

Process data as root of trust



- Process data is <u>root of trust</u> in ICS/ cyber-physical security
- If process data is incorrect/invalid, control algorithms, human operator and safety systems may take wrong (harmful) control decisions
- Ensuring timeliness and
 trustworthiness of process data is a
 crucial task in cyber-physical security:
 - Methods to detect missing/delayed or implausible readings are needed to ensure reliable and safe process control

Defence-in-Depth in CPS domain

- Defense-in-depth concept suggest multiple layers of security
 - If an attack causes one security mechanism to fail, other mechanisms may still provide the necessary security to protect the system



Defence-in-Depth in CPS domain

- In cases when the attacker manages to bypass all traditional IT security defenses and/or attacker executed a CPS-specific attack not covered by IT security defenses:
 - Engineering security controls should be in place to prevent and detect unwanted/malicious process manipulations





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