

ENCS

Risk-Based Monitoring Energy Intrusion Detection

30 January 2019

Security Monitoring in Operation



- Energy companies are making large investments in security monitoring
 - Intrusion Detection Systems
 - SIEM systems
 - Security Operations Centers
- Often the investments are not used to their full potential once they are operational

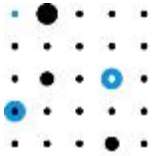
Why Do You Need to Understand the Risks?



- To monitor effectively, everyone involved needs to understand the risks:
 - **Management** to provide continuing budget and support
 - **Business owners** to support response
 - **Architects** to select the right use cases and tools
 - **Analysts** to prioritize alerts and stay motivated
- Each group will understand risks in their own way

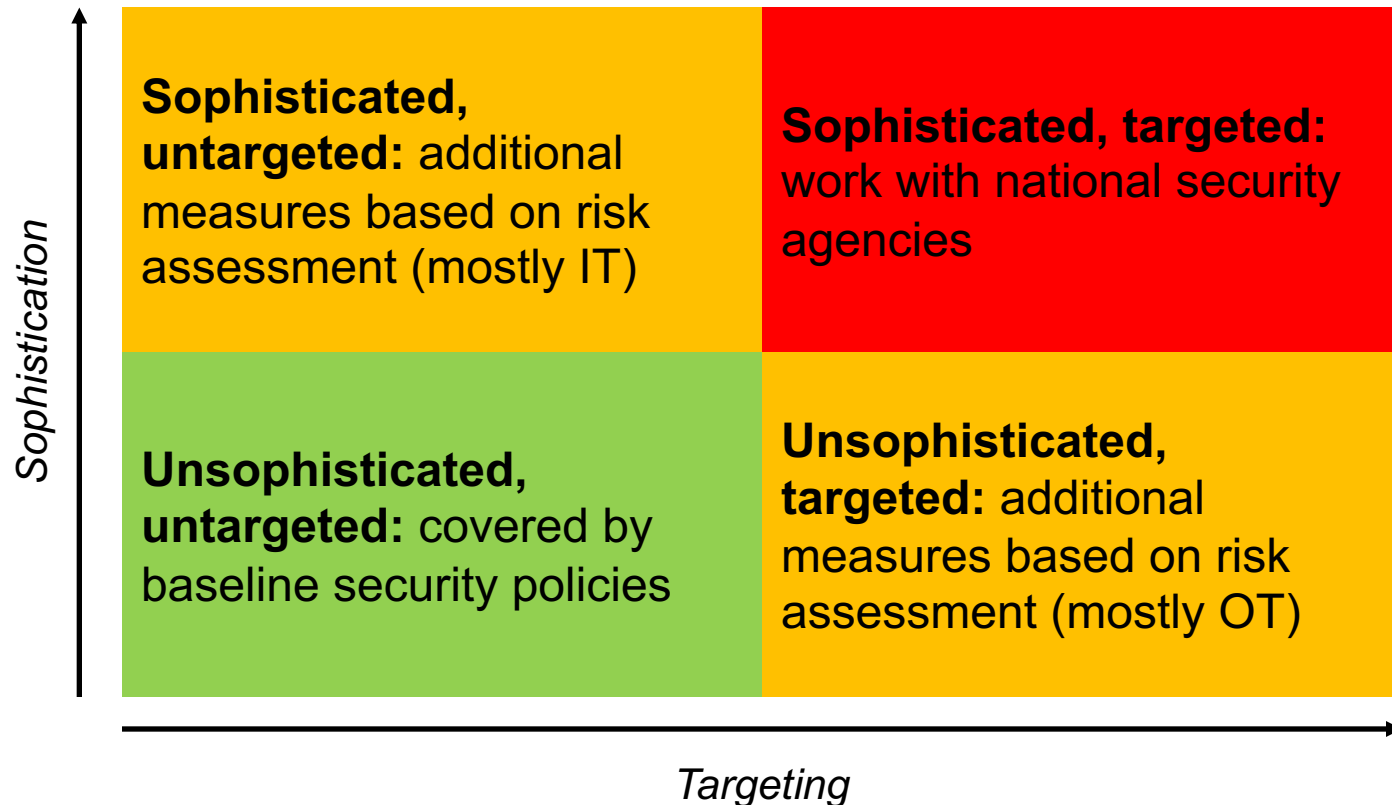
Management





Risks for Management

Top management needs to understand the strategic risks to ensure continuing funding and support



Operational Costs Often Underestimated

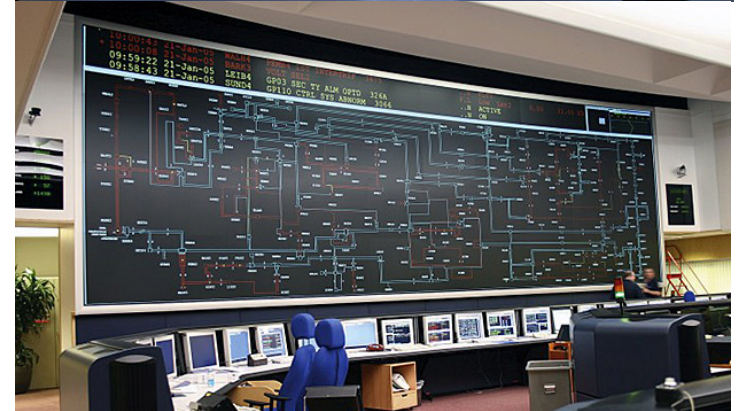


- Management often underestimates the effort needed after the setup project:
 - To handle the alerts
 - To maintain data sources and detection rules
 - To keep pace with new threats
 - To keep analyst skills and knowledge up to date

For OT, Managers Need to Look Outside of Their Department

Need collaboration between IT and OT to have effective monitoring:

- OT too small to sustain specialized team
- Need IT security expertise
- Need OT knowledge
- Analysts need network in OT departments



Dividing Responsibilities Between IT and OT



IT Analysts

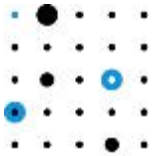
- Run IT detection systems
- Detect and analyze incidents
- Coordinate response (below crisis level)

OT Security Specialists

- Support analyzing incidents
- Support response
- Run OT security sensors
- Correlate access with maintenance activities

Business Owners

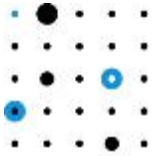




Risks for Business Owners

Business owners need to understand the risks in terms of business impact to properly support response actions

| Category | Reliability | Safety | Compliance | Affordability | Customer satisfaction | Sustainability |
|------------|---|--|---|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Disastrous | >20,000,000 cml (HV/MV station >16 hrs interruption) | Accident with one or multiple fatalities | Silent curator; Criminal case against board member; Fine by regulator >0.1% of turnover | Damage beyond 10M euro | International commotion; >20,000 complaints | Emission >250 kton CO ₂ |
| Serious | 2,000,000 - 20,000,000 cml (HV/MV station 4 hrs interruption) | Accident with severe, permanent injury | Direction or warning by competent authorities; Fine 6 th category | Damage between 1M and 10M euro | National commotion; 2,000 - 20,000 complaints; Conflict >10 municipalities or multiple provinces | Emission 25 - 250 kton CO ₂ |

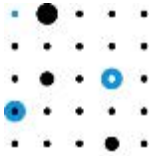


Need for Business Support

| Monitoring finding | Business Response |
|---------------------------|--|
| Technical vulnerabilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patch software• Improve password strength |
| Policy violations | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Train employees on security• Enforce security policies from management• Enforce policies with vendors |
| Security incidents | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support forensics on critical systems• Disconnect OT from IT• Shut down critical systems such as SCADA |

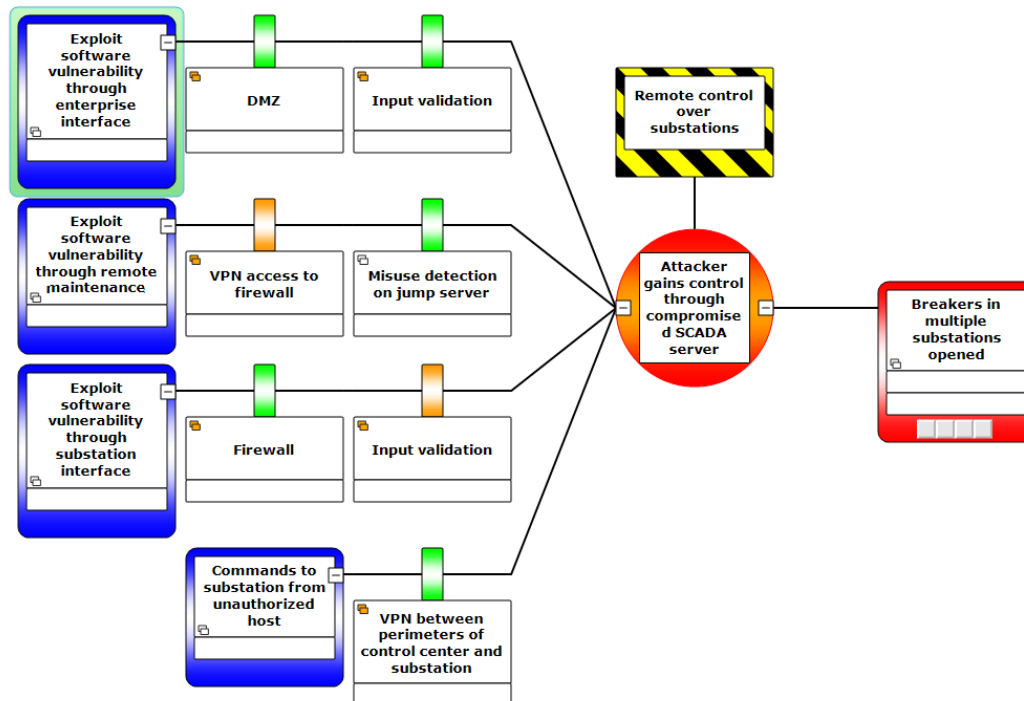
Architects





Risks for Architects

Architects designing the monitoring system need to understand the risks on a technical level to select the right use cases and tools







Monitor IT/OT Boundary Often Most Effective



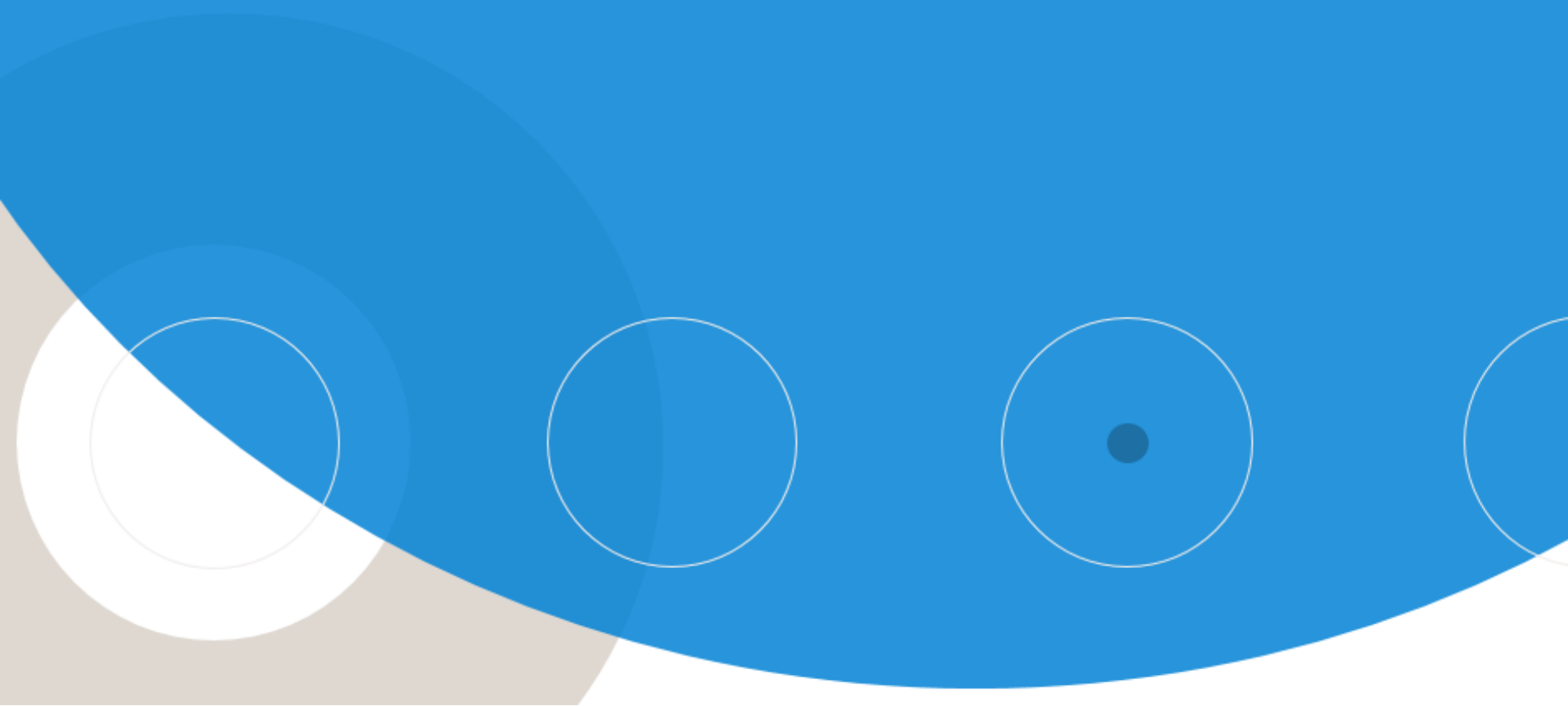
For most grid operators, focusing on IT technology on OT boundary has the best business case:

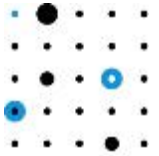
- Can use IT tools (and analyst knowledge) on:
 - Data exchange servers in DMZ
 - Jump servers or stepping stones
 - Engineering laptops
 - Network equipment
- Can detect attacker before they are in the core OT

We Need Better Maintenance Access Monitoring

| | Type of access | Reaction |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
|  | Known bad access | Treat as security incident |
|  | Normal user access | Correlate with maintenance schedules |
|  | Normal M2M access | Whitelist (ignore) |
|  | Unknown access | Threat hunting |

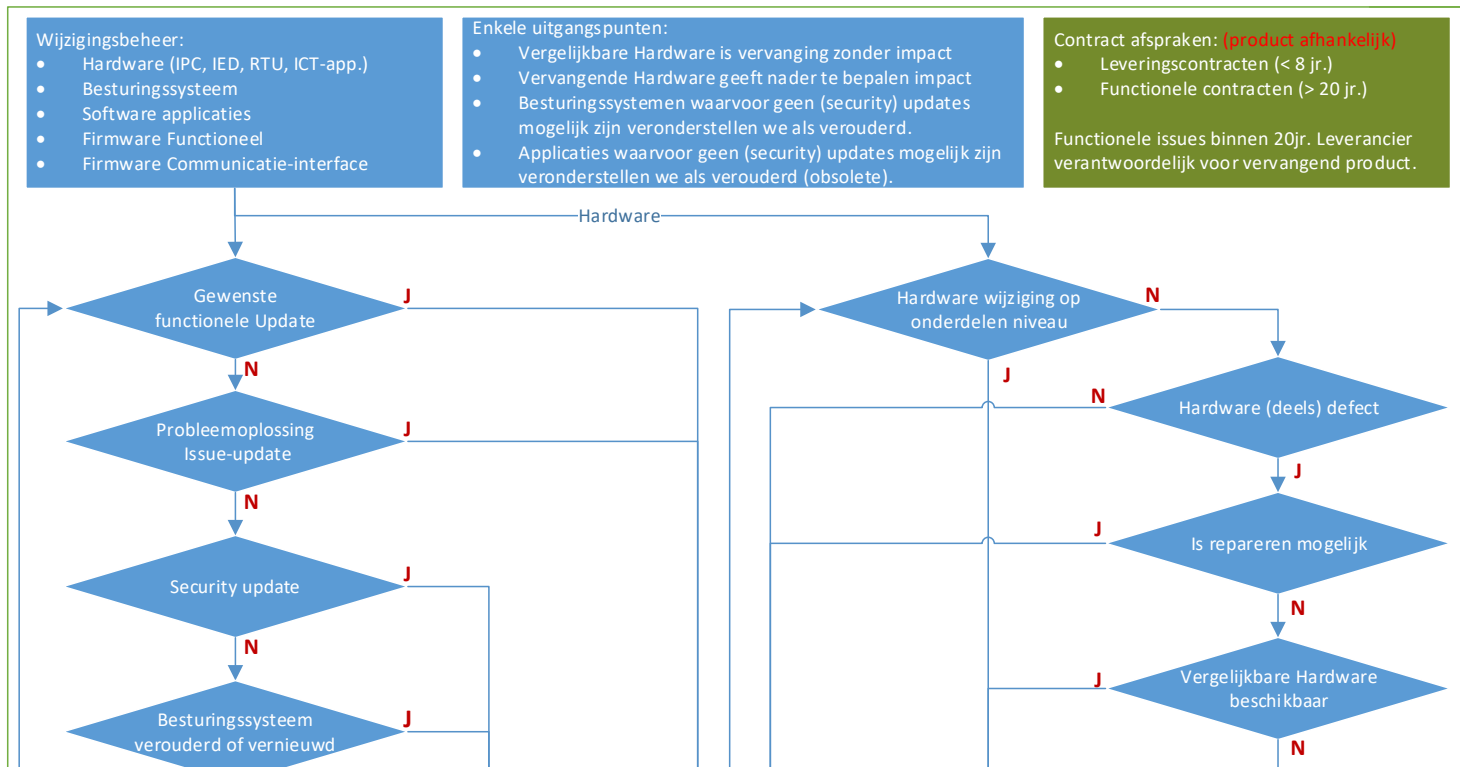
Analysts

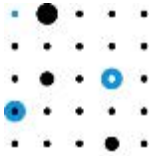




Risks for Analysts

Analysts that handle alerts and maintain the monitoring systems need to understand the risks to prioritize alerts and stay motivated





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Interpreting Anomalies

Signature-based alert from Snort

```
OS-WINDOWS DCERPC NCACN-IP-TCP srvsvc NetrpPathCanonicalize  
path canonicalization stack overflow attempt; cve 2008-4250
```

Anomaly-based alert from OT security sensor

```
Communications host not whitelisted: the source host is not  
whitelisted in any of the communication rules
```

Analysts Need to Be Able to Link Alerts to Risks

| Function | Risks Detected (Examples) |
|---------------------------------|--|
| New hosts and connections | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commands or configuration from unauthorized host• Access to control center servers from substations• Malware command and control traffic |
| Unusual commands and parameters | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Address range scanning• Large numbers of switching operations• Zero-day attacks on SCADA front-end |
