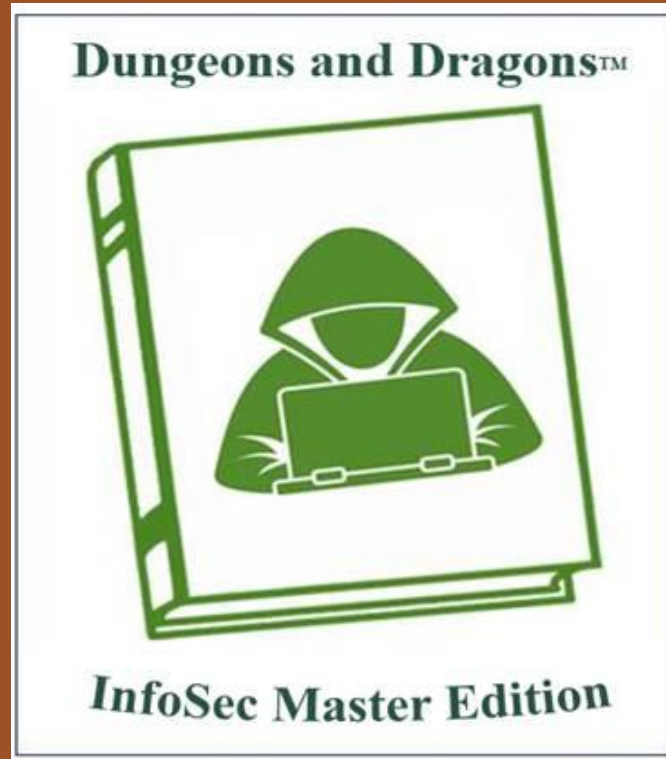


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# IDENTIFYING AND MEASURING OT SECURITY RISKS THROUGH INTERNAL AUDIT

Chicago IIA – 10<sup>th</sup> Annual IT Hacking Conference

November 7, 2023

# INTRODUCTION

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**Director  
Security & Privacy  
Protiviti**

# AGENDA

01

**Differences between IT and OT**

02

**Why OT networks and systems are vulnerable**

03

**Example Internal Audit approaches to evaluating OT environments**

04

**Sample output and observations from the field**

05

**Common myths**

06

**Key recommendations and focus areas**

WHAT IS OT, AND WHY DOES SECURING IT MATTER?



# WHAT IS IT & OT?

## Information Technology (IT)



- Hardware, software, and networks that manage, transact, or analyze data
- Supports the business - examples include our company systems that enable functions such as Accounts Payable/Receivable, Customer Service, Asset Management, Enterprise Resource Planning, Email/Collaboration (O365), and other transactional systems.

## Operational Technology (OT)



- Controls, changes, and monitors physical devices, processes, and events
- Is the business – creates revenue
- Highly secure systems critical to public safety
- Examples include systems such as pipeline SCADA system, ICS/DCS systems that enable plant or factory automation, PLCs, etc.
  - ICS (Industrial Control System) consists of combinations of control components (e.g., electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic) that act together to achieve an industrial objective (e.g., manufacturing, transportation of matter or energy).
  - SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) is a category of software applications for controlling industrial processes, which is the gathering of data in real time from remote locations in order to control equipment and conditions.

***IT/OT Convergence: The growing integration and interconnection between IT and OT systems to improve automation and efficiency and to facilitate the exchange of relevant data within industrial settings***

# EXAMPLE USES OF OT/SCADA\* IN INDUSTRY

**Electric power generation, transmission and distribution:** Electric utilities use RTUs and HMI SCADA to detect current flow and line voltage of remote sites; to monitor the operation of breakers, and to take power grids on or off.

**Water, wastewater and sewage:** State and Municipal Water use SCADA applications to monitor and regulate water flow, reservoir levels, pipe pressure, wastewater collection and treatment facilities, water treatment centers and distribution, etc.

**Buildings, facilities and environments:** Facility managers use SCADA to monitor and control HVAC, temperature sensors, refrigeration units, lighting and entry systems.

**Manufacturing:** SCADA manages parts lists for just-in-time manufacturing and regulates industrial automation and robots. It also monitors quality and process control in industrial plants.

**Automotive:** Operators can control scheduling, cargo distribution, fuel consumption, and operate signals and switches. SCADA Software can be used to monitor vehicle routing, equipment maintenance, weather conditions, and more.

**Chemicals and fertilizers:** SCADA software allows operators to monitor and control chemical process on the plant. The system is based on client/server architecture with the possibility of numerous clients' connections.

**Oil & Gas:** SCADA software applications are used to remotely monitor, and control equipment related to pipelines, pumps, storage, offshore platforms and onshore wells, refineries and petro-chemical stations, etc.

**Other:** Other processes include telecommunications, agriculture/irrigation, healthcare, pharmaceutical, and many others.

\*SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) is a category of software applications for controlling industrial processes, which is the gathering of data in real time from remote locations in order to control equipment and conditions.

Source(s): [DPS Telecom](#), [Recursion Software](#), [TechTarget](#)



# POLLING QUESTION

Which of the following is an example of an OT system?

- a. Outlook
- b. SCADA
- c. ERP
- d. Video conferencing

# WHY ARE OT SYSTEMS VULNERABLE?

## 1 Inherently Insecure

- Flat Networks
- Weak Authentication
- No encryption
- Insecure ICS Protocols
- Difficult/rare patching

## 2 Increasingly Connected

- Vendor Remote Access
- Visibility “shop floor to top floor” metrics and KPIs
- Data analytics programs
- Predictive analytics
- Supply chain integration

## 3 Lacking Collaboration

- “Plant/distribution” vs. IT Security
- No common IT/OT view of complete ICS environment
- No IT/OT collaboration tools
- Governance gaps or conflicts

## 4 Insufficient Visibility / Security

- No visibility across ICS networks
- Undetected network configuration issues
- No threat monitoring
- Poorly managed remote access control & password

# POTENTIAL UNFAVORABLE BUSINESS OUTCOMES FROM CYBER ATTACKS IN OT



## Financial Loss

- Lost revenue from production delays
- Significant costs associated with major IT incident
- Ransom payments
- **Example: \$11 million ransomware payment from JBS Foods**



## Production Line(s) Down

- Inability to manufacture and deliver products
- Inefficiency in production due to lack of connection to analytics
- Potential downstream impacts to supply chain
- **Example: Operational disruptions at Colonial Pipeline, Clorox**



## Negative Impacts to the Health / Safety of Employees

- Unsafe parameters set on manufacturing systems that could impact employees
- Inability of alarms to properly identify unsafe working conditions
- Improper set points could lead to plants operating at unsafe environmental levels
- **Example: Attacker poisoned water supply in Oldsmar, FL attack**

# CURRENT TRENDS IN THREAT LANDSCAPE

FIGURE 4: RANSOMWARE INCIDENTS BY SECTOR • 2022



## Key Ransomware Findings



↑  
**87%**

Ransomware attacks against industrial organizations **increased 87 percent** over last year.



+**35%**

Dragos tracked **35% more ransomware groups** impacting ICS/OT in 2022.



**72%**

of all ransomware attacks targeted **437 manufacturing entities** in **104 unique manufacturing subsectors**.



ICS/OT CYBERSECURITY  
**YEAR IN REVIEW 2022**

# POLLING QUESTION

Which of the following represent potential unfavorable business outcomes from cyber attacks in OT environments?

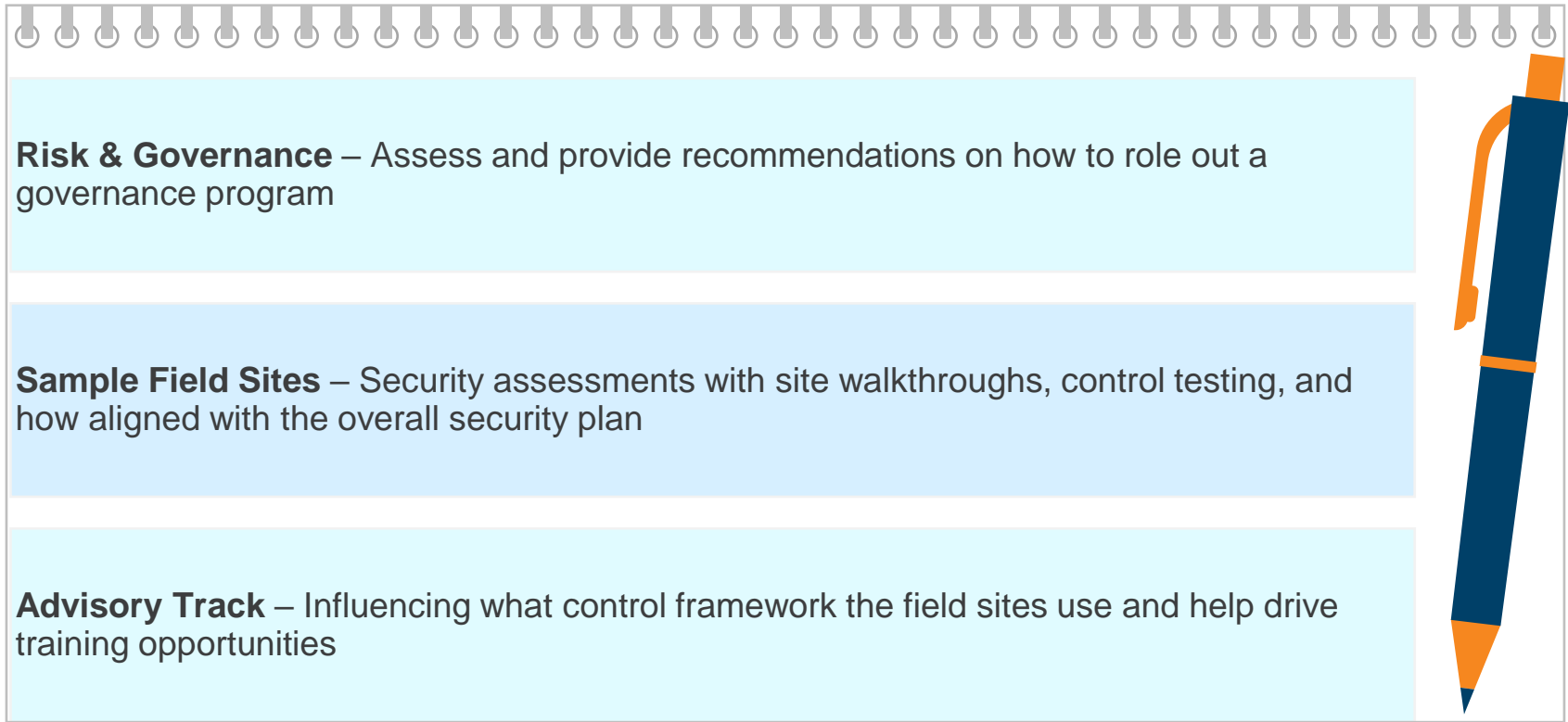
- a. Financial loss
- b. Production outage/stoppage
- c. Negative health and safety impacts
- d. All of the above

## POTENTIAL APPROACHES FOR AUDITING OT SECURITY, AND SAMPLE OUTPUT



# POTENTIAL AUDIT SCOPES

There are different ways that Operational Technology can be included in the audit plan



**Risk & Governance** – Assess and provide recommendations on how to role out a governance program

**Sample Field Sites** – Security assessments with site walkthroughs, control testing, and how aligned with the overall security plan

**Advisory Track** – Influencing what control framework the field sites use and help drive training opportunities

# OT SECURITY FRAMEWORKS / REGULATIONS

## TSA Security Directives



- TSA released security directives that are applicable to owners and operators of a hazardous liquid and natural gas pipeline, or a liquefied natural gas facility notified by the TSA that their pipeline system or facility is critical

## NERC-CIP Regulations



- Mandatory security standards that apply to entities that own or manage facilities that are apart of the US and Canadian electric power grid

## Frameworks



- IEC-62443
- NIST 800-82
- NIST CSF

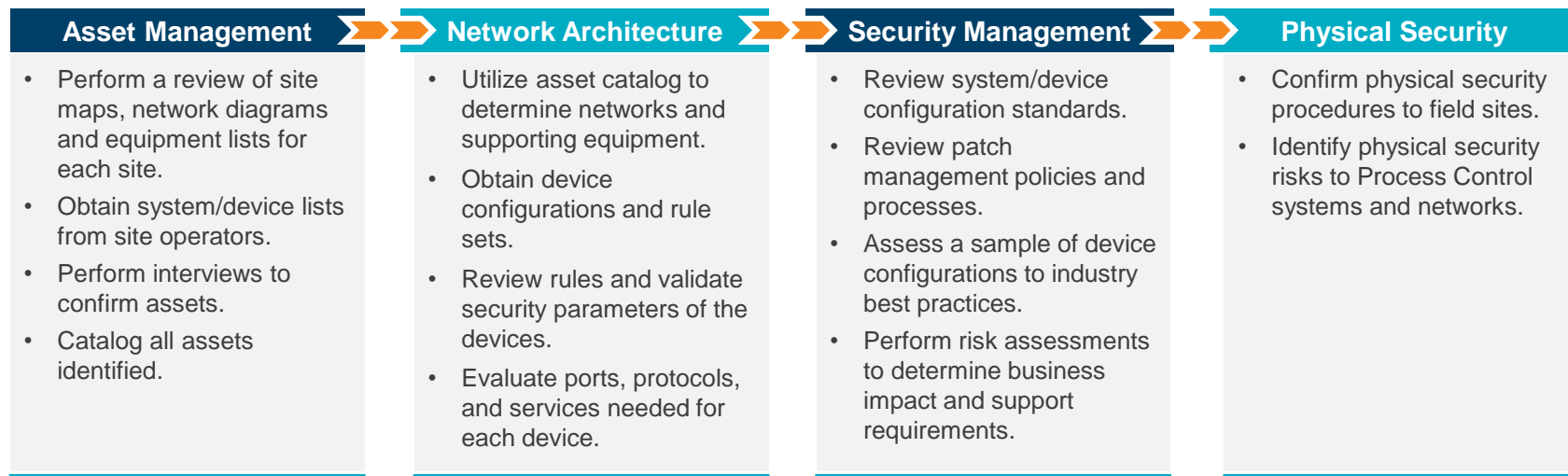
# AUDIT APPROACH EXAMPLE

## Industrial Control System Security Review

Protiviti recommends following a holistic approach to assessing the security of Process Control Systems.

### Security Assessment

The goal of these engagements is to assess the security posture of industrial controls and identify risk based on network architecture, device configuration and management, as well as network and physical access control.



**Deliverables:** Catalog of plant assets, including device, type and version, network device configuration and access control assessment report, review of network architecture, patch and vulnerability process review, report on device/software vulnerabilities, report on physical security risk points

# EXAMPLE REPORT FINDINGS

## III. Summary of Observations

The following table summarizes the total number of findings in each priority ranking identified during this OT Security Review.

Ref.	Observation	Priority
OT.1	Anti-Virus Not Installed or Enabled Across all OT systems	High
OT.2	Patch Management Procedures Not Established for OT Systems	High
OT.3	Asset Inventories Are Ad Hoc and Inconsistently Updated	High
OT.4	OT Governance and Project Management Practices Not Established	High
OT.5	Visibility Gaps in OT Network	High
OT.6	Legacy Operating Systems in use at Sampled OT Sites	High
OT.7	Gaps in DMZ Security Controls	Medium
OT.8	Weak Controls for Physical Security	Medium
OT.9	OT Sites Do Not Have Continuity Procedures	Medium
OT.10	IDS/IPS Solution Not in Place for OT Network	Medium
OT.11	Ineffectual or non-existent access reviews	Medium
OT.12	Insecure OT Account Password Settings	Medium
OT.13	OT Admins used Shared Accounts with Elevated Privileges	Medium
OT.14	Firewall Management	Medium
OT.15	Network Access Control (NAC) Not in Place for OT Network	Low

# EXAMPLE SITE SURVEYS TO ASSESS RISK

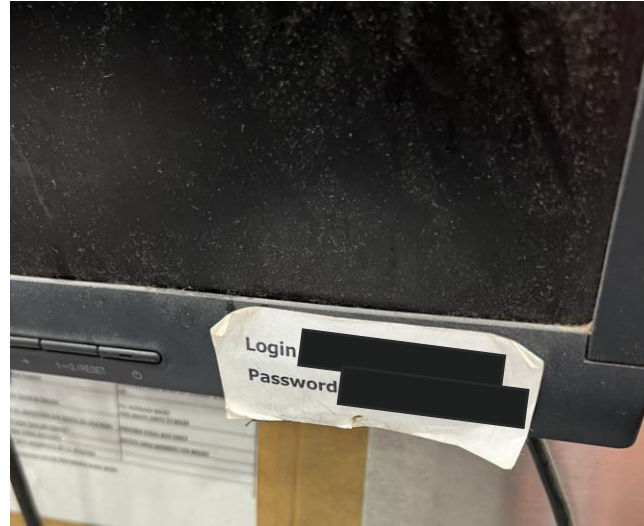
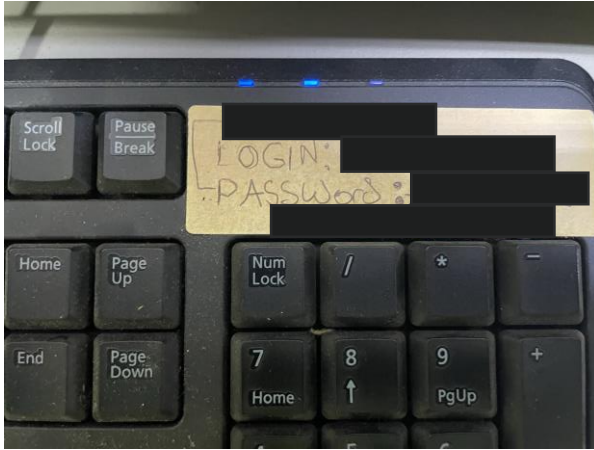
NIST Category	OT Security Policy	Corp / Plant	Questions list	Considerations	Scope	Category	Answers
IDENTIFY	5.1.2	Corp	Does this plant have a measurable risk management program in place?	Is threat intelligence information related to plant OT assets received by means of advisories, vendor notifications, security alerts, etc.?	Tier 1, Tier 2	Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YES for all listed items (Risk Score: 0)</li> <li>• NO for all listed items (Risk Score: 2)</li> <li>• Partial - Yes for some or most listed items (1)</li> <li>• NA</li> </ul>
				Are internal and external threats to plant OT assets documented?	Tier 1 only	Risk Management	
IDENTIFY	5.1.3 5.1.5	Corp	Is business impact analysis (BIA) conducted to include this plant and OT assets?	Does this plant have a risk classification in relation to overall manufacturing processes and facilities e.g. high risk, medium risk, low risk plant?	Tier 1, Tier 2	Business Impact Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YES for all listed items (Risk Score: 0)</li> <li>• NO for all listed items (Risk Score: 5)</li> <li>• Partial - Yes for some or most listed items</li> <li>• NA</li> </ul>
				Do accurate network architectures and data flow diagrams exist for OT assets at this plant?	All Plants	Business Impact Analysis	
				Are assets and applications prioritized by criticality?	Tier 1 only	Business Impact Analysis	
				If yes, are critical asset and application dependencies identified?	Tier 1 only	Business Impact Analysis	
				Is redundancy built in to plant processes / network to ensure resiliency and high availability of critical assets and applications?	Tier 1, Tier 2	Business Impact Analysis	
IDENTIFY	5.1.3	Corp	Are third party risks identified and managed?	Are critical vendors to this plant identified?	Tier 1, Tier 2	Supply Chain Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YES for all listed items (Risk Score: 0)</li> <li>• NO for all listed items (Risk Score: 4)</li> <li>• Partial - Yes for some or most listed items</li> <li>• NA</li> </ul>
				Are critical vendors monitored for compliance with policies?	Tier 1 only	Supply Chain Risk	
				Do vendor agreements and / or contracts address OT security risks?	Tier 1, Tier 2	Supply Chain Risk	
				Are vendors periodically re-evaluated for compliance with policies related to security and risk management?	Tier 1 only	Supply Chain Risk	
IDENTIFY	5.1.4	Plant	Does the plant implement and maintain an adequate asset management standard?	Is there an inventory of physical assets i.e. OT hosts and network devices at this plant?	All Plants	Asset Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YES for all listed items (Risk Score: 0)</li> <li>• NO for all listed items (Risk Score: 5)</li> <li>• Partial - Yes for some or most listed items</li> <li>• NA</li> </ul>
				Is there a list/inventory of software and applications installed and in use maintained? If yes, does it include version and build info?	Tier 1, Tier 2	Asset Management	
				Do all hardware and software assets have an owner or responsible team assigned?	All Plants	Asset Management	
				Are inventories maintained i.e. updated periodically and checked for accuracy?	All Plants	Asset Management	
				Is there a decommissioning procedure followed e.g. updating status in inventory after retiring or uninstalling?	Tier 1, Tier 2	Asset Management	

# EXAMPLE INPUTS TO RISK REGISTER

Name	Effort Owner	Likelihood of Occurrence (1-5)	Operations Impact (1-5)	Calculated Risk Score (2 - 10)	Weighted Risk Score
Secure Remote Access		5	5	10	10
OT Site Segmentation		5	5	10	10
Privileged Access Management		4	5	9	9.5
OT Patch Management		4	5	9	9.5
OT Vulnerability Management Program		4	4	8	8
Semi-Annual Firewall Ruleset Reviews		4	4	8	8
Establish OT Network Visibility		4	4	8	8
Asset Management		3	4	7	7.5
Network Access Control		3	4	7	7.5
Resources and Governance		2	4	6	7
Risk Indicators for Site Priority		2	4	6	7
Security Awareness & Training		4	3	7	6.5
Endpoint Protection		4	3	7	6.5
Physical Security Controls		4	3	7	6.5
OT Log Aggregation		4	3	7	6.5
Incident Response Tabletops		3	3	6	6
Socialize OT Security Policy		2	3	5	5.5
OT Risk Register		2	3	5	5.5
Business Impact Analysis		2	3	5	5.5
OT System Change Auditing		2	3	5	5.5
Third-Party Risk Management		3	2	5	4.5
Semi-Annual User Reviews		3	2	5	4.5



# EXAMPLE OBSERVATIONS – VISIBLE PASSWORDS

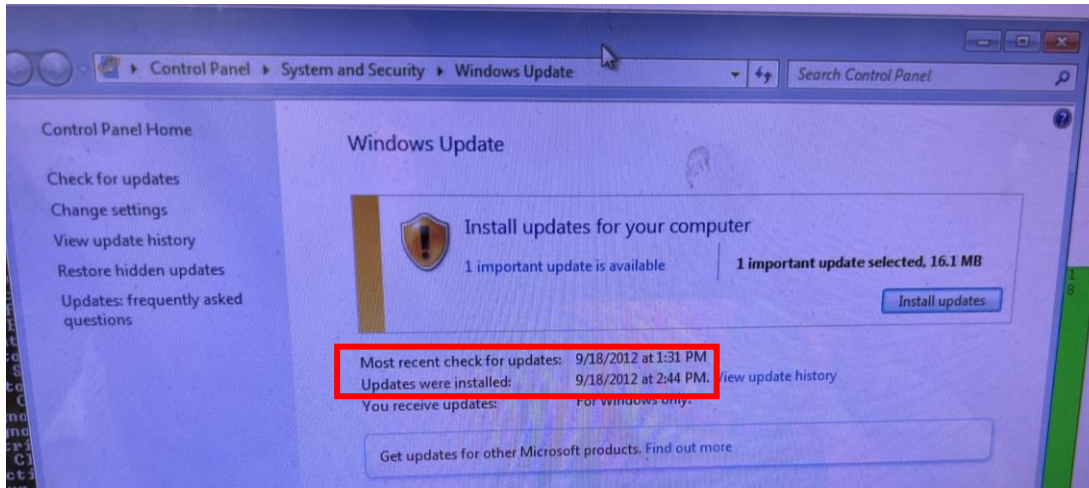


# EXAMPLE OBSERVATIONS

## – NON-STANDARD DEVICES

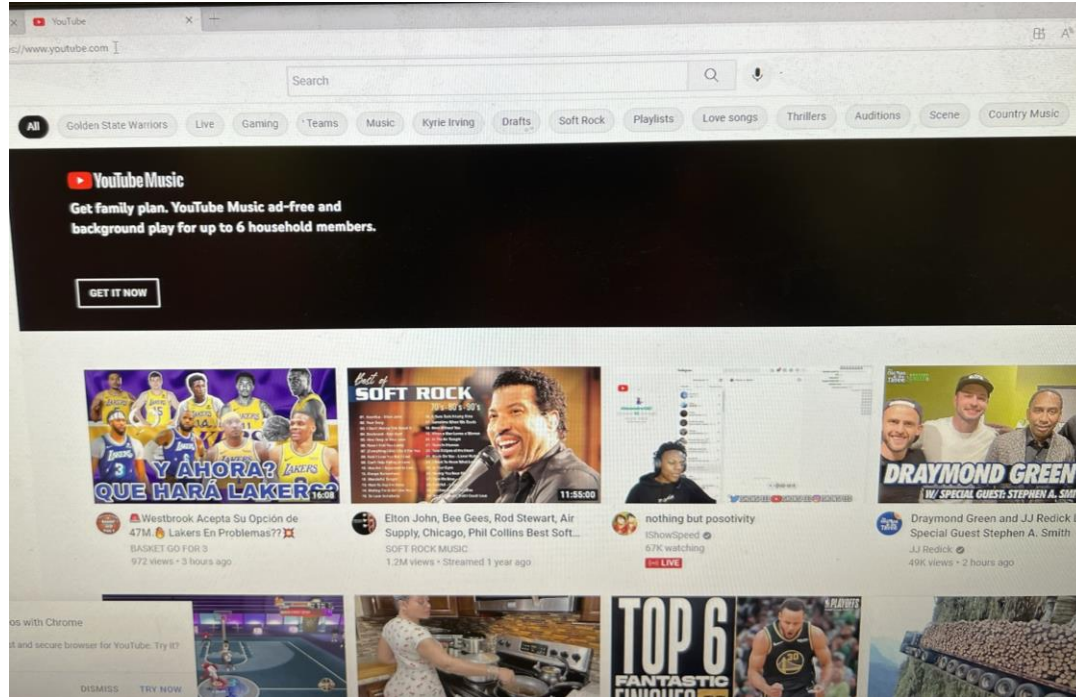


# EXAMPLE OBSERVATIONS – OUTDATED PATCHES AND PASSWORDS



```
C:\Users\Operator>net user Operator
User name                Operator
Full Name                Operator
Comment
User's comment
Country code             000 (System Default)
Account active           Yes
Account expires          Never
Password last set        7/27/2011 1:18:26 PM
Password expires         Never
Password changeable      7/27/2011 1:18:26 PM
Password required        No
User may change password No
Workstations allowed     All
Logon script
User profile
Home directory
Last logon               5/31/2022 1:15:05 PM
```

# EXAMPLE OBSERVATIONS – OPERATOR WORKSTATIONS WITH INTERNET ACCESS



## COMMON MYTHS AND RECOMMENDED FOCUS AREAS

# COMMON MYTHS

As OT Security has gained more notoriety, some myths have emerged from the public and IT teams as they gain more accountability for improving the safety, security and reliability of operational environments. While there may be some truth to these myths, some further context is needed to understand whether these myths are true or not.

1. If its air gapped, it's secure
2. You can use the same controls in OT as in IT
3. If it's a legacy system, there's nothing you can do to secure it
4. Our organization isn't important enough to be a target
5. We need a local cybersecurity team and the latest tools in order to have a safe, secure environment



# POLLING QUESTION

Which of the following was not listed a common myth associated with securing OT environments/networks?

- a. Network segmentation controls are not a priority
- b. OT can be secured using the same tools and measures as IT
- c. OT systems aren't a target for modern attacks
- d. The latest and greatest tools are required in order to achieve functional security

# BUILDING A PATH TO SAFE / RELIABLE OPERATIONS

Now that we understand some of the common pitfalls and myths related to OT security, let's discuss how companies can start to build a roadmap for safe, reliable operations.

1. Prioritize locations/facilities by business risk
2. Identify assets within the OT environment
3. Secure VPN and remote access
4. Enforce Network Segmentation between IT and OT
5. Restrict access control/permissions on a least privilege basis
6. OT network monitoring and visibility
7. Address highest risk vulnerabilities first, focusing on those with publicly available exploits

## APPENDIX – PROTIVITI CAPABILITIES

# PROTIVITI OT SECURITY CAPABILITIES

Protiviti's OT Security consulting services are focused on ensuring critical production environments run safely, reliably, and with minimum disruption. Our OT security solutions are scaled to meet the needs of our clients and support an OT Security Strategy focused on Safety, Productivity and Reliability. Our team of SMEs have the industry knowledge and technical depth to assist clients throughout their OT Security journey.

## Where Can Protiviti Help Organization with their OT Security Needs?



- OT Security Transformation
- Risk Management Program
- OT Standards
- Compliance (TSA, NERC-CIP)
- Program oversight



- Network Segmentation
- Security Architecture
- Physical Security
- Logical Access to OT



- Passive Asset Discovery
- Automated Detection
- Incident Response
- Patch Management
- Tabletop Exercises
- Managed Detect & Respond



- Vulnerability Assessment
- Penetration Testing
- Analysis and Remediation
- Targeted Testing

# THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

## Recent Thought Leadership



- [A House Divided: Key Differences in Cybersecurity Implementation for IT and OT](#)
- [Three Steps to Build an Effective Industrial Control Systems Security Program](#)
- [Webcast – Industrial Control System Security Basics](#)
- [Ransomware Crisis: 11 Actions to Secure Critical Infrastructure](#)
- [Smooth \(and Secure\) Operator: A Perspective on the Oldsmar Water Plant ICS Breach](#)
- [Lessons Learned From The Colonial Pipeline Attack And Recent TSA Directives](#)
- [TSA Security Directive Impacts to the Rail Industry](#)

QUESTIONS?



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