



# Securing Control Systems against Cyber-Attacks

About becoming aware,  
not ignorant nor paranoid

**Dr. Stefan Lüders (CERN Computer Security Team)**  
PAC 2009, Vancouver, Canada  
May 6th 2009





Security is **as high as the weakest link:**

- ▶ **Attacker** chooses the time, place, method
- ▶ **Defender** needs to protect against all possible attacks (currently known, and those yet to be discovered)



Security is a **system property** (not a feature)

Security is a **permanent process** (not a product)

Security is **difficult to achieve**, and only to 100%- $\epsilon$

- ▶ **YOU** define  $\epsilon$  as user, developer, system expert, admin, project manager



BTW: Security is **not** a synonym for safety







## The (r)evolution of control systems...



## ...omitted security aspects!



## Why worry, HEP?



## Mitigation: Defense-in-Depth



# (R)Evolution of Control Systems

"Securing Control Systems against Cyber-Attacks" — Dr. Stefan Lüders — PAC2009 — May 6<sup>th</sup> 2009

## Ethernet & Wireless Modbus/TCP, OPC & Telnet







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**Ethernet & Wireless  
Modbus/TCP, OPC & Telnet**

**Common of the shelf HW  
Desktop PCs & Laptops  
Windows & Linux**





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**C++, Java, XML, Corba...**  
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**Oracle, Labview...**

**Shared Accounts & Passwords**





# Standard Vulnerabilities

"Securing Control Systems against Cyber-Attacks" — Dr. Stefan Lüders — PAC2009 — May 6<sup>th</sup> 2009







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# Why worry ?

"Securing Control Systems against Cyber-Attacks" — Dr. Stefan Lüders — PAC2009 — May 6<sup>th</sup> 2009



**Risk =**  
**Threat**  
**× Vulnerability**  
**× Consequence**



# Threat or No Threat ?!

"Securing Control Systems against Cyber-Attacks" — Dr. Stefan Lüders — PAC2009 — May 6<sup>th</sup> 2009

ISAT GeoStar 45  
23:15 EST 14 Aug. 2003

W32.Blaster.Worm  
out three days earlier



Cracked road-sign







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U.S. electrical grid in  
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TECHNOLOGY | APRIL 8, 2009

## Electricity Grid in U.S. Penetrated By Spies



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U.S. congress faces  
this Wind of Change !



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S. 773 IS

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) America's failure to protect cyberspace is one of the most urgent national security problems facing the country.







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...failure to protect cyberspace is one of the most urgent national security problems facing the country.





# LHC First Beam Day

"Securing Control Systems against Cyber-Attacks" — Dr. Stefan Lüders — PAC2009 — May 6<sup>th</sup> 2009

Mozilla Firefox

Αρχείο Επεξεργασία Προβολή Ιστορικό Σελιδοδείκτες Εργαλεία Βοήθεια

http://[redacted].cern.ch/[redacted]/apanthsh.html

Proxy: None Apply Edit Remove Add Status: Using None Preferences

Post a new topic http://[redacted].anthsh.html

**GS**  
GREEK SECURITY TEAM

10/09/08 03:00

Αυτήν την ώρα γίνεται η απόπειρα πειράματος στο CERN.

Ο λόγος που διαλέξαμε αυτή τη σελίδα είναι για να σας θυμίζουμε μερικά πράγματα.  
Δεν έγινε βάση κάποιας προσωπικής μας αντιπαράθεσης με την ομάδα διαχείρισης του CERN αλλά με βάση την μεγάλη επισκεψιμότητα που θα αποκτήσει τα επόμενα 24ωρα ο συγκεκριμένος διαδικτυακός τόπος λόγω του πειράματος.

Μερικά στοιχεία απ' τη βάση :

USERNAME	USER_ID	CREATED
SYS	0	2008-02-18 16:19:25.0
SYSTEM	5	2008-02-18 16:19:25.0
OUTLN	11	2008-02-18 16:19:28.0
DIP	19	2008-02-18 16:21:17.0
TSM SYS	21	2008-02-18 16:23:27.0
DBSNMP	24	2008-02-18 16:24:25.0
WMSYS	25	2008-02-18 16:24:53.0
EXFSYS	34	2008-02-18 16:27:55.0
XDB	35	2008-02-18 16:28:04.0
PDB_ADMIN	46	2008-02-18 17:26:32.0
GLEGE	49	2008-02-19 10:13:07.0
PDBMON	45	2008-02-18 17:25:24.0
BALYS	44	2008-02-18 17:25:24.0
USERMON	48	2008-02-18 17:59:26.0
..etc...etc....		

Hmm...

A defaced web-page  
at an LHC experiment...



...on 10/09/2008:  
Just coincidence ?



A "flame" message  
to some Greek  
"competitors"...







# Who owns the consequences ?

"Securing Control Systems against Cyber-Attacks" — Dr. Stefan Lüders — PAC2009 — May 6<sup>th</sup> 2009

**ZDNet Government**  
**Richard Koman**  
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September 12th, 2008

**Hackers deface LHC site, came close to turning off particle detector**

Posted by Richard Koman @ September 12, 2008 @ 8:35 AM

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- Can you allow for loss of
- ▶ functionality
  - ▶ control or safety
  - ▶ efficiency & beam time
  - ▶ hardware or data
  - ▶ reputation...?



Le site du Cern piraté

Source : AP  
13/09/2008 | Mise à jour : 13:09 | Commentaires 6





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September 13, 2008

Hackers break into CERN computer – to show up its 'schoolkid' security

Can you allow for loss of

- ▶ functionality
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Are you prepared to take *full* responsibility?





# Defense-in-Depth

"Securing Control Systems against Cyber-Attacks" — Dr. Stefan Lüders — PAC2009 — May 6<sup>th</sup> 2009







# Defense-in-Depth

"Securing Control Systems against Cyber-Attacks" — Dr. Stefan Lüders — PAC2009 — May 6<sup>th</sup> 2009



**Devices & Hardware**

**Firmware & Operating Systems  
(Network-) Protocols**

**Software & Applications  
Third party applications**

**Operators & User  
Developers & System Experts**

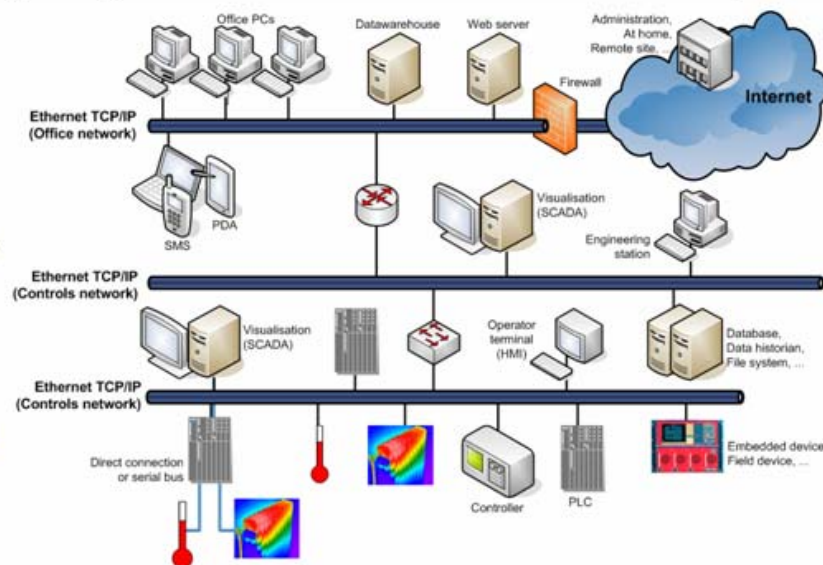


# Separate Networks

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## Deploy different networks for different purposes:

- ▶ ...for operations with sub-nets for different functions
- ▶ ...for development and basic testing
- ▶ ...for beam-lines & experiments
- ▶ Campus network for office computing



## Restrict their usage:

- ▶ **Assign responsibilities** and deploy authorization procedures
- ▶ **Drop** Internet connectivity, (GPRS) modems, wireless access points
- ▶ **Control inter-communication** between networks
- ▶ **Block laptops, email & control web pages**
- ▶ Control remote access
- ▶ Deploy traffic monitoring & Intrusion Detection Systems





# Patch, Patch, Patch !!!

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Hacked oscilloscope at CERN  
(running Win XP SP2 unpatched)



```
220-<<<<<<=> Haxed by A|0n3 >=><>>>>>
220- ,øx°°^°°xø, ,øx°°^°°xø, ,øx°°^°°xø, ,øx°°^°°xø,
220-/
220-| Welcome to this fine str0
220-| Today is: Thursday 12 January, 2006
220-|
220-| Current througput: 0.000 Kb/sec
220-| Space For Rent: 5858.57 Mb
220-|
220-| Running: 0 days, 10 hours, 31 min. and 31 sec.
220-| Users Connected : 1 Total : 15
220-|
220^°°xø, ,øx°°^°°xø, ,øx°°^°°xø, ,øx°°^°°xø, ,øx°°^
```



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## Ensure prompt security updates:

- ▶ **Pass flexibility** and responsibility to the experts
- ▶ They decide *when* to install *what* on *which* control PC
- ▶ **Integrate resilience** to rebooting PCs
- ▶ NOT patching is NOT an option

## Deploy protective measures:

- ▶ **Local firewalls**
- ▶ **Anti-virus software** & updated signature files
- ▶ Control remotely accessible folders



## Linux or Macs are not more secure:

- ▶ Trend towards application-based attacks (e.g. Adobe Reader, Firefox)
- ▶ Trend towards web-based attacks (e.g. web browser plug-ins)





# Control (Remote) Access

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## Follow "Rule of Least Privilege":

- ▶ **Restrict** all access to minimum
- ▶ Ensure **traceability** (who, when, and from where)
- ▶ **Keep passwords secret**

## ...for all assets:

- ▶ Control PCs & operating systems
- ▶ SCADA applications & user interfaces
- ▶ Procedures, documentation, etc.

## "Role Based Access Control" for op's:

- ▶ Avoid "shared" accounts
- ▶ **Multi-factor authentication** for critical assets
- ▶ Full control for the shift leader of operations



```
// If same day then simple querye  
  
if (($StartDay == $EndDay) && ($StartMonth == $EndMonth))  
$DateClause = " WHERE PROCESSINGDAY = TO_DATE(':$Start  
)  
else {  
$DateClause = " WHERE PROCESSINGDAY BETWEEN TO_DATE(':  
$DateClause .= " AND TO_DATE(':$EndDay-$EndMonth-$EndYe  
}  
  
// do the query and show tables  
$user =   
$pass =   
$sdb =   
$db = "  
  
$sdb_conn = oci_logon($user,$pass,$sdb);  
  
$sqlstring = "Select sum(NROFRECORDS),execluster,jobeta  
$sqlstring .= $DateClause;
```

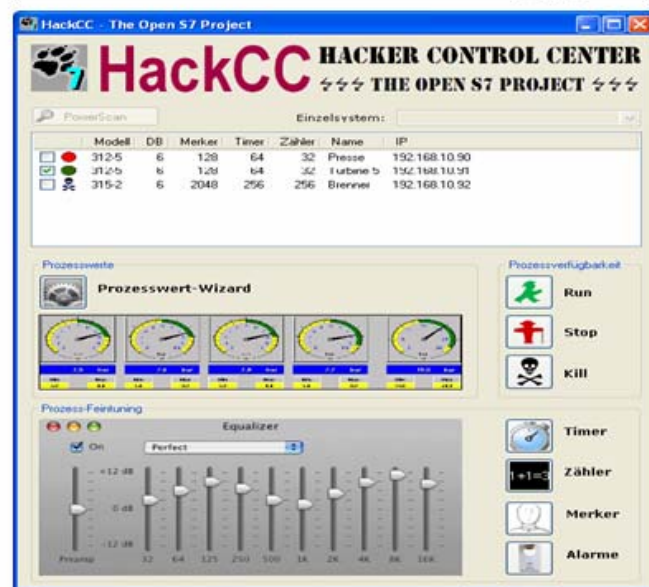
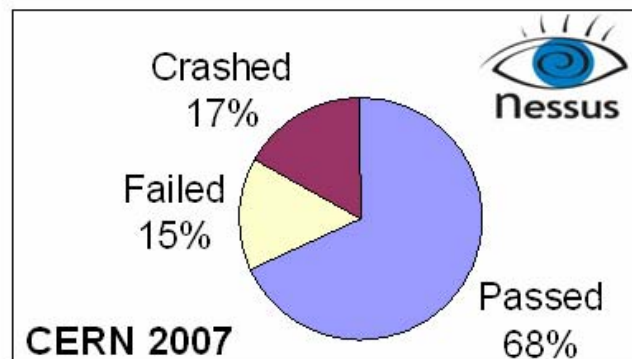


# Increase Robustness

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PLCs and other controls devices  
are completely **unprotected**:

► No firewall, no anti-virus, nothing







# Review Development Life Cycle

"Securing Control Systems against Cyber-Attacks" — Dr. Stefan Lüders — PAC2009 — May 6<sup>th</sup> 2009

## Review procedures for

- ▶ ...development of hardware & applications
- ▶ ...system testing
- ▶ ...deployment
- ▶ ...operations
- ▶ ...maintenance & bug fixing
- ▶ Use **software versioning systems, configuration management, and integration frameworks** (CVS, SVN, Git)

## Protect operations

- ▶ **Keep development separated** from operations  
(eventually debugging might need access to full accelerator hardware)



# Foster Collaboration & Policies

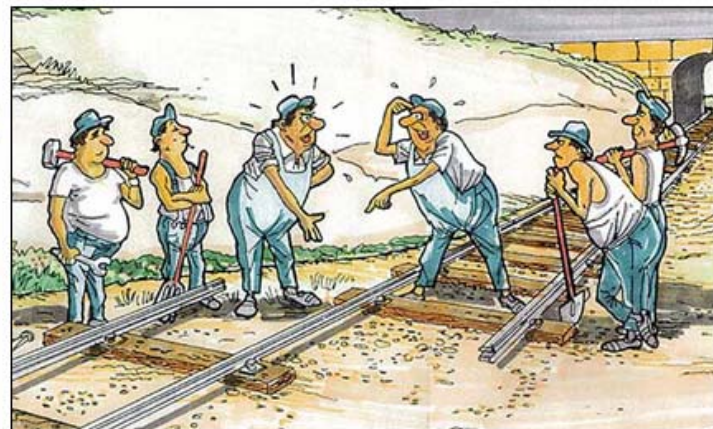
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## Make security an objective

- ▶ Get **management buy-in** (security has a cost – successful attacks, too)
- ▶ Produce "Security Policy for Controls"
- ▶ **Follow** the **basic standards** of Industry

## **Bring together** control & IT experts:

- ▶ Control system experts know their systems by heart – but IT concepts ?
- ▶ IT people often don't know controls – but IT security they do
- ▶ Win mutual trust
- ▶ Gain synergy effects



## Train users and raise awareness





# The (r)evolution of control systems... ...omitted security aspects!



# Summary

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**Do you want to act  
BEFORE or AFTER  
the incident?**

