



# The Rising Tide Threats to Industrial Control Systems

INFOWARCON 2018

**Joe Slowik**

Dragos, Inc. | October 2018



# ***Agenda***

**1**

**ICS in Context**

**2**

**High Profile Attacks**

**3**

**Current Operations**

**4**

**Future Expectations**

# ***WHOAMI - ICS Defender!***



***...But on My Terms!***



FreshWallpapers.Net

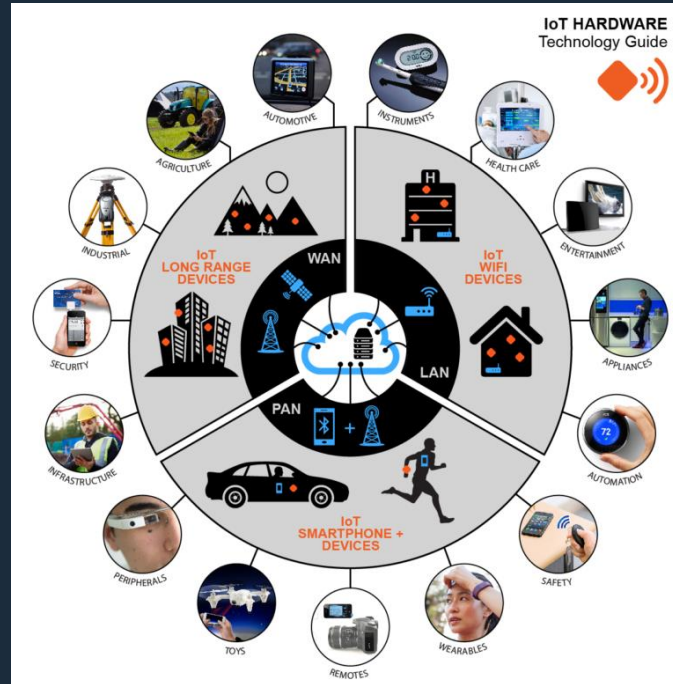
DRAGONS

# *What is ICS?*

Industrial Control Systems (ICS): A term used to encompass the many applications and uses of industrial and facility control and automation systems. ISA-99/IEC 62443 is using Industrial Automation and Control Systems (ISA-62443.01.01) with one proposed definition being “a collection of personnel, hardware, and software that can affect or influence the safe, secure, and reliable operation of an industrial process.” The following table includes just a few of the ICS-related applications and labels we use.

*<https://ics.sans.org/media/An-Abbreviated-History-of-Automation-and-ICS-Cybersecurity.pdf>*

# What ICS is NOT



[http://www.a2n.net/site/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/IoT\\_04.png](http://www.a2n.net/site/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/IoT_04.png)

CONTEXT

ATTACKS

OPERATIONS


FUTURE

DRAGOS

# ***What is an 'Attack'?***

- Focusing specifically on ICS context:
  - Event that degrades, disrupts, or destroys an ICS process
  - Preparatory actions to an attack
  - Separate from IT-specific impacts
- General reconnaissance, intelligence gathering, and IP theft are separate concerns

# Not ICS Attacks



cyberscoop

TRANSPORTATION HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGY FINANCIAL WATCH LISTEN

GOVERNMENT

## Meet GreyEnergy, the newest hacking group hitting Ukraine's power grid



Süddeutsche Zeitung  
SZ.de Zeitung Magazin

Türkische Pipeline-Explosion wohl kein Cyber-Angriff

19. Juni 2015, 17:08 Uhr Angeblicher Cyberangriff auf Pipeline

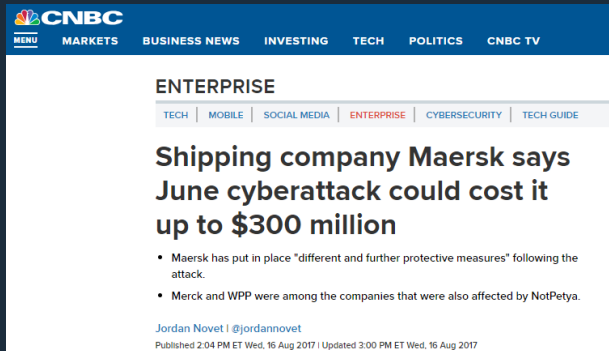
### Die Tatwaffe fehlt



## ClearEnergy - The "In The Wild" SCADA Ransomware Attacks That Never Existed

By Catalin Cimpanu

April 7, 2017 10:37 AM



CNBC

MENU MARKETS BUSINESS NEWS INVESTING TECH POLITICS CNBC TV

ENTERPRISE

TECH MOBILE SOCIAL MEDIA ENTERPRISE CYBERSECURITY TECH GUIDE

## Shipping company Maersk says June cyberattack could cost it up to \$300 million

- Maersk has put in place "different and further protective measures" following the attack.
- Merck and WPP were among the companies that were also affected by NotPetya.

Jordan Novet | @jordannovet

Published 2:04 PM ET Wed, 16 Aug 2017 | Updated 3:00 PM ET Wed, 16 Aug 2017



## U.S. to blame Iran for cyber attack on small NY dam: sources

Dustin Volz, Nate Raymond

3 MIN READ



WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The Obama administration is planning to publicly blame Iranian hackers for a 2013 cyber attack against a small dam in New York state, three sources familiar with the matter told Reuters.



The Register

Security

## Ukraine claims it blocked VPNFilter attack at chemical plant

We won't say who we think it is but we'll point with our elbow...

By John Leyden 13 Jul 2018 at 11:44

17 SHARE

CONTEXT

ATTACKS

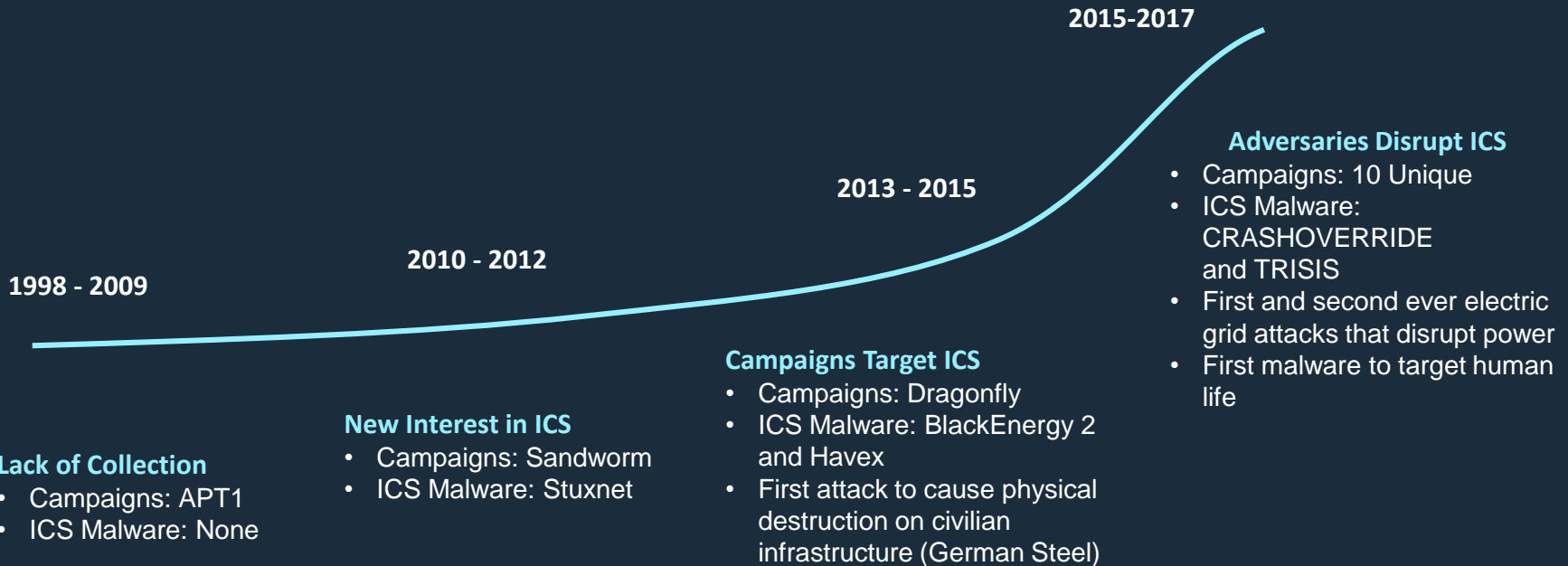
OPERATIONS

FUTURE

DRAGOS



# ICS Interest Over Time



CONTEXT

ATTACKS

OPERATIONS

FUTURE

# *ICS Attacks & Malware in Context*

## ICS-Focused Malware

- STUXNET
- HAVEX
- BLACKENERGY2
- CRASHOVERRIDE
- TRISIS

## ICS Disruptive Events

- 2005-2010 (?): STUXNET
- 2014: German Steel Mill Attack
- 2015: Ukraine BLACKENERGY3
- 2016: Ukraine CRASHOVERRIDE
- 2017: Saudi Arabia TRISIS

## Disruptive/Destructive Malware

- STUXNET
- CRASHOVERRIDE
- TRISIS

CONTEXT

ATTACKS

OPERATIONS

FUTURE

# ICS Threat Evolution

## STUXNET

- Automated spread and impact
- Outlier

## Havex

- Automated information gathering, manual deployment
- No "effects" portion

## BlackEnergy2

- Modified BlackEnergy code
- Used for HMI reconnaissance

## BlackEnergy3

- Implants designed to facilitate access
- ICS operations all manual

## CRASHOVERRIDE

- Manual deployment
- Effects modules codify specialist knowledge

## TRISIS

- Manually deployed
- ICS logic encoded in malware

# *Concerning Trends*



# *Headline Attacks*

2016:  
CRASHOVERRIDE

- Evolution in Ukraine Attacks
- ICS Manipulation via Malware

2017: TRISIS

- First Known Case Targeting Safety Systems
- Accepts Risk to Human Life

# 2016 Ukraine



The image is a screenshot of a Reuters news article. At the top left is the Reuters logo, followed by navigation links for 'World', 'Business', 'Markets', 'Politics', and 'TV'. Below this is a horizontal menu with several topic tags: 'Imprisoned In Myanmar', 'Energy & Environment', 'Brexit', 'North Korea', 'Charged: The Future of Autos', 'Future of Money', and 'Br'. The main content area features the text 'TECHNOLOGY NEWS JANUARY 18, 2017 / 4:06 AM / 2 YEARS AGO' in a small font. The headline is 'Ukraine's power outage was a cyber attack: Ukrenergo' in a large, bold font. Below the headline, the authors 'Pavel Polityuk, Oleg Vukmanovic, Stephen Jewkes' are listed, and to the right, it says '3 MIN READ'. The first paragraph of the article reads: 'KIEV/MILAN (Reuters) - A power blackout in Ukraine's capital Kiev last month was caused by a cyber attack and investigators are trying to trace other potentially infected computers and establish the source of the breach, utility Ukrenergo told Reuters on Wednesday.'

CONTEXT

ATTACKS

OPERATIONS

FUTURE

DRAGOS

# ***CRASHOVERRIDE Malware***

ANDY GREENBERG SECURITY 06.12.17 08:00 AM

## 'CRASH OVERRIDE': THE MALWARE THAT TOOK DOWN A POWER GRID



CONTEXT

ATTACKS

OPERATIONS

FUTURE

DRAGOS

# 2017 Saudi Arabia



The image shows a screenshot of a Reuters news article. At the top, the Reuters logo is on the left, and navigation links for 'World', 'Business', 'Markets', 'Politics', and 'TV' are on the right. Below the navigation is a row of topic tags: 'Imprisoned In Myanmar', 'Energy & Environment', 'Brexit', 'North Korea', 'Charged: The Future of Autos', and 'Future of Money'. The article's category is 'CYBER RISK', dated 'DECEMBER 14, 2017 / 8:08 AM / 10 MONTHS AGO'. The main headline is 'Hackers halt plant operations in watershed cyber attack'. The author is 'Jim Finkle' and the article is marked as a '5 MIN READ'. The first paragraph of the article text is: '(Reuters) - Hackers likely working for a nation-state recently invaded the safety system of a critical infrastructure facility in a watershed attack that halted plant operations, according to cyber investigators and the firm whose software was targeted.'

CONTEXT

ATTACKS

OPERATIONS

FUTURE

DRAGOS



# TRISIS Rootkit

SUBSCRIBE | ABOUT | RSS

cyberscoop

BROUGHT TO YOU BY **SNG**   
SCOOP NEWS GROUP

GOVERNMENT

TRANSPORTATION

HEALTHCARE

TECHNOLOGY

FINANCIAL

WATCH

LISTEN

ATTEND

COMMUNITY

TECHNOLOGY

## Trisis has the security world spooked, stumped and searching for answers



CONTEXT

ATTACKS

OPERATIONS

FUTURE

DRAGOS 

# ***Beyond Disruptive & Destructive***

ICS Operations are not “Bolts from the Blue”

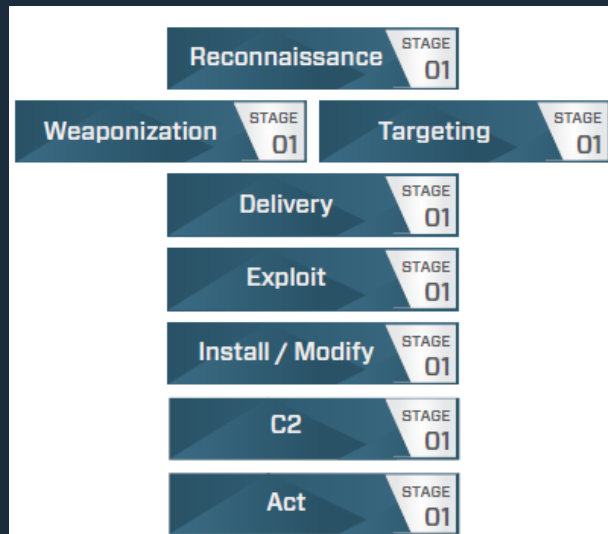
Attacks Require Capability Development

Delivery Requires Access

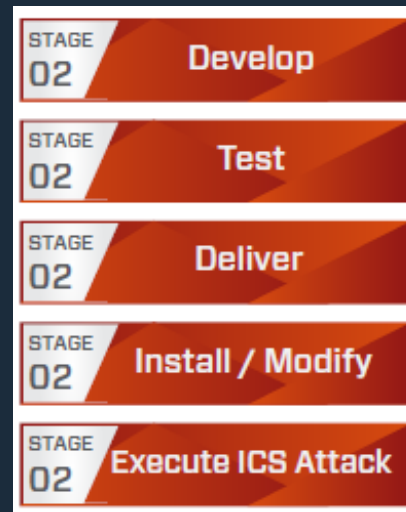
Execution Demands Control

# ***Orienting to Kill Chain***

## ***PHASE 1 - IT***



## ***PHASE 2 - ICS***



# ***Tracking Adversaries by Behavior***



**CONTEXT**

**ATTACKS**

**OPERATIONS**

**FUTURE**

# *ICS Targeting Activity Groups*



CONTEXT

ATTACKS

OPERATIONS

FUTURE

# *Initial Access & Recon*



CONTEXT

ATTACKS

OPERATIONS

FUTURE

DRAGOS



# ***Initial Access & Recon***

- Stage 1 Kill Chain activity
- Pre-requisite for Stage 2 operations
- Focus on:
  - Identifying access to ICS environment
  - Determining target technologies and attack surface

# ***CHRYSENE Oil & Gas Targeting***

## SHAMOON Relationship

- Code Overlap with Shamoos Activity
- Relationship with Disruptive Attacks

## Targeting Profile

- Largely Focused on Middle East
- Indications of Targeting Expansion to North America

## Goals & Intentions

- Information Gathering and Establishing Access
- Can be Used for Future Disruptive Attacks



# *COVELLITE US Power Intrusions*



POLITICS

BORDER CRISIS

TECH & MEDIA

BUSINESS



NORTH KOREA

## Experts: North Korea Targeted U.S. Electric Power Companies

by Andrea Mitchell and Ken Dilanian / Oct.10.2017 / 4:05 PM ET

CONTEXT

ATTACKS

OPERATIONS

FUTURE



# ***RASPITE Grid Investigation***



**SECURITY BOULEVARD**

Home ▾ Security Bloggers Network ▾ Webinars ▾ Chats ▾ Library

ANALYTICS APPSEC CISO CLOUD DEVOPS GRC IDENTITY INCIDENT RESPONSE IOT / ICS THREATS / BREACHES M



Home » Security Boulevard (Original) » News » Iran-Linked RASPITE Group Targets U.S. Electric Utilities

## Iran-Linked RASPITE Group Targets U.S. Electric Utilities

by Lirio Constantinou August 3, 2018

**CONTEXT**

**ATTACKS**

**OPERATIONS**

**FUTURE**



# *ICS Survey and Development*



CONTEXT

ATTACKS

OPERATIONS

FUTURE



# ***ICS Survey and Development***

- Initial Stage 2 Kill Chain activity
- ICS environment accessed
- Focus on:
  - Enumerating ICS environment
  - Prerequisite to attack development and deployment

# ***US & UK Electric Grid Probing***



A screenshot of a news article from The Washington Post. The page has a dark header with the newspaper's name and tagline. The article is categorized under 'National Security' and features a large, bold headline about Russian government hackers probing US energy and nuclear networks.

ctions ☰

**The Washington Post**  
*Democracy Dies in Darkness*

**National Security**

## **U.S. officials say Russian government hackers have penetrated energy and nuclear company business networks**

CONTEXT

ATTACKS

OPERATIONS

FUTURE

DRAGOS

# US & UK Electric Grid Probing



## US-CERT

UNITED STATES COMPUTER EMERGENCY READINESS TEAM

[HOME](#)[ABOUT US](#)[CAREERS](#)[PUBLICATIONS](#)[ALERTS AND TIPS](#)[RELATED RESOURCES](#)[C³ VP](#)

### Alert (TA18-074A)

[More Alerts](#)

Russian Government Cyber Activity Targeting Energy and Other Critical Infrastructure Sectors

Original release date: March 15, 2018 | Last revised: March 16, 2018

[CONTEXT](#)[ATTACKS](#)[OPERATIONS](#)[FUTURE](#)

# US & UK Electric Grid Probing



The screenshot shows the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) website. The header includes the NCSC logo and the text "National Cyber Security Centre a part of GCHQ". A search bar is located to the right of the logo. The navigation menu includes "Guidance", "Threats" (highlighted in red), "Incident Management", "Marketplace", "Education & Research", and "Insight". Below the navigation menu, there are links for "Alerts and advisories", "Reports", and "Join our CISP Community". The main content area shows a breadcrumb trail: "Home > Threats > Alerts and Advisories". Below the breadcrumb trail, the text "Alerts and Advisories" is displayed. The main heading of the advisory is "Advisory: Hostile state actors compromising UK organisations with focus on engineering and industrial control companies". At the bottom of the advisory, it states "Created: 05 Apr 2018" and "Updated: 05 Apr 2018".

CONTEXT

ATTACKS

OPERATIONS

FUTURE



# *Sustained Campaigns*

	<b>DRAGONFLY</b>	<b>DYMALLOY</b>	<b>ALLANITE</b>
Active	2013-2014	Late 2015 – ?	Mid 2017 - ?
Target Geography	Europe North America	Turkey Europe North America	USA UK
Infection Vector	Phishing w/PDF, Watering Hole, Trojanized Software	Phishing w/Doc	Phishing w/Doc, Watering Hole
Persistence Mechanism	HERIPLOR, KARAGANY Malware	Various Malware and Backdoors	Create User Accounts, Credential Harvesting
ICS Impact	OPC-focused Malware Family	Survey and Screenshots via Malware	Survey and Screenshots vis System Tools



# *ICS Attack Capable*



CONTEXT

ATTACKS

OPERATIONS

FUTURE



# ***ICS Attack Capable***

- Final Stage 2 Kill Chain ICS impact
- Environment is reasonably known
- Attack developed and in place
- Execution of disruptive/destructive attack

# ***XENOTIME Attack Development***

cyber**scoop**

GOVERNMENT

**Trisis masterminds have expanded operations to target U.S. industrial firms**



CONTEXT

ATTACKS

OPERATIONS

FUTURE

DRAGOS

# ***XENOTIME Attribution?***

cyberscoop

TECHNOLOGY

FINANCIAL

WATCH

LISTEN

Written by [Sean Lyngaas](#)

OCT 23, 2018 | CYBERSCOOP

A Russian-owned research institute very likely helped build tools used by an infamous hacking group that caused a petrochemical plant in Saudi Arabia to shut down last year, cybersecurity company FireEye said Tuesday.

CONTEXT

ATTACKS

OPERATIONS

FUTURE

DRAGOS

# ***Where Do We Go from Here?***



*[http://abcnews.go.com/images/US/abc\\_texas\\_chemical\\_fire\\_11\\_11003\\_wblog.jpg](http://abcnews.go.com/images/US/abc_texas_chemical_fire_11_11003_wblog.jpg)*

**CONTEXT**

**ATTACKS**

**OPERATIONS**

**FUTURE**

DRAGOS



# ***Greater Adversary Risk Tolerance***

Shift to  
Disruptive/Destructive  
Attacks

Acceptance of Physical  
Damage

Extension of Attacks to  
Safety Systems

Acceptance of Human  
Loss

**CONTEXT**

**ATTACKS**

**OPERATIONS**

**FUTURE**

DRAGOS

# ICS Attacks as Strategic Messaging



<https://alochonaa.files.wordpress.com/2014/03/ukraine.png>



<http://rawabetcenter.com/en/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/IRAN-VS-KSA-768x506.jpg>



# ***Concerns in ICS Targeting***

Potential for Errors and Mistakes

Miscalculation and Control of Events

Indeterminate Response and Proportionality

Physical Disruption Equating to Physical Attack

# *Expectations*

More Attacks to Come

Greater Likelihood of Physical Destruction

Increased Threat Adversary Activity

Possibility Initial Access and Info Gathering Results in Accident

# Further Reading

- [An Abbreviated History of Automation & Industrial Controls Cyber Security](#) – SANS Institute
- [Analysis of the Cyber Attack on the Ukrainian Power Grid](#) – SANS Institute
- [Russian Government Cyber Activity Targeting Energy and Other Critical Infrastructure Sectors](#) – US-CERT
- [Dragonfly: Cyberespionage Attacks Against Energy Suppliers](#) – Symantec
- [Dragonfly: Western Energy Sector Targeted by Sophisticated Attack Group](#) – Symantec
- [CRASHOVERRIDE: Analysis of the Threat to Electric Grid Operations](#) – Dragos
- [TRISIS Malware: Analysis of Safety System Targeted Malware](#) – Dragos
- [Anatomy of an Attack: Detecting and Defeating CRASHOVERRIDE](#) – Dragos
- [Industrial Control System Threats Year in Review, 2017](#) – Dragos
- [Attackers Deploy New ICS Attack Framework “TRITON”](#) – FireEye

# Questions?

@jfslowik

jslowik@dragos.com

dragos.com / pylos.co

DRAGOS 