

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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# CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY

Warren Hagelstien  
Cybersecurity Advisor, Region 7  
Omaha, NE



# Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

## VISION

Secure and resilient  
infrastructure for the  
American people.

## MISSION

We lead the National effort  
to understand, manage, and  
reduce risk to our cyber and  
physical infrastructure.



## OVERALL GOALS

### GOAL 1

#### DEFEND TODAY

Defend against urgent  
threats and hazards

seconds | days | weeks

### GOAL 2

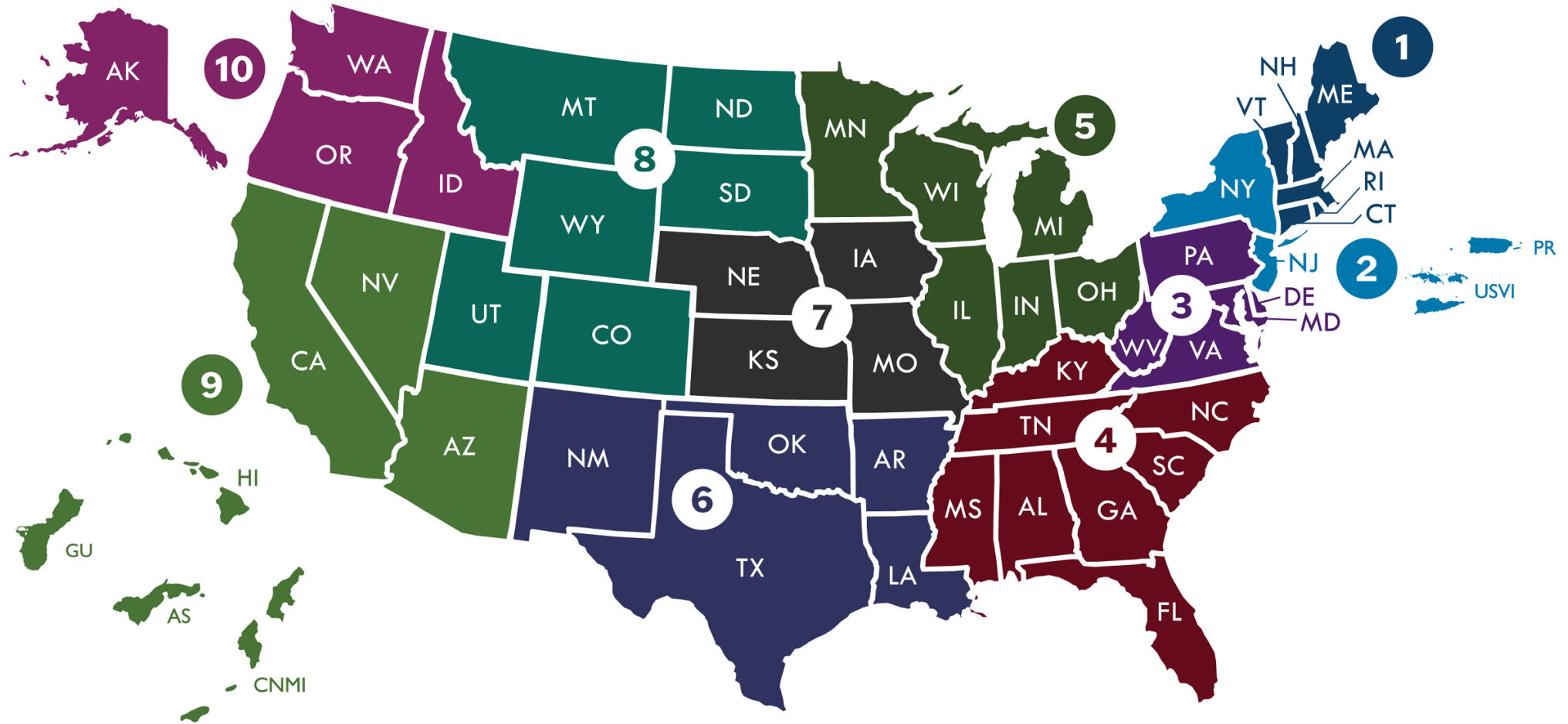
#### SECURE TOMORROW

Strengthen critical  
infrastructure and  
address long-term risks

months | years | decades

# CISA Regions

















- 1 Boston, MA
- 2 New York, NY
- 3 Philadelphia, PA
- 4 Atlanta, GA
- 5 Chicago, IL
- 6 Dallas, TX
- 7 Kansas City, MO
- 8 Denver, CO
- 9 Oakland, CA
- 10 Seattle, WA



# Critical Infrastructure Significance

Critical Infrastructure refers to the **assets, systems, and networks**, whether physical or cyber, so vital to the Nation *that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on national security, the economy, public health or safety, and our way of life*

## 16 Sectors & Sector Specific Agencies

 CHEMICAL	DHS (CISA)	 FINANCIAL	Treasury
 COMMERCIAL FACILITIES	DHS (CISA)	 FOOD & AGRICULTURE	USDA & HHS
 COMMUNICATIONS	DHS (CISA)	 GOVERNMENT FACILITIES	GSA & DHS (FPS)
 CRITICAL MANUFACTURING	DHS (CISA)	 HEALTHCARE & PUBLIC HEALTH	HHS
 DAMS	DHS (CISA)	 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	DHS (CISA)
 DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE	DOD	 NUCLEAR REACTORS, MATERIALS AND WASTE	DHS (CISA)
 EMERGENCY SERVICES	DHS (CISA)	 TRANSPORTATIONS SYSTEMS	DOT & DHS
 ENERGY	DOE	 WATER	EPA



# Operational Technology (OT)

“Programmable systems or devices that interact with the physical environment (or manage devices that interact with the physical environment)” NIST.gov

1. Industrial Control Systems (ICS)
2. Building Automation Systems (BAS)
3. Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA)
4. Distributed Control Systems (DCS)
5. Remote Terminal Units (RTU)  
Programmable Logic Controller (PLCs)
6. Physical Access Control Systems (PACS)
7. Physical Environment Control Systems (PECS) or Safety Systems
8. Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT)



# Volt Typhoon

- Volt Typhoon is a PRC state-sponsored cyber group
- Confirmed to have compromised multiple critical infrastructure organizations
  - Communications
  - Energy
  - Transportation
  - Water and Wastewater
- Living off the land (LOTL) techniques is a hallmark of Volt Typhoon activity





# PRC Advisories

## JOINT CYBERSECURITY ADVISORY

Co-Authored by:

TLP:CLEAR

Product ID: AA24-038A

February 7, 2024



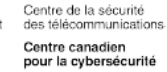
## PRC State-Sponsored Actors Compromise and Maintain Persistent Access to U.S. Critical Infrastructure

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TLP:CLEAR



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JOINT GUIDANCE:

## Identifying and Mitigating Living Off the Land Techniques

Publication: February 7, 2024

U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency  
U.S. National Security Agency  
U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U.S. Department of Energy  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Transportation Security Administration  
Australian Signals Directorate's Australian Cyber Security Centre  
Canadian Centre for Cyber Security (Cyber Centre), a part of the Communications Security Establishment (CSE)  
United Kingdom National Cyber Security Centre  
New Zealand National Cyber Security Centre

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TLP:CLEAR



# OT/SCADA/IoT Threat



## Iranian Threat Actors CyberAv3ngers

- **Targeting Israel & U.S. Critical Infrastructure**
- **Tools of the trade:**
  - **IOCONTROL Malware**
  - **ChatGPT to crack PLCs, develop exploit scripts, and plan post-compromise activity**
- **Targeted Devices: routers, IP cameras, programmable logic controllers (PLCs), human-machine interfaces (HMIs), firewalls, and fuel management systems**

1. Installed in '/usr/bin/' directory the malware targets a broad spectrum of system architectures
2. Sets up persistence with S92InitSystemd.sh script
3. C2 communication with MQTT protocol over port 8883
4. Uses DNS over HTTPS
5. Supports multiple commands
6. Complete list of IOCs at [Inside a New OT/IoT Cyberweapon: IOCONTROL | Claroty](#)

[New IOCONTROL malware used in critical infrastructure attacks](#)





# Purdue Model Example

Generic ICS MODEL for Oil and Gas Pipeline							
	Layer	SCADA/ICS Description	Risk/Material Profile	Functional Layer	Standards		
External ZONE	Level 5	Enterprise Network	Oversight and Vendor Support	Risk: Low Material: Low	Industrial 4.0		
	Level 4	Email Intranet Site Business Planning & Logistics	Enterprise IT	Risk: Low (Mature Controls) Material: Low	Enterprise Security Zone	CIS	
Corporate Zone	Demilitarized Zone	Remote gateway services Application Mirror <del>Web Services</del> Reverse Proxy AV Patch Mgmt.	Corporate Oversight	Risk: Medium (Access Gateway) Material: Low	Industrial Demilitarized Zone	NIST	IT/OT convergence
	Level 3 Manufacturing Operation and Control	Application Server Engineering Workstation Remote Access Server	Operations DMZ (Security Zone)	Risk: Medium (Data Breach) Material: Medium	Industrial Security Zone		
CONTROL ZONE	Level 2 Area Supervisor Control	Operator interface HMI devices	Local Supervisory control	Risk: High (Control Area) Material: Medium		ISA IEC ISO	Field devices below line
	Level 1 Basic Control	Batch Control Discrete Control Drive Control Continuous Process Control Safety Control	Control Bus	Risk: Critical (Life loss) Material: High		API 1164 NISTIR 7628	
SAFETY ZONE	Level 0 Process	Sensors Drives Actuators Robots	RTU IED PLC Instrumentation PDC PMU SCADA	Risk: Critical (Life loss) Material: High	Cell/Area Zones	HAZOP SIL	



# Securing Operational Technology (OT)

## Key Service Engagement Findings

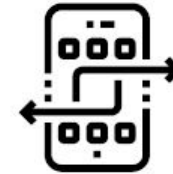
80%



of services customers had **limited OT visibility** into their ICS environment

-6%  
FROM  
2021

50%



of services engagements **identified issues with network segmentation**

-27%  
FROM  
2021

53%



of services engagements discovered **undisclosed or uncontrolled external connections** to the OT environment

-17%  
FROM  
2021

54%



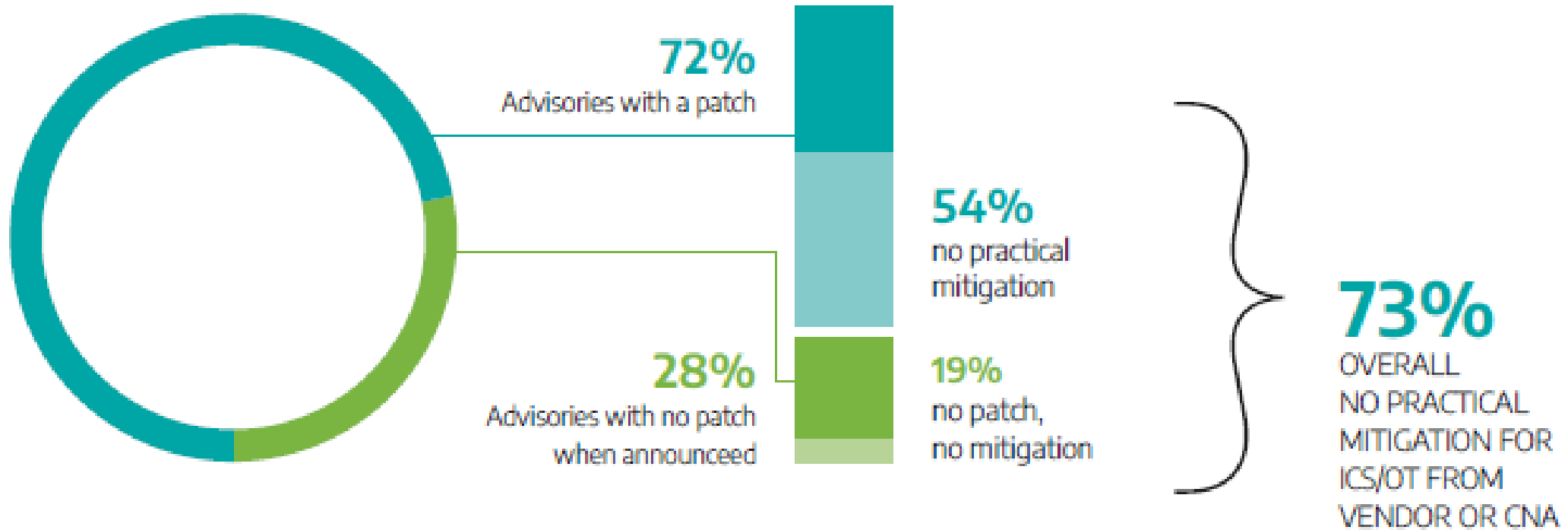
of services customers **lacked separate IT and OT user management**

+10%  
FROM  
2021



# Securing Operational Technology (OT)

Fast patching can be impractical in ICS/OT due to safety & production requirements. Alternative mitigation is key.



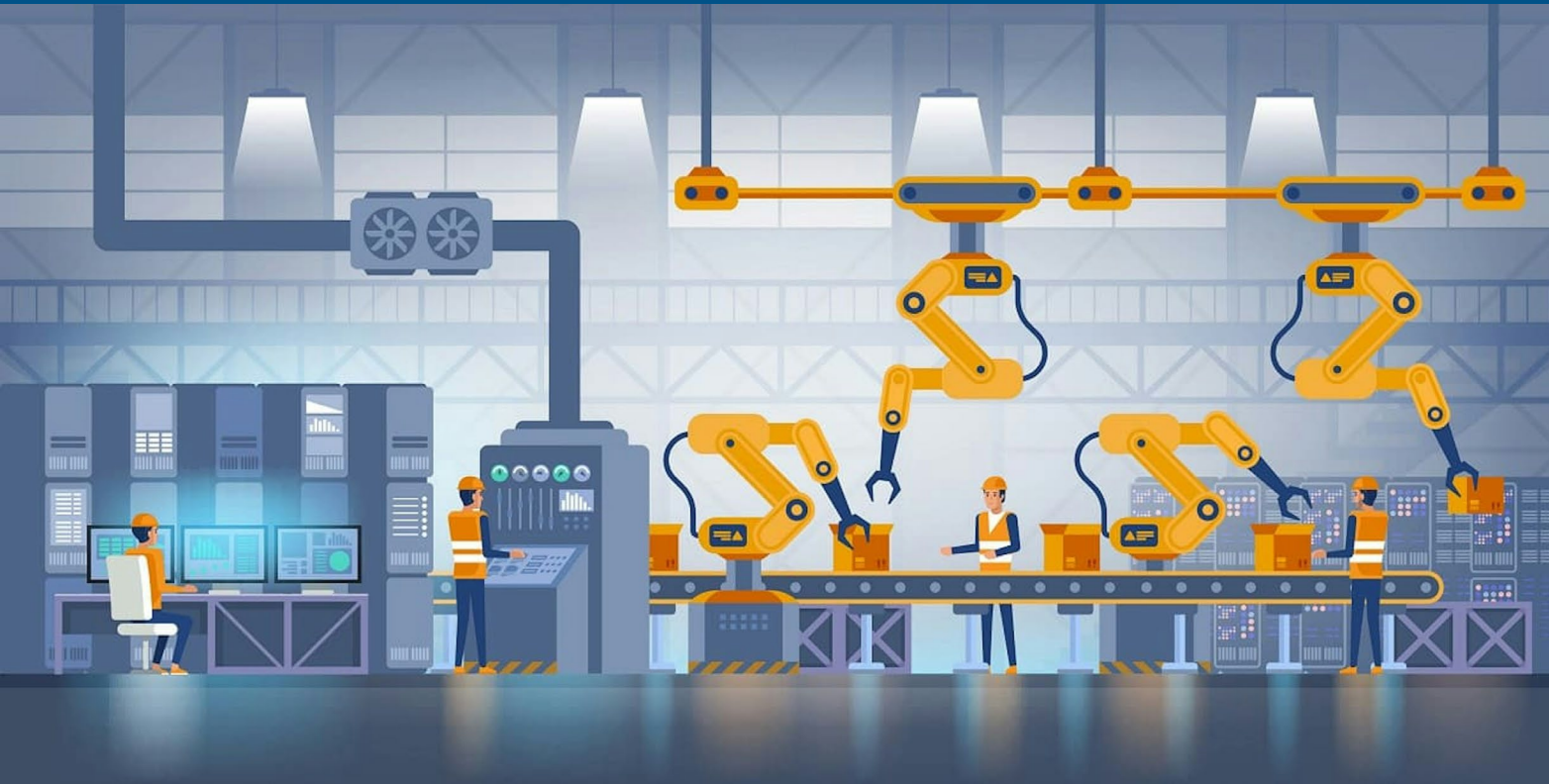
# Securing Operational Technology (OT)

## Five Critical Controls

- ICS Specific Incident Response
  - Have an OT incident response plan
- Defensible Architecture
  - Segmentation and partitioning is paramount
- ICS Network Visibility
  - Network traffic and logging
- Secure Remote Access
  - Remote access is most common way into OT network
- Risk-Based Vulnerability Management
  - Vulnerabilities lacking mitigation strategies



# OT Best Practices



- *Change “Default Passwords”*
- *Remote Access / VPN & MFA*
- *Patch systems*
- *Lifecycle Management*
- *Immutable and offline backups*
- *Integrators / Trust but Verify*
- *Network Segmentation*
- *Defensible Network*  
*(Monitored, controlled, updated)*

1. Network mapping and connectivity analysis
2. Detection of suspicious activities, exposures, and **malware** attacks
3. Implementing a **zero-trust framework**
4. Aligning the right remote access tools
5. Controlling **identity and access management (IAM)**

[ASD's ACSC, CISA, FBI, NSA, and International Partners Release Guidance on Principles of OT Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure Organizations | CISA](#)



# ICS Training Available Through CISA

## On Demand Web-Based Training

- Operational Security (OPSEC) for Control Systems (100W) – 1 hour
- Differences in Deployments of ICS (210W-1) – 1.5 hours
- Influence of Common IT Components on ICS (210W-2) – 1.5 hours
- Common ICS Components (210W-3) – 1.5 hours
- Cybersecurity within IT & ICS Domains (210W-4) – 1.5 hours
- Cybersecurity Risk (210W-5) – 1.5 hours
- Current Trends (Threat) (210W-6) – 1.5 hours
- Current Trends (Vulnerabilities) (210W-7) – 1.5 hours
- Determining the Impacts of a Cybersecurity Incident (210W-8) – 1.5 hours
- Attack Methodologies in IT & ICS (210W-9) – 1.5 hours
- Mapping IT Defense-in-Depth Security Solutions to ICS – Part 1 (210W-10) – 1.5 hours
- Mapping IT Defense-in-Depth Security Solutions to ICS – Part 2 (210W-11) – 1.5 hours
- Industrial Control Systems Cybersecurity Landscape for Managers (FRE2115) – 1 hour



<https://ics-training.inl.gov/learn/signin>

# ICS Training Available Through CISA

## Scheduled Online Courses

- Industrial Control Systems Cybersecurity (Virtual) (ICS300)
- Industrial Control Systems Evaluation (Virtual) (401V)

## In-Person Trainings

- ICS Cybersecurity & RED-BLUE Exercise (In-Person) (ICS301)
- Industrial Control Systems Evaluation (In-Person) (401L)

## Regional Training Events

- Introduction to Control Systems Cybersecurity (In-Person) (101)
- Intermediate Cybersecurity for Industrial Control Systems – Part 1 (In-Person) (201)
- Intermediate Cybersecurity for Industrial Control Systems – Part 2 (In-Person) (202)



# Security Advisor Programs

**Security Advisors are field-based critical infrastructure security specialists who link State, local, tribal, territorial (SLTT) & private sector stakeholders with infrastructure protection resources**

- **Assess:** Evaluate critical infrastructure risk.
- **Promote:** Encourage best practices and risk mitigation strategies.
- **Build Capacity:** Initiate, develop capacity, and support communities-of-interest and working groups.
- **Educate:** Inform and raise awareness.
- **Listen:** Collect stakeholder concerns & needs.
- **Coordinate:** Bring together incident support and lessons learned.

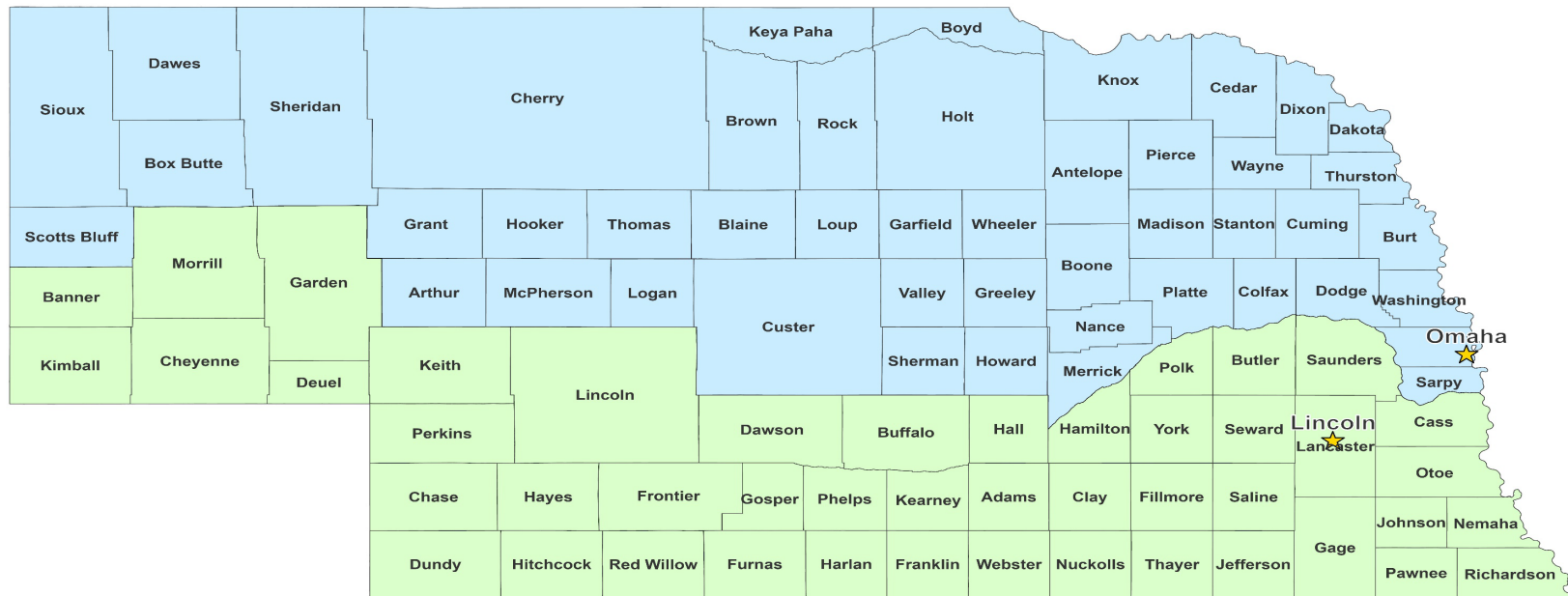
**Protective Security Advisors (PSA):** Security, Emergency Preparedness, and Business Continuity Programs

**Cybersecurity Advisors (CSA):** Cybersecurity for Information Technology & Operational Technology networks



# Nebraska Security Advisor District Split

## Nebraska PSA District Split



### Legend

- NE PSA Southern District
- NE PSA Northern District
- NE PSA Cities



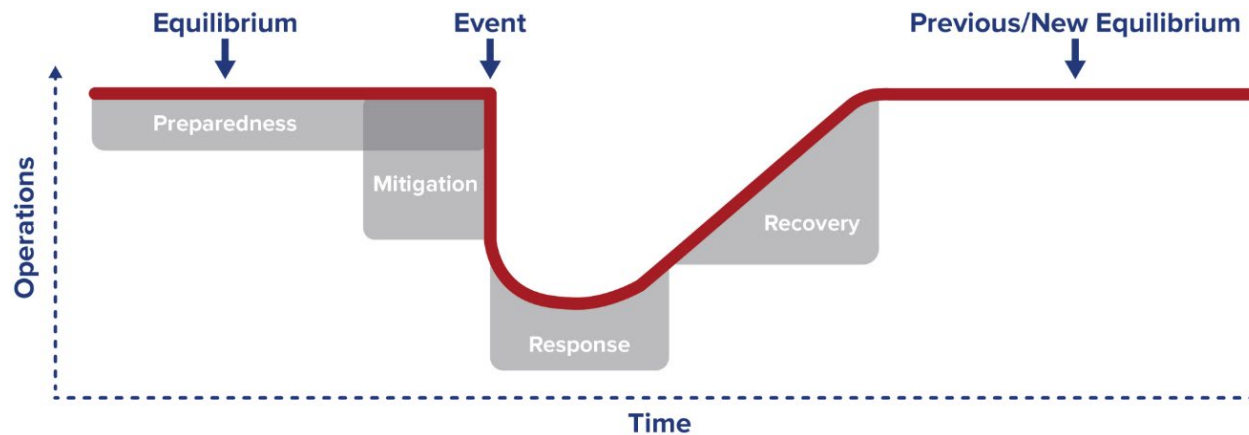
# Operational Buckets

## Bucket # 1 (left of bang)

Prevention, education and training, outreach, sharing best practices, and provide security resources.

## Bucket # 2 (right of bang)

Incident mitigation, investigations, reporting, recovery, and resiliency efforts





# Cyber Services Planning - Initial

## Step One

### Cyber Protective Visit (CPV):

- Initial visit with a Cyber Security Advisor (CSA) to gauge interest in CISA services, understand the organization's needs, and develop the foundation for further engagements and offerings.

## Step Two

### Cyber Hygiene Vulnerability Scanning (CyHy):

- Maintain enterprise awareness of your internet-accessible systems
- Provide insight into how systems and infrastructure appear to potential attackers
- Drive proactive mitigation of vulnerabilities and reduce risk

### Cyber Performance Goals (CPGs):

- A set of high-impact security actions for critical infrastructure organizations that address both IT and OT/ICS considerations.
- Mapped to the relevant NIST Cybersecurity Framework subcategories, as well as other frameworks (e.g., IEC 62443).

## Step Three

### Ongoing Partnership:

- Information sharing
- **Assessments**
- Tabletop Exercises
- Presentations
- Connection to resources
- Incident Support



# Cyber Security Evaluation Tool (CSET®)

The Cyber Security Evaluation Tool (CSET®) is a stand-alone desktop application that guides asset owners and operators through a systematic process of evaluating Operational Technology and Information Technology.

- Frameworks
- Assessments
- Maturity Models
- Tools and Best Practices
  - Energy and Electrical
  - Industrial and Utilities
  - Municipal and Health Care Services
  - Financial CSET
  - Process Control and SCADA Stands/Assessments
  - Transportation Guidelines
- Library of publications



The CSET Download can be downloaded from GitHub: <https://github.com/cisagov/cset/releases>



After completing the evaluation, the organization will receive reports that present the assessment results in both a summarized and detailed manner. The organization will be able to manipulate and filter content in order to analyze findings with varying degrees of granularity.

# Cyber Hygiene Services - Intermediate

## Web Application Scanning

### Services provided by invite only

- **Objectives**
  - Maintain enterprise awareness of your publicly accessible web-based assets
  - Provide insight into how systems and infrastructure appear to potential attackers
  - Drive proactive mitigation of vulnerabilities to help reduce overall risk

## Remote Penetration Testing (RPT)

### Services provided by invite only

- **Objectives**
  - Conduct assessments to identify vulnerabilities and work with customers to eliminate exploitable pathways.
  - Simulate the tactics and techniques of real-world threats and malicious adversaries.
  - Test centralized data repositories and externally accessible assets/resources.
  - Avoid causing disruption to the customer's mission, operation, and network infrastructure.



# Cyber Hygiene Services - Advanced

## Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (RVA)

**Services provided by invite only**

- **Objectives**
- Identify weaknesses through network, system, and application penetration testing
- Test stakeholders using a standard, repeatable methodology to deliver actionable findings and recommendations
- Analyze collected data to identify security trends across all RVA stakeholder environments

## Validated Architectural Design and Review (VADR)

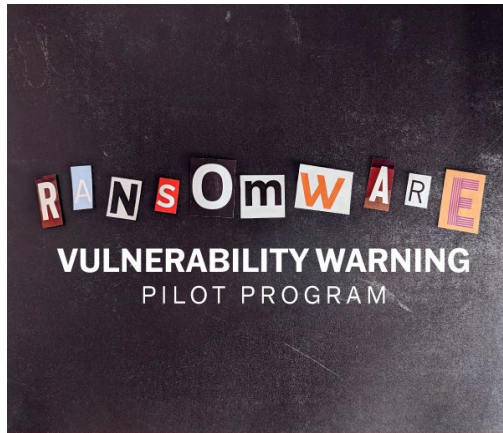
**Services provided by invite only**

- **Objectives**
- Analyze systems based on standards, guidelines, and best practices.
- Ensure effective defense-in-depth strategies.
- Provide findings and practical mitigations for improving operational maturity and enhancing cybersecurity posture



# CISA Notification Programs

## Ransomware Vulnerability Warning Pilot (RVWP)



1,700+ Nationwide notifications



[Stop Ransomware | CISA](#)

## Pre-Ransomware Notification Pilot



2,900+ U.S. Notifications  
40 International Notifications

## Administrative subpoenas



Section 2209 of Homeland Security Act authorizes CISA to issue Administrative subpoenas

- System connected to the Internet and has a vulnerability
- System is believed to be related to critical infrastructure
- CISA is unable to identify the entity at risk





# Calendar Year 2023 PRNI Metrics

In 2023, we conducted more than 1200 Pre-ransomware Notifications, including:

- 117 U.S. K-12 school districts
- 111 U.S. institutions of higher education
- 154 U.S. healthcare organizations
- 7 Water and Wastewater sector entities
- 20 Transportation System sector entities
- 17 Energy sector entities
- 39 U.S. Emergency Services sector entities
- 94 other U.S. SLTT governments.
- 294 were also shared with 27 partner countries
  - Where information relates to a company outside of the United States, we work with our international CERT partners to enable a timely notification.



Reference: <https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/alerts/2023/03/23/jcdc-cultivates-pre-ransomware-notification-capability>

# Verifying CISA Field Personnel

- Contact 365/24/7 CISA Central Watch Floor at:
  - (888) 282-0870
  - [Central@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:Central@cisa.dhs.gov)
- Provide CISA field personnel's full name, phone number, and EN number (i.e., EN-XXXX)
  - There are rare & urgent cases where an EN number is not available at the time of notification
- Once you verify the identify and legitimacy call or email CISA person back through enterprise or out-of-band communications



# PSA Assessments



## Organizational Maturity Around Security/Resiliency

### Security Assessment at First Entry (SAFE)

- Programs Reviewed
  - Security
  - Emergency Preparedness
  - Business Continuity
- Time Requirement = Site Dependent; Tour of facility(s) followed by conference room meeting
- Written report provided

### Infrastructure Survey Tool (IST)

- Programs Reviewed
  - Security
  - Emergency Preparedness
  - Business Continuity
  - Dependencies/Interdependencies
  - Information Technology
- Time Requirement = Typically two full days
- Written report provided



# Protected Critical Infrastructure Information Program - PCII

## Protected Critical Infrastructure Information (PCII) Program Guards Your Information

- Sensitive critical infrastructure information voluntarily given to CISA is protected by law from
  - Public release under Freedom of Information Act requests,
  - Public release under State, local, tribal, or territorial disclosure laws,
  - Use in civil litigation and
  - Use in regulatory purposes.



# Training and Presentations

- CISA 101
- Active Shooter
- Bombing Threat Management
- Bombing Prevention
- Insider Threat
- Cybersecurity Awareness
- Elections Security
- Targeted Violence
- De-Escalation Training for CI
- Securing Public Gatherings
- Hometown Security
- School Security
- Security of Soft Targets and Crowded Places
- See Something, Say Something
- Counter Unmanned Aircraft Systems
- Power of Hello
- Workplace Security
- Cyber Incident Response





# Information Sharing & Analysis Centers (ISACs)

- American Chemistry Council
- Automotive ISAC
- Aviation ISAC
- Communications ISAC
- Downstream Natural Gas ISAC
- Elections Infrastructure ISAC
- Electricity ISAC
- Emergency Management & Response ISAC
- Financial Services ISAC
- Food and AG ISAC
- Healthcare Ready
- Health ISAC
- Information Technology ISAC
- Maritime Transportation System ISAC
- Media & Entertainment ISAC
- Multi-State ISAC
- National Defense ISAC
- Oil & Natural Gas ISAC
- Real Estate ISAC
- Research & Education Networks ISAC
- Retail & Hospitality ISAC
- Small Broadband ISAC
- Space ISAC
- Surface Transportation, Public Transportation & Over-the-Road Bus ISACS
- Water ISAC



# Federal Incident Response

## Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI):

FBI Field Office Cyber Task Forces: <http://www.fbi.gov/contactus/field>

Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3): <http://www.ic3.gov>

- Report cybercrime, including computer intrusions or attacks, fraud, intellectual property theft, identity theft, theft of trade secrets, criminal hacking, terrorist activity, espionage, sabotage, or other foreign intelligence activity to FBI Field Office Cyber Task Forces.
- Report individual instances of cybercrime to the IC3, which accepts Internet crime complaints from both victim and third parties.

## National Cyber Investigative Joint Task Force (NCIJTF)

CyWatch 24/7 Command Center: [cywatch@ic.fbi.gov](mailto:cywatch@ic.fbi.gov) or (855) 292-3937

- Report cyber intrusions and major cybercrimes that require assessment for action, investigation, and engagement with local field offices of Federal law enforcement agencies or the Federal Government.

## United States Secret Service (USSS)

Secret Service Field Offices and Electronic Crimes Task Forces (ECTFs):

<http://www.secretservice.gov/contact/field-offices>

- Report cybercrime, including computer intrusions or attacks, transmission of malicious code, password trafficking, or theft of payment card or other financial payment information.

**CISA Central**  
(888) 282-0870 or  
[Central@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:Central@cisa.dhs.gov)

## Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

<https://www.cisa.gov/forms/report>

- The CISA Incident Reporting System provides a secure web-enabled means of reporting computer security incidents to CISA. This system assists analysts in providing timely handling of your security incidents as well as the ability to conduct improved analysis.

## The Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC)

is a voluntary and collaborative effort designated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as the key resource for cyber threat prevention, protection, response and recovery for the nation's State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial governments.

**1.866.787.4722**

**[soc@msisac.org](mailto:soc@msisac.org)**

## Center for Internet Security (CIS)

- Albert Sensors (Intrusion Detection)
- Vulnerability Management
- Baseline Configuration Guides
- Assessment Tools





***Services are always provided at no cost***

*Our “payment” is authorization to use anonymized, non attributable data to enhance national situation awareness and enable our stakeholders to make data driven decisions*



FREE CYBER SERVICES

#PROTECT2024

SECURE OUR WORLD

SHIELDS UP

REPORT A CYBER ISSUE

CYBERSECURITY &  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
SECURITY AGENCY



AMERICA'S CYBER DEFENSE AGENCY

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## CISA: Defend Today, Secure Tomorrow

As America's Cyber Defense Agency, we lead the national effort to understand, manage, and reduce risk to our critical infrastructure.

LEARN MORE ▾



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INFRASTRUCTURE  
SECURITY AGENCY



CISA Central

888-282-0870 Central@cisa.dhs.gov

# Subscription Topics

- CISA Careers
- Cybersecurity
- Training
- Incident Response
- Known Exploited Vulnerabilities Catalog
- Cybersecurity Advisories
- Vulnerability Bulletins
- Industrial Control Systems (ICS) Advisories
- ICS Medical Advisories
- Webinar Information
- Emergency Communications
- Bombing Prevention
- Active Assailant Security Information
- CSAT Notifications
- Chemical Security Quarterly Updates
- ESS - Emergency Services Sector Updates & Bulletin

A screenshot of a web form titled "Email Updates" from the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency. The form has a header with the CISA logo and the agency name. Below the header, the text reads: "Email Updates" and "To sign up for updates or to access your subscriber preferences, please enter your contact information below." There is a text input field labeled "Email Address" with a red asterisk indicating it is required. At the bottom of the form are two buttons: "Submit" and "Cancel".

**CYBERSECURITY & INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY**

### Email Updates

To sign up for updates or to access your subscriber preferences, please enter your contact information below.

Email Address \*



## Region 7 Security Advisors - Nebraska

**Nicholas Brand**  
Cybersecurity Advisor  
Southern District of Nebraska  
NE State Coordinator  
Lincoln, NE  
402-591-9532  
[nicholas.brand@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:nicholas.brand@cisa.dhs.gov)

**Warren Hagelstien**  
Cybersecurity Advisor  
Northern District of Nebraska  
Omaha, NE  
402-936-1801  
[warren.hagelstien@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:warren.hagelstien@cisa.dhs.gov)

**Greg Goodwater**  
Protective Security Advisor  
Southern District of Nebraska  
402-785-4116  
[gregory.goodwater@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:gregory.goodwater@cisa.dhs.gov)

**Stephanie Brown**  
Protective Security Advisor  
Northern District of Nebraska  
402-541-3797  
[stephanie.brown@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:stephanie.brown@cisa.dhs.gov)

For further information, contact:

[CISA.IOD.REGION.R07\\_Ops@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:CISA.IOD.REGION.R07_Ops@cisa.dhs.gov)

Or

[Central@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:Central@cisa.dhs.gov)