

The background features a repeating pattern of chemical structures, including benzene rings and various functional groups, rendered in a light green color against a dark blue gradient background.

**2021**

# **CHEMICAL SECURITY SEMINARS**

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**#ChemicalSecurity**

# **CHEMICAL SECURITY SEMINARS**

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## **Cyber Threat Hunting: Industrial Control Systems Security**

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**#ChemicalSecurity**

# INDUSTRIAL CONTROL SYSTEMS (ICS) SECURITY

## PROGRAM BRIEF



# WHY ICS SECURITY IS IMPORTANT



Control systems are integral to critical infrastructure operations, functionality, and safety.



Exploitation of ICS can result in:

- Physical harm to people, property, and the environment
- Data corruption and exfiltration
- Equipment malfunctions



Almost all CI operations depend on ICS.



# WHO WE ARE



## **MISSION**

CISA leads the National effort to understand and manage cyber and physical risk to our critical infrastructure.



## **VISION**

A secure and resilient critical infrastructure for the American people.



## **ROLE**

CISA is the Nation's risk advisor. We are here to advise critical infrastructure owners and operators on the risks that they are facing.



# Director's Operational Priorities



**CHINA,  
SUPPLY CHAIN, and 5G**



**ELECTION SECURITY**



**SOFT TARGET SECURITY**



**CYBERSECURITY**



**INDUSTRIAL CONTROL  
SYSTEMS**

# CISA'S ROLE IN ICS SECURITY



CISA is the lead federal civilian agency responsible for helping Critical Infrastructure (CI) partners manage ICS risk



CISA is committed to growing operational and strategic partnerships to increase collaboration across the ICS community

## AUTHORITIES

- Title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002
  - Section 201(d) (6 U.S.C. § 121(d))
- Executive Order 13800, Strengthening the Cybersecurity of Federal Networks and Critical Infrastructure
- Executive Order 13636—Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity



# CISA'S ROLE IN ICS SECURITY

## DEFENDING TODAY, SECURING TOMORROW

We require a new model that enlists the entire community to anticipate, prioritize, and proactively manage ICS risk.



We will build capabilities around four guiding pillars:



Ask more of the ICS community, deliver more to them.



Develop and utilize technology to mature collective ICS cyber defense.

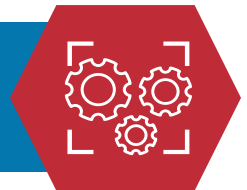


Build “deep data” capabilities to analyze and deliver information that disrupts the ICS cyber kill chain.



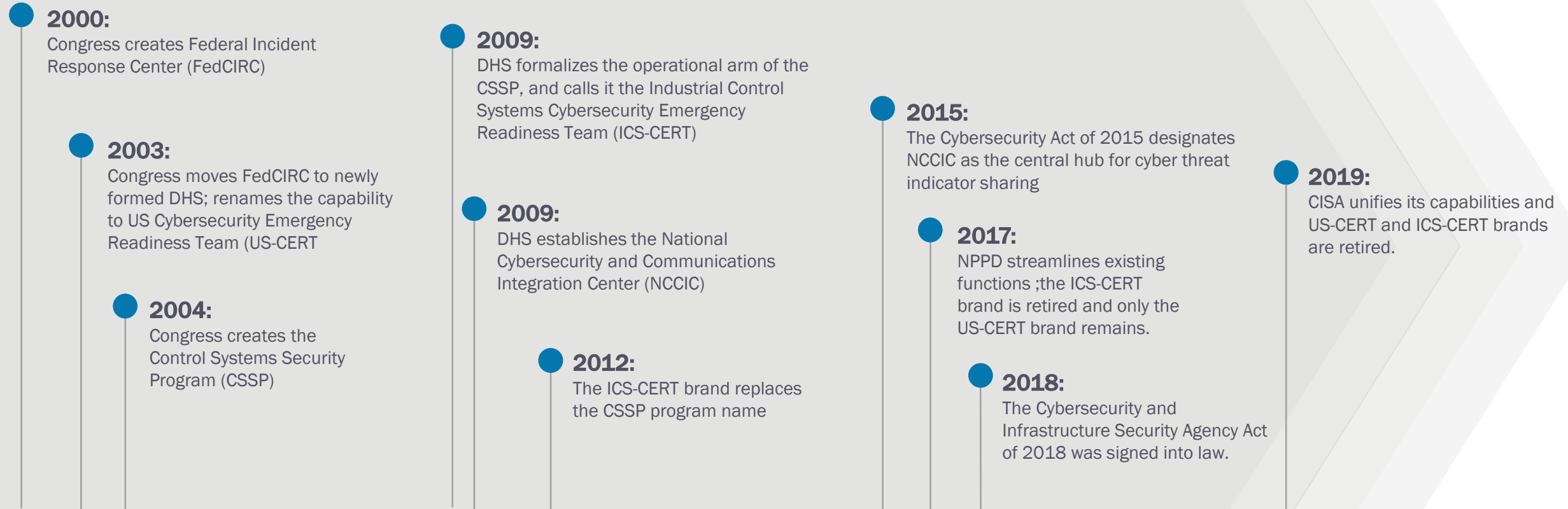
Enable informed, proactive security investments by understanding and anticipating ICS risk.

Through this strategic focus, CISA and its partners can change the ICS risk management paradigm.





# ICS HISTORY: WHERE WE'VE BEEN, WHERE WE'RE GOING



PAST

PRESENT



# CURRENT AND EMERGENT ICS CHALLENGES

Lack of funding or leadership support

Uncertainty introduced in rapid evolution of technology

Rapid growth of internet connected devices creates a broader attack surface

Legacy ICS/OT aging and difficult to secure

Small workforce with ICS/OT cybersecurity knowledge



# WORLDWIDE THREAT ASSESSMENT



## Russia



Russia poses a cybersecurity threat to the United States and our allies. It is a highly capable and effective adversary, integrating cyber espionage, attack, and influence operations to achieve political and military objectives.

## China



China presents a persistent cyber threat to our military and CI. It remains the most active strategic competitor responsible for cyber espionage against the U.S. Government, corporations, and allies.

## Iran



Iran continues to present a cyber threat, using increasingly sophisticated techniques to conduct cyber espionage and deploy capabilities that would enable cyber attacks against CI in the United States.

## North Korea



North Korea poses a cyber threat to financial institutions, remains a cyber espionage threat, and retains the ability to conduct disruptive cyber attacks.

## Non-State Actors



Foreign cyber criminals, terrorists, and others will continue to conduct malicious cyber attacks to further their goals, aided by the growing availability and use of publicly available cyber tools.



# TOP ATTACK VECTORS IN ICS

## USB Devices

- May contain malicious files or malware

## Supply Chain Compromise (i.e. Compromise Vendor)

- "Island Hopping" compromise (i.e. compromise trusted partner)

## Watering Holes

- Threat actor guesses or observes which websites an organization often uses and infects one or more of them with malware

## Phishing

- Usually with malicious attachments

## Path of Least Resistance

- Zero-day vulnerabilities are not so common and are usually not needed
- Patching policies and oversights

## Trojanized Software

- Downloadable application that contains malware or a virus



# ICS CYBER ATTACK SURFACE



## ICS environments are often exposed to the same threats seen IT environments

- Human Machine Interface (HMI) and engineering workstations predominantly run Microsoft's Windows OS
- Some PLCs, data acquisition servers, SCADA servers, and industrial PCs do as well
- Linux and MacOS are less common

## Architecture and internal practices influence attack surface

- Internal policies or lack thereof
- Additional entry points are not uncommon and are not always known
- Poor boundary protection or architecture



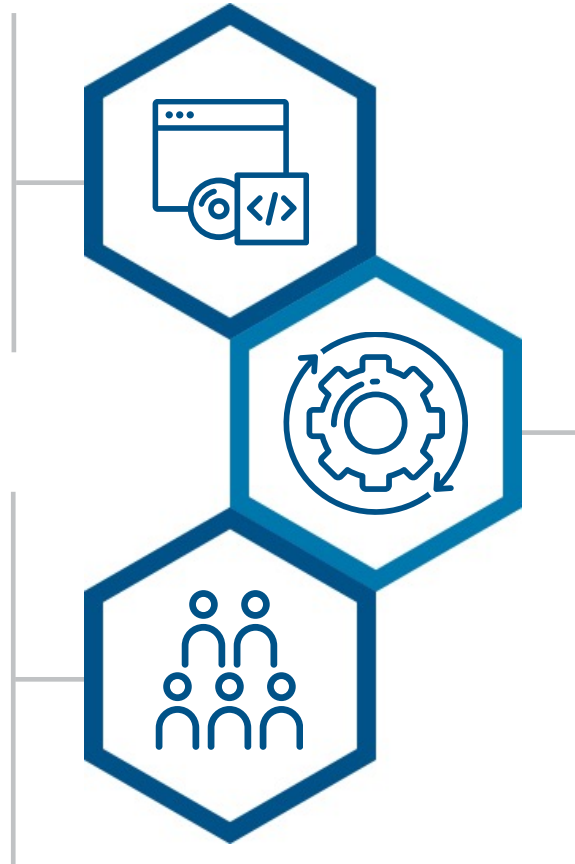
# ICS CHALLENGES

## Hard to replace systems and components, leaving in place legacy hardware and software

- Still see Windows 98, 2000, and XP
- Conficker dates to 2008, but it's still commonly found in OT environments

## Staffing, and staffing dynamics

- No dedicated ICS/IT administrator
- IT and ICS staff often do not coordinate
- Difficulty of finding staff with ICS cybersecurity experience or knowledge



## Availability is priority number one

- High degree of availability required in ICS environments
  - Keep processes running with as little downtime as possible
  - And maintain a certain level of personnel and environmental safety



# ATTACKS ON INFRASTRUCTURE

Past few years  
have seen active  
compromises of  
low level or  
embedded device



VPNFilter targeting  
dozens of different  
routers



HatMan/Triton



Alien Viper  
(DragonFly 2.0,  
Russian Actors  
Target Energy)



Ukraine 2015  
& 2016



# POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES





# CURRENT ICS SECURITY OFFERINGS

CISA helps customers defend ICS today through these capabilities ...



## Assessments

Operational resilience evaluations



## Cyber Hunt

Aid ICS partners with adversary presence search in absence of known threat



## Exercises

Testing and readiness for ICS incidents



## Information Exchange

Sharing of threat and best practice guidance with partners



## Partnerships and Engagement

Collaborate and coordinate with ICS partners



## Products and Tools

Access to hands-on tools for the ICS community



## Response

Provide expertise and advanced tooling to aid ICS cyber victims



## Strategic Risk Analysis

Provide ICS risk information pertaining to National Critical Functions (NCFs)



## Technical Analysis

ICS malware analysis support



## Training

Technical and non-technical ICS instruction for all skill levels



## Vulnerability Coordination

Coordinated, public disclosure of ICS vulnerabilities and mitigation recommendations



# CISA ICS OFFERINGS: SPOTLIGHT



**THE CONTROL ENVIRONMENT LABORATORY RESOURCE (CELR)** is an environment for government and private industry partners to experience the possible effects of kinetic cyber physical attacks.

CELR allows users to perform security research on industrial control systems (ICS) and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems

**MALCOM** is an open source, easily deployable network traffic analysis tool suite for full packet capture artifacts (PCAP files) and logs.

Malcom provides insight into specific protocols used in ICS environments and is comprised of open-source tools, so it does not require users to obtain paid licenses and is freely available on [CISA's GitHub page](#).



# ENGAGE WITH US

- For more information on CISA's ICS products, services, and news visit [cisa.gov/ics](https://cisa.gov/ics).
- To report an incident or a vulnerability, visit <https://us-cert.cisa.gov/report>.
- For general inquiries, call us at 1-888-282-0870 or email [central@cisa.gov](mailto:central@cisa.gov).

