



10 Ways Asset Visibility Builds an Effective OT Cybersecurity Foundation

1 Understanding what “normal” looks like



NO TWO ENTITIES HAVE
THE SAME NORMAL



Examples

- Normal operations vs. maintenance vs. standby
- Process device type and versions (PLC, RTU, DCS)
- Flat network vs. software-defined micro-segmentation
- Security Stack\Tools

Best Practices

- Spend time understanding normal and other operational states
- Visibility into the OT and ICS parts of an environment
- Alerting when new assets or activity is identified
- Understand your blind spots

2 Not just identifying, but verifying assets



TRUST BUT VERIFY

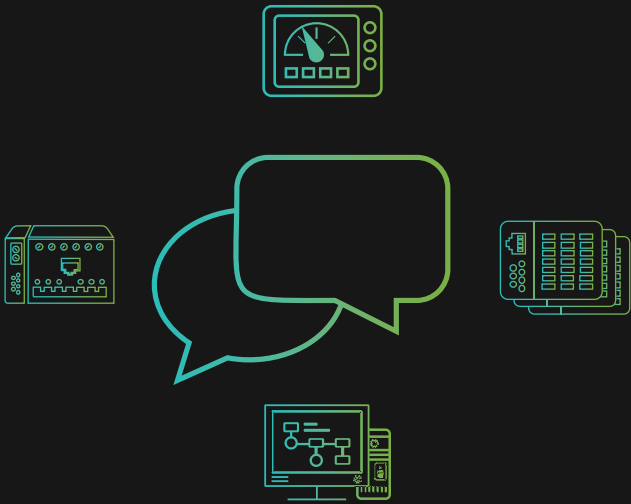
Examples

- Adding the needed context around the identified assets
- Validate that what I am seeing is supposed to be there
- Support security and operations goals

Best Practices

- Use information and sources you already have
- Validate installed software to known approved configurations
- Physical and logical verification when needed

3 Visualizing asset network communications



DEVICES WILL TALK
TO ANYONE, THOSE
SOCIAL BUTTERFLIES

Examples

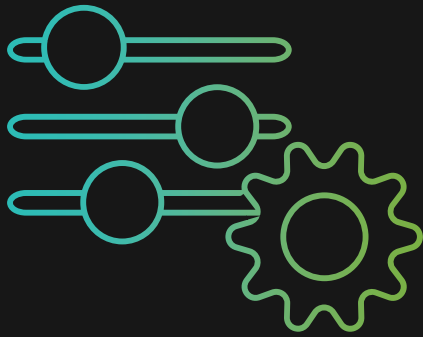
- ARP and DNS requests
- ICS protocols
- Network zones and trust levels are not always well defined
- Vendors and operators will do what they need to get it working

Best Practices

- Confirm what is supposed to be communicating and how
- Ensure traffic visibility into ICS/OT North-South and East-West
- Conduct periodic reviews of the security devices that segment the environments
- Take a baseline of communications for future comparison

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Improving change management with config detection



**TRUST WHAT
YOU'VE VERIFIED**

Examples

- Configuration management is more common in IT-type systems
- Configuration detection can detect changes in real-time to ICS
- Automation can assist in maintaining supporting change management and compliance

Best Practices

- No news is *not* good news. Ensure tools are working or that the change took place.
- Look for outlining changes that don't fit.
- Leverage your solutions that provide configuration change tracking as part of your change processes and compliance

5 Minimizing the impact of compliance reporting



CONFIRMING THE HUMAN FACTOR

Examples

- Tools can handle year's worth of asset information, including configurations for audit
- Daily reporting and alerting from A/V, SIEM, and asset configuration can identify issues such as services not running or out-of-date software
- Visibility tools can support other tools and gain visibility for compliance assurance where manual work would normally be required.

Best Practices

- Start with the output in mind and build or purchase a solution that fits
- Automate as much of the process as is possible
- Automation will have issues, so layer if its critical
- Periodic manual confirmation that tools are operating as required

6 Justifying security program investments



80% PAPERWORK,
20% TECHNICAL WORK

Examples

- The highest rate of security return on investment and effort
- Finding gaps in a program
- Compliance
 - 100 assets x (daily software validation + A/V check and update + Event Viewer reviews + Firewall review + IDS/IPS review) = **Several employees**
 - Or 1 report for software validation + 1 report for A/V status + Automated SIEM logging/alerting report + SIEM Firewall Report + IDS/IPS Report = **2-3 hours.**

Best Practices

- Use visibility to determine the low-hanging fruit to improve security
- Use what you already have to enhance security
- Compare times between human verification and technology. Compare times for audit report retrievals as well as compile reports monthly. There's more than just running scans in an effective visibility program.
- Consider the stress and boredom of continuous report running and archiving, especially in a regulated entity.
- Automate the tasks that take the most time and that have the least value. Using the gained free time to execute higher value activities such as threat hunts.

7 Effective vulnerability mitigation



COMBINING SUPERPOWERS

Examples

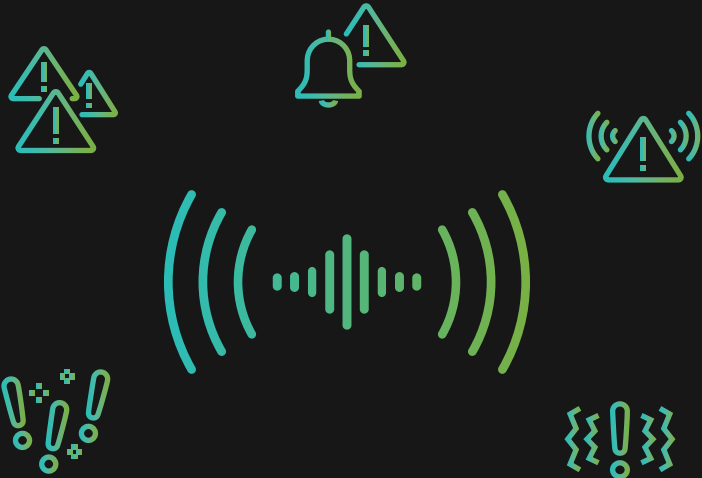
- Tools such as Microsoft WSUS\SCCM can tell you patches needed within 24hr of release
- Asset baselining tools can compare currently installed software to a list of known CVEs
- On-demand and scheduled scans can confirm patching removed vulnerable software
- Visibility tools can provide you with a list of vulnerabilities

Best Practices

- Understand the vulnerabilities in your environment
- Prior to patching, understand why you are patching
- Vulnerability management is not just patching but mitigations
- After a patching cycle, look for assets that might have been missed or failed to install software

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Threat detection in an ocean of noise



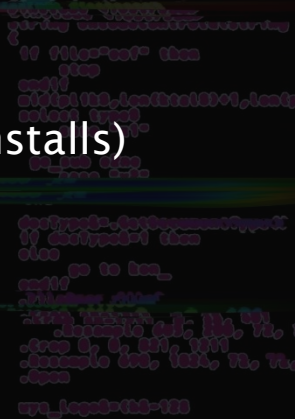
RIDE THE WAVES

Examples

- Native functionality of systems and devices
- Automated tools and collections solution
- Centralized SIEMs and storage locations
- Regular updates will provide new IoCs, vulnerability indicators, and other threat definitions/hashes for automated detections

Best Practices

- Alert fatigue is real. Make sure they add value
- Know the environment's schedule (pigging, weather, installs)
- Focus on high-value alerts
- Trust but verify your tools
- Perform investigations based on the alerts or drive alerts based on investigations



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Stopping rogue assets in their tracks



DEFCON 1

Examples

- Visibility baselines will show new devices which may be rogue
- Asset inventories can be used to validate visibility
- Integration into SIEM or other alerting solutions

Best Practices

- Develop a network baseline and asset inventory
- Proper switch port identification and configuration
- SIEM alerting and network visibility will help in the identification and investigations

10 Incident response when the heat is on



**USING HISTORY TO
SOLVE THE PROBLEM**

Examples

- IR relies on knowing what should be there and what is normal
- Visibility can be used for tracking threats in the environment
- Increases the speed of IR steps

Best Practices

- IR requirements should be an input to what you collect for asset information and where you have visibility
- Practice using the solutions you have in your IR exercises

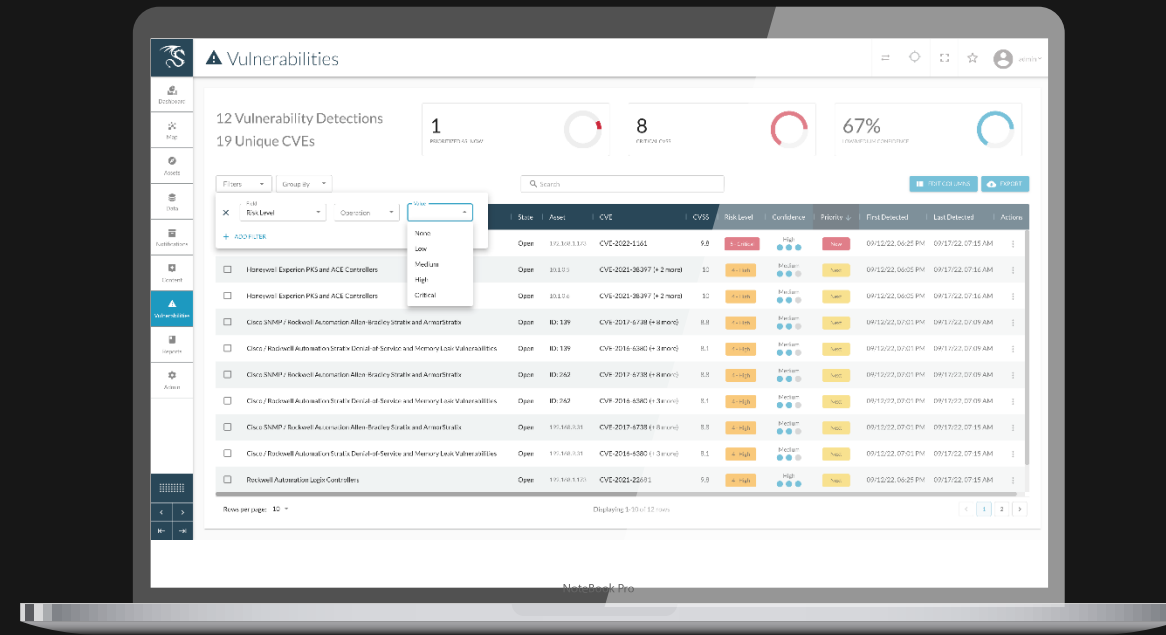
To find out more ...

1 Grab a copy of [this whitepaper](#)



and

2 Learn how the Dragos Platform can improve your Asset Visibility



dragos.com/platform/

THANK YOU