



Fondamenti di Cybersecurity

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Commissione CRUI ICT e Università degli Studi di Napoli “Parthenope”
Webinar Internet Governance
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Objectives of this talk



1. Define the basic concepts and terminology of the security domain
2. Provide a “bird’s eye view” of main security issues
3. Put things into context, with respect to some major application domains





Basic concepts and terminology



■ The CIA Triad:

– C = Confidentiality

- Ensures that data is accessible only to authorized individuals
- Prevents the unauthorized disclosure of information

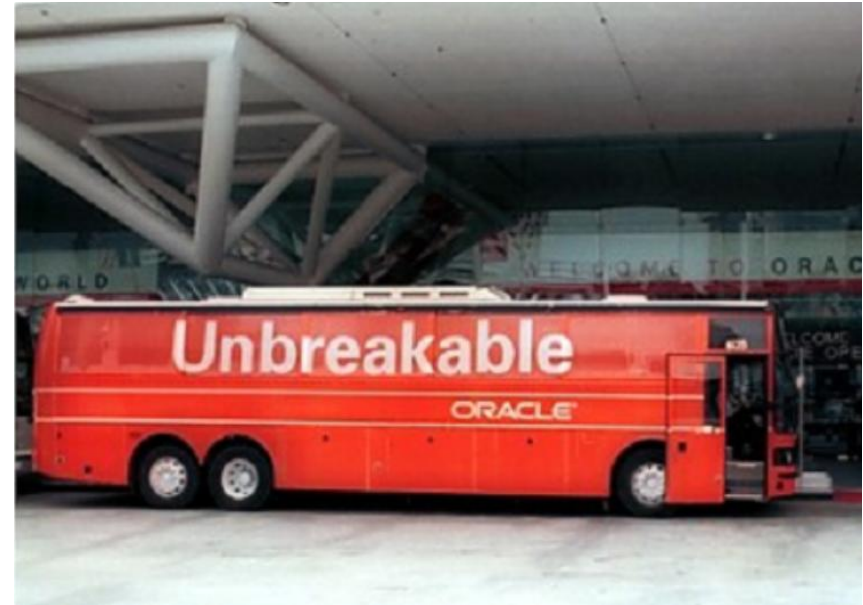
– I = Integrity

- Ensures that data is not altered or tampered with without authorization
- Guarantees that information remains accurate and complete

– A = Availability

- Ensures that data and resources are accessible when needed
- Guarantees the functioning of systems and timely access to information

A famous spot by Oracle



Safety in IT (Information Technology)

Safety in IT refers to the set of principles, practices, and technical measures aimed at preventing harm to people, systems, and physical assets caused by failures, malfunctions, or unintended behavior of digital systems.

It focuses on ensuring that technology operates in a way that does **not create hazardous situations**, especially in environments where software and hardware interact with the physical world.

Difference bw Safety and Security

Difference between Safety and Security

- **Safety** protects **against accidental failures**.
- **Security** protects **against intentional malicious actions (attacks)**.


Both are essential and often interdependent in modern cyber-physical and critical systems.

Internet Safety



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying `edu.gcfglobal.org/en/internetsafetyforkids/teaching-kids-about-internet-safety/1/`. The website header includes the GCFGlobal logo, a search icon, a menu icon, the word 'TOPICS', a printer icon, a language dropdown set to 'English', a 'Login' link, and a 'Join for free!' button. A teal banner below the header contains the text 'Internet Safety for Kids - Teaching Kids About Internet Safety' and a 'Back to Tutorial' button. The main content area features the title 'Teaching kids about Internet safety' above an illustration of a woman and a child looking at a laptop screen that says 'Internet Safety for Kids'. Below the illustration, the text reads: 'The Internet can be a wonderful place to learn, shop, play games, and talk to your friends. Unfortunately, there are also predators, identity thieves, and others online who may try to harm you. In order to be safe online, it's important for you and your kids to be aware of the dangers.' A second paragraph begins with 'Many kids are confident that they know how to be safe online. However, there are a few'. In the bottom right corner, there is a chat bubble that says 'Welcome 🌟! How can we help you today?' and a circular icon with a red notification badge.

✦ AI Overview

AI safety is the interdisciplinary field concerned with ensuring artificial intelligence systems are designed, developed, and used in ways that are beneficial and minimize harm. This involves addressing risks like bias, data security, unintended behavior, and malicious misuse by developing technical solutions for robustness, assurance, and alignment with human values. The ultimate goal is to create AI that functions reliably and ethically, whether by layering multiple defenses or aligning it with human intentions. 

NIST Cybersecurity Cycle



Threat

- A threat is something that represents a menace to the system
 - Example: Hackers are a threat
- As such, a threat by itself does not violate security properties, since it does not make any damage to the system
- The fact that there are hackers in the environment does not – at least not immediately – imply that the ICT system will be violated

Vulnerability

- A vulnerability is a flaw in the system (or in the surrounding environment, or in the way the system interacts with the environment/users) that may enable an attacker to violate the system
- Again, a vulnerability is not by itself a violation
- Rather, its existence is the pre-condition for an attack, which is the only thing that can actually result in a violation
 - Example: if the system includes code that is vulnerable to buffer overflow attacks, that code represents a vulnerability. Unless an attacker launches a buffer overflow attack, there is still no violation to the system.

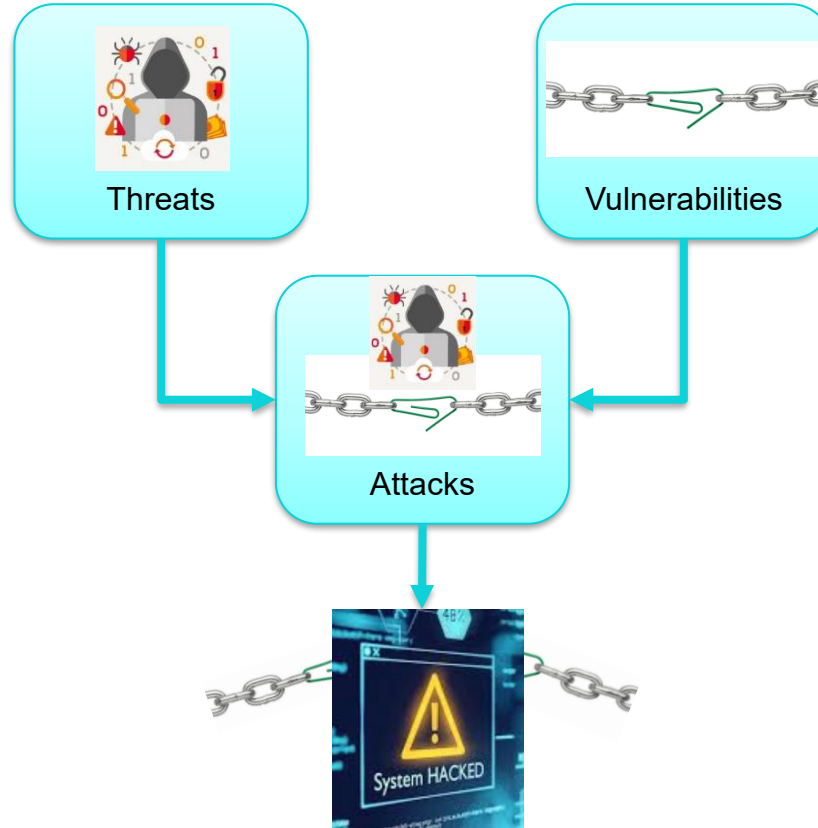
Intrusion

- An intrusion is the result of an attack
- More precisely, it is the result of a successful attack
- If an intrusion occurs, it is likely that the security of the system is violated

In practical terms

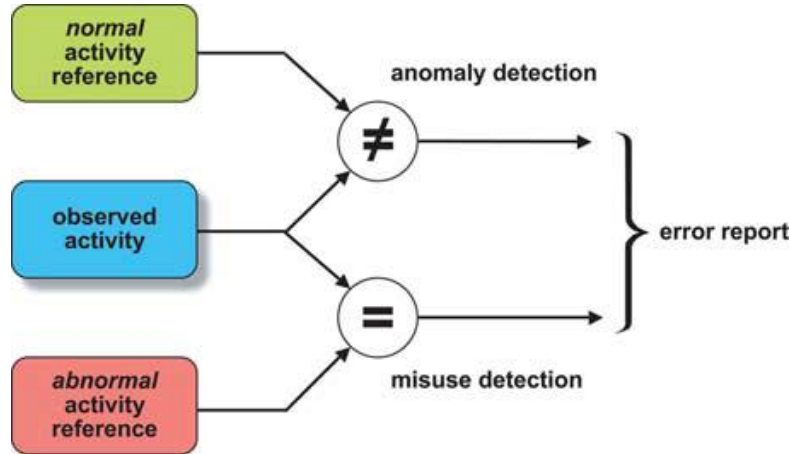
- A threat is something that represents a menace to the system
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The activation process of an intrusion



Improper use of words: example #1

- Currently available products only provide some (indeed limited) support in terms of Intrusion Prevention and Intrusion Detection, but they very much lack detailed and effective Intrusion Diagnosis capabilities



Intrusion =
a successful **Attack**
to the system

There is quite a bit of
confusion bw the two
concepts in current IDS
technology

“Internet Security: An Intrusion-Tolerance Approach” , Deswarte Y., Powell D. - Proceedings of the IEEE, Volume 94, Issue 2, Feb. 2006 - Page(s):432 - 441

Improper use of words: example #2

ChatGPT 3.5



You

what is an intrusion prevention system?

Key features of an Intrusion Prevention System include:

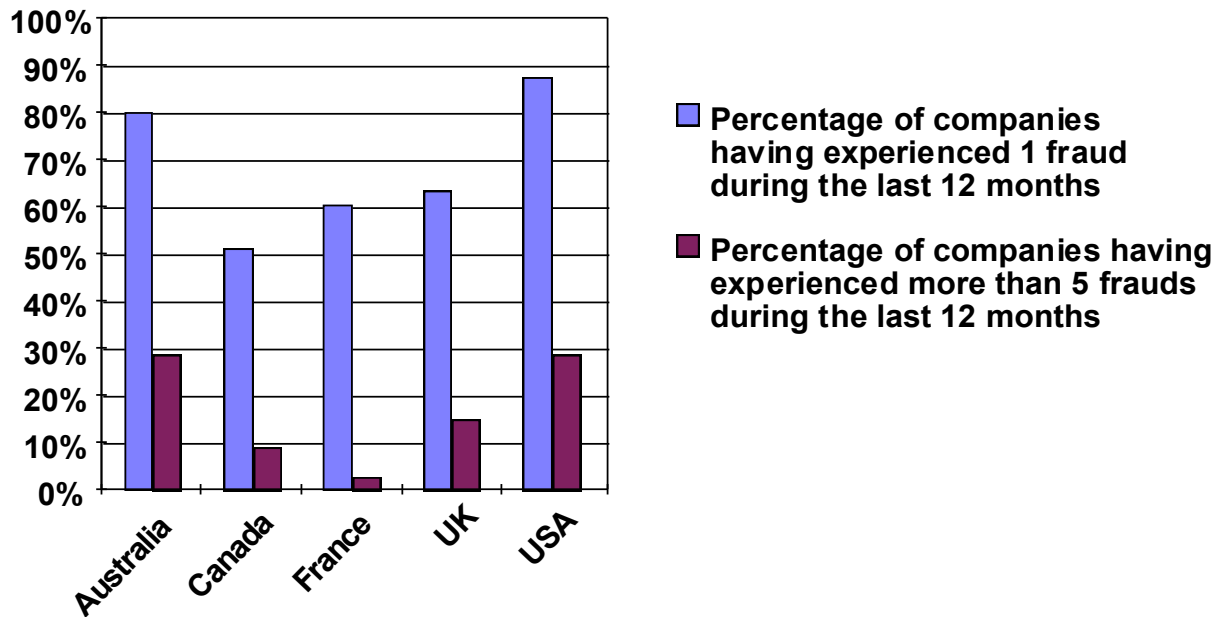
1. **Signature-Based Detection:** It uses a database of known attack patterns, or signatures, to identify and block known threats.
2. **Anomaly-Based Detection:** It observes normal network behavior and alerts or blocks activities that deviate significantly from the established baseline, which may indicate potential security incidents.
3. **Heuristic-Based Detection:** It employs rule sets and algorithms to identify suspicious patterns or behaviors that may indicate new or emerging threats.
4. **Response Mechanisms:** IPS can take various actions in response to detected threats, such as blocking specific IP addresses, dropping malicious packets, or reconfiguring firewall rules.
5. **Real-Time Monitoring:** IPS continuously monitors network and system activities, providing real-time analysis and response to potential security incidents.
6. **Integration with Firewalls:** IPS often works in conjunction with firewalls, enhancing network security by actively preventing intrusion attempts.

The false myth of IDS



Malicious faults

[Ernst & Young, 1998 - 1200 companies surveyed in 32 countries]



✗ 84% of frauds are performed by employees





Cloud security



Cloud Service Models

- The type of cloud offerings (or service models) varies depending on the number of hardware and software layers managed by the provider
- Each service model targets a different user, also called tenant
- Generally, the cloud market proposes three solutions:

Software as a Service (SaaS) – Target: App Users

- e.g.: Google Docs, Office365, Dropbox, Apple iCloud

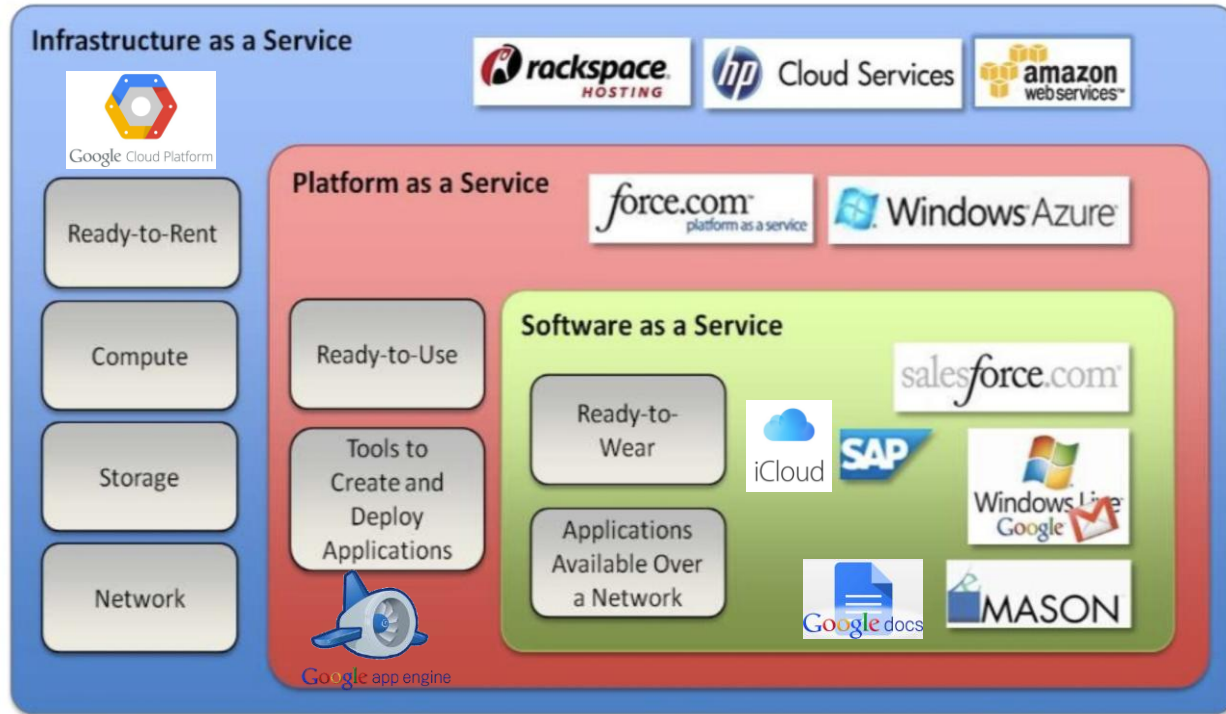
Platform as a Service (PaaS) – Target: App Developers

- e.g.: RedHat OpenShift, Force.com, Google App engine

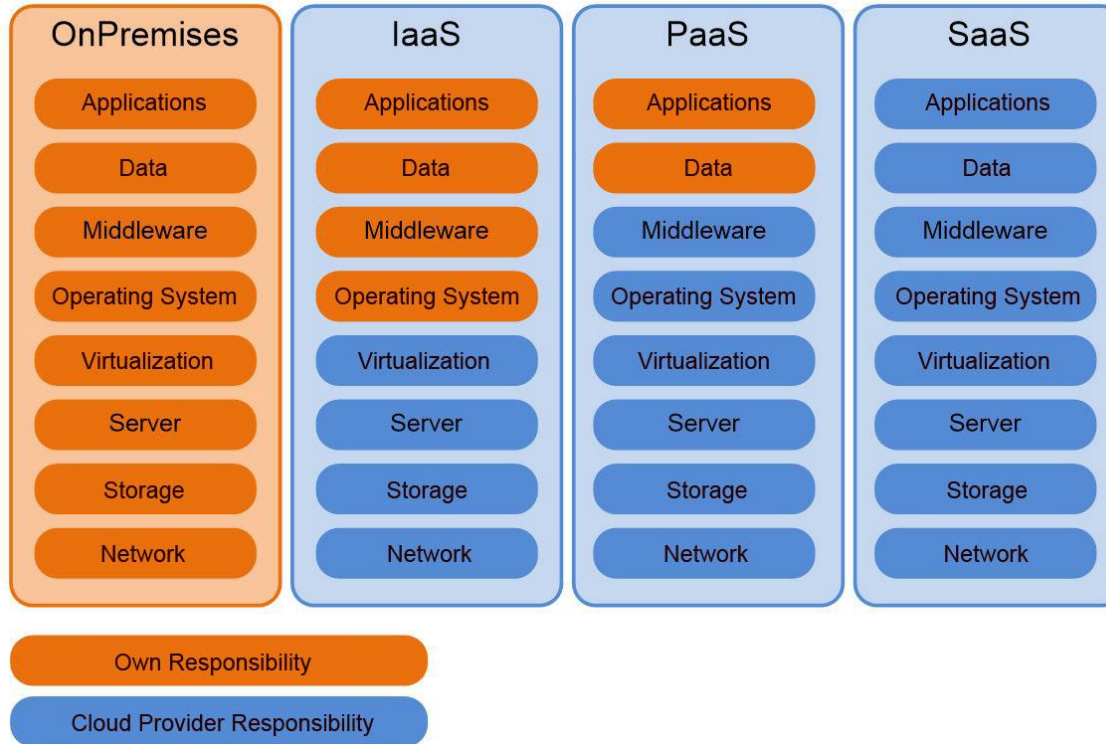
Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) – Target: System Admin

- e.g.: Amazon AWS EC2, Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud

Examples of cloud service offerings



Liability distribution



Security increase brought by the Cloud



- Cloud technology provides protection from some types of attacks that are easy to realize on locally managed systems, since it ensures:
- Higher Physical Security. Cloud vendors often host their systems in facilities that have much stronger physical security controls against external intruders
- Advanced detection and prevention mechanisms for Denial of Service at the network level
- More frequent Security Patching and System Updates that prevent viruses or worms from exploiting software bugs
- Multi-factor authentication which is much more secure than the more traditional user name and password authentication



Example: Ransomware (WannaCry)



- A ransomware is a virus which infects a computer and freezes the machine and the files on it. It encrypts data and requests money
- The most recent (2017) ransomware was WannaCry, that infected more than 400k Windows machines
- Note: The patch for the exploited vulnerability was available 59 days prior to the attack
- Companies/people did not update their IT systems (i.e. the OS)
- The adoption of cloud ensures that systems are always up to date and patched
- Attacks like WannaCry - or more in general a high percentage of viruses - would not have been possible



Security decrease brought by the Cloud



- Outsourced company systems and services are exposed to a number of confidentiality and integrity risks
- Some attacks have ancient origins, others leverage typical cloud features
- The Cloud Security Alliance (CSA) identified the following top threats:
 - Account/Service Hijacking
 - Shared Technology Vulnerabilities
 - DDoS/DoS at application layer
 - Extrusion Attacks
 - **Malicious Insiders**



The Malicious Insider Threat



- Employees working for the cloud service provider can have complete access (both physical and logical) to company resources
- Insider threats to cloud security are underestimated
- Most employees are trustworthy, but a rogue cloud provider employee has privileges that an outside cyber attacker would have to work much harder to acquire
- The security of data at rest is not an issue, but malicious insiders can access the physical memory of servers to easily steal data of a VM without the need of performing complicated side-channel attacks
- Currently, this is considered the most worrisome threat



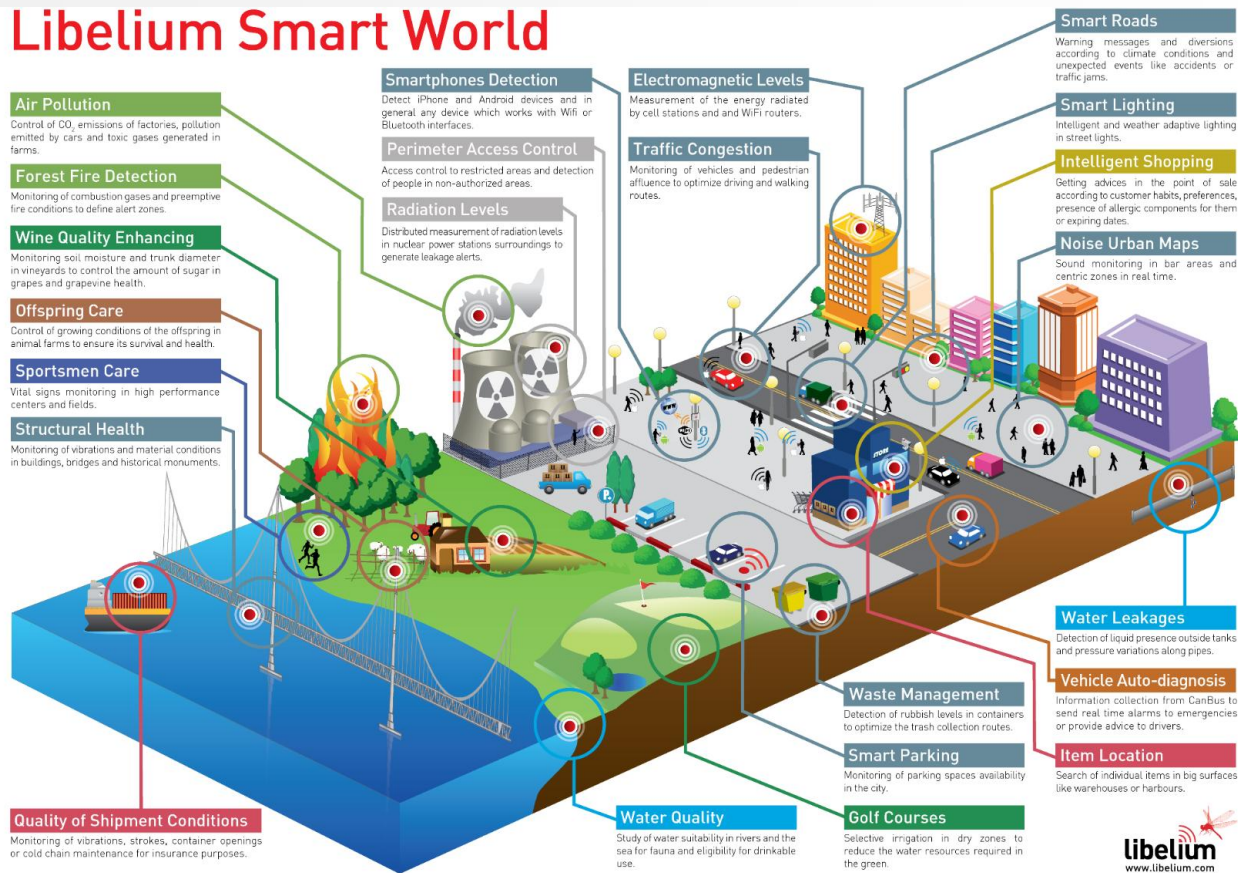


IoT security



IoT: Smart World

Libelium Smart World



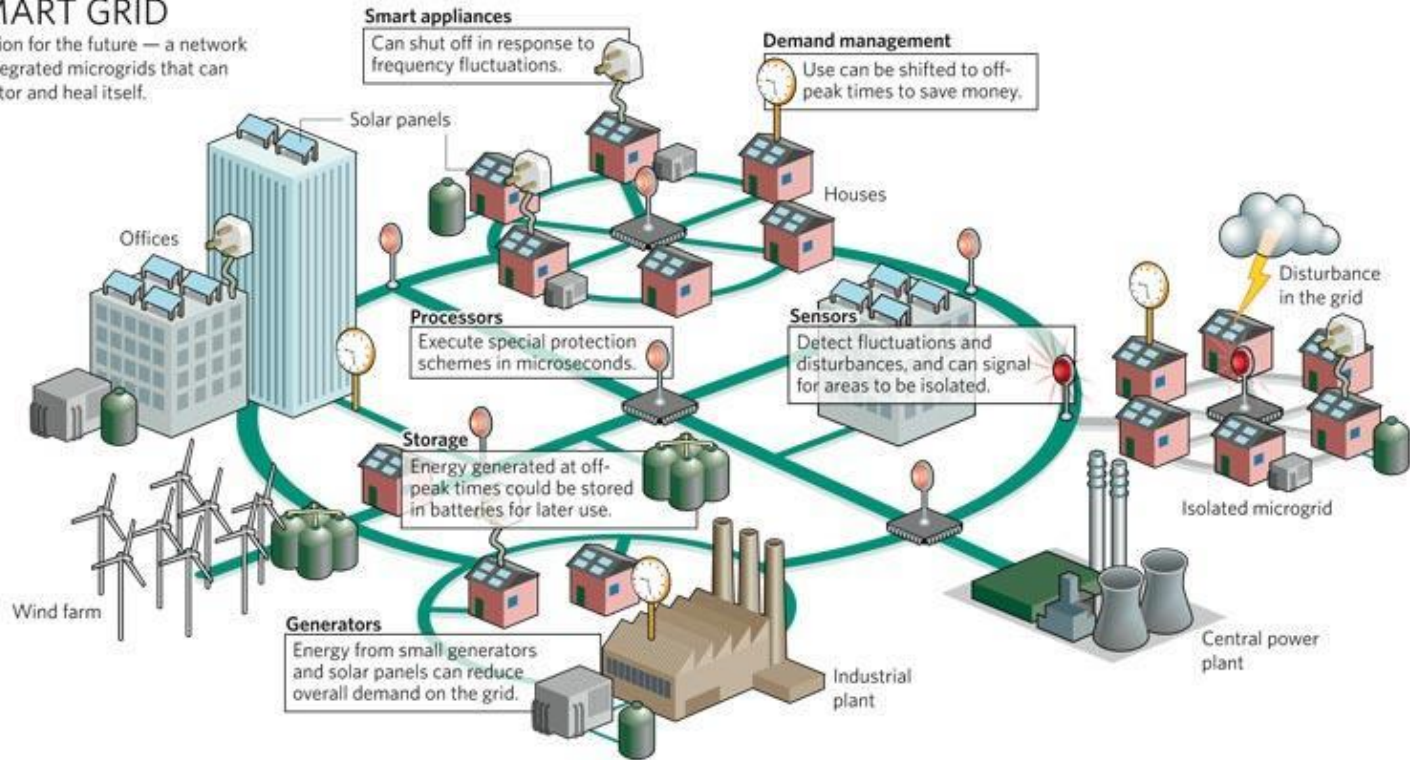
IoT: Smart Home



Industrial IoT

SMART GRID

A vision for the future — a network of integrated microgrids that can monitor and heal itself.

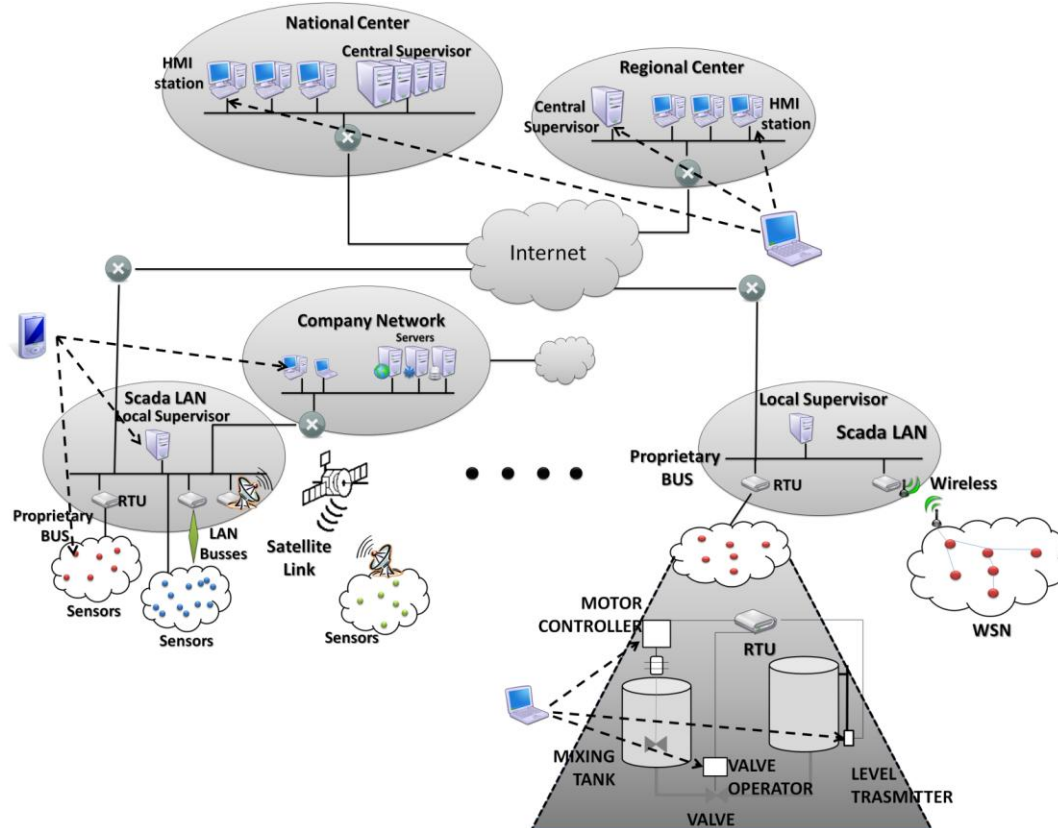




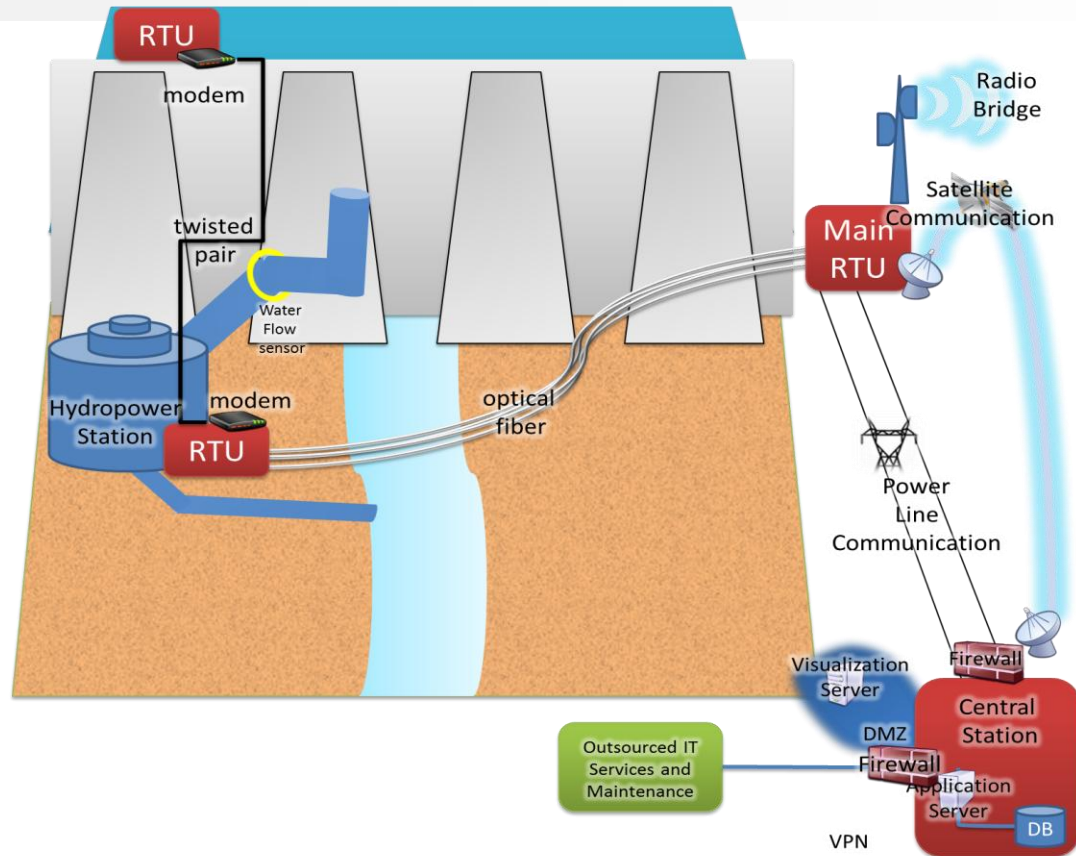
ICS security



Typical architecture of a SCADA system



Example of a real SCADA system



Yesterday's SCADA technology

- Traditional SCADA systems:
 - Were largely based on special-purpose devices
 - Included distinct subsystems that operated almost in isolation
 - Used dedicated (non-shared) communication links
 - Implemented proprietary (non-open) communication protocols
- This led to the (false) belief that traditional SCADA systems were inherently secure



Example of legacy SCADA technology




Today's SCADA technology

- For the implementation of SCADA systems, there is an increasing reliance on COTS (Commercial-Off-The-Shelf) components
- The individual subsystems are connected through the company's LAN network infrastructure, or even via WAN segments, with the possibility of traversing the Internet as well as wireless or satellite-based links
- There is a growing use of open communication protocols, which exposes SCADA systems to the same threats that make standard IT (Information Technology) systems vulnerable
- Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) have now become an integral part of many SCADA systems (and this will be increasingly the case)



ICS security in the media



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Symantec Intelligence Quarterly Report: Targeted Attacks on Critical Infrastructures

Updated: 14 Feb 2014 | Symantec Intelligence Quarterly Report

Cyberspies penetrate electrical grid: report

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Forbes / Tech

JUL 8, 2015 @ 10:31 PM 7,795 VIEWS

Report: The Trillion-Dollar Risk Of A Cyber Attack On U.S. Power Grid

There's been lots of discussion lately on targeted attacks which are, as the name implies, cyberattacks directed at specific individuals, organizations, corporations, or sectors. These targeted attacks, particularly on critical

(Reuters) - Cyberspies have penetrated the U.S.

2 FREE Issues

U.S. Power Grid Being Hit With 'Increasing' Hacking Attacks, Government Warns

Potential to 'take down' U.S. power grids, water systems, critical infrastructure

SHARE TWEET EMAIL

BY: Adam Kredo

June 24, 2015 5:00 am

Power Grid Cyber Attacks Keep the Pentagon Up at Night

A detailed look at why computers running the U.S. electrical infrastructure are so vulnerable to digital threats

By Michael McElfresh and The Conversation | June 8, 2015

software programs that could be used to

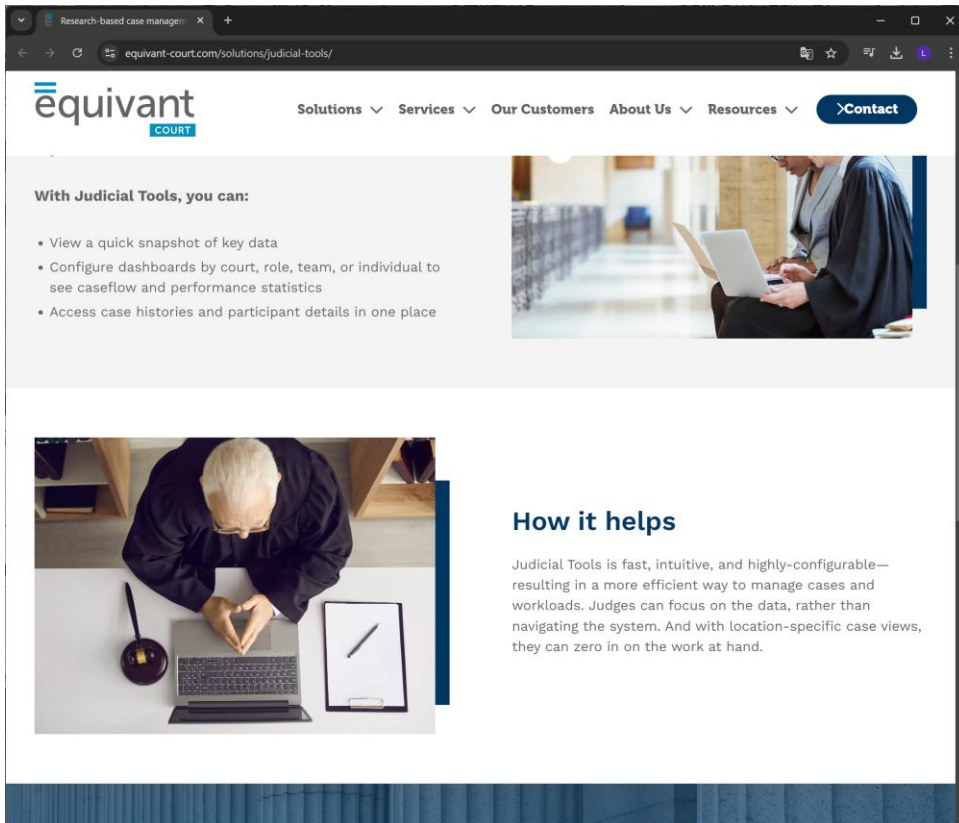
Street Journal reported on Wednesday.



Supply Chain security



Just an example



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `equivalent-court.com/solutions/judicial-tools/`. The page features the **equivalent COURT** logo and a navigation menu with links for Solutions, Services, Our Customers, About Us, Resources, and a Contact button. The main content area is titled "With Judicial Tools, you can:" and lists three bullet points: "View a quick snapshot of key data", "Configure dashboards by court, role, team, or individual to see caseflow and performance statistics", and "Access case histories and participant details in one place". To the right of this list is an image of a judge in a black robe using a laptop. Below the list is another image of a judge in a black robe working at a desk with a laptop, a gavel, and a clipboard. To the right of this image is the section "How it helps" with a paragraph describing the system's benefits.

With Judicial Tools, you can:

- View a quick snapshot of key data
- Configure dashboards by court, role, team, or individual to see caseflow and performance statistics
- Access case histories and participant details in one place

How it helps

Judicial Tools is fast, intuitive, and highly-configurable—resulting in a more efficient way to manage cases and workloads. Judges can focus on the data, rather than navigating the system. And with location-specific case views, they can zero in on the work at hand.

Question

Whom are you (implicitly) trusting?



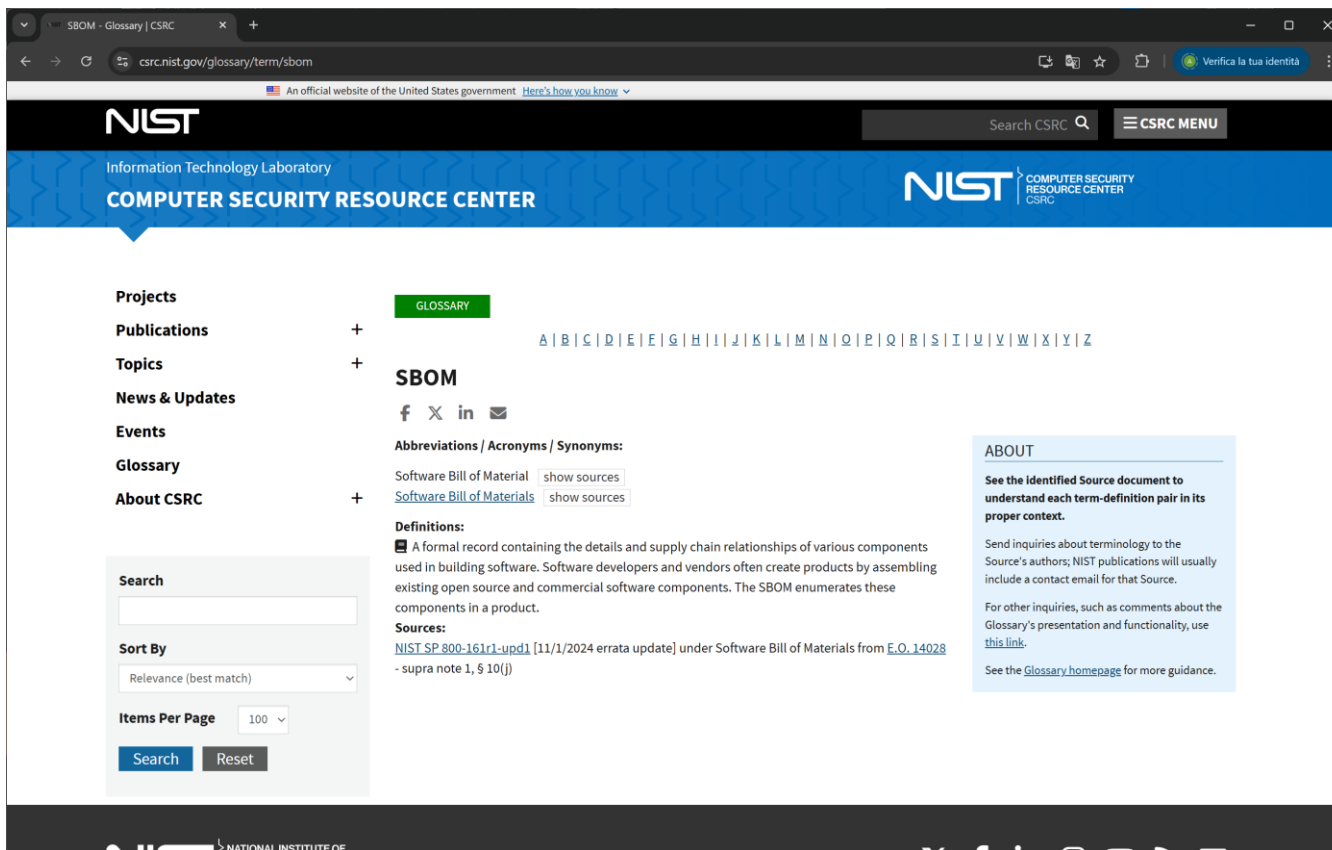
Possible answers (not an exhaustive list)



- Simple (obvious) one:
 - “The application provider”
- Better one, but still with a lot of room for improvement:
 - “The application provider and the Operating System provider”
- Good one:
 - “The entire supply chain of the application”



SBOM: Software Bill Of Materials



The screenshot shows the NIST CSRC SBOM Glossary page. The browser address bar displays 'csrc.nist.gov/glossary/term/sbom'. The page header includes the NIST logo, 'Information Technology Laboratory', 'COMPUTER SECURITY RESOURCE CENTER', and a search bar. The main content area features a sidebar with navigation links: Projects, Publications, Topics, News & Updates, Events, Glossary, and About CSRC. The 'Glossary' link is highlighted. The main content area displays the 'SBOM' title, social media icons, and a list of abbreviations/acronyms/synonyms. The 'Definitions' section provides a formal record of the details and supply chain relationships of various components used in building software. The 'Sources' section lists the NIST SP 800-161r1-upd1 (11/1/2024 errata update) under Software Bill of Materials from E.O. 14028 - supra note 1, § 10(j). A search box is located on the left side of the page. A blue box on the right side contains information about the identified source document and provides a link to the glossary homepage for more guidance.

SBOM - Glossary | CSRC

csrc.nist.gov/glossary/term/sbom

An official website of the United States government. [Here's how you know](#)

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SBOM

f x in

Abbreviations / Acronyms / Synonyms:

Software Bill of Material [show sources](#)

[Software Bill of Materials](#) [show sources](#)

Definitions:

A formal record containing the details and supply chain relationships of various components used in building software. Software developers and vendors often create products by assembling existing open source and commercial software components. The SBOM enumerates these components in a product.

Sources:

[NIST SP 800-161r1-upd1](#) [11/1/2024 errata update] under Software Bill of Materials from [E.O. 14028](#) - supra note 1, § 10(j)

ABOUT

See the [identified Source document](#) to understand each term-definition pair in its proper context.

Send inquiries about terminology to the Source's authors; NIST publications will usually include a contact email for that Source.

For other inquiries, such as comments about the Glossary's presentation and functionality, use [this link](#).

See the [Glossary homepage](#) for more guidance.

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF

Acknowledgements



- IDA (Information Disorder Awareness) Partenariato Esteso SERICS (PE00000014), nell'ambito dello Spoke 2 Misinformation and Fakes
- EMDAS (Enforcement and Monitoring of Data Sovereignty policies) SPOKE 1 "HUMAN, SOCIAL, AND LEGAL ASPECTS" DELL'INIZIATIVA "SECURITY RIGHTS IN CYBER SPACE – SERICS" PROJECT: DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY (DISE)
- S2 (Safe and Secure Industrial Internet of Things) PRIN: PROGETTI DI RICERCA DI RILEVANTE INTERESSE NAZIONALE – Bando 2022



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