Best Practices in Grid Security

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Introduction

- N&ST works with BES participants since 2003 to secure SCADA and control systems.
- We work with more than 30 asset owners:
  - Small, medium, large
  - Metropolitan, regional, multi-state
  - Generation, transmission, load serving
- Primarily 2 types of projects:
  - Security compliance - Documentation, gap analysis, remediation
  - Secure networks and systems - Design and deployment
1. Restrict the Substation Network

- Identify all user communities.
- Limit dispatch access points.
- Profile traffic.
- Duplicate legacy serial strategy for WAN links:
  - Own the network (if possible).
  - Use VPN technology to enforce traffic separation.
An Architecture for a Secure Operations Network
2. Segregate Traffic in the Substation

- Identify the Electronic Security Perimeter (ESP).
- Prioritize SCADA (i.e., ESP) traffic.
- Standardize equipment configuration.
- Provision access for personnel in attendance.
- Control access and monitor from central management system.
- Include local fail-safe capability.
An Architecture for a Secure Operations Network
3. Define Conservative Incident Responses

- Define and maintain strict traffic policies.
- Enforce policy through Active Policy Enforcement (e.g., intrusion detection and prevention).
- Lock out non-essential activity upon detection of an anomaly:
  - Dispatch access points
  - Control center access points
  - Substation access point(s)
An Architecture for a Secure Operations Network
Summary

- Restrict the substation network.
- Segregate traffic in the substation.
- Define conservative incident responses.
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