3RD Dutch Event on Process Control Security

This event „Control IT"concentrated in joint efforts to control the security of process control system in critical infrastructures and to empower the security managers.

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On June 4th, 2009, the third Dutch Process Control Security Event took place in Amsterdam. The event, organised by the Dutch National Infrastructure against Cybercrime (NICC), attracted both Dutch process control experts and members of the European SCADA Security Information Exchange (Euro-SCSCIE). A set of plenary sessions and parallel workshops addressed a wide range of topics. Seán McGurk of the US Department of Homeland Security discussed in his keynote speech the US Process Control Security programme. Later, in a subsequent workshop, he answered a set of questions by the audience about cyber crime and the benefits of international cooperation. Nate Cube, Wurldtech, discussed the cyber vulnerabilities of process control systems based upon the Industrial Cyber Security Vulnerability Database. A set of parallel workshops followed. An adjacent article highlights the outcome of the SCADA security questionnaire by EuroSCSIE. Another workshop focussed on the human behaviour aspects in information security. Responsibility alone is not enough to address the cybercrime issues; ownership is the key! Both personnel and management need to be closely associated with addressing cybercrime. Another workshop discussed how one can convince management. The secret: let them feel a little less comfortable and a little bit more insecure.

Since early 2009, the NICC works on a Dutch national roadmap to secure process control systems. The US roadmaps are considered as examples.

The Dutch approach will be a cross-sector approach with a very practical aim. The first contours were sketched. The roadmap centres on the end user and will be very pragmatic. The intent is to complete the roadmap in 2009 and have it agreed by a broad range of stakeholders: manufacturers, system integrators, service organisations, end users from the critical sectors, government agencies, and research and development. The objective of the roadmap will be that in eight year's time any unauthorised use of process control systems cannot lead to serious disruption of critical infrastructure supply. One aspect will be incident registration of cyber security incidents in process control/SCADA systems. It was indicated that such a registration will start in September 2009 on trial basis.

At the end of the event, Annemarie Zielstra and Seán McGurk signed an agreement which allows Dutch public and private parties to take part in the DHS Industrial Control Systems Cyber Security Advanced Training which includes a red team/blue team exercise. The training will take place in November, 2009.

All attendees were very pleased with the interaction they had with their colleagues from other companies and the content of the workshops. They are looking forward for the 4th Process Control Systems Security event.