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BETTER.

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How Long to Boom? Understanding and Measuring ICS Threat Maturity

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Why Measure ICS Threat Maturity?

Approximate the maturity of ICS threats compared to the “worst” case

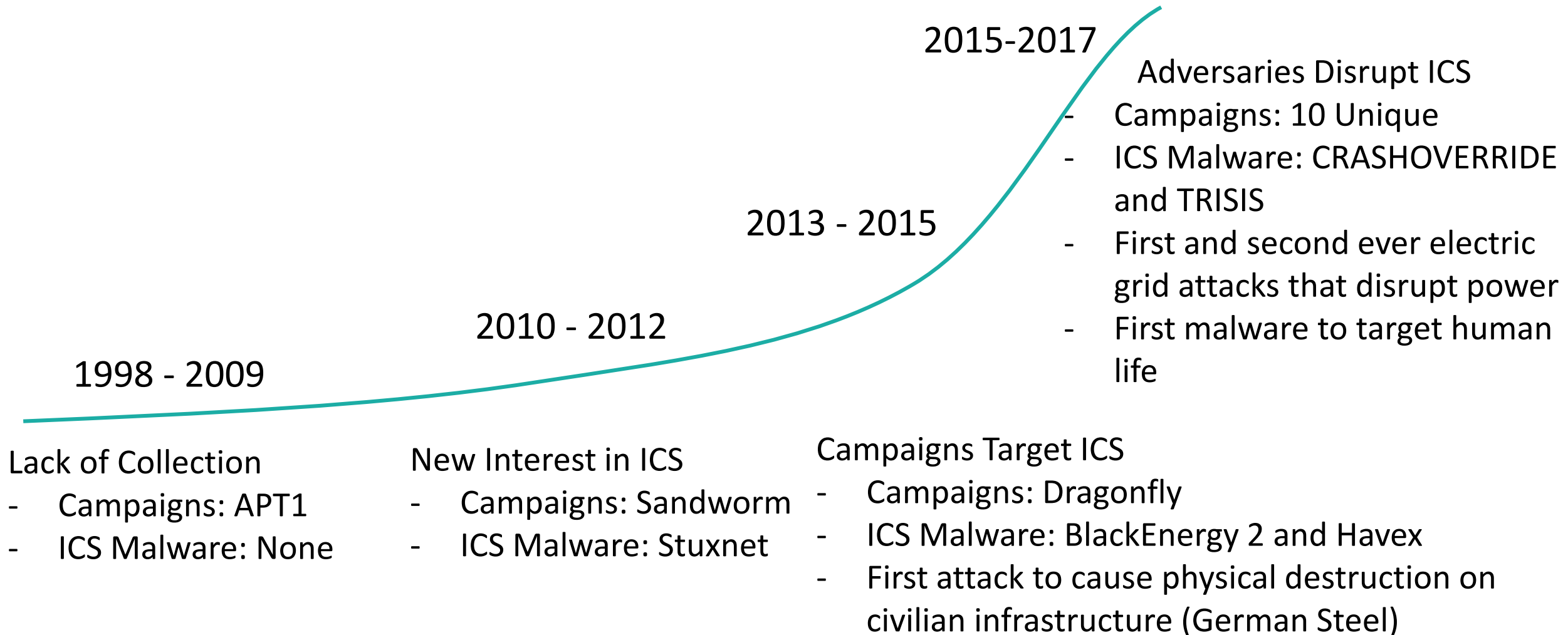
- Limited defender resources

- “Bad” vs “Boom”

- Threat behavior proliferation

- Forecast large-scale infrastructure cybersecurity risk

Growth in ICS Threats and Maturity



Features to Measure

Intent?

Sophistication?

Scale?

Sector affected?

Conduct?

Demonstrated vs Theorized?

Features Chosen



Observed



Conduct/ICS Kill Chain Phase



Scale

Access vs Effects Operations



Access

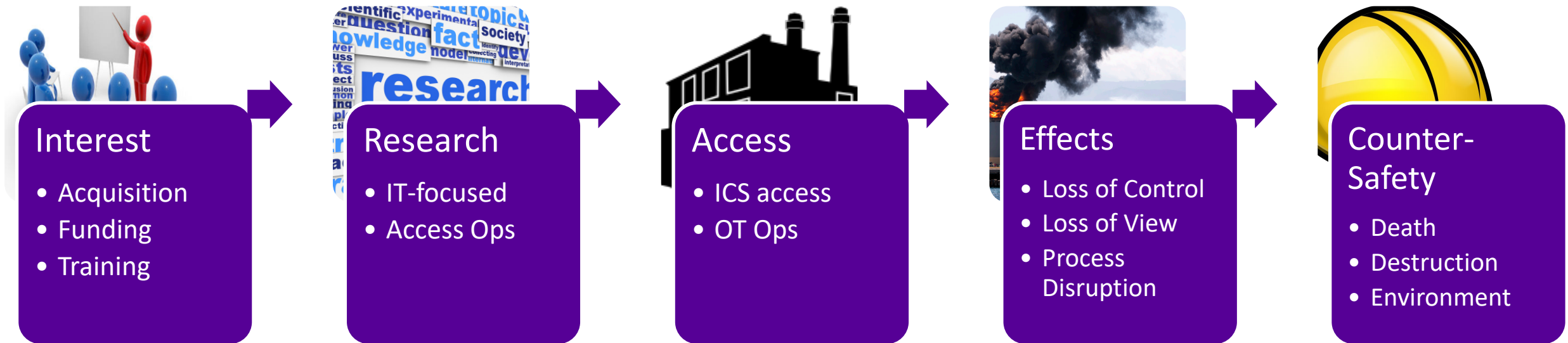
- Reconnaissance, Research, Exfiltration
- IT/OT, Intellectual Property, Pre-position



Effects

- Loss, Deny, Degrade, Disrupt, Destroy
- Control, View, Safety

ICS Threat Conduct “Path”



*Approximately follows the ICS Kill Chain path

Conduct Scale

Interest	0	No information available
	1	Interest in offensive ICS cyber operations
	1.5	Research, Development, or Acquisition of Talent, ICS Equipment, and Resources
Research	2	Targeting ICS-related people and information including compromising enterprise IT networks
	2.5	External OT network probing
Access	3	Intentional illicit access to OT networks
	3.5	Internal OT network reconnaissance
	4	Access to OT business assets
	4.5	Access to OT process control or view assets
Effects	5	Manual effects leading to loss or denial of view or control w/possible process disruption
	5.5	Automated effects leading to loss or denial of view or control w/possible process disruption
Counter-Safety	6	Impacting confidence in physical or digital safety controls

Scale of Operations

Single Process	1
Cross-Process / Single-Plant	2
Cross-Sites / Cross-Plants	3
Regional / Larger	4

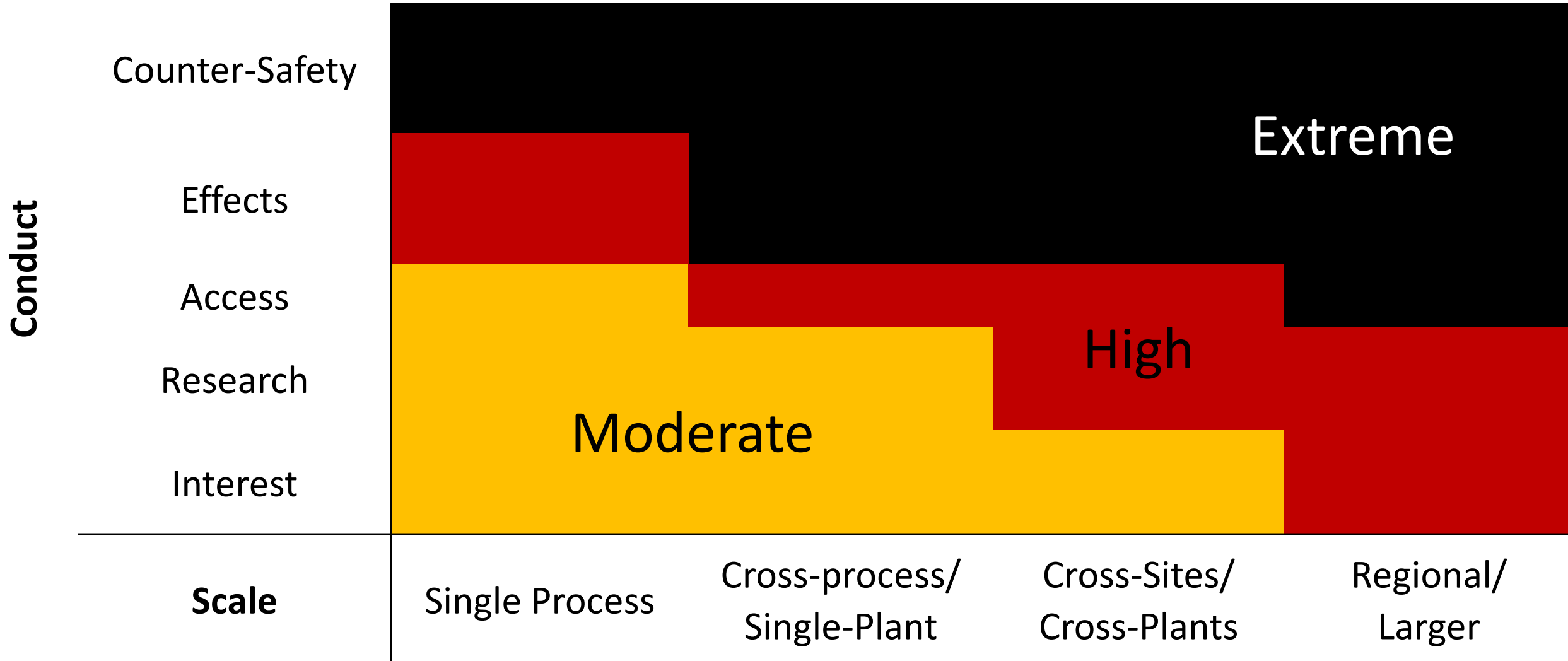
Time to Maturity



Complications

- Foreign Technical Assistance (FTA) or other coordination
- Sector-specific knowledge & capabilities
- Behavioral and technical proliferation

ICS Threat Maturity Matrix



Why Does This Matter? What Can We Do With This?

Project activity maturation timelines

Align defensive priorities to the threat environment

Separate “bad” from “boom”

Define the global ICS risk environment

Measure changes in proliferation

MODERATE

**CHRYSENE**

since 2017

- > **MODE OF OPERATION**
IT compromise, information gathering and recon against industrial orgs
- > **CAPABILITIES**
Watering holes, 64-bit malware, covert C2 via IPv6 DNS, ISMD00R
- > **VICTIMOLOGY**
Oil & Gas, Manufacturing, Europe, MENA, N. America
- > **LINKS**
OilRig, Greenbug

**COVELLITE**

since 2017

- > **MODE OF OPERATION**
IT compromise with hardened anti-analysis malware against industrial orgs
- > **CAPABILITIES**
Encoded binaries in documents, evasion techniques
- > **VICTIMOLOGY**
Electric Utilities, US
- > **LINKS**
Lazarus, Hidden Cobra

**MAGNALLIUM**

since 2016

- > **MODE OF OPERATION**
IT network limited, information gathering against industrial orgs
- > **CAPABILITIES**
STONEDRILL wiper, variants of TURNEDUP malware
- > **VICTIMOLOGY**
Petrochemical, Aerospace, Saudi Arabia
- > **LINKS**
APT33

**ALLANITE**

since 2017

- > **MODE OF OPERATION**
Watering-hole and phishing leading to ICS recon and screenshot collection
- > **CAPABILITIES**
Powershell scripts, THC Hydra, SecretsDump, Inveigh, PSEXec
- > **VICTIMOLOGY**
Electric utilities, US & UK
- > **LINKS**
Palmetto Fusion



HIGH

**DYMALLOY**

since 2016

- > **MODE OF OPERATION**
Deep ICS environment information gathering, operator credentials, industrial process details
- > **CAPABILITIES**
GOODOR, DORSHEL, KARAGANY, Mimikatz
- > **VICTIMOLOGY**
Turkey, Europe, US
- > **LINKS**
Dragonfly2, Berserker Bear

**RASPITE**

since 2017

- > **MODE OF OPERATION**
IT network limited, information gathering on electric utilities with some similarities to CHRYSENE
- > **CAPABILITIES**
Service installer malware designed to beacon out to adversary infrastructure
- > **VICTIMOLOGY**
Electric Utilities, US, Saudi Arabia, Japan
- > **LINKS**
NONE



EXTREME

**ELECTRUM**

since 2016

- > **MODE OF OPERATION**
Electric grid disruption and long-term persistence
- > **CAPABILITIES**
CRASHOVERRIDE
- > **VICTIMOLOGY**
Ukraine, Electric Utilities
- > **LINKS**
Sandworm

**XENOTIME**

since 2014

- > **MODE OF OPERATION**
Focused on physical destruction and long-term persistence
- > **CAPABILITIES**
TRISIS, custom credential harvesting
- > **VICTIMOLOGY**
Oil & Gas, Middle East
- > **LINKS**
None



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Questions?

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