

# Network Security January 2023 B

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## Collaborative Discussion 1: Digitalisation – What are the security implications of the digital economy?

### Initial Post

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#### Initial Post

by [Michael Botha](#) - Saturday, 4 February 2023, 1:09 AM

Organisations that are seeking sustainability and growth try to synergise as much of their workflows with Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to:

- Gain a competitive advantage.
- Increase efficiency.
- Reduce costs.

A company which has achieved the incorporation of ICT into all facets of the business may be deemed a “fully digital enterprise” (Sprenić & Šimunic, 2018). Although the metrics to comply with such a broad definition are very generic.



A full digital enterprise will face many cyber security challenges just because of the nature of the synergy – an interconnected mesh of mobile technology layers, presenting various attack vectors for various threats (Spremić & Šimunic, 2018). Additionally, due to the multitude of technologies used there is certainly opportunity for unchecked vulnerabilities. Furthermore, with an increase in cyber threats worldwide the probability that an attack is possible is strong.

The cyber security challenges for a bricks and mortar SME trying to achieve “digital synergy” is nuanced in both pros and cons when compared to larger organisations. For instance, they have:

- Smaller budgets
- Less expertise
- Less attraction for attackers
- Less complication

Coming from a renewable energy company I agree with the fact that many utilities will turn to technology for various gains (Wei et al., 2019). However, utilities are often very slow at technology uptake. Additionally, saying that there is a surplus of energy is possibly a miscommunication, as there is definitely the possibility of having more than enough energy, but to achieve that there are many aspects both politically and technologically that need to be resolved (Wei et al., 2019).

References:

Spremić, M. & Šimunic, A. (2018). *Cyber Security Challenges in Digital Economy*. Proceedings of the World Congress on Engineering 2018 (1)

Wei, J., Sanborn, S. & Slaughter, A. (2019) *Digital innovation. Creating the utility of the future*. Deloitte Insights

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[Re: Initial Post](#) by [Antonios Kikidis](#) - Sunday, 5 February 2023, 11:32 AM

[Peer Response](#) by [James Hines](#) - Monday, 6 February 2023, 5:59 PM

