

Palo Alto Networks Cybersecurity Academy

Securing the Future Of the Energy Sector

Miguel Ochoa

January 2025



About me:

Name: Miguel Ochoa

College: Florida international University

Hometown: Miami, FL

Fun fact: I like to play pool.



Understanding the Energy Sector



Critical Infrastructure

Powering Homes and Industries



Cyber Threats

Targeting IoT & SCADA Systems



Why it Matters:

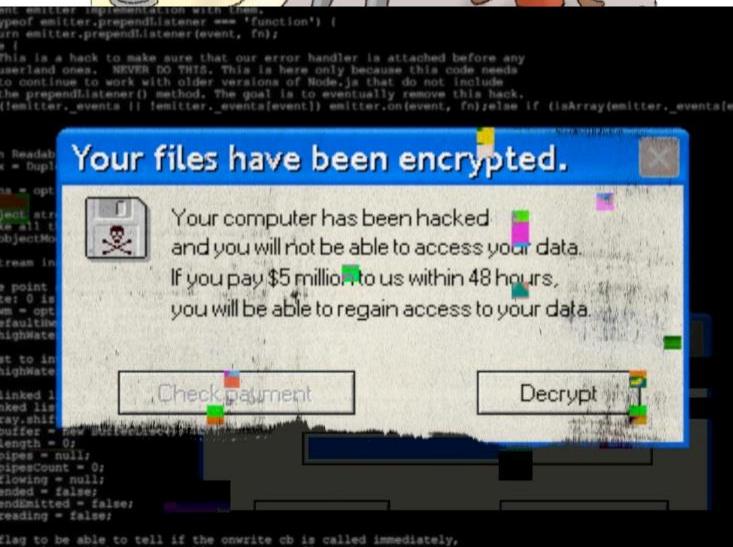
Securing National Resilience

*"Strengthening cybersecurity in the energy sector is **not an option**—it's a **necessity** to ensure resilience and national security."*



Threats to Energy Infrastructure

- 1 | **Cybersecurity Threats**
- 2 | **Advanced Persistent Threats (APTs)**
- 3 | **Insider Threats**
- 4 | **Supply Chain Vulnerabilities**
- 5 | **Outdated Systems**
- 6 | **Regulatory Compliance Issues**





perimeter 81

The Colonial Pipeline Cyberattack



A Reminder Of
The Devastating
Impact of
unpreparedness.

Preventing Vulnerabilities



Operation

Centralized monitoring to detect abnormal activities



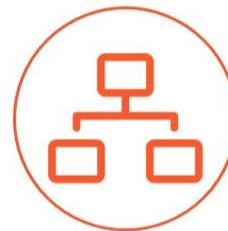
Data

Secure Data using AI Driven tools



Global Compliance

Ensure Adherence to global standards

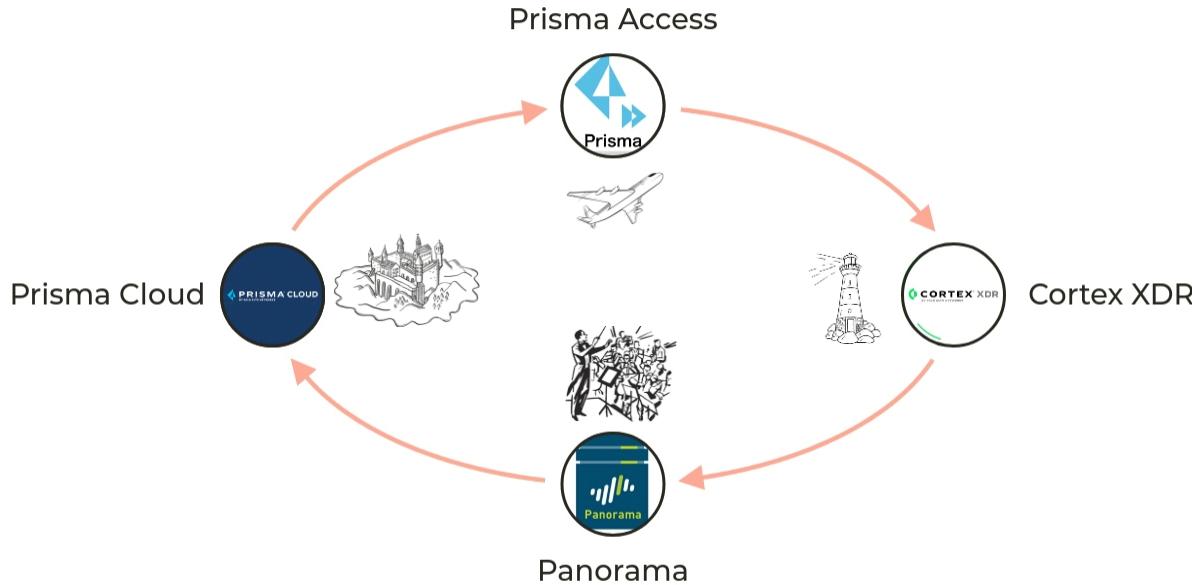


Frameworks

Integrate Cloud Solutions for Resilience and Recovery

*"Addressing these silos strengthens **resilience** against cyber threats"*

Operation Solutions



*"In cybersecurity, no single tool provides complete protection—**collaboration** is the cornerstone of **resilience**."*

Data Solutions



PRECISION AI

*"Empowering data with intelligent solutions ensures
security, efficiency, and innovation in a connected world."*

Global Compliances



CMMC



ISO



NERC

*"Compliance is not just a checkbox; it is a **cornerstone for resilience** in critical sectors like energy"*

Key Frameworks



ZERO TRUST SECURITY



*"Building **resilience** starts with frameworks that enforce **trust and adaptability** across every layer of security"*

Threat Intelligence



**JOINT CYBER DEFENSE
COLLABORATIVE**

A DIVISION OF NERC



E-ISAC

ELECTRICITY
INFORMATION SHARING AND ANALYSIS CENTER

*"In cybersecurity, intelligence sharing is not just a strategy;
it's a **shield** that strengthens **resilience** across sectors."*

Future-Proofing the Energy Sector



Quantum Encryption

Deploy quantum-safe encryption for critical data.



Zero Trust Evolution:

Enhance access control and segmentation across.



AI-Driven Predictive Analytics

Use XSIAM and AI to detect and prevent threats.



The Call To Action



1/ Palo Alto Solutions

Leverage XSIAM, XSOAR, and Prisma Access.

2/ Strengthen Collaboration

Partner with JCDC and E-ISAC.

3/ Cyber Development

Train in Zero Trust and SOAR.

4/ Commit to Innovation

Embrace AI, SASE, and quantum encryption

5/ Stay Very Proactive

Audit and segment networks

Collaboration, innovation, and resilience—together, we secure the future!

References

- Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. "Energy Sector." U.S. Department of Homeland Security, <http://www.cisa.gov/topics/critical-infrastructure-security-and-resilience/critical-infrastructure-sectors/energy-sector>.
- Perimeter81. "Colonial Pipeline, the Ransomware Task Force, and Your Business." *Perimeter81*, 21 May 2021, www.perimeter81.com/blog/news/colonial-pipeline-the-ransomware-task-force-and-your-business.
- National Conference of State Legislatures. "Human-Driven Physical Threats to Energy Infrastructure." *NCSL*, 22 Feb. 2023, www.ncsl.org/energy/human-driven-physical-threats-to-energy-infrastructure.
- "Attack on Colonial Pipeline: What We've Learned." U.S. of Homeland Security, 2023, www.cisa.gov/news-events/news/attack-colonial-pipeline-what-weve-learned-what-weve-done-over-past-two-years.
- "MITRE ATT&CK." MITRE, 2023, MITRE ATT&CK®
- "Top 10 Security Threats for the Energy Sector." Kaseware, www.kaseware.com/post/top-10-security-threats-for-the-energy-sector.
- "China Hacking Group Volt Typhoon." Politico, 2024, www.politico.com/news/2024/08/09/china-hacking-group-cybersecurity-0017345
- "What Is SASE?" Palo Alto Networks, www.paloaltonetworks.com/cyberpedia/what-is-sase.
- "How to Implement Zero Trust." Fortinet, www.fortinet.com/resources/cyberglossary/how-to-implement-zero-trust.
- "Microsegmentation and Zero Trust for Oil, Gas, and Energy Sectors." Elisity, www.elisity.com/blog/microsegmentation-and-zero-trust-critical-cybersecurity-strategies-for-oil-gas-and-energy-sectors.
- Schmid, Frank. "The Future of Cryptography and Quantum Computing." Gen Re, September 2023, www.genre.com/us/knowledge/publications/2023/september/the-future-of-cryptography-and-quantum-computing-en.