Cyber Warfare

Topics Covered

War, Warfare and Weapons in the 5th Domain

Assessing Advanced Persistent Threat Actors

The First Weapon

The Olympic Games

Repurposing Stuxnet

Developments Since The Olympic Games?

Sources & Resources

Q&A

War, Warfare and Weapons in the 5th Domain

International Law

War is a concept of International Law. It is;

The set of laws that govern relations between countries, as established by custom and agreement.

international law. (n.d.) *Collins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014*. (1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014). Retrieved January 22 202

What is a State?

A State may exercise control over cyber infrastructure and activities within its sovereign territory.

State

Possess the following qualifications: (a) a permanent population; (b) a defined territory; (c) government; and (d) capacity to enter into relations with the other states.

Sovereignty

The diplomatic recognition of the state's claim to statehood

https://msuweb.montclair.edu/~furrg/research/mlg09/state_international_law.html

What is War and Warfare?

War

Is a state of armed conflict between states, governments, societies, or informal paramilitary groups, such as mercenaries, insurgents and militias. It is generally characterized by extreme violence, aggression, destruction, and mortality, using regular or irregular military forces.

Warfare

Refers to the common activities and characteristics of types of war, or of wars in general.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War

To Go To War...

You need to be attacked in a way that violates your sovereignty such that;

It triggers your right to self defence, OR

To be brought into a just and legal war by mutual self defence treaty, OR

To be granted the right to attack by vote at the UN Security Council

Tallinn Manual

International Law applied to Cyber Warfare and it is the widest current consensus on the topic

Dense 215 page document

Written by mostly NATO nations though everyone was invited to participate

Built on an analysis of international law from 1868 going forward in time

Cyber Operations

The term 'cyber operations' refers to the employment of cyber capabilities with the primary purpose of achieving objectives in or by the use of cyberspace

Cyber Attacks

A cyber attack is a cyber operation, whether offensive or defensive, that is reasonably expected to cause injury or death to persons or damage or destruction to objects

Parties Involved



Cyber Command, NSA TAO, GCHQ, Unit 8200, FSB, GRU, Unit 61398

Sandworm, Cosy Bear, Fancy Bear, GhostNet

Iranian Cyber Army, ISIS etc

Rocke, Emotet

Types of Warfare in the 5th Domain

Espionage

Sabotage

Denial of Service

Disruption of Civil Services

Propaganda

Economic Disruption

Espionage

Flame, from the US?

The most sophisticated and complex malware to date (20MB+)

Kaspersky started reversing in 2012 and if they are still going, they will be done in 2 years approx.

Capable of recording basically everything on a Windows system

Capable of spreading by any imaginable way

No one yet knows it's full capabilities

https://securelist.com/the-flame-questions-and-answers/34344/

Sabotage

Shamoon, used by maybe Iran (?) on Saudi Aramco and RasGas

Shamoon infected the system and waited until Ramadan when everyone was away

RawDisk then wiped the MBR destroying the entire infrastructure of both companies

https://darknetdiaries.com/episode/30/

Denial of Service

The Great Cannon & Great Firewall, China isn't a fan of certain projects on GitHub (Great Fire & NY Times China)

Block GitHub

MITM Chinese users accessing GitHub

Uses JS distributed to Chinese internet users to send traffic to GitHub which hit 1.3Tbps

Disruption of Civil Services

Russian APT Sandworm has taken down power grid in Ukraine

BlackEnergy used to take control of ICS and SCADA systems

Destruction or disabling of IT Infrastructure with KillDisk

DOS the call centre to prevent customers getting updates on the return of power during December

https://www.wired.com/story/russian-hackers-attack-ukraine/

Propaganda

Fake news and Social Media are used to disseminating hoaxes, propaganda and disinformation

Most of the major nations in terms of cyber capabilities have a program

Economic Disruption

WannaCry, from LAZARUS Group of North Korea

Ransomware became a worm using EternalBlue

Believed to be used to generate hard currency

Degraded the capabilities of the NHS, Merck Pharmaceuticals and Maersk Line

What is a Weapon?

Weapon's are;

Arms or armament is any implement or device that can be used with intent to inflict damage or harm.

In broader context, weapons may be construed to include anything used to gain a tactical, strategic, material or mental advantage over an adversary or enemy target.

Cyber Weapons

In terms of a weapon being

Anything used to gain a tactical, strategic, material or mental advantage over an adversary or enemy target.

Tools like Flame, Shamoon, The Great Cannon and BlackEnergy were targeted and used to gain tactical, strategic, material or mental advantage

Is Cyber War/Warfare a Good Term?

Tomas Rid argued that;

All politically motivated cyber attacks are merely sophisticated versions of sabotage, espionage, or subversion and that it is unlikely that cyber war will occur in the future

Paulo Shakarian argued that it is similar to Clausewitz defined war;

Cyberwarfare is an extension of policy by actions taken in cyberspace by state actors

1. https://doi.org/10.1080%2F01402390.2011.608939

2. Shakarian, P., Ruef, A. and Shakarian, J. (2013). *Introduction to cyber-warfare*. 1st ed. Amsterdam [Netherlands]: Morgan Kaufmann Publishers, an imprint of Elsevier, p.2.

Can you really have a Cyber War?

Anything used to gain a tactical, strategic, Uses a Weapon? material or mental advantage common activities and Used a form of characteristics of types Warfare? of war extreme violence, Meets the aggression, definition of War? destruction, and mortality,

Can Cyber War Be Justified?

... the International Group of Experts could achieve no consensus as to whether the placement of malware that causes no physical damage (as with malware used to monitor activities) constitutes a violation of sovereignty.

Schmitt, M. N. (2013) *Tallinn Manual on the International Law Applicable to Cyber Warfare*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 25 [online] Available at http://csef.ru/media/articles/3990/3990.pdf

The Requirement is Physical?

Flame for Espionage?

Shamoon for Sabotage?

The Great Cannon for DoS?

BlackEnergy for Disruption of Civil Services?

Propaganda?

WannaCry for Economic Disruption?

Arms Control Measures

The goal is to restrict use or proliferation of such weapons

You can't really restrict what you don't know exists

Unlike conventional weapons, if you use a weapon, loose a weapon or have a weapon stolen, it can be easily reversed and proliferates

The Shadow Brokers

The Shadow Brokers dumped exploits over a period of two years from the NSA and while some were already burned and patched, EternalBlue was used by WannaCry within 2 weeks and NotPetya within a month.

DoublePulsar was immediately used as part of backdoor and malware delivery platform for WannaCry

Digital Geneva Convention

Don't target Tech Companies, the Private Sector or Critical Infrastructure

Assist Private Sector efforts in defence and response to events

Don't stockpile vulns, report them to vendors

Ensure that Cyber Weapons targeted, limited, precise and not reusable

Commit to non-proliferation of Cyber Weapons

Limit offensive operations to prevent a larger event

https://blogs.microsoft.com/on-the-issues/2017/02/14/need-digital-geneva-convention/

Assessing Advanced Persistent Threat Actors

Models To Assess APT's

Cyber Kill Chain

Can be indecipherable walls of text

Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTP)

A matrix the provides a visual representation of an attack

TTP

Tactics

The stages of an attack; Evasion, Persistence

Techniques

How a given tactic is achieved; MITM, rootkit

Procedures

The combination of Tactics and Techniques to generate an attackers procedure; Access via spear phishing

https://azeria-labs.com/tactics-techniques-and-procedures-ttps/

<u>Initial Access</u>	<u>Execution</u>	<u>Persistence</u>	<u>Evasion</u>	<u>Discovery</u>	<u>Lateral</u> <u>Movement</u>	Collection	Command and Control	Inhibit Response Function	Impair Process Control	<u>Impact</u>
Data Historian Compromise	<u>Change</u> <u>Program State</u>	<u>Hooking</u>	Exploitation for Evasion	Control Device Identification	<u>Default</u> <u>Credentials</u>	<u>Automated</u> <u>Collection</u>	Commonly Used Port	Activate Firmware Update Mode	Brute Force I/O	<u>Damage to</u> <u>Property</u>
Drive-by Compromise	Command-Line Interface	<u>Module</u> <u>Firmware</u>	Indicator Removal on Host	I/O Module Discovery	<u>Remote</u>	Data from Information Repositories	Connection Proxy	Alarm Suppression	<u>Change</u> <u>Program State</u>	<u>Denial of</u> <u>Control</u>
Engineering Workstation Compromise	Execution through API	<u>Program</u> <u>Download</u>	<u>Masquerading</u>	Network Connection Enumeration	<u>Remote</u>	Detect Operating Mode	Standard Application Layer Protocol	Block Command Message	<u>Masquerading</u>	<u>Denial of View</u>
Exploit Public- Facing Application	<u>Graphical User</u> <u>Interface</u>	<u>Project File</u> <u>Infection</u>	Rogue Master Device	Network Service Scanning	Program Organization Units	<u>Detect</u> <u>Program State</u>		Block Reporting Message	Modify Control Logic	<u>Loss of</u> <u>Availability</u>
External Remote Services	<u>Man in the</u> <u>Middle</u>	<u>System</u> <u>Firmware</u>	<u>Rootkit</u>	<u>Network</u> Sniffing	Remote File Copy	I/O Image		Block Serial COM	<u>Modify</u> <u>Parameter</u>	Loss of Control
Internet Accessible Device	Program Organization Units	Valid Accounts	Spoof Reporting Message	Remote System Discovery	Valid Accounts	Location Identification		Data Destruction	Module Firmware	Loss of Productivity and Revenue
Replication Through Removable Media	<u>Project File</u> <u>Infection</u>		Utilize/Change Operating Mode	Serial Connection Enumeration		<u>Monitor</u> <u>Process State</u>		<u>Denial of</u> <u>Service</u>	<u>Program</u> <u>Download</u>	Loss of Safety
Spearphishing Attachment	<u>Scripting</u>					Point & Tag Identification		<u>Device</u> <u>Restart/Shutdo</u> <u>wn</u>	Rogue Master Device	Loss of View
Supply Chain Compromise	User Execution					<u>Program</u> <u>Upload</u>		Manipulate I/O Image	Service Stop	Manipulation of Control
Wireless Compromise		•				Role Identification		Modify Alarm Settings	Spoof Reporting Message	Manipulation of View
						Screen Capture		Modify Control Logic Program	<u>Unauthorized</u> <u>Command</u> <u>Message</u>	Theft of Operational Information

Download
Rootkit
System
Firmware
Utilize/Change
Operating
Mode

TTP

Mitre ATT&K

A attacker Matrix for describing how an attack behaves and when used with the knowledgebase to defeat the attacker

ATT& ICS

Matrix specific to ICS/SCADA systems

1. https://attack.mitre.org/

2. https://collaborate.mitre.org/attackics/index.php/Main_Page

ICS & SCADA?!

ICS - Industrial Control System

A Control systems and associated instrumentation used for industrial process control.

SCADA - Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition

The front end for an ICS system that allows you to interact with ICS

The First Weapon

The First Weapon

In 1982 the Soviets stole an ICS system in Canada, the CIA knew it was coming

The CIA modified the software in some form to change pump speeds if pumps were connected

Pumps were connected, on the Trans-Siberian Pipeline Explosion

http://jeffreycarr.blogspot.com/2012/06/myth-of-cia-and-trans-siberian-pipeline.html

The Olympic Games

"This has the whiff of August 1945. Somebody just used a new weapon and this weapon will not be put back into the box"

General Michel Hayden, DCIA

The Olympic Games

Background to Enriching Uranium

Stuxnet

Exploits

The Attack

The Olympic Games

Said to be a joint project of the NSA, CIA and Unit 8200

Designed to sabotage and disrupt uranium enrichment at Natanz in Iran

Potentially spawned the family of malware Stuxnet, Duqu, Flame

The family is unusual for being huge in size

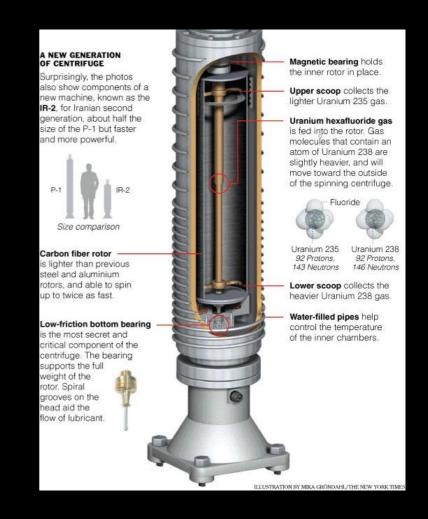
Background to Enriching Uranium

Gas Centrifuge

U235 is the goal but is only 0.7% of natural uranium the rest is U238

Injecting UF6 into Centrifuge and spinning it up forces U238 outwards and downwards due to it's mass

U235 goes upwards and stays inwards and is collected at the top.



http://www.cedarsrevolution.net/jtphp/images/stories/Lebanon/Intelligence/iran-nukes/new-centrifuges.jpg

Centrifuge Cascades

Grouped Centrifuge's which feed each other with the remaining U238 from each previous stage to get more U235



The first known physically destructive Malware

Very modular design with the option to use up to 28 exploits

A worm designed NOT to propagate unless;

A USB key is used

The system is Windows 7,

Siemens PCS 7, WinCC and STEP7 software is installed and is connected to Siemens S7 PLCs

If the worm should propagate;

A rootkit was installed to hide it's infection

4 zero days were used to exploit Windows, the Siemens software and the PLC

This is just gaining access and spreading in networks. The attack only begins if;

The PLC has a 6ES7-315-2 CPU

A Profibus CP 342-5 communication module is present

Fararo Paya KFC750V3 OR Vacon NX 9500h variable frequency drive is present

Exploits

Exploits - Windows

Stolen Digital Certs

Stolen from Jmicron and Realtek

Jmicron make controllers for USB, SATA, PATA and RAID systems

Realtek make audio and network controllers

Both companies need kernel mode divers

Stuxnet used these to bypass code signing protections to install the rootkit

Exploits - SIMATIC Manager

Default database password for SCADA application, plus SQL injection, plus forced SQL execution Hijacking the legitimate driver DLL Executing arbitrary code in project folders of the engineering software

Exploits – Step 7

Code injection to any operation block, taking priority over legitimate code

Hooking system functions

I/O Filter & faker

Exploits - Human & Physical

Dutch Intelligence had a sleeper inside Natanz

The US built a copy of the facility for testing

Extensive OSINT gave away the rest

MS08-067

A specially crafted RPC request can be used to get remote code execution and used to turn Stuxnet into a worm

Can be run without authentication Borrowed from Conficker Worm

MS10-046

Executes code by having a Windows shortcut file be indexed by File Explorer or cmd

Exploit gives malware the same privileges as the logged in user

MS08-061

Elevate malware's privileges by

Passing specially crafted parameters from a parent window to a newly created child window, OR

Uses a Double Free vuln in Windows Exception handling, OR

An attacker uses a specially crafted application to corrupt Windows Kernel memory

https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/security-updates/securitybulletins/2008/ms08-061

The Attack

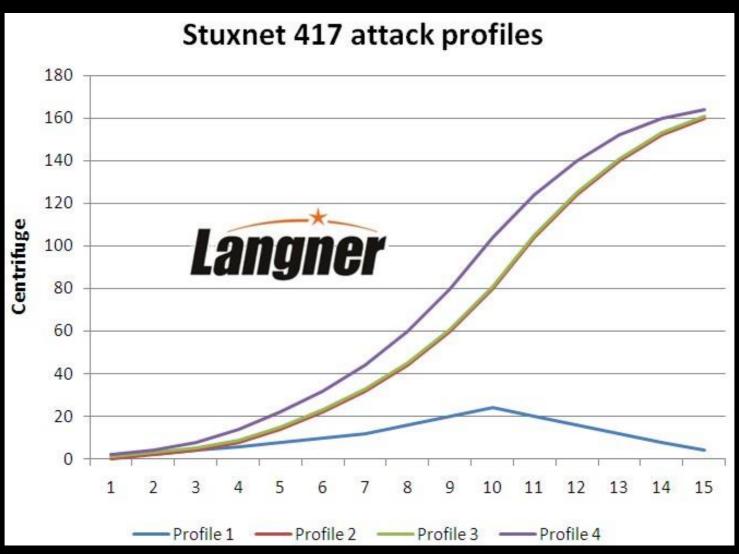
The Attack

Ideally, at Natanz a centrifuge should spin at 1064Hz to enrich uranium sufficiently

Stuxnet spun it to 1410Hz and then down to 2Hz over 21 seconds before going back to 1064Hz

If operators noticed yields dropping, Stuxnet used recorded telemetry to lie to operators

Why all of this effort?



https://www.langner.com/2011/01/stuxnet-eats-leu/

Why all of this effort?

Running at 1410Hz is enough to stop separating U238 and U235 so you just get waste centrifuge tails

2Hz isn't nearly enough to separate them either so you again get waste centrifuge tails

Changing speed quickly can cause the centrifuge to jam or to tear itself apart

Repurposing Stuxnet

Repurposing Stuxnet

Most of Stuxnet is Zero Days to get into a facility and only part of it is actually manipulating ISC's and SCADA systems

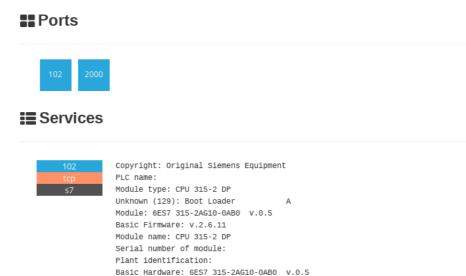
The actual attack code isn't compiled and is written in AWL

SET	L DBW25818	UC FC6080	L DBW21432	M010: L 2
SAVE	T LW62	P#V 60.2	*I	AUF DB8063
= L60.1	L O	U L 60.2	L DBW25820	T DBW25818
AUF DB8063	TAK	= DBX25824.3	TAK	SPA M004
L DBW25818	==I	M007: UC FC6063	>=I	M006: L 2
L O	SPB M002	AUF DB8063		L LW62
<i< td=""><td>SPA M003</td><td>L DBW25820</td><td>U DBX 25824.3</td><td>==I</td></i<>	SPA M003	L DBW25820	U DBX 25824.3	==I
L DBW25818	M002: UC FC6064	L DBW21432	SPBN M004	SPB M011
L 7	P#V 60.2	<i< td=""><td>L 0</td><td>SPA M012</td></i<>	L 0	SPA M012
= L60.2	U L 60.2	SPBN M008	T DBW25820	M011: AUF DB8063
>I	= DB8063.DBX25824.0	L DBW25820	SET	L DBW25820
O L 60.2	UC FC6063	L 1	= DBX25824.2	L 0
SPBN M000	U DBX 25824.0	+I	L DW#16#FFFFFFF	==I
SET	SPBN M004	T DBW25820	T LD26	SPBN M013
= DBX25828.1	L 0	SPA M009	L B#16#2	L 1
U L 60.1	T DBW25820	M008: L 2	T LB61	T LW64
SAVE	T DBW26610	AUF DB8063	AUF DI8061	L W#16#1F7F
BEA	L 1	L DBW21432	L DIDO	T LW66
M000: AUF DB8063	T DBW25818	*I	T LD64	L DW#16#840341A0
L DBW25818	SPA M004	L DBW25820	UC FC6084	T LD68
L 2	M003: L 1	TAK	P#V 61.0	UC FC6078
>=I	L LW62	<i< td=""><td>P#V 64.0</td><td>P#V 64.0</td></i<>	P#V 64.0	P#V 64.0
L DBW25818	==I	U DBX 25824.3	P#V 26.0	P#V 50.0
L 6	SPB M005	SPBN M009	P#V 34.0	P#V 66.0
= L60.2	SPA M006	L DBW25820	L LD26	L 1
<=I	M005: AUF DB8063	L 1	L DW#16#1	T LW64
U L 60.2	CLR	+I	==D	L W#16#1F7E
SPBN M001	U DBX 25824.3	T DBW25820	SPBN M010	T LW66
UC FC6070	NOT	M009: L 2	SET	L DW#16#84000020
M001: AUF DB8063	SPBN M007	_AUF DB8063	_ = DBX25828.1	T LD68

Cross Compile AWL into C

```
void FC6082()
  if(DB8063.state < 0 || DB8063.state > 7)
    DB8063.error flag = 1;
  if(DB8063.state >= 2 && DB8063.state <= 6)//attack in progress
    FC6070();//save electrical inputs and write to selected outputs (1..164)
  if(DB8063.state == 0) //state 0: Wait for strike condition
    FC6063(); //save inputs (1..25)
    if(DB8063.go attack == 1)
      DB8063.cascade = 0:
      DB8063.state = 1;
```





Let's Do Some Recon

Step 7 PLC in Ireland

Directly Connected to the Internet

Has a vulnerable 315-2 CPU

Port 2000 is open to read and write data

Could It be Anything Else?

It could be a honeypot like this

80 tcp http HTTP/1.1 200 OK

Date: Sun, 07 Jan 2018 18:56:45 GMT

Last-Modified: Tue, 19 May 1993 09:00:00 GMT

Content-Type: text/html Set-cookie: path=/

Content-Length: 579

102 tcp s7

Conpot

Location designation of a module: Copyright: Original Siemens Equipment

Module type: IM151-8 PN/DP CPU

PLC name: Technodrome

Module: v.0.0

Plant identification: Mouser Factory

OEM ID of a module:

Module name: Siemens, SIMATIC, S7-200 Serial number of module: 88111222

161 udp snmp

Siemens, SIMATIC, S7-200



44818 tcp ethernetip

Rockwell Automation/Allen-Bradley

Product name: 1756-L61/B LOGIX5561

Vendor ID: Rockwell Automation/Allen-Bradley

Serial number: 0x006c061a

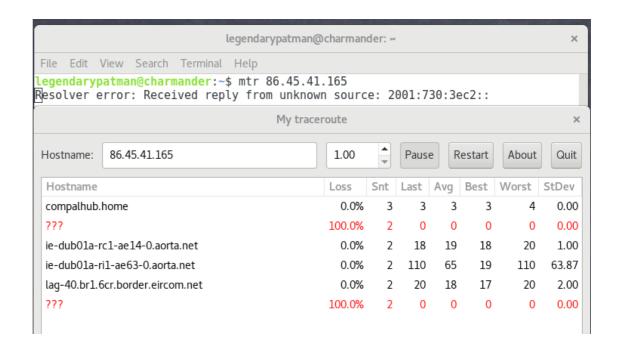
Device type: Programmable Logic Controller

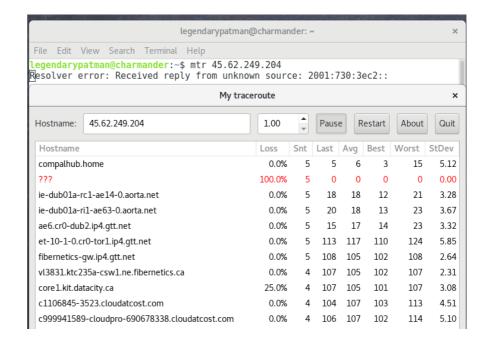
Device IP: 0.0.0.0

Can we verify it isn't a Honeypot

We can use mtr to ping and traceroute

ICS systems can't respond to pings but honeypots do





What could we do from here?

- 1. Get the SIMATIC software to connect to the device
- 2. Pull the AWL from the device
- 3. Modify PLC portion Stuxnet to integrate it with the AWL from the device
- 4. Compile your own C to AWL
- 5. Deploy AWL to the PLC
- 6. Do whatever you programmed the system to do

What could an attack like this Effect?

Electrical Systems and Power Delivery

Water systems

Medical systems

Communications technology

Agricultural Systems

Transportation Systems

Developments Since The Olympic Games?

Nitro Zeus

Uncovered by Documentarian Alex Gibney for ZeroDays

Described as tool to destroy all the infrastructure in a country without dropping a bomb

A long term infiltration plan to destroy all communications, power, water, automated agriculture, hospitals, transportation, financial and security services

The German Steel Mill

In 2014 a Steel Mill was attacked, the unscheduled shutdown caused a Blast Furnace to potentially have exploded

The second physically destructive malware

We don't know who done it or how they done it, but there are clues in the code to their motivation

Industrial sabotage

An individual or group testing out capabilities

Environmental extremists

https://ics.sans.org/media/ICS-CPPE-case-Study-2-German-Steelworks_Facility.pdf

TRITON

Stuxnet targeted the systems that control who a industrial process acts

Triton on the other hand targets the safety systems that prevent major accidents from occurring

While Stuxnet tried to degrade a capability, Triton could be targeting people

TRITON

Triton could release of toxic hydrogen sulfide gas or cause explosions at the petrochemical plant it was discovered

But it goes beyond that targeting Oil, Gas and Electrical systems in North America, Europe and the Middle East "Even with Stuxnet and other malware, there was never a blatant, flat out intent to hurt people"

Bradford Hegrat, Industrial Cyber Security Consultant

Sources & Resources

Sources & Resources

Countdown to Zero by Kim Zetter

Malicious Life Podcast

Darknet Diaries Podcast

Mitre ATT&K

Symantec W32.Stuxnet Dossier

https://www.symantec.com/content/en/us/enterprise/media/security_response/whitepapers/w32_stuxnet_dossier.pdf

Langer Security's To Kill a Centrifuge

https://www.langner.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/to-kill-a-centrifuge.pdf

Q&A