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ВІД АМЕРИКАНСЬКОГО НАРОДУ

# CTO PEER MENTORING PROGRAM

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FUNDAMENTALS OF OPERATIONAL  
TECHNOLOGY, CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE  
AND IT INTEGRATION CYBERSECURITY

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# Fundamentals of Operational Technology, Critical Infrastructure and IT Integration Cybersecurity

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# OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGY – WHAT IS IT?

“Programmable systems or devices that interact with the physical environment (or manage devices that interact with the physical environment)”

NIST SP 800-37 Rev. 2

“Operational technology (OT) is hardware and software that detects or causes a change, through the direct monitoring and/or control of industrial equipment, assets, processes and events.

Gartner



# OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGY – WHAT IS IT?



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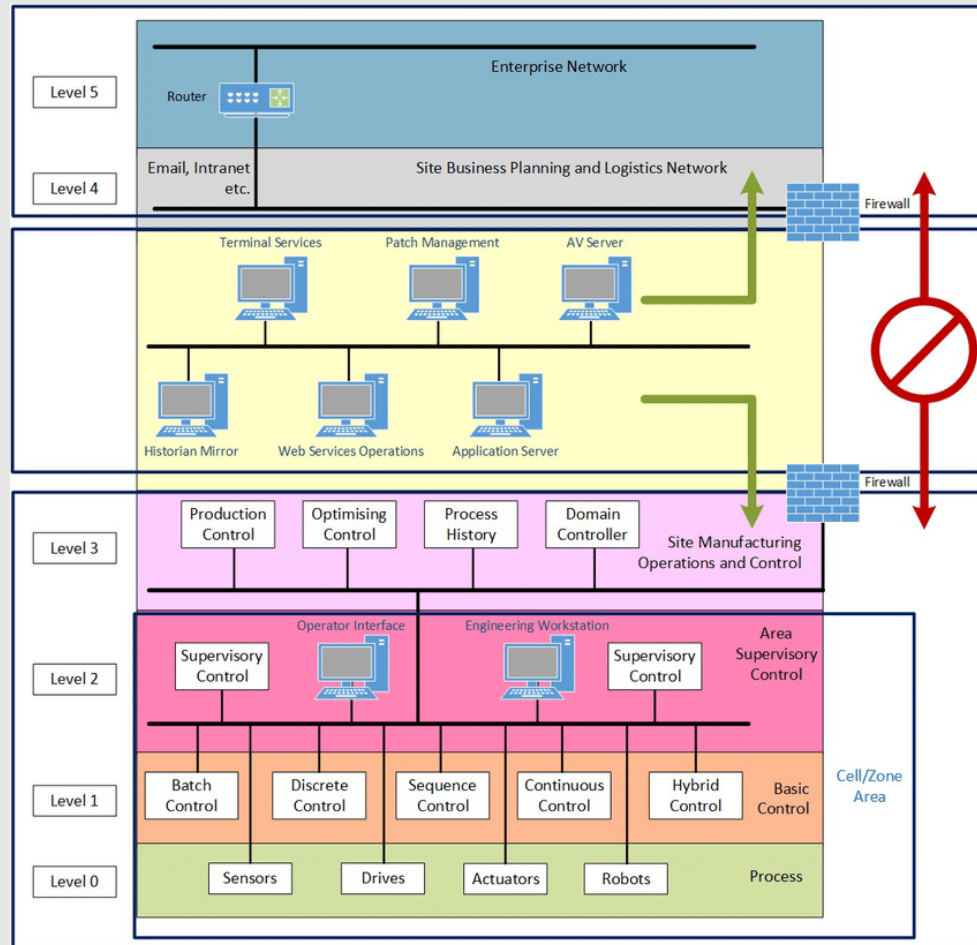
*We all can think of good examples of Operational Technology. Often it is very clear that something is Operational Technology*

*When definitions are applied it sometime becomes difficult to determine where Operational Technology Stops and Information Technology Starts*

*Therefore we need to categorize or systems by function*



# OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGY – THE PURDUE MODEL



The Purdue model can be found in a number of OT standards

It helps us place our assets into logical levels

It allows us to understand where controls can be placed and understand where different use cases can lead to the traversal of these controls or provide a route for an actor move between those zones to reach their target.

# OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGY – HOW IS IT DIFFERENT

*In many ways Operational Technology is very similar to Information Technology – We should not believe it can not be secured and that is too different to implement!*

*However, we must understand how our environments are different.*



# OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGY – THE CIA TRIAD

*Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability*

*Why is this order wrong for OT? It implies an order of importance – Often Availability and Integrity seem the most important in OT.*

*Think about your own processes, what is most important to you?*

*e.g.*

*If you have a safety critical system then Integrity is vital, and you would rather shut down than endanger life*

*If you run an electricity network then availability may be the most important*

*But all factors are important*





# OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGY – THE CIA TRIAD

*What does confidentiality in OT mean?*

*It is often achieved through the careful handling of sensitive data rather than through encryption.*

*Encrypting traffic between a SCADA server and a PLC may not be practical or possible.*

*Traffic between locations should be protected, even if natively insecure. E.g. using a VPN tunnel. This is not to stop the loss of the data but to ensure trust in the source and destination.*



# OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGY – THE CIA TRIAD

*What does confidentiality in OT mean?*

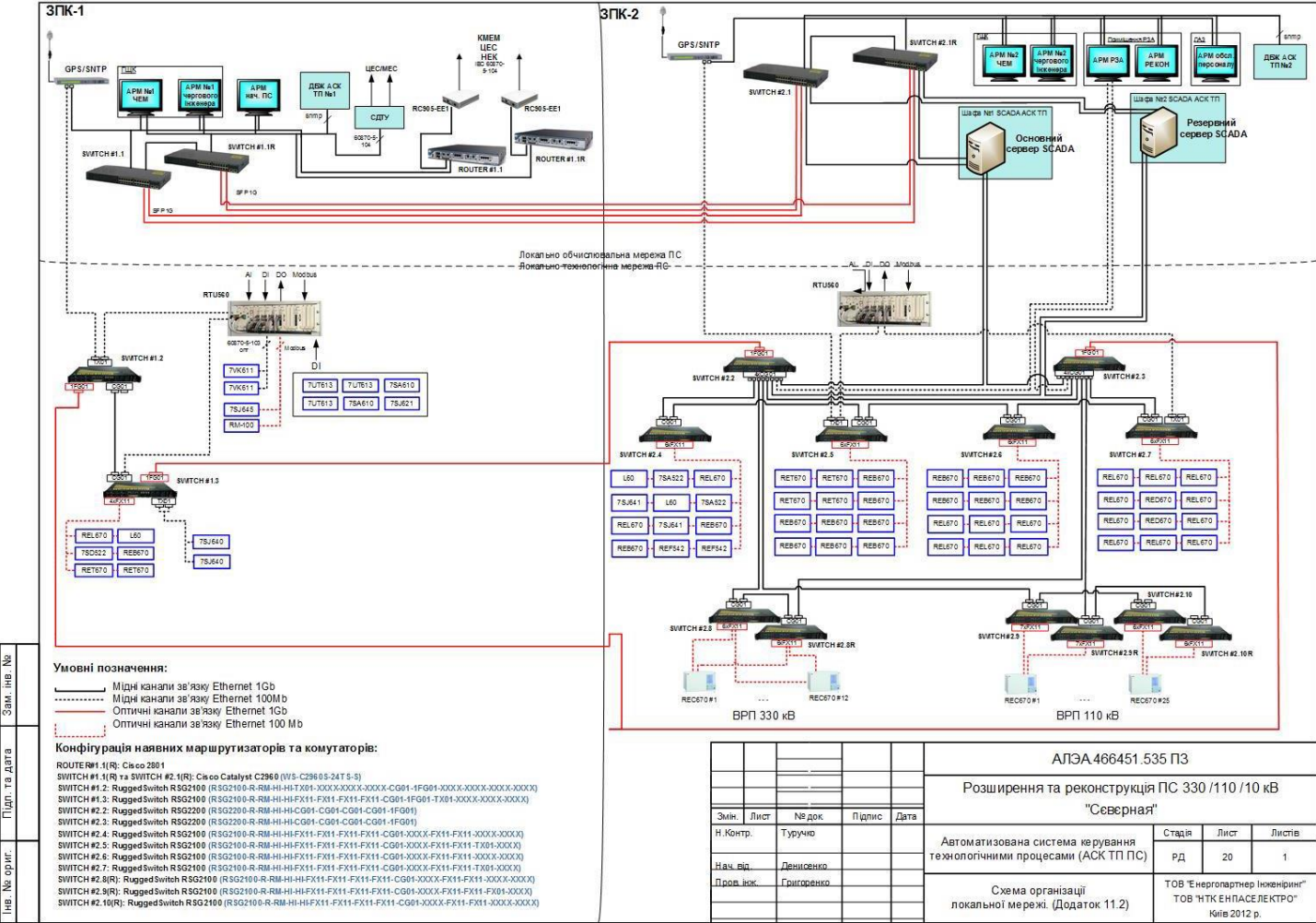
*Protecting Confidentiality has do be done with people not just technology.*

*Attacking OT networks, especially where there is good defence in depth requires reconnaissance. It's not always possible to maintain persistence so crafted attacks mean understanding the target.*

*But...*



# OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGY – ENSURING CONFIDENTIALITY



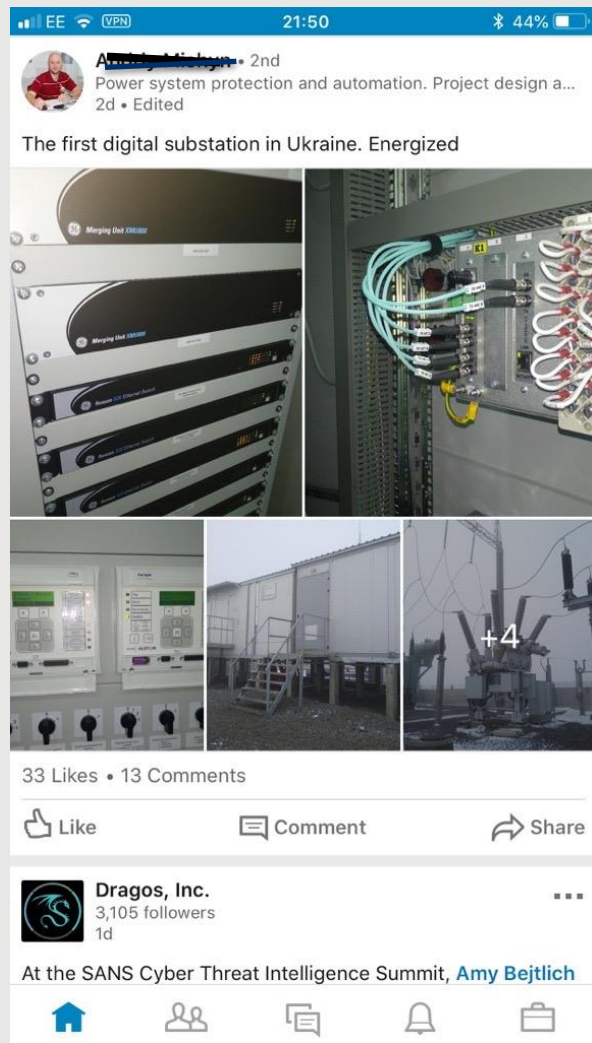
Ensure Suppliers do not publish detailed information about the projects they deliver for you.

This level of information tells an attacker:

1. How to the environment is connected to the outside world.
2. How to navigate within the environment
3. The devices and software versions and their functions



# OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGY – ENSURING CONFIDENTIALITY



Ensure Staff don't overshare details of OT Projects

Often pride and the desire for recognition make social media a risky area

1. Vendors
2. Location
3. Even how the devices are connected to the Process Bus and Station Bus networks

## IN SUMMARY

- Identify all of your assets – keep a robust inventory and hold it securely
  - Discover your end to end architecture
  - Look at where the data flows, how and why do people cross those boundaries
  - Ensure robust separation of services
  - Identify the controls you can implement in the OT environment and take gradual steps towards having equal controls in all areas
1. Ensure your OSINT programme includes checking for information about your OT assets
  2. Make sure your staff are educated on the risks
  3. Monitor for specific threats
  4. Work Collaboratively, IT and Operational Engineering teams working together from the start!



# THANK YOU

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