



Cyber-Physical Attack Lifecycle

Marina Krotofil

COINS summer school on Security Applications, Lesbos, Greece (online)

14-18.11.2021

Note



This session is based on talks:

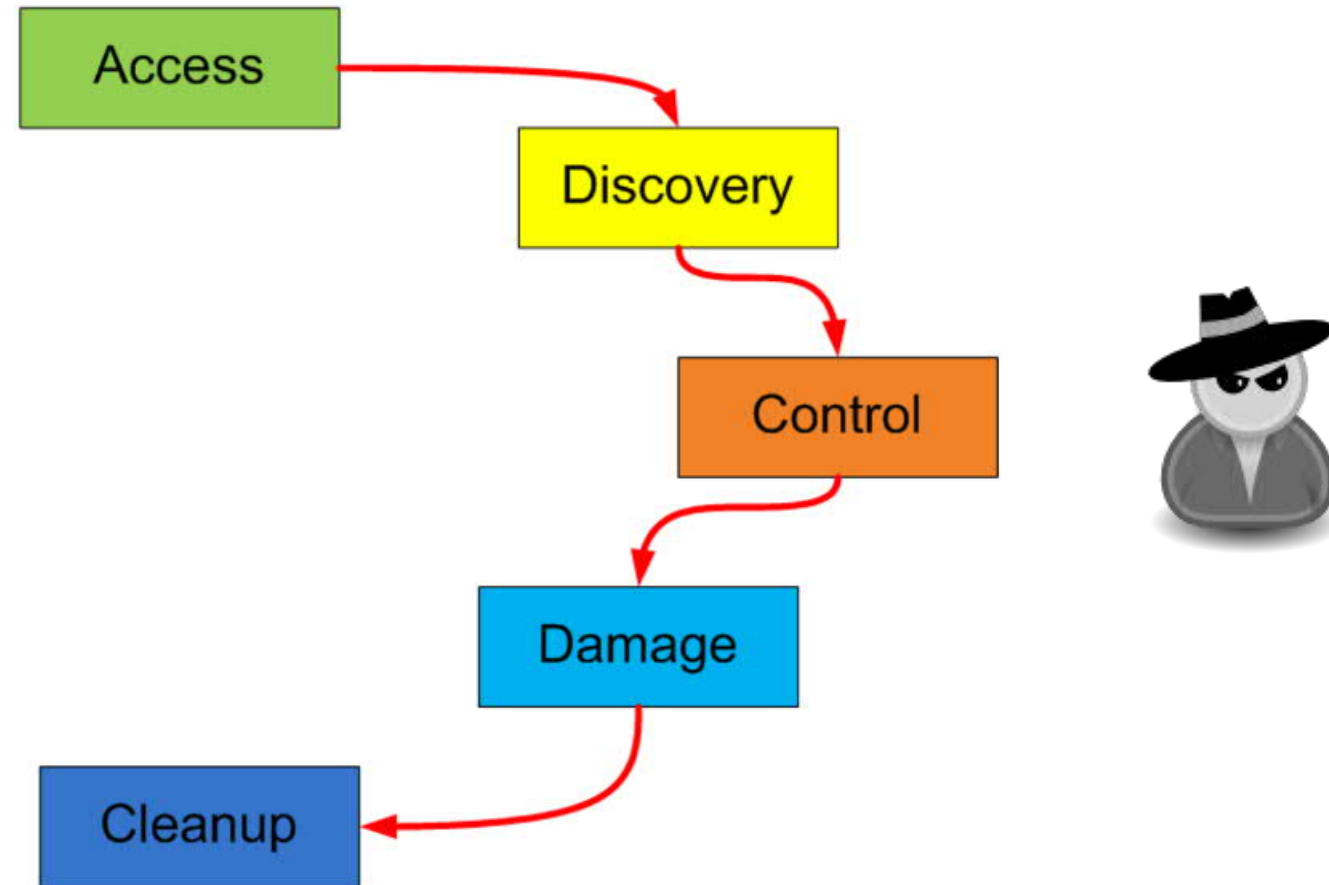
- M. Krotofil “Rocking the Pocket Book: Hacking Chemical Plants for Fun and Profit”, Black Hat, USA, 2015
- J. Wetzels, M. Krotofil “A Diet of Poisoned Fruit: Designing Implants and OT Payloads for ICS Embedded Devices”, TROOPERS, Germany, 2019

Cyber-Physical Attack Development Lifecycle

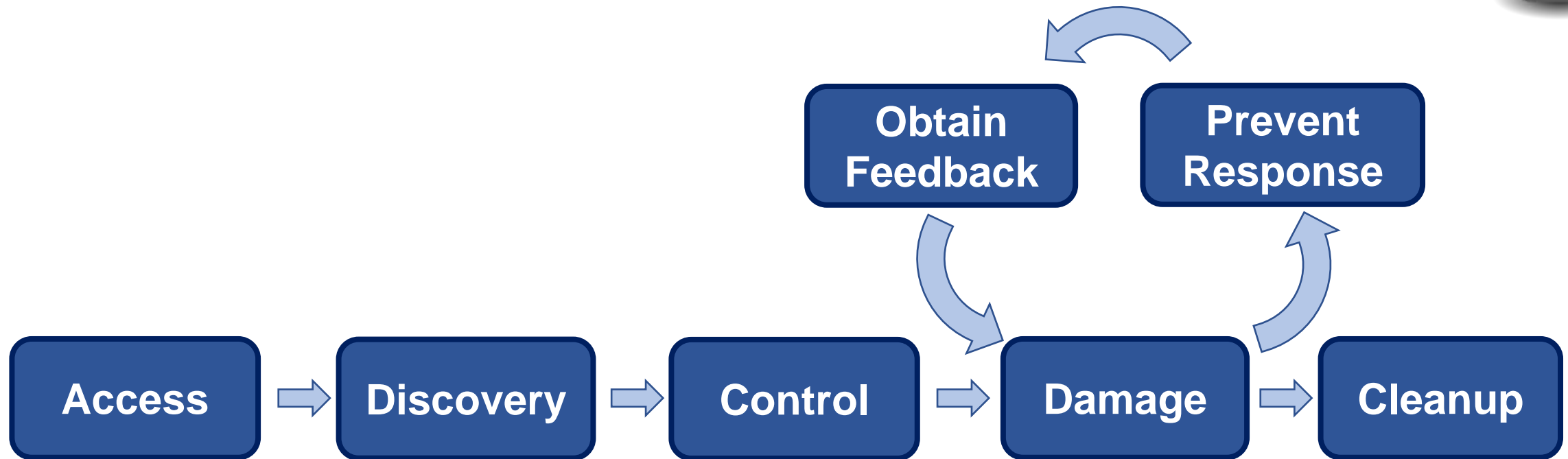
- **If you know how attackers work, you can figure out how to stop them**
- Attack lifecycle is a common method to describe a process of conducting cyber attacks



“Stages of SCADA attack”, 2007



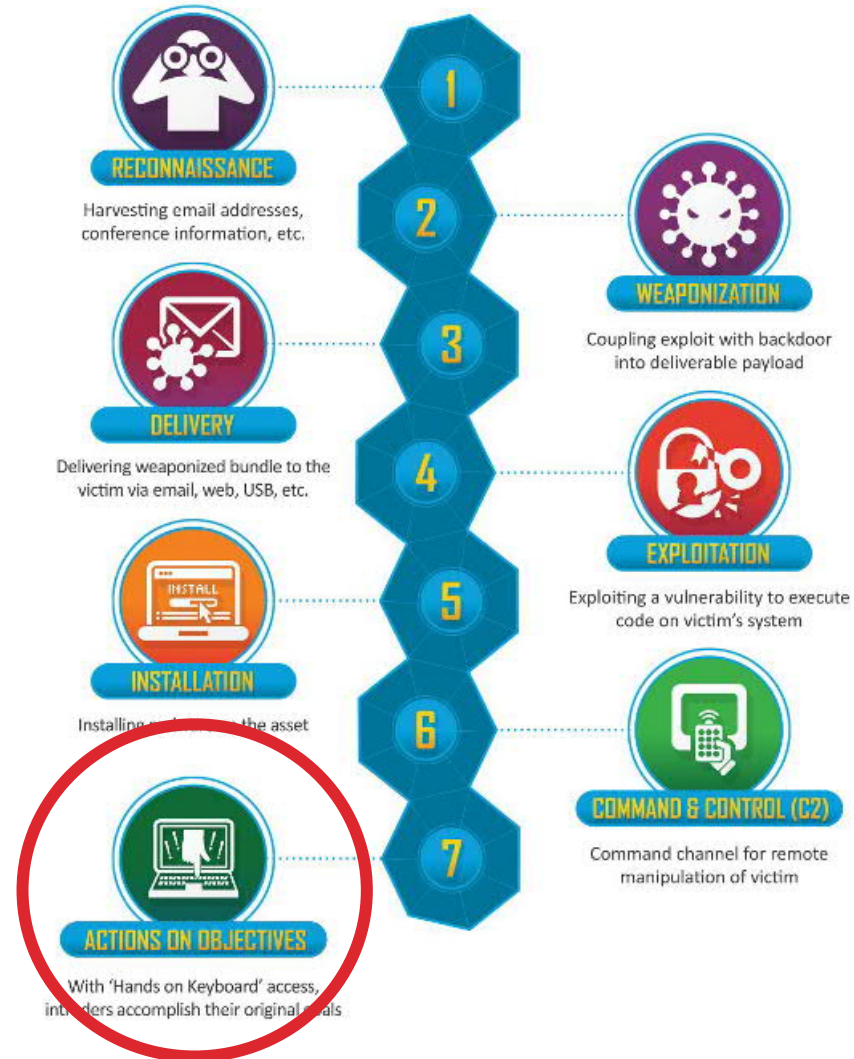
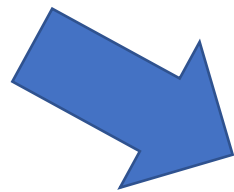
Cyber-Physical Attack Lifecycle



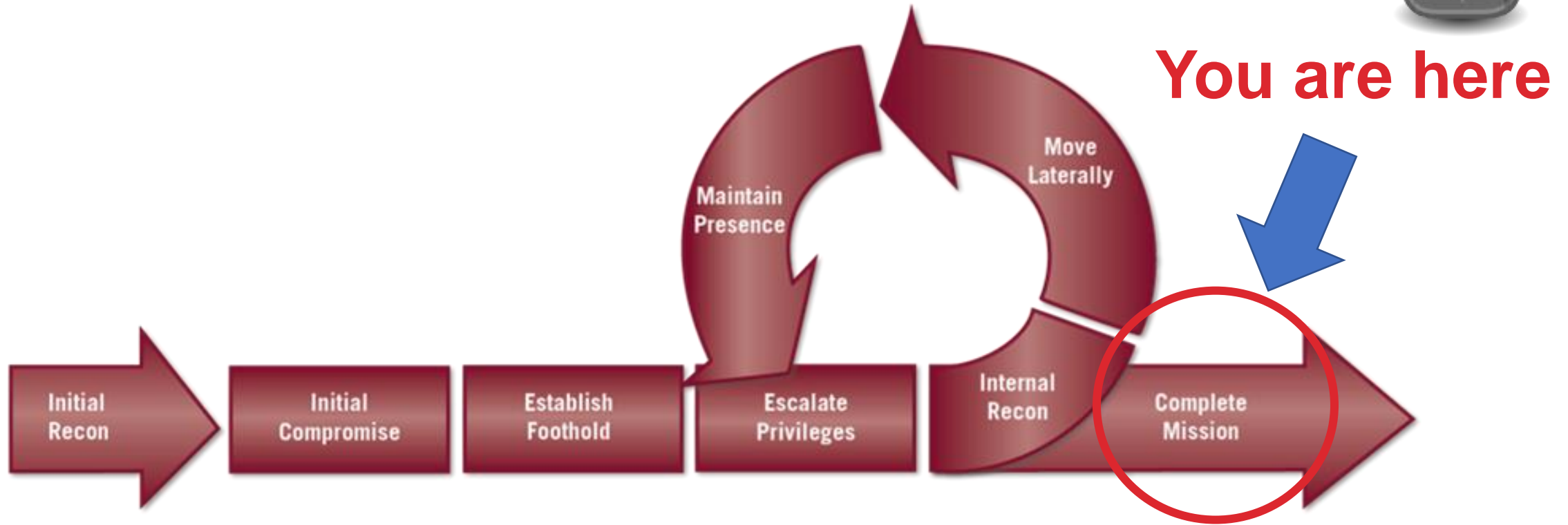
Lockheed Martin, the Cyber Kill Chain®



You are here



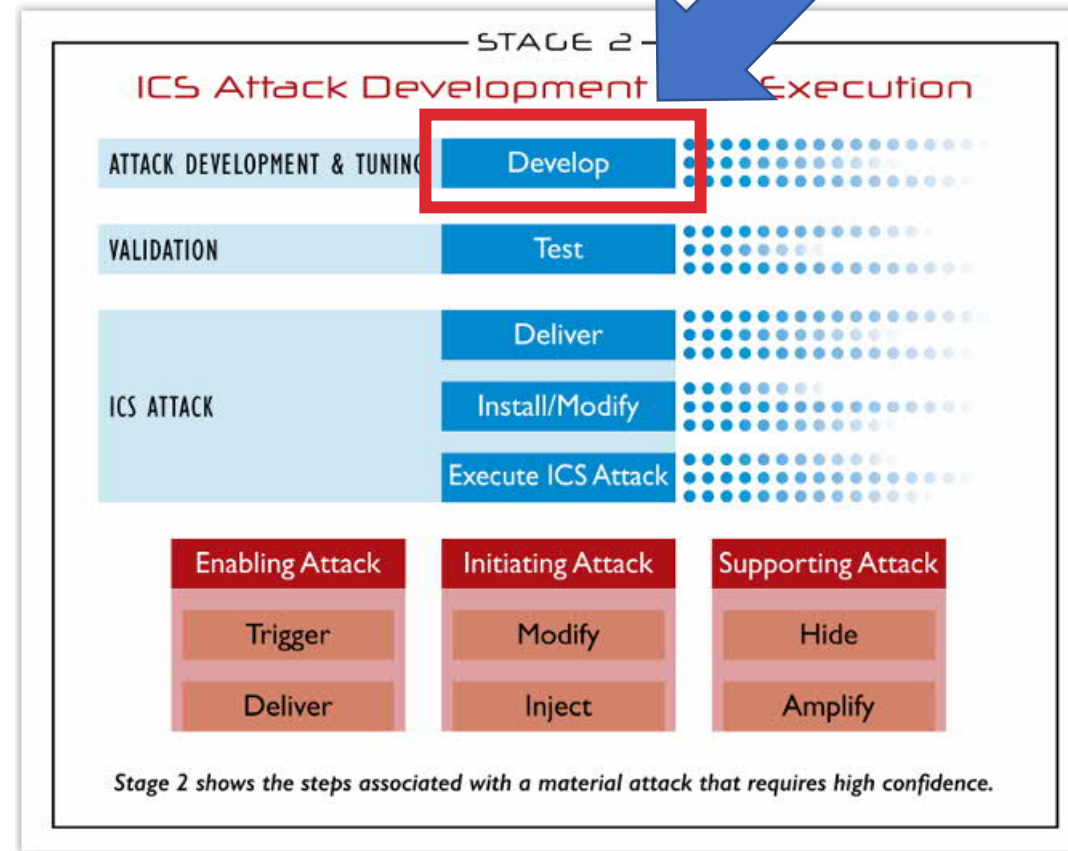
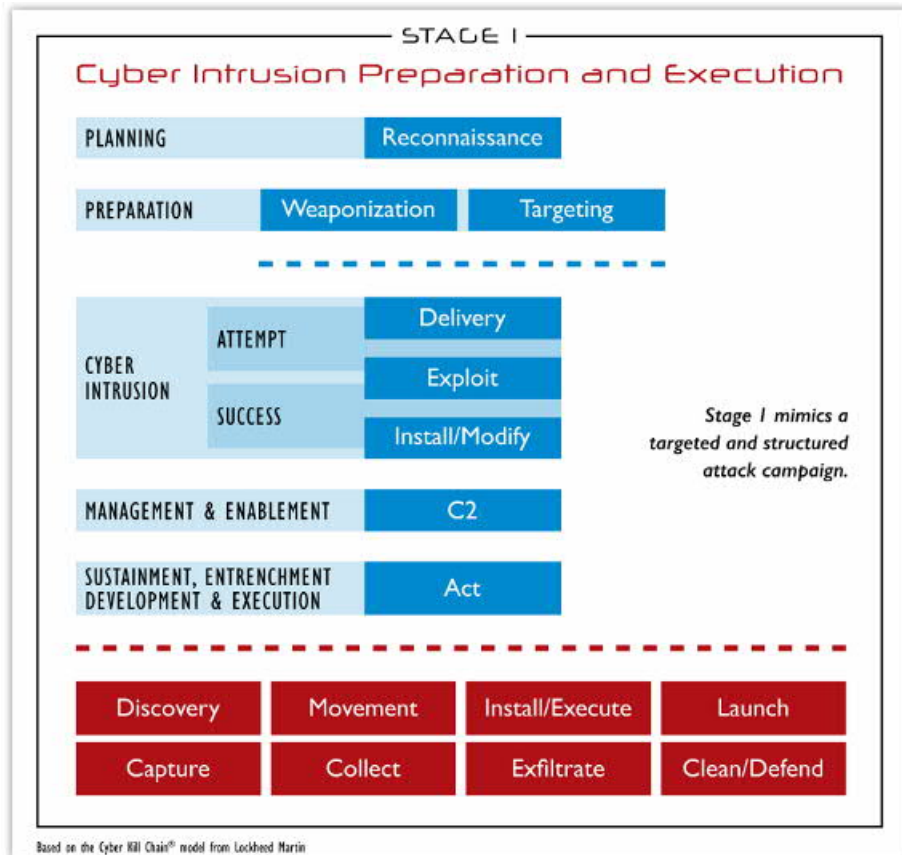
Mandiant Attack Lifecycle



SANS Industrial Control System Cyber Kill Chain



You are here



ICS MITRE ATT&CK

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



A bit everywhere :-)

Why to attack ICS

Industry means big business
Big business == \$\$\$\$\$\$\$



Why to attack ICS



Industry means big business
Big business == \$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Alan Paller of SANS (2008):

In the past two years, hackers have in fact successfully penetrated and extorted multiple utility companies that use SCADA systems.

Hundreds of millions of dollars have been extorted, and possibly more. It's difficult to know, because they pay to keep it a secret. **This kind of extortion is the biggest untold story of the cybercrime industry.**

Attack scenario: Persistent economic damage



What can be done to the process

Equipment damage

- Equipment overstress
- Violation of safety limits

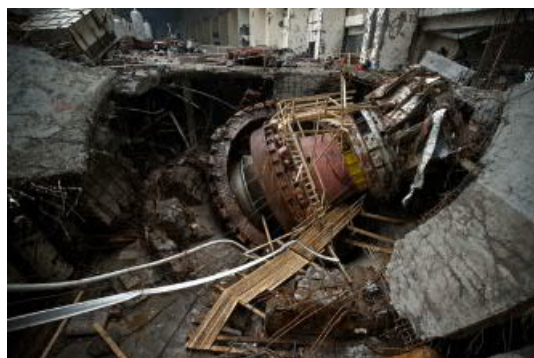
Production damage

- Product quality and product rate
- Operating costs
- Maintenance efforts

Compliance violation

- Safety
- Pollution
- Contractual agreements

Paracetamol



Purity	Relative price, EUR/kg
98%	1
99%	5
100%	8205



Source: <http://www.sigmaaldrich.com/>

Attack considerations

- **Equipment damage**

- Comes first into anybody's mind (+)
- Irreversible (⊘)
- Unclear collateral damage (-)
- May transform into compliance violation, e.g. if it kills human (-)

- **Compliance violation**

- Compliance regulations are public knowledge (+)
- Unclear collateral damage (-)
- Must be reported to the authorities (⊘)
- Will be investigated by the responsible agencies (-)

Equipment
damage

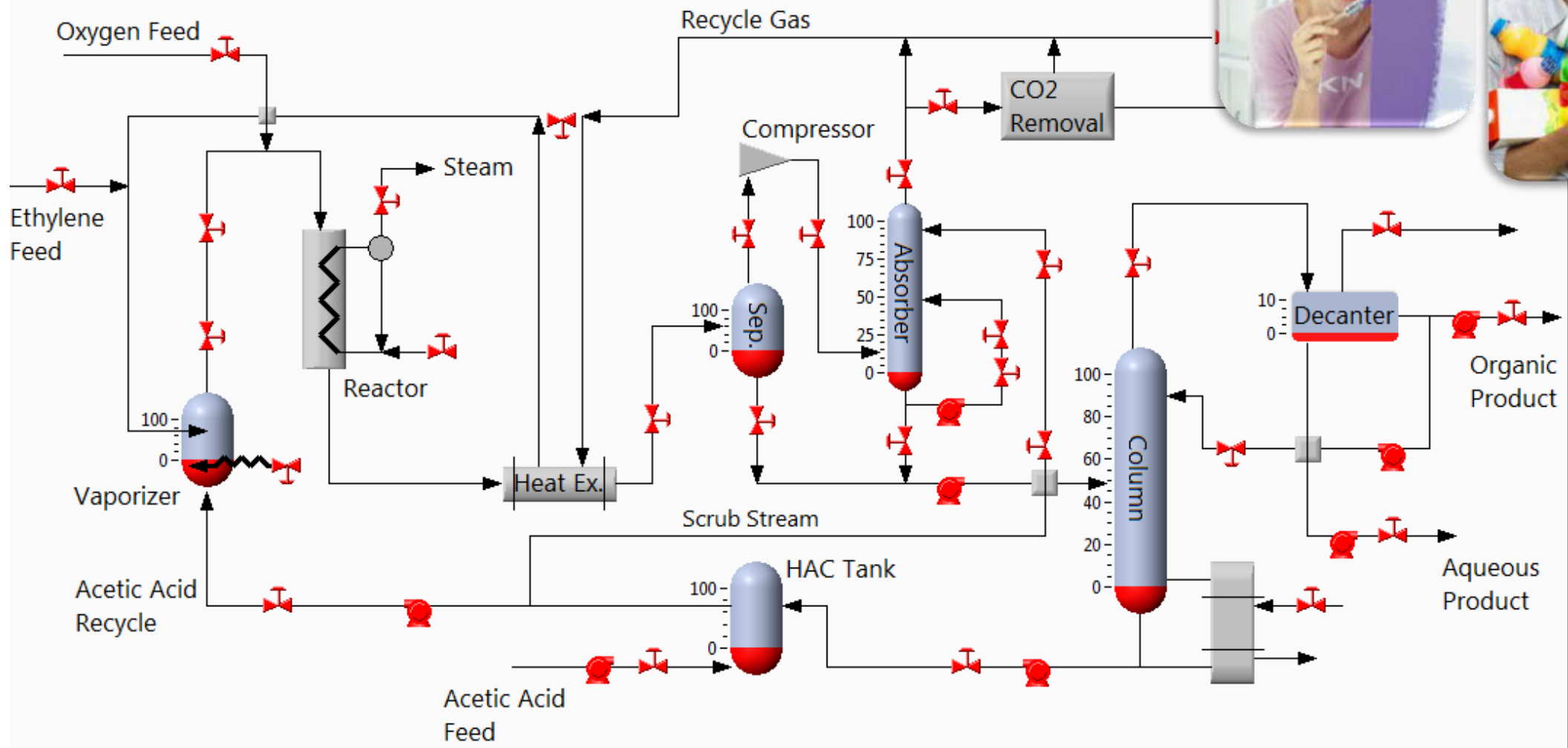
Production
damage

Compliance
violation

Do this



Vinyl Acetate Monomer plant (model)



Plants for sale

From LinkedIn



+ Follow Tommy

Used VAM - Vinyl Acetate Monomer plant for sale & relocation! If any interest, please contact me!

Tommy Heino

Industrialist & Entrepreneur, Owner, XHL Business Engineering
Top Contributor

Like • Comment (4) • Share • Follow • 3 months ago



More plants offers:
<http://www.usedplants.com/>

Why models?

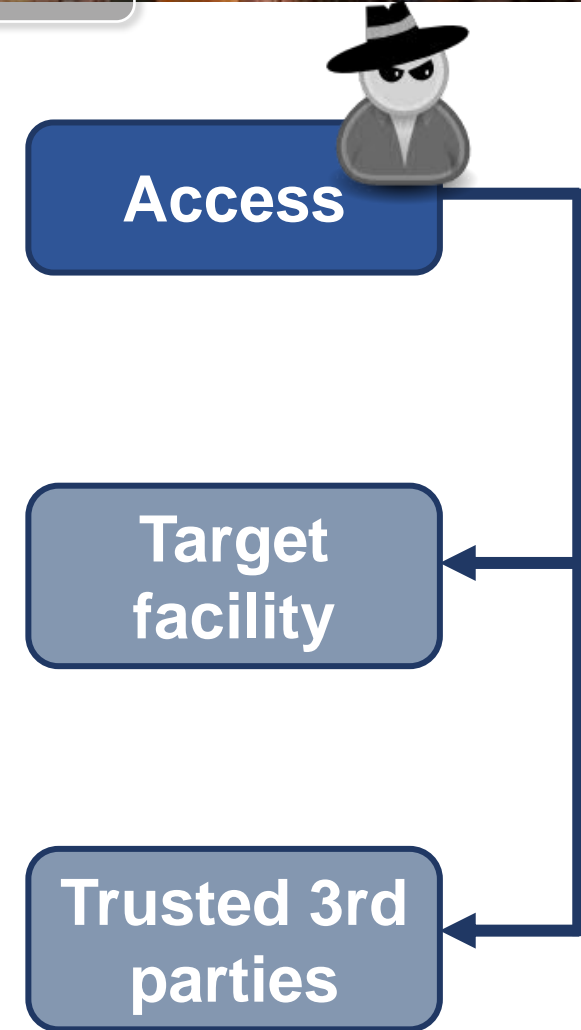
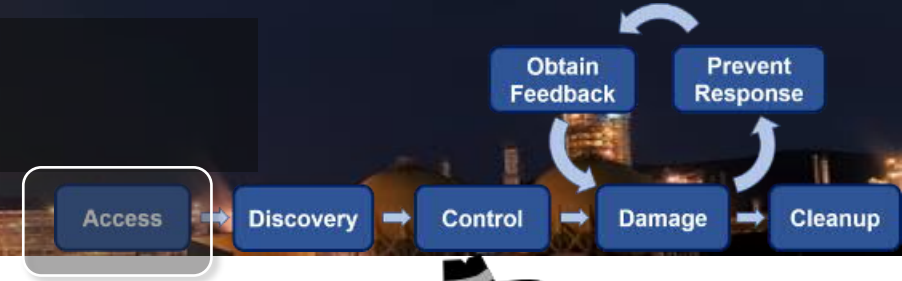


It is all about MONEY

Plants are ouch! how expensive
-> hence, researching on model

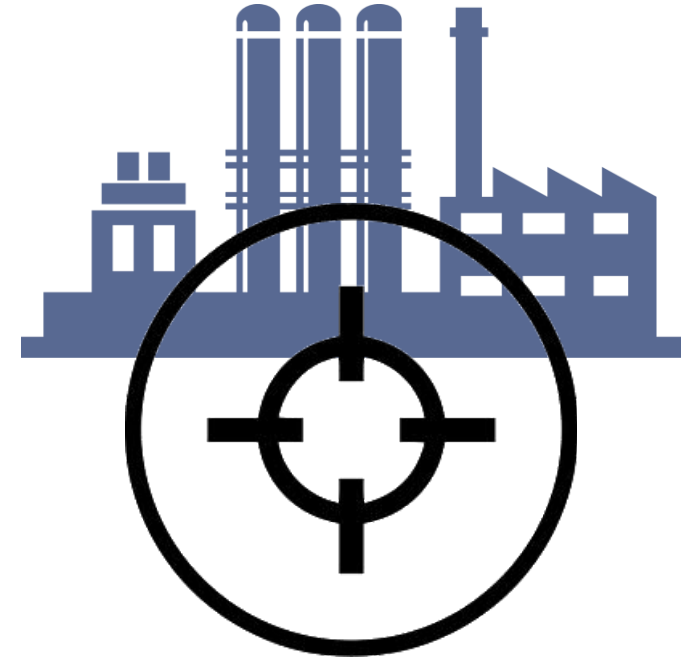
Access

- **Target facility**
 - Discovery
 - Access to needed assets
 - Attack execution
- **Trusted 3rd party** (staging target)
 - Access to target facility
 - Access to needed assets
 - Process comprehension
- **Non-targeted/Opportunistic**



Targeting

- There are few known cases of strategic targeting
- Target might be also selected as best suitable certain criteria
- Collateral victim
- Opportunistic



Ukraine, 2016

- INDUSTROYER malware was deployed to shutdown electricity distribution at Pivnichna substation
- There is no strong indications that victim substation was strategic target
- Details of substation upgrade were publicly available



OSINT: Tons of confidential info on Internet

8.10.3 Alarm On-Delay and Off-Delay

The On-Delay alarm attribute is used to avoid unnecessary alarms, by allowing alarms to be triggered once the signal has remained in the alarm state for a specified length of time. The Off-Delay alarm attribute is used to reduce chattering alarms by locking in the alarm indication for a specified period after it has cleared. On-Delay and Off-Delay times should be used after careful evaluation of potential control system operational effects. Table 8 [2] below provides recommended time delays based on signal types.

Signal type

Flow Data

Bill of Material

Project : General Project Francis Turbine		Ref :
Project Code:		
Item Turbine Auxiliary Control And Governor Panel(TAGP)		

Rev	Part No	Description	Nomen	Make	Rating/S
0					

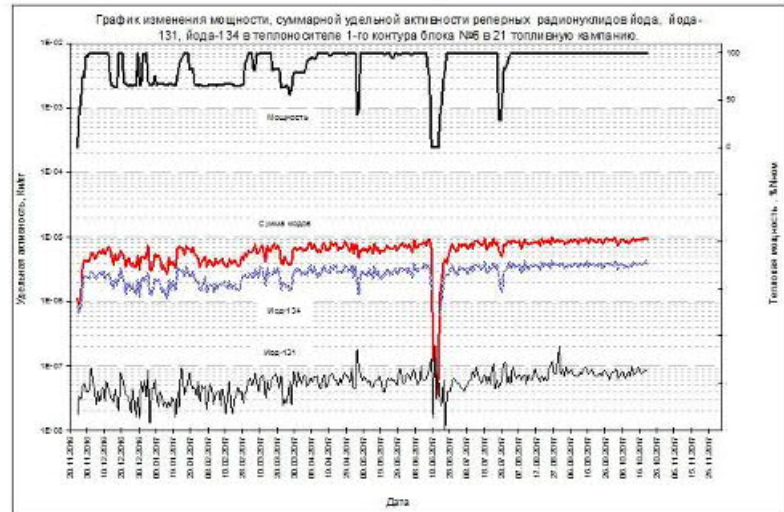
1	Master Trip Relay	86TU	Areva/Alst	Aux volta	Electro
---	-------------------	------	------------	-----------	---------

2	Digital Speed Monitor Relay with Proximity Sensor	SM			
---	---	----	--	--	--

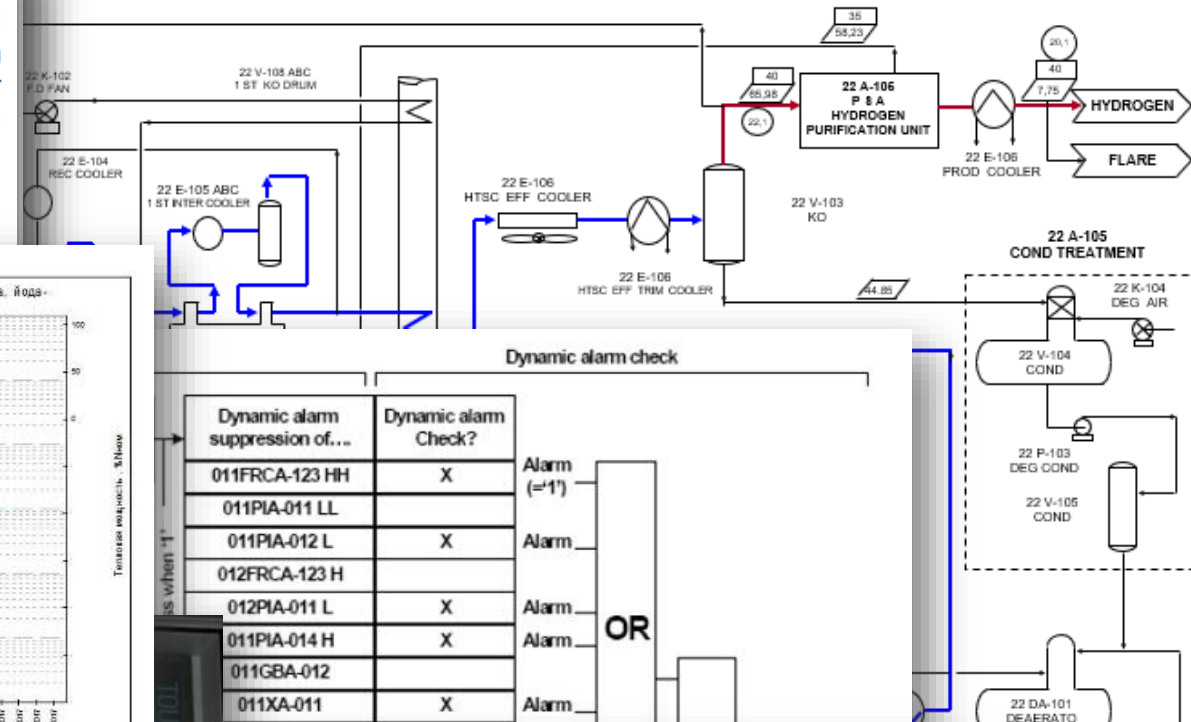
3	Digital Position Indicator GUIDE VANE	GVI%			
---	---------------------------------------	------	--	--	--

4	Annunciator for Trip & Alarm	30A			
---	------------------------------	-----	--	--	--

	Auto/Test Switch	SW1	SALZER/	2 Pole Position stayput 22.5dia, 6A	22.5Dia	1	DC SWITCH
--	------------------	-----	---------	-------------------------------------	---------	---	-----------



HYDROGEN PLANT



Dynamic alarm suppression of...	Dynamic alarm Check?	Alarm (=1)
011FRCA-123 HH	X	Alarm
011PIA-011 LL	X	Alarm
011PIA-012 L	X	Alarm
012FRCA-123 H	X	Alarm
012PIA-011 L	X	Alarm
011PIA-014 H	X	Alarm
011GBA-012		
011XA-011	X	Alarm

00071	Bad F2 or F3 Fuse	Report and repair immediately.
00072	Bad F4 or F6 Fuse	Report and repair immediately.
00073	No A/C Power - Check Cord	Switch to Diesel Operation & Repair
00074	AC Phase Reversed	Unit will restart*, report reactivation.
00075	Compressor Motor Overload	Unit will restart*, report reactivation.
00076	Condenser Motor Overheated	Unit will restart*, report reactivation.
00077	Evap Motor Overheated	Unit will restart*, report reactivation.
00078	Check SV1 Circuit	Reset*, report reactivation.
00079	Check SV4 Circuit	Reset*, report reactivation.
00080	Check SV3 Circuit	Reset*, report reactivation.
00081	Check FHR Circuit	Check and repair at end of trip.
00082	Check Remote Out of Range Light	Check and repair at end of trip.
00083	Check Remote Defrost Light	Check and repair at end of trip.

Attackers C2

Злоумышленник подготавливает сервер к атаке. Работа ведется через обыкновенный WSO веб-шелл с паролем по умолчанию	176. [REDACTED].210	- -	[19/Jan/2016:11:19:32 +0200]
	176. [REDACTED].210	- -	[19/Jan/2016:12:18:48 +0200]
	176. [REDACTED].210	- -	[19/Jan/2016:13:25:49 +0200]
	176. [REDACTED].210	- -	[19/Jan/2016:16:36:13 +0200]
Жертва 1 скачивает бэждор	82. [REDACTED].102	- -	[19/Jan/2016:18:12:41 +0200]
Жертва 2 скачивает бэждор	217. [REDACTED].41	- -	[19/Jan/2016:18:14:41 +0200]
Жертва 3 скачивает бэждор	176. [REDACTED].22	- -	[20/Jan/2016:08:42:36 +0200]
Жертва 4 скачивает бэждор	194. [REDACTED].10	- -	[20/Jan/2016:09:11:38 +0200]
Жертва 5. Из пределов этого энергетического предприятия (г. Одесса) 4 сотрудника скачали бэждор	91. [REDACTED].220	- -	[20/Jan/2016:09:13:27 +0200]
	91. [REDACTED].220	- -	[20/Jan/2016:09:53:16 +0200]
	91. [REDACTED].220	- -	[20/Jan/2016:09:53:42 +0200]
	91. [REDACTED].220	- -	[20/Jan/2016:10:08:21 +0200]
Жертва 4 скачивает бэждор	194. [REDACTED].10	- -	[20/Jan/2016:09:44:13 +0200]
Sandbox скачивает бэждор	184. [REDACTED].147	- -	[20/Jan/2016:09:44:13 +0200]
Жертва 6 скачивает бэждор	82. [REDACTED].70	- -	[20/Jan/2016:09:44:13 +0200]

Год	Месяц	День	Время												Итог
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	21	22	
2015	7	6				1									1
	10	19											1		1
2016	1	3						1							1
		16									7				7
	3	1											1		1
	4	13			1	1									2
	5	6											1		1



Staging targets



Alert (TA18-074A)

Russian Government Cyber Activity Targeting Energy and Other Critical Infrastructure Sectors

Original release date: March 15, 2018 | Last revised: March 16, 2018

This campaign comprises two distinct categories of victims: **staging** and **intended targets**. The initial victims are peripheral organizations such as **trusted third-party suppliers with less secure networks**, referred to as “staging targets” throughout this alert. The **threat actors used the staging targets’ networks as pivot points and malware repositories when targeting their final intended victims**. NCCIC and FBI judge the **ultimate objective of the actors is to compromise organizational networks, also referred to as the “intended target.”**

<https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/alerts/TA18-074A>



Advisory: Hostile state actors compromising UK organisations with focus on engineering and industrial control companies



TELVENT

Bit9

Trojanized ICS Installers

The NCSC is aware of an ongoing attack campaign **against multiple companies** involved in the **CNI supply chain**. These attacks have been ongoing since at least March 2017. The targeting is focused on

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/hostile-state-actors-compromising-uk-organisations-focus-engineering-and-industrial-control>

Complication: Resource constraints



- MPC860, 50 MHz
- 6 MB Flash
- 16 MB DRAM
- 32 KB SRAM



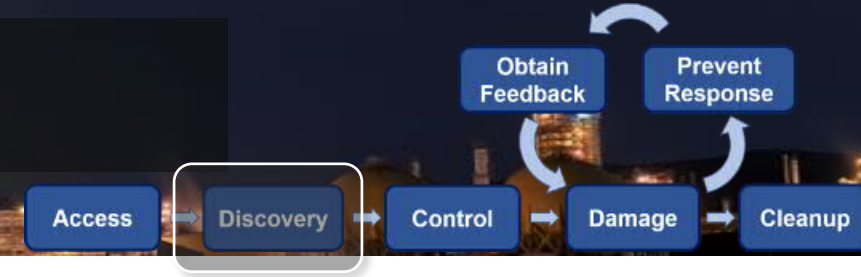
You better enjoy **X**TREME programming...

Will need to fit implant in there
Signals processing? Malicious
logic? Comms?
**Often stretched by normal
functionality already**

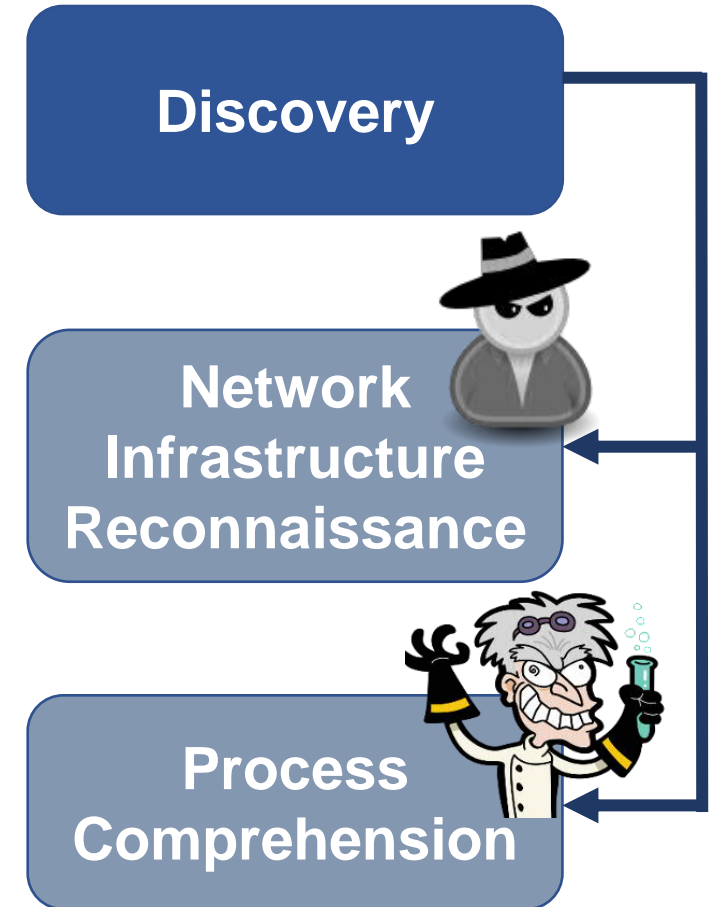


- ARM9, 14 MHz
- 512 KB Boot Flash
- 8 MB RW Flash
- 2 MB SRAM

Discovery



- Network reconnaissance
 - Majority of this stage is similar to traditional IT recon process/attack life cycle, most tools will differ
 - Information enumeration
- Process comprehension
 - Understanding exactly what the process is doing, how it is built, configured & programmed



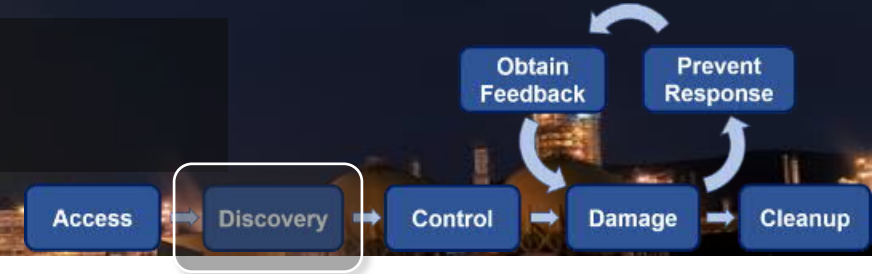
On the Significance of Process Comprehension for Conducting Targeted ICS Attacks

Benjamin Green
Lancaster University
Lancaster, United Kingdom
b.green2@lancaster.ac.uk

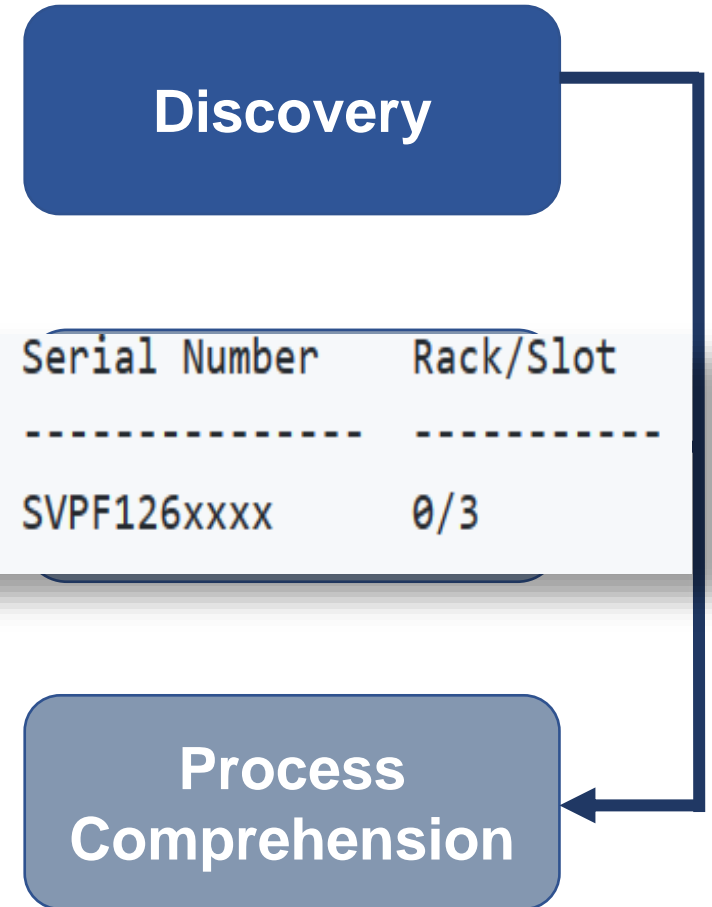
Marina Krotofil
Hamburg University of Technology
Hamburg, Germany
marina.krotofil@tuhh.de

Ali Abbasi
University of Twente
Enschede, Netherlands
a.abbasi@utwente.nl

Discovery



- Network reconnaissance
 - Majority of this stage is similar to traditional IT recon process/attack life cycle, most tools will differ
 - Information enumeration



Order Code	Module Type Name	Firmware Version	Module Name	Serial Number	Rack/Slot
6ES7 412-2EK06-0AB0	CPU 412-2 PN/DP	V 6.0.3		SVPF126xxxx	0/3



On the Significance of Process Comprehension for Conducting Targeted ICS Attacks

Benjamin Green
Lancaster University
Lancaster, United Kingdom
b.green2@lancaster.ac.uk

Marina Krotofil
Hamburg University of Technology
Hamburg, Germany
marina.krotofil@tuhh.de

Ali Abbasi
University of Twente
Enschede, Netherlands
a.abbasi@utwente.nl

Process discovery/comprehension



What and how the process is producing



How it is controlled



How it is build and wired



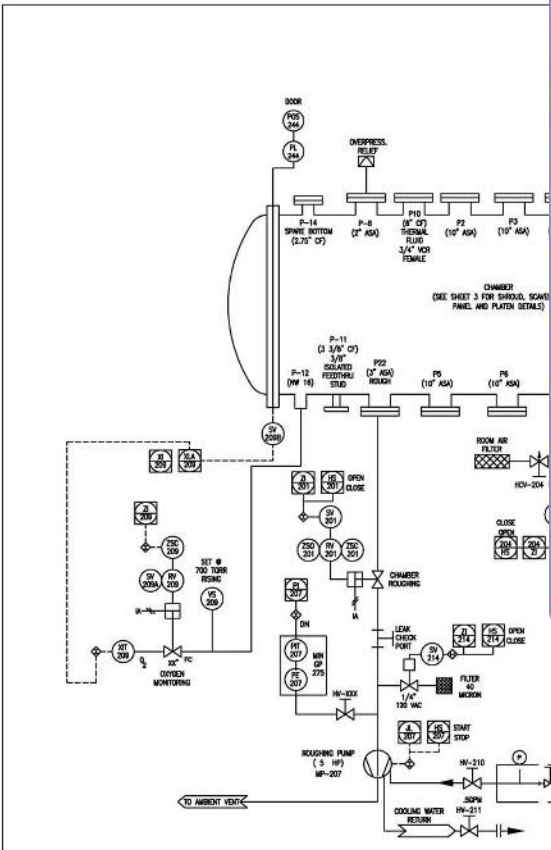
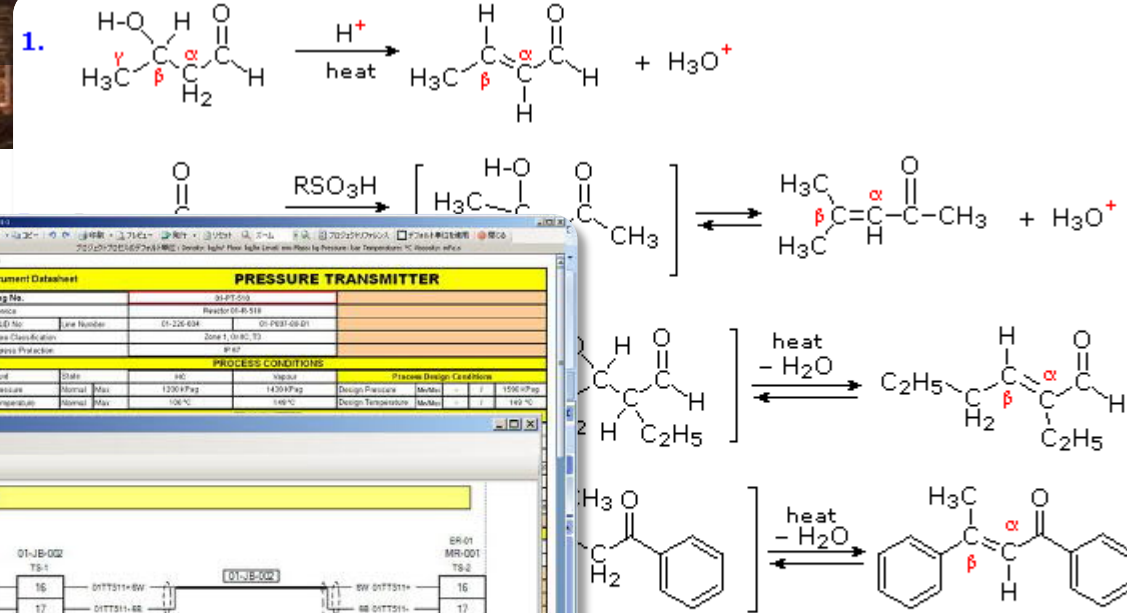
Operating & safety constraints



Espionage, reconnaissance
Target plant and third parties



Process Discovery



AVEVA Instrumentation Engineer

Instrument Database: **PRESSURE TRANSMITTER**

Tag No.	01-PT-510
Location	Reactor 01-R-510
Line Number	01-224-034
Area Classification	Zone 1, 01-R-51
Process Protection	PI-PT

PROCESS CONDITIONS

Field	State	Unit	Value	Process Design Condition
Pressure	Normal	Max	1200 kPa(g)	1400 kPa(g)
Temperature	Normal	Max	100 °C	140 °C

Loop List:

AreaNo	TagNo	LoopNo	Description
DL	01-FT-900	01-F-900	Waterfrin
DL	01-FE-510	01-F-510	Reactor 0
DL	01-FT-510	01-F-510	Reactor 0
DL	01-FC-510	01-F-510	Reactor 0
DL	01-FAL-510	01-F-510	Reactor 0
DL	01-FV-510	01-F-510	Reactor 0
DL	01-FI-510	01-F-510	Reactor 0
DL	01-TT-511	01-T-511	Reactor 0
DL	01-TAH-511	01-T-511	Reactor 0
DL	01-XS-001	01-X-001	PUMP P-3
DL	01-LT-525	01-L-525	Low Pressure
DL	01-LV-525	01-L-525	Low Pressure
DL	01-L5-525	01-L-525	Low Pressure
DL	01-FT-500	01-F-500	Feed Surge D
DL	01-FE-520	01-F-520	Cooling Water
DL	01-FI-520	01-F-520	Cooling Water
DL	08-FT-600	08-F-600	1st Stage Sep
DL	08-FV-600	08-F-600	1st Stage Sep
DL	01-FT-003	01-F-003	
DL	01-FAL-510		
DL	01-L6-526		
DL	01-PL-527		

Loop Diagram: 01-TT-511, 01-JB-002, 01-JB-001

01-JB-002 Instrumentation Details:

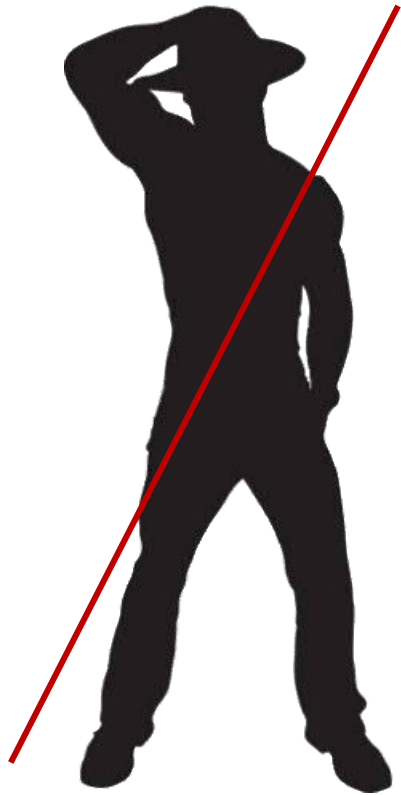
Tag No.	01-JB-002
Location	Reactor 01-R-510
Line Number	01-224-034
Area Classification	Zone 1, 01-R-51
Process Protection	PI-JB

Filter: Show Active Only

Item	Owner	Equip Type	Serial No
16	Galaxy	Shacks	
17	Galaxy	Shacks	
18	Galaxy	Shacks	
19	Galaxy	Backhoe	
20-004	RR SERVICES	Backhoe	042N06190
20-004	RR SERVICES	Other	
20-004	8465355 (Carl)	20 Ton Picker	
20-004	RR SERVICES	Other	
20-065	RR SERVICES	Compressor	
20-065	Galaxy	Dozer	2GCEK19R7W1209742
20-065	Galaxy	Dozer	1FDXF47R58E850043
20-004	Galaxy	Dozer	3D6WH46A47G736398
20-004	Galaxy	Dozer	IGDJK34D76E44300
20-004	DSHIFT	20 Ton Picker	1D7HU18278S618229
20-004	Galaxy	Excavator	1GCHK29141E302402
20-004	Galaxy	Excavator	5TFHY5F1XAX097175
20-004	Galaxy	Excavator	1D7RV1CT2AS149221
20-004	Galaxy	Excavator	3D7UT2HL5AG134976
20-004	RR SERVICES	Trailer	
21	FS 08	Flare Stack 08	
22	FSH 1	Flameless Space Heater	
23	G100	G100	
24	G101	G101	
25	G103	G103	
26	Gas Monitor	Gas Monitor	
27	Generator	Generator	

Know the equipment

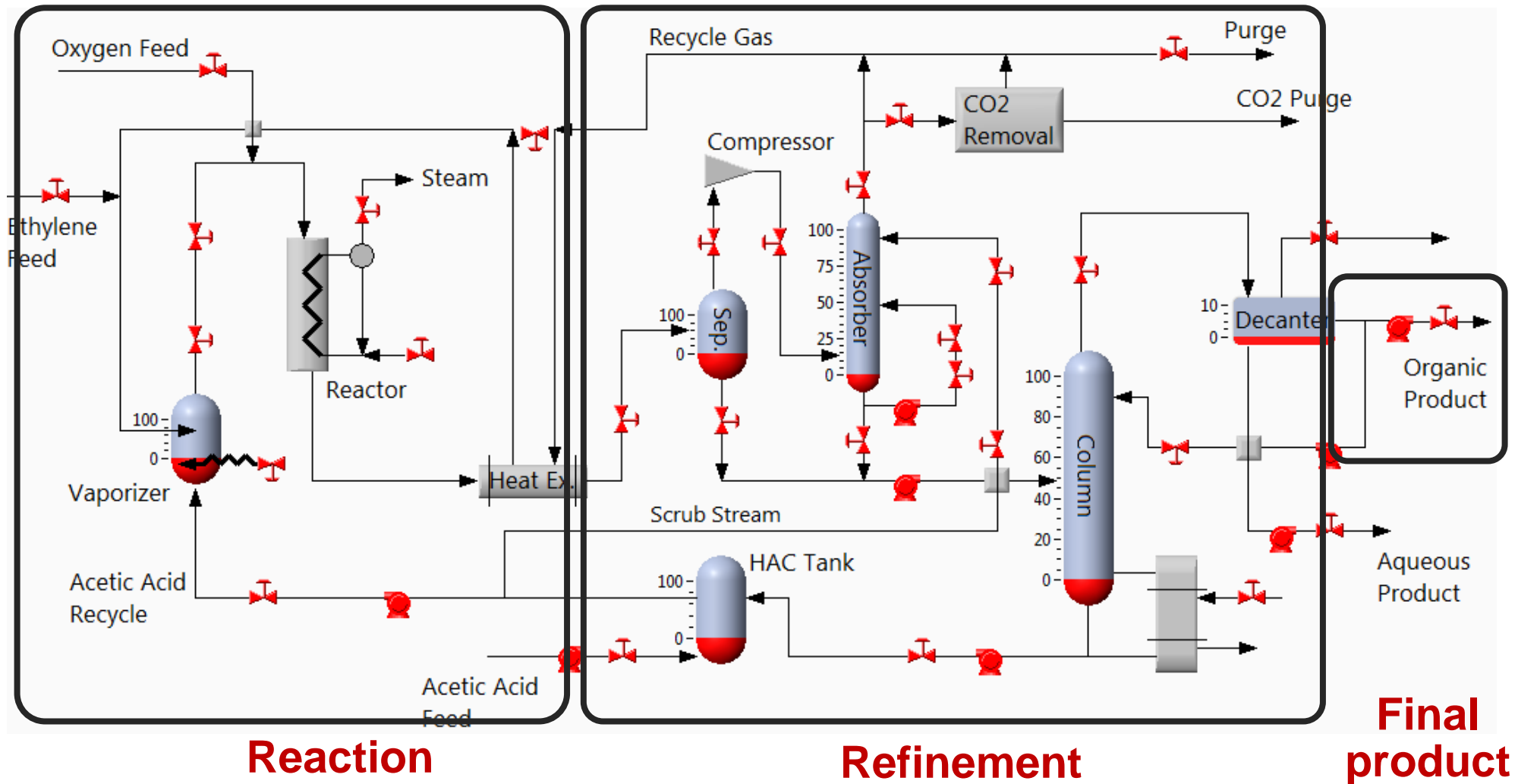
Stripper is...



Stripping column



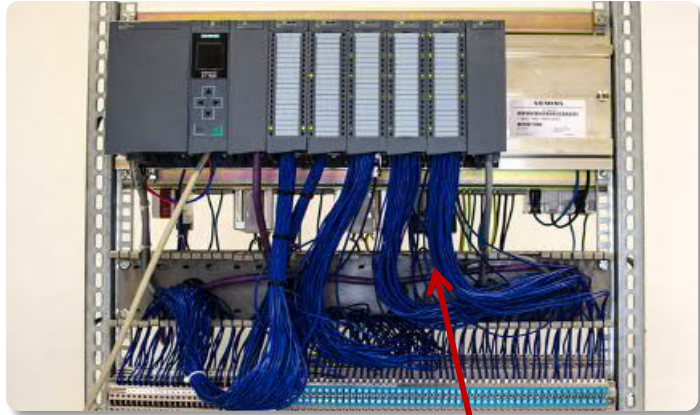
Max economic damage?



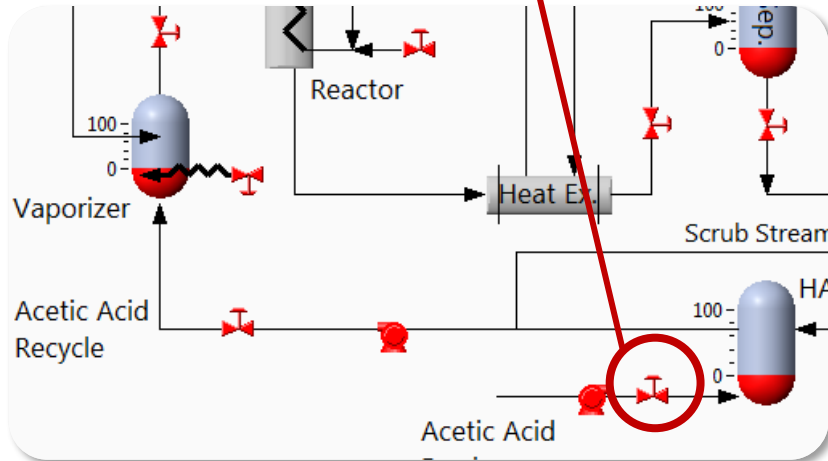
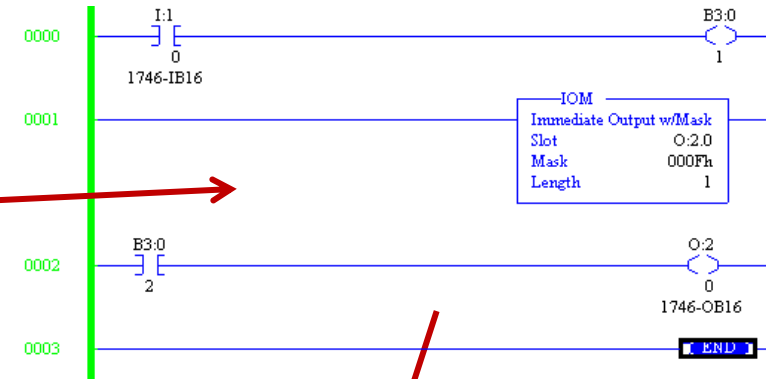
Requires input of subject matter experts

Understanding points and control logic

Programmable Logic Controller



Ladder logic



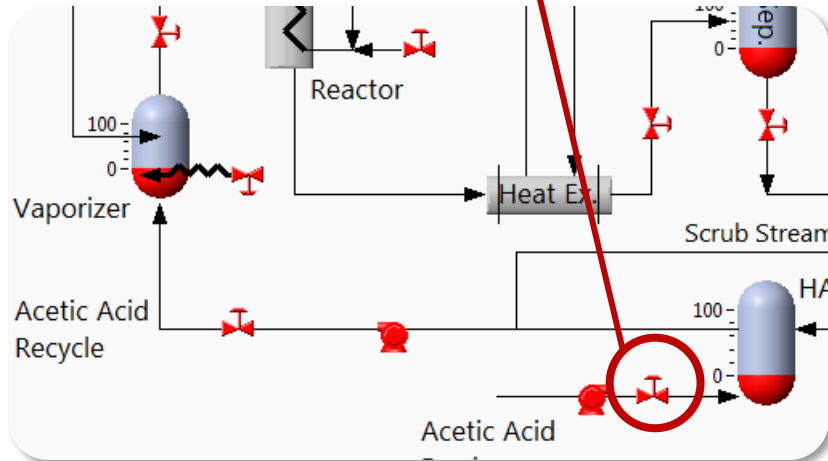
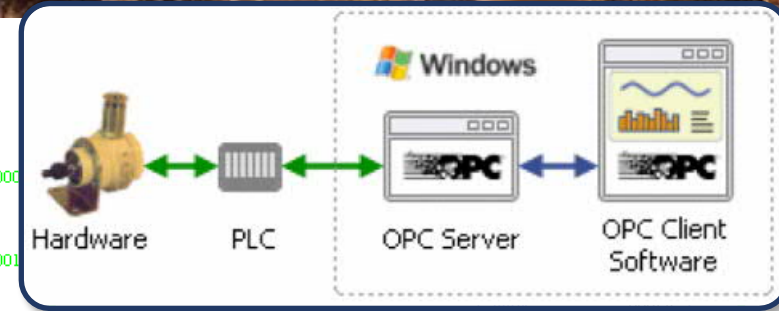
Piping and instrumentation diagram

Pump in the plant

Understanding points and control logic

Program

HAVEX: Using OPC, the malware component gathers any details about connected devices and sends them back to the C&C.



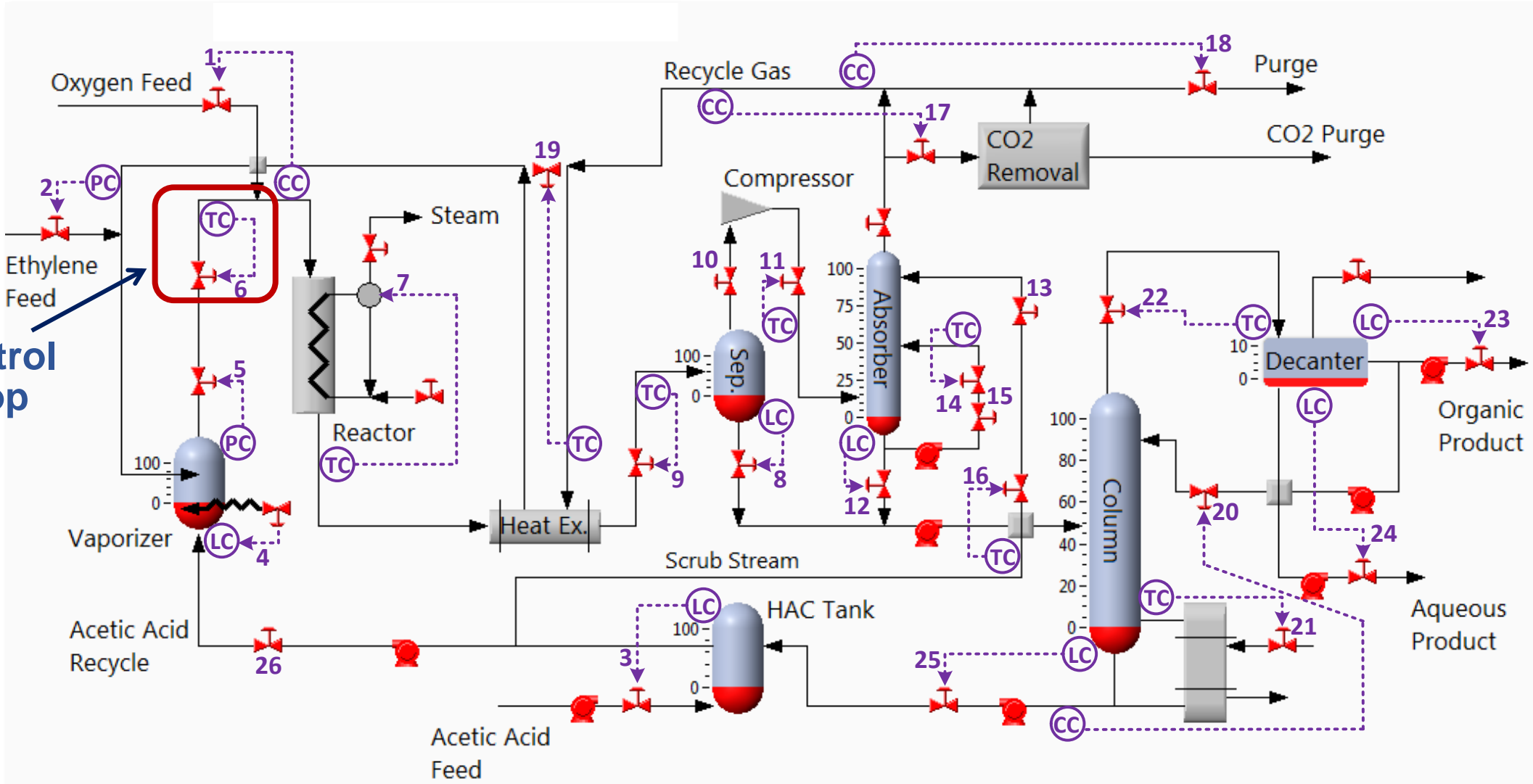
Piping and instrumentation diagram



Pump in the plant

Understanding control infrastructure

Control loop



Control loop configuration

AVEVA Instrumentation Engineer - Contextual Action...

Project Home Data Management View Instruments

Database Audit Revisions Changes Multi User Claims Publish to AVEVA NET AVEVA Integration

AVEVA P&ID Import AVEVA Instrumentation Intelli-Link From Excel I/O Allocations Export to Excel Export to PDF Export to XPS

From Other Project Attached Documents Import

Instruments

Drag a column header here to group by that column.

Area	TagNo	Loop No	Loop Service	Loc	Status	Description	Instrument Service	Manufacturer	ModelNo	Assoc Equip	Size	P&ID No	DataSheetNo	LoopDwgNo	GeneralHook	Pr
01	01-FT-003	01-F-003		FLD	New	D/P Transmitter										
01	01-AE-100			FLD	Existing	Sulphur Analyser										
01	01-PT-500	01-P-500	Feed Surge Drum 01-V-500	FLD	Existing	Transmitter	Feed Surge Drum 01-V-500	Yokogawa	EJA110A	01-V-500		01-220-004	700001-2	01-P-500		
01	01-PT-510	01-P-510	Reactor 01-R-510	FLD	New	Transmitter	Reactor 01-R-510	Yokogawa	EJA110A	01-P007-80-B1		01-220-004	700001-1			
01	01-FE-510			FLD	Existing	Orifice Plate	Reactor 01-R-510 Feed			01-P007-80-B1		01-220-004		01-F-510		
01	01-F-510	01-F-510	Reactor 01-R-510 Feed	FLD	Replace	D/P Transmitter	Reactor 01-R-510 Feed					01-220-004		01-F-510	00000-1	
01	01-FC-510	01-F-510	Reactor 01-R-510 Feed	DCS	New	Controller	Reactor 01-R-510 Feed							01-F-510		
01	01-FAL-510	01-F-510	Reactor 01-R-510 Feed	DCS	New	Alarm Low	Reactor 01-R-510 Feed							01-F-510		

700001-1

Save Copy Print Preview Issue Reset Zoom Preferences

Default Project Process Units: Density: kg/m³ Flow: kg/hr Level: mm Mass: kg Pressure: bar Temperature: °C Viscosity: mPa.s

Instrument Datasheet

PRESSURE TRANSMITTER

1	Tag No.	01-PT-510	
2	Service	Reactor 01-R-510	
3	P&ID No.	Line Number	01-220-004 01-P007-80-B1
4	Area Classification	Zone 1, Gr II C, T3	
5	Ingress Protection	IP 67	
PROCESS CONDITIONS			
7	Fluid	State	HC Vapour
8	Pressure	Normal	Max 1430 KPag 1650 KPag
9	Temperature	Normal	Max 100 °C 149 °C
TRANSMITTER			
11	Instrument Range	LRV / URV / Un	-0.5 14 MPa
12	Calibration Range	LRV / URV / Un	0 1700 KPag
13	Accuracy	±0.075% of Span	
14	Elevation	Suppression	
15	LP Proc. Conn.	HP Proc. Conn.	1/4" NPT-F (Vent to Atmosphere) 1/4" NPT-F
16	Conduit Connec	Power Supply	2x M20 Female, one Blind Plug Nominal 24VDC IS Other See Note 5
17	Housing	Paint	Low Copper Cast-Aluminum A Epoxy Resin-Baked Coating Tag Plate SS304 Permanc
ELEMENT			
20	Element Type	Element Material	DP Capsule SUS316L Temperature Limits Min/Max -40 °C
21	Measurement (Gauge / Abs / Vac etc)	Gauge	Pressure Limits Min/Max -
22	Body Material	Body Rating	SCS14A 16 MPa
23	Bolts	Seals	SUS630 Teflon Coated SUS316
24	Other wetted materials	Diaphragm-Hexitalloy-C276, Vent Plug-SUS316	
25	Fill Fluid	Silicone Oil	
26	NACE Certification	MR-0175-2001 Required	
DIAPHRAGM SEAL			

Audit Manager

Tools

Find Print Refresh Close

AVEVA Application Object Type

Loop List Process Data Process Equipment List Process Line List

Apply Date/Time

Occurred After: 14/05/2013 00:00 Occurred Before: 15/05/2013 00:00

Apply Limit

Max Limit to Display: 1000

Apply

Datasheet Data, Instrument List, Process Data

Drag a column header here to group by that column.

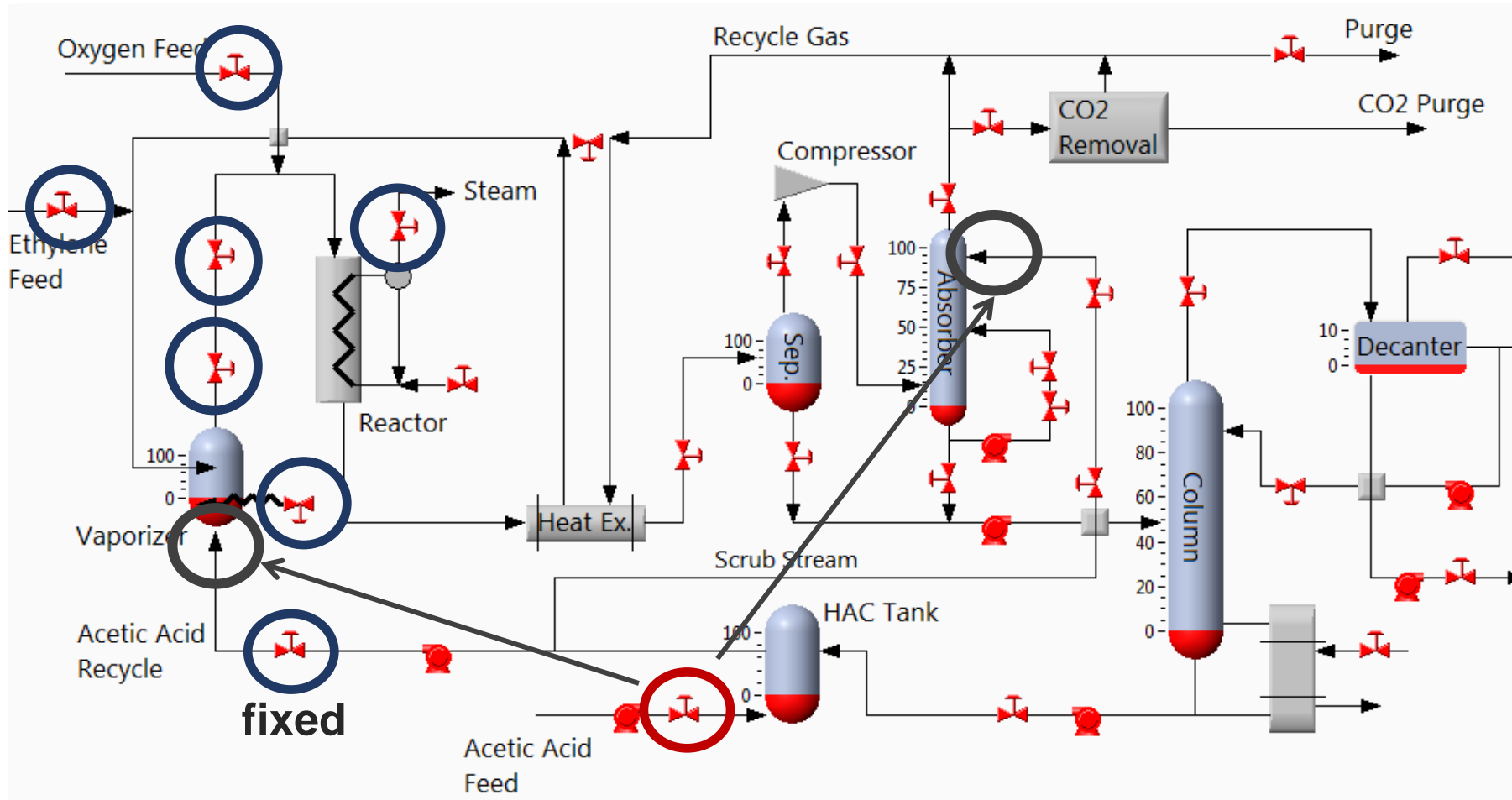
Type	Item Tag	Description	New Value	Old Value	User	TimeStamp
Datasheet Data	01-PT-510	Transmitter Updtd / Downscale		Fail High = 21.6m	AVEVA\keith.hillier	15/05/2013 09:5
Process Data	01-PT-510	PressureMax Upda	1650	1430	AVEVA\keith.hillier	15/05/2013 09:5
Process Data	01-PT-510	PressureMaxUnits	KPag	KPag	AVEVA\keith.hillier	15/05/2013 09:5
Process Data	01-PT-510	PressureNormalUn	KPag	KPag	AVEVA\keith.hillier	15/05/2013 09:5
Process Data	01-PT-510	PressureNormalUn	1450	1200	AVEVA\keith.hillier	15/05/2013 09:5
InstrumentList		Tag Deleted		01-FT-999	AVEVA\keith.hillier	15/05/2013 09:5
InstrumentList		Tag Deleted		01-FE-999	AVEVA\keith.hillier	15/05/2013 09:5
InstrumentList	01-FE-510	CalcTypeID Updat	2	1	AVEVA\keith.hillier	15/04/2013 15:0
Process Data	01-FE-510	Updated			AVEVA\keith.hillier	15/04/2013 15:0
Process Data	01-FE-510	Updated			AVEVA\keith.hillier	15/04/2013 15:0
Process Data	01-FE-510	Updated			AVEVA\keith.hillier	15/04/2013 15:0
Process Data	01-FE-510	szTemperature Up	100	100	AVEVA\keith.hillier	15/04/2013 15:0
Process Data	01-FE-510	szViscosity Update	200	200	AVEVA\keith.hillier	15/04/2013 15:0
Process Data	01-FE-510	Updated			AVEVA\keith.hillier	15/04/2013 15:0
Process Data	01-FE-510	Updated			AVEVA\keith.hillier	15/04/2013 15:0
Process Data	01-FE-510	Updated			AVEVA\keith.hillier	15/04/2013 15:0

Ready

AVEVA Default (27 Records)

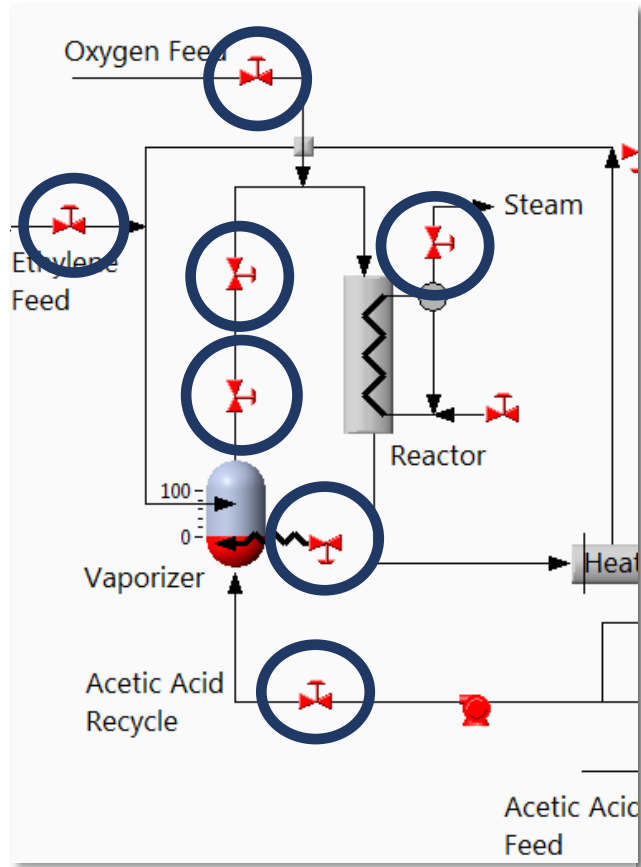
Project: A1 Demo SP1 User: Keith.Hillier

Watch the flows!



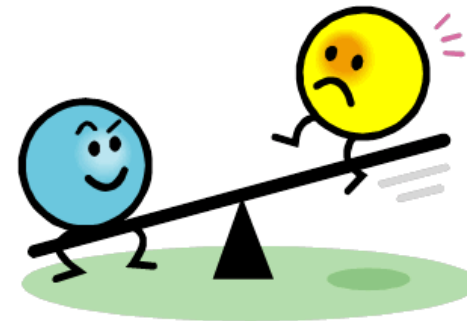
HAc flows into two sections. Not good :(

Obtaining Control != Being in control



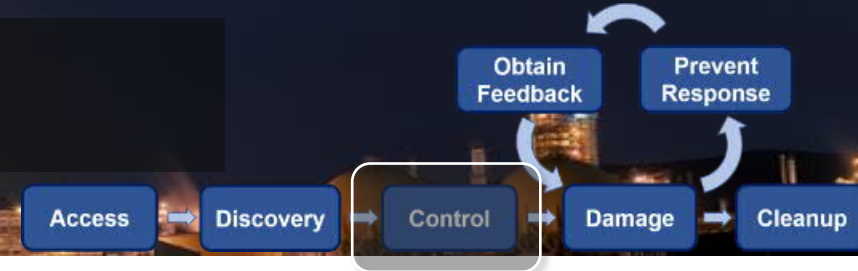
- Obtained controls might not be useful for attack goal
- How do I even speak to this thing??
- Attacker might not necessary be able to control obtained controls

Huh ???

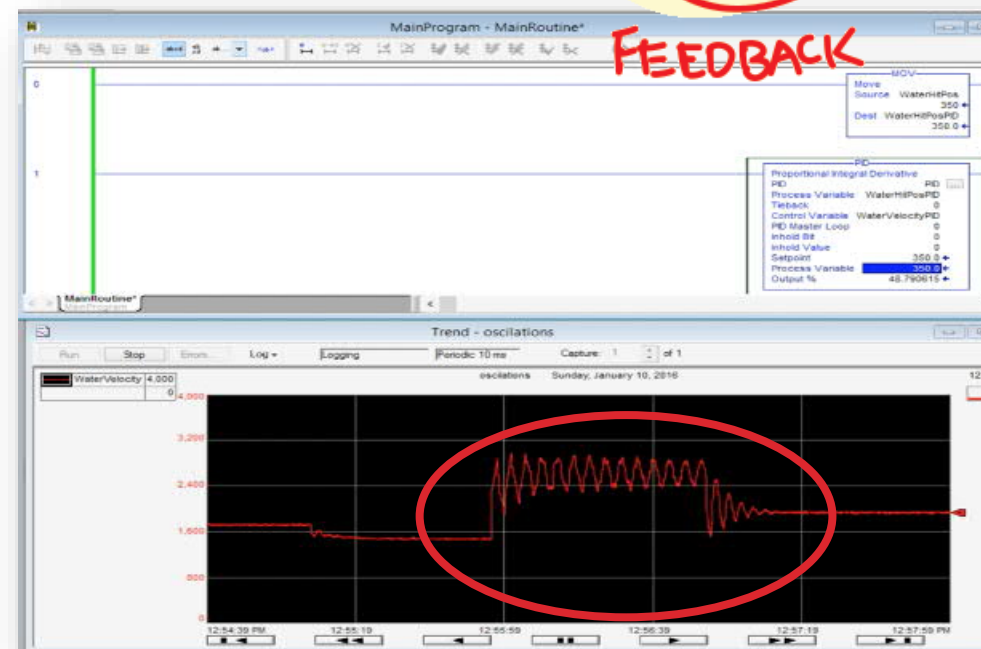


Every action has a reaction

Control



- **Least understood and studied stage among all**
- It is about discovering:
 - Dynamic model of the process and its limits
 - Ability to control process
 - Attack effect propagation
 - **Active stage in live environment**



Cyber-Physical System Discovery – Reverse Engineering Physical Processes

Alexander Winnicki
Hamburg University of
Technology
Hamburg, Germany

Marina Krotofil
Honeywell Industrial Cyber
Security Lab
Duluth, GA 30097, USA

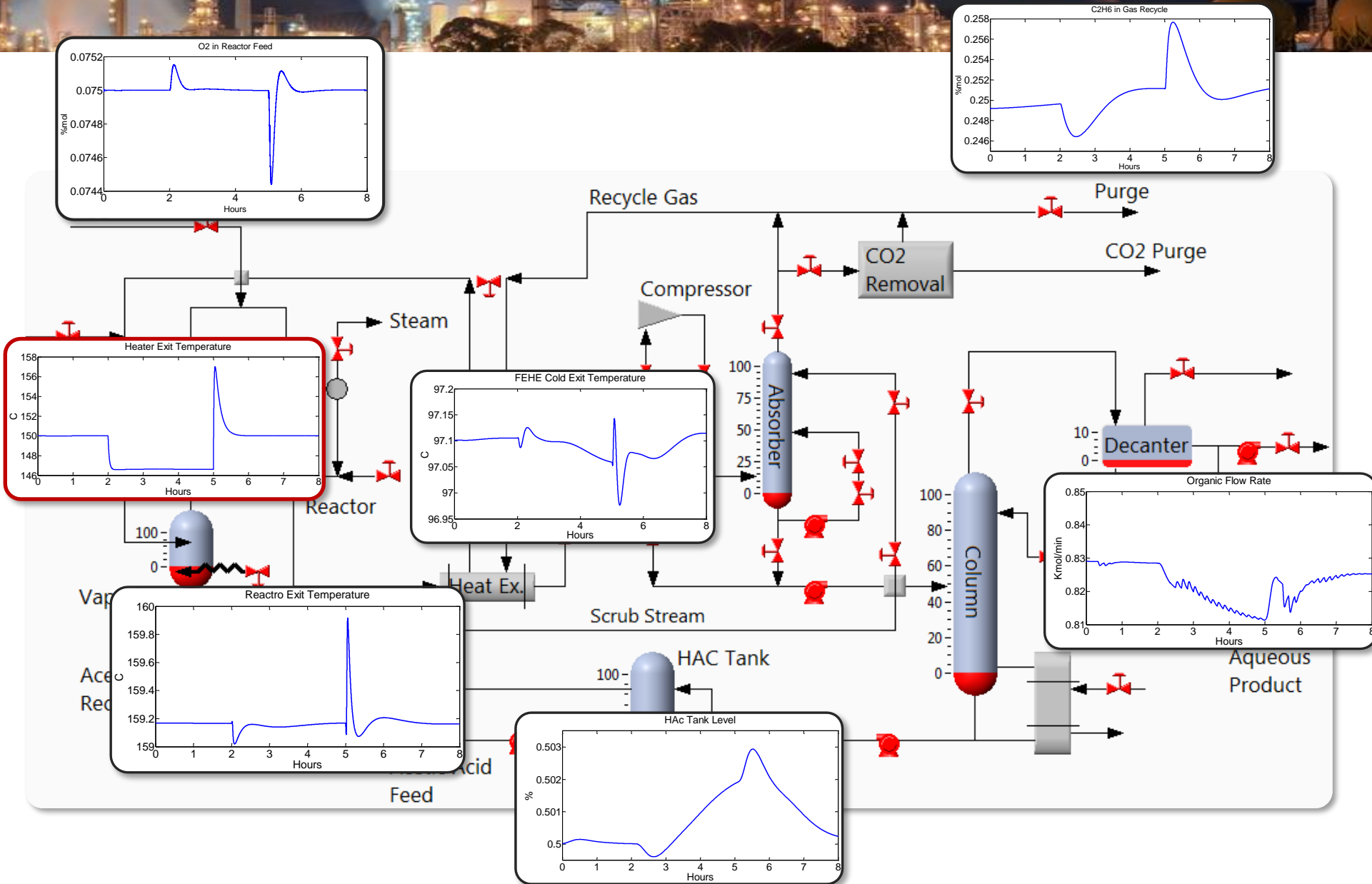
Dieter Gollmann
Hamburg University of
Technology
Hamburg, Germany

Physics of process control

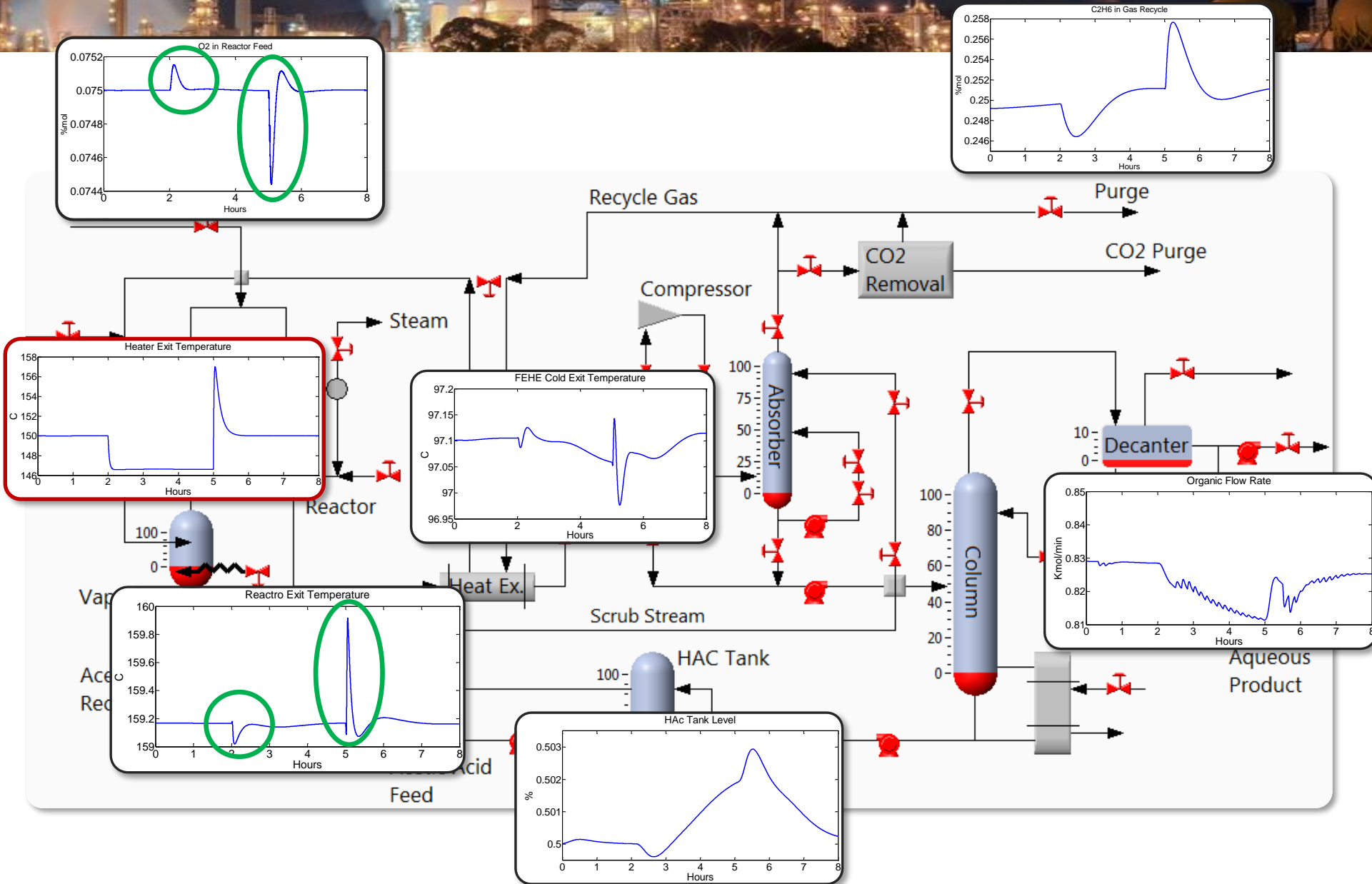
- **Once connected together, physical components become related to each other by the physics of the process**
- If we adjust a valve what happens to everything else?
 - Adjusting temperature also increases pressure and flow
 - All the downstream effects need to be taken into account (upstream changes too)
- How much does the process can be changed before releasing alarms or it shutting down?



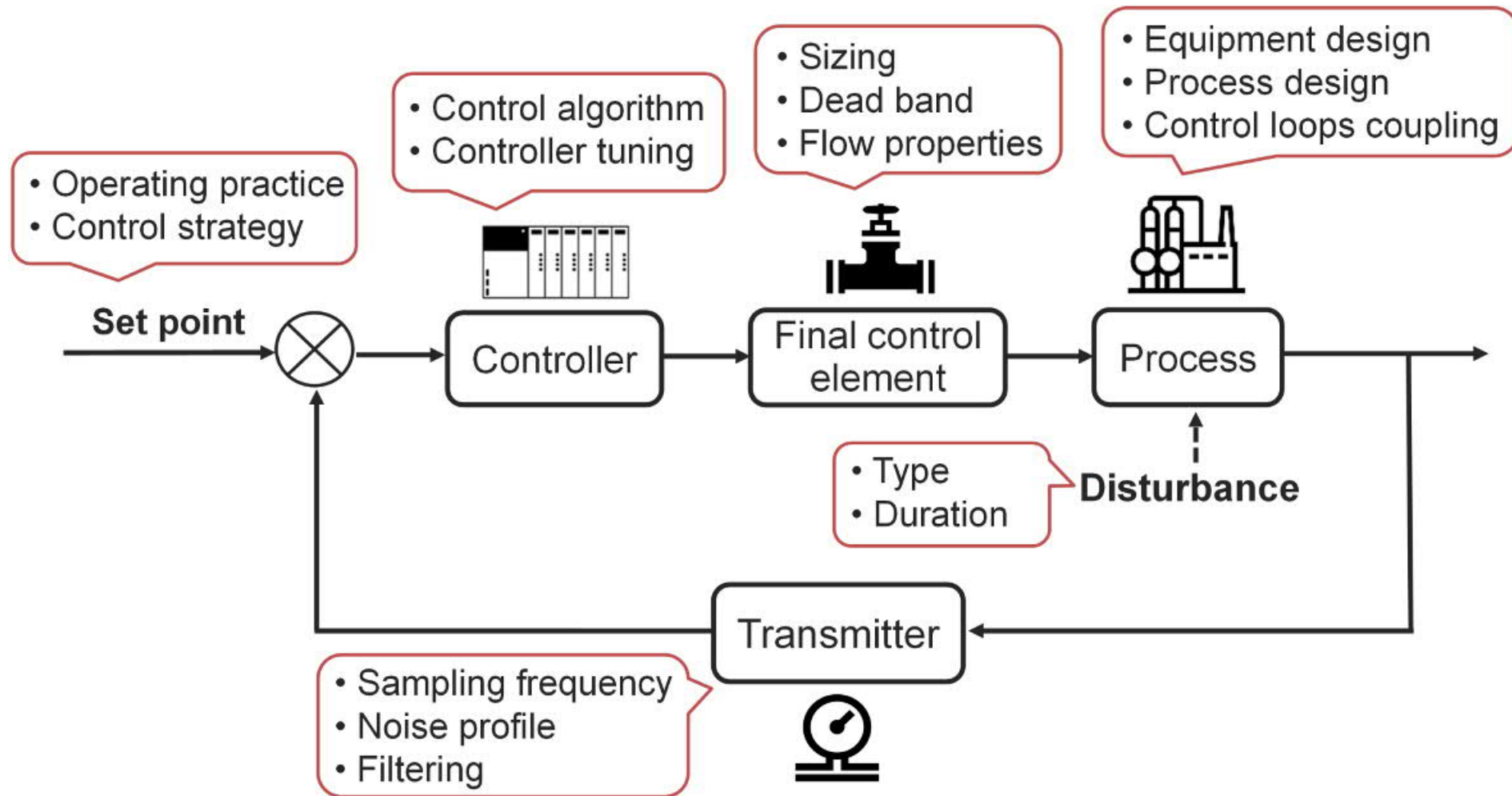
Process interdependencies



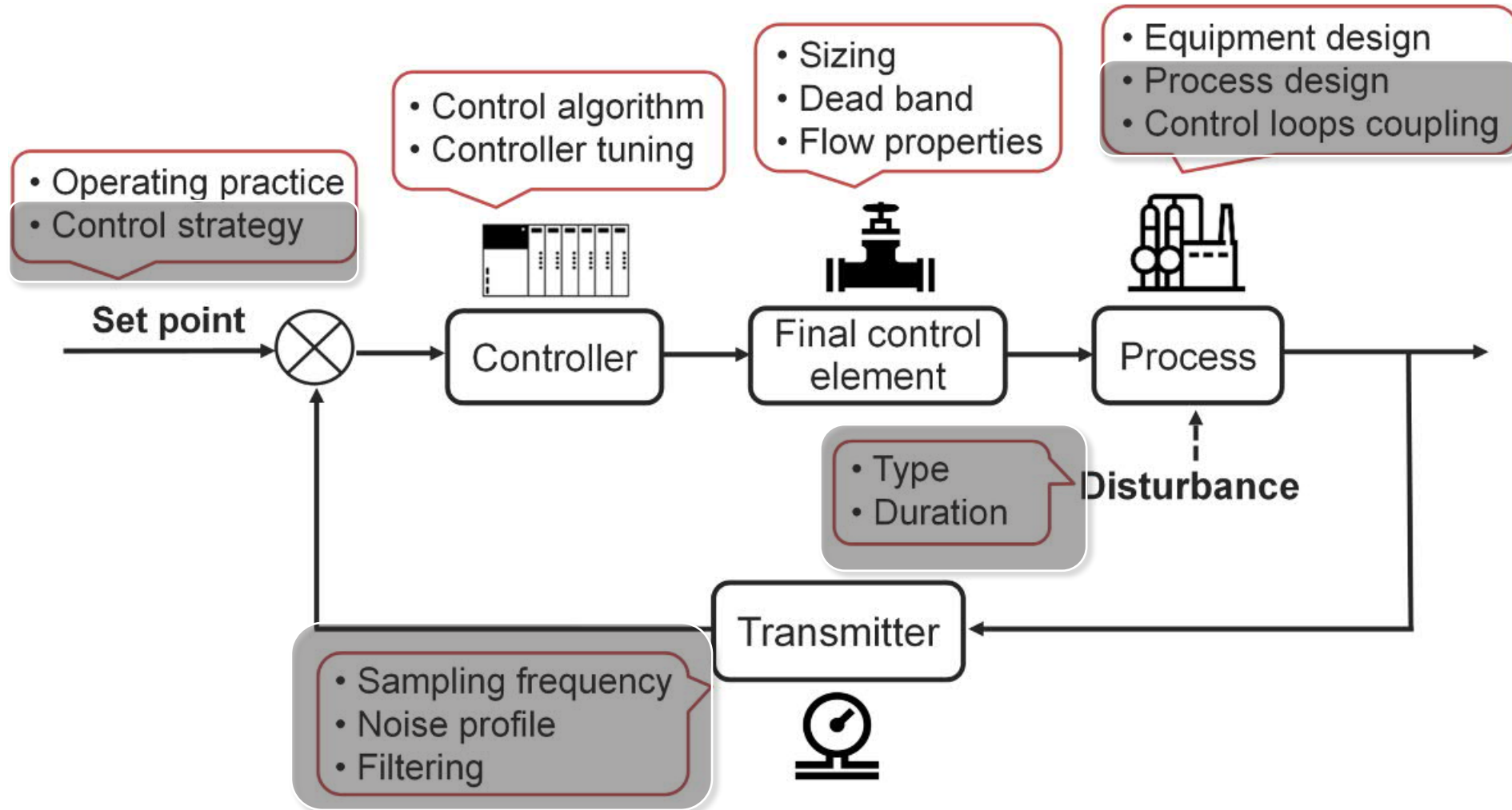
Process interdependencies



Understanding process response

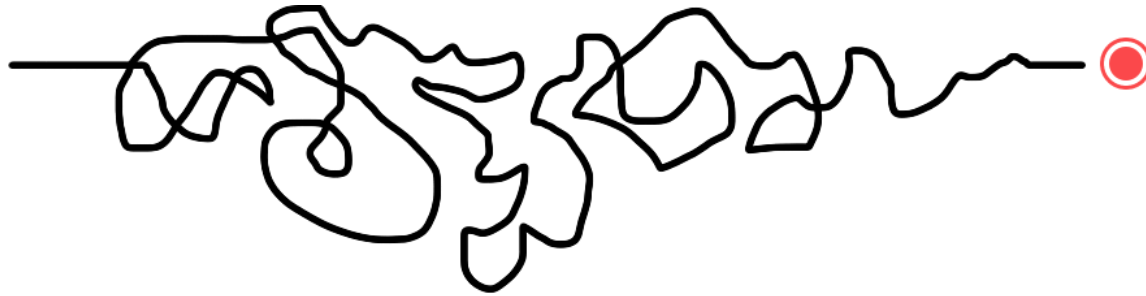


Understanding process response



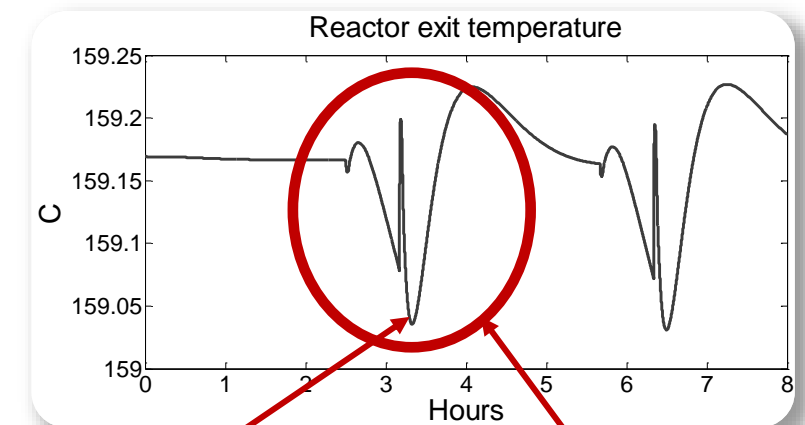
Process control challenges

- Process dynamic is highly non-linear (???)



- Behavior of the process is known to the extent of its modelling
 - So to controllers. They cannot control the process beyond their control model

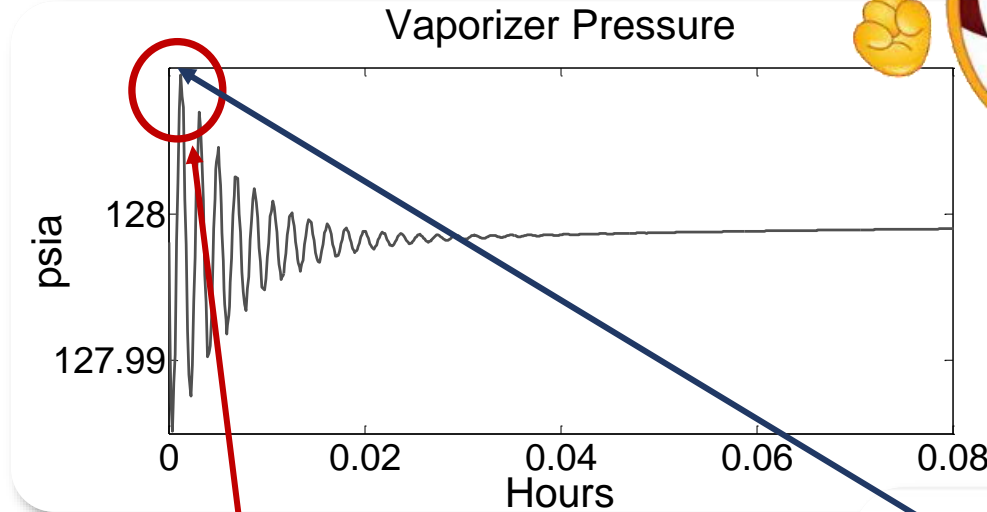
UNCERTAINTY!



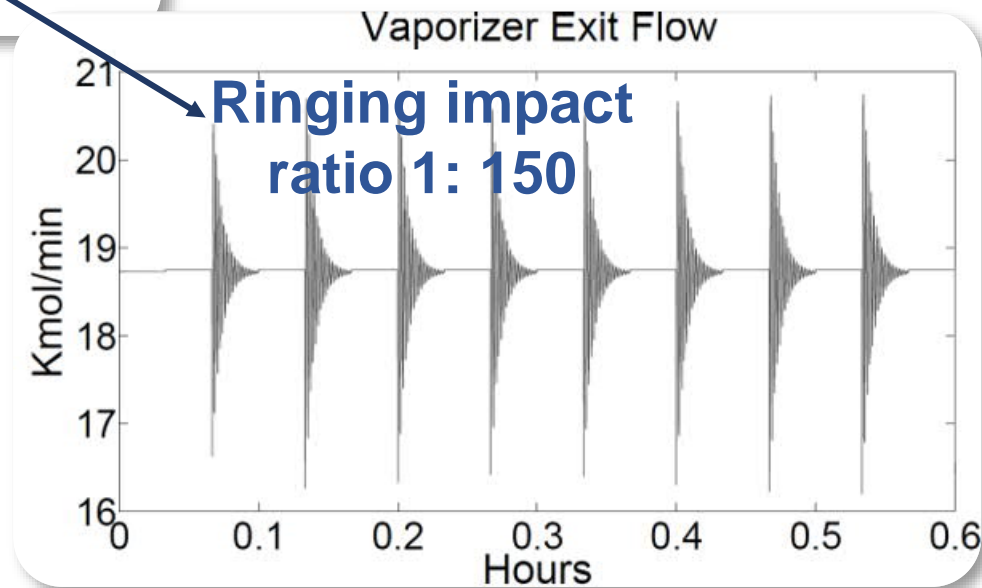
This triggers alarms

Non-linear response

Control loop ringing

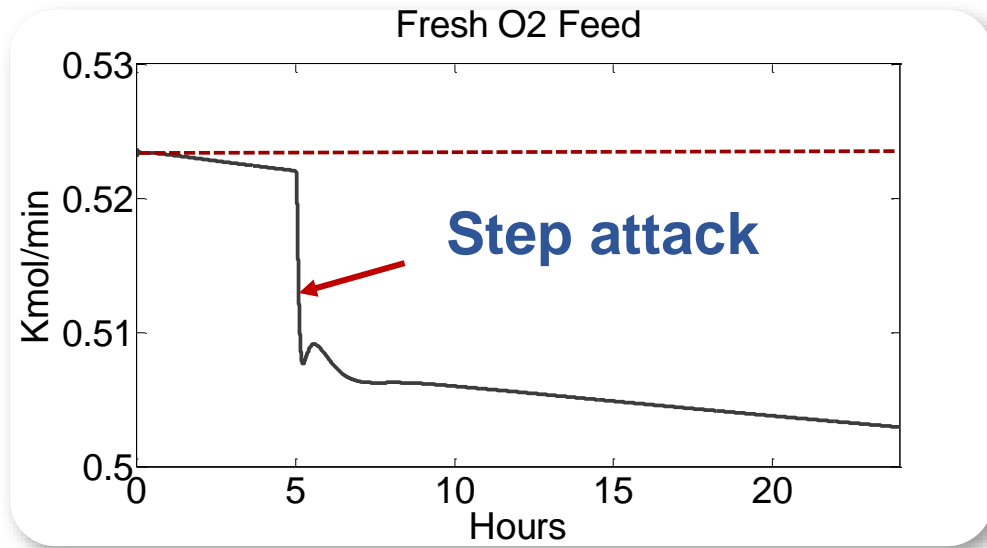


Amount of chemical entering the reactor



Caused by a negative real controller poles
Makes process unstable & uncontrollable

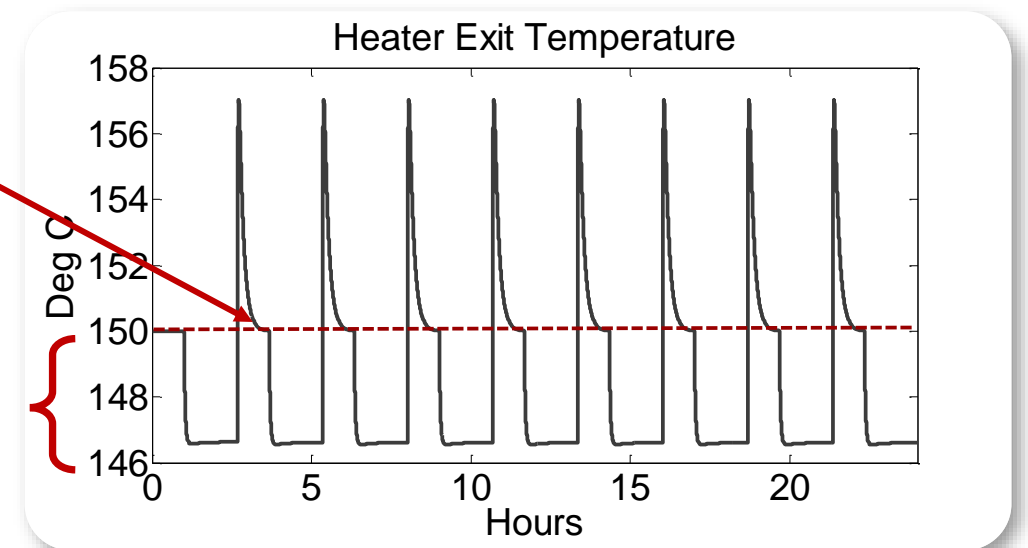
Type of attacks



Periodic attack

Recovery time

Magnitude of manipulation



Outcome of the control stage



**I am 163 cm
tall**

**Control stage execution needs assistance with
specialized tools (none available so far!)**

Outcome of the control stage

Sensitivity	Magnitude of manipulation	Recovery time
High	XMV {1;5;7}	XMV {4;7}
Medium	XMV {2;4;6}	XMV {5}
Low	XMV{3}	XMV {1;2;3;6}

Reliably useful controls

Damage



- Requires subject-matter knowledge (engineering)
- Cant take several forms
 - Explosions (of course!)
 - Equipment breakage
 - Pollution
 - Product Out-of-Specification
 - Increased production costs, etc.



https://img.izismile.com/img/img5/20120306/640/chemical_plant_accident_in_germany_640_04.jpg



How do we achieve needed physical impact?

Attacker needs one or more attack scenarios to deploy in final payload

- The least familiar stage to IT hackers
 - In most cases requires input of subject matter experts
- Accident data is a good starting point
 - Governmental agencies
 - Plants' own accident data bases



Hacker unfriendly process

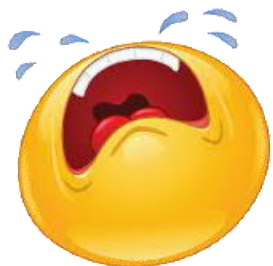
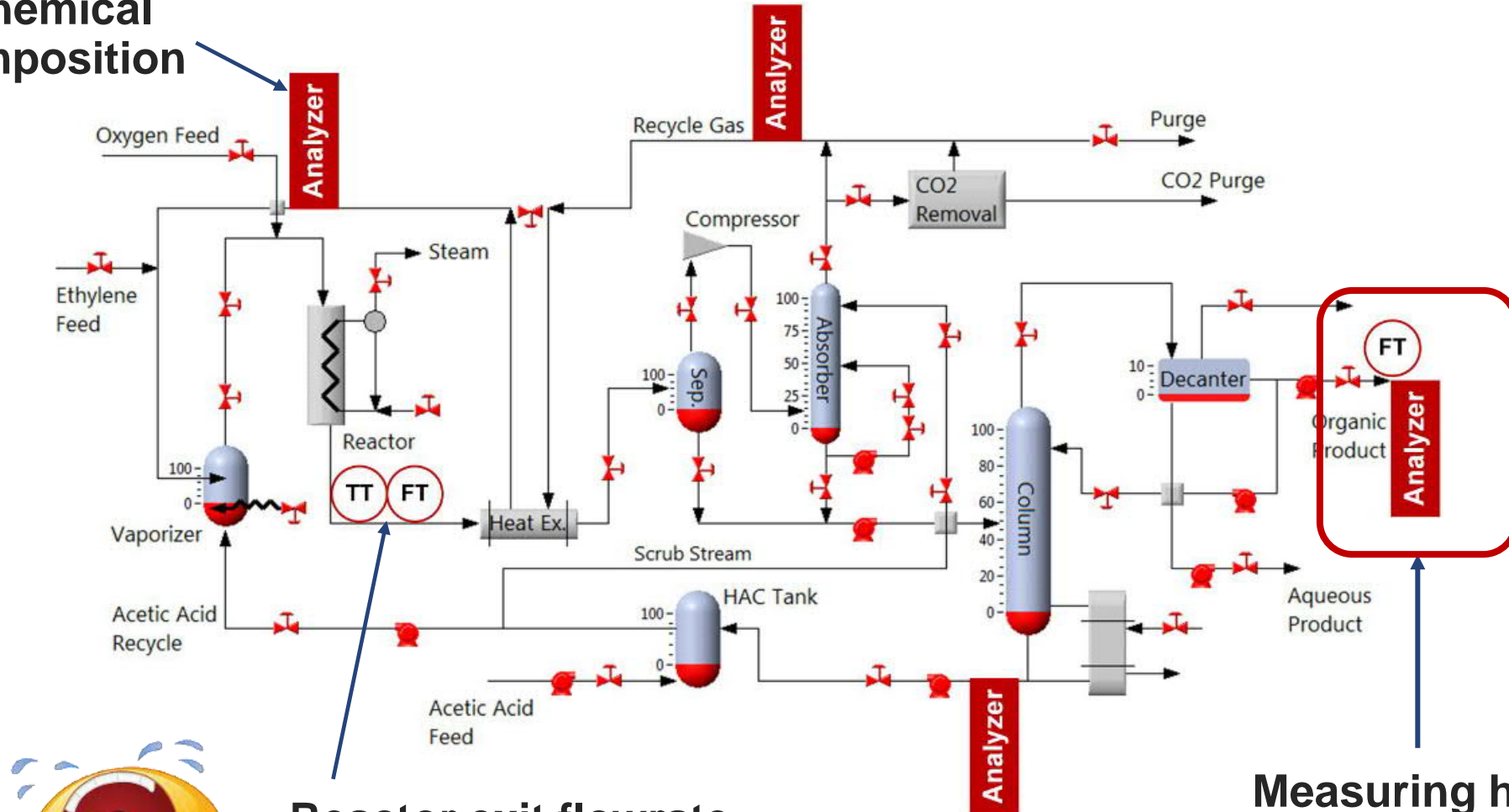


- Attacker need to obtain feedback in order to observe progress of the attack
- Target plant may not have been designed in a hacker friendly way
 - There may no sensors measuring exact values needed for the attack execution
 - The information about the process may be spread across several subsystems forcing attacker to compromise greater number of devices
 - Control loops may be designed to control different parameters that the attacker needs to control for her goal



Obtain feedback: Measuring process

Chemical composition



- Reactor exit flowrate
- Reactor exit temperature
- No analyzer

Measuring here is too late

Measuring attack success

If you can't measure it, you can't manage it

Peter Drucker



Measurement precision

Technician

“It will eventually drain with the lowest holes losing pressure last”

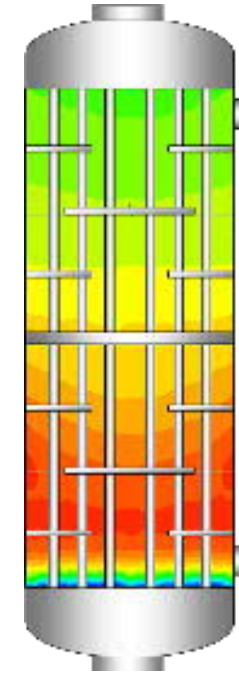
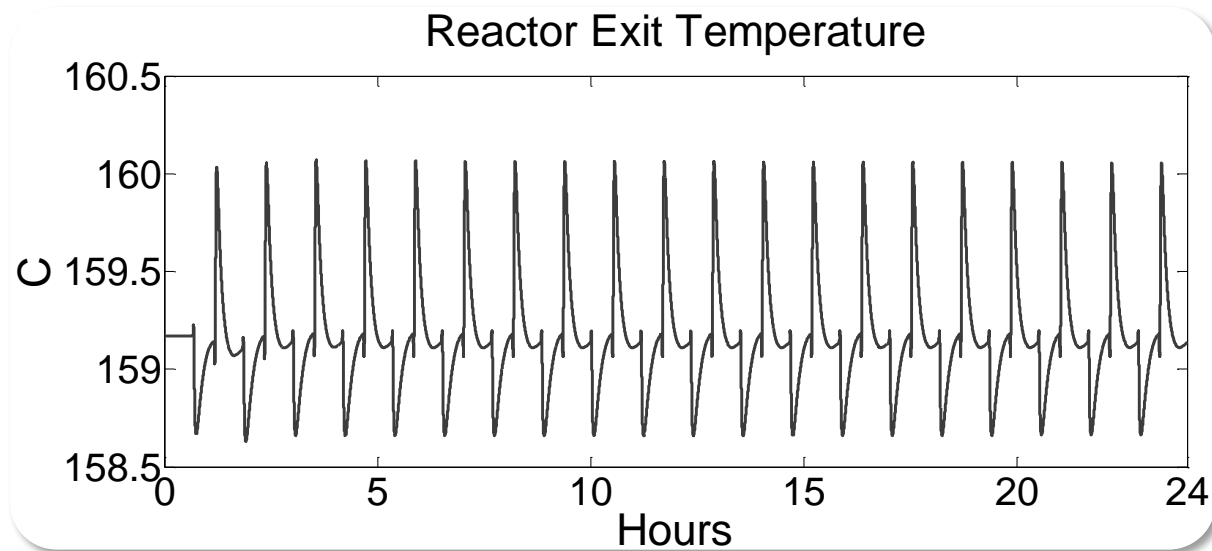


Engineer

“It will be fully drained in 20.4 seconds & the pressure curve looks like this”

“Technician” answer

Usage of proxy sensor



Reactor with cooling tubes

- Only tells us whether reaction rate increases or decreases
- Is not precise enough to compare effectiveness of different attacks

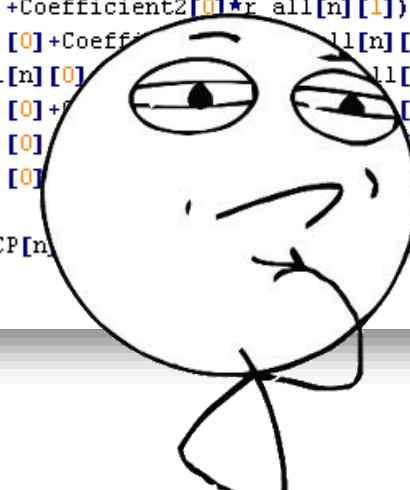
Quest for engineering answer

- Code in the controller
- Optimization applications
- Test process/plant

```
/*calculate derivatives*/
for (n=1;n<NR;n++)
{
    /*dC/dt=-delta(C*v)/deltaZ+sum(vij*ri)
    /*Use single backward
    C_O2_t[n-1]=(-(C_O2[n]*v[n]-C_O2[n-1]*v[n-1])/dz + Coefficient1[0]*r_all[n][0]+Coefficient2[0]*r_all[n][1])/cata_porosity;
    C_CO2_t[n-1]=(-(C_CO2[n]*v[n]-C_CO2[n-1]*v[n-1])/dz + Coefficient1[1]*r_all[n][0]+Coefficient2[1]*r_all[n][1])/cata_porosity;
    C_C2H4_t[n-1]=(-(C_C2H4[n]*v[n]-C_C2H4[n-1]*v[n-1])/dz + Coefficient1[2]*r_all[n][0]+Coefficient2[2]*r_all[n][1])/cata_porosity;
    C_VAc_t[n-1]=(-(C_VAc[n]*v[n]-C_VAc[n-1]*v[n-1])/dz + Coefficient1[4]*r_all[n][0]+Coefficient2[4]*r_all[n][1])/cata_porosity;
    C_H2O_t[n-1]=(-(C_H2O[n]*v[n]-C_H2O[n-1]*v[n-1])/dz + Coefficient1[5]*r_all[n][0]+Coefficient2[5]*r_all[n][1])/cata_porosity;
    C_HAc_t[n-1]=(-(C_HAc[n]*v[n]-C_HAc[n-1]*v[n-1])/dz + Coefficient1[6]*r_all[n][0]+Coefficient2[6]*r_all[n][1])/cata_porosity;
    Q_rct[n]= UA*(Tg[n]-Shell_T); /*kcal/min m^3*/
    Tg_t[n-1]=1/(cata_porosity*CCP[n] + cata_heatcapacity *cata_bulk_density)*(-FCP[n][0]*E_r1-r_all[n][0]*E_r1-r_all[n][1]*E_r2-Q_rct[n]);
};
```

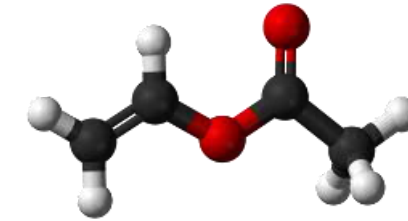
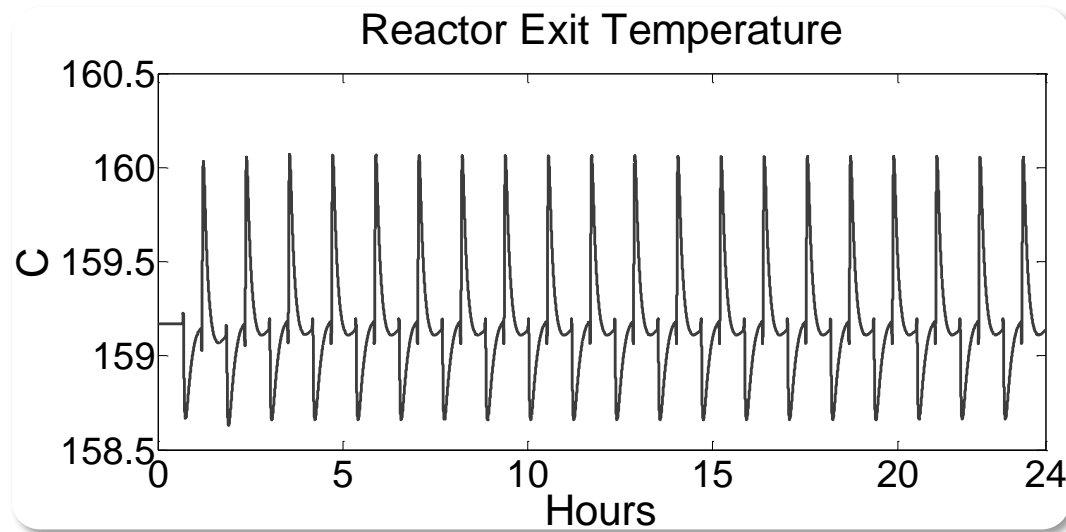
$$\left(\varepsilon \sum_{k=1}^7 C_{i,k} C_{p_{i,k}} + \rho_b C_{p_b}\right) \frac{\partial T_i}{\partial t} = - \frac{\partial \left(v_i \sum_{k=1}^7 (C_{i,k} C_{p_{i,k}}) T_i \right)}{\partial z} - \phi_i \rho_b (r_{1,i} E_1 + r_{2,i} E_2) - Q_i^{RCT}$$

*CHALLENGE CONSIDERED



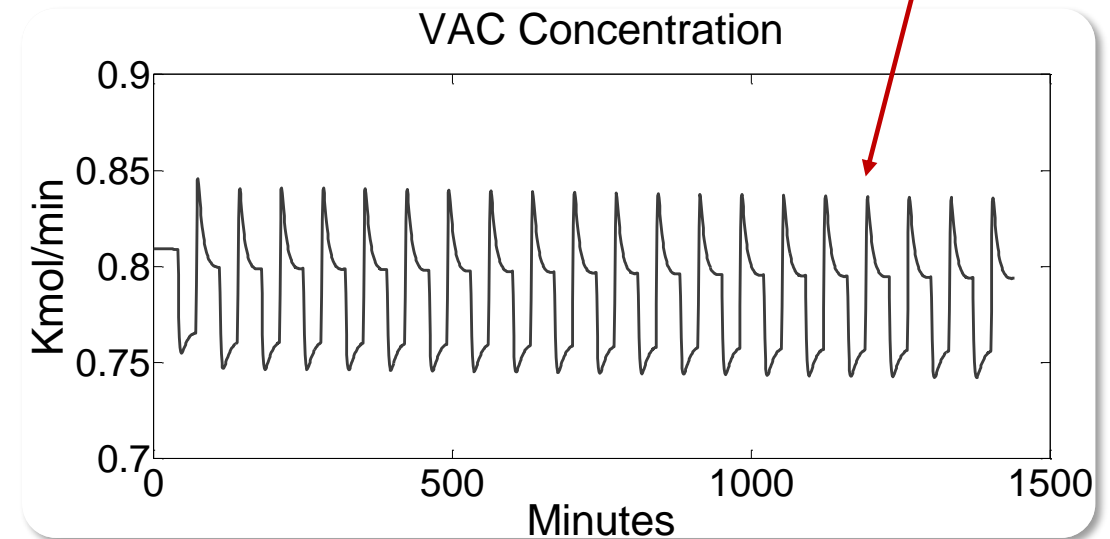
I found needed code but the numbers were very strange and did not seem being useful : 0,00073; 0,00016; 0,0007...

Bingo! Engineering answer obtained



**Vinyl acetate
production**

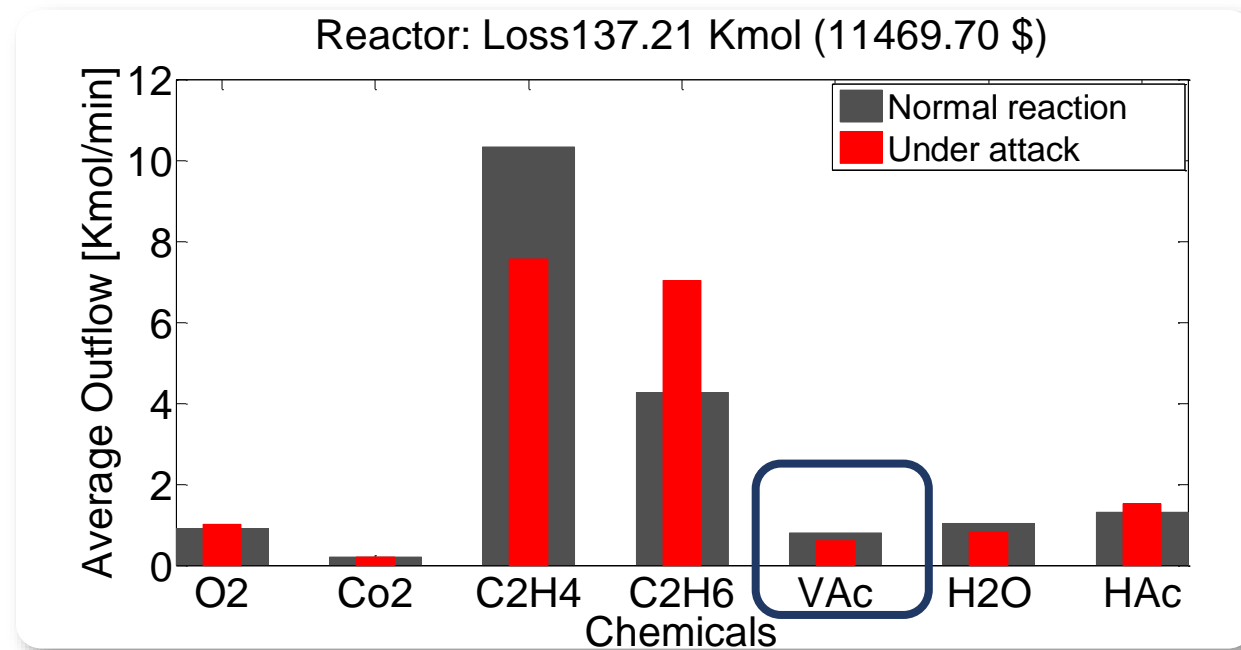
After two weeks of research and calculations, I finally got the numbers (YES!!)



Product loss

Product per day: 96.000\$

Product loss per day: 11.469,70\$



Prevent response: Alarm propagation

Alarm	Steady state attacks	Periodic attacks
Gas loop 02	XMV {1}	XMV {1}
Reactor feed T	XMV {6}	XMV {6}
Rector T	XMV{7}	XMV{7}
FEHE effluent	XMV{7}	XMV{7}
Gas loop P	XMV{2;3;6}	XMV{2;3;6}
HAc in decanter	XMV{2;3;7}	XMV{3}

The attacker needs to figure out the marginal attack parameters which (do not) trigger alarms – to prevent response

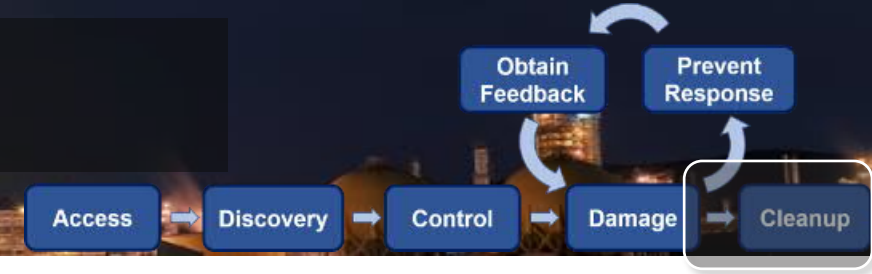
Outcome of the damage stage

Product per day: 96.000\$

Product loss, 24 hours	Steady-state attacks	Periodic attacks
High, $\geq 10.000\$$	XMV {2}	XMV {4;6}
Medium, 5.000\$ - 10.000\$	XMV {6;7}	XMV {5;7}
Low, 2.000\$ - 5.000\$	-	XMV {2}
Negligible, $\leq 2.000\$$	XMV {1;3}	XMV {1;2}

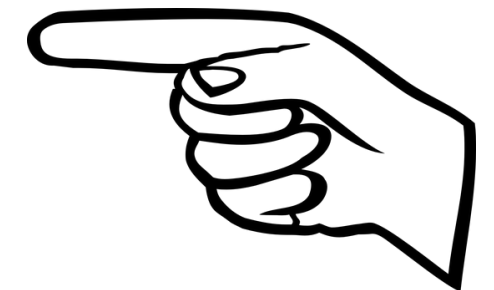
Still might be useful

Cleanup



- In traditional (IT systems) hacking the goal is to stay undetected. In cyber-physical exploitation it is not an option because of physical effect:
 - Changes things in physical world which cannot hidden by e.g. “erasing logs”
 - Visible to observers
- **Create forensic footprint of:**
 - What operators think is currently causing process upset
 - What the investigators should identify as cause of the incident/accident
 - E.g. time attack to specific employee shift or modify attack in response to process troubleshooting

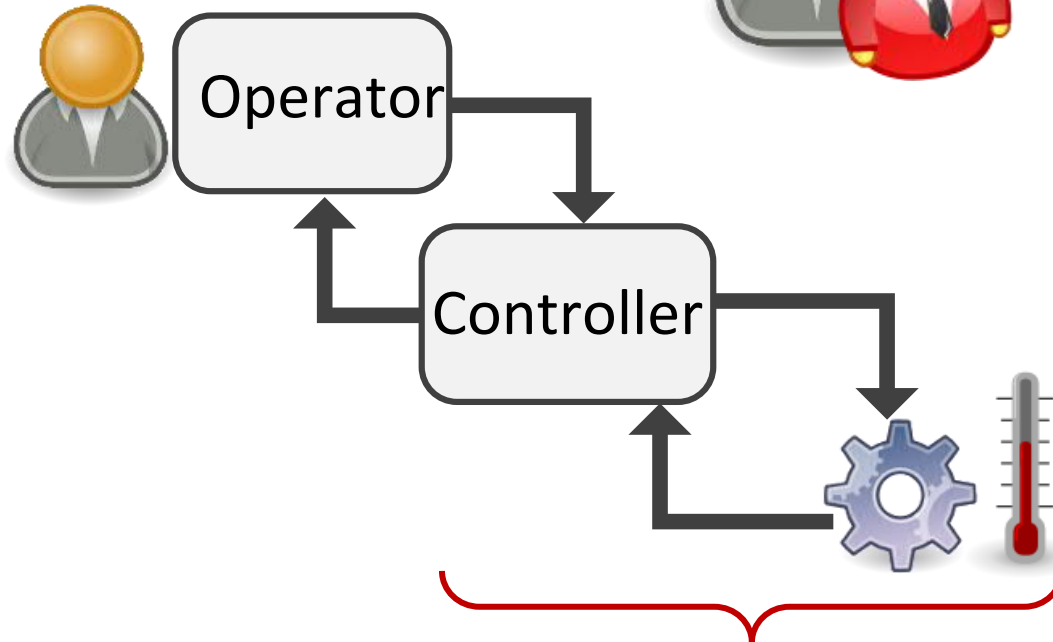
MISLEADING



Socio-technical system



- Maintenance staff
- Plant engineers
- Process engineers
-



Cyber-physical system

Creating forensic footprint

- Process operators may get concerned after noticing persistent decrease in production and may try to fix the problem
 - What do you want operators to think is causing process upset?
- If attacks are timed to a particular employee shift or maintenance work, plant employee will be investigated rather than the process

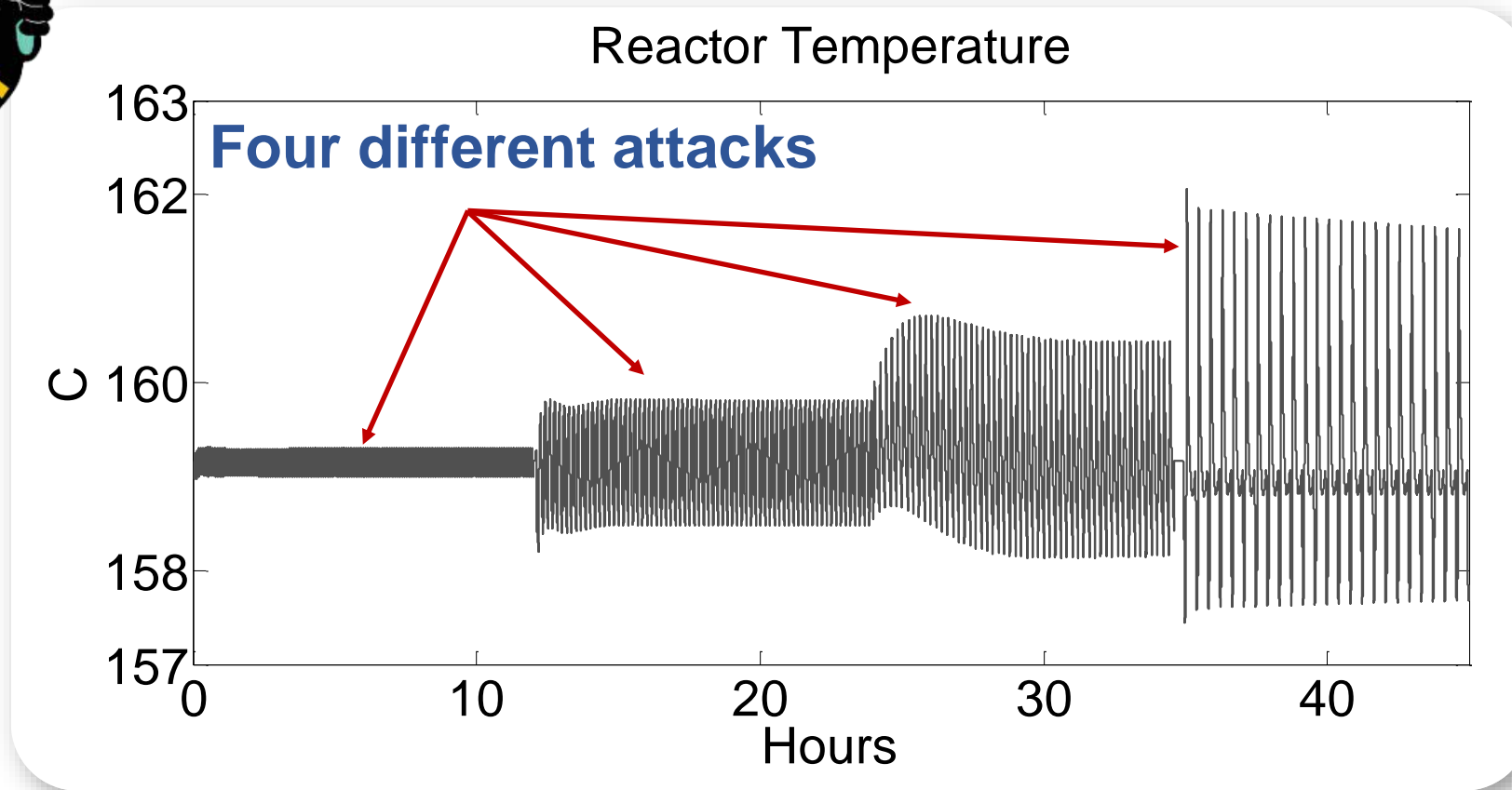


Creating forensic footprint

1. Pick several ways that the temperature can be increased
2. Wait for the scheduled instruments calibration
3. Perform the first attack
4. Wait for the maintenance guy being yelled at and recalibration to be repeated
5. Play next attack
6. Go to 4

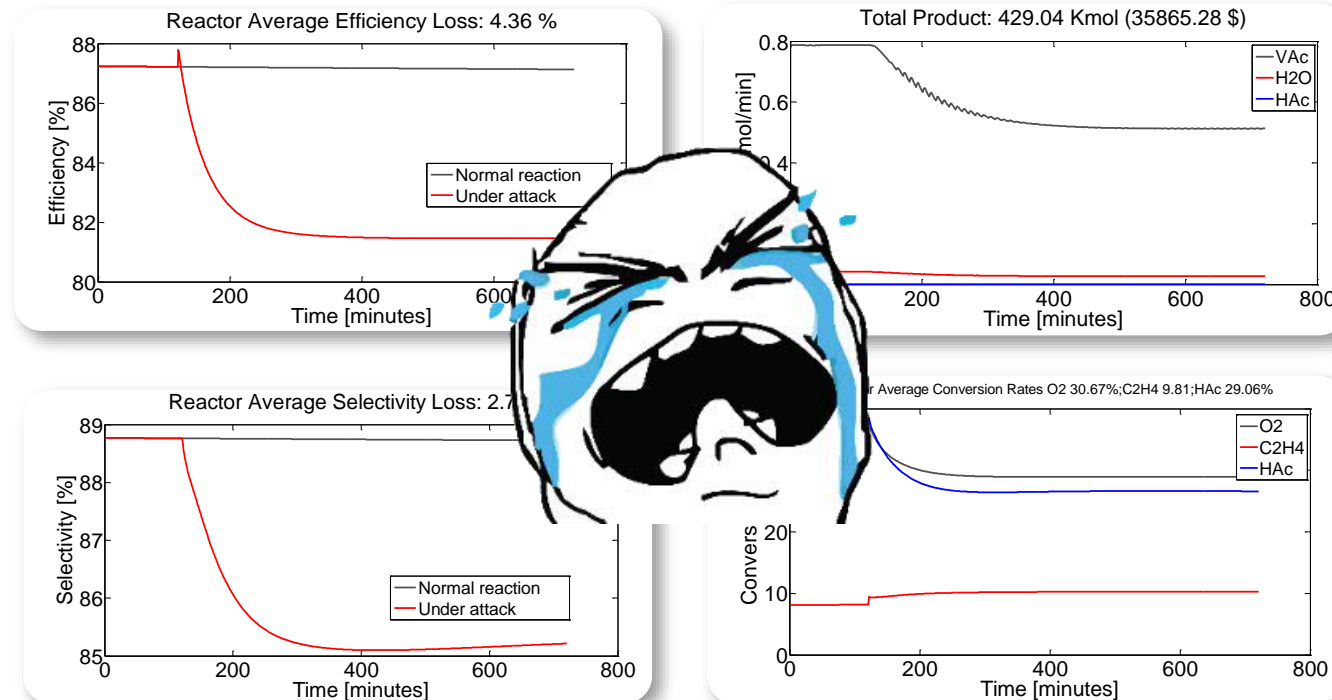


Creating forensic footprint



Defeating chemical forensics

- If reactor doubted, chemical forensics guys will be asked to assist
- Know metrics and methods of chemical investigators
- **Change attack patterns according to debugging efforts of plant personnel**



Conclusions

A nighttime photograph of an industrial facility, likely a refinery or chemical plant. The scene is illuminated by numerous lights, creating a complex pattern of bright spots and glowing structures. Several tall smokestacks are visible, some with smoke rising from them. The overall atmosphere is dark, with the lights providing the primary source of illumination.

Security is not a fundamental science

It is application driven

Security solutions exist in the context of the
application

Early adopter: eCommerce

- **Security influences design decisions**
 - Attackers (mis)use functionality of web browsers
 - Novel approaches to designing web applications
 - Novel security controls in browsers

- **Application dictates security properties**
 - Information-theoretic security properties
 - CIA triad --> Parkerian hexad



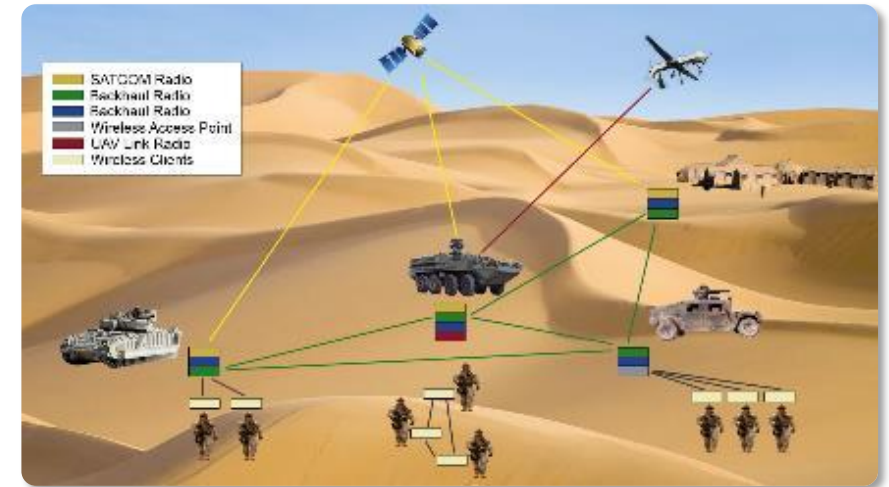
Parkerian hexad



Failed to adopt

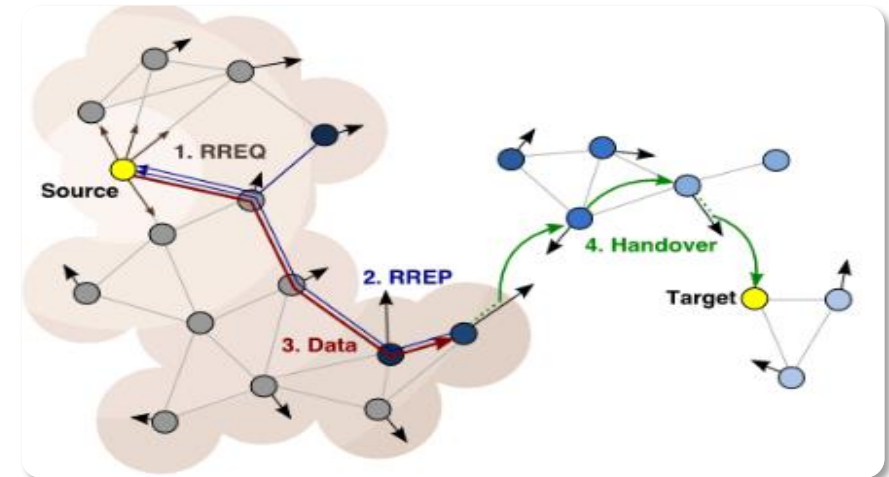
- **Wireless sensor networks: Big hope**

- A big hype for about a decade
- Conferences, solutions, promising applications
- Remained a “promising” technology with limited deployment

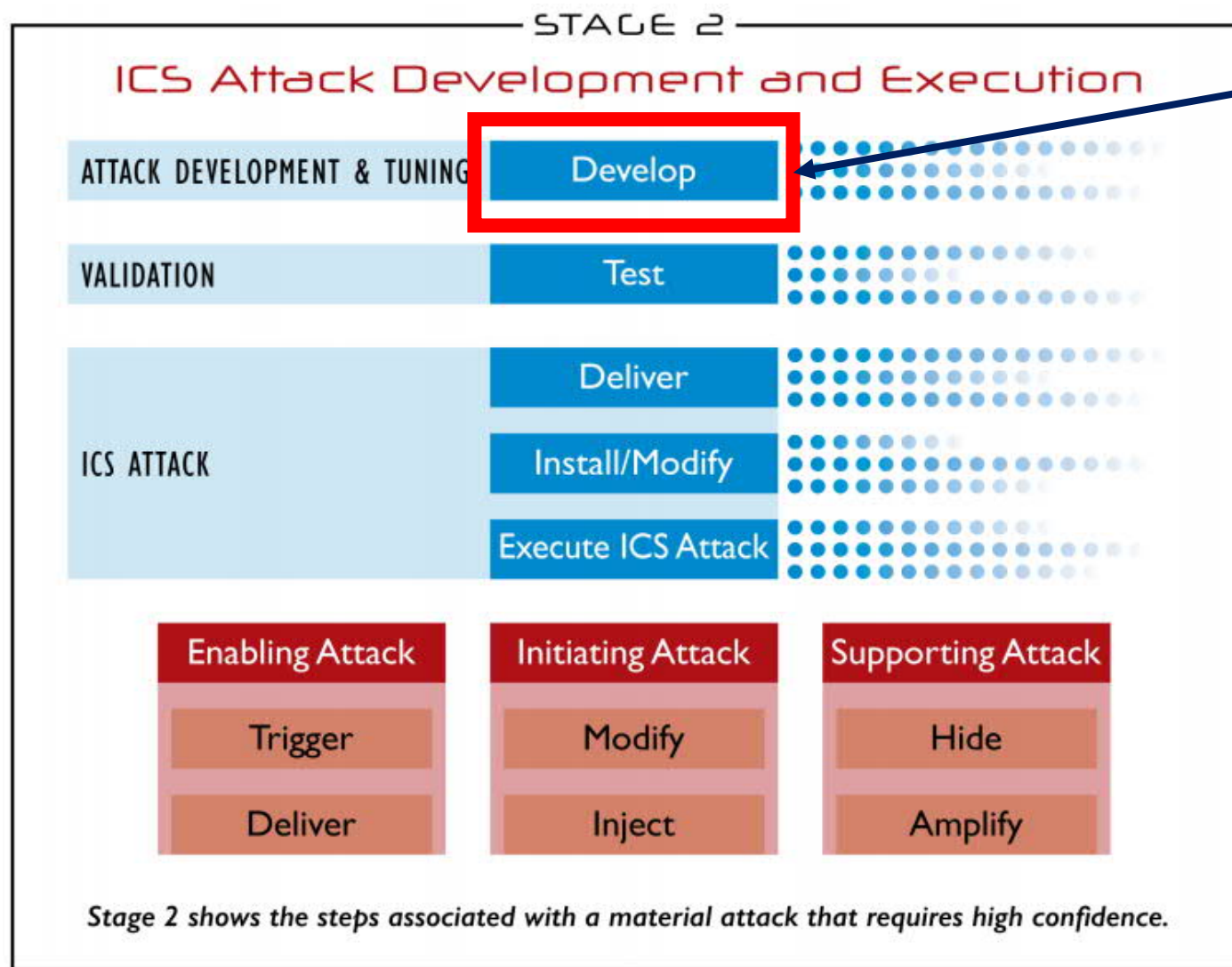


- **Wireless sensor networks: Big flop**

- Deficiencies in the attacker models and security requirements
- Unrealistic assumptions about physics of wireless communication



SANS: ICS cyber-kill chain



WHAT
HAPPENS
HERE?

Designing cyber-physical payload

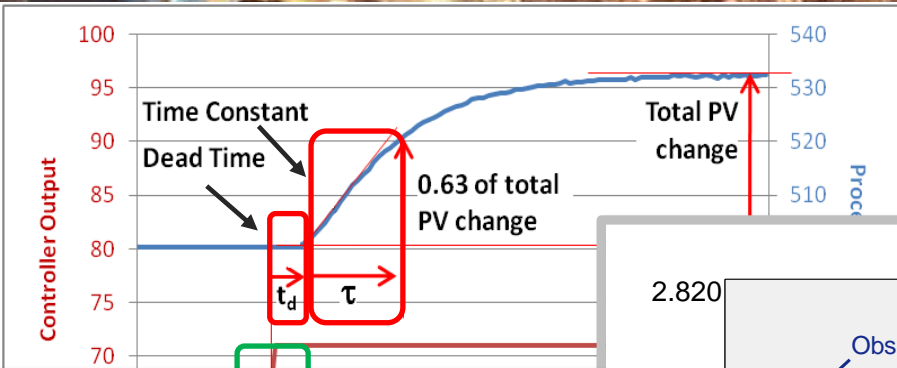
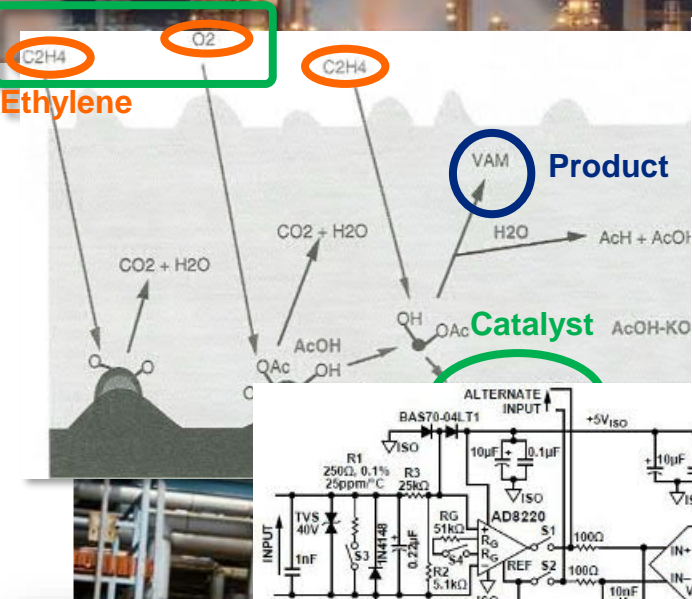


**Evil
Motivation**



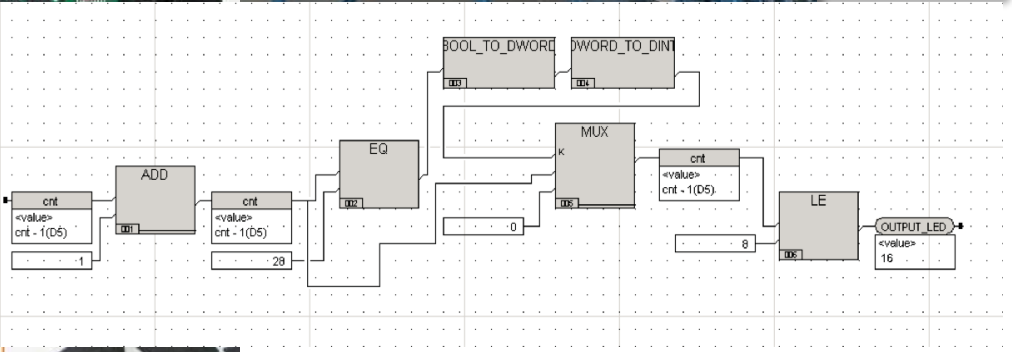
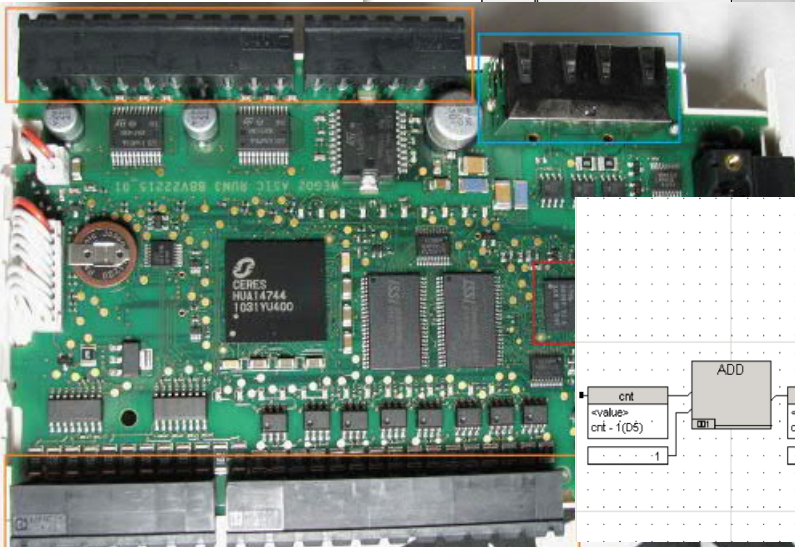
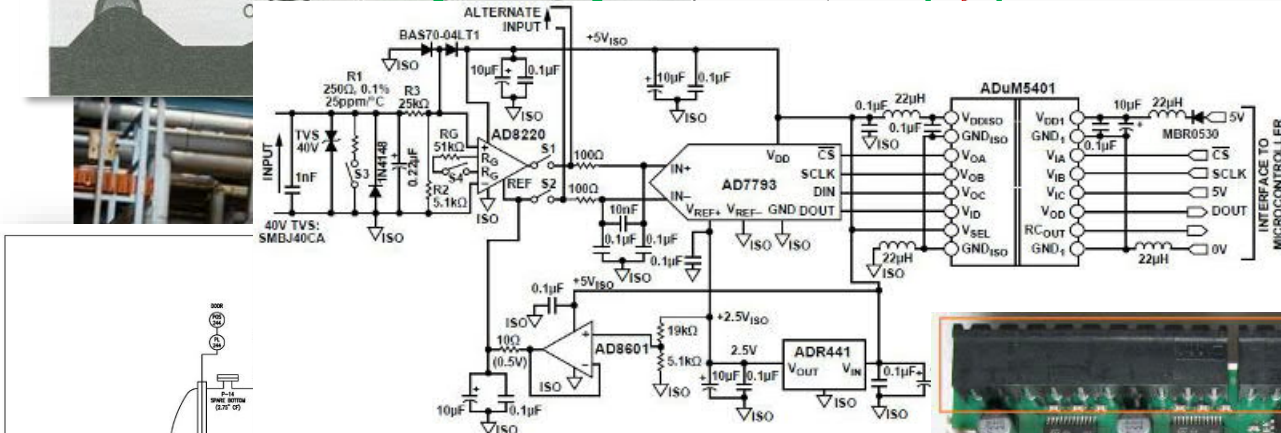
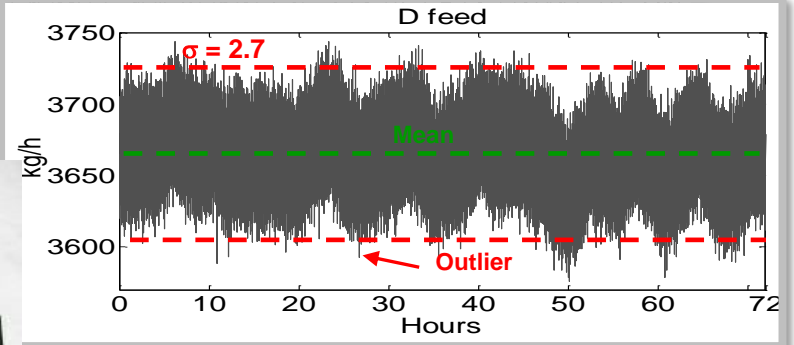
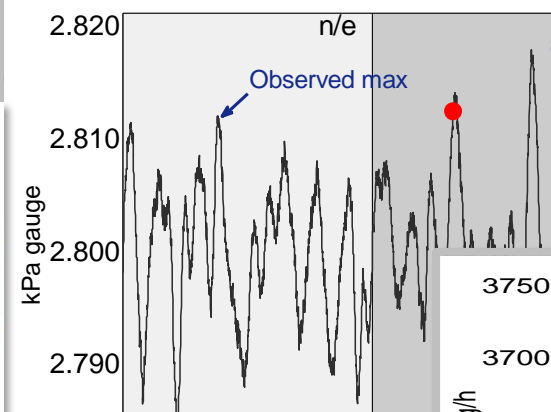
**Cyber-physical
Payload**

Knowledge involved into exploit development

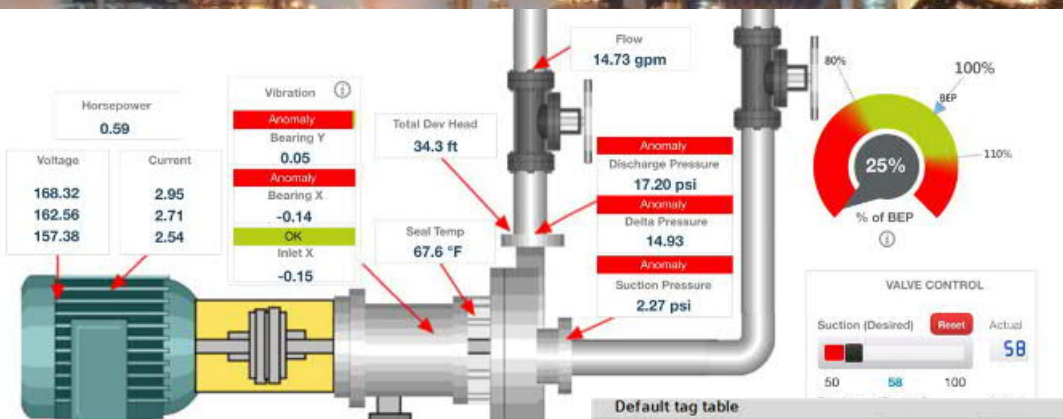


```

▶ Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.1.100
▶ Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 49152
▶ TPKT, Version: 3, Length: 127
▶ ISO 8073/X.224 COTP Connection-Oriented
▶ S7 Communication
  ▶ Header: (Job)
  ▶ Parameter: (Read Var)
    Function: Read Var (0x04)
    Item count: 9
    ▶ Item [1]: (DB1.DBX 0.2 BIT 1)
    ▶ Item [2]: (DB1.DBX 10.1 BIT 1)
    ▶ Item [3]: (DB1.DBX 10.0 BIT 1)
    ▶ Item [4]: (DB1.DBX 10.3 BIT 1)
    ▶ Item [5]: (DB1.DBX 10.5 BIT 1)
    ▶ Item [6]: (DB1.DBX 10.2 BIT 1)
  
```



Knowledge involved into exploit development



Algorithm 1 Runs Analysis

```

1: procedure EXPLORE
2:   signal ← signal to analyse
3:   while not an end of signal do
4:     while moving up do
5:       runs ++
6:       value = sum(changes)
7:       if direction change then
8:         positivesruns(runs) ++
9:         positivesvalues(runs) = value
10:    while moving down do
11:      runs ++
12:      value = sum(changes)
13:      if direction change then
14:        negativesruns(runs) ++
15:        negativesvalues(runs) = value
16:    if no change then
17:      nils ++
    
```

▷ I: analyse phase

▷ count positives moves

▷ positive steps change

▷ save results

▷ count negatives moves

▷ negative steps change

▷ save results

▷ count nils



Default tag table

Name	Data type	Address	Retain	Visible	Access	Comment
Emerg-OFF	Bool	%I1.0				Emergency-OFF (nc contact)
S3	Bool	%M0.3				pushbutton START S3 (no contact)
B1	Bool	%I0.1				sensor safety fence closed (no contact)
B2	Bool	%I0.2				sensor cylinder A moved out (no contact)
M0	Bool	%Q0.0				move out cylinder A
S1	Bool	%M0.1				pushbutton manual mode S1 (no contact)
S2	Bool	%M0.2				pushbutton automatic mode S2 (no contact)
S4	Bool	%M0.5				pushbutton ON S4 (no contact)
S5	Bool	%I0.5				pushbutton OFF S5 (no contact)
Motor1	Bool	%Q0.2				motor conveyor belt M01
B0	Bool	%I0.3				sensor bottle counting
S6	Bool	%I0.6				reset counter / new box

```

.def CalcSomething
CalcSomething:
push.w R4
mov.w SP, R4
incd.w R4
add.w #OFFFAh, SP
mov.w R15, OFFFCh(R4)
clr.w OFFF8h(R4)
clr.w OFFFAh(R4)
jmp loc_22
    
```

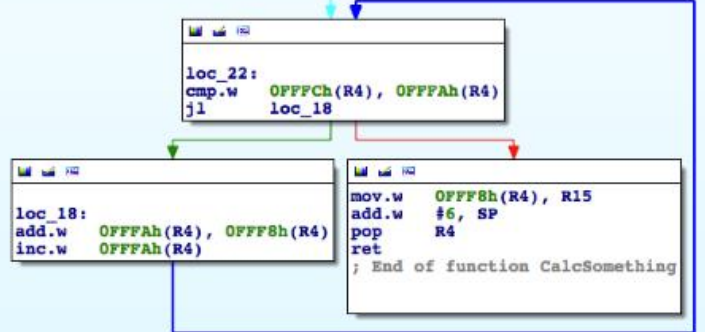


Algorithm 2 Triangles

```

1: procedure EXPLORE
2:   signal ← signal to analyse
3:   window ← learning window
4:   noislvl ← noise parameter
5:
6:   step = window * 10
7:   topslope = -999.99
8:   bottomslope = 999.99
9:   while not an end of signal do
10:    if first elements then
11:      current = value
12:      index = 1
13:    while index < window do
14:      upperlope = (current - (last + noislvl)) / index
15:      lowerlope = (current - (last - noislvl)) / index
16:      if upperlope > topslope then
17:        topslope = upperlope
18:      if lowerlope < bottomslope then
19:        bottomslope = lowerlope
20:    end while
21:  end while
    
```

▷ learning phase of i - th bucket



Process-aware proactive & reactive security

- Many exploitation scenarios require (prolonged) access to the target environment
- Know data sources vital to communication infrastructure recon and process comprehension
 - Be careful with public announcements and data exposure via trusted 3rd parties
 - Lock down or monitor access to critical data sources (in all!! their locations)
 - Monitor process behavior for anomalies

Inability to collect required information & interact with the process significantly limits attack scenarios achievable by threat actors



Q & A



Marina Krotofil

@marmusha

marmusha@gmail.com