Cybersecurity Technology for Critical Power Infrastructure Al-Based Centralized Defense and Edge Resilience





BIRD Workshop at ASU October 9 – 11, 2023

Task 7: Practical Deployment Architecture for Alerting Malware Activity in ICS/SCADA Networks

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Background

Industrial Control Systems (ICS) Operational Technology (OT) Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS)



Power Substations



Water Treatment Plants



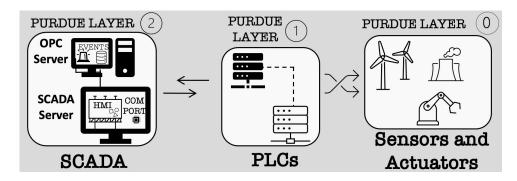
Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Systems



Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC)



Nuclear Plants



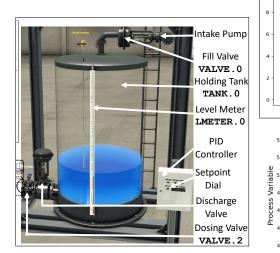
The Purdue ICS Network Architecture

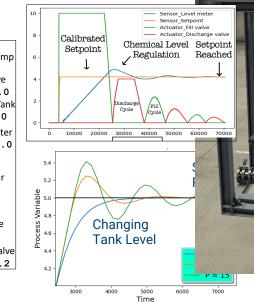


(Control) Cause and (Physical) Effect

Unlike IT, OT has Cause and Physical Effect

- Control inputs result in physical actuation
 - Control inputs are generated by a software logic
 - Physical actuation are governed by the "Physics" of devices (physical process), and measured by sensors





Two (2) Types of Control

Basic Control ~1 - 10ms (done by PLCs)



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Supervisory Control ~1000ms (done by SCADA)



Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Systems

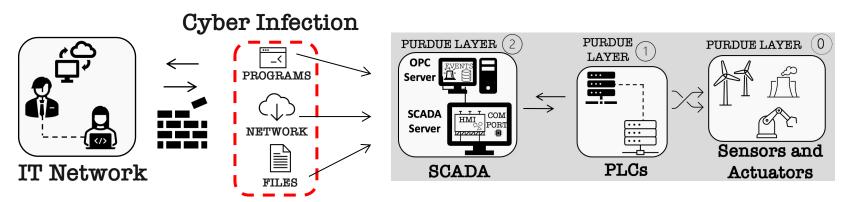
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Threat Model (We assume SCADA is compromised)

Modern ICS is <u>no longer</u> "air-gapped".... prone to <u>cyber</u> infection

- SCADA connects to the IT network and internet, utilizes cyber resources
- Modern attacks infect SCADA to disrupt physical processes



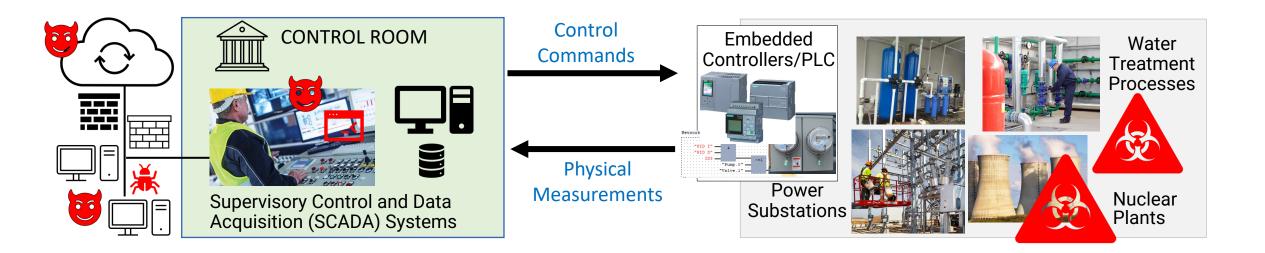
A note on SCADA Analysis

• Network Traffic vs. Host Execution

THREAT MODEL SCADA is compromised or Attacker resides in the SCADA Systems, and aims to cause physical disruption or damages



Malware Attacks are a big problem in SCADA/ICS Networks



Software-based systems execute physical domain operations SEMANTIC SAP Physical processes, actuators, sensors exhibit continuous "physics" behavior

Modern ICS/SCADA Host Attack Challenges

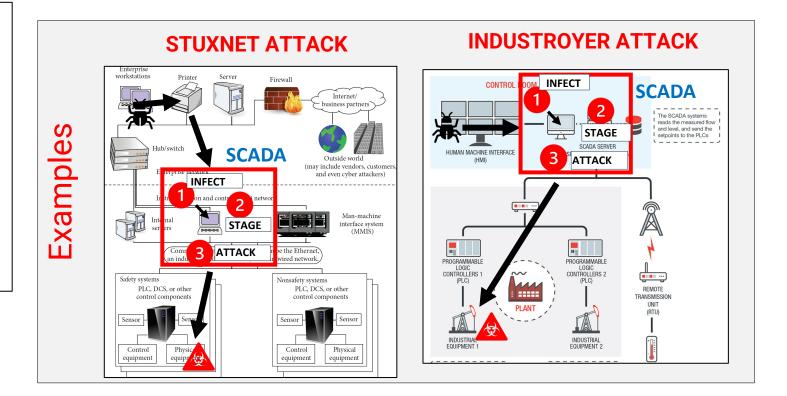
INFECT SCADA -> STAGE PAYLOAD -> ATTACK PROCESSES

PAST MALWARE ATTACKS

(LAUNCHED VIA THE SCADA HOST)

- 2010 Stuxnet: Iran centrifuge system
- 2014 Havex (various organizations)
- 2016/2022 Industroyer: Ukrainian Power
- 2021 Oldsmar: Water Treatment Plant
- 2021 Colonial Attack: Oil and gas Pipeline



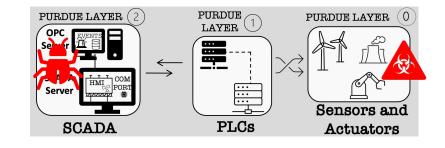


Limitations of Existing ICS Defenses

- Physical Measurements: Flag anomalous sensor readings at runtime. First learns the normal <u>"Physics" of the ICS process</u>
 - High false alarms due to benign physical noise, faults, and errors
 - Cannot validate flagged anomalies
- **PLC Defenses:** Prevent PLC logic/code modification
 - A SCADA adversary can modify PLC I/Os without touching its logic
- Host-based (SCADA): Flag anomalous host API calls at runtime
 - Attackers also use normal tools/API calls. Requires knowledge of operational events or what triggers SCADA
 - Cannot know if anomalous APIs cause negative physical effects

Our Insight: Correlate cause and effect via SCADA-Physics Anomaly Correlation

- Start from SCADA, where the attack is launched from, and find anomalies
- Then use Physics to corroborate (or filter) detected SCADA anomalies





SCADA-Physics Anomaly Correlation: Summary/Roadmap

• SCADA Host Analysis

- Use SCADA operational events to Induce SCADA "Physical-bound" API Calls
- Analyze their statistical (Frequency and Timing) dependencies. Model SCADA operational semantics

• Physics Analysis

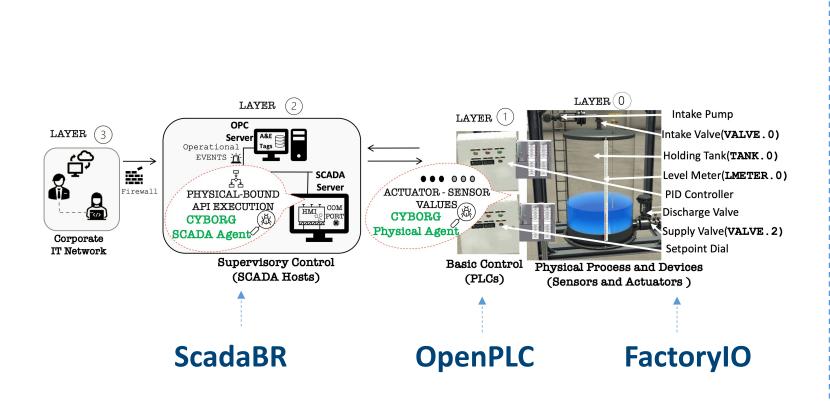
- Use sequence-based neural network to learn normal sensor/actuator time series
- Apply Transformer-based Autoencoders to rank important physics relationships
- Leverage "Inertia" to inform effect neural network sequence length.

• SCADA-Physics Correlation

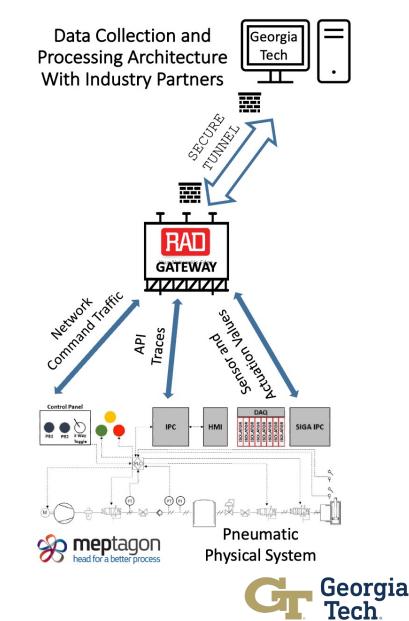
- Align the anomaly correlation time-window (i.e., Physics lag behind SCADA due to inertia)
- Anomalies that show up at both behaviors, is a strong indicator of an actual attack
 - In practice, we use Physics anomalies to filter or corroborate SCADA anomalies
- False positives: Physics anomalies that permeate from previous time windows before SCADA anomaly



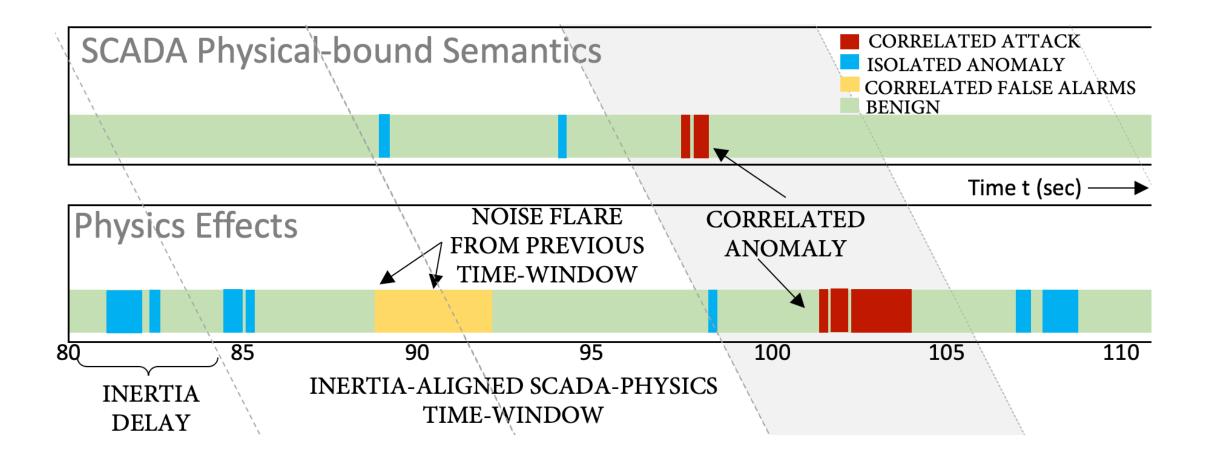
SCADA-Physics Anomaly Correlation: Example Deployment



Tools used in our test environment



SCADA-Physics Anomaly Correlation

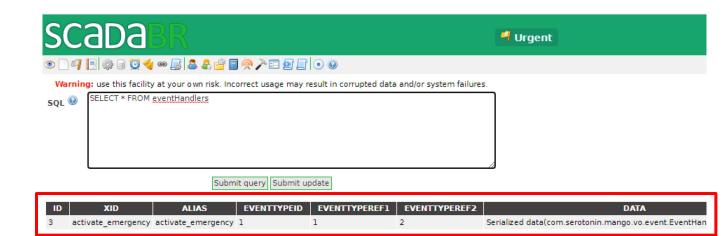




SCADA Operation in ScadaBR

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View Connected PLCs



View Configured Events and Event Handlers

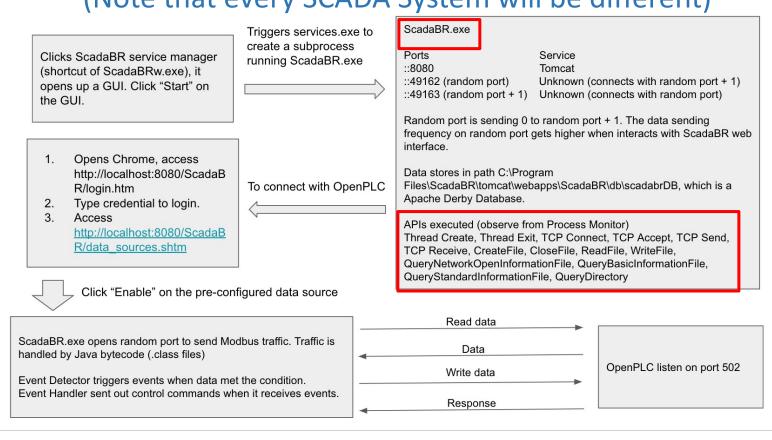


Analysis of SCADA Host Execution



- Analyze "Physical-bound" API calls (not all API calls)
 - API call execution used to control the physical world
 - Must first identify the appropriate SCADA software process (done once)

Dissecting SCADA Internal Host Interactions (Note that every SCADA System will be different)





Analysis of SCADA Host Execution

Process Monitor - Sysinternals: www.sysinternals.com



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5:09:56.1606810 PM 💊 ScadaBR.exe	QueryDirectory	C:\Program Files\ScadaB	R\tomcat\webapps\ScadaBR\db\scadabrDI
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	121 26.669713	192.168.204.133	192.168.204.136	Modbus	66 Query: Trans:	7; Unit:	1, Func:	5: Write Single Coil			
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	155 36.420019	192.168.204.133	192.168.204.136	Modbus	66 Query: Trans:	9; Unit:	1, Func:	1: Read Coils			
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Statistical Analysis of SCADA Physical-bound API Calls

Formulation of Frequency and Timing Dependencies: Algorithm Development

Control Command Dependency

$$P(V_k) := \{C_j, C_{j+1}, \dots, C_n\} \cup \{M_j, M_{j+1}, \dots, M_n\}$$

$$\forall M_i, C_j \in P(V_k) \land (ts(M_i) < ts(C_j)) : C_j \leftrightarrow C_i$$

Control Time-Interval

$$\forall C_i, C_j \in P(V_k) \ s.t. \ i \neq j: \ \Delta(i,j) := ABS(ts(C_i) - ts(C_j))$$
$$R_{D\Delta}(i-1,i) = \frac{Deviation(j) + \epsilon_{(i-1,i)}}{Mean(j)}$$

Control Burst-Interval

$$(\forall B_{C_i}, B_{P_i} \in P(V_k): \quad \mu_j := |B_{C_i}| - |B_{P_i}|$$
$$R_{D\mu}(i) = \frac{Deviation(j) + \lambda_{(i)}}{Mean(j)}$$

Control Frequency

$$\forall C_i \in P(V_k) \quad F(i) := |C_i|$$
$$R_{DF}(i) = \frac{|C_i \in P(V_k)|}{|P(V_k)|}$$

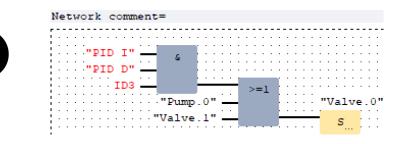


Inducing SCADA Events

Operational Events are configured in OPC Alarm&Event databases

SCADABR	4 Urgent
◉ ````````````````````````````````````	
Warning: use this facility at your own risk. Incorrect usage may result in corrupte	d data and/or system failures.
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Extract all configured events and device parameters



Statically parse the Function Block Diagram of the process to extract all dependent device states

3

 $\forall k \in Events_Set V; \ \forall D_i \in k_D; \ k_T := \bigcup_{i=0}^n \{D_i(S)\}$

Union all event states and inject into ScadaBR iteratively



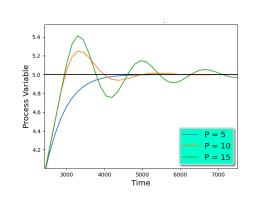
Physics Analysis

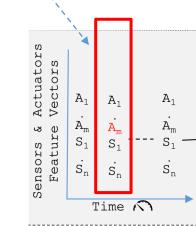
Learning normal sensor and actuator time series PLC s S Actuator Vectors Control Logic ____ LSTM Š A_1 A_1 A_1 VAE ΞΞ IONS A_m S₁ SENSORS Am **QQ** لا |Feature Devices S Sensors Output ACTUAT Sn S_n S. Physics Time 🔊

Autoencoder Error Re-construction $MSE(x, \tilde{a}) = \frac{1}{m} \sum (x^i - \tilde{x}^i)^2$

Actuator and Sensor time slice may not be <u>causally related</u> Actuators are periodic in nature and not polled at same exact times,

e.g., rising edge or peak values





Physics Analysis (Cont'd)

Learning normal sensor and actuator time series

Other challenges (for correlation with SCADA):

- 1. Physics have inertia (slow to respond to changes)
 - We use a data driven approach to infer inertia delays for each process
- 2. Neural networks have a bottle neck (more delays)
 - 1. We leverage Transformers

Transformer-based Sequence Models

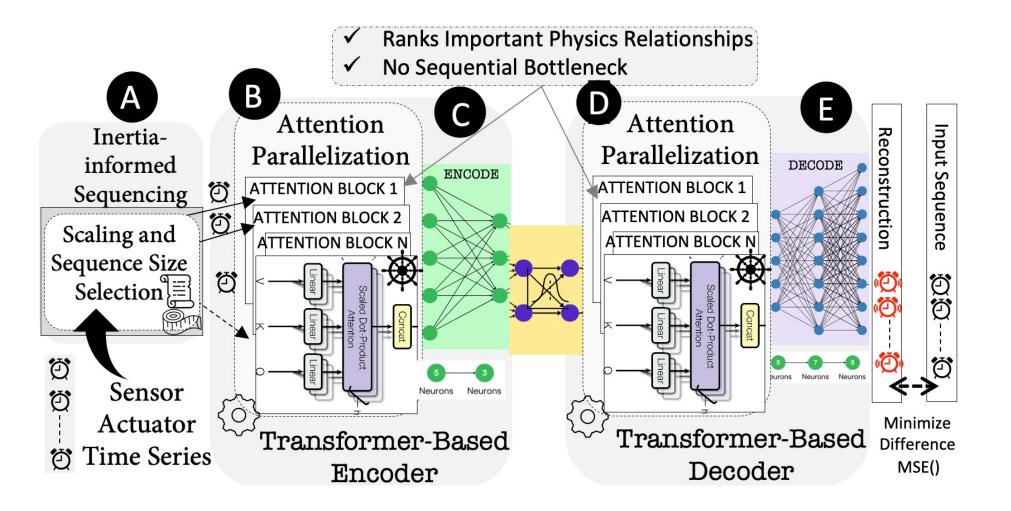
- 1. State-of-the-art sequence modelling technique
- 2. Uses Attention technique to rank causal relationships in time-series data
- 3. Can parallelize multiple Attention Blocks, eliminating the bottle neck in sequence models



Conveyor driven by a large spinning disc experiences inertia



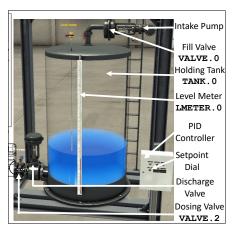
Transformer-Based Autoencoder

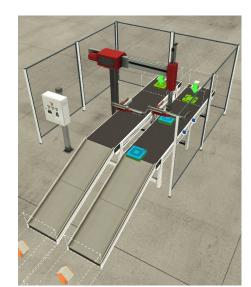


Reference Paper: Attention is All you Need https://arxiv.org/abs/1706.03762



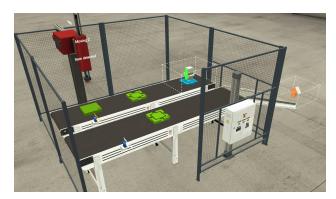
Physical Experiments Emulated in FactoryIO











ICS Processes	Domain	Events	Per pro	ocess	Event-Guided Dependency Analysis SOD Per Proc						R_D Averages					Physics Analysis			
						SOD P				Proc						(Training)			
		Scenario FileSize	States	Verify (FN)	Task/Goal	Task ID	Event Device	CMDs	Nodes	Edges	$R_{D\Delta}$	$R_{D\mu}$	R_{DF}	Analysis Time (min)	Task Inertia	Seq Size	Precision	Recall	F1
HVAC	A/C	6K	18	0	heat setpoint	6.1	room temp	9	4	5	0.219	0.053	0.09	11.6	11.8	13	79	92	85
IIVAC	AC	6K	17	1	heat flow	6.2	vent	23	5	5	0.178	0.410	0.065	10.2	11.8	13	88	83	85
Chemical Dosing	Water Treatm	11.5K	10	0	level control	2.1	holding tank	24	4	6	0.47	0.125	0.105	7.6	4.5	5	85	70	77
Chemical Doshig	water meanin	11.5K	14	2	dosing	2.2	dose valve	22	5	9	0.419	0.111	0.344	7.5	4.5	5	94	87	90
Auto warehouse	Manufacture	29K	20	0	pallet alignment	3.2	Axes X,Z	26	6	4	0.41	0.133	0.088	12.4	5.1	5	95	93	94
Auto watehouse	wanutacture	29K	36	1	throughput	3.2	entry conveyor	32	7	5	0.42	0.167	0.034	12.9	5.1	6	77	83	80

SCADA Attack Injection STUXNET-type Infection of ScadaBR



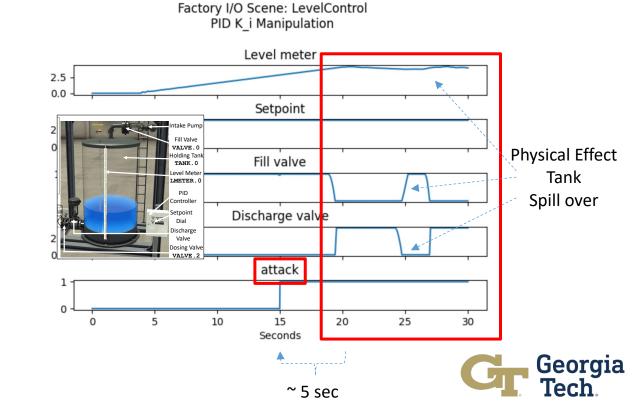
Clone the ScadaBR repository. (<u>https://github.com/ScadaBR/ScadaBR</u>)

- Modify ModbusDataSource.java and recompile → ModbusDataSource.class. The attack source code can be found in Attack_Scripts/ModbusDataSource.java.
- 3
- ModbusDataSource.class will read a Stuxnettype attack config file to perform attack in Files\ScadaBR\tomcat\conf\AttackConfig.txt
- 4

Replace the compiled ModbusDataSource.class with the current installed ScadaBR file C:\Program Files\ScadaBR\tomcat\webapps\ScadaBR\WEB-INF\classes\com\serotonin\mango\rt\dataSource\mo dbus\ModbusDataSource.class.

5

Restart ScadaBR. The attack will be activated when the right physical conditions exist. The attack log will be created in C:\Program Files\ScadaBR\tomcat\logs\AttackLog.txt.



Preliminary Results

Inertia-Informed sequence sizes

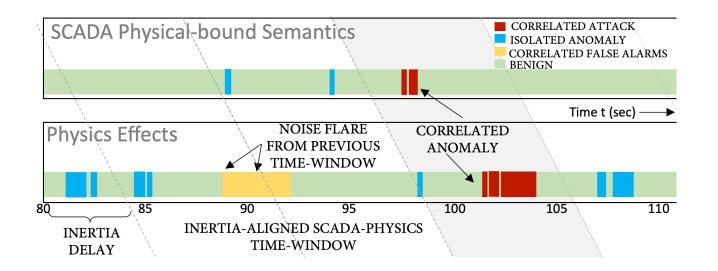


S = Sequence Size, T = Threshold



Preliminary Results

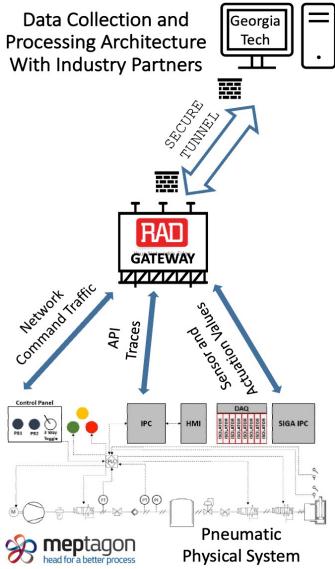
Anomaly Correlation



					SC	ADA.	Ano						
Attack Category.	Total Attacks	TTP ID	Attack Description	TTP Goal/Device	Attacked Process (IDs in Table II)	C-TIME	C-BURST	C-FREQ	Physics Anomalies	Correld. ATTACKS	TP	FP	Avg. Detect Time (sec)
I. Stuxnet- Category	10	T831	Control Manipulation	Impact Control	2.1, 2.2, 6.2, 9.1, 9.2 10.1, 10.2, 3.1, 3.2, 6.1	3	7	4	21	12	12	0	10.2
II. Industroyer Category	10	T855	Unauthorised Command	Impair Process CTRL	1.1, 1.2, 11.1, 7.1, 7.2 8.1, 8.2, 11.2, 9.2, 9.1		8	5	19	10	9	1	7.8
III. Oldsmar- Category	10	T836	Modify Parameter	Impact Control	4.1, 4.2, 8.1, 8.2, 11.2 7.2, 3.1, 3.2, 10.1, 10.2	17	11		35	24	24	0	5.4
IV. Triton- Category	10	T801	Corrupt Process State	Inconsistent State	6.1, 6.2, 8.1, 5.1, 5.2 6.1, 6.2, 9.1, 9.2, 7.1	8	2	13	27	22	22	0	9.4



Summary of our work (SCAWATCH)



- SCAWATCH is a passive alerting system to alert ICS operators of suspicious malware activities in SCADA host
- We are collaborating with industry partners, **Meptagon and RAD**, to integrate SCAWATCH to deploy in practical ICS/SCADA networks
- SCAWATCH detects attacks in SCADA via (1) statistical violations of processcontrol executions and (2) suspicious manipulation of SCADA physical-control resources (e.g., COM ports, PLC interfaces)
- SCAWATCH then correlates detected SCADA attacks with anomalies in running processes via a ML neural network framework.
- Tested on experimental data. Details and technical paper can be found in <u>https://github.com/lordmoses/SCAWATCH</u>.





• Thank You