ENERGY SECTOR MONTHLY COMMUNITY OF INTEREST MEETING

Date 12/22/2014
Time Start-End 2:00-3:00 PM

Attendees

Roland Beck (Central Lincoln PUD)
Irene Gasko (Florida Power and Light)
Leena Smart (New York Power Authority)
Nadya Bartol (Utilities Telecom Council)
Jim McCarthy (NCCoE)
Harry Perper (NCCoE)
Don Faatz (NCCoE)

Discussion

- NCCoE provided COI members a brief update on the IdAM Use Case build and a schedule of build activities planned in 2015.
- In January, 2015 NCCoE plans to publish a Federal Register Notice requesting vendor participation in developing an architecture and demonstration build for the Energy Sector Situation Awareness Use Case.
- Energy Sector COI members prefer excluding vendors from the monthly COI status calls. Due to potential conflict of interest situations, COI members feel they must constrain their comments if vendors participate.
- NCCoE had provided COI members a brief document describing how the current IdAM Use Case Build Archtiecture satisfies the Illustrative Scenario presented in the Use Case. This was discussed with the COI members to both receive feedback from COI members and to resolve NCCoE questions related to current utility operations. The discussion provided the following observations:
    - The COI members agreed that corrective and preventive maintenance is performed as described in the Illustrative Scenario using work orders that could trigger IdAM actions. However, emergency maintenance may be performed without a work order in place.
    - Physical access to substations is primarily handled in the OT environment. Physical access to other buildings is handled by systems in the IT environment. Many substations still require physical keys to open locks.
    - Centralization of IdAM functionality is appealing as Operations would prefer to not manage these functions. Also, centralization of audit trail collection, eliminating the need to review multiple audit trails, would be very helpful.
    - If power to a substation is interrupted, the automation for physical access and logical access control will not function.
    - Currently, 2-factor authentication is achieved by combining a password with a six-digit PIN sent to a technician's cell phone.
    - Currently technicians use industrially-hardened laptops (e.g. Toughbook) to access the operational environment. While utilitites are experimenting with tablets, the applications needed to interact with SCADA and industrial control devices are not available for tablets. Technicians often need administrative rights to the operating system on their laptops to appropriately configure them for the network(s) they access.
    - Some utilities divide the operational environment into two separate networks, a SCADA network and an operational network. The operational network is typically a Microsoft Domain network. The SCADA network can be accessed from the operational network with proper credentials.

Conclusion/Closing Notes or Need to Follow Up

NCCoE will provide COI member the URL (http://nccoe.nist.gov/forums/energy) for the Energy Sector forum on the NCCoE Web site. The forum is being used to publish plans, documents, and schedules related to the Energy Sector Use Cases.