



Cyber-Informed Engineering Water Booster Pump Station Case Study Slides

September 2024

Changing the World's Energy Future

Benjamin Ruhlig Lampe, Virginia L Wright



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Cyber-Informed
Engineering

Cyber-Informed Engineering

Cybersecurity Threats are no longer Just Theoretical

Attackers May Be Coming for Your Plant. Time to Tighten Cyber Defenses.

The water and wastewater sectors are targets for a variety of cyber attacks. Some simple measures can go a long way to protect critical op

Every “Thing” Everywhere All at Once

Every asset in an organization’s inventory that is not accounted for and protected is a potential attack vector that an attacker can use to gain access or move undetected.

Cybersecurity

US warns hackers are carrying out attacks on water systems

SECURITY ADVISORY

People's Republic of China State-Sponsored Cyber Actor Living off the Land to Evade Detection

Issue Date: May 24, 2023

Alert Code: AA23-144a

Russia-linked hackers claim cyberattacks on U.S., French and Polish water utilities

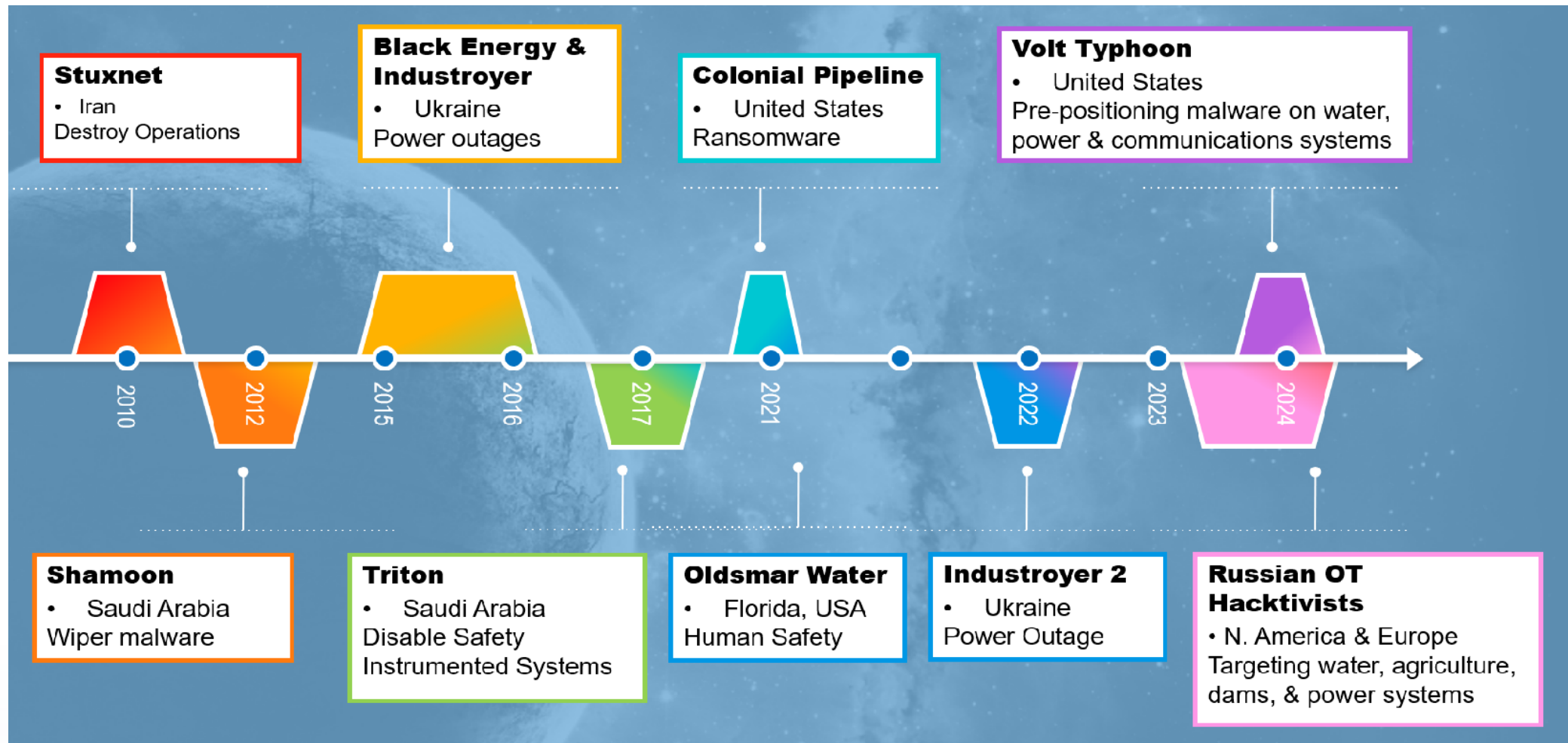
Russian hackers breached, sabotaged Texas water treatment plant, cyber firm says

BY ANDY GREENBERG SECURITY APR 17, 2024 6:08 AM

Hackers Linked to Russia’s Military Claim Credit for Sabotaging US Water Utilities

Cyber Army of Russia Reborn, a group with ties to the Kremlin’s Sandworm unit, is crossing lines even that notorious cyberwarfare unit wouldn’t dare to.

Cyber Attacks on Control Systems are Real – and Growing



Cyber-Informed Engineering (CIE)

- CIE uses **design decisions and engineering controls** to eliminate or mitigate avenues for cyber-enabled attack.
- CIE offers the **opportunity to use engineering to eliminate specific harmful consequences** throughout the design and operation lifecycle, rather than add cybersecurity controls after the fact.
- Focused on **engineers and technicians**, CIE provides a framework for cyber education, awareness, and accountability.
- CIE aims to create a **culture of security** aligned with the existing industry safety culture.



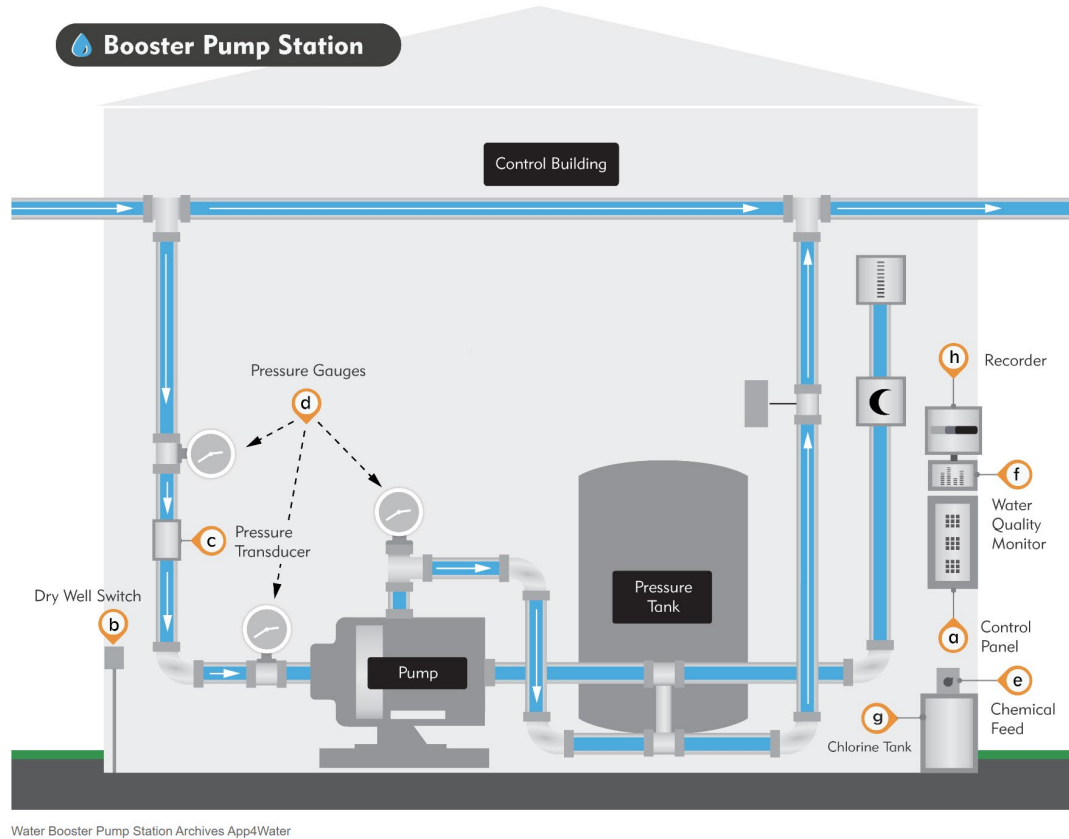
CIE Principles

PRINCIPLE	KEY QUESTION
Consequence-Focused Design	How do I understand what critical functions my system must <u>ensure</u> and the undesired consequences it must <u>prevent</u> ?
Engineered Controls	How do I implement controls to reduce avenues for attack or the damage which could result?
Secure Information Architecture	How do I prevent undesired manipulation of important data?
Design Simplification	How do I determine what features of my system are not absolutely necessary?
Layered Defenses	How do I create the best compilation of system defenses?
Active Defense	How do I proactively prepare to defend my system from any threat?
Interdependency Evaluation	How do I understand where my system can impact others or be impacted by others?
Digital Asset Awareness	How do I understand where digital assets are used, what functions they are capable of, and our assumptions about how they work?
Cyber-Secure Supply Chain Controls	How do I ensure my providers deliver the security we need?
Planned Resilience	How do I turn “what ifs” into “even ifs”?
Engineering Information Control	How do I manage knowledge about my system? How do I keep it out of the wrong hands?
Cybersecurity Culture	How do I ensure that everyone performs their role aligned with our security goals?

How does this work in practice?

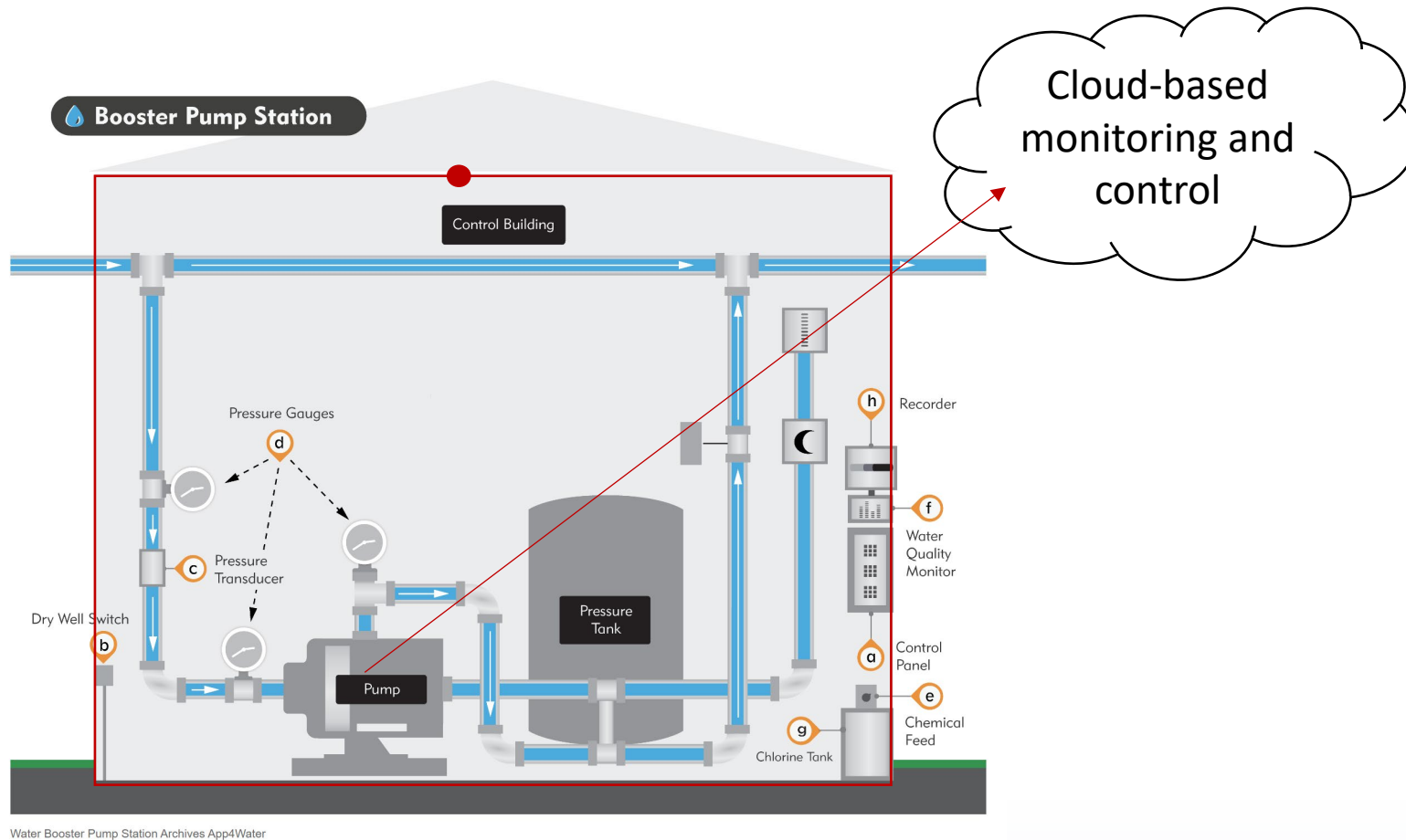
Water Booster Pump Station

Water Booster Pump Station



<https://www.app4water.com/product-category/applications/booster-pump-station/>

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<https://www.app4water.com/product-category/applications/booster-pump-station/>

Cyber Solution Review

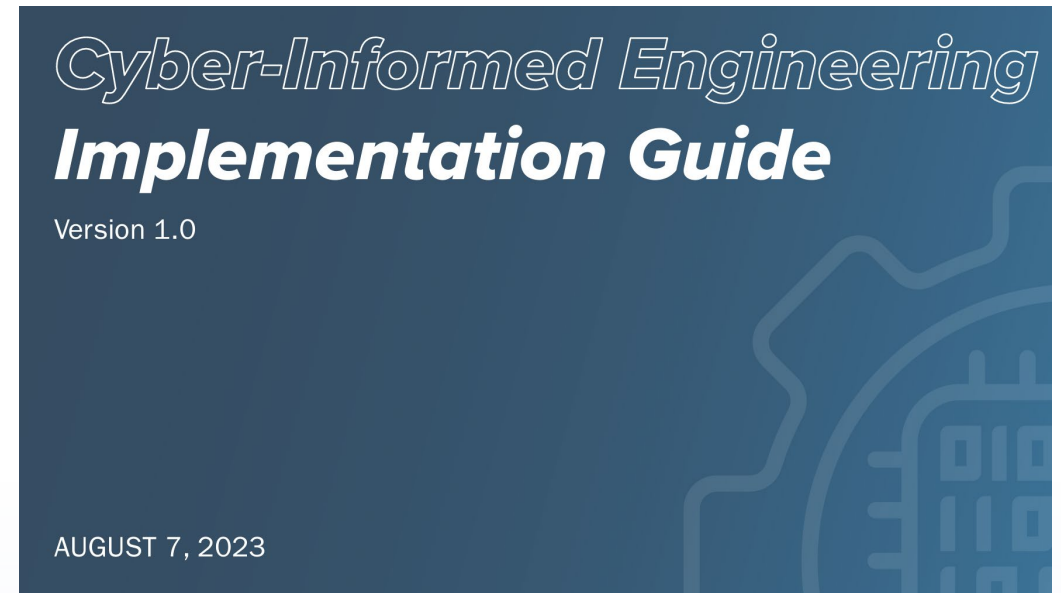
- Control System Software has a qualifying secure development lifecycle.
 - Very mature demonstrated processes
 - Provided SBOM
 - Component infrastructure is up to date
 - Mature vulnerability release process – with regular patches
 - 24/7 Support availability
- Cloud provider is reputable and qualified
 - SOC Type 2 and FedRamp (if needed), great physical security
 - Very mature, experienced in hosting critical infrastructure services
 - Demonstrated response and restoration capabilities

IT Installation Review

- Network entry point has standard security package
- Monitoring and logging traffic on this interface according to standard practice
 - Logging interfaces with organizational logging system
- Traffic in and out is encrypted between the cloud provider and the site network boundary

Organizational Review Board Votes

- Finance / Accounting – ☒
- Information Technology – ☒
- Cybersecurity – ☒
- Engineering Operations – ☐ →



CIE Application for

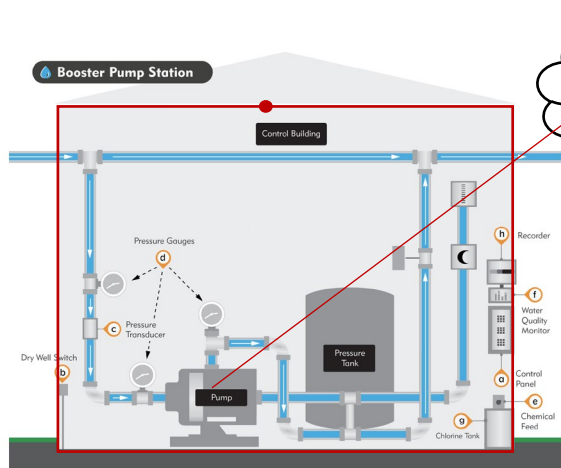
Water Booster Pump Station

Consequence-Focused Design

How do I understand what critical functions my system must ensure and the undesired consequences it must prevent?

Assuming attacker defeats security controls:

- What is the worst that can happen?
- How would we respond?
- Would any of these issues be catastrophic?



Water Booster Pump Station Archives App4Water

<https://www.app4water.com/product-category/applications/booster-pump-station/>

Engineered Controls

KEY QUESTION

How do I implement controls to reduce avenues for attack or the damage which could result?



Attacker defeats security and turns pumps on / off quickly to damage equipment – 18-month outage, large repair / replacement project

- Ideal control:
 - Deterministic (governed by physics)
 - Not networked / digital
 - It is visible and can be seen in infrastructure
 - Complimentary with existing protections

What could we use?

Engineered Controls

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What could we use?



https://www.automationdirect.com/adc/shopping/catalog/relays_-_timers/timer_relays/trm-16-d-24ad#images-1

Secure Information Architecture

How do I prevent undesired manipulation of important data?

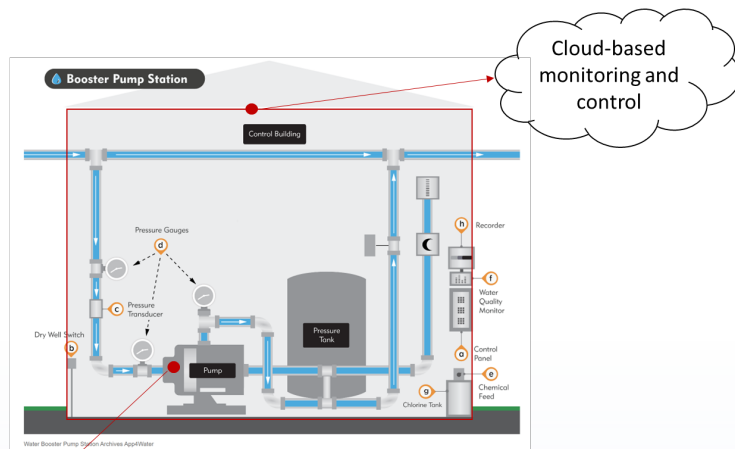
What are the data elements in this system where manipulation could have the most impact?

- *IT says: Denial / Loss of View or Denial / Loss of Control*

Where could manipulation of data lead to Engineering or Operational Impacts?

- Loss of Protection
- Loss of Safety
- Loss of Productivity and Revenue
- Damage to Property

How should the potential for these specific operational impacts inform the cybersecurity strategy?



Mechanical Time Delay Relay

<https://www.app4water.com/product-category/applications/booster-pump-station/>

Design Simplification

KEY QUESTION

How do I determine what features of my system are not absolutely necessary?

VFD-driven Pump



Where could we eliminate a system feature that would reduce potential for attack impacts? If we can't eliminate the features, how can we ensure they are not misused?

- When this pump station was built, the team considered a network-connected, Variable Frequency Drive-controlled pump.

Was there potentially a simpler design?

What are the feature trade-offs of the alternatives?

(1) [https://www.automationdirect.com/adc/shopping/catalog/drives_-_soft_starters/ac_variable_frequency_drives_\(vfd\)/general_purpose_vfds/gs21-10p2#images-1](https://www.automationdirect.com/adc/shopping/catalog/drives_-_soft_starters/ac_variable_frequency_drives_(vfd)/general_purpose_vfds/gs21-10p2#images-1)

Design Simplification

KEY QUESTION

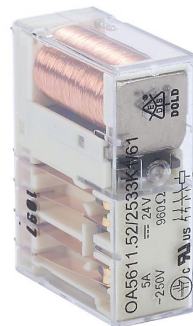
How do I determine what features of my system are not absolutely necessary?

Where could we eliminate a system feature that would reduce potential for attack impacts? If we can't eliminate the features, how can we ensure they are not misused?

VFD-driven Pump



Relay-driven Pump



- When this pump station was built, the team considered a network-connected, Variable Frequency Drive-controlled pump.
- The team chose instead to have a relay control the pump.

(1) [https://www.automationdirect.com/adx/shopping/catalog/drives_-_soft_starters/ac_variable_frequency_drives_\(vfd\)/general_purpose_vfds/gs21-10p2#images-1](https://www.automationdirect.com/adx/shopping/catalog/drives_-_soft_starters/ac_variable_frequency_drives_(vfd)/general_purpose_vfds/gs21-10p2#images-1)

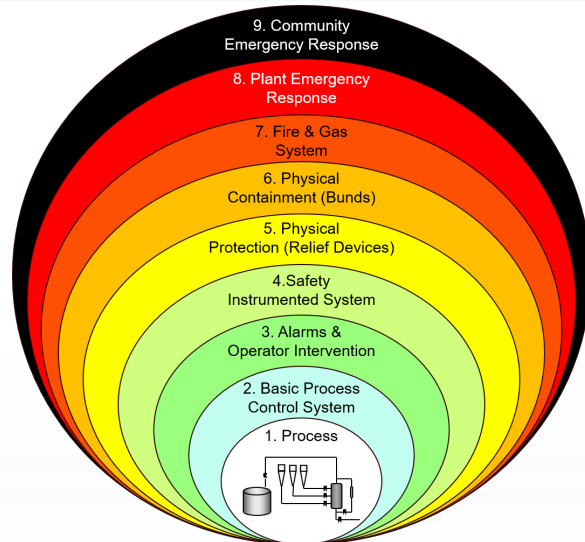
(2) https://www.automationdirect.com/adx/shopping/catalog/relays_-_z-_timers/electro-mechanical_relays/oa5611-52-24#images-1

Layered Defenses

How do I create the best compilation of system defenses?

If we identify that an adversary turning on and off pumps leads to our worst engineering consequences -

- How can cybersecurity prioritize the defenses from our side and from the vendors to detect or prevent that from happening?
- How many layers of protection can we assemble?
- How can we inform cybersecurity requirements?



<https://www.thesafetymaster.com/risk-management/lopa-sil/>

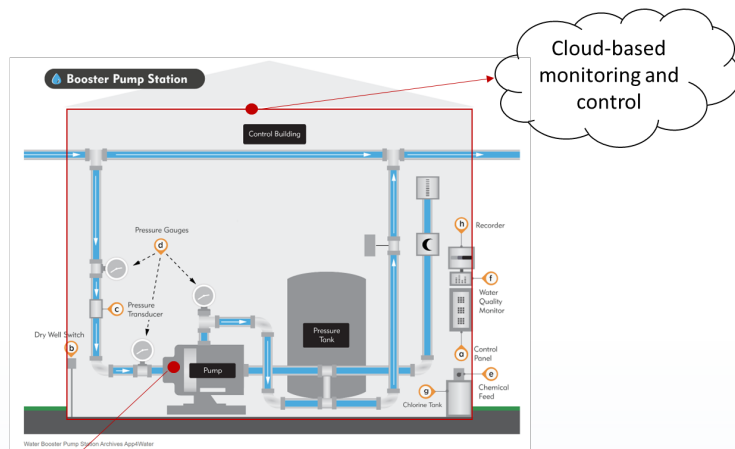
Active Defense

KEY QUESTION

How do I proactively prepare to defend my system from any threat?

If we identify that an adversary turning on and off pumps leads to our worst engineering consequences -

- How would we defend against that action?
- What do we expect of our vendor? Do we need additional contracts?
- How will engineering and cyber work together during the defense?
- Have we documented and practiced our defense?

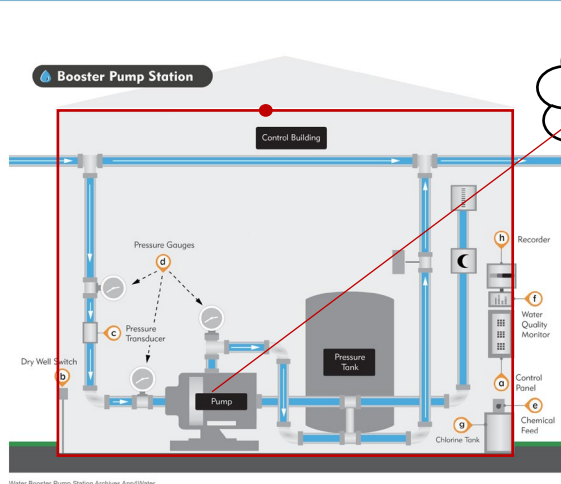


Mechanical Time Delay Relay

Interdependency Evaluation

How do I understand where my system can impact others or be impacted by others?

We have added a new interdependency – the cloud service and software. Beyond specific cyber attack, how might instability in this service affect our operations?



<https://www.app4water.com/product-category/applications/booster-pump-station/>

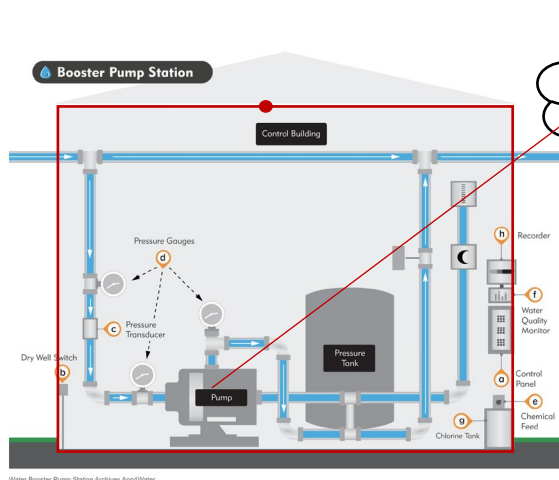
- What happens if the service goes down?

Digital Asset Awareness

KEY QUESTION

How do I understand where digital assets are used, what functions they are capable of, and our assumptions about how they work?

We have talked to the vendor about extending the product to allow remote control of the chlorinator. We are used to operating it manually. How will the use of digital technology change engineering risk?



Water Booster Pump Station Archives App4Water

<https://www.app4water.com/product-category/applications/booster-pump-station/>

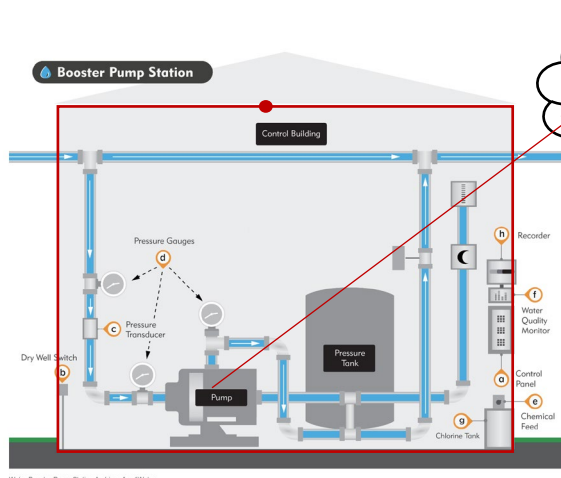
- Is the dispensed amount hardwired or adjustable?
- How do we know that the product was actually dispensed?

Cyber-Secure Supply Chain Controls

How do I ensure my providers deliver the security we need?

We examined the components used by the vendor and the security culture of the cloud company and both were very mature. However, there are still some questions we need to ask.

- How is the system patched? How are patches delivered? Can the asset owner accept or reject a patch?
- Does the software vendor or cloud provider ever allow access to our system to their vendors or maintainers?
- How are 3rd-party support providers, including the call-in support qualified and vetted?
- What else?



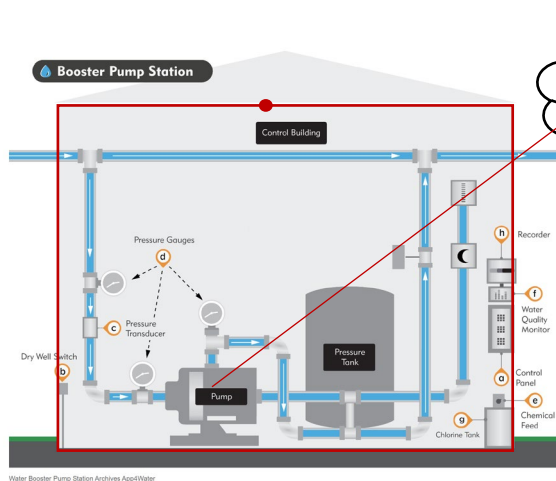
<https://www.app4water.com/product-category/applications/booster-pump-station/>

Planned Resilience

KEY QUESTION

How do I turn “what ifs” into “even ifs”?

- *What if an attacker turned all of the pumps on or off?*
 - ??
- *What if the application vendor reported an adversary attack?*
 - ??
- *What if the application stopped working?*
 - ??
- *What if the cloud vendor had ransomware?*
 - ??

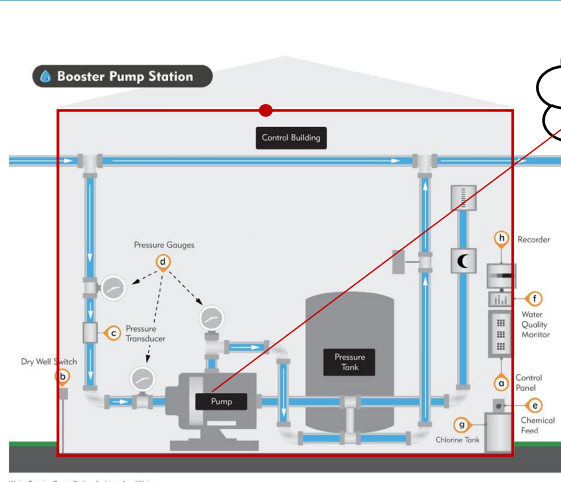


<https://www.app4water.com/product-category/applications/booster-pump-station/>

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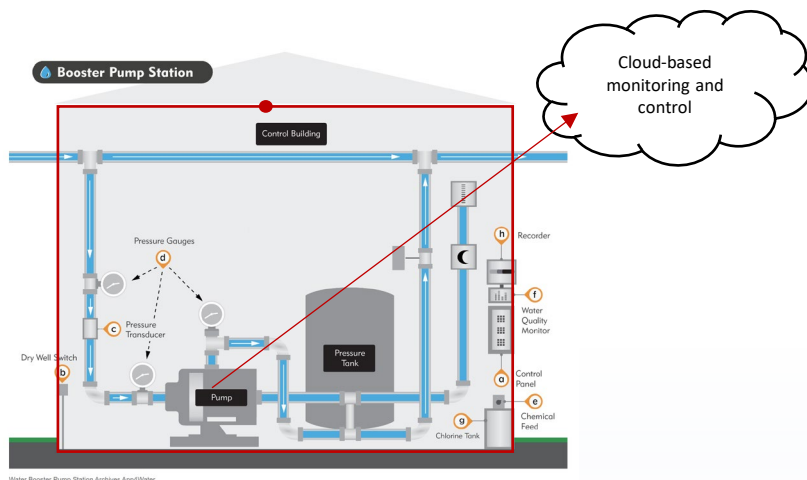
- *What if an attacker turned all of the pumps on or off?*
 - We use manual operations and contact the vendor. We predict very little loss from this scenario.
- *What if the application vendor reported an adversary attack?*
 - We return to manual operations and have a contract vehicle to ensure we can staff that for up to 2 weeks.
- *What if the application stopped working?*
 - See above. After two weeks, we would need to arrange for emergency staffing.
- *What if the cloud vendor had ransomware?*
 - See above.

Engineering Information Control

KEY QUESTION

How do I manage knowledge about my system? How do I keep it out of the wrong hands?

- *How much information about this upgrade must be shared?*
 - Municipal water activities are public record.
 - High level information about this upgrade must be shared.
 - What should we share and what should we withhold?



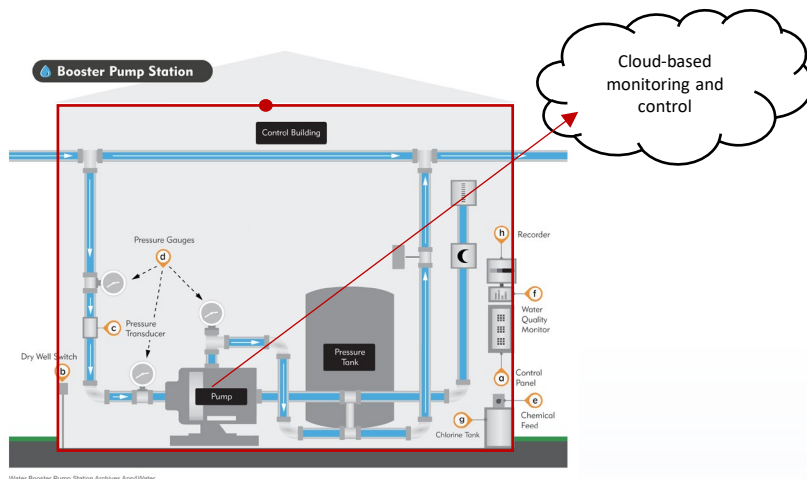
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Engineering Information Control

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How do I manage knowledge about my system? How do I keep it out of the wrong hands?

- *How much information about this upgrade must be shared?*
 - Municipal water activities are public record.
 - High level information about this upgrade must be shared.
 - Engineering team recommends to leadership that the specific vendor, product name, and cloud vendor name be kept out of the record.



<https://www.app4water.com/product-category/applications/booster-pump-station/>

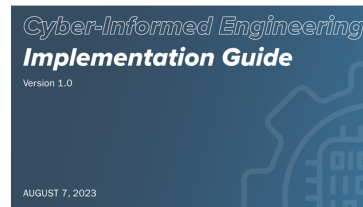
Cybersecurity Culture

KEY QUESTION

How do I ensure that everyone performs their role aligned with our security goals?

Organizational Review Board Votes

- Finance / Accounting – ☒
- Information Technology – ☒
- Cybersecurity – ☒
- Engineering Operations – ☐ →



- *How do we build an inclusive cybersecurity culture?*
 - The fact that engineering could drive the implementation based on potential impacts of a cyber attack was a major change.
- What functions within our organization are critical to our security? What do we need them to know / do?

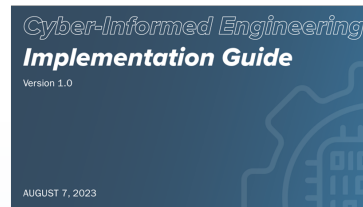
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- *How do we build an inclusive cybersecurity culture?*
 - The fact that engineering could drive the implementation based on potential impacts of a cyber attack was a major change.
- Engineering will need to talk to procurement to ensure resiliency resources are obtained.

So Where from here with CIE?

CIE Implementation Guide

<https://www.osti.gov/servlets/purl/1995796>

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
Cybersecurity and
Energy Security

Cyber-Informed
Engineering
Implementation Guide
Version 1.0

DRAFT

AUGUST 7, 2023

PRINCIPLE 1
Consequence

KEY QUESTION
How do I understand and ensure and the under

Principle Description

Apply CIE strategies first and foremost to the system performs. Typically these are functions subverted, could result in unacceptable or catastrophic consequences to the organization, including undesired impacts to the environment, availability or effectiveness of product integrity, and public image. Use a structured approach to identify areas where digital technology is used within the system. Consider where an unprotected action or failure of digital technology might lead to a high-consequence event, including unauthorized system actions, invalid data, automated action, or interdiction of a digitally enabled control that exist to minimize impacts of misuse. Controls that are implemented via digital technology or a combination of both.

This list of high-impact consequences underpin the system perform throughout the system design lifecycle and their priority within each CIE principle. For the work above, engineers will consider engineering controls (e.g., 2: Engineered Controls), that could either remove or mitigate its consequences.

4 This idea aligns with ISA/IEC 62443 "Assess, Design, Implement, Operate, and Maintain" (ADOM) model. While the system may not have changed, the patches and updates are considered consequences. The reassessment should be performed.

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PRINCIPLE 1 PHASE 1 A

PRINCIPLE 1: CONSEQUENCE MITIGATION
CONCEPT PHASE (continued)

5 What business consequences are at risk?
a Which part of the system is at risk?
b Which results in unacceptable risk management?
c Which consequences are unacceptable?
distinct consequences

6 What regional or system failure consequences are at risk?
a What entities are at risk?
b What changes from regional or system failure?

7 What crucial assets are at risk?
a What violations are at risk?

8 Where might critical assets be at risk?
a At each instance of the asset?

9 Are there adverse consequences?
a What circuitry is at risk?
b In adverse consequences?

10 What staffing or training consequences are at risk?
a Where might support or training be at risk?
b What are the consequences?

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CIE Engineering Lifecycle

Concept	Requirements	Design	Development	Testing, Verification, Validation, and Deployment	Operations and Maintenance
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Water Sector Engineering Lifecycle

Planning Concept	Preliminary Design Report	Detailed Design	Construction and Commissioning	Operations and Maintenance
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First point in the Engineering Lifecycle that the example is considered

Continuation of the example through the Engineering Lifecycle

PRINCIPLE	CIE CONTROL/MITIGATION EXAMPLE	Planning Concept	Preliminary Design Report	Detailed Design	Construction and Commissioning	Operations and Maintenance
Principle 6: Active Defense	6-1 Implement an OT network monitoring solution. Design network to support data collection by sensors. Employ Zero Trust Architecture where possible. 6-2 Generate documentation on how to detect early warning signs and how to block, disconnect, and isolate network connection/device(s).					
Principle 7: Interdependency Evaluation	7-1 Implement continuous inter-departmental training to build relationships between different disciplines which will facilitate communication during emergency situations. 7-2 Ensure multiple sources are available for any dependency on outside inputs.					
Principle 8: Digital Asset Awareness	8-1 Adopt a commercial off the shelf OT network monitoring solution that uses passive data collection to build an asset inventory. 8-2 Regularly update the software and firmware on all devices found in the inventory					
Principle 9: Cyber-Secure Supply Chain Controls	9-1 Include security requirements in RFPs and contracts, develop a Secure Software Lifecycle Development program and implement tight vendor controls.					
Principle 10: Planned Resilience	10-1 Install hardwired controls for all critical systems. 10-2 Generate documentation and train staff to expect that any digital component can become compromised and lose functionality and know how to operate in manual.					

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