

Control Systems Security Working Group Scope

Statement of Need

The Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee (CIPC) has created working groups and task forces to manage the objectives and deliverables of the cyber and physical security challenges facing NERC and the electricity sector.

Background

Originally formed in 2005, the Control Systems Security Working Group (CSSWG) is charged with working as a cross-functional team. The asset owners and vendors are tasked to develop economical procedures that apply security into existing systems, as well as, built-in security into newly designed or delivered systems. In addition, the CSSWG looks at control systems specific issues, such as patch installation and management, which cannot be blindly adopted from the traditional IT methodologies.

CSSWG Objectives/Duties

- Actively stay informed through participation in, or liaison with, NERC groups, other industry groups, government, and vendors to enhance their understanding of security issues within control systems;
 - Provide guidance and recommendations to asset owners to improve the security and protection of control systems used by the electricity sector by:
 - Creating and publishing electricity sector specific documents and guidelines for administration and maintenance of control systems in areas related to system security;
 - Assisting CIPC and the standard drafting teams with guidance related to the protection of control systems;
 - Assist with the implementation of programs outlined in the CIPC Strategic Plan.
 - Research and recommend activities to CIPC Executive Committee (EC) that improve the security of Bulk Electric System (BES) facilities;
 - Volunteer control systems cybersecurity expertise to liaise and coordinate with the Events Analysis Subcommittee (EAS) as required.

Members and Structure

The CSSWG will generally follow the organizational structure and voting rights of the CIPC with the following additions:

- Non-voting members who are industry subject matter experts, for the work at hand.

- A NERC staff member will be assigned as the non-voting CSSWG Coordinator.
- The CSSWG chair and vice-chair will be appointed by the CIPC EC.

Reporting

The CSSWG shall coordinate reports with, and administratively report to the CIPC EC. As requested, the CSSWG chair or designee shall issue progress reports for all:

- CIPC EC meetings
- CIPC meetings

CSSWG Deliverables and Work Schedule

- There will be four to six meetings per year. Emphasis will be given to conference calls and web-based meetings.
- Research and recommend activities to the CIPC EC that improve the security of BES facilities.
- Provide guidance and recommendations to CIPC and asset owners that improve the security and protection of control systems used by the electricity sector by:
 - Developing and publishing, on an as needed basis, electricity sector specific documents and guidelines for administration and maintenance of control systems in areas related to system security;
 - Assisting NERC departments, CIPC, and standard drafting teams with guidance related to the protection of control systems;
 - Assist CIPC and CIPC EC with the implementation of programs outlined in the CIPC Strategic Plan; and