Systems of Cyber Resilience: Electricity

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Since 2018, CISOs from Electricity Industry companies around the world have joined our dialogues on **enhancing the resilience of critical electricity infrastructure**.

A public-private collaboration initiative bringing together committed leaders from companies, government entities and academia, who meet regularly in a trusted, neutral environment.
What is different about electricity?

- Interdependent ecosystem
- Culture of compliance
- Siloed approach to cyber resilience

Taking into account the differential characteristics of the electricity ecosystem:

- Potential for cascading effects
- Real time supply of electricity
- Legacy equipment & the integration of IT and OT
- Culture of compliance
A new approach to security is required

- Evolving electricity industry
- Global regulatory environment
- Rapid change of cyberthreat landscape

**Energy system today**
Linear, one-directional flows of energy

- Majority large generation assets
- Top-down energy distribution
- One-way digital communication

**Future Energy system**
Integrated, multilateral flows of energy

- Customer-centric energy
- Decentralized, agile, collections of real-time, networked assets
- Entrance of new players

- Increased Digitization
- IT-OT convergence
Securing the operations is a shared responsibility that requires secure products to be integrated into a secure system and operated in a secure context.
Electricity Industry Value Chain Security

Effective and sustainable measures for protecting the electricity industry supply and value chains go beyond securing individual products or systems, driving the need for a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities throughout the entire lifecycle of the system...

Roles  Phases

- Product supplier  - Product supply
- System integrator  - Solution design and Commissioning
- Asset owner  - Operations
- Asset (less) operator

... as a starting point for further dialogue and action on supply chain resilience

http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Securing_the_Electricity_Value_Chain_2020.pdf
Recommendations to Improve Regulatory Practices

- Regulators worldwide should agree on **global risk-based regulatory guidance**, while retaining the flexibility to tailor their regulations in a way that reflects their national and ecosystem-specific interests.

- Regulatory approach should promote **cyber resilience and a risk-based approach** (vs a “checkbox mentality”) enabling businesses to allocate resources more efficiently and to keep pace with the fast changing electricity ecosystem and evolving threat landscape.

- Regulation should address dependencies in the **utility value chain** (utilities, manufacturers, prosumers, etc.) to ensure the safe, reliable operation of the electricity sector, including consideration of security architectures along with certification efforts.

- Regulation should promote greater **ecosystem-wide and cross-border collaboration** and encourage actionable information-sharing by private-sector actors, government entities and law enforcement agencies.