Rocking the Pocket Book: Hacking Chemical Plants for Competition and Extortion

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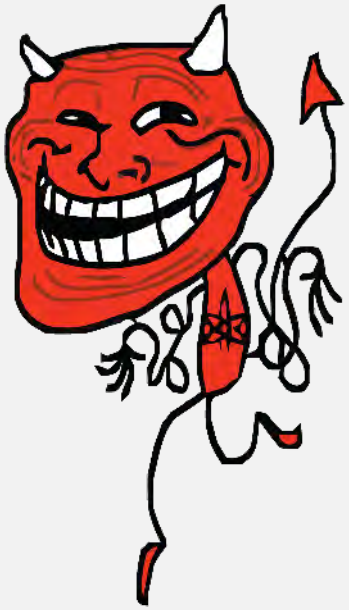
07.08.2015

Who we are

(Ex)Academic

Got hooked on cyber-physical hacking



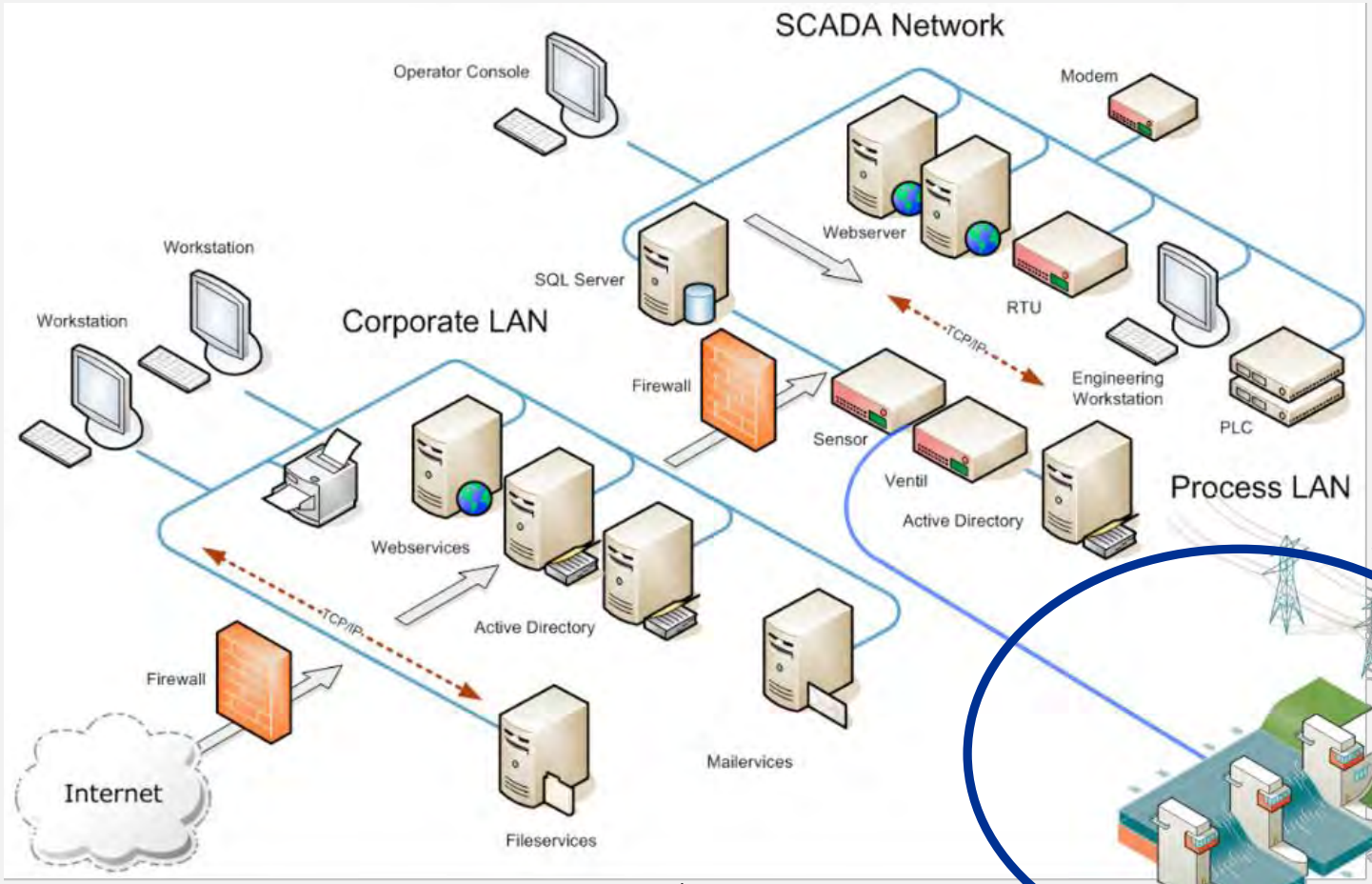
Hacker

Dragged into academic world against own will

Motivation

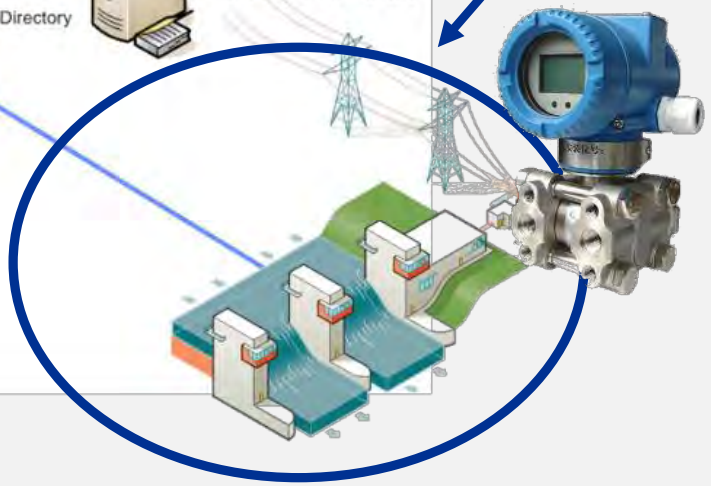
Industrial Control Systems

Industrial Control Systems aka SCADA



Curtesy: Compass Security Germany GmbH

Physical application



Industry means big business
Big business == $$$$$$$

Here's a plant. What is the plan?

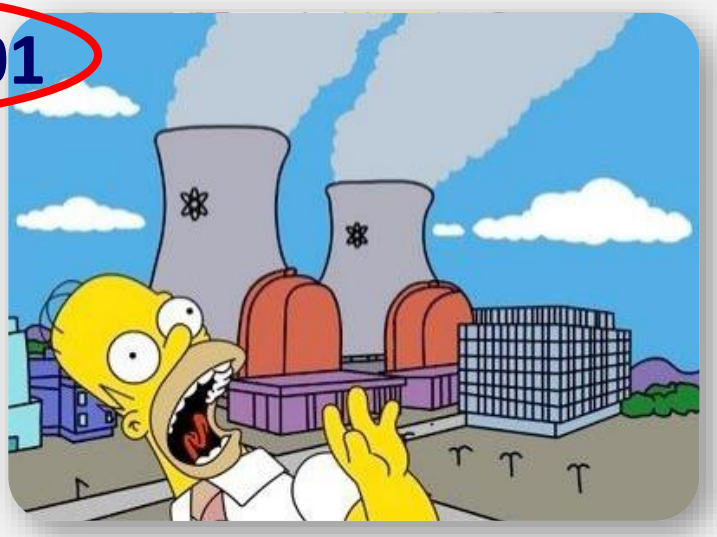
Attack scenario: persistent economic damage

How do we do it??

010011011011101

Missing piece of knowledge

Some horrible physical consequences



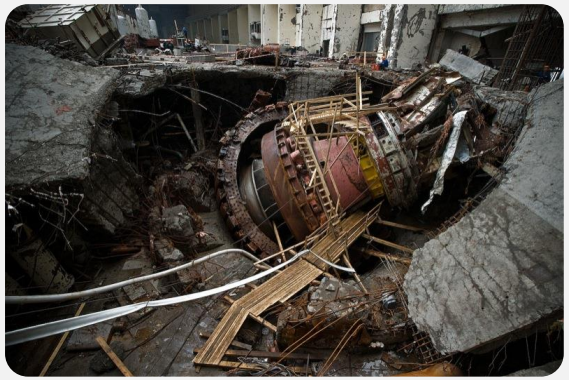
Typical understanding of SCADA hacking

Source: simentari.com

What can be done to the process

Equipment damage

- Equipment overstress
- Violation of safety limits



Production damage

- Product quality and product rate
- Operating costs
- Maintenance efforts

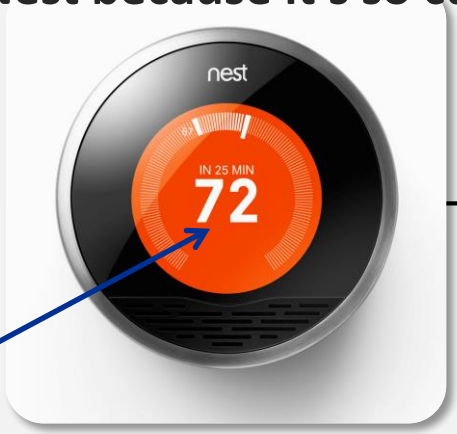
Compliance violation

- Safety (occupational, environment)
- Pollution (environment)
- Contractual agreements

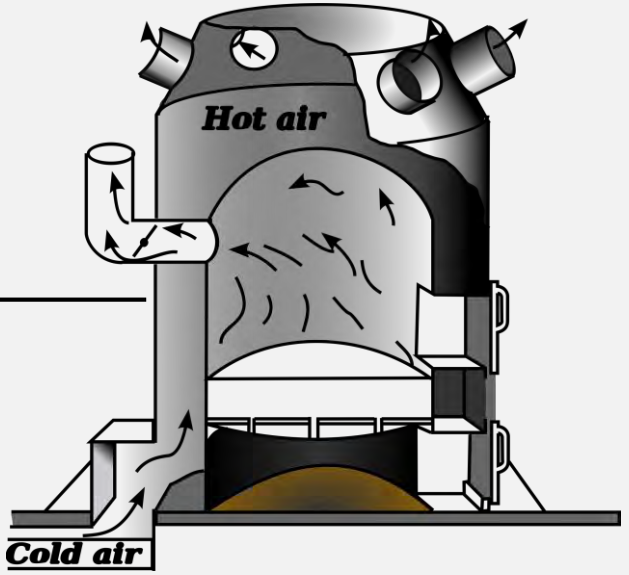
Process control

Process control automation

(Nest because it's so cute!)

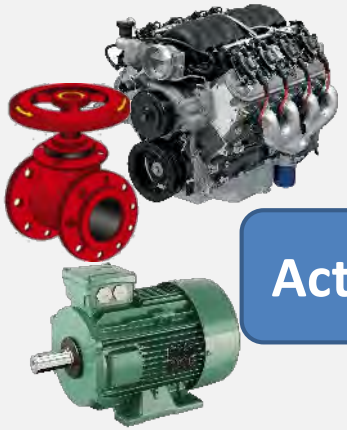


Set point



Running upstairs to turn on your furnace every time it gets cold gets tiring after a while so you automate it with a thermostat

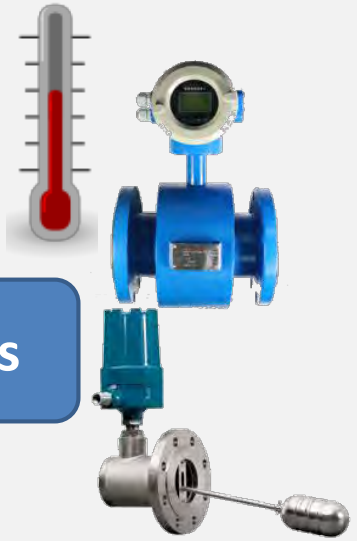
Control loop



Actuators

Physical process

Sensors

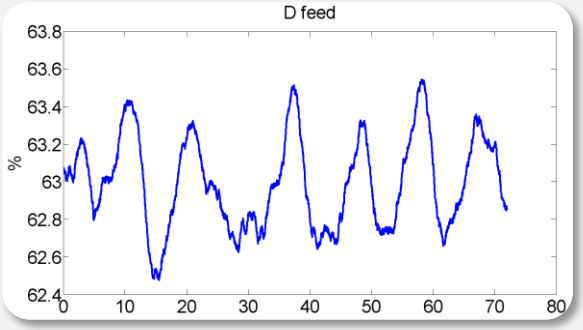


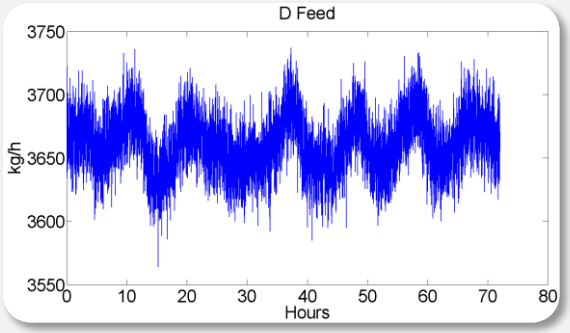
Adjust themselves to influence process behavior

Control system

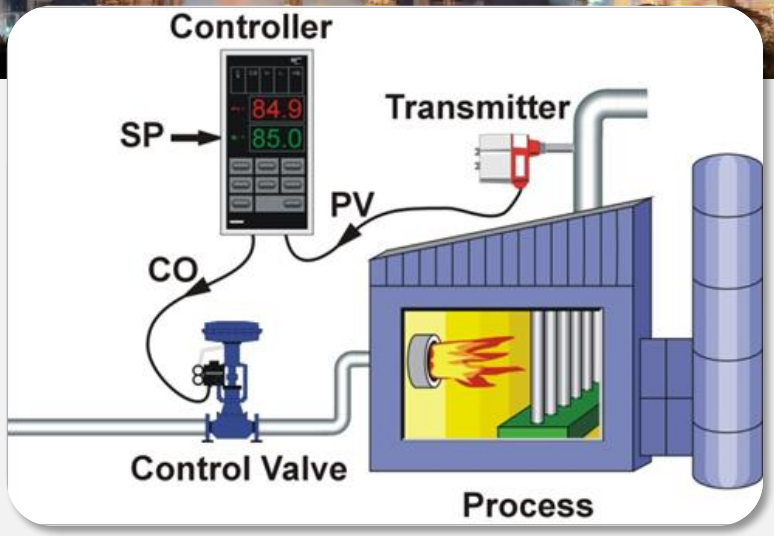
Measure process state

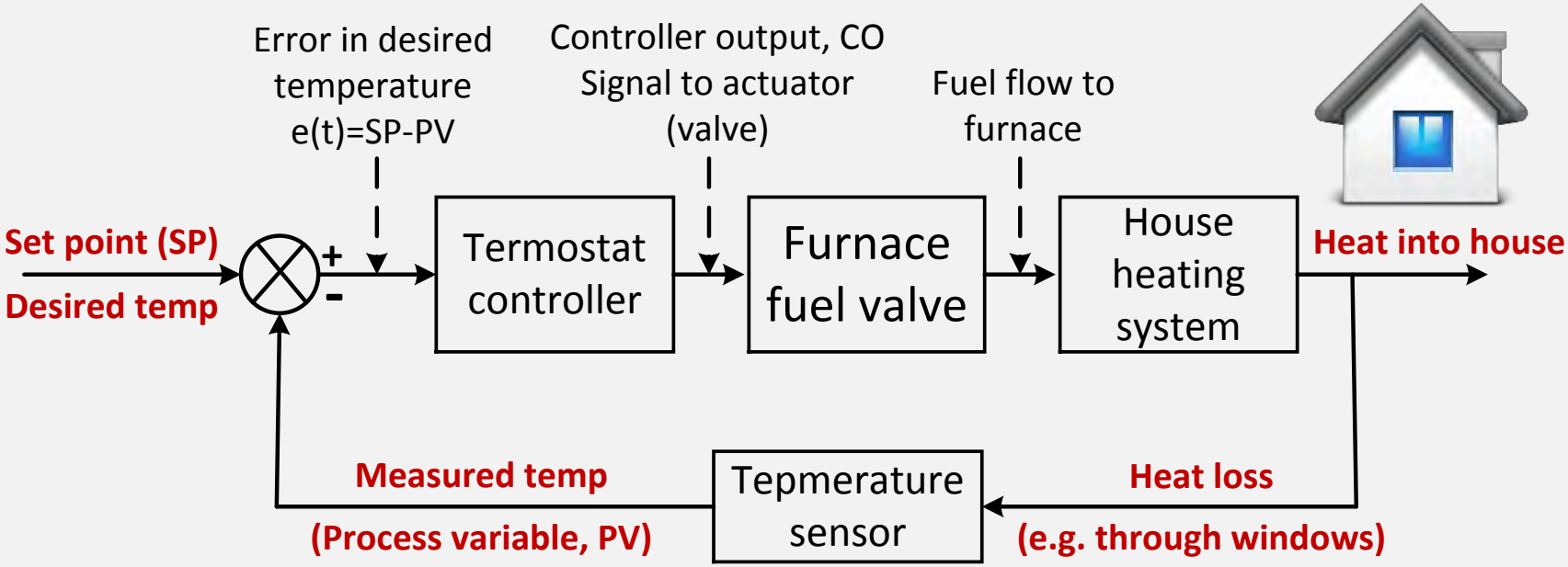
Computes control commands for actuators



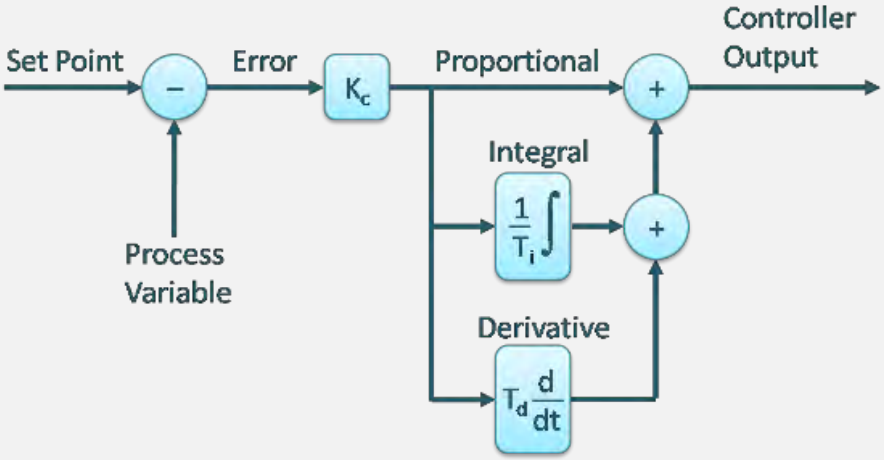


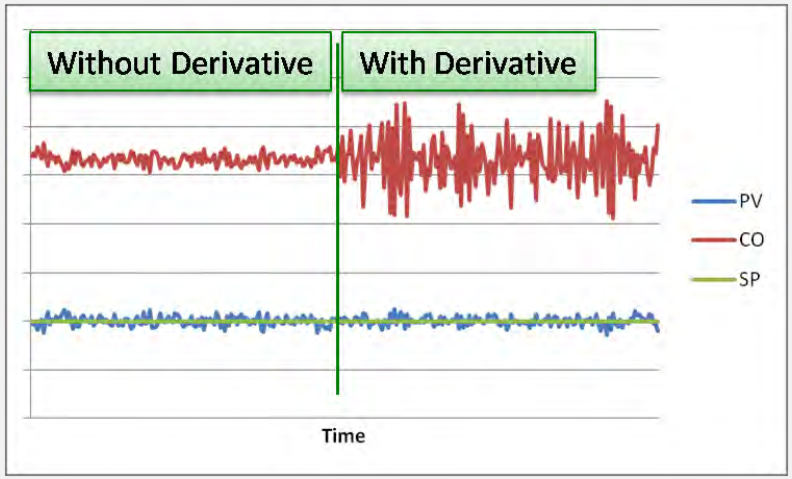
Control system





PID control





$$u(t) = MV(t) = K_p e(t) + K_i \int_0^t e(\tau)\,d\tau + K_d \frac{d}{dt} e(t)$$

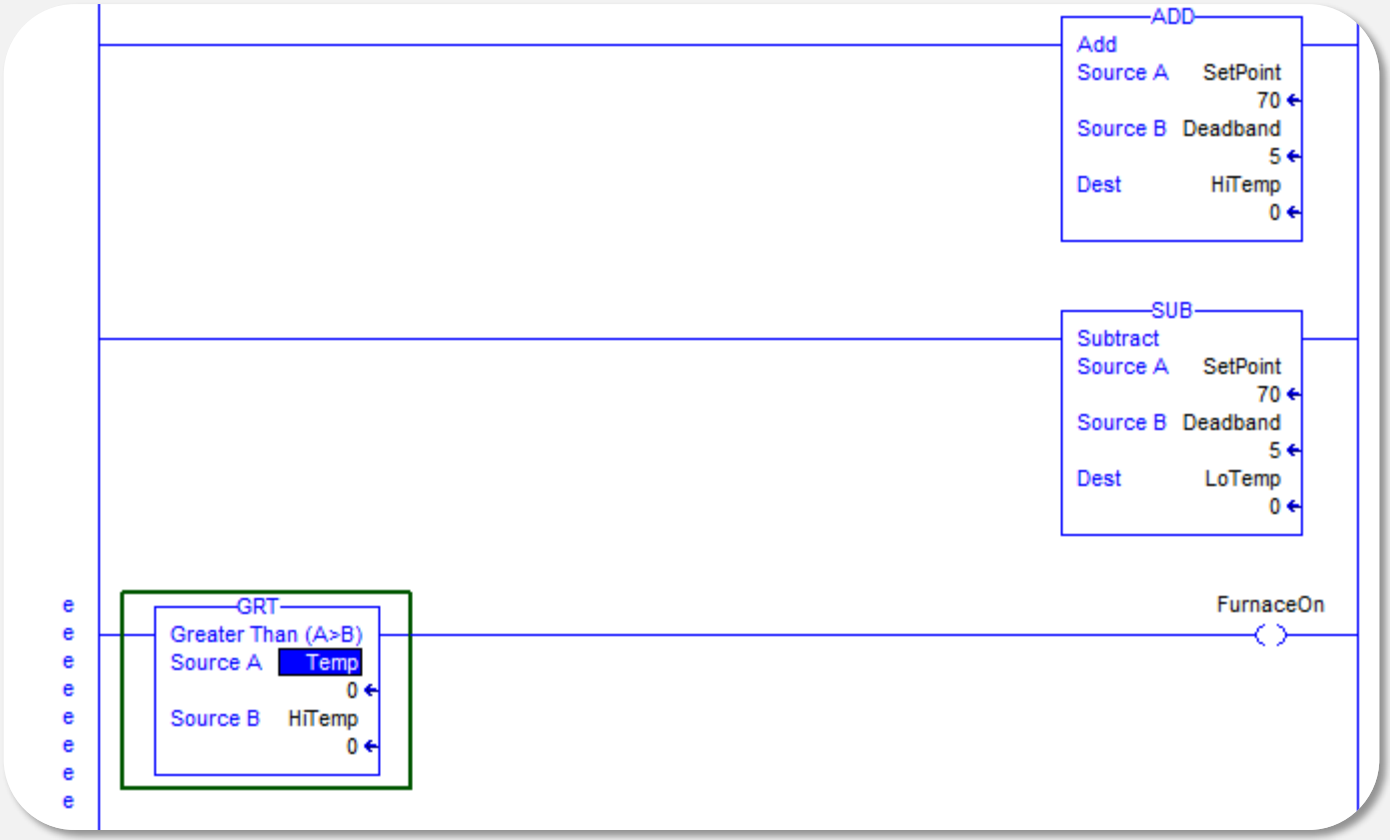
- **PID: proportional, integral, derivative –** most widely used control algorithm on the planet
- Sum of 3 components make final control signal
- Full PID control is hard(er) and used for tight control (e.g. temperature in the reactor)

Jacques Smuts „Process Control for Practitioners“

Control logic

- Obviously control logic gets more complex than a thermostat
- You'll need something bigger than a thermostat to handle it all
- Most of the time this is a programmable logic controller (PLC)
- It is programmed graphically most of the time

Control logic



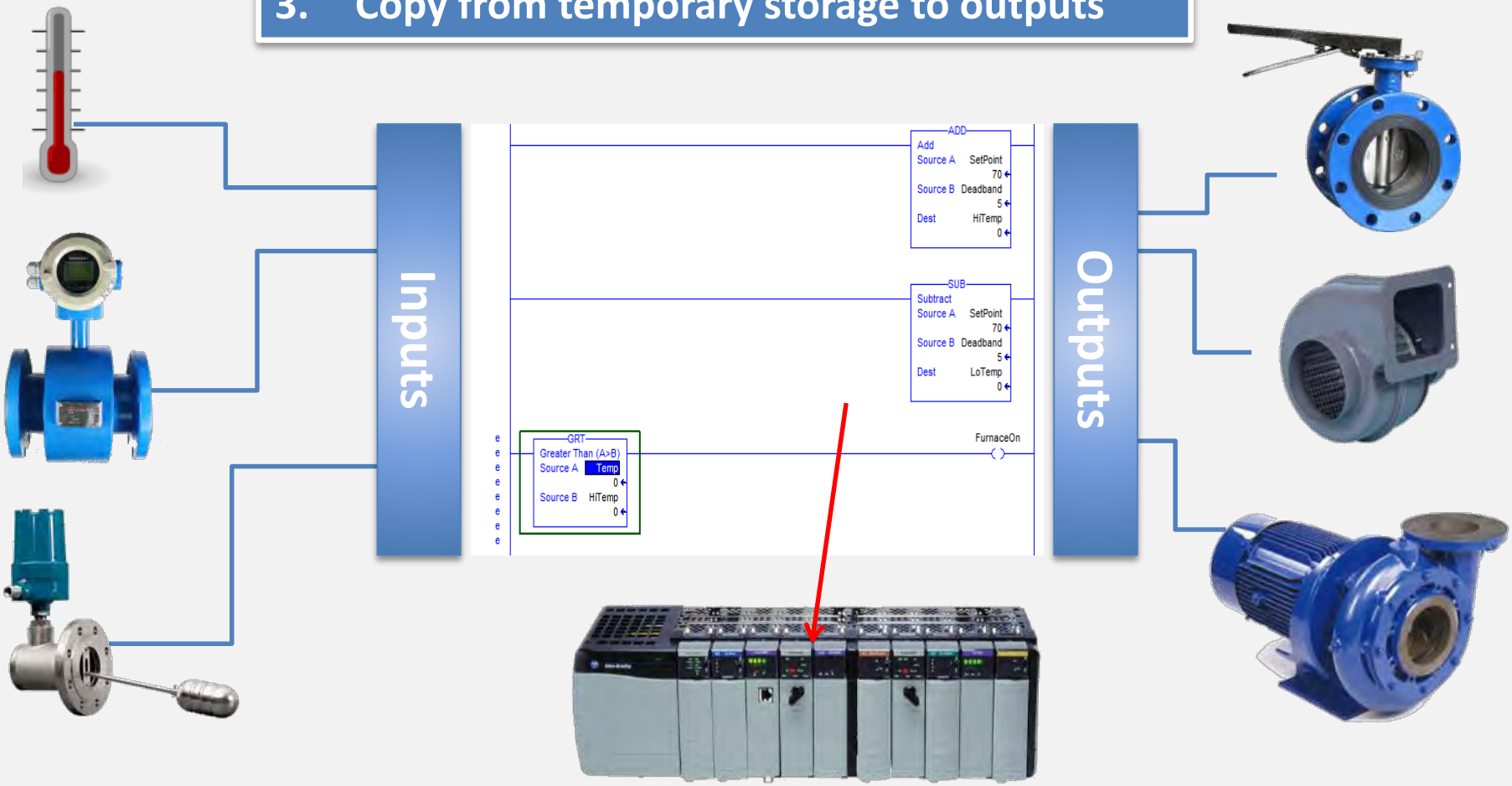
Computer scientists: Noooooooo!!!! Just give me a real language!

PLC internals

1. Copy data from inputs to temporary storage
2. Run logic
3. Copy from temporary storage to outputs

Sensors

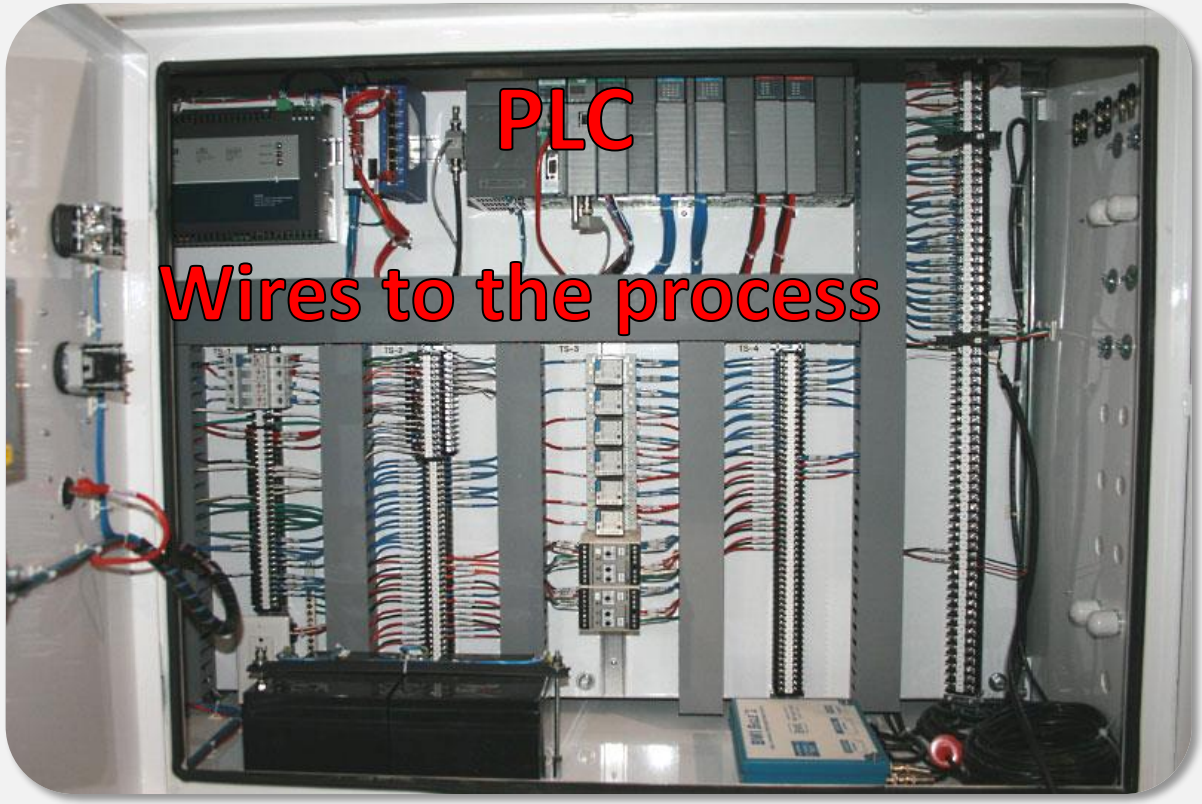
Actuators



Field communication

- 4-20 mA
- 0-10 v
- Air pressure

Usually process values are scaled into meaningful data in the PLC



Wires are run from sensors and actuators into wiring cabinets

PLC cannot do it alone

- PLC does not have the complete picture and time trends
- Human operators watch the process 7/24

IT hacking vs. OT hacking

OT hacking

Phase 1: Gain access

Phase 2: ?

Phase 3: Pwned

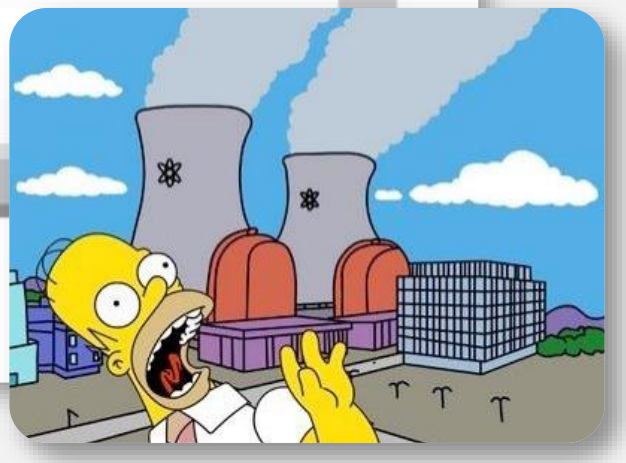
OT hacking

OT hacking

Phase 1: Gain access

Phase 2: ?

Phase 3: Pwned



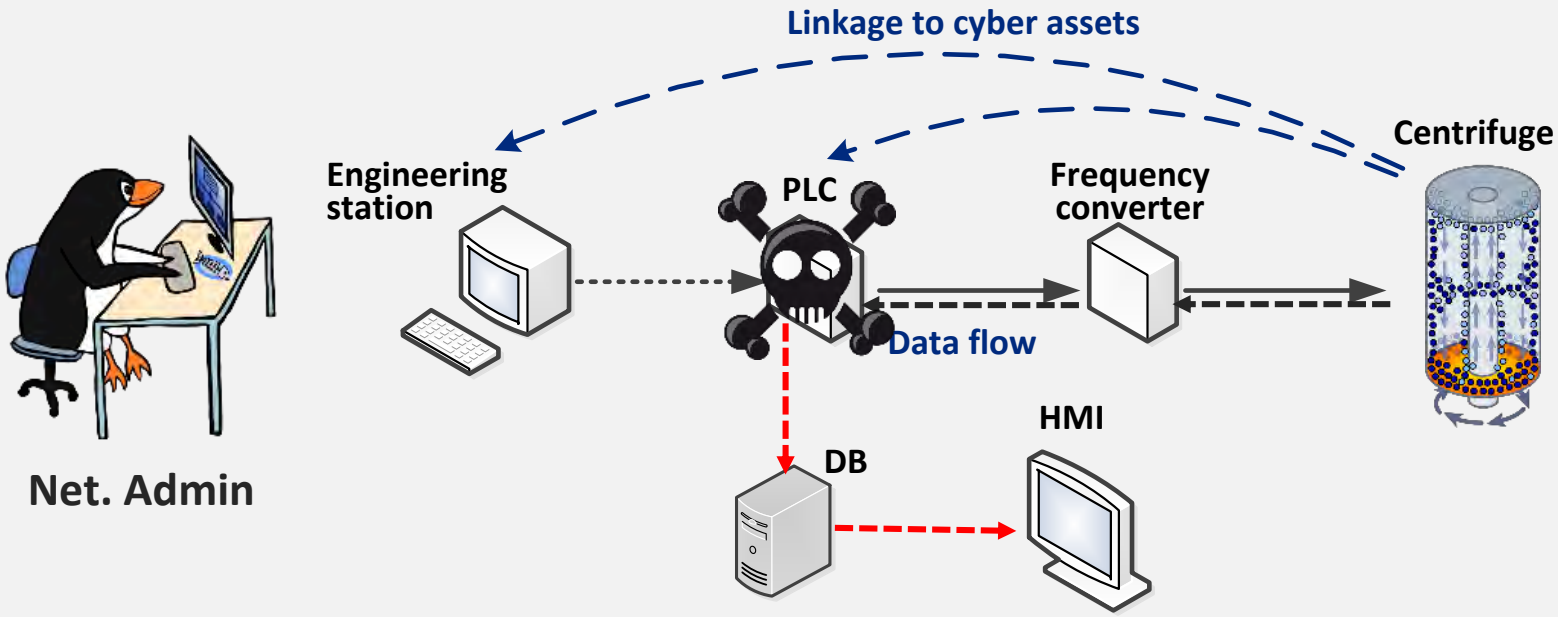
OT wizardry

You can do unfocused and uncontrolled magic without a wand but to do really good spells, yes, you need a wand.

Joanne Rowling, 2001

- An attacker with an objective beyond simple mayhem will want to reliably manipulate the process
- This is achieved by obtaining and remaining in control of the process
- In the context of OT hacking the “focused magic” is achieved with control theory methods

Example: attack on process data flow



Operator

Data integrity: packet injection; replay; data manipulation; …

DoS: DoS; DDoS; flooding; starvation;….

OT hacker

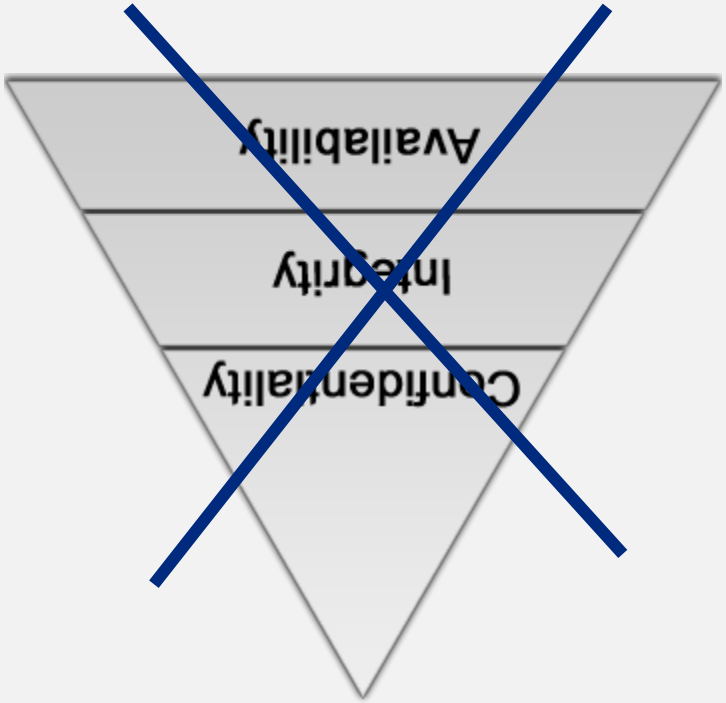
Controllability

Observability

- During the attack the hacker herself must be process engineer, control engineer and process operator
- **Process operator and hacker rival for control over the process**

Process-related security properties

HOLY TRINITY



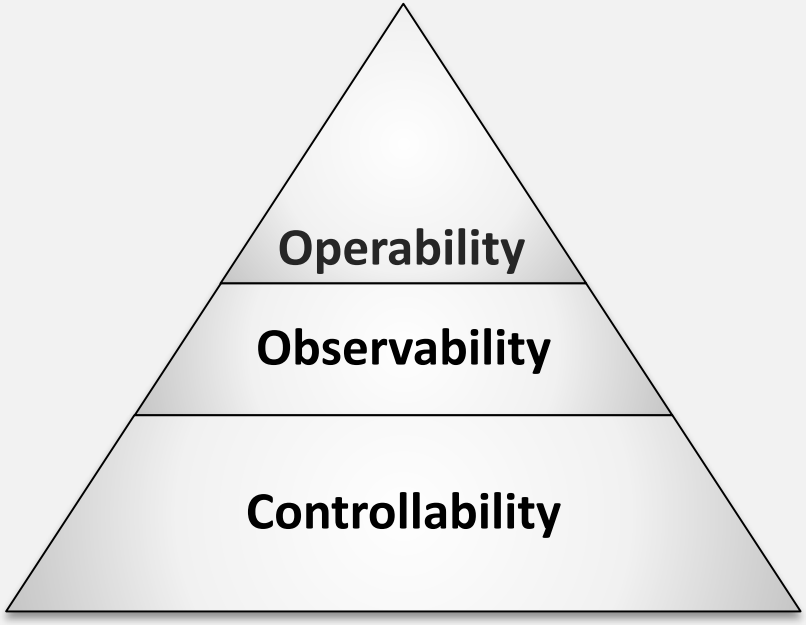
IT domain

Process control

Process-related security properties

HOLY TRINITY

IT domain



Process control

Process-related security properties

HOLY TRINITY

CIA

Information security

CO2

Process control security

Haters gonna hate…

Process control challenges

- There are some things in a process that are impossible to understand or model
- All is not lost, the process can still be (controllably) destabilized

Consider a car and a driver

- The attacker wants to drive the car off the road
  - She has control of the brakes
- The attacker closes the left front brake 100% and the car pulls to the left
- The driver compensates by steering to the right eventually coming back into a straight line

Consider a car and a driver

- The attacker responds by letting go of the left brake and applying the right brake 100%
- The driver responds by steering to the right until the car is straight again
- The attacker responds by swapping back and forth between the brakes

- **The driver responds by steering back and forth to the rhythm of the brakes keeping the car more-or-less straight**

Consider a car and a driver

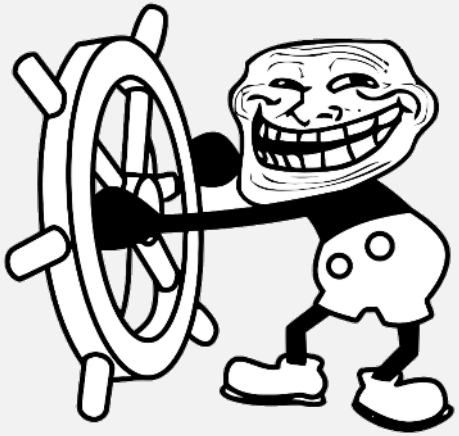
- The attacker responds by swapping brakes whenever the driver starts to compensate
- Eventually the attacker will win since a computer is faster than a human

Multi-adaptive

- In the example above, the human is the “hidden actor” in the process that can’t be modeled or predicted
- Any subset of a process can be modeled as a “hidden actor” and potentially destabilized
- We call the algorithms that counter the feedback loops in the process “multi-adaptive” algorithms

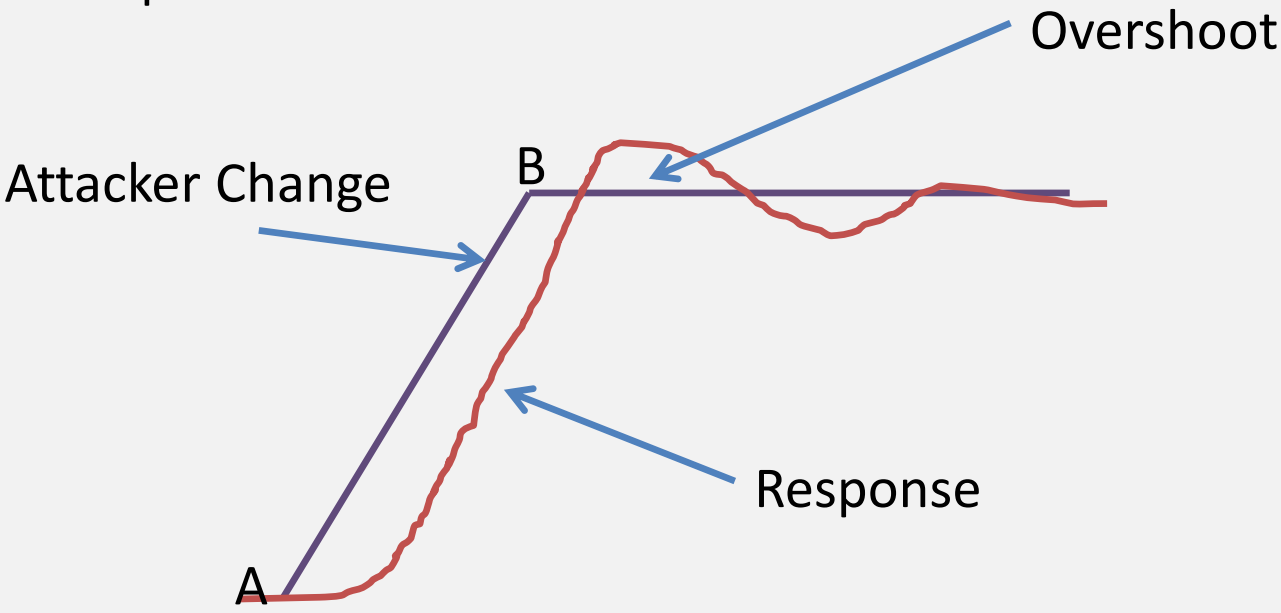
Controlled uncontrollability

- Multi-Adaptive algorithms work just like PID autotuners except **they try to maximize the error instead of minimizing it**
- The algorithm learns the behavior of the hidden actor and then compensates for it
- **Everything the control loop does makes things worse**



Proportional

$$U_p = Ke(t) + U_b$$



Adjust the slope of AB to maximize overshoot

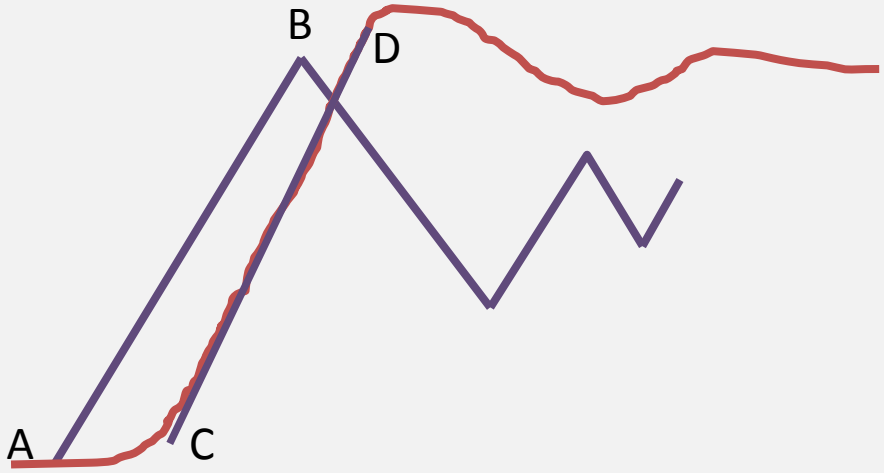
Integral

$$U_I(t)=K/T_i*Sum(e(t)+u(0))$$

If that fails, adjust period of AB->AB maximizing the running total error

Derivative

$$U_d(t)=KT_d*de(t)/dt$$



If that fails, adjust the rate of period change to maximize the angle between AB and CD

Demo

<Robotic arm demo here>

Multi-adaptive

- A single algorithm can be used as a payload to disrupt many types of processes
- Crash a car or overpressure a loop
- Correlation engines can be used to automatically pair actuators with sensors
- Think of this as process “fuzzing”

Get the party started!

Car vs. plant hacking

It is not about the size

It is about MONEY
Plants are ouch! how expensive

Plants for sale

From LinkedIn, really ;-)

+Follow Tommy

Used VAM - Vinyl Acetate Monomer plant for sale & relocation! If any interest, please contact me!

Tommy Heino
Industrialist & Entrepreneur, Owner, XHL Business Engineering
Top Contributor

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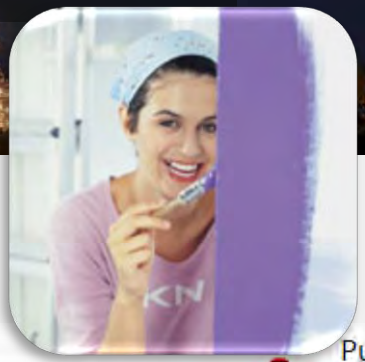
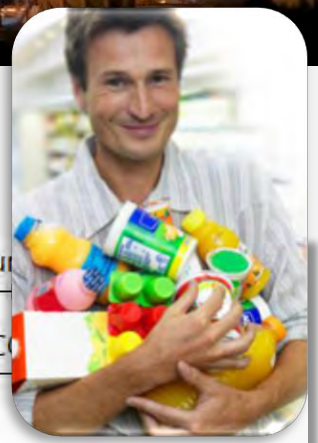
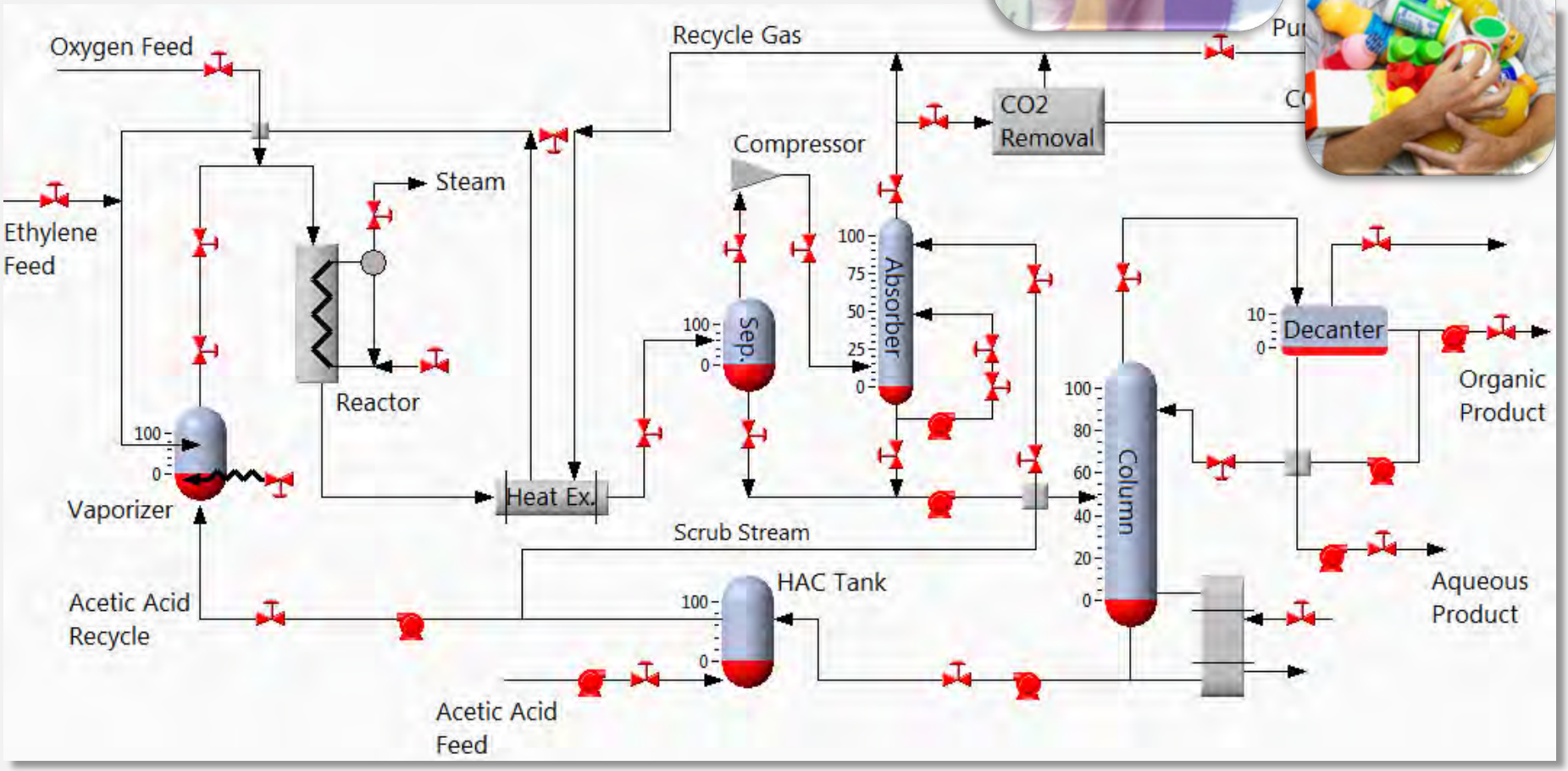
Vinyl Acetate Monomer plant (model)



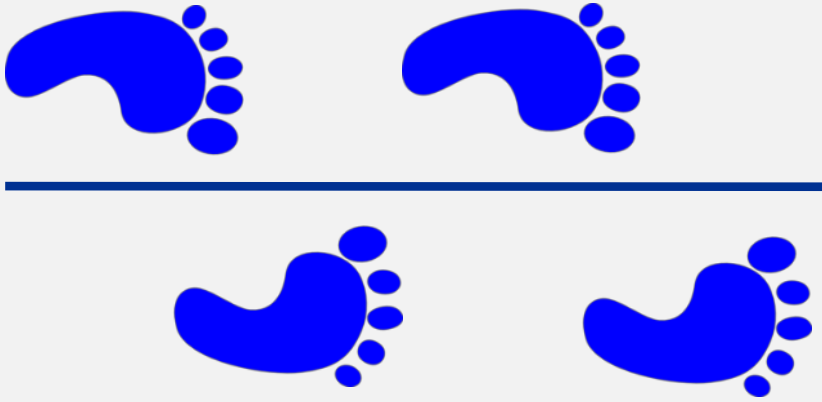




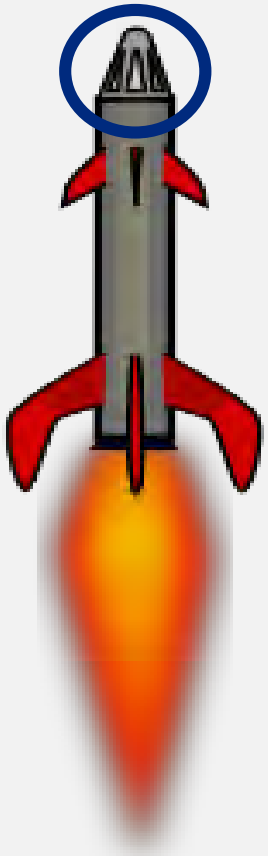
Stages of cyber-physical attacks

Attack objective

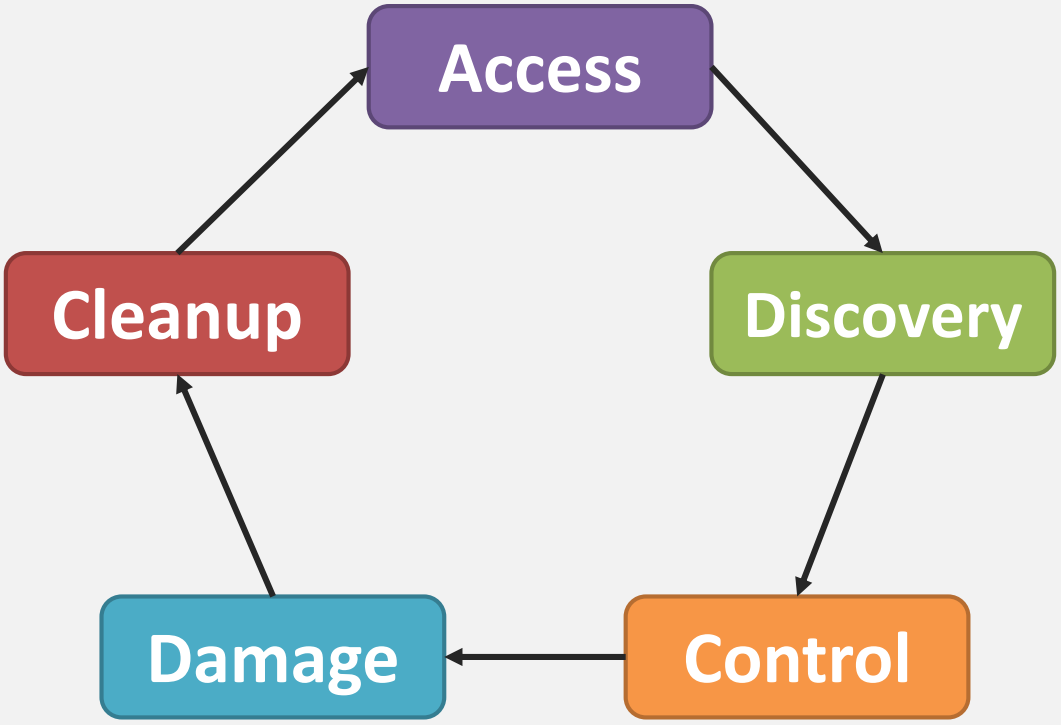
Evil motivation



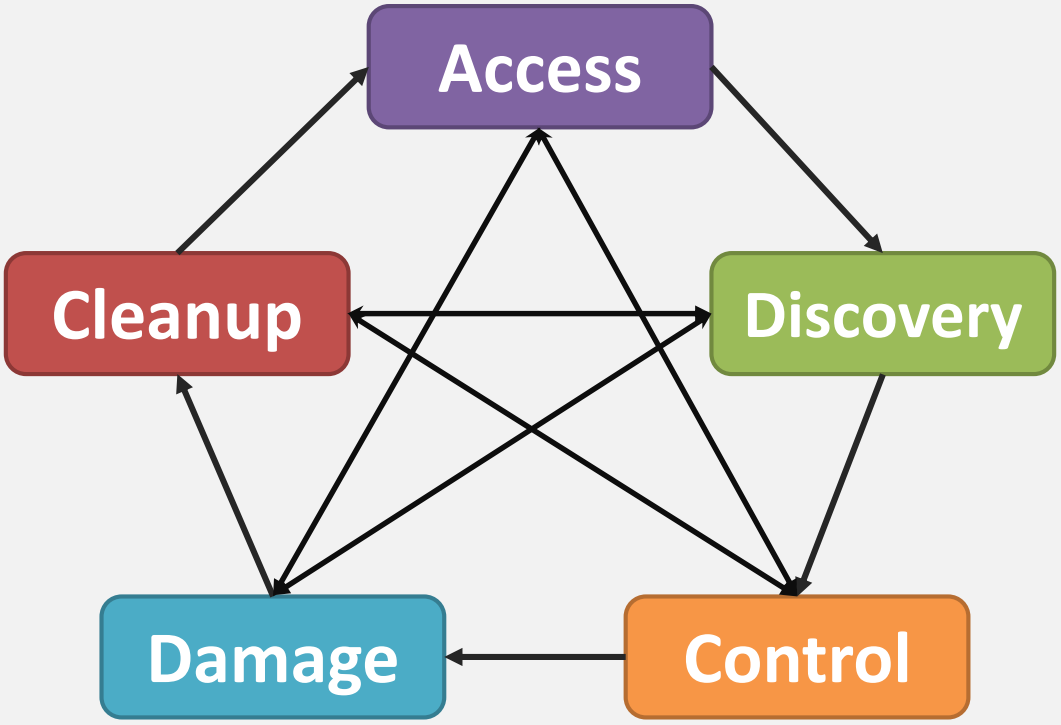
Cyber-physical payload



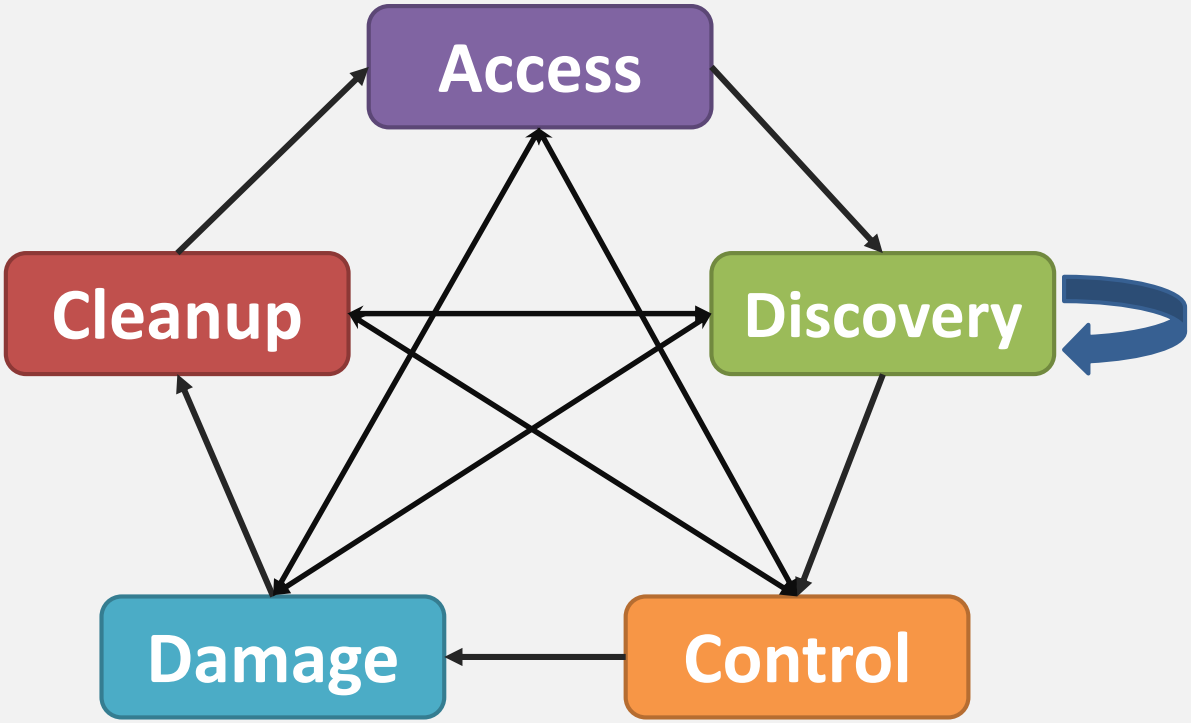
Stages of SCADA attack



Stages of SCADA attack



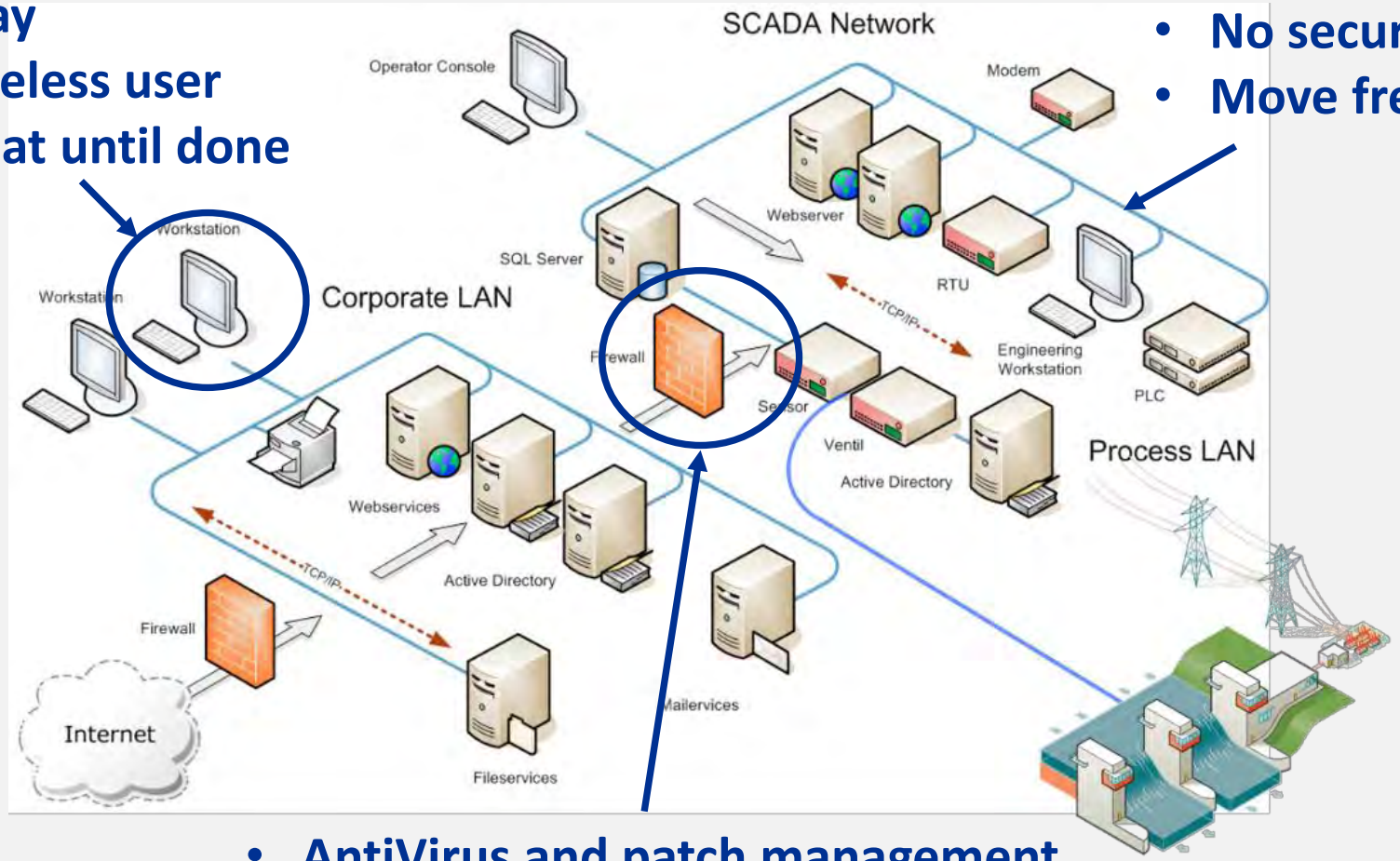
Stages of SCADA attack



Access

Traditional IT hacking

- 1 0day
- 1 Clueless user
- Repeat until done



- No security
- Move freely

- AntiVirus and patch management
- Database links
- Backup systems

Smart instrumentation

- Converts analog signal into digital
- Sensors pre-process the measurements
- May send data directly to actuators
- IP-enabled (part of the “Internet-of-Things”)

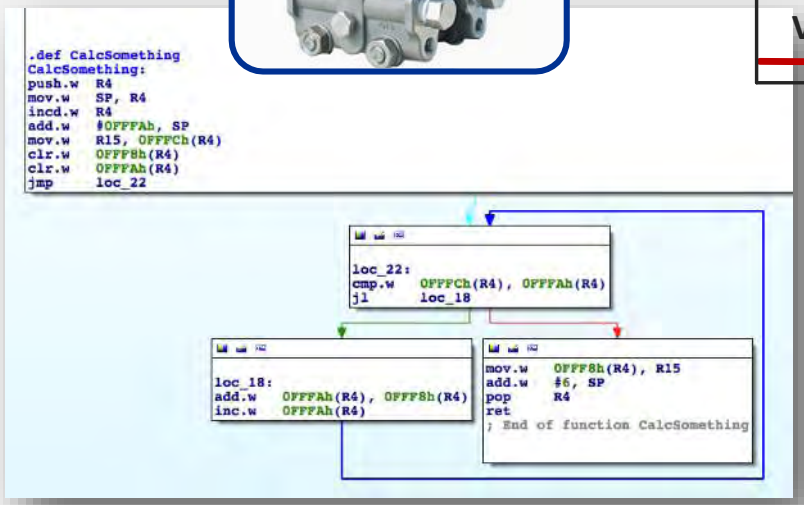
Old generation temperature sensor

Sensor

Computational element

Invading field devices

- Jason Larsen at Black Hat'15 "Miniaturization"
  - Inserting rootkit into firmware

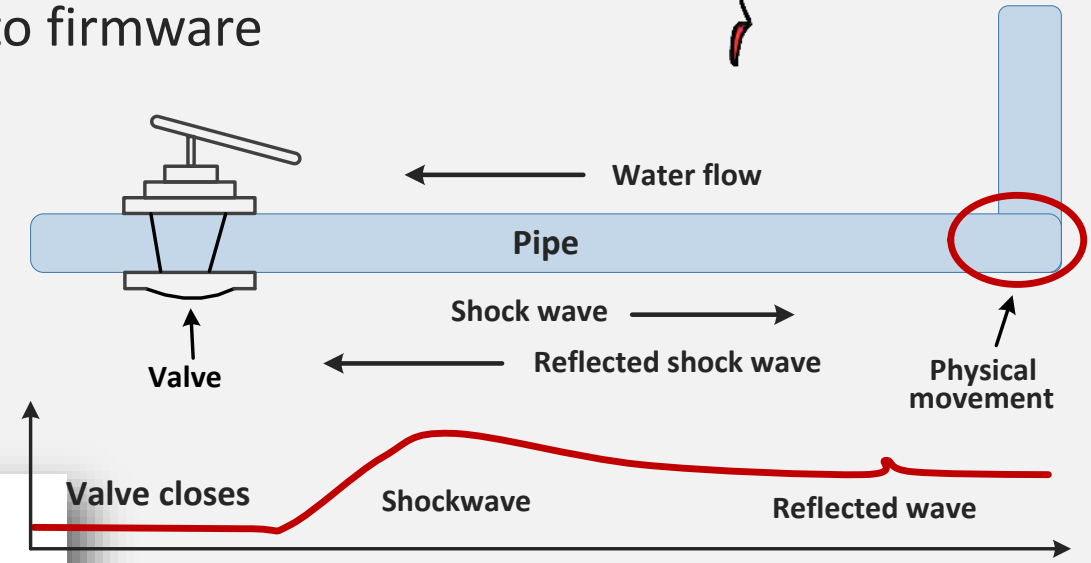


```
.def CalcSomething
CalcSomething:
push.w  R4
mov.w   SP, R4
incd.w  R4
add.w   #0FFFAh, SP
mov.w   R15, 0FFFCh(R4)
clr.w   0FFF8h(R4)
clr.w   0FFFAh(R4)
jmp     loc_22
```

```
loc_22:
cmp.w   0FFFCh(R4), 0FFFAh(R4)
jl      loc_18
```

```
loc_18:
add.w   0FFFAh(R4), 0FFF8h(R4)
inc.w   0FFFAh(R4)
```

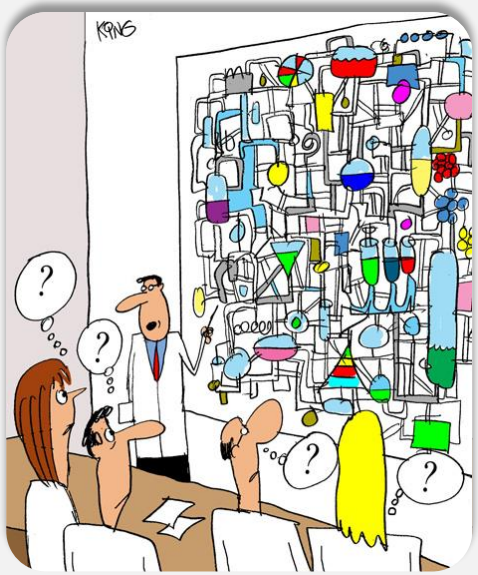
```
mov.w   0FFF8h(R4), R15
add.w   #6, SP
pop     R4
ret
; End of function CalcSomething
```



Attack scenario: pipe damage with water hammer

Discovery

Process discovery



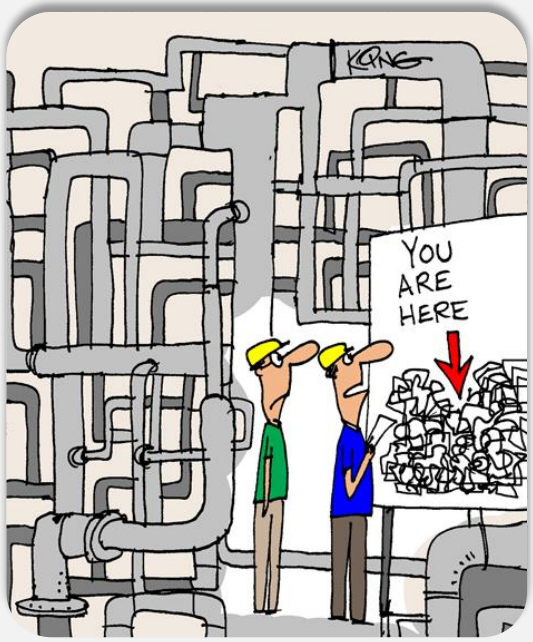
What and how the process is producing

Espionage

How it is controlled

Espionage, reconnaissance

Espionage, reconnaissance

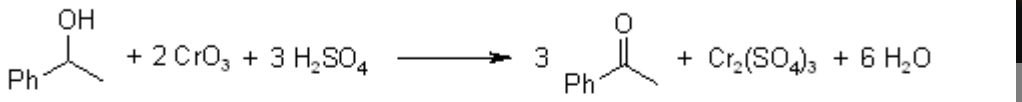


How it is build and wired

Process discovery

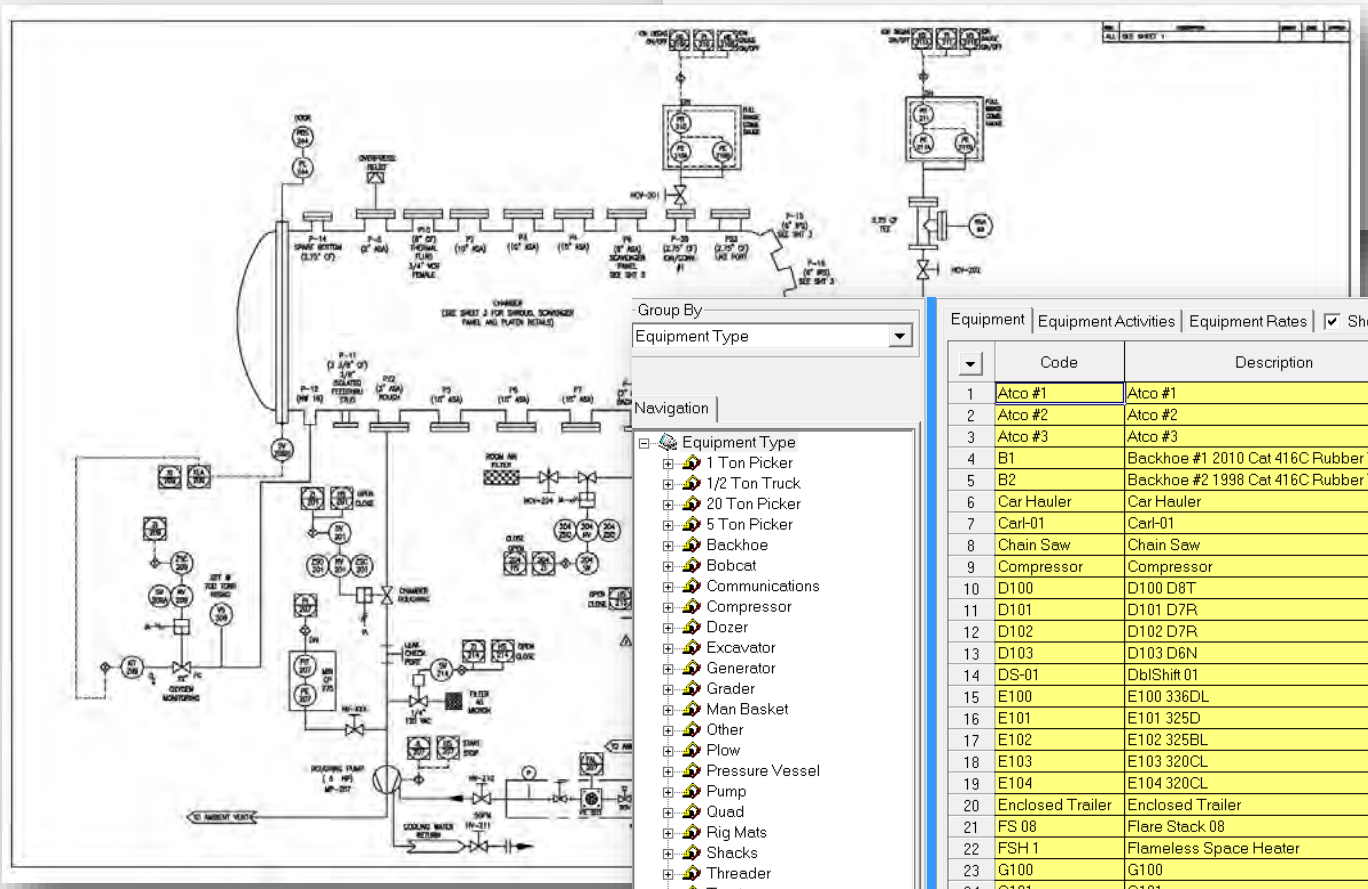
$$\text{atom efficiency} = \frac{\text{molecular weight of desired product}}{\text{molecular weight of all substances formed}}$$

examples:



120 g / mol • 3 392 g / mol 18 g / mol • 6

$$\text{atom efficiency} = \frac{3 \cdot 120}{3 \cdot 120 + 392 + 6 \cdot 18} = 42\%$$



+ H_2O

18 g / mol

Group By: Equipment Type

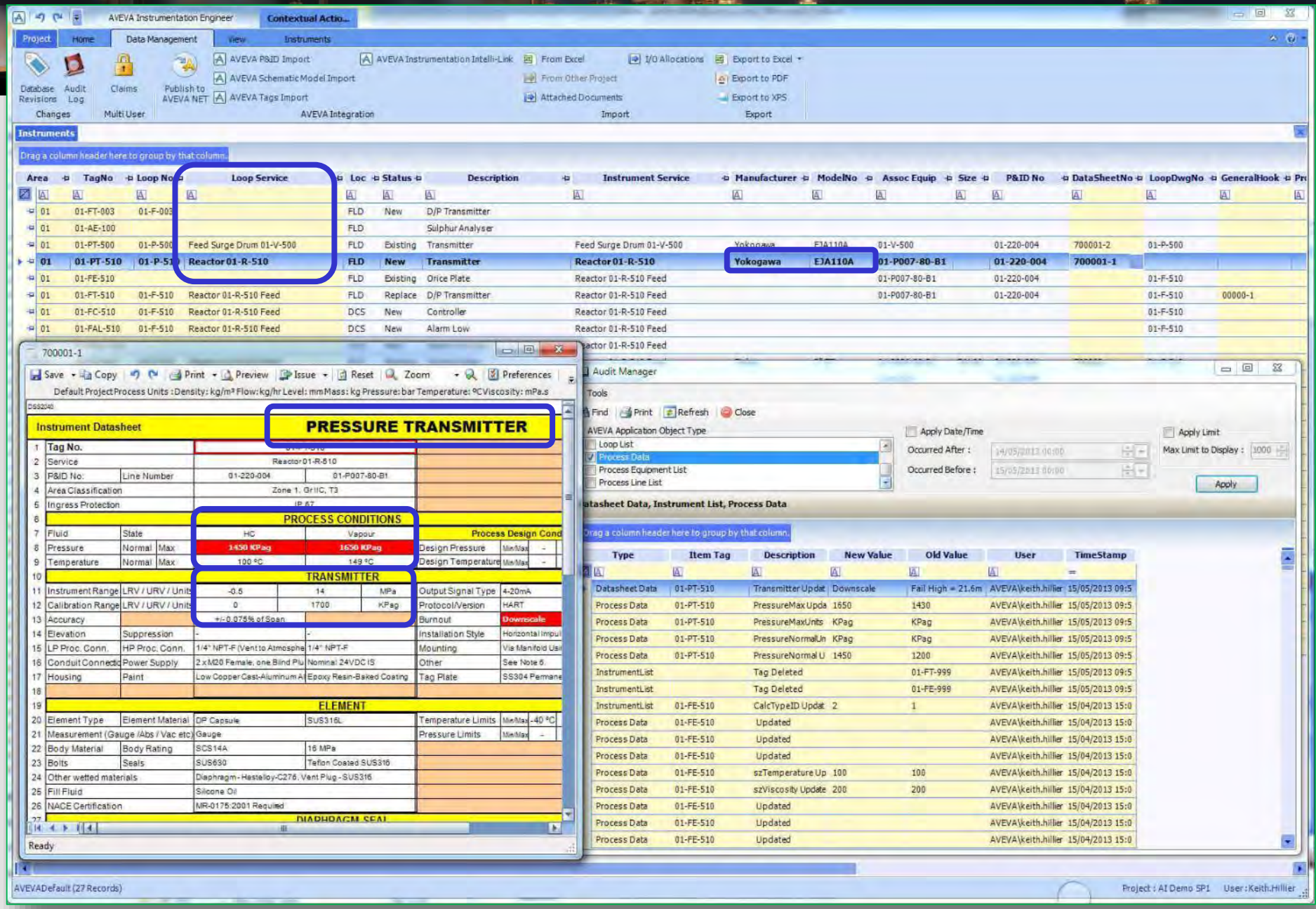
Navigation

- Equipment Type
  - 1 Ton Picker
  - 1/2 Ton Truck
  - 20 Ton Picker
  - 5 Ton Picker
  - Backhoe
  - Bobcat
  - Communications
  - Compressor
  - Dozer
  - Excavator
  - Generator
  - Grader
  - Man Basket
  - Other
  - Plow
  - Pressure Vessel
  - Pump
  - Quad
  - Rig Mats
  - Shacks
  - Threader
  - Tractor
  - Trailer

Equipment | Equipment Activities | Equipment Rates | Show Active Only

	Code	Description	Owner	Equip Type	Serial No
1	Atco #1	Atco #1	Galaxy	Shacks	
2	Atco #2	Atco #2	Galaxy	Shacks	
3	Atco #3	Atco #3	Galaxy	Shacks	
4	B1	Backhoe #1 2010 Cat 416C Rubber Tire	Galaxy	Backhoe	
5	B2	Backhoe #2 1998 Cat 416C Rubber Tire	RR SERVICES	Backhoe	04ZN06190
6	Car Hauler	Car Hauler	RR SERVICES	Other	
7	Carl-01	Carl-01	8465355 (Carl)	20 Ton Picker	
8	Chain Saw	Chain Saw	RR SERVICES	Other	
9	Compressor	Compressor	RR SERVICES	Compressor	
10	D100	D100 D8T	Galaxy	Dozer	2GCEK19R7W1209742
11	D101	D101 D7R	Galaxy	Dozer	1FDXF47R58EB50043
12	D102	D102 D7R	Galaxy	Dozer	3D6WH46A47G736398
13	D103	D103 D6N	Galaxy	Dozer	IGDJK34D76E44300
14	DS-01	DblShift 01	DSHIFT	20 Ton Picker	1D7HU18278S618229
15	E100	E100 336DL	Galaxy	Excavator	1GCHK29141E302402
16	E101	E101 325D	Galaxy	Excavator	5TFHY5F1XAX097175
17	E102	E102 325BL	Galaxy	Excavator	1D7RV1CT2AS149221
18	E103	E103 320CL	Galaxy	Excavator	3D7UT2HL5AG134976
19	E104	E104 320CL	Galaxy	Excavator	
20	Enclosed Trailer	Enclosed Trailer	RR SERVICES	Trailer	
21	FS 08	Flare Stack 08	Galaxy	Other	
22	FSH 1	Flameless Space Heater	RR SERVICES	Other	
23	G100	G100	Galaxy	Grader	
24	G101	G101	Galaxy	Grader	
25	G103	G103	Galaxy	Grader	
26	Gas Monitor	Gas Monitor	RR SERVICES	Other	
27	Generator	Generator	RR SERVICES	Generator	

Process discovery

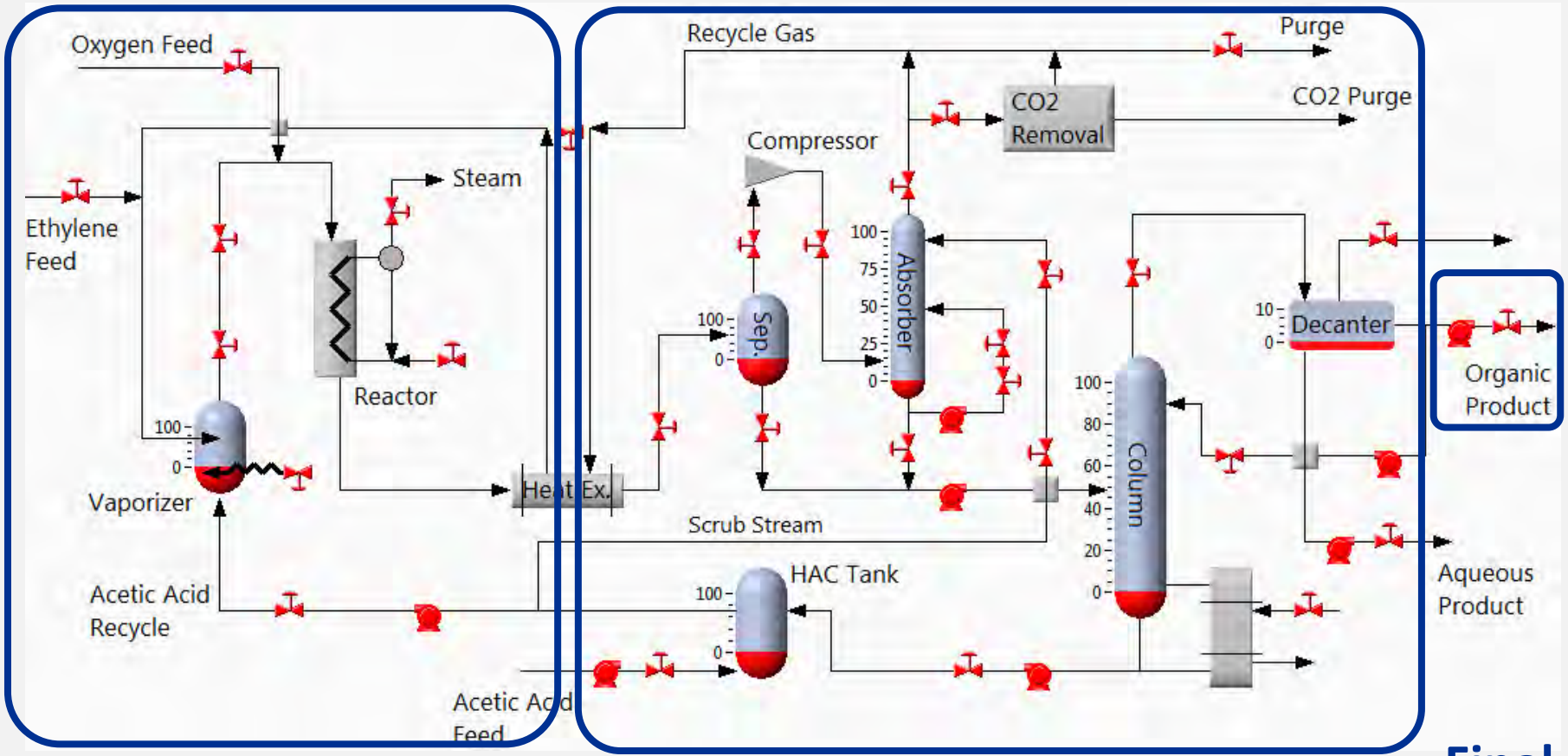


Know the equipment

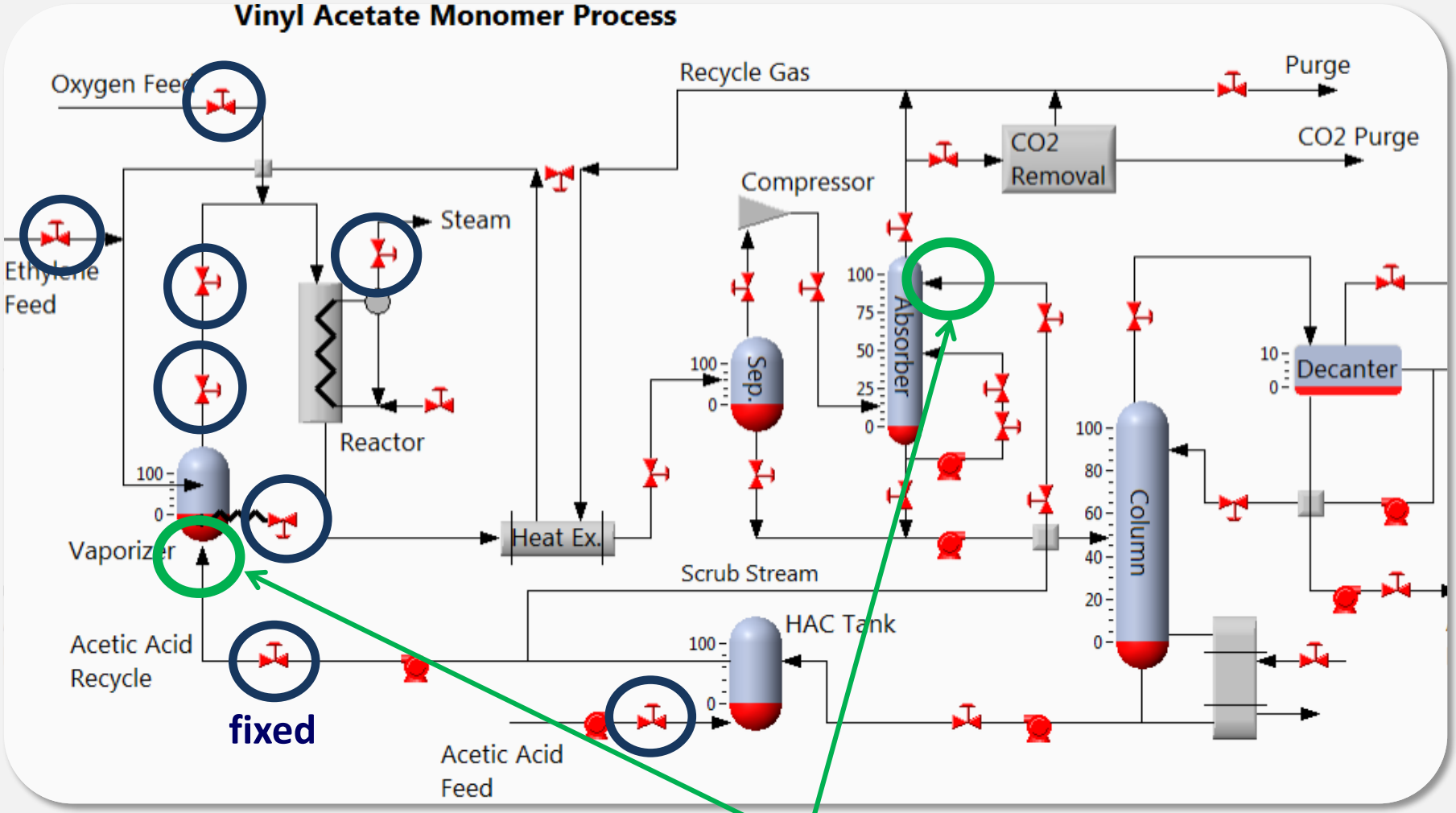
Stripper is...

Stripping column

Max economic damage?



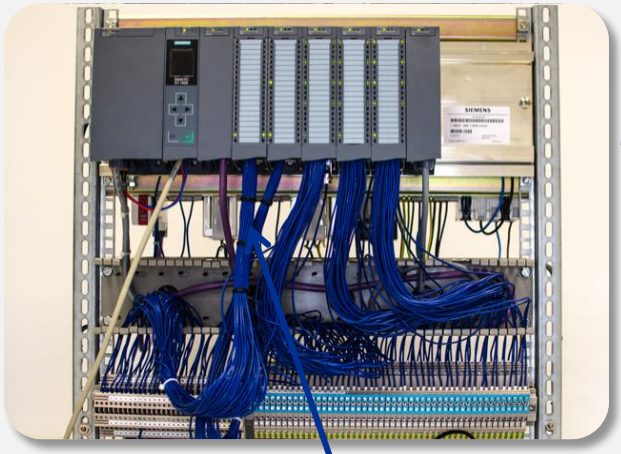
Available controls



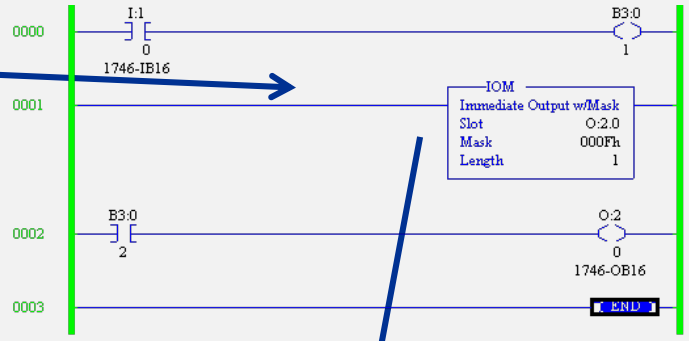
HAc flows into two sections. Not good :(

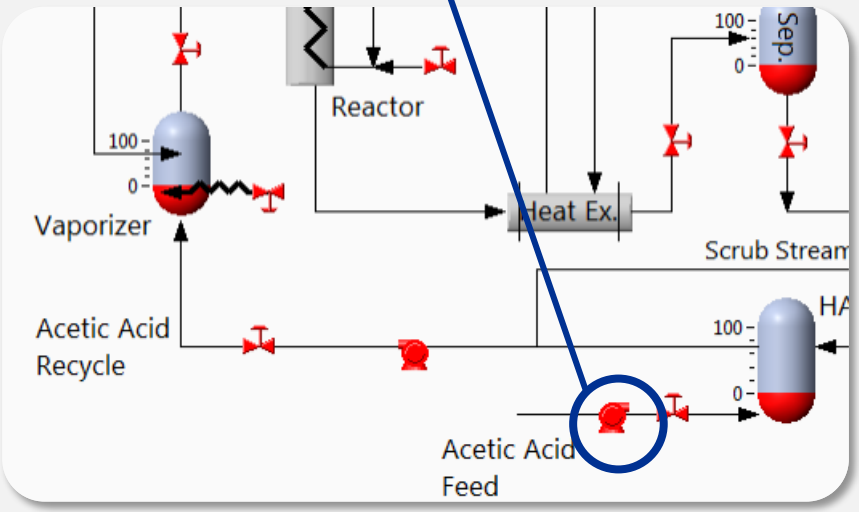
Understanding points and logic

Programmable Logic Controller



Ladder logic

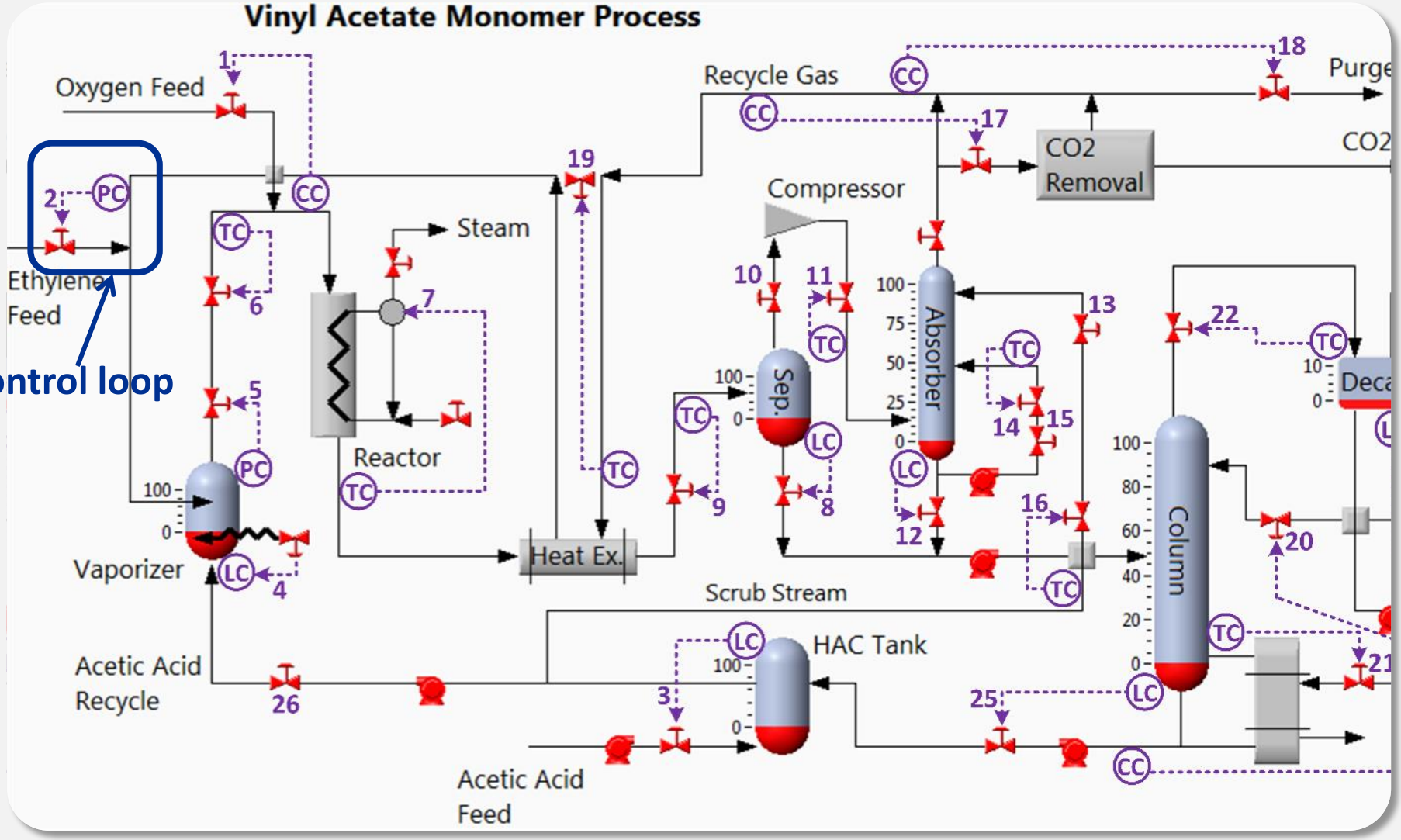




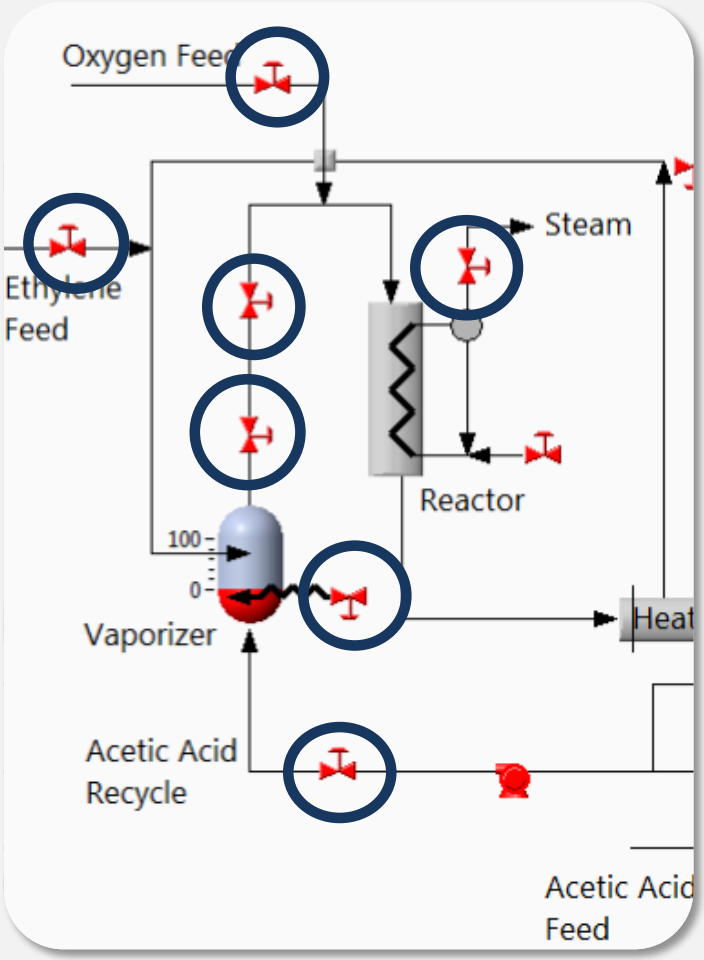
Piping and instrumentation diagram

Pump on the plant

Available controls

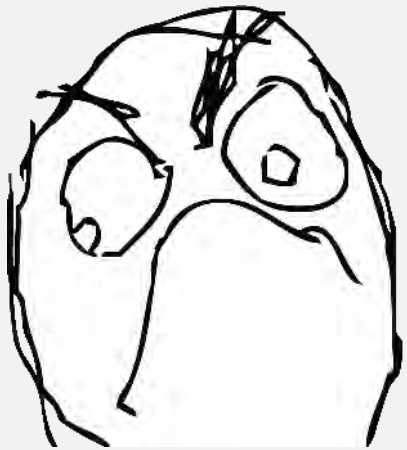


Available controls



- **Obtaining control != being in control**
- Obtained controls might not be useful for attack goal
- Attacker might not necessary be able to control obtained controls

WTF???

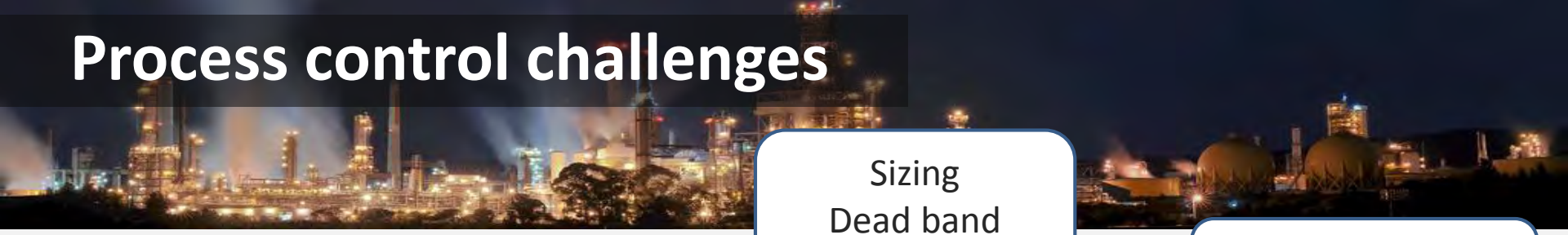


Control

Physics of process control

- Once hooked up together, physical components they become related to each other by the physics of the process
- If we adjust one a valve what happens to everything else?
  - Adjusting temperature also increases pressure and flow
  - All the downstream effects need to be taken into account
- How much does the process can be changed before releasing alarms or it shutting down?

Process control challenges

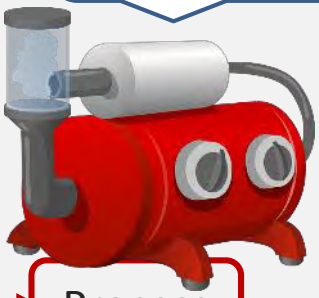


Sizing
Dead band
Flow properties

Equipment design
Process design

Tuning
Algorithm
Configuration

Operator practice
Control strategy



Load

Set point

Controller

Final control element

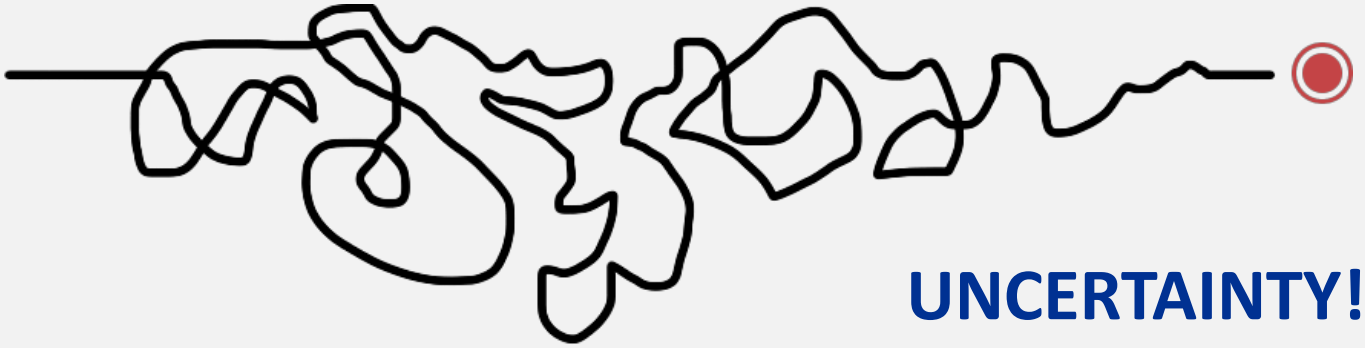
Process

Transmitter

Sampling frequency
Filtering

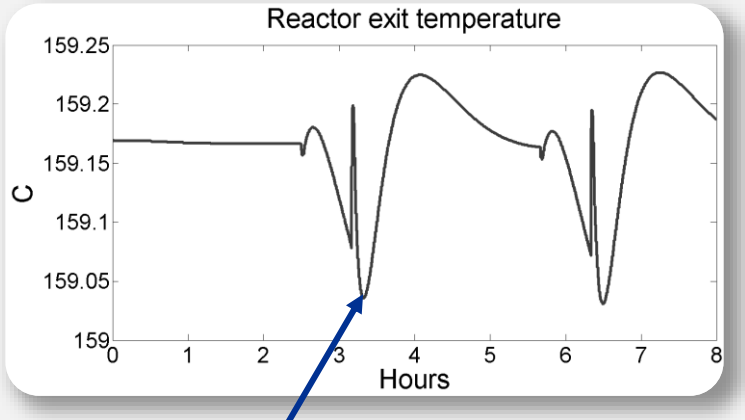
Process control challenges

- Process dynamic is highly non-linear (???)



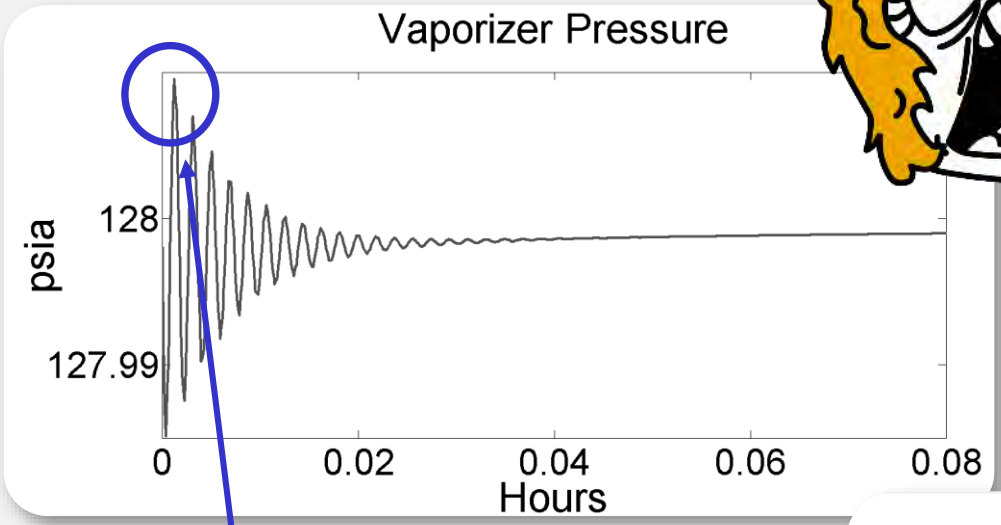
UNCERTAINTY!

- Behavior of the process is known to the extent of its modelling
  - So to controllers. They cannot control the process beyond their control model



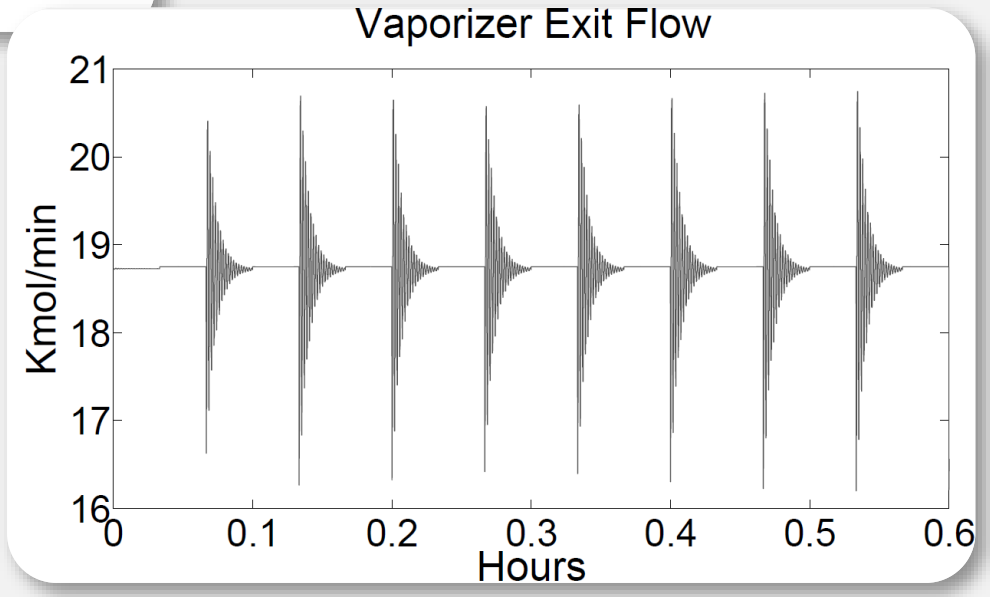
Triggers alarms

Control loop ringing

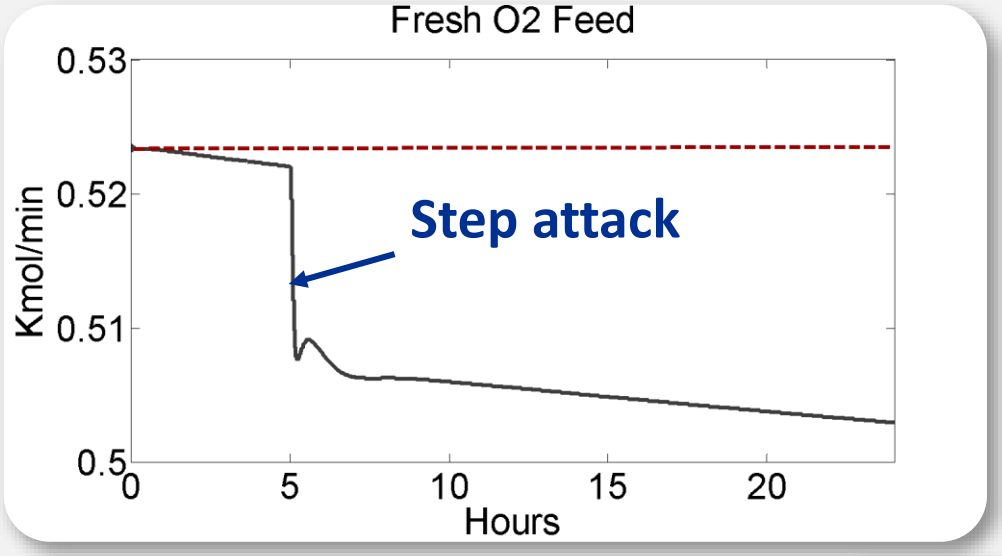


Caused by a negative real controller poles

Amount of chemicals entering the reactor



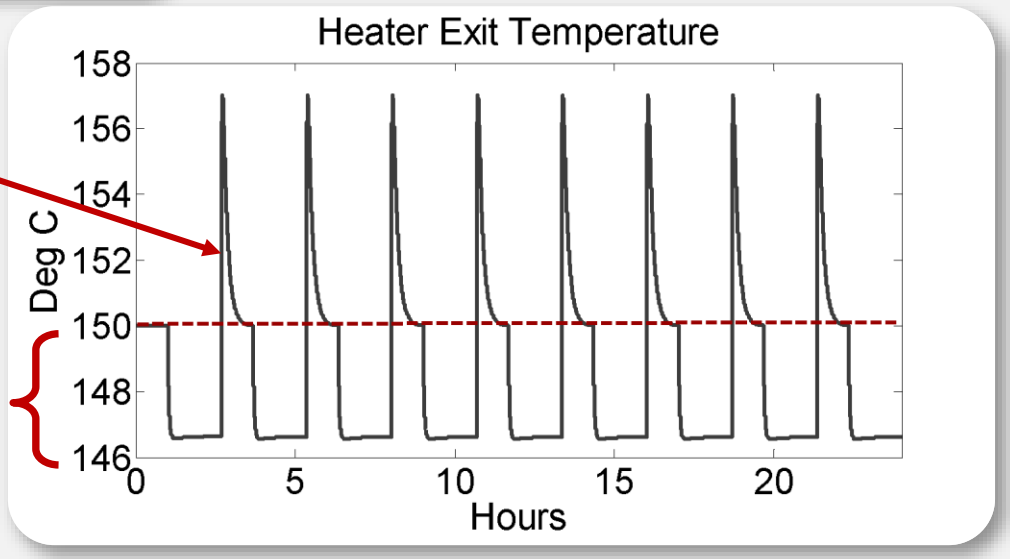
Types of attacks



Periodic attack

Recovery time

Magnitude of manipulation



Outcome of the control stage

Sensitivity	Magnitude of manipulation	Recovery time
High	XMV {1;5;7}	XMV {4;7}
Medium	XMV {2;4;6}	XMV {5}
Low	XMV{3}	XMV {1;2;3;6}

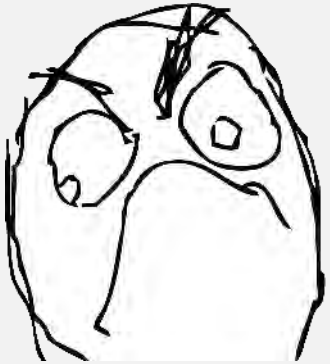
Reliably useful controls

Alarm propagation

Alarm	Steady state attacks	Periodic attacks
Gas loop 02	XMV {1}	XMV {1}
Reactor feed T	XMV {6}	XMV {6}
Rector T	XMV{7}	XMV{7}
FEHE effluent	XMV{7}	XMV{7}
Gas loop P	XMV{2;3;6}	XMV{2;3;6}
HAc in decanter	XMV{2;3;7}	XMV{3}

To persist we shall not bring about alarms

Outcome of the control stage



We should automate this process

(work in progress)

Damage

How to break things?

- Attacker needs one or more attacks scenarios to deploy in final payload
- The least familiar stage to IT hackers
  - In most cases requires input of subject matter experts
- Accident data is a good starting point
  - Governmental agencies
  - Plants' own data bases
- Requires a metric/measure to compare between scenarios

The New York Times

Technician vs. engineer

Technician

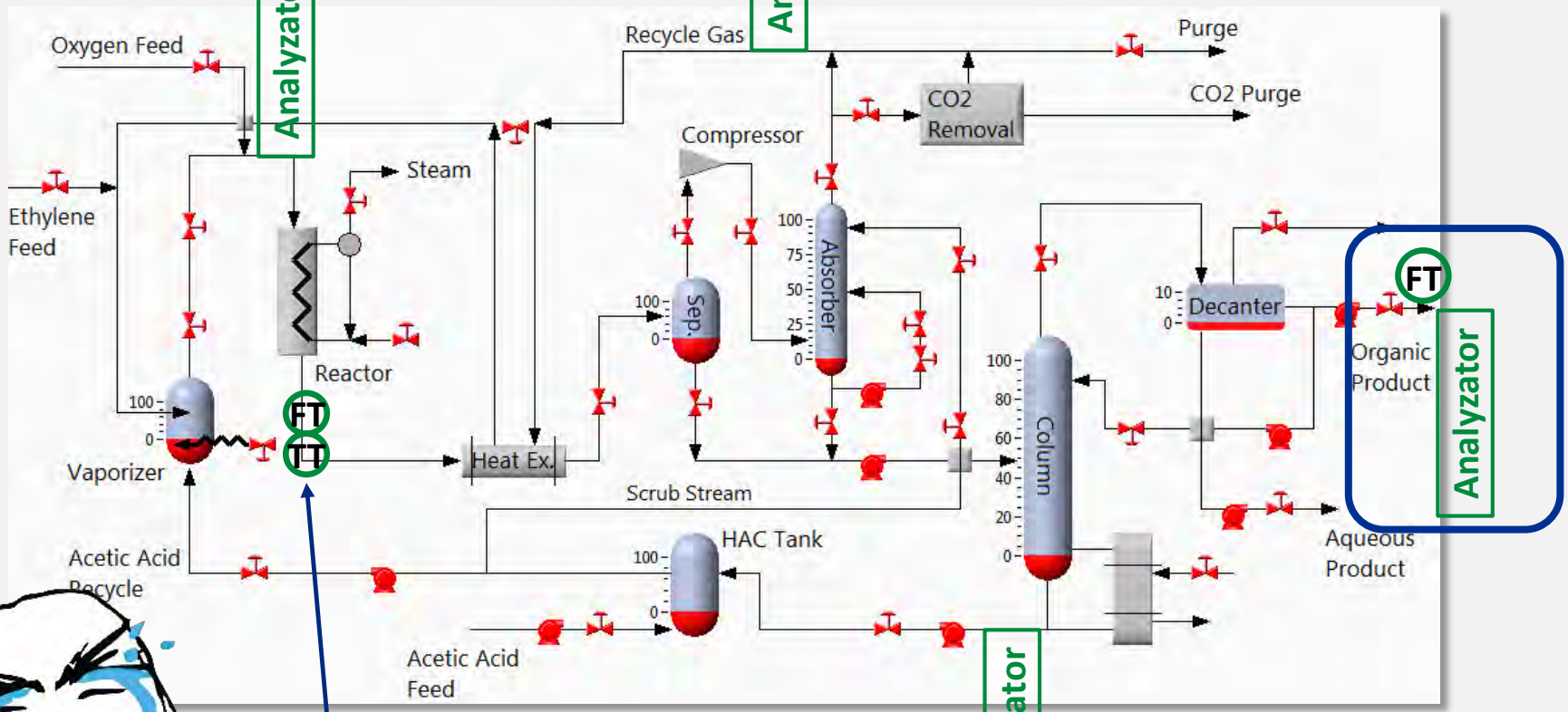
"It will eventually drain with the lowest holes loosing pressure last"

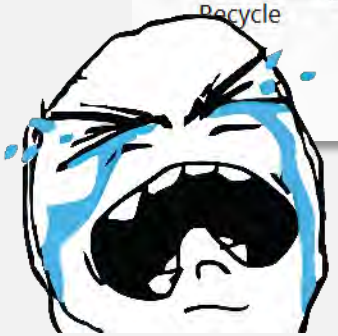
Engineer

"It will be fully drained in 20.4 seconds and the pressure curve looks like this"

Process observation

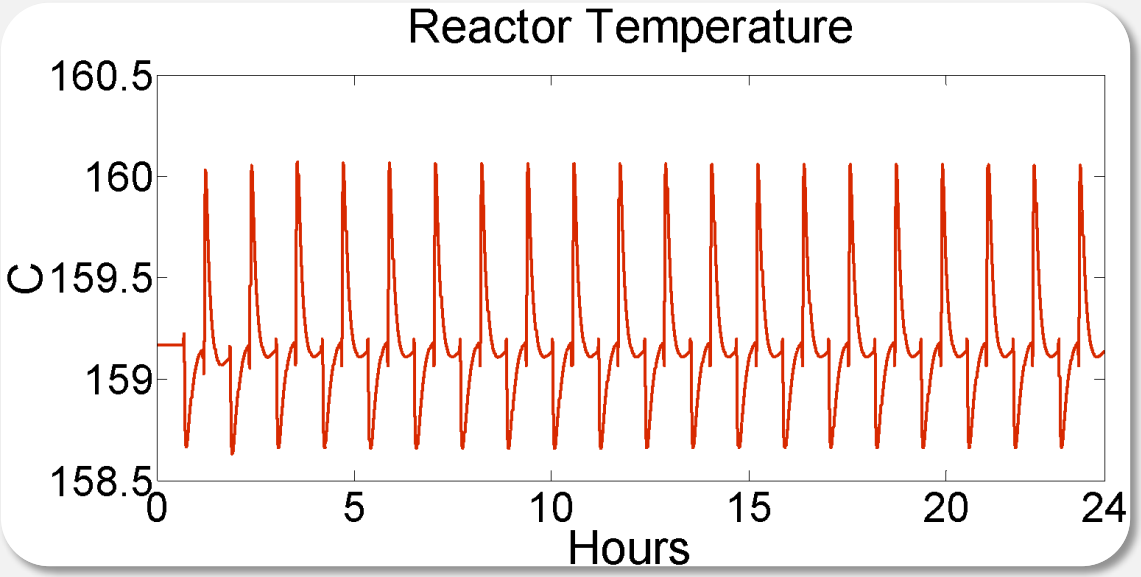
Chemical composition



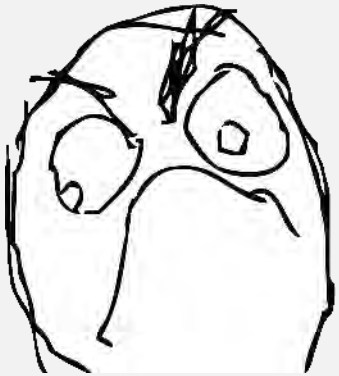


- **Reactor exit flowrate**
- **Reactor exit temperature**
- **No analyzator**

Technician answer



Reactor with cooling tubes



If you can't measure it, you can't manage it

Peter Drucker

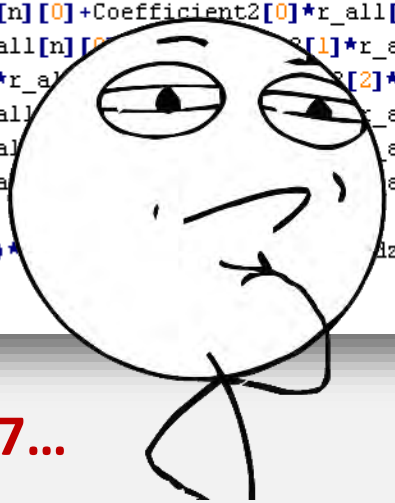
Quest for engineering answer

- Code in the controller
- Optimization applications
- Test process/plant

$$(\varepsilon\sum_{k=1}^{7} C_{i,k}Cp_{i,k} + \rho_b Cp_b)\frac{\partial T_i}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial(v_i\sum_{k=1}^{7}(C_{i,k}Cp_{i,k})T_i)}{\partial z} - \phi_i\rho_b(r_{1,i}E_1 + r_{2,i}E_2) - Q_i^{RCT}$$

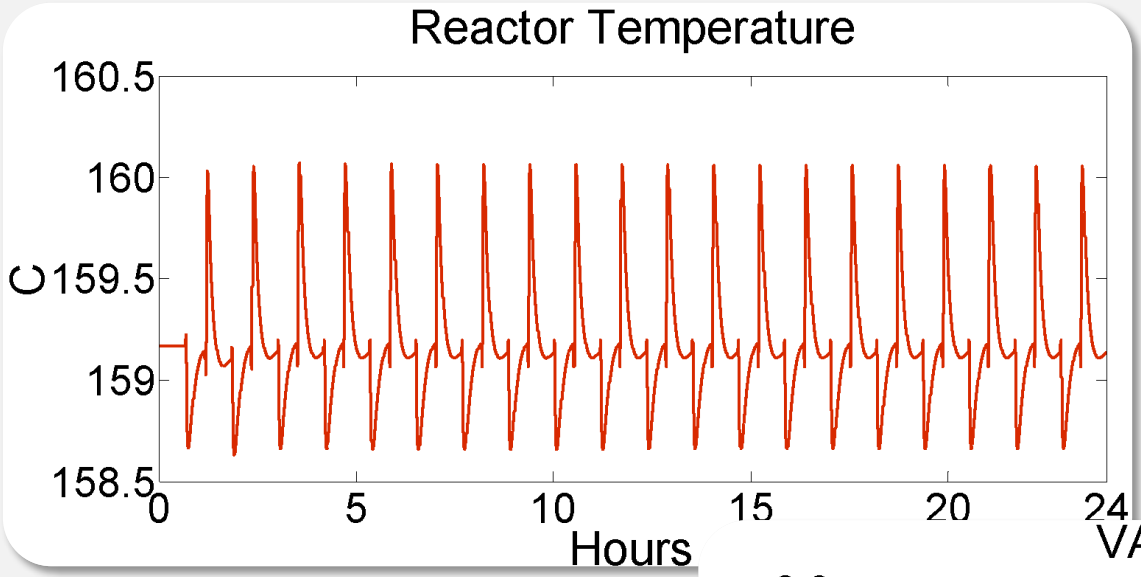
```
/*calculate derivatives*/
for (n=1;n<NR;n++)
{
    /*dC/dt=-delta(C*v)/deltaZ+sum(vij*rj)
    /*Use single backward                                    */
    C_O2_t[n-1]=(-(C_O2[n]*v[n]-C_O2[n-1]*v[n-1])/dz + Coefficient1[0]*r_all[n][0]+Coefficient2[0]*r_all[n][1])/cata_porosity;
    C_CO2_t[n-1]=(-(C_CO2[n]*v[n]-C_CO2[n-1]*v[n-1])/dz + Coefficient1[1]*r_all[n][0]+Coefficient2[1]*r_all[n][1])/cata_porosity;
    C_C2H4_t[n-1]=(-(C_C2H4[n]*v[n]-C_C2H4[n-1]*v[n-1])/dz + Coefficient1[2]*r_all[n][0]+Coefficient2[2]*r_all[n][1])/cata_porosity;
    C_VAc_t[n-1]=(-(C_VAc[n]*v[n]-C_VAc[n-1]*v[n-1])/dz + Coefficient1[4]*r_all[n][0]+Coefficient2[4]*r_all[n][1])/cata_porosity;
    C_H2O_t[n-1]=(-(C_H2O[n]*v[n]-C_H2O[n-1]*v[n-1])/dz + Coefficient1[5]*r_all[n][0]+Coefficient2[5]*r_all[n][1])/cata_porosity;
    C_HAc_t[n-1]=(-(C_HAc[n]*v[n]-C_HAc[n-1]*v[n-1])/dz + Coefficient1[6]*r_all[n][0]+Coefficient2[6]*r_all[n][1])/cata_porosity;
    Q_rct[n]= UA*(Tg[n]-Shell_T); /*kcal/min m^3*/
    Tg_t[n-1]=1/(cata_porosity*CCP[n] + cata_heatcapacity *cata_bulk_density)*(-v[n]*Tg[n]+v[n-1]*Tg[n-1])/dz - r_all[n][0]*E_r1-r_all[
    n][1]*E_r2-Q_rct[n]);
};
```

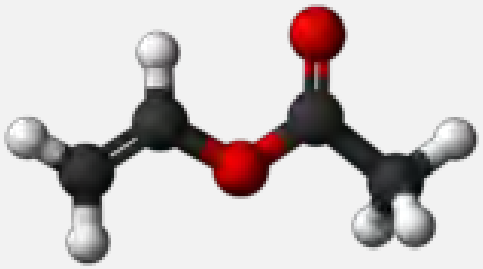
CHALLENGE CONSIDERED



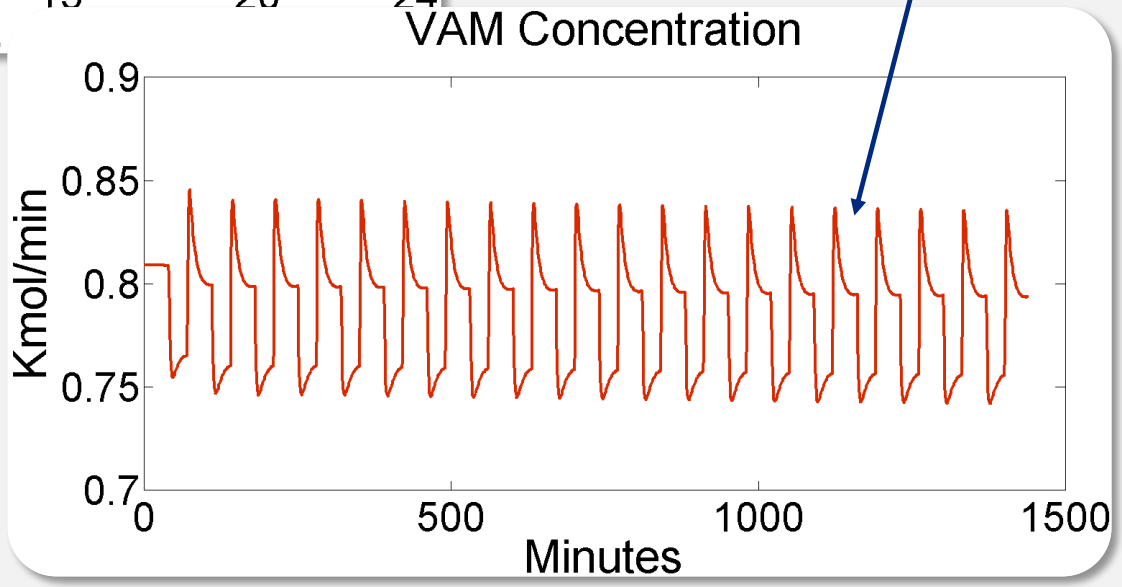
0,00073; 0,00016; 0,0007…

Engineering answer





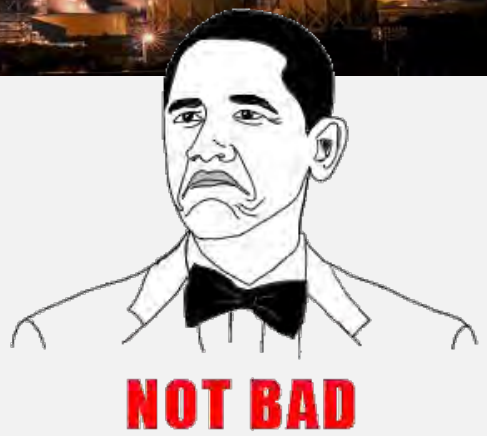
Vinyl Acetate production

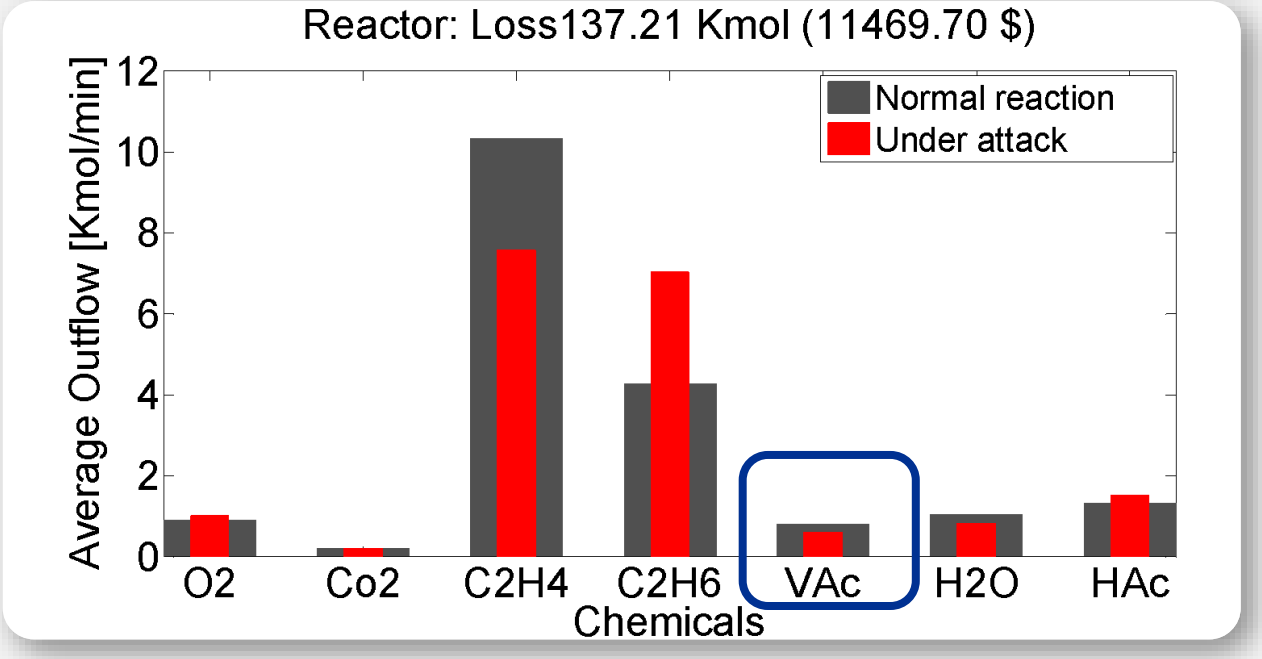


Product loss

Product per day: 96.000$

Product loss per day: 11.469,70$





Outcome of the damage stage

Product per day: 96.000$

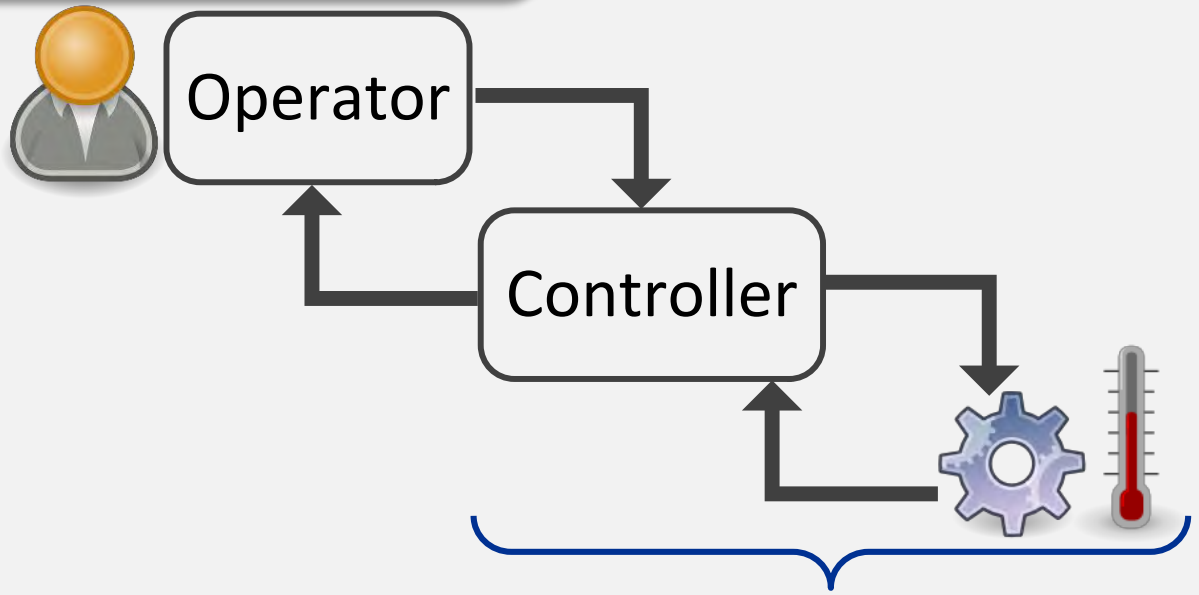
Product loss, 24 hours	Steady-state attacks	Periodic attacks
High, ≥ 10.000$	XMV {2}	XMV {4;6}
Medium, 5.000$ - 10.000$	XMV {6;7}	XMV {5;7}
Low, 2.000$ - 5.000$	-	XMV {2}
Negligible, ≤ 2.000$	XMV {1;3}	XMV {1;2}

Still might be useful

Clean-up

Socio-technical system

- Maintenance stuff
- Plant engineers
- Process engineers
- ….



Creating forensics footprint

- Process operators may get concerned after noticing persistent decrease in production and may try to fix the problem
- If attacks are timed to a particular employee shift or maintenance work, plant employee will be investigated rather than the process

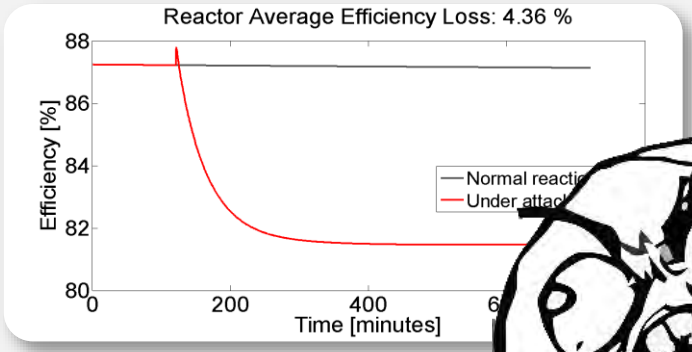
Creating forensics footprint

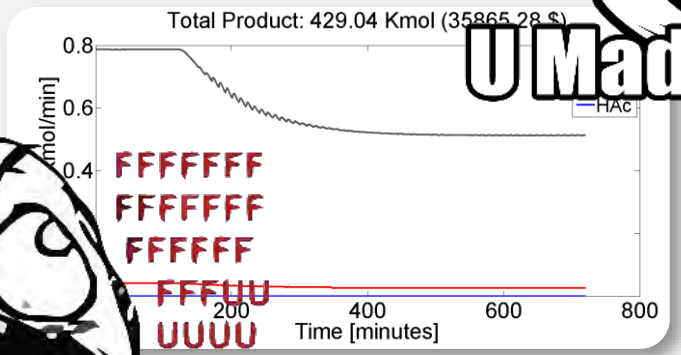
1. Pick several ways that the temperature can be increased
2. Wait for the scheduled instruments calibration
3. Perform the first attack
4. Wait for the maintenance guy being yelled at and recalibration to be repeated
5. Play next attack
6. Go to 4

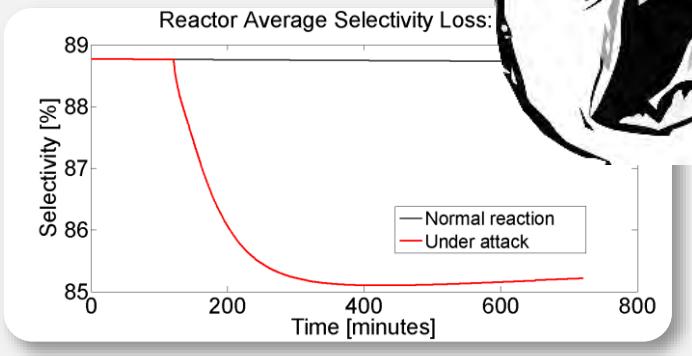
Creating forensics footprint

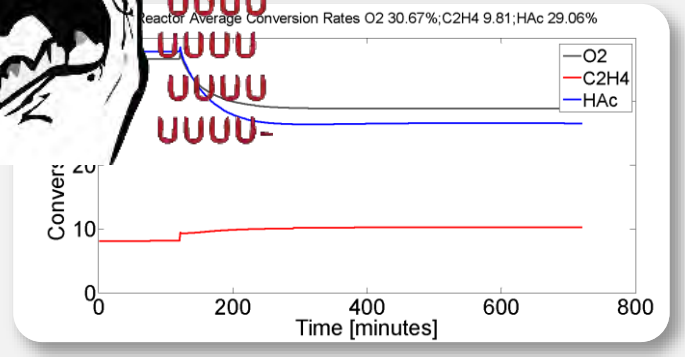
Defeating chemical forensics

- If reactor doubted, chemical forensics guys will be asked to assist
- Know metrics and methods of chemical investigators!
- **Change attack patterns according to debugging efforts of plant personnel**









Afterword

Impressions

Please rate your hacking experience

Cost of attack vs. cost of damage

Medium effort

- SCADA access stage is (well) understood and facilitated by tools
  - ICS-CERT and multiple public presentations
  - SCADA access for sale

Medium to high effort

- Discovery stage has started long time ago and goes on
  - Hackers know more about the process than process owners
  - First field equipment reconnaissance malware is caught in wild

Cost of attack vs. cost of damage

High effort

- Control stage
  - Requires established approaches for mapping and storing dynamic behavior of the process and interdependencies
  - **Our work in progress**
- Damage stage
  - Requires involvement of subject matter experts
  - Several public damage attack instances
  - **Our work in progress**
- Clean-up stage is understood by attackers
  - Several public presentations
  - The defenders are too busy setting up firewalls

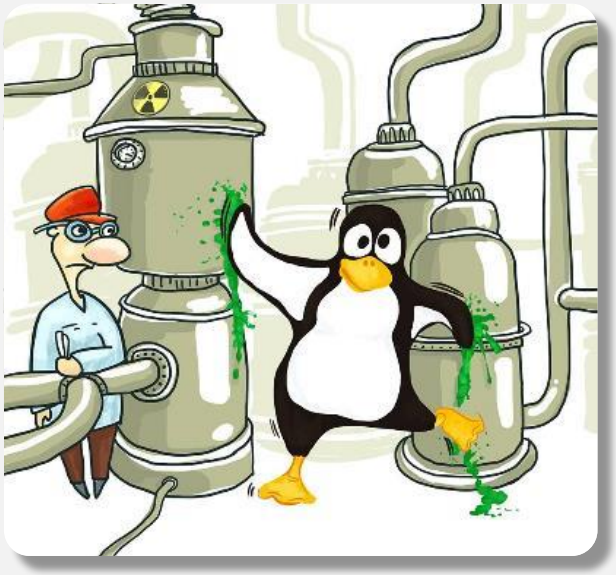
Cost of attack vs. cost of damage

- **Cost of attack can quickly exceed cost of damage**
  - Hacking into large number of devices
  - Suppression of alarms and process data spoofing
  - Badly behaved control loops , synchronization of actions
  - Inclusion of several attacks scenarios

- **Each process is unique, but…**
  - There is a number of tasks needed to done for each process
  - There is a number of issues similar to different processes
  - There are instances of attacks applicable to wide range of scenarios
  - **SCADA payloads for Metasploit is just a matter of time**
- **Research agenda**
  - Developing of light-weight real time algorithms for various tasks
  - Working out breakage scenarios

Dream BIG

If you plan to improve your financial posture, is a good time (and at least next 5 year as well)



Thank you

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jason.larsen@ioactive.com

Damn Vulnerable Chemical Process

TE: http://github.com/satejnik/DVCP-TE
VAM: http://github.com/satejnik/DVCP-VAM