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CYBER SECURITY NOTIFICATION

Cyber Security Notification - INCONTROLLER

Notice

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Purpose

ABB has a rigorous cyber security program which involves not only internal processes to ensure product security but also external engagement with the wider cybersecurity community and 3rd party suppliers. Occasionally an issue is identified with the potential to impact ABB products and systems.

Generally, this means 3rd party product vulnerabilities or life-cycle issues to which ABB products may have a dependency on. Another example could be threats which are not directly targeting ABB products however may constitute a threat to environments where ABB products/systems operate.

When a potential threat is identified or reported, ABB immediately initiates our vulnerability handling process. This entails an evaluation to determine if there are steps which can be taken to reduce risk and maintain functionality for the end user.

The result may be the publication of a Cyber Security Notification. This intends to notify customers of the issue and provide details on which products are impacted, how to mitigate the vulnerability or explain workarounds that minimize the potential risk as much as possible.

The release of a Cyber Security Notification should not be assumed as an indication of an active threat or ongoing campaign targeting the products mentioned here. If ABB is aware of any specific threats it will be clearly mentioned in the communication.

The publication of this Cyber Security Notification is an example of ABB's commitment to the user community in support of this critical topic. The release of a Notification intends to provide timely information which is essential to help ensure our customers are fully informed. See details below and refer to the section on "General security recommendations" for further advise on how to keep your systems secure.

Background

On 2022-04-13, the discovery of a malware framework called INCONTROLLER (sometimes also referred to as PIPEDREAM) was made public.

This malware framework reportedly simplifies attacks against certain types of industrial control systems and specifically certain devices and Windows-based workstations within such systems. With this framework, a successful exploit could allow attackers to scan for, compromise and control affected devices and workstations. Exploiting these vulnerabilities requires that the attacker can establish an initial access to the target network.

Related products

At the time of this writing, we have no information about any specific ABB products which are directly affected or targeted by the INCONTROLLER framework. However, as the framework reportedly leverages technologies such as Modbus, OPC UA and CODESYS as well as a certain Windows driver, which are widely used in many Industrial Control Systems.

Recommended immediate actions

ABB recommends customers to change default passwords and simple custom passwords to complex passwords or passphrases, since some of the INCONTROLLER framework's capabilities are based on default passwords or brute-forcing of custom passwords.

Mitigating factors

Since the INCONTROLLER framework utilizes functionalities in the targeted devices and interfaces, which are otherwise used by legitimate users and in legitimate use cases, mitigating factors are primarily about reducing the external attack surface to a minimum, e.g. by segregating the network and isolating to the degree possible and by disabling functionalities and network services. In addition, monitoring for unexpected network nodes or unexpected network traffic esp. related to Modbus, OPC UA and CODESYS applications is recommended.

Vulnerability Details

See CISA Alert AA22-103A "APT Cyber Tools Targeting ICS/SCADA Devices" (https://www.cisa.gov/uscert/ncas/alerts/aa22-103a) for more details.

General security recommendations

For any installation of software-related ABB products we strongly recommend the following (non-exhaustive) list of cyber security practices:

Isolate special purpose networks (e.g. for automation systems) and remote devices behind firewalls and separate them from any general purpose network (e.g. office or home networks).

Install physical controls so no unauthorized personnel can access your devices, components, peripheral equipment, and networks.

Never connect programming software or computers containing programing software to any net-work other than the network for the devices that it is intended for.

Scan all data imported into your environment before use to detect potential malware infections.

Minimize network exposure for all applications and endpoints to ensure that they are not accessible from the Internet unless they are designed for such exposure and the intended use requires such.

Ensure all nodes are always up to date in terms of installed software, operating system and firmware patches as well as anti-virus and firewall.

When remote access is required, use secure methods, such as Virtual Private Networks (VPNs). Recognize that VPNs may have vulnerabilities and should be updated to the most current version available. Also, understand that VPNs are only as secure as the connected devices.

References

Further information

CISA Alert AA22-103A	APT Cyber Tools Targeting ICS/SCADA Devices (https://www.cisa.gov/uscert/ncas/alerts/aa22-103a)

Support

For additional instructions and support please contact your local ABB service organization. For contact information, see www.abb.com/contactcenters.

Information about ABB's cyber security program and capabilities can be found at www.abb.com/cybersecurity.

Revision history

Rev. Ind.	Page (p) Chapter (c)	Change description	Rev. date
A	all	Initial version	2022-04-14