Automation Sentinel Program and Cyber Security

We are living in a different world these days when it comes to security related matters of all kinds. We see security measures being taken almost everywhere and at all times. Cyber security is a prominent aspect of any comprehensive security plan especially at a time when the number of active IT viruses is on the rise and the number of targeted cyber-attacks is rapidly increasing. The damage caused by some of the sophisticated and evolving IT viruses and attacks has been crippling and industrial control systems were targets of some of these attacks in the past and will continue to be targets in the future. Control systems are the ‘command and control centers’ for industrial installations and as such they are ‘interesting’ targets for a variety of groups and for a variety of reasons. They should be protected. Just like in the real world where there is no 100% security, the same applies to the cyber world where 100% security is simply not attainable; however, what we can do is to have a solid cyber-security strategy in place consisting of several layers of defense in order to protect against possible attacks and to minimize disruptions to the control system and the plant.

Automation Sentinel is the first line of defense for a true IT Security.

Automation Sentinel by itself will not provide full cyber and IT security for a control system, but it is indeed the first line of defense in a series of defenses and protection layers which are needed for a comprehensive cyber and IT security strategy.

The contribution of the Automation Sentinel Program to a control system cyber and IT security plan can be summarized as follows:

- Daily Verification Reports for Antivirus Scanners. To remain protected, ABB systems must update the latest files of the Anti-Virus Scanner software on regular basis. Both McAfee Inc. and Symantec Corporation release updates at regular intervals, usually several times a week. ABB verifies these updates as soon as they are available to ensure that the Anti-Virus Scanner software does not detect and treat any legal ABB code as ‘false positive’. Daily verification reports are published through ABB SolutionsBank for the easy access of all entitled users. This service is exclusive to
Automation Sentinel and should not be used without a valid Automation Sentinel agreement covering the control system in question.

✓ Microsoft Security Patches testing and validation. ABB conducts thorough compatibility testing for all affected ABB systems. Validated patches and documentation are published through Solutionsbank for the easy and immediate access of all entitled users. This service is exclusive to Automation Sentinel and should not be used without a valid Automation Sentinel agreement covering the control system in question.

✓ Microsoft Security update testing and patches along with McAfee and Symantec Anti-Virus Scan patches, scan engines and virus definition file updates may also be delivered to site on suitable media. This delivery service simplifies the process and risk of updating security patches and Anti-Virus signature files. This service is monthly and it includes all security patches and bulletins for the current month. The monthly delivery service on media can be obtained as an Add-on (subject to an additional fee) to the standard Automation Sentinel Agreement. This service is exclusive to Automation Sentinel and the user must have a valid Automation Sentinel agreement in order to request this additional service for the control system in question.

✓ Regular updates for the Industrial Defender software are covered by Automation Sentinel Agreements just like other System 800xA software Add-on options are. Industrial Defender for System 800xA has been thoroughly tested and is already released as part of the System 800xA V5.1 FP4. This service is exclusive to Automation Sentinel and the user must have a valid Automation Sentinel agreement in order to request any software updates.

Finally, it is to be noted that the above report basically apply to System 800xA and to a certain degree to all other ABB control systems; furthermore, the above described monthly site delivery service of the Microsoft security patches and the Anti-Virus scanner updates and verification reports is currently undergoing some final preparations and will be shortly (and only) available for System 800xA.

Automation Sentinel is the ABB control system lifecycle support program intended to maintain, enhance, fortify and extend the useful lifetime of the control systems which are covered under this market leading control system lifecycle support program.

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