

Comment Regarding "Developing a Framework to Improve Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity"
27 March, 2013

Diane Honeycutt
National Institute of Standards and Technology
100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8930
Gaithersburg, MD 20899

Dear Ms. Honeycutt,

A core cross-sector practice that has existed for decades is the use of Cyclic Redundancy Checks (CRCs) for identification. This practice has been convenient, cost effective, and sufficient in the past, assuming the usage also conformed to standards. Software, and/or hardware in (or transferred by) critical infrastructure was identified and dependable (a combination of these factors assure software had not been "corrupted." For more stringent verification, the CRC could be checked during management and identification. Today, in the global marketplace, these previous processes utilizing some existing standard CRC mechanism. There exist new CRC or error detection and correction (EDAC) algorithms that address emerging threats. An ideal solution, utilizing one of these new CRC/EDAC algorithms, could be used to implement process changes for asset identification and management. Simultaneously, new systems could be developed in parallel with these processes.

I've attached a paper with additional information that is specific to one sector, but could be generalized to cross sectors.

Regards,

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