The Concept

The Lemnos Interoperable Security Program began with one logical concept: If vendors develop control systems security products using an agreed-upon set of capability and operational requirements, energy asset owners can better evaluate product functions and purchase products from different vendors knowing they will be interoperable. Three years later, the Lemnos team developed those specifications—called interoperable configuration profiles—and one of the first products built to those profiles is in the market.

The Result

By developing and publishing interoperable configuration profiles for security products, Lemnos has made it possible for vendors to develop interoperable solutions - and they have built and tested commercial and proof-of-concept products that successfully demonstrate the approach. Aimed at energy control systems security products, Lemnos took four steps:

1. Defined functional requirements based on asset owner needs
2. Selected open-source specifications to meet the identified functional requirements.
3. Developed interoperable configuration profiles for these specifications tailored for the energy sector control systems environment.
4. Tested and validated the interoperable configuration profiles.

Lemnos work enables utilities and vendors to clearly communicate user needs, product features, and configuration parameters of control systems cyber security products. With extensive industry and government collaboration, Lemnos quickly brought R&D from a national laboratory into a commercially available, tested solution.

The Approach

Open PCS Architecture for Interoperable Design (OPSAID)

EnerNex
Developed interoperable configuration profiles and testing procedures for common security offerings (defined in OPSAID). Used TVA needs to determine the most valuable security features to demonstrate.

SEL and SNL
Independently developed counterparts of two security offerings—a VPN tunnel and logging capability. SEL developed a commercial prototype, while SNL developed a reference implementation using open-source software. After individual performance testing, the independent teams connected their devices—via the Internet and within the TVA lab—to demonstrate interoperability.

TVA
Provided SNL/SEL a utility testing environment and facilitated testing with other vendor devices.

Funding: EnerNex and participants cost-shared with a competitive DOE Financial Assistance Award in 2008-2010.

SEL
In December 2009, SEL released the SEL-3620 Ethernet Security Gateway, demonstrating that the Lemnos approach results in a scalable, robust, and interoperable security solution. The gateway secures routable protocols crossing electronic security perimeters and provides security logging in an easy-to-use Lemnos interoperable manner.
The Commercialized Solution

SEL-3620 Ethernet Security Gateway
As part of the Lemnos project, SEL developed a hardened security device for the energy sector built to the interoperable configuration profiles and testing procedures created by the Lemnos team. SEL rigorously tested the solution for functionality and security robustness, then tested it for interoperability by connecting it to SNL's independently developed reference implementation, and to other products from participating vendors.

Features:
SEL's solution, tailored specifically to secure smart grid communications, is now on the market. The Ethernet Security Gateway protects systems from malicious traffic with a configurable firewall and provides strong access control in and out of the electronic security perimeter with Lemnos interoperable VPNs. It additionally provides Lemnos interoperable security event reporting and precise time tagging of events through Syslog.

Now Available:
For more information on the features, benefits, and application of the Ethernet Security Gateway, visit http://www.selinc.com/SEL-3620/.

Validating the Results: Interoperability Demonstrations

Through targeted outreach and presentations at industry events, the Lemnos team has cultivated interest from seven network security vendors in participating with Lemnos to build interoperability into their control systems solutions. To culminate the project, Lemnos researchers invited several of these vendors to demonstrate interoperability with the Lemnos product in public industry forums.

Vendors brought security solutions they developed against Lemnos requirements and connected them to the SNL reference implementation to test for product compatibility. The interoperability demonstrations have been performed at two public conferences to date.

Benefits
- Published interoperable configuration profiles and testing procedures to guide vendor development
- Demonstrates, through interoperability testing, that building to universally accepted requirements is an effective way to achieve interoperability among solutions from different vendors
- Invites vendors to build and promote interoperable products
- Brings the first security device built to these requirements to market

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