TEXAS RE

GOP Function and Third-Party Control Centers

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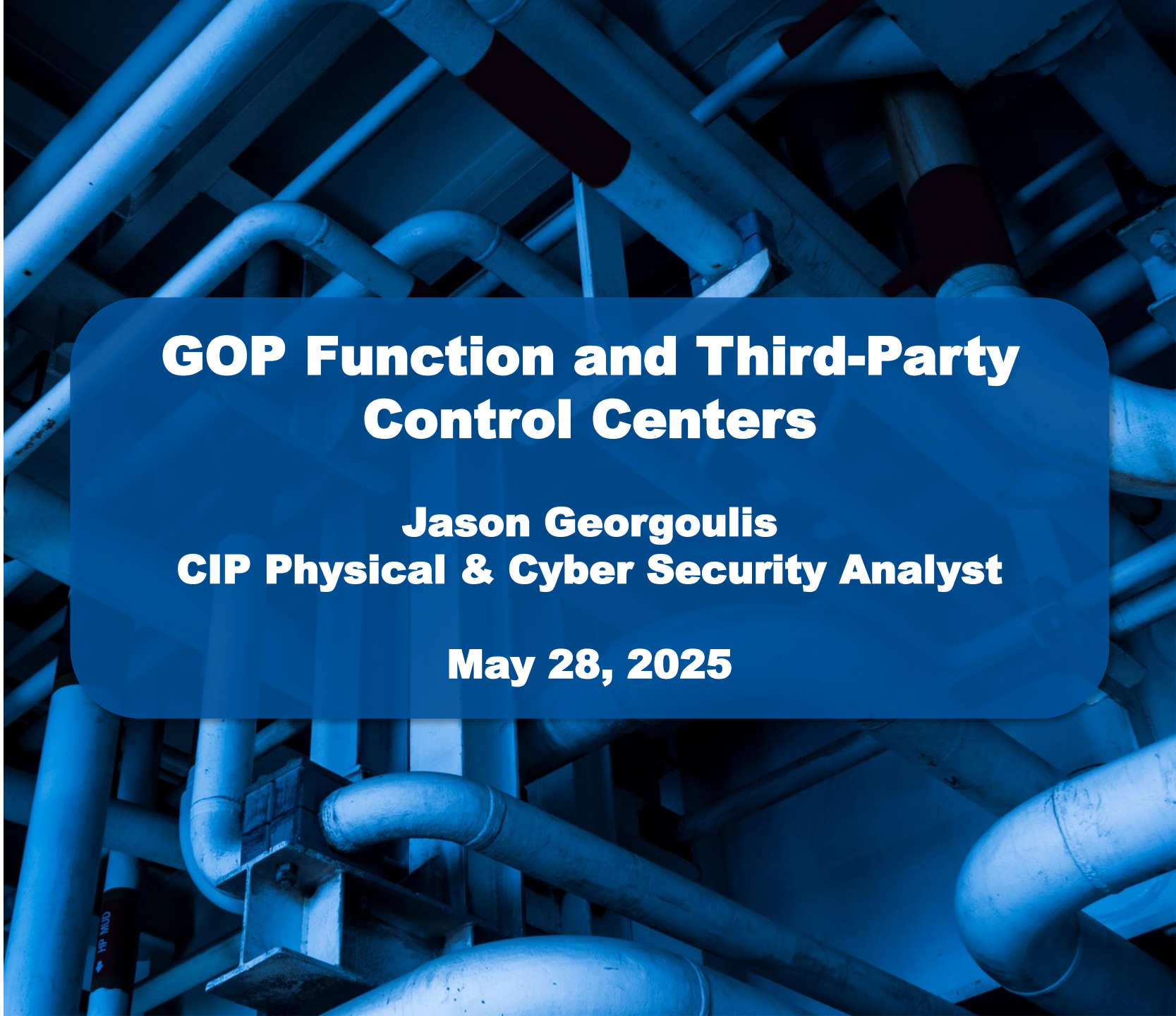
May 28, 2025



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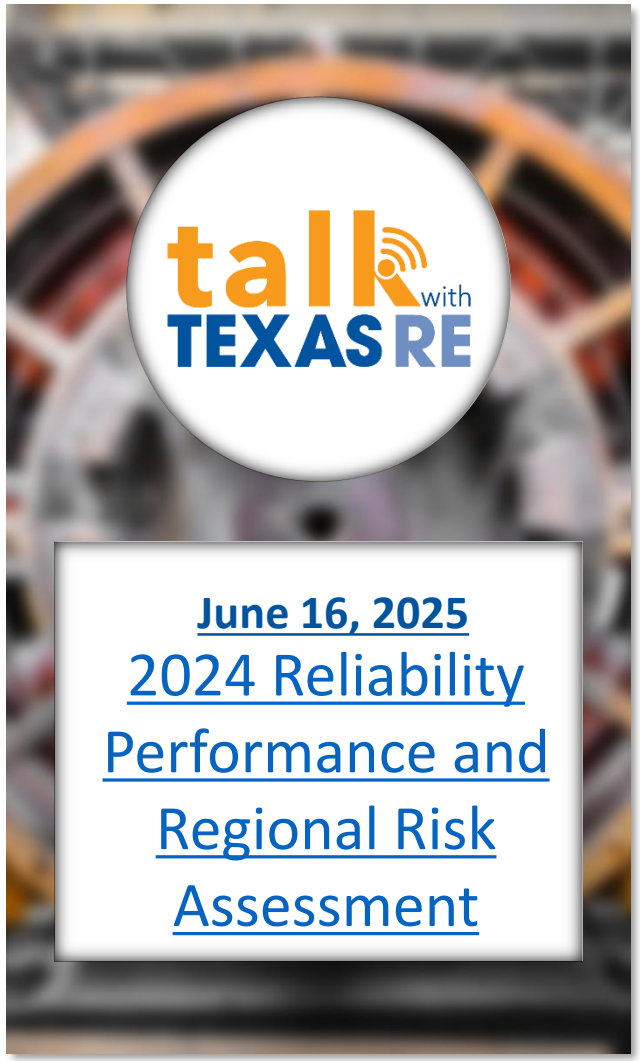
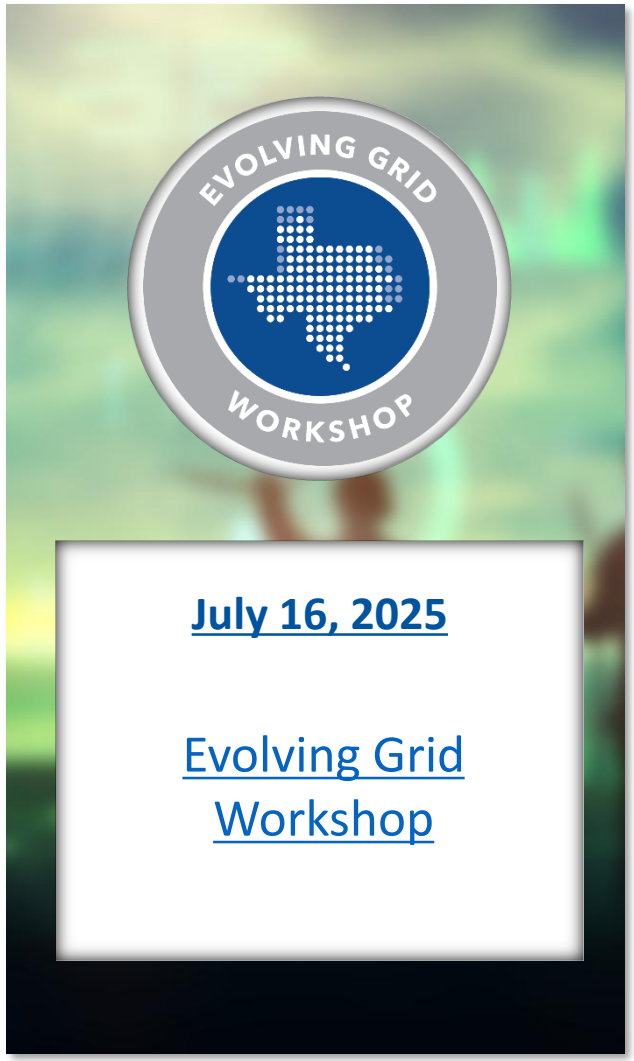
Upcoming Texas RE Events



Upcoming Texas RE Events



July 16, 2025

Evolving Grid Workshop

September 17, 2025

Q3 MRC, AGR&F, and Board Meetings

October 1, 2025

Winter Weatherization Workshop

Upcoming ERO Enterprise Events

Date	Event
June 2	Summer Assessment Report & Summer Weather Review (SERC)
June 4	Reliability in the West: Large Load System Performance (WECC)
June 16	Technical Talk with RF (RF)
June 19	Reliability & Security Monthly Update (WECC)

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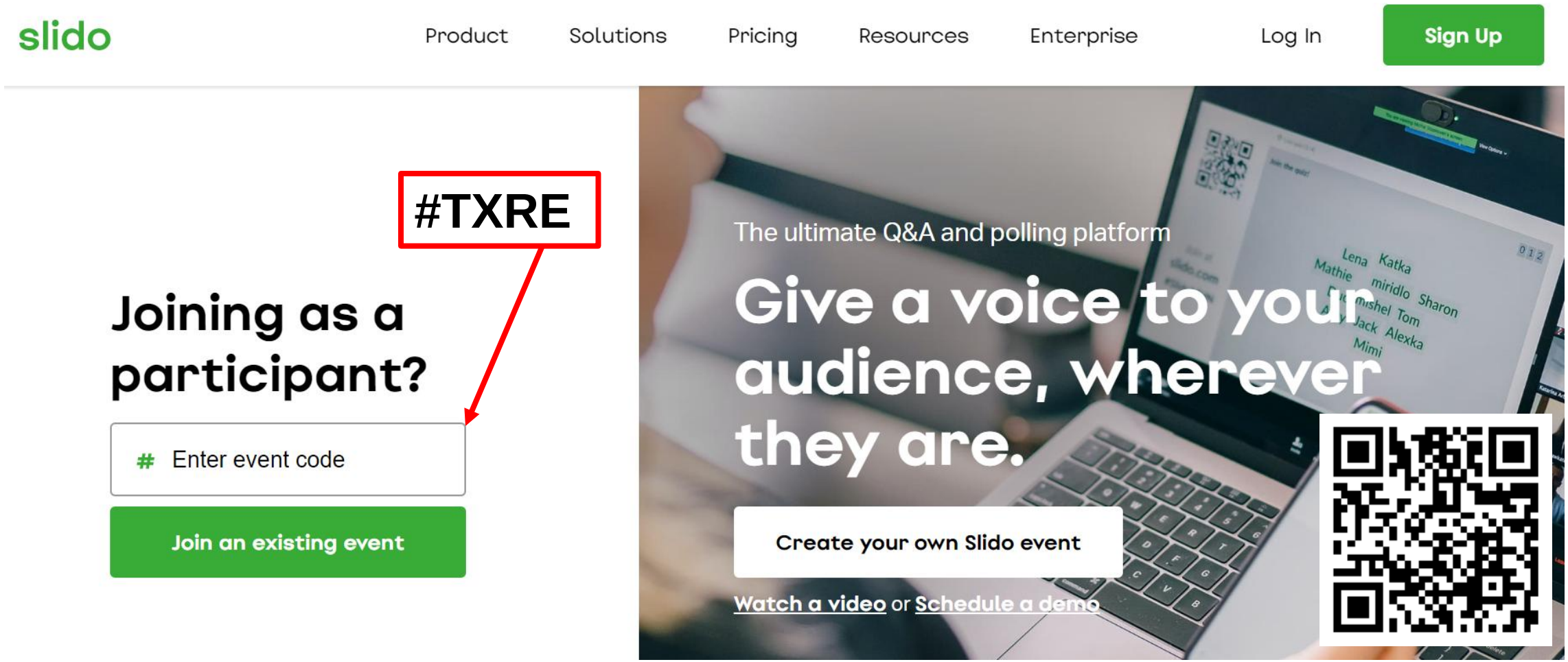
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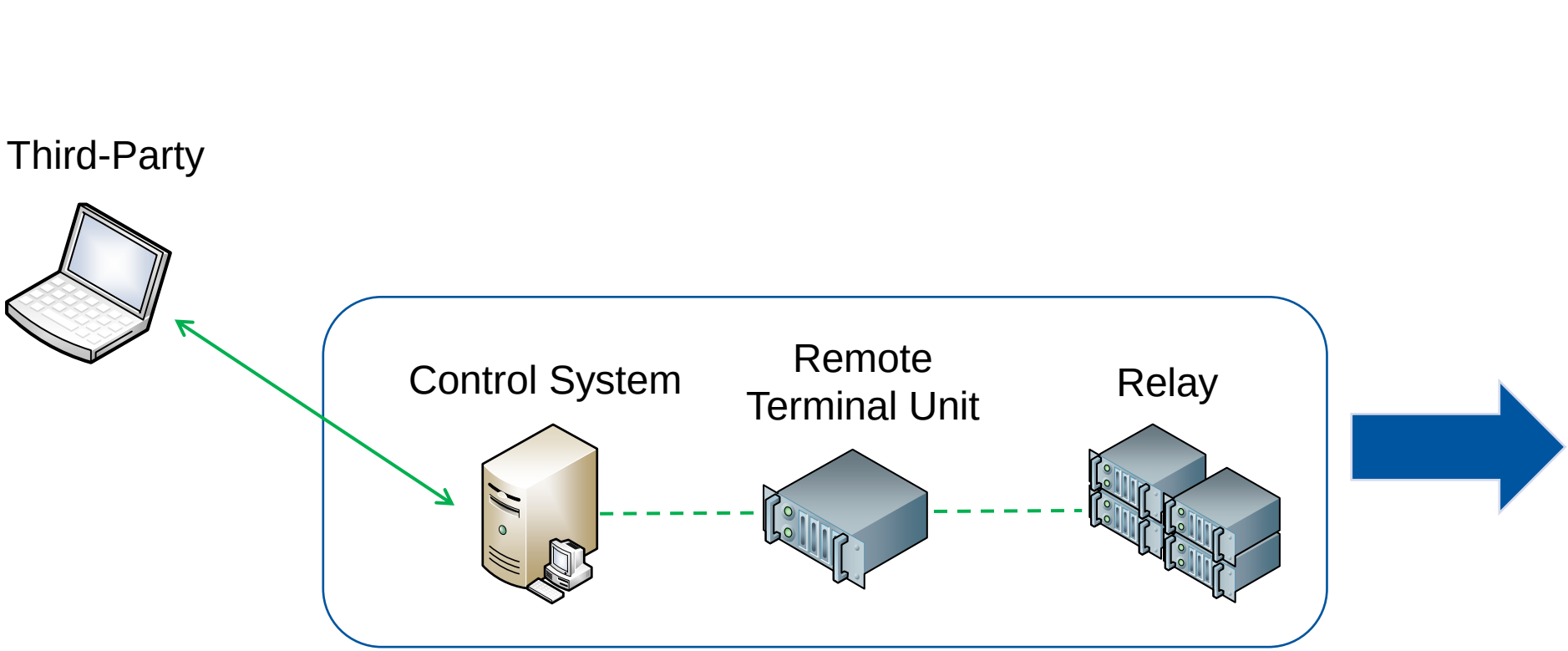
Third-Party Monitoring or Control

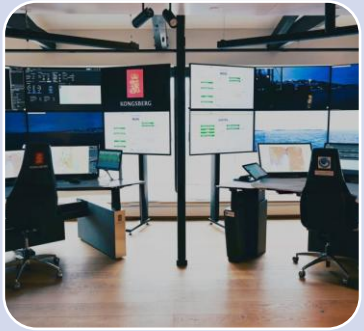


Agenda

Third-party device risks

Third-party connection risks

Low vs high risk when using a third-party



Remote Operation Centers (ROCs) risks

Recommended Controls to mitigate risks

Sli.do (#TXRE)

Slido Question

What operational risks would you consider if using a third-party to monitor or control generation?

Third-Party Vendor and Device Risks

Risks

- Unauthorized Access
- Exploitation of Device Vulnerabilities
- Introduction of Malware

Controls

- Background Checks/Offboarding
- Device Management Policies
- Cyber Hygiene Supply Chain Risk Management

Remote Connection Risks

Location of third-party?

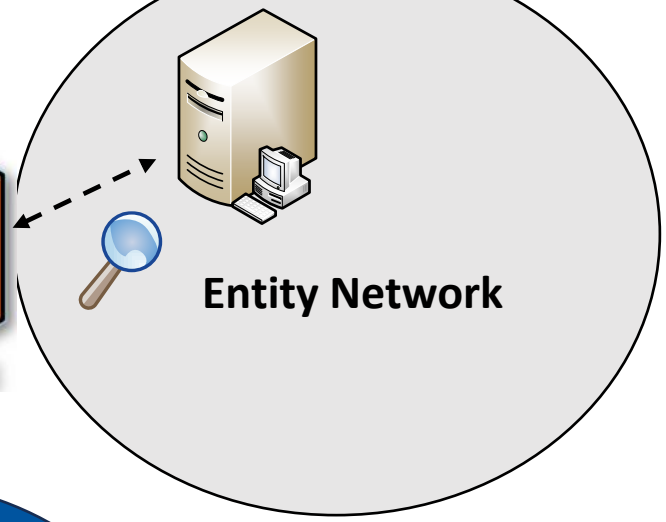
Malicious communications? Monitoring, logging, access control

Third-Party

Unauthorized disclosure? Encryption

Unauthorized access? MFA

Firewall



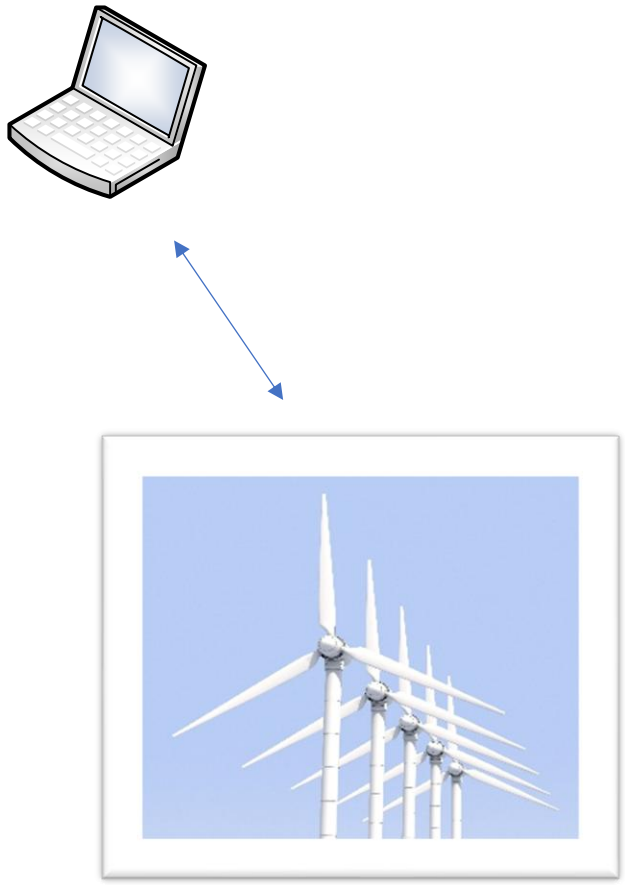
Entity Network

Privileged access?

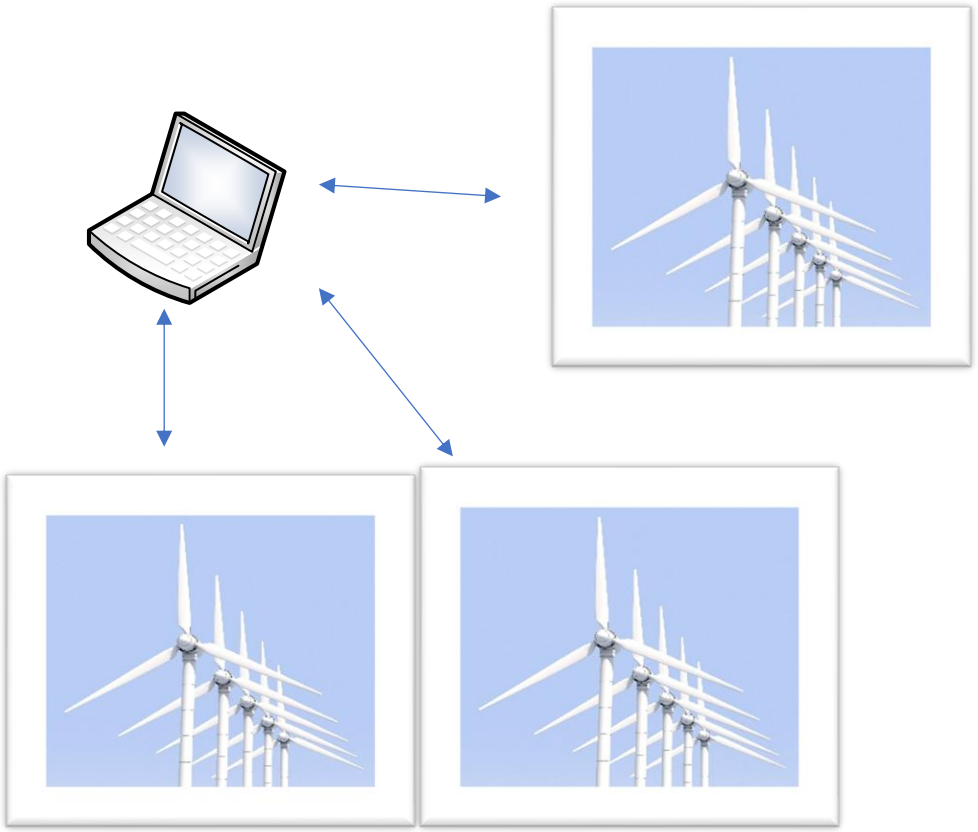
Persistent connection? No

Detective controls

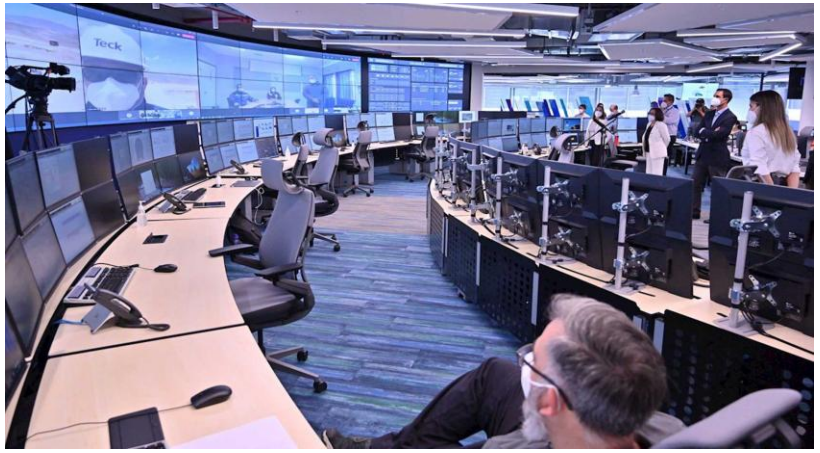
Low vs High Risk



Low or medium/high impact?



Remote Operation Center (ROC)



Are they controlling multiple low impact sites?

Recap Risks vs Controls

Risks

- Unauthorized disclosure
- Unauthorized access
- Introduction of malicious communications/code
- Lack of visibility

Controls

- Encryption
- Multi-factor authentication (MFA), strict access control lists, privileged access policies
- Intrusion detection/prevention systems, security information and event management, device management policies, deep pack inspection
- Methods to monitor and terminate sessions

Best Practices

- Understand what technology makes the facility work
- Understand the configuration
- Sufficient training and education

Resources

NERC

- ERO CMEP Implementation Plan v2.0 - 2025

RF

- 2024 CIP Themes and Lessons Learned

CISA

- 2023 Top Routinely Exploited Vulnerabilities | CISA
- Nation-State Cyber Actors | Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency CISA

NIST

- SP 800-53 Rev. 5, Security and Privacy Controls for Information Systems and Organizations | CSRC
- Cryptographic Standards and Guidelines | CSRC

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Ensuring electric reliability for Texans