

Emerging risks in industry 4.0: innovative approaches for safety and security  
Rome, 25 November 2019

# Cyber-physical security threats to Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in Industry 4.0

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Definition:

A cyber-physical attack is a security breach in cyberspace that adversely affects physical space

## Why is OSH affected by cyber?

Machines

Computerised

Networked

People

Social engineering

Insider threat

Human error

## The 1<sup>st</sup> order impact on employees

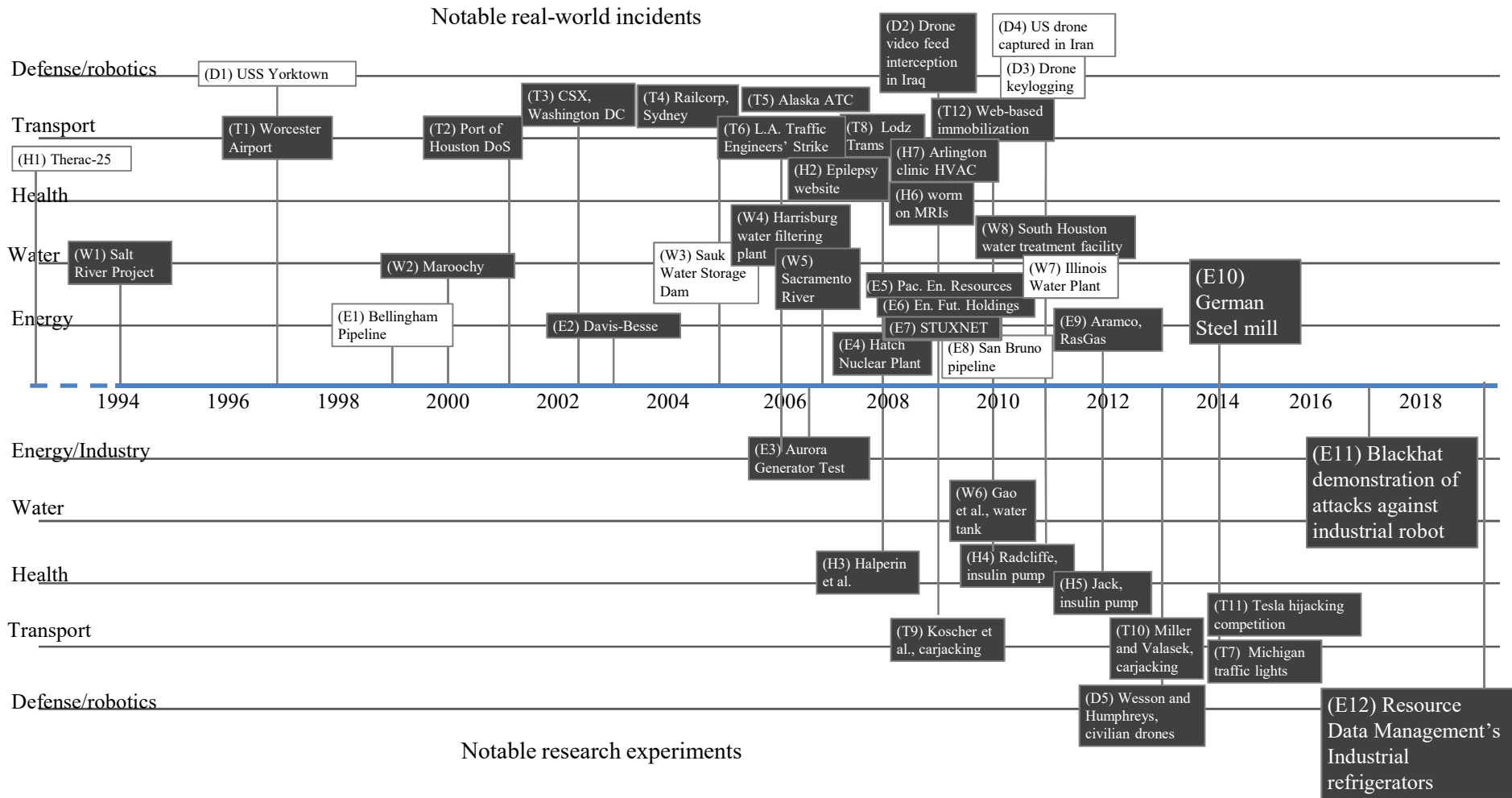
- Physical injury

When a machine's actuation is manipulated or its safety mechanism is disrupted

- Physical privacy

When a sensor (e.g., a camera) is compromised and leaked online

# History of security breaches with impact on safety

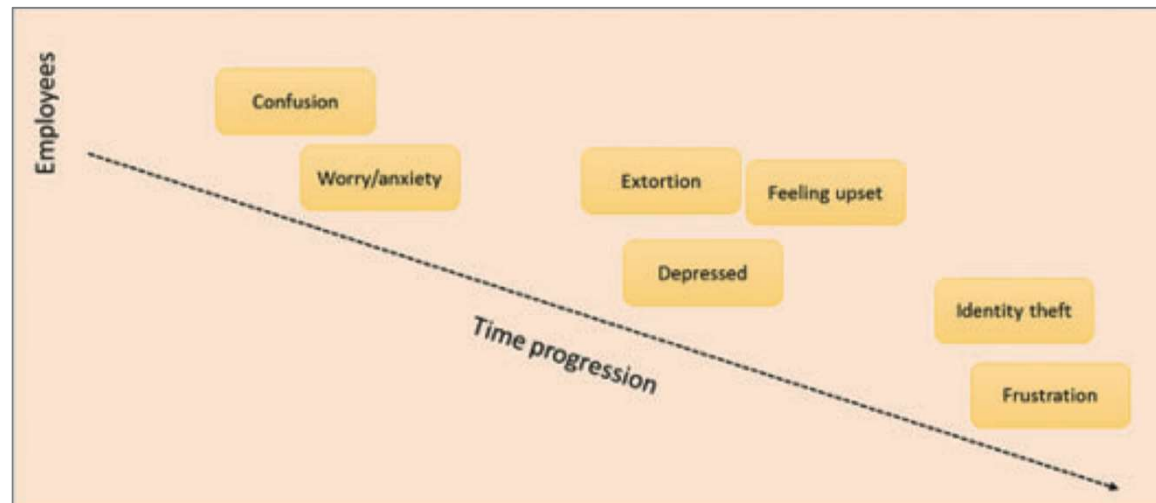


Confirmed to have involved a cyber security breach  
 Alleged incidents or incidents not involving a cyber security breach

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> order impact on employees

Examples:

- Reluctance to trust intelligent machines after one misbehaves
- Feeling embarrassed/ashamed because of the information disclosed or for having been deceived by an attacker



Agrafiotis, I., Nurse, J.R., Goldsmith, M., Creese, S. and Upton, D., 2018. A taxonomy of cyber-harms: Defining the impacts of cyber-attacks and understanding how they propagate. *Journal of Cybersecurity*, 4(1).

## ENISA's categorisation of vulnerable assets in industry 4.0

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Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) end devices

Robotics

Servers, systems

Industrial Control Systems (ICS)

Information

Algorithms

Cloud

Mobile devices

Smart robotics

Let's map some of these against  
impact on human

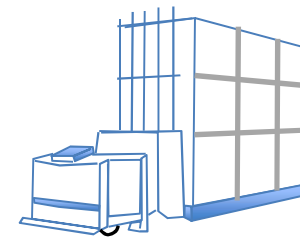
Impact on System                      Impact on human

**IIoT end devices** — **Sensor confidentiality** — **Physical privacy**

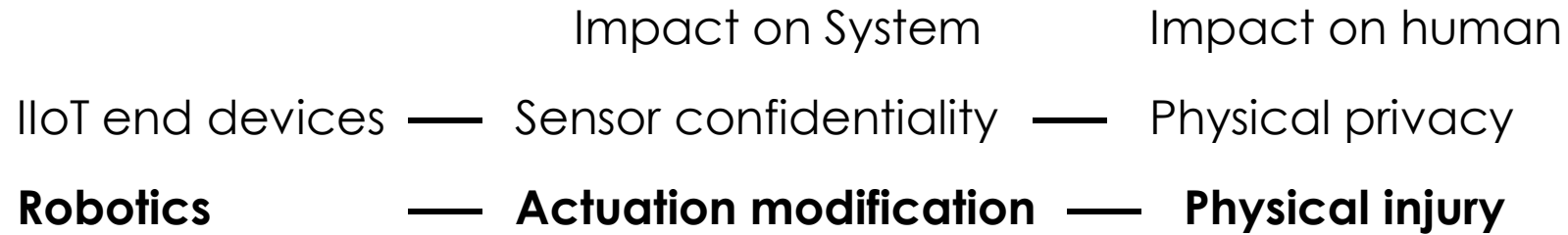
Examples:

**Biometrics** in building access control systems

**Cameras** on vision-guided Autonomous Guided Vehicles







Death at Volkswagen plant in Germany in 2015 was caused by human error:

A young external contractor was setting up a stationary robot when it grabbed and crushed him against a metal plate.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jul/02/robot-kills-worker-at-volkswagen-plant-in-germany>

	Impact on System	Impact on human
IloT end devices	— Sensor confidentiality	— Physical privacy
<b>Robotics</b>	— <b>Actuation modification</b>	— <b>Physical injury</b>

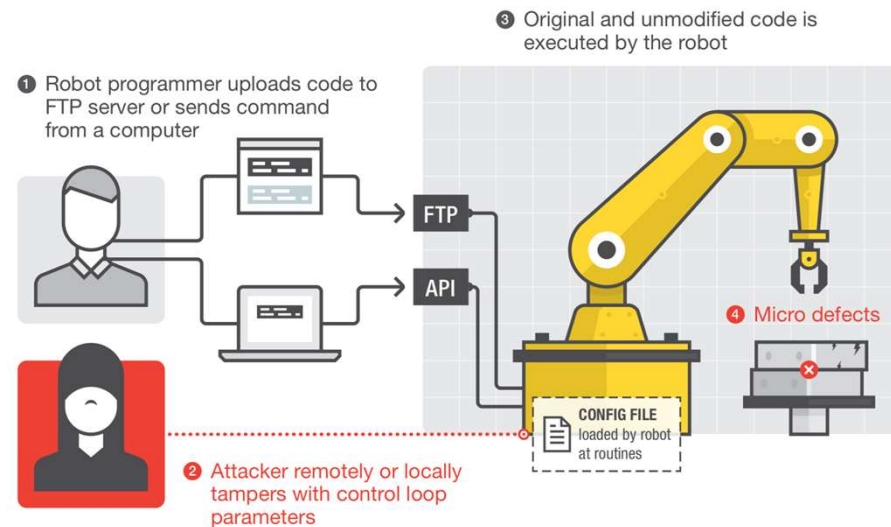
However, the same can be caused by a cyber attack

Example:

<https://robosec.org>

A joint research project between Politecnico di Milano and Trend Micro'

1. Altering the Control-Loop Parameters
2. Closed-Loop Control Detuning
3. Open-Loop Control Parameters Tampering
4. Robot Arm and Workpiece Configuration Tampering
5. Safety Limits Tampering



	Impact on System	Impact on human
IIoT end devices	— Sensor confidentiality	— Physical privacy
Robotics	— Actuation modification	— Physical injury
<b>Servers, systems</b>	<b>— Actuation prevention</b>	<b>— Physical injury</b>

*Example:*

*A worm disabled the safety display at **Davis-Besse** nuclear power plant.*

	Impact on System	Impact on human
IloT end devices	— Sensor confidentiality	— Physical privacy
Robotics	— Actuation modification	— Physical injury
Servers, systems	— Actuation modification	— Physical injury
<b>ICS systems</b>	<b>— Actuation prevention</b>	<b>— Physical injury</b>

*Examples:*

*Bellingham, Washington, pipeline ruptured because of slow-down of the SCADA system controlling it. When pressure started building up (due to unrelated damage), the SCADA system was unable to detect the buildup. It led to 3 deaths.*

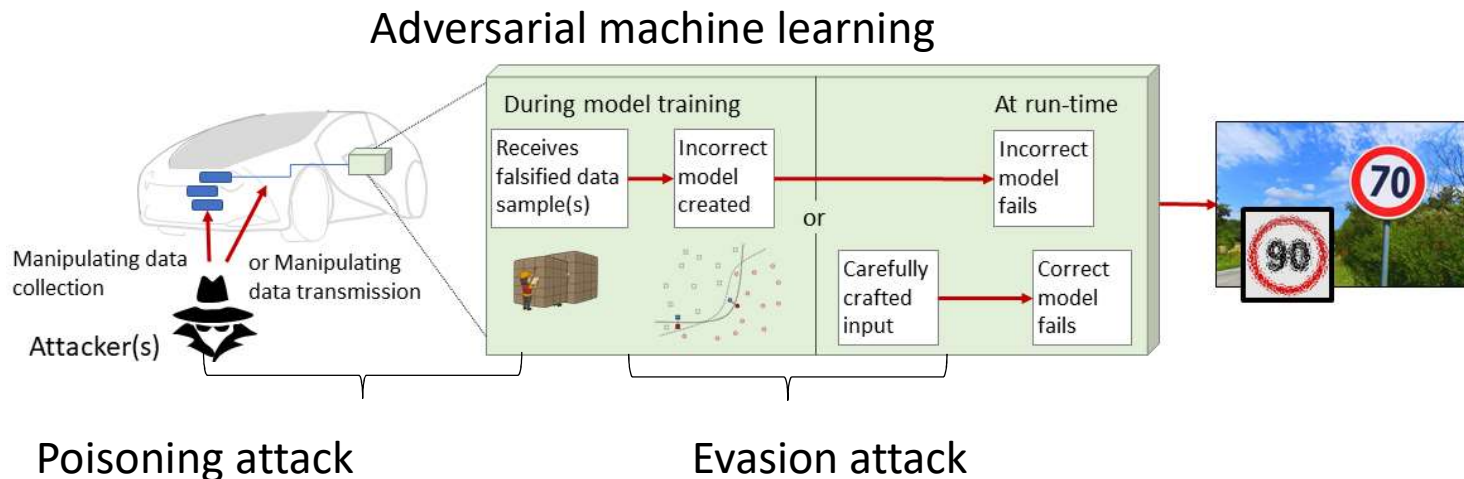
*A natural gas pipeline explosion in San Bruno, California, that led to 8 deaths and 60 injured was partly attributed to unavailable SCADA pressure readings.*

	Impact on System	Impact on human
IloT end devices	— Sensor confidentiality	— Physical privacy
Robotics	— Actuation modification	— Physical injury
Servers, systems	— Actuation modification	— Physical injury
ICS systems	— Sensor confidentiality	— Physical privacy
<b>Information</b>	— <b>Unauthorized actuation</b>	

*Example:*

*Automatic shutdown of the **Hatch Nuclear Plant** was triggered by wrong water level data*

	Impact on System	Impact on human
IIoT end devices	— Sensor confidentiality	— Physical privacy
Robotics	— Actuation modification	— Physical injury
Servers, systems	— Actuation modification	— Physical injury
ICS systems	— Sensor confidentiality	— Physical privacy
Information	— Actuation modification	— Physical injury
<b>Algorithms</b>	— <b>Actuation modification</b>	— <b>Physical injury</b>



	Impact on System	Impact on human
IIoT end devices	— Sensor confidentiality	— Physical privacy
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ICS systems	— Sensor confidentiality	— Physical privacy
Information	— Actuation modification	— Physical injury
Algorithms	— Actuation modification	— Physical injury
<b>Smart robotics</b>	— <b>Actuation modification</b>	— <b>Physical injury</b>

Detailed instructions on how to hack collaborative robotics systems are available online.

<https://ioactive.com/exploiting-industrial-collaborative-robots/>



Point no1:

The landscape of threats is exceptionally diverse



# Technical defences against industry 4.0 threats

- Very advanced defences are currently being developed

Examples from [isec.group/projects](http://isec.group/projects):



## **C4IIoT: Cybersecurity 4.0 - Protecting the Industrial Internet of Things**

C4IIoT will build and demonstrate a novel and unified Industrial IoT cyber security framework for malicious and anomalous behaviour anticipation, detection, mitigation and end-user informing. The role of the my group is to equip the framework with the ability to decide dynamically where to process the security-relevant data it collects in a manner that takes into account the performance, energy and security of the system.



## **UK MoD/dstl "Safeguarding Autonomous Vehicles from Cyber Attacks"**

We developed cyber-physical intrusion detection systems for robots to self-detect attacks against them. Both cloud-based remote and onboard.

- Individual industry 4.0 systems' vulnerabilities are being ethically disclosed to manufacturers, but patches are not always developed



Point no2:

Technical defences are still immature

# The role of employees

- **Social engineering**

**84-91% of all attacks start with a phishing email opened by a human user**

(2016 Enterprise Phishing Susceptibility and Resiliency Report <https://www.nuix.com/black-report/black-report-2018>)

- Insider threat

**75% of all attacks involving data are committed by an insider**

(<https://securityintelligence.com/news/insider-threats-account-for-nearly-75-percent-of-security-breach-incidents/>)

- Human error

**Many attacks are facilitated by human error**

(failing to apply a software update, using easy password, ...)

- Human sensors

**Employees** are usually the ones who **detect a security breach**

But often inform nobody and try to fix the problem themselves.

# The typical attack path – for industry 4.0 targets

## Research target

Preliminary research and reconnaissance



Vulnerability discovery



## Deceive user

Spear-phishing



or

watering hole



## Enter business network

Infect computer on business network for remote connection



Scan for entry point in control network (e.g., hole in firewall, VPN, ...)



## Enter control network

Issue commands, change credentials, change firmware



Gain access on HMI or specific PLC/RTU

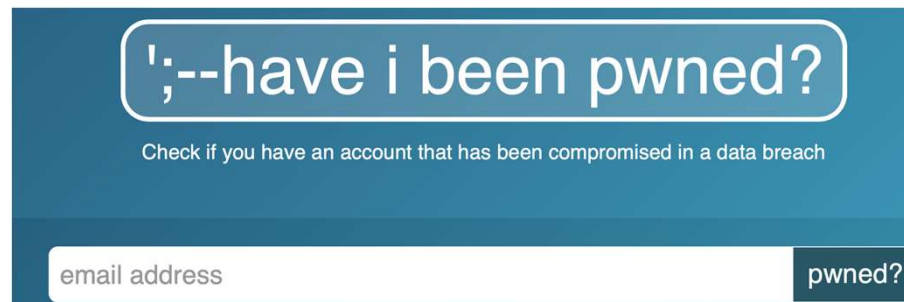


Gain access on device in control network (e.g., a workstation, data server, printer, ...)

# Cyber-physical Hygiene

- Disciplined approach to security of machines, computers, mobile devices and the network itself (e.g, the business's WiFi)  
(especially authentication and updates)
- Security awareness training of employees  
(+ employees need to know who to speak to)
- Recognise the importance of each employee's passwords

Check here, for example: <https://haveibeenpwned.com>



The image shows a screenshot of the 'have i been pwned?' website. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the text 'have i been pwned?' in white, enclosed in a rounded rectangle. Below this, in smaller white text, it says 'Check if you have an account that has been compromised in a data breach'. At the bottom, there is a white input field with the placeholder text 'email address' and a dark blue button with the text 'pwned?' in white.

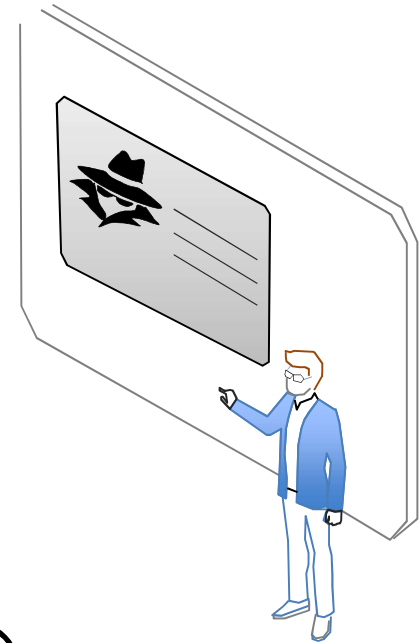
“The employees in my organisation still fall for cyber deception despite training”

There are some obvious reasons

Wasn't designed well

They didn't take it seriously

Wasn't tailored to them



But it is not just that.

Fear appeals don't work

Takes effort to be vigilant

Lack of consistency

Awareness is not training

Low priority to the individual

"Not my job"

Old habits die hard

Security fatigue

Almost no practice

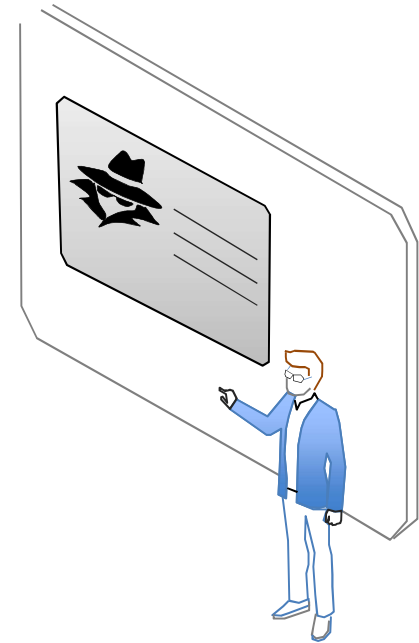
No real reward

Risk perception

No monitoring

Rules learned are complex

Based only on **known** deception-based threats, but attackers adapt



The real reason is:

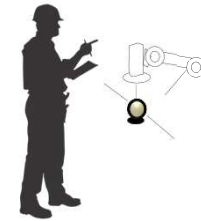
It is hard



“What makes it hard?”



Reduced context



Cyberspace communication channels carry less information than face-to-face interactions.

**Cues** that we normally use to orient ourselves in face-to-face interaction **are unavailable** or **easily forged** in cyberspace.

Vrij, A. (2000). *Detecting lies and deceit: the psychology of lying and the implications for professional practice*. Chichester, UK: Wiley.

## Even personality matters



Halevi et al. (2015) Spear-Phishing in the Wild: A Real-World Study of Personality, Phishing Self-Efficacy and Vulnerability to Spear-Phishing Attacks  
Parsons, K., Butavicius, M., Delfabbro, P. and Lillie, M., 2019. Predicting susceptibility to social influence in phishing emails. *International Journal of Human-Computer Studies*, 128, pp.17-26.



Final point:

Human defences can fill some of the gap until technical defences mature, but the risk will always be there

# Example roadmap for future research in OSH and cyber security

A taxonomy of cyber threats with OSH impact



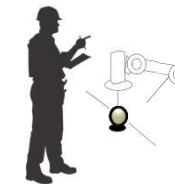
A formal cyber risk model that takes into account OSH impact

$$\max_z \sum_{i=0} A_i R_i \prod_{\sigma=1}^{|C|} \prod_{\lambda=0}^{|S|} z_{\sigma,\lambda}$$

$$\text{s.t. } \sum_{\sigma=1}^{|C|} \sum_{\lambda=0}^{|S|} F(\delta_{\sigma,\lambda}) z_{\sigma,\lambda} \leq B,$$

$$\sum_{\lambda=0}^{|S|} z_{\sigma,\lambda} = 1, z_{\sigma,\lambda} \in \{0, 1\}, \forall \sigma = 1, 2, \dots, |C|.$$

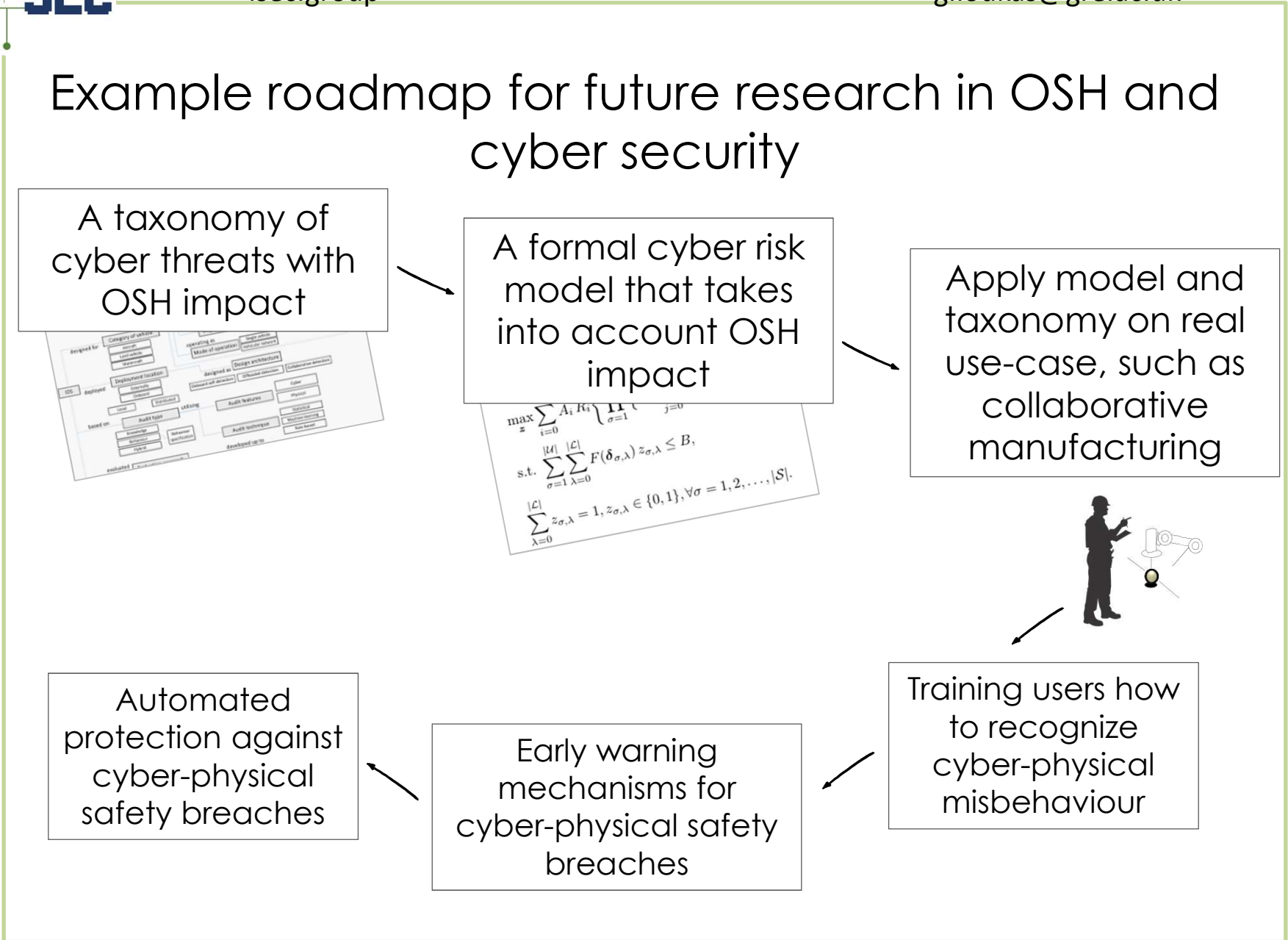
Apply model and taxonomy on real use-case, such as collaborative manufacturing



Automated protection against cyber-physical safety breaches

Early warning mechanisms for cyber-physical safety breaches

Training users how to recognize cyber-physical misbehaviour





Thank you

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The screenshot shows the ISEC website homepage. At the top left is the ISEC logo and the text "Internet of Things and Security research group @UniofGreenwich". Navigation links for "Home", "Projects", "The team", "Publications", and "Join us" are in the top right. Below the navigation is a banner image showing various IoT devices connected to a central cloud. The main content area is divided into several sections: "Scope" (We equip the Internet of Things with the ability to adapt to the needs of human beings and self-protect against cyber-physical security, safety and privacy threats), "Making impact" (We work with industry, public sector and academic partners in combining scientific excellence with real-world implementation), "Providing industrial IoT security applications with edge offloading decision support" (with a C4110T logo), "Empowering social media users to take ownership of the disinformation challenge" (with a "EUNOMIA" logo), "Our CogniSense toolkit helps make the human user the strongest link of their organisation's cyber security", and "Equipping robots with machine learning and deep learning based technologies for recognising cyber-physical attacks against them". A central circular graphic features the ISEC logo surrounded by team members' faces. A green "Open positions" section lists: "Cyber security researcher (CUREX project) | deadline: to appear soon", "If you excelled at your undergrad or MSc education and wish to pursue a PhD in ISEC, you can apply via the University of Greenwich's form.", and "We accept interns throughout the year". A bottom banner shows a diagram of a "Remote threat actor" attacking a "Physical attacker" and a "Cloud server corresponding to the individual smart devices".